

7-10-04

The Honorable Ronald M. George
Chief Justice, California Supreme Court
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco CA 94102

RE: S124682

Dear Mr. Chief Justice,

I am a 74 year old widow living in Los Alamitos, located in Orange County. Years ago my husband and I voted for Proposition 13, limiting the amount of taxes on our home. This has been a blessing in my widowed years as my income is limited to approximately \$2,000 per month, and I have been able to stay in my home. I could not afford to move elsewhere because of the escalation in California home prices. However, for the last several years the assessors have been "recapturing" taxes that were lost to the county while home prices were stagnant. That means taxes were raised more than the 2% allowed by law. Some of my friends have had their taxes raised as high as 67%. My daughter's husband lost his job of 21 years so they refinanced to help lower their payments. After the appraisal the assessor raised their taxes by 22%, so they didn't gain a thing and are on the verge of losing their home. As a concerned Californian I am asking that you review the decision by the court of Appeal in County of Orange vs. Renee M. Bezaire. Please help us keep the law we voted for and stop the "recapturing." Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Phyllis Quillen


Los Alamitos CA 90720

cc: Governor Schwarzenegger
Tom Harmon, State Legislature
Orange County Register
Attorney General Bill Lockyear