

Trial Court Trust Fund Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Orange County

Ms. Kate Bieker, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Ventura County

December 12, 2025



Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts

Fiscal tool that allows trial courts to:

- Use funding above 3% statutory cap
- Fund one-time projects or purchases
- Meet contractual obligations
- Maximize available resources

Program Origin

- Judicial Council process (April 2016)
- Developed with Department of Finance
- Transparent process – annual reporting
- Funding held in Trial Court Trust Fund for allowable projects

Allowable Projects

- Technology or infrastructure upgrades
- Maintenance or repair of court facilities
- Efficiency projects for court services
- Replacement of court equipment
- Projects that require multiyear savings

Program Highlights

- \$100.3 million in approved projects
- Maximize limited resources for court operations
- More trial courts participating
- Supports access to justice

Superior Court of Orange County

Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Presiding Judge

Court security and technology improvements

- Fire, life, and safety projects
- Information technology upgrades
- Security upgrades for court facilities

Superior Court of Ventura County

Ms. Kate Bieker, Court Executive Officer

Technology Improvements

- Upgrades for case management system
- Information technology upgrades for courtrooms

Recommendations

- Approve 57 requests for fiscal year 2024–25 cycle
- 38 new requests = \$17.1 million
- 19 amended requests = \$26.9 million

Questions?