



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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Administrative Director's Report

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Executive Summary

The following information outlines some of the many activities staff is engaged in to further the Judicial Council's strategic goals and priorities for the judicial branch. The report focuses on action since the council's November meeting and is exclusive of issues on the January business meeting agenda.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2018 Year in Review	3
Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2019–2020	4
Phoenix Human Resources Management System Deployment.....	4
Court Construction Project Awards	4
Advisory Bodies.....	4
Judicial Branch Education	7
Staffing Metrics	11
Judicial Appointments and Vacancies Report	13

2018 Year in Review

The Judicial Council Year in Review highlighting administration of justice improvements in 2018 was shared branchwide and on the California Courts website. Highlights included a \$284 million boost in new funding to improve and modernize trial court operations and increase access for court users; pretrial reform; continued expansion of language access in civil cases; year two of grant funding for 50 local court innovation projects; expansion of civics education on the justice system; a new council work group to study and make recommendations for how the judicial branch can better prevent and address inappropriate workplace conduct; and on-site assistance, emergency orders, and case coordination in response to multiple wildfires across the state. The full recap is posted at: <https://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/news/2018-year-in-review>. The Review also featured “by the numbers” examples of services directly and indirectly provided by Judicial Council staff:

17.1 million	Online Self-Help Center visits in English (16.1 million) and Spanish (1 million)—accounting for 38% of all California Courts website traffic.
250,000	Court interpreter service days coordinated on behalf of courts statewide.
129,000	California Courts Protective Order Registry orders processed. The Registry is used by 224 courts and law enforcement agencies.
74	Schools recognized with Civic Learning Awards, initiated by the Chief Justice and State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
20	Publications updated, including benchguides, bench handbooks, and benchbooks for judges.
767	Legislative bills with potential impact to the court system tracked. Six Judicial Council-sponsored bills passed.
4	New interactive criminal justice dashboards created, highlighting felony court case processing data.
343	New and amended California Rules of Court (121) and court forms (222).
469	Court properties maintained, totaling 17.2 million square feet.
142	Council advisory committees (31), subcommittees and working groups (93), and task forces (18) supported.
889	Responses to Public Access to Judicial Administrative Records (Rule 10.500) requests.
265,000	California Courts Newsroom views, featuring branch news releases.
116	New and amended criminal and civil jury instructions drafted and approved by the council.
243,000	Jury checks issued for all 58 trial courts.

Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2019–2020

Following the release of the Governor’s 2019–20 State Budget Proposal on January 10, a memorandum detailing proposals for California’s court system was disseminated branchwide and briefing calls were held with trial and appellate court leadership. This proposed budget sets the stage for the next phase of the ongoing budget development cycle for the state for the 2019–20 fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2019. This will include further discussions with the Administration, legislative hearings, meetings with legislators and their staff, updated state revenue numbers in April, a May Revision to the Governor’s proposed budget, and then an intensive period of legislative activity to pass a balanced budget by the June 15 constitutional deadline.

Phoenix Human Resources Management System Deployment

The Phoenix Human Resources Management System was deployed to the Superior Court of Santa Clara County. With the addition of Santa Clara, the Judicial Council-managed system now serves almost 5,000 judicial officers and employees in 15 courts across the state. The system provides full back-office support of organizational management, personnel administration, time management, benefits administration, and all aspects of payroll calculation, tax and payment processing, and compliance reporting for trial court administration.

Court Construction Project Awards

- Construction management contracts were awarded for four critical courthouse construction projects totaling approximately \$240 million allowing courthouse construction for the Superior Courts of Yreka, Sonoma, Shasta, and El Centro Counties to proceed on schedule.
- Facility modifications as of January 2, 2019:

Status	Number of Modifications	Estimated Cost
Awaiting Shared Cost	11	\$14,270,467
In Design	24	\$5,167,481
In Work	597	\$99,621,424
Total	632	\$119,059,372

- Twenty-two real estate transactions were completed, including a new lease/license at the Superior Court of Riverside County, Palm Springs Courthouse; lease/license renewals at the Superior Courts of Glenn, Inyo, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Santa Clara Counties; one lease/license termination; and 11 short-term event licenses.

Advisory Bodies

The following Judicial Council advisory bodies met in person, by phone, or WebEx since the council’s November meeting:

1. Advisory Committee for Audits and Financial Accountability
2. Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
3. Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee
4. Court Executives Advisory Committee

5. Court Facilities Advisory Committee
6. Criminal Law Advisory Committee
7. Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
8. Judicial Branch Workers Compensation Program Advisory Committee
9. Traffic Advisory Committee
10. (Futures) Traffic Working Group
11. Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
12. Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
13. Tribal Court-State Court Forum

Meeting Details

Advisory Committee for Audits and Financial Accountability

- Reviewed and approved two audits performed by the State Controller's Office focusing on court compliance with state rules on revenues, expenditures, and fund balances at the Superior Courts of San Mateo and Tehama Counties.

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee

- Finalized revised forms to implement new laws going into effect in January 2019 relating to gun violence restraining orders and name and gender change procedures.
- Developed new and revised forms to circulate for public comment relative to implementation of new laws in areas including unlawful detainers, fee waivers relating to court reporters and court interpreters, and unlawful use of personal identifiers.
- Continued work on recommendations from the Futures Commission report and began work on rules relating to new fees for expedited review of California Environmental Quality Act cases.

Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee

- *Mental Health Subcommittee*: Discussed the annual agenda for the committee, educational efforts regarding behavioral health and AB 1810 implementation, and provided an update on other legislative proposals relating to mental health.

Court Executives Advisory Committee

- Approved annual agenda for consideration by the council.
- *Joint Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Advisory Committees' Emergency Response Workgroup*: Developed resource page for the Judicial Resources Network website for courts experiencing emergency situations.
- *Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS) Subcommittee*: Reviewed and approved for submission to the full committee proposed revisions to the JBSIS Manual that would outline requirements for regular data quality assurance of reported data.
- *Records Management Subcommittee*: Published the updated Trial Court Records Manual.
- *Standards of Judicial Administration Working Group*: Discussed updating performance measures.

Court Facilities Advisory Committee

- Reviewed draft methodology for legislatively required reprioritization of capital projects. The methodology has been shared with trial courts for review and comment.

Criminal Law Advisory Committee

- Discussed public comments received on a proposal to amend rule of court 4.452 (Determinate sentence consecutive to prior determinate sentence), and reviewed technical changes to criminal forms and rules.
- Discussed development of rule and form proposals for 2019, including a proposal to revise the immigration consequences language on criminal plea forms, implement the Transition-Age Youth Pilot Project under Welfare and Institutions Code section 1731.7, amend rule 4.130 on mental competency proceedings to implement AB 1810, create petitions for relief under AB 865 and SB 846, and revise existing forms to implement changes in the law.
- Received updates on criminal justice-related topics, including Proposition 66 (Death Penalty Procedures), AB 1810 (Pretrial Mental Health Diversion), and Senate Bill 10 (Pretrial Release and Detention).

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

- Discussed out-of-county placements, legal accuracy of forms, advisement of appellate rights, and changes to request and order for a minor to marry or establish a domestic partnership.

Futures Traffic Working Group

- Continued to review and develop a legislative package to implement the Futures Commission recommendation to move minor traffic infractions to a civil adjudication model.
- Topics addressed included: adjudication of automated traffic enforcement systems violations and integrating outstanding criminal violations into the new civil model.
- Received an update on the ability-to-pay pilot project.

Judicial Branch Workers Compensation Program Advisory Committee

- *Deficit Reduction Alternatives Working Group*: Reviewed proposals to implement a return-to-work program for all program members and create communication protocols to allow information sharing between the 57 member courts.

Traffic Advisory Committee

- Finalized and approved the 2019 Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedule for public comment.

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

- Heard recommendations on the Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Methodology for Small Courts for 2019–20 and Base Funding Floor Inflationary Review.

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

- Reviewed and approved:
 - Emergency facility modification funding (Priority 1) for 72 projects.
 - Facility modifications less than \$100K (Priority 2) for 88 projects.
- Discussed potential fiscal year 2020–21 Budget Change Proposals and approved Court-Funded Requests.

Tribal Court–State Court Forum

- Heard presentations on pretrial reform and development of risk assessment tools and discussed the upcoming in-person Forum meeting.

Judicial Branch Education

Summary

Judicial Education

1. Primary Assignment Orientations: Basic Civil Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, Juvenile Dependency, Probate
2. New Judge Orientation
3. Qualifying Judicial Ethics

Judicial Officer, Court Employee, and Justice System Partner Education and Training Programs

4. Advanced Skills for Experienced Court Managers and Administrators
5. California Access to Visitation Grant Program Trainings
6. Caseflow and Workflow Management (Institute for Court Management)
7. Court Personnel Regional Education—Preparing for Leadership
8. Title IV-E (Foster Care Eligibility) Training

Distance Education

Video

9. Continuing the Dialogue Series: Redlining, Restrictive Covenants, and the Fair Housing Act
10. Conversation with the Reporter of Decisions
11. Juvenile Dependency Motions Simulations: Marsden, Faretta, and Guardian Ad Litem
12. Language Access Simulations
13. Managing Emotionally Charged Interactions with Court Customers
14. Politically Savvy and Successful Leadership: Making the Connection

Webinars

15. Behavioral Health Education Series
16. Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, for commissioners, referees, supervisors, and managers
17. Workers' Compensation Service Guidelines Update

Publications

18. Benchguide 62: Pretrial Diversion
19. Benchguide 74: Sentencing Guidelines for Common Misdemeanors and Infractions
20. Benchguide 101: Juvenile Dependency Jurisdiction Hearing
21. Civil Proceedings Benchbook: After Trial
22. Benchbook: Search and Seizure
23. Handbook: Mandatory Criminal Jury Instructions

Details

Advanced Skills for Experienced Court Managers and Administrators

Topics included: building collaborative relationships, strategic planning, political savvy, high level communication, mentorship, and conflict resolution.

Basic Civil Law: Primary Assignment Orientations

This comprehensive orientation to basic civil law and procedure is specially designed for 1) judges and subordinate judicial officers who are new to a civil law assignment and 2) judges and subordinate judicial officers from smaller courts who do not have a full-time civil law caseload and who want a general orientation or refresher course.

Behavioral Health Education Series

More than 100 participants joined a webinar for the Behavioral Health Education Series with a UCSF doctor discussing serious mental health disorders and common diagnoses seen in the justice-involved population and treatment options.

California Access to Visitation Grant Program Trainings

Training on report writing and Uniform Standards of Practice for supervised visitation providers.

Continuing the Dialogue Video Series: Redlining, Restrictive Covenants, and the Fair Housing Act: The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin or sex. A panel of judicial officers discussed the history of the Act and its impact on communities.

Conversation with the Reporter of Decisions

A course for appellate non-attorney staff featured a conversation with Reporter of Decisions Lawrence Striley and Attorney Editor Karen Turk describing their work and exploring questions and topics that often arise when writing and finalizing opinions.

Court Personnel Regional Education—Preparing for Leadership

This course examines core competencies needed to explore lead/senior/supervisory opportunities, and how these competencies relate to participants' current roles.

Criminal Law: Primary Assignment Orientation

Procedural and substantive law governing criminal cases from arraignment through post-trial with a focus on common and problematic issues confronting the court and practical solutions.

Family Law: Primary Assignment Orientation

Review of basic law and procedure for handling family law matters in courts of various sizes—from the first ex parte appearance to final judgment and post-judgment modifications, decision making, and calendar management skills.

Juvenile Dependency Motions Simulations: Marsden, Faretta, and Guardian Ad Litem

How to conduct juvenile dependency motions including a Faretta motion, a Marsden motion, and a motion to appoint a Guardian Ad Litem.

Juvenile Dependency: Primary Assignment Orientation

Examination of juvenile dependency law, procedure, and evidence rules; the philosophy and responsibilities that underlie the child welfare system and the dependency court; child development; substance abuse; mental health; domestic violence; disproportionately high minority contact; the role of the judge or subordinate judicial officer in juvenile court, and unique ethical issues.

Language Access Simulations

In a new installment of the Courtroom Simulations series, Hon. Steve Austin, Superior Court of Contra Costa County, demonstrated techniques for working with spoken language interpreters.

Managing Emotionally Charged Interactions with Court Customers

Video for counselors/mediators and other staff on skills for alleviating emotionally charged interactions and encouraging resolution.

New Judge Orientation

This one-week orientation program is designed to introduce new judges, commissioners, and referees to their judicial duties and familiarize them with their ethical responsibilities in ensuring fairness in all proceedings, promoting uniform court practices, and improving the administration of justice.

Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment

Webinar for commissioners, referees, supervisors, and managers to meet the mandate of Government Code Section 12950.1 for training required for all court personnel serving in a management or supervisory role.

Probate: Primary Assignment Orientation

This course contributes to the requirements of Rule 10.468 for judges and subordinate judicial officers regularly assigned to hear probate proceedings and Rule 10.478 for probate attorneys and probate examiners.

Qualifying Judicial Ethics

Judicial officers enrolled in the Commission on Judicial Performance insurance program must attend a three-hour mandatory core course during the current cycle.

Title IV-E (Foster Care Eligibility) Training

This training covers Title IV-E findings required at hearings, the timeline for hearings, preparation of corresponding orders, and recent legislative changes that impact findings and orders in out-of-home placement cases.

Staffing Metrics

As of December 31, 2018

STAFFING	Leadership Services Division						Operations & Programs Division						Administrative Division				Judicial Council
	Executive Office	Governmental Affairs	Public Affairs	Audit Services	Legal Services	Leadership Support Services	Center for Families, Children and the Courts	Court Operations Services	Criminal Justice Services	Center for Judicial Education & Research	Information Technology	Appellate Court Services	Budget Services	Branch Accounting & Procurement	Facilities Services	Human Resources	
Authorized Position (FTE)	12.00	10.00	9.00	14.00	55.00	57.80	63.00	26.60	26.00	48.50	137.00	7.00	45.00	136.00	142.00	51.00	839.90
Filled Authorized Position (FTE)	11.00	9.00	9.00	13.00	45.40	53.30	56.55	19.80	20.30	42.00	97.00	6.00	35.00	126.00	103.00	43.00	689.35
Headcount - Employees	11	9	9	13	46	54	57	20	21	42	97	6	35	126	103	43	692.00
Vacancy (FTE)	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	9.60	4.50	6.45	6.80	5.70	6.50	40.00	1.00	10.00	10.00	39.00	8.00	150.55
Vacancy Rate (FTE)	8.3%	10.0%	0.0%	7.1%	17.5%	7.8%	10.2%	25.6%	21.9%	13.4%	29.2%	14.3%	22.2%	7.4%	27.5%	15.7%	17.92%
Judicial Council Temp Employee (909)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	6.00
*Employment Agency Temporary Worker (FTE)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	5	1	1	9.00
Contractors (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	31.45	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.95
TOTAL WORKFORCE <i>(based on FTE, 909s, Agency Temps & Contractors)</i>	13.00	9.00	9.00	13.00	45.40	53.30	56.55	20.30	20.30	43.00	128.45	6.00	37.00	133.00	105.00	44.00	736.30

See following page for definition of terms.

Definitions:

Authorized Position (FTE)	Authorized positions include all regular ongoing positions approved in the Budget Act for that year. The number is based on the position's approved full time equivalency.
Filled Authorized Position (FTE)	Filled authorized positions are the number of authorized positions filled based on the employee's full time equivalency.
Headcount	The actual count of persons employed by the Judicial Council, regardless of FTE. This number could be more than the FTE count due to part-time employees being counted as "1". This count does not include Judicial Council Temporary Employees (909) or Employment Agency Temporary Workers.
Vacancy (FTE)	The number of vacancies is the number of authorized positions minus the number of filled authorized positions.
Vacancy Rate (FTE)	Vacancy Rate is calculated by dividing the number of authorized positions by the number of vacant authorized positions. This number excludes temporary employees ("909" funded employees). See definition of temporary employees below.
Judicial Council Temporary Employees (909)	The "909" category is the State Controller code used to reference a temporary position or a temporary employee. 909 Position - it is a position that may not be funded through the Budget Act and it is categorized by the Office of the State Controller as a temporary position used in the absence of an authorized position. 909 positions may be occupied by regular full-time employees due to the unavailability of an authorized vacant position. 909 Employee - An employee whose salary is not funded through the Budget Act. 909 employees may receive benefits if employed at least half-time and the term of employment is for more than six months. Types of "909" Temporary Employees include: Retired Annuitants: A retired annuitant is a retiree who is hired by his or her former employer or by another employer that participates in the same retirement system as the former employer. This includes a former participant in a state retirement system who has previously retired and who is currently receiving retirement benefits. Temporary: Employees employed on a temporary basis - they do not receive full benefits (but do receive CalPERS retirement service credit).
Employment Agency Temporary Worker (FTE)	These are workers from an employment agency. They are employees of the employment agency that provide short-term support.
Contractor (FTE)	Individuals augmenting the work of the organization and providing services for a limited period of time or on a specific project, where a particular skill set is required that is either (1) not within an existing classification and/or job description or (2) where recruitment issues require the use of a contractor.
Full Time Equivalency (FTE)	Full Time Equivalency is the number of total maximum compensable hours designated in a year divided by actual hours worked in a year. For example, the work year is defined as 2,080 hours; one employee occupying a paid full time job all year would consume one FTE. One employee working for 1,040 hours each would consume .5 FTE.
Time Base	Full time: Employee is scheduled to work 40 hours per week. Receives full benefits. Part time: Employee is scheduled to work less than 40 hours per week. Employees that work more than 20 hours per week receive full benefits. Intermittent: Employees have no established work schedule and work on an as-needed basis that varies from one pay period to the next. Eligibility for certain benefits may be limited for these employees.
Regular Employee	Commonly referred to as "permanent employees" – They receive full benefits.
Limited Term	Limited Term Position – It is a position that is funded through the Budget Act with a specific end date. The position is counted as an authorized position. Employee in limited term positions may be regular or temporary.

Judicial Appointments and Vacancies Report

Judicial Appointments: There have been 37 judicial appointments since the November Judicial Council meeting. Superior Court Appointments: Alameda (5); Contra Costa (2); Fresno (1); Los Angeles (10); Napa (1); Orange (1); Riverside (3); Sacramento (3); San Diego (3); San Francisco (1); Santa Clara (2); Solano (2); Sonoma (1); and Yolo (2) Counties.

Number of Judgeships Authorized, Filled and Vacant as of **December 31, 2018**

TYPE OF COURT	NUMBER OF COURTS	NUMBER OF JUDGESHIPS					
		Authorized	Filled	Vacant	Vacant (AB 159 positions)	<i>Filled(Last Month)</i>	<i>Vacant(Last Month)</i>
Supreme Court	1	7	7	0	0	7	0
Courts of Appeal	6	106	106	0	0	106	0
Superior Courts	58	1,743	1,679	16	48*	1,663	80
All Courts	65	1,856	1,792		64	1,776	80

*50 new judgeships were authorized (but not funded) in 2008 with the enactment of AB 159 (Chapter 722, Statutes of 2007); funding was provided for two of the judgeships in the 2018 Budget Act.

Vacancies occurring in the current reporting month are highlighted below in **yellow**:

JUDICIAL VACANCIES: SUPERIOR COURTS

County	Vacancies	Reason for Vacancy	Judge to be Replaced	Last Day in Office
Alameda	1	Elevated	Hon. Ioana Petrou	12/20/18
Humboldt	1	Retirement	Hon. Dale A. Reinholtsen	01/06/18
Kern	1	Retirement	Hon. Sidney P. Chapin	02/15/18
Los Angeles	8	Elevated	Hon. John Shepard Wiley, Jr.	12/20/18
Los Angeles		Elevated	Hon. Brian S. Currey	12/20/18
Los Angeles		Elevated	Hon. Frank J Menetrez	11/25/18
Los Angeles		Retirement	Hon. Marc R. Marmaro	03/26/18
Los Angeles		Retirement	Hon. Christine C. Ewell	03/07/18
Los Angeles		Retirement	Hon. Roy L. Paul	02/16/18

Los Angeles		Retirement	Hon. Carol H. Rehm, Jr.	02/16/18
Madera	1	Retirement	Hon. Charles A. Wieland	08/31/18
Mono	1	Retirement	Hon. Stanley L. Eller	12/31/18
San Francisco	1	Elevated	Hon. Tracie L. Brown	12/20/18
San Luis Obispo	1	Retirement	Hon. Barry T. LaBarbera	03/30/18
Santa Clara	1	Elevated	Hon. Allison M. Danner	07/25/18
Solano	1	Retirement	Hon. Peter B. Foor	06/29/18
TOTAL VACANCIES	16			

Number of Judgeships Authorized, Filled, and Vacant, December 2016–December 2018 (two years)*

Month	Superior Courts				Courts of Appeal			
	Authorized	Filled	Vacancy	Vacancy Rate	Authorized	Filled	Vacancy	Vacancy Rate
Nov-16	1,727	1,601	126	7.3%	105	96	9	8.6%
Dec-16	1,730	1,601	129	7.5%	105	96	9	8.6%
Jan-17	1,730	1,614	116	6.7%	105	99	6	5.7%
Feb-17	1,730	1,611	119	6.9%	105	98	7	6.7%
Mar-17	1,730	1,611	121	7.0%	105	98	7	6.7%
Apr-17	1,730	1,601	129	7.5%	105	98	7	6.7%
May-17	1,730	1,621	109	6.3%	105	98	7	6.7%
Jun-17	1,730	1,610	120	6.9%	105	97	8	7.6%
Jul-17	1,732	1,603	129	7.4%	105	95	10	9.5%
Aug-17	1,732	1,594	138	8.0%	105	94	11	10.5%
Sep-17	1,732	1,584	148	8.5%	105	94	11	10.5%
Oct-17	1,732	1,584	152	8.8%	105	94	11	10.5%
Nov-17	1,732	1,613	119	6.9%	105	96	9	8.6%
Dec-17	1,732	1,630	102	5.9%	105	95	10	9.5%
Jan-18	1,732	1,621	111	6.4%	105	94	11	10.5%
Feb-18	1,732	1,632	100	5.8%	105	97	8	7.6%
Mar-18	1,732	1,623	109	6.3%	105	95	10	9.5%
Apr-18	1,732	1,617	115	6.6%	105	93	12	11.4%
May-18	1,732	1,608	124	7.2%	105	93	12	11.4%
Jun-18	1,732	1,627	105	6.1%	105	97	8	7.6%
Jul-18	1,732	1,633	99	5.7%	105	101	4	3.8%
Aug-18	1,732	1,618	114	6.6%	105	100	5	4.8%
Sep-18	1,743	1,619	124	7.1%	106	100	6	5.7%
Oct-18	1,743	1,658	85	4.9%	106	103	3	2.8%
Nov-18	1,743	1,663	80	4.6%	106	106	0	0.0%
Dec-18	1,743	1,679	64	3.7%	106	106	0	0.0%

* As of December 31, 2018.

Note: Growth in number of Authorized Judgeships reflects SJO conversions. Since 2007, 154 SJO positions have been converted to judgeships .

Percent of Judgeship Vacancies in the Superior Courts, December 2016–December 2018

