



Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688
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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-166
For business meeting on October 24, 2025

Title
Judicial Council: Rules Committee Report

Report Type
Information

Submitted by
Rules Committee
Hon. Joan K. Irion, Chair
Hon. Tamara L. Wood, Vice-Chair

Date of Report
October 17, 2025

Contact
Kristin Burford, 916-263-2989
kristin.burford@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The Rules Committee establishes and maintains the Judicial Council rule-making process and assists the council in making informed decisions about rules of court, forms, standards of judicial administration, and jury instructions. Among other actions, the committee “[r]ecommends whether the council should approve, modify, or reject each proposal.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.13(c)(1).) This report describes the committee’s activities since the Judicial Council meeting on July 18, 2025. These activities include the committee’s recommendations for council approval of the rules, forms, and jury instructions proposals identified below. As recommended by the committee, these materials are all on the consent agenda for the council meeting on October 24.

Overview of Committee Meetings

Since the council’s last meeting, the Rules Committee has convened three times by videoconference.

On **September 4, 2025**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider 22 proposed reports to the Judicial Council with recommendations for new and revised rules and forms that had circulated during the spring public comment cycle:

- *Access and Fairness: Accommodations for Court Users to Pump or Express Breast Milk*
- *Appellate Procedure: Remote Appearances at Oral Argument in the Appellate Division*

- *Appellate Procedure: Extension of Time in Misdemeanor and Infraction Appeals*
- *Civil Practice and Procedure: Deadlines for Filings for Class Certification Motions*
- *Civil Practice and Procedure: Implementation of Assembly Bill 2837*
- *Civil Practice and Procedure: Amendment of the Collections Case Rule*
- *Civil Practice and Procedure: Confidential Information Form for Doxing Cases*
- *Civil Practice and Procedure: Authorization to Appear on Behalf of a Party in Small Claims Cases*
- *Criminal Law: Findings and Orders for Pretrial Release or Detention*
- *Criminal Law: Implementation of Recent Legislation Regarding Criminal Protective Orders*
- *Criminal Law: Mental Competency Proceedings*
- *Criminal Law: Findings and Orders Regarding Prohibited Items While on Diversion*
- *Family Law: Rules and Forms to Determine Parental Relationship Based on Gestational Carrier Agreement*
- *Family Law: Standards for Computer Software Used to Assist in Determining Support*
- *Family Law: Joint Petition for Dissolution or Legal Separation*
- *Juvenile Law: Retention of Jurisdiction and Petitions Requesting Juvenile Case Files of Deceased Children*
- *Juvenile Law: Racial Justice Act Forms*
- *Juvenile Law: Sex Offender Registration*
- *Juvenile Law: Date a Child Entered Foster Care*
- *Rules and Forms: Comprehensive Adjudications of Groundwater Rights*
- *Rules and Forms: New Case Categories for Civil Case Cover Sheet*
- *Unlawful Detainer: Form Revisions to Reflect Repeal of COVID-19 Legislation*

Action: The Rules Committee approved the proposed reports and recommended they go on the council's consent agenda for the meeting on October 24.

On **September 11, 2025**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider:

- Eight proposed reports to the Judicial Council with recommendations for new and revised rules and forms that had circulated during the spring public comment cycle:
 - *Family Law and Protective Orders: Implementation of Senate Bill 599 and Assembly Bill 3072*
 - *Juvenile Law: Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Inquiry and Family Finding*
 - *Probate Conservatorship: Acceptance of Transfers Under the CCJA*
 - *Probate Conservatorship: Information for Conservatee*
 - *Protective Orders: Changes to Domestic Violence and Juvenile Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 2759*
 - *Protective Orders: Civil Restraining Order Forms to Implement Senate Bill 899*
 - *Protective Orders: Postsecondary School Violence Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 2096*
 - *Protective Orders: Civil Harassment Forms to Implement Senate Bill 554*

- One proposed report to the Judicial Council from the Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions to approve additions and revisions, which circulated for public comment, to the 2025 edition of the *Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions*.
- Four proposed reports to the Judicial Council with recommendations for new and revised rules and forms that were not circulated for comment under rule 10.22(d)(2):
 - *Civil Practice and Procedure: Rules Regarding Telephonic Appearances*
 - *Judicial Branch Education: Sunset of Pandemic-Related Deadline Extensions*
 - *Rules and Forms: Miscellaneous Technical Changes to CARE Act Rule and Adoption, CARE Act, and Sheriff Service Forms*
 - *Rules and Forms: Miscellaneous Technical Changes*

Action: The Rules Committee approved the proposed reports and recommended they go on the council's consent agenda for the meeting on October 24.

On **October 16, 2025**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider the proposed annual agendas for the 2025–2026 rules cycle for each of the eight committees under its oversight:

- Appellate Advisory Committee
- Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
- Civil Jury Instructions Advisory Committee
- Criminal Jury Instructions Advisory Committee
- Criminal Law Advisory Committee
- Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
- Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee
- Traffic Advisory Committee

Action: An annual agenda for each advisory committee was approved. The agendas are posted on the California Courts website on each advisory committee's webpage and at the webpage listing all annual agendas for Judicial Council advisory bodies at courts.ca.gov/32214.htm.

Recommendation to the Judicial Council

The Rules Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve the rules, forms, and jury instructions recommendations in the reports identified above, all of which are on the council's consent agenda for the meeting on October 24.¹

¹ Under rule 10.5(f)(2), items can be moved to the discussion agenda upon a timely request of a council member or by the Chief Justice.