

The Judicial Council of California is the constitutionally created policymaking body of the California courts. The council meets at least six times a year for business meetings that are open to the public and audiocast live via the California Courts website. What follows is a formatted and unedited transcript of the last meeting. The official record of each meeting, the meeting minutes, are usually approved by the council at the next business meeting. Much more information about this meeting, the work of the Judicial Council, and the role of the state court system is available on the California Courts website at www.courts.ca.gov.

>> Good morning. I invite everyone to please take your seats so we can begin our meeting.

>> [Pause]

>> This is the business meeting of the Judicial Council of California for Friday, November 17, 2017 from Sacramento. This is the continuation of the two-day council meeting and the meeting is in session. We begin the regular agenda with public comment. I'm turning this over.

>> Thank you. Good morning. The Judicial Council welcomes public comment on general matters of judicial administration and on specific agenda items as it can enhance the council's understanding of the issues that come before us but this morning we have five noted members of the public who have joined us to make the public comment for our speakers, after I call your name, I'm going to ask that you please approach the podium to my left. You will each have 3 minutes to speak. There is a timer with a green, yellow and red light to help to guide you. When the light turns yellow, you have 1 minute remaining. To start us off, I would like to say good morning and welcome to Ms. Kristi Hudson. I am not sure if Ms. Hudson has checked in. Is Ms. Hudson present? Not seeing her, I will move to Ms. Barbara Bartoshuk. Is she with us this morning? Thank you. Good morning and welcome. You may proceed.

>> Good morning. Thank you. My name is Barbara Bartoshuk. I am grateful for all of the reforms made to improve the judicial transparency and access. There are far too many Californians that are in our court system believing that the rule of law will prevail only to experience brokenness and corruption. It is hard to hear and it is hard and scary to say, but I know that this is true because my family experienced blatantly wrong conduct in a probate action in the form of an appellate court opinion that ignores laws, disregards the record and her kids their own facts. Please do not hear what I am not saying. I know that there are many honorable, principled and moral judges. Making a mistake when applying the law does not itself make a judgment wrongful. Judicial mistakes are understandable and a product of their humanity. I'm speaking of a clear disregard for the rule of law and common sense, disrespecting the people that come before them. I wrote letters to several judges and legislators, pointing out that court's errant actions and even included the documents. I truly believe that every person I contacted would be absolutely mortified and do whatever it took to correct it. But I was wrong. I wondered, is this common? Do people not care? Is protection of the public secondary and to even wrongful acts of a judge? It is judgments like that that make a joke of our whole judicial system. I am here today because this matters to me. I know that it matters to the thousands of others that are coming after me. I believe that there is a paradigm shift that is necessary, a shift in the way that

we all understand and approach what an independent judiciary means. We cannot just be words on a page and every judge and every decision must be held accountable to the people and to the other judges. And that is for every person that comes before them. If the person cannot do that, then they need to get a different job. Because a rebuke behind closed doors does nothing for the people that are harmed. In her 2016 the State of the Judiciary address, our Chief Justice shared a great family story of what took place in Sacramento and her mother's court experience. Just like her mother, I feel totally disrespected by this system, opposite of how I entered. I no longer respect the system. I do not trust the system. And I do not trust the judiciary in particular. There is no value in accessing justice if justice is not valued. And it's your watch. I want to brainstorm with you. I want to fix it. Thank you.

>> Thank you. Next we would like to have Ms. Lynn Gavin. Is Ms. Lynn Gavin present?

>> [Pause]

>> Welcome and good morning, Ms. Gavin. You may proceed.

>> Good morning. Honorary members of the Judicial Council. To the ladies and gentlemen here today, I come before you, challenged and on public transportation at 6:00 this morning. Then I had to walk half-mile to get here. It is not really accessible for people with disabilities. I came before you today because there is a burden on my heart. I want to say that the wonderful comments of the speaker before me. They are very poetic and I'm sure that she had to really think through them. I want to say that to be a judge is an honorable and sacred profession because the judge's pen is mightier than any sword or scalpel. The decisions that judges make directly impact the physical and psychological welfare of people and it is very important to hopefully get it right the first time. I am here because of an injustice done to my family. It has been 5000 years, nearly 2000 days since the injustice occurred in the wrongful eviction that was procured, I believe, through fraud. What transpired was the law firm that was involved with the eviction that represented the landlord. He did not disclose the landlord has signed a federal contract with subsidized housing which is something that the judge should have known. Furthermore, it stated in the pleadings that, quote unquote, they could not find the contract, so there is no authenticated evidence in the case whatsoever, and yet the judge felt comfortable signing off on it simply because I did not show up, and I did not show up because I was having heart palpitations and I have a heart condition. And this particular incident is rampant in San Francisco because the landlord has issued in the past five years over 700 three-day notices. I think that you have a judicial responsibility to investigate the three-day notices and evictions by the law firm, Wasserman and Stern, to see that they were truly above the law because homelessness can kill people. It is your responsibility to uphold the law if justice is to be blind. As I said, a lot of things happened. The city did not do anything because they received nearly \$500 million, so it is a conflict of interest for them to investigate themselves, and nobody wants to get that kind of money back. But it is very important that you look to see if people's rights may have been violated and they may have been wrongfully kicked out of their homes. And if you need the help of the FBI, I would think that you would have the integrity to ask them, because my family, including a baby, have been destabilized in housing for the past five years and our rights under the 14th amendment are substantial procedural due process rights and many

other rights enumerated in the Constitution, and they have been violated by the court through a mistake and what we have been through should have never occurred. I want to thank you for this opportunity.

>> Thank you, Ms. Gavin. Next we have Ms. Kathleen Russell. Is Ms. Russell with us this morning? Welcome and good morning.

>> Good morning. Thank you. Chief Justice, members of the council, it is good to be here this morning. I'm Kathleen Russell with the Center for Judicial Excellence. I just wanted to note that a number of my colleagues today are at the Board of Psychology meeting down in San Diego. You are meeting on the same day. We have been in an educational process with the Board of Psychology as well as the Board of Behavioral Sciences about the ongoing crisis in the family court system here in California and the concerns that we have, and the growing number of the public have, about the lack of accountability. We are very saddened and you all who live in Southern California are well aware of the case of Anna Estevez who was a school principal in South Pasadena whose young son was murdered this past summer in Southern California by his father, just nine days after this mother went to court, seeking protection for her young son. He was taken to Disneyland and then he was murdered within hours afterward. The courts had an opportunity to protect this child along with many others. Our organization has tracked 610 children murdered around the issue of divorce and custody. These are children murdered by a parent. Many of these cases, the courts had an opportunity to protect the child and they did not do so. I know that we have been talking to you about this for two or three years now. This is an opportunity that the courts have in California to show some leadership and sadly, women like Anna Estevez, an Army veteran and who just spoke at the Veterans Day ceremony in Azusa, California, as an Army veteran, is also now an advocate for child safety and she just spent two days on her own dime flying to D.C. to lobby for our resolution which, I mean, it should not take advocates having to go to Washington, D.C. and to go to Sacramento and fight for the basics of making sure that children are safe when their parents go through divorce. She is now an advocate for our resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 72, which has bipartisan support and 20 different cosponsors. Representative Patrick Meehan has introduced the resolution, saying that family courts across the nation need to make child safety the number one priority when determining custody. This is not something that we want to be doing, flying back and forth to D.C. We would much prefer to be working with Senator Jackson and the Assembly Judiciary Committee here in the state to really make some meaningful reforms.

>> Thank you, Ms. Russell, for your comments. Your time has expired.

>> It says I have 15 seconds. I would also like to say that Roberta Fitzpatrick who has been to this council many times is pleased to finally have her sentencing decision happening in Modesto on the 28th. Thank you.

>> Thank you very much. Our final speaker for this morning is Mr. Hazard Sankar. Is he present with us?

>> [Pause]

>> Good morning, sir, and welcome.

>> Good morning. My name is Hazard Sankar. I am a former government auditor. I have been here before. I will repeat what I've said before until there is some change. The family law court is fraud, corruption, extortion and child kidnapping. I performed a number of audits throughout this state and country and there is nothing more heinous, more despicable, than what is going on in our family law courts. It is downright criminal. And in the midst of this, we have children that are dying. Dying at such a rate that it is 3 to 400% that of any developed modern country. The U.S. reports that the child murder rate is at an epidemic. UNICEF reports that America is the worst of child abuse and homicide with an average of 27 children killed every week. The BBC News also exposes other horrific crimes under their "America's child death shame." There are about 15 to 2000 children killed, murdered, according to BBC News every year. Every 5 hours a child dies from abuse, reports the BBC. Thousands of children are murdered. Millions of children abused. America has the worst child abuse record in the industrialized world. And it is here. We need judicial accountability. Thank you.

>> Thank you. Chief, that concludes our public comment.

>> Thank you, Judge Boulware Eurie. Our next order of business is the review and approval of the minutes from our September 14 and 15 judicial council meeting. After you have had a chance to look again at those minutes, I will entertain a motion to approve and a second.

>> So moved. Second.

>> Thank you.

>> [Vote Being Called]

>> Senator Jackson and also Judge Rubin. Thank you. Next on our agenda is my regular report to the council, summarizing my outreach and engagements as Chief Justice and this has been since our last meeting and I'll preface the comments with a statement that as you know the national, state, and local bar associations and organizations have been key stakeholders and supporters of efforts in the judicial branch for the last decade. They have supported advocacy efforts in the capital and our access to justice programs and services, not only statewide but locally in the courts and communities. I appreciate their ongoing support and effort on access to justice for all Californians. In keeping with those relationships, I had a number of bar-related engagements during this reporting period. In Chicago I was a panelist for the celebration of Constitution Day, the war on fair courts and its potential impact on businesses operating in the United States hosted by the ABA. The panel was moderated by Judge Clifton Newman of the South Carolina Circuit Court, judge at large, and my fellow panelists were associate Justice Robin Hudson from the Supreme Court of North Carolina and Chicago attorney and partner Stephen Puices and senior counsel with the Brennan Center for Justice, Alicia Bannon. Additionally, I spoke about the Judicial Council's Commission for Impartial Courts and our ongoing need for outreach and education about the role of an impartial court. I spoke about the partnership with state superintendent of instruction Tom Torlakson and the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning that ultimately led to the Power of Democracy steering committee and a

related civic learning initiatives. Through our convening and connecting effort, California has enhanced the educational civic curriculum. The courts are now included in the history books. They are included in the curriculum. We have a new state seal of civic engagement. We have statewide civic learning awards and we have local civic learning partnerships. A civic judicial education was also the important theme of the California ABOTA chapter's teachers of law school at the Anthony M. Kennedy Library and Learning Center here in Sacramento. Former mayor of San Francisco Willie Brown and my colleagues and partners in outreach United States District Court Judge Morrison England Jr. and retired Administrative Presiding Justice Art Scotland also participated in that teachers program. The educators were interested in the judicial branch and our civic engagement efforts and also interested in topics relating to the separation of powers and checks and balances, trial by jury, and a career path to being a judge. Also in Sacramento the Women Lawyers of Sacramento hosted a reception for the Supreme Court of California when we held oral argument in November. The Women Lawyers of Sacramento engage in many activities in the community to support women and children. For example, grants for anti-bullying school workshops, rural legal assistance, food and reading literacy programs, field trips for low income students, legal assistance for indigent clients, and helping homeless women find employment and housing. The Women Attorneys Advocacy Project and the Federal Bar Association's Northern District of California hosted a panel discussion in San Francisco titled Views from the Court: When Judges Talk, Lawyers Listen. I joined U.S. District Court Chief Judge Phyllis Hamilton, District Judge Susan Illston and William Orrick to share insights and issues specific to women attorneys and general practice tips moderated by attorney Mary McNamara. In Newport Beach I had an opportunity to visit our retired justice Bill Rylaarsdam and had a conversation and Q&A session entitled The Status and Future of the California Courts as part of the Orange County Bar Association and Pacific Club's distinguished speakers series. San Francisco I swore in the new officers on board at the California Women Lawyers at their 43rd annual dinner. As you know the organization promotes the advancement of women in the legal profession and it is an advocate for the concerns of women in society and I was joined by Senator Jackson at that event. The Litigation Section held its inaugural litigation summit in San Francisco and litigators Megan Rowe and Jessica Rivin interviewed me about my career advocacy and the courts. In Long Beach I participated in their bar association's anniversary celebration. The event was dedicated to former Governor George Deukmejian, my boss in the eighties. And Judge Stuart Rice serenaded us all at the event. I have it all on tape. [laughter]

>> It is right here.

>> There you go. In Berkeley I had a conversation with the California Constitution Center director David Carillo as part of the conference called Federalism Now. It was hosted by Berkeley Law in partnership with the Institute of Governmental Studies, the Federalist Society, the American Constitution, the bar associations of San Francisco and Alameda and the Aspen Institute. In the conversation -- it covered general important current event topics including the interplay between the state and federal Constitutions, the impact of federal policies on local and state jurisdictions. I had the pleasure of participating as an honorary member of the Foundation for Democracy and Justice reception in Los Angeles, honoring Los Angeles Superior Court Presiding Judge Dan Buckley and its tremendous service for the community inside and outside of

the courtroom, also joined by Senator Jackson for that event. Nearly 300 of the judicial officers from Los Angeles participate in outreach in the community. They work in diverse communities and they bring people into the courts and they go out into the community. In Pomona I participated in a Q&A session with retired Justice Rebecca Wiseman as part of the 2017 Assigned Judges Program conference. So these judges, before they come to the courts, they make sure that they are up to date with education and we have a conference for them every three years. That includes Qualifying Ethics, updates on case types and workshops on topics including search and seizure and restraining orders. I appreciate the participation of approximately 170 judges and the work of the faculty of 15 active and retired judicial officers in maintaining the high quality of education and service of the Assigned Judges Program. The Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, here in Sacramento with Justice Hull was my home court for 6 years as an appellate justice. Justice Butts, Justices Hoke, Hull, and Murray created the conference by the third appellate district that was the Q&A, topics that I participated included duties as Chief, diversity on the courts, recent developments in the branch and civics education. Our Judicial Council staff 2017 management team meeting with Martin provided me with an opportunity to share our collective gratitude for the work that the Judicial Council staff does on behalf of all of our initiatives, our advisory committees, and these meetings. I am wearing my three hats of Chief Justice of California, chair of the Judicial Council and justice on the Supreme Court, and I and you and all of us benefit from the work that the council staff does every single day. I took my own education outside of the courtroom, also by CJER. I participated in two appellate practice webinars during my lunch hosted by CJER as I indicated. The first webinar featured the vice-chair, Justice Ming Chin, and Presiding Judge Christopher Cloud from Imperial County and it dealt with the emerging issues in forensic science, specifically junk science, that lasted one hour and there was a second webinar that I participated in this week on immigration law for state appellate courts. It is a faculty partnership between Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Rodin Roujani for the Los Angeles area and Adelanto immigration courts and Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Kim. I was honored to receive the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles Maynard Toll Award, which recognizes public service. That was from Justice Lori Elon who herself is the epitome of public service. I recently saw a picture of her hiking in Iceland, covered in ice. The LAFLA foundation provides a direct representation to counsel, advice, workshops and referrals for over 80,000 poor and low income Los Angelenos every year. And as we know, now more than 4 million self-represented litigants come to California's courts statewide. And finally, I was pleased to contribute to a post to the inaugural Harvard Law Review blog on the cost of money bail to justice. We heard about that yesterday. That concludes my report to the council and I turn it over to Martin.

>> Thank you, Chief. I have to say, probably on behalf of everybody, every time I hear that report I feel like I am not doing enough to advance the cause that we are all engaged in here. [Laughter] Good morning, members. In your materials there is my regular report that chronicles the activities of the operations as well as your lower advisory committees and the work that they are doing I wanted to publicly report out based on a couple of additional things, some of which are in the report and most of which are not. The first item is related to the budget activities. As a reminder to the council members, you approved a series of budget change proposals on a priority basis and listing. We sent those over to the Department of Finance of what is considered the

usual development fall process of the budget for the state, building up to the governor's proposal, which will be released on January 10 next year. The discussions I would characterize as thoughtful, productive, and there is a lot of follow-up questions and answers that go back and forth. We are ably supported by the trial courts, the Courts of Appeal, in answering those questions. We also put our own analysis together. There is a high level of interest and that is a good sign in terms of the volume and the depth of the questions that are occurring. The other element that is a good sign is that it appears that state revenues at least are holding steady in terms of projections. The LAO is reporting out that there may actually be a surplus to deal with next year. Usually there may not be a surplus but they do at least have something in common. That is a good sign for the state in general and particularly for us in our quest to increase the underfunding condition of the courts. At the same time, I wanted to report out about the Court Statistics Report, which is released about this time every year. I want to unpack it a little bit. It is published today on the courts website. It will be available in its fuller version. I would like to give you the highlights for a short version of what is contained in there. The report basically will show that the volume of cases statewide this year or last year -- excuse me -- for 15-16 fiscal year is 6.2 million cases, representing a 9% decline overall from the prior year. I want to unpack it a little bit and I will try to do this in simple English. That 9% is actually a gross number, a gross decline, and I would like to walk you through the net decline in terms of cases. The first point to make is that the majority of that reduction is being driven by what we call limited jurisdiction cases, such as criminal infractions and traffic matters, which, on average, tend to be less complex and they are less resource intensive. They represent the higher volume and that is why it brings down the overall gross number. This is the same condition that has been happening year over year in prior years. The vast drop-off of cases in California are in this specific area of infractions and traffic matters. The second point to make is that these criminal infractions and traffic matters, because they make up such a significant proportion of the total filings, they actually have a very minor effect on the overall workload of the superior courts. It actually distorts the true picture of workload and resource needs in the courts. Here is a way to illustrate that. First, when the traffic cases, which are almost 2/3 of our filings, are excluded from the analysis, you will actually only see a 1% decrease over the past year. I want to repeat that. When you exclude the traffic infraction filings from the overall picture, there is only a 1% decline for all other filings. Now, if you take both criminal infractions and traffic cases excluded from the analysis, there is actually a small increase of about 1% in total non-fraction, non-traffic filings. This is all the other stuff. The reason that you see the increase is because there are categories of cases that are not decreasing. They are actually increasing. Examples of these are personal injury, property damage, wrongful death, family probate and mental health. Because those cases are more resource intensive, it actually shows an increase potentially in the workload of the courts, I know that it is a little bit dense but we will try to get better as we go forward. We are having these conversations to make sure that, in the discussions of the appropriation for next year, that the Department of Finance becomes aware of this. We will be working with the legislature to explain this, but the short version is, because each case type that we work on is not the same in terms of its resources, the net analysis is more important than the gross numbers or the gross analyzei that you see of the total filings. With that, I wanted to at least take a moment also as I usually do, to try to highlight some of the activities that the staff are engaged in that you

would not ordinarily be aware of. At this meeting, I'm going to pick the court facilities operations. Some of this is in the written report and it highlights the maintenance and management opportunities -- and we have a vast portfolio of facilities that we manage. The total amount is about 21 million square feet in California. These are for courthouses ranging in size from one courtroom to some of them being 100 courtrooms. The staff is led by the director Mike Courtney, and it is a great staff managing at least 500 modifications at any given time. The projects can include special repairs, minor capital outlay projects, and new this year is something that we started and talked about earlier where you have got about 100+ sustainability projects in the area of solar, water conservation, and lighting retrofit projects that are actually doing with the California Conservation Corps to increase efficiencies and lower operating costs as well as be part of the sustainability efforts that California is engaged in. In addition to them, one of the things that I think that folks are not really aware of is that for numerical purposes, in 2016, we received about 70,000 different service orders that are coming off of that. I spent a little time on this because we have got a bunch of staff that are working -- there are about 100 to folks in there but they are not all located here. One of the things that we do is actually locate them in the facilities that they are in because it helps lower operating costs overall. I spent time on it because it is the kind of group that is working really 24/7, 365 because the buildings are really alive all during those periods of time and it has to be taken care of. They are out doing the work, generally unrecognized, but the only time that they get recognized is when something goes wrong. The elevator is out. The courtroom is too hot. The jury is sweating. All of those kinds of things that are occurring. I wanted to take a moment to let them know that we are aware of the good work that they're doing every day and the majority of time, things are going right. With that, the last thing I will say is happy Thanksgiving to everybody. That concludes my report to you.

>> Next on the agenda we have -- it is the update. Before I introduce Judge Nadler to give the update, I wanted to say something, and I know you want to follow up, I want to say something about the recent Northern California wildfires. The October wildfires I am informed burned an estimated 200,000 acres. It destroyed more than 8400 homes and businesses. It changed the lives of thousands of people, and it claimed the lives of approximately 43 people. Tragically, these fires had a devastating impact on local communities, Butte, Lake, Napa, Sonoma and Yuba Counties. I know that you, like me, were watching these fires with absolute serious concern and waiting to know what was happening to our court families and our courts. As you know, the local courts are a vital part of all of the communities. While I had to issue emergency orders, no court facilities were destroyed. But the fires did force certain court closures and home evacuations for many court employees and staff. Judicial Council Legal Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, facility services that you heard about and other officers worked to assist the court, trying to find out what they needed and how we could get them services on the ground. That included providing legal advice on emergency orders and powers for presiding judges, extending court filings and hearing deadlines, assisting employees on benefits, and IT issues, overseeing facility needs, environmental testing of court buildings, etc. I turn it over to Martin at this point to talk about our further plans.

>> Thank you, Chief. Some of this will be contained in Judge Nadler's report on the situation there but I wanted to inform folks that at least 13 members of the extended court family lost their homes in the fires in Sonoma County as well as Mendocino County. In an effort to provide some direct assistance, we have launched a fundraising drive out of the council staff operation here so we will be coordinating the donation effort and I believe a notice went out yesterday. We will be doing it for the remainder of the month. We will be collecting resources to provide direct assistance to those particular families in our family that lost their homes. We will be collecting that, and then we will be working with the presiding judges of those two courts to get the distributions made. We do this because we recognize that though there is a fantastic surge of goodwill that happens in events like this all across the state, it is a long, arduous road back. Anybody who has been either harmed or followed the kind of fire events that occur in the state -- it is measured in years, in terms of the road to recovery. We wanted to in this first instance see what we could do to help, but we are all paying attention to -- maybe there are years related to this. We are going to be paying close attention to the road to recovery because it is going to be long I expect. Thank you. Judge Nadler.

>> Thank you, Chief and council. This is going to be just an overview of the situation in Sonoma. It was like nothing anyone could imagine, being there. I will just try to give you this brief presentation and give you a sense of what that is like. Before I do, at the end of it, I will be offering some suggestions, things that we should maybe consider. When all is said and done, we are putting ourselves back together. I realize that this could happen anywhere, anyplace, in the state of California. We had an earthquake in Napa which was bad, and there could be a worse situation anywhere. We could have a catastrophic earthquake and be in the same situation that Sonoma found itself in. There is a purpose in this presentation. It is not so much to tell you what happened in Sonoma. It is to, hopefully, have all of us thinking about what could happen in the future as we think about future preparations for that. The Tubbs Fire in Sonoma destroyed -- it is one of several fires, by the way. We had several fires going on simultaneously. It destroyed over 6000 homes and buildings. Fires to the north and east destroyed 1000 homes and buildings. They came within a few miles of the town of Sonoma. They were very worried that they were not going to be able to stop the progression of the fire and that it was literally going to be burning the town of Sonoma. As a result of these fires, about 100,000 people have been displaced and 4000 Sonoma County residents were evacuated to shelters. The Chief said that there were 42, there are now 43 dead. Another was found in the cleanup. 5% of the housing stock was destroyed by these fires. You may have read about the Coffey neighborhood and the Fountaingrove neighborhood. It is a little hard to see but in this chart, this is actually showing the perimeters of the fires. You can see Santa Rosa. Right there is Coffey Park and Fountaingrove Park, and in the middle of that is the main hall of justice at the civil and family courthouse. It gives you a sense of how close we were. I will tell you, at one point I was there I had our CEO there. We had two, at one time, three other employees there in the entire court system. We did not know at any point whether the fire would overtake one or more of the courthouses. We discovered that there were embers burning on the roof of the civil and family courthouse. That was lost because all of the electricity was out. There were only a few people that could get in because with the electricity out all of the proxy cards did not work and I did not have the key to it. We had a person that had a key to get in. There was the IT director and he literally took the server that was at the backup for the

management system. He took it in his arms in his car and drove it up to the family home in Northern California. He felt that would be safer than leaving it in the courthouse which could just burn to the ground. So many buildings dead. This slide gives you a sense of the evacuation areas. CFC is the civil and family courthouse and this is the hall of justice. We are right in the middle of that evacuation area. I will tell you as well that, while I was there, and it was very difficult to breathe, we all had masks on and that only did so much but you all start to get congested right away and probably we should not have been there but somebody needed to be directing things. We had commercial buildings that went up in smoke across the street from the family courthouse. To give you a sense of how close it all was, the Coffey neighborhood was probably -- I would guess that it was about one mile away from the Hall of Justice. The Fountaingrove area is about half the distance from the courthouse. This is the Coffey neighborhood before the fire. This is the Coffey neighborhood after the fire. I do not have a picture at this time of the Fountaingrove neighborhood. There were other areas that were completely destroyed. This is Fountaingrove. It shows the buildings and homes that were destroyed just on this chart. Fountaingrove Inn, Chief, I know that we have spent time in there and we were going to on March 22. It will be relocated because the picture on the road is the Fountaingrove Inn and I talked to a deputy who witnessed the fire and he told me it was like somebody put a match in a matchbox. The hotel went up in a matter of minutes. It was like an explosion of fire as it came down Fountaingrove and it came to the hotel. Some other pictures. This is the Hilton. If you have been to Sonoma, you may have stayed there. It is burning in this picture. On the right, that is a picture from Fountaingrove towards the Hilton. This is a picture of my friend's house, one of our judges, one of the three judges who lost their homes. This is what is left of his beautiful home in the Mark West Springs neighborhood. This is probably not the picture that he posed for. He called me up and I have to share this story. He was excited and he wanted to take me out to lunch. He drives up in this red pickup truck which is his favorite. The front of it -- maybe you have seen this picture. It was melted but the truck was working and that was the only thing that was left out of that rubble. His wife's car, parked two cars down, is ashes. He had a Toyota Prius which is still operational. But this was his pride and joy. He is standing there with a gas can, because, when we finished lunch, he went to the back of the truck and he had the half-filled gas can, this red plastic gas can that had not ignited. The truck was parked near the house and the house, as you can see, was rubble. It lost everything else. But the truck and the gas can with gas in it survived. I include that just as an indication of the randomness of this fire. Although most of the neighborhoods were taken out, there were some homes in the Coffey neighborhood that survived. There were some homes in Fountaingrove that survived. There was a random nature of the fire and it was inexplicable really. He had his car and his gas can. This is the Juvenile Justice Center which is north of the town of Sonoma. It says it a JCC, pointing to it you can see how close the fire came to that. We evacuated the juveniles to Solano County. This never burned, by the way. The JCC survived but we evacuated them to Solano and then the fire started going down towards Solano and we were about to evacuate them to Marin. I do not know that Marin knew this but that was the next plan of action and they arrested the fires. Everything was done. There were so many things going on that you just had to prioritize what you're doing and keep tabs on what was going on. The emergency operations center, they were worried about the fires joining. When all of this was going on, they were 0% contained. They

were worried about them getting worse if they joined. Fortunately, they did not. The initial response -- I noted that there were just a few of us there. We had to determine the fire status but we knew that the whole neighborhood -- a courthouse was burning. We did not know if the hall of justice would survive and it was hard to be in the hall of justice. I tried immediately to keep tabs on my judicial officers. I used my cell phone and I had their cell numbers and some of them had cell phone service and some did not because the cell phone towers were burning. Some have land lines and some did not. Some had emails and some had texting. Some did not all of that changed, depending upon the fire. Again, we have three judges who lost their homes. One did not know if she lost her home for three days because she was in the Fountaingrove neighborhood. It turned out that she did not. We had probably three, four judges -- I am not even sure as I stand here -- whose cars were packed and ready to go. They could see the fires approaching their houses. It was that kind of an emergency situation where we are worrying about the hall of justice and worrying about our juveniles and worrying about the jail and what is going to happen there and we had to worry about the judicial officers. They were keeping in touch with me as best as they could. Communication turned out to be a big issue. I want to say that I feel compelled to share with you the bravery and the commitment of our judges. One of the judges who lost her home was the supervising judge in criminal. The second judge who lost her home was the supervising judge of family. The third judge who you saw was my friend who was on vacation. He learned about it while he was on a beach in North Carolina. But the two that were here showed up. We did not send out an SOS to anyone to come in. I could not do it but I had too many things going on. So many of them showed up, including the judges who lost their homes. They were ready to work. They jumped right into it. Any judge in our bench would have done anything. I am really so proud, so unbelievably proud of them. It is a level of commitment that really cannot be measured in words. It is something that I appreciate, given my unique position at the time, from the bottom of my heart. I really could not go through this presentation without taking them for that and appreciating what they do for our county and for the citizens of our state. It was nine days we formally closed the court. We cannot do anything. There was great concern about what to do with people cited in criminal cases. We know that we move a lot of people through the system. People are arrested and they come in. People are cited to appear, they are expected to come in. We had to figure out what to do with all of them. I am not sure today that I have a great answer to it but it certainly was an issue. The public was showing up at court even though we put notices on the website and we did the best we could. They were showing up in court. We ended up putting notices on all of the doors and -- it was in English and Spanish. Advise them that the court was closed. It was interesting. The majority of people that showed up -- they were people, mostly traffic related people that owed fines and they wanted to pay or they had to go to traffic court and they wanted to not lose that appearance. Some of them were concerned that if a warrant went out there might be other consequences. They did not want to see that happen. It was amazing. We actually posted -- the facilities person at the court went to talk to them. We had somebody who ultimately came down and spoke Spanish and helped to translate. They knew that they were not getting in trouble by not being there. Continuing issues. It was not just the fire but it was environmental. Once the fires were generally contained, we knew that we were not losing the courthouses. The problem was that we had trouble breathing. My decision-making process was, we have this vast system that we have to have go forward.

Right? It is the court system. But we were concerned about the environment. When can we bring them back into the court? When would it be safe to bring them back? Even in the south county where the fire never reached, there was a plume that existed throughout the county, through the whole south county, and I understand it went into San Francisco as well, of this orange, disgusting plume of smoke. It was an environmental danger because it was hard to breathe, generally, throughout the county. With the court closed, we had to consider notice issues. How do you bring people back who have been cited in the field to appear on a certain date? We had issues regarding jurisdiction over them. Backlogs of cases. It was not so good in the beginning. We had just started the Odyssey System. We had issues in the beginning. Now we are getting to that. Nine days of caseloads that had not been processed. How do we get them back into court and to deal with the other issues? There are other issues. For example, the time waiver cases. What happens with defendants when there are no time waivers? The Chief Justice issued enabling orders and then, of course, we at the county used that to issue our own orders. I started issuing orders, this being a public meeting, I will use my words carefully but there were always issues about the extent to which I could issue these orders. There is so much that I could do but we were so limited otherwise. This was all being done in the context of smoke -- and environmental problems and fire and embers and everything else. It was a challenge. Also, keeping tabs on employees. Things that you do not think about. Word got through as we have the staff trying to discover how the employees were doing and how the staff is doing -- who has lost their homes? Who did not? How many were evacuated? The question that started coming back was, will I get paid? It is such a big issue because so many people live paycheck to paycheck. When you close the court they are concerned about whether they are going to be able to pay their mortgage or their rent. Then we had to figure out a way to get notice that they would be paid. We had to do that. It is something that I would not have thought about until the issues were already coming through. What the employee needs is not just lights and safety but it is being able to pay for their housing. My thrust here today more than anything is to have us start to think about anticipating emergencies. As I said, it could happen anytime, any place, and to any one of us sitting around the table, in any county in the state of California. We had a problem with communication. We had a problem overcoming that. I am sure that other counties may be in a better position but disaster planning, emergency planning -- I have to include that in the beginning. Emergency communications. I was keeping a running list of who had what communication and where and that was just the judicial officers. I suggest that we think about a better solution to that for the future and to be prepared for it in the future. You do not always have IT resources available. You might say, that is great. Let's put it on a webpage, if you have a webpage operational, but I do not know how to do that. Fortunately, we had some of the IT staff that was available and who is able to figure it out. We had him available. I could not put notices on the webpage. I could pull it up in my computer and that is the best I could do. We obtained assistance from the Chief, of course, the Judicial Council staff, legal advice about what the limits are of powers for a court, the presiding judge in a court. There are statutes that address the ability to extend deadlines and the Chief issued enabling orders in that regard, but some of the orders based on statutes do not go far enough. They did not really adequately address prelims and some things like that so we had questions about, the day that we opened the court, is that the day that we have 200 preliminaries? Whatever the numbers are. I think that it is a good idea to explore

the statutory authority that the Chief -- that was given to you to try to address some of these contingencies or emergency situations that are not otherwise addressed. Important is, it is not just the courts. While this was all going on, the district attorney at her office and the public defender and her office are having the same problems. They are going through a process very similar to what I went through on behalf of my county. You have to work together. I am very proud to say that we spent every day together with the district attorney and the public defender during this emergency process and they worked hand in hand. We were fortunate because we have the DA and PD that did that -- I am proud that we do. Again, it is another process. It is something to think about. It is not just you but you could open up court and nobody shows up because you need staff from other offices there. We need to learn how to communicate on an emergency basis with those offices as well and communicate with private counsel. To determine when and where to have emergency or backup court hearings. We had a situation. We had a jail. We needed to arraign people. I was insistent that those that had been arrested on a minor misdemeanor should not sit in jail for months and we needed to have arraignments. We could not do that in the courthouse. We were fortunate that it did not evacuate the jail in Sonoma because they had the air filtration system. We came this close to doing that. We ended up taking a room at the jail and we had judges there and we took the inmates, inmate by inmate, to get arraigned. We took them from the jail cells to the room and we got that done. I think that is important to have a backup plan if something like this happens. If it is a fire, or an earthquake. It is not just criminal. The bar association office was not burned so we set up an ad hoc office in the bar association to handle ex parte orders or other DV and family and probate ex parte orders. They needed to be addressed. They do not just go away in these emergencies. Some lessons learned, that people are inherently good. I have to say that everybody did their best to help out through this emergency. It brings out the best and not the worst in people. With everything that we are hearing on a daily basis throughout our country, I just want to say that we forget how good people are and how dedicated people are, and that was certainly the case in Sonoma during this emergency. I already talked about the communication and the statutory issues. I do want to give thanks -- of course the Chief Justice and Martin Hoshino, we know without whom we could not have gone forward. There was a level of concern and understanding that cannot be measured. Jody Patel -- Jody is not here. I told her myself yesterday. Jody was someone who I have trusted always. I was about to bring folks back to court and we did not have environmental clearance. It is something that we never would have done but I had been issuing orders right and left and taking care of emergencies. I was not thinking as clearly about everything or as deeply about everything as perhaps I should have. I was planning to bring my folks back and Jody and a group of folks from the council and staff were on the phone and she said do not do it until we get clearance. That is all that I needed because of the level of trust that I have a Jody and the judicial staff. A very special thanks to Jody. She was my go to person. I relied on her so much. She is going to be happy. I needed to give her that special thanks. The Judicial Council legal staff -- you and your folks. You were the best. We lose sight sometimes of how important staff is and how competent they are with everything that we do, and in this emergency, at this time and place, I just put all of my reliance on your staff and the advice that I got and I really thank you for that and please give special thanks to my phone pals during this crisis. Our new CEO, Arlene, was working at this time about two weeks. The first week she came in we had the emergency with Odyssey that I do

not want to get into, it was not pretty. And then the fires hit. She has been described as a superwoman and I would share in that assessment of her. She did an amazing job. She continues to do an amazing job. She did not know people, she did not know staff, who the management was, but she did not see all of the courthouse as yet in Sonoma but the two of us muddled through. She was an amazing resource and I am really, really proud of her. I am really proud of her. Again, the judge is the supervising judge of the juvenile justice. He is one of the folks that had his car packed and he was watching the fires approaching. He was wondering whether he had an escape route and making sure that he did but he was on the telephone consistently taking care of all matters. It is an example of every judge in my court that did all of this while they were facing these dire consequences. I have extreme and extraordinary thanks to all of them. Again, as I said, all of my judicial officers were ready to do anything that needed to be done, and just an example of their total utmost commitment to providing justice and I thank them. Chief, other than any questions, I thank you as well. Anyone? No. Yes.

>> Thank you for the presentation, Judge. I also wanted to say thank you especially the Chief and Martin for reaching out as being one of the courts that was affected by the fires and before that, the floods. I think it is important to mention, again, the JCC staff that assisted, specifically the legal division, Deborah, Charlie Perkins, Sarah Fleischer-Ihn, Patty Williams, and also Aurora that came and did a presentation at the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee at the joint committee shortly after and were extremely helpful. Without their assistance in these times, the trial court would just be lost. I really appreciate it on behalf of the courts.

>> Thank you, Senator Jackson.

>> Thanks. And thank you for that presentation. I also chair the Joint Committee on Emergency Management. So what you have learned would probably be very helpful to us. Right now we are focusing on what we need to do in case of a major earthquake, which we are apparently quite long overdue to have. We've thought of a lot of things, but frankly I had not thought about the continuation of our judicial system. If you have any additional information or actually, you did a slide that I was not able to write down fast enough, some of the lessons learned. I would really appreciate the opportunity to talk with you about that, and the second point is perhaps, legislatively, there are going to be times when the courts are not going to be able to operate. This was one of them. This could happen anywhere. It may very well in the future. Given the intensity with which the climate is changing and the adverse impacts of that are being felt. I know that the fires reached up to 1500 degrees. I actually flew over Coffey Park in a very delightful National Guard helicopter, which does not ride like a Mercedes. The place was absolutely destroyed. What you see, that white is ashes. There was not anything left. Imagine that the fire could have come and impacted your courts directly. You mentioned the environmental considerations. Those are real. What is it that is? A lot of those items are chemicals that are toxic. They end up in the air and they could cause damage. I wonder if there is anything legislatively -- what if a statute of limitations is about to run and the courts are closed? If you would give some thought to that, because it is still present is there something that we can do legislatively --

>> We will be presenting these.

>> I have a feeling that would be very helpful and I think what comes to mind is that the governor declare a state of emergency. That immediately tolls the statute. Whatever you feel would be appropriate. There has to be something that we have learned from this terrible experience going forward and I thank you for the presentation.

>> Thank you, Senator. I see that when you mentioned that, Legal was nodding vehemently and so were the judges.

We want to hear from you pics but I wanted to thank Judge Nadler for sharing the community, the court and his personal tragedy with the council. I wanted to point out that this is a conversation that we have a lot which is a respective of the resources that we still have two obviously give litigants a place for access to justice. This shows the great lengths that Judge Nadler went to protecting everyone's rights any particular you shared with me how you are protecting some of the rights. The challenge and the things that you had to do to make sure that everybody had a timely arraignment. You thanked everybody else but I wanted to thank you for your leadership.

>> Ms. Nelson.

>> Thank you. First off, I agree with everything that people have said to thank you for all that you have done and everyone in the community. In Southern California we have been more used to the fires. I think that we were struck in Southern California at how extraordinary it was in Northern California to see that. I was also struck by this. Many years back I had a conversation with the chief judge of the court in New Orleans that was affected by Hurricane Katrina. That is probably 15 years ago now. Many of what you are saying is what she talked about she had the inability to communicate with her divisional officers and an inability to communicate with staff. They had no way of knowing how they could reopen the court. I suppose although I did hear some interesting comments yesterday about task force being brought up but perhaps it might be and maybe there is one and I am the junior person here that does not know about it but it might be helpful if there was the development of some sort of committee to analyze how the courts could, in fact, be prepared for these things so that there is an across-the-board system in place. Not only for earthquakes but fire and any other potential emergency that could strike a county, affecting judicial systems in the manner that they do.

>> Thank you, Ms. Nelson. I know that every court and every head office has a plan. They have the EPA plan. Those are always needing to be reassessed. We have the input of CHP and the input of the stay. We always need to be thinking more and more about that. It is something that we should be doing on a statewide basis to take best practices. Your suggestion is taken to heart. Jake Chatters pics but I think that you covered it. Thank you.

>> Thank you for being here, you are very welcome. It is good to be here and I apologize for not being here yesterday but one reason is that I was receiving a briefing from the director of the Cal fire on this very topic. This was a unique fire. It was one that we expect to see -- the type of fire more frequently as weather patterns change. The unique characteristics of this fire where the wind came through in two different directions through that Coffey Park neighborhood. It was interesting, if you will, from a number of perspectives, but the fire burned the understory very

quickly and it kept blowing through, so much so that Cal Fire decided early on in the fire, as they were responding, in the moment, that there was nothing that they could do to actually stop the fire and all of the efforts in the early hours of the fire were directed at protecting people and evacuating people from the area. Had they not done that, the losses might have been -- the loss of life and injury might have been much greater. I really do appreciate hearing today the presentation from the court's perspective, because it is yet another layer of this kind of disaster that we need to be able to address. So thank you very much for that. I oversee Cal Fire as part of my responsibilities as chair of the Budget Subcommittee on Resources and Transportation. We, too, will be looking at budgetary implications. Because there was a disaster declared and the FEMA has stepped in, we expected about 90% of losses -- the cost will be reimbursed by the federal government, but that is a very time-consuming process. We will not know for sure for some period of time whether that reimbursement has taken places. There are a number of other implementations as well as the others that have been discussed that we will be looking at going forward. I would very much appreciate hearing more from the court perspective as we move forward.

>> Thank you, assembly member. Judge Nadler, I want to say that I thank you for your leadership. It has certainly been tested. You did a job that I believe very few could have emulated in your efforts in real time I know that we were all anxious and we were waiting to hear and like the Judicial Council staff, everyone was on alert and I thank you to everyone for being by their telephones and email knowing that emergency orders would be coming in, knowing that we would be hearing and wondering how we could help because we did not know - we were not on the ground to know in any way. Everyone was waiting to help in any way. You and Kim were front-line and we understood that. We were there to help. You really carried the day and I thank you for your leadership. The lives that you saved and the people that you protected and the rights that you thought about to preserve. They are valuable lessons to be taken away. I am especially gratified that the senator and the assembly member are here because there are gaps in the response and the ability to respond. We have a real-time, real blueprint for where we need to fill in the gaps. To really share this so that no one else has to go through what you did alone, without guidance, the next time this happens.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you Judge Nadler.

>> We are at the place in the agenda. We will hear reports from the internal committee chairs and vice chair on the ongoing activities on behalf of the council project. I will start with the Judge Boulware Eurie for Executive and Planning.

>> Justice Miller who may still be with us on the line, his written report will be posted for everyone online. One of the oversight rules of the Executive and Planning Committee is to review nominations to the council and its committees before sending our recommendations to the Chief Justice. We know how critically important our committees are. They provide recommendations and leadership that are not only representative of the branches goals, but they are also reflective of the dynamic and varied backgrounds of the members of our branch. We

recently sent one such recommendation to fill a vacancy in one council-affiliated county, the Tribal Court-State Court Forum. I am happy to announce that the Chief Justice appointed Heather Hopper, the director of the Office of Tribal Affairs and the California Department of Social Services, to the forum and her term will begin and end in 2020. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the Tribal Court-State Court Forum, it was established by Chief Justice Ronald George in 2010 with the purpose of improving access to justice by fostering relationships between California tribal and state courts and to address areas of mutual concern. The forum, ably assisted by Judicial Council staff, studies and makes recommendations to the council in such areas as enforcement, and recognition of protective and other kinds of orders and judgments. In 2013, the council adopted rule 10.60 which established the forum as a formal advisory committee. In adopting this role, the Judicial Council added a comment, acknowledging that tribes are sovereign, and citing statutory and case law, recognizing tribes as distinct, independent political nations that retain inherent authority to establish their own form of government, including tribal justice systems. Today the forum is comprised of 13 tribal court judges, nominated by their tribal leadership, representing 15 of the 23 tribal courts currently operating in California. These courts are approximately 39 tribes in terms of who is comprising those courts. The cochairs are Justice Dennis Pearls, Presiding Justice of the Second District Court of Appeal, Division 7, and Judge Abby, chief judge of the Tribal Court. Thank you, Chief. This completes my report on behalf of Executive and Planning.

>> Thank you. Judge, chair of PCLC.

>> We have met twice since the last council meeting and at the October 5 meeting we approved the council 2017 legislative priorities and adopted the 2017 legislative policy summary. At the same meeting, we approved submission council a report by the dual-status standards working group these items and other items were counsel's -- they were acquired at a meeting and they are on today's agenda. The committee also met yesterday and reviewed one proposal for the Judicial Council sponsorship that is interpreters and small claims cases. We approved the report of the Legislature on the child support guideline review study. Both of these will be presented to the council at the January meeting this is the legislative year, the governor signed the six of the Judicial Council sponsored measured and five of the bills became two year bills. The Legislature, as everybody knows, will reconvene January 3 for the second year of the 2017 and 2018 session. That concludes my report.

>> Thank you, Judge So. Rules and Projects.

>> Thank you. Good morning. Since our last meeting, the council last meeting on September 15, the rules and project committee has met twice by telephone and the conference call and acted by email on one occasion. RUPRO met by telephone to consider a proposal that is circulated for public comment. RUPRO recommends approval of the proposal which has to do with language access representatives and language access services complaints. That is item 17-183 on the consent agenda today. On October 24, RUPRO met by telephone to consider the agendas of the advisory committees overseeing and to consider eight proposals, four of which had circulated for public comment. The remaining four proposals dealt with three the recommended technical changes to rules and forms, and one that makes minor revisions to civil jury instructions, the

latter being a proposal for which the council has delegated authority to the Rules and Projects Committee to approve. RUPRO approved all advisory committee annual agendas and recommend approval of the seven proposals before you today which are items 17-217-222. On November 30, the Rules and Projects Committee acted by email to approve the uniform bail and penalty schedules for 2018. In addition, new to 19 members met on November 5 two -- for the orientation. I would also like to report to the council that we have begun the process of creating and organizing a new work group that, given the short timeline that is required by the law, will report directly to the Rules and Projects Committee. As we all know, the Proposition 66 passed about a year ago, a law that brought changes in California law, relating to death penalty cases. That law was immediately challenged by litigation, denominated against Brown, largely upheld by the California Supreme Court this fall. Known as the death penalty reform and savings act of 2016 the law became effective on October 25, 2017, and the date that the Supreme Court opinion and Briggs against Brown became final. Among other things the act requires the Judicial Council to adopt within 18 months of the act effective date court initial rules and standards of administration designed to expedite the processing of capital appeals and state habeas corpus of the -- we are in the process of forming a working group which will be denominated the Proposition 66 rules working group that will assist the council in fulfilling its rule-making obligation under the act and as noted will report directly to the rules and projects committee. On Monday, this upcoming Monday, there will be posted on the California Courts website and the following the usual counsel process for advisory body membership, the website will have an announcement soliciting members for the working group. We anticipate that the applications by those that want to be considered for the working group will be accepted. That is until December 4. After that, the applications will be reviewed by the executive and planning committee and that committee it will make its recommendations to the Chief Justice, such that she may appoint the members of the working group, during or shortly after the first week in January. The group in general will include a broad base of members with expertise in death penalty matters, appeals, and criminal law. I should note that while the working group is being -- during the solicitation, that Judicial Council staff headed in this matter by Heather Anderson has already started working on the substantive matters that will relate to this project so that once the group is appointed, they can move forward efficiently. I should say given Ms. Anderson's track record, as Judicial Council staff member and the others that will be helping out, the working group should be in good hands. The working group will develop a proposed rules following the council's normal rulemaking procedures, including circulation of the rules for public comment and review of the proposed rules by RUPRO before they are forwarded to the Judicial Council. We anticipate this work will be completed in time for the Judicial Council to adopt the rules within the timeframe that is required by the law. That is my report. If there are questions, I would be glad to answer them. If not, thank you.

>> Thank you. We will hear from Judge Brodie for the Judicial Council Technology Committee.

>> Thank you. I am giving this report on behalf of Justice Lau. The Judicial Council Technology Committee remains engaged in wide and vast number of projects. Everyone in the room knows of the very little of those two projects this make very few of those projects could move forward without the tireless and unflagging support of the Judicial Council staff that helps us get that

work done. The JCTC met on October 16, by teleconference and at that meeting, we received an update on the information technology advisory committee, also known as ITAC as the work that they are doing and also the continued progress of the court posting consortium. The committee reviews amendments to the California Rules of Court. Those amendments are designed to improve consistency between the rules and various Code of Civil Procedure sections governing electronic service and electronic filing. The committee recommends that the council approve those amendments and they are on today's consent agenda. I wanted to also acknowledge the work of ITAC and, in particular, they have met twice and at one of the meetings they reviewed the final deliverables for the disaster recovery, a project that has been ongoing for quite some time. Their work has essentially completed. I thought that it is particularly prevalent -- relevant given Judge Nadler's comment that the disaster recovery model for his court was someone putting the backup server under his arm and carrying it out of the courthouse. That is not best practices. You know? I mean, it worked, that is what matters. But this work stream is a particularly relevant example of the work that the branch is doing to solve problems before they are in a crisis mode, so that work stream has produced a disaster recovery framework, adaptable disaster recovery plan because not every court has the same needs or frankly the same resources. There is a how-to guide that will talk courts through what to do in the event that there are disaster recovery measures that need to be implemented. It has also made recommendations for budget proposals that can be pursued to facilitate this work. It is one example of a lot of projects that ITAC and the work streams are doing to solve these technological problems for the branch. They continue to have a great track record of success and Justice Lau wanted me -- just a slow wanted me to come and then -- she attended the forum for the court CIOs. It was held in the new courthouse in Alameda County which she reports went very well. It is a beautiful facility. John Allen, the CIO from Alameda noted at that meeting, and unexpected benefit of being able to bring technology staff onsite. Namely that the IT staff now has an opportunity to easily get into the courtrooms which allows them to have a more immediate appreciation both of the challenges posed by technology and also the impact that it can have on the court operations. The justice reported that she was impressed by the cooperative spirit of the CIOs and she asked me to extend her personal thanks for the tireless efforts on behalf of the entire branch. On November 6, there was a joint orientation for JCTC and ITAC members by teleconference. The members learned about the committee charge and the councils committee governance structure and the strategic and tactical plans for technology as well as the ITAC annual agenda. Yesterday we held the educational session focusing on strategic and tactical plans. That includes the history and also the content. Those plans are up for revision in 2018. The committees has invited courts to participate in three different initiatives updating those plans. There is a pilot program for five courts, roughly to digitize their paper case files and also to participate in this fiscal year jury management system grant program, further information on the programs may be found on the judicial resource network. On behalf of Justice Slough and myself, I want to thank the community of people involved in judicial branch technology products. There are a lot of great things happening but, again, the staff and also so many volunteers through the workstream model participate in these projects. They really do not get a lot of recognition. They just do the work and the work that they do benefit us all. With that, thank you very much. That concludes my report.

>> Thank you, Judge Brodie. We will hear from Justice Humes for the judicial branch budget.

>> That would be Judge Rubin.

>> Excuse me. Judge Rubin.

>> [Laughter]

>> The bulk of my report is on innovations grants and I will defer this until I get to the presentation later.

>> Good idea picks back I turn it over to you for the liaison report pics but -- that is okay. I will do those. Sure. We will shift gears into the liaison reports. We have three today. There are three reports. Justice Humes has one. I think that the judge has one.

>> I have two. Great. Outstanding work. Why don't we start with Justice Humes that will be presenting to us the Superior Court.

>> Thank you. Thank you, Chief, and members of the council. I visited the Marin Superior Court and couple of weeks ago and I could not have been more delighted and inspired upon my visit. It is a great court and a great group of people and I think that we can all learn from some of the collaborative and creative ways that Marin has gone about to continue to provide services on a shrinking budget but it is an amazing group so I want to talk about four things in the first is well, maybe I do not I want to talk about four things but I want to talk about the collegial badge and the great staff and I want to talk about the celebrated historic courthouse and some of the innovative programs that I mentioned and some of the challenges facing the court. The court's leadership team. In the center is the presiding judge and that is Kelly Simons. To her left is the APGA, Paul Hawkinson, who just had a Journal profile earlier this week. I recommend all of you to it. It is a good profile. It is deservedly so. And then to Judge Simons's right is the court executive. Marin County Court has 12 judges although there is a vacant position. That is a dark picture. I took it. I am not very good. They are a very bright group of people. They are collegial.

>> [Laughter]

>> They are really very, very collegial and they work together collaboratively. They work together to solve problems. They work as a team. From what I saw, they do not try to undermine each other. They do not compete with each other. They try to support each other and they tried to make each other look good. It seems to be a very effective, hard-working, good group of judges. They are very generous as well with their time and their spirit. Almost all of them engage in quite a bit of volunteer activities and extracurricular work they have done a very good job of nurturing positive relationships with local law partners and with the local bench and that is paying off in ways that we are going to talk about some of the innovative programs that they have implemented is -- they are working because of the relationships that they have with local partners. I also want to speak about the staff. The staff morale has been hit because there were a lot of budget cuts and they were affected by that. It is on the upswing, I think that I think that the reason it is on the upswing is because Marin is very transparent and cooperative and very clear in terms of the direction and I think that morale is improving and things are getting better because

of the culture of the court and the way that they are handling it. I want to mention a quick story. This is to illustrate the spirit of Marin. This is in light of Judge Nadler's presentation but I found out randomly and nobody talked about this. I found out randomly that every year that Marin County court has a barbecue. The judges all put together -- a significant amount of money to pay for it. This year the barbecue was scheduled for the week of the fires. When the fires occurred, both the judges and the staff collectively voted to donate all of the food and all of the drink to the firefighters in Sonoma and CHP kindly delivered all of that food and drink to the firefighters. They did it without looking for a claim. They did it because that is their nature and they want to help out. I was impressed by that. I want to turn to the courthouse now. It is a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed courthouse. It is a testament to the forward-looking and can-do spirit. It was one of Frank Lloyd Wright's last works. It is the only work that he did for a government entity. It is a national and state registered historic landmark. It has been nominated for recognition as a UNESCO world heritage site so it is a very impressive building and it is wonderful but it is also 57 years old and it presents some unique challenges which I will return to in a minute. Here is a quote from Frank Lloyd Wright, said basically that he is trying to build the building to enhance the already existing beauty of Marin and I think that he was successful in doing it. Here are pictures from interior of the courthouse. You might want to note that the interior, like the exterior -- it uses circular and curved architectural features. Here is part of the main hallway. It shows some of the entrances to the courtrooms. You will notice that the curved features of the courtrooms themselves are in the round and they are very beautiful. They are aging but they are very beautiful. There are lots of circular architectural features. Another interesting thing about the courtroom is I do not know how many courthouses have the round courtrooms in this state in this courthouse, the courthouse is designed so that different parties have to face each other. They are looking at each other partly during all of the proceedings. I do not know if that works out well or it does not. It is the way that it is. I wanted to talk about some of the programs that I mentioned earlier. Some of these trailblazing programs that Marin has come up with collaboratively and creatively to make things better in terms of budget and providing services. The first one that I want to talk about is the benchmark program. This is a very robust program what Marin does is they have hundreds of volunteer attorneys that come to court a couple of days each week. These attorneys basically sit there, waiting for the court to invite the parties for the attorneys to participate in the discussions with the parties. The parties will say, and the judge will say, you do not seem too far apart. Would you like to talk to an attorney? We have got one that will volunteer their time. If the parties say yes, they go outside and they talk for half-hour and maybe for one hour. Many times they are able to resolve the issues or reduce the issues and they come back into the courtroom and the order is entered right then and there. There are no more hearings and no more continuances or notices. It is successful and robust. The bench has a positive relationship with the local bar. Another program is the YMCA Marin Youth Court. This is a program where the first time juvenile misdemeanors can get their offense eradicated or eliminated, removed, if basically the jury of their peers meets together to sentence the offender and the offender completes whatever sentence was imposed under the supervision of the judge and that person gets the removal of their record and it has a huge success rate and a low recidivism rate that I believe is less than 8% the first year going out. It is very impressive and it has diverted 1000 cases to the juvenile justice system. Here is the favorite, Chief Justice giving

the Marin award for this program in 2014 and she is surrounded by participants of the program at that time. The last program that I want to mention is the community court which is also known as the homeless court. Every month a judge volunteers their time to go to the local St. Vincent de Paul dining hall and meets with people that are chronically disadvantaged and most of them are homeless. They go through and they sort out infractions that have been given to these people. It has served over 1000 people. They have resolved hundreds of infractions and, again, it is a little bit of work going on the front end of the justice system to make things a little bit more efficient in the middle and the back end of the system. It is very impressive. There is a picture of Judge Beverly Wood at the community. I lastly wanted to talk briefly about some of the challenges facing the court and the first one is facility cost. Unlike other courts in the state, this one is completely owned by the county and it is managed by a conservancy that has a mission that has to protect the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright, so as a result, unlike other courts, Marin cannot access state funds to get carpeting or cameras or seismic upgrades. They have to take money within the budget or from the county to do those things and it is not easy. Furthermore, every light fixture, every replaced seat, any kind of fixture at all that needs to be repaired or needs to be replaced has to be replaced in accordance with the Frank Lloyd Wright designs or at least compatible with them so it makes it very expensive and it makes it very difficult. But Marin does it and they do it well but it is a challenge. Furthermore, the courthouse has no sprinkler system so we are going to look at the fixture on this. It has no sprinkler system. That is a problem in terms of fires, we know. That is especially the way that the court was built into the hills of Marin. As we will talk about, the court is completely paper-based so they do not have electric backup file so if there were to be a fire, it would be not just a human tragedy but it would be a tragedy of legal record-keeping as well. Security is the next challenge that I want to talk about. The court, as I mentioned, is built into the hills of Marin. Because it is built in the hills, it is very easy to access the court building. The hills go up and there are walkways and they are glass sliding doors on the walkways into the judge's chambers, and I'm told that the building has 420 points of access. That is an immense security problem and immense security challenge. It is the way that it is. Underneath that arch that you can see, that is where the judges part. That is completely accessible to the public as well. There is no division of accessibility and it exposes the judges to vulnerability. These security concerns are almost inexplicable and they are glaring because in the 1970s, the Marin County Courthouse was the scene of the murder of Judge Healy, and if you recall, that gave rise to the Angela Davis trial and the Angela Davis acquittal but it was a horrific murder of Judge Healy and we are decades later and we do not have the security that the court needs. The court is completely paper-based and they do not have an e-filing system and they need an updated management system. There are BCPs pending and I would address these problems. Hopefully we will get some relief from that. The last challenge, budget cuts, but everybody thinks of Marin as a wealthy county, which it is but the court is not wealthy. The court has been a WAFM donor court and I understand that is not the term to use anymore but is losing money, roughly \$.5 million a year, and that is a significant percentage of the budget. It is true that the filings have gone down as with other courts but the costs have not gone down and in fact, they have gone up. The fewer resources led to some of the impressive innovations that I have mentioned. Still, the court is nearing the breaking point. That is of real concern. This is another chart showing that Marin is basically -- if you go from a baseline WAFM to present day,

Marin has lost over \$1.5 million, in terms of raw dollars, so in other words, the fiscal year 2016, 2017, Marin had \$1.5 million fewer raw dollars allocated to it from the state that it had allocated to the state in 2011 and 2012. That is very rare. There are not many courts in the state that have actually seen a reduction in the total -- in the raw number of dollars that have come to the court from pre-WAFM to today so only three courts that have experienced it and we have experienced it to the tune of 12% but you can say that they had more to begin with and that is true but is also true that is a challenge to have to continue to provide services when the money is shrinking. Marin is nearing the funding relative mean. This chart which many of you have seen and know about shows the discrepancy in county court before WAFM and where they are now. Basically the yellow and the light cream is the mean that we are shooting for. It is bringing everyone in a more consistent funding ratio and we are moving towards that and Marin is close to the mean at this point. It is a great court. It has some challenges if ever there is a court that I think can meet those challenges, it is Marin, a great group of people that will work together to do their best to make things work as best they can and they are doing a great job. So that concludes my report. Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Thank you. I have two reports. We are going to start with this presentation.

>> Thank you. On April 25, I had the pleasure of visiting the Superior Court for Butte County. The court is the largest of the small courts and it is often the leader rate -- for the innovation and collaboration and unique work of California small court. It is a cash receipts -- recipient of awards for information technology sharing and the self-help assistance and referring program. The following report will hopefully provide the council with a glimpse of the continued ways that the citizens of Butte County are served by this dynamic court. The County of Butte is northeast of Sacramento and the five largest cities are Oroville, Chico, Greeley, Paradise, and Durham. The top employers for the county are in healthcare, government, as well as retail industries. Oroville is the county seat, lying along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. It is the site of the horrible dam and also Cal State Chico. 14% of the population of Butte County are Latino or Hispanic residence at approximately 4% of the population are Asian residents, resulting in the county's two most common non-English languages being Spanish and Hmong. While it is estimated that 21% of the population live in poverty, more than 80% of the residents have achieved their high school degree or they have higher educational attainment. We have a picture of the council's very own Kimberly Flener, CEO for Butte County as well as Presiding Judge Glassman. The court has 11 judges and two commissioners, including past councilmember Commissioner David Gunn. The court has 131.5 allocated FTE positions. You have got a photograph of the members of the executive leadership, including a judge, Judge Keithley, Ms. Leonard, as well as the Assistant Presiding Judge, Tamara Musburger. This is a very fun group. We have really good days. Thank you. They also have two courthouse locations. The courthouse in Orville has 11 courtrooms, handling criminal, traffic and juvenile justice cases. The North County Courthouse located in Chico has five courtrooms, for civil, probate, traffic, family law and juvenile dependency cases. That would have been helpful if we had seen them before but that is where they are. The Orville Courthouse is charming in many respects but

they have a fair amount of challenges related to security, both for the building as well as the judicial officer to come in and out. I will not go every detail but they also have similar to some of the issues that Justice Humes raised for Marin County in terms of secure parking lots, or not, and accessibility that the public has to the judicial officers as they come in and out of the courthouse. You have got another photograph of one of the courtrooms, a fairly oblong -- you can see the wood paneling I use the word charming because it is smaller and it feels more rustic. But still, it is very welcoming in terms of the decor. Here is the banner that hangs in the jury assembly room of the original courthouse. I think that it fittingly echoes the perspective shared among the bench and the staff of the importance of the citizens contributing to justice. For those that may now -- it indicates that ordinary people with extraordinary purpose. I think that it is a fitting way to greet all of the jurors who come into the jury assembly room, which is pictured here. It is fairly wide, open and spacious. Again, it is greeted with a recognition of their service to the community. March 19, 2015, a celebration was held to officially dedicate the new North Butte County Courthouse in Chico. After more than seven years of planning, design and construction, the new 65,000 square foot courthouse opened for Butte County residents. It expanded services and access for family, law and juvenile dependency proceedings as well as, as I mentioned before, civil probate as well as North County traffic and small claims matters but the North County Courthouse marked the first to complete a construction project, funded under SB 1407. Again, there is another picture of the opening and the greeting Marquis of the courthouse. Digital case directory. You come into the new courthouse and there is a clear -- this is so important for many of the court users. On the left, the directional sign and a piece of the information search -- that sort of kiosk display further noted on the right. Cases are listed, giving litigants, attorneys, direction to which department they are going. We know that the case and courtroom information, to the courthouse can be confusing enough. So just knowing where you need to go and when you arrive on time is a small measure but it is important as well. The photograph of the lobby and the clerk windows. The natural light helps to defuse some of the tension that litigants feel when they come to the courthouse. It is something very simple. The lobby and the clerk Windows displayed there have that open and eerie feeling to that. Another display on the top left is the monitors that provide information as to where the cases are being held. There is a photograph on the right, the number of windows that will guide the litigants to assist them in getting information and answering further questions for them. The Butte court operates a winning certification clerk system. I want to highlight that because I thought it was fairly unique and a way in which the CEO, and others within the court are really maximizing and supporting the court staff. It is actually a two week Academy for new hires and instead of the traditional training that clerks will go through, in terms of courtroom to courtroom, or a separate training for those clerk that will be functioning in the office support function, the Butte court strengthens its workforce by enabling clerks to do it all within a case type that lends itself to greater promotional opportunities as well with the regular rotation between case types. There has also been a greater benefit to staff and a boost in morale. As I walk through the Oroville courthouse, I would see a bunch of motivational plaques and posters noted throughout the staff space that really caught my eye. It was explained to me that a part of the decor was a reflection of the employees' participation and commitment to the bed program. The goal for the program is to create the environment where everyone knows that they are important and that they are contributing to their full potential and recognizing others

for doing the same. Walking through the halls and the aisles, I was left with truly a genuine sense of pride amongst all of the staff members working for the Butte County Superior Court. The photo of the courtrooms with the natural light and accessible space. A part of the new design, again, very open and having the natural light, providing engagement within the courtroom in a very soft way. The Butte Superior Court operates a dynamic of collaborative courts. There is a drug court, prop 36 court, a high intensity DUI court, called the hide court and there is a domestic violence specialty court and with more than 16,000 veterans in the county, they also have a veterans treatment court. In 2013, there was a multidisciplinary team from the Butte County that went to the Chief's Keeping Kids In School and Out of Court Summit in Southern California. It has continued and increased its community involvement with the Power of Democracy California civic learning project. Butte County was the first to partner a partnership and the first in the state to have a Civic Learning Resolution adopted by every school district. These are local school officials. They lead up the Chief's Power of Democracy steering committee. Here we have another picture of the Chief Justice with Butte County Superior Court, Kristin Listener, during a 2015 at visit. In May of this year, the Chief selected the Butte County Civic Learning Partnership to receive her exemplary service and leadership award. Judge Slough Senate leads the partnership which impacts more than 30,000 students throughout the county. As juxtaposed against the photographs of the unique court records that date back to the 1800s and contained in the court's lower level of the courthouse, Butte County has also been on the cutting edge of technology. They have been handling their own ID system since 1998. As previously noted, they have received an award for information technology sharing and in 2016, they implemented the Odyssey case management system. With the e-filing and document management capabilities, the court is looking forward to greater efficiencies and effectiveness in maximizing their resources. Many courts are strapped with reduced budgets and Butte County is leading the way in innovation. They are also helping other courts when they can. Earlier this year, the court was the recipient of almost \$600,000 for the innovation grant proposal for their remote videoconferencing technology. The Butte court has a history and commitment to excellence and it was my privilege to serve as the counselees on for this year's visit. That concludes my report for the Superior Court for Butte County. Thank you.

>> You are welcome.

>> I will move it to my liaison does it for the Superior Court for Sutter County. Nestled north of sacramento, Sutter County is a charming agricultural based community. The tightknit community extends to a small cadre of lawyers for the area. When the calendar runs long or there is reconfiguration, it is not only the Sutter Superior Court that is impacted but many of their attorneys go to the neighboring counties. They will go to you but so it is not uncommon for a calendar to run long and the judicial officer in Sutter to pick up the phone and say my lawyers are on the way to you. We ran late. This is a tightknit community that impacts not only Sutter County but the neighboring counties as well. Yuba City is the county seat of Sutter County. It is the site of the Sutter County Butte County -- I did not know, the world's smallest mountain range. There are things that you have no reason to know. We have all seen them but I did not know that it was the smallest in the world. Bordered by Sacramento and Sutter River. The demographics reflect a diverse population. As noted, they have got about 96,000 residents, 65%

Caucasian, 28% Hispanic, or Latino, and just under 14% that are Asian. The CEO noted that there is a very organized and engaged East Indian community in Sutter County. Because of the number of appearances in their court, the court has actually extended a contract to the Punjabi interpreter because of the number of appearances that the interpreter makes in Sutter County. Here we have a photograph of the Presiding Judge Aronson and the CEO Stephanie Hensel. They were very engaged and animated. I would say that during the visit. Ms. Hensel detailed her service to the community and the court. That was before coming to the court that she was a prosecutor. She moved into private practice and served as dependency counsel after a number of years, she joined the court leading up the self-help program and she promoted to the CEO in March 2016. That was two months before their new courthouse open. The court has five judges and a commissioner. There are approximately 50 employees. Recruitment for vacant positions is often a challenge, due to limited budgets and the competing county and state positions in the area which pay at a higher rate when they have a vacancy, it is a bit more challenging for them to find interested and qualified members of the public to come and serve the court they do their best and they have done very well. Here we have a photograph of the historic County Court. It was built in 1906. The previous county owned courthouse was unable to keep up with the needs of the 21st century court operations. While beautiful and majestic in its own right, the historic Courthouse West as it is called not have the necessary functionality for in custody detainees, juries, staff, litigants or the bench. To meet the needs of the court in the community, the Sutter court opened up a new courthouse in January 2016. It consolidated two other facilities. Standing tall at three stories and designed with glass, chrome, and light tile in the public areas, the new courthouse has about 73,000 square feet and it is inviting and it provides a more effective service to the public than the other prior facilities because of the restraints and limitations that they had. Whether the - - whether they are due to accessibility challenges. With six of the seven courtrooms built out, the new courthouse is an important addition to the Yuba City Civic Center. The court sits adjacent to City Hall, the county jail, as well as the veterans center, and it has significantly improved public service, security, operational efficiency, and access to justice. The high windows -- this is the top part of the three-story new courthouse. They offer dramatic lighted space. The CEO will relay that they are having a hard time figuring out how to change the light bulbs at the top of the third floor ceiling. It is not something that they really designed it for or they have someone willing or able. These are small things. They impact our day. Citizens are greeted with a comment to the courthouse with a smile. As you can see, maybe in the top right portion of the photograph, again, there is a new public queuing system which efficiently directs court users to the courthouse. The leveraging of technology, like many of the court, has been one of the primary focuses of the court over the last year. I -- it is unit -- utilizing Odyssey case force management and working on case types. As the court increases reliance on technology, it is also considering participating in a regional training session with the courts of Glenn, Butte County and Yuba County. The court continues to move towards the exclusive use of electronic records to save staff time and allow greater public access. You can see a couple of photographs of the improved public access. There is clear signage and open space and -- they are waiting for the cases to be called. The one on the right is darker and you can see again, the open spacing. There is a fairly tight well but they have maximized the space. Here is a view of and from the bench. These are the monitors that are being utilized by the judicial officer and their vantage point. There is another photograph of the

courtroom in the new courthouse. The jury assembly room. We know how critical it is when we are serving hundreds. They have appropriate places to sit and to congregate. Here is another photograph of inside. It is quite spacious. It is quite accommodating. There are also monitors and access opportunities for the Internet along the side well. A quick photograph of the staff areas. There are opportunities for engagement with their peers. There is elevated monitors and screens. As with all courts, the court staff are asked to assist the judiciary in serving the public without a lot of any new resources. The Sutter County clerk that all staff have been cross trained against different case types to maximize effectiveness and when things slow down a bit, they are able to utilize the new patio space at the new courthouse, a lovely outdoor patio. That literally enables them to catch a breath and a smile when they have space and time to do so. The photograph on the right is the inside of the new staff space and on the other side of the window, you can see two court staff members seated outside in the new patio. It was my pleasure and that concludes my report for Sutter County.

>> [Captioners Transitioning]

>> We appreciate bringing back pictures to see what they do well and informing them of our aid.

>> The next item is the consent item. There are 28 of them. I'd like to thank the committee's who worked hard to put matters that are before us on the consent agenda. It does not in any way diminish their importance for there are items that have generated little controversy. Many are reports and compliance with rules and statutes so I resubmit them for your review and will entertain any motion to move the agenda.

>> Second.

>> Miss Ibarra moves .

>> There are several items that I will abstain that are likely to come before my committee in the coming year and if I could just identify those. Item 17-202, 203, 204, 206, 207 and 208.

>> Thank you.

>> All in favor of the consent agenda items please say aye.

>> Any opposed? The consent agenda passes. After that recess, we will address to make matters. Recess now until 11:20, thank you.

>> [court on recess until 11:20 PST]

>> We would like to invite everyone to please take their seats so we can continue the meeting, thank you.

>> Our next item is an educational matter. This education session on family law, we are joined by a Distinguished Service Award, welcome. You recognize also Bonnie and Charlene and we talk a lot about criminal justice reform and have been active with criminal justice reform but all of us know that the impact on family and children are as significant to the public of California. I used to run a domestic violence court judge and I'm pleased with the training that has come out of your division and also the public awareness. We look forward to your presentation, thank you.

>> Thank you for asking us to come and talk a little bit about family law. I want to start by saying I want to give a brief overview of family law and the director is going to talk about strategic plans and how it's fitting in with the Judicial Council strategic plan, and the managing attorney is going to talk a little bit more in depth about the things that I will walk through quickly.

>> The most recent Judicial Council report demonstrates that marital filings for last year were slightly under 40,000 and the other nonmarital findings which includes paternity, child support and domestic violence were almost 250,000. Those numbers were slightly higher and the numbers from the increase our domestic violence findings. Judges are domestic violence increasing and becoming a larger part of our calendars. We have slightly under 300 judicial officers and roughly, and again anecdotally, roughly 80-85% are represented and that number is probably slightly higher. As we look at the Judicial Council I note there are a number of you that have significant experience and I will be repeating things that you know, those of you unfamiliar with family law, I'm hoping this will be helpful.

>> First I want to point out who we serve. California, as you know, is about 39 million people. We and family law are at the cutting edge of social issues. Families that are divorcing, we serve families that have never been married, increasing numbers of caseloads, folks who are not married, that would be child support and visitation, unique challenges that are different from parents that would be married, we also serve single parents and that sort of thing.

>> We serve parents that are same-sex parents. Partnerships dissolution, partnerships getting divorced and we do the same for same-sex couples as we do for intersex couples. We also serve people who don't have children. We deal with property as well, which we will talk about in a moment. When most people think of Family Court this is kind of what they think of, in society and the news media. Most people view Family Court as high emotion, lots and lots of fighting, judges and social workers, we are not real judges and do not do real law, but that is not true. What family law judges really do is transition families from one formation to another formation, because whether they are married or not married, they are taking people who have one expectation of their family to a different expectation. We provide a safe space for people to have their disputes resolved and provide someone when parties are at their most challenged. Making decisions about children and money that is not involved in their discussion to help make that decision.

>> Not only do we divide and do visitation for children that business-- art collections, wine collections, live stocks. We had one calendar a number of years ago, they had no assets and children and were getting a divorce. The second matter was a couple that had to make children and making \$800,000 a month. They were very different issues between those two families.

>> We also deal with violence and abuse. The branch does extremely good work with families in our courtroom, however there are cases that involve violence and abuse, and while the majority are good and supportive of their children, there are some that are not. As with all human endeavors, some of the outcomes in our family courtrooms are not as beneficial to the family as we might like. However we have to acknowledge there are those outcomes and we have to

continue to strive to improve how we do things. We will talk about what we will continue to do and assist families that come before us.-- For judges and for court staff. We trained issues of fairness, equity and bias and on the law obviously. Through the FCC we have the best judicial education in the United States. I'm a little bit biased and the education provided under the judicial branch, family-- education is at the top of what we do provide. We have self-help centers in 58 counties and have robust and vibrant webpages that are not always on the Judicial Council webpage but local courts have self-help webpages with tremendously good information. From time to time I go to the webpage with an easy place-- that is an easy place to find accurate information. Self-help centers allow litigants to have better outcomes and also allows courts to operate in a more efficient way because when a litigant goes to the help-- self-help center they are provided information of what forms to fill out and it makes certain that information that comes into the court is done in a correct manner fully filled out and that sort of thing. Family law is often litigant driven. I know those of you look forward to voting on and reviewing all of the forms that come out of family law. [laughter] I'm sure it's one of the high points of your meetings. Having said that, forms do two things. They allow a self-represented or even represented litigant to know what information has to go to the court, and provided, again, in an organized fashion. But as a bench officer it gives me the opportunity to find information that I need so it saves a tremendous amount of my time hunting for documents because I know if I need to know whatever the income is I know what form I go to and I can find that information efficiently and quickly.

>> We also have a number of rules that we've been working on as you have helped us with, and I thank you for that, in making sure that the court which can be very complex and a daunting place to come is made more clear through rules that are simplified and basic language, explains how the system works. Rules provide an even playing field for everyone. Everyone knows what they have to do and when they have to do it. Recently, as an example, you formed rules report-- regarding limited scope representation which we will talk about in as part of the information she's going to give you.

>> This is a grant that deals with child support. The Judicial Council manages that grant. The advisory committee makes recommendations. There is ongoing discussion right now with the multipart committee talking about how to better divvy up that money. What AB 1058 does is make sure there are quick and fair child support awards given to people in California who desperately need it. Because of rapid fair child support orders, children don't go to bed hungry. They have a roof over their head, that kind of thing. So it's extremely important to many California residents.

>> There's another grant that the Judicial Council manages and that allows a noncustodial parent to have access to his or her child in a supervised setting where he or she might not otherwise have access to that child which provides safety to the child, safety to the other parent, and safety to the noncustodial parent. It also operates to keep a noncustodial parent in the child's life which is better for the child and studies demonstrate that parents who are engaged are more likely to pay child support and do the things that they need to do to support that child. Access to visitation is a critical grant.

>> We talk about, in family law, a continuum of services. There are people who don't need for representation and they can get through the self-help center. There are people who need for representation for one reason or another. This grant has provided representation for certain people. The legislature has graciously given several million dollars to allow for that representation and the studies demonstrated that because of that representation, there are better outcomes for litigants who have someone at their counsel table but also someone that stands beside them in the hall when negotiations are occurring. Seven-- having someone there to guide them can be very helpful.

>> Family Court services is also an integral part of the department. It provides mediation for parents talking about custody and visitation. There are two types of mediation. Recommending, non-recommending, and by population it's about 50-50. Recommending means they just go to Family Court services, they have a discussion and reach an agreement or they don't. If they don't, it goes up to a courtroom and the judge will make a determination. If there's a recommending County, they attempt to have a discussion and reach an agreement and if they can't, then Family Court services individual will take a more evaluative role and make a recommendation to the officer as to what should happen by way of custody and visitation.

>> Family Court services allow parties to make an informed decision with a trained mental health professional about how they should best handle their children. Talking about domestic violence and abuse, there are protections that allow for separate mediations for parties or if there are issues of domestic violence, there are ways parties can appear by telephone. There are protections to help make sure the safety and security is protected. We will talk about the strategic goals of the branch now.

>> Thank you Chief Justice and members of the Judicial Council. We are charged with providing services resolving cases as effectively and efficiently as possible and family is one of the areas that the FCC has charge over.

>> To do this we are trying to expand three major goals of the bridge, access, fairness and diversity where we focus on equal access to the court as well as people who want to come to court or use the court. Modernization and management, our focus is in innovative ideas and for quality of justice and service to the public you are looking at strategies to ensure that core procedures are understood.

>> What I'm going to do is talk about what could be called the back and of the operation-- backend. How do we serve the courts in a way that was just described?

>> We have staff advisory committees. The juvenile law advisory committee has also taken on the foregoing work of taskforces and advisory bodies and domestic violence practices and procedures task force. We also support collaborative justice court, tribal court and state court for him. The collaborative justice courts committee has taken up the remaining work on the mental health implementation initiative. What we do is work with our advisory committee to craft and implement their annual agenda. Two of them are largely forms of proposal. You said we've done 20 proposals, 19 rules but the objective is to keep everything current and I will say we take pride in the fact that we have a consent agenda most or all of the time to reduce the workload.

>> We also do funding recommendations, so they will develop recommendations for the programs mentioned earlier, and we work to take the recommendation to the advisory committee and we do oversight research and mandate training. More broadly, what our staff does is try to push out information to tell them how to navigate the court and tell them what to expect. We have many that have been developed under the guidance of our advisory committee as well as legal subject matter that we use in such a Tory case law to advise the committee and provide information advice for the content and webpages that we have online. The quantitative analysis has been very busy recently and reports of the legislator. In July you heard the evaluation of the Shriver project. We are looking at the mandatory guideline study for child support we've collected a lot of information to help advise courts to understand the organized work that they do and provide anybody who's interested in that.

>> There's a lot of quantitative work for the filing process and when we are reviewing the process as well. This group leads us in our innovation to streamline business processes that we use for technical assistance of the court.

>> Our multidisciplinary education is done in collaboration with in partnership with judicial training. Multidisciplinary work is focused on helping professionals meet the mandatory requirements. Similar commissioners who provide the training.

>> We also do events that are multidisciplinary and are designed to include the full spectrum of players in the system whether it be family or dependency.

>> It brings together family law and last April we had our meeting with 450 attending. Law which is required for workshop was attended by 450 people and a shameless plug, in December it will be in San Diego and registration is open now for another couple of weeks. I think you all got a letter of visitation.

>> We have case specific services. Things that will help the court respond to situations that may be out of the ordinary like specific kinds of populations, military families or coordination with tribal courts but is also designed to help keep safe in situations where violence is an issue and vulnerable populations such as those affected by substance abuse or mental illness.

>> We mentioned the grants that we distribute and the work on the backend is talking with courts to find out how the program is going, and providing technical assistance if it's needed.

>> We also respond to calls from courts who are having problems and that is my overview. Bonnie is going to build out what we do in family law for litigants now, thank you.

>> As was talked about, the majority of people are self-represented and can range between 90% to 70-75%. That's not just a California number. It's true throughout the nation. California has taken a leadership role to make sure those people have their day in court and get the assistance they need. We've trying to do that a number of different ways and it's a continuum of services. How can we provide the least expensive service to the most amount of people so we can focus representation to those who truly need it so people can resolve their cases without coming into a courtroom get the help so all of you can spend the time on those cases that need and desire additional assistance.

>> We start with information. I think it's important to remember that this is both for those people using the court but also helpers. The teachers, mothers, clergy person, the people that people go to to get assistance.

>> We have a self-help website visited by over 6 million individual users. It has over 700 pages of content just on family law and an extensive amount of information. You will also see information on all of the different self-help centers so people can find that information. We also link to librarians and other resources so people can get assistance at that level.

>> 30,000 people each month go to the divorce pages to give you an idea of how often it is used.

>> We have a mirrored version so people can get that information. For someone like me, I can find the content in English, print it out and know that the content was accurate and credible.

>> We also have other information for people going into Family Court services mediation. We have a three-hour video explaining the process of parenting after separation available in English and Spanish. People can get a certificate at the end if they choose to do so.

>> Our finances after separation video has information on property, spousal support, and one of the things I like is that it has videos on how to have peaceful conversations about child support and how to communicate in a way that will be much more effective. I think those kinds of things are really important for the public who may not have seen their parents communicate that way, how do you have peaceful conversations? We are excited about that. We've been trying to do more forms that are simple and understandable for people to use but again, they are a cornerstone and allow us to translate and provide information. We can say this is where you go and this is how you do things. Last year there were over 250,000 downloads of the initial divorce form to give you an idea of the excitement that people have about thinking about forms.

>> We also partner with courts doing creative and innovative things. There was a whole video that was step-by-step on how to fill out forms. We don't need to reinvent the wheel but it's another way for people to understand how to complete the forms.

>> We also work on developing TurboTax like programs. It asks you questions that populates the forms. We have over 100,000 that are assembled so it does the whole divorce package. Not formed by form. Los Angeles does about 5000 sets of forms a month so the goal is that you don't necessarily do the entire form. You will do name address phone number, because people know that but that gets printed out so it's legible, but then you can talk about data separation because that is a legal concept that is not necessarily easy for people to understand without additional information and thought but it's easier for the judicial officer and clerk in to review that and you can spend much more time on the parts of the case that actually matter.

>> We are looking forward to the innovations project and creative ways that people will be able to get information.

>> As we think about more and more people with their mobile phones, we have the opportunity to serve a lot of people-- this is a college student, that help people if they get stuck. Sometimes you just want to talk to a person. You don't need an expensive lawyer to do that. It is a way to

enable volunteers, students and other people to provide very useful assistance. It really makes a difference for somebody to be nice to you. It can make a difference in the middle of a separation.

>> So that's available 24 seven, available to anyone who wants to get access to that. The next is self-help and mediation or settlement assistance.

>> With this we prepare people for court-- for court and hope to resolve the issues.

>> Attorney, supervised, staffed self-help centers which I think is key and unique. We are the only state along with Maryland who also provides that in family law but it's a pretty rare service that is available.

>> It can be done one-on-one with an attorney, or in a workshop setting. It is being projected to 4 different courthouses and is one of the innovation projects you will be hearing about. It's a way to provide remote services and similarly, it enables using Skype allowing for one-on-one conversation. If a speaker is not available online that they can have a face-to-face conversation and the attorney knows what kind of assistance needs to be provided and would be helpful.

>> Another innovation program where people will be able to have their documents and find out what the next step is in their case and loading materials so people might be able to take those workshops at home.

>> Then there's a wild and crazy thing of the old-fashioned telephone. Lots of people get access through the phone which can save everyone a lot of time.

>> One thing I think self-help is doing more is that it's great to get people in the door, but we want to help them out of the door. We want them to finish their case and get it done.

>> One thing we are offering more is settlement assistance. Bring you into court, and say this is an opportunity for you to try to work it out. People with lawyers, you can meet and confer that if you could have done that, you may not be getting a divorce to get done with. It's a system that I think is really critical. Working with family services folks who do custody mediation were able to work on support issues and those kinds of things.

>> Similarly, I think case management is the other area where self-help has expanded. We did not used to be able to do case management in family law. I see courts building a lot of check-in's, the next step in your case, and thinking about every time someone comes to court, it's an opportunity to say can you resolve your case? For better or worse, a lot of litigants don't realize that it's not an intuitive process, so it's very critical to help people move that process along. The other piece that is most expensive is actual representation. We have worked primarily on 2 projects. Being in the courtroom there are lots of cases that never have to go into a courtroom which makes it a very difficult process. One of the things that I think happens, is if in they are in the middle of a divorce proceeding and have concerns about divorce proceedings and they called child protective services, and they say you can handle that in family law, we are not going to get involved due to the workload or other issues. Which means that person who is often unrepresented, has to prove child abuse or neglect which I think is a very challenging thing for people to do. With the Shriver project we present a representation where sons -- one side was

asking for property and another for an attorney to say both of you will have a lawyer, let's see if this helps resolve those cases and it did. Most of those were able to be resolved and the resolutions stuck. People did not come back to court and that, I think, is a huge benefit. We are not necessarily talking about providing this to everybody but cases where assistance is really critical.

>> And then, the goal is to connect providers, make sure they know what others are doing, providing training and support and the technological services. I try to find out what is working for them, what changes we can make, and how we can help them do the amazing work that we do every day as easily as possible.

>> So one thing I was struck by, I didn't realize that last year we only had 89 forms.

>> California has been and will continue to be a leader in the access to fairness. The fact of the matter is, as you go around the country and talk to other judges, the question has been and will continue to be, what does California do and why are we doing it that way? How can we look more like California? Both litigants and courts are a little frustrated and concerned by how complex these proceedings can be. Litigants have to take time off of work. I think we've done a very good job getting people in the door and we are doing better at getting people through the system. A number of years ago, there was a survey that was done of self-represented litigants asking what they would like to accomplish. Folks that filed for divorce, what they really wanted to do was get a divorce and get out of the court. I think we've been better about making that sort of thing happen. The courts are concerned about the safety and well-being of children. There is no doubt and question about that. But what can we do in the future in order to meet the access needs and increase the trust and confidence of litigants in the system. We come up with-- we have come up with a couple ideas that we would like to propose. First of all, getting through the family law system can be quite complex and very daunting. What we need to do is simplify and streamline many of the processes which will conserve court time, bench time, employee time, and assist litigants with getting on with their lives. They don't have to take time off of work and that sort of thing.

>> Additionally we need to match case needs to appropriate services. Lawyers practicing at the top of your license, that concept applies in the court as well. We need to make sure that as we look at complexity, that we have the flexibility and ability to match Family Court services and judicial time and court time with what does that case need so we don't have a one-size-fits-all approach to family law. We need to be thinking about representation through the Shriver project and getting more involved in strengthening partnerships. Thinking about how can we get more lawyers to do things like limited scope or make it more appealing for lawyers to come assist the court? There are very vibrant pro bono situations where they are coming in on a daily basis to help litigants settle cases. I was just at a meeting with lawyers who have come in to volunteer their time. They have provided something along the neighborhood of 200 billable hours per year and I'm certain that is replicated across the state that we need to think about how do we strengthen those and create more tires? I think we need to be better, and we are much better, about leveraging technology so that we are able to get better access. Getting better access to information. It has real benefits and real challenges we need to be aware of. Translation services,

what can we do with technology for that? I think technology provides some interesting options for getting a record in a courtroom which can be very important for litigants.

>> A number of months ago or maybe a year or so ago, and family law we are not getting the law developed, in a way because we have so many self-represented litigants that they are not getting taken care of in a way that makes them able to be dealt with, but there's not a record anymore. Technology can help us with a record. But we said earlier about matching needs and services, improving case specific navigation, how can we make sure that a complex case gets designated early on and that particular designation?

>> We need to be good about designing rules and processes that are case specific. If you have a simple and straightforward case, you don't need to go through all of the services. If someone can get through their case relatively quickly we need to be able to create a situation where with safety in mind, they can sit down and perhaps resolve their case and be through the system in a much more expeditious fashion.

>> I think we've come a long way over the last several years in the branch and I have to give a thank you to the Chief and the Judicial Council because you have been remarkably helpful, remarkably supportive, remarkably innovative, and remarkably creative when it comes to all of these things so I think you all should be proud of the environment that has been created in the family law department in California. With your guidance and leadership we can continue to provide and improve litigant satisfaction and safety and provide and improve trust and confidence in the judicial branch. Thank you very much for this opportunity to come present information and if you have any questions we would be more than happy to answer those. Thank you very much.

>> Thank you for the presentation. As one who practices predominately family law, I appreciate hearing about the developments and improvements that have taken place since I left the practice in approximately 2008 or so. I also spent a year as executive director of one of family law nonprofits and understand things from that perspective. She had to leave, but Senator. Jackson much like myself also Preston-- practice excessively. I appreciate having heard the recommendations that you made and look forward to hearing more about those. I have a meeting scheduled with the presiding judge of L.A. superior in mid-December so I'm sure I'll be hearing more about these things.

>> A note of concern and caution, mixed into the discussion of tax reform in Washington, D.C. is a proposal and I think it was part of the House of Representatives' proposal that passed yesterday -- determination of the deductibility of spousal support. It obviously would have a lot of implications for cases going forward but I think it would certainly lead to a tsunami for modification of spousal support as tax ramifications become apparent to payers and payees. I suggest we monitor that situation carefully and be prepared should it come to pass.

>> Thank you for raising that concern. I want to say like the rest of the nation, I am terribly impressed with the work that is done and the milestones of the work being done. The truth is it comes from you, Bonnie and Charlene, with the ideas that you bring to us, I know it is informed by the good work of the family law judges but it is so important. All of our meetings, the large

aspect of public comment is about family law and this background. Given the service and continuing efforts and good suggestion makes all of us feel better about how we can improve knowing that the sheer numbers that you described and the numbers of download and divorce is staggering. We are a do-it-yourself state. Regardless of financial ability we tried to do it ourselves and it goes a long way. We look forward to the new ideas that we can work with and working with our sister branches of government in this important part of California law. Thank you.

>> [Applause]

>> Our next item is not an action item, it is a report on the Court Innovations Grant Program fiscal year 17-18/4 number 1 and we invite Judge Rubin and Justice Humes to give us information.

>> I'm also going to give my budget committee report now. They say sitting is the new smoking so I will let others smoke.

>> Thank you for this opportunity to report-- that's what they say.

>> Since our September meeting, as you know, the charge is to administer the emergency fund, coordinate the budget change proposal request and administer the program and other budget tasks that the council assigns. The budget committee takes a branch wide approach meaning we tried to promote the fair allocation of limited resources overall statewide interests. We said goodbye to 2 wonderful members and we wanted to thank them for their efforts but we are happy to welcome 2 new members and the CEO of San Diego, we look forward to working with them going forward.

>> We have one meeting that was on November 15. We discussed issues related to the innovation grant and received an overview of the work of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee. We tried to add an educational component and this particular one was about the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee.

>> I got ahead of myself, that's all right.

>> The committee received a presentation from Judge John Conklin and Ms. Rebecca Fleming. She is cochair of the funding methodology funding committee and the Santa Clara Superior Court. Judge Conklin provided an overview of the work that was done and gave great insight of the issues that they dove into. It's a very hard-working committee comprised of 13 PJs, 13 CEOs and it is mind-boggling, the breadth of the tasks that they tackle each time they meet. I think we're fortunate to have such a hard working group on that committee.

>> Ms. Fleming was talking about the funding methodology subcommittee which we will hear about more next year.

>> They have been working on new funding methodology for trial courts that will be implemented in 2018 or 2019. She talked about their conversations. Her presentation was extremely informative. This is a preview. They are doing amazing, outstanding work. At the subcommittee, it was structured, covered a wide range of topics, like statistics prior to use, the

approach to flat funding budget year, and everything in between. The committee and this council will look forward to the final recommendation sometime this year. Let me conclude by thanking our hard-working staff and committee members. The staff is absolutely amazing. Obviously Lucy Fogarty, Maureen and Melissa-- don't worry about me I'm fine. I'll hang here for a while. We want to thank them. When you need statistics they give them to you immediately. But speaking of this, let's roll into the presentation.

>> We know that we are between you and the weekend before Thanksgiving so we will move as quickly as we can without compromising content.

>> Thank you Sam, that's great.

>> Here is your first quarterly report. Let me give you a little bit of background and history and a refresher for those of us who were here from the beginning. So the court innovation grant comes to us, divided by the legislature in two groupings. This council approved them in 2017, we came to make adjustments to the grants when the courts came to us. We interpret that authority broadly and are moving money between line items and a particular grant. Sometimes we will move money across grants and have been-- quarterly reports from the courts.

>> At the end of March we had 53 g but there were 51 inter-grant agreement drawn up because they came from 2 separate funding sources. You can see the breakout, how many of those have been translated into inter-grant agreements. We have a couple that are pending and a couple that will start next year and we are making our annual report. We held back 3%-4% so that over the next 36 months if projects need extra money, we assume there will be cost increases and will be ready for that. We are going to come to you sometime next year to give you a sense of where we are with that reserved fund. If it looks like we are holding up well with cost projections we will come to you with an idea of how to spend money on those grants or how to augment some of the grants we have.

>> And there were three adjustments this year so far. In Mendocino County we added a \$91,000 or so which was an augmentation due to cost increases. San Diego County I know nothing about because we are required to leave the room but there was a cost increase of some triage assessment and Kings County there was an increase in supervision for staffing costs. We anticipated these would occur and we gave the augmentation.

>> The reports were due October 30, I want to say this about the process. What you will notice if you look at the report is that the branch is squeezing a \$1.50 out of every dollar we get which is the position we were put in. What you see is courts without any pushing are getting together to stretch those dollars. A lot of our projects, we are trying to move from a traveler's check era to a debit card error. Don't look at me like you don't know what those are, come on. Those were things that you wrote on.

>> A lot of this obviously includes technology. The Judicial Council is working to coordinate across the project-- leveraging every bit we can and experience that we are getting developing those concepts. Orange County is hosting an information sharing website and helping people

who do those types of projects stretch and help those along. It's heartening to see that means we have an increased chance of 100% success with all of our projects.

>> Let's talk about project highlights. Feel free to ask questions. I'm not trying to hustle you along, just hit the highlights and save it for questions.

>> They opened their new outreach and engagement center. We are thrilled that happened so quickly. It's a partnership between the court, nonprofit organizations and stakeholders and is providing assistance to homeless people to direct them and give them access to resources to prepare for upcoming court dates. That's one highlight that is up and running.

>> A project where they will be actually monitoring repeat offenders and create individual treatment plans. That's already starting to work. We know the type of property damage and other problems that result from drunk driving. Police are looking forward to seeing the results from that project.

>> Emerging as a powerhouse on the innovation and technology side, the features are going to be intuitive icons, a response to natural language in previous interactions with customers and is accessible by a password to help the public as they interact with our court system.

>> Fresno court with its juvenile human trafficking court has already started cooperative efforts with social service agencies, tribal organizations and community leaders to establish a juvenile human trafficking court. Strategic planning has started and other courts and systems will be integrated and smooth and effective tools against the fight of human trafficking which has been such a problem we've seen in the last five or 10 years.

>> Finally another project is the San Joaquin Court supervision court system that will start to integrate existing DUI and drug courts. For those of us who work in trial courts, there's a great overlap between DUI and drug courts and different defendants and difficulties that poses for communities. This new system will provide better continuity of service and a comprehensive approach to having multiple traction and providing a continuum of treatment including improving the mental health referral process and gender responsive calendars. San Joaquin Court will be contributing in that way to access to justice and fair justice to consumers throughout the state.

>> Next steps. Under the oversight, with the committee's oversight, the council staff, this is a staff driven and staff heavy project. We will be reviewing quarterly reports, tracking project budgets and expenditures to make sure the money is being used the way we thought it would be in that courts are getting the maximum amount of every dollar that they can. We are monitoring out common goals and we can tell-- let courts have an opportunity to assess which ones are worth importing to the county in which may need to wait for further innovation and we are reviewing accessibility modernization and sustainability to see which ones we can export not just to our counties but courts in other states and for some of these to be exported to other departments in the state that are not part of the court. They will be used by other branches in other departments. We are also expecting audit service staff to do reviews to make sure we are

keeping track of every dime to make sure that every one of those \$25 million is well spent. That concludes both of my reports. Any questions?

>> I will turn this over to Mr. Jespersen for his report.

>> I want to say we are excited to see this. There was a time when it was just a dream and hope and it became this, and your committee did a great job and now we are seeing that in action and we are excited. I'm hoping one day to see video of these items.

>> Well say no more. [laughter]

>> It will be a two-hour film and be ready on time.

>> I had one question. This was something that I think the administration was interested in doing. Is this something we are communicating back to them to let them know what we are doing with the money?

>> Exactly to that point.

>> We are making sure the administration knows the money is well spent. Modernizing a branch from sometimes in the 40s to the late 20th century is an expensive project and takes some innovation and ingenuity and these grants are an incubator for that and we are getting great results I think.

>> Before you go, Justice Hull?

>> This was brought immediately to my mind, the programs that we are going to and the legislature, is there a way to quantify the success of the programs so that they know not only where the money was went but how that was used?

>> One of the dimensions of the report are the metrics of how well they are doing, how many citizens are being served. We will be able to track that to see which counties want to further refine, and a couple of the projects are about creating metrics that are reliable and applicable in other counties.

>> Exciting, thank you.

>> The last discussion item is an action item. Welcome.

>> We are asking the Judicial Council to approve the 2018 legislative priorities set forth on pages 1 through 4 on the report. There are 9 recommendations. We're going to briefly, and I mean briefly, summarize those for you.

>> Members of the council, this is our annual legislative priorities document. It is high-level. As all of you know, the specific proposals, many of which were on the consent agenda, are handled separately. In keeping with priorities the last couple of years the top one is to continue advocating for sufficient funding both to address current shortfalls and include some sort of methodology for stable, reliable funding so courts can plan for the future. The one thing I would add that is different from the last couple of years is that this includes an extension on a series of fees increased in the 2011-2012 budget cycle. They are listed on page 5. In total it brings in

about \$20 million a year that supplements the court operations budget so that is something that will be included this year most likely as part of the budget. We also continue the annual effort to get any of the 50 judgeships authorized in 2007, that have yet to be funded. There's already a bill in process that was introduced this past January. It was made into a two-year bill so it is pending in the Senate and would provide funding for an additional justice down in Riverside.

>> Also as part of the advocacy on judgeships would be continuing authorization for eligibility of subordinates who have lost their positions to judgeships.

>> Advocate for sufficient funding for courthouse projects, continued legislation to this year, the council has previously approved the disposition of the Los Angeles courthouse and we need legislation any remaining properties that the council would take up later this year.

>> Continue to sponsor or support legislation to approve efficiencies including cost savings and recovery majors on the issue of fairness and efficiency in the find fee penalty assessment area and would also note that the advocacy would include to make sure the legislature backfills any revenue loss as a result of policy changes that have been made and also advocate for implementation of recommendations of the future commission. I would note specific recommendations would go through the regular advisory committee process so we are not sponsoring specific bills unless the advisory committees come forward with legislation on that area.

>> The same thing would apply to recommendations that we heard about yesterday on the pretrial detention reform report. Specific legislation would go through the regular council advisory committee process and up to PCLC. Then authority for them to take recommendations and provide comments on proposed legislation as well as the administrative rules were led-- regulations going through the process. With that I would be happy to answer any questions.

>> After reviewing the report, it's excellent to not only get to see the priorities but the long history of some of these things it's not really funny, but 10 years ago the authorization of these judgeships and priorities that I see from the council, I'm so heartened to know that this priorities are completely compatible. I know that you work day by day with our staff and we are hopeful that together we can accomplish some things in this next legislative session.

>> Not seeing any hands raised I'd like to entertain a motion.

>> All in favor please say aye. Any opposition? Any abstentions? The recommendation carries. Thank you.

>> That concludes our November meeting, and we conclude this meaning as, sadly we often do, with a brief remembrance of our colleagues who have recently passed. That is first, Justice Kenneth Andreen, Justice James Kleaver, and Justice Kenneth Ziebarth. All retired and we honor their service to the cause of justice and the people of California. We have our next regularly scheduled business meeting January 11 and 12. Safe travels and happy holidays.

>> [event concluded]