



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-012

For business meeting on April 24, 2026

Title

Judicial Council: Rules Committee Report

Report Type

Information

Submitted by

Rules Committee

Hon. Tamara L. Wood, Chair

Hon. Michael Rhoads, Vice-Chair

Date of Report

April 13, 2026

Contact

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Executive Summary

The Rules Committee establishes and maintains the Judicial Council rulemaking process and assists the council in making informed decisions about rules of court, forms, standards of judicial administration, and jury instructions. Among other actions, the committee “[r]ecommends whether the council should approve, modify, or reject each proposal.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.13(c)(1).) This report describes the committee’s activities since the Judicial Council meeting on February 20, 2026. These activities include the committee’s recommendations for council approval of 12 proposals identified below, which are on the council’s agenda.

Overview of Committee Meetings

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

On **March 17, 2026**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider:

- Nine proposed reports to the Judicial Council with recommendations for new and revised rules and forms, all of which circulated for comment during the winter cycle:
 - *Civil Practice and Procedure: Revise Civil Case Cover Sheet;*

- *Civil Practice and Procedure: Revisions to Enforcement of Judgment and Wage Garnishment Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 774;*
 - *Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms;*
 - *Collaborative Justice: Guidelines for Adult Collaborative Treatment Courts;*
 - *Criminal Procedure: Rule and Form Revisions Related to the Racial Justice Act;*
 - *Criminal Law: Advisements on the Felony Plea Form;*
 - *Juvenile Law: Update to Racial Justice Act Forms;*
 - *Mental Health Law: Implementation of CARE Act Legislation;* and
 - *Access and Fairness: Gender Inclusivity of Juror Identification and Juror Questionnaires (Implementation of Assembly Bill 1899).*
- One proposed report to the Judicial Council from the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee that circulated on a special cycle. This report recommends the adoption of rule 10.440, to provide for a consistent, statewide approach to reporting data to the Judicial Council on civil arrests in superior court facilities.
 - Two proposed reports to the Judicial Council with recommendations for revised rules and forms that did not circulate for comment:
 - A report from the Appellate Advisory Committee to amend rule 8.74 to change the e-filing file-size limit in the rule from 25 megabytes to 100 megabytes. This change reflects an increase in the technological capacity for e-filings in the Courts of Appeal.
 - A report from Judicial Council staff to amend seven rules and revise 11 forms to make the necessary corrections to ensure that the rules and forms conform to law and to avoid causing confusion for court users, clerks, and judicial officers.

Action: The committee determined that the report regarding rule 8.74 from the Appellate Advisory Committee and the report from Judicial Council staff are within the Judicial Council’s purview to adopt without circulation under rule 10.22(d)(2). The committee approved all 12 proposed reports and recommended they be placed on the council’s consent agenda for the April 24 meeting.¹ (It is now anticipated that the report from the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee will appear on the discussion agenda.)

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

On **April 9, 2026**, the Rules Committee met to consider:

- One revised report to the Judicial Council (*Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms*) that the Rules Committee had previously considered at its March 17, 2026, meeting; and
- Thirty-one proposed invitations to comment on rules and forms proposals from the Appellate Advisory Committee, the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, the Criminal Law Advisory Committee, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, and the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Action: The committee approved the proposed revised report and recommended it be placed on the council's consent agenda for the April 24 meeting. The committee also approved circulating for comment the 31 rules and forms proposals, which were posted for public comment following the meeting, with the comment period closing on May 18, 2026.

On **April 10, 2026**, the Rules Committee met to consider:

- Eight proposed invitations to comment on rules and forms proposals from the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee, and the Traffic Advisory Committee.

Action: The committee approved circulating for comment the eight rules and forms proposals, which were posted for public comment following the meeting with the comment period closing on May 18, 2026.

Recommendation to the Judicial Council

The Rules Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve the recommendations in the 12 council reports identified above.