



Judicial Council of California

Meeting Agenda

Judicial Council

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to view live meeting on
December 12, 2025.

Meeting materials
are available through
the hyperlinks in
this document.

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(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.6(a))*

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Friday, December 12, 2025

10:00 AM

San Francisco

CLOSED SESSION (RULE 10.6(b))—PLANNING, PERSONNEL, AND DISCUSSION PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE

Session: 9:15–9:45 a.m.

OPEN SESSION (RULE 10.6(a))—MEETING AGENDA

A link to the live videostream will be available in the Meeting Information Center at the start of the open session. If the closed session adjourns late, the start time of the open session may be delayed.

Open Session Begins: 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

10 minutes

Public Comment

10 minutes

The Judicial Council welcomes public comment on general matters of judicial administration. Written comments are encouraged in advance of the meeting for specific agenda items so council members can consider them prior to the council meeting.

For more information about meeting attendance and public comment procedures, visit:

<http://courts.ca.gov/28045.htm>

Submit advance requests to speak and written comments for this meeting by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, by email to:

judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov

Chief Justice's Report*15 minutes***Administrative Director's Report**[25-005](#)**Administrative Director's Report***15 minutes***CONSENT AGENDA***5 minutes*

A council member may request an item be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda. Please notify Josely Yangco-Fronda at 415-865-7626 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

[25-010](#)**Minutes of October 24, 2025, Judicial Council Meeting**[25-182](#)**Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts | Fiscal Year 2025-26 Increased Transcript Rate Allocations (Action Required)****Summary:**

Senate Bill 170 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240), which amended the Budget Act of 2021, included \$7 million ongoing General Fund for the Judicial Council to establish a methodology to allocate the funding to all trial courts to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approving a proportional allocation based on the current council-approved methodology of the ongoing \$7 million to all trial courts to cover the costs associated with increased transcript rates for fiscal year 2025-26.

[25-158](#)**Judicial Administration | Judicial Branch Contracting Manual (Action Required)****Summary:**

Under rule 10.63(c) of the California Rules of Court, the Advisory Committee on Audits and Financial Accountability for the Judicial Branch proposes revising the *Judicial Branch Contracting Manual (JBCM)* to add provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence so that the *JBCM* will remain substantially similar to the *State Contracting Manual* and *State Administrative Manual*, as required by the Judicial Branch Contract Law. In addition, the committee's proposal to revise the *JBCM* aligns with the judicial branch's efforts to address the emerging technology of generative artificial intelligence.

[25-126](#)**Judicial Council Administration | Judicial Council Conflict of Interest Code (Action Required)****Summary:**

In accordance with Government Code sections 87303 and 87306, the *Conflict of Interest Code for the Judicial Council of California* must be updated "when change is necessitated by changed circumstances, including the creation of new positions." (Gov. Code, § 87306.) The council must review the proposed amendment

to the code and approve the code as amended or direct that it be further revised and resubmitted for approval. Judicial Council staff propose amendments to the code to expand the list of job classifications requiring economic interest disclosure to encompass the Building Official, Compliance Architect, Data Scientist, and Facilities AV Systems Specialist positions. This proposal would also amend category 7, Decision-Making Authority Affecting Real Property and Management, to include the requirement to disclose interests in real property, which is applicable to all classifications within this category. Additionally, this amendment includes minor copyediting corrections for grammar and clarification that do not change the scope of the code.

[25-036](#)**Judicial Council-Sponsored Legislation | Alternative Methods for Family Courts to Give Notice of Child Custody Mediation (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2027, sponsor legislation to amend Family Code section 3176 to allow for alternative methods for the court to give notice to the parties about child custody mediation and require specific content in the notice for cases involving domestic violence. The proposal originates from a group of Family Court Services directors across the state seeking to modernize the procedures for providing notice of child custody mediation by more cost-effective methods, including electronic delivery.

[25-187](#)**Judicial Council-Sponsored Legislation | Collections-Related Statutes (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee recommends that the Judicial Council sponsor legislation to amend Penal Code section 1463.007 and Government Code section 68514 to improve compliance with the annual reporting requirements to the Legislature and the Department of Finance regarding court-ordered debt collections. The proposed amendments will help the court and county collections programs comply with existing requirements and report consistent statewide data. The proposed changes will be used in the fiscal year 2026-27 reporting period and reflected in the annual report due by December 31, 2027.

[25-175](#)**Jury Instructions | Civil Jury Instructions (Release 48) (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions recommends approval of new and revised civil jury instructions and verdict forms prepared by the committee. Among other things, these changes bring the instructions up to date with developments in the law over the previous six months. Upon Judicial Council approval, the instructions will be published in the official 2026 edition of the *Judicial Council of California Civil Jury Instructions*.

[25-178](#)**Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Judgment Debtor Address Verification and Calculation of Earnings Withholding Period (Action Required)****Summary:**

Assembly Bill 774 (Stats. 2025, ch. 708), enacted October 13, 2025, makes several changes to the laws regarding enforcement of judgment, including a change to the start of the withholding period for earnings withholding orders. Judicial Council staff recommend revising eight Judicial Council forms to ensure they correctly state the law when AB 774 becomes effective on January 1, 2026. These revisions will be circulated for postapproval public comment as part of a larger proposal to implement AB 774.

[25-190](#)**Rules and Forms | Family Law: Certification and Use of Computer Software Used to Assist in Determining Support (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council amend rule 5.275 of the California Rules of Court, which provides standards for computer software that assist in determining child and spousal support. This action is necessary to prevent the courts from losing the ability to timely and accurately calculate guideline child support in actions involving the local child support agency when the California Child Support Guideline Calculator, which is developed by the Department of Child Support Services, has had its certification revoked or the calculator is determined by Judicial Council staff to be inaccessible. The recommended changes would also give the Judicial Council the ability to revoke the certification of a calculator before the annual March 31 expiration date if a calculator's certification cannot be timely renewed during an out-of-cycle review requested by council staff.

[25-043](#)**Trial Court Budget | Fiscal Year 2024-25 Final Adjustments for Year-End Fund Balances (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Judicial Council is required to finalize annual allocations to the trial courts in January of each fiscal year to ensure compliance with statutory limitations on the amount of reserves that courts can carry over to the next fiscal year. As the last step in determining final allocations for fiscal year 2024-25, a one-time allocation reduction of \$2.9 million is proposed for those courts that are above the required 3 percent fund balance cap after all allowable adjustments to their operating budgets. Maintaining an allowable fund balance consistent with statutory requirements will assist the trial courts in effectively managing limited resources to support court operations.

DISCUSSION AGENDA[25-042](#)**Trial Court Budget | Children's Waiting Room Fund Balance Cap Adjustments (Action Required)****Summary:**

Under Judicial Council policy, trial court fund balances that support the operation of children's waiting rooms throughout the state are reviewed on a biennial basis to ensure compliance with fund balance requirements. The Fiscal Planning Subcommittee of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council approve (1) a reduction of \$1.7 million for nine trial courts that have children's waiting room fund balances exceeding the allowable cap in fiscal year 2024-25 and (2) fund balance cap adjustments totaling \$5.2 million for five trial courts. The fund balance adjustments will allow the trial courts to continue to operate their children's waiting rooms and provide critical services to children and families.

Speakers:

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Hon. Mark A. Juhas, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Ms. Rebecca J. Fleming, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Santa Clara County

15 minutes

[25-041](#)**Trial Courts | Trial Court Trust Fund Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts for Fiscal Year 2024-25 (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Fiscal Planning Subcommittee of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approval of requests from trial courts for the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 annual submission cycle for the Trial Court Trust Fund Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts program. Under the Judicial Council's approved process, a court may request that reduced allocations related to the fund balance cap be retained in the Trial Court Trust Fund for the benefit of that court. Twenty-five courts submitted 57 requests--38 new and 19 amended--for a total of \$44 million in the FY 2024-25 submission cycle. The requests will allow the courts to meet contractual obligations and fund necessary court projects or purchases.

Speakers:

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Orange County
Ms. Kate Bieker, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of Ventura County
Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Budget Services

10 minutes

[25-179](#)**Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules | 2026 Edition for Traffic, Boating, Forestry, Fish and Game, Public Utilities, Parks and Recreation, Business Licensing (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Traffic Advisory Committee recommends adopting the *Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules, 2026 Edition: Traffic, Boating, Forestry, Fish and Game, Public Utilities, Parks and Recreation, Business Licensing* (Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules or UBPS). Vehicle Code section 40310 mandates that the Judicial Council annually adopt a uniform traffic penalty schedule for all nonparking Vehicle Code infractions. Additionally, Penal Code section 1269b(c) requires all trial courts annually to revise and adopt a countywide schedule of penalties for all felony, misdemeanor, and infraction offenses, except Vehicle Code infractions. Rule 4.102 of the California Rules of Court also provides that, when revising and adopting the schedules, counties “give consideration to the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules approved by the Judicial Council.” Unlike for Vehicle Code infractions, the penalty amounts in the UBPS for other laws are advisory. These amounts are intended to provide guidance and uniformity to the trial courts for their schedules for nontraffic misdemeanors and infractions.

Speakers:

Hon. Stacy E. Boulware Eurie, Chair, Legislation Committee
Ms. Katy Grant, Member, Traffic Advisory Committee
Ms. Jamie Schechter, Criminal Justice Services

10 minutes

[25-177](#)**Report to the Legislature | California Court Interpreter Workforce Study (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends that the council approve the *California Court Interpreter Workforce Study* for submission to the Legislature. The study complies with Government Code section 71900, which requires the Judicial Council to conduct a workforce study and provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding court interpreter availability and the future court interpreter workforce, on or before January 1, 2026.

Speakers:

Ms. Anabel Z. Romero, Vice-Chair, Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
Mr. Douglas G. Denton, Leadership Support Services

15 minutes

[25-184](#)**Judicial Council | 2026 Legislative Priorities (Action Required)****Summary:**

Each year, the Judicial Council adopts legislative priorities to further key council objectives in the upcoming legislative year. The Legislation Committee recommends that the Judicial Council consider an approach similar to last year’s for the 2026 legislative year to include continued stable and reliable funding to address increased costs; continued advancement of remote access to the courts while balancing due process; funding for judgeships statewide and judicial officers in counties with the greatest need; availability of verbatim records of court proceedings; operational

efficiencies in the courts; and increased security resources to safeguard personnel, the public, and court systems from physical and cyber threats.

Speakers:

Hon. Stacy E. Boulware Eurie, Chair, Legislation Committee
Mr. Cory T. Jasperson, Governmental Affairs

10 minutes

INFORMATION AGENDA (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

[25-040](#)

Court Facilities | Lease-Revenue Bond Issuance, Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

Summary:

The Administrative Director presents this report on actions taken by the State Public Works Board in fall 2024 and spring 2025 to fund court facilities projects. New lease-revenue bonds were issued for two capital outlay projects, existing bonds were refunded for one project to improve the financial terms, and interim loans were issued for four projects in construction. All actions were authorized and directed by the Judicial Council to support the development and maintenance of court facilities.

[25-180](#)

Judicial Council Update | Trial Court Screening Equipment Replacement for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Summary:

The Trial Court Trust Fund provides funding through the Screening Equipment Replacement Program to replace outdated or malfunctioning screening equipment in the trial courts. Each year, the Administrative Director approves entrance screening equipment to be replaced through the program. This report updates the council on the equipment that was replaced in fiscal year 2024-25 using that funding

[25-183](#)

Report to the Legislature | Preliminary Proposition 36 Court Data (December 2024 to June 2025)

Summary:

The Budget Act of 2025 (Stats. 2025, ch. 5) provides funding for the courts to support the implementation of Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. It appropriated \$20 million to the Judicial Council and the trial courts to support the increased workload and expand or establish collaborative courts for the implementation of the act. Item 0250-101-0001 of the act requires the Judicial Council to submit to the Legislature preliminary data pertaining to Proposition 36--specifically, the number of Health and Safety Code section 11395 cases courts received from December 18, 2024 (the date of enactment) through June 30, 2025. Judicial Council staff submitted *Preliminary Proposition 36 Court Data (December 2024 to June 2025)* to the Legislature on October 1, 2025, to fulfill this mandate.

[25-185](#)**Report to the Legislature | Report on the Firearms Relinquishment Grant Program for 2024-25****Summary:**

As required by the Budget Act of 2022 (Assem. Bill 178; Stats. 2022, ch. 45), by October 1 of each year, beginning in 2023 and ending in 2025, the Judicial Council must provide a report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee related to the court-based firearms relinquishment program. The attached report for fiscal year 2024-25 describes how funding has been allocated, how the funding has or will be used by each court, the structure of the program at each court, the roles and responsibilities of the court and its contractors, program challenges faced, key data outcomes for each court, and the role the Judicial Council plays in supporting court firearms relinquishment programs. Although delayed, this report was sent to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on October 24, 2025.

[25-161](#)**Trial Courts | Annual Investment Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25****Summary:**

This annual investment report covers the period from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, and provides the financial results for the funds invested by the Judicial Council on behalf of the trial courts as part of the judicial branch treasury program. The report is submitted under the Resolutions Regarding Investment Activities for the Trial Courts, approved by the Judicial Council on February 27, 2004.

Judicial Council Internal Committee Reports[25-186](#)**Written Reports****Appointment Orders**[25-174](#)**Appointment Orders since the last business meeting.****Adjournment**