



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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For business meeting on October 24, 2025

Title

Administrative Director's Report

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Information

Submitted by

Michelle Curran, Administrative Director
Judicial Council

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Contact

Tina Carroll, 415-865-4242,
tina.carroll@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

The following information outlines some of the many activities staff are engaged in to further the Judicial Council's strategic goals and priorities for the judicial branch. The report focuses on action since the council's meeting on July 18, 2025, and is exclusive of items on the October business meeting agenda.

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Judicial Branch Budget

- Judicial branch budget change proposals were submitted to the State Department of Finance for consideration in the fiscal year (FY) 2026–27 Governor’s Budget. The proposals address the most critical funding needs for the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, Superior Courts, Judicial Council, and the Judicial Branch Facilities Program.
- Following submissions to the Department of Finance and the State Public Works Board, a bond sale was approved to fund a [new courthouse for the Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District](#), in Santa Clara County. This will allow the court to relocate from a leased property. Construction is estimated to begin in March 2026 and be completed in September 2028.

Online Ability-to-Pay Determinations for Infractions

The Online Trial by Declaration module of the [MyCitations](#) Ability-to-Pay application was deployed by the Superior Court of Amador County, joining the Superior Courts of Imperial, Nevada, San Francisco, and Siskiyou Counties. The Officer Portal was deployed with the California Highway Patrol’s Nevada Division.

Court Interpreter Testing

The [Language Access Services](#) team coordinated the administration of bilingual interpreting examinations for 10 certified languages to 340 candidates. Testing was conducted for Arabic, Cantonese, Farsi, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Spanish accounted for the largest number of candidates (222), followed by Mandarin (50).

Youth Courts Grant

The Judicial Council sought and received a \$100,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to support technical assistance in best practices for young adult courts and other programs serving justice-involved emerging adults. This award supports the council’s action plan developed from the *2025 National Convening on the State Courts’ Role in Effective Justice for Young People*.

Title IV-E Foster Care Program Review

Judicial Council staff assisted the California Department of Social Services in the federal Title IV-E Foster Care Program review. Regulatory reviews are used to determine whether children in foster care meet the federal eligibility requirements for maintenance payments claimed on their behalf. No judicial determination errors were found.

Juvenile Case Files Review

As part of the statewide program, Judicial Resources and Technical Assistance Program staff conducted a review of juvenile case files in two superior courts (San Mateo and Monterey) to identify any legal issues and training needs.

Court Facilities

Fifty-seven real estate transactions were completed, including intrabranch agreements and leasing/licensing amendments in 17 counties. As of October 2025, there are 710 court facility modifications in progress at an estimated cost of \$370 million.

Judicial Branch Education

More than 55 education programs and resource tools were created, updated, or delivered for judicial officers, court personnel, and justice system partners during this reporting period.

- Training programs included the annual AB 1058 Child Support Program Training Conference, the Virtual Data Summit, the B. E. Witkin Judicial College, and a presentation on pretrial data collection at the annual conference of the Probation Information Technology Managers Association.
- Distance education programs included videos and podcasts on juvenile justice, expungements, and legal updates on criminal law.
- Publication updates included benchbooks addressing civil proceedings on trial and discovery.

Power of Democracy Civic Learning

Three of the Chief Justice's Power of Democracy Civic Learning Award presentations were coordinated at local schools with the Chief Justice and local judicial officers.

Proposition 36 Implementation (Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act)

Staff participated in a panel hosted by the Urban Counties of California Board on the implementation of Proposition 36, including information sharing on preliminary court data and funding allocations. Representatives from the Chief Probation Officers of California and the County Behavioral Health Directors Association also participated in discussions.

Labor and Employee Relations

Labor negotiations assistance was provided to 30 trial courts, including impact bargaining and successor memoranda of understanding. Additional support was provided on 38 labor- and employee-related matters.

Advisory Bodies

Judicial Council Advisory Body Appointments

The Chief Justice made appointments to 24 council advisory bodies and 10 education curriculum committees. Approximately 335 nominations were received for 210 vacancies during the 2025 general nominations cycle.

Advisory Body Meetings

[Advisory bodies](#) with charges relating to the following judicial administration areas have convened since the July 2025 business meeting:

1. Access and Fairness
2. Audits and Financial Accountability for the Judicial Branch
3. Civil and Small Claims
4. Civil Jury Instructions
5. Collaborative Justice Courts
6. Court Executives
7. Court Facilities
8. Court Interpreters
9. Court Security
10. Criminal Jury Instructions
11. Criminal Law
12. Data Analytics
13. Family and Juvenile Law
14. Information Technology
15. Judicial Education and Resources
16. Probate and Mental Health
17. Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Implementation Program
18. Trial Court Budget
19. Trial Court Facility Modifications
20. Trial Court Presiding Judges
21. Tribal Court–State Court Forum

Meeting Details

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

- Approved Equal Access Fund allocations to the California Access to Justice Commission.
- *Language Access Subcommittee*: Discussed annual agenda projects and received a presentation on the 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study.

Advisory Committee on Audits and Financial Accountability for the Judicial Branch

- Recommended Judicial Council approval to update the *Judicial Branch Contracting Manual* with provisions on generative artificial intelligence, more closely aligning it with state contracting and administrative manuals.
- Approved audit reports for the Superior Courts of Lake and Yolo Counties.

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee

Discussed winter cycle proposals to implement changes in law regarding enforcement of judgment and name and gender change proceedings.

Civil Jury Instructions Advisory Committee

Considered proposals for revisions and additions to the *Judicial Council of California Civil Jury Instructions* based on public comments, proposals from judges and lawyers, and developments in the law over the last six months. Proposals included potential new instructions on landlord–tenant claims outside the unlawful detainer process.

Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee

- Reviewed pending legislation, including Senate Bill 820 (Inmates: mental health) and SB 483 (Mental health diversion).
- *Juvenile Subcommittee*: Provided input on programming for the upcoming Beyond the Bench statewide conference.
- *Mental Health Subcommittee*: Received a presentation from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness.
- *Racial Justice, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee*: Planned follow-up activities aligned with initiatives described in the [April 2025 Judicial Council report](#).

Court Executives Advisory Committee

Received updates on implementation of the Judicial Council’s Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy and the Resource Allocation Study.

Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Approved streamlined space plans and budgets for the future East County Courthouse in Kern County and the Collaborative Courthouse in Orange County as part of the *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan*.

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel

Reviewed the draft legislative report on the AB 1032 Court Interpreter Workforce Study.

Court Security Advisory Committee

- Reviewed and approved 12 proposed Security Systems Program projects for courts in six counties.
- Continued annual Security Systems Program approvals for up to \$1,150,000 in anticipated FY 2025–26 costs for contracts, service calls, and surveys.
- Received a close-out summary of the installation and replacement of electronic security equipment for FY 2024–25.

Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions

- Reviewed 29 proposals for new and revised criminal jury instructions.
- Presented proposed revisions for 73 existing instructions and 10 new instructions for *CALCRIM*, the published version of the criminal jury instructions.

Criminal Law Advisory Committee

- Discussed felony plea form revisions based on SB 281 (Pleas: immigration advisement), which requires judges to read the Penal Code section 1016.5 immigration advisement verbatim before accepting a guilty or no contest plea.

- *Pretrial Policy and Data Subcommittee*: Continued development of an optional form regarding affordable bail determinations and reviewed proposed 2026 agenda items.
- Reviewed pending legislation.

Data Analytics Advisory Committee

Reviewed a proposed Trial Court Operational Metrics Dashboard and received an update on recent activities related to the Resource Assessment and Judicial Workload studies.

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

- Reviewed rules and forms proposals on family, juvenile, and domestic violence law.
- *Violence Against Women Education Project Subcommittee*: Planned educational programming.

Information Technology Advisory Committee

- Received an update on California Rules of Court, rule 10.430 (Generative artificial intelligence use policies); California Standards of Judicial Administration, standard 10.80 (Use of generative artificial intelligence by judicial officers); and local court generative artificial intelligence use policies and related considerations.
- Discussed the 2026 annual agenda.

Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee

- Reviewed drafts of the 2026–2028 Education Plan, the 2026 annual agenda, and the revised statement document for the Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee and curriculum committees’ mission, objectives, and roles and responsibilities.
- Discussed the recommendation on pretrial education from the Criminal Law Advisory Committee.

Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee

Reviewed rules and forms proposals and the committee’s annual agenda.

Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Implementation Program

Approved recommendations to the council for 2025–26 midcycle augmentation funding.

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

- Approved FY 2025–26 allocations for (1) Court Appointed Dependency Counsel, (2) Pretrial Release Program, (3) Proposition 36, and (4) an increase for Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Program.
- Reviewed the status and completion of open projects for Funds Held on Behalf of Trial Courts as of December 2024.
- *Fiscal Planning Subcommittee*: Approved (1) Funds Held on Behalf of Trial Courts annual FY 2024–25 submission cycle, and (2) Children’s Waiting Room biennial fund balance cap adjustments.
- *Funding Methodology Subcommittee*: Considered an update to the annual work plan for FY 2025–26 and updates to the Workload Formula policy’s equity-based reallocation methodology.

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

- Authorized expenditures of \$24.8 million for modification projects and approximately \$47,000 for security-related projects.
- Approved the FY 2025–26 Facility Modification budget, the *Trial Court Facility Modifications Report for Quarter 4*, the *Annual Summary Report for Fiscal Year 2024–25* for submission to the council, and the *Five-Year Deferred Maintenance Backlog Report* for submission to the Department of Finance for FY 2026–27.
- Received updates on court-funded requests, facilities maintenance performance, public vandalism analysis, preventative maintenance spotlight projects, deferred maintenance project status, the Trial Court Real Estate Portfolio Expense and Revenue Report, and the status of the Court Facility Architectural Revolving Fund.

Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee

- Discussed best practices related to the Temporary Assigned Judges Program.
- Received an update on the California Judicial Mentorship Program from the Governor’s Judicial Appointments Secretary.
- Discussed the Chief Justice’s Power of Democracy Program.

Tribal Court–State Court Forum

Discussed the annual agenda for the forum and tribal-related projects in the Violence Against Women Education Program.

Judicial Council Staffing Metrics

As of September 30, 2025

STAFFING	Audit Services	Executive Office	Governmental Affairs	Public Affairs	Leadership Support Services	Legal Services	Center for Families, Children and the Courts	Center for Judicial Education & Resources	Criminal Justice Services	Information Technology	Research, Analytics, and Data	Branch Accounting & Procurement	Budget Services	Facilities Services	Human Resources	Judicial Council
Authorized Position (FTE)	14.00	13.00	12.00	8.00	66.00	62.00	100.50	57.50	34.00	215.00	25.00	155.00	33.00	147.00	61.00	1003.00
Filled Authorized Position (FTE)	11.00	11.00	11.00	6.00	57.50	46.50	87.00	48.00	27.00	134.00	18.00	145.00	24.00	129.00	57.00	812.00
Headcount - Employees	11	11	11	6	58	47	87	48	27	134	18	145	24	129	57	813.00
Vacancy (FTE)	3.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	8.50	15.50	13.50	9.50	7.00	81.00	7.00	10.00	9.00	18.00	4.00	191.00
Vacancy Rate (FTE)	21.4%	15.4%	8.3%	25.0%	12.9%	25.0%	13.4%	16.5%	20.6%	37.7%	28.0%	6.5%	27.3%	12.2%	6.6%	19.04%
Judicial Council Temp Employee (909)	0	3	0	0	0	2	6	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	20.00
Employment Agency Temporary Worker (FTE)	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	14.00
Contractors (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	37.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	40.60
TOTAL WORKFORCE <i>(based on FTE, 909s, Agency Temps & Contractors)</i>	11.00	14.00	11.00	6.00	58.50	48.50	101.00	49.00	35.00	172.00	22.60	145.00	24.00	129.00	60.00	886.60

See the following page for definition of terms.

Staffing Category	Definition
Authorized Position (FTE)	All regular ongoing positions approved in the Budget Act for that year. The number is based on the position's approved full-time equivalency.
Filled Authorized Position (FTE)	The number of authorized positions filled based on the employee's full-time equivalency.
Headcount	The actual count of persons employed by the Judicial Council, regardless of FTE. This number could be more than the FTE count due to part-time employees being counted as "1." This count does not include Judicial Council Temporary Employees (909) or Employment Agency Temporary Workers.
Vacancy (FTE)	The number of authorized positions minus the number of filled authorized positions.
Vacancy Rate (FTE)	The number of authorized positions divided by the number of vacant authorized positions, excluding temporary employees ("909"-funded employees). See Judicial Council Temporary Employees, below.
Judicial Council Temporary Employees (909)	An employee whose salary is not funded through the Budget Act and who may receive benefits if employed at least half-time and the term of employment is for more than six months. A 909 position is categorized by the Office of the State Controller as a temporary position used in the absence of an authorized position. 909 positions may be occupied by regular full-time employees because of the unavailability of an authorized vacant position. Types of 909 Temporary Employees include retired annuitants, who are hired by their former employer or by another employer that participates in the same retirement system as the former employer. This includes a former participant in a state retirement system who has previously retired and who is currently receiving retirement benefits. Temporary: Employees employed on a temporary basis; they do not receive full benefits (but do receive CalPERS retirement service credit).
Employment Agency Temporary Workers (FTE)	Workers from/employees of an employment agency who provide short-term support for six months or less.
Contractor (FTE)	Individuals augmenting the work of the organization and providing services for a limited period (one year or less) or on a specific project, where a particular skill set is required that is either (1) not within an existing classification and/or job description, or (2) where recruitment issues require the use of a contractor.
Full-Time Equivalency (FTE)	The number of total maximum compensable hours designated in a year divided by actual hours worked in a year. For example, the work year is defined as 2,080 hours; one employee occupying a paid full-time job all year would consume one FTE. One employee working for 1,040 hours each year would consume 0.5 FTE.
Time Base	Full time: Employee is scheduled to work 40 hours per week. Receives full benefits. Part time: Employee is scheduled to work less than 40 hours per week. Employees who work more than 20 hours per week receive full benefits. Intermittent: Employee has no established work schedule and works on an as-needed basis that varies from one pay period to the next. Eligibility for certain benefits may be limited for these employees.
Regular Employee	Commonly referred to as "permanent employees." They receive full benefits.
Limited Term	A position that is funded through the Budget Act with a specific end date. The position is counted as an authorized position. Employees in limited-term positions may be regular or temporary.

Judicial Appointments and Vacancies Report

New Judicial Appointments

The Governor made 36 new judicial appointments since the July 2025 Judicial Council meeting:

- Courts of Appeal: Second District (1), Fourth District (1), Fifth District (1)
- Superior Courts: Alameda (5), Butte (1), Contra Costa (1), Kern (1), Kings (1), Los Angeles (6), Marin (1), Mendocino (1), Orange (1), Riverside (2), San Bernardino (2), San Diego (1), San Francisco (2), San Luis Obispo (1), San Mateo (1), Santa Clara (3), Santa Cruz (1), Siskiyou (1), Stanislaus (1)

Judicial Vacancy Roster Report

Number of judgeships authorized, filled, and vacant as of October 1, 2025.

Type of Court	Number of Courts	Number of Judgeships				
		Authorized	Filled	Vacant	Filled (Last Month)	Vacant (Last Month)
Supreme Court	1	7	7	0	7	0
Courts of Appeal	6	106	98	8	99	7
Superior Courts	58	1,756	1,696	60	1,691	65
All Courts	65	1,869	1,801	68	1,797	72

Judicial Vacancies: Appellate Courts

Appellate District	Vacancies	Reason for Vacancy	Justice to Be Replaced	Last Day
1st District	1			
Division Four		Elevated	Hon. Tracie L. Brown	04/07/2023
2nd District	1			
Division Two		Retired	Hon. Judith Ashmann-Gerst	09/30/2025
3rd District	1			
Third Appellate District		Elevated	Hon. Laurie M. Earl	07/10/2023
4th District	3			
Division One		Retired	Hon. Richard D. Huffman	07/01/2025
Division Three		Retired	Hon. Kathleen E. O'Leary	07/31/2025
Division Three		Retired	Hon. Thomas M. Goethals	03/01/2025
5th District	1			
Fifth Appellate District		Retired	Hon. M. Bruce Smith	06/30/2025

6th District	1			
Sixth Appellate District		Retired	Hon. Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian	04/30/2025
TOTAL APPELLATE COURT VACANCIES	8			

Judicial Vacancies: Superior Courts

County	Vacancies	Reason for Vacancy	Judge to Be Replaced	Last Day
Alameda	1			
		Retired	Hon. Jo-Lynne Q. Lee	06/27/2025
Contra Costa	1			
		Retired	Hon. Patricia M. Scanlon	05/01/2025
Fresno	2			
		Retired	Hon. Francine Zepeda	09/01/2025
		Elevated	Hon. Arlan L. Harrell	08/07/2025
Humboldt	1			
		Retired	Hon. Joyce D. Hinrichs	01/09/2025
Kings	2			
		Retired	Hon. Michael J. Reinhart	09/07/2025
		Retired	Hon. Valerie R. Chrissakis	02/13/2025
Lake	1			
		Retired	Hon. Andrew S. Blum	07/08/2025
Los Angeles	23			
		Retired	Hon. Thomas C. Falls	09/30/2025
		Retired	Hon. Robert S. Wada	08/11/2025
		Retired	Hon. Christopher G. Estes	08/01/2025
		Retired	Hon. Mark E. Windham	08/01/2025
		Retired	Hon. Stuart M. Rice	07/28/2025
		Retired	Hon. Ana Maria Luna	07/18/2025
		Retired	Hon. Sanjay T. Kumar	07/15/2025
		Retired	Hon. Jacqueline H. Lewis	07/10/2025
		Retired	Hon. Patrick T. Madden	07/01/2025
		Retired	Hon. John J. Kralik	06/29/2025
		Retired	Hon. Scott T. Millington	05/15/2025
		Retired	Hon. Juan Carlos Dominguez	05/09/2025
		Elevated	Hon. Armen Tamzarian	05/07/2025
		Elevated	Hon. Mark K. Hanasano	05/07/2025
		Retired	Hon. Fumiko Hachiya Wasserman	04/17/2025
		Retired	Hon. Kenneth R. Freeman	04/13/2025
		Retired	Hon. Stephanie M. Bowick	04/07/2025
		Retired	Hon. Patricia J Titus	03/31/2025
		Retired	Hon. Robin Miller Sloan	03/28/2025
		Retired	Hon. Margaret Miller Bernal	01/03/2025
		Retired	Hon. Craig J. Mitchell	05/01/2024
		Retired	Hon. Dianna J. Gould-Saltman	03/01/2024

County	Vacancies	Reason for Vacancy	Judge to Be Replaced	Last Day
		Retired	Hon. Allen Joseph Webster, Jr.	06/29/2023
Madera	1			
		Retired	Hon. Brian Austin	09/05/2025
Mendocino	1			
		Retired	Hon. Cindee F. Mayfield	01/15/2025
Monterey	1			
		Retired	Hon. Marla O. Anderson	04/30/2024
Orange	3			
		Retired	Hon. Paul Minerich	09/29/2025
		Retired	Hon. Randall J. Sherman	06/23/2025
		Retired	Hon. Jacki C. Brown	02/02/2022
Riverside	3			
		Retired	Hon. Chad W. Firetag	08/22/2025
		Retired	Hon. Frederick Paul Dickerson III	08/12/2025
		Retired	Hon. Dale R. Wells	12/27/2022
Sacramento	2			
		Retired	Hon. Maryanne G. Gilliard	08/15/2025
		Retired	Hon. Andre K. Campbell	09/27/2024
San Bernardino	2			
		Elevated	Hon. Corey G. Lee	08/07/2025
		Retired	Hon. David S. Cohn	06/29/2025
San Diego	1			
		Retired	Hon. Timothy B. Taylor	09/22/2025
San Francisco	2			
		Retired	Hon. Andrew Y. S. Cheng	08/04/2025
		Retired	Hon. Curtis E. A. Karnow	04/29/2025
San Mateo	2			
		Retired	Hon. V. Raymond Swope	08/06/2025
		Retired	Hon. Elizabeth Lee	06/30/2025
Santa Clara	3			
		Retired	Hon. Thang Nguyen Barrett	09/09/2025
		Retired	Hon. Mary Arand	04/21/2025
		Retired	Hon. Julianne Sylva	04/18/2025
Shasta	2			
		Retired	Hon. Monique D. McKee	08/29/2025
		Retired	Hon. Stephen H. Baker	06/27/2025
Solano	1			
		Retired	Hon. Christine A. Carringer	09/08/2025
Stanislaus	2			
		Deceased	Hon. Shawn D. Bessey	05/01/2025
		Deceased	Hon. Nancy A. Leo	07/29/2024
Sutter	1			
		Retired	Hon. Laura J. Davis	05/12/2025

County	Vacancies	Reason for Vacancy	Judge to Be Replaced	Last Day
Tulare	2			
		Retired	Hon. Juliet L. Boccone	09/03/2025
		Retired	Hon. Hugo J. Loza	04/14/2024
TOTAL TRIAL COURT VACANCIES	60			
STATEWIDE TOTAL	68			

Number of Judgeships Authorized, Filled, and Vacant: September 2023–September 2025

	Superior Courts				Courts of Appeal			
Month	Authorized	Filled	Vacancy	Vacancy Rate	Authorized	Filled	Vacancy	Vacancy Rate
Sep-23	1,755	1,652	103	5.9%	106	100	6	5.7%
Oct-23	1,755	1,666	89	5.1%	106	100	6	5.7%
Nov-23	1,755	1,662	93	5.3%	106	99	7	6.6%
Dec-23	1,755	1,673	82	4.7%	106	98	8	7.5%
Jan-24	1,755	1,666	89	5.1%	106	100	6	5.7%
Feb-24	1,755	1,665	90	5.1%	106	100	6	5.7%
Mar-24	1,755	1,651	104	5.9%	106	99	7	6.6%
Apr-24	1,755	1,639	116	6.6%	106	99	7	6.6%
May-24	1,755	1,636	119	6.8%	106	98	8	7.5%
Jun-24	1,755	1,650	105	6.0%	106	101	5	4.7%
Jul-24	1,755	1,647	108	6.2%	106	100	6	5.7%
Aug-24	1,755	1,653	102	5.8%	106	100	6	5.7%
Sep-24	1,755	1,652	103	5.9%	106	101	5	4.7%
Oct-24	1,755	1,666	89	5.1%	106	99	7	6.6%
Nov-24	1,755	1,666	89	5.1%	106	100	6	5.7%
Dec-24	1,755	1,675	80	4.6%	106	100	6	5.7%
Jan-25	1,755	1,680	75	4.3%	106	99	7	6.6%
Feb-25	1,755	1,684	71	4.0%	106	100	6	5.7%
Mar-25	1,755	1,686	69	3.9%	106	99	7	6.6%
Apr-25	1,755	1,679	76	4.3%	106	98	8	7.5%
May-25	1,755	1,685	70	4.0%	106	98	8	7.5%
Jun-25	1,756	1,690	65	3.7%	106	97	9	8.5%
Jul-25	1,756	1,680	76	4.3%	106	96	10	9.4%
Aug-25	1,756	1,690	66	3.8%	106	99	7	6.6%
Sep-25	1,756	1,686	60	3.4%	106	98	8	7.5%

Percentage of Superior Court Judgeships Vacant: September 2023–September 2025

