



Judicial Council of California

Meeting Agenda

Judicial Council

Please visit
courts website:
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July 18, 2025.

Meeting materials
are available through
the hyperlinks in
this document.

Friday, July 18, 2025

10:05 AM

San Francisco

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

Session: 9:00–9:55 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: 10:05 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://www.courts.ca.gov/28045.htm>

Submit advance requests to speak and written comments for this meeting by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, by email to:

judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov

Chief Justice's Report*15 minutes***Administrative Director's Report**[25-003](#)**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.

[25-008](#)**Minutes of April 25, 2025, Judicial Council Meeting**[25-117](#)**Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts | Funding for Court Reporters in Family Law and Civil Law Case Types (Action Required)****Summary:**

Senate Bill 170 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240), which amended the Budget Act of 2021, included a \$30 million ongoing General Fund to the Judicial Council for establishing a methodology to allocate funding to all trial courts to increase the number of court reporters in family law and civil cases. The budget language in the Budget Act of 2022 and ongoing expanded the use of this funding; however, these changes do not impact how these funds are allocated to the courts. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approving an allocation of the ongoing \$30 million to all trial courts, as specified, for fiscal year 2025-26.

[25-123](#)**Child Support | AB 1058 Program Funding Methodologies and Fiscal Year 2025-26 Funding Allocations (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends allocating funds for the Assembly Bill 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program based on the current funding methodologies, with updated workload and population data. The workload-based funding methodology of the Child Support Commissioner program was implemented in fiscal year (FY) 2019-20, the population-based funding methodology of the Family Law Facilitator program was implemented in FY 2021-22, and the underlying data for both are updated every two years. The committee also recommends approving base and federal drawdown allocations for the AB 1058 program funding for FY 2025-26. The funds are provided through a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Child Support Services and the Judicial Council and requires the council to annually approve these funding allocations.

[25-120](#)**Collaborative Justice | Fiscal Year 2025-26 Substance Abuse Focus Grant and Dependency Drug Court Augmentation Grant Funding (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council allocate the Substance Abuse Focus Grant (SAFG) Program's fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 funds to the trial courts using the population-based methodology approved in September 2023. The Budget Act of 2025 allocated \$1.16 million for the SAFG Program to the superior courts to maintain, expand, or enhance collaborative courts. A total of \$75,000 in federal Court Improvement Program funds is also available in FY 2025-26 to fund dependency drug courts.

[25-122](#)**Court Facilities | Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan and Capital-Outlay Budget Change Proposals for Fiscal Year 2026-27 (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee recommends approval of the *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan* and nine capital-outlay budget change proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2026-27 for submission to the state Department of Finance. The five-year plan forms the basis for capital project funding requests for the upcoming and outlying fiscal years, and the budget change proposals reflect funding requested for the phases of the projects in year 1 (FY 2026-27) of the plan.

[25-115](#)**Judicial Branch Technology | IT Modernization Funding, Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Action Required)****Summary:**

The fiscal year 2025-26 judicial branch budget includes IT Modernization local court grant funding of approximately \$12.5 million to trial and appellate courts. This funding is allocated to courts through an application process to support projects that align with the judicial branch's technological goals and allow individual courts to expand their use of technology to best meet their particular business needs.

[25-114](#)**Judicial Branch Technology | Jury Management System Grants, Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Judicial Council Technology Committee recommends approving the proposed allocations of the \$500,000 Jury Management System Grant. The goal of the Jury Management System Grant is to improve juror experience and reduce court resource needs by enhancing access to information. For fiscal year 2025-26, 12 trial courts submitted grant applications for a total of 15 projects.

[25-107](#)**Jury Instructions | Civil Jury Instructions (release 47)
(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 midyear supplement to the official 2025 edition of the *Judicial Council of California Civil Jury Instructions*.

[25-106](#)**Juvenile Law | Fiscal Year 2025-26 Funding Allocations for Court Appointed Special Advocate Local Assistance (Action Required)****Summary:**

The fiscal year 2025-26 judicial branch budget includes \$2.713 million for Judicial Council Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) grants. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council allocate \$2.713 million to fund 45 CASA programs serving 52 counties and approximately 10,470 children statewide.

[25-069](#)**Language Access Plan | Allocations for Signage and Technology Grant Program, Cycle 7, Fiscal Year 2025-26
(Action Required)****Summary:**

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and the Information Technology Advisory Committee recommend approving proposed grant awards for the Language Access Signage and Technology Grant Program of \$2.35 million to improve services and expand language access for court users. For Cycle 7 (fiscal year 2025-26), 17 courts applied for and will be awarded grants for signage and technology projects.

[25-108](#)**Rules and Forms | Adjustment to Deposit Account Exemption from Enforcement of Judgment (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Code of Civil Procedure requires the dollar amount of the exemption for a judgment debtor's deposit account to be adjusted annually in July to reflect increases in the minimum basic standard of care for a family of four. Judicial Council staff recommend revising the form that lists the dollar amounts of exemptions from enforcement of judgment to reflect the updated figure for deposit accounts.

[25-118](#)**Trial Court Budget | Fiscal Year 2025-26 Allocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding
(Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends allocation of \$32.9 million to trial courts for fiscal year 2025-26 included in the Budget Act of 2025 for the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act. The allocation may change based on final appropriations included in the enacted Budget Act.

[25-033](#)**Trial Court Budget | State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approving (1) allocations for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund in the amount of \$47.9 million, and (2) the delegation of authority to the Administrative Director of the Judicial Council to authorize baseline technical adjustments to Judicial Council-approved allocations. With the proposed allocations, the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund is projected to end FY 2025-26 with a fund balance of \$31.3 million, of which approximately \$29.3 million will be unrestricted. The allocations will provide the necessary funding for specific programs and services for the trial courts, and the delegation of authority will allow for greater efficiency in the implementation of required budgetary adjustments.

Break: 11:00–11:10 a.m.

DISCUSSION AGENDA[25-035](#)**Trial Court Budget | Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Action Required)****Summary:**

Government Code section 68502.5(c)(2)(A) requires the Judicial Council to make a preliminary allocation for the trial courts in July and finalize allocations in January of each fiscal year. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council allocate \$3.076 billion to the trial courts, which includes \$2.958 billion from the Trial Court Trust Fund and \$117.8 million from the General Fund, for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26. The allocation reflects the \$55 million ongoing reduction to trial court operations included in the Budget Act of 2024.

The proposed allocations, current revenue projections, and estimated savings from FY 2024-25 appropriations will result in a fund balance of \$151.8 million (\$41.7 million is unrestricted) in the Trial Court Trust Fund for FY 2025-26.

Speakers:

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Budget Services

10 minutes

[25-032](#)**Trial Court Budget | Allocation Methodologies for Potential Future Funding Reductions and Restorations (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Workload Formula is the Judicial Council-approved policy by which certain funding is allocated to the trial courts to support funding equity, stability, and predictability. The policy does not include methodologies for addressing trial court funding reductions and restorations. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends updating the policy to incorporate allocation methodologies to address

future budget situations including (1) budget reductions, (2) a funding restoration in the same fiscal year as the reduction occurred, and (3) a funding restoration that occurs in a future fiscal year following a reduction in a prior fiscal year. Establishing these policies will increase transparency regarding how funding is allocated to the trial courts so they can plan for changes in funding levels and allow the Judicial Council to address budget changes more efficiently going forward.

Speakers:

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Budget Services

20 minutes

25-034

**Judicial Branch Budget | Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Change
Proposals for Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, Superior Courts,
Judicial Branch Facilities Program, and Judicial Council
(Action Required)**

Summary:

To balance responsible investment in core programs and services provided by the judicial branch in the context of the state's multiyear projected deficit, the Judicial Branch Budget Committee recommends submitting 15 budget change proposals to the Department of Finance for consideration in the fiscal year 2026-27 Governor's Budget.

Speakers:

Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Budget Services

10 minutes

25-113

**Judicial Branch Technology | IT Modernization Program Success
Stories (No Report. No Action Required.)**

Summary:

The chairs of the Technology Committee will present success stories from the appellate and trial courts about how funding received from the IT Modernization program has improved access to justice.

Speakers:

Hon. Kyle S. Brodie, Chair, Technology Committee
Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Vice-Chair, Technology Committee
Hon. Ricardo R. Ocampo, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Mr. Charles Johnson, Clerk/Executive Officer, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District
Mr. AJ Guzman, Chief Information Officer, Superior Court of Sutter County

15 minutes

[25-105](#)**Report to the Legislature | 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study (No Action Required)****Summary:**

Under Government Code section 68563, every five years the Judicial Council is required to submit to the Governor and the Legislature a study of language need and interpreter use in the superior courts. The *2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study*, prepared by the Judicial Council's Language Access Services, details interpreter usage in the superior courts for fiscal years 2020-21 through 2023-24 and projects future language need.

Speakers:

Hon. Maurice Sanchez, Vice-Chair, Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
Ms. Eunice Lee, Center for Families, Children & the Courts
Ms. Aggie Wong, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

10 minutes

[25-109](#)**Rules and Forms | Judicial Branch Administration: Rule and Standard for Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Court-Related Work (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Artificial Intelligence Task Force recommends adopting one rule of court and one standard of judicial administration to address the use of generative artificial intelligence for court-related work. The task force developed this proposal as part of its charge from the Chief Justice to oversee the development of policy recommendations on the use of artificial intelligence in the judicial branch. Adopting the proposed rule and standard will help promote responsible innovation in court operations while protecting confidential information, ensuring appropriate oversight, and maintaining public trust in the judicial branch.

Speakers:

Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair, Artificial Intelligence Task Force
Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Policy & Research
Ms. Jenny Grantz, Legal Services
Ms. Saskia Kim, Policy & Research

15 minutes

INFORMATION AGENDA (NO ACTION REQUIRED)[25-125](#)**Child Support | Midyear Funding Reallocation for Fiscal Year 2024-25****Summary:**

The Judicial Council is required to annually allocate non-Trial Court Trust Fund funds to the AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program and has done so since 1997. Funds for this program are provided through a cooperative agreement between the California Department of Child Support Services and the Judicial Council. Any funds unspent during the fiscal year revert to the state General Fund and cannot be used in subsequent years. This report details the midyear reallocation of funding for the AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program for fiscal year 2024-25.

[25-121](#)**Judicial Council Update | Trial Court Facility Modifications Report for Quarter 3 of Fiscal Year 2024-25****Summary:**

This informational report to the Judicial Council outlines the allocations of facility modification funding made to improve trial court facilities in the third quarter (January through March) of fiscal year 2024-25. To determine allocations, the Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee reviews and approves facility modification requests from across the state in accordance with the council's *Trial Court Facility Modifications Policy*.

[25-111](#)**Report to the Legislature | Court Realignment Data (Calendar Year 2024)****Summary:**

Penal Code section 13155 requires Judicial Council staff, commencing January 1, 2013, to collect information from trial courts regarding the implementation of the 2011 Criminal Justice Realignment legislation and make the data available annually to the California Department of Finance (DOF), Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC), and Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) by September 1. This is the 13th annual court realignment data report. It will be distributed to the DOF, BSCC, and JLBC. The report, *Court Realignment Data (Calendar Year 2024)*, is included as Attachment A to this report.

[25-116](#)**Report to the Legislature | Electronic Recording Equipment****Summary:**

Under Government Code section 69958, the Judicial Council is required to report to the Legislature semiannually on the purchase and lease of any electronic recording equipment that will be used to record superior court proceedings. For the reporting period of July 1 through December 31, 2024, six courts reported a combined total of \$460,024 for the purchase of electronic recording equipment or related items. The Judicial Council's Policy and Research Office staff submitted this information to the Legislature, in *Report of Electronic Recording Equipment Purchased or Leased by Superior Courts (July 1 through December 31, 2024)*, in June 2025.

[25-110](#)**Report to the Legislature | Findings of Extraordinary Circumstances in 2024****Summary:**

Under Welfare and Institutions Code section 6608.6(e), the Judicial Council is required to report annually to the Legislature about court findings of extraordinary circumstances in sexually violent predator cases. Judicial Council staff identified one such case in 2024. The attached letter to the Legislature describes the findings and grounds supporting those findings. The council will submit its annual report to the Legislature on or before July 18, 2025.

[25-015](#)**Report to the Legislature | Fiscal Year 2024-25 Funding for California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association****Summary:**

The Budget Act of 2022 (Stats. 2022, ch. 45) amended the Judicial Council's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) grant funding to include an additional \$60 million, to be paid in three increments over three years, to the California CASA

Association for support of CASA programs across the state. On or before July 1, 2025, staff for the Judicial Council's Center for Families, Children & the Courts submitted to the Legislature *Report on California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association Funding Allocations and Program Development: Year Three*, in accordance with the requirements stated in the Budget Act of 2024.

[25-124](#)**Report to the Legislature | Shriver Civil Counsel Act Report****Summary:**

On June 30, 2025, Judicial Council staff submitted a report to the Legislature on Shriver Civil Counsel Act funding, services, and outcomes in accordance with Assembly Bill 590 (Stats. 2009, ch. 457). Between fiscal years 2019-20 and 2023-24, the period covered by the report, 14 programs were allocated \$54.7 million.

[25-068](#)**Report to the Legislature | Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2023-24****Summary:**

On June 30, 2025, the Judicial Council's Language Access Services submitted the annual report on trial court interpreter expenditures to the Legislature and the Department of Finance. This report is required by the Budget Act of 2023 (Sen. Bill 101; Stats. 2023, ch. 12).

[25-112](#)**Trial Courts | Quarterly Investment Report for Third Quarter Fiscal Year 2024-25****Summary:**

This quarterly investment report covers the period from January 1 through March 31, 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[25-127](#)**Written Reports****Appointment Orders**[25-091](#)**Appointment Orders since the last business meeting.****Adjournment**