



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 23-085

For business meeting on: May 12, 2023

Title

Judicial Council: Judicial Branch Budget
Committee Report

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

May 3, 2023

Submitted by

Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Hon. David M. Rubin, Chair

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Executive Summary

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee assists the Judicial Council on the branch budget. The committee reviews and makes recommendations annually to the council on submitted budget change proposals. Additionally, the committee reviews and makes recommendations on the use of statewide emergency funding for the judicial branch and acts on other assignments as referred to it by the council. The Judicial Branch Budget Committee is also assigned oversight responsibility for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee (Budget Committee) will have met twice in the period between the March 24, 2023, and the May 12, 2023, Judicial Council meetings.

On April 14, 2023, the Budget Committee voted to adopt the following Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its May 12, 2023, meeting:

1. An increase of \$2.5 million to fund the full \$4.031 million amount of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County's debt service obligation, using civil assessment backfill funding effective July 1, 2023, until the debt service obligation is satisfied.

2. Adjustments to 2022–23 allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) to provide the Judicial Council Information Technology office with funding for the following expenditures:
(a) \$424,000 for data center and cloud services; and (b) \$200,000 to create a new eCART program, as approved by the trial courts. These costs will be reimbursed by the trial courts through the Schedule C process, resulting in a net-neutral impact on the TCTF.
3. An increase of \$500,000 for the 2022–23 elder abuse reimbursement allocation from the TCTF, for a total allocation of \$1.2 million.
4. Allocation and distribution of \$1.5 million to the Superior Court of Orange County to fund a new firearm relinquishment program for 2023–24 through 2024–25, and delegate authority to the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee to reallocate and distribute any unspent funding allocated to any of the awarded courts in Cycles 1 and 2, based on the same criteria established during the application period.

On May 11, 2023, the Budget Committee will hear an education session on potential future judicial branch funding strategies.