



Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 23-022

For business meeting on: March 24, 2023

Title

Report to the Legislature: Court Reporter
Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court
Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil
Proceedings for 2021–22

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

March 3, 2023

Submitted by

Judicial Council staff
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Budget Services

Contact

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Executive Summary

Pursuant to Government Code section 68086(f), the Judicial Council is required to submit a report on the statewide court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee by February 1 of each year. On or before February 1, 2023, Judicial Council staff submitted the *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2021–22*.

Relevant Previous Council Action

This report is submitted to the Legislature annually. Reports from previous fiscal years are available on the California Courts website “Legislative Reports” webpage at www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm.

Analysis/Rationale

In 2021–22, a total of \$21.3 million in court reporter fees was collected and remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1) and (2) and 68086.1.

In 2021–22, an estimated \$84.6 million was spent for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings. This amount is an estimate as most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case type.

The estimate was calculated by multiplying the sum of the total amount of the budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2021 (\$221.8 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$3.8 million) by 37.5 percent. The Judicial Council’s 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study (RAS) estimates that approximately 37.5 percent of court reporters need is on civil cases, which includes general civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family law proceedings.

The RAS model measures the need for court reporters by applying a ratio of 1.25 court reporters for every judicial position needed in the corresponding case types. The estimated need for court reporters in civil cases in the RAS model accounts for changes authorized by the Budget Act of 2018 to provide court reporters in family law cases and expanded civil case types, including unlimited civil and probate cases pursuant to *Jameson v. Desta* (5 Cal. 5th 594).

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

The requirements of this report do not result in any additional costs or operational impact to the trial courts.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2021–22*



JUDICIAL COUNCIL of CALIFORNIA

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Acting Administrative Director
Judicial Council

February 1, 2023

Hon. Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2021–22, as required under Government Code section 68086(f)

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

Pursuant to Government Code section 68086(f), the Judicial Council is submitting this report on court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in civil proceedings in 2021–22.

In 2021–22, a total of \$21.3 million in court reporter fees was collected and remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1) and (2) and 68086.1. The estimated total expenditures for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings was \$84.6 million.

The \$21.3 million in court reporter fee revenue is comprised of the following:

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- \$3.3 million in fees that were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting under one hour in accordance with Government Code section 68086(a)(1).
- \$2.0 million in fees that were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting one hour or more on the first and each succeeding judicial day that services were provided in accordance with Government Code section 68086(a)(2).
- \$16.0 million in fees that were deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund in accordance with Government Code section 68086.1 from the following:
 - First paper filings and responses for superior court civil proceedings, other than proceedings under the Probate Code, in the superior court where the amount demanded is more than \$10,000;
 - Family law filings and responses; and
 - Marriage dissolution filings and responses.

The \$84.6 million in court reporter services expenditures is an estimate as most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case type. The estimate was calculated by multiplying the sum of the total amount of the budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2021 (\$221.8 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$3.8 million) by 37.5 percent. The Judicial Council's 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study estimates that approximately 37.5 percent of court reporters need is on civil cases, which includes general civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family law proceedings.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Director, Judicial Council Budget Services, at 916-263-1397 or at zlatko.theodorovic@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Millicent Tidwell
Acting Administrative Director
Judicial Council

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Hon. Philip Y. Ting
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MT/OT

Enclosure

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel
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