



Judicial Council of California

Meeting Minutes

Judicial Council

Please visit the [California courts website](#) to access the recording of the February 20, 2026 meeting.

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, February 20, 2026

10:00 AM

San Francisco

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

Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, Chair of the Judicial Council, called the closed session to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

Attendance

Council Members

- Present:** 26 - Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, Justice Carol A. Corrigan, Administrative Presiding Justice Brad R. Hill, Justice Stacy Boulware Eurie, Justice Joan K. Irion, Presiding Judge Patricia L. Kelly, Presiding Judge Tamara L. Wood, Assistant Presiding Judge Ricardo R. Ocampo, Judge Maria Lucy Armendariz, Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi, Judge Charles S. Crompton, Judge Judith K. Dulcich, Judge Maureen F. Hallahan, Judge Maria D. Hernandez, Judge Jeffrey C. Kauffman, Judge Ann C. Moorman, Judge Michael Rhoads, Commissioner Ryan Davis, Assembly Member Ash Kalra, Senator Thomas J. Umberg, Ms. Kate Bieker, Mr. Charles Johnson, Mr. Darrel E. Parker, Mr. Craig M. Peters, Mr. David W. Slayton, and Ms. Dena Stone
- Absent:** 2 - Ms. Rachel W. Hill, and Ms. Gretchen M. Nelson

Call to Order

Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, Chair of the Judicial Council, called the open session to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Judicial Council Board Room.

Public Comment

Written comments were provided to the council members and filed in the record. No members of the public (speakers) requested to address the council on general matters of judicial administration or on specific agenda items during the meeting.

Chief Justice's Report

Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero reported on her activities since the last council meeting.

Administrative Director's Report

[26-001](#) Administrative Director's Report

Administrative Director Michelle Curran reported on some of the many activities Judicial Council staff engaged in to further the council's strategic goals and priorities for the judicial branch since the last business meeting, exclusive of items on the February meeting agenda.

Judicial Council Internal Committee Presentations

[26-061](#) Legislation Committee Presentation

[26-062](#) Written Reports

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion to approve all of the following items on the Consent Agenda was made by Administrative Presiding Justice Hill and seconded by Judge Moorman. The motion was adopted.

[26-006](#) Minutes of December 11-12, 2025, Judicial Council Meeting

[26-030](#) Equal Access Fund | Distribution of Funds for Equal Access Fund Program (Action Required)

Summary: The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission recommends that the Judicial Council approve a one-time General Fund distribution of \$100,000 to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California for the Equal Access Fund program, as authorized by Assembly Bill 170 (Stats. 2024, ch. 51). The commission will distribute the funds to qualified legal services providers and support centers to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice.

Recommendation: The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission recommends that the Judicial Council, effective February 20, 2026, approve the distribution of \$100,000 to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California for the Equal Access Fund program.

[26-25](#)**Jury Instructions | Criminal Jury Instructions (2026 Edition)
(Action Required)**

Summary: The Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions recommends approving for publication the new and revised criminal jury instructions prepared by the committee under rule 2.1050 of the California Rules of Court. These changes will keep the instructions current with statutory and case authority. Once approved, the revised instructions will be published in the 2026 edition of *Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions*.

Recommendation: The Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions recommends that the Judicial Council, effective February 20, 2026, approve the following changes to the criminal jury instructions prepared by the committee:

1. Revisions to the user guide;
2. Addition of CALCRIM Nos. 1808, 3235, 3238, and 3459;
3. Revocations of CALCRIM Nos. 250 and 251; and
4. Revisions to CALCRIM Nos. 252, 254, 355, 373, 375, 400, 416, 417, 540A, 540B, 540C, 561, 571, 703, 840, 841, 852A, 852B, 853A, 853B, 965, 967, 968, 1000, 1015, 1030, 1045, 1170, 1191A, 1191B, 1300, 1520, 1700, 1751, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2410, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2622, 2656, 2745, 2840, 2931, 3160, 3224, 3225, 3226, 3227, 3228, 3229, 3230, 3231, 3232, 3233, 3234, 3260, 3406, and 3411.

[26-27](#)**Report to the Legislature | Superior Court Lactation Rooms
Funding and Expenditures (Action Required)**

Summary: Under Government Code section 69894.2, the Judicial Council is required to submit a report to the Legislature by March 1 of each year on how funds previously appropriated by the Legislature for superior court lactation rooms have been expended. To date, a total of 128 lactation room projects are planned for completion with the expenditure of all \$20.4 million in funds previously appropriated by the Legislature: \$15 million through the passage of the Budget Act of 2022 and \$5.4 million through the passage of the Budget Act of 2025. Judicial Council staff recommends the Judicial Council approve the report to the Legislature.

Recommendation: Judicial Council staff recommends that the Judicial Council, effective February 20, 2026, approve the *Superior Court Lactation Rooms Funding and Expenditures* and direct staff to submit it to the Legislature.

[26-19](#)**Rules and Forms | Criminal Law: Miscellaneous Technical
Changes (Action Required)**

Summary: Judicial Council staff recommend revising *Findings and Orders for Pretrial Release or Detention* (form CR-104) and *Retail Crime Restraining Order--Criminal* (form CR-164) to make technical revisions. The revisions are necessary to avoid causing confusion for courts.

Recommendation: Judicial Council staff recommend that the Judicial Council, effective March 1, 2026:

1. Revise *Findings and Orders for Pretrial Release or Detention* (form CR-104) to correct the form title in the footer; and
2. Revise *Retail Crime Restraining Order--Criminal* (form CR-164) to include checkboxes for the item on personal service of the order.

[26-20](#)

Rules and Forms | Technical Form Revisions to Reflect Federal Poverty Guidelines (Action Required)

Summary: Certain Judicial Council forms contain calculations based on the federal poverty guidelines, which are updated annually in January. Judicial Council staff recommend revising four Judicial Council forms to reflect the 2026 guidelines and ensure these forms remain accurate. Staff also recommend revising a fee waiver information sheet to correct a citation.

Recommendation: Judicial Council staff recommend that the Judicial Council, effective March 1, 2026:

1. Revise the following forms to reflect the 2026 federal poverty guidelines:
 - *Information Sheet on Waiver of Appellate Court Fees--Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Appellate Division* (form APP-015/FW-015-INFO);
 - *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001);
 - *Request to Waive Court Fees (Ward or Conservatee)* (form FW-001-GC); and
 - *Financial Declaration--Juvenile Dependency* (form JV-132).
2. Revise *Information Sheet on Waiver of Superior Court Fees and Costs* (form FW-001-INFO) to correct a citation on page 1.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

[26-056](#)

Department of Finance Presentation (No Action Required. There are no materials for this item.)

[26-054](#)

Judicial Branch Technology | Second IT Modernization Funding Allocation, Fiscal Year 2025-26 (Action Required)

Summary: For fiscal year 2025-26, the Judicial Council Technology Committee recommends allocating IT Modernization Local Court Project funding to an additional two courts for technology projects by utilizing funds returned from a court unable to proceed with its approved initiative. The committee also recommends an allocation of IT Modernization Branchwide funding to continue hosting and maintenance of a branchwide technology solution. All recommended allocations align with the judicial branch's strategic goals and reflect the IT Modernization program's continued commitment to advancing court operations through innovative technology.

Recommendation: The Judicial Council Technology Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective February 23, 2026:

1. Allocate IT Modernization Local Court Project funding to the Superior Court of Humboldt County in the amount of \$41,273 and to the Superior Court of Nevada County in the amount of \$30,471; and
2. Allocate IT Modernization Branchwide funding to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County in the amount of \$125,000 to continue hosting services for the branchwide Automated Notification Management System, which supports nine courts.

A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Judge Moorman and seconded by Justice Boulware Eurie. Assembly Member Kalra was absent for this vote. The motion was adopted.

[26-28](#)

Judicial Branch Education | Fiscal Years 2026-28 Education Plan (Action Required)

Summary: The Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee recommends approval of a two-year education plan that will authorize the development and delivery of high-quality education programming and resources to enhance the ability of all individuals serving in the judicial branch to achieve high standards of professionalism, ethics, and performance for the benefit of the public they serve.

Recommendation: The Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council approve the fiscal years 2026-28 Education Plan. Approval of this plan will authorize the committee, through the work of its standing curriculum committees, to develop and deliver education programs and resources that will enable its judicial branch constituencies to fulfill the education requirements and expectations outlined in rules 10.451-10.491 of the California Rules of Court.

A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Judge Awoniyi and seconded by Presiding Judge Wood. Senator Umberg abstained and Assembly Member Kalra was absent for this vote. The motion was adopted.

[26-23](#)

Report to the Legislature | Use of Remote Technology in Civil and Criminal Actions by the Trial Courts (No Action Required.)

Summary: Code of Civil Procedure section 367.8 requires the Judicial Council to submit a report to the Legislature on or before December 31 of each year until January 1, 2027, on the use of remote technology in trial court civil and criminal proceedings. This report provides county-specific data mandated by the bill, which includes (1) the number of proceedings conducted with the use of remote technology; (2) any superior court in which technology issues or problems occurred; (3) the superior courts in which remote technology was used; (4) the types of trial court conferences, hearings, or proceedings in which remote technology was used; (5) the cost of purchasing, leasing, or upgrading remote technology; (6) the type of technology and equipment purchased or leased; and (7) any other information necessary to evaluate the use of remote proceedings by

the courts. This report fulfills these legislative reporting requirements and includes data for a 12-month period from September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025.

[26-060](#)**Judicial Council of California 100th Anniversary Video
(No Action Required. No Report.)**

Summary: Video recognizing 100 years of the Judicial Council and how its role in improving the statewide administration of justice has helped transform the experience of court users in California.

INFORMATION AGENDA (NO ACTION REQUIRED)[26-29](#)**Equal Access Fund | Report to the Department of Finance**

Summary: On December 24, 2025, the Judicial Council's Center for Families, Children & the Courts submitted to the Department of Finance *Equal Access Fund Evaluation Report: Reporting Period January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024*. The report highlights activities, outcomes, and expenditures of Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts formula grants, competitive partnership grants, and consumer debt grants and was provided to the Judicial Council by the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California, as required by the Budget Act of 2021 (Sen. Bill 129; Stats. 2021, ch. 69).

[26-31](#)**Judicial Council Update | Trial Court Facility Modifications Report
for Quarter 1 of Fiscal Year 2025-26**

Summary: This informational report to the Judicial Council outlines the allocations of facility modification funding made to improve trial court facilities in the first quarter (July through September) of fiscal year 2025-26. 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*.

[26-022](#)**Report to the Legislature | Court Reporter Fees Collected and
Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil
Proceedings for 2024-25**

Summary: Under 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. Judicial Council staff submitted *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2024-25*, in January 2026.

[26-057](#)**Report to the Legislature | Disposition of Criminal Cases According to Race and Ethnicity of Defendant**

Summary: Penal Code section 1170.45 directs the Judicial Council to report annually on the statewide disposition of criminal cases according to defendants' race and ethnicity. The attached report fulfills that mandate. The data used in this report come from the Automated Criminal History System, a data repository maintained by the California Department of Justice. This report describes and analyzes patterns seen in criminal case dispositions of adult felony arrests by race/ethnicity and tests whether any available legal or demographic information can account for the observed patterns.

[26-21](#)**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 January 1 through June 30, 2025, 10 superior courts reported a combined total of \$729,435 for the purchase or lease of electronic recording equipment or related items. On or before December 31, 2025, the Judicial Council staff submitted the *Report of Electronic Recording Equipment Purchased or Leased by Superior Courts (January 1 through June 30, 2025)* to the Legislature.

[26-63](#)**Report to the Legislature | Fiscal Year 2024-25 Court Facilities Trust Fund Expenditures**

Summary: Under Government Code section 70352(c), the Judicial Council is required to submit a report on the actual expenditures from the Court Facilities Trust Fund to the Legislature after the end of each fiscal year. On or before December 31, 2025, Judicial Council staff submitted *Fiscal Year 2024-25 Court Facilities Trust Fund Expenditures*, which reported that \$198.3 million was expended in fiscal year 2024-25.

[26-018](#)**Report to the Legislature | Receipts and Expenditures From Local Courthouse Construction Funds for Fiscal Year 2024-25**

Summary: Under Government Code section 70403(d), the Judicial Council is required to submit a report accounting for all receipts and expenditures from local courthouse construction funds to the Legislature and the Department of Finance by January 1 of each year. On December 16, 2025, Judicial Council staff submitted *Receipts and Expenditures From Local Courthouse Construction Funds for Fiscal Year 2024-25*.

[26-017](#) **Report to the Legislature | Report on Statewide Collection of Court-Ordered Debt for Fiscal Year 2024-25**

Summary: Under Penal Code section 1463.010(c), by December 31 of each year, the Judicial Council is required to submit a report to the Legislature and the Department of Finance on the information collected and reported as specified in Government Code section 68514(a). On December 24, 2025, Judicial Council staff submitted *Report on Statewide Collection of Court-Ordered Debt for Fiscal Year 2024-25*.

[26-32](#) **Report to the Legislature | Trial Court Operational Metrics: 2026 Report**

Summary: Government Code section 68515(a) requires the Judicial Council to annually report to the Legislature on the operations of each trial court and include various specified operational and budgetary metrics. *Trial Court Operational Metrics: 2026 Report* is included as Attachment A to this report.

[26-016](#) **Report to the Legislature | Trial Court Trust Fund Revenue, Expenditure, and Fund Balance Constraints for FY 2024-25**

Summary: As required by Government Code sections 68502.5(b) and 77202.5(b), this Judicial Council report to the Legislature presents trial court financial information for fiscal year (FY) 2024-25, including revenues; expenditures at the program, component, and object levels; and fund balance constraints. Judicial Council staff compiled the data from the FY 2024-25 fourth quarter Quarterly Financial Statements submitted by the trial courts.

[26-26](#) **Trial Courts | Public Notice of Court Closures or Reduced Clerk's Office Hours**

Summary: Government Code section 68106 directs trial courts to notify the public and the Judicial Council before closing courtrooms or clerks' offices or reducing clerks' regular office hours and the council to post all such notices on its website and relay them to the Legislature. This report lists the latest court notices received by the council under this statutory requirement. Since the previous report, one superior court--the Superior Court of Santa Barbara County--has issued a new notice.

[26-24](#) **Trial Courts | Quarterly Investment Report for First Quarter Fiscal Year 2025-26**

Summary: This quarterly investment report covers the period from July 1 through September 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.

Appointment Orders

[26-64](#)

Appointment Orders since the last business meeting.

Adjournment

With the meeting's business completed, the Chief Justice adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Director Michelle Curran, Secretary to the Judicial Council, on April 24, 2026.