



Judicial Council of California

Meeting Agenda

Judicial Council

*Open to the Public Unless Indicated as Closed
(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.6(a))*

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JCCAccessCoordinator@jud.ca.gov*

Please visit
courts.ca.gov
to view live meeting on
April 24, 2026.

Meeting materials
are available through
the hyperlinks in
this document.

Friday, April 24, 2026

10:00 AM

Videoconference

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

Session: 9:30–9:45 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: 10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

10 minutes

Public Comment

10 minutes

The Judicial Council welcomes public comment on general matters of judicial administration or specific agenda items. 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, visit the Attendance and Public Comment Procedures webpage.

Submit advance requests to speak and written comments for this meeting by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, by email to:

judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov

Chief Justice's Report*15 minutes***Administrative Director's Report**[26-002](#) **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-Fronada at 415-865-7626 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

[26-007](#) **Minutes of February 20, 2026, Judicial Council Meeting**[26-050](#) **Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts | Midyear Reallocation of Pretrial Release Funding (Action Required)**

Summary: The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approving a one-time methodology as outlined in this report for the fiscal year 2025-26 reallocation of pretrial release funding to trial courts with a demonstrated need. This methodology reallocates \$194,000 in voluntarily returned, unspent funds and provides it to courts in which their additional funding need could be most fully supported based on the limited amount of funding available.

[26-065](#) **Judicial Branch Administration | Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Program (Action Required)**

Summary: The Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Program Advisory Committee recommends approval of the workers' compensation cost allocation of \$17.96 million for the trial courts and \$1.29 million for the state judiciary for fiscal year 2026-27 to cover the cost of claims for the next fiscal year while maintaining a positive fund balance. The committee also recommends a one-year extension of the clinical consultation pilot program as a benefit for its membership and with the aim of reducing the number of claims filed. This extension would effectively continue the pilot program through June 30, 2027.

[26-075](#) **Judicial Council | Appointment to the California Access to Justice Commission (Action Required)**

Summary: TBD

[26-058](#)**Juvenile Law | 2025-26 Allocations for Dependency Counsel Collections Program and Expected Unspent Program Funding (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends two redistributions for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel funds for fiscal year 2025-26. These allocations ensure that statutorily restricted funds collected under the Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program are allocated according to the Judicial Council methodology and that unspent court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel funds are reallocated to eligible courts able to utilize the funding. This action promotes equitable distribution of resources and supports effective representation for children and families in dependency proceedings.

[26-038](#)**Report to the Legislature | Pretrial Services Program Year 4, 2026 (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Budget Act of 2024 (Assem. Bill 107; Stats. 2024, ch. 22) allocated \$70 million in ongoing funding to the Judicial Council to support the operation of court programs and practices that promote the safe, efficient, fair, and timely pretrial release of individuals booked into jail. The Judicial Council is required to submit annual reports on the program's progress. Judicial Council staff recommend that the council approve *Report to the Legislature: Pretrial Services Program Year 4, 2026* and direct the Administrative Director to submit it to the Legislature, as required under the Budget Act. The report describes key components of the Pretrial Services Program and documents the local and statewide activities in the fourth year of the program.

[26-078](#)**Rules and Forms | Access and Fairness: Gender Inclusivity of Juror Identification and Juror Questionnaires (Implementation of Assembly Bill 1899) (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness recommends adoption of a new standard of judicial administration to ensure gender inclusivity in juror identification and juror questionnaires, consistent with the directive in Assembly Bill 1899 (Cervantes; Stats. 2024, ch. 812). In line with AB 1899's directive and the recommended new standard, the committee also recommends conforming changes to three rules of court, two forms, and two standards of judicial administration; these materials currently use language directed to jurors that is not gender inclusive. In addition, the committee recommends minor changes to conform to style guidelines and to improve accuracy, consistency, clarity, and usability of the materials.

[26-055](#)**Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Increased File Size Limit for Electronic Filings (Action Required)****Summary:**

Rule 8.74 of the California Rules of Court currently limits the file size for electronic filings in the Courts of Appeal to 25 megabytes. When adopted, this limit corresponded to the file size limitation of the e-filing program used by the Courts of Appeal. The Courts of Appeal and Judicial Council Information Technology have worked with a vendor to transition to a file size limit of 100

megabytes for the e-filing program. Because rule 8.74 currently contains a 25-megabyte file size limit, the Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending the rule to accept 100-megabyte files.

[26-068](#)**Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Name Change and Gender Change Rules and Forms (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends adopting, approving, revising, and revoking various Judicial Council forms that individuals use to request a change of name and recognition of a change of gender or sex identifier. The committee also recommends amending two related rules of court. Changes are needed to implement Assembly Bill 1084 (Stats. 2025, ch. 723) and Senate Bill 59 (Stats. 2025, ch. 738), as well as to update the rules and forms to better serve participants in the Secretary of State's address confidentiality program, make various technical or clarifying changes, and respond to feedback from members of the public regarding clarity and ease of use.

[26-069](#)**Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: New Case Type for Civil Case Cover Sheet (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends revising *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010) to add a case type for Song-Beverly Act motor vehicle lemon law cases. Judicial officers and court executive officers at several courts have requested this revision to address significant increases in the number of Song-Beverly Act motor vehicle case filings. The recommended form revision will allow courts to more easily and effectively collect data about the number of these cases being filed and the court resources they require. The committee also proposes revising page 3 of the form to add introductory text, use consistent terminology, and clarify the meaning of several items.

[26-070](#)**Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Revisions to Enforcement of Judgment and Wage Garnishment Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 774 (Action Required)****Summary:**

Assembly Bill 774 (Stats. 2025, ch. 708) makes several changes to the laws regarding enforcement of judgment, including creation of a new procedure by which the judgment creditor may seek reinstatement of a judgment lien on real or personal property. The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends adopting three forms and revising five forms to implement AB 774 and improve clarity and readability.

[26-072](#)**Rules and Forms | Collaborative Justice: Guidelines for Adult Collaborative Treatment Courts (Action Required)****Summary:**

Senate Bill 910 (Stats. 2024, ch. 641) amended Health and Safety Code section 11972 to require counties and courts with treatment court programs to design and operate these programs in accordance with specified state and national best practices and guidelines. Health and Safety Code section 11972(b), as amended, also requires the Judicial Council to revise standards of judicial administration to reflect the specified best practices and guidelines. To fulfill this statutory

requirement, the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee recommends amending standard 4.10 of the California Standards of Judicial Administration to expand the scope of its application from diversion drug court programs to adult collaborative treatment courts.

[26-073](#)**Rules and Forms | Criminal Law: Advisements on the Felony Plea Form (Action Required)****Summary:**

Before accepting a plea of guilty or no contest, courts must advise a defendant on the record that if they are not a citizen, conviction of the charged offense may result in specified immigration consequences. Recent legislation requires courts to advise defendants of these immigration consequences with the verbatim language of Penal Code section 1016.5(a). Additionally, when a defendant pleads guilty or no contest to a sexually violent offense, the California Supreme Court has directed trial courts to advise defendants about the possibility of being referred to sexually violent predator civil commitment proceedings. The Criminal Law Advisory Committee recommends amendments to the optional felony plea form to incorporate the verbatim immigration advisement and to clarify the advisement in cases involving sexually violent offenses.

[26-074](#)**Rules and Forms | Criminal Procedure: Rule and Form Revisions Related to the Racial Justice Act (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Racial Justice Act prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a conviction or sentence based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. To implement recent legislation related to the Racial Justice Act and address urgent issues identified by courts on existing court forms that are used to make a claim under the act, the Appellate Advisory Committee and the Criminal Law Advisory Committee recommend amending two rules of court and revising three forms.

[26-067](#)**Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Update to Racial Justice Act Forms (Action Required)****Summary:**

Assembly Bill 1071 ((Kalra); Stats. 2025, ch. 721) requires counsel for represented applicants alleging a violation of the Racial Justice Act by a law enforcement officer to serve a copy of the petition on the law enforcement agency that employed the officer. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends revising two forms to memorialize this requirement and to make clarifying nonsubstantive changes.

[26-071](#)**Rules and Forms | Mental Health Law: Implementation of CARE Act Legislation (Action Required)****Summary:**

To implement recently enacted legislation regarding the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee recommends amending a heading of an article of the California Rules of Court, amending four rules of court, repealing one rule of court, approving two forms, and revising five forms. Senate Bill 27 (Stats. 2025, ch. 528) amended both substantive and procedural aspects of the CARE Act, including changes to eligibility criteria and processes for initiating proceedings. The committee recommends making these changes to rules and forms to

conform with SB 27. The committee also recommends minor changes to improve form usability and clarity and maintain rule consistency.

[26-077](#)**Rules and Forms | Miscellaneous Technical Changes
(Action Required)****Summary:**

Various members of the judicial branch, members of the public, and Judicial Council staff have identified errors in the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms, as well as minor changes needed to conform to changes in law or previous council actions. Judicial Council staff recommend making the necessary corrections to ensure that the rules and forms conform to law and to avoid causing confusion for court users, clerks, and judicial officers.

[26-087](#)**Trial Court Budget | Fiscal Year 2025-26 Reallocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Funding
(Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends reallocating fiscal year 2025-26 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act funds among trial courts. The CARE Act funding methodology requires a midyear reallocation process to redistribute unspent funds to courts requesting additional program funding. This recommendation, approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee, ensures that available resources are directed to support trial court needs and improve program implementation.

[26-037](#)**Trial Court Budget | Minimum Operating and Emergency Fund Balance Policy (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Judicial Council's suspension of the minimum operating and emergency fund balance policy will expire on June 30, 2026. This policy requires trial courts to maintain a designated percentage of funds for use in emergency situations or due to budget shortfalls. Since fiscal year 2012-13, the council has repeatedly suspended the policy due to statutory changes and the availability of other emergency funding options. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends extending the suspension for one additional year until June 30, 2027. This will provide sufficient time to revise the policy so that it better aligns with the current financial realities and reserve needs of the trial courts.

DISCUSSION AGENDA[26-059](#)**California Access to Justice Commission Presentation
(No Action Required)****Summary:**

This presentation will provide an overview of the California Access to Justice Commission and its work. Its members include appellate justices, superior court judges, and appointees of the Governor, the Legislature, and key stakeholder organizations. The Commission advances access to justice for all Californians by expanding resources, removing barriers, and developing innovations so everyone can effectively and efficiently resolve their civil legal issues.

Speakers:

Hon. Gail Ruderman Feuer, Vice-Chair, California Access to Justice Commission
Mr. Jack Londen, Executive Director, California Access to Justice Commission

20 minutes

[26-086](#)**Rules and Forms | Judicial Branch Administration: Reporting Civil Arrests in Court Facilities (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee recommend adopting a rule of court requiring reporting of civil arrests in superior court facilities, as defined. The recommended rule will help ensure consistent and coordinated statewide collection and reporting of data. The collected data is intended to help the judicial branch better understand the statewide impact that civil arrests in court facilities have on courts and access to justice, while also promoting public trust and confidence through transparency.

Speakers:

Hon. Patricia L. Kelly, Chair, Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee
Hon. Scott R. L. Young, Cochair, Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and Court Executives Advisory Committee Joint Rules Subcommittee

Mr. Sharif Elmallah, Cochair, Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and Court Executives Advisory Committee Joint Rules Subcommittee

Ms. Jessica Devencenzi, Policy & Research

Ms. Saskia Kim, Policy & Research

15 minutes

[26-079](#)**Criminal and Appellate Procedure | Report of the Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group (No Action Required)****Summary:**

This information report provides a summary of the activities of the 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group, which was established by the Chief Justice last year to examine the current status of the appointment of counsel for petitioners in capital habeas corpus proceedings in both the superior courts and the Courts of Appeal. To provide context, the report begins with background on Proposition 66 (the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016) and the rules of court related to qualifications and appointment of capital habeas corpus

counsel that have been adopted by the Judicial Council. The report then summarizes information the working group received from speakers with experience in capital habeas corpus proceedings and provides suggestions that judicial branch entities may consider in their efforts to recruit and appoint counsel for petitioners in such proceedings.

Speakers:

Hon. Laurie M. Earl, Chair, 2025 Proposition 66 Counsel Working Group
Mr. Michael I. Giden, Legal Services

20 minutes

INFORMATION AGENDA (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

[26-088](#)

Judicial Branch Technology | AB 716 Remote Public Access Implementation Outcomes

Summary:

This report summarizes the significant progress the trial courts have made in implementing Assembly Bill 716, which requires courts to provide public audio access to courtroom proceedings when courthouses are physically closed. It presents information the Judicial Council collected from trial courts on the use of one-time funding of \$66.4 million provided through the Budget Act of 2022 to upgrade courtroom audio and video systems. Through a two-year effort, 1,171 courtrooms have been modernized, and projects are underway in another 210 courtrooms. This report highlights key outcomes and direct feedback from participating courts, including improved accessibility, reduced disruption, and cost savings and operational efficiencies.

[26-080](#)

Judicial Council Update | Release of Demographic Data on California Justices and Judges

Summary:

This informational report to the Judicial Council is notice of the annual release of aggregate demographic information concerning the gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, and disability status of California's justices and judges by specific jurisdiction, which council staff is required by statute to collect and release annually.

[26-085](#)

Judicial Council Update | Trial Court Facility Modifications Report for Quarter 2 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 second quarter (October through December) 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*.

[26-083](#)

Report to the Legislature | 2025 Juvenile Dependency Training Completion

Summary:

In accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code section 304.7(c), the Judicial Council submits the required compliance report to the Legislature, the *2025 Juvenile Dependency Training Completion Report*. The attached report

demonstrates compliance by judges, commissioners, and referees with the juvenile judicial officer training and education requirements of the statute. The information provided in this report was gathered from the courts by staff of the Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Resources.

[26-082](#)**Report to the Legislature | 2025 Training for Judicial Officers****Summary:**

In accordance with Government Code section 68555.5, the Judicial Council submitted to the Legislature *2025 Training for Judicial Officers*. The attached report conveys the titles of the training courses offered by the Judicial Council under Government Code section 68555.5 and the number of judicial officers who participated in each course.

[26-089](#)**Report to the Legislature | Annual Proposition 36 Court Implementation Report (January 2025 through December 2025)****Summary:**

The Budget Act of 2025 (Stats. 2025, ch. 5) provides funding for the courts to support the implementation of Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. The act appropriated \$20 million to the Judicial Council and the trial courts to support the increased workload and expand or establish collaborative courts for the implementation of the act. The act also requires the Judicial Council to submit a report to the Legislature annually by March 1 for three years. The report provides background information on the proposition, presents statewide data on cases filed, and describes the implementation and spending activities for the courts and Judicial Council. It also includes details on allocations and activities-related funding provided to county behavioral health departments from the California Department of Health Care Services. Judicial Council staff submitted *Annual Proposition 36 Court Implementation Report (January 2025 through December 2025)* to the Legislature to fulfill this mandate.

[26-084](#)**Report to the Legislature | California's Access to Visitation Grant Program (Federal Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 2025-26)****Summary:**

Family Code section 3204(d) requires that the Judicial Council submit a report to the Legislature, on the first day of March of each even-numbered year, on the Access to Visitation Grant programs administered by the Judicial Council. *California's Access to Visitation Grant Program (Federal Fiscal Years 2024-25 and 2025-26): 2026 Report to the Legislature* provides information on the programs funded for federal fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26 under California's Access to Visitation Grant Program for Enhancing Responsibility and Opportunity for Nonresidential Parents.

[26-076](#)**Trial Courts | Quarterly Investment Report for Second Quarter Fiscal Year 2025-26****Summary:**

This quarterly investment report covers the period from October 1 through December 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

[26-012](#) **Written Reports**

Circulating Orders

[26-066](#) **Circulating Orders since the last business meeting.**

Appointment Orders

[26-091](#) **Appointment Orders since the last business meeting.**

Adjournment