



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-186

For business meeting on December 12, 2025

Title

Judicial Council: Judicial Branch Budget
Committee Report

Report Type

Information

Date of Report

December 3, 2025

Submitted by

Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair

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Executive Summary

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee assists the Judicial Council on the branch budget. The committee reviews submitted budget change concepts for potential adoption as formal budget change proposals and makes recommendations annually to the council. 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 by the council. The Judicial Branch Budget Committee has oversight responsibility for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee. This report summarizes the committee's activities since the last Judicial Council written report, which was submitted for the Judicial Council's business meeting on October 24, 2025.

Overview of Committee Meetings

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee will have met on two occasions between the Judicial Council meetings on October 24, 2025, and December 12, 2025.

On November 13, 2025, the committee considered (1) the annual \$7 million allocation for increased transcript rates for fiscal year (FY) 2025–26 for the trial courts, (2) the final year-end fund balance adjustment for FY 2024–25 to comply with the statutory fund balance cap for the trial courts, and (3) the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee's annual agenda for 2026. The committee also had an informational presentation regarding the Funding Methodology Subcommittee's updated work plan for FY 2025–26. At the direction of the Judicial Council, the

work plan was updated to include a reevaluation of the existing court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel allocation methodology.

On December 10, 2025, the committee participated in an education session on the State Budget process and the implementation of remote public comment at Judicial Branch Budget Committee meetings beginning in January 2026.