



Caseflow Management

Hon. Lisa M. Rogan, Chair, Trial Presiding Judges Advisory Committee
Mr. Darrel E. Parker, Chair, Court Executives Advisory Committee

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Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Advisory Committees

“Caseflow management and time to disposition is also an important tool for our trial courts. Data management and analytics help them to manage caseloads, provide interpreter coverage, and make jury duty more efficient It also informs how they can work best with our justice system partners. From the clerk’s window to final dispositions—and everywhere in between—caseflow management is critical for the public we serve”

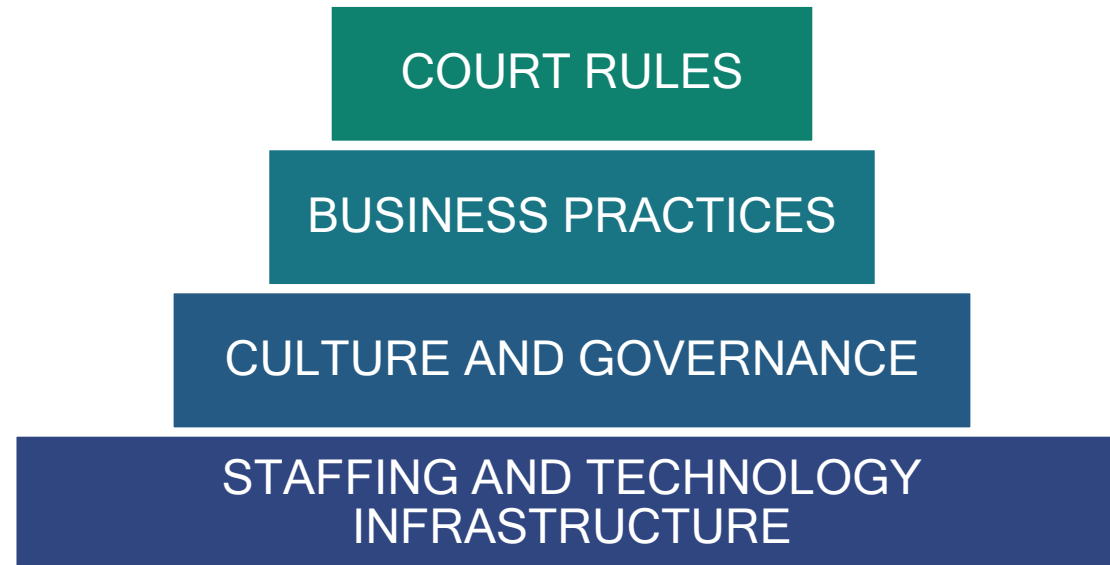
- Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, 2024 State of the Judiciary Address

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee

What is Caseflow Management?

As defined by the National Center for State Courts:

Caseflow Management is the constellation of



that are assembled to achieve the objectives of timely, cost-effective, and procedurally fair justice.

Why Caseflow Management Matters



CRITICAL TO
SUPPORT ACCESS
TO JUSTICE



CANONS AND
RULES



EXCESSIVE
CONTINUANCES ARE
NOT COST-NEUTRAL

Principles of Justice Administration

“Promptness is a necessary but not sufficient condition for effective justice; speed by itself does not constitute justice.”

Principles of Justice Administration



What should court leaders do to achieve high quality in the administration of justice?

- ❖ Give every case individual attention
- ❖ Treat cases proportionally
- ❖ Demonstrate procedural justice
- ❖ Exercise judicial control over the court process

Standards of Judicial Administration

CALIFORNIA RULES OF COURT

Standard 2.1. Case management and delay reduction-
statement of general principles

(a) Elimination of all unnecessary delays

Trial courts should be guided by the general principle that from the commencement of litigation to its resolution, whether by trial or settlement, any elapsed time other than reasonably required for pleadings, discovery, preparation, and court events is unacceptable and should be eliminated.

(b) Court responsible for the pace of litigation

To enable the just and efficient resolution of cases, the court, not the lawyers or litigants, should control the pace of litigation. A strong judicial commitment is essential to reducing delay and, once achieved, maintaining a current docket.



Business Practices

01

Increase awareness of the time standards for reaching a disposition in each case type.

02

Ensure that courts have the ability to monitor the status of cases and calendars.

03

Emphasize the need for early and continuous management of the court's caseload; both the administrator and the judge in partnership.

Plan

In a state as diverse as California, one size fits all will not work.

Differences among courts in terms of:

- Size
- Communities they serve
- Local legal culture
- Level of preparedness or maturity to address caseflow management
- Variety and number of case types
- Levels of leadership and commitment among justice partners

Effective caseflow management requires a plan tailored to each individual court. Some courts may have multiple plans given their size and breadth of workload.

How?

A kickoff meeting with the members of the TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee will convene in March.

We will provide regular progress reports on our work at future Judicial Council meetings.

Court Commitment

If the overall pace of litigation is to be accelerated, the most important and the most difficult change to be made is the long-term expectation and practices of the participants in the system. Additional resources may be necessary but neither resources alone, nor a decrease in caseloads alone, will change practices without court concern with the pace of litigation. A long-term commitment by the court to expedite case disposition, and a readiness on its part to take an active management role in the disposition of cases is necessary.

Questions?

