



Judicial Council of California

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

www.courts.ca.gov

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 24-071

For business meeting on March 15, 2024

Title

Report to the Legislature: Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2022–23

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

February 9, 2024

Submitted by

Judicial Council staff
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Business Management Services

Contact

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Executive 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. On or before February 1, 2024, Judicial Council staff submitted *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2022–23*.

Relevant Previous Council Action

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

Analysis/Rationale

In fiscal year 2022–23, a total of \$21.48 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.

That same fiscal year, an estimated \$80.30 million was spent for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings.¹ This amount is an estimate because 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, 2022 (\$209.06 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$5.08 million) by 37.5 percent. According to the Judicial Council’s 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study, 37.5 percent is the estimated percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases, which include general civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family law proceedings.

The Resource Assessment Study 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 in the Resource Assessment Study model for court reporters in civil cases accounts for changes made 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 under *Jameson v. Desta* (2018) 5 Cal.5th 594.

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

The requirements of this report do not result in any additional costs to or operational impacts on 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 2022–23*

¹ This estimate does not account for the \$30 million in ongoing funding for courts to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law cases. The expenditure of this annual funding, which totaled \$20.45 million in fiscal year 2022–23, is tracked separately and can be used by courts for recruitment and retention purposes, filling existing vacancies, converting part-time positions to full-time positions, increasing salary schedules, and providing signing and retention bonuses to enable trial courts to compete with private employers in the labor market.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL of CALIFORNIA

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*Administrative Director
Judicial Council*

February 1, 2024

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. Jesse Gabriel
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 2022–23, as required under Government Code section 68086(f)

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Gabriel:

Under Government Code section 68086(f), the Judicial Council is submitting this report on court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in fiscal year 2022–23.

In fiscal year 2022–23, a total of \$21.48 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 \$80.30 million.¹

¹ This estimate does not account for the \$30 million in ongoing funding for courts to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law cases. The expenditure of that annual funding, which totaled \$20.45 million in fiscal year 2022–23, is tracked separately and can be used by courts for recruitment and retention purposes, filling existing vacancies, converting part-time positions to full-time positions, increasing salary schedules, and providing signing and retention bonuses to enable trial courts to compete with private employers in the labor market.

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Hon. Jesse Gabriel
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The \$21.48 million in court reporter fee revenue comprises the following:

- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(1), fees in the amount of \$2.10 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting under one hour.
- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(2), fees in the amount of \$1.94 million 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.
- Under Government Code section 68086.1, fees in the amount of \$17.45 million were deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund from:
 - 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 \$80.30 million in court reporter services expenditures in civil proceedings is an estimate; most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case type. As in this report for previous years, 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, 2022 (\$209.06 million), and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$5.08 million) by 37.5 percent. According to the Judicial Council's 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study, 37.5 percent is the estimated percentage of time court reporters spend 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 Chris Belloli, Manager, Judicial Council Business Management Services, at 415-865-7658 or chris.belloli@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Michelle Curran

Shelley Curran
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Hon. Nancy Skinner

Hon. Jesse Gabriel

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SC/CB

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel

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Emelyn Rodriguez, General Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas

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