



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-133

For business meeting on October 24, 2025

Title

Rules and Forms: New Case Categories for
Civil Case Cover Sheet

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

January 1, 2026

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

Revise form CM-010

Date of Report

October 7, 2025

Recommended by

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Chair

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Court Executives Advisory Committee
Ms. Kate Bieker, Chair

Executive Summary

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee and Court Executives Advisory Committee jointly recommend adding new case categories and case types to *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010). Specifically, the committees recommend adding a “Comprehensive groundwater adjudication” case type to ensure consistency with both Code of Civil Procedure section 838(b) and the associated pending amendment to rule 3.400(c) of the California Rules of Court. Additionally, adding “Asbestos” and “Employment Development Department (EDD)” case categories will help fulfill forthcoming data reporting requirements in the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System and reduce manual data reporting by courts.

Recommendation

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee and Court Executives Advisory Committee jointly recommend that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2026, revise form CM-010 to

add “Comprehensive groundwater adjudication” as a case type and add “Asbestos” and “Employment Development Department (EDD)” as case categories.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The initial version of *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form 982.2) was adopted by the council in 1996. Subsequent versions of the form were published at various times, but the last time the council adopted a new case type on *Civil Case Cover Sheet* was in 2003, when “Uninsured motorist” was added under the “Auto Tort” case category.¹

Effective January 1, 1998, the council adopted rule 996 of the California Rules of Court (renumbered as rule 10.400), which established the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS) and requires automatic reporting by each trial court pursuant to the JBSIS manual.² The council first approved the JBSIS manual effective July 1, 1998³ and has updated it several times since.⁴ In July 2022, the Judicial Council approved new data reporting standards referred to as JBSIS 4.0,⁵ which includes adding “Asbestos” and “Employment Development Department (EDD)” as new case types to the Civil Limited and Civil Unlimited reports.

Analysis/Rationale

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee (CSCAC) and Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC) recommend the addition of two new case categories and three new case types to *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (form CM-010). These changes will make the form consistent with section 838 and help ensure that the data necessary to meet the data reporting standards in JBSIS 4.0 is collected from litigants. Additionally, some minor technical changes were made as indicated in highlights on the attached proposed form.

Comprehensive groundwater adjudication

One case category on *Civil Case Cover Sheet* is “Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400–3.403).” The case types listed in this category reflect those that receive a provisional designation of “complex” under rule 3.400(c). Code of Civil Procedure section 838 provides that comprehensive groundwater adjudications are presumed to be complex under rule 3.400. To conform the rules to section 838, CSCAC recommends (in a separate

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (Apr. 2, 2003).

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS) Reporting Requirements* (May 5, 1997).

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Proposed Judicial Branch Statistical Information Manual* (June 3, 1998).

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Judicial Branch Administration: Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS) Version 3.0 Manual* (Apr. 10, 2019), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7214076&GUID=6F9A30EE-17DF-431D-B952-0198DE135ADA>.

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Judicial Branch: Revisions to the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS)* (June 24, 2022), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=11014325&GUID=42A68D4E-6A64-4BD3-9F67-268811FD21A5>.

report) amending rule 3.400(c) to add “Comprehensive groundwater adjudication” to the list of case types that are provisionally designated as complex.⁶ Consistent with that recommendation, the committees recommend revising *Civil Case Cover Sheet* to include such case types under the form’s provisionally complex case category.

Asbestos and Employment Development Department

The committees recommend adding “Asbestos” and “Employment Development Department (EDD)” as distinct case categories on *Civil Case Cover Sheet*. Currently, *Civil Case Cover Sheet* includes “Asbestos” as a case type under the “Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/ Wrongful Death) Tort” case category, and EDD cases fall under the “Other employment” case type within the “Employment” case category. However, JBSIS does not capture data on the number of asbestos or EDD cases because it collects data from the case categories on form CM-010, not the case types. Given this limitation, Judicial Council staff manually collect this data annually from courts for use in the Resource Assessment Study and the Judicial Needs Assessment. The addition of “Asbestos” and “Employment Development Department (EDD)” as distinct case categories will enable JBSIS 4.0 to collect these data points and eliminate the need for additional manual data reporting by court staff.

Adding case categories also requires adding case type checkboxes for each new case category to maintain consistent formatting within *Civil Case Cover Sheet*. The recommended case type for the “Employment Development Department (EDD)” case category is “EDD decision review,” and the asbestos case type would be “Asbestos.” Although the “Asbestos” case category and case type share the same title, the same is already true for the “Enforcement of Judgment” category and case type.

Policy implications

The committees recommend revising *Civil Case Cover Sheet* to ensure the JBSIS 4.0 data reporting standards are met. This will reduce operational demands by eliminating the need for manual data reporting of asbestos and EDD cases by court staff. The revisions will also ensure the form is consistent with Code of Civil Procedure section 838(b), which represents a policy decision made by the Legislature.

Comments

The committees solicited public comments on this proposal from April 14 to May 23, 2025, as part of the council’s regular spring invitation-to-comment cycle. Of the four comments received, two were from courts, one was from the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee Joint Rules Subcommittee (Joint Rules Subcommittee), and one was from an individual. The commenters agreed with the proposal or did not indicate a position. The substantive comments and the committees’ responses are summarized below.

⁶ See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Rules and Forms: Comprehensive Adjudications of Groundwater Rights*, item 25-133 (pending).

To accommodate the new case categories and types and to improve readability of the form, the committees recommend adding a third page to the form containing the informational section with case type examples that is currently on page two of the form. The Joint Rules Subcommittee suggested that the form remain two pages because litigants may forget to print the third page, which could cause confusion and delay if court staff receive only the first two pages of a three-page form. Because the third page is for information purposes only, the committees considered recommending that the case types and examples be moved to an online location to keep the form to two pages. However, because some self-represented litigants may lack internet access, the committees chose to recommend adding language at the bottom of the second page that reads, “SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.”

An individual commenter suggested changing the form’s reference to the collections case limit from \$25,000 to \$35,000 because CSCAC is proposing an increase to this limit.⁷ The committees agree with this comment and recommend that the form, which is anticipated to go into effect on the same date as the increased collections case limit (January 1, 2026), reflect this increased limit.

Alternatives considered

As stated above, the committees considered the alternative of moving the information on the third page of the proposed form to an online webpage but concluded that it was best to retain the information as part of the form and to recommend language on the bottom of page 2 stating that page 3 is for information purposes only.

Because the additions to *Civil Case Cover Sheet* are for the form to serve its purpose of accurately reporting case types and to streamline data reporting under approved JBSIS standards, the committees did not consider the alternative of no form revision.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The committees anticipate that this proposal could require training for court staff and judicial officers. The addition of the “Asbestos” and “Employment Development Department (EDD)” case categories will eliminate the need for manual data reporting by court staff, reducing operational demands.

Additionally, revision of *Civil Case Cover Sheet* will require coordination between the Judicial Council, the courts, and case management system (CMS) vendors to ensure that data for the new case categories are correctly reflected in the CMS and configured in Judicial Council data reporting. Any changes required in the CMS for asbestos and EDD data reporting will be

⁷ See Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Civil Practice and Procedure: Amendment of the Collections Case Rule* (pending).

integrated into the implementation of JBSIS 4.0.⁸ Courts will likely incur costs to incorporate the revised forms into paper or electronic processes.

Attachments and Links

1. Form CM-010, at pages 6–8
2. Chart of comments, at pages 9–11

⁸ Because the committees recommend adding “Comprehensive groundwater adjudication” only as a case type and not as a case category, those cases will not be reported separately in JBSIS. JBSIS will continue to include those cases in the “Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation” case category.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP CODE: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: EMAIL ADDRESS: ATTORNEY FOR (name):	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT 2025-08-18 Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
CASE NAME:	
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ☐ Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$35,000) ☐ Limited (Amount demanded is \$35,000 or less)	Complex Case Designation ☐ Counter ☐ Joinder Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)
	CASE NUMBER: JUDGE: DEPT.:

Items 1–6 below must be completed (see instructions on page 2).

1. Check **one** box below for the case type that best describes this case:

Auto Tort

- ☐ Auto (22)
☐ Uninsured motorist (46)

Asbestos

- ☐ Asbestos (04)

Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort

- ☐ Product liability (24)
☐ Medical malpractice (45)
☐ Other PI/PD/WD (23)

Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort

- ☐ Business tort/Unfair business practice (07)
☐ Civil rights (08)
☐ Defamation (13)
☐ Fraud (16)
☐ Intellectual property (19)
☐ Professional negligence (25)
☐ Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35)

Employment

- ☐ Wrongful termination (36)
☐ Other employment (15)

Contract

- ☐ Breach of contract/warranty (06)
☐ Rule 3.740 collections (09)
☐ Other collections (09)
☐ Insurance coverage (18)
☐ Other contract (37)

Real Property

- ☐ Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14)
☐ Wrongful eviction (33)
☐ Other real property (26)

Unlawful Detainer

- ☐ Commercial (31)
☐ Residential (32)
☐ Drugs (38)

Judicial Review

- ☐ Asset forfeiture (05)
☐ Petition re arbitration award (11)
☐ Writ of mandate (02)
☐ Other judicial review (39)

Employment Development Department (EDD)

- ☐ EDD decision review (48)

Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400–3.403)

- ☐ Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)
☐ Construction defect (10)
☐ Mass tort (40)
☐ Securities litigation (28)
☐ Environmental/Toxic tort (30)
☐ Comprehensive groundwater adjudication (47)
☐ Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41)

Enforcement of Judgment

- ☐ Enforcement of judgment (20)

Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

- ☐ RICO (27)
☐ Other complaint (*not specified above*) (42)

Miscellaneous Civil Petition

- ☐ Partnership and corporate governance (21)
☐ Other petition (*not specified above*) (43)



2. Is this case complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:

- a. ☐ Large number of separately represented parties
- b. ☐ Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve
- c. ☐ Substantial amount of documentary evidence
- d. ☐ Large number of witnesses
- e. ☐ Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court
- f. ☐ Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision

3. Remedies sought (*check all that apply*):

- a. ☐ monetary
- b. ☐ nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief
- c. ☐ punitive

4. Number of causes of action (*specify*):

5. Is this case a class action suit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (*You may use form CM-015.*)

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)

NOTICE

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all other parties to the action or proceeding.
- Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 of the California Rules of Court or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

To Plaintiffs and Others Filing First Papers. If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a civil case, you **must** complete and file, along with your first paper, the Civil Case Cover Sheet contained on **pages 1 and 2**. This information will be used to compile statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check **one** box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1, check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the **primary** cause of action. To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover sheet must be filed only with your initial paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed in a civil case may subject a party, its counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court.

To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under rule 3.740 of the California Rules of Court is defined as an action for recovery of money owed in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than **\$35,000**, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.

To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must also use the Civil Case Cover Sheet to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court, this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in items 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY.



CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES

Auto Tort

Auto (22)–Personal Injury/Property Damage/
Wrongful Death
Uninsured Motorist (46) *(if the case involves
an uninsured motorist claim subject to
arbitration, check this item instead of Auto)*

Asbestos

Asbestos (04)
Asbestos Property Damage
Asbestos Personal Injury/Wrongful Death

Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/**Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort**

Product Liability *(not asbestos or toxic/
environmental)* (24)
Medical Malpractice (45)
Medical Malpractice–Physicians &
Surgeons
Other Professional Health Care
Malpractice
Other PI/PD/WD (23)
Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)
Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/WD (e.g.,
assault, vandalism)
Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress
Other PI/PD/WD

Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort

Business Tort/Unfair Business Practice (07)
Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest)
(not civil harassment) (08)
Defamation (e.g., slander, libel) (13)
Fraud (16)
Intellectual Property (19)
Professional Negligence (25)
Legal Malpractice
Other Professional Malpractice *(not
medical or legal)*
Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35)

Employment

Wrongful Termination (36)
Other Employment (15)

Contract

Breach of Contract/Warranty (06)
Breach of Rental/Lease Contract *(not
unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction)*
Contract/Warranty Breach–Seller Plaintiff
(not fraud or negligence)
Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty
Other Breach of Contract/Warranty
Collections (e.g., money owed, open book
accounts) (09)
Collections Case–Seller Plaintiff
Other Promissory Note/Collections Case
Insurance Coverage *(not provisionally
complex)* (18)
Auto Subrogation
Other Coverage
Other Contract (37)
Contractual Fraud
Other Contract Dispute

Real Property

Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)
Wrongful Eviction (33)
Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26)
Writ of Possession of Real Property
Mortgage Foreclosure
Quiet Title
Other Real Property *(not eminent
domain, landlord-tenant, or
foreclosure)*

Unlawful Detainer

Commercial (31)
Residential (32)
Drugs (38) *(if the case involves illegal drugs,
check this item; otherwise, report as
Commercial or Residential)*

Judicial Review

Asset Forfeiture (05)
Petition re Arbitration Award (11)
Writ of Mandate (02)
Writ–Administrative Mandamus
Writ–Mandamus on Limited Court Case
Matter
Writ–Other Limited Court Case Review
Other Judicial Review (39)
Review of Health Officer Order
Notice of Appeal–Labor Commissioner
Appeals

Employment Development Department (EDD)

EDD Decision Review (48) *(if the case
involves an Employment Development
Department decision, check this item
instead of Wrongful Termination or Other
Employment)*

Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal.**Rules of Court, rules 3.400–3.403)**

Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)
Construction Defect (10)
Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)
Securities Litigation (28)
Environmental/Toxic Tort (30)
Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication
(47)

Insurance Coverage Claims *(arising from
provisionally complex case type listed
above)* (41)

Enforcement of Judgment

Enforcement of Judgment (20)
Abstract of Judgment (Out of County)
Confession of Judgment *(non-domestic
relations)*
Sister-State Judgment
Administrative Agency Award *(not unpaid
taxes)*
Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment
on Unpaid Taxes
Other Enforcement of Judgment Case

Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

RICO (27)
Other Complaint *(not specified above)* (42)
Declaratory Relief Only Injunctive Relief
Only *(non-harassment)*
Mechanic's Lien
Other Commercial Complaint Case *(non-
tort/non-complex)*
Other Civil Complaint *(non-tort/non-
complex)*

Miscellaneous Civil Petition

Partnership and Corporate Governance (21)
Other Petition *(not specified above)* (43)
Civil Harassment
Workplace Violence
Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse
Election Contest
Petition for Name Change
Petition for Relief From Late Claim
Other Civil Petition

SPR25-04

Rules and Forms: New Case Categories for *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (Amend form CM-010)

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
1.	Julia A. Goren Author/Publisher of Litigation by the Numbers	NI	Page 2 of the form defines Collections Case as having a \$25K limit, but SPR25-08 proposes to raise that to \$35K as of Jan 2026. It would be great to make that change simultaneously to avoid the need for another revision.	The committees will recommend this change.
2.	Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles by Stephanie Kuo	A	In response to the Judicial Council of California's ITC, "Rules and Forms: New Case Categories for Civil Case Cover Sheet," the Court agrees with the proposal and has no other comments.	The committees appreciate the information provided.
3.	Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino by Staff Civil Committee for the Superior Court	NI	Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?	The committees appreciate the information provided.
			Yes, the proposal appropriately addresses the stated purpose.	
			Does any court or justice partner use the parenthetical number next to each case category?	The committees appreciate the information provided.
			Not aware if the parenthetical number is being used in the case management system at time of filing, or simply identifying the case category/type is enough.	
			Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify	The committees appreciate the information provided.
			No cost savings.	

Positions: A = Agree; AM = Agree if modified; NI = Not indicated; N = Do not agree

SPR25-04

Rules and Forms: New Case Categories for *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (Amend form CM-010)

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems? Minimal change will be required. Clerk's Office, Judicial Assistants, and Judges would need to be informed of the change. This can be done by email. No additional training required. Changes in the case management system would be needed for JBSIS purposes. This is what would take time.	The committees appreciate the information provided.
			Would two months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation? Possibly 2 months may be enough time.	The committees appreciate the information provided.
			How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes? This will work well in any size court.	The committees appreciate the information provided.
4.	Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and Court Executives Advisory Committee Joint Rules Subcommittee (TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee)	A	JRS Position: Agree with proposed changes. The JRS notes that the proposal is required to conform to a change of law.	The committees appreciate the information provided.

Positions: A = Agree; AM = Agree if modified; NI = Not indicated; N = Do not agree

SPR25-04

Rules and Forms: New Case Categories for *Civil Case Cover Sheet* (Amend form CM-010)

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			The JRS notes that the proposal is required to conform to a change of law. The JRS also notes the following impact to court operations: • Impact on existing automated systems ○ Update Efile and case management system. • Results in additional training, which requires the commitment of staff time and court resources. ○ Training staff and updating Self Help Center packets. • Other fiscal or operational impacts. ○ Small fiscal impact: Auto JBSIS reporting for asbestos cases.	The committees appreciate the information provided.
			Suggested modification: Court staff strongly prefers that this form remain two pages. People often forget to print or address the third page. This could increase the workload to address.	The committees appreciate the information provided. To maintain legibility of the form, the committees recommend maintaining a three-page form but have added language at the end of page 2 stating that page 3 is for information purposes only.

Positions: A = Agree; AM = Agree if modified; NI = Not indicated; N = Do not agree