



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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

www.courts.ca.gov

REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on March 2, 2018

Title

Judicial Council Report to the Legislature:
2016–17 Fee Revenues and Expenditures for
Court Reporter Services in Superior Court
Civil Proceedings

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

January 8, 2018

Submitted by

Zlatko Theodorovic, Director
Budget Services

Contact

Suzanne Blihovde, 916-263-1754
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Executive Summary

Government Code section 68086(f) requires that the Judicial Council annually report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee information concerning court reporter fees collected under Government Code sections 68086(a)(1), 68086(a)(2), and 68086.1, and expenditures on court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings statewide. To comply with the statute, the Judicial Council staff submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on February 1, 2018, the *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2016–17*.

Previous Council Action

The report on trial court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings has been required and submitted under Government Code section 68086(f) since 2003–04. The council has approved previous fiscal year reports. These reports can be found at www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm.

Methodology and Process

This report lists actual court reporter fees collected under Government Code sections 68086(a)(1), 68086(a)(2), and 68086.1 in 2016–17. Reported expenditures for the services of court reporters in superior court civil proceedings is an estimated amount because most courts do

not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case categories. The estimate of \$72,312,927 was made by multiplying the sum of total 2016–17 budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2016 (\$204,017,236), and total 2016–17 expenditures on contract court reporters (\$5,585,451) by 34.5 percent, which is the estimated proportion of time court reporters spend on civil cases (civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family) versus all cases. The time-percentage estimate is based on a time study survey, which was conducted by the National Center for State Courts in September 2003 and involved superior courts in nine California counties—Amador, Calaveras, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Shasta, and Stanislaus—representing 47.9 percent of statewide authorized court reporter positions.

Next Steps

The methodology used to estimate expenditures for the services of court reporters in superior court civil proceedings is based on a time study that is almost 15 years old. Judicial Council staff will be working to develop and implement an updated methodology for estimating expenditures that reflect current superior court usage of court reporter services in civil proceedings.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2016–17*



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Administrative Director,
Judicial Council

January 2, 2018

Hon. Holly J. Mitchell
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
California State Senate
1020 N Street, Room 553
Sacramento, California 95814
Attn: Ms. Jennifer Troia

Re: Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2016–17, as required by Government Code section 68086(f)

Dear Senator Mitchell:

The Judicial Council respectfully submits this report, as required by Government Code section 68086(f), concerning court reporter fees collected under Government Code sections 68086(a)(1), 68086(a)(2), and 68086.1, and expenditures on court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings statewide in 2016–17.

In 2016–17, \$23,627,459 was remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1), 68086(a)(2), and 68086.1. The breakdown of the remitted funds is as follows:

- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(1), \$4,453,368 came from fees paid by parties to civil proceedings for the services of an official court reporter in each proceeding lasting one hour or less.
- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(2), \$4,062,522 came from fees paid by parties to civil proceedings for the services of an official court reporter in each proceeding lasting more than one hour on the first day and each succeeding judicial day that services were provided.
- The amount of \$15,111,569 is attributable to the fee required to be deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund by Government Code section

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68086.1 from the following: first paper filings and responses for civil superior 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. This amount reflects the distribution to the Trial Court Trust Fund from total revenues collected for first paper, family law, and marriage dissolution filings and responses from July 1, 2016, to June 30, 2017.¹

In 2016–17, the estimated amount spent for the services of court reporters in superior court civil proceedings was \$72,312,927. The expenditure amount is an estimate because most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case categories. The estimate of \$72,312,927 was made by multiplying the sum of total 2016–17 budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2016 (\$204,017,236), and total 2016–17 expenditures on contract court reporters (\$5,585,451) by 34.5 percent, which is the estimated proportion of time court reporters spend on civil cases (civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family) versus all cases. The time percentage estimate is based on the most recent time study survey, which was conducted by the National Center for State Courts in September 2003 and involved superior courts in nine California counties—Amador, Calaveras, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Shasta, and Stanislaus—representing 47.9 percent of statewide authorized court reporter positions.²

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Director, Judicial Council Budget Services, at 916-263-1397.

Sincerely,



Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

¹ Of the amount collected, \$8,611,568 was available to be used for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings, because a \$6.5 million ongoing redirection of this revenue to offset trial court funding reductions was approved by the Judicial Council at its July 22, 2011, business meeting as authorized by Government Code section 68086.1(c).

² Per 2016–17 Schedule 7A, as submitted by the courts, 655.8 of 1,369 authorized court reporter full-time equivalent positions as of July 1, 2016, were located in the survey counties.

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cc: Diane F. Boyer-Vine, Legislative Counsel
Daniel Alvarez, Secretary of the Senate
E. Dotson Wilson, Chief Clerk of the Assembly
Jessica Devencenzi, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León
Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Anita Lee, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office
Rebecca Kirk, Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee
Julie Salley-Gray, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
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