



## Judicial Council of California

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

[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 25-093

For business meeting on April 25, 2025

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**Title**

Report to the Legislature: Court Reporter  
Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court  
Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil  
Proceedings for 2023–24

**Report Type**

Information

**Date of Report**

April 8, 2025

**Submitted by**

Judicial Council staff  
Chris Belloli, Manager  
Temporary Assigned Judges Program

**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. Due to an administrative oversight, Judicial Council staff submitted *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2023–24* on March 3, 2025.

### Relevant Previous Reporting or Action

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

### Analysis/Rationale

In fiscal year 2023–24, a total of \$23.56 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 \$81.37 million was spent for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings.<sup>1</sup> 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, 2023 (\$210.00 million), and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$6.98 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 2023–24*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 \$25.25 million in fiscal year 2023–24, 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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**HON. PATRICIA GUERRERO**

*Chief Justice of California  
Chair of the Judicial Council*

**HON. BRAD R. HILL**

*Chair, Executive and Planning Committee*

**HON. ANN C. MOORMAN**

*Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee  
Chair, Litigation Management Committee*

**HON. STACY BOULWARE**

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**MS. MICHELLE CURRAN**

*Administrative Director  
Judicial Council*

March 3, 2025

Hon. Scott D. Wiener

Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review

Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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 2023–24, as required under Government Code section 68086(f)*

Dear Senator Wiener and Assembly Member Gabriel:

Pursuant to Government Code section 68086(f), the Judicial Council is submitting this report on court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in 2023–24.

In 2023–24, a total of \$23.56 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 \$81.37 million.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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 is tracked separately, which totaled \$25.25 million in 2023–24, 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.

### Fees Collected

The \$23.56 million in court reporter fee revenue comprises the following:

- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(1), fees in the amount of \$1.35 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 \$1.03 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 \$21.18 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.

### Expenditures

The \$81.37 million in court reporter services expenditures is an estimate, as 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, 2023 (\$210.00 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$6.98 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, Temporary Assigned Judges Program, at 415-865-7658 or [chris.belloli@jud.ca.gov](mailto:chris.belloli@jud.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Michelle Curran  
Administrative Director

Hon. Scott D. Wiener  
Hon. Jesse Gabriel  
March 3, 2025  
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Judicial Council  
MC/CB

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel

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