



# Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688  
[courts.ca.gov](http://courts.ca.gov)

---

## REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 25-186*

For business meeting on December 12, 2025

---

**Title**

Judicial Council: Rules Committee Report

**Report Type**

Information

**Submitted by**

Rules Committee

Hon. Joan K. Irion, Chair

Hon. Tamara L. Wood, Vice-Chair

**Date of Report**

December 5, 2025

**Contact**

Kristin Burford, 916-263-2989

[kristin.burford@jud.ca.gov](mailto:kristin.burford@jud.ca.gov)

---

### Executive Summary

The Rules Committee establishes and maintains the Judicial Council rulemaking process and assists the council in making informed decisions about rules of court, forms, standards of judicial administration, and jury instructions. Among other actions, the committee “[r]ecommends whether the council should approve, modify, or reject each proposal.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.13(c)(1).) This report describes the committee’s activities since the Judicial Council meeting on October 24, 2025. These activities include the committee’s recommendations for council approval of the rules, forms, and jury instructions proposals identified below. As recommended by the committee, these materials are all on the consent agenda for the council meeting on December 12.

### Overview of Committee Meetings

Since the council’s last meeting, the Rules Committee has convened twice by videoconference and twice by email.

On **October 30, 2025**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider:

- One proposed report to the Judicial Council from Judicial Council staff concerning Assembly Bill 774 (Stats. 2025, ch. 708), which was enacted on October 13, 2025. This legislation made several changes to laws regarding enforcement of judgment, including a change to when the withholding period begins for earnings withholding orders. To ensure Judicial

Council forms accurately state the law when AB 774 takes effect on January 1, 2026, Judicial Council staff proposed revisions to eight forms. These updates will be circulated for postapproval public comment as part of a broader proposal to implement the changes made by AB 774.

**Action:** The Rules Committee approved the proposed report and recommended it go forward on the council's consent agenda for the December 12 meeting.

- Two jury instructions proposals from the Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions:
  - A proposed report to the council to approve additions and revisions to civil jury instructions (Release 48) that circulated for public comment; and
  - A recommendation for final action by the Rules Committee for minor or nonsubstantive revisions, which the council has delegated authority to the Rules Committee to approve.

**Action:** The Rules Committee approved the proposed report and recommended it go forward on the council's consent agenda for the December 12 meeting and took final action in approving the minor and nonsubstantive revisions to civil jury instructions.

On **November 20, 2025**, the Rules Committee acted by email to consider a proposed report from the Traffic Advisory Committee recommending that the Judicial Council adopt the Uniform Bail and Penalty Schedules, 2026 Edition: Traffic, Boating, Forestry, Fish and Game, Public Utilities, Parks and Recreation, Business Licensing. Vehicle Code section 40310 mandates that the Judicial Council annually adopt a uniform traffic penalty schedule for all nonparking Vehicle Code infractions.

**Action:** The Rules Committee approved the proposed report and recommended it go forward on the council's consent agenda for the December 12 meeting.

On **November 21, 2025**, the Rules Committee acted by email to consider a proposed report from the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommending that the Judicial Council, effective December 13, 2025, and January 1, 2026, amend rule 5.275 of the California Rules of Court. Rule 5.275 provides standards for computer software that assist in determining child and spousal support. This action is necessary to avoid the miscalculation of guideline child support over the next several months in actions involving the local child support agency. These rule changes will be circulated in a postadoption invitation to comment during the spring 2026 rulemaking cycle to afford the public an opportunity to comment on the revisions to rule 5.275.

**Action:** The Rules Committee approved the proposed report and recommended it go forward on the council's consent agenda for the December 12 meeting.

On **December 4, 2025**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider nine proposed invitations to comment on rules and forms proposals, to be posted in the winter cycle, from the

Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee, the Appellate Advisory Committee, the Criminal Law Advisory Committee, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee, and the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness.

**Action:** The Rules Committee approved circulating the nine proposals for public comment in the regular winter cycle. The proposals were posted for public comment following the meeting with the comment period closing on January 7, 2026.

### **Recommendation to the Judicial Council**

The Rules Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve the recommendations in the reports identified above, all of which are on the council's consent agenda.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Under rule 10.5(f)(2), items can be moved to the discussion agenda upon a timely request of a council member or by the Chief Justice.