



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 26-111

For business meeting on July 17, 2026

Judicial Council: Rules Committee Report

Judicial Council Report Details

Submitted by

Rules Committee

Hon. Tamara L. Wood, Chair

Hon. Michael Rhoads, Vice-Chair

Date of Report

July 6, 2026

Contact

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Report Type

Information

Executive Summary

The Rules Committee establishes and maintains the Judicial Council rule-making 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 April 24, 2026. These activities include the committee’s recommendations for council approval of the form and jury instructions proposals identified below. As recommended by the committee, these materials are on the consent agenda for the council meeting on July 17.

Overview of Committee Meetings

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

On **June 2, 2026**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider:

- Two jury instructions proposals from the Advisory Committee on Civil Jury Instructions:

- A proposed report to the council to approve revisions to civil jury instructions (Release 49) that circulated for public comment; and
- A recommendation for final action by the Rules Committee for minor or nonsubstantive revisions to the civil jury instructions, which the council has delegated authority to the Rules Committee to approve.
- One proposed invitation to comment to be posted on a special cycle from the Criminal Law Advisory Committee proposing revisions to *Findings and Orders for Pretrial Release or Detention* (form CR-104) to assist courts with making the appropriate findings and orders for pretrial release or detention in light of the recent California Supreme Court decision in *In re Kowalczyk*.

Actions:

The Rules Committee approved the proposed report on civil jury instructions to go forward to the council's consent agenda for the meeting on July 17 and took final action to approve the recommended minor and nonsubstantive revisions to the instructions.

The Rules Committee approved circulating for comment the proposal to revise form CR-104. The proposal was posted for public comment following the meeting, with the comment period closing on June 24, 2026.

On **June 26, 2026**, the Rules Committee acted by email to consider a proposed report from Judicial Council staff recommending that the council, effective July 20, 2026, revise *Current Dollar Amounts of Exemptions From Enforcement of Judgments* (form EJ-156) to reflect increases in the minimum basic standard of care for a family of four. The proposal was not circulated for public comment because the recommended form changes are technical in nature and unlikely to create controversy.

Action:

The Rules Committee determined the staff-recommended technical revisions are within the Judicial Council's purview to adopt without circulating for comment (see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.22(d)(2)). The Rules Committee approved the proposed report and recommended it go on the council's consent agenda for the meeting on July 17.

Recommendation to the Judicial Council

The Rules Committee recommends council approval of the recommended revisions to form EJ-156 and the civil jury instructions in the reports identified above, both of which are on the council's consent agenda for the meeting on July 17.