



## Judicial Council of California

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 26-062*

For business meeting on February 20, 2026

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**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**

February 11, 2026

**Contact**

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## 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 December 12, 2025. These activities include the committee’s recommendations for council approval of the rules, forms, and jury instructions proposals identified below, all of which the committee recommended be placed on the consent agenda for the council meeting on February 20, 2026, as indicated below.

## Overview of Committee Meetings

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

On **December 19, 2025**, the Rules Committee acted by email to consider a jointly proposed invitation to comment to be posted on a special cycle from the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee. The proposal seeks public comment on a proposed new rule of court to require the reporting of information about civil arrests in superior court facilities to the Judicial Council.

**Action:** The Rules Committee approved the proposal’s circulation for public comment on a special cycle. The proposal was posted for public comment following the Rules Committee’s approval, with the comment period closing on January 9, 2026.

On **January 7, 2026**, the Rules Committee met by videoconference to consider:

- One proposed report to the Judicial Council from the Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions to approve additions and revisions to the 2026 edition of *Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions (CALCRIM)* that circulated for public comment.
- One proposed report to the Judicial Council from Judicial Council staff recommending technical revisions to two forms: *Findings and Orders for Pretrial Release or Detention* (form CR-104) and *Retail Crime Restraining Order—Criminal* (form CR-164).
- A request from the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee to amend its 2025–2026 annual agenda to add two projects.

**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 reports from the Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions and Judicial Council staff and recommended the reports go on the council’s consent agenda for the meeting on February 20.

The Rules Committee also approved the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee’s request to add two projects to its 2025–2026 annual agenda.<sup>1</sup>

On **January 29, 2026**, the Rules Committee acted by email to consider a proposed report from Judicial Council staff recommending technical revisions to forms to reflect the 2026 federal poverty guidelines and make minor corrections.

**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 be placed on the council’s consent agenda for the meeting on February 20.

## **Recommendations to the Judicial Council**

The Rules Committee recommends that the Judicial Council approve the recommendations in the reports identified above.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee’s 2025–2026 annual agenda is posted on the California Courts website at [courts.ca.gov/32214.htm](https://courts.ca.gov/32214.htm).

<sup>2</sup> The committee recommended these reports be included on the council’s consent agenda. 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.