



## 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.: 21-046*

For business meeting on: May 21, 2021

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**Title**

Report to the Legislature: 2020–21 Trial  
Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 3

**Agenda Item Type**

Information Only

**Date of Report**

May 21, 2021

**Submitted by**

Judicial Council staff  
Zlatko Theodorovic, Deputy Director  
Budget Services

**Contact**

Jason Haas, 916-643-7061  
[jason.haas@jud.ca.gov](mailto:jason.haas@jud.ca.gov)

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### Executive Summary

Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3, the Judicial Council is required to submit quarterly reports to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the estimated amount of General Fund required to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund due to shortfalls in revenue to support trial court operations. This report is for the reporting period of January through March 2021. On or before April 30, 2021, the Judicial Council’s Budget Services staff submitted the *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 3*.

### Relevant Previous Council Action

These reports are submitted to the Legislature quarterly. Reports from previous quarters are available on the California Courts website “Legislative Reports” webpage at [www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm).

### Analysis/Rationale

The Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report is required pursuant to the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3, to be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The statute requires that the Judicial Council “submit quarterly reports that include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the backfill required in the prior quarter based on the actual data, (b) the total backfill required under this item through the quarter covered by the

report, (c) an updated estimate of the backfill required in the following quarter, and (d) an updated estimate of the total backfill required in the fiscal year.”

The actual revenues have improved as compared to the prior report, resulting in a revised estimated need of \$149.3 million. The prior report, *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 2*, indicated a need of \$164.7 million.

The backfill needs are identified in the table below:

| <b>Reporting Time Frame</b>                               | <b>Backfill Need</b><br>(\$ reported in Thousands) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Prior Quarter Actuals: October through December 2020      | \$37,337                                           |
| Reporting Quarter Estimate: January through March 2021    | \$37,337                                           |
| Following Quarter Estimate: April through June 2021       | \$37,337                                           |
| Estimate for the Fiscal Year: July 2020 through June 2021 | \$149,348                                          |

The Budget Act of 2020 included a revenue backfill of \$273.8 million to support the Trial Court Trust Fund, which is the primary fund source for trial court operations. This represents \$90.9 million for 2019–20 and \$182.9 million for 2020–21. As part of the approval of the backfill, the Legislature also required the Judicial Council to report quarterly on the backfill need.

| <b>Fiscal Year</b><br>(\$ reported in Thousands) | <b>Budget Act Appropriation</b> | <b>Funding Need</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2019–20                                          | \$ 90,917                       | \$ 55,657           | \$35,260          |
| 2020–21                                          | \$182,844                       | \$149,348           | \$33,496          |
| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>\$273,761</b>                | <b>\$205,005</b>    | <b>\$68,756</b>   |

## **Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications**

No costs or operational impacts will result from the submission of this informational report to the Legislature.

## **Attachments and Links**

1. Attachment A: *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 3*



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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*Chair of the Judicial Council*

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*Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee*  
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*Administrative Director*  
*Judicial Council*

April 30, 2021

Hon. Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review  
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5019  
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Philip Y. Ting  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget  
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *2020–21 Trial Court Trust Fund Backfill Report, Quarter 3*, as  
required under the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

Pursuant to the Budget Act of 2020, Item 0250-113-0001, Provision 3, the Judicial Council is required to submit quarterly reports to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on the estimated amount of General Fund required to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund due to shortfalls in revenue to support trial court operations. This report is due on or before April 30, 2021, for the reporting period of January through March 2021.

The statute requires that the Judicial Council “submit quarterly reports that include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the backfill required in the prior quarter based on the actual data, (b) the total backfill required under this item through the quarter covered by the report, (c) an updated estimate of the backfill required in the following quarter, and (d) an updated estimate of the total backfill required in the fiscal year.”

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| <b>Total</b>                                     | <b>\$273,761</b>                          | <b>\$205,005</b>              | <b>\$68,756</b>   |

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Budget Services, at 916-263-1397 or [Zlatko.Theodorovic@jud.ca.gov](mailto:Zlatko.Theodorovic@jud.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Martin Hoshino  
Administrative Director  
Judicial Council

Hon. Nancy Skinner  
Hon. Philip Y. Ting  
April 30, 2021  
Page 3

MH/JH/dn

Enclosures

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel  
Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate  
Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly  
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