



# Judicial Council of California

## Meeting Agenda

### Judicial Council

Please visit  
courts website:  
[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)  
to view live meeting on  
March 15, 2024

Meeting materials  
are available through  
the hyperlinks in  
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*Requests for ADA accommodation should be directed to  
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Friday, March 15, 2024

9:45 AM

Videoconference

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### **CLOSED SESSION (RULE 10.6(b))—PLANNING, PERSONNEL, AND DISCUSSION PROTECTED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE**

Session: 9:10 – 9:30 a.m.

### **OPEN SESSION (RULE 10.6(a)) — MEETING AGENDA**

*A link to the live videostream will be available in the Meeting Information Center at the start of the open session. If the closed session adjourns late, the start time of the open session may be delayed.*

**Open Session Begins: 9:45 a.m.**

#### **Call to Order**

*10 minutes*

#### **Public Comment**

*10 minutes*

*The Judicial Council welcomes public comment on general matters of judicial administration. Written comments are encouraged in advance of the meeting for specific agenda items so council members can consider them prior to the council meeting.*

*For more information about meeting attendance and public comment procedures, visit:*

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/28045.htm>

*Submit advance requests to speak and written comments for this meeting by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, by email to:*

[judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov](mailto:judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov)

## Chief Justice's Report

15 minutes

## Administrative Director's Report

[24-008](#) **Administrative Director's Report**

15 minutes

## CONSENT AGENDA

5 minutes

*A council member may request an item be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Discussion Agenda. Please notify Josely Yangco-Fronza at 415-865-7626 at least 48 hours before the meeting.*

[24-002](#) **Minutes of January 19, 2024, Judicial Council Meeting**

[24-077](#) **Allocations and Reimbursements to Trial Courts | Access to Visitation Grant Program Funding Allocation for Federal Fiscal Years 2024-25 through 2026-27 (Action Required)**

**Summary:** The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends approving the Access to Visitation Grant Program funding allocation and distribution of \$655,000 statewide for federal grant fiscal years 2024-25 through 2026-27. Family Code section 3204(b)(2) requires the Judicial Council to determine the final number and amount of grants to be awarded to the superior courts. Subject to the availability of federal funds, the funding allocations will be directed to eight superior courts, representing 13 counties, and involving 11 subcontractor agencies (i.e., local courts community nonprofit service providers) to support and facilitate noncustodial parents' access to and visitation with their children through supervised visitation and exchange services, parent education, and group counseling services for family law cases.

[24-067](#) **Judicial Branch Technology | Minimum Standards for Courtroom Technology to Permit Remote Participation in Court Proceedings (Sen. Bill 133) (Action Required)**

**Summary:** The Information Technology Advisory Committee recommends adopting proposed minimum technology standards to satisfy the statutory requirements of Senate Bill 133 (Stats. 2023, ch. 34). The statute requires the Judicial Council to adopt by April 1, 2024, and the trial courts to implement by July 1, 2024, minimum standards for courtroom technology necessary to permit remote participation in court proceedings.

[24-062](#)**Jury Instructions | Criminal Jury Instructions (2024 Edition)  
(Action Required)****Summary:**

The Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions recommends approving for publication the revised criminal jury instructions prepared by the committee under rule 2.1050 of the California Rules of Court. These changes will keep the instructions current with statutory and case authority. Once approved, the revised instructions will be published in the 2024 edition of *Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions (CALCRIM)*.

[24-060](#)**Juvenile Law | 2023-24 Allocations for Dependency Counsel  
Collections Program and Expected Unspent Program Funding  
(Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends two redistributions of funding for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel for fiscal year (FY) 2023-24. Under the Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program, courts collect reimbursements from parents and other responsible persons liable for the cost of dependency-related legal services to the extent that those persons are able to pay. The committee recommends that the Judicial Council allocate the FY 2022-23 statutorily restricted funds to the trial courts, calculated according to the methodology adopted by the council in 2012. The committee also recommends that the council reallocate unspent dependency counsel funding from courts that have identified funds they do not intend on spending to courts that are not fully funded to their need.

[24-080](#)**Rules and Forms | Adjustments to Dollar Amounts of Civil Penalty  
(Action Required)****Summary:**

Judicial Council staff recommend that the Judicial Council amend Appendix H of the California Rules of Court to reflect changes in the California Consumer Price Index as required by Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(k)(2)(B)(ii). Appendix H sets out the five-year adjustment to the dollar amount of a civil penalty for an alleged violation of Health and Safety Code section 25249.6.

[24-082](#)**Rules and Forms | Order for Debtor's Examination  
(Action Received)****Summary:**

Judicial Council staff recommend revising the instructions on one Judicial Council form to implement a statutory change made by Assembly Bill 1119 (Stats. 2023, ch. 562), enacted October 8, 2023. Staff recommend revising the form to ensure it conforms to existing law and to avoid causing confusion for court users, clerks, and judicial officers.

[24-079](#)**Rules and Forms | Technical Form Changes to Reflect Federal Poverty Guidelines (Action Required)****Summary:**

Judicial Council staff recommend the revision of four Judicial Council forms containing figures that are based on the federal poverty guidelines. The federal government recently published updates to these guidelines, and the revised forms reflect these changes.

[24-066](#)**Trial Court Budget | 2023-24 State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund Allocation Increase for Judicial Education (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends a \$150,000 increase to the fiscal year 2023-24 Judicial Education program allocation from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund to provide additional judicial officer orientation to newly appointed judges due to the increased number of judicial appointments in recent months. The increased budget, from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million, will provide the resources necessary for the Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Research to offer additional training programs this fiscal year to ensure that newly appointed judicial officers receive the training they need and meet the new judge education requirements of California Rules of Court, rule 10.462.

[24-081](#)**Trial Court Budget | Update to the Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Policy (Action Required)****Summary:**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends adopting revisions to the current policy and guidelines for the Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts program. The revisions include newly defined criteria, streamlining of the submission process, and implementation of a reimbursement model to distribute funding to the participating trial courts. Revising the current policy and guidelines will support transparency and accountability of the program. Under the Judicial Council-approved program, trial courts can request that Trial Court Trust Fund-reduced allocations be retained in the Trial Court Trust Fund as restricted fund balance for the benefit of those courts. The funds are allocated back to the courts by the Judicial Council for the purposes stated in the approved requests.

**INFORMATION AGENDA (NO ACTION REQUIRED)**[24-075](#)**Report to the Judicial Council | Release of Demographic Data on California Justices and Judges****Summary:**

This informational report to the Judicial Council is notice of the annual release of aggregate demographic information concerning the gender, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, and disability status of California's justices and judges by specific jurisdiction, which council staff is required by statute to collect and release annually.

[24-076](#)**Report to the Judicial Council | Trial Court Facility Modifications Report for Quarter 2 of Fiscal Year 2023-24****Summary:**

This informational report to the Judicial Council outlines the allocations of facility modification funding made to improve trial court facilities in the second quarter (October through December) of fiscal year 2023-24. To determine allocations, the Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee reviews and approves facility modification requests from across the state in accordance with the council's *Trial Court Facility Modifications Policy*.

[24-064](#)**Report to the Legislature | 2023 Juvenile Dependency Training Completion Report****Summary:**

In accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code section 304.7(c), the Judicial Council submitted the required compliance report to the Legislature, *2023 Juvenile Dependency Training Completion Report*, on January 16, 2024. The annual report demonstrates compliance by judges, commissioners, and referees with the juvenile judicial officer training and education requirements of the statute. The information provided in this report was gathered from the courts by staff of the Judicial Council's Center for Judicial Education and Research.

[24-078](#)**Report to the Legislature | California's Access to Visitation Grant Program (Federal Fiscal Years 2022-23 and 2023-24)****Summary:**

Family Code section 3204(d) requires that the Judicial Council submit a report to the Legislature, on the first day of March of each even-numbered year, on the Access to Visitation Grant programs administered by the Judicial Council. *California's Access to Visitation Grant Program (Federal Fiscal Years 2022-23 and 2023-24): 2024 Report to the Legislature* provides information on the programs funded for federal fiscal years 2022-23 and 2023-24 under California's Access to Visitation Grant Program for Enhancing Responsibility and Opportunity for Nonresidential Parents.

[24-071](#)**Report to the Legislature | Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2022-23****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. On or before February 1, 2024, Judicial Council staff submitted *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2022-23*.

[24-061](#)**Report to the Legislature | Online Infraction Adjudication and Ability-to-Pay Determinations****Summary:**

The *Online Infraction Adjudication and Ability-to-Pay Determinations* report to the Legislature describes actions taken to expand online ability-to-pay determination requests for infraction violations statewide as authorized by Assembly Bill 143 (Stats. 2021, ch. 79).

The report fulfills the requirements set forth in Government Code section 68645.5 and is the third of four required annual reports. It describes: (1) the system's users, (2) explains how the *MyCitations* tool is being implemented, (3) presents data on the impact of the system related to the reduction of court-ordered debt, and (4) documents actions taken for the statewide expansion of the program.

- As of December 31, 2023, 40 of California's 58 superior courts have made online ability-to-pay determination requests available through the *MyCitations* tool, with the remaining 18 courts scheduled to implement the tool in 2024.
- Between the program's launch in April 2019 and December 2023, approximately 128,000 ability-to-pay requests were submitted through the *MyCitations* tool by 91,000 defendants. These cases accounted for over \$71 million in outstanding infraction fines and fees that, after judicial review, were reduced by more than \$36.7 million. Consistent with research findings presented in last year's report, case-level analysis of debts collected from requests made through *MyCitations* demonstrates that defendants are more likely to pay when offered a reduced amount.

[24-023](#)**Report to the Legislature | Trial Court Operational Metrics: 2024 Report****Summary:**

The Budget Act of 2022 (Stats. 2022, ch. 43) requires that the Judicial Council annually report to the Legislature on the operations of each trial court and include various, specified operational and budgetary metrics. This is the second year that the branch has produced this report.

**Judicial Council Internal Committee Reports**[24-014](#)**Written Reports****Appointment Orders**[24-022](#)**Appointment Orders since the last business meeting.****Adjournment**