Judicial Council of California

Meeting Agenda

Judicial Council

Please visit the California Courts website to view live meeting on October 16, 2026.

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Friday, October 16, 2026 **San Francisco**

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

Session: 8:30–9:00 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: 9:15 a.m.

Call to Order

10 minutes

Swearing in of New Judicial Council Members

The Chief Justice will administer the oath of office to newly appointed council members.

10 minutes

Public Comment

20 minutes

The Judicial Council welcomes public comment on general matters of judicial administration or specific agenda items. 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, visit the Attendance and Public Comment Procedures webpage.

Submit advance requests to speak and written comments for this meeting by 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 15, by email to:

judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov

Chief Justice's Report

15 minutes

Administrative Director's Report

26-004 **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-Fronda at 415-865-7626 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

26-009 **Minutes of July 17, 2026, Judicial Council Meeting**

26-035 **Equal Access Fund | Distribution of Funds for CARE Act Legal Representation (Action Required)**

Summary: The Budget Act of 2026 appropriated $20,904,000 to be distributed by the Judicial Council through the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California for the implementation of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act. The commission will allocate these funds as grants to qualified legal services projects and public defender offices for CARE Act representation, provider training, and technical assistance, and to the State Bar of California for program administration.

26-034 **Equal Access Fund | Distribution of Funds for IOLTA-Formula Grants and Partnership Grants (Action Required)**

Summary: The Legal Services Trust Fund Commission recommends approving the distribution of up to $64,287,700 to the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission of the State Bar of California for the Equal Access Fund Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts-Formula Grants and Partnership Grants as authorized by the Budget Act of 2026 (Stats. 2026, ch. 21). The commission will allocate funds in the form of grants to legal services providers and support centers. These resources are designated for legal assistance in civil matters for indigent individuals and self-represented litigants, with the goal of enhancing equal access and promoting the fair administration of justice as authorized by the Budget Act. The Budget Act also includes administrative funds to the Judicial Council for its oversight of the grant.

26-036

Equal Access Fund | Distribution of Funds to the California Access to Justice Commission (Action Required)

Summary:

The Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness recommends that the Judicial Council approve the allocation of $11.25 million to the California Access to Justice Commission. The funding will support a range of initiatives, including grants to nonprofit civil legal aid providers; support for the infrastructure and innovation needs of legal services addressing civil matters for indigent individuals; assistance for legal aid staff who were eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness as of January 1, 2026, but lost eligibility due to their work with immigrants or marginalized communities; and the administration of a tax-advantaged student loan repayment assistance program.

26-098

Jury Instructions | Criminal Jury Instructions (2026 Supplement) (Action Required)

Summary:

The Advisory Committee on Criminal Jury Instructions recommends approving for publication the new and revised criminal jury instructions prepared by the committee under rule 2.1050 of the California Rules of Court. These changes will, among other things, keep the instructions current with statutory and case authority. Once approved, the new and revised instructions will be published in the 2026 supplement of *Judicial Council of California Criminal Jury Instructions*.

26-167

Juvenile Law | Fiscal Year 2026-27 Funding Allocation for California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association (Action Required)

Summary:

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends approving the allocation of $19.9 million in Court Appointed Special Advocate program grant funding, included in the Budget Act of 2026, to the California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association for fiscal year 2026-27. The funding supports local court-appointed special advocate programs that recruit and train volunteers appointed by judicial officers to provide advocacy for children under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court. The funding also supports the California Court Appointed Special Advocate Association's initiatives for statewide volunteer recruitment, shared resources and infrastructure, and training.

26-128

Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Clarify Rule Requiring Notice of Failure to Procure the Record (Action Required)

Summary:

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending rule 8.140 of the California Rules of Court. Under subdivision (a) of the rule, the superior court must notify a litigant that they have failed to timely do an act required to procure the record for the appeal of a civil case. The committee recommends adding an advisory committee comment providing examples of acts required to procure the record. This proposal was prompted by a suggestion from the chair of a county bar association's appellate law section.

26-129

Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Extension-of-Time Order in Limited Civil, Misdemeanor, and Infraction Appeals (Action Required)

Summary:

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends approving a new optional form for issuing an order on an application for an extension of time to file a brief in limited civil, misdemeanor, and infraction appeals. This proposal originated from a suggestion by the Committee on Appellate Courts of the California Lawyers Association's Litigation Section.

26-113

Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Record Designation Rules and Forms (Action Required)

Summary:

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending the California Rules of Court, revising existing forms, and approving new forms to simplify and improve the clarity of the record-designation process in civil appeals. The recommended changes will make the record-designation process more efficient.

26-114

Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Record in Felony Appeals (Action Required)

Summary:

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending the California Rules of Court to clarify what must be included in the record in criminal felony appeals. The recommended amendments will help reduce the number of appeals in which augmentation or correction of the record is necessary, decreasing court clerks' workload and resulting delays. The proposal originated from a recommendation of the former Chief Justice's Appellate Caseflow Workgroup.

26-115

Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Required Use of Appendixes in Civil Appeals (Action Required)

Summary:

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending rules of court to require parties represented by counsel to use appendixes in unlimited and limited civil appeals. The recommended amendments will expedite the record preparation process in civil appeals.

26-118

Rules and Forms | CEQA Actions: Implementation of Senate Bill 676 (Action Required)

Summary:

The Appellate Advisory Committee and the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommend amending California Rules of Court governing the expedited resolution of actions and proceedings brought under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to implement Senate Bill 676 (Stats. 2025, ch. 550). The legislation provides for streamlined CEQA review of certain projects to "maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed by wildfire." (See Pub. Res. Code, § 21168.6.2(a).) In addition, the committees recommend additional rule changes to remove outdated material related to projects formerly eligible for streamlining and to make a minor technical change for consistency within the rules.

26-126

Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Amendment of Court-Ordered Mediation Rule (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 1523 (Stats. 2025, ch. 201) makes changes to the law regarding cases that may be ordered into mediation. The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends amending California Rules of Court, rules 3.891 and rule 3.894 to implement these changes in law and improve readability and clarity.

26-127

Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Amendment of Mandatory Settlement Conferences Rule (Action Required)

Summary:

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends amending California Rules of Court, rule 3.1380 to clarify that the rule does not require in-person attendance at mandatory settlement conferences. This change would give courts discretion to determine how parties must appear, including by remote appearance. The committee recommends this amendment in response to a suggestion by a member of the public.

26-130

Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Revisions to Military Forms (Action Required)

Summary:

Those in active-duty military service may ask a court to temporarily relieve them from financial obligations under Military and Veterans Code section 409.3 if their active duty materially affects their ability to pay such obligations. The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends revising three military service forms to reflect amendments to section 409.3 and improve clarity and readability.

26-132

Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Rules and Forms to Implement Changes in Law Regarding Civil Summons (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 747 (Stats. 2025, ch. 563) and Senate Bill 85 (Stats. 2025, ch. 403) make numerous changes to the laws regarding service and proof of service of summons in civil actions. The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends amending four rules, adopting 2 mandatory forms, approving 1 optional form, and revising 13 forms to implement AB 747 and SB 85. The committee also recommends changes to these rules and forms to improve clarity and readability.

26-137

Rules and Forms | Civil Practice and Procedure: Statement of Decision Rules and Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 515 (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 515 (Stats. 2025, ch. 559) changes the procedures for requesting, preparing, and finalizing a statement of decision. To implement that law, the Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee and the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommend amending two rules of court and approving two Judicial Council forms relating to statements of decision. The committees also recommend approving two additional forms for parties to use to make objections, as provided for in AB 515. The bill directs the Judicial Council to adopt or amend rules of court

consistent with the statutory changes and to prepare forms that may be used to request a statement of decision and that explain the requirements for making that request.

26-043

Rules and Forms | Criminal Law: Pretrial Release or Detention (Action Required)

Summary:

In its decision in *In re Kowalczyk* (2026) 19 Cal.5th 593, the California Supreme Court provided important guidance regarding the constitutional parameters for pretrial release or detention. These clarifications include confirming the framework in *In re Humphrey* (2021) 11 Cal.5th 135 for pretrial release based on public and victim safety, specifying the circumstances under which a court may order the detention of a defendant prior to trial, and setting reasonable and attainable monetary bail based on an individualized assessment of the totality of the circumstances. To assist courts with making the appropriate findings and orders for pretrial release or detention as articulated in the decision and in line with statutory and constitutional requirements, the Criminal Law Advisory Committee recommends revising *Findings and Orders for Pretrial Release or Detention* (form CR-104).

26-044

Rules and Forms | Criminal Law: Revisions to the Order for Dismissal for Military Personnel (Action Required)

Summary:

The California Department of Justice suggests removing an item on *Order for Dismissal (Military Personnel)* (form CR-184/MIL-184) related to notifying the department of a record sealing order under Penal Code section 1170.9(h)(4)(D). The Criminal Law Advisory Committee recommends revising the form to remove the item, as well as removing an item for the defendant's date of birth, making technical amendments to improve readability, and replacing gendered pronouns.

26-142

Rules and Forms | Criminal Procedure: Revisions to Felony Sentencing Rules (Action Required)

Summary:

Recent case law has addressed the circumstances under which a trial court may rely on aggravating factors to justify the imposition of an upper term sentence in the context of a felony prosecution. The Criminal Law Advisory Committee recommends amending two rules of the California Rules of Court to reflect this case law as well as to clarify the scope of the trial court's discretion when imposing an upper term sentence.

26-147

Rules and Forms | Family Law: Adoption Order (Action Required)

Summary:

Senate Bill 450 (Stats. 2025, ch. 757) amended California adoption law to require adoption orders to identify all legal parents following an adoption, including adoptive parents and any existing parents maintaining parental rights. To implement SB 450, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends revising *Adoption Order* (form ADOPT-215), the mandatory Judicial Council form used for all orders for the adoption of a minor child.

26-139

Rules and Forms | Family Law: Certification, Review, and Use of Computer Software to Assist in Determining Support (Action Required)

Summary:

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends the Judicial Council amend the rule that provides standards for computer software that assists in determining child and spousal support to (1) ensure the availability and accuracy of support calculator software used by the public and courts, (2) ensure all certified support calculators continue to perform in a manner consistent with the Family Code and rules of court, (3) promote transparency in the certification and recertification procedures, and (4) update terminology. The committee also proposes minor technical and grammatical changes to the rule to improve readability.

26-140

Rules and Forms | Family Law: Domestic Violence Training Standards for Court-Appointed Child Custody Investigators and Evaluators (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 1974 (Stats. 2024, ch. 303) amended Family Code section 1816 by expanding the advanced training requirements for court-appointed child custody investigators and evaluators. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends amending two California Rules of Court to implement this recent legislation. To ensure that court professionals are directed to the current training requirements and to reduce the need for future conforming amendments whenever the Legislature modifies the statutory list, the committee recommends revising rules 5.215 and 5.230 to reference Family Code section 1816 directly rather than duplicating the statute's list of required training topics. The committee also recommends additional substantive and technical amendments to improve legal accuracy and readability.

26-148

Rules and Forms | Family Law: Financial Disclosure Forms (Action Required)

Summary:

Recent federal legislation (H.R. No. 1, 119th Cong., 1st Sess. (2025)) made changes to federal law, including modifying the tax treatment of certain income attributable to tips and overtime for tax years 2025-2028. To implement House Resolution No. 1 and address concerns identified during prior rule cycles and the public comment process, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends revising three family law forms used by parties to provide financial disclosures and request information from an adverse party's employer. The committee also recommends adopting four mandatory attachment forms, approving two optional attachment forms, and revoking an optional information sheet to facilitate more comprehensive and accurate financial disclosure.

26-141

Rules and Forms | Family Law: Revisions to Summons Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 1297 and Enhance Consistency (Action Required)

Summary:

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends revising two family law summons forms, effective January 1, 2027, to implement Assembly Bill 1297

(Stats. 2025, ch. 48). This bill amends Family Code section 2040 regarding automatic temporary restraining orders applicable in dissolution, nullity, and legal separation proceedings. For these proceedings, the bill expands the automatic temporary restraining order related to insurance to prohibit parties from allowing an insurance plan to lapse for nonpayment of premiums or failing to renew insurance. In addition, the committee proposes using plain language throughout the form and making technical changes. The committee recommends similar plain-language and technical revisions on two additional summons forms for consistency across the summons forms used in family law proceedings. Finally, the committee recommends restructuring and reorganizing all four of the summons forms to promote accessibility.

26-149

Rules and Forms | Family Law: Rules and Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 747 and Senate Bill 85 (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 747 (Stats. 2025, ch. 563) and Senate Bill 85 (Stats. 2025, ch. 403) change California law governing service of a summons in civil cases, including substituted service, proof of service, and court-ordered alternative service. To implement these statutory changes, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends amending one rule of court, adopting one mandatory form, approving two optional forms, and revising eight forms. The proposed changes would update Judicial Council rules and forms used in family law proceedings and proceedings under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act for consistency with the law governing service, as amended by AB 747 and SB 85.

26-136

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Dependency: Guidelines for Counsel Collections Program (Action Required)

Summary:

Welfare and Institutions Code section 903.47 requires the Judicial Council to establish a program to collect reimbursement from the person responsible for the cost of counsel appointed to represent a parent or child in a juvenile dependency proceeding. As part of establishing that program, the council adopted California Rules of Court, Appendix F (Guidelines for the Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program). The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends amending Appendix F to remove references to a superseded method of calculating the court cost of providing dependency-related legal services. The proposal would also reformat the appendix to conform more closely to the style of the rules of court and make additional technical and stylistic changes.

26-151

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Implementation of Assembly Bill 383 Regarding Firearms Relinquishment (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 383 (Stats. 2025, ch. 362) amended Penal Code section 29810 to extend existing firearms relinquishment procedures to minors adjudicated for various offenses. To implement AB 383, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, with approval from the Criminal Law Advisory Committee, recommends revising form CR-210 (*Prohibited Persons*

Relinquishment Form Findings) into a joint criminal and juvenile form because the findings required under Penal Code section 29810 are now the same in criminal cases and juvenile cases.

26-144

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Incarcerated Parents and Nonminor Dependents (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 651 (Stats. 2025, ch. 274) amended Penal Code section 2625 to require courts to include wards in secure youth treatment facilities when sending notice to incarcerated parents and allowing them to attend specified dependency hearings. If an incarcerated parent waives in-person attendance, the statute requires incarcerated parents to be given the opportunity to participate in the hearing by videoconference or, if unavailable, by teleconference. The bill also amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 349 to extend to nonminor dependents the rights to notice, participation, and continuances if notice is not provided. To implement these changes, the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee proposes amending two rules of court and revising two mandatory forms.

26-045

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Physical Transfer of a Party in Custody (Action Required)

Summary:

Senate Bill 823 (Stats. 2020, ch. 337) established a new statutory process governing when and how a party whose juvenile case has been transferred to criminal court may be physically transferred from a juvenile facility to an adult facility. The Court of Appeal decision in *Gabriel M. v. Superior Court* (2024) 107 Cal.App.5th 446 highlighted conflicts between Welfare and Institutions Code section 208.5 and the rule and form implementing that statute. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends amendments to California Rules of Court, rule 5.770, revisions to *Order to Transfer Juvenile to Criminal Court Jurisdiction* (form JV-710), and adoption of *Order Regarding Housing in Adult Facility* (form JV-711) to align them with statutory requirements and ensure statewide consistency.

26-165

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Probation Time Limits (Action Required)

Summary:

To comply with new requirements for time limits on juvenile probation under Assembly Bill 1376 (Bonta; Stats. 2025, ch. 575), the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends revisions to three Judicial Council forms to implement new and amended Welfare and Institutions Code sections.

26-160

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Record Sealing Forms (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 1877 (Jackson; Stats. 2024, ch. 811) enacted Welfare and Institutions Code section 788, a juvenile record sealing statute. Under the statute, county probation officers are required to initiate a record sealing process for individuals 18 years of age or older upon the termination of juvenile court delinquency jurisdiction. The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee proposes amending three court

rules, approving two new forms, and revising four existing forms to implement AB 1877.

26-164

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Transfer of Nonminor Dependents (Action Required)

Summary:

To comply with new requirements for granting a nonminor dependent's request to change residence to another county under Assembly Bill 890 (Lee; Stats. 2025, ch. 281), the Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee proposes amending one of the rules of the California Rules of Court, adopting one Judicial Council form, and revising two Judicial Council forms.

26-150

Rules and Forms | Juvenile Law: Updating Access Rules for Juvenile Case Files Under Senate Bill 413 (Action Required)

Summary:

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends amending a rule of court and adopting and approving new forms to implement Senate Bill 413 (Allen; Stats. 2025, ch. 221). The legislation amended Welfare and Institutions Code section 827 to authorize a new category of individuals--attorneys representing a party in certain civil proceedings involving child welfare agencies or probation departments--to access juvenile case files under specified confidentiality safeguards.

26-138

Rules and Forms | Miscellaneous Technical Changes (Action Required)

Summary:

Various members of the judicial branch, members of the public, and Judicial Council staff have identified errors in the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms, as well as minor changes needed to conform to changes in law or previous council actions. Judicial Council staff recommend making the necessary corrections to ensure that the rules and forms conform to law and practice and to avoid causing confusion for court users, clerks, and judicial officers.

26-134

Rules and Forms | Probate Conservatorship: Duties of Conservator and Acknowledgment of Receipt (Action Required)

Summary:

To conform to changes in conservatorship law and reduce procedural confusion, the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee recommends amending one rule of court, adopting one form, and revising one form. The new form provides an updated statement of the duties of a conservator formatted as a plain-language information sheet for the court to distribute to each newly appointed conservator. A conservator would use the revised form to acknowledge receipt of the statement of duties and the Judicial Council's *Handbook for Conservators* as required by Probate Code section 1834. The rule amendment clarifies the conservator's duty to sign and file the acknowledgment of receipt and updates references to the form numbers and titles.

26-156

Rules and Forms | Probate Conservatorship: Revisions to Petitions, Orders, and Letters (Action Required)

Summary:

To implement portions of Assembly Bill 1663 (Stats. 2022, ch. 894) and to make conservatorship forms more accessible and user-friendly, the Probate and Mental

Health Advisory Committee recommends adopting seven mandatory forms and revising three mandatory forms. The recommended changes would create specific forms to request and order limited conservatorships. In addition, the committee recommends adopting new attachment forms for use in both general and limited conservatorships when requesting joint conservatorships or conservatorships of the estate.

26-135

Rules and Forms | Probate Guardianship: Appointment of Unavailable Parent and Nominee as Joint Guardians of the Person (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 495, effective January 1, 2026, gave the superior court the authority to appoint a custodial but unavailable parent together with a person nominated by that parent as joint guardians of the person of the parent's child. To facilitate the process of petitioning for and appointing joint guardians under the new law, the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee recommends amending one rule, adopting one form, approving one form, and revising eight forms, renumbering one of these. The proposal would also update cross-references, simplify language, and make other improvements to the forms.

26-155

Rules and Forms | Probate Law and Procedure: Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 747 (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bill 747 (Stats. 2025, ch. 563) made numerous changes to the Code of Civil Procedure that apply to service required under the Probate Code. To bring the forms used for service in probate proceedings into compliance with the new service requirements, the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee recommends approving two new forms, revising five forms, and revoking two forms.

26-152

Rules and Forms | Protective Orders: Changes to Forms DV-300-INFO and DV-310 (Action Required)

Summary:

The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends revising *How Do I Ask to Change or End a Domestic Violence Restraining Order?* (form DV-300-INFO) and *Notice of Court Hearing and Temporary Order to Change or End Restraining Order* (form DV-310) to address court operational concerns and improve form usability, organization, and clarity.

26-120

Rules and Forms | Protective Orders: Gun Violence Restraining Order Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 2917 (Action Required)

Summary:

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends revising two forms to implement Assembly Bill 2917 (Stats. 2024, ch. 539). AB 2917 changed the types of evidence courts consider in determining whether grounds for a gun violence restraining order exist. Additionally, the committee recommends various changes to improve the forms and to address related issues raised during the public comment period for a recent proposal to implement Senate Bill 899 (Stats. 2024, ch. 544).

26-119

Rules and Forms | Protective Orders: Rules and Forms to Implement Assembly Bill 561 (Action Required)

Summary:

The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends adopting 1 form, revising 23 forms, and revoking 1 form to implement Assembly Bill 561 (Stats. 2025, ch. 267). AB 561 amends the statutes governing civil harassment restraining orders and elder or dependent adult abuse restraining orders. For both civil harassment restraining orders and elder or dependent adult abuse restraining orders, AB 561 authorizes the electronic submission of certain documents and also authorizes certain persons to appear remotely. For elder or dependent adult abuse restraining orders, AB 561 authorizes alternative methods of service if there is reason to believe that the respondent is evading service or cannot be located.

26-131

Rules and Forms | Revisions to Fee Waiver Rules and Forms (Action Required)

Summary:

Senate Bill 54 (Stats. 2025, ch. 646) exempts veterans disability service-connected compensation from monthly income for purposes of determining whether a fee waiver applicant's income is 200 percent or less of the current federal poverty guidelines. The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee and the Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee recommend amending seven rules of court and revising 22 fee waiver forms to implement SB 54, correct misapplications of existing law, and make other improvements.

26-159

Rules and Forms | Traffic: Trial by Written Declaration Forms (Action Required)

Summary:

In the past few years, several stakeholders have suggested that the trial by written declaration forms should be improved for clarity and to better assist court users. As a result of this feedback, the Traffic Advisory Committee proposes revocations and revisions to the trial by written declaration forms and corresponding amendments to the relevant rule of court. These forms have not been substantively revised since 1999-2000, and the proposed revisions include substantive changes, clearer language, and reorganized content. Since most traffic defendants are self-represented, the improved forms will be easier to follow with commonly understood language and more intuitive formatting.

26-133

Rules and Forms | Unlawful Detainer: Form Revisions to Implement Assembly Bills 246, 747, and 863 (Action Required)

Summary:

Assembly Bills 246 (Stats. 2025, ch. 337), 747 (Stats. 2025, ch. 563), and 863 (Stats. 2025, ch. 344) make changes to laws regarding summons, complaints, and defenses in unlawful detainer proceedings. The Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee recommends revising four forms to implement these changes in law, correct misstatements of law, remove inapplicable items, and improve readability and clarity. The committee also recommends significant plain-language revisions to *Unlawful Detainer--Complaint* (form UD-100) and the conversion of *Unlawful Detainer--Answer* (form UD-105) to a plain-language form.

26-143

Trial Court Budget | Fiscal Year 2026-27 Involuntary Medication Order Funding Allocations (Action Required)

Summary:

The Budget Act of 2026 included $4.25 million General Fund, annually for four years, to assist trial courts with implementation of Senate Bill 820 (Stats. 2025, ch. 330). The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approval of a funding methodology and allocations based on that funding methodology. The funding will support trial courts with implementation of new evidentiary hearings, increased medical evaluations, and additional efforts to manage defendant rights as related to involuntary medication orders in misdemeanor incompetent to stand trial cases, as now required under Penal Code section 2603.5.

26-153

Trial Court Budget | Workload Formula Adjustment Request Process Update (Action Required)

Summary:

The Judicial Council's Workload Formula policy is used to allocate certain funding to the trial courts based on workload measures. The policy includes an annual adjustment request process that allows the trial courts to propose changes to the methodology when workload-related factors are identified that are not currently accounted for in the model but are essential to court operations. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends approval of administrative updates to streamline the process and clarify the instructions for submitting these requests.

26-154

Trial Court Budget | Workload Formula Policy Base Funding Floor Adjustment Process (Action Required)

Summary:

The Judicial Council's Workload Formula policy includes an annual base funding floor adjustment process for the two smallest trial courts, the Superior Courts of Alpine and Sierra Counties. The funding floor process was established in fiscal year 2014-15 because the standard workload metrics did not accurately represent the funding needs of these very small courts. The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommends an update to how the base funding floor policy is applied in the methodology to ensure the maximum amount of funding is provided to the floor courts. This change will improve clarity and transparency in the Workload Formula funding floor adjustment process while ensuring the two funding floor courts have sufficient resources to meet essential operational needs and maintain minimum staffing levels.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

26-124

Court Interpreters | American Sign Language Generalist Interpreter Pilot Program (Action Required)

Summary:

The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends that the Judicial Council authorize a pilot program to evaluate the limited use of qualified American Sign Language (ASL) generalist interpreters in California courts. The pilot is intended to expand language access for Deaf and hard of hearing court users, address the ongoing shortage of certified ASL court interpreters, support workforce

development, and collect data on the effectiveness of using qualified ASL generalist interpreters in court proceedings. Findings from the pilot will be used to develop recommendations and proposed revisions to the *American Sign Language (ASL) Generalist Interpreter Guidelines* for future consideration by the Judicial Council.

Speakers: Ms. Anabel Z. Romero, Vice-Chair, Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
Mr. Russell McGregor, Leadership Support Services

15 minutes

26-145 **Court Interpreters | Changes to Certification Requirements (Action Required)**

Summary: The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends changes to the California court interpreter certification requirements while maintaining the program's high certification standards. The recommendations include (1) requiring candidates to complete an orientation before taking interpreter examinations; (2) requiring candidates to pass the Oral Proficiency Examination at the Advanced High level before taking the Bilingual Interpreting Examination, which is the oral exam required to obtain certified court interpreter status in major spoken languages; and (3) allowing candidates to retain passing scores on individual sections of the Bilingual Interpreting Examination for up to two years, with a one-time retroactive application for eligible candidates. These recommendations are intended to improve candidate success, expand the pool of qualified court interpreters, and strengthen language access in California's courts.

Speakers: Ms. Anabel Z. Romero, Vice-Chair, Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
Ms. Angela De Leon, Leadership Support Services

15 minutes

26-122 **Court Interpreters | Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters (Action Required)**

Summary: The annual Budget Act instructs the Judicial Council to set policies and compensation rates for contract court interpreters, not to exceed the rates paid to certified court interpreters in the federal court system. In response to increasing interpreter expenditures and challenges in managing interpreter resources, the Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC) recommends revising *Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters* to promote short- and long-term cost containment measures. These include implementing nonnegotiable rates, establishing uniform travel compensation, standardizing contractual obligations for services rendered, and additional revisions to clarify and standardize administrative procedures across the state. To implement the required rate structure, CEAC proposes raising the maximum daily compensation rate for independent contractor interpreters to not exceed the rate paid to federally certified interpreters, as required by the annual Budget Act.

Speakers: Ms. Anabel Z. Romero, Chair, Court Executives Advisory Committee, Interpreter Payment Policy Subcommittee
Mr. Jason B. Galkin, Vice-Chair, Court Executives Advisory Committee, Interpreter Payment Policy Subcommittee

15 minutes

Break: 11:15 - 11:25 a.m.

26-157

Judicial Workload Assessment | Judicial Workload Study Update (Action Required)

Summary: The Data Analytics Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council adopt the 2026 Judicial Workload Study updated model parameters used as part of the formula for assessing judicial need in the trial courts. Applying the updated model parameters to the most recent three-year average of filings identifies a need for 231 additional judgeships across 22 superior courts. The full assessed need and prioritization details are presented separately in a companion report to the council, *Report to the Legislature: 2026 Update of the Judicial Needs Assessment*.

Speakers: Mr. Jake Chatters, Chair, Data Analytics Advisory Committee
Hon. Thomas E. Kuhnle (Ret.), Vice-Chair, Data Analytics Advisory Committee
Ms. Kristin Greenaway, Research, Analytics, and Data
Mr. Mustafa Sagir, Research, Analytics, and Data

25 minutes

26-158

Report to the Legislature | 2026 Update of the Judicial Needs Assessment (Action Required)

Summary: *The Need for New Judgeships in the Superior Courts: 2026 Update of the Judicial Needs Assessment*, a report to the Legislature required by Government Code section 69614(c)(1), shows that 231 new judgeships are needed across 22 courts to meet workload demand. This represents a significant increase from the 2022 assessment, which identified a need for 98 judgeships across 17 courts. The increase is driven by updated model parameters from the 2026 Judicial Workload Study--based on data collected through a time study conducted in 2025--and post-pandemic filings data from fiscal year 2022-23 through fiscal year 2024-25. The mandated report also includes information about the conversion of additional subordinate judicial officer positions, as required by Government Code section 69614(c)(3).

As in previous years, the Judicial Council does not need to take action on submission of the report to the Legislature and Governor. However, this year the council is asked to consider a recommendation to establish the 2026 judicial needs assessment as the basis for allocating judgeships that were funded in the Budget Act of 2026 (Stats. 2026, ch. 19) over the next five years to provide courts and the branch with the stability needed for effective long-term planning while ensuring that allocations continue to be grounded in a rigorous, workload-based methodology.

Speakers: Mr. Jake Chatters, Chair, Data Analytics Advisory Committee
Hon. Thomas E. Kuhnle (Ret.), Vice-Chair, Data Analytics Advisory Committee
Ms. Kristin Greenaway, Research, Analytics, and Data
Mr. Mustafa Sagir, Research, Analytics, and Data

10 minutes

26-053 **Juvenile Law | Court Adoption and Permanency Month (Action Required)**

Summary: The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee recommends adopting a resolution proclaiming November 2026 to be Court Adoption and Permanency Month. This resolution would recognize the ongoing efforts of California's juvenile courts and their justice partners to provide children and families with access to fair, understandable judicial proceedings leading to timely and well-informed permanency outcomes that are in the best interest of the child.

Speakers: Hon. Ana España, Member, Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
Guardianship Family

20 minutes

INFORMATION AGENDA (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

26-146 **Judicial Council Update | Trial Court Facility Modifications Report for Quarter 4 and Annual Summary for Fiscal Year 2025-26**

Summary: This informational report to the Judicial Council outlines (1) allocations of facility modification funding made to improve trial court facilities in the fourth quarter (April through June) of fiscal year 2025-26, and (2) a summary of all funding allocations during the fiscal year. 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*.

26-121 **Report to the Legislature | Annual Report on Contracts for the Trial Courts for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2026**

Summary: Section 19209 of the Public Contract Code and the *Judicial Branch Contracting Manual* require that the Judicial Council submit a report annually to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the State Auditor to provide information related to contracts and payments from the trial courts to all vendors and contractors. The report includes a list of contractors and vendors and identifies the amounts of payments to them, the types of services and goods provided, and the trial courts with which the contractors and vendors contracted to provide those goods and services. The report summary also includes a list of all amended contracts, including any changes to the contract value, types of services or goods, or contract. For the latest reporting period, the Judicial Council reports 25,217 payments representing $706.76 million for trial courts. As mandated, Judicial Council staff submitted this report by September 30, 2026.

26-161 **Report to the Legislature | California Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act of 2009**

Summary: Penal Code section 1232 requires the Judicial Council to submit an annual comprehensive report to the Legislature on the implementation of the California Community Corrections Performance Incentives Act of 2009 (Sen. Bill 678; Stats. 2009, ch. 608). The legislation seeks to alleviate state prison overcrowding by reducing the number of individuals on felony supervision who are sent there. The program is also designed to encourage county probation departments to use evidence-based supervision practices to accomplish these goals. The report includes information on the effectiveness of the act in alleviating state prison overcrowding. The report to the Legislature is included as Attachment A to this report.

26-125 **Report to the Legislature | Report on State Trial Court Electronic Filing and Document Service Accessibility Compliance**

Summary: Assembly Bill 103 (Stats. 2017, ch. 17), the public safety bill approved by the Governor on June 27, 2017, amended Code of Civil Procedure section 1010.6(j), requiring that any system for the electronic filing and service of documents used by a California trial court be accessible to individuals with disabilities. The amendment also requires the Judicial Council to submit four reports between June 2018 and December 2023 to the appropriate committees of the Legislature identifying the trial courts that have implemented electronic filing and electronic service systems. The fourth report, due December 31, 2023, was not submitted due to staffing shortages. The August 2026 *Report on State Trial Court Electronic Filing and Document Service Accessibility Compliance*, submitted to the Legislature on August 26, 2026, provides the information that was to be included in the 2023 report.

Judicial Council Internal Committee Reports

26-014 **Written Reports**

Circulating Orders

26-116 **Circulating Orders since the last business meeting.**

Appointment Orders

26-117 **Appointment Orders since the last business meeting.**

Adjournment