

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Branch of California. The seal contains the text "JUDICIAL BRANCH OF CALIFORNIA" around the perimeter and "EUREKA" in the center. The central image depicts a figure holding a scale of justice, with a ship and a bear also visible within the seal's design.

Remote Proceedings Resource Guide for Judicial Officers

AD HOC WORKGROUP ON POST PANDEMIC INITIATIVES

Hon. Ann Moorman, Mendocino County Superior Court

Ms. Rebecca Fleming, CEO, Santa Clara County Superior Court

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Council of California. The seal contains the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA" and "EUREKA" around a central emblem. In the bottom left corner, there is a smaller, more detailed version of the seal.

Interim Report: Remote Access to Courts

Produced an interim report in August 2021 with two initial recommendations:

1. California courts should **expand and maximize remote access on a permanent basis** for most proceedings and should not default to pre-pandemic levels of in-person operations.
2. The Judicial Council should encourage and support courts in **substantially expanding** remote access through all available technology and should promote fairness by adopting balanced policies and encouraging consistency in remote access throughout the state to ensure that Californians have equal access to the courts while providing flexibility to meet local needs.

Senate Bill 241

- Remote proceedings continue to be a part of California's court system.
- The 2021 California Court Efficiency Act gives parties the option to appear remotely in civil cases and authorizes courts to conduct proceedings through the use of remote technology until July 1, 2023.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

Video Remote Conferencing Best Practices for Remote Proceedings

- I. Goals of Remote Court Proceedings
- II. Remote Court Proceedings as An Alternative to Traditional In-Person Court
- III. Key Considerations Before Commencing Remote Court Proceedings
- IV. Key Considerations During Remote Court Proceedings



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

I. Goals of Remote Proceedings

“Remote court proceedings should be effective and productive for judicial officers and accessible and fair for litigants.”

“We recommend that all courts adopt remote court proceedings as part of everyday practice and fully integrate them into existing court processes and systems, as appropriate to the case type, the specific case, and the nature of the proceeding their use need not be limited to temporarily solving the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.”



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

II. Remote Court Proceedings as An Alternative to Traditional In-Person Court

- Not identical to physical courtroom proceedings
- Technical aptitudes may vary considerably
- Holding remote court proceedings requires planning, adaptability, flexibility, and calmness



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

III. Key Considerations *Before* Commencing a Remote Court Proceeding

1. More Time
2. Preparation of Necessary Equipment
3. Level of Public Access
4. Digital Documents
5. Electronic Signatures
6. Being Seen and Heard During Remote Court Proceedings
7. Security Considerations
8. Language Barriers
9. Advance Stipulations and Admissions



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

IV. Key Considerations *During* a Remote Court Proceeding

1. Practices and Protocols at the *Beginning* of Proceedings:

1. Participant-Related Logistics
2. Discussing Expected Behavior

2. Practices and Protocols during *In-Progress* Proceedings:

1. Personal Privacy
2. Remote Evidence Sharing
3. Private Conversations
4. Disruptive Behavior
5. Language Interpretation



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

Additional Resources

1. **Brennan Center for Justice**

The Impact of Video Proceedings on Fairness and Access to Justice in Court (Sep. 10, 2020).

Principles for Continued Use of Remote Court Proceedings (Sep. 10, 2020).

2. **California Access to Justice Commission**

Remote Hearings and Access to Justice During COVID-19 and Beyond (May 18, 2020).

3. **California Courts, Judicial Resources Network**

Language Access Resource Center.

Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) Resource Center.

4. **California Judicial Branch**

Recommended Guidelines and Minimum Specifications for Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) for Spoken Language-Interpreted Events (May 21, 2021).

5. **Joint Technology Committee**

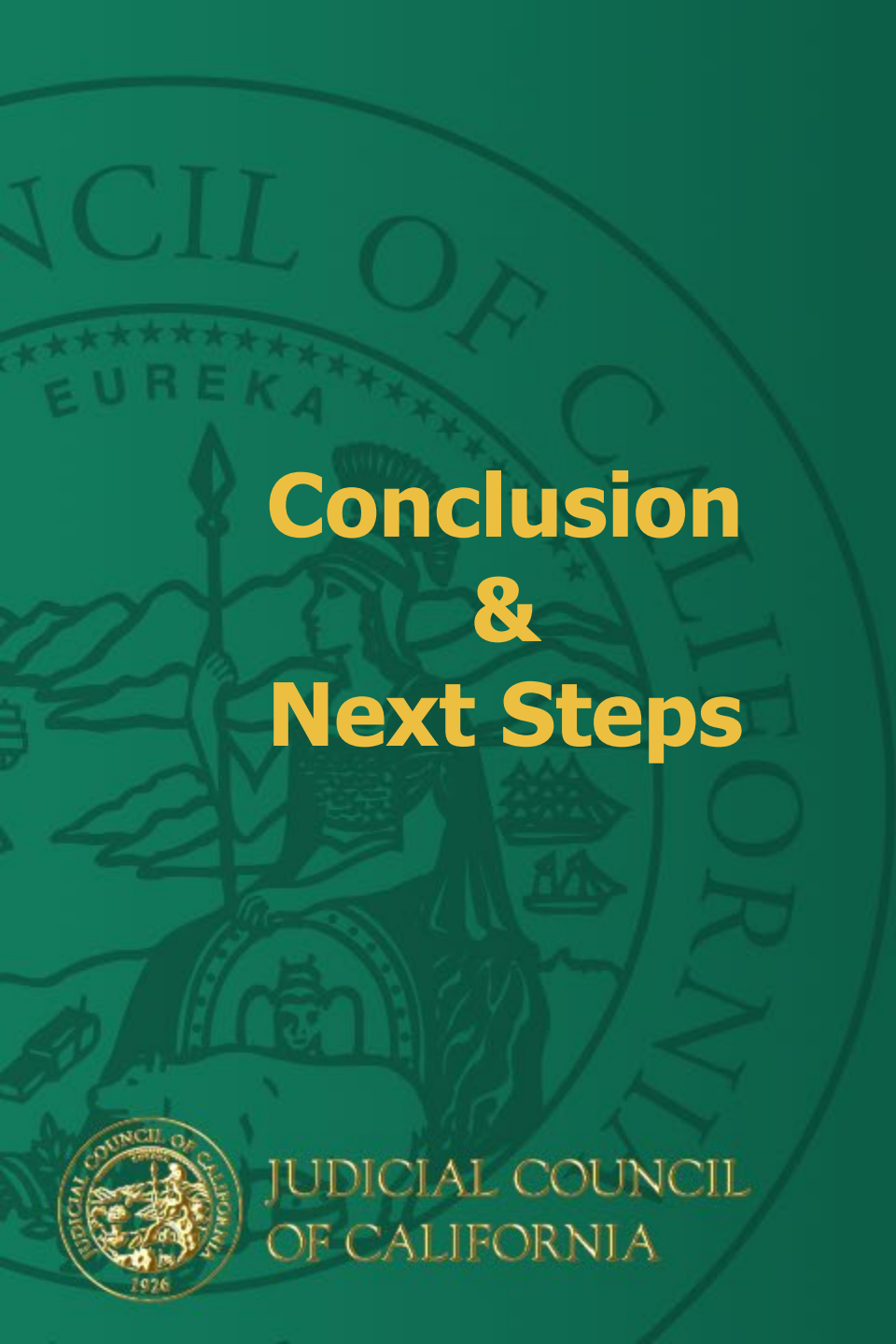
JTC Quick Response Bulletin: Managing Evidence for Virtual Hearings (Jun. 25, 2020).

6. **National Center for State Courts**

Conducting Fair and Just Remote Hearings: A Bench Guide for Judges (as of Oct. 27, 2021).



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA

The background of the slide features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Council of California. The seal contains the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA" and "EUREKA" around a central figure. In the bottom left corner, there is a smaller, gold-colored version of the seal.

Conclusion & Next Steps

- Remote proceedings resource guide will be disseminated to all 58 superior courts shortly.
- The Workgroup continues to meet and collaborate with JCC advisory bodies to develop further recommendations.
- Future reports will cover other topics being developed by the Workgroup.