

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the Judicial Council of California. The seal contains the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA" around the top edge, "EUREKA" in the center, and "1926" at the bottom. The seal also depicts a central figure, likely a personification of justice or a historical figure, surrounded by various symbols.

Work Group on Homelessness

Justice Louis Mauro, Chair

Third District Court of Appeal (Sacramento)

Justice Carin Fujisaki, Vice Chair

First District Court of Appeal, Division Three (San Francisco)

“

...our courts often serve as centers of social justice and we frequently see those who are in crisis.

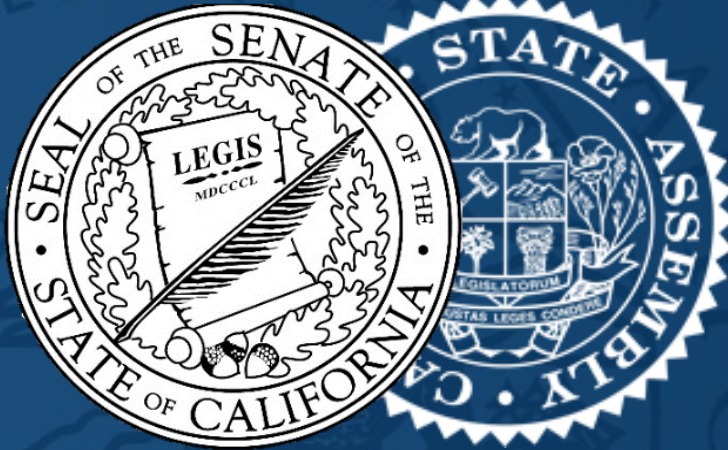
- California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

”



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Constitutional Role of the Courts



Legislative Branch
Article IV



Executive Branch
Article V



Judicial Branch
Article VI



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Action Areas

Action Area 1: Improve unlawful detainer proceedings to reduce homelessness and promote housing stability.

Action Area 2: Reduce barriers to housing and help identify housing resources.

Action Area 3: Utilize technology and improve court procedures, communications, and information to increase access to justice for court users regardless of their housing circumstances.

Action Area 4: Strengthen education, outreach, and civic engagement on issues pertaining to homelessness.



Recommendation 1.1

Encourage and support legislative efforts to create and fund a statewide program that provides full scope legal representation in residential unlawful detainer proceedings for all litigants who are unable to afford counsel.

Recommendation 1.2

Implement and expand diversion, mediation, and settlement efforts — both before and after a residential unlawful detainer complaint is filed — to maximize the opportunities for landlords and tenants to reach a mutually agreeable resolution short of an eviction judgment.



Recommendation 2.1

Establish a homeless court program in more counties to reduce barriers to housing stability by clearing fines, fees, warrants, and outstanding cases after treatment and rehabilitation.

Recommendation 2.2

Benefit from economies of scale by increasing the funding and caseload capacity for existing collaborative courts, ensure that the largest number of cases possible are processed through collaborative courts, and implement new collaborative court programs in appropriate jurisdictions.



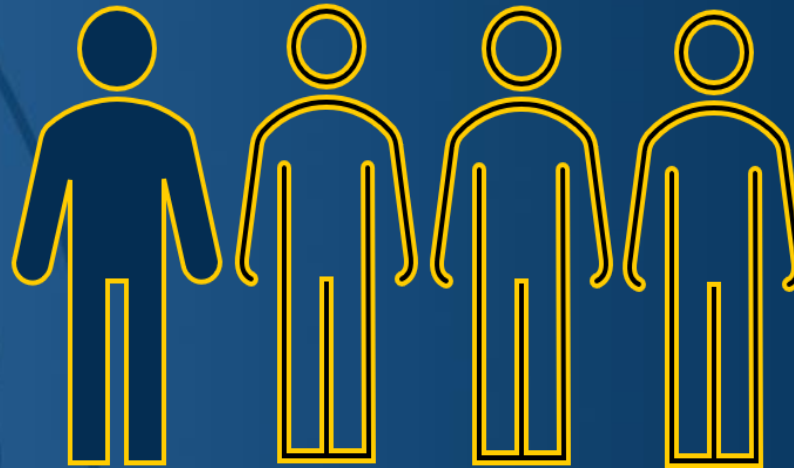


Recommendation 2.5

Ensure that courts can remove a record of conviction in a more timely and efficient manner.



Youth and nonminor dependents



National statistics suggest one in four youth will experience homelessness within four years of aging out of the foster care system.



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Recommendation 2.3

Prioritize the creation and implementation of long-range plans for housing security for youth and nonminor dependents involved in the foster care system.

Recommendation 2.4

Arrange for housing resource navigators at or near courthouses to provide resources to court users experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.



Recommendation 1.3

Increase remote access and resources for self-help centers, designate self-help centers as a resource for unrepresented unlawful detainer litigants to access counsel and prioritize development of more user-friendly unlawful detainer court forms with information sheets and checklists.

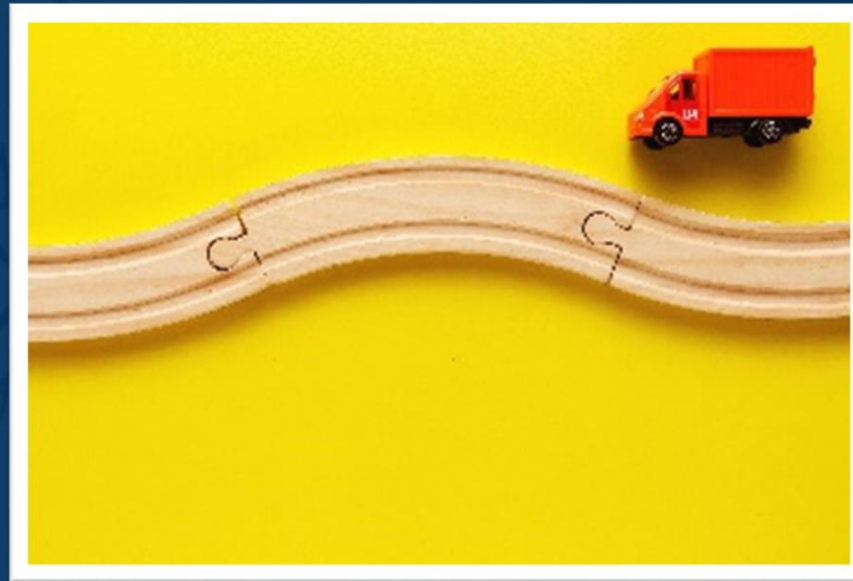
Recommendation 3.1

Increase access by providing an option for remote appearances.

Recommendation 3.2

Improve the availability of information about court services that address homelessness and housing issues by updating court websites to provide user-friendly and current information, and help court users electronically connect to the court, charge mobile devices, and receive email and text communications from the court.

Consider opportunities to establish mobile courts.



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Recommendation 4.1

Educate judicial officers, judicial branch personnel, and justice partners on issues relating to homelessness.

Recommendation 4.2

Engage with other public and private entities and individuals to enhance programs and services for those without housing or at risk of losing housing.



Engage with Other Public and Private Entities

- Serve as a convener.
- Support helpful legislation.
- Work to increase efficiencies in cases.
- Collaborate with the other branches of government and service providers.
- Use certain unused judicial branch property for homelessness services.
- Arrange for individuals who have experienced homelessness to help improve court access and services.



Work Group Members

- Hon. Vicki Ashworth, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court of El Dorado County
- Hon. Gordon S. Baranco (Ret.), Judge of the Superior Court of Alameda County, Temporary Assigned Judges Program
- Hon. James N. Bianco, Judge of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County
- Hon. Desirée A. Bruce-Lyle, Judge of the Superior Court of San Diego County
- Hon. Robert A. Burlison, Judge of the Superior Court of Monterey County
- Hon. Hilary A. Chittick, Judge of the Superior Court of Fresno County
- Hon. Joyce D. Hinrichs, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Humboldt County
- Hon. Clare Keithley, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Butte County
- Hon. Marco D. Nunez, Judge of the Superior Court of Imperial County



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The Work Group on Homelessness recommends that the Judicial Council review and receive its final report and recommendations.



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Questions



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