



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 22-024

For business meeting on March 11, 2022

Title

Report to the Legislature: Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2020–21

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

February 18, 2022

Submitted by

Judicial Council staff
Fran Mueller, Deputy Director
Budget Services

Contact

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Executive Summary

Pursuant to 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 on or before February 1 of each year. On February 1, 2022, Judicial Council staff submitted the *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2020–21*.

Relevant Previous Council Action

This report is submitted to the Legislature annually. Reports from previous fiscal years are available on the California Courts website “Legislative Reports” webpage at www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm.

Analysis/Rationale

In 2020–21, a total of \$22.5 million in court reporter fees was collected and remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1) and (2) and 68086.1.

In 2020–21, an estimated \$86.2 million was spent for the court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings. This amount is an estimate as most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case type.

The estimate was calculated by multiplying the sum of the total amount of the budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2020 (\$227.1 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$2.8 million) by 37.5 percent. According to the Judicial Council’s 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study, 37.5 percent is the estimated percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases, which includes general civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family law proceedings.

The percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases is based on the 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model. The RAS model measures the need for court reporters by applying a ratio of 1.25 court reporters for every judicial position needed in the corresponding case types. The percentage of the estimated need for court reporters in civil cases accounts for changes made by the Budget Act of 2018 to provide court reporters in family law cases and expanded civil case types including unlimited civil and probate cases pursuant to *Jameson v. Desta* (5 Cal. 5th 594).

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

The requirements of this report do not result in any additional costs to or operational impact on the trial courts.

Attachments and Links

1. Attachment A: *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2020–21*



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Administrative Director
Judicial Council

February 1, 2022

Hon. Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 502
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: Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2020–21, as required under Government Code section 68086(f)

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

Pursuant to Government Code section 68086(f), the Judicial Council is submitting this report on court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in 2020–21.

In 2020–21, a total of \$22.5 million in court reporter fees was collected and remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1) and (2) and 68086.1. The estimated total expenditures for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings was \$86.2 million.

The \$22.5 million in court reporter fee revenue comprises the following:

- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(1), fees in the amount of \$3.7 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting under one hour.

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- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(2), fees in the amount of \$2.1 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting one hour or more on the first and each succeeding judicial day that services were provided.
- Under Government Code section 68086.1, fees in the amount of \$16.7 million were deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund from:
 - First paper filings and responses for superior court civil proceedings, other than proceedings under the Probate Code, in the superior court where the amount demanded is more than \$10,000;
 - Family law filings and responses; and
 - Marriage dissolution filings and responses.

The \$86.2 million in court reporter services expenditures is an estimate as most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case type. The estimate was calculated by multiplying the sum of the total amount of the budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2020 (\$227.1 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$2.8 million) by 37.5 percent. According to the Judicial Council's 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study, 37.5 percent is the estimated percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases, which includes general civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family law proceedings.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Ms. Fran Mueller, Deputy Director, Judicial Council Budget Services, at 916-263-5771.

Sincerely,



Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

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Hon. Philip Y. Ting
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MH/OT

Enclosure

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel

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Sue Parker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly

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