



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 22-067*

For business meeting on January 21, 2022

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**Title**

Judicial Branch Budget Committee Chair's  
Report

**Agenda Item Type**

Information Only

**Date of Report**

January 21, 2022

**Submitted by**

Judicial Branch Budget Committee  
Hon. David M. Rubin, Chair

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### Executive Summary

The Judicial Branch Budget Committee (Budget Committee) assists the Judicial Council on the branch budget. The committee reviews and makes recommendations annually to the council on submitted budget change proposals. Additionally, the committee reviews and makes recommendations on the use of statewide emergency funding for the judicial branch; reviews and makes recommendations on the Innovations Grant Program; and acts on other assignments as referred to it by the council. The Budget Committee is also assigned oversight responsibility for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC).

### Overview of Committee Meetings

Since the November 19, Judicial Council business meeting, the committee will have met twice; on December 7, 2021 and January 20, 2022.

At its December 7, 2021 meeting, the Budget Committee considered recommendations from TCBAC on allocation methodologies for (1) \$7 million included in the Budget Act of 2021 to cover costs associated with increased transcript rates, (2) \$30 million included in the Budget Act of 2021 to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law cases, and (3) Court Interpreter Program funding effective July 1, 2022.

Additionally, the committee considered recommendations on base funding floor increases for the Superior Courts of Alpine and Sierra Counties effective July 1, 2022, adjustments to the 2021–22 State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund allocation, delegation of authority to the Judicial Council Administrative Director to transfer Trial Court Trust Fund allocations between programs or projects, final one-time reductions for 2020-21 fund balances related to the trial court 3 percent fund balance cap, and the 2022 Annual Agenda of the TCBAC.

Also at this meeting, the Budget Committee heard an informational item from TCBAC on 2021–22 quarterly reporting of Fund Held of Behalf expenditures.

At the January 20, 2022 meeting, the Budget Committee received a status update on the closeout of the Court Innovations Grant Program, an update on the 2022–23 Governor’s Budget and was provided an education session on the services provided by Judicial Council Budget Services and the distribution of the second half of the \$60 million COVID backlog funding.

## **2022-23 Budget**

The Budget Committee Chair made the following comments in a presentation regarding the proposed 2022–23 Governor’s Budget to the Judicial Council:

The Budget Committee thanks the Chief Justice and Mr. Hoshino for their work with the Governor in delivering to the branch much needed, continued re-investment. The results are amazing, addressing key core structural needs the council identified at our meeting in July 2021: \$100 million in equity funding for trial courts, increased appropriations for technology and modernization, and 23 more trial judges bringing greater access to the most impacted courts. These are just a few examples of how the Chief Justices’ and Mr. Hoshino’s efforts address creating better, safer, more convenient, and more affordable access to justice.

And now we as a branch family need to come together and explain why the 2022–23 Governor’s Budget as proposed is important and valuable for us. We need to speak in a singular, strong voice about the importance of the investments in the branch the Chief Justice and Martin Hoshino described. And we will have plenty of opportunities to do that; with our local legislators, attorney groups and other justice partner stakeholders. As discussions in Sacramento continue, we on the Budget Committee will do our part to lend our voice to supporting the hard work of the Chief Justice, Mr. Hoshino and everyone in Judicial Council Budget Services who lent a hand to making this budget proposal a reality. We ask our branch family to join us—feel free to reach out to any committee member if you need assistance or resources for that.

For students of branch budgeting, you will recognize that what’s reflected in this year’s proposed budget tracks budget change proposals developed through the Budget committee and presented to the council last year. The process allows for all branch members to participate in helping to shape our fiscal priorities.

As you start advocating on behalf of the 2022–23 budget, remember we are beginning the 2023–24 budget change proposal discussions in March. The TCBAC met last week to gather input

from the trial courts on what they see as the most important needs for 2023–24. The Budget Committee will have several meetings this spring to develop potential budget priorities for the Judicial Council to consider this July. Join the conversation – tell us your thoughts. The committee welcomes all voices as we begin forming up priorities for 2023–24.

First, the Budget Committee would like to thank Judge Jon Conklin, Ms. Rebecca Fleming and all TCBAC members for their hard work in 2021. This is a hard-working committee—you will note there are 4 items they are presenting to the Judicial Council which they previously presented to the Budget Committee. We agree with their recommendations and we look forward to working with them this year.

Finally—the Budget Committee thanks the entire Budget Services team, led by John Wordlaw, Fran Mueller, and Zlatko Theodorovic, for their support of the Budget Committee and TCBAC. The work we do could not be accomplished without their support.