



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

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Title

Technology Committee Chair's Report

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Submitted by

Technology Committee
Hon. Kyle S. Brodie, Chair

Date of Report

March 13, 2023

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Executive Summary

As outlined in the California Rules of Court, rule 10.16, the Technology Committee oversees the Judicial Council's policies concerning information technology. The committee assists the council by providing technology recommendations focusing on the establishment of policies that emphasize long-term strategic leadership and that align with judicial branch goals. The committee is responsible for ensuring specific projects approved and funded by the council comply with the relevant council policies, proceed on schedule, and stay within scope and budget.

Overview of Committee Meetings

Since the January 20, Judicial Council meeting, the Technology Committee met by videoconference for an open meeting on February 6, 2023, March 3, 2023, and March 13, 2023.

Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC)

The Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) met on January 25, 2023, and March 8, 2023. ITAC proposed and the Technology Committee approved the 2023 ITAC Annual Agenda. ITAC also reviewed and accepted the final findings and recommendations of the E-Filing Program Review and Evaluation Workstream. The Technology Committee also approved the E-Filing Workstream's final findings and recommendations at its March 13, 2023, meeting.

IT Modernization Fund

Planning has started for the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2023–24 IT Modernization Fund program. As the IT Modernization Fund program has become permanent, that workstream has transitioned to ITAC. ITAC’s structure is more naturally suited to gathering the branchwide review of modernization proposals which has proven so important to the program’s success. The committee received an overview and discussed the process timeline, guiding principles, project requirements, and priorities at its March 3, 2023, meeting. The committee reviewed and determined top branch technology priorities for the program at its March 13, 2023, meeting. The committee will be following up with an action by email this week to solidify these priorities.

Jury Management System Grant Program

The budget for the Jury System Grant Program is funded by royalties from publishing jury instructions which are deposited in the Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund. These funds can only be used for jury-related technology projects. The Technology Committee previously approved allocations for the Jury Management System Grant program for fiscal year 2022–23 on October 3, 2022. To utilize remaining available grant funds, a second round of grant applications was opened on October 31, 2022. This second round was narrower in focus, assisting courts with projects related to the implementation of SB 592 which adds Franchise Tax Board as a valid juror source list. The committee approved these new requests at its March 13, 2023, meeting.

Remote Access to Courtroom Proceedings

Assembly Bill 716 requires remote access to courtroom proceedings. Budget Act of 2022 appropriated funding to support this mandate. The committee approved recommending to the Judicial Council the allocation of a first year of approximately \$32m in funding to courts, which the Judicial Council will consider at its March meeting. If approved, 28 courts would receive funding to upgrade 83 courtrooms with audio equipment. Additional courts and courtrooms will be eligible to request funding in the second year/cycle of this program, which is also anticipated to provide \$32 million. Due to increased project costs, there will be no funding for video upgrades. The Judicial Council will request additional funds from the Department of Finance, and video upgrades will be scheduled as funding permits for additional courtrooms.

Tactical Plan for Technology Update 2023–24

ITAC is sponsoring a workstream to update the Tactical Plan for Technology for 2023–24. A draft of the updated tactical plan will likely be circulated for public comment in spring 2023.