



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: May 15, 2020

Title

Rules Committee Chair's Report to the
Judicial Council

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

May 8, 2020

Submitted by

Justice Harry E. Hull, Jr., Chair
Rules Committee

Contact

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Executive Summary

The Rules Committee establishes and maintains the Judicial Council rule-making process and assists the council in making informed decisions about rules of court, forms, standards of judicial administration, and jury instructions. This report summarizes the committee's activities since the January 17th Judicial Council meeting—the last meeting at which there was a Rules Committee report. Since that time, the Rules Committee has met by telephone three times and acted by email once.

Overview of Committee Meetings

The Rules Committee met by telephone on January 22 to consider additions and revisions to Criminal Jury Instructions, an amendment to the Criminal Law Advisory Committee's annual agenda, and a technical revision report. The Rules Committee approved these items and the council approved the Criminal Jury Instructions proposal and technical revision report by Circulating Order Number CO-20-01 on April 15.

On January 30, the Rules Committee acted by email to consider revisions to forms to reflect 2020 increases in the federal poverty guidelines. The Rules Committee recommended approval of this proposal, which the council approved by Circulating Order Number CO-20-01 on April 15.

On February 25, the Rules Committee met by telephone to consider a proposal to change the names of two Judicial Council internal committees, including this committee. The Rules Committee recommended approval of this proposal, which the council approved by Circulating Order Number CO-20-01 on April 15.

The Rules Committee met by telephone on April 9 to consider the following:

- 11 rules and forms proposals that circulated for public comment during the winter comment cycle,
- A proposal recommending additions and revisions to Civil Jury Instructions that circulated for public comment,
- A proposal recommending minor revisions and nonsubstantive technical changes to Civil Jury Instructions—a proposal for which the council has delegated authority to the Rules Committee to approve, and
- 32 rules and forms proposal to circulate in the spring cycle.

The Rules Committee approved minor revisions to Civil Jury Instructions and approved the circulation of all rules and forms proposals, which are posted for public comment through June 9. Following public comment and review by the proponent committees and the Rules Committee, the proposals are expected to come before the council at the September 25 business meeting.

Recommendation

The Rules Committee recommends approval of the 11 rules and forms proposals and the Civil Jury Instructions that circulated for comment, which it considered on April 9 and which are on the council's consent agenda for May 15.