



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: 21-032

For business meeting on March 12, 2021

Title

Report to the Legislature: Court Reporter
Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court
Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil
Proceedings for 2019–20

Agenda Item Type

Information Only

Date of Report

February 18, 2021

Submitted by

Judicial Council staff
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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, 2021, the Judicial Council staff submitted the *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2019–20*.

Relevant Previous Council Action

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

Analysis/Rationale

In 2019–20, a total of \$20.8 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 2019–20, an estimated \$84.2 million was spent for the services of court reporters 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 types.

The \$84.2 million 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, 2019 (\$220.6 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$4.1 million) by 37.5 percent, which is the estimated percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases (civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family).

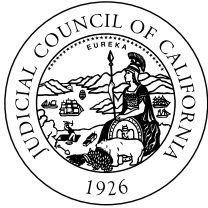
The percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases is based on the 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model. The RAS model measures the need for court reporters by applying a ratio of 1.25 for every judicial position needed in the corresponding case types. The percentage of estimated need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

Fiscal Impact and Policy Implications

The requirements of this report do not result in any additional costs or operational impact to 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 2019–20*



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Administrative Director
Judicial Council

February 1, 2021

Hon. Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
State Capitol, Room 5019
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 2019–20, 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 the report on court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in 2019–20.

In 2019–20, a total of \$20.8 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. Total expenditures for the court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings was \$84.2 million.

The \$20.8 million in court reporter fee revenue is comprised of the following:

- Under Government Code section 68086 (a)(1), fees in the amount of \$3.4 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting under one hour.

- 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 day and each succeeding judicial day that services were provided.
- Under Government Code section 68086.1, fees in the amount of \$15.3 million were deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund from the following:
 - 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 \$84.2 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. This amount estimated for court reporting in civil cases 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, 2019 (\$220.6 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$4.1 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 (civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family).

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

Hon. Nancy Skinner
Hon. Philip Y. Ting
February 1, 2021
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MH/OT

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel
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