



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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## REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Item No.: 21-104*

For business meeting on May 21, 2021

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**Title**

Rules Committee Chair's Report to the  
Judicial Council

**Agenda Item Type**

Information Only

**Date of Report**

May 18, 2021

**Submitted by**

Rules Committee

Hon. Harry E. Hull, Jr., Chair

**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 March 12, 2021, Judicial Council meeting—the last meeting at which there was a Rules Committee report. Since that time, the Rules Committee has met by telephone twice.

### Overview of Committee Meetings

#### April meeting

On April 14, 2021, the Rules Committee met by telephone to consider:

- Six proposals with final recommendations to the Judicial Council regarding rules and forms (the committee approved all moving on to the council);
- Two jury instruction proposals:
  - A proposal recommending the that council approve additions and revisions to Civil Jury Instructions that circulated for public comment (which the committee approved moving on to the council); and

- one 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 which the committee did approve.
- Fifteen rules and forms proposals to circulate for public comment in the spring cycle, all but one of which the committee approved to circulate (one was deferred and sent back to the proponent committee for further consideration).

Following public comment and further review by the proponent committees and the Rules Committee, if final recommendations are made on the rules and forms proposals that have been circulated for comment, they are expected to come before the council at the October 1 business meeting.

### **May meeting**

On May 13, 2021, the Rules Committee met by telephone and approved to circulate for public comment a proposal by the Work Group to Enhance Administrative Standards Addressing Bias in Court Proceedings to amend California Standards of Judicial Administration, standard 10.20 (Court's duty to prohibit bias).

If the proposal regarding standard rule 10.20 moves forward, it is expected to come before the council at the November council meeting.

### **Recommendation**

The Rules Committee recommends approval of the six rules and forms proposals and the Civil Jury Instructions that came before it with final recommendations, and which are on the council's consent agenda at the May 21, 2021 meeting.