



Judicial Council of California

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February 20, 2026.

Subject Text

Meeting materials
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File #: 19-081, Version: 1

Title

Judicial Workload Assessment | 2018 Judicial Workload Study Updated Caseweights (Action Required)

Summary

The Workload Assessment Advisory Committee (WAAC) recommends that the Judicial Council adopt the proposed Judicial Workload Study workload measures (caseweights) that are used as part of the formula for assessing judicial need in the trial courts. The council previously approved the Judicial Workload Study in 2001 and 2011; the study is updated periodically to capture current law and practice. The most recent update accounts for changes that have affected judicial workload since the last study. Further, WAAC recommends that the council approve transmitting to the Legislature an updated Judicial Needs Assessment per Government Code section 69614(c)(1) based on the new Judicial Workload Study measures and the established methodology for prioritization of judgeships. The Judicial Needs Assessment is submitted every November of even-numbered years and incorporates the most recent data available. The updated needs assessment would replace a preliminary version that was completed in 2018 using workload measures developed in 2011.

The committee will be refining the data gathering and analysis processes for this new methodology over the next year or so and anticipates that Judicial Needs Assessment will change over that time and continue to increase in accuracy.

Recommendation

The Workload Assessment Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective July 19, 2019:

- Approve the caseweights from the 2018 Judicial Workload Study update for use in evaluating statewide judicial workload, including for use in the biennial judicial needs assessment and to meet the requirements of Government Code section 69614(c)(2); and
- Approve the updated Judicial Needs Assessment for transmittal to the Legislature.

Speakers

Hon. Lorna A. Alksne, Chair, Workload Assessment Advisory Committee

Ms. Kristin Greenaway, Office of Court Research