



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: [XX-XXX]

For business meeting on October 23–24, 2025

Title

Judicial Branch Education: Sunset of
Pandemic-Related Deadline Extensions

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

January 1, 2026

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

Repeal Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.492

Date of Report

June 13, 2025

Recommended by

Center for Judicial Education and Resources
Advisory Committee
Hon. Darrell S. Mavis, Chair

Contact

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Executive Summary

Pandemic-related deadline extensions, contained within rule 10.492 of the California Rules of Court, provided judicial officers and judicial branch personnel additional time to complete continuing education requirements. By its sunset provision, the rule ceased to have effect on December 31, 2024. The Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee now recommends the Judicial Council make a technical amendment to repeal rule 10.492 in its entirety to eliminate any actual or potential confusion that the extensions may remain in effect.

Recommendation

The Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2026, repeal rule 10.492 of the California Rules of Court to eliminate any actual or potential confusion that the pandemic-related deadline extensions for continuing education remain in place. The proposed repeal is attached at pages 3–5.

Relevant Previous Council Action

At its business meeting on November 13, 2020, the Judicial Council adopted rule 10.492 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic that led to the widespread cancellation and postponement

of in-person educational training. The pandemic made it difficult to comply with the continuing education requirements for judicial officers and judicial branch personal contained in rules 10.461–10.479. The council amended rule 10.492 in 2021 to extend the deadline even further for new judicial officers to attend the B. E. Witkin Judicial College.

Analysis/Rationale

The proposal is recommended to eliminate any actual or potential confusion that the deadline extensions remain in effect. Under rule 10.492(e), the entire rule sunsetted effective December 31, 2024. Potentially, anyone who joined the bench or became a judicial branch employee before that date could misinterpret the rule and believe that the extensions remain in effect or were “acquired” on the date of their oath or first day of employment. For example, a judge who assumed office on December 1, 2024, could mistakenly believe that they have 4.5 years from that date, or until June 30, 2029, to attend the judicial college. Repealing the rule eliminates the potential for this confusion.

Policy implications

There are no policy implications of the recommendation in this proposal.

Comments

The proposal was not circulated for public comment. However, the proposed repeal was considered via email by the Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee in compliance with rule 10.75(o) of the California Rules of Court.

Alternatives considered

The only viable alternative is to leave rule 10.492 on record until it is repurposed or repealed at a future date. Given that this alternative did not address the rule’s actual or potential ability to cause current confusion, this alternative was rejected.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The proposal will result in no fiscal or operational costs to the courts or the Judicial Council.

Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.493, at pages 3–5
2. Link A: Cal. Rules of Court, rules 10.461–10.479, <https://courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index/ten>

Rule 10.492 of the California Rules of Court is repealed, effective January 1, 2026, to read:

1 **Rule 10.492. Temporary extension and pro rata reduction of judicial branch**
2 **education requirements [Repealed]**

3
4 **(a) — Application**

5
6 This rule applies to the requirements and expectations in the California Rules of
7 Court relating to judicial branch education, except rule 10.491 on minimum
8 education requirements for Judicial Council employees.
9

10 **(b) — Definitions**

11 As used in this rule:

12
13
14 (1) — “Content-based education requirement” means a requirement or expectation
15 of:

16
17 (A) — Attendance at any specific program;

18
19 (B) — A course of study on any specific topic or topics; or

20
21 (C) — A course of study limited to a specific delivery method, such as
22 traditional (live, face-to-face) education.
23

24 (2) — “Hours-based education requirement” means a requirement or expectation of
25 a specified number of hours of education to be completed within a specified
26 time period.
27

28 **(c) — Content-based education requirement**

29
30 (1) — Notwithstanding any other rule, any deadline for completion of a content-
31 based education requirement or expectation, except for the deadline for the B.
32 E. Witkin Judicial College, is extended for 12 months from that deadline,
33 even if the deadline has passed.
34

35 (2) — The deadline for completion of the B. E. Witkin Judicial College is extended
36 for 30 months from the deadline specified in rule 10.462(c)(1)(C), even if the
37 deadline has passed.
38

39 **(d) — Hours-based education requirement**

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41 Notwithstanding any other rule, the months of April 2020 through March 2021 are
42 excluded from the education cycles in which those months fall, and the number of

1 hours of education to complete hours-based education requirements or expectations
2 is prorated accordingly.

3
4 **(e) — Sunset**

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6 This rule remains in effect through December 31, 2024, or until amended or
7 repealed.

8
9 **Advisory Committee Comment**

10
11 Various rules in title 10, chapter 7, of the California Rules of Court authorize, for good cause, the
12 granting of an extension of time to complete content-based and hours-based education
13 requirements and expectations. Nothing in this rule modifies that authority.

14
15 Nothing in this rule alters education requirements and expectations outside the California Rules
16 of Court, including education requirements mandated by statute or regulation (e.g., Welf. & Inst.
17 Code, § 304.7) or required by Judicial Council policy (e.g., the Qualifying Ethics Program and
18 the Temporary Assigned Judges Program).

19
20 Subdivision (e). This subdivision applies to all rules of court containing content-based education
21 requirements. Below are examples of this subdivision in practice.

22
23 Rule 10.462(e)(1) contains education requirements for new trial court judges and subordinate
24 judicial officers. Based on the date on which individuals took their oath of office, rule
25 10.462(e)(1) allows judges six months within which to attend the New Judge Orientation (NJO)
26 program, one year within which to attend an orientation course in their primary assignment, and
27 two years within which to attend the B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California.

28
29 Under rule 10.462(e)(1), a judge who took the oath of office on January 1, 2020, is required to
30 complete these programs by June 30, 2020 (NJO), December 31, 2020 (primary assignment
31 orientation), and December 31, 2021 (judicial college), respectively. With the 12-month
32 extension under rule 10.492(e)(1), this same judge now has to complete NJO by June 30, 2021,
33 and a primary assignment orientation by December 31, 2021. With the 30-month extension under
34 rule 10.492(e)(2), the same judge must now complete the judicial college by June 30, 2024.

35
36 As another example of the extensions under rule 10.492(e), a judge who took the oath of office on
37 December 1, 2018, needs to complete NJO by May 31, 2020 (within 18 months), a primary
38 assignment orientation by November 30, 2020 (within two years), and the judicial college by May
39 31, 2023 (within 4.5 years).

40
41 Using a different rule as an example, rule 10.478(b)(1) requires court investigators to complete 18
42 hours of education on specified topics within 1 year of their start date. Rule 10.492(e) allows a
43 court investigator up to 2 years to complete this education.

1
2 **Subdivision (d).** This subdivision applies to all rules of court containing hours-based education
3 requirements. Below are examples of this subdivision in practice.

4
5 Rule 10.461(e)(1) contains education requirements for Supreme Court and Court of Appeal
6 justices. Each justice must complete 30 hours of judicial education every three years.

7
8 Under rule 10.492(d), a justice's hours requirements are prorated for the three-year education
9 cycle that runs from January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2021. For example, justices who
10 were confirmed for appointment before January 1, 2019, must complete 20 hours of education by
11 December 31, 2021.

12
13 Education hours requirements for justices who were confirmed for appointment on or after
14 January 1, 2019, would be prorated by rule 10.492(d) and prorated additionally based on the
15 number of years remaining in the three-year educational cycle. For example, a justice confirmed
16 for appointment on October 1, 2020, ordinarily has 10 hours of hours-based education to
17 complete for the last year of the three-year cycle. Under rule 10.492(d), the months of January
18 2021 through March 2021 would be excluded, and the justice would have 7.5 hours rather than 10
19 hours of hours-based education to complete.

20
21 As an additional example, rule 10.474(e)(2) requires 8 hours of continuing education every two
22 years for nonmanagement court staff. For a court employee hired on or before January 1, 2020,
23 rule 10.492(d) prorates the number of hours of education required for the cycle that runs from
24 January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2021. The number of hours required would be prorated
25 for 4 quarters—April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021—and would result in a reduced hours-
26 based requirement of 4 hours.