



Budget Change Proposal for Racial Justice Act Cases

Criminal Law Advisory Committee

January 29, 2026

Timeframes

January 2026	February-April 2026	May 2026	May-June 2026	July 2026	September 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff submit the BCC to Judicial Branch Budget Committee (JBBC) for review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff respond to comments or questions from JBBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff are informed if the BCC is approved for development into an BCP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff develop and submit final BCPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final BCPs presented to the Judicial Council for approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BCPs approved by the Judicial Council are submitted to Department of Finance

Request Description

- The Judicial Council of California requests 17 positions and \$10.4 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and \$15.7 million (17 positions and \$15.7 million in General Fund in FY 2028–29 and ongoing) to support statewide appellate court operations for adjudicating cases pursuant to the Racial Justice Act (RJA), enacted in 2020 and expanded in 2022 by AB 256. (Pen. Code §745; AB 2542; AB256.) This General Fund request consists of three components:

Request Description cont.

- 1) Provide the Appellate Courts (Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal) 17.0 full time positions and \$4.7 million to address the internal operational costs related to RJA support;
- 2) Provide the Court Appointed Counsel (CAC) Programs (Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal) \$11.2 million to support the capital and appellate court-appointed counsel and project offices on cases with RJA issues; and
- 3) Provide permanent FY 2027-28 grant funding of \$11.9 million to the Trial Courts to address the costs related to RJA support.