



**COURT SECURITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION**

November 2, 2023

12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Audio Livestream

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**Advisory Body Members Present:** Hon. Charlaine F. Olmedo, Chair, Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

Hon. Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian, Vice-Chair, Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District

Hon. Andrew E. Cooper, Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

Ms. Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Shasta

Hon. Margaret Fujioka, Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Alameda

Mr. Justin Mammen, Emergency Response and Security Services Manager, Superior Court of California, County of Orange

Mr. Darrel E. Parker, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara

Mr. Hugh K. Swift, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Stanislaus

Ms. Amanda Toste, Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Merced

Mr. Baltazar Vazquez, Clerk/Executive Officer, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** Hon. R. Glenn Yabuno, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino

**Others Present:** Ms. Dawn Payne, Attorney, Legal Services, Judicial Council of California

Ms. Pella McCormick, Director, Facilities Services, Judicial Council of California

Mr. Tamer Ahmed, Deputy Director, Facilities Services, Judicial Council of California

Ms. Vickie Akers, Analyst, Emergency Planning and Security Coordination Unit, Facilities Services, Judicial Council of California

Mr. Edward Ellestad, Supervisor, Emergency Planning and Security Coordination Unit, Facilities Services, Judicial Council of California

Ms. Lisa Gotch, Analyst, Emergency Planning and Security Coordination Unit, Facilities Services, Judicial Council of California

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**OPEN MEETING**

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**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m., and staff took roll call.

**Approval of Minutes**

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 10, 2023, Court Security Advisory Committee meeting.

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**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

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**Info 1**

**2024 Meetings and Timelines**

Staff provided an update on 2024 quarterly meetings, meeting platform, and draft annual agenda timeline.

**Item 1**

**Screening Equipment Replacement Program (No Action Required)**

Members discussed a proposed project for the committee's 2024 draft annual agenda. The Screening Equipment Replacement Program began in Fiscal Year (FY) 2006–07 and replaces trial court x-ray machines and magnetometers. It receives ongoing funding of \$2,286,000 annually for the replacement of existing equipment. In FY 2007–08 approval authority was delegated to the Administrative Director, along with responsibility for an annual report to the Judicial Council at the end of each cycle. The proposed project would recommend shifting approval authority and reporting to this advisory committee (to be consistent with the existing process for the Security Systems Program, streamline staff workload, and reduce the timeframe for approval, allowing for greater flexibility).<sup>1</sup>

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**ADJOURNMENT**

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There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on March 19, 2026.

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<sup>1</sup> February 9, 2024: staff reported Facilities Services was asked to leave Screening Equipment Replacement Program approvals/reporting “as is” (thus, the above-mentioned project was not included in the 2024 draft Annual Agenda).

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**C L O S E D   S E S S I O N**

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**Approval of Minutes**

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the August 10, 2023, closed session.

**Item 1**

**Trial Court Security Systems**

***Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(d)***

Mr. Ellestad discussed page 5 of the materials, the cover sheet for the Security Systems Program that refreshes, maintains, replaces, improves, and installs electronic security equipment/systems. This sheet was updated after the last meeting, to replace outdated blanket approvals with new ones, and clarify which amounts are updated each Fiscal Year. Mr. Ellestad presented page 6 of the materials, proposed projects. Judge Fujioka abstained from voting on the Alameda project, and Justice Manoukian abstained from voting on the Santa Clara project in San Jose, but they approved all others. Members approved 7 projects relating to access, video, and detention control systems for a total of \$442,396.64.

**Item 2**

**Court Threat Assessment**

***Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(d)***

Judge Cooper provided an overview of actions taken in Los Angeles to address gaps in threat intelligence gathering. Local law enforcement is working with the court on a threat assessment center and the court will hire a threat assessment analyst with clearance to be located in a joint intelligence center. The analyst will search open source databases, dark web areas, and other areas for threats to Los Angeles judges that may otherwise not be identified, as judicial officers should not be searching for threats against themselves, and collaborate with law enforcement. The California Highway Patrol has a similar model for the Supreme Court/appellate courts.

Mr. Mammen reported that the Superior Court of Orange County partnered with the secret service to develop their own threat assessment team, and they brought experts from National Threat Assessment Center. This will support work related to recently-passed Senate Bill 563, as written workplace violence plans will require written threat assessments. The planning also ties in to a recent active shooter threat at the court. Mr. Ellestad noted that Los Angeles and Orange courts are on the right track to help develop a repository of information to track these threats; having the terrorism liaison office and regional intelligence centers will be helpful to all.

Judge Olmedo asked about unit offerings for courts that cannot implement similar actions. Mr. Ellestad provided details about court security/assessment, privacy, and emergency planning trainings. The unit's primary instructor Eddie Gonzales collaborates with Judge Cooper.

Adjourned closed session at 12:46 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on February 13, 2024.