



Judicial Council of California
 Judicial Branch Budget Committee

JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE

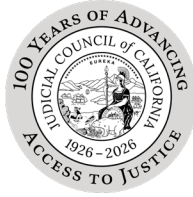
**MATERIALS MAY 20, 2026
 VIRTUAL MEETING**

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Judicial Council of California

**JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE
NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN ELECTRONIC MEETING**

May 20, 2026

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Public Access: <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/5098>

Open to the public (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c) and (e)(1)).

Meeting materials for open portions of the meeting will be posted on the [Judicial Branch Budget Committee](#) webpage on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Request for ADA accommodations should be made at least three business days before the meeting and directed to: JCCAccessCoordinator@jud.ca.gov.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the open meeting portion of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be emailed to JBBC@jud.ca.gov.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of the April 23, 2026, Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K))

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means. As such, the public may make comments in writing, in person, or remotely.

Written Comment

In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be emailed to JBBC@jud.ca.gov. Only written comments received by 1:00 p.m. May 19, 2026, will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

Remote Public Comment

Members of the public requesting to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting must provide the speaker's name, the name of the organization that the speaker represents if any, and the agenda item that the public comment will address. Requests to make a remote public comment must be received by 1:00 p.m. May 19, 2026, via email to JBBC@jud.ca.gov. The chair will establish speaking limits at the beginning of the public comment session. While the advisory body welcomes and encourages public comment, time may not permit all individuals requesting to speak to be heard at this meeting.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–3)

Item 1

Allocations from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of allocations from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund in support of the trial courts for fiscal year 2026–27.

Presenters: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Ms. Aman Singh, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

Item 2

Allocations for Trial Court Operations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and General Fund in support of the trial courts for fiscal year 2026–27.

Presenters: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Chair, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
Ms. Oksana Tuk, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

Item 3

Judicial Branch Budget Change Concepts for Fiscal Year 2027–28 (Action Required)

Review of budget change concepts for the judicial branch for fiscal year 2027–28.

Facilitator: Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee

IV. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Governor's Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Update on the May Revision to the Governor's Budget for fiscal year 2026–27.

Presenter: Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Director, Judicial Council Budget Services

Info 2

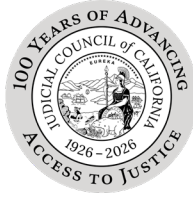
Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024–25

Annual report for the Fund Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts program regarding open projects and projects completed in fiscal year 2024–25.

Presenter: Ms. Megan Ellis, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services

V. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn



Judicial Council of California

**JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION**

April 23, 2026

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Videoconference

Members Present: Hon. Ann C. Moorman, Chair; Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Vice-Chair; Hon. Brad R. Hill; Hon. Maria Lucy Armendariz; Hon. Michael Rhoads; and Mr. Charles Johnson

Members Absent: Ms. Rachel Hill and Ms. Kate Bieker

Others Present: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin, Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Sarah Davis, Ms. Leah Rose-Goodwin, Ms. Angela Cowan, Ms. Deidre Benedict, Ms. Lollie Roberts, Ms. Kelly Ragsdale, and Ms. Rose Lane

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:46 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body approved the minutes of the February 19, 2026, Judicial Branch Budget Committee (Budget Committee) meeting and March 5, 2026, Action by E-mail Between Meetings.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1–5)

Item 1

Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act Funding Allocation for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act allocations for fiscal year 2026–27

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee recommendation for Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act allocations to the trial courts for fiscal year 2026–27 as outlined in Attachment 1A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for fiscal year 2026–27. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.*

Item 2

Pretrial Release Program Allocation for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of Pretrial Release Program allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026:*

1. *Approve the fiscal year 2026–27 allocations, including the funding floor allocations, for the Pretrial Release Program as outlined in Attachment 2A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for fiscal year 2026–27.*
2. *Direct Judicial Council staff to conduct a midyear survey of expenditures and spending plans in November 2026 to determine which jurisdictions anticipate having unspent funding and which jurisdictions anticipate a demonstrated need for additional funding and recommend a methodology for reallocating funding between the trial courts based on demonstrated need.*

Item 3

AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026:*

1. *Approve Child Support Commissioner allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 using the existing workload-based methodology, as described in the report and reflected in Attachment A.*
2. *Approve Family Law Facilitator allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 using the existing population-based methodology, as described in the report and reflected in Attachment B.*
3. *Authorize distribution of federal drawdown funding consistent with the methodology previously adopted by the Judicial Council and based on the court's surveyed request for these funds.*

Item 4

Court Reporter Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of court reporter allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 for family law and civil case types.

Action: *The Budget Committee unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026:*

1. *Allocate \$30 million for court reporters on a proportional basis using the council-approved methodology with assessed judicial need data based on the 2022 Judicial Needs Assessment as outlined in Attachment 4A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27.*
2. *Direct council staff to conduct a midyear survey in fiscal year 2026–27 and authorize a corresponding reallocation process to ensure maximum use of available funds to support court reporters in family law and civil case types.*

Item 5

Additional Judicial Branch Budget Change Concept for FY 2027–28 (Action Required)

Review of additional fiscal year 2027–28 budget change concepts for the judicial branch.

Action: No action taken.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

C L O S E D S E S S I O N (C A L . R U L E S O F C O U R T , R U L E 1 0 . 7 5 (D) (5))

Item 1

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 10.75 (D)(5) (No Action Required)

Security plans, procedures, or other matters.

Review and discussion of security aspects of fiscal year 2027–28 budget change concepts for the judicial branch.

Action: No action taken.

Adjourned closed session at 1:44 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Allocations from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Date: 5/20/2026

Contact: Aman Singh, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services
916-643-6934 | amanpreet.singh@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Consider recommendations from the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee for the fiscal year (FY) 2026–27 allocations from the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF) to fund specific programs and services for the trial courts. The proposed allocations include updated costs for current service levels as reflected in the FY 2026–27 Governor’s Budget and additional funding for newly proposed initiatives within the Judicial Council’s Human Resources and Research, Analytics, and Data offices.

Proposed FY 2026–27 Allocations

The proposed FY 2026–27 IMF allocations for various Judicial Council offices, totaling \$47.8 million, are detailed in Attachment 1A and represent a decrease of \$50,000 from the previous year (Attachment 1A, Row 35). Attachment 1B provides narrative descriptions of the programs receiving IMF allocations. Attachment 1C displays the IMF Fund Condition Statement.

The IMF maintains a \$2 million reserve to protect against potential revenue declines, as authorized by the Judicial Council in June 2016. The reserve may be used, if needed, to support program operations¹. However, the reserve is not expected to be needed to support the FY 2026–27 allocation recommendations. Based on current revenue estimates, the fund is estimated to have a sufficient balance for the proposed allocations and remains solvent for the foreseeable future (Attachment 1C, Row 25).

The proposed FY 2026–27 allocation requests by Judicial Council offices are described below:

1. **Audit Services** – Conducts operational audits, risk assessments, and recommends improvements to all judicial branch entities.

¹ Judicial Council meeting (June 24, 2016), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=4496693&GUID=FE6C1F1D-A68F-4CB8-B4E7-0596B5A59994>; Judicial Council meeting minutes (June 24, 2016), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=M&ID=463475&GUID=28948114-D867-4D11-B68D-35EE2EE711C5>

- a. Approve an allocation of \$423,000; a decrease of \$10,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The allocation is for conducting performance and compliance audits of the 58 trial courts.
 - ii. The adjustment is due to decreased staffing and rent costs.
- 2. Branch Accounting and Procurement** – Supports the trial courts’ financial and human resources Phoenix System.
 - a. Approve an allocation of \$309,000; an increase of \$4,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The allocation is for two staff, one each in the treasury unit and procurement unit, and for providing contract-related services to produce statewide leveraged procurement agreements.
 - ii. The adjustment is due to increased staffing and rent costs.
- 3. Budget Services** – Supports meetings of various budget committees and subcommittees related to trial court funding, policies, and other issues.
 - a. Approve an allocation of \$8,000; no change from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The allocation is for the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and subcommittee meetings, and annual revenue distribution and collections reporting trainings.
- 4. Center for Families, Children & the Courts** – Supports various programs within the courts for litigants.
 - a. Approve an allocation of \$5.3 million; a decrease of \$169,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The allocation is for providing Domestic Violence forms in languages other than English to all courts; enabling all courts to use Hotdocs Document Assembly Applications while filing documents; court-based assistance to self-represented litigants; supporting the Beyond the Bench conference, Child & Family Focused Education Conference, and Youth Summit; funding for legal services agencies and their court partners to provide representation to indigent persons; and updating the Self-represented Litigants Statewide Support Program and expanding the online California Courts Self-Help Center on the judicial branch website.
 - ii. The largest portion of the decrease in allocation is due to transferring the Court Interpreter Testing program, with an allocation of \$143,000, to Leadership Support Services.
 - iii. The Shriver Civil Counsel Program cy pres funding decreased by \$26,000. This request represents the current available balance of cy pres funds as of February 2026. This funding is the available balance from class action lawsuits collected in FY 2019–20 and can only be used for this purpose. Minor revenue deposits have continued to be collected related to lawsuits from that year.
 - iv. The \$5 million for Self-Help Centers is a majority of the allocation. Budget bill language requires unspent funds for Self-Help to revert to the General Fund.

5. **Center for Judicial Education and Resources** – Provides education to judges, court leaders, court staff faculty, managers, supervisors, and lead staff.
 - a. *Approve an allocation of \$2.3 million; a decrease of \$578,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The allocation is for faculty development, participant expenses, training for court leaders, the Court Clerks Training Institute, and for newly elected or appointed judges and subordinate judicial officers’ education programs.
 - ii. The decrease reflects a projected reduction in judicial appointments in FY 2026–27. As a result, fewer new judge education programs will be offered, including one less Judicial College session.
6. **Criminal Justice Services** – Supports the Judicial Council’s Criminal Jury Instructions Advisory Committee.
 - a. *Approve an allocation of \$9,000; there is no change from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The allocation is for the criminal portion of the Jury Instructions and is funded by royalties generated from their sales, which are deposited in the IMF.
7. **Human Resources** – Supports the Trial Court Labor Relations Academy and Forum to assist trial court staff in addressing various labor issues and the Judges Pay and Benefits Program.
 - a. *Approve an allocation of \$410,000; an increase of \$387,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The Academy and Forum is held biennially. No event is scheduled in FY 2026–27 and funding is not needed.
 - ii. The increase is to support a new Judges Pay and Benefits Program which provides comprehensive payroll and benefits administration for 1,253 judges and justices. Payroll services include processing appointments, elevations, separations, retirements, and accounts receivable transactions. The program’s responsibilities have expanded, and new duties include distributing accounts receivable memos for the retroactive collection of health and dental premium amounts and processing all manual State Controller’s Office pay rate adjustments. The allocation will fund two full-time Associate Human Resources Analysts.
8. **Information Technology** – Supports information technology systems for the 58 trial courts.
 - a. *Approve an allocation of \$34.5 million; an increase of \$314,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.*
 - i. The allocation is for the Data Center and Cloud Service to host services for the 58 trial courts, the appellate courts, and the Supreme Court; the distribution and mandated reporting of uniform civil fees collected by the 58 trial courts; the California Courts Protective Order Registry; for developing and supporting a standardized level of network infrastructure for the trial courts; the Enterprise Policy and Planning program which provides a variety of Oracle products to the courts; data integration; and the Jury Management System.
 - ii. The allocation includes adjustments to Data Integration and the Judicial Branch Technology Services Data Center and Cloud Services due to increased staffing costs.

- iii. The allocation also includes adjustments to Statewide Planning and Development Support, Telecom, and Uniform Civil Filing Services to reflect minor program changes, staffing updates, and rent.

9. Leadership Support Services – Supports the trial court judicial officers for the Commission on Judicial Performance defense master insurance policy.

a. Approve an allocation of \$2.2 million; a decrease of \$112,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.

- i. The allocation is for the Judicial Performance Defense Insurance program which is used to pay the insurance premium for trial court judges and judicial officers for the Commission on Judicial Performance defense master insurance policy. The reduction reflects a decrease in the insurance premium.
- ii. The allocation request includes the transfer of the Court Interpreter Testing program with a \$143,000 allocation to Leadership Support Services from the Center for Families, Children & the Courts.

10. Legal Services – Supports the various Judicial Council offices and the courts, manages litigation, is responsible for maintaining the California Rules of Court and Judicial Council forms, and supports the Civil Jury Instructions Advisory Committee.

a. Approve an allocation of \$2.3 million; a decrease of \$26,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.

- i. The allocation is for the Regional Office Assistance Group of Legal Services to provide direct services to the trial courts; the Litigation Management Program, which manages litigation and provides for the defense and indemnification of all judicial branch entities, bench officers, and employees; and for the civil portion of the Jury Instructions which is funded by royalties generated from their sales.
- ii. The adjustment is due to an anticipated decrease in settlement expenditures for the Litigation Management Program.

11. Research, Analytics, and Data – Supports the judicial branch’s research, data, and analytic functions and conducts the workload study and judicial needs assessment.

a. Approve an allocation of \$149,000; an increase of \$140,000 from the FY 2025–26 allocation.

- i. The allocation is for the Data Analytics Advisory Committee meeting expenses for court personnel and judges related to workload studies.
- ii. The increase in allocation is for a limited-term resource to support data validation work for trial courts that are participating in a viability assessment for data analytics and reporting in the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System. This project will be part of the data analytics and data integration platform sponsored by the Data Analytics Advisory Committee.

Recommendation

Approve the proposed FY 2026–27 IMF allocations, totaling \$47.8 million, detailed in Attachment 1A.

The recommended allocations will be considered by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.

Attachments

Attachment 1A: Judicial Council of California Approved FY 2025–26 and Proposed FY 2026–27 Allocations, State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund – State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations

Attachment 1B: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund – Summary of Programs

Attachment 1C: State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund – Fund Condition Statement FY 2026–27

**Judicial Council of California
Approved FY 2025–26 and Proposed FY 2026–27 Allocations
State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
State Operations and Local Assistance Appropriations**

#	Program Name and Adjustments	Office	FY 2025-26 Judicial Council Approved Allocations	Recommended FY 2026–27 State Operations Allocations	Recommended FY 2026–27 Local Assistance Allocations	Total	\$ Change from FY 2025–26	% Change from FY 2025–26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G = (E + F)	H = (G - D)	I = (H/D)
1	Audit Services	AS	\$ 433,000	\$ 423,000	\$ -	\$ 423,000	\$ (10,000)	-2.3%
2	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BAP	109,000	109,000	-	109,000	-	0.0%
3	Trial Court Procurement	BAP	196,000	200,000	-	200,000	\$ 4,000	2.0%
4	Budget Focused Training and Meetings	BS	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	-	0.0%
5	Revenue Distribution Training	BS	3,000	3,000	-	3,000	-	0.0%
6	Court Interpreter Testing (moved to LSS 10/2025)	CFCC	143,000	-	-	-	\$ (143,000)	-100.0%
7	Domestic Violence Forms Translation	CFCC	17,000	-	17,000	17,000	-	0.0%
8	Interactive Software - Self-Rep Electronic Forms	CFCC	60,000	-	60,000	60,000	-	0.0%
9	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel- Cy Pres Funding	CFCC	93,000	-	67,000	67,000	\$ (26,000)	-28.0%
10	Self-Help Center	CFCC	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	0.0%
11	Statewide Multidisciplinary Education	CFCC	67,000	-	67,000	67,000	-	0.0%
12	Statewide Support for Self-Help Programs	CFCC	100,000	-	100,000	100,000	-	0.0%
13	CJER Faculty	CJER	48,000	-	48,000	48,000	-	0.0%
14	Essential Court Management Education	CJER	40,000	40,000	-	40,000	-	0.0%
15	Essential Court Personnel Education	CJER	130,000	-	130,000	130,000	-	0.0%
16	Judicial Education	CJER	2,611,000	145,000	1,888,000	2,033,000	\$ (578,000)	-22.1%
17	Jury System Improvement Projects	CJS	9,000	9,000	-	9,000	-	0.0%
18	Trial Court Labor Relations Academies and Forums	HR	23,000	-	-	-	\$ (23,000)	-100.0%
19	Judges Pay and Benefits Program	HR	-	410,000	-	410,000	\$ 410,000	100.0%
20	California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)	IT	1,047,000	452,000	606,000	1,058,000	\$ 11,000	1.1%
21	Data Integration	IT	1,780,000	936,000	1,059,000	1,995,000	\$ 215,000	12.1%
22	Judicial Branch Technology Services (JBTS) Data Center and Cloud Service	IT	7,483,000	2,052,000	5,484,000	7,536,000	\$ 53,000	0.7%
23	Jury Management System	IT	600,000	-	600,000	600,000	-	0.0%
24	Statewide Planning and Dev Support	IT	2,032,000	467,000	1,566,000	2,033,000	\$ 1,000	0.0%
25	Telecom	IT	5,714,000	1,343,000	4,384,000	5,727,000	\$ 13,000	0.2%
26	Telecommunications	IT	15,100,000	-	15,100,000	15,100,000	-	0.0%
27	Uniform Civil Filing Services	IT	467,000	428,000	60,000	488,000	\$ 21,000	4.5%
28	Court Interpreter Testing etc.	LSS	-	-	143,000	143,000	\$ 143,000	100.0%
29	Judicial Performance Defense Insurance	LSS	2,276,000	2,000	2,019,000	2,021,000	\$ (255,000)	-11.2%
30	Jury System Improvement Projects	LS	10,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	0.0%
31	Litigation Management Program	LS	1,200,000	-	1,200,000	1,200,000	-	0.0%
32	Regional Office Assistance Group	LS	1,091,000	1,065,000	-	1,065,000	\$ (26,000)	-2.4%
33	Data Analytics Advisory Committee	RAD	9,000	-	9,000	9,000	-	0.0%
34	Data Validation for JBSIS Proof of Concept for Trial Courts	RAD	-	140,000	-	140,000	\$ 140,000	100.0%
35	Total	-	\$ 47,896,000	\$ 8,229,000	\$ 39,617,000	\$ 47,846,000	\$ (50,000)	-0.1%

Totals by Office

#	Legend	Office	Judicial Council Approved Allocations	State Operations	Local Assistance	Total	\$ Change from FY 2025–26	% Change from FY 2025–26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G = (E + F)	H = (G - D)	I = (H/D)
36	Audit Services	AS	\$ 433,000	\$ 423,000	\$ -	\$ 423,000	\$ (10,000)	-2.3%
37	Branch Accounting and Procurement	BAP	305,000	309,000	-	309,000	\$ 4,000	1.3%
38	Budget Services	BS	8,000	8,000	-	8,000	-	0.0%
39	Center for Families, Children & the Courts	CFCC	5,480,000	-	5,311,000	5,311,000	\$ (169,000)	-3.1%
40	Center for Judicial Education and Resources	CJER	2,829,000	185,000	2,066,000	2,251,000	\$ (578,000)	-20.4%
41	Criminal Justice Services	CJS	9,000	9,000	-	9,000	-	0.0%
42	Human Resources	HR	23,000	410,000	-	410,000	\$ 387,000	1682.6%
43	Information Technology	IT	34,223,000	5,678,000	28,859,000	34,537,000	\$ 314,000	0.9%
44	Leadership Support Services	LSS	2,276,000	2,000	2,162,000	2,164,000	\$ (112,000)	-4.9%
45	Legal Services	LS	2,301,000	1,065,000	1,210,000	2,275,000	\$ (26,000)	-1.1%
46	Research, Analytics, and Data	RAD	9,000	140,000	9,000	149,000	\$ 140,000	1555.6%
47	Total Allocations	-	\$ 47,896,000	\$ 8,229,000	\$ 39,617,000	\$ 47,846,000	\$ (50,000)	-0.1%

Note:
¹Technical corrections were made to the percentages in Column I since the report was presented to the Revenue & Expenditure Subcommittee and Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee. This column is for display purposes only and there is no impact on the proposed allocation amounts for FY 2026-27.

**State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
Summary of Programs**

Row #	Program Name	Office	Program Description
A	B	C	D
1	Audit Services	AS	Conducts performance and compliance audits of the State's 58 trial courts per the annual audit plan.
2	Treasury Services - Cash Management	BAP	Used for the compensation, operating expenses and equipment costs for one accounting staff.
3	Trial Court Procurement	BAP	Pays for personal services and rent allocation for one position in Branch Accounting and Procurement that provides procurement and contract related services at a statewide level.
4	Budget Focused Training and Meetings	BS	Supports meetings of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee and associated subcommittees on the preparation, development, and implementation of the budget for trial courts and provides input to the Judicial Council on policy issues affecting Trial Court Funding.
5	Revenue Distribution Training	BS	Pays for annual training on Revenue Distribution to all the collection programs as well as annual CRT training.
6	Domestic Violence Forms Translation	CFCC	This program makes available to all courts, translation of domestic violence protective order forms in languages other than English. Since 2000, these forms have been translated into Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean based on data from various language needs studies.
7	Interactive Software - Self-Rep Electronic Forms	CFCC	This program enables all courts to use Hotdocs Document Assembly Applications, which present court users with a Q&A format that automatically populates fields across all filing documents.
8	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel- Cy Pres Funding	CFCC	This program provides funding for legal services agencies and their court partners to provide representation to indigent persons in cases involving housing, child custody, guardianship, conservatorships, and domestic violence.
9	Self-Help Center	CFCC	Provides court-based assistance to self-represented litigants.
10	Statewide Multidisciplinary Education	CFCC	Supports the biannual Beyond the Bench Conference, biannual Child & Family Focused Education Conference and annual Youth Summit.
11	Statewide Support for Self-Help Programs	CFCC	The Self-represented Litigants Statewide Support Program updates and expands the online California Courts Self-Help Center on the judicial branch website. Further, this program facilitates the translating of over 50 Judicial Council forms that are used regularly by self-represented litigants.
12	CJER Faculty	CJER	Lodging, meals, and travel for faculty development participants. Primarily development of pro bono judge and court staff faculty who will teach all CJER programs for the trial courts.
13	Essential Court Management Education	CJER	National and statewide training for court leaders, including Institute for Court Management (ICM) courses, CJER Core 40 and Core 24 courses, & other local & regional courses for managers, supervisors and lead staff.
14	Essential Court Personnel Education	CJER	The Court Clerks Training Institute - courtroom and court legal process education in civil, traffic, criminal, probate, family, juvenile, appellate. Regional and local court personnel courses. The biennial Trial Court Judicial Attorneys Institute.
15	Judicial Education	CJER	Programs for all newly elected or appointed judges and subordinate judicial officers required by Rule of Court 10.462 (c)(1) to complete the new judge education programs offered by CJER; Judicial Institutes, courses for experienced judges; programs for PJs, CEOs & Supervising Judges.
16	Jury System Improvement Projects	CJS	This program is related to Jury Instructions and is a "self-funding" PCC. Funds in this account are generated by royalties generated from sales of criminal and civil jury instructions. The funds are deposited pursuant to the Government Code.
17	Trial Court Labor Relations Academies and Forums	HR	The Judicial Council's Human Resources office has updated its Trial Court Labor Relations Training program to align with its biennial funding model. The program includes a one-day, in-person session in spring for seasoned court professionals in labor relations, focusing on current trends and strategies. The funding allocation will be used to pay for conference rooms, materials, lunch for participants, and lodging for trial court attendees on a limited basis. Additionally, a three-day virtual Labor Relations Academy I is held annually in summer, aimed at court managers and human resources staff new to labor negotiations. This program reflects a comprehensive effort to enhance trial court employees' skills and knowledge in the field of labor relations within the judicial branch.
18	Judges Pay and Benefits Program	HR	This program provides comprehensive payroll and benefits administration for 1,253 justices and judges serving in the California Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and the Trial Courts (excluding Los Angeles, Riverside, and Ventura). Payroll services include processing appointments, elevations, separations, retirements, and accounts receivable transactions. Benefits administration encompasses plan changes, dependent additions and removals, COBRA compliance, and the resolution of coverage discrepancies, billing issues, and claims. The program works closely with the State Controller's Office (SCO), CalPERS, the California Department of Human Resources, and the Judges' Retirement System to ensure accurate and timely processing. It also provides responsive, high-quality customer service to judges seeking assistance with their benefits. Since its inception, the program's responsibilities have expanded. New duties include distributing accounts receivable memos for the retroactive collection of health and dental premium amounts and processing all manual SCO pay rate adjustments resulting from the Mallano vs. Chiang ruling.
19	California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR)	IT	The California Courts Protective Order Registry (CCPOR) is a statewide repository of protective orders containing both data and scanned images of orders that can be accessed by judges, court staff, and law enforcement officers. CCPOR allows judges and law enforcement officers to view orders issued by other court divisions and across county lines.
20	Data Integration	IT	Data Integration provides system interfaces between Judicial Council systems and the computer systems of our justice partners, be they courts, law enforcement agencies, the department of justice and others. Without the Integrated Services Backbone (ISB), the current systems for sharing protective orders, for example, would not function.

**State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
Summary of Programs**

Row #	Program Name	Office	Program Description
A	B	C	D
21	Judicial Branch Technology Services (JBTS) Data Center and Cloud Service	IT	JBTS hosts services for the 58 California superior courts, all the Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court and has over 10,000 supported users. Major installations in the JBTS include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appellate Court Case Management System (ACCMS) • California Court Protective Order Registry (CCPOR) • Phoenix - Trial Court Financial and Human Resources System • Integration Services Backbone (ISB) This program provides consistent, cost effective, and hosting services, including ongoing maintenance and operational support, data network management, and local server support, tape back-up and recovery, help desk services, email services, and a disaster recovery program.
22	Jury Management System	IT	The allocation for the Jury Program is used to distribute funds to the trial courts in the form of grants to improve court jury management systems. All trial courts are eligible to apply for the jury funding. The number of courts receiving grants varies according to the amount of grant funding available and the number of jury grant requests received.
23	Statewide Planning and Dev Support	IT	This program provides the trial courts access to a variety of Oracle products (e.g., Oracle Enterprise Database, Real Application Clusters, Oracle Security Suite, Oracle Advanced Security, Diagnostic Packs, Oracle WebLogic Application Server) without cost to the courts.
24, 25	Telecommunications Support	IT	This program develops and supports a standardized level of network infrastructure for the California superior courts. This infrastructure provides a foundation for local systems (email, jury, CMS, VOIP, etc.) and enterprise system applications such as Phoenix, provides operational efficiencies via shared services at the CCTC, and secures valuable court information resources.
26	Uniform Civil Filing Services	IT	This program supports the distribution and mandated reporting of uniform civil fees collected by all 58 superior courts, with an average of \$45 million distributed per month. The system generates reports for the State Controller's Office and various entities that receive the distributed funds. There are over 200 fee types collected by each court, distributed to 23 different entities (e.g. Trial Court Trust Fund, County, Equal Access Fund, Law Library, etc.), requiring 59,520 corresponding distribution rules that are maintained by UCFS. UCFS benefits the public by minimizing the amount of penalties paid to the state for incorrect or late distributions and ensuring that the entities entitled to a portion of the civil fees collected, as mandated by law, receive their correct distributions.
27	Jury System Improvement Projects	LS	This program is related to Jury Instructions and is a "self-funding" PCC. Funds in this account are generated by royalties generated from sales of criminal and civil jury instructions. The funds are deposited pursuant to the Government Code.
28	Litigation Management Program	LS	Provides for the defense and indemnification of all judicial branch entities, their bench officers, and their employees. Defense of these parties is for government claims, prelitigation claims, and litigation, as well as for various risk-reduction measures, as required by Government Code sections 810-811.9, 825-825.6, 900.3, and 995-996.6 and California Rules of Court, rules 10.201 and 10.202.
29	Regional Office Assistance Group	LS	The allocation for the Regional Office Assistance Group is used to pay for attorneys and support personnel to provide direct legal services to the trial courts in the areas of transactions/business operations, legal opinions, ethics, and labor and employment law.
30	Court Interpreter Testing etc.	LSS	Pays for the testing, orientation, and recruitment of new interpreters. This program was transferred to LSS from CFCC.
31	Judicial Performance Defense Insurance	LSS	The allocation for the Judicial Performance Defense Insurance program is used to pay the insurance premium for trial court judges and judicial officers for the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP) defense master insurance policy and associated costs to provide for online enrollment and submission of compliance information. The program (1) covers defense costs in CJP proceedings related to CJP complaints; (2) protects judicial officers from exposure to excessive financial risk for acts committed within the scope of their judicial duties, and (3) lowers the risk of conduct that could lead to complaints through required ethics training for judicial officers.
32	Data Analytics Advisory Committee	RAD	Support for the Data Analytics Advisory Committee (DAAC), including committee meeting expenses incurred by courts and travel expenses for court personnel and judges related to workload studies.
33	Data Validation for JBSIS Proof of Concept for Trial Courts	RAD	One-time funding is requested for FY 2026-27 to support data validation work for courts that are participating in a viability assessment for data analytics and data reporting in the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS), sponsored by DAAC. DAAC has and will sponsor funding requests for technology and analytics for trial courts. This funding will pay for a contractor to support courts with data validation on the platform. One of the biggest barriers to participation for smaller courts is having the time and resources to do the validation work.

State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund
Fund Condition Statement
FY 2026–27

Updated: April 21, 2026

#	Description	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	Estimated 2025–26	Estimated 2026–27	Estimated 2027–28
		(Year-End Financial Statement)	(Year-End Financial Statement)	(Year-End Financial Statement)			
		A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Beginning Balance	23,242,054	38,128,109	38,371,462	44,510,283	43,465,283	38,675,283
2	Prior-Year Adjustments	8,638,611	-284,477	3,149,029	0	0	0
3	Adjusted Beginning Balance	31,880,665	37,843,632	41,520,491	44,510,283	43,465,283	38,675,283
4	REVENUES¹:	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Jury Instructions Royalties	429,853	453,482	587,261	457,000	413,000	413,000
6	Interest from Surplus Money Investment Fund	1,550,086	3,133,621	3,605,113	3,073,000	3,073,000	3,073,000
7	Escheat-Unclaimed Checks, Warrants, Bonds	1,000	3,088	8,499	1,000	1,000	1,000
8	50/50 Excess Fines Split Revenue	7,504,000	2,862,000	3,317,287	4,011,000	4,011,000	4,011,000
9	2% Automation Fund Revenue	8,327,104	7,419,361	6,909,598	6,742,000	6,165,000	6,165,000
10	Other Revenues/State Controller's Office Adjustments	171,078	84,495	86,999	2,000	2,000	2,000
11	Class Action Residue	329,186	118,425	48,155	0	0	0
12	Subtotal Revenues	18,311,387	14,074,472	14,562,912	14,286,000	13,665,000	13,665,000
13	Transfers and Other Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	To Trial Court Trust Fund (Gov. Code, § 77209(j))	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000	-13,397,000
15	To Trial Court Trust Fund (Budget Act)	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000	-594,000
16	General Fund Transfer (Gov. Code, § 20825.1)	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Total Revenues, Transfers, and Other Adjustments	4,320,387	83,472	571,912	295,000	-326,000	-326,000
18	Total Resources	36,201,052	37,927,104	42,092,403	44,805,283	43,139,283	38,349,283
19	EXPENDITURES:	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	Judicial Branch Total State Operations	5,319,495	6,726,611	5,886,374	6,201,000	8,229,000	8,229,000
21	Judicial Branch Total Local Assistance	36,857,436	37,105,883	35,915,093	38,740,000	39,617,000	39,617,000
22	Pro Rata and Other Adjustments	180,012	117,148	313,653	617,000	836,000	836,000
23	Less funding provided by General Fund (Local Assistance)	-44,284,000	-44,394,000	-44,533,000	-44,218,000	-44,218,000	-44,218,000
24	Total Expenditures and Adjustments	-1,927,057	-444,358	-2,417,880	1,340,000	4,464,000	4,464,000
25	Fund Balance	38,128,109	38,371,462	44,510,283	43,465,283	38,675,283	33,885,283
26	Fund Balance - less restricted funds	35,519,627	36,080,861	42,177,266	41,285,552	36,562,551	31,839,551
27	Structural Balance	6,247,444	527,830	2,989,792	-1,045,000	-4,790,000	-4,790,000

¹ Revenue estimates are as of FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget

² The FY 2025–26 expenditures reflect anticipated savings as recognized by programs in relation to the 2025-26 Judicial Council-approved allocations.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Allocations for Trial Court Operations for Fiscal Year 2026–27

Date: 5/20/2026

Contact: Oksana Tuk, Senior Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services
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Issue

Consideration of the preliminary allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) and the General Fund for fiscal year (FY) 2026–27 for trial court operations. Government Code section 68502.5(c)(2)(A) requires the Judicial Council to make a preliminary allocation for the trial courts in July and finalize allocations in January of each fiscal year.

Background

The allocation of funding appropriated in the state budget to the trial courts is one of the principal responsibilities of the Judicial Council. The council allocates this funding through various methodologies including its approved Workload Formula allocation methodology.

The Governor’s proposed FY 2026–27 budget maintains essential program funding to support California’s court system. This includes additional funding for trial court operational cost increases (\$70 million) and funding for trial court employee health benefit and retirement cost increases (\$23.3 million). The current proposed budget for FY 2026–27 does not include new money as defined by the Workload Formula policy.

Resources Assessment Study and Workload Formula Policy

The calculated funding level of each court is measured by the Judicial Council–approved weighted caseload study, the Resource Assessment Study (RAS). The methodology for weighted caseload was developed by the National Center for State Courts and is based on the principle that funding should be linked to workload. In addition to California, at least 30 other states utilize the RAS model to measure court workload.

California’s RAS model calculates 22 different caseweights and uses an average number of processing minutes per case type, taking into account differences in workload complexity and time to process, and multiplies those weighting factors by the number of filings in each case type in each court. The processing minutes, totaled for all case types and based on each court’s unique case mix, constitute the “workload” for each court. This workload is then used to calculate how many trial court staff are needed to process these cases.

The number of staff is then converted to a dollar need using an average salary cost, adjustments for cost-of-labor differentials based on U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data, retirement and health costs, operating expenditures and equipment costs, and other adjustments to account for court size to be used in the Judicial Council’s Workload Formula methodology. The Workload Formula need is updated each year to reflect the most recent three-year average of filings data.

The Workload Formula policy has been in place since FY 2018–19 to improve funding equity, stability, and predictability for the trial courts, and to allow time for adjustment and adaptation when there are funding changes in the state budget.

2024 RAS Time Study

A time study was conducted in 2024 and updated caseweights for the 22 casetypes were derived using the RAS model. The study found that case complexity increased for many casetypes compared to the prior 2017 caseweights (based on a 2016 time study). Some of the changes are due to legislation enacted during the eight years between studies, as well as variations in case volume and case mix by court. The Judicial Council approved the new caseweights from the 2024 time study at its April 25, 2025, business meeting.¹

However, due to the number of years between the studies (2016 to 2024), the significant changes in the findings of the 2024 time study, considerable changes in the weights from the 2016 time study, and the short period of time between the approval of the 2024 caseweights by the council at its April 2025 meeting and the calculation of the FY 2025–26 allocations for the trial courts using the Workload Formula, it was determined at July 2025 council business meeting² to use the 2017 caseweights in the Workload Formula calculation for FY 2025–26 and to defer the use of updated 2024 caseweights in the Workload Formula calculation to FY 2026–27 to allow time to understand and evaluate the reasons for the changes and their impact on funding allocations for the trial courts.

Consistent with the historical practice, calculations of the workload need for FY 2026–27 Workload Formula incorporate standard annual updates for components of the RAS model including updated filings, salary, benefits, operating expenditures and equipment, BLS, and court executive officer salary data, as well as use of the 2024 caseweights.

Funding for Operational Cost Increases (Consumer Price Index)

Each year, the cost of maintaining existing service levels in the California court system increases due to the general inflationary pressures facing all government operations. In FYs 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24, the final budget included Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustments to address trial court operational cost increases due to inflation. As this funding was intended to

¹ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Courts: Update of Resource Assessment Study Model* (April 9, 2025), [Trial Courts: Update of Resource Assessment Study Model Report](#).

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025–26* (June 24, 2025), [Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025–26 Report](#).

benefit all courts, it was allocated proportionally based on applying the CPI percentage increase to the prior year’s Workload Formula allocation for each court in each respective fiscal year.

At its July 2024 business meeting, the Judicial Council revisited the Workload Formula definition of “new money” for the trial courts as it relates to CPI funding. The council approved the recommendation to clarify that CPI funding included in the budget to address inflationary costs for the trial courts is *not* considered “new money” for the purpose of allocating funding via the Workload Formula. The definition of “new money” in the Workload Formula policy was revised accordingly to exclude CPI funding.³

In FY 2025–26, the final budget included \$40 million to address ongoing trial court operational cost increases due to inflation. Similarly, the proposed FY 2026–27 budget includes \$70 million to address operational cost increases. The table below summarizes CPI proposals and funding received by the trial courts in recent fiscal years.

Fiscal Year	Dollars (in millions)	Description
2020–21	\$0.0	January budget included \$61.7 million for 3.0% Funding withdrawn in May Revision due to projected deficit from the COVID-19 pandemic.
2021–22	72.2	Represents 3.7% CPI increase ⁴
2022–23	84.2	Represents 3.8% CPI increase ⁵
2023–24	74.1	Represents 3.0% CPI increase ⁶
2024–25	0.0	Request submitted to Department of Finance for 2.9% CPI adjustment (\$67 million). Due to state’s fiscal deficit, Budget Act of 2024 included \$97 million reduction for the trial courts and no CPI increase. The \$97 million reduction was subsequently reduced to a \$55 million ongoing reduction.
2025–26	40.0	Represents 1.6% operational cost increase. ⁷ Initial request was \$67 million for 2.7% CPI increase.
2026–27 (proposed)	70.0	Included in FY 2026–27 proposed budget. Represents 2.7% operational cost increase. Initial request was \$79.7 million for 3.1% CPI increase.
Total	\$340.5	

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2024–25* (June 17, 2024), [Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2024–25 Report](#).

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Judicial Branch Budget Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Allocation Methodology of \$72.2 Million Trial Court Funding in Governor’s Proposed 2021–22 Budget* (June 17, 2021), [Trial Court Budget: Allocation Methodology of \\$72.2 Million Trial Court Funding in Governor’s Proposed 2021–22 Budget Report](#).

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for 2022–23* (June 28, 2022), [Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for 2022–23 Report](#).

⁶ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for 2023–24* (June 23, 2023), [Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for 2023–24 Report](#).

⁷ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025–26* (June 24, 2025), [Trial Court Budget: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and Trial Court Allocations for Fiscal Year 2025–26 Report](#).

Similar to the allocation of the \$40 million in FY 2025–26, the allocation of the proposed \$70 million for operational cost increases is calculated as a proportional increase of 2.7 percent over each trial court’s FY 2025–26 Workload Formula allocation, which is consistent with the council’s existing policy.

Base, Discretionary, and Nondiscretionary Program Allocations

1. Program 0140010 – Judicial Council
 - a. Revenue and Expenditure (R&E) Subcommittee allocation recommendations⁸ for Judicial Council staff of \$4.1 million (Attachment 2A, column H, line 30).
2. Program 0150010 – Support for Operation of the Trial Courts
 - a. TCTF base allocation of \$2.7 billion (Attachment 2B, column O).
 - b. New allocations of:
 - i. \$70 million for trial court operational cost increases included in the proposed FY 2026–27 budget (Attachment 2B, column E);
 - ii. \$23.3 million for non–court interpreter benefit cost changes for FY 2026–27 (Attachment 2B, column F); and
 - iii. \$1.5 million for implementation of SB 549, Tribal Nations Access to Justice Act, for the Superior Court of Sacramento County (Attachment 2B, column J).
 - c. R&E Subcommittee allocation recommendations for support for operation of the trial courts of \$44.1 million (Attachment 2A, column H, line 31).
3. Program 0150011 – Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel
 - a. Allocation of \$186.7 million for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel (Attachment 2A, column H, line 32).
 - i. This item is included as a single amount and was approved by the TCBAC at its May 7, 2026, meeting.⁹
4. Program 0150010 – Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act
 - a. Allocation of \$32.9 million for CARE Act (Attachment 2B, column K, included in unallocated)
 - i. This item is included as a single amount and was approved by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee at its April 23, 2026, meeting.¹⁰
5. Program 0150037 – Court Interpreters
 - a. R&E Subcommittee allocation recommendation of \$87,000 for the Court Interpreter Data Collection System (Attachment 2A, column H, line 33).
6. Program 0150095 – Expenses on Behalf of the Trial Courts

⁸ Judicial Council of Cal., TCBAC R&E Subcommittee meeting materials (April 15, 2026), [Item 2: Allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund for Fiscal Year](#).

⁹ Judicial Council of Cal., Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting materials (May 7, 2026), [Item 1: Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27](#).

¹⁰ Judicial Council of Cal., Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting materials (April 23, 2026), [Item 1: Fiscal Year 2026–27 Allocation of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act Funding](#).

- a. R&E Subcommittee allocation recommendations of \$20.8 million for expenditures incurred by the Judicial Council on behalf of the trial courts (Attachment 2A, column H, line 34).

General Fund

\$68.8 million General Fund for trial court employee benefits (Attachment 2B, column P).

FY 2026–27 Workload Formula Allocation

The FY 2026–27 Workload Formula allocation includes allocations, revenues, and adjustments of \$2.7 billion (Attachment 2C, column V).

Changes to the prior year Workload Formula allocation include:

- a. Decrease of \$2.9 million to the subordinate judicial officer allocation (Attachment 2C, column K);
- b. Increase of \$450,000 in Automated Recordkeeping and Micrographics collections from FY 2023–24 to FY 2024–25 (Attachment 2C, column L);
- c. Increase of \$23.3 million for FY 2026–27 non-interpreter benefit cost changes (Attachment 2C, column M);
- d. Criminal Justice Realignment funding of \$9.2 million (Attachment 2C, column N);
- e. FY 2024–25 revenues collected totaling \$44.4 million (Attachment 2C, column O);¹¹
- f. Increase of \$70 million as outlined in the *Funding for Operational Cost Increases (Consumer Price Index)* section (Attachment 2C, column P);
- g. Increase to the base funding floor for two courts, Alpine and Sierra, to \$1.0 million to reflect the FY 2026–27 proposed inflationary adjustment of 2.7 percent to the base funding floor amount, as approved by the Judicial Council effective FY 2023–24¹² (Attachment 2C, column R); and
- h. FY 2026–27 funding floor adjustment, with all other courts sharing a pro rata adjustment in the funding floor allocation (Attachment 2C, columns S and U). The funding floor adjustment may change based on final appropriations included in the Budget Act of 2026.

Pending Allocations

Items pending allocation from the Program 0150010 appropriation include the following:

¹¹ Includes all other applicable revenue sources as recommended by the Funding Methodology Subcommittee, excluding civil assessment revenue as of FY 2022–23. Revenue does not reflect an allocation of funding to the trial courts but is used in the calculation of the Workload Formula allocation.

¹² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Base Funding Floor Inflationary Increases* (March 3, 2023), [Trial Court Budget: Base Funding Floor Inflationary Increases Report](#).

- a. Under Government Code section 77203(b), a trial court may carry over unexpended funds in an amount not to exceed 3 percent of the court’s operating budget from the prior fiscal year, effective June 30, 2020. Because the courts have until July 15, 2026, to provide their preliminary FY 2025–26 ending fund balances, the preliminary reduction amounts related to trial court reserves above the cap referenced in Government Code section 68502.5(c)(2)(A) will not be available in time to be considered by the TCBAC and make a recommendation to the Judicial Council for its July 17, 2026, business meeting. Therefore, the TCBAC will consider the final allocation reductions for fund balances above the statutory cap prior to its recommendation to the Judicial Council before January 2027.
- b. Using the Judicial Council–approved formula, the allocation of funding collected via the dependency counsel collections program will be brought to the TCBAC and the council once final FY 2025–26 collections are known.
- c. Various revenue distributions as required by statute or as authorized charges for the cost of programs or cash advances.

Potential Impacts to Allocations

- a. Allocation changes may be necessary to the extent there are changes to appropriations and associated language in the Budget Act of 2026.
- b. The proposed budget for FY 2026–27 maintains \$5 million in the Trial Court Emergency Fund to support emergency situations, revenue shortages, or budgetary imbalances. The proposed allocations in this report assume no use of the \$5 million in FY 2026–27. If funding is allocated in FY 2026–27, courts will need to replenish the funding up to what was allocated by the Judicial Council from their FY 2027–28 base allocation.¹³

The projected FY 2026–27 ending TCTF fund balance is \$333.4 million (Attachment 2D, column F, row 23):

- a. The restricted fund balance (restricted by statute or Judicial Council policy) is \$87.5 million (Attachment 2D, column F, row 25).
- b. The unrestricted fund balance is \$245.8 million (Attachment 2D, column F, row 26).

The FY 2026–27 preliminary allocation requests totaling \$3.2 billion can be supported by the TCTF based on revenue projections and projected savings in the current year.

The final allocations will be updated based on any needed technical adjustments and are contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27.

¹³ Judicial Council of Cal., Judicial Branch Budget Committee meeting materials (Mar. 18, 2019), [*Item 1: FY 2018-19 \\$10 Million Emergency Reserve Funding Request, Superior Court of California, County of Humboldt*](#).

Recommendation

1. Approve base, discretionary, and nondiscretionary program allocations from the TCTF and General Fund of \$3.2 billion (Attachment 2B, column W), including any needed technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27. This includes a General Fund allocation of \$68.8 million for employee benefits (Attachment 2B, column P).
2. Approve Workload Formula policy calculation of \$2.7 billion for FY 2026–27 based on methodologies approved by the Judicial Council (Attachment 2C, column V).

These recommendations will be considered by the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.

Attachments

1. Attachment 2A: Judicial Council of California Approved FY 2025–26 and Proposed FY 2026–27 Allocations, State Operations and Local Assistance, Trial Court Trust Fund
2. Attachment 2B: FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations
3. Attachment 2C: FY 2026–27 Workload Formula Allocations
4. Attachment 2D: Trial Court Trust Fund, Fund Condition Statement, FY 2026–27 Governor’s Budget

Judicial Council of California
Approved FY 2025-26 and Proposed FY 2026-27 Allocations
State Operations and Local Assistance
Trial Court Trust Fund

#	Program Name	Program Number	Office	FY 2025-26 Judicial Council Approved Allocations	Recommended FY 2026-27 State Operations Allocations	Recommended FY 2026-27 Local Assistance Allocations	Total	\$\$ Change from FY 2025-26	% Change from FY 2025-26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H (F + G)	I (H - E)	J (I / E)
1	SCO Audit - Pilot program per GC 77206 (h)(4)	0150095	AS	\$ 1,887,000	0	\$ 1,925,000	\$ 1,925,000	38,000	2%
2	California State Auditor Audits	0150010	AS	325,000	0	325,000	325,000	0	0%
3	Phoenix Financial Services	0140010	BAP	107,000	107,000	0	107,000	0	0%
4	Phoenix HR Services	0140010	BAP	1,776,000	1,774,000	0	1,774,000	(2,000)	0%
5	Other Post Employment Benefits Valuations	0150095	BAP	643,000	0	134,000	134,000	(509,000)	-79%
6	Statewide Support for Collections Programs	0140010	BS	827,000	825,000	0	825,000	(2,000)	0%
7	Jury	0150010	BS	14,500,000	0	14,500,000	14,500,000	0	0%
8	Elder Abuse	0150010	BS	1,500,000	0	1,500,000	1,500,000	0	0%
9	SCO Administrative Costs per GC 68085(g)	0150010	BS	88,000	0	88,000	88,000	0	0%
10	Children in Dependency Case Training	0150095	CFCC	113,000	0	113,000	113,000	0	0%
11	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program	0140010	CFCC	960,000	860,000	0	860,000	(100,000)	-10%
12	Sargent Shriver Civil Counsel Pilot Program ¹	0150095	CFCC	19,632,000	0	18,000,000	18,000,000	(1,632,000)	-8%
13	Equal Access Fund	0140010	CFCC	274,000	274,000	0	274,000	0	0%
14	Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel Collections	0140010	CFCC	556,000	260,000	0	260,000	(296,000)	-53%
15	Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel	0150011	CFCC	186,700,000	0	186,700,000	186,700,000	0	0%
16	Juvenile Dependency Collections Reimbursement	0150010	CFCC	363,458	0	126,000	126,000	(237,458)	-65%
17	Self-Help Center	0150010	CFCC	25,300,000	0	25,300,000	25,300,000	0	0%
18	Screening Equipment Replacement	0150010	FS	2,000,000	0	2,286,000	2,286,000	286,000	14%
19	Court Interpreters Data Collections System (CIDCS)	0150037	IT	87,000	87,000	0	87,000	0	0%
20	Data Center and Cloud Services	0150095	IT	4,611,000	0	392,000	392,000	(4,219,000)	-91%
21	Electronic Courts of Appeal Record and Transcripts (eCART) Program	0150095	IT	200,000	0	200,000	200,000	0	0%
22	Total Allocation	-	-	\$ 262,449,458	\$ 4,187,000	\$ 251,589,000	\$ 255,776,000	\$ (6,673,458)	-2.54%

Totals by Office

#	Legend	Program Number	Office	FY 2025-26 Judicial Council Approved Allocations	Recommended FY 2026-27 State Operations Allocations	Recommended FY 2026-27 Local Assistance Allocations	Total	\$\$ Change from FY 2025-26	% Change from FY 2025-26
				E	F	G	H (F + G)	I (H - E)	J (I / E)
23	Audit Services	-	AS	\$ 2,212,000	0	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 38,000	1.72%
24	Branch Accounting and Procurement	-	BAP	2,526,000	1,881,000	134,000	2,015,000	(511,000)	-20.23%
25	Budget Services	-	BS	16,915,000	825,000	16,088,000	16,913,000	(2,000)	-0.01%
26	Center for Families, Children and the Courts	-	CFCC	233,898,458	1,394,000	230,239,000	231,633,000	(2,265,458)	-0.97%
27	Facility Services	-	FS	2,000,000	0	2,286,000	2,286,000	286,000	14.30%
28	Information Technology	-	IT	4,898,000	87,000	592,000	679,000	(4,219,000)	-86.14%
29	Total Allocation	-	-	\$ 262,449,458	\$ 4,187,000	\$ 251,589,000	\$ 255,776,000	\$ (6,673,458)	-2.54%

Totals by Program

#	Legend	Program Number	Office	FY 2025-26 Judicial Council Approved Allocations	Recommended FY 2026-27 State Operations Allocations	Recommended FY 2026-27 Local Assistance Allocations	Total	\$\$ Change from FY 2025-26	% Change from FY 2025-26
				E	F	G	H (F + G)	I (H - E)	J (I / E)
30	Judicial Council (Staff)	0140010	-	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,100,000	0	\$ 4,100,000	\$ (400,000)	-8.89%
31	Support for the Operation of the Trial Courts	0150010	-	44,076,458	0	44,125,000	44,125,000	48,542	0.11%
32	Court Appointed Dependency Counsel	0150011	-	186,700,000	0	186,700,000	186,700,000	0	0.00%
33	Court Interpreters	0150037	-	87,000	87,000	0	87,000	0	0.00%
34	Expenses on Behalf of the Trial Courts	0150095	-	27,086,000	0	20,764,000	20,764,000	(6,322,000)	-23.34%
35	Total Allocation	-	-	\$ 262,449,458	\$ 4,187,000	\$ 251,589,000	\$ 255,776,000	\$ (6,673,458)	-2.54%

¹ The allocation increase of \$1.4 million for FY 2025-26 was approved by Judicial Council at its October 24, 2025

FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations

Attachment 2B FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations: Base and Base Adjustments

Court	FY 2025–26 Ending Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) Ongoing Base Allocation	SB 154 Backfill Funding ¹	SB 101 Backfill Funding ¹	AB 177 Backfill Funding ¹	FY 2026–27 Inflationary Adjustment Funding of \$70m (2.7 Percent) ¹	FY 2026–27 Non-Interpreter Benefit Cost Change Funding ^{1,2}	Total Ongoing Base Allocations	Telephonic Appearances ³	Criminal Justice Realignment ³	SB 549 Funding ³	Total One-Time Base Allocations	Floor Allocation Adjustment	Floor Reduction Allocation	Total Base Allocation Adjustments	FY 2026–27 Total TCTF Base Allocation
A	B	C	D	E	F	G (B:F)	H	I	J	K (H:J)	L	M	N (L:M)	O (A+G+K+N)	
Alameda	90,354,479	16,047	0	388,170	2,481,363	897,065	3,782,646	-	210,759	0	210,759	0	2,201	2,201	94,350,084
Alpine	921,278	296	0	773	27,066	19,467	47,602	-	0	0	-	(13,129)	0	(13,129)	955,751
Amador	4,497,744	524	0	2,638	128,214	1,937	133,313	5,790	4,800	0	10,590	0	110	110	4,641,757
Butte	14,610,759	1,624	0	35,534	384,407	191,587	613,152	15,210	126,761	0	141,971	0	341	341	15,366,223
Calaveras	3,498,861	638	0	8,356	95,200	76,422	180,616	791	436	0	1,228	0	84	84	3,680,789
Colusa	2,511,783	146	0	18,257	71,333	55,972	145,708	-	5,018	0	5,018	0	64	64	2,662,572
Contra Costa	51,740,023	10,359	4,410	579,655	1,465,303	1,125,269	3,184,996	-	83,780	0	83,780	0	1,310	1,310	55,010,109
Del Norte	3,888,979	504	900	13,628	110,594	91,375	217,001	-	24,218	0	24,218	0	99	99	4,130,297
El Dorado	9,836,562	7,426	46	72,855	279,447	203,315	563,090	24,418	47,999	0	72,417	0	247	247	10,472,316
Fresno	61,355,576	15,895	228	491,341	1,767,634	1,314,201	3,589,299	75,930	238,031	0	313,961	0	1,575	1,575	65,260,411
Glenn	3,213,519	407	0	13,914	90,232	92,457	197,010	1,230	7,418	0	8,648	0	82	82	3,419,259
Humboldt	8,405,036	7,537	0	21,383	240,945	28,378	298,243	12,250	36,872	0	49,122	0	203	203	8,752,603
Imperial	10,225,717	2,583	0	51,406	275,740	150,397	480,126	25,465	26,836	0	52,301	0	245	245	10,758,389
Inyo	2,675,179	448	0	11,473	72,101	57,721	141,743	1,395	6,545	0	7,940	0	64	64	2,824,926
Kern	62,434,236	12,934	0	670,557	1,803,400	1,263,351	3,750,243	38,700	236,940	0	275,640	0	1,637	1,637	66,461,756
Kings	11,128,537	3,163	9,139	94,584	300,497	182,888	590,271	5,935	53,017	0	58,952	0	267	267	11,778,027
Lake	5,481,374	1,151	0	0	145,897	78,491	225,539	-	15,272	0	15,272	0	128	128	5,722,313
Lassen	2,791,707	475	0	34,050	74,313	40,782	149,621	4,241	9,600	0	13,841	0	69	69	2,955,238
Los Angeles	728,842,669	178,565	0	1,034,695	20,175,235	9,954,830	31,343,325	-	2,869,683	0	2,869,683	0	17,895	17,895	763,073,573
Madera	12,201,155	2,992	0	56,104	345,118	157,520	561,733	-	52,363	0	52,363	0	304	304	12,815,555
Marin	13,382,055	4,869	0	17,214	391,312	164,540	577,935	42,540	16,145	0	58,685	0	347	347	14,019,023
Mariposa	1,901,426	384	708	5,408	52,381	53,364	112,246	-	2,182	0	2,182	0	47	47	2,015,900
Mendocino	7,822,974	1,269	10,249	0	220,743	98,966	331,226	8,520	86,180	0	94,700	0	201	201	8,249,101
Merced	16,234,947	5,076	10,891	240,881	464,502	512,461	1,233,811	13,095	60,871	0	73,966	0	423	423	17,543,147
Modoc	1,315,950	923	0	3,339	38,175	9,060	51,497	776	4,582	0	5,358	0	34	34	1,372,838
Mono	2,324,312	1,945	0	10,278	67,983	45,753	125,958	-	1,309	0	1,309	0	62	62	2,451,641
Monterey	26,958,240	11,615	29,680	74,767	731,388	558,630	1,406,080	-	45,163	0	45,163	0	652	652	28,410,135
Napa	9,690,861	2,279	0	102,619	269,811	232,324	607,033	14,590	37,308	0	51,898	0	237	237	10,350,030
Nevada	7,490,698	989	6,567	58,099	187,653	119,192	372,500	-	7,418	0	7,418	0	168	168	7,870,784
Orange	186,774,190	99,268	323,577	1,251,875	5,255,869	927,493	7,858,082	-	535,843	0	535,843	0	4,618	4,618	195,172,732
Placer	26,112,231	6,765	10,463	0	702,876	1,005,428	1,725,532	24,920	36,872	0	61,792	0	642	642	27,900,197
Plumas	2,079,372	333	0	0	53,162	25,271	78,767	2,448	2,836	0	5,284	0	52	52	2,163,474
Riverside	143,170,839	46,776	629	1,901,241	3,893,693	(212,128)	5,630,211	-	841,073	0	841,073	0	3,388	3,388	149,645,512
Sacramento	107,289,393	19,823	117,375	92,107	2,997,326	(3,612,205)	(385,574)	43,920	155,342	1,542,000	1,741,262	0	2,524	2,524	108,647,606
San Benito	4,835,283	1,716	0	12,450	134,648	136,789	285,603	-	9,382	0	9,382	0	121	121	5,130,389
San Bernardino	140,856,446	35,214	124,966	895,264	3,836,771	297,736	5,189,952	239,760	956,488	0	1,196,248	0	3,296	3,296	147,245,942
San Diego	181,873,993	34,021	0	17,539	4,946,284	(3,616,757)	1,381,087	-	576,206	0	576,206	0	4,276	4,276	183,835,562
San Francisco	59,679,166	18,012	0	104,916	1,808,745	719,081	2,650,754	17,515	124,361	0	141,876	0	1,589	1,589	62,473,385
San Joaquin	50,105,231	5,414	31,575	166,628	1,398,149	321,428	1,923,194	51,955	78,326	0	130,281	0	1,222	1,222	52,159,928
San Luis Obispo	18,901,605	3,860	0	89,135	525,593	307,821	926,410	18,700	104,070	0	122,770	0	464	464	19,951,249
San Mateo	43,525,303	20,122	58,848	117,065	1,237,238	1,128,881	2,562,154	39,743	63,271	0	103,014	0	1,110	1,110	46,191,581
Santa Barbara	27,226,180	6,114	28,938	27,736	760,241	865,807	1,688,836	44,719	46,254	0	90,972	0	682	682	29,006,669
Santa Clara	93,538,230	33,654	0	317,171	2,629,186	1,242,175	4,222,187	-	177,160	0	177,160	0	2,353	2,353	97,939,929
Santa Cruz	16,457,835	2,701	12,225	79,982	452,667	317,226	864,800	21,904	38,399	0	60,303	0	408	408	17,383,346
Shasta	21,150,085	1,914	0	281,585	508,954	428,506	1,220,958	9,190	75,053	0	84,243	0	454	454	22,455,740
Sierra	950,165	25	0	2,066	27,066	17,844	47,001	630	218	0	848	(48,582)	0	(48,582)	949,432
Siskiyou	4,617,825	617	0	12,956	123,966	181,708	319,247	-	5,673	0	5,673	0	114	114	4,942,859
Solano	29,871,120	11,308	17,528	188,863	816,874	452,339	1,486,912	42,765	111,052	0	153,817	0	722	722	31,512,572
Sonoma	30,872,639	7,553	21,221	106,700	860,984	1,418,668	2,415,126	14,895	107,998	0	122,893	0	779	779	33,411,438
Stanislaus	31,276,155	10,347	0	90,044	884,963	823,499	1,808,853	-	170,614	0	170,614	0	801	801	33,256,423
Sutter	8,365,558	1,605	6,367	53,365	230,967	129,427	421,732	2,795	27,272	0	30,067	0	205	205	8,817,562
Tehama	5,843,659	746	0	61,114	165,039	228,570	455,469	1,340	12,436	0	13,776	0	151	151	6,313,054
Trinity	2,421,364	383	0	0	58,923	74,431	133,737	400	3,927	0	4,327	0	50	50	2,559,478
Tulare	33,973,213	8,343	0	234,849	932,903	539,929	1,716,024	12,890	94,689	0	107,579	0	827	827	35,797,644
Tuolumne	5,247,339	840	0	141,309	142,437	141,309	284,586	6,280	13,091	0	19,371	0	126	126	5,551,421
Ventura	44,206,647	16,016	0	0	1,231,084	822,161	2,069,260	-	425,664	0	425,664	0	1,085	1,085	46,702,656
Yolo	16,495,781	1,979	0	82,111	443,408	223,196	750,693	-	56,072	0	56,072	0	390	390	17,302,935
Yuba	6,625,744	878	0	28,260	183,124	162,788	375,050	9,456	55,853	0	65,309	0	165	165	7,066,269
Unallocated ⁴	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69,884,000	0	0	0	69,884,000
Total	2,522,079,228	689,410	826,530	10,327,000	70,000,000	23,277,267	105,120,207	897,100	9,223,000	1,542,000	81,546,100	(61,710)	61,710	0	2,708,745,534

¹ FY 2026–27 ongoing base allocations.
² Benefits funding reflects actual cost changes as identified by court and is fiscally neutral.
³ FY 2026–27 one-time base allocations.
⁴ Unallocated includes \$30 million for court reporters, \$7 million for increased transcript rates, and \$32.9 million CARE Act funding for a total of \$69.9M TCTF allocations.

FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations

Attachment 2B FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations: Other Adjustments

Court	FY 2026–27 Total TCTF Base Allocation	General Fund Employee Benefits	FY 2026–27 Total Base Allocation ⁵	2% Automation Replacement ⁶	Self-Help ⁶	Court Interpreters Program (CIP) Allocation ⁶	CIP Ongoing Benefits ⁶	Total Non-Base Allocations ⁷	FY 2026–27 Trial Court Allocation
	O (A+G+K+N)		Q (O+P)	R					S
Alameda	94,350,084	3,102,046	97,452,130	424,792	1,017,456	5,815,753	34,362	7,292,363	104,744,493
Alpine	955,751	20,340	976,091	2,034	34,711	951	0	37,696	1,013,787
Amador	4,641,757	51,756	4,693,513	11,006	57,922	64,956	0	133,885	4,827,398
Butte	15,366,223	124,077	15,490,300	59,332	155,943	270,391	0	485,666	15,975,966
Calaveras	3,680,789	50,506	3,731,295	18,652	60,856	32,164	0	111,672	3,842,967
Colusa	2,662,572	24,773	2,687,345	13,708	46,982	143,820	0	204,511	2,891,856
Contra Costa	55,010,109	1,396,191	56,406,300	218,186	722,449	3,230,947	19,186	4,190,768	60,597,069
Del Norte	4,130,297	94,130	4,224,427	11,208	50,173	25,242	0	86,622	4,311,050
El Dorado	10,472,316	213,120	10,685,436	54,374	147,338	256,605	0	458,317	11,143,753
Fresno	65,260,411	3,340,363	68,600,774	181,080	636,326	2,744,045	21,068	3,582,519	72,183,293
Glenn	3,419,259	54,665	3,473,924	19,264	51,119	161,357	0	231,740	3,705,664
Humboldt	8,752,603	73,084	8,825,687	48,160	114,410	77,496	(71)	239,995	9,065,682
Imperial	10,758,389	125,539	10,883,928	67,678	140,935	787,261	3,089	998,964	11,882,891
Inyo	2,824,926	75,586	2,900,512	30,402	45,295	71,456	0	147,153	3,047,665
Kern	66,461,756	3,544,268	70,006,024	277,328	575,261	3,832,612	16,139	4,701,341	74,707,365
Kings	11,778,027	45,118	11,823,145	57,026	124,210	712,880	3,313	897,429	12,720,574
Lake	5,722,313	9,123	5,731,436	20,328	74,100	207,234	0	301,662	6,033,098
Lassen	2,955,238	7,839	2,963,077	20,156	51,816	51,462	0	123,434	3,086,511
Los Angeles	763,073,573	18,887,968	781,961,541	3,144,530	5,905,041	37,610,069	424,673	47,084,312	829,045,853
Madera	12,815,555	384,825	13,200,380	52,502	127,752	926,496	8,044	1,114,794	14,315,174
Marin	14,019,023	644,511	14,663,534	114,766	186,887	892,503	9,763	1,203,919	15,867,454
Mariposa	2,015,900	22,301	2,038,201	3,904	44,141	53,624	0	101,669	2,139,870
Mendocino	8,249,101	311,771	8,560,872	30,068	87,604	543,175	0	660,847	9,221,718
Merced	17,543,147	774,827	18,317,974	55,652	203,166	1,313,418	13,253	1,585,488	19,903,463
Modoc	1,372,838	31,967	1,404,805	6,134	39,130	9,390	0	54,654	1,459,459
Mono	2,451,641	85,641	2,537,282	12,446	41,913	70,184	0	124,543	2,661,825
Monterey	28,410,135	277,496	28,687,631	183,464	292,214	1,721,699	4,106	2,201,484	30,889,115
Napa	10,350,030	309,795	10,659,825	30,550	115,118	944,047	7,321	1,097,036	11,756,861
Nevada	7,870,784	95,495	7,966,279	49,946	94,368	117,584	(54)	261,844	8,228,123
Orange	195,172,732	6,929,920	202,102,652	923,882	1,915,066	9,082,350	11,973	11,933,270	214,035,923
Placer	27,900,197	634,796	28,534,993	77,378	277,721	936,107	2,681	1,293,888	29,828,880
Plumas	2,163,474	14,929	2,178,403	9,206	45,425	3,374	0	58,005	2,236,408
Riverside	149,645,512	923,656	150,569,168	532,226	1,484,060	7,026,214	22,116	9,064,616	159,633,784
Sacramento	108,647,606	3,560,591	112,208,197	340,254	973,583	5,258,233	(115,937)	6,456,133	118,664,330
San Benito	5,130,389	34,642	5,165,031	14,700	72,920	153,869	0	241,488	5,406,519
San Bernardino	147,245,942	1,264,732	148,510,674	435,474	1,335,608	6,202,106	8,837	7,982,025	156,492,699
San Diego	183,835,562	2,853,598	186,689,160	718,442	1,989,883	6,758,113	(121,455)	9,344,983	196,034,143
San Francisco	62,473,385	5,487,134	67,960,519	272,528	535,395	5,060,401	39,222	5,907,546	73,868,065
San Joaquin	52,159,928	1,245,356	53,405,284	201,698	501,401	2,390,998	4,413	3,098,510	56,503,794
San Luis Obispo	19,951,249	298,957	20,250,206	130,020	200,629	870,555	5,109	1,206,313	21,456,519
San Mateo	46,191,581	2,411,112	48,602,693	329,518	477,779	3,543,519	40,450	4,391,266	52,993,959
Santa Barbara	29,006,669	1,597,661	30,604,330	162,858	298,093	3,061,592	36,898	3,559,441	34,163,771
Santa Clara	97,939,929	2,309,466	100,249,395	452,782	1,164,067	7,414,354	27,232	9,058,434	109,307,829
Santa Cruz	17,383,346	203,558	17,586,904	113,210	191,965	1,002,981	1,781	1,309,936	18,896,841
Shasta	22,455,740	262,221	22,717,961	44,394	141,669	491,362	0	677,425	23,395,386
Sierra	949,432	9,616	959,048	1,830	35,916	523	0	38,270	997,318
Siskiyou	4,942,859	91,038	5,033,897	37,000	60,085	70,700	0	167,785	5,201,682
Solano	31,512,572	353,778	31,866,350	119,364	300,389	1,003,202	7,020	1,429,975	33,296,325
Sonoma	33,411,438	1,172,049	34,583,487	119,004	321,108	2,204,490	8,846	2,653,448	37,236,935
Stanislaus	33,256,423	1,305,229	34,561,652	88,718	361,215	1,822,856	4,736	2,277,524	36,839,176
Sutter	8,817,562	159,761	8,977,323	37,382	93,002	311,232	0	441,616	9,418,939
Tehama	6,313,054	108,184	6,421,238	28,100	72,678	225,184	3,778	329,740	6,750,978
Trinity	2,559,478	53,679	2,613,157	7,648	43,538	45,544	0	96,730	2,709,887
Tulare	35,797,644	33,744	35,831,388	204,932	316,908	2,863,330	8,377	3,393,547	39,224,935
Tuolumne	5,551,421	50,352	5,601,773	16,642	66,713	71,078	0	154,433	5,756,206
Ventura	46,702,656	968,752	47,671,408	205,304	530,521	3,216,686	13,191	3,965,701	51,637,109
Yolo	17,302,935	210,076	17,513,011	48,556	164,970	572,271	1,296	787,094	18,300,105
Yuba	7,066,269	90,867	7,157,136	15,788	83,056	107,200	0	206,045	7,363,181
Unallocated ^{5,7}	69,884,000	0	118,834,000	0	0	0	0	186,700,000	305,534,000
Total	2,708,745,534	68,818,575	2,826,514,109	10,907,514	25,300,000	134,459,244	574,756	357,941,514	3,184,455,623

⁵ Unallocated includes \$48.9 million General Fund pretrial funding.

⁶ FY 2026–27 non-base allocations.

⁷ Unallocated includes \$186.7 million for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel.

Attachment 2C FY 2026–27 Workload Formula Allocations: Beginning Workload Allocation

Court	FY 2025–26 Ending Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) Ongoing Base Allocation A	General Fund Employee Benefits B	Total Base Allocation C (A+B)	Automated Recordkeeping & Micrographics ¹ D	2% Automation Replacement ¹ E	Self-Help ¹ F	Security Base Adjustment ² G	Subordinate Judicial Officer (SJO) Adjustment ² H	Total Workload Formula Related Adjustments I (D:H)	FY 2026–27 Beginning Workload Allocation J (C+I)
Alameda	90,354,479	3,102,046	93,456,525	134,579	424,792	1,017,456	(3,355,024)	(2,475,339)	(4,253,536)	89,202,989
Alpine	921,278	20,340	941,618	31	2,034	34,711	0	0	36,776	978,394
Amador	4,497,744	51,756	4,549,500	784	11,006	57,922	0	(166,263)	(96,550)	4,452,950
Butte	14,610,759	124,077	14,734,836	13,751	59,332	155,943	(493,178)	(554,945)	(819,097)	13,915,739
Calaveras	3,498,861	50,506	3,549,367	965	18,652	60,856	0	(146,692)	(66,219)	3,483,148
Colusa	2,511,783	24,773	2,536,556	385	13,708	46,982	0	0	61,075	2,597,631
Contra Costa	51,740,023	1,396,191	53,136,214	79,148	218,186	722,449	0	(848,464)	171,320	53,307,534
Del Norte	3,888,979	94,130	3,983,109	527	11,208	50,173	0	0	61,908	4,045,017
El Dorado	9,836,562	213,120	10,049,682	3,864	54,374	147,338	0	(143,156)	62,420	10,112,101
Fresno	61,355,576	3,340,363	64,695,939	76,243	181,080	636,326	0	(1,311,847)	(418,199)	64,277,740
Glenn	3,213,519	54,665	3,268,184	525	19,264	51,119	(10,324)	0	60,584	3,328,769
Humboldt	8,405,036	73,084	8,478,120	8,012	48,160	114,410	(177,151)	(166,824)	(173,393)	8,304,727
Imperial	10,225,717	125,539	10,351,256	10,779	67,678	140,935	(443,912)	(174,433)	(398,952)	9,952,304
Inyo	2,675,179	75,586	2,750,765	297	30,402	45,295	(197,060)	0	(121,066)	2,629,699
Kern	62,434,236	3,544,268	65,978,504	67,911	277,328	575,261	(69,221)	(1,921,565)	(1,070,286)	64,908,218
Kings	11,128,537	45,118	11,173,655	8,911	57,026	124,210	(445,431)	(357,928)	(613,212)	10,560,443
Lake	5,481,374	9,123	5,490,497	1,570	20,328	74,100	(207,443)	(70,523)	(181,967)	5,308,530
Lassen	2,791,707	7,839	2,799,546	469	20,156	51,816	(310,211)	(24,982)	(262,752)	2,536,795
Los Angeles	728,842,669	18,887,968	747,730,637	1,086,402	3,144,530	5,905,041	(15,091,072)	(22,131,916)	(27,087,015)	720,643,623
Madera	12,201,155	384,825	12,585,980	3,567	52,502	127,752	(402,661)	(29,976)	(248,817)	12,337,163
Marin	13,382,055	644,511	14,026,566	16,258	114,766	186,887	(10,161)	(79,643)	228,107	14,254,673
Mariposa	1,901,426	22,301	1,923,727	358	3,904	44,141	0	(48,097)	306	1,924,033
Mendocino	7,822,974	311,771	8,134,745	5,344	30,068	87,604	(316,031)	0	(193,016)	7,941,729
Merced	16,234,947	774,827	17,009,774	18,980	55,652	203,166	0	(396,015)	(118,217)	16,891,557
Modoc	1,315,950	31,967	1,347,917	344	6,134	39,130	(833)	0	44,775	1,392,692
Mono	2,324,312	85,641	2,409,953	247	12,446	41,913	(25,502)	0	29,104	2,439,057
Monterey	26,958,240	277,496	27,235,736	21,275	183,464	292,214	(918,484)	(419,138)	(840,668)	26,395,068
Napa	9,690,861	309,795	10,000,656	2,926	30,550	115,118	(312,023)	(249,271)	(412,699)	9,587,958
Nevada	7,490,698	95,495	7,586,193	6,222	49,946	94,368	(457,585)	(450,602)	(757,651)	6,828,542
Orange	186,774,190	6,929,920	193,704,110	280,350	923,882	1,915,066	(2,886,124)	(4,848,449)	(4,615,275)	189,088,835
Placer	26,112,231	634,796	26,747,027	27,010	77,378	277,721	0	(1,261,216)	(879,198)	25,867,919
Plumas	2,079,372	14,929	2,094,301	387	9,206	45,425	0	0	55,019	2,149,319
Riverside	143,170,839	923,656	144,094,495	69,322	532,226	1,484,060	(2,039,160)	(4,041,386)	(3,994,938)	140,099,558
Sacramento	107,289,393	3,560,591	110,849,984	227,150	340,254	973,583	(1,968,325)	(2,829,076)	(3,256,414)	107,593,571
San Benito	4,835,283	34,642	4,869,925	1,187	14,700	72,920	0	(76,761.93)	12,044	4,881,970
San Bernardino	140,856,446	1,264,732	142,121,178	198,919	435,474	1,335,608	(3,451,646)	(4,784,208)	(6,265,854)	135,855,324
San Diego	181,873,993	2,853,598	184,727,591	254,383	718,442	1,989,883	(693,816)	(5,227,197)	(2,958,306)	181,769,285
San Francisco	59,679,166	5,487,134	65,166,300	67,806	272,528	535,395	0	(560,555)	315,174	65,481,474
San Joaquin	50,105,231	1,245,356	51,350,587	59,156	201,698	501,401	(303,783)	(1,272,551)	(814,079)	50,536,509
San Luis Obispo	18,901,605	298,957	19,200,562	16,696	130,020	200,629	(255,144)	(594,528)	(502,328)	18,698,234
San Mateo	43,525,303	2,411,112	45,936,415	14,724	329,518	477,779	(467,732)	(1,344,342)	(990,054)	44,946,361
Santa Barbara	27,226,180	1,597,661	28,823,841	26,053	162,858	298,093	(1,113,911)	(686,816)	(1,313,724)	27,510,117
Santa Clara	93,538,230	2,309,466	95,847,696	118,318	452,782	1,164,067	0	(1,094,670)	640,497	96,488,193
Santa Cruz	16,457,835	203,558	16,661,393	13,467	113,210	191,965	0	(309,824)	8,819	16,670,211
Shasta	21,150,085	262,221	21,412,306	4,220	44,394	141,669	(2,780,637)	(355,994)	(2,946,347)	18,465,959
Sierra	950,165	9,616	959,781	59	1,830	35,916	0	0	37,805	997,586
Siskiyou	4,617,825	91,038	4,708,863	1,074	37,000	60,095	0	(256,172)	(158,012)	4,550,851
Solano	29,871,120	353,778	30,224,898	37,402	119,364	300,389	(459,664)	(778,859)	(781,369)	29,443,530
Sonoma	30,872,639	1,172,049	32,044,688	32,954	119,004	321,108	(464,520)	(1,141,224)	(1,132,678)	30,912,010
Stanislaus	31,276,155	1,305,229	32,581,384	41,456	88,718	361,215	(9,846)	(667,777)	(186,234)	32,395,151
Sutter	8,365,558	159,761	8,525,319	2,249	37,382	93,002	(260,840)	0	(128,207)	8,397,112
Tehama	5,843,659	108,184	5,951,843	1,387	28,100	72,678	0	0	102,164	6,054,007
Trinity	2,421,364	53,679	2,475,043	612	7,648	43,538	(543,614)	0	(491,816)	1,983,227
Tulare	33,973,213	33,744	34,006,957	28,762	204,932	316,908	(16,444)	(602,228)	(68,070)	33,938,888
Tuolumne	5,247,339	50,352	5,297,691	1,031	16,642	66,713	(232,805)	(70,677)	(219,095)	5,078,595
Ventura	44,206,647	968,752	45,175,399	56,154	205,304	530,521	(1,646,046)	(956,174)	(1,810,241)	43,365,158
Yolo	16,495,781	210,076	16,705,857	12,477	48,556	164,970	(615,372)	(299,824)	(689,192)	16,016,664
Yuba	6,625,744	90,867	6,716,611	1,941	15,788	83,056	(139,957)	0	(39,172)	6,677,439
Total	2,522,079,228	68,818,575	2,590,897,803	3,167,383	10,907,514	25,300,000	(43,592,694)	(66,228,129)	(70,445,925)	2,520,451,877

¹ FY 2025–26 non-base adjustments used to calculate Workload Formula allocation.

² FY 2025–26 base adjustments used to calculate Workload Formula allocation.

FY 2026–27 Workload Formula Allocations

Attachment 2C FY 2026–27 Workload Formula Allocations: Workload Allocation Adjustments

Court	FY 2026–27 Beginning Workload Allocation J (C+I)	SJO Adjustment (Change from Prior Year) K	Automated Recordkeeping & Micrographics (Change from Prior Year) L	FY 2026–27 Non-Interpreter Benefit Cost Change Funding M	Criminal Justice Realignment N	All Other Applicable Revenue Sources ³ O	FY 2026–27 Inflationary Adjustment Funding of \$70m (2.7 Percent) P	FY 2026–27 Workload Allocation (Prior to Implementing Funding Floor) Q (J:P)
Alameda	89,202,989	(137,688)	7,495	897,065	210,759	2,296,697	2,481,363	94,958,681
Alpine	978,394	0	(9)	19,467	0	9,211	27,066	1,034,129
Amador	4,452,950	(14,315)	215	1,937	4,800	191,820	128,214	4,765,621
Butte	13,915,739	11,952	1,854	191,587	126,761	100,367	384,407	14,732,668
Calaveras	3,483,148	(61,783)	292	76,422	436	27,393	95,200	3,621,108
Colusa	2,597,631	0	92	55,972	5,018	13,449	71,333	2,743,494
Contra Costa	53,307,534	(34,540)	13,959	1,125,269	83,780	576,775	1,465,303	56,538,080
Del Norte	4,045,017	0	121	91,375	24,218	13,344	110,594	4,284,669
El Dorado	10,112,101	(63,214)	790	203,315	47,999	96,902	279,447	10,677,339
Fresno	64,277,740	(36,410)	11,247	1,314,201	238,031	390,905	1,767,634	67,963,348
Glenn	3,328,769	0	79	92,457	7,418	14,368	90,232	3,533,323
Humboldt	8,304,727	(28,745)	990	28,378	36,872	157,296	240,945	8,740,464
Imperial	9,952,304	(12,467)	2,723	150,397	26,836	180,015	275,740	10,575,548
Inyo	2,629,699	0	10	57,721	6,545	15,358	72,101	2,781,435
Kern	64,908,218	(201,761)	13,851	1,263,351	236,940	2,597,863	1,803,400	70,621,863
Kings	10,560,443	(63,017)	1,903	182,888	53,017	469,261	300,497	11,504,992
Lake	5,308,530	(74,894)	182	78,491	15,272	40,542	145,897	5,514,019
Lassen	2,536,795	24,982	66	40,782	9,600	286,549	74,313	2,973,086
Los Angeles	720,643,623	(1,451,787)	150,958	9,954,830	2,869,683	19,827,219	20,175,235	772,169,761
Madera	12,337,163	(3,337)	474	157,520	52,363	232,682	345,118	13,121,983
Marin	14,254,673	8,255	1,533	164,540	16,145	153,413	391,312	14,989,871
Mariposa	1,924,033	(2,551)	14	53,364	2,182	7,952	52,381	2,037,375
Mendocino	7,941,729	6,141	68	98,966	86,180	309,340	220,743	8,663,166
Merced	16,891,557	58,073	4,844	512,461	60,871	253,361	464,502	18,245,669
Modoc	1,392,692	0	40	9,060	4,582	4,091	38,175	1,448,639
Mono	2,439,057	0	37	45,753	1,309	112,186	67,983	2,666,325
Monterey	26,395,068	(11,029)	5,171	558,630	45,163	419,360	731,388	28,143,749
Napa	9,587,958	(3,476)	(181)	232,324	37,308	121,584	269,811	10,245,328
Nevada	6,828,542	(20,768)	556	119,192	7,418	123,184	187,653	7,245,777
Orange	189,088,835	(207,025)	33,824	927,493	535,843	3,624,789	5,255,869	199,259,628
Placer	25,867,919	(84,213)	5,966	1,005,428	36,872	174,877	702,876	27,709,725
Plumas	2,149,319	0	(13)	25,271	2,836	5,256	53,162	2,235,832
Riverside	140,099,558	51,812	10,832	(212,128)	841,073	1,530,196	3,893,693	146,215,036
Sacramento	107,593,571	143,582	10,381	(3,612,205)	155,342	1,638,603	2,997,326	108,926,600
San Benito	4,881,970	11,223	328	136,789	9,382	31,819	134,648	5,206,158
San Bernardino	135,855,324	144,898	41,136	297,736	956,488	1,110,372	3,836,771	142,242,727
San Diego	181,769,285	(626,014)	23,714	(3,616,757)	576,206	1,442,471	4,946,284	184,515,189
San Francisco	65,481,474	19,073	13,703	719,081	124,361	402,940	1,808,745	68,569,376
San Joaquin	50,536,509	(73,464)	16,699	321,428	78,326	460,360	1,398,149	52,738,006
San Luis Obispo	18,698,234	(21,990)	1,453	307,821	104,070	410,060	525,593	20,025,242
San Mateo	44,946,361	(30,153)	2,692	1,128,881	63,271	551,864	1,237,238	47,900,155
Santa Barbara	27,510,117	(6,862)	4,320	865,807	46,254	228,019	760,241	29,407,895
Santa Clara	96,488,193	(43,900)	14,594	1,242,175	177,160	1,007,559	2,629,186	101,514,968
Santa Cruz	16,670,211	6,015	1,167	317,226	38,399	141,055	452,667	17,626,739
Shasta	18,465,959	(18,159)	996	428,506	75,053	119,097	508,954	19,580,405
Sierra	997,586	0	(11)	17,844	218	26,877	27,066	1,069,582
Siskiyou	4,550,851	(5,796)	27	181,708	5,673	42,724	123,966	4,899,153
Solano	29,443,530	(32,592)	9,308	452,339	111,052	365,558	816,874	31,166,070
Sonoma	30,912,010	75,045	5,689	1,418,668	107,998	246,697	860,984	33,627,091
Stanislaus	32,395,151	(30,418)	8,577	823,499	170,614	303,587	884,963	34,555,972
Sutter	8,397,112	0	376	129,427	27,272	63,181	230,967	8,848,336
Tehama	6,054,007	0	337	228,570	12,436	44,421	165,039	6,504,811
Trinity	1,983,227	0	98	74,431	3,927	29,299	58,923	2,149,905
Tulare	33,938,888	(46,856)	6,282	539,929	94,689	222,193	932,903	35,688,028
Tuolumne	5,078,595	26,934	330	142,437	13,091	33,097	141,309	5,435,792
Ventura	43,365,158	11,628	14,745	822,161	425,664	951,044	1,231,084	46,821,482
Yolo	16,016,664	(4,020)	2,204	223,196	56,072	90,388	443,408	16,827,911
Yuba	6,677,439	0	521	162,788	55,853	59,428	183,124	7,139,153
Total	2,520,451,877	(2,853,631)	449,649	23,277,267	9,223,000	44,400,313	70,000,000	2,664,948,475

³ Revenue does not reflect an allocation of funding to the trial courts, but is used in the calculation of the Workload Formula allocation.

FY 2026–27 Workload Formula Allocations

Attachment 2C FY 2026–27 Workload Formula Allocations: Workload Allocation Funding Floor Adjustment and Workload Formula

Court	FY 2026–27 Workload Allocation (Prior to Implementing Funding Floor)	Applied Funding Floor ⁴	Floor Allocation Adjustment ⁴	Percentage Share of Adjustment ⁴	Adjustment Allocation ⁴	FY 2026–27 Final Workload Allocation	FY 2026–27 Workload Formula	Workload Formula Percentage	FOR DISPLAY ONLY							
	Q (J:P)								R	S	T	U	V (Q+S+U)	W	X (V/W)	FY 2026–27 Civil Assessment Backfill Debt Obligations ⁵
																Y
Alameda	94,958,681	0	0	3.57%	2,201	94,960,881	130,068,492	73.01%	0							
Alpine	1,034,129	1,021,000	(13,129)	0.00%	0	1,021,000	537,691	189.89%	0							
Amador	4,765,621	0	0	0.18%	110	4,765,732	5,764,651	82.67%	0							
Butte	14,732,668	0	0	0.55%	341	14,733,009	17,815,568	82.70%	0							
Calaveras	3,621,108	0	0	0.14%	84	3,621,192	4,181,866	86.59%	0							
Colusa	2,743,494	0	0	0.10%	64	2,743,558	3,031,795	90.49%	0							
Contra Costa	56,538,080	0	0	2.12%	1,310	56,539,391	75,537,473	74.85%	0							
Del Norte	4,284,669	0	0	0.16%	99	4,284,769	4,652,062	92.10%	0							
El Dorado	10,677,339	0	0	0.40%	247	10,677,587	16,024,044	66.63%	0							
Fresno	67,963,348	0	0	2.55%	1,575	67,964,923	99,624,688	68.22%	500,000							
Glenn	3,533,323	0	0	0.13%	82	3,533,404	3,985,635	88.65%	0							
Humboldt	8,740,464	0	0	0.33%	203	8,740,666	12,498,364	69.93%	0							
Imperial	10,575,548	0	0	0.40%	245	10,575,793	10,713,922	98.71%	0							
Inyo	2,781,435	0	0	0.10%	64	2,781,499	3,201,379	86.88%	0							
Kern	70,621,863	0	0	2.65%	1,637	70,623,499	100,219,291	70.47%	0							
Kings	11,504,992	0	0	0.43%	267	11,505,259	14,272,849	80.61%	0							
Lake	5,514,019	0	0	0.21%	128	5,514,146	8,445,763	65.29%	0							
Lassen	2,973,086	0	0	0.11%	69	2,973,155	3,616,909	82.20%	0							
Los Angeles	772,169,761	0	0	29.00%	17,895	772,187,655	1,005,846,169	76.77%	0							
Madera	13,121,983	0	0	0.49%	304	13,122,287	18,447,611	71.13%	0							
Marin	14,989,871	0	0	0.56%	347	14,990,219	18,024,735	83.16%	0							
Mariposa	2,037,375	0	0	0.08%	47	2,037,422	2,254,401	90.38%	0							
Mendocino	8,663,166	0	0	0.33%	201	8,663,367	9,805,463	88.35%	0							
Merced	18,245,669	0	0	0.69%	423	18,246,092	24,306,766	75.07%	310,000							
Modoc	1,448,639	0	0	0.05%	34	1,448,673	1,894,240	76.48%	0							
Mono	2,666,325	0	0	0.10%	62	2,666,387	2,218,882	120.17%	0							
Monterey	28,143,749	0	0	1.06%	652	28,144,401	36,434,047	77.25%	0							
Napa	10,245,328	0	0	0.38%	237	10,245,566	13,825,740	74.11%	0							
Nevada	7,245,777	0	0	0.27%	168	7,245,945	9,579,165	75.64%	0							
Orange	199,259,628	0	0	7.48%	4,618	199,264,246	279,867,275	71.20%	0							
Placer	27,709,725	0	0	1.04%	642	27,710,367	39,088,851	70.89%	0							
Plumas	2,235,832	0	0	0.08%	52	2,235,884	2,579,640	86.67%	0							
Riverside	146,215,036	0	0	5.49%	3,388	146,218,424	223,660,818	65.38%	0							
Sacramento	108,926,600	0	0	4.09%	2,524	108,929,125	169,850,671	64.13%	0							
San Benito	5,206,158	0	0	0.20%	121	5,206,278	6,287,477	82.80%	0							
San Bernardino	142,242,727	0	0	5.34%	3,296	142,246,023	209,264,721	67.97%	0							
San Diego	184,515,189	0	0	6.93%	4,276	184,519,465	258,380,900	71.41%	0							
San Francisco	68,569,376	0	0	2.58%	1,589	68,570,965	82,617,403	83.00%	0							
San Joaquin	52,738,006	0	0	1.98%	1,222	52,739,228	74,891,153	70.42%	0							
San Luis Obispo	20,025,242	0	0	0.75%	464	20,025,706	26,418,365	75.80%	0							
San Mateo	47,900,155	0	0	1.80%	1,110	47,901,265	67,304,875	71.17%	0							
Santa Barbara	29,407,895	0	0	1.10%	682	29,408,577	40,641,626	72.36%	0							
Santa Clara	101,514,968	0	0	3.81%	2,353	101,517,320	140,134,018	72.44%	4,031,257							
Santa Cruz	17,626,739	0	0	0.66%	408	17,627,148	22,598,685	78.00%	75,000							
Shasta	19,580,405	0	0	0.74%	454	19,580,859	24,800,545	78.95%	0							
Sierra	1,069,582	1,021,000	(48,582)	0.00%	0	1,021,000	711,066	143.59%	0							
Siskiyou	4,899,153	0	0	0.18%	114	4,899,266	6,466,358	75.77%	0							
Solano	31,166,070	0	0	1.17%	722	31,166,792	42,103,809	74.02%	0							
Sonoma	33,627,091	0	0	1.26%	779	33,627,870	41,269,374	81.48%	0							
Stanislaus	34,555,972	0	0	1.30%	801	34,556,773	55,590,796	62.16%	0							
Sutter	8,848,336	0	0	0.33%	205	8,848,541	12,536,595	70.58%	0							
Tehama	6,504,811	0	0	0.24%	151	6,504,961	8,653,611	75.17%	0							
Trinity	2,149,905	0	0	0.08%	50	2,149,955	2,428,013	88.55%	0							
Tulare	35,688,028	0	0	1.34%	827	35,688,855	49,473,507	72.14%	0							
Tuolumne	5,435,792	0	0	0.20%	126	5,435,918	6,836,864	79.51%	0							
Ventura	46,821,482	0	0	1.76%	1,085	46,822,567	63,898,152	73.28%	0							
Yolo	16,827,911	0	0	0.63%	390	16,828,301	22,857,114	73.62%	0							
Yuba	7,139,153	0	0	0.27%	165	7,139,319	11,404,738	62.60%	0							
Total	2,664,948,475	2,042,000	(61,710)	100.00%	61,710	2,664,948,475	3,649,446,681	73.02%	4,916,257							

⁴ FY 2026–27 workload funding floor adjustments.

⁵ The informational column (Y) for Civil Assessment Backfill Debt Obligations includes Fresno court that was inadvertently omitted from May 7, 2026 TCBC meeting materials.

**Trial Court Trust Fund
Fund Condition Statement
FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget**

#	Description	FY 2022–23 (Year End Financial Statements)	FY 2023–24 (Year End Financial Statements)	FY 2024–25 (Year End Financial Statements)	FY 2025–26 Estimates	FY 2026–27 Estimates	FY 2027–28 Estimates
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
1	Beginning Fund Balance	180,993,913	234,161,463	365,958,407	272,798,370	287,605,955	333,362,952
2	Prior-Year Adjustments	39,095,081	52,234,508	15,348,870	0	0	0
3	Total Revenues and Transfers¹	1,134,044,353	1,227,300,625	1,270,367,928	1,290,575,000	1,291,630,000	1,291,630,000
4	Total Resources	1,354,133,348	1,513,696,595	1,651,675,204	1,563,373,370	1,579,235,955	1,624,992,952
5	EXPENDITURES/ENCUMBRANCES/ALLOCATIONS	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	Program 0140010/0150037 - Judicial Council (Staff)	3,592,910	3,589,736	3,631,613	4,587,000	4,187,000	4,187,000
7	Program 0150010 - Support for Operation of the Trial Courts	2,466,660,242	2,632,244,156	2,609,828,200	2,666,463,003	2,761,380,003	2,761,380,003
8	Program 0150011 - Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel	211,967,000	211,616,172	210,348,187	186,700,000	186,700,000	186,700,000
9	Program 0150019 - Compensation of Superior Court Judges	423,563,000	428,118,549	445,544,509	452,766,412	468,075,000	468,075,000
10	Program 0150028 - Assigned Judges	24,111,000	23,569,452	26,357,336	28,200,000	32,519,000	32,519,000
11	Program 0150037 - Court Interpreters	124,546,000	131,951,695	142,581,395	153,903,000	143,820,000	135,120,000
12	Program 0150075 - Grants	29,840,000	29,840,016	29,954,897	10,329,000	10,329,000	10,329,000
13	Program 0150095 - Expenses on Behalf of the Trial Courts	13,750,000	13,018,675	20,369,255	23,299,000	20,764,000	20,764,000
14	Total Local Assistance	3,294,437,242	3,470,358,714	3,484,983,778	3,521,660,415	3,623,587,003	3,614,887,003
15	FISCAL Assessment	174,000	174,000	174,000	174,000	174,000	174,000
16	Pro Rata/State Ops	184,733	91,623	76,443	207,000	349,000	349,000
17	Supplemental Pension Payments	76,000	30,116	0	0	0	0
18	Item 601 - Redevelopment Agency Writ Case Reimbursements	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	Total Expenditures (includes State Ops and Local Assistance)	3,298,030,152	3,473,948,449	3,488,615,391	3,526,247,415	3,627,774,003	3,619,074,003
20	Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	<i>Less Funding Provided by General Fund</i>	<i>2,178,493,000</i>	<i>2,326,506,000</i>	<i>2,109,989,000</i>	<i>2,250,861,000</i>	<i>2,382,424,000</i>	<i>2,382,424,000</i>
22	Total Expenditures and Expenditure Adjustments	1,119,971,885	1,147,738,188	1,378,876,834	1,275,767,415	1,245,873,003	1,237,173,003
23	Ending Fund Balance	234,161,463	365,958,407	272,798,370	287,605,955	333,362,952	387,819,949
24	Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Total Restricted/Reserved Funds	138,446,525	165,516,655	155,955,694	96,228,441	87,528,441	87,528,441
26	Ending Unrestricted Fund Balance	95,714,938	200,441,751	116,842,676	191,377,514	245,834,511	300,291,508

¹ Revenue estimates are as of FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget.

Revised for Informational Purposes Only

FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations

Attachment 2B FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations: Base and Base Adjustments

Court	FY 2025–26 Ending Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) Ongoing Base Allocation	SB 154 Backfill Funding ¹	SB 101 Backfill Funding ¹	AB 177 Backfill Funding ¹	FY 2026–27 Inflationary Adjustment Funding of \$70m (2.7 Percent) ¹	FY 2026–27 Non-Interpreter Benefit Cost Change Funding ^{1,2}	Total Ongoing Base Allocations	Telephonic Appearances ³	Criminal Justice Realignment ³	SB 549 Funding ³	Total One-Time Base Allocations	Floor Allocation Adjustment	Floor Reduction Allocation	Total Base Allocation Adjustments	FY 2026–27 Total TCTF Base Allocation
A	B	C	D	E	F	G (B:F)	H	I	J	K (H:J)	L	M	N (L:M)	O (A+G+K+N)	
Alameda	90,354,479	16,047	0	388,170	2,481,363	897,065	3,782,646	-	210,759	0	210,759	0	2,201	2,201	94,350,084
Alpine	921,278	296	0	773	27,066	19,467	47,602	-	-	0	-	(13,129)	0	(13,129)	955,751
Amador	4,497,744	524	0	2,638	128,214	1,937	133,313	5,790	4,800	0	10,590	0	110	110	4,641,757
Butte	14,610,759	1,624	0	35,534	384,407	191,587	613,152	15,210	126,761	0	141,971	0	341	341	15,366,223
Calaveras	3,498,861	638	0	8,356	95,200	76,422	180,616	791	436	0	1,228	0	84	84	3,680,789
Colusa	2,511,783	146	0	18,257	71,333	55,972	145,708	-	5,018	0	5,018	0	64	64	2,662,572
Contra Costa	51,740,023	10,359	4,410	579,655	1,465,303	1,125,269	3,184,996	-	83,780	0	83,780	0	1,310	1,310	55,010,109
Del Norte	3,888,979	504	900	13,628	110,594	91,375	217,001	-	24,218	0	24,218	0	99	99	4,130,297
El Dorado	9,836,562	7,426	46	72,855	279,447	203,315	563,090	24,418	47,999	0	72,417	0	247	247	10,472,316
Fresno	61,355,576	15,895	228	491,341	1,767,634	1,314,201	3,589,299	75,930	238,031	0	313,961	0	1,575	1,575	65,260,411
Glenn	3,213,519	407	0	13,914	90,232	92,457	197,010	1,230	7,418	0	8,648	0	82	82	3,419,259
Humboldt	8,405,036	7,537	0	21,383	240,945	28,378	298,243	12,250	36,872	0	49,122	0	203	203	8,752,603
Imperial	10,225,717	2,583	0	51,406	275,740	150,397	480,126	25,465	26,836	0	52,301	0	245	245	10,758,389
Inyo	2,675,179	448	0	11,473	72,101	57,721	141,743	1,395	6,545	0	7,940	0	64	64	2,824,926
Kern	62,434,236	12,934	0	670,557	1,803,400	1,263,351	3,750,243	38,700	236,940	0	275,640	0	1,637	1,637	66,461,756
Kings	11,128,537	3,163	9,139	94,584	300,497	182,888	590,271	5,935	53,017	0	58,952	0	267	267	11,778,027
Lake	5,481,374	1,151	0	0	145,897	78,491	225,539	-	15,272	0	15,272	0	128	128	5,722,313
Lassen	2,791,707	475	0	34,050	74,313	40,782	149,621	4,241	9,600	0	13,841	0	69	69	2,955,538
Los Angeles	728,842,669	178,565	0	1,034,695	20,175,235	9,954,830	31,343,325	-	2,869,683	0	2,869,683	0	17,895	17,895	763,073,573
Madera	12,201,155	2,992	0	56,104	345,118	157,520	561,733	-	52,363	0	52,363	0	304	304	12,815,555
Marin	13,382,055	4,869	0	17,214	391,312	164,540	577,935	42,540	16,145	0	58,685	0	347	347	14,019,223
Mariposa	1,901,426	384	708	5,408	52,381	53,364	112,246	-	2,182	0	2,182	0	47	47	2,015,900
Mendocino	7,822,974	1,269	10,249	0	220,743	98,966	331,226	8,520	86,180	0	94,700	0	201	201	8,249,101
Merced	16,234,947	5,076	10,891	240,881	464,502	512,461	1,233,811	13,095	60,871	0	73,966	0	423	423	17,543,147
Modoc	1,315,950	923	0	3,339	38,175	9,060	51,497	776	4,582	0	5,358	0	34	34	1,372,838
Mono	2,324,312	1,945	0	10,278	67,983	45,753	125,958	-	1,309	0	1,309	0	62	62	2,451,641
Monterey	26,958,240	11,615	29,680	74,767	731,388	558,630	1,406,080	-	45,163	0	45,163	0	652	652	28,410,135
Napa	9,690,861	2,279	0	102,619	269,811	232,324	607,033	14,590	37,308	0	51,898	0	237	237	10,350,030
Nevada	7,490,698	989	6,567	58,099	187,653	119,192	372,500	7,418	7,418	0	7,418	0	168	168	7,870,784
Orange	186,774,190	99,268	323,577	1,251,875	5,255,869	927,493	7,858,082	-	535,843	0	535,843	0	4,618	4,618	195,172,732
Placer	26,112,231	6,765	10,463	0	702,876	1,005,428	1,725,532	24,920	36,872	0	61,792	0	642	642	27,900,197
Plumas	2,079,372	333	0	0	53,162	25,271	78,767	2,448	2,836	0	5,284	0	52	52	2,163,474
Riverside	143,170,839	46,776	629	1,901,241	3,893,693	(212,128)	5,630,211	-	841,073	0	841,073	0	3,388	3,388	149,645,512
Sacramento	107,289,393	19,823	117,375	92,107	2,997,326	(3,612,205)	(385,574)	43,920	155,342	1,542,000	1,741,262	0	2,524	2,524	108,647,606
San Benito	4,835,283	1,716	0	12,450	134,648	136,789	285,603	-	9,382	0	9,382	0	121	121	5,130,389
San Bernardino	140,856,446	35,214	124,966	895,264	3,836,771	297,736	5,189,952	239,760	956,488	0	1,196,248	0	3,296	3,296	147,245,942
San Diego	181,873,993	34,021	0	17,539	4,946,284	(3,616,757)	1,381,087	-	576,206	0	576,206	0	4,276	4,276	183,835,562
San Francisco	59,679,166	18,012	0	104,916	1,808,745	719,081	2,650,754	17,515	124,361	0	141,876	0	1,589	1,589	62,473,385
San Joaquin	50,105,231	5,414	31,575	166,628	1,398,149	321,428	1,923,194	51,955	78,326	0	130,281	0	1,222	1,222	52,159,928
San Luis Obispo	18,901,605	3,860	0	89,135	525,593	307,821	926,410	18,700	104,070	0	122,770	0	464	464	19,951,249
San Mateo	43,525,303	20,122	58,848	117,065	1,237,238	1,128,881	2,562,154	39,743	63,271	0	103,014	0	1,110	1,110	46,191,581
Santa Barbara	27,226,180	6,114	28,938	27,736	760,241	865,807	1,688,836	44,719	46,254	0	90,972	0	682	682	29,006,669
Santa Clara	93,538,230	33,654	0	317,171	2,629,186	1,242,175	4,222,187	-	177,160	0	177,160	0	2,353	2,353	97,939,929
Santa Cruz	16,457,835	2,701	12,225	79,982	452,667	317,226	864,800	21,904	38,399	0	60,303	0	408	408	17,383,346
Shasta	21,150,085	1,914	0	281,585	508,954	428,506	1,220,958	9,190	75,053	0	84,243	0	454	454	22,455,740
Sierra	950,165	25	0	2,066	27,066	17,844	47,001	630	218	0	848	(48,582)	0	(48,582)	949,432
Siskiyou	4,617,825	617	0	12,956	123,966	181,708	319,247	-	5,673	0	5,673	0	114	114	4,942,859
Solano	29,871,120	11,308	17,528	188,863	816,874	452,339	1,486,912	42,765	111,052	0	153,817	0	722	722	31,512,572
Sonoma	30,872,639	7,553	21,221	106,700	860,984	1,418,668	2,415,126	14,895	107,998	0	122,893	0	779	779	33,411,438
Stanislaus	31,276,155	10,347	0	90,044	884,963	823,499	1,808,853	-	170,614	0	170,614	0	801	801	33,256,423
Sutter	8,365,558	1,605	6,367	53,365	230,967	129,427	421,732	2,795	27,272	0	30,067	0	205	205	8,817,562
Tehama	5,843,659	746	0	61,114	165,039	228,570	455,469	1,340	12,436	0	13,776	0	151	151	6,313,054
Trinity	2,421,364	383	0	0	58,923	74,431	133,737	400	3,927	0	4,327	0	50	50	2,559,478
Tulare	33,973,213	8,343	0	234,849	932,903	539,929	1,716,024	12,890	94,689	0	107,579	0	827	827	35,797,644
Tuolumne	5,247,339	840	0	0	141,309	142,437	284,586	6,280	13,091	0	19,371	0	126	126	5,551,421
Ventura	44,206,647	16,016	0	1,231,084	822,161	2,069,260	4,256,664	-	425,664	0	425,664	0	1,085	1,085	46,702,656
Yolo	16,495,781	1,979	0	82,111	443,408	223,196	750,693	-	56,072	0	56,072	0	390	390	17,302,935
Yuba	6,625,744	878	0	28,260	183,124	162,788	375,050	9,456	55,853	0	65,309	0	165	165	7,066,269
Unallocated ⁴	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69,884,000	0	0	0	69,884,000
Total	2,522,079,228	689,410	826,530	10,327,000	70,000,000	23,277,267	105,120,207	897,100	9,223,000	1,542,000	81,546,100	(61,710)	61,710	0	2,708,745,534

¹ FY 2026–27 ongoing base allocations.

² Benefits funding reflects actual cost changes as identified by court and is fiscally neutral.

³ FY 2026–27 one-time base allocations.

⁴ Unallocated includes \$30 million for court reporters, \$7 million for increased transcript rates, and \$32.9 million CARE Act funding for a total of \$69.9M TCTF allocations.

FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations

Attachment 2B FY 2026–27 Trial Court Recommended Preliminary Allocations: Other Adjustments

Court	FY 2026–27 Total TCTF Base Allocation	General Fund Employee Benefits	FY 2026–27 Total Base Allocation ⁵	2% Automation Replacement ⁶	Self-Help ⁶	Court Interpreters Program (CIP) Allocation ^{6,8}	CIP Ongoing Benefits ⁶	Total Non-Base Allocations ⁷	FY 2026–27 Trial Court Allocation
	O (A+G+K+N)	P	Q (O+P)	R	S	T	U	V (R:U)	W (Q+V)
Alameda	94,350,084	3,102,046	97,452,130	424,792	1,017,456	5,815,753	34,362	7,292,363	104,744,493
Alpine	955,751	20,340	976,091	2,034	34,711	951	0	37,696	1,013,787
Amador	4,641,757	51,756	4,693,513	11,006	57,922	64,956	0	133,885	4,827,398
Butte	15,366,223	124,077	15,490,300	59,332	155,943	270,391	0	485,666	15,975,966
Calaveras	3,680,789	50,506	3,731,295	18,652	60,856	32,164	0	111,672	3,842,967
Colusa	2,662,572	24,773	2,687,345	13,708	46,982	143,820	0	204,511	2,891,856
Contra Costa	55,010,109	1,396,191	56,406,300	218,186	722,449	3,230,947	19,186	4,190,768	60,597,069
Del Norte	4,130,297	94,130	4,224,427	11,208	50,173	25,242	0	86,622	4,311,050
El Dorado	10,472,316	213,120	10,685,436	54,374	147,338	256,605	0	458,317	11,143,753
Fresno	65,260,411	3,340,363	68,600,774	181,080	636,326	2,744,045	21,068	3,582,519	72,183,293
Glenn	3,419,259	54,665	3,473,924	19,264	51,119	161,357	0	231,740	3,705,664
Humboldt	8,752,603	73,084	8,825,687	48,160	114,410	77,496	(71)	239,995	9,065,682
Imperial	10,758,389	125,539	10,883,928	67,678	140,935	787,261	3,089	998,964	11,882,891
Inyo	2,824,926	75,586	2,900,512	30,402	45,295	71,456	0	147,153	3,047,665
Kern	66,461,756	3,544,268	70,006,024	277,328	575,261	3,832,612	16,139	4,701,341	74,707,365
Kings	11,778,027	45,118	11,823,145	57,026	124,210	712,880	3,313	897,429	12,720,574
Lake	5,722,313	9,123	5,731,436	20,328	74,100	207,234	0	301,662	6,033,098
Lassen	2,955,238	7,839	2,963,077	20,156	51,816	51,462	0	123,434	3,086,511
Los Angeles	763,073,573	18,887,968	781,961,541	3,144,530	5,905,041	37,610,069	424,673	47,084,312	829,045,853
Madera	12,815,555	384,825	13,200,380	52,502	127,752	926,496	8,044	1,114,794	14,315,174
Marin	14,019,023	644,511	14,663,534	114,766	186,887	892,503	9,763	1,203,919	15,867,454
Mariposa	2,015,900	22,301	2,038,201	3,904	44,141	53,624	0	101,669	2,139,870
Mendocino	8,249,101	311,771	8,560,872	30,068	87,604	543,175	0	660,847	9,221,718
Merced	17,543,147	774,827	18,317,974	55,652	203,166	1,313,418	13,253	1,585,488	19,903,463
Modoc	1,372,838	31,967	1,404,805	6,134	39,130	9,390	0	54,654	1,459,459
Mono	2,451,641	85,641	2,537,282	12,446	41,913	70,184	0	124,543	2,661,825
Monterey	28,410,135	277,496	28,687,631	183,464	292,214	1,721,699	4,106	2,201,484	30,889,115
Napa	10,350,030	309,795	10,659,825	30,550	115,118	944,047	7,321	1,097,036	11,756,861
Nevada	7,870,784	95,495	7,966,279	49,946	94,368	117,584	(54)	261,844	8,228,123
Orange	195,172,732	6,929,920	202,102,652	923,882	1,915,066	9,082,350	11,973	11,933,270	214,035,923
Placer	27,900,197	634,796	28,534,993	77,378	277,721	936,107	2,681	1,293,888	29,828,880
Plumas	2,163,474	14,929	2,178,403	9,206	45,425	3,374	0	58,005	2,236,408
Riverside	149,645,512	923,656	150,569,168	532,226	1,484,060	7,026,214	22,116	9,064,616	159,633,784
Sacramento	108,647,606	3,560,591	112,208,197	340,254	973,583	5,258,233	(115,937)	6,456,133	118,664,330
San Benito	5,130,389	34,642	5,165,031	14,700	72,920	153,869	0	241,488	5,406,519
San Bernardino	147,245,942	1,264,732	148,510,674	435,474	1,335,608	6,202,106	8,837	7,982,025	156,492,699
San Diego	183,835,562	2,853,598	186,689,160	718,442	1,989,883	6,758,113	(121,455)	9,344,983	196,034,143
San Francisco	62,473,385	5,487,134	67,960,519	272,528	535,395	5,060,401	39,222	5,907,546	73,868,065
San Joaquin	52,159,928	1,245,356	53,405,284	201,698	501,401	2,390,998	4,413	3,098,510	56,503,794
San Luis Obispo	19,951,249	298,957	20,250,206	130,020	200,629	870,555	5,109	1,206,313	21,456,519
San Mateo	46,191,581	2,411,112	48,602,693	329,518	477,779	3,543,519	40,450	4,391,266	52,993,959
Santa Barbara	29,006,669	1,597,661	30,604,330	162,858	298,093	3,061,592	36,898	3,559,441	34,163,771
Santa Clara	97,939,929	2,309,466	100,249,395	452,782	1,164,067	7,414,354	27,232	9,058,434	109,307,829
Santa Cruz	17,383,346	203,558	17,586,904	113,210	191,965	1,002,981	1,781	1,309,936	18,896,841
Shasta	22,455,740	262,221	22,717,961	44,394	141,669	491,362	0	677,425	23,395,386
Sierra	949,432	9,616	959,048	1,830	35,916	523	0	38,270	997,318
Siskiyou	4,942,859	91,038	5,033,897	37,000	60,085	70,700	0	167,785	5,201,682
Solano	31,512,572	353,778	31,866,350	119,364	300,389	1,003,202	7,020	1,429,975	33,296,325
Sonoma	33,411,438	1,172,049	34,583,487	119,004	321,108	2,204,490	8,846	2,653,448	37,236,935
Stanislaus	33,256,423	1,305,229	34,561,652	88,718	361,215	1,822,856	4,736	2,277,524	36,839,176
Sutter	8,817,562	159,761	8,977,323	37,382	93,002	311,232	0	441,616	9,418,939
Tehama	6,313,054	108,184	6,421,238	28,100	72,678	225,184	3,778	329,740	6,750,978
Trinity	2,559,478	53,679	2,613,157	7,648	43,538	45,544	0	96,730	2,709,887
Tulare	35,797,644	33,744	35,831,388	204,932	316,908	2,863,330	8,377	3,393,547	39,224,935
Tuolumne	5,551,421	50,352	5,601,773	16,642	66,713	71,078	0	154,433	5,756,206
Ventura	46,702,656	968,752	47,671,408	205,304	530,521	3,216,686	13,191	3,965,701	51,637,109
Yolo	17,302,935	210,076	17,513,011	48,556	164,970	572,271	1,296	787,094	18,300,105
Yuba	7,066,269	90,867	7,157,136	15,788	83,056	107,200	0	206,045	7,363,181
Unallocated ^{5,7,8}	69,884,000	0	118,834,000	0	0	20,000,000	0	206,700,000	325,534,000
Total	2,708,745,534	68,818,575	2,826,514,109	10,907,514	25,300,000	154,459,244	574,756	377,941,514	3,204,455,623

⁵ Unallocated includes \$48.9 million General Fund pretrial funding.

⁶ FY 2026–27 non-base allocations.

⁷ Unallocated includes \$186.7 million for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel.

⁸ Unallocated includes additional \$20 million for Court Interpreters Program as proposed in the FY 2026–27 May Revision.

**Judicial Branch
2027–28 BCC Tracking List**

May 20, 2026

BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget and was denied.

Concept submitted to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee in FY 2026–27 and was denied.

Tracking #	JCC Office/ Branch Entity	Concept Title	Description	# Positions	\$ Estimate (thousands)	Fund Source	JCC Committee Impacted by this concept	Proposed Lead Advisory Committee	Comments
27-01	Budget Services	Inflationary Adjustment for Trial Courts (Consumer Price Index)	Requests \$82.3 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027–28 and ongoing to address general inflationary costs for the trial courts based on the estimated consumer price index published by the Department of Finance.	0.0	\$ 82,300	GF	TCBAC	TCBAC	N/A
27-02	IT	Trial Courts Technology Ongoing Support	Requests \$42.5 million in FY 2027–28 to provide financial relief for increased technology cost at the trial courts.	0.0	\$ 42,500	GF	JCTC, TCBAC	TCBAC	N/A
27-03	LSSACS	Language Access in the California Courts	Requests \$35.5 million General Fund beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28, increasing annually through FY 2031–32 up to \$80.4 million ongoing, to address rising court interpreter costs, support the ongoing efforts of the Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts, and ensure trial courts are fully funded for the provision of interpreter services in all case types.	0.0	\$ 35,500	GF	TCBAC	TCBAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget and was denied.
27-04	TCBAC	Improving Branchwide Cybersecurity	Requests \$16.4 million ongoing in FY 2027–28, and an additional \$2.7 million annually through FY 2031–32 to improve the Branch's cybersecurity programs in the supreme court, appellate courts, trial courts and the Judicial Council: provide supplemental funds to extend current cybersecurity programs to enroll additional courts; provide funding to support three new cybersecurity programs for all the courts; provide local assisting funds to support the trial courts' cost of cybersecurity programs; and provide temporary staffing assistance to support the implementation of the cybersecurity programs. The purpose is to ensure the cybersecurity programs provide the necessary security services to protect the Courts of California and Judicial Council.	0.0	\$ 19,100	GF	TCBAC, APJAC	JCTC	N/A
27-05	IT	Appellate Court Technology Modernization and Ongoing Cost Adjustment	Requests 6.0 positions and \$4.5 million ongoing General Fund; and an additional \$300,000 annually through FY 2031–32. To provide application maintenance, enhancement and support of the Appellate Courts Case Management System (ACCMS). The funding will cover the increased operational, software and hosting cost of the ACCMS application. Funding for local assistance is needed for the Courts of Appeals to ensure the courts' equipment and software are maintained, secured, and kept up to date.	6.0	\$ 4,500	GF	Tech, APJAC	APJAC	N/A
27-06	CJS	Addressing the Impact of the Disproportionate Increase in Competency Evaluations	Requests 1.0 position and \$10.4 million General Fund in FY 2027–28, increasing annually through FY 2031–32 up to \$16.3 million ongoing to support; 1) trial courts in addressing the increased number and rising costs of Penal Code (PC) section 1368 competency to stand trial evaluations required throughout the state; and 2) the development of resources to assist courts in identifying and maintaining qualified competency evaluators.	1.0	\$ 10,400	GF	CJCAC, TCBAC	CJCAC	N/A
27-07	LS	Litigation Management Program	Requests an ongoing augmentation of \$3 million in FY 2027–28 for the Litigation Management Program to support the defense and indemnity of all judicial branch entities.	0.0	\$ 3,000	GF	LMC	LMC	Concept submitted to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee in FY 2026–27 and was denied.

**Judicial Branch
2027–28 BCC Tracking List**

May 20, 2026

Tracking #	JCC Office/ Branch Entity	Concept Title	Description	# Positions	\$ Estimate (thousands)	Fund Source	JCC Committee Impacted by this concept	Proposed Lead Advisory Committee	Comments
27-08	RAD	Judicial Branch Data Analytics Modernization	Requests 9.0 positions and \$9.8 million in FY 2027–28; 9.0 positions and \$7.24 million in FY 2028–29; 7.0 positions and \$7.24 million in FY 2029–30; and \$5.12 million in FY 2030–31 to improve and modernize branch data collection, enhance data reporting, improve accountability and transparency, and better serve the public.	9.0	\$ 9,800	GF	DAAC, TCBAC	DAAC	N/A
27-09	HCRC	HCRC Case Team Staffing	Requests 30.0 positions and \$7.3 million General Fund in FY 2027–28; 20.0 positions and \$12.2 million General Fund in FY 2028–29; and 20.0 positions and \$17.4 million General Fund in FY 2029–30, for a total request of 70.0 positions to increase staff to address delays and backlog of unrepresented capital defendants in habeas corpus cases.	30.0	\$ 7,300	GF	HCRC	HCRC	Concept submitted to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee in FY 2026–27 and was denied.
27-10	LSSACS	Appellate Court Unarmed Security Guard – Expanded Coverage	Requests \$707,000 ongoing General Fund in FY 2027–28 to provide additional unarmed security guards for the evenings and weekends for the state-owned courthouses for the Courts of Appeal which include: the Fifth Appellate District, the Fourth Appellate District, Divisions Two and Three, and the Second Appellate District, Division Six. In FY 2029–30, the Judicial Council requests an additional permanent augmentation of \$199,000 for the Sixth Appellate District’s new courthouse scheduled to be completed by 2030.	0.0	\$ 707	GF	APJAC	APJAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor’s Budget and was denied.
27-11	LSSACS	Proposition 66 in Courts of Appeal	Requests 14.5 positions and \$10 million General Fund in FY 2027–28 and \$9.4 million ongoing General Fund for the Courts of Appeal to address the new workload associated with the implementation of Proposition 66, Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016.	14.5	\$ 10,000	GF	APJAC	APJAC	N/A
27-12	LSSACS	Racial Justice Act Retroactivity (AB 256) for the Appellate Courts and Trial Courts	Requests 17.0 positions and \$22.6 million General Fund in FY 2027–28 and \$28.1 million in FY 2028–29 and ongoing to support statewide appellate court operations for adjudicating cases pursuant to the Racial Justice Act (RJA). Requests funding for the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, Supreme and Appellate Court Appointed Counsel Programs, and the trial courts to address the costs related to RJA support.	17.0	\$ 22,600	GF	APJAC	APJAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor’s Budget and was denied.
27-13	LSSACS	Appellate Court Facilities Staff	Requests 6.0 positions and \$1.3 million General Fund in FY 2027–28; 2.0 additional positions and an additional \$0.4 million General Fund in FY 2030–31 for a total ongoing amount of 8.0 positions and \$1.6 million to oversee building maintenance for four state-owned Courts of Appeal facilities.	6.0	\$ 1,300	GF	APJAC	APJAC	Concept submitted to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee in FY 2026–27 and was denied.
27-14	LSSACS	Increase Appellate Court Staffing	Requests 18.0 positions and \$5.3 million in FY 2027–28 to continue to address the courts’ existing workload, reduce backlogs, and prevent case delays in appellate districts.	18.0	\$ 5,300	GF	APJAC	APJAC	N/A
27-15	LSSACS	Courts of Appeal Court Appointed Counsel Program	Requests \$24.2 million ongoing to support a \$40 per hour rate increase for non-capital appeal appointments, for costs associated with the provision of electronic trial court transcripts, and for a 30 percent increase in annual contracts for the Courts of Appeal Court-Appointed Counsel Program.	0.0	\$ 24,200	GF	APJAC	APJAC	N/A
27-16	LSSACS	Supreme Court Capital Court-Appointed Counsel Program	Requests \$3.3 million ongoing to support the Supreme Court’s Capital Court-Appointed Counsel Program by providing a \$55 per hour rate increase for capital appeal appointments, and a 30 percent increase in the contract for California Appellate Court Project Office.	0.0	\$ 3,300	GF	CA - Supreme Court	APJAC	N/A

**Judicial Branch
2027–28 BCC Tracking List**

May 20, 2026

Tracking #	JCC Office/ Branch Entity	Concept Title	Description	# Positions	\$ Estimate (thousands)	Fund Source	JCC Committee Impacted by this concept	Proposed Lead Advisory Committee	Comments
27-17	LSSACS	Seven California Highway Patrol – Judicial Protection Section (CHP-JPS) Officers	Requests \$2.7 million ongoing for California Highway Patrol Judicial Protection Section (CHP- JPS) officers.	0.0	\$ 2,700	GF	APJAC	APJAC	Concept submitted to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee in FY 2026–27 and was denied.
27-18	FS	Trial Court Facility Modifications	Requests 6.0 positions and \$49.3 million General Fund in FY 2027–28 through FY 2029–30, then \$47 million ongoing thereafter. The request includes \$45 million to address essential facility modifications of trial court buildings. Requests \$525,000 to support the Computer Added Facilities Management (CAFM) software, \$2.2 million one-time funding for three fiscal years to install water leak detection equipment and software in 160 courthouses statewide, and \$1.6 million in personnel services.	6.0	\$ 49,300	GF, SCFCF	TCFMAC, TCBAC	TCFMAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget and was denied.
27-19	FS	Trial Courts Facilities Maintenance and Utilities	Requests 6.0 positions and \$29.5 million in FY 2027–28, and \$22.7 million ongoing to provide industry standard facility operation and maintenance and utilities for the existing portfolio.	6.0	\$ 29,500	GF, CFTF, Reimb.	TCFMAC, TCBAC	TCFMAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget and was denied.
27-20	FS	Trial Court Physical Security Assessment and Evaluation	Requests 3.0 positions and \$2.7 million in FY 2027–28 and \$684,000 ongoing to conduct assessments, evaluations, and identification of physical security deficiencies in trial court facilities statewide.	3.0	\$ 2,700	GF	CSAC, TCBAC	CSAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget and was denied.
27-21	FS	Orange Central Justice Center - Facility Modification	Requests \$78 million one-time to address cost increases and to recoup the counties share for the completion of the active facility modification at the Central Justice Center in Orange County. The amount of this request is dependent upon funds being appropriated in the 2026–27 enacted State budget. In the proposed Governor's budget for BY 2026–27 includes \$39.6 million in FY 2026–27 and \$38.5 million in FY 2027–28.	0.0	\$ 78,000	GF, SCFCF, Reimb.	TCFMAC, TCBAC	TCFMAC	N/A
27-22	FS	Trial Court Deferred Maintenance	Requests 6.0 positions and \$152.7 million in FY 2027-28, then \$18.7 ongoing starting in FY 2028–29. Of this, \$101.4 million GF and \$32.5 million SCFCF for a total of \$133.9 million one-time funding will address deferred maintenance backlogs for trial courts. An additional \$11.7 million GF and \$3.6 million SCFCF annually for five years totaling \$76.4 million will support energy efficiency-optimized lifecycle replacement deferred maintenance backlog work at five courthouses. The proposal also includes \$2 million ongoing GF to conduct a review of Facilities Services Building Management System (BMS) guidelines and to conduct an initial assessment of fifteen facilities as a pilot program to establish ongoing annual BMS program in existing facilities, and \$1.5 million for program support staffing.	6.0	\$ 152,700	GF, SCFCF	TCFMAC, TCBAC	TCFMAC	N/A
27-23	FS	Courts of Appeal Facility Modification	Requests \$1.1 million ongoing to address urgent and emergency facility modifications at Court of Appeal facilities.	0.0	\$ 1,100	GF	APJAC	APJAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget and was denied.
27-24	FS	Courts of Appeal Maintenance and Utilities	Requests \$955,000 one-time and \$760,000 ongoing for the maintenance and utility needs of Court of Appeal facilities and \$195,000 one-time to conduct electrical power systems arc-flash studies at the Court of Appeal facilities.	0.0	\$ 1,000	GF	APJAC	APJAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor's Budget and was denied.

**Judicial Branch
2027–28 BCC Tracking List**

May 20, 2026

Tracking #	JCC Office/ Branch Entity	Concept Title	Description	# Positions	\$ Estimate (thousands)	Fund Source	JCC Committee Impacted by this concept	Proposed Lead Advisory Committee	Comments
27-25	FS	Courts of Appeal Deferred Maintenance	Requests \$10.5 million one-time to address vital deferred maintenance needs at the Court of Appeal (COA) facilities. This one-time targeted investment protects state assets, avoids higher long-term costs from emergency repairs, and ensures COA buildings remain safe, reliable, and accessible to the public.	0.0	\$ 10,500	GF	APJAC	APJAC	Concept submitted to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee in FY 2026–27 and was denied.
27-26	FS	Superior Court Public Lactation Rooms (AB 1576)	Requests \$16.9 million in FY 2027–28, and \$15 million in FY 2028–29 to construct 92 court user lactation spaces in superior court facilities. This request addresses the statutory requirement to provide public lactation rooms pursuant to Assembly Bill 1576 (Ch. 200, Stats. 2022), as amended by Senate Bill 133 (Ch. 34, Stats. 2023). This request includes provisional language to allow the Judicial Council to encumber and expend funds for three years, to provide the necessary flexibility to manage contraction schedules and payment obligations to successfully complete these projects.	0.0	\$ 16,900	GF	TCFMAC, TCBAC	TCFMAC	N/A
27-27	FS	Los Angeles Spring Street Courthouse - Courtrooms Relocation	Requests \$4.6 million in one-time General Fund to relocate 17 courtrooms and associated operations from the Spring Street Courthouse in Los Angeles County to other existing courthouses within the county. The amount of this request is dependent upon funds being appropriated in the FY 2026–27 enacted State budget. In the proposed Governor’s budget for BY 2026-27 includes \$4.6 million in FY 2026–27.	0.0	\$ 4,600	GF	TCFMAC, TCBAC	TCFMAC	N/A
27-28	CFCC	Workload Assessment for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel	Requests 2.0 limited term positions and \$807,000 in General Fund in FY 2027–28, and 1.0 limited term position and \$217,000 General Fund in FY 2028–29, to support the development of a comprehensive workload assessment on court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel practice in California. This request includes provisional language to allow the Judicial Council to encumber and expend funds for two years from the existing Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel appropriation, providing the flexibility needed to schedule contract payments and reimbursements.	2.0	\$ 807	GF	Family Juvenile, TCBAC	Family Juvenile	N/A
27-29	FS	Funding for 26 New Judgeships*	Requests \$350–425 million one-time General Fund over three fiscal years beginning in FY 2027–28 and \$12-\$52 million ongoing General Fund beginning in FY 2027–28 for 26 new trial court judgeships in courts that show a need for new judicial positions according to the upcoming 2026 Judicial Needs Assessment.	0.0	\$ 109,000	GF	TCBAC	TCBAC	N/A
27-51	FS	Capital Outlay Project Reassessment and Program Support	Requests 4.0 positions and \$14 million General Fund in FY 2027–28 and \$4.9 million ongoing in FY 2028–29 to provide court facilities planning services and oversight for facility modifications and capital projects.	4.0	\$ 14,000	GF	CFAC, TCBAC	CFAC	BCP Proposed for the FY 2026–27 Governor’s Budget and was denied.
27-52	FS	Capital Outlay Funding: FY 2027–28 through 2031–32	Requests \$1.5 billion in FY 2027–28 for eight capital outlay projects, including four new and four continuing projects.	0.0	\$ 1,500,000	GF, PBFC	CFAC, TCBAC	CFAC	One new and continuing phases of other project has been included in the Governor’s Budget.
27-53	FS	Los Angeles Spring Street Courthouse - Chatsworth Buildout	Requests \$34.8 million in FY 2027–28 for the Construction phase of the buildout of six courtrooms, support space, and upgraded holding facilities at the Chatsworth Courthouse for relocating six courtrooms and associated operations from the Spring Street Courthouse in the County of Los Angeles.	0.0	\$ 34,800	GF	CFAC, TCBAC	CFAC	N/A

**Judicial Branch
2027–28 BCC Tracking List**

May 20, 2026

Tracking #	JCC Office/ Branch Entity	Concept Title	Description	# Positions	\$ Estimate (thousands)	Fund Source	JCC Committee Impacted by this concept	Proposed Lead Advisory Committee	Comments
27-54	FS	Statewide: Budget Packages and Advanced Planning	Requests \$500,000 ongoing for statewide planning and studies for completion of planning studies and budget packages for capital outlay projects.	0.0	\$ 500	GF	CFAC, TCBAC	CFAC	N/A
-	-	-		Total	128.5	\$ 2,289,914	-	-	-

*Concept reflects maximum amount within the range for the first year.

<i>Internal Committees</i>
Executive & Planning Committee
Judicial Branch Budget Committee
Technology Committee
Legislation Committee
Litigation Management Committee
Rules Committee

<i>Acronym</i>	<i>Advisory Committees</i>
APJ	Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee
AFA	Advisory Committee on Audits and Financial Accountability for the Judicial Branch
PAF	Advisory Committee on Providing Access & Fairness
AAC	Appellate Advisory Committee
CJERAC	Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee
CSCAC	Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee
CACI	Civil Jury Instructions Advisory Committee
CJCAC	Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee
CEAC	Court Executives Advisory Committee
CFAC	Court Facilities Advisory Committee
CIAP	Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
CSAC	Court Security Advisory Committee
CALCRIM	Criminal Jury Instructions Advisory Committee
CLAC	Criminal Law Advisory Committee
DAAC	Data Analytics Advisory Committee, formerly Workload Assessment Advisory Committee
Family Juvenile	Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
ITAC	Information Technology Advisory Committee
JBWCP	Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Program Advisory Committee
PMHAC	Probate and Mental Health Advisory Committee
Shriver	Shriver Civil Counsel Act Implementation Committee
TAC	Traffic Advisory Committee
TCBAC	Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
TCFMAC	Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
TCPJAC	Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee
Forum	Tribal Court–State Court Forum

<i>Acronym</i>	<i>Offices</i>
AS	Audit Services
BAP	Branch Accounting & Procurement
BS	Budget Services
CFCC	Center for Families, Children & the Courts
CJER	Center for Judicial Education & Resources
CJS	Criminal Justice Services
EO	Executive Office
FS	Facilities Services
GA	Governmental Affairs
HR	Human Resources
IT	Information Technology
LSSACS	Leadership Support Services/Appellate Court Services
LS	Legal Services
PA	Public Affairs
RAD	Research, Analytics, and Data

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Inflationary Adjustment for Trial Courts (Consumer Price Index)

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests approximately \$82 million¹ ongoing General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 to address inflationary costs for the trial courts. This request is based on the estimated Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 3.2 percent for FY 2027–28 from the Department of Finance. This funding will help the trial courts address the rise in operational costs and mitigate reductions to core programs and services provided to court users and the public.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Local Assistance	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000
Total	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000	\$82,265,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	82,265,000	82,265,000	82,265,000	82,265,000	82,265,000

¹ Estimate based on FY 2025–26 trial court allocations and Department of Finance November 2025 estimates of CPI percentage for FY 2027–28; amount will be updated when FY 2026–27 trial court allocations are available and if the estimated CPI percentage changes.

Problem or Issue

Without adequate inflationary adjustments, trial court funding has not kept pace with the increasing cost of doing business. In recent years the courts have not been provided funding for operational cost increases, and baseline funding absorbed an ongoing reduction in FY 2024–25 due to the state’s fiscal deficit. Absent funding for inflationary cost increases, the level of court services provided to the public will continue to erode, impacting access to justice. Lacking a statutory requirement for a cost-of-living adjustment to address these cost pressures, courts operational resource levels are insufficient to meet public service obligations and provide equitable access to justice for Californians.

Background/History of Problem

In 1998, the Lockyer-Eisenberg Trial Court Funding Act (AB 233, Stats. 1997, ch. 850) created a new structure in which the 58 county-funded courts became primarily state-funded. The intent of this change in funding structure was to address the great disparity in funding levels across the county court systems and ensure that all Californians have access to justice and similar experiences in resolving their legal disputes in trial courts throughout the state. The act also required the state to assume full responsibility for any growth in the cost of trial court operations.

In FY 2005–06, the Governor and the Legislature agreed on a funding approach (known as the State Appropriations Limit Adjustment) for the trial courts (Government Code section 77202) to ensure that (1) state appropriations for the trial courts are not eroded, (2) sufficient funding is provided to sustain service levels, and (3) operational cost changes are accommodated without degrading the quality of court services to the public. Government Code section 77202 also authorized the use of a cost-of-living and growth adjustment. The factors used to calculate changes for the trial courts were intended to capture increasing costs and the appropriate funding adjustment. This funding adjustment process was in place for several years before it was suspended during the Great Recession, beginning in FY 2009–10, and was never reinstated.

Based on recommendations from working groups that evaluated the state’s progress in achieving the goals of the Trial Court Funding Act and existing allocation methodologies, the Judicial Council adopted foundational changes to the way funds were allocated to the trial courts. The most significant change was approval of the Workload-Based Allocation and Funding Methodology (WAFM) in April 2013. The model used the Resource Assessment Study (RAS) to capture the level of funding needed for each trial court based on their caseload and other factors, and it demonstrated that trial courts were funded below necessary levels.

Following a five-year transition plan, modifications were made to the WAFM methodology. In 2018, the Judicial Council approved new policy parameters for the allocation process now known as the Workload Formula. The intent of the Workload Formula was to further the objectives in reaching workload-based equitable funding for the trial courts. The guiding principles of the Workload Formula were modified from a primary focus on equity to also reflect the need for greater stability and predictability in funding for the courts.

The Workload Formula model does not account for increased costs for ongoing trial court operations such as staff costs, goods and services vendors (janitors, legal publications, per diem court reporters, office supplies, postage, technology equipment and services, etc.), and other professional contractors (trial experts, forensic services, mediators, court-appointed counsel, etc.). These are the costs for which there is currently no inflationary factor to account for ongoing and regular cost increases experienced by trial courts when providing or procuring these services. Over time, this has resulted in diminished purchasing power for the trial courts and an erosion or elimination of critical services, which adversely impacts access to justice.

The trial courts received a total of \$270.5 million General Fund to address inflationary cost increases over the past several fiscal years (FYs 2021–22, 2022–23, 2023–24, and 2025–26). In addition, the Budget Act of 2022 included \$100 million ongoing General Fund to promote fiscal equity among the trial courts.

The Budget Act of 2024 did not include an inflationary adjustment due to the state’s fiscal deficit. In addition, the trial courts also had a \$97 million ongoing reduction (which was revised to a \$55 million reduction) in their operational funding, further compromising their ability to provide core programs and services to court users and the public. The proposed FY 2026–27 Governor’s Budget includes \$70 million for operational cost increases, which represents less than the estimated 3.3 percent CPI factor for that fiscal year.

The courts play an essential role in ensuring equal access to justice and protecting constitutional rights for all Californians. Providing the trial courts an inflationary adjustment will help mitigate the effects of the lack of cost-of-doing business increases in recent years, coupled with the ongoing \$55 million reduction in FY 2024–25. The trial courts require adequate, stable, and predictable funding to ensure consistent service levels for court users across the state.

This proposal is based on the current 3.2 percent CPI factor for FY 2027–28 and will be updated to reflect the most recent CPI projection.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

As courts are managing an ongoing reduction of \$55 million included in the Budget Act of 2024, they continue to experience increased operating costs. In assessing needs of individual courts, 44 of the 58 courts identified CPI Inflationary Adjustment as their number one funding priority for FY 2027–28. Multiple courts cited that reduced funding has led to an increase in staff vacancies and inability to retain or recruit quality staff, straining the courts’ ability to sustain an adequate workforce and provide core services to the public. Without an inflationary adjustment to offset rising operational costs, courts have implemented hiring freezes and furloughs, closed courthouses and courtrooms, and reduced the hours that clerk and telephone services are available. These necessary steps impact court users with longer lines and processing times for services such as record requests. Court users are waiting longer for their cases to be processed and for judgements to be issued in civil case types, including family law matters. Staffing reductions also impact self-help centers, thereby limiting the number of self-represented litigants who can get legal help.

When funding does not keep pace with inflation, service reductions typically occur first in nonmandated services. The reduction or elimination of these services often disproportionately impacts the most marginalized Californians, such as children, homeless populations, non-English speakers, victims of domestic violence, those with mental health issues, and low-income/fixed-income adults. Services that assist marginalized populations come directly from trial court budgets, such as minor’s counsel in family law disputes, probate investigators, family mediators, self-help staff and outreach, collaborative justice courts, and translation of forms and public information into multiple languages. Typically, courts must prioritize criminal case processing over case types that affect other vulnerable court users or that leverage county partnerships to address underlying social issues, such as homelessness and mental health issues.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

This funding will be allocated according to a methodology established by the Judicial Council and is intended to benefit all 58 trial courts. Based on past practice, the inflationary percentage change is typically applied to each trial court’s prior fiscal year Workload Formula allocation to address increased costs resulting from inflation. Providing additional funding based on the estimated CPI factor for FY 2027–28 will assist the courts in mitigating the adverse impacts of several years of no increases to fully address inflation and a \$55 million ongoing reduction in FY 2024–25.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

- Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Goal II: Independence and Accountability
- Goal III: Modernization and Management of Administration
- Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:

Contact Name: Oksana Tuk

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Proposal Concept

Requesting Entity: Judicial Council Technology Committee

Proposal Title: Trial Courts Technology Ongoing Support

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$42.5 million in ongoing General Fund beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28.

The purpose of this request is to allocate additional funding to offset the increased costs of technological enhancements at trial courts.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Local Assistance	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000
Total	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000	42,500,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

California's trial courts rely on technology as a core infrastructure to deliver access to justice. Systems such as modern case management platforms, electronic filing, public access portals, and integrations with justice partners are now essential for litigants, attorneys, and the public to interact with the courts. Internally, courts depend on administrative systems—including human resources, contract management, and document management platforms—to conduct daily operations and meet statutory and rule obligations such as responding to public records requests.

The cost to operate and maintain these systems has increased significantly over the past five years. Since the pandemic, courts have experienced substantial cost growth in hardware, audio-visual equipment, software licensing, cloud storage and services, and information security. These increases have been driven by supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, and a market-wide shift by vendors to subscription-based pricing models.

Existing funding levels have not kept pace with these rising costs. As a result, courts face growing challenges in sustaining current technology services, replacing aging equipment, maintaining cybersecurity protections, and meeting the public's expectations for reliable and accessible digital services. Without additional resources, courts will be forced to defer critical technology investments, increasing the risk of system failures, security vulnerabilities, service disruptions, and reduced access to justice. Funding this proposal will enable courts to maintain essential technology operations, protect prior investments, and ensure continued, reliable service to the public.

Background/History of Problem

Historically, California's trial courts relied on largely paper-based processes supported by legacy technology systems that stored limited amounts of data and operated in isolation. These systems lacked integration with internal and external partners, and most records were maintained in physical form. As a result, litigants, attorneys, judicial officers, court staff, and partner agencies depend heavily on in-person interactions and manual processes. Data was often unstructured and difficult to access, limiting the courts' ability to analyze operations, improve performance, or respond efficiently to public records and information requests.

Over the past decade, and accelerated by the pandemic, trial courts have undertaken a significant digital transformation to improve access to justice and operational efficiency. Courts have implemented modern case management systems capable of storing large volumes of current and historical case data, digitized records to enable electronic access, and developed public portals that allow users to file documents, make payments, and retrieve case information remotely. Courts have also expanded integration with justice partners at the local and state levels and modernized administrative functions through systems such as human resources, contract management, and document management platforms. More recently, courts have begun transitioning many of these systems to cloud-based environments to improve system reliability, scalability, and security, consistent with industry standards. These advancements have significantly enhanced public access, increased transparency, and improved the efficiency and effectiveness of court operations.

This transformation has fundamentally increased the costs of court technology. Modern systems require ongoing investments in cloud services, software licensing, cybersecurity, data storage, and system maintenance. Unlike legacy systems, which require periodic capital investments, these new models rely on continuous operational funding—often with annual cost increases driven by vendor pricing structures that are largely outside the control of the judicial branch. While these investments have delivered substantial benefits to the public and court users, the associated costs have not been fully absorbed within existing judicial branch funding. As courts continue to modernize and expand digital services to meet public expectations, they face increasing and ongoing budgetary pressures. Without additional resources, courts will be constrained in their ability to sustain current service levels and continue progress toward a fully modern, accessible, and transparent court system.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

If this proposal is not funded, the ability of California’s trial courts to provide reliable, secure, and accessible services will be significantly compromised, placing public trust and confidence in the judicial system at risk. Courts will face increasing difficulty sustaining critical technology services that support case processing, public access, and daily operations. Without adequate funding, courts will be forced to defer necessary upgrades and replacements of hardware and software, leading to system instability, increased outages, and heightened cybersecurity risks. Aging equipment and unsupported software will increase the likelihood of system failures that disrupt court operations and delay access to justice. Service levels for court users will decline. Litigants, attorneys, and the public will encounter slower systems, reduced functionality, and potential limitations in online services such as electronic filing, payments, and access to case information. Courts may also be required to scale back or delay enhancements that improve accessibility and transparency.

In addition, disparities across counties will widen. Courts with fewer local resources will be less able to sustain modern technology environments, resulting in inconsistent user experiences and unequal access to digital services depending on location. The progress made toward statewide equity in access to justice through technology will be eroded. Denial of this proposal will also increase long-term costs. Courts will incur higher expenses due to emergency repairs, inefficient legacy systems, and escalating vendor pricing for outdated and unsupported technologies. In some cases, vendors may discontinue support for critical systems altogether, forcing costly and unplanned replacements. Absent additional funding, trial courts will be unable to maintain current service levels or continue their transition toward a modern, technology-enabled court system, ultimately reducing access to justice for Californians.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Ensures court equipment and software are up to date and secure.

Required Review/Approval

Technology Committee

Choose from drop down, advisory bodies who should review this proposal.

Choose from drop down, advisory body(ies) who should review this proposal.

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion

Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Please use this space to add any additional considerations.

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *John Yee*

Contact Name: **Andrae Randolph**

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Language Access in the California Courts

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$35.5 million General Fund beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28, increasing annually through FY 2031–32 up to \$80.4 million ongoing, to address rising court interpreter costs, support the ongoing efforts of the *Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts*, and ensure trial courts are fully funded for the provision of interpreter services in all case types.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Local Assistance	\$35,546,000	\$45,803,000	\$56,676,000	\$68,201,000	\$80,417,000
Total	\$35,546,000	\$45,803,000	\$56,676,000	\$68,201,000	\$80,417,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	\$35,546,000	\$45,803,000	\$56,676,000	\$68,201,000	\$80,417,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Court Interpreters Program (CIP) receives an annual appropriation of approximately \$135 million (from the General Fund and transferred into the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF)) for trial court interpreter expenses that are allocated to trial courts. For FY 2027–28, the program is expected to have a deficit of \$35.5 million. To address the continued anticipated growth in interpreter expenses, and ensure that service levels are maintained, the baseline funding for FY 2027–28 and the outyears should be increased.

Background/History of Problem

Over 200 languages are spoken in the California courts. Over 1,800 certified and registered court interpreters—by far the largest court interpreter workforce in the nation—are on the Judicial Council’s Master List. In FY 2024–25, there were 786,841 statewide interpretations (Spanish interpretations were approximately 676,000, and non-Spanish interpretations were approximately 111,000).

Article 1, section 14 of the California Constitution provides that a person unable to understand English who is charged with a crime has a right to an interpreter throughout the proceedings, and under Evidence Code section 752, witnesses with limited English proficiency must also be provided with an interpreter. Effective January 1, 2015, the enactment of AB 1657 (which created Evidence Code section 756) expanded California's constitutional mandate and authorized courts to provide interpreters to all parties in civil matters, regardless of income, and set forth a priority and preference order when courts do not have enough resources to provide interpreters for all persons. Government Code section 68092.1 was also added in 2015, setting forth the joint commitment of the legislative and judicial branches of government to carry out the goal of providing interpreters to all parties who require one, regardless of case type and level of income.

The Judicial Branch has long supported the need for language access services in the courts, and in January 2015 adopted the *Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts*, a comprehensive plan to provide recommendations, guidance, and a consistent statewide approach to ensure language access for all limited English proficiency (LEP) court users. The Language Access Plan (LAP) consists of eight goals and 75 recommendations, including priorities in three phases. The LAP aligns with legislation in California, Chapter 721, Statutes of 2014 (AB 1657), that established Evidence Code section 756 and the prioritization of civil case types when there is inadequate funding for interpreter services.

Courts receive an annual allocation based on a three-year average of prior expenditures. After the annual true-up process, any unspent funds remain in the TCTF CIP as program savings and may be carried forward to address future funding shortfalls. In FY 2020–21, the CIP received an \$8.3 million augmentation through a budget change proposal (BCP), increasing the program’s appropriation to \$131.4 million. From FY 2020–21 through FY 2022–23, due to COVID-19 impacts, expenditures remained below the annual appropriation, resulting in cumulative program savings of approximately \$35 million.

As costs have risen, courts requested augmentations of \$4.6 million in FY 2023–24 and \$11.6 million in FY 2024–25 from program savings (see Table 1). For FY 2025–26, courts requested an additional \$19.1 million from savings above the base appropriation of \$134.8 million, for a total of \$153.9 million. For FY 2026–27, the CIP appropriation is projected to be \$135.4 million. Due to increased costs, program savings have declined from \$35 million to a projected \$8.7 million by the end of FY 2025–26 (see Table 1). Based on current projections, the remaining \$8.7 million in savings is expected to be fully depleted by June 30, 2027. Absent new funding in FY 2027–28, and with no remaining savings, courts would need to reduce expenditures for court interpreter services to align with the projected appropriation of \$135.4 million.

Table 1. Mid-Year Reallocations and Augmentations FY 2022–23 through FY 2026–27

(Dollars in Millions)

CIP Detail	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26	FY 2026–27 (Projected)
Appropriation	\$135.5	\$133.8	\$134.8	\$134.8	\$135.4
Surplus or Mid-year Augmentation Amount	\$9.8	-\$4.6	-\$11.6	-\$19.1**	-\$8.7
Adjustments to Savings			\$9.0*		
Program Savings Balance	\$35.0	\$30.4	\$27.8	\$8.7	\$0

*FY 2024–25 program savings balance totaling \$27.8 million after adjustments: \$18.8 million in savings as of June 30, 2025, \$1.6 million in additional savings from year-end survey, and \$7.4 million in restored funding due to inadvertent spending on ineligible activities.

**FY 2025–26 deficit of \$19.1 million based on mid-year survey data collected from the trial courts.

One factor that has led to the recent marked increase in court interpreter expenses is the high rates charged by independent contractors. The *Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023–24*, as required by the Budget Act of 2023, found that contract interpreter expenditures in FY 2023–24 represented 34.6 percent of total expenditures, reflecting an increase from FY 2022–23, when contractor expenses were 26.7 percent of the total expenditures (see [Expenditure Report](#), table 4). Compared to FY 2022–23, expenditures for contract interpreters in FY 2023–24 increased by \$14.1 million (42 percent), and expenditures for court employees in FY 2023–24 decreased by \$2.3 million (-2.4 percent). (Ibid.) Courts have reported that many contractors are demanding rates over the council’s standard rates for contractors and are asking for rates that are commensurate with or over current federal rates. Given recent cost increases for interpreter services, courts are identifying cost saving measures to ensure prudent use of limited TCTF CIP funding.

Projected expenditures for the TCTF CIP reflect: (1) anticipated increases in staffing levels, including interpreter coordinators; (2) higher contractor costs; and (3) cost-of-living adjustments across the four interpreter bargaining regions. Following the depletion of all program reserves in FY 2026–27, projections indicate that trial court expenditures for court interpreter services in FY 2027–28 will result in a \$35.8 million deficit (see Table 2).

Table 2. Projected Expenditures and Deficits for FY 2027–28 through FY 2030–31

Category	FY 2027–28	FY 2028–29	FY 2029–30	FY 2030–31	FY 2031–32
Employee Pay	\$108,108,000	\$114,594,000	\$121,470,000	\$128,758,000	\$136,483,000
Contractor Pay	\$58,212,000	\$61,705,000	\$65,407,000	\$69,331,000	\$73,491,000
Coordinator Pay	\$4,637,000	\$4,915,000	\$5,210,000	\$5,523,000	\$5,854,000
Total Expenses	\$170,957,000	\$181,214,000	\$192,087,000	\$203,612,000	\$215,828,000
Appropriation	\$135,411,000	\$135,411,000	\$135,411,000	\$135,411,000	\$135,411,000
Deficit	(\$35,546,000)	(\$45,803,000)	(\$56,676,000)	(\$68,201,000)	(\$80,417,000)

A funding request of \$35.5 million for FY 2027–28, with incremental annual increases through FY 2031–32, would provide stable funding to enable courts to maintain interpreter services and address rising costs, including contractor expenses and compensation for court interpreter employees and interpreter coordinators. By FY 2031–32, the new CIP baseline would be approximately \$215.8 million (see Table 2). The proposed four-year graduated funding model would help ensure that future funding requests are smaller and more predictable, promoting efficiency and accountable use of state resources.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of this proposal means that courts may have to cut back interpreter services in civil matters, which significantly impacts the rights of LEP court users and their ability to address remedies. There may also be insufficient funds to fully provide for interpreter services in those proceedings where it is mandated.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Funding for court interpreter services will allow more courts to provide interpreters in multiple languages in growing numbers of civil cases and case types. Expansion of court interpreter services in civil matters is consistent with the findings set forth in Government Code section 68092.1, that it is imperative that courts provide interpreters for all parties who require one, and that both the legislative and judicial branches of government continue in their joint commitment to carry out this shared goal. Courts will continue to report on interpreter usage and expenditures by case type.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

LAP recommendation 8 states, “Qualified interpreters must be provided in the California courts to LEP court users in all court proceedings, including civil proceedings as prioritized in Evidence Code section 756, and including Family Court Services mediation.” (footnotes or references to attachments omitted)

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Douglas G. Denton

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Proposal Concept

Requesting Entity: JC Information Technology

Proposal Title: Improving Branchwide Cybersecurity

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California is requesting \$16.4 million ongoing general funds starting in FY 2027–28, and \$13.9 million in one-time funding starting in FY2027–28 (\$2.7 million annually for the next five years).

The funds will be used to improve the Branch’s cybersecurity programs in the supreme court, appellate courts, trial courts and the Judicial Council:

- Provide supplemental funds to extend current cybersecurity programs.
- Provide funding to support three new cybersecurity programs for all the courts.
- Provide local assisting funds to support the trial courts’ cost of cybersecurity programs and
- Provide temporary staffing assistance to support the implementation of the cybersecurity programs.

This requested funding ensures the cybersecurity programs provide the necessary security services to protect the Courts of California and Judicial Council.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Funds

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$10,550,000	\$10,550,000	\$10,550,000	\$10,550,000	\$10,550,000
Local Assistance	8,750,000	8,750,000	8,750,000	8,750,000	8,750,000
Total	\$19,120,000	\$19,120,000	\$19,120,000	\$19,120,000	\$19,120,000
One-time	2,770,000	2,770,000	2,770,000	2,770,000	2,770,000
Ongoing	16,350,000	16,350,000	16,350,000	16,350,000	16,350,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

Cybersecurity threats affecting state and local government entities continue to increase in frequency, sophistication, and potential operational impact. The Judicial Branch relies on technology systems to support core court functions, including case processing, calendaring, document management, collaboration, and public-facing services. These systems routinely handle sensitive information and records, and disruptions or compromise could materially affect court operations, service delivery, and public confidence.

Over the past several years, the Judicial Council—working in partnership with courts—has made measurable progress establishing foundational cybersecurity capabilities and providing security guidance and technical support. These investments have improved baseline protections, increased security awareness, and expanded the Branch’s ability to assist courts that do not have dedicated cybersecurity resources. However, the risk environment continues to evolve, and demand for cybersecurity services has grown as courts further expand digital operations and interconnected services.

Background/History of Problem

Despite progress, cybersecurity maturity and resourcing remain uneven across courts. This variability can limit the branch’s ability to apply consistent security practices statewide, rapidly respond to emerging threats, and sustain a uniform level of operational resilience. Continued investment is necessary to strengthen enterprise-wide coordination, expand access to cybersecurity expertise, and standardize core security practices across the Branch, particularly for courts that face structural constraints in recruiting, funding, or maintaining specialized security staff.

This proposal requests additional funding to expand and strengthen branchwide cybersecurity services and support a more consistent security posture statewide. The proposal emphasizes prevention, early risk identification, and timely remediation support, reducing the likelihood that cybersecurity events disrupt court operations or impair access to justice. The requested resources will also improve the branch’s capacity to deliver cybersecurity advisory services, security assessments, and technical assistance in a timely manner, ensuring that courts can address risks proactively rather than reactively.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

If not approved, the branch will continue to manage cybersecurity risk with uneven capacity and inconsistent coverage across courts. Existing programs will remain constrained in their ability to meet growing demand, resulting in delayed assistance and lower risk reduction activities. Over time, this increases the probability that a cybersecurity event could interrupt court operations, impede public-facing services, generate legal and financial exposure, and erode public trust and confidence in the judicial system. Proactive investment is a cost-effective approach to reduce the likelihood and magnitude of operational disruption and protect the branch’s ability to deliver timely and equitable access to justice.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Funding will be administered through established governance and oversight practices and evaluated using defined performance measures. Measures will include service delivery outputs (e.g., number of courts assisted, security engagements completed, and training/awareness activities delivered), timeliness indicators (e.g., reduced backlog and improved response time for court requests), and demonstrated improvements in adoption of baseline security practices across participating courts. Collectively, these measures will support reporting, fiscal accountability, and continuous improvement of the branch's cybersecurity posture.

Required Review/Approval

Technology Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal III: Modernization and Management of Administration
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *John Yee*

Contact Name: John Yee

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Judicial Council Technology Committee

Proposal Title: Appellate Court Technology Modernization and Ongoing Cost Adjustment

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 6.0 positions, \$4.17 million in ongoing General Fund beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027–28; and \$300,000 annually in one-time funds from Fiscal Year (FY) 2027–28 through FY 2031–32, totaling \$1.5 million. This funding will provide for the application maintenance, enhancement, and support needed for the Appellate Courts Case Management System (ACCMS). In addition, the funding will cover the increased operational, software and hosting cost of the ACCMS application. This funding allows the Judicial Council to ensure the ACCMS application meets the evolving needs of California’s Courts of Appeal.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	6	6	6	6	6
Personal Services	\$1,620,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,620,000	\$1,620,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000
Local Assistance	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total	\$4,470,000	\$4,470,000	\$4,470,000	\$4,470,000	\$4,470,000
One-time	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Ongoing	4,170,000	4,170,000	4,170,000	4,170,000	4,170,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The funding request aims to address the deficiencies in support of the Appellate Courts. Limited staff and resources have led to a backlog in application development needs that cannot be efficiently processed with current funding levels. Current funding does not provide the necessary staffing and resources required to modernize or enhance the application to meet the needs of the appellate courts. Existing funding only allows for the maintenance of the application.

Modernization of the ACCMS application is essential to ensure the application's long-term operational viability in supporting court functions. The current infrastructure, characterized by aging technology and a deficit of skilled technical personnel, has resulted in increased system downtime, escalating maintenance expenses, and elevated risks and uncertainties. Upgrading the ACCMS application will improve system reliability, lower maintenance costs, and enhance the user experience for court personnel.

Local Assistance funding for the Courts of Appeals is needed to ensure the courts' equipment and software are kept up-to-date and secure. The cost of essential equipment to keep the Appellate courts operational has greatly increased over the last five years. Due to covid pandemic and technology supply chain shortages, the cost of equipment to maintain and modernization has increased substantially. This includes network and security devices (e.g. network switches, M365, Zoom, firewalls, etc.) used to support the daily and remote access of the courts. Without this funding, the courts would be unable to ensure that equipment and software remain consistently updated and secure to support essential court operations.

Background/History of Problem

The ACCMS was developed almost 15 years ago and has been updated through the years to meet the legislative changes and requirements of the courts. However, operational costs have steadily increased, and the current allocation is insufficient to modernize and maintain critical software essential to the operations of the Courts of Appeals. In 2007, the Judicial Council requested \$1.5 million in annual funding, but only \$660,000 was approved. This amount supported the network refresh for the California Supreme Court and the Appellate Courts; however, current funding levels are inadequate for proper upkeep and maintenance of equipment necessary for the security of the Appellate Courts' operations.

In the last five years, network and security equipment costs have drastically increased due to the demand to support remote and hybrid work environments during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This has made it challenging for the courts to modernize, keep up to date and secure to meet the new operational needs of the courts. Appellate court operations currently require a baseline budget of \$2 million to deliver the highest quality of justice and service to the public; however, budget allocations have not kept pace with operational demands.

By prioritizing the use of technology to secure and modernize applications, appellate court operations create systems that are more resilient, scalable, and adaptable to the current and future needs of the appellate courts. This modernization directly improves the speed, simplifies case tracking, and enables remote access to court services; ensuring that individuals, regardless of location or circumstance, can participate fully in the judicial process. As a result, these efforts advance the branch-wide strategic goals of fairness, equity, and inclusion by removing barriers and promoting equal access to justice.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Without additional personnel and funding for ongoing support costs, the ACCMS application will remain in maintenance only status, receiving only essential updates and fixes. This limitation restricts the ability to modernization and make enhancements needed to meet the evolving needs of the courts. For example, Californians would continue to face delays in accessing real-time case information online, rather than benefiting from a streamlined, user-friendly system that improves transparency and efficiency. A delay in this request increases the technical debt, increases the potential of security vulnerabilities, and increases the cost of required expertise - ultimately increasing the long-term cost of modernizing and upkeeping of the application.

Without the additional local assistance funding, the appellate courts continue to face difficulties in keeping their equipment and software up to date and secure. Equipment may need to be extended for extra service years, raising security risks and vulnerabilities, plus the potential of equipment failure—causing operational disruption and outages.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Modernization of the ACCMS application to ensure the application is flexible and supportable to meet the needs of the Courts of Appeals.

Local assistance funding to ensure the courts’ equipment are secure and kept up to date to support the operational needs of the courts.

Required Review/Approval

Information Technology Advisory Committee
Court Executives Advisory Committee
Appellate Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal III: Modernization and Management of Administration
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *John Yee*

Contact Name: Angela Gulley

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Addressing the Impact of the Disproportionate Increase in Competency Evaluations

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 1.0 position and \$10.4 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027-28, increasing by 12% annually through FY 2031–32 up to \$16.3 million in addressing the increased number and rising costs of Penal Code (PC) section 1368 competency to stand trial evaluations required throughout the state and to support the development of resources to assist courts in identifying and maintaining qualified competency evaluators.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Personal Services	\$186,000	\$186,000	\$186,000	\$186,000	\$186,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	49,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
Local Assistance	10,200,000	11,424,000	12,795,000	14,330,000	16,050,000
Total	\$10,435,000	\$11,646,000	\$13,017,000	\$14,552,000	\$16,272,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	10,435,000	11,646,000	13,017,000	14,552,000	16,272,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

Since the mid 2010's, the state has faced a drastic increase in declarations of doubt about defendants' mental competencies, causing a noticeable increase in court ordered incompetent to stand trial (IST) evaluations and severely impacting court budgets.

Each trial court contracts with IST evaluators and pays for evaluations through their trial court general funds (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.810(d), function 10). Although the courts have received general increases in their base-level funding in recent years, no support has been available to specifically address the disproportionate increase in costs associated with the IST evaluation demands. The trial courts are responsible for paying for court-appointed evaluators from their operating budget and often cannot pay competitive rates, making it a challenge to identify qualified evaluators, particularly psychiatrists – the only licensure type that may prescribe medication. Courts have reported that defendants often remain unmedicated and in declining health while in jail awaiting transfer to a state hospital or other competency restoration program.

Recent legislation requires more comprehensive evaluations and more highly trained evaluators that better support informed competency, commitment decisions and address elements tied to newly created treatment options. Reporting requirements have been revised to improve quality, consistency, and defensibility, which has increased the level of clinical expertise, time, and professional accountability required to complete reports. However, this increased complexity has raised the market value of qualified evaluators, and compensation expectations have risen accordingly, while current fee structures have not kept pace. Targeted training to support these standards was funded in 2021 and is made available through the Judicial Council website 'Competency to Stand Trial Corner', with resources for court staff and evaluators, resulting in demonstrable improvements in report quality. It is anticipated that the increased quality of reports will lead to efficiencies and cost savings in outlying years.

The funding will be allocated directly to the courts to fund the costs of competency evaluations. This funding request is needed to offset the impact of the increase in costs associated with IST evaluations over the last many years. The analyst position would directly support trial courts by developing and maintaining resources to assist courts, particularly in smaller and rural counties where access to psychiatrists and psychologists is limited by geography and funding, in identifying and maintaining qualified competency evaluators, ensuring that assessments are conducted timely and to a high standard.

Background/History of Problem

When doubt about a defendant's mental competency is raised, the trial court must appoint and pay for a psychiatrist or licensed psychologist to evaluate the defendant (Pen. Code, § 1369(a)(1)). The evaluator must assess the defendant's alleged mental disorder and the ability to understand the proceedings and assist counsel in their defense. If the evaluator is a psychiatrist, they can address whether psychiatric medication is necessary (Pen. Code, § 1369(a)(2)).

An estimated 56% of people in state prison, and 64% of people in jail have a mental health issue. Foundational to due process, U.S. and California courts have long determined that a person who is mentally incompetent cannot be tried or adjudicated of their pending criminal charges. (Pate v. Robinson (1966) 383 U.S. 375; People v. Samuel (1981) 29 Cal.3d 489).

According to the most recent Department of State Hospital's (DSH) 2018 Annual Report, felony IST referrals increased 60% from FYs 2013–14 to 2017–18 and from a recent DSH budget report a further 45% increase between FYs 2017–18 and 2023–24. Similarly, Penal Code, § 1368 filings increased from 7,547 in FY 2010–11 to 32,966 in FY 2024–25, an increase of over 330%, averaging approximately 14% growth per year.

Beginning in 2020, courts have required higher-quality competency evaluations. Effective April 1, 2020, court-appointed evaluators must comply with DSH standards requiring specified education and training consistent with best practices. Evaluators have also received training from the Judicial Council led by national subject matter experts, to ensure compliance with these enhanced requirements. Senate Bill 317, enacted in January 2022, requires the court to determine pretrial diversion eligibility (Pen. Code, § 1001.36 (b)) in misdemeanor cases. Courts rely on the competency to stand trial reports to make a determination.

According to a 2023 Judicial Council survey, courts experience numerous challenges as a result of the increased number of IST evaluations, including:

- 1) Increase evaluation costs - Courts reported a 15-25% average annual increase in the number of evaluations needed and higher cost per evaluation.
- 2) Maintaining a sufficient number of evaluators, particularly in rural areas, due to funding limitations and inability to pay market rates and effects of COVID-19; and
- 3) Variation in payment throughout the state ranging from \$300 to \$3,500 per evaluation. Courts in rural areas report the most difficulty in finding qualified evaluators.

Competency evaluation costs continue to rise due to increased evaluation volume, higher fees for evaluators meeting enhanced DSH education and training standards and expanded report content required under Rule of Court 4.130(d)(2). Based on information gathered from national experts and court surveys, it was estimated that the cost of a thorough competency evaluation in 2022 was a minimum of \$1,100. Today, DSH pays IST contractor evaluators up to \$1,800 per completed re-evaluation. Using this information and accounting for the rate of inflation since 2022, it is reasonable to estimate the average cost of an evaluation now to be approximately \$1,700. This fee, multiplied by the average 12% annual increase in filings, shows approximately \$10,200,000 is needed to support the increase in costs of evaluations and number of filings beginning in FY 2027–28. We anticipate that the cost will continue to increase at the same average for some time and are requesting a proportionate increase in funding for 5 years. The funding requested is intended only to address the disproportionate increase in costs of the evaluations and reflect only a portion of the costs associated with IST evaluations to ensure that courts can find appropriate evaluators and improve the quality of competency reports.

Legislation enacted in October 2025, Senate Bill 820, creates an alternative process to allow involuntarily medication of individuals who are confined in county jail and have been found incompetent to stand trial after being charged with a misdemeanor. Funding has been allocated in the Governor's proposed budget to address some of the costs associated with newly created workload for courts in misdemeanor IST cases, including additional hearing costs and certain new requirements in competency evaluations; however, it does not affect the calculations of overall disproportionate cost increase discussed here.

Legislation enacted in January 2025 expands report content and reliance on the evaluative context of reports when determining competency treatment options. Senate Bill 1323 asks the courts if restoration of competency to stand trial in felony cases is in the interests of justice. If restoration is not in the interests of justice, pretrial diversion eligibility must be the mandatory first consideration. This bill also created the requirement for competency reports to provide an opinion on restorability with medication treatment. The increase in scope and depth of evaluation reports requires more time spent by evaluators obtaining collateral information such as social history, health records, and police reports to create a thorough analysis. Senate Bill 184 may impact the number of filings, but the impact is unknown at this time.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denying this proposal will perpetuate existing delays in the completion of evaluations following a declaration of doubt, with some trial courts currently waiting four to six weeks for reports and more complex cases taking longer. These delays disrupt court calendars, increase case backlogs, and result in defendants remaining in custody without timely access to clinically appropriate treatment. In addition, denial will continue to place significant strain on court budgets, as courts report having to reallocate funding, defer hiring, or maintain personnel vacancies in order to absorb the escalating costs associated with IST evaluations.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Funding allocations will be distributed to all counties in the first year. The allocation methodology for the court funding will be identified by the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee in consultation with the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee and may utilize PC §1368 filings data reported by courts in Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS). The Judicial Council will have improved data reporting by all courts. Courts will have access to an established and regularly updated inventory of qualified competency evaluators. The Judicial Council will have improved data tracking on actual court expenditures on competency to stand trial evaluations.

Required Review/Approval

Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Francine Byrne*

Contact Name: Jenny Clarke, Supervising Analyst

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Judicial Council Legal Services Office

Proposal Title: Litigation Management Program

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council requests an ongoing augmentation of \$3 million General Fund beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 for the Litigation Management Program to support the defense and indemnity (as permitted) of all judicial branch entities. This will bring the total funding for this purpose up to \$9.2 million. This request includes provisional language to allow the Judicial Council to encumber and expend funds over two years to provide greater flexibility to schedule contract payments.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

In four of the last six years, the Litigation Management Program (LMP) has exceeded its budget allocation and as a result required additional funding averaging \$1.2 million per year. Unusually, in FY 2024-25 the program had essentially no settlements – had the program experienced an average of settlements of past years; the program would have gone over budget (not including a settlement of \$7 million so as not to skew the data). The average annual aggregate settlement amount for FY 2020–21 through FY 2023–24 was slightly over \$1 million. The fact that the program has regularly exceeded budget has forced the program to rely upon additional allocations from the General Fund and the State Trial Court Improvement and Modernization Fund (IMF). The LMP experienced shortfalls of \$2 million and \$1.3 million in two of the last three fiscal years. (See chart below in the next section). Litigation costs have steadily increased and are trending upwards as reflected by increased attorney fees and costs, increasing complexity of litigation subjects and procedure, and expensive discovery and expert costs. The current funding allocation has proven to be insufficient to meet the statutory obligations to defend and indemnify the judicial branch for litigation despite ongoing and increasing efforts to manage the efficiency of outside counsel in litigation matters, promote efficient resolution of litigation matters, and reduce non-essential and non-mandatory services.

Background/History of Problem

The Judicial Council manages litigation and provides for the defense and indemnification of all judicial branch entities, bench officers, and employees. Defense of these parties is for government claims, pre-litigation claims, and litigation, as well as for various risk reduction measures, as required by Government Code Sections 810-811.9, 825-825.6, 900.3, 995-996.6, and California Rules of Court, rules 10.201-10.202. Litigation-related matters include lawsuits, writs and appeals, subpoenas, judicial disqualification statements, and labor-related proceedings. The LMP was established by the Judicial Council in 1999 and pays all outside counsel costs and the payment of settlements and/or judgments on behalf of judicial branch clients.

Since 2003, \$200,000 General Fund had been allocated for appellate court and Judicial Council litigation. In the 2019 Budget Act, the General Fund provided an additional \$5.6 million for a total of \$5.8 million, and budget language allowed for encumbrance of the funding over two fiscal years.

Additionally, the Judicial Council received \$437,000 General Fund in the 2020 Budget Act to pay for legal services provided by the Department of Justice. This allocation can only be encumbered or expended in one year.

For the last six years, the LMP has received an annual appropriation of \$6.2 million from the General Fund. Much of this funding is for expenditures and settlements related to trial court matters.

The cost of litigation has increased over time due to inflation and general litigation trends. Law firms routinely seek rate increases to meet rising business costs, and the total value of settlements have also increased, particularly in employment matters where plaintiffs are entitled to recover attorney's fees as a component of the settlement. The number of matters that have required more extensive and complicated litigation has also increased and driven up costs.

The chart below reflects the budget shortfalls for each of the last six years and demonstrates an upward trend in expenditures. FYs 2020–21 and 2021–22 were impacted by the COVID pandemic during which there was a drop in litigation filings, overall activity, and significantly fewer settlements.

Fiscal Year	Budget	Total Expenditures	Difference
2025-26	\$6,237,000	\$3,516,514* (Pending)	-
2024-25	\$6,237,000	\$5,801,391**	\$436,609
2023-24	\$6,237,000	\$8,251,907	(\$2,014,907)
2022-23	\$6,237,000	\$7,527,219	(\$1,296,519)
2021-22	\$6,237,000	\$6,942,361	(\$711,661)
2020-21	\$6,237,000	\$5,873,925	\$356,775
2019-20	\$6,237,000	\$7,029,060	(\$798,360)

* Expenditures as of January 13, 2026 – Exhaustion of funding is projected.

** The LMP had a settlement of \$7.3 million in FY 2024–25. This was an unusual matter and has not been included in the total expenditures to avoid skewing the totals and analysis.

In FY 2022–23, additional funding was provided from Judicial Council General Fund savings, while the shortfalls in the past fiscal year were addressed through a request for increased allocation from the IMF. The requests for additional allocations are contingent upon availability and do not represent a long-term solution to this ongoing problem. The LMP requires consistent and stable funding to ensure that the Judicial Council’s statutory obligations can be satisfied.

Augmenting this funding by \$3 million will allow more flexible handling of large expensive matters and should provide sufficient funding to address rising costs for at least 5-10 years.

In addition to the augmentation, this request also seeks to include provisional language amending Provision 1 of Item 0250-001-001 to integrate the \$3 million augmentation with the original \$5.8 million and allow for the encumbrance and expenditure of the ongoing funding for two years, to provide the most efficient use of the funds.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

If this proposal is denied, LMP budget shortfalls are projected to continue and increase over time. Denying the proposal will jeopardize the ability of the LMP to meet statutory obligations to defend and indemnify the branch for litigation and will make the program reliant upon the uncertain availability of alternative fund sources, thereby placing an unnecessary strain on other fund resources.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Litigation expenses (attorney fees, costs, judgments, settlements, pre-litigation costs, and fees) are monitored for each fiscal year, and a detailed annual report is provided to the Litigation Management Committee. The five-year chart in the section above reflects the ongoing trend that has resulted in significant litigation budget shortfalls for four of the last six fiscal years

Required Review/Approval

Litigation Management Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal III: Modernization and Management of Administration
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Michael Etchepare*

Contact Name: Eric Schnurpfeil, Deputy General Counsel, Legal Services

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Data Analytics Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Judicial Branch Data Analytics Modernization

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 9 positions and \$9.8 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28; an additional 9 positions and \$12.5 million General Fund in FY 2028–29; an additional 7 positions for an ongoing total of 25 positions and \$13.9 million General Fund in FY 2029–30, \$11.8 million General Fund in FY 2030–31 and \$6.6 million ongoing to address the technology and staffing needs to improve and modernize branch data collection to enhance data reporting, improve accountability and transparency, and better serve the public.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	9.0	18.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
Personal Services	\$964,000	\$3,698,000	\$5,083,000	\$5,083,000	\$5,083,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	8,795,000	8,795,000	8,795,000	6,675,000	1,555,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$9,759,000	\$12,493,000	\$13,878,000	\$11,758,000	\$6,638,000
One-time	7,240,000	7,240,000	7,240,000	5,120,000	-
Ongoing	2,519,000	5,253,000	6,638,000	6,638,000	6,638,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council aims to modernize its outdated analytics technology to move beyond basic reporting and toward actionable insights. This modernization will enable more frequent and reliable data validation, ensuring decision-makers have access to timely and accurate information. It will also equip courts with analytic tools that unlock meaningful insights from case management system data to support informed business and operational decisions. In addition, improved analytics will strengthen the branch's ability to respond to information requests about programs and outcomes, and to provide high-quality data and analysis in support of branch budget proposals and the evaluation of proposed legislation.

The proposal will reduce data management costs and improve efficiency by consolidating multiple data reporting functions onto a single, modern technology platform and replacing aging technical infrastructure. For example, in 2024, the Judicial Council managed over 170 distinct data collections to meet required statewide reporting obligations. Many of these collections rely on surveys or other manual data entry methods, which are time-intensive and prone to data quality and completeness issues. Modern data solutions can automate or streamline portions of these processes, resulting in greater efficiency, improved accuracy, and more reliable data.

In addition, the proposal addresses critical risks associated with aging technical infrastructure. The Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS), a statewide repository for court workload data, is currently housed on unsupported and obsolete technology and must be replaced to ensure system reliability, security, and continuity of operations. The FTE requested in this proposal will be used to manage data reporting, data validation, and analytics across multiple Judicial Council teams that support data reporting at the Council. The staff request is staggered over multiple years as the project transitions from the "build" phase, during which contracted staff will supply the staffing needs doing specialized work to design and build the platform, to the "maintenance and support" phase. Transitioning to modern systems will also reduce the data reporting burden on courts, freeing court staff to focus more of their time on core operational responsibilities.

Improved data management and access directly support the courts' ability to serve the public more effectively and equitably. Analytics enable courts to identify bottlenecks in court processes, allocate resources to meet workload demands, and gather and analyze public feedback. Together, these capabilities enhance transparency, responsiveness, and the branch's ability to make data-informed decisions that improve outcomes for the communities it serves.

Background/History of Problem

Better data-driven decision-making across California's courts enables long-term planning, supports sound policymaking, and improves the courts' ability to serve the public effectively. These benefits were especially evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, when access to timely and reliable data was critical to helping the Legislature understand the pandemic's impact on court operations and access to justice.

However, many judicial branch data systems rely on antiquated technologies originally designed in the 1990s. These systems are increasingly costly to maintain, as programmers with the specialized skills

needed to support them are difficult to find. Moreover, legacy technologies cannot meet modern security standards or effectively interface with contemporary systems, creating operational risk and limiting the branch's ability to modernize.

Prior legislative investments in modern case management systems for trial courts, as well as pilot programs focused on data analytics, have demonstrated that new approaches to data management can significantly improve statewide data reporting. While case management systems capture critical operational data, they are not designed to perform advanced analytics. When paired with modern data reporting and analytic tools, however, these systems can generate insights into court workflows, identify inefficiencies, and support more effective resource allocation.

Building on these efforts, a series of pilot programs, funded through prior Budget Change Proposals (BCPs) and implemented across a diverse group of courts representing varying sizes and case management systems, tested analytical solutions in real-world settings. These pilots enabled the judicial branch to develop and refine a scalable data model, increasing its complexity and applicability across courts.

This proposal builds on those prior investments by establishing a modern, enterprise-level data platform for trial and appellate courts and the Judicial Council. The platform will integrate with modern case management systems to provide enhanced data management, validation, and analytical capabilities. Together, these tools will help courts more effectively track and manage case flow, support operational decision-making, and advance the branch's core goal of providing timely and equitable access to justice.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Without this investment, the aging infrastructure that supports JBSIS, the branch's primary data asset for case flow reporting and analysis, would remain at risk of failure and continue to operate on hardware and software that are no longer secure or supported. The judicial branch would also be required to maintain outdated technologies to manage critical data assets, increasing costs, operational risk, and reliance on increasingly scarce technical expertise. In addition, the full value of prior BCP investments would not be realized, as earlier phases and pilot programs were limited to a subset of trial courts, leaving the branch without a consistent, statewide solution.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

This proposal will deliver measurable improvements in how the judicial branch manages, validates, and uses data to support court operations and policy decision-making. By establishing a modern, enterprise-level data and analytics platform, the branch will significantly increase the number of trial and appellate courts with access to analytic tools needed for effective workload management and case flow decision-making. Courts will be better equipped to monitor performance, identify bottlenecks, and allocate resources based on timely and reliable data.

The proposal will also expand the number of validated datasets available on the data reporting platform, improving data quality, consistency, and confidence in statewide reporting. Standardized data management and validation processes will strengthen the branch's ability to respond efficiently to legislative, executive,

and internal data requests related to court operations, programs, and outcomes. As more information becomes readily available through centralized and validated datasets, the need for ad hoc data requests to trial courts will decrease, reducing administrative burden and allowing court staff to focus on core operational responsibilities.

Accountability will be ensured through clear performance measures, including tracking the number of courts onboarded to the analytics platform, the volume of validated datasets available for reporting and analysis, response times to data requests, and reductions in ad hoc reporting requests. Collectively, these outcomes will demonstrate that the proposal not only modernizes the branch's data infrastructure, but also delivers sustained operational efficiencies, improved transparency, and stronger support for data-driven decision-making across California's courts.

Required Review/Approval

Data Analytics Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal III: Modernization and Management of Administration
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branch wide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: Leah Rose-Goodwin

Contact Name: Leah Rose-Goodwin

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Habeas Corpus Resource Center

Proposal Title: HCRC Case Team Staffing

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 30 positions and \$7.3 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28; an additional 20 positions and \$12.2 million General Fund in FY 2028–29; and an additional 20 positions and \$17.4 million General Fund in FY 2029–30, for a total request of 70 positions and \$17.1 million ongoing funding for the Habeas Corpus Resource Center (HCRC). The funds will be used to increase staff to address delays and reduce the backlog of unrepresented capital defendants in habeas corpus cases. A habeas corpus petition is a request to a court to review the legality of a person’s detention of imprisonment. In California, persons convicted and sentenced to death have a statutory right to counsel to investigate and present to the court a petition for writ of habeas corpus. As of December 1, 2025, 346 people are waiting for such counsel.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	30.0	50.0	70.0	70.0	70.0
Personal Services	\$5,521,000	\$9,610,000	\$13,698,000	\$13,698,000	\$13,698,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	1,826,000	2,637,000	3,664,000	3,392,000	3,392,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$7,347,000	\$12,247,000	\$17,362,000	\$17,090,000	\$17,090,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	7,347,000	12,247,000	17,362,000	17,090,000	17,090,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

In California, persons sentenced to death are statutorily entitled to an attorney to investigate, develop, and present a petition for writ of habeas corpus to the appropriate state court. HCRC is the sole state entity tasked with providing such representation. As of December 31, 2025, the total number of people currently under a sentence of death in California is 562. There are 346 people sentenced to death in California who have a right to counsel, but who are still waiting for appointment of counsel for their initial state habeas (post-conviction) proceedings. These 346 people (with 348 judgments) represent 61 percent of all condemned persons. Of the 346 without habeas counsel, 142 have had their death judgment affirmed on appeal. This proposal addresses the state's need to find representation for the increasing number of indigent people on death row and further HCRC's statutory mission to decrease the number of unrepresented persons on death row. The HCRC's attorney staffing levels have remained virtually unchanged since its formation in 1998. Government Code section 68661 limits HCRC to hire up to 34 attorneys, so as a result, HCRC has been unable to accept new appointments at a rate sufficient to address the backlog.

This proposal addresses the problem in the manner suggested by the California Commission for Fair Administration of Justice (CCFAJ) in 2008: expanding HCRC's capacity to accept capital habeas corpus representation. The proposal would do so through measured growth in HCRC staff, creating up to 15 additional case teams—made up of attorneys, paralegals, investigators, and case assistants—as well as four supervisory positions, phased in over a three-year period. The supervisory positions will ensure appropriate training, mentoring, and adherence to ethical standards and rules of court for case team members, enabling HCRC to maintain high quality representation for a maximum number of cases. This proposal will require amendment to Government Code section 68661 to authorize HCRC to employ up to 68 attorneys.

Background/History of Problem

The backlog of capital post-conviction representation is the direct result of California's 58 counties sending people to death row at a rate far faster than the courts have been able to appoint qualified post-conviction counsel. The HCRC was established in 1998 to accept appointments in state and federal post-conviction death penalty proceedings and to serve as a resource for private attorneys appointed to these cases (see Government Code Section 68661). By statute, the mission of the HCRC is to (1) provide timely, high-quality legal representation for indigent petitioners in death penalty habeas corpus proceedings in state and federal courts; (2) recruit and train attorneys to expand the pool of private counsel qualified to accept appointments in death penalty habeas corpus proceedings, and to serve as a resource to them; and thereby (3) reduce the number of unrepresented indigent people on California's death row.

Changes in the law and California Rules of Court since 2016 have altered substantially the way habeas cases are currently argued in California's courts and have exacerbated the backlog in appointments of habeas counsel. Under California Penal Code section 1509, habeas proceedings now initiate in the trial courts statewide, whereas a single court, the Supreme Court, previously appointed habeas counsel and heard all state habeas cases. Section 1509 has also accelerated the timelines for litigating habeas matters, intensifying the work required by HCRC case teams to research, prepare, and file claims in the trial courts. However, there is a lack of qualified counsel on the statewide panel of attorneys from which the trial courts

may appoint habeas counsel; currently only one private lawyer is on an approved panel for the entire state. In addition, because there is no funding source by which the superior court can pay private counsel, HCRC remains the only resource for appointments.

The Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court recognized the problem of the backlog and formed a Working Group in February 2025 to address it (see <https://courts.ca.gov/advisory-body/2025-proposition-66-counsel-working-group>). The working group's draft report (<https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/executiveandplanning-20260414-mm.pdf>) primarily addresses Proposition 66's attempt to expand the pool of counsel available to take capital habeas corpus appointments, concluding that there has been "little progress in expanding the pool of available and qualified attorneys." The working group proposes some solutions to that problem but acknowledges that "[t]here are a number of reasons for the lack of appointments by the superior courts, chief among them is the magnitude of the work involved and the lack of funding to compensate attorneys," as well as the serious shortage of qualified counsel available to accept appointments (Draft Report, p. 7.). Although the working group's recommendations focus on expanding the pool of available counsel—an endeavor that has resulted in only one qualified attorney on the statewide habeas corpus panel—in 2008, the CCFAJ found that funding an expansion of HCRC was the best, and likely only, means of meeting the state's need for qualified capital habeas corpus attorneys. (Cal. Com. on the Fair Admin. of Justice, Final Rep. (2008), p. 135 (Com. Rep.), available at <https://digitalcommons.law.scu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=ncippubs>.) This proposal addresses the problem in the manner suggested by the CCFAJ.

This request also addresses a fundamental equity issue in the administration of the death penalty. When Governor Gavin Newsom placed a moratorium on carrying out executions in California in 2019, he explained that "California's death penalty system is unfair, unjust, wasteful, protracted and does not make our state safer." The Governor also stated, "Death sentences are unevenly and unfairly applied to people of color, people with mental disabilities, and people who cannot afford costly legal representation." Although Black and Latino individuals represent just 6.5 percent and 36 percent of California's population, respectively, approximately 69 percent of the death row population is made up of people of color. While the moratorium paused executions, it did not permanently end them.

Since the moratorium, 28 people have been sentenced (or, in one case, resentenced) to death. 86 percent of these individuals are people of color. And it is still the case that since January 1, 2022, every person sentenced to death has been a person of color. Resources provided through this proposal will be used to confront this inequity as HCRC will be able to represent more condemned persons faster.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

The length of time to make an impact and reduce the backlog in appointments is directly related to the level of resources devoted to the problem. Additional case teams are critical if the HCRC is to expand the number of capital habeas corpus appointments it can accept every year. However, HCRC's number of attorneys is still at the same level as it was almost three decades ago. With level resources and death sentences continuing to be imposed, the time it takes to complete capital case post-conviction review continues to get longer. Currently, a person condemned to death in California can expect to wait more than 30 years from a sentence of death to final resolution of state habeas proceedings. In 2020, the

average time from sentencing to resolution was 20 years, up from 17 years in 2015, and 12 years in 2008. Grants of relief are the most common outcomes in capital proceedings. Ultimately, each California death judgment has only a one-in-five chance of being upheld in every court that reviews it, and a four-in-five chance of reversal. Years-long delays in appointments cause judicial relief for condemned people, consistent with constitutional requirements, to be denied.

A major impact of denying this proposal is that the decades-long wait for relief will continue for the wrongfully convicted, who spend decades on death row when they are innocent. Since California reinstated the death penalty in 1977, eight innocent men—all people of color—have been exonerated from California's death row. As Governor Newsom noted, a 2014 study showed that at least 4.1 percent of people sentenced to death were likely wrongfully convicted. Since 1977, California has imposed nearly 1,100 death judgments. By a conservative estimate, it is likely that 45 of those death judgments were obtained against innocent people. This means that today in California over three dozen innocent people are either currently under a death sentence or have died on death row.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Fifteen additional case teams—made up of attorneys, paralegals, investigators, and case support—can be formed with the resources requested in this proposal. These case teams will be phased in over three years—five teams in year one, five additional teams in year two, and five more teams in year three. The phasing in of staff, as well as variations in the time each case takes, makes it difficult to offer a precise number of cases these additional staff members could take on in a particular time frame. “The time to investigate and prepare for the filing of a habeas corpus petition and the subsequent litigation takes years” (Draft Report, p. 10.). We anticipate that over time the 15 additional case teams could absorb somewhere between 30-60 new cases. At the time of the CCFAJ Report, the backlog of unrepresented death-sentenced people was 291 people. The Commission recommended adding 116 attorneys to HCRC (for a total of 150) to eliminate this backlog, a roughly 2:1 ratio. This proposal is more modest in its suggestion: it seeks to increase the number of attorneys by 34.

The current 20+ year delay in appointment of counsel also increases the long-term incarceration costs of the death row population. According to the analysis of Proposition 62 in the Voter Information Guide for 2016 (an ultimately unsuccessful proposal to eliminate the death penalty), the death penalty costs the state approximately \$150 million per year. The Committee on the Revision of the Penal Code concluded in its 2021 Death Penalty Report: “Even with those costs, the state is not spending enough money: people sentenced to death routinely wait decades to be assigned post-conviction lawyers because the state does not pay for more attorneys.” If California were to spend more money on attorney resources in the short term to reduce the habeas backlog and move these cases to conclusion, it would save money in the long run. The Death Penalty Report observes in a footnote that experts say it is a “conservative” estimate that the cost of the death penalty to the state of California up to 2021 had been \$6 billion since 1978. If even half of the 346 unrepresented people on death row were to receive counsel sooner and obtain timely relief consistent with 40-year trends in sentence reversals, the state could realize a savings of millions of dollars per year.

Required Review/Approval

HCRC is an independent entity within the Judicial Branch, and the Executive Director provides the necessary review and approval.

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: John Larson

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Appellate Court Unarmed Security Guard – Expanded Coverage

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests an ongoing augmentation of \$707,000 General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 to provide additional unarmed security guards for the evenings and weekends for the state-owned courthouses for the Courts of Appeal for the state-owned Courts of Appeal courthouses at the Fifth Appellate District, the Fourth Appellate District Divisions Two and Three, and the Second Appellate District, Division Six. In FY 2029–30, the Judicial Council requests an additional ongoing augmentation of \$199,000 for the Sixth Appellate District’s new courthouse scheduled to be completed by 2030.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: general Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$707,000	\$707,000	\$906,000	\$906,000	\$906,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$707,000	\$707,000	\$906,000	\$906,000	\$906,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	707,000	707,000	906,000	906,000	906,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Courts of Appeal's current unarmed security contract does not provide after-hours or weekend coverage, leaving court facilities unmonitored outside of regular Monday through Friday business hours. The existing contract with American Guards Services Inc., valued at \$1,537,090 and effective December 1, 2025 through November 30, 2026, limits security services to normal business hours only. This lack of coverage increases the risk of vandalism, unauthorized access, and property damage, which in turn leads to higher maintenance and repair costs. Without additional funding, the Courts cannot extend the current contract to address after-hours and weekend security needs.

The stand-alone state-owned courthouses have experienced significant damage and require costly repairs to the external courthouse as a result of vandalism and maintenance clean-up for the unhoused populations. Court-targeted acts of violence are on the rise and continue to occur in California and nationwide, posing a heightened risk to court users, employees, and the public. The stand-alone Court of Appeal courthouses in Ventura, Riverside, Santa Ana, and Fresno face significant security challenges due to insufficient funding to provide adequate security coverage, particularly during after-hours and weekends when security is currently nonexistent. The absence of security personnel during after-hours and weekends creates critical gaps in safety, leaving these state-owned courthouses vulnerable to acts of vandalism, break-ins, or potential violence. Without proper security coverage during these times, the courts are unable to ensure a secure environment, undermining accessibility to the judicial system.

Approval of this request for \$707,000 in FY 2027–28 and the additional \$199,000 in FY 2029–30 would directly address these vulnerabilities by enabling the addition of security guards to cover these gaps. This funding is essential to increase safety and security for court users and the public, thereby increasing safety and security for court users and the public and ensuring equal and safe access to the judicial system in California.

Background/History of Problem

Acts of violence targeting courts are increasing in California and across the nation, with standalone courthouses experiencing a notable rise in vandalism, break-ins, and other security threats. The judicial branch is committed to enhancing access to justice by maintaining secure physical locations statewide where the public and employees can safely conduct court business. This proposal aims to ensure a minimum level of protective services for standalone appellate courthouses, aligning with the Judicial Council's Strategic Plan. Adequate security protection will benefit justices, judicial branch employees, and the public by enabling dispute resolution in a safe, secure environment.

The Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, located in downtown Riverside, continues to struggle with property defacement and vandalism to its facility. Incidents include broken lobby windows, which compromised court security, and an arson attack by an unhoused individual that affected palm trees adjacent to the court along Lime Street and on a separate occasion, an arson incident on the northeast corner of the property causing major damage to the adjacent freeway offramp. Within the last several years, there have also been two separate break-ins at the court. In one incident, an individual climbed onto the roof and accessed the court's interior by opening the emergency roof hatch, causing damage to court

property once inside. In another incident, a different individual kicked in a glass door to gain entry and also caused damage to court property once inside. Over the past three years Riverside has experienced ongoing vandalism: in FY 2019–2020 over \$10,000 in vandalism; in FY 2020–2021 a total of \$12,814 in vandalism; and in FY 2023–2024 the front lobby window was broken.

The Fourth Appellate District, Division Three, located in downtown Santa Ana, has faced significant property damage. Incidents include broken lobby windows, which compromised court security, and an arson attack by an unhoused individual that caused over \$100,000 in damages, including destruction to the façade, landscaping, and lobby. The growing unhoused population in downtown Santa Ana has exacerbated related issues. Hazmat concerns include the need to regularly power wash the courthouse exterior to remove human waste and dispose of used needles, backpacks, and tents left on the property. These issues represent a public health risk for both employees and the public and do not align with the Judicial Council’s Strategic Plan which places an emphasis on maintaining safe and dignified facilities for conducting court business. There have also been safety incidents, such as a naked unhoused individual confronting a court employee at the entrance, creating an unsafe environment. Being located within a Civic Center, the Santa Ana Courthouse faces additional challenges over weekends when most nearby buildings are vacant, making the courthouse more vulnerable to vandalism. Current resources and funding are insufficient to provide security officers for after-hours and for weekend patrols. Between June 2020 through October 2024, the Court has spent many one-time expenses up to \$103,595 and ongoing annual cost up to \$15,660 (California Highway Patrol Officer (CHP) overtime and court staff) for after-hour clean-ups and feces removals as a result of addressing unhoused people from sleeping in the patio/grounds.

The Second Appellate District, Division Six, located in downtown Ventura, has faced some challenges with no evening or weekend coverage. This has resulted in this court facing various challenges related to homelessness and an increase in criminal activity around the building. These challenges include encampments, vandalism and damage, specifically after-hours incidents involving graffiti, damage to signs, and even throwing bodily fluids on the entrance doors, walls, parking lot, and surrounding bushes. There are also safety concerns including individuals loitering in front of the building and parking lot after hours, jumping the secured fence and walking around the secured staff parking lot and near exit doors, as well as fights and criminal drug activity around the parking lot. Additionally, attempts to enter the building by force and defecation on the sidewalk and parking lot for entry to the Courthouse have also occurred. On average, a CHP officer’s overtime cost is added on top of their regular hourly salary, and in some cases, using an unarmed guard after hours could reduce overall CHP overtime expenses. The Second Appellate District, Division Six, is a leased building and most of the costs for vandalism and damages are covered by the landlord. However, the Court has had an increase in overtime costs for their CHP Officer because of the criminal activity around the building.

The Fifth Appellate District is regularly faced with vandalism and defacement of property stemming from the unhoused population and criminals. A common issue the court sees is urination and defecation on court property, including on/at the front entrance, in flower beds, in water features and on court grounds in other areas. Both men and women routinely wash themselves (while 100% naked) in the court’s front water feature, leaving behind urine, feces, blood, and soiled undergarments. Also found in the water feature are needles, tampons, pads, condoms, and other personal hygiene items. The overtime on average increases for CHP Officers as issues arise after-hours and weekends related to the unhoused population.

Additionally, some individuals also vandalize lighting fixtures and electrical panels so that area(s) outside remain dark, allowing them to sleep and be hidden at night. During summer months, they intentionally break sprinklers to obtain fresh source(s) of water and break into irrigation controller pedestals to disable the irrigation controllers and commandeer the electrical outlet(s) for personal use. The court has been faced with plants stolen out of the landscape multiple times. One or more trucks have been seen stopping in front of the court, with individuals using shovels to dig out plants. Graffiti is another common issue seen, where the court's main sign is defaced with graffiti and other signage has been keyed and scratched to beyond what repairs can remedy. Over the years, the court has had windows broken after hours and on weekends by rocks being thrown at them, and other windows broken by bullets being fired at them. Nearly all these issues are recurring events in various frequencies. The statewide cost for the courts is compounded when their Judicial Protection Officer is called to the court after hours or on weekends to respond to intrusion alarms.

The courts have experienced an increase in protests, including those noted below, occurring near courthouses during after-hours and on weekends.

Approval of the BCC would provide critical Monday through Friday after-hours and weekend unarmed security coverage to enhance safety and reduce vandalism at courthouse facilities. Escalating protest activity occurring in close proximity to state courthouses underscores the growing need for this funding request. Over the past year, demonstrations related to immigration enforcement have demonstrated a recurring pattern of activity near judicial facilities, frequently occurring outside normal business hours.

In October 2025 in San Francisco, the "No Kings" protests drew thousands of participants and moved through the Civic Center, which houses the Supreme Court of California, the Judicial Council of California, and the First District Court of Appeal. Although the event remained peaceful, the size, mobility, and location of the demonstration highlight the vulnerability of judicial facilities to large-scale protest activity, particularly during evenings and weekends when routine staffing levels are reduced. Similar events in other jurisdictions have escalated into violence and damage to state property.

In June 2025 in Santa Ana and Los Angeles, protests related to ICE enforcement actions occurred near the Ronald Reagan Federal Building, adjacent to the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Three. Demonstrators engaged in violent behavior, including throwing rocks, bottles, and fireworks at law enforcement. Crowd-control measures were deployed, and vandalism associated with the protest impacted surrounding areas, including court-adjacent property, emphasizing the need for visible security coverage beyond standard operating hours. The Los Angeles protests in response to ICE immigration raids escalated over multiple days in downtown Los Angeles, resulting in freeway closures, widespread vandalism, and burglaries of local businesses. These incidents occurred approximately one mile from the California Court of Appeal, Second District, underscoring the potential for rapid spillover of unrest toward judicial facilities during extended hours and non-business days.

Photos of vandalism, Fourth District, Division 3;



Collectively, these incidents indicate a sustained increase in protest activity near judicial facilities and an elevated risk of vandalism and threats to court employee safety, particularly after business hours and on weekends. Approval of the funds would support expanded after-hours and weekend coverage using unarmed security personnel, providing a visible deterrent to vandalism, enhancing monitoring and rapid reporting of emerging threats, and improving the safety of court employees accessing facilities outside normal operating hours. Enhanced coverage and coordination would strengthen the judiciary's ability to prevent damage and respond effectively to evolving protest-related risks.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Failure to approve the proposal will likely result in continued and potentially escalating risks to the safety and security of the standalone appellate courthouses. Specific consequences include:

1. Increased security vulnerabilities: Without additional protective services, incidents of vandalism, property damage, and breaches to court facilities are likely to persist or worsen. This compromises the ability of courts to operate safely and securely.
2. Heightened safety risks: Employees, justices, and members of the public may face ongoing or increased threats to their safety, such as confrontations with individuals exhibiting unstable behavior. It should be noted that some employees, including justices, work outside of normal business hours (including weekends) which places them at even greater vulnerability given the gap in security.
3. Financial strain from repeated repairs: The cost of repairing damage, such as broken windows, arson-related destruction, and cleanup of hazmat issues (e.g., human waste and used needles), will continue to burden limited court resources, diverting funds from other critical judicial functions.
4. Erosion of public trust and accessibility: Without adequate protection, the courts' ability to provide a safe, neutral environment for justice will be undermined, potentially discouraging public engagement, and diminishing trust in the judicial system.
5. Non-compliance with strategic goals: The inability to ensure secure and functional courthouses undermines the Judicial Council's Strategic Plan, which prioritizes maintaining safe and accessible facilities to improve access to justice.

Approving the proposal is essential to address these issues and prevent further harm to the courts, their employees, and the public.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

The current security guard’s vendor, American Guard Services, has policies and procedures in place for the management of their personnel and workload. These include departmental written policy, departmental and unit-specific standard operating procedures, and scheduled review with the Judicial Council project manager, who also monitors contract costs.

The security guard’s vendor meets regularly with management in each appellate court to address security related issues. In addition, the current armed guard services vendor provides quarterly status reports on security issues and the Appellate Court Clerk Executive Officers monitor the quarterly reports and will continue to monitor and evaluate the minimum level of protective services required at each of the standalone courthouses.

Upon enactment of the FY 2026–27 Budget Act, the existing contract between the Judicial Council and security guard services will be amended based on the approved amount of new spending authority. Based on current operational practices, the vendor will immediately conduct interviews, hire officers, train the new officers, and deploy them statewide at court facilities in a manner consistent with the need described in this proposal. Existing office space will be utilized.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Deborah Collier-Tucker

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Proposition 66 in Courts of Appeal

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 14.5 positions and \$9.9 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and \$9.4 million General Fund in FY 2028–29 and ongoing for the Courts of Appeal to address the new workload associated with the implementation of Proposition 66 (Prop 66), the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5
Personal Services	\$3,718,000	\$3,718,000	\$3,718,000	\$3,718,000	\$3,718,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	935,000	738,000	738,000	738,000	738,000
Local Assistance/ Contracts	5,275,000	4,965,000	4,965,000	4,965,000	4,965,000
Total	\$9,928,000	\$9,421,000	\$9,421,000	\$9,421,000	\$9,421,000
One-time	310,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	9,618,000	9,421,000	9,421,000	9,421,000	9,421,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

Prop 66 was approved without funding or resources and the new workload cannot be absorbed by existing resources and staffing for the Courts of Appeal. Approximately 150 petitions were transferred from the Supreme Court to the trial courts, a majority of which are still pending in the trial courts and will likely result in an appeal under Prop 66.

Currently, 50 petitions have proceeded to final disposition in the trial courts and are now in the Courts of Appeal, 43 petitions have been stayed (without counsel) due to lack of funding for habeas corpus appeal counsel. Seven are moving forward despite the lack of funding because counsel comes from an agency such as Habeas Corpus Resource Center or Federal Public Defenders that do not need payment from the Courts of Appeal to proceed with the appeals.

The estimated workload calculation projects that one-fourth (38) of the 150 cases will be appealed in each year beginning in 2027–28. If funding is not provided to the Courts of Appeal, the courts will have to absorb over 12.5 full-time equivalents (FTE) each fiscal year resulting from the estimated 38 cases that will be appealed, with each case requiring approximately four months FTE to review and prepare. This will delay all appeals, slowing down the process of justice, which is precisely the opposite of what the proponents of Prop 66 and, by extension, the majority of Californians wanted when Prop 66 was passed.

Currently there is a backlog and there are approximately 354 California condemned incarcerated persons awaiting appointment of Habeas Corpus counsel, 61 percent of all condemned persons. Of the 354, 142 have had death judgment affirmed and approximately 138 of these incarcerated persons have been waiting for counsel for more than 20 years. Incarcerated persons are being denied their constitutional and statutory rights to challenge their convictions and sentences. Prior to passage of Prop 66, the Supreme Court handled the appointment of counsel, and habeas corpus petitions were filed directly in the Supreme Court. Prop 66 transferred initial appointment authority to the trial courts and directed the filing of habeas petitions there to be followed by an appeal to the Courts of Appeal. Prop 66 did not appropriate funds to the Courts of Appeal for additional resources to address the new petitions related to Prop 66. In addition, the current resources and staff of the Courts of Appeal cannot absorb the anticipated increase in workload. The requested funding will promote the interests of the fair administration of justice by allowing cases to proceed to final resolution, benefiting both the unrepresented and the victim's family members. Of the 354 persons awaiting the appointment of habeas counsel, four have two death judgments for a total of 358 death judgments. Of those 142 (39 percent) have been affirmed on direct appeal.

The Courts of Appeal staff will be required to do different and additional work than what was required of the Supreme Court when it considered death-penalty petitions before Prop 66. Unlike what was required by the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal will be required to issue full written opinions, resolve interlocutory writ petitions taken from trial court rulings, decide multiple pre-decision motions, and consider petitions for rehearing.

The estimated workload calculation is based on averaging two types of anticipated appeals: appeals from initial petitions, which will require extensive work; and appeals from second or subsequent petitions, which will often require less work. For appeals from initial petitions, an FTE position will need an average

of six months to prepare a draft opinion. For appeals from second or subsequent petitions, an FTE position will need from one week to several months to prepare a memorandum or draft decision. Averaging these estimates results in the need for one FTE position to work on a case for four months.

Counsel has already been appointed to all 150 cases transferred to the trial courts, and most of the decisions issued in these cases will be appealed under Prop 66. The Courts of Appeal cannot assume, however, that because a petitioner had representation in the trial court, the petitioner will also have representation on appeal. Under applicable court rules, unless the petitioner and counsel expressly request continued representation, new counsel must be appointed. This concept projects that the Courts of Appeal will be required to appoint and compensate counsel in half of the estimated 38 appeals filed each year through FY 2028–29.

Background/History of Problem

On November 8, 2016, the California electorate approved Prop 66, the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016. This act made a variety of changes to the statutes relating to review of death penalty (or “capital”) cases in the California courts, many of which were focused on reducing the time spent on this review. Among other provisions, Prop 66 effected several changes to the procedures for filing, hearing, and making decisions on death penalty-related habeas corpus petitions. The act did not take effect immediately on approval by the electorate because its constitutionality was challenged in a petition filed in the California Supreme Court, *Briggs v. Brown* (S238309). On Oct. 25, 2017, the Supreme Court’s opinion in *Briggs v. Brown* became final (2017 3 Cal.5th 808), and the act took effect.

Before Prop 66, habeas corpus petitions related to capital convictions were filed in and decided by the Supreme Court. Under Prop 66, these petitions are generally to be decided by the trial courts and then appealed to the Courts of Appeal. Habeas corpus proceedings represent a new workload and the need for new staffing for the Courts of Appeal. Staffing requested includes one supervising appellate court attorney, 11.5 senior appellate court attorneys, and two judicial assistants.

The Courts of Appeal request for new additional staff is intended to handle these appeals. Because these cases involve the death penalty, they are extraordinarily hard fought and involve many complex issues. The Courts of Appeal will be required to do different and additional work than was required of the Supreme Court in resolving pre-Prop 66 petitions. Unlike the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal will have to issue full written opinions, resolve interlocutory writ petitions taken from superior court rulings, decide multiple pre-decision motions, and consider petitions for rehearing. The estimated workload calculation is based on averaging two types of anticipated appeals: appeals from initial petitions, which will require extensive work, and appeals from second or subsequent petitions, which will require less work.

These delays in appointment of counsel are not only against the interests of justice and fairness but substantially increase both the litigation costs of each case and the incarceration costs associated with the delay in providing a substantial number of condemned incarcerated persons potential relief from their death judgments. Although the issue of responsible party for payment to appointed counsel for trial court habeas proceedings and the rate of pay is still to be determined, the component of this request that seeks additional funding for appointed and assisted counsel at the current capital case rate of \$155/hour for

matters in the Courts of Appeal which will help address one aspect of the chronic shortage. However, if the current \$155/hour rate through FY 2025–26 for capital appointments changes in FY 2026–27 (with a separate proposed BCP to increase the current appointment rate by \$25 for FY 2026–27), additional funds will be needed in the FY 2027–28 budget cycle to obtain adequate funds for any approved increases in capital appointment rates. Currently, as of January 2026, there are 61 Prop 66 cases statewide in the Courts of Appeal: 43 cases stayed; 13 cases dismissed; 13 cases under the Federal Public Defenders Office and State Public Defenders Office or in opinion/motion stage. Without funding, the current 43 Prop 66 statewide cases will continue to be stayed, and access to justice will be denied to appellants and families of victims.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

The Courts of Appeal will not have the resources (i.e., funding and staff) to address the new workload resulting from the passage of Prop 66, the Death Penalty Reform and Savings Act of 2016. All habeas corpus petitions related to capital convictions appeals will be delayed, slowing the process of justice, which is inconsistent with the intent of Prop 66 when passed by the California voters. As noted, there are currently 43 Prop 66 cases statewide without counsel being appointed. Denial of this request will increase the number of Prop 66 cases without counsel and create a backlog for Prop 66 cases.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

With approval of this proposal, the Courts of Appeal will be able to hire and develop professional staff to handle habeas corpus appeals to review and render timely opinions to provide relief to prisoners without counsel. The Courts of Appeal will have the necessary resources (funding and staff) to support the new workload and other costs (including appointed counsel, investigation, records storage, and technology upgrades) to adequately address the appeals and the costs associated with the implementation of Prop 66 in the Courts of Appeal.

With the approval of this proposal, many underrepresented groups would benefit from providing timely justice. The National Academy of Sciences and others have estimated that approximately 4 percent of condemned incarcerated persons may be innocent, suggesting that as many as 14 of California’s approximately 354 unrepresented condemned incarcerated persons may have potentially meritorious claims of innocence. Racial and ethnic minorities are disparately impacted, with African Americans comprising approximately 33.6 percent of California’s death row (as compared to approximately six percent of the general population). Additionally, the Death Row U.S.A Winter 2026 (as of Jan. 1, 2026), a quarterly report by the Legal Defense Fund, lists California’s inmates on Death Row in the below categories:

California Death Row Stats as Jan. 1, 2026

Total	Black	%	White	%	Latino/a	%	Native American	%	Asian	%
580	195	33.6%	187	32.2%	166	28.6%	7	1.2%	25	4.3%

Approval of this proposal will also provide timely processing of these cases and provide equity for all Californian’s including families who are seeking timely justice for the victims and families of incarcerated persons in the habeas corpus petition cases. In addition, these funds will reduce the amount of time

innocent incarcerated persons serve in prison awaiting an appeal, as the families on both sides continue to wait for their day in court and closure.

Finally, successful implementation of this proposal will be manifested through prompt hiring and training of new staff members, allowing the new workload created by Prop 66 to be addressed appropriately and not overwhelming the Courts of Appeal. Accountability will be measured through attorney recruitment and will help in the process of reducing the backlog of habeas counsel appointments to prisoners on death row.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion

Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public

Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Deborah Collier-Tucker

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Racial Justice Act Retroactivity (AB 256) for the Appellate Courts and Trial Courts

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 17.0 positions and \$22.6 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28, and \$28.1 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: 1) Provide the Appellate Courts (Supreme Court (SC) and Courts of Appeal (COA)) 17.0 full time positions and \$4.681 million to address the internal operational costs related to RJA support; 2) Provide the Court Appointed Counsel (CAC) Programs SC and COA \$11.6 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.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00	17.00
Personal Services	\$3,817,000	\$3,817,000	\$3,817,000	\$3,817,000	\$3,817,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	1,095,000	864,000	864,000	864,000	864,000
Contracts/Special Items of Expense	5,739,000	11,556,000	11,556,000	11,556,000	11,556,000
Local Assistance (Trial Courts)	11,900,000	11,900,000	11,900,000	11,900,000	11,900,000
Total	\$22,551,000	\$28,137,000	\$28,137,000	\$28,137,000	\$28,137,000
One-time	231,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	22,320,000	28,137,000	28,137,000	28,137,000	28,137,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The passage of the RJA in 2020 and its expansion in 2022 to include all past juvenile adjudications and judgments regardless of when they were final has created an exponentially increased case flow both in the trial and appellate courts. The purpose of the funds requested is to support both internal SC and COA operations with the addition of 17.0 full time positions: the SC requests 4.0 Attorney positions and 1.0 Deputy Clerk position and the COA requests 10.0 Attorney positions and 2.0 Judicial Assistant positions and \$1.3 million to fund the SC Appointed Counsel and Capital Project – California Appellate Project-San Francisco’s (CAP-SF) workload has increased for RJA work. The RJA has impacted the processing of claims and necessitates time-intensive reviews of voir dire, jury questionnaires, and trial records ³/₄often requiring statistical analysis. The Racial Justice Act has impacted the processing of court-appointed counsel claims and necessitates time-intensive reviews of voir dire, jury questionnaires, and trial records often requiring statistical analysis.

In addition, the funds are also requested for Trial Court resources for consideration of their RJA cases.

These are broad categories encompassing the way the RJA was raised in appeals in 2024. The percentage shown is the proportion that category represents of all substantive RJA issues raised. Looking at the cases by category can help to predict where the COA may see increases after 2026 in a more nuanced way.

- Discovery - 17%
- RJA Motion Appeal filed in the trial court - 21%
- RJA Claim made in trial court proceedings (in context of trial or at sentencing - not a stand-alone motion) - 7%
- RJA issue raised on appeal based on the record - 43%
- General discussion of the RJA in context of other issues 5%
- Motion to stay and remand to file RJA motion - 7%

The funds are requested for Trial Court resources for consideration of RJA cases and external costs related to appointment of counsel in both capital and non-capital cases in the CAC Programs.

Background/History of Problem

The RJA prohibits the state from seeking or obtaining a criminal conviction or seeking, obtaining, or imposing a sentence on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin. (Pen. Code §745; AB 2542.) The RJA permits those alleging a criminal conviction or sentence enacted against them in violation of the RJA to petition the court for relief regardless of when the judgment became final. The RJA also applies to juvenile adjudications and dispositions. (Pen. Code §745, subd. (f).) Relief under the RJA can be sought:

- By motion filed in the trial court (Pen. Code §745, subd. (b).)
- By petition for writ of habeas corpus or a motion under Section 1473.7 in the trial court. (Pen. Code §745, subd. (b).)
- For claims based on the trial record, on direct appeal from the conviction or sentence. (Pen. Code §745, subd. (b).)

- A defendant may move to stay their appeal and request remand to the superior court to file a motion raising RJA issues. (Pen. Code §745, subd. (b).)
- A defendant can request discovery related to potential RJA issues by a motion filed in the trial court. (Pen. Code §745, subd. (d).)

Anticipated proceedings in the trial court could involve multiple additional filings, appointment of counsel, and possible multiple hearings, including evidentiary hearings. RJA proceedings will require consideration of complex legal and factual issues including:

- Disclosure of evidence unless a statutory privilege or constitutional privacy right cannot be adequately protected by redaction or a protective order;
- Nonstatistical evidence and the totality of the evidence in determining whether a significant difference in seeking or obtaining convictions or in imposing sentences has been established; and
- Statistical evidence showing systemic and institutional racial bias, racial profiling, and historical patterns of racially biased policing and prosecution to determine whether such evidence may have contributed to, or caused differences observed in the data or impacted the availability of data overall.

If relief is granted, a defendant could be entitled to a new trial. (Pen. Code §745, subd. (e).) Proceedings in the court of appeal related to the RJA will include a significant increase in writ matters, and increases in notices of appeal, and expansion of issues that can be raised in an appeal to include complex fact driven RJA issues. (Pen. Code §745, subds. (b).) No permanent funds were approved for the SC, COA and the Trial Courts to address the internal workload and additional staff needed to administer and handle work related to RJA.

In 2022, the Legislature expanded the retroactivity of the RJA when it passed AB 256. AB 256 made the RJA progressively retroactive. By 2026, the RJA will apply to any conviction or sentence irrespective of when the judgment became final. (Pen. Code §745, subd. (j); AB 256.)

As amended by AB 256, Penal Code 745 has annual implementation dates beginning January 1, 2023, through January 1, 2026. Due to the lack of responsive and specific quantitative data at the trial court level, the actual number of filings as well as the workload and cost impact to the trial courts is difficult to determine and may need to be reassessed after AB 256 is fully implemented.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Without additional funding to support the new workload related to AB 256 (RJA issues) in the cases under appeal, the Superior Courts and COA will not have the adequate resources to maintain the level of work needed on these RJA cases or the ability to control the potential backlog from these RJA cases.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Appellate Analysis

The Judicial Council expects that by extending the availability of relief under the RJA to all juvenile disposition and criminal convictions regardless of when the judgment became final, AB 256 will require additional funds to support the adjudication of appellate cases. By the time this proposal is implemented, the changes will be fully in effect retroactively.

The Judicial Council has gathered data regarding opinions and writ petitions filed raising RJA issues since its implementation in 2021 and can document the exponential growth of RJA workload through December 2024. As full implementation will not occur until 2026, the COA anticipate continued exponential growth as follows:

Anticipated Increases:

SC: The workload for the SC and CAP-SF has increased, and additional staffing is necessary to address the RJA work. Assuming 50 percent of the COA cases will have appointed counsel in the review granted cases from the COA.

- **2027** – 11,296 hours generated from 336 cases; it is estimated half the hours/cases from the review granted cases will cost approximately \$988,000.
- **2027** – CAP-SF’s increased RJA workload will cost an estimated \$300,000 (attorney and paralegal).

COA: Assuming an average of 200% increase each year in 2025, 2026 and 2027 based on greatly expanded eligibility in 2025 and 2026 with an average of 30 hours of work per case*:

- **2025** – 84 cases = 2520 hours** (+304 non-substantive) = 2824 hours
- **2026** – 168 cases = 5040 hours (+608) = 5648 hours
- **2027** – 336 cases = 10,080 hours (+1216) = 11,296 hours

Cost for Appointed Counsel in COA Programs: Assuming an average of 200% increase each year in 2025, 2026 and 2027 based on greatly expanded eligibility in 2025 and 2026 with an average of 20 hours of work per case

- **2025** –1,680 appellate court appointed counsel hours generated from 84 cases
- **2026** –3,360 appellate court appointed counsel hours generated from 168 cases resulting in a cost of approximately \$436,800
- **2027** –6,720 appellate court appointed counsel hours generated from 336 cases resulting in a cost of approximately \$873,600
- **2026** – Appellate projects increased RJA workload estimated at \$1,500,000 (one attorney and one paralegal/staff for each of the five projects)
- **2027** - Appellate projects increased RJA workload estimated at \$1,500,000 (one attorney and one paralegal/staff for each of the five projects)

*Based on attorney hours spent on cases where RJA issues are raised substantively.

** Add 8-10 percent of attorney time to calculate JA time based on actual data from 4th District Court of Appeal.

Judicial Council staff used the calculated estimates for trial court caseloads under AB 256 and assumed a 25% rate of appellate filings, based on Court Statistics Report data and subject matter expert feedback, to estimate the potential appellate caseload. In 2024–25, Judicial Council staff estimate a caseload of 300 with a cost of \$300,000. In FY 2025–26, the caseload estimate is 1,300, with a cost of \$1.5 million. In FY 2026–27, the caseload estimate is 1,000, with a cost of \$1.15 million. The costs per case were calculated using the Judicial Council’s workload cost model. The estimates may need to be adjusted once more information and data is available on RJA cases.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Deborah Collier-Tucker

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Appellate Court Facilities Staff

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 6.0 positions and \$1.3 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28; 2.0 additional positions and an additional \$400,000 General Fund in FY 2028–29 for a total ongoing amount of 8.0 positions and \$1.6 million to oversee building maintenance for four state-owned Courts of Appeal facilities. The funds will be used for the recruitment of Court Building Supervisor and Assistant Court Building Supervisor positions. This funding will be used for in-house facility management staff to support four Court of Appeal state-owned facilities.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	6.0	6.0	6.0	8.0	8.0
Personal Services	\$903,000	\$1,205,000	\$1,205,000	\$1,205,000	\$1,205,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	386,000	434,000	406,000	406,000	406,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$1,289,000	\$1,639,000	\$1,611,000	\$1,611,000	\$1,611,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	1,289,000	1,639,000	1,611,000	1,611,000	1,611,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Courts of Appeal face a critical shortfall in dedicated in-house facility management staff, leaving essential maintenance and repair tasks to external contractors and/or administrative teams with limited expertise. This gap threatens the long-term integrity, safety, and functionality of key judicial facilities. Consequently, Court Executives must rely on external contractors for expertise in critical building repairs and maintenance decisions.

The addition of a Court Building Supervisor and an Assistant Court Building Supervisor for each standalone court will provide several key benefits to the state. These positions will ensure dedicated, on-site expertise to manage the complex and growing maintenance needs of state-owned Courts of Appeal facilities. By having in-house staff, the Courts of Appeal can reduce reliance on external contractors, resulting in potential cost savings and faster response times for repairs and maintenance. Moreover, these roles will improve the long-term preservation of facilities by implementing proactive maintenance strategies, lessening costly emergency repairs, and extending the lifespan of state assets. The enhanced oversight and management will also ensure compliance with safety, environmental, and accessibility regulations, reducing the risk of penalties or legal challenges. Fully functional court facilities are essential to providing equal access to justice.

\$1.3 million is requested in FY 2027–28 for 6.0 positions at 3 courthouse facilities – Fifth District Court of Appeal and Fourth District Court of Appeal, Divisions 2 and 3. Following the completion of the Sixth District Court of Appeal’s construction project in FY 2028–29, 2 additional positions are requested for a total of 8 permanent positions and \$1.6 million ongoing General Fund to support 4 Court of Appeal courthouses.

Background/History of Problem

Several standalone Courts of Appeal courthouses have no or limited facilities staff to maintain or support local facilities issues that arise daily, or repair urgent time-sensitive safety issues that may occur. The Judicial Council oversees the management of 155,211 square feet of state-owned facilities, including the Fourth District Division Two, the Fourth District Division Three and the Fifth District. Additionally, the Sixth District Court of Appeal, a new standalone facility spanning 49,798 square feet, is set for completion in 2028.

In FY 2021–22, \$1.1 million was approved through a Budget Change Proposal to support the operations and maintenance of Courts of Appeal facilities at industry-standard levels. This funding was aligned with the International Facilities Management Association standards, which outline appropriate funding levels for effective operations and maintenance programs. While this funding addressed some critical needs, it did not include provisions for in-house staffing to oversee, support and contribute to facility maintenance efforts.

For example, the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Santa Ana, a 51,960-square-foot facility built in 2009, has experienced increasing maintenance and compliance demands as it has aged. The responsibility for repairs and upkeep has largely fallen to the Presiding Justice and administrative staff, who have limited expertise in facility maintenance. Major projects undertaken by the court include installing a new roof,

replacing a domestic hot water boiler, upgrading computer room air conditioning (HVAC) units, repairing pipe leaks, and conducting water remediation. These tasks have required court staff to work weekends, after hours, and overtime in addition to managing their regular operational responsibilities.

Other standalone facilities, such as the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Riverside (42,251 square feet, built in 1999) and the Fifth District Court of Appeal, Fresno (61,000 square feet, built in 2005), have also required significant repairs and upgrades.

The Fifth District Court of Appeal undertook a major heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacement project, including replacing all variable air volumes, rooftop units, computer room HVAC units, and building controls system. Additionally, the court had to replace all exhaust fans and domestic water booster pumps. Before these projects, the court had to replace two failing boilers.

Projects such as these, which are necessary and commonplace in owned buildings, require staff to oversee work being completed, hold contractors accountable, escort contractors into secure spaces, engage with project managers and stakeholders, and facilitate cleanup efforts.

Ongoing routine tasks such as replacing burnt out lights, replacing failed lighting ballasts, checking fire extinguishers, testing emergency exit illuminated signs, performing maintenance on vehicle gates, cleaning debris off roofs, cleaning graffiti, frequently removing fecal matter from animals (e.g. ducks and dogs), repairing gates/doors, monitoring HVAC equipment (e.g. boilers, air handlers, filters, etc.) among a host of other tasks that come with managing a facility, require experienced staff or contractors to be onsite regularly. Contractor costs, unreliability, and frequent scheduling delays impose hardships on state-owned buildings and their workers, leaving many issues unaddressed.

With growing maintenance demands and a lack of in-house staff dedicated to facility management, the Courts of Appeal will struggle to sustain this workload in the future without appropriate staffing and support.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denying this proposal will prolong the courts' dependence on external contractors and the limited facility expertise of Court Executives to manage and maintain state courthouses effectively. Without adequate in-house staffing and support, critical decisions on resource allocation and maintenance will be hindered, leaving aging facilities increasingly vulnerable and jeopardizing their accessibility, functionality, and compliance statewide. Without proper oversight, the state risks costly emergency repairs, reduced facility lifespan, and potential noncompliance with safety and accessibility regulations compromising the ability to provide justice.

This funding request will help uphold legislative mandates by ensuring courthouses across the state remain accessible, operational, and compliant. Adding a Court Building Supervisor and an Assistant Court Building Supervisor is essential to ensuring these facilities remain fully functional, safe, and compliant. These positions will allow the state to adopt proactive maintenance strategies, reduce dependency on expensive contractors, and ensure timely responses to maintenance issues. Fully functional court facilities

are essential to providing equal access to justice and preserving the investments made constructing these facilities.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

The Judicial Council's existing control protocols for operations and maintenance (O&M) assessments, approvals and ongoing reviews will ensure appropriate use of the requested funding. Funding these positions allows for the Judicial Council to benchmark facility performance with similarly funded programs. Continued monthly review will contribute to the accountability and monitoring of activities—through monthly budget and financial reporting already in place.

An appropriately funded facilities program provides for longevity of the state's assets, extending the useful life of building systems and replacing aged systems in a timely manner to reduce system failure rates. Premature failure of building systems results in an emergency event, creating higher building maintenance and repair costs, and diminishing access to justice due to court closures and impacted court operations. Approval of this request ensures adequate funding for each court to maintain the necessary in-house staff to manage and execute the preventive maintenance.

This funding will ensure that operations and maintenance are conducted by providing adequate staffing to manage a total of 155,211 square feet of facilities. The proposal includes ongoing funding for three Court Building Supervisors and three Assistant Court Building Supervisors. In fiscal year 2029–2030, the request expands to include one additional Court Building Supervisor and one Assistant Court Building Supervisor to support the San Jose Court of Appeal courthouse, which is expected to encompass 49,798 square feet. Approval of this request will provide the needed services for a total of 205,009 square feet for four standalone Court of Appeal courthouses.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

- Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Goal II: Independence and Accountability
- Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Providing fair and equal access to justice for all Californians is the primary mission of the Judicial Council. Court facilities are highly specialized and heavily used and are not comparable to regular office buildings due to the programmatic activities of these buildings. These specialized activities require extra measures to ensure the safety and security of the public, in-custody defendants, law enforcement, court employees, and judicial officers. Failures of court facilities systems negatively impact access to justice, a strategic goal of the judicial branch.

This request aligns with the Branch's Strategic Goals — including the adequate funding needs of Judicial Council facilities and supporting Goals, I, II, and VI.

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Deborah Collier-Tucker

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Increase Appellate Court Staffing

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$5.3 million General Fund and 18.0 positions in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28, and \$5 million ongoing to continue to address the courts’ existing workload, reduce backlogs, and prevent case delays in appellate districts. The requested funding will replace currently authorized Appellate Court Trust Fund for 18.0 positions, funded on a limited term basis ending June 30, 2026.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.0
Personal Services	\$4,122,000	\$4,122,000	\$4,122,000	\$4,122,000	\$4,122,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	1,159,000	914,000	914,000	914,000	914,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$5,281,000	\$5,036,000	\$5,036,000	\$5,036,000	\$5,036,000
One-time	245,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	5,036,000	5,036,000	5,036,000	5,036,000	5,036,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council of California requests \$5.3 million General Fund and 18 positions in FY 2027–28 and \$5 million ongoing to continue to address the courts’ existing workload, reduce backlogs, and prevent case delays in appellate districts. The current three-year limited term positions will expire on June 30, 2026, and additional workload continues to be a challenge for the Appellate Courts.

The time required to process and resolve appeals is substantial even in best-case scenarios, such as when the record is timely prepared and filed, no record augmentations are sought, no extensions of briefing deadlines are requested, oral argument is waived or promptly scheduled, and no petitions for rehearing or review are sought. These ongoing resources are needed to prevent case delays and backlogs¹. Ongoing General Fund is requested to address costs for these additional limited-term resources to maintain support for the Appellate Caseflow Workgroup report.

Background/History of Problem

The Courts of Appeal are charged by the California Constitution to render judgments on matters subject to the appellate courts and court of original jurisdiction, and to issue decisions in writing with reasons stated for judgments that determine causes.²

Workload for the appellate courts has increased due to the greater complexity of appeals and writs handled by the Courts of Appeal. The complexities stem from the increasingly aggressive style of appellate advocacy and changes in the law and by voter approved initiatives. Thus, additional ongoing resources are needed to maintain efficient case processing and workflow for Writs and Appeals.

Because of the severe backlogs that have plagued the Courts of Appeal for decades, the Administrative Presiding Justices have been compelled to define an excessive delay as one in which the decisional phase takes more than 12 months. However, this 12-month period is too long, exceeds national standards, and should be shortened. The National Center for State Courts has stated the time to complete all three phases of appeals should not exceed 570 days (one year and seven months) in 95 percent of civil cases, and it should not exceed 600 days (approximately one year and eight months) in criminal cases.

The initial assumption was that the outcome did not involve limited-term positions but rather ongoing positions. The Administrative Presiding Justices’ primary assumption was that providing additional resources to address the case-delay phase would result in a greater reduction than the initial request. Instead, the Courts were approved only for limited-term three-year positions (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2026). The limited positions have enabled the Courts of Appeal to reduce delays by setting an initial goal of shortening the decisional phase of appeals to exceed no more than 9 months. Approval of ongoing General Fund resources is needed to retain the positions necessary to continue taking measures to achieve and maintain this goal. The Appellate Court Trust Fund cannot support the ongoing resources required for the

¹ Appellate Caseflow Workgroup: Report to the Chief Justice, December 6, 2022, p. 9
https://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/2022-12/Appellate%20Caseflow%20Workgroup%20Report_Final.pdf.

² Cal. Const., art. VI, §§3, 10, 11 &14.

18.0 Courts of Appeal positions. The Courts of Appeal workload continues to increase specifically in three areas; pending appeals, pending fully briefed appeals, and notice of appeals. The 18 positions are also needed to address the Courts' operational needs.

As a result of the 18 additional resources the Courts of Appeal have addressed the backlog related to the pending fully briefed appeals. In FY 2020–21 the number of pending fully briefed appeals was 3,424 and with the additional resources over the past two fiscal years the number of pending fully briefed appeals have dropped to 2,642 in FY 2023–24 and is more in line with the timely processing of fully briefed and ready for trial cases.

Notices of Appeal

In FY 2021–22³, 13,627 notices of appeal were filed statewide. In FY 2023–24⁴, 17,772 notices of appeal were filed statewide. Since emerging from the pandemic, notices of appeal have rebounded significantly and for the last two years have exceeded pre-pandemic levels (approximately 14,000 notices of appeal were filed in each of the fiscal years leading up to the pandemic). The substantial increase in notices of appeal forecasts an increased number of appeals for the Courts of Appeal statewide, and thus an increasingly greater workload for the courts to handle.

Pending Appeals

At the conclusion of FY 2021–22, there were 12,401 appeals pending statewide. In FY 2023–24, there were 14,435 appeals pending statewide. Since emerging from the pandemic, pending appeals have also risen significantly and correspond to the increase in notices of appeal. For the last two years, pending appeals have returned to pre-pandemic levels (approximately 14,000 appeals were similarly pending in each of the fiscal years leading up to the pandemic).

Pending Fully Briefed Appeals

At the conclusion of FY 2021–22, there were 2,609 pending fully briefed appeals statewide. In FY 2023–24, there were 2,642 pending fully briefed appeals statewide. Since emerging from the pandemic, pending fully briefed appeals have remained steady and have not returned to pre-pandemic levels (approximately 4,000 fully briefed appeals were similarly pending in each of the fiscal years leading up to the pandemic).

The ability for the Courts of Appeal to reduce the number of pending fully briefed appeals and maintain that number in the last few fiscal years show how the additional resources instituted following the Appellate Caseflow Workgroup recommendations, including the limited term attorney positions, notwithstanding the material uptick in notices of appeal and pending appeals.

The three-year limited term attorney positions have been critical in reducing backlog and maintaining the number of pending fully briefed appeals over the last two fiscal years in which the Courts of Appeal have been experiencing a resurgence in notices of appeal following the drop in cases during the pandemic. These positions have better enabled appellate justices to dispose of pending fully briefed appeals assigned to their chambers more promptly and efficiently, which promotes more confidence in the state judiciary.

³ FY 2021-22 is the last fiscal year prior to the approval of the limited-term three-year attorney position.

⁴ FY 2023-24 is the most recent fiscal year since the approval of the limited-term three-year attorney position for which we have full data.

Maintaining these positions through the General Fund is needed to prevent any backsliding into prolonged backlogs.

Assessments Affecting Appellate Case Processing

How quickly appeals can be processed is affected by several factors, many of which are unique to California.

The Code of Judicial Ethics requires judges to dispose of judicial matters fairly, promptly, and efficiently and to act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.⁵ Other authority indicates that judges are expected to decide matters assigned to them within 90 days after an appeal is “submitted,” and they are prohibited from receiving their salaries when they have an undecided matter under submission for more than 90 days.⁶ Appellate cases are submitted when the court has heard oral argument or approved its waiver.⁷

While the Appellate Caseflow Workgroup found that the statewide backlog of fully briefed cases in the Courts of Appeals has been reduced, the workgroup also recommended that more be done to prevent excessive case delays from developing in any appellate district.⁸ To address the courts’ workload, case processing time, and case backlog, the Courts of Appeal hired new attorneys and judicial assistants beginning in 2022–23. These positions have made inroads in the statewide backlog.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

If denied, the Courts of Appeal will be unable to secure the ongoing resources necessary to reduce existing backlogs and improve case processing times. This will limit access to justice, exacerbate delays, and undermine the equitable and timely resolution of cases, negatively affecting fairness and public confidence in the appellate system.

Without ongoing General Fund for the limited-term positions, the backlogs and case processing times will increase in the Courts of Appeal, and the public will be negatively impacted:

Access to Justice:

Access to the courts is fundamentally compromised by a lack of adequate resources. Every Californian is constitutionally entitled to impartial and timely dispute resolution through the courts.

Equality, Fairness:

Backlogs inhibit fair, timely, and equitable justice.

⁵ Cal. Code Jud. Ethics, canons 2A, 3B(8).

⁶ Cal. Const. art. VI, § 19; *Mardikian v. Commission on Judicial Performance* (1985) 40 Cal. 3d 473, 477, fn.

⁷ Rule 8.256(d)(1).

⁸ Appellate Caseflow Workgroup: Report to the Chief Justice, December 6, 2022, p.2

https://newsroom.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/2022-12/Appellate%20Caseflow%20Workgroup%20Report_Final.pdf

Timeliness:

The judicial branch is responsible for providing a court system that resolves disputes in a just and timely manner and operates efficiently and effectively. The judicial branch is obligated to provide timely access to the courts to those seeking its services.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

This request will continue to provide the additional ongoing resources that are needed to improve and maintain case output and production and to resolve parties' disputes in a just, efficient, and timely manner. The requested General Funds will allow the courts to have ongoing funds for these positions and maintain a reduction in backlogs and case processing times and support the operational needs of each court. The outcomes and accountability associated with this request will provide – Access to Justice, Equality and Fairness, and timely disposition of appeals.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

- Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Goal II: Independence and Accountability
- Goal III: Modernization and Management of Administration

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Deborah Collier-Tucker

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Courts of Appeal Court Appointed Counsel Program

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$24.2 million General Fund in Fiscal Year (FY) 2027–28 and ongoing to support the Courts of Appeal Court-Appointed Counsel (COACAC) Program. The request has two components: (1) \$17.6 million ongoing General Fund augmentation for a \$40 per hour rate increase for non-capital appeal appointments and for costs associated with the electronic trial court transcript costs to improve efficiency and reduce delays; and (2) \$6.6 million ongoing General Fund augmentation for a 30 percent increase in the Appellate Project Offices annual contracts to address rising operational costs and maintain adequate staffing.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000	\$24,152,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	24,152,000	24,152,000	24,152,000	24,152,000	24,152,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The objectives of California's appellate court-appointed counsel system are to: (1) ensure the right of indigent clients to receive the effective assistance of appointed appellate counsel as guaranteed to them by the U.S. Constitution; and (2) provide the Courts of Appeal with useful briefings and arguments that allow the Courts to perform their functions effectively and efficiently. The COACAC Program's panel attorneys have received only two modest increases since FY 2016–17 (totaling \$25/hour), and Appellate Project Offices have seen minimal adjustments since FY 2017–18. These incremental changes have not kept pace with inflation, rising operational costs, or market rates.

The Budget Act of 2022 provided an increase of \$6.4 million for a \$15 hourly rate increase for non-capital appeal appointments and \$1.9 million for a 10.5 percent increase in the Appellate Project Offices' annual contracts. Additionally, the Budget Act of 2025 provided an increase of \$4.13 million for a \$10 hourly rate increase for non-capital appeal appointments and \$1.41 million for a seven percent increase in the Appellate Project Offices' annual contracts.

Current rates (\$120–\$140/hour) are significantly below the California Department of General Services benchmark (\$170/hour), driving experienced attorneys away and shrinking the panel from 927 attorneys in 2013 to 643 in 2025, of which 200 accepted less than three or fewer cases in a two-year period. In recent years, several COACAC Program's most qualified attorneys have either left the panel or greatly reduced the number of cases they are willing to accept, many in favor of more lucrative representation in federal courts or other state agencies.

The proposed \$40 per hour rate increase is necessary for the continued recruitment of competent attorneys, for the retention of experienced attorneys, and to allow the newer panel members to continue to serve on the panel while they gain the expertise to take on more appointments, and more complex and serious cases. The hourly rate structure includes three tiers to reflect the complexity of the case and to differentiate between assisted and independent cases. Currently, 93 percent of the cases are assigned to more experienced panel attorneys on an independent appointment basis, an increase of 26 percent since 1997. Assisted assignments are integral to the health of the COACAC Program to provide training and guidance to attorneys who are newer to these types of cases. However, independent assignments are the most cost effective as they require less COACAC Program resources in both Appellate Project Offices oversight and case time.

The gap between current rates and market benchmarks threatens the integrity of California's appellate system. Immediate investment is critical to uphold constitutional rights, maintain timely case resolution, and preserve public trust.

In addition, the current funding for the five Appellate Project Offices (nonprofit organizations) that provide legal support to the private appointed attorneys is inadequate to support continued increases in operational costs. California's Appellate Court-Appointed Counsel Program, through the annual contracts of the Five Appellate Project Offices, fulfills the constitutional mandate of providing adequate representation for indigent appellants in the Courts of Appeal, in non-capital cases.

Since FY 2014–15 the overall average annual operating expenses for rent has increased up to 65 percent, payroll taxes have increased up to 11 percent, and pension costs have increased by up 22 percent.

Additionally, technology upgrades remain unfunded. Appellate Project Offices must leverage resources to maintain and upgrade or implement databases, external websites, conferencing systems, and electronic document retention systems to better serve clients.

Background/History of Problem

In 1963, *Douglas v. California* (372 U.S. 353) held that the U.S. Constitution guarantees an indigent defendant convicted of a felony the right to a court-appointed attorney for the initial appeal. Twenty-two years later, in 1985, the Court clarified in *Evitts v. Lucey* (469 U.S. 387), that the guarantee of court appointed counsel requires that counsel be competent. Rule 8.300 states in applicable part: “Each Court of Appeal must adopt procedures for appointing appellate counsel for indigents not represented by the State Public Defender in all cases in which indigents are entitled to appointed counsel... The court may contract with an administrator having substantial experience in handling appellate court appointments to perform any of the duties prescribed by this rule.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.300(a)(1) and (e)(1).)

California’s Court-Appointed Counsel Program (in place for about 31 years), with the Appellate Project Offices and the private sector panel attorneys fulfill these rights for indigent defendants. The panel attorneys provide critical and constitutionally required representation to indigent individuals in criminal, juvenile delinquency, and dependence appeals. Through contracts with the California Courts of Appeal, the Appellate Project Offices (non-profit organization) oversee the statewide panel of attorneys who receive appointments in that district. The Appellate Project Offices are responsible for working with the panel attorneys to ensure effective assistance is provided; reviewing claims for payment for the work performed by the panel attorneys to provide consistency and controls over the expenditure of these public monies; and training attorneys to ensure continuity of quality.

From 1989 to 1995, the hourly rate for all appointed cases was \$65 per hour. In 1995, a second tier was added at \$75 per hour to differentiate compensation in assisted and independent cases. A third tier at \$85 per hour was added in 1998 for the most serious and complex matters. Effective October 1, 2005, the rates increased by \$5 per hour; a \$10 per hour increase was put in place July 1, 2006, and a \$5 per hour increase became effective July 1, 2007. These rates then remained stagnant for over nine years (\$85/\$95/\$105) until July 1, 2016, when the rates of \$95/\$105/\$115 were approved. For another six years when the rates of \$110/\$120/\$130 effective July 1, 2022 were approved and then for another three years when the rates of \$120/\$130/\$140 effective July 1, 2025 were approved. The Judicial Council is requesting a \$40 per hour increase to raise the current rates to \$160, \$170, and \$180 per hour to provide comparable compensation for these critical services.

In FY 2014–15 the Appellate Project Offices’ annual contracts totaled just under \$17.5 million. Three years later in FY 2017–18 the Appellate Project Offices received a six percent increase for a new total of \$18.2 million. Seven years later, the Appellate Project Offices’ contract amount increased by 10.5 percent with the budget increase received in FY 2022–23 - of which the majority went to narrow but did not close the gap between the administrative and staff attorneys’ rates as compared to that provided in similar type agencies and firms. Three years later, the Appellate Project Offices’ annual contracts total \$21.56 million with a seven percent increase provided by the Budget Act of 2025.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

The FY 2022–23 and FY 2025–26 increases provided an opportunity to chip away at the impact of years without sufficient and consistent increases to the panel attorney hourly rate and to Appellate Project Offices for operation and staff salary increases; but there is still a critical need for additional resources to bridge the gap to address recruitment and retention in both panel attorneys and in Appellate Project Offices staff.

If denied, the Appellate Court-Appointed Counsel Program will struggle to provide the oversight to the panel attorneys as they will continue to be unable to recruit new panel attorneys and will continue to lose the most experienced panel attorneys to other government entities for more lucrative compensation and job security.

The COACAC Program will continue to see lower panel attorney numbers, especially the loss of those individuals with experience in serving the program’s indigent clients, which impacts the COACAC Program’s ability to make timely appointments as the remaining experienced panel attorneys are often not sufficient to accept appointments on the current complex cases and the less experienced panel attorneys accept fewer appointments in their early years as a panel attorney.

The Appellate Project Offices will continue to be underfunded and face increased costs to maintain office operations, including recruitment and retention of experienced staff to other government entities for more lucrative compensation. The Appellate Project Offices will also lose staff to other government entities for more lucrative compensation packages.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

The Appellate Indigent Defense Oversight Advisory Committee (AIDOAC) regularly monitors the efficiency of the appellate court-appointed counsel system by analyzing cost, workload, and a variety of other factors to ensure the Appellate Project Offices and the panel attorneys are continuing to provide the value to the Courts of Appeal and the indigent litigants as required by the courts and the Constitution. AIDOAC reviews trends and re-evaluates direction when appropriate.

For example, noticing an increase in the amount of time spent and compensated for “unbriefed issues,” AIDOAC worked with the Appellate Project Office directors to refine the guidelines of when it is appropriate to seek compensation in this category and monitor this line item as part of its quarterly reviews to determine the impact of this change in guidelines. If approved, this proposal will provide a more comparable compensation for panel attorneys handling cases on appeal; provide adequate representation for the indigent appellants in California’s Courts of Appeal; attract and retain new and existing panel attorneys and grow their experience so they can take on more complex and more serious matters; and reduce attrition of experienced and new panel attorneys to other government entities.

These outcomes will be measured by the continued tracking of panel attorney numbers (as discussed previously), and the continued tracking of turnover rates, longevity, and attrition to other government entities or retirement. In addition, the nonprofit Appellate Project Offices will be able to increase

recruitment and retention of experienced staff and provide the needed services to the appointed counsel and the individual courts.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

The United States Constitution's 6th Amendment guarantees the effective assistance of counsel in criminal proceedings as a fundamental part of our judicial system. The courts are required to provide counsel to indigent defendants and must do so in all appeals that may come before them.

As set forth in the Judicial Council's long-range Strategic Plan for California's Judicial Branch, (adopted December 2006; readopted and revised December 2014, and reaffirmed in 2019), the mission of the California judiciary is to "in a fair, accessible, effective and efficient manner, resolve disputes arising under the law... protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitutions of California and the United States."

Goal I of the strategic plan, Access, Fairness, and Diversity, and Inclusion states that "The branch must work to remove all barriers to access and fairness by being responsive... to all people. Branch efforts in this regard must include ensuring that the courts are free from both bias and the appearance of bias... remaining receptive to the needs of all branch constituents, ensuring that court procedures are fair and understandable..."

The objectives of California's appellate COACAC system are to: (1) ensure the right of indigent clients to receive effective assistance of appointed counsel, as guaranteed to them by the Constitution; and (2) provide the Courts of Appeal with useful briefings/arguments that allow them to perform their function efficiently and effectively

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: *Marcela Eggleton*

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: California Supreme Court

Proposal Title: Supreme Court Capital Court Appointed Counsel Program

Proposal Summary

The California Supreme Court requests \$3.3 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and ongoing to support the Supreme Court Capital Court Appointed Counsel Program. The request has two components: (1) \$1.3 million ongoing General Fund for a \$55 per hour rate increase for capital appeal appointments; and (2) \$2 million ongoing General Fund for a 30 percent increase in the annual contract for Capital Court Appointed Counsel Project Office.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimate Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000	\$3,324,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	3,324,000	3,324,000	3,324,000	3,324,000	3,324,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Supreme Court's Capital Court Appointed Counsel Program's ability to recruit and retain qualified attorneys for capital appointments continues to fall short of the number of annual death judgments. The current appointment rate for capital cases is \$155 per hour. Prior to this increase in FY 2022–23, the rate remained at \$145 per hour from October 2007 for many years, which has discouraged new attorneys from seeking and applying for capital appointments. As a result, attracting private attorneys to capital work remains difficult. This challenge is compounded by the fact that the California Department of General Services' 2025–26 Price Book lists a rate of \$170 per hour for external legal advice, a figure that stands in stark contrast to the \$155 per hour rate offered under the Supreme Court Capital Court Appointed Counsel Program.

Even with the modest increase in salary for the Capital Court Appointed Counsel Project Office's (CAP-SF) employees, it continues to struggle to retain its most experienced attorney staff and employees. Several of the Supreme Court's capital appointed attorneys are not taking any additional cases as the appointment rate is too low. In the past, some of the capital appointments have been private attorneys who are from the Court of Appeal Court Appointed Counsel panels, but most of those program's most qualified staff attorneys and pane attorneys have either left the Courts of Appeal panels or are not taking capital appointments. They are moving to representation in federal courts or other state agencies.

Incremental changes have not kept pace with inflation, rising operational costs, or market rates. The Supreme Court Capital Court Appointed Counsel Program received an increase of \$255,000 (4.57 percent) in the Budget Act of 2017 and \$434,000 (seven percent) increase in the Budget Act of 2025 for its CAP-SF. In FY 2022–23, the Supreme Court approved internal funds for a pay parity increase of \$155,000 (2.67 percent) for CAP-SF's employees only. Prior to the Budget Act of 2017, CAP-SF had received no new funds to support its ongoing increases in its operating equipment and expenses (OE&E) costs since FY 2007–08. Due to the lack of adequate funding increases for CAP-SF's staff and ongoing increases to its OE&E, CAP-SF must reduce its reserves each year to close the gap in their operations.

With the approval of this proposal many underrepresented groups would benefit from timely administration of justice. The National Academy of Sciences has estimated that approximately four percent of condemned inmates may be innocent, suggesting that as many as 14 of California's 345 unrepresented condemned inmates may have potentially meritorious claims of innocence. Many more likely have at least viable claims of unjust conviction and/or sentence. Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately impacted, with African Americans comprising approximately 34 percent of California's death row (as compared to approximately six percent of the general population).

Background/History of Problem

Indigent defendants convicted of a felony have been guaranteed the constitutional right to an appointed appellate attorney since 1963 (*Douglas v. California* (1963) 372 U.S. 353), and the high court has expressly required that such counsel be competent since 1985 (*Evitts v. Lucey* (1985) 469 U.S. 387; see *Douglas v. California* (1963) 372 U.S. 353; *Griffin v. Illinois* (1956) 351 U.S. 12, 20.). This authority is reflected in two Rules of Court: rule 8.300 (Courts of Appeal) and rule 8.605 (Supreme Court, death penalty cases).

Rule 8.300 states in part: “Each Court of Appeal must adopt procedures for appointing appellate counsel for indigents not represented by the State Public Defender in all cases in which indigents are entitled to appointed counsel. The court may contract with an administrator [project] having substantial experience in handling appellate court appointments to perform any of the duties prescribed by this rule.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.300(a) and (e)(1).)

For death penalty cases, rule 8.605 states in part: ‘Appointed counsel’ or ‘appointed attorney’ means an attorney appointed to represent a person in a death penalty appeal or death penalty-related habeas corpus proceeding in the Supreme Court...” And ‘Assisting counsel or entity’ means an attorney or entity designed by the Supreme Court to provide appointed counsel with consultation and resource assistance. Entities that may be designated include the Office of the State Public Defender, the Habeas Corpus Resource Center, and the California Appellate Project of San Francisco.” (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.605(c)(1) and (c)(5).)

Both the California Appellate Project-San Francisco and the various Court-Appointed Counsel projects for the Courts of Appeal fulfill these rights.

Prior to FY 2004–05, the capital appointment rate was \$125 per hour. Effective October 1, 2005, the rate increased by \$5 per hour; a \$10 per hour increase was put in place July 1, 2006; a \$5 per hour increase effective July 1, 2007, and the final \$10 per hour increase in July 2025. The current rate is \$155, but prior to this, the rate had been \$145 per hour for over 15 years.

The Supreme Court is requesting a \$55 per hour increase to raise the 2026 rate to \$210. The Supreme Court is also requesting \$2.0 million ongoing which provides for a 30 percent increase in the annual contract for CAP-SF. CAP-SF cannot retain and hire experienced attorneys without adequate funds and address the continued increases in the operational costs for operating a non-profit organization. No permanent increase since 2017 has impacted the stability of the program.

The table below illustrates the continued increases in the cost of doing business from FY 2016–17 vs FY 2022–23 which shows CAP-SFs need for a 30 percent funding increase.

CAP-SF Expenditures by Fiscal Year	FY 2016–17 Actuals	FY 2022–23 Actuals	% Increase Expenses from FY 2016–17 vs FY 2022–23	\$ Increase Expenses from FY 2016–17 vs FY 2022–23
Grand total Expenditures	\$5,135,078	\$6,202,572	21%	\$1,067,494

The increase in costs shown in the table above reflects ongoing pressures from increases in rent, technology, salary and benefits, payroll taxes, professional liability insurance, etc. A 21 percent increase in the cost of doing business from FY 2016–17 to FY 2023–24, reflects a \$1.1 million increase in business related cost pressures. The 30 percent increase will allow CAP-SF to provide adequate salary adjustments and operational needs.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

If denied, the Supreme Court’s CAP-SF will be unable to recruit new attorneys and will continue to lose the most experienced capital panel attorneys to other government entities for more lucrative compensation and job security. CAP-SF will continue to draw from its reserves and be underfunded and unable to absorb increased costs while struggling to maintain office operations, including recruitment and retention of experienced staff. CAP-SF infrastructure will continue to decline without adequate funds to address enhancements such as website upgrades, document management improvements, and digitizing of its case records.

The capital appointment of attorneys will continue to decrease and the backlog for capital cases without appointments will continue to increase. The appellants will not receive timely representation in their cases and justice will not be provided for either party. Timely processing of these cases provides equity for all Californians where families are seeking timely justice for the victims and the families of inmates in capital appeal cases. Without additional funds to address the appellants without counsel and to address backlog there will continue to be a delay in providing justice for both the victim’s and the incarcerated inmate’s families. In addition, without these funds to process these cases, innocent incarcerated inmates are serving longer times in prison, as the families on both sides continue to wait for their day in court and closure.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Provide equal public access to justice, timely, and adequate legal representation for indigent appellants for capital appeals in California. The goal for CAP-SF and the Supreme Court is to have a stable CAP-SF organization that can provide the contractual services required to handle capital appointments. It is difficult to measure outcomes when the appeal for capital cases can last many years. The Supreme Court expects that a \$55 rate increase will draw new attorneys to seek capital appointments, and the existing appointed attorneys will continue to retain their cases, as the prior appointment rate of \$145 had been in place since FY 2007–08 and only recently in FY 2025–26 a \$10 hourly rate increase was approved. The requested funds will support CAP-SF in its contractual obligation by retaining experienced staff attorneys and recruiting experienced staff attorneys to support capital contractual services in a timely manner to the Supreme Court and the appointed counsel in the Court Appointed Counsel program for the represented and unrepresented appellants.

CAP-SF has experienced a 52.9 percent turnover since January 2021 and February 2024. Twenty-six percent of them had 5-10 years of experience, twenty-one percent had over 10 years of experience, fifteen percent had 3-5 years’ experience, fifteen percent had 1-3 years’ experience, fifteen percent had six months to one year experience, and eight percent had less than six months of experience. Thirty-six percent of

them left for other employment. Since 2024, the cost of doing business (salaries, benefits, and OE&E) has continued to trend upward.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Deborah Collier-Tucker

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Seven California Highway Patrol – Judicial Protection Section (CHP JPS) Officers

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California (JCC) requests \$2.7 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and ongoing to provide 7.0 necessary full-time equivalent (FTE) California Highway Patrol Judicial Protection Section (CHP JPS) officers to provide necessary protective services for the appellate courthouses where only one CHP JPS officer is assigned. These seven officers will replace the previous four limited term CHP JPS Officers funded by the Appellate Court Trust Fund whose positions are ending June 30, 2026. The 7.0 FTE CHP JPS Officers will support single-officer courthouses of the state appellate courts, consisting of the California Supreme Court and the six appellate districts and divisions of the Court of Appeal. It has been documented that court-targeted acts of violence are on the rise, and the 7.0 requested CHP JPS officers are necessary to provide minimum police protective services and respond to anticipated threats and acts of violence at those courthouses.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000	\$2,699,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	2,699,000	2,699,000	2,699,000	2,699,000	2,699,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

There are currently inadequate protective services at single-officer courthouses. To address this gap in meeting the minimum level of security to the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, seven CHP JPS officers are requested. The seven appellate courthouse locations do not have a permanent minimum level of CHP JPS officer coverage. The JCC requests permanent funds for seven CHP JPS officers to provide the minimum level of appellate courthouse protection at the state-owned appellate courthouses.

The inability to provide needed security protection increases when an officer falls ill or takes earned vacation time. The security footprint of these single officer locations is problematic since the officer would only be able to address one issue at a time and does not have immediate backup, presenting a vulnerability to court security operations.

The risks associated with a single-officer security model assigned to the courts leaves them inherently vulnerable. If an incident occurs, a single officer may be forced to choose between:

- Calling for backup, which may take critical minutes to arrive.
- Engaging an armed threat alone, with no cover or support.
- Assisting court personnel and the public in evacuating or sheltering in place.

This is an untenable situation, as no officer should be expected to handle all security responsibilities alone, especially in high-risk environments like courtrooms where emotions can run high and decisions impact people's lives profoundly.

Background/History of Problem

In 2022–23, the Judicial Council requested permanent funding for four CHP JPS officers to address the gap in the minimum level of protective services for four of the seven single-officer courthouses. The Three-year Appellate Court Security Pilot Program Budget Change Proposal (BCP) approved four limited-term CHP JPS officers funded by the Appellate Court Trust Fund and provided four appellate courthouses with the minimum two officers needed to provide adequate security coverage. Those limited-term positions will end on June 30, 2026. After that date, each of the seven appellate courthouses will only have one assigned CHP JPS officer for the provision of judicial protection services. This staffing level will not adequately protect the appellate courthouses. Security threats against courts and judicial officers are on the rise and require increased resources and attention. This request will provide permanent funds for seven CHP JPS officers to provide a minimum of two officers at each appellate courthouse. The JCC previously requested seven CHP JPS officers to provide a minimum level of courthouse and judicial protection.

The JCC Appellate Court Security Committee has ongoing safety concerns regarding the security and protection of justices, court staff, and the public at seven single-officer appellate courthouses. This proposal seeks to add seven permanent additional CHP JPS officers. The Appellate Court Security Committee and the CHP JPS have continued to assess and work to address court security concerns over the last three years.

The Appellate Court Security Committee and the CHP have determined from the Appellate Court Security Pilot program that a minimum of two CHP JPS officers are necessary to provide the minimum level of protective services at each appellate courthouse. Safe access to justice requires a minimum level of police protective services at each appellate courthouse. The individual officers assigned to the seven single-officer courthouses are unable to provide adequate police protective services at those locations because they cannot simultaneously: (1) protect the courthouse facilities including the approximately 900 judicial branch appellate court employees and the members of the public using those facilities (e.g., monitor video surveillance, walk the grounds, respond to incidents), (2) provide protection at oral arguments, hearings, meetings and events taking place on and off site (including providing bailiff duties inside the courtroom), (3) protect the judicial officers as they work in chambers, (4) protect judicial officers who are traveling on state business, (5) assist individuals without housing seeking access to courthouses (and the State Library in the courthouse in Sacramento), (6) ensure compliance with State and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention mandates, and (7) permit free speech and rights of assembly and association while preventing violence and property damage.

This proposal will support contracted CHP JPS services and will align with CHP JPS best practices and standard operating procedures in providing protective services. This proposal requests seven permanent CHP JPS officers for the seven single-officer courthouses.

Rising Threats to Judicial Officers and Court Staff:

In recent years, there has been a significant and troubling increase in violence and threats directed at members of the judiciary across the United States. These incidents underscore growing risks to judicial safety, court employees, and visitors to court facilities.

Threat Statistics

According to [usmarshals.gov](https://www.usmarshals.gov), the U.S. Marshals Service investigated the following number of threats against federal judges:

- January 2026 (to date): 176 threats investigated
- 2025: 564 threats investigated
- 2024: 509 threats investigated
- 2023: 630 threats investigated

These figures demonstrate a persistent and ongoing threat environment for members of the judiciary.

Documented Incidents of Violence and Threats

The increase in threats has been accompanied by documented incidents of violence and security breaches, including the following:

2026

- **January 2026 (California):** San Jose Police Department officers were involved in a fatal shooting of a suspect who had carjacked a vehicle and attempted to flee. The suspect fired at officers just blocks from the Sixth District Court of Appeal (*San Jose Police Department*).
- **January 2026 (Indiana):** Judge Steven Meyer was shot and injured at his home after answering his front door (*Fox News*).

2025

- **October 2025 (California):** Los Angeles Police Department responded to a fatal shooting that occurred blocks from the Ronald Reagan State Building, which houses the Second District Court of Appeal. The suspect fled past the building's entrance and was apprehended nearby (*NBC*).
- **January 2025 (Federal):** Chief Justice John Roberts publicly warned of escalating threats to judicial independence, emphasizing the dangers posed by violence and intimidation (*The Guardian*).

2024

- **January 2024 (Nevada):** Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Mary Kay Holthus was attacked in her courtroom by a defendant during sentencing on multiple criminal charges.

2023

- **October 2023 (Maryland):** Circuit Court Judge Andrew Wilkinson was shot and killed outside his home by an individual dissatisfied with a recent court ruling.
- **June 2023 (California):** Alameda County Superior Court Judge Kevin Murphy was robbed at gunpoint by three masked individuals while parking before entering the courthouse.
- **February 2023 (California):** An individual broke into the Santa Maria courthouse, damaged property, and set fire to a courtroom after previously inquiring about a vandalism case.

Prior Incidents

- **July 2020 (Federal):** The son of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas was murdered, and her husband critically injured when an assailant disguised as a delivery driver attacked their home.
- **January 2013 (Texas):** District Attorney Mark Hasse was assassinated outside the courthouse where he worked, highlighting longstanding risks faced by legal professionals.

Security Implications:

These incidents reinforce the urgent need for a minimum level of proactive security presence in all court facilities. A single officer is insufficient to deter threats, manage emergencies, and protect judges, court staff, and the public. As noted above and below, there has been an increase in incidents occurring in and around courthouses throughout California, including protest activity and associated unrest.

Increase in Protests Near Courthouses in 2025

October 2025 (California):

The "No Kings" protests drew thousands of participants in San Francisco, with demonstrations moving through the city and into the Civic Center area. This area houses the Supreme Court of California, the Judicial Council of California, and the First District Court of Appeal. While this event remained peaceful, similar protests in other locations have escalated into civil unrest, resulting in violence and damage to state property (*San Francisco Standard*).

June 2025 (Santa Ana and Los Angeles, California):

Protests related to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcement actions occurred near the Ronald Reagan Federal Building. Demonstrators threw rocks, bottles, and fireworks at law enforcement, prompting the deployment of tear gas and rubber bullets for crowd control. The building

shares an intersection with the California Court of Appeal, Fourth District, Division Three, which sustained vandalism associated with the protest activity (*ABC7*).

Protests in downtown Los Angeles responding to ICE immigration raids escalated over several days, resulting in freeway closures, vandalism of buildings, and burglaries of local businesses. These incidents occurred approximately one mile from the California Court of Appeal, Second District (*Los Angeles Times*).

It is unrealistic to expect officers to manage courthouse security alone—particularly in high-risk environments such as courtrooms, where emotions can be heightened, and judicial decisions can have profound personal consequences.

The Benefits of Two-Officer Assignments Are Proven:

In recent years, as a result of the Appellate Court Security Pilot program, a second CHP JPS officer was temporarily provided at four single-officer appellate courthouse locations. The four limited-term CHP JPS officers demonstrated measurable improvements at the courthouses where they were assigned.

Key benefits include:

- Significant Reductions in Overtime & Resource Allocation
 - CHP JPS officer overtime has decreased by 90%.
 - Backfilling at courts has been reduced by 46%, with projections indicating a 55% reduction if expanded across all locations.
 - These efficiencies free up resources for deployment in higher-need areas such as San Francisco and Los Angeles.
- Improved Security and Incident Response
 - While security incidents involving CHP JPS officers increased by 34%, this is likely due to improved officer presence and responsiveness rather than an actual rise in incidents.
 - With a second officer, security teams can take a proactive approach rather than reacting after an incident occurs.
- Increased Efficiency in High-Activity Courts
 - Reduces reliance on CHP JPS officers from San Francisco and Los Angeles, lowering overtime costs, vehicle mileage, and travel expenses while ensuring that security personnel are not pulled from other essential locations.
- Enhanced Officer Safety and Job Satisfaction
 - Officers spend more time at their assigned court, developing more familiarity with personnel and courthouse dynamics.
 - A two-officer assignment permits more training, flexible scheduling, and more efficient operations.
- Positive Feedback from Court Personnel
 - Justices, Court Executive Officers, and court employees have expressed strong support for the two-officer model, citing increased safety, improved officer availability, and greater support during oral arguments, court outreach, and special events.

Approval of the request is a necessary step to protect the California Courts of Appeal. The role of the judiciary is fundamental to our democracy, and the security measures in place must reflect the growing

threats faced by judicial officers, attorneys, and court personnel. A single officer per court is no longer a sufficient safeguard against modern security risks. The evidence is clear—adding a second officer is a proven solution that enhances safety, reduces costs, and ensures that every court operates with the highest level of security preparedness. The implementation of a second officer at all single-officer courts is mission critical. This is not simply an operational improvement but an essential measure to protect the people who uphold our legal system.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Negative Impact if Two-Officer Assignments Are Not Continued

If the requested CHP JPS officers for two-officer assignments are discontinued and pilot courts revert to single-officer staffing, the department can expect significant operational, financial, and safety impacts. Overtime usage would likely return to pre-pilot levels, increasing costs, while backfilling demands would rise substantially, diverting officers from high-need regions such as San Francisco and Los Angeles. Single-officer posts reduce the ability to provide proactive security, resulting in delayed responses to incidents and increased safety risks for court personnel, the public, and officers. Reduced staffing would also negatively affect officer morale and job satisfaction, limit training opportunities and scheduling flexibility, and diminish officers' familiarity with courthouse operations. Additionally, the loss of a second officer would degrade the level of service currently valued by Justices, Court Executive Officers, and court staff, ultimately weakening overall courthouse security effectiveness and operational efficiency.

Denial of this proposal will maintain the current untenable and unacceptable gap in protection and current increased inefficiencies, and may permit acts of violence against justices, judicial branch employees, and members of the public seeking access to justice.

Further, denial of this proposal may result in increased civil liability against the state and the appellate courts for not taking proper security measures to prevent court-directed violent incidents from occurring; increased chances of harm to justices, court employees, and the public as a result of inadequate security measures; decreased public confidence in the ability to safely conduct business at appellate court facilities and the court's ability to ensure public access to justice; and decreased ability to mitigate injury to justices, court employees, and the public as well as damage to court property.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

This proposal would address a historical security deficit at the appellate courts, reducing potential civil liability against the state while increasing public confidence in the ability to safely conduct business at appellate court facilities. Backfilling officers from other locations to provide needed coverage is extremely inefficient, and backfilled officers are not always available. Further, backfilled officers incur increased travel costs and overtime. This proposal will also provide greater safety and minimum protection not just for judicial officers and judicial branch employees, but also for California citizens who visit and use the appellate courts for access to justice.

The two-officer assignment model has proven to be more efficient, safer, and cost-effective than single-officer staffing. The 3-year pilot program demonstrated clear accountability in the need for and use of the additional officer, resulting in reductions in overtime and backfilling, improved security presence and incident response, and better allocation of resources statewide. Courts experienced enhanced operational efficiency, increased officer safety and morale, and strong support from judicial leadership and staff. Overall, the two-officer model delivers operational savings while significantly strengthening courthouse security and service quality.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Amber Barnett*

Contact Name: Deborah Collier-Tucker

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Trial Court Facility Modifications

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 6.0 positions and \$49.3 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 through FY 2029–30, and \$47 million ongoing General Fund thereafter. The request includes \$45 million to address essential facility repairs and improvements across the trial court facilities, \$525,000 to support the Computer Added Facilities Management (CAFM) system, \$2.2 million one-time funding for three-years for water leak detection equipment and software in 160 courthouses statewide, and \$1.6 million in personnel services. This proposal will augment existing resources to address critical building deficiencies, repairs, ensure safe and secure courthouses for the public, court staff, and judicial officers, prevent costly damage, and maintain operational continuity. It also provides ongoing support for the CAFM system, the statewide platform used to manage repairs, maintenance, and operations across more than 400 courthouses statewide.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027-28 (BY)	2028-29 (BY+1)	2029-30 (BY+2)	2030-31 (BY+3)	2031-32 (BY+4)
Positions	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Personal Services	\$1,579,000	\$1,498,000	\$1,498,000	\$1,498,000	\$1,498,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	47,765,000	47,765,000	47,765,000	45,525,000	45,525,000
Total	\$49,344,000	\$49,263,000	\$49,263,000	\$47,023,000	\$47,023,000
One-time	2,240,000	2,240,000	2,240,000	-	-
Ongoing	47,104,000	47,023,000	47,023,000	47,023,000	47,023,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The current Facilities Modifications (FM) program budget of \$80 million annually is insufficient to meet these needs. Available resources are limited to the most critical building system lifecycle replacements or major renovations, such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC), vertical transportation, and electrical systems. Inflationary increases in construction labor and materials have further eroded purchasing power, forcing the FM program into a “run-to-failure” approach. This reactive model significantly increases the risk of noncompliance with regulatory requirements, costly emergency repairs, and even court closures caused by catastrophic system failures. From FY 2015–16 to FY 2023–24, the Judicial Council has seen the proportion of Priority 1 projects increase from approximately 20 percent to 40 percent of total projects. Priority 1 projects are defined as immediately or potentially critical.

To strengthen the FM program, this proposal requests 6.0 positions. Four Project Managers are needed to scope, plan, design, and oversee execution of FM projects. One Attorney II is needed to provide legal advice and counsel in support of Judicial Council facility modification projects including related procurements and disputes, contract administration, and building maintenance issues and disputes. The attorney will also perform legal research, draft opinions, and manage and direct work by outside legal counsel and experts. One Associate Analyst is needed to provide analytical support throughout all project phases. These positions are critical to expanding project capacity and ensuring timely delivery of essential system repairs and upgrades.

Water leaks are another serious facilities issue. Undetected leaks, often from clogged toilets or hidden plumbing failures, have led to courtroom shutdowns and severe damage to walls, floors, furniture, and equipment. Over the past five years, more than \$20 million has been spent on water-damage repairs, depleting limited FM resources. Annual costs associated with water damage are nearly equivalent to the state’s \$4.8 million water utility expense. Installing water leak detection systems in courthouses will allow hourly monitoring of water usage, automated alerts for leaks, and remote water shutoff at the building level during catastrophic events. This proactive approach will significantly reduce damage, repair costs, and operational disruptions.

Lastly, the CAFM system provides enterprise-grade security, real-time system availability, and continuous software updates. Beyond maintenance management, the CAFM system supports inspections, lifecycle costing, project tracking, real estate lease management, compliance with codes and environmental regulations, and reporting for court-funded projects. It is the central system for managing over 400 court facilities statewide and is essential to ensuring efficiency, accountability, and sound stewardship of state assets. Funding for the CAFM system has been provided for the past five years through funding set aside for this purpose in the Court Facilities Architectural Revolving Fund (CFARF) and will be exhausted in FY 25-26. Continued funding for this system is critical to sustaining courthouse operations, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements, and leveraging technology-driven efficiencies in facilities management statewide.

Background/History of Problem

The FM program executes emergency, routine, and fire life safety and code compliance projects on building systems and performs building system renovations and other necessary work to ensure safe and secure buildings for the public, court staff, judicial officers, and justice partners. The Judicial Council Facilities Services program administers a statewide portfolio of over 400 trial court facilities, encompassing courthouses, jails, offices, parking structures, and lots. The FM program relies on the CAFM system to manage statewide courthouse operations. Delivered through a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model, CAFM consolidates work order management, inspections, lifecycle costing, project management, real estate lease tracking, and compliance monitoring in one platform.

California's trial court facilities are aging and deteriorating, leading to an exponential increase in building maintenance and equipment repair costs. The facilities throughout the portfolio have an extensive backlog of deferred maintenance and have experienced water leak issues at the facilities. This backlog of maintenance contributes to the challenge of maintaining the facilities at industry standards for security, energy efficiency, and systems optimization.

Building system failures and facility water leaks result in emergency events, creating higher building maintenance and repair costs, and posing the risk of court closures. Building system failures are more costly to address due to the immediate need for action created by an unexpected failure and the lack of time to plan the repair or replacement effort carefully and cost-effectively. Although emergency events are a recognized aspect in an FM program, the percentage budget allotment for emergency work should be minimal. Installation of leak detection equipment and software at the building level will help mitigate leaking systems before they become costly and disruptive to court operations. Over the past five fiscal years, there has been a steady average of 8.5% of funding directed to Priority 1 Emergency FMs caused by water leaks.

From FY 2014–15 through FY 2021–22, the annual FM program budget was funded from the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (SCFCF) in the amount of \$65 million with \$13 million in reimbursement authority. In FY 2022–23, an additional \$15 million ongoing General Fund and \$4 million SCFCF reimbursement authority was received, increasing the FM program budget to \$80 million with \$17 million in reimbursement authority. The reimbursement authority represents the counties' estimated shared cost in the FM program, based on all facilities shared by the counties and Judicial Council with costs distributed accordingly.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of the proposal will lead to significant disruption in court services, including the unavailability of courtrooms, postponement of hearings, and delay of various other public services, as essential repairs will prevent safe public access to court facilities. Without an augmentation to funding, the ongoing degradation of facilities will continue, as resources are diverted to the increasing number of Priority 1 Emergency FMs, rather than to proactive and preventative maintenance efforts.

The reserved funding for CAFM in the Court Facilities Architectural Fund is expected to be fully utilized by April 2026. Without dedicated funding for the CAFM system, funding would come from the already overburdened SCFCF. The result would be heightened risk of facility failures and hazards due to fewer facility modification projects, deferred maintenance, and disruptions to court operations, impacting access to justice.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Ongoing funding for the FM program will enable the proactive completion of prioritized FM projects to prevent trial court facility building systems from deteriorating to the point of failure and mitigate costly water intrusion emergencies. The requested staffing of 6.0 positions will provide essential oversight for project execution, including the installation of water leak detection hardware, associated software, and automatic main building shutoff valve equipment in approximately 53 courthouses. This proactive approach will reduce emergency repairs, extend the lifecycle of building systems, and minimize the risk of courtroom closures.

The Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee (TCFMAC) provides oversight of the FM program including the FMs prioritization process, reporting, accountability, and fiscal oversight. Additionally, the TCFMAC provides oversight of the facilities program and is regularly informed of facility-related costs for operations and maintenance, FMs, leases, and portfolio management. To ensure accountability, Judicial Council Facilities Services is obligated by rule of court to provide regular reporting to the committee on these costs.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Sadie Price and Michelle Petrushka

Judicial Branch 2027-28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Trial Courts Facilities Maintenance and Utilities

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 6.0 positions and \$23.8 million General Fund and \$5.7 million reimbursement authority from the Court Facilities Trust Fund, totaling \$29.5 million in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28, and \$22.7 million ongoing General Fund in FY 2028–29. This request will provide the necessary resources to operate and maintain trial court facilities in accordance with Judicial Council and industry standards and support the long-term sustainability of the state’s existing portfolio. This request addresses industry escalation costs across operations and maintenance (O&M), utilities, insurance, and legal fees, as well as secures a new property lease to support ongoing court operations in the City of Bishop, California in Inyo County.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund (0001) and Court Facilities Trust Fund (CFTF)

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027-28 (BY)	2028-29 (BY+1)	2029-30 (BY+2)	2030-31 (BY+3)	2031-32 (BY+4)
Positions	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Personal Services	\$1,348,000	\$1,267,000	\$1,267,000	\$1,267,000	\$1,267,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	28,129,000	21,429,000	21,429,000	21,429,000	21,429,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$29,477,000	\$22,696,000	\$22,696,000	\$22,696,000	\$22,696,000
One-time	6,700,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	22,777,000	22,696,000	22,696,000	22,696,000	22,696,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council requires additional resources to maintain trial court facilities at industry standard levels. This funding is critical for O&M standards established by the Judicial Council that are best practices for the systematic and efficient upkeep of buildings, equipment, and facilities, and for insurance, utilities, leasing court space, and addressing legal and insurance claims as they arise. Without adequate resources Judicial Council cannot maintain safe, reliable, and efficient facilities or manage increasing legal, insurance and space related risks.

Judicial Council Facilities Services (FS) assessed the costs associated with a fully funded facilities program. The funding requirement is based on a methodology that aligns with the costs established through current maintenance contractual agreements. To complete the assessment, FS utilized pricing workbooks from the current service provider performing preventative maintenance (PM), three years of historical Cost-Plus workload data to establish an average benchmark, escalation factors from the California Construction Cost Index published by Department of General Services for operations and maintenance, and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) index for utilities. When projected to 2027 levels, the analysis revealed a \$19.8 million funding gap for O&M and utilities across the state’s trial courts. Additional resources are essential to close the shortfall and bring operations maintenance practices in line with the current standards.

Additional resources are also needed to address rising insurance premiums and legal services costs. The request for \$540,000 covers the insurance costs projection for both Judicial Council managed properties and county managed properties. An escalation rate of 20 percent for the total premium cost in FY 2027–28 for property insurance for four San Diego facilities, and earthquake insurance for one San Diego facility, is based on Risk Management’s insurance market review and prior years expenditure analysis. The county managed increase is derived from the FY 2024–25 actuals incurred for the county managed insurance costs.

Legal costs fluctuate significantly and cannot be projected using a standard escalation rate due to the inconsistency of historical expenditures and the unknown future litigation costs to come. The Judicial Council experienced a surge in facilities-related claims in FY 2023–24 and a costly lawsuit in FY 2024–25. An ongoing increase of \$1.1 million is requested to establish a \$2 million legal budget allocation to address costly lawsuits and attorney fees.

The Judicial Council must secure a new leased location in the City of Bishop in Inyo County after the City unexpectedly communicated it would only grant a two-year lease renewal. The current space houses two courtrooms and supporting offices. A one-time request of \$6.7 million is needed to support lease-related costs that include \$5 million improvement costs and \$1.7 million to cover the rent from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2028. The request is for one year as the Judicial Council will begin to realize lease savings late in FY 2028–29 due to the Spring Street relocation initiative to be completed by December 3, 2028. The Judicial Council requests to retain the funds from the Los Angeles Spring Street expired lease and redirect the funding to address the ongoing costs related to the new Bishop lease.

Resource pressures are further compounded by portfolio growth, aging infrastructure, demand for enhanced preventive maintenance, and staffing shortfalls. To address these challenges, the Judicial Council requires additional operational funding of \$1.3 million to support 4.0 Facility Management Administrators, 1.0 Engineering Specialist, and 1.0 Analyst. Without this support, facilities will continue to fall short of industry standards, increasing risks to building performance, safety, and long-term sustainability.

Item of Expenditure	Current Resources	Service Level Need for FY 2027-28	Funding Gap FY 2027-28
Operations and Maintenance	\$95,714,000	\$102,710,000	\$6,996,000
Utilities	\$89,486,000	\$102,279,000	\$12,793,000
Insurance - San Diego	\$2,700,000	\$3,240,000	\$540,000
Legal Cost	\$900,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,100,000
Rent (Bishop lease)	\$20,026,000	\$26,726,000	\$6,700,000
Personal Services	\$0	\$1,348,000	\$1,348,000
-	\$208,826,000	\$238,303,000	\$29,477,000

Background/History of Problem

The FS program requires stable funding to maintain safe, accessible, and fully functional court facilities statewide, which are essential for ensuring equal access to justice and complying with legislative requirements. Industry’s best practices include regularly scheduled asset renewals and preventative maintenance to reduce unplanned emergency failures of building components. Without proactive management, emergency repairs and deferred maintenance become more costly and disruptive, and the program currently has no mechanism to address rising expenses outside the budget process.

Beginning in FY 2027–28 utility costs are expected to rise significantly based on CPUC-approved general rate cases for major California utilities and statewide water and wastewater hikes of 18 to 19 percent. Although Judicial Council has reduced consumption through water conservation and solar installations, these externally imposed increases will still elevate operating costs. Insurance premiums are likely to escalate due to construction inflation, and insurers’ willingness to write policies in California.

Judicial Council must also secure a new lease for the Inyo County Court because the City of Bishop unexpectedly declined to extend the current lease agreement. A complete renovation is required due to limited local building inventory and lack of quality space. A renovation will necessitate the construction of new courtrooms, chambers, clerk’s windows, and holding cells. The Judicial Council requests to retain the funds from the Los Angeles Spring Street lease so those funds can be redirected to the new City of Bishop tenant improvements and lease.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Additional funding for escalated costs to O&M, utilities, insurance, and unanticipated legal matters is needed to prevent budget shifts the deferral of renewals and preventative maintenance. This “run-to-failure” approach leads to higher repair costs, avoidable disruptions to court operations, and greater reliance on costly emergency measures such as temporary equipment rentals, fire watch, and off-hours

work. Denying the additional funds for a new Bishop lease would create an additional \$6.7 million dollar funding gap in FY 2027–28. Also, if the realized savings from the Los Angeles Spring Street are swept in FY 2028–29, the Judicial Council will see a growing funding gap in which the rent expenditures will exceed the rent allocation.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Judicial Council facilities O&M program tracks preventative maintenance and emergency work orders to assess court facilities requirements. The additional staff requested will enhance quality assurance, field verification, and fiscal oversight. A fully funded PM program will reduce emergency repair costs, minimize court interruptions, increase planned and scheduled work, and prevent unnecessary damage or replacement of facilities equipment.

Approval of this request allows for the appropriate funding level to be applied to each component of the facilities program (preventive maintenance, utilities, insurance, and legal), resulting in improved access to justice, and enables the courts to apply general operating budgets to court staff as well as resources to support court services.

The Judicial Council has been lobbying with the City of Bishop for a two- or three-year extension with the City of Bishop to allow time to secure and renovate a new location by the beginning of 2028. The one-time funding request will cover necessary tenant improvement costs and rent until savings are realized from the Los Angeles Spring Street lease and can be redirected to the new lease in Bishop.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch’s facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal VI: Branch-wide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Maria Atayde- Scholz

Judicial Branch 2027-28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Court Security Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Trial Court Physical Security Assessment and Evaluation

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 3.0 positions and \$2.7 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and \$684,000 in FY 2028–29 and ongoing to conduct assessments, evaluations, and identification of physical security deficiencies in trial court facilities statewide.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund (0001)

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027-28 (BY)	2028-29 (BY+1)	2029-30 (BY+2)	2030-31 (BY+3)	2031-32 (BY+4)
Positions	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Personal Services	\$725,000	\$684,000	\$684,000	\$684,000	\$684,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	2,000,000	-	-	-	-
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$2,725,000	\$684,000	\$684,000	\$684,000	\$684,000
One-time	2,000,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	725,000	684,000	684,000	684,000	684,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

Many California trial court facilities lack adequate physical security elements as recognized by the Judicial Council’s California Trial Court Facilities Standards (CTCFS) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) publication Steps to Best Practices for Court Building Security. These deficiencies create significant safety risks for the public, judicial officers, court staff, and justice partners.

Information about these deficiencies has been gathered from deferred security facilities modifications; court requests; and limited court security assessment conducted by the Judicial Council’s Emergency Planning and Security Coordination Unit. However, this information remains incomplete and fragmented, leaving the Judicial Council without a comprehensive assessment of statewide security needs by category.

Currently, no dedicated funds are available for the evaluation and identification of physical security deficiencies. This request includes the one-time funding to retain consulting services to assist Judicial Council staff with the assessment of 200 court facilities and ongoing resources for the staff necessary to administer the assessments, create prioritization, and implement future projects. Data from the assessments will be analyzed and cost estimates will be used to determine the amount of a funding request to address the identified deficiencies. To address this gap, the Judicial Council requests \$2.0 million one-time funding to retain consulting services to conduct an in-depth security assessment at 200 court facilities beginning in FY 2027–28 with an estimated completion by FY 2029–30. The assessment will provide cost estimates and evaluations of physical security elements to identify deficiencies.

In addition, staffing levels are not adequate to manage and administer the assessment and projects, therefore, 3.0 positions are needed, 1.0 Manager, 1.0 Security Coordinator, and 1.0 Associate Analyst to develop a prioritization plan of the identified deficiencies, manage, administer, and monitor the evaluation process and ongoing analysis of the resulting data. These resources are critical to ensuring that deficiencies are systematically addressed, risks are mitigated, and future funding requests are based on comprehensive, data-driven analysis.

Background/History of Problem

Physical security requirements and best practices have evolved significantly over the years, as detailed in the CTCFS and the NCSC publication “Steps to Best Practices for Court Building Security” (rev. June 2022). Key physical security elements—consisting of ballistic glazing, secure judicial parking, vehicle barriers, clerk’s counters and weapons screening vestibules are vital components in ensuring security of the public, judicial officers, and court personnel.

In a prior Budget Change Proposal (BCP), the Judicial Council received funding dedicated to electronic security systems, such as security video, electronic access control, duress alarm, and detention control systems. However, those resources are not available for use for assessing, evaluating, and identifying physical security deficiencies in trial courts.

The CTCFS ensures that the physical security features are included in the design and construction of new court facilities. The requested funding will be used to assess 200 facilities older than 2005.

The lack of dedicated resources has limited the ability to assess and identify physical security deficiencies. As a result, most of the facilities have not had improvements or upgrades in this area resulting in the facility operating without many of the security features identified in the NCSC best practices document or the CTCFS. Because dedicated funding to assess, evaluate and identify physical security deficiencies has not been allocated, a comprehensive list of deficiencies and related projects is not available.

While no security program can anticipate or prevent every incident, physical barriers such as bollards, reinforced entryways, and other deterrents are proven measures to reduce threats and limit damage. The absence of such features has resulted in serious security breaches in California court facilities:

In 2007, a man drove his vehicle through the front doors of the Merced County Courthouse. With no bollards in place, he caused significant damage. A year later the same man burst into a packed courtroom wielding two knives and was fatally confronted by law enforcement.

In 2017, a woman drove her vehicle into the Sacramento Jail Courthouse, damaging the entrance and security screening equipment. Again, no protective barriers were present.

In 2022, at the Madera Courthouse, a truck was prevented from striking the building only because an existing concrete bench and stairs served as unintended barriers. The presence of physical security features averted damage or injury.

These incidents underscore the vulnerability of court facilities and the need for systematic evaluation and investment in physical security infrastructure.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of the proposal will result in the continued lack of assessment, evaluation, and identification of physical security deficiencies in many courthouses. Failure to identify existing security deficiencies will result in continued vulnerability, risk and liability to facilities, the public and court staff. Insufficient funds exist to absorb the proposed assessment and evaluation project into current programs. Continued delays in evaluating and identifying physical security deficiencies will result in higher cost in addressing them in future fiscal years due to normal escalation cost increases for labor and materials.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Physical security assessments of up to 200 trial court facilities will be completed with the proposed funds and will be overseen and approved by the Court Security Advisory Committee (CSAC). The evaluated projects will be monitored and accounted for using appropriate inventory tracking methods and standard general accounting principles.

CSAC makes recommendations to the council for improving court security, including personal security and emergency response planning. The committee provides ongoing oversight of the Judicial Council Facilities Security programs and is regularly informed of facilities security related costs, Facilities Services is obligated by the California Rules of Court to provide regular reporting to the advisory committee.

In addition, this funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals, regardless of their abilities. The essence of the enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state: uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities were the goals established in 2002 and remain the mission of the facilities program today.

Required Review/Approval

Court Security Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Edward Ellestad

Judicial Branch 2027-28 Budget Change Proposal Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Orange Central Justice Center - Facility Modification

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$71 million one-time General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 with an extended encumbrance or expenditure availability until June 30, 2029, and accompanying \$7.1 million State Court Facilities Construction Fund reimbursement authority to supplement previously approved funding. This additional support is necessary to address cost increases and to recoup the counties share for the completion of the active facility modification at the Central Justice Center in Orange County. The amount of this request is dependent upon funds being appropriated in the FY 2026–27 enacted State Budget. Currently, the proposed Governor’s Budget for FY 2026–27 includes \$39.6 million in FY 2026–27 and \$38.5 million in FY 2027–28.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund and State Court Facilities Construction Fund reimbursement authority

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$78,100,000	-	-	-	-
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$78,100,000	-	-	-	-
One-time	\$78,100,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	-	-	-	-	-

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

This funding request seeks additional resources in addition to funds received in FYs 2021–22 and 2022–23 for the state’s portion of the facility modification project at the state-owned Central Justice Center in Orange County (CJC). The CJC, built in 1968, is a shared occupancy building managed by the superior court through Judicial Council delegation. The Judicial Council was required to initiate a major, multi-year, facility modification project to resolve deficiencies by expanding the fire and life safety (FLS) systems as required by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

As it is a shared-use facility between the Judicial Council and County of Orange, both parties are responsible for their respective shares of the total project cost based on their occupancy percentages. The Judicial Council has a contractual obligation to fund the state’s portion of this project, but it does not have sufficient financial resources owing to the size, scope, and limited resources of the statewide facility modification program.

Judicial Council Facilities Services faces a significant challenge in completing the active and major, multi-year facility modification at the CJC. This project has encountered delays due to an understated scope of work, unforeseen conditions within the area of improvement, and deteriorating condition of the facility. The facility has been found to contain far more asbestos-containing materials (ACM) than anticipated. Over time, these materials have dislodged and saturated its surroundings. Consequently, this condition has caused expansion of the project scope to address the removal and replacement of more extensive amounts of preexisting insulation, ductwork, ceilings, wiring, drywall, and various other materials than anticipated. Examples of this removal-and-replacement work because of ACM-affected areas.

These unforeseen challenges have increased both the direct costs and indirect costs associated with problem discovery and resolution, impacting both contractors and consultants involved.

As a result of the expanded scope, delay, and cost escalation, the estimated total project cost has risen from \$70.2 million to \$98.3 million. Per the Joint Occupancy Agreement (JOA) executed with the County of Orange, the Judicial Council’s percentage share of this facility is 91.2 percent, and the Judicial Council’s shared contribution to the project is now approximately \$263 million not including its accompanying reimbursement component of \$18 million.

As the CJC will remain indefinitely in the Judicial Council’s portfolio as the superior court’s largest court facility providing the greatest public service countywide, investing in this facility provides for the longevity of this asset, ensuring safety and access to justice.

Background/History of Problem

The facility modification project at the CJC expands the existing FLS systems in response to emergency corrections required by the OSFM.

The CJC is in the city of Santa Ana and is the oldest and largest courthouse for the Superior Court of Orange County. This 591,500 square foot facility was constructed in 1968 and was county-owned until its title was transferred to the state in 2012. It houses 66 courtrooms for criminal, limited/unlimited civil, family law, small claims, probate/mental health, traffic, and appeals case types and provides various other public services such as jury assembly and self-help center services and elder/dependent adult restraining orders. Most of the adjudicated cases in the county are heard in this trial court facility, including nearly all felony trials and the bulk of civil matters. The superior court occupies approximately 91.2 percent of the space in this trial court facility, and the remaining area is occupied by county justice agencies.

The CJC is an 11-story high-rise building, with a basement (parking) and sub-basement. The building was initially provided with a partial sprinkler system that covered only the basement levels and a manual fire alarm and a manual mechanical smoke purge system for the entire building. Prior to the facility's transfer to the state, the county-initiated floor-by-floor renovations, which started at the 11th floor and worked downwards to upgrade the existing FLS systems. This work included the installation of a new fire sprinkler system and fire alarm equipped with an Emergency Voice Alarm Communication (EVAC) system on each floor, along with an upgraded smoke purge panel. The FLS systems upgrade began on the 11th floor, but the work stopped at the 4th floor, prior to the transfer of the facility to the Judicial Council in 2012.

Currently, floors 4–11 are equipped throughout with automatic fire sprinkler, fire alarm, and EVAC systems. Floors 1–3 do not have automatic sprinkler coverage, fire alarm, or an EVAC system. The basement level is fully sprinklered but requires modification as the original use has been converted. A manual smoke purge system along with automatic fan shutdown is provided for floors 4–11. The manual smoke purge system does not control the mechanical equipment located on floors 1–3.

The OSFM issued noncompliance notices to the Judicial Council in 2020 to correct the FLS-systems deficiencies. With initial funding received in FY 2021–22, the facility modification project construction began in 2023 and is projected to correct the deficiencies and bring the building back into compliance in 2027. This delay is due to the additional removal-and-replacement work caused by the excessive ACM, hidden conditions and failing infrastructure.

To date, the Judicial Council has received a total of \$64.1 million through one-time General Fund (GF) allocations: \$4 million in FY 2021–22 and \$60.1 million in FY 2022–23. To accommodate the increased project costs and fulfill its OSFM and contractual obligations, the Judicial Council is requesting \$71 million one-time GF in FY 2027–28 with an extended encumbrance or expenditure availability until June 30, 2029, and accompanying \$7.1 million State Court Facilities Construction Fund reimbursement authority.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of this proposal would leave the facility modification project unfinished causing CJC to remain noncompliant with the OSFM as well as breaching contractual obligations to fund the renovations at the jointly utilized CJC. With the project unfinished, the CJC would be in an inadequate and unreliable state with potential disruption to court operations and public access to justice.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

The Judicial Council will obligate funding for the facility modification project at the CJC per JOA contractual requirements and for the benefit of the superior court and facilities program. The Judicial Council will monitor the project progress and expenses to ensure fiscal accountability.

The Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee provides oversight of the facilities program and is regularly informed of facility-related costs for operations and maintenance, facility modifications, leases, and portfolio management. To ensure accountability, Judicial Council Facilities Services is obligated by the court to provide regular reporting to the committee on these costs.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branch-wide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Jagandeep Singh

Judicial Branch 2027-28 Budget Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Trial Court Deferred Maintenance

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests 6.0 positions and \$116.6 million one-time General Fund, \$36.1 million one-time reimbursement authority from the State Court Facilities Construction Fund (SCFCF) for a total of \$152.7 million in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28, and \$18.7 million ongoing General Fund in FY 2028–29. Of this, \$101.4 million General Fund and \$32.5 million SCFCF, which is a total of \$133.9 million one-time funding, will address deferred maintenance backlogs for trial courts. In addition, \$11.7 million General Fund and \$3.6 million SCFCF will support energy efficiency-optimized lifecycle replacement deferred maintenance backlog work at five courthouses annually, for a total of \$76.4 million across five years. The proposal also includes \$2 million ongoing General Fund to conduct a review of Facilities Services Building Management System (BMS) guidelines and an initial assessment of 15 facilities as a pilot program to establish ongoing annual BMS program in existing facilities, and \$1.5 million for program support staffing.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund (0001) and State Court Facilities Construction Fund (3037)

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027-28 (BY)	2028-29 (BY+1)	2029-30 (BY+2)	2030-31 (BY+3)	2031-32 (BY+4)
Positions	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Personal Services	\$1,514,000	\$1,433,000	\$1,433,000	\$1,433,000	\$1,433,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$151,200,000	\$17,300,000	\$17,300,000	\$17,300,000	\$17,300,000
Total	\$152,714,000	\$18,733,000	\$18,733,000	\$18,733,000	\$18,733,000
One-time	\$149,200,000	\$15,300,000	\$15,300,000	\$15,300,000	\$15,300,000
Ongoing	\$3,514,000	\$3,433,000	\$3,433,000	\$3,433,000	\$3,433,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

Judicial Council Facilities Services faces a significant challenge due to insufficient funding to address routine maintenance and repairs, resulting in an estimated backlog of 22,396 deferred maintenance projects through FY 2026–27. These projects are estimated to cost \$5.4 billion, with the Judicial Council’s portion amounting to \$3.9 billion. Although past budgets appropriated one-time resources for deferred maintenance projects, the absence of ongoing funding has left the Judicial Council unable to effectively tackle the growing deferred maintenance backlog and plan for the necessary repairs to maintain the facilities in a condition that is safe and free of hazard for court staff and public.

This proposal requests ongoing funding for deferred maintenance to address the estimated \$3.9 billion funding needed to reduce the number of outstanding deferred maintenance projects. To effectively manage this effort, this request includes 6.0 positions to support the additional deferred maintenance projects. To manage these projects, (1) Manager and (3) Project Managers are needed to develop detailed project scopes for the execution of Deferred Maintenance (DM) projects and to administer the planning, design, and construction of repair and renewal projects. Additionally, an (1) Associate Analyst is needed to support the Project Managers with contract execution, invoice processing, budget analysis, database management, and prioritization of DMs., and a (1) Facilities Analyst is needed to support the development and monitoring of sustainability infrastructure, cost, scope, estimating and objectives as part of these projects, ensuring optimal resource utilization and compliance with regulatory requirements.

This proposal ensures a sufficient level of funding and an appropriate staffing level to complete deferred maintenance projects, allowing a more stable and efficient approach to maintaining California’s trial court facilities.

Additionally, funding is requested for deep energy retrofits to address deferred maintenance needs and improve building energy performance at five Judicial Council courthouses, which exhibited the most critical efficiency concerns in FY 2022–23. Unlike end-of-life system replacements, deep energy retrofits use a comprehensive approach that allows for greater improvements to building durability and energy use, as well as human health and comfort. The five proposed courthouses are slated to remain in the portfolio for another two decades and these retrofits are projected to collectively yield savings of \$1.3 million annually. Due to the magnitude of the Judicial Council deferred maintenance funding backlog (\$5.4B as of the Five-year Deferred Maintenance Report for Fiscal Year 2026–27) projects like these often go neglected for years, without adequate resourcing, until they become critical repairs (Priority 1 facility modifications).

The five courthouses, totaling 823,000 square feet are:

- 19-AG1 - Compton Courthouse
- 19-AL1 - Bellflower Courthouse
- 19-C1 - Torrance Courthouse
- 30-B1 - Betty Lou Lamoreaux Justice Center
- 36-J1 - Barstow Courthouse

The financial and environmental benefits of the energy retrofits are estimated to be significant. When these projects were initially proposed, the average energy cost across the five facilities was \$4.40 per square foot. Subsequent improvements have already reduced the cost by 21 percent to \$3.52 per square foot, saving about \$750,000 annually. With the planned retrofits, the average cost is projected to drop further to \$2.64 per square foot, yielding an estimated \$1.4 million in annual savings. Although these five courthouses represent only 3.9 percent of the tracked portfolio's total floor area, they account for nearly 10 percent of the Judicial Council's tracked carbon dioxide emissions. Investing in these retrofits will reduce operating expenses, lower carbon dioxide emissions, and establish a model for similar upgrades across the statewide court system.

This proposal also includes funding to update the BMS guidelines in the Facilities Standards, which is to be followed by the design builders for installing or upgrading the BMS systems in Judicial Council facilities. The guidelines need to be reviewed by a BMS technical expert to update the Judicial Council requirements and performance criteria. Judicial Council staff do not have technical expertise in this area, or an established position specializing in BMS design. A consultant needs to be retained for a holistic study of the BMS systems in place in Judicial Council facilities, review and assess the functionality and value of these systems and revise the BMS guidelines to align with Judicial Council expectations. The technology in the BMS systems is changing and the software and systems are getting obsolete much faster.

Approval of this proposal will aid the Facilities Services staff in developing current BMS guidelines in alignment with industry standards and completing a comprehensive study of the existing conditions at Judicial Council facilities focusing on evaluation, determination, prioritization, and proposal of scope and cost for each facility to meet the BMS guidelines.

The first year's funds will be used to complete the revisions to BMS guidelines and assess 15 facilities. Each subsequent annual fund will be used to assess 15 additional facilities. The funds to install or upgrade prioritized facilities will be included in subsequent Budget Change Proposals.

Background/History of Problem

Judicial Council Facilities Services oversees the overall care and management of building assets within the judicial branch. Its primary objective is to ensure access to justice in California's trial courts, Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court. It executes a wide range of responsibilities including emergency responses, routine and preventive maintenance on building systems, portfolio and lease management, building system renovations, and various other functions essential for creating safe and secure facilities for the public, court staff, and judicial officers.

At the current level of funding, Judicial Council Facilities Services can only maintain facilities in run-to-failure mode, focusing exclusively on projects related to failed building systems. This approach causes the inability to address avoidable disruptions to court operations because necessary updates and renewals of building systems are not conducted in a timely manner. Consequently, court operations are affected by issues such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system failures, electrical service outages, and facility closures resulting from water leaks. Without adequate funding to replace these critical assets, vital systems will continue to fail, causing disruptions in court proceedings and limiting public access to

justice. It is crucial to prioritize these projects to maintain continuity of court operations in facilities throughout the state. Examples of such critical system replacements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Failed roofing systems causing interior structural damage.
- Failed fire protection monitoring systems creating safety issues and costly fire watch.
- Failed elevator systems causing entrapments.
- Failed HVAC equipment causing unsafe respiratory conditions; and
- Failed plumbing systems causing flooding incidents.

The Judicial Council has received increments of one-time funding to address the deferred maintenance backlog:

- In 2018–19, \$50 million was applied to facility assessments and projects replacing roofs, elevators, and wheelchair lifts and upgrading building automation systems (BAS).
- In 2019–20, \$15 million was applied to fire alarm systems and protection projects.
- In 2021–22, \$180 million, later reduced to \$132.6 million, was applied to replace roofs and elevators and to upgrade fire protection, electrical, and HVAC systems, and BMS.

By leveraging these funds, Judicial Council Facilities Services was able to address some of the backlogged projects, providing opportunities for reducing operational costs and environmental impacts. For example, in 2023, roofs replaced in Southern California effectively withstood the impact of Hurricane Hilary.

Even with increments of one-time funding, the challenge of deferred maintenance persists. The lack of adequate funding exacerbates the deferral of these renewals, further contributing to the growing list of deferred maintenance projects. The list of deferred maintenance projects has increased from 8,750 to 22,396 projects from FY 2018–19 through FY 2026–27. The total cost of these projects also increased from an estimated \$2.8 billion to \$5.4 billion, with the Judicial Council’s share of these costs increasing from \$2.4 billion to \$3.9 billion.

Energy system enhancement is a key area of maintenance often postponed due to lack of funding. As infrastructure ages, it requires more resources to function optimally. Efficient energy use is critical, especially with static operating funds and escalating energy costs. Retrofitting these systems promote energy efficiency, leading to long-term cost savings.

Judicial Council Facilities Services oversees the overall care and management of building assets within the judicial branch. The Judicial Council continues to work toward achieving increased energy efficiency in our facilities. In order to track the energy usage in a facility, a well-functioning BMS system is imperative. The BMS system helps track the usage data and access it remotely for monitoring and system adjustment as needed.

A thorough assessment of Judicial Council’s facilities has not been conducted previously for applicability of BMS systems and how well the installed BMS systems are performing.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of this proposal will result in a growing deferred maintenance backlog and a corresponding rise in emergency repairs. This stems from the inverse relationship between underfunded deferred maintenance and the occurrence of emergency repairs. When a building system fails, there is an immediate need for urgent action that leads to higher costs due to the unexpected nature of the failures and the lack of time to plan the repair or replacement effort carefully and cost-effectively. Buildings will continue to operate in run-to-failure mode, with aging building systems being replaced only when they reach a point of failure. This approach to facilities management increases the expenses associated with replacements and repairs while needlessly depleting the ongoing maintenance funding of the program. With the rising expenses of reactive repair and maintenance services and the escalating energy costs associated with equipment and building systems being beyond their useful life. The failure to perform the retrofits will not only impact public services but also pose risks to court staff working in inadequate facilities and could result in non-compliant carbon emission levels.

Denial of the ongoing \$2 million General Fund request for BMS, will result in outdated BMS guidelines used for the design of Judicial Council projects. It will not address the need for installation of new BMS systems in the existing facilities.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

An ongoing, systematic approach to address deferred maintenance enables Facilities Services to efficiently allocate resources and establish a consistent strategy to address the Judicial Council's estimated \$3.9 billion share of the backlog. Additional staff will provide the needed oversight for execution, management, and monitoring of the projects. Projects will be executed as facility modifications and will be subject to review and reporting to the Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee (TCFMAC).

The TCFMAC provides oversight of the facilities program and is regularly informed of facility-related costs for operations and maintenance, facility modifications, leases, and portfolio management. To ensure accountability, Judicial Council Facilities Services is obligated by rule of court to provide regular reporting to the TCFMAC on these costs.

Without adequate funding for deferred maintenance, trial court facilities in California will continue to face a critical dilemma. These aging and deteriorating facilities will lead to exponentially increasing building maintenance and equipment repairs. It is the responsibility of the judicial branch to ensure that every courthouse is well-constructed and properly maintained. Failure to maintain functional court facilities compromises equal access to justice. This funding request is essential for adhering to legislative directives of funding construction, maintenance, and improvement of court facilities across the state to ensure courthouses remain accessible and functional to the public.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the

2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch’s facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

This funding request aligns with Senate Bill 1203 (Becker, 2022), which aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2035. Upon approval, the Judicial Council will be able to initiate the architectural and engineering design of the energy retrofits of the five least energy-efficient buildings, thereby reducing costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

The BMS assessment will evaluate the existing portfolio of Judicial Council-owned facilities, determine the value received from the completed BMS projects, and propose an annual BMS program for the existing facilities. The assessment will focus on evaluation, determination, prioritization, and proposals of scope and cost for each facility that requires a BMS installation or upgrade.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

- Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Goal II: Independence and Accountability
- Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
- Goal VI: Branch-wide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
- Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Sadie Price

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Courts of Appeal Facility Modifications

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$1.1 million General Fund in fiscal year 2027–28 and ongoing, to address urgent and emergency facility modifications at the Courts of Appeal facilities. These resources will help to ensure that critical building systems and infrastructure can be repaired promptly to maintain safe, reliable operations and uninterrupted public access to justice.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund (0001)

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027-28 (BY)	2028-29 (BY+1)	2029-30 (BY+2)	2030-31 (BY+3)	2031-32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000	\$1,132,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	1,132,000	1,132,000	1,132,000	1,132,000	1,132,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council is responsible for the facility needs of the California Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal. However, these courts lack a dedicated funding source for urgent and emergency facility modifications. Currently, the Judicial Council doesn't have any funding source for facility modifications. A facility modification is a physical modification to a facility or its components that restores or improves the designed level of function of a facility or facility components.

Without additional resources, immediate or potentially critical, necessary, and needed, deficiencies jeopardize building safety, energy efficiency, and overall operational reliability. To restore facilities to industry level of function and protect public access to justice, the Judicial Council requests \$1.1 million in ongoing funding to address immediate or potentially critical, and necessary urgent and emergency infrastructure repairs and modifications within the Courts of Appeal portfolio.

Background/History of Problem

The Judicial Council Facilities Services Program oversees the overall care and management of building assets within the judicial branch. Facilities Services Program's primary objective is to ensure access to justice in California's trial courts, Courts of Appeal, and the Supreme Court.

The Courts of Appeal occupy 10 facilities of which three are Judicial Council owned and managed. The Courts of Appeal are currently funded at 2017 IFMA rates for maintenance and utilities only and there has been a significant price escalation since this funding level was established, they do not have specifically identified funding for emergency facility modifications and repairs for their buildings. The primary source for funding facilities work is the Courts of Appeal general operational budgets, which are strained with other competing program costs.

Without adequate funding to perform emergency facility modifications and repairs vital systems will fail, causing disruptions to the courts and limiting public access to justice.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

If this proposal is not funded, the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal facilities will continue to deteriorate due to insufficient resources for urgent repairs. Critical building systems will remain at risk of failure, leading to more frequent emergencies, higher long-term repair costs, and potential safety hazards. In addition, the cost of addressing unplanned failures will place ongoing pressure on the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal operating budgets, diverting funds from core judicial services and undermining reliable public access to justice.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

An allocated source of funds for the Courts of Appeal urgent and emergency facilities modification and repairs in the Judicial Council portfolio allows for response to the degradation of the State’s building assets. The Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee provides ongoing oversight of the of facilities-related costs, inclusive of operations and maintenance, facility modifications, leases, and portfolio management.

The judicial branch’s responsibility is to ensure that every courthouse is uniformly well-constructed and maintained. Without a fully functional court facility, there is no equal access to justice. This funding request will safeguard compliance with the originating legislative directives to ensure that courthouses are accessible and functional throughout the state. This concept also advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals, regardless of their abilities. The essence of the enabling legislation of the judicial branch’s facilities program is equity across the state – uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities were the goals back in 2002 and remains the mission of the facilities program today.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

- Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Goal II: Independence and Accountability
- Goal III: Modernization and Management of Administration
- Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Laura Stark

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Courts of Appeal Maintenance and Utilities

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$955,000 General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and \$760,000 in FY 2028–29 and ongoing. This request includes \$760,000 ongoing to provide for the maintenance and utility needs of Court of Appeal (COA) facilities and \$195,000 one-time to conduct electrical power systems arc-flash studies at the COA facilities. This funding is critical to ensuring the continued safe and reliable operation of the Court of Appeal in support of the appellate courts’ constitutional role as courts of review. Well-maintained infrastructure is essential to the effective administration of justice statewide. In addition, accurate Arc-flash labeling alerts electricians and building engineers to potential electrocution hazards and identifies required personal protective equipment to support safe maintenance and repair operations.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: 0001

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$955,000	\$760,000	\$760,000	\$760,000	\$760,000
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$955,000	\$760,000	\$760,000	\$760,000	\$760,000
One-time	195,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	760,000	760,000	760,000	760,000	760,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council is responsible for ensuring safety for ensuring a safe environment for employees, contractors, and all users of the facilities it manages. At present, the Judicial Council lacks a program that provides electrical safety procedures for contracted employees who work in the vicinity of energized electrical systems.

Arc-flash, also known as arc-blast, is a sudden, explosive electrical discharge that occurs when a short circuit travels through the air. Moisture, dust, or other conductive particles can create a path for this discharge, placing nearby workers at serious risk. An arc-flash can vaporize metal, ignite fires, and cause deafness, severe burn injuries or death.

Arc-flash is recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the administrator and enforcer of the OSHA Act. California Electrical Code Section 110.16 requires that electrical equipment such as switchboards, panelboards, industrial control panels, meter socket enclosures, and motor control centers—when serviced while energized—be field-marked to warn qualified personnel of potential arc-flash hazards.

This proposal establishes a safety program to comply with California Electrical Code Section 110.16 that requires facilities electrical equipment – switchboards, panelboards, industrial control panels, meter socket enclosures, and motor control centers that require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized – to be field marked to warn trained persons of potential electric arc-flash hazards.

Without a dedicated safety program to implement these requirements, the Judicial Council remains out of compliance with both the California Electrical Code and the General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The General Duty Clause mandates that employers provide a workplace free from recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious injury. Continued noncompliance exposes the Judicial Council to regulatory penalties, legal liability, and, most critically, the risk of serious injury or loss of life. ¹

Background/History of Problem

The Judicial Council Facilities Services Program oversees the overall care and management of building assets across the judicial branch. Its' primary objective is to ensure safe, functional, and accessible facilities that support access to justice in California's trial courts, COA, and the Supreme Court.

The Courts of Appeal occupy ten facilities, three of which are owned and managed by the Judicial Council. Funding for maintenance and utilities is currently based on 2017 IFMA rates. Since that time, there has been significant escalation in costs, creating a growing gap between available resources and the funding required to maintain these facilities at industry-standard levels.

The National Fire Protections Association (NFPA) issued the first Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace (NFPA 70E) in 1979 to guide employers in creating workplaces free from avoidable electrical hazards. The OSHA requires compliance with NFPA 70E by mandating that employers establish an

¹ General Duty Clause, Section 5(a)(1) - Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970

electrical safety program, identify and analyze electrical hazards, and communicate those hazards including the personal protective equipment (PPE) required through accurate equipment labeling.

The Judicial Council Facilities Service program providers, who perform routine and demand maintenance as well as repairs, are contractually obligated to follow all OSHA safety rules and regulations. To meet these requirements, contractors must know the exact level of electrical hazard present. Accurate labeling enables them to choose appropriate PPE. Without clear labeling, a contractor may refuse to service the equipment, wear excessive PPE that slows work and raises costs, or underuse PPE, exposing themselves to serious injury and placing the Judicial Council at risk of OSHA violations.

Assessing the hazards of equipment operating at 208 to 480 volts or higher requires a comprehensive engineered evaluation that combines short-circuit, coordination, and arc-flash analyses—collectively known as an arc-flash study. This study produces an arc-flash assessment, detailed electrical distribution system reports, and single-line diagrams identifying hazards throughout a building. Based on these findings, durable labels are affixed to electrical panels and other hazardous equipment to inform building engineers, electricians, and anyone entering an electrical room of the potential energy behind equipment covers, the PPE required before opening those covers, and the minimum safe approach distances for personnel and tools, regardless of the PPE worn.

Implementing this program provides the data and labeling necessary to safeguard workers, ensure compliance with OSHA and California Electrical Code requirements, and maintain safe conditions in all court facilities managed by the Judicial Council.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of this proposal will result in further degradation of Court of Appeal facilities due to limited funding for repairs and continued impact to Court of Appeal operational budgets for ongoing maintenance costs. Additionally, denial will result in continued non-compliance with regulations and risk from electrical hazards that are likely to cause death or serious physical harm – from shock, burn, explosion or fire – to Judicial Council employees, contractors, other court employees and users of court facilities. The chance for occurrence of serious harm will continue to rise with time as electrical equipment ages and maintenance needs increase.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

An increase to the allocated source of funds for COA facilities in the Judicial Council portfolio allows for appropriate funding levels of facilities maintenance, ensuring standardization across the portfolio, and slowing the degradation of the State’s building assets. The Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee provides ongoing oversight of the of facilities-related costs, inclusive of operations and maintenance, facility modifications, leases, and portfolio management.

The expected outcome is for every Judicial Council owned or maintained COA facility to be in full Electrical Safety in the Workplace compliance within five years of embarking on the proposed concept. The Judicial Council currently has a Quality Compliance program to review electrical service work to

ensure compliance with contracts. The Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee provides ongoing oversight of the of facilities-related costs.

The judicial branch’s responsibility is to ensure that every courthouse is uniformly well-constructed and maintained. Without a fully functional court facility, there is no equal access to justice. This funding request will safeguard compliance with the originating legislative directives to ensure that courthouses are accessible and functional throughout the state. This concept also advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals, regardless of their abilities. The essence of the enabling legislation of the judicial branch’s facilities program is equity across the state – uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities were the goals back in 2002 and remains the mission of the facilities program today.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

- Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Goal II: Independence and Accountability
- Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
- Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Nanci Connelly

Judicial Branch 2027-28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Courts of Appeal Deferred Maintenance

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$10.5 million one-time General Fund in fiscal year 2027–28 to address vital deferred maintenance needs at the Court of Appeal (COA) facilities. This one-time targeted investment protects state assets, avoids higher long-term costs from emergency repairs, and ensures COA buildings remain safe, reliable, and accessible to the public. This amount shall be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2030.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund (0001)

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027-28 (BY)	2028-29 (BY+1)	2029-30 (BY+2)	2030-31 (BY+3)	2031-32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$10,483,000	-	-	-	-
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$10,483,000	-	-	-	-
One-time	10,483,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	-	-	-	-	-

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council is responsible for the facility needs of the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal; however, no designated funding exists for ongoing maintenance and operations. Audits of the three Judicial Council–owned and managed COA buildings identified 191 deferred maintenance projects with an estimated cost of \$26 million. Limited funding has prevented these projects from being addressed, forcing facilities into a run-to-failure mode that increases long-term costs, heightens the risk of emergency system failures, and jeopardizes court operations.

Facilities Services conducted audits on the three Judicial Council owned-managed COA facilities, revealing a backlog of 191 deferred maintenance projects backlog with an estimated \$26.0 million cost to repair or renew. The backlog includes critical building systems that fall short of industry standards for safety, security, energy efficiency, and reliability. Without targeted investment, deficiencies such as compromised roofing, outdated fire and life safety systems, failed elevators, and deteriorating HVAC and plumbing systems will continue to escalate, leading to costly emergency repairs and disruptions to court operations.

To address the most urgent needs and stabilize operations, this proposal requests \$10.5 million in one-time funding for priority deferred maintenance projects across the COA portfolio. The Judicial Council is unable to address this backlog effectively due to the current available resources, which are resulting in a run-to-failure mode for many building systems.

Background/History of Problem

The Judicial Council’s Facilities Services Program is responsible for managing the care and operation of judicial branch facilities to ensure safe, reliable, and accessible courthouses that support access to justice across California. The COA occupies ten facilities, three of which are Judicial Council owned and managed. Unlike the trial courts, however, the COA do not have a dedicated funding source for building maintenance or operations. Instead, facility costs must be drawn from already strained operating budgets, which limits the ability to address maintenance and system renewal needs.

Without adequate funding, preventative maintenance and critical repairs are routinely deferred, leaving essential building systems vulnerable to failure. roofs, fire and life safety systems, elevators, HVAC equipment, and plumbing infrastructure have already experienced serious deficiencies that pose risks to safety, reliability, and continued court operations. These issues not only create higher long-term costs due to emergency repairs but also jeopardize the ability of the COA to provide consistent public access to justice.

The absence of a stable dedicated funding source has allowed the backlog of deferred maintenance projects to grow, driving facilities into a run-to-failure mode. Targeted investment is needed to restore facilities to industry standards, preserve state assets, and ensure the uninterrupted operation of the appellate courts.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of this proposal will result in further degradation of Court of Appeal facilities due to limited funding for repairs and continued impact to Court of Appeal operational budgets for ongoing maintenance emergency repair costs.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

A systematic approach to address deferred maintenance is essential for efficiently allocating resources and establishing a sustainable ongoing strategy to tackle the deferred maintenance backlog.

The Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee provides ongoing oversight of the of facilities-related costs.

The judicial branch is responsible for providing courthouses that are uniformly well-constructed and maintained buildings to provide equal access to justice. Without fully functional court facilities, equal access may become compromised. This funding request will safeguard compliance with the originating legislative directives to ensure that courthouses are accessible and functional throughout the state.

Additionally, this Budget Change Proposal also advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals, regardless of their abilities.

The essence of the enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state ensuring that all facilities are uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained has been the goal since 2002 and remains the mission of the facilities program today.

Required Review/Approval

Administrative Presiding Justices Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion

Goal II: Independence and Accountability

Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public

Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Nanci Connelly

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Superior Court Public Lactation Rooms (AB 1576)

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$16.9 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and \$15.0 million General Fund in FY 2028–29 to construct 92 court user lactation spaces in superior court facilities. This request addresses the statutory requirement to provide public lactation rooms in Assembly Bill (AB) 1576 (Ch. 200, Stats. 2022), as amended by Senate Bill 133 (Ch. 34, Stats. 2023). This request includes provisional language to allow the Judicial Council to encumber and expend funds for three years, and to provide the necessary flexibility to manage construction schedules and payment obligations to successfully complete these projects.

Additionally, the Judicial Council requests provisional budget bill language to extend the statutory compliance deadline from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2031, to align with available funding and ensure successful implementation across all affected court facilities.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund (0001)

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$16,900,000	\$15,000,000	-	-	-
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$16,900,000	\$15,000,000	-	-	-
One-time	16,900,000	15,000,000	-	-	-
Ongoing	-	-	-	-	-

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council is working to provide court user lactation spaces statewide, in compliance with AB 1576. A total of 218 facilities have been identified as needing a lactation space for court users. To date, the Judicial Council has received \$20.4 million in funding to support 126 of these locations. An additional \$31.9 million is needed to complete the remaining 92 facilities. Many of these remaining facilities present significant challenges due to space constraints, aging infrastructure, and the need for accessibility upgrades, all of which contribute to increased cost and longer timelines for completion.

Without these additional resources, the Judicial Council will not meet the statutory requirements of AB 1576.

Background/History of Problem

AB 1576 requires superior courts to provide private, clean, and safe lactation rooms for employees, attorneys, and members of the public. The original compliance deadline of July 1, 2024, was extended by SB 133 to July 1, 2026.

Government Code Section 69894, added by AB 1576, requires that:

- Public lactation rooms must be provided in courthouses that already have staff lactation rooms, consistent with Labor Code Section 1031.
- The rooms must be accessible to court users, shielded from view, free from intrusion, and may not be located in a restroom.
- Courts may use cost-effective solutions, including portable lactation rooms, and have some flexibility in meeting Labor Code subdivision (d) requirements if limited by operational, financial, or space constraints.

As of September 30, 2025, the Judicial Council has received \$20.4 million in funding to construct court-user lactation space and has completed 53 projects. The Judicial Council has 49 additional projects in varying stages of design or construction, and 24 projects are in the planning stage. An additional \$31.9 million in funding is requested to complete the remaining 92 facilities. This progress reflects the Judicial Council's continued efforts to meet the statutory deadline of July 1, 2026.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of the requested funds will negatively impact the Judicial Council's ability to comply with AB 1576 and subsequent amendment requirements. Further, denial of this proposal impedes upon the Judicial Council's goal to provide fair and equal access to justice for all Californians, including those who require the use of lactation facilities.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

In compliance with Government Code §69894.2, the Judicial Council is required to submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing the Judicial Council’s progress in providing lactation rooms for court users. The reporting requirement took effect on January 1, 2025, and reports are required until all courts are in compliance or until all previously allocated funds have been spent.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branch wide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Supports the California Legislature’s public health lactation goals on establishing breastfeeding norms and providing civic spaces for nursing mothers.

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Robert Carlson

Judicial Branch 2027-28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Los Angeles Spring Street Courthouse - Courtrooms Relocation

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$4.6 million in one-time General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 to relocate 17 courtrooms and associated operations from the Spring Street Courthouse in Los Angeles County to other existing courthouses within the county. This funding request is necessary due to the of federal government’s planned divestment of the Spring Street building, which the Superior Court of Los Angeles County is leasing in the Civic Center area of downtown Los Angeles. The amount of this request is dependent upon funds being appropriated in the Budget Act of 2026 (FY 2026–27). Currently, \$4.6 million is included in the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2026–27.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$4,574,000	-	-	-	-
Total	\$4,574,000	-	-	-	-
One-time	\$4,574,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	-	-	-	-	-

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council was notified by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) that the federal government is divesting from the building currently housing the Spring Street Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. The Superior Court of Los Angeles County’s lease for this facility expires on December 31, 2028, and will not be extended. This request is therefore necessary to relocate 17 of the courthouse’s 24 courtrooms and associated operations to other existing courthouses within the county. Six additional courtrooms require relocation to the Chatsworth Courthouse, which is a separate project whose first two phases (Preliminary Plans and Working Drawings) are included for funding in the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2026–27 and construction phase is proposed in a 2027–28 Capital Outlay Budget Change Concept.

The Judicial Council is contractually obligated to relocate the superior court’s courtrooms and operations from the Spring Street Courthouse prior to the end of the lease. However, the Judicial Council does not have sufficient financial resources to complete a relocation project of this scale, given the large number of courtrooms and operations involved, as well as the limited resources of the statewide facility modification program.

The superior court faces a significant challenge in relocating from the Spring Street Courthouse. Currently, there are 17 court departments with assigned caseloads that require relocation. Given the large number of judicial officers and caseload, the reassignment must be made to 17 existing courtrooms across six court districts and nine different existing courthouses as shown in the table below.

Court District	Existing Courtrooms	Existing Courthouse	Estimated Cost ^{1,2}	Plan for Space Needs
Northwest, North Central, West, South Central, Southeast, and Central	17	Van Nuys West, Burbank, Santa Monica, Compton, Downey, Norwalk, Whittier, East Los Angeles, and Metropolitan	\$4,574,000	Existing courtrooms may require buildouts of new jury boxes or workstations; and/or installation of new audiovisual components or systems, and furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E)

Table Footnotes:

1. Costs reflect an occupied building requiring night/weekend work only.
2. Costs include court department moving expenses and judicial officer/staff relocation.

To accommodate the superior court’s relocation of courtrooms, the Judicial Council requests \$4.6 million in FY 2027–28 to complete the facility modifications. To ensure all courtrooms are ready to accommodate all existing judicial officers with assigned caseload by December 2028, it is essential funds are encumbered in FY 2027–28 to maintain a schedule that assumes approximately one year for design and bid/award and one year for construction/move-in.

As these superior courthouses will remain indefinitely in the Judicial Council's portfolio, investing in these facilities helps further the longevity of these assets, ensuring safety and access to justice to Los Angeles County court users. All courthouses listed in the table above will only receive courtroom improvements necessary to expedite their ability to accommodate the relocation rather than more costly code and standards upgrades for permanent, long-term space solutions for the relocated judicial officers.

Background/History of Problem

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is one of the primary tenants of the federally owned building at 312 North Spring Street in the civic center area of downtown Los Angeles. Other building tenants include the U.S. Attorney, U.S. Small Business Administration, National Labor Relations Board, and GSA field office. The court's lease is for a portion of the building's space, which is approximately 202,000 square feet, to operate a 24-courtroom, civil courthouse, known as the Spring Street Courthouse. This courthouse's courtrooms hear a variety of civil case types organized by complex litigation, personal injury, independent calendar, limited civil, and civil trials.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is divided into 12 districts (Central, East, West, North, North Central, North Valley, Northeast, Northwest, South, South Central, Southeast, and Southwest) with full-service operations in all litigation types, except for juvenile dependency, probate, and mental health in each district. Administrative functions and certain civil case types are centralized and headquartered in the Central District in the civic center of downtown Los Angeles, and optional venue filing rules place a disproportionate amount of the family, civil, and criminal case load in the Central District. Caseload originating within each district is assigned to one or more courthouses in the district, except as just noted. Each district should have the capacity to address the caseload that originates in that district (but allowing for the extra burdens placed on the Central District for certain cases countywide).

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Timely access to justice for all Californians is a judicial branch priority. Without relocating the court departments and judicial officers currently serving at the Spring Street Courthouse to adequate courtrooms within existing superior courthouses, court users will need to wait longer to have their civil case assigned to a judicial officer, to receive a judgment, or to have their matter resolved.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Upon approval of this budget proposal, Judicial Council Facilities Services will be able to fund facility modifications to accommodate the Spring Street Courthouse court departments and judicial officers in 17 existing courtrooms across nine existing courthouses. These 17 existing court departments will be accommodated to maintain service to the public from six superior court districts. The proposed facility modification projects will produce reliable, safe, and improved courtrooms that ensure the public's timely access to justice.

Each facility modification project will be held accountable by the Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee and will follow the established policy and procedures for approval and commitment of funds. The Judicial Council provides annual reports to the Legislature on the expenses related to the facility modification program.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Facility Modification Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branch-wide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Sadie Price

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Workload Assessment for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council requests 2.0 limited term positions and \$807,000 General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and 1.0 limited term positions and \$217,000 General Fund in FY 2028–29 to support costs of producing a comprehensive workload assessment on court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel practice in California. The Judicial Council also requests to add provisional language in the Budget Act to allow the Judicial Council to encumber and expend the ongoing \$186.7 million appropriated for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel for two years to provide greater flexibility to schedule contract payments and reimbursements.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	2.0	1.0	-	-	-
Personal Services	\$357,000	\$181,000	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	450,000	\$36,000	-	-	-
Local Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$807,000	\$217,000	-	-	-
One-time	807,000	217,000	-	-	-
Ongoing	-	-	-	-	-

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel (CAC) is a legislatively mandated service¹ which ensures that children and parents in foster care proceedings are represented by counsel. The Judicial Council is appropriated \$186.7 million annually in the state budget to fund CAC in all 58 trial courts. The CAC funding methodology used to allocate this funding to trial courts, approved by the Judicial Council in [2016](#) and as amended in [2022](#), is outdated based on several changes to federal and state laws that impact juvenile dependency practice and workload.

The current methodology assumes a standard caseload of 141 clients per full-time dependency attorney, based on a workload study published in 2004. This caseload is widely acknowledged to be too high. Attorney caseloads are one of several key factors used in the current CAC funding methodology to determine the total statewide funding need for dependency counsel.

It is urgent that the council conduct a workload assessment on dependency representation to update data that is more than two decades old, account for the many new hearings and procedures required in dependency cases since 2004 and revise the current CAC funding methodology. The judicial branch's ongoing long-term assessment of how to appropriately allocate resources to meet the needs of one of California's most vulnerable populations requires an in-depth understanding of current workload requirements alongside short-term steps to address immediate needs. Establishing reasonable dependency caseload standards will also help ensure the consistent provision of high-quality legal services for dependent children and their parents in trial courts statewide.

The Judicial Council requests funding to support the costs for a contractor to conduct a comprehensive workload assessment and two temporary analyst positions (1.0 Senior Analyst and 1.0 Associate Analyst) for 18 months as the Judicial Council currently does not have the staffing or resources to perform this work.

The Judicial Council also requests to add provisional language in the Budget Act to allow the Judicial Council to encumber and expend the ongoing \$186.7 million appropriated in the Budget Act for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel over two years, to provide greater flexibility to schedule contract payments and reimbursements including costs associated with attorney transitions, unbudgeted necessary attorney services, insufficient attorney coverage for complex cases, and sudden increases in caseloads.

¹ Welf. & Inst. Code, § 317.

Background/History of Problem

The Judicial Council has received requests from court leadership and legal service providers to establish a new caseload standard, in recognition that 141 is not viable based on current dependency representation in California.

One of the key factors used in the current CAC funding methodology to determine the total statewide funding need for dependency counsel is attorney caseloads. The current methodology assumes a standard caseload of 141 clients per full-time dependency attorney, based on a workload study published in 2004.²

Since the workload study was published in 2004, there have been several federal and state changes to laws that impact juvenile dependency practice. These changes include the introduction of a new category of foster youth aged 19 to 21 (non-minor dependents), the widespread implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act, extensive new responsibilities for attorneys related to psychotropic medication orders for children, Continuum of Care reform, court oversight of educational outcomes, and most recently the federal legislation promoting family connections and preventive services (the Family First Prevention Services Act), which have all contributed to a change in the workload of dependency attorneys. In addition, while filings dropped by approximately 30 percent over the past 10 years, courts and attorneys report that much of the decline is due to keeping relatively simple cases out of the dependency system, and workload has increased due to a growing proportion of complex cases. Lastly, increased challenges confronting families across our state and nation such as increased incidence of serious mental health challenges, increasing rates of teen suicide, substance use disorders at younger ages and more have a disproportionately negative impact on families impacted by the child welfare system.

Because the workload standards utilized in the methodology have not been revisited since 2004, it does not accurately reflect the current juvenile dependency attorney workload. Determining appropriate caseload standards will help to ensure more effective representation. The Judicial Council's target caseload of 141 is significantly higher than reasonable caseload standards recommended by the American Bar Association, National Association of Counsel for Children, and Family Justice Initiative.

- American Bar Association – recommends a caseload of no more than 50-100 for attorneys [representing parents](#); and a caseload of no more than 60 for attorneys [representing children](#).
- [National Association of Counsel for Children](#) – recommends a caseload of no more than 40-60 individual clients, assuming one case equals one client (not an entire sibling set), at a time.
- [Family Justice Initiative](#) – recommends a caseload of no more than 60 clients at a time for a full-time attorney, assuming a caseload that includes clients at various stages of the case.

An assessment focusing on cases and attorneys in California will consider how California laws, policies, and standards, which may create heavier burdens than other states, further define a reasonable caseload for dependency attorneys. A new workload assessment will assist the Judicial Council in determining

² In 2002, the Judicial Council and the American Humane Association conducted a time study of all dependency attorneys in California. Caseload study results published in 2004 indicated an optimal practice standard maximum caseload of 77 cases or clients per full-time dependency attorney, and a basic practice standard caseload of 141 clients per full-time dependency attorney.

appropriate workload standards for the important and critical representation that court-appointed counsel provide in dependency cases. The assessment would collect and review time-study data from a sample of large, medium and small California courts. It will account for factors that both drive and mitigate the workload of a case in California. These include: determining the proportion of cases with multiple siblings or sibling groups; accounting for time spent by attorneys on best practices including family finding and early efforts and family reunification; unique characteristics of non-minor dependent representation; hearings related to psychotropic medication orders; and notice and hearings related to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

The assessment will also determine workload differences among court sizes and whether caseloads and other factors should differ between, for example, a small court with a panel of part time attorneys and legal services agencies in a large court with economies of scale allowing them to deploy paralegals, investigators and social workers. Finally, the assessment will identify any strategies that could improve cost efficiency including the use of remote proceedings or the use of non-attorney professionals for certain parts of the work which might be prioritized in a revised workload methodology.

In addition, this request seeks to add provisional language in Provision 1 of Item 0250-102-0932, permitting the encumbrance and expenditure of the \$186.7 million, appropriated annually for Court-Appointed Dependency Counsel, to extend through June 30, 2029, and be adjusted annually with each subsequent Budget Act to provide greater flexibility in management of payments for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel expenses. The ability to encumber funds over two fiscal years is significant in allowing the most efficient and maximum use of the allocated funds and eases the budget demands for each fiscal year as well as easing the contracting burdens related to the provision of court-appointed dependency counsel services.

Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion: CAC providers serve clients that cannot afford representation; client populations include those that have been historically overrepresented in the child welfare system as compared to their portion of California’s population. In California, all parents and children in dependency proceedings have a statutory right to representation by an attorney. Court-appointed counsel services ensure that children and parents receive access to fair, understandable judicial proceedings leading to timely, well-informed, and just permanency outcomes. Almost all families are appointed counsel funded by the CAC appropriation. A very small number of families reimburse some of the costs through the Judicial Council’s Juvenile Dependency Counsel Collections Program (JDCCP) which was established to collect reimbursements from parents or minors demonstrating an ability to pay for representation. However, on average, JDCCP recovers less than one percent of dependency representation costs annually.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

If this proposal is denied, the total funding need for court-appointed dependency counsel used to allocate CAC funding will continue to be incorrect and result in an understated total funding need for CAC statewide and individual courts. Underestimating the funding need can result in attorneys carrying unrealistic caseloads and impact their ability to provide quality representation. Courts and the Judicial Council continue to have difficulty both retaining and attracting new attorneys into the profession. In addition, an understated funding need—based on inaccurate workload and caseload standards—directly affects access to justice for dependency clients who cannot afford representation. High turnover and

excessive caseloads can cause inconsistent representation, leaving attorneys with inadequate time to prepare for hearings and ultimately leading to more continuances.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

The Judicial Council is reviewing all components of the CAC funding methodology to ensure it is current and accurate. Conducting a comprehensive workload assessment on dependency counsel practice is an important component of that review and will enable the Judicial Council to establish a caseload standard that accurately captures current dependency practice based on current data to determine how additional factors or metrics to the CAC funding methodology can better support the workload to provide counsel to children and families and strengthen access to justice for vulnerable dependency populations.

Required Review/Approval

Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Kelly Meehleib, Supervising Analyst, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Judicial Council of California

Proposal Title: Funding for 26 New Judgeships

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California seeks \$350–425 million one-time General Fund over three fiscal years beginning in FY 2027–28 and \$12–\$52 million ongoing General Fund beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 for 26 new trial court judgeships, as authorized in 2023 by Senate Bill (SB) 75 (Stats. 2023, ch. 482) and subject to appropriation for operational and facility costs, in courts that show a need for new judicial positions according to the upcoming 2026 Judicial Needs Assessment. Facilities funding is divided over three fiscal years for six judgeships in FY 2027–28, 10 additional judgeships in FY 2028–29, and 10 additional judgeships in FY 2029–30.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	-	-	-	-	-
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$80,000– 97,000	\$135,000– 164,000	\$135,000– 164,000	-	-
Local Assistance	\$12,000	\$32,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000
Total	\$92,000– 109,000	\$167,000– 196,000	\$187,000– 216,000	\$52,000	\$52,000
One-time	\$80,000– 97,000	\$135,000– 164,000	\$135,000– 164,000	-	-
Ongoing	\$12,000	\$32,000	\$52,000	\$52,000	\$52,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The public's right to timely access to justice is contingent on having adequate judicial resources in every jurisdiction. For many years, the judicial branch has lacked an adequate number of judgeships to meet the workload need identified by the judicial branch's approved workload measures. The most recently published Judicial Needs Assessment (2022) showed that 17 courts needed a total of 98 judicial positions to meet workload need. In 2023, the Senate authorized 26 new judgeships with SB 75 (Stats. 2023, ch. 482), subject to appropriation. Most recently, the branch received funding for 50 judgeships authorized by AB 159 (Stats. 2007, ch. 722). That funding has greatly minimized the gap between the number of authorized judgeships and judicial need. However, there continues to be a workload-based judicial need in some superior courts.

Background/History of Problem

The methodology for determining the number of judgeships needed in the trial courts, and the methodology for allocating new judgeships, was first approved by the Judicial Council in August 2001 and is outlined in Government Code section 69614 (b), which states that judges shall be allocated, in accordance with the uniform standards for factually determining additional judicial need in each county, as updated and approved by the Judicial Council, pursuant to the Update of Judicial Needs Study, based on the following criteria: (1) Court filings data averaged over a period of three years; (2) Workload standards that represent the average amount of time of bench and non-bench work required to resolve each case type; (3) A ranking methodology that provides consideration for courts that have the greatest need relative to their current complement of judicial officers. The council's methodology will direct new judicial resources to the courts that are in greatest need of judgeships and therefore will help equalize access to justice more expeditiously.

Government Code Section 69614(C)(1) & (3) further requires the Council to quantify the need for new judgeships biennially, in the even-numbered years. These updates form the basis for assessing judicial need relative to authorized positions and updated workload inputs and have been used to identify courts that need additional judicial officers based on workload.

The upcoming 2026 Judicial Needs Assessment (JNA) report, expected to be approved by the Judicial Council in November 2026, will update the needs analysis using more current filings data and workload measures.

Costs

Operational Costs

One judgeship is approximately \$2 million per year and includes funding for approximately 9.28 clerical staff (this ratio will be updated when the 2026 JNA is published).

Facility Costs

The cost of providing facilities for a new judgeship varies depending on the circumstances and existing conditions of the locations, which are still to be determined. A reasonable budget to build out planned, unfinished, shelled-courtroom space is approximately \$9 million. Providing a courtroom by other project scopes, such as renovating preexisting non-courtroom space, adding onto existing buildings, or leasing

facilities/completing tenant improvements, is estimated to cost \$13.5–17 million (or more) depending on the existing conditions. Existing building or site conditions, such as the presence of hazardous materials, code required improvements due to change in use and occupancy, inadequate utility capacity, or ongoing costs to lease space, or required support spaces, such as in-custody sally port and holding facilities, can add greatly to the cost. Facility costs to accommodate space for all 26 new judgeships and support staff are estimated in the range of \$350–425 million.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Timely access to justice for all Californians is a judicial branch priority. Without adequate judgeships, court users must wait longer to get a case assigned to a judge, to receive a judgment, or to have their matter resolved. While funding in recent years has provided additional judicial resources across the state, reducing overall need from a statewide perspective, the biennial Judicial Needs Assessments continue to show a need for new judgeships in some counties. The 2026 JNA is expected to similarly show a need for new resources.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

New judgeships should be directed to the courts with the greatest resource need as described in the upcoming 2026 JNA report. The determination of which courts are to receive judgeships is based on the Judicial Council’s prioritization and ranking methodology, which considers courts with the greatest need relative to the current complement of judicial officers and the goal to improve access to courts for the greatest number of users. With the proposed additional funding for 26 judgeships, courts with the greatest need would be able to reduce their case processing times and would improve access to courts, along with enhancing and improving the quality of justice and improved service for court users.

Required Review/Approval

Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature: *Leah Rose-Goodwin*

Contact Name: Leah Rose-Goodwin

Judicial Branch 2027-28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Capital Outlay Project Reassessment and Program Support

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests four (4.0) permanent positions and \$14 million General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 and \$4.9 million ongoing beginning in FY 2028–29 to provide court facilities planning services and oversight for facility modifications and capital projects.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–9 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Positions	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Personal Services	1,062,000	1,007,000	1,007,000	1,007,000	1,007,000
Operating Expenses & Equipment	12,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000	3,900,000
Total	\$13,962,000	\$4,907,000	\$4,907,000	\$4,907,000	\$4,907,000
One-time	9,000,000	0	0	0	0
Ongoing	4,962,000	4,907,000	4,907,000	4,907,000	4,907,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council lacks sufficient resources to support critical court facilities planning for facility modifications and capital projects, and expansion services to focus on strengthening court facilities planning and management to support new judgeships, capital projects, and infrastructure sustainability.

Key areas of need include program management consultants, and the implementation of a web-based project management tool for capital projects. Additional funding is also needed for providing staffing to oversee the facilities program and prioritize capital projects.

The proposal includes one-time funding of \$9 million to initiate a comprehensive reassessment of capital projects, with completion targeted for 2029. This reassessment will incorporate facility condition assessments (FCAs) to determine the capital reserves required for infrastructure lifecycle repair and

replacement needs over the ten-year lifecycle. The resulting FCA projections become the basis for the Facility Condition Index, an integral and critical component of the capital project scoring methodology.

To support these efforts, the proposal establishes four (4.0) permanent positions dedicated to providing appropriate facilities program support: 1.0 Senior Project Manager, 1.0 Project Manager, 1.0 Senior Facilities Analyst, and 1.0 Attorney II. These positions will provide essential support and expertise in managing capital projects and ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations. The attorney will provide legal advice and counsel in support of courthouse capital construction projects including construction-related contract procurement, contract administration, contract close-out, warranty enforcement, disputes, claims, and litigation. The attorney will also perform legal research, draft opinions, and manage and direct work by outside legal counsel and experts.

Background/History of Problem

In 2002, California shifted responsibility for courthouse funding and operation from counties to the state under the Trial Court Facilities Act (Sen. Bill 1732; Stats. 2002, ch. 1082). Since then, the Judicial Council has worked to address space shortages, antiquated facilities, and critical infrastructure needs. Since 2002, 32 trial court capital outlay projects have been completed: 28 new courthouses and four major renovations of existing buildings. Another six capital projects are projected to be completed by the end of 2026. Of the state's 58 trial courts, 32 would benefit from these completed projects.

In 2019, a reassessment of all unfunded projects was required by Government Code section 70371.9, producing the council's *Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects*. This list of 80 projects impacts 41 trial courts and approximately 165 facilities that represent more than one-third of the judicial branch's real estate portfolio. Since this list was developed in 2019, only a total of 12 of the 80 projects have received initial funding and are underway.

In addition to new construction, the Judicial Council manages approximately 430 facilities statewide, many of which are over 50 years old. Ongoing facility modifications are critical to meet modern operational requirements, including technology for hybrid and remote access to justice. Larger and more complex capital renewal projects are also necessary to maintain infrastructure and support court operations. The usefulness of the existing portfolio requires more inspection and study to develop comprehensive budget packages that fully describe and anticipate the project scope, cost, and schedule.

To effectively manage and prioritize these projects, the Judicial Council requires updated systems and new staffing resources.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Delay in facilities program funding affects advancement of the Judicial Council's programs of court facilities planning, facility modifications, and capital projects that correct or replace court facilities with deficiencies hindering service to the public. Each fully funded and completed project expands the public's physical, remote, and equal access to the courts.

Deficiencies hindering service not only impact public access to the courts but also pose risks to court staff working in inadequate facilities. Many court buildings are outdated, with aging infrastructure that may not

meet modern safety, accessibility, or operational standards. Delays in facility modifications and capital renewal projects can lead to structural deficiencies, insufficient workspace, and inadequate environmental controls, creating potential hazards for judicial officers, court employees, and the public. Without adequate funding to address these facility deficiencies, court staff are at greater risk of working in unsafe or substandard conditions, ultimately affecting the judiciary's ability to provide essential services effectively.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

The Judicial Council will be able to advance its court facilities planning, facility modifications, and capital project programs, supporting the completion of planning studies, adding a consultant for program management services, implementing a web-based project management tool, adding staff needed to provide oversight and coordination of various aspects of the facilities program, and preparing for another reassessment of capital projects.

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee provides ongoing oversight of capital projects in the Judicial Council's five-year infrastructure plan and courthouse construction program.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Court Facilities Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branch-wide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Jagan Singh

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Capital Outlay Funding: Fiscal Year 2027–28 through 2031–32

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$27 million General Fund and \$1.4 billion Public Buildings Construction Fund totaling \$1.5 billion one-time funding in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 for eight capital outlay projects, including four new and four continuing projects. A total request of \$4.2 billion is proposed over five years of initial and/or continuing phases for 21 capital outlay projects. This request is estimated based on the projects in the Judicial Council’s latest plan for capital outlay but adjusted on the assumption that the funding for the three project phases supported in the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2026–27 will be included in the Budget Act of 2026. Page 4 presents the draft projects table titled *Draft Five-Year Plan for Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects*. The Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) will review any updates to the projects table in March 2026 and review a complete draft *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2027–28* in May 2026 for recommendation to the Judicial Council in July 2026.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund and Public Buildings Construction Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Capital Outlay	1,464,842	866,417	321,753	353,913	1,214,981
Total	\$1,464,842	\$866,417	\$321,753	\$353,913	\$1,214,981
One-time	1,464,842	866,417	321,753	353,913	1,214,981
Ongoing	-	-	-	-	-

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council courthouse construction program funding request is based on the projects outlined in the council's latest plan for capital outlay. However, it is adjusted under the assumption that the funding for the three project phases supported in the Governor's proposed budget for FY 2026–27 will be included in the Budget Act of 2026. The capital outlay plan will be updated once the *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan for Fiscal Year 2027–28* has been approved by the CFAC and the Judicial Council. The five-year infrastructure plan is updated annually for Judicial Council adoption.

This plan represents the funding priority for projects in the Judicial Council's *Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* and five-year infrastructure plans for trial and appellate court facilities. Primary drivers of court facility needs include providing safe and secure facilities, improving poor functional conditions, addressing inadequate physical conditions including seismically deficient facilities, and expanding the public's physical, remote, and equal access to the courts. For smaller projects in the range of 1–4 courtrooms, the CFAC aims to reduce their cost per courtroom and lessen their risk from being skipped over for funding by the Governor for larger projects with more economical costs per courtroom.

Background/History of Problem

In 2002, the responsibility of California's courthouses funding and operation shifted from the counties to the state under the Trial Court Facilities Act (Sen. Bill 1732, Stats. 2002, Ch. 1082). With this shift, the Judicial Council began to address the shortage of space, antiquated facilities, and inadequate infrastructure that threaten the ability of the justice system to accommodate the needs of residents and businesses. Addressing the state's aging and deficient court buildings requires substantial long-term funding to renovate, replace, and create new court facilities. Since 2002, 32 trial court capital outlay projects have been completed: 28 new courthouses and four major renovations of existing buildings. Another six capital projects are projected to be completed by the end of 2026. Of the state's 58 trial courts, 32 would benefit from these completed projects.

The need to renovate or replace trial court facilities statewide is reflected in the Judicial Council's *Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects*. This list contains 80 projects affecting 41 trial courts and approximately 165 facilities, which represent more than one-third of the facilities in the judicial branch's real estate portfolio. (The other 17 trial courts had operational needs that translated into noncapital projects, such as facility modifications addressed under a separate program.) Government Code section 70371.9 required the Judicial Council to conduct a reassessment of all trial court capital outlay projects that had not been fully funded up to and through the Budget Act of 2018 (FY 2018–19). Through this reassessment and with trial court input, this list was produced. Since this list was developed in 2019, 12 of the 80 projects have received initial funding and are underway.

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Delay in capital outlay funding postpones advancement of the Judicial Council’s five-year infrastructure plan and the funding of capital projects from the Judicial Council’s *Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects*. Funding delays inhibit the Judicial Council’s ability to replace or renovate a significant portion of the facilities in the judicial branch’s real estate portfolio. This causes trial courts to continue to operate from facilities with deficiencies that hinder service to the public.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

The CFAC provides ongoing oversight of the Judicial Council’s five-year infrastructure plan and courthouse construction program. If the funding for the three project phases in the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2026–27 is included in the Budget Act of 2026 (FY 2026–27), then the courthouse construction program would advance as follows: The New San Luis Obispo Courthouse would be funded for design-build and fully funded, removing it from the five-year plan, and the New Nevada City and New Quincy courthouses would advance to develop performance criteria. Each fully funded and completed project expands the public’s physical, remote, and equal access to the courts.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch’s facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Court Facilities Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

- Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Goal II: Independence and Accountability
- Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
- Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
- Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Jagan Singh

**January 2026 Court Facilities Advisory Committee Action
DRAFT Five-Year Plan for Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects¹**
(Dollars in Thousands)

County	Project Name	Courtrooms	BY 1: FY 2027-28	Phase	BY 2: FY 2028-29	Phase	BY 3: FY 2029-30	Phase	BY 4: FY 2030-31	Phase	BY 5: FY 2031-32	Phase
BY 1 Continuation	Nevada	New Nevada City Courthouse	6	\$ 195,583	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Solano	New Solano Hall of Justice (Fairfield)	12	\$ 316,779	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Fresno	New Fresno Courthouse	36	\$ 925,288	B	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Los Angeles	New Santa Clarita Courthouse	24	\$ 12,460	D	\$ 627,033	B	-	-	-	-	-
BY 1 Starts	Lake	Clearlake Courthouse Renovation	1	\$ 1,107	P	\$ 1,605	W	\$ 21,845	C	-	-	-
	San Joaquin	New Tracy Courthouse	2	\$ 3,503	D	\$ 65,854	B	-	-	-	-	-
	Kern	New East County Courthouse	3	\$ 4,765	AS	-	-	\$ 1,643	D	\$ 64,014	B	-
	Placer	Tahoe Courthouse Renovation	1	\$ 5,357	AS	-	-	\$ 1,082	D	\$ 17,540	B	-
BY 2 Con.	Plumas	New Quincy Courthouse	2	-	-	\$ 69,598	B	-	-	-	-	-
	Contra Costa	New Richmond Courthouse	6	-	-	\$ 19,846	AS	-	-	\$ 2,580	D	\$ 208,069
	San Francisco	New San Francisco Hall of Justice	24	-	-	\$ 67,230	AS	-	-	\$ 14,972	D	\$ 800,828
	Orange	New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse	4	-	-	\$ 15,251	AS	-	-	\$ 1,595	D	\$ 113,313
BY 2 Starts	Santa Barbara	New Santa Barbara Criminal Courthouse	8	-	-	-	-	\$ 11,528	D	\$ 235,614	B	-
	Los Angeles	New Downtown Los Angeles Courthouse (Mosk Replacement)	100	-	-	-	-	\$ 276,479	AS	-	-	\$ 49,148
	El Dorado	New Placerville Courthouse	6	-	-	-	-	\$ 9,176	AS	-	-	\$ 2,973
BY 3 Starts	Fresno	Fresno Juvenile Delinquency Courthouse Renovation	2	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,333	PW	\$ 8,798	C
	Inyo	New Inyo County Courthouse	2	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 4,125	AS	-	-
	San Bernardino	New Victorville Courthouse	31	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 12,140	AS	-	-
BY 4 Starts	Mariposa	New Mariposa Courthouse	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 3,570	AS
	Santa Cruz	New Santa Cruz Courthouse	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 11,801	AS
	San Diego	New San Diego Juvenile Courthouse	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 16,481	AS
	-	Totals	291	\$ 1,464,842	-	\$ 866,417	-	\$ 321,753	-	\$ 353,913	-	\$ 1,214,981

Table Footnote:

1. Estimated project phase costs do not include construction cost escalation from May 2025 to April 2026. Costs will be updated in the final version of the five-year plan.

Table Legend:

BY = Budget Year; S = Study; A = Acquisition; P = Preliminary Plans; W = Working Drawings; C = Construction; D = Performance Criteria; B = Design-Build

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Los Angeles Spring Street Courthouse - Chatsworth Buildout

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$34.8 million one-time General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 for the Construction phase of the buildout of six courtrooms, support space, and upgraded holding facilities at the Chatsworth Courthouse for relocating six courtrooms and associated operations from the Spring Street Courthouse in the County of Los Angeles. A total request of \$41.1 million for the total cost of the project is proposed over two fiscal years, based on \$6.3 million for the project’s first two phases (Preliminary Plans and Working Drawings) included in the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2026–27. The total project cost of \$41.1 million would be requested in FY 2027–28 if funding for Preliminary Plans and Working Drawings is not included in the Budget Act of 2026 (FY 2026–27). This funding request is necessary due to the of federal government’s planned divestment of the Spring Street building, which the Superior Court of Los Angeles County is leasing in the Civic Center area of downtown Los Angeles.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Capital Outlay	34,847,000	-	-	-	-
Total	\$34,847,000	-	-	-	-
One-time	34,847,000	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	-	-	-	-	-

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council was informed by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) that the federal government is divesting from the building that is currently housing the Spring Street Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles and that the lease for the superior court, which expires on December 31, 2028, will not be extended. This request is necessary to build out and relocate six of the existing 24 courtrooms and operations to the Chatsworth Courthouse. Of the remaining 18 existing courtrooms, only 17 courtrooms require relocation across six court districts in nine existing courthouses, which is a separate project included for funding in the Governor’s proposed budget for FY 2026–27.

The Judicial Council is obligated to ensure continued equal access to justice by relocating the superior court’s courtrooms and operations from the Spring Street Courthouse prior to the end of the lease expiration. However, this obligation is challenged by significant financial constraints. The facility’s large number of courtrooms and the scale of its operations require substantial resources, which exceed the current funds of the statewide facility modification program.

To ensure the buildout of six courtrooms is ready to accommodate all six existing judicial officers with assigned caseload by December 2028, it is essential \$34.8 million in construction funds are encumbered in FY 2027–28 to maintain a schedule that assumes approximately one year for design and bid/award and one year for construction/move-in.

The superior court faces a significant challenge in moving from the Spring Street Courthouse, as there are six court departments with assigned civil caseload that require relocation. In addition, upgrading the existing Chatsworth Courthouse holding facilities addresses the current deficiency that disallows criminal case matters originating in the superior court’s North Valley District from being heard in the Chatsworth Courthouse. These matters are currently heard outside the district at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center (located in the Central District). The Chatsworth Courthouse will remain indefinitely in the Judicial Council’s portfolio to provide public service, investing in this facility helps further the longevity of these assets, ensuring safety and access to justice.

Background/History of Problem

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is one of the primary tenants of the federally owned building at 312 North Spring Street in the civic center area of downtown Los Angeles. Other building tenants include the U.S. Attorney, U.S. Small Business Administration, National Labor Relations Board, and GSA field office. The court’s lease is for a portion of the building’s space, which is approximately 202,000 square feet, to operate a 24-courtroom civil courthouse, known as the Spring Street Courthouse. This courthouse’s courtrooms hear a variety of civil case types organized by complex litigation, personal injury, independent calendar, limited civil, and civil trials.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County is divided into 12 districts (Central, East, West, North, North Central, North Valley, Northeast, Northwest, South, South Central, Southeast, and Southwest) with full-service operations in all litigation types, except for juvenile dependency, probate, and mental health in each district. Administrative functions and certain civil case types are centralized and headquartered in the Central District in the civic center of downtown Los Angeles, and optional venue filing rules place a

disproportionate amount of the family, civil, and criminal case load in the Central District. Caseload originating within each district is assigned to one or more courthouses in the district, except as just noted. Each district should have the capacity to address the caseload that originates in that district (but allowing for the extra burdens placed on the Central District for certain cases countywide).

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Timely access to justice for all Californians is a judicial branch priority. Without relocating the court departments and judicial officers currently serving at the Spring Street Courthouse to adequate courtrooms within existing superior courthouses, court users will need to wait longer to have their civil case assigned to a judicial officer, to receive a judgment, or to have their matter resolved.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Upon approval of this budget proposal, Judicial Council Facilities Services will be able to fund this buildout to accommodate the Spring Street Courthouse court departments and judicial officers in six existing courtrooms within the Chatsworth Courthouse. These six existing court departments will be accommodated to maintain service to the public within the court's North Valley District. The outcome of this proposed capital outlay project will be reliable, safe, and improved courtrooms, support space, and upgraded holding facilities that ensure the efficient utilization of the judicial resources for the public's access to timely justice. The proposal ensures a fiscally responsibly approach that minimizes adverse impacts on the court's program and operations, while leveraging an existing courthouse building to accommodate judicial officers and support staff.

This capital outlay project will be accountable through the Court Facilities Advisory Committee and will follow the established policy and procedures for approval and commitment of funds. The Judicial Council provides reporting to the Legislature on the expenses related to the capital outlay program.

This funding request advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Court Executives Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Jagan Singh

Judicial Branch 2027–28 Budget Change Concept

Requesting Entity: Court Facilities Advisory Committee

Proposal Title: Statewide: Budget Packages and Advanced Planning

Proposal Summary

The Judicial Council of California requests \$500,000 ongoing General Fund in fiscal year (FY) 2027–28 for statewide planning and studies. The proposed funding will allow the completion of planning studies and budget packages for capital outlay projects. The planning studies will inform and validate scope, schedule, and budget for projects by developing budget packages, assessing the number of courtrooms needed, and supporting preliminary site searches.

Does this proposal require a statutory change? Yes No

Does this proposal have an information technology component? Yes No

Does this proposal require data collection or reporting? Yes No

Proposed fund source: General Fund

Estimated Cost (Enter whole dollars rounded to thousands) *

Fiscal Year	2027–28 (BY)	2028–29 (BY+1)	2029–30 (BY+2)	2030–31 (BY+3)	2031–32 (BY+4)
Capital Outlay	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
One-time	-	-	-	-	-
Ongoing	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000

*Please include all costs associated with request including costs for other offices and courts.

Problem or Issue

The Judicial Council does not have a dedicated funding source for planning studies. As court operations and services continue to evolve, planning studies are an important resource for evaluating how these changes affect project scopes, schedules, and budgets. A court may need to consolidate operations from multiple locations, provide new services such as public lactation facilities, or accommodate space for future new judgeships and support staff. Planning studies are also important for identifying preliminary site search areas, including test fits of possible site sizes to determine whether the estimated building footprint and parking needs can function within the site's boundaries.

When developing a Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposal (COBCP), the Judicial Council uses court construction cost data from completed projects to determine the budget for future projects. However, each project is different and depending on the unique set of circumstances may require analysis of potential site locations, utility improvements, swing space, and the effect on other facilities court operations and service to the public.

Background/History of Problem

The number of studies the Judicial Council has been able to perform has been limited, funded by the courts themselves or through the state budget process. Not every court can afford a planning study. The requested ongoing funding is based on analysis of the actual cost of the completed studies and the experience and knowledge of council staff. Examples of in-progress/recently completed planning studies include:

1. *New Orange County Collaborative Courthouse Feasibility Study* (in progress/referenced during the September 25, 2025, Court Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC) meeting).
2. *Los Angeles Superior Court Long-Range Planning Study*, which is available at courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/los-angeles-planning-study.pdf.
3. *New San Francisco Hall of Justice Feasibility Study*, which is available at courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/cfac-20240625-materials.pdf (under Tab 03B of the June 25, 2024, CFAC meeting materials).
4. *New Nevada City Courthouse Planning Study*, which is available at courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/facilities_nevada_planning_study.pdf.
5. *Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District: New Courthouse Feasibility Study*, which is available at courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/cfac-20220617-materials.pdf (under Tab 03A of the June 17, 2022, CFAC meeting materials).
6. *Placer Tahoe Courthouse Study* at Tahoe Justice Complex, which is available at courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/cfac-20230322-materials.pdf (under Tab 03B of the March 22, 2023, CFAC meeting materials).

Impact of Denial of Proposal

Denial of this proposal would result in only trial and appellate courts that can afford studies benefiting their COBCPs and budget packages. Also, certain projects could become more costly without comparison of different project options, preparation of detailed space programs, and testing of site feasibility or without planning for space for new judgeships and support staff in new or existing buildings.

Outcomes and Accountability of Proposal

Upon approval of this budget proposal, Judicial Council Facilities Services will be able to do the following:

1. Improve how a capital outlay project's scope, schedule, and budget are defined to assist COBCP preparation.
2. Compare different project options such as new construction or renovation.
3. Develop detailed space programs.
4. Evaluate the feasibility of phased construction and swing space options.
5. Test proposed sizes of new buildings to inform site acquisition acreage requests.
6. Plan for accommodating space for new judgeships and support staff in new or existing buildings (comparing costs of construction to long-term leases), which may also affect projects within the Judicial Council's *Statewide List of Trial Court Capital-Outlay Projects* and the *Judicial Branch Five-Year Infrastructure Plan*.
7. Plan for project scope changes (e.g., from new construction to renovation) as directed by the CFAC.

Candidate study projects would be selected based on complexity, such as complex construction due to urban settings, swing space evaluation, determination of utility availability, and phased construction. There are many complex capital projects in the council's statewide list and five-year plan.

Planning studies and budget packages for capital outlay projects are accountable through the CFAC and will follow the established policy and procedures for approval and commitment of funds. The Judicial Council makes such budget packages and studies available to the Legislature.

Primary drivers of court facility need include providing a safe and secure facility, improving poor functional conditions, addressing inadequate physical conditions including seismically deficient facilities, and expanding the public's physical, remote, and equal access to the courts. This funding request also advances the diversity, equity, and inclusion priorities of the Administration by ensuring that residents from every California county have access to buildings that are designed, built, and maintained according to standards (such as the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the California Building Code) that ensure full access by all individuals regardless of their abilities. The essence of the 2002 enabling legislation of the judicial branch's facilities program is equity across the state, and the goals of uniformly safe, secure, and well-maintained facilities remain the same.

Required Review/Approval

Court Facilities Advisory Committee
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

Proposal is Consistent with the Following Strategic Plan Goals/Other Considerations

Goal I: Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion
Goal II: Independence and Accountability
Goal IV: Quality of Justice and Service to the Public
Goal VI: Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence
Goal VII: Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch

Approval

I certify that I have reviewed this concept, and an accurate, succinct, well written, and effectively justified request is being submitted.

Director Signature:



Contact Name: Jagan Singh

Input from Other Advisory Bodies



Judicial Council of California

**TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING**

March 26, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Videoconference

Members Present:

Judges: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin (Chair), Hon. J. Eric Bradshaw, Hon. Christopher R. Bowen, Hon. Judith C. Clark, Hon. Judith K. Dulcich, Hon. Julie A. Emede, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, and Hon. Patricia L. Kelly

Executive Officers: Ms. Rebecca Fleming (Vice-Chair), Ms. Kate Bieker, Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Jake Chatters, Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Kevin Harrigan, Mr. David W. Slayton, Ms. Kim Turner, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki

Members Absent: Hon. David C. Kalemkarian, Hon. Lisa M. Rogan, Hon. Sonny S. Sandhu, Hon. Scott R. L. Young, Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Mr. Chris Ruhl, and Hon. Bunmi Awoniyi (Liaison)

Others Present: Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Joleen Allgood, Ms. Megan Ellis, Ms. Oksana Tuk, Ms. Kelly Ragsdale, Ms. Deirdre Benedict, Ms. Lollie Roberts, and Ms. Rose Lane

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 15, 2026, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting and February 26, 2026, Action by E-mail Between Meetings.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)

Item 1 – Budget Change Concepts for Fiscal Year 2027–28 that Impact Trial Courts (Action Required)

Consideration of budget change concepts for fiscal year 2027–28 developed by other Judicial Council advisory committees that impact the trial courts.

Action: The TCBAC had no comments or objections to the FY 2027–28 budget change concepts developed by other advisory bodies that affect the trial courts, and restated the priority order of the three concepts proposed by TCBAC at its meeting on January 15, 2026.

Item 2 – Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 Courts (Action Required)

Consideration of Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

Action: The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the CARE Act allocations to the trial courts for FY 2026–27 as outlined in Attachment 2A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.

Item 3 – Pretrial Release Program Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of Pretrial Release Program allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

Action: The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations which will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.

1. Approve the FY 2026–27 allocations, including funding floor allocations, for the Pretrial Release Program as outlined in Attachment 3A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27.
2. Direct Judicial Council staff to conduct a mid-year survey of expenditures and spending plans in November 2026 to determine which jurisdictions anticipate having unspent funding and which jurisdictions anticipate a demonstrated need for additional funding and recommend a methodology for reallocating funding between the trial courts based on demonstrated need.

Item 4 – AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of AB 1058 Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program allocations for fiscal year 2026–27.

Action: The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations which will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.

1. Approve Child Support Commissioner allocations for FY 2026–27 using the existing workload-based methodology (January 2019 approval; biennial data updates), as described in the report and reflected in Attachment 4A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27.
2. Approve Family Law Facilitator allocations for FY 2026–27 using the existing population-based methodology (July 2021 approval; biennial data updates), as described in the report

and reflected in Attachment 4B, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27.

- 3. Authorize distribution of federal draw down funding consistent with the methodology previously adopted by the Judicial Council (July 2021) and courts' surveyed requests; any unrequested amounts will be reallocated consistent with past practice.*

Item 5 – Court Reporter Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of court reporter allocations for fiscal year 2026–27 for family law and civil case types.

Action: *The TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the FY 2026–27 allocation for \$30 million for court reporters on a proportional basis using the council-approved methodology with assessed judicial need data based on the 2022 Judicial Needs Assessment as outlined in Attachment 5A, including any technical adjustments and contingent on funding included in the enacted budget for FY 2026–27. The recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its July 17, 2026, business meeting.*

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on May 7, 2026.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Judicial Branch Budget Committee
(Information Only)

Title: Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024–25

Date: 5/20/2026

Contact: Megan Ellis, Senior Fiscal Analyst, Judicial Council Budget Services
916-263-2445 | megan.ellis@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Under Judicial Council policy, the trial courts are required to report annually to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) on the status of Funds Held on Behalf (FHOB) of the trial courts' open projects that are not yet complete and on final expenditures for completed projects. This reporting period includes open projects as of June 30, 2025, and completed or surrendered projects for fiscal year (FY) 2024–25.

Background

Government Code section 68502.5(c)(2)(A) requires the Judicial Council to make a preliminary allocation for the trial courts in July and finalize allocations in January of each fiscal year. When finalizing the trial court allocations in January, trial court reserves as of June 30 of the prior fiscal year are calculated. Each court's final allocation is offset by the amount of reserves in excess of the amount authorized to be carried over under Government Code section 77203.

Government Code section 77203 authorizes the amount of funding a trial court may carry over from the prior fiscal year. Since June 30, 2020, a trial court may carry over unexpended funds in an amount not to exceed 3 percent of the court's operating budget from the prior fiscal year. The current fund balance cap was authorized to help the trial courts maintain sufficient reserve funding to support operational needs and address emergency expenditures.

Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Program

At its meeting on July 6, 2015, the TCBAC established the Ad Hoc Working Group on Fiscal Planning. The working group was charged with developing fiscal planning and management guidelines for the trial courts to utilize the funds that exceeded the authorized fund balance cap.¹

At its business meeting on April 15, 2016, the Judicial Council adopted requirements and procedures for the FHOB of the trial courts program recommended by the working group (*Judicial Council–Approved Process, Criteria, and Required Information for Trial Court Trust Fund Fund Balance Held on Behalf of the Courts*). Under this policy, courts can request that a reduction in their Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) allocations be held in the TCTF as restricted fund balance to

¹ Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting materials (July 6, 2015), <https://courts.ca.gov/system/files?file=file/tcbac-20150706-materials.pdf>.

be used by those courts for specific projects or expenditures approved by the Judicial Council. The funds are then allocated back to the courts by the Judicial Council for the purposes stated in their approved requests. Allowable FHOB requests can include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Projects that extend beyond the original planned three-year process, such as delayed deployment of information systems;
2. Technology improvements or infrastructure such as a new case management system;
3. Facilities maintenance or repair allowed under rule 10.810 of the California Rules of Court;
4. Court efficiencies such as online and smart forms for court users; and
5. Other court infrastructure projects such as vehicle or copy machine replacement.

The FHOB process is intended only for expenditures that cannot be funded by a court's annual budget or three-year encumbrance term and that require multiyear savings to implement. The process also requires reporting on the use of the funds to the TCBAC.²

Relevant Previous Council Action

At its business meeting on January 17, 2020, the Judicial Council approved revisions to the FHOB policy. These revisions included a streamlined submission schedule, changing the recipient of the request from the Judicial Council's Administrative Director to the director of Budget Services, and amendments to better align with the timing of year-end closing for the courts, trial court allocation offsets, and requests to amend previously approved requests.³

At its business meeting on May 11, 2022, the Judicial Council approved a change to the program's reporting requirement. This update changed the requirement that courts report quarterly to the TCBAC, within 90 days of completion of a project, to an annual report on all open projects and projects completed in the prior fiscal year.⁴ Judicial Council Budget Services staff prepare the annual FHOB report to the TCBAC in consultation with participating trial courts.

At its business meeting on March 15, 2024, the Judicial Council approved further changes to the policy, including revised definitions for new and amended requests, a streamlined submission process with one annual deadline, and implementation of a reimbursement model to distribute funding to the participating trial courts. The changes to the policy, which are summarized below, provide increased transparency and accountability regarding the use of the funds:⁵

² Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Allocations: Trial Court Reserves Held in the Trial Court Trust Fund* (Apr. 15, 2016), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=4378277&GUID=57D6B686-EA95-497E-9A07-226CA724ADCB>.

³ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Updates to the Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Policy* (Jan. 17, 2020), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7977186&GUID=6B519461-BD50-4F19-9B80-CD40F8FD64FE>.

⁴ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Reporting Frequency* (May 10, 2022), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=10830769&GUID=305F68B7-26CF-4E57-B29D-BD15D8B1CB6D>.

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Trial Court Budget: Update to the Funds Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Policy* (Mar. 15, 2024), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12700382&GUID=9C3189C0-C9AA-4818-BB78-3807018030F0>.

1. Clarify the definitions of new and amended requests to improve transparency in the use of the funding and to streamline the tracking and reporting of approved projects;
2. Reduce the number of submission cycles from three to one per year to streamline project tracking and reporting, reduce the number of committee meetings, and align with the year-end closing for court financial records;
3. Ensure that courts send a representative to the Fiscal Planning Subcommittee meetings to address any questions from the members regarding requests under consideration;
4. Simplify the application form to make it easier to complete and review and to ensure it includes the relevant project and fiscal information; and
5. Implement a reimbursement model to properly structure the program so that requested funds are held in the TCTF on behalf of the requesting courts and distributed to the courts for actual reported expenditures.

Table A – Approved FHOB Funding by Fiscal Year

The FHOB requests from the trial courts are reviewed by the Fiscal Planning Subcommittee with recommendations considered by the Judicial Council. A summary of the total amount of the requests approved by the council since the policy was implemented in FY 2015–16 is shown in the table below:

Fund Balance Fiscal Year	Number of Trial Courts	Amount (dollars in millions)
2015–16	15	\$8.3
2016–17	14	6.9
2017–18	11	1.6
2018–19	10	6.4
2019–20	15	6.1
2020–21	14	7.4
2021–22	20	12.4
2022–23	24	27.2
2023–24	27	24.0
2024–25	25	17.7
Total	-	\$118.0

Table B – Status of Open Projects

The following table summarizes the open projects that were not complete as of June 30, 2025, based on information reported by the courts. For the FY 2024–25 reporting period, there are 64 open projects totaling \$67 million in approved funding, with expenditures of \$14 million and a remaining balance of \$53 million.⁶

⁶ Expenditures recorded in Phoenix Accounting System through June 30, 2025.

Court	Fiscal Year Funding	Project Description	Approved Amount	Expenditures through FY 2024-25	Remaining Balance
Amador	Multiple	Clerk Office Renovation	\$2,941,257	\$0	\$2,941,257
-	-	Subtotal	2,941,257	0	2,941,257
Calaveras	2023-24	Analytics Dashboard	59,850	0	59,850
-	-	Subtotal	59,850	0	59,850
Colusa	Multiple	Scanning Project	725,169	339,615	385,554
Colusa	Multiple	Renovations	290,265	8,718	271,692
-	-	Subtotal	1,015,434	348,333	667,101
Del Norte	2023-24	Public Window Remodel	310,602	0	310,602
-	-	Subtotal	310,602	0	310,602
Glenn	2022-23	Audio/Visual Upgrade Project	35,000	0	35,000
-	-	Subtotal	35,000	0	35,000
Kern	Multiple	Case Management System	1,982,274	153,150	1,829,124
-	-	Subtotal	1,982,274	153,150	1,829,124
Kings	2021-22	Courtroom Construction	629,230	0	629,230
Kings	2022-23	Courtroom Construction	1,166,786	0	1,166,786
Kings	2023-24	Courtroom Construction	1,067,325	0	1,067,325
-	-	Subtotal	2,863,341	0	2,863,341
Lake	Multiple	Case Management System	75,000	30,000	45,000
Lake	Multiple	Case Management System	14,000	0	14,000
Lake	2021-22	New Courthouse	439,832	0	439,832
Lake	2022-23	New Courthouse	178,225	0	178,225
Lake	2023-24	New Courthouse	353,614	0	353,614
-	-	Subtotal	1,060,671	30,000	1,030,671
Marin	2023-24	Carpet Replacement	200,000	589	199,411
Marin	2023-24	Records Storage	674,835	3,591	671,244
-	-	Subtotal	874,835	4,180	870,655
Mariposa	2021-22	Workspace Renovations	53,753	0	53,753
Mariposa	2022-23	Workspace Renovations	351,836	0	351,836
Mariposa	2023-24	Courthouse Redesign and Construction	101,833	0	101,833
-	-	Subtotal	507,422	0	507,422
Mono	2017-18	Audio/Visual Equipment	40,000	0	40,000
Mono	2019-20	Audio/Visual Equipment	127,532	0	127,532
Mono	2021-22	Audio/Visual Equipment	40,000	0	40,000
Mono	2020-21	Case Management Interface	90,000	30,000	60,000
Mono	2021-22	Digital Scanning Project	35,000	2,308	32,692
Mono	2023-24	Furniture and Fixture Replacement	62,412	0	62,412
Mono	2020-21	LED Screens Purchase	111,057	0	111,057
Mono	2020-21	Server Replacements	50,000	23,945	26,055
Mono	2023-24	Server Replacements	100,003	0	100,003
Mono	2021-22	Fleet Purchase	60,000	0	60,000
Mono	2021-22	Fleet Purchase	10,000	0	10,000
-	-	Subtotal	726,004	56,253	669,752

Court	Fiscal Year Funding	Project Description	Approved Amount	Expenditures through FY 2024-25	Remaining Balance
Monterey	2021-22	Fort Ord Courthouse Construction	507,403	0	507,403
Monterey	2023-24	Facility Modifications	102,986	0	102,986
-	-	Subtotal	610,389	0	610,389
Orange	2022-23	Case Management System	295,224	172,535	122,689
Orange	2022-23	Grand Central Project and Integration	632,000	153,982	478,018
Orange	2023-24	Carpeting, Flooring, and Paint	252,330	0	252,330
Orange	2023-24	Technology Equipment	252,330	113,616	138,714
-	-	Subtotal	1,431,884	440,132	991,752
Placer	2022-23	Audio/Visual Updates	495,000	460,078	34,922
Placer	Multiple	Historic Courthouse Audio/Visual Update	409,672	0	409,672
-	-	Subtotal	904,672	460,078	444,594
Riverside	2022-23	New Courthouse City of Menifee	1,347,824	1,307,467	40,357
Riverside	Multiple	New Indio Family and Juvenile Courthouse	681,903	246,224	435,680
-	-	Subtotal	2,029,727	1,553,691	476,037
Sacramento	Multiple	Case Management System	2,418,102	1,160,903	1,257,199
Sacramento	Multiple	New Criminal-Civil Courthouse	4,013,037	520,134	3,492,902
-	-	Subtotal	6,431,139	1,681,037	4,750,101
San Benito	2023-24	Courthouse Renovations	154,061	0	154,061
San Benito	2021-22	Facility Modifications and Upgrades	709,532	0	709,532
-	-	Subtotal	863,593	0	863,593
San Bernardino	2022-23	Technology Enhancements	600,000	53,585	546,415
San Bernardino	2022-23	Courthouse Construction Project	4,000,000	15,138	3,984,862
San Bernardino	2023-24	Jury Management System	2,200,000	0	2,200,000
San Bernardino	2022-23	Facility Upgrades	2,500,000	1,218,345	1,281,655
San Bernardino	2022-23	Case Management System	2,616,671	116,671	2,500,000
San Bernardino	2023-24	Records Digitization	5,126,082	2,126,082	3,000,000
-	-	Subtotal	17,042,753	3,529,822	13,512,931
San Joaquin	Multiple	Courtroom Construction	5,092,816	218,667	4,874,149
San Joaquin	Multiple	HVAC Project	3,058,408	0	3,058,408
San Joaquin	2023-24	Courtroom Construction	5,785,558	0	5,785,558
-	-	Subtotal	13,936,782	218,667	13,718,115
San Mateo	Multiple	Flooring Project	660,915	660,915	0
San Mateo	Multiple	Court Construction - New Builds	2,504,999	2,501,098	3,901
-	-	Subtotal	3,165,914	3,162,013	3,901
Sierra	Multiple	Facility Improvements	24,321	0	24,321
-	-	Subtotal	24,321	0	24,321

Court	Fiscal Year Funding	Project Description	Approved Amount	Expenditures through FY 2024–25	Remaining Balance
Stanislaus	2023–24	Technology Updates	124,900	0	124,900
Stanislaus	Multiple	New Courthouse	3,138,708	8,201	3,130,507
-	-	Subtotal	3,263,608	8,201	3,255,407
Sutter	2022–23	Technology and Facility Improvements	745,686	620,432	125,254
Sutter	2023–24	Technology and Facility Improvements	406,669	0	406,669
-	-	Subtotal	1,152,355	620,432	531,923
Tehama	Multiple	Case Management System	523,774	467,536	56,238
Tehama	Multiple	Records Digitization	1,411,701	715,838	695,863
-	-	Subtotal	1,935,475	1,183,374	752,101
Ventura	Multiple	Case Management System	1,917,292	582,141	1,335,151
-	-	Subtotal	1,917,292	582,141	1,335,151
-	-	Total	\$67,086,595	\$14,031,503	\$53,055,092

Table C – Projects Completed in FY 2024–25

The table below summarizes the 21 projects completed in FY 2024–25, which had a combined approved budget of \$4.8 million and total expenditures of \$3.2 million.⁷ The \$1.6 million in unused funds that were not required to complete the projects will be returned to the unrestricted TCTF fund balance.⁸

Court	Fiscal Year Funding	Description of Project	Approved Amount	Expenditures to Date	Remaining Balance
Calaveras	2023–24	Teams Integration Project	\$15,000	\$13,404	\$1,596
Calaveras	2023–24	Window Washing	9,518	9,263	255
-	-	Subtotal	24,518	22,667	1,851
Colusa	2020–21	Facility Improvements	9,072	9,072	0
-	-	Subtotal	9,072	9,072	0
Glenn	2022–23	Camera Upgrade	25,000	19,789	5,211
Glenn	2022–23	Teams Migration	22,000	21,056	944
Glenn	2022–23	Digitization Project	264,310	164,750	99,560
Glenn	2022–23	Fleet Purchase	40,000	38,230	1,770
-	-	Subtotal	351,310	243,824	107,486
Imperial	2019–20	Facility Upgrades	319,899	283,917	35,982
Imperial	2023–24	Technology Updates	74,139	74,139	0
-	-	Subtotal	394,038	358,056	35,982
Monterey	2023–24	Case Management Infrastructure	69,210	69,210	0
Monterey	2022–23	Courthouse Security	50,000	7,058	42,942
Monterey	2023–24	Furniture Replacement	275,000	172,300	102,700
Monterey	Multiple	King City Renovation	247,095	212,602	34,493

⁷ Expenditures recorded in Phoenix Accounting System through March 2026.

⁸ Under the FHOB policy, trial courts may request to use unspent funding for a previously approved project for a new project. Therefore, the \$1.6 million available for reversion may change following the next submission cycle of court requests.

Court	Fiscal Year Funding	Description of Project	Approved Amount	Expenditures to Date	Remaining Balance
-	-	Subtotal	641,305	461,170	180,135
Sacramento	2022–23	Technology Updates	506,812	506,812	0
-	-	Subtotal	506,812	506,812	0
San Benito	2019–20	Digitization/IT Hosting/VoIP/Legal Projects	643,853	643,853	0
San Benito	2020–21	Digitization of Physical Case Files	201,266	167,976	33,290
San Benito	2020–21	Digitization of Physical Case Files	1,302,138	97,871	1,204,267
-	-	Subtotal	2,147,257	909,700	1,237,557
Sierra	2021–22	Courtroom Upgrades	29,604	25,602	4,002
-	-	Subtotal	29,604	25,602	4,002
Stanislaus	2023–24	Telephone System Hardware	85,305	60,043	25,262
-	-	Subtotal	85,305	60,043	25,262
Sutter	2020–21	Construction	71,280	45,979	25,301
Sutter	2020–21	Construction	559,848	559,848	0
-	-	Subtotal	631,128	605,827	25,301
-	-	Total	\$4,820,350	\$3,202,774	\$1,617,575

The information in this report is based on data reported by the trial courts with approved FHOB projects. Additional details for the projects listed in Tables B and C are included in Attachments 2A (Information Item) and 2B (Information Item). The current Judicial Council–approved policy for the FHOB program is included in Attachment 2C (Information Item).

Attachments

Attachment 2A (Information Item): FHOB Status for Open Projects as of June 30, 2025

Attachment 2B (Information Item): FHOB Status and Completion Reporting for Completed Projects in FY 2024–25

Attachment 2C (Information Item): Process, Criteria, and Required Information for Trial Court Trust Fund Balance, Funds Held on Behalf of the Courts

Court	Description of Project	Estimated Date of Completion	Progress and Status of the Project as Reported by the Trial Courts
Amador	Courtroom Addition	5/1/2027	The design phase ended 30 days early, and as of January 2026, 3rd party plan and DSA reviews are complete. The court is waiting on State Fire Marshal comments. The bid phases for FF&E and contractors will begin, hopefully within the next 30 days. To date, the project remains on schedule and on budget.
Calaveras	Analytics Dashboard	2/4/2026	\$35,000 was used to initiate, install, configure, and complete the new analytics software in the case management system. This new feature will allow the Court to pull reports to monitor workflows in each case type.
Colusa	Scanning Project	6/30/2027	Limited civil, small claims, traffic, and collection cases have all been successfully digitized. We are slowly, but surely, working on digitizing all other case types and historic archives.
Colusa	Renovations	9/15/2025	This project is complete.
Del Norte	Public Window Remodel	-	The Superior Court of Del Norte County failed to submit the annual FHOB report as of April 16, 2026.
Glenn	Audio/Visual Upgrade Project	4/1/2026	The Court contracted with CVCS and has a scheduled date of 3/14/26 to have the work performed for this project.
Kern	Case Management System	10/31/2025	The project is active as of 6/30/2025, with an expected go-live date of 10/06/2025. Funds will be utilized after the invoice is received after go-live.
Kings	Courtroom Construction	6/30/2026	For the drawings for courtroom construction. There is \$27,025.00 left on this one and we anticipate additional billings from State Fire Marshall and Architect.
Kings	Courtroom Construction	6/30/2027	The court is in the process of obtaining final approvals to begin construction.
Lake	Case Management System	6/30/2028	The court contracted with Journal Technologies (JTI) to develop and implement two case management system interfaces; 1. Electronic Citation interface with the Clearlake Police Dept; and 2. Electronic Warrant interface with the Clearlake Police Dept and the Sheriff's Dept. The agencies have done some work on their end, however; JTI has a new team working on this type of work and we have a new building which requires at least one configuration project with JTI to take precedence over these projects.
Lake	Case Management System	6/30/2028	The court contracted with Journal Technologies (JTI) to: 1. implement a fix for several task assignment work queues and; 2. create a workflow for destruction of cannabis cases per HS11361.5 in the court's case management system. There has been some work on the work queues; however JTI has a new team working on this type of work and we have a new building which requires at least one configuration project with JTI to take precedence over these projects.
Lake	New Courthouse	6/30/2028	In FY2021/22 the court had funds held for one time costs related to the completion and move to a new courthouse. The court estimates to spend approximately \$90,000 this fiscal year on personal computers to be installed in the new courthouse. The remaining balance of approximately \$349,842 will be spent on the many other one time costs associated with the move next fiscal year.
Lake	New Courthouse	6/30/2028	In FY2022/23 the court had funds held for one time costs related to the completion and move to a new courthouse. None of these funds will be spent this fiscal year. The funds will be spent on the many one time costs associated with the court's move next fiscal year.
Lake	New Courthouse	6/30/2028	In FY2023/24 the court had funds held for one time costs related to the completion and move to a new courthouse. None of these funds will be spent this fiscal year. The funds will be spent on the many one time costs associated with the court's move next fiscal year.
Marin	Carpet Replacement	6/30/2026	The project is on track and final installation should be completed by end of FY 2025-26.
Marin	Records Storage	6/30/2029	The project was on hold due to labor negotiations and facilities limitation with storage capacity. The plan is to resume in April 2026.

Court	Description of Project	Estimated Date of Completion	Progress and Status of the Project as Reported by the Trial Courts
Mariposa	Workspace Renovations	12/31/2028	<p>Given the scale of work and its alignment with court operational needs, the Court is requesting use of multi-year savings held on its behalf to continue. This project could not be absorbed in the Court's regular operational budget and missed the encumbrance timeline due to the evolving project scope and planning transitions. The Court respectfully requested funds held on behalf for a critical facilities improvement project that will extend beyond the current fiscal year. This project aims to enhance the functionality, safety, and efficiency of the historic courthouse by addressing several pressing infrastructure and ergonomic issues affecting both court staff and the public. The scope includes Extension and ADA-compliant redesign of the public counter area; Full replacement of degraded carpet flooring throughout staff areas; Interior painting and sanitation improvements; Removal of abandoned wiring and structured cable cleanup; Procurement of ergonomic furniture and equipment to support evolving court operations. Public Counter Redesign & ADA Compliance: The current public counter area is not adequately sized or compliant with ADA standards. The lack of sufficient space, signing surfaces, and accessible counter height creates significant barriers for public use. The counter is worn and unstable due to long-term overuse and lacks protective safety measures. Plans i Counter extension with appropriate ADA components; Installation of storefront safety glass; Incorporation of a currently blocked doorway to improve staff visibility and flow for the court users. Interior Flooring & Painting: The carpeting throughout the courthouse offices is visibly worn, poses tripping hazards, and is beyond repair. Temporary fixes (e.g., stretching, gluing) are no longer viable. Additionally, walls have visible stains, discoloration, and smoke odor from past wildfire seasons. Work includes Carpet and baseboard replacement Full interior painting for sanitation and improved visual appeal. Workspace Ergonomics & Furniture: Workstations are constrained and outdated, limiting productivity. Desktops are worn and damaged; chairs lack ergonomic support and are reaching end-of-life. This project proposes: Replacement of existing desks with ergonomic, modern work surfaces; Procurement of task chairs that meet current ergonomic standards; Reconfiguration of workspaces to accommodate modern equipment Wiring & Infrastructure Cleanup: Recent network upgrades did not include removal of obsolete wiring, which now clutters utility spaces and blocks expansion. This poses an operational and safety challenge. Cleanup will include Removal of unused cables; Coordination with IT and facilities to clear crawlspaces; Restoration of infrastructure for future scalability. This is slowly moving forward as we need room of other cabling. Project Planning & Coordination: This is a multi-agency, multi-year project involving: Judicial Council of California (JCC), County Facilities Department, KPA Architects, State and Local Historic Preservation Bodies. Due to the courthouse's historic designation and the involvement of multiple stakeholders, the planning process has been complex and subject to delays, including Changes in project managers, Staffing transitions within county departments, Coordination across multiple regulatory and planning bodies. Despite these challenges, progress continues: Updated plans are with KPA Architects to integrate security features into the existing ADA counter design. The County will circulate final plans for internal and external stakeholder review. County Planning and Building Departments will evaluate environmental requirements and approvals. The County Facilities Department has obtained one set of quotes for paint and carpeting and will need to solicit additional quotes. In addition, the department's project manager for this initiative is no longer with the County, and the department is currently experiencing a high rate of turnover. Delayed.</p>

Court	Description of Project	Estimated Date of Completion	Progress and Status of the Project as Reported by the Trial Courts
Mariposa	Courthouse Redesign and Construction	12/31/2028	<p>The Court respectfully requests that the funds previously held on its behalf for this relocation project remain allocated at the JCC. The project is delayed but remains active, with planning continuing behind the scenes. Holding the funds will ensure that when the time for relocation arises, the Court will have the necessary resources to: Support a secure, efficient move, minimize service disruption, Ensure the new location meets all operational, security, and compliance standards While the move has been temporarily postponed, the need remains critical and will resurface in the near future. The Court seeks your support in retaining access to the necessary funds to ensure the future relocation is executed efficiently and with minimal disruption to court services. This project concerns the planned relocation of the Court Administration Office due to space constraints and the expiration of the current lease. Although the court has successfully secured a short-term lease extension, the office will be required to relocate to a new site after April 30, 2028. The relocation involves significant logistical and infrastructure work, requiring specialized services and equipment to support a seamless and secure transition of critical court functions. The Court has negotiated a renewal of its current lease, effective May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2028. To secure this renewal, the Court was required to give up a portion of the leased space. As a result, the existing facility no longer houses the self-help center as that was downsized and relocated to the courthouse. While the immediate move has been postponed, the need for funding to support this relocation remains essential. The Court is formally requesting that previously identified funds held on its behalf by the Judicial Council of California (JCC) be retained for the future execution of this project, as the project has been delayed, not cancelled.</p> <p>Project Needs & Scope of Work</p> <p>To ensure a successful relocation, the Court must plan for the following components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IT Infrastructure Relocation: Secure disconnection, transport, and reinstallation of servers, workstations, security cameras, alarms, networking equipment, and wireless bridges; Protection of sensitive systems to minimize downtime and preserve data security 2. Furniture and Fixtures: Disassembly, transport, and reassembly of heavy and sensitive furniture, including fireproof file cabinets, safes, shelving, and workstations; Reconfiguration or replacement of items to fit the layout and design of the new location 3. Professional Moving Services: Engagement of licensed commercial movers experienced in handling court materials; Secure handling of confidential records and continuity of operations throughout the move 4. New Location Preparation: Painting, flooring updates, and interior modifications; Installation of shelving, electrical outlets, phone lines, data jacks; Compliance with ADA and other safety standards 5. Location-Specific Needs: Coordination with property management to ensure accessibility for moving trucks and compliance with building codes: Infrastructure compatibility assessments and adjustments <p>Challenges & Justification: The new lease extension was obtained at the cost of essential space, creating a temporary solution only; The relocation remains inevitable and must be proactively planned to avoid last-minute disruptions; Rural location and limited vendors increase the complexity, lead time, and cost of relocation services; Court resources are already stretched due to other major projects, including CMS conversion, and the Court anticipates difficulty in accumulating the required funds independently; Without access to retained funds, the Court risks facing an operational gap or degraded service during the future relocation</p> <p>Next Steps: Continue assessing potential relocation sites and begin early coordination with vendors and JCC Facility Services, Monitor space needs.</p>
Mono	Audio/Visual Equipment	6/30/2026	As planned, project will be completed in FY25-26.
Mono	Case Management Interface	6/30/2028	Due to limited staffing resources, this project will be amended in the fall to push the project for an additional year. The new estimate is \$30,000 to be spent in FY 26-27 and the remaining \$30,000 to be spent in FY 27-28.
Mono	Digital Scanning Project	6/30/2026	As planned, the project will be completed in FY 25-26
Mono	Furniture and Fixture Replacement	6/30/2028	The useful life of furniture and fixtures is typically estimated to be between 5 and 12 years. The court is currently at 13 years, so a plan of replacement is being made as well as more funds to be added if possible.
Mono	LED Screens Purchase	6/30/2026	As planned, project will be completed in FY25-26.
Mono	Server Replacements	6/30/2028	Due to staffing limitations, this project will need to be amended to move the expected completion date to FY 27-28 instead of FY 25-26.
Mono	Fleet Purchase	6/30/2027	As planned, project will begin in FY 26-27.

Court	Description of Project	Estimated Date of Completion	Progress and Status of the Project as Reported by the Trial Courts
Monterey	Fort Ord Courthouse Construction	6/30/2030	The Fort Ord Courthouse Construction planning and construction is currently ongoing. As the funds are to be used for one time costs to equip and furnish the new courthouse upon completion there has not been any use of the funds to date.
Monterey	Facility Modifications	9/30/2025	Project will be completed in early FY 25-26. Funds were used to replace toilets in Salinas Courthouse basement level bathrooms.
Orange	Case Management System	6/30/2026	The Vision NG project will modernize the current two-tier (PowerBuilder/Oracle) Criminal Case Management System (Vision) into a scalable, three-tier web-based architecture. The current, initial phase of the project is to develop and assess the technical foundation for the architecture that will bedrock the next-generation system. The Court expended project funds in FY 2024-25 for contractor services to complete software development for components of the technical foundation. In FY 2025-26, development and testing are ongoing, including a pilot to convert existing system screens in the Production environment onto the finalized architecture. The current project phase is expected to conclude, with these funds fully expended, by June 30, 2026.
Orange	Grand Central Project and Integration	6/30/2027	<p>The goal of the Grand Central project is to automate jail paperwork, expedite in-custody transportation, and accelerate jail release processing by implementing data exchanges between the Court's Case Management System and key justice partner agency systems through the extensible Grand Central (GC) platform. In FY 2024-25, the Court expended project funds for contractor services supporting continued development of the GC platform. Key accomplishments include implementation of the shared defendant identifier (OCN) data exchange in Production, improving cross system defendant matching, and deployment of the digital Jail Papers exchange in Production, supporting continued process maturity while OCSD implements its new JMS solution.</p> <p>The multi-phase GC project is large in scale and continues to require adjustments based on justice partner readiness. Current phase (Phase 3) activities remain underway and are expected to extend beyond FY 2025-26. The court intends to submit an amendment to continue using the funds in FY 2026-27, which will include updates to the expenditures for FY 2026-27.</p>
Orange	Carpeting, Flooring, and Paint	6/30/2029	The Central Justice Center Fire, Life, and Safety project experienced delays in FY 2024-25 due to updated State Fire Marshal requirements. Phase I is currently underway and work is progressing. Project funds are intended to address anticipated expenditures for carpeting and other flooring, paint, and furniture needs that will arise in Phase II of this multi-year project, with timelines still being finalized.
Orange	Technology Equipment	6/30/2029	The Court expended project funds in FY 2024-25 to purchase 30 replacement document scanners to support digital imaging needs. Throughout FY 2025-26 and in the subsequent fiscal years, the Court intends to continue using these funds for additional technology equipment purchases to support the project's purpose of improving equipment refresh timing and end-of-life planning.
Placer	Audio/Visual Updates	6/30/2026	As of FYE 24/25, this project was active. Following the close of FY 24/25, this project was rolled into a new WBSE O-319306. This new project is expected to be completed by 06/30/26.
Placer	Historic Courthouse Audio/Visual Update	5/31/2026	The vendor has completed Department 2 of this A/V project. They will now move on to Department 12 and Departments 1-3. Work is on schedule, and the project is expected to be complete by May 2026.
Riverside	New Courthouse City of Menifee	12/19/2025	The Riverside Court utilized FHOB-Menifee funds for furniture, fixtures, signage, and small equipment to ensure the new courthouse is functional and meets operational needs. The project will be fully complete by Q2 FY25/26.
Riverside	New Indio Family and Juvenile Courthouse	6/30/2027	The certificate of occupancy for the new Indio Juvenile and Family Courthouse has been extended to end of June 2026. The Court will continue to purchase the required items as the project approaches end of completion. The FHOB funds will also be utilized for moving services, furniture, fixtures, and small equipment once the court is ready to occupy the building. The Court intends to use the FHOB funds in 26/27 as the certificate of occupancy is schedule at the end of the 25/26 fiscal year.
Sacramento	Case Management System	6/30/2026	The Court is currently performing project tasks for the implementation of the eCourt Case Management System in both Criminal and Family Law courts. The Criminal and Family Law implementations are progressing through the requirement and configuration phases. The case management system is projected to go-live in Quarter 4 of FY 2025-26.

Court	Description of Project	Estimated Date of Completion	Progress and Status of the Project as Reported by the Trial Courts
Sacramento	New Criminal–Civil Courthouse	6/30/2026	<p>Funds in the amount of \$66,907 were approved and allocated to the project to support infrastructure costs, bringing the project total to \$4,013,037, on 12/12/2025.</p> <p>The Certificate of Occupancy was received in December 2025. An audiovisual project to enhance all 53 courtrooms is in progress, and Facilities staff have been installing the remaining furniture and equipment, keying the doors, and completing other ancillary preparatory projects ahead of the move.</p> <p>Staff will be relocated to the building in stages, beginning in late March 2026, over a five-week period. The building will be fully operational, effective April 17, 2026.</p>
San Benito	Courthouse Renovations	6/30/2027	<p>Facilities Upgrade: Court utilizing multi-year FHOBs to assist in modifying the courthouse jury assembly room into a courtroom to accommodate the Court's expanding criminal and civil calendars. The funds will also help complete the modification of one of the Court's meeting rooms into a judge's chamber. Bids and designs have been completed, and construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2026. Estimates are also being requested for retrofits to the Family Court Services Center to provide additional office and waiting room space for court users, further supporting court operational needs.</p> <p>File Room Project: The existing high-density file system is outdated and requires professional removal. This update will create much-needed space for additional cubicle workstations and multi-use areas to facilitate team meetings and training sessions. This project is pending estimates.</p>
San Benito	Facility Modifications and Upgrades	6/30/2027	<p>Facilities Upgrade: This FHOB is to assist the Court in modifying the courthouse jury assembly room into a courtroom to accommodate the Court's expanding criminal and civil calendars. The FHOB will also assist with the modification of one of the Court's meeting rooms into a Judge's chamber. Bids have been completed, designs have been completed, and construction is due to begin in the summer of 2026. The Court also intends to use the FHOB for improvements/retrofits to the Family Court Service Center to improve efficiency and effectiveness of court operations, providing additional office and waiting room space for court users.</p> <p>Generator: If facilities retrofits come under budget, the Court would like to acquire a generator to supply electrical power in the event of a power outage to prevent discontinuity of Court operation or disruption of Court business.</p>
San Bernardino	Technology Enhancements	6/30/2027	The court is continuing to evaluate speech-to-text solutions in 4 courtrooms. The contract is signed for this next phase of evaluation, and a kick-off meeting is scheduled.
San Bernardino	Courthouse Construction Project	12/31/2026	The project remains in progress, with construction activities tracking toward a Fall 2026 completion. Occupancy is anticipated to occur in multiple phases. Work is underway with FF&E vendors to obtain estimates and advance procurement.
San Bernardino	Jury Management System	12/31/2027	The court is in the process of revising the SOW, to re-release an RFP after an unsuccessful solicitation. The RFP is anticipated to be released in March 2026. No project funds have been expended as of yet.
San Bernardino	Facility Upgrades	12/31/2027	Project is tracking as planned, with ongoing assessments and work continuing across all districts. Planning and design are underway for a Jury Room improvement at the Historic Courthouse, scheduled for FY 2026–27.
San Bernardino	Case Management System	6/30/2028	The Juvenile CMS project is on track. The court is close to signing a contract with Tyler Technologies for the implementation of Juvenile in Enterprise Justice. Contract resources are being obtained to augment staff resources to complete the project. A kick-off will happen in early Q2 2026.
San Bernardino	Records Digitization	12/31/2027	Digital Transformation / Records Digitization Project consists of six phases. Phases I and II completed (Probate, Child Support, Small Claims, Landlord/Tenant, Civil). Phase III (Criminal and Traffic) timeline development underway for March 2026. Case file digitization supporting vacating the third warehouse, targeted for completion April–May 2026.
San Joaquin	Courtroom Construction	7/30/2028	This project was placed on hold, but it is possible to continue in the near future.
San Joaquin	HVAC Project	2/20/2026	The construction was completed this month. I called our JCC facility coordinator, Richard Adams, to confirm.
San Joaquin	Courtroom Construction	7/30/2028	This project was on hold but has been given approval to begin again. The completion date is just an estimation.
San Mateo	Flooring Project	6/30/2028	We will keep this project active and transfer funds to it as needed for future projects.

Court	Description of Project	Estimated Date of Completion	Progress and Status of the Project as Reported by the Trial Courts
San Mateo	Court Construction - New Builds	6/30/2028	The COB Project is scheduled to be completed by FY 2027–28, and the funds will be used to pay for future related project invoices.
Sierra	Facility Improvements	n/a	The court will not be able to complete this project based on the expense of managing the project. The court wants to return these funds and request to use them for a breakroom upgrade.
Stanislaus	Technology Updates	6/30/2027	The court's Tyler Robotic Process Automation (RPA) project is to automate repetitive and time-consuming tasks. This initiative is required following Tyler Technologies' acquisition of the CSI software the court has been using. The integration of RPA with the CSI software aims to streamline processes, reduce human error, and allow court staff to focus on more complex and critical tasks. This integration enhances the accuracy and speed of court operations, contributing to a more efficient judicial system. With Tyler Technologies now owning the CSI software, the court is in a position where it needs to migrate from its current infrastructure to Tyler's platform. This migration is essential to ensure compatibility and to fully leverage the capabilities of both the RPA and CSI software. By moving to Tyler's infrastructure, the court expects improved support, regular updates, and access to a wider range of tools and features that will help optimize court operations. This strategic move reflects the court's commitment to modernization and continuous improvement in delivering justice efficiently.
Stanislaus	New Courthouse	6/30/2027	This project is for the Construction of the New Modesto Courthouse which has been under construction since December 2021. The Court will need to cover certain costs to move to that building. This includes relocation related expenses for office and janitorial supplies, accessory furnishings and fixtures, as well as IT equipment needed to operate the new building. These expenses are not included in the courthouse construction budget. In addition, we expect to incur additional expense for relocation services (physical move and planning) and disposal or surplus furniture and equipment.
Sutter	Technology and Facility Improvements	6/30/2026	Majority of projects have been completed: replaced all office chairs throughout the courthouse, replaced aging security radios and failed radio repeater/antennas, replaced security badging system with a more secure encrypted badging system with mobile credentials, replaced non-supported IT helpdesk solution, replaced Court's emergency alert system, updated and refreshed the AV systems in the administration conference room and training room respectively, purchased switches for network redundancy, purchased and placed an outdoor kiosk to enhance public accessibility to services after-hours, purchase Rubrik Backup Disaster Recovery services, and enhanced the Court's security system door viewers to enable staff to see what is outside of staff exit doors that open to exterior public area. There are several projects waiting for vendors to provide final services before final payment is processed.
Sutter	Technology and Facility Improvements	12/31/2026	Court intends to re-purpose these funds to help pay for carpet replacement throughout the courthouse in conjunction with O-519314.
Tehama	Case Management System	9/30/2026	Final year of elevated service levels for case management system improvement project.
Tehama	Records Digitization	6/30/2027	Three rental storage units have been vacated thanks to this project. Court is now in the process of having paper records onsite be scanned by third party vendor. Project very active lately with monthly pick-ups of paper files to be scanned. Targeting 6/30/2027 completion date, if not sooner.

Court	Description of Project	Estimated Date of Completion	Progress and Status of the Project as Reported by the Trial Courts
Ventura	Case Management System	10/29/2027	<p>Ventura Superior Court continues to work through its upgrade from the legacy case management systems. The Court initially stated the FHOB would be used to update the County system, VISION; but under the Court's new leadership, the Court has decided to move to its own platform under e-Court. We plan to end the use of the County system, VISION, and become independent on our own platform under e-Court for Criminal/Traffic/Family Law/Juvenile Dependency/Adoptions case types. The Court currently has \$1,335,151 held on its behalf for this upgrade project. We anticipate a go-live in the next 18-24 months for all case types. We plan to request an amendment to change the original FHOB request for VISION to FHOB for e-Court in September 2025.</p> <p>The amended request was approved by the Judicial Council in December 2025. Since then, we have signed a contract with the Vendor, Journal Technologies Inc, to upgrade the legacy case management systems to e-Court. We expect the project to start in June 2026 and anticipate a go-live sometime in October 2027. Our Court is committed to making this transition as quickly as possible.</p>

Court	Description of Project	Completion Date	Description of How the Project Funds Were Expended as Reported by the Trial Courts
Calaveras	Teams Integration Project	12/11/2025	The Court integrated the phone system to Microsoft Teams. New phone hardware had also been purchased at each office, desk, and station throughout the Court.
Calaveras	Window Washing	9/17/2025	The Court had hired an outside vendor through Pride to clean the exterior and interior windows of the building. The windows have never been cleaned since the Court's opening.
Colusa	Facility Improvements	6/30/2025	The project itself is complete, however there are a few loose ends that still need to be addressed.
Glenn	Camera Upgrade	7/1/2025	The Court spent \$19,788.65 to install new cameras in dead zones of our new facility.
Glenn	Teams Migration	2/20/2026	The Court has fully migrated to Microsoft Teams as its phone provider.
Glenn	Digitization Project	6/25/2024	\$164,750.43 was used for the digitization of case files.
Glenn	Fleet Purchase	4/2/2024	\$38,595.55 was used to purchase a new court car for travel and training.
Imperial	Facility Upgrades	11/8/2024	Funds were expended on approved projects.
Imperial	Technology Updates	6/30/2025	Funds were expended on approved projects.
Monterey	Case Management Infrastructure	6/11/2025	Project completed in FY 24-25. Funds were used for Netapp expansion storage shelf which was necessary for case management system replacement taking place in FY 25-26.
Monterey	Courthouse Security	9/30/2025	FHOB request was amended in FY 25-26 to transfer the remaining funds to a new FHOB request, setup as O-279305.
Monterey	Furniture Replacement	4/28/2025	Project was completed in FY 24-25. Funds were used to purchase height adjustable workstations in the Salinas Courthouse.
Monterey	King City Renovation	9/30/2025	FHOB request was amended in FY 25-26 to transfer the remaining funds to a new FHOB request, setup as O-279305.
Sacramento	Technology Updates	6/30/2025	The funds were expended on the purchase of 221 of thick client laptop equipment and accessories in FY 2024-25.
San Benito	Digitization/IT Hosting/VoIP/Legal Projects	6/30/2025	<p>Digitization: Court completed Project to digitize physical case files held at an off-site storage facility.</p> <p>Information Technology Hosting: Court's CMS, email, and all other critical IT tools were hosted remotely. The Court completed the process to migrate to cloud-based and on-premises solutions.</p> <p>Voice over Internet Protocol: The Court has completed the process of upgrading the voice over Internet Protocol phone system.</p> <p>Legal Projects: The Court entered into agreements for the completion of certain legal projects. The projects included updating the Court's local contracting manual and completing required collections reporting.</p>

Court	Description of Project	Completion Date	Description of How the Project Funds Were Expended as Reported by the Trial Courts
San Benito	Digitization of Physical Case Files	9/30/2025	The remaining balance of this FHOB was modified to a new WBSE (O-359307-Project type 22) to complete a new CFR to manage the remaining projects approved for these funds, and a separate status update will be submitted by the Court.
San Benito	Digitization of Physical Case Files	12/31/2025	Information Technology Hosting: Court's CMS, email and all other critical IT tools were hosted remotely. This WBSE assisted the Court in completing the process to migrate to cloud-based and on-premises solutions. The remaining balance of this FHOB was modified to a new WBSE (O-359307-Project type 22) to complete a CFR to complete the remaining projects approved for these funds and a separate status update will be submitted by the Court.
Sierra	Courtroom Upgrades	6/30/2024	Courtroom remodel.
Stanislaus	Telephone System Hardware	6/30/2025	The project involved transitioning from LA-hosted phone system to a Zoom Phone system managed by Stanislaus Court. This move aimed to enhance communication efficiency, reduce costs, and leverage modern telephone features. The project included assessing the current system, planning the migration, implementing the new system, conducting thorough testing, and providing comprehensive training and ongoing support to court staff. The actual cost of the project was \$60,043 leaving an unused amount of \$25, 262. We requested that this balance be moved to a new FHOB designated as New Courthouse Parking. This was approved by TCBAC under WBS O-509301.
Sutter	Construction	4/1/2025	Funds were used in conjunction with O-519309 funds held for the buildout of former file storage space into IT offices.
Sutter	Construction	4/1/2025	Funds were used to build out space formerly housing paper case files into IT offices and scanning station cubicles.

Process, Criteria, and Required Information for Trial Court Trust Fund Fund Balance Held on Behalf of the Courts

Recommended Process for Trial Court Trust Fund Fund Balance Held on Behalf of the Courts

1. Trial Court Trust Fund fund balance will be held on behalf of trial courts only for expenditures or projects that cannot be funded by a court's annual budget or three-year encumbrance term and that require multiyear savings to implement. The program is not intended to address ongoing activities or commitments.
 - a. Allowable categories or activities include, but are not limited to:
 - i) Projects that extend beyond the original planned three-year term process such as expenses related to the delayed opening of new facilities or delayed deployment of new information systems;
 - ii) Technology improvements or infrastructure such as installing a local data center, datacenter equipment replacement, case management system deployment, converting to a new telephone system, desktop computer replacement, and replacement of backup emergency power systems;
 - iii) Facilities maintenance and repair allowed under rule 10.810 of the California Rules of Court such as flooring replacement and renovation as well as professional facilities maintenance equipment;
 - iv) Court efficiency projects such as online and smart forms for court users and systems for tracking case files; and
 - v) Other court infrastructure projects such as vehicle replacement and copy machine replacement.

2. The submission, review, and approval process is as follows:
 - a. All funds held on behalf requests for the prior fiscal year will be submitted once per year in the fall, after courts complete their year-end close-out, for consideration by the Judicial Council at its January business meeting.
 - b. Requests will be submitted to the Judicial Council's Director of Budget Services by the court's presiding judge or court executive officer.
 - c. Budget Services staff will review the request, ask the court to provide any missing or incomplete information, draft a preliminary report and share it with the court for any comments, revise as necessary, and issue the report to the Fiscal Planning Subcommittee of the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC). The subcommittee will meet to consider the request and hear any presentations from representatives of the requesting courts. Budget Services staff will issue a final report on behalf of the subcommittee for consideration by the Judicial Council.

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- d. The final report to the subcommittee and the Judicial Council will be provided to the requesting court before the report is made publicly available on the California Courts website.
3. The court is strongly encouraged to send a representative to the subcommittee meetings and may send a representative to the Judicial Council meetings to respond to questions. To be considered at the January Judicial Council business meeting, requests must be submitted to the Director of Budget Services no later than September 25.
4. The Judicial Council may consider including appropriate terms and conditions that courts must accept for the council to approve designating TCTF fund balance be held on the court's behalf.
 - a. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions will result in the immediate change in the designation of the related TCTF fund balance from restricted to unrestricted and no longer held on behalf of the court unless the council specifies an alternative action.
5. Request for funds held on behalf of the trial courts may be submitted for the following:
 - a. Requests for new projects or planned expenditures using prior fiscal year funding.
 - b. Requests for new projects or planned expenditures using unspent funding from a previously approved project that has been completed or surrendered by the requesting court.
 - c. Requests to amend previously approved projects or planned expenditures to adjust the amount of funding needed and/or the expenditure period to complete the original project.
 - d. Denied requests will result in the immediate change in the designation of the related TCTF fund balance from restricted to unrestricted and will no longer be held on behalf of the requesting court unless the Judicial Council specifies an alternative action.
6. Courts will be reimbursed monthly for actual expenses submitted for the approved project and recorded in the Judicial Council's Phoenix SAP accounting system.
 - a. Distribution of funding may be approved without a recorded expense at the discretion of the Judicial Council's Director of Budget Services. The court must submit a request and justification explaining why the funding is needed prior to incurring and reporting expenditures for the project.
7. Courts are required to report to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee annually on the status of each project or planned expenditure and how the funds were expended until the project is completed. For completed projects a final report must be submitted, and then no further reporting is required.

8. During the required trial court audit cycle, a review of any funds that were held on behalf of the courts will be made to confirm that they were used for their approved purpose.

Recommended Criteria for Eligibility for TCTF Fund Balance Held on Behalf of the Courts

TCTF fund balance will be held on behalf of the trial courts only for expenditures or projects that cannot be funded by the court's annual budget or three-year encumbrance term and that require multiyear savings to implement.

Recommended Information Required to Be Provided by Trial Courts for TCTF Fund Balance Held on Behalf of the Courts

Trial courts are required to provide all applicable information as requested on the *Application for TCTF Funds Held on Behalf of the Court*.