

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness
Annual Agenda¹—2026
Approved by the Executive and Planning Committee: [Date]

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Cochair:	Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three Hon. Kevin C. Brazile, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Lead Staff:	Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts
Advisory Body’s Charge/Membership: Rule 10.55 of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness (PAF), which is to make recommendations for improving access to the judicial system, fairness in the state courts, diversity in the judicial branch, and court services for self-represented parties. The committee also makes recommendations to the Center for Judicial Education and Resources (CJER) Advisory Committee, regarding proposals for the education and training of judicial officers and court staff. Rule 10.55(c) sets forth the membership composition of the committee. PAF currently has 27 members. The current committee roster is available on the committee’s webpage.	
Subgroups of the Advisory Body²: 1. Language Access Subcommittee: Advise and present recommendations to PAF regarding the Language Access Plan (LAP) and its overarching goal of ensuring access to justice for all court users, especially court users with limited English proficiency. As appropriate, make recommendations to PAF in the areas of technology, education, and translation, as well as recommendations on legislative and rule of court proposals to enhance language access services throughout the judicial branch. 2. Legislation and Proposals Subcommittee: Review and receive updates on legislation and proposals from Judicial Council Governmental Affairs, Legal Services, and other offices in the areas of access and fairness affecting the judicial branch. (<i>New</i>, the previous Ad Hoc working group was approved on the 2021 Annual Agenda.)	

¹ The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

² For the definition of “subcommittee” see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); for “working group,” see rule 10.70; for “workstream,” see rule 10.53(c); and for “education curriculum committee,” see rule 10.50(c)(6).

3. Racial Justice Subcommittee: Gather information on branch wide efforts in racial justice and bias, work with stakeholders in promoting those activities, and consider recommendations on racial justice within the branch for the committee. (*New*, the previous Ad Hoc working group was approved on the 2021 Annual Agenda.)

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026³

- Regular bi-monthly videoconference meetings on third Thursdays, 12:15–1:15 p.m., beginning February 2026.

☐ Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

³ Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) of the [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance of in-person meetings.

Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is extending the suspension of advisory body in-person meetings for the 2025–2026 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek approval from their advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2025, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key:

Refer to the following key for populating your project priority levels and branch goals. For each Priority Level 1 proposal, the advisory body **must** provide a specific reason why it should be done this year and how it fits within the identified category. If an advisory committee is interested in pursuing any Priority Level 2 proposals, please include justification as to why the proposal should be approved at this time.

Priority Levels for Non-Rules/Forms	
1	Must be done
2	Should be done
Priority Levels for Rules/Forms Proposals	
1a (Legal Compliance)	Proposal urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law.
1b (Council Directive)	Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms.
1c (Urgent Remedial Action)	Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public.
1d (Financial/ Legal Risk Mitigation)	Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk.
2a (Useful Changes in Law)	Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law.
2b (Responsive to Concerns)	Responsive to identified concerns or problems.
2c (Helpful Advancing Branch Goals)	Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

Judicial Branch Strategic Plan–Branch Goals	
I.	<u>Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion</u>
II.	<u>Independence and Accountability</u>
III.	<u>Modernization of Management and Administration</u>
IV.	<u>Quality of Justice and Service to the Public</u>
V.	<u>Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence</u>
VI.	<u>Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence</u>
VII.	<u>Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch</u>

#	New or One-Time Projects								
1.	Project Title: Develop a Video Remote Interpreting Directory of Interpreters in High Demand Emerging Languages (<i>New/Implementation Project</i>)	Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:									
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access ☒</td> <td>II Independence ☐</td> <td>III Modernization ☐</td> <td>IV Quality ☒</td> <td>V Education ☐</td> <td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td>VII Funding ☐</td> </tr> </table>			I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☒	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☐
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Project Summary: The PAF Language Access Subcommittee will work with Judicial Council staff from the Leadership Support Services' (LSS) Language Access Services Program to develop a directory of video remote interpreting (VRI) interpreters in high-demand emerging languages who can assist court staff and litigants. The 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study indicated that emerging languages like Hindi and Latin American indigenous languages, including Mam and Mixteco de Guerrero, are on the rise and now on the list of the 30 most interpreted languages. A directory of VRI interpreters for high-demand, emerging languages, including relay interpreters who can assist litigants remotely, will enhance access to justice and reduce costs and delays. As part of the project, training needs for interpreters will be assessed. Status/Timeline: December 2026. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Staff resources in Language Access Services (LSS). ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i> Internal/External Stakeholders: Court stakeholders (e.g., court interpreter coordinators and court Language Access Representatives). AC Collaboration: PAF Language Access Subcommittee.									
2.	Project Title: Requests for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities: Amend California Rule of Court, Rule 1.100 and Revise Forms MC-410 and MC-410-INFO (<i>New/Implementation Project</i>)	Priority: 1c							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:									
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#	New or One-Time Projects
	Project Summary: PAF will consider recommending amendments to rule 1.100 and revisions to forms MC-410 and MC-410-INFO to address inconsistent deadlines for disability accommodation requests in the California Rules of Court and the accommodations specified in Section 54.8 of the Civil Code, which governs requests for assistive listening devices and computer-aided transcription systems. The proposed changes to the rule and forms are based on feedback received by the committee indicating that the inconsistent deadlines for different types of accommodations can lead to confusion for court users attempting to make timely requests. Status/Timeline: A proposal to revise forms MC-410, MC-410-INFO, and amend rule 1.100 would circulate in the spring 2026 cycle with an expected effective date of January 1, 2027. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC staff. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i> Internal/External Stakeholders: None. AC Collaboration: PAF Legislation and Proposals Subcommittee.

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
1.	Project Title: Diversity in The Branch (Implementation Project)	Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:									
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Project Summary: PAF will do the following: - Continue to update the Pathways to Judicial Diversity toolkit based on feedback received from users. Conduct presentations and continue the rollout of the toolkit statewide in collaboration with justice partners, provided sufficient resources are available. - Continue to serve as a subject matter resource with justice partners and stakeholders on initiatives for increasing diversity in the judicial branch. - Continue to collaborate with CJER staff on improving and expanding educational resources in areas under PAF's purview and expertise related to diversity, inclusion, and fairness. - Work on implementation of the recommendations from the 2021 Judicial Diversity Summit approved by the Judicial Council on December 2, 2022. On March 3, 2023, the Executive and Planning Committee referred the following recommendations to PAF and its Judicial Council staff for consideration: - Summit recommendation 1, <i>Increase Education and Resources on Judicial Appointments and Elections Process.</i> - Summit recommendation 3, <i>Strengthen Efforts to Mentor Judicial Officers on the Bench as a Crucial Component of Their Continued Professional Development and Advancement;</i> and - Summit recommendation 4, <i>Strengthen and Coordinate Judicial Outreach to Connect with Diverse Younger Generations.</i> - Plan the 2026 Judicial Diversity Summit with our justice partners, including the California Lawyers Association. This task was included in the committee's prior Annual Agenda, item <i>e.</i> was updated to include new details. Status/Timeline: Ongoing. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC, IT, Governmental Affairs, and CJER staff ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: California Judges Association, California Lawyers Association, and California ChangeLawyers. AC Collaboration: Executive and Planning Committee, Legislation Committee, CJER Advisory Committee, and Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC).									

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
2.	Project Title: Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 8 (<i>Implementation Project</i>)	Priority: 1							
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3.	Project Title: Racial Justice Subcommittee (<i>Implementation Project</i>)	Priority: 1							
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#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	Project Summary: PAF will continue to review and provide updates regarding the branch’s efforts to address racial bias and promote fairness. The new subcommittee (formerly the Ad Hoc Racial Justice Working Group), will gather information on branch wide efforts for racial justice, collaborate with stakeholders to promote these initiatives, and make recommendations to PAF on ways to address racial bias within the branch. PAF’s subcommittee will also continue to maintain and promote both the Racial Justice webpages on the California Courts website and racial justice education and resources for judicial officers and court personnel. The Racial Justice webpages offer the public information on branch wide initiatives to address bias in the courts, promote judicial diversity, and improve access for court users with limited English proficiency. The educational and training resources assist courts with advancing racial equity and fairness. These will be regularly updated to reflect ongoing developments in the areas of racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Updates include a webinar to orient court staff to these resources and provide strategies for the implementation of tools to promote racial justice in their everyday work. This project was approved on the committee’s 2021 annual agenda. Status/Timeline: Ongoing. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC, CJER, Criminal Justice Services (CJS), and IT staff. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: California Judges Association, California Lawyers Association, and California ChangeLawyers. AC Collaboration: Executive and Planning Committee, Legislation Committee, CJER Advisory Committee, and TCPJAC.								
4.	Project Title: Develop Standard of Judicial Administration and Rules and Forms Revisions to Implement Assembly Bill 1899 (Stats. 2024, Ch. 812) (Juror Questionnaires) (<i>Implementation Project</i>) Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table><tr><td>I Access ☒</td><td>II Independence ☐</td><td>III Modernization ☐</td><td>IV Quality ☒</td><td>V Education ☐</td><td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td><td>VII Funding ☐</td></tr></table>	I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☒	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☐	Priority: 1a
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	Project Summary: Assembly Bill 1899 states, “(e) The Judicial Council shall adopt a standard of judicial administration to ensure that juror identification and any juror questionnaire is inclusive, including allowing a juror the ability to express their gender identity or gender expression, if applicable.” To comply with AB 1899, PAF will recommend revisions to rules and forms, as appropriate, circulate the proposal for public comment, and address any public comments received. Status/Timeline: An Invitation to Comment circulated in the winter 2025 cycle with an anticipated effective date of July 1, 2026.								

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC and Legal Services staff. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: None. AC Collaboration: PAF Legislation and Proposals Subcommittee, Criminal Law Advisory Committee (CLAC), Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee (CSCAC).								
5.	Project Title: Collaborate and Provide Subject Matter Expertise (<i>Implementation Project</i>)	Priority: 2							
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	Project Summary: PAF will serve as lead/subject matter resource for issues under the committee's charge to avoid duplication of efforts and contribute to the development of recommendations for council action. PAF will continue to provide education and technical assistance to the court self-help centers; make recommendations to the Judicial Council, as needed, regarding reports to the legislature on self-help services, requests for funding for self-help, and updates to the Guidelines for the Operation of Self-Help Centers in California Trial Courts as provided by California Rules of Court, rule 10.960 (e). PAF will continue collaborations with the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC), CLAC, and other relevant Judicial Council advisory bodies and staff on recommendations to improve access and fairness in traffic court. These collaborations started in 2017 when the Rules Committee chair directed PAF to collaborate with TAC and CLAC on recommendations to improve access and fairness in traffic court. This resulted in liaison relationships between the three committees as well as successful collaborations on several rules and forms, including the "Ability to Pay" rules and forms which went into effect in April 2018. PAF will continue to collaborate with and provide subject-matter expertise to CLAC and TAC as appropriate. PAF will also continue to provide technical assistance to the JusticeCorps program on evaluation of members' career paths and promote the program's efforts to enhance civics education. Post-Pandemic Initiatives – Outreach on Remote Services including the SRL portal and explore partnerships with community-based organizations to assist with remote proceedings. This task was included in the committee's prior Annual Agenda.								

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities								
	Status/Timeline: Ongoing. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC, Governmental Affairs, IT, and CJS staff. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: None. AC Collaboration: This item may include collaboration with various Judicial Council advisory bodies, including, but not limited to: Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, TCPJAC, CEAC, CJCAC, TAC, CLAC, CSCAC, ITAC; and Judicial Branch Ethics, and Fairness Curriculum Committee.								
6.	Project Title: Improving Access and Fairness through Technology (<i>Implementation Project</i>) Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access ☒</td> <td>II Independence ☐</td> <td>III Modernization ☐</td> <td>IV Quality ☒</td> <td>V Education ☐</td> <td>VI Infrastructure ☐</td> <td>VII Funding ☐</td> </tr> </table>	I Access ☒	II Independence ☐	III Modernization ☐	IV Quality ☒	V Education ☐	VI Infrastructure ☐	VII Funding ☐	Priority: 2
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	Project Summary: PAF will continue coordinating with Judicial Council IT staff on the development of the online California Courts Self-Help Guide (See The Critical Role of the State Judiciary in Increasing Access for Self-Represented Litigants: Self-Help Access 360) and coordinate with IT staff on development of a new reporting portal to assist courts in complying with Civil Code section 54.8 regarding assistive listening devices and CART services. PAF will also discuss and explore with ITAC other intersections between access, fairness, and technology and explore how to encourage the use of technologies that benefit court users with disabilities. This project does not result in recommendations to the Judicial Council and was approved on the committee's 2016 annual agenda. Status/Timeline: Ongoing. Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC and IT staff. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. Internal/External Stakeholders: None. AC Collaboration: ITAC.								

III. LIST OF 2025 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	Develop Training for Court Staff on Appropriate Use of Machine Translation Tools: The National Center for State Courts, under contract with the Judicial Council’s Language Access Services, worked in collaboration with council staff in Language Access Services and Information Technology to develop training resources for court staff on the appropriate use of the California Courts Translator application, which uses voice-to-text technology to enable communication between court staff and limited-English-proficient court users. The resources developed include: six training modules and a tip sheet to assist court staff with using the application, as well as multilingual explainer videos for court users. The developed resources are available to the courts on the California Courts Translator SharePoint site. Status: Completed.
2.	Implementation of Superior Court Lactation Accommodation Procedure (Sen. Bill 949 Stats. 2024, Ch. 159) in All Court Proceedings: Effective July 1, 2026, SB 949 requires superior courts to grant court users who are participating in court proceedings a reasonable amount of break time to express milk for their infant children. To implement the new law, the committee circulated a proposal for comment in Spring 2025 that included one new rule of court and one new optional form, which was approved by the Judicial Council on October 24, 2025 meeting. Status: Completed.
3.	Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 7: The cycle 7 grants for FY 2025–26 launched in February 2025. On July 18, 2025, the council approved funding to 17 courts for language access signage and technology projects. Status: Ongoing.
4.	Collaborate and Provide Subject Matter Expertise: Staff continued to provide weekly statewide training to Self-Help Center staff on a wide variety of subject matter including family law updates, form changes, and remote proceedings’ customer service. Status: Ongoing.
5.	Ad Hoc Racial Justice Working Group: A Racial Justice landing page was launched on the public courts.ca.gov site detailing the Judicial Council’s Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives. Status: Updates to and presentations of racial justice education and resources will be ongoing.