**Title:** Superior Court of Alameda Adjustment Request Proposal

**Date:** 8/5/2025

**Summary of DAAC Discussion, Analysis, and Next Steps**

**Introduction**

On January 15, 2025, an Adjustment Request Proposal (ARP) was submitted by the Superior Court of Alameda. This ARP proposes a minimum staff-to-judge ratio be factored into RAS as a supplemental need and included in the Workload Formula calculations. Specifically, this proposal recommends factoring in the minimum staff needed to support authorized judgeships when measuring each court’s staffing-based financial need. The Data Analytics Advisory Committee (DAAC) plans to review the factors related to this proposal in more detail and will tie this issue in with a greater discussion regarding workload.

**Background**

The Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee’s Workload Formula Adjustment Request Process is used by the trial courts to suggest modifications to the Workload Formula used for trial court funding[[1]](#footnote-1) Per Judicial Council policy the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) chair, in consultation with the Judicial Council Budget Services director, reviews each request received from the courts and refers them to the appropriate advisory committee for review and recommendation.

In February 2025, TCBAC referred the subject ARP to DAAC, determining that the issue was related to court workload that is measured in the RAS model.

Judicial Council staff introduced the ARP to DAAC at its May 13, 2025, meeting, where the committee discussed the request.

**Analysis**

The RAS model uses a weighted caseload methodology to assess staff resource need in the trial courts. The estimated need for each court is updated annually to include the most recent three-year average filings data, and this data from RAS then feeds into the Workload Formula. As such, neither RAS nor the Workload Formula currently accounts for a court’s number of authorized and funded judgeships when determining a court’s staffing-based resource need.

As illustrated in the ARP, Alameda expresses that the current iteration of the Workload Formula may lead some courts to be funded at a level where each judge does not have a sufficient level of support staff to perform the work expected of them. To address the court’s concern, this ARP suggests that the Workload Formula factor in each court’s number of authorized and funded judgeships to help ensure that every court is funded to allow for a minimum ratio of support staff to judges.

In evaluating ARP requests that come to the Data Analytics Advisory Committee, the following considerations are taken:

* Impact of the proposal on filings data, including changes in filings and availability of filings data in reportable format by all 58 courts.
* Changes to court workload, such as new processes or number of hearings, that may affect the RAS model caseweights.
* New laws or other issues that change the available time of court staff, which is measured in the staff year value.
* Other changes to the components of the calculation of staff FTE need as measured in RAS (i.e. court clusters, manager-supervisor ratio, program 90 ratio).

The subject ARP does not necessarily fall into the above criteria—although could be considered under “other changes”—and would impact how the model is currently designed. Currently the model does not consider a staff to judge ratio.

**Next Steps**

Judicial Council staff presented the ARP to DAAC at its May 13, 2025, meeting, where the committee discussed the request. The committee agreed to further review the factors relating to a minimum staff-to-judge ratio. Furthermore, the committee plans to tie this issue in when discussing workload and other RAS related materials.

**Attachments**

Attachment A: Alameda Superior Court ARP Jan. 15 2025.pdf

1. <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7188751&GUID=A90AB7DB-FA13-43B5-8817-947ABF3AB919> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)