



Judicial Council of California
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MATERIALS FOR JANUARY 9, 2025
VIRTUAL MEETING**

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Judicial Council of California
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

www.courts.ca.gov/tcbac.htm
tcbac@jud.ca.gov

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TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN MEETING

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

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Public Video Livestream: <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/4069>

Meeting materials will be posted on the advisory body web page on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be emailed to tcbac@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 November 22, 2024, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K)(1))

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means with a listen-only conference line available for the public. As such, the public may submit comments for this meeting only in writing. 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 e-mailed to tcbac@jud.ca.gov. Only written comments received by 12:00 p.m. on January 8, 2025 will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1)

Item 1

Court Reporter Funding Mid-Year Reallocation for 2024–25 (Action Required)

Consideration of mid-year reallocation of court reporter funding for 2024–25.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Mr. Chris Belloli, Manager, Judicial Council Business
Management Services

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn



Judicial Council of California
Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee

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TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

November 22, 2024
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

<https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/3923>

Advisory Body Members Present: Judges: Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin (Chair), Hon. Judith C. Clark, Hon. Kimberly A. Gaab, Hon. Wendy G. Getty, Hon. Patricia L. Kelly, Hon. Michael J. Reinhart, and Hon. Lisa M. Rogan.

Executive Officers: Ms. Rebecca Fleming (Vice Chair), Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Kevin Harrigan, Mr. Brandon E. Riley, Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Mr. Chris Ruhl, Mr. Neal Taniguchi, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki.

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. J. Eric Bradshaw, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Hon. David C. Kalemkarian, Mr. Shawn C. Landry, Mr. Darrel E. Parker, and Mr. David W. Slayton.

Others Present: Hon. Bunmi Awoniyi, Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Donna Newman, Ms. Thera Hearne, Ms. Oksana Tuk, and Ms. Rose Lane.

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair welcomed the members, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved minutes from the October 4, 2024, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-3)

Item 1 – 2024–25 Trial Court Trust Fund Allocation Increase for Judicial Council Audit Services and Budget Services Offices (Action Required)

Consideration of an increased Trial Court Trust Fund allocation of \$1.5 million for the Judicial Council's Audit Services and Budget Services offices for 2024–25.

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the recommendations to increase the fiscal year 2024–25 Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) allocation for the Judicial Council’s Audit Services and Budget Services offices by \$1.5 million, for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025, business meeting:

1. An additional \$1.3 million for the Audit Services office to reflect the resources included in the Budget Act of 2024 to ensure that the appropriate number of trial courts will be audited by the State Controller’s Office; and
2. An additional \$150,000 for the Budget Services office to fund the actual costs of budget workload for the collections program that are supported by the TCTF.

Item 2 – Trial Court Trust Fund Court Interpreters Program Funding (Action Required)

Consideration of court interpreter allocations and expenditures for 2023–24 and 2024–25.

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025, business meeting:

1. Address the \$4.6 million shortfall in fiscal year 2023–24 by allocating this amount from the \$35 million Court Interpreter Program (CIP) fund balance from the TCTF to courts that exceeded their allocation;
2. Approve the remaining \$35 million CIP fund balance from the TCTF to be allocated to courts mid-year to address any CIP shortfalls for fiscal years 2024–25 and 2025–26;
3. Direct Judicial Council staff to continue to monitor CIP funding and program expenditures, provide regular updates to the TCBCAC to report any changes, and work with the trial courts to develop a funding request for additional CIP resources beginning in fiscal year 2026–27; and
4. Direct Judicial Council Center for Families, Children & the Courts’ staff to work in collaboration with the Court Executives Advisory Committee to further refine the council’s Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters to address the statewide operational impacts of rising CIP expenditures.

Item 3 – 2025 Draft Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee Annual Agenda (Action Required)

Consideration of the draft Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee annual agenda for 2025.

Action: The TCBCAC unanimously voted to approve the 2025 TCBCAC draft annual agenda for consideration by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee at its meeting on December 10, 2024.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (ITEMS 1-2) (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1 – Court Reporter Funding Mid-Year Survey for 2024–25

Informational update on the mid-year survey for one-time redistribution of unspent court reporter funding for 2024–25.

Action: No action taken.

Info 2 – Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Updates

Informational update on the mid-year survey for one-time redistribution of unspent CARE Act funding for 2024–25 and potential allocation adjustments.

Action: No action taken.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
BUDGET SERVICES
Report to the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee
(Action Item)

Title: Court Reporter Funding Mid-Year Reallocation for 2024–25

Date: 1/9/2025

Contact: Chris Belloli, Manager, Business Management Services
415-865-7658 | chris.belloli@jud.ca.gov

Issue

Consideration of 2024–25 allocations for a one-time redistribution of unspent court reporter funding in fiscal year 2024–25 to ensure the full appropriation is maximized to increase the number of court reporters in family law and civil cases.

Background

Budget Language

Senate Bill 170 (Stats. 2021, ch. 240), which amended the Budget Act of 2021, included \$30 million ongoing General Fund to the Judicial Council for establishing a methodology to allocate funding to all trial courts to increase the number of court reporters in family law and civil cases. The budget language in the Budget Act of 2022 and ongoing expanded the use of this funding but did not affect how these funds are allocated to the courts.

Mid-year Reallocation of 2024-25 Court Reporter Funding

At its business meeting on July 12, 2024¹, the Judicial Council approved an allocation of \$20 million in court reporter funding and directed Judicial Council staff to survey the courts after allocations are distributed to the trial courts, no later than mid-year of fiscal year 2024–25, for a one-time redistribution of unspent funds to ensure the full appropriation is maximized to increase the number of court reporters in family law and civil cases. On September 20, 2024², the Judicial Council approved an additional allocation of \$10 million for fiscal year 2024–25 for a total of \$30 million in ongoing funding for court reporters, which completed the distribution of court reporter funding to the trial courts.

Reallocation Survey

Judicial Council staff conducted the survey after allocations were distributed to the courts asking for an estimate of potential unspent funding available in fiscal year 2024–25 for the one-time

¹ Judicial Council Business Meeting (July 12, 2024)

<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13046534&GUID=FAD8252D-5225-492C-B299-7B2DC379CAEB>

² Judicial Council Business Meeting (September 20, 2024)

<https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13260163&GUID=CE670600-3C2B-421B-B36A-B6FDB7F08599>

reallocation process. The survey focused on two key questions needed to identify unspent court reporter funding in fiscal year 2024–25 to be reallocated:

1. For courts that would not be able to use all their allocated funding for court reporters in fiscal year 2024–25, an estimate of the amount of funding that would not be used in the current fiscal year and available to be returned for this reallocation process; and
2. For courts that would be able to use additional funding for court reporters beyond their initial allocation in fiscal year 2024–25, an estimate of the amount of additional funding that could be used in the current fiscal year.

There are 18 courts that indicated through the survey that they would be able to return a portion of their court reporter funding in fiscal year 2024–25 for this reallocation process. The total amount of funding estimated by these 18 courts is \$820,000. The list of courts and estimated amount of unspent funding is outlined in Attachment A.

There are 15 courts that indicated they would be able to use additional funding for court reporters beyond their initial allocation in fiscal year 2024–25. The total amount of funding identified by these 15 courts is \$10.2 million. The list of courts and estimated amount of additional funding requested is outlined in Attachment B.

Based on the survey results, the preliminary amount of funding available for reallocation is \$820,000, which is not sufficient to cover the \$10.2 million in additional funding that is requested by the 15 courts. To ensure the funding is provided to the courts as timely as possible, the reallocation will take place in the March 2025 distribution and the final amounts may change pending updated estimates.

Trial court feedback was received in response to the mid-year survey that outlined the challenges in providing an accurate estimate for final court reporter expenditures for fiscal year 2024–25 at the time the survey was conducted.

Reallocation Methodology

On December 17, 2024³, the Funding Methodology Subcommittee voted to approve (with 9 yes votes and 3 no votes) a methodology for the one-time reallocation of additional funding to 15 requesting courts⁴. This methodology would allocate additional funding to the requesting courts based on the total amount of funding available as a proportion of the total amount of funding being requested by these courts in fiscal year 2024–25.

An update to the survey results was made subsequent to the December 17, 2024, Funding Methodology Subcommittee meeting and the revised amount of funding available for reallocation is estimated to be \$820,000, or 8.02 percent, of the \$10.2 million in additional funding being requested by the 15 courts in fiscal year 2024–25.

³ Funding Methodology Subcommittee meeting materials (December 17, 2024)
<https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/tcbac-20241217-fms-materials.pdf>

⁴ This update reduces the amount of funding available for reallocation but does not impact the methodology approved by the Funding Methodology Subcommittee to reallocate this funding.

Each of the requesting courts would be allocated the same proportion (i.e.: 8.02 percent) of the amount of additional funding they requested through the survey. For example, if a court requested \$100,000 in additional court reporter funding in the survey, then the court would receive 8.02 percent of this requested amount, or approximately \$8,020 in additional funding. The recommended one-time reallocation of additional funding to the 15 courts is outlined in Attachment C.

Alternatives Considered

The Funding Methodology Subcommittee considered an alternative option for the one-time reallocation of funds to the courts requesting additional funding. This alternative methodology would allocate additional funding to the requesting courts based on their proportion of the total funding initially allocated to these courts in fiscal year 2024–25. For example, if a court’s initial allocation was 10 percent of the total funding initially allocated to the requesting courts, then that court would receive 10 percent of the \$820,000 available for reallocation, or around \$82,000 in additional funding.

Members of the Funding Methodology Subcommittee voted (3 yes votes and 9 no votes) on this alternative reallocation methodology, which did not pass. Further detail of the alternative option considered and rejected by the subcommittee can be found [here](#).

Recommendation

Approve the recommendation to reallocate \$820,000 projected unspent court reporter funding in fiscal year 2024–25 to courts based on the total amount of funding available as a proportion of the total amount of funding being requested as outlined in Attachment C, including any technical adjustments to account for the final amount available prior to distribution. This recommendation will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its February 21, 2025, business meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A: Courts Returning Unused 2024–25 Funding for Court Reporter Reallocation

Attachment B: Courts Requesting Additional Funding in 2024–25 for Court Reporter Reallocation

Attachment C: Recommended Reallocation of Court Reporter Funding

Attachment A: Courts Returning Unused 2024–25 Funding for Court Reporter Reallocation

Court	Initial Allocation	Funding Returned for Reallocation Process
TOTAL	\$1,462,898	\$820,486
Alpine	\$25,000	\$16,667
Colusa	\$25,000	\$20,000
El Dorado	\$118,271	\$111,183
Glenn	\$25,000	\$25,000
Lassen	\$25,000	\$25,000
Marin	\$142,636	\$67,636
Mariposa	\$25,000	\$25,000
Merced	\$203,529	\$50,000
Modoc	\$25,000	\$25,000
Mono	\$25,000	\$25,000
Monterey	\$262,987	\$100,000
Santa Cruz	\$146,060	\$15,000
Shasta	\$173,496	\$125,000
Sierra	\$25,000	\$25,000
Siskiyou	\$42,778	\$40,000
Sutter	\$83,408	\$60,000
Tehama	\$64,733	\$40,000
Trinity	\$25,000	\$25,000

Attachment B: Courts Requesting Additional Funding in 2024–25 for Court Reporter Reallocation

Court	Initial Allocation	Additional Funding Requested for Reallocation Process
TOTAL	\$18,842,638	\$10,232,734
Kings	\$124,578	\$329,372
Los Angeles	\$9,553,044	\$692,000
Madera	\$166,742	\$74,500
Mendocino	\$74,629	\$25,000
Nevada	\$72,304	\$60,000
Orange	\$2,156,003	\$2,429,126
Riverside	\$1,756,704	\$2,691,597
San Diego	\$2,179,163	\$2,000,000
San Francisco	\$703,092	\$566,000
San Joaquin	\$557,652	\$55,000
San Mateo	\$376,647	\$602,023
Santa Barbara	\$258,026	\$76,465
Solano	\$306,758	\$200,000
Tuolumne	\$54,146	\$153,919
Ventura	\$503,150	\$277,733

Attachment C: Recommended Reallocation of Court Reporter Funding

Court	Initial Allocation	Additional Funding Requested	Amount of Funding Available for Reallocation	Funding Available as a Proportion of Amount Requested	Reallocation of Additional Funding
TOTAL	\$18,842,638	\$10,232,734	\$820,486	8.02%	\$820,486
Kings	\$124,578	\$329,372		8.02%	\$26,410
Los Angeles	\$9,553,044	\$692,000		8.02%	\$55,486
Madera	\$166,742	\$74,500		8.02%	\$5,974
Mendocino	\$74,629	\$25,000		8.02%	\$2,005
Nevada	\$72,304	\$60,000		8.02%	\$4,811
Orange	\$2,156,003	\$2,429,126		8.02%	\$194,773
Riverside	\$1,756,704	\$2,691,597		8.02%	\$215,819
San Diego	\$2,179,163	\$2,000,000		8.02%	\$160,365
San Francisco	\$703,092	\$566,000		8.02%	\$45,383
San Joaquin	\$557,652	\$55,000		8.02%	\$4,410
San Mateo	\$376,647	\$602,023		8.02%	\$48,272
Santa Barbara	\$258,026	\$76,465		8.02%	\$6,131
Solano	\$306,758	\$200,000		8.02%	\$16,037
Tuolumne	\$54,146	\$153,919		8.02%	\$12,342
Ventura	\$503,150	\$277,733		8.02%	\$22,269