



Judicial Council of California

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**TRIAL COURT BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING**

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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

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**OPEN MEETING**

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**Call to Order and Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:01 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.

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**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1-5)**

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**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.*

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**A D J O U R N M E N T**

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on May 7, 2026.