



Judicial Council of California

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

May 7, 2026

12:00 p.m. – 3:00 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. David C. Kalemkarian, and Hon. Patricia L. Kelly.

Executive Officers: Ms. Rebecca Fleming (Vice-Chair), Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Jake Chatters, Mr. Chad Finke, Mr. Kevin Harrigan, Mr. Michael M. Roddy, Mr. Chris Ruhl, Mr. David W. Slayton, Ms. Kim Turner, Hon. Scott R. L. Young, and Mr. David H. Yamasaki

Members Absent: Hon. Julie A. Emede, Hon. Samantha P. Jessner, Hon. Sonny S. Sandhu, and Ms. Kate Bieker

Others Present: Hon. Lawrence Brown (Liaison), Mr. Zlatko Theodorovic, Ms. Fran Mueller, Ms. Joleen Allgood, Ms. Audrey Fancy, Ms. Daphne Light, Ms. Kelly Meehleib, Ms. Megan Ellis, Ms. Aman Singh, and Ms. Oksana Tuk

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body approved the minutes of the March 26, 2026, Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 3)

Item 1

Court-Appointed Juvenile Dependency Counsel Allocations for Fiscal Year 2026–27 (Action Required)

Consideration of court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel allocations for fiscal year 2026-2027.

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

1. *Allocate funding according to the existing court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel funding methodology approved by the Judicial Council. Proposed allocations are detailed in Attachment 1A, 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 spending plan survey of all the trial courts in May 2026 to determine whether any courts do not anticipate fully spending their proposed allocation for FY 2026–27. Any identified savings will be made available for allocation to (1) small courts impacted by funding reductions due to the existing methodology to provide a glide path to adjust to FY 2026–27 reductions. Subject to available funding, permit small courts to request up to 50 percent of the difference, if any, between their proposed allocation and the allocation calculated after applying small court adjustments, but before being capped at 100 percent of their total need; and (2) if remaining funds are available, allocate to large courts to offset funding for small court adjustments. Council staff will bring updated proposed allocations back to TCBAC for consideration once the survey results are available.*

Item 2

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.

Action: *TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the proposed FY 2026–27 IMF allocations, totaling \$47.8 million, detailed in Attachment 2A. This includes \$798,000 for rent costs and personal services costs for four vacant positions within the Judicial Branch Technology Services program. These costs were not included in the report previously considered by the Revenue & Expenditure Subcommittee. The recommended allocations will be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026.*

Item 3

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.

Action: *TCBAC unanimously voted to approve the following recommendations to be considered by the Judicial Branch Budget Committee and then the Judicial Council at its business meeting on July 17, 2026:*

1. *Approve base, discretionary, and nondiscretionary program allocations from the Trial Court Trust Fund and General Fund of \$3.2 billion (Attachment 3B, 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 3B, 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 3C, column Q).*

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Item 1

Court-Approved Juvenile Dependency Counsel Allocation Methodology Working Group Update

Update on the working group's initial meeting and upcoming activities.

Action: *Information item only. No action was taken.*

Item 2

Fund Held on Behalf of the Trial Courts Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25

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

Action: *Information item only. No action was taken.*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on August 27, 2026.