

Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2021

Approved by the Executive and Planning Committee: [TBD]

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Joyce D. Hinrichs, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Humboldt County
Lead Staff:	Mr. Corey Rada, Senior Analyst, Trial Court Leadership
Committee's Charge/Membership: <p>[Rule 10.46(a)] of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC), which is to contribute to the statewide administration of justice by monitoring areas of significance to the justice system and making recommendations to the Judicial Council on policy issues affecting the trial courts. In addition to this charge, rule 10.46(b) sets forth the additional duties of the committee.</p> <p>Per rule 10.46(c), the TCPJAC is comprised of the presiding judges of all 58 superior courts. Additionally, rule 10.46 (d) establishes an Executive Committee consisting of the committee chair, vice-chair, and members in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) All presiding judges from superior courts with 48 or more judges;(b) Two presiding judges from superior courts with 2 to 5 judges, who are elected by the members in this court category;(c) Three presiding judges from superior courts with 6 to 15 judges, who are elected by the members in this court category; and(d) Four presiding judges from superior courts with 16 to 47 judges, who are elected by the members in this court category. <p>The current committee roster is available on the committee's web page.</p>	

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

Subcommittees/Working Groups²:

1. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee
2. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee.

Meetings Planned for 2021³ (Advisory body and all subcommittees and working groups)

Date/Time/Location or Teleconference:

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and CEAC Statewide Meetings:

- February 10, 2021 (webinar)
- August 12-13, 2021 (in-person, location TBD)

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and CEAC Executive Committee Meetings:

- April 28, 2021 (in-person, Sacramento)
- October 27, 2021 (in-person, Sacramento)

Specific subcommittee/working group meeting dates are to be determined at this time. Meeting occurrences are estimates for 2021 and may be subject to change.

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee – 15 teleconferences

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee – 5 teleconferences

Check here if exception to policy is granted by Executive Office or rule of court.

Assistant presiding judges are permitted to attend and be reimbursed for travel expenditures to statewide meetings in addition to members of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee.

² California Rules of Court, rule 10.30 (c) allows an advisory body to form subgroups, composed entirely of current members of the advisory body, to carry out the body's duties, subject to available resources, with the approval of its oversight committee.

³ Refer to [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

COMMITTEE PROJECTS

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities ⁴	
1.	Project Title: TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee	Priority 1 ⁵
		Strategic Plan Goal ⁶ II, III
<p>Project Summary⁷: The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee (JLS) is charged with developing, reviewing, commenting, and making recommendations on proposed legislation to establish new or amend existing laws. The subcommittee monitors proposed and existing legislation that has a significant operational or administrative impact on the trial courts. The subcommittee also reviews proposals to create, amend, or repeal statutes to achieve cost savings or greater efficiencies for the trial courts and recommend proposals for future consideration by the Legislation Committee.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Governmental Affairs and Trial Court Leadership staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: TCPJAC and Legislation Committee.</p>		

⁴ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as *implementation* or a *program* in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁵ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to the law; 1(b) Urgently needed to respond to a recent change in the law; 1(c) Adoption or amendment of rules or forms by a specified date required by statute or council decision; 1(d) Provides significant cost savings and efficiencies, generates significant revenue, or avoids a significant loss of revenue; 1(e) Urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; 1(f) Otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk; 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement statutory changes; 2(b) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

⁶ Indicate which goal number of The Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch the project most closely aligns.

⁷ A key objective is a strategic aim, purpose, or “end of action” to be achieved for the coming year.

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities⁴	
2.	Project Title: TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee	Priority 1⁵
	Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II, III, VI	
<p>Project Summary⁷: The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee (JRS) is charged with developing, reviewing, and providing input on proposals to establish, amend, or repeal the California Rules of Court, Standards of Judicial Administration, and Judicial Council forms to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the trial courts. The subcommittee focuses on those proposals that may lead to a significant fiscal or operational impact on the trial courts. Additionally, the subcommittee makes recommendations to the Rules Committee concerning the overall rule making process.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Legal Services and Trial Court Leadership staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>The project includes allocations or distributions of funds to the courts, which have been reviewed and approved by Budget Service.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: TCPJAC, Rules Committee, and various advisory bodies.</p>		
3.	Project Title: Legislative Advocacy of Adequate Funding for the Trial Court Trust Fund	Priority 1⁵
	Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II, VII	
<p>Project Summary⁷: Develop strategies on how presiding judges can strengthen their role and be better prepared to both advocate for and assist the Judicial Council, including Governmental Affairs, in advocating for adequate funding to the Trial Court Trust Fund.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Governmental Affairs, Budget Services, and Trial Court Leadership staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Superior courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: CEAC and the Judicial Branch Budget Committee.</p>		

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities ⁴	
4.	Project Title: Serve as a Resource	Priority 2⁵
<p>Project Summary⁷: Serve as a subject matter resource for Judicial Council divisions and other council advisory bodies to avoid duplication of efforts and contribute to development of recommendations for council action.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Trial Court Leadership staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: CEAC and various advisory bodies.</p>		

II. LIST OF 2020 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	<p>Educational Opportunities. TCPJAC and CEAC leadership collaborated with Judicial Council staff to conduct eight business meetings in 2020. These meetings covered topics including budget priorities, legislative updates, information technology updates, emergency preparedness and response, court operations, and COVID-19 pandemic planning and response. Participants included presiding judges, assistant presiding judges, court executive officers, and assistant court executive officers.</p>
2.	<p>TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee. Remained active throughout 2020, holding 11 conference calls to, on behalf of the TCPJAC and CEAC, provide review and make recommendations to the Legislation Committee on 30 different bills identified by Governmental Affairs as having significant operational or administrative impact on the trial courts. In December 2020, the subcommittee meeting schedule will be set according to the Legislation Committee’s 2021 meeting schedule. The subcommittee will continue to meet to review proposals to create, amend, or repeal statutes to achieve cost savings or greater efficiencies for the trial courts, and recommend proposals for future consideration.</p>
3.	<p>TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee. Remained active throughout 2020, on behalf of the TCPJAC and CEAC, and reviewed 44 rule proposals throughout the course of the year. The subcommittee provided comment on 16 rule proposals that may have a significant fiscal or operational impact on the trial courts. This subcommittee will continue to be active in 2021 and meet as needed.</p>
4.	<p>Pandemic Continuity of Operations Resource Guide. In May 2020, the Judicial Council of California launched the Pandemic Continuity of Operations Working Group, consisting of presiding judges and court executives, to collect best practices and publish a framework to help the state’s 58 superior courts address interrupted services amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2020, the working group, in collaboration with Judicial Council staff contributors, published the Pandemic Continuity of Operations Resource Guide. This tool serves as a resource guide to assist trial courts with navigating the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining ongoing modifications to public health restrictions from the state, counties, and cities.</p>