Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee
Annual Agenda[1]—2026
Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: [Date]

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Patricia L. Kelly, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Santa Barbara County
Lead Staff:	Mr. Corey Rada, Senior Analyst, Leadership Support Services

Advisory Body's Charge/Membership:

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. Rule 10.46(b) sets forth the additional duties of the committee.

Rule 10.46(c), sets forth the membership position of the committee. The Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee currently has 58 members. rule 10.46 (d) establishes an Executive Committee consisting of the committee chair, vice-chair, and members in the following categories:

(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.

The current committee roster is available on the committee's web page.

[1] The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

Subgroups of the Advisory Body[2]:

1. TCPJAC/Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC) Caseflow Management Subcommittee
2. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee
3. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026[3]

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Statewide Meetings:

- January 22–23, 2026 (In-Person: Offsite Location TBD; Travel costs covered for PJ & CEO's.)
- August 27–28, 2026 (In-Person: Location TBD; Travel reimbursement TBD)

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Executive Committee Meetings:

- April 10, 2026 (In-Person: Sacramento JCC Offices; Travel costs covered for TCPJAC Executive Committee members)
- October 23, 2026 (In-Person: Sacramento JCC Offices; Travel reimbursement TBD)

Specific subcommittee/working group meeting dates are to be determined at this time. Meeting occurrences are estimates for 2026 and may be subject to change.

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee – 15 videoconferences
TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee – 6 videoconferences
TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee – 6 videoconferences

☐ Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

[2] For the definition of "subcommittee" see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); for "working group," see rule 10.70; for "workstream," see rule 10.53(c); and for "education curriculum committee," see rule 10.50(c)(6).

[3] Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) of the *Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies* for governance on in-person meetings. Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is extending the suspension of advisory body in-person meetings for the 2025−2026 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek approval from their advisory body's internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2025, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key:
Refer to the following key for populating your project priority levels and branch goals. For each Priority Level 1 proposal, the advisory body **must** provide a specific reason why it should be done this year and how it fits within the identified category. If an advisory committee is interested in pursuing any Priority Level 2 proposals, please include justification as to why the proposal should be approved at this time.

Priority Levels for Non-Rules/Forms	
1	Must be done
2	Should be done
Priority Levels for Rules/Forms Proposals	
1a (Legal Compliance)	Proposal urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law.
1b (Council Directive)	Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms.
1c (Urgent Remedial Action)	Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public.
1d (Financial/ Legal Risk Mitigation)	Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk.
2a (Useful Changes in Law)	Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law.
2b (Responsive to Concerns)	Responsive to identified concerns or problems.
2c (Helpful Advancing Branch Goals)	Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

Judicial Branch Strategic Plan–Branch Goals	
I.	**Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion**
II.	**Independence and Accountability**
III.	**Modernization of Management and Administration**
IV.	**Quality of Justice and Service to the Public**
V.	**Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence**
VI.	**Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence**
VII.	**Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch**

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
1.	***Project Title:*** **TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee**	***Priority:*** 1
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: I *Access* ☒ II *Independence* ☒ III *Modernization* ☒ IV *Quality* ☒ V *Education* ☒ VI *Infrastructure* ☐ VII *Funding* ☐	
	Project Summary: The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee will develop strategies to promote effective caseflow management in the courts. As defined by the National Center for State Courts, caseflow management is the constellation of court rules, business practices, culture and governance, and staffing and technology infrastructure that are assembled to achieve the objectives of timely, cost-effective, and procedurally fair justice. ***Status/Timeline:*** Ongoing. ***Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:*** LSS, Research, Analytics, and Data, Center for Judicial Education and Resources. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. ***Internal/External Stakeholders:*** National Center for State Courts. ***AC Collaboration:*** CEAC, Data Analytics Advisory Committee, and Center for Judicial Education and Resource Advisory Committee.	
2.	***Project Title:*** **TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee**	***Priority:*** 1
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: I *Access* ☒ II *Independence* ☒ III *Modernization* ☒ IV *Quality* ☒ V *Education* ☒ VI *Infrastructure* ☒ VII *Funding* ☒	
	Project Summary: The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee develops, reviews, comments, and makes recommendations on proposed legislation to establish new or amend existing laws. The subcommittee also solicits from trial court leadership and reviews proposals to create, amend, or repeal statutes to achieve cost savings or greater efficiencies for the trial courts and recommends proposals for future consideration by the Judicial Council Legislation Committee. Work with Governmental Affairs and Budget Services to ensure trial courts engage in advocacy with local delegations to further the Judicial Council's Legislative Priorities. ***Status/Timeline:*** Ongoing.	

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities
	Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Governmental Affairs, LSS, Budget Services. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. ***Internal/External Stakeholders:*** Legislation Committee. ***AC Collaboration:*** CEAC.
3.	***Project Title:*** **TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee** — ***Priority:*** 1 ***Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:*** I *Access* ☒ · II *Independence* ☒ · III *Modernization* ☒ · IV *Quality* ☒ · V *Education* ☒ · VI *Infrastructure* ☒ · VII *Funding* ☒ ***Project Summary:*** The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee (JRS) develops, reviews, and provides input on proposals to establish, amend, or repeal the California Rules of Court, Standards of Judicial Administration, Judicial Council forms, Code of Ethics for the Court Employees of California, and Judicial Council policies affecting the trial courts, to improve the efficiency and/or effectiveness of the trial courts. The subcommittee focuses on proposals that may lead to a significant fiscal and/or operational impact on the trial courts. The subcommittee also makes recommendations concerning the overall rule-making process. JRS will review the Code of Ethics for Court Employees of California during this annual agenda year to recommend updates to CEAC. ***Status/Timeline:*** Ongoing. ***Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:*** LSO, LSS. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. ***Internal/External Stakeholders:*** None. ***AC Collaboration:*** CEAC, Rules Committee, and other advisory bodies as needed.

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
4.	***Project Title:*** **Strengthen the Role of Presiding Judges in Outreach to the Legislative and Executive Branches**	***Priority:*** 2
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: I *Access* ☐ · II *Independence* ☒ · III *Modernization* ☐ · IV *Quality* ☐ · V *Education* ☐ · VI *Infrastructure* ☐ · VII *Funding* ☐	
	Project Summary: In consultation with the Judicial Council's Administrative Director, Governmental Affairs, and Budget Services, TCPJAC will support Judicial Council outreach with the legislature. This effort will entail the development of materials for presiding judges and perhaps educational sessions with legislative members to educate them on the judicial branch budget and the fiscal/operational needs of the trial courts. TCPJAC will also assist in strengthening communication with the executive branch and with the Department of Finance in particular. ***Status/Timeline:*** Ongoing. ***Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:*** Judicial Council's Administrative Director; LSS, Budget Services, and Governmental Affairs. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. ***Internal/External Stakeholders:*** None. ***AC Collaboration:*** None.	
5.	***Project Title:*** **Serve as a Resource and Identify Emerging Trends and Issues in the Courts**	***Priority:*** 2
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: I *Access* ☒ · II *Independence* ☒ · III *Modernization* ☒ · IV *Quality* ☒ · V *Education* ☒ · VI *Infrastructure* ☒ · VII *Funding* ☐	
	Project Summary: Serve as a subject matter resource for Judicial Council divisions and other council advisory groups to avoid duplication of efforts and contribute to the development of recommendations for council action. Identify, monitor, and discuss emerging trends and issues at the trial court level to increase communication with the Judicial Council, make recommendations concerning court administration to the council, and identify matters to bring to the council's Executive Office to enhance branch communication. ***Status/Timeline:*** Ongoing.	

	Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: LSS. ☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. ***Internal/External Stakeholders:*** Superior courts. ***AC Collaboration:*** CEAC, Rules Committee, and various advisory bodies.

III. LIST OF 2025 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	**Educational Opportunities:** TCPJAC and CEAC leadership collaborated with Judicial Council staff to conduct four business meetings in 2025. These meetings covered topics including budget priorities, legislative updates, information technology updates, and court operations. Participants included presiding judges, assistant presiding judges, court executive officers, and assistant court executive officers.
2.	**TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee:** Remained active throughout 2025, holding 11 conference calls on behalf of the TCPJAC and CEAC, to provide review and make recommendations to the Legislation Committee on 28 different bills identified by Governmental Affairs as having significant operational or administrative impact on the trial courts. The subcommittee will continue to be active in 2026 and meet as needed.
3.	**TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee:** Remained active throughout 2025, on behalf of the TCPJAC and CEAC, and reviewed 39 rule proposals throughout the course of the year. The subcommittee provided comments on 35 rule proposals that may have a significant fiscal or operational impact on the trial courts. This subcommittee will continue to be active in 2026 and meet as needed. In addition to reviewing proposals from other advisory bodies, JRS began the process of identifying potential new rule proposals and rule revisions that the subcommittee would like to undertake. A new submission form was also created to allow TCPJAC/CEAC members to submit rule change proposals to JRS.
4.	**TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee:** CEAC and TCPJAC began collaborating with consultants from the National Center for State Courts to begin developing a framework to evaluate and improve caseflow management statewide.