

Choose Advisory Body Name Annual Agenda—2027

Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: [Enter a date](#)

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair: Hon. Rodney Cortez, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of San Bernardino 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. TCPJAC consists of the presiding judges from the 58 California superior courts. [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.

Subgroups of the Advisory Body:

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

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2027:

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Statewide Meetings:

- January 21–22, 2027 (In-Person: Rancho Cordova Marriott; Travel costs covered for presiding judges (PJs) and court executive officers (CEOs).)
- August 5–6, 2027 (In-Person: Location TBD; Travel costs covered for PJs and CEOs.)

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Executive Committee Meetings:

- April 30, 2027 (In-Person: Sacramento. Travel costs incurred by attendees.)
- November 5, 2027 (In-Person: Sacramento. Travel costs incurred by attendees.)

Specific subcommittee meeting dates are to be determined at this time. Meeting occurrences are estimates for 2027 and may be subject to change.

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee – 15 videoconferences

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee – 10 videoconferences

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

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key

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 Legislation Subcommittee

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☒	III. Modernization ☒	IV. Quality ☒	V. Education ☒	VI. Infrastructure ☒	VII. Funding ☒
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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 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. They also 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

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: LSS, Governmental Affairs, and Budget Services staff.

☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

Internal/External Stakeholders: Legislation Committee

AC Collaboration: CEAC

2. *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 ☒
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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 to the Rules Committee 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. Following its development of California Rules of Court, rule 10.440, JRS may make additional proposals relating to law enforcement activity conducted on property of court facilities. JRS will work with other advisory bodies as needed to propose rule and form changes necessitated by the California Supreme Court's opinion in *Family Violence Appellate Project, et al. v. Superior Court of Contra Costa County, et al.* JRS will finish its work to review and recommend, as appropriate, amendments to California Rules of Court, rule 10.48, the CEAC Bylaws, and other existing CEAC governance documents. JRS will finish its work to analyze California Rules of Court, rule 10.603 (c)(2) related to judicial schedules to determine if the rule should be modified to better account for all types of leave and to promote consistency across trial courts. JRS may propose modifications to the rule if needed.

Status/Timeline: Ongoing

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Legal Services and LSS staff.

☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

Internal/External Stakeholders: None

AC Collaboration: CEAC, Rules Committee, and other advisory bodies as needed.

3. **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 ☐
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Project Summary: The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee will begin implementing 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: Leadership Support Services (LSS), Research, Analytics, and Data, and Center for Judicial Education and Resources staff.

☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

Internal/External Stakeholders: None

AC Collaboration: CEAC, Data Analytics Advisory Committee, and Center for Judicial Education and Resources Advisory Committee

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 ☐
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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. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

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 ☐
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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. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

Internal/External Stakeholders: Superior courts

AC Collaboration: CEAC, Rules Committee, and various advisory bodies

III. LIST OF 2026 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Project Highlights and Achievements

1. **Educational Opportunities:** TCPJAC and CEAC leadership collaborated with Judicial Council staff to conduct four business meetings in 2026. 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 2026, holding 11 conference calls on behalf of TCPJAC and CEAC, to provide review and make recommendations to the Legislation Committee on 31 different bills identified by Governmental Affairs as having significant operational or administrative impact on the trial courts.
3. **TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee:** Remained active throughout 2026 and reviewed 48 rule proposals throughout the course of the year. The subcommittee provided comment on 39 rule proposals that may have a significant fiscal or operational impact on the trial courts. In addition to reviewing proposals from other advisory bodies, JRS began working on various projects including making changes to CEAC governance policies and procedures, developing a proposal relating to law enforcement activity conducted on property of court facilities, and analyzing California Rules of Court, rule 10.603 (c)(2) related to judicial schedules.
4. **TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Caseflow Management Subcommittee:** Collaborated with consultants from the National Center for State Courts to complete a study with eight pilot courts and create a caseflow management self-assessment tool based on the results of the study. Developed statewide caseflow management recommendations to assist courts in promoting efficient and effective caseflow management.