

Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee

Annual Agenda¹—2025

Approved by the Executive and Planning Committee: November 18, 2025

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
<p>Committee’s Charge/Membership:</p> <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. Rule 10.46(b) sets forth the additional duties of the committee.</p> <p>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:</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>	
<p>Subgroups of the Advisory Committee²:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee2. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee	

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

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

Meetings Planned for 2025³ (Advisory body and all subgroups listed above.)

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Statewide Meetings:

- January 23–24, 2025 (In-Person: San Francisco)
- August 21–22, 2025 (TBD)

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Executive Committee Meetings:

- May 21, 2025 (In-Person: Sacramento)
- November 5, 2025 (TBD)

Specific subcommittee/working group meeting dates are to be determined at this time. Meeting occurrences are estimates for 2025 and may be subject to change.

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee – 15 videoconferences

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee – 5 videoconferences

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

³ Refer to section IV. 2. 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 suspending advisory body in-person meetings for the 2024–2025 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek final approval from the advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2024, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS⁴

#	New or One-Time Projects	
1.	Project Title: Joint TCPJAC/CEAC Caseflow Management Subcommittee (<i>New</i>)	Priority 1⁵
		Strategic Plan Goal⁶ I, II, III
<p>Project Summary: TCPJAC and the Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC) will convene a subcommittee that 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.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: 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: Trial courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: CEAC, Data Analytics Advisory Committee, and Center for Judicial Education and Research.</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 or accurately reflect the law; 1(b) Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms; 1(c) Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; or 1(d) Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. *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.* 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law; 2(b) Responsive to identified concerns or problems; or 2(c) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives. *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.*

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

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
1.	Project Title: TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee	Priority 1
		Strategic Plan Goal II, III
	<p>Project Summary: 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 recommends proposals for future consideration by the Legislation Committee.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff 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: CEAC and Legislation Committee.</p>	
2.	Project Title: TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee	Priority 1
		Strategic Plan Goal II, III, VI
	<p>Project Summary: 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 and makes recommendations to the Rules Committee concerning the overall rule making process. Additionally, JRS is charged with reviewing non-rule related invitations to comment that may have an impact on the trial courts.</p> <p>JRS will develop a California Rule of Court governing trial court data collection related to law enforcement activity conducted on property of court facilities by entities other than court security. This rule is intended to be transparent, consistent, and implementable across all courts. JRS may also make additional proposals relating to law enforcement activity conducted on property of court facilities.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing</p>	

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	<p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Legal Services 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: CEAC, Rules Committee, and various advisory bodies.</p>	
3.	<p>Project Title: Strengthen the Role of Presiding Judges in Outreach to the Legislative and Executive Branches</p>	<p>Priority 2</p>
		<p>Strategic Plan Goal II</p>
	<p>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.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council’s Administrative Director; Trial Court Leadership, Budget Services, and Governmental Affairs 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: None.</p>	
4.	<p>Project Title: Serve as a Resource and Identify Emerging Trends and Issues in the Courts</p>	<p>Priority 2</p>
		<p>Strategic Plan Goal I, II, III, IV, V, VI</p>
	<p>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</p>	

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: 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, Rules Committee, and various advisory bodies</p>

III. LIST OF 2024 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	Educational Opportunities. TCPJAC and CEAC leadership collaborated with Judicial Council staff to conduct four business meetings in 2024. These meetings covered topics including budget priorities, legislative updates, information technology updates, emergency preparedness and response, 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 2024, holding 11 videoconferences on behalf of TCPJAC and CEAC, to provide review and make recommendations to the Legislation Committee on 26 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 2025 and meet as needed.
3.	TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee. Remained active throughout 2024, on behalf of the TCPJAC and CEAC, reviewed 39 rule proposals throughout the course of the year. The subcommittee provided comments on 22 rule proposals that may have a significant fiscal or operational impact on the trial courts. This subcommittee will continue to be active in 2025 and meet as needed.
4.	Provided recommendations on remote proceeding standards for judicial officers. Through the TCPJAC Working Group on California Code of Civil Procedure 367.10, TCPJAC assisted in the creation of a rule of court that includes standards for when a judicial officer may preside over a remote court proceeding from a location other than a courtroom. These recommendations resulted in the adoption of California Rules of Court, rule 10.635 by the Judicial Council.
5.	Caseflow Management Education. TCPJAC, in collaboration with CEAC began the process of educating members on implementing methods to achieve effective caseflow management. This topic was highlighted by the Chief Justice in her State of the Judiciary speech and has subsequently become a priority for TCPJAC.