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Judicial Council

March 3, 2025

Hon. Scott D. Wiener
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2023–24*, as required under Government Code section 68086(f)

Dear Senator Wiener and Assembly Member Gabriel:

Pursuant to Government Code section 68086(f), the Judicial Council is submitting this report on court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in 2023–24.

In 2023–24, a total of $23.56 million in court reporter fees was collected and remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1) and (2) and 68086.1. The estimated total expenditures for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings was $81.37 million.[1]

[1] This estimate does not account for the $30 million in ongoing funding for courts to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law cases. The expenditure of this annual funding is tracked separately, which totaled $25.25 million in 2023–24, and can be used by courts for recruitment and retention purposes, filling existing vacancies, converting part-time positions to full-time positions, increasing salary schedules, and providing signing and retention bonuses to enable trial courts to compete with private employers in the labor market.

Fees Collected

The $23.56 million in court reporter fee revenue comprises the following:

- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(1), fees in the amount of $1.35 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting under one hour.
- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(2), fees in the amount of $1.03 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting one hour or more on the first and each succeeding judicial day that services were provided.
- Under Government Code section 68086.1, fees in the amount of $21.18 million were deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund from:
    - First paper filings and responses for superior court civil proceedings, other than proceedings under the Probate Code, in the superior court where the amount demanded is more than $10,000;
    - Family law filings and responses; and
    - Marriage dissolution filings and responses.

Expenditures

The $81.37 million in court reporter services expenditures is an estimate, as most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case type. As in this report for previous years, the estimate was calculated by multiplying the sum of the total amount of the budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2023 ($210.00 million) and expenditures for contract court reporters ($6.98 million) by 37.5 percent. According to the Judicial Council's 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study, 37.5 percent is the estimated percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases, which includes general civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family law proceedings.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Chris Belloli, Manager, Temporary Assigned Judges Program, at 415-865-7658 or chris.belloli@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Michelle J. Curran

Michelle Curran
Administrative Director

Judicial Council
MC/CB
cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel
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Eric Dang, Counsel, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Mike McGuire
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Anita Lee, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office
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