

TRAVEL RATES and GUIDELINES

The Judicial Council has approved maximum limits on reimbursable travel-related expenses. To be eligible for lodging and/or meal reimbursement, expenses must be incurred in excess of 25 miles from headquarters.

Lodging – Receipts are required and each day of lodging claimed must be listed separately on the reimbursement claim form. Maximum rates are listed below. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and for centrally booked conferences or meetings. Receipts for hotel lodging charges must be on a pre-printed bill head with a zero balance shown. The hotel express check-out or receipt from a third-party provider for lodging booked via the internet does not represent valid receipts. In some instances, a hotel may decline to issue a receipt on their pre-printed bill head for lodging booked via the internet.

In-state: Actual lodging cost per night, not to exceed the following rates supported by a zero balance receipt, plus applicable tax (if not waived by the lodging establishment):

San Francisco County	\$150
Alameda, San Mateo, Santa Clara Counties	\$140
Monterey and San Diego Counties	\$125
Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura Counties	\$120

All other counties will remain at the previously established maximum reimbursement rates of \$110.

Out-of-state: Actual costs are reimbursable with appropriate prior approval.

Meals – Actual costs are reimbursable up to the limits stated below for continuous travel of more than 24 hours.

Breakfast:	Up to \$8
Lunch:	Up to \$12
Dinner:	Up to \$20

Meal reimbursement for one-day trips is taxable and reportable income unless travel included an overnight stay. For continuous travel of less than 24 hours, actual expenses up to the above limits may be reimbursable if:

- Travel begins one hour before normal work hours – Breakfast may be claimed.
- Travel ends one hour after normal work hours – Dinner may be claimed.
- Lunch may not be claimed on trips of less than 24 hours.

Incidental Expenses – Up to \$6 per day. Incidentals are not reimbursable for one-day trips; they may only be claimed after 24 hours.

Although not required to be submitted with a travel expense claim, judicial officers and staff must be prepared to furnish receipts substantiating amounts claimed in the event of an audit.

Transportation: The actual cost of tickets for air, rail, bus, rental car, or other forms of public transportation is reimbursable. The lowest cost ticket available must be purchased. Receipts are required for rental cars and air travel. For ticketless travel, the traveler's itinerary may be submitted in lieu of a receipt.

1. The actual costs of cab fare, public parking, and tolls are reimbursable. Receipts are required for all expenses of \$3.50 or more.
2. Personal vehicle mileage is reimbursable at the current federal mileage reimbursement rate.
3. Employees who earn travel premiums (Frequent Flier Miles/Points) while traveling on official state business may use these travel premiums for their personal use.

Other Business Expenses – Actual cost is reimbursable. Receipts are required for all other business expenses, regardless of the amount claimed.

In the event receipts cannot be obtained or have been lost, a statement to that effect and the reason provided shall be noted in the expense account. In the absence of a satisfactory explanation, the amount involved shall not be allowed. Further, a statement explaining that a receipt has been lost shall not be accepted for lodging, airfare, rental car, or business expenses.

Receipts for telephone or telegraph charges related to court business of \$2.50 or less are not required. However, claims for phone calls must include the place and party called.