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## FACT SHEET

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# Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee

The Judicial Council of California's Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee, created pursuant to rule 10.56 of the California Rules of Court, makes recommendations to the Judicial Council for developing collaborative justice courts, improving case processing, and overseeing the evaluation of these courts throughout the state. Examples of collaborative justice courts include drug courts, mental health courts, youth or peer courts, homeless courts, community courts, veterans' courts, parolee reentry courts and elder courts.

### Background

Collaborative justice courts, sometimes referred to as problem-solving courts, combine judicial supervision with intensive social and treatment services to offenders in lieu of jail or prisons. Collaborative justice principles include a multidisciplinary, nonadversarial team approach with involvement from the court, attorneys, law enforcement, and community treatment and service agencies to address offenders' complex social and behavioral problems. There are over 450 collaborative justice courts operating in California, with a collaborative court in nearly every jurisdiction.

### Committee Structure

The Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee is chaired by Judge Richard Vlavianos, Superior Court of San Joaquin County. Per rule 10.56 of the California Rules of Court, the committee comprises at least five judicial officers, a judicial administrator, a district attorney, a law enforcement representative, a public defender, a treatment provider, a probation officer, one treatment court-coordinator, a treatment court graduate and a public member.

### Committee Activities

The mission of the Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee is to do the following:

- Make recommendations to the Judicial Council on criteria for identifying and evaluating collaborative justice courts;
- Assess and measure the success and effectiveness of collaborative justice courts;
- Identify local best practices;
- Recommend minimum judicial education standards and educational activities;
- Advise the council of potential funding sources;
- Make recommendations on grant funding programs administered by the AOC; and
- Recommend appropriate outreach activities to support collaborative justice courts.

Several committee projects have been developed to achieve these goals. Outreach and education activities include sponsoring annual conferences for peer and youth courts, drug and mental health courts, and homeless courts; developing internship programs for law school and social work students in collaborative courts throughout the state; and providing judicial education curricula in collaborative justice, mental health courts, DUI projects, and veterans' court programs. Research and evaluation projects include evaluations of mental health courts and parolee reentry courts, as well as a cost-benefit study of California's adult drug courts and the implementation of a web-based cost self-assessment tool that is available to drug courts interested in identifying their own costs and benefits.

The committee also makes funding allocation recommendations for the distribution of the Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Substance Abuse Focus Grant; assists local collaborative justice courts in grant and funding development; and co-administers state drug court funding with the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. The committee promotes the institutionalization, expansion, and enhancement of collaborative justice courts throughout the state by providing policy guidance to the Judicial Council and by establishing linkages with justice system partners at the state and local level.

### Staff Contacts

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