

MILESTONES IN CALIFORNIA'S COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE

1849	The first California Constitution is adopted, creating a new judicial system.	1850	California becomes the thirty-first state of the United States of America.
1862	The Supreme Court is expanded from three to five justices.	1879	A new constitution is adopted, with more detailed provisions governing the judicial branch.
1904	The appellate system is expanded by creation of district courts of appeal for intermediate review between the trial courts and Supreme Court.	1924	The establishment of municipal courts is authorized.
1926	The Judicial Council is created.	1934	Contested elections of appellate judges are replaced by retention elections with approval of nominees for appointment by a new Commission on Qualifications.
1950	Courts of limited jurisdiction are reorganized into justice and municipal courts.	1956	Pretrial conferences are mandated in most civil cases but subsequently repealed.
1957	The position of trial court executive officer is created in the Los Angeles Superior Court.	1960	The position of Administrative Director of the Courts is created.
1960	The Commission on Judicial Qualifications is created to administer a new system of judicial discipline. The preexisting Commission on Qualifications is renamed the Commission on Judicial Appointments.	1961	The first Administrative Director of the Courts is appointed, and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is established.
1967	The first session of the California College of Trial Judges convenes.		

1971

Court-sponsored arbitration of small personal injury cases begins in the superior courts for Los Angeles and San Francisco Counties.

1973

The Center for Judicial Education and Research is created.

1973

The Supreme Court for the first time removes a judge on recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Qualifications.

1974

Persons unable to understand English are granted the right to an interpreter if accused of a crime.

1975

Arbitration is extended to smaller civil cases in larger superior courts.

1976

The Commission on Judicial Qualifications is renamed the Commission on Judicial Performance, and its powers are expanded.

1978

Arbitration of smaller civil cases becomes mandatory.

1985

The AOC establishes the Statewide Office of Family Court Services.

1986

The Trial Court Delay Reduction Act directs the Judicial Council to adopt case processing time standards and pilot programs for delay reduction.

1987

The Judicial Council adopts its first annual plan.

1988

The California Legislature directs the Judicial Council to promote Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs to assist children in court proceedings.

1988

Family law filings exceed total filings for injury, death, or property damage and do so for the balance of the century.

1991

The Judicial Council inaugurates a comprehensive delay reduction program.

1991

The Commission on the Future of the California Courts is created.

1993

A pilot project for mandatory mediation in civil cases begins.

1992

The first strategic plan is adopted by the Judicial Council.

1993

The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel is created to assist the Judicial Council and courts with a comprehensive program to improve interpreter services.

1996

Child support commissioners and family law facilitators are provided in each county.

1997

Responsibility for funding of the trial courts is consolidated at the state level, establishing full state funding for the judicial branch with allocation of funds by the Judicial Council.

1998

Consolidation of the trial courts into a single superior court in each county commences.

1999

The Judicial Council adopts a mission statement for itself and the judiciary with supporting goals and principles.

2000

The Administrative Office of the Courts adopts a mission statement.

2001

Responsibility for court employees is transferred from the counties to the courts.

1994

The Access and Fairness Advisory Committee is created by the Judicial Council to continue work by previous committees on gender, racial, ethnic, and other biases in the courts.

1997

Strategic planning is extended to the trial courts by the Judicial Council.

1997

Family court programs are consolidated by the Administrative Office of the Courts under the new Center for Children and the Courts (now the Center for Families, Children & the Courts).

1998

A strategic plan for technology is adopted by the Judicial Council.

2000

A tactical plan for technology is adopted by the Judicial Council.

2001

Kings County unifies its courts into a single superior court, the last county to do so.

2002

The state assumes ownership and maintenance of court facilities.