

AUDITS AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION AGENDA

Open to the Public Unless Indicated as Closed (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

OPEN PORTION OF THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Date: October 21, 2019 **Time:** 12:15 – 1:15 PM

Public Call-In Number: 1-877-820-7831; Public Listening Code 4045700

Meeting materials for open portions of the meeting will be posted on the advisory body web page on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

Opening Comments by the Chair and Vice-Chair

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Hon. Judge Rosenberg—Chair; Hon. Presiding Justice Siggins—Vice Chair

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of the July 12, 2019, Audit Committee meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K)(2))

Written Comment

In accordance with California Rules of Court, Rule 10.75(k) (1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be e-mailed to auditcommittee@jud.ca.gov or mailed or delivered to Judicial Council of California, Audit Services, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, 5th Floor, San Francisco, California 94102 attention: Audit Services. Only written comments received by 12:15 pm on October 21st, 2019 will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

III. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Report from Audit Services

Overview of Audit Services' work in progress as well as a summary of external audits being performed by other governmental agencies.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Grant Parks, Principal Manager – Judicial Council's Audit Services

Info 2

Welcome to New Committee Members & General Overview of Audit Plan

General overview of the audit committee's responsibilities and a review of the 2019-20 audit plan approved in June 2019.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Grant Parks, Principal Manager – Judicial Council's Audit Services

Info 3

General Discussion by Audit Committee Members

Open discussion by committee members regarding any topic within the scope and purview of the Advisory Committee for Audits and Financial Accountability for the Judicial Branch.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Grant Parks, Principal Manager – Judicial Council's Audit Services

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1)

Item 1

Annual Audit Plan - Court Interpreter Payments (Action Required)

Continue discussion of whether to add testing of court interpreter payments back within the scope of work for court audits performed during fiscal year 2019-20.

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Grant Parks, Principal Manager – Judicial Council's Audit Services

V. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

Adjourn to Closed Session

VI. CLOSED SESSION (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(D))

Item 2

Draft Audit Report – Rule of Court 10.75(d) (6) (Action Required)

Non-final audit reports or proposed responses to such reports

Review and approve Audit Services' draft audit report of Modoc Superior Court, per Rule of Court 10.63(c)(1).

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Dawn Tomita, Supervisor – Judicial Council's Audit Services

Item 3

Draft Audit Report – Rule of Court 10.75(d) (6) (Action Required)

Non-final audit reports or proposed responses to such reports

Review and approve Audit Services' draft audit report of Trinity Superior Court, per Rule of Court 10.63(c)(1).

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Dawn Tomita, Supervisor – Judicial Council's Audit Services

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn the meeting



Advisory Committee on Audits and Financial Accountability for the Judicial Branch

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING WITH CLOSED SESSION

July 12, 2019 12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Conference Call

Advisory Body Hon. David Rosenberg, Hon. Mary Ann O'Malley, Ms. Sherri Carter, Mr. Kevin

Members Present: Harrigan, Mr. Phil Jelicich (non-voting advisory member)

Advisory Body Hon. Peter Siggins, Hon. Susan Matcham, Mr. Kevin Lane, Ms. Tania Ugrin-

Members Absent: Capobianco,

Others Present: Mr. Grant Parks, Mr. Oliver Cheng (Attorney), Mr. John Prestianni (Supervising

Attorney), Mr. Jimmy Nguyen (Nguyen), Andrew Tran (Attorney)

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:16 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Judge O'Malley moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2019 meeting. Ms. Sherri Carter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion of the minutes. Motion to approve passed by unanimous voice vote of the committee members present.

No public comments were received for this meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Info Item 1

General Discussion by Members of the Committee

No items discussed.

Action Item 1

Revisions to the Judicial Branch Contracting Manual (Action Required)

Mr. Cheng provided some information regarding the Judicial Branch Contracting Manual (JBCM), which is a requirement of Judicial Branch Contract Law (JBCL). JBCL requires Judicial Branch entities to comply with provisions of public contract code related to procurement of goods and services. JBCL also requires Judicial Council to publish and adopt Judicial Branch Contracting Manual. Under Rule of Court 10.63, the Audit Committee

reviews proposed revisions to JBCM and recommends those revisions to Judicial Council. Under rule 10.63, the committee is also responsible for advising and assisting Judicial Council in performing its responsibilities under Judicial Branch Contract Law. JBCL requires JBCM to be consistent with public contract code. There have been some updates in public contract code, so some conforming edits are needed to JBCM.

In addition, there are a couple clarifying edits that have been proposed. One is regarding roles for procurement staff. Another clarifying edit regarding contractors' certification. Draft of the Audit Committee Judicial Council Report and proposed revisions to the manual are included in the meeting materials. If these proposed edits are acceptable to the Audit Committee, the next step would be to present the report and revisions to Executive and Planning Committee meeting next month, so that the revisions can be placed on consent agenda for the Judicial Council's Business Meeting in September. This would be 9th edition of JBCM, and this new version of the manual will have an effective date of October 1, 2019.

Ms. Carter complemented Judicial Council Staff who were involved in clarifying materials. Judge O'Malley concurred on Ms. Carter's statement.

Mr. Jelicich asked Mr. Cheng to provide a reasoning behind the change on page 5, Chapter 1 of JBCM regarding purchasing roles and responsibilities. Mr. Cheng replied that one of the requirements of JBCM is that JBCM must be substantially similar to the provisions of State Contracting Manual as well as State Administrative Manual. This edit is made to be similar to parallel provision in the State Contracting Manual. Mr. Parks offered to update the wording to "Different employees should be responsible for approving invoices and preparing payment", and to remove words "when possible" in the beginning, similar to wording used in the Trial Court Financial Policies and Procedures Manual (FIN Manual). In cases when it's not possible, the Courts will need to demonstrate the reason why they can't follow the directive in the JBCM. Ms. Carter and Mr. Harrigan voiced support for this change. Mr. Cheng clarified that they added "when possible" to provide needed possibilities for some of the smaller courts, for cases when it's logistically impossible to have different employees approving invoices and preparing payments.

Action: Ms. Carter moved to approve proposed language regarding the employees approving invoices and preparing payments without the words "when possible" (seconded by Judge O'Malley). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the committee members present.

Action: Ms. Carter moved to approve the recommended change on page 19 of chapter 4 of JBCM (seconded by Judge O'Malley). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the committee members present.

Action: Judge O'Malley moved to approve draft of the Committee' report and recommendation to place this draft to the consent agenda of the Judicial Council meeting (seconded by Mr. Harrigan). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the committee members present.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further open meeting business, the meeting was adjourned to closed session at 12:45 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on October 21, 2019.



Meeting Date: 10/21/2019

<u>Informational Item #1 – (No Action Required)</u>

Report from Audit Services

<u>Status Update – Judicial Council's Audit Services</u>

Workload & Staffing

Audit Services conducted fieldwork site visits at Tehama and Sierra superior courts during August and September. The audit work is now substantially complete for both courts and we are currently awaiting the courts' responses to our draft audit findings, which are due in early November. Both audit reports will be available for the audit committee's next meeting in mid-January.

Per the annual audit plan, we have started our audit work at San Mateo and Lassen. Audit staff visited both courts during the week of October 7th to review cash handling procedures and plan to return to both during the week of October 21st to complete our onsite fieldwork. Finally, audit staff have substantially completed their audit work of two Court Innovations Grant awards made to the superior court of Los Angeles. I anticipate that report will also be ready to share with the committee during our next meeting in mid-January 2020.

As for staffing, we hired an additional auditor in early October, bringing our employee count to a total to 11 filled positions, of which 8 are auditors who perform work at the courts. Our current organizational chart is attached for your reference (<u>Attachment A</u>).

Status of External Audits

State Controller's Office (SCO)

Audit Program of the Trial Courts

The Judicial Council has executed an interagency agreement with the State Controller's Office (SCO) to continue auditing the revenues, expenditures, and fund balances of the superior courts per Government Code, Section 77206(h). The Legislature provided spending authority specifically for these audits, and the agreement will result in the SCO auditing eight additional superior courts (audit work to take place through June 30, 2020).

The SCO is nearing completion of its audit of Sutter (1st of 8 courts to be audited) and held an exit conference with the court in early October. The SCO's audit of Sutter should be available for the committee at our next meeting. The SCO anticipates auditing El Dorado next.

Government Code, Section 77206(h) requires roughly 14-15 audits of the trial courts per year. We are working with the SCO to secure the necessary funding to pay for these audits beginning in fiscal year 2020-21.

State Auditor's Office (CSA)

Audit of the Judicial Council's Procurement Practices

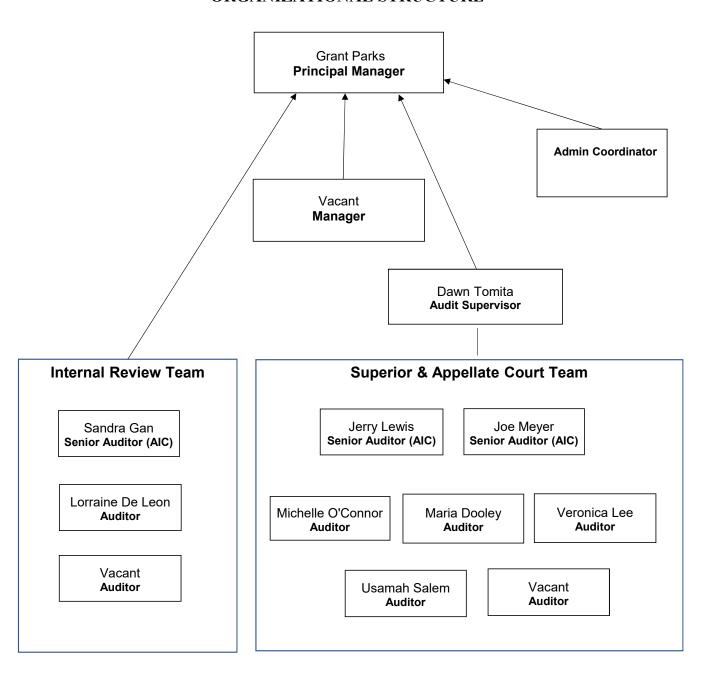
Biennially, the CSA is required to audit the Judicial Council's procurement practices pursuant to Public Contract Code, Section 19210(c). The audit focuses on whether the Judicial Council has complied with the contracting provisions contained in the Judicial Branch Contracting Law. CSA auditors performed fieldwork procedures onsite at the Judicial Council's San Francisco offices during the week of August 21st. The audit should be substantially complete by December. CSA is required by statute to publish the audit by January 15th, which should be available for the next audit committee meeting.

Statewide Audit of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act

The Joint Legislative Audit Committee directed CSA to conduct a statewide performance audit of mental health activities under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act). The audit will focus primarily on three counties (Los Angeles and two unnamed counties). The audit's objectives are attached (*Attachment B*), and CSA may request assistance from the judicial branch since some of the data needed for the audit likely reside with the superior courts and their CMS systems. CSA expects to publish its audit report in April 2020.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE OFFICE

AUDIT SERVICES ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



2019-119 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

County Implementation of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act

The audit by the California State Auditor will provide independently developed and verified information related to the implementation of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act) by Los Angeles County and two other counties selected by the California State Auditor. The audit's scope will include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

- 1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
- 2. Review the statewide oversight of the implementation of the LPS Act.
- 3. By county and for each of the most recent three years, determine the following:
 - (a) The number of individuals placed under initial involuntary holds, the referral sources for those holds, and the number of individuals placed under repeated initial holds.
 - (b) The number of individuals placed under subsequent holds.
 - (c) The number of individuals placed into new and renewed LPS conservatorships and the referral source for those conservatorships.
 - (d) The average length of LPS conservatorships.
 - (e) The number of terminated LPS conservatorships and the reasons for the termination.
- 4. Assess the counties' implementations of the LPS Act for the last three years and compare the counties to one another by reviewing at least the following:
 - (a) The counties' definitions of the criteria for involuntary treatment holds and whether each county has consistently applied its definitions.
 - (b) The counties' criteria for placing individuals into LPS conservatorships and making least-restrictive environment determinations and whether the counties have consistently followed these criteria.
- 5. Assess whether any differences between county approaches to involuntary holds, conservatorships, or the associated care provided to individuals should be addressed through changes to state law or regulation.
- 6. Determine how the counties fund their implementations of the LPS Act and whether access to funding is a barrier to the implementation of the LPS Act.
- 7. Assess the availability of treatment resources in each county and, to the extent possible, determine whether there are barriers to achieving the intent of the LPS Act. In doing so, at the minimum, consider the number of LPS facilities in each county and the availability of rehabilitative programs during and after conservatorships.
- 8. Review and assess any other issues that are significant to the audit.



Meeting Date: 10/21/2019

<u>Informational Item #2 – (No Action Required)</u>

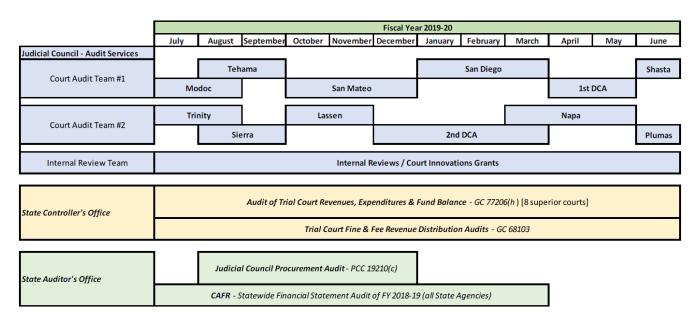
Welcome to New Committee Members & General Overview

Established under California Rules of Court, Rule 10.63, the audit committee is primarily responsible for:

Approving the Annual Audit Plan

In June 2019, the audit committee approved the audit plan for fiscal year 2019-20. The audit plan defines the audit scope and identifies which courts will be audited during the upcoming fiscal year. Once approved, the audit plan is posted on the audit committee's web site as well as the *Judicial Resources Network* so the courts will know the general scope of audits and whether they are likely to be audited. Key exhibits from the audit plan affecting Audit Services' work include:

- Table 1 Risk Areas and Responsible Audit Organization
- Table 2 Standard Scope Areas & Frequency of Prior Findings
- Table 3 Available Staff Resources and Audit Schedule (excerpt shown below)



The blue cells shown above illustrate when Audit Services anticipates conducting audit work at each selected court. For larger-scope audits (performed by court audit teams), we provide each court with one month to review draft audit findings and to develop comments and corrective action plans for inclusion in the final audit report. For example, our audit of Trinity was scheduled to conclude at the end of August—which is followed by the court's one-month review period in September—ultimately resulting in the audit report being ready for the audit committee in October. For subject-specific audits—such as audits under the Court Innovations Grant program—Audit Services generally provides each court with a two-week review period. All court audits performed by Audit Services are not considered final until approved by the audit committee for public posting. As such, the audit committee will meet in closed session to consider the audit's results, along with any comments and perspectives of court officials who also participate during the closed session.

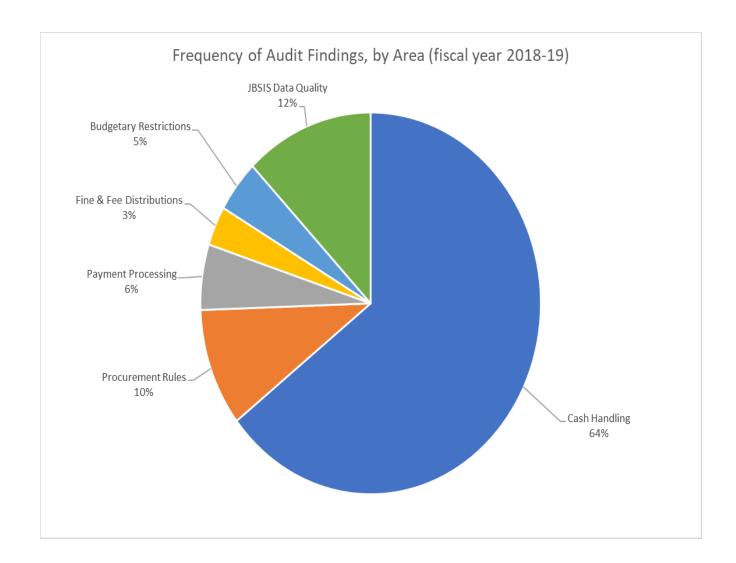
Common Audit Findings and Prior Actions Taken by the Audit Committee

During fiscal year 2018-19, the audit committee met six times and reviewed a total 18 audits reports covering 22 judicial branch entities. These audit reports contained 124 audit findings where the courts either "agreed" or "partially agreed" 87% of the time. 11 of these 18 audit reports were prepared and published by Audit Services.

					Court's	View of Fin	dings
Audit Organization	Focus Area	Audits Issued	Judicial Branch Entities Audited	# of Audit Findings Issued	Agree or Generally Agree	Disagree or Partially Disagree	Did Not Respond
Judicial Council -	Judicial Branch						
Audit Services	Policies (Various)	9	9	90	82	8	
Judicial Council -	Court Innovations						
Audit Services	Grant	2	2	7	3	4	
State Controller's Office	Fiscal Compliance - State Requirements	6	6	15	15	0	
State Auditor's	Judicial Branch						
Office	Contract Law	1	5	12	8	1	3
	Total	18	22	124	108	13	3
					87.1%	10.5%	2.4%

Most of Audit Services' work focuses on evaluating court compliance with the Judicial Council's various policies, such as the *Judicial Branch Contracting Manual* (JBCM) and the *Trial Court Financial Policies and Procedures Manual* (FIN Manual). However, a significant portion of Audit Services' fieldwork hours (roughly 20%) are devoted to testing court compliance with requirements relevant to the reporting of case filings data to the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System (JBSIS).

Of the 90 audit findings Audit Services published in its 9 audit reports last year, most of the findings pertained to non-compliance with cash handling procedures described in the *Trial Court Financial Policies & Procedures Manual* (FIN Manual) or were the result of weaknesses in the courts' documentary support for case filings data reported to the *Judicial Branch Statistical Information System* (JBSIS).



In response to these common audit findings, Audit Services and the audit committee periodically issue "Audit Advisory" memos to court executive officers to alert them of potential risk areas so they can take action prior to an audit. Audit advisories are maintained on the Judicial Resources Network for easy reference. Other times, the audit committee has issued letters to other advisory committees encouraging them to consider developing or revising various policies. Some past examples include:

Recent Audit Advisories

- Audit Advisory #2018-2 (cash handling) An eight-page memo highlighting common audit findings in the areas of: (1) voided transactions; (2) manually-generated receipts; and (3) the processing of payments received through the mail.
- Audit Advisory #2019-1 (court procurement rules) A 17-page memo discussing common weakness in the contracting process, such as: competitive solicitations; solesource vendor justifications; the vendor payment process; and the use of purchase cards.

Audit Committee's Letters to Other Advisory Bodies

- April 2018 The audit committee issued a letter to the Court Executives Advisory Committee encouraging them to develop data quality standards for the reporting of case filings data to JBSIS. At the time, the audit committee noted existing rules did not facilitate the verification of JBSIS data, while courts were also not required to correct data errors (if found) or engage in any specific data quality control practices. The Judicial Council approved the first iteration of JBSIS data quality standards in May 2019.
- January 2019 The audit committee issued a letter to the Trial Court Budget Advisory
 Committee seeking revisions to court encumbrance policies. The FIN Manual's
 encumbrance policies differed from TCBAC's policies, thus creating inconsistency with
 respect to how courts may encumber long-term agreements, which can affect fund
 balance amounts subject to the statutory cap.

Evaluating the Results of Audits Performed by Non-Judicial Branch Audit Organizations
Table 3 of the annual audit plan is important because it recognizes statutory audit requirements
and the role of audit organizations external to the judicial branch. Two external audit
organizations audit the judicial branch entities.

State Controller's Office – Primarily audits trial court compliance with state accounting and reporting rules (per Government Code, Section 77206(h)) and audits court compliance with criminal fine & fee distributions.

State Auditor's Office – Performs financial audit work at the Judicial Council in connection with its audit of the State's financial Statements (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report). Also, CSA alternates between auditing 5 trials courts or the Judicial Council each year with respect to their procurement practices.

The audit committee receives briefings on these audits in public session and approves them for public posting on the judicial branch's public web site.

Recommending Updates to the Judicial Branch Contracting Manual

At times, the State Auditor's reviews of procurement practices result in the audit committee recommending changes to the JBCM. Since its inception, the audit committee has recommended two sets of revisions to the JBCM.

- o June 2018 Recommended changes to the JBCM's definitions of "contract splitting" and "sole source vendor" based on feedback received from the State Auditor's December 2017 audit of the Judicial Council's procurement activities.
- July 2019 Recommended changes to comply with Assembly Bill 2764, which requires vendors of IT goods and services to be subject to additional vendor certifications.

Under California Rules of Court, all changes to the JBCM must be considered by the audit committee prior to formal adoption by the Judicial Council.



Meeting Date: 10/21/2019

Action Item #1 – (Action Required)

Annual Audit Plan – Court Interpreter Payments

Requested Action:

• <u>Action Item</u> – Suspend or reinstate the testing of court interpreter payments as part of the normal scope of court audits per the annual audit plan.

Supporting Documents:

- Attachment C—Budget Act provisions concerning court interpreter payments
- Attachment D—Judicial Council Court Interpreter Payment Policy
- Attachment E—Judicial Council's Legislative Report on Court Interpreter Expenditures (May 2018)

Summary:

At its August 23, 2018 meeting, the audit committee voted to suspend the testing of court interpreter payments as part of the standard audit program. At that time, previous audit findings noted instances where courts did not have documented agreements with interpreters memorializing the agreed upon pay rate prior to the commencement of work. The lack of such an agreement creates uncertainty over whether court officials approved a specific interpreter's pay rate beforehand and hinders court accounting staff from performing the 3-point invoice matching procedures required in the FIN Manual when processing payments to court interpreters. Further, limited documentation surrounding interpreter selection often prevented audit services from evaluating whether courts had attempted to find interpreters who were willing to accept the Judicial Council's established pay rates, which were created in response to direction from the Legislature. In August 2018, audit committee members felt it was best to suspend further testing in this area since they understood the Judicial Council's interpreter payment policies were under consideration for further revision.

Ten months later, the audit committee considered the annual audit plan for fiscal year 2019-20 during its meeting on June 28, 2019. Audit committee members again decided to suspend testing in this area until a further discussion could take place at its next regular meeting.

The Legislature Directed the Judicial Council to Establish Interpreter Pay Rates

Each year, the Legislature appropriates more than \$100 million in spending authority to the trial courts for payments to court interpreters. As shown in attachment C, the budget act also states:

The Judicial Council shall set statewide or regional rates and policies for payment of court interpreters, not to exceed the rate paid to certified interpreters in the federal court system. The Judicial Council shall adopt appropriate rules and procedures for the administration of these funds. The Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature and the Director of Finance annually regarding expenditures [for court interpreters].

The Judicial Council's Interpreter Pay Policies—provided as Attachment D—are in response to the Legislature's directives. The Judicial Council's goal is to have courts use only certified and registered court interpreters, while the Council has established a lower pay rate schedule for noncertified and nonregistered court interpreters. The Judicial Council's pay rates for interpreters are as follows (which have remained unchanged since 2007):

Certified and Registered: \$282.23/day or \$156.56 per half-day Noncertified and nonregistered: \$175.00/day or \$92.00 per half day

"Unusual Circumstances" Clause

The Judicial Council's interpreter pay policies also allow trial courts to exceed these pay rates in "unusual circumstances," defined as:

- There are limited or no available interpreters in the needed language; and
- The alternative is to continue the proceeding

However, courts are not required to document / demonstrate their reasonable efforts to find interpreters who are willing to accept the Judicial Council's established pay rate. Some trial courts have informed Audit Services that it is not unusual for their court to frequently exceed the Judicial Council's rates since they are much lower than the rate offered by the federal courts.

Comparison with Federal Pay Rates and Policies

The Legislature has prohibited the Judicial Council from establishing payment rates that exceed the rates paid to certified interpreters in the federal court system. Currently, the Judicial Council's interpreter pay rates are roughly 68% of the corresponding federal rates², which are shown below:

¹ For example, see Budget Act of 2018 item 0250-101-0932(4), budget program # 0150037 – Court Interpreters.

² See www.uscourts.gov/services-forms/federal-court-interpreters

The federal judiciary's rules for interpreters also provide the federal courts with greater structure for how interpreter services are to be obtained contractually. Specifically, federal courts use a standardized blanket purchase agreement, which: defines important performance terms and conditions; specifies the agreed-upon payment rate for the interpreter given his or her qualifications; and clarifies other important issues such as cancellation fees, overtime, and travel reimbursement requirements. Federal courts then issue specific assignments to court interpreters referencing the terms and conditions contained in the blanket purchase agreement.

In contrast, the trial courts are on their own to determine how they will secure interpreter services, whether through a contract or by some other means. The procurement rules and standards found in the Judicial Branch Contracting Manual (JBCM) do not apply when contracting with court interpreters. The *Trial Court Financial Policies and Procedures Manual* (FIN Manual) only addresses the payment process for court interpreters as an "in-court service provider." The FIN Manual generally requires the court to "authorize" the service prior to payment and that costs exceeding normal rates must be approved via a written request before costs are incurred (FIN 8.02, Sec 6.7). Prior audits sought to determine whether courts had written agreements or similar documents specifying the agreed-upon payment rate, particularly when the amount paid to a contract interpreter exceeded the Judicial Council's established rate.

Funding Provided by the Legislature for Court Interpreters is Insufficient to Cover the Courts' Eligible Costs for Reimbursement

In May 2019, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee reported to the Judicial Council, stating "the fund balance [for the Court Interpreter Program] has been depleted, and with expenditures exceeding allocations, the fund is insolvent." TCBAC recommended that the Judicial Council authorize an allocation amount from the Trial Court Trust Fund not to exceed \$13.5 million to address the projected shortfall in the Court Interpreter Program.⁴

Court interpreter funding pays for both interpreters who are court employees, as well as contract court interpreters. Auditing payments made to contract court interpreters (for compliance with the Judicial Council's contract interpreter pay policies) may place greater emphasis on reducing program costs for contract interpreters; however, doing so would be difficult if courts are not required to demonstrate they had first tried (and failed) to find an available interpreter at the established rate.

³ See Judicial Branch Contracting Manual, Introduction, Section 5 "Content and Exclusions"

⁴ See discussion agenda #19-102 from the May 17, 2019 meeting of the Judicial Council.

Questions for the Audit Committee's Consideration

- 1.) Is auditing payments made to contract court interpreters worthwhile given the following:
 - a. The existing policy has not been updated since 2007, and the rates may be out-of-date.
 - b. Courts are not required to document or demonstrate they had made a good faith or reasonable effort to find a contract interpreter willing to accept the Judicial Council's established rate.
 - c. Courts may not believe they are required to have formal agreements with contract interpreters—as federal courts do—because the JBCM does not apply when procuring the services of a contract interpreter.
- 2.) Should the audit committee recommend any of the following to the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (such as via a letter from the committee):
 - a.) The development of a standardized contract template for contract interpreters, similar to the one used by the federal courts.
 - b.) The creation of a requirement that any court must first demonstrate it made a good faith effort to find a contract interpreter at the Judicial Council's established rate—such as by documenting which interpreters the court had called (and their rates)—prior to agreeing to pay a higher rate to the court's chosen interpreter.
 - c.) Update the Judicial Council's payment policy for court interpreters, which might include establishing regional rates that are higher or lower than the existing rate based on local cost factors.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

2018–19 FINAL BUDGET SUMMARY



Published by DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

This is an informational publication provided to reflect actions of the Governor and Legislature on the Budget Bill/Act (includes Chapters 29, 30, and 449, Statutes of 2018).

Item Amount

Code, to be used for legal services in civil matters for indigent persons. The Judicial Council shall approve awards made by the commission if the council determines that the awards comply with statutory and other relevant guidelines. Ten percent of the funds in Schedule (5) shall be for joint projects of courts and legal services programs to make legal assistance available to pro per litigants and 90 percent of the funds in Schedule (5) shall be distributed consistent with Sections 6216 to 6223, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code. The Judicial Council may establish additional reporting or quality control requirements consistent with Sections 6213 to 6223, inclusive, of the Business and Professions Code.

- 2. The amount appropriated in Schedule (1) is available for reimbursement of court costs related to the following activities: (a) payment of service of process fees billed to the trial courts pursuant to Chapter 1009 of the Statutes of 2002, (b) payment of the court costs payable under Sections 4750 to 4755, inclusive, and Section 6005 of the Penal Code, and (c) payment of court costs of extraordinary homicide trials.
- Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (4), \$16,500,000 shall be provided to County Law Libraries to backfill the decline in civil filing fee revenue.

(1) 0150059-Federal Child Access and Visitation Grant Program...... 800,000

(3) 0150079-Federal Grants—Other 775,000

*0250-101-0932—For local assistance, Judicial Branch, payable from the Trial Court Trust Fund................................ 2,549,940,000 Schedule:

(1) 0150010-Support for Operation of Trial Courts...... 2,023,236,000

(2) 0150019-Compensation of Superior

(4) 0150037-Court Interpreters104,960,000

(5) 0150067-Court Appointed Special

Advocate (CASA) program 2,713,000

Item

		Amount
(6) 0150071-Model Self-Help Program	957,000	
(7) 0150083-Equal Access Fund	5,482,000	
(8) 0150087-Family Law Information		
Centers		
(9) 0150091-Civil Case Coordination		
(10) 0150095-Expenses on Behalf of	•	
the Trial Courts		
(11) Reimbursements to 0150010-		
Support for Operation of Trial		
Courts		
Provisions:	,	

— 13 —

- 1. Of the funds appropriated in Schedule (1), \$25,300,000 shall be available for support of services for self-represented litigants, and any unexpended funds shall revert to the General Fund.
- 2. The funds appropriated in Schedule (2) shall be made available for costs of the workers' compensation program for trial court judges.
- 3. The amount appropriated in Schedule (3) shall be made available for all judicial assignments. Schedule (3) expenditures for necessary support staff shall not exceed the staffing level that is necessary to support the equivalent of three judicial officers sitting on assignments. Prior to utilizing funds appropriated in Schedule (3), trial courts shall maximize the use of judicial officers who may be available due to reductions in court services or court closures.
- 4. The funds appropriated in Schedule (4) shall be for payments to contractual court interpreters, and certified or registered court interpreters employed by the courts for services provided during court proceedings and other services related to pending court proceedings, including services provided outside a courtroom, and the following court interpreter coordinators: 1.0 each in counties of the 1st through the 15th classes, 0.5 each in counties of the 16th through the 31st classes, and 0.25 each in counties of the 32nd through the 58th classes. For purposes of this provision, "court interpreter coordinators" may be full- or part-time court employees.

The Judicial Council shall set statewide or regional rates and policies for payment of court interpreters, not to exceed the rate paid to certified interpreters in the federal court system.

Item Amount

The Judicial Council shall adopt appropriate rules and procedures for the administration of these funds. The Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature and the Director of Finance annually regarding expenditures from Schedule (4).

- 5. Upon order of the Director of Finance, the amount available for expenditure in this item may be augmented by the amount of any additional resources available in the Trial Court Trust Fund, which is in addition to the amount appropriated in this item. Any augmentation shall be approved in joint determination with the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and shall be authorized not sooner than 30 days after notification in writing to the chairpersons of the committees in each house of the Legislature that consider appropriations, the chairpersons of the committees and appropriate subcommittees that consider the State Budget, and the chairperson of the joint committee, or not sooner than whatever lesser time the chairperson of the joint committee, or his or her designee, may determine. When a request to augment this item is submitted to the Director of Finance, a copy of that request shall be delivered to the chairpersons of the committees and appropriate subcommittees that consider the State Budget. Delivery of a copy of that request shall not be deemed to be notification in writing for purposes of this provision.
- 6. Notwithstanding any other law, upon approval and order of the Director of Finance, the amount appropriated in this item shall be reduced by the amount transferred in Item 0250-115-0932 to provide adequate resources to the Judicial Branch Workers' Compensation Fund to pay workers' compensation claims for judicial branch employees and judges, and administrative costs pursuant to Section 68114.10 of the Government Code.
- 7. Upon approval by the Administrative Director, the Controller shall transfer up to \$11,274,000 to Item 0250-001-0932 for recovery of costs for administrative services provided to the trial courts by the Judicial Council.
- 8. In order to improve equal access and the fair administration of justice, the funds appropriated in Schedule (7) are available for distribution by the Judicial Council through the Legal Services Trust



Payment Policies for Contract Court Interpreters

Summary

The Judicial Council of California adopted payment policies for contract court interpreters in February 1, 2000. The payment policies reimburse interpreters for mileage, travel time, and excess pay in specific circumstances; define the full and half-day session; provide a cancellation fee under certain conditions; and allow for payment above the established rates in unusual circumstances, as defined herein.

Background

The annual Budget Act specifies that the Judicial Council sets compensation rates and policies for contract court interpreters.

Intent

The intent of these policies is to establish comprehensive payment policies for contract interpreters while continuing to allow for local flexibility. In adopting these additional payment policies, the council recognizes that some interpreters are independent contractors and that these policies are not intended to change their status as independent contractors.

Local Discretion to Meet Unique Needs

The daily payment rates below do not affect the trial court's discretion in compensating above the established rate to obtain services in unique or unusual circumstances. For example, securing the services of a Navajo interpreter from out of state or a certified interpreter in trial courts that have limited or no certified interpreters living within their jurisdiction.

Payment Policies

Definitions of half-day, full-day and night session

- a. A half-day session is defined as any portion of a consecutive four-hour period either:
 - 1. A morning session, beginning no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and ending by 12:15 p.m;
 - 2. An afternoon session, beginning no earlier than 1:00 p.m. and ending by 5:15 p.m.; or
 - 3. A night session, which is a separate session, as determined by the court, beginning no earlier than 5:15 p.m. and ending by 10:00 p.m.
- b. A full-day session is defined as a morning session and an afternoon session.

Daily Payment Rates

The council's goal is for the trial courts to use only certified and registered interpreters in all interpreted proceedings. For those instances in which a trial court has exhausted all options to secure the services of a certified or registered contract interpreter, the council has established a separate, lower rate schedule for noncertified and nonregistered contract interpreters. The differential structure is intended to encourage noncertified and nonregistered interpreters to gain the necessary skills to become certified or registered and to reward the efforts of those interpreters who have improved their skills and achieved certification. The rates are as follows:

Certified and registered interpreters (as of September 1, 2007) As adopted by the Judicial Council:

Region 1: \$282.23 per full-day or \$156.56 per half-day Region 2: \$282.23 per full-day or \$156.56 per half-day Region 3: \$282.23 per full-day or \$156.56 per half-day Region 4: \$282.23 per full-day or \$156.56 per half-day

If an interpreter is required to work between the hours of 12:15 p.m. and 1:00 p.m., or after 5:15 p.m. until the conclusion of the proceeding, the interpreter is entitled to hourly compensation at the full-day hourly rate as determined by the courts in each region.

Noncertified and nonregistered interpreters

Not more than \$175 per day or \$92 per half-day, as determined by the local trial court system.

Sign language interpreters

Under section 754(i) of the Evidence Code, the rate for certified court and registered contract interpreters applies to sign language interpreters for the deaf or hearing impaired.

Cancellation fee

A cancellation fee is paid under the following conditions:

- a. A contract is entered into with the interpreter more than 24 hours or one business day in advance of the assignment, and
- b. An assignment is cancelled without 24-hour notice, or for assignments beginning on the first business day of the work week, without one business day's notice.

If an interpreter receives another assignment from a state trial court system or federal court, the cancelling state trial court is entitled to an offset amount, up to the cancellation fee.

If an interpreter becomes aware that he or she is no longer available for the assignment, the interpreter has an obligation to notify the contracting court of his or her unavailability at the earliest opportunity. In such circumstances, the interpreter must notify the court more than 24 hours in advance of the scheduled assignment.

Multilingual interpreters

An amount above the daily rate may be provided for interpreters who render services in more than one language on the same day.

Mileage reimbursement

Actual mileage is reimbursed when the interpreter travels 60 miles or more roundtrip from his or her place of business (address used for tax purposes). The rate of reimbursement is the rate as authorized by the state. Extraordinary travel costs such as airfare may be reimbursed only with advanced approval of the court executive officer, or his or her designee.

Unusual circumstances

An amount above the daily rate, and/or a cancellation fee may be provided under unusual circumstances. Unusual circumstances are defined as follows:

- There are limited or no available interpreters in the needed language; and
- The alternative is to continue the proceeding.

A trial court and the interpreter may negotiate an amount for travel time in unusual circumstances.



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HON. DAVID M. RUBIN Chair, Judicial Branch Budget Committee Chair, Litigation Management Committee

HON. KENNETH K. SO Chair, Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee

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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO
Administrative Director,
Judicial Council

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

May 28, 2018

Ms. Diane F. Boyer-Vine Legislative Counsel State Capitol, Room 3021 Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Daniel Alvarez Secretary of the Senate State Capitol, Room 400 Sacramento, California 95814 Mr. E. Dotson Wilson Chief Clerk of the Assembly State Capitol, Room 3196 Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Michael Cohen, Director California Department of Finance 915 L Street Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2016–17, as required by the Budget Act of 2016

Dear Ms. Boyer-Vine, Mr. Alvarez, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Cohen:

Attached is the Judicial Council report required by the Budget Act of 2016 (Stats. 2016, ch. 23), item 0250-101-0932, regarding the fiscal year 2016–17 expenditures for the Trial Court Interpreters Program.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Ms. Olivia Lawrence, Principal Manager, Language Access Services, at 415-865-4227 or olivia.lawrence@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director

Judicial Council

MH/OL/ssw

Attachment

Eric Dang, Policy Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins cc: Alf Brandt, Senior Counsel, Office of Speaker Anthony Rendon Misty Feusahrens, Special Assistant, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon Anita Lee, Senior Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office Tina McGee, Executive Secretary, Legislative Analyst's Office Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee Mike Petersen, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee Paul Dress, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget Amy Leach, Minute Clerk, Office of Assembly Chief Clerk Cory T. Jasperson, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council Laura Speed, Supervising Attorney, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council Peter Allen, Director, Public Affairs, Judicial Council Yvette Casillas-Sarcos, Administrative Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council



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MR. MARTIN HOSHINO Administrative Director, Judicial Council

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

Report title: Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2016–17

Statutory citation: Budget Act of 2016 (Stats. 2016, ch. 23)

Date of report: March 29, 2018

The Judicial Council has submitted a report to the Legislature and the Department of Finance in accordance with provision 3 of item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016.

The following summary of the report is provided under the requirements of Government Code section 9795.

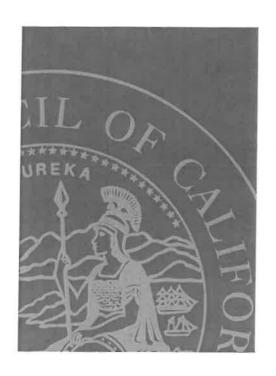
The total appropriation for fiscal year (FY) 2016–17, including \$87,000 for maintenance of the Court Interpreters Data Collection System, was \$103,458,000, of which \$103,371,000 was available for reimbursement of eligible court interpreter expenditures.

The appropriation increased by \$7,603,000 over the prior year expenditure of \$95,855,000 to account for an increase in the cost of employee interpreter benefits and funds for expansion into civil proceedings. Total court interpreter expenditures reported for FY 2016—17 eligible for reimbursment from Trial Court Trust Fund Program 0150037 was \$106,134,735—an increase of \$5,702,531—representing a 5.68 percent increase over FY 2015—16. This exceeded the appropriation by \$2,763,735.

The increase in expenditures, paid for by surpluses in the interpreter budget over several years, may in part be attributed to an increased use of independent contract interpreters as courts continue to expand interpreter services in civil matters under Assembly Bill 1657 (Stats. 2014, ch. 721). For example, there was a \$4,034,744 increase in total contractor-related costs, representing a 20.70 percent increase over FY 2015–16.

The full report can be accessed here: www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm.

A printed copy of the report may be obtained by calling 415-865-4288.



Trial Court Interpreters Program Expenditure Report for Fiscal Year 2016–17

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE MARCH 2018



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council

Mr. Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS DIVISION

Mr. Robert Oyung
Chief Operating Officer

COURT OPERATIONS SERVICES

Mr. Bob Lowney

Director

Language Access Services
Court Interpreters Program

Ms. Olivia Lawrence
Principal Manager

Ms. Sonia Sierra Wolf Primary Author of Report

I. Background

Mandates to Provide Court Interpreting Services

Article I, section 14 of the California Constitution was amended in 1974 to provide that "[a] person unable to understand English who is charged with a crime has a right to an interpreter throughout the proceedings." This provision establishes a mandate for courts to provide interpreters in criminal matters to all defendants who have a limited ability to understand or speak English.

Judicial Council and Legislative Actions

Effective January 1, 2015, Assembly Bill 1657 (Stats. 2014, ch. 721) specifies that a court may provide an interpreter in any civil action or proceeding at no cost to the parties, regardless of the income of the parties, and lists case types in priority and preference order to be used in allocating interpreter resources when courts have insufficient resources to provide interpreters for all limited English proficiency (LEP) persons in all case types.¹

Also in January 2015, the Judicial Council approved and adopted the Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts (Language Access Plan). Of the eight major goals identified in the Language Access Plan, Goal 2—Provide Qualified Language Access Services in All Judicial Proceedings, states: "By 2017, and beginning immediately where resources permit, qualified interpreters will be provided in the California courts to LEP court users in all courtroom proceedings and, by 2020, in all court-ordered, court-operated events."

This report outlines the expenditures by court for reimbursable court interpreter services provided by the courts for fiscal year (FY) 2016–17. This report also provides an overview of the expenditures provided in civil cases reported by the courts.³

Statutory Requirement to Report on Expenditures

The Budget Act of 2016 (Stats. 2016, ch. 23), item 0250-101-0932, Schedule (4), provides an appropriation from the Trial Court Trust Fund (TCTF) for the services of court interpreters. Provision 3 states that "[t]he Judicial Council shall report to the Legislature and the Director of Finance annually regarding expenditures from Schedule (4)." Consistent with these requirements, this report details trial court expenditures for court interpreter services.

¹ For the full text of AB 1657, see http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id =201320140AB1657.

² The Language Access Plan is available at www.courts.ca.gov/languageaccess.htm.

³ Under federal law, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and who require sign language interpreters must receive court interpreter services at no cost in all court proceedings.

Trial Court Trust Fund Program 150037 Funding for FY 2016-17

- The total appropriation for FY 2016–17 for reimbursable court interpreter expenses, including \$87,000 for the maintenance of the Court Interpreter Data Collection System (CIDCS), was \$103,458,000.
- The FY 2016–17 appropriation exceeded the previous year's appropriation of \$95,855,000 by \$7,603,000.
- Of the total appropriation in FY 2016–17, \$103,371,000 was available to the courts for expenditures related to the provision of court interpreter services.
- The increased allocation of \$7,603,000 over FY 2015–16 accounted for court interpreter employee benefits as a result of collective bargaining efforts and provided funds for expansion into civil proceedings.
- The total statewide court interpreter expenditures incurred during FY 2016–17 eligible to be reimbursed from TCTF Program 150037 was \$106,134,735. (See Attachment 1 for a breakdown of expenditures by court.)
- Civil cases accounted for \$5,354,269 of the reported expenditures eligible for reimbursement. See Table 1.
- Court interpreter reimbursed expenditures increased by \$5,702,531 (5.68 percent) over FY 2015–16, and exceeded the appropriation by \$2,763,735.

Table 1. Expenditures by case type FY 2016–17

Case Type	Amount	% of Total Reimbursement
1. Criminal (mandated)	\$100,780,466	94.96
2. Domestic Violence—reported by courts	\$1,424,228	1.34
o Domestic Violence and Family Law w/ DV	1,137,685	
o Civil Harassment	119,508	
o Elder Abuse	9,985	
o Case type not specified	157,050	
3. Civil—reported by courts	\$3,930,041	3.70
o Unlawful Detainer	1,137,530	
o Parental Termination	10,779	
o Conservatorship/Guardianship	151,516	
o Custody/Visitation	81,370	
o Other Family Law	2,095,550	
o Other Civil	322,513	
o Case type not specified	130,783	
4. Total Civil	\$5,354,269	
Court reimbursements (sum of 1 & 4)	\$106,134,735	100
Appropriation available to the courts FY 2015–16	\$103,371,000	(Does not include \$87,000 for CIDCS
Amount over appropriation	\$2,763,735	

II. Allowable Expenditures

The following expenditures qualify for reimbursement under TCTF Program 150037:

- Contract court interpreters, including per diems (see section III) and travel;
- Certified and registered court interpreters employed by the courts, including salaries, benefits, and travel;
- Court interpreter coordinators who are certified or registered court interpreters, including salaries and benefits;⁴ and,
- Four court interpreter supervisor positions: two in Los Angeles County, one in Orange County, and one in San Diego County. These are the only positions funded under TCTF Program 150037 that include funding for standard operating expenses and equipment.

III. Rates of Pay for Contract Court Interpreters

The Judicial Council first established statewide standards for contract court interpreter compensation in January 1999 at two defined levels, a full-day rate and a half-day rate.

Certified and Registered Contract Court Interpreters

Effective September 1, 2007, the Judicial Council set the statewide standard pay rate for certified and registered independent contractor interpreters to \$282.23 for a full day and \$156.56 for a half day. The rate has remained unchanged since 2007.

Noncertified and Nonregistered Contract Interpreters

The statewide standard rate for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters is \$175 for a full day and \$92 for a half day. The rate was established by the Judicial Council in July 1999.

Noncertified and nonregistered court interpreters who have not taken or passed the required examinations to become certified or registered court interpreters but who demonstrate language proficiency and meet the requirements in place for provisional qualification may be provisionally qualified by the court. They may be used when no certified or registered interpreter is available.⁵

⁴ Limited by item 0250-101-0932, provision 3, of the Budget Act of 2014 to 1.0 personnel year (PY) each for counties in classes 1–15, 0.5 PY each for counties in classes 16–31, and 0.25 PY each for counties in classes 32–58. The Budget Act of 2014 defines county classes based on size of population: counties in classes 1–15 have populations of more than 500,000; classes 16–31 have populations between 130,000 and 500,000; and classes 32–58 have populations of fewer than 130,000.

⁵ The court is required to appoint a *certified* interpreter to interpret in a language designated by the Judicial Council. (Gov. Code, § 68561.) The court is required to appoint a *registered* interpreter to interpret in a language not designated by the Judicial Council. The court may appoint a noncertified interpreter if the court (1) on the record finds good cause to appoint a noncertified interpreter and finds the interpreter to be qualified, and (2) follows the procedures adopted by the Judicial Council. (Gov. Code, §§ 68561(c), 68564(d) and (e); Cal. Rules of Court, rule 2.893.) The court may appoint nonregistered interpreters only if (1) a registered interpreter is unavailable and (2) the good cause qualifications and procedures adopted by the Judicial Council under Government Code section 68561(c) have been followed. (See Gov. Code, § 71802(b)(1) and (d).)

Rates paid to contract interpreters often exceed the statewide standard because each assignment must be negotiated by the trial court and is subject to current market rates, travel and lodging expenditures, and supply and demand.

Comparison With Federal Rates

Provision 3 of item 0250-101-0932 of the Budget Act of 2016 states, "[T]he Judicial Council shall set statewide or regional rates and policies for payment of court interpreters, not to exceed the rate paid to certified interpreters in the federal court system." The current federal rate for contract court interpreters is \$418 for a full day, \$226 for a half day for certified and registered interpreters, and \$59 per hour for overtime. The federal rate for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters is \$202 for a full day and \$111 for a half day.⁶

California employee court interpreters negotiate salaries, benefits, and working conditions regionally. The federal system relies almost exclusively on contract interpreters. In contrast, court interpreter assignments in California courts are largely performed by employee court interpreters as illustrated in Table 2.

IV. Expenditures for Employee and Contract Interpreters

Certified and Registered Employee and Contract Interpreters

Table 2 details reimbursed expenditures for employee-related and contract court interpreter costs. Total employee-related expenditures represented 77.84 percent of total interpreter reimbursements in FY 2016–17. Although total dollar expenditures increased, the proportionate share of employee-related interpreter costs versus contractors has decreased over the past three years.

Contract interpreter expenditures represented 22.16 percent of total reimbursements. As a percentage of total expenditures, contractor costs are higher than in previous years. This increase may be due to the expansion of interpreter services to cases in civil matters, where interpretation of languages of lesser diffusion, as well as languages not provided by current employees, is required. It should be noted that expenditures for all contract interpreters increased by \$4,034,744 (20.70 percent) versus a \$1,667,786 increase (2.06 percent) for court employees. (See Attachment 1.)

⁶ Federal rates of pay for court interpreters are available at www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/UnderstandingtheFederalCourts/DistrictCourts/CourtInterpreters/ContractInterpretersFees.aspx.

Table 2. Expenditures for certified and registered employee and contract interpreters 7

Fiscal Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Total Employee- Related Expenditures	\$73,871,935	\$75,939,519	\$78,573,771	\$80,942,575	\$82,610,361
% of Total	84.13	84.35	83.14	80.59	77.84
Total Contractor Expenditures	\$13,936,585	\$14,089,215	\$15,934,550	\$19,489,630	\$23,524,630
% of Total	15.87	15.65	16.86	19.41	22.16
Total Expenditures	\$87,808,520	\$90,028,734	\$94,508,321	\$100,432,204	\$106,134,735
% Change Over Prior Year	-1.55*	5.31	2.20	6.27	5.68

Noncertified and Nonregistered Contract Interpreters

During FY 2016–17, statewide expenditures for noncertified and nonregistered contract interpreters equaled \$3,580,783, or 3.37 percent of total statewide expenditures.

Table 3 illustrates annual statewide expenditures over the past five years (excluding travel) for noncertified and nonregistered interpreters, and the percent of the total reimbursements for court interpreter services.

Table 3. Expenditures for noncertified and nonregistered contract interpreters

Fiscal Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014–15	2015–16	2016-17
Noncertified	\$1,338,401	\$1,233,769	\$1,493,856	\$1,844,648	\$2,312,752
Expenditures	1.52%	1.37%	1.58%	1.81%	2.18%
Nonregistered	\$681,188	\$745,004	\$922,538	\$1007,345	\$1,267,986
Expenditures	0.78%	0.83%	0.98%	1.00%	1.19%
Combined	\$2,019,589	\$1,978,733	\$2,416,394	\$2,851,993	\$3,580,783
Expenditures	2.30%	2.14%	2.56%	2.84%	3.37%

March 2018

⁷ Table 2 and table 3 expenditures for FY 2013–14 do not include \$2,442,546 for court interpreter services for appearances in domestic violence cases, family law cases with a domestic violence issue, elder or dependent adult abuse cases, or for expenditures for indigent parties in civil cases as authorized by the Judicial Council in January 2014 and later updated in light of the enactment of AB 1657. Itemization by interpreter category was not available for purposes of this analysis.

Table 4 lists the top 10 court reimbursements for allowable court interpreter expenditures incurred in FY 2016–17 as compared to those in FY 2015–16.

Table 4. Distribution of reimbursed expenditures to top 10 courts

Superior Court	FY 2016–17 Reimbursed Expenditures	FY 2016–17 % of Statewide	FY 2015–16 Reimbursed Expenditures	FY 2015–16 % of Statewide	\$ Change vs. FY	% Change vs. FY
Los Angeles	(\$) - 35,572,597	33.52	(\$) 34,277,745	Total 34.13	2015–16 1,294,852	2015-16
Orange	9,949,977	9.37	9,489,872	9.45	460,105	4.85
San Diego	5,707,460	5.38	5,504,139	5.48	203,321	3.69
Santa Clara	5,642,590	5.32	3,912,593	4.96	1,729,997	44.22
San Bernardino	5,380,676	5.07	4,982,3087	4.44	398,368	8.00
Riverside	4,983,660	4.70	4,250,595	3.90	733,065	17.25
Alameda	4,478,964	. 4.22	4,456,297	3.51	22,667	0.51
Sacramento	3,368,510	3.17	3,520,238	4.23	-151,728	-4.31
San Francisco	3,237,672	3.05	2,905,107	2.89	332,565	11.45
Kern	3,029,399	2.85	2,769,676	2.76	259,723	9.38
Subtotal	\$81,351,504	76.65%	\$76,068,569	75.74%	\$5,282,934	6.94%
Remaining Courts	24,783,231	23.35	24,363,634	24.26	419,597	1.72
Statewide Total	\$106,134,735	100.00%	\$100,432,204	100.00%	\$5,702,531	5.68%

VI. Conclusion

In FY 2016–17, the state appropriation fell short in providing the courts with full reimbursement of their reported allowable court interpreter expenditures. Currently, reimbursements that exceed the appropriation are absorbed by the cumulative savings in the TCTF Program 150037 fund. It is anticipated that as courts continue to expand services to include all civil proceedings, and with ongoing collective bargaining agreements resulting in higher salaries and benefits and the increased use of contract interpreters, we will continue to see increases in expenditures for the use of court interpreters.

VII. Attachments

- 1. FY 2016–17 Total Trial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures—All Case Types
- 2. FY 2016-17 Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures—Civil Cases

FY 2016-17 TotalTrial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures All CaseTypes

		All	All Cases Reimbursed Employee-Related Interpreter Costs	bursed Empl	oyee-Relate	ed Interprete	r Costs	
				Total Staff			Supervisor	
	Staff			Interpreter		Interpreter	Salaries,	
	Interpreter	Staff		Salaries,	CIP	Coordinator	Benefits &	Total
	Salaries &	Interpreter	Staff Cross	Benefits &	Arbitration	Reimbursed	OE&E	Employee-
Courts	Benefits	Travel	Assignments	Travel	Awards	Amount	(\$12,500/FTE)	Related Costs
Alameda	3,244,590	24,788	1	3,269,378	ı	406,660		3.576.038
Alpine	*	1	1		1	1	1	1
Amador	1	'	1	•	E		,	
Butte	-	-	-	-	2			
Calaveras		-	1		'	'		
Colusa	ī	240	1	240	-			240
Contra Costa	1,449,648	2,084	1	1,451,733	1	105.730	1	1 557 463
Del Norte	-	1	1		,	1		and the section of
El Dorado	130,838	7,281	1	138,119	1	1		138 119
Fresno	1,205,732	7,112	43,720	1,256,564	'	152,539	1	1.409.103
Glenn	-	5	1	r.	1	1		T.
Humboldt	105,280	154	-	105,434	'	1	1	105 434
Imperial	460,811	490	£	461,301	1	1		461.301
Inyo	1	1	1	-	1	1	t	
Kern	2,412,913	8,451	1	2,421,364	1	1	1	2.421.364
Kings	207,110	'	1	207,110		1	1	207,110
Lake	-	1	1	1	1	1		1
Lassen	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Los Angeles	33,079,476	39,128	185,869	33,304,472	'	ī	275,874	33,580,346
Madera	374,593	1	1	374,593	1	1		374,593
Marin	365,087	438	1	365,525	'		-	365,525
Mariposa	ï	ı	*	-	•	'	1	
Mendocino	125,566	108		125,674	1	ı	1	125,674
Merced	417,035	1,069	1	418,104	1	,		418,104
Modoc	'	•	-		1	1	1	
Mono	23,453	11	-	23,453	1	'	'	23.453
Monterey	684,835	29	1	684,864	,	,	1	684.864
Napa	267,626	1	-	267,626	,	'	1	267.626
Nevada	1	-	1		•	,	1	
Orange	7,702,429	3,132	57,016	7,762,577	-	1	164,179	7,926,756
Placer	219,975	-	1	219,975	-	'	1	219,975
Plumas	ı	,			1	t	1	1
Riverside	4,158,695	3,584	•	4,162,279		1	1	4,162,279
Sacramento	2,553,574	8,572	261,547	2,823,694	-	1	1	2,823,694

FY 2016-17 TotalTrial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures All CaseTypes

		A	All Cases Reimbursed Employee-Related Interpreter Costs	bursed Empl	ovee-Relate	d Interprete	r Costs	
				Total Staff			Supervisor	
	Staff			Interpreter		Interpreter	Salaries,	
	Interpreter	Staff		Salaries,	CIP	Coordinator	Benefits &	Total
	Salaries &	Interpreter	Staff Cross	Benefits &	Arbitration		OE&E	Employee-
Courts	Benefits	Travel	Assignments	Travel	Awards	Amount	(\$12,500/FTE)	Related Costs
San Benito	-	-	1		1	1		100
San Bernardino	4,684,755	2,047	26,014	4,712,816	-	168,409	1	4,881,225
San Diego	4,476,226	3,661	20,629	4,500,517	1	1	93,944	4,594,461
San Francisco	1,773,380	98	9,410	1,782,876	1		1	1,782,876
San Joaquin	878,839	322	61,059	940,221	-	1	-	940,221
San Luis Obispo	233,009	621	-	533,630	1	1	1	533,630
San Mateo	1,100,612	691	-	1,101,303	1	1	1	1,101,303
Santa Barbara	1,321,709	6,360	-	1,328,069	-	1	1	1,328,069
Santa Clara	2,651,028	1,980	51,169	2,704,177	1	1	1	2,704,177
Santa Cruz	730,811	-	t	730,311	•	-	-	730,811
Shasta	-	•	-	-	-	1	-	•
Sierra	-	1	1	1	1	1	-	1
Siskiyou	-	-	1		1	1	1	-
Solano	232,211	549	1	232,760	1	41,911	1	274,671
Sonoma	822,612	10	975	823,597	ı	1	-	823,597
Stanislaus	226,450	256	ı	226,705	-	1	1	226,705
Sutter	168,062	403	1	168,465	1	-	-	168,465
Tehama	113,943	•	-	113,943	1	ı	-	113,943
Trinity	-	674	-	674	1	1	1	674
Tulare	387,344	-	1	387,344	-	1	1	387,344
Tuolumne	-	1	-		1	1	-	-
Ventura	804,914	,	ı	804,914	1	114,158	-	919,072
Yolo	84,202	•	t	84,202	ı	65,849	-	150,051
Yuba	-	1	-					-
Total:	80,179,374	124,325	717,410	81,021,109	•	1,055,255	533,997	82,610,361

FY 2016-17 TotalTrial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures All CaseTypes

			All Ca	ses Reimb	ursed Conti	All Cases Reimbursed Contractor-Related Interpreter Costs	d Interprete	er Costs			
			N C	Š					Contractor		
	Registered	Certified	Registered	Certified	ASL		Court	Total	Travel,	Total	All Cases
	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Telephonic	Ξ	Contractor	Meals &	Contractor	Reimburged
Courts	Per Diems	Interpreting		Per Diems	Lodging	Related Costs	Expenditures				
Alameda	58,241	280,734	105,537	98,057	114,215	1		656,785	146,141	802,925	4,478,964
Alpine	'	•	'	1	-	438	-	438		438	438
Amador	1	12,574	1	ı	206	1		12,780	12,336	25,116	25,116
Butte	3,636	80,387	1	1,939	3,664	484	1	90,110	106,661	196,771	196.771
Calaveras	1	2,365	157	3,256	1	-	-	5,778	5,213	10,990	10 990
Colusa	1	66,092	157	1	1	949	1	67,198	26,389	93,587	93.877
Contra Costa	48,898	529,583	27,622	115,694	-	1,721	•	723,520	67,688	791,207	2.348,670
Del Norte	•	26,402	1	1	•	1	ī	26,402	7,954	34,355	34.355
El Dorado	'	28,118	1	1	1	133	1	28,252	14,328	42,580	180,699
Fresno	11,849	267,067	10,679	806'86	43,122	1	1	431,625	238,264	669.889	2.078.992
Glenn	'	24,584	1	19,328	1	1	•	43,912	20,624	64,536	64.541
Humboldt	1	23,445	1	ı	-	454	-	23,899	46,774	70.673	176,107
Imperial	1	38,739	1	847	-	249	-	39,834	7,216	47,050	508.351
Inyo	1	21,528	1	1	ı	909	,	22,135	11,685	33,819	33.819
Kern	45,749	269,196	5,811	68,570	106,839	'	1	496,164	111.870	508.034	3 029 399
Kings	ı	161,065	11,879	1	3,144	1		176,089	37,149	213.238	420.348
Lake	1	94,507	1	1	470	1	'	94,977	29.328	124 304	124.304
Lassen	(683)	5,927	1	1,668	1	1	207	7,120	10,933	18,052	18.052
Los Angeles	230,836	552,976	291,032	356,238	254,540	1,248	1	1,686,870	305,381	1,992,251	35,572,597
Madera	1	83,760	1	45,834	1	-		129,594	56,737	186,331	560,924
Marin	1	72,300	-	11,954	'	1	-	84,254	16,637	100,891	466,416
Mariposa	1	10,331	276	267	1,529	1	1	12,403	16,781	29,184	29,184
Mendocino	19,128	45,727	1	1	4,634	1	1	69,489	103,095	172,584	298,257
Merced	10,275	172,607	3,790	17,094	22,712	•	1,930	228,408	159,993	388,401	806,505
INIOGOC		282	3,885	1	'	•	-	4,167	068	5,058	5,058
Morio	1 (9009	-	1,200	1	1	-	1,800	3,397	5,197	28,550
Monterey	878'57	113,594	55,894	100,248	14,355	1	•	309,919	31,333	341,251	1,026,115
Napa	1 6	270,428	1	1	1	1	1	270,428	48,576	319,004	586,630
Nevada	2,523	22,975		1	1,163	730	1	27,391	968'9	33,788	33,788
Orange	144,664	1,203,959	98,743	179,791	320,674	1	1	1,947,829	75,392	2,023,222	9,949,977
riacer	23,949	83,265	8,334	40,979	9,370	110	1	166,008	76,155	242,162	462,137
Plumas	1,209	2,502	1	i	1	ı		3,711	8,764	12,475	12,475
Kiverside	36,210	306,165	14,301	53,958	106,170	825	1	517,630	303,751	821,381	4,983,660
Sacramento	104,528	186,120	50,805	77,566	7,312	-	'	426,332	118,485	544,817	3,368,510

FY 2016-17 TotalTrial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures All CaseTypes

		!	All Ca	ses Reimb	ursed Contr	All Cases Reimbursed Contractor-Related Interpreter Costs	d Interprete	er Costs			
									Contractor		
			Non-	Non-					Travel,		All Cases
	Registered	Certified	Registered	Certified	ASL		Court	Total	Mileage,	Total	Total
	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Telephonic	Interpreter	Contractor	Meals &	Contractor-	Reimbursed
Courts	Per Diems	Interpreting	Services	Per Diems	Lodging	Related Costs	Expenditures				
San Benito	1	91,170	1	5,305	1	ı	•	96,475	ı	96,475	96,475
San Bernardino	38,408	156,096	49,504	25,206	182,624	257	•	452,095	47,356	499,451	5,380,676
San Diego	126,763	549,117	92,306	149,180	156	894	-	923,416	189,583	1,112,999	5,707,460
San Francisco	91,979	889,734	56,471	174,876	84,930	1	-	1,297,990	156,807	1,454,796	3,237,672
San Joaquin	36,594	336,227	26,633	56,841	-	ı	1	456,295	75,098	531,393	1,471,614
San Luis Obispo	8,434	31,745	1,819	1	45,710	1	1	87,708	33,704	121,412	655,042
San Mateo	34,508	362,780	14,801	87,677	15,351	20	ı	515,165	163,574	678,739	1,780,042
Santa Barbara	16,046	172,805	135,977	4,425	29,067	222	ı	358,542	88,254	446,796	1,774,865
Santa Clara	39,366	1,560,952	82,173	146,587	128,364	1	1	1,957,442	980,970	2,938,412	5,642,590
Santa Cruz	11,263	10,324	1,365	1,208	13,600	-	1	37,761	10,716	48,477	779,289
Shasta	31,682	52,262	ī	25,197	12,228	35	1	121,404	131,939	253,343	253,343
Sierra	1	910	I	1	1	1	5,849	6,759	191	6,949	6,949
Siskiyou	1	41,974	1	175	1	333	-	42,483	26,604	980'69	980'69
Solano	12,158	126,149	10,697	53,009	25,346	1	-	227,359	20,414	247,772	522,443
Sonoma	16,045	147,525	3,812	17,525	25,773	299	1	210,979	34,580	245,559	1,069,155
Stanislaus	16,001	135,728	5,720	58,493	6,357	1	339,304	561,603	177,481	739,084	965,789
Sutter	2,474	50,711	2,272	30,485	6,112	1	1	92,054	65,492	157,547	326,012
Tehama	2,958	1,003	ı	I	282	1	1	4,243	4,172	8,414	122,357
Trinity	1,912	6,765	1	ı	ı	1	1	8,678	695'5	14,247	14,921
Tulare	42,472	864,318	34,363	94,200	17,689	-	1	1,053,041	221,749	1,274,790	1,662,134
Tuolumne	1	3,083	I	15,188	564	1	1	18,835	6,236	25,071	25,071
Ventura	28,946	648,794	48,400	59,624	1	1	1	785,764	72,649	858,413	1,777,484
Yolo	13,759	329,701	6,898	13,668	24,390	376	1	388,792	186,418	575,210	725,261
Yuba	13,712	19,810	875	488	-	1,267	-	36,152	18,223	54,375	54,375
Total:	1,352,321	11,649,590	1,267,986	2,312,752	1,632,662	11,682	347,290	18,574,284	4,950,090	23,524,374	106,134,735

FY 2016-2017 Trial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures Civil Cases

	Staff	Staff	Interpreter	Total
	Salaries &	Interpreter	Benefite &	Fmnlovee
Court	Benefits	Travel	Travel	Related Costs
Alameda	•	'	ı	'
Amador	1	ı	1	'
Butte	-		1	
Contra Costa	1	,	1	'
El Dorado	1	ı	1	'
Fresno	1	1	1	'
Glenn	1	1	r	'
Humboldt	'	'	1	'
Imperial	51,254	,	51,254	51,254
Inyo	1	-		'
Kern	•	'	1	'
Kings	1,418		1,418	1,418
Los Angeles	2,858,885	1	2,858,885	2,858,885
Madera	-	•		
Mendocino	1	1		
Merced	-	1	1	1
Mono	•	1	•	
Napa	13,801		13,801	13,801
Orange	115,660	-	115,660	115,660
Placer	1,036	1	1,036	1,036
Plumas	1	1	1	
Riverside	227,759	1	227,759	227,759
Sacramento	23,752	1	23,752	23,752
San Bernardino	90,522	,	90,522	90,522
San Diego	10,095	1	10,095	10,095
San Francisco	1	-	1	1
San Joaquin	27,401	•	27,401	27,401
San Luis Obispo	-	-	-	-
San Mateo	1	ı	1	
Santa Barbara	1	ı	a	-
Santa Clara	181,381	1	181,381	181,381
Santa Cruz	3,049	,	3,049	3,049
Shasta	1	1	,	1
Siskiyou	1	•	1	
Solano	t	1	i	

FY 2016-2017 Trial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures Civil Cases

FY 2016-2017
Trial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures
Civil Cases

			Non-	Non				_			
	Registered	Certified	Registered	Certified	ASI		tio	Total	Travel,		Civil Cases
	Contractor	0		Contractor	Contractor	Telenhonic	Internator	lotal	Mileage,	Total	Total
Court	Per Diems	_		Per Diems	Per Diems	Interpreting	Services	Contractor Per Diems	Meals & Lodging	Contractor-	Reimbursed
Alameda	1,328	4,079	4,292	2,636	1	1	1	12.336	88	15 202	TE SOS
Amador	1	2,970	1	ı	1	-	-	2 970	2,302	E 270	13,303
Butte	157	1,228		1	'		'	1 384	700,0	2,270	3,2/8
Contra Costa	5,779	H	5,451	19.496			1	140.414	12 700	3,4/0	3,470
El Dorado		1,844				ľ	1	1 044	12,730	153,212	153,212
Fresno	721	969'9	350	29.375	'			1,044	1,037	1881	2,881
Glenn		-	,	1 378		'	1	37,143	329	37,472	37,472
Humboldt		7.70		1,320		1	'	1,328	788	2,116	2,116
Tambolat			1		1		-	947	1,726	2,673	2,673
Inperial	'		ı	1	,	1	1	1	1	1	51,254
Inyo	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	5,757	3,219	8,976	8,976
Kern	-	170,760	1	1	1	-	1	170,760	1	170,760	170,760
Kings	-	2,458	362	1	'	-	1	2,820	442	3,263	4,681
Los Angeles	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	•	2.858.885
Madera		8,183	1	1,650	,	1	1	9,833	3,356	13,189	13.189
Mendocino	623	4,665	1	t	861	•	1	6,148	10,766	16.914	16 914
Merced	'	8,687	*	513	1,003	1		10,203	5,641	15,844	15.844
Mono	ı	,	-	285	-	1	-	285	1	285	285
Napa	2	14,594			•	-		14,594	313	14,907	28.708
Orange	1	•	1	1	'	1	1	1	-		115,660
Placer	2,297	9,558	ı	7,872	4,611	1	1	24,338	12,243	36.581	37.617
Plumas	604	'	•	\$	•	1		604	1,538	2,142	2.142
Kiverside	2,733	13,586	1,550	5,435	2,100	-	1	25,404	11,301	36,705	264,464
Sacramento	9,864	24,626	4,706	27,387	744		-	67,326	18,538	85,864	109,616
San Bernardino	1,654	8,494	1,407	1,309	1	-	-	12,863	1,629	14,493	105,015
San Diego	5,163	10,836	2,209	7,543	1	1	-	25,750	1	25,750	35,845
San Francisco	18,368	146,867	8,277	122,065	40,600	1	1	336,177	40,363	376,540	376,540
San Joaquin	3,235	38,251	2,582	4,866	1	1	ı	48,933	8,201	57,134	84,536
San Luis Obispo	400	2,099	1	,	'	,	ı	2,499	1	2,499	2,499
Saft Mateo	836	42,316	762	5,969	2,047	'	1	51,929	27,258	79,188	79,188
anta barbara	052	26,730	2,803	180	7,521	1	-	37,484	5,650	43,134	43,134
Santa Clara	4,088	57,793	10,054	21,363	7,961	1		101,258	14,392	115,650	297,031
Santa Cluz	- 202	1 00	'	'	1	1	1	1	1	-	3,049
inista	2,267	19,859	'	6,697	6,233	1	1	38,056	44,498	82,554	82,554
Siskiyou	1 00	313	1	1	1	1	1	313	1	313	313
Solano	2,223	16,584	2,283	14,219	5,268		1	40,577	4,915	45,492	45,492
Sonoma	-	_	7		-	1	-	-	1	•	18,697

FY 2016-2017 Trial Court Interpreter Reimbursed Expenditures Civil Cases

									Contractor		
			Non-	Non-					Travel,		Civil Cases
	Registered	Certified	Registered	Certified	ASL		Court	Total	Mileage,	Total	Total
	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Contractor	Telephonic		Interpreter Contractor Per	Meals &	Contractor-	Reimbursed
Court	Per Diems	Interpreting	Services	Diems	Lodging	Related Costs	Expenditures				
Stanislaus	2,805	15,569	353	2,381	200	1	24,059	45,667	18,048	63,715	64,420
Sutter	-	6,135	1,988	7,661	157	1	ı	15,940	9,632	25,572	25,620
ulare	1	2,971	263	-	1	1	ı	3,233	1,222	4,455	4,455
nolumne	-	278	-	526	564	ı	•	1,368	439	1,807	1,807
Ventura	3,405	113,358	9,710	11,369	r	-	ı	137,841	13,210	151,051	151,051
Yolo	157	4,645	-	157	1	376		5,334	1	5,334	5,334
eqn,	470	3,086	1	•	1	403	-	3,959	2,330	6,289	6,289
Total:	72,425	906,509	59,400	302,281	80,169	622	24,059	1,445,622	283,184	1,728,805	5,354,269