



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688  
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE  
*Chief Justice of California*  
*Chair of the Judicial Council*

MARTIN HOSHINO  
*Administrative Director*

### **Judicial Branch Legislative Priorities for 2021**

The Judicial Council has adopted the following legislative priorities for 2021. These priorities embody the Chief Justice's Access 3D framework for increased access to the courts.

1. Advocate for the following:
  - a. Continued investment in the judicial branch to include stable and reliable funding for courts to address annual cost increases in baseline operations and plan for the future; and
  - b. Sufficient resources to improve physical access to the courts by keeping courts open, to expand access by increasing the ability of court users to conduct branch business online, to restore programs and services that were reduced over the past few years, and to continue to implement innovations in programs and services;
2. Increase the number of judgeships and judicial officers in superior courts by:
  - a. Seeking funding for the remaining authorized but unfunded judgeships to be allocated to the courts with the greatest need based on the most recently approved Judicial Needs Assessment; and
  - b. Advocating for legislative ratification of the Judicial Council's authority to convert vacant subordinate judicial officer (SJO) positions to judgeships in eligible courts;
3. Seek legislative authorization, if needed and authorized by the Judicial Council in 2021, for the disposition of unused courthouses in a fair market value transaction, with the proceeds to be directed to any Judicial Council facilities fund authorized by the Legislature;

4. Continue to sponsor or support legislation to improve judicial branch operational efficiencies, including cost-savings and cost-recovery measures as well as the ability to conduct proceedings remotely in order to expand safe and reliable access to justice;
5. Sponsor legislation to amend the Code of Civil Procedure to recognize Native American Day as a court holiday (with this change, courts would no longer be closed on Columbus Day);  
and
6. Advocate for legislation to implement pretrial detention reform; and
7. Delegate to the Legislation Committee the authority to take positions or provide comments on behalf of the Judicial Council on proposed legislation (state and federal), administrative rules or regulations, and proposals by other bodies or agencies after evaluating input from council advisory bodies, council staff, and the courts, provided that the input is consistent with the council's established policies and precedents.