

Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee
Annual Agenda¹—2024

Approved by the Executive and Planning Committee: December 12, 2023

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Maria D. Hernandez, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Orange County
Lead Staff:	Mr. Corey Rada, Senior Analyst, Trial Court Leadership
<p>Committee's Charge/Membership:</p> <p>Rule 10.46(a) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC), which is to contribute to the statewide administration of justice by monitoring areas of significance to the justice system and making recommendations to the Judicial Council on policy issues affecting the trial courts. In addition to this charge, rule 10.46(b) sets forth the additional duties of the committee.</p> <p>Per rule 10.46(c), the TCPJAC is comprised of the presiding judges of all 58 superior courts. Additionally, rule 10.46 (d) establishes an Executive Committee consisting of the committee chair, vice-chair, and members in the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) All presiding judges from superior courts with 48 or more judges;(b) Two presiding judges from superior courts with 2 to 5 judges, who are elected by the members in this court category;(c) Three presiding judges from superior courts with 6 to 15 judges, who are elected by the members in this court category; and(d) Four presiding judges from superior courts with 16 to 47 judges, who are elected by the members in this court category. <p>The current committee roster is available on the committee's web page.</p>	

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

Subcommittees/Working Groups²:

1. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee
2. TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee.
3. TCPJAC Working Group on California Code of Civil Procedure 367.10

Meetings Planned for 2024³ (Advisory body and all subcommittees and working groups)

Date/Time/Location or Teleconference:

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Statewide Meetings:

- February 1–2, 2024 (in person, location TBD)
- August 15–16, 2024 (in-person, location TBD)

Joint TCPJAC/CEAC and TCPJAC Executive Committee Meetings:

- April 24, 2024 (in-person, Sacramento)
- October 16, 2024 (in-person, Sacramento)

Specific subcommittee/working group meeting dates are to be determined at this time. Meeting occurrences are estimates for 2024 and may be subject to change.

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee – 15 teleconferences

TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee – 5 teleconferences

Working Group on California Code of Civil Procedure 367.10 – 2 teleconferences

Check here if exception to policy is granted by Executive Office.

Assistant presiding judges are permitted to attend and be reimbursed for travel expenditures to statewide meetings in addition to members of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee.

² California Rules of Court, rule 10.30 (c) allows an advisory body to form subgroups, composed entirely of current members of the advisory body, to carry out the body's duties, subject to available resources, with the approval of its oversight committee.

³ Refer to [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

COMMITTEE PROJECTS

#	New or One-Time Projects ⁴	
1.	Project Title: TCPJAC Working Group on California Code of Civil Procedure 367.10 (One-Time)	Priority⁵ 1 Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II, IV, VI
<p>Project Summary⁷: As required by California Code of Civil Procedure 367.10, consistent with its constitutional rulemaking authority, the Judicial Council shall adopt rules that include standards for when a judicial officer, in limited situations and in the interest of justice, may preside over a remote court proceeding from a location other than a courtroom.</p> <p>The working group will provide preliminary recommendations on remote proceeding standards for judicial officers. Input on more substantive policy decisions will first be vetted by the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and then presented to the Judicial Council for final review.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: July 2024</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Trial Court Leadership, Governmental Affairs, Human Resources, Legal Services, and Policy & Research staff</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Superior courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Rules Committee, CEAC, and other advisory bodies as needed.</p>		

⁴ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as *implementation* or a *program* in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁵ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law; 1(b) Council or an internal committee has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms; 1(c) Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; 1(d) Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law; 2(b) Responsive to identified concerns or problems; 2(c) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives.

⁶ Indicate which goal number of The Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch the project most closely aligns.

⁷ A key objective is a strategic aim, purpose, or “end of action” to be achieved for the coming year.

Ongoing Projects and Activities⁴	
1.	<i>Project Title: TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee</i>
	<i>Priority 1⁵</i>
<i>Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II, III</i>	
<p><i>Project Summary⁷:</i> The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee (JLS) is charged with developing, reviewing, commenting, and making recommendations on proposed legislation to establish new or amend existing laws. The subcommittee monitors proposed and existing legislation that has a significant operational or administrative impact on the trial courts. The subcommittee also reviews proposals to create, amend, or repeal statutes to achieve cost savings or greater efficiencies for the trial courts and recommends proposals for future consideration by the Legislation Committee.</p> <p><i>Status/Timeline:</i> Ongoing.</p> <p><i>Fiscal Impact/Resources:</i> Governmental Affairs and Trial Court Leadership staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> None.</p> <p><i>AC Collaboration:</i> CEAC and Legislation Committee.</p>	
2.	<i>Project Title: TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee</i>
	<i>Priority 1⁵</i>
<i>Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II, III, VI</i>	
<p><i>Project Summary⁷:</i> The TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee (JRS) is charged with developing, reviewing, and providing input on proposals to establish, amend, or repeal the California Rules of Court, Standards of Judicial Administration, and Judicial Council forms to improve the efficiency or effectiveness of the trial courts. The subcommittee focuses on those proposals that may lead to a significant fiscal or operational impact on the trial courts and makes recommendations to the Rules Committee concerning the overall rule making process. Additionally, JRS is charged with reviewing non-rule related invitations to comment that may have an impact on the trial courts.</p> <p><i>Status/Timeline:</i> Ongoing.</p> <p><i>Fiscal Impact/Resources:</i> Legal Services and Trial Court Leadership staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>The project includes allocations or distributions of funds to the courts, which have been reviewed and approved by Budget Service.</i></p> <p><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> None.</p> <p><i>AC Collaboration:</i> CEAC, Rules Committee, and various advisory bodies.</p>	

3.	Project Title: Strengthen the Role of Presiding Judges in Outreach to the Legislative and Executive Branches	Priority 2⁵ Strategic Plan Goal⁶ II
<p>Project Summary⁷: In consultation with the Judicial Council’s Administrative Director, Governmental Affairs, and Budget Services, TCPJAC will support Judicial Council outreach with the legislature with a focus on legislative staff in both the local districts and in the Capitol. This effort will entail the development of materials for presiding judges and perhaps educational sessions with legislative staff to educate them on the judicial branch budget and the fiscal/operational needs of the trial courts. TCPJAC will also assist in strengthening communication with the executive branch and with the Department of Finance in particular.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Judicial Council’s Administrative Director; Trial Court Leadership, Budget Services, and Governmental Affairs staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>		
4.	Project Title: Serve as a Resource and Identify Emerging Trends and Issues in the Courts	Priority 2⁵
<p>Project Summary⁷: Serve as a subject matter resource for Judicial Council divisions and other council advisory groups to avoid duplication of efforts and contribute to the development of recommendations for council action. Identify, monitor, and discuss emerging trends and issues at the trial court level to increase communication with the Judicial Council, make recommendations concerning court administration to the council, and identify matters to bring to the council’s Executive Office to enhance branch communication.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Trial Court Leadership staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Superior courts.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: CEAC and various advisory bodies as needed.</p>		

II. LIST OF 2023 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	<p>Educational Opportunities. TCPJAC and CEAC leadership collaborated with Judicial Council staff to conduct four business meetings in 2023. These meetings covered topics including budget priorities, legislative updates, information technology updates, emergency preparedness and response, and court operations. Participants included presiding judges, assistant presiding judges, court executive officers, and assistant court executive officers.</p>
2.	<p>TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Legislation Subcommittee. Remained active throughout 2023, holding 9 conference calls on behalf of TCPJAC and CEAC, to provide review and make recommendations to the Legislation Committee on 48 different bills identified by Governmental Affairs as having significant operational or administrative impact on the trial courts. In December 2023, the subcommittee meeting schedule will be set according to the Legislation Committee’s 2024 meeting schedule. The subcommittee will continue to meet to review proposals to create, amend, or repeal statutes to achieve cost savings or greater efficiencies for the trial courts, and recommend proposals for future consideration.</p>
3.	<p>TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Rules Subcommittee. Remained active throughout 2023, on behalf of the TCPJAC and CEAC, and reviewed 45 rule proposals throughout the course of the year. The subcommittee provided comment on 15 rule proposals that may have a significant fiscal or operational impact on the trial courts. This subcommittee will continue to be active in 2024 and meet as needed.</p>
4.	<p>Report to the Legislature: Recommendations to Increase Uniformity in Transcription Rate Expenditures in California. Through the TCPJAC/CEAC Joint Transcript Fee Working Group, TCPJAC developed recommendations to increase transcript fee uniformity. These recommendations were included in a report to the Legislature as required by Government Code section 69950.5.</p>
5.	<p>Projects Assigned by the Ad Hoc Workgroup on Post-Pandemic Initiatives (P3). Members held 16 meetings to address the four subject matter areas assigned to the Court Executives Advisory Committee (CEAC) with the assistance of TCPJAC: 1) expand options for e-filing and e-signatures, 2) maintain and improve online self-help services and live chat on court websites, 3) improve the juror experience, and 4) use of staggered calendar for court hearings. Discussions focused on promoting consistency when Judicial Council advisory bodies are considering proposals related to remote access and electronic court records. Meeting discussions reviewed the importance of courts updating e-filing and e-signatures practices as well as information on file with the IT office at the Judicial Council. Implementation self-help website services, such as on-line chat or chatbot experiences, were discussed at length and added as a topic in CEAC’s subject matter expert listing. The juror experience topic was referred to the CEAC Jury Administration and Management Subcommittee (JAMS) for ongoing work. A repository of subject matter experts on staggering court calendars was created and includes a list of courts who implemented the procedure along with documentation of the benefits and challenges for both the courts and their justice partners.</p>