



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

LLOYD G. CONNELLY  
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

720 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814  
(916) 874-6328

February 2, 2018

TO: Hon. Lorna A. Alksne, Committee Chair to the Workload Assessment Advisory  
Committee (WAAC)  
Leah Rose-Goodwin, Staff to the Workload Assessment Advisory Committee

FROM: Lloyd Connelly, Court Executive Officer

RE: Complex Civil Case Counting for Sacramento and Reconsideration to adjust the newly  
adopted Work Year Values

Dear Judge Alksne and Committee Members,

I would like to raise two issues for consideration at your next meeting related to complex civil filings and work year calculations recently adopted by the Workload Assessment Advisory Committee (WAAC).

At the November 29, 2017 WAAC meeting, a discussion was held regarding the quantity of complex civil cases filed by government entities in determining whether there is a significant number of cases not counted under the WAFM model statewide due to governmental waivers. Based on a small study that was conducted by the Judicial Council it was determined that the numbers were insignificant in nature. Following those findings, further discussion was held that Court Executive Officers may elect to manually count the complex civil cases which is a similar practice to the case counts for asbestos and EDD cases.

The Sacramento Superior Court respectfully requests that the WAAC Committee allow court's to manually count and report the annual complex civil filings in lieu of relying on the current methodology of plaintiff's fees collected. In FY 2016-17 for Sacramento, 10 percent of the complex civil cases were not counted under the WAFM methodology for the following reasons:

- Two cases had plaintiff fee waivers;
- Seven cases had government fee deferrals; and
- One case involved a change in venue with the initial county receiving the plaintiff's complex case fee.

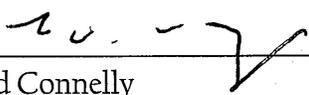
Additionally, here in Sacramento, we have reason to believe that there may be more of the government deferrals in the future which would also detrimentally affect the case counts for FY 2017-18 and associated allocation of funds under WAFM.

The second request is to ask the WAAC to reconsider the newly approved work year values that was approved by the Judicial Council in 2016. For years, the work year value for the Judicial Branch had been 95,700 minutes (1,595 productive hours) and based on the 2016 RAS study it was adjusted to 98,550 minutes (1,642.50). An analysis of the work year value used by the Department of Finance was done and ultimately adopted by the Judicial Council at 111,360 minutes (1,856 hours). However, the actual work year value that is used by the Executive Branch (confirmed by the Department of Justice) for budget change proposals is 1,776. The Workload Assessment Advisory Committee may want to reevaluate whether the Judicial Branch should use 1,856 or 1,776.

Should you have any questions about our court's findings or require additional information about the above, please don't hesitate to contact my Chief Deputy, Jim Lombard. He can be reached by email at [lombardj@saccourt.ca.gov](mailto:lombardj@saccourt.ca.gov) and by phone at (916) 874-3938.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Lloyd

  
Lloyd Connelly

cc: Honorable Jennifer Rockwell, Sacramento Superior Court  
WAAC Committee Member