



JUDICIAL COUNCIL of CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
Tel. 415-865-4200
Fax 415-865-4205
www.courts.ca.gov

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*Administrative Director
Judicial Council*

February 1, 2024

Hon. Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Room 502
Sacramento, California 95814

Hon. Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
Vice-Chair, Joint Legislative Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2022–23, as required under Government Code section 68086(f)

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Gabriel:

Under Government Code section 68086(f), the Judicial Council is submitting this report on court reporter fees collected and expenditures for court reporter services in fiscal year 2022–23.

In fiscal year 2022–23, a total of \$21.48 million in court reporter fees was collected and remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1) and (2) and 68086.1. The estimated total expenditures for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings was \$80.30 million.¹

¹ This estimate does not account for the \$30 million in ongoing funding for courts to increase the number of court reporters in family and civil law cases. The expenditure of that annual funding, which totaled \$20.45 million in fiscal year 2022–23, is tracked separately and can be used by courts for recruitment and retention purposes, filling existing vacancies, converting part-time positions to full-time positions, increasing salary schedules, and providing signing and retention bonuses to enable trial courts to compete with private employers in the labor market.

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The \$21.48 million in court reporter fee revenue comprises the following:

- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(1), fees in the amount of \$2.10 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting under one hour.
- Under Government Code section 68086(a)(2), fees in the amount of \$1.94 million were paid by parties for the services of an official court reporter in each civil proceeding lasting one hour or more on the first and each succeeding judicial day that services were provided.
- Under Government Code section 68086.1, fees in the amount of \$17.45 million were deposited in the Trial Court Trust Fund from:
 - First paper filings and responses for superior court civil proceedings, other than proceedings under the Probate Code, in the superior court where the amount demanded is more than \$10,000;
 - Family law filings and responses; and
 - Marriage dissolution filings and responses.

The \$80.30 million in court reporter services expenditures in civil proceedings is an estimate; most courts do not track the time court reporters spend in proceedings by case type. As in this report for previous years, the estimate was calculated by multiplying the sum of the total amount of the budgeted salaries and benefits for all filled court reporter employee positions as of July 1, 2022 (\$209.06 million), and expenditures for contract court reporters (\$5.08 million) by 37.5 percent. According to the Judicial Council's 2020–21 Resource Assessment Study, 37.5 percent is the estimated percentage of time court reporters spend on civil cases, which includes general civil, probate, mental health, guardianship, and family law proceedings.

If you have any questions related to this report, please contact Chris Belloli, Manager, Judicial Council Business Management Services, at 415-865-7658 or chris.belloli@jud.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Michelle Curran

Shelley Curran
Administrative Director
Judicial Council

Hon. Nancy Skinner

Hon. Jesse Gabriel

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SC/CB

cc: Cara L. Jenkins, Legislative Counsel

Erika Contreras, Secretary of the Senate

Eric Dang, Counsel, Office of Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins

Emelyn Rodriguez, General Counsel, Office of Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas

Anita Lee, Principal Fiscal and Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Gabriel Petek, Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Mark Jimenez, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

Henry Ng, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

Margie Estrada, Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee

Mary Kennedy, Chief Counsel, Senate Public Safety Committee

Eric Csizmar, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office

Morgan Branch, Consultant, Senate Republican Policy Office

Alison Merrilees, Chief Counsel, Assembly Judiciary Committee

Sandy Uribe, Chief Counsel, Assembly Public Safety Committee

Nora Brackbill, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Jennifer Kim, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee

Lyndsay Mitchell, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget

Gary Olson, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget

Daryl Thomas, Consultant, Assembly Republican Office of Policy & Budget

Cory T. Jasperson, Director, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council

Alona Daniliuk, Administrative Coordinator, Governmental Affairs, Judicial Council



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Report title: *Report of Court Reporter Fees Collected and Expenditures for Court Reporter Services in Superior Court Civil Proceedings for 2022–23, as required under Government Code section 68086(f)*

Statutory citation: Government Code section 68086(f)

Date of report: 2022-23

The Judicial Council has submitted a report to the Legislature in accordance with Government Code section [68086\(f\)](#). The following summary of the report is provided under the requirements of Government Code section [9795](#).

In fiscal year 2022–23, a total of \$21.48 million in court reporter fees was collected and remitted to the Trial Court Trust Fund as required by Government Code sections 68086(a)(1) and (2) and 68086.1. The estimated total expenditures for court reporter services in superior court civil proceedings was \$80.30 million.

The full report is available at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/7466.htm>. A printed copy of the report may be obtained by calling 415-865-7829.