



Board of Justice Court Judges

Update to the Judicial Council
June 22, 2026

Agenda

- Overview of the Justice Courts
- Consolidation
- Updates
 - Education and Training
 - Implementing Recommendations from the Internal Control Self-Assessments
 - Efforts to Improve Small Claims
- Questions

Overview of the Justice Courts

- 103 Justice Courts (including South Jordan and Salt Lake County)
 - 18 have a workload greater than 1.0
 - 54 have workloads of 0.25 or less
 - 31 have workloads of 0.10 or less
- 67 Judges (plus a vacant position in Salt Lake City)
 - 51 males (76%), 16 females (24%)
 - 55 with law degrees (82%), 12 without (18%)
- ~369 Clerks

Updates

- Education and Training
- Implementing Recommendations from the Internal Control Self-Assessments
- Efforts to Improve Small Claims

Education and Training

- Internally:
 - Clerk Certification is now in its fourth year
 - It used to be that clerks were trained by the Help Desk and the Audit Department
 - Now training is developed by the Justice Court Clerks' Education Committee and provided to hundreds of clerks in the form of:

Education and Training

- JUSTJUST Documents
- More than 64 courses available in the Learning Management System, with another 21 in development
- Webinars for hot topics and programming releases for improvements to CORIS
- A statewide conference in the spring
- District-level trainings in the fall

Education and Training

- To date, more than 24,000 courses have been completed in the Learning Management System and another 10,000 courses have been started
- Median time from first access to completion is 5 minutes
- Bench Conference in April
- Judicial Decision-Making
- Annual Judicial Conference

Education and Training

- Externally:
 - Visits with Newly Elected Mayors
 - Presentations to City Councils and County Commissions
 - Pending Requests for Breakout Sessions at the ULCT and UAC Conventions this fall
 - Rebranding justice court staff from “clerks” to “judicial assistants”

Implementing Recommendations from the Internal Control Self-Assessments

- Each year, the Audit Department works with 20 different justice courts to evaluate the strength of their internal controls
- All courts had completed an ICSA by the end of 2024; Audit is working through a second cycle
- By comparing results from the second cycle with the first one, it was evident that implementation from the first cycle was down and recommendations from the second cycle were up

Implementing Recommendations from the Internal Control Self-Assessments

- To address these issues, the Board and the Audit Director have been working to develop improvements to the process, and a rule has been drafted. It will be considered by Policy, Planning and Technology next month
- Changes implemented so far include exit conference and follow up by justice court administration to help each court make necessary changes

Efforts to Improve Small Claims

- ODR for small claims cases continues to expand
- Committee of Board Members, other judges and practitioners created to address suggestions
 - Updating the bench book and creating bench cards
 - Looking at the Rules of Small Claims Procedure
- Programming currently underway will improve case initiation using guided interviews
- Standards governing the use of pro tem judges are being reviewed and recommendations will be made to CORE and the Supreme Court



Questions?