



Ad Hoc Committee on High Volume Case Filings

Hon. Charles Stormont, Chair

January 14, 2026, 2025

12:00 – 1:00

Judicial Council Room – Matheson Courthouse

Virtual & In-person

1. Welcome

Judge Stormont opened the meeting with welcome remarks.

The December meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The ideas submitted for discussion were circulated in December. Those ideas and an initial draft of debt collection rules are attached.

2. Discussion

- To build a prefiling system or other type of database would need IT support.
- Discussion of the prior 10-day summons committee work. There is a cost savings for all parties by not requiring immediate filing. The prior effort spent 18 months of stakeholder engagement and feedback but ultimately no change was made. Only about 15% of cases actually get served and then filed. If all cases were filed and served the filing increase would be significant. More requests for alternative service could be expected, and more motions to dismiss for lack of service. And a large request to reimburse filing fees.
- Some discussion of enhanced communication, like adding a cover letter that explains that no case filed yet, but call to engage in settlement or other resolution before things are filed and court costs and attorney fees arise. But many folks don't read things thoroughly or just call the court, and if the case isn't filed, the clerks have no information to provide.
- A system that generated a prefiling number or other type of reference number would work for the clerks to check and then affirm there is a case but it hasn't been filed yet, and then direct to the appropriate resources.

- Tonya explained how small claims works in Cache County when there is no justice court judge. The summons is served and it directs people to ODR. The person can register at ODR or opt out. If neither is done, then there is a default. The forms for that are attached to the minutes. The material is issued by the court so it appears as a court document.
- Brodie or other folks from IT will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the feasibility of a prefiling database.

3. Action Items

- Review the draft rules provided by Judge Stormont and provide comments.