



Ad Hoc Committee on High Volume Case Filings

Hon. Charles Stormont, Chair

July 15, 2026 – Minutes

12:00 – 1:00

Hybrid: Judicial Council Room & WebEx

1. Welcome

- Judge Stormont opened the meeting.

2. Approval of Prior Minutes

Meeting minutes from July 15 meeting were approved and will be posted on the court's website.

3. Update from S.B. 270 Steering Committee & Other Discussion

- The Steering Committee's presentation to the Judicial Council was positive and no particular feedback was relayed back to the committees.
- There has been general discussion of whether using commissioners will slow the work of the division down, since commissioners can only make recommendations. That could create some slowdown but overall speed on this division's docket should improve as more cases are routed to mediation and other resolution.
- There is a housing coalition convening this September. Judge Cornish and Dave Todd are on a panel. The new division will be discussed.
- Janine and her team will move forward on drafting a complaint and summons through the forms committee. There may be changes to make as the rules are finalized but there is no reason to delay creating those forms.
- The case manager position for the new division is open, and applications close on August 7. The case manager works with the four JAs of the division and facilitates the statewide moving of cases between the judges and commissioners. This is mostly an internal-facing position.
- Megan asked about the role of the bar's volunteers for the new division. There was discussion on deferring some decisions to the new commissioners. And Judge Mrazik on the steering committee has flagged

the role CJAs can play for the new division and the people appearing in it. In sum, this is not determined yet but hopefully all stakeholders will stay nimble, and discussions can continue as the lift up of the new division begins.

4. Procedural Rules

- Rule 1. There was discussion of rules that are taken from other rules and have the same meaning as the other rules, even if drafted in more plain language. That makes it easier for judges to interpret those rules and easier for lawyers & parties too.
- Rule 2. This is an opt out rule from a much earlier version of rules. The committee agreed we should drop this rule.
- There was discussion of if counterclaims push the case over the jurisdictional amount for the division. The rules will be updated to this: a counterclaim does not automatically push the case out of the division and out of the special rules. In many instances, the push to mediation and settlement discussion resolves the counterclaims or the person who made the claim may withdraw the claim after some discussion. If there is a counterclaim, the commissioner may recommend the case back to the district court and the rules of civil procedure. The rule will use “may” language and some language about the commissioner’s discretion.
- Rule 3. This is the Complaint Plus rule. This is deferred to the first subcommittee meeting so folks can review a bit more.
- Eviction rules. The debt collection rules will be drafted first, and then the subcommittee will pivot to work on the eviction rules. Judge Stormont does not think that will take much time for the eviction rules.

5. Action Items

- Maryt will send out a poll for the rules subcommittee meeting times and calendar invites.