



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Alameda

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Reduced funding has forced the court to cut staff; authorized positions decreased 15%, from 925 on 12/31/08 to 782 on 12/31/12; filled position decreased 22%, from 887 on 12/31/08 to 690 on 12/31/12
- Reduced resources limits ability to improve technology, business processes, and facilities infrastructure

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Median time from filing to trial for small claims cases is 101 days, up from 59 in 2007
- Median time from filing to hearing for domestic violence cases is 23 days, up from 21 days in 2007
- Median time from filing to hearing in civil harassment cases is 23 days, up from 17 days in 2007

#### Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Litigants using Self-Help Services must often return the following day to file documents

#### Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- The court no longer provides court reporters in civil cases

#### Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Clerk's offices now close at 2:30 PM instead of 4:00 PM
- Ability to respond to customer complaints/concerns is reduced
- Consolidations since 1/1/09 resulting in additional travel of up to 32 miles for the public to receive court services:
  - Civil: 7 locations to 2
  - Family law: 4 locations to 2
  - Probate: 4 locations to 1
  - Criminal: 6 locations to 5
  - Juvenile: 3 locations to 2
  - Traffic: 5 locations to 2

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

#### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Laid off 70.5 positions on 6/26/09 and 28.6 positions on 9/30/11
- Mandatory furlough and court closure days: 31 days for all staff
- Eliminated 44 vacant positions in 2009 and have not filled many positions after they became vacant

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 124,288,650
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 99,111,830
Percentage change	-20.3%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

\*\*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

### Alameda Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	13
Capital construction projects	1

### Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	1,532,137
Judicial officers	85
Judicial officers needed***	80
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	885
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	690

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	6,988
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	39,947
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	282,741
Civil filings	38,061
Family and juvenile filings	15,110

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. C. Don Clay
Court Executive Officer	Pat Sweeten

\*\*\* "Judicial officers needed" is based on recent filings, which have dropped but could rebound to former historic levels. It also does not reflect the high proportion of more complex felony cases (homicides, etc.).