



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Amador

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Any additional workforce reductions will result in Court's inability to perform core functions and will put the Court in violation of mandated statutes and Judicial Council standards for service delivery to the public. Backlogs persist in civil assessment collections; traffic data entry; records management and filing.
- The negative impacts on the public, judiciary, justice partners, and internal operations will be deepened by the Court's inability to carry over fund balances to implement technology and business processing improvements. We are unable to provide technological solutions such as e-filing, document imaging and document storage to provide better access to court documents, records and information.

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- The greatest impact of budget reductions will be felt in domestic violence and family law cases; we already see more backlogs, crowded calendars, loss of public confidence, and reduced access overall
- Criminal case flow processing will eventually be in absolute turmoil, with bench warrants unrecalled and restraining orders undistributed

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

- Reduced days the family law facilitators provides service to users
- Unable to hire a full time qualified Family Court Services Director to identify and implement much needed family court services program
- Due to the budget cuts, our self help attorneys have less time to devote to the self-represented litigants
- Court is in the process of eliminating child custody evaluators because the litigants cannot afford the \$1200 evaluation fee, and the court cannot afford to absorb the cost of the evaluations; can't find qualified evaluators for the rate this court contracts for

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- With only 2 court reporters, Court is understaffed based on need
- Court has no interpreter employees; all services are contracted; court calendars managed to maximize use of interpreter contractors

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- As of October 2012, the Clerk's office and telephone support are open to the public from 9:30am to 3:00pm Monday - Thursday and from 9:30am to Noon on Fridays

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Court only has one facility which is located in Jackson
- No courtrooms have been closed at this point

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Eliminated one full-time management position 2012. Had two voluntary separations; anticipate additional reductions in FY 2013-14
- All employees took 18 furlough days in FY 2009-10—later increased to 20 days—with concurrent pay reductions of up to 9.91% of salary
- Between FY 2011-13 (two-year contract) all employees took a total of 27 mandatory furlough days with concurrent pay reductions of 6.3%
- Hiring freeze in place since 2011
- Vacancy rate is at 24.5% and increased workload has resulted in increased absenteeism and stress-related job illnesses/injuries

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Although County Sheriff pays for personnel costs, the Court must still pay for broken equipment and maintenance costs for security-related equipment such as walk thru-Magnetometers, court control monitors, computers, radio equipment, and other items

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Amador is a three-judge, small court
- There have been no reductions in judicial officers at this time

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 3,362,883
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 2,594,306
Percentage change	-22.9%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Amador Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	1
Capital construction projects	0

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	37,120
Judicial officers	2.3
Judicial officers needed	2.6
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	36
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	28

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	349
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	1,044
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	6,121
Civil filings	796
Family and juvenile filings	564

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Susan C. Harlan
Court Executive Officer	Barbara Cockerham