



# Superior Court of California County of Humboldt BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- *Lengthened employee workday so public windows could remain open longer.*
- *Converted to electronic public calendars so court users can have real-time calendar information.*
- *Replacing failing telephone system so public has reliable telephone access to the operations offices.*

### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Laid off Self-Help civil attorney, reducing services to the public.
- Considering completely closing the Self-Help Center dependent on the budget.
- Eliminated a part-time mediator.

### Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

Reduced limited jurisdiction calendar in outlying areas—Hoopa and Garberville—to once a month.

### Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- FY 2008-09 authorized number of positions for the Court to function well was 105, even though only 93 were filled. The current number of filled positions, 86, is 18% below the need.
- Voluntary furloughs have been in effect every year since FY 2009-10.
- We anticipate furloughs in next fiscal year; they may become mandatory.

### Availability of Judicial Officers

Our court maintains its calendar with two fewer judges than recommended by the 2012 Judicial Needs Assessment. Our need for judicial officers is in civil and family law.

### Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$ 7,269,843
Total Revenue* FY 2008-2009	\$ 8,909,454
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	<b>-\$ 1,639,611</b>
<small>* Excludes \$1,095,459 Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	<b>- 18.4%</b>
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	<b>-\$192,685</b>
Share of \$60 million augmentation (Included in the Budgeted FY 2013-14 Revenue above)	\$174,587

### Court Demographics

Population Served	134,587
Square Miles Covered	4,052
Total Number of Court Facilities	1
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	86
Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009	93
Lost Positions in 5 years	<b>-7</b> <b>(7% reduction)</b>

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Dale A. Reinholtsen
Court Executive Officer	Kerri L. Keenan
Executive Office Contact	(707) 269-1201

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *Self-Help Center limitations affect indigent litigants disproportionately and access to legal assistance is becoming more of a privilege rather than accessible to the public generally.*
- *Operations staffing reductions, frozen positions, and no cost of living adjustments for five years, have strained staff and reduced productivity. Also, there is 'morale fatigue' given the constant financial stress and uncertainty from year to year.*