



# Superior Court of California County of Lake BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

*With the \$60 million augmentation of funding in FY13/14 and the use of reserves, the court has been able to eliminate 16 court-wide closure days. The number one priority for the court is to maintain access to the court and avoid having to reduce current service levels. Aside from maintaining services the top priorities for the court in the coming year, should funding become available, would be to restore public phone and counter hours, reopen the courtroom at the branch courthouse to operate 5 days per week, and expand self-help services.*

### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

Self-help/family law facilitator and/or mediation services likely to be reduced in FY 14/15 without significant funding restoration. This will translate to significant delays in individuals getting their cases heard, primarily in family law.

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Reduced expenditures for court reporters by eliminating one court reporter position and using staff more efficiently.
- Further reductions likely in FY14/15 without significant funding restoration.

### Counters / Clerks / Telephones

Reduced public counter and phone hours to 8:00 am to 1:00 pm each day

### Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

- Closed one courtroom 3 days per week.
- Closed all courtrooms for 16 limited service days in FY 12/13, on which all courtrooms, phones, and public counters were closed. The court was able to eliminate these closures for FY13/14 with the share of the \$60 million augmentation and use of one-time reserve funding.
- Closure of branch courthouse likely without significant funding restoration.

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

- Reduced staff levels by 33.5% in the past five years
- Instituted furloughs of up to 14 days in FY 09/10 through FY 12/13
- Additional furloughs or layoffs likely in FY 14/15 without significant funding restoration

### Court Security / Safety / Facilities

Reduced number of security screening staff at entrance of branch court

### Availability of Judicial Officers

Reduced subordinate judicial officer to a part-time (0.6 FTE) position

## Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$3,646,395
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$5,013,198</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	<b>-\$1,366,803</b>
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	<b>-\$11,013</b>
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$89,607

## Court Demographics

Population Served	63,266
Square Miles Covered	1,330
Total Number of Court Facilities	3
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	29
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>43</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	<b>-14</b> <b>(33% reduction)</b>

## Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Stephen Owen Hedstrom
Court Executive Officer	Krista LeVier
Executive Office Contact	(707) 263-2575

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

*Without significant budget restoration in FY 2014-15, the court will likely face additional staffing reductions, court-wide closures, closure of a branch courthouse, elimination of court reporters in non-mandated hearings, and/or reduction in self-help services. Additional staffing reductions or court closures will lead to devastating consequences for court users such as losing employment opportunities because the potential employer cannot get a criminal background check timely, getting arrested on a warrant that should have been recalled, being unable to clear holds on a drivers license, not being supervised by Probation when a defendant moves from another county, delays in getting a case heard by the judge, and long waits at the public counters or over the phone.*