



# Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

*Sufficient funding for a fully functioning court & state funding to cover rising costs.  
The Court is pursuing automation improvements, additional operating efficiencies, and redeployment of existing resources to reduce backlogs and delays in the absence of adequate funding.*

### Reductions in Judicial Officer Positions

- 9 Commissioner positions
- 28 Juvenile Referee positions

### Closed Courtrooms and Court Houses

- 2012: eliminated court staff from 56 courtrooms
- 2013: closed 8 courthouses, 23 courtrooms

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

- Budgeted staff positions reduced by 23% since FY 2008-09
- Furloughs were required to balance the budget in FY 2009-10

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Part-time reporter program created in 2012 was ended in 2013; no court-employed reporters are provided in the civil courts
- There has been no decrease in provision of Interpreter services

### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

Court-supported ADR eliminated in 2013

### Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- No reduction in clerk's office hours
- Telephone services are restricted

### Court Security / Safety / Facilities

Inadequate funding of statewide realignment threatens the adequacy of courthouse security statewide

### Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues FY 2013-2014	\$639,749,000
<u>Total Revenues FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$723,581,743</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	<b>-\$83,832,743</b>
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	<b>-\$16,953,377</b>
Unfunded cost increases since FY 2008-09	<b>-\$45,700,000</b>
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$17,468,299

### Court Demographics

Population Served	9,884,632
Square Miles Covered	4,752
Total Number of Court Facilities	38
Budgeted Positions FY 2013-2014	4,251
<u>Budgeted Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>5,542</u>
Positions that could not be filled	<b>-1,291 (elimination of 23% of court positions)</b>

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. David S. Wesley
Court Executive Officer	Sherri R. Carter
Executive Office Contact	(213) 974-5401

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- Policy of 1% cap on fund balances limits the Court's ability to obtain vitally needed services and supplies, such as mission-critical technology
- State funding for the California trial courts remains significantly short of need
- Unlike other units of state government, the trial courts have not been funded for employee benefit cost increases or employee salary increases – costs which must, instead, be funded by reductions in operations