



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Marin

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Since staffing level declines began in FY 2007-08, backlogs of an additional week to 10 days have increased for new case filings; abstracts/writs; court orders and judgments; civil research; filings and pleadings in court files; and records management reviews—tasks that the court was current on prior to the reductions

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Reduced services due to loss of funding and staff have resulted in delays for victims and defendants in criminal matters
- Service reductions to self-represented litigants have resulted in a loss of stability for children in family law disputes and for victims of domestic violence, among others

Reduced Public Access:

Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Self-Help Center staff reduced by 25%, causing increased wait times and decreased individual litigant assistance
- Contracting curtailed, including juvenile dependency mediations

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Since FY 2009-10, staff court reporters have dwindled from 14 to 7 – a 50% decrease; parties are advised to bring their own court reporter to civil and family evidentiary hearings
- Court has lost a half-time interpreter; that position will not be filled

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Clerks' offices hours reduced by 30 minutes each day; drop box provided for the public to use after hours

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closing two criminal courtrooms this fiscal year, representing a 13% reduction and Prop 36 Court ended in 2010 due to loss of funding

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Since 2008, the court has lost 55 staff members from all levels due to layoffs (Feb 2010), retirements and other separations
- No one has been hired since 2010 and the hiring freeze will continue
- No layoffs anticipated in FY 2013-14

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Bailiff support reduced by 5 security staff over the past 5 years due to reduced funding

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Loss of two subordinate judicial officers (SJOs) to retirements resulted in the loss of two criminal courtrooms
- Since the 2010 loss of two SJOs, small claims trials cannot be heard timely; litigants' cases are calendared beyond statutory timelines
- Civil law and motions previously heard within 4-6 weeks are now scheduled 12 weeks out from the date of filing

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 20,793,777
Est. Allocation** FY 2012-2013	\$ 17,394,469
Percentage change	-16.3%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

Marin Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	2
Capital construction projects	0

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	254,790
Judicial officers	14.5
Judicial officers needed	11.7
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	175
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	120

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	928
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	4,807
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	47,824
Civil filings	5,093
Family and juvenile filings	2,662

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. James R. Ritchie
Court Executive Officer	Kim Turner