



# Superior Court of California County of Modoc BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS  
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

## Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

*We are working to develop our website to increase general usefulness and self-help accessibility. The plan includes development of instructional and informational videos, and ultimately, e-filing capabilities. At the very least, we MUST maintain our current staffing levels which allow us to stay open every day and keep backlogs at a manageable level.*

### Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Our self-help attorney/Family Law Facilitator is grant funded; the position provides all necessary services and will continue to do so unless the grant funding ceases. The court cannot offer these services independent of the grant funding, nor do we provide any clerical support. In order to enhance this facet of public access, additional court funding would be needed for a position dedicated to improving self-help services and website videos.
- Our Mediator/Probate Investigator position may be threatened if further budgetary reductions happen. In addition, the required in-person visits will not occur as statutorily required due to lack of funds.

### Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- We have one staff court reporter and no electronic recording equipment. It is possible that we will not have funding to hire additional court reporters as needed, negatively impacting public access by necessitating the scheduling of proceedings far enough in the future to accommodate our one reporter.
- Should we need to use just two certified interpreters in the course of a year, our entire annual interpreter budget will be exhausted. We currently use a non-certified interpreter for all matters.

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

- With heavier workloads due to the 24% staff reduction, staff morale is plummeting. Combine this with no cost-of-living increase over the last five years, increased employee-absorbed health insurance premiums, and possible lay-offs; our court is looking like a less than desirable career choice.
- Continued budget cuts will result in at least one additional lay-off, as well as a monthly furlough day, further impacting staff morale. We are risking the loss of valuable, well-trained, and competent staff with these constant hits.

### Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- Court security is provided by the Sheriff's office and limited to a bailiff present during court proceedings only.
- We do not have perimeter security nor do we have any security points/measures outside the courtroom.
- In the event of an emergency, staff will use a duress button to summon aide from the Sheriff's office.

## Budget Considerations

Est. Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$1,159,311
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$1,460,710</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	<b>-\$301,399</b>
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	<b>-\$6,996</b>
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$16,977

## Court Demographics

Population Served	9,327
Square Miles Covered	4,203
Total Number of Court Facilities	1
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	11
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>15</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	<b>-4</b> (24% reduction)

## Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Francis W. Barclay
Court Executive Officer	Ronda Gysin
Executive Office Contact	(530) 233-6516 x1207

## Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

*With the implementation of the new funding methodology and being one of the five smallest courts adversely affected, we are simply trying to keep the doors open. We seek to have sufficient funding to maintain the **minimum** level of services we currently offer. If the Governor's proposed funding plan is adopted, the net reduction will result in lay-offs and Court closure days.*