

MONTEREY

Population: 425,756 • Authorized Judges: 19 • Staff: 189.2 FTE

Civil Filings: 5,261 • Criminal Filings: 57,219 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 4,893 • Other Filings: 830

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Chronic underfunding adversely impacts all aspects of Court Operations.

- **Thwarts efforts to meet the increased costs of doing business and sustain necessary staffing levels.**
- **Significantly impedes ability to attract, hire and retain competent and skilled employees.**
- **Continuing financial strains are resulting in reduced services and access to justice for the public.**
- **The 2012 “indefinite delay” of the South Monterey County Courthouse construction project has left residents of this majority Hispanic, poor, rural agricultural community (who make up 15% of the county’s population or approximately 70,000 people) significantly underserved. Land donated to the State at a cost of \$5 million (land plus infrastructure build-out) may be lost if the Courthouse project does not commence.**
- **A chronically insufficient workforce creates ongoing workload issues and adverse impacts to the public.**
- **Employees and the Court have endured unpaid furloughs.**
- **Long-term and essential planning and safety testing have been delayed or have remained incomplete.**
- **The following have all been delayed or indefinitely deferred: Continuity of operations planning, emergency preparedness, implementation of court security recommendations, IT security testing and employee reviews.**

Inadequate courthouse facilities compromise public access and safety.

- **King City Courthouse closed, effective September 23, 2013.**
- **Monterey Courthouse is rated very high for seismic vulnerability per the recent JCC report, and has an inadequate number of courtrooms to serve the public.**
- **Salinas court facilities for Collaborative Courts, Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency cases are aging, cramped and present significant logistical and security challenges, and are not ADA-compliant.**

Criminal and Family litigants face delays and service reductions.

- **Takes up to 6 weeks to produce criminal minute orders.**
- **Family Law backlogs are approximately 3 weeks.**
- **Unfunded increases in workload due to recent state initiatives: Prop. 47 (Criminal Sentences, Misdemeanor Penalties Initiative), Prop. 64 (The Adult Use of Marijuana Act), Prop. 63 (Firearms Relinquishment), Traffic Amnesty program, and removal of driver’s license holds on failures to pay.**
- **Marital Dissolution workshops reduced by half; reduced number of weekly domestic violence clinics.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

Assuming an additional investment in operations funds, we intend to...

- **Offset significant increases to cost of doing business.**
- **Address significant and chronic understaffing in court operations, improve employee retention and attract new employees with critical skills to operate effectively in an electronic court environment.**
- **Restore access to justice for underserved remote areas (especially South County).**
- **Improve access to and quality of court services through technological enhancements.**
- **Further streamline case processing and reduce the backlog in processing of criminal and civil/family cases.**
- **Address longstanding courthouse facilities and security issues – e.g., insufficient number of courtrooms, security and seismic vulnerabilities, unsecured judicial parking.**

Email: chris.ruhl@monterey.courts.ca.gov Phone: [831-775-5678](tel:831-775-5678) Online: www.monterey.courts.ca.gov