



Superior Court of California County of Orange BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- Minimize travel distances for litigants in family law and certain civil cases due to consolidation to fewer courthouses.
- Retain sufficient staff to provide acceptable levels of service, especially to indigent and self-represented litigants, and to avoid insurmountable backlogs;
- Find funding to replace aging case management systems for civil and criminal case types.

Closed 11 Courtrooms and 1 Court Houses with 4 courtrooms

- Consolidated family law, limited civil, small claims, and traffic calendars to fewer courthouses;
- Closed South County Courthouse permanently on July 5, 2013 (4 courtrooms);
- Reduced juvenile by 1 courtroom;
- Reduced civil courtrooms by 5 since 2012;
- Child support reduced by one commissioner in 2013;
- Closed one criminal courtroom in each of 4 justice centers.

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Mediation services consolidated down to one court location;
- Self-help services closed at West Justice Center after moving small claims and limited civil cases to another courthouse;
- Longer waits for child custody mediation and investigation services.

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Reduced Clerk's office hours by 1 hour beginning July 30, 2012;
- Closed call centers for civil and criminal in 2013, forcing more people to come to the courthouse with questions or payments;
- Closed family law filing windows at central courthouse.

Court Reporters Services

- Reduced all full-time reporters to 35-hour work week;
- Eliminated 22 court reporter positions since FY 2012-13.

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- 5-year cumulative permanent reduction of almost 400 positions.

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- Closed multiple entrances and weapons screening areas at four courthouses;
- Removed Sheriffs deputies serving as bailiffs in civil courtrooms.

Availability of Judicial Officers

- Reduced regular use of assigned judges by 5.

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$186,545,460
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$218,854,735</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$32,309,275
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$9,433,396
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$4,355,099

Court Demographics

Population Served	3,055,792
Square Miles Covered	948
Total Number of Court Facilities	8
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	1,477
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>1,865</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-388 (21% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Glenda Sanders
Court Executive Officer	Alan Carlson
Executive Office Contact	(657) 622-7017

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- Re-opening a Self-Help Center and customer service center in South County where a courthouse was closed.
- Implementing a court-wide Interactive voice response system to assist litigants after closure of call center.
- Converting all criminal files to digital documents to reduce costs and increase access.
- Implementing a new case management system for family and juvenile cases.