

SAN BENITO

Population: 57,517 • Authorized Judges: 2 • Staff: 23 FTE

Civil Filings: 1,167 • Criminal Filings: 6,133 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 551 • Other Filings: 82

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Ensure the public continues to have same level of access to justice Monday through Friday.

- **Despite a reduction of 9FTEs in the last 4 years, the hours of operation for business transactions remains unchanged (8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday). However, due to bare minimum staffing levels we are considering various options, including reducing the hours the public can transact business whether in-person or via phone or via email.**

Protect families with emergency orders and restore family stability with mediated custody agreements.

- **Approximately three to four months behind on Family Law Judgments.**
- **Approximately two months behind in entering orders after hearings.**

Reduce wait time for sealing/expunging criminal records to help people get jobs and to protect privacy.

- **Approximately three months behind in sealing juvenile records.**
- **Approximately one year behind in referrals to Franchise Tax Board.**

Reduce wait time for businesses and individuals to get money owed in civil disputes.

- **Approximately, three to four weeks behind on Default Judgments, Orders after hearings, and Satisfaction of Judgments.**

Ensure self-represented litigants continue to have the same level of assistance.

- **Although a reduction in Self Help hours was under consideration, this was avoided for FY2017-2018 because of a collaborative and supportive MOU with the Superior Court of Santa Cruz. However, it is unknown if existing funding levels can sustain the same level of assistance in FY2018-2019.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Consider additional staff to 1) ensure public continues to have access to justice Monday through Friday, and 2) increase efficiency of service at public counter, and 3) reduce wait times created by backlogs.
- Consider expansion of part-time Facilitator to full-time.
- Consider increasing assistance to self-represented litigants with regard to hours of service as well as level of expertise.
- Consider setting aside funds for ongoing costs related to installation of new case management system scheduled for FY2018-2019.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.