

SAN BERNARDINO

Population: 2.14 million (2016) • Authorized Judges and Commissioners: 88 • Staff: 1023 FTE
Civil Filings: 48,143 • Criminal Filings: 274,756 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 35,390 • Other Filings: 4,301

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Restore local court services and courtrooms.

- **Large criminal caseloads have presented daily challenges in hearing matters prior to mandatory dismissals for lack of resources. Average active cases per criminal judicial officer exceed 650 files.**
- **Maintaining restored operations in Needles and Big Bear is uncertain due to limited ongoing funding. These districts were closed in 2013 due to lack of funding and were reopened in 2017 and 2018 leveraging funding through statewide workload funding (WF) grant funding.**
- **Growing caseloads in High Desert criminal calendars are of concern. The court has no additional growth space in our Victorville courthouse where 17,000 new criminal filings were presented in FY 2016-17.**
- **The court has seen a 52% increase in juvenile dependency filings since FY 2011-12. Lack of space and staffing to address this growth delays resolution.**

Restore and improve access to the court.

- **Significant backlog exists to investigate and provide protective oversight to elderly and disabled conservatees as well as at-risk youth. Currently, 800 + investigations are delayed due to lack of funding to create new positions, attract and retain qualified staff in these knowledge-based positions.**
- **Wait times in family law matters to address custody, visitation and support may exceed two months.**
- **Chronic underfunding has impacted the court's ability to hire and retain qualified staff to provide access to services within the court's 20,000 square miles span of responsibility.**
- **The court lacks funding to invest in technology solutions and highly skilled staffing that would allow for online services to our remote areas, paperless environment and e-filing.**
- **The court currently lacks funding and staffing to fully expand Language Access across the county.**

Increase assistance to self-represented litigants in family and housing cases.

- **Self-help processing of judgments exceeds existing resources with wait times of up to two months.**
- **Full self-help services are not available in all districts due to lack of funding, space and staff. One-fifth of litigants were turned away last year.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Provide staffing for two unfunded judgeships reallocated under AB103.
- Sustain and expand operations in Needles and Big Bear past the current one-time funding expiration.
- Expand technology resources to provide online and innovative services given geographical challenges.
- Increase staffing to address critical backlogs in conservatorship and guardianship investigations, and juvenile, family and criminal mandates.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.
- Expand language access through enhanced web presence and staffing augmentations.
- Provide space and staffing solutions for expanding caseloads in the High Desert and juvenile dependency.
- With proposed separately funded investment in self-help services, increase online presence and expand in person 1:1 and workshop services throughout county to assist self-represented litigants.