



Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of San Diego

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Backlogs are increasing; lines and wait times are longer because of fewer clerks and cut services
- Average family court services wait time is 8 weeks for first time appointments; 10 weeks for returns
- Court users must travel up to 40 miles for probate and juvenile dependency court

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Delays in processing all types of case filings
- Family court parties have to wait approximately 2 months to have child custody issues heard by a family court counselor

Reduced Public Access:

Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Program staffing for the family law facilitator program cut
- Overall reduction in the number of people served of nearly 15%

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Total number of court reporters has been reduced by 38%
- No longer provide court reporters in civil, probate and family cases
- If parties do not retain their own reporters, there is no record of the proceeding in civil, family, and probate matters

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Clerks' business office hours reduced by one hour per day
- Court business offices close at noon on Fridays
- Phone hours have been cut

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Plan to close 20 courtrooms by June 2013, 13% decrease
- Reduced number of small claims night court sessions
- Eliminated use of assigned judges; an equivalent to four courtrooms

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- By the end of FY 2013-14, the Court projects 470 vacant permanent positions, which is a vacancy rate of 28%
- All employees required to take 10 unpaid furlough days in FY 2009-10
- All staff required to take 3 unpaid furlough days in FY 2010-11
- All staff required to take 24 unpaid furlough days in FY 12-13 and 13-14

Impacts: Court Security Services

- The court does not realize a savings in security costs due to the realignment of security costs to the county
- No longer provide bailiffs in closed courtrooms

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Eliminated the use of retired commissioners, paid pro-tem juvenile referees and suspended CASA funding

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 219,359,530
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 184,832,030
Percentage change	-15.7%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

San Diego Facilities Overview

Number of court sites	9
Capital construction projects	1

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	3,143,429
Judicial officers	154
Judicial officers needed	158.9
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	1,652
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	1,276

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	16,744
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	60,130
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	512,821
Civil filings	78,983
Family and Juvenile filings	42,878

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Robert J. Trentacosta
Court Executive Officer	Michael M. Roddy