



Superior Court of California County of San Diego BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- *Maintaining the existing level of public access remains a challenge for the Court.*
- *Addressing failing Case Management Systems that are preventing the court from expanding online access to the public.*

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Program staffing for the family law facilitator program has been cut.
- Due to staff reductions, reduction of nearly 15% in the number of people we are able to serve.

Family Court Services

- Family court parties have to wait approximately 2 months to have child custody issues heard by a family court counselor.
- Average family court services wait time is 8 weeks for first-time appointments, and 10 weeks for return visits.

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- Court reporters have been reduced by 38%.
- No longer provide court reporters in civil, probate and most family cases.

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- Clerks' daily office hours shortened, and all offices close at noon on Fridays.
- Phone hours reduced at all court locations.

Closed Courtrooms (11) and Court Houses (1)

- Reduced small claims and traffic night court sessions.
- Traffic trials are scheduled 6 - 7 months out, with some (e.g., red light camera challenges) at 10 months.
- Closed 7 of 22 Civil IC Courtrooms resulting in increased wait times from 4 to 10 months to have motions heard.
- Court users must travel up to 40 miles for probate and juvenile dependency matters because of closed facilities.

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$165,984,596
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$195,571,335</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$29,586,739
*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$7,823,865
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$4,322,164
Net Augmentation of \$60 million after WAFM Historical Funding Adjustment	\$1,564,111

Court Demographics

Population Served	3,143,429
Square Miles Covered	4,526
Total Number of Court Facilities	9
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	1,259
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>1,662</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-403 (24% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. David J. Danielsen
Court Executive Officer	Michael M. Roddy
Executive Office Contact	(619) 450-5478

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *Reducing the lengthy delays between filing date and trial date for various case types, and the 8-month civil judgment and writ processing delays caused by high staff vacancy rates and courtroom closures.*
- *Implementing a new employee payroll system and benefits plan as a result of the County's recent decision to stop providing these services to the Court, and addressing the resulting increased costs for the Court.*