

# SAN DIEGO

Population: 3,194,362 • Authorized Judges: 132 • Staff: 1,180 FTE

Civil Filings: 53,422 • Criminal Filings: 443,218 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 32,996 • Other Filings: 4,762 •

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## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Restore local court services and reopen courtrooms.

- **Court closures a crisis for our court, severely limiting access to justice for poor and vulnerable.**
- **We have had to dramatically reduce court services, closing civil courts, housing courts, juvenile delinquency and dependency departments across the county.**

Ensure court clerks are available when and how people need them.

- **Counter service hours only partially restored to pre-recession levels.**
- **Unable to restore phone hours, currently only offered from 8:30am – 11:00am.**

Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases with at the Self Help/Facilitator's office.

- **Reduced self-help services court-wide.**
- **Small claims advisors available only over the phone.**

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

- **Chronic problem processing family law judgements where delays of 4 months are common.**
- **3-5 month delays in scheduling hearings and facilitator appointments.**
- **8-9 months delays resulting from trials that take longer than two days to complete.**

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

- **Staff vacancies cause significant delays in processing juvenile orders and sealing records.**
- **Closing of juvenile delinquency and dependency departments will increase workload on already overtaxed divisions.**

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

- **Chronic backlog in processing orders, expected to grow given new court closures.**

## PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Restore Unlawful Detainer and Small Claims operations to all branch courts (East County, North County & South County).
- Hire courtroom clerks and court reporters to open the 14 courtrooms that are currently closed due to budget reductions.
- Hire additional court operations clerks to increase and improve access in all the business offices (restore counter service and phone service hours to full days).
- Hire additional court employees to reduce backlogs in criminal, family, civil and juvenile operations.
- Expand self-help services in the areas of Family Law Facilitator and Small Claims Advisor to assist self-represented litigants.
- Restore Juvenile Dependency department in South County.