



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

Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Increased processing and response time for the public as backlogs significantly increase

Budget Impacts

General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Average wait times at Traffic Clerk's office is 1 hour, up to 3 hours
- Must turn away court users at 4 pm and ask for them to return the next business day

Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Consolidated Self-Help Centers and laid off staff resulted in 50% reduction in staffing levels
- Eliminated individualized assistance in the Self-Help Center

Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Drastic reductions made to court reporter services
- No longer provide court reporters in civil trials and parties must bring their own reporter
- No longer provide court reporters in misdemeanor and traffic cases

Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Reduction of clerks' office hours by 1 hour
- Filing office hours reduced by four hours per week
- Four hour delay to pay a traffic ticket
- Fulfilling records requests may take up to 75 days due to backlog

Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Closed ten courtrooms on September 30, 2011

Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- Reduction of 67 positions on September 30, 2011
- Furlough days implemented in FY 2009/10 and 2010/11
- Staffing levels are 31% lower than in 2008

Impacts: Court Security Services

- Never had adequate budget for civil courtroom bailiffs, ratio is 1:7
- No further reductions to security services instituted

Fewer Judicial Officers

- Reduction of ten subordinate judicial officers in September 2011
- Loss of several judges due to retirement and have been unable to backfill with timely appointment from Governor
- Currently have six judicial vacancies, a 12% judicial vacancy rate

Annual Allocation*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 84,864,628
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 75,022,408
Percentage change	-11.6%

*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

**For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

San Francisco Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	4
Capital construction projects	0

Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	812,538
Judicial officers	65
Judicial officers needed	59.4
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	585
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	413

Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	6,158
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	5,498
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	166,452
Civil filings	22,349
Family and juvenile filings	7,772

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Cynthia Ming-mei Lee
Court Executive Officer	T. Michael Yuen