



Superior Court of California County of San Francisco

BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

Increase access to justice by decreasing public wait times

- 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

Self-Help / Mediation / 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

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

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

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

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

Closed Courtrooms (10)

Closed ten courtrooms on September 30, 2011

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- Reduction of 67 positions on September 30, 2011
- Furlough days implemented in FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11
- Staffing levels are 25% lower than in 2008

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- Never had adequate budget for civil courtroom bailiffs; ratio of bailiffs to courtrooms is 1:7
- Court security continues to be cut as a result of funding challenges

Availability of Judicial Officers

- Reduction of ten subordinate judicial officers in September 2011
- Currently have two judicial vacancies

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$72,153,949
<u>Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>\$81,202,174</u>
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$9,048,225
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$3,160,531
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$1,605,726

Court Demographics

Population Served	812,538
Square Miles Covered	49
Total Number of Court Facilities	4
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	451
<u>Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009</u>	<u>591</u>
Lost Positions in 5 years	-140 (24% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Cynthia Ming-mei Lee
Court Executive Officer	T. Michael Yuen
Executive Office Contact	(415) 551-5727

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

Outdated case management systems require the Court to utilize more manual processes, which is problematic due to the 25% reduction in staff. Resources to update technology will increase efficiency and allow the Court to deal with continued funding challenges, as San Francisco is a WAFM donor court.