

SAN FRANCISCO

Population: 836,620 • Authorized Judges: 52 • Staff: 430 FTE

Civil Filings: 15,577 • Criminal Filings: 198,406 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 7,609 • Other Filings: 4,041

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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

- **Clerk's Office closed at 1pm on Fridays, leaving litigants and court users to wait until Monday morning for services.**

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

- **Our self-help centers are open only three days a week, limiting family court order processing.**

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

- **We experience a substantial backlog in processing family law judgements, with individuals waiting 1.5 to 2 years, resulting in great uncertainty for families needing to enforce orders.**
- **We have a 5-7 month backlog in long cause trials due to understaffing.**

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

- **Our criminal records request backlog of 4-6 months negatively impacts job opportunities and economic stability for many individuals who seek these documents for work purposes.**

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

- **A subsequent filing backlog of 4-5 days has resulted in processing delays for 500 filings.**

Increase availability of courtrooms for trials.

- **All trial courtrooms are closed on Fridays to accommodate mandatory staff furloughs, thereby delaying trials and case processing.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Eliminate 11 mandatory furlough days that were negotiated to offset part of our current year deficit. This will restore trial time to hear cases and reduce delays in case processing.
- Reopen trial courtrooms on Fridays (all courtrooms that typically conduct trials are currently closed due to staff furloughs).
- Re-open our Clerk's Office every Friday afternoon (currently close at 1 p.m. due to staff furloughs).
- Increase the number of self-help workshops that can be conducted by eliminating current year staff furloughs.