

SAN JOAQUIN

Population: 710,731 • Authorized Judges: 32 • Staff: 324 FTE
Civil Filings: 12,553 • Criminal Filings: 90,139 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 9,664 • Other Filings: 2,230

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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

- **We have a backlog of just over 300 court and clerk default judgments dating back to July 2017.**
- **We have over 1000 writs and abstracts needing to be issued which represent a three month backlog.**

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

- **94 family law judgments waiting for review; 109 defaults, 156 Order After Hearings, 30 Stipulations all needing to be processed. This backlog represents approximately a two to three month backlog which causes difficulties for all families involved.**

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

- **We have 265 Prop 47 petitions with a backlog of two months and thousands yet to be filed.**
- **We experience two week backlogs in sealing juvenile records and one month backlog in processing various juvenile delinquency documents.**

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

- **We have been able to expand public access to our Clerk's Office since January 2017, although we still must close at 4:00 p.m.**

Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases at our Self Help/Facilitator's Office.

- **We have had to close the Self Help Center and Family Law Facilitator's Office at 3:30 p.m. every day.**

Restore local court services and reopen courtrooms.

- **Closure of a two-courtroom courthouse in the fastest growing area of our county has forced many litigants to miss work to handle court business, and will continue to limit access to justice unless it is reopened.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Hire two clerks to support civil backlogs and then reassign staff as necessary to other backlogged areas, i.e.: family, criminal and juvenile.
- Hire two clerks for window and phone service to reduce wait times by 15 minutes per person.
- Add one full-time paralegal in self-help to serve four more people a day and expand hours open to the public.
- Open our branch court in Tracy and hire the necessary staff, including a commissioner, to support court operations.