

SANTA BARBARA

Population: 433,398 • Authorized Judges: 21 • Staff: 250 FTE

Civil Filings: 5,841 • Criminal Filings: 84,868 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 4,123 • Other Filings: 1,012

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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

- **Custody mediations can take up to three months to schedule**
- **Over 100 family dissolutions are waiting to be processed**

Assist more litigants in family and housing cases through the family law facilitator's office.

- **We have had to schedule Family law facilitator appointments 3 months out**

Reduce continuances and monitor the pace of litigation through comprehensive reporting system.

- **Inability to generate workload statistics hampers the court's ability to monitor the pace of litigation and continuances in criminal matters.**

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

- **We have had to close our Clerk's Office at 3:00pm, and reduce phone hours to 9:00am – 2:00pm**

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

- **Juvenile termination and sealing orders have not been processed since March 2017**
- **We face 200 pending petitions for Reduction, Termination and Dismissal**

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

- **We are behind on processing civil judgments by over one month**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Provide access to family law facilitators within one week by adding 1 additional facilitator.
- Complete family law dissolutions processing within 5 days of filing with 1 new Judicial Asst.
- Introduce a comprehensive caseload management reporting system and data analytics to monitor the pace of litigation and reduce continuances.
- Provide greater access to family mediators and reducing the wait time.
- Expand access to litigants and others by increasing clerk's office hours till 4:00 p.m. and increase phone hours from 8-4 p.m. with 4 additional Judicial Assistants.
- Eliminate Juvenile backlogs & maintain current status with 1 additional Judicial Assistant.
- Eliminate backlogs in civil judgments and maintain current status by hiring 1 additional Judicial Assistant. Judgments would be completed within one week.
- In FY 16/17 Self Help provided assistance to 6164 persons. We would increase that number by 75% or (4623 persons) by expanding the Self Help Center to full-time in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria including remote services available in various municipalities by hiring 1.5 additional attorneys and 1 paralegals.
- Install comprehensive security systems in all facilities providing weapons screening, security cameras, duress alarms and access control requiring the addition of 1 computer system specialists and 1 Systems Administrator Specialist.
- Complete minutes of proceedings within 48 hours of hearing with 1.5 additional Courtroom Clerks.