



Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara BUDGET SNAPSHOT



January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

- *Maintain current levels of telephone and clerk window staffing*
- *Continue to reduce backlogs in filing documents and recording judgments*
- *Avoid additional staff and service reductions*

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Reduced staff results in fewer services and less access to justice
- Closed two remote self-help locations and mobile unit
- Reduced services for users in 12 remote locations
- Grant funded mediation services in small claims matters reduced by 50%

Court Reporters / Interpreter Services

- As in all other classifications, enduring increased vacancies for court reporters
- Lack of certified and registered interpreters results in increased staff workload and delayed wait times for court users

Counters / Clerks / Telephones

- The struggle to maintain normal business hours is contributing to higher overtime costs to process work after hours
- Up to one-hour wait times for family law, civil clerk services
- Backlogs causing files to be incomplete on the bench, resulting in delays and continuances
- Traffic night court sessions reduced by 50%
- Small claims calendars reduced by 30%

Closed Courtrooms (4)

- Closed two criminal courtrooms
- Closed one civil courtroom
- Closed juvenile dependency department

Staff Impacts / Furloughs / Layoffs / Unfilled Vacancies

- Reduced workforce by over 174 positions
- Released many retired annuitants and temporary employees
- Instituted mandatory furloughs for all employees
- Staff vacancy rate is in excess of 21%

Court Security / Safety / Facilities

- Aging facilities and insufficient funds for repairs and maintenance are causing HVAC equipment and degraded plumbing to run-to-failure
- Inadequate funding has prevented the replacement of broken and damaged public and juror seating

Availability of Judicial Officers

We must leave unfilled two commissioner vacancies.

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$98,221,751
Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009	\$115,400,071
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$17,178,320
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$1,627,596
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$2,436,612
WAFM Funding Adjustment	-\$2,276,612
Net Augmentation of \$60 million after WAFM Historical Funding Adjustment	\$160,000

Court Demographics

Population Served	1,816,486
Square Miles Covered	1,304
Total Number of Court Facilities	15
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-2014	735
Filled Staff Positions FY 2008-2009	846
Lost Positions start of FY	-111 (-13% reduction)
Currently Filled Positions (January '14)	672 (-21% reduction)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Brian C. Walsh
Court Executive Officer	David H. Yamasaki
Executive Office Contact	(408) 882-2700

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *Reduction in workforce is resulting in reduced public service hours, increased backlogs, delays in scheduling.*
- *Enormous challenge in serving litigants timely in collaborative courts, domestic violence, small claims, and family law matters.*