



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Shasta

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- The court reduced hours in a branch court from five days per week to one day per month. Litigants now travel over 100 miles roundtrip on a two-lane mountain road if they need court services, other than the one day per month the court is open.
- The court reduced hours from 8:30 to 4:30 to 8:30 to 2:00. The public, when we are able to serve them, is agitated about the inconvenience of having to make more than one trip to the courthouse to wait in line because of reduced office hours. People are not being served.
- The latest judgeship survey shows Shasta needs 3.6 additional judges to accommodate the growing workload. The court has held a Commissioner position vacant for the past six months and covered with temporary help because of the uncertainty of the budget.
- A modular courtroom facility that hears family law matters has been shuttered until such time as the court can provide weapon screening protection for the public and staff.
- Shasta provides Court Collections services for this court and county, as well as Glenn, Yuba, Sierra, Tehama, Lassen and Colusa courts and counties. These efforts resulted in over \$13 million of revenue (criminal fines and civil fees) to the State last year. Every dollar collected results in \$.82 to the State. If this court is required to survive on 1% fund balance, the entire collections unit will have to be laid off because we received no trial court funding for these employees. The entire fund balance is collections revenue because we have never received enough trial court funding to survive. All of these courts and counties along with the State will lose and court orders will not be enforced.

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 13,408,263
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 9,858,754
Percentage change	-26.5%

\*Does not include unfunded cost increases

\*\*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

### Shasta Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	5
Capital construction projects	1 (delayed to FY 14-15)

### Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	177,823
Judicial officers	13
Judicial officers needed	16.6
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	173
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	166

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	2,780
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	5,322
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	27,711
Civil filings (ltd & unlimited)	5,640
Family and juvenile filings	4,047

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Molly A Bigelow
Court Executive Officer	Melissa Fowler-Bradley

<b>Budget Impacts</b>	
<b>General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If trial court reserves are reduced to 1%, the court will only be able to staff criminal and juvenile matters; right now there are extreme backlogs especially in criminal (AB 109) , traffic, and family law.</li> <li>• Court has experienced a 100% felony failure to appear rate due to fact that the local jail is full and defendants know they will not serve time in custody. As a result, crime continues to rise and the staff cannot process new felony filings from the District Attorney fast enough. 2013 felony filings are 27% higher than last year.</li> </ul>	
<b>Reduced Public Access: Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced Small Claims Advisor contract by 50% so that there is less access to small claims advice for the public</li> <li>• Can only afford one staff attorney in the Self Help Center, so when the attorney is in court or away from the court, there are no Self Help services for litigants that cannot afford legal services. The public's demand is tremendous for legal assistance.</li> <li>• Our return court dates for cases involving child custody matters are set three months out because we do not have enough staff in the Family Court Services Division (child recommending counselors).</li> </ul>	

<b>Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court reporters are provided in criminal and juvenile cases only; in all other case types parties must provide their own or no record is made</li> <li>• Court provides interpreters where legally required</li> </ul>
<b>Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clerks' office hours, including telephone hours, reduced from 8:30-4:30 to 8:30-2:00</li> </ul>
<b>Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Branch court has been closed from 5 days per week to one day per month requiring people to travel over 100 miles for services in Redding.</li> <li>• A modular courtroom facility has been closed indefinitely because the court cannot staff the weapon screening station in this building housing the main family law courtroom</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts: Court Security Services</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court uses Marshal's Office for security, which has had to absorb the same reductions as court divisions resulting in courtrooms operating without security staff</li> <li>• One weapon screening station has been closed due to lack of staff and that facility cannot be used without security</li> </ul>
<b>Fewer Judicial Officers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The court has held a Commissioner position vacant due to uncertainty of the budget. Temporary help has been used in this courtroom and consistent coverage has been problematic.</li> <li>• Shasta also provides a Child Support Commissioner to Trinity Superior Court under a resource sharing arrangement that has been in place for ten years. Shasta has currently suspended this coverage while the Commissioner position is unfilled.</li> </ul>