



Superior Court of California County of Sonoma BUDGET SNAPSHOT

February 2016



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Raima H. Ballinger, Presiding Judge

José Octavio Guillén, Court Executive Officer

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Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Working on the implementation of new case management system for all case types
- Working on the design drawings for the new criminal courthouse
- Successfully decreased wait times in four departments from weeks to days or even hours
- Implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program

Court Service Highlights in Detail

Working on the implementation of new case management system for all case types

Twenty-three staff have been reassigned (full and part-time depending on availability) from their regular duties to work exclusively on Tyler Odyssey, the new case management system. We have launched a new collections system, credit card payment system, and electronic warrants function.

CCPOR also went live in 2015, thereby connecting Sonoma with 42 other California counties. IT has expanded to meet the growing needs of supporting a new case management, collections, and other IT projects.

Working on the design drawings for the new criminal courthouse

Design Drawings for the new local Criminal Courthouse are in progress. Construction is slated to begin in 2018.

Successfully decreased wait times in four departments from weeks to days or even hours

With the addition of seven limited term legal process clerks to support the office clerks, the times to complete purges, filing, and document processing have decreased from weeks to days or even hours. Document processing is faster thus decreasing queues and customer wait times.

Implementation of traffic ticket/infraction amnesty program

Accounts paid in full/current	589
Reinstated Driver's Licenses	556
Approx. Revenue Collected	\$192,155
Total Waived Charges	\$680,659

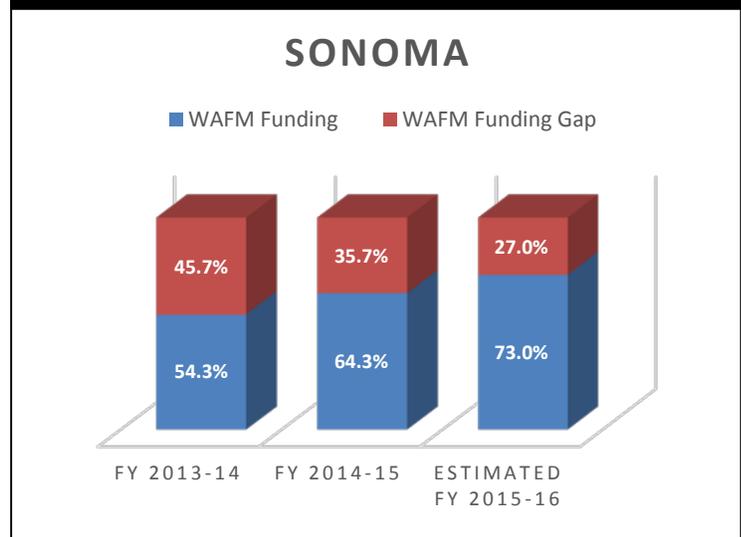
Other court services

Thanks to funding restoration, 2015 saw the addition of an Elder Abuse and a Homeless Court. Veterans Court has become a constant local effort.

Budget Challenges and Priorities

- The Tyler Odyssey implementation, the courthouse project, and a continuing shortage of trained staff have not allowed us to open our lobby doors back to 4:30.
- While we have had the chance to bring in more staff, shortages remain in critical areas like the Self-Help Center and Juvenile and Family Court Services.
- Anticipated variations in staffing like illness and vacation significantly impact work completion.
- If the Self-Help Center was fully funded, it could be open full-time instead of 16 hours per week.

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	490,486
Square Miles Covered	1,768
Total Number of Court Facilities	5

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM)

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM) calculates the total funding needed for California's 58 trial courts based on case filings, workload and other factors.

To do this, WAFM relies on results from what we call the Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model to estimate total staffing needed using a weighted caseload model. Developed in partnership with national experts, the RAS model is based on a time study of over 5,000 case processing staff in 24 California trial courts. The study established a set of caseweights (amount of time in minutes to process a case from initial filing through any post-disposition activity) understanding that certain types of filings take more time and resources to handle than others. The weighted filings are used to estimate total staff needed in each court.

The WAFM model converts the staff need data into dollars, taking into account average salaries, benefits, operating expenses and equipment, and the local cost of labor using the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a benchmark. A "funding floor" is applied to the smallest trial courts because there is a basic operating threshold that must be met in order to provide service to the public. In other words, California's small courts do not have economies of scale, and yet there are basic expenditures that even the smallest courts must make. The result is, for each court, an estimate of the core operations funding required to adequately process its workload. This is known as the court's WAFM share.

Starting in FY 2013-14, a portion of each court's allocation is being recalculated according to its WAFM share. (A court's WAFM share is different from the courts' traditional share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the traditional share was based on the amount each court received from its county not taking into consideration the courts' filings or staff needs.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) California's trial courts are underfunded by at least a collective \$444 million. The underfunding is made worse for those courts that experience a reduction of funding based on their WAFM share. To manage the budget reductions resulting from the implementation of WAFM in the absence of full trial court funding, the Judicial Council approved applying WAFM incrementally, applying it fully only to new money appropriated in the budget.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including to FY 2017-18, incrementally more of the historical (base) funding (using FY 2012-13 as the base) will be subject to WAFM, until 50% of the FY 12-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All new state funding is distributed according to the WAFM shares; and
- For each dollar of new state funding, one dollar of the historical base will be reallocated using WAFM.