

STANISLAUS

Population: 526,042 • Authorized Judges: 24 • Staff: 246.7 FTE

Civil Filings: 7,701 • Criminal Filings: 50,162 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 7,543 • Other Filings: 1,426

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

As a result of inadequate funding relative to workload, the court lacks the staffing necessary to process documents and cases in a timely manner. These delays negatively impact access to justice, diminish branch transparency and accountability, and potentially affect public safety.

- **Over 100 uncontested Family Law cases await judgment review and judicial determination.**
- **Over 600 Civil default judgments are pending processing and judicial review.**
- **Over 730-case backlog reporting criminal dispositions; which delays transmittal of conviction, dismissal and expungement information to DOJ and DMV.**
- **Over 400 bench warrants await issuance, potentially impacting public safety.**

The lack of adequate and stable funding makes it difficult for the court to increase efficiency and expand public access through the use of technology.

- **The court has been unable to fully leverage technology to increase access through online services such as payment of fines and fees, e-filing and access to case information, documents and court calendars.**
- **Long-term and strategic planning for technology enhancement requires funding that is consistent year over year.**
- **As one of three courts remaining underfunded by 30% or more after WAFM reallocations, Stanislaus must continually choose between filling vacancies and investing in technology.**

It is becoming more difficult to recruit and retain qualified employees.

- **There has been a recent increase in the number of employees leaving the court for better paying jobs in the public and private sectors (current labor agreement expires September 2018).**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Hire additional staff to fill vacant positions. Staffing these positions will improve public access by increasing the number of staff available to assist court users, process documents, and enhance court technology. We estimate it would cost approximately \$1.460M annually to fill all vacant positions.
- Develop a strategic plan for our investment in technology. Additional, ongoing funding allows the court to plan for regular enhancements to our case management and other systems. Enhancements such as expanded online access to documents and calendar information, data exchanges with local and statewide justice partners, real-time minutes, and same day orders after hearing, will substantially increase access to justice and result in a more efficient and effective delivery of services.
- Focus on retaining a quality workforce. The court believes the best investment it can make is in the people who work here. Additional funding ensures the court will be able to offer competitive salaries, benefits and training opportunities to its employees.