

SUTTER

Population: 95,733 • Authorized Judges: 6 • Staff: 53 FTE

Civil Filings: 1,449 • Criminal Filings: 16,057 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 1,706 • Other Filings: 318

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

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

- **A recent recruitment for a clerk position resulted in only 3 potential candidates.**
- **A 3% salary increase would take the starting salary of a court clerk from \$14.57 to \$15.00. As a comparison, a first year Trader Joe's shelf stocker makes 15.60 per hour. A 3% salary increase with corresponding PERS and benefits cost increase will cost Sutter Court \$306,128.95.**
- **We are unable to staff all courtrooms without reassignments. During vacation seasons or in the event more than two courtroom staff is out ill, it become necessary for supervisors to staff courtrooms.**

Public Safety and safety of staff continue to be a primary concern.

- **Currently we have un-armed court attendants providing screening. In the event of an emergency in one of the three public lobbies or at the front door, the bailiffs in the courtrooms would not be available to respond. We would have to wait for the police to be dispatched before there would be an armed response to the public areas of the courthouse.**

Fill an unfilled supervisor position.

- **The two current supervisors are the only step between administration and represented line staff. When the supervisors are needed to work the counter, answer phones or clerk a courtroom, important training and cross training do not get accomplished. This results in a lower quality of service to the public and errors when we cannot adequately train staff.**

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

- **We often have a significant backlog of reporting and mandated file maintenance due to a funding shortage that impacts the availability of clerks to undertake the work of the court.**
- **We have an evidence destruction backlog that goes back to the 1970's. We have biological materials and drugs in our courthouse evidence locker because an evidence destruction project could not be a priority during times when we are not even able to staff courtrooms fully.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Hire 2 clerks which would enable us to staff courtrooms, maintain our public counter and phone hours that are currently at risk of reduction due to workload.
- Digitize additional paper files for greater public access to court records online.
- Provide additional perimeter security.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.