

DEL NORTE

Population: 28,131 • Authorized Judges: 2 • Staff: 21.275 FTE

Civil Filings: 343 • Criminal Filings: 7,404 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 796 • Other Filings: 256

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Current staffing levels are jeopardizing the Court's ability to provide adequate services to the public.

- **Access to justice, effectively and efficiently is the Court's first priority. Reductions in staff in recent years has led to decreased efficiency in serving the public and creates unnecessary barriers for unrepresented and at risk litigants.**

Protect families with emergency orders and restore family stability with mediated custody agreements.

- **The Court's commitment to protect families and children is jeopardized when budget shortfalls requires the Court to balance the needs of community against repeated budget shortages. Wait times often exceed those predicted by Court staff, resulting in repeated returns by the public and forcing the public to bear the inconvenience of the overburden workload.**

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

- **Helping our community move beyond their Court experience reduces recidivism, promotes faster repayment of Court fines and allows rehabilitation to have a positive community effect.**

Reduce wait time for businesses and individuals to get money owed in civil disputes.

- **We maintain an unusually large vacancy rate for a small court so that we can maintain our budget even though it's difficult to remain current with our services. This burden falls onto a staff that has absorbed many vacancies and therefore has a detrimental effect on final case processes, as those have the least priority in the Court environment.**

Help more self-represented litigants in family and housing cases with at the Self Help/Facilitator's office.

- **Our staff limitations prevent us from increasing self-help services. This shortfall is particularly harmful to our non-English speaking community. Currently, we have no ability to offer personal assistance in any language other than English. This is a great deficit the Court must overcome to equally support all members of our community.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Hire staff vacancies, held vacant to back fill budget shortages.
- Address inflationary cost increases and make needed adjustments to recruit qualified candidates and retain experienced staff.
- Expand services to the At-Risk populations and improve access to justice for self-representing litigants and non-English court users.