

LOS ANGELES

Population: 10,041,797 • Authorized Judges: 487 • Staff: 4,600 FTE

Civil Filings: 228,000 • Criminal Filings: 1,129,000 • Family/Juvenile Filings: 120,000 • Other Filings: 23,000 •

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

Protection and stability for families and children are hindered by lack of clerical and courtroom staff:

- **6-month-long delays in scheduling family law trials prevent families from moving forward from domestic disputes, exacerbating tensions;**
- **More than 1,500 family cases await clerical processing before judgments are finalized;**
- **More than 1,000 orders for child and spousal support are backlogged, denying people the economic support they need and deserve;**
- **A backlog of hundreds of child custody orders denies parents the opportunity to parent their children.**
- **Dependency judges have caseloads approaching 1,000 foster children, each of whom faces different challenges and requires different services from the foster care system;**
- **Clerical backlogs in handling requests for confidential dependency data slow the efforts of other agencies in helping foster children.**

Court services are not available when and where people need them:

- **Only one third of courthouses handle landlord-tenant cases or Small Claims cases, requiring litigants to spend hours in traffic to get court services;**

Timely criminal case processing, necessary to protect rights and ensure public safety, is compromised by a system that is overloaded and under-funded:

- **The mental health crisis has increased criminal competency hearings five-fold, inundating the mental health courts and delaying many criminal trials;**
- **20% of Felonies, and 40% of Misdemeanors, are over judicial branch time standards.**

As civil filings increase, so do delays for businesses and individuals to get money owed in civil disputes.

- **The proportion of civil cases delayed beyond 2 years has doubled (and more than 1,000 personal injury cases are more than 4 years old) due to lack of available courtrooms and up to 9-month delays to hear a motion;**
- **Clerical backlogs of more than 4,000 court orders prevent people in those cases from collecting money they are owed;**
- **Alternative dispute resolution programs fall far short of need, forcing people into expensive litigation;**
- **People wait as long as 4 months to begin a Small Claims case.**

PRIORITIES FOR REINVESTMENT

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

- Eliminate clerical backlogs that prevent litigants from benefitting from court rulings.
- Expand our ability to hear family, landlord-tenant, and small claims cases in more courthouses to reduce transportation burdens on litigants.
- Expand the number of courtrooms to break courtroom logjams and address unacceptable delays.