



## Judicial Branch Budget Snapshot Superior Court of California County of Orange

### Key Budget Challenges/Priorities

- Court users must travel farther for hearings in certain case types due to consolidation of calendars to fewer courthouses
- Fewer security entrances increase time litigants, witnesses, jurors, and visitors must wait in line especially in the mornings. It also makes it more difficult for disabled persons to enter the buildings

### Budget Impacts

#### General Budget Reduction Impacts to the Public

- Delays in scheduling small claims cases
- Fewer night court sessions for small claims and traffic hearings
- Guardianship and conservatorship investigations are backlogged

#### Reduced Public Access:

##### Self-Help/Mediator/Facilitator Services

- Self-help services closed at West Justice Center after moving small claims and limited civil cases to another courthouse
- Longer waits for child custody mediation services

#### Reduced Public Access: Court Reporters/Interpreters

- Reduced all full-time reporters to 35-hour work week
- Eliminated 20 court reporter positions in FY 2012-13

#### Reduced Public Access: Public Service Counters and Clerks

- Reduced Clerk's office hours by 1 hour on July 30, 2012
- Closed information desks at all courthouses resulting in reduced service levels to the public

#### Closures: Courtrooms and Courthouses

- Consolidated limited civil, small claims, and traffic calendars to fewer courthouses
- Family law closed one courtroom in 2012
- Closing South County Courthouse permanently on July 5, 2013

#### Staff Reductions: Furloughs, Layoffs, Unfilled Vacancies

- 5-year cumulative reduction of 300 positions
- Fewer positions conducting conservatorship investigations involving elderly and/or disabled persons
- Without additional funding, would be required to further reduce staff by over 500 and/or institute furlough and court closure days by end of FY 2014-15

#### Impacts: Court Security Services

- Closed multiple entrances and weapons screening areas at four courthouses
- Removed Sheriffs deputies serving as bailiffs in civil courtrooms

#### Fewer Judicial Officers

- Reduced use of assigned judges by 5

### Annual Allocation\*

Total Allocation FY 2008-2009	\$ 227,611,568
Est. Allocation FY 2012-2013**	\$ 176,801,455
Percentage change	-22.3%

\*Does not reflect unfunded cost increases

\*\*For comparison purposes only, includes court security funding

### Orange Facilities Overview

Number of court facilities	9
Capital construction projects	0

### Judicial Workload/Employees as of Dec. 2012:

Population served	3,055,792
Judicial officers	145
Judicial officers needed	166.5
Filled staff positions FY 08-09	1,865
Filled staff positions FY 12-13	1,527

### Case Statistics (Fiscal Year 2010-11)

Felony filings	13,106
Misdemeanor filings (incl. traffic)	88,759
Infraction filings (incl. traffic)	446,395
Civil filings	90,485
Family and juvenile filings	36,801

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Thomas James Borris
Court Executive Officer	Alan Carlson