



Superior Court of California County of San Bernardino BUDGET SNAPSHOT



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
OF THE COURTS
OFFICE OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

January 2014

Budget and Program Priorities for FY 2014-15

There is much to do to begin restoration of service and access to justice for the citizens of California and specifically the citizens of San Bernardino County. We hope to keep the Barstow courthouse open at already reduced levels and as importantly, put great effort into securing additional funded judgeships as we currently only have 55% of the authorized judicial need in San Bernardino.

REDUCED PUBLIC ACCESS:

"We amputated this court system last year. The closures and layoffs brought the budget in line, but with a grave cost to the citizens of this county in terms of access to justice." Presiding Judge Marsha G. Slough

Self-Help / Mediation / Facilitator Services

- Self-Help staff has been reduced by 4 positions; the reductions have been temporarily offset by the creation of positions funded by the Access to Justice Initiative
- From January through December 2013 Self Help staff turned away 1,307 people due to an inability to serve them. An additional 7,395 people left the court without waiting for services
- The number of requests for services handled annually by the Self-Help staff, including Facilitator Services, has dropped 17% since Calendar Year 2011

Closed Courtrooms and Court houses (18)

- Since FY 2006-07 the Twin Peaks, Redlands, Chino, Needles and Big Bear courthouses have closed
- One courtroom closed in Joshua Tree FY 2012-13
- Clerk's Office is now closed to the public at 3:00 p.m. daily
- Night Court was eliminated countywide as of March 2013
- Barstow closed 4.4 courtrooms May 6, 2013, leaving 1 courtroom with limited calendar open 3 days a week

Staff Impacts

- Furloughs instituted for all fiscal years since FY 2009-10
- 269 positions eliminated since 2011
- 41 employees laid off
- No cost of living adjustments since 6/1/2008
- Step progression reduced from 5% to 2.5% annually

Availability of Judicial Officers

Assigned judges reduced and 7 commissioner positions left vacant

New Facilities

New San Bernardino Justice Center opening and all valley courts reorganized for optimal efficiency and service

Budget Considerations

Budgeted Revenues* FY 2013-2014	\$97,378,436
Total Revenues* FY 2008-2009	\$111,711,058
Five-Year Revenue Reduction	-\$14,332,622
<small>*Excludes Sheriff-Provided Security</small>	
Current Year Unfunded Employee Health Benefits and Retirement Costs	-\$2,439,117
Share of \$60 million augmentation	\$3,476,637

Court Demographics

Population Served (2012 estimate)	2,081,313
Square Miles Covered	20,105
Total Number of Court Facilities	16
Judicial Positions Authorized	91 (86 funded)
Assessed Judicial Need	156.1
Filled Staff Positions FY 2013-14	877
Filled Staff Positions FY 2009-09	1,000
Lost Positions in 5 Years	-123
Current Assessed Staff Need	1,512 (-635 below need)
FY 2011-12 Filings per Judicial Officer (ranked 2 nd highest in the state)	2,208 (excluding infractions)

Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Marsha G. Slough
Court Executive Officer	Ms. Christina M. Volkers
Executive Office Contact	(909) 708-8767

Budget Challenges for FY 2014-15

- *San Bernardino County is the largest geographic county in the contiguous United States. Courthouse and courtroom closures increase the distance many court users must travel to attend jury service, court hearings, and to obtain court services. Court users in distant areas with minimal/negligible public transportation must drive 6 hours or more round-trip to access services.*
- *Securing a new case management system along all lines of business is a critical need for San Bernardino Superior Court, as our current system(s) and technology are expiring starting in 2016.*