

Superior Court of California County of San Bernardino BUDGET SNAPSHOT



JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Raymond L. Haight III, Presiding Judge

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Court Service Highlights in the Current Year

- Restoring services and access to the Court by reinstating courtrooms and service hours
- Expanding services by adding courtrooms and service hours, improving efficiency in resolving cases, and reorganizing operations
- Promoting innovation including technological to improve efficiency and access to the Court

Court Service Highlights in Detail

Restoring services and access to the Court by reinstating courtrooms and service hours

- Restored the Barstow courthouse to 2 full-time courtrooms
- Reinstated Clerk's Office and public telephone hours courtwide to 4:00 p.m. (from 3:00 p.m. daily)
- Improved access for Needles residents by reworking calendars to coincide with the new public transit option from Needles to Barstow and Victorville courthouses
- Reinstated Self Help hours to 4:00 p.m. (from 3:00 p.m.)

Expanding services by adding courtrooms and hours, improving efficiency in resolving cases, and reorganizing operations

- Increased the San Bernardino Historic Courthouse family law calendar to 10 judges, effectively adding two full-time family law calendars and reducing each judicial officer's caseload by over 17%
- Relocated and consolidated small claims, landlord-tenant, and infraction matters to Barstow to mirror efficiencies gained in the Fontana courthouse, allowing the Victorville courthouse to expand its operations to include three full-time family law courtrooms and six all-purpose criminal trial courtrooms
- Expanded hours for the Self Help Resource Centers to open over the lunch hour
- Added phone assistance hours and enhanced services in the Self Help Resource Centers by providing form sets via email, updating the Self Help webpage, and launching an internship program, which also created additional customer services
- Created a stand-alone Probate Division with four dedicated Clerk's Office windows

Promoting innovation to improve efficiency and access to the Court

- Implemented new case management system for criminal and traffic, creating benefits for the bar and the public such as access to electronic files and e-filing, enhancements to portal access, and online payments
- Installed jury kiosks in four courthouses to facilitate juror check-in
- Provided an online conservatorship orientation program
- Completed civil and family law scanning project, including scanning over 11 million pages, and began scanning criminal and traffic filings to facilitate availability of electronic files

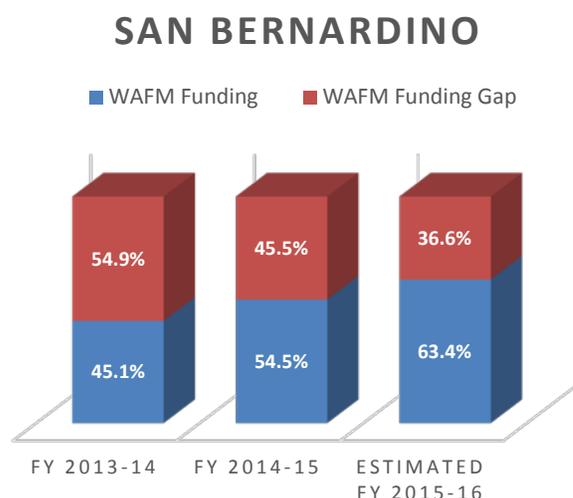
Other court services

- Amnesty program successfully implemented and 4,095 cases (from back to 1993) processed during the first three months
- Developed procedures to process Prop 47 petitions
- Exploring possible use for Video Remote Interpreting for other than Spanish interpreting services in outlying and remote courts.

Budget Challenges and Priorities

- Ongoing judicial officer shortage of over 60%
- Inability to reduce caseloads without opening additional courtrooms, which would require additional judicial officers and staff
- Funding obligations such as labor negotiations, line item budgeting by Legislature and Governor
- Potential reductions to Court revenue: portion of local fines and fees, civil assessments, installment payments

Workload Allocation & Funding Gap (see reverse)



Court Demographics

Population Served	2,085,669
Square Miles Covered	20,105
Total Number of Court Facilities	14

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM)

The Workload-based Allocation & Funding Methodology (WAFM) calculates the total funding needed for California's 58 trial courts based on case filings, workload and other factors.

To do this, WAFM relies on results from what we call the Resource Assessment Study (RAS) model to estimate total staffing needed using a weighted caseload model. Developed in partnership with national experts, the RAS model is based on a time study of over 5,000 case processing staff in 24 California trial courts. The study established a set of case weights (amount of time in minutes to process a case from initial filing through any post-disposition activity) understanding that certain types of filings take more time and resources to handle than others. The weighted filings are used to estimate total staff needed in each court.

The WAFM model converts the staff need data into dollars, taking into account average salaries, benefits, operating expenses and equipment, and the local cost of labor using the Bureau of Labor Statistics as a benchmark. A "funding floor" is applied to the smallest trial courts because there is a basic operating threshold that must be met in order to provide service to the public. In other words, California's small courts do not have economies of scale, and yet there are basic expenditures that even the smallest courts must make. The result is, for each court, an estimate of the core operations funding required to adequately process its workload. This is known as the court's WAFM share.

Starting in FY 2013-14, a portion of each court's allocation is being recalculated according to its WAFM share. (A court's WAFM share is different from the courts' traditional share of the statewide funding. The WAFM calculation tells us what the trial courts need to function based on current filings, whereas the traditional share was based on the amount each court received from its county not taking into consideration the courts' filings or staff needs.)

Unfortunately, the total WAFM funding needed for all 58 courts exceeds the funding currently appropriated in the state budget. (This is the WAFM funding gap.) California's trial courts are underfunded by at least a collective \$444 million. The underfunding is made worse for those courts that experience a reduction of funding based on their WAFM share. To manage the budget reductions resulting from the implementation of WAFM in the absence of full trial court funding, the Judicial Council approved applying WAFM incrementally, applying it fully only to new money appropriated in the budget.

The rules of application adopted by the Judicial Council are:

- Each year beginning in FY 2013-14, and through/including to FY 2017-18, incrementally more of the historical (base) funding (using FY 2012-13 as the base) will be subject to WAFM, until 50% of the FY 12-13 base is distributed according to WAFM;
- All new state funding is distributed according to the WAFM shares; and
- For each dollar of new state funding, one dollar of the historical base will be reallocated using WAFM.