



# 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 (13.4) and Court Houses (5)

- 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 seven (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

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

### 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	877
Assessed Staff Need	1,512
FY 2011/12 Filings per Judicial Officer	2,208*
Ranked 2 <sup>nd</sup> highest in the state	*(Excludes infractions)

### Court Leadership

Presiding Judge	Hon. Marsha G. Slough
Court Executive Officer	Christina M. Volkrs
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.