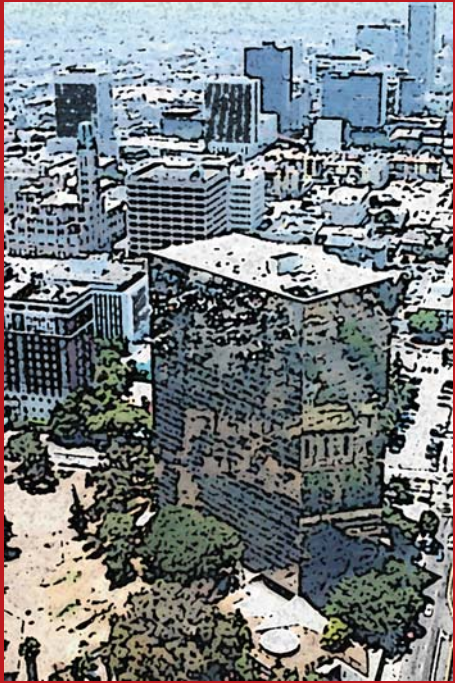
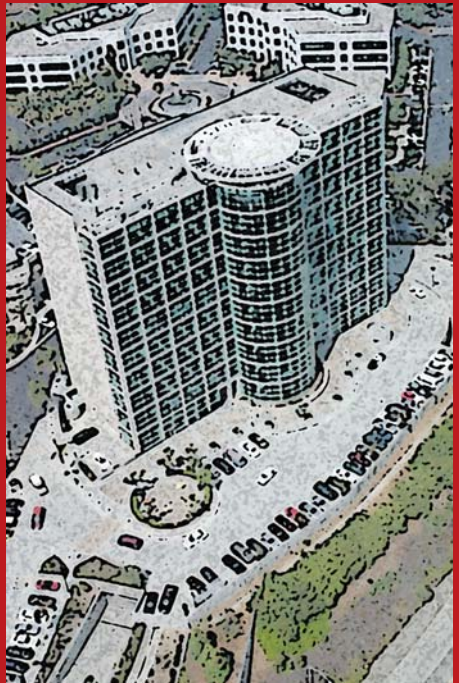
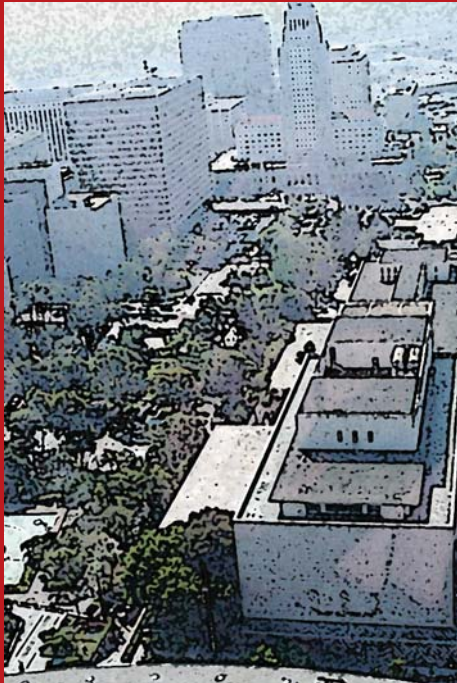


Los Angeles Superior Court



2007

Annual

Report

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Los Angeles Superior Court Annual Report 2007 Edition

(Incorporating financial data for Fiscal Year 2006-2007)

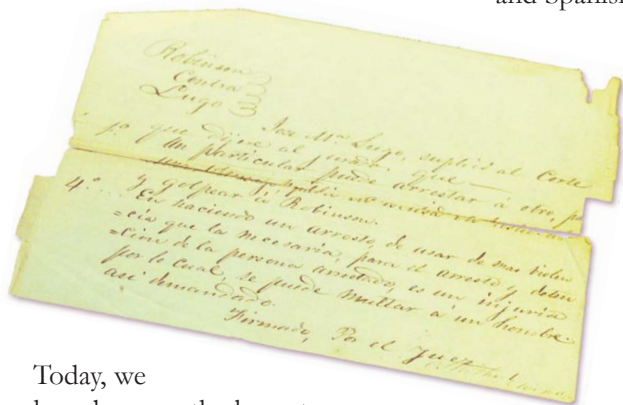
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Presiding Judges

Passing the Torch of Leadership - A Joint Message

On Jan. 1, 2007, Judge J. Stephen Czuleger, who had been assistant presiding judge, became presiding judge of the Court. He succeeds Judge William A. MacLaughlin, who served for two years. At this writing, the Los Angeles Superior Court is completing its 156th year of service to the people of Los Angeles County.

A great deal has changed since the Court's first days, when proceedings and documents were required by statute to be in both English and Spanish.



Today, we have become the largest trial court in the United States, and we serve the most diverse and rapidly changing county in the country.

With the change of leadership noted above came a commitment by both of us to maintain this Court's momentum as an agent of innovation and change, but also stability in the justice system. Another component of this change was installation of new Assistant Presiding Judge Charles W. "Tim" McCoy.

This *Annual Report* is our way of sharing our activities and commitment with the community at large. By any measure, 2006 was a year of significant and wide-ranging achievements.

During 2006, we maintained and built upon our quality standards for handling a caseload that includes more than 2.7 million new filings per year. Beyond that, we addressed several critical issues as an institution.



We emphasized the role of continuing judicial and staff education in maintaining our high quality standards. We created, virtually from scratch, a continuing education program that is the largest in California, and possibly in any single court anywhere in the United States. We trained a judicial faculty in techniques of effective adult education.

Our judges, commissioners and employees responded enthusiastically with judicial officers collectively attending more than 7,000 hours of instruction in everything from small claims procedures and the anatomy of murder trials to civil case management and settlement techniques.

Also in 2006, we reinvigorated our various programs to reach out to the myriad of communities we serve. We created a single coordinating committee that has brought added focus

to these efforts in the community and in the Legislature. An important initiative has been the merger of one of our oldest programs — Day On The Bench, in which public officials are invited to witness close up the experience of judging — with our effort to get to know newly elected members of the Legislature.



Between Election Day in November of last year and Jan. 1, 2007, our 12 district supervising judges invited every newly elected member of the California State

Senate and Assembly to join them at their local courthouses for first-hand exposure to how a judge performs his or her duties. Term limits have vastly altered the landscape in Sacramento, and we are focusing on ensuring that all new Los Angeles County members of the Legislature have an opportunity to start their careers with solid first-hand knowledge of who we are and what we do in their home communities.

Throughout 2006, we closely examined the diversity of our Court, from the racial makeup of our bench to the diversity breakdown of our entire work force of more than 5,700 people. What we found was encouraging, but at the same time reminded us of the need to continue to reach out to all of the communities of Los Angeles County.

We also are continuing our efforts to involve all of the people of the county in our activities. During 2006, we assembled a new list of people eligible to be appointed as court commissioners. They have many of the same powers as a full-fledged judge. By encouraging a broad range of potentially eligible candidates to apply, the list of those awaiting appointment is the most diverse in our history. We also initiated a marketing campaign to make a wider range of law students aware of opportunities with our Court as law clerks.

Our judges attended a statewide Diversity Summit for the Judicial Branch in May 2006, a program that resulted in a decision to conduct a Los Angeles equivalent. As this is written, that event will occur in late January 2007. Although it will take more than a decade for the effects of this broadened search to affect the actual composition of the bench, we believe diversity is best achieved by relying on a mix of short-term and long-term strategies.

We also continued to grapple with an issue of ongoing concern, the adequacy — or in more situations than we would like, inadequacy — of the physical facilities in which we do our business. We are painfully aware that many of our courthouses are in need of major overhaul or replacement.

Moving this agenda forward is extremely difficult in a challenging fiscal environment like the one we face today. When you include activities like traffic court and jury service, millions of people come through our doors

each year. Our facilities are scarcely able to keep up with this demand, but we know that courthouses may not be as politically attractive as higher profile public works projects like highways and new police stations.

However, we were grateful last year to the Administrative Office of the Courts, which reorganized its system for restructuring its method of assigning priority to courthouse repair and replacement projects so that our facilities in greatest need — Long Beach, Southeast Los Angeles and Santa Clarita — are now in the most urgent category. The AOC also recognized the need for replacement courthouses in Glendale, downtown Los Angeles, Eastlake and Cypress Park (Mental Health Court).

Finding the financial resources to undertake these major projects is now the challenge. It has been estimated that replacing the Long Beach Courthouse, alone, could cost more than \$200 million. That distressed building serves thousands of customers each day in conditions that are overcrowded and extremely chaotic.

Building on what we achieved in 2006, we both hope that 2007 brings a continuation of the progress we have made and creative, new opportunities.



William A. MacLaughlin
Former Presiding Judge



J. Stephen Czuleger
Presiding Judge



Statistics Summary

Authorized Judicial Positions

Judges	.429
Commissioners	.140
Referees	.14
Total Courtrooms Operated	.583
Employees	.5,712

50 Courthouses and Other Facilities

Annual Case Filings Summary • Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Civil General	.64,197
Civil Limited (excluding Small Claims)	.98,871
Unlawful Detainers	.53,942
Small Claims	.83,626
Felony	.68,277
Misdemeanor	.399,286
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity and Legal Separation)	.117,982
Juvenile Dependency	.18,467
Juvenile Delinquency	.23,360
Mental Health	.2,614
Probate	.11,430
Traffic Infractions	.1,716,932
Non-Traffic Infractions	.73,710
Appellate	.1,156
Habeas Corpus	.2,263

Jury Trials • Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Juror Summons Mailed	.2,687,360
Jurors Qualified	.958,242
Average Days Served	.1.31

Alternative Dispute Resolution • Fiscal Year 2005-2006

Arbitration	.1,264
Mediation	.20,030
Family Law (non-custody)	.761
Retired Judges, as assigned	.159
Civil Harassment Mediation	.314
Arbitration Resolution Rate	.45%
Mediation Resolution Rate	.61%
Family Law Resolution Rate	.67%

Total Volunteer Hours (Retired Judges, Attorneys, Others)20,777



Year in Review

Our work in 2006 was punctuated by diverse achievements that span the entire breadth of our role as the nation's largest trial court.

This *Year In Review* hits the highlights, but the programs driven by judges and employees are too numerous and too diverse to do justice to all of them in one publication at one time.

From preparing for a change in leadership to coping with the aftereffects of an electrical failure that disabled an entire courthouse for more than two weeks, 2006 was eventful and challenging.

Many of our successes in 2006 were accomplished through the Court's valuable collaborations and partnerships.

Presiding Judge Election

In late fall, our judges unanimously chose Assistant Presiding Judge J. Stephen Czuleger to take over from Presiding Judge William A. MacLaughlin on Jan. 1, 2007. The election also made Judge Charles W. "Tim" McCoy the assistant presiding judge-elect.

Czuleger, 55, grew up in Redondo Beach and completed his undergraduate work at Santa Clara University, later receiving his law degree from Loyola University Law School. He was appointed to the bench in 1988 by Gov. George Deukmejian. His career as a lawyer included stints as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles and Special Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Organized Crime Strike Force in



Judges William A. MacLaughlin and J. Stephen Czuleger.



San Francisco. He is married to legal fiction writer Rebecca Forster and has two sons.

McCoy, 59, previously served as supervising judge for civil matters and is a member of the Judicial Council of California. He received his undergraduate degree from Purdue University and received his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. He was appointed to the bench in 1992 by Gov. Pete Wilson. From 1975 until he joined the Court, Judge McCoy was an associate and later a partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton. From 1968 to 1972, he served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Judge McCoy is a Vietnam War veteran. He is married and has three children.



Judge Charles W. "Tim" McCoy.

Judicial Committee Structure

Our 17 judicial committees include hundreds of bench officers who voluntarily address pressing Court issues — a massive effort requiring deft, innovative management. The largest committees may have 30 or more members and as many as a half-dozen subcommittees. Because a group of that size and scope may become unwieldy, it relies on a governance body of subcommittee chairs to ensure a common purpose and direction.

During 2006, Presiding Judge William A. MacLaughlin completed a revamping of the committee structure so that areas over which individual committees have authority mirror subject matter areas of the statewide

committees of the Judicial Council of California.

The structure was particularly well suited for the Community Outreach and Judicial Education committees, which involve dozens of members working on multiple subcommittees.

The productivity achieved through committees overseeing wide-ranging projects produced impressive results, including:

- More than 7,000 hours of judicial education seminars
- The first countywide Teen Court seminar
- A network of Self-Help Legal Access Centers
- Seven children's waiting rooms
- Improved juror accommodations and services
- Legislators' seminars and legislative staff liaison programs

Commissioner Selection

We have nearly 430 judges and 140 commissioners on our Court. Commissioners are subordinate judicial officers with many of the same powers as a judge. Commissioners are court employees, selected by judges from an eligibility list that is based on an intensive screening process.

Our current commissioner list is the most representative of the county's ethnicity, gender and race that we have ever developed. Among 38 current candidates for commissioner, 14 are female, 26 are white, five are African-American, four are Latino and three are Asian/Pacific Islander. Our commissioner positions are highly sought, and the recent applicant pool represents a gratifying response to intensive recruitment efforts among minority bar associations.

Candidates are placed on our eligibility list after undergoing extensive interviews and a rigorous review of their applications. The candidates are ranked in accordance with a scoring process, and when vacancies occur, they are voted upon by our judges.

Commissioners perform integral judicial functions, principally overseeing family law, juvenile, traffic, small claims and unlawful detainer cases, along with preliminary hearings, misdemeanor trials, mental health hearings and criminal arraignments.

Because our commissioners must meet the same requirements as judges, they are fully qualified and respected bench officers. Moreover, their experience in our Court frequently leads to their judicial appointment by the governor.

New Judges Orientation

Our new judicial officers attended the 2006 New Judges Orientation. The five-day program for new trial court judicial officers presented the fresh group of judges with their duties and familiarized them with their ethical responsibilities: to ensure fairness in all proceedings, promote uniform court practices and improve the administration of justice.

The orientation program focused on the transition to the bench and the role of the judicial officer, judicial conduct and ethics, and judicial fairness and trial skills development, including evidence and settlements.



Streamlining the Privately Compensated Temporary Judge Process

To facilitate and make more efficient the process of using privately compensated temporary judges — sometimes called “private” judges — we introduced new procedures under which the supervising judge for civil matters personally makes the order appointing each temporary judge. Such situations occur commonly in sensitive family law matters and in some business litigation. Part of the order-making process includes a detailed explanation of how documents filed in the case must remain available — when they would otherwise be public documents — and that the litigation remain open to public scrutiny by the media and public.

Court Publications



Little noticed by the general public, the Court has a publications program that produces two magazines, printed and electronic marketing materials and even this *Annual Report*. Among the most important of these, *Gavel to Gavel*, our judicial magazine, appears three times a year and circulates to a growing

readership of more than 1,500, including judges — past and present — as well as legislators, public officials and influential private sector leaders. In 2006, it featured special issues on diversity on the bench, our ongoing challenges with court facilities and perspectives on the phenomenon of homicide written by judges who have presided over hundreds of murder trials.

Led by a committee of four judges, *Gavel to Gavel* is largely written by judges themselves. Like most of our courtwide publications, *Gavel to Gavel* is produced by the Public Information Office, working in close collaboration with judges and the executive leadership.

Partners is a magazine reporting on activities of Children's Court and many of the public and private legal services agencies that work actively with it. It has a national circulation, with as many as 4,000 copies distributed across the country to subscribers involved in the juvenile justice system.

The magazine is edited by the presiding judge of the Juvenile Court and his research attorney staff. Articles are written by judges, justice

agency department heads, experts in juvenile law and others.

This *Annual Report* is the latest such document published since we reinstated the practice of publishing annual descriptions of our activities. Publication of an annual report had been interrupted by unification of the trial courts throughout California in 2000. Budget crises of four years ago also threatened its existence.

However, we think it's essential that we explain who we are and how we do what we do on a regular basis to a broad public constituency. Accordingly, the document you're reading right now is the third in the new series. In 2006, the press run of 10,000 was exhausted as the *Annual Report* came into ever wider use in outreach activities, media relations and in the budgetary-political arena.

In 2006, we introduced online availability of documents in all civil cases filed in the downtown Stanley Mosk Courthouse in a fashion tailored to meet the needs of law firms, which must track costs to specific clients.

We also introduced a multi-media marketing initiative to try to attract a more diverse group of new attorneys to our law clerk program. Disseminated largely through Los Angeles-area law schools, this interactive electronic and print brochure is intended to make young lawyers and third-year law students aware of opportunities to work in the stimulating environment of the nation's largest trial court.

Finally, to enhance internal communications among a staff of more than 5,700 people scattered across 50 different locations throughout the county, we continued to produce the *Court Crier*, an occasional newsletter written and edited by employees themselves.

Legislative Luncheon

In 2006, we continued our annual tradition of hosting a luncheon for all Los Angeles County members of the California State Senate and Assembly.

At the event, legislators, judges and Court administrators address proposed legislation and resources that could affect our operations. Attendance for the luncheon, held in January at the Music Center, was excellent.

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa was the keynote speaker.



Elected Officials' Staff Seminar

The legislators' tours and luncheon culminate a year of proactive events, including an August briefing for staff of California's senators, assemblymembers and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Court managers and administrators presented details on civil, criminal, traffic, juror services and Homeless Court operations, among other topics, for two dozen legislative staff members. The presiding judge led the meeting, which provided each official's office with an improved understanding of how the Court serves it and the residents in each district.

Judicial Education

Recognizing that our judicial officers eagerly seek additional training and proficiency in complex areas of the law, our Judicial Education Governing Committee



introduced a series of well-planned seminars in September to hundreds of experienced jurists. Our governing body developed the curriculum over several months, then recruited instructors and developed educational materials for the seminars, which were conveniently scheduled and well-attended throughout the county.

The half-day sessions were both taught and attended by our judges and commissioners. Their overwhelming participation confirmed our expected judicial support for in-depth knowledge and mastery of myriad legal subjects, such as civil case management, expert witnesses, settlement techniques, small claims, murder trials, jury instructions, jury issues and criminal matters.

Building on its success, the governing committee scheduled a second seminar series for 2007, which will cover criminal evidentiary issues, civil case management, civil expert witnesses, civil law, family law, habeas corpus, criminal case juries, legislative issues, settlement techniques, search warrants and sexually violent predators' trials. *(For more information on Judicial Education, please see page 20.)*



Self-Represented Litigant Services

Our Self-Help Legal Access Centers offer no-cost legal information for self-represented litigants, enabling thousands of customers to complete documents quickly, efficiently and effectively.

Although most self-help-center customers need assistance with family law or housing matters, the centers also provide help with civil cases, such as small claims and name changes.

In December 2006, the Stanley Mosk Courthouse continued its ongoing effort to offer services for customers navigating the court system without the aid of an attorney by opening the comprehensive Resource Center for Self-Represented Litigants.

Also this year, at the Long Beach Courthouse, two public agencies — the Court and the Los Angeles County Law Library — joined forces with other partners, including county Supervisor Don Knabe and several legal groups, to open a self-help center in the law library.

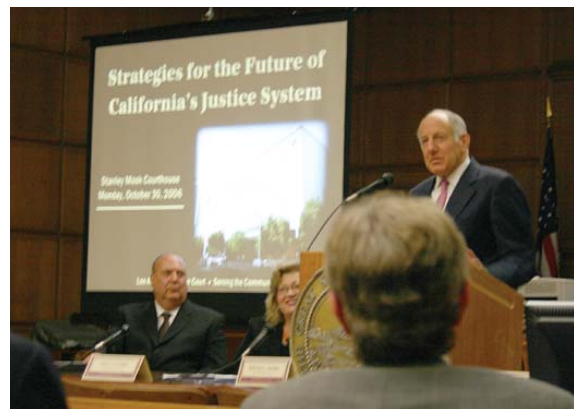
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky also played a key role in the development of self-help centers in Santa Monica and San Fernando.

Self-help centers also are operated at these other Los Angeles Superior Court courthouses: Van Nuys-East, Pomona-South, Inglewood, Compton and Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley.



Justice System Partners Town Hall Meeting

In late October, in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts and California Supreme Court Chief Justice Ronald M. George, we sponsored a town hall meeting with more than 150 court leaders from throughout Southern California. Presiding Judge William A. MacLaughlin spoke at the event, along with Executive Officer/Clerk John A. Clarke and Sheila Calabro, regional administrative director of the AOC's Southern Regional Office in Burbank.



Dozens of bar groups, several superior courts from other counties, criminal justice system partners and our own judges participated. The high point of the event was a dialogue with the chief justice. A reception followed. The session was the third of three similar regional meetings to enhance communication between the statewide leadership of the Judicial Branch and constituencies and communities throughout California.

Accommodating the Physically Challenged

We continue to meet our obligations to physically challenged court customers, litigants, employees and jurors in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

For more than two years, the Court worked to modify its operations and facilities to benefit all persons using the courthouses, courtrooms and lounges. Many of the modifications involved employee training or courtroom operations. Other alterations required entire room reconfigurations, such as rearranging furniture in



courtrooms to allow a clear view of the proceedings and an unobstructed path to the jury or witness box.

Some alterations were more extensive, including lowering of public counters and replacing

swinging, double-leaf courtroom gates to accommodate wheelchairs. Court staff members with public contact direct disabled individuals to special filing windows, restrooms, elevators and parking when public courthouse accommodations do not meet their needs.

Procedural courtroom changes now allow disabled witnesses to testify from an alternative location when they cannot enter the witness stand. Others will be provided with a special microphone or hearing device if needed. If additional time is needed for use of wheelchair accessible restrooms, the time will be granted.



When constructed, future courthouses will automatically feature public facilities for disabled individuals, and when new fixtures and furnishings are planned for courthouse renovations, they will comply with all existing guidelines and regulations regarding accommodations for disabled individuals.

Developments in Alternative Dispute Resolution

As in previous years, a key to our success is continued innovation and emphasis on resolving disputes outside official court proceedings — or Alternative Dispute Resolution. In addition to ADR offering major programs in civil, family law and probate, an Early Neutral Evaluation pilot program was implemented during 2006.

Civil trial judges, lawyers and litigants are finding that this innovative early program can help clarify, narrow or eliminate issues, identify areas of agreement, offer case-

planning suggestions, reduce litigation time and costs, and, if requested by the parties, assist in settlement. Although settlement is not the focus, more than 30 percent of cases that initially used ENE subsequently settled.

ENE is a free, voluntary, confidential and non-binding process that offers an evaluation of a case by a mediator with specific experience in the type of matter in question. The program recruited and trained more than 50 exceptionally well-qualified lawyers with expertise in one of these six subject matter areas: commercial, employment, medical malpractice, real estate, trade secrets and unfair competition.

The inherently collaborative aspect of ADR carries over into the department’s administration as well. In the past year, ADR has strengthened its community ties with local colleges providing mediation training. Law students and those earning a master’s degree in dispute resolution from UCLA or Pepperdine University School of Law’s Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution were provided the opportunity to practice their mediation skills by mediating civil harassment cases filed in court.

Most recently, ADR received a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts to assess small claims mediation. In this project, Cal State Dominguez Hills will work in partnership with the Court, through the university’s “Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding” curriculum. *(For more information on ADR, see page 38).*

Automated Traffic Citation Devices

With our support, officers of six South Bay police agencies and the California Highway Patrol are using hand-held, automated citation devices, or ACDs, to issue traffic tickets.



Photo by Tom Thompson, Hermosa Beach Police Department

In addition to printing traffic citations, officers download information to the law enforcement agencies' and Court's databases each weekday. Since October, officers in the El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes Estates and Redondo Beach police departments and the Lennox/Lawndale sheriff's station have used the ACDs in this pilot program. Other law enforcement organizations are considering use of ACDs.

The CHP pilot program began in 2004 and is underway in the Baldwin Park, West Los Angeles and West Valley field offices.

Law Clerk Recruitment

Our law clerks are promising recent law school graduates who are selected and mentored by judges to conduct legal research, analyze motions and perform other high-level legal operations. These bright, hardworking and multifaceted lawyers also acquire a

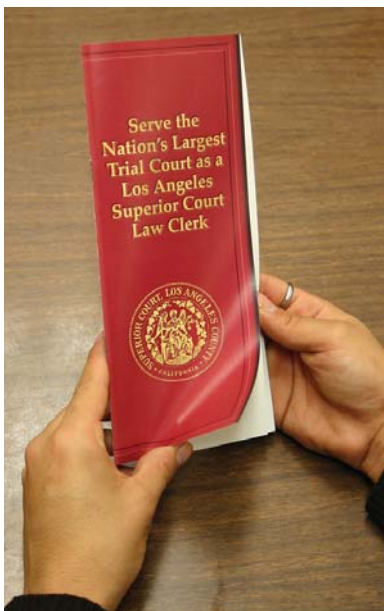
lifelong career advantage by combining their on-the-job legal experience with an intimate knowledge of court operations.

Both judges and litigants benefit from a law clerk's achievements: Judges enjoy working with intelligent, enthusiastic clerks, who gain a wide range of knowledge in the law, and law clerks gain unparalleled knowledge of the California legal system.

To maintain our Law Clerk Unit with 110 attorneys, we hire about 20 law clerks a year. To expose our employment

opportunity to a wider audience, last spring we met with the deans from 11 Southern California law schools. We incorporated their suggestions in a new, colorful recruitment pamphlet, tailored for distribution in accredited law schools in California and other nationally ranked law schools throughout the United States.

The informative brochure, "Serve the Nation's



Largest Trial Court as a Los Angeles Superior Court Law Clerk," also is distributed during our community outreach presentations.

Additionally, our Web site — Law Clerks and Externs — promotes law clerkships at: www.lasuperiorcourt.org/lawclerk.



Mock Trial

By encouraging widespread participation in Teen Court and Mock Trial programs, we introduce young people to the possibility of a law career. Through sponsorships from the Constitutional Rights Foundation and the Court, 32 middle and 102 high school mock trial teams presented their cases this year in our courtrooms to compete for statewide and national honors.

More than 2,000 students throughout the county were coached by 400 volunteers from the bar and bench, usually after school. For two months each autumn, mock trial teams prepare their cases for competition at the Stanley Mosk



Student sketch of courtroom proceedings

Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. Over eight evenings in November, the students litigate a criminal case as pretrial attorneys, prosecutors, defense attorneys or witnesses — many before a sitting judge. Students also act as courtroom bailiffs and clerks.

There is a separate Mock Trial competition for student sketch artists and journalists, involving an additional 60 students each year.

Central Civil West Courthouse

— Disaster Planning Pays Off

Every court plans for maintaining or restarting operations in the wake of a natural or man-made disaster — hoping, of course, that those plans never have to be put into action.

Because the Los Angeles area is a region of high seismic risk, we routinely anticipate how we will respond to major losses of courthouse capacity.

On Aug. 7, 2006, a total power failure struck our Central Civil West Courthouse — one of only two of our 50 facilities located in leased buildings. It was quickly discovered that the entire high-voltage feed bringing power to the building had failed and would require complete replacement. Both of the building's emergency generators also were damaged.

The building houses seven courtrooms of the Complex Litigation Program, which handles large class-action litigation matters, as well as four courtrooms with child support caseloads and offices of the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department.

The failure occurred over a weekend, but Court officials were not notified until Monday morning.

At the start of the court day, when the total closure of the building was announced, a crowd of more than 400 court customers and employees had gathered on the plaza in front of the immobilized courthouse.

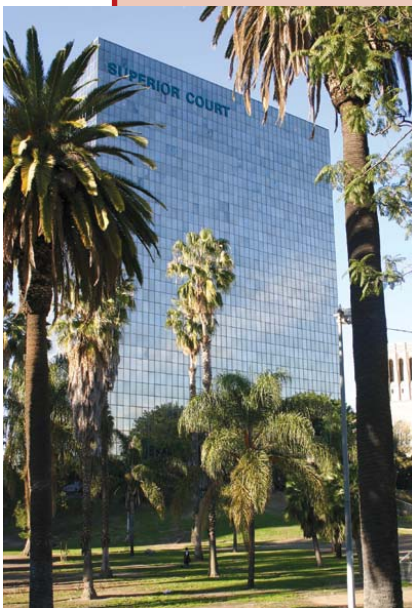
Within three hours, however, judges and

administrators had implemented an emergency relocation plan that transferred operations primarily to the nearby Stanley Mosk Courthouse. Complete information on calendars and temporary courtroom locations was posted on the court Web site by the end of the first day of the closure.

An emergency committee, including judges and operations supervisors, began meeting several times a day to reach decisions on adapting to a rapidly changing and dynamic crisis. At the courthouse, tables were set up outdoors to serve customers who arrived unaware of the closure.

The building was unusable for more than two weeks. Inevitably, unexpected events occurred. Judge Carolyn B. Kuhl, for instance, had previously ordered an asset auction in a large medical malpractice case. To change the location of the hearing would have been nearly impossible given the number of lawyers and parties involved. So Kuhl donned her robe on a hot August afternoon and held the auction *al fresco* outside of the main entrance.

Full services were restored on Aug. 22.



Facilities Improvements

Our vast system includes 50 court locations, with some courthouses dating back to the 1950s and many constructed during an aggressive building phase in the 1960s and 1970s.

When considering population growth, the wear-and-tear of time, plus seismic damage from several significant earthquakes, the Court needs additional courtroom space, and many of our facilities are desperately overdue for repair or replacement.

Court officials planning for the future also must consider the Grand Avenue Committee's plan to create a large civic park in downtown Los Angeles. A possible future expansion of the park

anticipates an extension to include land now occupied by our largest facility, the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, and the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

In August, the Administrative Office of the

Courts revisited its system for determining the urgency of replacement needs and moved our most distressed courthouse, Long Beach, into the most urgent category.

Three other Los Angeles Superior Court facilities were included in the "immediate need" group for replacement or renovation. Two others were listed in the "critical need" category, and five qualified as "high need."

A delay in efforts to construct and renovate court facilities has occurred as a result

of legislation that passed in 2002 permitting the transfer of ownership for courthouses from the



county to the state. As a result, some counties have been reluctant to make sizable investments in court infrastructure, but the state has been precluded from investing therein until the transfer of a facility occurs.

The hand-over was originally set to be completed by July 2007. However, the complexities of the transfer issues have delayed the process statewide.

The San Fernando Courthouse, renovated in 1997, is scheduled to be our first building transferred to the state, probably later this year.

Although some renovations have been made this past year, including the undertaking of a seismic retrofit in Long Beach, there is still a long way to go. Creative solutions will be critical.

The need is great, but resources are not. The AOC continues to evaluate the possibilities and potential options, which may include traditional approaches, but may also include less traditional solutions such as public/private partnerships. The AOC is actively seeking solutions.



Teen Court

Eleven Los Angeles-area high schools now conduct legal proceedings in Teen Court for first-time juvenile offenders who have committed low-level offenses. Trained students also act as jurors and courtroom staff.



Probation officers refer selected first-time offenders between the ages of 11 and 17 who would benefit from the Teen Court program. Participating offenders cannot attend the same high school as the jurors.

Since its 1993 establishment in Los Angeles County, Teen Court has proven to be a successful intervention program for selected

first-time juvenile offenders. It is an alternative non-criminal forum for adjudicating minor misdemeanors in which juvenile offenders are tried and sentenced by their peers.



High schools sponsoring Teen Courts include Dorsey, Manual Arts, Wilson, Venice, Carson, Grant, Van Nuys, Taft, Roosevelt, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley.

Teen Court's guiding philosophy is that everyone benefits from participation, including the juvenile offenders.

Stopping Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students

Out of our successful Teen Court partnership with public schools emerged a new companion program to mitigate student hate crimes. As a response to recent racial violence at several public high schools, SHADES (Stopping Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students) training is

intended to reduce prejudicial feelings that may manifest as violence and crime inside schools.

Our pilot program will be at one of the 11 Los Angeles-area high schools with a functioning Teen Court.

Problems and criminal offenses rooted in bigotry and hate will be addressed by skilled high school students who are trained to address bias-related incidents, including assault, theft, vandalism, harassment or bullying.

SHADES training is a proactive, solution-oriented approach to bias and intolerance, given to judges, probation officers and student jurors who will use it to fashion an appropriate sentence for Teen Court offenders.

Additional Juvenile Courtroom Added in Lancaster

In October, we opened a second juvenile delinquency courtroom at the Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center in Lancaster. The new space helps to accommodate the increasing juvenile caseload in the Antelope Valley — one of the fastest growing areas in the nation.

Legislators' Day on the Bench

The legislative luncheon closely follows our successful Day on the Bench visits for recently elected state officials. The county's legislative delegation individually participates in escorted tours of the operations and condition of courthouses in their district.

Meetings with judicial officers, court administrators and staff members bring legislators up to date on services that help their constituents.



Providing Customer Service Electronically

The Los Angeles Superior Court aggressively uses Internet technology to improve the timeliness of customer service and keep our operations open and transparent to the public.

Besides finding a wealth of valuable information about the Court, its judicial officers, locations and operations, the public also can take care of a lot of Court business online, saving individuals a trip to a courthouse.

Criminal and civil name searches are available on the Web site, as are civil and probate calendars and registers. In the future, the Court plans to offer subscriptions through which a customer can be alerted when actions are taken in a case.

On the Web site, general filings at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles may be downloaded and printed from any computer, along with other case documents.

Also online, the public can order divorce judgments from older, archived cases. Additional document types are expected to be available in the future.

Many traffic tickets can be paid online — one of our most popular services. The public also can sign up for

traffic school, request an extension, reserve a court date or opt for a trial by declaration, in which a citation may be contested in writing without a formal court appearance.

Electronic filing is available for most small claims cases. The claim automatically is conveyed

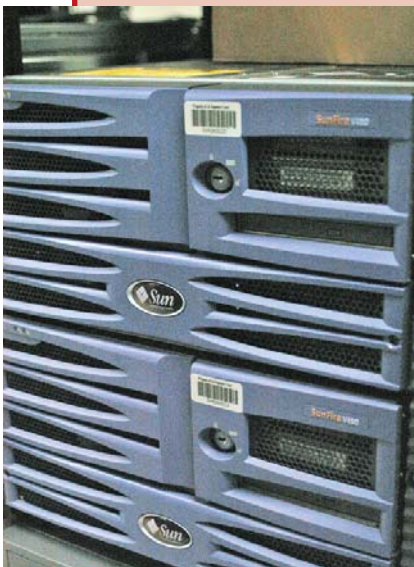
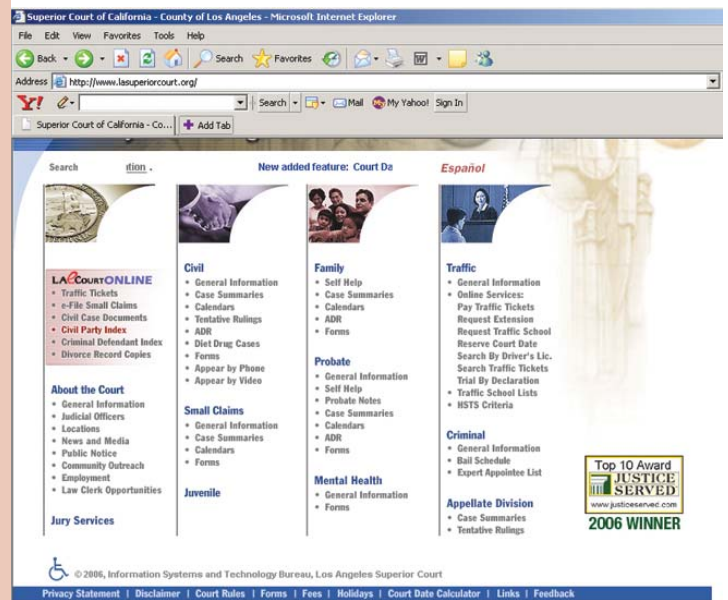
to the appropriate courthouse, as if it was filed in person. Opening this system up to other case types is anticipated in the near future. Self-help sections are provided online for family law and probate.

The Web site also accommodates attorneys who have cases pending in our Court. Those who are unable to appear in person can go online to arrange to appear by phone or by, increasingly, video. Attorneys also can review probate notes and tentative rulings online. Parts of the Web site are also available on a trial basis in Spanish.

This year, we received one of Justice Served's top 10 court Web site awards, earning the title for our all-round e-service excellence. The organization surveys more than 3,500 sites internationally.

Besides the use of technology online on the Web site and in the courtroom with digital electronic presentation systems, audio conferencing, mobile video conferencing and a pilot project for Internet video conferencing, the Court also has piloted WiFi wireless access in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

As we move forward with our technology goals, the Court strives to make effective use of its resources to bring the Court to its customers.



Judicial College

For 40 years, the state-sponsored Judicial College has provided a valuable learning program for California's judiciary. Last year, 25 recently elected or appointed judicial officers from our Court experienced its excellence while attending the B.E. Witkin Judicial College at the Clark Kerr Campus of UC Berkeley.

Veteran judicial officers served as faculty and mentored our new bench officers, who learned from their experience and insights. Attendees at the intensive, two-week educational program devoted themselves to acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to perform their work fairly, correctly and efficiently.

A full schedule of classes, electives and small-group seminars in all phases of judicial work was offered.

Judges' Speakers Bureau



The Court is creating successful community links through its reinvigorated Judges' Speakers Bureau, whose participants addressed evening, weekend and luncheon meetings of many educational organizations, bar groups, civic associations and religious organizations during the past year.

By attending neighborhood gatherings, volunteer judges stimulate face-to-face discussion with residents about community concerns, strengthening the Court's ties with the public.

The wide range of speech topics includes: the role of a judge, traffic matters, juvenile justice, landlord-tenant issues, jury service, specialty courts (such as Teen Court, Drug Court and Homeless Court) and family law.

Bench-Bar and Media Committees

Two of our 17 committees, Bench-Bar and Media, include members of the legal and news professions, respectively, who are encouraged to participate actively.

Having lawyers and journalists know who we are and what we do are two of our highest priorities since they enable a better level of understanding with the bar in general and the public at large.

The Bench-Bar Committee, chaired by the assistant presiding judge, is scheduled to meet at least three times in 2007, following a very successful meeting in October 2006. Meetings are always attended by a mix of judicial officers and bar leaders. They are a forum for a mutual exchange of ideas and concerns.

The Media Committee, chaired by a judge, meets monthly. It regularly precipitates vibrant exchanges between the media and the Court that range from resolving technical legal issues over courtroom news coverage to exploring broader principles about how we do our business.

It is not uncommon for concerns raised in either the Bench-Bar Committee or the Media Committee to result in further, closer examination by the presiding judge and assistant presiding judge. In both committees, the opportunity for direct, frank sharing of views between judges and other professionals adds depth and dimension to these critical relationships.



Partnership Conference for Children and Families

Hundreds of children's advocates participated in our annual Partnership Conference for children and families, again hosted with Cal State Los Angeles and supported by more than 50 organizations and agencies.

Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Nash and Hershel K. Swinger, professor of counselor education, Cal State Los Angeles, welcomed participants. The program featured 28 workshops of cutting-edge research and treatment methods for at-risk children.

Several young people from the foster care system discussed critical needs — and impressions of their care — at a plenary session in which they were encouraged to provide frank critiques of foster care. Special support

for the conference is provided by Casey Family Programs; Children's Institute, Inc.; the Alliance for Children's Rights; the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Institute; the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services; and the Los Angeles County Probation Department.



2006 Award-Winning Projects

California State Association of Counties

Challenge Award: Self-Help Legal Access Center and Law Library

Merit Award: Courtroom to Classroom

Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission

Best Interagency Cooperation Award: Proposition 69 Task Force

Traditional Plaque: Self-Help Legal Access Center and Law Library

Traditional Plaque: Parents and Children Together

Certificate of Recognition: Navigating the Dependency Court

Certificate of Recognition: Juvenile Dependency Court Education Protocol

Adoption Saturday

Since 1998, we have conducted 23 Adoption Saturday events at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, in which more than 7,000 adoptions of children in the foster care system have been finalized.

Adoption Saturdays are festive celebrations, complete with balloons and teddy bear giveaways. The concept was originated by Judge Michael Nash, presiding judge for Juvenile Court, along with the Alliance for Children's Rights, Public Counsel and the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

The process involves preparation of required documents in the days and weeks before Adoption Saturday actually occurs. Then, on the day of the event, volunteer judges come from all over the county to preside at the official finalizations of these adoptions. Media coverage is always heavy, and Los Angeles-area news

outlets have, to their credit, recognized the ongoing significance of these events.

Adoption Saturday relies on the help of hundreds of volunteers from within the Court and outside organizations. Because of our proximity to Hollywood and the large Southern California entertainment community, we often receive volunteer services from celebrities, who help promote the adoption process and help us call attention to Adoption Saturday.



In that respect, 2006 was typical of the response of the show business community.

Actor and Academy Award-winning director Christine Lahti and actor-producer Daryl Hannah both attended the same Adoption Saturday in November 2006.



Editor's note: Photo of Daryl Hannah courtesy of Laura Streimer, legal director, Alliance for Children's Rights.



Judicial Education

“A judge shall be faithful to the law regardless of partisan interests, public clamor, or fear of criticism, and shall maintain professional competence in the law.”

- California Code of Judicial Ethics, Canon 3B(2).

The Los Angeles Superior Court’s Judicial Education Seminars (JES) program — an initiative launched in March 2005 by then Presiding Judge William A. MacLaughlin — has completed its first full year. The program is one of his, and our, proudest achievements.

JES provides judges with an effective way to continue their judicial educations beyond the experience they gain daily on the bench.

As of early December 2006, JES already had offered 30 programs with nearly 1,300 attendees participating in more than 7,000 hours of instruction.

The goals of JES are three-fold: to expand on core learning offered by the state’s Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER); to develop “best practices” among judges; and to promote collegiality among the Court’s civil and criminal court judicial officers.

Los Angeles Superior Court judges traditionally have taken continuing education courses provided by judicial education organizations, like CJER. JES was designed to supplement and expand upon this core learning — not compete with or replace it.

As explained in the Los Angeles Superior Court



Education Plan, which provides the goals, governance and structure of JES, the Court seeks to form a long-term partnership with CJER.

Both the Court and CJER will further their common goals through collaboration and resource-sharing, according to the education plan.

For example, some faculty members elect to create video vignettes for use in their classes. These videos have been used in subsequent educational programs nationwide. Past classes include: “Civil Case Management;” “Civil Expert Witnesses;” “Criminal Jury Issues;” “Large Topics in Small Claims;” “Anatomy of a Murder;” and “Commissioner Training.”

JES is unique in that all classes are held in Los Angeles County, and JES curricula are developed by our judicial officers. Not only did Judge MacLaughlin want judges teaching judges, but also he wanted judges to develop programs to inspire pride of ownership.

The response of judges to JES has been overwhelmingly positive. Participant evaluations frequently express that the “issues discussed are very relevant to my assignment” and “the program was excellent.”

A nine-member governing committee of judges oversees and implements JES policies and procedures. The panel, which is appointed by the presiding judge, includes the supervising judges of the civil and criminal divisions, as well as bench officers with demonstrated experience and interest in judicial education. Consideration is given to years of experience on the bench, faculty service in judicial education programs and the ability to serve as a liaison between the Court and other judicial education programs.

Unlike the federal court model, in which judges receive training in small clusters across the United States, it makes sense for state court judges, like ours, to learn from one another in a local setting. JES allows our bench officers to stay local, avoiding travel costs and minimizing time away from their courtrooms.

While outside staff — as opposed to judges — tend to run federal judiciary education programs, JES draws on

the high-level of expertise exhibited by the Los Angeles Superior Court's nearly 600 judicial officers.

The program features small classes and peer-to-peer teaching by teams of judicial officers who have completed a week of training in the latest adult education methods.

The committee encourages diversity among the faculty, team-teaching with an emphasis on inter-district teams and the use of interdisciplinary faculty when appropriate. More than 50 judicial officers have completed faculty education.

With the generous assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts Education Division, the committee recruited a nationally recognized expert on judicial education as a consultant.

Faculty training includes a variety of teaching methods, including video clips, role-playing, hypothetical situations and case law. The teaching methods are interactive, drawing on the experiences of each student.

On the first day of training, judicial officers are asked to describe their non-law interests using something in addition to words. Some use props. One judge, whose father was a cartoonist, used a hand-drawn picture to introduce her segment. Another demonstrated a yoga pose.

Judicial officers who teach courses routinely stay on top of current teaching methods. According to the education plan, faculty members who have not attended a faculty development program in more than five years are encouraged to attend a "refresher" or advanced faculty development course.

The governing committee appoints a subcommittee to plan and develop each course. Course outlines and materials are archived electronically, so they are available for the development of future courses.

JES classes offer a problem-solving or skills-based approach, whenever possible, blending multiple perspectives and offering opportunities for observation, demonstration, practice and critique.

Judicial officers benefit by increased expertise and improved skills, which result in courtrooms run more efficiently, but with a sensitivity to the respectful treatment of the litigants and public. Litigants also benefit through JES programs, such as the civil settlements class where judicial officers learn techniques to help parties avoid a costly trial through settlement.

Upcoming classes for this spring include: "Advanced Evidentiary Issues in Criminal Cases;" "Search

Warrants;" "Civil Law Seminar;" "Habeas Corpus, Practice and Procedure;" "Family Law Seminar;" "Legislative Seminar;" "Sexually Violent Predators, Introduction and Basic Aspects of an SVP Trial;" and "Mastering Proven Techniques for Successful Settlements."

In January 2006, the Court held a legislative seminar, which highlighted new laws affecting civil, criminal and traffic cases. More than 120 judicial officers attended the Saturday event, and the Court plans to conduct such sessions in the future due to the great interest.

All judicial officers were invited to attend day-long seminars in February and November to share "best practices" and learn about emerging trends in their



respective fields. The February seminar focused on civil matters, including tips for efficiently handling summary judgment motions, while the November event focused on criminal matters, specifically bail, sentencing and gang-related issues.

Another successful undertaking was a full-day, Saturday seminar in September offering the 110 commissioners who attended intensive focus on various legal issues.

Besides JES, we provide numerous other educational opportunities for judicial officers, such as lunchtime seminars and online learning.

The People's Court



Each year, millions of people negotiate the Los Angeles Superior Court system.

As the nation's largest trial court, serving one of the most multi-ethnic and multi-cultural populations in the world, our representatively diverse workforce strives to treat our customers — all of them — with respect.

All new employees take a state-required diversity training course called "Fairness in the Courts," so they can better aid our customers. Interpreters are available for non-English-speaking customers in many court

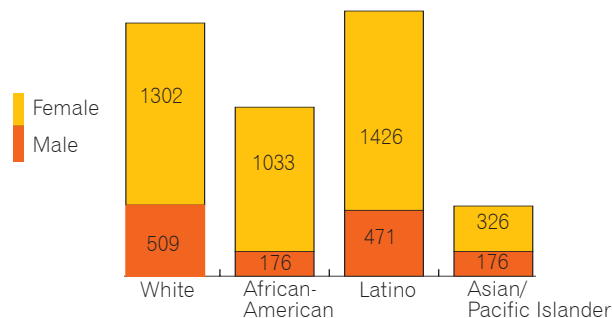


proceedings. Nearly 300 more administrative staff employees have attained formal Los Angeles County certification as bilingual and can assist non-English-speaking customers — regardless of immigration status — at filing windows, records rooms and elsewhere. This certification is available for Spanish-speakers. Many hundreds of other employees are fluent in languages other than English and use their language skills regularly in their jobs.

Our work force of more than 5,700 is 33.2 percent Latino, 21.2 percent African-American and 8.8 percent Asian/Pacific Islander.

Women make up 74.8 percent of our total employees and 48.4 percent of our top executives.

Superior Court Employee Gender/Ethnicity



We receive more than 2.7 million new filings per year. And while high-profile criminal and civil trials may receive a great deal of attention, the fact remains that the vast majority of people we serve come to us in a handful of areas where the overwhelming majority do not have lawyers, such as small claims.

A key objective is to ensure that these high-volume parts of our operation achieve the same consistent level of quality as those high-profile cases that attract wide public attention.

Traffic

Hundreds of thousands of traffic citations are issued by the county's 83 different law enforcement agencies every year.

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, more than 1.7 million



defendants were cited for traffic infractions and/or misdemeanors. Traffic infractions consist of violations such as speeding or running a red light.

Infractions are not punishable by imprisonment, and the maximum sentence on most infractions is a \$250 fine.

In many cases, violators can attend traffic school and — upon satisfactory completion — the citation will be dismissed by the Court and reported to the DMV as a traffic school dismissal.

Misdemeanor traffic violations, such as driving without a valid license or engaging in a speed contest, carry a heavier possible sentence — up to six months in county jail and/or a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Family Law

Divorce, domestic violence restraining orders, paternity, civil harassment, child and spousal support, annulments and child custody and visitation disputes — all of these matters fall under the emotion-charged area of family law.

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, we received nearly 40,000 filings by people seeking to dissolve or nullify their marriages or legally separate from a spouse.

More than 17,000 domestic violence, nearly

10,000 civil harassment and more than 5,800 paternity cases also were filed.

Family law is a complicated field, and navigating the system without — and sometimes even with — the aid of an attorney can be daunting.

Family law information, referrals and assistance for the public are provided at the Family Law Information Center's two locations — in the Norwalk Courthouse and at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

The Court also provides numerous classes and seminars, such as the Parenting Without Conflict Program and Parents and Children Together (PACT), to help separating and divorcing parents communicate better to resolve issues involving their children more cooperatively and effectively.



Small Claims

More than 83,000 small claims cases were filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court during the last fiscal year.

The small claims process is designed to end these disputes inexpensively and in a timely manner. The rules are simplified and the hearings informal.

Claims are limited to disputes involving up to \$5,000 for actions brought by corporations, partnerships, unincorporated associations, governmental bodies and other legal entities or \$7,500 for individuals.

The filing fee for a small claims case depends on the amount of the claim but usually ranges from \$30 to \$75.

The Small Claims Court Advisor Program of the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs provides information and counseling to litigants and potential litigants on all aspects of the process, including case preparation, collection, venue and appeals.

Call (213) 974-9759 for 24-hour recorded information or to speak with an advisor Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The county's Dispute Settlement Service, at (213) 974-0825, also provides mediators to help parties attempt to resolve their disputes before taking the matter to court. Small claims cases can also be filed on our Web site:

www.lasuperiorcourt.org.

Landlord-Tenant

As with any other transaction where money is exchanged, the relationship between a landlord and a tenant can sour.

In what is technically called an “unlawful detainer” case, a landlord or property owner is seeking permission from the Court to evict a tenant and regain possession of an apartment or other property.

This frequently occurs when a tenant stays after the lease is up or has been canceled. The landlord also may be seeking back rent in the complaint.

unlawful detainer: When a person detains or continues to hold some real property that no longer rightfully belongs to him/her. “Unlawful detainer” also refers to a case in which a landlord tries to evict a tenant who, according to the landlord, no longer has the right to live on the property.

These types of cases are commonly referred to as “evictions” or “landlord-tenant disputes.”

Nearly 54,000 were filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court during the last fiscal year.

The process is fast. Once a tenant is served with an unlawful detainer suit, he or she has five days to respond in writing. Failure to do so can result in a default judgment in favor of the landlord.

After the tenant files a written answer to the landlord’s complaint in the clerk’s office and a memorandum to set trial is filed by the plaintiff, both parties will be notified by mail of the time and place of trial.

More information and filing forms can be found on the California Judicial Council’s Web site at: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/other/landten.htm.



Probate

Our probate court handles a far greater range of cases than simply settling the estates of people who have died.

Probate also addresses a wide range of issues concerning children whose parents are unable to care for them, and adults who cannot represent themselves or, for various reasons, cannot administer their own affairs. Elder and dependent adult abuse



restraining orders, and trusts also fall under the realm of probate law.

During the 2005-2006 fiscal year, we received 11,430 probate filings and disposed of roughly 9,000 cases. To aid the public, we hold guardianship/conservatorship clinics at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guardianship clinics also are available at the Compton, Long Beach, Torrance, Pomona-South, Pasadena and Van Nuys-East courthouses. Hours and days vary at each location.

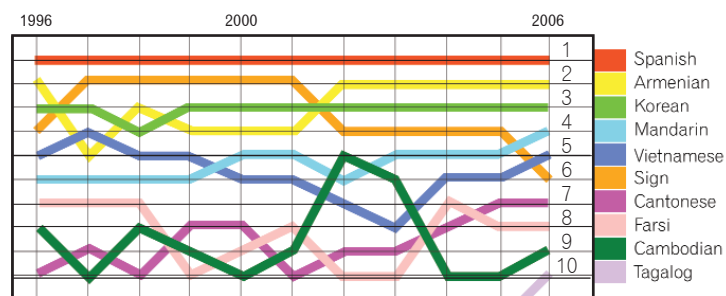
Guardianship, conservatorship and decedents’ estates packets can be obtained in Room 426 at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and at the forms windows of most other courthouses.

More information on conservatorships is available on the California Judicial Council’s Web site at: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/seniors/.

For additional information on guardianships, log on to: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/family/guardianship/.

Los Angeles Superior Court Interpreter Services Division

Top 10 languages requested in Los Angeles County over the past 10 years



- Largest in the world, with 387 interpreters serving as court employees and 225 others acting as independent contractors to courtrooms in 50 court facilities.
- Interpreter Services provides interpreters for more than 100 languages and dialects. Eighty percent of the interpreters deployed daily are for the Spanish language.
- The Los Angeles Superior Court is responsible for approximately 49% of the state's usage of interpreter services.
- Interpreter Services assignment staff members deploy approximately 400 interpreters daily.

Jury Service

“We all need to step outside of our own lives and problems to help contribute to solving those of other people. Jury duty allows individuals to do just that and to contribute to our system at the same time.”

Juror survey comment

In our judicial system, all citizens are expected to report for jury duty when called upon — regardless of employment, background or economic status.

Nearly 2.7 million people were summoned by the Los Angeles Superior Court Juror Services Division during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Of those, about 1.3 million citizens responded, and 555,437 served as jurors.

According to juror occupation surveys, our jurors come from all walks of life. Everybody serves — teachers, engineers, dentists, judges, secretaries, construction workers, artists, mechanics, attorneys, plumbers and physicians — to name just a few.

A common misperception is that jury duty takes copious amounts of time. However, the average time served per juror is only 1.31 days.

In California, we also have “One-Trial” jury service to minimize inconvenience to our prospective jurors.

It works like this: a juror is summoned and appears at the courthouse at the designated time. If he or she is not selected for a panel or jury that day, the juror is excused, having satisfied the obligation for at least a year. Or, if the juror is selected for a jury, trials generally last a week or less.

Employers are not allowed under the California Labor Code to discriminate against employees who take time off for jury duty, as long as a worker gives reasonable notice. A form certifying the number of days served is provided by the Court to each juror on

“My service was a first time experience and at all times held my attention.”

completion of his or her service. Not all employers require this verification. Most trials last a week or less.

Beginning on the second day of service, jurors are paid \$15 a day by the Court and are reimbursed for mileage, totaling more than \$5.8 million paid out during fiscal year 2005-2006.



In late 2006, the U.S. Postal Service agreed to a proposal by judges, national bar associations and jury commissioners from courts throughout the United States to introduce a special stamp calling attention to the rewards and contributions of jurors. This artist's concept presents a possible design for the stamp, which could be introduced as early as 2007.

During the year, we launched a new program to remind potential jurors of the need to respond to the initial summons ordering them to report for jury service. We were concerned that many summonses are discarded without people knowing that responding to them is required by law. Accordingly, we began a new program that automatically sends reminder postcards to thousands of people each week to whom we sent summonses but who have not registered as required. Initial results have been promising.



Juror sanction hearings are held on a weekly basis throughout the county for citizens who fail to respond to jury duty notices mailed on three separate occasions to their last known address. Offenders may face stiff fines, plus a new jury service assignment.

For other general information about jury service, call (213) 974-5332 or log on to www.lasuperiorcourt.org.

Whether on the phone or in person, the Court's Juror Services employees strive to help the public enjoy the time they spend with us as jurors, fulfilling their civic duty.

"You have to be professional, and you have to explain to them about the court system," said one employee.

In the jury assembly room, trained staff members handle excuses and postponements on a one-on-one basis and then provide a brief orientation, explaining what is expected of jurors, plus where to park, eat and shop on their lunch break.

"Sometimes I try to make them coffee if the snack bar is closed," one jury services worker said.

Jurors often come to court or call in unenthusiastic about jury service and looking for a way out. Once they serve, however, their attitudes change.

"They'll come back, and they'll say, 'I apologize if I came across as rude, but I've had a different

understanding (of jury service). It's not like it is on TV,'" a staff member said.

Court employees understand that jury service is time consuming, so they try to make serving more convenient for jurors.

Court services supervisors take phone calls from jurors who don't want to serve.

"They are told that they do have options," one supervisor said.

Jurors can postpone service if it has come at a bad time. They also may qualify to be transferred to another courthouse that is more convenient for them. Parents can postpone jury service to when a child is out of school, work out arrangements where the other parent can provide care or can sometimes transfer to a courthouse that is closer to work or child care.

The Juror Services Call Center can be reached at (800) 778-5879. Jurors can also register for service or ask for a postponement online at:

www.lasuperiorcourt.org



"I cannot fathom how anyone could say that serving on a jury is a personal sacrifice. It's an honor."

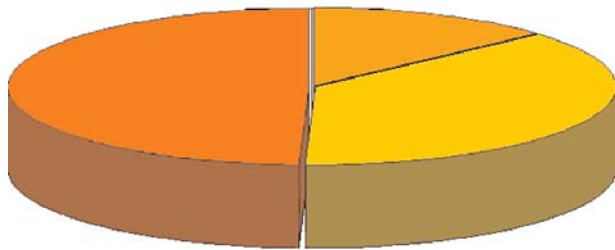
Juror Occupation Summary

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Teacher: 12,964 | 13. Programmer: 1,658 |
| 2. Sales: 10,737 | 14. Mechanic: 1,573 |
| 3. Manager: 10,708 | 15. Machinist: 1,261 |
| 4. Clerk: 7,956 | 16. Artist: 1,225 |
| 5. Self-Employed: 7,123 | 17. Banker/Teller: 914 |
| 6. Engineer: 7,052 | 18. Musician: 741 |
| 7. Movie Industry: 4,194 | 19. Custodian: 737 |
| 8. Attorney: 3,964 | 20. Food Worker: 696 |
| 9. Building Trades (includes Construction worker, Carpenter, Plumber, Electrician and Landscaper): 3,696 | 21. Dentist: 514 |
| 10. Nurse: 3,132 | 22. Laborer: 359 |
| 11. Secretary: 2,867 | 23. Child Care Provider: 257 |
| 12. Physician: 2,372 | 24. Gardener: 171 |
| | 25. Judge: 131 |
| | 26. Farmer: 9 |

"I couldn't believe how invested I became in giving a fair decision ... A great learning experience."

Total Jurors Processed in Fiscal Year 2005-2006

2,687,360



Jurors Responding	1,329,103	49.46%
Jurors Not Responding	996,153	37.07%
Summons Undeliverable	362,104	13.47%

Total Jurors Responding during Fiscal Year 2005-2006

1,329,103

Jurors Qualified	958,242
Jurors Served	555,437
Continued to Next Year	61,737
Failure to Appear	30,355
Excuse Pending	49,146
Jurors Excused	261,567
Financial	16,286
Medical	165,994
Child Care	50,240
Prior Service	26,190
Other	2,857
Jurors Not Qualified	370,861

Jury Crime Scene Visits

On occasion, judges conclude that the most effective way for a jury to understand how a crime may have been committed is to take a first-hand look at the scene. Although these situations are rare in most court systems, they occur several times a year in a court as large as ours.

In 2006, for example, the juries in murder cases being tried at the Torrance and Pasadena courthouses visited the scenes of alleged homicides.



Photos courtesy of the Daily Breeze



Jurors can see for themselves where victims' bodies were discovered and compare the locations as they saw them to accounts they heard from witnesses and lawyers in the courtroom.

We take special precautions to assure the safety and security of juries that make crime scene visits in the field. Restrictions on proximity to the public and news media representatives are strictly observed to guard against the possibility — or even the perception — that jurors are receiving incorrect or inappropriate information.





Diversity in the Court

Di•ver•si•ty

(Di vur'se te) n.

- a. The fact or quality of being diverse; difference.
- b. A point or respect in which things differ.

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition

No matter how it's defined, diversity in every aspect of our lives is a constant in California, especially in Los Angeles — arguably the most diverse county and city in the world.

We are a county in which Latinos already are in the majority in its major city, Los Angeles, and soon will be countywide. We are a court system in which more than 600 interpreters are needed to help customers in 122 different languages.

On the Los Angeles Superior Court:

- Our bench has a greater proportion of judges who are members of minority groups than any other court in California, with the exception of Alameda County.
- More than a quarter of our judges are minority group members.
- The percentages of judges who are African-American and Asian/Pacific Islander are close to their

proportions in the county's general population. Latino judges account for 10 percent of our bench — more than any other court in the state.

- Our judges are markedly more racially diverse than the population of attorneys in the county. The

proportion of Latino judges, for example, is quadruple that of Latino partners in law firms and is substantially higher than that of young lawyers working in those firms as associates. The same holds true of African-American lawyers and judges.

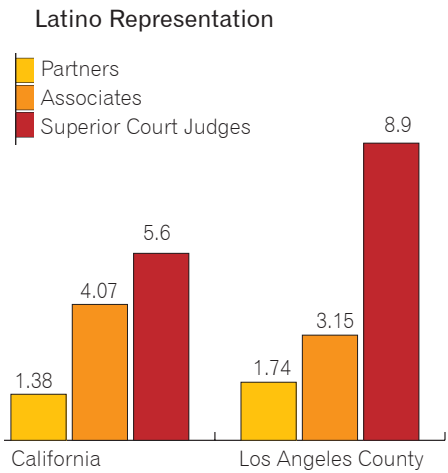
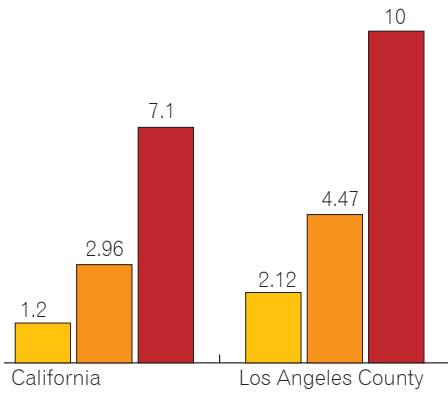
- Latino and African-American representation on our bench is proportionately higher than among physicians, dentists, pharmacists, psychologists, architects and corporate CEOs who live in the county.

- A substantially greater proportion of the bench is female than a decade ago. Today, 29.3 percent of our judges are women.

- Our staff work force is also far more diverse in the context of gender than the legal system throughout the state. Women predominate in the management, professional and clerical categories. Our executive management team is more than 48 percent female. In all, our work force is 74.8 percent women.

- The strong representation of women extends across all four major racial groups: Anglo, Latina, African-American and Asian/Pacific Islander.





- Our bench has become significantly more diverse in the last eight years, particularly since 2000, when municipal courts throughout the county merged with the Los Angeles Superior Court.

- Court commissioners make up a sizable portion of our bench. Commissioners are subordinate judicial officers with many — but not all — of the powers of a judge. In late 2006, a new list of 38 lawyers eligible for appointment as commissioners was produced. It was more diverse than the current roster of judges — 37 percent female; 11 percent Latino; 13 percent African-American; and 8 percent Asian/Pacific Islander.

In other words, the process of change has not just begun in our Court, it has accelerated.

But diversity is less about statistics than it is about commitment. That is why, in 2006, we devoted an entire issue of *Gavel to Gavel*, our magazine that circulates statewide among the judiciary and state and local public officials, to a celebration of the different backgrounds from which our judges have come.

Excerpts from some of these compelling personal

essays appear with this section of the *Annual Report*. Many of these authors are immigrants themselves, with stories that span the globe and reflect personal hardship and adversity.



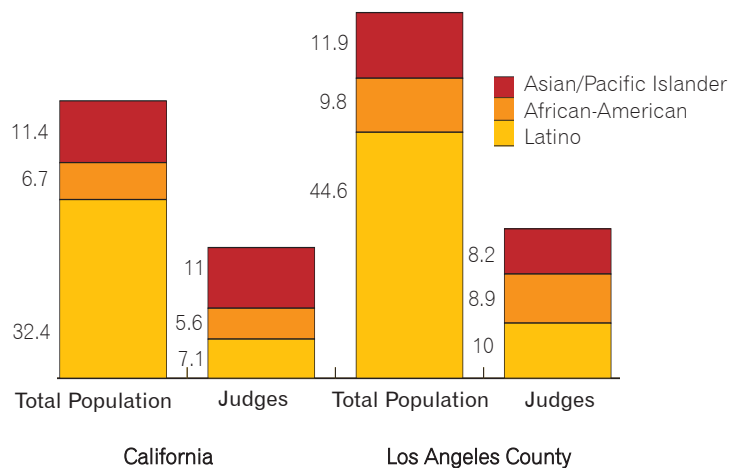
It's why, in addition to identifying steps we can take to bolster our diversity now, we also realize that greater diversity among judges is dependent on broadening the inclusiveness of the legal profession. It requires a long-term approach.

To become a judge, a person must be a member of the Bar and must have practiced for at least 10 years. After that hurdle is passed, a lawyer who wants to be a judge can either run for office or be appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy.

About 90 percent of judges are appointed by the governor.

Appropriately, the Court does not control the appointment process and makes no attempt to influence

Total Population Compared to Superior Court Judges



Data used in preparing this section were obtained through the generous cooperation of the Diversity Pipeline Project of the State Bar of California. The Court appreciates the assistance of Ruthe Ashley, assistant dean of career and professional development at the McGeorge School of Law, and Judge Brenda Harbin-Forte of the Alameda County Superior Court. The figures were supplemented by an internal survey currently being conducted by the Los Angeles Superior Court and by materials obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau.

the elections system. It also means that, while — like any other large employer — we are responsible for our own hiring for all positions other than judge, we don't control that critical aspect of our employment.

That does not mean, however, that we cannot or do not have a strategy for how we can appropriately encourage more female and minority college students to consider law as a profession and minority and female lawyers to consider pursuing judgeships. We do this in a



number of ways.

For example, in 2006, we introduced a multi-media marketing project that encourages female attorneys and lawyers of color to apply to become law clerks and externs, which is often the first step on the pathway to the bench.

Diversity, however, cannot be viewed through the prism of our bench and staff without acknowledging that the Court exists to help people resolve disputes. Our customers mirror the county and our obligation to serve them is our governing concern. A commitment to customer service that respects every aspect of Los Angeles County society is key.

During the year, we continued and expanded our commitment to JusticeCorps, a project funded by AmeriCorps to encourage college students to work assisting customers throughout our countywide network



of Self-Help Legal Access Centers. The JusticeCorps experience will point many of these students toward a career in the law.

We expanded Teen Court, in which high school students countywide get a first-hand look at the workings of the justice system. We expanded our Judges' Speakers Bureau to reinvigorate one of our most fundamental tools of community outreach.

For the first time, our presiding judge convened a meeting of the deans of every law school in Los Angeles County, in large part to help encourage women and young people of color to pursue legal educations. Our judges played key roles in convening the first judicial Diversity Summit, attended by hundreds of bench officers from throughout the state.

Planning began for a diversity summit focusing on Los Angeles County. The event was scheduled for January 2007.

We took steps to improve access to our courthouses for disabled attorneys and customers. We continued to emphasize making our facilities more accessible to vision- and hearing-impaired people.

Our committee structure was revamped, and a special diversity committee was created. In an institution like ours, committees play a critical role in formulating policy and influencing the culture of the Court.



This has all occurred in the context of a Los Angeles County that is becoming ever more vibrant and reflective of a panoply of cultures and races.

Justice, of course, is blind. However, as much as is possible, our institutional eyes are wide open and our vision and understanding of the evolving future of Los Angeles County is clear, indeed.

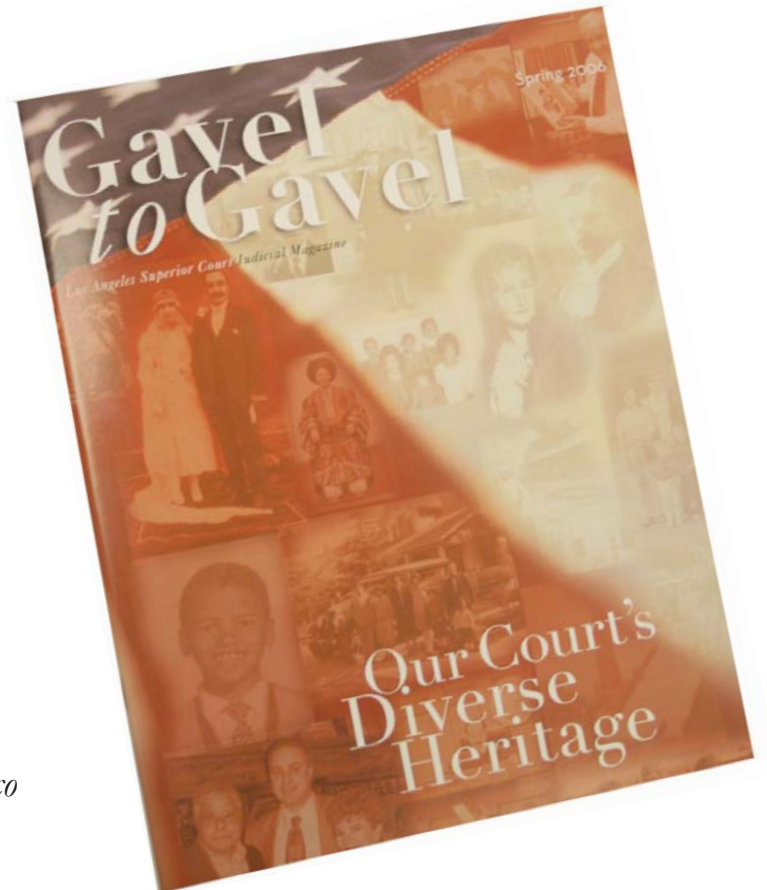
In mid-2006, our judicial magazine, *Gavel to Gavel*, published a series of candid, moving essays written by judges who were asked to provide their personal perspectives on diversity. Most are judges of color. Many are themselves immigrants. This section of the *Annual Report* presents short excerpts from some of those articles. The excerpts put a human face on diversity, which is so often viewed only through the prism of statistics. The full edition of *Gavel to Gavel* can be viewed on our Web site in the News and Media area: www.lasuperiorcourt.org.

“I was born and raised in East Los Angeles — more specifically, that unincorporated part of the county known as City Terrace, only a few miles from downtown. In the midst of a big city, it still feels as if I had grown up in a small town. But then again, I was part of a group of kids in the neighborhood who, except for a few cousins, lived within two or three blocks of each other.

We were between 6 and 10. We hung out together, went to the park, rode our bikes, and played games together. The last time I saw one of the guys from the neighborhood was just before I left for college. He became serious and gave me a hug. ‘We’re proud of you, man. Don’t forget us.’ I never have.”

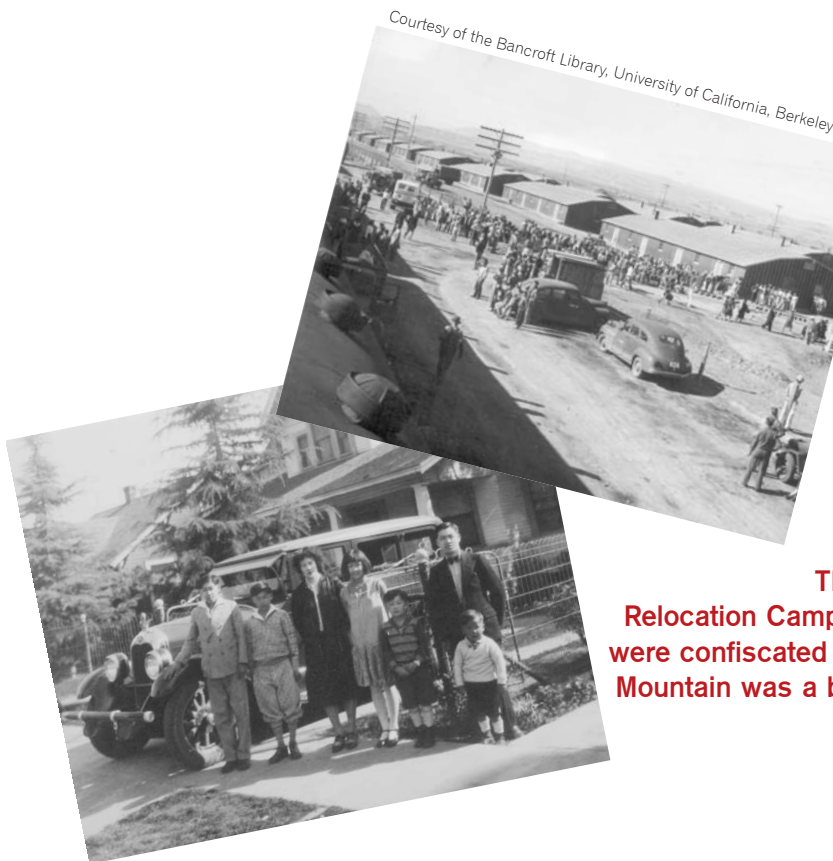
Don’t forget us.’ I never have.”

Judge Richard E. Rico



“The F.B.I. picked up my grandfather two hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. They took him away for six months. The family had no idea where he was, whether he was dead or alive. It turns out he was in solitary confinement in a cell in Leavenworth the whole time. Grandpa never spoke of this experience to anyone. Pearl Harbor happened on Dec. 7, 1941. While Dad was in the Army, the rest of the family got relocated. First they were taken to the Santa Anita racetrack. The place had been pressed into duty on short notice; there was still horse dung and straw all around. Then the family was shipped to Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in northern Wyoming. Their bank accounts were confiscated and their personal property was taken. Heart Mountain was a big change from L.A. The winters get down to 30 below zero.”

Judge Fred J. Fujioka



“I was born, raised and educated in Compton, California!’ I emphasize that I am from Compton because, historically, we tend to hear only negative things about the city. I am honored to serve as a Los Angeles Superior Court judge and absolutely love sitting in the Compton Courthouse of the South Central District. The camaraderie of the bench officers, staff, employees, deputy district attorneys, public defenders, alternate public defenders and sheriff’s department who work in the Compton Courthouse is truly amazing. I think we all recognize and respect our various roles, yet maintain a common commitment to get the work done.”



Judge Kelvin D. Filer



“For days in Saigon, we lived with the horrible fear that my parents would be trapped...and never come for us. We rushed the runway one night and were airlifted out of Saigon on a C-130 transport plane. Unlike so many families who were separated during the chaos, our family was intact, but we left everything else behind. Having lived the American dream, progressing from menial laborers to small business owners, my parents believed that anything is possible in America. Yet, even they could not predict that one day, I would be appointed to be the first Vietnamese-American woman judge in the State of California. To be honest, I was terrified of the tremendous responsibility of being a role model for so many. But throughout my career in private practice and at the U.S. Attorney’s Office before taking the bench, I was lucky to meet many awe-inspiring, groundbreaking women to whom I looked for guidance, and I feel very privileged to play the same role, no matter how small, for others now.”

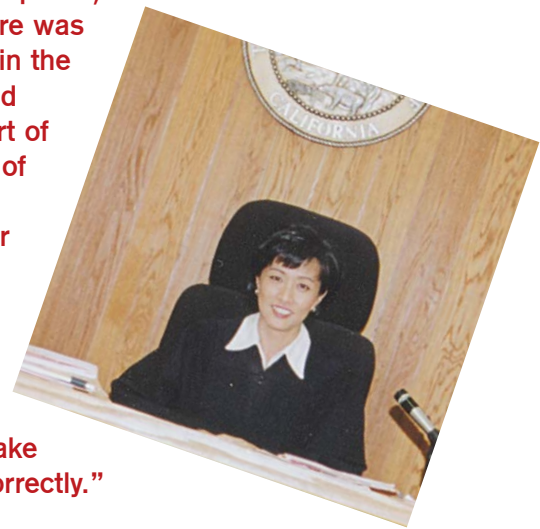
Judge Jacqueline Nguyen



Photo courtesy of Lose Vexy

“There were the neighborhood kids in Guam who circled my house one day, shouting ‘Ching, Chang, Chinese, go back to where you came from.’ I also remember a few of the customers at our market [in Oakland] telling us to ‘Go back to China’ or ‘Go back to where you came from.’ Then, while I was attending UCLA Law School, there were several young kids at a bus stop who yelled at me, ‘Go back to your country!’ When I was an attorney, I did not suffer the overt discrimination

that some of my fellow Asian-American women lawyers did, such as being mistaken for the court reporter, interpreter or the secretary. ...Realizing that there was not enough diversity in the legal profession, especially in the courtroom, I decided to apply to become a judge and submitted my application in January of 2002. A big part of my decision also stemmed from the Los Angeles riots of 1992, which left most local Korean-Americans feeling helpless and wanting to become more empowered. For me, it meant getting more Korean-Americans on the bench. I was keenly aware that in Southern California, which has the largest population of Koreans outside of Korea, there was only one Korean-American judge. As a judge with an immigrant background, there are certain things I emphasize in my courtroom. First, I make sure that everyone gets his/her name pronounced correctly.”



Judge Tammy Chung Ryu



“I am proud to be a Superior Court judge. I am grateful to this country. Whenever I speak to immigrant kids, I remind them that I came with little, but with perseverance and hard work, they can achieve their dreams. Even though I am now a judge, in the final analysis, I remain the same person I was when I set foot on this land, my new home.”

Judge Zaven V. Sinanian

Collaborations and Partnerships



In Los Angeles County, much of our growth in size and mission-related impact over the past decade has come about through developing effective working alliances with many different organizations. We take part in many collaborations with entities in all three sectors — public, private not-for-profit and for-profit. We look for opportunities to work with partners and leverage resources, resulting in increased impact and scale.

We operate from the belief that we are an integral part of the community. To maximize our flexibility, to try new approaches and learn from them, we recognize the importance of developing partnerships to complement our core staff in delivering a wide variety of justice services.

We also work with other court systems throughout the state, country and the world. By sharing our

The fact of the matter is that the Court could not accomplish its various missions were it not for these numerous ventures. The importance of these is best described in the following review of some of our many collaborative programs intended to improve lives through caring service.

We're particularly proud of our achievements in this arena in 2006.

Small Claims Advisor Program

Our partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) was developed to help county residents resolve their small claims disputes.

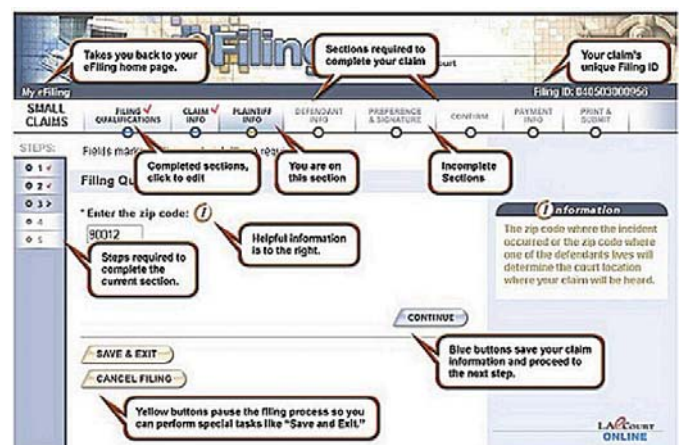
The Small Claims Advisor Program provides information to individuals and businesses suing or being sued in small claims court. DCA staff members help with paperwork, procedures and judgment collection.

The collaboration between the Court and DCA includes cross-training staff, inclusion in policy and procedure committee meetings, Web site links and regular meetings among program administrators. Advisors are found in six courthouses, as well as by telephone. Information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



research, networks and expertise, we are able to expand our reach and change more lives. Each year, thousands of visitors from dozens of nations come to our Court to see first-hand the way we handle our cases and how our justice system works.

By making joint investments in programs, we are able to further our common goals and ensure their success. Many of the collaborative and cooperative ventures we engage in have lasting benefits to our customers and our staff.



JusticeCorps

JusticeCorps is the first legal aid program of its kind in the nation funded by grants from AmeriCorps and the California Administrative Office of the Courts.

The four-way partnership of the Court, legal aid agencies, Department of Consumer Affairs and local universities provides residents with much needed legal assistance and hands-on training for students interested

in legal careers. It also plays a growing role in improving consumer services in our communities.



JusticeCorps members include students from Cal State Northridge, Cal State Dominguez

Hills, Cal State Long Beach, UCLA and Cal Poly Pomona. Each receives 30-40 hours of legal aid training and a cash educational award to be applied toward college tuition or student loans.

Mental Health Court Program

Our Mental Health Court, in Cypress Park near downtown Los Angeles, is focused primarily on making determinations of mental competency for trial in criminal cases and overseeing conservatorships in which, most often, relatives or friends step in to take responsibility for the affairs of someone suffering from mental illness.

The process of determining mental competency for trial requires a close working relationship with Patton State Hospital, where the evaluations themselves are conducted. Since there are legal time limits on how long such determinations can take, this working relationship must be close and precise.

In the conservatorship area, judges and staff must be aware of community resources to which conservators can turn for help. It is a task that requires close working relationships with numerous private and public social service agencies.

Prefiling Mediation Services

For those who want to settle a dispute outside the Court, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Department collaborates with 13 community mediation programs, funded by the county Department of Community and Senior Services. These programs handle disputes involving landlords and tenants, businesses and customers, neighbors, family members and roommates, contractors and homeowners and homeowner associations.

The Court can facilitate mediation for parties when they don't want to file a lawsuit but need help resolving a dispute. In mediation, a neutral third party listens to both sides and helps them resolve their issue.

Participation is voluntary, so both parties must agree to mediation in order to begin the process.



Proposition 69 Implementation Task Force

On Nov. 2, 2004, California voters approved Proposition 69 to expand collection of criminal offender DNA samples. Law enforcement, criminal justice agencies and the Court implemented changes to comply with the new law and increased testing by 1,000 percent.

This collaboration resulted in the adoption of new DNA procedures in record time while staying under budget. The program was so successful, the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission awarded it the Best Interagency Cooperation Award.

Teen Court

Through Teen Court, we have partnered with the Los Angeles County Probation Department, community groups, bar associations and local schools to address youth crime and try to prevent it.

Teen Courts operate one or two days every month at 11 high schools throughout the county. The sessions take place after school in makeshift courtrooms on campus. Judges travel to these schools after their regular



court calendars are completed. Teens who are arrested for certain crimes may have their cases referred to a Teen Court by the Probation Department.

Usually, the crimes are not serious, but there have been cases involving drugs, gangs and even teen prostitution.

Teenage jurors hear cases involving teens from other high schools, eliminating peer pressure in deciding the outcome of the case. Teen jurors not only decide guilt or innocence, but also make sentence recommendations to the judge. Teen Court differs from other educational programs like Mock Trial because the cases are real and the outcomes are binding.



Mock Trial

Mock Trial is a statewide competition involving teams from hundreds of schools. Each participating school forms a team of students who act as counsel in a mock trial conducted in an actual courthouse before a Superior Court judge. Students play the roles of attorneys, witnesses, clerks, bailiffs and even courtroom artists. Teams from two schools face off in each trial, with volunteer attorneys serving as the “graders” to decide which team will advance to the next round based on their respective performances. Each team is supervised by a teacher, with many teams also coached by a volunteer attorney.

The program was developed to help students learn about the court



system, the rule of law and trial practice. Students also develop a rich understanding of our Court, the roles of attorneys and judges and the significance of the rule of law. The program also furthers their understanding of the duties and responsibilities they share as participating members of our society.

CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers are appointed by a judge to gather information, write reports and make recommendations in the best interests of a child in the Dependency Court system. The effectiveness of the CASA model of advocacy has been demonstrated in multiple studies, and there are now more than 900 CASA programs across the nation. CASA of Los Angeles was one of the first five.

CASA of Los Angeles reflects the Court’s efforts to bring the community into the justice system. CASA volunteers are everyday people who, once trained and sworn-in, become an integral part of a juvenile dependency case. They provide a community voice in the courtroom, partnering daily with foster child advocates from the medical, legal and educational systems.

What makes CASA of Los Angeles unique is that it is a public-private partnership between the Court and the Friends of CASA, a non-profit organization. Friends of CASA does more than raise money —





Courtroom to Classroom

In a partnership with the Los Angeles-based Constitutional Rights Foundation, we developed a new program, Courtroom to Classroom. It brings judges and lawyers in direct contact with eighth-to-11th-grade students at their

school locations to help them better understand the justice system.

In 2006, this highly successful project reached 23 schools and involved 20 judges — including Justice Carlos Moreno of the California Supreme Court — and 46 lawyers. The program receives financial support from the Foundation of the State Bar of California.

Visits are conducted by teams of two lawyers and one judge. The team presents two slideshows: one about the area of the U.S. Constitution that is being discussed, and the other about a particular case from the U.S. Supreme Court. The teams cover such subjects as the history of the U.S. Constitution and focus, in particular, on free expression, due process and equal protection issues.

The presentation is followed by a mock argument in which the students play the roles of lawyers and judges. Using this approach, the team engages students — many of whom have never seen a real lawyer or a real judge.

In October 2006, a very special Courtroom to Classroom visit occurred at the La Merced Intermediate School in Montebello. It was attended by Judge John Kronstadt of our Court, Justice Moreno and Peter Ligouri, entertainment president of Fox Television. Judge Kronstadt is also president of the Constitutional Rights Foundation.

The visit was built around presentation of a case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1988 (*Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260). It involved a dispute in which a high school principal removed a student newspaper from circulation.



Following the program's format, the Montebello students were divided into three teams: two to present each side of the case to a third team of students acting as the Supreme Court.

Oral arguments ensued, after which the student "Supreme Court" rendered a decision siding with the student editors of the newspaper. Justice Moreno then explained why the case was actually decided the other way.

Ligouri, for his part, explained how the First Amendment and its ramifications for government regulatory agencies color business decisions.

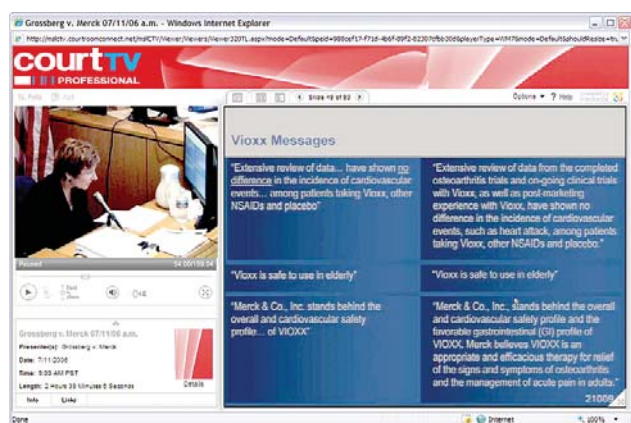


it employs more than half the program staff. Oversight is retained by judges and staff, while the partnership provides flexibility and access to resources that could not be matched by an exclusively court-based model.

Complex Litigation

One of the more innovative programs in civil litigation, the Court's Complex Litigation Program, provides greater efficiency and quality for some of the most challenging civil cases. Whether it is an environmental clean-up case with thousands of litigants, a construction defect case affecting hundreds of homeowners and dozens of contractors, or a class-action lawsuit with potentially thousands of plaintiffs and hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, the program provides special procedures designed to bring prompt and fair resolution.

Since its inception, judges in the program have



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worked closely with attorneys — from both plaintiff and defense firms — to refine and improve the program. At the start, the Los Angeles County Bar Association supported a conference at which lawyers and judges discussed how the program would work.

Pro Per Guardianship Clinic

The *Pro Per* Guardianship Clinic is operated by Public Counsel, the public interest law office of the Los Angeles County and Beverly Hills bar associations. They help self-represented litigants with petitions for guardianship and conservatorship.

Guardianship clinic staff members help litigants fill out forms and explain the court filing process and notice procedures. They also explain what will take place during the hearing and investigative process.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

A key to our success is an innovative emphasis on resolving disputes outside official court proceedings, or Alternative Dispute Resolution. The growing use of ADR processes has transformed the department's role in Court operations. The ADR department offers major processes in civil, family law and probate cases, at no cost to litigants. These services save the Court and litigants time and money.



The department relies on the volunteer services of 15 retired judges, about 1,850 attorneys and 500 other professionals. Grant funding supports the full-time staff that recruits volunteers, manages cases and coordinates ADR activities. Although this department is administered centrally, services are available at all civil, family law and probate court locations.

The inherently collaborative aspect of ADR processes carries over into the department's administration as well. In the past year, the ADR department has strengthened

its community ties with local colleges providing mediation training. The ADR Committee and staff work diligently to create new partnerships and



maintain existing ones with the various bar associations, through which many volunteers are recruited.

In an effort to assist in the development of ADR programs, the department provides guidance to and shares tools and information with courts in other counties, states and countries.

Early Neutral Evaluation Program

The Early Neutral Evaluation Program was developed jointly by the Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Association of Southern California Defense Counsel and Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles. The partners recruited and trained experienced lawyers to take part in the program, which is designed to reduce the expense of litigation and hasten the disposition of civil cases.

The evaluation may include an estimate of the likelihood of liability and the dollar range of damages and an assessment of the relative strengths and weaknesses of each party's case. The evaluator also will help clarify, narrow or eliminate issues, identify areas of agreement, offer case planning suggestions and possibly help with settlement.

The program provides early neutral evaluation in six subject matter areas: commercial disputes, employment, medical malpractice, real estate, trade secrets and unfair competition.

Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee

The purpose of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee is to synchronize and address criminal and juvenile justice projects that have countywide implications. CCJCC makes recommendations and provides statistical information about criminal justice issues to the Board of Supervisors.

Fifty-three members represent elected officials from

the county; the city of Los Angeles; contract and independent cities; the heads of criminal justice agencies, including many chiefs of police; members of the judiciary; and the heads of locally based state and federal agencies. Nine members are from our Court.

The committee meets each month to develop systemwide strategies and funding priorities. Members also discuss state legislation and needed action. CCJCC works to improve the day-to-day coordination of local criminal justice agencies and acts as the local planning body for grant programs under the U.S. Department of Justice.

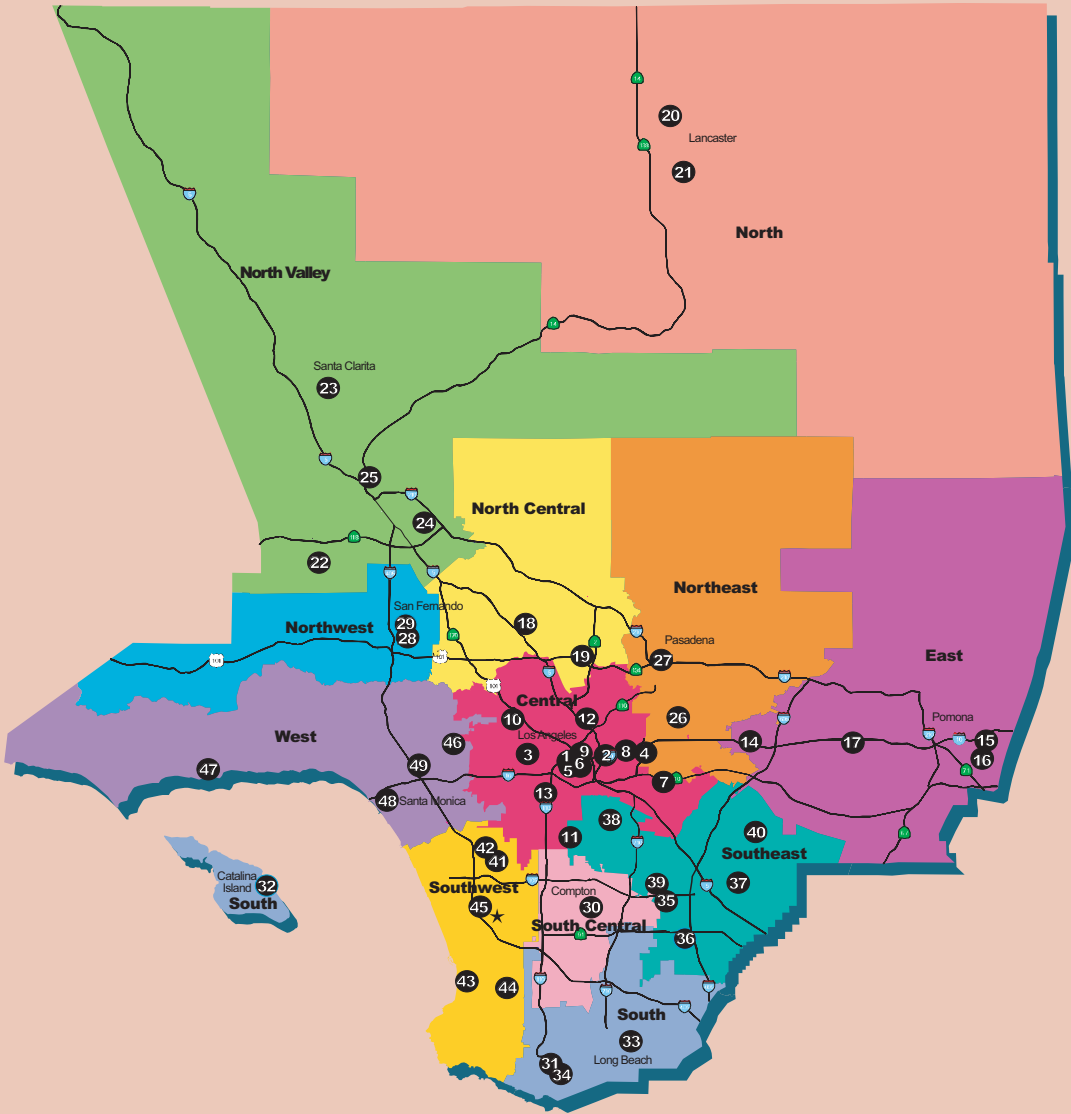
Child Support Services Department

We operate four specialty courtrooms to handle cases generated by the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department, which is charged with recovering delinquent payments from parents and guardians who have failed to comply with child support orders.

The courtrooms are at our Central Civil West Courthouse, where CSSD has its main offices. In 2006, countywide recoveries of unpaid child support totaled nearly \$500 million. The four courtrooms handled 36,000 cases, providing forums for disputes over amounts owed.

Court and CSSD staff members work side by side in this unique collaboration that requires delinquent parents and guardians to live up to their commitments while at the same time providing a neutral opportunity to go before a judge to challenge support assessments.

Los Angeles Superior Court Districts and Locations



Legend

CENTRAL

County Records Center	1
Central Arraignment Court	2
Central Civil West	3
Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court	4
Stanley Mosk Courthouse	5
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center	6
East Los Angeles Courthouse	7
Eastlake Juvenile Court	8
Hall of Records	9
Hollywood Courthouse	10
David V. Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center	11
Mental Health Courthouse	12
Metropolitan Courthouse	13

EAST

El Monte Courthouse	14
Pomona Courthouse, North	15
Pomona Courthouse, South	16
West Covina Courthouse	17

NORTH CENTRAL

Burbank Courthouse	18
Glendale Courthouse	19

NORTH

Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center	20
Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse	21

NORTH VALLEY

Chatsworth Courthouse	22
Santa Clarita Courthouse	23
San Fernando Courthouse	24
San Fernando Juvenile Court	25

NORTHEAST

Alhambra Courthouse	26
Pasadena Courthouse	27

NORTHWEST

Van Nuys Courthouse, East	28
Van Nuys Courthouse, West	29

SOUTH CENTRAL

Compton Courthouse	30
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SOUTH

Beacon Street Courthouse	31
Catalina Courthouse	32
Long Beach Courthouse	33
San Pedro Courthouse	34

SOUTHEAST

Downey Courthouse	35
Bellflower Courthouse	36
Norwalk Courthouse	37
Huntington Park Courthouse	38
Whittier Courthouse	39
Los Padrinos Juvenile Court	40

SOUTHWEST

Inglewood Courthouse	41
Inglewood Juvenile Court	42
Redondo Beach Courthouse	43
Torrance Courthouse	44

WEST

Airport Courthouse*	45
Beverly Hills Courthouse	46
Malibu Courthouse	47
Santa Monica Courthouse	48
West Los Angeles Courthouse	49

* Geographically located in Southwest District

Courthouse Security



Security in our courthouses is one of our top priorities. We recognize that, every day, disputes are litigated — both civil and criminal — that may lead to confrontational behavior. Our mission is to ensure that no one enters our facilities with a dangerous weapon and that altercations do not occur — or, if they do, that our security response can be swift and effective.

The front line in this endeavor consists of weapons screening checkpoints at the hundreds of entrances to our courthouses. To the greatest extent possible, the

most certain way to prevent weapon use in courthouses is to keep weapons out to begin with.

Nearly every courthouse accumulates a surprisingly large number of knives, brass knuckles, surgical scalpels, homemade slashing devices and other weapons from people who seek entry. For example, the yield of weapons over just a couple of months from the




Metropolitan Courthouse downtown was enough to completely cover two full-sized banquet tables.

The total number of weapons seized from January through September 2006 was down slightly from the same period in 2005. Thankfully, the number of guns confiscated from entering courthouses declined from five to two.

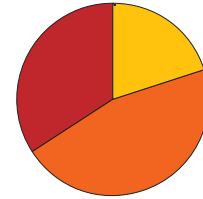


Weapons Screening Statistics

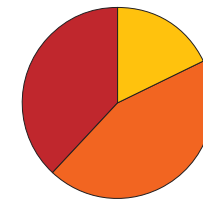
Restricted Items Held/Denied Entry

January - September 2005		
Sheriff's Bureau	Total	Percent
Central 	40,046	20%
East 	91,539	46%
West 	69,306	34%
Courtwide Total	200,891	100%

Items Seized in 2006	
Knives	53,005
Scissors	21,581
Razors	16,009
Handcuffs	7,090
Mace	5,976
Stun Guns	88
Pins	2,649
Tools	28,362
Misc.	64,255
Total	199,015



2005






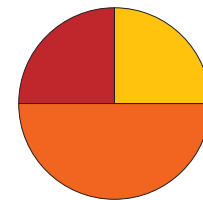
2006

0.93% Decrease in 2006 vs 2005 • 1,876 Fewer Items




Misc.: Large belt buckles with pointed barbs, long chains, suitcases, pushcarts, catch-all selection.

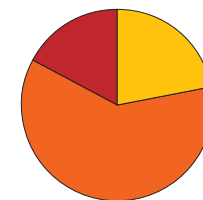
Highest Risk Weapons Seized

January - September 2005			
Sheriff's Bureau	Total	Percent	Weapons Seized
Central 	4	25%	Handgun 5
East 	8	50%	Dirk/Dagger 3
West 	4	25%	Other 8
Courtwide Total	16	100%	



2005

January - September 2006			
Sheriff's Bureau	Total	Percent	Weapons Seized
Central 	4	22%	Handgun 2
East 	11	61%	Dirk/Dagger 1
West 	3	17%	Other 15
Courtwide Total	18	100%	



2006

Other: Brass knuckles, stabbing instruments, long sewing needles, ice picks.

Sheriff's Central Bureau includes these courthouses: Central Arraignment; Central Civil West; Clara Shortridge Foltz CJC; Hollywood; Metropolitan; and Stanley Mosk. East Bureau includes: Alhambra; Bellflower; Burbank; Compton; Downey; East Los Angeles; Eastlake Juvenile; Edelman Children's Court; El Monte; Glendale; Huntington Park; Kenyon Juvenile; Los Padrinos; Norwalk; Mental Health; Pasadena; Pomona North; Pomona South; West Covina; and Whittier. West Bureau includes: Airport; Avalon; Beverly Hills; Chatsworth; Inglewood; Inglewood Juvenile; Lancaster; Long Beach; Malibu; Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile; Palmdale; Redondo Beach; San Fernando; San Fernando Juvenile; San Pedro; Santa Clarita; Santa Monica; Sylmar Juvenile; Torrance; Van Nuys East; Van Nuys West; and West Los Angeles.

Use of Resources



The 2006-2007 fiscal year represents a period of low budgetary growth. We were successful in meeting our obligations to employees and customers. Rapid increases in retirement costs, in particular, required commitment of sharply higher resource levels to employee benefits. This is necessary for us to remain competitive in pursuit of talented people in the countywide labor pool.

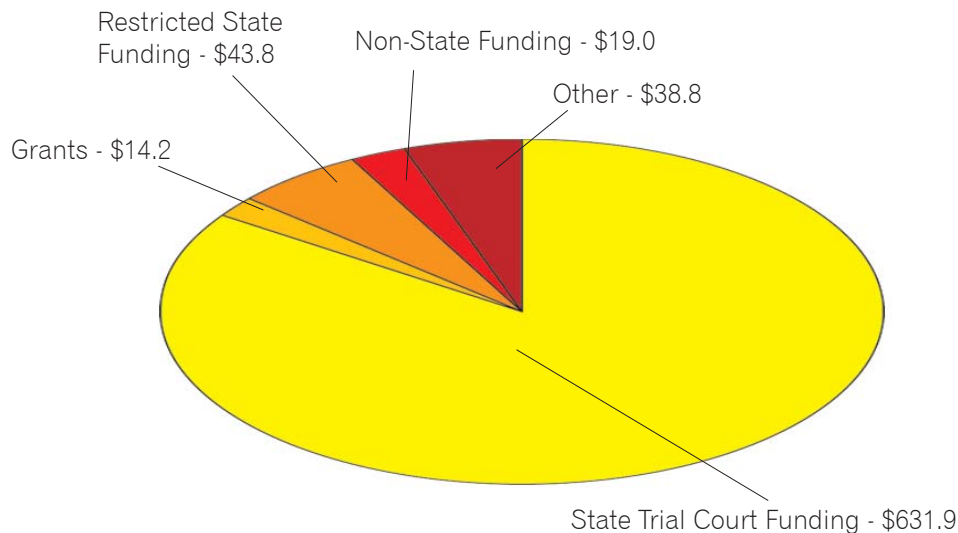
For the last two years, we have responded to benefit cost increases by limiting our expenditures for services and supplies. While that amount rose this year — after a significant decrease in 2005-2006 — the money committed to this category remains less than it was two years ago.

The immediate future of funding for trial court budgets throughout California suggests that fiscal challenges will continue and we must always exercise great care in management of resources we receive. We are committed to this goal.

Fiscal Year 2006-2007 (Allocated) Total Budget \$747.7 Million

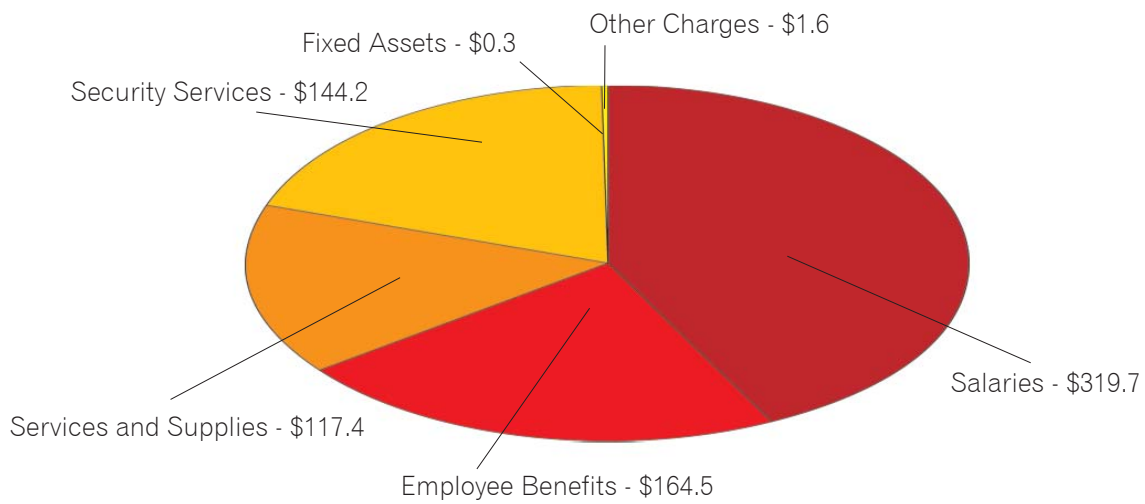
Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



2006-2007 Expenditures (Allocated)

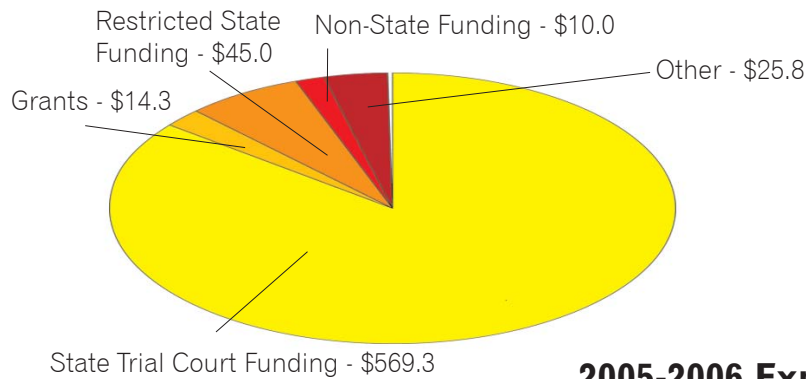
(All figures are in millions of dollars)



Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Total Budget \$665.1 Million

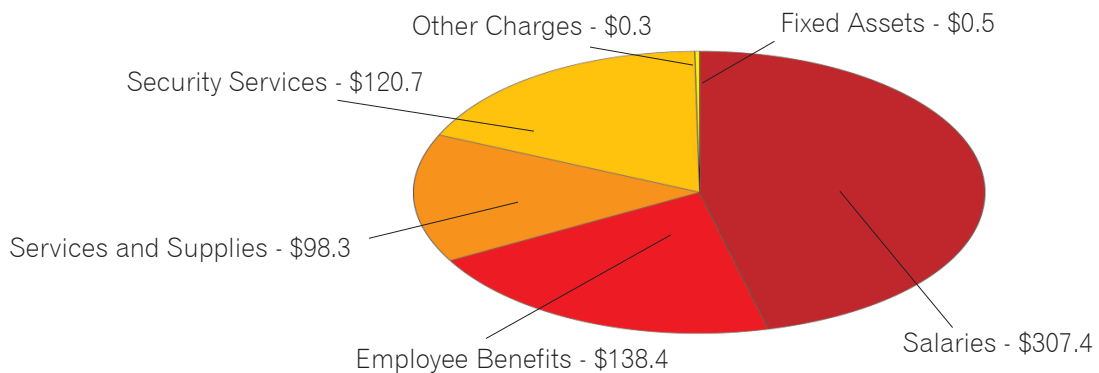
Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



2005-2006 Expenditures

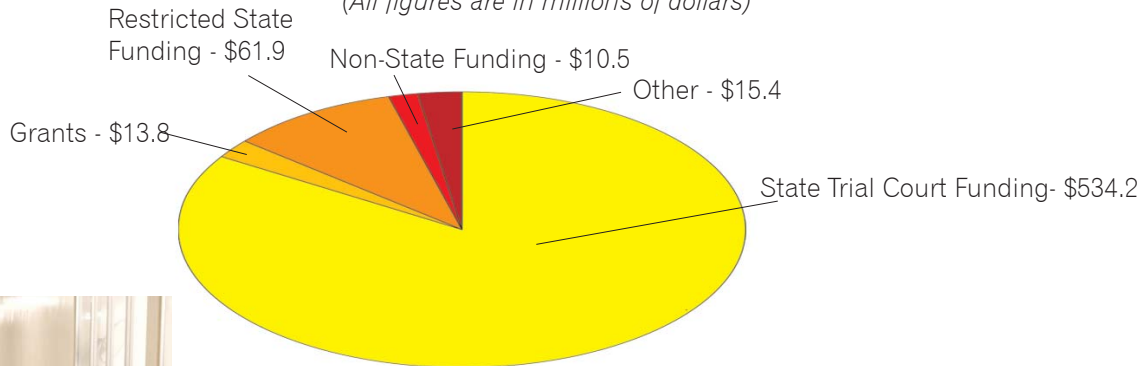
(All figures are in millions of dollars)



Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Total Budget \$635.8 Million

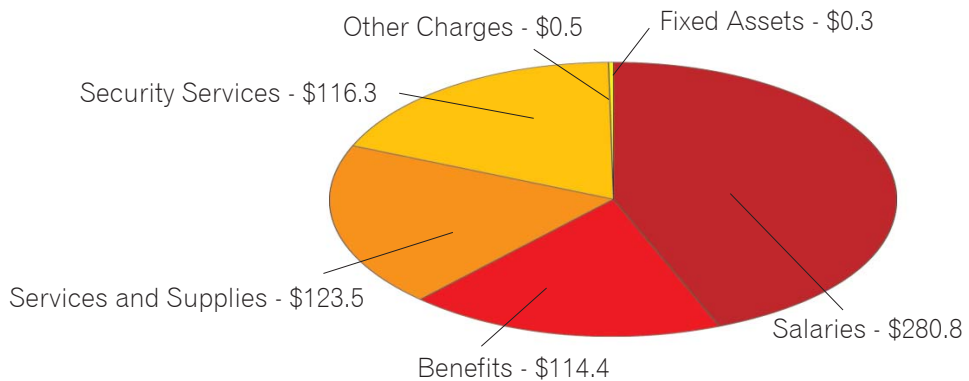
Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



2004 -2005 Expenditures

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



Revenue Definitions

- *State Trial Court Funding* — State funding provided through the Administrative Office of the Courts
- *Restricted State Funding* — Funding designated for specific programs such as interpreters, court-appointed counsel and jury fees
- *Grants* — Revenue received from grant sources such as Child Support Commissioner Program, Family Law Facilitator and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- *Other* — Miscellaneous revenue from programs such as Traffic School Monitoring and interest earned from cash on deposit
- *Non-State Funding* — City and County-provided funding for Court Reporters

Expenditure Definitions

- *Salaries* — Salaries of non-judicial court staff
- *Benefits* — Benefits of non-judicial court staff such as health, dental, life insurance and retirement
- *Services and Supplies* — Costs of office supply items, telecommunications and contractual services, such as custodial, case management and information technology services
- *Security* — Weapons screening and bailiff security services provided by the Sheriff's Department
- *Other Charges* — Lease/purchase costs of equipment and equipment insurance
- *Fixed Assets* — Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000

The Faces of



Adoption Saturday



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