

Los Angeles Superior Court



Annual Report

2009

(Incorporating financial data for
Fiscal Year 2007-2008)



Table of Contents

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Presiding Judge’s Message	3
Executive Officer’s Message	5
Our Core Mission and Work	6
The Court’s Work Reaches Residents in 12 Districts Countywide	12
Juvenile, Probate and Mental Health	18
Family Law	22
Helping Court Customers To Help Themselves	25
Jury Service: Lifeblood of the Community	28
Coping with Urgent Courthouse Facility Needs	32
How Our Judges Stay Current on the Law	37
Court Security	41
Use of Resources	44
Court Statistics	47
District Summaries	52
Court Services	62

Message from the Presiding Judge

Honorable J. Stephen Czuleger



As 2008 draws to a close, the Court must confront unprecedented, and as yet, undefined, fiscal challenges. Although the state budget crisis has been recognized for some time, the year ends without a clear solution, thereby forcing the Court to look inward and attempt to prepare for all financial eventualities in a fiscal year that is already half over. Through experience and planning, we will do so successfully.

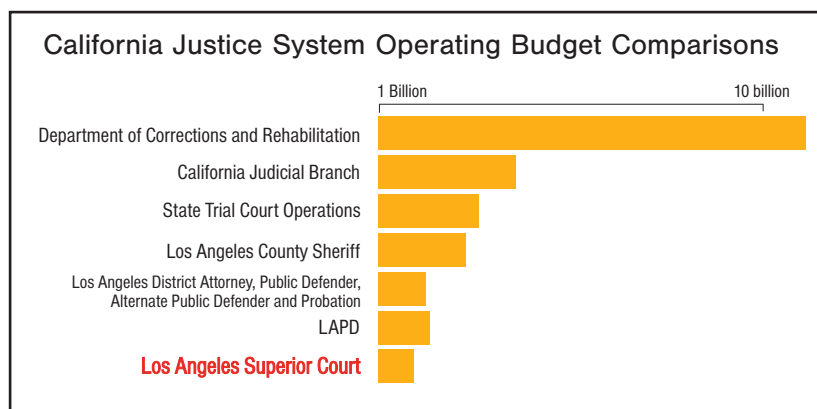
While the Judicial Branch as a whole represents a small portion of the full state budget, it is, nonetheless, a critical line item and our own operating budget is smaller still. It is literally dwarfed by other components of the justice system budget, from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the Los Angeles Police Department.

At the time of this annual report's publication, the Legislature and the Governor continue to address this most challenging task and we are hopeful that they will rise to the occasion in an effective and thoughtful manner that continues to recognize the importance of the third branch of government. That being said, we must plan for all the eventualities.

The Los Angeles Superior Court will remain focused on proper and judicious management of our resources in order to maintain the level of service our customers have come to expect. Whatever happens with the budget situation in Sacramento and San Francisco, our charge is to minimize any effects of fiscal distress on those we serve.

That said, I am confidently prepared to turn the office of Presiding Judge over to Charles W. "Tim" McCoy and to welcome Lee Edmon as the new Assistant Presiding Judge. I am pleased to report that we will transition in a fiscally responsible manner and will continue to operate appropriately no matter what the outcome of the state budget talks. This will be due to our innovations in the last 12 months which will allow us to continue to excel well into the future. And speaking of the last year, this is a good time to note that:

- We expanded our network of Self-Help centers, soon to add a new facility in Pasadena, which establishes a network of 12 centers countywide. We also added a new child waiting room in Van Nuys, bringing our total to eight children's facilities courtwide. We did this despite budget challenges to overall court operations.



- With the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco, and the Legislature in Sacramento, we successfully closed a gap in our security budget that could have threatened our ability to maintain normal courthouse operations. For the time being, the people using our facilities remain confident in our ability to provide secure facilities.
- Our ongoing emphasis on emergency preparedness kept up normal services at five courthouses that were forced to close temporarily due to events such as wildfires and flooding. In these instances, we side-stepped disasters that could have cost millions and inconvenienced thousands.
- We increased the yield of jurors qualified to serve our thousands of trials, which exceeded the number of trials in 2007, continuing a trend that began six years ago. This is due to ongoing efforts of our Juror Services unit which did so despite the pull of strained resources.
- We saw growth in our online services, which range from juror check-in to paying traffic tickets and filing small claims cases. This emphasis on e-commerce is part of a deliberate strategy to persuade our customers to access court services 24/7, thereby reducing lines and overcrowding in our courthouses. Streamlining these services resulted in millions of dollars in savings in both overtime and overhead expenses while allowing our customers extraordinary access, cost and time savings.
- We confronted a shortage of judges in 2008 — nearly three dozen at one point — which led some of our most experienced judges to form strike-force teams to attack backlogs related to resource shortages at the Metropolitan Courthouse downtown and the Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse in Lancaster. This extra effort resulted in superior customer satisfaction and resolution of cases without adding the additional resources which were simply not available at each location.

There is no doubt that 2009 will bring with it a new level of challenges as we attempt to maintain service levels while the general economy and the state budget start the year in free-fall. But the Los Angeles Superior Court is prepared with long and short-term strategies that will continue to provide stable, quality service to our customers and to you who serve them.

We will do our best to see that our strategies and actions meet every important objective in the new year. I have every confidence that Presiding Judge McCoy and Assistant Presiding Judge Edmon will do their very best to continue the tradition of excellence demonstrated every day by all of the judges and employees of the Los Angeles Superior Court.



New Assistant Presiding Judge Lee Edmon, left and, new Presiding Judge Charles W. "Tim" McCoy.

J. Stephen Czuleger
Presiding Judge

Message from the Executive Officer



As I write this late in 2008, the country, state and County of Los Angeles are in the midst of an economic crisis of unknown depth and duration. With a downturn in the economy, we can expect more family disputes, unfulfilled contracts, criminal acts, landlord-tenant disputes and other problems to arrive at our door.

Although it is a daunting vision of the future, the Los Angeles Superior Court and other professionally managed courts have overcome similar crises by relying on preparation, foresight and evidence-based decision-making. Although American trial courts trace their roots back to the English settlers' colonial courts created 400 years ago, professional court administration took root only 50 years ago.

It began in 1958, when Presiding Judge Louis H. Burke and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors created an executive officer for the Superior Court — the first such position in the country. They appointed Edward C. Gallas to take on the role of joining forces with judges and other stakeholders to professionally manage the delivery of justice in Los Angeles County.

Gallas was a pioneer in setting the administration of justice on a truly professional footing. His partnership with the Board of Supervisors laid the foundation for the administrative capacity that has facilitated our ability to meet past and current challenges.

Fortunately, we have been focusing our planning on the challenges of an economic downturn for some time. The current economic crisis is shocking in its severity. Having anticipated and planned for the worst, we are in a better position to address it — mindful that in times of social stress, our courts play a pivotal role resolving family and monetary disputes and dispensing justice in criminal cases.

This Annual Report details several of our efforts to anticipate needs and create responsive programs that ensure countywide access to justice regardless of the economic outlook. I am honored to take my place among the executive officers who have faithfully served the Los Angeles Superior Court's judges and the people who seek justice in our courts.

I am also extremely proud of our dedicated employees — the best in the nation — who work tirelessly to help our judges identify the upcoming challenges and find opportunities to overcome them.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A. Clarke".

John A. Clarke
Executive Officer/Clerk



Our Core Mission and Work

In our county courts, people file thousands of criminal and civil cases every year. Our core mission is to resolve these disputes with equity and justice.

In fiscal year 2007-08, we received 609,571 criminal case filings, including 65,129 felonies (serious crimes such as rape, murder and robbery), 461,529 misdemeanors (lesser crimes such as petty theft, prostitution and driving under the influence) and 83,913 non-traffic infractions (violations usually resolved out of court with a fine payment).

The Los Angeles Superior Court consists of 12 districts, housing a total of 48 courthouses, ideally situated at the community level.

The most common criminal filings are traffic infractions such as failure to stop at a stop sign, driving without a valid license, speeding, jaywalking, and—since July 1, 2008—improperly using a cell phone while driving. In the past fiscal year, the Court processed an astounding total of 1,675,310 traffic infractions.

We also received 387,923 new civil case filings in our small claims courts (under \$7,500), limited jurisdiction courts (under \$25,000), general jurisdiction courts (over \$25,000), probate courts and family law courts.

Although nearly half of our 10,534 probate case filings in FY 2007-08 addressed the settling of decedents' estates, the probate court adjudicated thousands of adult conservatorships, children's

guardianships, trust proceedings and elder and dependent adult abuse restraining orders as well.

Our family law judicial officers also handle a panoply of sensitive matters — battered spouses seeking domestic violence restraining orders against their abusers, paternity and child custody disputes and thousands of divorce and separation cases. Altogether, we received 97,292 new family law cases in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

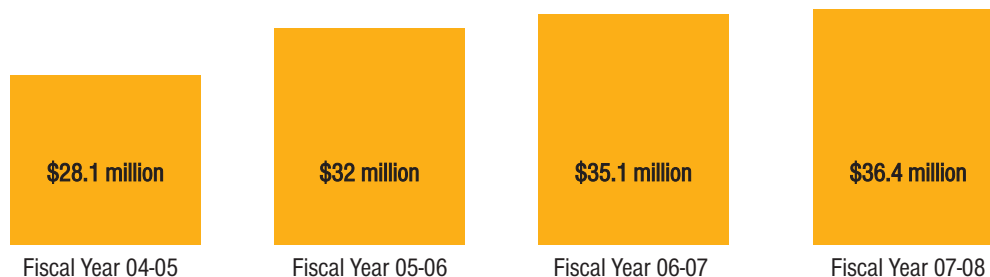
Our juvenile courts handle dependency matters designed to protect children from abuse or neglect, delinquency cases that adjudicate crimes committed by minors, along with infractions and traffic citations involving minors. Our juvenile court new filings included 19,987 dependency cases and 33,547 delinquency matters.

We are fortunate to have a courthouse exclusively devoted to mental health cases. In FY 2007-08, 2,579 cases were filed with our mental health court.

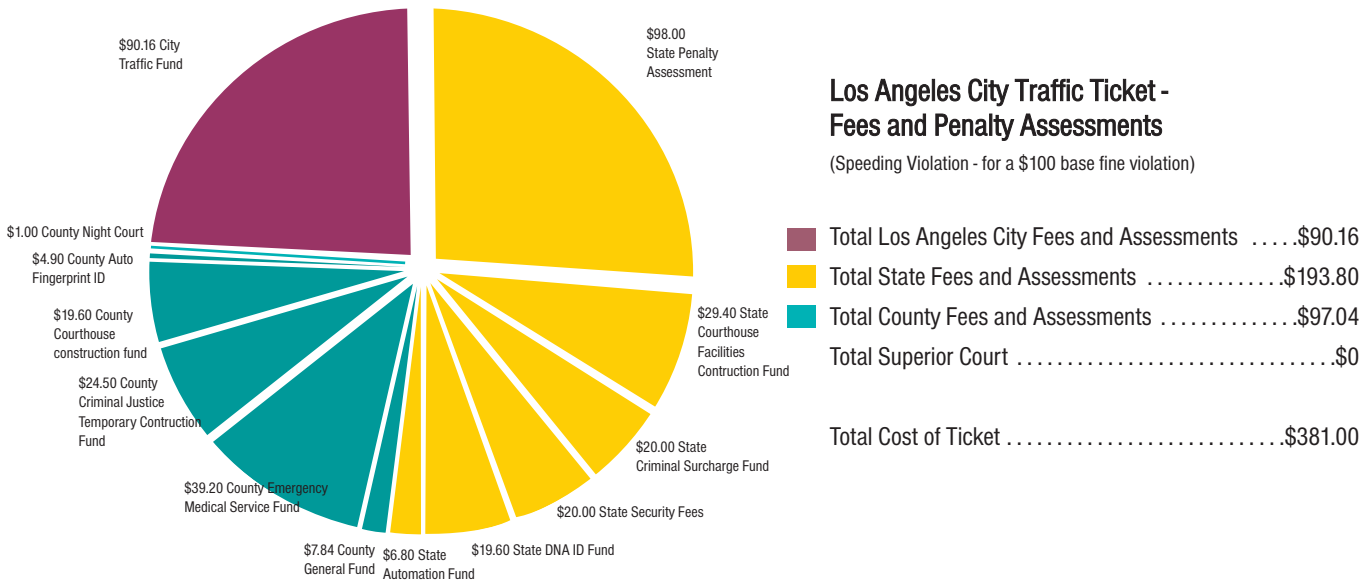
Each courthouse reflects its surrounding community. Like the county itself, the diversity among people, environments, customs and cultures is vast and impressive.

Our facilities include the Stanley Mosk Courthouse with 99 courtrooms in downtown Los Angeles — the largest courthouse in the United States with nearly 800,000 square feet. By contrast, the Catalina Courthouse on Santa Catalina Island is the smallest courthouse in the state with one courtroom, one judge and one court employee.

Online Traffic Citation Transaction Revenue



The High Cost of Traffic Violations: Where the Money Goes



An important part of our core work is to reach out to the community. For instance, a dozen of our courthouses offer self-help clinics. Many also provide child waiting rooms to entertain children whose parents are engaged in court business.

The Court also provides several free educational tools, such as the “Creating a Parenting Plan” pamphlet series, to help divorcing parents learn how to share child-rearing responsibilities.

Our Court recently unveiled an innovative seven-part video that explains the various methods of

Alternative Dispute Resolution. Anyone can view the video by simply clicking on our Web site,

www.lasuperiorcourt.org

We also offer free classes, including the Family Law Department’s Parents and Children Together program and the Probate Department’s orientation and training for non-professional conservators.

We are proud of our outreach and educational efforts and remain committed to improving and building on these programs in the years to come.

Courtwide Filings in Serious Felonies, FY 2007-08

	Central	East	North	North Valley	Northeast*	Northwest	South	South Central	Southeast	Southwest	West
Total Felonies	21,697	4,528	4,001	3,459	2,707	3,757	4,571	7,461	3,777	3,925	3,971
Homicide	212	62	26	27	43	28	53	110	28	24	20
Forcible Rape	29	18	10	3	7	13	16	13	20	6	17
Aggravated Assault	4,947	1,050	1,116	823	812	1,232	1,188	2,402	1,073	1,040	1,263
Property Offenses	4,036	1,503	1,400	854	853	879	1,243	918	1,160	922	1,120

*Northeast district includes North Central district felony filings

Time-Saving Video Arraignments



Commissioner Steven Lubell, left, on the bench in the Glendale Courthouse as defendant appears by video from Glendale Police Department

A Pilot Program Begins in Glendale

The first step in every criminal prosecution is arraignment — a proceeding where the defendant appears in court, is advised of his or her constitutional rights including the right to have a court-appointed attorney, and enters a plea of guilty or not guilty. Last August, we instituted an electronic arraignment pilot program in the Glendale Courthouse that allows defendants to be arraigned from a video arraignment room in the Glendale Jail.

During the first phase of the project, the court equipped Department 1 of the Glendale Courthouse with a computer, monitor, microphone and cameras linked to a similarly equipped video arraignment room at the nearby Glendale jail.

Using a secure, dedicated private connection, the judge and the defendant can speak “face to face” via a two-way televised system.

The technology allows the bench officer to see and interact with the defendant and his or her attorney. A monitor mounted in the courtroom shows family members and others in the audience the same images that the judge sees.

Meanwhile, the in-custody defendant sees a TV monitor split into four parts, showing the judge, the prosecutor and the defense counsel’s table with the audience in the background and a mirror image of himself. If the defense attorney is in the Glendale arraignment room rather than the

courtroom, the mirror image includes the attorney as well.

If the defendant wants to talk to his attorney privately, the defendant can turn off the microphone in the video arraignment room. Lawyers and clients can also meet in two attorney/client conference rooms and additional holding cells located nearby.

The pilot is the product of a coordinated effort by the Los Angeles Superior Court, Glendale Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office and Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office.

The system benefits all parties involved in the arraignment process. The Sheriff’s Department, which normally transports all incarcerated defendants to court for arraignments, saves the cost of transportation and protection of the in-custody defendant. The Court avoids potential breaches of security at the courthouse and problems among inmates in their temporary lockup facilities. Defendants benefit because their cases and their potential release dates are accelerated.

Although the program has focused on felony arraignments to date, it will soon embrace all arrestees housed in the Glendale Jail. There are plans to expand the program to other facilities in 2009, including the Central Arraignment Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.



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Murder: A Countywide, Cross-Community Tragedy



Among the most difficult and complex felonies is the crime of murder — where the loss to the victims’ families and the concern of the community are tremendous and where preserving the rule of law takes center stage. No area of the county is immune from this crime, as this chart demonstrates clearly.

Many of the murder cases involve the pervasive problem of criminal street gangs. The attack on public safety evident in murder cases joins the interests of every population and socioeconomic segment of Los Angeles County.

Murder (Penal Code Section 187) Filings By Courthouse, FY 2007-08

Foltz Criminal Justice Center	153	Whittier	9
Compton	75	Downey	8
Long Beach	38	Inglewood	8
Pomona	31	East Los Angeles	6
Pasadena	22	West Covina	5
Lancaster	19	Bellflower	5
San Fernando	18	Metro	4
Airport	17	Beverly Hills	2
Van Nuys	16	Glendale	1
El Monte	10	Central Arraignment Court	1
Torrance	10	West LA	1
Alhambra	9		

Filing statistics provided by Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office





The Alternative Dispute Resolution office is always busy. At right Supervisor Don Knabe presents recognition scroll to Judge Helen Bendix and Presiding Judge Charles W. McCoy.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

As every judge, lawyer and litigant knows, litigation is long and costly, with months of hearings, dozens of filings and the inevitable attorney's fees.

The Los Angeles Superior Court's Alternative Dispute Resolution program offers four alternatives to litigation in court. Each program relies on trained, impartial "neutrals" who either help the parties work out an agreement or quickly and fairly decide the case.

Our diverse panel of neutrals ranges in age from 28 to 95. They provide services in 45 foreign languages. In the 2007-08 fiscal year, they successfully resolved more than 10,000 civil, eminent domain, civil harassment, small claims, probate and family law non-custody cases.

Mediation is the most popular option. The neutral facilitates a confidential dialogue between conflicting parties to help them resolve the case on their own.

In the second option, neutral evaluation, a legal expert called an "evaluator" listens while each side provides a summary of the evidence they intend to present at trial. The evaluator delivers a non-binding evaluation of the case — basically predicting what a judge or jury will award at trial.

The third alternative is a settlement conference where the parties present their positions to a neutral settlement officer — typically a retired judge or experienced attorney. The settlement officer serves as a go-between for settlement negotiations and may give an opinion about the outcome at trial or suggest a specific settlement amount.

The fourth option is arbitration, a proceeding similar to a trial but shorter and less formal. The arbitrator hears evidence, testimony and argument, and makes a decision. The parties can agree to binding arbitration, in which the arbitrator's

decision is final, or a non-binding procedure, where either party may request a trial following arbitration.

To help litigants better understand the four ADR proceedings, the ADR Department completed a seven-part, public education video, and posted it on the court's Web site, www.lasuperiorcourt.org

The video, which was funded by a grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts, premiered in conjunction with the AOC's Mediation Week last March. Other courts plan to utilize the video for the litigants in their counties.

The ADR Department provides written instruction materials in Spanish, Tagalog, Korean and Armenian, and efforts are underway to post a Spanish version of the video on the Court's Web site.

The ADR programs have been so popular with litigants that the court's ADR waitlist ballooned into a significant backlog last year. The ADR staff sought help from its panel of neutrals whose overwhelming response quickly delivered ADR services in more than 300 personal injury cases.

Two new ADR services have been introduced this year. ADR mediators agreed to handle Central District small claims cases in addition to their limited and general jurisdiction civil cases. These cases are particularly challenging because all the litigants are self-represented.

Second, the ADR Department obtained new grant funds to implement a Voluntary Settlement Conference Program targeting personal injury cases. The program uses a co-settlement officer model that pairs two neutrals in every case — an experienced plaintiff and defense attorney. The Court is already recruiting and training attorneys with 10 or more years of experience to provide these services.



The Court's Work Reaches Residents in 12 Districts Countywide

The Court's 12 judicial districts constantly work to implement programs tailored to fit community needs. Rather than adopt a cookie-cutter approach, our Court empowers the districts to initiate new programs — many of which have won prestigious awards.

Despite being the largest trial court system in the United States with some 5,500 employees serving millions of customers annually in 48 courthouses, spread over 4,000 square miles, we continue to create grass-roots solutions to address difficult problems countywide.

The Central District, which encompasses downtown Los Angeles, statistically dominates the other 11 districts with its vast number of case filings, trials, self-represented litigants and customer resources. Its 10 court buildings accommodate throngs of customers, litigants, law enforcement officers, defendants, witnesses, attorneys, jurors and staff — about 9,360 entrants daily at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, which also serves as the Court's administrative headquarters.

The Central District has launched many pilot programs, such as civil document imaging, early disposition court, Homeless Court and Alternative Dispute Resolution.



These pilot programs have allowed court administrators and judicial leaders to evaluate their feasibility before they were adopted countywide and replicated around the state.

The districts have been equally creative in exploring practical solutions to community needs. In

the South District, the judiciary and staff supported a revolutionary public-private partnership to build a new and badly needed Long Beach Courthouse.

The innovative idea was embraced by the California Legislature and, in late 2008, the Administrative Office of the Courts issued a request for qualifications to identify developers who have the capacity to undertake the Long Beach Courthouse replacement project.

This kind of innovation permeates our Court. A



prime example is the creation of children's waiting rooms whose size, look and feel reflect the communities they serve.

The largest one, which is in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles, serves 32 children, ages 2 ½ to 13. By contrast, the newest one in the Van Nuys East Courthouse holds 12 children.

The Long Beach Courthouse children's waiting room is the "most used," serving an average of 543 children monthly — ages newborn to 13.

A 12-week backlog of mail-in divorce judgments in the North Valley District sparked an alliance among members of a nearby community college, group home and bar association, who volunteered for a variety of courthouse functions, including processing the judgments.

Similarly, attorneys in a grass-roots effort in the North Central District found a way to efficiently settle uncontested family law cases at the Burbank Courthouse. At monthly Pro Per Fridays, volunteer attorneys counsel self-represented parties on how to resolve their case.

At the Glendale Courthouse, the Civil Referee Assisted Settlement Hearing program — known as CRASH — helps settle complex civil litigation cases before trial.

In the East District, a family law mediation panel made up of family law practitioners helps litigants prepare for trial and facilitates settlements. In the same district, the Pomona South Courthouse staff organizes brown-bag educational lunches where attorneys earn credit for continuing legal education.

In the Northeast District, a community justice council comprised of supervising judges, prosecutors, public safety and probation officers, public defenders and other law enforcement representatives addresses operational and procedural concerns in regularly scheduled meetings. Members attribute their 20 years of success to the high level of trust among the participants. Plans for organizing a similar group are underway in the North Central District.

The Van Nuys East Courthouse in the Northwest District is second only to Stanley Mosk in its volume of small claims, limited and unlimited civil case filings. Recently, court management solved the problem of overcrowded filing windows by allocating space to open a small claims office on the third floor. The new office, opened in September, provides three new filing windows and eight additional workstations.

Drug courts throughout the county regularly celebrate defendants' successful completion of drug rehabilitation programs, but the South Central District ceremonies often feature special guests. For example, after years of well-publicized receptions at the Compton Courthouse, the Drug Court's 10th anniversary event moved to a major hotel where acclaimed actor Martin Sheen keynoted the luncheon.

The Southeast District's Norwalk Courthouse instituted a Resource Center for Self-Represented Litigants that is heavily used and highly beneficial to litigants and court staff alike. The center's assistance — particularly in family law cases — has improved the accuracy and completeness of filings so that they can be processed in a more timely basis.

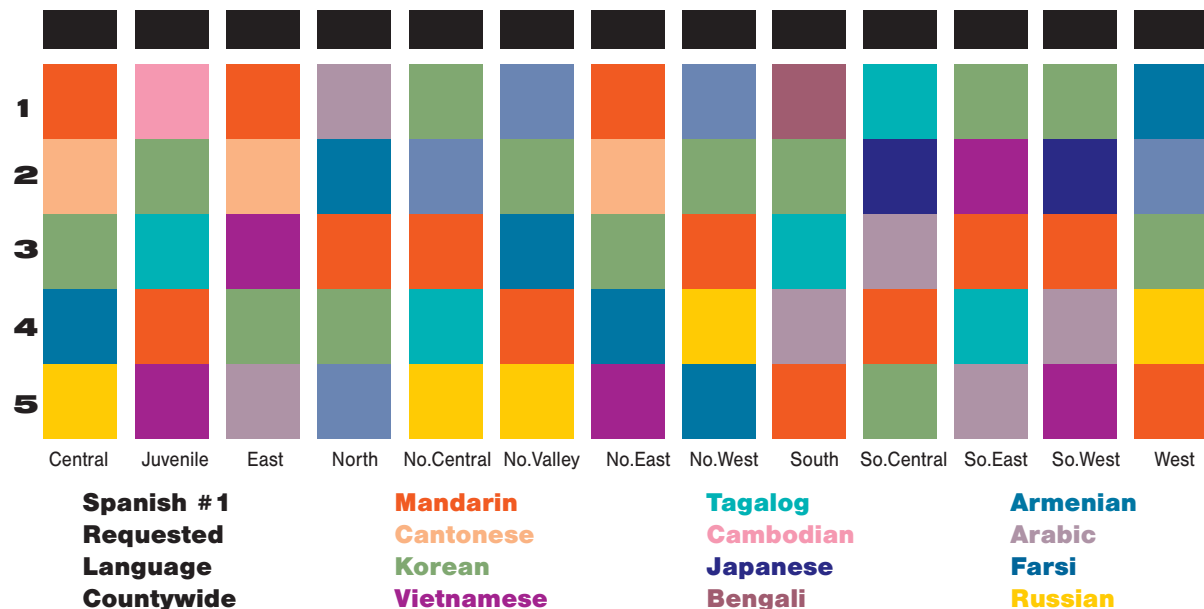
The Southeast District's Early Disposition Program based in the Downey Courthouse boasts an average disposition rate of more than 60 percent of the criminal cases referred.

The Southwest District offers self-help centers in the Torrance and Inglewood courthouses along with a South Bay Bar Pro Bono Clinic in Torrance. Extensive Drug Court and Proposition 36 Court programs remain bedrock programs in the district.

The Malibu, Beverly Hills, Airport and Santa Monica courthouses in the West District also feature major self-help and drug rehabilitation programs.

Language Needs in Individual Districts Mirror Our Diversity

Unsurprisingly, Spanish is, by far, the most commonly requested language when our customers need interpreters. However, rankings of the five other most commonly needed languages provide an intriguing commentary on how communities have developed throughout Los Angeles County. Where Armenian may be the most requested language other than Spanish in one district, Mandarin dominates another. We take very seriously our obligation to make our services available to all of our customers, regardless of language needs or residency status.



Van Nuys Community Court

Since 2001, the Van Nuys Community Court has operated as a pilot project targeting low-level crimes in the Van Nuys Civic Center area bordered by Sepulveda Boulevard, Woodman Avenue, Vanowen and Oxnard streets.

The program grew out of public and police frustration with defendants repeatedly committing petty crimes, such as loitering, public drinking, public urination, vandalism, prostitution and low-level drug offenses.

In an attempt to break the cycle, the Van Nuys Community Court adopted a two-pronged approach.

The Court pairs offenders with appropriate drug treatment,

counseling, job training and other services to address the underlying causes of the crimes.

The Court also requires the defendants to take a stake in the Civic Center area by cleaning streets and sidewalks, removing graffiti, maintaining the city's trees or doing other work recommended by local residents on a community advisory panel.

Defendants who successfully participate in the selected social services program and complete the community service requirements can have the charges against them dismissed.

Homeless Court

In their quest to survive, homeless people often violate health and safety laws, such as loitering, jaywalking and sleeping in public spaces or doorways. They are also commonly charged with victimless misdemeanors and other low-level offenses.

Because they are homeless, they have difficulty traveling to Court when summoned for violations. As a result, warrants are issued for non-appearances. The cases against them languish, without resolution, until the defendant is incarcerated. In the meantime, the warrants impede their access to the services necessary to regain housing and employment, such as job training, physical and mental health programs and substance abuse counseling.

Homeless court programs in Los Angeles County aim to break this vicious cycle by resolving the outstanding legal and quality-of-life issues that raise barriers to self-sufficiency.

There are two programs now in effect — the Los Angeles County Homeless Court program and the Santa Monica homeless/community court.

In the Los Angeles County program, the Court identifies promising candidates and appoints a rehabilitative services case manager — oftentimes a representative from Public Counsel, a pro bono law firm. The homeless person and the case manager jointly submit an application asking the City Attorney's Office to dismiss the charges, suspend any

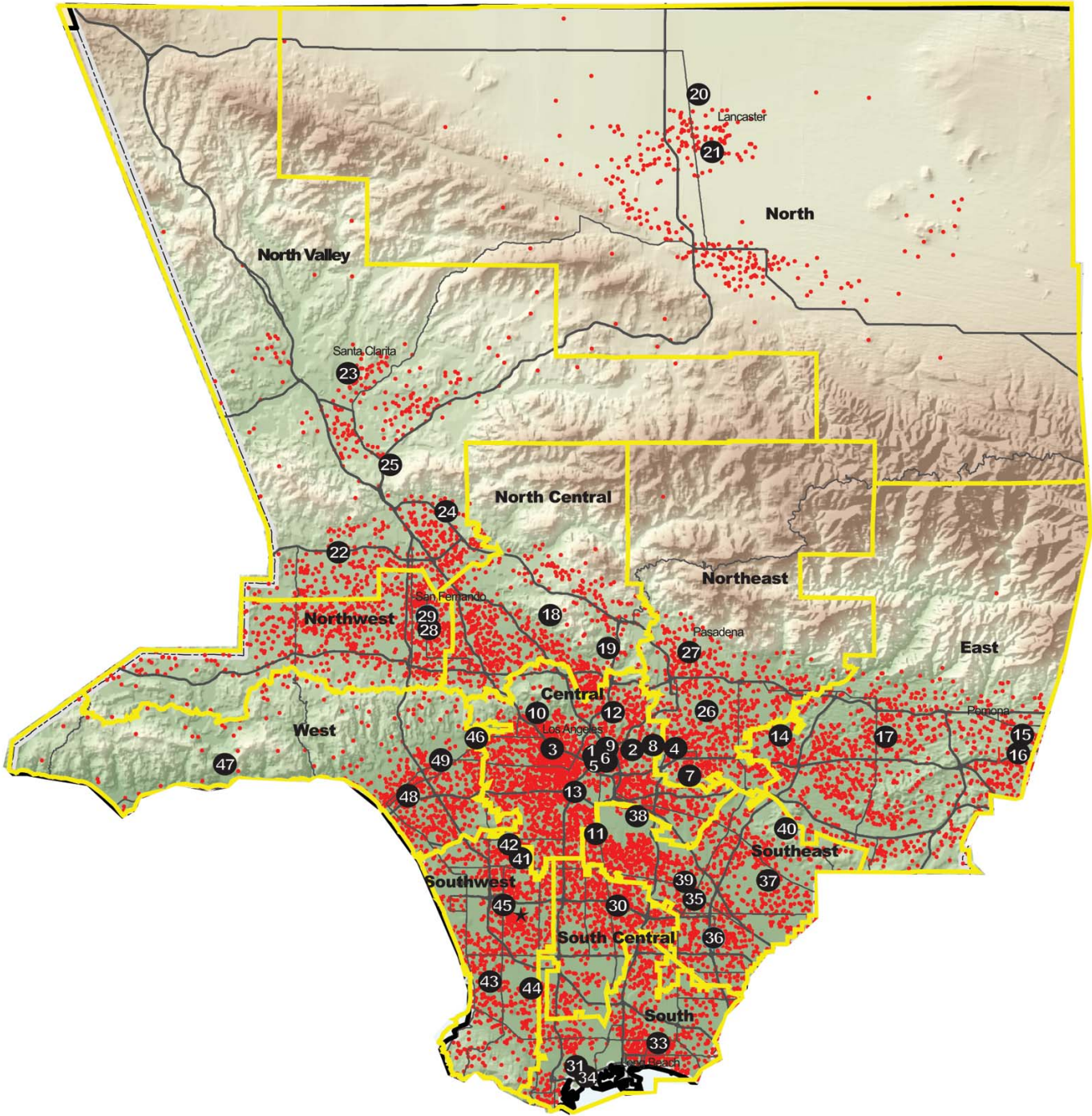
outstanding fines or fees and recall any outstanding warrants.

If the City Attorney's Office approves the application, it petitions the Court to resolve the matter either by recalling the warrants or suspending some or all of the fines and fees, sometimes on condition that the defendant participates in a rehabilitative program.

In the Santa Monica program, the city's police department, the Airport Courthouse arraignment court and local homeless service providers identify homeless defendants accused of committing infractions and low-grade misdemeanors in Santa Monica. The Court defers sentencing or dismissal while it monitors the defendants' progress obtaining support and housing services.

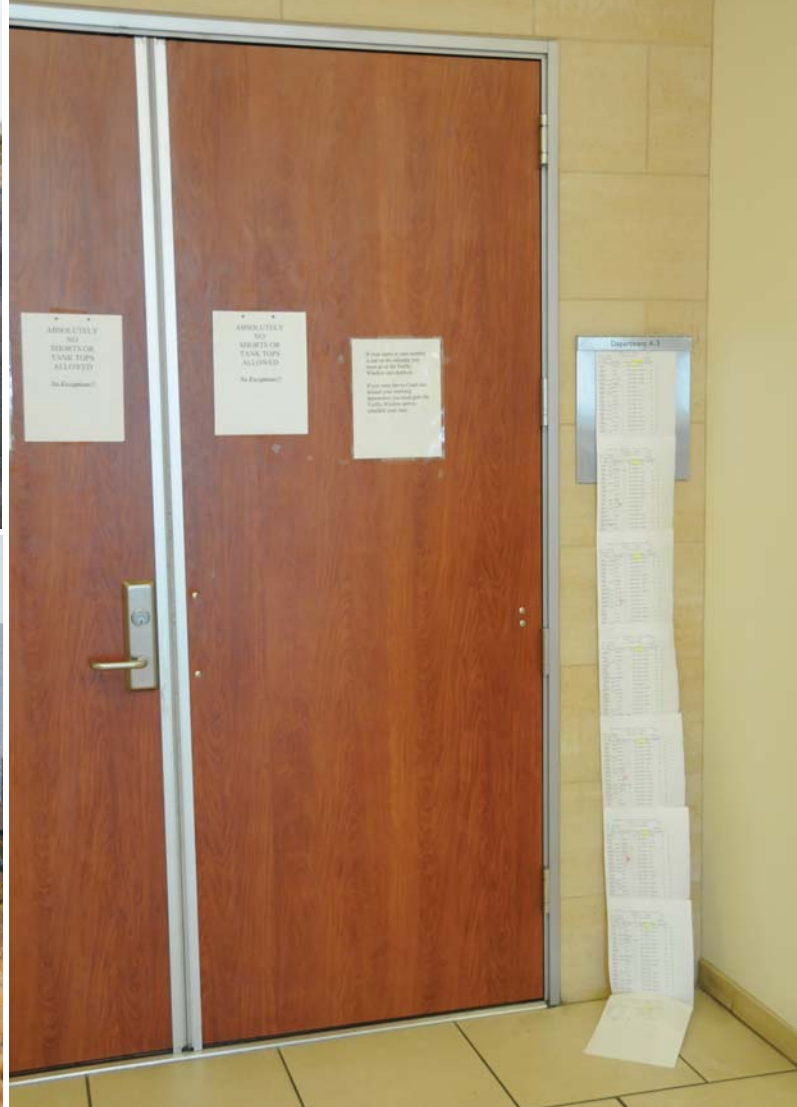
Both programs involve multiple justice partners. The Los Angeles County program was launched in 2000 as a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles Superior Court, Public Counsel, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and advocates for the homeless.

The Santa Monica homeless/community court, which held its first session in February 2007, is a joint effort involving the City of Santa Monica, the County of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Superior Court.



Court Locations Closely Reflect County Population Centers

The Los Angeles Superior Court system of today grew out of the merger in 2000 of the Superior Court and 24 municipal courts. These various systems built courthouses throughout the county without a centrally coordinated plan. However, as the county has evolved, the placement of our facilities turned out to exactly match population patterns. We have a physical presence everywhere people live in Los Angeles County.



Judicial Strike Force Deploys To Fill Gaps



Presiding Judge J. Stephen Czuleger presides in a traffic case, left, while Judge Lee Edmon, far right, joins Lancaster Supervising Judge Tom White (second from right) in a session explaining the backlog reduction strike force to news reporters.

Have Robe, Will Travel

For several of our most experienced judges, that slogan applied literally. Nearly three dozen judicial vacancies over the course of 2008 mandated creative and valiant measures to maintain an appropriate level of service in some courts.

Presiding Judge J. Stephen Czuleger took the lead in organizing two judicial strike forces. One sent senior judges to the Metropolitan Courthouse to help catch up on a serious backlog of traffic cases. Last June Judge Czuleger personally participated in the traffic court strike force, handling trials and arraignments on traffic violations for a week. He was joined by Judges Lee Edmon, Elizabeth Grimes, Rex Heeseman, Jane Johnson and Ann Jones.

These extra judges heard 2,250 arraignments in five court days, reducing the waiting time for traffic ticket arraignment from six months to three.

A month later, the Court dispatched another strike force to the Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse in Lancaster, which had been forced to transfer many cases downtown after months of judicial vacancies.

To avoid the extreme hardship on parties, victims, and witnesses involved in a 90-mile transfer, the strike force judges rotated every day to supply at least one extra judge for three weeks.

The Lancaster team included judges Edmon, Jones, Heeseman and Judge Richard Rico, as well as commissioners Robert Harrison and Tony Drewry.

With budgetary problems and additional vacancies on the horizon, our court is committed to using strike forces and quick redeployments to keep the system moving.



Juvenile, Probate and Mental Health

Some of our Court's most sensitive, and least publicized, work involves adults and children who face trying situations but are unable to help themselves. These delicate matters are handled in our juvenile, probate and mental health courts.

JUVENILE COURT

The delinquency court, dependency court, and informal juvenile and traffic court, which together comprise the Juvenile Court, provide three discrete services for minors.

Children who are accused of crimes are referred to delinquency court, where the bench officers work to protect the community from harm while striving to rehabilitate the youthful defendants. Their challenge is to turn around the lives of children who are starting down the wrong path — often as a result of abuse at home, addiction or mental illness.

The goal of the informal juvenile and traffic court is early intervention to prevent more serious criminal acts. Most of the cases (79 percent) are non-traffic misdemeanors and infractions that are often a precursor to more troublesome delinquent behavior. The Court hears close to 200,000 such cases each year at 14 locations throughout the county.

The challenge in dependency court, which has nothing to do with criminal behavior, is to protect children from abuse and neglect while striving to keep families intact. Dependency bench officers face many tough decisions, such as removing a child from an abusive home, often temporarily, until the home conditions improve.

Although the largest facility for juvenile cases is the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park, our juvenile courts also conveniently serve families in regional juvenile courts every day. We hear delinquency cases in Lancaster, Los Angeles, Inglewood, Downey, Sylmar, Pomona, Pasadena, Long Beach and Compton.

PROBATE COURT

Most people associate the word “probate” with disputes over a deceased person's estate, but the probate court also has a large role in protecting the interests of people whose youth, old age, mental illness or disability makes them particularly vulnerable.

For example, when parents cannot care for their children, the probate court may appoint a guardian on the child's behalf.

Depending on the terms of the guardianship, the guardian may make financial, legal, medical and educational decisions for the child until the parent is deemed fit to resume those responsibilities or the child becomes an adult.

Conservatorships, which are similar to guardianships, protect adults who are unable to manage their own affairs. The Court gives a conservator, who may or may not be a relative, a variety of decision-making powers over the conservatee's living arrangements and finances, either on a temporary or permanent basis.

Our Court hears probate cases throughout the county in the following courthouses: Stanley Mosk, Pomona South, Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley, Pasadena, Van Nuys East, Long Beach, Compton, Norwalk, Torrance and Santa Monica.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Los Angeles County is the only county in California that has a centralized court to address cases involving mental disorders and mental health legal issues.

Many of the cases heard at mental health court concern people who suffer severe psychological problems, developmental disabilities or mental disabilities, including those who have been involuntarily confined to a mental health facility under

the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS), the state's mental health commitment law.

Every patient who challenges confinement is entitled to an evidentiary hearing before a judge. Under LPS, the treatment facility has the burden to prove the confined person's mental disorder poses a danger to self or others or that the person is so gravely disabled that basic needs of food, clothing or shelter cannot be met.

The three judicial officers who decide questions of competency and sanity in LPS conservatorship cases also conduct medication capacity hearings for patients

refusing psychiatric medications during a temporary conservatorship.

The mental health court's docket encompasses criminal matters as well, evaluating inmates referred to mental health treatment facilities.

When children are referred for treatment we rely on dedicated juvenile mental health judges who have experience in the special circumstances of these cases.

Last September, the mental health court began handling all sexually violent predator cases, which previously had been handled at the central arraignment court.

Juvenile Mental Health Court

When Eastlake Juvenile Court opened the state's first and only full-time juvenile mental health court in 2001, it brought hope to an at-risk, underserved population.

Since 2003, Judge Christina Hill has presided over the juvenile mental health court, overseeing the 85 to 100 young offenders ordered to participate in mental health treatment instead of traditional incarceration.

Attorneys representing the minors often refer their clients to the mental health court where a team of prosecutors, defense lawyers, health professionals and, occasionally, educators prepare a treatment evaluation.

Team unanimity is not required for admission, and both Judge Hill and the prosecutor retain veto power.

Once juvenile offenders enter the mental health court program, the judge, a psychiatrist, a psychologist and probation officers monitor them closely. The judge uses

regular court appearances to build trust and rapport with the youths while supervising their progress. Family members also receive counseling.

Judge Hill, who has years of juvenile court experience, also decides when minors are healthy enough to conclude their treatment. She considers the youths' compliance with treatment plans, attending therapy sessions, taking prescribed medications, attending school, staying out of trouble, and earning positive parental evaluations as benchmarks to assess their progress.

For Judge Hill, understanding juvenile mental health is a scholarly pursuit and a lifelong calling. According to Hill, juvenile mental health court has a profound effect on the children. "After years spent suffering from an undiagnosed mental illness, these children are relieved to learn they're sick and that they can and will be helped."

Mental Health Court Linkage Program

Our Court is too often the last resort for mentally ill people of all ages. When social and psychological problems underlie the commission of a crime, punishment and incarceration may not solve the problem.

Since diagnosing mental illness is a specialized skill, the Court relies on its vital partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Through the Mental Health Court Linkage Program, mental health professionals help judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys identify mentally ill defendants who would benefit from treatment.

The mental health professionals provide appropriate referrals and help the Court structure dispositions that include mental health treatment.

Like homeless courts and drug courts, the Mental Health Court Linkage Program follows the "problem-solving" model, which recognizes that, for some defendants, diversion from incarceration into treatment is just, safe and effective.

The program currently operates in 22 courthouses where 11 professionals handle between 8 and 15 defendants each day. The volume of work is staggering. In 2005, workers performed 3,534 evaluations, made 1,421 referrals for treatment, and helped to divert 705 defendants out of the criminal justice system. The Department of Mental Health plans to increase the courthouses served and the number of staff serving the Court.



Adoption Saturday Creates New Families from Foster Care

Nearly 500 Los Angeles County foster children joyfully entered new families at Adoption Saturday ceremonies in July and November.

To make that happen, private law firms, the Alliance for Children's Rights and Public Counsel provide legal services free of charge in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Superior Court and the Department of Children and Family Services.

Actresses Lucy Liu and Nia Vardalos celebrated National

Adoption Day by attending the November 17 festivities.

Adoption Saturday was the brainchild of Juvenile Court Presiding Judge Michael Nash and his colleagues. Since 1998, more than 10,000 foster children joined their new and loving families at Adoption Saturday festivities. Judge Nash's work has inspired the implementation of similar programs in courts across the United States.

A new approach to child custody disputes

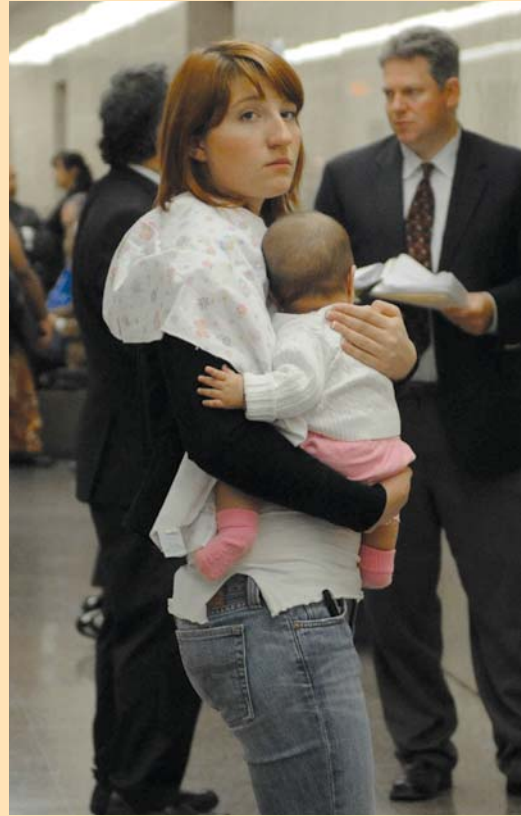
The Family Court Services staff developed a new project this year that will assist families embroiled in child custody litigation. Private mental health professionals will work *pro bono* to perform court-ordered Solution-Focused child custody evaluations.

Ten private child custody evaluators have volunteered for this project, donating three days of their time to conduct Solution-Focused Evaluations. In October, Family Court Services provided specialized training for which the evaluators received four hours of continuing education credit.

A judicial officer deciding custody or visitation issues can order a Solution-Focused Evaluation.

The evaluators base the assessment on investigations that include meeting with the children and the parents. They may also provide recommendations for custody, visitation and other services to benefit the family. They then report their findings to the judge by testifying in court.

Family Court Services performs approximately 1,000 Solution-Focused Evaluations each year. This special project was developed in an effort to increase the Court's efficiency in providing services to families.





Family Law

The family law departments of the Los Angeles Superior Court handle divorce, legal separation, annulment, paternity cases, domestic violence restraining orders, child custody matters and financial support litigation.

In the emotional turmoil of family law cases, the Court works to support both sides, to make the entire process as painless as possible, while preserving the family relationships.

During the 2007-08 fiscal year, 37,661 divorce and legal separation cases were filed in Los Angeles County. In California, mediation to help divorcing parents create their own child custody and support plans is mandatory. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, our Court oversaw 15,746 mediations. We also received 6,382 requests to establish paternity and 17,025 domestic violence restraining order applications.

People who fear for their safety can obtain a domestic violence restraining order in 22 of our County courthouses, many of which provide written guides and some level of free legal assistance.

When a person files documents to obtain a restraining order, the Court can issue a temporary restraining order (TRO), which takes effect immediately and lasts for up to 21 days. The Court will also schedule a date for a hearing on whether the order may be extended or become permanent. The applicant is responsible for serving the restrained person with a copy of the order and a notice of any future hearing date.

In 2007, the last calendar year for which numbers are available, the Court issued 4,328 permanent restraining orders, denied 1,825 requests for orders, and dismissed 7,560 petitions because the petitioner failed to appear for the scheduled hearing.

Twelve courthouses in the county have family law courtrooms: Stanley Mosk, Pomona South, Norwalk, Long Beach, Compton, Torrance, Santa Monica, Van Nuys, Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley, Burbank, Pasadena and San Fernando. All of these locations have mediation and child custody evaluations services. Child support cases are also heard in our Central Civil West courtrooms.

To help parents through the process, our Court

employs Family Court Services specialists — mental health professionals who help separating and divorcing couples develop child custody and visitation plans through parenting classes, mediation and child custody evaluations.

These written evaluations independently assess the children's needs and each parent's ability to meet those needs.

The parents, attorneys and the Court receive the written evaluations along with a recommended parenting plan that best serves the interests of the children. In the 2007-08 fiscal year, our Court performed 2,795 child custody evaluations.

In an effort to increase the Court's efficiency in providing evaluation services to families, the family court staff developed a new project this year. Ten private child custody evaluators have agreed to volunteer, donating three days of their time to conduct Solution-Focused Evaluations. The volunteers received specialized solution-focused training that allows them to earn four hours of continuing education credit.

A special Solution-Focused Evaluation is ordered when a judicial officer needs more information about a family in order to make custody and visitation decisions. After meeting with the children and parents, an evaluator provides the court with recommendations for a custody and visitation plan and any other services that might benefit the family. Family Court Services performs approximately 1,000 Solution-Focused Evaluations each year.

Another program that supports divorcing parents is Parents and Children Together, an educational program where parents learn how to help their children adjust to a divorce or separation. This free class trains parents how to work more cooperatively and effectively and to stay focused on the children's best interests. During the 2007-08 fiscal year, 10,789 people took PACT classes.

We provide additional support for families involved in very difficult and lengthy custody disputes with our Parenting Without Conflict program. This program teaches parents how parental conflict affects their children and also teaches skills to help them work together more amicably.

In the fiscal year 2007-08, 1,059 people participated in the highly effective PWC program offered in the Stanley Mosk, Van Nuys, Pomona, Chatsworth and Burbank courthouses. It is also offered in Spanish at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse.

Our written pamphlets — seven in all — were developed by the Family Court Services Staff to address children’s emotional and physical needs by age group. These brochures, now available in Spanish and English, are useful tools to help divorced and separated parents create plans to share the care of their children.

For those parents not represented by attorneys, 11 of our courthouses maintain self-help centers that offer workshops, clinics and written instructions to help litigants represent themselves. The services offered vary by location, but all 11 provide significant assistance with family law matters.

Our judges and staff members provide further assistance in periodic events and training programs promoted by the successful partnership between the Court and the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Family Law Section, including the Annual Child Custody Colloquium and Family Law Symposium.

Children’s Waiting Rooms

Perhaps the least known, but one of the most essential services for litigants is the child care provided in our child waiting rooms.

Parents on court business — other than jurors and staff — may leave their children in the care of professional staff while they deal with their legal matters. These childcare services are in great demand. For every child that leaves the waiting room, another one is often waiting to take his place.

We have child waiting rooms in the Airport, Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley, Stanley Mosk, Compton, Long Beach, Pomona, Santa Monica and Van Nuys courthouses. Three dollars of every civil filing fee is allocated to fund the waiting rooms, which are operated by two child care providers.

Our first waiting room, which opened in 2002, is operated by “For the Child,” an entity that also provides programs in the

City of Long Beach to help actual and potential victims of abuse and neglect.

The waiting room, which is located inside the Long Beach Courthouse, is unique because it accepts infants. The facility is designed to accommodate

20 children and cared for an average of 543 children per month in 2007.

Children’s Creative Learning Centers, Inc. operates the other seven child waiting rooms, staffing each with a director experienced in child education. In 2007, CCLC facilities, including its brand new Van Nuys waiting room, cared for 14,069 children.

It goes without saying that coming to court can be a stressful experience. Our goal is to alleviate the pressure on parents while they are filing papers, waiting for their case to be called or appearing in court.



Quotes from children in Child Waiting Rooms from the CCLC Annual Report:

“I love this place.”

“This is better than school!”

“You go back to court mommy so I can play longer!”

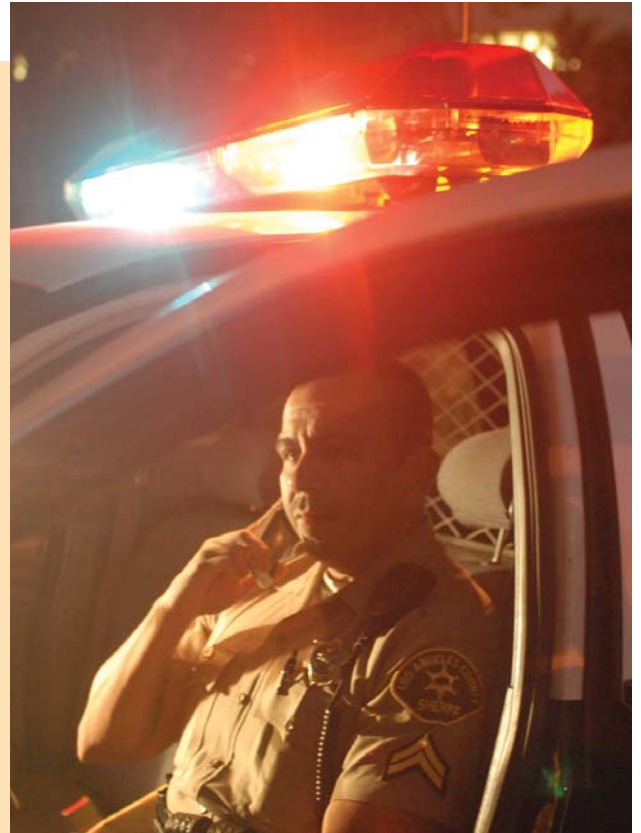


Emergency Protective Orders: The Court Is Open 24/7

It's 2:00 a.m. as local police officers respond to a domestic disturbance call and discover an imminent threat of domestic violence. Placing the suspect under arrest does not solve the problem because a defendant has the right to reasonable bail. So, what to do next?

In situations like this, law enforcement officers have direct and immediate access to judicial officers empowered to issue Emergency Protective Orders. Our Court commissioners are on-call to handle EPOs around the clock, every day of the year.

An EPO is a court order that protects a person in danger of domestic violence or elder abuse, including those who are unable to come to court to obtain the order. The emergency order, which is valid for five days, can be extended or made permanent in a more formal court hearing where all affected parties have an opportunity to appear and be heard. Anyone who violates a protective order can be arrested.



To ensure 24 hour availability, the court commissioners rotate to perform the on-call duty on a weekly basis. For law enforcement officers, the after-hours EPO procedure is simple. Police officers who encounter domestic violence or elder abuse can speak directly to a judicial officer simply by calling the county operator. The commissioner listens to evidence over the phone and then decides whether or not to issue an EPO. In the first 11 months of 2008, officers used this procedure to request 4,836 EPOs.

Our Family Law Department provides training sessions and an explanatory compact disk to the commissioners as well as to officers from the Los Angeles Police Department, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and 47 municipal police departments located in Los Angeles County. The compact disk includes training on EPO legal requirements, proof of service on the affected persons, law enforcement's responsibility to assess domestic violence, and the procedures for obtaining an EPO.



Helping Court Customers To Help Themselves



According to Black’s Law Dictionary, *pro se* is a Latin term, meaning “for oneself” or “on one’s own behalf.” In legal matters, the terms *pro se* or *pro per* identify parties who act as their own attorneys. Courts now commonly refer to *pro se* or *pro per* parties as “self-represented litigants.”

More than 4.3 million court users are presently self-represented in California. In family law cases, 67 percent of petitioners (72 percent for the largest counties) file as self-represented litigants. By the time dissolution cases are finished, 80 percent of the petitioners are self-represented.

Self-represented litigants seeking domestic violence protective orders are estimated at 90 percent or more and the estimate in paternity cases is even higher — 99 percent. A substantial portion of the litigants in landlord–tenant disputes are also unrepresented — 34 percent at filing.

Anyone who has strolled down the “self-help” aisle of a bookstore or searched online for legal assistance can attest to the fact that businesses in the private sector are hoping to corner the market for “do-it-yourself-ers.” The Los Angeles Superior Court, however, already provides top notch services to self-represented litigants without charge.

Our first priority is to provide services that have the greatest impact on families. In February, the court will open a new self-help center in the Pasadena Courthouse. The Pasadena facility will be the Court’s 12th self-help center and fulfills the Court’s goal of establishing a self-help center in every courthouse with two or more family law courtrooms.

The Van Nuys self-help center was relocated this year from a temporary trailer to a newly renovated space inside the courthouse. The move places the center within the security perimeter of the courthouse complex.

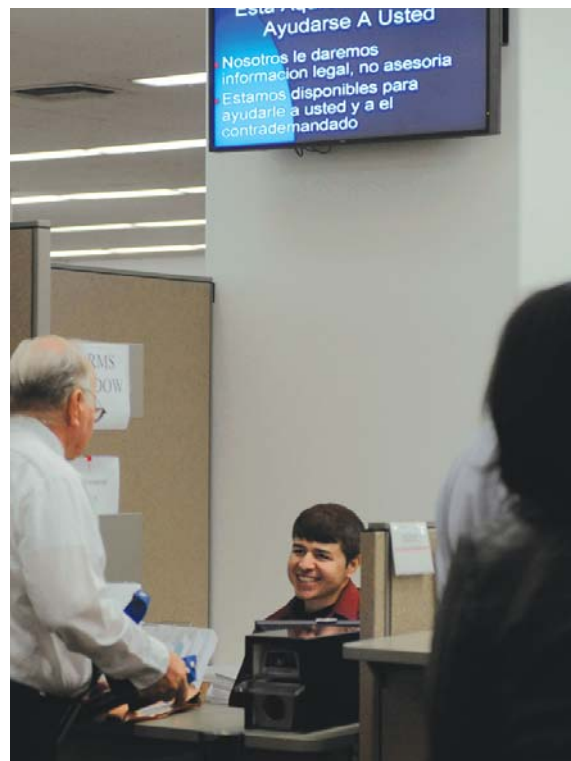
The Court’s self-help centers also provide services to parties involved in name change petitions as well as probate, guardianship and conservatorship cases. The County of Los Angeles Small Claims Advisor office provides similar services for small claims litigants.

The Court’s self-help centers are staffed with a combination of court employees, volunteers and staff

from nonprofit legal service providers, such as the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County. They are equipped with computers so that litigants can prepare documents and link to online legal resources.

The centers educate litigants by providing workshops that teach them how to move their cases through the system from filing to disposition. In addition to learning how to properly complete the necessary paperwork, litigants learn the function of the paperwork, the purpose of the various hearings and what their outcomes mean to the parties.

Although the self-help centers hope to keep up the momentum by offering a broader “menu” of services and increase language accessibility, budgetary conditions may put the brakes on some of the intended improvements. If so, the Court will concentrate on reworking and revising current programs and services to make them more efficient and effective.



New Self-Help Centers

In February, the Los Angeles Superior Court will open a new self-help center in the Pasadena Courthouse. This center will serve the greater Pasadena area, including the cities of Arcadia, Monrovia, Sierra Madre, El Monte, Alhambra, San Gabriel, Rosemead, South Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank, as well as nearby unincorporated areas of the county. The Pasadena facility will have space for the workshops that serve as a vital, progressive element of our Court's approach to the self-help process.

With the opening of the Pasadena center, the Court will have achieved its goal of establishing a center in each of the Court's 12 districts. The centers offer assistance with dissolutions,

child custody and visitation issues, and domestic violence matters. Recognizing that the growing population of self-represented litigants requires assistance beyond the family law arena, the centers also provide help with probate guardianship and conservatorship cases and some civil matters.



In 2009, visitors to the Civil Index area at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse will find a remodeled, more efficient space offering a broader range of self-help services. A receptionist, paralegal and JusticeCorp volunteer will join the staff in Room 109 to assist litigants by answering questions and helping them complete applications for fee waivers and other forms relating to limited and general civil cases. Computers for public use and access to legal research materials will also be available.



JusticeCorps Members Reach Out to the Community

First piloted by the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2004, JusticeCorps recruits undergraduate university students to assist self-represented litigants. The volunteers commit to 30 hours of training and 300 hours of service annually. A volunteer who successfully completes the program receives a \$1,000 education award.

Volunteers must be enrolled in one of the following universities: California State University Dominguez Hills; California State University Long Beach; California State University Northridge; California Polytechnic, Pomona or UCLA.

The program has grown from 100 volunteers initially to 150 this year.

Easily identified by their "official" blue oxford shirts, the JusticeCorps volunteers answer questions, help the litigants complete court paperwork, and assist in the workshops that address the requirements of the various stages of family law, probate and some civil cases.

Students who graduate from the JusticeCorps program can become JusticeCorps fellows, working full-time for one year in exchange for a monthly living allowance stipend of \$1,660.67 (\$20,000 for the year). Once they complete 1,700 service hours, they also qualify for an education award of \$4,725.00 from the National Service Trust to be applied to tuition or payment of student loans. There are currently eleven fellows in our Court.



Presiding Judge Charles W. McCoy at swearing in of new JusticeCorps volunteers.



Web Services

The story of the Los Angeles Superior Court's award winning Web site is a tale of astounding success. As we continue to 'take the court to the customers' by offering new and improved services online, we are increasingly able to provide better service to the public while reducing long lines at courthouses.

We have seen rapid, upward growth in customer usage among English-speaking court customers as well as the Spanish-speaking customers who use our language-specific services.

Customers find our Web services convenient and easy to use. Our most popular features are linked to traffic court. While our Web services have seen a steep growth in usage over the last five years, our telephonic traffic payment system's usage has leveled off or dropped. Services available under the "traffic tickets" section of our Web site include ticket payment, requesting an extension, and requesting traffic school.

In small claims, more and more people are using our e-filing service. The decline in rejections of online filings suggests that these customers are growing more sophisticated in their use of the site.

We have seen exponential growth in public access to filed documents. Customers have flocked to this new feature with

81,700 users in the most recent fiscal year.

We are also expanding our Web-based juror services. Jurors can not only use our Web site to obtain instructions on service or postpone service, they can actually complete their juror orientation online rather than when they arrive in court.

There are many services available via www.lasuperiorcourt.org

- Traffic Tickets
- E-File Small Claims
- Civil Case Documents
- Civil Party Index
- Criminal Defendant Index
- Divorce Record Copies
- Juror Services

While our Web services are available and utilized 24/7, most transactions occur between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

During a sample week, the Court conducted more than 28,000 transactions online including traffic matters, civil and criminal name searches, and inspections of documents. Arguably, that figure represents 28,000 individuals who might otherwise have had to travel to one of our courthouses to perform the same transaction they were able to do remotely from their computers.





Jury Service: Lifeblood of the Community

The letter that drops out of your mailbox has an unmistakable look to it. You have been summoned to serve as a juror.

For a moment, a vivid image of the latest episode of *Law & Order*, your favorite TV show, comes to mind. “No big deal,” is the first reaction. In fact, now it’s your chance to finally see in real life how DNA evidence will prove — or disprove — anything and how dramatic courtroom confessions are extracted in a trial that begins two days after the crime was committed. Or maybe not!

So your day for service arrives. You come to the courthouse early thinking that you’ll probably be excused before lunch. After an orientation session in the jury assembly room, you get chosen along with other fellow jurors to go to a courtroom and be considered for a jury panel.

Sure enough, you are selected to be one of the jurors in a triple homicide case with special circumstances. From now on, you’ll only be known as juror number seven.

Your chair for the next several weeks will be the one in the second row, first seat, really close to the audience. Imagine yourself in the courtroom sketch that serves as the cover of this Annual Report and appears on this page as well.

Once sworn in as a member of the jury, you begin to realize that the real world is very different from the *Law & Order* episodes. Things are much more complicated and serious than on TV. And all of a



This sketch, that also appears on the cover of this Annual Report, is by the noted courtroom artist Mona Edwards and is gratefully used with her permission.

sudden, you feel the huge responsibility that comes with being a juror, and realize how many other people’s lives depend upon your judgment. And you find out quickly that DNA evidence is just one small part of the complex set of issues that arise during a real trial.

Everyday, the Court needs 10,000 qualified jurors to serve in the various cases being tried around the county. Last year, our citizens from all professions responded at a record rate, enabling the Court to successfully meet its needs and take measures in 2009 to reduce the number of county residents randomly summoned for jury service. In 2008, a total of 3.23 million people received summonses, fewer than those notified in the previous year. Nearly two-thirds responded and acknowledged their availability, qualifying exactly 1,074,348 adults to serve as jurors.

Nowadays, jurors may conveniently register for service, or request to postpone it, by calling 800-778-5879 or visiting our Web site,

www.lasuperiorcourt.org

Jurors can avoid having to arrive at the courthouse early and eliminate hours of in-court orientation by using our interactive Web site to complete the mandatory jury orientation. Web-based orientation encompasses all of the information conveyed in the jury assembly room: a taped message from the Court's Presiding Judge, a video covering jury service topics and an overview of jurors' rights and obligations and the California court system. Once the session is finished, jurors can print a certificate that permits late arrival and has a handy set of directions to their assigned courthouse.

Requests to transfer jury service to a different

courthouse or to be excused must be submitted in writing and mailed in the court-supplied envelope that accompanies the summons.

Although most jurors remain "on call" for their week of service, some 655,000 reported to a courthouse last year. Once on site, a majority waited in assembly rooms with modern creature comforts, including internet access. Most were excused by the end of the day.

Those chosen for a jury panel, or sworn to hear one of the 4,249 trials, served until they were excused by a trial judge. Our trials generally last four or five days. The average term of jury service is 1.28 days.



Judge Susan Bryant-Deason welcomes jurors at the Sanley Mosk Courthouse.

A View of Disaster



Television journalists prepare for live report on jury visit to Metrolink train cars, left as jurors approach the site.

Site Visits Help Juries to Better Visualize a Case

After a jury convicted the defendant in an 11 victim murder case arising out of the tragic 2005 Metrolink commuter train accident near Glendale, the jurors had to deliberate a second time to decide issues in the penalty phase of the trial. Because the case was so unusual and the nature of the collision unprecedented, Judge William Ponders granted a motion to take the jury to the storage site where the damaged cars were preserved so that the jury could view them firsthand.

The visit, in scorching July heat, allowed jurors to walk right up to the damaged cars. The jurors saw newspapers — dated

the day of the wreck — still on seats and floors. They also saw Fire Department markings showing where bodies of many of the dead were discovered.

Juror visits to crime scenes are a regular occurrence in a court system as vast as ours. In the Metrolink case, jurors later said that the visit was the first time they fully appreciated the extent of calamity and the magnitude of the damage. After deliberating, the same jury that convicted the defendant of murder unanimously agreed that he should not receive the death penalty.





Coping with Urgent Courthouse Facility Needs

Negotiations continue for a site for a new Long Beach Courthouse — a project that, after years of uncertainty, should move formally to the pre-construction phase in 2009.

This progress marks the conclusion of a protracted campaign to replace the courthouse, which suffers from an aged infrastructure that makes it unusually susceptible to seismic risk.

The Long Beach project is California's first test of the public-private partnership concept of courthouse construction, in which a private developer designs, builds, finances, operates and maintains the courthouse and leases it to the court. In exchange for developing the new complex — estimated to be in excess of \$300 million — the developer will acquire rights to the site of the current Long Beach Courthouse, a prime piece of real estate on Ocean Boulevard, near Long Beach Harbor.

In mid-2008, the state Administrative Office of the Courts set in motion a plan to formally explore and set standards for public-private collaboration for courthouse development. Such partnerships have been used in seven states and in at least two other countries,

but have never been tested in California.

The Long Beach project, however, was not the only 2008 example of creative solutions to the problems of the age, adequacy and deterioration of the state's courthouses.

In September, the Legislature enacted a lease-revenue bond program to finance construction of dozens of new courthouses and renovation or expansion of others. The program will be underwritten by increases in select court fees — which may generate as much as \$5 billion.

In addition to the Long Beach project, as many as six other courthouses could be replaced or renovated in Los Angeles County under the bond program. The new Southeast Courthouse, which will replace the Huntington Park Courthouse and South Gate Courthouse (closed in 2004), is one of four facilities ranked at the highest priority in the AOC's statewide assessment.

If the revenue bond program generates all of the money anticipated, Los Angeles County could also see replacement of the Glendale, Santa Clarita, Eastlake Juvenile and Mental Health courthouses and a renovation of the Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center.

Meanwhile, the process of transferring governance of all California courthouses from their counties to the state continued for Los Angeles County. By the end of the first quarter of 2009, most of our facilities will have changed jurisdiction — the final step in the court unification process that began in 2000 and has seen all 58 superior courts in California merge with the former municipal courts in their counties and move together to full state control.

Transfer of courthouse facilities is unlikely to have any discernable effect on Court customers. In fact, members of the public will probably not even be aware that ownership has changed.

Los Angeles County will continue to maintain our courthouses working under contract to the state court system.





Damaged courtroom, above left, awaits repair as West Covina Courthouse personnel move service outdoors after a major water pipe burst. Clean up crews were required to remove the water and repair damage. Customers waited patiently.

West Covina Bounces Back from Flooding

When a court commissioner arrived early for work at the West Covina Courthouse last August, he discovered that a water pipe in the ceiling above his chambers had burst overnight. He experienced a “sinking feeling” as he observed flooding in three courtrooms — two of them severely — as well as in the judges’ chambers and the lockup.

For the second time in 2008, West Covina had suffered a plumbing emergency. This time, the leak also severely damaged the building’s electrical wiring, forcing the courthouse to close for nearly a week.

Nevertheless, only a few hours after discovering the catastrophic flooding, the commissioner was back in business, hearing cases. The resilient West Covina Courthouse staff

quickly set up temporary outdoor courtrooms — complete with tables, lecterns, and even a banquet tent to shield the participants from the sun.

Although the defendants, staff, attorneys, and jurors in serious criminal cases were redeployed to the Pomona Courthouse, the remaining judges, commissioners, lawyers and parties conducted “business as usual” as court customers patiently looked on while waiting in lines that snaked throughout the West Covina civic center complex.

With aging courthouse infrastructure, our Court faces more serious and frequent facility emergencies. Since October, 2007, seven incidents forced entire courthouses and one jury service administrative office to completely shut down for as little as a few hours to as long as seven weeks.

LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

MICHAEL J. ANTONOVICH



North District or North Pole?



A Near Blizzard in Los Angeles County Disrupts Two Courthouses

When a freak snowstorm brought white-out conditions to the Antelope Valley in late December, the judges and staff of the Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse and Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center in Lancaster found themselves literally snowed in. Snow fell continuously for 14 hours, leaving 10 inches to a foot of the white powder on the ground. Traffic and virtually all activities in north Los Angeles County ground to a halt. Freeways were closed and roads were jammed as the storm quickly overwhelmed limited local snow removal capabilities.

By the early afternoon of the day of the storm, it was clear that courthouse operations could not continue. Many judges and employees could not reach their homes and spent the night

in hotels or at the homes of other employees. When sheriff's busses could not negotiate icy roads, smaller vans were pressed into service to return defendants in custody to a nearby sheriff's detention facility.

The scene the following morning was surreal. Neighborhoods in desert communities looked like Currier and Ives paintings of New England in winter. Palm trees that landscape the Antonovich courthouse were snow covered.

The blizzard kept both courthouses closed the day following the storm. Court staff implemented standard emergency operating procedures and cases were continued without incident, recognizing that people with court dates would be unable to get there.

Quick Responses to Service Interruptions

Our Court operates in a volatile natural environment prone to earthquakes, drought-caused brush fires, and severe (but rare) snow storms — posing significant challenges to our aging facilities. In 2007 and 2008, our facilities suffered recurring failures as a result of their antiquated infrastructure. We are operating in many courthouses and other facilities that were built in the 1950s with elevator and electrical systems that have never been updated.

The service interruptions have become so frequent that we

have placed a priority on developing effective ways to cope with actual and potential facility closings. These responses range from marshalling forces to repair problems that may lead to closures, to efficiently contacting customers to explain how to access alternative court services.

In 2009, governance of most of our courthouses will transfer from Los Angeles County to the State of California. As a result, the state's Administrative Office of the Courts must now grapple with our ongoing maintenance issues and the need to fund expansions and construction of new courthouses.



Judges Michael Villabobos, far left, and Judge Carol Elswick, right, convened court outdoors during West Covina flooding incident

Courthouse operations were challenged by everything from a blizzard and brush fires to burst pipes and electrical fires.

10-22-2007	Malibu Courthouse	5 days	Brush fires in area
01-13-2007	Hall of Records room B-90	remainder of day	Flooding from sewer line
11-16-2007	Hall of Records room B-90	1 day	Flooding from sewer line
11-26-2007	Malibu Courthouse	2 days	Brush fires in area
01-16-2008	West Covina Courthouse	1 day	Electrical failure and fire
05-07-2008	Hall of Records room B-90	7 weeks	Fire in Jury Services Office
07-29-2008	El Monte Courthouse	Noon - 2:00 p.m.	Earthquake
08-11-2008	Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse	2 courtrooms until early 2009	Water leak
08-26-2008	West Covina Courthouse	3 days	Water leak
12-17-2008	Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse	1.5 days	Heavy Snow



How Our Judges Stay Current On the Law

As one of the largest judicial education providers in the nation, the Los Angeles Superior Court's Judicial Education Seminars program is now firmly established as a highly professional and successful local judicial education program.

Using a seminar format, JES continuously trains bench officers on a wide range of issues, such as fairness, decision-making, evidence, substantive legal issues and calendar management. Aside from a few mandatory courses provided by the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, JES supplies all the education our judicial officers need.

During the 2007-08 fiscal year, JES offered 34 programs where 974 attendees received 4,205 hours of instruction. Students attended JES courses in many locations around the county, such as Norwalk, El Monte, Torrance, Van Nuys and Santa Monica. A new online registration system facilitates the sign-up process.

Many also attended classes remotely via two-way video conferencing that allows teachers and students to see and interact with one another in real time. Other students participated in 'JES at Lunch' "webinars," accessing a live PowerPoint presentation online while they listened and participated via conference call.

Our bench officers have access to all JES course materials through the Digital Library, an internal online library designed for the judges.

This year, JES assumed responsibility for an even broader range of education, offering courses for temporary judges and orientation for new judges and judges who take on new assignments.

JES's goals are threefold: to expand core learning offered by the California Center for Judicial Education and Research; to promote collegiality within the Court by giving judges the opportunity to meet and network; and to allow the Court to take a proactive role shaping the kind of education judges receive.

Then-Presiding Judge William A. MacLaughlin created JES in March 2005 in anticipation of guidelines later implemented by the AOC, which

expect trial court judges — and require commissioners and referees — to complete 30 hours of training every three years.

By recruiting judges to teach, JES built instant credibility with its judicial students. All JES instructors are judges from the Los Angeles Superior Court. To teach a JES course, a bench officer must first learn how to teach adults by completing courses in faculty training. These courses promote teaching methods that use video clips, various forms of graphic presentation, hypothetical cases and extensive student participation.

For example, our Crash Course on Fairness in the Courts" uses thought-provoking clips from the Academy Award-winning movie "Crash" to prompt discussion about bias and prejudice.

The Administrative Office of the Courts, which was the primary source of judicial education for Los Angeles bench officers before JES began, is very supportive of JES, donating up-to-date audio and visual equipment to furnish seven training rooms located in the Stanley Mosk, Pomona South, San Fernando, Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center and Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouses and the LASC Training Center in Monrovia. All of these rooms should be in full operation by the end of 2008 along with an additional location still to be determined.

Although JES provides the lion's share of our judicial education, we offer several other educational events, like the two-day Annual Family Law Seminar, the legislative staff briefing and our all-day probate meetings twice a year, at which new and ongoing probate issues are discussed.

Juvenile Court holds monthly training meetings for its dependency court judicial officers and organizes an annual conference addressing topical issues in juvenile delinquency and dependency law.

The Children's Court has several committees devoted to improving services to children and families. Individual judicial officers are selected to chair these committees and share their findings with the other judges.

Judicial Leadership Program

The idea might at first appear simple: to create a course to teach leadership to judicial officers. But it took judges Charles W. McCoy — who majored in Management at Purdue University — and Amy Hogue — who studied Public Policy at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government — almost one year of intense study and research to develop this seminar. The result is the day-long course, “Judicial Leadership — Building a Truly Superior Court.”

For most judges taking the course, this is their first formal introduction to the subject. Although leadership is part of the curriculum in business and public policy graduate schools, law schools typically don’t teach it.

The judicial leadership course recognizes that judges inevitably serve as leaders in their courtrooms, and many go on to serve in leadership positions requiring them to supervise other judges.

The need for leadership training is particularly vital in the Los Angeles Superior Court since more than 60 judges also serve as supervising judges, site judges and committee chairs.

Using exercises and discussion, the course teaches contemporary scholarship on management and leadership, including how to lead with purpose, authentic and purposeful communication, how to get results and leave a legacy. Judges learn, for example, that people are motivated to work at their best when they feel the work they do is meaningful and when they experience a sense of responsibility, achievement, self-esteem, esteem from others and personal growth. When people experience that level of job satisfaction, they are more productive, creative and effective.

Attendees also learn that the most effective leaders are generally not authoritarians who impose their will on followers. They are people who have influence even when they do not hold positions of authority.

Skilled leaders are good listeners who seek first to understand others. They live to serve a higher purpose and achieve that purpose by serving those they lead, rather than demanding that their followers serve them. They are also “trust builders” who work hard to earn the trust of those they lead.

Based on this seminar, Judges McCoy and Hogue originated and now teach an innovative leadership course at UCLA Law School called “Making the Leap from New Lawyer to Leader.” The semester-long course recognizes that effective lawyers must act as leaders, building relationships based on credibility, trust, persistence, consistency, influence and a genuine desire to advance the interests of those they represent and serve.

UCLA is the second law school in the nation to offer a course on leadership, and the Los Angeles Superior Court is likely the first court in the nation to offer an in-court leadership training course of the type taught by Judges McCoy and Hogue.



Los Angeles Superior Court Judges Are Actively Involved Part-time Faculty Members Throughout the County

Universities and Law Schools

Claremont McKenna College
Glendale University College of Law
Loyola Law School
Pepperdine University School of Law
San Fernando Valley College of Law
Southwestern Law School
UCLA Paralegal Training Program
University of La Verne College of Law
University of California Los Angeles School of Law
University of Southern California Gould School of Law
West Los Angeles College of Law

Courses

California Business Torts
Children and the Law
Criminal Justice Response to Terrorism
Community Property
Forensic Evidence
Lawyering Skills Practicum
Mediation
Politics of the Criminal Justice System
Real Property Foreclosures
Violence Seminars
Trial Advocacy
White Collar Prosecution and Defense



Judicial Factoids

What you may not know about our Judges

Born in Los Angeles County

175 judges or 43.6 percent

Born in the City of Los Angeles

111 judges or 27.7 percent

Born in California

207 judges or 51.6 percent

Number of judges born in foreign countries

33 judges or 8.2 percent

Countries Born

- Argentina
- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Germany
- India
- Iran
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Korea
- Lebanon
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- Philippines
- Scotland
- Syria
- Uruguay
- Vietnam

10 most common law schools attended

1. Loyola Law School • 82 or 20 percent
2. UCLA School of Law • 52 or 12.5 percent
3. Southwestern Law School • 46 or 11 percent
4. USC Gould School of Law • 32 or 7.7 percent
5. UC Berkeley - Boalt Hall • 23 or 5.5 percent
6. Harvard Law School • 13 or 3.1 percent
7. UC Hastings College of the Law • 10 or 2.4 percent
8. California Western School of Law • 9 or 2.2 percent
9. University of La Verne College of Law (formerly Mid-Valley College of Law) • 9 or 2.2 percent
10. Whittier Law School • 8 or 1.9 percent

Most Common Undergraduate College/University

1. UCLA - 81
2. USC - 49
3. Cal State L.A. (+2 Los Angeles State College) - 18
4. Stanford University - 18
5. UC Berkeley - 18
6. Loyola Marymount - 12
7. Cal State Northridge - 11
8. Occidental College - 10
9. UC Santa Barbara - 10
10. Cal State Long Beach (+3 Long Beach State College) - 10

Unusual backgrounds:

- former Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
- former judicial appointments secretary to Governor Gray Davis
- former chairman and CEO of a bank
- born in a Japanese-American relocation camp
- former mayor
- former regional director of the Federal Trade Commission
- former police officer or sheriff
- former pharmaceuticals sales representative
- former psychiatric nurse
- former tax accountant
- member of Mensa
- former building inspector
- former high school teacher
- former child abuse investigator
- United Methodist minister

Number of judges who passed bar by decade

- 1950s – 7 judges or 1.7 percent
- 1960s – 43 judges or 10.4 percent
- 1970s – 192 judges or 46.3 percent
- 1980s – 143 judges or 34.5 percent
- 1990s – 30 judges or 7.2 percent

When appointed to the bench by decade

- 1970s: 5 judges or 1.2 percent
- 1980s: 100 judges or 24 percent
- 1990s: 141 judges or 33.9 percent
- 2000s: 170 judges or 40.9 percent

Former Deputy District Attorneys

- 135 judges or 32.5 percent

Former Deputy City Attorneys

- 47 judges or 11.3 percent

Former Deputy Public Defenders

- 45 judges or 10.8 percent

Former Deputy County Counsel

- 13 judges or 3.1 percent

Former Deputy Federal Public Defenders

- 8 judges or 1.9 percent

Former Deputy Attorneys General

- 25 judges or 6 percent

Former partner in private firm

- 123 judges or 29.6 percent

Former Assistant U.S. Attorneys

- 46 judges or 11 percent

Fighting the Criminal Case Backlog in Riverside County

Although judges in Los Angeles County routinely face packed schedules, complicated cases and long hours, that doesn't mean they aren't also willing to sacrifice to help their colleagues in other counties.

In 2007, California Chief Justice Ronald M. George put together a task force of retired and active judges from all over the state to reduce Riverside County's severe backlog of criminal cases. Significant case delays were threatening the Court's ability to administer justice and serve the community.

The Chief Justice asked Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Wesley to lead the task force. As supervising Judge of the task force, his duties included assigning cases to the judges for hearings and trial.

Court of Appeal Justice Richard D. Huffman, Fourth Appellate District San Diego, also played a key role as chair of the task force. His charge was to work with the various justice partners — court officials, the district attorney, the public defender, the sheriff, the probation office and officials of the Riverside County Bar Association — to develop a new criminal case management plan.

The task force found that the cause of the backlog was multi-pronged and did not happen overnight. One problem was that, to some extent, communication among the justice partners had broken down. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office



policy discouraging pre-trial dispositions was another reason why fewer cases resolved before trial.

Riverside County's overarching problem, however, is a burgeoning population growth, generating more criminal and civil cases, with a longstanding shortage of judges to handle the caseload.

The task force worked diligently, and as of July 14, 2008, it had completed 208 trials, including three death penalty cases, and numerous murder, rape and robbery cases. In total, it handled 805 matters, including 295 preliminary hearings.

When the task force began, the oldest case — a murder case — was 176 months old. Many others were from the 1990s. When the task force judges completed their mission, the oldest case pending in Riverside County was a 2004 filing.

The group also made numerous recommendations for how the Court can improve its calendar management, settlement trial practices and case processing.

For the judges involved the task force was challenging, professionally and personally. Sometimes, Judge Wesley began his day in Riverside and had to go back to downtown L.A. in the afternoon for a jury trial — a 55-mile drive.

Although the problems in Riverside County have not gone away, and it will take a lot of work from the lawyers and judges to maintain their ground, Judge Wesley is "cautiously optimistic" and proud to have been on the task force. "Every member of our group was really dedicated to helping Riverside County," he said. "Half of the judges who participated were retired, and other counties temporarily gave up some of their top judges to rally and try to help this community."

"We all made some very good friends," Judge Wesley said. "It's not common to have a group of judges, from different parts of the state, come together to work on a project. It was a rare privilege. Although challenging, it was an honor that the Chief Justice gave me the opportunity to do it."



Court Security: An Urgent Priority



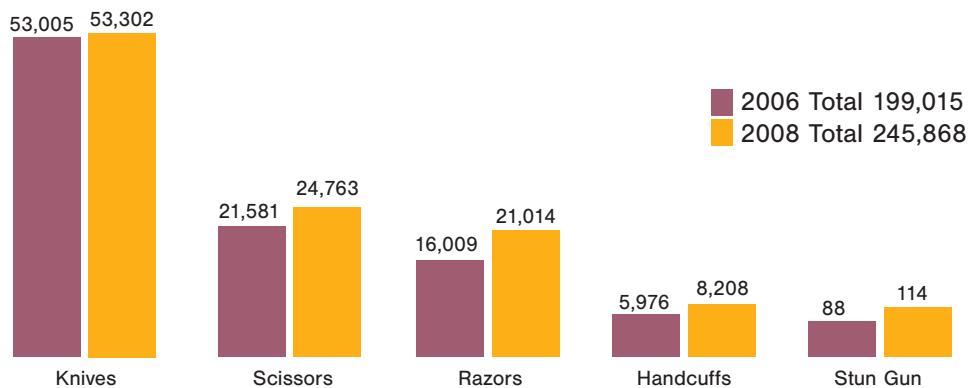
Everyone who has visited a courthouse knows that our facilities are busy. One staggering number, however, tells this story better than anything else. In the first 10 months of 2008, people passed through our courthouse weapons screening stations nearly 21.4 million times. Each screening was an important security checkpoint even though many of those screened came and went several times. Although the public is generally aware that courthouses, like airports, screen entrants for weapons, some people either knowingly or unwittingly attempt to bring weapons, handcuffs, mace, and other forbidden devices into court. In the first 10 months of the year, the court confiscated two guns — one at the Long Beach Courthouse and

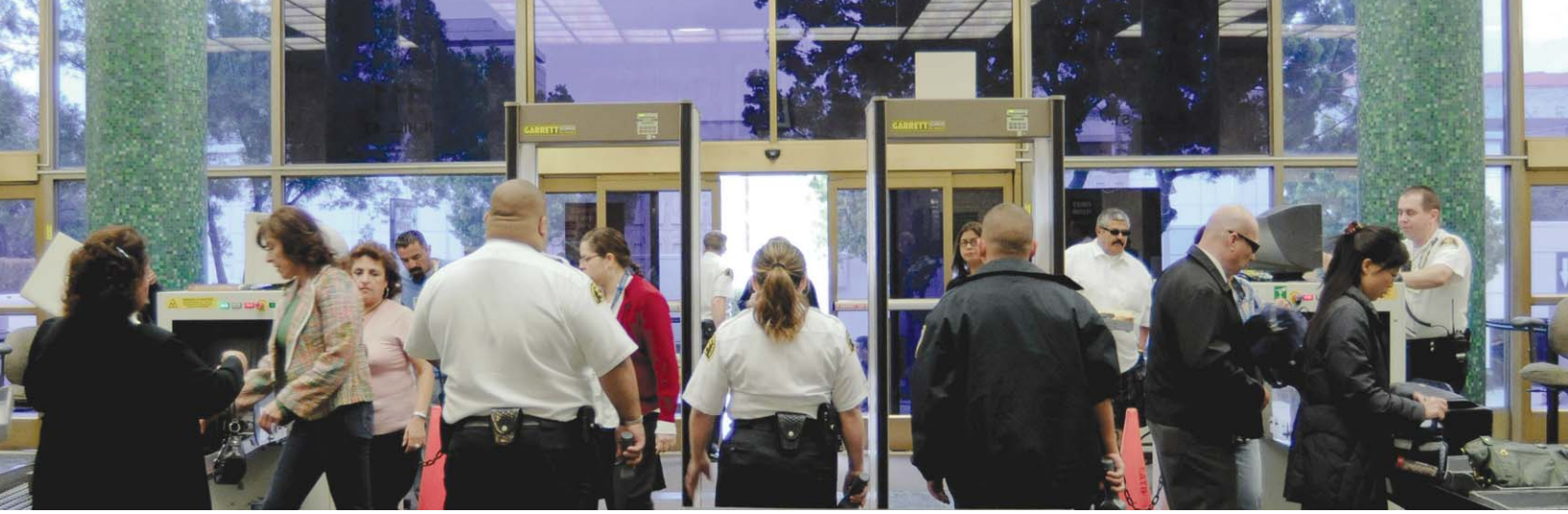
another in Pomona. These incidents underscore our most urgent concern — making sure that aside from authorized guards and law enforcement officers, our courthouses remain entirely gun-free.

This chart compares incidents involving the three most serious weapons categories and several others in 2006 and 2008. Although only two guns were detected in each of these years, the trendline for other dangerous devices is up — which confirms the need to screen everyone who comes into a courthouse. Public safety — your safety — outweighs the inconvenience.

Although seizures of the most potentially lethal weapons have declined slightly over the last three years, the graphs below show that overall seizures of dangerous weapons have increased.

Weapon Types	2005	2006	2007	2008
Handgun	5	2	2	2
Dirk/Dagger	3	1	0	3
Other Lethal	8	15	7	7





Masses of people use courthouses each day.

Millions Pass Through Court's Security Checkpoints

Magnetometer counts trace the number of times people pass through our weapons screen stations. It is not an exact tally of the number of people who enter courthouses because many individuals – lawyers, court employees, paralegals and attorney service messengers, for example – enter and leave courthouses multiple times a day. Magnetometer counts, however, do provide a perspective on the huge volumes of visitors our courthouses receive daily.

Courthouse	Magnetometer Count Jan-Aug 2008	Magnetometer Count Monthly Average	Courthouse	Magnetometer Count Jan-Aug 2008	Magnetometer Count Monthly Average
Stanley Mosk.....	1,497,638.....	187,205	Bellflower.....	247,577.....	30,947
Van Nuys East and West facilities.....	1,185,100.....	148,138	Alhambra.....	231,441.....	28,930
Metropolitan.....	1,152,153.....	144,019	Santa Clarita.....	229,327.....	28,666
Foltz Criminal Justice Center.....	993,907.....	124,238	Whittier.....	226,531.....	28,316
Long Beach.....	921,654.....	115,207	Glendale.....	219,317.....	27,415
Compton.....	843,109.....	105,389	Chatsworth.....	218,132.....	27,267
Pomona North and South facilities.....	695,839.....	86,980	Los Padriños Juvenile.....	211,878.....	26,485
San Fernando.....	645,404.....	80,676	Beverly Hills.....	208,789.....	26,099
Antelope Valley.....	617,192.....	77,149	Burbank.....	202,358.....	25,295
Pasadena.....	583,492.....	72,937	San Pedro.....	193,364.....	24,171
Airport.....	529,794.....	66,224	West Los Angeles.....	185,874.....	23,234
Torrance.....	495,857.....	61,982	Huntington Park.....	162,305.....	20,288
Edelman Children's.....	451,959.....	56,495	Eastlake Juvenile.....	155,351.....	19,419
Norwalk.....	405,462.....	50,683	Kenyon Juvenile.....	146,625.....	18,328
West Covina.....	396,295.....	49,537	Lancaster Juvenile.....	141,978.....	17,747
Santa Monica.....	375,460.....	46,933	Sylmar Juvenile.....	133,438.....	16,680
Inglewood.....	365,177.....	45,647	Central Arraignment.....	107,537.....	13,442
El Monte.....	348,255.....	43,532	Inglewood Juvenile.....	99,737.....	12,467
Central Civil West.....	345,697.....	43,212	Mental Health.....	73,875.....	9,234
Downey.....	284,903.....	35,613	Malibu.....	71,226.....	8,903
East Los Angeles.....	279,062.....	34,883	Hollywood.....	69,925.....	8,741

Long Beach Gun Seizure

When a Long Beach Courthouse scanner revealed a gun inside a diaper bag, the weapons screeners looked at each other, picked up the bag and calmly escorted the owner – and her infant – to a secure area. The apprehension occurred discreetly, nearly unnoticed by the remaining courthouse entrants who streamed through the metal detectors.

Investigators concluded that the woman was blameless and that her husband had hidden the gun in the diaper bag. The woman unwittingly brought it into the courthouse while heading to a courtroom to observe her husband's appearance on charges of making terrorist threats.

The Long Beach incident was resolved after the gun owner was detained, questioned, charged, and remanded on \$100,000 bail. Although guns are rarely confiscated, the Court seized nearly 200,000 other dangerous and prohibited items between January and August last year, such as a sword disguised as a cane, scissors, hand tools, and brass knuckles – all of which were either discarded, held as evidence or, if relatively harmless, secured for subsequent retrieval.





Use of Resources

It is obvious to our customers, judicial officers and staff that the State of California, like the United States as a whole, faces one of the most vexing and dangerous economic downturns of the past century. As 2009 begins, the prospect of further fiscal deterioration looms large.

Fortunately, our court planned ahead for this reality — months before the budget and economic crises materialized in their exacerbated form. We pulled back on spending, left several hundred vacant positions unfilled, and took other precautions to prepare not just for one down budget year — but for the prospect of several more.

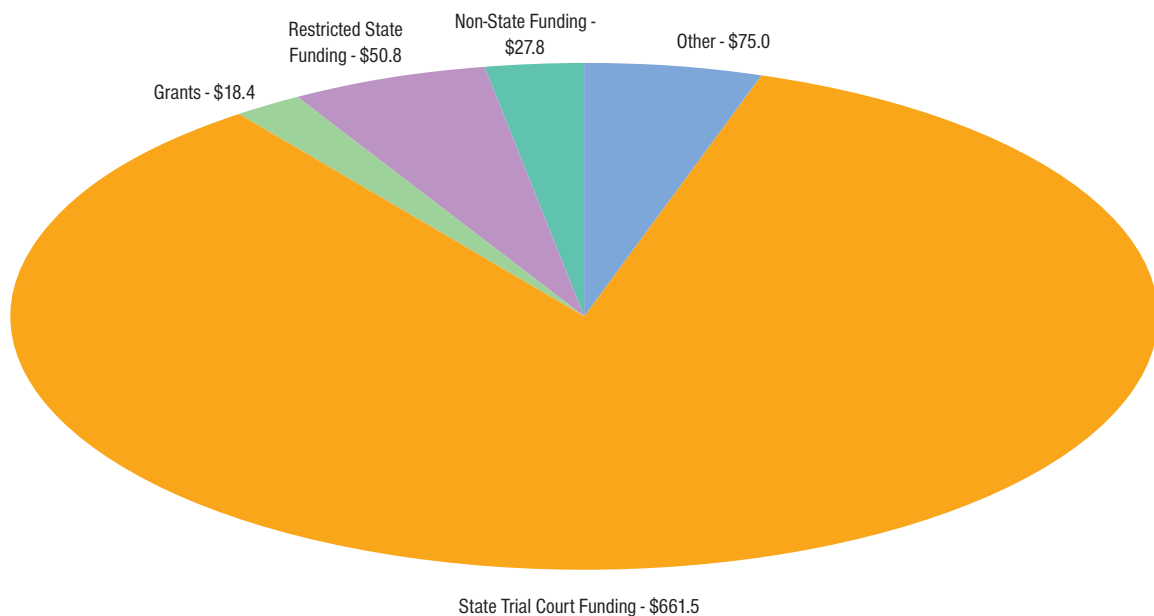
This caution has helped us cushion the impact of the deteriorating economy. While we are far from out of the woods, we remain hopeful that we can come through this difficult period without having to close courthouses or close courtrooms — measures we reluctantly took in the 2002-2003 state budget crisis.

These are times of intense uncertainty. Caution remains the order of the day and we are sensitive to the work of the governor and lawmakers in Sacramento to solve California's deficit. Although we may be asked for additional sacrifices, our Court's goal is to be an active part of the solution to the impending fiscal challenges.

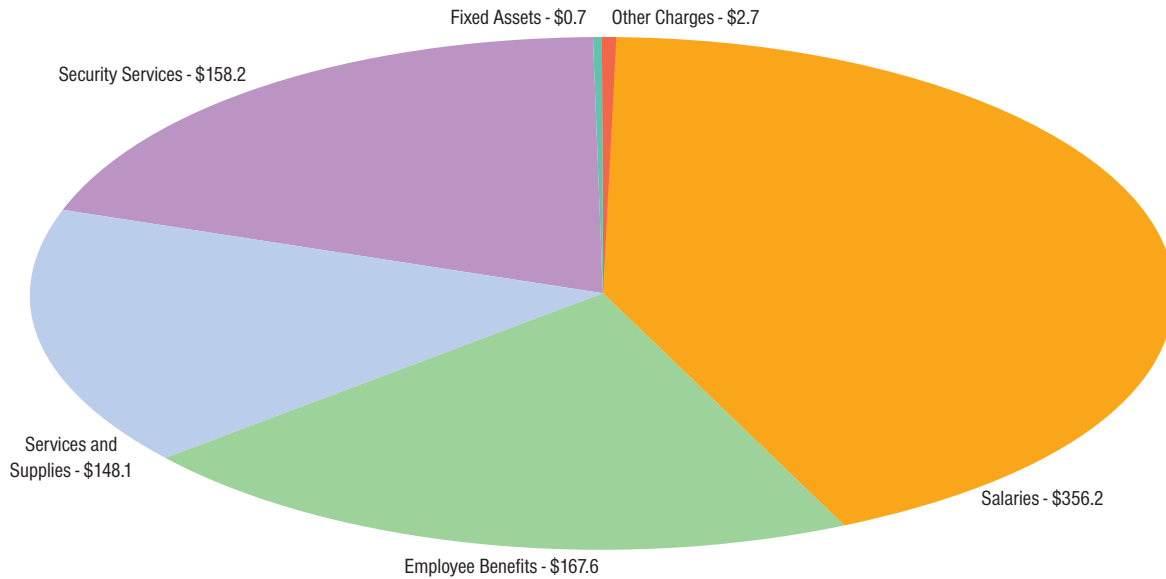
Fiscal Year 2008-09 (allocated) Total Budget \$833.5 Million

Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)

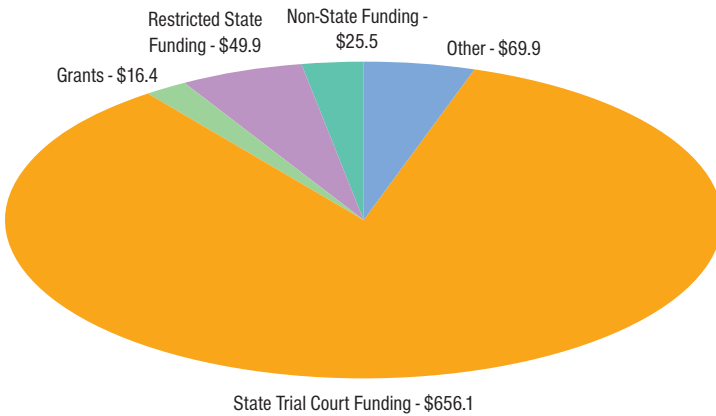


2008-09 Expenditures (allocated)
(All figures are in millions of dollars)

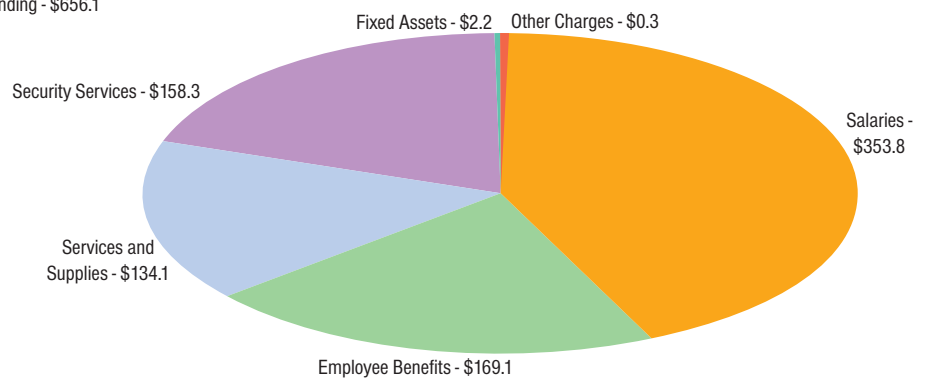


**Fiscal Year 2007-08
 Total Budget \$817.7 Million**

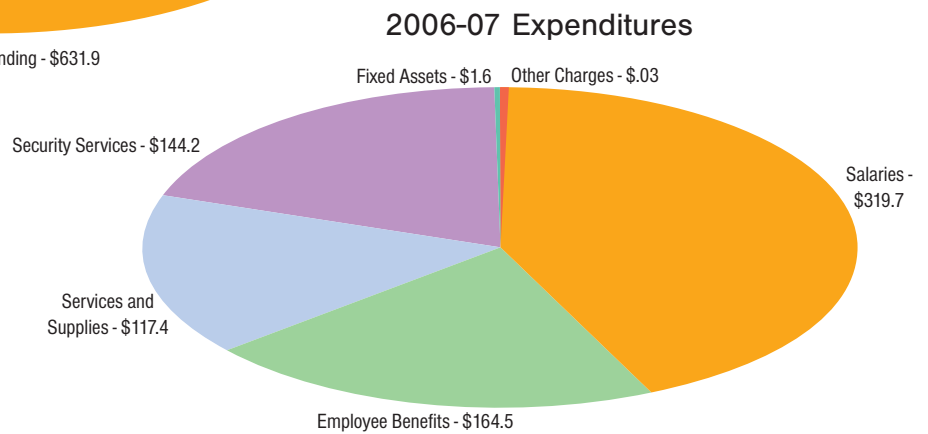
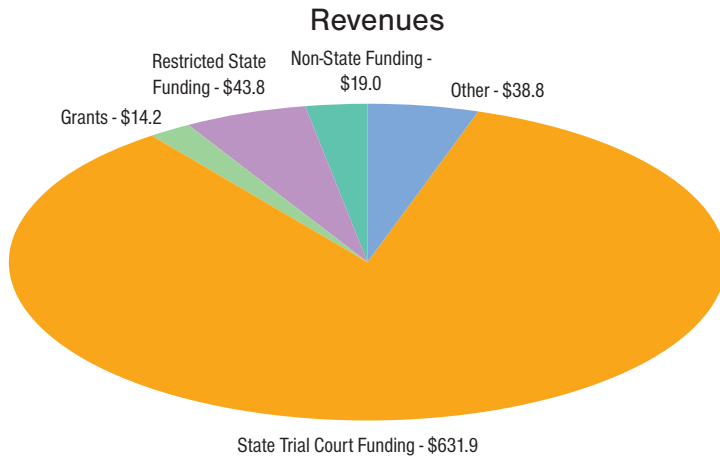
Revenues



2007-08 Expenditures



**Fiscal Year 2006-07
Total Budget \$747.7 Million**



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

Court Statistics

Authorized Judicial Positions

Judges	.438
Commissioners	.124
Referees	.29
Total Courtrooms Operated	.588
Employees	.5,615

50 Courthouses and Other Facilities

Annual Case Filings Summary • Fiscal Year 2007-08

Civil General	.67,270
Civil Limited (excluding Small Claims)	.136,183
Unlawful Detainers	.62,401
Small Claims	.76,644
Felony	.65,129
Misdemeanor	.461,529
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity and Legal Separation)	.97,292
Juvenile Dependency	.19,987
Juvenile Delinquency	.33,547
Mental Health	.2,579
Probate	.10,534
Traffic Infractions	.1,675,310
Non-Traffic Infractions	.82,913
Appellate	.1,337
Habeas Corpus	.2,381

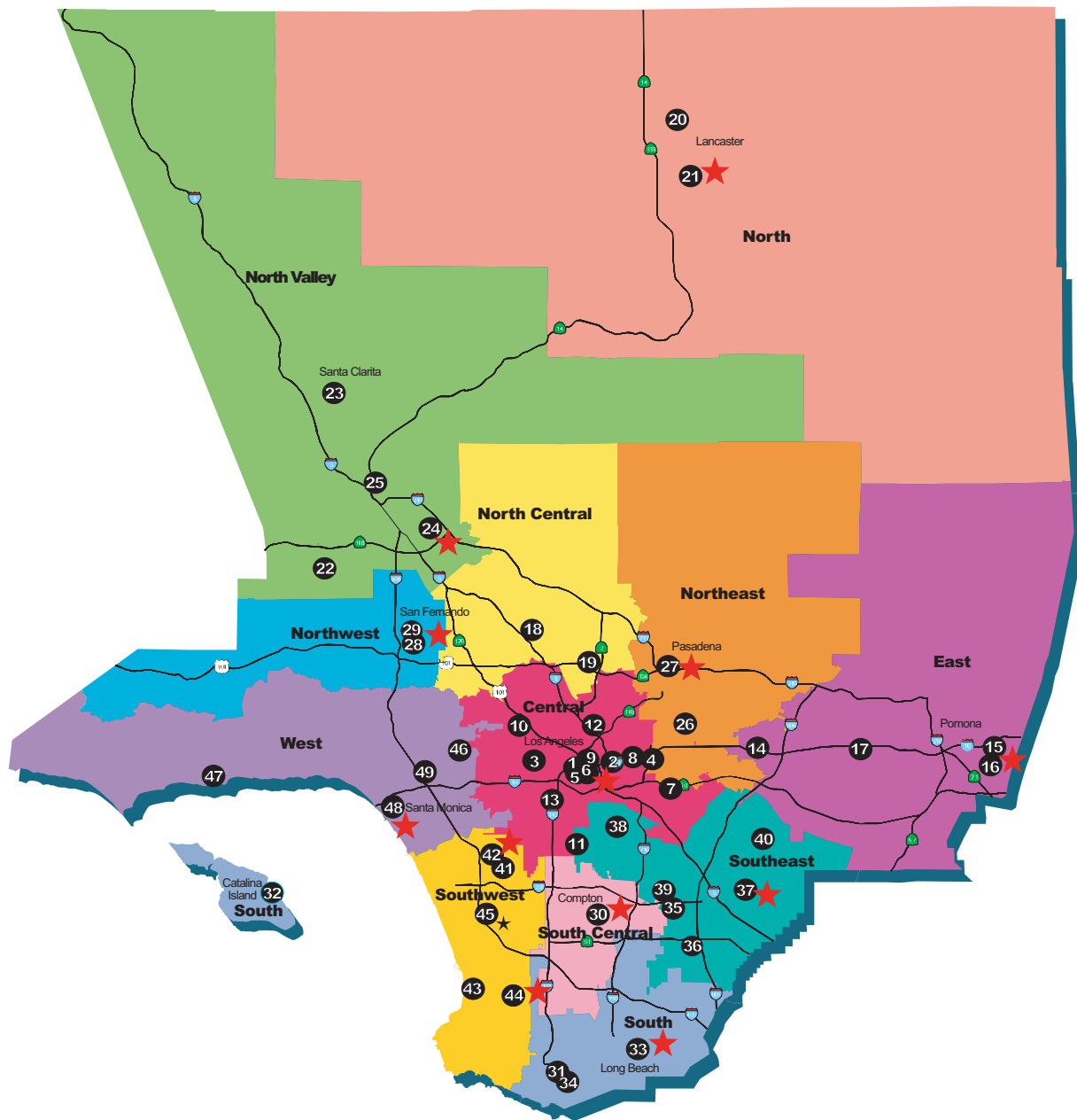
Jury Trials • Fiscal Year 2007-08	.4,249
Juror Summons Mailed	.3,301,008
Jurors Qualified	.1,074,348
Average Days Served	.1.28

Alternative Dispute Resolution • Fiscal Year 2007-08

Arbitration	.619
Mediation	.17,339
Family Law (non custody)	.780
Civil Harassment Mediation	.170
Probate Mediation and Settlement Conference	.152
Neutral Evaluation	.122
Retired Judges, as assigned	.104
Arbitration Resolution Rate	.68%
Mediation Resolution Rate	.72%
Family Law (non custody) Mediation Resolution Rate	.75%
Probate Mediation and Settlement Resolution Rate	.70%

Total Volunteer Hours (Retired Judges, Attorneys, Others)	.19,816
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Districts, Courthouses and Self-Help Centers



Districts and Court Location Legend

Central

County Records Center	1
Central Arraignment Courts	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 District

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

Lancaster 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

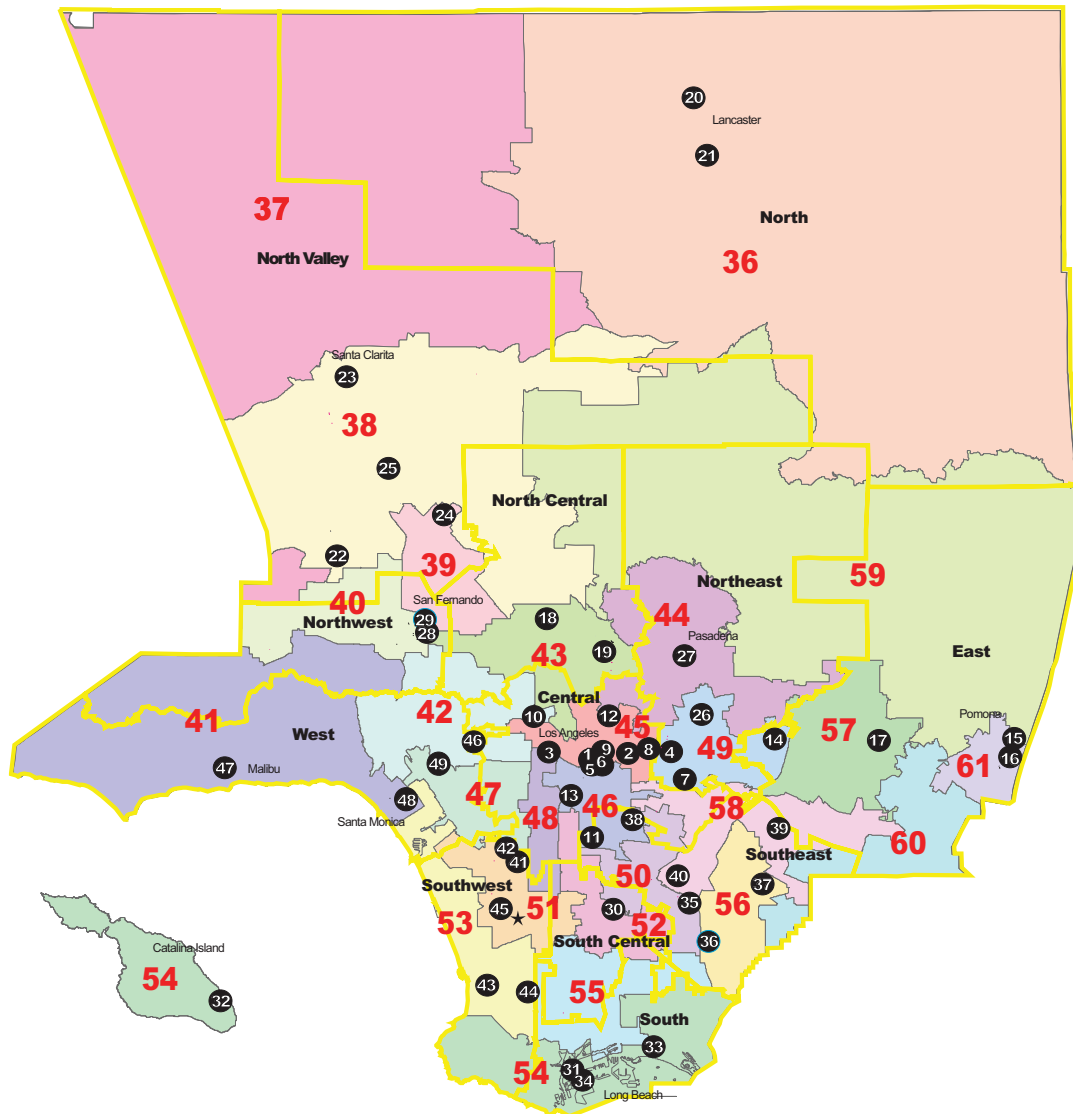
Airport Courthouse*	45
Beverly Hills Courthouse	46
Malibu Courthouse.....	47
Santa Monica Courthouse	48
West Los Angeles Courthouse.....	49

★ Self-Help Center Locations

* Geographically located in Southwest District

Court Locations and Assembly Districts

(with Court District overlay)



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
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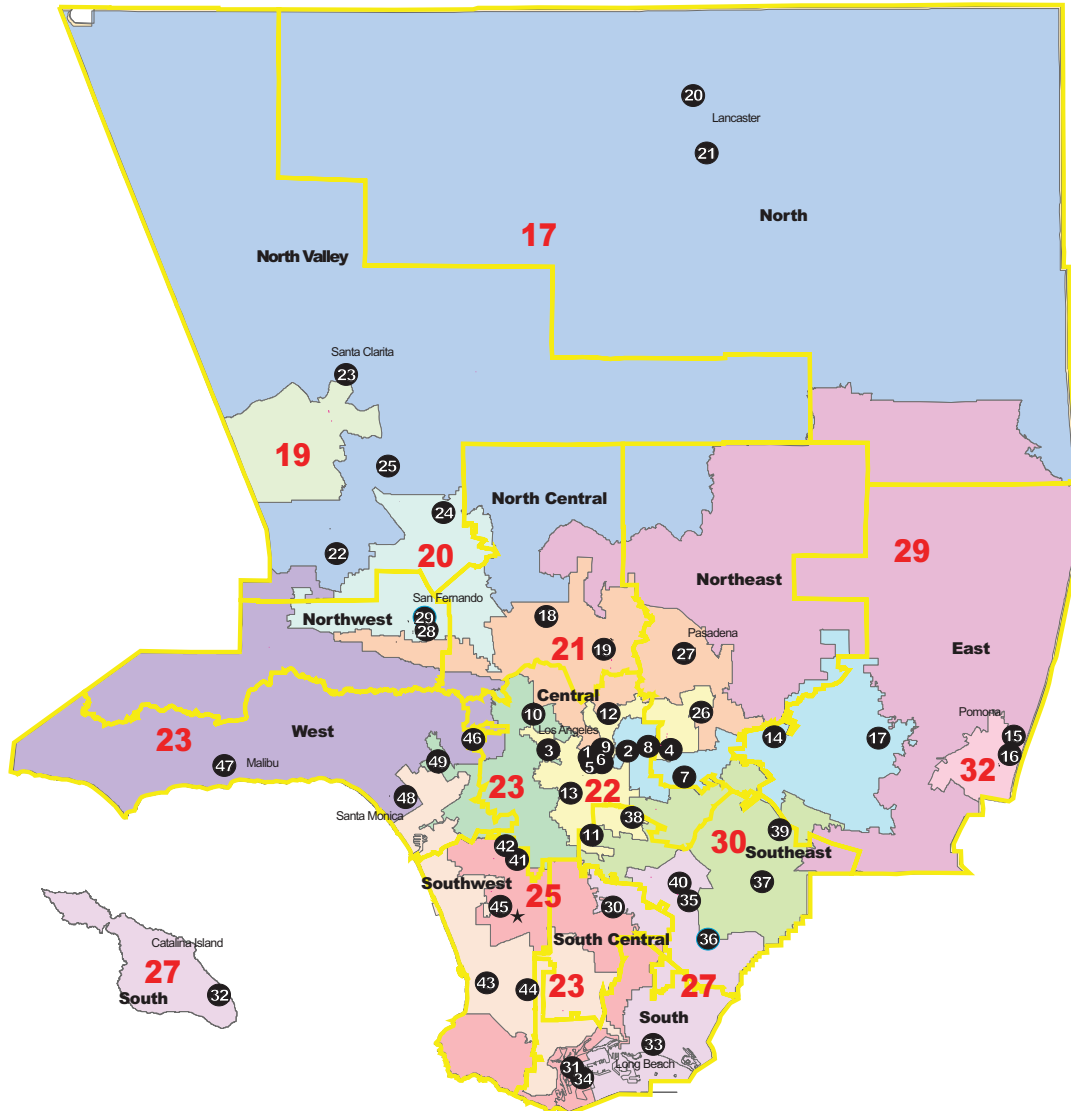
West

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

* Geographically located in Southwest District

Court Locations and State Senate Districts

(with Court District overlay)



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Torrance Courthouse	44

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

* Geographically located in Southwest District

District Summaries

Presiding Judge: Charles W. "Tim" McCoy, Assistant Presiding Judge: Lee Smalley Edmon

Central District

Stanley Mosk Courthouse
Central Civil West Courthouse
Central Arraignment Courts
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
Metropolitan Courthouse
Hollywood Courthouse
East Los Angeles Courthouse
County Records Center
Mental Health Courthouse

Supervising Judges

Family Law: Marjorie S. Steinberg, Probate: Aviva K. Bobb, Civil: Elihu M. Berle
Appellate: Patti Jo McKay, Criminal: Peter Espinoza, Juvenile: Michael Nash

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	27,801
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	28,742
Family Law: Child Support Services Department.....	36,272
Civil Harassments	2,581
Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation	17,002
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders.....	3,190
Felonies	21,697
Misdemeanors	134,000
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	15,632
Probate	6,066
Small Claims	16,890
Traffic Infractions	375,701
Unlawful Detainers	16,873
Mental Health.....	2,579

Central District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	Homeless Court
Children's Waiting Room	Mock Court Trial Program
Small Claims Night Court	New Attorney Walk-Thru Program
Clerk's Speakers Bureau	Parents and Children Together (PACT)
Courthouse Tours	Proposition 36 Courts
Document Imaging (Civil Unlimited Cases/Probate)	Teen Court
Drug Court	Resource Center for
Early Disposition Court	Self-Represented Litigants
Sexually Violent Predator Hearings	JusticeCorps
Family Law Court Outreach and <i>Pro Per</i> Day	

East District

Pomona Courthouse South
Pomona Courthouse North
West Covina Courthouse
El Monte Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Daniel Buckley

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	3,508
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	14,552
Small Claims	7,717
Unlawful Detainers	4,914
Felonies	4,528
Misdemeanors	54,843
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	4,259
Juvenile Delinquency	2,555
Probate	588
Traffic Infractions	169,949
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	3,743

East District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	Self-Help Legal Access Center
Inter-Agency Brown Bag Lunch	JusticeCorps
Domestic Violence Clinics	Free Divorce Workshops
Children's Waiting Room	Drug Courts
Guardianship Clinic	Cal Poly Pomona Internship Program

North District

Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Thomas R. White

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	1,730
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	5,547
Small Claims	2,221
Unlawful Detainers	3,528
Felonies	4,001
Misdemeanors	23,941
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	2,527
Juvenile Delinquency	2,116
Probate	247
Traffic Infractions	58,640
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	1,426
Juvenile Dependency	1,445

North District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	Children’s Waiting Room
Self-Help Legal Access Center	Teen Court
JusticeCorps	Drug Court
Family Law Court Outreach and <i>Pro Per</i> Day	Courthouse Tours
Highland High School Way and	Domestic Violence Clinic
Government Academy	

North Central District

Burbank Courthouse
Glendale Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Candace J. Beason

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	3,282
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	5,641
Small Claims	2,670
Unlawful Detainers	1,256
Felonies	1,232
Misdemeanors	12,643
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	2,441
Traffic Infractions	48,521
Non-Traffic Infractions	527

North Central District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Glendale Youth Alliance Work Experience Program
Criminal Justice Council Meetings
Family Law *Pro Per* Friday

North Valley District

Chatsworth Courthouse
Santa Clarita Courthouse
San Fernando Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Robert J. Schuit

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	3,307
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	11,153
Small Claims	6,080
Unlawful Detainers	4,687
Felonies	3,459
Misdemeanors	41,067
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	3,409
Traffic Infractions	172,946
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	2,191

North Valley District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Tierra Del Sol Volunteers
Domestic Violence Clinic
Teen Court
Proposition 36 Court
A Day on the Bench
Family Law Mediator Luncheon
Judge's Night
Cal State Extern Program

Northeast District

Alhambra Courthouse
Pasadena Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Candace J. Beason

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General	2,724
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	7,361
Small Claims	3,388
Unlawful Detainers	2,062
Felonies	2,707
Misdemeanors	16,529
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	2,389
Juvenile Delinquency	1,754
Probate	798
Traffic Infractions	94,127
Non-Traffic Infractions	3,990

Northeast District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Volunteer Courthouse Docent Program
Mock Court Trial Program
Teacher's Courthouse Seminar
Domestic Violence Clinics

Community Justice Council Meetings
Jury Docent Program
Teen Court
Drug Court

Northwest District

Van Nuys Courthouse East
Van Nuys Courthouse West

Supervising Judge

Richard Kirschner

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	5,660
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	14,320
Small Claims	8,371
Unlawful Detainers	7,283
Felonies	3,757
Misdemeanors	27,470
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	3,821
Probate	858
Traffic Infractions	118,236
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	5,016

Northwest District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	JusticeCorps
Self-Help Legal Access Center	Van Nuys Administrative Center Agency Meetings
Community Court	Teen Court
Monroe High School Law Magnet Program	Senior Citizen Tours
Drug Court	Cal State Student Extern Program
Domestic Violence Clinic	

South Central District

Compton Courthouse

Supervising Judge

John Cheroske

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	2,162
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	5,274
Small Claims	2,775
Unlawful Detainers	2,312
Felonies	7,461
Misdemeanors	13,358
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	3,125
Juvenile Delinquency	1,287
Probate	207
Traffic Infractions	55,370
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	25,434

South Central District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	Juror Appreciation Program
Self-Help Legal Access Center	Summer Youth Work Program
Court Greeters	Free Divorce Workshops
Operation Clean Sweep Program	Mentoring Program/Volunteer Program
Guardianship Clinic	JusticeCorps
Beautification of the Civic Center Program	Drug Court
Children's Waiting Room	Proposition 36 Court
Graffiti Abatement Program	Courthouse Tours
Domestic Violence Clinic	Law Day/Career Day
A Day of Remembrance Program 9/11	

South District

Long Beach Courthouse
San Pedro Courthouse
Catalina Courthouse
Beacon Street Annex (San Pedro)

Supervising Judge

Arthur Jean

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General	3,541
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	8,453
Small Claims	4,916
Unlawful Detainers	5,280
Felonies	4,614
Misdemeanors	43,371
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	3,705
Juvenile Delinquency	1,754
Probate	470
Traffic Infractions	101,403
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	10,059

South District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	Free Divorce Workshops
Self-Help Legal Access Center	JusticeCorps
Guardianship Clinic	Drug Court
Children's Waiting Room	Proposition 36 Court
Domestic Violence Clinic	Courthouse Tours

Southeast District

Bellflower Courthouse
Downey Courthouse
Huntington Park Courthouse
Whittier Courthouse
Norwalk Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Brian F. Gasdia

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General.....	3,699
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	14,080
Small Claims	7,877
Unlawful Detainers	4,986
Felonies	3,777
Misdemeanors	35,685
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	4,659
Probate	433
Traffic Infractions	135,736
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	2,731

Southeast District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Resource Center for Self-Represented Litigants
Guardianship Clinic
Domestic Violence Clinic

Southwest District

Torrance Courthouse
Redondo Beach Courthouse
Inglewood Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Mark S. Arnold

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General	3,752
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	9,315
Small Claims	5,102
Unlawful Detainers	4,421
Felonies	3,925
Misdemeanors	24,682
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	3,530
Probate	500
Traffic Infractions	115,148
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	2,195

Southwest District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)	Drug Court
Self-Help Legal Access Center	Proposition 36 Court
Domestic Violence Center	Court Docent Program
Free Divorce Workshops	Courthouse Orientation Videos
JusticeCorps	

West District

Airport Courthouse
Beverly Hills Courthouse
Malibu Courthouse
Santa Monica Courthouse
West Los Angeles Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Gerald Rosenberg

2007-08 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil - General	6,104
Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)	12,375
Small Claims	8,637
Unlawful Detainers	5,299
Felonies	3,971
Misdemeanors	33,940
Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation).....	1,730
Probate	367
Traffic Infractions	229,533
Non-Traffic Infractions.....	9,969

West District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Self-Help Legal Access Center
Homeless Court
Drug Court
Proposition 36 Court
Children's Waiting Room

Domestic Violence Clinic
Courthouse Tours
Jury Room Business Center
Juror Docent Program
Small Claims Mediation Program

Juvenile Court

Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center
David V. Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center
Eastlake Juvenile Court
Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court
Inglewood Juvenile Court
Los Padrinos Juvenile Court
San Fernando Valley Juvenile Court

Presiding Judge

Michael Nash

Authorized Judicial Positions

Judges	20
Commissioners.....	15
Assigned Referees	
Juvenile	14
Informal Juvenile	14

2007-08 Dependency Annual Case Filings Summary

Total Dependency	19,987
New, Reactivated Petitions.....	10,572
Subsequent Petitions	3,003
Supplemental Petitions	6,412

2007-08 Delinquency Annual Case Filings Summary

Total Delinquency	33,547
New, Reactivated Petitions.....	24,726
Subsequent Petitions	8,649
Supplemental Petitions	172

2007-08 Informal Juvenile and Traffic Summary

Filings	125,794
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Court Services

Locations and Contacts

Central District:

**Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, appellate division

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- unlawful detainers/trial setting:(213) 974-7890
- small claims:(213) 974-6135
- family law:(213) 893-0590 or (213) 974-5568
- probate:(213) 974-5505 or (213) 974-5471
- domestic violence TROs:(213) 974-5587 or (213) 974-5588
- appeals:(213) 974-5237
- juror services:(213) 974-5800
- family law facilitator:(213) 974-5004
- resource center for self-represented litigants:(213) 893-9754

Central Civil West, 600 S. Commonwealth Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90005

- complex civil litigation, L.A. County Child Support Service Dept. cases

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- family law facilitator:(213) 637-8470
- information lines:(213) 351-8738, (213) 351-8739, (213) 351-8755

**Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, 210 W. Temple St.,
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

- felonies, misdemeanors

CAN WE HELP YOU?

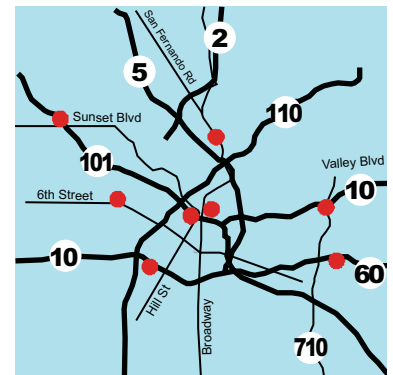
- felonies/misdemeanors:(213) 974-6141 or (213) 974-6142
- bail/bond status information:(213) 974-5266
- juror services – 5th floor:(213) 974-6196
- juror services – 11th floor:(213) 974-5816

Metropolitan Courthouse, 1945 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90007

- felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions, informal juvenile traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- felonies/misdemeanors:(213) 744-4022
- traffic:(213) 742-1884
- informal juvenile traffic:(213) 744-4153



Central Arraignment Courts, 429 Bauchet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

- misdemeanors, non-traffic infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- information line:(213) 974-6068 or (213) 974-6075

Mental Health Court, 1150 N. San Fernando Road, Los Angeles, CA 90065

- mental competency, conservatorships, facility-based certification review for persons on LPS holds, Writs of Habeas Corpus for persons on LPS holds, facility-based medication hearings, appeals of medication capacity hearing, Probable Cause hearings for Sexually Violent Predators, Commitment of State Developmental Centers.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- information line:(323) 226-2908

Hollywood Courthouse, 5925 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028

- misdemeanors, nontraffic infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- information line:(323) 856-5747

East Los Angeles Courthouse, 4848 E. Civic Center Way, Los Angeles, CA 90022

- unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- unlawful detainers/small claims:(323) 780-2017
- felonies/misdemeanors:(323) 780-2025
- traffic:(213) 742-6648
- juror services:(323) 780-2029

Juvenile:

Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center, 1040 W. Avenue J, Lancaster, CA 93534

- juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile dependency:(661) 945-6447
- juvenile delinquency:(661) 949-6501
- informal juvenile and traffic:(661) 945-6354

David V. Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center, 7625 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90001

- juvenile delinquency

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile delinquency:(323) 586-6098

Eastlake Juvenile Court, 1601 Eastlake Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90033

- juvenile delinquency

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile delinquency:(323) 226-8914

Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court, 201 Centre Plaza Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91754

- juvenile dependency, juvenile delinquency administration, informal juvenile and traffic, adoptions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile dependency:(323) 526-6646
- juvenile delinquency:(323) 526-6670
- informal juvenile and traffic(213)744-4327

Inglewood Juvenile Court, 110 Regent St., Inglewood, CA 90301

- juvenile delinquency

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile delinquency:(310) 419-5268

Los Padrinos Juvenile Court, 7281 East Quill Drive, Downey, CA 90242

- juvenile delinquency

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile delinquency:(562) 940-8824

San Fernando Valley Juvenile Court, 16350 Filbert St., Sylmar, CA 91342

- juvenile delinquency, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile delinquency:(818) 364-2108
- informal juvenile and traffic:(213) 744-4155

East District:

El Monte Courthouse, 11234 E. Valley Blvd., El Monte, CA 91731

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/small claims:(626) 575-4268
- felonies/misdemeanors:(626) 459-8844
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juror services:(626) 575-4297
- information line:(626) 575-4104



Pomona Courthouse North, 350 W. Mission Blvd., Pomona, CA 91766

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- limited civil/small claims/misdemeanors:(909) 802-9944
- traffic:(213) 742-1928

Pomona Courthouse South, 400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona, CA 91766

- unlimited civil, felonies, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, juvenile delinquency, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/family law/probate:(909) 620-3107
- felonies:(909) 620-3041
- juvenile delinquency:(909) 620-3037
- juvenile traffic:(909) 620-3116
- juror services:(909) 620-3045

**West Covina Courthouse, 1427 West Covina Parkway,
West Covina, CA 91790**

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- limited civil/unlawful detainers:(626) 813-3236
- small claims:(626) 813-3226
- felonies/misdemeanors:(626) 813-3239
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juror services:(626) 813-3450

North District:

**Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse,
42011 4th St. W. Lancaster, CA 93534**

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- traffic:(213) 742-8860
- juror services:(661) 974-7392
- information line:(661) 974-7200



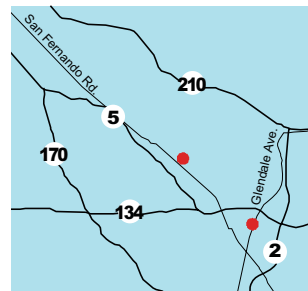
North Central District:

Burbank Courthouse, 300 E. Olive, Burbank, CA 91502

- unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, adoptions, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/family law:(818) 557-3482
- small claims:(818) 557-3461
- felonies/misdemeanors:(818) 557-3466
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juror services:(818) 557-3471



Glendale Courthouse, 600 E. Broadway, Glendale, CA 91206

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, misdemeanors, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/unlawful detainers/small claims/probate:(818) 500-3551
- felonies/misdemeanors:(818) 500-3541
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juror services:(818) 557-3474

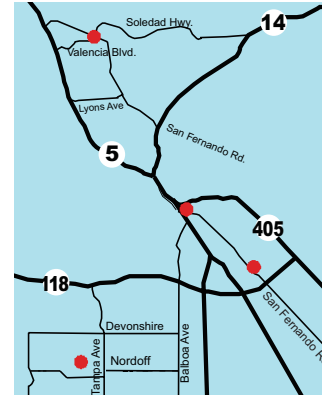
North Valley District:

Chatsworth Courthouse, 9425 Penfield Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, civil harassment and domestic violence temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- administration:(818) 576-8506
- limited civil/unlawful detainer, domestic TROs:(818) 576-8575
- unlimited civil/civil harassment TROs:(818) 576-8595
- small claims:(818) 576-8586
- traffic:(213) 742-1884
- juror services(818) 576-8484



San Fernando Courthouse, 900 Third St., San Fernando, CA 91340

- small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- small claims:(818) 898-2425
- felonies/misdemeanors:(818) 898-2407
- family law/civil harassment TROs:(818) 898-2664
- traffic:(213) 742-1884
- juror services:(818) 898-2527

Santa Clarita Courthouse, 23747 W. Valencia Blvd., Santa Clarita, CA 91355

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- administration:(661) 253-7301
- limited civil/domestic violence TROs:(661) 253-7313
- small claims:(661) 253-7311
- felonies/misdemeanors(661) 253-7384
- traffic:(213) 742-6648

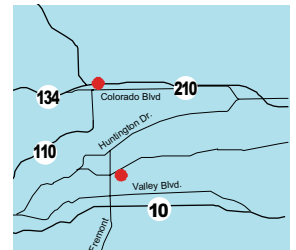
Northeast District:

Alhambra Courthouse, 150 W. Commonwealth Ave., Alhambra, CA 91801

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- limited civil/unlawful detainers:(626) 308-5521
- felonies/misdemeanors:(626) 308-5525
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juror services:(626) 308-5180



Pasadena Courthouse, 300 E. Walnut Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, juvenile delinquency, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- misdemeanors:(626) 356-5254 or (626) 356-5255
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juvenile delinquency:(626) 356-5757 or (626) 356-5255

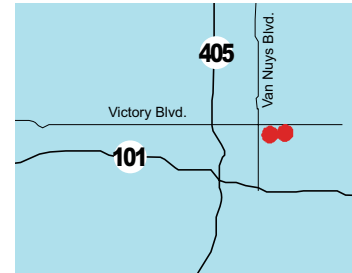
Northwest District:

Van Nuys Courthouse East, 6230 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91401

- limited and unlimited civil, small claims, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, family law, probate, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- limited civil/unlawful detainers:(818) 374-2904
- unlimited civil/family law/probate:(818) 374-2208
- small claims:(818) 374-2901
- informal juvenile and traffic court:(818) 374-2332
- juror services:(818) 374-2344



Van Nuys Courthouse West, 14400 Erwin Street Mall, Van Nuys, CA 91401

- felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- felonies/misdemeanors:(818) 374-2903
- traffic:(213) 742-1884

South District:

Catalina Courthouse, 215 Sumner Ave., Avalon, CA 90704

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- information line:(310) 510-0026

Long Beach Courthouse, 415 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, juvenile delinquency, informal juvenile and traffic



CAN WE HELP YOU?

- administration:(562) 491-6205
- limited civil:(562) 491-6234
- unlimited civil/family law/probate:(562) 491-5925
- felonies/misdemeanors:(562) 491-6226 or (562) 491-5932
- traffic:(213) 742-8809
- juvenile delinquency:(562) 491-5922
- bail refunds:(562) 491-6205
- financial evaluators:(562) 491-6450
- juror services:(562) 491-6119

San Pedro Courthouse, 505 S. Centre St., San Pedro, CA 90731

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- unlimited civil:(310) 519-6018
- unlawful detainers:(310) 519-6015
- small claims:(310) 519-6014
- traffic:(213) 742-1884

San Pedro Courthouse Annex, 638 S. Beacon St., San Pedro, CA 90731

- unlimited civil

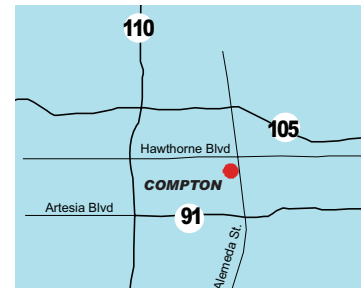
South Central District:

Compton Courthouse, 200 W. Compton Blvd., Compton, CA 90220

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, juvenile delinquency, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/probate:(310) 603-7842
- felonies/misdemeanors:(310) 603-7112 or (310) 603-7115
- traffic:(213) 763-1644
- juvenile delinquency:(310) 603-7816
- informal juvenile and traffic court:(310) 603-7128
- arbitration:(310) 603-3072
- conciliation:(310) 603-7701
- filing and fees:(310) 603-7842



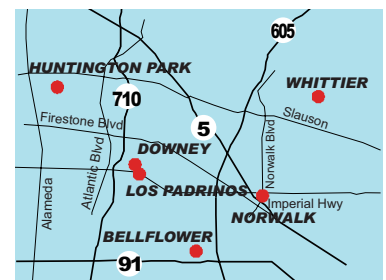
Southeast District:

Bellflower Courthouse, 10025 Flower St., Bellflower, CA 90706

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil:(562) 804-8009
- small claims:(562) 804-8011
- felonies/misdemeanors:(562) 804-8019
- traffic:(213) 763-1646
- juror services:(562) 804-8202



Downey Courthouse, 7500 E. Imperial Highway, Downey, CA 90242

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- limited civil/unlawful detainers/small claims:(562) 803-7055
- felonies/misdemeanors:(562) 803-7051
- traffic:(213) 763-1645
- juror services:(562) 803-7039

Huntington Park Courthouse, 6548 Miles Ave., Huntington Park, CA 90255

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/small claims:(323) 586-6359 or (323) 586-6365
- traffic:(213) 763-1648
- information line:(323) 586-6362 or (323) 586-6363

Norwalk Courthouse, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650

- unlimited civil, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil:(562) 807-7290 or (562) 807-7262
- felonies/misdemeanors:(562) 807-7257
- family law:(562) 807-7342
- probate:(562) 807-7263
- juror services:(562) 807-7281
- information line:(562) 807-7341
- juvenile traffic:(562) 907-7201

Whittier Courthouse, 7339 S. Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90602

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- limited civil/small claims:(562) 907-3127
- felonies/misdemeanors:(562) 907-3113
- traffic:(213) 763-1649
- juror services:(562) 907-3139

Southwest District:

Inglewood Courthouse, One Regent St., Inglewood, CA 90301

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- small claims:(310) 419-5715
- felonies:(310) 419-5216
- traffic:(213) 742-8860
- juror services:(310) 419-5135 or (310) 419-5397
- information line:(310) 419-5132



Redondo Beach Courthouse, 117 W. Torrance Blvd., Redondo Beach, CA 90277

- unlimited civil

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- unlimited civil:(310) 798-6875

Torrance Courthouse, 825 Maple Ave., Torrance, CA 90503

- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/unlawful detainers/probate: ..(310) 222-8801 or (310) 222-8802
- small claims:(310) 222-6400
- family law:(310) 222-8801, (310) 222-8802, (310) 222-8805
- traffic:(213) 742-8860
- criminal:(310) 222-6506

West District:

Airport Courthouse, 11701 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045

- felonies, misdemeanors

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- felonies:(310) 727-6100 or (310) 727-6101
- misdemeanors:(310) 727-6020
- bail bond clerk:(310) 727-6015
- juror services:(310) 727-6105



Beverly Hills Courthouse, 9355 Burton Way, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

- limited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- administration:(310) 288-1360
- civil:(310) 288-1308
- small claims:(310) 288-1305
- felonies/misdemeanors:(310) 288-1309

Malibu Courthouse, 23525 W. Civic Center Way, Malibu, CA 90265

- limited civil, small claims, felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- civil/small claims:(310) 317-1331
- felonies/misdemeanors:(310) 317-1335
- traffic:(213) 742-6648

Santa Monica Courthouse, 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

- limited and unlimited civil, small claims, family law, probate, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, informal juvenile and traffic

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- limited civil:(310) 260-1886
- unlimited civil:(310) 260-1876
- small claims:(310) 260-1887
- traffic:(213) 742-6648

West Los Angeles Courthouse, 1633 Purdue Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025

- small claims, traffic and other infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- administration:(310) 445-5082
- civil:(310) 312-6545
- small claims:(310) 312-6550
- traffic:(213) 742-1884

Photographs on pages 10, 12, 21, 25, 26 and 29 courtesy of the Administrative Office of the Courts, which commissioned photographer Jamie Rector to shoot a project called "A Day in the Life of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse." www.jamierector.com

Photographs on page 40 courtesy of the Riverside County Superior Court.

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