



Los Angeles Superior Court

2010

Annual Report

(Incorporating financial data for
Fiscal Year 2008-2009)

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Message from the Presiding Judge

Honorable Charles W. “Tim” McCoy Jr.



The budget crisis confronting California this year has been the most difficult, risk-intense, uncertain period in recent memory. A deep and long recession has descended on the state and its courts.

The Los Angeles Superior Court recognized the gravity of the challenge early in the downturn. Refusing to indulge in wishful thinking or false hope, we acted immediately to address not only the problems at hand, but the even larger problems ahead. With long-term solutions rather than short-term panaceas as our goal, we early on made hard decisions on priorities and concentrated scarce resources on our core obligation – rendering decisions that assure justice under the rule of law for all.

Our long-range financial plan assumes the growing recession will continue to force Sacramento to impose extraordinarily deep, repetitive cuts on the courts. That assumption, while unpleasant to make, allows us to make far better operating decisions than would otherwise occur. California’s budget crisis will grow worse before it gets better, and the bottom for government will likely occur in about Fiscal Year 2012-13.

The choices we make in the near term must be governed by that stark reality. Hard choices among priorities and options cannot be postponed until tomorrow, because the penalty for procrastination is far greater damage to the Courts than would otherwise result with effective action taken today.

As an example of this decision-making approach, we made the very unpleasant and difficult decision to furlough the Los Angeles Superior Court staff in February of 2009, long before discussions of a uniform court closure began at the state level. The reason: our multiyear analysis revealed that longstanding efforts to build our reserves for a rainy day, while commendable, had fallen short of accumulating adequate backstop funding.

Choosing to act sooner rather than later, we began our furlough plan in July of 2009, the first month of the new fiscal year, while other courts around the state generally remained open. Closing one day a month is not something we would ever want to do, but we saw clearly that not taking effective action early would lead to severe service interruptions much sooner than might otherwise become necessary.

Of course, we are aggressively cutting costs wherever we can. But the current crisis is so large that we cannot cut our way out of it. Following the recession in 2002-2003, we very significantly reduced operating costs as a way to build up reserves for future down cycles. Unfortunately, the rainy day we planned for turned into a tsunami. And, our past vigilance in controlling costs has left very little room for further cutting. But, we’re cutting more, anyway.

So, as the New Year begins, we very much believe the California court system stands at a crossroads. Hard choices among priorities need to be made, and soon.

Courts have many needs, from day-to-day court staffing and operations to new courthouses and new technologies. These worthy needs cannot all share equal priority. We do not view court staffing and operations as just “a” priority among others. Preserving court staffing and operations is the top priority.

If court staffing and operations are not given the top priority, then in Los Angeles County and elsewhere, substantial layoffs, courtroom closures and courthouse closures will inevitably occur in 2010 and beyond.

Funding reductions the Judicial Council has already allocated to court operations have put the Los Angeles Superior Court on a path leading inexorably to a 34 percent workforce reduction over about 2 ½ years. That workforce loss translates into more than 180 courtrooms closed and the effective closure of about 9 courthouses. More than half the civil courtrooms, and nearly one-third of the family and children's courtrooms, will be closed. Traffic operations may be cut by half, or more, and collections will suffer.

We who have devoted our entire professional careers to serving the rule of law fully understand the human toll associated with large-scale courtroom and courthouse closures. Everyone from children and families to commercial litigants will suffer tremendously. Peoples' faith in the court's capacity to timely resolve their pressing legal problems will be shaken.

Delays in case processing caused by court closures will have significant adverse impacts on the local and state economies as well. The time from filing to final decisions in civil cases may stretch to over 4 ½ years. Contracts will go unenforced, vital capital will be tied up in limbo, and civil cases of every kind will stagnate.

A recent economics study by Micronomics, Inc., concluded that budget allocation reductions already imposed by the Judicial Council on the Los Angeles Superior Court will, in the next four years:

- cumulatively damage the state and local economies by nearly \$30 billion;
- lead to more than 155,000 lost jobs; and
- reduce state and local tax revenues by about \$1.6 billion.

Degraded court operations will, unfortunately, become a brake on California's much needed economic recovery both locally and statewide.

The Los Angeles Superior Court has, for many months, suggested that temporarily redirecting available court-related capital funds such as SB 1407 (new courthouse construction) and CCMS (new computer technology) is an option that must be explored. The courts have arrived at the point where proceeding full tilt on new courthouses and new technology can permanently damage court staffing and operations. That reality was correctly recognized in July 2009 when \$25 million of SB 1407 funds and \$100 million of planned CCMS funding was redirected to protect court operations. This necessity is even more compelling today.

We who make up the Los Angeles Superior Court are privileged to serve a great county filled with marvelous people who daily contribute mightily to their communities, state and nation. The value we together add is a contribution of great importance for all who benefit from it, not just in Los Angeles.

While the challenges today and tomorrow are many and daunting, we will not falter in our steadfast dedication to providing justice for all. In good times, and in hard times, and despite the many uncertainties ahead, we will preserve and protect access to justice and the rule of law. Of that we are certain.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles W. McCoy Jr.", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Charles W. McCoy Jr.
Presiding Judge

Message from the Executive Officer



We will remember 2009 as the calm before the storm. For more than a year we had been predicting massive budget cuts. Unfortunately, we were right: we now face a structural deficit of 26 percent of our general fund revenues.

We have spent several years preparing for this eventuality, accumulating reserve funding and keeping our operating costs low.

Our court leaders were also actively involved in finding short-term mitigation for the budget cuts. These and other efforts have meant that we have spent 2009 delaying the catastrophic impacts of the massive budget deficit we currently face. For instance, we are spending reserves at the rate of \$3 million per month, as we avoid layoffs to keep our courts operating.

In addition, many of the programs described in this Annual Report help us manage the budget crisis. Our partnerships in self-help, for instance, allow us to leverage community resources for court users. And now that we have integrated those services into the family law process, we have found additional efficiencies. Radical changes in our juror services (such as self-scheduling) not only give prospective jurors greater control over the terms of their jury service but also save staff time.

In these and other areas, we are able to serve more people, with higher quality and responsiveness, in less time with less staff effort. Our Court has been one of the pioneers throughout the nation in reinventing how trial courts provide access to justice, and those innovations are helping us preserve access to justice.

But we are already seeing the impacts of the cuts. The furloughs that began in July have saved another \$18 million, but are robbing us of case-processing capacity; delays and backlogs are apparent throughout the Court.

The current condition of the state's budget promises to bring us quickly to large-scale changes in how we do business. Unfortunately, I expect that our 2010 Annual Report will be largely taken up with descriptions of catastrophic impacts of the budget cuts.

We remain, nonetheless, committed to preserving access to justice in Los Angeles County by continuing to reinvent our services.

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

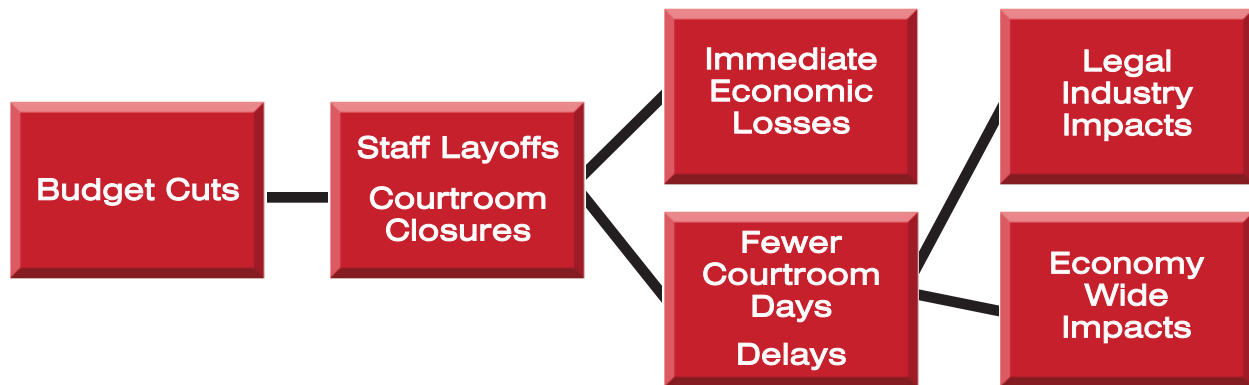
John A. Clarke
Executive Officer/Clerk

Economic Impact of Court Closures

Effects Far Beyond the Court

Direct state funding forecasts in 2009 raise important questions about how our local and state economies will be affected by severe reductions in civil court operations forced by budget cuts originating in Sacramento. In the case of trial court operations, these funds are allocated to us through the Judicial Council of California and the Administrative Office of the Courts. We believed the information on economic damage would greatly assist government decision makers who must fully understand the consequences of any resource allocation decisions resulting in substantial courtroom and courthouse closures in Los Angeles County.

In November, the Court engaged Micronomics, a prominent economics consulting firm based in Los Angeles. With known budget shortfalls as a starting point, we asked Micronomics, and its president, Roy Weinstein, to apply appropriate statistical models to determine the economic consequences of courtroom and courthouse closures we will need to make over the next three years if the court budget reductions now in place are allowed to continue unabated.



Micronomics first evaluated the adverse economic effects of court closures on business activity in the legal services sector. The analysis comprehensively included not only attorney compensation, but the economic contributions of secretaries, receptionists, mailroom workers, firms that provide expert advice to law firms, messenger companies, office rental enterprises, and other service providers, suppliers, and enterprises associated with the law business. Even effects on restaurants and office building owners was considered.

Economic activities associated with the legal services sector contribute significantly to the Los Angeles economy.

Micronomics determined that losses in economic output from the legal services sector caused by court closures over the three years studied would run to \$12.9 billion, cost more than 69,000 jobs and result in \$696 million in lost tax revenues to the City of Los Angeles, the county and the state.

Micronomics further determined that economic losses sustained by the wider business economy, beyond the legal services sector, would be even greater. These damages result from the inevitable long delays in legal dispute resolution that occur when civil courtroom operations are severely curtailed, as will happen here.

The saying that “justice delayed is justice denied” has particularly invidious implications for business

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Apr 08

Judicial Perspectives



Throughout this Annual Report are writings by our Bench officers who reflect on their personal observations of how they are experiencing the fiscal crisis and the effects in their courtrooms.

Judge Robert A. Duker

Pomona Courthouse, East District

Former Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court, 2003-2004

When I supervised our Court closures and layoffs in 2003 and 2004, I never thought something that painful would happen again. But today's budget problems are tenfold worse, and my term looks like a trip to Disneyland compared to today's challenges.

I feel sorrow for the people trying to address the current nearly insurmountable problems. Statewide budget shortages affect local operations, and furloughs and court closures impact the staff's morale, but I think all of us, judges and employees, are keeping as positive an outlook as possible. Judges are always frustrated when they cannot manage their daily calendars, but staff furloughs back up court filings, cause fatigue and misfiled documents and create unusual stress in good people who are striving to keep operations and services efficiently available to the public.

Furloughs—potholes on the road to justice—are being closely watched as part of the statewide budget debate. And many questions are being asked surrounding the use of funds in the Branch. Are the arguments about the need to close courts simply posturing in hopes that more money will come if the public complains? How bad will it really get? The public wants creative use of public money, but is the public's perception that they're being well served by these furloughs, closures and expenditures on other items? The courts are coping now, but can they do so in the future?

We're all trying to figure out the unknown.

Reports from the state capital estimate future budgets will be even smaller and have greater deficits.

I sit in the East District, and here judicial officers are seeing increased civil filings directly tied to the underlying economy. Not many a day passes without my receiving an emergency ex parte motion seeking to stop a foreclosure or an eviction, and they're increasing every week. Once a trickle, they're now rapidly flowing, and we're prepared for a flood. Many involve heart-wrenching allegations of predatory loan practices and families losing their homes. Equally troublesome from a business perspective, the banks and loan companies involved are alleging the loss of huge sums of money because of defaults by these same homeowners and many banks have failed, been reorganized or taken over by the government.

Every day I must stay proceedings on my calendar because a defendant is in bankruptcy. On many lawsuits, loan holders' once-infrequent requests for writs of attachment or writs seeking protection from garnishment are now an everyday occurrence. Desperate cases created by the economic downturn are being filed at historic levels in all civil arenas, particularly in small claims and unlawful detainer courts. When the economy forces people to avoid their obligations, lawsuits increase; we in the trial courts are forced to address these mounting concerns with dwindling resources.

As Presiding Judge, I did not see these developments first hand during our last financial crisis. My

perspective was different from the trial judges'. I saw "field reports" by our Supervising Judges, but I never directly felt the magnitude on the personal level felt by trial judges daily. It is stressful and difficult to detach oneself from some compelling personal tragedy created by the fall in our economy. Even though they do not see it on the daily basis many of us do, I know Presiding Judge Charles McCoy and Assistant Presiding Judge Lee Edmon understand the effect. I am not sure others making budget decisions and removed from our local trial courts have this same understanding.

I have heard some past money-saving ideas are being resurrected and discussed in preparation for the need to downsize, including the New York system of 24-hour arraignment courts at a central location, night courts, and "hot-bunking" judges in courtrooms (one judge gets the courtroom from 8 a.m. to noon and then another judge from 1 to 5 p.m.). But these arrangements all have operational and financial impacts on district and city attorneys, public defenders, security officers and the sheriff, probation officers, and the public and attorneys we serve. And the potential number of economically forced courtroom closures currently under discussion boggles the minds of all of us. We understand it will create historic delays in the resolution of our citizens' disputes and horrendously impact their lives.

In my district judges talk about the economic situation everyday at lunch and whenever we meet, and in many ways it's brought us closer to the Court's leaders. Throughout the Court, everyone's concerned and working on the problem and suggesting solutions. That's why the judges donated to CARE (Contribution To Assist Retention of Employees), a great statement of support for our local Court employees.

These are extremely tough times for our Court, and we will need some tough decisions. We are blessed with creative leaders inside our Court who can rise to the occasion, but all of us need to appreciate their hands are in many ways tied by decisions of persons outside our own Court and with different agendas. Judge McCoy and Judge Edmon are on top of the problems, and we are well served if we listen to their advice. I wish them well.



Judge Robert A. Duker

Court Furlough-Closure Days

July 15, 2009 was a historic, but regrettable, day in Los Angeles County. It was the first time, but unfortunately not the last, that the Los Angeles Superior Court was forced to suspend some or all operations to cope with the State of California’s budget crisis.

In mid-May, after many months of increasingly bad budget news from Sacramento, the Court made the decision to close most of its operations one day every month commencing in July. Facing a projected budget shortfall of \$79 million for the Fiscal Year 2009-10, and realizing that the Court could not afford to wait any longer, the Los Angeles Superior Court’s Presiding Judge announced monthly court closures and unpaid furlough days for Court employees. Beginning July 15, 2009, and on every third Wednesday since then, the Court has shut down nearly all of its operations in an effort to shave approximately \$18 million from its projected budget deficit.

On furlough days, 95 percent of Court employees do not report to work, and nearly every courtroom is dark. The remaining 5 per cent of the employees take an alternate furlough day in the same week. The Court’s services are limited to restraining orders, arraignments of in-custody defendants, “last day” criminal trials, some probable cause determinations, and certain mental health proceedings. The Court also allows parties to file papers by leaving them in boxes in the clerk’s office.

By planning carefully, publicizing the closures, and ensuring that all affected parties received notice, the Court managed to mitigate the furlough days’ impact on litigants, attorneys, and others conducting business in the courthouse. As a result, the furlough days went relatively smoothly. Members of the public who nevertheless missed work and drove long distances only to find that the Court was closed were remarkably tolerant and understanding.

In July, the California legislature approved a bill that authorized the Judicial Council to pass a rule permitting all superior courts statewide to close on the third Wednesday of every month. The legislation authorized court-closure days through June of 2010.

Although the Court saves money by closing operations once a month, the negative impact on the Court and the community should not be underestimated. When employees are furloughed, the work still remains to be done. People who would have come to Court on a furlough day come another day. The resulting backlog of work causes delays affecting all areas of Court operations, and has already forced the Court to schedule matters months into the future. Although presently it takes a little more than one year for a general jurisdiction civil case to go to trial, some projections suggest that the cumulative impact of the furlough days will extend the time to trial to four years or longer.

The closures are just one element of the Court’s plan to address the deep economic crisis. Prior to the furlough/closure program, the Court implemented a hard hiring freeze, cut services and supplies, and restricted travel.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|----------------------------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 COURT CLOSURE DAY | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

One Furlough/Closure day per month is the equivalent of two and a half weeks of court working days lost for the year.

“We face a serious crisis with immediate impacts that can be blunted, but not avoided,” explained Presiding Judge Charles W. “Tim” McCoy. “We learned from our experiences of 2002 through 2004. Over the intervening years, we have accumulated modest reserves that will enable us to soften the pain of these cuts for at least the first year of the new crisis. Unfortunately, we anticipate this difficult budget environment will remain with us for four years.”

“We cannot allow denial, false hope or wishful thinking to cause us to drift through the crisis. We should expect things will grow increasingly difficult before they begin to get better. We must, and will, remain masters of our own destiny to the extent possible. We know that reducing and eliminating court services will cause all of our stakeholders—from customers with traffic tickets to lawyers with court dates—great inconvenience.”

CARE Program

In July of 2009, the Los Angeles Superior Court took the drastic measure of closing the courts and implementing a mandatory employee furlough day every month. The Court made the decision, which cuts the Court’s service to the public and effectively takes away one day’s pay from every Court employee every month, in order to cope with the court’s \$79 million budget reduction for Fiscal Year 2009-10. Although it was a difficult and emotional decision, the furlough and court closure days will save the Court approximately \$18 million each year and help stave off future layoffs.

Soon after the Court adopted this measure, the judges on the Los Angeles Superior Court voted to reach into their own pockets to return some of that money to court employees. In a spirit of empathy for and unity with the employees, the judges on the Court Executive Committee adopted the Court’s Contribution to Assist Retention of Employees (CARE) program—a local program that allows judges to make contributions to benefit the employees of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

In a report filed with the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco, Presiding Judge Charles W. “Tim” McCoy confirmed that 426 of the 430 sitting Los Angeles Superior Court’s judges, and 90 of its 120 sitting commissioners had pledged to forego nearly 5 percent of their salary and to instead contribute the money to CARE. “This is a gratifying and overwhelming level of participation by our judges,” McCoy said. “Judges who participate are giving up as much as \$688 per month of their salaries. That is a major commentary on the generosity of our bench. This participation level significantly exceeds the expectations that at least 75 percent of the state’s judges and justices would participate.”

The judges signed up for CARE even though, as elected constitutional officers, their salaries cannot be reduced during their current terms in office. That means that the state cannot require judges to take the 4.62 percent salary cut imposed on all of the rest of the court’s 5,000 employees. The CARE program raised nearly \$1 million from July through November.

As a direct result of the judicial officers’ generosity, each eligible employee can elect to receive one day’s salary per quarter or the equivalent number of hours of leave time.

According to McCoy, “Our judicial officers understand that closing the courts not only hurts the people we serve, but it also hurts the employees who have dedicated their professional lives to servicing the public.” “I am very proud of our judges and commissioners for fully supporting our hard-working staff members in these challenging times”.

The first CARE payment to employees came just in time for the holiday season.



Judicial Perspective

Judge Thomas White, Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse,
North District
Supervising Judge

There is a noticeable increase in crankiness at the Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse in Lancaster. Many witnesses and defendants are disrupting proceedings. Spectators are expressing or emoting impatience and anxiety as well.

I am keenly aware of this because it's my job, as judge, to keep order in the court and to head off any potential violence among the many participants. When people ignore my warnings, it is also my job to arrange for them to be escorted — or even excluded — from the courtroom.

It's even worse with family law litigants. They shout in the hallway, argue while being removed from the building and then start a brawl in the parking lot.

Although I don't know why it's happening, I suspect that I am seeing the emotional impact of a weak economy. There are many other signs of financial stress in our courthouse.

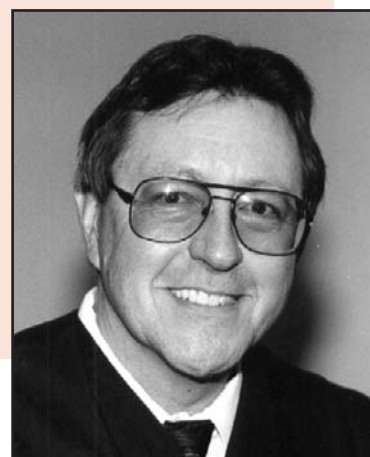
Increasingly, guilty defendants ask for jail time or community service because they can't pay their fines. Meanwhile, the defendants who signed on to a payment schedule are having difficulty keeping up with the payments. Since 2008, we've seen a 29.5 percent increase in misdemeanor and infraction cases referred for collections from the North District.

It is also obvious in family law cases that the parties cannot afford to pay attorneys' fees. When the parties can't pay their attorneys, the attorneys substitute out of the cases, leaving the parties to represent themselves. There is an inevitable increase in confrontation when parties have to directly deal with their adversaries in highly emotional proceedings.

The increase in tenant-landlord cases — 50 percent more for a 10-month period in 2008 than in 2007 — strongly suggests that lots more people can't pay the rent. A similar rise in creditors' collections cases — 49 percent over the same time period — means that they can't pay the other bills either.

We judges are feeling the impact of the recession as well. In Lancaster, we do not have the resources for a dedicated, full-time trial court and with the budget as it is, we are not likely to have a dedicated trial court anytime soon. We manage the situation by conducting misdemeanor and felony calendar calls every morning and presiding over criminal trials in half-day sessions every afternoon. This means that the jurors who serve in our trials have to serve twice as many days.

Meanwhile, more and more jurors ask to be excused from trials because they work for employers who do not pay them to perform jury service. Others are willing to serve, but reluctant to miss work or to inconvenience their employers. The silver lining is that our half-day trial schedule actually enhances patience and good humor among our jurors. Even if the trials take longer, the jurors really appreciate a schedule that lets them to go to work— or look for work — every morning and perform jury service in the afternoon.



Judge Thomas White

Judicial Perspective

Judge Jacqueline A. Connor, Santa Monica Courthouse, West District



There are lots of signs that the flagging economy is having an impact on the parties, the lawyers, and the efficiency of the general jurisdiction civil trial courts at every stage of our cases, from the initial filings to the jury trials.

I am seeing more and more parties filing weaker cases and making overreaching allegations. Parties who, in the past, might have filed their cases in small claims court or in limited jurisdiction courts (\$25,000 or less) are now showing up in general jurisdiction courtrooms. Creditors who used to spend time trying to work out payment plans with debtors are coming directly to court — even when the sums at issue are relatively small. In construction defect disputes, there are more subcontractors who have not been paid for their work.

We also have an increase in evictions and foreclosures and the commercial evictions involve a larger number of high-end properties. Although tenants have historically represented themselves in landlords' lawsuits for possession, we now have an increase in self-represented parties on both sides of the landlord-tenant cases. Cases that might have settled before trial are not settling these days. Insurance companies, for example, are taking much stronger positions in settlement negotiations and offering tighter counteroffers to plaintiffs' demands.

There also seem to be more cases of attorneys suing former clients for unpaid fees. I also sense an increase in the number of lawyers substituting out of cases and being replaced by new counsel, or by their former clients representing themselves — which suggests that clients are less willing to pay their attorneys or are shopping around for attorneys willing to work for less. Clients are not the only ones less willing to pay attorneys' fees. Law firms who sue clients or other parties are electing to represent themselves rather than spend money to hire independent counsel.

Meanwhile, lawyers in the cases that go to trial are scaling down expenses. Some are calling fewer expert witnesses in ostensible efforts to control costs, and others are playing videotaped depositions rather than paying transportation for out-of-town witnesses. The jurors called to serve in such cases are commonly "between jobs" or in tenuous positions with the jobs they have. These jurors are understandably sensitive about having their time wasted with frivolous cases or inefficient courts. While I have not seen a difference in verdicts, the people called in for jury duty are noticeably more skeptical about the lawyers, the parties, and the value of jurors' role in our system.

While the jurors demand more efficiency, the budget-imposed furlough days and reductions in staff only make us less efficient. I find, for example, that documents filed in the clerk's office take longer to reach the files in my courtroom. Although attorneys file their papers in the clerk's office on time, it can take days — if not weeks — before I have them to work on simply because the clerks who process the paperwork are flooded with filings. My staff is meanwhile inundated with phone calls from parties who call us directly when they can't get immediate answers from the clerk's office.

The Court's monthly furloughs are wreaking havoc on our courtroom calendars. The closure days are a killer because they create time crunches that impact my daily calendar — a calendar that includes 15-25 motion matters on top of jury and bench trials. To make matters worse, parties desperate to gain even a minor advantage are filing more motions than ever before. That means that I am forced to set motions and trials out farther and farther in time with fewer available dates.

With all of these pressures, employee morale is at an all time low, and I find that I feel more and more like Sisyphus as I push through my heavy case load day after day.



Judge Jacqueline A. Connor

Family Law

One of the areas of Court services hardest hit by the state's economy is family law. On the one hand, the number of new dissolution filings is down, suggesting that people are delaying or deferring filing a dissolution action because they cannot afford to get a divorce. On the other hand, the Court's overall workload has increased. With so many people experiencing a loss or reduction in income, there is an upsurge in requests to change custody and support orders.

The post-dissolution filings particularly requests to increase or decrease support — are coming in from the parties on both sides. Even a seemingly straightforward request — as when a wage earner loses his job and asks to reduce the amount of support he must pay — is not necessarily easy. Before making any decision, the Court must consider that person's ability to get a job and whether the individual has the opportunity to get a job in Los Angeles County — a county where the unemployment rate, as of September, was 12.7 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. If the wage earner happens to be a parent who wants to move out of state to find employment, the Court may also have to factor in the additional expense for visitation.

One reason why dissolution cases have become more complex is the reduction or elimination of home equity. Before the recession, parties counted on equity from the sale of the family home to pay for the services of an attorney and to help each spouse meet the expense of setting up an independent household. Resolving dissolution cases is difficult when the primary family asset is not a dependable source of funds and even more difficult when the parties have lost their homes to foreclosure or walked away from the burden of trying to meet the monthly payment. The issues are not any easier for litigants who are at or near the end of their employment cycle. With the recession, retirees' savings accounts, 401Ks, and retirement packages have declined or all but disappeared, further complicating the disposition of assets and support orders.

Indeed, it is the complexity of the issues that has dampened recent efforts to reexamine the enormous burden on the Court as it continues to function as the only impartial arbiter of all family law disputes. With difficult and sensitive issues such as child custody, co-parenting, paternity, dispute resolution, domestic violence, anger management, financial evaluation, and asset distribution, the Court continues to be the only forum available to help litigants fairly and finally resolve these disputes.

The family courts have managed to get the job done, in part, by relying on help from an array of government, grant, or community-funded service providers. Now, these entities are also feeling the pinch. For example, LASC's Parenting Without Conflict program was suspended as a result of staffing shortages. The Child Custody Evaluation program, which assists judicial officers by independently evaluating custody in high-conflict cases, has had to limit the number of referrals to its office.

With the service providers cutting back, and a growing workload for the family courts, it is not unusual for family law courtrooms to have 30 calendared matters per day. A typical family law case generates a constant stream of paperwork to be processed, including motions, orders, and judgments. In Los Angeles County, there are plenty of atypical cases—exceedingly complex financial matters that require years of litigation and voluminous documents and filings. Our Court has only one courtroom dedicated to hearing these complicated cases, however.



The problems are exacerbated because far fewer people can afford to hire a lawyer. While in the past, a large proportion of litigants would hire a family law attorney, many are opting to represent themselves or to hire attorneys only for discrete tasks. The presiding judge of family law has meanwhile had to cap the fees earned by attorneys appointed to represent minors in family law cases and limited the total amount they can charge per fiscal year.

When parties are unrepresented or under represented, the Court ends up doing more work. For example, when the Court cannot rely on attorneys to draft and serve its orders, the judicial officers and Court staff have to find time to do so. To make matters worse, the bad economy raises more complex issues in dissolution cases – issues that cry out for advice from knowledgeable family law attorneys. Meanwhile, the Court’s self-help centers are deluged with people asking for assistance in navigating their way through the procedures. The inevitable effect is to lengthen the time between an initial filing and a final decision by the Court. It is no surprise that the Court could not calendar dissolution cases filed in July until October – 12 to 14 weeks later.

Fee Waivers

Based on the first six months of 2009, the number of family law litigants asking the court to waive their obligation to pay Court fees on grounds of indigency is up nearly 40 percent over the previous year. During the same time period, parties in general civil cases increased their applications by a startling 250 percent, while limited jurisdiction civil fee waiver applications increased by 20 percent. In the Van Nuys East Courthouse, requests for fee waivers in small claims cases increased more than 50 percent over the previous year.

When the Court grants fee waivers, it allows a party to proceed without paying a wide variety of charges. For example, fee waivers in family law matters cover all filing, copying and certification fees. They also apply to court reporter fees, the services of deputies who serve notice, such as a restraining order, a court-appointed interpreter in small claims cases, and other party-notification charges. In civil cases, the fee waivers may also eliminate charges for Court-appointed experts, jury fees and expenses, Court-appointed interpreter fees, and fees for peace officers testifying in court.

To persuade a bench officer to waive Court fees, litigants must demonstrate that they are indigent. In family law, parties receiving public assistance or medical disability payments automatically qualify for a waiver. For other parties, household income is the determining factor. The explosive increase in waivers is powerful evidence of the growing number of indigent litigants who need services from the justice system.

Child Support Modifications

During 2009, the Family Law Facilitator's staff at Central Civil West Courthouse processed a threefold increase in applications to reduce monthly child-support payments. There is a tremendous increase in out-of-work and underemployed parents seeking lower child support and falling behind in their payments. Since there is no statute of limitations on child support matters, these matters remain open until a child reaches the age of 18.

The modification filings, interviews and inquiries are so numerous that the Facilitator's staff is almost under siege. Nearly every day, people with child support matters line up before the courthouse opens.

With 14 employees — two attorneys, 11 paralegals, one office assistant — CCW has the largest staff of the 12 Facilitator's locations in the county. It is not large enough, however, to help all of the nearly 100 litigants who arrive each day.

Thousands more telephone the county's Child Support Services Department. Between June and November, its call center staff assisted 5,630 people with support modifications — 2,435 of whom wanted a reduction.

In order to keep up with the burgeoning workload, the office drastically adjusted some procedures and streamlined its processes. Following a private interview, the facilitators now help litigants prepare support-modification and other documents in groups of three to six, a service-delivery change that both meets the demand and tries to avoid turning people away.

Another major change significantly benefits out-of-state litigants who may now receive assistance with preparing their legal forms by telephone and mail, instead of personally appearing for appointments. The Court has also accommodated out-of-area litigants by allowing them to appear at their child support hearings by telephone.

Litigants can now ask Facilitator staff questions about their case, such as how to pay their support obligations, how to request child support, or where to find procedures for a support modification via email through the Court's Internet site www.lasuperiorcourt.org

After locating the Family Law section, people may select "child support," then submit their questions after following the link.

Further changes allow the county's Child Support Services Department to evaluate litigants whose child-support is in arrears. Because the Family Law Facilitator's staff cannot give legal advice or represent parties in court, many people are referred to self-help legal information centers, to nonprofit legal providers, or to a lawyer.





Judicial Perspective

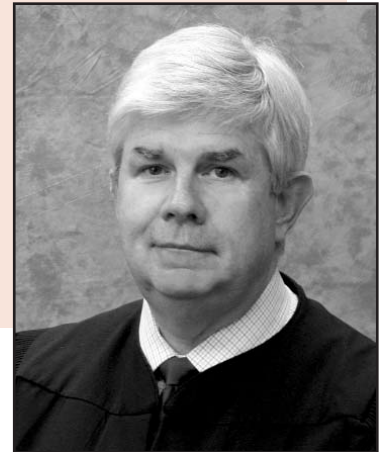
Commissioner Scott Gordon, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Central District

Over the past two years, the recession and its impact on the Court's budget have altered the character and volume of family law cases.

There is a marked increase in the number of litigants asking to modify spousal and child support orders either because they have lost their jobs, lost their business, or because their hours have been cut back.

At the same time, more and more litigants are representing themselves because they cannot afford to hire a lawyer. This puts a strain on the Court because the attorneys who used to guide parties through complex issues and serve as a buffer between antagonistic parties are no longer in the picture. Instead, people with no legal training are struggling to navigate through the system under highly contentious and potentially confrontational circumstances. The family home, which, until recently, had sufficient equity to finance the litigation and fund down payments and security deposits going forward, is often a millstone around the litigants' necks. In addition to complex issues involving division of property and income, the Court must routinely analyze the impact of foreclosures, bankruptcies and evictions. The upsurge in high conflict cases, alleged domestic violence, and children acting out, is potent evidence that the recession has put even more pressure on already distraught families. With money tight, there are fewer resources to deal with these sensitive issues.

For example, parents are not investing in expert custody evaluations, counseling or rehabilitation programs because they do not have the money to pay for them. The assistance available through Family Court Services, the self-help legal information centers and community-based organizations is meanwhile stretched to the limit.



Commissioner Scott Gordon

Challenges in Self-Help

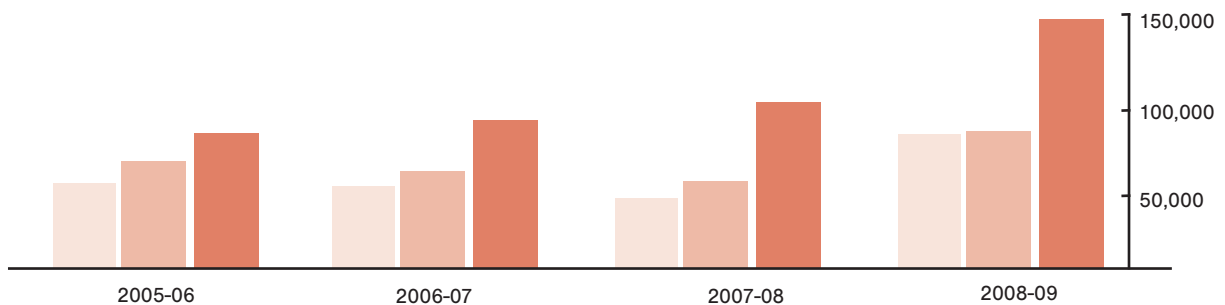
Although the vast majority of people serviced in the Court’s legal information resource centers are in low-income families, the self-help centers saw an increase in 2009 in the number of traditionally middle-income, and even higher-income customers asking for assistance. These are people who can no longer afford to hire an attorney because they have no cash flow, they've lost their savings, they've lost their jobs or had their income decreased. Since their mortgages are upside down, they have limited options for getting loans or to giving an attorney a lien against their property. So they are coming to Court self-help centers for information about how to represent themselves.

Over the past decade, the Court continuously worked with county supervisors and legal-assistance organizations to establish a countywide network of resource centers for self-represented litigants. Today there are 12 centers located in our Court facilities, one in each district, that are staffed by — often multilingual — attorneys, paralegals and volunteers who annually serve more than 200,000 litigants.

The need for legal information at the centers always outstrips its availability. Early in 2009, a new Resource Center for Self-Represented Litigants opened in the Pasadena Courthouse, and capacity crowds arrived within weeks. Although many were repeat customers, others came after hearing positive word-of-mouth support from litigants in family law matters, tenant-landlord actions, restraining orders or conservatorship petitions.

The centers offer free use of computers that link to self-help programs and Internet sites that include fill-in-the-blanks court forms. They also send targeted referrals to the Law Library to conduct legal research. The centers are stocked with some on-site California-code books and conduct free “how-to” workshops to teach litigants about courtroom decorum and how to prepare or respond to a legal pleading.

The newest self-help location is a small office in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse that deals primarily with civil harassment restraining orders and fee waiver applications, but also provides some guidance and referrals for small claims, tenant-landlord, and other civil matters, including writs of mandate and driver-license revocations. The modest facility, which opened in June and initially served 123 people, now serves more than 700 people a month who come to originate or respond to civil cases and get help from a staff paralegal who directs them to legal resources, law libraries, Internet sites, and sample filings that help them prepare and submit their legal documents.



Civil Case Filing Increases

- Unlawful Detainers
- General Civil (more than \$25,000 at issue)
- Limited Civil (less than \$25,000 at issue)

No Funds for Adoption Saturday

The Court's Adoption Saturday festivities, lauded and copied by other courts nationwide, are no more. After a decade of phenomenal success, the wildly popular event was "repurposed" last year, a high-profile victim of a weak economy.

Despite support from countless volunteers and generous in-kind and cash donations, the Court paid nearly \$10,000 to open the courts for each Saturday celebration. In 2009, the money necessary to cover staff overtime, security, building maintenance, and utilities for the courthouse and parking garage just wasn't there.

To save costs, the Court moved the Saturday ceremonies to a Friday, carefully working the dozens of final adoption ceremonies into a standard court day. Although held on a weekday, the event still featured multiple-adoption ceremonies at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park and garnered support from law firms and others in the legal community who continue to provide pro bono legal services to adopting families.

Despite the cutbacks, the Court's program continues to serve as a model of success. For the past six years, families nationwide celebrated National Adoption Day on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. In November more than 200 courts in all 50 states opened their doors to complete approximately 3,000 adoptions. In August, U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisiana led a 12-person congressional delegation, organized by the Washington, D.C.-based Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, to study Los Angeles County adoption and foster care programs. Their visit included public hearings, tours of foster-care facilities, interviews with past and present foster-care clients and an adoption proceeding at Children's Court.

Every year, the Children's Court accommodates nearly 4,000 adoptions. More than half of them involve Los Angeles County foster care children joining a permanent family. Since 1998, almost 25,000 foster care children have been adopted in Los Angeles County—more than twice the number adopted in all the years preceding 1998. It is a sign of the times that the Court cannot afford to conduct adoption festivities on Saturday – the day most convenient for the families and volunteers who participate.



Judge James K. Hahn, Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu, and a happy adopting family pose for photos.



Judicial Perspective

Judge Mary Thornton House
Assistant Supervising Judge, Civil Department

After five months managing the master calendar for limited civil, small claims and unlawful detainer cases in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, the civil department's assistant supervising judge processed a whopping 6,938 cases.

Her impressions? Small business and the people already most in need are taking the brunt.

Historically, small claims court was a fast and inexpensive way to recover up to \$7,500. With furlough days, staff reductions, and an increase in cases filed, small claims cases are anything but speedy. People depending on a quick settlement while living paycheck-to-paycheck may go broke before collecting their money.

On the other hand, even a modest judgment has an enormous impact on poor and low income workers. A \$150 debt is huge to someone who makes \$1,000 a month. Delays in reimbursement of a \$500 security deposit to an evicted tenant are equally devastating when the tenants have no money to make a security deposit on a new place.

Hourly workers who file lawsuits because they were cheated or because someone didn't pay back a debt are particularly at risk. They go out-of-pocket when they take time off work to attend court. If staff or courtroom shortages force the court to postpone the hearing, these litigants lose more income when they come back a second time and often risk jeopardizing their employment altogether.

On the other hand, employers — particularly small businesses — are feeling the pinch. The upsurge in bankruptcies and foreclosures has caused a steady demise in the number of viable small businesses. When small-business cases are delayed, there's a domino effect on other small business — the creditors and suppliers who are forced to settle for less than they're owed because they need the cash to stay afloat.

With the economy as it is, almost all civil litigants — even small claims filers — claim indigence and ask for a waiver of court fees, a request that usually requires a judicial determination. Although the applicants are genuinely needy, granting a fee waiver takes water out of a well that cannot be replenished. The court's base of income evaporates when customers can't pay for the services we provide.



Judge Mary Thornton House

Long Beach - New Construction Without New Expenditures

A new Long Beach Courthouse is on its way to a 2012 opening. The existing 1959 facility, described as “one of the worst courthouses in California” for its security and overcrowding problems, no longer accommodates its crushing caseload nor meets the physical and electronic standards required by 21st - century codes and customers.

This construction is possible as the result of a creative public-private partnership that does not require the State to advance funding. The approach was authorized in a bond initiative and state legislation that empowered the Administrative Office of the Courts to build and fund “critical” projects, and it deemed the Long Beach Courthouse one of them. It launched an exhaustive construction-preparation and site-selection process and helped engineer a successful land swap in which the current courthouse site was exchanged for a site owned by the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency.

Meanwhile, there was a parallel effort to design a state-of-the-art courthouse. The AOC invited major development and construction teams worldwide to submit credentials. The solicitation netted 12 responses, and three interdisciplinary teams were chosen for final consideration: Meridiam, based in Europe with a Long Beach office; Lankford-Phelps Long Beach Developers Infrastructure of San Diego; and Balfour Beatty, based in Europe with a San Francisco office.

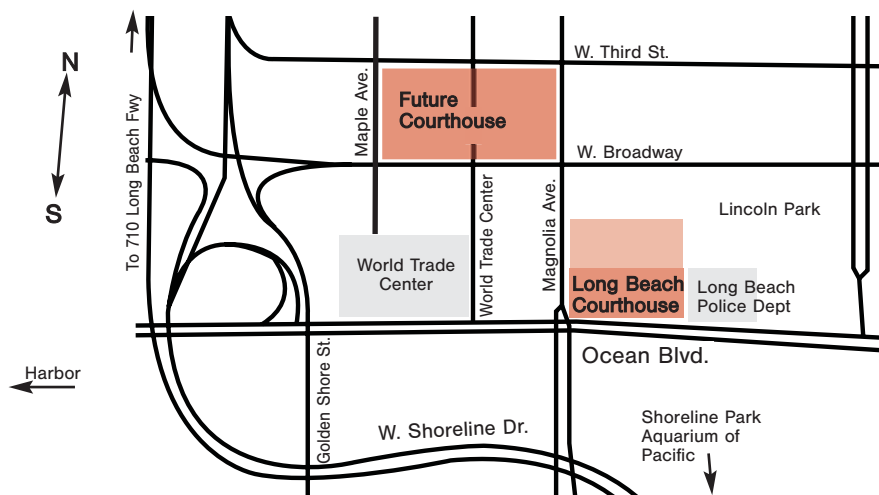
The selected developer will bundle the building’s design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance into one proposal and will be responsible for courthouse repairs, maintenance and construction corrections for 35 years.

The state’s obligation to repay the developer under a lease-back arrangement does not begin until after the courthouse is completed and occupied.

The new facility will be a multistory structure encompassing well over a half-million square feet, 31 civil and criminal courtrooms, secure holding areas for criminal defendants in custody, advanced security and screening equipment throughout the building and up to 10,000 square feet of retail shops. The courthouse parking garage will also be remodeled and upgraded.

Bike paths, pedestrian walkways, and other amenities will surround the building, which will occupy a now-vacant lot a few blocks from the present court building. The structure will be designed, built, operated, financed and maintained by a consortium to be announced early in 2010. Once occupied, the new courthouse will be operated in a lease-back arrangement between the Administrative Office of the Courts and the developer.

The Court has elicited input on courthouse design from members of the public and interest groups advocating for the mobility challenged, children, and elderly. With their input and state-of-the-art best practices in environmental design, energy conservation and financing the Court hopes to deliver a landmark building designed to blend with its surrounding community.





Judicial Perspective

Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Central District
Supervising Judge of Probate

I don't need to wait for periodic reports from various governmental agencies to measure the state of our economy. I see it almost every day in the microcosm of my courtroom.

In those heady days prior to the financial meltdown, whenever I would conduct a real property sale in Probate Court, I felt a bit like one of those fast-talking barnyard auctioneers. It was often a standing-room-only affair, and I was one step away from passing out bidding paddles to the myriad potential buyers.

You could count on multiple bidders in just about every sale of real property. Often, the auctions would only last a few minutes with as many as 15 prospective buyers scrambling to top one another in a dizzying series of escalating bids.

And then came last September and the music stopped. We all learned the name Bernie Madoff and held our collective breath as we watched our 401Ks take stomach-churning drops down the Wall Street roller coaster.

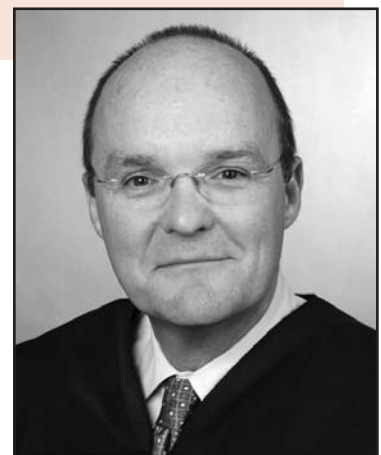
In the months following the collapse, I could probably count on one hand the number of real property sales or auctions I conducted. Quite simply, nobody was buying. Good thing I didn't print up those paddles.

Fast forward to today. I'm happy to report that from my wood-paneled perch in Department 5, I've noticed a bit of life coming back to real property sales. And while it's not in any way like the good old days, occasionally, four or five people might come forward as potential buyers at the auctions.

The return of real property buyers to the Probate Court confirms what I read in the newspaper: Our economic recovery is slow but occurring. It appears that people sense the real estate market has hit its bottom and credit markets are not as tight as they were one year ago.

Today, when I call a real property sale on my calendar, I am hopeful. I wait tentatively as individuals get out of their seats and approach my bench. I know that the more people I see, the better the overall economic situation for everyone.

Come to think of it, maybe I should print up those paddles, just in case.



Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff



Judicial Perspective

Commissioner Murray Gross, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Central District
Judgment debtor examiner

During post-judgment discovery proceedings in my courtroom, the judgment creditor (who already has a money judgment) questions the debtor or a third party about assets that may be seized to satisfy the judgment, when the debtor does not voluntarily pay the judgment.

More and more often, the small claims debtors state that they are not working, or their income has declined and they cannot pay their court-ordered judgment or to even make installment payments. Even when the parties reach an agreement, in which the debtor agrees to pay the judgment in full or in partial payments over time, judgment debtors increasingly fail to comply with their agreement.

Judicial Perspective

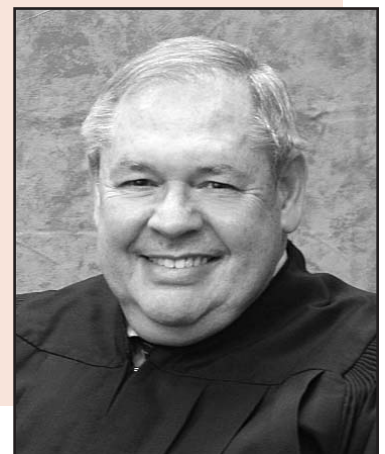
Commissioner William Dodson, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Central District

During the current economic crisis, landlords and property owners have been filing an ever-increasing number of cases for eviction. Many of these cases are based on nonpayment of rent, often the result of the tenant's unemployment. We also have seen more cases filed to evict prior owners after foreclosure, for failure to make timely payments on mortgages. As everyone knows, investors and lenders dealt in unrealistic adjustable rate mortgages, the bundled "sub-prime loans," which ultimately led to disaster when borrowers simply could not keep up with their payments.

Some of these post-foreclosure eviction cases result in the lender lawfully seeking eviction of innocent tenants who paid their rent, but whose landlords took off with what little money they had left when the lender foreclosed on the property. Other innocent tenants paid rent to criminals who posed as "the new owner" demanding payment.

In the past, many landlords were quick to evict even for late payment of rent, especially in the cities with rent-control ordinances: Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood. Now, most landlords are more reasonable about payments being a little late. It is much more difficult to find good tenants in this economic climate.

When necessary, the Court resolves these cases by trial. Nevertheless, as in other civil cases, most landlord-tenant cases are resolved by good-faith negotiation, rather than trial. So far, we have kept up with the increased volume, and hope to continue to do so.



Commissioner William Dodson

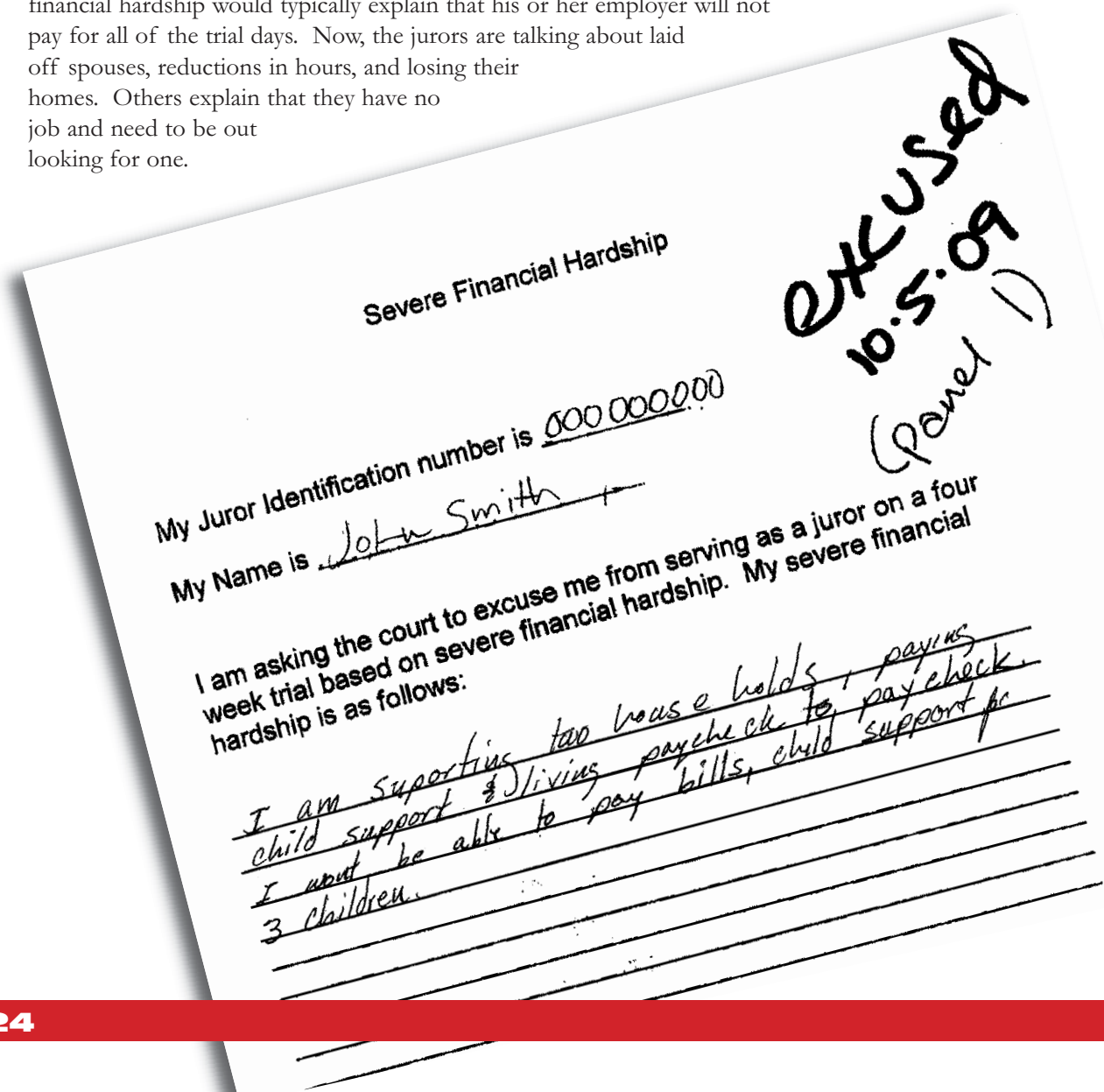
Juror Excuses Reflect the Economy

During Fiscal Year 2008-09, the Court mailed out 3,085,631 summons for jury service to prospective jurors in Los Angeles County. The Court excused 14,503 jurors from service based on severe financial hardship.

Excusing jurors for hardship is a difficult business in good economic times and in bad times. In fairness to other jurors, the Court has to verify that the financial hardship is genuine. In fairness to the litigants, the Court has to fulfill its obligation to make sure that the remaining pool of jurors represents an accurate cross-section of the population. The Court uses the federal poverty guidelines as a starting point for excusing some jurors. Jurors who are not excused on that basis may ask the judicial officer to excuse them. Most judges will not consider financial hardship in cases that are only estimated to last a few days. The judges who hear hardship requests make their decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Depending on the particular circumstances, the Court may excuse a juror or offer accommodations such as transferring the juror to a courthouse more conveniently located, assigning the juror to a shorter case, or postponing service to some time in the future.

Although the Court has no way of knowing how many hardship requests are directly tied to this recession, there is plenty of anecdotal evidence. Some judges have noticed that employers have cut back on the number of days they are willing to pay their employees who serve as jurors. Others have noticed a change in reasons why jurors ask to be excused. Historically, a juror claiming financial hardship would typically explain that his or her employer will not pay for all of the trial days. Now, the jurors are talking about laid off spouses, reductions in hours, and losing their homes. Others explain that they have no job and need to be out looking for one.



Online Juror Orientation

The Jury Division's online juror orientation program received the 2008-09 Ralph N. Kleps Award for its innovative improvement to jury service. The flexible program allows people called for jury service to trade a juror-orientation session in the assembly room for one taken online at home.

The online orientation consists of three videos, each incorporating an interactive quiz. If a juror enters a wrong answer, the correct one automatically appears on screen. Two videos are specific to the Los Angeles Superior Court system, and were written, produced, filmed and programmed in house. The third, "Ideals Made Real," is state-mandated and state-produced.

Some 800 jurors each month use the computer-based feature, and 10,000 prospective jurors a day report for service. The Jury Division is aggressively promoting it with a brochure inserted in every jury summons, and a verbal announcement about it accompanying each voice response for jurors as they call in to register.

A brief online, refresher orientation is also planned for jurors who repeat their service within a short period of time. Additional benefits will include a direct courtroom assignment, bypassing the assembly room check in and further reductions in jurors' first-day time commitment.

Jurors may participate in a short consumer survey, and comments are used to refine the program.



2009

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Number of Summonses Mailed | 3,085,631 |
| Jurors Qualified to Serve..... | 1,089,405 |
| Average Days Served..... | 1.39 Days |
| Jurors Excused for Financial Hardship..... | 14,503 |
| <small>(Statistics on total number of financial hardship requests are not available)</small> | |



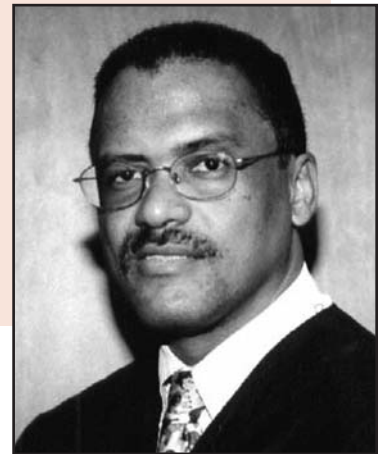
Judicial Perspective

Judge Kelvin D. Filer, Compton Courthouse, South Central District

As the financial situation and employment numbers have gone down, I have noticed that more potential jurors say that they are “presently unemployed” or “currently between jobs.” Many explain that they are actively interviewing for jobs or that they are waiting to hear back on job applications. The pleasant surprise is that the vast majority of these jurors do not raise their unemployment as a reason to be excused from jury service!

My response is always to offer to accommodate them. I invite them to give out the courtroom telephone number so that we can relay any messages; I offer to modify my start/stop times so that they can get to an interview on time; I also volunteer to write a short letter or make a telephone call to explain that the juror is serving in my courtroom and how very much we need his or her participation. I tell the jurors about these accommodations at the outset. Even though the litigants, attorneys, and the other jurors stand to be inconvenienced if we have to accommodate someone’s job interview, no one has raised an eyebrow, let alone objected or complained.

So, my observation is that our citizens — those assigned to jury service at the Compton Courthouse — recognize and make every effort to fulfill their civic obligations even when, on a personal level, times are tough. It is heartening to see that everyone else in the courtroom appreciates their situation and is more than happy to help.



Judge Kelvin D. Filer

Increase in Criminal and Traffic Cases

Traffic and misdemeanor cases are on the rise. For the second straight year, the increase in misdemeanors and traffic infractions overshadowed the decline in felonies and other violent crimes. With the economic downturn straining municipal budgets, the various cities located in Los Angeles county are turning up the heat on traffic offenders. Citations for traffic infractions have jumped by more than 150,000 since Fiscal Year 2007-08, topping 1.83 million citations. There is a similar pattern for misdemeanors, which grew by 20,000, to almost 490,000 cases.

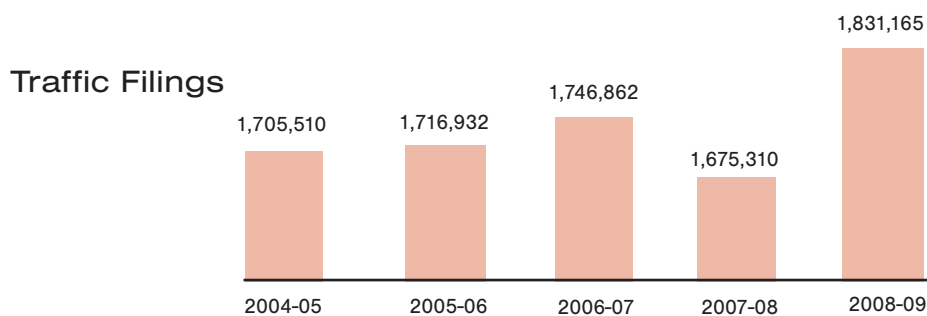
The increase is county-wide. For example, in the East Los Angeles Courthouse, traffic cases increased from 28,000 in 2007 to 46,000 last year. The number will grow even more as the courthouse takes on citations for unpaid fares on the new Metro Gold Line extension to East Los Angeles. In East Los Angeles, the misdemeanor filings went up by 56 percent from 2007 to 2008, with no signs of slowing in 2009. To keep up with the volume, the East Los Angeles court has had to take drastic measures, even recruiting high school student volunteers to help with clerical tasks.

There were similar increases in the Compton Courthouse, which had a 9 percent increase in misdemeanor filings, and the Pomona North Courthouse, where there was an 18 percent increase in misdemeanors, in 2009.

The unfortunate combination of increased filings and fewer court staff adds up to significant delays. In three courthouses — Metropolitan in Los Angeles, Glendale and West Covina — the first available date for traffic arraignments is six months down the line, with traffic trial dates stretching even farther into the future. East Los Angeles, Inglewood, Pasadena and San Fernando are similarly backlogged, setting arraignments at five months, heading for six. These delays affect the drivers who contest their tickets as well as the drivers who admit fault and agree to pay the fine. The latter may queue for hours in extremely long lines alongside other people waiting to make payments, file documents, or apply to expunge their records.

Meanwhile, the proportion of offenders who admit fault and ask to perform community service in lieu of paying the fines has also increased. From January to October, more than 40,000 people signed up with the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles, the agency that assigns most of the court-referred volunteers to work — a 20 percent increase over the same period in 2008.

Increases in crimes such as loitering and drug use, which are often committed by long-term homeless people or chronic substance abusers, are particularly problematic because the offenses are only part of the problem. The specialty courts — e.g., drug court, homeless court and women’s re-entry court — are designed to reduce recidivism. Their enrollment is limited, however, and they require frequent court appearances and strict judicial supervision to achieve long-term rehabilitation of once-habitual offenders. The mandatory hearings, which play a key role in the support system so essential to rehabilitation and reduced recidivism, are labor intensive and particularly vulnerable to budget cuts.



What is the Breaking Point?

Californians have seen Court and traffic fees and fines continue to rise for several years now. Many have asked, at what point does the amount of these fees and fines become regressive? That is to say, is it possible that less money is collected based on the public's inability to pay higher costs?

The Los Angeles Superior Court is not a 'collection agency' nor is it in the collection business. When a party fails to pay a fine or fee as required, the matter is promptly referred to Gulf Coast (GC) Services – a collection agency with whom the County of Los Angeles contracts to collect unpaid sums.* The Court administers that contract. Money collected by GC Services is turned over to the Court. The Court subsequently distributes all recovered funds to the state, county, cities and special funds as mandated by law.

The majority of cases referred to GC Services are traffic matters, while other cases involve criminal matters, family law matters, and even juror sanctions. Perhaps not surprisingly, the highest rate of collection comes from the traffic cases, probably because a person's driver's license can be suspended for failure to pay fees and fines that result from a traffic citation.

GC Services works to collect debt that has been owed for several years. With respect to outstanding debt, GC Services has a gross** recovery rate of almost 79%.

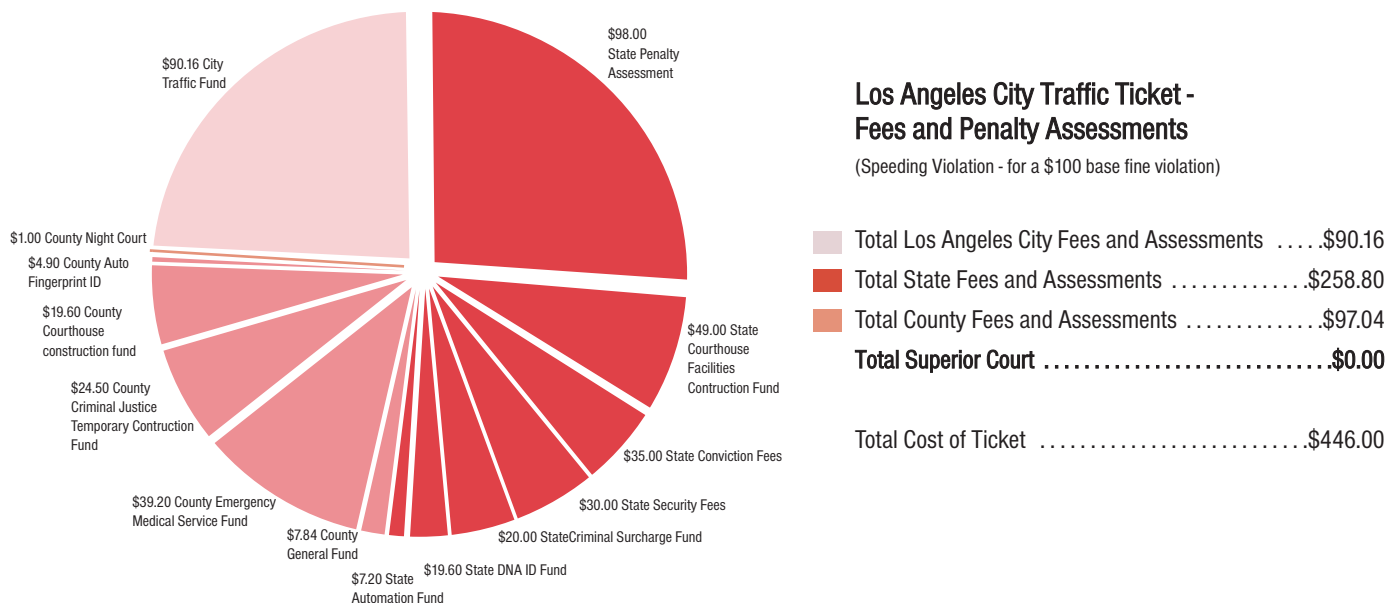


*Secondary collection efforts are performed by the Franchise Tax Board Court Ordered Debt Collections Bureau and Tax Intercept program.

**Gross Recovery refers to both dollars collected by GC Services directly and adjustments made by court order pursuant to a court appearance following default.

Total Gross Collections in Fiscal Year 2008-2009: **\$91,264,772**

Traffic Violations: Where the Money Goes





Judicial Perspective

Judge Graciela Freixes, Santa Clarita Courthouse, North Valley District
Site Judge

To say that this year has been a challenge in my courtroom doesn't even begin to describe the situation I encountered every day I came to work.

On the one hand, I see people who committed crimes but have no money to pay the fines and fees, and on the other hand I see victims who have sustained severe damages and are not getting compensated because the defendant is out of work and without income.

I begin most mornings with 60 to 95 traffic arraignments, followed by about 40 criminal matters encompassing both misdemeanors and felonies. In about 90 percent of the traffic cases, the defendants ask to be sentenced to community service because they can't afford to pay the fines, fees and penalty assessments. The other 10 percent request an extension so they can come up with the money. But three months later, these defendants are back in my courtroom asking to perform community service because they couldn't generate enough cash to fulfill their obligations. In sum, hardly anybody is paying traffic tickets nowadays, and we have no choice but to give them an alternative sentence instead.

Here in Santa Clarita, I have also seen exponential growth in the number of unlawful detainer cases—landlords suing tenants for possession of property after nonpayment of rent. Banks are foreclosing on houses and the people who lose their homes are refusing to vacate the property. The homeowners say that they have no place to go because they can't afford to pay their mortgage or pay rent, while banks say they need to gain possession so that they can put the homes up for sale. It's a sad story that we hear and have to decide over and over again.

Our Court calendars are as heavy as they can be. We are seeing more and more crimes suggesting that people are desperate. Cases for possession of methamphetamines increased substantially in 2009.

Home burglaries and petty theft numbers are at an all-time high. The facts suggest that people are breaking into houses in nice neighborhoods during the day to steal anything they can.

Recently I had a case where the public defender argued that his client was caught stealing food from the local market to feed her children. Although the defendant seemed desperate and was not stealing frivolous things, it is our job to enforce the law and preserve order even in the worst of times.

Overall, I have sensed a lot of hopelessness in the community. It's a very frustrating situation that sometimes plays like a scene from a movie about the Great Depression.



Judge Graciela Freixes



Judicial Perspective

Judge Gail Ruderman Feuer, Metropolitan Courthouse, Central District
Assistant Supervising Judge, Criminal Department

The recession is straining our misdemeanor courts to the limits and confounding our capacity to deter and rehabilitate offenders. With people out of work, we see an increase in petty thefts, alcohol related offenses, and other misdemeanor crimes. These cases fill our courtrooms and make our calendars busier than ever. Our traffic cases are also surging. Money is so tight that defendants who would once have paid their traffic fines are coming to court to plead not guilty or go to trial, hoping for a dismissal or acquittal.

In the Metro courthouse, this makes for an increase in traffic cases just as, for budgetary reasons, we have had to cut night court traffic courts from once a week to twice a month, forcing people to miss work and lose money just to make a court appearance.

Many defendants are shocked by amount of additional fees, penalties, assessments, and restitution that they must pay, on top of their fines. For example, defendants who take responsibility and seek rehabilitation for domestic violence and alcoholism are surprised that they have to pay the enrollment costs for court-ordered rehabilitation classes and programs. In domestic violence cases, the law requires offenders to complete a 52-week anger management program. Although defendants who complete the program are often genuinely grateful to learn the life-changing skills and techniques for avoiding violence, they have to pay \$15 to \$25 for each weekly class.

If a defendant fails to pay, the program expels the defendant and notifies the Court that he or she is in violation of probation for failure to attend. The Court has no discretion to waive these fees because they are charged by the businesses conducting the programs. If a defendant violates his probation, the Court's only option is to impose additional jail time. In a bad economy, more defendants end up doing jail time because they cannot afford the rehabilitative classes. This sets up a vicious cycle of recidivism that impacts the victims, the Court, and the defendants.

The fines and fees for petty theft and other misdemeanors pose a similar conundrum. Although the Penal Code specifies the fine for each misdemeanor, the state has augmented the fines over the years by adding additional fees called "penalty assessments." Nowadays, the penalty assessments far exceed the underlying fines. For example, the fine for a first-time conviction for driving under the influence (DUI) is \$340 but the total due in fines plus penalty assessments comes to about \$1,200.

Misdemeanor defendants can opt to perform community service — or highway maintenance — in lieu of paying the fines. But, there is no way to work off the other fees, which must be paid in cash. A sympathetic judge may extend the time to pay, but if the defendant misses the deadline, the judge has only two alternatives. Either the Court must send the debt to a collection agency (which impacts the defendant's credit) or sentence the defendant to jail time in lieu of the fine (which impacts the defendant's ability to earn money and support his or her family). These alternatives may well encourage, rather than deter, another cycle of thefts and recidivism.

Misdemeanants are not the only ones showing strain in this economy. So many prospective jurors are out of work these days that instead of asking, "How are you employed?" I ask, "What kind of work have you performed now, or in the past?" Ironically, the recession is having a positive effect on some jurors' willingness to serve.

The \$15-a-day juror fee does not sound so bad.



Judge Gail Ruderman Feuer

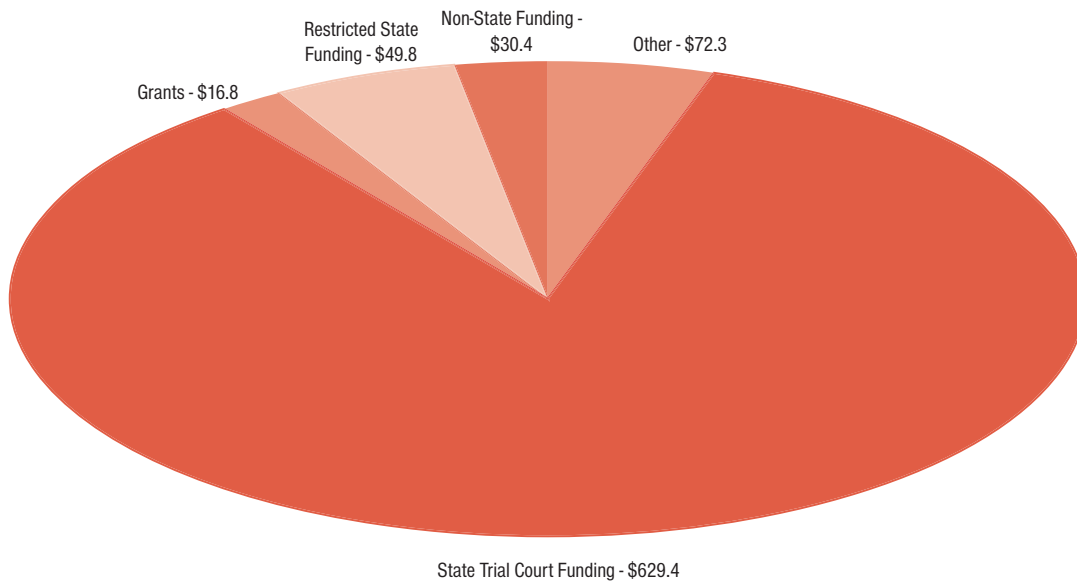
Use of Resources



Fiscal Year 2009-10 (allocated)
Total Budget \$798.7 Million

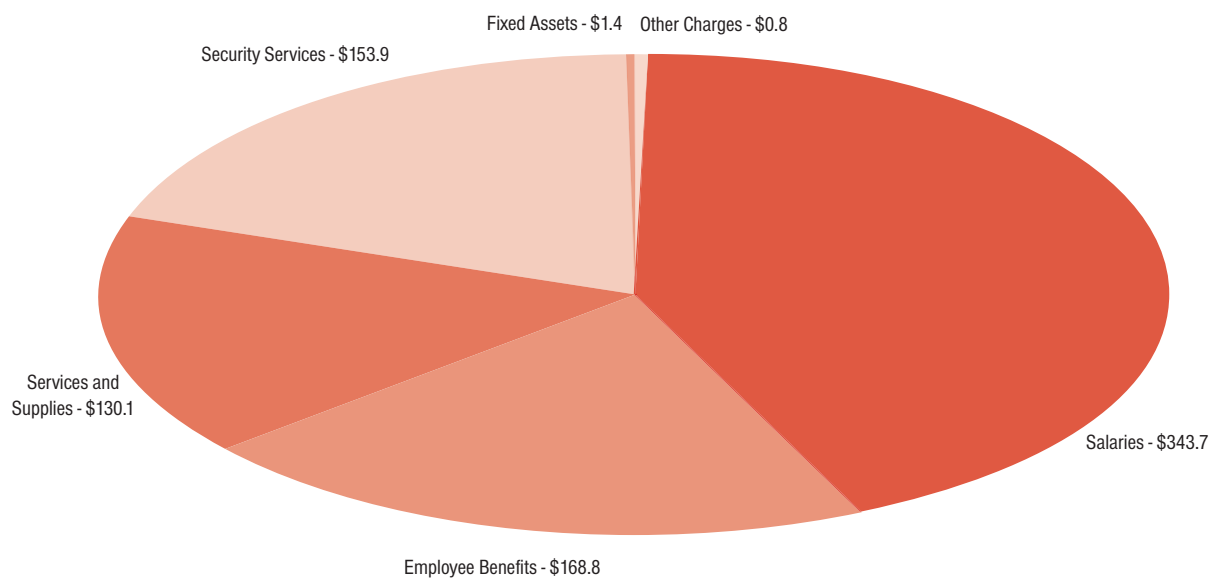
Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



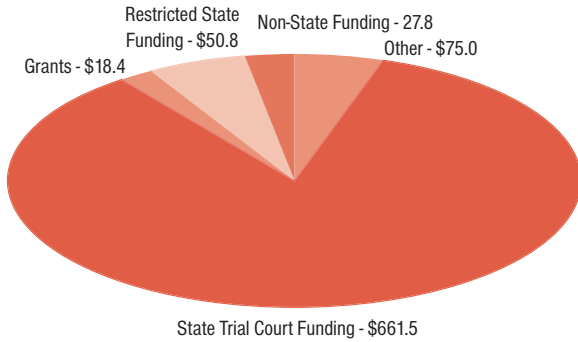
2009-10 Expenditures (allocated)

(All figures are in millions of dollars)

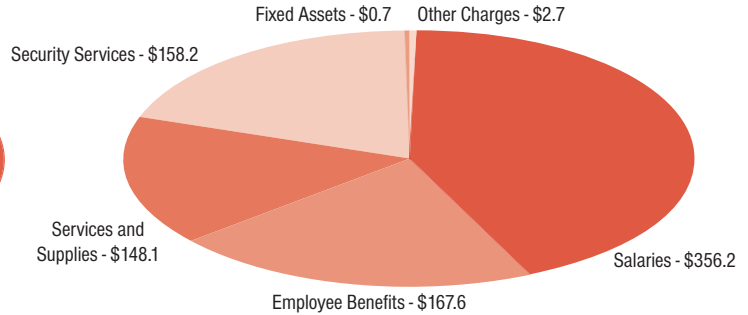


**Fiscal Year 2008-09
Total Budget \$833.5 Million**

Revenues

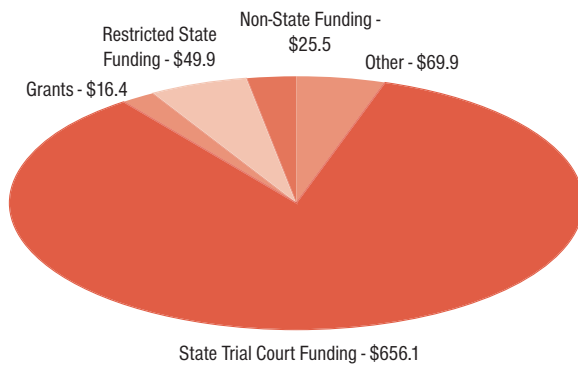


2008-09 Expenditures

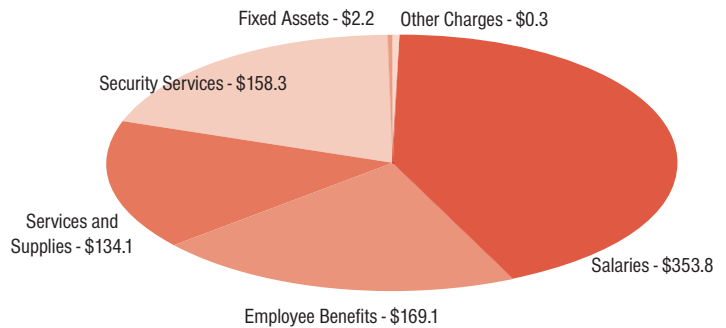


**Fiscal Year 2007-08
Total Budget \$817.7 Million**

Revenues



2007-08 Expenditures



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 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 collection of Civil Assessment fines Monitoring and interest earned from cash on deposit
- *Non-State Funding*— City and County-provided funding for Court Reporters and other restricted special revenue funds

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 | 447 |
| Commissioners | 119 |
| Referees | 28 |
| Total Courtrooms Operated | 594 |
| Employees | 5400 |

50 Courthouses and Other Facilities

Annual Case Filings Summary • Fiscal Year 2008-09

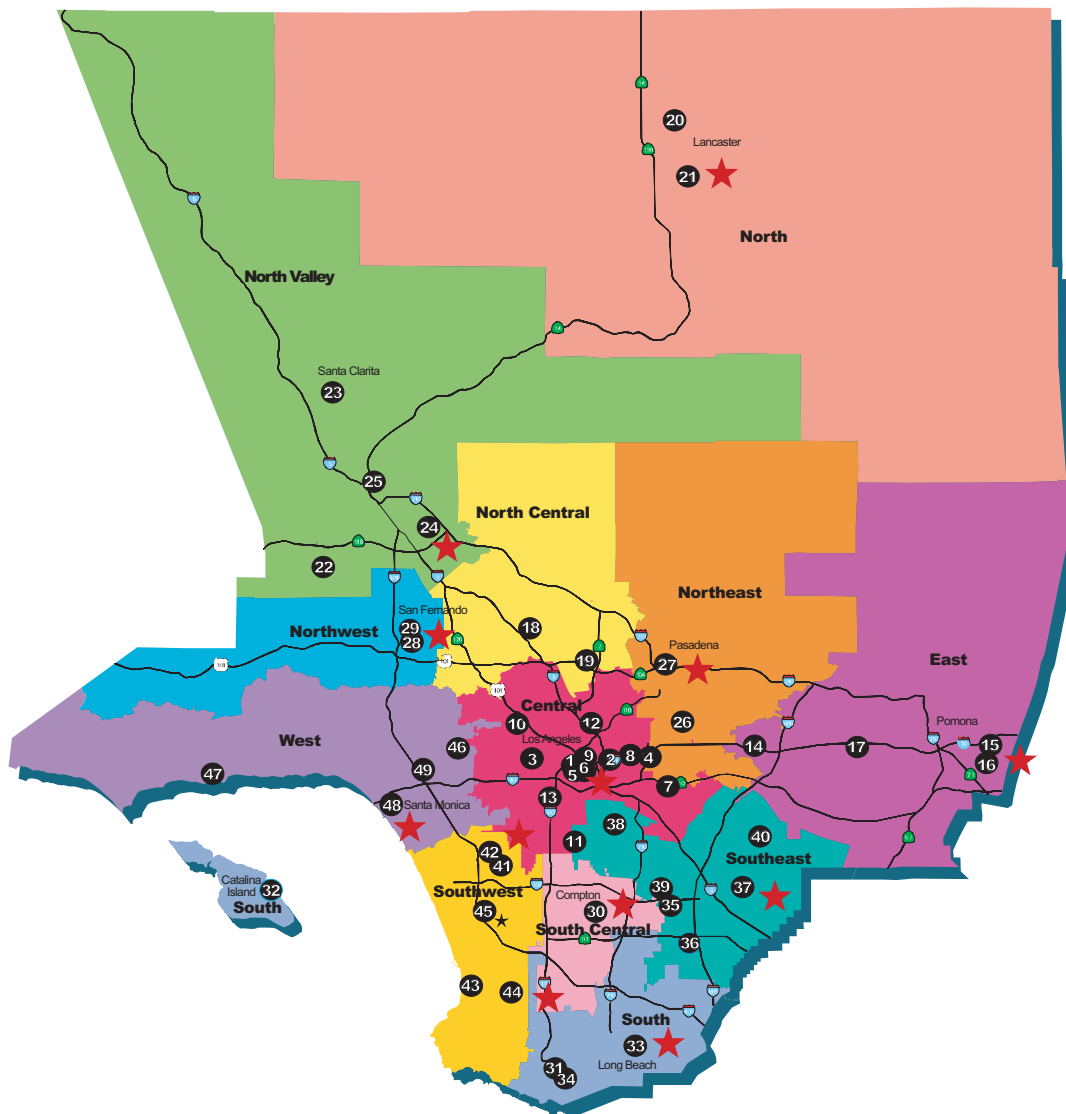
| | |
|---|-----------|
| Civil General | 74,862 |
| Civil Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 147,515 |
| Unlawful Detainers | 74,420 |
| Small Claims | 78,771 |
| Felony | 60,277 |
| Misdemeanor | 488,097 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity and Legal Separation) | 91,244 |
| Juvenile Dependency | 19,416 |
| Juvenile Delinquency | 31,770 |
| Informal Juvenile and Traffic | 128,410 |
| Mental Health | 2,288 |
| Probate | 10,421 |
| Traffic Infractions | 1,828,986 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 96,678 |
| Appellate | 1,217 |
| Habeas Corpus | 2,522 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Jury Trials • Fiscal Year 2008-09 | 5,620 |
| Juror Summonses Mailed | 3,085,631 |
| Jurors Qualified | 1,089,405 |
| Average Days Served | 1.39 |

Alternative Dispute Resolution • Fiscal Year 2008-09

| | |
|---|--------|
| Total Cases Referred | 17,508 |
| Civil Mediation | 15,459 |
| Civil Neutral Evaluation | 103 |
| Retired Judge Settlement Conference Program | 57 |
| Civil Harassment Mediation | 74 |
| Voluntary Settlement Conference Program | 386 |
| Family Law Non-Custody | 803 |
| Probate Mediation and Settlement Conference | 148 |

Districts, Courthouses and Self-Help Centers



Central

County Records Center1

Central Arraignment Court2

Central Civil West3

Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Court4

Stanley Mosk Courthouse5

Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center6

East Los Angeles Courthouse7

Eastlake Juvenile Court8

Hall of Records9

Hollywood Courthouse10

David V. Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center11

Mental Health Courthouse12

Metropolitan Courthouse13

East District

El Monte Courthouse14

Pomona Courthouse, North15

Pomona Courthouse, South16

West Covina Courthouse17

North Central

Burbank Courthouse18

Glendale Courthouse19

North

Lancaster Juvenile Justice Center20

Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse21

North Valley

Chatsworth Courthouse22

Santa Clarita Courthouse23

San Fernando Courthouse24

San Fernando Juvenile Court25

Northeast

Alhambra Courthouse26

Pasadena Courthouse27

Northwest

Van Nuys Courthouse, East28

Van Nuys Courthouse, West29

South Central

Compton Courthouse30

South

Beacon Street Courthouse31

Catalina Courthouse32

Long Beach Courthouse33

San Pedro Courthouse34

Southeast

Downey Courthouse35

Bellflower Courthouse36

Norwalk Courthouse37

Huntington Park Courthouse38

Whittier Courthouse39

Los Padrinos Juvenile Court40

Southwest

Inglewood Courthouse41

Inglewood Juvenile Court42

Redondo Beach Courthouse43

Torrance Courthouse44

West

Airport Courthouse*45

Beverly Hills Courthouse46

Malibu Courthouse47

Santa Monica Courthouse48

West Los Angeles Courthouse49

* Geographically located in Southwest District

★ Self-Help Center Locations

District Summaries

Presiding Judge: Charles W. “Tim” McCoy Jr., 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: Mitchell L. Beckloff
 Civil: Elihu M. Berle
 Appellate: Patti Jo McKay
 Criminal: Peter Espinoza
 Juvenile: Michael Nash

Central District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
 Children’s Waiting Room
 Small Claims Night Court
 Clerk’s Speakers Bureau
 Courthouse Tours
 Document Imaging (Civil Unlimited Cases/Probate)
 Drug Court
 Early Disposition Court
 Sexually Violent Predator Hearings
 Family Law Court Outreach and *Pro Per* Day
 Los Angeles County Homeless Court Program (LACHCP)
 Mock Trial Program
 New Attorney Walk-Thru Program
 Parents and Children Together (PACT)
 Teen Court
 Resource Center for Self-Represented Litigants
 JusticeCorps
 Homeless Alternatives to Living On the Streets (HALO)

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|--|---------|
| Civil - General..... | 31,227 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 28,755 |
| Civil Harassments..... | 2,581 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation) | 55,407 |
| Felonies | 20,034 |
| Misdemeanors..... | 156,898 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions..... | 22,179 |
| Probate..... | 6,109 |
| Small Claims..... | 16,432 |
| Traffic Infractions | 450,559 |
| Unlawful Detainers | 19,544 |
| Mental Health | 2,288 |

East District

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

Supervising Judge

Daniel Buckley

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|--|--------|
| Civil - General..... | 3,998 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 17,105 |
| Small Claims | 7,606 |
| Unlawful Detainers..... | 6,040 |
| Felonies..... | 4,261 |
| Misdemeanors | 54,350 |

| | |
|---|---------|
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation)..... | 4,304 |
| Juvenile Delinquency..... | 2,919 |
| Probate | 591 |
| Traffic Infractions | 187,276 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 2,847 |

East District Court Programs

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

North District

Supervising Judge

Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse

Thomas R. White

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|---|--------|
| Civil - General | 1,879 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 6,711 |
| Small Claims | 2,094 |
| Unlawful Detainers..... | 4,699 |
| Felonies..... | 3,933 |
| Misdemeanors | 21,749 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation)..... | 2,720 |
| Juvenile Delinquency..... | 2,044 |
| Probate | 263 |
| Traffic Infractions | 63,743 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 1,947 |
| Juvenile Dependency..... | 1,345 |

North District Court Programs

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

North Central District

Supervising Judge

Burbank Courthouse
 Glendale Courthouse

Mary Thornton House

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|---|--------|
| Civil - General..... | 3,707 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)..... | 6,144 |
| Small Claims | 2,965 |
| Unlawful Detainers..... | 1,514 |
| Felonies..... | 1,247 |
| Misdemeanors | 11,875 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation)..... | 2,320 |
| Traffic Infractions..... | 63,884 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 970 |

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

Supervising Judge

Chatsworth Courthouse
Santa Clarita Courthouse
San Fernando Courthouse

Robert J. Schuit

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|--|---------|
| Civil - General | 3,791 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 12,604 |
| Small Claims | 6,839 |
| Unlawful Detainers..... | 6,137 |
| Felonies..... | 3,301 |
| Misdemeanors | 42,637 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation) | 3,177 |
| Traffic Infractions | 198,060 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 2,315 |

North Valley District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Tierra Del Sol Volunteers
Domestic Violence Clinic
Teen Court
A Day on the Bench
Family Law Mediator Luncheon
Judge's Night
Cal State Student Extern Program
Paralegal Internship Program
Courthouse Tours
Volunteer/Intern Program
Vountary Settlement Conference Program
Mock Trials
Every 15 Minutes Program

Northeast District

Supervising Judge

Alhambra Courthouse
Pasadena Courthouse

Mary Thornton House

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|---|---------|
| Civil - General | 3,106 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 7,834 |
| Small Claims | 3,427 |
| Unlawful Detainers..... | 2,176 |
| Felonies..... | 2,567 |
| Misdemeanors | 16,872 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation)..... | 2,340 |
| Juvenile Delinquency..... | 1,627 |
| Probate..... | 678 |
| Traffic Infractions | 103,549 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 4,834 |

Northeast District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Volunteer Courthouse Docent Program
Mock Trial Program
Teacher's Courthouse Seminar
Domestic Violence Clinics
Community Justice Council Meetings
Jury Docent Program
Teen Court
Drug Court

Northwest District

Supervising Judge

Van Nuys Courthouse East
Van Nuys Courthouse West

Richard Kirschner

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|--|---------|
| Civil - General..... | 6,130 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 15,661 |
| Small Claims..... | 8,851 |
| Unlawful Detainers | 8,658 |
| Felonies..... | 3,489 |
| Misdemeanors..... | 30,717 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation) | 3,776 |
| Probate..... | 838 |
| Traffic Infractions..... | 115,346 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions..... | 4,299 |

Northwest District Court Programs

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

South Central District

Compton Courthouse

Supervising Judge

John J. Cheroske

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|---|--------|
| Civil - General | 2,269 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims)..... | 5,967 |
| Small Claims | 2,722 |
| Unlawful Detainers..... | 3,027 |
| Felonies..... | 6,550 |
| Misdemeanors | 15,148 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation)..... | 2,938 |
| Juvenile Delinquency..... | 1,294 |
| Probate..... | 153 |
| Traffic Infractions..... | 65,861 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions..... | 32,462 |

South Central District Court Programs

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

South District

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

Supervising Judge

Arthur Jean

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|--|---------|
| Civil - General | 3,717 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 9,042 |
| Small Claims | 4,996 |
| Unlawful Detainers | 5,634 |
| Felonies | 4,131 |
| Misdemeanors | 42,326 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation) | 3,948 |
| Juvenile Delinquency | 1,732 |
| Probate | 535 |
| Traffic Infractions | 104,797 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 11,044 |

South District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
Self-Help Legal Access Center
Guardianship Clinic
Kid's Place - Children's Waiting Room
Domestic Violence Clinic
Free Divorce Workshops
JusticeCorps
Drug Court
Short-Stop Teen Intervention Program
Courthouse Tours

Southeast District

Bellflower Courthouse
Downey Courthouse
Huntington Park Courthouse
Whittier Courthouse
Norwalk Courthouse

Supervising Judge

Raul A. Sahagun

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|--|---------|
| Civil - General | 4,120 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 16,241 |
| Small Claims | 8,707 |
| Unlawful Detainers | 6,333 |
| Felonies | 3,467 |
| Misdemeanors | 34,158 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation) | 5,034 |
| Probate | 466 |
| Traffic Infractions | 133,945 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions | 3,648 |

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

2008-09 Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|---|---------|
| Civil - General..... | 4,026 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 9,689 |
| Small Claims | 5,094 |
| Unlawful Detainers..... | 4,783 |
| Felonies..... | 3,525 |
| Misdemeanors | 26,653 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation)..... | 3,453 |
| Probate | 469 |
| Traffic Infractions | 106,126 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions..... | 1,716 |

Southwest District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
 Self-Help Legal Access Center
 Domestic Violence Center
 JusticeCorps
 Drug Court
 Court Docent Program

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..... | 6,892 |
| Civil - Limited (excluding Small Claims) | 11,742 |
| Small Claims | 9,038 |
| Unlawful Detainers | 5,875 |
| Felonies | 3,772 |
| Misdemeanors | 34,714 |
| Family Law (includes Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation) | 1,827 |
| Probate | 319 |
| Traffic Infractions | 235,800 |
| Non-Traffic Infractions..... | 8,417 |

West District Court Programs

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
 Self-Help Legal Access Center
 Homeless Court
 Drug Court
 Children's Waiting Room
 Domestic Violence Clinic
 Courthouse Tours
 Jury Room Business Center
 Juror Docent Program
 Small Claims Mediation Program

Juvenile Court

Presiding Judge

Alfred J. McCartney 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

Michael Nash

Authorized Judicial Positions

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Judges | 20 |
| Commissioners | 15 |
| Assigned Referees | |
| Juvenile | 14 |
| Informal Juvenile | 14 |

2008-09 Dependency Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Total Dependency | 19,416 |
| New, Reactivated Petitions | 10,023 |
| Subsequent Petitions | 3,281 |
| Supplemental Petitions | 6,112 |

2008-09 Delinquency Annual Case Filings Summary

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Total Delinquency | 31,770 |
| New, Reactivated Petitions | 22,520 |
| Subsequent Petitions | 9,103 |
| Supplemental Petitions | 147 |

2008-09 Informal Juvenile and Traffic Summary

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Filings | 128,410 |
|---------------|---------|

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) 974-6350
- 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 to State Developmental Centers.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- information line:(323) 226-2908
- Mental health counselors information line(323) 226-2911

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 to State Developmental Centers.

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- information line:(323) 226-2908
- Mental health counselors information line(323) 226-2911

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

- misdemeanors, nontraffic infractions

CAN WE HELP YOU?

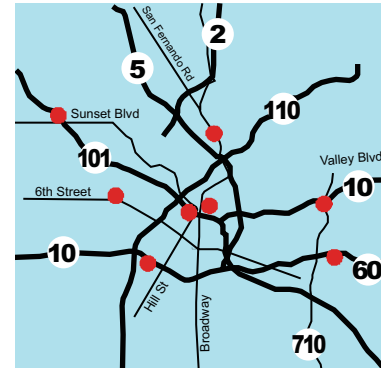
- information line:(323) 856-5747

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, (323) 780-2086
- juror services:(323) 780-2029
- Sheriff's office(323) 780-2026



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) 226-2853

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 Courthouse, 110 Regent St., Inglewood, CA 90301

- juvenile delinquency

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile delinquency:(310) 419-5268

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

- juvenile delinquency

CAN WE HELP YOU?

- juvenile delinquency:(562) 940-8824

Sylmar Juvenile Courthouse, 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
- Sheriff's Office(626) 575-4180
- 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
- Sheriff's Office(909) 620-3230

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?

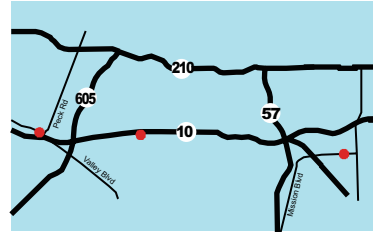
- civil/family law/probate:(909) 620-3107
- felonies:(909) 620-3041
- juvenile delinquency:(909) 620-3037
- juvenile traffic:(909) 620-3116
- juror services:(909) 620-3045
- Sheriff's Office(909) 620-3230

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
- Sheriff's Office(626) 813-3255



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?

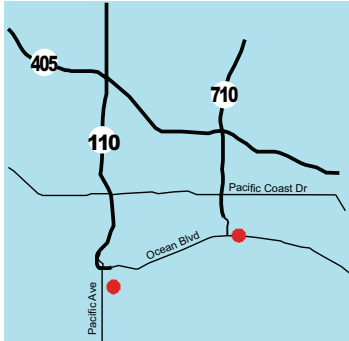
- civil/family law:(818) 557-3482
- small claims:(818) 557-3461
- felonies/misdemeanors:(818) 557-3466
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juror services:(818) 557-3471
- Sheriff's Office(818) 557-3490

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) 557-3577
- Sheriff's Office(818) 500-3527



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?

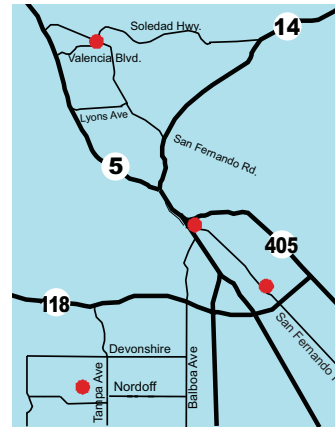
- small claims:(818) 898-2425
- felonies/misdemeanors:(818) 898-2407
- family law/civil harassment TROs:(818) 898-2664
- traffic:(213) 742-1884
- juror services:(818) 898-2527
- Sheriff's Office(818) 898-2436

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?

- limited civil/domestic violence TROs:(661) 253-7313
- small claims:(661) 253-7311
- felonies/misdemeanors(661) 253-7384
- traffic:(213) 742-6648
- juror Services(661) 253-7317
- Sheriff's Office(661) 253-7334



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?

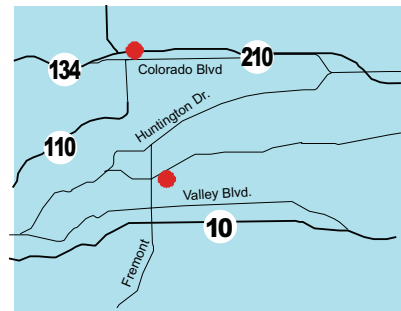
- limited civil/unlawful detainers:(626) 308-5521
- felonies/misdemeanors:(626) 308-5525
- traffic:(213) 742-1928
- juror services:(626) 308-5180
- Sheriff's Office(626) 308-5311

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?

- limited civil(626) 356-5415
- unlimited civil(626) 356-5689
- felony(626) 356-5695
- misdemeanors(626) 356-5254 or (626) 356-5255
- traffic(213) 742-1928
- juvenile delinquency(626) 356-5757 or (626) 356-5255
- alternate dispute resolution(626) 356-5685
- juror services(626) 356-5644 or (626) 356-5645



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?

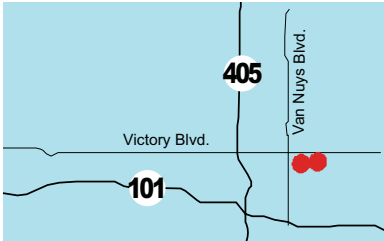
- limited civil/unlawful detainers:(818) 374-2904
- unlimited civil/family law/probate:(818) 374-2208
- small claims:(818) 374-2901
- informal juvenile and traffic court:(818) 374-2332
- juror services:(818) 374-2344

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
- Sheriff's Office(310) 519-6026

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

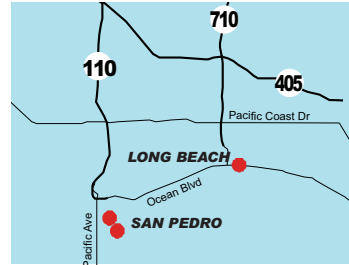
- limited and unlimited civil, unlawful detainers, small claims, domestic violence and civil harassment temporary restraining orders, traffic and other infractions

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



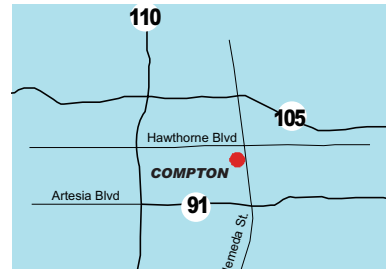
South Central District:

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(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
- Sheriff's Office(562) 804-8055

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
- Sheriff's Office:(562) 803-7149

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
- Sheriff's Office:(323) 586-6344 or (323) 586-6398

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?

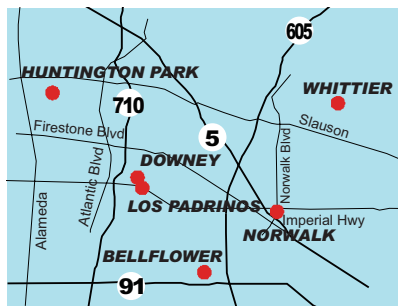
- civil:(562) 807-7346 or (562) 807-7347
- felonies/misdemeanors:(562) 807-7257
- family law:(562) 807-7260
- probate:(562) 807-7263
- juror services:(562) 807-7281
- information line:(562) 807-7266
- juvenile traffic:(562) 907-7201

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
- Sheriff's Office(562) 907-3171



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?

- Limited civil/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
- Sheriff's Office(310) 419-5625

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
- traffic:(213) 742-6648

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
- Sheriff's Office(310) 317-1321
- Juror Services(310) 317-1323

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?

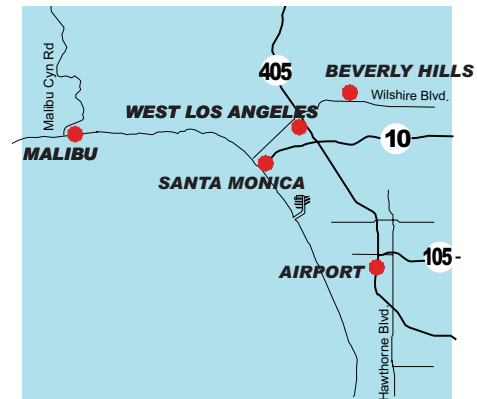
- Administration(310) 260-3522
- limited civil:(310) 260-1886
- unlimited civil:(310) 260-1876
- small claims:(310) 260-1887
- traffic:(213) 742-6648

**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



2010 Annual Report Production Team

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