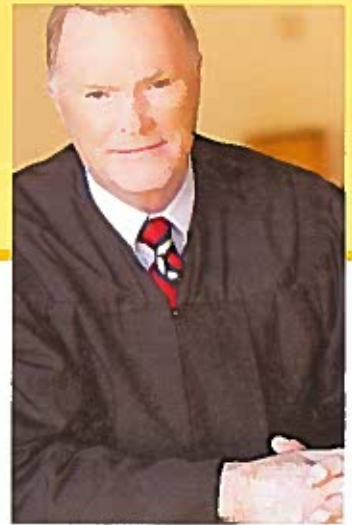


Los Angeles Superior Court Annual Report 2006



Promoting Justice Through Innovation

Message from the Presiding Judge



Dear Community Member:

In 2005, the Los Angeles Superior Court issued its first annual report to the public in several decades. It was a crucial step to make our Court more accessible and understood by the communities we serve. This year's Annual Report has the same purpose, although with a somewhat different focus.

As we reviewed our accomplishments in 2005, it was immediately apparent that the achievements of our judicial officers, staff, programs and initiatives were extraordinary. Because of space limitations, however, we will mention only some of the highlights in our Year in Review. With unlimited space, we could easily add numerous worthy programs and successes to this section.

We also want you to know about our efforts to keep judges conversant with changes in the law, as well as new trends in the justice system. Through a newly enhanced judicial education program, we are rapidly expanding our capacity in this regard. It will be helpful, as well, for you to understand how the Los Angeles Superior Court figures in the statewide justice system. And, of course, we want you to know about our outreach activities that, increasingly, take the Court directly into the communities we serve.

Last year, I reminded you that we are the nation's largest trial court, with nearly 600 judicial officers, a staff of more than 5,000 and more than 50 locations countywide. We remain that, but — far more importantly — we remain committed to being **your** Court. We look forward to serving you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "William A. MacLaughlin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

William A. MacLaughlin
Presiding Judge



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Cover: The Los Angeles Superior Court plays a critical role in the social landscape of Southern California as the region grows and evolves. Symbolically, perhaps, our largest single facility — the Stanley Mosk Courthouse — blends into the downtown scene, almost invisibly. But as the county's complexity grows, so does the importance of its court system. The Stanley Mosk courthouse (lower left) is directly across the street from the Music Center's more visually famous Walt Disney Concert Hall and Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The Mosk Courthouse is described and pictured on page 18. It is one of several facilities in our system that serve needs of customers from throughout Los Angeles County, regardless of where they live or work.

This Annual Report was produced by the Los Angeles Superior Court to increase public understanding of the justice system. For additional copies, please contact:

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Or visit the Court Web site: www.lasuperiorcourt.org



Introduction

To many, the “courts” seem a distant, monolithic institution that people don’t — or can’t — understand readily and that most prefer to avoid.

In this year’s Annual Report of the Los Angeles Superior Court, our objective is to demonstrate the distinctive ways in which we work. We want, in other words, to transform the monolithic into the specific.



High-profile criminal cases may often dominate news coverage of our Court. However, the vast majority of our customers come to us through jury service, traffic court and family law.

Though courts may seem gray and colorless, the reality is that our work is exciting and filled with constant, individual human situations.



At the same time, a key advantage of a system as large as ours is that we can offer more specialized services. We benefit from the ability to concentrate judicial, legal and staff expertise in single centers that address cases filed anywhere in the county.

We tell this story with text, of course, but also with illustrations,

charts and photographs that enhance the extensive analysis. Our review focuses particularly on our centralized and countywide services, innovations in family law, probate, complex litigation, and the plethora of ways we touch the community through outreach programs.

We offer you six different perspectives on our diverse and distinctive operations.





In “Year in Review,” we describe some of our major accomplishments during 2005. They are enormously varied, but yet they still represent only a small fraction of what we achieved during the year — even with fully 23 pages devoted to this section.

These highlights range from a new employee training academy to radio public service messages that reached the entire county with information on how to deal with Traffic Court online. This public education program cost a mere 1.7 cents per person reached.

We also tell you the stories of five courthouses that have countywide reach. They often provide specialized resources and serve as safety valves that can accommodate cases on an urgent basis, from anywhere in the county. These range from assurance of timely criminal trials to same-day service for domestic violence protective orders.

Together, these very different facilities are justice resources that can, literally, affect the lives of every resident and community in Los Angeles County. The five courthouses are the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Mental Health Court, the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court and Central Civil West.



Elsewhere, specialty courts targeting teens, the homeless and drug abusers counsel thousands of people to confront their behavior and try to redirect their lives. Many people feel intimidated when attending formal court proceedings. By conducting teen and homeless court proceedings in schools or community centers, people charged with minor offenses can discuss their behavior and future in a non-threatening environment.



Then, in “Judicial Education,” we describe a major judicial continuing education initiative that will substantially enhance our program to make sure

our judges have the latest information and techniques at their disposal. The fundamental premise is that, because the business of judging can be an isolated endeavor, the best teachers of judicial officers are their fellow colleagues.

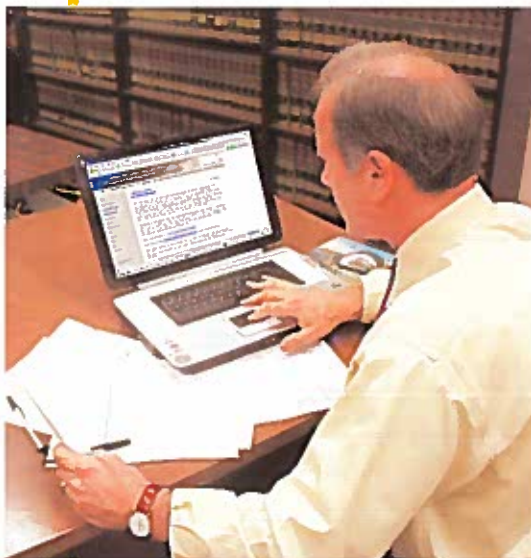


To put this theory into practice, we created an enhanced local education

program called Judicial Education Seminars, or JES. This program supplements and expands on courses offered statewide by the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), a component of the Judicial Council of California.

“Supporting the Judicial Branch” addresses our leadership role on justice system issues of statewide import. In “Community Outreach and Leadership,” we describe our scores of programs that engage communities and their residents.

In “Security,” we acknowledge public concerns about safety and security in and around our facilities.



Finally, in “Use of Resources,” we tell you where our budget originates and how we spend it. We recognize that we are accountable to you, the public, for responsible stewardship of the financial resources we receive. It is our commitment to you to maintain the highest levels of scrutiny over public funds.

In addition to all of that, we offer you a map that identifies every courthouse in the county. Specific locations and directions are also available online at www.lasuperiorcourt.org. If you have court business in the future, we hope to make your experience a human, individual one. We may be one court, but we are a panoply of community justice services, not a monolith.



Statistics Summary

Authorized Judicial Positions

Judges	.429
Commissioners	.140
Referees	.14
Total Bench Officers	.583
Employees	5,286

52 Courthouses and other Facilities

2004 - 2005 Annual Case Filings Summary

Civil General	.64,448
Civil Limited (excluding Small Claims)	.89,624
Unlawful Detainers	.57,074
Small Claims	.92,164
Felony	.67,274
Misdemeanor	.391,834
Family Law (Dissolution, Nullity, and Legal Separation)	.123,714
Juvenile Dependency	.17,010
Juvenile Delinquency	.21,346
Mental Health	.2,575
Probate	.11,122
Traffic	.1,705,510
Appellate	.1,210
Habeas Corpus	.2,441
Total Case Filings	.2,647,346

Jury Trials 2004-2005	.4,722
Juror Summons Mailed	.3,060,035
Jurors Qualified	.993,221
Average Days Served	.1.22

Alternative Dispute Resolution 2004-2005

Arbitration	.3,650
Mediation	.32,111
Family Law (non-custody)	.818
Arbitration Resolution Rate	.48%
Mediation Resolution Rate	.63%
Family Law Resolution Rate	.68%

Total Volunteer Hours (Retired Judges, Attorneys, Others)25,178



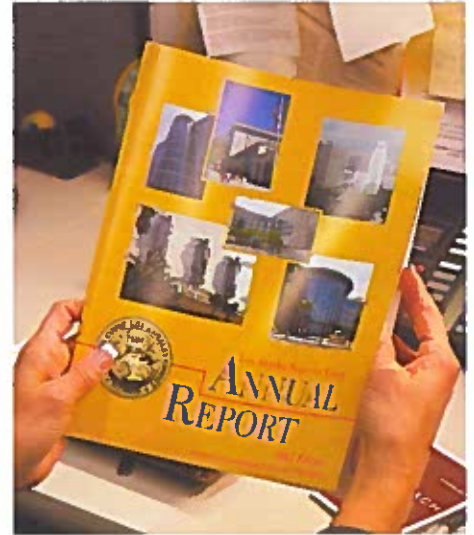


Year in

Review

Annual Report

For the first time in decades, we issued an annual report in 2005, presenting an account of our achievements and operations for calendar year 2004. More than 10,000 copies of the four-color publication detailed operations in the nation's largest trial court system. The report included descriptions of the Court's operations, budget, community outreach, structure and mission. Publication of the *Annual Report* was made possible with the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco.



Reaching Out to Legislative Officials

In January, we held our annual Legislators' Luncheon, an event that has come to be seen as a crucial opportunity for judges and elected officials to exchange views. The event was followed in May by a second meeting — this time a morning-long briefing for field deputies for all Los Angeles County Assemblymembers and Senators. The event focused on providing field deputies with information to handle constituent service contacts.

Media Outreach

At the beginning of 2005, we hosted 50 judges and journalists at an evening media reception. This helped achieve one of our continuing objectives, which is to facilitate ways that judges and journalists can come to know one another better. The event drew leading reporters, editors, photographers and courtroom artists, who joined judicial officers and the Court public information staff at the Tom Bradley Room on the 27th floor of City Hall.



The site was selected because it was, in a sense, neutral territory where neither judges nor journalists were in their normal working environments but that was convenient to both groups.

Later in 2005, journalists and judicial officers discovered mutual understanding for each other's mission during a day-long program sponsored by the National Center for Courts and Media. Evenly divided, 20 judges and 20 journalists participated.



The seminar and reception supplemented the regularly scheduled Media Committee meetings, a vibrant forum where judicial officers and journalists discuss media-court issues.

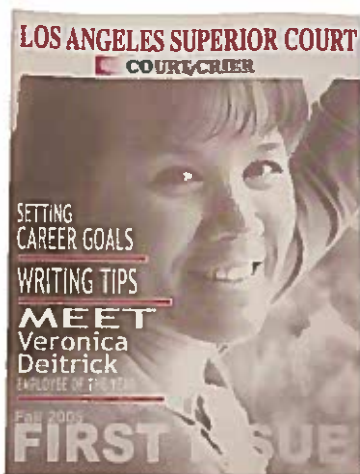
New Courtrooms in Santa Monica; Culver City Courthouse Closes

Two major facility developments occurred in April. We opened a new courthouse annex in Santa Monica, which replaced “temporary” trailers that had been in use for more than 30 years. The new building, constructed largely as a result of the work of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, has two stories and houses three courtrooms. The project was completed within budget at a cost of \$4.43 million. At the same time, the Culver City Courthouse — one of the most physically inadequate buildings in our system — was closed. The closure was the final step in a budget-reduction program that began during the California state budget crisis of 2002.



Employee Newsletter

In 2002, we were forced to discontinue an employee newsletter because of budget curtailments and shifting workload priorities. An experiment — ultimately unsuccessful — was conducted with an online version of the newsletter. Focus groups of employees were convened in early 2005 to identify employees’ preferences in a publication. The consensus was in favor of a traditional, printed newsletter. Feedback was used to develop content for our first issue, published in September. Employee support has grown steadily.



Gavel 2 Gavel, Our Judicial Magazine

Throughout the year, our renowned judicial magazine, *Gavel 2 Gavel*, continued evolving into a publication that speaks to a broader audience, concentrating on elected and other public officials, the bar and leadership groups. It is published three times a year and overseen by a four-judge editorial board.





The California Judicial Branch

The California court system comprises over 2,000 judicial officers, 19,000 court employees, and 8 million cases in over 451 statewide court locations. It serves 36 million people — 12.2 percent of the total U.S. population.

SUPREME COURT

One Chief Justice
Six Associate Justices

After receiving a Court of Appeal decision, a party may request a hearing in the Supreme Court. The great majority of such requests are denied. Those granted involve questions that are unusual or that have been decided in different ways by different Court of Appeal districts. The Supreme Court hears only the matters of greatest importance from a public policy or legal standpoint.

The Supreme Court was given original appellate jurisdiction by the State Constitution when sentences of death are pronounced.

COURTS OF APPEAL

An appeal from the Superior Court to the Court of Appeal is a matter of right. Appeals generally are decided on a court reporter's transcript of testimony, the clerk's transcript of filed documents, briefs, and oral arguments by attorneys.

SUPERIOR COURTS

The 58 Superior Courts — one for each county — are the trial level and have the most varied workload of any of the state courts. The Superior Court handles:

- **Small claims** civil cases with claimed damages of \$7,500 or less, in which parties appear without attorneys
- **Limited jurisdiction** civil cases with claimed damages of \$25,000 or less
- **General jurisdiction** civil cases with claimed damages of more than \$25,000
- Actions in equity
- **Family Law** actions
- **Misdemeanor** crimes and infractions
- **Felony** crimes
- **Juvenile Delinquency** and **Juvenile Dependency** matters
- **Mental Health**
- **Adoptions** of minors
- **Writs**
- **Probate** of decedents' estates, guardianships and conservatorships
- **Appeals** from limited jurisdiction and small claims cases

Supporting the work of the court system are a variety of administrative agencies, each of which has a unique oversight role specifically created in the law. These agencies cover everything from court budgeting to the discipline of judicial officers.

Judicial Council of California Administrative Office of the Courts

The Judicial Council is the constitutionally created 27-member policymaking body of the California courts; its staff agency is the Administrative Office of the Courts.
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/).

Commission on Judicial Appointments

The commission confirms gubernatorial appointments to the Supreme Court and appellate courts.
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courtadmin/otheragencies.htm).

Commission on Judicial Performance

The commission is responsible for the censure, removal, retirement, or private admonishment of judges and commissioners. Its decisions are subject to review by the California Supreme Court.
(www.cjp.ca.gov/).

Habeas Corpus Resource Center

The center handles state and federal habeas corpus proceedings and provides training and support for private attorneys who take these cases.
(www.courtinfo.ca.gov/about/abouthcrc.htm).

Adapted from *C Cornerstones of Democracy*, 2005 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of California and *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2002*, supplement, National Center for State Courts and Conference of State Court Administrators.



Conversion of Monrovia Courthouse to Employee Training Academy

We converted the former Monrovia Courthouse to a training academy, replacing a small department that had been dismantled as a result of the budget crisis of 2002-2003. The academy, which had been housed at the Alhambra Courthouse, was broken up when its space was needed as part



of a consolidation effort requiring the closure of 29 courtrooms for budget reasons. The Monrovia Courthouse was closed during this process. But a silver lining appeared in 2005 with the decision to reunite training programs at a single site and the building underwent a transformation.

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Assembly Bill 1825, enacted in 2004, requires all employers with 50 or more employees to provide all supervisory staff with at least two hours of sexual harassment prevention training every two years. The Court, understanding the importance of this issue, required more than 500 of its employees to receive this training in 2005. In addition, all 583 bench officers were invited to attend. The response by staff and bench officers was so overwhelming that we provided training at more than 31 locations across the county. Classes were conducted in two formats: live statewide broadcasts with interactive question-and-answer periods, as well as local classroom settings with in-house instructors. Regardless of the format, all classes were interactive and provided coverage of federal and state laws. Case studies were also used to illustrate remedies and best practices in dealing with issues relating to sexual harassment.

Classification and Compensation Study

Completing a process begun more than five years ago, we implemented a comprehensive new personnel classification system that simplified and reduced the number of job categories from 359 to 183. The study permitted introduction of more accurate job descriptions and corrected a small number of salary inequities that resulted from unification of the courts in 2000. The result is a streamlined classification and compensation system that more accurately reflects how the Court does business today. Salaries are now in line with compensation for similar positions in the public and private sectors.



Hundreds of Interpreters Become Court Employees

The last and most significant provision of a 2003 statewide initiative that switched court interpreters from independent contractors to employees was realized in July when the Court and the union representing interpreters reached an agreement that enabled 335 interpreters to become full-time employees of the Court. Their availability helps us ensure



Final contract signing between Superior Court and interpreter representatives took place October 10, 2005

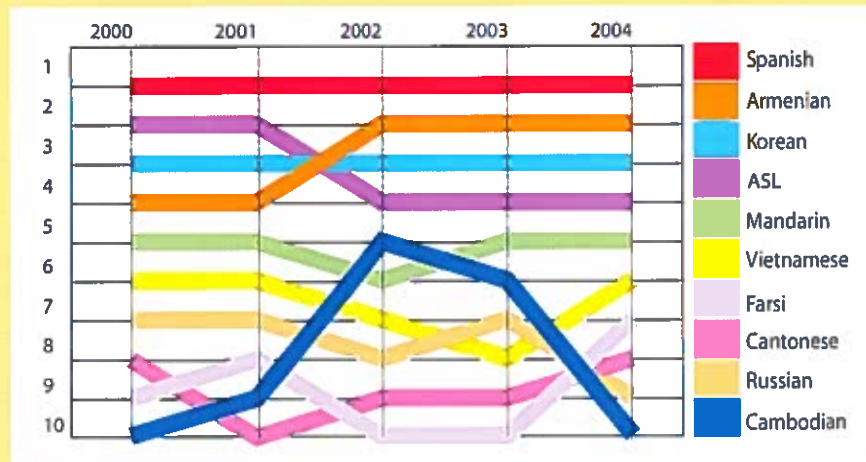
access to justice in criminal and juvenile cases for witnesses, victims, and defendants who understand little or no English.



We provide services to non-English speaking and limited-English speaking litigants. Currently, 690 interpreters (including full-time and part-time staff members and independent contractors) representing 122 languages provide language services for our culturally diverse population. The most requested language is Spanish, followed by Armenian, Korean, American Sign (ASL) and Mandarin.

Complementing the services provided by interpreters in the courtroom, bilingual court employees augment our language services by providing additional assistance to litigants throughout our dozens of facilities.

Top 10 Languages requested in Los Angeles County



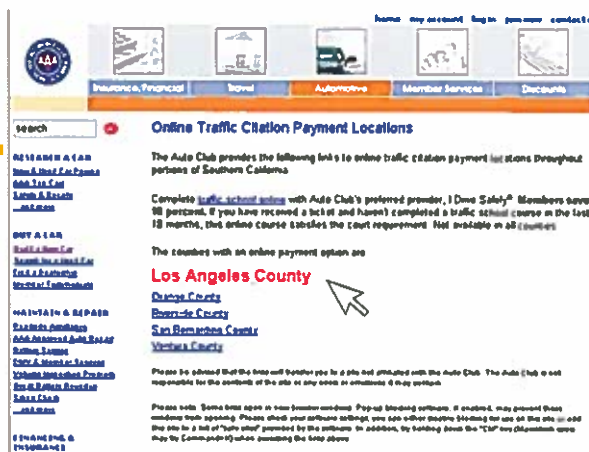


www.lasuperiorcourt.org

Marketing Partnership with Automobile Club of Southern California

It is now easier for Automobile Club of Southern California members to pay their traffic tickets.

The nearly 6 million members of the Auto Club are able to pay traffic citations through the AAA Web site: www.aaa-calif.com. This new service enables members to handle most of their traffic matters via a link to our e-commerce Web site, instead of traveling to courthouses. This is a "win-win project" because minimal funds are budgeted to market court programs. Working with the Auto Club is a creative way to inform millions of potential customers about the Court's online services.



Radio Ads Spur Traffic Ticket Payment Online

In October, we launched the nation's first court-sponsored radio public education campaign promoting traffic ticket payment and other court transactions via the Internet. Millions of drive-time listeners have now learned that "Paying your traffic ticket doesn't have to be as painful as getting one" in ads touting online traffic transactions. The 10-second sponsorships also explain that drivers can enroll in traffic school or reschedule a traffic court appearance via the Court's Web site. The Court's paid public service

campaign aired over 13 weeks during peak weekday commuting time and weekends beginning mid-October. An estimated 7.5 million adults heard spots broadcast in English, Spanish and Mandarin. At a cost of \$125,000, the campaign made it possible to reach the entire Los Angeles metropolitan area at a cost of about 1.7 cents per person.

Award for Information Technology Innovation

Recognizing our innovation in information technology — even in the face of severe budget limitations — UCLA's Anderson School of Business presented the Information Systems Associates executive leadership award for 2005 to Executive Officer John A. Clarke. This is the first time the honor, typically given to a major corporation, has been presented to a court. It was only the second time in more than 20 years that it has been presented to a public agency.



Public Awareness Campaign Against Legal Service Scams

In 2005, we launched a public awareness campaign against people posing as notaries public, paralegals and lawyers offering document preparation services and legal advice. These people are a particular concern in family law cases, where they prey upon vulnerable litigants by promising to handle a case for a flat fee. The victim typically pays \$500, only to discover that his or her case has not been resolved.

Expansion of Self-Help Centers

Despite a severe space shortage, we began an active search for three additional locations in which to expand the Court's network of self-help legal access centers. The concept was originally introduced in 2000, when the Court — with key support from County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Judicial Procedures Commission, the Los Angeles Department of Consumer Affairs, and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association — opened the first Self-Help Legal Access Center at the Van Nuys Courthouse.



The collaborative partnerships created during the development of that first self-help center in Van Nuys continue to thrive and are responsible for securing resources to fund additional centers. Currently, there are centers at our courthouses in Van Nuys, Pomona, Inglewood, Lancaster and Compton. New centers are planned for Long Beach, Santa Monica and San Fernando. They are scheduled to open in May 2006.



Valley Associated Settlement Team (VAST)

The Valley Associated Settlement Team (VAST) is a collaborative civil case settlement program that partners the Court and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. Volunteer attorneys spend numerous hours each year settling hundreds of civil disputes ranging from simple personal injury matters to complex employment cases awaiting trials in the San Fernando Valley courthouses. The VAST operations address dozens of cases at a time, in highly compressed time periods. VAST has helped the Court



settle more than 800 cases emanating from the Van Nuys, San Fernando and Chatsworth courthouses. In one of its largest operations to date, 110 volunteer attorneys working with 10 Van Nuys bench officers resolved 128 of 249 matters in a three-day period in late October and early November, achieving the remarkable settlement rate of 51.4 percent.

Family Law

We continued our commitment to children and families throughout the year. Our Family Law operations are involved in an array of projects related to family, juvenile, child support, custody, visitation, and domestic violence law and procedure. In 2005, our Family Law Information Centers helped more than 31,000 people who came to the Court seeking legal information. An additional 100,000 people received help through other Court-based programs, including our self-help centers and domestic violence clinics. A new program schedules self-represented litigants for court on specific days so they can work with volunteer lawyers and law students. Expansion of the free divorce workshop program has resulted in more self-represented litigants finishing their divorce cases than ever before.

Ongoing work includes developing policies and procedures to coordinate cases involving families; improving form packets and instructions; providing training and education to staff and the legal community; and sponsoring courthouse walk-through programs for new attorneys. We also continuously seek grant funding to improve and expand services to children and families. In 2005 alone, we received five new grants designed to provide legal help for those who cannot afford an attorney.

Unified Family Courts

As a result of the increasingly complex array of cases involving children and families, the need to coordinate cases within our system led the way for the Unified Family Courts (UFC) project. In 2005, we created the Unified Courts for Families System (UCFS) database, which serves as a repository for information about families who may have different cases in the Court system simultaneously. The UFC project coordinates multiple cases, resolves conflicting appearance schedules, and eliminates duplicative court orders and referrals to social services. Under the old system, in some cases the same dispute was sometimes handled more than once by more than one court. The goal of this project is to improve coordination and information-sharing between the various courts and court services handling matters relating to families with multiple cases.





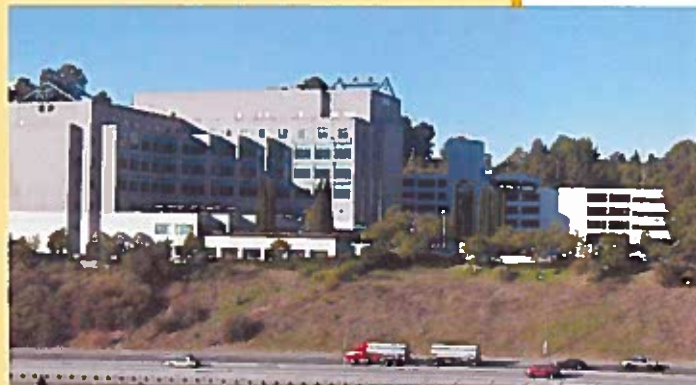
JusticeCorps

A huge milestone was reached in October 2004 with the graduation of the first group of 100 JusticeCorps volunteers. These volunteers participate in a first-of-its-kind program to help overburdened self-help legal access centers throughout Los Angeles County. JusticeCorps is a collaborative project funded through an AmeriCorps grant to provide assistance to self-represented litigants in 10 sites at Los Angeles Superior Court Self-Help Legal Access Centers. Participants also include the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer Affairs. JusticeCorps members are students from Cal State Northridge, Cal State Dominguez Hills, UCLA, and Cal Poly Pomona. A second JusticeCorps class arrived in the Fall. Each member receives 50-60 hours of legal assistance training and a cash educational award for college expenses.



Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court

Youngsters appearing in the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park enjoy consolidated services in a child-sensitive environment. Conceived and built exclusively for children, Children's Court is centrally located at a nexus of two major freeways — Interstates 10 and 710 — easily accessible from anywhere in Los Angeles County.



Sunlight floods all six floors and the secured lower level of the child-centered courthouse. The building's architects selected easy-to-maintain décor featuring brightly colored accents on the walls and comfortable furnishings and carpets. Courtrooms are compact, uncluttered and intimate, creating an atmosphere conducive to settling important juvenile matters.

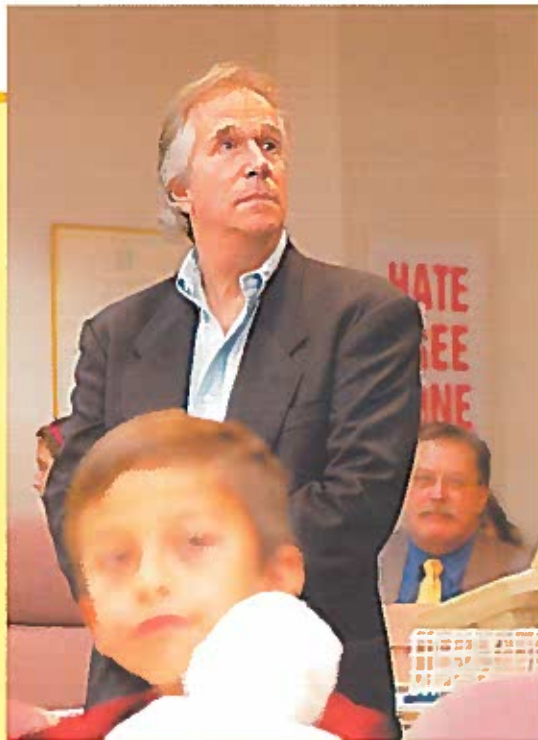
Among other issues, Children's Court handles adoptions, foster care, parental rights and delinquency matters — hard-edged topics that are softened substantially by the welcoming building design. Its expansive waiting areas are large and light, but they also afford privacy for children and adults preferring to read, converse or play games.

Since its opening in 1992, the building has housed 25 specialized judicial officers and has staff with a full range of skills and expertise. This is a unique facility within the Los Angeles Superior Court and the State of California.

In addition to its 25 full-service courtrooms and court administration offices, the 275,000-square-foot building also houses the Children's Law Center, offices for the Department of Children and Family Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Los Angeles County Counsel, the Department of Mental Health, L.A. Unified School District, the Alliance for Children's Rights, Public Counsel and Infoline. The synergy resulting from the common location benefits children who are assisted by all organizations in the courthouse.



A key program at Edelman is Adoption Saturday. More than 9,000 foster children have been adopted through Adoption Saturday proceedings since its 1998 inception, with 5,000 using free legal assistance provided by Public Counsel.



A Thanksgiving season Adoption Saturday ceremony acknowledged National Adoption Day. To keep up the work of Adoption Saturday, we partner with Public Counsel, the Alliance for Children's Rights and several private law firms. Over time, the program has attracted celebrity attention, as well. At the November event, actor/director Henry Winkler participated.

In a variation on the Adoption Saturday theme, we initiated a series of "Adoption Friday" events. Each is smaller than the traditional Saturday approach, but can speed processing of the extensive documentation required for every

adoption. Volunteer lawyers donate hundreds of hours of time to prepare the required materials.

Our Juvenile Court Presiding Judge also worked collaboratively with Probation Department officials to bring improved judicial oversight to probation camp residents. A Children's Court committee studied housing barriers to family reunification, and a proposal was drafted with the Administrative Office of the Courts that seeks improved legal representation for parents in Dependency Court.

Dependent children will benefit from a committee report addressing comprehensive health policy, and from the *pro bono* attorneys and advocates who pursue education rights and a new legal procedure to compensate children who are injured while in foster care.

This year the Children's Court parking structure was given a facelift by artists from Azusa Pacific University, who painted large murals on its interior walls and elevator bays. The Edelman Children's Court is recognized for its inspired architecture and inventive interior design. Championed by former county supervisor Edmund D. Edelman, who devoted more than 30 years to public service, the hilltop complex that bears his name affords sweeping views of several surrounding communities.



The Juvenile Court system provides services in two basic areas:

- Juvenile Dependency Court hears cases where there may be abuse or neglect in the home and provides protection for children in families.
- Juvenile Delinquency Court adjudicates cases involving minors accused of breaking the law.

All Dependency cases are heard centrally at the Children's Court in Monterey Park, with the exception of one courtroom in Lancaster to hear cases arising from the Antelope Valley.

Juvenile Delinquency matters, on the other hand, are heard countywide at 10 separate locations. They are: Eastlake Juvenile Court in Los Angeles, David V. Kenyon Juvenile Justice Center in Los Angeles, Inglewood Juvenile Court in Inglewood, Los Padrinos Juvenile Court in Downey, San Fernando Valley Juvenile Court in Sylmar, Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center in Lancaster, East District Juvenile Court in Pomona, Northeast District Juvenile Court in Pasadena, South District Juvenile Court in Long Beach and South Central Juvenile Court in Compton.



In 2005, a revised psychotropic medication protocol was developed for all Los Angeles County juvenile courts, and in partnership with other stakeholders, a dual status system was recommended for minors in both the dependency and delinquency systems. The advantage of concurrently entering them in the dependency and delinquency systems is that services like counseling, medical, mental health and legal benefits can seamlessly continue when juveniles move from one system to the other.



Stanley Mosk Courthouse



With its 101 courtrooms, the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles is the largest courthouse in the United States. But that is far from its biggest advantage to the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Mosk provides an alternative to Court customers who, for any of a variety of reasons, cannot file many types of cases at the courthouses nearest their homes or businesses.

In the arena of civil law, Mosk is the linchpin in the countywide court system. Court rules established locally by the Los Angeles Superior Court require that many types of cases be filed at the courthouse closest to where the dispute in question arose. However, because that requirement inconveniences some litigants, local rules provide that many cases may be filed at either Mosk or local courthouses including:

- Divorce or legal separation
- Civil harassment
- Domestic violence restraining orders
- Probate, including guardianships and conservatorships
- Habeas corpus
- Small claims
- Breach of contract
- Name change
- Receivership
- Real estate disputes
- Disputes from outside the County

The advantages are numerous. In a spousal abuse case, a victim may fear retaliation if he or she is seen in a local courthouse by friends or relatives of the spouse or abuser. Someone with a small claims (claimed damages of \$7,500 or less) dispute who lives at the very southern tip of the county can find a forum for his or her matter even if the defendant is in the Antelope Valley.



Similarly, family members who fear that incapacitated relatives or loved ones are being fleeced by a dishonest person or business can come into Mosk at any time of the court day and receive immediate attention, regardless of where the victim may reside. Same-day investigatory service may be available in severe cases involving potential conservatorships or guardianships.

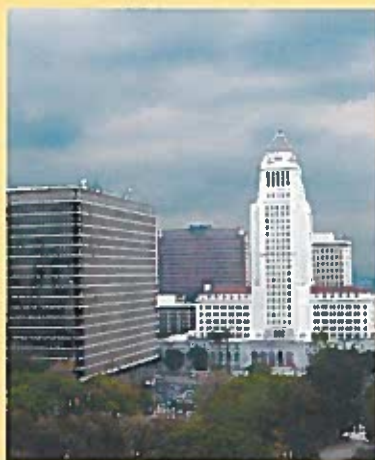
Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center

The 19-story Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center (CJC) continues more than a century of precedent-setting judicial practices and public safety enhancements for all residents of Los Angeles County. The downtown Los Angeles facility occupies the same site as the historic Red Sandstone Courthouse, which closed in 1933 due to earthquake concerns and was later demolished. CJC houses 60 courtrooms, operations for the county's criminal and civil grand juries, and related administrative activities.

Many high-security cases are tried on the 9th floor, where all courtroom visitors and court staff must pass through an extra weapons-screening station before entering the hallway and courtrooms. When CJC opened in 1972, it was the first courthouse in Los Angeles County designed with separate floors for prisoner detention and movement.

Starting in 2005, CJC became the exclusive site, countywide, for cases involving wheelchair-bound or bedridden defendants in custody. This resolved longstanding logistics problems in transporting such prisoners from jails to several different courthouses.

The building also functions as a countywide safety valve for judges presiding over criminal cases assigned throughout all 12 judicial districts. In criminal cases, the Court faces strict time limits as to when must be heard. These time constraints mean that if a particular courthouse has no courtrooms available for trial, it will need to transfer the case to a courthouse that can accommodate it.



Judges rely on the courtrooms at the CJC to accommodate critical, time-sensitive criminal matters — trials, in particular — that require immediate court action so that people who may be guilty of serious crimes are not released simply because the Court was unable to begin their trials on time.

The need for that option is particularly acute in areas of the county that have undergone growth in their criminal calendars — with the Antelope Valley chief among them.



Central Civil West Courthouse

Another of the facilities that provides system-wide services accessible to all residents of Los Angeles County is our Central Civil West Courthouse on Lafayette Park near downtown Los Angeles. We operate 13 courtrooms there — nearly all of them committed to either our Complex Litigation Unit or our centralized Child Support Unit, as well as long cause matters.

CCW opened in 1991 at a time when the Court faced an enormous backlog in civil matters. The facility was constructed initially as a commercial office building, but was extensively renovated prior to occupancy by the Court to include courtrooms designed to facilitate cases involving large numbers of parties and issues.



Court operations occupy most of the building, which has other tenants — primarily justice-related public agencies. The building lease provides for Court operations to continue at CCW through at least 2014.

The Complex Litigation Unit was first created in 2000 and has served ever since as a statewide model. In 2002, CCW was redesignated as the centralized home for the pioneering Complex Litigation

program, which was expanding rapidly. This decision permitted the creation of substantial expertise among judges and staff to handle complicated matters that may originate from anywhere in the county or, in some cases, from anywhere in California.

Complex Litigation handles cases in which dozens — even hundreds, or thousands — of individual matters relating to the same basic legal issue can be grouped together for speedy resolution. The time required to complete litigation can be shortened, helping to ensure that liability determinations are made on a timely basis and that proceeds reach victims more rapidly.



In 2005, we responded to growing demand for Complex Litigation services by adding an additional courtroom to the operation, bringing the total to seven courtrooms committed to complex matters.

During the year, the Complex Litigation Unit worked to resolve claims left over from the devastating Northridge earthquake in 1994. By the end of 2005, more than 3,500 cases from that incident alone had been settled.

Since 2002, all class action cases in Los Angeles County have been assigned initially to the Complex Litigation Unit because its specialized personnel and facilities are best equipped to deal with them.

In 2003, 391 class action matters were filed. In 2004, that number increased by nearly 50 percent, to 611. The Unit retains jurisdiction over about 40 percent of the class actions that are filed — generally the most difficult and complicated matters. The remaining class actions are handled in the Court's general jurisdiction courtrooms downtown.

Also on the Unit's calendar are hundreds of product liability cases related to the drug Vioxx, an arthritis painkiller that was widely prescribed prior to removal from the market by its manufacturer in 2004. These cases originated throughout California and include many from Los Angeles County.

The Vioxx matters present an excellent example of the ways the Complex Litigation Unit works. Five separate class action cases are coordinated by one bench officer. These class actions have been consolidated under one master complaint. A total of 385 individual cases, representing 2,180 individual plaintiffs, are involved.

In addition to complex litigation, CCW houses the Child Support Services Unit, a multiagency operation that works with the Court in cases that require establishing paternity or obtaining child support or welfare reimbursement from noncustodial parents. In the 2004-2005 fiscal year, four courtrooms committed to this project heard 60,282 new cases. The Unit represents a collaborative effort by the Court and the Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department and District Attorney. In most Child Support Services cases, both parents reside in Los Angeles County.





About 240 child support hearings per day are set at CCW. The courtrooms are staffed by approximately 50 clerical employees. Centralization of this operation allows for uniformity in the orders made by the courts and allows a greater number of cases to be processed because staff is familiar with the specialized procedures.



Examples of the Complex Litigation Unit caseload

A lawsuit emanating from a refinery fire in Carson that involves 35 separate cases affecting more than 5,000 plaintiffs.

More than 40 major construction defect cases, from across the entire county, reaching as far north as Lancaster.

Groundwater contamination cases — 21 in all, involving about 100 defendants — throughout the San Gabriel Valley, which include about 1,800 individual plaintiffs.

Allegations by the City of Norwalk charging a private company with groundwater contamination; this involves 25 different plaintiffs.

A dozen related cases against 500 motion picture and television companies involving alleged labor law violations.

Alleged personnel misclassification, in two separate matters, of several thousand employees of Los Angeles County and the Metropolitan Water District.

A Metrolink commuter train accident in which more than 100 individual lawsuits or damage claims have been filed.

Vehicle leasing disputes involving about 1,100 automobile dealerships in the county.



Mental Health Court

The earliest records of the Superior Court conducting hearings related to mental disorders date to 1914, when 1,047 cases were heard. By 2005, however, the figure had grown many times over — to approximately 87,000.

The Mental Health Court, located centrally in Cypress Park near downtown Los Angeles, has designated three full-time bench officers to hear cases originating from all 12 districts of the Los Angeles Superior Court.



Photograph courtesy of Associated Press



Mental Health Court's specialized role permits judges and staff members to focus on cases involving danger to self, danger to others, grave disability due to a mental disorder, mental competency, and placement of people with developmental disabilities who are dangerous. The three-courtroom unit addresses questions regarding pleas of not guilty by reason of insanity and parole to state mental hospitals. Cases can be referred to

Mental Health Court by any judicial officer in the county.

Mental Health Court handles numerous additional types of hearings involving conservatorships, writs of *habeas corpus*, medication review and other matters.

In 2005, Mental Health Court held:

- 3664 mental competency hearings
- 939 sexually violent predator hearings
- 9262 conservatorship hearings
- 2019 state hospital-parole commitment hearings
- 1236 *habeas corpus* proceedings
- 17,803 Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) hearings, which permit people to challenge involuntary mental hospital commitments





Mental Health Court

The Court is supported by approximately 20 specially trained employees and 16 mental health hearing officers. Centralization of this operation ensures uniformity in court orders and facilitates care in processing cases because the staff is familiar with legal procedures involving mental health and therapeutic treatment.

Multiple county agencies, including the County Counsel, Public Guardian, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff and a pool of mental health experts from the legal community are housed at the Mental Health Courthouse. In all, approximately 47 full-time county employees work to support the operation. This collaborative group of mental health experts works together to expedite case processing and to address mental health needs in the most efficient way possible.

Domestic Violence Procedures and Policy Improvements

During 2005 we adopted a new Court Rule that requires sharing of information among courtrooms and judges in domestic violence and child custody cases. The rule is intended to minimize the likelihood of different judges issuing conflicting domestic violence, custody and visitation orders. Policies and procedures in the Probate, Family Law, Juvenile Dependency and Criminal courts were adopted to ensure that judges and staff share information about domestic violence cases involving children and families.



Domestic Violence Protective Order Applications

Central District.....3,672	North District844	South Central District...1,632
East District.....1,786	North Valley District.....799	Southeast District.....1,846
North Central District ...887	Northwest District.....1,232	Southwest District1,626
Northeast District837	South District1,746	West District.....535
Total Domestic Violence Protective Order Applications Filed in L.A. County 2005 . . .17,442		

Probate

The Probate Department introduced a series of case management and work flow changes to improve access and the provision of information to litigants. Daily hours of courtrooms hearing probate matters at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse were extended a full 45 minutes. For the first time in several years, expansion was possible for the cadre of probate investigators. A new system to track the activities of conservators, guardians and trustees was implemented. Additions to the Court's Web site include self-help information to litigants without lawyers and expanded information about individual cases. At the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, new public access computers have been installed to help litigants navigate to the information they need without having to wait in lines or rely on court staff.



Alternative Dispute Resolution

We upgraded the quality of access for self-represented litigants through a California Judicial Council grant to our Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program. We expanded the availability of ADR in civil harassment cases countywide.



We established a new training course for prospective neutrals. We expanded use of the Internet to reach more people. We also hosted judges from the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, India, Japan, and countries of the former Yugoslavia, who wanted to learn more about our ADR program.

A litigant satisfaction survey found that 99 percent supported our program enthusiastically. As one of the respondents put it, "The ADR panel is an important and worthwhile part of our Court system. Thanks for the assistance."



Jury Service Improvements and Satisfaction

We have spent countless hours and thousands of dollars trying to make jury service more inviting and less burdensome. The system changed from 10 days of service, during which jurors often spent days sitting around waiting to be called, to a one-day, one-trial system. Now, if jurors are not selected for a case or a jury panel on the first day of service, they are released from further service for at least a year.

Our Web site offers a major new convenience to summoned jurors who want to postpone their service or receive juror-reporting information. If a summoned juror must postpone his or her assignment, for example, the person simply accesses www.lasuperiorcourt.org, clicks on “Jury Services” and selects “Postponement” from the online services menu. The juror follows

a few simple instructions to reschedule his or her on-call service for a specific week (starting on a Monday) during the next 90 days.



The online jury functions introduced in 2005 had been in development for more than a year. In 2006, they will be augmented by additional jury service Web site features. Eventually, these features will include the ability to report and qualify for service and to complete juror affidavits online.

A long-term goal is to allow jurors to request to be excused, to transfer their service to other courthouses and to interact with a real-time customer service agent via the Web site.

For several years, we have employed the One Trial system of jury service in which a person is summoned to be available for a week, but is only required to report to a courthouse for one day. If the person is selected as a juror, most trials last a week or less. Juror response to summonses continued to improve markedly in 2005. In the last two years, the rate jumped from 37 percent to 46 percent.





To further improve participation and compliance with jury service, the Court began conducting juror sanction hearings to encourage people to respond to their jury summonses. Our priority is having people participate to ensure jury service is shared by all eligible citizens in Los Angeles County. Sanction hearings are a last resort. Even though jurors are given numerous opportunities to cooperate, nonresponsive people are ordered into Court each month to face a fine of up to \$1,500, plus a new jury assignment.

Over a two-week period in April, we conducted a systemwide exit survey of jurors completing their service. It was the first time such a survey had been undertaken in several years. More than 7,600 jurors filled out questionnaires.

How Satisfied Are Our Jurors?

48%	were serving for the very first time, demonstrating the effectiveness of One Trial jury service.
58%	felt that, overall, their jury service had made a contribution to the community.
83%	felt the jury assembly room to which they were assigned was comfortable.
96%	felt the jury services staff was helpful and attentive.
76%	felt judges, attorneys, clerks and bailiffs were professional in their approach.
92%	felt safe and secure in court facilities.
68%	believed the term of jury service is "about right."
59%	said they had been required to wait more than 15 minutes to be admitted to the courtrooms to which they were assigned.
41%	said they were given no reason for the wait.
64%	identified reduction of waiting times as the best improvement the Court could make in jury service.
83%	used the automated juror telephone call-in programs to be notified about when to report.
93%	were dispatched from the jury assembly room to a courtroom to be considered as jurors in specific cases.
92%	were eventually selected for a sworn jury in a particular case.

Note: We take juror comments very seriously and the observations that emerged from the survey concerning waiting times are consistent with concerns the Court has had in recent years. Programs to identify and, as much as possible, reduce waiting times are underway. Judges and courtroom staff have been encouraged to use jurors as efficiently as possible and to inform jurors of the cause and likely duration of any waiting time.




 JID NO: 052160786
 PIN NO: 3391
 Court Loc: 16 Group No: 14
 C/T: 400603
 Reporting Instructions Phone Number: 1-800-778-5879
JUROR BADGE

Jury Service

2004	2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jury Trials 5,908 Juror Summons Mailed 2,979,094 Jurors Qualified 843,802 Average Days Served 1.44 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jury Trials 4,722 Juror Summons Mailed 3,060,035 Jurors Qualified 993,221 Average Days Served 1.22



A Jury of Our Judges

The key element of the One Trial jury system, in which people called to jury service need spend only as much as one day at the courthouse unless they are actually selected for a jury, is the concept that all citizens should serve. That includes our own judicial officers. Above, a jury box is filled by a sampling of 14 of our judicial officers who have, themselves, completed jury service. They are:

Front row from left:

- Commissioner Robert Axel, *Norwalk Courthouse*
- Judge Joseph DiLoreto, *Long Beach Courthouse*
- Judge Susan Bryant-Deason, *Stanley Mosk Courthouse*
- Judge Alice Hill, *San Fernando Courthouse*
- Judge Yvonne Sanchez, *Whittier Courthouse*
- Judge Ronald Skyers, *Compton Courthouse*

Back row from left:

- Judge Michael Mink, *Burbank Courthouse*
- Judge Mary Ann Murphy, *Stanley Mosk Courthouse*
- Judge Deirdre Hill, *Inglewood Courthouse*
- Judge Debre Weintraub, *Stanley Mosk Courthouse*
- Judge Alexander Williams III, *Stanley Mosk Courthouse*
- Judge Lawrence Mira, *Malibu Courthouse*
- Judge Thomas Falls, *Pomona Courthouse*
- Judge Andria Richey, *Stanley Mosk Courthouse*



Civil Grand Jury

Newly sworn 2005-06 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury members began their year-long term of investigating possible wrongdoing in government agencies. The Civil Grand Jury, established in 2000, reviews publicly funded city and county organizations.

Judicial



Education

Judges of the Los Angeles Superior Court have added themselves, voluntarily, to the doctors, lawyers and other licensed professionals who have long been subject to continuing education beyond the experience gained in practice.

To qualify for appointment or election as a California judge, an attorney must have been a state bar member for 10 years. Once on the bench, judges have historically been required to "maintain professional competence in the law," under the Code of Judicial Ethics.

Traditionally, judicial officers have taken advantage of continuing education opportunities in a variety of ways, including the daily education inherent in the job itself.

Most also participate in programs presented by the state's Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER) or the California Judges Association.



CONFIDENCE
INTEGRITY
REMAIN CALM IN CRISIS
BE WELL PREPARED
HUMOR
CREATIVITY

Many judges also act as mentors and teachers informally, as well as faculty for continuing education programs.

In 2005, the Los Angeles Superior Court undertook an effort to revolutionize how it provides continuing education to its judges. We inaugurated a comprehensive continuing education program that will be available to all of our nearly 600 bench officers. They

will serve as both faculty and students in the belief that the best teachers of judges are other judges themselves.

While the issue of whether and to what extent judicial education should become mandatory is presently under consideration at the state level, our court has made the decision to create a locally focused program that will serve judges in their educational objectives as well as serve as a model for other courts.



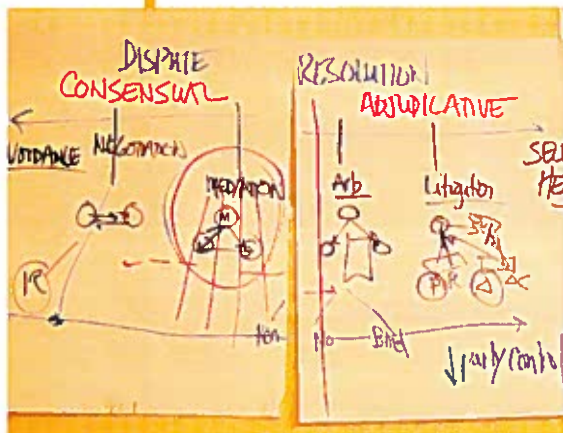


We have often held day-long continuing education sessions for criminal and civil judges. In 2005, however, we expanded our offerings by creating a program called Judicial Education Seminars (JES). JES provides peer-to-peer education by judicial officers who have themselves been trained in modern adult education methods.

JES has three specific goals:

- Extend core learning
- Develop best practices
- Enhance collegiality.

To accomplish these goals, we employ small interactive classes, innovative technology and specially-trained faculty.



Prior to offering any JES programs, the Court held a week long faculty development class in conjunction with CJER to train its faculty judges in the latest methods of adult teaching and learning. Participants learned how to engage students in interactive exercises, conducting needs assessments and identifying the best teaching methods.

In our first JES class, students learned about settlement techniques for civil litigants. They used videotaped vignettes, developed strategies to overcome an impasse in negotiations, and shared approaches for dealing with what are sometimes called “insult offers.”

Other bench officers attended a highly interactive Small Claims course, testing their knowledge with a true/false quiz. The committee formed to oversee JES has selected new courses for 2006 and 2007, including classes on evidence, case management strategies and experts. We also plan to offer CJER-supported courses on sexual assault issues and to hold another faculty development class in 2006.



We think that when judicial continuing education occurs in such an environment, it can reduce the stress and isolation that affect many judges. Participants get a chance to contribute something to these courses and to others. In their own words, they have fun.

To further emphasize our commitment to judicial continuing education, we devoted an entire issue of our judicial magazine, *Gavel 2 Gavel*, to this topic in late 2005.



Finally, to complement this education process, we have developed a relationship with the private Churchill Leadership Program. As the name implies, Churchill offers instructional programs based on the leadership principles of the late Sir Winston Churchill, the former British prime minister and World War II hero. A core group of our judges has been trained in the Churchill methods

Courses based on the education models personified by our new JES program are invariably well-received. This makes sense. Participants get questions answered, problems solved, and an opportunity to learn what their peers do and how they do it.





Supporting the

Judicial Branch

In 2005, we participated more actively than ever in statewide decision making. Expecting to learn from others, we also provided the necessary leadership for other courts to learn from us.

For example, in April, the Presiding Judge issued the Court's first-ever manual for supervising judges on how they should handle complaints from the public about other judges and subordinate judicial officers. Together with an accompanying computer disk, the loose-leaf manual is a summary of all Court rules and procedures bearing on complaints from the public. The manual is intended to underscore the Court's responsiveness to public concerns.

Throughout the year, we worked collaboratively with the Administrative Office of the Courts on a range of issues from development of new software to preparation of a media relations manual planned for release statewide in 2006.

Through memberships in statewide Judicial Branch advisory committees and many other affiliations, bench officers increased their participation in writing the rules that govern trial courts. We created local committees to work closely with state groups studying the same issues, recasting our own committee



structure to mirror the California Judicial Council's statewide approach.

Thirty-eight of our judges (two of them retired) and nine court administrators currently sit on the 21 advisory committees and task forces of the Judicial Council. These committees and task forces, comprised of

judges, court officials, attorneys, and members of the public, advise the Council on policy and legislative strategies.

The Los Angeles Superior Court was the statewide leader in court interpreter negotiations by becoming the first court to finalize an agreement giving interpreters their first-ever employee contract. The superior courts of Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties, which worked together during the negotiations, reached agreement in July, 2005.



One of our judges was elected 74th President of the California Judges Association (CJA) and began a one-year-term in September. The California Judges Association is the professional association that represents California's 2,800 active and retired state judges, justices, commissioners, referees and State Bar Court judges. Five additional Los Angeles judges serve on CJA's executive board.



Judicial Committees

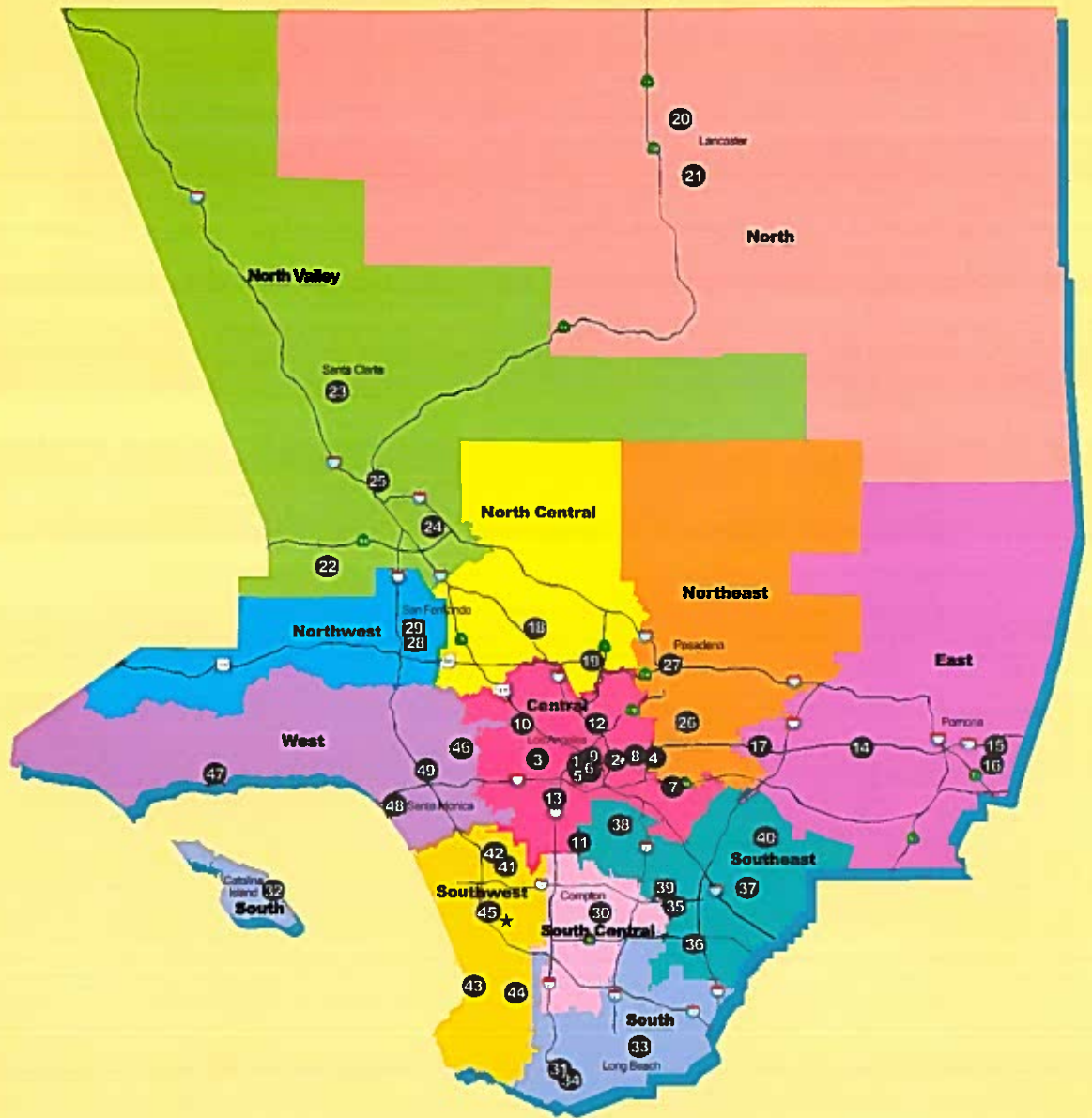
Every two years, the judges of the Los Angeles Superior Court elect a Presiding Judge. The judges also elect an Assistant Presiding Judge who assists the Presiding Judge. An Executive Committee consisting of elected representative judges determines court policy. The Executive Committee receives input from a variety of judicial committees appointed by the Presiding Judge. Over 400 judges serve on the various judicial committees, with some serving on several committees.

The current committees are:

- Executive
- Personnel and Budget
- Criminal Court
- Juvenile
- Mental Health
- Probate
- Bench/Bar
- California Jury Instructions, Criminal (CALJIC)
- Compensation, Benefits and Retirement
- Grand Jurors
- Informal Complaints Re: Bench Officers
- Judicial Orientation and Continuing Education (Civil)
- Judicial Orientation and Continuing Education (Criminal)
- Legislation
- Planning and Research
- Rules
- Access and Fairness
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Automation
- Domestic Violence
- Drinking Drivers
- Drug Court Oversight
- Historical
- Judicial Orientation Book
- Media
- Research Attorney/Law Clerk
- Security
- Special Events
- Temporary Judges
- Traffic
- Trial Jurors
- Civil and Small Claims
- Court-Community Outreach
- Court Services/Sheriff



Los Angeles Superior Court Districts and Locations





Legend

CENTRAL

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

EAST

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

NORTH CENTRAL

Burbank Courthouse	18
Glendale Courthouse	19

NORTH

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

NORTH VALLEY

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

NORTHEAST

Alhambra Courthouse	26
Pasadena Courthouse	27

NORTHWEST

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

SOUTH CENTRAL

Compton Courthouse	30
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SOUTH

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

SOUTHEAST

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

SOUTHWEST

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

WEST

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

* Geographically located in Southwest District



Community Outreach

And Leadership

Throughout 2005, we continued to emphasize strong community collaborations, with a particular focus on public education about the crucial role of the judicial branch in the American structure of government.

Educational Programs

We operate scores of outreach and educational programs. Overwhelmingly, their main focus is on young people. During the year, the Court strengthened its partnership with the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) which sponsored the “Courtroom to Classroom” program and a mock trial program. The former brought 90 judges and attorneys together with more than 1,000 students to broaden their understanding of the United States Constitution. The program focused heavily on schools in predominantly low-income communities.



Other educational initiatives involve mentoring, scholarship, and curriculum-development at the Long Beach, El Monte, Compton, Norwalk, Whittier, Santa Monica, Huntington Park, and Lancaster courthouses.

We also continued our broadly based mock trial program, in which several different youth-focused organizations participate, ranging from CRF to the Girl Scouts and including some university students as well. Judges often remark on the high level of talent exhibited by some of these generally teenage “lawyers” in the courtroom.

Mock trials promote a working knowledge of our justice system by having students take on the various roles of a legal case in actual courtrooms throughout the county. Students experience the excitement of working in teams, exchanging ideas, setting goals, and examining issues while interacting with positive role models from the community. CRF, for example, is in its 28th year sponsoring such programs in Los Angeles. Each year, CRF’s program, alone, serves more than 2,000 students across the county and involves more than 350 members of the bar and bench.

A mock trial is often built around actual cases, with attorneys and witnesses who make a timed presentation in front of real judges and attorneys. Teams compete at the high school and middle school level. As in a sports league, the competitions





winnow participants until only two teams remain to decide the championship. Real judges and attorneys not only preside over the trials and score the presentations, but some also serve as coaches.

Teen Court

Teen Court is a general term describing alternative early intervention courts that involve young people in various roles participating in the trial of a juvenile offender. It is a juvenile diversion and prevention program that links students, schools, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, local police, civic organizations, volunteer attorneys, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the Court in a collaborative effort to reduce recidivism and encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions. Teen courts are held at nine locations throughout the county.



A Teen Court outgrowth includes a collaboration with the City of Los Angeles Gang Reduction Program, which received more than \$40,000 in grant funding to establish Teen Court in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of East Los Angeles. In Venice, meanwhile, Teen Court was created in 2005 in conjunction with community development efforts led by the nonprofit Venice Community Housing Corporation. These programs and the efforts of eight other teen courts throughout Los Angeles County demonstrate our desire to promote safety in our communities.

Community Involvement

Community empowerment is another court priority. At the Compton Courthouse, the Partnership Program works directly with community organizations, as well as the City of Compton and county governments, to identify and combat quality-of-life crimes, such as graffiti and littering.

In Van Nuys, we partner with the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) to find ways the justice system can best address community concerns. CAP has also helped direct community service crews to clean-up projects in areas most affected by crime in the Van Nuys community.

CAP is a collaboration involving our Northwest District staff, the Mayor's Office, the City Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Volunteer Center of Los Angeles and the local Los Angeles Police Department bicycle patrol unit, as well as other social service providers and community organizations. These include the Van Nuys Homeowners Association, Knights of Columbus and Mid-Valley YMCA. The group meets quarterly and discusses issues of concern in the Van Nuys Community Court target area and recommends how defendants can best provide community service.

In addition, Community Justice Councils at the East Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena and Alhambra courthouses engage local justice, govern-



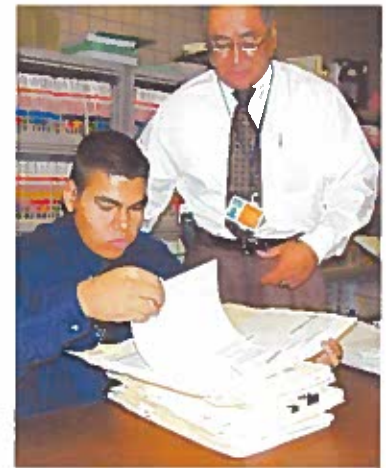
ment and community partners in dialogue about community and Court concerns.

Volunteering

Another 2005 outreach project was promoting volunteering and internship opportunities. We collaborated with local high schools, occupational centers, colleges and universities, as well as community-based organizations.

We recruited more than 3,400 volunteers and interns to work in programs such as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Domestic Violence Clinics, Guardianship Clinics, and others. Individuals donated thousands of hours in 30 different court programs, while receiving education about the justice system and gaining valuable work experience.

Many volunteers and interns received academic credit for their work with the Court, including those enrolled in high schools, universities, paralegal schools and adult education programs.



Awards to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2005

Ralph N. Kleps Award — New Judges Orientation - Presented by the Judicial Council of California
This program guides newly appointed or elected bench officers through the professional transition from the bar to the bench.

Multicultural Diversity Awards — Presented by the County of Los Angeles Affirmative Action Compliance Office and PACT (Parents and Children Together)
Teaches parents and caregivers better communication skills and how to understand the legal system.

Productivity & Quality Awards — JusticeCorps - Presented by the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission Awards Program
JusticeCorps provides specially trained college students to help customers navigate the court system, working through self-help legal access centers.

GROW (General Relief Opportunities for Work) — Presented to Homeless Court
GROW addresses the unique justice needs of the homeless. The GROW program is a collaborative effort with the Los Angeles Office of the City Attorney and the Department of Public Social Services

Security



"There is perhaps no more vital or complex challenge for a free society than assuring that its courts are always open, accessible and safe ...

"Especially in the criminal courts, conflict and the threat of violence will forever form the backdrop against which courts and judges fulfill their justice missions ...

"Even one avoidable tragedy is unacceptable ... All reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that our courthouses are safe ...

"At the same time, however, courts in free societies cannot function behind opaque veils of security. Access is essential to protect core constitutional liberties and ensure equal justice for all ..."

— *From a report of the Task Force on Court Security of the New York State Unified Court System, October, 2005*

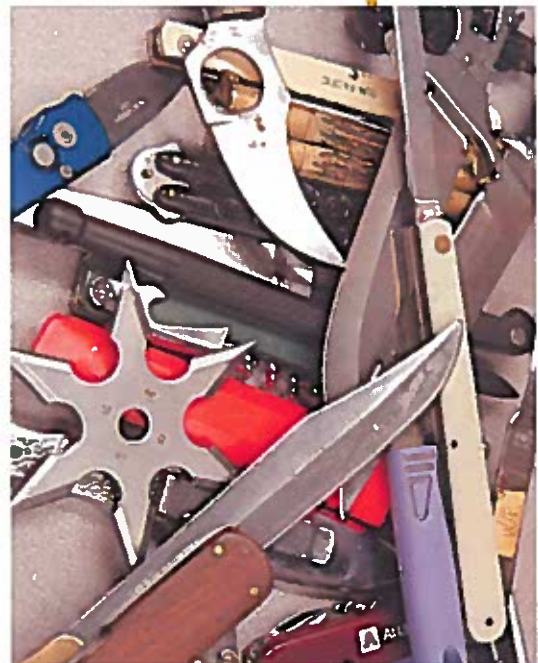
Several frightening shooting incidents in and just outside courthouses in cities across the United States during 2005 brought a new focus to concerns about the security of court facilities throughout the country.

In February 2005, a man shot and killed his wife on the steps of a courthouse in Tyler, Texas. In March, four people — including a judge — were killed during an inmate escape from the Atlanta (Fulton County) courthouse in Georgia. Two of the Atlanta victims were killed inside the courthouse and two outside. The judge was shot inside his courtroom.

Also in February, two members of a Chicago judge's family were murdered execution-style at the judge's home. In June, police shot and killed a man who brandished a fake grenade at a security checkpoint at a federal courthouse in Seattle.

Publication in October of a report by a task force convened to review court security measures nationwide brought back into sharp focus the priority that is given to security in our Court.

This alarming series of events underscored the need for enhanced security vigilance for our Court, which has





responded to several firearm incidents in the last decade — including the nationally televised shooting of an attorney by an angered litigant outside the Van Nuys Courthouse in October 2003, and the slaying of a California Highway Patrol officer in a gang-initiation incident outside the Pomona Courthouse in April 2004.

The Los Angeles Superior Court has always placed security as among its very highest priorities. Accordingly, in late 2005, we dispatched a three-person team, including the Court security director, to Atlanta to spend several days conferring with staff

members at that courthouse. When they returned, the team members made a detailed report. While we do not reveal details of our security operations publicly, the team concluded that our procedures are quite different from Atlanta's and that an event like that one is highly unlikely in Los Angeles County.

However, during the Fall, a new security review was ordered at every individual courthouse to identify any possible vulnerability. Although it will never be possible to guarantee that no dire event will occur in our Court, we are confident that our systems include very thorough and effective precautions.

Our system is vast, including 52 different facilities, and all courthouses have mandatory weapons screening practices. From January through October 2005, 19.7 million people stepped through our security checkpoints into courthouses. The total was down slightly from the 20 million weapons screenings in the same period of 2004, but despite the broad public awareness of these screening operations, attempts are still made to bring weapons into courthouses.

Some of the attempts were innocent mistakes. Some were not. During the first 10 months of 2005, our security operations confiscated five handguns — up from three the previous year — and 57,851 knives, 177 stun guns, 5,705 containers of Mace, and 15,569 razors. One of the gun recoveries involved an attorney who had the weapon in his briefcase.





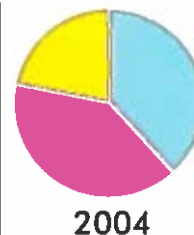
Weapons Screening Statistics

Restricted Items Held/Denied Entry

January - October 2004		
Sheriff's Bureau	Total	Percent
Central	57,703	22%
East	105,531	40%
West	100,925	38%
Courtwide Total	264,159	100%

January - October 2005		
Sheriff's Bureau	Total	Percent
Central	43,732	20%
East	101,547	46%
West	76,693	35%
Courtwide Total	221,972	100%

Items Restricted in 2005	
Knives	57,851
Scissors	22,455
Razors	15,569
Handcuffs	7,702
Mace	5,705
Stun Guns	177
Pins	2,784
Tools	29,128
Misc.	80,601
Division Total	221,972



2004



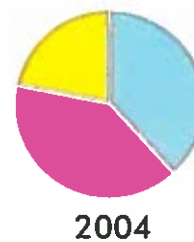
2005

16% Decrease in 2005 vs 2004 • 42,187 Fewer Items

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

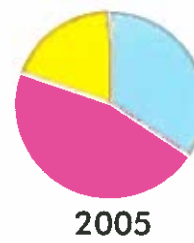
Highest Risk Weapons Seized

January - October 2004				
Sheriff's Bureau	Total	Percent	Weapons Seized	
Central	5	31%	Handgun	3
East	9	56%	Dirk/Dagger	5
West	2	13%	Other	8
Courtwide Total	16	100%	Division Total	16



2004

January - October 2005				
Sheriff's Bureau	Total	Percent	Weapons Seized	
Central	4	24%	Handgun	5
East	8	47%	Dirk/Dagger	4
West	5	29%	Other	8
Courtwide Total	17	100%	Division Total	17



2005

6% Increase in 2005 vs 2004 • 1 more weapon seized

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

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



Use of

Resources



The funding allocation for the 2005-2006 fiscal year places the Los Angeles Superior Court in slightly better fiscal condition than in the two prior years. In Sacramento, the Legislature took a first step toward establishing a consistent funding base for the Judicial Branch. The fiscal year's comparative stability is enhanced by enactment of legislation that linked this Judicial Branch to the State Appropriations Limit, or SAL, to assure that court budgets can respond to increasing operating costs.

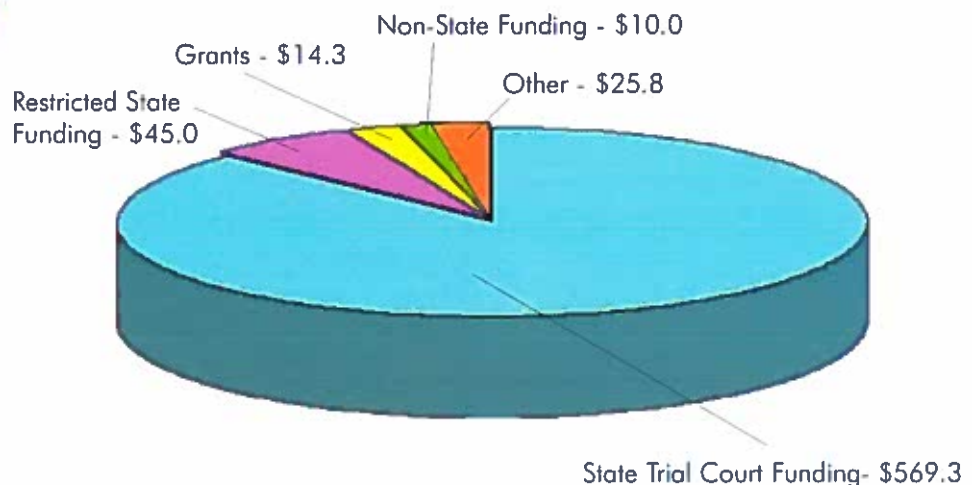
During the 2004-2005 budget year, the statewide judicial branch budget was increased by an additional \$85.5 million to cover growing expenditures — especially in benefits. Our financial projections for 2004-2005 included these expenditures funded with one-time court reserves. Accordingly, the above increase reflects what we hope is the beginning of a return toward stable and predictable budget allocations. The volatile fiscal climate of California, however, necessitates caution since the magnitude of future budget deficits is unknown and the state's economic picture is unpredictable.



Fiscal Year 2005-2006 (Allocated) Total Budget \$665.1 Million

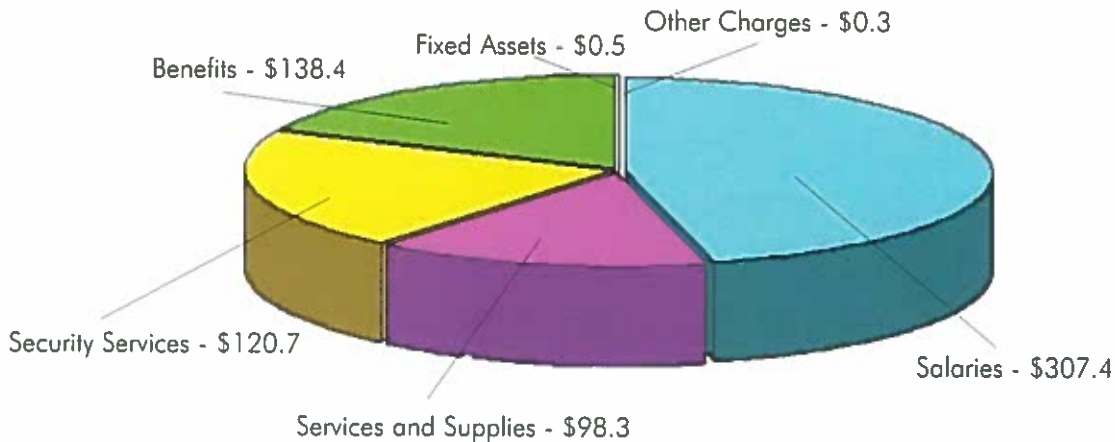
Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



2005-2006 Expenditures (Allocated)

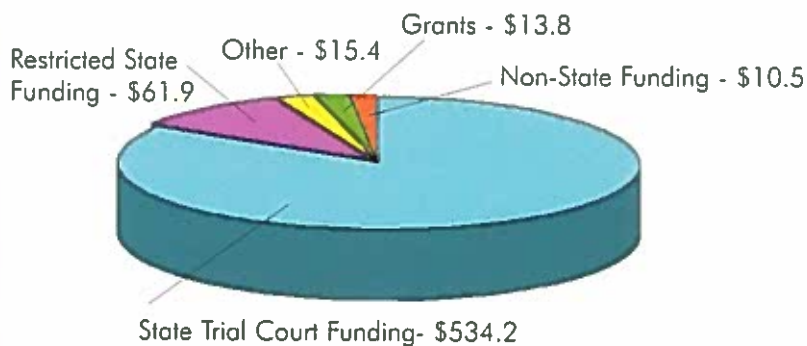
(All figures are in millions of dollars)



Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Total Budget \$635.8 Million

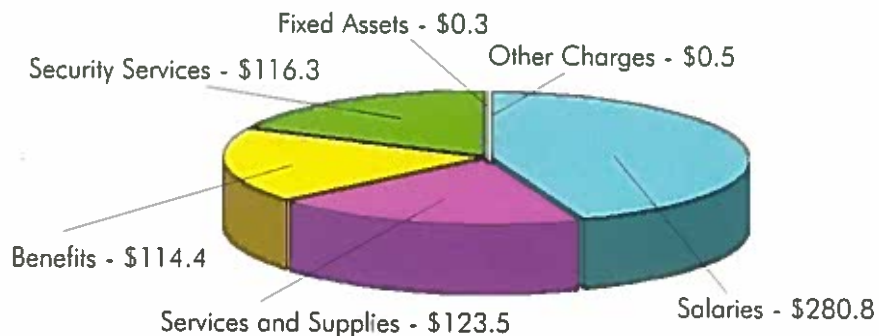
Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



2004-2005 Expenditures

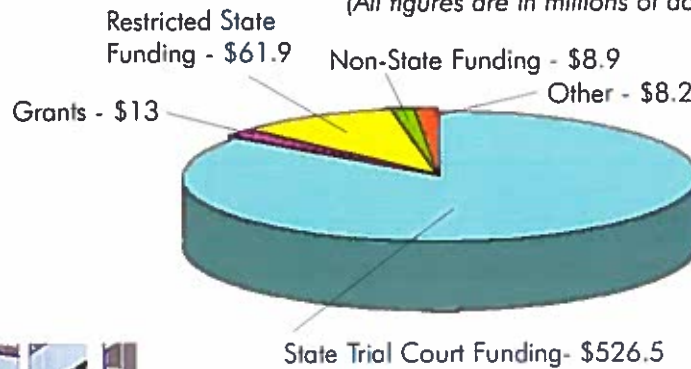
(All figures are in millions of dollars)



Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Total Budget \$618.5 Million

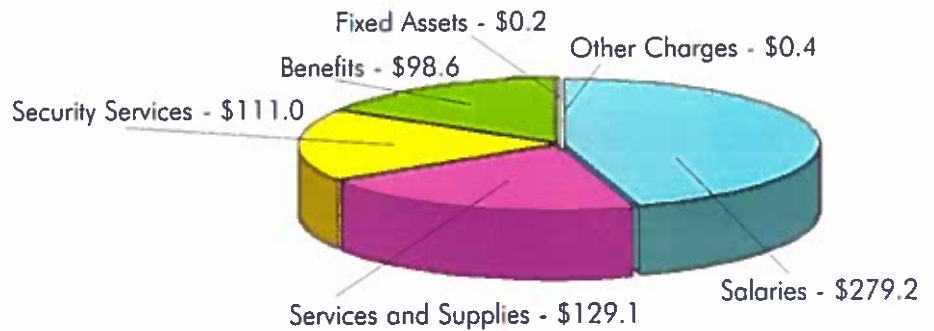
Revenues

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



2003 -2004 Expenditures

(All figures are in millions of dollars)



Revenue Definitions

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

Expenditure Definitions

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



Mission Statement of the Los Angeles Superior Court

Fairness

Administer individual justice in individual cases and treat all people with respect and dignity.

Accessibility

Equally serve all people and consistently work to identify and remove barriers to access.

Integrity

Protect individual rights and liberties and protect the confidentiality of court participants as required by law; develop employees who conduct themselves ethically and professionally.

Responsiveness and Responsibility

Address the public's needs in an efficient, effective, courteous way, using innovative methods and maintaining accountability.

