



# 2018

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## Annual Report Los Angeles Superior Court





LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT  
AT  
UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE  
312 NORTH SPRING STREET

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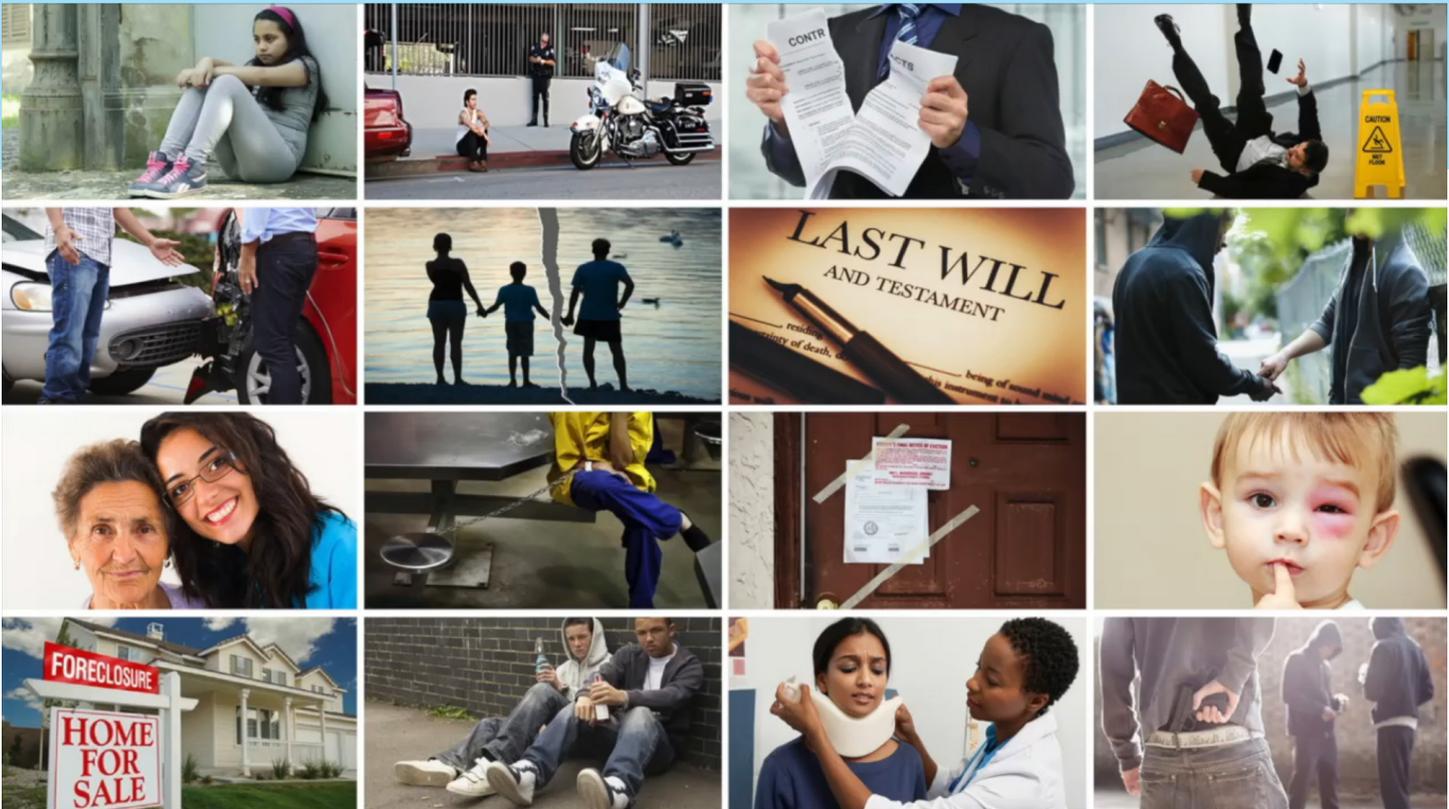
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Photo: The newly opened Los Angeles Superior Court at United States Court House.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING JUDGE AND COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER



As the only state trial court for the County of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Superior Court provides access to justice for millions of people each year, across a broad range of issues. The Court:

- Protects children;
- Cares for those who cannot care for themselves;
- Helps families in distress;
- Supports California's economic infrastructure;
- Balances the need for public safety with people's constitutional rights; and
- Uses technology to better serve the public and to save scarce taxpayer dollars.

The 2018 Annual Report documents some of the highlights of how the Court has improved access to justice in all of these areas. It describes how the commitment to modernizing our business processes laid a foundation for better service and cost savings—in part, through radically transforming a paper-based system into a digital one.

The Annual Report also illustrates how the Court has transformed efficiencies and savings into more and better services for the public in every area of law and every facet of court operations. Highlights of these improvements described in the report include:

- Adding small claims and landlord-tenant courtrooms to more courthouses, making it easier for people to get their day in court;
- Reopening the Whittier Courthouse to the public and transforming it into the county's first dedicated family law courthouse;
- Continuing a multi-year effort to replace outdated case management systems—the Court's automation lifeblood—improves the foundation for a modern and efficient court that better serves litigants, attorneys and the public.

These improvements and areas of expanded services have come largely from savings of the Court's own making. Modest increases in state funding have not kept up with increases in the cost of doing business. Nonetheless, the efficiencies and cost-saving measures described in this Annual Report have contributed greatly to the Court's ability to do more with less.

This year's Annual Report continues the theme of improvement and innovation that has characterized the past several Annual Reports. It is a vivid illustration of how the judicial officers and staff of the Los Angeles Superior Court pursue the Court's mission:

***The Los Angeles Superior Court is dedicated to serving our community by providing equal access to justice through the fair, timely and efficient resolution of all cases.***



DANIEL J. BUCKLEY  
PRESIDING JUDGE  
(2017-2018)



SHERRIL R. CARTER  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER/CLERK

# ABOUT THE LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

The Los Angeles Superior Court is one of 58 superior courts created by Article VI of the California Constitution. It is the only state court for the County of Los Angeles, an area which encompasses 88 cities, 140 unincorporated areas and more than 90 law enforcement agencies. It serves a population of over 10 million, an increase of almost 500,000 since 2000. The Court includes 39 courthouses located in 12 judicial districts throughout the county's 4,752 square miles.

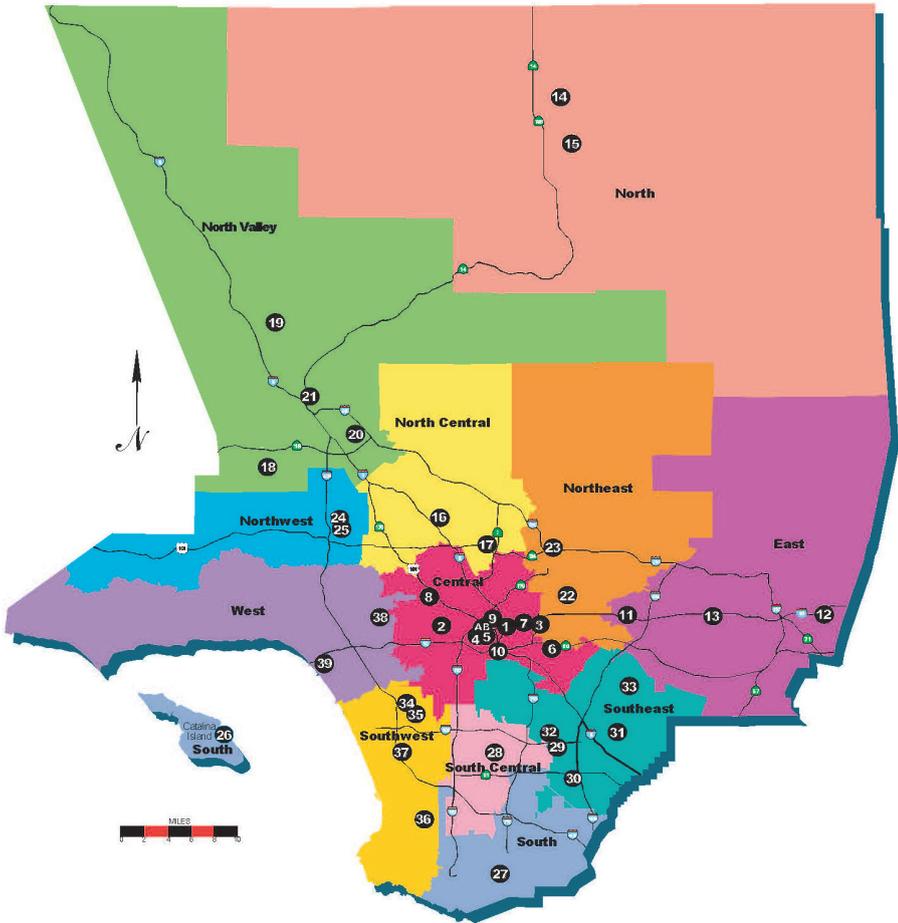
The Court's judicial officers hear every case type under state law – criminal, civil, family law, juvenile dependency and delinquency, probate, mental health, and traffic. Cases range from simple traffic infractions to murders; landlord/tenant disputes to multi-million dollar lawsuits; guardianships to involuntary commitments.

The Court provides interpreter services for 89 languages including rare and indigenous dialects. Combined, the Family Law Facilitator's and self-help offices average over 23,000 instances of providing assistance to unrepresented litigants every month. Handling tens of millions of customers each year, and with a budget of more than \$769 million, if the Court was a business, it would be one of the largest in the county. With more than 550 judicial officers and more than 4,600 permanent employees, it is the largest trial court in the nation.

The Court has been a recognized leader in programs such as Drug Court, Veterans' Court and Homeless Court. It provides self-help centers in each of the 12 judicial districts. It is the originator of JusticeCorps, an AmeriCorps program that trains college student volunteers to provide assistance to unrepresented litigants.

The Court's innovative projects and programs such as Teen Court and SHADES (Stop Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students) have received numerous awards and the Court's adoption program was the model for what is now National Adoption Day.

The Los Angeles Superior Court is the coordinator of the annual California Association of Youth Courts Conference. These programs, along with the Court's other innovations, have been recognized by the National Association of Counties, National Association of Court Management and the Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission.



# COURT DISTRICTS AND COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS

### CENTRAL DISTRICT

- 1 Central Arraignment Courthouse
- 2 Central Civil West Courthouse
- 3 Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Courthouse
- 4 Stanley Mosk Courthouse
- 5 Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center
- 6 East Los Angeles Courthouse
- 7 Eastlake Juvenile Courthouse
- 8 Hollywood Courthouse\*
- 9 Spring Street Courthouse
- 10 Metropolitan Courthouse
- A Court Archives and Record Center
- B Hall of Records (Court Technology Services, Jury Services)

### EAST DISTRICT

- 11 El Monte Courthouse
- 12 Pomona Courthouse
- 13 West Covina Courthouse

### NORTH DISTRICT

- 14 Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center
- 15 Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse

### NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

- 16 Burbank Courthouse
- 17 Glendale Courthouse

### NORTH VALLEY DISTRICT

- 18 Chatsworth Courthouse
- 19 Santa Clarita Courthouse
- 20 San Fernando Courthouse
- 21 Sylmar Juvenile Courthouse

\*Opening 2019

### NORTHEAST DISTRICT

- 22 Alhambra Courthouse
- 23 Pasadena Courthouse

### NORTHWEST DISTRICT

- 24 Van Nuys East Courthouse
- 25 Van Nuys West Courthouse

### SOUTH DISTRICT

- 26 Catalina Courthouse
- 27 Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse

### SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

- 28 Compton Courthouse

### SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

- 29 Downey Courthouse
- 30 Bellflower Courthouse
- 31 Norwalk Courthouse
- 32 Los Padrinos Juvenile Courthouse
- 33 Whittier Courthouse

### SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

- 34 Inglewood Courthouse
- 35 Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse
- 36 Torrance Courthouse

### WEST DISTRICT

- 37 Airport Courthouse\*\*
- 38 Beverly Hills Courthouse
- 39 Santa Monica Courthouse

\*\*Geographically located in the Southwest District.

# TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE



*The Los Angeles Superior Court continues to make great strides in expanding technical capabilities, building upon the innovations it made in previous years. These award-winning advancements provide better public service, saving time and effort for litigants and attorneys. Many of them create internal efficiencies as well, freeing court staff from manual tasks—allowing them to be reassigned to areas where their knowledge and skills are most beneficial.*

## CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Automated case management systems are the technological lifeblood of a court. They are the software and hardware that record litigants' filings, schedule court dates, capture judicial rulings, and make the public records of the Court accessible to everyone.

For years, the Court lacked the resources and opportunity to keep its case management systems up to date. Now, the Court is in the midst of a multi-year effort to replace decades-old systems—involving planning, programming, data conversion, equipment upgrades, and training of thousands of employees and hundreds of judicial officers on the new systems.

The technology underpinning the new case management systems not only is more reliable and cost-effective, but it also provides the platform

for the paperless court. It supports electronic processing and storage of all information related to a court case, from the filing of the initial petition to the maintenance of the court record and electronic documents.

The two largest rollouts of new case management systems thus far happened in 2018 in the traffic and civil courts:

- The traffic system implementation involved the conversion of over **five million cases** and **15 million document images**.
- The unlimited civil system implementation required the conversion of nearly **768,000 cases** and **12.4 million document images** (see page 15).

To date, the Court has transitioned to new case

management systems in the civil, family law, juvenile dependency, mental health, probate, and traffic courts. Next up are criminal and juvenile delinquency.

The new case management systems allow the Court to introduce new companion programs and expand the use of technology to the work of judicial officers and staff. Advanced data storage and retrieval capability and the digitization of case files greatly enhances the ability to share case information with justice partners, the legal community and the public.

Here are some examples:

## EFILING

If a modern court is a paperless court, then the transition begins at the time of filing of the initial document by a litigant or an attorney. With efilings, people can submit documents for filing to the Court any time of day, from any location. The electronic documents are reviewed by staff and once accepted, become part of the electronic case file. This reduces manual processing, file stamping, filing, storage, and retrieval of paper documents and the need for staff to enter the data into the Court's case management systems. The parties are saved the time and expense of driving to courthouses, standing in line and filing documents during the Court's business hours. Opposing parties can be served electronically as well. Self-represented litigants still have the option of filing paper documents.

The Court has utilized efilings for small claims cases for a number of years and began efilings in probate in June 2017. Now, efilings are available for civil litigation—limited and unlimited. More than 140,000 limited and unlimited civil cases were filed in Fiscal Year 2017/2018.

## THE MARCH TOWARD A PAPERLESS COURT

The expansion of technology is moving the Court toward a paperless environment. However,

a paperless environment requires a new understanding of what constitutes the court record. The Court has made **digital** information and documents the official record in these areas: limited and unlimited civil, family law, juvenile dependency, small claims and unlawful detainer (eviction) cases.

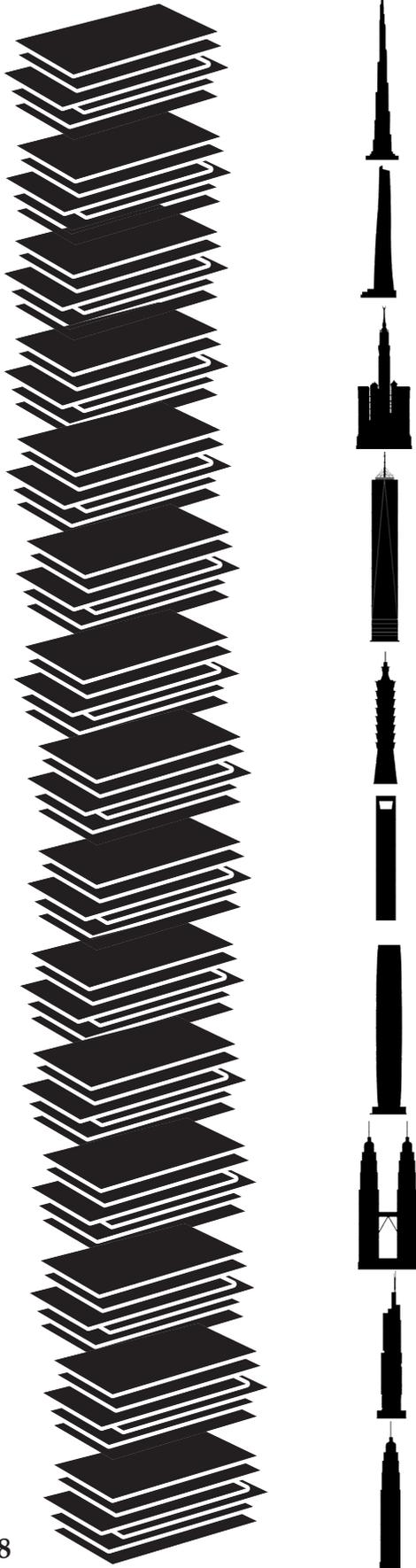
The introduction of efilings helps the Court move forward, however, existing paper files need to be scanned in order to provide a complete case record electronically. A "document" is composed of a single page or multiple pages. During the scanning process, an image of each page is created and stored electronically. The scanned pages are collectively stored as a document. A rigorous quality control process ensures 100 percent of the scanned document images are accurate and complete.

- Family law scanned **1,979,846 documents** and **6,408,682 images**.
- Juvenile dependency scanned **672,582 documents** and **11,150,065 images**.
- Limited civil scanned **479,900 documents** and **1,510,714 images**.
- General civil scanned **153,292 documents** and **792,561 images** from July to October 2018.
- The archives department has scanned **68,880 case files** (criminal, family law and complex civil), **166,368 documents** and **17,598,771 images** to help create a paperless environment throughout the Court.
- Collectively, approximately **27 million document images** have been scanned in preparation for the introduction of the new automated case management systems and the continued rollout of BenchView.

Thus far, much of the transition to a paperless court has involved scanning paper documents. But as the use of efilings expands, the need to scan documents is drastically reduced, moving the Court ever closer to its paperless goal.

In 2018, the combined total height of the world's tallest buildings was **20,812 feet**.

If you stacked the number of pages scanned by LASC in 2017/2018, the total height would be...**20,812 feet!**



## JUSTICE PARTNER PORTAL

**Award winner - National Association of Counties 2018 Achievement Award; 2018 National Association for Court Management (NACM) Technology Solutions award**

Another area in which digitization provides both better service and greater efficiency is in providing access to electronic court documents and case information. The Court's Justice Partner Portal (JPP) provides partner government agencies with the ability to view case information online, as authorized by statute. The portal provides authorized, secure access for more than 6,000 employees working for dozens of government agencies such as prosecuting agencies, public defenders, law enforcement, and state, county and municipal agencies that support the justice system—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Both the Court and the participating agencies benefit when agency personnel do not have to go to a courthouse to request paper copies of case file documents.

JPP is an essential component of the Court's modernization efforts. Digital information sharing helps the entire system work more efficiently.

## BENCHVIEW

**Award winner - National Association of Counties 2018 Achievement Award**

The paperless court extends to the paperless courtroom—and that means providing judicial officers with secure, easy-to-use access to digitized court documents. BenchView is a web-based application that provides easy access to case information and documents, as well as various other resources for judicial officers. BenchView is accessible from desktop computers and mobile devices 24/7.

Even in document-intensive cases such as those in the dependency courts (i.e., the foster care system), where case files routinely run into the thousands of pages, judicial officers find BenchView easy to use—and a welcome relief from handling paper.

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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Van Nuys East Courthouse

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Access Information for Persons with Disabilities   
Language Access Services 

**SCAMMERS ASK FOR PERSONAL OR PAYMENT INFORMATION**

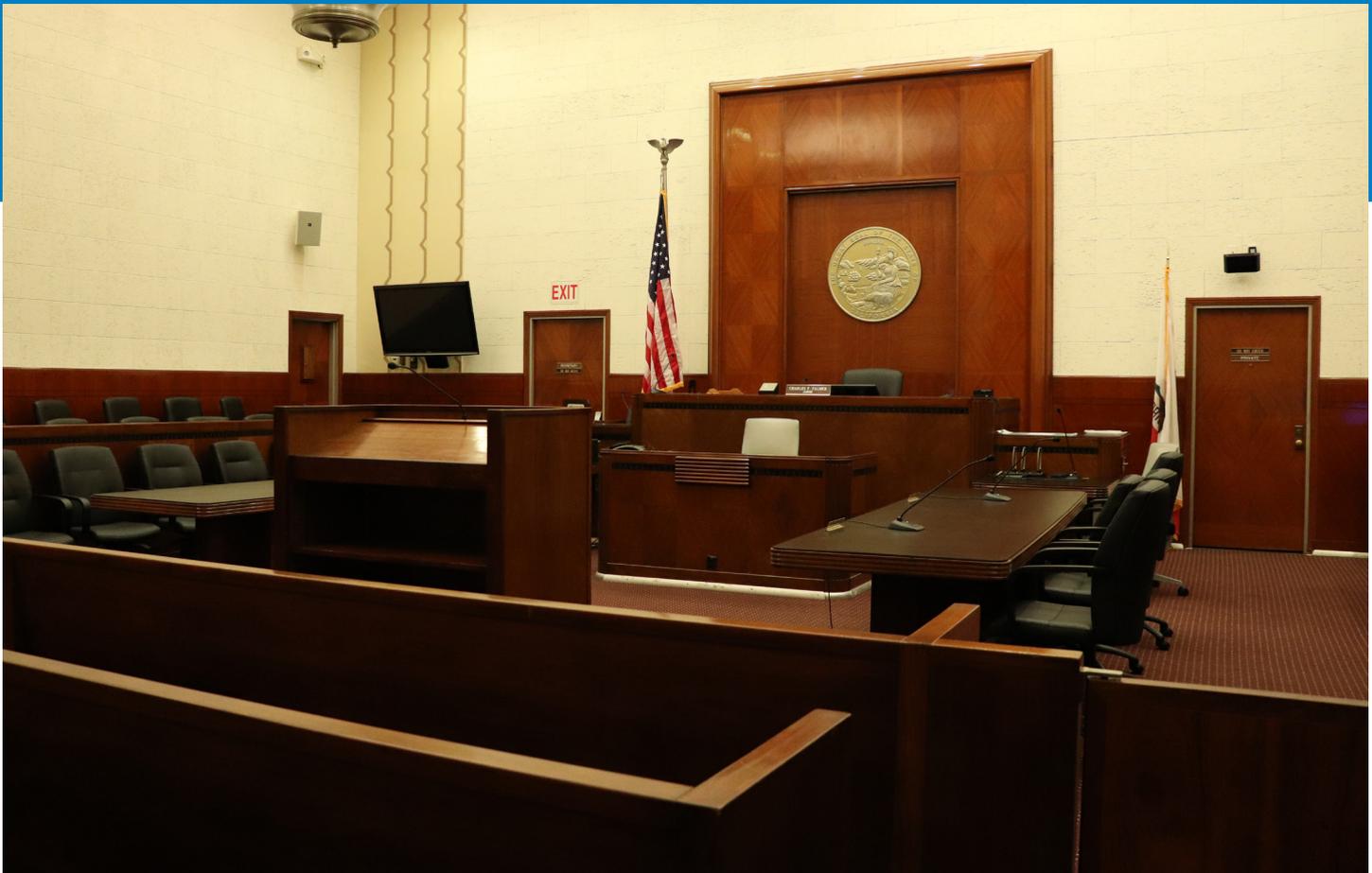
*Attorneys & Litigants*  
General Use  
Case  
**Locate Your Filing Courthouse**  
Locate the courthouse where your case belongs.  
**Remote Appearances**  
Select courtrooms allow court appearances by phone and video, click above for more information.  
**Court Date Calculator**  
Calculate the number of court days before or after a given date. California court holidays are taken into consideration.  
**Request Transcripts**  
**Interpreter Information**  
Filing Fees

## LACOURT.ORG

Improved technology means more than access to digital documents. The Court uses its website—lacourt.org—to deliver a wide range of services to the public. Lacourt.org offers easy-to-find links to the most frequently used areas of the website:

- **Find a Case**, where the public can view a case summary and digital documents filed in civil cases;
- The **Jury Services** page provides information to assist people who are summoned for jury duty;
- **Find a Courthouse** provides maps and directions, parking information, services, and other courthouse-specific information to make it easier for people to find and get to a courthouse—including information about access for people with disabilities;
- **Online Services for traffic tickets**, which includes an automated assistant that provides procedural information in six languages, tailored to a person's specific traffic ticket, is one of the most popular pages on the website, with nearly 400,000 visitors each month;
- A wealth of **self-help** information is just a click away for litigants without lawyers;
- Litigants can **request an interpreter** for a hearing in one of hundreds of languages; and
- Attorneys can schedule a hearing on a civil motion online via the **Court Reservation System**.

# EXPANDING ACCESS IN COMMUNITIES



**Over the past few years, one of the Court's priorities has been to ensure that all case types can be heard in at least one courthouse in each district in order to reduce travel time and inconvenience for court users.**

**Small Claims hearings are now held in every one of the Court's 12 districts. Unlawful detainer matters are now heard in every district as well. The Court has also added courtrooms to hear family law, probate and dependency cases throughout the county.**

**Perhaps the most visible expansion, however, is the move into two courthouses: the Spring Street Courthouse, in downtown Los Angeles, and the Whittier Courthouse.**

## SPRING STREET COURTHOUSE

In April 2018, the Los Angeles Superior Court opened courtrooms in the historic United States Court House on Spring Street in downtown Los Angeles. In partnership with the Judicial Council of California (which oversees all of the courthouses in California) and the federal General Services Administration (GSA), the move gives the former federal courthouse a new lease on life.

Built as a Works Progress Administration project in the 1930s, the Spring Street Courthouse (as it is now known) was the largest federal building west of the Mississippi when it opened in 1939—part courthouse and part U.S. Post Office.

Due to the Arte Moderne courthouse's architectural value (designed by the talented and prolific Los Angeles architect Stanley Gilbert Underwood) and the historic significance of many of the cases which had been tried there, the courtrooms on the first and second floors had been given historic preservation status in 2006 and later designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012.

When the federal court moved from the Spring Street address to a new building, some federal tenants, including the U.S. Attorney's office, stayed behind. At the same time, the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles was bursting at the seams. Moving some courtrooms from Mosk to Spring Street seemed a great opportunity for both federal and state government.

Locating a state court in a federal building with a historical designation was not simple. But with GSA cooperation and creative space planning, the move was possible. Judges and court staff moved into the new space in April. The move included eight judges assigned to complex civil litigation, five judges assigned to hear personal injury civil cases and three judges assigned to civil trials. Future plans for the Spring Street Courthouse include opening eight additional courtrooms in the summer of 2019.



The relocation of those civil courtrooms has created much-needed additional space at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse for family law and probate courtrooms and support operations.



## WHITTIER COURTHOUSE

With great reluctance, the Los Angeles Superior Court closed the Whittier Courthouse to normal operations in 2013 as part of a plan to absorb state funding reductions. After five years, court is once again in session at the Whittier Courthouse.

Prior to reopening in May 2018, the courthouse underwent significant structural improvements including new energy-efficient lighting, more efficient heating and cooling systems, a new roof, and exterior painting and landscaping, as well as numerous upgrades to the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and security infrastructure.

Part of the Los Angeles Superior Court's Southeast District, the Whittier Courthouse is now the first in the county devoted solely to family law matters. Six family law courtrooms are located there, including one courtroom dedicated to complex family law matters. More than 50 employees will process an expected 2,800 divorce and 2,500 domestic violence cases every year.

By making Whittier a specialized courthouse, the Court can provide a wide range of ancillary services to the litigants who come there. The Whittier Courthouse includes:

- **Self-Help Center** – where self-represented parties receive information about the court process and assistance with the preparation and filing of required court documents.
- **Family Law Facilitators** – which assist self-represented litigants with child support, spousal support and health insurance issues.
- **Family Law Court Services** – provides mediation assistance to parents in establishing the best custody plan for their child/children. Child custody evaluators perform in-depth investigations regarding the family situation when parents are unable to resolve custody and visitation disputes. Their reports help the judicial officers determine the best arrangements for the children.
- **Children's Waiting Room** – provides free child care for people with young children who need to conduct court business but cannot afford child care.
- **Domestic Violence Clinic** – provides information and assistance to those seeking a restraining order.

Some judicial officers and court staff were relocated from the Norwalk Courthouse to the Whittier location, which will handle all of the family law filings for the district. With the move, the Norwalk Courthouse will be able to expand other areas of operation.

# CIVIL



Courts are a vital part of the economic infrastructure of California. Last year in the Los Angeles Superior Court, more than 77,000 unlimited civil cases were initiated in which more than \$25,000 was at stake—more than \$1.5 billion of claims being litigated.

Civil cases go well beyond business disputes, addressing personal injury, motor vehicle accidents, medical malpractice, product liability, and other issues. For instance, California's affordable housing crisis is reflected in the California courts: each year in the Los Angeles Superior Court alone, more than 40,000 eviction cases are filed. These cases get priority and are handled on an expedited basis, in accordance with statute.

More than 60,000 small claims cases are filed each year, involving a wide range of issues from neighbor conflicts to lawsuits over property damage to disputes over contractor services.

More than 25,000 personal injury lawsuits are filed each year. The Court has expanded its Mandatory Settlement Conference Program, where volunteer attorneys (one who typically represents plaintiffs and one who typically represents defendants) help parties settle personal injury cases.

Civil cases are heard in every district, in 16 courthouses. The newest addition to the Los Angeles Superior Court, the Spring Street Courthouse, is the only courthouse in the county that hears civil cases exclusively—many of them complex and class-action cases. (See story about the Spring Street Courthouse on page 11).

**Complex cases** are civil lawsuits designated as requiring exceptional judicial supervision because they involve numerous parties with multiple claims or otherwise present complicated legal or

procedural issues for adjudication.

**Class action** cases are civil lawsuits in which a group of people with the same or similar injuries caused by the same product or action sue the defendant as a group.

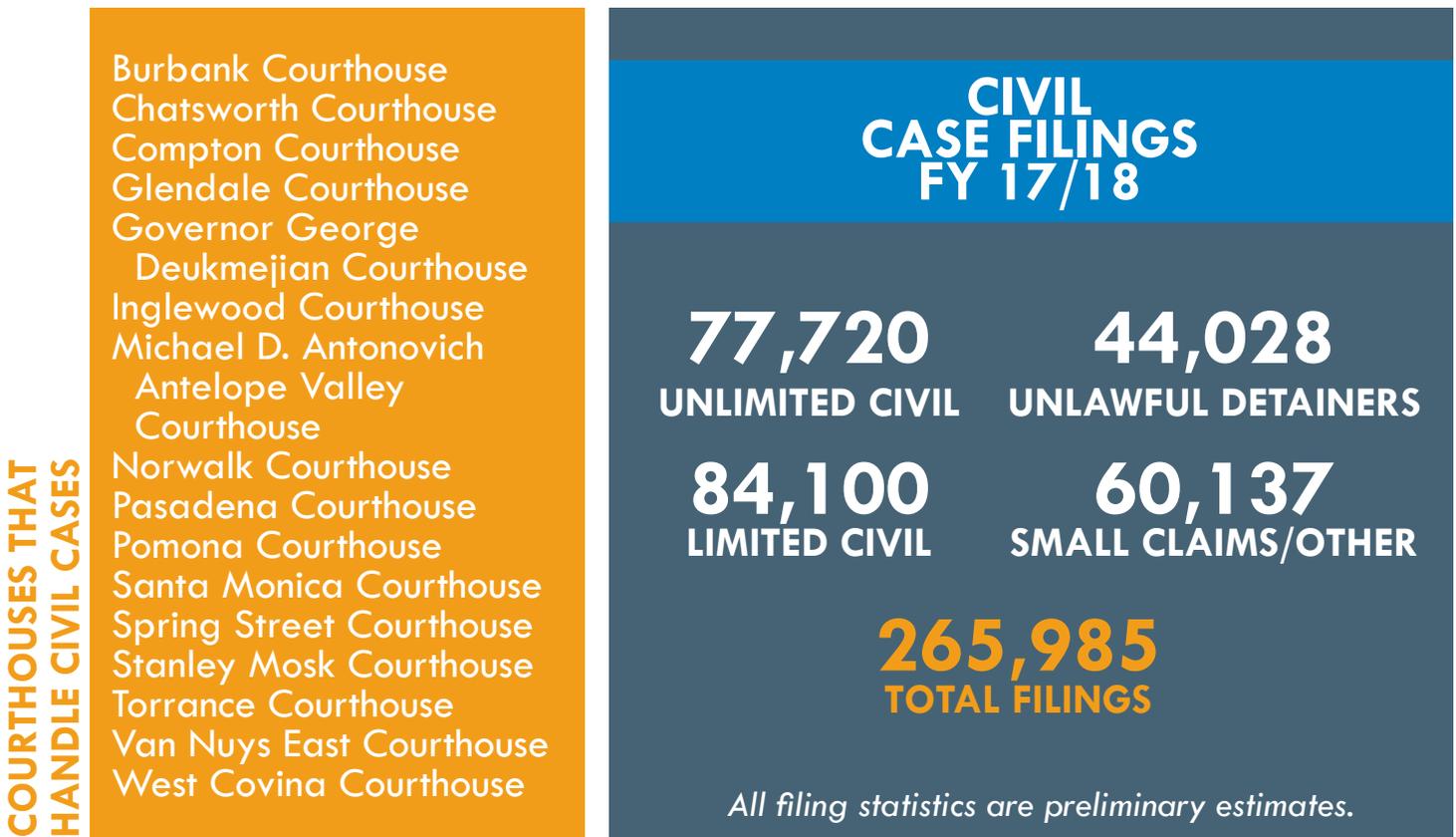
## EXPANSION OF CIVIL SERVICES

In addition to the courtroom and courthouse closures that occurred in 2013, the Court was forced to consolidate some court operations in order to maximize limited resources. In 2013, unlawful detainer (eviction) cases were handled at only five locations. During the past year, however, the Court expanded the number of courthouses that hear unlawful detainer cases, which are once again heard in every judicial district.

## COURT RESERVATION SYSTEM

The Court’s online Court Reservation System (CRS) allows attorneys to schedule civil motions via computer or smart phone, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The award-winning innovation has made the scheduling process easier for attorneys and courtroom staff.

The CRS now services 76 civil courtrooms. A total of 242,059 reservations were scheduled through December 2017—each one avoiding time-consuming phone calls and conversations between attorneys and court staff.

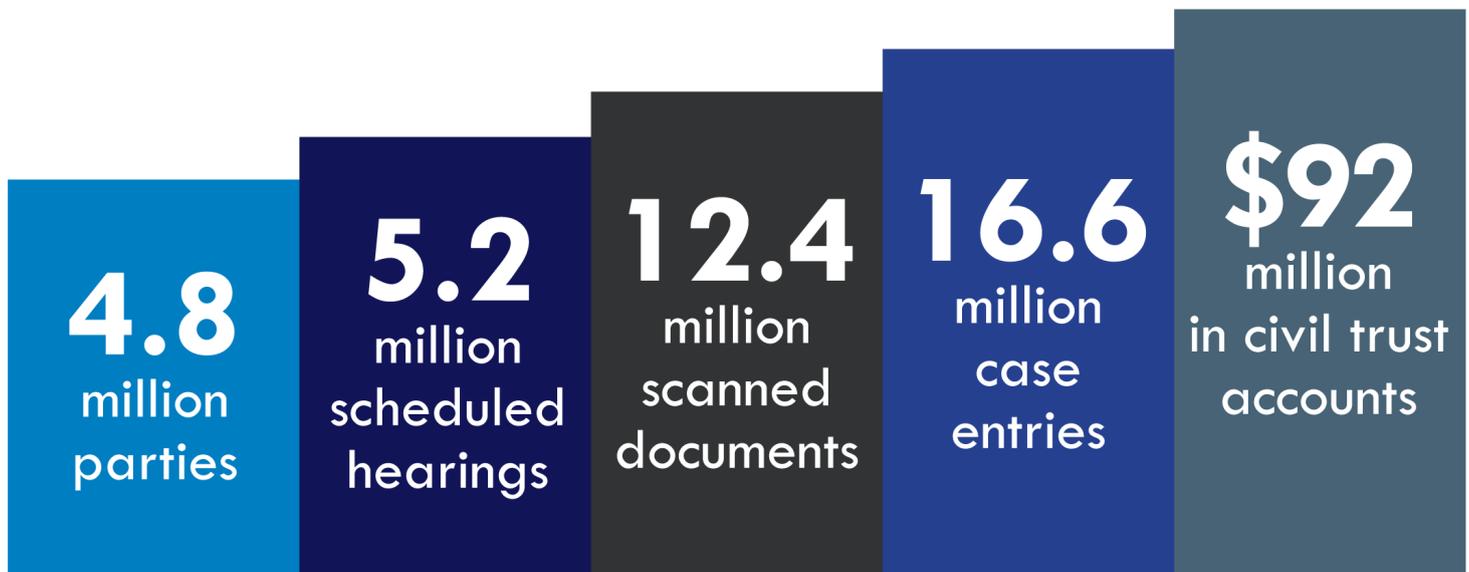


## NEW TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION FOR IMPROVED SERVICE

This year, the Court implemented a new automated case management system for civil operations—replacing technology that was more than 30 years old. When new courtroom technology came to the unlimited civil courtrooms in October (i.e., those handling cases with more than \$25,000 at stake), the conversion impacted 117 courtrooms located in 16 courthouses and hundreds of judicial officers and employees. More than 760,000 cases, and more than 12.4 million document records, were converted to the new system.

As was discussed in more detail on page six, the new case management system provides the foundation for the paperless civil case—from the filing of the initial complaint via e filing, through exchanges of digital documents in place of paper, to digital capture of court rulings. An electronic environment makes each step in the life of a civil case easier and more efficient for litigants and attorneys. The Court continues to provide paper-based case processing for litigants without attorneys who prefer to file their cases on paper.

## IMPLEMENTING THE NEW CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN UNLIMITED CIVIL REQUIRED CONVERSION OF THE FOLLOWING:



# CRIMINAL



In criminal courts, society looks to judges to ensure the appropriate use of government power and to balance a person's constitutional rights with the need for public safety. In Los Angeles County, judges do this in more than 38,000 felony and nearly 170,000 misdemeanor cases each year.

Judges in the criminal courts do more than just make a finding of “guilty or not guilty.” They are being called upon to address the underlying causes of offenses such as drug abuse, mental illness and other causes. In tens of thousands of cases every year, Los Angeles Superior Court judges do this in partnership with prosecutors, defense attorneys and a wide range of county and local agencies, as they tailor sentences that include not only incarceration, but programs that address a defendant's needs for housing, addiction counseling, mental health treatment, and other support.

The demands on the criminal courts have changed significantly in recent years. For instance, criminal justice realignment (Assembly Bill 109 from 2013) requires judges to directly oversee a defendant's parole or probation. As a result, over 40,000 hearings are held annually on petitions to revoke or modify sentences. Proposition 47, passed in 2014, reduces the penalties associated with certain crimes and allows defendants previously convicted of those crimes to ask for a sentence reduction. The Los Angeles Superior Court has held more than 60,000 Prop. 47 hearings since its passage.

Proposition 66 (2016) shortens the time for legal challenges to death sentences, in part by requiring the trial courts, rather than the California Supreme Court, to hear habeas corpus petitions (a mandatory step in the appeal of a death sentence). The impact on the trial courts is expected to be significant—increasing workloads and costs.

Also in 2016, Californians approved Proposition 64, the California Marijuana Legalization Initiative. Prop. 64 not only legalized recreational marijuana use, it also

authorized resentencing and destruction of records for prior marijuana convictions. Prop. 64 allows people currently serving a sentence for certain marijuana convictions to petition to have the underlying conviction recalled and resentenced or dismissed. In addition, it allows people who were convicted of certain marijuana offenses and have completed their sentences to apply to have the underlying conviction redesignated as a misdemeanor or infraction, or dismissed and sealed. Hundreds of thousands of convicted defendants in Los Angeles County are potentially eligible for relief under Prop. 64.

**VIDEO ARRAIGNMENTS**

In September, the Bellflower Courthouse began conducting video arraignments with the Metropolitan State Hospital, located in nearby Norwalk. When a patient at Metropolitan State Hospital commits a crime, the new case is filed at the Bellflower Courthouse. Historically, the patient would be removed from treatment and transported to the Los Angeles County Jail, losing their placement at the hospital.

Conducting video arraignments eliminates the “revolving door” process of patients, who have already been placed into the mental health court, from being repeatedly shuttled back and forth between the criminal and mental health courts.

**SPECIALTY COURTS**

The Los Angeles Superior Court is a pioneer in the creation of problem-solving courts and provides the following alternative sentencing programs that aim to address the specific needs of criminal defendants in the hope of changing their behavior through targeted care and assistance:

- Drug Court
- Co-Occurring Disorders Court
- Women’s Re-entry Court
- Veterans Court
- Homeless Court
- Diversion and Alternative Sentencing Program
- Mental Health Court Linkage - Court Liaison Program
- Office of Diversion and Re-entry Program

**COURTHOUSES THAT HANDLE CRIMINAL CASES**

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Airport Courthouse                             | Glendale Courthouse                   |
| Alhambra Courthouse                            | Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse |
| Bellflower Courthouse                          | Inglewood Courthouse                  |
| Burbank Courthouse                             | Metropolitan Courthouse               |
| Catalina Courthouse                            | Michael D. Antonovich Courthouse      |
| Central Arraignment Courthouse                 | Antelope Valley Courthouse            |
| Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center | Norwalk Courthouse                    |
| Compton Courthouse                             | Pasadena Courthouse                   |
| Downey Courthouse                              | Pomona Courthouse                     |
| East Los Angeles Courthouse                    | San Fernando Courthouse               |
| El Monte Courthouse                            | Santa Clarita Courthouse              |
|  | Torrance Courthouse                   |
|  | Van Nuys West Courthouse              |
|  | West Covina Courthouse                |

**CRIMINAL CASE FILINGS FY 17/18**

**38,435**  
FELONIES

**169,227**  
MISDEMEANORS

**1,139**  
HABEAS CORPUS

**208,801**  
TOTAL FILINGS

*All filing statistics are preliminary estimates.*

## CRIMINAL COURT PROGRAM

## ODR COURT

“The Court finds that you are both eligible and suitable for participation in the Office of Diversion and Reentry probation program,” Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Karla Kerlin tells the defendant appearing before her in a downtown Los Angeles courtroom.

This defendant, along with more than 750 others, will now officially be part of the Los Angeles Superior Court and the Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry’s ODR Housing program. The program removes arrested persons with mental and/or substance use disorders from jails and provides permanent housing and services, once placed on probation, as long as they comply with the terms of the program.

“What we do know about this population is that if they are left untreated and unhoused, they have a higher recidivism rate,” said Peter Espinoza, director of the Office of Diversion and Reentry and former Los Angeles Superior Court supervising criminal judge. “They come in and out of the county jail at an alarmingly high rate.”

Aside from the person displaying signs of mental disorders and being homeless, there are no written guidelines to determine eligibility in the program other than the charges against the defendant have to be eligible for probation. Online referrals come in from attorneys and mental health professionals in the jails and can happen at any point throughout a defendant’s case, even after sentencing.

Once a referral is received, the clinical portion of the ODR team (see page 19) does a psychiatric assessment at the jail to determine if the defendant has some sort of mental disorder and would be willing to participate in the program. If the defendant passes the initial screening, the criminal supervising judge will issue an order transferring the defendant to ODR Court for a hearing in his or her case.

Defendants are reassessed on the day of the hearing by the clinical team to make sure there are no changes to their mental health or willingness to participate since the initial assessment. The attorneys and judge confer over each case to determine if the defendant is suitable for the program and the case is eligible for probation.

“I will then sentence the defendant to ODR probation – or felony super charged probation, as I like to call it,” said Kerlin. “It’s all of the terms for a standard felony plus extra terms and conditions. Some also have suspended prison terms as part of their sentencing. The person is ordered conditionally released to a representative of the ODR program to be placed in housing.”

“Public safety is the number one priority when handing down sentences,” said Judge Scott Gordon, former supervising judge of criminal court. “This program allows us to look at each offender individually to see if he or she would benefit from it. By providing stable housing and guidelines for the defendant to follow, the likelihood of the individual reoffending decreases, making the community safer and benefitting the offender as well.”

The initial psychiatric assessments in the jails are also used to determine the type of housing the defendants will be sent to. There are different levels of housing, from board and care to independent living. People can progress through the housing while in the program and the housing and services are permanent, even after probation is completed.

After funding for housing was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in late 2015, Gordon, Espinoza, and retired and former criminal supervising Judge James R. Brandlin worked together to brainstorm how the program would work. Since its 2016 launch, the program has expanded from one part-time courtroom to now having a full-time, designated courtroom in downtown Los Angeles and a part-time courtroom in Compton, with no additional funding provided to the Court.

“We are in the process of scaling up our clinical team in order to evaluate more people in jail. Once we are able to do that, more courtrooms will be needed to hear these cases,” said Espinoza, “We want to have a presence in more facilities and judicial districts throughout Los Angeles County. Also, we continue to reach out to community-based providers to increase our ability to house people.”

The program currently has an 80 percent retention rate.

“I always tell the people appearing before me who are entering into the program, ‘If you are struggling with any portion of this program, please come talk to me before deciding to leave,’” said Kerlin. “We will work to find a solution that allows them to stay in the programs and continue serving their probation.”

Defendants are ordered to appear for progress reports after sentencing. Initially, they are seen frequently, roughly every four to six weeks, but if they are doing well in the program, the time in between visits will increase.

“I tell participants to think of it as your job, being an ODR participant, and work on you,” said Kerlin. “You have to go to your individual counseling, group sessions, your substance abuse programs. You have to do all of these things because this is your job as part of this program.”

Even though the program is in its infancy, participants are doing well and have provided great feedback to the Court.

“It’s been an amazing process to see the transformation of the people appearing in ODR Court. Some are going to trade school; some have started working full-time jobs. I had a defendant thank me profusely in court for this program. She said it was incredibly dangerous living on the streets and ODR saved her,” said Kerlin.

The program is not only impactful on the participants, but also the judges presiding over them. “It is so awesome to be a part of the teams convened to help people find solutions for their lives that will impact them personally and our community locally and nationally,” said Judge Karen Ackerson Gauff, who presides over the ODR Court in Compton. “I’m not sure words alone can explain the value I’ve seen gained by the defendants who have transformed since the beginning. It’s something that sticks with you.”

#### *ODR Team*

*Courtroom - Judges Kerlin and Ackerson Gauff, defense attorneys, the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office, Los Angeles County Public Defender, County of Los Angeles Alternate Public Defender, and the Los Angeles County Probation Department; Clinical team – Dr. Kristen Ochoa (medical director and forensic psychiatrist), two clinical social workers, and an administrator; and the housing partners.*

# MENTAL HEALTH



## MENTAL HEALTH CASE FILINGS FY 17/18

**754**

LPS  
CONSERVATORSHIPS

**1,297**  
HABEAS CORPUS

**9,802**  
MENTAL HEALTH -  
OTHER

**11,853**  
TOTAL FILINGS

*All filing statistics are preliminary estimates.*

Mental health courts address civil commitments (i.e., the investigation, evaluation and involuntary treatment of people who are a danger to themselves or others) and issues of mental illness that arise in the criminal courts—the question of whether a defendant is mentally competent to stand trial. Los Angeles County is the only county in the state of California that uses a centralized court for cases involving these issues.

Mental Health cases usually involve petitions to:

- Detain someone under the provisions of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (see next page);
- Examine or detain someone as intellectually disabled;
- Determine the present sanity of a criminal defendant; or
- Determine the competence of a criminal defendant to stand trial (see next page).

## COURTHOUSES THAT HANDLE MENTAL HEALTH CASES

Metropolitan Courthouse  
Hollywood Courthouse  
(opening 2019)

## CIVIL COMMITMENT: The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act

The Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act provides guidelines for handling involuntary civil commitments of individuals to mental health institutions in California. Signed into law in 1967, the act set a precedent for modern mental health commitment procedures in the United States.

The intent of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act is to:

- End the inappropriate, indefinite, and involuntary commitment of people with mental health disorders, developmental disabilities and chronic alcoholism, and to eliminate legal disabilities;
- Provide prompt evaluation and treatment of people with mental health disorders or impaired by chronic alcoholism;
- Guarantee and protect public safety;
- Safeguard individual rights through judicial review;
- Provide individualized treatment, supervision and placement services by a conservatorship program for people who are gravely disabled;
- Encourage the full use of all existing agencies, professional personnel and public funds to accomplish these objectives and to prevent duplication of services and unnecessary expenditures; and
- Protect people with mental health disorders and developmental disabilities from criminal acts.

Judicial officers are called upon to establish conservatorships for individuals with severe mental disorders—to assess the care of individuals and to preserve their rights. The Court can give an LPS conservator the power and duty to take care of and protect the seriously mentally ill person (conservator of the person) and also the power to handle the financial matters of that person (conservator of the estate). The Court reviews the conservatorship on at least an annual basis to decide whether the conservatorship should be terminated.

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## COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL - Penal Code section 1368

California law dictates that a defendant in a criminal matter cannot be tried or convicted of a crime if he or she is found to be incompetent to stand trial. A defendant must be able to understand what is going on in court and be able to participate in his or her defense. If a defendant is declared not competent, the case is suspended and the defendant is provided with treatment. If competence is restored, the criminal case continues. If the defendant is found to be not guilty by reason of insanity, he or she is provided with long-term, secure, psychiatric care.

In the Los Angeles Superior Court, these special circumstances, which throw into high relief the challenges of balancing public safety and individual rights, are addressed by a specialized court, staffed by judges and attorneys who are knowledgeable about mental illness.

As with many social ills, unfortunately, the explosion of mental illness can be seen in the mental health courts: from 2010 to 2016, the mental health crisis has increased criminal competency filings nearly five-fold, inundating the mental health courts and delaying criminal trials.

# FAMILY LAW



Family law courts address the range of legal issues that can result from breakups or crises within a family: divorce (and resulting issues of child custody, child support and spousal support), as well as paternity, domestic violence, and elder or dependent abuse. The family law courts in Los Angeles also hear specialized types of restraining orders relating to gun violence (see page 23) and workplace violence.

Recognizing that families in crisis often need more than a resolution of legal issues, the Court provides a number of services during the course of a case:

- **Our Children First** – Parents are required by law to complete an online mediation orientation/parent education program prior to appearing for their mediation session on custody and/or visitation of their children. The program provides information regarding the child custody mediation process and the effects of parental separation and conflict on children and is completed by more than 11,000 parents annually.
- **Child Custody Mediation** – Mediation is provided at no cost through the Family Court Services Department. In a confidential setting, with the assistance of a mental health professional, mediation provides parents an opportunity to develop a child custody plan that is in the best interests of their children. If the parents reach an agreement, the

mediator drafts a custody and visitation plan that is signed by the judge and filed with the Court.

- **Child Custody Evaluation** – This service is available when parents are unable to resolve their child custody/visitation disputes and the Court finds there are significant issues. Family Court Services offers Child Interviews (information from the child with no recommendations) and Parenting Plan Assessments (interviews with parents, children and limited collateral contacts). These services are conducted by a mental health professional. The evaluator testifies and provides a child custody and visitation recommendation focused on the best interests of the children.

Family Court Services handles more than 18,000 mediation cases and conducts over 1,500 parenting plan assessments annually.

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## GUN VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

Partly in response to the mass shooting that occurred near the campus of the University of California, Santa Barbara, Assembly Bill 1014 was passed in 2014. It establishes a process for law enforcement officers and immediate family members to obtain a gun violence restraining order against an individual when they believe that “the subject of the petition poses an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury to himself, herself, or another by having in his or her custody or control, owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm and that the order is necessary to prevent personal injury to himself, herself, or another, as specified...”

The Court can order that the restrained person:

- Not have a gun or ammunition;
- Not buy a gun or ammunition; and
- Turn in any guns and ammunition to the police, or sell them to or store them with a licensed gun dealer.

A firearms restraining order does NOT order the restrained person to:

- Stay away from the petitioner or the petitioner’s family members;
- Not contact or go near the petitioner, petitioner’s children, other relatives, or others who live with the petitioner; or
- Move out of a residence

The law requires the Court to notify the Department of Justice when any gun violence restraining order has been issued, renewed, dissolved, or terminated.

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## SPECIALIZED COURTROOMS HANDLE THE MOST-CONTESTED MATTERS

Some family law matters are more hotly contested than others. Recognizing that such cases can consume significant judicial resources, and looking for innovative ways to ensure that *all* family law cases are resolved expeditiously, the Court instituted *long-cause* family law courtrooms. Unlike courtrooms that have a variety of hearing types on calendar each day—including motions, conferences, requests for orders, and trials—a long-cause courtroom handles a single hearing or trial daily until the matter is completed. Long-cause courtrooms allow for continuity and efficiency in dealing with the most-contested cases—and free up other courtrooms to handle less complex cases.

Long-cause courtrooms have been utilized successfully in the Central District and this year, five long-cause courtrooms were added to Central and one to Whittier. This change provides a benefit to local families with complicated family law cases who no longer have to travel to downtown Los Angeles for multi-day hearings and trials.

### NEW ONLINE RESOURCE FOR LITIGANTS

The Court launched a new video resource that is now available on the Court’s website for family law litigants—“From Conflict to Agreement.”

Through focusing on a fictionalized telling of one couple’s experience in a group for parents in conflict, the video describes tools parents can use to reduce their conflict and turn their attention to a child-focused resolution to their child custody dispute.

The video is available in English and Spanish, both with and without subtitles, is approximately 70 minutes long and can be stopped and restarted at any point.

The video can be found on the Court’s website at:  
<http://www.lacourt.org/division/familylaw/FL0127.aspx>

### FAMILY LAW CASE FILINGS FY 17/18

**32,428**  
MARITAL

**18,463**  
CHILD SUPPORT

**21,630**  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE

**7,956**  
PARENTAGE

**8,207**  
FAMILY LAW -  
OTHER

**88,684**  
TOTAL FILINGS

*All filing statistics are preliminary estimates.*

### COURTHOUSES THAT HANDLE FAMILY LAW CASES

Central Civil West  
Courthouse  
Chatsworth Courthouse  
Compton Courthouse  
Governor George  
Deukmejian Courthouse

Michael D. Antonovich  
Antelope Valley  
Courthouse  
Pasadena Courthouse  
Pomona Courthouse

Santa Monica Courthouse  
Stanley Mosk Courthouse  
Torrance Courthouse  
Van Nuys East Courthouse  
Whittier Courthouse

# SELF HELP



Providing access to justice in today's society requires more than providing a courtroom in which a case can be heard. According to a survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Chicago, "Eighty-six percent of the civil legal problems reported by low-income Americans in the past year received inadequate or no legal help." It is not only those with low incomes who face such barriers. "Surveys find that between two-fifths and three-quarters of the needs of middle-income individuals are unaddressed, with most finding at least half." As the National Center for State Courts suggests,

*Even if defendants might have the financial resources to hire a lawyer to defend them in court, most would not because the cost of the lawyer exceeds the potential judgment. The idealized picture of an adversarial system in which both parties are represented by competent attorneys who can assert all legitimate claims and defenses is an illusion.*

Lacking professional legal help, and facing pressing legal needs, more and more Californians find themselves proceeding as self-represented litigants (SRLs). In a legal system that has evolved over centuries in response to the demands of professionals trained in the law, the challenges for SRLs are considerable. Without assistance, people without lawyers often find it difficult to navigate the legal system and to make their cases in court. The predictable effects are not only frustrated litigants, but also inefficiently operating courts.

With funding from the judicial branch and the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer & Business Affairs and in partnership with the L.A. County Small Claims Advisor and community organizations, the Court, through its self-help centers, provides assistance to self-represented litigants with family law, probate, small claims, and unlawful detainer (eviction) cases. These programs help parties avoid conflict and make the best decisions possible under difficult circumstances.

Self-help centers are located in 11 courthouses where family law matters are heard. At these centers, litigants can participate in workshops and utilize court computers through which they can connect to specialized applications to help them complete the necessary court forms. With the assistance of self-help center staff, litigants not only learn what they need to do to complete their cases, but why they need to take certain actions and the meaning and relevance of the documents that are filed and the orders of the court. Self-help staff offered more than 5,000 workshops for SRLs in 2018.

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## EXPEDITED JUDGMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHES

In March, a new pilot program at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse was launched to help self-represented litigants with family law cases. The Expedited Judgment Program (EJP) produces final judicial decisions in family law cases once both parties have reached a full written agreement on all issues related to the case. The stipulated judgment will be entered by the court the same day it is prepared and submitted. A judicial officer determines whether a case qualifies for a referral to EJP.

Since the Mosk Courthouse pilot program began, there were 234 referrals to EJP. Of those, 190 expedited judgments were entered—resolving those issues much faster and with less expense for the litigants.



### FILE @ HOME

To help self-represented litigants with a myriad of required forms, the Court created File @ Home, an online interview process that helps litigants determine if they are ready to file their cases and the type of case to be filed. Once the litigant has answered the necessary questions, the person can view and print the documents they have completed and take the signed, completed forms to the courthouse to be filed.

Currently, litigants can get help with filling out the

following forms:

- Domestic Violence Restraining Order Request
- Civil Harassment Restraining Order Request
- Limited Conservatorship
- Divorce, Separation or Nullity – Initial Request and Response
- Request for Order
- Income and Expense Declaration
- Starting an Eviction/Unlawful Detainer
- Small Claims
- Name Change

Interviews for Elder Abuse Restraining Orders and Answer to Eviction/Unlawful Detainers are being worked on currently and are anticipated to be released soon.

Litigants interested in filing documents for guardianship cases can electronically file the documents from home, once completed. In the future, File @ Home will enable litigants to efile a variety of completed documents from home.

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## JUSTICECORPS

Founded by the Los Angeles Superior Court, and now in its 18th year, the JusticeCorps program trains volunteer, undergraduate university students and graduate fellows to assist self-represented litigants with their court cases.

Approximately 175 students provide hundreds of hours of individualized services to these litigants each year. The program offers outstanding opportunities for students to learn about the law and to provide a much-needed service to their community.

In 2018, JusticeCorps provided a total of 91,434 service hours to the Court while providing 91,833 instances of service and assistance with completion of 233,185 court forms to self-represented litigants.

JusticeCorps volunteers speak a variety of languages, which in the past have included Arabic, Armenian, American Sign Language, Farsi, French, German, Hindu, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

## PROVIDING SERVICE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The Los Angeles Superior Court's self-help services combine the efforts of court staff with those of a variety of community-based legal service providers. Legal aid organizations provide a much-needed complement to the Court's services.

**The Court partners with three organizations (Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and Community Legal Services of Southeast Los Angeles County) to operate nine of the court-based self-help centers, primarily funded by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through a contract from Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs:**

**Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles (NLS)**, the lead agency, started the first self-help centers in Los Angeles County, which were among the first in the nation. NLS provides free legal assistance to more than 100,000 people each year and specializes in matters concerning housing, public benefits, domestic violence, and healthcare. NLS provides services in their offices, courthouses and clinics throughout the county.

**Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)** is another legal aid agency which provides assistance to more than 80,000 people annually with civil legal matters that include benefits issues, evictions/housing and domestic violence. LAFLA provides self-help services in four courthouses and operates domestic violence clinics in three courthouse locations.

**Community Legal Services of Southeast Los Angeles County (CLS)** (and Legal Aid Society of Orange County) offers civil legal services which include legal counseling, self-help services and legal representation. CLS offers assistance with a variety of legal matters including abuse, benefits, consumer, family, health, and housing.

**Bet Tzedek** (Hebrew for the "house of justice") opened its doors 40 years ago as a one-night-a-week, storefront community law office staffed by volunteers. Today, Bet Tzedek provides free legal assistance to more than 20,000 people annually at a variety of locations throughout Los Angeles County. Families are provided with expert self-help assistance in conservatorship cases and elder abuse restraining order applications.

**Public Counsel** is the public interest law firm of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and Beverly Hills Bar Association, and is the Southern California affiliate of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Founded in 1970, Public Council is the largest pro bono law firm in the nation. The Court has partnered with Public Counsel on the Pro Per Guardianship Clinic in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse to provide self-help assistance to parties applying for or objecting to the establishment of guardianship orders.

**Los Angeles County Small Claims Advisor** program, run by the County's Department of Consumer and Business Affairs, has been providing assistance to litigants since 1982 at the County Hall of Administration adjacent to the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles, and in six district courthouses across the county. Procedural questions are answered over the phone and in person, primarily by trained volunteers, and instructional information and materials are provided.

# 2016 LASC SELF-HELP STATISTICS



**282,238**

Total Incidents of Self-Help Services Provided in LASC Courthouses

Countywide total includes incidents of service provided by Court staff and L.A. County and legal aid partners as follows:

**142,764**

Court staff operated Self-Help Resource Centers and Family Law Facilitator Offices

**131,052**

Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs/ Neighborhood Legal Services operated Self-Help Legal Access Centers

**4,981**

Bet Tzedek Conservatorship Clinics

**3,266**

Public Counsel Guardianship Clinics

**175**

Norwalk Consumer Debt Case Clinics by Legal Aid Society of Orange County and L.A. DCBA

## INCIDENTS OF SERVICE PROVIDED COUNTYWIDE

**23,520**

Monthly

**5,428**

Weekly

**1,277**

Average Daily\*

## COURT STAFF OPERATED CENTERS PROVIDED 142,764 INCIDENTS OF SERVICE IN 2016

**11,897**

Monthly

**2,745**

Weekly

**646**

Average Daily\*

\*Average Daily = open 4.5 days per week, less 13 holidays = 221 days.

# PROBATE



When most people hear the word “probate,” they may think of a controversy over a will—or the lack of a will. While those types of cases are heard in the probate courts, judicial officers in probate courts are responsible for much more:

- **Conservatorship** – Appointment of a person (**conservator**) to oversee the finances and/or the care of an adult (18 years and older) (**conservatee**) who cannot take care of him/herself.
- **Guardianship** – Appointment of a person (**guardian**) to oversee the finances and/or the care of a **minor child** (under 18 years old) whose parents are unable to care for him or her.
- **Decedents’ Estate** – The personal property of someone who has died.
- **Trust** – A financial arrangement that sets the rules for what happens to property held in trust for **beneficiaries**. It is an arrangement where property is transferred from one person to be administered by a **trustee** for another person’s benefit.

Probate conservatees are among the most fragile litigants—unable to care for themselves, society turns to the courts to ensure that their caretakers are providing for them. In Los Angeles County, each judicial officer in a probate courtroom oversees more than 2,000 adult conservatees. Each year, court probate investigators will conduct investigations on more than 9,200 guardianships and conservatorships and travel a combined 75,000 miles to conduct those investigations in person.

## COURTHOUSES THAT HANDLE PROBATE CASES

Michael D. Antonovich  
Antelope Valley Courthouse

Stanley Mosk Courthouse

**PROBATE  
CASE FILINGS  
FY 17/18**

**1,818  
CONSERVATORSHIPS**

**2,166  
GUARDIANSHIPS**

**4,271  
ESTATES**

**1,486  
PROBATE -  
OTHER**

**1,939  
TRUST**

**11,680  
TOTAL FILINGS**

# JUVENILE



The juvenile courts hear cases which involve children under 18 years old, as well as non-minor dependents.\* There are two types of juvenile courts—delinquency and dependency.

In the **dependency** courts, judicial officers oversee and make orders on behalf of children who have suffered abuse, neglect or abandonment (these children typically reside in out-of-home placements). The judicial officer may decide who the child lives with, where they go to school—even what kind of medical care they get (pursuant to statute, judicial officers oversee the administration of psychotropic medication to more than 2,000 children each year). The goal for each child in the dependency system is a permanent family—whether with the child’s birth parents (with necessary assistance and guidance), a legal guardian or an adoptive family. The Los Angeles Superior Court’s juvenile court system oversees the safety and well-being of more than 20,000 children in 28 dependency courtrooms.

## COURTHOUSES THAT HANDLE DEPENDENCY CASES

Alfred J. McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center Courthouse

Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Courthouse

\*Someone 18 years and over who has chosen to keep his or her dependency case open until the age of 21.

Juvenile **delinquency** matters involve children who have been accused of crimes or status offenses such as curfew or truancy violations. This court is mainly focused on the rehabilitation of those children. The cases of more than 9,000 minors are distributed among 19 delinquency courtrooms.

## COURTHOUSES THAT HANDLE DELINQUENCY CASES

Compton Courthouse, Eastlake Juvenile Courthouse, Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse, Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse, Los Padrinos Juvenile Courthouse, Michael Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse, Pomona Courthouse, and Sylmar Juvenile Courthouse

The Eastlake, Inglewood, Los Padrinos and Sylmar Courthouses hear delinquency matters exclusively.

In 2018, two delinquency courtrooms moved from the McCourtney Courthouse to the Antonovich Courthouse and a third dependency courtroom was added at McCourtney.

Ordinarily, dependency and delinquency cases are handled separately, as the circumstances of these groups of children, and the laws pertaining to the two kinds of cases, are quite distinct. But life is more complicated, and so Section 241.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code recognizes the special issues that arise for so-called cross-over youth (i.e., either a dependent child in the foster care system who commits an offense, or a delinquent youth without a home or parents for support). The Los Angeles Superior Court was one of the first in California to create a model program to address the special needs of these children. The goal is to enhance public safety by providing better services to youth and their families, reduce the number of dependent youths who become wards of the delinquency court, better serve those who do, and limit their time as wards of the delinquency court by maintaining dependency court jurisdiction when appropriate.

As the result of an ambitious document scanning effort which stores case information electronically, dependency operations no longer creates paper files for court cases, moving the Court one step closer to becoming paperless.

A settlement judge works with the parties to get to the core issues of heavily contested cases to help parents come to agreements that will help them—and their children—more quickly resolve their cases. A settlement judge is available to assist the 28 dependency courtrooms at the **Edelman Children’s Courthouse** and the **McCourtney Courthouse**. A second settlement judge will be added in February 2019.

Juvenile dependency’s implementation of the **Entitled Party Portal** provides authorized parties and attorneys access to confidential juvenile records without them having to stand in line in the clerk’s offices.

The judicial **BenchView** program was rolled out to dependency judicial officers in February 2018, and dependency court stakeholders now have access to the **Justice Partner Portal** (see Technology on page 8 for more details).



## MAKING FOREVER FAMILIES

In November, 202 Los Angeles County children in foster care became members of forever families during National Adoption Day ceremonies held at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Courthouse, where the Adoption Day concept originated.

Adoption Day in L.A. County is a collaborative effort by the Los Angeles Superior Court, Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, Alliance for Children's Rights, and Los Angeles County Public Counsel.

This year's National Adoption Month focused on the importance of finding permanent families for teens in foster care. Focusing on this frequently overlooked group of children, the theme of the event was "In Their Own Words: Lifting Up Youth Voices." According to the Alliance for Children's Rights, teens are less likely to be adopted, and all too often "age out" of the system without a stable home.

The new presiding judge of juvenile court, Victor H. Greenberg, emceed the event and there was an appearance by actor and adoptive parent, Willie Garson.

The Court completed 1,562 adoptions last year.



## FACTS AND STATISTICS REGARDING CHILDREN LIVING IN FOSTER CARE

- More than 25,000 children are currently in foster care in Los Angeles.
- Roughly 38 percent of all children in foster care in California reside in Los Angeles County.
- Nearly half of all children in foster care have learning disabilities or delays.
- Over 1,400 children in foster care in Los Angeles are awaiting adoptive families. *(From CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocates)*

The statistics on children in foster care demonstrate the importance of finding permanent, supportive families quickly:

- Victims of child abuse are 42 percent more likely to be abused and neglected again.
- Only 58 percent of young people in foster care graduate from high school.
- Only 3 percent of young people in foster care graduate from college.
- Half of all young adults who age out of foster care end up homeless or incarcerated.
- Teen girls in foster care are 2.5 times more likely to become pregnant by age 19 than their peers who were not in foster care.
- Half of young men aging out of foster care have become fathers, compared to 19 percent of their peers who were not in foster care.
- By grade 11, only 20 percent of students in foster care are proficient in English.
- Only 5 percent of children in foster care are proficient in math.
- Approximately 75 percent of students in foster care are performing below grade level.
- By third grade, 80 percent of children in foster care have had to repeat a grade.

As reported by the Alliance for Children's Rights  
<https://kids-alliance.org/facts-stats/>

## JUVENILE CASE FILINGS FY 17/18

**15,293**  
DEPENDENCY -  
ORIGINAL  
PETITION

**1,272**  
DEPENDENCY -  
OTHER

**1,561**  
DEPENDENCY -  
ADOPTIONS

**3,487**  
DELINQUENCY -  
ORIGINAL  
PETITION

**2,071**  
DELINQUENCY -  
SUBSEQUENT  
PETITION

**23,684**  
TOTAL FILINGS

*All filing statistics are preliminary estimates.*

# ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

## **ADR IS BACK! But in a new way...**

The traditional, stereotypical—and standard television show and movie—view of a court case resolved by a trial belies the fact that the great majority of most cases resolve prior to trial. The settlements reached in these cases are often more lasting and satisfying to both sides. A variety of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods are used to achieve these settlements and Court support for ADR greatly enhances their effectiveness.

For approximately 25 years, ADR had been a critical component of case management, reducing crowded calendars and case inventories by offering parties more expeditious and less costly alternatives for resolving their cases than going to trial. When recessionary budget reductions ended the Court's ADR program in 2013, groups from the local bar association, along with ADR professionals, continued to provide services, keeping ADR alive.

This year, the Court significantly improved its support for these efforts. In the sections proceeding, the Court's support for settlement programs in civil, family and dependency is evident. The Court has increased staff support to improve communication between the Court and attorney groups who want to help. In addition, the Court offers voluntary mediation through the Civil Mediation Vendor Resource List, which contains the names of approved organizations which have agreed to provide the services of attorney mediators or retired judges at reduced rates or at no cost for certain types of civil cases.

Combining the ease and efficiency of technology, with the benefits of pre-trial settlement, online dispute resolution significantly expands access to justice by allowing parties to discuss settlement by video conference, online chat, virtual private caucuses, shared documents and other online features that parties, lawyers and mediators may access from different places and at different times. A partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs provides trained mediators who act as third parties in the online settlement discussions.

# TRAFFIC



More than one million traffic tickets are filed with the Court each year by law enforcement officers for violations of the Vehicle Code and other offenses committed by California drivers, as well as citations for non-traffic related offenses. The vast majority of these cases are resolved when a litigant pays the fines and fees imposed by the California Legislature for the specific offense. But many people choose to have their day in court before a traffic judge (nearly 200,000 traffic hearings are held each year).

Automated traffic ticket processing has made it easier for people to handle their traffic matters. Online options have allowed more and more people to “get online, not in-line” and lines at courthouses are no longer an issue.

Depending on the status of a ticket, an **online user** can:

- Pay and close a ticket;
- Request a payment plan;
- Request an extension;
- Request traffic school;
- Reserve a court date; and
- Check ticket status.

## TRAFFIC MATTERS ONLINE

There were over 3.5 million visits to the traffic section of [lacourt.org](http://lacourt.org) during the last fiscal year.

8,195 Traffic Fine  
Partial Payments Made

139,633 Traffic Fine  
Full Payments Made

89,206 Traffic  
School Payments Made



People who require help with their tickets can utilize the services of “**Gina**,” an interactive virtual assistant that provides instructions tailored to a specific ticket (in six languages).

### AVATAR REPORT

Gina was invoked a total of 181,997 times in 2017.

English:	170,460
Spanish:	8,347
Chinese:	2,042
Korean:	753
Vietnamese:	223
Armenian:	172

In May, the Court upgraded its decades-old case management system for traffic. The implementation occurred at 18 courthouses and involved hundreds of employees and judicial officers. **Over five million cases** and **15 million document images** were converted in order to transition to the new system. The new, modern platform will allow for greater innovation and efficiencies moving forward.

In the traffic courtrooms that often hear 100 matters a day, judicial officers have easy access to case information on their computers through the use of **BenchView** (see the Technology section on page 8 for details), eliminating the need for paper copies of the citations.

### California Rules of Court, Rules 4.106 and 4.335

A defendant on a traffic/infraction ticket has the right to petition the court to reduce or vacate the civil assessment or to determine if he or she has the ability to pay a fine.

A defendant on a traffic/infraction ticket may ask the court, in writing, for **a review of the circumstances for failing to appear on or failing to pay a traffic ticket**. The request will be reviewed by a judicial officer who will determine if the failure to appear was for good cause.

A defendant on a traffic/infraction ticket may ask the court for an **ability-to-pay determination** at sentencing or while the judgment remains unpaid. The request will be reviewed by a judicial officer to determine the defendant’s ability to pay the fine.

The court may:

- Allow the defendant to make installment payments;
- Allow the defendant to complete community service to satisfy the fine;
- Suspend the fine, in part or in whole;
- Set the matter for a hearing; or
- Deny the petition.

More than 5,000 people file a formal request for such determinations each year, and thousands more receive determinations during a court hearing.

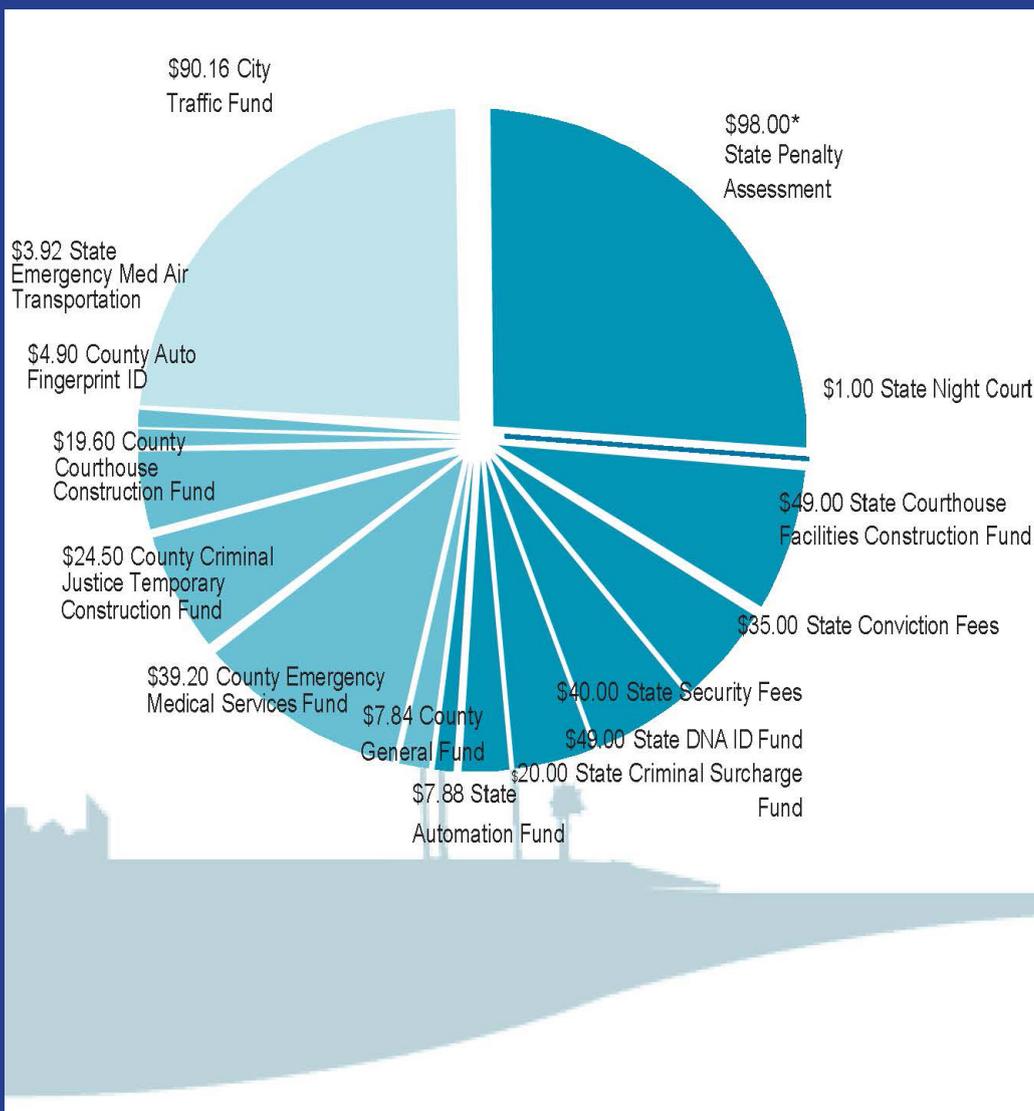
## COURTHOUSES THAT HANDLE TRAFFIC CASES

- Beverly Hills Courthouse
- Chatsworth Courthouse
- Compton Courthouse
- Downey Courthouse
- El Monte Courthouse
- Glendale Courthouse
- Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse
- Inglewood Courthouse
- Metropolitan Courthouse
- Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse
- Pasadena Courthouse
- Santa Clarita Courthouse
- Santa Monica Courthouse
- Torrance Courthouse
- Van Nuys West Courthouse
- West Covina Courthouse

## Where do the fees and fines from your traffic ticket go?

For a speeding violation with a base fine of \$100, issued by the City of Los Angeles, the penalty assessments and fees (which are set by the California Legislature) are added to the base fine and result in a typical total of \$490.

This chart illustrates how the \$490 is distributed.



\*The State Penalty Assessment Fund supports various statewide programs that serve crime victims, provide training for criminal justice agencies, and other needs.

### TRAFFIC CASE FILINGS FY 17/18

**38,627**  
NON-TRAFFIC  
INFRACTIONS

**973,015**  
TRAFFIC  
INFRACTIONS

**1,011,642**  
TOTAL FILINGS

All filing statistics are preliminary estimates.

# JURY



The right to a jury trial is a hallmark of American jurisprudence. To fulfill that obligation, the Court *summons* approximately 1.8 million potential jurors each year. Approximately two million potential jurors are *processed*—this number represents those receiving a new summons and jurors who have postponed their service from one year to the next. Easing the burden on jurors to encourage participation is a major objective.

Through the online “My Jury Duty Portal,” people who receive a summons for jury duty can respond to the summons, postpone their service, view and complete the juror orientation, and resolve other issues.

The Court developed a new streamlined and simplified online juror orientation program which enables individuals who receive a summons for jury duty to perform the orientation online, days before they must appear. A juror who completes orientation online can report at a later time on the day their service begins.

Juror Services reengineered its Interactive Voice Response telephone call system to provide better assistance to the hundreds of thousands of potential jurors who call the Court with questions each year.

# LASC JURY STATISTICS

## FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018

1,961,018

Total Jurors  
Processed

636,367  
Jurors Not  
Responding



943,642  
Jurors  
Responding

381,009  
Summons  
Undeliverable

441,929

Total Jurors  
Served



1.32  
Average Days Served Per Juror



\$4,010,831.58  
Juror Fees and Mileage Paid

3,026

Total Jury  
Trials

# LANGUAGE ACCESS



With more than 140 cultures and as many as 224 languages represented across Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Superior Court serves one of the most diverse areas in the world. It is estimated that nearly 57 percent of the county population speaks a language other than English at home.

Language access is a key component of access to justice—for litigants, witnesses and others. The Court provides non-English speaking litigants with language assistance in more than 89 languages. Language assistance is most frequently requested in Armenian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

The Los Angeles Superior Court was one of the first in California to extend interpreter coverage to all types of cases, not only those where language assistance is a constitutional or statutory mandate.

Becoming a certified court interpreter requires special study of legal terminology and how it translates into another language, capped by passing a rigorous examination.

Language assistance is provided in multiple ways, depending upon the needs of the court user—more than 380 staff interpreters, and another 200 contract interpreters, are available as needed in the courtrooms. One in 14 court employees is certified as bilingual and specially designated to be available to provide language assistance to the public outside of the courtroom. The Court also provides language assistance in its self-help centers through JusticeCorps volunteers who speak 15 different languages.

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## WEB PORTAL WINS AWARD

The Web Portal for Interpreter Requests (WPIR) won a 2018 Productivity and Quality Award from the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission.

The WPIR allows any party or witness in civil, family law, probate, and traffic cases to request an interpreter online in advance of the hearing. The online form is available in English, Armenian, Korean, Simplified Chinese, and Vietnamese. Once a request is received, court interpreter coordinators schedule interpreters for the court dates and locations requested.

### ADDRESSING INTERPRETER SHORTAGES

The need for certified court interpreters chronically outstrips supply. In response, Court staff have begun an aggressive recruitment campaign, educating bilingual community members about court interpreting as a career, and the employment opportunities offered by the Court. Thanks to appearances at job fairs, information sessions, festivals, job bulletins, and career days, people who speak much-requested languages took steps to become court interpreters in:

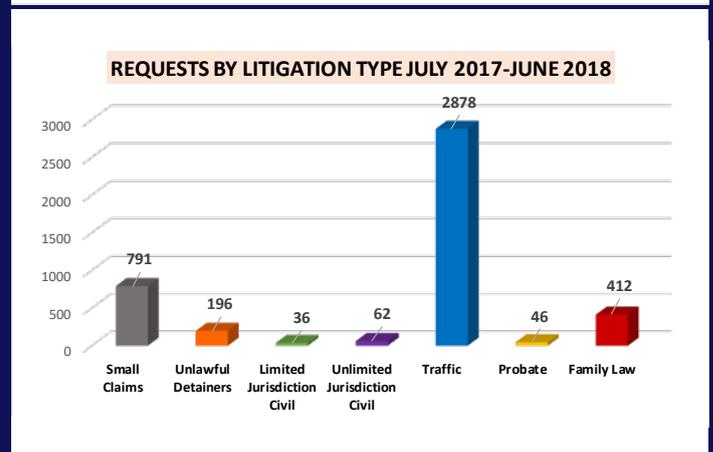
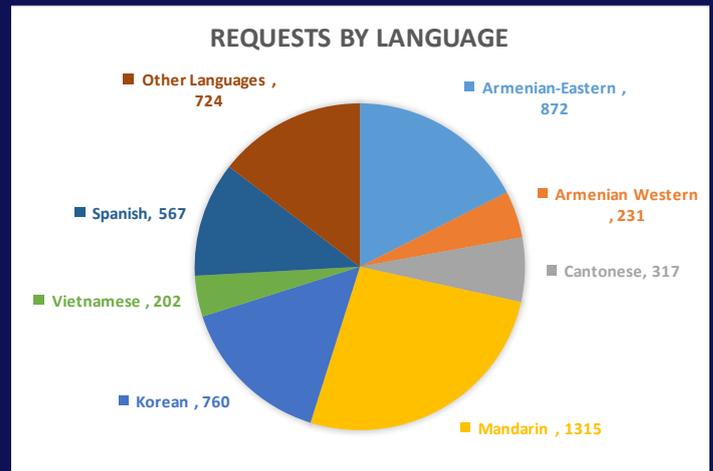
- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Eastern Armenian
- Mandarin
- Russian
- Tagalog
- Vietnamese
- Western Armenian



**EVENTS INTERPRETED IN COURT EACH WEEK**  
**12,000 (approximately)**

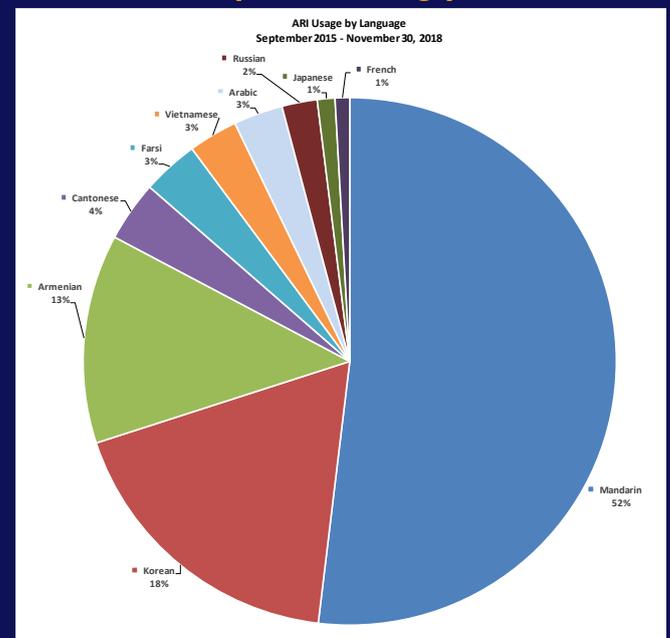
### WEB PORTAL FOR INTERPRETER REQUESTS (July 2017 - June 2018)

**4,988 total requests during period**



### AUDIO REMOTE INTERPRETING CALLS (September 2015 - November 2018)

**3,330 total requests during period**



# COMMUNITY AND DIVERSITY OUTREACH



“Judicial participation in community outreach activities should be considered an official judicial function to promote public understanding of and confidence in the administration of justice.” [California Standard of Judicial Administration 10.5(a).] Toward this end, the Court supports dozens of programs, reaching tens of thousands of people, educating them about various aspects of the justice system.

Reaching a local population of 10 million is a challenge the Court meets through a wide range of partnerships with schools, community-based organizations, leaders in the legal field, and other organizations throughout the county.

Many programs create a dialogue with middle and high school students on law, civics and tolerance, and encourage youth to pursue legal and other professional careers. Recognizing the importance of a diverse bench, programs aimed at youth, and at young professionals, from a wide variety of communities, provide them with role models and practical advice on how to become a judge.

Other programs provide useful information to community leaders who can pass that knowledge along to others who need it—from faith leaders who counsel people with legal entanglements to educators who teach students about the justice system.

All of the Court's outreach efforts are aimed at expanding and enhancing the Court's relationship with the residents of Los Angeles County and improving public trust and confidence in the judiciary.

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## INAUGURAL YMLC

In March 2018, the Court hosted its first Young Men's Leadership Conference. The half-day event was attended by more than 150 middle and high school students from throughout Los Angeles County.

After successfully hosting two Young Women's Leadership Conferences, the Court's Diversity Committee decided to expand the program to include young men.

The conference is designed to bring together students and community leaders with diverse backgrounds to discuss their personal and professional journeys, and to help the students gain the confidence to reach their goals and not set arbitrary limitations on themselves.



*Judge Kelvin D. Filer helps students learn to tie a tie.*

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## POWER LUNCH DEDICATION

The Power Lunch youth program was renamed in January 2018, to honor the late Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell, who played an instrumental part in launching the program in April 2007. The first Power Lunch was hosted at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse for 72 students from Crenshaw High School with the second one taking place six months later for 92 students. Over the past 10 years, the Court has hosted more than 50 Power Lunches for approximately 2,700 high school students. Ten Power Lunch programs were hosted during fiscal year 2017-18 with more than 450 students participating and over 160 judicial officers and 100 attorneys volunteering their time to be with the students.

The Court's Power Lunch program provides local high school students with civic education, judicial mentorship and exposure to the judicial branch. Students visit courthouses throughout Los Angeles County for lunch with justice system professionals including judicial officers, lawyers, court reporters, interpreters, and members of law enforcement.



*The late Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell giving one of her Power Lunch presentations.*



*Student jurors are sworn in at the inaugural Teen Court trial at Wallis Annenberg High School.*

## NEW TEEN COURT OPENS

A new Judge David S. Wesley LASC Teen Court opened in March 2018, at the Wallis Annenberg High School in Los Angeles, bringing the total number of Teen Courts in Los Angeles County to 41.

Named after the Los Angeles Superior Court judge who pioneered Teen Courts in California, it is an alternative early-intervention program that allows eligible juvenile offenders to be questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of their peers. Teen Court is a learning experience, not only for the offenders, but for the peer jurors, who deliberate on the facts of the case guided by justice system professionals.

The program incorporates students, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, law enforcement, civic leaders, volunteer attorneys, the Los Angeles County Probation Department, and the Court in a collaborative justice effort to reduce recidivism and encourage juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions and take advantage of an opportunity to avoid the criminal justice system.

More than 100 judicial officers and over 53,000 students participate in Teen Courts annually, making it the largest community outreach program at the Court.

## List of Outreach programs:

- Court-Clergy Conference
- Courtroom to Classroom
- Court Tours
- History in the First Person
- Judicial Diversity Summit
- Mock Trial
- Power Lunch
- SHADES
- Speakers Program
- Teachers Courthouse Seminar
- Teen Court
- University Visits
- Visiting Foreign Judicial Delegations
- Young Men's Leadership Conference
- Young Women's Leadership Conference

For more information about all of the community and diversity outreach programs, please visit our website at: [http://www.lacourt.org/generalinfo/communityoutreach/GI\\_CO001.aspx](http://www.lacourt.org/generalinfo/communityoutreach/GI_CO001.aspx)





# **WORKLOAD AND FINANCIAL DATA**

## **Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

# THE WORKLOAD-BASED ALLOCATION AND FUNDING METHODOLOGY (WAFM) FOR THE CALIFORNIA TRIAL COURTS

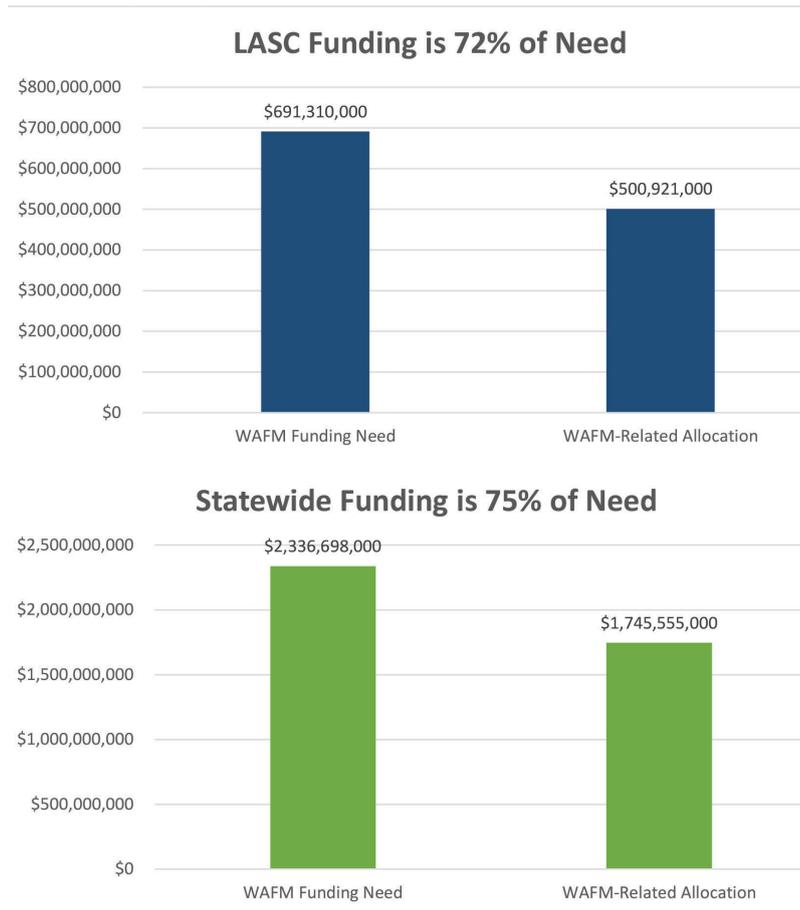
Each year, the California Budget Act makes an appropriation for “support for operation of the trial courts.” A portion of that appropriation is subsequently allocated among the 58 trial courts by the Judicial Council of California (JCC).

The JCC’s allocation decision—the way the budget “pie” is sliced—is informed by the relative levels of work faced by each of the 58 trial courts. The workload for each trial court is calculated according to the Workload-based Allocation and Funding Methodology (WAFM).

WAFM uses annual filings as an indicator of the workload faced by each trial court. Recognizing that it takes more time and resources to handle a felony case than a traffic ticket, WAFM weighs filings in each case category differently. The weights are based on time studies of thousands of court employees, in dozens of courts, and are refreshed every few years to recognize changing circumstances. Based on the time required to handle each type of case, WAFM calculates the funding required to support the requisite staff. (Need for judicial officers is calculated through a similar, but distinct, methodology.)

For fiscal year 2017-18, WAFM calculates the workload-based funding need for the Los Angeles Superior Court to be \$691,310,000. With a WAFM-related allocation from the JCC of \$500,921,000, the Court is funded at 72% of its need. Correspondingly, statewide funding for all 58 trial courts was at 75% of need.

## FY 17/18 WAFM Funding Gap



For fiscal year 2018-19, the Legislature, recognizing the value of using WAFM to allocate trial court funding, provided new funding specially earmarked to raise the funding levels of the most-under-funded courts. The WAFM methodology was used to allocate \$47.8 million to bring all courts to the statewide average funding level of 76.9% of the WAFM-determined funding need for fiscal year 2018-19.

# LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT BY THE NUMBERS

FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018	
Authorized judicial positions	494
Authorized subordinate judicial officers	86
Courthouses	38

## ANNUAL FILINGS CASE SUMMARY

### CIVIL

Civil Unlimited	77,720
Civil Limited	84,100
Small Claims/Other Civil	60,137
Unlawful Detainer (eviction)	44,028

### CRIMINAL

Felonies	38,435
Misdemeanors	169,227
Infractions (Non-Traffic)	38,627
Criminal Habeas	1,139

### FAMILY LAW

88,684

### JUVENILE

Juvenile Delinquency	5,558
Juvenile Dependency	18,126

### MENTAL HEALTH

11,853

### PROBATE

12,135

### TRAFFIC

1,011,642

### APPELLATE

791

### TOTAL FILINGS

1,662,202

*All filing statistics are preliminary estimates.*

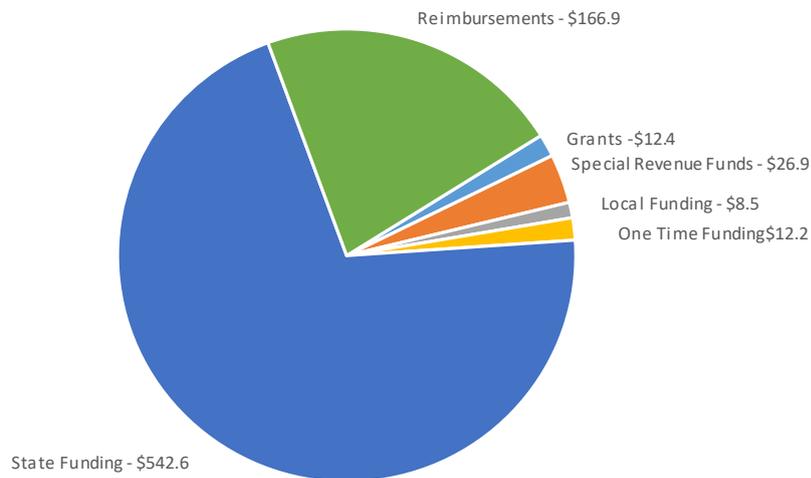
## FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018

Jury Trials	3,026
Total Jurors Processed	1,961,018
Jurors Responding	943,642
Average Days Served	1.32

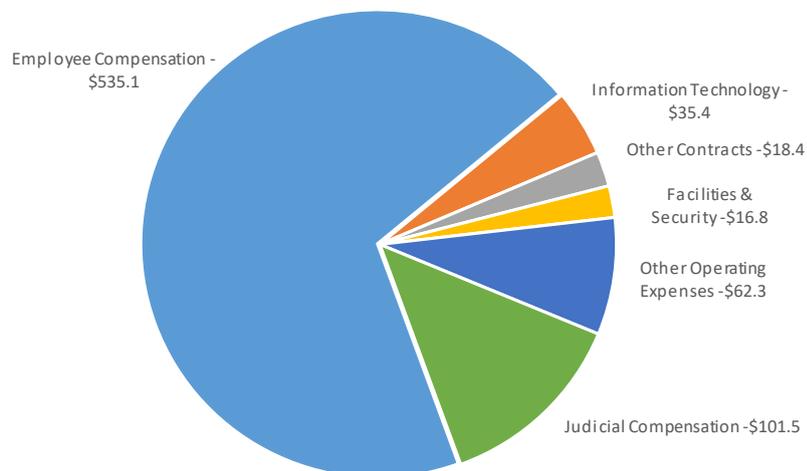
# REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

## FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018 TOTAL BUDGET: \$769.5 MILLION

### REVENUES *(all figures in millions of dollars)*



### EXPENDITURES *(all figures in millions of dollars)*



# LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT LOCATIONS AND CONTACTS

## CENTRAL DISTRICT

### Central Arraignment Courthouse 429 Baughet St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

homeless court program, parole violation hearings, postrelease community supervision (PRCS) violation hearings  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
information line: (213) 617-5699

### Central Civil West Courthouse 600 S. Commonwealth Ave., Room 314, Los Angeles, CA 90005

family law including Los Angeles County Child Support Services Department cases  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
family law (including government enforced domestic support cases): (213) 351-7598

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

felonies, misdemeanors  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
felonies/misdemeanors/bail/bonds: (213) 628-7900  
juror services – 1st floor: (213) 680-7625

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

misdemeanors  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
misdemeanors: (323) 881-5800

### Eastlake Juvenile Courthouse 1601 Eastlake Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90033

juvenile delinquency  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
juvenile delinquency: (323) 227-4399

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

adoptions, juvenile administration, juvenile dependency  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
administration: (323) 307-8095  
adoptions: (323) 307-8099  
appeals: (323) 307-8098  
juvenile dependency: (323) 307-8096  
petition for disclosure: (323) 307-8080  
presiding and supervising judge's office: (323) 307-8030

### Hollywood Courthouse\* 5925 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028

non-LPS conservatorships  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
mental health: (323) 441-1898 or 1899  
\*opening early 2019

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

felonies, misdemeanors, mental health, traffic and other infractions  
*Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
felonies/misdemeanors: (213) 745-3202  
mental health: (818) 441-1898  
traffic (not for payments): (213) 745-3201

### Spring Street Courthouse 312 North Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

civil - unlimited, complex and personal injury

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

appellate division, civil - limited and unlimited, court administration, domestic violence restraining orders, family law, probate, small claims, unlawful detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

appellate: (213) 633-1070  
civil - limited and unlimited/small claims/unlawful detainers (evictions): (213) 830-0803  
family law/domestic violence restraining orders: (213) 830-0830  
probate: (213) 830-0850  
resource center for self-represented litigants: (213) 830-0845

## EAST DISTRICT

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

felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

felonies/misdemeanors: (626) 401-2298  
traffic: (626) 401-2299

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

civil - unlimited, domestic violence restraining orders, family law, felonies, juvenile delinquency, misdemeanors

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

civil - unlimited: (909) 802-1198  
family law/domestic violence restraining orders: (909) 802-1197  
felonies/misdemeanors: (909) 802-1199  
juror services: (909) 802-1196  
juvenile delinquency: (909) 802-1195

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

civil - small claims and unlimited, felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions, unlawful detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

civil - small claims/unlimited/unlawful detainers (evictions): (626) 430-2596  
felonies/misdemeanors: (626) 430-2598  
juror services: (626) 430-2597  
traffic: (626) 430-2599

## NORTH DISTRICT

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

juvenile dependency

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

juvenile dependency: (661) 483-5924

**Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse**  
42011 Fourth St. West, Lancaster, CA 93534

civil - small claims and unlimited including personal injury, family law, felonies, juvenile delinquency, misdemeanors, probate, restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, unlawful detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

civil - unlimited/small claims/unlawful detainers (evictions): (661) 483-5797  
family law/probate: (661) 483-5796  
felonies/misdemeanors: (661) 483-5798  
juror services: (661) 483-5795  
juvenile delinquency: (661) 483-5794  
traffic: (661) 483-5799

## NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

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

civil - unlimited, felonies, misdemeanors

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

civil - unlimited: (818) 260-8497  
felonies/misdemeanors: (818) 260-8498

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

civil - unlimited, civil harassment restraining orders, felonies, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

civil - unlimited (excluding personal injury cases): (818) 265-6497  
felonies/misdemeanors: (818) 265-6498  
traffic: (818) 265-6499

## NORTH VALLEY DISTRICT

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

civil - collections, small claims,  
and unlimited, family law,  
restraining orders, traffic and  
other infractions, unlawful  
detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
information line: (818) 407-2200

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

felonies, misdemeanors

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
felonies/misdemeanors: (818) 256-1800

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

misdemeanors, traffic and other  
infractions

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
misdemeanors: (661) 253-5698  
traffic: (661) 253-5699

### **Sylmar Juvenile Courthouse** 16350 Filbert St., Sylmar, CA 91342

juvenile delinquency

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
juvenile delinquency: (818) 256-1180

## NORTHEAST DISTRICT

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

felonies, misdemeanors

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
felonies/misdemeanors: (626) 293-2199

### **Pasadena Courthouse** 300 E. Walnut St., Pasadena, CA 91101

family law, felonies,  
misdemeanors, restraining orders,  
small claims, traffic and other  
infractions, unlawful detainers  
(evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
family law/restraining orders: (626) 396-3396  
felonies: (626) 396-3393  
misdemeanors: (626) 396-3398  
self-help resource center: (626) 369-3392  
traffic (not for payments): (626) 396-3399  
small claims/unlawful detainers (evictions): (626) 396-3397

## NORTHWEST DISTRICT

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

civil - unlimited, family law,  
restraining orders, small claims,  
unlawful detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
civil - unlimited: (818) 901-4799  
family law: (818) 901-4797  
juror services: (818) 901-4796  
small claims: (818) 901-4798  
unlawful detainers (evictions): (818) 901-4795

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

felonies, misdemeanors, traffic  
and other infractions

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
felonies/misdemeanors: (818) 989-6998  
traffic: (818) 989-6999

## SOUTH DISTRICT

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

domestic violence restraining orders, misdemeanors

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
general information: (562) 256-1561  
domestic violence restraining orders: (562) 256-3100  
misdemeanors: (562) 256-2314

### **Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse** 275 Magnolia Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802

civil - limited, small claims and unlimited, family law, felonies, juvenile delinquency, misdemeanors, restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, unlawful detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
general information: (562) 256-3100  
civil - limited/small claims/unlawful detainers: (562) 256-2316  
civil - unlimited: (562) 256-2315  
family law: (562) 256-2317  
felonies/misdemeanors: (562) 256-2314  
juror services: (562) 256-2318  
juvenile delinquency: (562) 256-2312  
traffic: (562) 256-2313

## SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

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

civil - small claims and unlimited, family law, felonies, juvenile delinquency, misdemeanors, restraining orders, traffic and other infractions, unlawful detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
civil - small claims/unlimited/family law/unlawful detainers (evictions): (310) 761-8657  
felonies/juvenile delinquency/misdemeanors: (310) 761-8658  
traffic: (310) 761-8659

## SOUTHEAST DISTRICT

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

felonies, misdemeanors

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
felonies/misdemeanors: (562) 345-3398  
juror services: (562) 345-3397

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

felony arraignments, misdemeanors, traffic and other infractions

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
criminal: (562) 803-7050  
traffic: (562) 803-7046

### **Los Padrinos Juvenile Courthouse** 7281 E. Quill Drive, Downey, CA 90242

juvenile delinquency

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
juvenile delinquency: (562) 658-0799

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

civil - limited and unlimited, felonies, misdemeanors, restraining orders, unlawful detainers (evictions)

**Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
civil - limited collections: (562) 345-0898  
civil - unlimited: (562) 345-0899  
felonies/misdemeanors: (562) 345-0896  
juror services: (562) 345-0894  
civil - limited/unlawful detainers (evictions): (562) 345-0897

**Whittier Courthouse**  
7339 South Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90603

family law, restraining orders      *Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
family law/restraining orders: (562) 968-2699

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Inglewood Courthouse**  
1 Regent St., Inglewood, CA 90301

felonies, misdemeanors,      *Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
restraining orders, small claims,      felonies/misdemeanors: (310) 419-1398  
traffic and other infractions,      restraining orders: (310) 419-1397  
unlawful detainers (evictions)      small claims/unlawful detainers: (310) 419-1396  
traffic: (310) 410-1399

**Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse**  
110 Regent St., Inglewood, CA 90301

juvenile delinquency      *Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
juvenile delinquency: (310) 412-8301

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

civil - unlimited, family law,      *Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
felonies, misdemeanors,      civil - unlimited/family law: (310) 787-3697  
restraining orders, traffic and      felonies/misdemeanors: (310) 787-3698  
other infractions      traffic: (310) 787-3699

**WEST DISTRICT**

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

felonies, misdemeanors      *Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
felonies: (310) 725-3025  
juror services: (310) 725-3033  
misdemeanors: (310) 725-3099

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

traffic and other infractions      *Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
traffic: (310) 281-2499

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

civil - small claims and unlimited,      *Telephone hours 8:30-10:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:30 p.m.*  
family law, restraining orders,      civil - small claims/unlimited/unlawful detainers (evictions): (310) 255-1963  
traffic and other infractions,      family law/restraining orders: (310) 255-1962  
unlawful detainers (evictions)      traffic: (310) 255-1964

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2018 Annual Report**