

Superior Court, County	Staff Reductions and/or layoffs	More	Visit
County of Alameda	96.59 full-time; furloughs; 4 vacancies Self-help Center: Eliminated services at 2 court locations. Reduced hours at another court location. more	"(We) eliminated services at two court locations and reduced hours in providing services at another court location. The ability to fully meet the needs of the public is reduced due to limited funding and staff."	
County of Alpine	Furloughs, 1 full-time vacancy	Courthouse construction project cancelled.	
County of Amador	Furloughs, 26.5% vacancy rate		http://www.amadorcourt.org/
County of Butte	Furloughs, 10% vacancy rate	"We have abolished classifications, consolidated positions, and reduced contracts with vendors (i.e. janitorial, court-appointed counsel, and mediation). Our Court has continuously implemented reductions in all areas possible, and as such, our reduced administrative resources have negatively impacted our Court's ability to implement strategic planning goals, meet various deadlines imposed by the Judicial Council and the Legislature, and comply with rules and other requirements placed upon our Court. The ongoing reduction to our budget will force additional cuts, which may include layoffs, a discontinuation of critical services to the public, and ultimately the inability of our Court to meet our constitutional and statutory obligations."	http://www.buttecourt.ca.gov/default.cfm
County of Calaveras	Furloughs		http://www.calaveras.courts.ca.gov/
County of Colusa	N/A		http://www.colusa.courts.ca.gov/
County of Contra Costa	Furloughs. 120 positions have been eliminated since FY 2008-09 either through layoffs of attrition. 27% vacancy rate. Potential for 50% reduction in Self-Help legal services	Permanently shut down one criminal courtroom that has been in place for decades, due to courtroom support staffing shortages. The Court discontinued the service of a Senior Judge beginning in January 2012. The Court has also made the policy decision to shut down Family Law and Civil courtrooms when the judicial officer is on vacation, participating in judicial education programs, or attending statewide Judicial Branch committee meetings. This will cause delays in scheduling Family Law and Civil matters, pushing hearing dates out several months. We are now contemplating the shutdown of Family Law and Civil courtrooms in FY 2012-13, unless significant fiscal relief is provided.	http://www.cc-courts.org/
County of Del Norte	10-15% vacancy rate		http://www.delnorte.courts.ca.gov/
County of El Dorado	Furloughs, 15% vacancy rate	"Modified operations to be more efficient: hold small claims hearings by video conf if parties are physically present in South Lake Tahoe and are not able to drive to our Cameron Park branch; Use video conf to conduct appellate calendar, eliminating the need for judicial and clerical staff to travel to other branches of our court; implement tighter supply management, and better business practices. Administration has deferred a number of projects and purchases such as a much needed phone system, jury chairs and office furniture."	http://eldocourtweb.eldoradocourt.org/

County of Fresno	Furlough 12 days a year for last 3 years, additional voluntary furlough offered; 20% vacancy rate and goal within a year is 30%; Laid off 8 positions (6 court reporters and 2 secretaries); cut in-combination promotions and step increases for management and unrepresented employees	Closed: Kerman Court in 2008, Fowler Court in 2010, Dependency Court in 2010, "Trade Center" administrative offices in 2011, closed remaining 7 rural courts in 2012. Withdrew all court reporters from non-mandated or essential hearings in civil, family law, and probate. Turned over the processing of court appointed claims and grand jury assistance to the county; significantly reduced costs in education, training and travel, purchase of law books, toner, paper, etc. Reduced janitorial service to 2 days a week. Terminated and archived records from the old COFACS computer system. Removed the Court from the County telephone, payroll/unemployment insurance/benefit systems to in-house managed VoIP and ADP, all to avoid significantly increasing rates now and in the future. While the latter was a wise hard-dollar financial decision, the payroll and benefits workload has more than doubled at a time when staff numbers are dwindling; less people to perform much more work.	http://www.fresno.courts.ca.gov/
County of Glenn	Furloughs, 1 full-time + temp staff cut; 2 vacancies	"Asst. CEO and Court Accountant positions left vacant"	http://www.glenncourt.ca.gov/index.html
County of Humboldt	Laid off 3 full-time; 15% vacancy rate; furloughs	"Excluding the CEO and court commissioner we have 94.5 positions, and 14.5 are frozen vacant. This is a 15% vacancy rate. This does not include the positions we deleted through attrition (approximately 12)."	http://www.humboldt.courts.ca.gov/
County of Imperial	Court has not filled its assist court executive position		http://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/
County of Inyo	9.4% vacant rate; 2 full-time vacancies	Budget cuts eliminated the Court's plan to utilize reserves they had saved to build a modular Courthouse facility in Independence, CA. Ongoing reductions will force layoffs and make accessibility to the public a challenge by July 1, 2014. Court has severely cut law library, travel, training, and overtime budgets.	http://www.inyocourt.ca.gov/
County of Kern	Furloughs, 9.65% vacancy rate	"The Bakersfield FLF Office was so busy that we instituted a numbering/appointment system. By ten o'clock in the morning on average, the appointments are filled up for the whole day and clients are being turned away or move to the Family Law Counter causing waits in excess of 30 minutes on the busiest days. (Regional Courts): The FLF staff used to travel to each of our regional courts (all but two of these locations hear family law matters) on a weekly basis for client appointments. Now travel one day every other week. Currently investigating teleconferencing"	http://www.kern.courts.ca.gov/
County of Kings	Furloughs, 1 full-time vacancy	"In 2010 and 2011, we closed down our outlying courts between Christmas and New Years and properly notified the Bar and the Public. We kept Hanford open during this time. The past 2 years we had a limited number of staff during Christmas until New Years."	http://www.kings.courts.ca.gov/
County of Lake	Furloughs, 11 full-time positions eliminated; 3 full-time positions unfilled	"In the last 9 years the court has only given negotiated salary increases 3 times in an amount of 2 or 2½%, (cumulative 6.5% over 9 years). The court has restructured court calendars, implemented criminal settlement calendars, and reorganized staff responsibilities. The court has also taken measures to reduce operating expenses significantly in areas such as office supplies, legal publications, copier leases, court ordered investigations, travel and training."	http://www.lake.courts.ca.gov/
County of Lassen	Furloughs, 9% vacancy rate		http://www.lassencourt.ca.gov/

County of Los Angeles	Furloughs, 329 layoffs; 574 vacant positions, elimination of courtroom staffing in 56 courtrooms, elimination of the court's Informal Juvenile Traffic courts, reduction of court reporter services and elimination of 110 management, clerical and administrative positions outside the courtrooms		http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/
County of Madera	9.13% vacancy rate		http://madera.courts.ca.gov/
County of Marin	Layoff 6 full-time, reduce 43 positions (from 171 to 128); 26% vacancy rate	"The court has only conducted one recruitment in the past four years. Only 3 entry-level clerical staff have been hired in that time period."	http://www.marincourt.org/
County of Mariposa	Furloughs, 11% vacancy		http://www.mariposacourt.org/
County of Mendocino	Furloughs, laid-off 20 full-time (21.25% reduction); furloughs	"The Willits Court permanently closed on December 31, 2009. All pending matters were transferred to the Ukiah Courthouse. Clerical staff and court reporter were transferred to the Ukiah Courthouse, the manager was laid off."	http://www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov/
County of Merced	Furloughs, laid off 10; 10% vacancy rate		http://www.merced.courts.ca.gov/
County of Modoc	Furloughs, 2 full-time		http://www.modocsuperiorcourt.ca.gov/
County of Mono	33% vacancy rate	"We have a significant number of positions unfilled, with a vacancy rate of 33%. This has been the primary means that our court has relied upon to meet budget reductions. This has resulted in less hours of customer service at clerk office counters and answering public phone calls. High vacancy rate has also delayed the legal processing of filings and entry of traffic citations. Remaining staff are overwhelmed with work load, which has caused low morale and difficulty maintaining high quality of work and attention to detail."	http://www.monocourt.org/
County of Monterey	Furloughs, 17% vacancy rate	"The court operated Voluntary Separation Program. VSIP required the Court to restructure divisions, transfer employees and make reassignments. At the time of this survey the Court has evaluated the restructuring, etc. and is in the final stages of the recruitment process for an undetermined number of personnel to fill critical gaps noted from VSIP, etc. Thus, the vacancy rate as noted is accurate; however, within the next two to three weeks, some positions will be filled."	http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov/
County of Napa	Hiring Freeze. Reduced work week from 40 to 37.5 hours for all employees plus 5 furlough days. Lay off of 8 FTE employees over the past 12 months. Reduction of the courts workforce by 20 percent since the beginning of the current fiscal crisis.	"Over the past several years, the court has addressed consecutive years of funding deductions through rolling furloughs, an early retirement incentive program, hiring freeze, and most recently, the layoff of 3.5 FTE employees. In addition, important discretionary services such as assistance to self-represented litigants and court reporting in civil and small claims matters have been significantly curtailed or fully eliminated. Due to even greater budget reductions this year, the court will be forced to close its doors at 2:30 pm each Friday beginning on September 9th, as well as on two days during the holiday season. These closures represent more than a 6 percent reduction to our court employees work hours. In addition to the reduced work week for all employees, the court has laid-off an additional 4.5 employees in July of this year. All together, the court has reduced its staffing by 20 percent over the past 4 years in order to address the current budget crisis."	http://www.napa.courts.ca.gov/

County of Nevada	Furloughs. Eliminated 6 full-time and temp positions; 15% vacancy rate	"Eliminated voluntary mediation in family law. Reduced self-help hours between 8-12 hours per week since 2009/10"	http://www.nevadacountycourts.com/
County of Orange	Reduction of 283 positions (16%); 7 lay-offs; 11 days of mandatory furloughs and court closures in FY 09-10; voluntary furloughs ongoing.	Court office hours reduced from 9.5 hours per day to 8 hours per day. Number of branch courts where small claims and limited civil are heard reduced from 5 to 3. Reduced by half number of night court sessions each month for traffic and small claims.	http://www.occourts.org/
County of Placer	Furloughs in FY 09/10, 10/11, 11/12, and 12/13; Laid off 36 full time staff in 2009 (20%), laid off 3 full time staff in 2012, since 2009 reduced filled positions by a total of 63 FTE (35%).	Operated with 12 limited service days in FY 11/12, has announced eight limited service days in 12/13 and reduced clerk hours on Fridays (October 2012). "To help meet the cuts already imposed on the court, the court has required employees to pay more towards their retirement (employees now pay their full share), discontinued its award winning Peer Court program, ended its Family Law Case Management Program (a program recommended by the Elkins Family Law Task Force), ended its Domestic Violence Case Management Program, eliminated the STEP Program that provided enhanced services to families involved in high conflict divorce, closed two courtrooms in 2009 and have kept them closed, and achieved operating cost savings through new copier, telecommunications, and leased records storage facility contracts, reduced the cost of Probate investigations, and increased and strengthened billing practices for various fees."	http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/
County of Plumas	Furloughs, 20% vacancy rate	"Litigants have longer waits for services? which has translated into more frustration for litigants, more difficulty in interactions between litigants and court staff and court continuances of cases. The Court's contractor provides the only services for family law and guardianship (for minors) litigants in the county."	http://www.plumascourt.ca.gov/
County of Riverside	Furloughs in FY 09/10, 10/11, 11/12, and 12/13; Laid off 36 full time staff in 2009 (20%), laid off 9 full time staff in 2012, since 2009 reduced filled positions by a total of 71 FTE (39%).	"Also, more cases are being continued due to the absence of a Small Claims Advisor who would otherwise advise the parties on how to properly present or defend their case. Reductions in workforce have forced the court to collapse supervisory positions, which means that the scope of certain supervisory and/or management positions is expanded to an inefficient level. For example, one manager and one supervisor are typically assigned to a small court facility but because of reductions, many of these supervisor positions have been eliminated. This forces the manager to do both jobs which results in reduced service to the judges and public, less oversight of staff and a higher potential for clerical error."	http://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/
County of Sacramento	Furloughs, elimination of 12 positions; 183 vacancies (19.2%);	"The use of reserves in this fiscal year alone will prevent us from laying off over 80 additional staff. Eff. July 2011, all unrepresented employees were denied COLA's and had benefits reduced."	http://www.saccourt.ca.gov/
County of San Benito			http://www.sanbenito.courts.ca.gov/
County of San Bernardino	A staff reduction of 5.3%; furloughs		http://www.sb-court.org/

County of San Diego

In the current Fiscal Year 2012/13, layoffs and a voluntary separation program resulted in a reduction in the workforce of over 170 permanent staff members. We project that by the end of the fiscal year, we will have 470 vacant positions among permanent staff, at a vacancy rate of 28%.

The FY 12/13 budget plan calls for closing 20 courtrooms by June 2013. This will reduce the number of courtrooms from 157 to 137, nearly a 13% decrease. Criminal and civil courtrooms have been closed and calendars have been consolidated, resulting in longer court sessions and the need to schedule court hearings out further. In criminal, the court has eliminated "walk-ins," so defendants must schedule a court date rather than appearing on their warrant the day they walk-in to court.

Probate operations in North County have been closed and all matters have been consolidated with and relocated to the Central Division in downtown San Diego. This requires all parties with cases previously filed in the North County division (40 miles from downtown San Diego), and all new cases filed, to travel to downtown San Diego for their matter.

One of the two juvenile dependency courtrooms in North County has been closed and all cases heard in that department are now being heard at the main Juvenile court facility near downtown San Diego. This impacts families, child victims, and justice partners such as social workers and law enforcement officers, who must now travel greater distances for these proceedings.

Reduced the number of small claims night court sessions from one night a week to one night a month, resulting in delays and inconvenience for parties who cannot appear during the day-time sessions.

Closed small claims in East and South County and consolidated all cases in the Central Division. As a result, the court is experiencing difficulty recruiting Temporary Judges to hear small claims cases in Central. So trial dates are being set much further out than when the court had a full complement of Temporary Judges available to schedule.

Eliminated the use of assigned judges, resulting in the closure of the courtrooms they were assigned to. This represents a reduction equivalent to four full-time (trial department) courtrooms.

The court closed the Ramona Branch, which handled traffic, small claims, and unlawful detainer cases. This courthouse closure results in the need for customers to drive into El Cajon (25 miles from Ramona) to handle their traffic cases and to downtown San Diego (35 miles from Ramona) to handle their small claims and unlawful detainer cases.

In 2012, office hours were reduced again and now all court business offices close at noon on Fridays, whereas they previously stayed open until 3:30. In addition, phone hours have been cut.

Current phone hours for the public are from 8:30 to 11:30 whereas previously they were generally 8:30 to 4:30. This has resulted in longer wait-times when offices and phones are open.

Closed the small claims business offices in East (El Cajon) and South (Chula Vista) County court divisions. Court users in these regions must now travel to Kearny Mesa, which is located 15 miles from East County and 18 miles from South County divisions, to file small claims cases and for all proceedings related to those cases.

http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/portal/page?_page=...

County of San Francisco	78 layoffs, 29.40% vacancy rate; furloughs	"Both lines and wait times for service are longer and backlogs are growing."	http://www.sfsuperiorcourt.org/
County of San Joaquin	45 layoffs; 91 vacant positions (26%); furloughs. Local News: Layoffs put small claims court in jeopardy - Loss of 13 clerks will leave court unstaffed	"1 commissioner position vacant since Jan 2009; hiring freeze FY 2008-09; eliminated our judicial arbitration program; reduced the mandatory psychiatric evaluations from 2 to 1 in the majority of criminal cases; eliminated a significant number of small claims hearings, b/c we don't have sufficient staff to process them; reduced court reporters for cases unless required by statute; continue to use typewriters for processing juvenile delinquency cases as we have never had the funds to support implementation of a computerized case management system."	http://www.stocktoncourt.org/
County of San Luis Obispo	Furloughs		http://slocourts.net/
County of San Mateo	25 layoffs; 24% reduction; Furloughs	"The changes necessitated by ongoing State budget cuts are profoundly difficult. We have reorganized the operations of the court and spent a sizable portion of our reserves so that we could continue to serve the public with the least disruption possible and protect employee job security for as long as possible. The court is committed to prioritize public safety and do our best to provide the most critical court services to our community within the limits of our reduced resources. We also remain focused on not sacrificing essential resources, facilities or capacity that may be needed in the future. "	http://www.sanmateocourt.org/
County of Santa Barbara	12% vacancy rate; Furloughs	"We eliminated overtime, almost all travel expenses, reduced expenses for subscriptions to legal publications, and generally reduced all service and supply costs."	http://www.sbcourts.org/index.asp
County of Santa Clara	17% vacancy rate; Furloughs		http://www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/
County of Santa Cruz	21 full-time staff laid off; 26% vacancy rate; Furloughs	A hiring freeze has been in place since 2008.	http://www.sccsuperiorcourt.org/
County of Shasta			http://www.shastacourts.com/menu.php?
County of Sierra	Furloughs	Courthouse construction program cancelled	http://www.sierracourt.org/
County of Siskiyou	10% reduction; Furloughs	We offered a Voluntary Separation program, i.e., financial incentive for employees to leave the courts. Six employees volunteered to leave the courts, thus reducing staff to its present level.	http://www.siskiyou.courts.ca.gov/
County of Solano	Staff reductions and/or layoffs: 2 layoffs, 3 vacant positions, 51 positions eliminated, 20% vacancy.	Reduced the hours for the clerk's offices and Self-Help Center and reduced telephone hours in October 2009 to 8am to 3pm. Implemented 12 furlough days in FY 12/13. Hiring freeze in place since May 2009. Implemented Voluntary Separation Program. Implemented ER in misdemeanors.	http://www.solano.courts.ca.gov/
County of Sonoma	1 director position laid off; 40 positions vacant (17%)	"Vacant positions frozen. Assistant Family Law Facilitator position not filled and court is relying primarily on volunteers and interns to address self represented community. This has resulted in longer lines and inability to provide timely services."	http://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/
County of Stanislaus	11 positions will be laid off (eliminated); Furloughs	"Demand for self-help services has increased dramatically. An average of 85 persons per day wait up to 45 minutes to receive services. The services rendered reduce continuances by 60+% and are invaluable in helping people to understand the process thereby reducing the potential for direct confrontation...Have had no COLA (cost of living pay increases) since 2008. Have negotiated lower retirement benefit formula for new hires. Have discontinued Law Day Activities and Juror Appreciation Week activities."	http://www.stanct.org/

County of Sutter	10% vacancy rate	"For the next fiscal year, the court will be considering the use of furloughs, reduced hours of operations as well as other reductions in services in order to continue to sustain the ongoing reductions."	http://www.suttercourts.com/
County of Tehama	Assistant CEO position eliminated; 19 vacant positions (20%); furloughs	"We are down 5 clerks and a Court Reporter, we have no research attorney, no HR professional and no in-house IT professional"	http://www.tehamacourt.ca.gov/
County of Trinity			http://www.trinity.courts.ca.gov/
County of Tulare	12 full-time staff reduction; 9.16% vacancy rate; Furloughs	"On July 1, 2010, all employees who were eligible for a merit/step increase in the prior fiscal year received their 2009/2010 merit/step increase. However, all 2010/2011 merit/step increases due to eligible employees were frozen for the remainder of that fiscal year."	http://www.tularesuperiorcourt.ca.gov/
County of Tuolumne	24% vacancy rate; Furloughs	In the current fiscal year (2011-12), court funding was reduced by 6.8%. The court anticipates a budget reduction in excess of 15% in fiscal year 2012-13. The court has instituted freezing vacancies, implementing mandatory unpaid furloughs, reengineering court processes for efficiencies, and reducing expenditures for services and supplies.	http://www.tuolumne.courts.ca.gov/index.l
County of Ventura	4 full-time staff laid off; 41.6 vacancies (11.1%); Furloughs	"Permanently closed the stand alone Self-help Center in the Colonia neighborhood of Oxnard in September 2011. The East County Courthouse will have to be totally closed in July 2012 if there is no restoration to the judicial branch budget and the Gov proposed budget is enacted (even w/o the trigger)."	http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/
County of Yolo	29 positions vacant; 28% vacancy rate	"Closed West Sacramento Family Law Facilitator Office effective Oct 27, 2011. Reduced hours of operation for Woodland Family Law Facilitator/Self Help Center. Clerk window hours reduced to 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m."	http://www.yolo.courts.ca.gov/
County of Yuba	15% vacancy rate	"Court has had to severely cut training, travel, printing, forms, supplies, law library and overtime in an attempt to avoid layoffs or mandatory furloughs. However, if there are no restorations to the branch budget, and the court has to absorb further reductions that would be allocated to it, the court will be forced to implement drastic measures, which will most likely include layoffs and/or furloughs and/or reduced public service hours."	http://www.yubacourts.org/