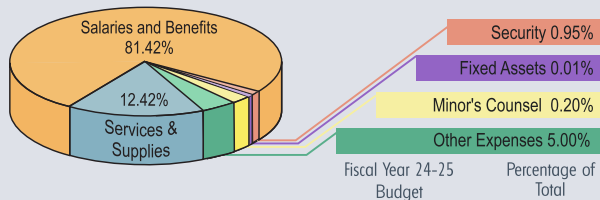


## BUDGET

The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations.



	Fiscal Year 24-25 Budget	Percentage of Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 180,948,018	81.42%
Services and Supplies	\$ 27,595,527	12.42%
Security	\$ 2,113,000	0.95%
Fixed Assets	\$ 20,000	0.01%
Minor's Counsel	\$ 448,000	0.20%
Other Expenses	\$ 11,119,000	5.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$222,243,545</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Filled Positions*	1,140
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\* As of 01/01/25

**Salaries and Benefits** - Salaries and benefits of all court employees, except for judges, whose salaries are paid directly by the state.

**Services and Supplies** - Costs of office furniture, supplies, telecommunications and contractual services such as information technology and printing services.

**Security** - In FY 11-12, as a result of Trial Court Security Realignment (AB 118), sheriff-related security costs for courtroom security and perimeter security were transferred to the County of San Diego. The remaining security costs in the court budget include such areas as after-hours security for facilities and security equipment maintenance.

**Fixed Assets** - Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000 (e.g., furniture, copy machines).

**Minor's Counsel** - The costs to appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding.

**Other Expenses** - Includes payments of County services (e.g., custodial costs), collection costs and traffic school monitoring costs.

## FILINGS

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County. From July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2023/2024), filings for all case types totaled nearly 300,000.

CASE TYPE	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24
Felony	12,446	11,115	11,922
Misdemeanor (Non-Traffic)	10,422	11,000	15,410
Misdemeanor (Traffic)	10,167	8,712	9,736
Infraction (Non-Traffic)	13,352	11,751	13,477
Infraction (Traffic)	134,826	141,308	156,681
Limited Civil (without Unlawful Detainer)	18,594	18,716	25,357
Limited Unlawful Detainer	5,175	9,408	9,005
Small Claims	5,518	5,716	5,891
Unlimited Civil	18,727	21,187	22,205
Probate	3,512	3,612	3,704
Family Law (Dissolution/Separation/Nullity)	11,804	11,280	10,540
Family Support (DCSS)	4,404	4,415	2,943
Domestic Violence	8,071	8,082	7,503
Other Family Law	3,215	3,267	2,979
Juvenile Justice	662	1,002	1,167
Juvenile Dependency	1,378	1,100	1,044
<b>Total</b>	<b>262,273</b>	<b>271,671</b>	<b>299,564</b>

- "Family Support" are filings where the Department of Child Support Services are a party to the case.

- "Domestic Violence" includes Domestic Violence Restraining Orders filed in Family Court.

- "Other Family Law" includes Paternity, Surrogacy, Child Support, Child Custody, and other miscellaneous Family Court petitions.



## Welcome

Last year, the court faced the bleak budget projections and impending cuts head-on, making the difficult decisions necessary to close a budget deficit of approximately \$9.6 million for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The court's swift action avoided layoffs and mandatory furloughs and made it possible for the court to begin to fill some of the critical vacancies that had been held open.

We know members of the public feel the impact of lower staffing levels, particularly with longer lines and waiting times in the business offices, as well as delays in the return of paperwork from the court. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we work through the challenges caused by the budget reductions experienced by all trial courts across the State of California.

A new case management e-filing system is the latest change to be implemented by our court. In 2024, Civil and Probate case types transitioned to this new system, joining Family, Traffic, and Small Claims case types which were previously transitioned. In 2025, we will transition Criminal case types to the new case management e-filing system which will complete the project.

The Court's Self-Help Center continues to provide valuable assistance to individuals without attorneys across several case types. The Small Claims Legal Advisor resumed in-person assistance last year. It is now located in the Hall of Justice in downtown San Diego. Remote assistance over the phone and by email remains popular, but if you prefer face-to-face help, the Small Claims Legal Advisor accepts walk-ins on a first-come, first-served basis Monday-Thursday from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., and appointments are available Monday-Thursday between 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Visit [sdcourt.ca.gov/SCLA](http://sdcourt.ca.gov/SCLA) to learn more.

Read on to find a full list of self-help services and details on the types of cases that can be filed at each of our seven locations, a summary of our case filing numbers, and our budget in this brochure.

On behalf of our 135 judges, 19 commissioners, and more than 1,100 employees, thank you for your interest in the San Diego Superior Court.

*Maureen F. Hallahan*

Hon. Maureen F. Hallahan

Presiding Judge (2024-2025)

## Self-Help Services

In certain circumstances, self-help services are available to litigants who go to court without an attorney. These programs offer assistance by providing procedural information and education to litigants preparing for court. In some cases, this assistance may involve completing forms or offering ways to settle the case without appearing in court. Services/clinics are operated within court facilities and are offered at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the telephone numbers listed for further information, or visit the court's Self-Help Center website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov/SelfHelp](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/SelfHelp).

**CARE Act Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance for CARE Act proceedings at the Central, South, East, and North locations. For information, call:

(877) 734-3258

**Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, South and East County locations. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides this assistance at the North County location.

Central (877) 534-2524 North (619) 235-5656  
South (877) 534-2524 East (877) 534-2524

**Conservatorship Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. For information, call:

(877) 534-2524

**Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic\*** - San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, North and East County locations. Center for Community Solutions provides this assistance at the East County location. Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides this assistance at the South County location.

Central (619) 235-5656 North (619) 235-5656  
South (877) 534-2524 East (619) 235-5656 or (858) 272-5777

**Family Law and Guardianship Assistance** - San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office provides procedural guidance and form preparation assistance for divorce (dissolution), legal separation, parentage (paternity), custody, visitation, child support, spousal support, and guardianship issues. Some services are available remotely. For more information, please visit [FLF.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://FLF.sdcourt.ca.gov). For recorded information, call:

(619) 844-2200

**Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. For information, call:

(877) 534-2524

**Small Claims Legal Advisor** - San Diego Superior Court provides legal assistance to litigants on small claims procedures, forms, and processes. Services are provided remotely by phone, email and live chat. In person assistance is available at the Hall of Justice during specified hours. Help is available in English and Spanish. For information, call:

(858) 634-1777

Recorded Info: (858) 634-1900

**Small Claims Mediation\*** - National Conflict Resolution Center provides mediated settlement assistance at the Central location. For information, call:

(619) 238-2400

**Unlawful Detainer Clinic\*** - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program serves North County.

Central (877) 534-2524 North (619) 235-5656

\*These programs are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. The programs are independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.



**SUPERIOR COURT  
OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

## 2025 Resource Guide

### Mission Statement

The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will provide for the fair and timely administration of justice in all cases before it, in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public, and in such a manner that promotes public confidence, pursuant to applicable state and federal laws.

## COURT SERVICES AND LOCATIONS

Where you go for court services may depend on one or more of the following considerations:

- Where you live
- Where the legal issue occurred
- Where the court provides the services you need (for example, juvenile justice matters are heard only in the Central Division)

### CENTRAL DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 844-2700

#### CENTRAL COURTHOUSE (619) 844-2700

1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Jury Services

Appeals – Criminal, Civil, Family, Probate, and Traffic

Criminal – Felonies and Misdemeanors

Family Law – Dissolution (Divorce), Child Custody and Support, Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Family Law Facilitator

Family Support Division

Older Court Records - Records Research

Probate - Guardianships, Conservatorships, Estates, Trusts, and Delayed Registration of Birth, Death and Marriage

Court Reporting Services - Transcripts



#### EAST COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION

(619) 456-4100

East County Regional Center:  
250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



#### NORTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION

(760) 201-8600

North County Regional Center:  
325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Civil - Limited and Unlimited  
Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Juvenile Dependency (*Including Adoptions*)  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions - (760) 201-8500



#### SOUTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION

(619) 746-6200

South County Regional Center:  
500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders  
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders  
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions  
Family Court Services  
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)  
Child Custody and Support  
Family Law Facilitator  
Jury Services  
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some  
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

#### HALL OF JUSTICE (619) 450-7275

330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Civil - Limited and Unlimited

(including Unlawful Detainers & Civil Harassment Restraining Orders)

Small Claims - (858) 634-1919

#### KEARNY MESA FACILITY (858) 634-1800

8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Traffic and other Infractions and

Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

#### JUVENILE COURT (858) 634-1600

2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

Adoptions and Emancipations

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Dependency

### JURY SERVICE INFORMATION

When you receive a summons to serve as a juror in the Superior Court, you are being asked to play a crucial role in the administration of justice. Some of the services provided by the court to ensure a smooth juror experience include:

#### 24/7 Access

The court's Jury Services office maintains a telephone line to assist jurors with questions regarding jury service 24 hours a day, by calling 619-844-2800. A court staff member is available by phone from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until noon on Friday. Jurors may also access the court's website to get more information concerning jury service and to request an excuse or postpone jury service at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury).

#### One Day/One Trial

Under California law, once a juror has appeared or has served through Telephone Standby, the juror does not have to serve again for a period of 12 months.

#### Free Transportation for Jurors Serving at the Central Courthouse

The Superior Court, in partnership with SANDAG, offers complimentary bus/trolley or coaster passes on the first day of jury service for those serving at the Central Courthouse or the Hall of Justice. See the jury summons for more information. This service is for jurors serving at the Central courts only.

#### Court Transfer

Prospective jurors can request a transfer of jury service to a more convenient Superior Court location within the county.

#### Wireless Internet Access

Free Wireless Internet Service is provided for jurors serving at each court location.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach and education are essential to the San Diego Superior Court. By establishing and maintaining strong ties to the community and promoting knowledge about how our system of justice works, the court is better able to fulfill its mission of administering justice in a way that is both accessible and understandable to the public.

#### Student Outreach and Education

Students in San Diego County have many unique opportunities to learn about the California justice system firsthand through activities that take place right in the courthouse. Between courthouse tours, the Judges in the Classroom program, and other presentations geared toward specific grades, the San Diego Superior Court welcomes more than 10,000 student visitors each year. Select programs are also offered virtually. For a description of currently available student outreach programs, please visit the court's website at [sdcourt.ca.gov](http://sdcourt.ca.gov).

#### Volunteers

Volunteering at the court is a great way to learn about the justice system and serve the community. Volunteer opportunities include information desks, business offices, jury services, and children's waiting rooms, just to name a few. Submit an interest form online at [sdcourt.ca.gov/volunteer](http://sdcourt.ca.gov/volunteer).

#### Speakers

Want to learn more about the court? Judges or court staff may be available to meet with school groups and community organizations to discuss how the court operates and the challenges and opportunities facing the California justice system..

For additional information, please call (619) 844-2330  
or visit the court's website at [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov).

### SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT WEBSITE - [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov)

The following services are available on the San Diego Superior Court website:

- Find out about self-help services for people without lawyers.
- Schedule a Traffic Business Office appointment.
- Find links to virtual hearings for various case types.
- Pay your traffic ticket, sign up for traffic school, request an extension, or create a payment plan. Request a fee adjustment based on your ability to pay.
- Pay court-ordered fines or fees.
- Look up your Jury Service information or request an extension.
- Search for a Civil Case Mediator.
- E-File documents in Family, Civil and Probate cases.
- Submit exhibits in Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer cases.
- Receive help from online ChatBots for Family, Probate and Traffic matters.
- Schedule an appointment for the Family Law Facilitators (FLF) workshops.
- Make online requests for Family Law case documents to be sent by mail.
- View court calendars by department.
- Look up information on court cases using our Court Index case search, Register of Actions, Civil Tentative Rulings, Probate Notes, or New Case Filings.
- Purchase select court documents online through the Register of Actions.
- Find quick links to Child Support, DMV, Sheriff's Warrant, and Restraining Order indices.
- Find court locations and contact information.

If you do not have access to a computer in your home, most local libraries and the San Diego County Public Law Library ([www.sandiegolawlibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolawlibrary.org)) provide computers with internet access for use by the public.