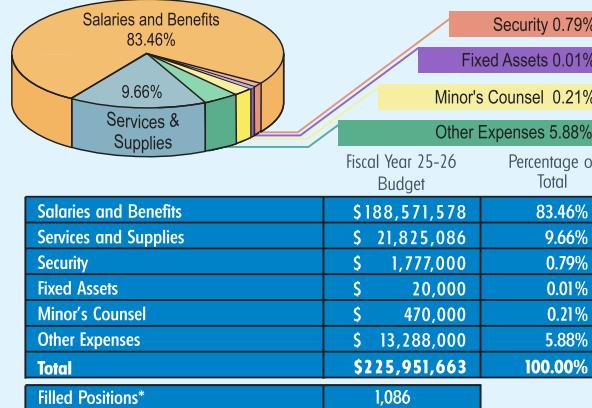


BUDGET

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



* As of 01/01/26

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, 2024 through June 30, 2025 (Fiscal Year 2024/2025), filings for all case types totaled nearly 319,000.

| CASE TYPE | FY22/23 | FY23/24 | FY24/25 |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Felony | 11,115 | 11,922 | 12,521 |
| Misdemeanor (Non-Traffic) | 11,000 | 15,410 | 15,058 |
| Misdemeanor (Traffic) | 8,712 | 9,736 | 9,211 |
| Infraction (Non-Traffic) | 11,751 | 13,477 | 15,528 |
| Infraction (Traffic) | 141,308 | 156,681 | 164,666 |
| Limited Civil (without Unlawful Detainer) | 18,716 | 25,357 | 32,873 |
| Limited Unlawful Detainer | 9,408 | 9,005 | 8,922 |
| Small Claims | 5,716 | 5,891 | 6,048 |
| Unlimited Civil | 21,187 | 22,205 | 23,525 |
| Probate | 3,612 | 3,704 | 3,669 |
| Family Law (Dissolution/Separation/Nullity) | 11,280 | 10,940 | 10,729 |
| Family Support (DCSS) | 4,415 | 2,943 | 3,564 |
| Domestic Violence | 8,082 | 7,503 | 7,504 |
| Other Family Law | 3,267 | 2,979 | 3,094 |
| Juvenile Justice | 1,002 | 1,167 | 1,071 |
| Juvenile Dependency | 1,100 | 1,044 | 937 |
| Total | 271,671 | 299,564 | 318,920 |

- "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

The San Diego Superior Court is dedicated to delivering the highest standard of justice in every division. Over the past few years, we have made meaningful progress toward modernization, and we will continue that work to support more efficient, transparent, and user-friendly court operations.

My goals for the Court include strengthening communication with the public and our justice partners, leveraging technology, and enhancing data accuracy. By aligning our people and processes, we are enabling court users to engage with us online rather than in line whenever that is the preferred way to access services.

In 2026, we look forward to launching a new criminal case management system. This will bring all case types onto a single platform and improve access as criminal cases complete the transition from paper files to digital records.

We are also expanding online services. In early 2026, the Court will begin offering online exhibit submission in Family cases. Family joins Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer as case types where parties can submit exhibits electronically.

As we expand access and modernize services, I also want to offer a word of caution about increasingly sophisticated scams involving supposed court cases or jury duty. Be alert to red flags in any correspondence you receive and rely only on official court records. You can search for cases by name or case number using the online Court Index, and legitimate court documents will always include a case number. The Court conducts official correspondence through U.S. mail or, in some instances, by E-Service for parties who have opted in to receive notices electronically. The Court will not call or send text messages to resolve a court issue or collect a fine. The Court also will never require payment in cash. Payments may be made in person at courthouse business offices by cash, credit card, or check. Checks or credit card authorizations may be mailed to the appropriate courthouse, and in some matters, payments may be made online.

Inside this brochure, you will find a full list of self-help services; details on the types of cases that may be filed at each of our seven courthouse locations; a summary of case-filing activity; and an overview of the Court's budget.

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

Michael S. Groch

Hon. Michael S. Groch

Presiding Judge (2026-2027)

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.

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) 534-2524

Civil Harassment and Elder Abuse 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 locations.

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 East and South County locations.

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

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. 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 or email every court day from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:30 p.m. In-person assistance is available at the Hall of Justice Monday through Thursday 8:30-10:30 a.m., and additional times by appointment. 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

2026 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, unlawful detainer/eviction, probate, and small claims 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 Court Services
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



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



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

SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT WEBSITE – 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 Family Law, Small Claims and Unlawful Detainer cases.
- Receive help from online ChatBots for Jury Services and for Civil, Criminal, Family, Juvenile, 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, Registers of Actions, 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 (sandiegolawlibrary.org) provide computers with internet access for use by the public.

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:

Online Juror Portal

The court's online Juror Portal allows summoned jurors to complete their Juror Affidavit ahead of arrival to the courthouse for jury service. Jurors can also make an online request for an excuse or disqualification from service, request a postponement, or request or transfer service to a more convenient location.

Automated Phone Line

The court also maintains a telephone line at (619) 844-2800 for recorded information and automated prompts available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Jury services staff can answer phone inquiries on Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and on Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For more information on Jury Services, please visit sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury.

One Day/One Trial

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

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.

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.

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 sdcourt.ca.gov.