

# SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT

*2019 OVERVIEW*



# WHAT DO WE COVER?

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY

- **4,261 Square Miles**
- **More than 3.3 million residents**
- **Second most populous county in the State**
- **Ranks 4th in population of all metropolitan areas in the U.S.**



# COURT FAST FACTS

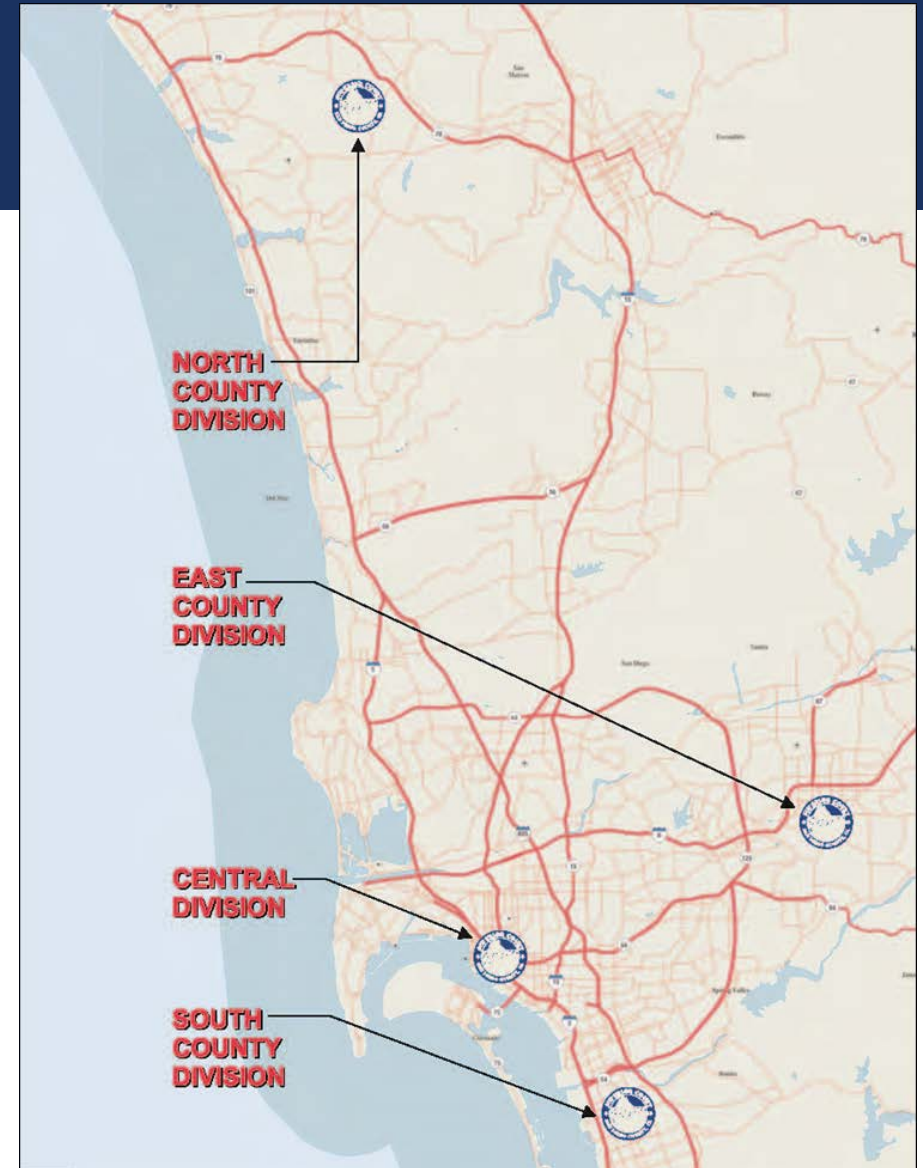
**Judicial Officers:** 135 Judges  
19 Commissioners

## Judge

A judge is either elected to the court or appointed by the Governor. A judge has the authority to decide cases brought before the court.

## Commissioner

A commissioner is selected by the judges of the court and is given powers to hear and make decisions concerning certain legal matters.



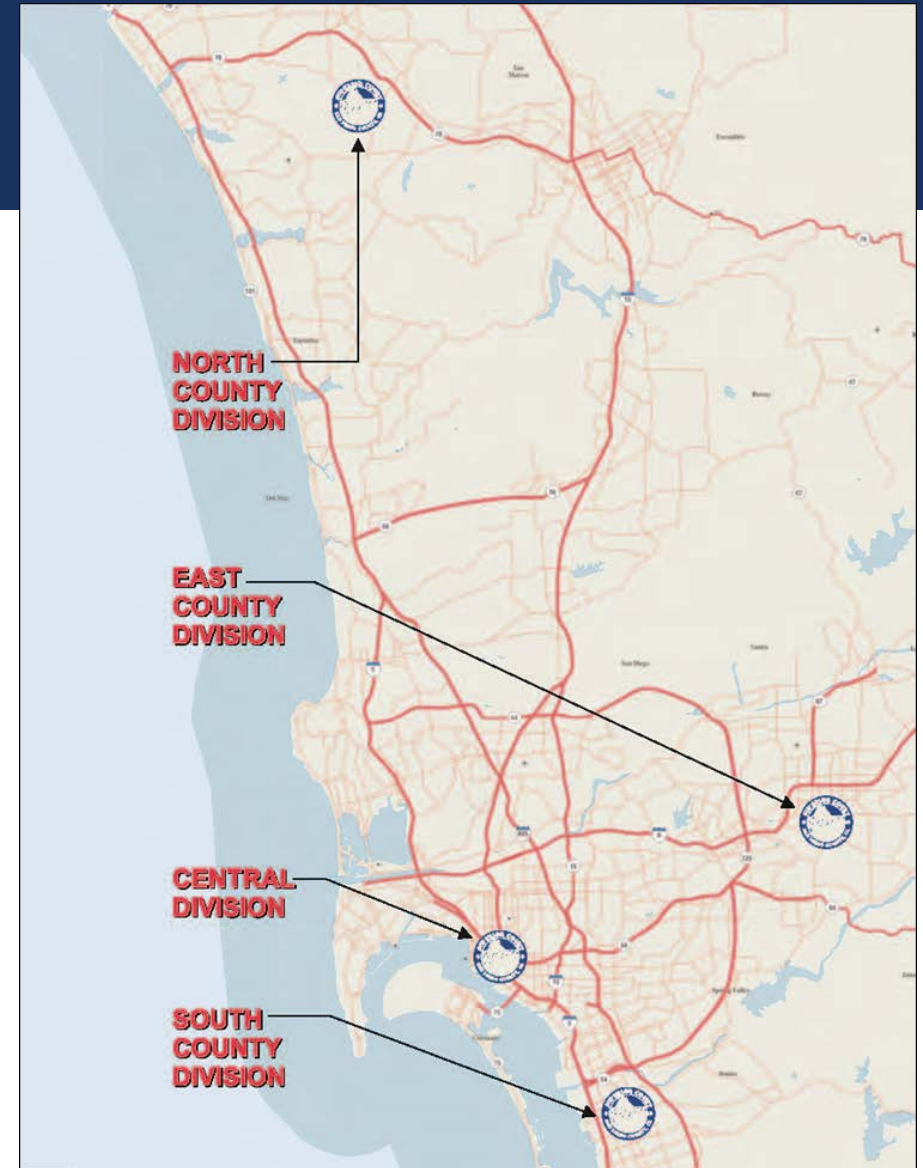
# COURT FAST FACTS

**Support Staff Employees:** 1,200

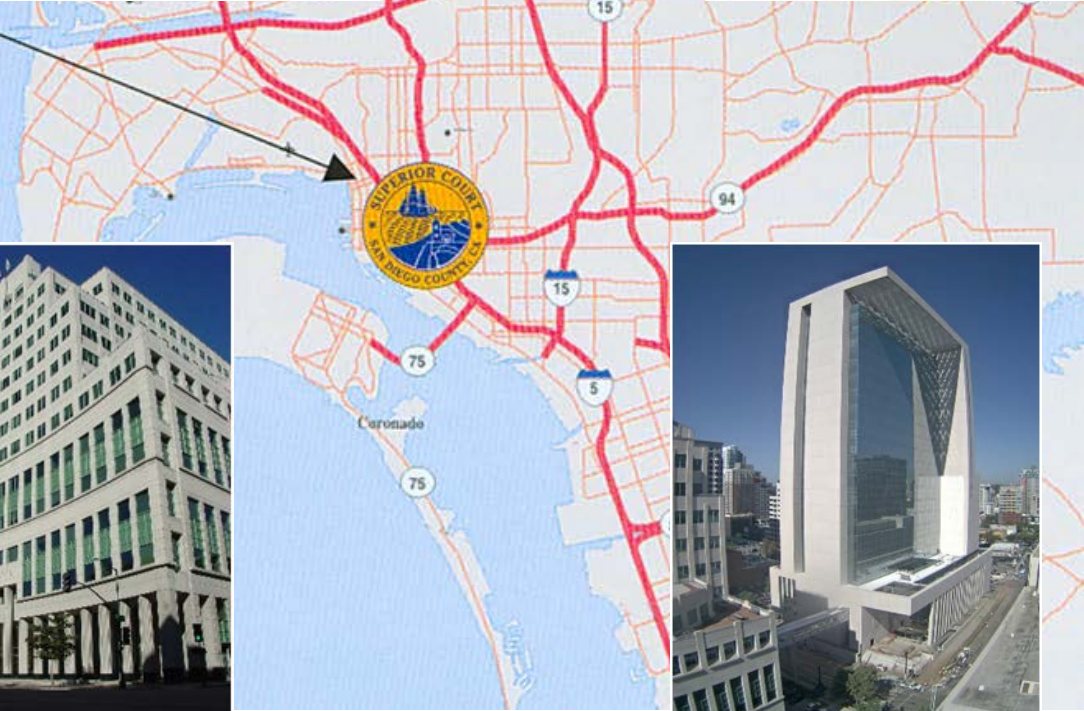
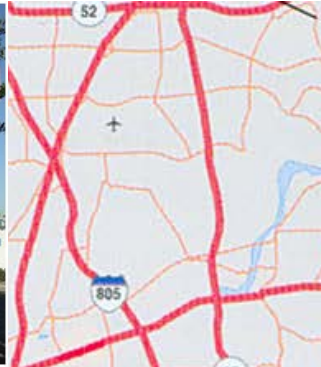
**Court Facilities:** 7

## **Court Support Staff includes:**

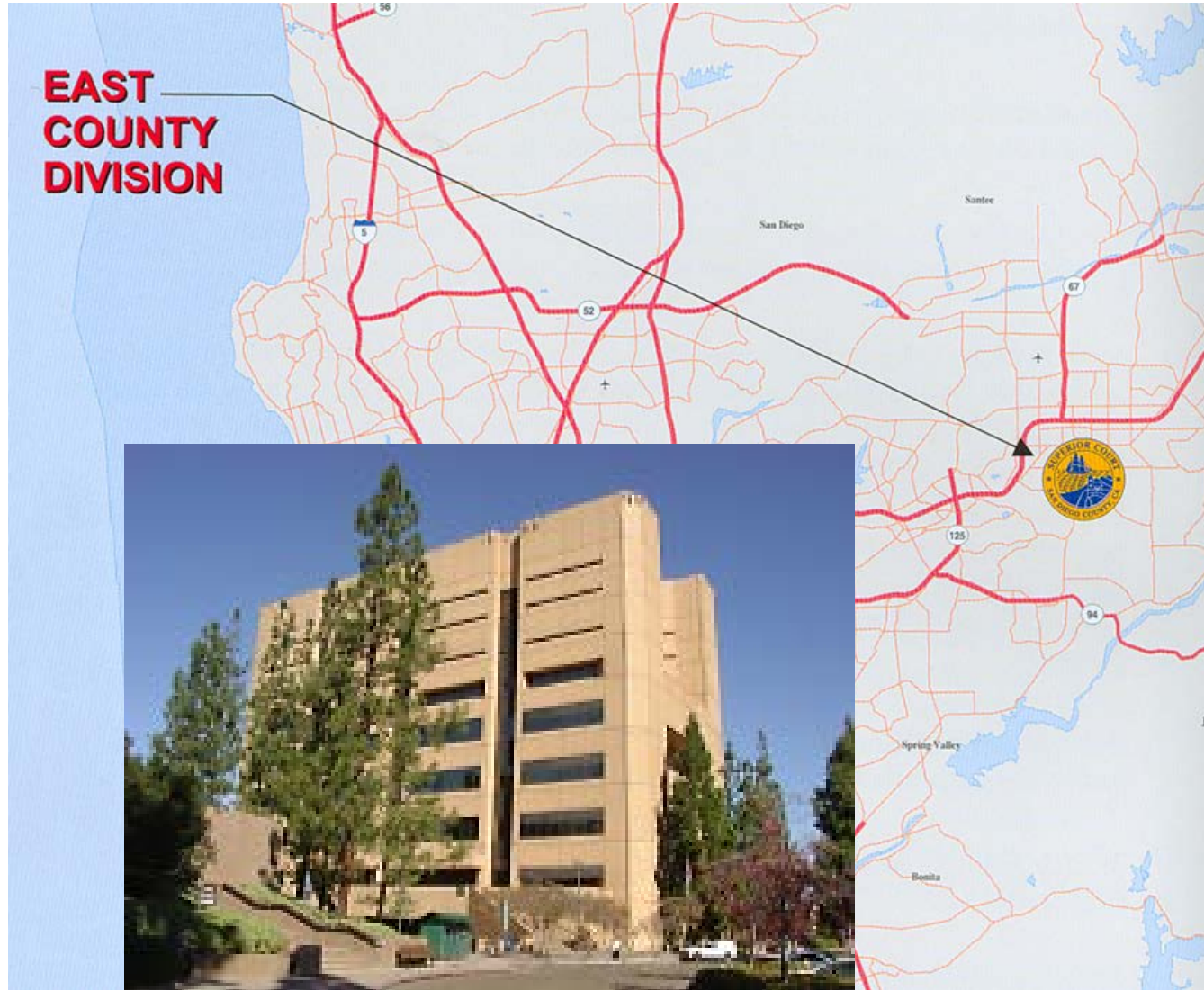
Administrative, Budget, Business Office Clerks, Courtroom Clerks, Court Reporters, Evaluation and Planning, Facilities, Family Court Counselors, Family Law Facilitators and Mediators, Human Resources, Interpreters, Information Technology, Judicial Secretaries, Personnel, Staff Attorneys, and Substance Abuse Assessors.

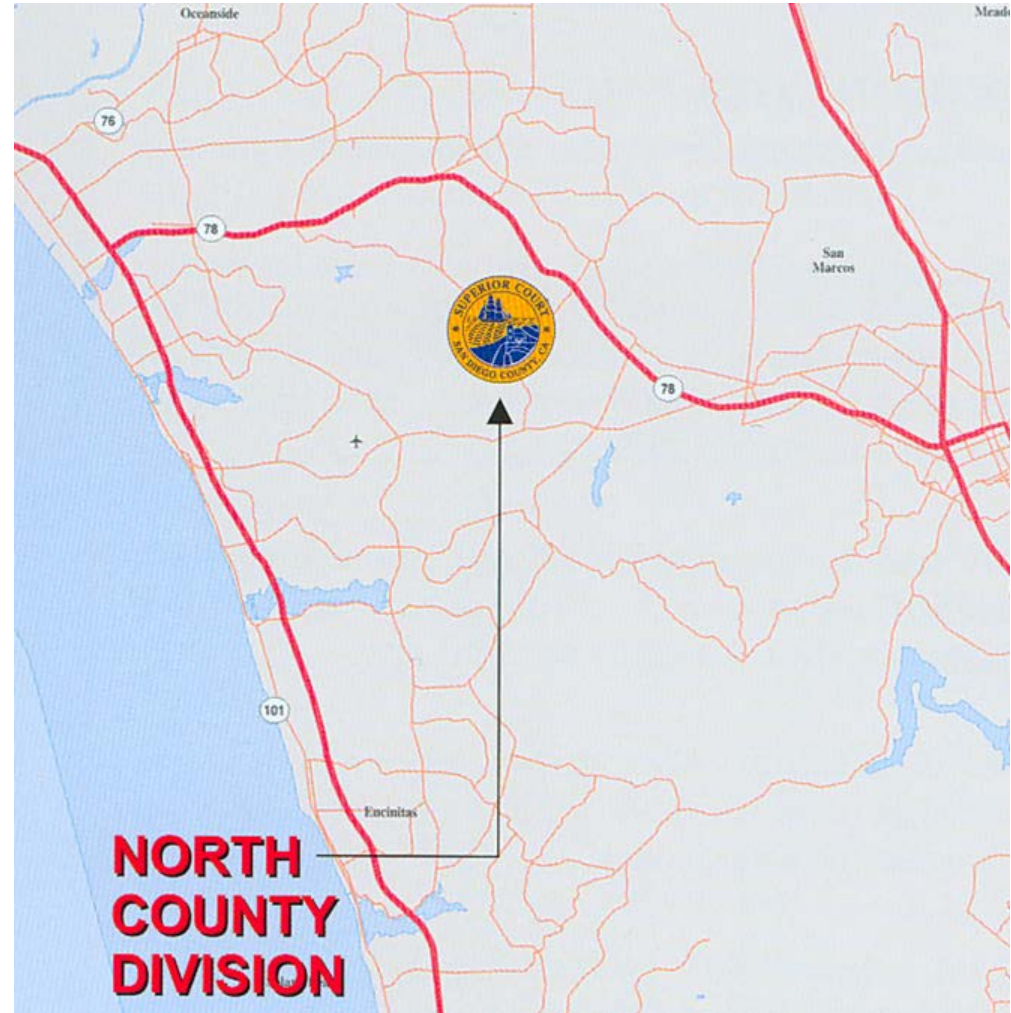


**CENTRAL  
DIVISION**



**EAST  
COUNTY  
DIVISION**



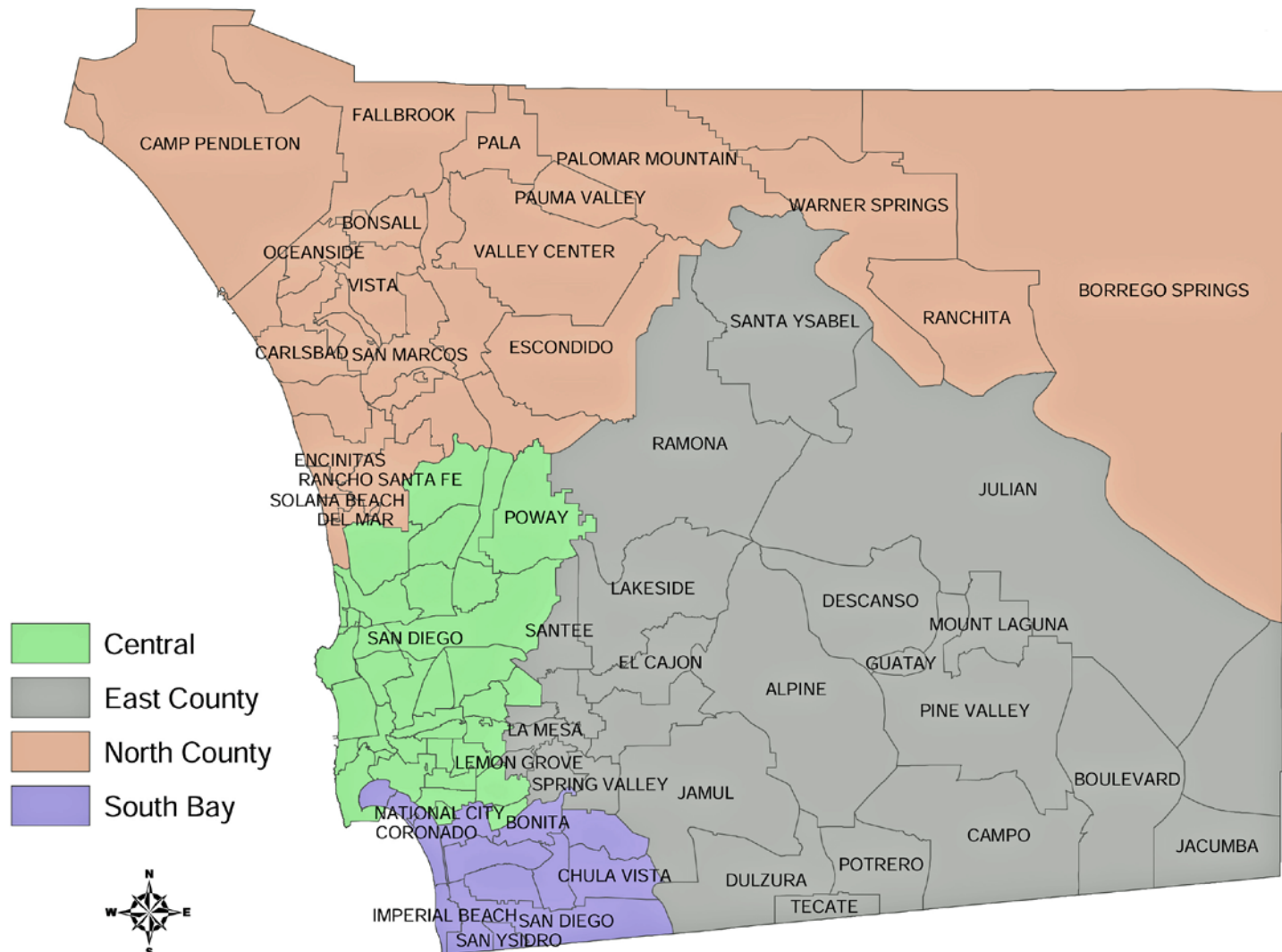




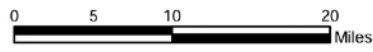
**SOUTH  
COUNTY  
DIVISION**







- Central
- East County
- North County
- South Bay



# SECOND LARGEST COURT IN CALIFORNIA



# JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT



# LOCAL LEADERSHIP



Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
**MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

Executive Committee  
of Judges

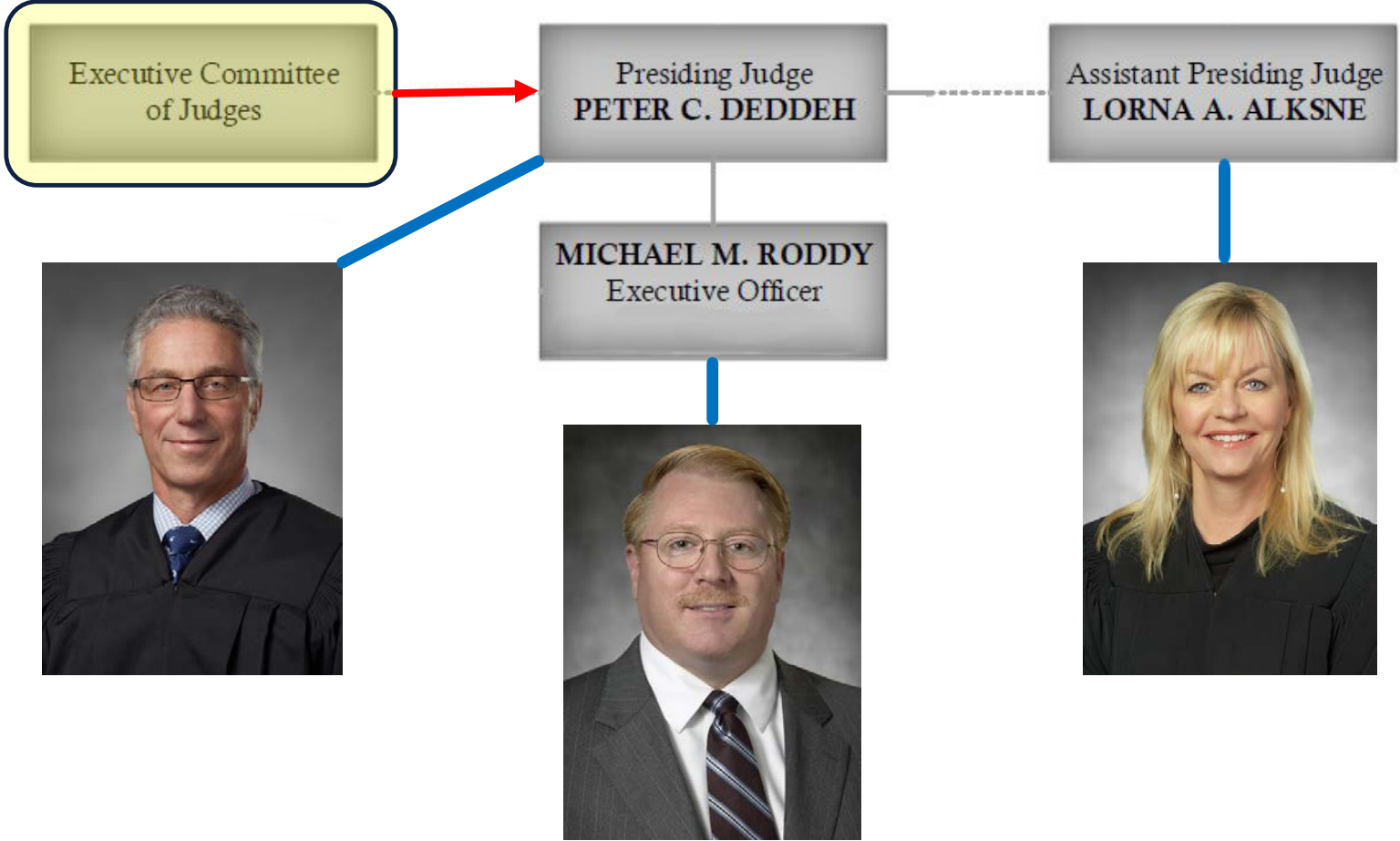
Presiding Judge  
**PETER C. DEDDEH**

Assistant Presiding Judge  
**LORNA A. ALKSNE**

**MICHAEL M. RODDY**  
Executive Officer



Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  
**MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**



# WHAT DOES THE SUPERIOR COURT DO?

All Superior Courts in California have authority over a wide variety of case types such as:

**Civil Cases** – Includes both LIMITED cases (\$25,000 or less) and UNLIMITED cases (over \$25,000). May involve cases in which a person, group of persons or other legal entity brings an action to recover money or property, to enforce a contract, or to protect someone's civil rights.

**Criminal Cases** – Both felony and misdemeanor crimes (including such offenses as driving under the influence cases). In criminal cases, if the defendant cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one.

**Family Law Cases** - Includes dissolution (also known as divorce), legal separation of spouses, marriage annulments, child custody, spousal support, and domestic violence restraining orders.

**Family Support Cases** – Child support related cases in which the County Department of Child Support Services files an action.

# WHAT DOES THE SUPERIOR COURT DO?

**Juvenile Court Cases** – Cases involving juvenile dependence (abuse or neglect of a child), adoption or juvenile delinquency (minors accused of breaking the law).

**Landlord/Tenant Dispute Cases** – Civil cases where a landlord attempts to evict a tenant (also known as unlawful detainers).

**Mental Health Cases** – Countywide responsibility for cases requiring psychiatric evaluations, investigations, hearings and bench trials.

**Non-Traffic Infraction Cases** - Cases involving violation of various city municipal codes such as pedestrian violations, smoking in prohibited area, bicycling on the sidewalk, and sleeping on a park bench.



# WHAT DOES THE SUPERIOR COURT DO?

**Probate Cases** – Includes, but is not limited to, decedents' estates, trust proceedings, guardianship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for a person under the age of 18), and conservatorship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for an adult unable to care for himself or herself).

**Small Claims Cases** - A civil case for monetary judgement of \$7,500 or less.

**Traffic Cases** – All traffic infractions such as speeding tickets and red-light camera tickets.

# WHAT DOES THE SUPERIOR COURT NOT DO?

**Immigration**

**Bankruptcy**

**Suits Against the United States**

**Interstate Commerce Regulations Violations**

**International Commerce Regulations Violations**

**Admiralty Matters Involving Shipping**

**Patent, Trademark and Copyright Matters**

***This is the jurisdiction of the Federal Court System***

# COURT FILINGS

## FILINGS

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County. From July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 (Fiscal Year 2017/2018) total filings for all case types were more than 482,000.

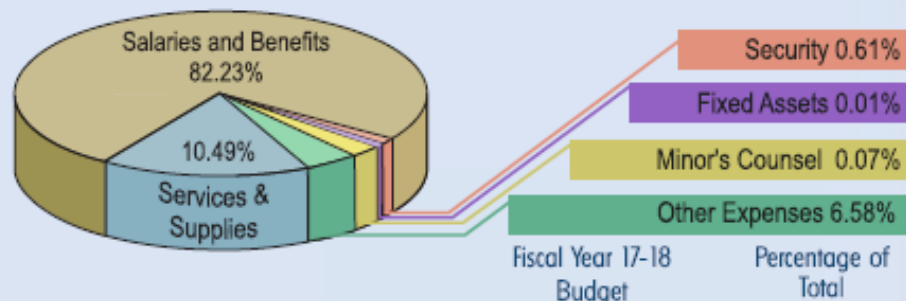
CASE TYPE	FY15/16	FY16/17	FY17/18
Infractions Traffic	281,539	244,324	245,840
Infractions Non-Traffic	38,109	57,909	88,772
Misdemeanor Traffic	17,055	14,347	14,090
Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	31,006	28,799	28,810
Limited (without Unlawful Detainer)	13,274	16,800	20,693
Unlimited Civil	17,175	17,999	18,034
Felony	12,151	12,276	11,906
Small Claims	11,949	12,146	11,140
Unlawful Detainer	10,656	10,162	9,230
Dissolution/Separation/Nullity	13,081	12,690	12,264
Family Support	5,872	5,113	5,082
Domestic Violence	7,456	7,265	7,386
Delinquency	2,170	1,895	1,621
Probate	2,801	2,876	2,977
Other Family Law	2,674	2,946	3,195
Dependency	1,756	1,824	1,430
<b>Total</b>	<b>468,724</b>	<b>449,371</b>	<b>482,470</b>

- Family Law includes dissolutions (also known as divorce), legal separations, and marriage annulments.
- "Other Family" includes Paternity, Surrogacy, Child Support, Child Custody, and other miscellaneous Family Court Petitions.
- Domestic Violence includes Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) filed in Family Court.

# COURT BUDGET

## BUDGET

The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations. For a description of each expenditure please visit [www.sdcourt.ca.gov](http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov) and click on the "About Us" link.



	Fiscal Year 17-18 Budget	Percentage of Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$147,318,711	82.23%
Services and Supplies	\$ 18,798,798	10.49%
Security	\$ 1,091,050	0.61%
Fixed Assets	\$ 20,000	0.01%
Minor's Counsel	\$ 120,000	0.07%
Other Expenses	\$ 11,796,697	6.58%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$179,145,256</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Filled Positions*	1,200
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\* As of 01/01/19

**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).

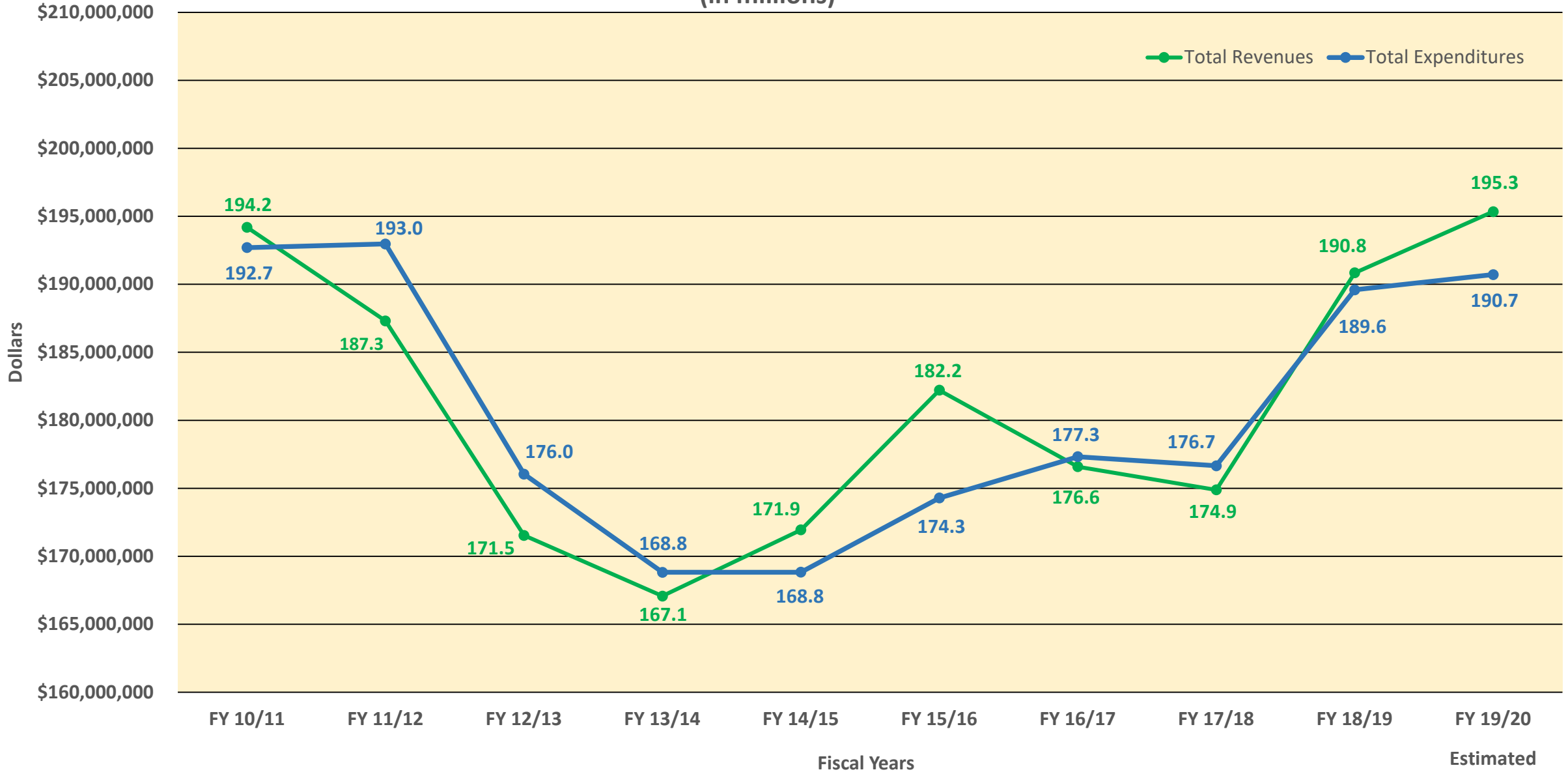
**Minor's Counsel** - The costs to appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding.

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

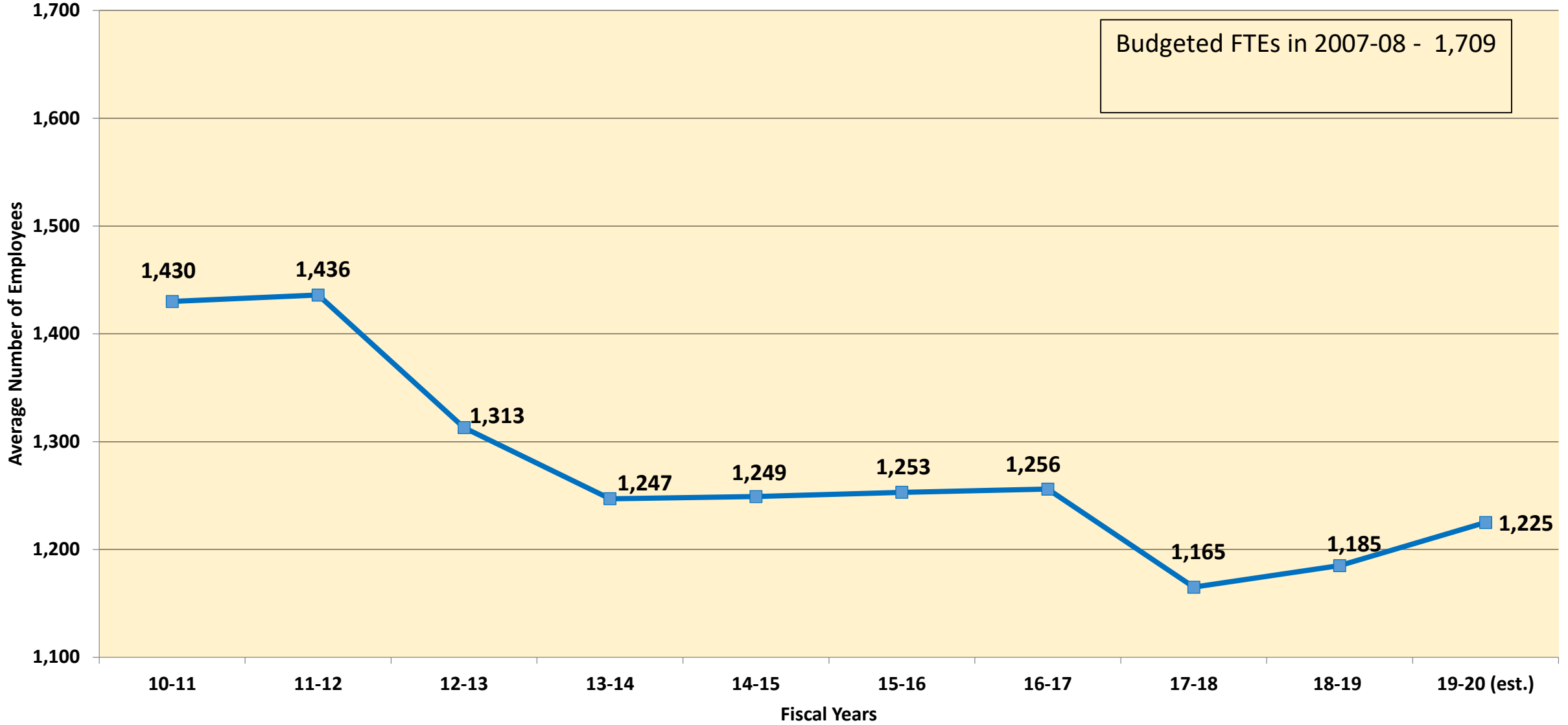
# BUDGET CHALLENGES



San Diego Superior Court  
Total Revenues vs. Total Expenditures  
FY 10-11 thru FY 19-20 (Est.)  
(in millions)



**San Diego Superior Court  
Average Number of Employees by Fiscal Year  
FY 10/11 thru FY 19/20 (est.)**



# HOW DOES THIS IMPACT THE COURT?





# HOW DOES THIS IMPACT THE COURT?

Ramona Courthouse Closed  
Some Civil Courtrooms Closed  
Small Claims/UD Consolidated  
And More.



# HOW DOES THIS IMPACT THE COURT?

The court will continue to explore and implement new technologies and other efficiencies to better and more timely process its workload within existing financial and personnel resources.

In addition, the court will continue to seek ways to reduce or consolidate non-mandated services.



# ISSUES IMPACTING THE COURT

- Bail Reform (*SB 10*)
- Expungement or reduction of marijuana convictions (*AB 1793*)
- Impact of mental health diversion efforts on the criminal justice system
- Need to provide court reporter services based on *Jameson v. Desta*



# SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT

*2019 OVERVIEW*



Judge Randa Trapp