Santa Barbara County Court-Special Services supports the efforts of the Santa Barbara Superior Court, whose mission is to resolve disputes arising under the law in a fair, accessible, effective, timely and efficient manner, to interpret and apply the law consistently, impartially, and independently, and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitutions of California and the United States.

Administration:
Court-Special Services are budgeted in two divisions with the first titled Grand Jury and the second titled Court-Special Services. The Grand Jury division is comprised of both the Civil and Criminal Grand Jury programs. The Court-Special Services division is comprised of Alternate Public Defender/Conflict Defense Services, Witness Services, Court Administered Dispute Resolution (CADRe), Juvenile Justice Commission/Deficiency Prevention Commission, Pre-Trial (Own Recognizance and Jail Overcrowding) Services, and Revenue Collections programs.

With the passage of the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 (AB233), the primary responsibility for funding of court operations shifted to the State. As part of AB233, the County is required to make a financial contribution to the State for court funding, which is fixed by statute and determined using the County’s Fiscal Year 1994-95 base year expenditures for court operations, and for fine and forfeiture revenue remitted to the State. In addition, the County now retains certain revenues previously remitted to the State. Along with the shift of financial responsibility, most of the Court’s operating budget also shifted to the State. As a result, the budget presented here includes only the annual contribution to the State and Court-Special Services programs, which continue to be the responsibility of the County and are funded by the County.

In Fiscal Year 2002-03, County funded Court programs and various grants were removed from the Court-Special Services operating budget to the Court operating budget. The transfer resulted from Senate Bill 2140 defining “trial court employee” as any employee subject to the Court’s right to control the manner and means of his/her work and is paid from the Court’s budget regardless of the funding source. The County funded Court programs transferred include Revenue Collections, Pre-Trial Services (Own Recognizance and Jail Overcrowding), and Court Administered Dispute Resolution (CADRe). The transfer enables the Court to manage all aspects of employees administering County funded Court programs. The County continues to be charged costs associated with the transferred programs and records the charges within the Court-Special Services operating budget in a line item entitled “Contractual Services.” The transfer resulted in a decrease of staff from 28 for Fiscal Year 2002-03 to zero for subsequent fiscal years.

Grand Jury:
The Civil Grand Jury investigates and makes recommendations for improvements in the operations of numerous government agencies, cities and districts throughout Santa Barbara County. A separate Criminal Grand Jury is formed by random draw from trial jury lists, when necessary, to hear criminal indictments sought at the discretion of the District Attorney’s Office.

Court-Special Services:
The Court Special Services Division provides several functions: (1) protects the rights of indigent defendants by providing alternate public defense to them when the Public Defender has a conflict of interest and is unable to represent such defendants; (2) reviews backgrounds of arrestees to determine if they can be released on their own recognizance or must post bail while awaiting trial or other adjudication thereby mitigating jail overcrowding; and (3) provides a proactive collection process to collect the fines imposed by the courts as a deterrent to crime and to offset the costs of Courts Special Services and statewide court operations.

COURT SPECIAL SERVICES  KEY TREND ANALYSIS

These are Court ordered fines and penalties that have not been paid. Submitting them to the Franchise Tax Board for interception of any tax refund or lottery winnings ensures that the obligated funds are paid.

Determining the eligibility for 100% of all pretrial detainees for Own Recognizance/Bail Reduction (OR/BR) consideration reduces jail over-crowding. New measure in FY 2001-02.
Sub-Divn 01: Civil
Obj: Investigates and recommends improvements in the operations of government agencies, cities and districts within Santa Barbara County.

Civil Program 8000
$173.7K / $0.0K
FTE: 0.0

Sub-Divn 02: Criminal
Obj: Grand Jury formed to hear criminal indictments brought by District Attorney.

Criminal Program 8001
$28.0K / $0.0K
FTE: 0.0

Recruit and select a qualified and balanced 30 member Civil Grand Jury Venire by June of each year.

Grand Jury Foreperson and Treasurer meet with Court and County CEO Fiscal staff to preparing review annual budget.

NOTE: This cost center is for fiscal tracking purposes only.

Divn 01 – Grand Jury
$201.7K / $0.0K
FTE: 0.0

Sub-Divn 01: Civil
Obj: Investigates and recommends improvements in the operations of government agencies, cities and districts within Santa Barbara County.

Sub-Divn 02: Criminal
Obj: Grand Jury formed to hear criminal indictments brought by District Attorney.

Recruit and select a qualified and balanced 30 member Civil Grand Jury Venire by June of each year.

Grand Jury Foreperson and Treasurer meet with Court and County CEO Fiscal staff to preparing review annual budget.

NOTE: This cost center is for fiscal tracking purposes only.

Divn 01 – Grand Jury
$201.7K / $0.0K
FTE: 0.0

Sub-Divn 01: Civil
Obj: Investigates and recommends improvements in the operations of government agencies, cities and districts within Santa Barbara County.

Sub-Divn 02: Criminal
Obj: Grand Jury formed to hear criminal indictments brought by District Attorney.

Recruit and select a qualified and balanced 30 member Civil Grand Jury Venire by June of each year.

Grand Jury Foreperson and Treasurer meet with Court and County CEO Fiscal staff to preparing review annual budget.

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Divn 01 – Grand Jury
$201.7K / $0.0K
FTE: 0.0

Sub-Divn 01: Civil
Obj: Investigates and recommends improvements in the operations of government agencies, cities and districts within Santa Barbara County.

Sub-Divn 02: Criminal
Obj: Grand Jury formed to hear criminal indictments brought by District Attorney.

Recruit and select a qualified and balanced 30 member Civil Grand Jury Venire by June of each year.

Grand Jury Foreperson and Treasurer meet with Court and County CEO Fiscal staff to preparing review annual budget.

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Divn 01 – Grand Jury
$201.7K / $0.0K
FTE: 0.0

Sub-Divn 01: Civil
Obj: Investigates and recommends improvements in the operations of government agencies, cities and districts within Santa Barbara County.

Sub-Divn 02: Criminal
Obj: Grand Jury formed to hear criminal indictments brought by District Attorney.

Recruit and select a qualified and balanced 30 member Civil Grand Jury Venire by June of each year.

Grand Jury Foreperson and Treasurer meet with Court and County CEO Fiscal staff to preparing review annual budget.

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Divn 01 – Grand Jury
$201.7K / $0.0K
FTE: 0.0

Sub-Divn 01: Civil
Obj: Investigates and recommends improvements in the operations of government agencies, cities and districts within Santa Barbara County.

Sub-Divn 02: Criminal
Obj: Grand Jury formed to hear criminal indictments brought by District Attorney.

Recruit and select a qualified and balanced 30 member Civil Grand Jury Venire by June of each year.

Grand Jury Foreperson and Treasurer meet with Court and County CEO Fiscal staff to preparing review annual budget.

NOTE: This cost center is for fiscal tracking purposes only.
Sub-Divn 02 – Court Special Services

Obj: Provides alternative defense to indigent defendants. Collects fines, fees and penalties. Provides alternative dispute resolution.

Program Budgets are $Total Uses / $Total General Fund Contribution

Program: Title from CCID
Number from CCID
(Financial Data by Prog)
FTE: CCID

Sub-Divn: # & Name from Cost Center Report
Obj: from CCID Inventory

NOTE: This cost center is for fiscal tracking purposes only.
COURT SPECIAL SERVICES

Division 02 – Court Special Services
$14.7M / $7.6M

Sub-Div 04: Appropriate Dispute Resolution
Obj: Offer litigants alternative resolutions: mediation, arbitration, evaluation.

Sub-Div 05: Trial Ct Contrib. to State
Obj: Make financial contribution to the State.

Sub-Div 06: County Funded Court Operations
Obj: All revenue and expenditures related to Fee and Fine Collection. Lease space for Appr Dispute Program

Sub-Div 07: General Fund Contribution to Courts
Obj: Includes only County contribution to State and court special services programs.

Sub-Div 13: Small Claims Advisor
Obj: N/A

Program: Title from CCID
Number: From CCID Budget/GFC from CCID (Financial Data by Prog)
FTE: CCID

NOTE: This cost center is for fiscal tracking purposes only.

Dispute Resolution: Settle 75% of qualifying litigation cases without having to go to trial reducing Court calendars.

Own Recognizance: Within 24 hours determine the eligibility of 100% of all pretrial detainees for own recognizance/bail reduction.

Own Recognizance: Maintain failure to appear rate of less than 1% for defendants released on their own recognizance.

Enforce judicial orders by collection of at least $23 million in fines, forfeitures, fees and penalties for County State and Cities. Increases amount based on prior years collections.

Continue to improve collections efforts by exploiting consolidation of other County operated delinquent collection operations under current Court contracts if eligible.