

# Washington Courts: Consequences of Inadequate Funding

Survey of judges and court officials on the justice impacts of ongoing budget cuts and long-term court funding deficiencies



*“Honestly we are already down to the bare bones. If we suffer another cut I’m not sure how the court would run.” – Municipal court official*

**Board for Judicial Administration  
Justice in Jeopardy Implementation Committee**

# Washington Courts Funding Survey

*“It’s like a puppy mill. Hand the cases over and push them through as quickly as possible for resolution... Defendant is ordered to do things, such as urinalysis, which they have no money to pay for so they end up violating their probation, and then end up back in the court with the same overworked public defender.”*  
-- Ferry County District Court official

Washington judges and court officials are growing increasingly alarmed at the impact ongoing budget cuts are having on the quality of justice and protection they can provide to Washington residents.

Despite innovations and best efforts, courts are being forced to significantly reduce probation departments which monitor offenders, all types of assistance to residents trying to navigate the courts for their safety and legal needs, investigative and background information usually provided to judges before they make decisions, the number of court staff members who input data and process cases, and research-based justice programs that have reduced recidivism and made Washington communities safer.

Judges, court administrators, county clerks and other court officials were asked in a September 2010 survey to describe the impacts of budget cuts on their courts and the people they serve. The strongest impacts from continuing cuts include:

- **Growing delays**, sometimes significant or beyond legal limits, in cases being tried or heard;
- **Loss of access** to the courts for the public, including closed court locations, fewer open hours during weekdays, higher filing fees and far fewer staff persons to answer phones or help with questions, records and forms;
- **Unjust or questionable** outcomes for the growing number of persons representing themselves in court against parties with attorneys;
- **Lack of accountability** for offenders who are not being monitored due to probation staff cuts, who are being prosecuted at lower levels or are being released early due to jail costs;
- **Loss of family and juvenile** court programs developed through research to identify problem youth earlier, reduce severity of juvenile crime and recidivism; and
- **Strains on judicial** decision-making due to loss of judicial officers and loss of staff who had provided investigational or non-biased information prior to hearings, resulting in less information and less time to prepare before, during and after hearings and trials.

In addition, judges and court officials expressed deep concerns about the future impacts of any additional cuts by state or local lawmakers, and whether Washington courts will be able to keep the promise of providing equal justice to the people of the state.

*“When it is time for your day in court, for your [divorce], protection order or criminal/civil case, you want the judge to be able to take the time and listen. The public doesn’t want their cases heard by someone who only has seconds to process something that may have taken a year to come to court.”*

*-- Spokane County Superior Court Judge*

## Background

In 2002, the Washington State Board for Judicial Administration established the Trial Court Funding Task Force to examine entrenched problems with funding of the courts.

A key issue involved the judicial funding system created in Washington’s 1889 constitution that laid nearly the entire burden on local jurisdictions; at the time, many city and county governments were more established than the state government. However, in 2002 that system translated to Washington counties and cities paying for nearly 90 percent of the cost of trial courts, a heavy burden which resulted in an unequal patchwork of justice depending on the financial health of a city or county.

*“In staffing, we are back to when I started in 1987.”*

*-- Asotin County Superior Court official*

Today, Washington is still 50<sup>th</sup> in the nation in state government funding of the court system — the state sets aside only seven tenths of 1 percent of its budget to fund courts, prosecution and public defense. According to the national Bureau of Justice Statistics, the state funds only about 17 percent of court system costs while county and city budgets pay the rest.

From the Trial Court Funding Task Force was born the Justice in Jeopardy Initiative to work long-term with state legislators to reform Washington’s system for funding its courts. The goal is to reduce the burden on local governments and stabilize funding. That effort is ongoing.

*“I see this in every case with unrepresented litigants: they cannot bring effective appeals, much less a revision motion; recover money owing to them, or win custody of their children when poised against an unfit opponent who is represented. They are routinely evicted, denied domestic violence orders they need, assessed large judgments they can’t pay, and foreclosed out of their homes. There is no equal justice when only one party is represented.” -- King County Superior Court Judge*

In fall of 2010, the Justice in Jeopardy Implementation Committee (JIJC) requested a survey of Washington courts to determine the impact of the economic crisis on the state’s courts. Survey responses were returned by 84 judges, court administrators, county clerks and court managers from 65 different courts throughout the state. Appendix A and Appendix B of the full Economic Impact report include all survey responses received.

Many court officials expressed concern that their court’s 2011 budget had not yet been set and the situation was likely to be dramatically worse within a few months. Because of this concern about ongoing and serious impacts, the JIJC members approved

regular updates of the Washington Courts Economic Impact Survey in order to monitor the status of Washington’s courts. The next update is scheduled for Spring 2012, and will be posted to the Justice in Jeopardy Web page at [www.courts.wa.gov/JusticeInJeopardy](http://www.courts.wa.gov/JusticeInJeopardy).

## Findings

The judicial branch of government — the court system — is a constitutionally mandated function of government and cannot be cut altogether. A number of justice services such as the right to an attorney in a criminal case, the right to a trial by jury and the right to an interpreter are also mandated by law and must be funded to some degree.

Therefore, budget impacts have been most severe on any justice services that are not mandated by law such as probation monitoring, assistance to self-represented

*“We have a standup walk-through scanner outside of our door that leads to the third floor courtroom...It is unplugged and unmanned because there is not enough money or people to run it.” -- Columbia County Superior Court official*

persons in civil cases, court security, staff support to judges and other court offices, family and juvenile court assessment and intervention services, problem-solving courts such as drug courts, non-mandated judicial officers such as judges pro tem and court commissioners, and staff in all areas.

These resources and programs are designed to provide more equity in the justice system, keep the community safer and reduce crime and justice system costs through assessments and interventions that reduce recidivism.

*“We cannot afford NCIC access, so we are often unaware that the person before us is a multi-state offender.” -- Spokane County District Court Judge*

### The areas of deepest cuts and impacts include:

#### A. Probation

Probation staff members monitor adult and juvenile offenders to ensure they are abiding by the court’s orders – taking drug tests on schedule, completing anger management training, attending school or work, completing community service requirements, paying restitution fines, abiding by no-contact orders, finishing required parenting classes and so on. Probation officers are often the first to know when offenders are veering off-track into dangerous territory, at which time violators can be brought back to court to face consequences.

Probation monitoring is not mandated by law and budget cuts have hit staff in this area hard in many courts. More probation cuts for 2011 were being suggested by county and city lawmakers in the fall of 2010, increasing the concern of court officials that offenders are not being held accountable and public safety is being put at risk.

*“Reductions of juvenile probation positions have resulted in serious public safety risks and long term cost increases due to the necessity for the court to place adjudicated youth on substantially shorter periods of supervision.” -- Benton/Franklin County Juvenile Court official*

#### B. Assistance to self-represented persons

Assistance to all persons trying to navigate the courts has decreased sharply due to significant staff cuts, but the strongest impact has been on those trying to represent themselves in civil court against another party who has representation. Economic hardship

has caused a sharp increase in the number of residents coming to court to address serious legal issues without legal help. Common cases involving this imbalance include evictions, foreclosures, dissolutions (divorces), child placement and other family law cases.

In recent years, County Clerk offices and superior court officials had established court facilitator programs throughout the state to provide information to self-represented (pro se) persons regarding court processes and court forms, in order to improve efficiency and fairness in these cases. However, facilitator and other customer service staff positions have been deeply cut, leaving the growing number of self-represented persons with little help.

*“We have many more middle class citizens who have been caught up in the recession and are unable to pay their rent or mortgage or bills as they used to be able to do. They come to court, embarrassed and distraught, and the only thing I can tell them is that I cannot do anything....We need better representation for these persons so they can at least keep their dignity or work with credit companies for some workable solution.” -- Island County Superior Court Judge*

### **C. Access to the courts**

Equal access to the protection and justice promised by the courts is a constitutional right for all persons. Equal access includes a variety of issues such as location, literacy, income, mobility, court hours of operation, disability, language, access to technology and transportation, and much more. An adequate number of court staff members is key to ensuring access to the courts.

Deep staffing cuts have reduced the number of hours offices can remain open, phones can be answered, customer service counters can be staffed, court forms can be mailed, interpreters can be scheduled and other access problems can be solved.

Other components of equal access to the courts include court locations in rural areas, filing fees that are not onerous, interpreter services, technology that allows residents with disabilities to take part in the judicial process, yet not too strong a reliance on technology for persons who have little access to it. Courts throughout Washington are being forced to eliminate locations, close during lunch hours and other hours of the day, close on some days altogether, raise filing fees, rely heavily on automated phone services and Web postings, rely on non-certified court interpreters, and more .

*“Answering machines for telephone inquiries and locked doors do not equate with access to the courts.” -- Pierce County Superior Court Judge*

*“With less counter and phone service, we have increased information on our Website and added on-line mitigation and deferred findings for traffic infractions. Many criminal defendants do not have access to computers.”  
-- Bellingham Municipal Court official*

### **D. Judicial time and information**

Courts throughout Washington have utilized judicial officers such as pro-tem (part-time, appointed) judges and court commissioners to handle the increasing caseloads that

came from population growth. However, during the recession, civil and domestic caseloads worsened (increasing 9.1 percent in superior courts and 13.9 percent in district courts since 2005) while deep cuts were made in judicial officer positions as well as support staff for judges. This resulted in judges having far less time to prepare for hearings and trials, judges hearing many more cases per day or week, and having less time to consider rulings.

*[We are] “unable to give adequate time to each domestic violence case since our dockets have no caps and there may be 30 to 40 or more cases scheduled for a single afternoon.”*  
-- Pierce County Superior Court Commissioner

Other losses — particularly in the realm of investigative services, Guardian Ad-Litem (GALs) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) — have left judges with far less information on which to base their decisions.

*“When I was elected in 2007, we had three secretaries for 14 judicial officers. Due to budget cuts, we are down to eight judicial officers. We no longer have any secretaries....I spend a substantial amount of time on (clerical) duties rather than being able to prepare for hearings or perform judicial services for an unavailable judge.”* -- Spokane County District Court Judge

## E. Family and juvenile courts

A large number of improvements have been made in family and juvenile courts in recent years due to research showing the value and efficiency of accurately assessing causes of youth crime, early interventions (starting with such red flags as truancy), and adjudicating a family’s legal issues as a whole rather than in pieces scattered through

*“If [Becca] funding is eliminated, the youth will still make their way to the court system -- most likely as criminal offenders.”*  
-- Spokane County Juvenile Court official

various courts and judges. These innovations include the Becca (truancy) law to keep kids in school and help families with at-risk children. Nationally, 75 percent of state inmates and 59 percent of federal inmates are high school dropouts. The Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Plan transformed the handling of dependency and family law cases; however, funding has been cut. The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program leverages public dollars by using trained

volunteers as statutorily required guardians ad litem for children in dependency hearings. CASA saves state and local governments millions of dollars, yet funding to supervise these volunteers has been cut by 20 percent in the last biennium.

Juvenile courts have been innovative leaders using evidence-based practices for youthful offenders that help divert them from a criminal path, resulting in juvenile jail populations decreasing by 50 percent across the state in the last 10 years. Yet state funding for juvenile probation counselors and for these research-based programs has been cut significantly in the last biennium. Court officials fear the cuts will result in higher levels of juvenile crime, which often translates into higher levels of adult crime.

*“Our ability to appoint county-paid Guardian Ad Litem services is now almost non-existent. We know the outcomes for the children in these cases are likely to be negative but we have no way of tracking that information.”*  
-- Thurston County Superior Court official

## F. Delays and errors

Delays in the court system are a serious issue with safety, child placement, economic survival, incarceration, employment, access to housing and other critical services often at stake. Legal time limit standards exist for criminal cases, and a handful of Washington courts already report losing some cases to violation of time-to-trial deadlines. One court reported that its trials are being scheduled more than one year in advance.

*“We have been backlogged in docketing treatments and having a hard time keeping up with day to day work. We are trying to work faster, but there are times things get missed.” -- Milton Municipal Court official*

Delays are a result of budget cuts throughout the judicial system including loss of judicial officers such as pro-tem judges and court commissioners; loss of staff to process documents and schedule necessary resources; loss of courtroom locations; loss of prosecutors and public defenders; loss of staff to assist self-represented persons; inability to locate qualified interpreters; increasing caseloads per judicial officer and attorney, and more. Courts also report increasing errors due to loss of staff and workload increases.

*“Cases [that are delayed] over the time standards for criminal cases have increased dramatically in the last two years; delay is due to loss of prosecutors, public defenders and insufficient number of judicial officers. This creates distrust in our system, perceptions of inefficiency and bureaucratic malaise. It also creates, over a long period, morale problems.” -- Spokane Superior Court official*

## Conclusion

Court funding in Washington was already severely strained before the economic crisis hit in the mid-2000s. Courts are strongly committed to doing their part to save money, reduce non-critical services and increase innovations.

However, the judicial branch of government is not just another department or agency; courts cannot turn away residents seeking the protection, fair hearing or justice that is the right granted to all Americans. Courts also cannot ignore injustices occurring through inadequate resources, though they have almost no influence over their budgets.

When talking about court funding, Alexander Hamilton may have said it best when he described the judicial branch as the “weakest of the three departments of power” because it “has no influence over either the sword or the purse...but merely judgment.”

The Justice in Jeopardy Implementation Committee remains dedicated to monitoring the impact of budget cuts and funding systems on Washington courts, informing the decisions that must be made regarding funding of the judicial branch and pursuing adequate resources to ensure justice for all state residents.

*A full copy of the Washington Courts Economic Impact Survey, including responses from local courts, can be found at [www.courts.wa.gov/JusticeInJeopardy/documents/CourtFundingSurveyOverview.doc](http://www.courts.wa.gov/JusticeInJeopardy/documents/CourtFundingSurveyOverview.doc)*

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# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

September 2010

## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
Court/judge name not provided	Lack of resources in dependency/juvenile offender matters; lack of resources in criminal matters.
Court/judge name not provided	No clerk to staff the office when court is in session. Clerks working for days without a break or a lunch hour.
Franklin County District	We do not have the same level of security we had before and the district court and probation staff has been reduced.
Island County District	We have had three years of budget cuts. Several full time positions have been eliminated, benefits and wages have been reduced for the remaining staff, and we are looking at a 10% cut in our expense budget for 2011 with more to come in the out years.
Island County Superior	We no longer have a court commissioner, so our calendars are extremely filled. As a result, most of our reading of files has to be done at home, along with writing and typing opinions.
King County Superior	More and more pro se litigants who desperately need assistance in family law cases. Long waiting period for parenting evaluations for litigants who cannot afford to hire a private evaluator. Criminal defendants having great difficulty in getting evaluations for chemical dependency, mental illness, sexual deviancy, & domestic violence, due to lack of public funding. Scarcity of interpreters, especially in less-common foreign languages. Minimal or no supervision of many criminals who would benefit from supervision and assistance in getting evaluated and treated. Also, poor parents are having a great deal of difficulty finding resources to take parenting classes and to arrange for supervised visitation with their children.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of staff for case management. This directly leads to case delays and expense. It also causes lack of contact with cases in time to provide disability accommodation, volunteer mediation services, family court services evaluations, and other measures which allow people to obtain a fair hearing and vital services from the court.</li> <li>• Loss of court reporters and inability to access the record. We are about to see layoffs of our court reporters, of whom we have too few. Our much touted electronic recording system creates an unreliable and sometimes completely useless record, filled with “inaudible” notations when later transcribed, and hard to access quickly. Loss of court reporters also means complete loss of control of the record. Conversations such as discussions between counsel and a defendant are picked up; while the court has no ability to, for example, correct mistakes in transcripts of the court’s decision referencing appellate court decisions or people’s names or dates. And of course the court has no ability to follow the record as with “real time” because we don’t even have enough court reporters to cover our current court needs.</li> <li>• No probation services to speak of. I do bench reviews of cases in which I order services, e.g. drug treatment, mental health treatment, DV treatment, sex offender treatment. There is no probation officer with whom I can work in the vast majority of my cases. And in most of my colleagues’ courts, there is no review at all, because it takes some court staff time to schedule these hearings, maintain the files, and contact service providers who haven’t gotten reports to us.</li> <li>• We are absolutely unable to check on whether the people appearing before</li> </ul>

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Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
	<p>us are currently using drugs or alcohol: there is no one who can test for us. We also have no court associated drug or alcohol treatment programs, and I have no one who can tell me which are the reputable and reliable treatment programs in my jurisdiction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete dependence on computers to look up case law and statutes and WACs and any other legal authority. But our computer services are overloaded and not fully reliable.</li> <li>• Our computer information network is woefully out of date. There is no real ability to use computers to check out of state criminal history, coordinate with courts in other jurisdictions to manage overlapping cases, look at other court's orders to avoid conflicts, or even know for certain if there are outstanding wants or warrants for people appearing in our courts.</li> </ul>
<b>King County Superior</b> Primarily civil	There are many more pro se litigants; so many more foreclosures, debt problems and bankruptcies.
<b>Kittitas County District (Lower)</b>	More defendants are unable to complete conditions of probation which require money, such as alcohol/drug treatment.
<b>Kittitas County District (Upper)</b>	Loss of funding for one clerk position--filings up.
<b>Kittitas County Superior</b>	None to speak of.
<b>Lakewood Municipal</b>	Increasing numbers of defendants are trying to pay fines with community service and are not able to pay for necessary remedial treatment.
<b>Pacific &amp; Wahkiakum County Superior</b>	The clerk's office has lost one staff. Therefore, it is very, very difficult to run two courts; frequency of jury trials has significantly increased the last 6-9 months.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Too many cases, not enough prepared prosecuting attorneys/public defenders. Lack of staff for timely transport of incustody defendants. Lack of timely response for interpreters--and if it is an unusual language, then lengthy (up to weeks delay for trial). Huge lack of qualified sign language interpreters and so labor intensive that those cases also have huge delays. Also see staffing issues/overtime issues with law enforcement officers who are witnesses and unable to appear in court on specific days (we can usually work around this, but it adds to delays). Many more unrepresented litigants in family law. Often they have a paid attorney in the beginning, but once the retainer has been spent, the party is usually on their own. Lack of time for facilitators for these cases. Lack of GAL/CASA for the dependency cases and in Pierce County we have seen a huge increase in filings. The GAL/CASA is no longer able to be in court for hearings.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased dockets for matters heard by court commissioners. Their work load and the statistics are juvenile court reflect a 300% increase in work due to the import of the financial crisis facing our community.</li> <li>• Other terrible impacts are the staff layoffs; mandatory furlough days for staff; mandatory cut in the work day for staff.</li> <li>• Equally important in the impact column include: the reduction of money for jury. We have schedule 5 weeks where no jurors will be/were summoned for jury duty; positions that become vacant through natural attrition are positions that are left vacant; layoffs; pro tem judge program eliminated; court reporter pro tem budget eliminated; court reporter equipment stipend eliminated – i.e. real time maintenance no longer exists. Computers removed from staff due to maintenance/upkeep costs. Without access to county computers, court reporters are unable to comply with the Supreme</li> </ul>

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
	<p>Court rules regarding maintenance of their 'official record' and delivery to the Clerk's Office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of these affect the delivery of services to the public – both as the volume of services and the quality of services. It affects the ability of the court to keep the courtroom open, fully staffed and operational.</li> </ul>
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	<p>Huge increase in number of self represented parties in all areas of law: family law, unlawful detainers, probates. Huge increase in filings of domestic violence actions—perhaps caused in part by financial woes of parties and parties returning from deployment with PTSD. The self represented parties on all dockets are usually unprepared; no proof of service, no orders, no idea how to proceed. We only have 2 courthouse facilitators who handle family law matters and they are already overbooked meeting with self represented parties. Additionally attorneys' preparedness and level of practice has dramatically decreased—perhaps because they are under financial hardship—taking case without being ready, having no staff.</p>
<b>San Juan County District</b>	<p>Reduced fine payments have resulted in more Title 46 FTA's reported to the Department of Licensing in Olympia.</p>
<b>Skagit County District</b>	<p>Furloughs have hurt morale and stretch court personnel thin since we do not close on furlough days. Inability to replace retiring personnel. Expected to do more with less even though our budget was already razor thin.</p>
<b>Snohomish County District (South Div)</b>	<p>Loss of court clerical staff. Loss of probation officers.</p>
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	<p>Adult offender drug court was cut from 177 participants to fewer than 50. Juvenile detention was capped at less than 40 offenders, with room for only 10 female offenders. There's no money for regular maintenance, which will cost more later. Support staff has been critically cut.</p>
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	<p>Less information about custody of children in dissolution cases is available. More felony criminal cases are plea bargained to expedite misdemeanor charges.</p>
<b>Spokane County District</b>	<p>The worst impact of the economic crisis has been the reduction in personnel from the clerk's office. With the quantity of filings (80,000+ per year), we need the staff to ensure timely and accurate processing of the cases. The greatest portion of our budget is dedicated to personnel. This means it's the first area cut when budget reductions are implemented.</p> <p>Examples can be seen daily in the reduction in time the public can access the court to the slower processing of court files (notice to DOL, entry on new filing, etc.).</p>
<b>Spokane County District</b>	<p>Very few people on this docket are represented by counsel historically in District Court however it is apparent this is now the rule with very few exceptions. There are few lawyers who appear in District Court on these cases that are familiar with the statutes on this docket.</p> <p>It appears that while petitioners have made reports to law enforcement in most cases, less of these cases are prosecuted. We are seeing that if law enforcement file charges, often there is a stipulated order of continuance with a dismissal of the no contact order in the criminal case or the case is dismissed. A large percentage of petitioners indicate in their petition that law enforcement was contacted and they were advised by law enforcement to seek a protection order, either in lieu of charges and even if the respondent is arrested.</p>

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court</b> <b>Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile</b>	<b>2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom?</b> <b>Examples?</b>
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	We have no pro-tem coverage for the commissioner's vacations. Each judge covers their calendar 1 or 2 times a month - we must close our docket to cover theirs. I have to continue a trial to cover one day and come back to start the trial again. Civil cases are getting set further out.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	We have not experienced any impact.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	In the courtroom - availability of a public defender at 1st appearance hearings.

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	3. Which trial court functions, programs or services have been eliminated or reduced due to inadequate funding? What have been the consequences?
Court/judge name not provided	No risk assessments or bail studies at arraignments in criminal cases - consequences are that judge does not have adequate information to make informed decisions on sentencing; no supervision of DOC parolees/offenders = less accountability for compliance; offenders in juvenile have limited access to programs that could reduce recidivism and improve outcomes; little to no support staff for judges means delayed communications or longer times to get decisions written and to the litigants.
Court/judge name not provided	No probation or outside services are offered.
Franklin County District	None; we have concerns regarding our work crew and whether we will be able to continue it in the future.
Island County District	We have lost three full time positions including the supervisor of our probation department the two remaining probation officers are trying to manage excessive workloads leading to far less direct supervision and fewer house calls. The court clerks spend proportionally more time in court with less time to answer customer calls and provide general assistance. We are gradually moving away from a problem solving court to a strict offender accountability model.
Island County Superior	We have been able to continue our programs and services, although Juvenile Court has not been able to continue with Girl's Circle, or some other innovative programs that showed great promise. We are trying hard to continue funding for our Juvenile Detention Center which may be under the chopping block, which would be a terrible situation for us. We have also been able to continue our drug courts, but our staffing has been cut which eventually will affect the amount of time and counseling each drug court participant receives.
King County Superior Criminal felony, civil and family	Fewer social workers, lack of probation/supervision. Consequences are people not getting needed services, which in criminal cases means increased recidivism, and in family law cases, means lack of reliable information the court has available to make critical decisions about child custody and parenting.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	See responses to No. 3.
King County Superior Primarily civil	We are facing elimination of Family Court Services, prose facilitator and Drug Court, as well as furloughs or layoffs for employees.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	None.
Kittitas County District (Upper)	None.
Kittitas County Superior	None.
Lakewood Municipal	Public defenders have not been present at most arraignments. Prosecutors are not present at most infraction hearings. What have been the consequences? Defendant's ability to resolve criminal cases have been delayed. Infractions are often dismissed due to lack of city input.
Pacific & Wahkiakum County Superior	Court facilitator; UFC director position eliminated; although there may be an opportunity from state funds to rehire a UFC director on a part-time basis.
Pierce County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Similar to #2 above. Biggest impact is GAL/CASA--not that we have cuts, but that the caseload has dramatically increased and the GAL/CASAs cannot keep pace (without any increase in staff--which is not happening). We have adjusted staff (from Probation to GAL) to try to assist, it is not enough. Lack of community supervision by DOC puts a huge strain on the criminal dockets, if we want our sentences to mean anything.

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Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	3. Which trial court functions, programs or services have been eliminated or reduced due to inadequate funding? What have been the consequences?
Pierce County Superior	See No. 2. In addition, Drug Court funding has been eliminated. Court commissioner dockets have been cut back despite the increased volume – this affects the ability of the work to be done as well as the judicial officer.
Pierce County Superior	No funds to hire GALs at public expense for indigent parties where a GAL investigation is necessary. Reduction in services of Unified Family Court because of budget cuts. Show cause hearings being set out 5-6 weeks because no funds to hire additional commissioners. Court staff and commissioners having to take furloughs because of budget cuts, so court dockets being cancelled and services not able to be provided.
San Juan County District	We have lost .5 FTE clerk. That together with voluntary furloughs by all staff has increased the stress on those remaining. It is presently unclear what long term effect that will have on court functions, programs or services.
Skagit County District	Nothing has been eliminated. We scrape by.
Snohomish County District (South Div)	Reduced probation monitoring. Much larger calendars to handle increased filings. Phone trees and websites are now the resources for the public rather than direct clerical assistance.
Snohomish County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	See No. 2.
Snohomish County Superior	Family Court Investigations, formerly with 3 employees, will be totally eliminated at the end of 2010. -Juvenile Detention has a population cap accompanied by procedures for early release, when reached. -Juvenile Probation has reduced state funding for community rehabilitative programs. -Funds for pro tem judges at Juv Court, etc. have been drastically reduced. -Atty reimbursement rates for ARY, CHINs, and truancy cases are being reduced. -1 law clerk-bailiff position is being reduced in 2011. -The Foster Care Citizens Review Board at Juv Ct. has been eliminated. -DSHS has just reduced reimbursement funding for expert services in SVP cases. -Mandatory arbitration for child support cases is being eliminated. -GAL funding is being reduced. -Drug Courts are now totally funded by federal stimulus grants which will run out after 2011. -A total of 32 FTEs will have been eliminated from the Sno Co Sup Ct/Juv Ct budget by 1/1/2011.
Spokane County District	The main area cut or reduced has been our accessibility to the community. We have reduced the amount of time our public windows are open and have greatly reduced the amount of time our phones are answered. It must be terribly frustrating for someone trying to obtain information from the clerk's office. We frequently receive complaints from people with traffic infractions regarding their inability to contact the court.
Spokane County District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Court clerk's office is now closed during part of day. Cashier windows close early and closed part of day. Telephones not answered for part of the day. The result has been frustration, confusion by the public and more in person contacts for staff to address with people who are upset.</li> <li>• We have eight judges now. We lost one judge, 5 commissioner, 3 secretarial positions, two bailiff positions, multiple clerk positions, and one receptionist position. We now have one receptionist who doubles as a secretary for the court as a whole. Our court administrator and operations manager are only 80% FTEs and our computer specialist is only 50% FTE.</li> <li>• The consequences mean most judges do all of our own secretarial work. While it seems to be a poor use of resources to pay a judge \$140,000 to do work we could have a \$30,000 employee do, some of the work will not get</li> </ul>

# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	3. Which trial court functions, programs or services have been eliminated or reduced due to inadequate funding? What have been the consequences?
	<p>done if it is not done by judges themselves. Automation and scanning projects that were underway ceased completely and these projects are not likely to come back for our court soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because I am convinced that automation is the key to survival after the loss of all of these positions and believe we should continue to develop more cost effective approaches, I taught myself how to create fill in the blank forms that I use and are available to staff. I have also taught myself how to update and improve our court website and am in the process of doing this so that these forms and additional information will be available to the public on our website. It is apparent that most people look on the website either before trying the phones or as a result of not being able to speak to a live person. It only makes sense to give people an opportunity to search for their court date, have forms prepared, and understand the process and what to expect before coming into the courthouse.</li> </ul>
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	We had to furlough all staff one day a month - making certain courts unavailable during the normal work week. Can't fill our receptionist position - we are the largest court amount the 3 courts located here and have no one to answer the phones or direct people- they usually go to the clerk's office which has reduced their hours of operation.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	No programs have been eliminated or reduced.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	We have not eliminated nor reduced any programs, services or functions yet. It just takes much longer to complete as we are understaffed.

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	4. What are your court's most urgent needs in preventing injustices or lower-quality justice from occurring? What measures are you taking to avoid injustices occurring?
Court/judge name not provided	We need to have prior levels of services restored! We are doing the best we can...it means justice gets delayed but not denied.
Court/judge name not provided	No mitigating factors.
Franklin County District	Because we continue to provide all services previously provided, this is not a concern.
Island County District	<p>More funding sources are needed in a nearly bankrupt county which has little or no industry and a very small sales tax base. One measure which could help with probation is legislation that would require that the statutory probation fees be placed into a suspense fund rather than in to the general fund with the proviso that the fees deposited could only be transferred to pay the direct operating costs of probation. Our fees currently exceed the actual cost of operating the probation department. The excess is considered by the county as being used to pay for the indirect cost such as administration cost, payroll costs and so on.</p> <p>In order to avoid injustices occurring, we prioritize our time and assets to see that litigants and defendants receive justice. We limit probation referrals to the most critical cases such as serious repeat offenders, deferred prosecutions, batterers and elder abusers.</p>
Island County Superior	We need more representation in family law cases. Many more people than usual are reduced to appearing <i>pro se</i> because they cannot afford an attorney. As much as judges try to help them understand the system, at times we must tell them that they are held to the same standards as an attorney. We have a court facilitator program, which helps a lot of people in family law cases fill out the papers, but the same persons are unable to point out the important distinctions in their cases that a skilled attorney would do.
King County Superior Criminal felony, civil and family	More family court services, especially in connection with parenting evaluations and allegations of domestic violence. We are doing what we can with limited resources.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need staff. Desperately. We need at least a shared judicial assistant, staff to manage therapeutic courts, law clerks, and actual, trained court reporters.</li> <li>• We need up to date, user friendly court information systems.</li> <li>• We need services for court users, including drug/alcohol testing and treatment, probation services, family court services, mediation services, and actual case management.</li> </ul>
King County Superior Primarily civil	We are seeking passage of an increase in sales tax to preserve courts' sheriffs', prosecutors' and defense' funding.
Kittitas County District	None.
Kittitas County District	Our BOCC has been generally responsive to the need to provide adequate judicial services.
Kittitas County Superior	We have no threatened injustices.
Lakewood Municipal	We should have a public defender at all arraignments. We enter not guilty pleas and arrange for a public defender at the next hearing.
Pacific & Wahkiakum County Superior	Keep funding NW Justice Project. This agency is very helpful to civil litigants who qualify for representation. The Court staff assists pro se litigants in family law



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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	4. What are your court's most urgent needs in preventing injustices or lower-quality justice from occurring? What measures are you taking to avoid injustices occurring?
	matters in completing the forms so they comply with the Court's orders. Money to hire back the lost clerk's position would help.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Try to do the best we can with just the case that is presently in front of us.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Continued budget cuts mean that the courts can no longer provide the public with access to the courts. Answering machines for telephone inquiries and locked doors do not equate with access to the courts. The lack of jurors means that the jury system no longer exists in our county.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Funding for Family Court Coordinator and Public pay GALs in family law cases, adding more judges and commissioners to meet the increasing case load. Adding more courthouse facilitators. Trying to provide information to self represented parties on how to obtain forms, directing them to the facilitator.
<b>Snohomish County District (South Div)</b>	We needed additional judicial officers and additional clerical staff before the economic downturn and now that situation has been exacerbated.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Serious felonies are being undercharged and under prosecuted, due to cuts in the prosecutor's office. We're all working harder and trying to take up the slack, but access to justice will suffer.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	Measures taken: Reorganizing Juv Ct. Probation in 2011. Cap on Juv Detention-1 in and 1 out policy when cap is reached. Reorganizing Juv Ct calendars Reorganizing criminal hearings and criminal motions calendars.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	<p>I think assistance in automation and good up to date fill in the blank PDF forms by AOC could go a long way for smaller courts. King County and Pierce County are making great strides in this area and doing a great job trying to share what they have accomplished but unfortunately each system was built on its own separate platform and not transferable as software or hardware. So while the blueprint is available for the big picture the reality is that it is not feasible for many courts to think long term now. The availability of forms that are easily used by the public, condensed so as not to waste so much paper, and able to be filled out, and eventually filed electronically is an immediate need.</p> <p>The public seem to be getting used to helping themselves and are often very technologically connected. This is a necessity as lawyers are stretched thinner and thinner and don't appear to be as responsive to their clients as they once were. To have a judge learning computer skills, while not a bad thing, is not the wisest use of limited judicial resources. Also, the likelihood of me doing this for our other calendars an all forms is not great so the reality is that I will automate my docket on my own time and the judges who are unable or interested in pursuing this for their own calendars will not and our level of service will continue to decrease, which in turn increases frustration and injustice to the people we serve.</p>
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	Access to the courts - reduced hours for our county clerk's office- means no access to court files and most importantly NO protection orders after 4pm. We have advertised the changed hours.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	We are continuing to maintain the same excellent quality of justice and court services.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	Providing public defenders at all 1st appearances. We do have public defenders available at all arraignment calendars and at many 1st appearances; however, a

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court</b> Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	<b>4. What are your court's most urgent needs in preventing injustices or lower-quality justice from occurring? What measures are you taking to avoid injustices occurring?</b>
	public defender is not always available.

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court</b> Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	<b>5. Have there been instances of injustice occurring in your court that you were unable to prevent, which in whole or in part were caused by lack of adequate resources (such as lack of qualified interpreters, delays caused by lack of courtrooms or judicial officers, lack of representation, over-burdened public defenders or other causes)? Can you provide one example?</b>
<b>Court/judge name not provided</b>	Yes. In juvenile court - a family who has access to resources such as counseling and drug/alcohol treatment for the offender v. a one parent distressed household with NO access to independent resources. First kid has better outcome and fewer probation violations than second kid.
<b>Court/judge name not provided</b>	No.
<b>Island County District</b>	We will have to reduce the number of special calendars such as the domestic violence calendar, and the show cause calendars. This will make it more difficult for our community based advocacy groups to attend court to provide victim services. We will be less proactive in monitoring compliance with our sentences. It will cause litigants to wait much longer during the day for their hearings. We may get back to the bad old days when a missing person report was filed on an elderly defendant who had to wait until 3:30 pm to be called on the 9am calendar.
<b>Island County Superior</b>	So far, we have been able to pull everything together, although we had a hard time when the public defender contract came up for bid. We worked extremely hard to keep the public defender program funded appropriately. We have also been able to get qualified interpreters. So far, we have been able to juggle cases to avoid speedy trial violations. It is a constant juggling act, though, and now we are required to cut our budget another 10%. The only persons left are staff in the front office who answer the phones.
<b>King County Superior</b> Criminal felony, civil and family	We have had delays in hearing family court cases involving children, and in getting cases heard where interpreters were required.
<b>King County Superior</b> General jurisdiction	Yes, multiple examples, and frankly since I have seen multiple examples in each category you mention, I can't provide specific horror stories. Injustices are a daily fact of life.
<b>King County Superior</b> Primarily civil	Only delay in preparation and trial dates being continued.
<b>Kittitas County District (Upper)</b>	No.
<b>Kittitas County Superior</b>	No.
<b>Klickitat/Skamania County Superior</b>	None.
<b>Lakewood Municipal</b>	No. No defendant has been treated unfairly.
<b>Pacific &amp; Wahkiakum County Superior</b>	So far, the litigants are fortunate in our county; the answer is "no."
<b>Pierce County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Yes, but cannot think of a specific example. Criminal defendants wait in jail pending sentencing because we don't have adequate pretrial services/screening, so bail is the only option, then with the heavy criminal dockets/caseloads for everyone (prosecutor, public defense, court), delays are harmful to the defendants. Often they spend more time in jail than the standard range for the crime they have been charged with (and then they often plead guilty, under somewhat duress because of the lack of "movement" towards trial).
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Yes. There are too many examples to provide a list. Interpreter services are reduced due to funding cuts; jurors not available on trial day due to funding cuts. Essential courtroom functions (specific case services) which mandated by the statutes and case law are not able to be provided any longer. The ability of the court to provide assistance to the pro se litigant is also affected – such as the

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court</b> Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	<b>5. Have there been instances of injustice occurring in your court that you were unable to prevent, which in whole or in part were caused by lack of adequate resources (such as lack of qualified interpreters, delays caused by lack of courtrooms or judicial officers, lack of representation, over-burdened public defenders or other causes)? Can you provide one example?</b>
	courthouse facilitator services, clerk's office filing and documenting functions.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Yes, cases having to be continued because DAC is overburdened, no interpreters available. Dockets being limited because case loads on existing judicial officers are overwhelming.
<b>Snohomish County District (South Div)</b>	Our public defenders are dramatically overburdened.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	We continued a dependency case twice because of a lack of interpreters. Parents' lawyers are severely overworked, as are the attorneys general. The criminal caseload moves along, but only because staff reductions have led to significantly lower charging standards. For example, \$300 will get you out of most felony drug possession cases.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	No examples are available at this time.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	<p>Fortunately, we have maintained the high quality of interpreters and have minimized delays due to a lack of judicial officers. However, the lack of resources has seemed to work in favor of the defendant. The public defender's office was cut the least. The prosecutor's office was cut the most. There used to be two prosecutors assigned to every criminal courtroom. Now there is less than one assigned to each courtroom.</p> <p>Recently we had 45 cases set for trial on one day. The assigned prosecutor had a family emergency arise so a different prosecutor filled in. He felt no choice, but to negotiate settlements because of the quantity of cases and the huge burden it would put on the prosecutor who was out with a family emergency. It is common for a prosecutor with little or no knowledge of the cases to appear in court to cover for a prosecutor who is ill or has children who are ill. It results in needless continuances or resolutions that are spontaneous and do not meet the ends of justice.</p>
<b>Spokane County District</b>	The public is not able to get answers to simple questions which results in wasted time, resources and more work by court staff and other agencies in the long run. For example, a person wants to file an Anti-harassment Petition. They call District Court and get a message that does not have any information about specific dockets. If they do speak with a live person they will likely be directed to a clerk who is in court and unavailable by telephone. Their only option then appears to be to come in to ex parte to get basic information. This requires time off work, parking fees, walks around the courthouse campus to find the right location (we are currently in two different buildings on the courthouse campus.) When they get the petition at ex parte they realize they need information they do not have with them and must return the next day (we will accommodate most people in the afternoon either before or after our docket to lessen the frustration but this can mean an entire wasted day for the Petitioner.) The case may be transferred to Superior Court if Petitioner seeks to have someone excluded from their home; the case involves child custody or other circumstances that can only be addressed in Superior Court. The forms used in Superior Court are different so they must begin the process anew in a different building.

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<b>Court</b> Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	<b>5. Have there been instances of injustice occurring in your court that you were unable to prevent, which in whole or in part were caused by lack of adequate resources (such as lack of qualified interpreters, delays caused by lack of courtrooms or judicial officers, lack of representation, over-burdened public defenders or other causes)? Can you provide one example?</b>
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	The caseloads for both public defenders and prosecutor's are overwhelming - they cannot prepare for court and the continuances have grown. Since cuts on both sides they are covering more dockets and the criminal cases grow. You cannot push a criminal case forward if the attorneys are not prepared and they haven't had adequate time to prepare because they are in court. Our first appearance dockets were done by the attorneys (in both PD & DPA;s) that were released due to budget cuts - so the trial attorneys have to be in court everyday at 1:30 to cover those cases that were covered by the people let go because of budget.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	No.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	When a defendant is brought into court from the jail on a due process hearing without a public defender present; the case may have to be reset to later in the day or to the next day.

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	6. In civil cases, have you seen unjust or questionable outcomes occurring when litigants are not represented? Does a specific case come to mind?
Court/judge name not provided	No.
Franklin County District	No.
Island County Superior	Yes. In a family law case, the father brought a motion for contempt against his ex-wife because she did not have the youngest daughter visit on his scheduled times, Christmas, summer, and spring break. The mother represented herself, but failed to include in her responsive declarations that she was unable to have the minor child leave the State of Florida until after a CPS action was resolved, which it later was in her favor. Because the non-compliance appeared to be a pattern of behavior on the mother's part and because the father was represented by an attorney, the mother was fined \$100 a day for failing to follow the court's previous three orders. She failed to bring a motion for reconsideration within the requisite time. Months later, after she finally found representation, the court was made aware that the mother had been unable to comply because of the Florida action, but by this time she owed a large judgment.
King County Superior Criminal felony, civil and family	All the time in family law cases.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	Surely you jest? Unrepresented litigants normally don't even bother to answer complaints or appear, so they automatically lose their cases. If they do appear, they don't know what they are doing, so they lose their cases. I see this in every case with unrepresented litigants: they cannot bring effective appeals, much less a revision motion, recover money owing to them, or win custody of their children when poised against an unfit opponent who is represented. They are routinely evicted, denied domestic violence orders they need, assessed large judgments they can't pay, and foreclosed out of their homes. There is no equal justice when only one party is represented. There is frankly very little justice at all.
King County Superior Primarily civil	I'm not sure.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	Yes, especially when one party is represented by counsel and the other is pro se. Even with the judge intervening on behalf of the pro se party, it is relatively simple for a lawyer to take unfair advantage of the pro se party. Ideally, every litigant would have a lawyer in every case. Except when (as in small claims) lawyers are not allowed.  The cases which come to mind are anti-harassment cases in which the petitioner is pro se and the respondent is represented by counsel. I have observed cases when petitioners have been "talked into" an agreed resolution to the case which seemed to me to be unwarranted by the facts.
Kittitas County District	No.
Kittitas County Superior	No.
Klickitat/Skamania County Superior	This happens all the time. Too many cases to number.
Lakewood Municipal	No.
Pacific & Wahkiakum County Superior	No.
Pierce County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	No. I think most of us bend over backwards to try to be fair to unrepresented litigants. Unfortunately, then we get close to ethical boundaries.
Pierce County Superior	The cost to hire an attorney in a civil case is not dependent on court funding. However, when the cost to get into court continues to go up, a litigant's ability to

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Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	6. In civil cases, have you seen unjust or questionable outcomes occurring when litigants are not represented? Does a specific case come to mind?
	be able to afford to hire a civil attorney goes down in the same proportion. Pro Se litigation is at least 50% of the civil litigation today.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Yes. Attorneys may try to take advantage of self-represented parties. Trying to set child support too high or low, trying to request inappropriate relief when such relief is not equitable, just because a party is not represented by an attorney. Not granting a self represented party a continuance when they would have agreed to a continuance if that party had been represented.
<b>Snohomish County District (South Div)</b>	Pro se litigants often do not understand the collection processes and judgments that are entered against them.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Family law cases suffer from pro se litigants who cannot afford lawyers and invariably don't know what they're doing.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	There are an increasing number of pro se litigants, especially in family law cases. They often do not understand procedures, such as the need to confirm trials. A number of family law trials have been delayed due to failure to confirm for trial- no specific example.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	I rarely hear civil cases outside of infractions, domestic violence protection orders, and anti-harassment protection orders. The reduction in budget has not impacted these areas to any great extent as most of the time the participants are not represented.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	Yes, the court and lawyers are looking for quick, early case resolution fixes which are often not in the best interest of the litigants.
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	Not that I personally have seen - but with the case loads growing - it makes it hard to take the time required with a Pro-Se litigant.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	No.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	No.

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	7. What judicial responsibilities are you unable to perform at a satisfactory level because you do not have sufficient resources?
Court/judge name not provided	Opinion drafting is delayed because of lack of resources; I share one judicial secretary with 7 other judges, so letters take longer, etc.
Court/judge name not provided	File reviews, follow-up on conditions of release.
Island County District	Under the county's district plan the court operates three municipal departments. The cities pay 26% of the court's operation in return for those services. That reimbursement goes into the county general fund, and the 10% currently mandated reduction applies to that 26% as well without a concomitant mandate to reduce the services to the municipal courts.
Island County Superior	I do not believe I have enough time to review the cases and research as I used to have. I have never had a legal assistant, so I don't mind that, but I would like more time during the day to be able to prepare better.
King County Superior Criminal felony, civil and family	It's very difficult to make a good and reasoned decision in a parenting case when I have no information except from the parents. We desperately need enough resources that someone can provide information from personal investigation and interviews with collateral contacts such as teachers, day care providers, neighbors, extended family members, etc.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	All of them. See No. 6.
King County Superior Primarily civil	It hasn't hit yet.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	None.
Kittitas County District (Upper)	None.
Kittitas County Superior	None.
Klickitat/Skamania County Superior	None.
Lakewood Municipal	None.
Pacific & Wahkiakum County Superior	None. The sole, elected superior court judge for both Wahkiakum and Pacific Counties has just adjusted over the years to getting the job done. There isn't much that can be done to change the formula for judicial needs. For instance, the case load for the judge in both counties is far beyond what any one superior court judge can accomplish.
Pierce County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Our Clerk's office has suffered budget cuts and consequently do not have the papers in the file (they are months behind in filing). While we try to rely on the electronic scanning of documents, these are not done timely, so it is very difficult to be adequately prepared for the civil motion docket (not to mention every other case/motion). This leads to an unsatisfactory level of performance (on my part). Not a trial court function, but all agencies are interrelated. Cuts in staffing to the Sheriff also impact on security issues, specifically for our juvenile court and our domestic violence protection order docket (both very hostile environments, where the presence of law enforcement helps calm the parties). I have concerns for everyone's safety, given the emotions.
Pierce County Superior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to court files/documents, whether hard copy or electronic. The number of trials which are being conducted has been reduced due to the reduction of jurors available, and staff reduction hours/furloughs. Cuts in interpreter services have the same affect – time delays with waiting and scheduling conflicts.</li> </ul>



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Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	7. What judicial responsibilities are you unable to perform at a satisfactory level because you do not have sufficient resources?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courtroom book subscriptions have been cancelled and others not renewed – WA State Family Law Reporter, state and local court rules, RCW’s, advance sheets, Jury Instructions 6-6A, 6B, WA Practice 5-5C, 10. Pro tem Judge program eliminated due to lack of funding – pro tem judges have been the equivalent of 2 trial departments for one year.</li> <li>• Judicial conference and training (CJE) funds cut. Local OPD funding eliminated.</li> <li>• Staff cuts; reduction of hours and furlough means that court starts late and stops early in order to accommodate reduction of hours. Therefore, services to the public are reduced with courtrooms being closed and no one to fill in.</li> </ul>
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Unable to give adequate time to each domestic violence case since our dockets have no caps and there may be 30-40 or more cases scheduled for a single afternoon. Concern about safety of parties and audience on the domestic violence calendars since no funding to have sufficient deputies in the courtroom. Just being able to have enough time to read for the daily dockets--the number of cases on the commissioners' dockets have grown exponentially so we have no down time for anything. We arrive at before 7 am, work through lunch, stay until 5:30 or later and take work home!
<b>Skagit County District</b>	We perform at a satisfactory level. We work longer hours to accomplish this.
<b>Snohomish County District (South Div)</b>	I now read advance sheets, briefs, and case law on the week-ends or after court hours because there is less and less time during the court day – the calendars are so large.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Money for continuing education is gone. Most positions vacated by retirees go unfilled, since that's the least painful way to meet budget targets.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	None, as of yet.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	When I was elected in 2007, we had three secretaries for the fourteen judicial officers. Due to budget cuts, we are down to eight judicial officers. We no longer have any secretaries. I now have to perform a multitude of tasks that the secretaries used to perform including typing all of my own correspondence, preparing the final jury instructions, and preparing certain court orders. I spend a substantial amount of time on these duties rather than being able to help out by performing judicial services for an unavailable judge or preparing for hearings.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	Getting opinions out in a timely manner; explanations to litigants and staff are often abbreviated due to time constraints. No long range planning; crisis management.
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	Doing some clerical work - as we have no staff. There are times when we should be taking cases off the general calendar that are "on call" for an available judge - however have decisions to type or paperwork to process because the staff has been reduced.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	All levels of court and judicial performance remain the same.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	The Judge completes all his responsibilities even if we have to run court several hours into the evening. Sometimes our calendars run until 7 or 8pm. If we have a jury trial, we stay until the case is complete, even if it runs until midnight.

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	8. Are you seeing juvenile and criminal cases in which the defendant is not represented at first appearance? What consequences are you seeing from this?
Court/judge name not provided	In juvenile = yes. We just set a second hearing where one would have been enough. That means each criminal case has one extra hearing. It ties up court time, prosecutor time, probation dept. time, clerks and judges for an extra hearing.
Court/judge name not provided	Yes. Pro se defendants making incriminating statements on the record while reviewing the 3.2 order of release.
Franklin County District	Yes; the consequence is that cases are not resolved as efficiently as I will not take guilty pleas at an initial hearing or until there is a informed and voluntary waiver of counsel at a later hearing. We are in the process of securing indigent defense counsel at initial hearings.
Island County Superior	No, we have made sure that the accused is represented at first appearance because we included that in our new public defender contract.
King County Superior Criminal felony, civil and family	Not in King County.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	No. I don't handle first appearances, though.
King County Superior Primarily civil	Not yet.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	No. As of September 1, a public defender is available for a defendant at every arraignment/first appearance.
Kittitas County District (Upper)	Defendants who are arrested for DUI seldom appear at mandatory first appearance with counsel. No guilty plea is ever accepted at any stage unless the defendant has had the opportunity to speak with counsel.
Kittitas County Superior	No.
Klickitat/Skamania County Superior	This is not a problem.
Pacific & Wahkiakum County Superior	Yes. Juveniles are appointed an attorney at the first hearing and a second hearing is held asap. Sometimes (percentage not certain) the attorney appointed is present at the hearing on other matters and is able to advise the juvenile asap. As for adults, yes. An attorney is appointed at the first hearing and if bail is set, the next hearing is held that Friday on the weekly criminal docket. Consequences: I am not certain by what you mean by "consequences." I will assume you mean what might have taken place at the first hearing if the defendant had counsel representing her/him at that first hearing. Answer: Sometimes, for those who have had bail set, they are released after the attorney has presented additional facts to convince the court to lower or set bail at zero.
Pierce County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	No, all are represented by the public defender at arraignment (which is our first appearance).
Pierce County Superior	Juvenile – no idea. Adult criminal cases – DAC is always present at first appearance. There is such a huge demand on the DAC office given the volume of offenses committed in this county and the charging decisions made by the PA's office, the attorneys are overworked with their own budget/staff cuts.
Pierce County Superior	Unknown, have not done this for several years.
San Juan County District	We have PD's at first appearance.
Skagit County District	Regularly, defendants are referred to counsel and case is set over. No guilty pleas are taken unless defendant is adamant and waiver of counsel is approved.

# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile</b>	<b>8. Are you seeing juvenile and criminal cases in which the defendant is not represented at first appearance? What consequences are you seeing from this?</b>
<b>Snohomish County District (South Div)</b>	We insist on public defenders appearing on arraignment calendars to assist defendants who have not retained private counsel. Defendants are then referred to the Office of Assigned Counsel to interview for court appointed counsel.
<b>Snohomish County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile</b>	No; they remain represented at first appearance.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	No.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	Fortunately, we have a public defender at all first appearances and arraignment.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	Yes, see answer to #6.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	No. PDs are available at first appearance.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	If the public defender is not available at a 1st appearance hearing, the judge will reset until a public defender is available or the defendant has time to consult his/her own attorney. If the defendant remains in custody, the hearing is reset within 2-3 days. If the defendant is released, the hearing may be reset in 10-14 days.

# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	9. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate: a. The inadequacy of trial court funding.
Court/judge name not provided	We have no bail studies done at preliminary appearances or arraignments in criminal cases. Whether to set bail or other release conditions needs to be an informed decision. It can affect public safety if a violent person is released based upon inadequate information...
Island County District	We have made mistakes in reporting actions that have led to improper arrests or suspension of driving privileges.
King County Superior Criminal felony, civil and family	The quality of justice, and its timeliness, are directly correlated with having the information to do our jobs properly, and having resources available to parties that will allow them to comply with court orders in areas such as mental health, chemical dependency, parenting, domestic violence, etc.
King County Superior Primarily civil	We are facing loss of officers and failure to prosecute cases, delay of civil trials, which leaves society unprotected.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	None.
Kittitas County Superior	So far we have adequate funding.
Pacific & Wahkiakum County Superior	Very difficult to run two courts with the loss of one clerk. Our county commissioners have been excellent in funding the superior court's needs. They have never denied to pay any bill the court has presented. They agreed to enter into a multi-year contract with a certified Spanish interpreter; they pay all certified interpreter costs (including signing interpreters) without any delay; they have paid for a sheriff's officer to provide courtroom security for every superior court hearing; a state-of-the-art walk-through scanner has been installed outside superior court and an officer operates that during all court proceedings... Therefore, in my experience on the superior court bench since October of 2005, I find that the funding from the county commissioners for superior court needs has been excellent. As for State funding, our counties were "on board" with the Unified Family Court concept and the loss of continued funding for this concept has been disappointing and I would assume of concern to any citizen who is involved in this area of litigation. However, due to our size and familiarity with many of the litigants in family court matters, with the clerk's help, we are able to have all the related files pulled and available for the judge when he/she hears a family court matter. However, having said that, it would be much better to have the UFC director position fully funded to complete the computer assisted organization of these files.
Pierce County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Cannot think of a specific case. If the public wants public safety, or the ability to get a timely dissolution, or cases about kids in foster care, or resolving any civil dispute, they should care. Access to justice is critical for all people.
Snohomish County District (South Div)	Huge calendars with long waits for individuals.
Snohomish County Superior Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	Ultimately, the budget reductions result in a lack of police response or public protection, from officers who don't have the time to respond, to prosecutors who don't have the resources to charge or prosecute and courts that are increasingly constrained to provide alternatives to incarceration. Yet the most effective alternative, drug courts, go underfunded or unfunded.
Snohomish County Superior	32 FTE positions will have been eliminated by the end of 2010.
Spokane County District	I see the inadequacies daily in the lack of accessibility to the courts. We have been forced to reduce window and phone hours so the clerks can process cases.
Spokane County District	While JABS is a great tool it does not interface with other programs used by other agencies. We cannot afford NCIC access so we are often unaware that the

# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court</b> Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	<b>9. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate:</b> <b>a. The inadequacy of trial court funding.</b>
	person before us is a multistate offender as opposed to the first time offender he appears to be at first blush. Staff cannot stay up to speed on different applications and then are limited to information they can get from DISCIS. If they could update in JABS we would all be working off the same information. To complicate matters we have developed a platform for imaging that is yet another application to learn, as is our probation file system. Because none of these are interfaced while we have the information you need a great deal of time, passwords, and knowledge of different platforms to access the information. The reality is that the prosecutor does little to no prep of District Court dockets, the clerk is doing less of this work and if the judge does not do it they go without the information.
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	Not being available as many hours to the public as we used to. Not being able to take the time on the cases when they do come to court.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	None.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	The most urgent needs for our court are additional staffing and fair compensation for existing employees. The court staff has not received any cost of living or other increases for 3 years, yet their contribution to the medical coverage has increased resulting in lower pay.

# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	9. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate: b. Why the public should care about trial court funding.
Island County District	The public should realize that one of the most efficient courts in the state is being slowly dismembered. That puts them in jeopardy and also greatly increases the inconvenience to them in time and perhaps costs if they are required to attend court.
Island County Superior	<p>We have many more middle-class citizens who have been caught up in the recession and are unable to pay their rent or mortgage or bills as they used to be able to do. They come to court, embarrassed and distraught, and the only thing I can tell them is that I cannot do anything. This could be any member of the public because this recession is affecting more and more ordinary citizens who have worked hard their entire lives. Their dire financial situation often leads to family violence or even theft because there seems to be no way out. That, in turn, leads to criminal charges. The public needs to know that this could be them. We need better representation for these persons so they can at least keep their dignity or work with the credit companies for some workable solutions.</p> <p>This is the hardest thing I have seen because these are ordinary folks who have always been law-abiding citizens.</p>
King County Superior Primarily civil	Justice for all is a bedrock of our system of government.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	None.
Lakewood Municipal	Delay in resolving cases has its own cost which is not being considered by the public in denying resources to the courts.
Pierce County Superior	The trial court is the public's court. When it is not operational, there is no justice to the public and not ability for the public to get justice exits.
Pierce County Superior	The public could have more facilitators to help them with family law matters, have their cases heard in a more timely fashion.
Snohomish County District (South Div)	The public should care about the efficient administration of justice and providing access to the courts for all individuals.
Spokane County District	The criminal cases are not being adjudicated in an effective manner (one that promotes justice and deters criminal behavior when convicted). Rather they are rapidly negotiated among different prosecutors. This is an issue of prosecutor funding rather than trial court funding.
Spokane County District	They would get better service, understand their options as victims, traffic violators, litigants and defendants and experience less frustration.
Spokane County Superior	The public should care because when it is time for their day in court, dissolution, protection order or a criminal/civil case you want the judge to take the time and listen. The public doesn't want their case heard by someone who only has seconds to process something that may have taken a year to come to court.
Whitman County District	To maintain the status quo.
Whitman County District	The public should care as requests for hearings, information, etc. currently takes 2-4 weeks to be processed. The majority of the phone calls received go to voicemail and the caller very seldom gets to speak to a "live" person on the 1st, 2nd or 3rd call.

# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	10. Can you estimate how often certified interpreters are used in your courtroom when cases call for them? What is the impact on quality of justice when non-certified interpreters are used? Can you provide any examples?
Court/judge name not provided	Sometimes non certified interpreters are questioned about what they are translating. We have seen litigants order transcripts and have other [certified] interpreters translate the interpreter's words. In a criminal case this can result in a lack of due process for the accused. A constitutional defect can have adverse impact on the progression of the case.
Court/judge name not provided	No.
Franklin County District	Whenever we have a need for them and a certified interpreter is available. We have and use interpreters certified in Spanish daily and other languages as needed.
Island County District	We nearly always use certified court interpreters, and in the rare instance that a non-certified interpreter is used no dispositive action is taken. That may inconvenience a defendant in that they may have to return one time more than normally necessary but never prolongs confinement.
Island County Superior	We only use certified interpreters. Because we are so far from the Seattle area, we often have to continue an arraignment until the interpreter is available.
King County Superior Criminal felony, civil and family	In King County we are fortunate to have certified interpreters available in most languages, although scheduling is a huge issue.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	We use certified interpreters. They cost a bomb, but there is no other way to make sure a person who is not fluent gets a meaningful day in court.
King County Superior Primarily civil	Because we are a big county, we nearly always have certified interpreters available. We are drowning in the cost of providing them.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	We use certified interpreters for trials. For other kinds of hearings, our interpreters are highly qualified but not certified. I see no adverse impact on the quality of justice from the use of non-certified interpreters. The recent statute statutory changes (apparently sponsored by BJA) contained in ESHB 2518 look like a bill drafted by certified interpreters to make non-certified interpreters feel less than qualified each time they walk into the courtroom and state "on the record [that they are not] a certified or registered interpreter." The simple truth is that certified interpreters do not often reside in small towns like Ellensburg; therefore, unless we want to bring in certified interpreters from far away (often as far as Seattle for languages other than Spanish) for hearings and pay a great deal of money for the travel time of the interpreter, we must get by with qualified but non-certified interpreters. The other truth is this; what happens in court is often incomprehensible to English and non-English speaking persons alike. I believe that whether a non-English speaking defendant understands a court proceeding has less to do with whether an interpreter is certified and more to do with the combined sensitivities of the judge, defense counsel and interpreter during and after court hearings and their concerted effort to make sure that a defendant understands the content and consequences of his court hearing. The State of Washington (and BJA) places too great an emphasis on interpreter certification and not enough emphasis on making court processes compressible. For example, during my 20 years on the bench, I have seen the "statement on plea of guilty" increase by several additional pages of information. The problem is this: the more information we put into such statements the less likely it is that the defendant will remember what is really important about his or her plea of guilty. You need to know that continually adding additional

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court</b> Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	<b>10. Can you estimate how often certified interpreters are used in your courtroom when cases call for them? What is the impact on quality of justice when non-certified interpreters are used? Can you provide any examples?</b>
	information to such forms is more likely to be counterproductive than it is to be helpful to the defendant.
<b>Kittitas County District (Upper)</b>	We always attempt to obtain certified interpreters if the case calls for it. Certified interpreters are the goal to attain--but that goal is exceedingly difficult to achieve in remote courts.
<b>Kittitas County Superior</b>	We have them when we need them, whether Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, Korean, or Vietnamese.
<b>Klickitat/Skamania County Superior</b>	Certified interpreters are rarely available in my courtrooms. Non-certified, but "qualified," are the norm. I have never seen a negative impact on justice as a result.
<b>Lakewood Municipal</b>	We always qualify non-certified interpreters. No lack of justice results.
<b>Pacific &amp; Wahkiakum County Superior</b>	Always, unless there is an unforeseen circumstance where we are made aware of the need too late to contact a certified interpreter. This exception has occurred very, very seldom. We almost always have been able to contact an interpreter via phone.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	No. Our Court Administrator would have the data.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In an arraignment court, certified interpreters are the only interpreters utilized. Usage #'s would have to come from the court administrator in Pierce County.</li> <li>• In my trial court, statistics are not maintained individually.</li> <li>• Non-certified interpreters are not utilized. To suggest that we should consider utilizing non-certified interpreters to save money is offensive considering the history of the AOC to get the certified interpreter program established in WA State!</li> </ul>
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Please contact Bruce Moran our deputy court administrator who is responsible for our statistics and would have more examples.
<b>San Juan County District</b>	We have continued cases to calendars where a certified interpreter was present, instead of a qualified interpreter.
<b>Skagit County District</b>	Certified interpreters are regularly used. The court also employs three noncertified but qualified Spanish interpreters who are always regularly used but never for trials or significant motions. Any problems noted usually arise in cases where the defendants speak exotic languages for which there are no certified interpreters. In the long run, I believe quality justice is administered but there are usually a significant number of continuances due to lack of interpreters and that affects the defendant's ability to provide for him/her and family.
<b>Snohomish County District (South Div)</b>	We seldom have cases where we do not have an interpreter available but if a defendant needs a court certified interpreter and one is not available we will set the case over to obtain the services of the interpreter. I assume our non-certified, but qualified, interpreters are competent. I have no reason to believe otherwise.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b> Criminal, civil, family and juvenile	I cannot tell the impact of non-certified interpreters because I'm not fluent in other languages. It "appears" to impact proceedings on occasions when it is clear the interpreter is not providing simultaneous interpretation, but is "summing up" after the speaker is done.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	Certified interpreters are almost always utilized in Snohomish County.



# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

<b>Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile</b>	<b>10. Can you estimate how often certified interpreters are used in your courtroom when cases call for them? What is the impact on quality of justice when non-certified interpreters are used? Can you provide any examples?</b>
	Certification is still not available or required for some less common languages we encounter.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	We only used certified interpreters and the decreased budget has not impacted this at all. I use interpreters at least a few times each week.
<b>Spokane County District</b>	On this calendar I rarely use certified interpreters because it is not always evident that there is a need for an interpreter until the hearing itself at which point the parties will often opt to continue without an interpreter rather than continue the case. Non-certified interpreters don't translate verbatim, may have their own agenda and can result in the court not being informed of the true danger or issue at hand.
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	Most often they are used. When we don't have the time, or the staff, to find a certified interpreter then we use the next best thing - family member or friend. I am extremely concerned that what they are saying and I am hearing are correct. I had a DV protection order petition - the person was trying to get an order against her husband who was abusive. It was hard to try and understand what she was asking of the court and what the process is and how it will impact their other family members. Their child had to interpret for the court until we could get one for the full hearing.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	Every time they are available for the language needed. When a certified interpreter is not available extreme care is exercised to insure that there is complete understanding on the defendant's part. I have never had a case that resolved in a manner that caused me concern about the defendant's level of understanding of the proceedings, their rights or the outcome.
<b>Whitman County District</b>	Whitman County District Court has not had a contested case or trial where an interpreter was requested or needed.

# Court Funding Survey: Judicial Officers

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	11. Are you seeing instances of ineffective assistance of counsel where you consider the case outcome to be unjust? Can you tell us about one such case?
Island County District	We nearly always use certified court interpreters, and in the rare instance that a non-certified interpreter is used no dispositive action is taken. That may inconvenience a defendant in that they may have to return one time more than normally necessary but never prolongs confinement.
Island County Superior	No.
King County Superior General jurisdiction	Yes. And no, I can't.
King County Superior Primarily civil	I am concerned that attorneys ethics may be somewhat compromised by their need to charge fees when billings are generally down, or some people are slow to pay their bill.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	No.
Lakewood Municipal	No.
Pierce County Superior	This question really has nothing to do with budget cuts. A judge does not balance the ineffective assistance of outcome against the outcome; what is an unjust outcome and how does this relate to the issue? Ineffective assistance of counsel could, possibly, be a result of budget cuts – with increased case load for the attorney, lack of funds to hire an investigator or provide other needed services (independent medical examination, etc). It has to do with the allocation of funds and an unjust outcome.
Snohomish County District (South Div)	We have excellent public defenders – very much overworked but VERY dedicated.
Spokane County District	The public defender's office did not receive the huge cuts sustained by the prosecutor's office. The public defenders that appear in my court do a great job. I think the prosecutor is having a difficult time representing the State because of their cuts.
Spokane County District	Yes. Counsel is often unprepared, not familiar with the area of law and may take the case because it is a paying client and they need to keep their doors open. Public Defenders are stretched thin, unavailable to their clients; rarely keep them informed at all let alone fully informed. For certain misdemeanor cases clients are not permitted to make in office appointments with their lawyers and can only meet with them during court, while court is in session. Unless the court gives the defendant copies of documents they rarely see them. If the court expects the public defender to follow ethical requirements and serve their clients the judge is attacked by the lawyer as being too tough or unfair. This causes a hostile work environment for judges, staff and is frustrating to litigants.

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## Appendix A: Judicial Responses

Court Cases: civil, criminal, family, juvenile	12. Is there any other information or general comment you would like to add?
King County Superior Primarily civil	No thanks.
Kittitas County District (Lower)	Lately, it is clear that we are addressing every perceived deficit in any court by creating statewide court rules and statutes to address problems which may not be statewide problems. Recent changes in court rules which strongly encourage (if not require) the presence of counsel for every “not guilty” plea will end up focusing resources where the resources may not be needed and diverting those resources from more worthy purposes. Perhaps most astonishingly, we recently saw a court rule (regarding public defenders) “recommended” by a single Supreme Court justice and adopted by the Supreme Court without input from those persons and institutions affected by the rule. What’s that about??? The fact that the rule was set to take effect on September 1 but required courts to enforce Supreme Court rules not yet dreamed up should tell anyone paying attention that the Supreme Court ought to reserve their rulemaking for times when someone from within the State Bar Association or the affected court system thinks there is a problem. When such a moment arises, the court should then rely on affected persons to propose rules to fix perceived problems. Gad!!! Is anyone on the Supreme Court embarrassed by this??
Pierce County Superior	<p>This survey should be sent to each court administrator; they collect the numbers, the statistics and have the biggest finger on the pulse regarding these issues. Each presiding judge should also be the primary focus. The ‘troops’ rarely have the full picture or detailed information such as you are requesting.</p> <p>The biggest impact on budget cuts has to do with morale and a judge’s ability to work in an environment that is already very stressful.</p> <p>Other impacts as a result of budget cuts may not seem large in individual listings, but they represent a ‘do more with less’ attitude that cannot continue.</p> <p>These other items affect the ability to do the job efficiently. While justice should be efficient, cutting supplies doesn’t make us more efficient: Office supplies not being ordered; recycling services terminated; office equipment removed (telephones, blackberries) and services cut (number of phone lines); delays in access to electronic court files and/or paper court files; restrictions on copying documents; the elimination of the ability to communicate via fax – either in or out; IT software; minor equipment budget cuts.</p>
San Juan County District	We have experienced fewer DUI/PC charges this year. We do not know if this is related to budget issues in the Sheriff’s department, the economy in general or something else. Fisheries tickets are also down and again, we don’t know if this is related to Department of Fish and Wildlife budget issues, the economy in general or something else.
Snohomish County District (South Div)	We will be losing quality clerks & experienced judges if funding is not adequate.
Spokane County District	This budget crisis has helped our court reduce waste and become more efficient. However, we are at the point now that any further reductions in budget would have a detrimental effect on our ability to perform our duties satisfactorily.
Spokane County District	Help and thanks for working on this challenging issue.

# Court Funding Survey: Administrators, Managers & County Clerks

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## Appendix B: Court Officials Responses

Court	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
<b>Aberdeen Municipal</b>	We have had to take furlough days. We lost a full time staff member and later were able to replace the staff with a part-time position. The work load is overwhelming. Staff lost their raise.
<b>Asotin County Superior</b>	Close between 12 & 1 pm, close office at 3 pm, and turn off phones, but all staff stays and works to get caught up, unable to process passports.
<b>Bellingham Municipal</b>	Reduced counter service (15 hours per week) and phone access (15 hours per week).
<b>Benton County</b>	We have not really been impacted in Benton County. Our economy is different from other counties. In our 2010 budget we were asked to reduce it by 2%.
<b>Benton County District</b>	Because of budget cuts we had to lay off a part time clerk and reduce the hours our satellite office was open to the public. Our Pro tem funding was cut completely, forcing us to double dockets when we have a judge gone.
<b>Benton/Franklin County Juvenile</b>	Reduction of juvenile probation positions have resulted in serious public safety risks and long term cost increases due to the necessity for the Court to place adjudicated youth on substantially shorter periods of supervision due to extraordinary high caseloads of youth who are assessed as moderate or high-risk to commit new crimes. Youth who violate court ordered conditions cannot be held accountable. In addition, due to staff reductions, bed capacity in detention has been reduced below the need for available beds to ensure community safety. Youth are being released from detention before they have completed court ordered time, despite reduced sentences, because of the limited secure detention capacity. Building security has been reduced and is seriously inadequate to manage the behavior we are experiencing with rival gangs. Detention staffing is grossly inadequate and produces safety risks for youth and staff.
<b>Benton/Franklin County Superior</b>	Juvenile Services drastically reduced – please contact Sharon Paradis, Juvenile Court Administrator for specifics.
<b>Brewster Municipal</b>	Training budget was reduced to almost nothing. Haven't been able to attend a Court Conference in a couple of years.
<b>Centralia Municipal</b>	Having to deal with an increased caseload with no additions to our budget.
<b>Chelan County</b>	Reduced hours of service to the public because we close from 12:00 – 1:00 because of staff reductions.
<b>Clallam County</b>	Not having enough funds to cover FTE expenditures, resulting in reduction of staff or staff hours. We are not able to perform mandated functions.
<b>Clark County</b>	We reduced staff hours by 1/2 hour each day (equivalent of 2.5 FTE). This resulted in a reduction of hours the office is open to the public (now 8:30 am - 4:30 pm). Other county offices remain open 8:00 - 5:00 (some close at 4:30).
<b>Clark County Superior</b>	Inability to fill a full-time Court Commissioner position-impacting primarily Family Law cases.
<b>Columbia County</b>	We have one courtroom for Superior, District & Municipal courts and with growing caseloads in all of the courts we have increasing conflicts with the courtroom. Someone is getting bumped and having to rearrange the schedules.
<b>Cowlitz County District</b>	<p>Lack of funding has mandated staff cuts and there are possibly more cuts in the future. This causes stress and fear among employees.</p> <p>A necessary remodel of our office and courtrooms has been put off indefinitely. We are cramped in our office and the courtrooms are too small to hold many of our larger dockets. Also we have carpet that is frayed and seating that is failing. A courtroom should look dignified and ours does not.</p>

# Court Funding Survey: Administrators, Managers & County Clerks

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## Appendix B: Court Officials Responses

Court	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
<b>Ferry County</b>	Commission cut my budget, took back raises & eliminated a position in my office.
<b>Ferry County District</b>	More and more cases are going to the public defender and they have less time for each case. It's like a puppy mill. Hand the cases over and push them through as quickly as possible for resolution. Not fair to the defendant. The defendant has no money to pay the fines so they end up going to collections quicker. Defendant is ordered to do things, such as U.S.'s, which they have no money to pay for so they end up violating their probation, and then end up back in the court with the same overworked public defender.
<b>Ferry/Pend Oreille/Stevens County Superior</b>	Loss of hours, especially overtime, in the Clerk's office. Without the Clerk, we can't have court.
<b>Gig Harbor Municipal</b>	12 days of mandatory furloughs.
<b>Grant County</b>	For the Clerk's office, it has been cuts to our budget which have also caused layoffs.
<b>Grant County District</b>	Staff shortage due to layoffs; reduced hours results in less access for public.
<b>Grays Harbor County District</b>	We started staff furloughs in May 2009 and have continued in 2010. In 2010 the amount of time furloughed increased. We have two court offices, our department that handles civil/infractions are now closed 49 days a year (almost every Friday). Overall, the court staff is now furloughed an average of 12.5% monthly, some of us are 5% and some are up to 20%. Our probation staff is all furloughed 25% and are closed every Friday plus the staff each take an additional day for the fifth furlough day.
<b>Island County Superior</b>	Medical Benefits have been reduced for Superior Court staff and the elimination of a Court Commissioner position.
<b>King County District</b>	The impacts of taking 10 days of furloughs in 2009, Budget cuts we managed in 2010 with increased budget cuts coming in 2011.
<b>King County Superior</b>	The worst impact has been consecutive and substantial annual budget reduction expectations. Due to the structural funding imbalance of the county, which primarily relies on property tax revenues that are capped at 1% growth per year, revenue growth simply cannot keep up with expenditure growth. This has been greatly exacerbated by the economic downturn and has resulted in unprecedented levels of budget reductions. For 2011, the court is being asked to reduce its budget by another 10%. After prior year reductions, efficiencies have been maximized to the most reasonable extent possible and revenues are utilized as effectively as allowable. Further reductions will dip into the few remaining adjunct services provided by the court, including crucial aspects of family court services, family court facilitators and dependency CASA. Juvenile court probation will also see a rise in caseloads.
<b>Kitsap County Superior</b>	We have lost four staff members to general budget cuts, including two supervisors. We are making further cuts next year in the form of unpaid leave and paying a greater portion of our health insurance.
<b>Kittitas County (Upper) District</b>	Loss of 1 FTE.
<b>Lewis County Superior</b>	Lack of security, disagreements in the hallways, too slow of response time. Reduction of appointment of Guardian ad Litem and limitations on investigative costs.
<b>Lincoln County District</b>	I wish I had time to answer all these questions; however with staff cuts this is just too long.
<b>Lynnwood Municipal Court</b>	None as of yet. But we are looking at significant cuts in 2010.
<b>Marysville Municipal</b>	Our budget will be rolled over from this year with no increases.

# Court Funding Survey: Administrators, Managers & County Clerks

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## Appendix B: Court Officials Responses

Court	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
Mason County District	Lack of security. There is a risk that funds will be taken from the court budget, thus reducing staff to provide security.
Mason County Superior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We lost the court security officer position due to budget/staffing cuts at the jail.</li> <li>• Delays and/or difficulty having inmates brought to court when needed due to reduced staffing at the jail.</li> <li>• Due to staffing/budget cuts at the sheriff's dept., service of documents and/or filing of proof of service are often not timely and hearings must be rescheduled.</li> <li>• Grossly inadequate and shabby facilities – not enough courtrooms, no jury assembly area, temporary facilities (plastic folding tables and chairs) not conducive to court atmosphere.</li> </ul>
Milton Municipal	We have had budget cuts and have lost a part time position.
Ocean Shores Municipal	Reduction in allowable hours for part-time employees and furlough days.
Okanogan County District	Loss of 1 FTE Creates extreme burden/stress on remaining staff.
Pend Oreille County	In Pend Oreille County we have taken furlough days as the way to manage our budget short fall for 2010. It looks like we will all be cut 15% (about one person per department) in 2011. This will have a much greater impact on us but for now I don't have any experiences or situations to relay.
Pierce County Juvenile	Not being able to seal juvenile records in a timely manner or at all (def disposition within 30 days of their 18 <sup>th</sup> birthday) as mandated by the legislature. For those records we do seal the process can take from 90-120 days from date of request. This is huge because more and more entities use juvenile records as a reason to not rent; gainful employment; be fired for employment.
Pierce County Superior	Need to impose furloughs-4 days on employees; reduced workday by half an hour for 4 months; inability to fill a vacant position; 4 weeks of jury trials were eliminated - in their place we are holding family court emphasis.
Renton Municipal	Loss of funding.
SeaTac Municipal	Public Defender Costs - With the economic crisis more people are not working.
Seattle Municipal	SMC's budget was reduced by \$1.08 million or 4% in 2009 and \$1.36 million or 5% in 2010. For the 2011 budget, we were asked to identify cuts in our budget by 9.5% to 14.5%. Additionally in 2010, the Seattle City Council passed legislation reducing the number of Municipal Court judges from 8 to 7 effective January 1, 2011. One of the reasons that they used to reduce a courtroom was due to budget deficit. We've experienced an increased in our infractions filings, which has caused some scheduling delays. Other direct impacts have been experienced with a lack of available staff to respond to customer inquiries in person or on the telephone. Due to hiring freeze, we are not able to fill vacant positions as quickly as possible, which places increased responsibilities on existing staff.
Skagit County Superior	Requirement for employees to take furlough days. In 2010, our County required employees to take 12 unpaid furlough days. This time along with vacations leave and planned sick leave, leaves us always short employees.
Snohomish County Superior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Commissioners that hear Family Law cases have had to scale back on ordering investigative serves for GAL's as well as losing all staff that perform family court investigations.</li> <li>• We have lost one Supervisor and one Judicial Coordinator in our administrative area which supports the 20 judicial officers. This eliminated our first line supervisor and 20% of our front line administrative staff. We</li> </ul>

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Court	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
	<p>have maintained a Case flow Manager and Programs Manager overseeing 4 Judicial Coordinators (trial setting, arbitration, GAL's, ADA, judge trades, interpreters, expert fee's, working copies, special set calendars, correspondence). We are still in the re-organizing process to see if this is workable, but it gives us little to no coverage when staff have vacation and we have sick calls. Example being when there are staff shortages we close down jury or Court Programs/Services office and divert walk-in's to court administration on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We receive feedback that staff are not as timely in returning phone calls as in the past. We are experiencing an increase in phone call volume given both the Clerk and District Court closes at noon and we are open. Plus District Court has developed a phone tree that only provides for recorded information to the public, so the frustrated public calls Superior Court trying to talk to "a live body" to address their District Court needs. In our joint court meetings, District Court maintains they don't have the staff to man their phone lines.</li> <li>• We have cut back on travel and attendance at training seminars for judicial officers and staff.</li> <li>• We have reduced the number of law clerks by one which impacts support services for the judges assigned to Juvenile Court.</li> <li>• As we are a court that also manages all aspects of the juvenile court programs it is at juvenile court where we have suffered the most impact from the budget crisis. We have laid off approximately 30 FTEs in juvenile court and have eliminated the entire Crisis Residential Program, Functional Family Therapy and Continuation of Services. We have also reduce our Aggression Replacement Therapy classes and our CDDA and SSODA services. All of these programs are evidenced based programs which have been effective at reducing detention population at both the state and local level thereby reducing incarceration costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	<p>The greatest impact has been on funding available to staff our office. Since 2008, our FTEs have been reduced approximately 19%. The Snohomish County Clerk's Office is now at what would be described as the bare minimum amount needed to achieve our legal mandates. We always manage to staff our courtrooms and that means that our other divisions have suffered. Our offices providing customer service now close daily from 12:00 to 12:45 pm and at 4:30 (a reduction in 1.25 hours per day). It can take several weeks for pro se litigants to obtain an appointment with a family law facilitator. Lines at the counter for customer service, protection orders and/or cashiering assistance can be very long, and customers often experience significant wait times. The Records division is falling behind with archiving files, and staff performing accounting and docketing functions find it difficult to keep up. We first met our staffing challenges with reorganization and implementation of efficiencies; we are now running out of way in which to further streamline tasks. To meet our tight budget allotment, we have cut basics like office supplies to a bare minimum, have zero funding to train our staff, and have implemented zero overtime policy.</p>
<b>Spokane County Juvenile</b>	<p>One of the impacts to our court that is most troubling is the pace at which this crisis has hit our programs and staff. The majority of the WA State Juvenile Courts have had to deal with multiple cuts whereas State Administrations and other County departments have dealt with singular cuts. Some Juvenile Courts have received annual county reductions since 2008 on top of the Becca, CASA, and JRA</p>

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Court	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
	<p>funding reductions over the past 2 years.</p> <p>The cuts have been ongoing for the past 2 years without a break and although some cuts can be handled, the severity makes it harder to understand the full impact to kids and families each time one comes our way.</p>
Spokane County Superior	Loss of pro tem funds Loss of travel funds Loss of \$200,000 in Drug Court treatment funds.
Stevens County District	At times due to furloughs, leave, etc. we have been down from 7 FTE to 2 FTEs.
Thurston County Superior	<p>The loss of FTEs impacts everything the Court does and creates frustration on the part of the public who do not receive the level of attention they need to navigate the justice system; frustration for the Bar because the level of services provided by the Court has declined; as well as frustration and exhaustion for judicial officers and employees because the workload has not gone down and we cannot provide the level of service the public deserves.</p> <p>The profile of the classic self represented litigant has changed. It is the middle class that can't afford lawyers and now try to navigate the legal system. I don't know what the percentage of self represented parties fill our family law calendars in Washington but some states estimate 70% of cases are without attorneys. Our court system is failing not just the poor.</p> <p>At current staffing levels we do not have enough court reporters to staff every judge. While we've installed recording equipment in several courtrooms it is difficult to monitor for recording quality since we have no Court staff in the courtrooms and must rely on staff not in the employ of the court.</p> <p>Our judicial assistants each support two judges with the trial judges each carrying over 300 civil cases so those employees are providing case management services for over 600 cases each. It is difficult for them to respond to the volume of calls and e-mails they receive each day and there are times when contacts are missed resulting in service complaints.</p> <p>The number of inmate cases, somewhat unique to our court because we are in the state capitol, has increased. On any given motion calendar day, there may be 12 to 15 inmate cases scheduled to be heard – some matters being for Public Records Act status conferences which currently require an appearance with the assigned Judge. For each inmate case, the Judicial Assistant must arrange for telephonic participation by the inmate and coordinate with opposing counsel (usually an Assistant Attorney General). This weekly scheduling is very labor intensive, particularly because inmates and attorneys are regularly scheduled in more than one courtroom on a given day.</p>
Walla Walla County Superior	Nothing yet!
Yakima County	Staff cuts which have required remaining staff to absorb more than they can do.
Yakima County District	<p>In 2009 we lost 3.25 clerical positions; in 2010 we lost 1 clerical position and 1 administrator position. The Operations Manager for the Consolidated Courts assimilated the District Court Administrator duties into her duties; we will lose a minimum of .5 financial staff in 2011 but possibly more if the unions refuse to negotiate a freeze in step increases. We won't know for a couple of months. The impact has been extremely hard on staff who are left because the Courts have decided that we do not want to reduce hours to the public or services if at all possible. That means there is much greater pressure on those staff who are here because the workload has remained the same, just fewer people to get it done. Tensions are high and morale is not as easy to keep up when staff are tired,</p>



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Court	2. What have been the worst impacts of the economic crisis in your courtroom? Examples?
	stressed, and told they will likely not receive any increases in pay. If we lose more staff next year, it is very likely we will have to reduce our hours for the public.
<b>Yakima Municipal</b>	Reductions in staffing resulting in reduction in hours open to the public.
<b>Yakima County Superior</b>	Reduced staffing and resources has caused cases to not be heard in a timely manner.

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Court	3. Which trial court functions, programs or services have been eliminated or reduced due to inadequate funding? What have been the consequences?
Aberdeen Municipal	None.
Asotin County Superior	Same as #2.
Bellingham Municipal	No Law Day activity for middle school students. In the past, we have been selected for a School District award for providing an educational experience in real life skills. Reduction in probation services that hold offenders accountable and provide needed direction for service resources.
Benton County District	Services to the public was reduced in our Satellite office, we were forced to close doors to the public three mornings a week.
Benton/Franklin County Juvenile	Functional Family Therapy, evidence based program that demonstrates reduced recidivism and upon which the Legislature is relying to manage the future costs of prisons, has been reduced by 50% (no longer able to provide services to 50 youth and families per year. Data entries into JCS and case processing timelines have slowed substantially due to reduced staffing. Our Restorative Justice Work Crew program, which is an alternative to secure confinement, is able to serve fewer youth and scheduling youth to serve court ordered time is delayed by weeks. We have eliminated our electronic home monitoring program due to lack of staffing. Use of interpreters has been reduced. This is of particular concern in a community with a very large Latino Community. Youth cannot access the building during the noon hour reducing the ability for defense attorneys and probation staff to access clients/youth.
Benton/Franklin County Superior	The Adult Drug Court was reduced from a 45 person court to a 30 person court and only sustained at that level when the community came forth with financial support to the county.  Pro Tem judge funding reduced to minimal funding.
Centralia Municipal	No programs have been eliminated although we have cut education out of our budget to help balance other increases. We are considering reductions in services and/or hours of operation.
Clark County	None so far.
Clark County Superior	In addition to the previous, loss of professional services for Family Court; part-time bailiffs, law clerks and pro tem funds.
Cowlitz County District	At this point we have not reduced any of our services. We are using more electronic communication with attorneys to save printing, copying costs, and time. We are just working harder and always striving to be more efficient.
Ferry County	We have not reduced any at this time. Have just been trying to keep up or catch up.
Ferry County District	No active probation department, the clerks have to monitor the probation, who then at some point reviews the violations for more hearings for the court, the defendant and the public defender.
Ferry/Pend Oreille/Stevens County Superior	Clerk's office hours have been reduced so even though a judge may sign an order at the end of the day, it won't get entered until the following day.
Gig Harbor Municipal	None at this time.
Grant County District	Less support from TS Department and not funds to fix video arraignment system; reduced security hours which resulted in two jurors having fist fight in lobby and gang fight by front door. Puts public at risk.
Island County Superior	Given the reduction of the Court Commissioner position, two judges must cover three calendars.

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Court	3. Which trial court functions, programs or services have been eliminated or reduced due to inadequate funding? What have been the consequences?
King County District	<p>Throughout 2009 and 2010 we have been successful in not having to reduce our important programs because of funding; however we anticipate having to make cuts to our probation services in 2011 because of continued budget cuts King County faces.</p> <p>In 2009 we reduced our services by taking 10 furlough days throughout the year. While the court remained open, it was with drastically reduced staffing levels (roughly 80% of staff was furloughed on each of the 10 days and the court was staffed with only 2-3 people per location and 3 people answering phones court-wide). This meant increased wait times at the counter and longer waits on the telephones in addition to the work becoming backed up across the court.</p>
King County Superior	See Question 4.
Kitsap County Superior	The Clerk's Office has eliminated no programs or services to date, but will be eliminating some next year.
Kittitas County (Upper) District	None.
Lewis County Superior	Clerk's office passed off arbitration to Administration; we had to absorb that in our duties. Law Librarian has retired, due to budget cuts, we did not replace him, duties and billing/vouchers had to be absorbed into our duties in Administration. Due to budget cuts, we do not use Guardian ad litem as much as we used to and have started reducing approved investigator costs in criminal cases.
Lynnwood Municipal Court	None.
Marysville Municipal	We have had no reduction of elimination yet. However, we have been informed to expect reduction in 2011.
Pierce County Juvenile	<p>We had to stop our scanning and archiving of records and now we function on an as needed (when there is no more room on the shelves or storage area).</p> <p>Being able to respond in a timely manner (within 24 hours) to requests for copies of records (either by the person; recruiter; job corps other agencies).</p>
Pierce County Superior	Drug court reduced, jury trials have been reduced by four weeks; training is all but gone; travel is cut to the bone.
Renton Municipal	Reduction of probation from one Probation Officer and one clerk to only one PO. Cutting the number of in office face-to-face visits to half the number required by risk assessment. Referring only DUI to active probation. DV cases are monitored by court staff with no office visits. Low accountability for offenders.
SeaTac Municipal	All our programs are with outside agencies.
Seattle Municipal	In the 2010 budget, SMC eliminated 9 FTE positions in direct services impacting our re-licensing program, court resource center for defendants, courtroom operations, call center, and court security coverage. Additionally, Court employees are taking a 10 day unpaid furloughs. In 2011, SMC stands to lose another 10 FTEs due to the city's continuing budget deficit problems. The impact is on remaining staff who are asked to take on additional duties in order for us to maintain programs or adequate service levels.
Skagit County Superior	Superior Court has not eliminated any programs. We did however; increase the user fee (from \$10 to \$20) for pro se litigants to see our Courthouse Facilitator(s). Also, we have been impacted by other departments who have established phone trees or do not answer their phones on furlough days. People call Court Administration for all the answers.
Snohomish County Superior	We are in the process of reducing the number of law clerks for our judges. The

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Court	3. Which trial court functions, programs or services have been eliminated or reduced due to inadequate funding? What have been the consequences?
	<p>impact will be that the two Judge's assigned in juvenile court will share a law clerk. Though this has just started we have received feedback from the Clerk's Office regarding their inability to assist us in handling work overflow as the law clerk attempts to keep both the offender and dependency calendars going for both judge's. We know this won't be easy but we hope with our courtroom coordinators in juvenile court that we'll work out the details to keep cases moving. We will also be eliminating in its entirety our Family Law Investigative Services section which will impact our ability to provide timely GAL services in family law cases. Judges are attempting whenever possible to cover vacations of Juvenile Court Judges to reduce pro-tem costs. Which reduces Judicial resources available to handle non-Juvenile civil and criminal matters.</p>
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	<p>Again, we manage to staff all hearings and trials 100% of the time (although we occasionally have had to pull managerial resources to staff these), and this has had an impact on our other divisions, who have taken disproportionate cuts. Our divisions that provide Records management, Accounting services, Customer service and other functions struggle to complete core tasks because each has taken significant cuts. The consequences have been significant wait time increases for customers. Our facilitator program has been reduced from 3.0 FTEs to 1.75 FTEs, which has increased the timeline for available appointments from just a few days to several weeks.</p>
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	<p>Drug Court has been adversely affected for two reasons: 1) loss of funds for treatment of drug court offenders, and 2) the Prosecutor and Public Defender have lost staff and the Drug Unit is not able to process and refer cases to Drug Court.</p>
<b>Stevens County District</b>	<p>Individuals the court puts on monitoring has been reduced to lack of personnel.</p>
<b>Thurston County Superior</b>	<p>We have stopped jury trials for a minimum of six weeks for the past two years. This was a difficult decision but we were faced with reducing costs or losing another position. Like many trial courts, it is difficult to control these costs because the parties initiate the trial phase of a case. We try very hard to confirm trials, to the extend we give counsel our private telephone numbers to contact us after business hours and on weekends if a case settles so we can have the jury pool assigned to that case not report for service.</p> <p>Reductions in funding for child support enforcement and SVP cases are serious issues. We can't stop doing this work but the costs now shift to the counties.</p> <p>Court Security was active from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. prior to cutting 2 positions in 2008. Court hours are now 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The impact to the public is we no longer allow community groups to use the courtrooms for meetings because the reduction in security hours means there is no time to search the courtrooms the next morning for contraband.</p> <p>Our family court programs have been significantly reduced or eliminated. We can no longer hire pro tems for settlement conferences so these take longer to schedule and our trial dates are nearly a year out for 2010 and it is likely that we will be scheduling trials for more than a year out in 2011.</p> <p>Reduction in services provided by DSHS, such as supervised visitation for parents and children impact the ability of the Court to meet the legislative mandates on</p>

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Court	3. Which trial court functions, programs or services have been eliminated or reduced due to inadequate funding? What have been the consequences?
	<p>family reunification.</p> <p>We can no longer provide county/court paid GAL services which impacts judicial decision making for the working poor. Before the recession we had funding to appoint GALs for families at 125% of the poverty line. This means more cases per month for our remaining Family Court Investigator.</p> <p>Judicial officers are more hesitant to appoint GAL services for adults with competency or capacity issues. We have reduced the number of appointments.</p> <p>Judicial officers have higher caseloads, more self-represented parties, and reduced support services. This results in less time for each case thus impacting decisions.</p>
<b>Yakima County</b>	<p>Physical court files are no longer maintained. Documents are imaged upon filing and maintained electronically. Court works from electronic file/calendar. In court staff reductions potentially have put complex litigation at risk due to possible inadequate records being kept.</p>
<b>Yakima County District</b>	<p>Our judges have elected to continue providing the same service, but we are at a critical point now. If we lose even one more full time employee in 2011, we will have to reduce the hours we are open to the public or reduce hours for staff, which will be demoralizing and distressing to our employees and reduce service to our public.</p>
<b>Yakima Municipal</b>	<p>Mostly, it's been the lack of providing service to the public at times which would be beneficial to them.</p>
<b>Yakima County Superior</b>	<p>Assignment of additional job duties to existing staff has heightened stress for staff to meet deadlines. Key program operational positions have been eliminated which has caused reorganization of duties and reduction of services. Several criminal cases have been dismissed on speedy trial.</p>

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Court	4. Have you lost FTEs in your court due to budget cuts? If so, what has been the impact on quality of services you can provide?
Aberdeen Municipal	See #2.
Asotin County Superior	One at the start of this year, hours we are open to the public.
Bellingham Municipal	Yes. The loss has necessitated the reduction in public access to the court business counter and telephone services.
Benton County	No.
Benton County District	We reduced staff by laying off a part time clerk, quality of service was reduced when we were forced to close our satellite office to the public three mornings a week.
Benton/Franklin County Juvenile	We have lost 9 positions and reduced our detention relief budget. Probation supervision is inadequate to meet the need. Detention services are inadequate to meet the need. Building security is inadequate.
Benton/Franklin County Superior	Lost two on-call bailiffs and one-half clerical position in addition to reduced funding for Judge Pro Tem.
Brewster Municipal	The only extra position was eliminated without any heads up. So now our filing has tripled due to that extra help was eliminated.
Chelan County	Lost 3 FTE. Reduced hours of service to the public because we close from 12:00 – 1:00 because of staff reductions.
Clallam County	Yes, this year .5 FTE, next year probably 1 FTE. My department is already understaffed by 3 FTE's per State's suggested ratio to judicial officers.
Clark County	Yes, the equivalent of 7.5 during the last biennium. The impact has been a reduction of office hours, delay in processing of documents for court files and longer lines at service counter.
Clark County Superior	Did not lose Commissioner position; but ability to fill position lost.
Columbia County	We have 2 1/2 people employed which includes the clerk. The only reason we are allowed a part time person is because she is funded by the Rural County Drug Enforcement program. If that program is eliminated we will lose that position. We try to do what absolutely must get done, the rest is done when we can get to it.
Cowlitz County District	We had requested two additional clerks at the beginning of 2009 because we had just filled a newly created judicial position. Instead of hiring two additional FTEs we were forced to cut one FTE and two part-time employees. We were requested to cut additional positions in April 2009. Instead we funded these two positions from the Trial Court Improvement account for 2010 and 2011.
Ferry County	Yes, one FTW was eliminated out of three total (including myself). Scraped together other miscellaneous funds and found a small grant to hang on to the employees with reduced hours. It is harder to stay on top of things. Not enough time to assure mistakes are not made and strained relations with other departments.
Ferry County District	We have lost one full time position and are looking at losing another half time position. So we will be down to 1.5 positions for a full time court.
Ferry/Pend Oreille/Stevens County Superior	The only reason we haven't lost FTEs in our court is because there is only one full time employee.
Gig Harbor Municipal	None at this time.
Grant County	We have lost 2 part-time positions (equal to one FTE) due to budget cuts. Since these were our two scanning positions, it has caused a huge slow-down in our ability to provide documents to other departments (such as Prosecutor, Jail, Public Defense) in a timely manner.
Island County Superior	We lost .10 Court Commissioners. Although the judges have attempted to cover

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Court	4. Have you lost FTEs in your court due to budget cuts? If so, what has been the impact on quality of services you can provide?
	however at times pro-tem judges are utilized and they do not possess the knowledge or history with our families on the dependency calendar.
<b>King County District</b>	None to date. However, we are currently working on the 2011 budget and are anticipating the loss of FTEs. The Executive will transmit his proposed budget on September 27 and the Council will then deliberate and pass the budget around Thanksgiving.
<b>King County Superior</b>	<p>For the calendar year 2009, Superior Court was assigned a budget target reduction figure of \$5,146,009 which was equal to 11.1% of the courts base budget.</p> <p>The court offered a combination of expenditure reductions, new or enhanced revenues, and under expenditures from the 2008 budget to meet the target reduction. Specifics are noted below and total \$4,882,508 and 17.75 FTE's. This represents 10.5% of the courts 2009 base budget prior to reductions.</p> <p><u>Ongoing Expenditure Reductions - \$2,175,561 &amp; 17.75 FTEs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidate Servers and Storage – \$20,000</li> <li>• Change CDDA Service Model &amp; Transfer FTE's to Grant –\$261,660 &amp; 3.0 FTEs</li> <li>• Reduce Pro tem Judicial Coverage – \$100,000</li> <li>• Eliminate 1 Juv. Probation Counselor from Intake Unit – \$74,676 &amp; 1.00 FTE</li> <li>• Eliminate 3.50 Juvenile Probation Counselors – \$288,878 &amp; 3.50 FTEs</li> <li>• Eliminate 1 Probation Administrative Specialist I – \$51,665 &amp; 1.00 FTE</li> <li>• Delay Filling Vacant Positions – \$120,000</li> <li>• Shift Mentoring Contract Services to MIDD Funding – \$55,000</li> <li>• Modify Court Coordinator &amp; Bailiff Responsibilities - \$184,916 &amp; 2.50 FTEs</li> <li>• Not Fill 4 Court Reporter Vacancies – \$342,618</li> <li>• Eliminate 1 Court Reporter FTE - \$98,688 &amp; 1.00 FTE</li> <li>• Eliminate Mailed Trial Readiness Notices – \$18,408</li> <li>• Eliminate 2 Becca Case Managers – \$148,917 &amp; 2.00 FTEs</li> <li>• Eliminate 1 UFC Case Manager Position - \$93,206 &amp; 1.00 FTE</li> <li>• Eliminate 1.75 Social Worker Positions - \$126,464 &amp; 1.75 FTEs</li> <li>• Eliminate Unfilled Commissioner Position \$176,425 &amp; 1.00 FTE</li> <li>• Jury Savings Associated with 2 Weeks of Calendar Changes - \$14,040</li> </ul> <p><u>Savings to Other Departments - \$319,031</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juvenile Detention Savings - \$131,531 Half year savings of closing one detention unit at the Alder facility.</li> <li>• Adult Detention Savings – \$187,500 Half year savings of the difference between the cost of running a single bunked unit and a double bunked unit at the RJC detention facility.</li> </ul> <p><u>One Time Cost Savings - \$360,792</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Day Furlough Savings - \$360,792</li> </ul> <p><u>New Revenues for 2009 - \$1,284,125</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpreter Cost Reimbursements - \$122,025 This is the half year net revenue the court expects to realize in 2009 by increasing interpreter reimbursement rates to State standards and becoming</li> </ul>

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Court	4. Have you lost FTEs in your court due to budget cuts? If so, what has been the impact on quality of services you can provide?
	<p>eligible for partial reimbursement of all interpreter costs. Rates were increased from \$35/hour to \$40/hour for non certified language interpreters and from \$45/hour to \$50 for certified language interpreters. A new category of registered language interpreters was added at the rate of \$50/hour. The revenue represents the favorable difference between new revenue to be received by the court and the increased cost incurred to become eligible for the new revenue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Juvenile Diversion (PYJ) Fee - \$140,140 The PYJ fee was increased from \$172 to \$263 effective January 1, 2009. This amount was chosen because it represents what was calculated to make the program fully self funded. The amount assumes that fees will be reduced or waived based on family income, consistent with past practice.</li> <li>• Record Services (Ex parte fee) - \$633,460 This is a new fee of \$30 per Ex Parte order that will be collected by DJA and generate \$995,100 in new revenue. Of the total, \$261,640 will go toward the costs of implementing the change, \$100,000 of the net revenue was credited toward DJA's target reduction and \$633,460 was credited to the courts target reduction.</li> <li>• Increase Fees in FCS for Mediation &amp; Evaluations - \$100,000 The fee will increase from \$100/hour to \$150/hour. This more closely represents the amount charged by the private sector for similar services. Fees will be reduced based on family income, consistent with past practice.</li> <li>• New Facilitator User Fee at \$20 per Appointment - \$97,000 This is a new fee that is only allowed to fund the courts facilitator program. The fee will be waived or reduced based on ability to pay.</li> <li>• New Facilitator Document Review Prior to Finalization Fee of \$20 - \$57,000 This is a new fee that is also only allowed to fund the courts facilitator program. The fee is not optional, but will be waived or reduced based on ability to pay.</li> <li>• Increase Revenue for Medicaid Administrative Match - \$134,500 Efforts have been made by the court to increase the amount of revenue received for Medicaid match related services. This increases the courts anticipated revenue in 2009 to \$840,000.</li> </ul> <p>For the calendar year 2010, an unallocated budget contra of \$374,832 was put in the courts budget. This amount is equal to the savings that would have resulted from a 4 day furlough. Since furloughs were not implemented county wide in 2010, the court is required to find other savings to meet this contra.</p> <p>For calendar year 2011, the county Executive's office is proposing budget reduction measures (including new revenue) of \$4,232,353 and elimination of 49.55 FTEs. These reductions and new revenues include:</p> <p><u>Ongoing Expenditure Reductions - \$3,801,311 &amp; 49.55 FTEs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing a juvenile probation unit - \$679,614 &amp; 8 FTEs</li> <li>• Eliminating adjunct services in Family Court Services - \$1,202,120 &amp; 25.75 FTEs. This includes social workers and family law facilitators and is net of \$897,525 in lost revenue.</li> </ul>



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Court	4. Have you lost FTEs in your court due to budget cuts? If so, what has been the impact on quality of services you can provide?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reductions to Dependency CASA - \$616,583 &amp; 5.80 FTEs</li> <li>• Reduction of Court Reporters - \$724,081 &amp; 8 FTEs</li> <li>• Elimination of a Jury Coordinator &amp; a Mentoring &amp; Outreach Liaison - \$153,169 &amp; 2 FTEs</li> <li>• Savings from implementing an on-call jury process - \$322,332</li> <li>• Savings from foregoing COLA from one labor group - \$103,412. Additional savings may occur from the forfeiture of COLA court-wide, once determined.</li> </ul> <p><u>New Revenues for 2010 - \$431,042</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Medicaid Match revenue - \$264,800</li> <li>• Increase Parenting Seminar fees - \$70,000</li> <li>• Increase Child Support Enforcement Revenue - \$69,542</li> <li>• Increase Adoption Services Fees - \$26,700</li> </ul> <p>These cuts will dramatically impact family court operations and juvenile court probation. Caseloads for remaining juvenile probation counselors (JPCs) will increase by approximately 28 percent, meaning that JPCs will not be able to devote as much time to each juvenile offender and the risk of recidivism will increase. Family Court Operations (FCO) will be especially hard hit with 25.75 FTEs lost. FCO provides facilitator assistance to family law litigants who are not represented by an attorney, resulting in better service to the public and more efficient case resolution. FCO also provides parenting evaluation, mediation services and domestic violence assessments for those involved in finalizing a parenting plan. Information included in these reports are crucially important for judicial decision making. The Dependency Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program will be reduced by 5.80 FTEs, completely eliminating staff attorneys who support volunteers. Volunteer supervisors will also be reduced, lowering the support that is provided to volunteers and ultimately lowering the number of volunteer who are available to work with children who require a CASA. Proposed reductions for 2011 also include court reporters, Becca case managers and early resolution case managers.</p>
Kitsap County Superior	As above, we have lost four FTEs.
Kittitas County (Upper) District	Loss of 1 FTE. Quality of service has not been reduced; however the staff has had to assume additional duties.
Kittitas County Superior	We are facing that loss this year for the 2011 budget.
Lewis County Superior	The county is currently asking for a 3% cut of our 2010 budget. It isn't resolved yet, but if any FTE's are cut, it would impact services as we only have three court reporters, a Court Administrator and an Assistant Court Administrator.
Marysville Municipal	We have not lost staff, yet we will be promoting internally and have been advised we will be unable to back fill the position vacated.
Mason County District	No.
Mason County Superior	No. Although we waited several months before filling a vacant position and then elected to hire the new person at reduced salary and hours (.94 FTE).

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Court	4. Have you lost FTEs in your court due to budget cuts? If so, what has been the impact on quality of services you can provide?
Milton Municipal	We have lost a part time position. This position did all the filing, mailings, pulled and prepared the calendar, did research and updates for collections. All these jobs have now been added to 2 full time positions and their current job duties.
Okanogan County District	Yes - 1, Increased error rate due to higher volume of work per FTE - added stress/pressure. We stopped sending time payment statements, which impacts the public. All other tasks were absorbed.
Pierce County Juvenile	In Pierce County the Clerk's office is also the juvenile court administration function as well. We had to lose an FTE which was our file person (pulled dockets, worked on archiving) now everyone in the office does this function. See 2 & 3 above. Instead of a 24 hour turnaround on providing documents and having data entry done we are now at 2-5 days.
Pierce County Superior	We have not filled one vacancy, which has put a strain on services especially when others are out sick/vacation.
Poulsbo Municipal	We're losing .44 FTE in 2011. We are talking about closing during the lunch hour due to the loss of this FTE.
Renton Municipal	One in probation. Other services have been streamlined, truncated or hours reduced. Passport processing was eliminated.
SeaTac Municipal	No 2010 - A budget cut of 5% for 2011 which includes a court clerk. The impact would be less customer service and review of compliance reports to hold defendants accountable for their actions.
Seattle Municipal	SMC lost 14 FTEs in the mid-year 2009 and 2010 budget. They included a Court Operations Manager, a Probation Manager, a Revenue Recovery Compliance Manager, a Probation Administrative Supervisor, and a Supervising Marshal. The other nine positions impact direct service level in the Court's re-licensing program, court resource center for defendants, court operations, call center, and court security coverage.
Skagit County Superior	During 2009, we lost one court reporter position. What this means is we hire pro tem reporters for jury trials, bench trials and criminal matters. Additionally, we will often now use our digital recording system for domestic trials.
Snohomish County Superior	See previous response.
Snohomish County Superior	Yes, we have lost FTEs – budget cuts to our staffing over the past almost two years equal about 19%. Wait times have increased significantly. Our offices now are closed to the public for 45 minutes over the noon hour and close at 4:30. The stress levels of both our customers and our staff have increased and staff sick leave usage is climbing.
Spokane County Juvenile	<p>MASSIVE CUTS TO STAFF AND PROGRAMS IMPACTING THE QUALITY OF JUSTICE TO OUR RESIDENTS.</p> <p>Since 2009 the following cuts:</p> <p><u>January 2009 County Reductions \$159,000</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ (1) Juvenile Corrections Officer in Secure Detention Impact: The fewer the staff the higher the potential for NOT HAVING basic 24/7 coverage. Will see an increase in overtime. \$64,000</li> <li>➤ (.50) Nurse position (RSN support) in Secure Detention Impact: The Nurse Manager receives "pager pay" and will receive "call back funds" if needing to respond to after hour issues. This is only working due to our Nurse Manager's dedication to the youth and the Court. \$34,000</li> <li>➤ (.50) Attorney position – Dependency \$61,000 Impact: Loss of assistance to our CASA volunteers and our staff GALs in</li> </ul>

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Court	4. Have you lost FTEs in your court due to budget cuts? If so, what has been the impact on quality of services you can provide?
	<p>Dependency.</p> <p><u>July 2009 State Reductions \$370,000</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ (1) Shift Supervisor in Secure Detention Impact: There are 5 shift supervisors to cover the 24/7 basics. We cannot cut deeper. \$85,000</li> <li>➤ (.50) Office Assistant in Dependency Impact: This loss has created a backlog in workload. \$32,000</li> <li>➤ (1) Probation Officer in Dependency Impact: Huge! These staff carry caseloads of 75-90 abuse/neglect cases. Fewer children will be represented by the Dependency unit. \$74,000</li> <li>➤ (1) Probation Officer in Supervision Impact: Duties were shifted to other staff. Standards recommend 20-25 on a probation supervision caseload. Currently staff have 30-35 youth on caseload. \$74,000</li> <li>➤ Loss of Learning Life Skills youth program funding of \$105,000 per year. Impact: We reduced referrals to our Detention Alternative programming, yet these programs are reducing recidivism and are cost effective for the community.</li> </ul> <p><u>January 2010 County Reductions \$665,000</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ (4) Juvenile Corrections Officers in Secure Detention Impact: The loss of these positions impact the 24/7 operation costs. Scheduling and leave requests are difficult to manage. \$179,000</li> <li>➤ (1) Probation Officer 1 in Supervision Impact: Duties were shifted to other staff. Standards recommend 20-25 on a probation supervision caseload. Currently staff have 30-35 youth on caseload. \$74,000</li> <li>➤ (1) Probation Officer 1 in Dependency Impact: Impact: Huge! This staff carries caseloads of 75-90 abuse/neglect cases. Fewer children will be represented by the Dependency unit. \$64,000</li> <li>➤ (1) Probation Officer 1 in Electronic Monitoring Impact: We capped our cost effective Detention Alternative Program with loss of this position. Reduction in funding forced reduction in units available for hook up and youth represented. \$57,000</li> <li>➤ (1) Probation Officer 1 in Court Investigation Impact: Duties were shifted to other staff which could create backlog when workload increases. This will create a delay in processing time. \$55,000</li> <li>➤ (.50) Attorney position – Remaining in Dependency \$58,000</li> <li>➤ (.50) Nurse position – Remaining in Secure Detention \$34,000</li> <li>➤ Additional salaries using other state funds for DAP – Alternative Programs DAP \$110,000</li> </ul> <p><u>July 2010 State Reductions \$124,000</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ (1) Probation Officer 2 (Lead Worker) in Supervision. Impact: Work load will increase and will be unmanageable. \$8000</li> <li>➤ (1) Office Assistant in Social Files Impact: Loss of support duties and backlog of workload for Social Files \$44000</li> </ul> <p><u>January 2011 County Reductions \$106,000</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ (2) Juvenile Corrections Officers in Secure Detention (1 in Jan, 1 in Apr) Impact: The loss of these positions impact the 24/7 operation costs.</li> </ul>

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Court	4. Have you lost FTEs in your court due to budget cuts? If so, what has been the impact on quality of services you can provide?
	<p>Scheduling and leave requests are becoming impossible to manage. \$92,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Volunteer Services Maintenance and Operations. The loss means less focus on volunteer needs. \$14,000</li> </ul> <p>Total loss is (14) FTE Line Level, (1) Shift Supervisor, (1) Probation Officer Lead and (3) 50% FTE positions and a total financial loss of \$1,424,000.</p>
<b>Spokane County Superior</b>	We have not lost FTE's in Superior Court proper. Juvenile Court will respond separately.
<b>Stevens County District</b>	I lost 1.5 probation officers last, year with some of the workload being transferred to court staff. We did not lay off court staff but each individual in the office has 12 furlough hours each month they must take.
<b>Thurston County Superior</b>	<p>We lost a total of 12 positions by the end of 2008. The positions lost were primarily in court administration and included a court reporter. As noted above we have scaled back our security hours; there are county required tasks that either don't get done or are not completed on time (it seems the response to less staffing is more bureaucracy in an effort to show that expenditures are made with more oversight). We've reluctantly moved to a telephone IVR system to reduce the number of calls we have to handle each day – these systems are very unpopular with the public.</p> <p>Loss of positions in Pretrial Services means higher caseloads for remaining officers. This coupled with the reductions in community supervision by DOC means more offenders are unaccountable. An outside provider is used by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for pre-charge diversion. It is costly, there is no oversight, and there are no standards or evidence based programs.</p> <p>Our ability to appoint county paid GAL services is now almost none existent. We know the outcomes for the children in these cases are likely to be negative but we have no way of tracking that information.</p>
<b>Walla Walla County Superior</b>	Not yet.
<b>Yakima County</b>	Yes, 1.5 staff lost, see number 3.
<b>Yakima County District</b>	Please see previous answers.
<b>Yakima Municipal</b>	YMC has lost one full time cashier as a result of budget reductions and will most likely be facing more cuts.
<b>Yakima County Superior</b>	Yakima County Superior Court has lost 5.5 staff positions as of 6-1-10. Quality of public service has been diminished; case processing (setting cases for trial for an example) has been delayed; there is just not enough staff to do all the work. This Court has joined with the County Clerk's office to combine staff duties to allow operational courtroom resources. Existing staff have been cross-trained in duties and provide coverage in many areas of the Court. Some staff duties are cross-jurisdictional within Superior and District Courts.

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Court	5. What are your court's most urgent needs in preventing injustices or lower-quality justice from occurring? What measures are you taking to avoid injustices occurring?
Aberdeen Municipal	We hire bilingual staff to cut down on interpreter costs. We schedule staff so the busiest days are covered.
Asotin County Superior	More staff, we are back to when I started in 1987.
Bellingham Municipal	With less counter and phone services, we have increased information on our website and added on line mitigations and deferred findings for traffic infractions. Many criminal defendants do not have access to computers.
Benton County District	The most urgent problem has been our judges having adequate time to spend with each person on each case. With our pro tem budget cut we have had to manage dockets to make court time as efficient as possible.
Benton/Franklin County Juvenile	When probation caseloads are this high, there will be inequities in response to youth behavior and the impact on recidivism will be substantially reduced. We are placing adjudicated youth on periods of shorter supervision and have impacted the courts use of discretion in sentencing placing the community at higher risk.
Benton/Franklin County Superior	We are evaluating the services we provide to determine if there is a better and less costly way to perform the service.
Brewster Municipal	Non-English speakers have access to a bi-lingual court employee at all times. This employee is shared with another department to cut cost.
Centralia Municipal	I believe that it is very important to keep our Public Defender Services. We are working closely with the Office of Public Defense to apply for grant funding, etc.
Clark County	We have two full time court facilitators to work with pro se litigants. The scope of their duties has increased and the number of clients they see daily has grown dramatically. Their services allow the judges to more efficiently process cases. We are working to keep the funding for their services intact, or even increase, if possible.
Clark County Superior	Most urgent needs are for jury fees and funds to pay for maintenance of electronic recording equipment.
Cowlitz County District	<p>There is fear about 2012 when the Trial Court Improvement Fund will no longer be able to support the two employees that it is currently paying for.</p> <p>We have also had to greatly reduce the funding for Pro Tem Judges. We are always trying to manipulate our dockets so we don't need to hire a Pro Tem if one of our judges is off.</p>
Ferry County	Need to maintain at least minimal staffing to handle the daily work.
Ferry/Pend Oreille/Stevens County Superior	Funding for the Clerk's office.
Island County Superior	A part-time judicial officer and adequate support staff from the Clerk's office.
King County District	Our most urgent needs are adequate staffing levels in Judges, Court Clerks and Management. Inadequate staffing at the clerical level results in unacceptable error rates and work not being done or not being done in a timely manner. Inadequate staffing at the management level results in lack of staff training and inadequate supervision. We are working with the County Budget Office to minimize layoffs. King County has a tax proposal on the November ballot that, if passed, would mitigate the cuts to the King County criminal justice system.
King County Superior	Assisting pro se's is a high priority, but with the anticipated 2011 budget reductions, most of these services go away.
Lewis County Superior	Better court security. More avail funds for Guardian ad litem and

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Court	5. What are your court's most urgent needs in preventing injustices or lower-quality justice from occurring? What measures are you taking to avoid injustices occurring?
	investigative costs.
<b>Marysville Municipal</b>	We need to maintain current staffing levels. If we are reduced in staffing we will need to review the essential functions of the court and begin cutting the "other duties" we currently may provide.
<b>Mason County Superior</b>	Our most urgent ongoing concern is safety of public and employees at the courthouse and access to justice for victims of domestic violence. We are trying very hard to get weapons screening in place at the courthouse to begin addressing this.
<b>Milton Municipal</b>	We have been backlogged in docketing treatments and having a hard time keeping up with day to day work. We are trying to work faster, but there are times things get missed.
<b>Okanogan County District</b>	Restoring staffing levels. We are exploring ways to use technology to increase efficiencies. We re-structured staff to increase efficiencies by streamlining tasks/responsibilities).
<b>Pierce County Juvenile</b>	We need a person working full time sealing juvenile records and maintaining the state databases. Our dependency filings have increased by almost 50-75%. Finding sufficient docket space and time to adequately address these most vulnerable children and provide proper face to face time with the judicial officer.
<b>Pierce County Superior</b>	Reduction in jury trials means criminal trials are stacking up; we are using the non-jury weeks to emphasize family court cases.
<b>Renton Municipal</b>	Trying to work smarter to improve business practices and workflow.
<b>SeaTac Municipal</b>	Our need would be to remain fully staffed with existing clerks (6). We are fighting for our position.
<b>Seattle Municipal</b>	Preserving Specialty Courts (Mental Health Court & Community Court): A critical aspect of the SMC's problem solving court philosophy is operation of the court's Mental Health and Community Courts and the Day Reporting alternative-to-confinement. These programs continue to lead judicial administrative reform by dedicating judges, staff and social service resources to support defendants charged with criminal law violations. The great majority of defendants in each program are homeless, suffer from substance abuse and mental health issues and have long criminal histories. Funding for these specialty courts has been at risk due to the city's large budget deficit, but we are able to demonstrate to the Executive Branch the success and values of these problem solving approaches and we have continued funding for these specialty courts. Additionally, related services such as relicensing counseling have been all but eliminated for persons charged with DWLS 3. We are working with the City Attorney's office to develop new protocols for DWLS 3 cases but helping defendants get their licenses back may not be possible.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	We continue to struggle with the challenges presented in all aspects of the court with Pro Se litigants, not only does the system fail in many of these cases but those parties also are reflective of our communities poor and ethnic populations. We also receive inadequate funding for interpreter costs and guardian ad litem costs. The recent restrictions on reimbursement for SVP cases will also have a negative impact on the county general fund.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	We are struggling with providing resources and customer service especially to pro se litigants – those customers who have few resources to hire legal counsel and need resources. Our family law facilitation program is one area where increased

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Court	5. What are your court's most urgent needs in preventing injustices or lower-quality justice from occurring? What measures are you taking to avoid injustices occurring?
	staffing would dramatically improve service to the public, who often must wait several weeks for an appointment with a facilitator. This program also serves the Court: the direction and facilitation prevents countless process errors by the litigants and saves the Court significant time, which translates into cost.
Spokane County Juvenile	<p>The Juvenile Courts are in the middle of a “rip tide” trying to survive the multiple cuts. Planning has been to make sure our foundation does not cave in. They need protection from additional state/county reductions. We have given our fair share and then more...</p> <p>Our Prosecutor does not file on youth who are revoked or not in compliance with Diversion orders. We (Juvenile Court staff) are working on an objective criterion that would allow us to file on those youth who pose the greatest risk to our community or themselves. Holding some youth accountable for their actions and not others is not a good message to our community. Nor does it support our Mission Statement: “Serving our community by promoting public safety, accountability, and positive change for delinquent, dependent and at-risk children and their families.”</p> <p>Inadequacies in other departments fall to the Juvenile Court staff to address—again we have received the double hits others have not.</p>
Spokane County Superior	We want to increase our drug court funding, and the number of referrals to drug court. We also believe that our loss of pro tem funds has had an effect on the efficiency of our judicial officers to handle dockets. Our judges are pulled from dockets to cover other dockets, thereby creating delays that affect justice, speedy justice.
Thurston County Superior	<p>If justice delayed is justice denied than without the staffing necessary to meet constitutional and statutory mandates we have more and longer delays in delivering court services. There are too few employees to handle the case loads and the workloads. The rise in the number of self-represented parties requires more staff time and we don't have the resources to meet their needs.</p> <p>We need core staffing and an automated case management and calendaring system. We need to be able to see the images of court documents in other jurisdictions...especially important in protection orders.</p>
Yakima County District	One of our major concerns has been the loss of general fund dollars to pay for certified interpreters. The state grant for interpreters helped for awhile but that has dwindled away. We currently have only two certified interpreters on staff and we share them between Superior and District Court and sometimes even with Juvenile Court. We contract with certified interpreters to fill the gap which is usually a daily occurrence. We've had to postpone and/or reset hearings because of lack of interpreters. We often have to recess and wait for long periods of time for an available interpreter. The quality is still high but the level of service as far as time is concerned has dropped significantly. Civil cases are often reset because an interpreter is needed in criminal court so civil litigants are having to wait longer for their cases to be heard.
Yakima Municipal	Because of the reduction in staffing the court has reduced its hours open to the public. This has barely allowed the current staff to stay current on processing court cases.

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Court	5. What are your court's most urgent needs in preventing injustices or lower-quality justice from occurring? What measures are you taking to avoid injustices occurring?
Yakima County Superior	Adequate operational funding and staffing in the court is vital. Caseload continues to increase and budget reductions have become a yearly event. Continuing the level and quality of public service is a significant challenge. Many services are mandated; and, others are access to justice issues. The Courts react to law enforcement and prosecutorial practices. Functions of the Courts are severely impacted by those issues. This Court has thus far managed to continue a high quality and level of service (not without significant struggle to shift workloads and budget items throughout the year) but continued staffing and operational reductions in 2011 will make this much more difficult. The dialogue about core functions of this Court and service reduction of programs is ongoing.



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Court	6. Which trial court functions, programs and services are most in jeopardy if funding decreases? What would be the consequences if those are reduced or eliminated?
Aberdeen Municipal	Honestly we are already down to the bare bones, if we suffer another cut I'm not sure how the court would run.
Asotin County Superior	Unable to have more than one court going at a time.
Bellingham Municipal	Funding for probation and public defense services. Probation – inability to hold defendant's accountable for timely treatment, new offenses, etc. Public Defense – increased caseloads directly impact the efficiency of the system and jeopardize adequate representation for defendants.
Benton County District	We may need to close our satellite office.
Benton/Franklin County Juvenile	Further erosion of the positive impact of probation services on outcomes for youth, higher defense attorney caseloads, less support to the CASA/Volunteer Guardian ad Litem program resulting in fewer volunteers to represent dependent children, use of interpreters, security is grossly inadequate.
Benton/Franklin County Superior	Adult Drug Court may very well be eliminated which will in turn raise costs for incarceration and many other costs community wide related to drug offenses.  Juvenile Division again has the most serious concerns.
Brewster Municipal	The citizens would have to travel to the county seat for simple traffic infractions if the Municipal Court is eliminated.
Centralia Municipal	Probably our staff services. If we were to lose a clerk, we would have to reduce our hours and may not be able to keep up with the current caseload.
Chelan County	If Facilitator funding is cut it will close the program.
Clark County	Services in jeopardy are our specialty courts, such as drug courts, homeless court and a new unlawful detainer program for pro se litigants. Although this is coordinated by our Volunteer Lawyers Program, the funding comes through a grant from the county.
Clark County Superior	Probably Family Court.
Columbia County	Courthouse security is an issue. We have a standup walk through scanner outside of our door the leads to the third floor courtroom. Guess what, it is unplugged and unmanned because there is not enough money or people to run it. We have one bailiff in the courtroom who also has to transport prisoners up and down an elevator.
Ferry County	No funding for new programs. LFO collections. All services are in jeopardy as to quality and timeliness. Risk of errors increases.
Grant County District	If funding is reduced we could lose our specialty court (DUI) and our Records Clerk of which both are essential to the court.
Island County Superior	Superior Court is facing a 10% reduction in 2011. This would reduce support staff and court reporter availability.
King County District	With the anticipated funding decreases, the court is at risk of not having adequate funding to provide ample offender supervision by trained probation officers for all the misdemeanor cases that need active supervision.
King County Superior	For 2011, family court operations, juvenile probation and dependency would be most impacted – see proposed reductions for 2011 in question #4.  Without the support of family court social workers, judges will lack crucial and unbiased information about the families involved. Pro se litigants in family law matters will not have the support of family law facilitators who help prepare them

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Court	6. Which trial court functions, programs and services are most in jeopardy if funding decreases? What would be the consequences if those are reduced or eliminated?
	for court and will increase delays due to errors and incomplete or insufficient paperwork. Volunteer CASAs and the children they represent will not have the support of staff attorneys during hearings and trials. This will put them at a legal disadvantage since opposing parties are usually represented with council. Juvenile probation officers will have less time to spend with each juvenile they supervise which will result in less input from them to the court. All of these impacts directly affect the court to operate efficiently and make the most informed decisions.
Kittitas County (Upper) District	Loss of the Probation Department. This would result in the already reduced existing staff assuming additional duties.
Kittitas County Superior	<p>We may be in danger of losing our Drug Court if funding decreases. Last year the judges had to dedicate money from trial court monies to help fund Drug Court. The Sheriff also gave up money from the local drug fund to help fund that program.</p> <p>I believe we would see the same people re-offending because of the lack of personal intervention in their situation. i.e.: help with education, jobs, housing, treatment, etc.</p>
Lewis County Superior	Possibilities would be Drug Court, front counter service, reduction of available trial dates, arbitration program. Depending on cuts, it could be the duties that that employee is responsible for.
Lynnwood Municipal Court	Photo Enforcement and Infraction Hearings would be eliminated. Probation department would close.
Marysville Municipal	Probation and court security.
Mason County District	Probation services.
Okanogan County District	Unknown at this time. Further cuts would likely result in furloughs - consequences could be loss of experienced staff who cannot afford to take cut seeking work elsewhere.
Pierce County Juvenile	Our processing time will just continue to increase; all requests for copies of file, paperwork will continue to take longer; court files being current are in jeopardy; data entry errors. We currently have our office open 5 days a week all day long. We might have to close at noon hours and early in the day which would impact the public, other agencies.
Pierce County Superior	Drug court while not an essential function continues to be funded by the County Executive through further cuts to the court budget; yet Superior Court listed elimination of drug court as a cut that should be made.
Renton Municipal	Being timely in all areas. Lack of up to date dockets, reduced effort in collections.
SeaTac Municipal	We use outside agencies for programs and services.
Seattle Municipal	Besides the specialty courts, our infraction cases are under great pressure. In recent years, over 61,000 traffic and parking hearings were requested and resulted in an average of 245 hearings scheduled per day. These hearings are supported by clerks in preparing documents before hearing, identifying and correcting data errors that we come across in our Municipal Court Information System (MCIS) defendant/case records, and issuing subpoena to witnesses as directed by City Attorney. Inadequate funding and staffing result in delays in getting hearings scheduled. Coordination of witnesses, particularly police officers, will be less effective in contested hearings. Contested traffic cases are often dismissed due to absence of police officers and city attorneys in court.

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## Appendix B: Court Officials Responses

Court	6. Which trial court functions, programs and services are most in jeopardy if funding decreases? What would be the consequences if those are reduced or eliminated?
Skagit County Superior	A function of the court is to provide court certified interpreters. With these costs escalating, and mandatory, we are required to continue to do this function regardless of whether or not we are adequately funded. It means we have fewer funds available for other services/operational costs.
Snohomish County Superior	Trials will be pushed out and trial certainty will be jeopardized as a result of a reduction in services and funding. Non-mandatory programs such as drug court, and evidence based juvenile court programs are in jeopardy. The impact would be that those cases would return to burden an already over-burdened criminal justice system.
Snohomish County Superior	Family law facilitation and collection of legal financial obligations are the two non-mandated services/functions we provide. We are still doing both, but have fewer resources and simply don't provide the level of service that we would like to provide. An example would be in collecting LFOs, including restitution to victims. While we still maintain a solid collections program, our staff handle many more cases than they did previously (we handle about 18,000 collections cases with only a few staff) and we know that increased collections (which would result in more revenue to the County's general fund and more restitution to crime victims) could be achieved with more resources.
Spokane County Juvenile	See previous for the Juvenile Court. In addition, Becca Funding may be in jeopardy again. Becca funding coming to the Juvenile Courts help fund clerk positions, PDs, Court Commissioners, Prosecutors and Juvenile Court staff. If this funding is eliminated the youth will still make their way to the court system most likely as criminal offenders.
Spokane County Superior	Additional cuts will again adversely impact drug court and will probably result in loss of administrative staff. These individuals are the first line in case management functions. This will result in additional delays and inefficiencies in assignments.
Thurston County Superior	<p>Our County Budget Manager is predicting we will be reducing our budget again in 2012 and 2013 as revenues will remain flat and costs will rise. That means we could lose at least one of our therapeutic court programs, our remaining court reporters, or our pretrial unit. At this point we cannot reduce core staff and would need to stop providing a set of services that could not be absorbed by other employees. Security, treatment courts, pretrial services, and reporters are not mandated services.</p> <p>Family Court services covered by the Family Court Improvement Grant will be discontinued if the State does not fund the grants due to budget reductions. This will have an impact on dependency cases and will delay reunification/placements.</p>
Walla Walla County Superior	Domestic Violence program and Clerk staff.
Yakima County	Loss of additional court room staff will result in fewer cases in court for trial and other types of hearings.
Yakima County District	Civil cases are often the cases which get delayed when we have too few staff or interpreters. Special programming such as DUI Courts or Mental Health Courts has been put on hold pending increased staffing levels.
Yakima Municipal	<p>Court Security and Court Staff. If Court Security is cut, then that will obviously compromise the safety of the court, its staff and its users.</p> <p>If staffing were to be reduced any further there would be a tremendous back log in cases being timely processed as court calendars would have to be eliminated.</p>

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Court	6. Which trial court functions, programs and services are most in jeopardy if funding decreases? What would be the consequences if those are reduced or eliminated?
Yakima County Superior	This Court could lose the ability to timely process domestic and civil cases, successful Drug Court and Family Court Facilitator programs, and the capability of providing interpreter services for domestic and civil matters. The Court will have to consider family court commissioner reductions which would subject our family law cases to significant delay in processing. The impact of such would be very detrimental to users of the Court; specifically pro se litigants.

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Court	7. What additional duties and responsibilities have been imposed on your court without additional funding to cover the costs?
Aberdeen Municipal	The court already handles probation as there isn't a probation department. And even though the city is facing the financial crisis, they have hired more police officers, which results in more citations being issued, and more work for the court.
Bellingham Municipal	More DV processing requirements. Impact of MTO error by the Department of Licensing. No funding for security. Responsible for weapons locker. More requests for public disclosure.
Benton County	The Clerk's office always deals with unfunded mandates and cuts from AOC.
Benton County District	Additional requirements from changes in court rules have impacted our judges at a time when because of budget cuts we are combining dockets.
Benton/Franklin County Juvenile	Truancy programming, which is critical to keeping youth out of the deeper and more costly end of the juvenile justice system, defense panel attorneys (high caseloads).
Benton/Franklin County Superior	Caseloads and population continue to increase without adequate staffing.
Brewster Municipal	Beside traffic infractions, we also deal with municipal codes.
Centralia Municipal	Increased printing costs of mandatory forms, increased cost of court-related supplies such as case file folders, and overall increase in operation costs.
Clallam County	All of the required handouts of family law booklets, residential time sheets, protection order packets and forms, legal financial obligation collections.
Clark County	The top three that I forwarded to our County Commissioners during budget discussions were : 1) processing of domestic violence protection orders - cost estimated at 3 FTE/year; \$150,000 plus cost of paper and printing of forms 2) Additional processing for dissolution cases related to 2SSB 5470, i.e., residential time summary reports, Section 701 and 702 - 216 hours/year, JIS and database searches, Section 304 - 270 hours/year, and dissemination of Family Law Handbooks, Section 202 - 178 hours/year. The aggregate cost would be \$11,952/year in staff time plus mailing of postcards at \$747/year plus the cost of materials to create confidential documents 3) HB 1498 - Notification of loss of right to possess firearms for involuntary commitment. The cost of this would be 25 hours/year or approximately \$450.00/year.
Ferry County	At this time I am unsure due to the time spent on everyday duties and not always having the time to attend conferences to keep up with all new legislation.
Ferry County District	Courtroom security, bailiff duties.
Gig Harbor Municipal	None.
Grant County	Even though our workload continues to increase, rather than being able to hire additional help to carry the load, we are being cut. Therefore, staff is struggling to keep up with the pace and requirements to accommodate the courts.  In addition, even though we continue to collect LFO's, we are getting less help from AOC with billings.
Grant County District	Many jail reviews as jail space is inadequate; Ignition Interlock, Alcohol Monitoring and SCRAM.
Island County Superior	Superior Court recently inherited Bail Bond Justification Investigations from the prosecutor's office.
King County District	There are several duties and responsibilities that have been imposed on the court without additional funding to cover the costs. The budget process has become onerous with the budget office making constant demands on our very limited

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Court	7. What additional duties and responsibilities have been imposed on your court without additional funding to cover the costs?
	<p>resources. In addition, the county is in the process of a full-scale overhaul of the financial and payroll systems. This requires the court to dedicate personnel to the project so that any side systems we have in place will need to become compatible with the new financial/payroll system. We must dedicate at least 1 FTE per day weekly to this mandated project. The county has also created an office of strategic planning and is demanding ongoing performance measures from each agency. The lack of an analyst and adequate management staffing has made this difficult.</p> <p>Additionally, the County Prosecuting Attorney, in an effort to mitigate their 2010 budget cuts, began filing "expedited felony" drug cases into the District Court rather than the Superior Court. The District Court needed to take on this additional work without any additional resources and has done so.</p> <p>The Washington State Patrol is anticipating filing approximately 1600 new DUI cases in King County District Court over the next year as a part of "Target Zero". The District Court did not receive additional funding to process this increase in filings and is expected to absorb the work utilizing current resources.</p>
King County Superior	In the past, numerous unfunded mandates, via state legislation, have been imposed. This trend has diminished over the past two years primarily through improved communication with the state legislature.
Kittitas County (Upper) District	No additional.
Kittitas County Superior	Our office has had to come up with a way to staff drug court which occurs after hours without incurring overtime or comp time.
Lewis County Superior	Taking over arbitration from the Clerk's office, managing the law library, reviewing and managing law library contracts, shelving the books, preparing vouchers, management of the law library budget.
Mason County Superior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GR 33 providing counsel and other assistance to persons w/disabilities.</li> <li>• Supervision of individuals with felony and misdemeanor convictions that DOC no longer supervises due to legislative changes. However, we do not have the skills, training or sufficient staff. This is a public safety issue.</li> </ul>
Pierce County Juvenile	HB 1954 (sealing).
Pierce County Superior	ADA accommodation costs have become exceedingly oppressive-15 cases closed with a total cost of \$39,856.99 (average cost per case = \$2,657.14). 6 cases currently active with a total cost incurred to date of \$13,381.32 Total costs incurred to date (09-01-07 to 09-13-10) = \$53,238.31.
Renton Municipal	Nothing of consequence.
SeaTac Municipal	Felony cases not prosecuted at the Superior Court Level. These cases are filed in the lower courts.
Seattle Municipal	While the city is looking for additional revenues by adding Parking Enforcement Officers and implementing red light traffic cameras, our court has not been added corresponding resources to handle these additional citations. SMC's magistrate operations unit processed over 40,000 in additional citations due to red light traffic program in 2009. SMC only received funding for a 0.5 FTE magistrate and 1.0 FTE administrative specialist. Examples of unfunded mandates, either at the state or local level? - Jail costs. Although not out of the court's budget, the impact on the city's budget is \$16 million a year. It now costs \$1,319 per day for 1:1 guarding when a SMC inmate is admitted at HMC. These kinds of jail costs have a direct affect on courts.

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Court	7. What additional duties and responsibilities have been imposed on your court without additional funding to cover the costs?
Skagit County Superior	JIS background checks on all final parenting plans. This process takes time and multiplied by doing several per week, impacts other job responsibilities.
Snohomish County Superior	JIS checks, reduction in reimbursement for SVP cases, reduction in support for interpreter services and GAL services.
Snohomish County Superior	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We were asked by Superior Court to start giving out temporary restraining orders (pre-signed by a commissioner) to those filing case type 3's and some type 2's and 4's.</li> <li>2. We are staffing a new drug court calendar with no new resources, including all the associated records and docketing work.</li> <li>3. We are staffing a new GAL compliance calendar.</li> <li>4. We will begin receipting and reporting on Drug Court participant fees.</li> </ol>
Spokane County Juvenile	Since funding is cut in all realms of government, other entities are trying to push down responsibilities to our department. For example, in the business office, the auditor and budget office are asking us to use fewer payment documents that need to be hand processed and use the credit card to a greater degree which pushes all the process responsibility down to us.
Spokane County Superior	During the last four years, the state legislature has passed legislation, primarily in the family law arena, which drastically increases our duties without additional staff or funds. Court rules require additional staff time and job duties are being changed to adapt to a never-ending stream of policies, procedures, statutes and rules. Spokane County will be the site of the most recent water adjudication litigation, which has already had and will continue to have an impact on our court.
Thurston County Superior	<p>General Rule 33(1)(C) as to otherwise unrepresented parties to the proceedings, representation by counsel, as appropriate or necessary to making each service, program, or activity when viewed in its entirety, readily accessible to and usable by a qualified person with a disability.</p> <p>No provision for funding this court rule and the fiscal impact is potentially high as well as the fiscal liability if we are sued for not providing the accommodation.</p> <p>The potential changes in public disclosure rules for the courts will be very costly to the courts as the counties will not fund position(s) to do this work. In this jurisdiction we predict this rule change will impact all judicial officers and staff leaving less time for court business.</p>
Yakima County	In addition to the Clerk duties in the courtroom, the Clerk or deputy serves as bailiff and court reporter in virtually all court sessions in Yakima County Superior as the court digitally records court proceedings.
Yakima County District	The new court rule requiring defense counsel at arraignments - we have no funding nor does the assigned counsel department. If defendants start taking advantage of that right, we will have to cut from other areas of our budget to provide that service. The only place we have left to cut is staffing.
Yakima County Superior	Domestic Violence, ITA (out of county/state), Pro Se Non-parental Custody, and interpreter-assisted cases have been significant issues in this Court.

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Court	8. What administrative responsibilities are you unable to perform at a satisfactory level because you do not have sufficient resources?
Aberdeen Municipal	Expired warrants, restitution, bail refunds, updating forms, records destruction. I also fulfill the duties of another clerk and interpreter.
Asotin County Superior	Same as #6.
Bellingham Municipal	More difficult to provide monitoring of accounts payable, time payments, collection. Internal financial controls – as staff shrinks more difficult to separate financial duties.
Benton County District	Because of a reduction in our staff and overtime budget, administration is frequently taking on tasks that are usually done by staff.
Benton/Franklin County Juvenile	Contract monitoring (we have 70 various contracts) is below necessary standards, policy and procedure development/update is not supported.
Benton/Franklin County Superior	Difficult to keep up with the demands to run the court without assistance. Being at the administrative level we find ourselves working more weekends and nights on top of the 8-10 day.
Brewster Municipal	We cannot afford a certified interpreter we have a non-certified in our court and every court date we have from 10-15 LEP in the docket.
Centralia Municipal	Because of the amount of time I spend in our front office doing clerk duties (due to overflow) my administrative work gets put on the back burner. Spending an increasing amount of time covering the counter.
Clallam County	Any type of performance measures such as audits or review of docketing into SCOMIS, judgments or court order processing. Limited amount of collection of LFO's, untimely record requests, unable to answer phones or assist the public at the window (long lines and messages), missing documents/miss filings are increasing due to lack of staff to maintain records.
Clark County	District Court arranges for interpreters for both of our courts so I do not have that information.
Cowlitz County District	I don't feel that I have the necessary time to manage the office. There isn't enough time to plan for the future and make things better because we are always in a crisis mode.
Ferry County	All administrative functions are at risk due to keeping up with all daily duties.
Ferry County District	Probation, courtroom security and bailiff duties. Unable to follow through on destruction of old files, this is a low priority issue due to lack of staffing. Running out of space to hold files.
Gig Harbor Municipal	We use 5-7 certified interpreters a month.
Grant County	In general, I am spending more time helping staff with day-to-day work functions instead of having the ability to spend time on administrative responsibilities.
Island County Superior	Interpreters cover all cases that call for them.
King County District	Supervision of staff. Analysis of Data. Creation of the Knowledge Center. Revenue Recovery. Post sentencing administrative review of cases. Administrative Orientation of new Judges. Participation in National, State, and County meetings, trainings, associations, etc.
King County Superior	The proposed 2011 budget cuts will begin to significantly cut into administrative infrastructure.
Kittitas County (Upper) District	Court always uses certified interpreters when requested. No impact on quality for using non-certified as non-certified interpreters are highly qualified.



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Court	8. What administrative responsibilities are you unable to perform at a satisfactory level because you do not have sufficient resources?
Kittitas County Superior	Our county wants us to quit pursuing the collection of legal financial obligations from criminal and juvenile defendants citing that it is not a mandated service and the cost of the position is not worth what it brings in. We maintain that it is not about the money but about compliance with your judgment and sentence. There is very little probation and very little jail time levied. The only real punishment comes from being held accountable for the monetary obligations.
Lewis County Superior	If there are any cuts in administration, it would be the person who processes vouchers, updates the Guardian ad litem info, prepares calendars, assists the public, and manages the ex parte requests.
Mason County Superior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GR 33 providing counsel and other assistance to persons w/disabilities.</li> <li>• Supervision of individuals with felony and misdemeanor convictions that DOC no longer supervises due to legislative changes. However, we do not have the skills, training or sufficient staff. This is a public safety issue.</li> </ul>
Milton Municipal	We use interpreters at least 4 times a month; we have had good experiences with them.
Okanogan County District	97% We only use non-certified interpreters when certified not available; for probation appointments and for un-common languages not available in this remote area (i.e. we use language line for traffic hearings other than Spanish 2-5 times per year).
Pierce County Juvenile	The inability to respond to the public and other users in a timely manner that should be the standard for the court. The delay impacts the lives or livelihood of the people we serve.
Pierce County Superior	Approximately 90% of the times certified or registered interpreter are used in our courts. Our courts may compromise in some of the areas (ethics, proper role of a court interpreter, modes of interpreting, courtroom interpreting protocols, and to strictly follow the Code of Conduct for Court Interpreters (GR 11.2)) if non-certified interpreters are used; speaking two different languages doesn't automatically qualified a person to interpret in court. As a result, defense attorneys looking for reasons to appeal or to overturn a case might find it in the interpretation process.
Renton Municipal	70% certified. I believe very little impact is felt.
SeaTac Municipal	We have scheduled interpreter calendars one Tuesday a month all day, one Thursday in the afternoon, Wednesday morning on the arraignment calendar, and one Monday a month for our readiness pre jury calendar. If it is a certified language we try to schedule a certified interpreter. SeaTac is a very diverse community with non certified languages.
Seattle Municipal	SMC uses interpreters every day (Monday – Friday) with our current roster of Spanish Interpreters, and they are on call on Saturday. In our court we use only certified and registered interpreters in languages where certification/registration is available and where there are certified and registered interpreters. A court certified interpreter studied, learned and trained in legal proceedings and vocabulary and (court) ethics and codes of conduct. A certified Interpreter has to maintain their certification by taking a certain number of accredited courses/training events every two years which, again, ideally translates to keeping up with current courtroom protocols, (legal) terminology, and other related issues. There have been some incidents (not in SMC, but in other courts) where cases were overturned for use of a non-certified interpreter of a certified language and a certified Interpreter is available. RCW 2.43.030 states "...the appointing authority

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Court	8. What administrative responsibilities are you unable to perform at a satisfactory level because you do not have sufficient resources?
	shall use the services of only those language interpreters who have been certified by the Administrative Office of the Courts, unless good cause is found and noted on the record by the appointing authority."
Skagit County Superior	We routinely have interpreters on specific calendars: every Thursday for our in-custody calendar; 1st & 3rd Mondays for domestic calendars and several times a week for specific cases, as requested. We use only court certified interpreters, if at all possible. Non-court certified interpreters are only used on our ex parte calendar when cases are not calendared. We use The Language Line. The information that they interpret is very limited.
Snohomish County Superior	The reduction in funding and the loss of staff eliminates the ability to do effective long range planning. In addition the additional burden on limited or reduced staff results in a reduction in service quality to the public and the ability to respond in a timely manner.
Snohomish County Superior	Primarily, we have trouble performing managerial tasks to a reasonable level. Managers regularly fill in for staff and currently cannot complete performance reviews, coaching/ training/ progressive discipline issues, and FMLA monitoring. We do not have the time to work on policies and procedures, which are crucial to limit errors and liability for the complex legal processes that our staff process. There are obvious risk management impacts. We also have no funds to train our staff – not just staff adequately, but to train our staff, period.
Spokane County Juvenile	We are at critical levels with our Shift Supervisors and the security and safety of Detention. We have greater need for clerical support in Dependency.  Our Probation Officers are carrying higher caseloads but their duties are not less. They have to maintain high level of standards measure by quality assurance practices with their assigned youth and families.
Spokane County Superior	We have no way of estimating that figure. We believe our interpreter service is fine as it stands now.
Thurston County Superior	Our management hierarchy is flat. I have only one manager reporting to me and no clerical or administrative assistance. My work is crisis driven and reactive. Work I want to do and that would advance the mission of the Court is not possible because of time and financial constraints. My job is to keep the court house doors open and there are many days when that means I am copying jury instructions, answering phones or trying to fix old equipment we can't afford to replace.
Walla Walla County Superior	None.
Yakima County	Too broad to define.
Yakima County District	Our supervisors have to cover court and line staff duties on a more regular basis which causes a decrease in the level of training, performance evaluations, team building and ability to motivate and encourage line staff. Lower priority duties such as file destruction and clean up are on hold and building up which will cause problems in the future.
Yakima Municipal	Adequate time for preparation to address other branches of government when necessary, Case Management responsibilities, staying current with destruction rules etc.
Yakima County Superior	Administrative duties cover a wide range of accountability. Lack of staffing resources has resulted in the Administrative staff covering line staff positions as the need arises either due to absences or workload. To name a few - effectively researching grant opportunities, providing viable statistical information to the

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Court	8. What administrative responsibilities are you unable to perform at a satisfactory level because you do not have sufficient resources?
	bench, attending/participating and/or promoting educational opportunities for administrator and staff, coordinating multi-jurisdictional operations with the Yakima County Courts have been restricted.

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Court	9. Are you experiencing instances in which court records, files or data are inadequately maintained or accessed due to inadequate funding?
Asotin County Superior	No! This is a priority!
Bellingham Municipal	With staff reductions, the fear is that the higher workloads will lead to more errors.
Benton County	The issues that we have regarding our electronic documents have nothing to do with being maintained inadequately or inadequate funding. We do have issues with our IT department and the service that we receive from them.
Benton/Franklin County Juvenile	Data entry into JCS is delayed.
Benton/Franklin County Superior	Court filings are not always in the court file at the time of hearing or trial due to lack of staffing.
Brewster Municipal	Not at this time.
Centralia Municipal	No.
Clallam County	Yes, we are looking at going to electronic records.
Clark County	Yes. Because of the reduction in staff positions and hours our standard for processing documents has been relaxed. The former standard was 24 hours counter (or court) to file for criminal documents and two days for civil documents. Our new standard is two days for criminal and three to five days for civil. Our entry standard has not changed; we are still able to document them within a 24 hour span. It is the scanning and filing that has suffered and this is where the public access point occurs.
Clark County Superior	No.
Cowlitz County District	Yes. We usually only do the bare minimum necessary to process files. There isn't a lot of time to ensure accuracy. We often are not able to process files within necessary time lines.
Ferry County	Yes. It is more difficult to make sure data is accurately entered.
Ferry County District	No money for scanning so all files, criminal and infractions, are held in our court back to 1996. This is a low priority due to lack of staffing.
Gig Harbor Municipal	None.
Grant County	Yes. Due to cuts in staff, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain files to the court's liking because we have a hard time keeping up with scanning of documents and filing them into the court files. In addition, we do not have enough staff to timely return exhibits.
Grant County District	Due to shortage of staffing it is difficult to maintain file control.
Island County Superior	We are very concerned with proposed recommended reductions in the Clerk's office.
King County District	Due to limited staff, we are unable to keep up with auditing all the available reports to assure that court files are up to date and accurate. During a recent review of DUI's that were adjudicated between August 2009 and May 2010, we found a 17% error rate in DUI's not being on the DOL record due to lack of available resources.
King County Superior	Moving older hard copy legal files into electronic mode has stopped, due to funding issues.
Kitsap County Superior	Court files are still meticulously maintained, however access to paper files will be restricted in the coming year.
Kittitas County (Upper) District	No.
Lewis County Superior	I find that documents are missing from court files and clerks spend a lot of time looking for files. The file clerk in the clerk's office was eliminated due to budget cuts and is being covered by other clerks.

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Court	9. Are you experiencing instances in which court records, files or data are inadequately maintained or accessed due to inadequate funding?
Mason County District	The recording equipment is the original FTR player deck and is getting near time for replacement. The funds are not there to get any new equipment.
Mason County Superior	Yes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget/staffing cuts at the clerk's office have caused a delay in documents getting scanned and to the court file.</li> <li>• Reduced hours at the clerk's office make it difficult for some people to timely file documents.</li> </ul>
Milton Municipal	Yes, we have tried to at least get things docketed but it takes a lot of time to file all the paperwork and the files.
Okanogan County District	Yes - during busy summer months we have been getting behind. Should improve during winter months.
Pierce County Juvenile	We have had increase in data entry errors; delays in inputting; scanning and filing of documents has gone from 24 hours for turnaround up to 5 days.
Pierce County Superior	Severe problems-clerk's office is significantly behind getting the papers filed in the case files, they are also behind getting the papers scanned. I understand they have experienced major staff reductions.
Renton Municipal	Court sound system needs to be updated. Some digital recordings are unintelligible. No funds to fix or replace.
SeaTac Municipal	No.
Seattle Municipal	We are able to adequately maintain court records and files due to our increased use of technology.
Skagit County Superior	Unknown.
Snohomish County Superior	No.
Snohomish County Superior	We have strived to ensure that quality has been maintained. However, non-urgent work such as archiving court files has been delayed. As a result, our file room is burgeoning, and we face running out of physical space.
Spokane County Juvenile	Yes. The expectations are not decreasing while the staff is. The Juvenile Prosecutor continually needs clerical support from my unit.
Spokane County Superior	No.
Thurston County Superior	Yes. Staff reductions and other budget choices made by the elected Clerk have a direct impact on court services and efficiency.  With no case management system for the superior courts we have to do everything manually, including calendaring. The volume of work coupled with the lack of resources (staffing) invariably lead to mistakes. Without a uniform e-filing portal, document management systems, e-payments, digital records for both transcripts and files, and the use of interactive television technology and fully integrated case management system that allows state-wide access to court records we will fall further and further behind no matter what the future revenues.
Walla Walla County Superior	No.
Yakima County District	Sometimes files are not located quickly because filing builds up and it takes longer to find them. Imaging of documents used to be up to date on a daily basis. Now we sometimes are a few days behind in getting the image in the system which causes delays for the judges or clerks trying to access the file electronically.
Yakima Municipal	See above.
Yakima County Superior	This would be a County Clerk issue.

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Court	10. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate: a. The inadequacy of trial court funding.
Bellingham Municipal	Reduction in public service hours and probation services.
Benton/Franklin County Superior	Juveniles released from detention because we don't have staffing.
Centralia Municipal	Ongoing need for the most basic of supplies to do our jobs.
Clark County	As I have mentioned - there are delays in access to documents, longer lines and may at some point be fewer services available. Additionally, our staff is being asked to process more work in fewer hours. This is starting to cause stress, which may lead to less patience with clients who are also under stress and it may lead to less time available to help those who need help most.
Clark County Superior	Attorneys in dependency cases; GAL related resources.
Ferry County	Difficulty in affording all the jury trials that defendants have a right to. Upgrading courtroom; access to justice.
Grant County District	Lack of security, violence near courtrooms; employees are breaking down under the load.
Island County Superior	Superior Court is being pressured to close our courts and or alter our calendar to accommodate a reduced staffing in our Clerk's office as well as proposed reductions in 2011 for Superior Court, Prosecutor and Sheriff.
Kittitas County Superior	We have 15 years of records from where we quit microfilming due to cost to where we started scanning. We are trying to preserve those files in house as there is no money to send them out. We are in danger of losing at least our filing/scanning/archiving deputy due to budget cuts. The daily work will have to be divided between remaining staff but I expect the archiving will cease.
Lewis County Superior	I have heard people complaining it takes too long to get an appointment with our court facilitator, legal aid; they do not get enough funding to operate as it should. Court should have a better case management program. We are minimally staffed, the Judges do not have Judicial Assistants, so better staffing would be good.
Okanogan County District	Facilities and security. Okanogan County has severely inadequate space and security.
Pierce County Superior	The court has "given up" its Trial Court Funding funds (\$130,000) to cover the cuts required by our County Executive. The public should care about the inability to fund the court so it is necessary to reduce the number of weeks jury trials are handled.
Renton Municipal	Constant pressure from the public to access records of other courts (especially King County District) for them. Slow or no justice for them as a victim or defendant.
SeaTac Municipal	We do not receive any trial court funding.
Seattle Municipal	The inadequacy of trial court funding; Court rules (e.g., CrRLJ 3.1) are difficult to enforce without overtime b. Why the public should care about trial court funding. Trial courts, esp. courts of limited jurisdiction, affect the public. The public may not appreciate how efficient and effective (or bad) trial courts are until they family member is arrested, assaulted, is in an accident or just the recipient of an infraction. There needs to be a check and balance between police/prosecutors and the people they charge with a crime or violation.
Skagit County Superior	Courts required to operate with a skeleton staff due to furlough days. Clerk's office doesn't answer the telephone, so Court Admin gets all the calls.
Snohomish County Superior	The continuing reductions in both local budgetary funding as well as funding from the state; the Clerk's Office has struggled to maintain resources from both venues. The Clerk's Office makes courtroom staffing a priority and we have no additional

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Court	10. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate: a. The inadequacy of trial court funding.
	cogent comments on the adequacy of trial court funding; we assume that you will be hearing from Snohomish County Superior Court Administration on this issue.
Spokane County Superior	Cases over the time standards for criminal cases have increased dramatically in the last two years; delay is due to loss of prosecutors, public defenders and insufficient number of judicial officers. This creates delay, distrust in our system, perceptions of inefficiency and bureaucratic malaise. It also creates, over a long period, morale problems. Fortunately, we do not experience that yet, but will undoubtedly if we are continually expected to do more with less.
Thurston County Superior	Overset calendars that stress staff and judicial officers. Attorneys who come to court unprepared and expect court staff will make copies or fix their filing errors  Lack of resources (staff and technology) to assist self represented parties.

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Court	10. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate: b. Why the public should care about trial court funding.
<b>Aberdeen Municipal</b>	I think the public should know that when the court is not funded adequately. Justice isn't always served. For example there have been many cases where the offense is clearly a felony, but since the county doesn't have the resources to prosecute it. The case is sent down to the Municipal Court, which bogs down our court and occupies our jail. Also in many cases the public defender cost comes out of the court's budget, the impact is obvious.
<b>Bellingham Municipal</b>	Without the ability to keep the system working, the resultant lack of accountability jeopardizes the effectiveness of all parts of the criminal justice system.
<b>Benton/Franklin County Juvenile</b>	Adjudicated youth are not adequately supervised or held accountable, programs that impact recidivism are reduced or eliminated, less costly alternatives to detention cannot be sustained, and youth who should be confined have been released to the community due to inadequate staffing of detention.
<b>Centralia Municipal</b>	Because it would allow us to offer better customer services with expanded resources.
<b>Ferry/Pend Oreille/Stevens County Superior</b>	The Clerk's office hours are reduced which directly affect the public's access.
<b>Grant County District</b>	Public safety not guaranteed and access to justice with reduced hours for public.
<b>King County District</b>	The public should care about trial court funding because the district and municipal courts are usually the first contact the public has with the court system. Without adequate offender supervision at both the probation and monitoring levels, we cannot hold offenders accountable for their actions. The public also needs to realize that the courts have never been adequately funded. In 2007 the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) performed a staffing study on the King County District Court and found that at that time District Court was severely understaffed. We have been working tirelessly to increase our staffing levels by working with the Executive and Legislative branches of government in King County with some success.
<b>King County Superior</b>	A primary concern is that significant reductions will be made that impact the most vulnerable pro se litigants.
<b>Kitsap County Superior</b>	The public will care if we ever have to eliminate our Courthouse Facilitator Program. The public will care that we plan to close our office to public access on Friday after 12:30.
<b>Lewis County Superior</b>	Service to the public is reduced when there isn't proper funding. Dockets are reduced, backlog is higher, and it may take longer to get your case brought before the court. Judge availability can be reduced resulting in longer waits for service and limited hours to the public.
<b>Marysville Municipal</b>	I think we witness these issues every day. The court is underfunded in all areas of its budget.
<b>Mason County District</b>	Lack of security results in increased risk to persons appearing in court for any reason.
<b>Mason County Superior</b>	Public safety – Lack of weapons screening and security, overcrowded courtrooms.
<b>Okanogan County District</b>	People need to have safe adequate facility to resolve their issues civil and criminal. So that they feel safe.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	The Snohomish County Clerk of the Superior Court serves customers from all walks of life, and for a wide variety of cases and reasons. Members of the public often find themselves "customers" or stakeholders of the superior court system



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Court	10. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate: b. Why the public should care about trial court funding.
	inadvertently and without sufficient personal resources to obtain the help they need – even middle-class, employed citizens struggle with resources and know-how! The Clerk’s Office is the main provider/facilitator of customer service and assistance in the superior court system. Our services allow the general public to have their needs met by the court system – in essence the Clerk’s office facilitates access to justice. The public should care because without the Clerk’s assistance, access to the court is challenging, if not severely limited, for most.
Thurston County Superior	I don’t know that they should care about trial court funding. I think the public should be asking us why the courts are so expensive and inefficient in our delivery of services. We continue to do business with quills and ink wells when we should be leveraging technology, consolidating business functions, and re-engineering ourselves to be relevant to people’s lives. Those who can afford private justice are leaving the courts and people who can’t afford the courts won’t use our services.
Yakima County District	Our dockets are extremely heavy because we can’t afford to hire pro tems to help out so wait time has increased for the consumer. With less funding, we have had to lay off court personnel causing a huge strain on those left because they have a larger workload, and we’ve had to lay off financial staff who are responsible for the collection of revenue. Laying off the staff that collect the revenue is a double edged sword – it’s only a matter of time before the revenues shrink to a level where we have to start letting more people go. The public who comes to pay fines, fill out papers or ask questions often comes before and after their work day. Right now we are able to open our windows at 8:30 but have to close at 4:30. If funding continues to be a problem, we will have to open later and close earlier which makes it much harder for public to do their business without cutting into their workday. If funding continues to dwindle, we fear the prosecutors will have to prioritize more strictly what they prosecute which means the public will be forced to see some crimes go unpunished.
Yakima Municipal	The public should care about the quality of trial court funding as it is their right to have access to justice and protects their quality of life.
Yakima County Superior	<p>I have observed cases continued to another date or delayed in court due to lack of space, recording equipment, staffing, jury assembly and jurors, and interpreter resources. The budget cuts have impacted other legal partners which results in cases not being prepared for trial or last minute requests for court resources that cannot then be provided.</p> <p>This Court has reviewed business practices, changed local court rules, and implemented new procedures to attempt to bring civil and domestic cases to resolution in a more timely manner. Many of the issues of those cases are outside the control of the Court.</p> <p>This Court spent the last 3 years drafting and implementing new criminal case flow guidelines in coordination with the Public Defender and Prosecutor in an attempt to jointly manage the increased criminal caseload. We more than doubled our criminal jury trials in 2009. While this is commendable, it also caused our bailiff and juror costs to skyrocket. We cannot continue this practice due to budget reductions.</p> <p>The Court has coordinated efforts with a local bench/bar group to educate the local attorneys towards the issues of caseload and fiscal restraints that are being</p>

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Court	10. What specific instances have you witnessed that illustrate: b. Why the public should care about trial court funding.
	<p>faced. We implemented a volunteer judge and commissioner pro tem program to allow courtrooms to operate in the absence of judicial officers.</p> <p>The public not only expects but demands immediate information, assistance, and service from the Courts. The balance for those demands versus resources available is at a critical level.</p>

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Court	11. Can you estimate how often certified interpreters are used in your courts when cases call for them? What is the impact on quality of justice when non-certified interpreters are used? Can you provide any examples?
<b>Aberdeen Municipal</b>	We use certified interpreters for trials only.
<b>Bellingham Municipal</b>	We are still holding the line on interpreter services. Costs for services are increasing.
<b>Benton County District</b>	We use certified interpreters for the majority of our cases, we have had no adverse impact on the quality of justice when non-certified interpreters were used
<b>Benton/Franklin County Superior</b>	One of our biggest expenditures is court interpreters. We use interpreters on a daily basis and the need for a variety of languages to be interpreted grows yearly.
<b>Centralia Municipal</b>	We have a contracted interpreter every week and on many occasions on call for other languages. We have been fortunate enough to have received grant funds that have assisted with interpreter costs.
<b>Clark County Superior</b>	No.
<b>Cowlitz County District</b>	We always use a certified interpreter when available. Sometimes this is done by phone to save costs, but only when absolutely necessary.
<b>Ferry County</b>	This has not been an issue for us yet.
<b>King County District</b>	Certified interpreters are used by King County District Court proceedings whenever possible. Non-certified interpreters are engaged by the Court when a certified interpreter is not available, or when the language itself is not AOC-Certified. Our Court does require interpreting experience for any interpreter on our list (non-certified included). Therefore, impact on quality is seldom affected by certification status.
<b>King County Superior</b>	Certified interpreters are used approximately 55% of the time that an interpreter is retained. The court is almost always able to obtain a certified interpreter for all certified languages.
<b>Lewis County Superior</b>	We have very limited access to certified interpreters. We do use certified interpreters, but they all live at least 30-60 miles away.
<b>Marysville Municipal</b>	This is one cost we have tried to gain control. Marysville has one calendar a month that consists of all interpreter cases. We also call in interpreters when there is a last minute set such as an in-custody hearing.
<b>Mason County District</b>	A) About 75% of the interpreters called are certified. B) The court attempts to use qualified interpreters for languages which do not have certified interpreters, C) Delay in hearing when the court is unable to locate a qualified interpreter.
<b>Mason County Superior</b>	We use certified interpreters 90-95% of the time. There are some languages that we have gone to great lengths to find an interpreter, such as using a professor at a college back east. The impact is the time staff spends trying to locate interpreters and the cost and lack of state funding.
<b>Pierce County Juvenile</b>	We are fortunate that our interpreter services dept is Superior Court and they do a wonderful job of providing great interpreters. We in Juvenile court usually need interpreters on a daily basis. As far as non-certified interpreters – that would only be for the most exotic of languages and we benefit by being so close to Seattle that we rarely run into that issue (unless there is a large Federal Case ongoing).
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	When the languages we need are those for which there are certified interpreters we are able to have certified interpreters for at least 90% - 95% of the time. The impact is the cost and the lack of funding from the state for this cost.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	In Snohomish County Superior Court Administration handles the interpreter functionality not the Clerk's Office; we have no comment.
<b>Spokane County Juvenile</b>	In Juvenile Court, the prosecutor is fully responsible for interpreters IN court.

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Court	11. Can you estimate how often certified interpreters are used in your courts when cases call for them? What is the impact on quality of justice when non-certified interpreters are used? Can you provide any examples?
	When we request an interpreter, we only allow certified interpreters from the either the Language line we have subscribed to or from the State list. This mostly happens in the CIU and in Diversion.
<b>Stevens County District</b>	Once or Twice a month.
<b>Thurston County Superior</b>	We are so far able to have certified interpreters for all cases. The challenge is finding "qualified interpreters" in non-certified languages. We worry about the quality of the services and have little or no resources to review services for accuracy and appropriateness. The reality is one big case that would require multiple interpreters for multiple defendants/witnesses would wipe out our interpreter budget and we would have to seek additional funding.
<b>Walla Walla County Superior</b>	Walla Walla County has one Certified Interpreter and the court uses them as often as we need them.
<b>Yakima County District</b>	Certified interpreters in Yakima County are extremely overworked. Our county's population has a very high number of monolingual Spanish speaking individuals. Averaging the hearings across Juvenile, Superior and District Court, we estimate that 65% of our cases require certified interpreting and even more require interpreting at the counter or in the back of the courtroom for participants (primarily with parents of juveniles). We are not required to provide interpreters at the counters to ask questions, but when a large majority of customers are monolingual, it is much more efficient to be able to communicate with them when they are here rather than send them away to bring their own interpreter back or make them wait until someone comes along who can help them. We try to hire bilingual staff when possible. We do not have many people who are "qualified" to interpret so we seldom use qualified interpreters at this time. The judges are much more comfortable using certified interpreters in the courtroom. We are trying to train some staff that are bilingual to become qualified but because of low staffing, it has been difficult to find time for training.
<b>Yakima Municipal</b>	YMC only employs Court Certified Interpreters.
<b>Yakima County Superior</b>	<p>This Court has two certified interpreters on staff (Spanish). They have a very busy schedule daily between Superior, District and Juvenile Courts. We are mandated to provide certified interpreters on criminal cases and attempt to do so on other cases types as an access to justice issue.</p> <p>We have discussed using non-certified interpreters in domestic and civil matters; however, the availability and performance of those people is an issue. I do not believe the use of non-certified interpreters will impact the quality of justice so long as non-certified interpreters are court or state approved in some manner. There are just not enough certified interpreters, and, quite frankly, the cost of certified interpreters is a budget breaker to most Courts.</p>

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Court	12. Is there any other information or general comment you would like to add?
<b>Aberdeen Municipal</b>	I think it is important to educate the public about the court and funding for the court. A lot of the general population thinks that the court is the police, and so there is a willingness to support their budget, but not so much.
<b>Bellingham Municipal</b>	It is critical for the executive and legislative branches to consider the judicial branch a part of public safety along with essential police and fire services.
<b>Centralia Municipal</b>	I believe that all courts are feeling the impact of the economy and hard times. It is important to stay positive and continually think of ways to save money while providing good customer service at all times. It doesn't cost any money to smile and create a professional environment!
<b>Ferry County</b>	I am a working clerk, meaning I do not have enough staff to handle all the daily duties and tasks which leaves very limited time for me to keep up with and attend to all the administrative duties. (Including responding to surveys which I understand the importance of but are still difficult for me to address as completely as I would like.) In addition, our judges do not have judicial assistants like most other counties, which means my office ends up taking on other tasks which are not "mandated" but help move things along better than if we refused. Access to justice should not be limited to what you can afford. Unfortunately, that is the reality.
<b>Grant County District</b>	I compared 2009 in our court to a chess game. As an administrator and without ample staffing I spent the entire year scheduling/juggling desk duties trying to keep the courtrooms covered and keeping us out of checkmate status! This year I have had more employees' breakdown in my office that needed counseling and encouragement than any time in my five year tenure at District Court.
<b>Kittitas County Superior</b>	Because our county took steps when I695 first passed, we are not in as bad a shape as some counties. But for next year, all of our being frugal and doing without is just not enough. There will be substantial personnel layoffs throughout the county.
<b>Lewis County Superior</b>	So much of the costs of running a court are mandated, we have to provide the service, and it is difficult to provide the same level of service if your county is struggling with funding. A reduction of service does affect the public and access to the court.
<b>Pierce County Juvenile</b>	It really bothers me that people (young adults and older) are being impacted by our inability to seal their records in a timely manner if at all. I get phone calls daily from folks who assumed that their juvenile record from eight years ago or longer were sealed/destroyed only to find out theirs weren't after they have been denied employment or worse – hired and then fired when they discover the record.
<b>Poulsbo Municipal</b>	We have been informed that there may be additional cuts requested in our 2011 budget but have not been given that direction yet.
<b>Snohomish County Superior</b>	Funding is an ongoing challenge; there is no dedicated funding for the Clerks' Offices, which oftentimes are caught in a Catch-22; dedicated funding from the state is often earmarked for the Judicial branch, which leave the Clerks' Offices in the position of having to compete for general fund dollars from their local funding authority.
<b>Spokane County Juvenile</b>	We are bleeding and the wound is not getting any attention.
<b>Stevens County District</b>	Our court has reduced the number of hours opened to the public.
<b>Thurston County Superior</b>	As the funding crisis continues a new 'normal' is being established. Washington general jurisdiction courts consistently receive the least state funding in the union.

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Court	12. Is there any other information or general comment you would like to add?
	Where we are now is where we will be for the next decade. There will be no catastrophic system failure but rather a failure of spirit as we become less relevant to the public we serve. There will be no interest on the part of the legislature or local funding authorities to enhance court budgets because we are making do with what we have. We are letting a good crisis go to waste. If the judiciary took up court reform, leading the way to instituting 21 <sup>st</sup> century courts I think we would be viewed with respect by the public, the Legislature and the Executive.
<b>Yakima County</b>	Funding is critical to maintaining court access and improving access to the courts. This must also include funding for County Clerk functions.
<b>Yakima County District</b>	We consolidated our Juvenile, Superior and District Courts under one administrator in 2003 when funding issues began to be a problem. Since then we have had budget cuts every year. To preserve line staff, over the past few years we have lost 4 managers/supervisors in Juvenile Court; last year we lost our District Court Administrator and in 2011 we will lose our Superior Court Manager. Three management positions are being rolled into one (Operations, District and Superior Court managers). We are very worried about the loss of more line staff in the future. If funding isn't generated from somewhere we worry about the safety of the community and access to justice across all three courts in our county. Since 2003 our staff resources in Superior, District and Juvenile courts has been reduced by 18.14 FTEs. Between 2009 and our projected 2011 budget, our staff numbers have been reduced by 10.41.