Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara

191 North First Street
San Jose, California 95113
(408) 882-2700

Chambers of
HON. THOMAS P. HANSEN, Presiding Judge

Contact Person:
Debra F. Hodges
408.882.2717

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SUPERIOR COURT, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, PRESENTS ISSUES TO SENATE HEARING, JUDICIAL BRANCH PROPOSED 2004-05 BUDGET

On Thursday, March 18, 2004, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, joined with other jurisdictions in the North Coast and Bay Area Region to address the *Impact of Chronic State Trial Court Under-funding* at a Senate Legislative Hearing held at Oakland City Hall and chaired by Senator Joseph Dunn (D-Garden Grove). Sen. Dunn chairs the subcommittee on Legislative, Executive, Judiciary, Transportation, & General Government

Ms. Lisa Herrick, President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, spoke eloquently on behalf of Santa Clara County, contrasting the current state of affairs for the Court with the negative impact of the proposed budget cuts to the Court. Presentations by judges, attorneys, court staff, court-related agency representatives and individual court patrons were made. The Superior Court, County of Santa Clara was represented by Hon. Alden E. Danner, Assistant Presiding Judge, Kiri Torre, Chief Executive Officer, and Kelly McCarthy, Court Reporter.

The testimony focused on the devastating impacts the proposed permanent budget cuts would have on the ability of courts to serve the public, especially self-represented litigants. The purpose of the public hearings is to gather information for consideration by the legislature as discussions continue on the pending budget cuts to the courts. The Bay Area/Northern Coastal Region consists of the Superior Courts located in the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.