

San Francisco Superior Court

Liaison Visit March 8, 2019

San Francisco Superior Court

Presiding Judge

Garret Wong

CEO

Michael Yuen



Statistics

52 Judges- 1 commissioner

All are presently filled

46% are women

- Filing Trends (2017-2018)
 - Misdemeanors up 7%
 - Felonies up 20%
 - Civil unlimited up 31%
 - Juvenile Dependency up 14%
 - Juvenile Delinquency down 8%
 - Family Law down 3%

Jury Trials...

- Much higher percentage of misdemeanor dispositions by jury trial
 - Statewide 0.48%
 - SF 9.02% (19 times the statewide average)



Hall of Justice



Civic Center Courthouse



Polk Street Annex



Juvenile Justice Center

Civic Center Courthouse

- Completed 1998
- 44 courtrooms and administrative functions
- Across from City Hall/ adjacent to the State Building in which we are now located

Civic Center Courthouse

Signage



Children's Waiting Room



Trials...

- SF has been providing a courtroom for mostly every case that proceeds to trial
 - A trial date is assigned;
 - Parties are required to phone in confirmation of readiness and staff;
 - Using a master calendar system, courtrooms are assigned;
 - Where there is not an open courtroom, the case trails and is almost always assigned that week to a courtroom

E-Filing

- SF instituted mandatory e-filing in civil and probate
 - 1st paper may be filed at the counter
 - All subsequent papers filed electronically
 - E-filing will be required in family next year



Hall of Justice

- Criminal matters heard here
- Built in 1958
- Difficulties encountered:
 - Elevators for public often are not working (CCSF responsibility)
 - Elevators for inmates were causing considerable problems
 - SF commends JC for \$2.7 million spent to refurbish the custody elevators
 - Once refurbished, in-custody movement was reliable and efficient

HOJ



As with Civic Center Courthouse, good signage

Difficulty with Courtrooms



Broken chairs are common

Original chairs: no parts available to repair

Several courtrooms were converted from other uses;
many are too small to accommodate gallery seating

Flooding Issues

- Secure parking area in basement floods
 - Built on fill
 - Sump pumps are not always efficient to prevent flooding

Action Shot: Judge Feng





Polk Street Annex

- Developed in collaboration with CCSF
 - Courtroom downstairs
 - Community services upstairs
 - Testing
 - Treatment
 - Groups
 - Case managers

Collaborative Courts

- Intensive Treatment Court (Heard in HOJ)
 - More serious issues
 - More intensive focus on underlying issues
 - “Last stop” before facing prison
- Drug Court
- Community Justice Center
- Veterans Justice Court



Many thanks to the educational and cordial visit afforded by the PJ and CEO!