

2016 Update of Judicial Needs Assessment

Workload Assessment Advisory Committee



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Introduction

- Judicial Needs Assessment (JNA) assesses need for judgeships in superior courts
- JNA is conducted biannually and based on 3-year average of filings data
- Last report completed in 2014
- 2016 report now ready to transmit to the Legislature



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JNA methodology

- Judicial Needs formula calculates whether number of existing judgeships meets current need in each superior court.

$$\text{Judicial Need}_{\text{FTE}} = \text{Current Need}_{\text{FTE}} - \text{Existing Judgeships}_{\text{FTE}}$$

- Current need is calculated by multiplying annual filings in each casetype by a “caseweight” (average judicial minutes per case); this is then divided by the total judicial time available per year.

$$\frac{1,000 \text{ felony filings} * 177 \text{ mins per filing}}{77,400 \text{ mins per judge FTE}} = 2.3 \text{ judges}_{\text{FTE (felony)}}$$

- Need is driven by filings; caseweights last updated in 2010.

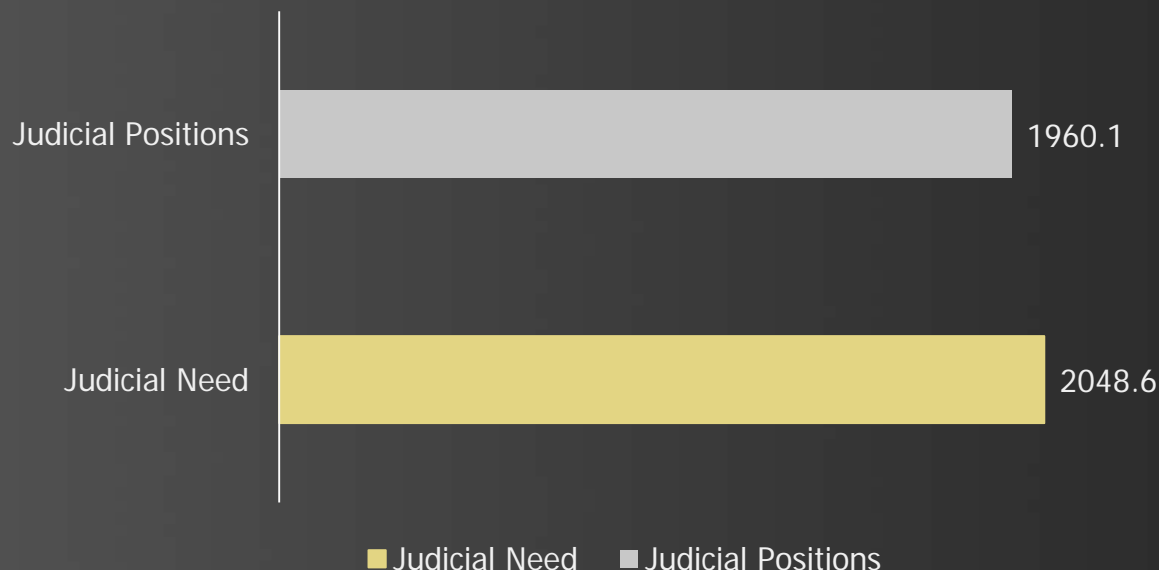


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JNA 2016: key findings

- 189 more judgeships needed statewide
- 31 courts show need for new judgeships

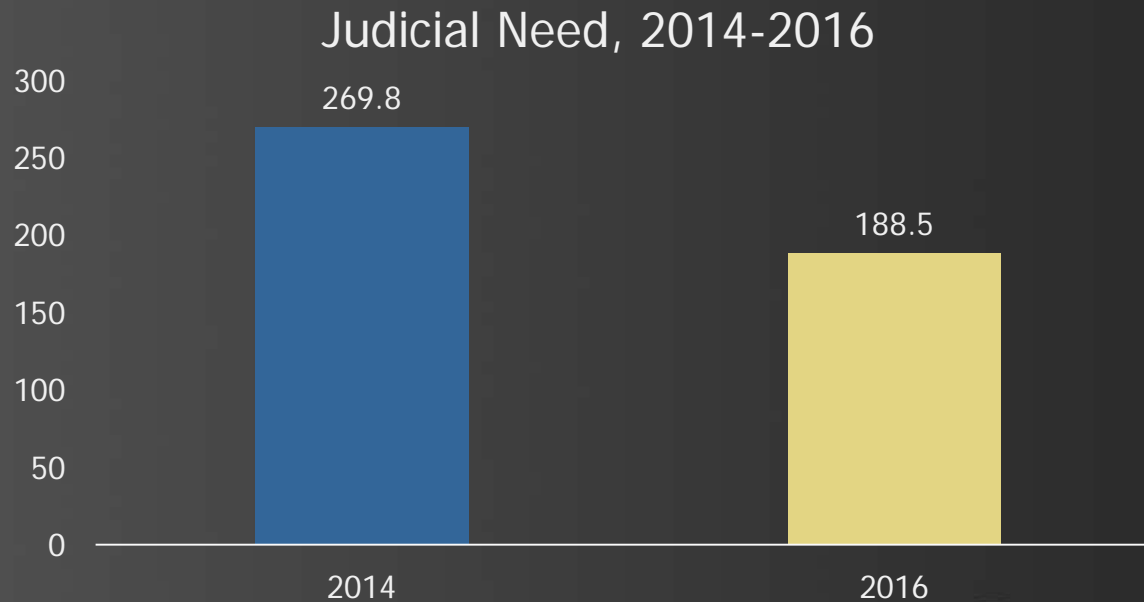
Judicial positions and judicial need, 2016



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Decline in judicial need

- Need has declined 6% since 2014 report
- Weighted caseload method accounts for change in workload by casetype



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Changing profile of judicial need

- Casetype mix of judicial need is also changing

Increasing Need

- Mental Health
- Probate
- Unlimited (Auto)

Decreasing Need

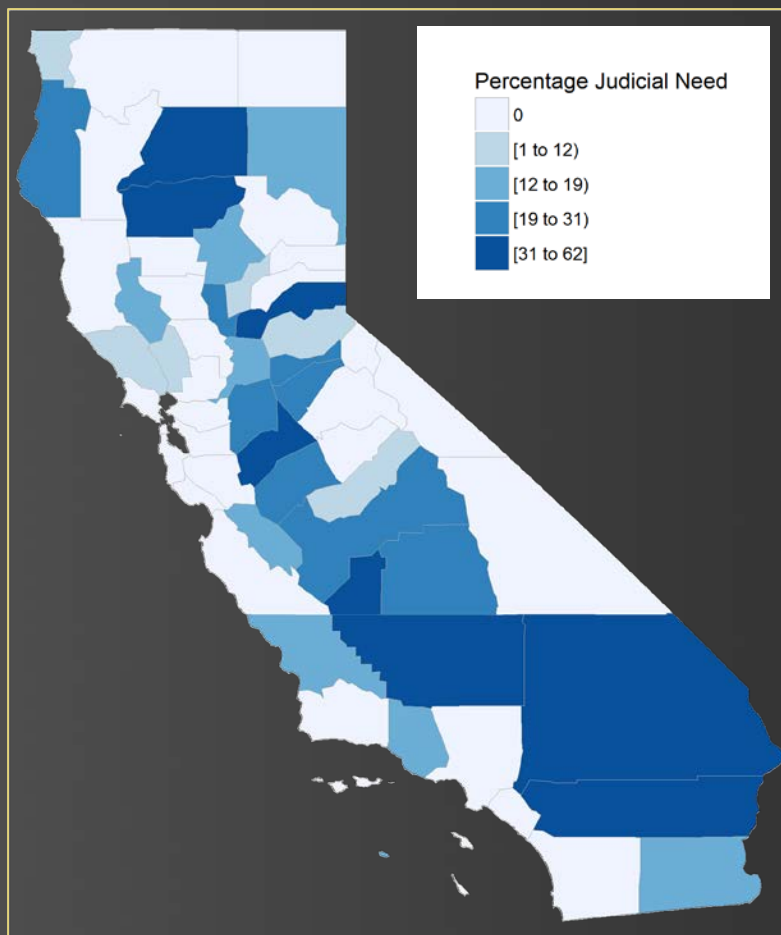
- Unlimited (Other)
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Family
- Limited Civil
- Misdemeanor and Infractions



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Geography of judicial need

- Judicial need is concentrated in the Inland Empire and Central Valley



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Looking ahead

- Judicial workload study to be updated in 2017; judges' participation will be important
- Updated workload study likely to reflect changes in law and policy since 2010
- 2018 report will reflect ongoing filings trends and changes to the caseweights



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Summary: JNA 2016

- Substantial need for more judgeships, despite recent decline in filings
- Need is in excess of the currently unfunded 50 positions authorized by AB159
- A majority of courts require more judicial resources based on current caseloads
- Significant geographical disparities in judicial need across the state



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