

# NEWS RELEASE

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

### COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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## **SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT REMAINS OPEN TODAY FOR MANDATED AND EMERGENCY SERVICES DURING SEIU STRIKE**

The Court remains open today for mandated essential and emergency services despite the short-notice strike by Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 1021, Court Executive officer Brandon E. Riley emphasized today. The union provided less than 60 minutes of notice of today's strike.

"The Court will ensure that mandated services are available with the help of management employees who will triage and prioritize emergency matters for people who need help today," Riley said. "It is unfortunate that SEIU has decided to disrupt court services after our many hours of negotiations, and a mediation session, to reach a fair contract that reflects the economic impacts from the state's reduction in funding for the Judicial Branch in FY 24-25, which has resulted in a \$2.5 million ongoing cut to the Court's budget. The Court did not receive a cost-of-living adjustment in addition to a \$2.5 million ongoing cut and is likely to receive an additional budget cut next fiscal year."

To meet its obligations and duty to the public, court resources will be shifted to prioritize those cases with statutory deadlines such as criminal cases, custody arraignments, unlawful detainers, and civil harassment and domestic violence matters. Drop boxes will

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## **COURT OPEN/SFSC 2-2-2-2**

be placed in clerks' offices in the Civic Center Courthouse (CCC), Hall of Justice (HOJ) and Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). Matters without pressing statutory deadlines will be recessed.

### **Court Operations Today are as follows:**

**ACCESS CENTER:** The Court's self-help center, known as the ACCESS Center, will be open only for Unlawful Detainers. For other available self-help online services, visit the ACCESS Webpage at <https://sf.courts.ca.gov/access-legal-self-help-center>.

**CLERK'S OFFICES:** Clerk's Offices may be closed to the public. In the event they are closed, drop boxes will be placed outside each office located at:

- Civil Clerk's Office, 400 McAllister St., Civic Center Courthouse (CCC), Room 103
- Unified Family Court Clerk's Office, 400 McAllister St., CCC, Room 402
- Criminal Clerk's Office, 850 Bryant St., Hall of Justice (HOJ), Room 101
- Traffic Court Clerk's Office, 850 Bryant St., HOJ, Room 145
- Juvenile Delinquency Clerk's Office, 375 Woodside Ave., Juvenile Justice Center, (JJC), Room 101.

The following departments will remain open today to ensure that defendants' constitutional rights are protected and all statutory deadlines are met:

### **Civic Center Courthouse Courtrooms:**

- Department 204 – Mental Health LPS Conservatorship Calendar – Hybrid/Virtual
- Department 206 – Presiding Judge & Civil Master Calendar
- Department 403 – Unified Family Court
- Department 406 – Juvenile Dependency
- Department 501 – Real Property
- Department 505 – Civil Harassment
- Three (3) Civil courtrooms will be open for last day criminal trials

### **Hall of Justice Courtrooms:**

- Department 9 – Preliminary Hearings
- Department 10 – Arraignments
- Department 11 – Preliminary Hearings
- Department 12 – Preliminary Hearings
- Department 15 – Mental Health Court
- Department 17 – Misdemeanor Master Calendar
- Department 22 – Criminal Master Calendar

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**COURT OPEN/SFSC  
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**Juvenile Justice Center Courtrooms:**

- Department 3 – Juvenile Delinquency

The Court and the union held 14 bargaining sessions, followed by an October 22 mediation. The union did not respond each time the Court asked when a strike was planned. The Court is bargaining in good faith and another all-day session is scheduled for tomorrow with the union. The Court is working closely at the table with the union on topics including training. The Court cannot overcommit its budget. It faces more cuts again if the 2025 state budget produces no new court funding. The Court has offered a lump sum to get the clerks and the Court through this year, and wants to bargain again next year. The Court believes clerks and all employees are essential for ensuring the community's access to justice.

The Court's 1-year contract proposal offered:

- A \$6,500 one-time payment to be paid upon contract ratification, which the Court offered to make pensionable or non-pensionable. The lump sum payment is equivalent to between a 6.18 and 11.53 percent one-time increase. San Francisco court wages for clerk classifications are higher than at similar-sized metropolitan Bay Area courts.
- An increase in the Court health benefit in Fiscal Year 25-26 to \$1,565.

The Court will continue to provide updates as necessary and is eager to get back to the table to reach a fair contract with its valued employees that reflects the current fiscal outlook imposed by state budget cuts.

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