



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **SAN BERNARDINO SUPERIOR COURT RELEASES 2020 ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING EFFECTS OF COVID-19**

**SAN BERNARDINO, CA**—The San Bernardino Superior Court (SBSC) is pleased to announce the release of its [2020 State of the Court Report](#). The report provides a high level overview of the 2020 budgetary and workplace challenges, significant steps taken to address bias and racism, and efforts to provide essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite being historically underfunded, reaching only 70 percent of the workload funding needed this past fiscal year, SBSC implemented a variety of remote options to reduce public contact and keep people safe. Most notable programs include: remote appearances for scheduled court matters, remote video settlement conferences, audio-streaming for live court proceedings, and the use of video technology to conduct other court business. Other highlights include the launch of D.A.S.H. (Direct Access to Self-help) for online assistance to self-represented litigants, securing additional jury space in partnership with Victor Valley Community College, and the electronic jury hardship and exemption process. Despite having severe staff impacts as a result of budget shortfalls and pandemic-related absences, SBSC introduced new practices, procedures and invested in technology which will aid us for the future.

“While 2020 was a year full of challenges, the employees and judicial officers of our court remained devoted to our mission, providing consistent, impartial and accessible administration of justice to our court users,” said Presiding Judge Michael A. Sachs. “We appreciate their continued commitment to the community we serve amid the COVID-19 pandemic.”

We hope that you find this report informative as we strive to navigate this pandemic. For media related inquiries, please contact Julie Van Hook, Communications and Public Affairs Officer via [courts-pio@sb-court.org](mailto:courts-pio@sb-court.org).