

Courts benefit from Brown's budget

By Howard Mintz, San Jose Mercury News

Gov. Jerry Brown's latest spending plan appears to further treat the California judiciary's wounded budgets, adding about \$180 million to court systems trying to recover from years of financial cuts.

The governor's 2015-16 budget bumps the state court system's budget from last year's \$3.29 billion to \$3.47 billion, with most of that increase headed to the 58 trial courts around California hit hardest by past cutbacks.

Under the governor's budget, the judiciary's budget would inch closer to the \$3.7 billion allocated in 2007-08. In fact, with the use of trial court reserve money required under previous budgets, the governor's staff pegs spending on the judicial branch at about \$3.7 billion in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

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