



Annual Report
of the
New Jersey Courts

Court Year 2018 - 2019



Somerset County Courtroom



NEW JERSEY COURTS

2019 Annual Report

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

FOR THE COURT YEAR JULY 1, 2018 - JUNE 30, 2019

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Chief Justice
Stuart Rabner

Associate Justices
Barry T. Albin
Jaynee LaVecchia
Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina
Anne M. Patterson
Lee A. Solomon
Walter F. Timpone

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Heather Joy Baker

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE

**Acting Administrative Director
of the New Jersey Courts**
Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Chief of Staff
Steven D. Bonville

Clerk of the Superior Court
Michelle M. Smith

Counsel's Office
Meryl G. Nadler, Counsel
Nicole Langfitt, Deputy Counsel

Court and Judicial Security
Robin Morante

**Equal Employment Opportunity/
Affirmative Action**
Tonya Hopson

Information Security
Sajed Naseem

Internal Audit and Control
John Brodowski

Quantitative Research
Mark Davies

SUPERIOR COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION

Presiding Judge
Carmen Messano

Deputy Presiding Judge
Jack M. Sabatino

Clerk of the Appellate Division
Joseph H. Orlando

TAX COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Presiding Judge
Joseph M. Andresini

Clerk of the Tax Court
Cheryl A. Ryan

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, OFFICE OF

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Peter McAleer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

Director
Jack P. McCarthy III

Assistant Directors
Ron Wildmann - Technical Services & Operations
Selvi Karuppaswamy - Application Development

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, OFFICE OF

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Shelley R. Webster

Assistant Directors
Helen Livingston - Support Services
Craig D. Bailey - Human Resources
Todd McManus - Financial Services

PROBATION SERVICES, OFFICE OF

Director
Rashad Shabaka-Burns

Assistant Director
Brenda Beacham

PROFESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, OFFICE OF

Director
Deirdre M. Naughton

TRIAL COURT SERVICES, OFFICE OF

Director
Jennifer M. Perez

Assistant Directors
Susan E. Callaghan - Criminal Practice Division
Joanne M. Dietrich - Family Practice Division
Kim Madera - Automated Trial Court Services Unit
Taironda Phoenix - Civil Practice Division
Steven A. Somogyi - Municipal Court Services



Cape May County Courtroom

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On the cover: The Bergen County Courthouse in Hackensack, on the state and National Registers of historic places, was completed in 1912 and is known for its dome, interior murals and stained-glass skylights. The figure at the top of the dome is called “Enlightenment Giving Power.”



Bergen County Courtroom

Letter from the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court



Stuart Rabner
Chief Justice

“We take pride in the State Judiciary’s ongoing efforts to develop a fairer and more effective system of justice for the people we serve.”

We take pride in the State Judiciary’s ongoing efforts to develop a fairer and more effective system of justice for the people we serve. Those efforts range from resolving narrow issues in individual disputes to working with other branches of government on wholesale reforms. This annual report addresses a variety of initiatives, both large and small, that try to solve problems and enhance the justice system.

We just completed the third year of the most significant change to New Jersey’s criminal justice system in decades. And we are witnessing a sea change in New Jersey’s approach to handling criminal cases pretrial. Criminal Justice Reform sprang from twin concerns that too many poor defendants who posed minimal risk were held in jail pretrial because they could not post even modest amounts of bail, while high-risk defendants with access to funds were being released. Today, the use of monetary bail has largely been eliminated in our State. Although much work lies ahead, the positive results of Criminal Justice Reform have attracted the attention and interest of court systems across the nation:

- Poor defendants who posed a minimal risk of danger or flight are no longer being held in jail simply because they cannot afford bail.
- High-risk defendants are being detained pretrial.
- The results of the first two years show that recidivism and court appearance rates for defendants remained largely the same as under the previous bail system.
- Meanwhile, a prison population once filled with defendants unable to post modest amounts of bail has decreased by more than a third.

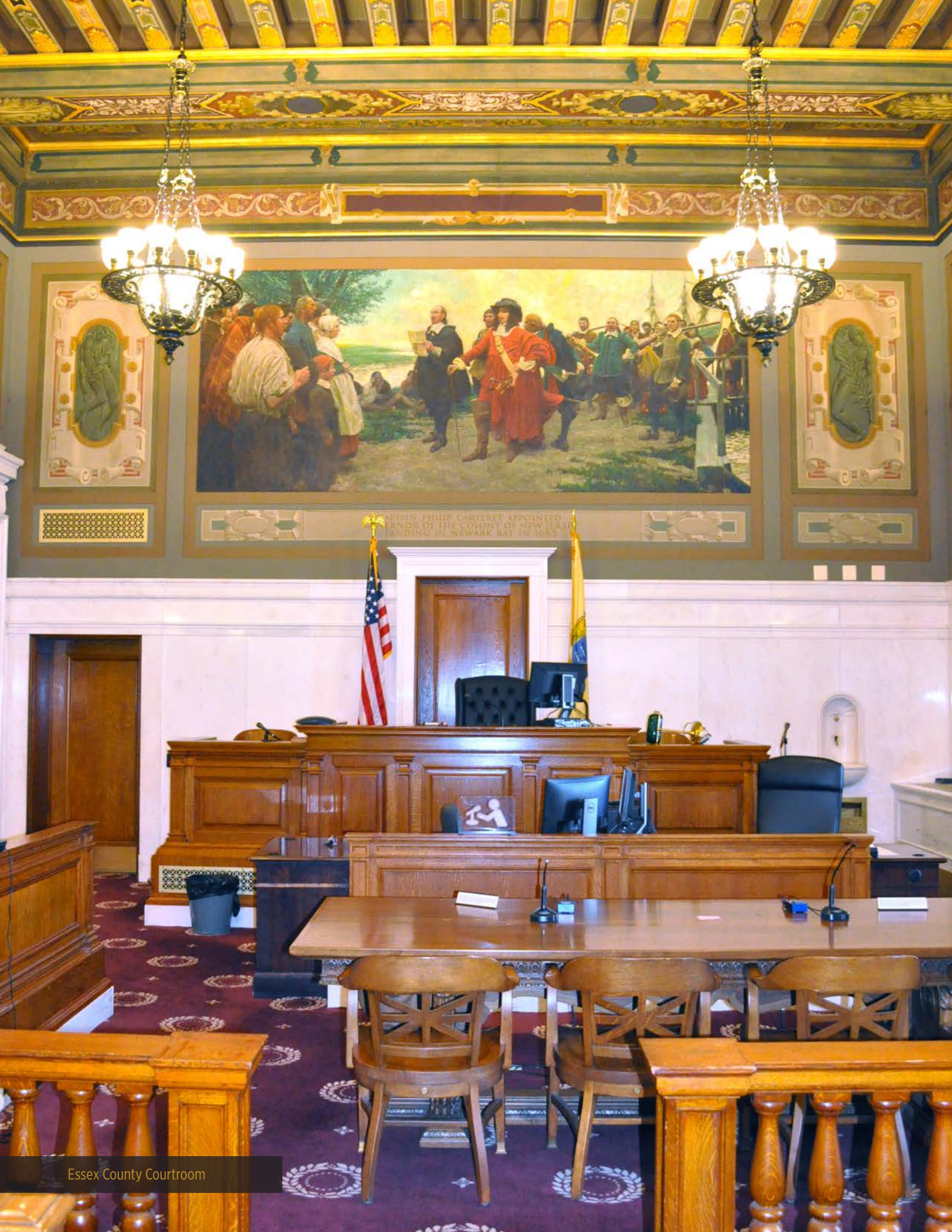
In another area, municipal court reform largely grew out of a concern that excessive fines were being imposed to raise revenue for local governments. Change came first by shining a light on the problem. For example, the Administrative Office of the Courts gathered data on the imposition of contempt of court fines and found that in 2015 local courts levied contempt fines in more than 125,000 cases for a total of \$8.4 million.

The Judiciary responded by setting legal limits on court fines for contempt, and municipal court judges received training on those limits. A Supreme Court committee comprised of members of all three branches of government offered a series of recommendations focused on improving municipal court operations. Particular attention was paid to separating sentencing practices from a municipality’s need for revenue. Three years later, the issuance of contempt of court fines dropped to fewer than 53,000 cases for a total of \$3.1 million in sanctions. By the end of 2019, those numbers fell to below 15,000 cases and less than \$1 million in fines.

Our efforts to strive for a fairer system of justice will continue in the year ahead. We must continue to work with stakeholders across the criminal justice system -- supporters and critics alike -- to address legitimate concerns in a responsible way. One new initiative in its early stages is an effort to improve the way courts address individuals suffering from mental illness. A committee comprised of three dozen members from all three branches of government, the mental health community, and others will look to develop a way to link non-violent defendants to treatment providers. Our goal is to break the cycle of crime and incarceration that occurs when underlying mental health issues are ignored.

Each of these efforts can have a lasting effect on the lives of our fellow citizens and neighbors as we collectively work toward a fairer justice system. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to these and other initiatives.

Chief Justice



Essex County Courtroom

Letter from the Acting Administrative Director of the Courts



Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Look back at the first annual report of the Administrative Director of the Courts, published in 1949, and you will find many of the same statistical benchmarks used today. Data on court filings, disposition times, and case backlogs were all compiled as a way of gauging the efficiency of our court system.

Fast-forward 70 years and timely case disposition remains an essential part of our ongoing assessment of the work of the New Jersey Court system. The overall mission, however, has expanded greatly. Today, success means embracing the responsibility to serve as agents of change in our community and incorporating strategies that provide solutions to some of the most challenging problems confronting our society.

In partnership with the other two branches of New Jersey's government, the Judiciary has embraced the responsibility to serve as agents of change in our community. Courts have become a principal instrument by which society's aspirations for fairness and justice are realized. Through Criminal Justice Reform, we have replaced an archaic system that, for centuries, incarcerated individuals before trial simply because they could not afford to pay bail. Today, pretrial release decisions are based on objective risk assessments that consider a defendant's criminal and court history.

This past court year also saw the Judiciary take important steps to strengthen its municipal court system so that it can better serve all citizens as a fair and neutral forum for resolving disputes. The Supreme Court placed a cap on maximum penalties for failure to appear and failure to pay, reduced the issuance of contempt fines, and dismissed more than 780,000 old warrants for low-level offenses.

Probation Services has also undergone a transformation. The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP), which allows non-violent offenders to serve the remainder of their prison sentences under a highly structured form of community supervision, saved the state more than \$30 million in Court Year 2019.

Drug Court graduate Luana Cordeiro – a mother of three young children whose life was once derailed by addiction – graduated from Stockton University with the help of a scholarship she received through the drug court program this past court year. Since the creation of the program, more than 1,300 graduates have seen their criminal records expunged.

Other Judiciary programs monitor guardians in their handling of the affairs of incapacitated individuals; refer veterans to needed services such as mental health counseling; and provide interpreting services to court users in 110 different languages.

At its core, the mission of the courts involves viewing citizens as individuals and listening to their concerns. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Judiciary's statewide ombudsman program, featured in this annual report, which serves as a bridge between the court and the community.

In the years ahead, as the needs of society continue to evolve, our court system will continue to transform along with it, embracing new technologies that allow greater access to court users and new initiatives that contribute to a fairer society for us all.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

“Courts have been a principal instrument by which society's aspirations for fairness and justice are realized”



Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex



New Jersey Supreme Court

The New Jersey Supreme Court is the state's highest court. Its seven justices are appointed to an initial seven-year term, after which they can be reappointed with tenure until age 70, the mandatory retirement age for all New Jersey state court judges.



Standing from left:

- Justice Lee A. Solomon**
- Justice Anne M. Patterson**
- Justice Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina**
- Justice Walter F. Timpone**

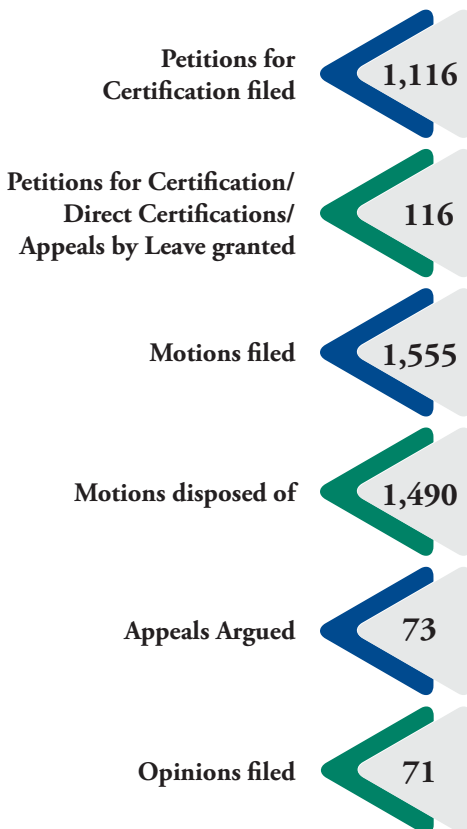
Seated from left:

- Justice Jaynee LaVecchia**
- Chief Justice Stuart Rabner**
- Justice Barry T. Albin**

The Supreme Court hears appeals from the Appellate Division of the Superior Court. If an appellate panel is divided on an appeal, the parties have an automatic right to Supreme Court review. If the appellate panel is unanimous, the party that did not prevail must file a petition for certification to have the court hear the case. The court grants certification in cases involving constitutional issues, cases in which there have been conflicting rulings in the past and, in certain instances, cases of great public importance.

In addition to its judicial responsibilities, the Supreme Court oversees all aspects of Judiciary administration as well as the legal system. The court administers bar admissions through the Board of Bar Examiners. During Court Year 2019, the court admitted 1,493 new attorneys to the New Jersey bar, a 1.71 percent decrease from the previous year.

Appointed in June 2007 as the eighth chief justice to lead the New Jersey Supreme Court since the 1947 state constitution, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner serves as the administrative head for the court system, overseeing the management of the state's courts. He received tenure in June 2014.



Attorney Oversight

The Supreme Court oversees the attorney discipline system, including the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) and the Disciplinary Review Board (DRB). The OAE investigates allegations of attorney misconduct and coordinates the work of the state's 18 district ethics committees and 17 fee arbitration committees to help ensure the integrity of the legal profession. Its recommendations for final discipline are reviewed by the DRB, which conducts a second investigation, hearing and review. Recommendations for disbarment are reviewed by the Supreme Court, which issues an order to show cause and offers each attorney in danger of disbarment the opportunity for oral argument. DRB decisions for lesser sanctions are usually final, except in cases where an attorney requests Supreme Court review.

The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection also is overseen by the Supreme Court. The fund, which is supported by annual payments from the state's lawyers and judges, provides reimbursement to victims of attorneys who have been suspended or disbarred for knowing misappropriation of client funds. During Court Year 2019, the Fund approved \$1,928,200.32 to reimburse clients for losses caused by 55 attorneys.



Salem County Courtroom

Appellate Division, Superior Court

The Appellate Division of the Superior Court is the state's intermediate appellate court. It hears appeals and interlocutory motions from the Superior Court, the Tax Court and from state administrative agencies.

The 33 appellate judges are selected by the chief justice from among the state's Superior and Tax Court judges. Generally, each of the Appellate Division's eight parts includes four judges, the most senior of whom serves as the presiding judge who oversees case flow. Each case is decided by a two- or three-judge panel. The panels issue their decisions in the form of written opinions that are either "published," meaning they set precedent and can be used as case law in future court cases, or "unpublished," meaning they have applicability to the parties in that appeal.

The presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division works closely with the Appellate Division Clerk's Office to manage the work of the division. Judge Carmen Messano was named presiding judge for administration on June 26, 2013. He is assisted by Judge Jack Sabatino, who serves as the division's deputy presiding judge for administration.



Appeals Filed 5,936

Motions Filed 9,644

Appeals Decided 6,296

Motions Decided 9,608

Opinions Filed 3,038

Published Opinions 145



Appellate Presiding Judge
Carmen Messano

New Appointments



Judge
Catherine I. Enright



Judge
Ronald Susswein



Gloucester County Courtroom

Local Property

Cases Docketed 13,837

Cases Reinstated 88

Judgments Entered 13,203

State Cases

Cases Docketed 168

Cases Reinstated 4

Judgments Entered 197

Pending Cases

Total Local Property Cases Pending 35,664

Total State Tax Cases Pending 460

Pending as of June 30, 2019 36,124

New Jersey Tax Court

The Tax Court Management Office accepts and processes submitted for filing, assigns local property and state tax cases, prepares calendars and judgments, responds to attorney and litigant inquiries and provides procedural guidance.

The 12 Tax Court judges hear appeals of tax decisions made by county boards of taxation. They also hear appeals on decisions made by the director of the Division of Taxation on such matters as state income, sales and business taxes, and homestead rebates. The Tax Court heard matters dealing with the following case types in Court Year 2018-2019

Statewide Case Type

| | |
|--|----|
| GROSS INCOME | 55 |
| SALES AND USE | 38 |
| PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT | 20 |
| FAIR HOMESTEAD REBATE | 14 |
| CORPORATION BUSINESS | 13 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 10 |
| SCHOOL AID (TABLE OF EQUALIZATION AND VALUATION) | 10 |
| INHERITANCE TAX | 5 |
| NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEE (COAH) | 5 |
| TOBACCO PRODUCTION WHOLESALE SALES AND USE | 2 |



Standing from left:

Judge Jonathan A. Orsen, Judge Mark Cimino, Judge Kathi F. Fiamingo, Judge Joshua D. Novin, Judge Michael J. Gilmore and Judge Joan Bedrin Murray.

Seated from left:

Judge Christine M. Nugent, Judge Vito L. Bianco, Presiding Judge Joseph M. Andresini, Judge Mala Sundar and Judge Mary Siobhan Brennan.



Sussex County Courtroom



Trial Courts

Criminal Division
Civil Division
Family Division
Chancery Division
Municipal Division



EXIT

DEFENDANT

Criminal Division

The Criminal Practice Division is part of the Trial Court Services section of the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Criminal Practice consists of three major units: Pretrial Services, Criminal Court Services and Drug Court.

The primary function of the Criminal Practice Division is to provide support and assistance to all criminal division judges and staff in the vicinages through the development and implementation of operational standards and best practices, training, evaluation, monitoring and preparation of various statistical reports and manuals.

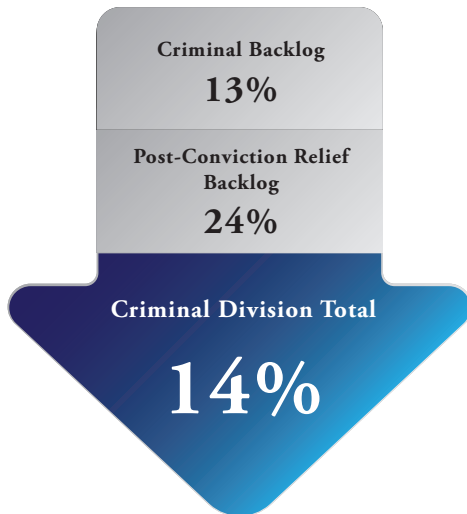
The Pretrial Services Unit oversees the statewide implementation of Criminal Justice Reform and provides support and training to the staff in the Pretrial Services Unit in each vicinage. The Criminal Court Services Unit is tasked with providing assistance regarding the general operation of the Criminal trial courts. The Drug Court Unit focuses specifically on the advancement and operation of the drug court in each vicinage.

Criminal Justice Reform

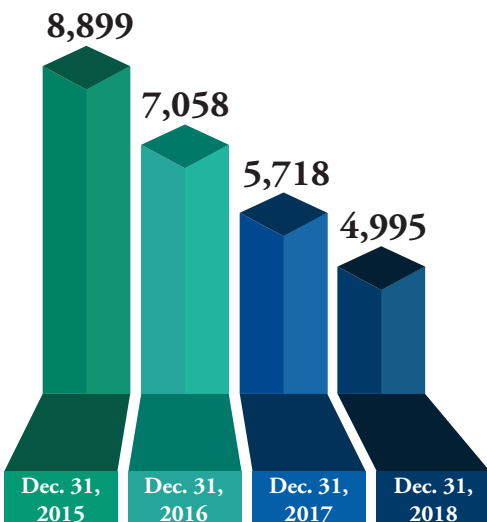
The Judiciary's Annual Report on Criminal Justice Reform showed that defendants released under the new system are no more likely to commit a new offense or fail to show up for a court appearance than defendants released under the prior system of monetary bail.

The report found, for the first time, a statistical comparison between Criminal Justice Reform in 2017 and the monetary bail system in 2014. It showed that court appearance rates were high and that cases were being completed in the same amount of time under both systems. The report said the rate of alleged new criminal activity for individuals released pretrial under CJR was virtually the same as the rate for defendants under the cash bail system.

A study of state jail populations on Oct. 3, 2018 and the same day in 2012 showed 6,000 fewer people incarcerated under Criminal Justice Reform.



Pretrial Jail Population



43.9%
decrease in jail population since June 30, 2016



Passaic County Courtroom

Civil Division

The civil division coordinates the development and implementation of civil rules and improved court procedures and supports the local civil divisions in each Superior Court.

The civil division of the Superior Court resolves cases of monetary damages ranging from small claims through complex commercial litigation. While the circumstances of each case are unique, the division has developed a series of best practices for each type of case to ensure statewide consistency and timely resolution for litigants.

Litigants seeking damages less than \$3,000 file in small claims court where the goal for resolution is two months. Cases involving damages between \$3,000 and \$15,000 are filed in the special civil part, with a resolution goal of four months. Cases valued at more than \$15,000 are to be resolved in 12 to 24 months, depending on their complexity.

The civil division also handles cases with common characteristics such as large numbers of claims associated with a single product, mass disaster or complex environmental and toxic torts that are designated by the Supreme Court as multicounty litigation and assigned for centralized management in one of three counties: Atlantic, Bergen or Middlesex.

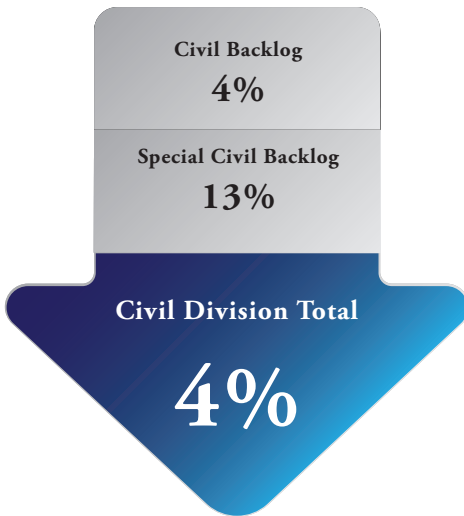
The majority of cases filed with the civil division are filed in the special civil part, which resolved 396,624 cases during Court Year 2019.

Complex Business Litigation Program

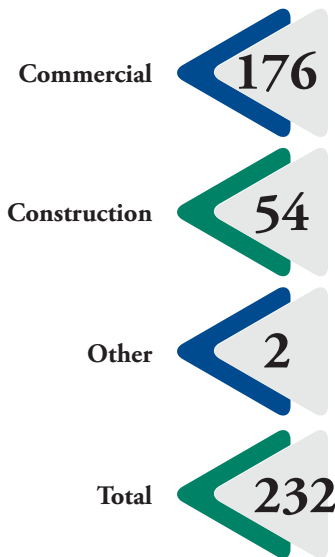
Under the Complex Business Litigation Program, judges with specialized training in business issues use their expertise to streamline and expedite commercial or construction cases that involve disputes of \$200,000 or more. This approach helps foster the development of case law that aids all parties in business litigation.

Electronic Filing

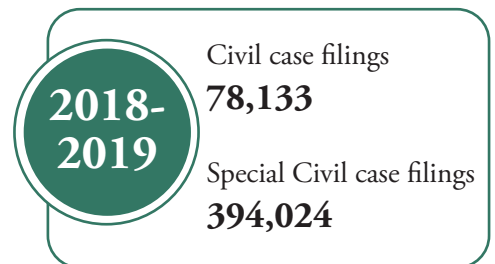
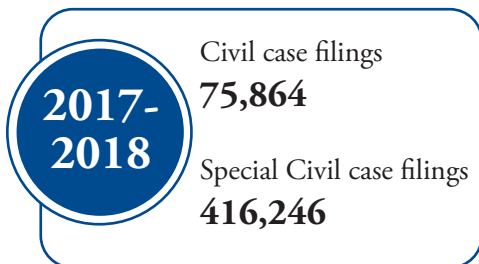
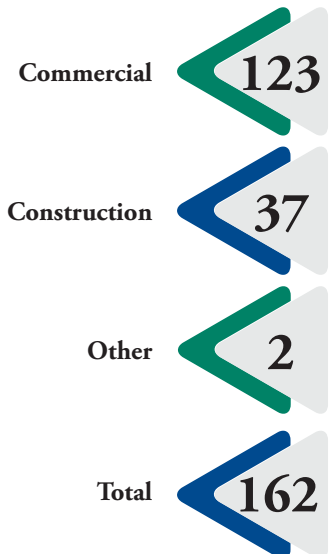
Electronic filing of civil and special civil cases was introduced during Court Year 2018. In Court Year 2019, all civil and special civil cases were e-filed. While the number of civil case filings increased from the previous year, the number of special civil case filings decreased for that same period.



CBLP Statewide Cases Filed



CBLP Statewide Cases Resolved





Monmouth County Courtroom

Family Division

The primary function of the family division is to develop and implement policies, procedures and best practices in the vicinages and to support state-level committees to advance the goals of the Judiciary in family-related areas.

The family division provides an impartial forum for couples to resolve disputes including divorce, dissolution of civil unions, termination of domestic partnerships, child support, custody and visitation. The division also hears matters of domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption and kinship guardianship.

The division strives to hear these matters quickly to provide important court protections such as restraining orders for victims of domestic violence, out-of-home placements for children in unsafe family situations, and orders protecting other vulnerable litigants. Judges and staff receive training in the emotional and cultural contexts that could complicate family cases as they work to meet the short time goals assigned to most family case types.

Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

Superior Court Judge Charles W. Dortch Jr. of the Camden Vicinage, who is co-chair of New Jersey’s JDAI governance body, was among the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 2019 JDAI Distinguished System Leadership Award winners for his contribution to juvenile justice reform.

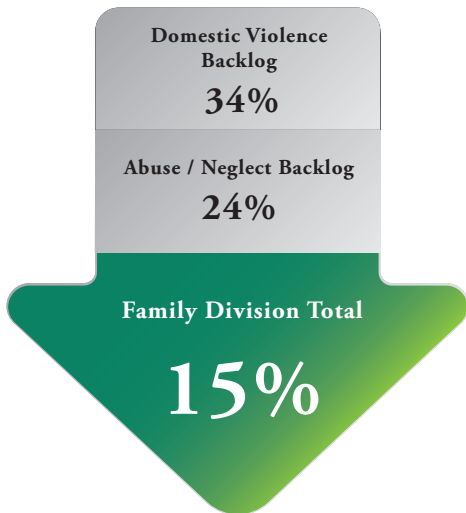
As a recent example of his commitment to youth, Judge Dortch met in January 2019 with Carmen Day, a young woman who 12 years earlier had appeared before him on a juvenile matter. Day, a Rutgers University law student, remembered the personal interest Judge Dortch took in her future when he sentenced her to an abbreviated probation term.

“He didn’t see me as a docket number, or some poor girl from Camden,” Ms. Day said in recalling her experience.

“He saw me as a girl who needed help who needed a chance.” JDAI, or Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, was started by the Casey Foundation to address the long-lasting negative consequences of youth detention. Last year, New Jersey became the first state to institute JDAI statewide.



Superior Court Judge Charles W. Dortch Jr. and Carmen Day. (Photo provided by Maria Gonzalez)



New Jersey Courts @njcourts · May 23, 2019
 The New Jersey Judiciary is hosting a delegation from Louisiana for a two-day presentation on the state’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts, gave the opening remarks this morning.



35,181
 total domestic violence filings

10,728
 reopened domestic violence cases

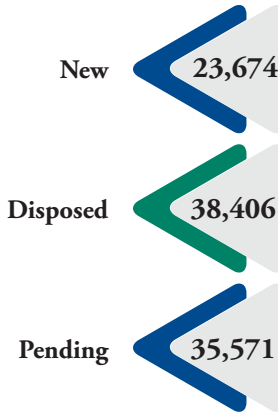
In Court Year 2019, the number of domestic violence filings, which included more than 35,000 new cases and more than 10,000 reopened cases, had no change from the previous year. Nearly all of the cases were resolved the same year.

“
 He didn’t see me as a docket number, or some poor girl from Camden.
 - Carmen Day
 ”



Hudson County Courtroom

Foreclosure Cases



Chancery Division

Cases in the chancery division, general equity, involve non-monetary disputes such as business dissolution issues, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, labor injunctions and mortgage and tax foreclosure actions. General equity cases are heard without a jury by a specially assigned judge within the chancery division.

The average days (194) to judgment for foreclosure cases in New Jersey continued to remain low in Court Year 2018-2019 with the continuation of several intergovernmental efforts to reduce the time to judgment. By 2019, pending foreclosure cases in the state had been reduced to one of the lowest points since before the start of the housing crisis.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner established the Supreme Court Special Committee on Residential Foreclosures in May 2017 to review residential mortgage foreclosure practices, policies, court rules and legislation and to make recommendations to ensure a timely and fair foreclosure process. Following the collapse of the housing market nationwide, New Jersey experienced a high level of foreclosure filings, which peaked in 2009 and remained elevated for nearly a decade.

144,032
active foreclosures in June 2011

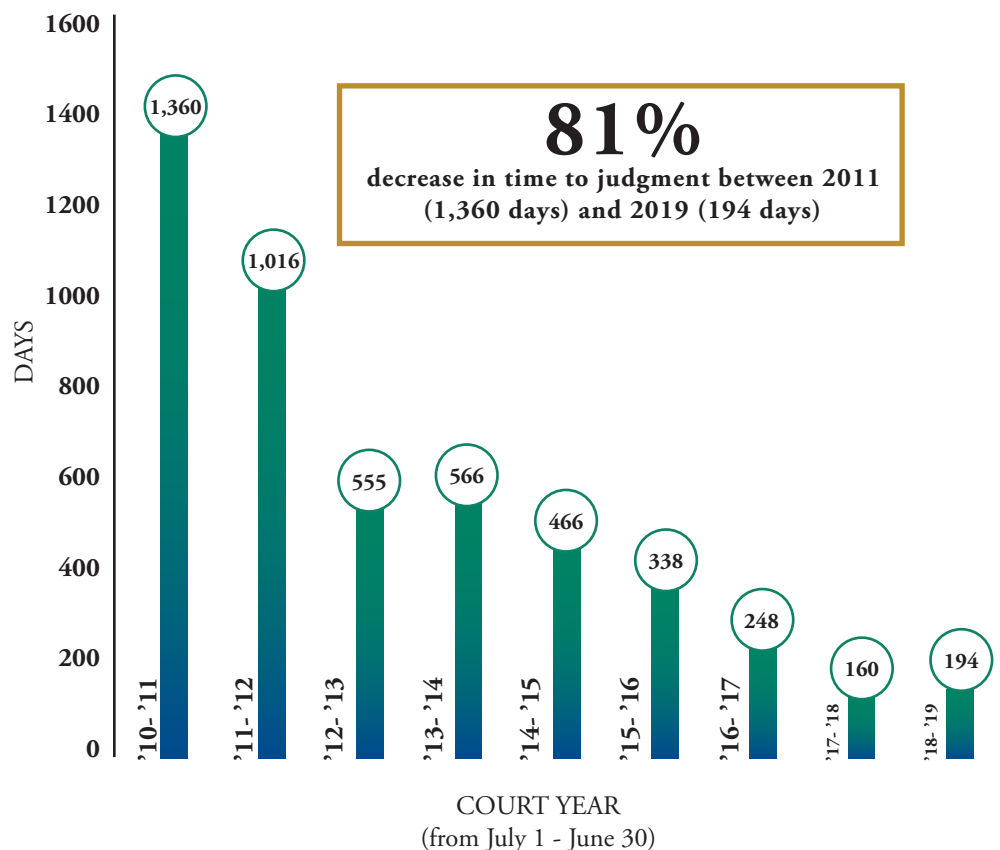
35,571
active foreclosures in June 2019

From June 2011 to June 2019, the number of active foreclosure cases was reduced from 144,032 to 35,571 including 28,847 residential properties. The average timeframe for the court's involvement in the foreclosure process, from complaint to judgment, decreased from 1,360 days to 194 days during the same period. In Court Year 2019, 23,674 new cases were filed while 38,406 were completed.



A statistical review of foreclosures filed in 2017 showed that the majority of cases were disposed of within nine months from the date the complaint was filed. Compared to the height of the crisis when cases were taking 1,340 days to judgment, the numbers for 2019 continue to show a decrease in judicial time frame, with matters averaging 194 days from complaint to judgment, as of June 30. Increases in time beyond the judgment date can be attributed to the service of notices and the assignment and reassignment of mortgages between lenders and servicers.

Foreclosure Average Days to Judgment





Burlington County Courtroom

Municipal Division

The municipal courts in New Jersey are considered courts of limited jurisdiction, having responsibility for motor vehicle and parking tickets, minor criminal-type offenses, municipal ordinance offenses and other minor offenses. A municipal court usually has jurisdiction only over cases that occur within the boundaries of its municipality.

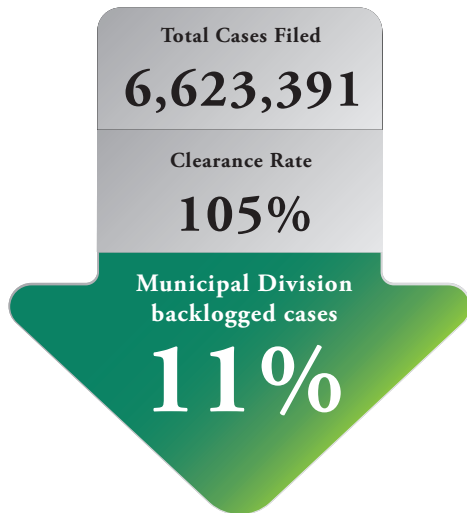
There were 6,623,391 cases filed in the municipal courts during Court Year 2019, an 8 percent increase over the previous year. The municipal courts achieved a 37 percent reduction in backlogged cases and had a 105 percent clearance rate during Court Year 2019.

Municipal Court Reform

The New Jersey Judiciary took steps in Court Year 2018-1019 to strengthen municipal courts and to assure that they serve as a fair and neutral forum for resolving disputes. Among the actions to reform local courts, the Supreme Court placed a cap on maximum penalties for failure to appear or failure to pay; municipal courts reduced the issuance of contempt fines following a review by the Administrative Office of the Courts; and the Supreme Court dismissed more than 780,000 old warrants for low-level offenses.

A 31-member Supreme Court committee, formed by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner in 2017, issued a report in July 2018 outlining recommendations for a series of policy changes and legislative proposals regarding municipal courts. The focus of the Report of the Supreme Court Committee on Municipal Court Operations, Fines, and Fees was to identify recommendations and ensure that those changes would not allow government revenue concerns to affect the fair administration of justice.

In September 2018, Chief Justice Rabner assembled the Working Group on the Municipal Courts to continue the implementation of some of the report recommendations, including decoupling sentencing practices from a municipality's need for revenue, consolidating or regionalizing municipal courts, modifying the appointment process for municipal court judges, and shifting to full-time tenured judgeships.



“New Jersey’s municipal court system is strong. It’s guided by strong leaders and able judges whose mission is to administer justice...”

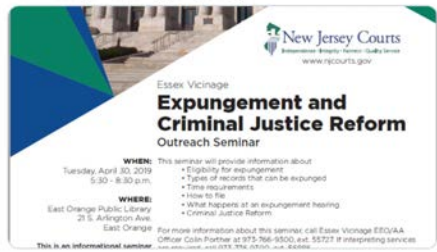
-Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

New Jersey Courts @njcourts · May 21, 2019
Chief Justice Stuart Rabner addressing the #NJStateBar on Friday, speaking about the municipal court reforms that have occurred and are continuing.



| Filings | Case Types |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 179,911 | Indictable |
| 469,779 | Disorderly / Petty Disorderly Persons |
| 230,504 | Other Non-Criminal |
| 29,638 | DWI |
| 2,488,705 | Traffic |
| 2,879,847 | Parking |
| 6,278,384 | Total |

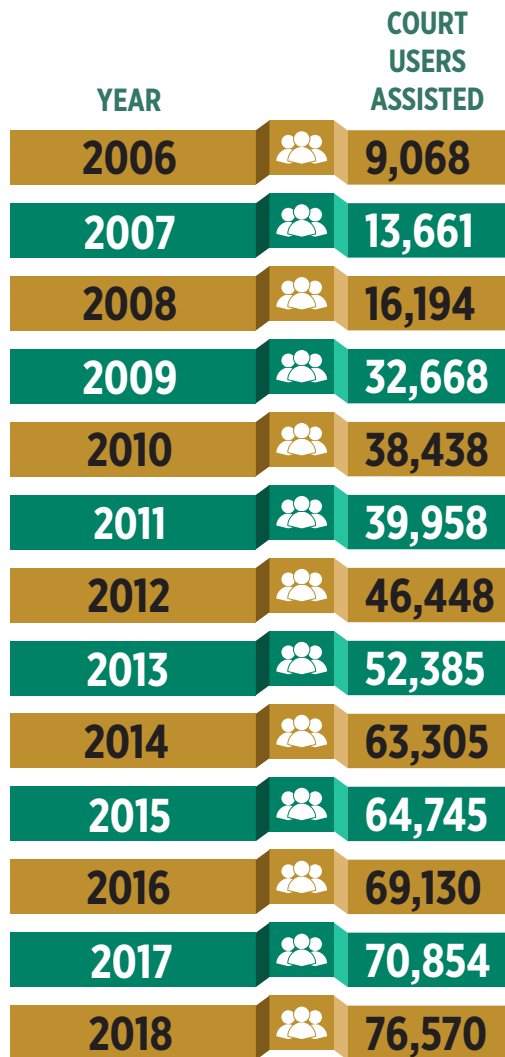
New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Apr 30, 2019
 Just a reminder: This expungement seminar, where Criminal Justice Reform also will be explained, is happening tonight.



New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Oct 19, 2018
 Staff from the Monmouth Vicinage's criminal division is outside the Hall of Records, 1 East Main Street in Freehold today until 2 p.m. Get your questions about court procedures answered while enjoying this beautiful fall day.



New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Jan 3, 2019



Statewide Ombudsman Program

Courthouses can be intimidating places. Navigating the court system can appear daunting to those who are unfamiliar with the Judiciary. Two-thirds of the Judiciary's court users come to court with no attorney, most because they cannot afford representation. Ombudsmen play a major role in assuring equal access to the courts. Their interaction with court users has grown exponentially while their role has expanded to meet the various needs of a diverse population. In the past 12 years, the number of contacts with court users increased from 9,068 in 2006 to 76,570 in 2018.

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of those helped by ombudsmen are self-represented litigants. Ombudsmen help self-represented litigants navigate the intricacies of court operations and services; however, like all Judiciary employees, they cannot provide legal advice. They also receive and refer complaints from the public, develop outreach and educational programs, and make referrals to the appropriate judiciary division, outside agency or disciplinary body. Ombudsmen publicize and run public outreach seminars on topics such as tenancy, divorce, domestic violence, foreclosure, re-entry, and expungement. Their community information sessions address specialized areas of interest, such as Criminal Justice Reform, social media, and bullying. Their One Judge, One School program creates opportunities for students to interact with judges while learning about the court system. They also run commemorative events such as "Court Night" programs, writing and art contests and naturalization ceremonies. The 2018-2019 events included celebrations of Law Day, Veterans Day, Opening of the Court, Professionalism Day, Bring Your Children to Work Day, Adoption Day, and National Night Out programs.

"I have the privilege of working closely with our Judiciary ombudsmen, and I know that every day they make a difference in the lives of our court users," said Janie Rodriguez, chief of Litigant Services and Outreach. "Their dedication, patience, and empathy help court users find a way through the most challenging events of their lives."

As the need for help has increased, many ombudsman offices developed self-help centers, located in an easily accessible area of the courthouse. In the center, court users can obtain information from the ombudsman and trained staff; ask questions, fill out court paperwork, and conduct their own legal research using available written materials and public access terminals. In vicinages that have full-service self-help centers, most of the contact between ombudsmen and court users is in person.

an/Community Liaison

In 2018, ombudsmen reported having a total of 76,570 total contacts with members of the public. Nearly half of those 76,570 contacts related to matters in the family division.

It was with the mission of ensuring the fair administration of justice for all that the New Jersey Judiciary created its ombudsman program more than 20 years ago. That mission became even more crucial with the economic downturn a decade ago: many court users couldn't afford to hire attorneys; many legal assistance programs were either reduced in funding or eliminated; and the courts had their own operational and financial limitations in providing assistance.

The program started as a pilot in 1997 with the first ombudsman in the Camden Vicinage and the second in the Essex Vicinage the following year. By 2005, ombudsmen were in all 15 vicinages. It is the only program in the nation in which court ombudsmen can assist court users in every docket type in every county in the state.

As their outreach efforts and daily requests for individual assistance continue to grow, Judiciary ombudsmen serve as a bridge between the court and the community. As they carry out their responsibilities, they demonstrate the Judiciary's core values of independence, integrity, fairness, and quality service.

"For many court users, the program acts like a life preserver," Rodriguez said. "Just when the court user feels they could sink under the weight of their legal issues, the ombudsman listens, provides information, answers questions, and offers referrals to community services that can help them."



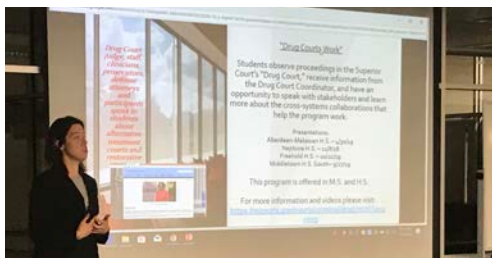
Vanessa Ravenelle, ombudsman for Camden Vicinage, was named the 2019 Business Partner of the Year by the New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools. She was honored for her work in planning or organizing meaningful activities for students, including Law Day programs and the vicinage's Our Courts, Our Schools program.



Former ombudsman Jessica Strugibenetti (R) and Administrative Specialist Nilda Schieman with one of the many brochure racks at the Legal Research and Information Center in the Ocean Vicinage that provide resources to the public in various languages.



Heshim "Chip" Thomas (L), ombudsman for Burlington Vicinage, received a plaque in appreciation of his one year service as the Ombudsman Committee Chair by Janie Rodriguez, the chief of litigant services and outreach at the Administrative Office of the Courts.



Rebekah Heilman, ombudsman for the Monmouth Vicinage, presenting on vicinage school outreach programs to the Monmouth County Superintendent Roundtable.



Camden County Courtroom

Probation Services

The Office of Probation Services provides monitoring and enforcement of court orders from the Family, Criminal and Municipal courts and manages the Adult Intensive Supervision and the Juvenile Intensive Supervision programs.



Probation Services experienced an overall drop of more than 10,600 clients served from the previous court year, following the 2 percent reduction in criminal case filings in Court Year 2019. The overall decline represents a drop of 7,000 adult supervision cases and 300 juvenile supervision cases, and 3,300 collections matters.

Probation Services provides guidance and oversight to more than 1,900 probation officers across the state and includes critical programs such as Child Support Enforcement, the Comprehensive Enforcement Program, Adult and Juvenile supervision, the Interstate Compact, and the Intensive Supervision Program.

Several of the Judiciary’s probation officers participated in National Night Out events, like this one in Trenton.

\$38,644,579
total expected probation fees/fines

\$19,573,419.13
paid probation fees/fines

Child Support Enforcement Program

The Child Support Enforcement Unit seeks to promote the welfare and safety of children, families and communities through the enforcement of orders of support ordered by the court. The 21 local divisions monitor and enforce approximately 272,000 child support cases in New Jersey. The unit is responsible for the collection of child and spousal obligations, medical support and alimony.

New Jersey Courts @njcourts - Dec 13, 2018
A group of new probation officers took the oath of office today in the Camden Vicinage. Congratulations and welcome!



271,429
child support caseload as of June 2019

1,300,835,186
child support collections

71%
current child support obligations collected for July 2018 to June 2019

Intensive Supervision Program

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) allows non-violent offenders to serve the remainder of their prison sentences under a highly structured form of community supervision that is more rigorous than traditional parole. Probation officers provide a high level of supervision to this carefully selected group of offenders who are approved by a panel of judges for release. ISP officers oversee many aspects of the participants’ daily lives, including their living arrangements, employment, curfews, budgeting and performance of community service. The program saved the state more than \$39 million, or more than \$40,000 per participant, in Court Year 2019.



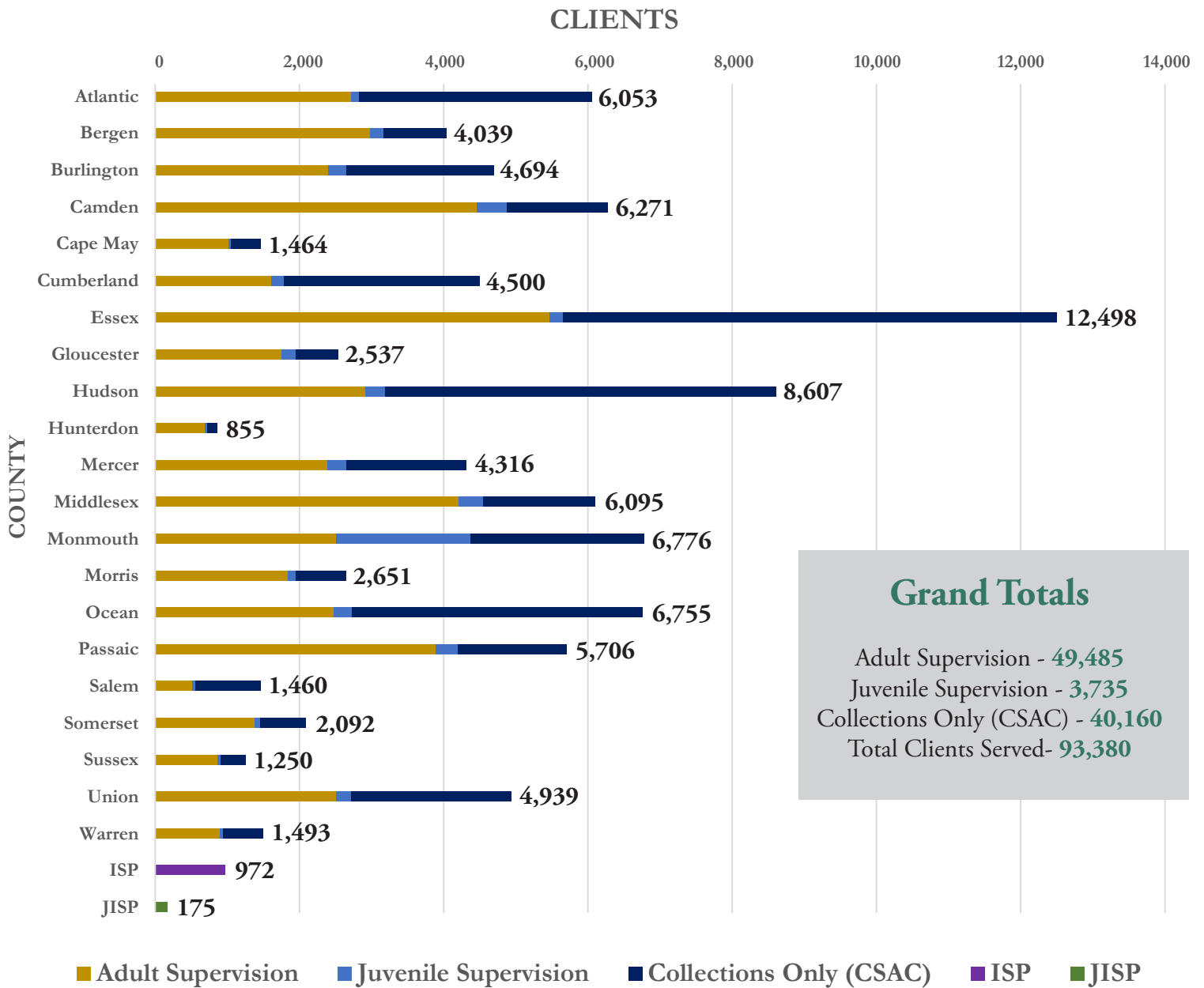
The Judiciary’s Probation Services annually holds its Juvenile Olympics, where juvenile clients compete in various athletic events.



Union County Courtroom

Probation Services by the Numbers

Court Year 2018 - 2019



Supervision

On June 30, 2019 probation services was actively supervising 49,485 adults and 3,735 juveniles statewide.

Field Work

Probation officers conducted 26,405 inspections and 74,780 visits of clients' homes during Court Year 2018-2019.

Community Service

Probation clients performed 603,110 hours of community service during Court Year 2018-2019.



Morris County Courtroom

New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Nov 16, 2018
 The Ocean Vicinage's Vets Day ceremony Thursday featured ret'd Judge Donald Campbell Sr., a ret'd major general in the U.S. Army. Assignment Judge Marlene Lynch Ford joined vicinage employees, American Legion post 348 Comdr Bruce Blum & vets & OC Sheriffs Office active military.



Guardianship Cases

| | | |
|--------------|--|--------------|
| ATLANTIC | | 77 |
| BERGEN | | 297 |
| BURLINGTON | | 151 |
| CAMDEN | | 193 |
| CAPE MAY | | 38 |
| CUMBERLAND | | 45 |
| ESSEX | | 165 |
| GLOUCESTER | | 115 |
| HUDSON | | 211 |
| HUNTERDON | | 59 |
| MERCER | | 134 |
| MIDDLESEX | | 243 |
| MONMOUTH | | 209 |
| MORRIS | | 230 |
| OCEAN | | 234 |
| PASSAIC | | 133 |
| SALEM | | 13 |
| SOMERSET | | 132 |
| SUSSEX | | 75 |
| UNION | | 187 |
| WARREN | | 39 |
| TOTAL | | 2,980 |

Addressing the Needs of Society

In addition to Drug Court, the Judiciary oversees a number of initiatives that work to confront some of the most intractable problems facing society. Judiciary programs work to safeguard the assets of the elderly and the incapacitated, refer veterans to mental health counseling and other needed services, and respond to the needs of victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Guardianship Monitoring Program

The New Jersey Judiciary Guardianship Monitoring Program is a statewide volunteer-based court program that monitors guardians in their handling of the affairs of incapacitated individuals, including elderly and developmentally disabled adults. Guardians are required to file inventories and annual reports. The program monitors cases to ensure that guardians of incapacitated persons are performing their duties appropriately.

In the 2019 Court Year, 2,980 adult guardianships and conservatorships were filed statewide. Conservatorships involve the appointment of a fiduciary to handle the financial affairs of another person, but, unlike a guardianship matter, do not require an adjudication of incapacity.

Veterans Assistance Project

Recognizing that veterans may be in need of special services, the New Jersey Judiciary works with the Office of Attorney General, the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to operate the Veterans Assistance Project.

The project, piloted in 2008 on the municipal and Superior Court levels in two counties, is a voluntary referral service for veterans who come in contact with the court system and who may be in need of services such as mental health counseling, addiction services, legal services and housing.

The program is not diversionary, but referrals to one of the state's 16 veterans services offices are designed to link veterans with the federal and state benefits to which they may be entitled.

As of July 2019, there have been 4,227 referrals statewide since the inception of the program.

New Jersey Lawyers Serving the Public (Pro Bono)

In a 1992 opinion, the Supreme Court reaffirmed the New Jersey bar's duty to represent indigent defendants without compensation where the state Legislature has made no provision for the Office of the Public Defender to represent those who are entitled to counsel. Attorneys are assigned pro bono cases through the Administrative Office of the Court's pro bono computer system.



Mercer County Courtroom

6,690
active participants in FY 2018-19

803
graduates in 2018-19

1,353
graduates that had their criminal records expunged

698
drug-free babies born since the program's inception

6,123
Since the New Jersey Judiciary's drug court program went statewide in 2002, 6,123 participants successfully graduated from all phases of the Judiciary's drug court program.

Drug Court

The Judiciary's drug court program operates within the Superior Court to help nonviolent defendants overcome alcohol and drug dependencies while resolving related criminal charges. The program offers a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery that provides graduates with the skills needed to stay sober and out of prison so they can regain custody of their children and contribute to society again. Drug court was made mandatory by law by 2017.



Drug Court graduate Luana Cordeiro poses with Superior Court Judge Mark Sandson during her May 2019 graduation from Stockton University. She received a scholarship to Stockton through the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage's Recovery Court program.



For clients who graduate drug court, just 2.4 percent of graduates are incarcerated in New Jersey state prison three years following completion of the program, as opposed to 30.5 percent of those who were released from the Department of Corrections.

2.4%



One Judge, One School program

The vicinages continued their interactions with local schools in Court Year 2018-2019 through the One Judge/One School Program, which provides thousands of students with insights into the workings of New Jersey courts. Through the program, judges visit schools or students visit courthouses to learn more about how the Judiciary operates.



Superior Court judges Owen McCarthy (L) and Marc Lemieux (R) speak with Belmar Elementary School students in January 2019 as part of the Monmouth Vicinage's "One Judge, One School" program, which provides youngsters with some insights into New Jersey courts.



Superior Court Judge Regina Caulfield speaks to a group of students from the Union County Magnet High School in December 2018 as part of the Union Vicinage's "Judges and Schools" program.



Warren County Courtroom

Access and Fairness

To ensure that the Judiciary, as an institution, embraces access and fairness as an integral part of its core values, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner created the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness. The work of the committee helps set the tone for the operation of the Judiciary for the next quarter century and beyond.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement

The Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns was renamed the Advisory Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement to reflect its expanded role in ensuring a fairer and more just court system.

The Committee is charged with addressing issues beyond those relating to racial and ethnic groups. That focus now includes issues relating to religious, social, cultural, and economic non-majority groups, as well as issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. The Committee continues to work closely with the 15 vicinage advisory committees, whose work mirrors the work of the Supreme Court Committee.

Women in the Courts

The Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts addresses issues of bias in the courts in order to further the Judiciary's goal of ensuring access and fairness for all court users. In addition to advising the Supreme Court on gender bias and related issues, the committee develops and participates in programs to educate judges, the bar, and law students about identifying and addressing biased behavior and promoting opportunities for women in the law.

The committee provides training for new municipal and Superior Court judges on recognizing and correcting biased behaviors in the courtroom and participates in continuing legal education programs on issues of bias. With the support of the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts, the committee sponsored a summit on women in the law at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick in April.

Access for Persons with Disabilities

The Judiciary ensures that its courts, programs, services, and activities are accessible to all members of the community and prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

The Judiciary will provide a reasonable accommodation for a court user with a disability, enabling the individual to access and participate. The types of accommodations include interpreters, computer aided real-time transcription, text in alternative formats such as Braille, assistive listening devices and readers and note takers. In 2018 the New Jersey Judiciary recorded 1,240 Americans with Disabilities Act Title II accommodations.

New Jersey Courts @njcourts · 17 Jun 2019
The Middlesex Vicinage is hosting a special program on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots for LGBTQ Pride Month.
njcourts.gov/public/pr.html...



Inaugural meeting of the Supreme Court Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement.

New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Mar 4, 2019
To commemorate Women's History Month, we've got this video about the many contributions of former Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz to the New Jersey Judiciary.

youtube.com/watch?v=f9N0wL...



New Jersey Courts @njcourts · May 15, 2019
The Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage sincerely appreciates its volunteers. Last night, volunteers were treated to a special recognition program at Cumberland County College.

Here's how you can volunteer in any of the Judiciary's 15 vicinages:
njcourts.gov/public/volunte...





PLAINTIFF

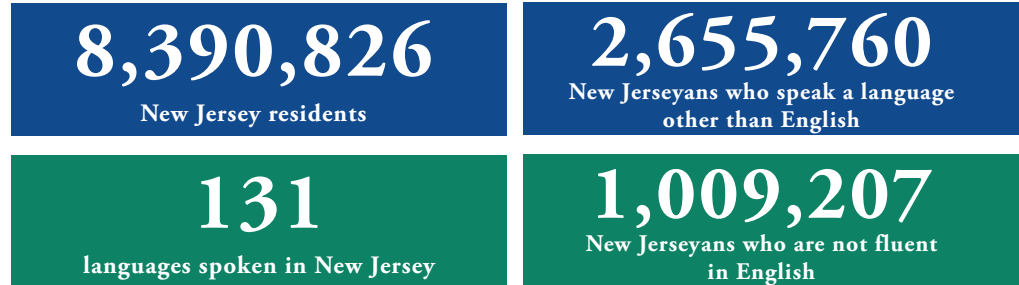
DEFENDANT

Statewide Interpreted Events

| | | |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| ATLANTIC | | 1,891 |
| BERGEN | | 5,822 |
| BURLINGTON | | 896 |
| CAMDEN | | 4,377 |
| CAPE MAY | | 567 |
| CUMBERLAND | | 2,296 |
| ESSEX | | 7,739 |
| GLOUCESTER | | 479 |
| HUDSON | | 11,917 |
| HUNTERDON | | 343 |
| MERCER | | 4,128 |
| MIDDLESEX | | 9,714 |
| MONMOUTH | | 2,152 |
| MORRIS | | 2,017 |
| OCEAN | | 2,034 |
| PASSAIC | | 8,803 |
| SALEM | | 206 |
| SOMERSET | | 1,813 |
| SUSSEX | | 169 |
| UNION | | 6,389 |
| WARREN | | 221 |
| TOTAL | | 79,973 |

Language Services

New Jerseyans speak more than 130 different languages and upwards of 31 percent – more than 2.5 million – speak a language other than English at home. In Court Year 2019, New Jersey courts provided interpreting services nearly 74,000 times in 110 languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole and Korean but also in languages as diverse as Swahili, Dari, Igbo and Burmese.



The New Jersey Judiciary’s approach to language access has been a national model, one that is grounded in the basic tenet that anyone who is limited in the ability to speak and/or understand English or is deaf or hard of hearing is entitled to the same access to court services as those who are not.

Based on that core belief, the Judiciary ensures that only qualified interpreters may provide interpreting services and, except in very limited instances, the Judiciary bears all costs for interpreting.

The Judiciary’s Language Services section developed a comprehensive plan that promotes strong policies and standards, a court interpreter credentialing program, a program for translating self-help documents and training for judges and staff.

New Jersey Courts

Access and Fairness

What is Access and Fairness?
Access and Fairness describes four basic concepts that shape court users’ perception of their court experience.

- Respect** - They were treated courteously
- Neutrality** - They were treated fairly
- Trust** - They had confidence in the court
- Voice** - They were heard

Access and Fairness at Work in our Courts

- Ombudsman Program
- Court User Resource Centers
- Self-Help Forms / Instructions
- Brochures
- Language Services / Language Access Plan
- ADA Accommodations
- Public Education Seminars
- Mobile Apps
- Court User Satisfaction Survey

An open door to justice means that everyone must have full access to the courts, regardless of:

- Income
- Disability
- Education
- Age
- Language
- Gender Identity
- Race
- Sexual Orientation
- Ethnicity
- Religion

Whether they have an attorney or not, everyone must be treated fairly in the courts.

The goal of the Access and Fairness Program is “an open door to justice” for the millions of people who come to our courts each year. For more information, go to www.njcourts.gov.

New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Nov 2, 2018
Court Interpreter
[linkedin.com/jobs/view/9482...](https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/9482...)

WE ARE HIRING!

www.njcourts.gov

Apply and join our team.



Hunterdon County Courtroom

Court News and Events

Retirements

The trial court administrators in four vicinages retired in Court Year 2018-2019. **Carole A. Cummings** retired from the Camden Vicinage in February after 30 years with the Judiciary. **Jude Del Preore**, who had a nearly 45-year career with the Judiciary, retired in May from the Burlington Vicinage. After serving 44 years in the Judiciary, **Kenneth Kerwin** retired in October from the Ocean Vicinage. **James Agro**, who spent 15 years with the Judiciary, retired in November from the Union Vicinage.



From L to R: Ocean Trial Court Administrator Kenneth Kerwin and Judge Glenn A. Grant, acting administrative director of the courts.



From L to R: Burlington Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore and Shelley R. Webster, director of the office of management and administrative services.

Naturalization Ceremonies

The Judiciary holds naturalization ceremonies several times a year, including on Law Day in May, to administer the Oath of Citizenship to new U.S. citizens. At ceremonies in the vicinages and at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton, representatives of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security present the applicants before a judge administers the oath and the new citizens receive their certificates.

Domestic Violence Awareness Conference

The Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage hosted a Domestic Violence Awareness Conference in July 2018 at Stockton University in Pomona. The event, which attracted more than 150 people, was an opportunity for attendees to learn more about or share their expertise on the issues surrounding domestic violence.



New Jersey Courts @njcourts · May 9, 2019
On Thursday, Judge Mendez presided over a naturalization ceremony at Egg Harbor City Community School.
On Friday, students from Middle Township H S's mock trial team accepted trophy for placing 1st in Cape May County in Vincent J. Apruzzese High School Mock Trial Competition.



Ocean County Courtroom

Adoption Day

National Adoption Day, held annually on the third Saturday in November, allows the Judiciary to increase awareness of the number of children in foster care and to honor adoptive families throughout New Jersey. Although judges finalize adoptions throughout the year, vicinages join in the national celebration by conducting special events in November. The Judiciary works in partnership with the state Division of Child Protection and Permanency and county surrogates to facilitate the adoptions.



The Monmouth Vicinage won the American Bar Association's Law Day contest for 2019 in the category of Best Theme Interpretation. The award was presented at a conference in Austin, Texas, attended by representatives from the vicinage, the Monmouth Bar Association and the New Jersey State Bar Association. (Photo credit: Monmouth Bar Association.)

Law Day

Each year, the American Bar Association adopts a theme for Law Day, a commemoration of the United States' heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law. In May, vicinages throughout New Jersey celebrate Law Day with a variety of activities, including mock trial competitions, community outreach, poster and essay contests, and naturalization ceremonies.





Cumberland County Courthouse

Judicial Council



Standing from left:

Family Presiding Judge David B. Katz, Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria, Assignment Judge Marlene Lynch Ford, Appellate Presiding Judge Carmen Messano, Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas, Assignment Judge Ernest M. Caposela, Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr., Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz, Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez, Civil Presiding Judge Thomas F. Brogan, Assignment Judge Jeanne T. Covert, Criminal Presiding Judge Wendel E. Daniels, Assignment Judge Benjamin C. Telsey, General Equity Presiding Judge Paula T. Dow, Assignment Judge Stuart A. Minkowitz, Assignment Judge Bonnie J. Mizdol and Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton.

Seated from left:

Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy, Assignment Judge Mary C. Jacobson, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, Acting Administrative Director of the Courts Judge Glenn A. Grant, Assignment Judge Yolanda Ciccone.

Mission Statement of the New Jersey Judiciary



We are an independent branch of government constitutionally entrusted with the fair and just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and this State.

JUDGES CHAMBERS

Judges and Justices

as of June 30, 2019

Superior Court

*Appellate Division

Allison E. Accurso*
 Gregory L. Acquaviva
 Stacey D. Adams
 Yolanda Adrianzen
 Lisa M. Adubato
 Mark S. Ali
 M. Christine Allen-Jackson
 Jodi Lee Alper
 Carmen H. Alvarez*
 Ralph E. Amirata
 William Anklowitz
 Michael Antoniewicz
 Patrick J. Arre
 Lorraine M. Augustini
 Mark A. Baber
 Keith A. Bachmann
 Robert A. Ballard Jr.
 Peter F. Bariso Jr.
 Peter J. Barnes III
 Patrick J. Bartels
 Arthur J. Batista
 David F. Bauman
 Jeffrey B. Beacham
 Robert P. Becker Jr.
 Aimee R. Belgard
 Scott J. Bennion
 Maritza Berdote Byrne
 Arthur Bergman
 Stanley L. Bergman Jr.
 Daniel A. Bernardin
 Michael N. Beukas
 Robert C. Billmeier
 Robert W. Bingham II
 Avis Bishop-Thompson
 Michael J. Blee
 Gwendolyn Blue
 Peter A. Bogaard
 Ronald E. Bookbinder
 Thomas T. Booth Jr.
 Angela Borkowski
 Terry Paul Bottinelli
 Patrick J. Bradshaw
 Carlia M. Brady
 Gerard H. Breland
 Robert E. Brenner
 Thomas F. Brogan

Daniel H. Brown
 Marc R. Brown
 Thomas M. Brown
 Benjamin, S. Bucca Jr.
 Thomas J. Buck
 John J. Burke III
 Bradford M. Bury
 Henry P. Butehorn
 Chad H. Cagan
 Thomas A. Callahan Jr.
 Ernest M. Caposela
 Patricia E. Carney
 Andrea G. Carter
 Karen M. Cassidy
 Regina Caulfield
 Linda Lordi Cavanaugh
 Judith S. Charny
 Mark K. Chase
 Timothy W. Chell
 Jean S. Chetney
 Joseph M. Chiarello
 Randal C. Chiocca
 Lisa F. Chrystal
 Mark P. Ciarrocca
 Yolanda Ciccone
 Vicki A. Citrino
 Marilyn C. Clark
 Susan L. Claypoole
 Michael T. Collins
 Terrence R. Cook
 J. Randall Corman
 Craig L. Corson
 Mary K. Costello
 Gerald J. Council
 Frank Covelio
 Jeanne T. Covert
 Michael V. Cresitello Jr.
 Thomas J. Critchley Jr.
 Martin G. Cronin
 Rodney Cunningham
 Therese A. Cunningham
 Heidi Willis Currier*
 H. Matthew Curry
 Daniel D'Alessandro
 Angela White Dalton
 William A. Daniel

Wendel E. Daniels
 Pamela D'Arcy
 Cristen P. D'Arrigo
 Lawrence P. De Bello
 Miguel A. De La Carrera
 Estela M. De La Cruz
 Patrick DeAlmeida*
 Frank J. DeAngelis
 Bernadette N. DeCastro
 Edward J. DeFazio
 John M. Deitch
 Kathleen M. Delaney
 Anthony V. D'Elia
 James J. Deluca
 Bernard E. Delury, Jr.
 James M. DeMarzo
 James Den Uyl
 Paul M. DePascale
 Darren T. DiBiasi
 Lara K. DiFabrizio
 Francisco Dominguez
 James W. Donohue
 Michael J. Donohue
 John M. Doran
 Charles W. Dortch Jr.
 Paula T. Dow
 Katherine R. Dupuis
 John C. Eastlack Jr.
 Madelin F. Einbinder
 Richard W. English
 Catherine I. Enright
 Paul X. Ecandon
 Kimberly Espinales-Maloney
 Linda W. Eynon
 Vincent N. Falcetano Jr.
 Nan S. Famular
 Douglas M. Fasciale*
 James J. Ferrelli
 Eric G. Fikry
 Rudolph A. Filko
 Lisa A. Firko*
 Clarkson S. Fisher Jr.*
 Catherine M. Fitzpatrick
 Sallyanne Floria
 Colleen M. Flynn
 Marlene Lynch Ford

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wayne J. Forrest | Robert J. Jones Jr. | Carmen Messano* |
| Margaret M. Foti | John A. Jorgensen II | Vincent J. Militello |
| Magali M. Francois | Michael E. Joyce | Thomas C. Miller |
| Noah Franzblau | James L. Jukes | W. Todd Miller |
| Lisa Perez Friscia | Bahir Kamil | Stuart A. Minkowitz |
| Jose L. Fuentes* | Bruce J. Kaplan | Lisa Miralles Walsh |
| Harold W. Fullilove Jr. | Imre Karaszegi Jr. | Stephanie Ann Mitterhoff* |
| Garry J. Furnari | Michael J. Kassel | Bonnie J. Mizdol |
| Mitzy Galis-Menendez | David B. Katz | Sohail Mohammed |
| Jane Gallina Mecca | Christopher R. Kazlau | Joseph G. Monaghan |
| Donna Gallucio | Honora O'Brien Kilgallen | Thomas M. Moore |
| George H. Gangloff Jr. | Robert Kirsch | Scott J. Moynihan* |
| Robert H. Gardner | Ellen L. Koblitz* | Theresa E. Mullen |
| Christopher J. Garrenger | Teresa A. Kondrup-Coyle | Valter H. Must |
| Michael C. Gaus | Walter Koprowski Jr. | Arnold L. Natali Jr.* |
| Peter G. Geiger | Kurt Kramer | Mark J. Nelson |
| Richard J. Geiger* | Mary Beth Kramer | Steven F. Nemeth |
| J. Christopher Gibson | Linda L. Lawhun | Justine A. Niccollai |
| Robert J. Gilson* | Verna G. Leath | Dennis V. Nieves |
| Rochelle Gizinski | Vincent Leblon | Richard J. Nocella |
| John I. Gizzo | Marc C. Lemieux | Carol V. Novey Catuogno |
| Greta Gooden Brown* | Alan G. Lesnewich | William E. Nugent* |
| Margaret Goodzeit | Daniel R. Lindemann | Dennis R. O'Brien |
| Deborah L. Gramiccioni | Sandra Lopez | Amy O'Connor* |
| Glenn A. Grant* | Robert T. Lougy | John D. O'Dwyer |
| Nora J. Grimbergen | Lourdes Lucas | Michael F. O'Neill |
| Deborah M. Gross-Quatrone | Timothy P. Lydon | Christine S. Orlando |
| James J. Guida | Martha D. Lynes | Mirtha Ospina |
| Katie A. Gummer | Keith E. Lynott | Mitchel E. Ostrer* |
| Michael J. Haas* | Philip J. Maenza | Michael R. Ostrowski Jr. |
| Philip E. Haines | Colleen A. Maier | Joseph W. Oxley |
| Deborah S. Hanlon-Schron | Martha T. Mainor | Gregg A. Padovano |
| Robert M. Hanna | Robert G. Malestein | James R. Paganelli |
| Jamie D. Happas | Linda E. Mallozzi | James W. Palmer Jr. |
| Rachelle Lea Harz | Maureen B. Mantineo | Joseph Paone |
| James Hely | Janetta D. Marbrey | Russell J. Passamano |
| Richard L. Hertzberg | Joseph L. Marczyk | Darlene J. Pereksta |
| Francis Hodgson Jr. | Julie M. Marino | Jamie S. Perri |
| Edward W. Hoffman | Lawrence M. Maron | Stephen L. Petrillo |
| Richard S. Hoffman* | Andrea I. Marshall | Anthony F. Picheca Jr. |
| Michael E. Hubner | Anthony M. Massi | James H. Pickering |
| John G. Hudak | John J. Matheussen | Diane Pincus |
| J. Adam Hughes | Susan F. Maven | Sheree V. Pitchford |
| Douglas H. Hurd | Hany A. Mawla* | Benjamin Podolnick |
| James F. Hyland | Jessica R. Mayer* | Steven J. Polansky |
| Paul Innes | Edward J. McBride Jr. | Robert L. Polifroni |
| David H. Ironson | Owen C. McCarthy | Joseph A. Portelli |
| Joseph V. Isabella | James P. McClain | John C. Porto |
| Thomas K. Isenhour | Thomas D. McCloskey | Anthony M. Pugliese |
| Jeffrey R. Jablonski | John P. McDonald | Lisa A. Puglisi |
| Adam E. Jacobs | Anne McDonnell | Kathy C. Qasim |
| Mary C. Jacobson | James J. McGann | Joseph P. Quinn |
| Mark T. Janeczko | William J. McGovern III | Christopher D. Rafano |
| Latoyia K. Jenkins | Frances A. McGrogan | David M. Ragonese |
| Edward A. Jerejian | Brian McLaughlin | Samuel J. Ragonese Jr. |
| Pedro J. Jimenez Jr. | Jaclyn V. Medina | Kimarie Rahill |
| Sarah Beth Johnson | Robert J. Mega | Rosemary E. Ramsay |
| Harold U. Johnson Jr. | Peter J. Melchionne | John R. Rauh |
| Bruce A. Jones | Julio L. Mendez | Michael L. Ravin |
| Linda Grasso Jones | Marybel Mercado-Ramirez | Joseph L. Rea |

Susan L. Reisner*
 Nina C. Remson
 Nancy L. Ridgway
 Alberto Rivas
 Nesle A. Rodriguez
 Yolanda C. Rodriguez
 Candido Rodriguez Jr.
 Patricia B. Roe
 Marybeth Rogers
 Michael J. Rogers
 Christopher S. Romanyshyn
 Lisa Rose*
 Marysol Rosero
 Garry S. Rothstadt*
 Scott T. Rumana
 John F. Russo Jr.
 Guy P. Ryan
 Jack M. Sabatino*
 Sharifa R. Salaam
 Mark H. Sandson
 Lourdes I. Santiago
 James X. Sattely
 James P. Savio
 Louis S. Sceusi
 Tara Schillari Rich
 Frederick J. Schuck
 Sherri L. Schweitzer
 Vito A. Sciancalepore
 Annette Scoca
 Kevin M. Shanahan
 Kathleen A. Sheedy
 M. Susan Sheppard
 Thomas J. Shusted, Jr.
 Marcia L. Silva
 Michael J. Silvanio
 Deborah Silverman Katz
 Marie P. Simonelli*
 Mary C. Siracusa
 Nancy Sivilli
 Walter F. Skrod
 Christine Smith
 Kevin T. Smith
 Morris G. Smith
 L. Grace Spencer
 Barbara J. Stanton
 Bridget A. Stecher
 Donald J. Stein
 Mitchell I. Steinhart
 Barbara C. Stolte
 Haekyoung Suh
 Richard T. Sules
 Thomas W. Sumners Jr.*
 Ronald Susswein
 Karen L. Suter*
 James R. Swift
 Mark P. Tarantino
 Mayra V. Tarantino
 Donna M. Taylor
 Stephen J. Taylor
 Siobhan A. Teare

Benjamin C. Telsey
 Rodney Thompson
 Lisa P. Thornton
 Mary F. Thurber
 Peter J. Tober
 Ellen Torregrossa-O'Connor
 Michael A. Toto
 Mark A. Troncone
 Joseph A. Turula
 Christine M. Vanek
 Radames Velazquez Jr.
 Thomas R. Vena
 Sheila Ann Venable
 Deborah J. Venezia
 Francis J. Vernioia*
 Lisa M. Vignuolo
 Robert M. Vinci
 Ana C. Viscomi
 Kay Walcott-Henderson
 Jeffrey J. Waldman
 Thomas J. Walls Jr.
 Thomas J. Walsh
 Peter E. Warshaw
 David J. Weaver
 Daniel L. Weiss
 Craig L. Wellerson
 Mary Gibbons Whipple*
 Ronald D. Wigler
 Gary N. Wilcox
 Patricia M. Wild
 James P. Wilson
 Marcella Matos Wilson
 Robert C. Wilson
 Robert G. Wilson
 Richard C. Wischusen
 Gary D. Wodlinger
 Gary K. Wolinetz
 Carolyn E. Wright
 Michael P. Wright
 Daniel J. Yablonsky
 Joseph L. Yannotti*
 John A. Young Jr.
 Mara Zazzali-Hogan
 William F. Ziegler
 Janet Zoltanski Smith
 John Zunic

Supreme Court

Stuart Rabner
 Barry T. Albin
 Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina
 Jaynee LaVecchia
 Anne M. Patterson
 Lee A. Solomon
 Walter F. Timpone

Tax Court

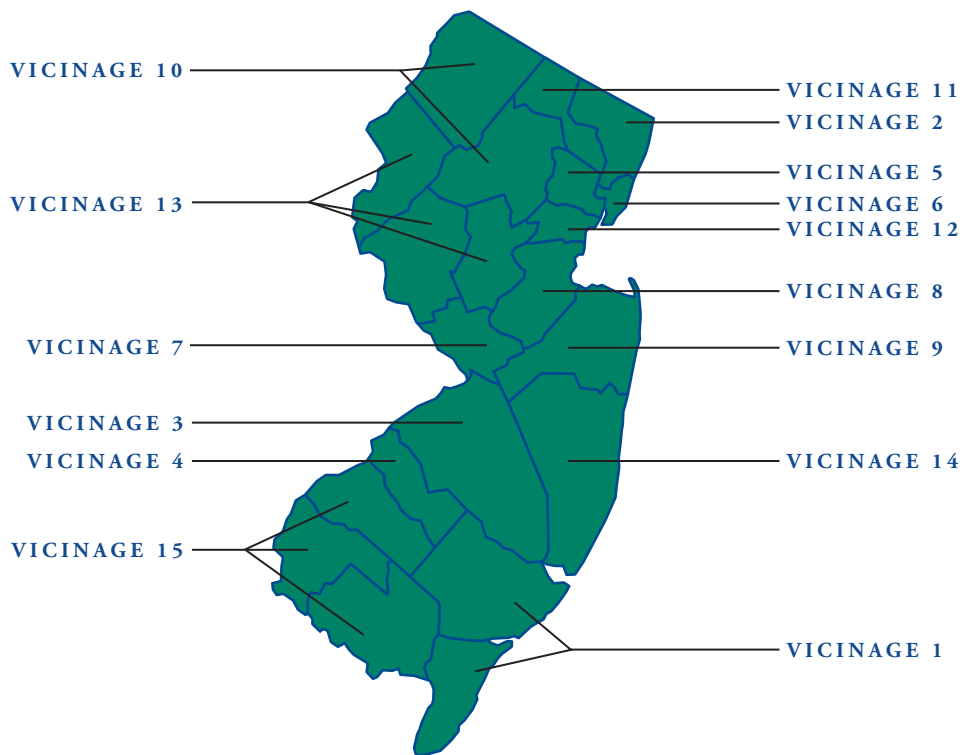
Joseph M. Andresini
 Joan Bedrin Murray
 Vito L. Bianco
 Mary Siobhan Brennan
 Mark Cimino
 Kathi F. Fiamingo
 Michael J. Gilmore
 Joshua D. Novin
 Christine M. Nugent
 Jonathan A. Orsen
 Mala Sundar

Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by Division

| | Filings | | | Resolutions | | | Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals) | | | Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals) | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---|-----------|-------------------|---|-----------|-------------------|
| | July 2017 to June 2018 | July 2018 to June 2019 | percent change | July 2017 to June 2018 | July 2018 to June 2019 | percent change | June 2018 | June 2019 | percent change | June 2018 | June 2019 | percent change |
| | Criminal Division Indictable Cases | 43,560 | 42,569 | -2% | 44,968 | 43,284 | -4% | 6,993 | 7,539 | 8% | 6,692 | 5,795 |
| Municipal Appeals | 532 | 544 | 2% | 547 | 585 | 7% | 116 | 110 | -5% | 88 | 66 | -25% |
| Post-Conviction Relief | 724 | 615 | -15% | 764 | 690 | -10% | 491 | 454 | -8% | 121 | 92 | -24% |
| General Equity Total | 5,332 | 4,998 | -6% | 5,842 | 5,236 | -10% | 1,994 | 1,903 | -5% | 362 | 264 | -27% |
| Contested Foreclosure | 2,518 | 2,124 | -16% | 2,938 | 2,316 | -21% | 914 | 804 | -12% | 125 | 79 | -37% |
| Equity (excluding foreclosure) | 2,814 | 2,874 | 2% | 2,904 | 2,920 | 1% | 1,080 | 1,099 | 2% | 237 | 185 | -22% |
| Civil Division Civil - Total | 75,864 | 78,133 | 3% | 80,445 | 77,002 | -4% | 62,559 | 65,533 | 5% | 25,345 | 23,672 | -7% |
| Multi-County Litigation | 1,037 | 3,819 | 268% | 2,737 | 1,903 | -30% | 1,609 | 4,218 | 162% | 14,749 | 14,141 | -4% |
| Non Multi-County Litigation | 74,827 | 74,314 | -1% | 77,708 | 75,099 | -3% | 60,950 | 61,315 | 1% | 10,596 | 9,531 | -10% |
| Special Civil - Total | 416,246 | 394,024 | -5% | 417,589 | 396,624 | -5% | 39,308 | 36,963 | -6% | 183 | 206 | 13% |
| Special Civil - Auto | 3,393 | 3,079 | -9% | 3,506 | 3,187 | -9% | 450 | 345 | -23% | 10 | 11 | 10% |
| Special Civil - Contract | 219,822 | 207,640 | -6% | 220,372 | 209,214 | -5% | 26,291 | 24,946 | -5% | 117 | 136 | 16% |
| Special Civil - Other | 8,145 | 6,781 | -17% | 8,274 | 6,979 | -16% | 1,119 | 925 | -17% | 11 | 18 | 64% |
| Special Civil - Small Claims | 27,834 | 24,604 | -12% | 28,130 | 24,934 | -11% | 1,693 | 1,370 | -19% | 17 | 11 | -35% |
| Special Civil - Tenancy | 157,052 | 151,920 | -3% | 157,307 | 152,310 | -3% | 9,755 | 9,377 | -4% | 28 | 30 | 7% |
| Probate | 6,208 | 6,222 | 0% | 6,144 | 6,246 | 2% | 1,785 | 1,748 | -2% | 84 | 77 | -8% |
| Family Division Dissolution | 54,247 | 53,173 | -2% | 54,950 | 54,361 | -1% | 16,000 | 14,871 | -7% | 923 | 815 | -12% |
| Delinquency | 23,818 | 22,243 | -7% | 24,000 | 22,260 | -7% | 1,853 | 1,778 | -4% | 127 | 114 | -10% |
| Non-Dissolution | 128,448 | 123,825 | -4% | 128,275 | 123,905 | -3% | 7,675 | 7,497 | -2% | 145 | 141 | -3% |
| Domestic Violence | 46,046 | 45,909 | 0% | 46,181 | 45,939 | -1% | 1,483 | 1,510 | 2% | 41 | 27 | -34% |
| Abuse / Neglect | 4,372 | 3,890 | -11% | 4,572 | 4,349 | -5% | 4,587 | 4,133 | -10% | 25 | 19 | -24% |
| Adoption | 1,923 | 1,878 | -2% | 1,966 | 2,035 | 4% | 515 | 359 | -30% | | | |
| Child Placement Review | 3,830 | 3,040 | -21% | 4,366 | 4,100 | -6% | 6,615 | 5,583 | -16% | 1 | 1 | 0% |
| Juvenile / Family Crisis | 229 | 214 | -7% | 228 | 211 | -7% | 11 | 14 | 27% | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Kinship | 523 | 524 | 0% | 533 | 520 | -2% | 66 | 74 | 12% | 2 | 0 | -100% |
| Termination of Parental Rights | 988 | 899 | -9% | 1,049 | 998 | -5% | 392 | 354 | -10% | 99 | 38 | -62% |
| Criminal / Quasi-Criminal | 7,014 | 7,610 | 8% | 7,054 | 7,502 | 6% | 643 | 745 | 16% | 26 | 21 | -19% |
| Total | 819,904 | 790,310 | -4% | 829,743 | 795,847 | -4% | 153,086 | 151,168 | -1% | 34,264 | 31,348 | -9% |
| Multi-County Litigation | 1,037 | 3,819 | 268% | 2,737 | 1,903 | -30% | 1,609 | 4,218 | 162% | 14,749 | 14,141 | -4% |
| Non Multi-County Litigation | 818,867 | 786,491 | -4% | 826,736 | 793,944 | -4% | 151,477 | 146,950 | -3% | 19,515 | 17,207 | -12% |

Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by County

| | Filings | | | Resolutions | | | Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals) | | | Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals) | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---|-----------|----------------|---|-----------|----------------|
| | July 2017 to June 2018 | July 2018 to June 2019 | percent change | July 2017 to June 2018 | July 2018 to June 2019 | percent change | June 2018 | June 2019 | percent change | June 2018 | June 2019 | percent change |
| | Atlantic County Total | 32,617 | 32,308 | -1% | 33,101 | 32,164 | -3% | 6,610 | 7,130 | 8% | 1,670 | 1,151 |
| Multi-County Litigation | 439 | 684 | 56% | 42 | 812 | 1833% | 505 | 760 | 50% | 431 | 50 | -88% |
| Non Multi-County Litigation | 32,178 | 31,624 | -2% | 33,059 | 31,352 | -5% | 6,105 | 6,370 | 4% | 1,239 | 1,101 | -11% |
| Bergen County Total | 62,216 | 59,225 | -5% | 64,339 | 59,840 | -7% | 13,062 | 13,240 | 1% | 12,532 | 12,394 | -1% |
| Multi-County Litigation | 396 | 986 | 149% | 1,755 | 502 | -71% | 826 | 1,306 | 58% | 11,228 | 11,237 | 0% |
| Non-Multicounty Litigation | 61,820 | 58,239 | -6% | 62,584 | 59,338 | -5% | 12,236 | 11,934 | -2% | 1,304 | 1,157 | -11% |
| Burlington County | 40,188 | 40,448 | 1% | 40,290 | 40,661 | 1% | 6,825 | 6,463 | -5% | 228 | 289 | 27% |
| Camden County | 66,373 | 64,213 | -3% | 66,949 | 64,337 | -4% | 10,933 | 10,882 | 0% | 885 | 859 | -3% |
| Cape May County | 9,540 | 8,872 | -7% | 9,610 | 9,112 | -5% | 1,833 | 1,642 | -10% | 286 | 226 | -21% |
| Cumberland County | 21,821 | 20,819 | -5% | 22,129 | 21,060 | -5% | 3,187 | 2,974 | -7% | 399 | 404 | 1% |
| Essex County | 118,948 | 113,339 | -5% | 120,227 | 114,621 | -5% | 22,283 | 21,307 | -4% | 3,900 | 3,604 | -8% |
| Gloucester County | 27,074 | 25,563 | -6% | 27,382 | 26,049 | -5% | 4,297 | 3,936 | -8% | 572 | 453 | -21% |
| Hudson County | 64,557 | 60,276 | -7% | 64,556 | 60,507 | -6% | 11,426 | 11,055 | -3% | 952 | 934 | -2% |
| Hunterdon County | 5,866 | 5,811 | -1% | 5,895 | 5,797 | -2% | 1,036 | 1,079 | 4% | 58 | 56 | -3% |
| Mercer County | 37,856 | 36,991 | -2% | 38,373 | 37,557 | -2% | 6,524 | 6,047 | -7% | 840 | 793 | -6% |
| Middlesex County Total | 64,842 | 64,007 | -1% | 65,527 | 63,361 | -3% | 14,637 | 15,880 | 8% | 5,124 | 4,542 | -11% |
| Multi-County Litigation | 202 | 2,149 | 964% | 940 | 589 | -37% | 278 | 2,152 | 674% | 3,090 | 2,854 | -8% |
| Non Multi-County Litigation | 64,640 | 61,858 | -4% | 64,587 | 62,772 | -3% | 14,359 | 13,728 | -4% | 2,034 | 1,688 | -17% |
| Monmouth County | 43,627 | 43,018 | -1% | 44,217 | 43,628 | -1% | 9,410 | 9,279 | -1% | 1,516 | 1,087 | -28% |
| Morris County | 25,693 | 25,637 | 0% | 26,496 | 25,646 | -3% | 5,038 | 5,312 | 5% | 731 | 560 | -23% |
| Ocean County | 43,142 | 41,497 | -4% | 43,791 | 42,007 | -4% | 8,042 | 7,708 | -4% | 1,281 | 1,120 | -13% |
| Passaic County | 53,444 | 51,714 | -3% | 53,915 | 52,000 | -4% | 9,680 | 9,512 | -2% | 1,089 | 956 | -12% |
| Salem County | 8,356 | 8,152 | -2% | 8,285 | 8,221 | -1% | 1,122 | 1,084 | -3% | 121 | 115 | -5% |
| Somerset County | 19,199 | 18,584 | -3% | 19,281 | 18,587 | -4% | 3,486 | 3,584 | 3% | 373 | 254 | -32% |
| Sussex County | 10,236 | 10,197 | 0% | 10,384 | 10,304 | -1% | 1,749 | 1,741 | 0% | 223 | 148 | -34% |
| Union County | 55,288 | 50,727 | -8% | 55,587 | 51,448 | -7% | 10,610 | 9,980 | -6% | 1,403 | 1,333 | -5% |
| Warren County | 9,021 | 8,912 | -1% | 9,139 | 8,940 | -2% | 1,296 | 1,333 | 3% | 81 | 70 | -14% |
| Total | 819,904 | 790,310 | -4% | 829,743 | 795,847 | -4% | 153,086 | 151,168 | -1% | 34,264 | 31,348 | -9% |
| Multi-County Litigation | 1,037 | 3,819 | 268% | 2,737 | 1,903 | -30% | 1,609 | 4,218 | 162% | 14,749 | 14,141 | -4% |
| Non Multi-County Litigation | 818,867 | 786,491 | -4% | 826,736 | 793,944 | -4% | 151,477 | 146,950 | -3% | 19,515 | 17,207 | -12% |



Vicinage Map

There is a Superior Court in each of New Jersey's 21 counties. The Superior Courts are grouped into 15 court districts called vicinages.

Vicinage comes from the Latin word *vicinus*, which means vicinity, neighborhood or district.

Below is a list of New Jersey's Superior Court vicinages including their Assignment Judge and Trial Court Administrator.

Atlantic/Cape May

Vicinage 1

Julio L. Mendez

Assignment Judge

Howard H. Berchtold Jr.

Trial Court Administrator

Bergen

Vicinage 2

Bonnie J. Mizdol

Assignment Judge

Laura A. Simoldoni

Trial Court Administrator

Burlington

Vicinage 3

Jeanne T. Covert

Assignment Judge

Alba R. Rivera

Trial Court Administrator

Camden

Vicinage 4

Deborah Silverman Katz

Assignment Judge

Colleen P. Lore

Trial Court Administrator

Essex

Vicinage 5

Sallyanne Floria

Assignment Judge

Amy K. DePaul

Trial Court Administrator

Hudson

Vicinage 6

Peter F. Bariso Jr.

Assignment Judge

Marie L. Keevan

Trial Court Administrator

Mercer

Vicinage 7

Mary C. Jacobson

Assignment Judge

Sue Regan

Trial Court Administrator

Middlesex

Vicinage 8

Alberto Rivas

Assignment Judge

Gregory Lambard

Trial Court Administrator

Monmouth

Vicinage 9

Lisa P. Thornton

Assignment Judge

Gurpreet M. Singh

Trial Court Administrator

Morris/Sussex

Vicinage 10

Stuart A. Minkowitz

Assignment Judge

Susan Chait

Trial Court Administrator

Passaic

Vicinage 11

Ernest M. Caposela

Assignment Judge

Robert D. Tracy

Trial Court Administrator

Union

Vicinage 12

Karen M. Cassidy

Assignment Judge

Devang M. Merchant

Trial Court Administrator

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren

Vicinage 13

Yolanda Ciccone

Assignment Judge

Adriana M. Calderon

Trial Court Administrator

Ocean

Vicinage 14

Marlene Lynch Ford

Assignment Judge

Jill Vito

Trial Court Administrator

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem

Vicinage 15

Benjamin C. Telsey

Assignment Judge

Jason Corter

Trial Court Administrator

New Union Vicinage Jury Assembly Room

The new jury waiting room in the Union Vicinage has 264 seats, an increase in capacity of 101 over the old room in the New Annex Building in Elizabeth. The new jury waiting room has all new seating, four flat-screen smart televisions that can show both TV shows as well as DVD recordings. A juror check-in station where two jury management staff can work side-by-side. A podium with the capability of tapping into the public address system is available for judges to conduct an orientation of the jurors as needed. There is an area with work stations to accommodate electronic devices. There also are four charging stations located throughout the area. The room also has two private bathrooms and a separate lactation room for nursing mothers equipped with a chair, table and refrigerator.



New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Aug 28

The Union Vicinage has a new jury waiting room that is much more comfortable and equipped with many conveniences for prospective jurors.

The new waiting room has seating for 264 people – an increase in capacity of 101 over the previous room.



New Jersey Courts @njcourts · Aug 28

Two private bathrooms are in the space as well as a separate lactation room equipped with a chair, table and refrigerator for nursing mothers.





STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

GLENN A. GRANT, J.A.D.
ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

SEPTEMBER 2020