



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



Ohio Courts
STATISTICAL
SUMMARY
2010

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2010

OHIO COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY



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A MESSAGE
From the Chief Justice

Every year the Supreme Court of Ohio issues a statistical summary and detailed report designed to inform and identify trends throughout the entire court system.

As you'll note in the pages of the 2010 summary, the number of new cases filed in Ohio courts again reached a 10-year low last year with traffic cases in municipal and county courts leading the trend.

Ordinarily, an overall 5 percent decrease in new cases filed in Ohio courts would seem to mean a more manageable workload for court personnel. But, as we have seen over the past few years, budgetary cutbacks have more than offset any anticipated advantage being realized by local courts from slightly reduced caseloads.

Of course, compiling statistics about caseloads, case terminations and clearance rates would not be possible without the cooperation of local court staff to submit that data on a monthly or quarterly basis. We appreciate your continued assistance.

By analyzing case filing patterns and trends documented in this report, the Supreme Court hopes to assist in the efficient administration of justice at all levels of the judiciary.

MAUREEN O'CONNOR
CHIEF JUSTICE
THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO



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NOTE: An overview of the National Center for State Courts’ CourTools performance measures is displayed on *pages 26 and 27* of this publication.





An OVERVIEW of the Statistical Reporting Process

The obligation for Ohio trial and appellate courts to report caseload statistics to the Case Management Section of the Supreme Court of Ohio is established by Rule 37 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.

The requirement to submit regular caseload reports is fixed upon each individual judge for the cases assigned to him or her. An exception to this requirement exists in multi-judge municipal and county courts where certain activities are permitted to occur in particular sessions of court in which cases are not assigned to individual judges, but instead are grouped by subject category and presided over by a rotation among the several judges of the court.

The reporting obligations established under Sup. R. 37 are as follows:

Court of Appeals

The presiding judge of each court of appeals district must submit quarterly a presiding judge report, which describes the status of all cases pending in that district. In addition, each individual judge must submit quarterly an appellate judge report, which provides further details on case terminations, as well as the cases assigned to the judge for authoring the district's opinions.

Courts of Common Pleas

Judges with responsibility over general, domestic relations and juvenile subject-matter jurisdiction must submit monthly a report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the numbers pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month. If a judge is responsible for more than one category of subject-matter jurisdiction in his or her court, the judge must submit a report for each such category. For example, a judge with responsibility over domestic relations and juvenile cases must submit two reports: one for domestic relations cases and one for juvenile cases.

Judges with responsibility over probate matters must submit quarterly a report describing the number of cases filed and closed over the quarter, as well as additional statistics.

Municipal and County Courts

As noted above, an exception to the ordinary requirement for judges to submit regular reports of the cases assigned to them exists for multi-judge municipal and county courts. Notwithstanding that exception, all municipal and county court judges must submit monthly an individual judge report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the numbers pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month.

In addition to the individual judge report, each municipal and county court administrative judge must submit monthly a report including the work performed on felony and small claims cases (which are not individually assigned) and the work performed during particular sessions of court on all other case types.

General Notes Concerning Caseload Statistics

The caseload statistics reported to the Supreme Court are summary in nature and consist only of counts of cases. The Supreme Court does not collect lists of individual cases that constitute the counts reported.

The actual report forms and instructions are available on the Supreme Court website. The instructions include detailed information concerning the proper manner of classifying cases by type, how a “case” is defined and how to properly report incoming cases and terminations.

Regarding terminations, it is essential to understand that not all termination categories are dispositive in nature. Some termination categories simply render a case inactive for reporting purposes until such time as a condition in the case changes. An example is a criminal defendant who fails to appear for trial. The court, as long as it reasonably believes the defendant will not be apprehended in the immediate future, may terminate the case for reporting purposes. The court reactivates the case for reporting purposes at such time when that defendant is arrested. This aspect of counting terminations is important to bear in mind when evaluating a court’s case management performance against a time standard for disposing of cases.

Occasionally, a court will discover errors in its case counts following a physical case inventory or during an update to its case management system. Courts may submit amended reports at any time, and the changed data is entered into the Supreme Court’s caseload statistics system immediately. Accordingly, the caseload statistics reported in a particular static report, such as this document, may change in the future following such amendments.

In order to promote accurate and uniform statewide reporting, the staff of the Supreme Court Case Management Section conducts regular training for court staff responsible for preparing monthly and quarterly reports.

Describing Data Using Median and Mean

In this document, data is sometimes described using means and medians. Mean and median are both measures of central tendency, a term that refers to the “middle” value of a set of data. The mean is calculated by dividing the sum of a data set by the number of items in the set. This is often referred to as the “average.” Median is determined by sorting the data set from lowest to highest value and identifying the data point in the middle of the range. It is the midpoint of the data at which half the items are higher and half are lower. Median, unlike mean, is not subject to the skewing effect of outliers — that is, data points at an extreme margin on the range of values.

Statewide Statistics and Population Data

Except where noted in the body of this summary, all data shown are statewide figures. Population data are from the 2010 U.S. Census.

General Notes Concerning Performance Measures

When analyzing the work of Ohio courts and judges, the Case Management Section regularly evaluates two key performance measures readily available using caseload statistics reported by the courts: clearance rates and overage rates. Both measures can be applied to a court's overall docket, individual case types or groups of case types. The clearance rates and overage rates for 2010 presented in this report represent the courts' monthly averages across 2010. For example, if the municipal and county courts are reported as demonstrating a 9-percent overage rate for a particular case type, that figure represents the average overage rate across each of the 12 months in 2010.

Clearance Rate

This measure identifies how well a court keeps up with its incoming caseload. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Clearance Rate} = \frac{\text{Total number of outgoing cases}}{\text{Total number of incoming cases}}$$

Clearance rates can be calculated over any time period, as long as the incoming and outgoing values apply to that same time period. Using monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of outgoing cases is determined using the reported "Total Terminations" values. The total number of incoming cases is determined using the sum of the reported "New Cases Filed" and "Cases Transferred in, Reactivated or Redesignated" values. The ratio of outgoing cases to incoming cases (produced using the above formula) is ordinarily multiplied by 100 and expressed as percentage. The target is a clearance rate of 100 percent.

A clearance rate of 100 percent means a court terminated over a given time period exactly as many cases as it took in during that same time period. If a court's clearance rate is regularly less than 100 percent over an extended period of time, the court will develop a backlog because the pace of incoming cases exceeds the pace of outgoing cases.

While valuable, clearance rates alone do not accurately depict a court's success in moving its entire docket forward in a timely fashion. A court may regularly demonstrate a 100 percent or greater clearance rate while simultaneously keeping a sizable number of cases from being disposed of within applicable time standards. Accordingly, clearance rates should, where practicable, be viewed alongside a measure that gauges the extent to which a court's caseload is pending beyond time standards, such as the overage rate.

Overage Rate

This measure identifies the extent to which a court's pending caseload lags past applicable time standards, or, is overage. The overage rate is a measure of the size of a court's backlog. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Overage Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of cases pending beyond time guidelines}}{\text{Total number of cases pending}}$$

Using the monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of active cases pending for longer than the time guideline (the reported "Cases Pending Beyond Time Guideline" value) is divided by the total number of active cases pending (the reported "Pending End of Period" value). The result is multiplied by 100 and expressed as a percentage.

While the application of clearance rates and overage rates afford a reasonable view of a court's case management performance, the numbers provide an incomplete assessment. The National Center for State Courts developed a set of 10 core court performance measures, packaged into a set of practical tools named CourTools, that provide a balanced perspective on a court's overall performance. Developed through the input of a wide range of court professionals, they are designed to assist courts in laying a solid foundation for self-evaluation and in charting a course for future improvement. The Case Management Section provides CourTools training for court personnel.

Future Plans

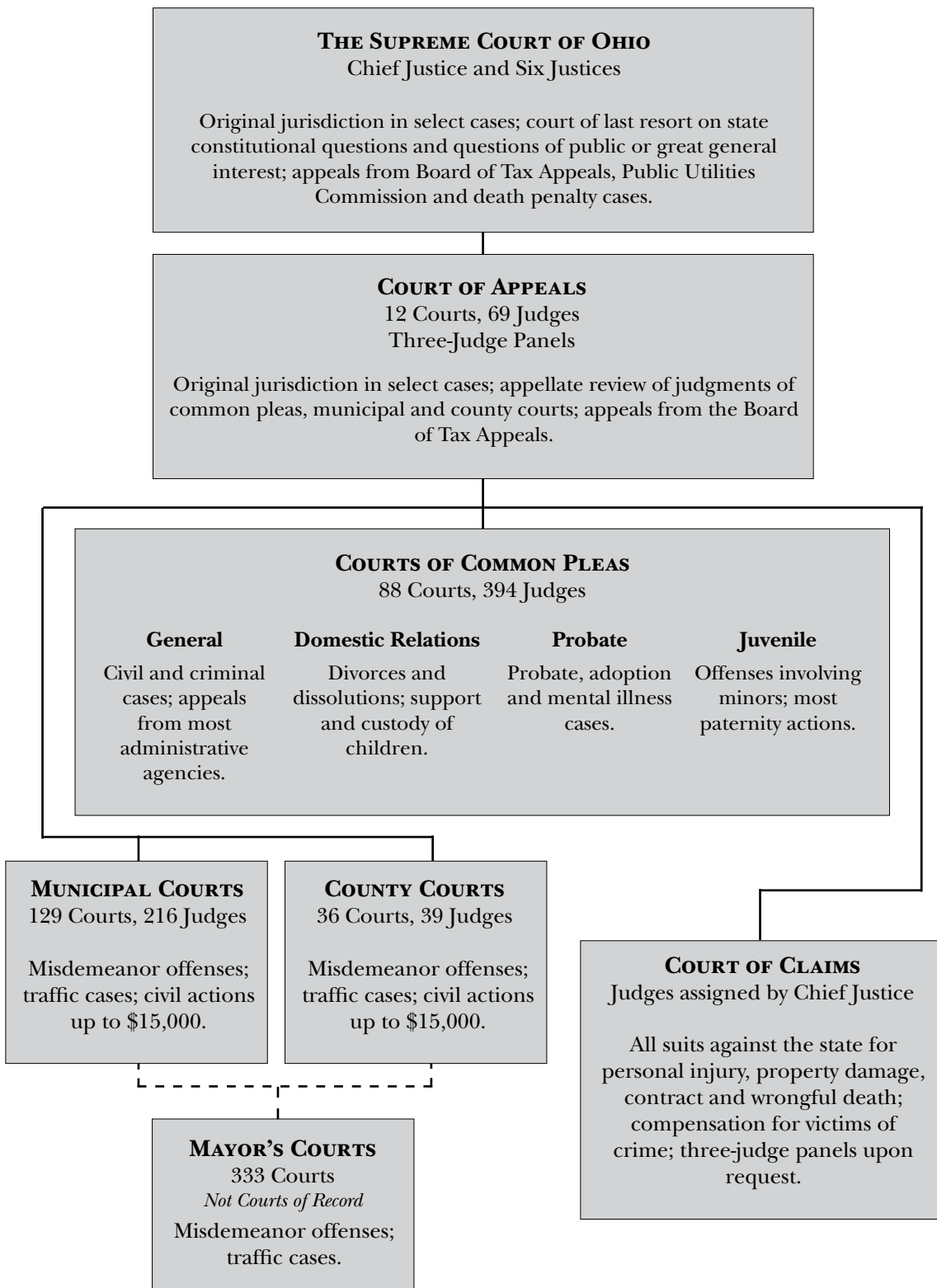
The current configuration of case types and termination categories has remained largely unchanged for 20 years. Changes in the law, changes in society, and changes in the Supreme Court's capacity to collect, analyze, evaluate and report caseload statistics present an opportunity for a careful re-evaluation of the overall caseload statistics reporting process. In addition, technological advancements among the courts, such as the ongoing development of the Ohio Courts Network and improvements in the design and deployment of case management software applications, point toward potential alternative means for the Supreme Court to continue its function of gathering and reporting caseload statistics.

In 2008, the Supreme Court acquired and implemented business intelligence software to greatly enhance its ability to manage the wealth of caseload data currently available. New ways of analyzing and evaluating the data are being developed, and aspects of the reporting process that can be enhanced are being identified.

The Supreme Court established in 2010 the Advisory Committee on Case Management. One of the key areas this advisory committee will review is the entire caseload statistical reporting process, from the data elements collected to the manner in which that data is transformed and communicated back to the courts.

As the Supreme Court continues to move forward in these areas, it will tap into the depth of knowledge and experience shared by the Ohio judiciary, court professionals and justice system partners to fully explore the best means for advancing Ohio's state-of-the-art caseload statistical reporting.

2010 STRUCTURE OF THE OHIO JUDICIAL SYSTEM







All COURTS

New Filings

Shown below is the total number of new cases filed over each of the past 10 years in Ohio's courts. Detailed information concerning the variety of cases constituting these figures is contained in the various court sections of this summary.

New Cases Filed

All Courts, 2001 to 2010

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Supreme Court | 2,284 | 2,249 | 2,237 | 2,178 | 2,444 | 2,407 | 2,459 | 2,506 | 2,363 | 2,293 |
| Court of Appeals | 10,480 | 10,404 | 10,905 | 10,713 | 11,437 | 11,208 | 10,512 | 11,115 | 10,433 | 10,277 |
| Court of Claims | 1,159 | 1,051 | 1,134 | 1,024 | 1,138 | 734 | 896 | 1,094 | 902 | 1,231 |
| Common Pleas | 647,876 | 666,850 | 653,554 | 649,348 | 656,473 | 677,512 | 673,240 | 664,138 | 639,419 | 613,043 |
| General | 185,948 | 206,933 | 211,376 | 216,094 | 229,352 | 247,434 | 261,677 | 266,547 | 258,460 | 244,743 |
| Domestic Relations | 79,830 | 80,775 | 79,527 | 80,389 | 77,888 | 76,844 | 74,157 | 73,087 | 73,463 | 73,327 |
| Probate | 99,455 | 96,357 | 95,338 | 94,998 | 93,708 | 91,621 | 88,021 | 88,621 | 88,178 | 85,152 |
| Juvenile | 282,643 | 282,785 | 267,313 | 257,867 | 255,525 | 261,613 | 249,385 | 235,883 | 219,318 | 209,821 |
| Municipal and County | 2,692,083 | 2,740,639 | 2,700,538 | 2,417,551 | 2,469,942 | 2,525,373 | 2,518,204 | 2,534,408 | 2,322,505 | 2,203,420 |
| Municipal | 2,420,212 | 2,459,268 | 2,444,493 | 2,211,094 | 2,259,479 | 2,311,044 | 2,309,559 | 2,338,119 | 2,142,154 | 2,047,841 |
| County | 271,871 | 281,371 | 256,045 | 206,457 | 210,463 | 214,329 | 208,645 | 196,289 | 180,351 | 155,579 |
| All Courts Combined | 3,353,882 | 3,421,193 | 3,368,368 | 3,080,814 | 3,141,434 | 3,217,234 | 3,205,311 | 3,213,261 | 2,975,622 | 2,830,264 |





THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

The Supreme Court of Ohio is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution, which provides that “the judicial power of the state is vested in a Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, Courts of Common Pleas and divisions thereof, and such other courts inferior to the Supreme Court as may from time to time be established by law.” Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution sets the size of the Court at seven — a Chief Justice and six Justices — and outlines the jurisdiction of the Court.

The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in Ohio. The Court may grant leave to appeal criminal cases from the courts of appeals and may direct any court of appeals to certify its record on civil cases found to be “cases of public or great interest.”

The Court must accept appeals of cases that originated in the courts of appeals, cases involving the death penalty, cases involving questions arising under the U.S. Constitution or the Ohio Constitution and cases in which there are conflicting opinions from two or more courts of appeals. The Court also must accept appeals from such administrative bodies as the Board of Tax Appeals and the Public Utilities Commission.

The Court has original jurisdiction for certain special remedies that permit a person to file an action in the Supreme Court. These extraordinary remedies include writs of habeas corpus (involving the release of persons allegedly unlawfully imprisoned or committed), writs of mandamus and procedendo (ordering a public official to do a required act), writs of prohibition (ordering a lower court to cease an unlawful act) and writs of quo warranto (against a person or corporation for usurpation, misuse or abuse of public office or corporate office or franchise).

The Supreme Court makes rules governing practice and procedure in Ohio’s courts. Procedural rules adopted by the Supreme Court become effective unless both houses of the General Assembly adopt a concurrent resolution of disapproval. The Supreme Court also exercises general superintendence over all Ohio courts through its rule-making authority. The rules of superintendence set minimum standards for court administration. Unlike procedural rules, rules of superintendence do not require General Assembly review or approval to become effective.

The Chief Justice assigns judges to trial and appellate courts for temporary duty in cases of a court overload, when a judge is removed from a case because of an affidavit of disqualification and when judges recuse themselves from a particular case.

The Court has authority over the admission of attorneys to the practice of law in Ohio and may discipline admitted attorneys who violate the rules governing the practice of law.

The Chief Justice and six Justices are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. Two Justices are chosen at the general election in even-numbered years. In the year when the Chief Justice runs, voters pick three members of the Court. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the Court. The governor makes appointments for vacancies occurring between elections.

Caseloads

The Supreme Court reports detailed caseload statistics each year in its annual report. Readers are encouraged to review those reports to gain further insight into the work of the Court. In the 2010 Annual Report, and here, the Court presents performance-related statistics concerning the time to dispose of various case types.

For purposes of this analysis, the Court's overall case filings are presented under four categories: All Case Types Combined, Jurisdictional Appeals, Merit Cases and Practice of Law Cases.

All Case Types Combined

For all case types combined, the Court saw the filing of 2,293 new cases in 2010, representing a 5-percent decrease from the 2,407 cases filed five years earlier in 2006. (See **Table 1**). However, the number of total cases filed over the past four years remained fairly stable. (See **Figure 1**).

Jurisdictional Appeals

In 2010, 1,714 new jurisdictional appeals were filed, representing a 6-percent decrease from the 1,789 cases filed in 2006. During the last five years, the Court experienced a moderate degree of volatility in the number of jurisdictional appeals filed. Although across time, no obvious trend is noted. (See **Figure 2**).

TABLE 1

| All Case Types | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| New Filings | | | | | |
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
| Jurisdictional Appeals | 1,789 | 1,927 | 2,004 | 1,817 | 1,714 |
| Merit Cases | 479 | 410 | 369 | 418 | 432 |
| Practice of Law Cases | 139 | 122 | 133 | 128 | 147 |
| Disciplinary Cases | 128 | 107 | 121 | 117 | 126 |
| All Other | 11 | 15 | 12 | 11 | 21 |
| Total | 2,407 | 2,459 | 2,506 | 2,363 | 2,293 |

FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined

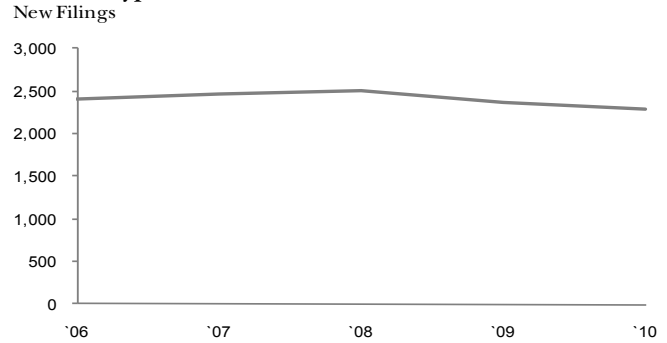


FIGURE 2

Jurisdictional Appeals

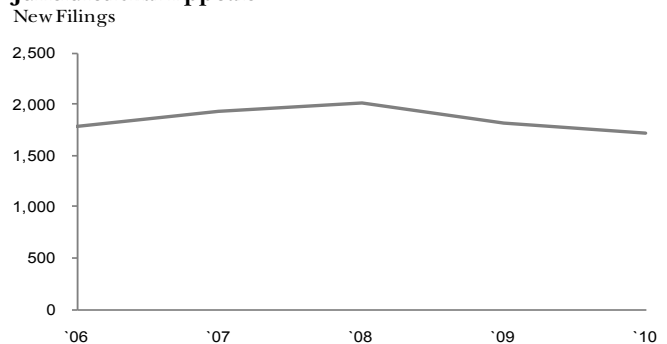


FIGURE 3

Merit Cases
New Filings

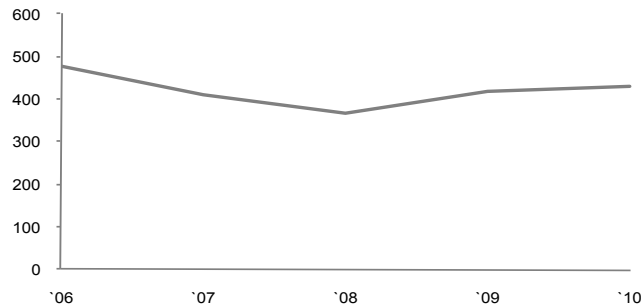
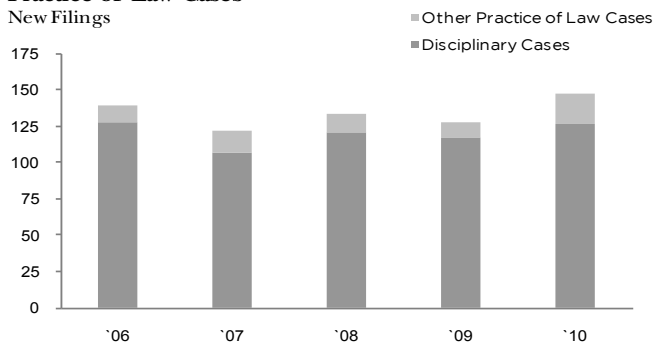


FIGURE 4

Practice of Law Cases
New Filings



Merit Cases

These are cases the Court must hear and render a decision on the merits. The general categories of merit cases consist of the following:

- Original actions
- Habeas corpus cases
- Direct appeals (cases originating in courts of appeals)
- Appeals involving certified conflicts
- Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals
- Appeals from Public Utilities Commission
- Death penalty cases
- Cases involving certified questions of state law
- Appeals of elections contests under R.C. 3515.15

In 2010, 432 merit cases were filed. This represents a 3-percent increase over the 418 cases filed in 2009. A five-year view of the filing trend reveals sizable year-to-year fluctuations. (See **Figure 3**).

Practice of Law Cases

These cases arise from the Court's responsibility to govern the practice of law in Ohio. Included in this category are disciplinary cases involving allegations of ethical misconduct by attorneys and judges, bar admissions cases involving applications from people seeking admission to the Ohio bar, and cases alleging the unauthorized practice of law. The vast majority of practice of law cases involve attorney discipline. In 2010, 147 practice of law cases were filed, representing an increase of 15 percent over 2009. Of those 147 cases, 126 (86 percent), were disciplinary cases. The Court's docket of disciplinary cases has remained largely stable with periods of regular fluctuations between 2006 and 2010. (See **Figure 4**).

Time to Disposition Analyses

Shown in **Table 2** is the number of cases disposed over each of the past five years, grouped in several different ways, including by case type and manner-of-disposition. Included in this data are the mean and median numbers of days for the Court to dispose of cases. Median values are included here to address instances where certain outliers (cases taking an unusually long period of time to be disposed) cause the mean to become skewed.

TABLE 2

Supreme Court of Ohio
Time to Disposition

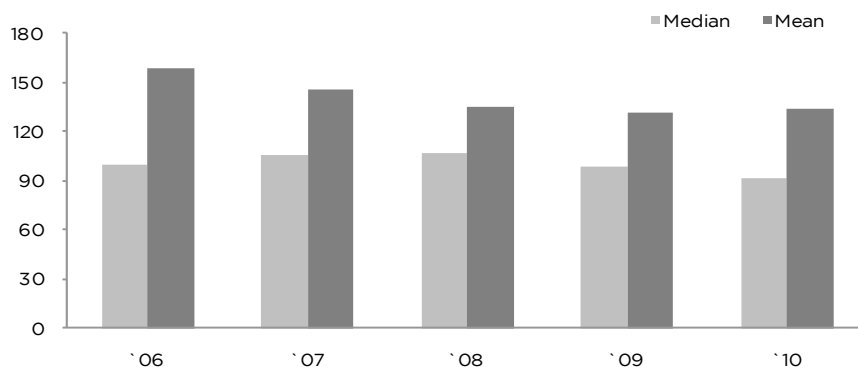
| | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| All Cases | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 2,593 | 2,384 | 2,541 | 2,485 | 2,245 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 100 | 105 | 106 | 98 | 91 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 158 | 145 | 135 | 131 | 134 |
| Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 382 | 191 | 156 | 128 | 154 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 322 | 462 | 423 | 419 | 347 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 342 | 433 | 403 | 435 | 341 |
| Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 1,568 | 1,649 | 1,868 | 1,793 | 1,396 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 96 | 100 | 104 | 96 | 86 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 93 | 100 | 101 | 95 | 88 |
| Original Actions | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 217 | 194 | 199 | 203 | 233 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 58 | 68 | 68 | 61 | 65 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 73 | 85 | 74 | 74 | 76 |
| Disciplinary Cases upon Report of Board | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 105 | 71 | 70 | 81 | 87 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 190 | 159 | 174 | 161 | 166 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 203 | 174 | 182 | 164 | 187 |
| Unauthorized Practice of Law | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 8 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 9 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 243 | 132 | 185 | 164 | 121 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 285 | 278 | 185 | 177 | 128 |
| Character and Fitness Cases | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 6 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 12 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 148 | 132 | 135 | 161 | 75 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 157 | 150 | 128 | 157 | 97 |
| All Cases Decided with an Opinion | | | | | |
| Number of Cases Disposed | 390 | 336 | 340 | 346 | 330 |
| Median Number of Days to Disposition | 140 | 106 | 100 | 85 | 87 |
| Mean Number of Days to Disposition | 156 | 111 | 104 | 95 | 102 |

Note: The counting of the number of Days to Disposition for All Cases Decided with an Opinion begins upon submission of the cases to the Court. For all other categories shown in this table, the counting begins upon filing of the cases.

FIGURE 5

All Cases

Days from Filing to Final Disposition



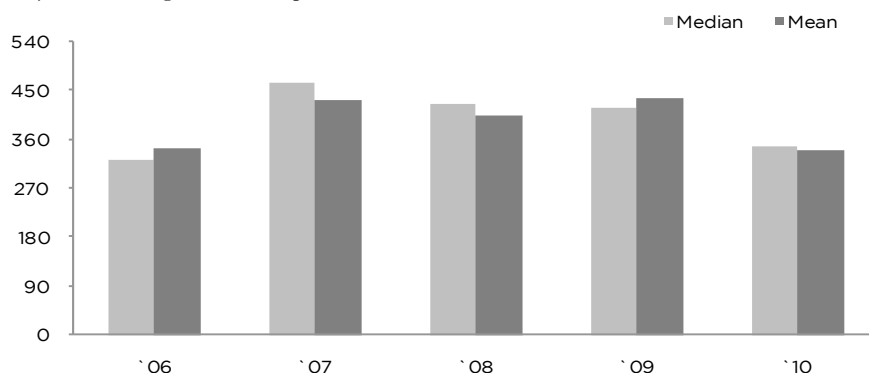
All Cases

In 2010, the Court disposed of 2,245 cases. The mean number of days those cases were pending before the Court was 134. The mean steadily declined over the last five years from a five-year high of 158 in 2006. (See **Figure 5**).

FIGURE 6

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition



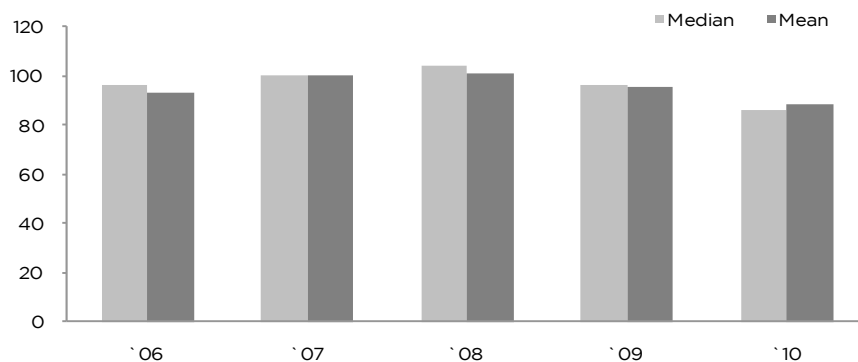
Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

In 2010, the Court disposed of 154 jurisdictional appeals following a full merit review. The mean number of days to consider these appeals was 341 days, considerably shorter than the previous year at 435 days, and the shortest time frame in the last five years. (See **Figure 6**).

FIGURE 7

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition



Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

Of the 2,245 total cases disposed by the Court in 2010, 1,396 (62 percent), were jurisdictional appeals not accepted for full merit review. The mean number of days to consider these appeals was 88 days, the shortest time frame in the last five years. (See **Figure 7**).

Original Actions

The mean disposition time for original actions in 2010 was 76 days, nearly identical to the two previous years. The median number of days remained relatively steady over the past five years, ranging from 58 to 68 days. (See **Figure 8**).

All Cases Decided with an Opinion

In 2010, the Court decided 330 cases with an opinion. The mean number of days to decide these cases following submission was 102 days, slightly greater than in 2009, but still fewer than in previous years. (See **Figure 9**).

FIGURE 8

Original Actions

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

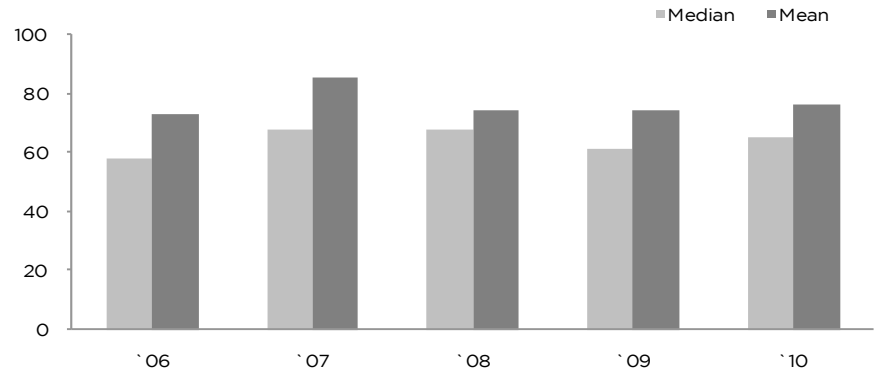
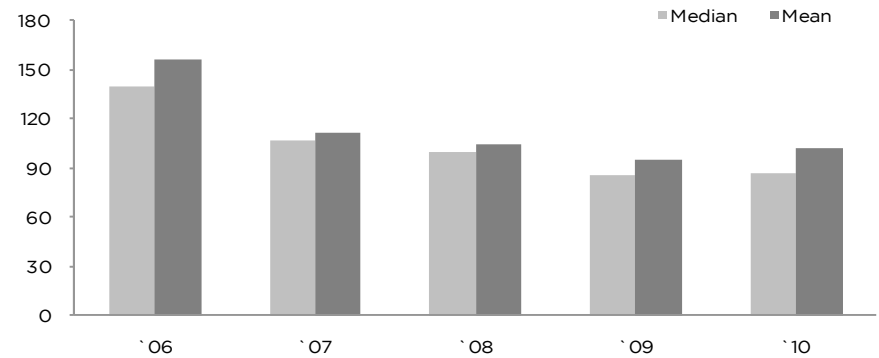


FIGURE 9

All Cases Decided with an Opinion

Days from Submission to Final Disposition





COURT OF APPEALS

Ohio's court of appeals is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution and its jurisdiction is outlined in Article IV, Section 3. The court is divided regionally into 12 districts. As an intermediate-level appellate court, its primary function is to hear appeals from common pleas, municipal and county courts. Each case is heard and decided by a three-judge panel.

In addition to its appellate jurisdiction, the court of appeals has original jurisdiction, as does the Supreme Court, to hear applications for writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, procedendo, prohibition and quo warranto. The 10th appellate district, consisting solely of Franklin County, also hears appeals from the Court of Claims.

The number of judges in each appellate district depends on a variety of factors, including the district's population and its caseload. Appeals court judges are elected to six-year terms in even-numbered years. They must be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio six years prior to the commencement of the term.

Caseloads

The cases heard in Ohio courts of appeals are classified into four broad types:

- Criminal appeals arising from criminal cases heard in the general divisions of the common pleas courts and in municipal and county courts.
- Civil appeals arising from civil cases heard in the general divisions of the common pleas courts and municipal and county courts.
- Family law appeals arising from cases heard in the domestic relations, juvenile and probate divisions of Ohio common pleas courts.
- Miscellaneous appeals include original actions filed in the courts of appeals, habeas corpus cases and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims.

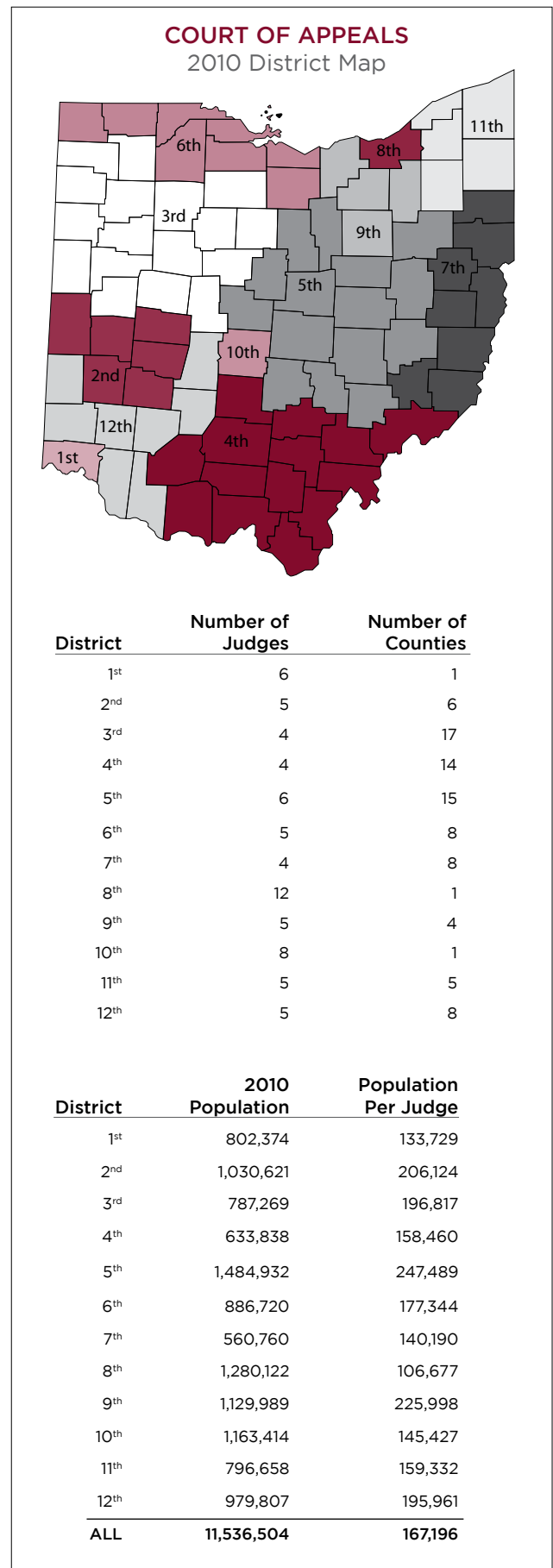
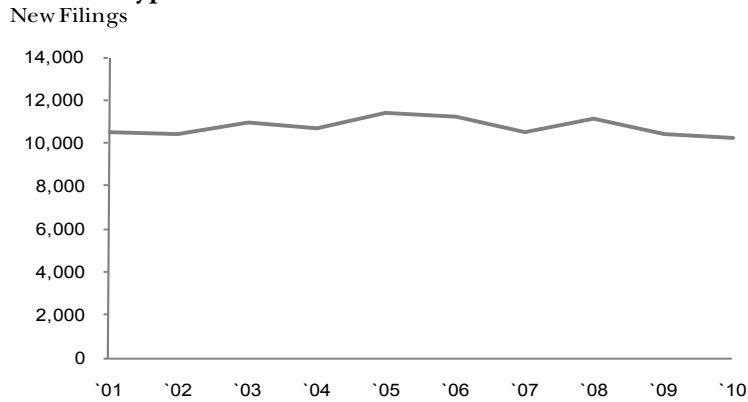


FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined



The overall number of cases heard in Ohio’s court of appeals remained remarkably steady from 2001 through 2010. In 2001, 10,480 new cases were filed. In 2010, 10,227 new cases were filed. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

The stable overall caseload does not reflect stability in each case type. As shown in **Figure 2**, trends in the number of new filings over the years are seen within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Criminal appeals exhibit an upward trend with some notable volatility over the past five years in particular. Throughout the 10 years shown, criminal appeals rose nearly 16 percent from 3,996 in 2000 to 4,714 in 2010. Civil appeals have declined the past two years, with 7 percent fewer in 2010 than 2009.

TABLE 1

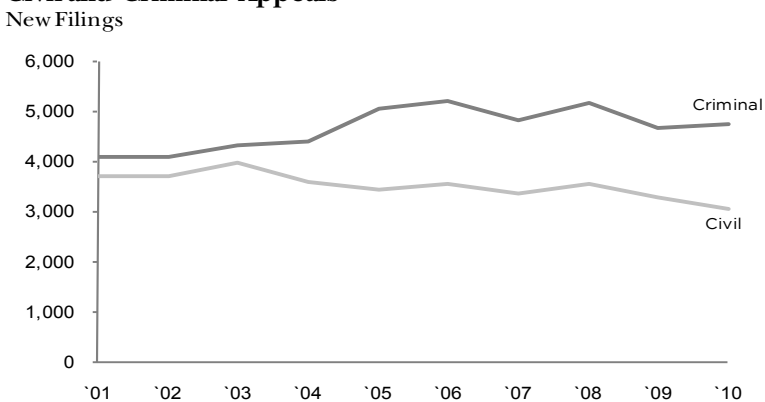
New Filings

Court of Appeals

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Criminal | 4,073 | 4,059 | 4,309 | 4,397 | 5,047 | 5,189 | 4,807 | 5,157 | 4,670 | 4,714 |
| Civil | 3,680 | 3,704 | 3,947 | 3,562 | 3,433 | 3,538 | 3,335 | 3,521 | 3,277 | 3,050 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,045 | 970 | 947 | 996 | 1,288 | 810 | 832 | 857 | 909 | 973 |
| Family Law | 1,682 | 1,671 | 1,702 | 1,758 | 1,623 | 1,671 | 1,538 | 1,580 | 1,577 | 1,490 |
| All Case Types | 10,480 | 10,404 | 10,905 | 10,713 | 11,437 | 11,208 | 10,512 | 11,115 | 10,433 | 10,227 |

FIGURE 2

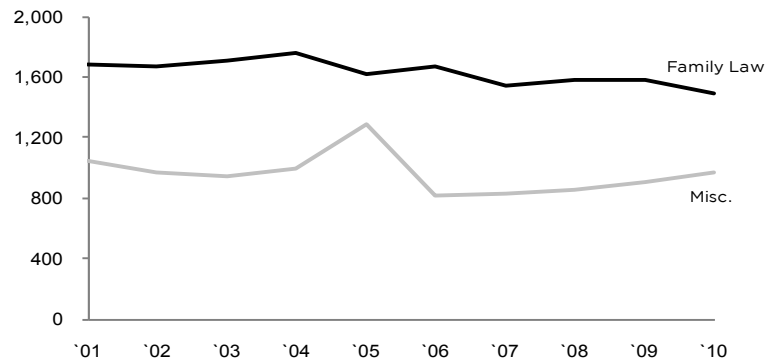
Civil and Criminal Appeals



In regard to family law appeals, there is a slight downward trend in the number of new filings. In 2001, 1,682 new family law-related appeals were filed. In 2010, there were 1,490 filings, constituting a 7-percent decrease. Miscellaneous appeals demonstrate an overall slight upward trend over the past five years. (See **Figure 3**).

FIGURE 3

Family Law and Miscellaneous Appeals
New Filings





COURT OF CLAIMS

The Court of Claims has statewide original jurisdiction over all civil actions filed against the state of Ohio. Created pursuant to the Court of Claims Act in 1976, the Court of Claims sits in Franklin County. Appeals from the Court of Claims are heard by the 10th District Court of Appeals in Columbus.

Civil actions in the Court of Claims are determined in one of two ways, depending on the amount of monetary damages claimed.

Civil cases involving \$2,500 or less are determined administratively by the clerk or deputy clerk of the court. Cases involving more than \$2,500 are heard by a judge. A judge of the court also may review and enter final judgment in a civil action determined administratively. Judges on the Court of Claims are assigned by the Chief Justice.

In addition to civil actions against the state of Ohio, the Court of Claims hears appeals from decisions of the Attorney General regarding claims for reparations by victims of crime. These appeals are heard by panel commissioners of the Court of Claims, who are appointed by the Supreme Court. If the claimant wishes to appeal further, a Court of Claims judge reviews the claim and issues a final decision. No further appeals are permitted.

From 2006 through 2009, the number of new judicial cases filed each year exhibited relative stability. In 2010, the court experienced a sizable 17-percent increase in the number of filings with 463 new filings. (See **Figure 1**).

Of note regarding the processing of judicial cases is the number of conferences and pretrials held each year. As shown in **Figure 2**, from 2006 through 2008, the court demonstrated a steadily rising trend. However, that trend was interrupted in 2009, and in the past two years the court held 1,247 and 1,257 conferences and pretrials, respectively, constituting approximately 23 percent fewer conferences and pretrials than in 2008.

FIGURE 1

Judicial Cases
Cases Filed

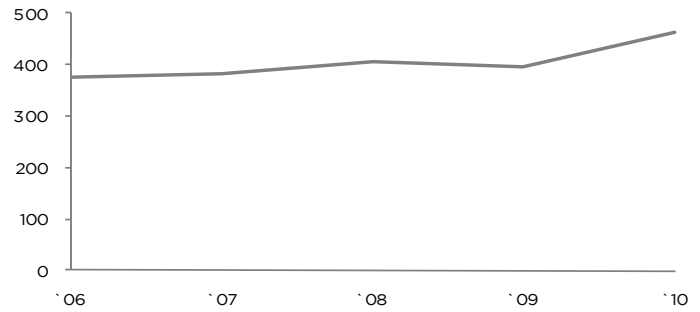


FIGURE 2

Judicial Cases
Conferences/Pretrials Held

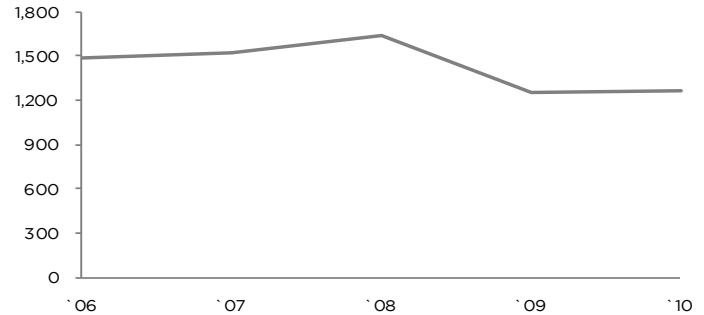
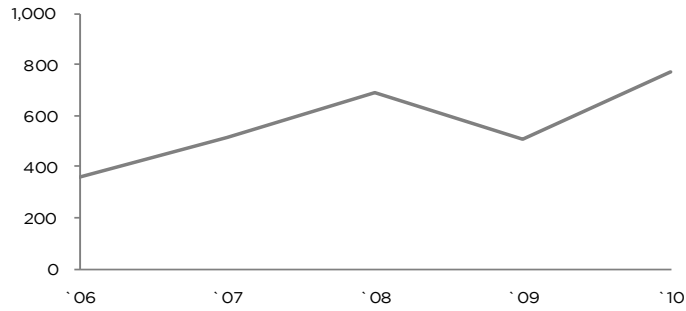


FIGURE 3

Administrative Determinations
Cases Filed

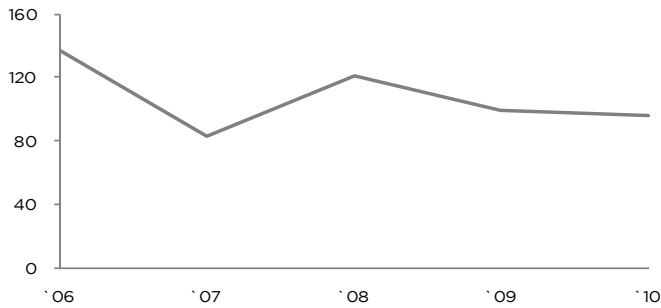


The number of administrative determination cases filed each year varies widely with an overall upward trend over the past five years. Notable is that 2010 saw the largest number of new cases over the past five years, with 768 cases, more than double (114 percent) the number filed in 2006. (See **Figure 3**).

The volume of appeals from victims of crime decisions exhibits significant fluctuations over the five years shown in **Figure 4**, with no discernable trend. The 96 appeals filed in 2010 is only slightly less than the median annual figure of 99 appeals over the past five years.

FIGURE 4

Victims of Crime Appeals
Appeals Filed







COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

The court of common pleas, the only trial court created by the Ohio Constitution, is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution and its duties are outlined in Article IV, Section 4.

There is a court of common pleas in each of Ohio's 88 counties. The courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction in all criminal felony cases and original jurisdiction in all civil cases in which the amount in controversy is more than \$500. Courts of common pleas have appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of some state administrative agencies.

Common pleas judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the court.

Most courts of common pleas have specialized divisions created by statute to decide cases involving juveniles, domestic relations matters, and probate matters. The use of the term "division" when describing the jurisdictional structure of the common pleas courts sometimes is at odds with how that term is applied when describing caseload statistics. For ease of description, it is common to group cases by type — that is, by division. For example, when describing caseloads of cases generally grouped together as "domestic relations cases," they may be referred to as "domestic relations division" cases, even though a particular county may not technically have a domestic relations division. Five courts of common pleas have no divisions: the courts in Adams, Morgan, Morrow, Noble and Wyandot counties.

Changes in 2010

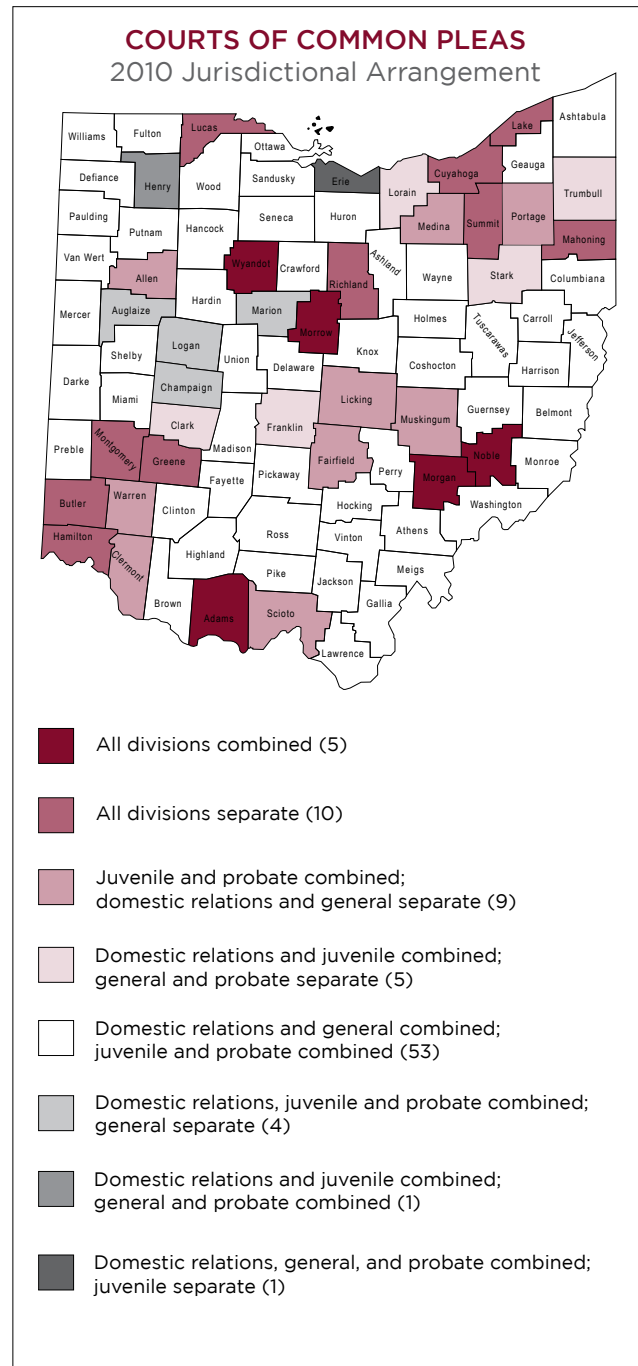
There were no changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts.

Changes in 2011

At the time of publication, no laws are in effect that make changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts.

Courts of Common Pleas Jurisdictional Distribution in 2010

| Jurisdictional Structure | Number of Counties | Number of Judges |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Separately Administered General Division | 28 | 162 |
| Separately Administered Domestic Relations Division | 19 | 30 |
| Separately Administered Probate Division | 15 | 16 |
| Separately Administered Juvenile Division | 11 | 20 |
| Combined General and Domestic Relations Division | 53 | 72 |
| Combined Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division | 6 | 15 |
| Combined Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile Division | 4 | 7 |
| Combined Probate and Juvenile Division | 62 | 62 |
| Combined General, Domestic Relations and Probate Division | 1 | 3 |
| Combined General and Probate Division | 1 | 1 |
| Combined General, Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile Division | 5 | 6 |





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

General Division

The general divisions of the courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction over all criminal felony cases, all civil actions in which the amount in controversy is greater than \$500 and jurisdiction over the appeals of decisions of certain state administrative agencies.

For statistical reporting purposes, all criminal cases are counted together with no distinction based on specific charges. Civil cases are reported under a number of different case-type categories.

Cases involving tort claims are classified as either:

- Professional Tort — Such as medical and legal malpractice
- Product Liability
- Other Torts — Tort cases not otherwise classifiable as professional tort or product liability cases.

The non-tort case-type categories are:

- Workers' Compensation — Typically involving appeals from a decision of the Industrial Commission
- Foreclosures
- Administrative Appeals
- Complex Litigation — A special case type discussed further below
- Other Civil — Civil cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case type categories.

The complex litigation case type is a special category reserved for civil cases involving novel or complicated issues of law and fact that are not likely to be resolved within the time guidelines established for other cases. A judge assigned to a civil case that meets the criteria prescribed under Sup. R. 42 may reclassify a civil case as a complex litigation case. Accordingly, no cases are filed with the courts as complex litigation cases. Instead, civil cases are first classified under their appropriate case types and then, if applicable, are reclassified as complex litigation cases. Complex litigation cases are rare. Since 2001, on average, approximately one out of every 1,500 civil cases in the general divisions of Ohio's common pleas courts are classified each year as complex litigation matters.



CourTools

A Court Performance Framework

In 1987, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the United States Department of Justice initiated the Trial Court Performance Standards Project in order to develop a common language for describing, classifying and measuring the performance of trial courts.

Their work culminated in the 1990 release of Trial Court Performance Standards (TCPS). Included in those standards was an extensive battery of 68 performance measures. Faced with the practical challenges of implementing the multitude of performance measures prescribed in the TCPS, NCSC staff worked with state court representatives to develop a streamlined set of measures that evaluate the essential core functions of a court. The result was the 2005 completion of 10 performance measures constituting the CourTools.

The CourTools provide a balanced and comprehensive, yet workable, empirical perspective on court operations. When implemented, they give the judiciary, its justice partners and the public direct evidence into how well a court functions.

Court performance measurement is about knowing where things stand today — which, in turn, permits the development of a plan for the future. The CourTools provide an effective framework for courts to establish performance baselines, diagnose existing problems and plan for specific improvements.

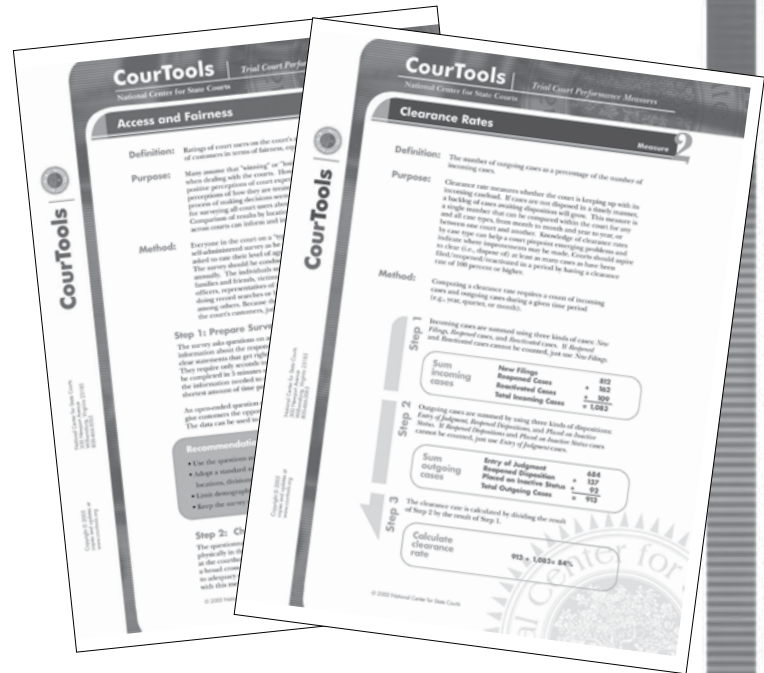


Measuring Court Performance

The Supreme Court of Ohio encourages Ohio trial courts to measure performance using the CourTools.

The Court's Case Management Section provides specific training directly to the courts on implementing, interpreting and understanding the CourTools.

The 10 CourTools are published in a visual and accessible how-to format. Brief descriptions of each are featured below.



CourTools Measure 1 measures how well a court provides accessibility to its services and to what extent participants in court proceedings feel they are treated fairly and with respect.

CourTools Measures 2, 3, 4 and 5 focus on the critical goals of courts functioning expeditiously and resolving cases in a timely manner.

CourTools Measure 6 focuses on the foundational element that courts maintain accurate and complete files.

CourTools Measure 7 permits a court to obtain a firm grasp on how effective it is at collecting monetary penalties.

Courts using juries can apply **CourTools Measure 8** to demonstrate the soundness of their jury management.

CourTools Measure 9 provides courts with a means to ensure that court staff function at a high level and provide an optimal level of public service by measuring the work environment and the relations between staff and court management.

Lastly, **CourTools Measure 10** describes how to establish a cost-per-case foundation for responsible budgeting.

More information about CourTools is available at www.courtools.org.

Caseloads

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of new case filings in 2010 among common pleas, general division courts. Criminal cases, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases constitute 89 percent of all new filings in 2010. See the *Appendix* for a table displaying the number of new filings for each individual case type from 2001 through 2010.

Shown in Figure 2 is the number of new filings of Criminal, Foreclosure, Other Civil and All Other Civil Case Types combined. While the “all other civil cases types” grouping shows a moderate and steady downward trend, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases display significant growth over the past 10 years, although the Other Civil category experienced a marked decline in the past two years. Criminal cases exhibited a steady upward trend until 2007, at which time the trend reversed with continuing decreases in the past five years. Notably, Criminal case new filings in 2010 (with slightly more than 69,000 cases) are 16 percent fewer than the 10-year high of more than 82,000 cases filed in 2006.

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in Table 1, the clearance rates in 2009 for all case types except Professional Tort are close to or exceed 100 percent.

Overage rates, also shown in Table 1, are displayed graphically in Figure 3. Criminal cases and Administrative Appeals exhibit the greatest overage rates at 14 and 24 percent, respectively.

FIGURE 1

New Filings in 2010
All Case Types

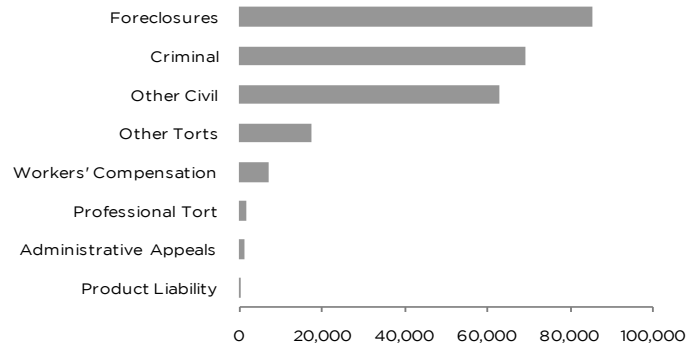


FIGURE 2

Trends in New Filings
Criminal and Civil

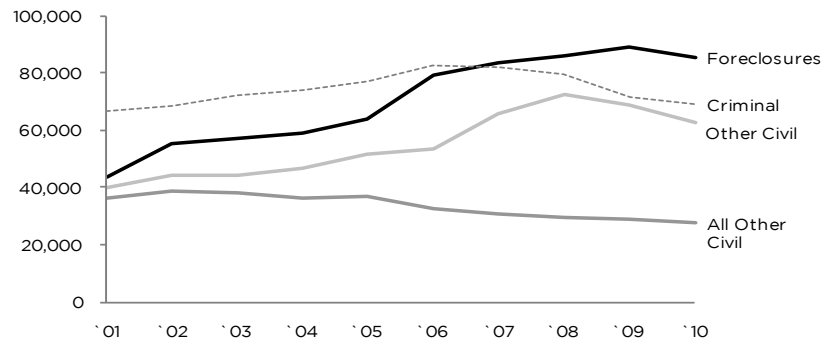


TABLE 1

Performance Measures
All Case Types, 2010

| | Clearance Rate | Overage Rate |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Administrative Appeals | 105% | 24% |
| Complex Litigation | 207% | 8% |
| Criminal | 100% | 14% |
| Foreclosures | 99% | 6% |
| Other Civil | 105% | 4% |
| Other Torts | 104% | 3% |
| Product Liability | 107% | 8% |
| Professional Tort | 96% | 9% |
| Workers Compensation | 103% | 10% |

FIGURE 3

Overage Rates
All Case Types, 2010

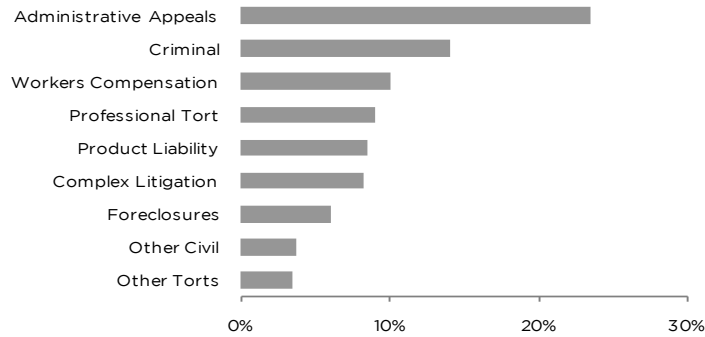
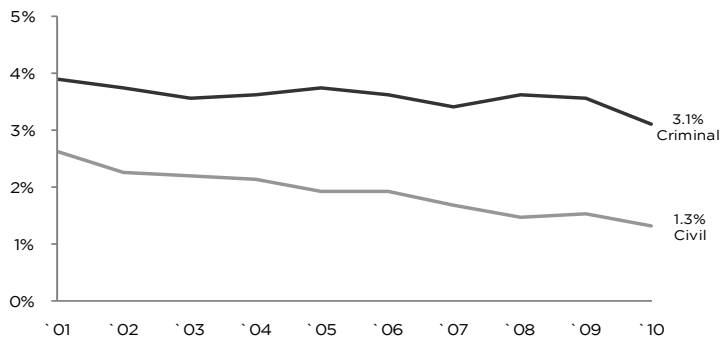


FIGURE 4

Trial Rates
Percentage of Total Dispositional Terminations



Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court's performance, per se, this statistic routinely is used by the Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that are truly dispositive of the case and categories that instead simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations are then summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

It is conventionally understood among court observers at the national level that approximately 2 percent of civil cases and 5 percent of criminal cases ultimately go to trial.

Ohio trial rates fall below those figures. As shown in **Figure 4**, the trial rate for civil cases heard in the common pleas, general division courts in 2010 was 1.3 percent and 3.1 percent for criminal cases. Although the criminal case trial rate remained relatively stable since 2001, the rate for civil trials dropped by half over the past 10 years.

Cuyahoga County's Asbestos Docket

Not reflected in the caseload statistics shown in this report is a special group of asbestos-related cases pending in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. This docket chiefly consists of product liability cases involving alleged exposure to products containing asbestos and, to a smaller extent, silica. Also included in this docket are premises liability cases against owners or possessors of property on which plaintiffs allege injury from exposure to asbestos-containing products.

The volume of these cases filed over the years in Cuyahoga County necessitated certain extraordinary means for managing it. The cases are heard by retired assigned judges with special designated staff and are not counted among Cuyahoga County's traditional caseload statistics.

The number of new cases filed each year over the past 10 years varied widely from a high in 2001 of 8,251 new cases to a low of 114 new cases in 2010. In 2005, the court saw a precipitous drop in the number of new cases filed and the incoming volume of new filings has remained extremely low each year since. (See **Table 2** and **Figure 5**).

The number of cases pending at the end of each year over the past 10 years reached a peak in 2004 when there were 46,384 cases pending. The lowest number of pending cases over the past 10 years occurred in 2010, with 7,088 cases pending at the end of the year. The number of pending cases stayed relatively stable until 2008 when more than 34,800 cases were terminated. (See **Table 2** and **Figure 6**). The majority (about 31,000) of those terminations were "administrative dismissals" rendering the cases inactive, pursuant to the passage of special asbestos-related tort reform legislation. The court found those cases did not contain the requisite medical evidence to warrant keeping the cases in active status. It should be noted that a given case, which can contain dozens of defendants, cannot be counted as being terminated until every defendant in the case was subject to a condition causing a reportable termination. Consequently, the number of cases terminated each year does not align as typically expected against the number of cases filed.

TABLE 2

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

Overall Caseloads

| Year | New Filings | Pending at End of Year | Cases Terminated |
|------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 2001 | 8,251 | 34,365 | 1 |
| 2002 | 5,811 | 39,791 | 386 |
| 2003 | 3,396 | 41,865 | 1,347 |
| 2004 | 6,416 | 46,384 | 1,906 |
| 2005 | 404 | 45,486 | 1,303 |
| 2006 | 444 | 44,755 | 1,180 |
| 2007 | 266 | 44,744 | 279 |
| 2008 | 176 | 10,112 | 34,813 |
| 2009 | 152 | 7,717 | 3,000 |
| 2010 | 114 | 7,088 | 321 |

FIGURE 5

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

New Filings

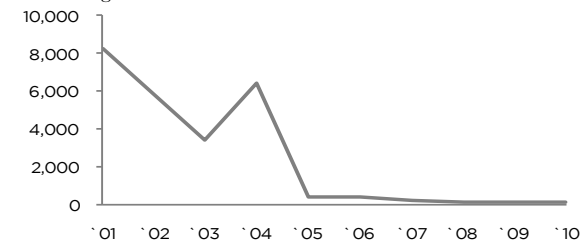
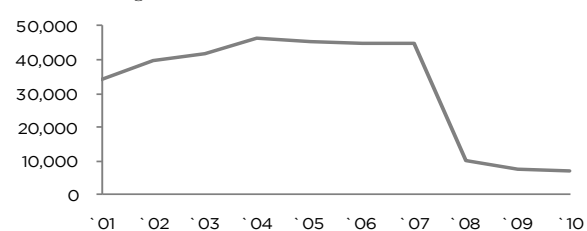


FIGURE 6

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

Cases Pending at End of Year





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Domestic Relations Division

Domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas have jurisdiction over all proceedings involving divorce or dissolution of marriages, annulment, legal separation, spousal support and allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children. The domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. The following counties have separately administered domestic relations divisions:

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Allen | Lake | Muskingum |
| Butler | Licking | Portage |
| Clermont | Lucas | Richland |
| Cuyahoga | Mahoning | Scioto |
| Fairfield | Medina | Summit |
| Greene | Montgomery | Warren |
| Hamilton | | |

Domestic relations cases are grouped into three general categories of cases:

Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions

Marriage Terminations (divorces) and Marriage Dissolutions involve the cessation of a marriage relationship. Both of these case categories are further broken down for caseload reporting purposes depending on whether the married couple seeking a divorce or dissolution has any children.

Post-Decree Case Types

Following the cessation of a marriage, further activities can occur and are classified under either the Change of Custody, Visitation Enforcement or Modification, or Support Enforcement or Modification categories. In some instances, a person may file a motion under more than one of these categories. For statistical reporting purposes, such matters are counted only under the category of the earliest filed motion. When that motion is resolved, the matter is reclassified under the case type for the motion filed after the first, and so on.

Miscellaneous Case Types

The remaining domestic relations case types are:

- Domestic Violence – Petitions for civil protection orders
- Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.) cases
- Parentage
- All Others – Cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case-type categories.

Caseloads

The core work performed in domestic relations courts involves divorces and dissolutions. In 2010, 47,046 new divorce and dissolution cases were filed. This represents an increase of slightly less than 3 percent over 2009. Nevertheless, a general downward trend in the filing of these cases can be seen over the past 10 years. New filings across the state in all case types from 2000 through 2010 are shown in a table in the *Appendix*.

While divorces and dissolutions are both generally trending downward, of particular note is the slight but regular difference in the relative volume of new filings depending on whether the married couple had children. (See **Figure 1**). Until 2005, more cases were filed involving children than not. Since 2005, this relationship in the data reversed. More cases are now filed in which children are not involved.

FIGURE 1

Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions
New Filings (both case types combined)

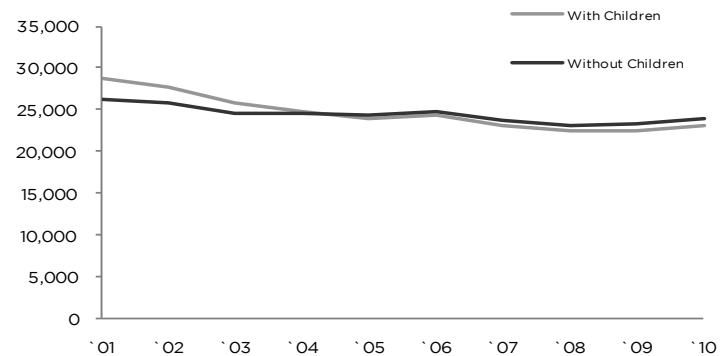


TABLE 1

Post-Decree Case Types
New Filings and Reactivations

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2010 Change over 2001 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------------------|
| New Filings | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Change of Custody | 1,217 | 1,078 | 1,067 | 991 | 939 | 661 | 611 | 562 | 448 | 433 | -64% |
| Support - Enforce or Modify | 5,062 | 5,479 | 5,194 | 5,134 | 5,130 | 3,731 | 3,444 | 3,204 | 2,534 | 2,251 | -56% |
| Visitation - Enforce or Modify | 522 | 436 | 368 | 312 | 284 | 313 | 259 | 153 | 108 | 127 | -76% |
| Reactivations | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Change of Custody | 6,904 | 6,761 | 6,635 | 6,785 | 7,240 | 7,234 | 6,980 | 7,007 | 6,804 | 6,790 | -2% |
| Support - Enforce or Modify | 32,477 | 32,185 | 32,407 | 35,859 | 35,581 | 33,730 | 33,410 | 34,659 | 35,169 | 32,500 | 0% |
| Visitation - Enforce or Modify | 3,211 | 3,088 | 3,075 | 3,171 | 3,341 | 3,079 | 3,120 | 3,370 | 3,085 | 3,210 | 0% |
| Total New Filings and Reactivations | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Change of Custody | 8,121 | 7,839 | 7,702 | 7,776 | 8,179 | 7,895 | 7,591 | 7,569 | 7,252 | 7,223 | -11% |
| Support - Enforce or Modify | 37,539 | 37,664 | 37,601 | 40,993 | 40,711 | 37,461 | 36,854 | 37,863 | 37,703 | 34,751 | -7% |
| Visitation - Enforce or Modify | 3,733 | 3,524 | 3,443 | 3,483 | 3,625 | 3,392 | 3,379 | 3,523 | 3,193 | 3,337 | -11% |

FIGURE 2

Custody and Visitation Cases
New Filings and Reactivations

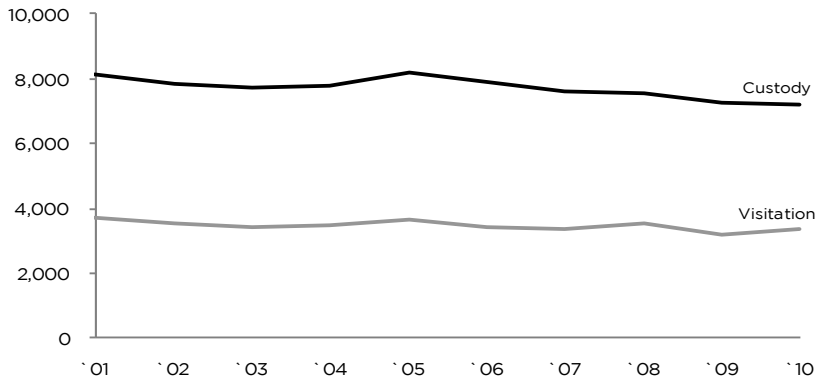
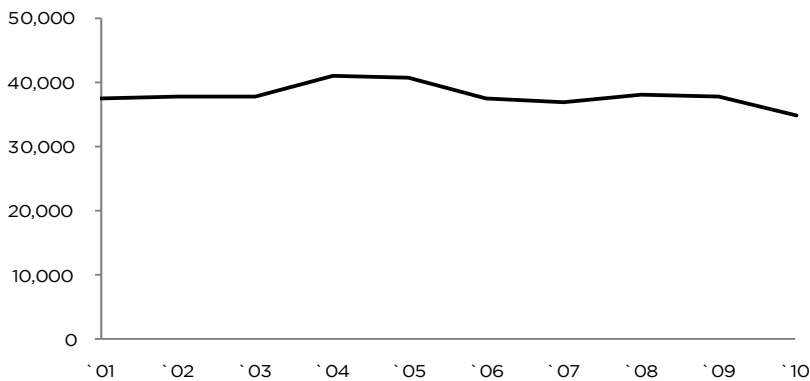


FIGURE 3

Support Cases
New Filings and Reactivations



Under the Supreme Court statistical reporting scheme for domestic relations cases, post-decree cases generally are reported as “reactivations,” rather than “new filings.” If a divorce case is heard in another state or county, any post-decree filing is reported as a new filing. Accordingly, for purposes of analyzing long-term trends in the caseloads of these post-decree matters, both sets of data (new filings and reactivations) are presented.

Similar to the downward trend seen in marriage terminations and marriage dissolutions, a corresponding downward trend in the number of custody and visitation matters is seen. This follows logically because post-decree motions are filed after a marriage is terminated. Notable is the contrast in the number of post-decree case types filed involving children (custody and visitation) and the number of support matters. It follows that because fewer marriage terminations involving children are filed, fewer custody and visitation matters are presented. Support matters, not strictly involving the presence of children, is expected to demonstrate less of a decline. These relationships in the reported caseloads are seen in **Table 1** and **Figures 2 and 3**.

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

Table 2 shows the clearance rates and overage rates for each case type in 2010. The overage rates are displayed graphically in **Figure 4**. While the overage rates for Marriage Terminations and Marriage Dissolutions along with several other case types in 2009 are below 10 percent, the overage rates for Domestic Violence, Custody, U.I.F.S.A., Visitation and All Others are above 10 percent.

The basis for the high overage rate for Domestic Violence cases is a result of an anomaly in the historical manner in which courts coded a termination for reporting purposes under the Supreme Court's statistical reporting scheme. Efforts to address this anomaly were undertaken and it is anticipated that future Domestic Violence case overage rates will continue to normalize.

TABLE 2

Performance Measures

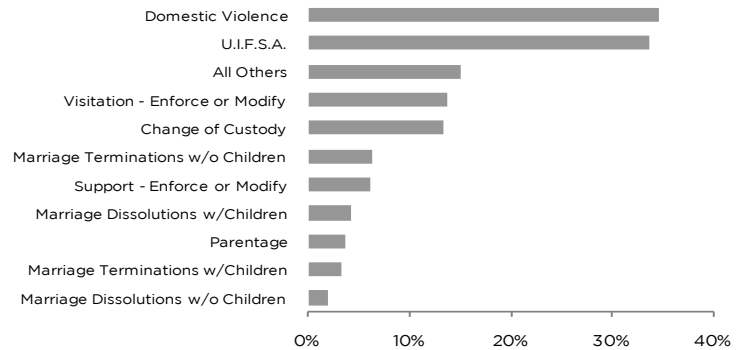
All Case Types, 2010

| | Clearance Rate | Overage Rate |
|------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| All Others | 105% | 15% |
| Change of Custody | 100% | 13% |
| Domestic Violence | 100% | 35% |
| Marriage Dissolutions w/Children | 101% | 4% |
| Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children | 102% | 2% |
| Marriage Terminations w/Children | 101% | 3% |
| Marriage Terminations w/o Children | 101% | 6% |
| Parentage | 105% | 4% |
| Support - Enforce or Modify | 103% | 6% |
| U.I.F.S.A. | 122% | 34% |
| Visitation - Enforce or Modify | 96% | 14% |

FIGURE 4

Overage Rates

All Case Types, 2010





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Probate Division

In 1968, the Modern Courts Amendment to the Ohio Constitution transformed probate courts to a division of the courts of common pleas. In addition to jurisdiction over wills, estate matters and guardianships, probate divisions have jurisdiction over the issuance of marriage licenses, adoption proceedings, determination of sanity or mental competency, and certain eminent domain proceedings. Probate judges also can solemnize marriages.

The probate divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have separately administered probate divisions:

| | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| Butler | Hamilton | Montgomery |
| Clark | Lake | Richland |
| Cuyahoga | Lorain | Stark |
| Franklin | Lucas | Summit |
| Greene | Mahoning | Trumbull |

Caseloads

Across the state, probate caseloads declined over the 10 years between 2001 and 2010. As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, 85,152 new probate cases were filed in 2010, representing 14 percent fewer than the 99,455 cases filed in 2001 and 3 percent fewer than one year earlier, in 2009.

New filings of Guardianships of Incompetents (adult guardianships), displayed in **Figure 1**, demonstrate a slight, but fairly steady upward trend. On the other hand, Guardianships of Minors, also shown in Figure 1, trend steadily downward, with 2,608 filings in 2010, compared with 4,413 new filings in 2001 (a 41-percent decrease).

Decedents' Estates cases, shown in **Figure 2**, exhibited a steady but modest downward trend from 2001 to 2010. The 55,199 cases filed in 2010 are 16 percent fewer than the 65,937 cases filed in 2000.

Adoption cases demonstrated a marked decrease with 4,120 cases filed in 2010, representing a 27-percent decline from the 5,674 cases filed in 2001. (See **Figure 3**).

Constituting a significant segment of the probate division workload are Mental Illness and Mental Retardation matters, which over the past 10 years remained largely stable with periods of notable volatility. (See **Figure 4**).

FIGURE 1

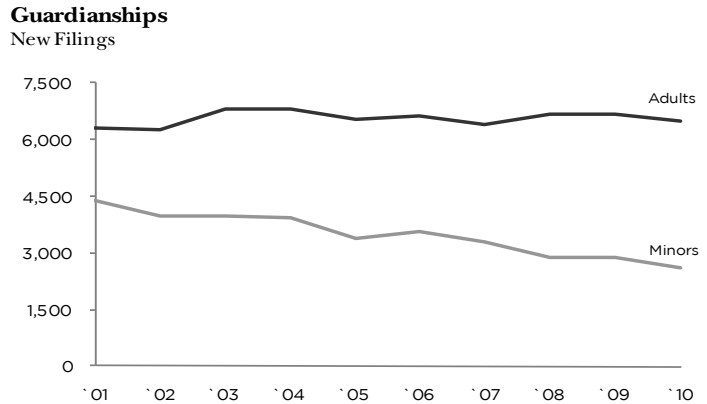


FIGURE 2

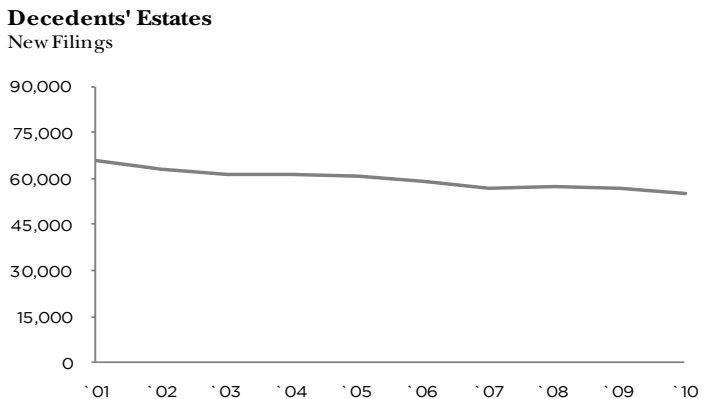


FIGURE 3

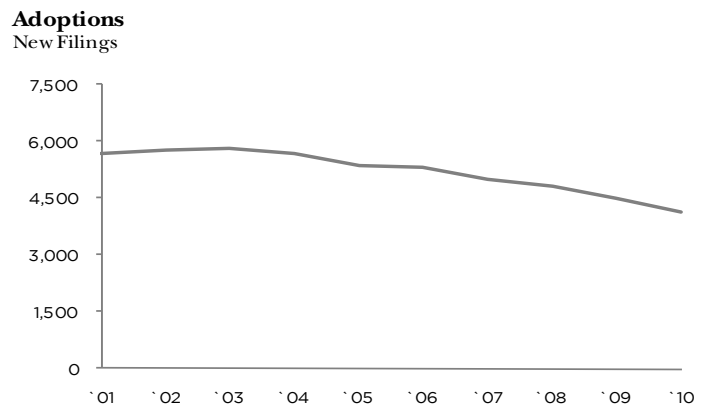
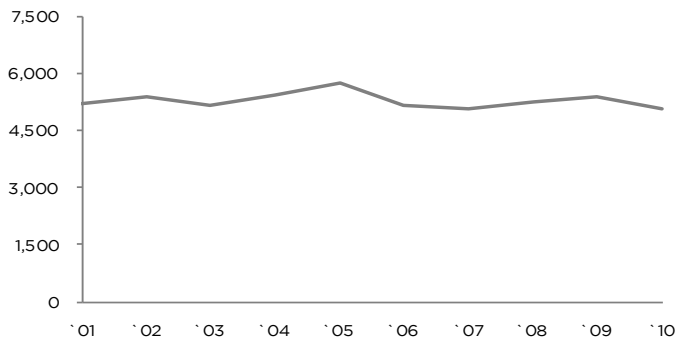


FIGURE 4

Mental Illness and Mental Retardation Cases
New Filings



Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, probate divisions statewide in 2010 exhibited generally satisfactory clearance rates in the majority of case types. Notable is the 78-percent clearance rate for Guardianships of Incompetents cases, which is suggestive of a growth in a backlog of these cases. Because the Supreme Court does not promulgate time standards for probate cases, overage rates are not calculable.

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2010

| | <u>Clearance Rate</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Adoptions | 97% |
| Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.) | 100% |
| Change of Name | 98% |
| Civil Actions | 95% |
| Conservatorships | 80% |
| Decedents' Estates | 96% |
| Guardianships of Incompetents | 78% |
| Guardianships of Minors | 127% |
| Mental Illness and Mental Retardation | 100% |
| Minors' Settlements | 103% |
| Testamentary Trusts | 166% |
| Wrongful Death | 99% |





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Juvenile Division

Juvenile divisions of courts of common pleas hear cases involving delinquent, unruly and neglected and dependent children and have jurisdiction in adult cases involving paternity, child abuse, non-support, contributing to the delinquency of minors and the failure to send children to school.

Juvenile divisions exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have separately administered juvenile divisions:

| | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
| Butler | Hamilton | Montgomery |
| Cuyahoga | Lake | Richland |
| Erie | Lucas | Summit |
| Greene | Mahoning | |

Caseloads

The *Appendix* contains a table showing the number of statewide new filings by type of case from 2001 to 2010. A variety of sizable changes in the number of new filings is seen. Overall, the state saw a slight decline of 4 percent in the total number of new filings of juvenile cases in 2010 over 2009. Over the past 10 years, there was a general decline amounting to a 10-year decrease of 26 percent. A significant driver of that overall decline is attributable to the drop in Traffic cases, which exhibited a consistent year-to-year decline from a 10-year high in 2002 of 97,177 cases to 48,504 cases in 2010 (a 50-percent decrease).

Notable in this data is the sizable and steady upward trend seen in those case types involving child support (Support Enforcement or Modification), and custody and visitation issues (Custody/Visitation). In 2010, 27,143 support matters were filed representing a 68-percent increase over the 16,142 filed in 2001. **Figure 1** displays graphically the increasing trend in new Support case filings. Although the upward trend is not as sharp, there also exists an ongoing and steady increase in the caseload presented to the courts involving Custody/Visitation matters. Over the 10 years shown, Custody/Visitation cases rose 66 percent.

These upward trends in custody, visitation and support matters align with the downward trends in related case types heard in Ohio's domestic relations divisions. The critical difference here is that the matters heard in juvenile divisions involve unmarried persons, whereas the related case types heard in domestic relations divisions necessarily are an outgrowth of a divorce or dissolution. Because divorces and dissolutions are trending down, it is perhaps not surprising to see an increase in the volume of child support, custody

FIGURE 1

Custody/Visitation and Support Cases
New Filings

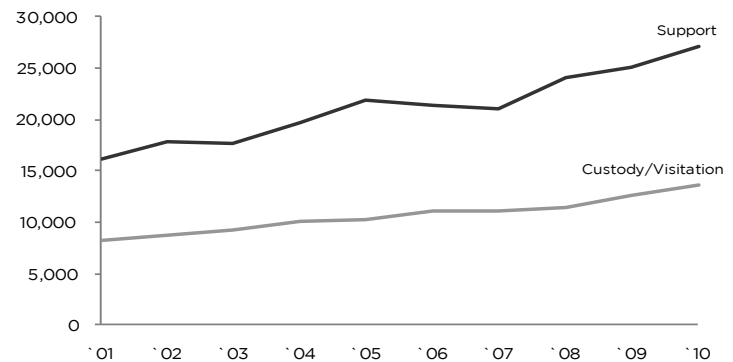


FIGURE 2

Parentage Cases
New Filings

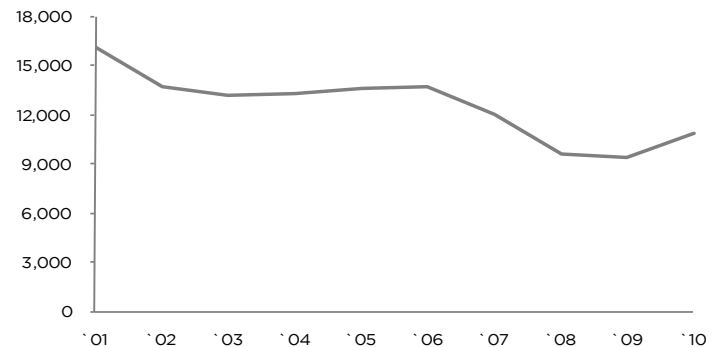


FIGURE 3

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency and Motions for Permanent Custody Cases (Combined)

New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

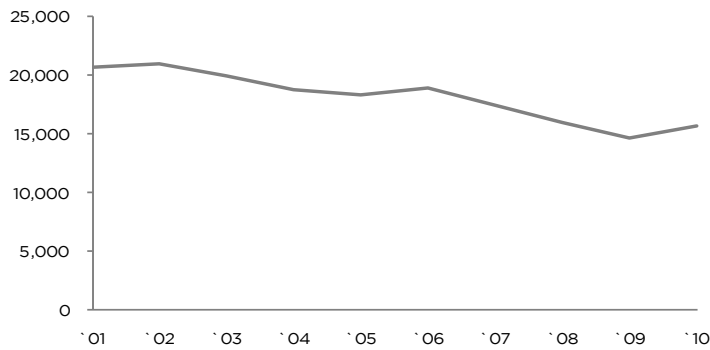
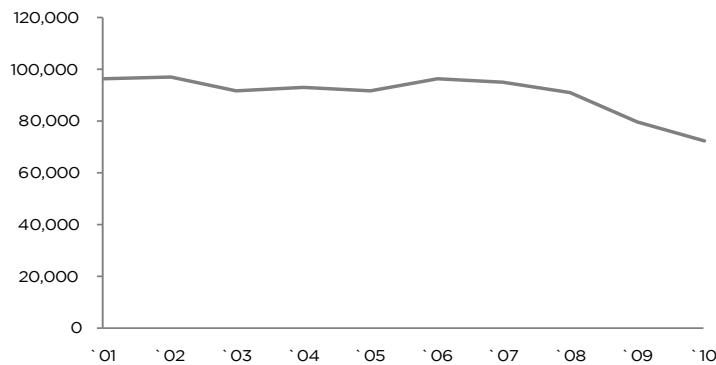


FIGURE 4

Delinquency Cases

New Filings



and visitation litigation involving unmarried persons.

Parentage cases, where the establishment of paternity is at issue, show an overall downward trend over the 10 years shown, with a notable sharpening of that trend from 2007 to 2008. (See **Figure 2**).

New filings of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases, combined with new filings and reactivations of Motions for Permanent Custody cases, are shown in **Figure 3**. The downward trend shown in this data mirrors the general decline seen nationally in the number of new filings of these case types. Notable is the uptick seen in 2010 over 2009 that ended consecutive decreases each of the past three years.

The filing of new Delinquency cases — constituting the single largest case type by volume heard in juvenile divisions — remained largely stable between 2001 and 2006. Beginning in 2007, the number of new Delinquency cases has trended steadily downward with the 71,768 cases filed in 2010 representing the smallest number of new filings in the past 10 years (See **Figure 4**).

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

Table 1 shows the clearance rates and overage rates for each case type in 2010. As shown in **Figure 5**, overage rates among many juvenile division case types extend beyond 10 percent. Clearance rates, with two exceptions (Parentage and U.I.F.S.A. cases), generally either meet or exceed the 100 percent target.

TABLE 1

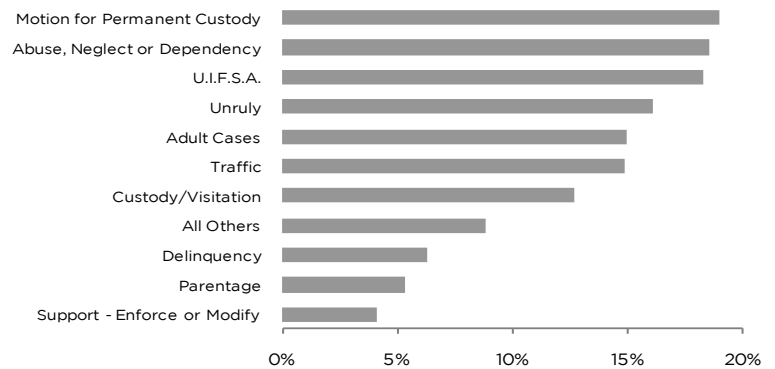
Performance Measures
All Case Types, 2010

| | Clearance Rate | Overage Rate |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Abuse, Neglect or Dependency | 100% | 19% |
| Adult Cases | 112% | 15% |
| All Others | 106% | 9% |
| Custody/Visitation | 98% | 13% |
| Delinquency | 101% | 6% |
| Motion for Permanent Custody | 106% | 19% |
| Parentage | 89% | 5% |
| Support - Enforce or Modify | 97% | 4% |
| Traffic | 101% | 15% |
| U.I.F.S.A. | 91% | 18% |
| Unruly | 102% | 16% |

FIGURE 5

Overage Rates

All Case Types, 2010





MUNICIPAL & COUNTY COURTS

The Ohio Constitution of 1851 established the Supreme Court and four types of lower courts: district courts of appeals, courts of common pleas, probate courts and justice courts. In 1910, the General Assembly established the first municipal court in Cleveland. In 1957, the General Assembly replaced justice courts with county courts. Each county court was established to have under its territorial jurisdiction those regions of a county not otherwise served by a municipal court. The General Assembly, over the ensuing years, reduced the number of county courts and expanded the territorial jurisdiction and number of municipal courts.

The subject-matter jurisdiction of municipal and county courts is identical. Municipal and county courts have the authority to conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases, and both have jurisdiction over traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors. These courts also have limited civil jurisdiction. They hear civil cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$15,000. Judges of municipal and county courts also have statewide authority to solemnize marriage ceremonies.

In 2010, there were 129 municipal courts with 216 judges, and 36 county courts with 39 judges. Three municipal courts have specialized divisions: Cleveland Municipal Court — Housing Division, Toledo Municipal Court — Housing Division and Franklin County Municipal Court — Environmental Division.

Municipal court judges and county court judges must be attorneys with at least six years of experience in the practice of law. They are elected on a non-partisan judicial ballot. Municipal court judges serve on either a full-time or part-time basis, depending on the specific municipal court to which they are elected. All county court judges serve on a part-time basis. A municipal court judge has jurisdiction in one or more municipalities, in adjacent townships, or throughout an entire county. In 2010, statutes provided for all judgeships in the following 16 municipal courts to be part-time.

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Avon Lake | Lebanon |
| Bellevue | Lyndhurst |
| Campbell | Mason |
| Chardon | Miamisburg |
| Franklin | Oakwood |
| Hardin County | Shelby |
| Huron | Struthers |
| Lawrence County | Vermilion |

In addition to the 16 courts identified above, one court, the Montgomery County Municipal Court, contains four judgeships, two of which are part-time judgeships.

Changes in 2010

In 2010, one change was made concerning the existence and nature of Ohio’s municipal and county courts.

Montgomery County County Court: Effective Sept. 8, 2010, the Montgomery County County Court was abolished and the Montgomery County Municipal Court was established in its place. Two of the four judgeships from the county court were maintained as part-time judgeships and two were made full-time.

Changes in 2011

In 2011, changes were made concerning the existence and nature of four of Ohio’s municipal and county courts. These changes are not reflected in the body of this report or in the companion “2010 Ohio Court Statistical Report” because the reports are retrospective in nature.

Lyndhurst Municipal Court, Miamisburg Municipal Court and Chardon Municipal Court: Effective Jan. 1, 2011, the judgeships in each of these courts converted from part-time to full-time status.

Putnam County County Court: Effective Jan. 1, 2011, the Putnam County County Court was abolished and the Putnam County Municipal Court was established in its place. The enabling legislation also provided for the abolishment of one of the county court’s two judgeships, effective Dec. 31, 2010. The term of the remaining judgeship was shortened to five years, with a new expiration of Dec. 31, 2011.

The case types heard in municipal and county courts are grouped into three general categories:

Civil Cases

Civil cases heard in municipal and county courts are Personal Injury and Property Damage, Contracts, Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D) (filed by landlords for eviction and possible recovery of money), Other Civil (a catchall for civil cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case type categories), and Small Claims cases (involving recovery of small debts and accounts not exceeding \$3,000).

Criminal Cases

This category includes Felonies (preliminary hearings only) and Misdemeanors.

Traffic Cases

This category includes Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.) and Other Traffic (all other cases involving the use of motor vehicles). Caseload statistics concerning parking violations and other vehicle-related infractions are not reported to the Supreme Court.

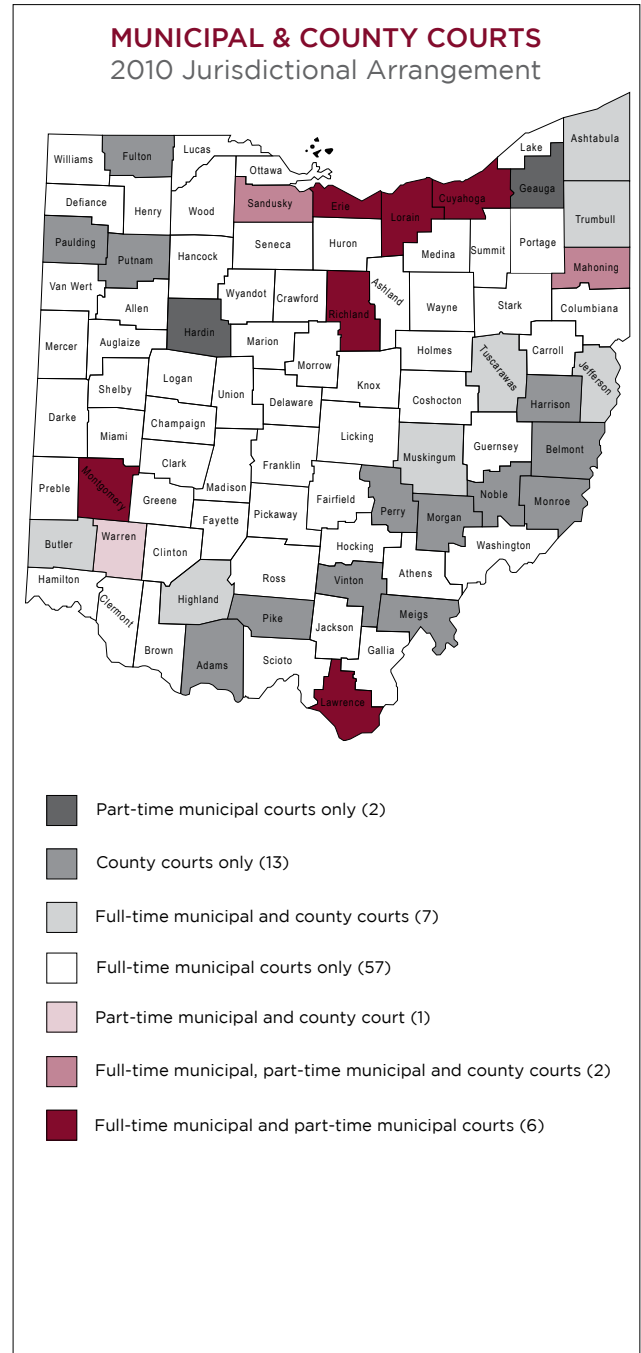


FIGURE 1

Other Traffic Cases

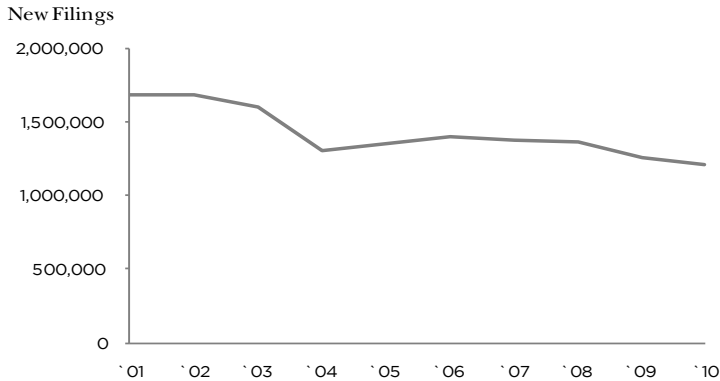


FIGURE 2

Personal Injury and Property Damage Cases

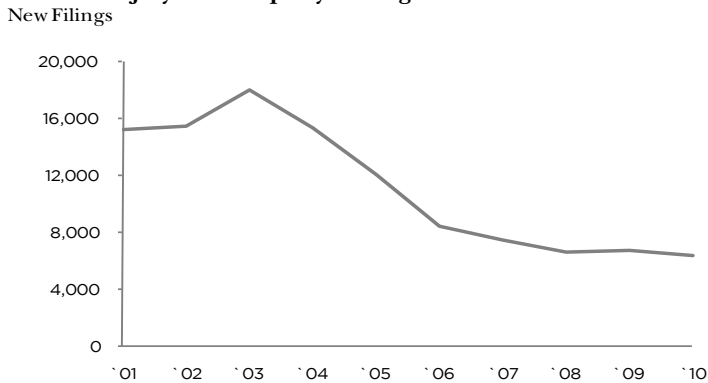
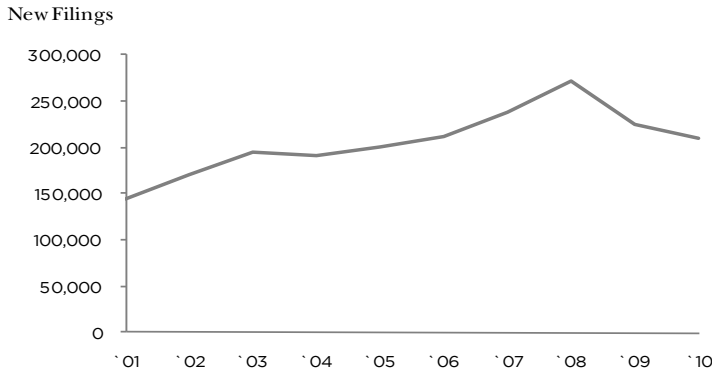


FIGURE 3

Contracts Cases



Caseloads

For purposes of presenting 10-year trend data concerning caseloads heard in Ohio municipal and county courts, the data reported by municipal courts and county courts are combined here to present a single unified perspective over the caseloads heard in Ohio's limited jurisdiction trial courts.

As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, the total caseloads filed in Ohio municipal and county courts remained relatively stable. However, there was substantial growth in certain case types. That growth was offset by a corresponding decline in the number of Other Traffic new case filings.

Other Traffic cases, constituting 55 percent of the municipal and county courts' total caseload filed in 2010, have, on the whole, trended downward from 2001 through 2010, with a particularly sharp decline between 2003 and 2004 and consistent year-over-year decreases since 2006 (See **Figure 1**).

An overall 10-year decline also is seen in Personal Injury and Property Damage cases. In 2010, 6,334 new cases were filed, compared with the 10-year high seen in 2003, when nearly 18,000 cases were filed. (See **Figure 2**).

There was significant growth in Contracts cases over the seven years between 2001 and 2008, but for the past two years the volume of incoming Contracts cases dropped markedly. In 2010, slightly more than 210,000 new cases were filed, representing a 23-percent decrease. (See **Figure 3**).

Forcible Entry and Detainer cases have exhibited little overall change when viewed across the past 10 years. (See **Figure 4**).

Small Claims case filings trended essentially down over the past 10 years, with sharp declines each year beginning in 2008. The number of new Small Claims cases filed in 2010 (67,824) represents a drop of 10 percent over 2009 and 28 percent fewer than 10 years ago. (See **Figure 5**).

Felony cases, in which municipal and county courts conduct preliminary hearings only, exhibited a notable shift in their growth rate over the 10-year period shown in **Figure 6**. From 2000 to 2006, the rate of increase was fairly sharp. Beginning in 2006, however, that trend reversed. The 67,190 Felony cases filed in 2010 represents a drop of five percent from the 70,647 cases number filed in 2009.

FIGURE 4

Forcible Entry and Detainer Cases
New Filings

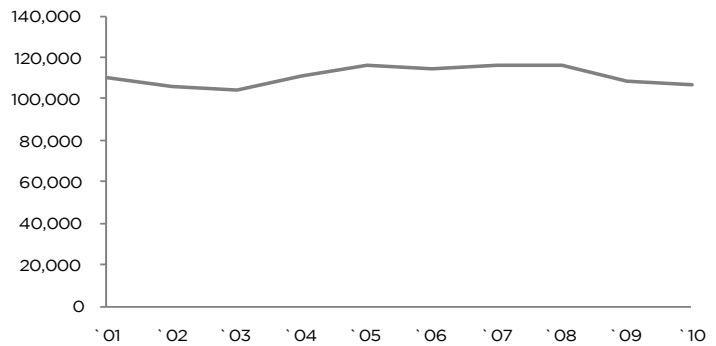


FIGURE 5

Small Claims Cases
New Filings

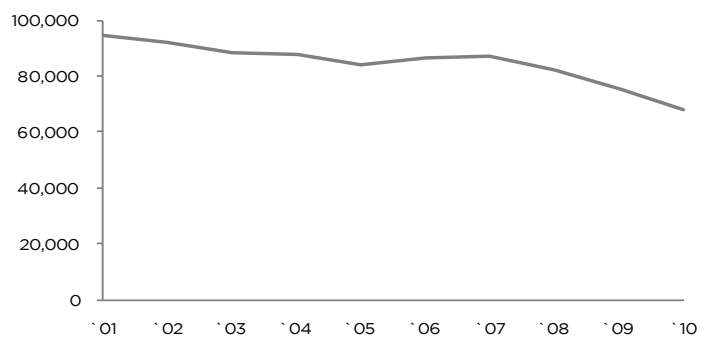


FIGURE 6

Felony Cases
New Filings

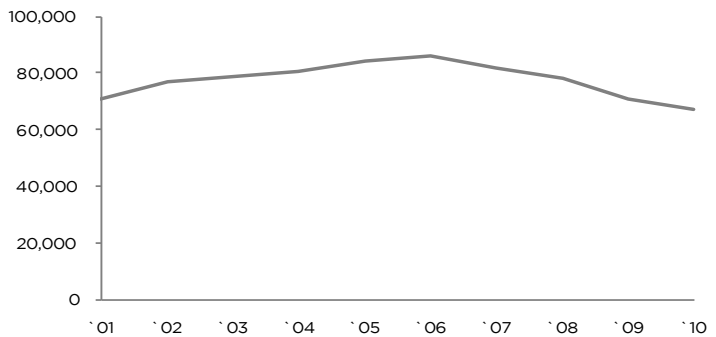
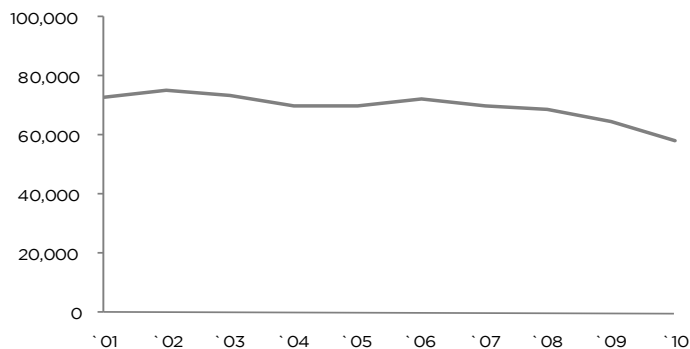


FIGURE 7

O.V.I. Cases

New Filings



Not unlike the general downward trend seen in Other Traffic cases, O.V.I. cases also exhibit an overall downward trend with a notable sharpening in 2010 over 2009 (a 10-percent decline from 64,704 new filings in 2009 to 58,279 in 2010. (See **Figure 7**).

TABLE 1

Performance Measures

All Case Types, 2010

| | Clearance Rate | Overage Rate |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Contracts | 103% | 4% |
| F.E.D. | 102% | 6% |
| Felonies | 100% | 14% |
| Misdemeanors | 100% | 4% |
| O.V.I. | 102% | 5% |
| Other Civil | 100% | 1% |
| Other Traffic | 100% | 3% |
| Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage | 109% | 1% |
| Small Claims | 102% | 8% |

Performance Measures

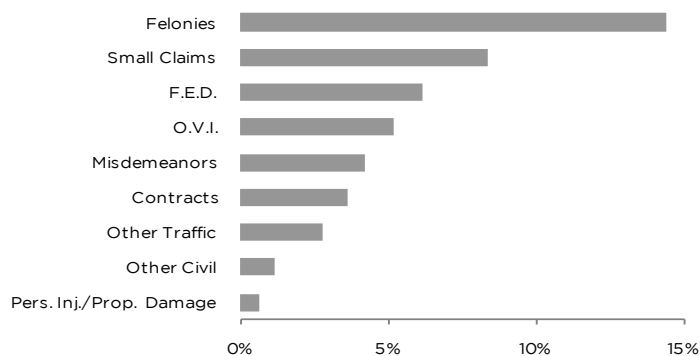
For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, the clearance rates for each case type in 2010 all exceed or equal the 100 percent target measure. Overage rates are shown in Table 1 and displayed graphically in **Figure 8**. The overage rate for Felonies cases, at 14 percent, is the only overage rate exceeding 10 percent.

FIGURE 8

Overage Rates

All Case Types, 2010



Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court's performance, per se, this statistic routinely is used by the Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that truly are dispositive of the case and categories that instead simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations are then summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) in order to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

Figures 9, 10, and 11 display the trial rates for court trials (cases where the judge hears the evidence and renders a determination of the facts in the case) and jury trials for Civil, Misdemeanor (non-traffic) and Traffic cases.

In each instance, the rate of jury trials is very low (the highest rate being in Civil cases with a trial rate of 0.4 percent). Among court trials, the rates generally exhibit long-term downward trends.

FIGURE 9

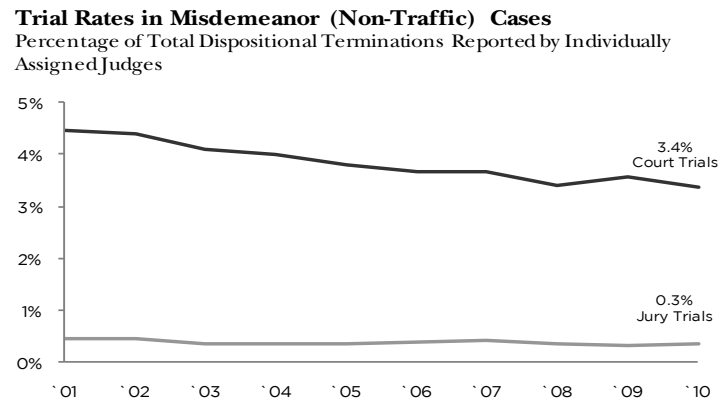


FIGURE 10

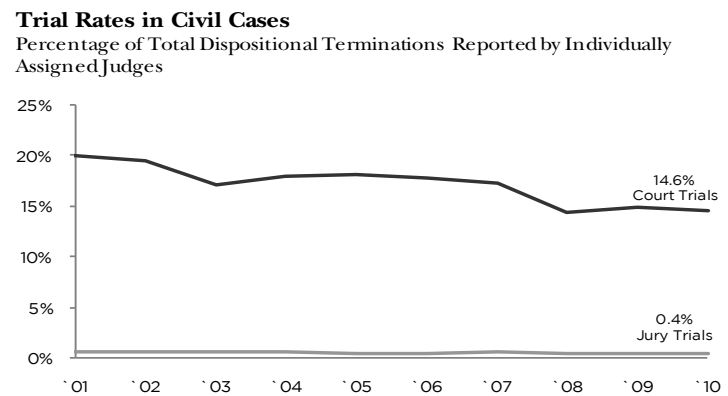
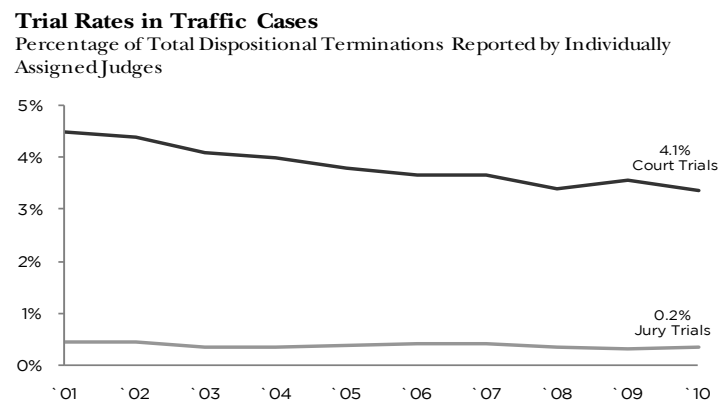


FIGURE 11





MAYOR'S COURTS

In general, Ohio law allows mayors of municipal corporations populated by more than 100 people to conduct mayor's court where there are no municipal courts. These courts, which are not courts of record, only hear cases involving violations of local ordinances and state traffic laws. A person convicted in a mayor's court may appeal his or her conviction to the municipal or county court having jurisdiction within the municipal corporation.

Mayor's courts are required by law to register annually with, and submit caseload statistical reports quarterly to, the Supreme Court. At the request of the General Assembly, the Supreme Court adopted rules providing court procedures and basic legal education for mayors. Mayors whose courts hear alcohol- and drug-related traffic offenses have additional educational requirements. A mayor is not required to be a lawyer, but may appoint an attorney who has practiced law for at least three years to hear cases in mayor's court.

For the reporting year 2010, 333 mayor's courts registered with the Supreme Court. Mayor's court caseload statistics are published annually in a separate report.





GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency: Juvenile cases concerning the neglected child, as defined by R.C. 2151.03; the dependent child, as defined by R.C. 2151.04; or the abused child, as defined by R.C. 2151.031.

Adult Cases: Juvenile court cases brought against an adult who is the defendant accused of contributing to the neglect, unruliness or delinquency of a minor.

All Others: Any case that cannot appropriately be recorded in a listed category.

C

Change of Custody: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which the court must adjudicate a motion for change of custody, including requests for change of custody based upon an election by the child and cases where custody is contested. Juvenile cases are included where there is an application for writ of habeas corpus involving the custody of a child or where a motion for change of custody is filed pursuant to Juv. R. 10(A).

Clearance Rate: Clearance rates are statistical calculations measuring a court's performance in keeping up with its incoming caseload. A clearance rate of 100 percent indicates the court terminates an equal number of cases as it takes in. It is determined by dividing the total number of terminations by the total number of new filings, reactivations and transfers. It is expressed as a percentage. For example, if 90 terminations and 100 total incoming cases are reported, the clearance rate is 90 percent.

Court Trial: A case is considered terminated by trial to the court (i.e. judge) if judgment is rendered after the first witness is sworn.

Criminal: Cases in which a person is charged with violation of a state law or local ordinance other than a traffic law or ordinance. For purposes of tracking the age of the case for these reports, the case begins at arraignment.

D

Delinquency: Juvenile cases filed concerning a delinquent child, as defined by R.C. 2152.02.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence actions filed as separate cases pursuant to R.C. 3113.31. This does not include miscellaneous matters filed in pending cases, such as motions to evict.

F

Felony: This type is defined by R.C. 2901.02 and Crim. R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a felony, regardless of penalty, or an offense in which imprisonment for more than one year can be imposed. When transferred to the common pleas court, these cases are reported as criminal cases by the receiving court.

Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D.): A summary proceeding initiated under R.C. 1923. or 5321. for restoring possession of real property to one who is wrongfully kept out or wrongfully deprived of possession.

J

Jury Trial: A case is considered terminated by jury trial if judgment is rendered after the jury is sworn, regardless of the outcome of the trial.

M

Marriage Dissolutions: Domestic relations cases in which a petition for dissolution of marriage is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.63.

Marriage Terminations: Domestic relations cases in which a complaint for divorce is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.01.

Misdemeanors: A misdemeanor is defined by R.C. 2901.02 and Crim. R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a misdemeanor, or an offense in which imprisonment for not more than one year can be imposed. While traffic offenses fall within this definition, they are reported as operating a vehicle while under the influence or other traffic offenses and not as misdemeanors.

Motion for Permanent Custody: Juvenile cases in which a complaint or motion for permanent custody is filed when custody is contested. This does not include voluntary placements.

O

Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.): Cases that include violating R.C. 4511.19 or any local ordinance that prohibits operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any drug of abuse.

Other Civil: Civil cases not included within any of the other categories. Ancillary proceedings are not reported as cases.

Other Traffic: Cases dealing with matters involving traffic offenders. Juveniles, as defined by R.C. 2152.02 (N), and adult traffic cases include any violation of state law or local ordinance arising out of the use of a motor vehicle, except those involving operating a vehicle while under the influence charges.

Overage Rates: Overage rates are a measure of the court's backlog. At any point in time, a court will have some number of active pending cases. Of those, some percentage may be pending beyond the time guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to Sup. R. 39. That percentage of overage cases is referred to as the overage rate. In 2008, the Supreme Court, in *Disciplinary Counsel v. Sargeant*, 118 Ohio St.3d 322, 2008-Ohio-2330, identified an overage rate of 10 percent or greater as an indication of a case management problem.

P

Parentage: Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3111., the Uniform Parentage Act. Once paternity is established, the parentage case is considered terminated for reporting purposes.

Personal Injury and Property Damage: Civil cases in which the principal issue is liability for, or the amount of damages to be received for, allegedly tortious conduct resulting in personal injury.

S

Small Claims: Civil actions brought under R.C. 1925. for the recovery of small debts and accounts, not exceeding \$3,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

Support Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, a lawful judgment of the court requiring the payment of support. A case is reported only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

T

Trial Rate: Trial rates are a statistical calculation describing the rate at which trials occur compared against all other termination categories that are dispositive of a case.

U

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.): Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3115, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, handled by the domestic relations or juvenile divisions, including cases initiated in Ohio and cases in which Ohio is the responding state.

Unruly: Juvenile cases concerning unruly children, as defined by R.C. 2151.022.

V

Visitation Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, lawful judgment of the court relative to child-visitation rights. A case is listed only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

W

Workers' Compensation: Appeals filed under R.C. 4123.512, including noncompliance actions by the state, for recovery of benefits or of premiums, and mandamus actions arising from claims or awards.



Courts of Common Pleas, General Division

New Filings

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Administrative Appeals | 1,191 | 1,379 | 1,238 | 1,219 | 1,054 | 1,166 | 1,192 | 1,600 | 1,300 | 1,306 |
| Criminal | 66,871 | 68,544 | 72,261 | 73,822 | 77,042 | 82,370 | 81,785 | 79,240 | 71,490 | 69,014 |
| Foreclosures | 43,419 | 55,274 | 57,083 | 59,041 | 63,996 | 79,059 | 83,230 | 85,773 | 89,061 | 85,483 |
| Other Civil | 39,718 | 44,265 | 44,138 | 46,813 | 51,780 | 53,635 | 65,822 | 72,121 | 69,004 | 62,859 |
| Other Torts | 25,446 | 26,104 | 25,314 | 23,890 | 23,830 | 21,289 | 19,480 | 18,663 | 18,351 | 17,228 |
| Product Liability | 580 | 500 | 396 | 436 | 928 | 348 | 320 | 290 | 208 | 228 |
| Professional Tort | 2,650 | 2,972 | 2,683 | 2,250 | 1,908 | 1,502 | 1,483 | 1,411 | 1,368 | 1,422 |
| Workers' Compensation | 6,073 | 7,895 | 8,263 | 8,623 | 8,814 | 8,065 | 8,365 | 7,449 | 7,678 | 7,203 |
| Total | 185,948 | 206,933 | 211,376 | 216,094 | 229,352 | 247,434 | 261,677 | 266,547 | 258,460 | 244,743 |

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division

New Filings

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| All Others | 1,142 | 1,541 | 2,763 | 2,868 | 1,443 | 1,258 | 996 | 776 | 486 | 499 |
| Change of Custody | 1,217 | 1,078 | 1,067 | 991 | 939 | 661 | 611 | 562 | 448 | 433 |
| Domestic Violence | 13,970 | 15,497 | 16,219 | 17,447 | 18,255 | 18,219 | 18,862 | 19,457 | 20,551 | 19,860 |
| Marriage Dissolutions w/Children | 9,517 | 9,434 | 8,870 | 8,451 | 8,213 | 8,171 | 7,905 | 7,800 | 7,780 | 8,409 |
| Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children | 11,796 | 11,462 | 11,148 | 11,170 | 10,891 | 10,886 | 10,274 | 10,061 | 10,280 | 10,618 |
| Marriage Terminations w/Children | 19,147 | 18,321 | 16,857 | 16,239 | 15,767 | 16,195 | 15,125 | 14,653 | 14,726 | 14,644 |
| Marriage Terminations w/o Children | 14,375 | 14,254 | 13,339 | 13,407 | 13,493 | 13,961 | 13,457 | 13,085 | 12,935 | 13,375 |
| Parentage | 967 | 990 | 1,653 | 1,676 | 1,570 | 1,530 | 1,747 | 2,045 | 2,103 | 2,064 |
| Support - Enforce or Modify | 5,062 | 5,479 | 5,194 | 5,134 | 5,130 | 3,731 | 3,444 | 3,204 | 2,534 | 2,251 |
| U.I.F.S.A. | 2,115 | 2,283 | 2,049 | 2,694 | 1,903 | 1,919 | 1,477 | 1,291 | 1,512 | 1,047 |
| Visitation - Enforce or Modify | 522 | 436 | 368 | 312 | 284 | 313 | 259 | 153 | 108 | 127 |
| Total | 79,830 | 80,775 | 79,527 | 80,389 | 77,888 | 76,844 | 74,157 | 73,087 | 73,463 | 73,327 |

Courts of Common Pleas, Probate Division

New Filings

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Adoptions | 5,674 | 5,756 | 5,817 | 5,663 | 5,375 | 5,323 | 4,999 | 4,825 | 4,487 | 4,120 |
| Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.) | 992 | 1,129 | 1,050 | 1,017 | 1,143 | 1,217 | 1,374 | 1,159 | 1,126 | 1,086 |
| Change of Name | 4,681 | 5,051 | 5,130 | 4,939 | 5,031 | 5,151 | 5,154 | 5,151 | 5,324 | 5,514 |
| Civil Actions | 2,806 | 2,649 | 2,722 | 2,841 | 2,721 | 2,704 | 2,437 | 2,332 | 2,439 | 2,402 |
| Conservatorships | 106 | 98 | 121 | 84 | 85 | 96 | 86 | 111 | 95 | 91 |
| Decedents' Estates | 65,937 | 62,938 | 61,115 | 61,196 | 60,596 | 58,932 | 56,487 | 57,573 | 56,686 | 55,199 |
| Guardianships of Incompetents | 6,327 | 6,252 | 6,797 | 6,832 | 6,562 | 6,646 | 6,386 | 6,685 | 6,668 | 6,488 |
| Guardianships of Minors | 4,413 | 4,001 | 3,980 | 3,950 | 3,407 | 3,551 | 3,291 | 2,898 | 2,896 | 2,608 |
| Mental Illness and Mental Retardation | 5,206 | 5,375 | 5,173 | 5,409 | 5,741 | 5,139 | 5,072 | 5,253 | 5,360 | 5,052 |
| Minors' Settlements | 2,054 | 2,076 | 2,082 | 1,917 | 1,916 | 1,836 | 1,706 | 1,535 | 1,506 | 1,345 |
| Testamentary Trusts | 959 | 743 | 980 | 782 | 577 | 571 | 499 | 527 | 552 | 530 |
| Wrongful Death | 300 | 289 | 371 | 368 | 554 | 455 | 530 | 572 | 1,039 | 717 |
| Total | 99,455 | 96,357 | 95,338 | 94,998 | 93,708 | 91,621 | 88,021 | 88,621 | 88,178 | 85,152 |
| Marriage Applications Granted | 86,197 | 83,465 | 79,220 | 79,463 | 77,573 | 75,223 | 72,601 | 71,401 | 68,019 | 68,248 |

APPENDIX

Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Abuse, Neglect or Dependency | 18,212 | 17,462 | 16,669 | 15,132 | 14,827 | 15,423 | 14,934 | 13,846 | 12,727 | 13,896 |
| Adult Cases | 7,093 | 5,661 | 6,111 | 5,659 | 5,972 | 6,111 | 6,454 | 5,913 | 5,611 | 5,417 |
| All Others | 2,324 | 2,274 | 2,068 | 1,854 | 1,881 | 2,179 | 2,395 | 2,090 | 2,228 | 2,634 |
| Custody/Visitation | 8,199 | 8,745 | 9,161 | 10,128 | 10,269 | 11,021 | 11,064 | 11,426 | 12,609 | 13,596 |
| Delinquency | 95,807 | 96,791 | 91,112 | 92,458 | 91,065 | 96,127 | 94,466 | 90,509 | 79,527 | 71,768 |
| Motion for Permanent Custody | 2,362 | 3,466 | 3,278 | 3,587 | 3,374 | 3,452 | 2,466 | 2,003 | 1,946 | 1,677 |
| Parentage | 16,144 | 13,707 | 13,127 | 13,289 | 13,623 | 13,674 | 11,949 | 9,605 | 9,390 | 10,806 |
| Support - Enforce or Modify | 16,142 | 17,758 | 17,720 | 19,603 | 21,890 | 21,436 | 21,044 | 24,017 | 25,092 | 27,143 |
| Traffic | 94,435 | 97,177 | 89,499 | 77,377 | 73,613 | 73,208 | 66,411 | 58,495 | 54,917 | 48,504 |
| U.I.F.S.A. | 975 | 955 | 1,275 | 1,033 | 876 | 898 | 1,003 | 1,008 | 996 | 1,277 |
| Unruly | 20,950 | 18,789 | 17,293 | 17,747 | 18,135 | 18,084 | 17,199 | 16,971 | 14,275 | 13,103 |
| Total | 282,643 | 282,785 | 267,313 | 257,867 | 255,525 | 261,613 | 249,385 | 235,883 | 219,318 | 209,821 |

Municipal and County Courts

New Filings

| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Contracts | 144,881 | 169,983 | 195,072 | 192,119 | 200,173 | 211,390 | 238,246 | 271,982 | 224,180 | 210,470 |
| F.E.D. | 109,733 | 105,645 | 104,393 | 110,579 | 115,854 | 114,642 | 116,284 | 116,173 | 108,325 | 107,040 |
| Other Civil | 80,995 | 108,496 | 142,221 | 153,727 | 144,153 | 131,895 | 127,615 | 138,415 | 122,938 | 106,610 |
| PI/PD | 15,184 | 15,420 | 17,955 | 15,330 | 12,013 | 8,307 | 7,454 | 6,521 | 6,607 | 6,334 |
| Small Claims | 94,442 | 92,252 | 88,462 | 87,538 | 84,205 | 86,164 | 87,269 | 81,901 | 75,253 | 67,824 |
| Felonies | 70,783 | 76,884 | 78,395 | 80,583 | 83,864 | 85,695 | 81,434 | 77,859 | 70,647 | 67,190 |
| Misdemeanors | 420,415 | 412,753 | 403,602 | 406,311 | 410,236 | 418,691 | 419,601 | 415,287 | 389,726 | 374,637 |
| O.V.I. | 72,901 | 75,281 | 73,504 | 69,927 | 70,015 | 72,475 | 70,062 | 68,874 | 64,704 | 58,279 |
| Other Traffic | 1,682,749 | 1,683,925 | 1,598,804 | 1,301,437 | 1,349,429 | 1,396,114 | 1,370,239 | 1,357,396 | 1,260,125 | 1,205,036 |
| Total | 2,692,083 | 2,740,639 | 2,702,408 | 2,417,551 | 2,469,942 | 2,525,373 | 2,518,204 | 2,534,408 | 2,322,505 | 2,203,420 |





THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

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