



2011

OHIO COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

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MAUREEN O'CONNOR

CHIEF JUSTICE

PAUL E. PFEIFER

EVELYN LUNDBERG STRATTON

TERRENCE O'DONNELL

JUDITH ANN LANZINGER

ROBERT R. CUPP

YVETTE MCGEE BROWN

JUSTICES

STEVEN C. HOLLON

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF JUDICIAL & COURT SERVICES

CASE MANAGEMENT SECTION

STEPHANIE E. HESS

MANAGER OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

CHRISTINE BRATTON

BRIAN FARRINGTON

PRODUCTION AND GRAPHICS

PHILLIP FARMER

KATIE RIEDEL

JAMES R. SHROYER

CAROL TAYLOR

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

MARK DUTTON

DONALD TURKLAY



A MESSAGE

From the Chief Justice

The Supreme Court of Ohio issues an annual statistical summary and detailed report designed to inform and identify trends throughout the Ohio judiciary.

In 2011, for the second consecutive year, the number of new cases filed in Ohio courts reached a 10-year low. As with 2010, traffic cases in municipal and county courts led the way.

By analyzing case filing patterns and trends, the Ohio Supreme Court attempts to assist in the efficient administration of justice at all levels of the judiciary. We do not, however, examine or analyze larger social and governmental trends that may contribute to or influence changes in case filing volumes.

What the data can tell those of us who work in the court system is how to better allocate our resources given the current case volume. In addition, providing reliable, transparent and accessible data on the courts also assists in enhancing public trust and confidence in the judicial branch.

The Supreme Court of Ohio commends Ohio's courts for their continued assistance in submitting data on caseloads and court performance.

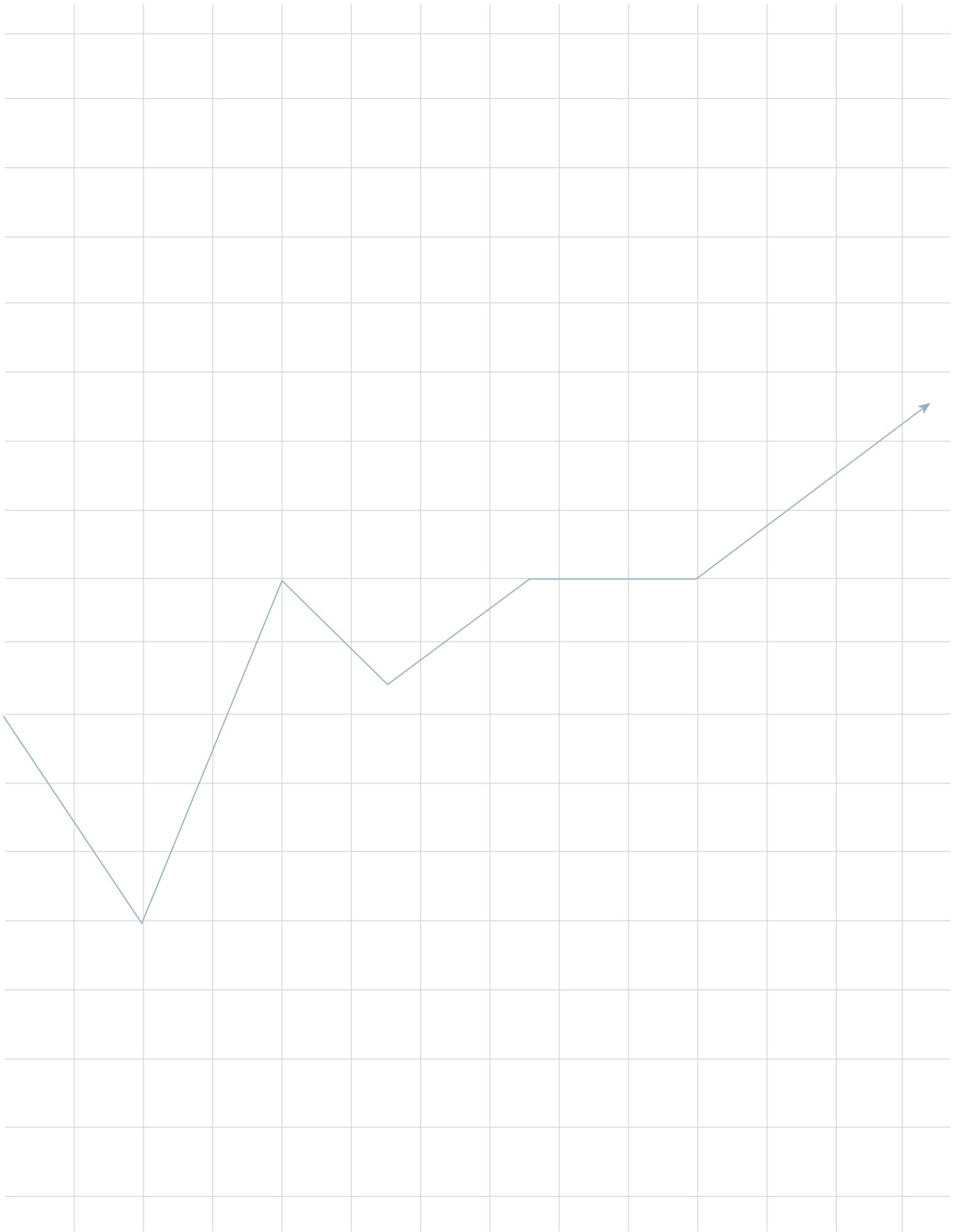
MAUREEN O'CONNOR
Chief Justice, The Supreme Court of Ohio



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NOTE: An overview of the Advisory Committee on Case Management is provided 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 Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section 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 that describes the status of all cases pending in that district. In addition, each individual judge must submit quarterly an appellate judge report that 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, or what value is “typical” across 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 (the 50th percentile). Medians are particularly useful as measures of typicality because unlike the mean, medians are not subject to the skewing effect of outliers (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 presented in this report represent the courts' monthly averages across the years shown. For example, if the municipal and county courts are reported as demonstrating in 2011 a 3-percent overage rate for a particular case type, that figure represents the average overage rate across each of the 12 months in 2011.

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.

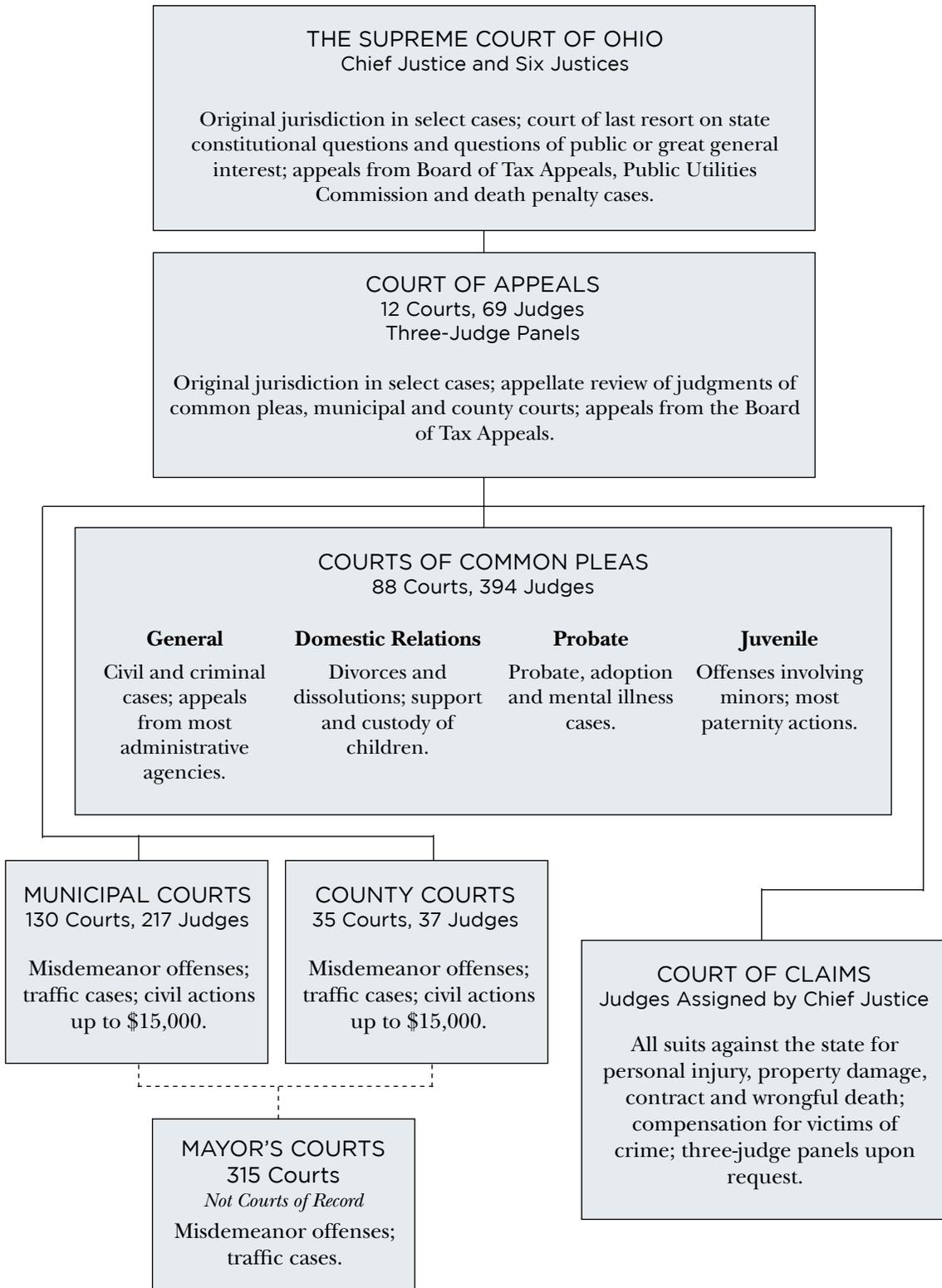
Future Plans

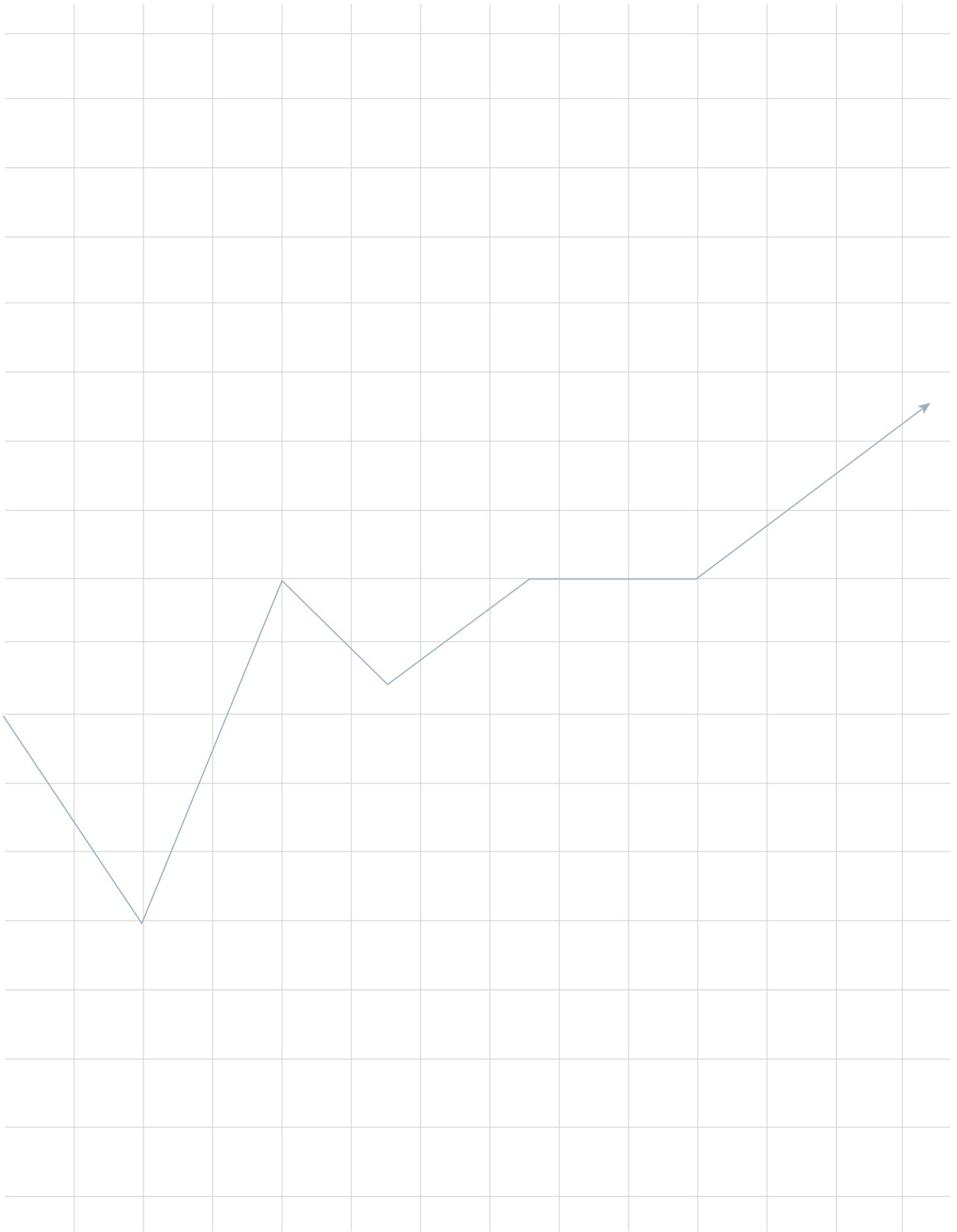
The current configuration of case types and termination categories has remained largely unchanged for 20 years. Changes in the law, changes in society, and changes in the Supreme Court's capacity to collect, analyze, evaluate and report caseload statistics present an opportunity for a careful re-evaluation 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 2011 the Supreme Court established the Advisory Committee on Case Management. The advisory committee is reviewing the Supreme Court's 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. More information on the advisory committee is available on *page 26*.

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 use of caseload statistics.

2011 STRUCTURE OF THE OHIO JUDICIAL SYSTEM







All COURTS

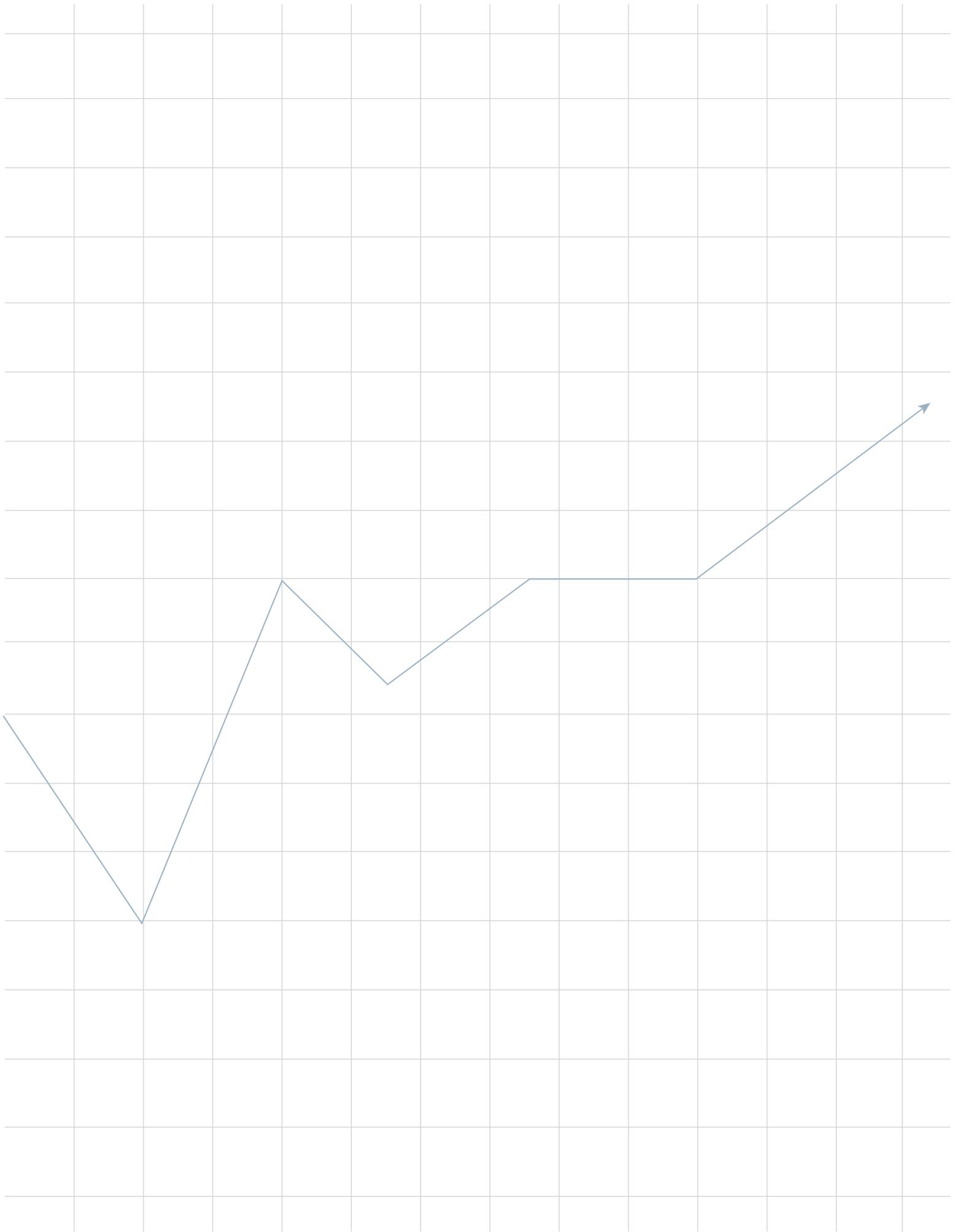
New Filings

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

All Courts, All Cases

New Cases Filed, 2002 to 2011

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Supreme Court	2,249	2,237	2,178	2,444	2,407	2,459	2,506	2,363	2,293	2,207
Court of Appeals	10,404	10,905	10,713	11,437	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,277	9,508
Court of Claims	1,051	1,134	1,024	1,138	734	896	1,094	902	1,231	1,337
Common Pleas	666,850	653,554	649,348	656,473	677,512	673,240	664,138	639,419	613,043	575,963
General	206,933	211,376	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,460	244,743	221,181
Domestic Relations	80,775	79,527	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,087	73,463	73,327	71,499
Probate	96,357	95,338	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	88,621	88,178	85,152	86,929
Juvenile	282,785	267,313	257,867	255,525	261,613	249,385	235,883	219,318	209,821	196,354
Municipal and County	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	2,121,129
Municipal	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	1,968,708
County	281,371	256,045	206,457	210,463	214,329	208,645	196,289	180,351	155,579	152,421
All Courts Combined	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	2,710,144





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 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 2011 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 2,207 new cases in 2011, representing a 4-percent decrease from the 2,293 cases filed in 2010 and 12 percent fewer than the five-year high in 2008 of 2,506 cases. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

Jurisdictional Appeals

In 2011, 1,667 new jurisdictional appeals were filed, representing a 3-percent decrease from the 1,714 cases filed in 2010 and 17 percent fewer than the five-year high of 2,004 cases in 2008. (See **Figure 2**).

TABLE 1

All Case Types

New Filings	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jurisdictional Appeals	1,927	2,004	1,817	1,714	1,667
Merit Cases	410	369	418	432	408
Practice of Law Cases	122	133	128	147	132
Disciplinary Cases	107	121	117	126	119
All Other	15	12	11	21	14
Total	2,459	2,506	2,363	2,293	2,207

FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined

New Filings

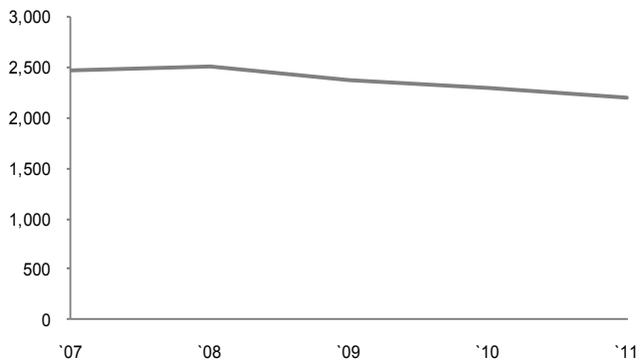


FIGURE 2

Jurisdictional Appeals

New Filings

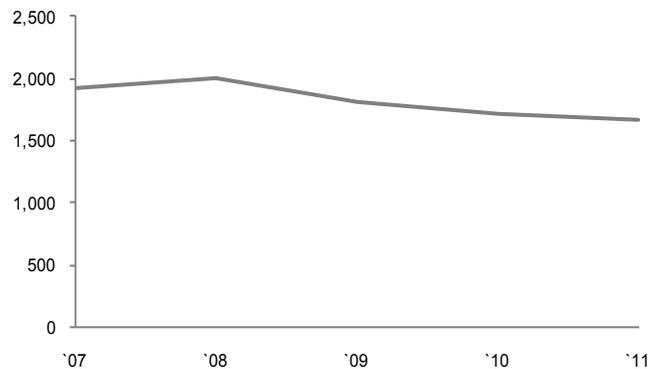


FIGURE 3

Merit Cases
New Filings

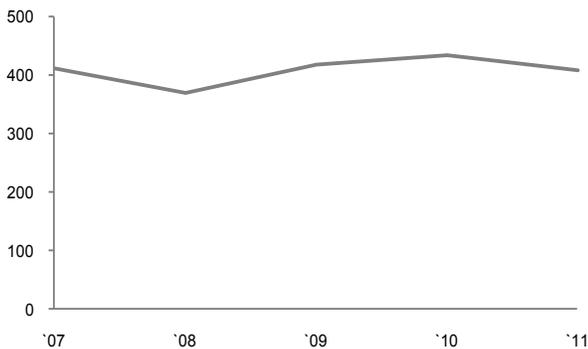
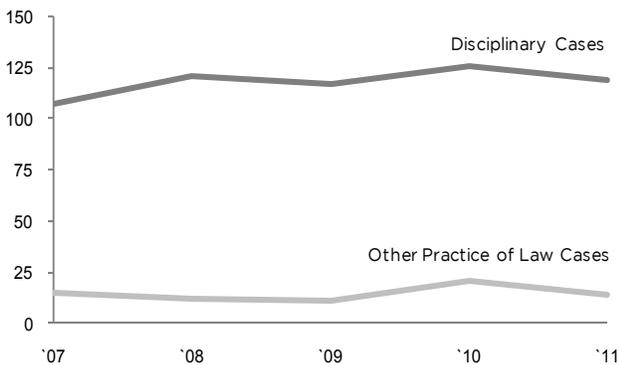


FIGURE 4

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)
- Direct appeals involving termination of parental rights/adoption
- Certified conflicts
- Certified conflicts involving termination of parental rights/adoption
- Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals
- Appeals from Public Utilities Commission
- Appeals for Power Siting Board
- Death penalty cases
- Certified questions of state law
- Appeals from App.R. 26(B) application in death penalty cases
- Other merit cases

In 2011, 408 merit cases were filed. This represents a 6-percent decrease from the 432 cases filed in 2010. A five-year view of the filing trend reveals sizable year-to-year fluctuations with no discernable trend. (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 2011, a total of 132 practice of

law cases were filed, representing a 10-percent decrease from 2010 when a five-year high of 147 cases were filed. Of those 132 cases filed in 2011, 119 (or 90 percent), were disciplinary cases. Despite some relatively sizable year-to-year volatility, the court's docket of disciplinary cases has remained largely stable over the past five years. (See **Figure 4**).

Time to Disposition Analyses

All Cases

From Filing to Final Disposition

In 2011, the court disposed of 2,263 cases. The mean or average number of days a case was pending before the court decreased by one day in 2011. (See **Figure 5**).

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Merit Review

From Filing to Final Disposition^{1,2,3}

Decisions in 54 jurisdictional appeals following full merit review were released in 2011. The 54 jurisdictional appeal decisions do not include 86 appeals that were accepted and held for decisions in other cases, or 17 cases that were accepted and summarily disposed, without briefing, based on holdings in other cases. The time to disposition averaged 481 days.

Of the five decisions released in 2011 that took the most number of days from filing to final disposition, three cases involved issues related to juvenile sex offender classification and registration, one case involved the Lake Erie shoreline and one case was a death penalty issue involving an appeal of a trial court's denial of a motion for new trial based on newly discovered evidence. (See **Figure 6**).

FIGURE 5

All Cases

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

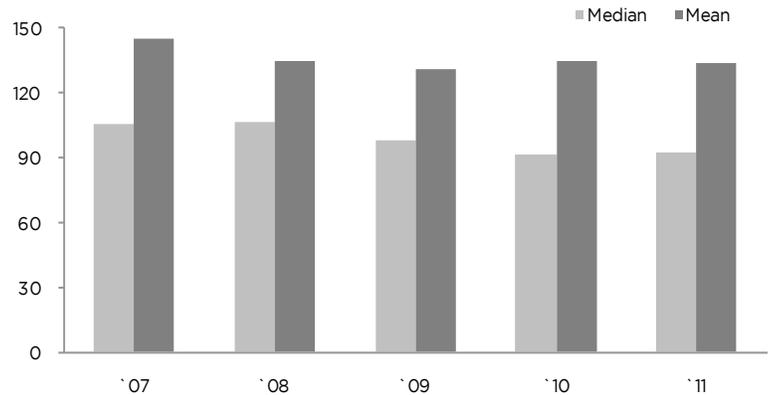


FIGURE 6

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

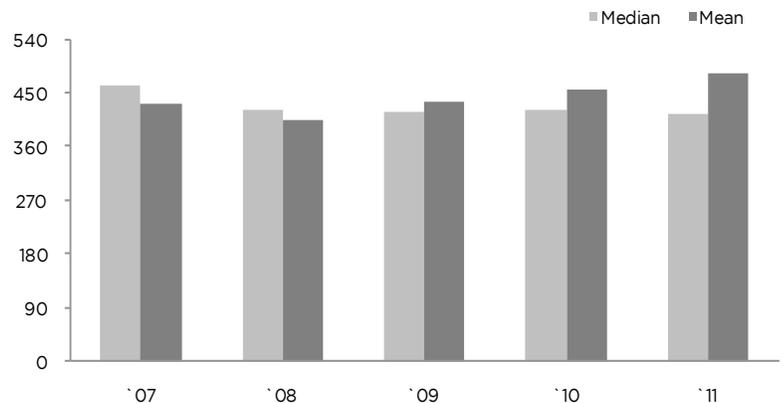
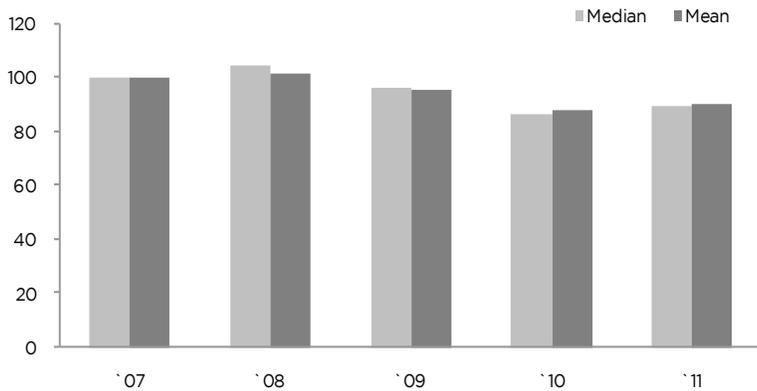


FIGURE 7

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review
Days from Filing to Final Disposition



Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Merit Review
From Filing to Final Disposition^{4,5}

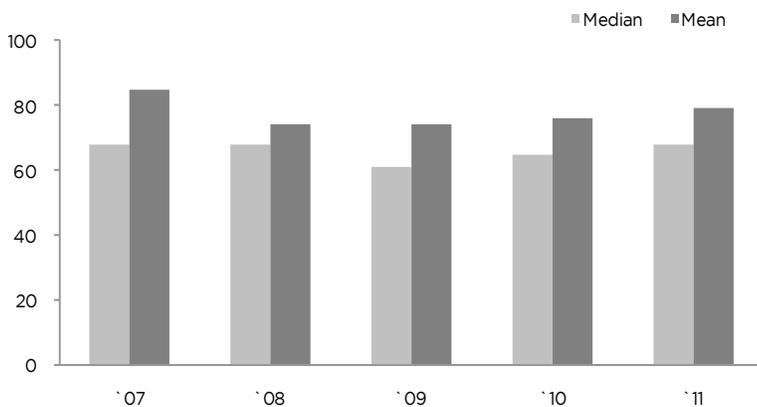
The number of days taken by the court to consider and dispose of a jurisdictional appeal not accepted increased slightly by two days in 2011. (See **Figure 7**).

Original Actions⁶
From Filing to Final Disposition

During 2011, 206 original actions, including 39 habeas corpus cases, were disposed of in an average of 79 days. (See **Figure 8**).

FIGURE 8

Original Actions
Days from Filing to Final Disposition



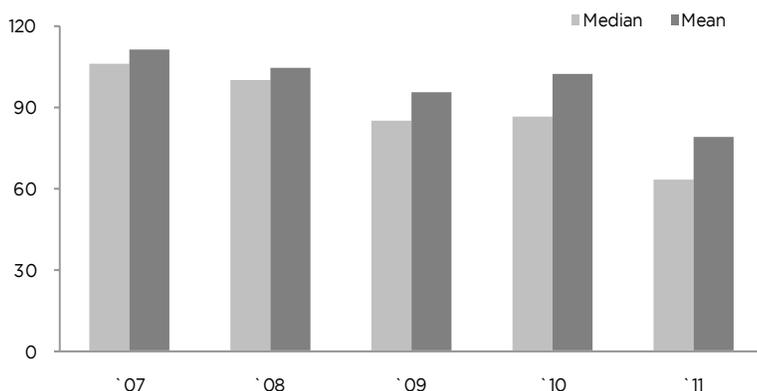
All Cases Decided with an Opinion
From Submission to Final Disposition⁷

The number of cases decided with an opinion dropped for the third straight year, from 333 cases to 264 cases. The average number of days to issue an opinion dropped by 23 days. The drop in the average number of days to issue an opinion in 2011 and the decrease in the number of opinions issued during 2011 can be attributed to the following factors:

- Traditionally, the court has the same seven-member panel hear a case, write the opinion and vote on the outcome. In late fall 2010, the court did not schedule oral arguments because of potential membership changes that could have resulted from the 2010 election. Consequently, there were fewer orally argued cases with opinions to decide between the end of 2010 and the first months of 2011.
- Cases that were decided in the early months of 2011 consisted mainly of direct appeals and original actions. Decisions and opinions issued in these cases do not require oral argument and are disposed of more quickly. As a result, the court began 2011 with a “fresh slate” of cases and was able to move efficiently through its workload during the year. (See **Figure 9**).

FIGURE 9

All Cases Decided with an Opinion
Days from Submission to Final Disposition



NOTES

1. The time to disposition for jurisdictional appeals accepted for merit review includes the 29 days before which the court may consider whether to accept jurisdiction because the court must await the filing of a memorandum in response to jurisdiction or a waiver of the memorandum in response.
2. In years 2007, 2008 and 2009, the number of jurisdictional appeals accepted for merit review included cases that were accepted and held for decisions in other cases, as well as cases accepted and summarily disposed without briefing based upon the holding in another case.
3. In 2010, the court's data collection was refined and we were able to parse the number of cases that were accepted and held from the number of cases accepted. As a result, this number does not include the 99 cases that were accepted and held for *State v. Bodyke*, and also does not include the 47 cases that were accepted and summarily disposed without briefing based on the holding of *State v. Bodyke*. It does include six cases that were accepted for briefing, but were later dismissed, either for want of prosecution or on application of the appellant.
4. The time to disposition for jurisdictional appeals not accepted for merit review includes the 29 days before which the court may consider whether to accept jurisdiction because the court must await the filing of a memorandum in response to jurisdiction or a waiver of the memorandum in response.
5. In the 2010 Annual Report of the Supreme Court of Ohio, the number of jurisdictional appeals not accepted for merit review was reported as 1,396. Due to the change in disposition date of 2008-2119, the number of jurisdictional appeals not accepted for merit review was 1,397.
6. The category of original actions includes habeas corpus cases.
7. The total number of cases decided with an opinion during 2010 was reported in the 2010 Annual Report at 330. Three cases were added to this total. The three cases added were initially disposed of by the court without an opinion, but upon motions for reconsideration, the court granted reconsideration, accepted these appeals and scheduled them for oral argument. The cases are accounted for in calendar year 2010, their official disposition year.



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.

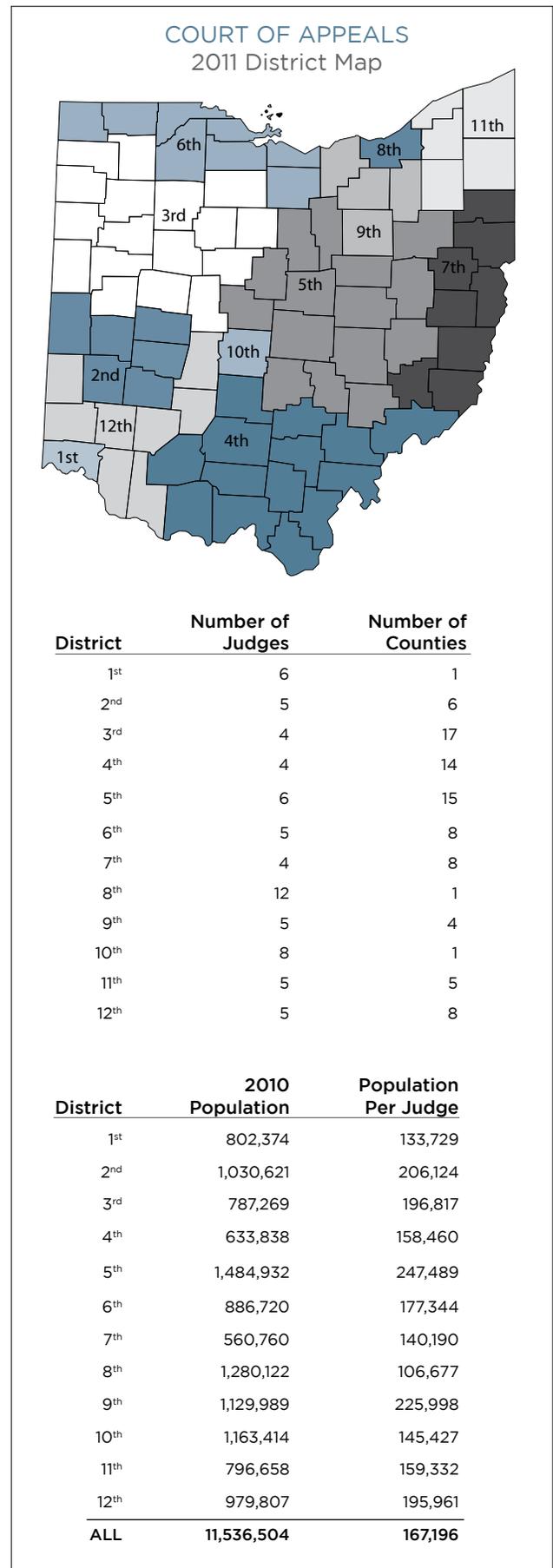


FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined
New Filings

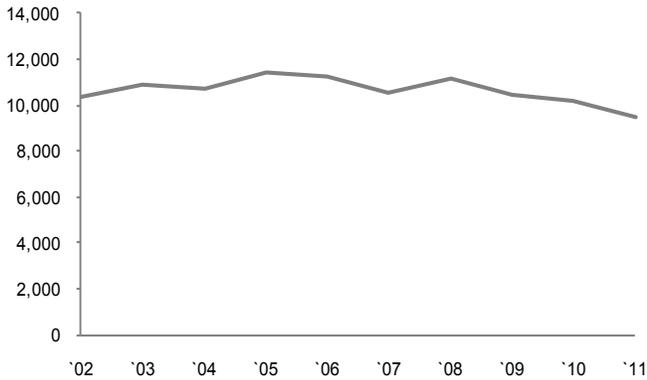


TABLE 1

Court of Appeals
New Filings

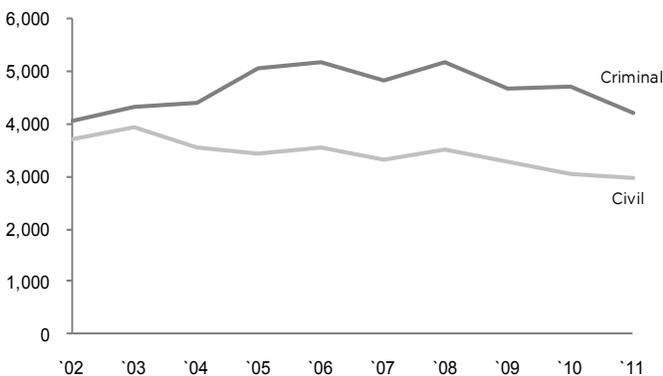
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Criminal	4,059	4,309	4,397	5,047	5,189	4,807	5,157	4,670	4,714	4,209
Civil	3,704	3,947	3,562	3,433	3,538	3,335	3,521	3,277	3,050	2,955
Family Law	1,671	1,702	1,758	1,623	1,671	1,538	1,580	1,577	1,490	1,430
Miscellaneous	970	947	996	1,288	810	832	857	909	973	914
All Case Types	10,404	10,905	10,713	11,437	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433	10,227	9,508

The overall number of cases heard in Ohio’s court of appeals has remained fairly steady over the last 10 years, although for the past 3 years a downward trend can be discerned. In 2008, 11,115 new cases were filed. In 2011, 9,508 new cases were filed, representing a 14-percent decline. (See **Figure 1** and **Table 1**).

Greater overall volatility in new filings can be seen within the individual case types. **Figure 2** shows trends in the number of new filings over the past 10 years within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Criminal appeals exhibited an upward trend between 2002 and 2006 but since then have trended back down to nearly 2002 levels. In 2011, 4,209 new criminal appeals were filed representing an 18-percent decrease from 2008, when 5,157 new criminal appeals were filed. Civil appeals have declined at a fairly consistent rate over the past 10 years. In 2011, the courts of appeals saw the filing of 2,955 new civil appeals which represents 25 percent fewer appeals than the 10-year high in 2003 when nearly 4,000 appeals were filed.

FIGURE 2

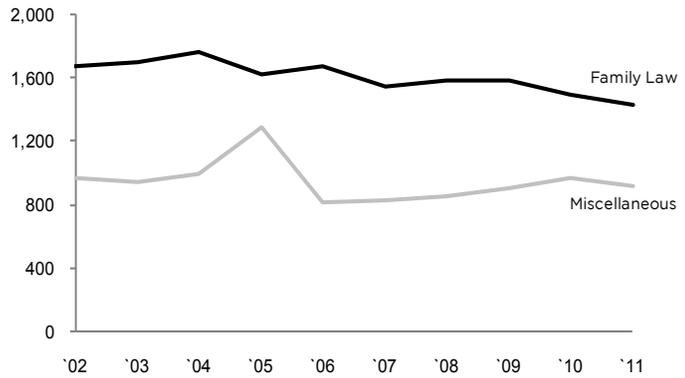
Civil and Criminal Appeals
New Filings



In regard to family law appeals, the long-term trend is downward. In 2011, there were 1,430 family law-related appeals filed representing a 19-percent decrease from the 10-year high of 1,758 new appeals in 2004. (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.

Over the past five years, the number of new judicial cases filed each year has trended generally upwards. In 2011, 441 new cases were filed, which was 5 percent fewer than in 2010 but 16 percent more than five years earlier in 2007. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

The make-up of the court's total caseload in 2011 is shown in **Figure 2**.

TABLE 1

New Filings
All Case Types

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Judicial Cases	381	407	396	463	441
Administrative Determinations	515	687	506	768	796
Victims of Crime Appeals	83	121	99	96	100
Total	979	1,215	1,001	1,327	1,337

FIGURE 1

New Filings in 2011
All Case Types

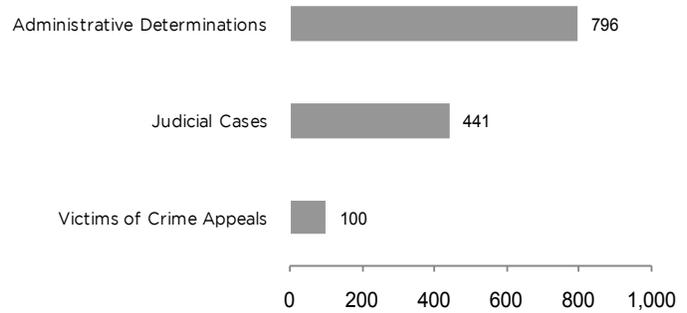


FIGURE 2

Judicial Cases
Cases Filed

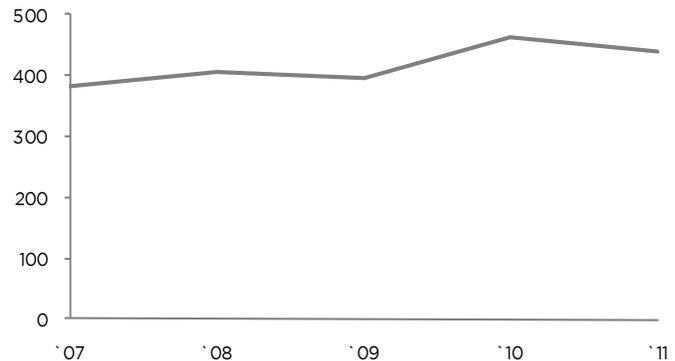
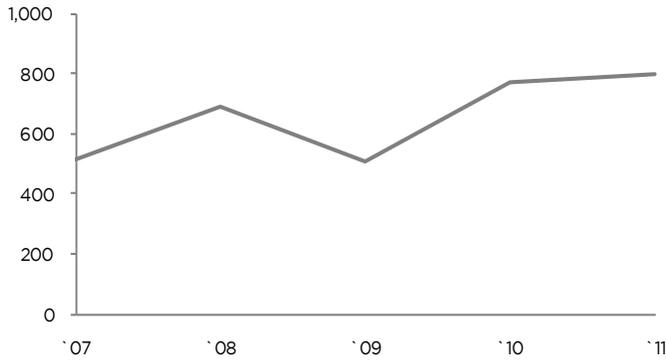


FIGURE 3

Administrative Determinations
Cases Filed

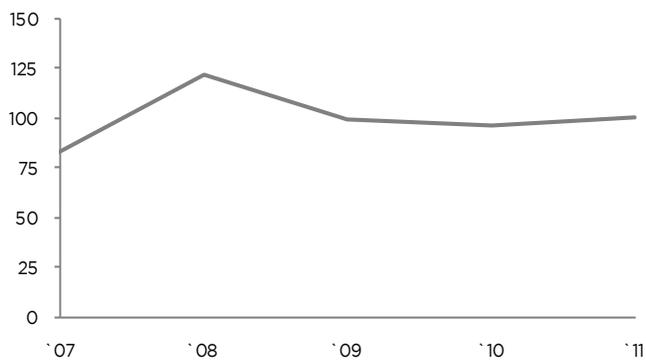


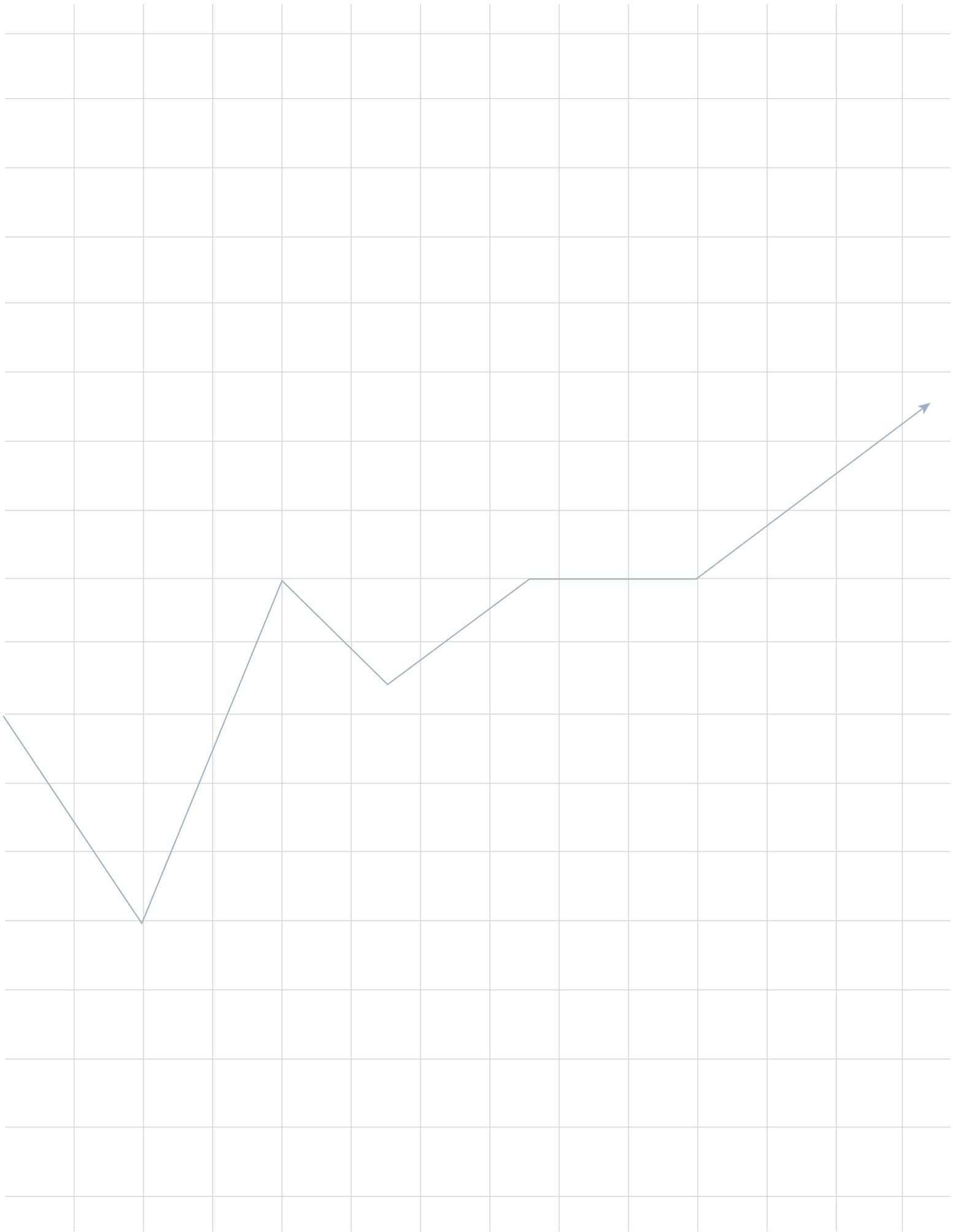
The number of administrative determination cases filed each year varies widely with an overall upward trend over the past five years. Notable is that 2011 saw the largest number of new cases over the past five years, with 796 cases (a 55-percent increase over 2007). (See **Figure 3**).

The volume of appeals from victims of crime decisions exhibits significant fluctuations between 2007 and 2009 but has remained fairly stable the last three years. In 2011, 100 appeals were filed. (See **Figure 4**).

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 generally more than \$15,000. 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.

The courts of common pleas in most counties across the state have specialized divisions created by statute to which judges are specifically elected in order to hear criminal and civil, domestic relations, juvenile, or probate cases — or some combination of those categories. The use of the term “division” when describing the jurisdictional structure of the various counties’ 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 their overall type — that is, by division. For example, when describing caseloads of matters 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. The courts of common pleas in Adams, Morgan, Morrow, Noble and Wyandot counties have no divisions and the judges elected to those courts have responsibility over all types of cases that come before the common pleas court.

Changes in 2011

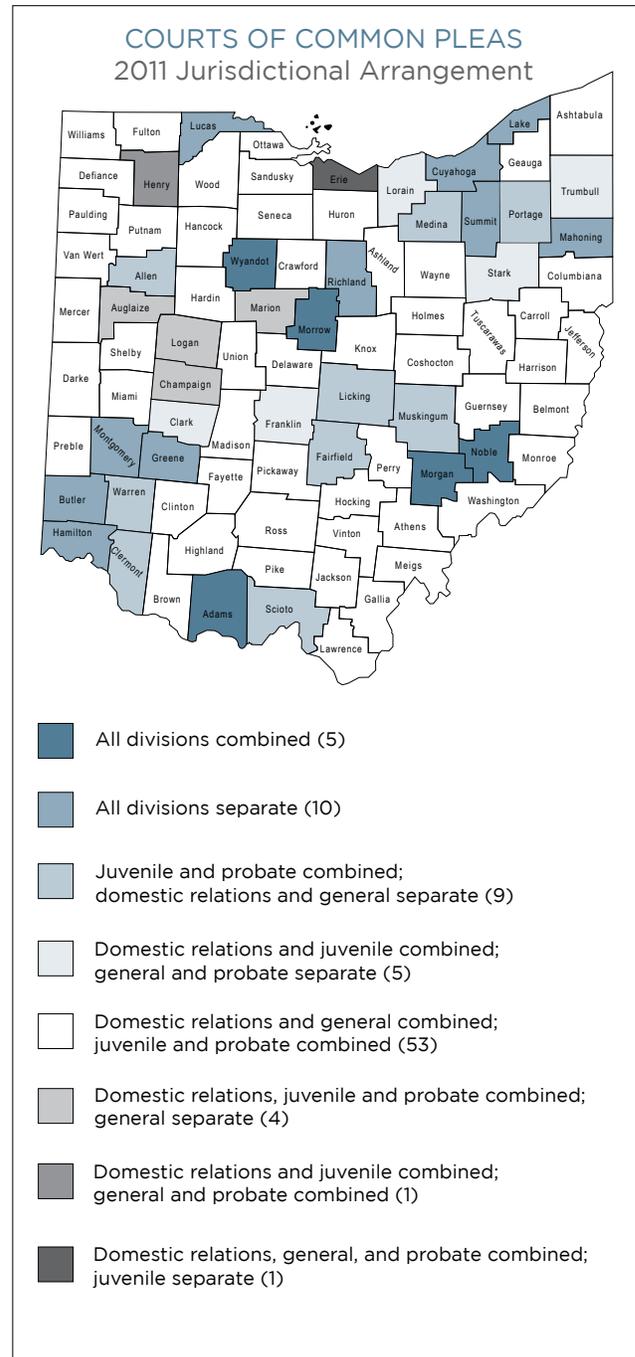
There were no changes to the jurisdictional structure or number of judgeships in Ohio common pleas courts during 2011.

Future Changes

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

Courts of Common Pleas Jurisdictional Distribution in 2011

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 generally greater than \$15,000 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 2002, on average, approximately one out of every 1,500 civil cases (0.07 percent) in the general divisions of Ohio's common pleas courts are classified each year as complex litigation matters.

The Advisory Committee on Case Management

The Advisory Committee on Case Management began its work in 2011 following the appointment of its members by Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor. The advisory committee comprises 25 judges, magistrates and court administrators representing all variety of court jurisdictions from diverse regions across the state. All members are seasoned professionals whose experience and depth of knowledge are essential to providing sound advice to the Supreme Court.

The mission of the advisory committee is to provide ongoing advice to the Supreme Court and its staff regarding:

1. The promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning case management and statistical reporting in Ohio courts
2. The development and delivery of case management services to Ohio courts, including training programs for judges and court personnel
3. The consideration of any other issues the advisory committee deems necessary to assist the Court and its staff regarding case management in Ohio courts.

The Advisory Committee identified three initial areas of focus:

1. Review and revision of the Court's current case time guidelines promulgated pursuant to Sup. R. 39
2. Review and revision of the Court's caseload statistical reporting framework established under Sup. R. 37
3. Review and revision of the manner in which the Case Management Section provides court management consulting to courts across the state.

Under the leadership of Judge Timothy Cannon and Judge Judith French, the advisory committee meets quarterly to discuss these topics and to provide direction to 13 separate subcommittees currently tackling the topics of time guidelines, statistical reporting and court consulting.

Through its recommendations to the Supreme Court, the advisory committee assists the court in its ongoing efforts to broaden and strengthen its commitment to providing the citizens of Ohio with an efficient and accountable judicial system.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hon. Timothy Cannon
11th District Court of Appeals
Chairperson

Hon. Judith L. French
10th District Court of Appeals
Vice Chairperson

Jean Atkin
Retired Administrator
Lucas County Court of Common Pleas
General Division

Hon. Laura J. Gallagher
Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
Probate Division

Gretchen Beers
Magistrate
Miami County Court of Common Pleas
General and Domestic Relations Division

Hon. Kathleen L. Giesler
Ottawa County Court of Common Pleas
Probate and Juvenile Division

Russell Brown
Administrator
Cleveland Municipal Court

Hon. L. Alan Goldsberry
Athens County Court of Common Pleas
General and Domestic Relations Division

Hon. Anthony Capizzi
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Juvenile Division

Lisa M. Gorrasi
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Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations Division

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Highland County Court of Common Pleas
General and Domestic Relations Division

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Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas
General Division

Hon. Carol J. Dezso
Summit County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations Division

Hon. Diane M. Palos
Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
Domestic Relations Division

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Dayton Municipal Court

Hon. Gary Dumm
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Hon. Tom Porkorny
Retired Administrator/Judge
Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas
General Division

Laurie Endly
Clerk of Court
Cambridge Municipal Court

Hon. Jack Puffenberger
Lucas County Court of Common Pleas
Probate Division

Hon. Sheila Farmer
5th District Court of Appeals

Hon. Joseph Zone
Cleveland Municipal Court

Hon. Richard A. Frye
Franklin County Court of Common Pleas
General Division

Caseloads

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of new case filings in 2011 among common pleas, general division courts. Criminal cases, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases constitute 88 percent of all new filings in 2011. See the *Appendix* for a table displaying the number of new filings for each individual case type from 2002 through 2011.

Figure 2 shows 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 continuous downward trend, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases display significant growth over the past 10 years, although since 2008 and 2009, the pace of new filings have declined markedly. In 2011 a total of 71,553 new Foreclosure cases were filed, which represents a 20-percent decrease over the all-time high in 2009 when a total of 89,061 new filings were reported. Similarly, in 2011 a total of 56,493 new Other Civil cases were filed, which is down sharply (22 percent) from the all-time high in 2008 when 72,121 new cases were filed.

Criminal cases exhibited a steady upward trend until 2007 when the trend reversed with continuous decreases in the past six years. Notably, new Criminal case filings in 2011 (with slightly more than 67,000 cases) are 19 percent fewer than the 10-year high of more than 82,000 cases filed in 2006.

Performance Measures

A description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court is available on *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, average monthly clearance rates in 2011 for all case types exceeded 100 percent. Average monthly overage rates over

FIGURE 1

New Filings in 2011 All Case Types

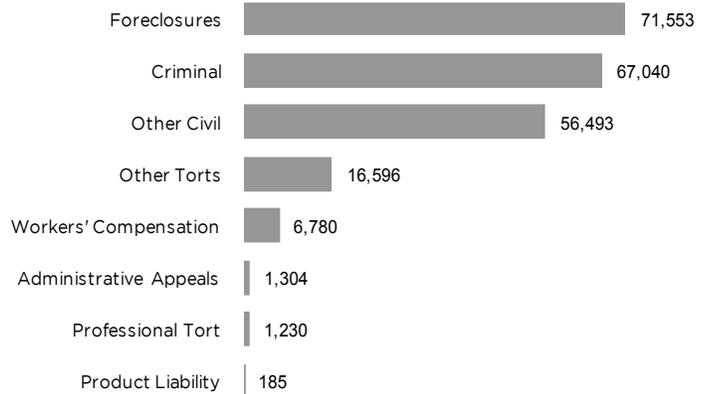


FIGURE 2

Trends in New Filings Criminal and Civil

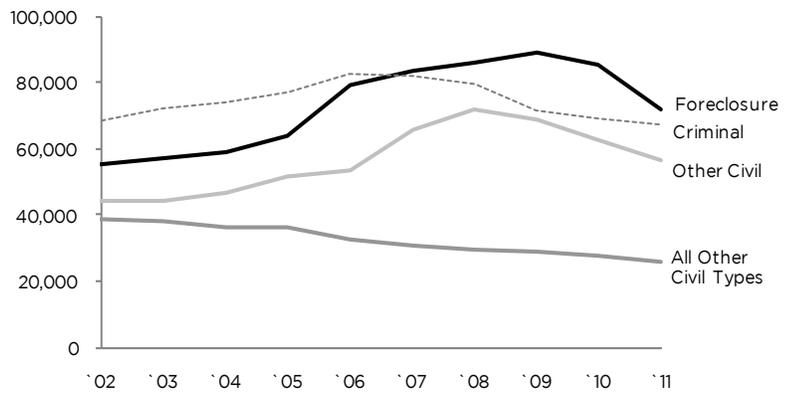


TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2011 (average per month)

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Administrative Appeals	100%
Complex Litigation	114%
Criminal	100%
Foreclosures	101%
Other Civil	104%
Other Torts	106%
Product Liability	114%
Professional Tort	110%
Workers Compensation	105%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

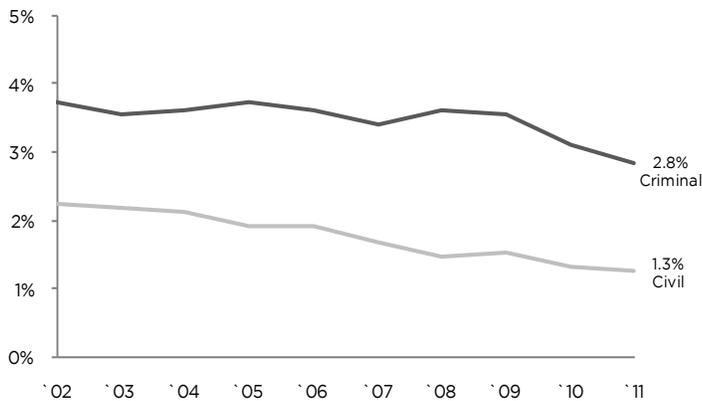
All Case Types, 2007 through 2011 (average per month)

Case Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Administrative Appeals	30%	21%	23%	24%	24%
Complex Litigation	16%	12%	7%	8%	10%
Criminal	14%	16%	14%	14%	15%
Foreclosures	5%	5%	4%	6%	8%
Other Civil	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Other Torts	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Product Liability	38%	7%	7%	8%	7%
Professional Tort	16%	10%	10%	9%	9%
Workers Compensation	12%	13%	10%	10%	11%

FIGURE 3

Trial Rates

Trials as a Percentage of All Final Dispositions



each of the last five years are shown in **Table 2**. Criminal cases and Administrative Appeals exhibited in 2011 the highest average monthly overage rates at 15 and 24 percent, respectively.

Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseflow 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 caseflow 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 3**, the trial rate for civil cases heard in the common pleas, general division courts in 2011 was 1.3 percent and 2.8 percent for criminal cases. Although the criminal case trial rate remained relatively stable between 2002 and 2009, for the last two years it has decreased. The rate in civil cases has been declining nearly continuously over the past 10 years.

Cuyahoga County's Asbestos Docket

Not reflected in the caseload statistics 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 10-year high in 2004 of 6,416 new cases to a low of 105 new cases in 2011. 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 3** and **Figure 4**).

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 6,506 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 3** and **Figure 5**). 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 3

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

Overall Caseloads

Year	New Filings	Pending at End of Year	Cases Terminated
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
2011	105	6,506	490

FIGURE 4

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket

New Filings

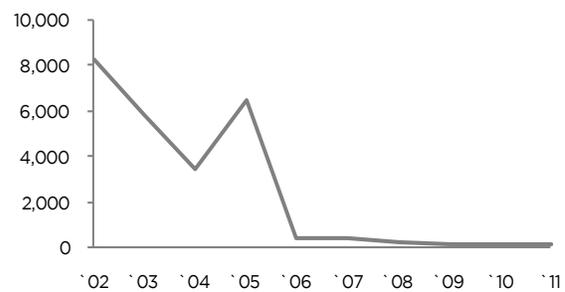
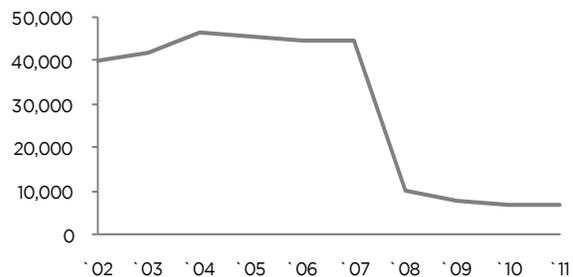


FIGURE 5

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 (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 subsequent to the final decree and are classified under either the Change of Custody, Visitation Enforcement or Modification (Visitation), or Support Enforcement or Modification categories (Support). 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 2011, 46,366 new Divorce and Dissolution cases were filed. This represents a slight decrease of 1.4 percent from 2010. For the past five years running, the volume of new Divorces and Dissolutions across the state has remained fairly stable. New filings across the state in all case types from 2002 through 2011 are shown in a table in the *Appendix*.

Of particular note is the increasing differential in the rates in which new Divorce and Dissolution filings involve married couples with or without children. (See **Figure 1**). Until 2005, more cases were filed involving children than not. Since 2005, that relationship has reversed and the trend appears to be continuing.

FIGURE 1

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

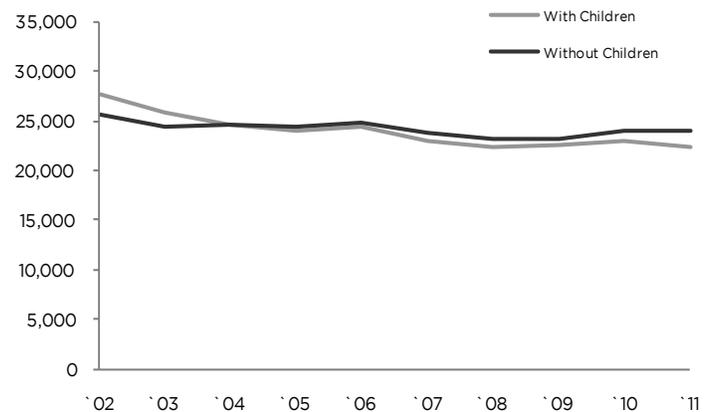


TABLE 1

Post-Decree Case Types

New Filings and Reactivations

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011 Change over 2002
New Filings											
Change of Custody	1,078	1,067	991	939	661	611	562	448	433	418	-61%
Support - Enforce or Modify	5,479	5,194	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,204	2,534	2,251	2,034	-63%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	436	368	312	284	313	259	153	108	127	146	-67%
Reactivations											
Change of Custody	6,761	6,635	6,785	7,240	7,234	6,980	7,007	6,804	6,790	7,046	4%
Support - Enforce or Modify	32,185	32,407	35,859	35,581	33,730	33,410	34,659	35,169	32,500	29,832	-7%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,088	3,075	3,171	3,341	3,079	3,120	3,370	3,085	3,210	3,268	6%
Total New Filings and Reactivations											
Change of Custody	7,839	7,702	7,776	8,179	7,895	7,591	7,569	7,252	7,223	7,464	-5%
Support - Enforce or Modify	37,664	37,601	40,993	40,711	37,461	36,854	37,863	37,703	34,751	31,866	-15%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,524	3,443	3,483	3,625	3,392	3,379	3,523	3,193	3,337	3,414	-3%

FIGURE 2

Custody and Visitation Cases
New Filings and Reactivations

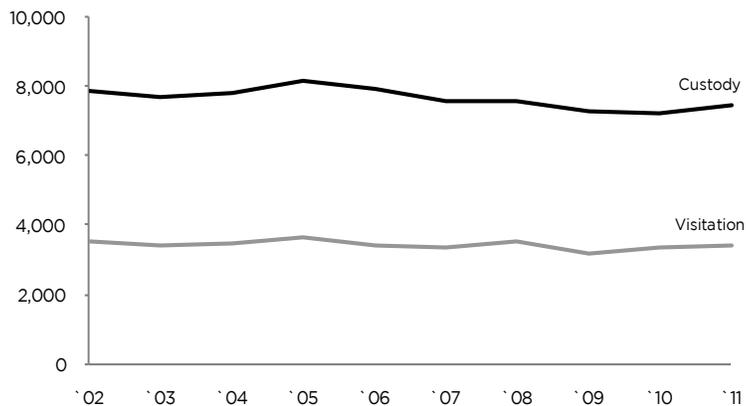
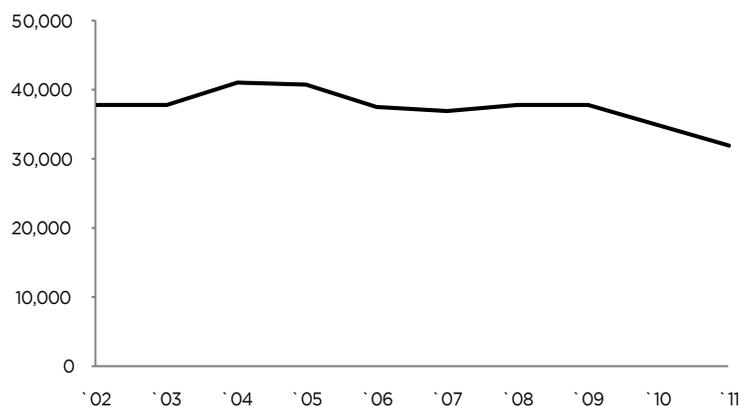


FIGURE 3

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.

Between 2002 and 2005, the number of motions filed each year seeking a change of custody remained largely stable. From 2006 to 2010 a general, but relatively small, downward trend was experienced. During 2011, a total of 7,464 filings were reported, representing a modest but otherwise discernable increase of 3 percent over 2010. Incoming volumes in Visitation matters have remained stable. (See **Table 1** and **Figure 2**).

Notable is the contrast in the number of post-decree matters 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 subsequently presented. Support matters, not strictly involving the presence of children, would be expected to demonstrate less of a decline. Between 2004 and 2011, the number of filings seeking the enforcement or modification of a support order declined by 22 percent. (See **Table 1** and **Figures 2** and **3**).

Performance Measures

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

As shown in **Table 2**, average monthly clearance rates in 2011 for all case types exceeded 100 percent with the sole exception of U.I.F.S.A. cases. Average monthly overage rates over each of the last five years are shown in **Table 3**. While the overage rates for Divorces and Dissolutions along with several other case types in 2011 are well below 10 percent, the overage rates for Domestic Violence, Custody, U.I.F.S.A., Visitation, and All Others are above 10 percent.

TABLE 2

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2011 (average per month)

Case Type	Clearance Rate
All Others	104%
Change of Custody	103%
Domestic Violence	101%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	102%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	101%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	103%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	101%
Parentage	101%
Support - Enforce or Modify	100%
U.I.F.S.A.	98%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	101%

TABLE 3

Overage Rates

All Case Types, 2007 through 2011 (average per month)

Case Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Others	14%	14%	18%	15%	17%
Change of Custody	17%	17%	15%	13%	12%
Domestic Violence	34%	36%	32%	35%	33%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	5%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%
Parentage	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%
Support - Enforce or Modify	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%
U.I.F.S.A.	32%	29%	25%	34%	26%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	14%	14%	16%	14%	13%



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 generally have declined over the past 10 years. As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, 86,929 new probate cases were filed in 2011, representing 10 percent fewer than the number of cases filed in 2002 but 2 percent more than one year earlier, in 2010. A 4-percent increase in the number of new Decedents' Estate matters accounts largely for the overall increase.

New filings of Guardianships of Incompetents (adult guardianships), displayed in **Figure 1**, have remained largely stable over the past 10 years. On the other hand, Guardianships of Minors, also shown in Figure 1, trend steadily downward, with 2,370 new filings in 2011, compared with 4,001 new filings in 2002 (a 41-percent decrease). Compared to one year earlier in 2010, the number decreased by 9 percent.

Decedents' Estates cases, shown in **Figure 2**, exhibited a steady but very slight downward trend from 2002 to 2010. The 57,267 cases filed in 2011 are 9 percent fewer than the number filed in 2002.

Adoption cases demonstrated a marked decrease with 4,159 cases filed in 2011, representing a 28-percent decline from 2002. (See **Figure 3**).

FIGURE 1

Guardianships New Filings

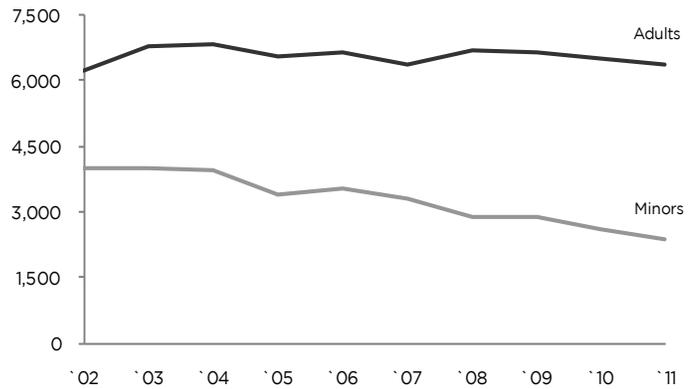


FIGURE 2

Decedents' Estates New Filings

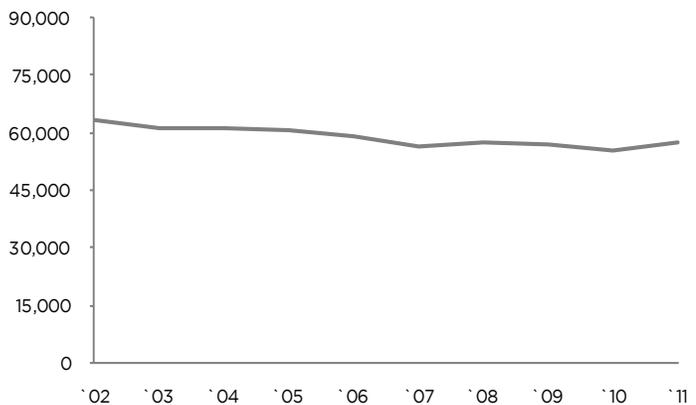


FIGURE 3

Adoptions New Filings

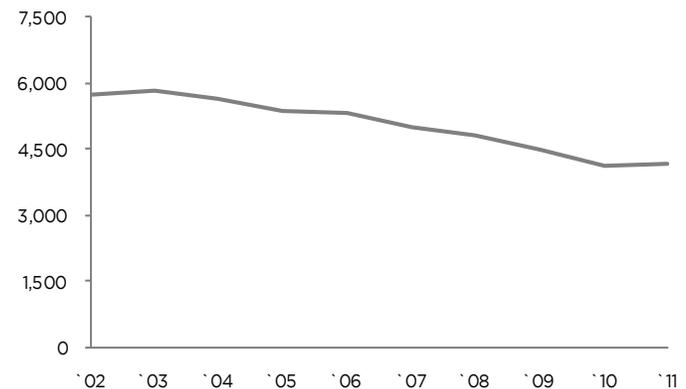
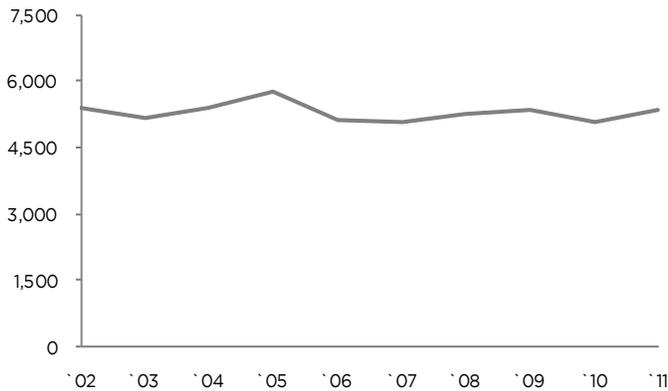


FIGURE 4

Mental Illness and Mental Retardation Cases

New Filings



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**).

Performance Measures

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

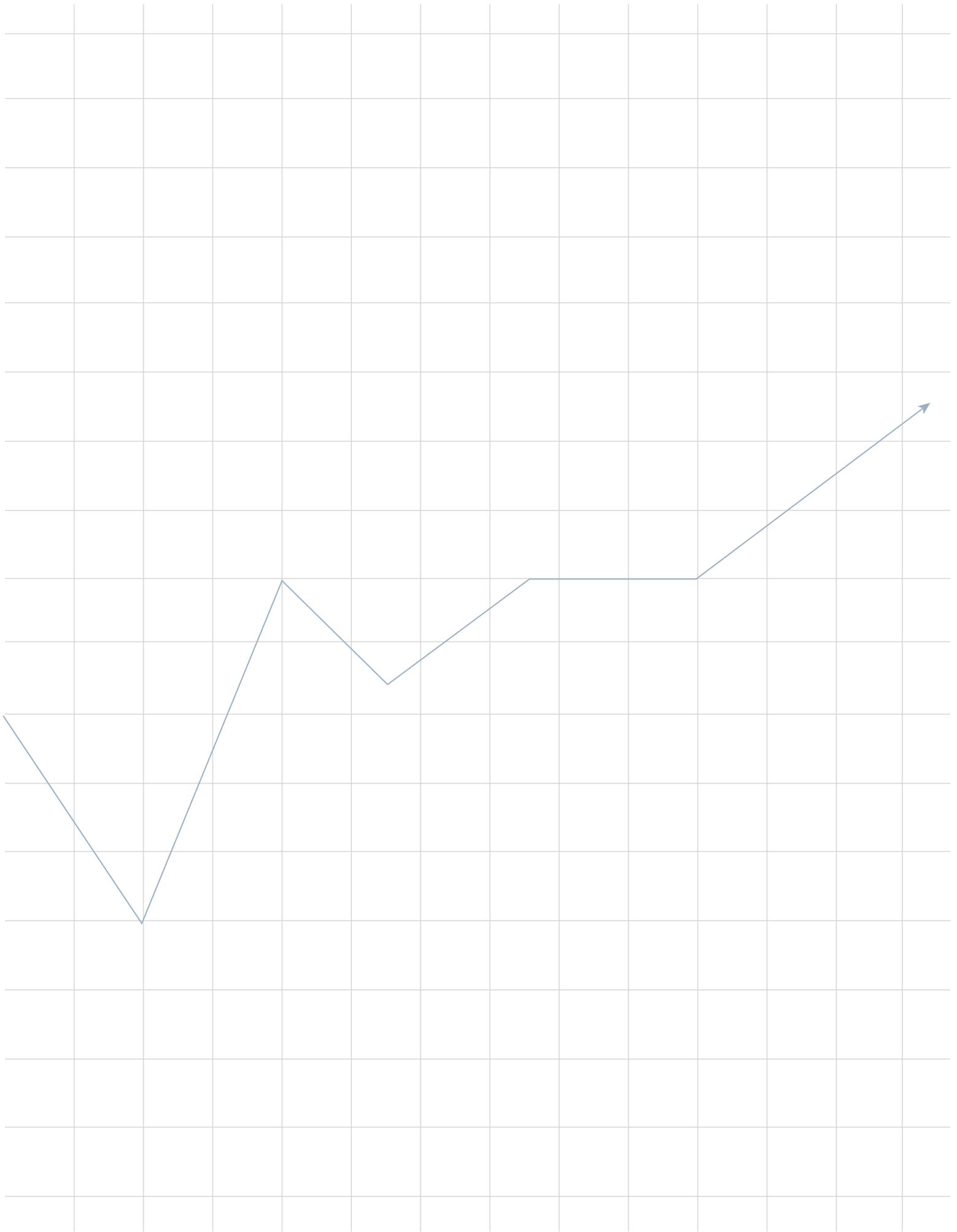
As shown in **Table 1**, probate divisions statewide in 2011 exhibited generally satisfactory clearance rates in the majority of case types. Notable is the 82-percent clearance rate for Guardianships of Incompetents cases, which is suggestive of a growth in a backlog of these cases. Because the Supreme Court does not promulgate time standards for probate cases, overage rates are not calculable.

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2011 (average per quarter)

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Adoptions	104%
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	102%
Change of Name	98%
Civil Actions	94%
Conservatorships	128%
Decedents' Estates	94%
Guardianships of Incompetents	82%
Guardianships of Minors	119%
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation	98%
Minors' Settlements	105%
Testamentary Trusts	170%
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 2002 to 2011. A variety of sizable changes in the number of new filings is seen. Overall, the state saw a 6-percent decline in the total number of new filings of juvenile cases in 2011 from 2010, largely attributable to decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases. Over the past 10 years, there was a general sizable decline amounting to a 10-year decrease of 31 percent. Again, significant drivers of that overall decline were decreases in Delinquency and Traffic cases which exhibited a 10-year decrease of 32 and 54 percent, respectively. (See **Figures 1 and 2**).

Figure 3 shows new filings of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases, combined with new filings and reactivations of Motions for Permanent Custody cases. 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 in 2010 and 2011 over the 10-year low in 2009. In 2011, the state saw the filing of a total of 15,839 Abuse, Neglect and Dependency and Motions for Permanent Custody cases.

FIGURE 1

Delinquency Cases New Filings

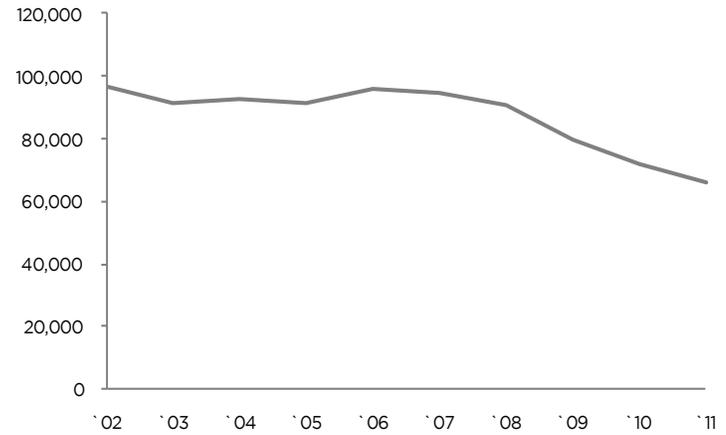


FIGURE 2

Juvenile Traffic Cases New Filings

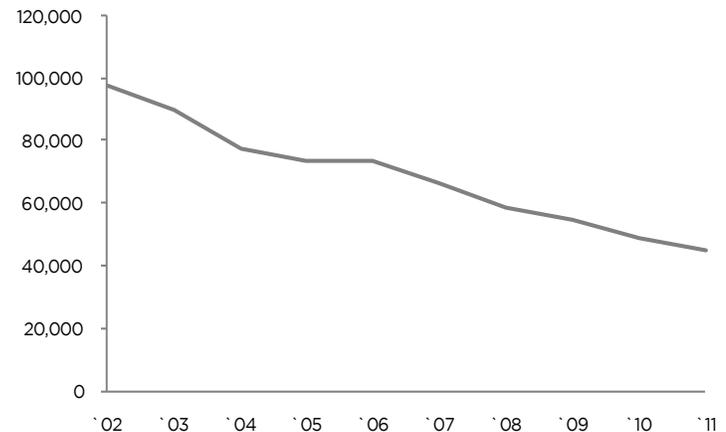


FIGURE 3

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

New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

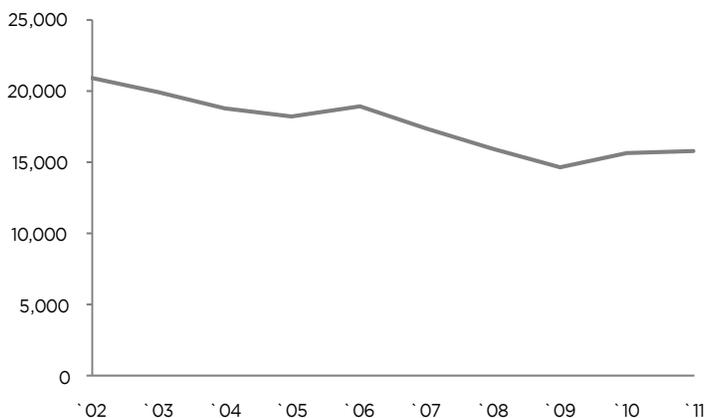
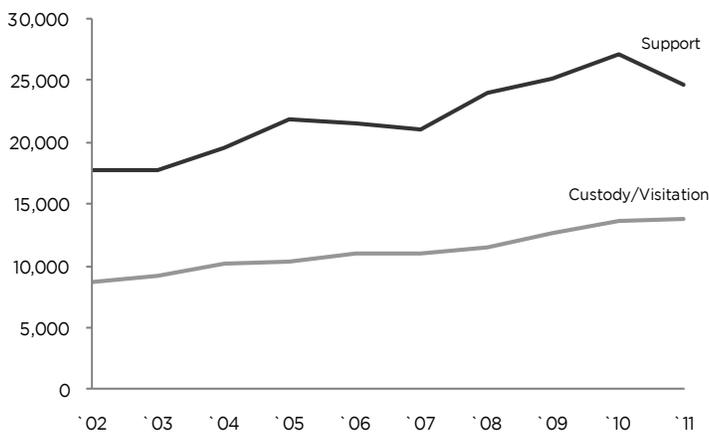


FIGURE 4

Custody/Visitation and Support Cases

New Filings



Notable in this data is the sizable and generally steady upward trend seen in those case types involving child support (Support Enforcement or Modification), and custody and visitation issues (Custody/Visitation). In 2011, 24,599 support matters were filed representing an unexpected 9-percent decrease over 2010. **Figure 4** displays graphically the overall 10-year trend in new Support 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 58 percent. In 2011, a 10-year high of 13,780 new Custody/Visitation matters were filed.

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 and visitation litigation involving unmarried persons.

Performance Measures

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

Table 1 shows the average monthly clearance rates over 2011 for each case type. The average monthly overage rates over each of the past five years are shown in **Table 2**. For 2011, the overage rates in a number of case types exceed 10 percent. Clearance rates, with one exception (Motions of Permanent Custody), meet or exceed the 100 percent target.

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2011 (average per month)

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	101%
Adult Cases	112%
All Others	103%
Custody/Visitation	100%
Delinquency	101%
Motion for Permanent Custody	95%
Parentage	108%
Support - Enforce or Modify	102%
Traffic	101%
U.I.F.S.A.	114%
Unruly	101%

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

All Case Types, 2007 through 2011 (average per month)

Case Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	20%	21%	20%	19%	16%
Adult Cases	14%	17%	14%	15%	16%
All Others	10%	11%	10%	9%	9%
Custody/Visitation	14%	17%	16%	13%	9%
Delinquency	6%	7%	6%	6%	7%
Motion for Permanent Custody	13%	17%	17%	19%	13%
Parentage	7%	10%	7%	5%	9%
Support - Enforce or Modify	3%	4%	5%	4%	4%
Traffic	10%	23%	13%	15%	18%
U.I.F.S.A.	32%	35%	22%	18%	20%
Unruly	20%	20%	17%	16%	17%



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 2011, there were 130 municipal courts with 217 judges, and 35 county courts with 37 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 statutes establishing the individual municipal courts. All county court judges serve on a part-time basis. A municipal court's territorial jurisdiction may be limited to one municipality or may extend across a range of municipalities, townships, or be countywide. A small number of municipal courts have territories that extend across more than one county. In 2011, statutes provided for the judgeships in the following 13 municipal courts to be part-time.

Avon Lake	Lebanon
Bellevue	Mason
Campbell	Oakwood
Franklin	Shelby
Hardin County	Struthers
Huron	Vermilion
Lawrence County	

In addition to the 13 courts identified above, two of the four judgeships in the Montgomery County Municipal Court are part-time judgeships.

Changes in 2011

In 2011, changes were made concerning the existence and nature of four of Ohio's municipal and county courts.

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

Putnam County Court: Effective January 1, 2011, the Putnam 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 December 31, 2010.

Future Changes

Sandusky County Court: Effective January 1, 2013, the Sandusky County Court will be abolished and the Sandusky County Municipal Court will be established in its place. The enabling legislation also provides for the abolishment of one of the county court's two judgeships by January 1, 2013.

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.

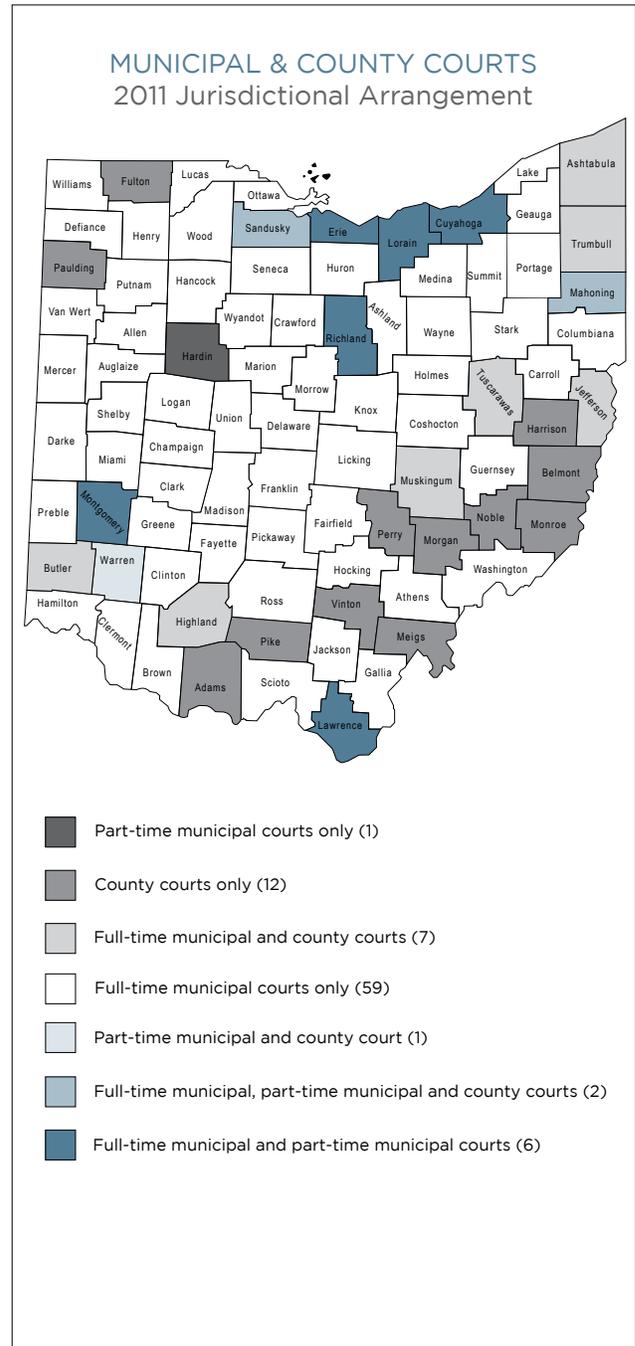


FIGURE 1

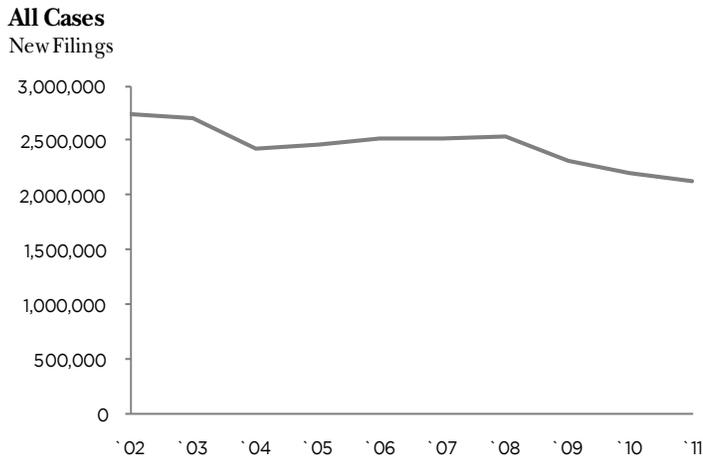


FIGURE 2

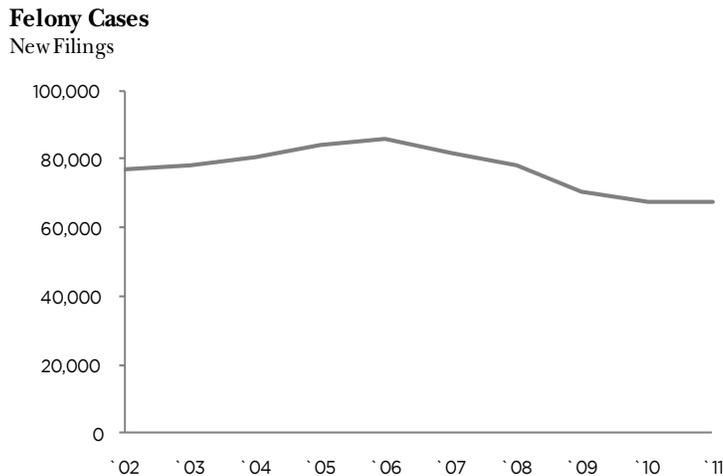


FIGURE 3



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* and in **Figure 1**, the total number of new filings each year in Ohio's municipal and county courts decreased overall during the past 10 years but especially over the last three years. Since 2008, the number of new cases has decreased by 16 percent.

However, there was substantial growth in certain case types at least during certain periods over the past 10 years.

Felony cases, in which municipal and county courts conduct preliminary matters only, exhibited a notable shift in their growth rate over the 10-year period shown in **Figure 2**. From 2002 to 2006, the rate of increase was fairly sharp. Beginning in 2006, however, that trend reversed. The 67,219 Felony cases filed in 2011 represent a drop of 22 percent from the 10-year high in 2006 when 85,695 cases were filed.

Misdemeanor cases, constituting a sizable 17 percent of the courts' total caseload, have experienced a slight but fairly steady downward trend over the past 10 years. A total of 368,480 new filings were reported in 2011, which represents 11 percent fewer than in 2002. The 10-year high of slightly more than 419,000 cases were filed in 2007. (See **Figure 3**).

Not unlike the general downward trend seen in Other Traffic cases, O.V.I. cases also exhibit an overall downward trend, although in 2011 the courts experienced a slight uptick of 3 percent from 2010 following several years of continuing decreases. (See **Figure 4**).

Other Traffic cases (all moving violations except for O.V.I.), constituting 55 percent of the municipal and county courts' total caseload filed in 2011, have, on the whole, trended downward from 2002 through 2011, with a particularly sharp decline between 2003 and 2004 and consistent year-over-year decreases since 2006 (See **Figure 5**).

Small Claims case filings trended essentially downwards over the past 10 years, with sharp declines each year beginning in 2008. The number of new Small Claims cases filed in 2011 (61,733) represents a drop of 9 percent from 2010 and 33 percent fewer than 10 years ago. (See **Figure 6**).

FIGURE 4

O.V.I. Cases
New Filings

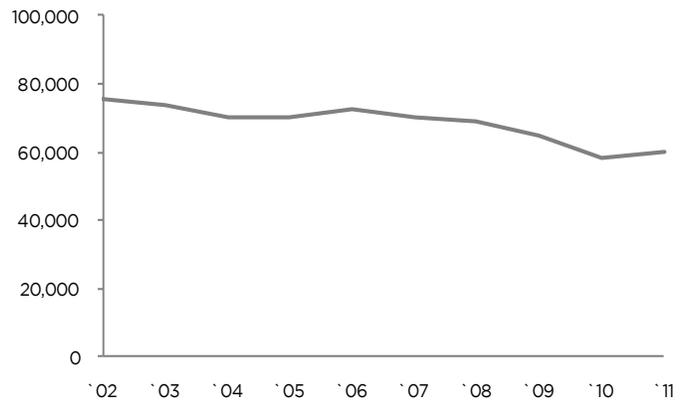


FIGURE 5

Other Traffic Cases
New Filings

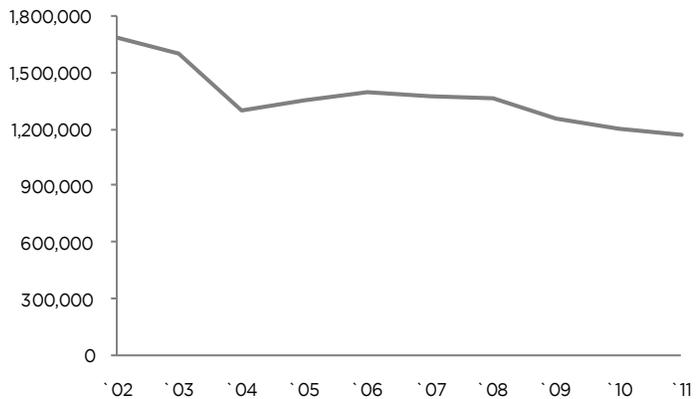


FIGURE 6

Small Claims Cases
New Filings

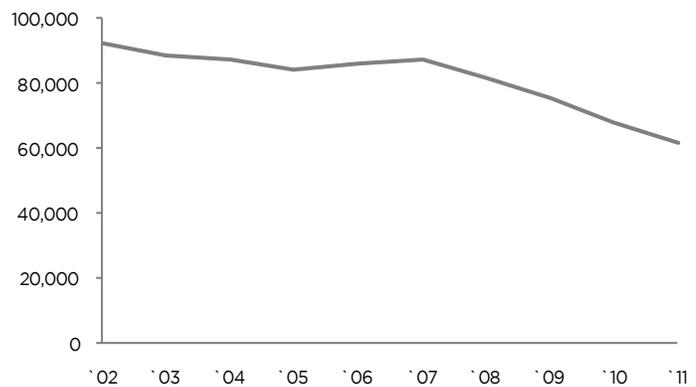
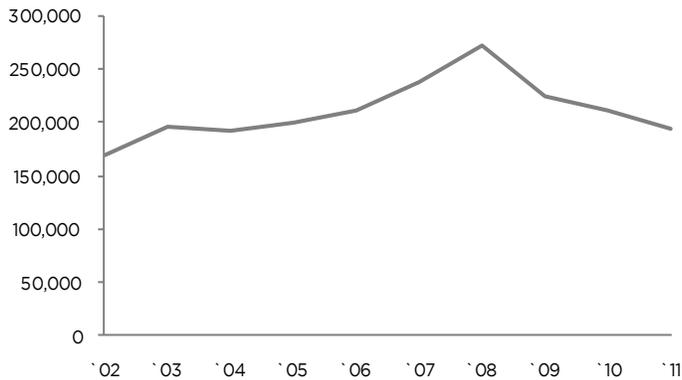


FIGURE 7

Contracts Cases
New Filings



Contracts cases, constituting about 10 percent each year of the courts' total caseloads, have demonstrated considerable volatility. There was significant growth in Contracts cases over the years between 2002 and 2008, but for the past three years the volume of new cases has dropped markedly. In 2011, slightly more than 193,000 cases were filed, representing an 8-percent decrease from 2010 and a 29 percent decrease from the 10-year high in 2008. (See **Figure 7**).

TABLE 1

Clearance Rates

All Case Types, 2011 (average per month)

Case Type	Clearance Rate
Contracts	102%
F.E.D.	97%
Other Civil	110%
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	114%
Small Claims	105%
Felonies	100%
Misdemeanors	103%
O.V.I.	98%
Other Traffic	101%

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 2011 all exceed or equal the 100 percent target measure. Overage rates are displayed graphically in **Table 2**. The overage rate for Felonies, at 15 percent, is the only overage rate exceeding 10 percent.

TABLE 2

Overage Rates

All Case Types, 2007 through 2011 (average per month, statewide)

Case Type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Contracts	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%
F.E.D.	30%	17%	7%	6%	5%
Other Civil	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Small Claims	14%	11%	8%	8%	9%
Felonies	11%	12%	12%	14%	15%
Misdemeanors	2%	2%	3%	4%	5%
O.V.I.	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%
Other Traffic	1%	2%	2%	3%	4%

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 8, 9 and 10 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 although court trials in civil cases have begun to trend upwards beginning in 2007 following several years of consecutive decreases.

FIGURE 8

Trial Rates in Misdemeanor (Non-Traffic) Cases

Percentage of Total Dispositional Terminations Reported by Individually Assigned Judges

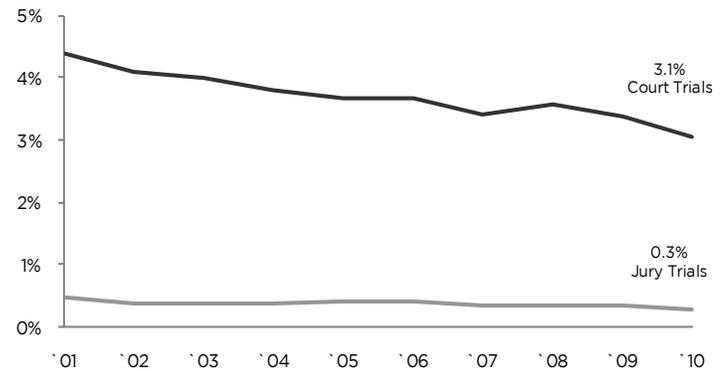


FIGURE 9

Trial Rates in Civil Cases

Percentage of Total Dispositional Terminations Reported by Individually Assigned Judges

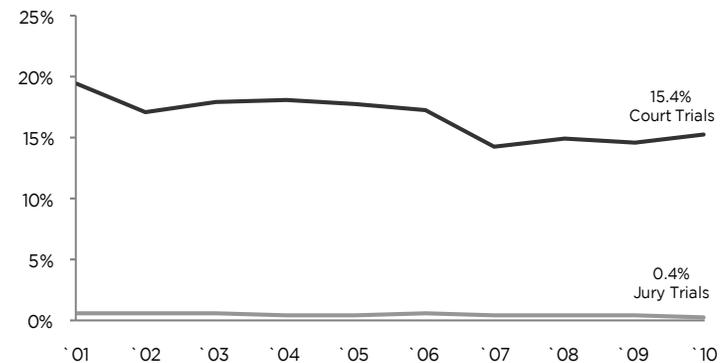
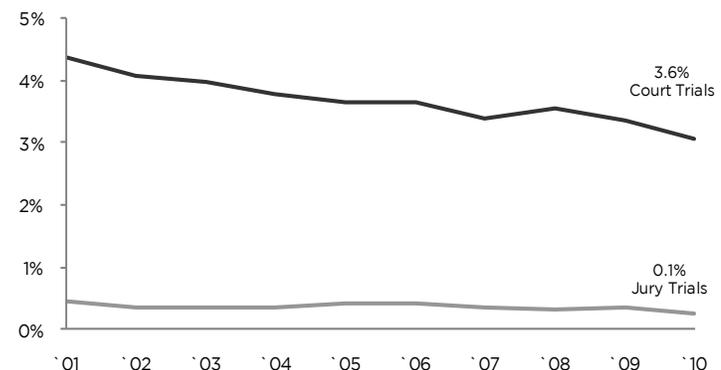


FIGURE 10

Trial Rates in Traffic Cases

Percentage of Total Dispositional Terminations Reported by Individually Assigned Judges



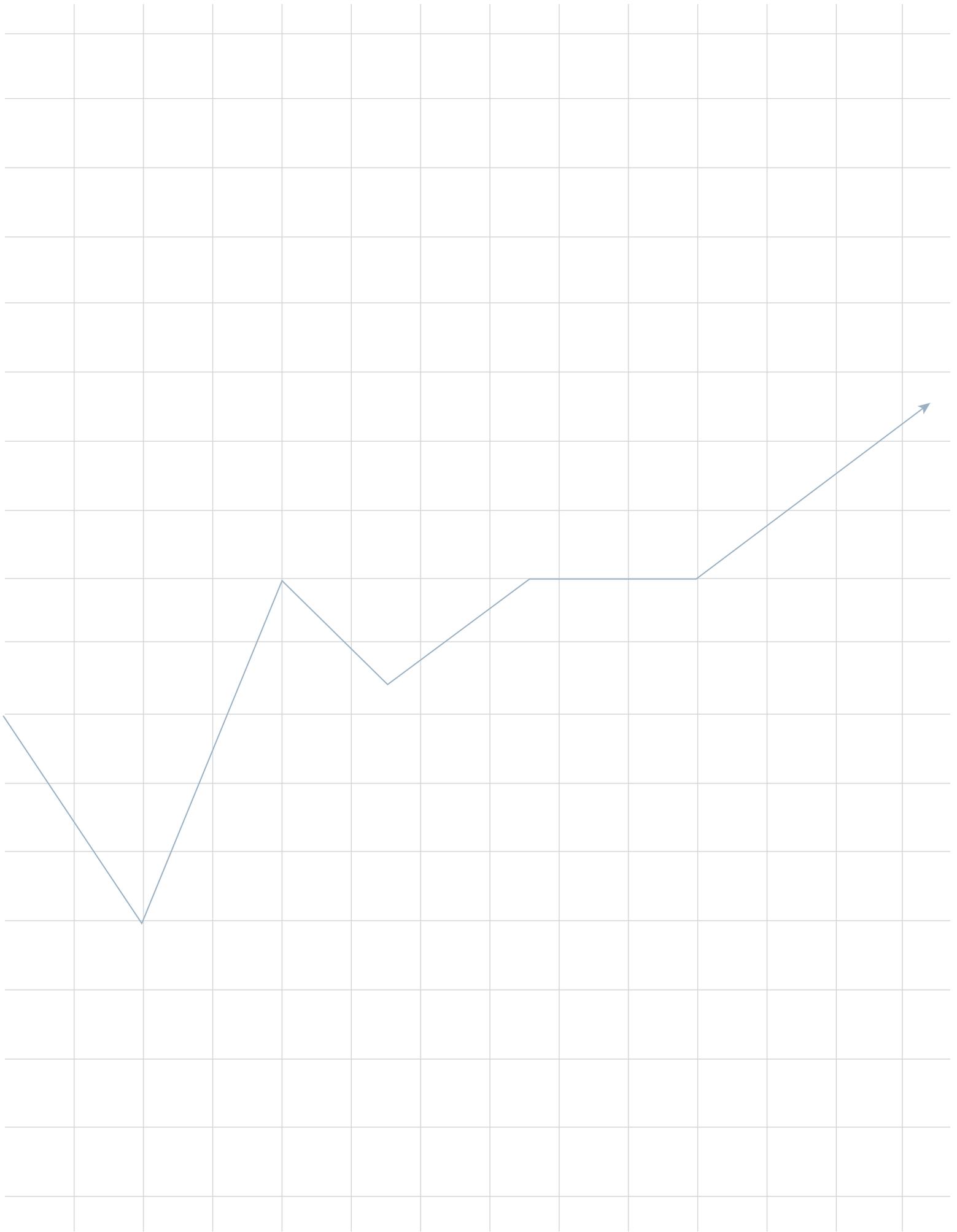


MAYOR'S COURTS

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.

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.

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

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Administrative Appeals	1,379	1,238	1,219	1,054	1,166	1,192	1,600	1,300	1,306	1,304
Criminal	68,544	72,261	73,822	77,042	82,370	81,785	79,240	71,490	69,014	67,040
Foreclosures	55,274	57,083	59,041	63,996	79,059	83,230	85,773	89,061	85,483	71,553
Other Civil	44,265	44,138	46,813	51,780	53,635	65,822	72,121	69,004	62,859	56,493
Other Torts	26,104	25,314	23,890	23,830	21,289	19,480	18,663	18,351	17,228	16,596
Product Liability	500	396	436	928	348	320	290	208	228	185
Professional Tort	2,972	2,683	2,250	1,908	1,502	1,483	1,411	1,368	1,422	1,230
Workers' Compensation	7,895	8,263	8,623	8,814	8,065	8,365	7,449	7,678	7,203	6,780
Total	206,933	211,376	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,460	244,743	221,181

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division

New Filings

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
All Others	1,541	2,763	2,868	1,443	1,258	996	776	486	499	520
Change of Custody	1,078	1,067	991	939	661	611	562	448	433	418
Domestic Violence	15,497	16,219	17,447	18,255	18,219	18,862	19,457	20,551	19,860	19,189
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	9,434	8,870	8,451	8,213	8,171	7,905	7,800	7,780	8,409	8,198
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	11,462	11,148	11,170	10,891	10,886	10,274	10,061	10,280	10,618	10,364
Marriage Terminations w/Children	18,321	16,857	16,239	15,767	16,195	15,125	14,653	14,726	14,644	14,218
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	14,254	13,339	13,407	13,493	13,961	13,457	13,085	12,935	13,375	13,586
Parentage	990	1,653	1,676	1,570	1,530	1,747	2,045	2,103	2,064	1,831
Support - Enforce or Modify	5,479	5,194	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,204	2,534	2,251	2,034
U.I.F.S.A.	2,283	2,049	2,694	1,903	1,919	1,477	1,291	1,512	1,047	995
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	436	368	312	284	313	259	153	108	127	146
Total	80,775	79,527	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,087	73,463	73,327	71,499

Courts of Common Pleas, Probate Division

New Filings

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Adoptions	5,756	5,817	5,663	5,375	5,323	4,999	4,825	4,487	4,120	4,159
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	1,129	1,050	1,017	1,143	1,217	1,374	1,159	1,126	1,086	987
Change of Name	5,051	5,130	4,939	5,031	5,151	5,154	5,151	5,324	5,514	5,487
Civil Actions	2,649	2,722	2,841	2,721	2,704	2,437	2,332	2,439	2,402	2,461
Conservatorships	98	121	84	85	96	86	111	95	91	76
Decedents' Estates	62,938	61,115	61,196	60,596	58,932	56,487	57,573	56,686	55,199	57,267
Guardianships of Incompetents	6,252	6,797	6,832	6,562	6,646	6,386	6,685	6,668	6,488	6,387
Guardianships of Minors	4,001	3,980	3,950	3,407	3,551	3,291	2,898	2,896	2,608	2,370
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation	5,375	5,173	5,409	5,741	5,139	5,072	5,253	5,360	5,052	5,358
Minors' Settlements	2,076	2,082	1,917	1,916	1,836	1,706	1,535	1,506	1,345	1,287
Testamentary Trusts	743	980	782	577	571	499	527	552	530	462
Wrongful Death	289	371	368	554	455	530	572	1,039	717	628
Total	96,357	95,338	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	88,621	88,178	85,152	86,929
Marriage Applications Granted	83,465	79,220	79,463	77,573	75,223	72,601	71,401	68,019	68,248	69,253

APPENDIX

Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

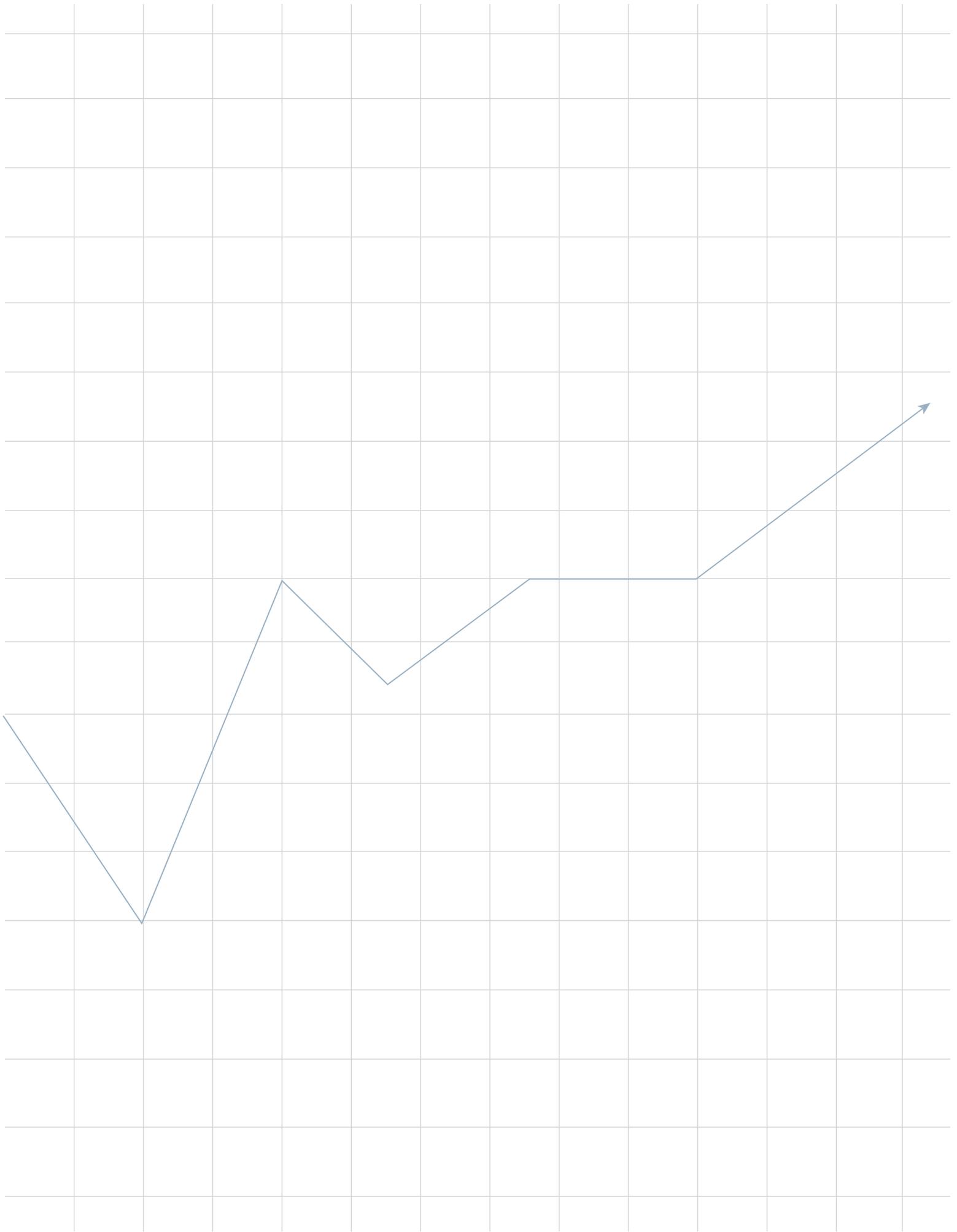
New Filings (plus reactivated motions for permanent custody cases)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	17,462	16,669	15,132	14,827	15,423	14,934	13,846	12,727	13,896	13,891
Adult Cases	5,661	6,111	5,659	5,972	6,111	6,454	5,913	5,611	5,417	5,926
All Others	2,274	2,068	1,854	1,881	2,179	2,395	2,090	2,228	2,634	2,930
Custody/Visitation	8,745	9,161	10,128	10,269	11,021	11,064	11,426	12,609	13,596	13,780
Delinquency	96,791	91,112	92,458	91,065	96,127	94,466	90,509	79,527	71,768	66,022
Motion for Permanent Custody	3,466	3,278	3,587	3,374	3,452	2,466	2,003	1,946	1,677	1,948
Parentage	13,707	13,127	13,289	13,623	13,674	11,949	9,605	9,390	10,806	8,998
Support - Enforce or Modify	17,758	17,720	19,603	21,890	21,436	21,044	24,017	25,092	27,143	24,599
Traffic	97,177	89,499	77,377	73,613	73,208	66,411	58,495	54,917	48,504	44,834
U.I.F.S.A.	955	1,275	1,033	876	898	1,003	1,008	996	1,277	1,322
Unruly	18,789	17,293	17,747	18,135	18,084	17,199	16,971	14,275	13,103	12,104
Total	282,785	267,313	257,867	255,525	261,613	249,385	235,883	219,318	209,821	196,354

Municipal and County Courts

New Filings

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Contracts	169,983	195,072	192,119	200,173	211,390	238,246	271,982	224,180	210,470	193,580
F.E.D.	105,645	104,393	110,579	115,854	114,642	116,284	116,173	108,325	107,040	112,153
Other Civil	108,496	142,221	153,727	144,153	131,895	127,615	138,415	122,938	106,610	79,216
PI/PD	15,420	17,955	15,330	12,013	8,307	7,454	6,521	6,607	6,334	5,270
Small Claims	92,252	88,462	87,538	84,205	86,164	87,269	81,901	75,253	67,824	61,733
Felonies	76,884	78,395	80,583	83,864	85,695	81,434	77,859	70,647	67,190	67,219
Misdemeanors	412,753	403,602	406,311	410,236	418,691	419,601	415,287	389,726	374,637	368,480
O.V.I.	75,281	73,504	69,927	70,015	72,475	70,062	68,874	64,704	58,279	59,806
Other Traffic	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	1,173,672
Total	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	2,121,129



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Office of Judicial & Court Services
Case Management Section
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431
614.387.9410