

# ANNUAL REPORT

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## 2010-2011

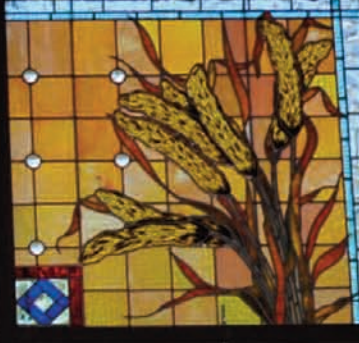


New Jersey Courts

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AFRICA ASIA



EUROPE



NORTH AMERICA



SOUTH AMERICA

OCEANIA



IN HONOR OF AMERICAN WOMEN  
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## **A Letter from**

*Chief Justice Stuart Rabner*

*As we look back on the past court year, we can take great pride in the work that has been done to provide the residents of New Jersey with a fair and impartial forum to resolve their disputes.*



Throughout the state, judges and staff are working harder than ever to manage our caseloads, help attorneys and litigants, provide information and assistance to our partner agencies, and build the public's trust and confidence in our mission and work.

To be sure, we have encountered challenges in recent years largely due to the economy. At times, it seems that even the weather has been against us. But day in and day out, we continue to uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of all who appear in court.

It is easy to forget that justice is not just about complex cases, high-profile defendants, or the formality of the courtroom. Justice is also the daily work of selecting qualified juries and hearing motions, answering questions and directing visitors, making sure that orders are signed and notices sent, and enhancing and maintaining our computer systems.

Each day, we remind ourselves that individual cases, large and small, matter deeply to litigants whose lives are affected by the outcome.

Every effort we make to improve our operations makes a difference for those litigants. That drives us to develop new programs for veterans, homeowners, and families. It also informs the goals we set for resolving cases in a timely fashion. And it encourages us to adopt new technologies as we aim for a more efficient court system.

We cannot overlook the fear that people may feel as they enter courtrooms throughout the state. Many are unfamiliar with the judicial system. Some come to court without a lawyer; some have disabilities that make it more difficult for them to seek our help; and others do not speak or understand English. For justice to be meaningful, it must be available to everyone. With that in mind, we continue to provide accommodations, interpreting services, ombudsmen, and self-help resources to ensure greater access to our courts.

I want to thank all of our judges and staff for working diligently each day to resolve cases fairly and for promoting equal access for all.




## **A Letter from**

*Judge Glenn A. Grant*

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

*On behalf of the New Jersey Judiciary,  
I invite you to explore the many ways in  
which our courts are working to serve our  
constituencies. Throughout the year, we  
have sought improvements in our services  
to litigants, to attorneys, to our partner  
agencies and to the public.*



The improvements we have made will have a positive impact on our courts and our communities for generations. This is true in our family courts, where we are working to reduce the number of youths who will suffer the long-term effects of detention and increase the number of youths who will benefit from restorative justice programs that require them to acknowledge their victims and take responsibility for their actions. For children in out of home placement, for whom we are striving to ensure permanency in the best possible situation as quickly as possible. For families seeking closure and stability in divorce, custody and child support matters. And for those seeking guardianship status to care for their loved ones.

This is also true in our criminal courts, where our drug court and veterans assistance programs are helping people return to society as responsible, productive and hopeful citizens. In addition to restoring the lives of individuals, those programs are helping to reunite families, to strengthen our communities, and to reduce the resources devoted to the repetitive incarceration of those who are destined to failure without the treatment they desperately need.

This is true in our civil courts as well, where alternative resolution programs, such as our fore-

closure mediation program, are helping people find solutions outside of the courtroom. The foreclosure crisis has had a long-reaching impact not only on individuals, but on communities, on our state and on our nation.

Our accomplishments are particularly impressive given the fiscal challenges the Judiciary has had to face. In court year 2011, Judiciary appropriations were cut \$39 million, on top of prior budget cuts of \$42.5 million in court year 2010 and 37.6 million in court year 2009.

We have used the current fiscal situation to re-evaluate our operations and identify those priorities that will help us serve the people of New Jersey. In doing so, we have chosen to focus on technological improvements that will help us manage our caseloads and communications needs more efficiently. We have looked to our partner organizations to collaborate on programs that can help us leverage the existing resources, and we have asked our judges and staff to exercise their creativity in developing programs that will maximize our performance and service.

I would like to thank all of our judges, managers and staff for their continued dedication and service. And thank you, for giving us the opportunity to share our achievements.



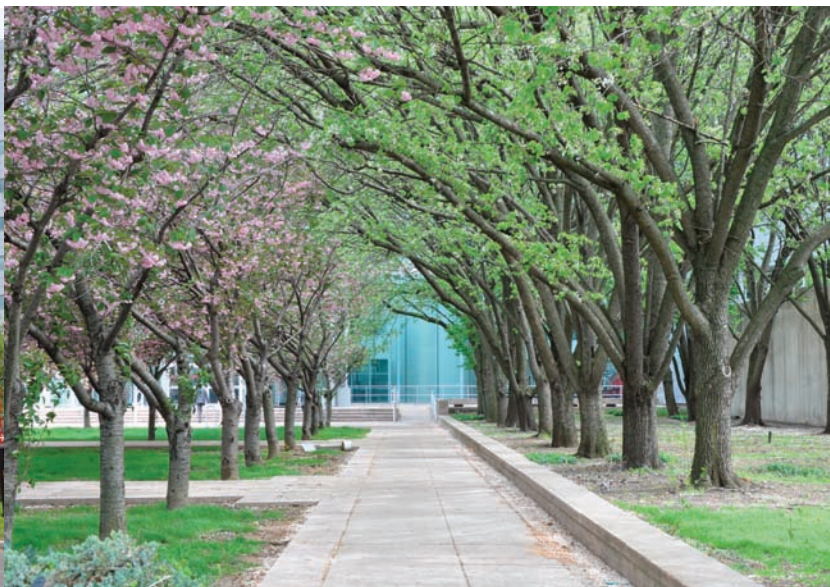
# Supreme Court

*of New Jersey*

The Supreme Court of New Jersey is the state's highest appellate court. The justices are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the New Jersey Senate. After an initial 7-year term, the justices can be renominated to serve until the mandatory retirement age of 70.

Litigants have a right to appeal cases in which an appellate panel has issued a split ruling. Parties can petition the court for certification, and certification is generally granted for those cases in which separate, but apparently conflicting, appellate decisions have left a matter of law unsettled, in cases that raise constitutional questions and in cases that involve a matter of significant public interest.





During court year 2011, the court received 1,184 petitions for certification. It heard oral argument in 80 cases, issued 81 written decisions, and decided 1,854 motions.

The Supreme Court oversees the entire judicial branch in New Jersey, and also oversees all aspects of the legal profession, including bar admissions and attorney discipline.

The Board of Bar Examiners administers the state bar examination and coordinates the work of the Supreme Court Committee on Character, which investigates the personal qualifications of each attorney admitted to practice in New Jersey. In court year 2011, a total 3,284 attorneys were admitted to practice in New Jersey.

The Office of Attorney Ethics, along with the 18 district ethics committees around the state, investigates grievances filed against attorneys for unethical conduct and files formal complaints in those cases that are substantiated. The Disciplinary Review Board conducts a review of each ethics case in which sanctions were recommended by the Office of Attorney Ethics. Attorneys whose conduct has led to a recommendation of suspension or disbarment have the opportunity for Supreme Court review. Annual figures for calendar year 2010 show that 136 attorneys were sanctioned for unethical conduct.

The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection reimburses clients whose attorneys have been sanctioned for misappropriation of funds. In court year 2011, \$2.8 million was disbursed to 102 claimants for misappropriation by 26 attorneys.



## Appointment of Justice Anne M. Patterson

Following her nomination by Gov. Chris Christie and confirmation by the Senate, Justice Anne M. Patterson was sworn in as an associate justice by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner in a private ceremony on Sept. 1, 2011. She reaffirmed her oath in a public ceremony on Sept. 8, 2011.

Justice Patterson was born in Trenton on April 15, 1959, and raised in Hopewell Township and Princeton. In 1980, she graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She is a 1983 graduate of Cornell Law School, where she won the Cuccia Cup moot court competition. She was admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1983.

Justice Patterson joined the law firm of Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland & Perretti as an associate. In 1989, Justice Patterson left Riker Danzig to serve as a deputy attorney general and special assistant to New Jersey Attorney

General Peter N. Perretti Jr., handling civil litigation and criminal appeals on behalf of the state. After rejoining Riker Danzig, Justice Patterson became a partner in the firm in 1992. Her practice focused on product liability, intellectual property and commercial litigation in state and federal trial and appellate courts.

Justice Patterson served as chair of the New Jersey State Bar Association product liability and toxic tort section, as an officer and trustee of the Association of the Federal Bar of New Jersey and as a trustee of the Trial Attorneys of New Jersey. From 1991 to 2006, Justice Patterson served on the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Character. Justice Patterson was awarded the William A. Dreier Award for Excellence in the Advancement of Product Liability and Toxic Tort Law and the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism's Professional Lawyer of the Year Award. She was elected to the New Jersey Fellows of the America Bar Foundation in 2011.

## Justice Roberto A. Rivera-Soto Leaves the Bench

Justice Roberto A. Rivera-Soto left the Supreme Court in September 2011 after seven years on the bench. Appointed in 2004 by Gov. James E. McGreevey, Justice Rivera-Soto authored 180 opinions, including 80 for the majority, while on the Supreme Court.

Born in New York City, Justice Rivera-Soto grew up in Puerto Rico. He graduated from Haverford College and earned a law degree from Cornell University School of Law. He worked as an assistant U.S. attorney before entering private practice.

## Supreme Court Hears Oral Argument in Woodbury

The Supreme Court traveled to Woodbury, the seat of Gloucester County, to hear oral arguments in the ceremonial courtroom at the Gloucester County Courthouse on Dec. 1, 2010.

The occasion marked a day of celebration for the completion of an \$83 million, 130,000-square-foot justice complex. In addition to nine courtrooms, two hearing rooms, a training room and conference rooms, the new addition houses offices for staff in the family and criminal divisions as well as finance, human resources, court administration, operations, information technology, jury assembly, and EEO/AA and ombudsman offices.

Invited guests included students from Rutgers Law School-Camden, Rowan University and Gloucester County College. Many local attorneys and members of the public also took advantage of the opportunity to observe first-hand the Supreme Court in its work.

The Woodbury court sitting provided a special opportunity for students and attorneys to observe Supreme Court arguments in person. The Supreme Court met with the students after the argument, fielding questions about the work of the court, advice on careers in the law and the state of the legal system.

The Woodbury sitting is the third time in as many years that the court has traveled outside of Trenton. In February 2010, the court heard oral argument in the Essex County Courthouse in Newark, and in 2009 the court heard arguments in the moot courtroom at Rutgers-Camden.





# Appellate Division

*of Superior Court*

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

The division consists of eight parts of four judges, with the senior judge of each part serving as the presiding judge who manages the case flow. Cases are heard by two- or three-judge panels that issue written decisions. "Published" opinions establish case law for future cases, while "unpublished" cases have statewide applicability but do not set legal precedent.

In court year 2011, the division received 6,181 appeals and 867 interlocutory motions. It decided 6,673 cases and 7,496 motions. Approximately 260 opinions issued by the court were approved for publication.

## New Customer Service Effort Help Appellants in Unemployment Cases

In court year 2011, the division worked with the Board of Review in the New Jersey Department of Labor to create a hotline to assist litigants who appeal the board's decisions regarding their unemployment benefits. Through the hotline, the courts can inform litigants about their right to appeal the agency's decisions.

The automated hotline, which serves both English and Spanish speaking litigants, provides information on how to file a notice of appeal, how to get copies of the necessary forms and whom to call for clarification of the board's decision. The number for the hotline is included in the board's decisions when they are mailed out to ensure that each litigant has a starting point for filing an appeal. This is especially important, since most people who appeal board decisions are representing themselves without the assistance of a lawyer.



## Retirement of Appellate Judge Edwin H. Stern, presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division

Appellate Judge Edwin H. Stern stepped down on his mandatory retirement date, June 10, 2011.

A graduate of Rutgers University and Columbia University School of Law, Judge Stern was appointed to the bench in 1981 by Gov. Brendan T. Byrne. He served in the Superior Court law division in Hudson County and the Superior Court law and criminal divisions in Essex County before he was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1985.

In 2004, Judge Stern was named presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division. He served on temporary assignment to the Supreme Court from Sept. 8, 2010 until his retirement.

During his 30 years on the bench, Judge Stern authored 3,000 appellate opinions, including more than 400 published opinions. During temporary appointments to the Supreme Court of New Jersey, Judge Stern authored 12 opinions.



### Appointment of Judge Dorothea O'C. Wefing

Judge Dorothea O'C. Wefing was named presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division effective June 10, 2011.

Judge Wefing holds a bachelor's degree from Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart and a law degree from Seton Hall University. She served as a law clerk to Superior Court Judge Robert A. Mathews before going into private practice. She was appointed to the bench in 1984 by Gov. Thomas H. Kean. She served on the civil bench until 1990, moving briefly to the criminal division before returning to the civil division and then the general equity division. In 1993, she was elevated to the Appellate Division. She has authored more than 165 published opinions.



### Retirement of Judge Stephen Skillman

Appellate Judge Stephen Skillman retired on Dec. 4, 2010 after a 30-year Judiciary career that included 25 years on the appellate bench. A graduate of Amherst College and Harvard University School of Law, Judge Skillman began his legal career as a law clerk to New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Frederick W. Hall before joining the Division of Law in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety as a deputy attorney general in 1966. He was named assistant attorney general in charge of civil appeals in 1969 and first assistant attorney general in 1973. He held the position of director of the Division of Law and assistant attorney general in charge of appeals from 1974 until 1981, when he was appointed to the bench by Gov. Brendan T. Byrne. After serving in the family and civil divisions, Judge Skillman was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1986. He has authored more than 530 published appellate opinions.





# The Trial Courts

In the New Jersey Judiciary's unified statewide court system, the trial courts are organized into 15 vicinages, or court districts. Each vicinage is led by an assignment judge who is selected for the position by the chief justice. The assignment judge, assisted by the vicinage trial court administrator, oversees all aspects of court operations and the resolution of disputes in the family, criminal and civil divisions, provides oversight of the municipal courts in that vicinage, and assists the chief justice in the management of the Judiciary through membership on the statewide Judicial Council.



# Leadership Transitions



Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis Retires from Morris/Sussex Vicinage

Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis retired from the bench effective May 1, 2011. Appointed by Gov. Jim Florio in 1990, Judge Bozonelis was reappointed with tenure by Gov. Christie Whitman in 1997. After initially serving in the family division of the Superior Court in Morris County, Judge Bozonelis was named presiding judge of that division before working in both the civil and criminal divisions in the vicinage. He was appointed presiding judge of the criminal division in 1997. He became the assignment judge of the Morris/Sussex Vicinage on Feb. 23, 2003.

Since 1998, Judge Bozonelis served as the primary Superior Court judge to hear appeals to tier assignments for sex offenders who are required to register under Megan's Law. In addition to his work on the bench, he has served on several Supreme Court committees, including the Family Practice Committee, the Library Budget Committee, and the Judicial Education Committee. He also chaired the Morris County Domestic Violence Task Force Committee and in recent years has served as a trainer for new judges.



Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck Named Assignment Judge for Morris/Sussex Vicinage

Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck was selected by Chief Justice Rabner to become the assignment judge for the Morris/Sussex Vicinage effective May 1, 2011. Judge Weisenbeck was first nominated to the bench in 2005 by then-Acting Gov. Richard J. Codey. He has been assigned to the family division in the Morris/Sussex Vicinage since his appointment and has sat in the Morris County Courthouse. The chief justice appointed him presiding judge of the family division in August 2009. In addition to his work on the bench, Judge Weisenbeck served as the vice-chair of the Domestic Violence Working Group, and is also a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Access and Fairness.

## Caseload Information

The New Jersey Judiciary is working harder than ever to provide a timely resolution for each case. Success is measured by tracking the backlog, which is the number of cases open beyond the Judiciary's self-imposed time goals for resolution.

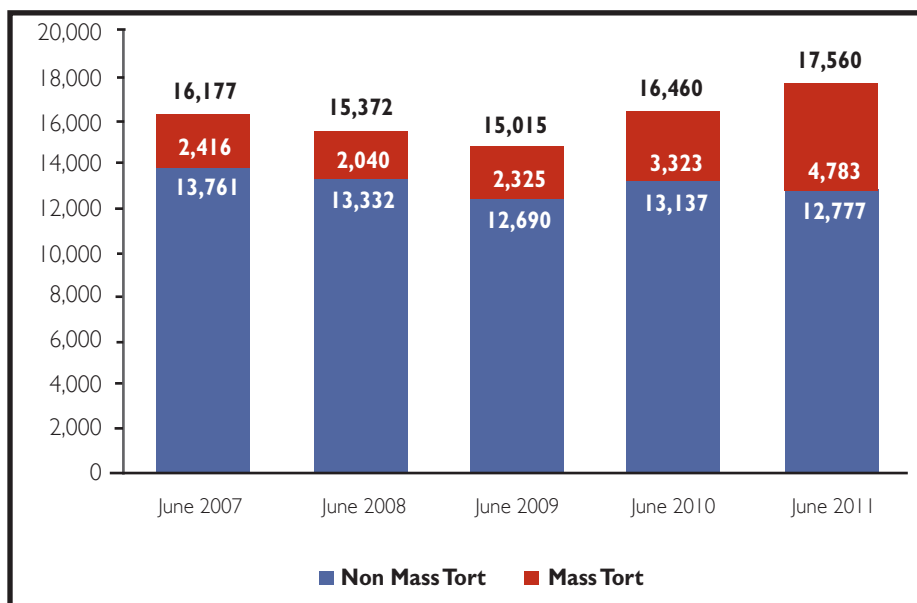
The Judiciary articulates the length of time it should take to resolve each type of case. More complex civil cases, such as mass torts, are expected to take up to 24 months to be resolved, while certain cases, those most critical to the safety and well-being of vulnerable people such as abused children and victims of domestic violence, are given time goals as short as one month.

The Judiciary received nearly 1.12 million cases and resolved 1.13 million cases in court year 2011, each a 1 percent decrease from the previous year.

Family division filings increased 2 percent overall. While some case types had decreases, including delinquency cases, abuse and neglect, child placement review, adoption, kinship and termination of parental rights, the number of non-dissolution cases, those involving issues such as child support and child custody, rose by 8 percent. Backlog increased slightly in the family division, but figures show that 96 percent of all family division cases remain within time goals for resolution.

In the criminal division, the number of cases filed during the year dropped by 4 percent, while the number of cases in backlog rose by 3 percent. See p. 44 for additional figures.

<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Time Goal</b>
Criminal	4 months from filing
General Equity	12 months from filing
Civil (Track 1)	12 months from filing
Civil (Track 2)	18 months from filing
Civil (Track 3)	24 months from filing
Civil (Track 4)	24 months from filing
Special Civil (small claims and tenancy)	2 months from filing
Special Civil (all other)	4 months from filing
Probate	12 months from filing
Dissolution - New	12 months from filing
Dissolution - Reopened	6 months from filing
Delinquency	3 months from filing
Non-Dissolution	3 months from filing
Domestic Violence	1 months from filing
Abuse/Neglect (out of home placement)	4 months to fact-finding
Abuse/Neglect (in home placement)	6 months to fact-finding
Juvenile/Family Crisis	1 months from filing
Termination of Parental Rights	6 months from filing
Criminal/Quasi-criminal	3 months from filing
Kinship	6 months from filing



## Civil Backlog Grows, Reflecting Growth in Mass Tort Caseload

Backlog increased by 9 percent in the civil division due to a number of factors. The backlog of contested foreclosure cases increased by 98 percent from the previous year, to 808 cases in backlog as of June 30, 2011. In special civil, the court experienced an 8 percent increase in backlogged cases. In spite of the rise in backlog, 99 percent of all pending matters in the special civil part are within time goals for resolution.

The increase in civil backlog also reflects a significant increase in backlogged mass tort cases. Mass torts are complex product liability cases that are centrally managed in a single county. The mass tort designation allows hundreds or thousands of cases to be resolved using one or two test cases whose outcome provides guidance to the parties in the remaining cases to decide whether to settle or to continue to trial. Usually, the mass tort caseload grows very large while the parties await the outcome of the test cases, and then the majority of the caseload is resolved through individual settlements. The figure above shows that, aside from the mass tort caseload, the civil backlog actually dropped by nearly 3 percent, and 88 percent of the civil caseload is within time goals for resolution.

Overall, 87 percent of the 227,112 cases that remained open in New Jersey's courts on June 30, 2011 were within time goals for resolution. The year-end statistics show that 96 percent of all family division cases, 88 percent of all civil cases, and 56 percent of all criminal cases were within time goals for resolution.



## Family Divison *of Superior Court*

The family division resolves a wide range of disputes including divorce, child support, child custody and visitation, children in foster care, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption and kinship guardianship. Family cases are often complicated by strong emotional connections and involvement by multiple family members as well as different state agencies such as the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJJ) and the Judiciary's Office of Child Support Services.

The Judiciary is committed to resolving family disputes as quickly as possible, particularly because the nature of those cases is so personally difficult for the parties. Time goals for resolution of those cases are often short, and every effort is made to avoid backlogs of cases remaining open beyond those time goals.

## Judiciary Expands Program to Provide Juveniles with Detention Alternatives

In 2004, the Judiciary began a pilot program to reduce the number of juveniles who are confined to detention while they await the resolution of their cases. The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, brings together judges, court staff, public defenders, and representatives from the JJC to develop detention alternatives that will maintain community safety and allow juveniles to remain in familiar surroundings with their familiar support network.

Originally implemented in Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Hudson and Monmouth counties, JDAI expanded to Bergen, Burlington, Mercer, Ocean and Union counties in 2006. In 2011, the program grew to include Cumberland, Middlesex, Somerset, Passaic and Warren counties. Eventually, the program will expand to all counties to ensure equal access for all juveniles to participate in JDAI.

New Jersey's successful expansion of JDAI can be attributed to the state-level cooperation between the Judiciary, the JJC and other agencies. The statewide approach and statewide support have enabled the successful planning and development of local programs that meet statewide operational standards to ensure consistency in each county.

In 2008, the Casey Foundation announced its selection of New Jersey as the first model site for statewide implementation of JDAI. The foundation provides grants for representatives from other states to come to New Jersey to learn about the successful collaboration between agencies and branches of government that have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of youths in detention. So far, representatives from Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada and New Mexico have met with judges, managers, probation officers, and representatives from the JJC and the Office of the Public Defender to get an in-depth look at the program.

## Grant Provides Videoconferencing Technology to Speed Restraining Order Process

The federal Stop Violence Against Women Act provides funding for programs to protect victims of domestic violence. In New Jersey, grant funds are being used to establish videoconferencing networks that will enable judges to issue temporary restraining orders more quickly. The networks are created between the courts and hospital emergency rooms and victim safe houses. Victims can apply for restraining orders and be interviewed by judges or hearing officers without traveling to court.

Timing is critical when dealing with incidents of domestic violence. Victims who return home might be persuaded by the abuser or by other family members or friends that future incidents are avoidable or unlikely, when in fact the opposite is true. By providing the opportunity to discuss the case with court staff or a judge while they are still at the hospital or another safe location, on-site videoconferencing at locations where victims seek treatment and shelter might encourage them to follow through on their initial efforts to protect themselves.

The family divisions in Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Monmouth and Passaic counties have developed the necessary videoconferencing links, with more counties scheduled to implement the program in the coming months.

# **Criminal Divison**

*of Superior Court*

The criminal division resolves cases involving serious crimes such as murder, robbery and drug trafficking. Criminal defendants are entitled to a trial before a 12-member jury, but more than two-thirds of criminal cases are resolved through plea bargains. Plea bargains can be an effective alternative to trials because they reduce the time to resolution as well as costs for defendants as well as the public.

In court year 2011, the criminal division statewide experienced a 3 percent decline in the number of cases filed. The time goal for the resolution of all criminal cases is four months from the time of filing the complaint through resolution for all cases. Despite this short time goal, well more than half—58 percent—of all cases were considered current on June 30, 2010. That figure is slightly lower than last year, as diminished judicial and public defender resources contributed to a slight rise in backlog.



## Veterans Assistance Project Now Statewide

The Veterans Assistance Project expanded into Hunterdon and Warren counties in 2010, making it a statewide program available no matter where in New Jersey a veteran lives.

The veterans assistance program is a combined effort of the Judiciary, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services, to provide referrals to existing community services as well as mentors for veterans.

Some veterans return from military service with physical, mental or personal issues and may turn to drugs or alcohol in an attempt to manage the stress of returning to civilian life. The veterans assistance project aims to connect service members who need help with existing programs and mentors to address those issues.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs determines which veterans are assigned mentors. The mentors, active and retired veterans themselves, volunteer to work with defendants while their criminal cases are pending and afterward. They see that veterans receive assistance and try to help them avoid behaviors that may lead them back into the criminal justice system.

## Drug Courts Improving Lives and Communities

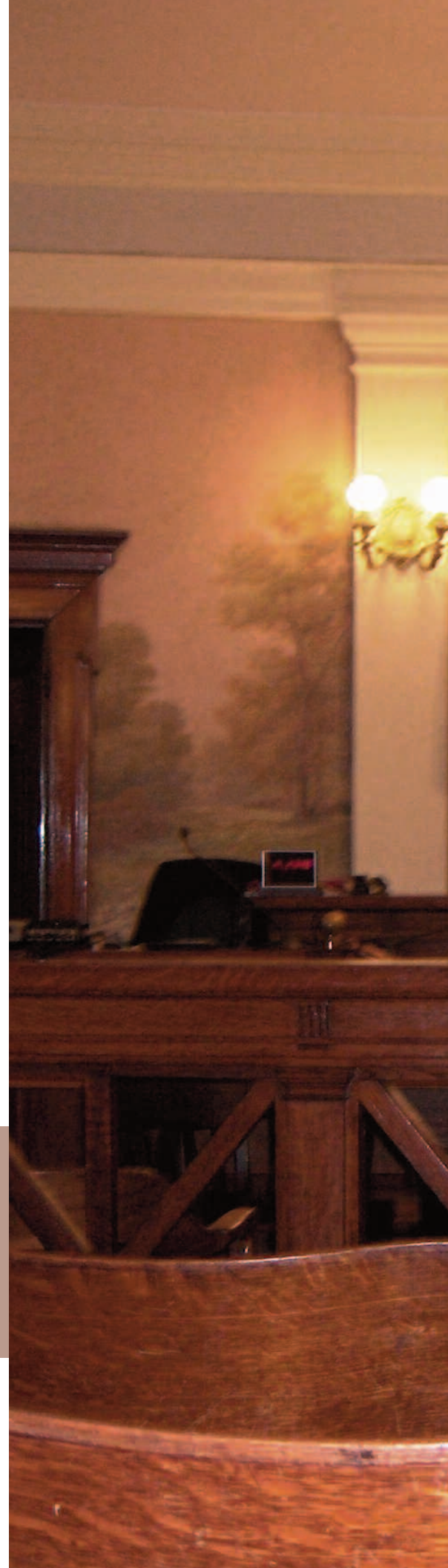
New Jersey's drug courts have transformed the lives of thousands of drug-addicted offenders by providing them with treatment rather than incarceration, intensive supervision and incentives to remake their lives. Drug courts reflect a societal shift toward therapeutic jurisprudence, with focus moved to the offender rather than the offense. Frequent attendance in court and personal interaction with the judge and other members of the drug court team have proven effective to coerce drug court participants to meet program requirements as they progress toward recovery.

New Jersey's drug court began in 1997 as pilot programs in Camden and Passaic counties, then expanded into Essex, Union and Mercer counties in 1999. In 2004, legislative appropriations made equal access to drug courts available statewide. New Jersey has been a national leader in implementing a statewide program available throughout every county.

In addition to improving rates of employment, health coverage and drivers' licenses, drug court has improved the lives of participants' families. More than 215 babies have been born drug-free to female drug court participants, and 120 participants have regained custody of their minor children. The lives of more than 2,515 minor children have been improved considerably by their parents' graduation from the drug court program. Moreover, one quarter of all participants who graduate from drug court will have improved their level of education or vocational skills while in the program.

In court year 2011, drug courts accepted 1,428 new participants. Another 396 participants graduated during the court year, while 516 moved into the fourth and final stage of the program. There were 4,067 active drug court participants in the statewide program as of June 30, 2011.

	Upon Entering	Upon Graduating
Employed	29 percent	84 percent
Health benefits	15 percent	48 percent
Driver's license	16 percent	58 percent









# **Civil and General Equity Divison**

*of Superior Court*

## Electronic Filing and Case Management Enhances Foreclosure Process

On July 1, 2010, the Judiciary Electronic Filing and Imaging System (JEFIS) was adopted for use to receive, file and process foreclosure cases statewide.

From 2005 to 2009, the number of new foreclosure cases filed in the New Jersey courts has more than tripled, from 20,250 cases to 66,717 cases. The increase threatened to overwhelm the Superior Court Clerk's Office, where foreclosure cases are filed, and the Office of Foreclosure, which processes the more than 95 percent of foreclosure cases that are uncontested.

JEFIS, first designed for use in resolving a high-volume special civil caseload, was adapted by the courts to address the rapidly growing foreclosure caseload. As part of the process of preparing for JEFIS-Foreclosure, the courts reviewed existing case filing and management procedures and stream-

lined those processes to maximize their efficiency. The JEFIS system was then redesigned to meet the needs of the judges, staff and attorneys who resolve foreclosure cases. Once the system was implemented, a vendor was hired to backload all foreclosure cases back to 2006 to maximize the courts ability to use JEFIS right away to manage the existing caseload.

JEFIS-Foreclosure allows the courts and the parties to access case files remotely. The files are available instantly to attorneys or parties at any time, even if they are also being reviewed by the judge or court staff. The system generates electronic notifications if cases are deficient and if new documents are filed. All cases are stored electronically, eliminating the additional cost of storage.



# Tax Court

Bottom Row:  
Judge Vito L. Bianco  
Judge Patrick DeAlmeida  
Judge Gail L. Menyuk

Top Row:  
Judge Joseph M. Andresini  
Judge Mala Narayanan  
Judge Christine M. Nugent



The Tax Court has statewide jurisdiction over appeals of decisions issued by local, county and state taxing agencies. Those decisions include property tax disputes between property owners and local tax assessors and county boards of taxation. Other tax disputes regarding income taxes, sales taxes, business taxes, and homestead rebates are appealed from the state Division of Taxation. Tax Court decisions can be appealed to the Appellate Division of Superior Court.

The Tax Court was created in 1979 as a convenient and effective forum for reviewing state and local tax assessments. Through the Tax Court, the New Jersey Judiciary has created a consistent and uniform body of tax law to guide taxpayers and taxing authorities.

During court year 2011, the Tax Court experienced a 6 percent increase in local tax appeals, from 18,147 filings in court year 2010 to 19,274 in

court year 2011. Appeals from the Division of Taxation increased 80 percent, from 279 cases filed in court year 2010 to 502 cases filed in court year 2011.

This is the third consecutive court year in which filings have increased to record levels. On June 30, 2011, a total of 35,699 cases remained open, the highest number of cases ever pending at the end of a court year.

Despite the increased filings, the Tax Court was able to increase the number of cases it resolved by 41 percent, from 10,938 cases in court year 2010 to 15,467 in 2011. This accomplishment is due, in part, to streamlining the process for docketing complaints, memorializing settlements and issuing judgments. Those changes have increased efficiency and timeliness while maintaining the accuracy that is essential to an effective system of taxation.



## Probation Division

The probation division enforces court orders in a number of areas, including juvenile and adult supervision, the collection of fines and restitution and the collection of child support.

Probation units rely heavily on technology to maximize their efficiency and effectiveness to manage the supervision and child support caseloads. Many probation officers now carry laptops and mobile devices that allow them to keep track of their clients, log their contacts, and do necessary research while out in the community rather than returning to their offices. Improvements to existing computer systems allow child support personnel to maintain better records and provide better service to their clients as well.

Supervision of offenders who have moved out of state, or who have moved to New Jersey from other states, is facilitated by the recently implemented Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System, a web-based system used by all 50 states to process about 150,000 interstate transfer requests each year.



## Adult Supervision

On June 30, 2011, there were 53,211 adult probationers under supervision by the probation division.

The Judiciary provides extensive training to its probation officers to enhance their effectiveness as they supervise adult offenders and deter behavior that might harm clients or the community and lead to additional criminal charges. In addition to comprehensive tactical training, new training programs have been designed to help probation officers better motivate their clients and better investigate their activities to help ensure compliance with court-ordered conditions of probation.

Specialized caseloads, such as clients with mental illness and those identified as sex offenders or domestic abusers, are generally smaller caseloads that require probation officers to receive even more training and preparation.

A special grant allowed the Judiciary to develop a cost-effective alternative to incarceration and hospitalization for mentally ill probationers. The program offers highly structured supervision and access to community treatment services. The officers have received specialized training in suicide prevention, the relationships between mental illness and criminal thinking, and other topics related to their specialized work. As of June 30, 2011, the program included 709 probationers. Of those, 94 percent have avoided additional arrests, 76 percent are drug-free and 75 percent are in compliance with orders for mental health treatment. A total of 51 have transitioned back into general supervision, thereby requiring fewer state resources as they work toward completing their sentence of probation.

## Intensive Supervision Program

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) provides another cost-effective alternative to incarceration for nonviolent offenders who complete the remainder of their prison term in the community, under strict supervision by specially trained ISP officers. ISP is highly structured and emphasizes control, monitoring, surveillance and, when required, treatment for addiction or mental illness. More than 17,900 inmates have been released to ISP since 1983.

On June 30, 2011, ISP had 1,463 active participants. Each participant represents thousands of dollars saved in incarceration costs. Because participants are required to hold jobs and pay fines and restitution, the program offers additional financial benefits to the state. During court year 2011, ISP disbursed more than \$2.3 million in court-required payments, including nearly \$1.2 million in restitution. The program also continued successful collection of child support, as more than \$ 230,000 was collected from participants during the year.

During the past 10 years, ISP participants achieved an average employment rate of 95 percent. During the recent recession, the statewide employment rate for ISP participants dropped to about 85 percent. New initiatives, including pre-employment counseling, counseling on interviewing and dressing for success, as well as special employment programs for ISP participants, have helped the program attain a statewide employment rate above 90 percent.

## Juvenile Supervision

The Judiciary provides community supervising for adjudicated youth, typically for a two-year term, and monitoring for youth placed on deferred status, with the original complaint being dismissed after a period of time for youth who comply with the conditions imposed on them. On June 30, 2011, juvenile probation services was supervising and monitoring 8,274 clients statewide.

Developmental issues and family circumstances of adjudicated youth require a special focus by juvenile probation services officers. The officers use graduated sanctions as well as incentives to encourage and reward compliance. Since the goal is rehabilitation, probation officers address treatment needs, educational needs and employment readiness in addition to enforcing court orders.

Officers work with families to help ensure the successful completion of the program by the youth in their charge. A pilot program to provide families with probation orientation training, first introduced in 2010, was expanded to include nine vicinages in court year 2011. The program helps families understand how probation services can assist their children and provides information about local agencies that can offer additional assistance.



## Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program

Adjudicated youth who are deemed to be at high risk for reoffending can be accepted into the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP). Youth involved in cases of first-degree crimes, sex crimes and arson are not eligible for the program. The goal of the program is to provide a rehabilitative alternative to detention while preserving the public's safety.

Less costly than detention, the program allows participants to remain in approved settings in the community, keeping their support system intact. At the same time, the program is more rigorous than standard juvenile probation, with more frequent contact between probation officers and their clients, parents or guardians, school officials, treatment agencies and others in the community. Clients adhere to requirements for curfews, attendance at school or work, community service, treatment programs for mental health and/or substance addictions, restitution and fines. Compared to an approximate cost of \$65,000 a year to detain a juvenile in a secure residential facility, the cost to supervise one JISP participant is about \$17,500 annually.

In court year 2011, a total of 272 juveniles were in the program. Of those, approximately 80 percent completed the program or remain in the program, while 20 percent were terminated from the program due to violations or new arrests.

## Child Support Enforcement

The child support enforcement unit monitors and enforces the collection of court-ordered child support and spousal support. On June 20, 2011, there were 320,253 orders being enforced. Collections totaled more than \$1.3 billion for court year 2011, a 1.1 percent increase over the previous year.

Court year 2011 was the first full year for statewide operation of NJKiDS, the web-based child support computer system. Since implementation of the system began in 2009, continued refinements and enhancements have promoted greater productivity, performance and coordination between the executive and judicial branches. NJKiDS is a real-time system that interfaces seamlessly with the Judiciary's Family Automated Case Tracking System, where family court matters of child support and spousal support issues are docketed.





## Municipal Court

New Jersey's municipal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction that resolve traffic and parking matters, driving while intoxicated (DWI) cases, disorderly persons offenses, violations of local ordinances and state fish and game regulations. In court year 2011, the 529 municipal courts in New Jersey resolved more than six million cases.

The municipal courts are supported in each vicinage by a municipal division overseen by a municipal presiding judge, a division manager and, ultimately, the vicinage assignment judge. The statewide Automated Traffic System (ATS) and Automated Complaint System (ACS) for non-traffic cases provide real-time communications and information not only to each municipal court, but also to state and local law enforcement agencies, the state Motor Vehicle Commission and other government agencies.



## Training for Municipal Court Judges

The Judiciary has a long-standing history of providing newly appointed municipal court judges with comprehensive training through the New Municipal Court Judges' Orientation Program. This four-day training program utilizes experienced judges and staff to train new judges on both the substantive and procedural aspects of the municipal court, including recent legal developments, judicial ethics, case management practices and courtroom conduct.

Beginning in 2012, the Judiciary will enhance its training of new municipal court judges. Modeled after the Superior Court Judicial Orientation Program (CJOP), the Municipal CJOP Program will provide initial training to new judges as part of four

distinct phases. Phase I will require new judges to meet with their municipal presiding judges to obtain a general overview of the duties and responsibilities involved in being a municipal court judge. During phase II, judges will visit the courtrooms of one or more experienced judges to observe first-hand how veteran judges handle the logistics and substantive work in a courtroom. New judges cannot take the bench until phases I and II are completed.

Phase III will incorporate the existing New Municipal Court Judges' Orientation Program. It will be offered annually near the beginning of each calendar year. Phase IV is an intensive two-day advanced training program.

## Training for Municipal Court Administrators and Staff

Since most people interact with the court system primarily through their local municipal court, it is important to ensure those courts run smoothly and provide high quality service to their customers. The Judiciary provides extensive training for those charged with the responsibility of administering the municipal courts.

Under the New Jersey Rules of Court, all municipal court administrators must complete a certification program designed to ensure that they have the information and skills needed to perform their complex duties. One of the elements for achieving that certification is completion of the Principles of Municipal Court Administration (POMCA) program. This 25-day program focuses on the legal, practical and substantive aspects of municipal court administration. While mandatory for all administrators, this program is available to all staff.

In addition to POMCA, professional training is offered through a variety of programs on topics such as bail, domestic violence, leadership and ethics. Starting in Fall 2011, the Judiciary will offer a new course on how to determine probable cause. Because court administrators and deputies fulfill a quasi-judicial role when determining probable cause, it is essential that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to be fair and impartial in this particular task.

## Private Collection Agencies Approved for Collection of Municipal Court Debt

Legislation passed in 2010 authorizes the governing body of a county having a central municipal court, or the governing body of a municipality, to enter into a contract with a private collection agency in order to collect outstanding municipal court debts. The new legislation gives the courts an additional collection tool in cases where defendants have failed to pay their court-ordered obligations.







Court Year 2011

# Vicinages

## Assignment Judges and Trial Court Administrators

<u>VICINAGE 1</u>	Atlantic County Cape May County	Assignment Judge Valerie H. Armstrong Trial Court Administrator Howard H. Berchtold Jr.
<u>VICINAGE 2</u>	Bergen County	Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne Trial Court Administrator Jon Goodman
<u>VICINAGE 3</u>	Burlington County	Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder Trial Court Administrator Jude Del Preore
<u>VICINAGE 4</u>	Camden County	Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando Jr. Trial Court Administrator Michael O'Brien
<u>VICINAGE 5</u>	Essex County	Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello Trial Court Administrator Collins E. Ijoma
<u>VICINAGE 6</u>	Hudson County	Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli Trial Court Administrator Gerald A. Buccafusco
<u>VICINAGE 7</u>	Mercer County	Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg Trial Court Administrator Sue Regan



VICINAGE 8

Middlesex County

Assignment Judge  
Travis L. Francis  
Trial Court Administrator  
Gregory Edwards

VICINAGE 9

Monmouth County

Assignment Judge  
Lawrence M. Lawson  
Trial Court Administrator  
Marsi L. Perkins

VICINAGE 10

Morris County  
Sussex County

Assignment Judge  
Thomas L. Weisenbeck  
Trial Court Administrator  
Michael J. Arnold

VICINAGE 11

Passaic County

Assignment Judge  
Donald J. Volkert Jr.  
Trial Court Administrator  
Kirk L. Nixon

VICINAGE 12

Union County

Assignment Judge  
Karen M. Cassidy  
Trial Court Administrator  
Elizabeth Domingo

VICINAGE 13

Hunterdon County  
Somerset County  
Warren County

Assignment Judge  
Yolanda Ciccone  
Trial Court Administrator  
Eugene L. Farkas

VICINAGE 14

Ocean County

Assignment Judge  
Vincent J. Grasso  
Trial Court Administrator  
Richard D. Prifold

VICINAGE 15

Cumberland County  
Gloucester County  
Salem County

Assignment Judge  
Georgia M. Curio  
Trial Court Administrator  
Mark Sprock



# Judges and Justices

*of the New Jersey Judiciary  
as of June 30, 2011*

## SUPREME COURT

Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice  
Barry T. Albin  
Helen E. Hoens  
Jaynee LaVecchia  
Virginia A. Long  
Roberto A. Rivera-Soto

## SUPERIOR COURT

Allison Accurso  
Roberto Alcazar  
Christine Allen-Jackson  
Carmen H. Alvarez\*  
William Anklowitz  
Paul W. Armstrong  
Valerie H. Armstrong  
Victor Ashrafi\*  
Eugene H. Austin  
Mark A. Baber  
Keith A. Bachman  
Max A. Baker  
Marc M. Baldwin  
Peter F. Bariso Jr.  
Ann Reynolds Bartlett  
Raymond A. Batten  
David F. Bauman  
Linda G. Baxter\*  
Robert P. Becker Jr.  
Arthur Bergman  
Glenn J. Berman  
Stephen J. Bernstein  
Robert C. Billmeier  
James M. Blaney  
Gwendolyn Blue  
Ronald E. Bookbinder  
Angela Borkowski  
Terry Paul Bottinelli

Robert J. Brennan  
Kathryn A. Brock  
Thomas F. Brogan  
Greta Gooden Brown  
Thomas A. Brown Jr.  
Peter A. Buchsbaum  
Frank A. Buczynski Jr.  
John L. Call  
Kevin G. Callahan  
Jane B. Cantor  
Ernest M. Caposela  
Philip S. Carchman\*  
Dennis F. Carey III  
Harry G. Carroll  
Andrea Carter  
Alexander H. Carver III  
Michael R. Casale  
Karen M. Cassidy  
Joseph C. Cassini III  
Thomas W. Cavanagh Jr.  
Joseph Charles Jr.  
Lisa F. Chrystal  
Yolanda Ciccone  
Alfonse J. Cifelli  
Frank M. Ciuffani  
Marilyn C. Clark  
Susan L. Claypoole  
Patricia Del Bueno Cleary

Denise A. Cobham  
Eugene J. Codey Jr.  
Mary Eva Colalillo  
Edward M. Coleman  
Rudy B. Coleman\*  
N. Peter Conforti  
Kyran Connor  
Joseph S. Conte  
Robert P. Contillo  
Robert A. Coogan  
Terrence R. Cook  
Mary K. Costello  
Patricia K. Costello  
Gerald J. Council  
Jeanne T. Covert  
John J. Coyle Jr.  
Thomas J. Critchley  
Martin Cronin  
Evan H.C. Crook  
Mary Catherine Cuff\*  
Georgia M. Curio  
Heidi W. Currier  
Daniel D'Alessandro  
Roger W. Daley  
William A. Daniel  
Wendel E. Daniels  
Rachel N. Davidson  
Lawrence P. De Bello

Miguel A. De La Carrera  
Estela M. de la Cruz  
Ralph L. De Luccia Jr.  
Francis P. De Stefano  
Liliana S. DeAvila-Silebi  
Bernadette N. DeCastro  
William R. DeLorenzo Jr.  
Bernard E. DeLury Jr.  
James M. Demarzo  
James Den Uyl  
Paul M. DePascale  
Thomas H. Dilts  
Kenneth S. Domzalski  
Louise D. Donaldson  
Michael A. Donio  
Joseph P. Donohue  
Charles W. Dortch Jr.  
Peter E. Doyne  
W. Hunt Dumont  
Katherine R. Dupuis  
Richard W. English  
Catherine I. Enright  
Paul Escandon  
Marianne Espinosa\*  
Nan S. Famular  
James A. Farber  
Timothy G. Farrell  
Christine A. Farrington



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Linda R. Feinberg	Jonathan N. Harris*	Thomas J. LaConte	Philip H. Mizzzone Jr.
Bradley J. Ferencz	Rachelle L. Harz	John J. Langan Jr.	Bruno Mongiardo
Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina	Margaret M. Hayden	Catherine M. Langlois	Thomas M. Moore
Rudolph A. Filko	James Hely	Lawrence M. Lawson	David W. Morgan
Darrell M. Fineman	Carol E. Higbee	Verna G. Leath	James J. Morley
Lisa A. Firko	Francis Hodgson Jr.	Vincent LeBlon	Scott J. Moynihan
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Michael Brooke Fisher	Ronald E. Hoffman	Kenneth S. Levy	Samuel D. Natal
Catherine M. Fitzpatrick	Michael J. Hogan	Laura M. Lewin*	Edward M. Neafsey
Mark J. Fleming	Stephen M. Holden	Jeffrey D. Light	Mark J. Nelson
Sallyanne Floria	Michelle Hollar-Gregory	Joseph F. Lisa*	Michael J. Nelson
Colleen M. Flynn	Douglas H. Hurd	Severiano Lisboa III	Steven F. Nemeth
Terence P. Flynn	Sherry A. Hutchins Henderson	Sebastian P. Lombardi	Maryann L. Nergaard
F. Lee Forrester	James F. Hyland	Philip J. Maenza	Dennis V. Nieves
Margaret M. Foti	Eugene A. Iadanza	Colleen A. Maier	William E. Nugent*
Michele M. Fox	Alvaro L. Iglesias	John F. Malone	Dennis R. O'Brien
Travis L. Francis	Paul Innes	Thomas V. Manahan	Thomas E. O'Brien
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Ronald J. Freeman	Joseph V. Isabella	Joseph L. Marczyk	Edward T. O'Connor Jr.
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Robert J. Gilson	Lesley-Ann M. Justus	Anne McDonnell	Jamie S. Perri
Rochelle Gizinski	Joseph E. Kane	James J. McGann	John A. Peterson Jr.
Arnold B. Goldman	Paul A. Kapalko	William J. McGovern III	Michael A. Petrolle
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Margaret Goodzeit	David B. Katz	F. Patrick McManimon	Diane Pincus
Jane Grall*	Deborah Silverman Katz	Jean B. McMaster	Robert L. Polifroni
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Kenneth J. Grispin	Frederic S. Kessler	Anthony J. Mellaci Jr.	Lorraine Pullen
Michael A. Guadagno	Honora O'Brien Kiggallen	Louis R. Meloni	Joseph P. Quinn
James J. Guida	Robert Kirsch	Julio L. Mendez	Kimarie Rahill
Nestor F. Guzman	Harriet Farber Klein	Carmen Messano*	Rosemary E. Ramsay
Michael J. Haas	Ellen L. Koblitz*	Charles Middlesworth Jr.	Charles M. Rand
Philip E. Haines	Teresa A. Kondrup-Coyle	E. David Millard	David B. Rand
Stephan C. Hansbury	Walter Koprowski Jr.	Robert G. Millenky	John R. Rauh
Jamie D. Happas	David E. Krell	Thomas C. Miller	Michael L. Ravin
John E. Harrington		Christine L. Miniman*	Joseph L. Rea
		Stuart A. Minkowitz	Raymond A. Reddin

Robert B. Reed  
Ronald L. Reisner  
Susan L. Reisner\*  
M. Patricia Richmond  
Alberto Rivas  
Ariel A. Rodriguez\*  
Patricia B. Roe  
Marybeth Rogers  
George F. Rohde Jr.  
Patrick J. Roma  
Joseph R. Rosa Jr.  
Ned M. Rosenberg  
James S. Rothschild Jr.  
Garry S. Rothstadt  
Stephen B. Rubin  
Mark M. Russello  
Peter V. Ryan  
Jack M. Sabatino\*  
Mark H. Sandson  
Lourdes I. Santiago  
Ramona A. Santiago  
Paulette Sapp-Peterson\*  
Barry P. Sarkisian  
James P. Savio  
Francine A. Schott  
Frederick J. Schuck  
Francis B. Schultz  
Thomas F. Scully  
Torkwase Y. Sekou  
John E. Selser  
Ronny Jo Siegel  
Marie P. Simonelli\*  
Nancy Sivilli  
Kenneth J. Slomienski  
Kevin T. Smith  
Irvin J. Snyder  
Maureen P. Sogluizzo  
Jerome M. St. John  
Susan J. Steele  
Barbara Clarke Stolte  
Esther Suarez  
Thomas W. Sumners Jr.  
Karen L. Suter  
Siobhan A. Teare  
Benjamin C. Telsey

Frederick J. Theemling Jr.  
Lisa P. Thornton  
Mary F. Thurber  
William C. Todd III  
Daryl F. Todd Sr.  
John Tomasello  
Menelaus W. Toskos  
Michael A. Toto  
James G. Troiano  
Mark A. Troncone  
Peter J. Vazquez  
Hector R. Velazquez  
Thomas R. Vena  
Sheila Ann Venable  
Deborah J. Venezia  
Donald R. Venezia  
Francis J. Vernoia  
Paul J. Vichness  
Lisa M. Vignuolo  
Donald J. Volkert Jr.  
Daniel M. Waldman  
Thomas J. Walsh  
Cathy L. Wasserman  
Alexander P. Waugh Jr.\*  
Stephanie M. Wauters  
Dorthea O'C. Wefing\*  
Barry A. Weisberg  
Thomas L. Weisenbeck  
Craig L. Wellerson  
Richard F. Wells  
William L'E. Wertheimer  
Mary Gibbons Whipple  
Mary K. White  
Ronald D. Wigler  
Gary N. Wilcox  
Patricia M. Wild  
Deanne M. Wilson  
Robert C. Wilson  
Gary D. Wodlinger  
Carolyn E. Wright  
Michael P. Wright  
Joseph L. Yannoti\*  
Thomas P. Zampino

## TAX COURT

Patrick DeAlmeida,  
*Presiding Judge*  
Joseph M. Andresini  
Francine I. Axelrad\*  
Vito L. Bianco  
Angelo J. DiCamillo  
Joseph L. Foster  
James E. Isman  
Marie E. Lihotz\*  
Gail L. Menyuk  
Mala Narayanan

*\*Appellate Division*

## IN MEMORIAM

Thomas M. McCormack  
Shirley A. Tolentino



## Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by Division

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2009 to June 2010	July 2010 to June 2011	percent change	July 2009 to June 2010	July 2010 to June 2011	percent change	June 2010	June 2011	percent change	June 2010	June 2011	percent change
<b>Criminal Division</b>												
Indictable Cases	51,200	49,412	-3%	54,339	50,053	-8%	9,200	8,859	-4%	6,289	6,502	3%
Municipal Appeals	1,317	1,087	-17%	1,321	1,170	-11%	306	230	-25%	202	198	-2%
Post-Conviction Relief	907	1,005	11%	826	959	16%	199	219	10%	651	672	3%
<b>General Equity</b>	7,239	6,852	-5%	6,333	6,844	8%	2,609	2,318	-11%	685	1,111	62%
Contested Foreclosure	4,075	3,763	-8%	3,244	3,675	13%	1,286	1,075	-16%	408	808	98%
Equity (excluding foreclosure)	3,164	3,089	-2%	3,089	3,169	3%	1,323	1,243	-6%	277	303	9%
<b>Civil Division</b>												
Civil	103,728	106,449	3%	101,380	102,937	2%	78,678	82,064	4%	16,460	17,560	7%
Mass Tort	2,007	7,127	255%	967	1,116	15%	3,747	8,305	122%	3,323	4,783	44%
Non-Mass Tort	101,721	99,322	-2%	100,413	101,821	1%	74,931	73,759	-2%	13,137	12,777	-3%
Special Civil	609,648	594,716	-2%	614,744	597,539	-3%	55,637	53,866	-3%	497	538	8%
Special Civil - Auto	1,377	1,591	16%	1,392	1,546	11%	190	236	24%	10	19	90%
Special Civil - Contract	374,888	363,818	-3%	381,750	365,862	-4%	42,371	40,541	-4%	398	425	7%
Special Civil - Other	13,982	9,066	-35%	13,053	9,387	-28%	1,303	978	-25%	38	49	29%
Special Civil - Small Claims	53,583	48,307	-10%	53,686	49,198	-8%	2,883	2,258	-22%	40	26	-35%
Special Civil - Tenancy	165,818	171,934	4%	164,863	171,546	4%	8,890	9,853	11%	11	19	73%
Probate	6,182	6,337	3%	6,253	6,228	-0%	1,509	1,673	11%	158	158	0%
<b>Family Division</b>												
Dissolution	67,624	68,620	1%	66,884	68,774	3%	18,302	18,086	-1%	1,079	1,109	3%
Delinquency	51,361	44,986	-12%	51,808	45,782	-12%	4,032	3,297	-18%	191	152	-20%
Non-Dissolution	148,649	161,010	8%	149,183	160,218	7%	11,282	11,972	6%	397	439	11%
Domestic Violence	57,208	57,178	-0%	57,132	57,443	1%	1,738	1,453	-16%	48	61	27%
Abuse/Neglect	4,195	4,028	-4%	4,282	4,304	1%	4,991	4,649	-7%	116	165	42%
Adoption	2,084	1,831	-12%	2,109	1,893	-10%	453	391	-14%			
Child Placement Review	4,876	4,553	-7%	5,579	5,242	-6%	8,328	7,723	-7%	112	70	-38%
Juvenile/Family Crisis	511	503	-2%	508	502	-1%	22	24	9%	4	3	-25%
Term of Parental Rights	1,050	1,018	-3%	1,071	1,073	0%	434	378	-13%	248	247	-0%
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal	9,218	9,341	1%	9,355	9,369	0%	822	797	-3%	40	33	-18%
Kinship	766	659	-14%	765	681	-11%	100	86	-14%	20	9	-55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,127,763</b>	<b>1,119,585</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>1,133,872</b>	<b>1,121,011</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>198,642</b>	<b>198,085</b>	<b>-0%</b>	<b>27,197</b>	<b>29,027</b>	<b>7%</b>



## Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by County

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2009 to June 2010	July 2010 to June 2011	percent change	July 2009 to June 2010	July 2010 to June 2011	percent change	June 2010	June 2011	percent change	June 2010	June 2011	percent change
Atlantic	52,659	54,598	4%	51,918	48,835	-6%	9,875	15,164	54%	1,977	2,425	23%
Mass Tort	1,036	6,020	481%	268	282	5%	1,196	6,789	468%	698	851	22%
Non-Mass Tort	51,623	48,578	-6%	51,650	48,553	-6%	8,679	8,375	-4%	1,279	1,574	23%
Bergen	92,442	93,884	2%	93,188	94,757	2%	15,432	16,585	7%	1,156	1,180	2%
Mass Tort	646	945	46%	264	468	77%	645	1,131	75%	34	29	-15%
Non-Mass Tort	91,796	92,939	1%	92,924	94,289	1%	14,787	15,454	5%	1,122	1,151	3%
Burlington	51,614	51,979	1%	51,954	52,435	1%	9,171	8,728	-5%	1,021	956	-6%
Camden	77,892	77,307	-1%	78,191	78,282	0%	14,418	13,517	-6%	1,395	1,433	3%
Cape May	14,735	14,728	-0%	14,905	14,653	-2%	2,414	2,416	0%	313	374	19%
Cumberland	29,230	29,803	2%	29,921	30,054	0%	3,943	3,737	-5%	578	539	-7%
Essex	150,371	147,823	-2%	152,602	148,908	-2%	25,512	25,027	-2%	3,347	3,096	-7%
Gloucester	34,466	33,759	-2%	34,694	33,947	-2%	5,868	5,692	-3%	752	728	-3%
Hudson	95,880	95,539	-0%	96,429	94,930	-2%	15,782	16,059	2%	1,302	1,660	27%
Hunterdon	8,831	8,729	-1%	8,768	8,786	0%	1,626	1,587	-2%	227	185	-19%
Mercer	48,457	48,835	1%	49,135	49,409	1%	8,146	8,007	-2%	1,584	1,271	-20%
Middlesex	89,042	88,940	-0%	89,334	89,417	0%	18,613	16,915	-9%	4,882	6,021	23%
Mass Tort	325	162	-50%	435	366	-16%	1,906	385	-80%	2,591	3,903	51%
Non-Mass Tort	88,717	88,778	0%	88,899	89,051	0%	16,707	16,530	-1%	2,291	2,118	-8%
Monmouth	71,493	71,913	1%	71,660	72,741	2%	13,035	12,452	-4%	2,199	2,095	-5%
Morris	38,407	36,758	-4%	38,753	37,006	-5%	7,352	7,010	-5%	1,057	1,207	14%
Ocean	64,444	60,348	-6%	64,414	61,280	-5%	11,348	10,291	-9%	1,267	1,349	6%
Passaic	70,099	70,481	1%	71,101	70,409	-1%	12,222	12,420	2%	1,217	1,135	-7%
Salem	11,573	11,207	-3%	11,415	11,450	0%	1,736	1,524	-12%	125	123	-2%
Somerset	26,889	26,238	-2%	26,883	26,431	-2%	4,808	4,661	-3%	898	880	-2%
Sussex	15,759	15,023	-5%	15,686	15,259	-3%	2,631	2,365	-10%	317	360	14%
Union	71,255	70,002	-2%	70,657	70,160	-1%	12,890	12,241	-5%	1,315	1,779	35%
Warren	12,225	11,691	-4%	12,264	11,862	-3%	1,820	1,687	-7%	268	231	-14%
<b>Total</b>												
Mass Tort	1,127,763	1,119,585	-1%	1,133,872	1,121,011	-1%	198,642	198,085	-0%	27,197	29,027	7%
Non-Mass Tort	2,007	7,127	255%	967	1,116	15%	3,747	8,305	122%	3,323	4,783	44%
	1,125,756	1,112,458	-1%	1,132,905	1,119,895	-1%	194,895	189,780	-3%	23,874	24,244	2%



## New Jersey Judicial Council May 26, 2011

**Seated (left to right):**

Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson; Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello; Chief Justice Stuart Rabner; Acting Administrative Director Glenn A. Grant; Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando, Jr.

**Standing (left to right):**

Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder; Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck; Judge Thomas P. Olivieri (*Chair, Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges*); Judge Eugene J. Codey, Jr. (*Chair, Conference of Civil Presiding Judges*); Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio; Assignment Judge Yolanda Ciccone; Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg; Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne; Judge Peter J. Vazquez (*Chair, Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges*); Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert, Jr.; Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis; Assignment Judge Vincent J. Grasso; Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy; Assignment Judge Valerie H. Armstrong; Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli; Judge Bonnie J. Mizdol (*Chair, Conference of Family Presiding Judges*).

# New Jersey Courts

