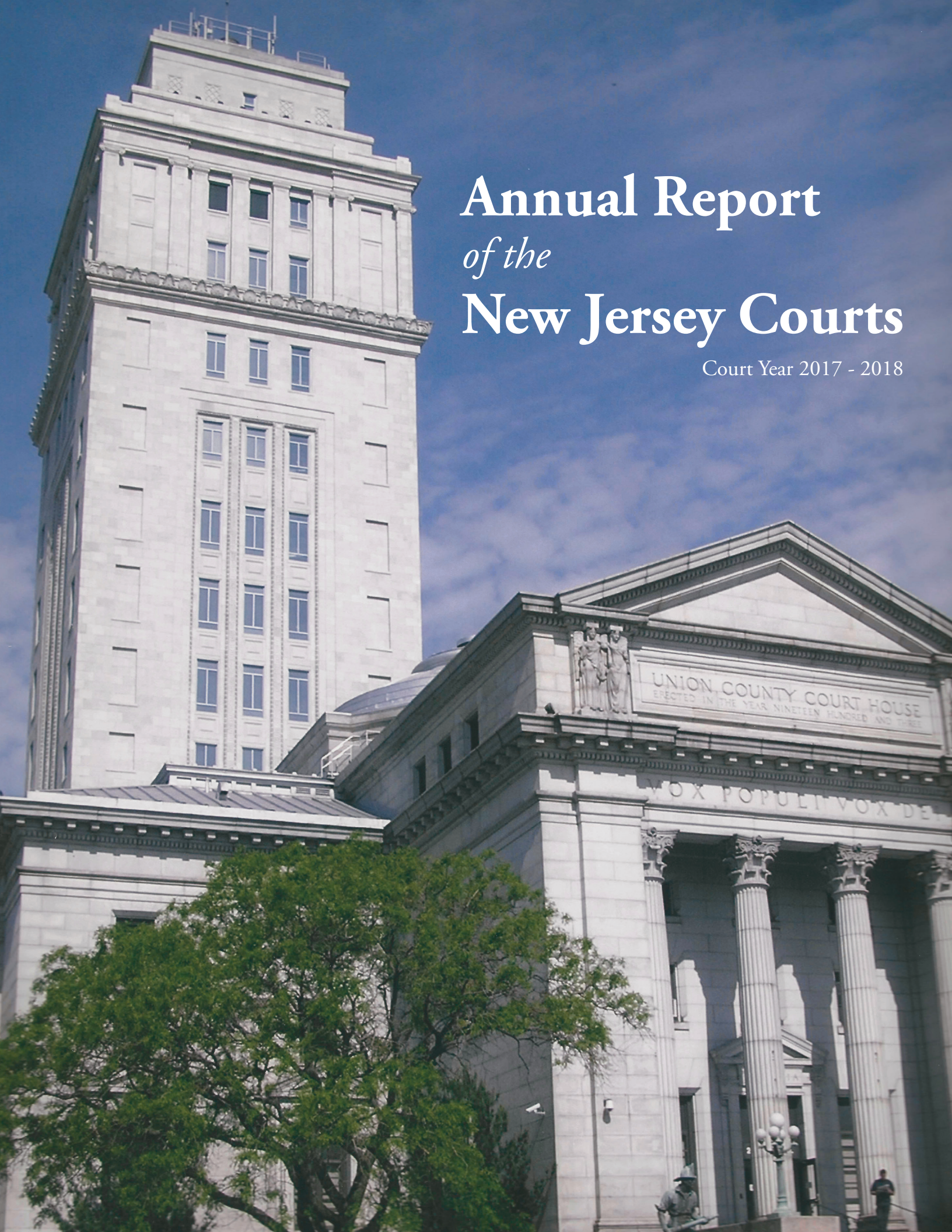
Annual Report *of the* New Jersey Courts

Court Year 2017 - 2018



Somerset County Courthouse

NEW JERSEY COURTS

2018 Annual Report

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

FOR THE COURT YEAR JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Chief Justice
Stuart Rabner

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

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Mark Neary

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE

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

Chief of Staff
Steven D. Bonville

Clerk of the Superior Court
Michelle M. Smith

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

Court and Judicial Security
Robin Morante

Equal Employment Opportunity/ Affirmative Action
Tonya Hopson

Information Security
Sajed Naseem

Internal Audit and Control
John Brodowski

Quantitative Research and Evaluation
Mark Davies

SUPERIOR COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION

Presiding Judge
Carmen Messano

Deputy Presiding Judge
Jack M. Sabatino

Clerk of the Appellate Division
Joseph H. Orlando

TAX COURT OF NEW JERSEY

Presiding Judge
Joseph M. Andresini

Clerk of the Tax Court
Cheryl Ryan

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS, OFFICE OF

Director
Peter McAleer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

Director
Jack P. McCarthy III

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

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES, OFFICE OF

Director
Shelley R. Webster

Assistant Directors
Helen Livingston - Support Services
Janet S. Zatz - Human Resources
Todd McManus - Financial Services

PROBATION SERVICES, OFFICE OF

Director
Rashad Shabaka-Burns

Assistant Director
Brenda Beacham

PROFESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, OFFICE OF

Director
Deirdre M. Naughton

TRIAL COURT SERVICES, OFFICE OF

Director
Jennifer M. Perez

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

Cape May County Courthouse

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On the cover: *The Union County Courthouse, with its 16-floor tower, has been a landmark on Broad Street in Elizabeth since its completion in 1934. The site has been the location of public assemblies since 1668, when the Elizabeth Meeting House was built there.*

Bergen County Justice Center

Letter from the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court

Stuart Rabner
Chief Justice

"By keeping sight of a basic sense of humanity and fairness, we further the Judiciary's mission and foster a lasting positive impression among our neighbors all throughout the year."

The State Constitution entrusts the Judiciary with the responsibility to resolve disputes fairly and justly, to protect individual rights and liberties, and to help preserve the rule of law.

This annual report highlights some of the ways we pursue that mission. The charts and statistics speak to the successes and accomplishments of the past year, but they tell only part of the story. Behind the numbers lies the work of dedicated judges and staff who have distinguished themselves through sustained professionalism and dedication. By tackling challenges big and small, they have made a profound impact on the lives of New Jersey residents.

Reform of New Jersey's pretrial justice system, now in its second year, required the partnership of all three branches of government to overhaul a problematic bail system that had been in place for decades. Other states have closely watched our efforts and are reaching out for guidance and advice.

Amid the growing opioid crisis, our drug court program offers a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery. Drug court provides graduates with the skills they need to stay sober and out of prison, so that they can regain custody of their children and contribute to society again.

New Jersey's foreclosure process, a significant challenge throughout the State for more than a decade, has improved dramatically thanks to the exceptional and sustained efforts of the Superior Court Clerk's Office.

We've made strides to confront challenges in our municipal courts, the face of the court system for most residents, by proposing concrete solutions to serve the public more fairly.

Judges with specialized training in business issues are using their expertise to streamline and expedite complex commercial and construction cases through the Complex Business Litigation Program.

Thanks to the work of our family division, New Jersey now serves as a national leader in implementing statewide reforms that provide alternatives to detaining juveniles pretrial. Still other Judiciary programs help provide needed services to veterans, elderly and developmentally disabled adults, and victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Our willingness to confront significant challenges as we conduct the business of the Judiciary sends a powerful message about the State's system of justice. And by keeping sight of a basic sense of humanity and fairness, we further the Judiciary's mission and foster a lasting positive impression among our neighbors all throughout the year.

Chief Justice

Essex County (Veterans) Courthouse

Letter from the

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

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

We can easily take for granted the critical role our court system plays in the development of a fair and just society.

Each day, the New Jersey Judiciary strives to attain justice for both the individual and society through the rule of law. It is the rule of law that ensures that our citizenry is not subject to the arbitrary will of those in power and that all persons are treated equally and according to a consistent set of principles and rules.

As an independent branch of government, we make it our mission to provide an independent, impartial forum for the fair and just resolution of disputes and to serve as a leader in creating an equitable and effective system of justice for an increasingly diverse society. We strive each day to build an atmosphere that ensures all members of the public are treated with courtesy, dignity and respect. In short, we demand excellence at every level and every corner of our court system.

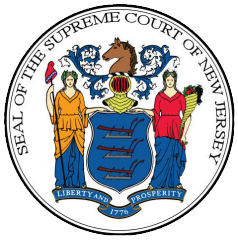
At the Judiciary, we are privileged to serve all citizens, but particularly the most vulnerable in our society. We provide men and women caught in the grasp of drug addiction with an opportunity for rehabilitation. We provide protections to children who have been victims of abuse and neglect. We help safeguard the assets of the elderly and the incapacitated. We've created a fairer system of criminal justice in order to protect the rights of the poor and keep the public safe.

"Each day, the New Jersey Judiciary strives to attain justice for both the individual and society through the rule of law."

This annual report offers a snapshot of the outstanding work of the justices, judges and administrative staff of our court system. The results highlighted in these pages showcase our organization's commitment to justice and fairness. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about New Jersey Courts. We are proud of what we have accomplished in our court system during the past fiscal year and look forward to doing even more in the year ahead.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex



New Jersey Supreme Court

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

Standing from left:
Justice Lee A. Solomon
Justice Anne M. Patterson
Justice Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina
Justice Walter F. Timpone

Seated from left:
Justice Jaynee LaVecchia
Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
Justice Barry T. Albin

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

In addition to its judicial responsibilities, the Supreme Court oversees all aspects of Judiciary administration as well as the legal system. The court administers bar admissions through the Board of Bar Examiners. During Court Year 2018, the court admitted 1,519 new attorneys to the New Jersey bar, a 3.31 percent decrease from the previous year.

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

Petitions for Certification filed 1,232

Petitions for Certification/ Direct Certifications/ Appeals by Leave granted 99

Motions filed 1,753

Motions disposed of 1,752

Appeals Argued 74

Opinions filed 65

Attorney Oversight

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

The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection also is overseen by the Supreme Court. The fund, which is supported by annual payments from the state's lawyers and judges, provides reimbursement to victims of attorneys who have been suspended or disbarred for knowing misappropriation of client funds. During Court Year 2018, the Fund approved **$4,968,331.32** to reimburse clients for losses caused by 31 attorneys.

Salem County Olde Courthouse

Appellate Division, Superior Court

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

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

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

Appeals Filed	6,010
Appeals Decided	6,624
Motions Decided	9,672
Opinions Filed	3,325
Published Opinions	153

New Appointments

Judge
Patrick DeAlmeida

Judge
Lisa A. Firko

Judge
Richard J. Geiger

Judge
Hany A. Mawla

Judge
Jessica R. Mayer

Judge
Stephanie A. Mitterhoff

Judge
Scott J. Moynihan

Judge
Arnold L. Natoli Jr.

Judge
Lisa Rose

Gloucester County Olde Courthouse

New Jersey Tax Court

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

The 12 Tax Court judges hear appeals of tax decisions made by county boards of taxation. They also hear appeals on decisions made by the director of the Division of Taxation on such matters as state income, sales and business taxes, and homestead rebates.

Local Property

Cases Docketed	14,132
Cases Reinstated	129
Judgments Entered	13,782

State Cases

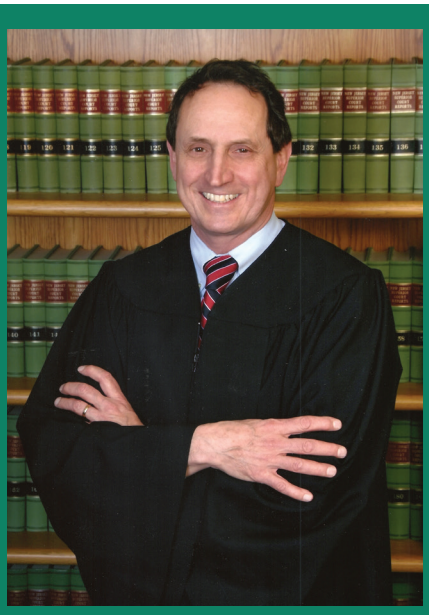
Cases Docketed	184
Cases Reinstated	1
Judgments Entered	154

Pending Cases

Total Local Property Cases Pending	34,942
Total State Tax Cases Pending	485
Pending as of June 30, 2018	35,427

Statewide Case Type

CIGARETTE	4
CORPORATE S ELECTION	1
CORPORATION BUSINESS	14
ESTATE TAX	3
FAIR HOMESTEAD REBATE	15
GROSS INCOME	67
HOTEL	1
INHERITANCE TAX	5
LITTER CONTROL TAX	2
NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEE (COAH)	1
PARTNERSHIP FILING FEE	14
PARTNERSHIP WITHHOLDING TAX	5
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS GROSS RECEIPTS	1
PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT	6
REALTY TRANSFER FEE	3
SALES AND USE	37
SCHOOL AID (TABLE OF EQUALIZATION AND VALUATION	6



Joseph M. Andresini
Presiding Tax Court Judge

Judge Joseph Andresini was named presiding judge of the Tax Court, effective Jan. 16, 2018. He succeeded Judge Patrick DeAlmeida, who was appointed to the Appellate Division. Judge Andresini was appointed to the Tax Court on Oct. 1, 2009. He was reappointed on June 29, 2016. Prior to his judicial appointment, during a career in private practice that spanned 25 years, he specialized in tax appeals, condemnation, land use and real estate transactions. He also served as municipal prosecutor and public defender for Closter and Haworth boroughs.

Sussex County Historic Courthouse

Trial Courts

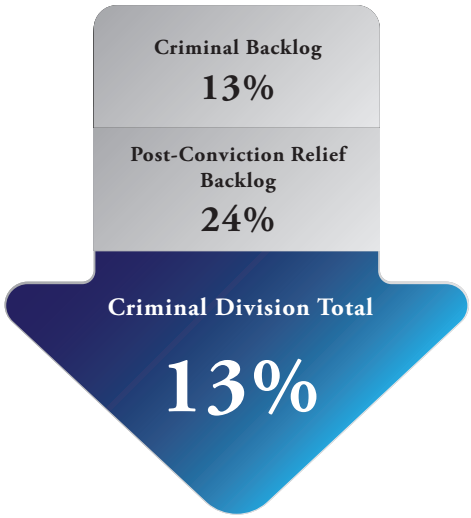
Criminal Division
Civil Division
Family Division
Chancery Division
Municipal Division

Burlington County Courtroom

Atlantic County Criminal Courthouse

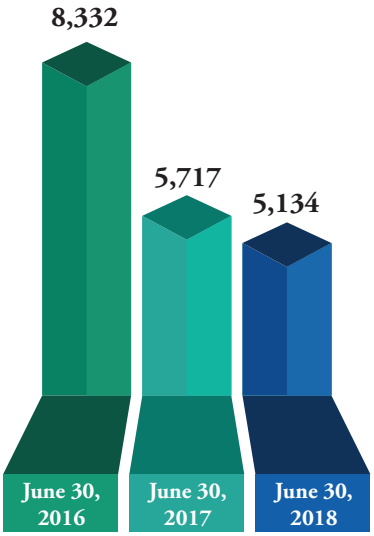
Criminal Division

The Criminal Practice Division is part of the Trial Court Services section of the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The primary function of the Criminal Practice Division is to provide support and assistance to all Criminal Division judges and staff in the vicinages through the development and implementation of operational standards and best practices, training, evaluation, monitoring and preparation of various statistical reports and manuals.



Criminal Practice consists of four major units: Pretrial Services, Criminal Court Services, Drug Court and Research/Statistics. The Pretrial Services Unit oversees the statewide implementation of Criminal Justice Reform and provides support and training to the staff in the Pretrial Services Unit in each vicinage. The Criminal Court Services Unit is tasked with providing assistance regarding the general operation of the Criminal trial courts. The Drug Court Unit focuses specifically on the advancement and operation of the Drug Court in each vicinage.

Pretrial Jail Population



Criminal Justice Reform

Criminal Justice Reform includes comprehensive bail reform, preventive detention, a pretrial services program of 267 employees to monitor and communicate with defendants on pretrial release, and speedy trial requirements made possible through technological capabilities that no other state can match.

Through Criminal Justice Reform, New Jersey modernized and transformed a centuries-old cash bail system that allowed money to dictate which defendants were detained until trial and which were allowed to go free. In its place is a system that allows judges to base pretrial release decisions on a fair and evidenced based assessment of the risk a defendant poses.

Over the course of 2017, New Jersey's pretrial jail population dropped 20 percent. At the same time, more than 8,000 defendants – essentially those found to pose the greatest risk to public safety - were detained pretrial.

38.4%
decrease since June 30, 2016

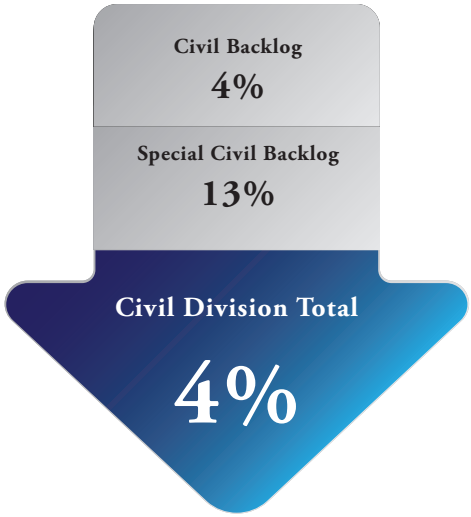
Virtual Courtroom

First appearances and central judicial processing (CJP) hearings conducted in Superior Court are streamed live from various locations across the state for the public to view on a computer, tablet or smartphone, generally during non-business hours.

Passaic County Courthouse

Civil Division

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



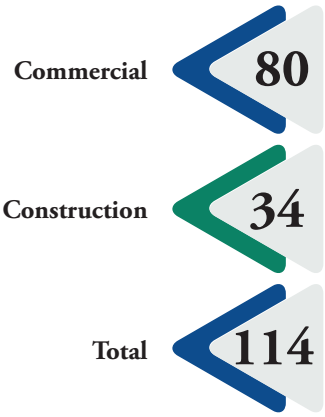
The civil division of the Superior Court resolves cases of monetary damages ranging from small claims through complex commercial litigation. While the circumstances of each case are unique, the division has developed a series of best practices for each type of case to ensure statewide consistency and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

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

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

The majority of cases filed with the civil division are filed in the special civil part, which resolved **417,589** cases during Court Year 2018.

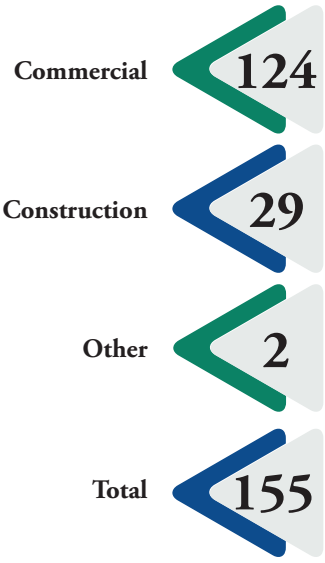
CBLP Statewide Cases Filed



Complex Business Litigation Program

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

CBLP Statewide Cases Resolved



Electronic Filing

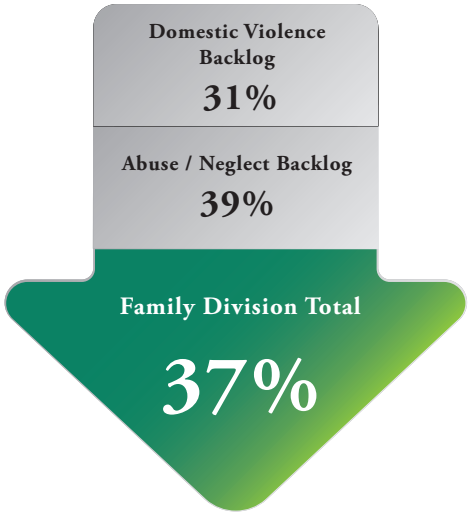
Electronic filing in the Civil Part of the Law Division (eCourts Civil) began as a pilot program in April 2017 with attorneys filing in the Mercer and Middlesex vicinages. By the end of that year, all counties were able to accept electronic filings. Electronic filing has been mandatory for attorneys filing in the special civil part (DC) since September 2016 and in the civil part as of January 2018.

1,068,792
Special Civil Part eCourt Filings

906,553
Civil Part eCourt Filings

Monmouth County Courthouse

Family Division



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

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

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

35,000
total domestic violence filings

10,600
reopened domestic violence cases

In Court Year 2018, the number of domestic violence filings, which included more than 35,000 new cases and more than 10,600 reopened cases, decreased by 4 percent. Nearly all of the cases were resolved the same year.

Juvenile Detention

This year, New Jersey became the first state to institute a statewide reform that provides alternatives to detaining juveniles pretrial.

After adopting the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative in 2004, New Jersey became a national model in developing practices that allow juveniles to remain home while receiving the appropriate services.

Since 2002, the average daily population of juvenile detention centers in New Jersey has dropped by nearly 70 percent and eight of the state's 17 county-operated youth detention centers have been closed. The last of New Jersey's 21 counties adopted the reform initiatives this year.

Adoption Day

The Judiciary celebrates National Adoption Day with adoption ceremonies in all 15 vicinages, creating forever families for hundreds of children in foster care.

Hudson County (William J. Brennan Jr.) Courthouse

Chancery Division

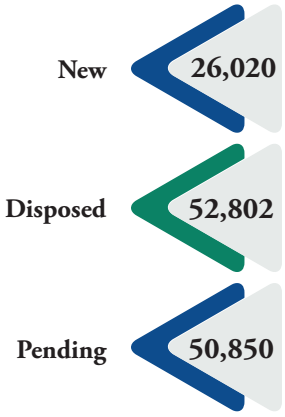
Cases in the chancery division, general equity, involve non-monetary disputes such as business dissolution issues, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, labor injunctions and mortgage and tax foreclosure actions. General equity cases are heard without a jury by a specially assigned judge within the chancery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

144,032
active foreclosures in June 2011

27,229
active foreclosures in June 2018

From June 2011 to June 2018, the number of active foreclosure cases was reduced from 144,032 to 27,229, including 20,949 residential properties. The average timeframe for the court's involvement in the foreclosure process, from complaint to judgment, decreased from 1,360 days to 160 days during the same period. In Court Year 2018, 26,020 new cases were filed while 52,802 were completed.

Foreclosure Cases

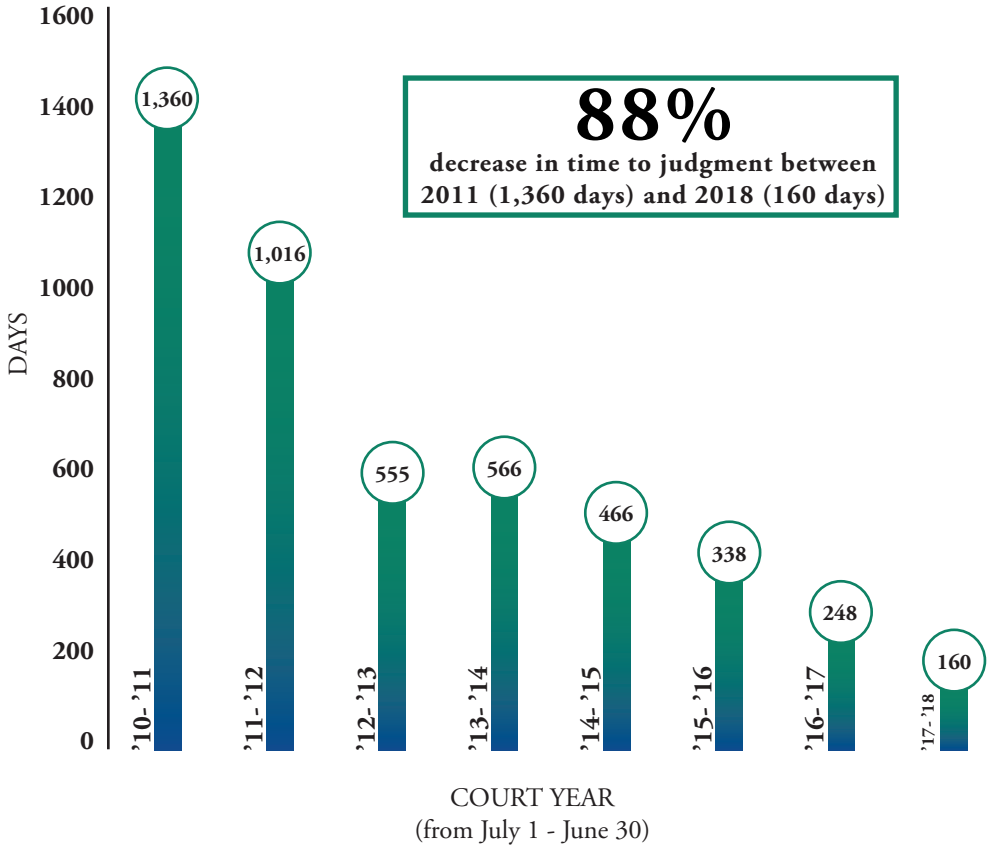


A statistical review of foreclosures filed in 2017 showed that the majority of cases were disposed of within 9 months from the date the complaint was filed. The numbers for 2018 continue to show dramatic decrease in the judicial time frame with matters averaging 160 days from complaint to judgment, as of June 30. Any lengthening of the time frame beyond that figure can be attributed to the assignment and reassignment of mortgages between lenders and servicers; the transfer of assets between lenders, service on judgment-creditor defendants (which requires additional time) and noticing to the defendant homeowners. In those cases that are not being resolved within 5 months, lenders most often have submitted insufficient proofs or have failed to comply with the rule requirements requiring the motion for judgment to be re-filed and re-served.

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

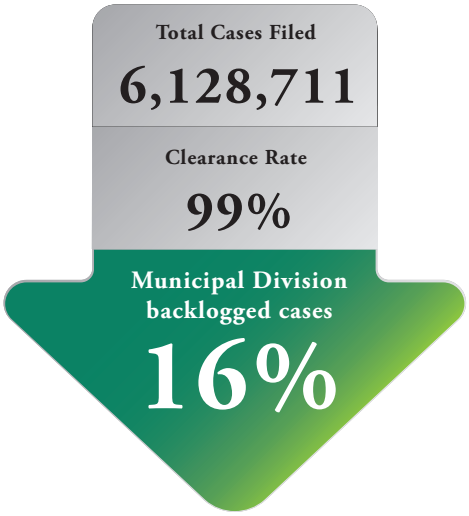
Various intergovernmental efforts during that decade led to a dramatic reduction in both the number of pending filings and the timeframe for moving foreclosure cases to resolution through either mediation or judgment. By 2018, pending foreclosure cases in New Jersey had been reduced to the lowest point since before the start of the housing market crisis.

Foreclosure Average Days to Judgment



Burlington County Olde Courthouse

Municipal Division



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

There were 6,128,711 cases filed in the municipal courts during Court Year 2018, a 2 percent increase over the previous year. The municipal courts achieved a 35 percent reduction in backlogged cases and had a 99 percent clearance rate during Court Year 2018.

Municipal Court Reform

A Supreme Court committee charged with reforming municipal court practices was empaneled this year to propose solutions for preserving and improving judicial independence in local courts. The Supreme Court Committee on Municipal Court Operations, Fines, and Fees focused on ensuring fairness to court users with recommendations to prevent government revenue concerns from affecting the equitable administration of justice.

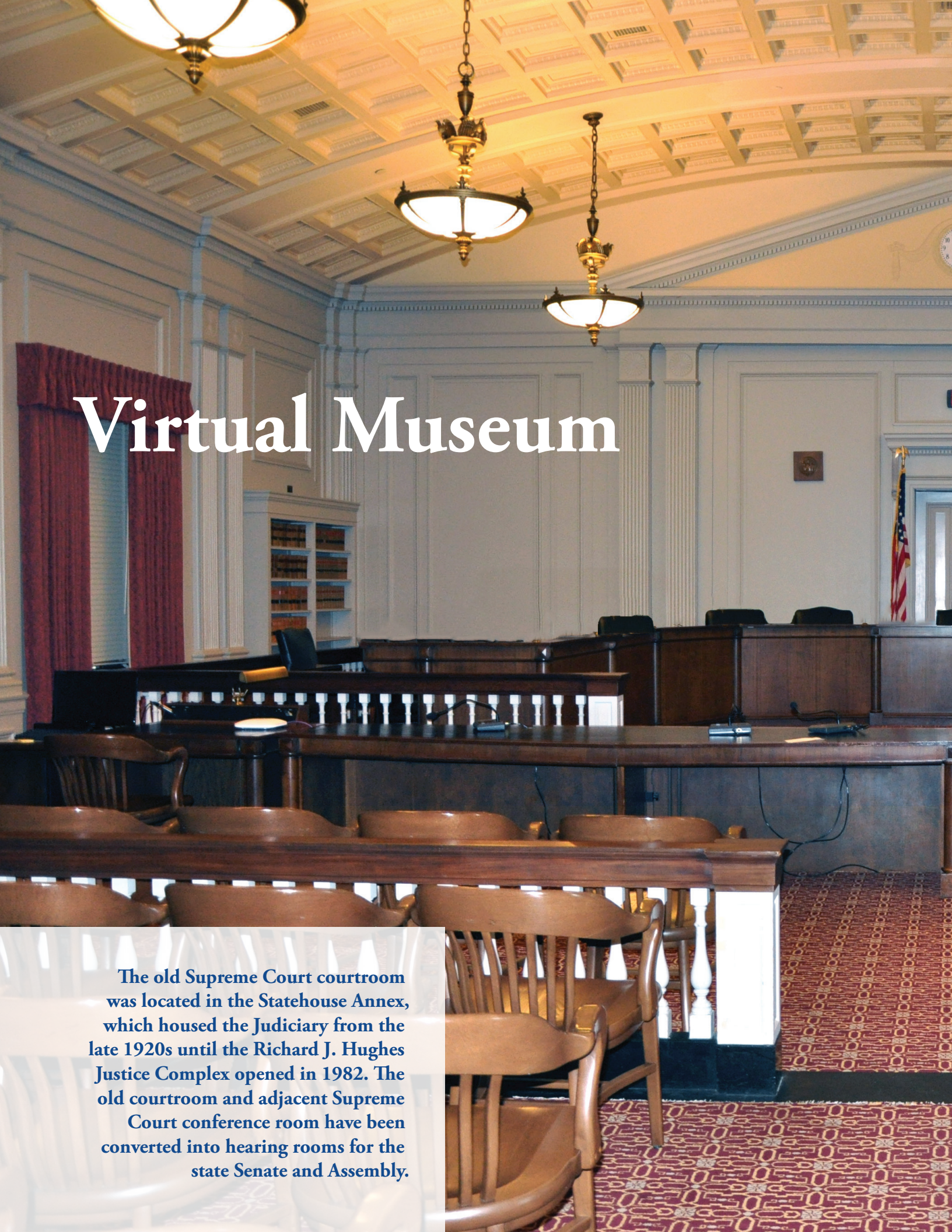
"It is often said that municipal courts, which handle millions of cases every year, are the face of the Judiciary."

-Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

The committee addressed issues such as developing alternatives to fines for indigent defendants, reducing reliance on bench warrants and driver's license suspensions, creating an appointment process for municipal judges, consolidating local courts and improving access for court users through technology.

Filings	Case Types
184,155	Indictable
468,994	Disorderly / Petty Disorderly Persons
221,803	Other Non-Criminal
29,942	DWI
2,463,962	Traffic
2,759,855	Parking
6,128,711	Total

Virtual Museum



The old Supreme Court courtroom was located in the Statehouse Annex, which housed the Judiciary from the late 1920s until the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex opened in 1982. The old courtroom and adjacent Supreme Court conference room have been converted into hearing rooms for the state Senate and Assembly.

The Historical Advisory Board, formed by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner in 2016, works on initiatives aimed at preserving the history of the Supreme Court. Composed of sitting and retired justices and judges, as well as law school professors, deans and attorneys, the board works on short- and long-term projects related to the history of the Supreme Court.

This past year the board launched the New Jersey Supreme Court Virtual Museum, which chronicles the rich history of the state's highest court, dating to the adoption of the current state constitution in 1947.

The museum, at https://www.njcourts.gov/courts/supreme/vm/scvirtual.html, also features an extensive video library, including swearing-in ceremonies and interviews of Chief Justices Richard J. Hughes and Robert N. Wilentz.

Camden County Hall of Justice

Probation Services

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

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

$37,486,313
total expected probation fees/fines

$20,012,256.71
paid probation fees/fines

Probation Olympics

Below: Teens participating in the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program get the chance to test their athleticism in the annual Judiciary Olympics, a daylong event that also teaches them social skills and good sportsmanship.

Child Support Enforcement Program

The Child Support Enforcement Unit seeks to promote the welfare and safety of children, families and communities through the enforcement of orders of support ordered by the court. The 21 local divisions monitor and enforce approximately 280,000 child support cases in New Jersey. The unit is responsible for the collection of child and spousal obligations, medical support and alimony.

279,573
child support caseload as of June 2018

1,301,267,721
child support collections

70.1%
current child support obligations collected for July 2017 to June 2018

Intensive Supervision Program

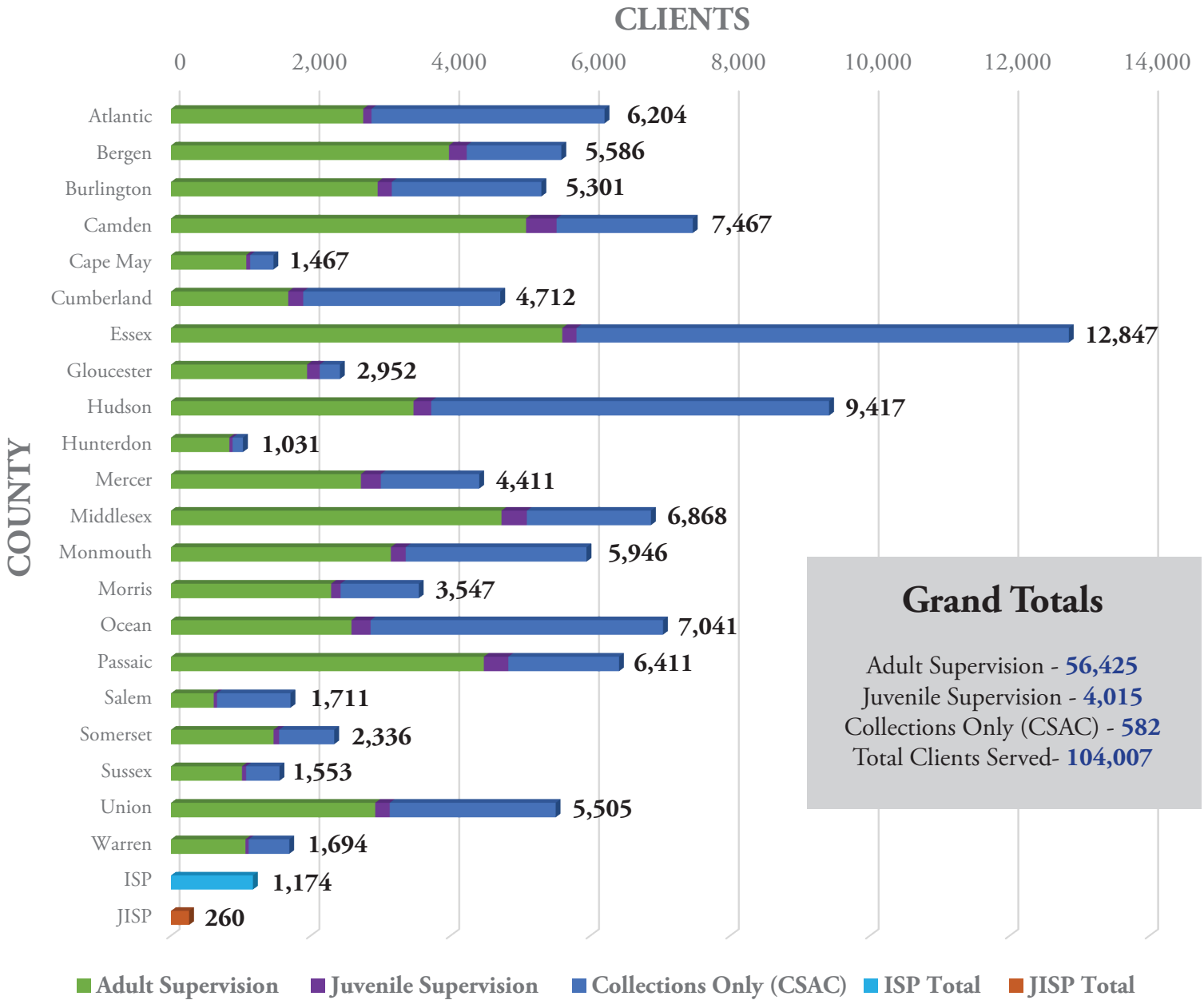
The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) allows non-violent offenders to serve the remainder of their prison sentences under a highly structured form of community supervision that is more rigorous than traditional parole. Probation officers provide a high level of supervision to this carefully selected group of offenders who are approved by a panel of judges for release. ISP officers oversee many aspects of the participants' daily lives, including their living arrangements, employment, curfews, budgeting and performance of community service.

The program saved the state more than $33 million, or more than $38,000 per participant, in Court Year 2018.

Sussex County Judicial Center

Probation Services by the Numbers

Court Year 2017 - 2018



Grand Totals

Adult Supervision - **56,425**
Juvenile Supervision - **4,015**
Collections Only (CSAC) - **582**
Total Clients Served- **104,007**

Supervision

On June 30, 2018 probation services was actively supervising 56,425 adults and 4,015 juveniles statewide.

Field Work

Probation officers conducted 27,333 inspections and 139,427 visits of clients' homes during Court Year 2017-2018.

Community Service

Probation clients performed 778,125 hours of community service during Court Year 2017-2018.

Morris County Courthouse

Addressing the Needs of Society

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

Guardianship Cases

COUNTY	COURT YEAR 2018
Atlantic	104
Bergen	234
Burlington	166
Camden	170
Cape May	41
Cumberland	44
Essex	180
Gloucester	112
Hudson	188
Hunterdon	39
Mercer	114
Middlesex	219
Monmouth	199
Morris	245
Ocean	274
Passaic	114
Salem	9
Somerset	125
Sussex	75
Union	190
Warren	44
GRAND TOTAL	2,886

Guardianship Monitoring Program

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

In the 2018 Court Year, 2,886 adult guardianships and conservatorships were filed statewide. Conservatorships involve the appointment of a fiduciary to handle the financial affairs of another person, but, unlike a guardianship matter, do not require an adjudication of incapacity.

Veterans Assistance Project

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

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

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

As of July 2018, there have been **3,935** referrals statewide since the inception of the program.

Mercer County Criminal Courthouse

Drug Court

The Judiciary's drug court program operates within the Superior Court to help nonviolent defendants overcome alcohol and drug dependencies while resolving related criminal charges.

The program offers a tightly structured regimen of treatment and recovery that provides graduates with the skills needed to stay sober and out of prison so they can regain custody of their children and contribute to society again.

Drug court was made mandatory by law by 2017.

2,212
defendants sentenced to the program in 2017-18

19,000
average monthly number of drug tests administered in 2017-18

6,532
active participants in FY 2017-18

$13.12 million
amount of fines, fees and restitution paid by drug court defendants since inception of the program

Above: Landon Hacker went from living under the Ben Franklin Bridge as a young adult to becoming a 4.0 graduate of Rutgers University – Camden after attending the Judiciary's drug court program. Now in law school, he plans to become a defense attorney.

646
graduates in 2017-18

632
drug-free babies born since the program's inception

200
parents regained custody of their children since the program's inception

40%
Nearly 40 percent of inmates released from state prison are convicted for new indictable crimes within the first three years of their release. Conversely, only 6.8 percent of drug court graduates are convicted for new indictable crimes within that same three-year period following graduation.

5,252
Since the New Jersey Judiciary's drug court program went statewide in 2002, some 5,252 participants successfully graduated from all phases of the Judiciary's drug court program.

88%
Sixty-five percent of the current active participants in the New Jersey Judiciary's drug court program are employed full time. Eighty-eight percent are employed by the time they graduate.

63%
20 percent of drug court participants had a driver's license when they entered the program. 63 percent had a license when they finished the program.

Warren County Courthouse

New Filings
35,376

Active Pending
1,296

New Domestic Violence Backlog
33%

Reopened
10,670

Active Pending
228

Reopened Domestic Violence Backlog
18%

Domestic Violence

The New Jersey Judiciary is committed to responding to the needs of victims of domestic violence and their families. New Jersey is governed by the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, one of the strongest laws in the country addressing domestic violence.

The Electronic Temporary Restraining Order System is used by law enforcement and family court staff to create electronic civil domestic violence complaints, and temporary and final restraining orders. The case tracking system has the capacity to record out-of-state domestic violence restraining orders, which provides further protection to victims who have relocated to New Jersey.

The Judiciary's statewide Domestic Violence Central Registry makes available to law enforcement agencies and family court staff current information on all restraining orders entered into the Family Automated Case Tracking System (FACTS). The registry serves as a valuable database for law enforcement to facilitate enforcement of temporary and final restraining orders, and protect victims as they move between municipalities within the state. The registry is also helpful in providing information to law enforcement personnel for screening of individuals who apply for firearms licensing.

Human Trafficking

The Atlantic County Human Trafficking Intervention Program was launched in July 2017 to identify and help commercially exploited children in the Atlantic City region. A collaboration of the New Jersey Judiciary, law enforcement and service organizations, the pilot program seeks to help sexually exploited children and educate the public about human trafficking.

A judge working with a team arranges drug treatment, counseling, mental health referrals, job training, housing and other services the children may need. The team includes probation officers, prosecutors, public defenders and service organizations.

"The New Jersey Judiciary has long been recognized locally and nationally as a leader in the fair and equitable treatment of those who use its services. This is a commitment that was made long ago and is one that will never waiver."

-Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.
Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner delivers his annual State of the Judiciary address at the New Jersey State Bar Association in Atlantic City. (New Jersey State Bar Association)

Middlesex County Courthouse

Access and Fairness

Union Vicinage Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy, who chairs the Women in the Courts Committee, addresses Judiciary staff at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton during Women's History Month.

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

Women in the Courts

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

The committee provides training for new municipal and Superior Court judges on recognizing and correcting biased behaviors in the courtroom and participates in continuing legal education programs on issues of bias.

With the support of the Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts, the committee sponsored a summit on women in the law at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick in April.

8,386,947
New Jersey residents

Language Services

New Jerseyans speak more than 130 different languages and upwards of 31 percent – more than 2.5 million – speak a language other than English at home. In Court Year 2018, New Jersey courts provided interpreting services nearly 75,000 times in 93 languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole and Korean but also in languages as diverse as Swahili, Dari, Igbo and Burmese.

131
languages spoken in New Jersey

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

2,572,885
New Jerseyans who speak a language other than English

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

1,021,939
New Jerseyans who are not fluent in English

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

Hunterdon County Courthouse

Minority Concerns

The Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns advises the state's highest court on ways the Judiciary can ensure fairness, impartiality, equal access and full participation of racial, ethnic and religious/cultural minorities and economically disadvantaged court users.

35,000
the number of members of the public that staff have addressed about Criminal Justice Reform since the new bail system went into effect on Jan. 1, 2017

Working with an advisory committee in each of the state's 15 vicinages, the full committee coordinates general community education programs and conducts research to ensure the Judiciary's programs and services are delivered without the influence of racial or ethnic biases.

The committee has four subgroups that address criminal justice and the minority defendant, juvenile justice and family, minority access to justice and minority participation in the judicial process.

Access and Fairness Survey

6,140
total responses

74%
were self-represented

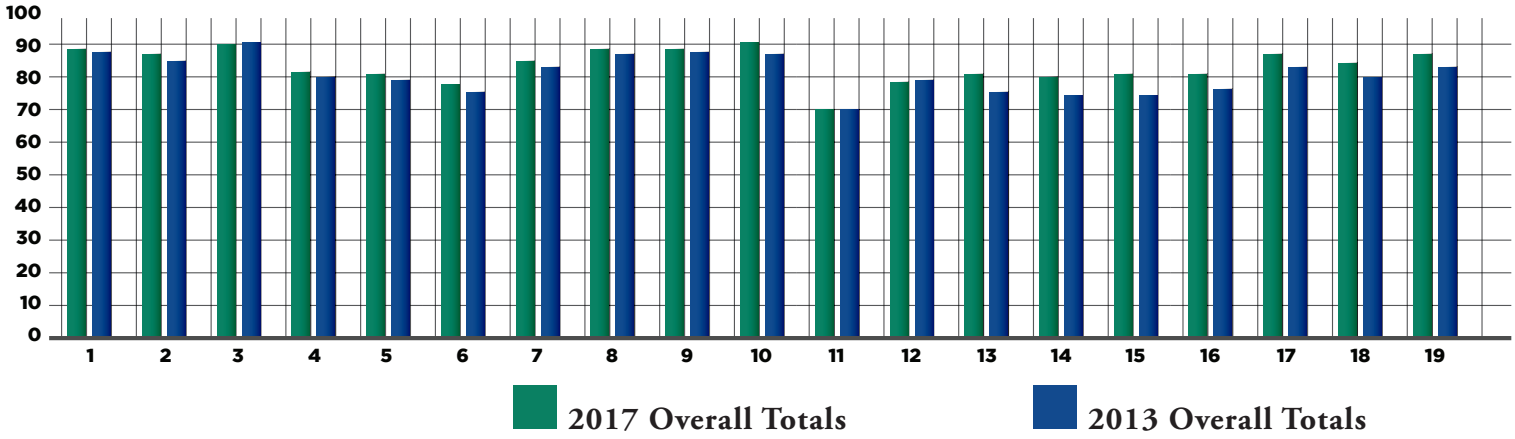
The Municipal Court Survey project was developed by the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness. The goal of the survey was to measure the public's perception of how accessible and fair they found the municipal court during their visit. The survey was administered in five municipal courts in each of the 15 court vicinages, a total of 75 courts. It was available during the entire month of September 2017 in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, Korean, Polish, and Portuguese.

The survey showed overall improvements in court users' experiences compared to the previous survey (2013), including feeling their cases were handled fairly and that they were treated with respect.

Survey Subjects

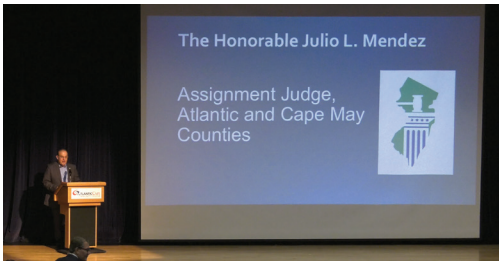
1. Found courthouse easily
2. Forms clear/understandable
3. Felt safe in court
4. Despite disability, able to conduct business
5. Able to receive interpreting services
6. Reasonable amount of time
7. Court staff paid attention to needs
8. Treated with respect by court staff
9. Treated with respect by uniformed court security
10. Found courtroom easily
11. Website helpful
12. Hours of operation
13. Case handled fairly by judge/mediator
14. Judge/mediator listened
15. Judge/mediator had information needed for decision
16. Judge/mediator explained reasons for decision
17. I understand outcome
18. I was treated the same as everyone else
19. I know what to do next

Comparing 2017 and 2013 Results



Ocean County Courthouse

New Jersey Court News



Drug Court Summit

The Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage hosted a community summit in May during National Drug Court Month to discuss the challenges of the opioid crisis and identify solutions. The half-day event, attended by more than 150 community partners and agencies, featured discussions by representatives from education, health care and law enforcement. Drug court graduates also recounted their experiences combating their addictions.

Naturalization Ceremonies

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

Adoption Day

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

Law Day

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

Retirement of AOC's first female director

Winnie Comfort, the first female director in the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts, retired at the end of July 2017 after 17 years with the Judiciary. As the communications director, Comfort led all of the Judiciary's public information efforts, including media relations, publications, video production and maintenance of the court website. She also oversaw other areas such as minority concerns, women in the courts, and litigant services, which encompass issues of access and fairness.

Cumberland County Courthouse

Judicial Council

From left:
Associate Justice Anne M. Patterson is sworn in as a tenured member of the Supreme Court after being renominated in May 2018. Her husband, James Patterson, holds the Bible while Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administers the oath of office.

Standing from left:
Civil Presiding Judge Robert L. Polifroni, Family Presiding Judge Charles W. Dortch Jr., Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria, Assignment Judge Ernest M. Caposela, Appellate Presiding Judge Carmen Messano, Assignement Judge Deborah Silverman Katz, Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr., Criminal Presiding Judge Peter E. Warshaw, Assignment Judge Alberto Rivas, Assignment Judge Benjamin C. Telsey, Assignment Judge Mary C. Jacobson, General Equity Presiding Judge Anne McDonnell, Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy, Assignment Judge Marlene Lynch Ford, Assignment Judge Bonnie J. Mizdol, Assignment Judge Lisa P. Thornton, Assignment Judge Stuart A. Minkowitz.

Seated from left:
Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder, Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, Acting Administrative Director of the Courts Judge Glenn A. Grant, Assignment Judge Yolanda Ciccone.

Mission Statement of the New Jersey Judiciary

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

Supreme Court Conference Room

Judges and Justices

as of June 30, 2018

Superior Court

*Appellate Division

Allison E. Accurso*
Gregory L. Acquaviva
Yolanda Adrianzen
Lisa M. Adubato
Mark S. Ali
M. Christine Allen-Jackson
Jodi Lee Alper
Carmen H. Alvarez*
Ralph E. Amirata
William Anklowitz
Patrick J. Arre
Lorraine M. Augostini
Mark A. Baber
Keith A. Bachmann
Robert A. Ballard Jr.
Peter F. Bariso Jr.
Peter J. Barnes III
Patrick J. Bartels
Arthur J. Batista
David F. Bauman
Jeffrey B. Beacham
Robert P. Becker Jr.
Aimee R. Belgard
Scott J. Bennion
Maritza Berdote Byrne
Arthur Bergman
Stanley L. Bergman Jr.
Daniel A. Bernardin
Robert C. Billmeier
Robert W. Bingham II
Avis Bishop-Thompson
James M. Blaney
Michael J. Blee
Gwendolyn Blue
Peter A. Bogaard
Ronald E. Bookbinder
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Angela Borkowski
Terry Paul Bottinelli
Patrick J. Bradshaw
Carlia M. Brady
Anne Marie Bramnick
Gerard H. Breland
Robert J. Brennan
Robert E. Brenner
Thomas F. Brogan
Daniel H. Brown
Thomas M. Brown
Marc R. Brown
Benjamin S. Bucca Jr.
Thomas J. Buck
John J. Burke III
Bradford M. Bury
Henry P. Butehorn
Thomas A. Callahan Jr.
Ernest M. Caposela
Dennis F. Carey III
Patricia E. Carney
Harry G. Carroll*
Andrea G. Carter
Karen M. Cassidy
Regina Caulfield
Linda Lordi Cavanaugh
Judith S. Charny
Mark K. Chase
Timothy W. Chell
Jean S. Chetney
Joseph M. Chiarello
Randal C. Chiocca
Lisa F. Chrystal
Mark P. Ciarrocca
Yolanda Ciccone
Vicki A. Citrino
Marilyn C. Clark
Susan L. Claypoole
Michael T. Collins
Robert P. Contillo
Terrence R. Cook
J. Randall Corman
Craig L. Corson
Mary K. Costello
Gerald J. Council
Frank Covello
Jeanne T. Covert
Michael V. Cresitello Jr.
Thomas J. Critchley Jr.
Martin G. Cronin
Rodney Cunningham
Therese A. Cunningham
Heidi Willis Currier*
H. Matthew Curry
Daniel D'Alessandro
Angela White Dalton
William A. Daniel
Wendel E. Daniels
Pamela D'Arcy
Cristen P. D'Arrigo
Lawrence P. De Bello
Miguel A. De La Carrera
Estela M. De La Cruz
Patrick DeAlmeida*
Frank J. DeAngelis
Liliana S. Deavila-Silebi
Bernadette N. Decastro
Edward J. Defazio
John M. Deitch
Kathleen M. Delaney
Anthony V. D'elia
James J. Deluca
Bernard E. Delury Jr.
James M. Demarzo
James Den Uyl
Paul M. Depascale
Darren T. Dibiasi
Lara K. Difabrizio
Francisco Dominguez
Kenneth S. Domzalski
James W. Donohue
Michael J. Donohue
John M. Doran
Charles W. Dortch Jr.
Paula T. Dow
Katherine R. Dupuis
John C. Eastlack Jr.
Madelin F. Einbinder
Richard W. English
Catherine I. Enright
Paul X. Escandon
Kimberly Espinales-Maloney
Linda W. Eynon
Vincent N. Falcetano Jr.
Nan S. Famular
Christine A. Farrington
Douglas M. Fasciale*
James J. Ferrelli
Rudolph A. Filko
Lisa A. Firko
Clarkson S. Fisher Jr.*

Catherine M. Fitzpatrick
Sallyanne Floria
Colleen M. Flynn
Marlene Lynch Ford
Wayne J. Forrest
Margaret M. Foti
Michele M. Fox
Magali M. Francois
Noah Franzblau
Lisa Perez Friscia
Jose L. Fuentes*
Harold W. Fullilove Jr.
Garry J. Furnari
Mitzy Galis-Menendez
Jane Gallina Mecca
Donna Gallucio
George H. Gangloff Jr.
Robert H. Gardner
Christopher J. Garrenger
Michael C. Gaus
Richard J. Geiger*
J. Christopher Gibson
Robert J. Gilson*
Rochelle Gizinski
John I. Gizzo
Arnold B. Goldman
Greta Gooden Brown*
Margaret Goodzeit
Deborah L. Gramiccioni
Glenn A. Grant*
Nora J. Grimbergen
Kenneth J. Grispin
Deborah M. Gross-Quatrone
James J. Guida
Katie A. Gummer
Michael J. Haas*
Philip E. Haines
Deborah S. Hanlon-Schron
Robert M. Hanna
Jamie D. Happas
John E. Harrington
Rachelle Lea Harz
James Hely
Richard L. Hertzberg
Francis Hodgson Jr.
Edward W. Hoffman
Richard S. Hoffman*
Michael E. Hubner
John G. Hudak
J. Adam Hughes
Douglas H. Hurd
James F. Hyland
Paul Innes
David H. Ironson
Joseph V. Isabella
Thomas K. Isenhour
Jeffrey R. Jablonski
Adam E. Jacobs
Mary C. Jacobson
Mark T. Janeczko
Latoyia K. Jenkins
Edward A. Jerejian
Pedro J. Jimenez Jr.
Nelson C. Johnson
Sarah Beth Johnson
Harold U. Johnson Jr.
Bruce A. Jones
Linda Grasso Jones
Robert J. Jones Jr.
John A. Jorgensen II
Michael E. Joyce
James L. Jukes
Bahir Kamil
Bruce J. Kaplan
Imre Karaszegi Jr.
Michael J. Kassel
David B. Katz
Christopher R. Kazlau
John T. Kelley
Camille M. Kenny
Donald A. Kessler
Honora O'Brien Kilgallen
Robert Kirsch
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Walter Koprowski Jr.
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Kurt Kramer
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Vincent Leblon
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Lourdes Lucas
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James P. McClain
Thomas D. McCloskey
John P. McDonald
Anne McDonnell
James J. McGann
William J. McGovern III
Frances A. McGrogan
Brian McLaughlin
Jean B. McMaster
Robert J. Mega
Peter J. Melchionne
Julio L. Mendez
Marybel Mercado-Ramirez
Carmen Messano*
Vincent J. Militello
Thomas C. Miller
W. Todd Miller
Stuart A. Minkowitz
Lisa Miralles Walsh
Stephanie Ann Mitterhoff
Bonnie J. Mizdol
Sohail Mohammed
Joseph G. Monaghan
Bruno Mongiardo
Thomas M. Moore
Scott J. Moynihan*
Theresa E. Mullen
Carolyn A. Murray
Valter H. Must
Arnold L. Natali Jr.
Mark J. Nelson
Steven F. Nemeth
Maryann L. Nergaard
Justine A. Niccollai
Dennis V. Nieves
Richard J. Nocella
Carol V. Novey Catuogno
William E. Nugent*
Dennis R. O'Brien
Amy O'Connor*
John D. O'Dwyer
Michael F. O'Neill
Christine S. Orlando
Mirtha Ospina
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Joseph W. Oxley
Gregg A. Padovano
James R. Paganelli
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Joseph Paone
Russell J. Passamano
Stuart L. Peim
Darlene J. Pereksta
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David M. Ragonese
Samuel J. Ragonese Jr.
Kimarie Rahill
Rosemary E. Ramsay
John R. Rauh
Michael L. Ravin
Joseph L. Rea
Raymond A. Reddin
Robert B. Reed
Susan L. Reisner*
Nancy L. Ridgway
Alberto Rivas
Nesle A. Rodriguez
Yolanda C. Rodriguez
Candido Rodriguez Jr.
Patricia B. Roe
Marybeth Rogers
Michael J. Rogers
Christopher S. Romanyshyn
Lisa Rose*
Marysol Rosero
Garry S. Rothstadt*
Scott T. Rumana
John F. Russo Jr.
Guy P. Ryan
Jack M. Sabatino*
Sharifa R. Salaam
Mark H. Sandson
Lourdes I. Santiago
Ramona A. Santiago
Barry P. Sarkisian
James X. Sattely
James P. Savio
Louis S. Sceusi
Tara Schillari Rich
Frederick J. Schuck
Francis B. Schultz
Sherri L. Schweitzer
Vito A. Sciancalepore
Annette Scoca
Kevin M. Shanahan
Kathleen A. Sheedy
M. Susan Sheppard
Thomas J. Shusted Jr.
Marcia L. Silva
Michael J. Silvanio
Deborah Silverman Katz
Marie P. Simonelli*
Mary C. Siracusa
Nancy Sivilli
Walter F. Skrod
Christine Smith
Kevin T. Smith
Morris G. Smith
L. Grace Spencer
Barbara J. Stanton
Bridget A. Stecher
Donald J. Stein
Mitchell I. Steinhart
Barbara C. Stolte
Haekyoung Suh
Richard T. Sules
Thomas W. Sumners Jr.*
Ronald Susswein
Karen L. Suter*
James R. Swift
Mark P. Tarantino
Mayra V. Tarantino
Donna M. Taylor
Stephen J. Taylor
Siobhan A. Teare
Benjamin C. Telsey
Rodney Thompson
Lisa P. Thornton
Mary F. Thurber
Peter J. Tober
Ellen Torregrossa-O'Connor
Menelaos W. Toskos
Michael A. Toto
Mark A. Troncone
Joseph A. Turula
Christine M. Vanek
Radames Velazquez Jr.
Thomas R. Vena
Sheila Ann Venable
Deborah J. Venezia
Francis J. Vernoia*
Lisa M. Vignuolo
Robert M. Vinci
Ana C. Viscomi
Kay Walcott-Henderson
Jeffrey J. Waldman
Thomas J. Walls Jr.
Thomas J. Walsh
Peter E. Warshaw
David J. Weaver
Daniel L. Weiss
Craig L. Wellerson
Mary Gibbons Whipple*
Ronald D. Wigler
Gary N. Wilcox
Patricia M. Wild
James P. Wilson
Marcella Matos Wilson
Robert C. Wilson
Robert G. Wilson
Richard C. Wischusen
Gary D. Wodlinger
Gary K. Wolinetz
Carolyn E. Wright
Michael P. Wright
Daniel J. Yablonsky
Joseph L. Yannotti
John A. Young Jr.
Mara Zazzali-Hogan
William F. Ziegler
Janet Zoltanski Smith
John Zunic

Supreme Court

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

Tax Court

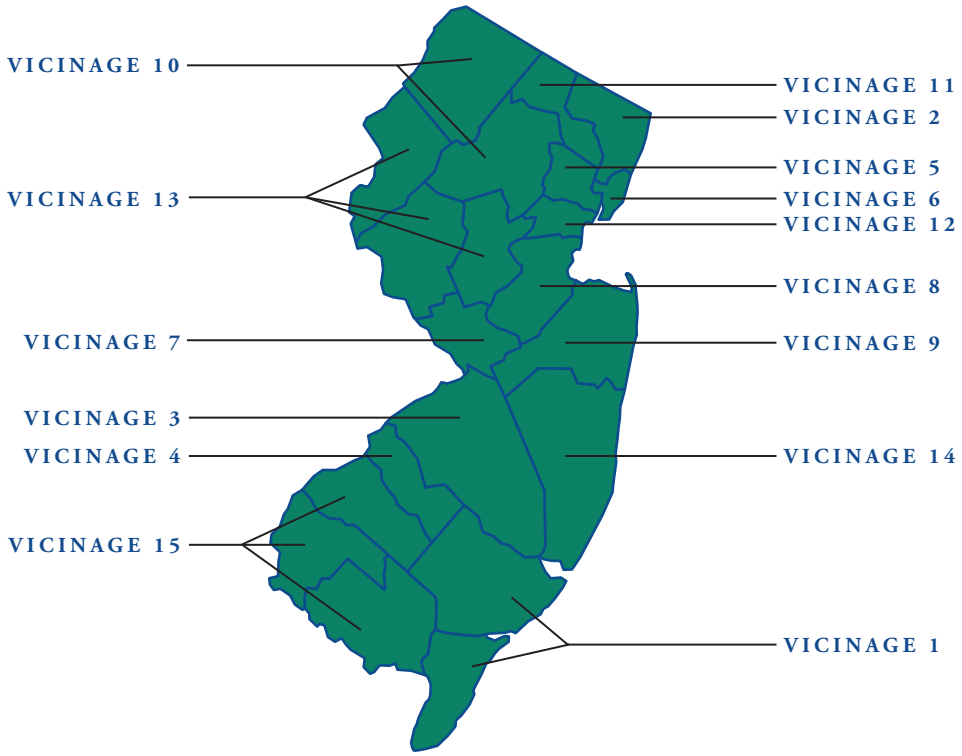
Joseph M. Andresini
Vito L. Bianco
Maty Siobhan Brennan
Mark Cimino
Kathi F. Fiamingo
Michael J. Gilmore
Joan Bedrin Murray
Joshua D. Novin
Christine M. Nugent
Jonathan A. Orsen
Mala Sundar

Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by Division

		Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
		July 2016 to June 2017	July 2017 to June 2018	percent change	July 2016 to June 2017	July 2017 to June 2018	percent change	June 2017	June 2018	percent change	June 2017	June 2018	percent change
Criminal Division	Indictable Cases	43,146	43,560	1%	47,831	44,968	-6%	7,353	6,993	-5%	7,668	6,692	-13%
	Municipal Appeals	553	532	-4%	603	547	-9%	129	116	-10%	87	88	1%
	Post-Conviction Relief	730	724	-1%	853	764	-10%	478	491	3%	160	121	-24%
General Equity	Total	6,034	5,332	-12%	6,452	5,842	-9%	2,375	1,994	-16%	422	362	-14%
	Contested Foreclosure	2,962	2,518	-15%	3,313	2,938	-11%	1,182	914	-23%	218	125	-43%
	Equity (excluding foreclosure)	3,072	2,814	-8%	3,139	2,904	-7%	1,193	1,080	-9%	204	237	16%
Civil Division	Civil - Total	75,821	75,864	0%	79,507	80,445	1%	65,922	62,559	-5%	26,342	25,345	-4%
	Multi-County Litigation	838	1,037	24%	5,411	2,737	-49%	2,591	1,609	-38%	15,475	14,749	-5%
	Non Multi-County Litigation	74,983	74,827	-0%	74,096	77,708	5%	63,331	60,950	-4%	10,867	10,596	-2%
	Special Civil - Total	399,223	416,246	4%	391,324	417,589	7%	40,333	39,308	-3%	211	183	-13%
	Special Civil - Auto	2,768	3,393	23%	2,475	3,506	42%	551	450	-18%	17	10	-41%
	Special Civil - Contract	198,642	219,822	11%	191,371	220,372	15%	26,590	26,291	-1%	131	117	-11%
	Special Civil - Other	8,410	8,145	-3%	8,182	8,274	1%	1,228	1,119	-9%	13	11	-15%
	Special Civil - Small Claims	30,235	27,834	-8%	30,232	28,130	-7%	1,976	1,693	-14%	25	17	-32%
	Special Civil - Tenancy	159,168	157,052	-1%	159,064	157,307	-1%	9,988	9,755	-2%	25	28	12%
	Probate - Total	6,233	6,208	-0%	6,135	6,144	0%	1,675	1,785	7%	113	84	-26%
Family Division	Dissolution	56,228	54,247	-4%	56,742	54,950	-3%	16,131	16,000	-1%	1,548	923	-40%
	Delinquency	25,396	23,818	-6%	25,814	24,000	-7%	2,077	1,853	-11%	118	127	8%
	Non-Dissolution	132,272	128,448	-3%	132,452	128,275	-3%	7,531	7,675	2%	233	145	-38%
	Domestic Violence	47,812	46,046	-4%	47,864	46,181	-4%	1,569	1,483	-5%	59	41	-31%
	Abuse / Neglect	4,357	4,372	0%	4,755	4,572	-4%	4,777	4,587	-4%	41	25	-39%
	Adoption	2,057	1,923	-7%	1,980	1,966	-1%	556	515	-7%			
	Child Placement Review	4,112	3,830	-7%	4,890	4,366	-11%	7,113	6,615	-7%	2	1	-50%
	Juvenile / Family Crisis	254	229	-10%	255	228	-11%	8	11	38%	3	0	-100%
	Kinship	638	523	-18%	675	533	-21%	80	66	-18%	0	2	--
	Termination of Parental Rights	1,019	988	-3%	1,099	1,049	-5%	394	392	-1%	159	99	-38%
	Criminal / Quasi-Criminal	7,610	7,014	-8%	7,596	7,054	-7%	678	643	-5%	39	26	-33%
Total		813,495	819,904	1%	816,827	829,473	2%	159,179	153,086	-4%	37,205	34,264	-8%
	Multi-County Litigation	838	1,037	24%	5,411	2,737	-49%	2,591	1,609	-38%	15,475	14,749	-5%
	Non Multi-County Litigation	812,657	818,867	1%	811,416	826,736	2%	156,588	151,477	-3%	21,730	19,515	-10%

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 2016 to June 2017	July 2017 to June 2018	percent change	July 2016 to June 2017	July 2017 to June 2018	percent change	June 2017	June 2018	percent change	June 2017	June 2018	percent change
Atlantic County	Total	32,703	32,617	-0%	36,402	33,101	-9%	6,900	6,610	-4%	1,859	1,670	-10%
	Multi-County Litigation	95	439	362%	3,804	42	-99%	224	505	125%	316	431	36%
	Non Multi-County Litigation	32,608	32,178	-1%	32,598	33,059	1%	6,676	6,105	-9%	1,543	1,239	-20%
Bergen County	Total	60,767	62,216	2%	60,346	64,339	7%	14,665	13,062	-11%	12,624	12,532	-1%
	Multi-County Litigation	603	396	-34%	458	1,755	283%	2,124	826	-61%	11,292	11,228	-1%
	Non-Multicounty Litigation	60,164	61,820	3%	59,888	62,584	5%	12,541	12,236	-2%	1,332	1,304	-2%
Burlington County		39,664	40,188	1%	40,025	40,290	1%	6,779	6,825	1%	417	228	-45%
Camden County		65,856	66,373	1%	65,734	66,949	2%	11,154	10,933	-2%	1,106	885	-20%
Cape May County		9,869	9,540	-3%	9,914	9,610	-3%	1,875	1,833	-2%	338	286	-15%
Cumberland County		22,381	21,821	-3%	22,237	22,129	-0%	3,295	3,187	-3%	585	399	-32%
Essex County		114,978	118,948	3%	112,272	120,227	7%	23,757	22,283	-6%	3,769	3,900	3%
Gloucester County		26,362	27,074	3%	26,582	27,382	3%	4,583	4,297	-6%	602	572	-5%
Hudson County		65,870	64,557	-2%	66,675	64,556	-3%	11,310	11,426	1%	1,129	952	-16%
Hunterdon County		6,210	5,866	-6%	6,327	5,895	-7%	1,061	1,036	-2%	73	58	-21%
Mercer County		37,779	37,856	0%	37,926	38,373	1%	6,781	6,524	-4%	996	840	-16%
Middlesex County	Total	63,235	64,842	3%	64,235	65,527	2%	14,476	14,637	1%	6,019	5,124	-15%
	Multi-County Litigation	140	202	44%	1,149	940	-18%	243	278	14%	3,867	3,090	-20%
	Non Multi-County Litigation	63,095	64,640	2%	63,086	64,587	2%	14,233	14,359	1%	2,152	2,034	-5%
Monmouth County		45,477	43,627	-4%	45,546	44,217	-3%	9,731	9,410	-3%	1,651	1,516	-8%
Morris County		26,238	25,693	-2%	26,209	26,496	1%	5,686	5,038	-11%	869	731	-16%
Ocean County		43,392	43,142	-1%	43,611	43,791	0%	8,633	8,042	-7%	1,363	1,281	-6%
Passaic County		51,766	53,444	3%	51,791	53,915	4%	9,977	9,680	-3%	1,344	1,089	-19%
Salem County		8,511	8,356	-2%	8,435	8,285	-2%	1,099	1,122	2%	77	121	57%
Somerset County		19,352	19,199	-1%	19,690	19,281	-2%	3,518	3,486	-1%	448	373	-17%
Sussex County		10,107	10,236	1%	10,221	10,384	2%	1,780	1,749	-2%	277	223	-19%
Union County		53,758	55,288	3%	53,339	55,587	4%	10,783	10,610	-2%	1,527	1,403	-8%
Warren County		9,220	9,021	-2%	9,310	9,139	-2%	1,336	1,296	-3%	132	81	-39%
Total		813,495	819,904	1%	816,827	829,473	2%	159,179	153,086	-4%	37,205	34,264	-8%
	Multi-County Litigation	838	1,037	24%	5,411	2,737	-49%	2,591	1,609	-38%	15,475	14,749	-5%
	Non Multi-County Litigation	812,657	818,867	1%	811,416	826,736	2%	156,588	151,477	-3%	21,730	19,515	-10%



Vicinage Map

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

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

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

Atlantic/Cape May
Vicinage 1
Julio L. Mendez
Assignment Judge
Howard H. Berchtold Jr.
Trial Court Administrator

Bergen
Vicinage 2
Bonnie J. Mizdol
Assignment Judge
Laura A. Simoldoni
Trial Court Administrator

Burlington
Vicinage 3
Ronald E. Bookbinder
Assignment Judge
Jude Del Preore
Trial Court Administrator

Camden
Vicinage 4
Deborah Silverman Katz
Assignment Judge
Carole A. Cummings
Trial Court Administrator

Essex
Vicinage 5
Sallyanne Floria
Assignment Judge
Amy K. DePaul
Trial Court Administrator

Hudson
Vicinage 6
Peter F. Bariso Jr.
Assignment Judge
Marie L. Faber
Trial Court Administrator

Mercer
Vicinage 7
Mary C. Jacobson
Assignment Judge
Sue Regan
Trial Court Administrator

Middlesex
Vicinage 8
Alberto Rivas
Assignment Judge
Dawn Brevard-Waters
Trial Court Administrator

Monmouth
Vicinage 9
Lisa P. Thornton
Assignment Judge
Gurpreet M. Singh
Trial Court Administrator

Morris/Sussex
Vicinage 10
Stuart A. Minkowitz
Assignment Judge
Susan Chait
Trial Court Administrator

Passaic
Vicinage 11
Ernest M. Caposela
Assignment Judge
Robert D. Tracy
Trial Court Administrator

Union
Vicinage 12
Karen M. Cassidy
Assignment Judge
James S. Agro
Trial Court Administrator

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren
Vicinage 13
Yolanda Ciccone
Assignment Judge
Adriana M. Calderon
Trial Court Administrator

Ocean
Vicinage 14
Marlene Lynch Ford
Assignment Judge
Kenneth Kerwin
Trial Court Administrator

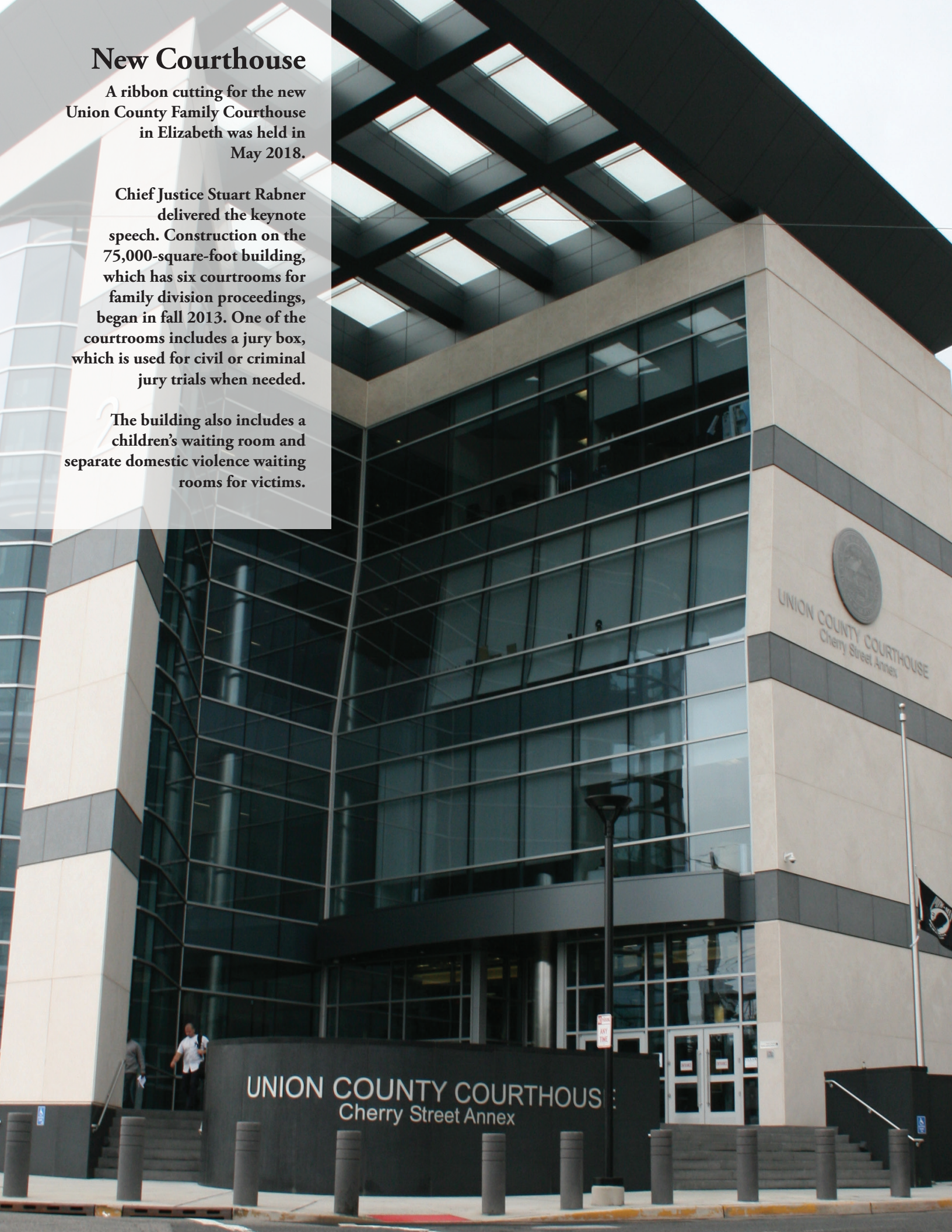
Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem
Vicinage 15
Benjamin C. Telsey
Assignment Judge
Jason Corter
Trial Court Administrator

New Courthouse

A ribbon cutting for the new Union County Family Courthouse in Elizabeth was held in May 2018.

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner delivered the keynote speech. Construction on the 75,000-square-foot building, which has six courtrooms for family division proceedings, began in fall 2013. One of the courtrooms includes a jury box, which is used for civil or criminal jury trials when needed.

The building also includes a children's waiting room and separate domestic violence waiting rooms for victims.



STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

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

DECEMBER 2018