

# JUDICIARY

*of the*  
**STATE of**  
**NEW JERSEY**

2002 - 2003



# ANNUAL REPORT

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THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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## A Message from New Jersey Chief Justice **Deborah T. Poritz**

# PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

More than five decades ago, Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt had a vision of a unified statewide Judiciary that would be a model throughout the country. The adoption of the 1947 Constitution was the beginning of a long effort toward judicial reform and the realization of that vision. In 1995, following a constitutional amendment, the Legislature eliminated the final obstacle to judicial unification by approving state funding for the courts. Since that time the Judiciary has been aggressively engaged in completing the work begun by reformers more than 50 years ago. We now can say with pride that their dream has become a reality.

Our unified court system has enabled us to establish and meet high standards for the quality of service in every court in the state. Our efforts to earn the public's trust and confidence have brought about substantial reductions in case backlog, innovative strategies for case resolution, statewide implementation of time- and cost-saving technologies, programs to ensure equal access and equal justice, and the development of a culture of accountability for performance.

I am proud of those achievements. They are the result of the dedication of our judges and staff, and they exemplify the Judiciary's continuing commitment to citizens of New Jersey.



## A Message from Administrative Director **Richard J. Williams, J.A.D.**

During the past year our Supreme Court, the appellate and trial divisions of our Superior Court, and our Tax Court resolved more than one million disputes. An additional six million matters were resolved in our municipal courts. The fair and orderly resolution of disputes by an independent Judiciary is a critically important pillar under-girding a free and democratic society. It is important not only for those citizens who come to our courts for justice, but for all citizens who enjoy the benefits of living in a society that is peaceful and just. When we serve those before us in our courthouses, we serve our communities and our state as well.

We, in the Judiciary, appreciate the importance of our responsibilities. It is why we work day in and day out to earn the trust and confidence of those we serve. Ensuring that service means that we must set high standards for ourselves, and we have done that. It also means that we must meet those standards. We have done that as well.

This report will highlight the work of the Judiciary over the past year. It will offer examples of high standards established and challenges met—from pioneering efforts to ensure equal access and equal justice in our courts to unprecedented public accountability for the timeliness with which we do our work, from an insistence on statewide consistency in programs, practices and procedures to worldwide recognition for our Judiciary Web site.

The accomplishments outlined in the pages of this report are the result of the commitment of countless judges, administrators, professional and clerical staff and volunteers. I invite you to read about our continuing efforts to earn the trust and confidence of the citizens of New Jersey.

# ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS AND EQUAL JUSTICE



## CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS OF MINORITY CONCERNS LEADERSHIP

The diversity of the Judiciary's workforce reflects the population served by New Jersey's courts and demonstrates the Judiciary's commitment to equal treatment for all of New Jersey's citizens. Court year 2003 marked the 20th anniversary of the Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns, which leads the Judiciary's efforts to develop programs to ensure equal justice within the court system. On March 18, 2003, the Judiciary commemorated these efforts with a day-long schedule of presentations and workshops focused on the Judiciary's concern for fairness, equity and justice in the courts.

Among the achievements recognized were:

1. An ombudsman pilot program designed to help litigants navigate the court system at the vicinage level. The ombudsman program offers a resource for answering questions, finding forms, and following the appropriate steps for handling different types of court matters.
2. An institutionalized system to collect and analyze employment data on the makeup of the Judiciary workforce in order to track minority recruitment. This system also tracks the availability of qualified workers within reasonable recruiting distance for various types of jobs to give a better picture of how well the Judiciary is recruiting from the existing pool of qualified workers.
3. An increase in minorities working for the Judiciary from 23.5 percent in 1992 to 35.1 percent in 2003.
4. A highly successful program for recruiting minority law clerks that, in 2003, yielded 115 minority law clerks out of a total 479, a ratio exceeding the percentage of minorities graduating from New Jersey's law schools.
5. Expanded educational programs to help Judiciary employees work together in a diverse atmosphere.
6. Ongoing efforts at self-examination of policies, practices and procedures to ensure equal access and equal justice.

## MEETING NEW CHALLENGES: THE JUVENILE JUSTICE OUTCOMES DISPARITY PROJECT

Both nationally and in New Jersey, minority youths are over-represented in the population of juvenile detention facilities. Recognition of that over-representation has led the Judiciary, in partnership with the Juvenile Justice Commission and the attorney general, to undertake an initiative to determine whether there is disparate treatment of racial or ethnic minorities at each decision point in the resolution of juvenile delinquency cases.

The first stage of the inquiry is a critical self-examination being conducted by the local Youth Services Commissions, in conjunction with the vicinage Minority Concerns Committees. Committee members will examine key case processing points in juvenile delinquency cases, from docketing through screening to disposition, and consider outcomes by race and ethnicity at each decision point. After the local committees complete

their analysis to ascertain possible causes for any disparate outcomes they may discover, they will develop local action plans to eliminate any unjustified disparity. Each local committee will also be responsible for making suggestions for modifications of current statutes, policies and procedures governing juvenile delinquency matters in the state.

## PROVIDING HELP FOR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

The concern for equal justice also underlies the Judiciary's initiative to make the courts more accessible to people representing themselves. The New Jersey Judiciary has created a variety of packets with forms and instructions designed to help self-represented litigants. These packets are available on the Judiciary's Web site and can be completed and printed out at home.

During the court year all existing packets were revised to be more readable with more easily located instructions to simplify the process of self-representation. Additional packets soon will be available to help litigants filing a variety of actions, including the expungement of criminal records, landlord/tenant matters, civil complaints and civil answers. In addition, a program to provide packets in Spanish is now underway.

### **Kits are available for the following court matters:**

#### **CIVIL MATTERS**

- Name changes for adults and minors
- Suing for an amount less than \$15,000
- Suing for an amount less than \$3,000
- Requesting summary judgment (a judgment without a trial)
- Asking the court to order a bank to turn over frozen funds
- Answering a complaint in the Special Civil Part
- Filing a motion in the Special Civil Part

#### **FAMILY MATTERS**

- Asking the court to enforce an order (post-judgment motion)
- Filing case information statements (must be included in requests to change child support or alimony payments)
- Asking for guardianship of a developmentally disabled adult

#### **APPEALS**

- Appealing a decision of a municipal court in Superior Court
- Filing an appeal of a trial court decision in the Appellate Division
- Filing an appeal in the Supreme Court

# IMPROVING SERVICE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

## WEB SITE AWARDS

The New Jersey Judiciary Web site was ranked first among all state judiciary Web sites and fourth internationally in a study of more than 900 court-related Web sites conducted by the firm Justice Served. Web sites were evaluated using several criteria, including design, ease of navigation, and the ability of the public to conduct court business online, including filling out forms and making payments. The survey stated, "New Jersey has it all, including e-filing, statewide traffic index and online payment, statewide civil calendar index, online opinions and a mass tort information center."

The award is particularly gratifying because of the public's increasing reliance on the Internet for fast, convenient access to the courts. The New Jersey Judiciary Web site is a comprehensive customer service center which houses thousands of files of interest to litigants, lawyers, and citizens, as well as judges and staff. Updated daily, the Web site is fully searchable and can be used to find Supreme Court and Appellate Division published opinions, to obtain driving directions to courthouses, to access the New Jersey Rules of Court, and to seek job opportunities with the Judiciary.



## EXPANDED E-FILING

The Judiciary's Electronic Filing System (JEFIS) experienced a 25 percent increase in the number of filings received during the year. The system now allows attorneys anywhere in the state to file over the Internet all pleadings and other documents in special civil part actions that involve \$15,000 or less. The relaxation of certain court rules allows documents with facsimile signatures to be submitted electronically through a secure connection to the clerk of the Superior Court in Trenton. The Judiciary's computer system then processes and distributes the documents electronically to the office of the Special Civil Part clerk in the county of venue for printing, processing, service (if the documents are a summons and complaint), and storage in paper form. Electronic filing eliminates the need for court staff to enter case information into the Judiciary's Automated Case Management System, resulting in greater efficiency and fewer clerical errors at critical points in the case processing system. It saves attorneys time, effort and cost in delivering documents to the courts. These savings can in turn be passed on to litigants, making it easier and more affordable for them to bring their disputes before the courts.

This year the JEFIS system expanded a pilot program that allows documents to be processed and stored in electronic form. Currently this "paperless" service is available in Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

## NJMCDIRECT STATEWIDE

This year the Judiciary completed statewide implementation on one of the most frequently used services on its Web site, NJMCDirect. The service enables parking and traffic violators to pay their fines online. Begun in 2002, the site now is the first statewide online ticket payment service in the nation. Anyone receiving a traffic or parking summons in any of New Jersey's 567 municipalities will find the e-payment Web address listed on the ticket. Once accessed, the site can provide information on the penalty amount, the court date, the points assessed for the violation, and whether the fine is payable online. By using a credit card, offenders can satisfy payable fines electronically, automatically updating the Judiciary's automated traffic system (ATS), as well as the state's Motor Vehicles Commission records system. A small convenience fee, which is assessed at the time of the online payment, is used to fund the service without cost to the municipalities.

The convenience of the Web site has made it an enormous success: During the court year 196,763 transactions were conducted online, totaling more than \$9 million, all handled without any trips to court or to the mailbox. In addition, NJMCDirect helps municipal courts become more efficient, since tickets paid online do not require court staff to open mail, enter data, or record transactions.

## ELECTRONIC TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS

The Domestic Violence Central Registry, recognized by the National Center for Digital Government as a "best of breed" technology application, received an additional enhancement during 2003. A pilot program now allows temporary restraining orders (TROs) to be entered electronically into the Judiciary's Family Automated Case Tracking System (FACTS). It is through this system that the Judiciary maintains the Registry, which is used by law enforcement personnel statewide to access information on restraining orders, criminal histories and firearm permit applications for defendants in domestic violence cases. Normally court staff must enter TROs manually into the statewide system for law enforcement to have access to the information. The pilot program could have a significant impact on the safety of domestic violence victims, law enforcement personnel, and others by allowing police anywhere in the state instantaneous access to new TROs during non-business hours.

# MAKING TIMELY JUSTICE A REALITY

The fair and effective resolution of disputes for the citizens of New Jersey is the primary mission of the Judiciary. A resolution that is delayed or prolonged may compromise the quality of justice received and undermine the process. The goal of the New Jersey Judiciary is to resolve cases as quickly and efficiently as possible in order to safeguard the fairness of the outcome. To help meet the objective of timely resolution of disputes, the Judiciary has imposed upon itself demanding time goals for the disposition of every type of case. Court managers measure every case against those time goals, making every effort to ensure that as many cases as possible are resolved timely.

Over the past four years, the Judiciary has reduced the total number of cases not resolved within the established timeframe—the “backlog”—by 50 percent. In court year 2003, the number of backlogged cases was reduced 7 percent from the previous year.

## WHAT IS BACKLOG?

Cases that are not resolved within self-imposed time goals are considered to be in backlog. The table below lists the time goals for resolution of each case type:

### FAMILY DIVISION

Dissolution	
New	12 months
Re-opened	6 months
Non-dissolution	3 months
Domestic Violence	1 month
Child Abuse/Neglect	
Out-of-home	4 months
In-home	6 months
Juvenile Delinquency	3 months
Child Placement Review	12 months to permanency hearings
Juvenile/Family Crisis	1 month
Term. Parental Rights	6 months

### CRIMINAL DIVISION

Criminal Post-indictment	4 months
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### CIVIL DIVISION

Civil Track 1	12 months
Civil Track 2	18 months
Civil Track 3	24 months
Civil Track 4	24 months
Special Civil	
Small claims/tenancy	2 months
All other small claims	4 months

### GENERAL EQUITY DIVISION

Equity	12 months
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## BACKLOG REDUCTION

The number of cases in backlog for each case type on June 30

Case Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	percent change from 1999-2003
<b>FAMILY DIVISION</b>						
Dissolution	3,773	3,382	2,946	1,995	1,498	-60%
Non-dissolution	2,595	1,656	808	454	251	-90%
Domestic Violence	974	640	213	108	77	-92%
Child Abuse/Neglect	364	358	374	232	139	-62%
Juvenile Delinquency	2,507	2,109	1,006	661	502	-80%
Child Placement Review				394	403	*
Juvenile/Family Crisis	111	71	26	14	7	-94%
Term. Parental Rights	310	348	346	260	215	-31%
<b>CRIMINAL DIVISION</b>						
Criminal	5,920	6,018	6,061	5,557	5,275	-11%
<b>CIVIL DIVISION</b>						
Civil	35,181	32,603	25,562	18,786	17,497	-50%
Special Civil	3,997	2,433	1,754	1,657	1,694	-58%
<b>GENERAL EQUITY DIVISION</b>						
General Equity	795	656	523	427	459	-42%

\* Backlog goals first adopted in 2002. Five-year data not available.

The reduction of backlogged cases is particularly dramatic in the Family Division, where backlog was reduced by 92 percent for domestic violence cases, 90 percent for non-dissolution (child support/visitation/custody) cases, and 80 percent for juvenile delinquency cases since 1999. During the past year alone, the number of cases in backlog in the division was reduced by 45 percent for non-dissolution cases, 40 percent for child abuse/child neglect cases, 25 percent for divorce cases, and 29 percent for domestic violence cases.

The Civil Division also has done well. That division achieved a 50 percent reduction in the number of civil cases in backlog and a 58 percent reduction in the number of special civil cases in backlog over the past four years. During court year 2003 the number of civil cases

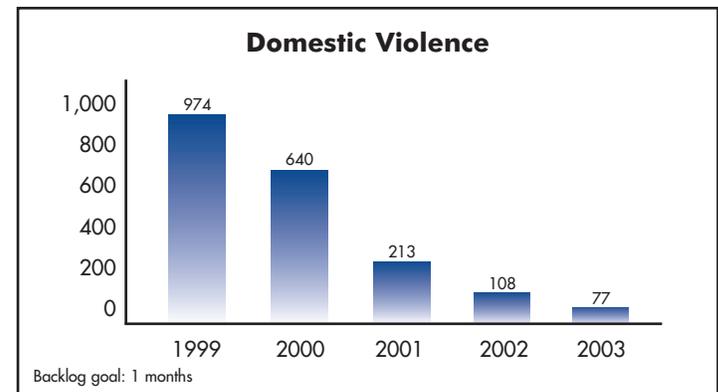
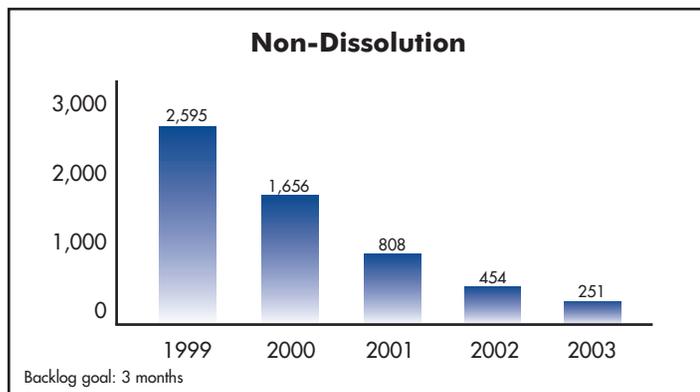
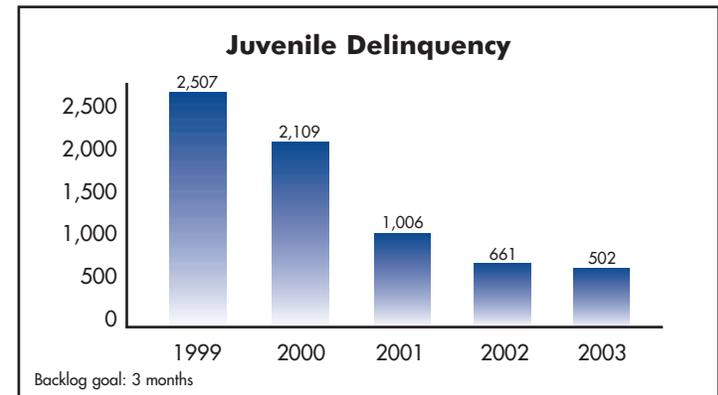
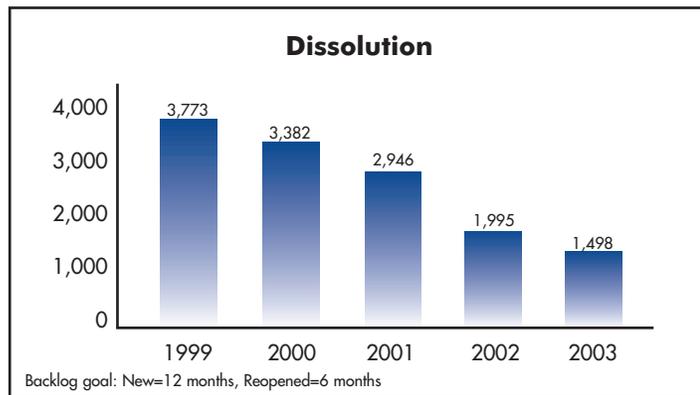
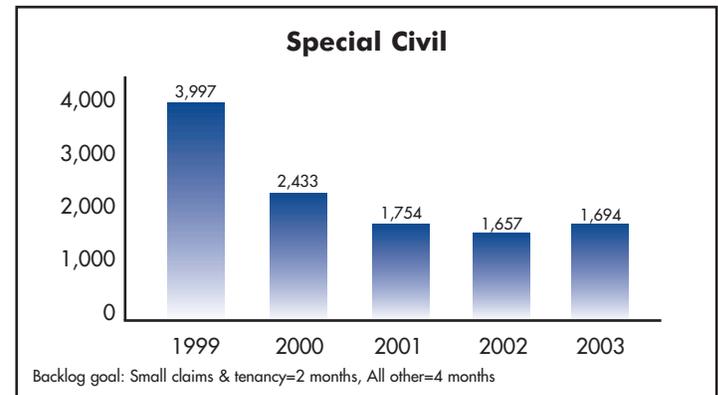
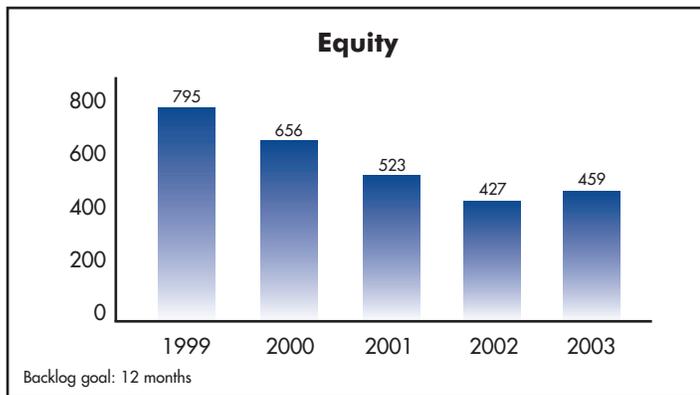
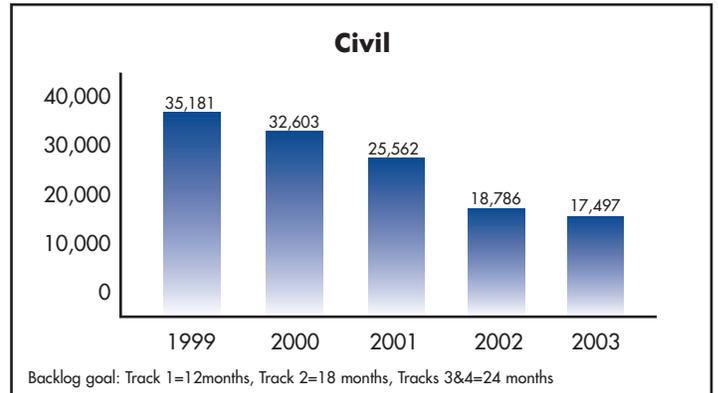
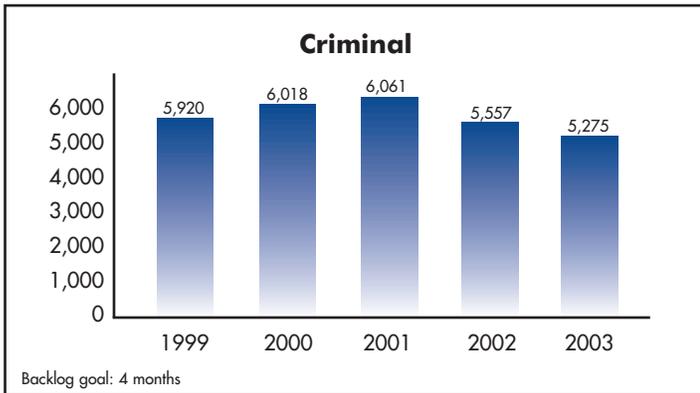
in backlog was reduced another seven percent. The backlog of cases in the General Equity Division was reduced by 42 percent over the past four years.

The Criminal Division has reduced its backlog of post-indictment cases by 11 percent since 1999. This figure includes a 5 percent reduction during court year 2003.

New Jersey now has the lowest number of cases in backlog since 1980, the first year for which comparable data are available. At year's end, 87 percent of all pending New Jersey court cases were within established time goals for resolution. This figure includes 94 percent of all cases in the Family Division, 82 percent of civil cases, 96 percent of special civil cases, and 63 percent of criminal cases.

# BACKLOG REDUCTION

## JUNE 1999 - JUNE 2003



# SUPREME COURT

The seven members of the Supreme Court are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate to an initial seven-year term, after which they may be reappointed with tenure until they reach the mandatory retirement age of 70. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz, first appointed in 1996, received tenure in June 2003. Justice James H. Coleman, appointed in 1994, retired in May 2003. Justices Virginia A. Long and Peter G. Verniero were appointed in 1999, Justices Jaynee LaVecchia and James R. Zazzali in 2000, and Justice John E. Wallace in May 2003.



## REAPPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE DEBORAH T. PORITZ

Chief Justice Poritz was reappointed to the Supreme Court on June 17, 2003. First appointed by Governor Christine Todd Whitman, Chief Justice Poritz is the first woman to serve as New Jersey's Chief Justice. Prior to assuming this position, she served as New Jersey's first female Attorney General. The reappointment enables Chief Justice Poritz to serve on the Supreme Court until October 26, 2006, when she will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70.

*Seated (left to right):* Justice Virginia A. Long, Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz, Justice Peter G. Verniero. *Standing (left to right),* Justice Barry T. Albin, Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, Justice James R. Zazzali, Justice John E. Wallace Jr.

## RETIREMENT OF JUSTICE JAMES H. COLEMAN JR.

Justice James H. Coleman Jr. retired on May 4, 2003 after nearly 10 years of service on the Supreme Court. The first African-American man to serve on the New Jersey Supreme Court, Justice Coleman was appointed to the Court by Governor Christine Todd Whitman in 1994 and was reappointed by Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco in 2001. Justice Coleman wrote 115 Supreme Court decisions, as well as 14 concurrences and 12 dissents. His work has had an impact on New Jersey law in a wide range of areas, including criminal, employment, civil rights, and land use. Prior to becoming a Supreme Court Justice, he served as a judge of the Appellate Division of Superior Court, where he wrote 175 published Appellate Division rulings.

## APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE JOHN E. WALLACE JR.

Justice John E. Wallace Jr. was appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor James M. McGreevey on April 12, 2003. He was sworn in as an Associate Justice on May 20, 2003. A graduate of Harvard University Law School, Justice Wallace was first appointed to the New Jersey Superior Court in 1984 and was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1992. Justice Wallace is the 32nd Associate Justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court since the current system was created by the State Constitution of 1947.

## ANNUAL REVIEW

The Supreme Court interprets the State and Federal Constitutions, statutes enacted by the New Jersey Legislature, regulations adopted by administrative agencies, and the body of common law when it reviews cases from the lower courts. The Supreme Court has exclusive authority over the regulation of the practice of law in New Jersey, including the admission of lawyers to the bar. The Court also is responsible for the state's judicial and attorney ethics systems, including the Disciplinary Oversight Committee, the Disciplinary Review Board, the Office of Attorney Ethics, and the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct.

Cases in which there is a dissent in the Appellate Division and cases that raise substantial constitutional issues are appealed automatically to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also reviews all death penalty cases and conducts a proportionality review to determine whether the sentence of death is equitable when compared to similar cases.

By far, the largest number of cases that reach the Supreme Court are filed as petitions for certification. The Court must decide in each case whether the matter should be heard. Certification is granted only if there are conflicting opinions in the Appellate Division, or if the parties have raised questions of important public interest. In court year 2003, the Court granted 100 of the 1,480 petitions it received.

In addition to petitions for certification, the court received 142 direct appeals, 1,628 motions and 269 disciplinary actions. The Court disposed of 154 appeals, 1,434 petitions for certification, 1,613 motions and 262 disciplinary actions. It issued 98 written opinions, plus 59 concurrences and dissents.

The Supreme Court issued two major administrative determinations in response to reports filed by its Commission on the Rules of Professional Conduct, often called the "Pollock Commission" after its chair, Retired Associate Justice Stewart G. Pollock, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Bar Admissions, chaired by former Appellate Division Judge and current Supreme Court Associate Justice John E. Wallace Jr. The Court's determinations address a variety of issues in respect of the New Jersey Rules of Court, including the circumstances under which attorneys from out of state may practice in New Jersey, communications and confidentiality, and conflicts of interest.

The Court also created the Ad Hoc Committee on the Skills and Methods Course, chaired by Superior Court Judge Jack M. Sabatino, during the court year. The committee has been charged with evaluating the structure and content of the course, which must be taken by all new attorneys. The committee will make recommendations on how to strengthen the course, how to help new lawyers gain skills in the area of office management, and how technology may be used to advance the goals of the program.

# THE APPELLATE DIVISION OF SUPERIOR COURT

The Appellate Division of Superior Court has 35 judges grouped into eight parts. Appeals are heard by two- or three-judge panels from within the parts. Each part is administered by a presiding judge who presides over the sessions, makes opinion assignments and oversees the part's workflow. In addition, the presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division oversees the entire division and directs its administrative functions. The presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division is Judge Sylvia B. Pressler.

The Appellate Division receives appeals from the trial courts, the Tax Court, and the state's administrative agencies and also may be asked to consider interlocutory motions from cases pending in these venues. A Web-based filing system allows appellants to file appeals electronically 24 hours a day using standard Internet software.

The Appellate Division administers a number of alternative programs that have been established to dispose of certain types of cases in a timely and efficient manner. For example, the Civil Appeals Settlement Program (CASP) helps litigants reach settlement more quickly than the traditional appeals process. The program also reduces the time to disposition in certain complex cases by using pre-argument conferencing to help litigants clarify the issues under appeal. The average time to resolution in these cases is nearly a year less than regular appeals. More than 500 cases were resolved through CASP this court year.

Also expedited are cases involving contested custody, termination of parental rights, and child abuse and neglect. A single Appellate Division judge oversees the progression of those cases through the courts to ensure that they are dealt with promptly, thereby reducing as much as possible the negative effects of delayed decision-making on the parties involved. The statewide protocol for handling those cases expeditiously has resulted in an average time to disposition of less than six months.

The Sentencing Appeals Program, which handles cases with sentencing-related issues, also was implemented with the goal of reducing the time to disposition. All cases are argued without briefing. More than 700 sentencing appeals were resolved through this program in court year 2003.

The Appellate Division added 7,163 cases and disposed of 7,163, for a clearance rate of 100 percent. This figure represents an increase in the number of appeals added and a slight decrease in the number of dispositions since the previous year. The Appellate Division had 5,664 cases pending as of June 30, 2003.

## The Appellate Division

	2002	2003
Cases added:	6,922	7,163
Cases resolved:	7,374	7,163
Pending year-end:	5,664	5,664

# THE TRIAL COURTS

## FAMILY DIVISION

The Family Division receives the widest variety of cases in the Superior Courts, including divorce, domestic violence, adoption, child support, juvenile delinquency, termination of parental rights, foster placements, child abuse and neglect.

Efforts to standardize operations in the Family Division continued during court year 2003. Visitation teams completed their observations in each county by consulting with staff and judges, observing in- and out-of-court proceedings, and interviewing members of the bar, social workers, and other participants in Family Division cases. The goal was to determine the success of best practice implementation and to share ideas and resources among the vicinages for ways to improve operations statewide. Two new manuals, one for divorce and one for child support, custody and visitation cases, were created. The manuals are designed to improve consistency by serving as reference tools for Family Division staff seeking guidance on a variety of case management topics.

The unique, intensive two-week training program for new Family Division judges was continued for a second year. This course helps prepare judges for the many complex and emotionally charged issues that arise in Family Court, and offers guidance on best practices standards across all Family Division case types. The program provides new judges with the opportunity to observe experienced judges at work on the bench and gives them the chance to learn more about topics specific to cases resolved by the Family Division.

The division incorporated new legislation, titled the Balanced and Restorative Justice Act, into its juvenile case management operations. The legislation is intended to ensure that victim and community impact are factors that

### Family Division Cases

	2002	2003
Cases added:	388,569	388,114
Cases resolved:	391,301	387,390
Pending year-end:	54,369	55,084
Backlog:	4,166	3,161

influence sentencing in juvenile delinquency cases. The resulting outcomes in juvenile delinquency cases will now be more likely to include community service, victim restitution, and other restorative sentences that foster a sense of community and responsibility in youth offenders.

Federal grants funded two new juvenile drug courts in New Jersey. These pilot programs, in Mercer and Passaic Counties, received nearly one million dollars to implement juvenile drug courts. In addition, the Camden County juvenile drug court received nearly \$300,000 to continue its program. Hudson County also has a juvenile drug court program. Together, these programs are working to save children whose lives are jeopardized by drug addiction.

## PROTECTING NEW JERSEY'S CHILDREN

Children who are involved in court cases may be upset or even traumatized by the events that have occurred during their short lives. Protecting them, and protecting their rights, requires the courts to manage their cases as quickly and efficiently as possible. To this end, the Judiciary has launched several initiatives to help minimize the adverse effects that litigation may have on children in cases involving custody, out-of-home placement, abuse, neglect, and domestic violence.

### BEST PRACTICES STANDARDS

The division continued its efforts to monitor placements for thousands of the state's at-risk children. In coordination with other divisions within the Judiciary as well as with other government agencies, the Family Division devised best practices standards to ensure data integrity, consistent case management, and quality service in all cases of child abuse and child neglect. In particular, data in the Family Division's case tracking system have been synchronized with child welfare and Probation Division data to better ensure that all children in out-of-home placements are appropriately recorded in all systems.

A new series of training videos is providing court personnel with a better understanding of domestic violence and improving their ability to help resolve those cases, many of which also involve children. The video series progresses through the aspects of a domestic violence case, from the dramatic enactment of a representative incident of domestic violence through the resolution of the case.

## REDUCING BACKLOGS

Thanks largely to the implementation of best practices standards, the division has been able to reduce or in some counties even eliminate the number of cases that are not resolved within established time goals. During court year 2003 the backlog of child abuse/child neglect cases was reduced by 40 percent statewide, while the number of juvenile/family crisis cases considered to be in backlog declined by 50 percent. As of June 30, 2003, only seven juvenile/family crisis cases in the entire state were pending beyond their three-month time goal for resolution. Almost all counties reduced their backlog of child placement review cases, with eight of New Jersey's 21 counties having no backlog at year's end. Likewise, the number of backlogged juvenile delinquency cases declined in most counties, with six counties showing no backlog by year's end. These major reductions in backlogged cases mean less time waiting for permanent placements, less time in potentially dangerous situations, and less time seeking stable outcomes for thousands of New Jersey's children.

## PROMOTING KINSHIP CARE

Nearly one thousand children in New Jersey have benefited from a 2001 law designed to assist the guardians of children not residing with their parents due to the parents' incapacity or inability to raise them. Kinship legal guardians are caregivers who have a biological, legal, extended or committed emotional or psychological relationship with a child and who are willing to raise that child. Kinship legal guardianship gives caregivers superior rights to the rights that can be obtained from temporary custody and also qualifies them for financial assistance from the state under certain conditions. It offers children living with kinship legal guardians a stable arrangement, usually with a family member, while leaving open the possibility of reuniting with their parents should their parents later become able to care for them. The legislation appropriated funds for additional judgeships and staff positions to accommodate the growing demand for kinship legal guardianship by families in crisis. During court year 2003, the first full year of kinship legal guardianship, 716 cases were filed for kinship legal guardianship, and 575 were resolved.

# THE TRIAL COURTS

## CRIMINAL DIVISION

The Conference of Criminal Division Presiding Judges and the Conference of Criminal Division Managers continue to identify ways to improve timely disposition of the criminal caseload. Increased reliance on automated reporting systems to gather and report information internally and for use by other agencies has eliminated redundancies and improved workflow, resulting in more efficient case management. Increased use of standardized forms and orders also has reduced inefficiencies and ensured fairness statewide.

### DRUG COURTS

Drug courts are special courts that address the addictions that often lead to criminal behavior. They combine intensive probation supervision, regular appearances before a drug court judge, frequent and random drug testing, close collaboration between treatment providers and court staff, and a system of sanctions and incentives to support offenders' positive steps towards recovery. Participants are required to complete an individualized treatment program, secure employment, pay court-imposed fines and support their families. New Jersey's drug court program addresses the issue of inequality in the justice system by helping reduce minority overrepresentation in prison. In fact, 72 percent of current drug court participants are members of racial or ethnic minorities who are now receiving treatment rather than being incarcerated.

Statistics show that drug courts work. The re-conviction rate for indictable offenses is 6 percent for drug court graduates, which is far lower than the 47 percent re-conviction rate for offenders leaving prison. First introduced in New Jersey in 1996, drug courts in 2003 were operational in 10 of New Jersey's 15 vicinages. Although funding to open drug courts in the remaining vicinages was not appropriated for this court term, those vicinages continue to prepare for statewide expansion, including the use of federal grants to train staff.

### Criminal Cases

	2002	2003
Cases added:	53,295	53,222
Cases resolved:	54,271	56,943
Pending year-end:	15,570	14,323
Backlog:	5,557	5,275

## DRUG COURT FAST FACTS

**Vicinages with drug courts in 2003: Bergen, Camden, Essex, Mercer, Monmouth, Morris/Sussex, Passaic, Union, Ocean and Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinages.**

**Current participants: 1,625**

**Graduates: 124**

**Minority participants:  
75 percent**

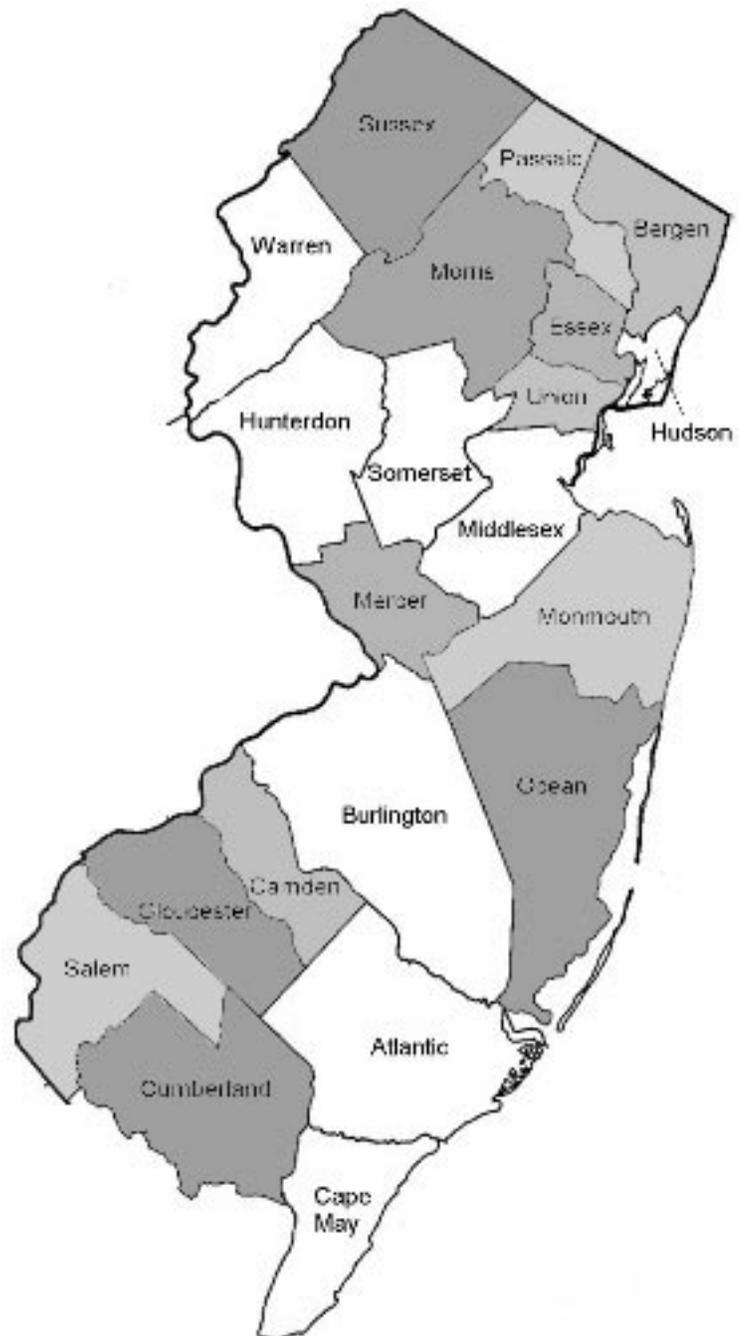
**Cumulative retention rate since  
1996: 65 percent**

**Participants employed full-time:  
75 percent**

**Participants who are parents of  
minors: 50 percent**

**Cost per participant:  
\$19,800 for first-year  
participants, including 6 months  
residential treatment  
\$10,300 for first-year  
participants not needing  
residential treatment  
(Cost to house a prisoner in  
a standard prison program:  
\$34,000 per year)**

**Number of babies born  
drug-free from previously  
addicted female drug court  
participants: 35**



# THE TRIAL COURTS

## CIVIL DIVISION

The civil best practices standards approved by the Supreme Court in 1999 established a uniform system of efficient case management statewide. Building on this best practices initiative, the Civil Division established a monitoring and assistance program. The program works through a monitoring team that visits each county to ensure that the Judiciary meets its goal of implementing best practices in every vicinage. Seven counties were visited during the court year by the team, which consists of judges, court managers, and AOC staff. The team met with judges, court personnel and local bar members in each vicinage to observe operations, interview stakeholders, and develop a fuller understanding of how best practices standards have been translated into the day-to-day business of the courts. Their findings were shared with court leadership, along with their suggestions on improvements gleaned from prior visits to other vicinages. This collaborative process ensures statewide standardization that remains focused on efficient service.

The presumptive mediation pilot program begun during court year 2001 has been expanded to 17 counties. Under the program, certain case types are referred automatically to mediation soon after being filed. An initial three hours of mediation are conducted by a court-assigned mediator at no cost to the litigants. If the case is not resolved at that time, the litigants may elect to continue the mediation or take the case to trial. Results of an ongoing study to measure the success of the program show that more than one third of the cases are resolved through the mediation program, and even when the case is not fully resolved, most parties referred to mediation report that the program resolved some issues, helped them reach a settlement, or clarified their positions. A large majority of those who participated said that they would consider mediation to resolve future matters.

### Civil Cases

	2002	2003
Cases added:	111,444	98,675
Cases resolved:	114,435	108,533
Pending year-end:	107,307	97,876
Backlog:	18,786	17,497

In May 2003, the Civil Division conducted a statewide conference to promote greater statewide uniformity in the operation of the Judiciary's arbitration programs and provide a forum for identifying ways to further enhance those programs. Judges, administrators, members of various bar associations and representatives from major insurance carriers who participate in the arbitration process attended. The conference assisted the Supreme Court Arbitration Advisory Committee in developing a series of recommendations to address issues raised by conference participants. The recommendations will be considered for implementation in the coming months.

## SPECIAL CIVIL PART

The Special Civil Part of the Civil Division hears landlord/tenant matters, small claims, and monetary actions that do not exceed \$15,000. Several changes in the special civil court rules have come into effect as a result of best practices standardization in the Civil Division. The new \$3,000 limit for small claims and \$15,000 limit for special civil cases went into effect in September 2002. Those higher limits allow more litigants to file small claims and special civil cases, and have resulted in a sizeable increase in filings.

Other best practices standards implemented during the court year include service by mail for all small claims actions statewide. That uniform process saves money for litigants and has been shown in pilot studies to reduce the rate of defaults in these cases. Special civil litigants also have benefited from an increase in the time to answer from 20 to 35 days, allowing them more time to prepare their cases and hire attorneys if they choose to do so. A uniform statewide policy for adjournments, also a result of best practices standardization, ensures fairness to litigants and keeps court calendars current.

Concern for fairness and timeliness also has led to a new rule allowing limited discovery in disputes involving amounts of \$3,000 or less. The parties are given the opportunity to ask up to five written questions of their adversary. This change requires the parties to reveal relevant information in advance of a trial, thus giving them a chance to make a realistic assessment of their case. In some cases limited discovery can actually encourage settlement, saving time and money for both the parties and the courts.

Tenants are the beneficiaries of another standardization effort in the Civil Division. Previously, tenants in landlord/tenant disputes who were required to vacate the property they rented were sometimes given very little time to find new housing and remove their belongings. Civil Division guidelines have been created for judges to help them set a fair deadline for tenants who request more time to vacate.

### Special Civil Part Cases

	2002	2003
Cases added:	429,930	474,261
Cases resolved:	431,329	461,086
Pending year-end:	30,281	44,782
Backlog:	1,657	1,694

## BEST PRACTICES UPDATE

The implementation of best practices has revolutionized case management in the New Jersey Judiciary. In addition to reducing the number of backlogged cases, the adoption of best practices has standardized court operations, ensuring equal treatment in every court. Moreover, the process for continual improvement is in place throughout the system. Through collaboration and consultation, judges and court staff propose statewide implementation of the programs and procedures that have proven successful at the vicinage level. Once they are identified as “best practices,” those programs and procedures are shared with the bar and other interested groups and forwarded to the Supreme Court for adoption as statewide standards.

The judges and managers of each division have embraced the best practices method of standardization. By relying on those at the front lines of case management to identify what works best, the Judiciary not only runs more efficiently but also encourages compliance from those whose work is most affected by the new standards. As noted at various points in this report, once a vicinage adopts best practices standards, it is visited by a team of judges and staff from other vicinages and from the Administrative Office of the Courts. The team meets with the judges, administrators, staff, and bar association members and reports on the success of the implementation. Included in the report are suggestions based on the experiences team members have gathered from visits to other vicinages.

This collaborative approach greatly increases the likelihood of compliance, since those who will be affected by the new standards have helped devise them. Further, statewide consistency enables the Judiciary to measure and evaluate case processing data more accurately. Most importantly, the resulting statewide uniformity benefits litigants, who can be assured that their cases are handled consistently and fairly no matter where they are filed.

# THE TRIAL COURTS

## GENERAL EQUITY DIVISION

Civil disputes in respect of non-monetary issues are filed with the General Equity Division. These cases may involve one party seeking to compel another to do—or stop doing—something. Because the nature of the dispute in each of these cases is unique, the General Equity Division has identified fewer areas for standardization through best practices. Currently the Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges is working on uniform language for orders to show cause used as an initial process and on uniform procedures for special medical guardianship applications. Standardized law clerk training and a comprehensive list of approved mediators with expertise in general equity matters also have helped to develop uniform operations in the division.

### General Equity Division

	2002	2003
Cases added:	5,186	5,290
Cases resolved:	5,166	5,104
Pending year-end:	2,331	2,523
Backlog:	427	459

## THE TAX COURT

The Tax Court of New Jersey resolves disputes between taxpayers and local and state government taxing agencies. In resolving these disputes, the Tax Court takes testimony and reviews the determinations of assessors, county boards of taxation, and state agencies in order to make decisions regarding appropriate rates of taxation. In addition, Tax Court judges may hear cases from Superior Court that involve complex tax issues. The presiding judge of the Tax Court is Judge Joseph C. Small.

### The Tax Court

	2002	2003
Cases added:	5,952	6,639
Cases resolved:	5,923	5,444
Pending year-end:	8,073	9,268

## THE MUNICIPAL COURT

New Jersey's 536 municipal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction that hear a wide variety of cases, including minor criminal matters, local ordinance violations, and motor vehicle traffic and parking offenses. Municipal court judges are appointed by elected municipal officials or, in the case of joint municipal courts, by the governor. A presiding judge of municipal courts and a municipal courts division manager within each vicinage act as liaisons between the municipal courts and the state court system. As part of their oversight, the municipal court presiding judge and division manager are responsible for organizing a team of managers to visit each municipality within the vicinage to provide an annual standardized review and analysis of municipal court operations in more than 40 different areas and functions. Those visits not only ensure compliance with Judiciary standards for municipal division best practices, but also offer the opportunity for collaboration and dialogue with other municipal courts.

New Jersey is the only state with a centralized, integrated, online municipal court computer system that is operational in all municipalities. The existence of this system provides unparalleled opportunity for service to New Jersey's citizens. With each new enhancement to the system, the Judiciary is reducing workloads in the local municipal courts and improving the fairness and efficiency of municipal court services across the state. One such enhance-

### The Municipal Courts

	2002	2003
Cases added:	6,324,195	6,267,189
Cases resolved:	6,293,700	6,312,514
Pending year-end:	1,352,916	1,192,580
Backlog:	888,520	732,049

ment is the NJMCDirect Web site, which allows people who have received a parking or traffic summons anywhere in the state to access information about their cases and, if no court appearance is required for the offense, to plead guilty and pay the summons online. The Judiciary's computer system then updates the court records automatically and transmits the required information to the Motor Vehicles Commission. The municipal court warrant system also is centralized, allowing police officers in each municipality to determine whether an individual has warrants outstanding in any other municipality in the state. The Judiciary's statewide computer will soon allow parking authority officers to enter ticket information through their handheld Parking Authority Ticketing System (PATS) devices with a direct wireless link to the Judiciary's centralized system, thus avoiding the manual entry currently required of municipal court staff.

# THE TRIAL COURTS

## PROBATION DIVISION

### PROBATION — SUPERVISION OF OFFENDERS

The Probation Division oversees more than 120,000 offenders who must comply with a variety of conditions imposed at sentencing. Those conditions may include maintaining employment or attending school, paying appropriate fines and fees, remaining drug free, and avoiding further unlawful behavior. Compliance with those outcome-based standards is closely monitored.

An additional 1,159 offenders are supervised through the Intensive Supervision Program (ISP). Participants are required to perform community service, maintain employment, pay court-ordered fines, and abide by curfews. Now in its twentieth year, the program has helped more than 10,000 non-violent inmates in New Jersey's prisons become reintegrated into the community. Nearly 180,000 hours of community service were performed by ISP participants and, in addition, \$1,645,420 was collected from these offenders during the court year.

New Jersey is one of 41 states participating in the interstate compact for the supervision of parolees and probationers. The goal of the compact is to control the movement of offenders across state lines. The continuity of supervision of offenders between states, enforcement of court orders and sanctions, and overall offender accountability enhance community safety and promote offender rehabilitation. At any given time, the unit overseeing New Jersey's participation in the interstate compact monitors more than 6,000 active cases. A revised interstate compact agreement, signed into law in December 2002, provides for more efficient communications between the states and state agencies by creating a national database that allows participating states to share critical offender information.

The Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP) is responsible for collecting fees assessed against convicted offenders. The monies collected are paid to crime victims and to several state-managed funds, including the Victims of Crime Compensation Board Fund, the Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund, and the Safe Neighborhoods Fund. CEP has proven cost-effective: with a budget of \$1.6 million, the program collected more than \$18 million in court year 2003, more than half of the \$33 million total collected through the Probation Division.

### PROBATION — CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The Probation Division also is responsible for the collection of court-ordered child support. In court year 2003, the Office of Child Support Services collected nearly a billion dollars for distribution to families throughout the state.

In recent years, innovative efforts to find obligors and enforce child support orders have increased significantly the amount of child support collected and distributed through the program. One such initiative is the Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) program, which identifies the financial accounts of people who owe child support. In court year 2003 the division distributed more than \$3 million from those accounts to more than four thousand families. An additional \$152,000 was obtained through the Child Support Lien Network, an interstate cooperative that identifies insurance settlements that are to be paid to parents who are delinquent in their child support obligations.

## TRIAL COURT FILINGS, TERMINATIONS, AND BACKLOG BY DIVISION

	<b>Filings</b>	<b>Terminations</b>	<b>Inventory</b> (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)	<b>Backlog</b> (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)
	July 2002 to June 2003	July 2002 to June 2003	June 2003	June 2003
<b>Criminal Division</b>				
Indictable Cases	53,222	56,943	9,048	5,275
Municipal Appeals	1,411	1,339	323	295
Post-Conviction Relief	539	423	144	404
<b>General Equity</b>	5,290	5,104	2,064	459
<b>Civil Division</b>				
Civil	98,675	108,533	80,379	17,497
Special Civil	474,261	461,086	43,088	1,694
Probate	10,461	10,410	1,258	167
<b>Family Division</b>				
Dissolution	64,799	66,367	17,282	1,498
Delinquency	78,117	78,405	5,834	502
Non-Dissolution	155,530	154,921	9,392	251
Domestic Violence	61,326	61,342	1,433	77
Abuse/Neglect	3,420	2,735	3,726	139
Adoption	2,609	2,660	576	
Child Placement Review	7,050	5,843	12,196	403
Juvenile/Family Crisis	1,439	1,433	50	7
Term of Parental Rights	997	1,002	411	215
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal	12,111	12,107	852	69
Kinship	716	575	171	
<b>Total</b>	1,031,973	1,031,228	188,227	28,952

## TRIAL COURT FILINGS, TERMINATIONS, AND BACKLOG BY COUNTY

	<b>Filings</b>	<b>Terminations</b>	<b>Inventory</b> (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)	<b>Backlog</b> (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)
	July 2002 to June 2003	July 2002 to June 2003	June 2003	June 2003
Atlantic	45,454	45,278	8,031	888
Bergen	75,200	76,405	13,667	1,791
Burlington	47,314	46,502	9,080	1,376
Camden	75,271	74,817	14,525	1,709
Cape May	14,583	14,417	2,266	211
Cumberland	28,955	28,822	4,136	526
Essex	155,687	154,172	28,376	3,994
Gloucester	28,956	28,946	4,655	719
Hudson	92,867	92,260	15,560	1,973
Hunterdon	7,121	7,094	1,442	221
Mercer	44,986	45,833	8,251	1,445
Middlesex	74,979	76,006	18,578	4,091
Monmouth	65,488	64,980	13,039	3,498
Morris	32,509	32,503	6,297	1,197
Ocean	50,370	50,240	8,388	1,032
Passaic	69,197	69,750	11,332	1,261
Salem	12,948	12,924	1,303	117
Somerset	22,126	22,165	3,759	655
Sussex	12,760	12,907	1,837	379
Union	65,154	65,284	12,163	1,580
Warren	10,048	9,923	1,542	289
<b>Total</b>	1,031,973	1,031,228	188,227	28,952

# THE FOLLOWING JUDGES SERVED IN THE NEW JERSEY COURTS DURING THE 2002-2003 COURT YEAR:

## Supreme Court

Deborah T. Poritz,  
*Chief Justice*  
Barry T. Albin  
James H. Coleman Jr.\*  
Jaynee LaVecchia  
Virginia A. Long  
Peter G. Verniero  
John E. Wallace Jr.  
James R. Zazzali

## Superior Court

Salem Vincent Ahto  
Roberto Alcazar  
Christine Allen-Jackson  
Edwin R. Alley\*\*  
John A. Almeida  
Carmen H. Alvarez  
Frances Lawrence Antonin  
Ross R. Anzaldi  
Paul W. Armstrong  
Valerie H. Armstrong  
Victor Ashrafi  
Eugene H. Austin  
Francine I. Axelrad\*\*  
Mark A. Baber  
David S. Baime\*  
Max A. Baker  
Marc M. Baldwin  
Walter R. Barisonek  
Ann Reynolds Bartlett  
Raymond A. Batten  
Linda G. Baxter  
Edward W. Beglin Jr.  
Marie White Bell  
Glenn J. Berman  
Edmund R. Bernhard  
Stephen J. Bernstein  
Maryann K. Bielamowicz  
Audrey Peyton Blackburn  
Peter F. Boggia  
Ronald E. Bookbinder  
Salvatore Bovino  
G. Thomas Bowen  
B. Theodore Bozonelis

Dennis J. Braithwaite\*\*  
Kathryn A. Brock  
Thomas F. Brogan  
Thomas A. Brown Jr.  
Thomas C. Brown\*  
Frank A. Buczynski Jr.  
Kevin G. Callahan  
Richard C. Camp  
Donald F. Campbell  
Jane B. Cantor  
Ernest M. Caposela  
Philip S. Carchman\*\*  
Harry G. Carroll  
Michael R. Casale  
Karen M. Cassidy  
Joseph C. Cassini III  
Thomas W. Cavanagh Jr.  
Paul F. Chalet  
Amy Piro Chambers  
Lisa F. Chrystal  
James J. Ciancia\*\*  
Yolanda Ciccone  
Alfonse J. Cifelli  
James N. Citta  
Frank M. Ciuffani  
Marilyn C. Clark  
Patricia Del Bueno Cleary  
James D. Clyne  
Donald S. Coburn\*\*  
Eugene J. Codey Jr.  
Diane B. Cohen  
R. Benjamin Cohen  
Mary Eva Colalillo  
Claude M. Coleman  
Edward M. Coleman  
Rudy B. Coleman  
Donald G. Collester Jr.\*\*  
N. Peter Conforti  
Erminie L. Conley\*\*  
Kyran Connor  
Michael R. Connor  
John A. Conte  
Joseph S. Conte  
Robert P. Contillo  
James B. Convery  
Robert A. Coogan  
William J. Cook

Marina Corodemus  
Patricia K. Costello  
Gerald J. Council  
James P. Courtney Jr.  
Cynthia E. Covie-Leese  
John J. Coyle Jr.  
David S. Cramp  
Thomas J. Critchley  
Martin Cronin  
Mary Catherine Cuff\*\*  
Philip B. Cummis  
Georgia M. Curio  
Barbara A. Curran  
Roger W. Daley  
John B. Dangler  
William A. Daniel  
Wendel E. Daniels  
Rachel N. Davidson  
Elaine L. Davis  
Theodore Z. Davis\*  
Lawrence P. DeBello  
Donald W. deCordova  
Edward J. DeFazio\*  
Miguel A. de la Carrera  
Estela M. De La Cruz  
Charles A. Delehey  
William R. DeLorenzo Jr.  
Ralph L. DeLuccia Jr.  
Paul M. DePascale  
Harriet E. Derman  
Hector E. DeSoto  
Francis P. DeStefano  
Frederick P. DeVesa  
Michael K. Diamond  
Thomas H. Dilts  
Arthur N. D'Italia  
Louise D. Donaldson  
Frank M. Donato\*  
Michael A. Donio  
Joseph P. Donohue  
Richard J. Donohue  
Peter E. Doyne  
W. Hunt Dumont  
Katherine R. Dupuis  
Naomi G. Eichen\*\*  
Mark B. Epstein  
Gerald C. Escala

Joseph A. Falcone	Craig Randall Harris	Steven L. Lefelt**	Christine L. Miniman
Robert A. Fall**	Jonathan N. Harris	Alexander D. Lehrer	David W. Morgan
James A. Farber	James M. Havey**	Betty J. Lester	James J. Morley
Timothy G. Farrell	Rudolph N. Hawkins Jr.	Kenneth S. Levy	Sybil R. Moses
Michael D. Farren	James C. Heimlich	Laura Lewinn	Scott J. Moynihan
Mahlon L. Fast	Martin A. Herman	Jose L. Linares*	James F. Mulvihill
Linda R. Feinberg	Marilyn Rhyne Herr	Jack L. Lintner**	Samuel D. Natal
Robert Feldman*	Carol E. Higbee	Lois Lipton	Mark J. Nelson
Bradley J. Ferencz	John G. Himmelberger Jr.	Joseph F. Lisa**	Michael J. Nelson
Carol A. Ferentz	Helen E. Hoens**	Severiano Lisboa III	Richard Newman**
Robert P. Figarotta*	Barnett E. Hoffman*	Charles A. Little	Dennis V. Nieves
Michael Brooke Fisher	Ronald E. Hoffman	Louis F. Locascio	William E. Nugent
Clarkson S. Fisher Jr.	Michael J. Hogan	Sebastian P. Lombardi	Thomas E. O'Brien
Patrick F. X. Fitzpatrick	Stephen M. Holden	Robert A. Longhi	Amy O'Connor
Sallyanne Floria	Michelle Hollar-Gregory	Thomas N. Lyons	Edward T. O'Connor Jr.
Terence P. Flynn	Harold C. Hollenbeck	Kenneth C. MacKenzie	Robert W. O'Hagan
Marlene Lynch Ford	John S. Holston Jr.	Roger F. Mahon	Edward M. Oles
William L. Forester	Jared D. Honigfeld	John F. Malone	Thomas P. Olivieri
F. Lee Forrester	Louis F. Hornstine	Thomas V. Manahan	Francis J. Orlando Jr.
Robert E. Francis	Mac D. Hunter*	Maureen B. Mantineo	John A. O'Shaughnessy
Travis L. Francis	James P. Hurley	John B. Mariano*	Robert W. Page
Sheldon R. Franklin	Eugene A. Iadanza	Julie M. Marino	Phillip Lewis Paley
John A. Fratto	Paul Innes	Ronald G. Marmo	Lorraine C. Parker**
Ronald J. Freeman	Joseph V. Isabella	Walter L. Marshall Jr.	Anthony J. Parrillo**
Jose L. Fuentes**	David J. Issenman	Brian R. Martinotti	George W. Parsons Jr.
Harold W. Fullilove	James L. Jackson	Bill H. Mathesius	Robert J. Passero
Garry J. Furnari	Mary C. Jacobson	Susan F. Maven	Edith K. Payne**
Bruce A. Gaeta	Harold U. Johnson Jr.	Jessica R. Mayer	Norman J. Peer
Sebastian Gaeta Jr.	Joseph E. Kane	Thomas M. McCormack	Stuart L. Peim
Maurice J. Gallipoli	Paul A. Kapalko	Ann Graf McCormick	Darlene J. Pereksta
Edward V. Gannon	Michael Kassel	Frederic R. McDaniel	Joseph P. Perfilio
Albert J. Garofolo	Thomas P. Kelly	Anne McDonnell	Jamie S. Perri
Bryan D. Garruto	James A. Kennedy*	James McGann	Steven P. Perskie
Francis W. Gasiorowski	John C. Kennedy	John A. McLaughlin	John A. Peterson Jr.
Richard J. Geiger	Camille M. Kenny	F. Patrick McManimon	James J. Petrella**
Melvin L. Gelade	Howard H. Kestin**	Jean B. McMaster	Michael A. Petrolle
F. Michael Giles	Fred Kieser Jr.	John T. McNeill III	Diane Pincus
William P. Gilroy	Honora O'Brien Kilgallen	Margaret Mary McVeigh	John Pisansky
Peter J. Giovine	Michael P. King**	Daniel P. Mecca	Francis P. Piscal
Donald S. Goldman	Edmond M. Kirby*	William C. Meehan	Richard F. Plechner*
Jane Grall	Harriet Farber Klein	Octavia Melendez	Alan J. Pogarsky
Glenn A. Grant	Ellen L. Koblitz	Anthony J. Mellaci Jr.	Sylvia B. Pressler**
Vincent J. Grasso	Paul T. Koenig Jr.	Louis R. Meloni	Charles R. Previti*
Ronald B. Graves	Melvin S. Kracov	Julio L. Mendez	Lorraine Pullen
Anthony J. Graziano	Ira E. Kreizman	Donald W. Merkelbach	John H. Pursel
Robert R. Guida*	Fred H. Kumpf	Carmen Messano	Joseph P. Quinn
Nestor F. Guzman	Catherine M. Langlois	Joseph C. Messina	James E. Rafferty
Douglas T. Hague	Frank M. Lario Jr.	E. Benn Micheletti	Charles M. Rand
Stephan C. Hansbury	Lee B. Laskin	Charles Middlesworth Jr.	David B. Rand
Jamie D. Happs	Lawrence M. Lawson	E. David Millard	John R. Rauh
John J. Harper	Vincent LeBlon	Robert G. Millenky	Michael L. Ravin
John E. Harrington	Patricia Richmond LeBon	Elijah L. Miller Jr.	Joseph L. Rea

Donald R. Reenstra\*  
Ronald L. Reisner  
Susan L. Reisner  
Joseph J. Riva  
Alan A. Rockoff\*  
Ariel A. Rodríguez\*\*  
Mathias E. Rodriguez  
George F. Rohde Jr.  
Patrick J. Roma  
Joseph R. Rosa  
David A. Rosenberg  
Graham T. Ross  
James S. Rothschild  
Garry S. Rothstadt  
Stephen B. Rubin  
Karen D. Russell  
Mark M. Russello  
Edward J. Ryan  
Peter V. Ryan  
Jack M. Sabatino  
George E. Sabbath  
Lourdes I. Santiago  
Ramona A. Santiago  
Paulette Sapp-Peterson  
Joseph F. Scancarella  
Marvin E. Schlosser  
Francine A. Schott  
Francis B. Schultz  
Edward R. Schwartz\*  
Thomas F. Scully  
Vincent D. Segal  
John E. Selser  
George L. Seltzer  
Eugene D. Serpentelli  
Harry K. Seybolt\*  
Neil H. Shuster  
Marguerite T. Simon  
Marie P. Simonelli  
Nancy Sivilli  
Stephen Skillman\*\*  
Lawrence D. Smith  
Donald A. Smith Jr.\*  
Stephen F. Smith Jr.  
Thomas S. Smith Jr.  
Andrew J. Smithson  
Irvin J. Snyder  
Maureen P. Sogluizzo  
Ronald B. Sokalski  
Miriam N. Span  
Jo-Anne B. Spatola  
George H. Stanger Jr.  
Reginald Stanton\*

Isabel B. Stark  
Isaiah Steinberg\*  
Edwin H. Stern\*\*  
Barbara Clarke Stolte  
Nicholas J. Stroumtsos Jr.  
Randolph M. Subryan  
Cornelius P. Sullivan  
Mark A. Sullivan Jr.  
Karen L. Suter  
John A. Sweeney  
Maria Marinari Sypek  
Patricia M. Talbert  
Joseph P. Testa  
Frederick J. Theemling Jr.  
Stephen W. Thompson\*  
William C. Todd III  
Daryl F. Todd Sr.  
Shirley A. Tolentino  
John Tomasello  
Edward V. Torack  
John S. Triarsi  
James G. Troiano  
Edward J. Turnbach  
Bette E. Uhrmacher  
Peter J. Vazquez  
Hector R. Velazquez  
Thomas R. Vena  
Deborah J. Venezia  
Donald R. Venezia  
Paul J. Vichness  
Barbara Ann Villano  
Joseph C. Visalli  
M. Allan Vogelson  
Donald J. Volkert Jr.  
David Waks  
Daniel M. Waldman  
Charles J. Walsh  
John M. Waters Jr.  
Alexander P. Waugh Jr.  
Barbara Byrd Wecker\*\*  
Renee Jones Weeks  
Dorothea O'C. Wefing\*\*  
Lawrence Weiss\*  
Harvey Weissbard\*\*  
Craig L. Wellerson  
Harold B. Wells III\*\*  
Glenn R. Wenzel  
William L'E. Wertheimer  
Melvin S. Whitken  
Richard J. Williams\*\*  
Rosemarie R. Ruggiero  
Williams

Deanne M. Wilson  
Robert C. Wilson  
Theodore A. Winard  
Michael Winkelstein\*\*  
Stephen H. Womack  
Joseph L. Yannotti  
Thomas P. Zampino  
Barbara Zucker-Zarett

### Tax Court

Vito L. Bianco  
Angelo J. DiCamillo  
Joseph L. Foster  
Raymond A. Hayser  
James E. Isman  
Roger M. Kahn  
Harold A. Kuskin  
Marie E. Lihotz  
Gail L. Menyuk  
Peter D. Pizzuto  
Joseph C. Small

*\*retired during 2002-2003  
court year*

*\*\*Appellate Division judges*

### The following retired judges served on recall during the 2002- 2003 court year:

Melvin P. Antell  
David S. Baime  
Lawrence Bilder  
John M. Boyle  
John J. Callahan  
Rosalie B. Cooper  
Neil G. Duffy  
David G. Eynon  
Philip M. Freedman  
Herbert S. Friend  
Robert E. Gaynor  
Herbert S. Glickman  
Martin L. Greenberg  
Joseph F. Greene  
Burrell Ives Humphreys  
Anthony J. Iuliani  
Bernard A. Kannen  
Irwin I. Kimmelman  
David Landau  
B. Thomas Leahy  
Samuel D. Lenox Jr.  
Lawrence Lerner  
Paul G. Levy  
Thomas B. Mannion  
Seymour Margulies  
Patrick J. McGann Jr.  
A. Donald McKenzie  
Arthur Minuskin  
Robert Neustadter  
George J. Nicola  
J. Wilson Noden  
Thomas S. O'Brien  
Kevin M. O'Halloran  
Serena Perretti  
Florence R. Peskoe  
Kenneth R. Stein  
June Strelecki  
Timothy J. Sullivan  
Samuel L. Supnick  
Birger M. Sween  
Norman Telsey  
Charles E. Villanueva  
James J. Walsh  
Frederic G. Weber

# IN MEMORIAM

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Raymond F. Drozdowski

## ASSIGNMENT JUDGES AND TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS COURT YEAR 2002 –2003

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### **Vicinage 1**

Atlantic County  
Cape May County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Valerie H. Armstrong

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Charles E. McCaffery

### **Vicinage 2**

Bergen County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Sybil R. Moses

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Jon Goodman

### **Vicinage 3**

Burlington County

#### **Assignment Judge**

John A. Sweeney

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Thomas M. Gould

### **Vicinage 4**

Camden County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Francis J. Orlando Jr.

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Michael O'Brien

### **Vicinage 5**

Essex County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Joseph A. Falcone

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Collins E. Ijoma

### **Vicinage 6**

Hudson County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Arthur N. D'Italia

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Joseph F. Davis

### **Vicinage 7**

Mercer County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Linda R. Feinberg

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Jude Del Preore

### **Vicinage 8**

Middlesex County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Robert A. Longhi

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Gregory Edwards

### **Vicinage 9**

Monmouth County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Lawrence M. Lawson

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Marsi Perkins

### **Vicinage 10**

Morris County

Sussex County

#### **Assignment Judge**

B. Theodore Bozonelis

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Michael J. Arnold

### **Vicinage 11**

Passaic County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Robert J. Passero

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Richard M. Centanni

### **Vicinage 12**

Union County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Edward W. Beglin Jr.

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Elizabeth Domingo

### **Vicinage 13**

Hunterdon County

Somerset County

Warren County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Graham T. Ross

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Eugene T. Farkas

### **Vicinage 14**

Ocean County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Eugene D. Serpentelli

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

Richard D. Prifold

### **Vicinage 15**

Cumberland County

Gloucester County

Salem County

#### **Assignment Judge**

George H. Stanger Jr.

#### **Trial Court Administrator**

James R. Castagnoli



## NEW JERSEY JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*Seated (left to right):* Assignment Judge Eugene D. Serpentelli; Assignment Judge Joseph A. Falcone; Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz; Administrative Director Richard J. Williams; Assignment Judge Edward W. Beglin Jr.

*Standing (left to right):* Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando Jr.; Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney; Deputy Administrative Director Theodore J. Fetter; Assignment Judge B. Theodore Bozonelis; Assignment Judge Valerie H. Armstrong; Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli (Chair, Conference of Civil Presiding Judges); Judge Ellen L. Koblitz (Chair, Conference of Family Presiding Judges); Assignment Judge George H. Stanger Jr.; Assignment Judge Sybil R. Moses; Judge James D. Clyne (Chair, Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges); Judge Elaine L. Davis (Chair, Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges); Assignment Judge Robert A. Longhi; Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg; Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson; Assignment Judge Graham T. Ross; Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia; Assignment Judge Robert J. Passero.

