





2021 Annual Report

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

FOR THE COURT YEAR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

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 Fabiana Pierre-Louis

Clerk of the Supreme Court

Heather Joy Baker

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 Matthew Sapienza, 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

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 Mala Sundar

Clerk of the Tax Court Cheryl A. Ryan

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

DirectorJack P. McCarthy III

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Assistant Directors

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Assistant Director
Brenda Beacham

PROFESSIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, OFFICE OF

DirectorDeirdre 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 John Lally - Data Analytics, Research and Standards Kim Madera - Automated Trial Court Services Taironda Phoenix - Civil Practice Division Steven A. Somogyi - Municipal Court Services



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On the cover: The Essex County Historic Courthouse in Newark is a grand example of the civic-minded architecture that characterized the public buildings of the early 20th century.

Built between 1904 and 1908, the marble building's grand front stairs, columns and four-story rotunda topped with a Tiffany stained glass skylight were the work of Cass Gilbert.



Letter from the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court

Challenging times require extraordinary efforts.

During the past year, COVID-19 has continued to bring personal and professional challenges unprecedented in our lifetime. The courts have been no exception. Through the exceptional dedication of the men and women who make up the New Jersey Judiciary, we have continued to provide crucial services to the public. This annual report details many of the statistical results of those efforts. For example, at the close of the fiscal year, New Jersey courts held more than 156,000 remote events, in all subject matter areas, with more than 2 million participants. Beyond the statistics are countless examples of judges and staff who demonstrated ingenuity and dedication, mastered new skills, and adapted to new approaches in order to respond to the challenges posed by a worldwide pandemic. Here are just a few of those examples.

- Court staff found innovative ways to help children and families. Vicinage finance offices
 continued to offer opportunities to pay child support in cash at the courthouse, without
 a surcharge, and collected tens of thousands of dollars each month to support children in
 New Jersey. Family Division and Probation staff used court events to connect families with
 local resources including food banks, employment training, homeless shelters, health care
 options, and unemployment benefits.
- Each vicinage dedicated space and provided computers, laptops with web cameras, phones, and other forms of technology and support to help litigants participate in virtual court sessions. Applicants for emergent relief used those technology rooms to seek domestic violence restraining orders and prevent illegal lockouts.
- Virtual civil jury trials continued to expand thanks to immense preparation and effort behind the scenes, both before and during trials. Jury staff in Passaic braved a snowstorm to deliver tablets with Broadband to jurors. When an attorney experienced technical difficulties mid-trial in Gloucester, IT staff went to the lawyer's office and adjusted settings so the trial could continue.
- Devoted probation employees continued to supervise clients in drug court and other specialized caseloads under exceptionally challenging circumstances. In February, one drug court participant in Burlington saved a person's life by administering CPR while the individual was overdosing.
- Judges responded to novel challenges with thoughtfulness and skill. They reached out
 personally to individuals subject to probation supervision and pretrial monitoring; they
 conducted hybrid hearings in time-sensitive matters involving domestic violence and child
 custody cases; and they selected jurors for civil trials and grand jury panels in a virtual
 format.
- And New Jersey's Supreme Court was among the first in the nation to offer virtual oral arguments, starting in March 2020. A year later, the Court heard its 100th matter in a virtual format.

Those and other efforts helped people in need and inspired us all.

As we continue to confront challenges posed by COVID-19, we must also continue to work together on solutions that ensure timely access to justice for every citizen. The future of the New Jersey courts will look different because of the lessons learned in our response to COVID-19. We look to better days ahead as we reimagine how our courts can better serve the public.



Stuart RabnerChief Justice

"As we continue to confront challenges posed by COVID-19, we must also continue to work together on solutions that ensure timely access to justice for every citizen."

Chief Justice



Letter from the

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

In the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, New Jersey's courts have continued to serve the public, not just for emergencies but also for events and operations in all areas.

Since the Coronavirus first began to impact New Jersey in early 2020, New Jersey's courts have remained a place where citizens can go to resolve disputes, where families and victims in crisis can go to seek help, and where the State and defendants can go to seek justice. To accomplish this, we first had to reimagine the way our courts might operate in a world that relies on virtual technology.

In our Superior Courts, criminal division judges have handled hundreds of in-person sentencings, and judges in the family, civil, municipal and tax courts have conducted and completed thousands of motions, conferences, and hearings through virtual platforms. Statewide, virtual grand juries have returned thousands of indictments plus numerous partial and full no bills.

While we have begun to recommence civil jury trials, we are utilizing an entirely virtual jury selection and either an all-virtual jury trial process or a hybrid trial process where attorneys and witnesses may be in the courthouse. To help keep cases moving, civil judges have overseen the settlement of hundreds of civil cases that had been noticed for trial dates.

Within our courthouse walls, court staff continue to handle child support payments and domestic violence orders, and many other matters. Joyous occasions such as adoptions and weddings continue virtually.

In many respects, COVID-19 has changed our court system, and indeed our society, permanently. It highlights a reality we have known all along - our courts must continue to evolve if we are to effectively serve the public.

If we are to continue to bring crucial services to the public, we must plan to meet new challenges with dedication, ingenuity, and an ever-constant reimagining of court operations.

Still, there are some things that must stay the same. We will continue to rely on the dedication and commitment of our justices, judges, and staff as we remain steadfast in adhering to the principles that guide us – independence, integrity, fairness, and quality customer service.



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

"...we must plan to meet new challenges with dedication, ingenuity, and an ever-constant reimagining of court operations."



Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex







Standing from left:

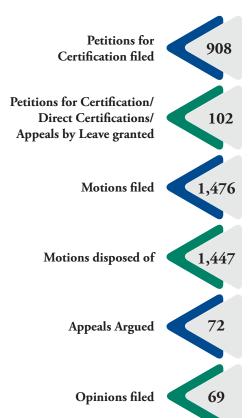
Justice Lee A. Solomon

Justice Anne M. Patterson

Justice Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina

Justice Fabiana Pierre-Louis

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



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.

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 2021, the court admitted 1,760 new attorneys to the New Jersey bar, a 16.15 percent increase 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.

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 or deemed disability inactive or passed away. During Court Year 2021, the fund approved \$2,329,193.22 to reimburse clients for losses caused by 25 attorneys.



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.

Appeals Filed Motions Filed

The 32 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 twoor 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.

Appeals Decided

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.

7,046 **Motions Decided**

New Appointments

Opinions Filed



Published Opinions 123

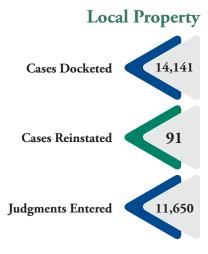






Katie A. Gummer

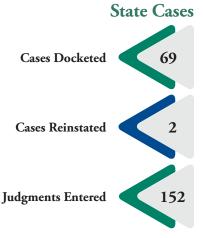




New Jersey Tax Court

The Tax Court Management Office accepts and processes cases submitted for filing, assigns local property and state 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. The Tax Court heard matters dealing with the following case types in Court Year 2020-2021.



Statewide Case Types

• •	
CAPE MAY COUNTY TOURISM SALES TAX	1
CORPORATION BUSINESS	9
ESTATE TAX	4
GROSS INCOME	19
HOMESTEAD REBATE	1
OTHER	5
PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT	5
REALTY TRANSFER FEE	1
SALES AND USE	20
SCHOOL AID (TABLE OF EQUALIZATION VALUATION)	4
SENIOR FREEZE	1
USE TAX	1

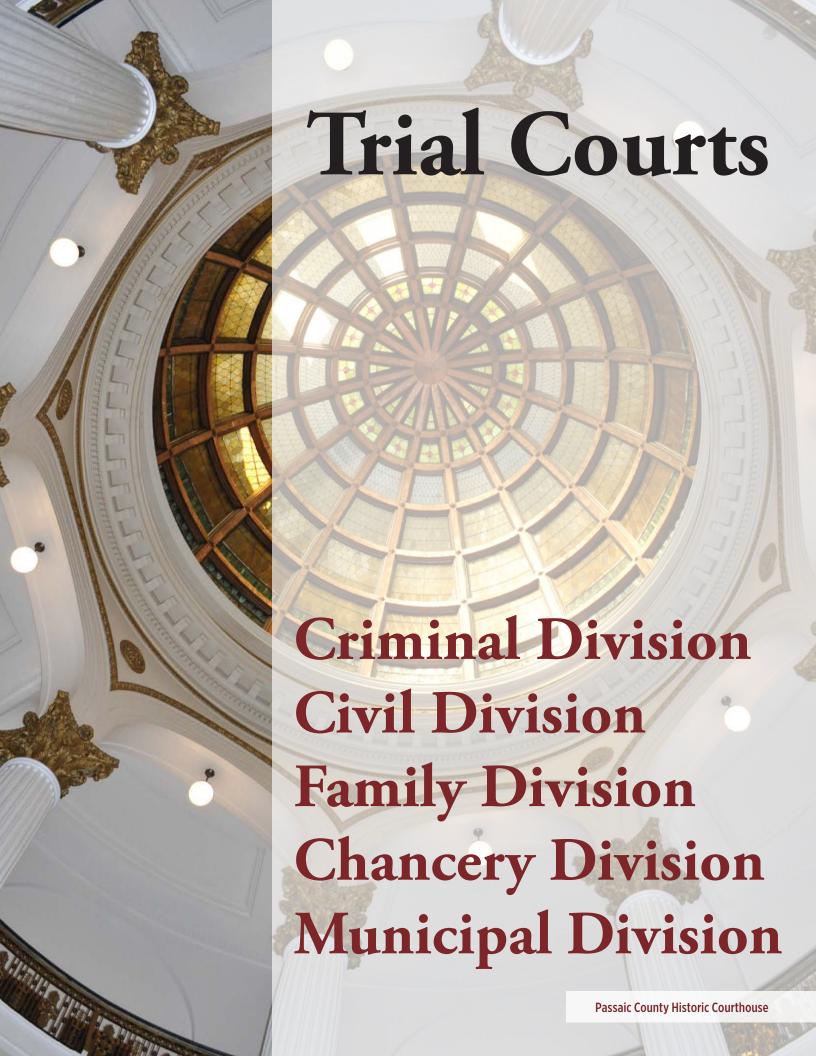


Standing from left: Judge Jonathan A. Orsen, Judge Mark Cimino, Judge Joseph M. Andresini, Judge Michael J. Gilmore and Judge Joan Bedrin Murray (not pictured Judge Joshua D. Novin).

Seated from left: Judge Mary Siobhan Brennan, Judge Vito L. Bianco, Presiding Judge Mala Sundar, Judge Christine M. Nugent, and Judge Kathi F. Fiamingo.









Criminal Division

The Criminal Practice Division is part of the Trial Court Services section of the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Criminal Practice consists of two major units: Pretrial Services and Criminal Court Services.

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.

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.

Criminal Justice Reform

The extraordinary constraints on the operations of the state's criminal justice system in general, and the Judiciary specifically, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic limited the ability to process and dispose of cases in a timely manner in 2020 and 2021.

While the mechanics of the CJR process did not change in 2020, the data demonstrates that several thousand fewer people were issued criminal complaints during the pandemic. There also were shifts in the ratios of more serious complaint-warrants versus less serious complaint-summonses. Defendants issued complaint-warrants, which had held relatively steady until 2020, began taking up a larger share of the total number of defendants issued complaints over time.

Due to the onset of the pandemic and associated stay-at-home orders, prevailing social turmoil, and additional Attorney General directives, law enforcement complaint issuance patterns changed. Another factor impacting the decrease in complaints is the increase in case expungements starting in 2021.

Extreme Risk Protective Orders

The Judiciary developed guidelines for Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO), effective Sept. 1, 2019, which prohibit a person who poses an immediate and present danger of bodily injury to self or others from owning, purchasing, possessing, or receiving firearms or ammunition, or from securing or holding a firearms purchaser identification card, a permit to purchase a handgun, or a permit to carry a handguns.

ERPOs are first considered for issuance on a temporary (TERPO) basis and then as a final order (FERPO).



Extreme Risk Protective Orders July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Petitions entered 333

TERPOs granted 320

TERPOs denied 18

FERPOs granted 177

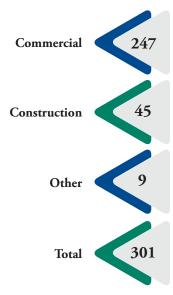
FERPOs denied 72



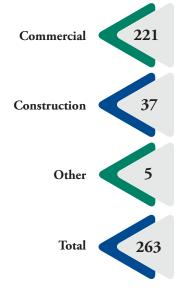
New Jersey Courts April 21, 2021 - April 22, 2021 - April



CBLP Statewide Cases Filed



CBLP Statewide Cases Resolved



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 vicinage.

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 of \$3,000 or less or for a return of a security deposit of \$5,000 or less file in Small Claims court where the goal for resolution is two months. Cases involving damages of \$15,000 or less are filed in the Special Civil Part, with a resolution goal of four months. Cases valued at more than \$15,000 are filed in the Civil Part of the law division and are to be resolved in 12 to 24 months, depending on their complexity. Tenancy cases are considered to be in backlog when they are not resolved in two months.

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.

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.

Special Civil Part

The Special Civil Part is comprised of three dockets: DC, Small Claims and Landlord Tenant. Actions by a landlord seeking to evict a tenant are filed in the Landlord Tenant section of the Special Civil Part.

In March 2021, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner established the Special Committee on Landlord Tenant which issued a report in April 2021 containing 18 recommendations for reforming how courts handle landlord tenant matters and to confront the impending flood of cases they will be asked to hear after the moratorium is lifted.

Tenancy Cases









35,940 total new domestic violence filings

5,054
reopened domestic violence cases





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.

Domestic Violence

The Judiciary continued to remove barriers to justice for victims of domestic violence affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Because the public health crisis exacerbated challenges to scheduling and conducting hearing to amend domestic violence complaints, the Judiciary permitted victims to amend complaints for certain reasons without having to go to a courthouse or provide testimony. The change recognized that victims may not have safe access to technology in order to participate in virtual court proceedings.

Because there was no public access to courthouses for several months during the beginning of the pandemic, the Judiciary permitted victims to request a temporary restraining order by telephone. Victims are also able to apply for a temporary restraining order through the local police department at the same time law enforcement issues a criminal complaint, even during Superior Court hours.

Child Support

Recognizing that timely and consistent child support payments provide critical support for children throughout New Jersey – particularly during the pandemic, the Judiciary opened courthouses to the public by October 2020 to accept cash payments for child support during specific days and hours. The Judiciary also quickly developed a process for all child support hearing officers to conduct hearings remotely.







Chancery ivision

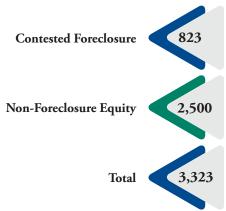
Cases in the chancery division, general equity, involve non-monetary disputes such as business dissolution issues, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, labor injunctions and mortgage and tax foreclosure actions. Cases in the chancery division, probate part, involve matters such as contested decedents' estates, trust actions, and guardianships of incapacitated adults. General equity and probate cases are heard without a jury by a specially assigned judge within the chancery division.

The Office of Foreclosure resumed its review and recommendation of judgments and dispositive motions received on or after March 1, 2020. Post-judgment action also resumed with the issuance of writs of possession for commercial foreclosure matters. However, the courts continued to withhold post-judgment action in residential foreclosure matters.

Probate Complaints



General Equity Complaints



Total Foreclosure Complaints



Total Foreclosure Judgments



Foreclosure Complaints by County (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)

County	Total
Atlantic	646
Bergen	320
Burlington	311
Camden	674
Cape May	92
Cumberland	156
Essex	845
Gloucester	278
Hudson	383
Hunterdon	55
Mercer	320
Middlesex	384
Monmouth	317
Morris	201
Ocean	513
Passaic	347
Salem	112
Somerset	175
Sussex	163
Union	294
Warren	86
Grand Total	6,673









"These changes are part of a larger effort to make our municipal court system more efficient and more accessible." - on allowing for municipal case resolution without in-person appearance.

- Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

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 4,867,351 cases filed, a 3 percent decrease from the previous year. The municipal courts had a 74 percent clearance rate during Court Year 2020.

Municipal Court Reform

4,867,351

The New Jersey Judiciary in May 2021 began dismissing approximately 1.7 million minor municipal court matters involving active driver's license suspensions and/or related open arrest warrants imposed prior to 1994. The Supreme Court order dismissing the matters addressed old, unresolved, minor municipal court cases related to arrest warrants and license suspensions in the interest of fairness and as a more appropriate use of limited public resources.

The Supreme Court also adopted a new rule, effective Jan. 1, 2020, that authorizes the Judiciary, after notice to the prosecutor, to dismiss all eligible minor complaints that are more than 10 years old unless the court determines that, in the interests of justice, a particular complaint should not be dismissed. The dismissals are one of 17 recommendations of a report issued by the Supreme Court Working Group on the Municipal Courts in July 2019.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021 **Filings Case Types** 159,174 Indictable 380,950 Disorderly / Petty Disorderly Persons 166,483 Other Non-Criminal 22,651 DWI 1,740,741 Traffic 2,397,352 Parking

Total

Language Services

Virtual courtrooms are here to stay and along with them video remote interpreting.

Remote interpreting has made court sessions more accessible and efficient by allowing interpreters to provide needed services at a separate location from court users.

Larger, less densely populated states have used video remote interpreting (VRI) for years to address geographical challenges, but in New Jersey, which has been a national model for on-site interpreting, 98 percent of court interpreting services were performed on site.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought a halt to on-site court proceedings and led to the expanded use of virtual courtrooms as an alternative to in-person proceedings under the appropriate circumstances to the court system.

Before the pandemic, the Judiciary limited the use of spoken and sign language remote interpreting because of quality-of-service issues. However, at the start of the pandemic, the Judiciary's Language Services Section quickly developed methods to provide VRI for remote hearings, focusing on the best ways to take advantage of available technology to assist those in need of spoken and sign language interpreting.

The best VRI service simulates on-site interpreting, where interpreters interpret in the simultaneous mode and switch between all three interpreting modes as needed, to ensure quality interpreting services and efficient court events.

Once the VRI methods were developed and Judiciary staff were trained, the Language Services Section delivered informational sessions and workshops for

terpreting Servi

usługi w zakresie

Magyai

Interpreting Services

Role of the Court Interpreter





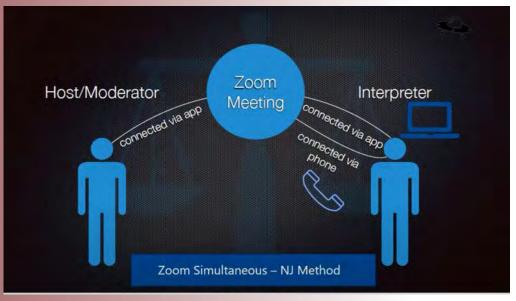


spoken and sign language freelance interpreters and created a new VRI Resources public webpage. Initially, spoken-language VRI was provided only in consecutive interpreting mode – where the interpreter waits and then begins interpretation after the speaker has ended their message.

Now, the best VRI option is provided when possible and appropriate for in-person, virtual, and hybrid court proceedings, programs, and services. Additionally, the Judiciary now partners a Certified Deaf Interpreter with American Sign Language interpreters daily to ensure quality sign language VRI services.

The Judiciary's Language Access Plan standards on remote interpreting were updated in 2020 to expand the use of remote interpreting. The plan now allows remote interpreting to be employed for emergent or non-emergent matters, even if longer than 30 minutes, when an on-site interpreter is not available, including during an emergency that prevents the courts from operating in person.

The Language Access Plan sets out the framework for the Judiciary's plans to continuously improve and enhance the provision of language access services into the future as part of its commitment to meaningful access to the courts for all.





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 and Juvenile Intensive Supervision programs along with the drug court program.

The Office of Probation Services reached an important milestone. In September 2018, the New Jersey Judiciary began a year-long process to train probation division managers, assistant division managers, court services officers, probation officers, and Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) staff on Core Correctional Practices (CCP). CCP aims to reduce recidivism by focusing on teaching clients how to engage in long-term behavior change. As of Sept. 3, 2019, more than 1,100 staff have been trained through 44 CCP sessions.

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.

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 issued by the court. The 21 local divisions monitor and enforce more than 240,000 child support cases in New Jersey. The unit is responsible for the collection of child and spousal obligations, medical support, and alimony.

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 \$22 million, or more than \$30,000 per participant, in Court Year 2020-21.

Drug Court Program

The Drug Court Unit focuses specifically on the advancement and operation of the drug court in each vicinage. The Judiciary's drug court program, which addresses non-violent, addicted offenders, requires completion of four phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and recovery, under court supervision. The New Jersey drug court program started as a pilot in 2001 and expanded statewide the following year.

\$23,025,142.04

total expected probation fees/fines

\$4,144,458.27

paid probation fees/fines

243,662 child support caseload as of June 2021

\$1,290,329,033
total child support collections

71.6% current child support obligations collected for July 2020 to June 2021

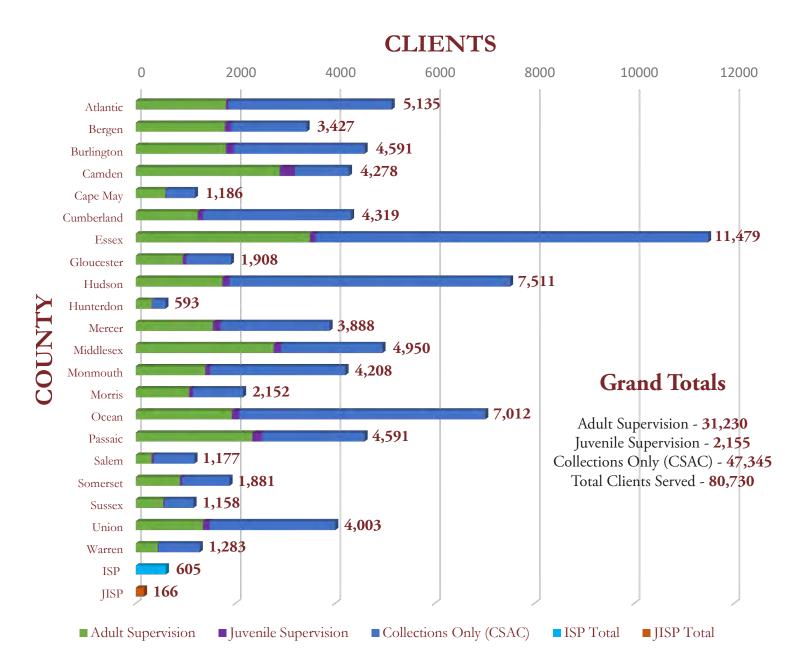


Hunterdon County Probation Division



Probation Services by the Numbers

Court Year 2020 - 2021



Supervision

On June 30, 2021, probation services was actively supervising 31,230 adults and 2,155 juveniles statewide.

Field Work

Probation officers conducted 2,009 inspections and 11,706 visits of clients' homes during Court Year 2020-2021.

Community Service

Probation clients performed 567 hours of community service during Court Year 2020-2021.



Addressing the Needs of Society

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 Monitoring Program

The Judiciary in May 2021 implemented a new background screening policy to enhance safeguards for incapacitated adults whose affairs are handled by courtappointed guardians. Under the policy, the proposed guardian would be subject to the following requirements:

- Certification disclosing any criminal or civil judgment history that may affect the individual's ability to perform the duties of guardian.
- Fingerprint check if a New Jersey resident; computerized criminal history check if out-of-state resident.
- Judiciary systems check.
- Certified judgment search, if requested by a Probate Part judge.
- Disclosure of any changes to an appointed guardian's criminal or civil judgment history in any periodic reports required to be filed with the court.

Drug Court Program

The Judiciary's drug court program operates within the Superior Court to help non-violent 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.



A week before Christmas 2021, Desmond Causey-Jones (left) reported virtually for his drug court session as usual, but behind the scene an urgent event was about to unfold. Just 10 minutes into the session, Causey-Jones interrupted Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Superior Court Judge Jeffrey J. Waldman with an important message, telling the judge he needed to sign off.

"I apologize for interrupting, but our daughter's coming out," Causey-Jones recalled informing Judge Waldman. Causey-Jones had delivered his apology

from the restroom of his girlfriend's hospital room at Shore Medical Center in Somers Point. Thirty-five minutes later, Jade Aaliyah Ruth Jones was born.







active participants in FY 2020-21

graduates in 2020-21

graduates who have had their criminal records expunged

drug-free babies born since the program's inception

Since the New Jersey Judiciary's drug court program went statewide in 2002, 6,749 participants successfully graduated from all phases of the Judiciary's drug court program.









Multicounty Litigation Pending Cases (as of June 30, 2021)

Cases	Total
Abilify	32
Accutane	8
Allergen	252
Asbestos	760
Benicar	1
CIBA-Geigy	1
DePuy ASR Hip	10
Fosomax	2,311
HealthPlus Surg	15
Levaquin	4
Pelv Mesh Bard	124
Pelv Mesh J&J	4,721
Physiomesh	171
Proceed Mesh/PA	1,842
Prolene Hernia	412
Proton Pump Inh	43
Reglan	2
Risperdal/S./Z.	1
Stryker Implant	13
Stryker ABG Hip St	224
Talc Body Powder	1,328
Tasigna	8
Taxotere/Doceta	154
Zostavax	2,832
Grand Total	15,342

Criminal Record Expungement

New Jersey expungement laws were amended in 2021, reducing waiting periods and expanding the types of offenses eligible for expungement. The Judiciary developed a new eCourts expungement system to make the process less complicated.

One Judge, One School Program

The vicinages continued their interactions with local schools in Court Year 2020-2021 through the One Judge/One School Program, which provides thousands of students with insights into the workings of New Jersey courts. Through the program, judges visit schools or students visit courthouses to learn more about how the Judiciary operates. After COVID-19 restricted inperson events beginning in March 2020, schools held these sessions remotely.



Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez visits with students from Pennsylvania Avenue School as part of the Judiciary's One Judge/One School Program, which teaches students about the New Jersey court system.

Multicounty Litigation

Multicounty litigations involve large numbers of claims that are associated with a single product. There are 25 multicounty litigations managed in New Jersey. Multicounty litigations are managed in the civil division in the Middlesex, the Atlantic/Cape May, and the Bergen vicinages.

Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) Program

The JOBS Program connects successful drug court and probation clients to employment opportunities, job readiness programming and skill-building training opportunities. During the employment slowdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judiciary continued to identify employers willing to participate in the program.









A JOBS fair for probation clients in the Ocean Vicinage.



Access and Fairness in the Courts

The Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness ensures that the Judiciary, as an institution, embraces access and fairness as an integral part of its core values. The work of the committee helps set the tone for the operation of the Judiciary for the future.

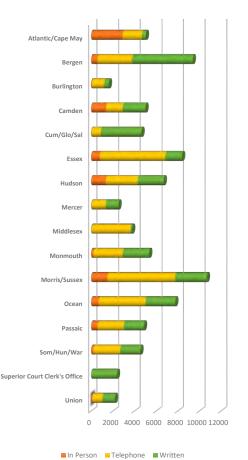
Supreme Court Action Plan to Ensure Equal Justice

The Supreme Court accomplished a series of reforms during this court year to eliminate disparities within the court system and remove institutional obstacles to justice. The Supreme Court Action Plan to Ensure Equal Justice identified nine reforms to help ensure that all men and women, especially people of color, are offered the same opportunity and treatment by the court system.

Those reforms included: supporting juror impartiality, reducing timeframes for post-dispositional supervision, supporting juvenile rehabilitation, requiring anti-bias Continuing Legal Education, using new technology to make the expungement process easier, enabling alternative methods of resolving court matters, broadening language access resources, reexamining access to court records, and improving the landlord tenant process.

Mode of Contact 2021

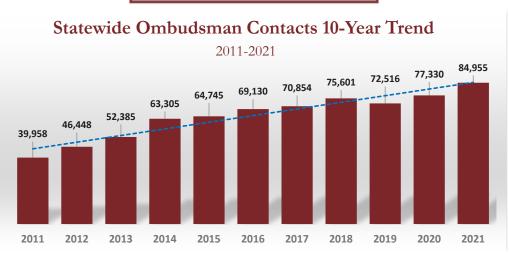
Ombudsman



Ombudsman Program

The Judiciary Ombudsman Program provides a variety of services to meet the expectations of court users, who are increasingly composed of self-represented litigants. Judiciary ombudsmen provided an invaluable continuity of service throughout the year, despite the numerous challenges involved in remote operations statewide and pivoting back to in-person service. Ombudsmen continued to provide much-needed assistance to the public, ensuring the "open door to justice" that is the goal of the court's commitment to the principles of access and fairness.

84,955
total court users who contacted the ombudsman offices statewide





Statewide Completed Activities by County Using 15 Most Interpreted Languages

COUNTY	TOTAL
Atlantic	1,131
Bergen	3,530
Burlington	713
Camden	2,100
Cape May	514
Cumberland	1,346
Essex	3,763
Gloucester	483
Hudson	6,550
Hunterdon	272
Mercer	2,616
Middlesex	5,568
Monmouth	1,362
Morris	1,989
Ocean	1,551
Passaic	5,080
Salem	224
Somerset	1,496
Sussex	230
Union	3,206
Warren	235
Total	43,959

Language Services

New Jerseyans speak more than 130 different languages and upwards of 31 percent – more than 2.6 million – speak a language other than English at home. In Court Year 2021, New Jersey courts provided interpreting services nearly 44,000 times in 95 languages, including Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole and Arabic, but also in languages as diverse as Krio, Indonesian, Lithuanian, and Dari.

8,367,069
New Jersey residents

2,644,457

New Jerseyans who speak a language other than English

131

languages spoken in New Jersey

1,009,105

New Jerseyans who are not fluent in English

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.

Based on that core belief, and in accordance with its Language Access Plan, the Judiciary is committed to providing qualified court interpreters and bears all costs for interpreting services, except in very limited instances.

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.

Languages Spoken at Home in New Jersey

Number of Speakers (2010 Census)	Language	Rank	Language	Number of Speakers (Pre-2020 Census)
1,277,000	Spanish	1	Spanish	1,368,165
84,160	Portuguese	2	Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	119,892
81,134	Tagalog	3	Portuguese	84,801
78,860	Chinese	4	Gujarati	80,552
78,856	Italian	5	Hindi	79,659
76,224	Korean	6	Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	75,711
75,414	Gujarati	7	Korean	75,298
66,346	Polish	8	Arabic	71,366
63,342	Hindi	9	Italian	60,075
59,729	Arabic	10	Polish	59,210







Court News and Events

Retirements

Court Year 2020-2021 brought the announced retirement of Supreme Court Associate Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, and the retirements of Essex Vicinage Assignment Judge Sallyanne Floria, Hudson Vicinage Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr., and Mercer Vicinage Trial Court Administrator Sue Regan.









COVID-19 Timeline

In Court Year 2020-2021, the New Jersey Judiciary continued to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, developing new ways to keep the business of the courts running while protecting the health of its employees and the public. That included expanding the number of virtual courtrooms to continue as many court matters and proceedings as possible.

This timeline provides some examples of actions taken by the Supreme Court to ensure criminal and civil jury trials resumed in as safe a manner as possible while protecting the rights of the public.

Virtual Grand Jury Begins

Bergen and Mercer vicinages pilot a program to return indictments and criminal cases in a safe manner.

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First Socially Distanced Trial Begins

Criminal jury trials resumed, in a hybrid fashion, starting in Bergen and Atlantic/Cape May vicinages.

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Jury Trials Suspended Amid Second Wave

The Supreme Court suspended criminal and civil trials in response to the uptick of COVID-19 infections.

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FEBRUARY 2021 Virtual Civil Jury Trials Resume

The Monmouth, Passaic, and Cumberland/ Gloucester/Salem vicinages intitially piloted with single-witness cases.

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JUNE 2021 Landlord Tenant Protections

The Supreme Court authorized permanent and interim measures to support the resumption of landlord tenant case processing and provide litigants with information regarding available resources.

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Swearing in Ceremonies

Fabiana Pierre-Louis joined the New Jersey Supreme Court on Sept. 1, 2020, as the first female Black associate justice on the state's highest court. Months later, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner administered the oath of office to Justice Faustino Fernandez-Vina on Nov. 6, 2020, and to, Justice Lee Solomon on June 7, 2021, both of whom received tenure.

Take Your Child To Work Day Event

The COVID-19 pandemic required the vicinages and the Administrative Office of the Courts to get creative for Take Your Child to Work Day, an event traditionally held in person. Still, children were invited to participate virtually in games and entertaining educational sessions.

One of the events at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Trenton included virtual 'To Tell the Truth,' where the children, through a series of questions and answers, had to determine which of the three panelists was an associate justice of the Supreme Court.

Naturalization Ceremony/Law Day Event

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. While public ceremonies were put on hold in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Judiciary held a some socially distanced ceremonies.

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.



For Adoption Day, Janet Cangialosi (second from right), a court services supervisor in the Hudson Vicinage, reflected on the adoption of her daughter, Cassie, and Cassie's younger brother, Adam, in 2009 when they were teens.

"We became an instant family," said Cangialosi, who credits her fiancé Phil (left) as an important part of her support system. *Cangialosi became a foster parent after working in the juvenile probation supervision unit for 11 years.* "There are so many children who just want to be in a loving and safe environment. They want to find a forever home," she said. "*It is my wish that others open their hearts and homes to older foster children and sibling groups.*"



Judicial Council as of June 2021



Stuart Rabner





Julio L. Mendez Assignment Judge Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage



Assignment Judge Bergen Vicinage



Jeanne T. Covert Burlington Vicinage



Deborah Silverman Katz Assignment Judge Camden Vicinage



Sallyanne Floria Assignment Judge Essex Vicinage



Peter F. Bariso Jr. Assignment Judge Hudson Vicinage



Mary C. Jacobson Assignment Judge Mercer Vicinage



Michael A. Toto Assignment Judge Middlesex Vicinage



Lisa P. Thornton Assignment Judge Monmouth Vicinage



Stuart A. Minkowitz Assignment Judge Morris/Sussex Vicinage



Ernest M. Caposela Assignment Judge Passaic Vicinage



Karen M. Cassidy Assignment Judge Union Vicinage



Thomas C. Miller Assignment Judge Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren Vicinage



Marlene Lynch Ford Assignment Judge Ocean Vicinage



Benjamin C. Telsey Assignment Judge Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage



Carmen Messano Appellate Division Presiding Judge



Thomas F. Brogan Civil Presiding Judge Passaic Vicinage



Wendel E. Daniels Criminal Presiding Judge Ocean Vicinage



David B. Katz Family Presiding Judge Essex Vicinage



Paula T. Dow General Equity Presiding Judge Burlington Vicinage



Judges and Justices

as of June 30, 2021

Superior Court *Appellate Division

Carlo Abad Thomas P. Abode Allison E. Accurso* Gregory L. Acquaviva Stacey D. Adams Yolanda Adrianzen Lisa M. Adubato Kalimah H. Ahmad Mark S. Ali Veronica Allende M. Christine Allen-Jackson Jodi Lee Alper Carmen H. Alvarez* Craig A. Ambrose Ralph E. Amirata William Anklowitz Michael Antoniewicz Patrick J. Arre Lorraine M. Augostini Mark A. Baber Keith A. Bachmann Robert A. Ballard Jr. Patrick J. Bartels Arthur J. Batista David F. Bauman Jeffrey B. Beacham Robert P. Becker Jr. Aimee R. Belgard Avion M. Benjamin Scott J. Bennion Maritza Berdote Byrne Stanley L. Bergman Jr. Daniel A. Bernardin Michael N. Beukas Robert W. Bingham II Avis Bishop-Thompson Michael J. Blee Gwendolyn Blue Peter A. Bogaard Thomas T. Booth Jr. Stacey K. Boretz Angela Borkowski Terry Paul Bottinelli Patrick J. Bradshaw Gerard H. Breland Robert E. Brenner

Thomas F. Brogan Daniel H. Brown Marc R. Brown Benjamin, S. Bucca Jr. Thomas J. Buck Bruce D. Buechler John J. Burke III Bradford M. Bury Henry P. Butehorn Chad N. Cagan Thomas A. Callahan Jr. Ernest M. Caposela Patricia E. Carney 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 Vicki A. Citrino Michael T. Collins Rosalba L. Comas Terrence R. Cook J. Randall Corman Craig L. Corson Mary K. Costello Gerald J. Council Frank Covello Jeanne T. Covert Michael V. Cresitello Jr. Martin G. Cronin Rodney Cunningham Therese A. Cunningham Heidi Willis Currier* H. Matthew Curry Angela White Dalton William A. Daniel Wendel E. Daniels Pamela D'Arcy Cristen P. D'Arrigo

Estela M. De La Cruz Patrick DeAlmeida* Frank J. DeAngelis Bernadette N. DeCastro Philip James Degnan John M. Deitch Kathleen M. Delaney Anthony V. D'Elia Darren J. Delsardo James J. Deluca Bernard E. Delury Jr. James M. Demarzo James Den Uyl Bina K. Desai Darren T. DiBiasi Lara K. DiFabrizio Francisco Dominguez John M. Doran Charles W. Dortch Jr. Paula T. Dow John C. Eastlack Jr. Madelin F. Einbinder Richard W. English Brian M. English Catherine I. Enright* Paul X. Escandon Kimberly Espinales-Maloney Linda W. Eynon Vincent N. Falcetano Jr. Nan S. Famular Douglas M. Fasciale* James J. Ferrelli Eric G. Fikry Rudolph A. Filko Lisa A. Firko* Clarkson S. Fisher Ir.* Catherine M. Fitzpatrick Colleen M. Flynn Marlene Lynch Ford Wayne J. Forrest Margaret M. Foti Magali M. Francois Noah Franzblau Sander D. Friedman Lisa Perez Friscia

Miguel A. De La Carrera

Jose L. Fuentes*	Honora O'Brien Kilgallen	Benjamin D. Morgan
Harold W. Fullilove Jr.	Robert Kirsch	Scott J. Moynihan*
Mitzy Galis-Menendez	Teresa A. Kondrup-Coyle	Theresa E. Mullen
Jane Gallina Mecca	Kurt Kramer	Valter H. Must
George H. Gangloff Jr.	Mary Beth Kramer	Arnold L. Natali Jr.*
Robert H. Gardner	Linda L. Lawhun	Steven F. Nemeth
Christopher J. Garrenger	Verna G. Leath	Justine A. Niccollai
Michael C. Gaus	Vincent Leblon	Dennis V. Nieves
Peter G. Geiger	Marc C. Lemieux	Paul D. Nieves
Richard J. Geiger*	Alan G. Lesnewich	Richard J. Nocella
J. Christopher Gibson	Joseph A. Levin	Carol V. Novey Catuogno
Robert J. Gilson*	Daniel R. Lindemann	Maryann C. O'Brien
Rochelle Gizinski	Alvin R. Little	Patricia O'Dowd-Donohue
John I. Gizzo	Sandra Lopez	John D. O'Dwyer
Greta Gooden Brown*	Robert T. Lougy	Jill G. O'Malley
Margaret Goodzeit	Lourdes Lucas	Michael F. O'Neill
Dara A. Govan	Timothy P. Lydon	Christine S. Orlando
Glenn A. Grant*	Martha D. Lynes	Mitchel E. Ostrer*
Nora J. Grimbergen	Keith E. Lynott	Michael R. Ostrowski Jr.
Deborah M. Gross-Quatrone	Colleen A. Maier	Joseph W. Oxley
James J. Guida	Martha T. Mainor	Gregg A. Padovano
Katie A. Gummer*	Robert G. Malestein	James R. Paganelli
Michael J. Haas*	Maureen B. Mantineo	Kenneth T. Palmer
Deborah S. Hanlon-Schron	Janetta D. Marbrey	Joseph Paone
Robert M. Hanna	Joseph L. Marczyk	Mitchell L. Pascual
Rachelle Lea Harz	Julie M. Marino	Russell J. Passamano
Richard L. Hertzberg	Margaret M. Marley	Vijayant Pawar
Kerry Ellen Higgins	Lawrence M. Maron	Darlene J. Pereksta
Francis Hodgson Jr.	Andrea I. Marshall	Stephen L. Petrillo
Edward W. Hoffman	Anthony M. Massi	Anthony F. Picheca Jr.
Richard S. Hoffman*	John J. Matheussen	James H. Pickering
Michael E. Hubner	Susan F. Maven	Sheree V. Pitchford
John G. Hudak	Hany A. Mawla*	Benjamin Podolnick
J. Adam Hughes	Jessica R. Mayer*	Steven J. Polansky
Douglas H. Hurd	Edward J. McBride Jr.	Joseph A. Portelli
Dorothy M. Incarvito-Garrabrant	Owen C. McCarthy	John C. Porto
David H. Ironson Thomas K. Isenhour	James P. McClain	Anthony M. Pugliese
	Thomas D. McCloskey	Lisa A. Puglisi
Jeffrey R. Jablonski Adam E. Jacobs	John P. McDonald James J. McGann	Kathy C. Qasim
Mary C. Jacobson	William J. McGovern III	Joseph P. Quinn Christopher D. Rafano
Lisa James-Beavers	Frances A. McGrogan	David M. Ragonese
Mark T. Janeczko	Brian McLaughlin	Samuel J. Ragonese Jr.
Latoyia K. Jenkins	Marcy McMann	Kimarie Rahill
Edward A. Jerejian	Jaclyn V. Medina	Rosemary E. Ramsay
Michael A. Jimenez	Robert J. Mega	John R. Rauh
Pedro J. Jimenez Jr.	Peter J. Melchionne	Michael L. Ravin
Sarah Beth Johnson	Julio L. Mendez	Joseph L. Rea
Harold U. Johnson Jr.	Marybel Mercado-Ramirez	Nina C. Remson
Linda Grasso Jones	Carmen Messano*	Nancy L. Ridgway
Claudia R. Jones	Vincent J. Militello	Alberto Rivas
Robert J. Jones Jr.	Thomas C. Miller	Daniel Roberts
John A. Jorgensen II	W. Todd Miller	Nesle A. Rodriguez
Michael E. Joyce	Stuart A. Minkowitz	Yolanda C. Rodriguez
Bruce J. Kaplan	Lisa Miralles Walsh	Candido Rodriguez Jr.
Imre Karaszegi Jr.	Stephanie Ann Mitterhoff*	Marybeth Rogers
Michael J. Kassel	Bonnie J. Mizdol	Michael J. Rogers
David B. Katz	Sohail Mohammed	Jonathan W. Romankow
Christopher R. Kazlau	Joseph G. Monaghan	Christopher S. Romanyshyn
John S. Kennedy	Thomas M. Moore	Lisa Rose*
·		

Marysol Rosero Garry S. Rothstadt* Scott T. Rumana Guy P. Ryan Jack M. Sabatino* Sharifa R. Salaam Joshua D. Sanders Peter Sarkos James X. Sattely James P. Savio Reema Scaramella Louis S. Sceusi Tara Schillari Rich Sherri L. Schweitzer Annette Scoca Angelo Servidio Kevin M. Shanahan Kathleen A. Sheedy M. Susan Sheppard Mark B. Shoemaker Thomas J. Shusted Jr. Michael J. Silvanio Deborah Silverman Katz Mary C. Siracusa Walter F. Skrod Christine Smith Kevin T. Smith Morris G. Smith* Pamela M. Snyder L. Grace Spencer Robin J. Stacy Barbara J. Stanton Bridget A. Stecher Donald I. Stein Mitchell I. Steinhart Barbara C. Stolte Haekyoung Suh Richard T. Sules Andrea Sullivan 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 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* Dina M. Vicari Lisa M. Vignuolo Robert M. Vinci Ana C. Viscomi Danielle Walcoff Kay Walcott-Henderson Jeffrey J. Waldman Thomas J. Walls Jr. Thomas J. Walsh Peter E. Warshaw David J. Weaver Craig L. Wellerson Mary Gibbons Whipple* Brian C. White 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 John Zunic

Supreme Court

Stuart Rabner Barry T. Albin Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina Jaynee LaVecchia Anne M. Patterson Lee A. Solomon Fabiana Pierre-Louis

Tax Court

Vito L. Bianco Mary 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

							Iı	nventory	7	Backlog			
		Filings			Resolutions			Cases Pe n Time G		(Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)			
	July 2019 to June 2020	July 2020 to June 2021	percent change	July 2019 to June 2020	July 2020 to June 2021	percent change	June 2020	June 2021	percent change	June 2020	June 2021	percent change	
Criminal Division Indictable Cases	30,062	24,179	-20%	31,968	21,976	-31%	1,675	6,763	304%	10,594	8,497	-20%	
Municipal Appeals	394	192	-51%	403	260	-35%	25	59	136%	145	53	-63%	
Post-Conviction Relief	518	387	-25%	543	438	-19%	379	300	-21%	145	184	27%	
General Equity Total	4,175	3,323	-20%	4,301	3,706	-14%	1,695	1,356	-20%	260	249	-4%	
Contested Foreclosure	1,704	823	-52%	1,763	1,253	-29%	662	271	-59%	65	47	-28%	
Equity (excluding foreclosure)	2,471	2,500	1%	2,538	2,453	-3%	1,033	1,085	5%	195	202	4%	
Civil Division Civil - Total	72,689	75,675	4%	71,848	69,051	-4%	68,195	67,120	-2%	22,604	30,545	-5%	
Multi-County Litigation	2,294	3,467	51%	6,992	2,366	-66%	5,086	5,206	2%	9,131	10,134	11%	
Non Multi-County Litigation	70,395	72,208	3%	64,856	66,685	3%	63,109	61,914	-2%	13,473	20,411	52%	
Special Civil - Total	342,400	239,167	-30%	334,650	199,767	-40%	24,106	30,053	25%	20,888	55,024	163%	
Special Civil - Auto	2,472	1,831	-26%	2,309	1,975	-14%	413	258	-38%	110	129	17%	
Special Civil - Contract	186,581	170,429	-9%	196,712	161,962	-18%	12,686	22,123	74%	2,279	1,871	-81%	
Special Civil - Other	5,583	4,530	-19%	5,185	4,772	-8%	1,030	866	-16%	316	264	-16%	
Special Civil - Small Claims	18,203	9,239	-49%	17,121	8,701	-49%	834	907	9%	1,646	2,126	29%	
Special Civil - Tenancy	129,561	53,138	-59%	113,323	22,357	-80%	9,143	5,899	-35%	16,537	50,634	206%	
Probate	6,038	6,214	3%	5,970	5,800	-3%	1,777	2,061	16%	115	152	32%	
Family Division Dissolution	44,218	43,303	-2%	41,986	39,519	-6%	15,794	18,767	19%	2,085	2,866	37%	
Delinquency	18,565	11,741	-37%	17,617	12,724	-28%	1,321	1,107	-16%	1,477	651	-56%	
Non-Dissolution	91,140	50,322	-45%	93,477	49,453	-47%	2,483	4,614	86%	2,714	1,394	-49%	
Domestic Violence	42,001	40,994	-2%	40,285	41,044	2%	1,905	2,193	15%	1,336	991	-26%	
Abuse / Neglect	2,881	2,370	-18%	3,753	2,813	-25%	3,194	2,766	-13%	84	65	-23%	
Adoption	1,642	1,473	-10%	1,687	1,432	-15%	323	361	12%				
Child Placement Review	2,169	1,654	-24%	3,142	2,291	-27%	4,612	3,989	-14%	22	22	0%	
Juvenile / Family Crisis	167	134	-20%	171	133	-22%	6	7	-17%	4	4	0%	
Kinship	481	322	-33%	481	347	-28%	63	47	-25%	9	0	-100%	
Termination of Parental Rights	703	557	-21%	683	539	-21%	219	215	-2%	191	211	10%	
Criminal / Quasi-Criminal	6,834	6,830	0%	6,135	6,288	2%	762	1,064	40%	509	695	37%	

659,091

6,992

652,099

457,581

2,366

455,215

-31%

-66%

-30%

128,534 142,842 11%

123,448 137,636

5,206

5,086

63,182

9,131

54,051

101,603

10,134

91,469

61%

11%

667,077 508,837

3,467

505,370

51%

-24%

2,294

664,783

Total

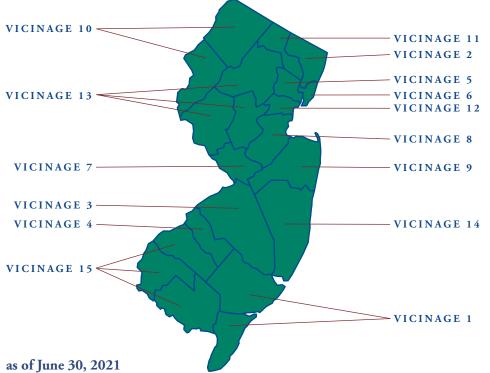
Multi-County Litigation

Non Multi-County Litigation

Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and **Backlog by County**

							Iı	iventory	7	Backlog			
		Filings					(Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			(Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)			
	July 2019 to June 2020	July 2020 to June 2021	percent change	July 2019 to June 2020	July 2020 to June 2021	percent change	June 2020	June 2021	percent change	June 2020	June 2021	percent change	
Atlantic County Total	28,556	23,776	-17%	28,054	20,191	-28%	6,271	8,384	34%	3,375	5,316	58%	
Multi-County Litigation	991	1,862	88%	68	277	307%	1429	2,624	84%	821	1,213	48%	
Non Multi-County Litigation	27,565	21,914	-21%	27,986	19,914	-29%	4,842	5,760	19%	2,554	4,103	61%	
Bergen County Total	49,337	44,558	-10%	54,750	41,213	-25%	11,721	13,280	13%	8,793	10,925	24%	
Multi-County Litigation	287	612	113%	6,634	1,415	-79%	911	839	-8%	5,313	4,601	-13%	
Non-Multicounty Litigation	49,050	43,946	-10%	48,116	39,798	-17%	10,810	12,441	15%	3,480	6,324	82%	
Burlington County	33,993	26,625	-22%	34,241	25,250	-26%	5,176	6,156	19%	1,330	1,826	37%	
Camden County	53,495	40,128	-25%	52,100	36,048	-31%	9,064	10,048	11%	4,063	7,254	79%	
Cape May County	7,220	6,549	-9%	7,470	5,813	-22%	1,119	1,507	35%	452	722	60%	
Cumberland County	17,527	12,330	-30%	17,566	11,281	-36%	2,207	2,653	20%	1,147	1,770	54%	
Essex County	96,936	65,523	-32%	90,864	53,151	-42%	18,844	20,140	7%	12,142	23,356	92%	
Gloucester County	21,720	17,179	-21%	21,741	16,026	-26%	3,328	3,870	16%	1,083	1,725	59%	
Hudson County	51,045	38,881	-24%	49,936	33,873	-32%	9,396	10,375	10%	3,783	7,868	108%	
Hunterdon County	4,892	4,352	-11%	4,954	4,115	-17%	868	1,036	19%	194	255	31%	
Mercer County	29,513	21,005	-29%	28,669	19,722	-31%	4,888	5,646	16%	2,800	3,264	17%	
Middlesex County Total	54,331	42,922	-21%	51,736	38,977	-25%	15,244	14,741	-3%	7,772	12,371	59%	
Multi-County Litigation	1,016	993	-2%	290	674	132%	2,746	1,743	-37%	2,997	4,320	44%	
Non Multi-County Litigation	53,315	41,929	-21%	51,446	38,303	-26%	12,498	12,998	4%	4,775	8,051	69%	
Monmouth County	35,030	28,534	-19%	35,535	26,280	-26%	7,313	8,371	14%	2,607	3,883	49%	
Morris County	22,451	17,217	-23%	22,187	15,987	-28%	4,681	5,031	7%	1,293	2,150	66%	
Ocean County	35,312	28,725	-19%	35,045	27,454	-22%	6,458	7,059	9%	2,696	3,421	27%	
Passaic County	44,240	30,608	-31%	42,934	26,215	-39%	7,632	8,634	13%	4,204	7,687	83%	
Salem County	6,917	5,074	-27%	6,966	4,482	-36%	756	1,036	37%	388	662	71%	
Somerset County	15,881	12,796	-19%	15,698	11,906	-24%	2,943	3,401	16%	1,061	1,464	38%	
Sussex County	8,277	6,347	-23%	8,461	6,043	-29%	1,249	1,462	17%	482	607	26%	
Union County	43,181	30,097	-30%	42,752	28,241	-34%	8,463	8,929	6%	3,214	4,627	44%	
Warren County	7,223	5,611	-22%	7,432	5,313	-29%	913	1,083	19%	303	450	49%	

Total	667,077	508,837	-24%	659,091	457,581	-31%	128,534	142,842	-11%	63,182	101,603	61%
Multi-County Litigation	2,294	3,467	51%	6,992	2,366	-61%	5,086	5,206	2%	9,131	10,134	11%
Non Multi-County Litigation	664,783	505,370	-24%	652,099	455,215	-30%	123,448	137,636	11%	54,051	91,469	69%



Atlantic/Cape May

Vicinage 1

Julio L. Mendez

Assignment Judge

Howard H. Berchtold Ir.

Trial Court Administrator

Bergen

Vicinage 2

Bonnie J. Mizdol

Assignment Judge

Laura A. Simoldoni

Trial Court Administrator

Burlington

Vicinage 3

Jeanne T. Covert

Assignment Judge

Alba R. Rivera

Trial Court Administrator

Camden

Vicinage 4

Deborah Silverman Katz

Assignment Judge

Colleen P. Lore

Trial Court Administrator

Essex

Vicinage 5

Sheila A. Venable

Assignment Judge

Amv K. DePaul

Trial Court Administrator

Hudson

Vicinage 6

Jeffrey R. Jablonski

Assignment Judge

Marie L. Keevan

Trial Court Administrator

Mercer

Vicinage 7

Robert T. Lougy

Assignment Judge

Edward Wingren III

Trial Court Administrator

Middlesex

Vicinage 8

Michael A. Toto

Assignment Judge

Gregory Lambard

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

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.

Passaic

Vicinage 11

Ernest M. Caposela

Assignment Judge

Robert D. Tracy

Trial Court Administrator

Union

Vicinage 12

Lisa Miralles Walsh

Assignment Judge

Devang M. Merchant

Trial Court Administrator

Somerset/Hunterdon/Warren

Vicinage 13

Thomas C. Miller

Assignment Judge

Adriana M. Calderon

Trial Court Administrator

Ocean

Vicinage 14

Marlene Lynch Ford

Assignment Judge

Jill Vito

Trial Court Administrator

Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem

Vicinage 15

Benjamin C. Telsey

Assignment Judge

Jason Corter

Trial Court Administrator





Debuting the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Building

Thirteen months after its groundbreaking, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Justice Building in Newark opened in June 2021. The 150,000-square-foot building houses 11 courtrooms for Tax Court and for the Essex Vicinage's General Equity court, which were relocated from the Robert N. Wilentz Justice Complex in Newark.

Outside the building, a 14-foot bronze statute of Dr. King stands on an 8-foothigh granite pedestal. The lobby of the 4-story glass-faced building contains a mural that features photos and quotes of Dr. King. A large-screen television plays a video of the civil rights leader.







"Make no mistake. When people come into this courthouse, they will know from the very first moment that this is indeed a place where justice will be done."

- Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said at the June 17, 2021 dedication ceremony.



STUART RABNER

CHIEF JUSTICE

GLENN A. GRANT

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS

SEPTEMBER 2022