



Annual Report

Court Year 2022 - 2023

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Honoring Judge Lisa P. Thornton

The following is a letter submitted from Chief Justice Stuart Rabner nominating Judge Lisa P. Thornton for the Sandra Day O'Connor Award.

It is my privilege to nominate the late Honorable Lisa P. Thornton for the Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Award, recognizing her extraordinary lifetime of service defined by a steadfast commitment to justice, an innovative drive, and her utmost integrity and compassionate leadership.

As the first African American woman to serve as an assignment judge in New Jersey, she was a transformative leader who cared deeply about improving the justice system and treating people fairly, equally, and with dignity.

Serving the public was a higher calling for Lisa. Her dedication to accessible and equitable justice began early in her career, as a municipal court judge, when she provided all who appeared in the "people's court" an opportunity to be heard and to feel like their voice mattered.

As chief of staff for the Department of Law and Public Safety, Lisa demonstrated her dedication to systemic reform, public safety, and the protection of fundamental rights for all as she assisted with the leadership of over 9,000 public servants and the creation and implementation of a comprehensive criminal justice initiative focused on prevention, enforcement, and re-entry.

During her tenure as assignment judge, New Jersey implemented criminal justice reform (CJR), ensuring that defendants were detained based on their risk to the community and not on their finances. Lisa led this transformation in Monmouth County and served as an important voice in communicating the importance of CJR to the public.

Lisa's professional journey also was marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence in innovation. As assignment judge, she led the Monmouth Vicinage in the implementation of new technologies and trial presentation systems, modernized court facilities, streamlined court operations, and enhanced language access services and resources for self-represented litigants. Her work improved case resolutions and helped make Monmouth's courts more accessible.

Lisa was a true model of ethical leadership. Both on and off the bench, her decisions and actions were grounded in fairness, sincerity, transparency, and inclusion. She was approachable and authentic in everything she did, guiding those around her to act with integrity. She inspired trust and admiration from lawyers, community members, and her fellow judges. Most notable of her many positive traits was her genuine care for every person and her ability to make them feel valued, respected, and included. She supported her colleagues with compassion and candor, provided honest feedback, set high expectations for performance, and led by example with her tireless work ethic and unwavering dedication. Lisa also mentored countless young professionals, offering guidance with kindness, wisdom with a sense of humor, and honesty with compassion. In doing so, she inspired the next generation of justice professionals.

Lisa is remembered as a devoted judge, a trailblazer, and a model of principled and compassionate leadership. Thank you for considering her for this prestigious award.



In memory of

Monmouth Vicinage Assignment Judge

Lisa P. Thornton



“Lisa Thornton was more than a gifted judge, inspiring trailblazer, and natural leader. She was brilliant and plain spoken, insightful and honest, direct and witty, and a selfless friend. Judge Thornton also cared deeply about making this a better world through her words and deeds. Her sudden passing is a loss to the Judiciary and to humanity.”

*-Stuart Rabner
Chief Justice*



“Judge Thornton was our leader, our colleague and most importantly our friend. I smile when I think about her life, her journey, and her connections to all of us. Maya Angelou stated, “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Lisa Thornton made us feel special. She was a natural leader. Intelligent, honest, hardworking, personable, and funny. I will always remember her forthrightness, character, and charm. She touched many of us and we are better people because of it.”

*-Glenn A. Grant
Administrative Director of the Courts*



“We are heartbroken as we try to process and comprehend the sudden passing of our beloved Assignment Judge and dear friend, the Honorable Lisa P. Thornton. She has been the motivation, drive, and dedication behind all that we have accomplished together as a vicinage. She inspired us to do what we may have thought was impossible because she believed in us. She generously shared her valuable time with all and was deeply committed to her family, our vicinage family, our county, the Judiciary, and especially to the people we serve.”

*-Gurpreet M. Singh
Trial Court Administrator
Monmouth Vicinage*





NEW JERSEY COURTS

2022-2023 Annual Report

Report of the Administrative Director of the Courts

For the Court Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Supreme Court of New Jersey

Chief Justice

Stuart Rabner

Associate Justices

Barry T. Albin

Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina

Jayne LaVecchia

Anne M. Patterson

Lee A. Solomon

Fabiana Pierre-Louis

Clerk of the Supreme Court

Heather Joy Baker

Superior Court, Appellate Division

Chief 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 Ryan

Administrative Director, Office of the

Acting Administrative Director of the 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

Communications and Community Relations, Office of

Director

Peter McAleer

Information Technology Office

Director

Jack P. McCarthy III

Assistant Directors

Selvi Karuppaswamy -

Data Analytics Research Center

Laks Kattalai - Application Services

Ron Wildmann -

Technical Services & Operations

Management and Administrative Services, Office of

Director

Todd McManus

Assistant Directors

Valarie Fragé - Financial Services

Deirdre K. Hartman - Human Resources

Helen Livingston - Support Services

Probation Services, Office of

Director

Rashad Shabaka-Burns

Assistant Director

Brenda Beacham

Professional and Governmental Services, Offices of

Director

Deirdre M. Naughton

Trial Court Services, Offices of

Director

Jennifer M. Perez

Assistant Directors

Donna Westhoven - Criminal Practice Division

Joanne M. Dietrich - Family Practice Division

John Lally - Data Analytics,
Research and Standards

Kim Madera - Automated Trial Courts Services

Taironda Phoenix - Civil Practice Division

Steven A. Somogyi - Municipal Court Services



The New Jersey Judiciary Celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Modern Court System

The 2022-2023 Court Year marked the 75th anniversary of the New Jersey Judiciary as established under the 1947 state constitution.

Before voters approved the current state constitution in 1947, New Jersey's judicial system was a labyrinth of antiquated, overlapping courts in which litigants often waited for years, if ever, to have their cases heard. The 1947 constitution is the foundation for today's modern Judiciary, which insures accountability and respect for litigants.



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

Letter from the Administrative Director of the Courts

The following is an excerpt from remarks delivered by Judge Glenn A. Grant, Acting Administrative Director of the Courts, during his appearance before the State Senate Budget Committee on April 18, 2023.

We in the Judiciary are mindful of the special role we play in society. That role is to provide a neutral forum for citizens and businesses of this state to resolve their disputes, protect victims and children from real harm, protect rights and liberties, and ensure equal justice for all.

I would like to highlight some Judiciary programs that reflect a broad-based collaboration with the other two branches of government and the communities of New Jersey.

The first program, founded by Chief Justice Rabner in 2019, works to improve the ways in which our justice system responds to individuals with mental health issues who come in contact with our courts.

The program quickly identifies those defendants released pretrial who have mental health issues and assists them in gaining access to community-based services, mental health evaluations, and mental health treatment. Participants also have opportunities for admission into a diversion program.

Another Chief Justice Rabner initiative, the JOBS program, or Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success, which started in 2019, operates on the principle that stable, quality employment offers the best chance for individuals to turn their lives around. The JOBS program reflects another partnership with the executive branch, all of the state’s colleges and universities, job training providers, and both private and public employers. We are grateful to those employers who have participated, and we continue to welcome companies interested in participating in this society-changing initiative.

Lastly, the Judiciary’s Reduction of Gun Violence Initiative, which started in 2021, seeks to confront the spread of gun violence in our communities. Chief Justice Rabner believes that addressing the surge of gun violence in our communities must be multi-faceted.

An advisory board in each participating county that includes legislators and other community leaders recommends resources and services for individuals placed on probation for gun-related offenses. Those services become part of the individual’s probation case plan, which is then reviewed periodically by a judge.

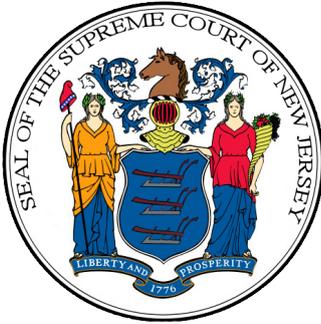
Hundreds of individuals, both adults and juveniles, across seven different counties (Passaic, Mercer, Essex, Union, Atlantic, Hudson, and Burlington) have participated in the program to gain education, substance abuse treatment, job certifications, and employment.

All three programs confront some of the more intractable problems facing not only our court system but all of society. These programs exist because of the collaboration and cooperation of all three branches of government as well as many other individuals and organizations who seek to improve our system of justice.

Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

“These programs exist because of the collaboration and cooperation of all three branches of government ...”

New Jersey Supreme Court



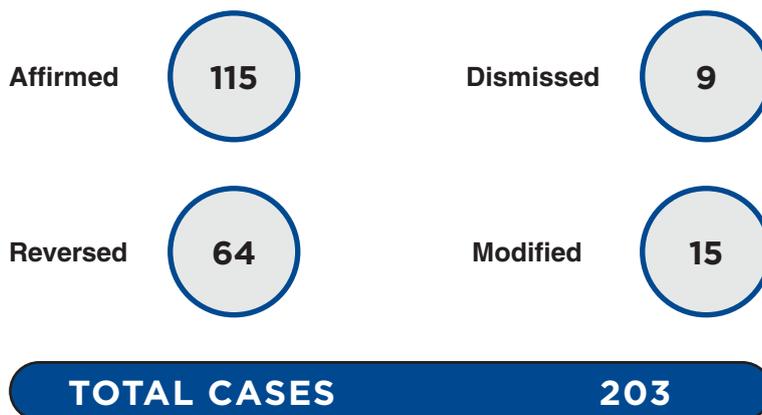
The 1947 state constitution created a more unified court system to replace the previous, more fragmented structure. Under the changes, the Supreme Court, which had been primarily a trial court with limited appellate functions, became the highest appellate court in the state. The Supreme Court heard 203 cases in its first year.



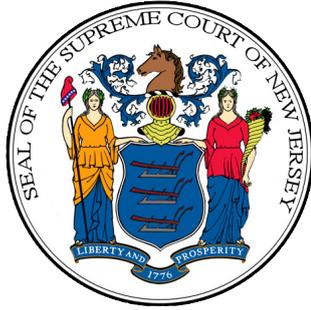
The 1947 New Jersey Supreme Court under Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt (front center).

Supreme Court Appeals Argued

Sept. 15, 1948 to Aug. 31, 1949



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 2023, the court admitted 1,654 new attorneys to the New Jersey bar, a 9.62 percent decrease from the previous year.

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



Standing from left:

Justice Douglas M. Fasciale, Justice Rachel Wainer Apter, Justice Fabiana Pierre-Louis, Justice Michael Noriega

Seated from left:

Justice Anne M. Patterson, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, Justice Lee A. Solomon

Newly Sworn Justices

Effective Oct. 21, 2022



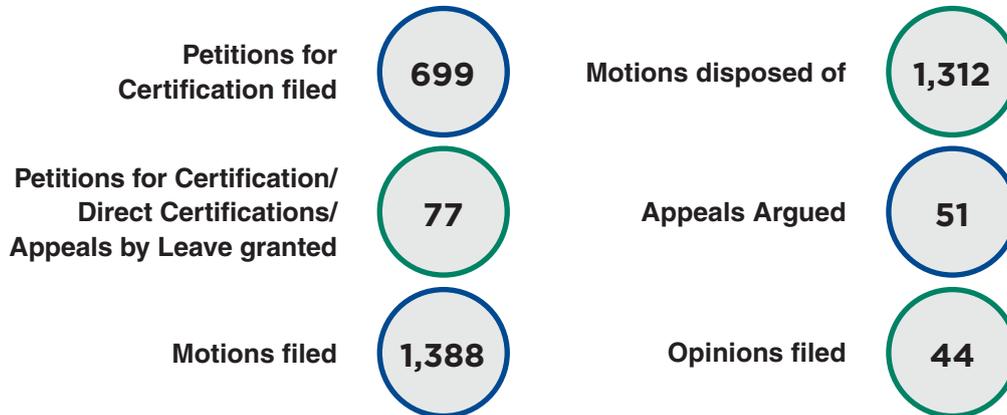
Rachel Wainer Apter
Associate Justice
New Jersey Supreme Court

Effective Oct. 21, 2022



Douglas M. Fasciale
Associate Justice
New Jersey Supreme Court

2023 Supreme Court by the Numbers



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 2023, the fund approved \$1,022,931 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 state administrative agencies.

The General Assignment Order (GAO) for the 2022-2023 term established six parts, A-F. Although 28 judges were assigned to the Appellate Division by the GAO, there were only 25 in the Appellate Division at the start of the term. The presiding judges for Parts A (Sabatino), B (Fasciale), and F (Fisher) were temporarily assigned to the Supreme Court by order entered Aug. 15, 2022. The GAO listed Judges Whipple, Currier, and Sumners as acting presiding judges for those respective parts. Following Justice Fasciale's swearing-in as an associate justice to the Supreme Court on Oct. 21, 2022, Judge Currier was formally designated as presiding judge of Part B the same day. Judge Sumners was also designated as acting deputy presiding judge on Oct. 21, 2022.

Chief Judge of the Appellate Division Carmen Messano retired on May 23, 2023 and Judge Sumners was designated as Chief Judge of the Appellate Division. Judge Currier was designated as acting deputy presiding judge for Administration, replacing Judge Sumners in that position.

During this reporting period, five judges were "temporarily assigned" to the Appellate Division. Judges James R. Paganelli and Lisa A. Puglisi were temporarily assigned from Nov. 14, 2022 to Jan. 8, 2023. Judges Mark K. Chase, Lisa Perez Friscia and Kay Walcott-Henderson were temporarily assigned from April 3, 2023 to June 4, 2023.



Retired Appellate Presiding Judge
Carmen Messano



Chief Presiding Judge
Thomas W. Sumners Jr.

277 Decided

33 Pending

*The Appellate Division
heard 319 cases in its first
year (1948-1949).*



New Jersey Appellate Division - 1951



New Jersey Appellate Division - 2022

2023 Appellate Division by the Numbers

Appeals Filed

4,091

Appeals Decided

4,202

Opinions Filed

1,808

Motions Filed

7,105

Motions Decided

7,096

Published Opinions

101

New Jersey Tax Court

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. Below are the case types heard by the Tax Court in Court Year 2022-2023.

Statewide Case Types

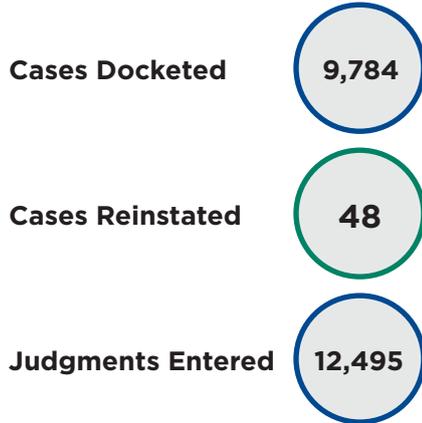
GROSS INCOME	31
SALES AND USE	30
SCHOOL AID	15
CORPORATE BUSINESS	13
FAIR HOMESTEAD REBATE	7
PROPERTY TAX REIMBURSEMENT	7
INHERITANCE TAX	6
RESPONSIBLE PERSON	6
USE TAX	3
ATLANTIC CITY LUXURY TAX	2
CORPORATION INCOME	2
10-DAY DEFICIENCY	1
BUSINESS EXCISE	1
CAPITAL GAINS AND OTHER UNEARNED INCOME	1
CIGARETTE	1
EMPLOYER WITHHOLD (PAYROLL)	1
ESTATE TAX	1
HOTEL	1
MANSION TAX	1
MISCELLANEOUS	1
NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FEE	1
SENIOR FREEZE	1
STATE TAX	1
TOBACCO PRODUCT WHOLESALE	1
GRAND TOTAL	137



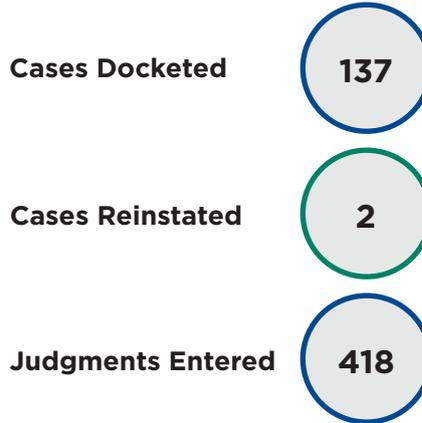
New Tax Court Judge Michael Duffy

Presiding Tax Court Judge Mala Sundar swore in Tax Court Judge Micheal J. Duffy on April 18, 2023.

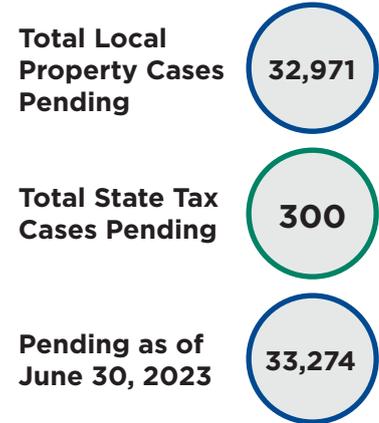
Local Property



State Cases



Pending Cases



Tax Court circa 1980 - Standing from left:

John F. Evers, David E. Crabtree,
John J. Hopkins, Marvin N. Rimm

Seated from left:

Michael A. Andrew, Jr., Lawrence L. Lasser (PJTC),
Anthony M. Lario, Richard M. Conley



Tax Court 2023 - Standing from left:

Vito L. Bianco, Michael J. Gilmore,
Joseph M. Andresini, Joshua D. Novin, Mark Cimino,
Jonathan A. Orsen, Michael J. Duffy

Seated from left:

Christine Nugent, Kathi F. Fiamingo, Mala Sundar,
Joan Bedrin Murray, Mary Siobhan Brennan



Trial Courts

Criminal Division

Civil Division

Family Division

Chancery Division

Municipal Division

Criminal Division

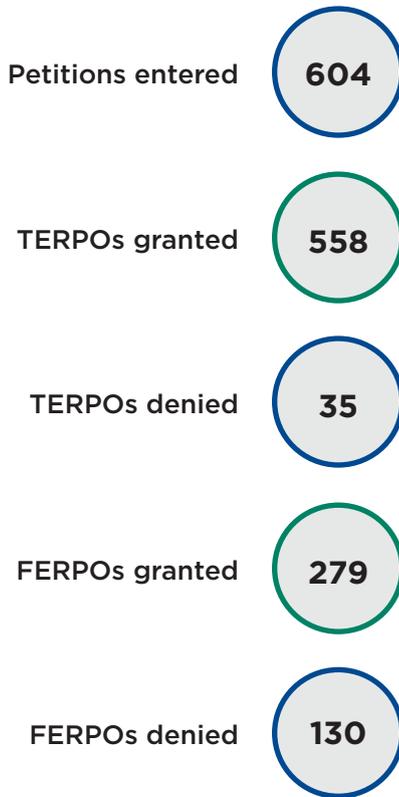
The Criminal Practice Division is part of the Trial Court Services section of the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Criminal Practice consists of two major units: Pretrial Services and Criminal Court Services.

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.

Extreme Risk Protective Orders

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



Criminal Justice Reform

The Judiciary released its annual Criminal Justice Reform report, which examined the justice system's response during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report found the average time to dispose of cases increased significantly during the pandemic, triggering an increase in the jail population for the first time since the start of Criminal Justice Reform. However, the jail population continued to consist mostly of defendants charged with first- or second-degree offenses.

Jury Trials and Grand Jury Panels

The Committee of the Judicial Conference on Jury Selection, established and chaired by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, released a series of recommendations in April 2022 seeking to expand jury pools and enhance fairness in the selection process. By May 2023, the Judiciary began collecting juror demographic information necessary to assess the composition of a jury pool in advance of a trial, one of 23 recommendations of the committee's report on ways to improve the jury selection process. With this change, New Jersey became the first state court system to collect juror demographic information on the qualification questionnaire.

Extreme Risk Protective Orders

The Judiciary developed guidelines for Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO) in 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 handgun. ERPOs are first considered for issuance on a temporary (TERPO) basis and then as a final order (FERPO).

Civil Division

The civil division coordinates the development and implementation of civil rules and improved court procedures.

Tenancy Cases

2021-2022

Filed - 74,859
Resolved - 87,788
Backlog - 31,199
Active pending - 43,668

2022-2023

Filed - 109,429
Resolved - 131,107
Backlog - 9,206
Active pending - 22,078

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 \$5,000 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 \$20,000 or less are filed in the Special Civil Part, with a resolution goal of four months. Cases valued at more than \$20,000 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.

CBLP Statewide Cases Filed

Commercial

237

Construction

36

Other

13

Total

286

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

The Complex Business Litigation Program (CBLP) was established in 2015 for the handling of complex business, commercial and construction cases that involve disputes of \$200,000 or more. Litigants in these cases benefit from having a core group of 16 dedicated judges that manage complex business disputes throughout the state. Other complex business-related cases may opt in to the program based upon unique circumstances with approval from the CBLP judge. This approach has fostered a body of authoritative case law 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.

CBLP Statewide Cases Resolved

Commercial

189

Construction

34

Other

11

Total

234

Family Division

Number of new out-of-home placement cases by county from July 2022 through June 2023

COUNTY	July 2022 - June 2023
Atlantic	80
Bergen	41
Burlington	133
Camden	251
Cape May	29
Cumberland	58
Essex	155
Gloucester	90
Hudson	73
Hunterdon	3
Mercer	104
Middlesex	109
Monmouth	89
Morris	35
Ocean	99
Passaic	78
Salem	35
Somerset	13
Sussex	20
Union	84
Warren	32
Total	1,611

44,815
new domestic violence filings

7,547
reopened domestic violence cases

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

In January 2022, the Supreme Court approved the revised Domestic Violence Procedures Manual. This manual, which provides comprehensive guidance on domestic violence procedures to the Judiciary and to law enforcement, was issued jointly with the Office of the Attorney General. The revised manual, which is posted on the Judiciary website, replaces the version that was promulgated in 2008. The revisions to the manual:

- Provide for immediate de novo hearings for the municipal court denial of a temporary restraining order.
- Establish the Domestic Violence Economic Mediation Program to mediate economic issues in dissolution matters where there is an active domestic violence final restraining order between the parties.
- Establish procedures for taking applications for temporary restraining orders remotely.
- Create a domestic violence form and instruction packet for victims who already have been granted a temporary restraining order to administratively amend their complaint for certain reasons.
- Implement the use of a new form when the court accepts a plea in domestic violence contempt matters heard in the Superior Court, Family Division.

Children in Court

The Judiciary adopted the benchmark hearings protocol for children who are placed outside of their home by the state Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

A benchmark hearing is a youth-centered event that enables older youth in placement to have a direct conversation with the judge to identify and develop strategies to ensure the youth's needs are addressed in a timely fashion. The youth and judge work to identify specific measures to help the youth achieve their goals. The benchmark hearing gives the judge a chance to learn the child's desires, aspirations, and concerns for their future in a setting that is not a formal court hearing.

Chancery Division

Cases in the chancery division, general equity, involve non-monetary disputes such as business dissolution issues, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, labor injunctions and mortgage and tax foreclosure actions. 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 continues to review and recommend the entry of motions and judgments in accordance with established standards. All Covid-related stays in foreclosure have been lifted.

Foreclosure Complaints by County (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

County	Total
Atlantic	576
Bergen	802
Burlington	865
Camden	1,071
Cape May	172
Cumberland	353
Essex	946
Gloucester	642
Hudson	351
Hunterdon	127
Mercer	402
Middlesex	844
Monmouth	738
Morris	492
Ocean	973
Passaic	488
Salem	162
Somerset	292
Sussex	317
Union	622
Warren	212
Total	11,448

Probate Complaints



General Equity Complaints



Total Foreclosure Complaints



Total Foreclosure Judgments



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.

In Court Year 2023, there were 5,629,284 cases filed, a 14 percent increase from the previous year. The municipal courts had a 92 percent clearance rate during Court Year 2023.

Municipal Court Reform

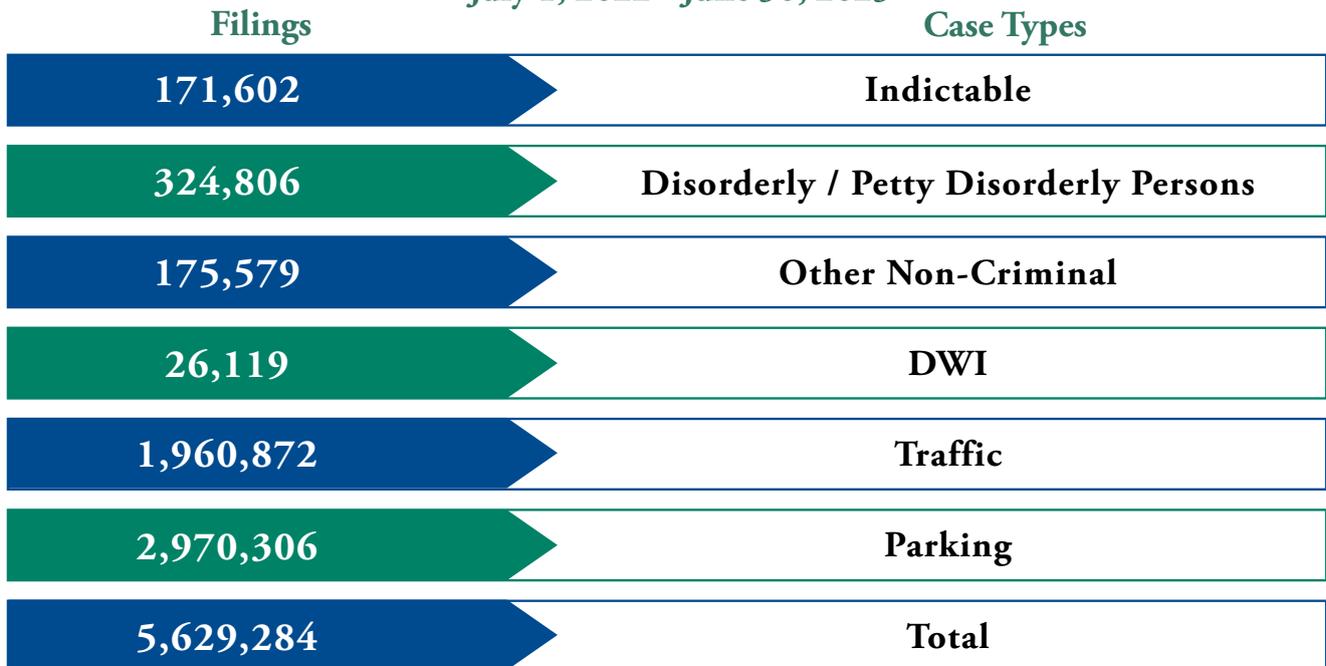
A Nov. 18, 2021 Supreme Court order gave municipal court judges discretion to determine whether to conduct court proceedings virtually or in person. However, trials in municipal matters involving a reasonable likelihood of a jail sentence or loss of suspension of license, and evidentiary hearings, are still to be conducted in person.

More than 142,133 virtual court sessions were scheduled between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

Other key reforms enabled parties to resolve minor municipal matters without appearing in court. Rather than coming to a court facility, court users are now able to complete and submit a plea-by-mail form and participate in online dispute resolution.

Municipal Court Filings by Case Type

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023





Probation Services

Probation Services By the Numbers

Adult Supervision Cases - **29,811**

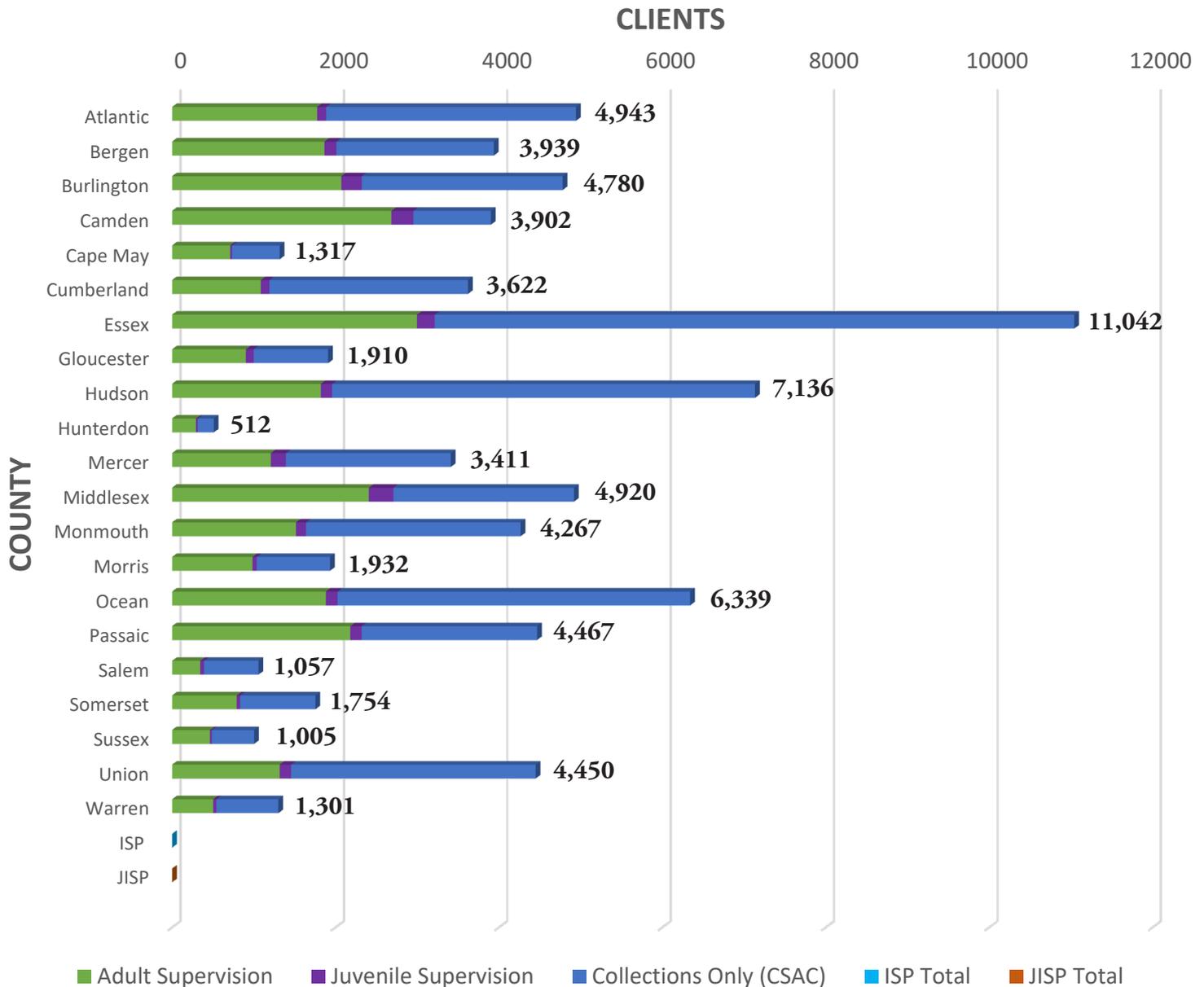
Juvenile Supervision Cases- **2,601**

Collections Only Cases- **45,594**

Total Clients Served- **78,006**

Probation Services by the Numbers

Court Year 2022 - 2023



Collections

There were 48,149 collections through CSAC (Community Service and Collections) during Court Year 2022-2023.

Field Work

Probation officers conducted 18,445 inspections and 55,011 visits of clients' homes during Court Year 2022-2023.

Community Service

Probation clients performed 334,212 hours of community service during Court Year 2022-2023.

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.

\$7,112,587

paid probation fees/fines

220,844

child support caseload
as of June 2023

\$855,538,838

total child support collections

68.9%

current child support obligations
collected for July 2022 to June 2023

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.

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 220,000 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 New Jersey taxpayers \$19 million for ISP participants in Court Year 2022-23.

Recovery Court Program

The Recovery Court Unit focuses specifically on the advancement and operation of the recovery court in each vicinage. The Judiciary's recovery 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 recovery court program started as a pilot in 2001 and expanded statewide the following year.

Judicial Appointments

Effective February 1, 2023



Francis R. Hodgson Jr.
Assignment Judge
Ocean Vicinage

Effective May 1, 2023



Carol Novey Catuogno
Assignment Judge
Bergen Vicinage

Effective May 31, 2023



Rudolph A. Filko
Assignment Judge
Passaic Vicinage

Effective June 28, 2023



Marc C. Lemieux
Assignment Judge
Monmouth Vicinage

Judicial Council

June 2023



Standing from left:

Family Presiding Judge Rodney Thompson, Criminal Presiding Judge Stephen J. Taylor, Assignment Judge Michael J. Blee, General Equity Presiding Judge Jodi Lee Alper, Assignment Judge Marc C. Lemieux, Assignment Judge Lisa Miralles Walsh, Assignment Judge Francis R. Hodgson Jr., Assignment Judge Michael A. Toto, Assignment Judge Robert T. Lougy, Assignment Judge Rudolph A. Filko, Assignment Judge Jeanne T. Covert, Assignment Judge Jeffrey R. Jablonski, Civil Presiding Judge Aimee R. Belgard, Assignment Judge Carol Novey Catuogno, Assignment Judge Sheila A. Venable, Assignment Judge Kevin Shanahan, and Appellate Chief Presiding Judge Thomas W. Sumners Jr.

Seated from left:

Assignment Judge Benjamin C. Telsey, Assignment Judge Stuart A. Minkowitz, Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, Acting Administrative Director of the Courts Glenn A. Grant, and Assignment Judge Deborah Silverman Katz.

1948



1948: Arthur T. Vanderbilt sworn in as the first chief justice under the 1947 New Jersey Constitution

Winberry v. Salisbury (1950) Established that the New Jersey Supreme Court, not the Legislature, had the power to govern the "practice and procedure" in the courts.

1957



1957: Chief Justice Joseph Weintraub

Henningsen v Bloomfield Motors (1960) Led to the creation of products liability law.

Marini v Ireland (1970) Established tenants' rights dealing with landlords.

1973



**1973: Chief Justice Pierre Garvin
1973: Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes**

Robinson v Cahill (1973) Required the state to ensure equal educational opportunity for school children.

Southern Burlington County NAACP v Mount Laurel Twp. (1975) Required municipalities to provide low- and moderate-income housing.

In Re Karen Ann Quinlan (1976) Established that life-sustaining medical treatments could be discontinued, even if the patient is unable to make the decision.

1979



1979: Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz

Southern Burlington County NAACP v. Township of Mount Laurel (1983) Commonly known as Mount Laurel II, this decision set forth specific requirements that every town in New Jersey must provide its "fair share" of the regional need for low- and moderate-income housing.

Abbott v. Burke (1985) In a challenge to how schools were funded, the Court decided that the matter should be handled first at the administrative level and transferred it to the state Commissioner of Education.

In the Matter of Baby M (1988) The Court invalidated a surrogate parenting contract between a couple and surrogate mother, calling the intended payment "illegal, perhaps criminal, and potentially degrading to women." However, the Court granted custody to the couple.

Doe v. Poritz (1995) The Court ruled that bills related to Megan's Law, including community notification of the presence of a sex offender living in a neighborhood, are constitutional.

Lehmann v Toys R Us (1992) Defined the elements stating a cause of action for a claim of sexual harassment that created a hostile work environment.

1948



Chief Justice
Arthur T. Vanderbilt

1957



Chief Justice
Joseph Weintraub

1973



Chief Justice
Pierre Garvin

1996



1996: Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz

Dale v. Boy Scouts of America (2000) The Court ruled the Boy Scouts violated the state's public accommodations law by revoking Dale's membership based on his homosexuality.

Raleigh Avenue Beach Ass'n v. Atlantis Beach Club, Inc. (2004) The Court ruled that privately owned beaches must be open to the general public at a fee for services provided by the owner and approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Lewis v. Harris (2006) The Court held that the state's ban on same sex marriage violated the equal protection guarantee of the New Jersey Constitution.

2006



2006: Chief Justice James R. Zazzali

L.W. v. Toms River Regional Schools Bd. of Education (2007) The Court ruled that the school district could be liable for bias-based peer harassment that creates a hostile educational environment "when the school district knew or should have known of the harassment, but failed to take action reasonably calculated to end the harassment."

Gallenthin Realty Dev., Inc. v. Borough of Paulsboro (2007) The Court ruled that municipality's designation of a property as blighted and subject to eminent domain based only on the basis that the property is not being used in a fully productive manner was invalid.

2007



2007: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

State v Henderson (2011) Set new legal standards for analyzing the reliability of eyewitness identification.

State V. Andujar (2021) The Court upheld an Appellate Division opinion overturning a 2017 first-degree murder conviction after finding that the prosecution might have relied on implicit or unconscious bias when it sought to dismiss a prospective juror who is Black.

1973



Chief Justice
Richard J. Hughes

1979



Chief Justice
Robert N. Wilentz

1996



Chief Justice
Deborah T. Poritz

2006



Chief Justice
James R. Zazzali

2007



Chief Justice
Stuart Rabner



Addressing the Needs of Society

Recovery Court

JOBS Program

Adoption Day

Naturalization Ceremony/ Law Day

One Judge, One School Program

Expungements

Gun Violence Reduction Initiative

Ombudsman Program

Addressing the Needs of Society

The Judiciary oversees a number of initiatives that 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.

Recovery Court

New Jersey officially switched the name of drug court to recovery court Jan. 1, 2022 to better reflect the primary goal of the program. New Jersey's drug court program started as a pilot in 2001. The program, which addresses non-violent addicted offenders, requires completion of several phases of intensive drug and alcohol treatment and recovery.

This level of supervision permits the program to support the recovery process but also allows the team to react swiftly to impose appropriate therapeutic interventions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants do not comply with the program.

JOBS Program

The Judiciary Opportunities for Building Success (JOBS) Program partners with local employers to provide employment and job training, as well as professional development, for recovery court graduates and for those who complete probation.

The program gives probation clients a second chance to rebuild their lives, and it gives employers an opportunity to support their local communities.



Social Media Spotlight

Twenty probation clients from the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage were awarded their certifications in associate project management at the John F. Scarpa Academic Center of Stockton University's Atlantic City Campus.

The ceremony was the culmination of a rigorous 10-week program for specially selected probation candidates of their JOBS train-to-hire program.



Social Media Spotlight

The Burlington Vicinage's Take Your Child to Work day provided several activities for participants. The children learned about jury service, participated in a mock trial, watched a K-9 demonstration, and learned about internet safety and the dangers of cyberbullying. They also toured a crime scene van from the prosecutor's office and a vehicle used by the Burlington County fire marshal.

Social Media Spotlight

The Ocean Vicinage hosted 51 children for Bring Your Child to Work Day. Participants got a chance to interact with judges, sheriff's officers, and staff from every court division.



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 adoptions.

Naturalization Ceremony/Law Day

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. Events were held at courthouses around the state and at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton.

Social Media Spotlight

In honor of Flag Day, the Camden Vicinage held a naturalization ceremony during which 20 people from 16 countries were sworn in as American citizens.





Social Media Spotlight

Staff from the Camden Vicinage conducted mock trials with Howard Phifer Middle School's civics class at the Pennsauken Municipal Court. The students also participated in a Q&A session with Municipal Presiding Judge Brian Herman.

One Judge, One School Program

The vicinages continued their interactions with local schools in Court Year 2022-2023 through the One Judge/One School Program, which provides thousands of students with insights into the workings of New Jersey's court system. Through the program, judges visit schools or invite students to visit courthouses to learn about how the Judiciary operates.

Social Media Spotlight

Judges participating in the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage's Classroom to Courtroom program met with students from various schools.

Superior Court Judge Joseph M. Chiarello met with sixth-, seventh-, and eight-grade students at Quarter Mile Lane School in Bridgeton. Judge Chiarello spoke with students about the constitution, jury duty, and other topics before answering questions.



Social Media Spotlight

Judges from the Ocean Vicinage visited Lavallette School for a lunch-and-learn event as part of the court's youth partnership program.

Assignment Judge Francis Hodgson, Family Presiding Judge Madelin Einbinder and retired Superior Court Judge Robert Fall, who is on recall, spent time with the students in grades 5 through 8. The judges answered questions about the role of the Judiciary, careers in the court, and their own experiences.



Expungements

The New Jersey Judiciary has expunged more than 362,000 marijuana and hashish cases from court records since the Marijuana Decriminalization Law became effective July 1, 2021. Eligible cases were expunged automatically by the Judiciary. Once a case is expunged, it is removed from the court's public record and does not have to be reported on applications for jobs, housing, or college admissions.

Cases with offenses eligible for expungement include certain marijuana or hashish charges alone or in combination with the following: possession of drug paraphernalia; use or being under the influence of a controlled, dangerous substance; and failure to make lawful disposition of a controlled, dangerous substance.

The Administrative Office of the Courts launched an awareness campaign on Sept. 20, 2021 to inform the public of the opportunities available through the Marijuana Decriminalization Law.



Social Media Spotlight

Acting Administrative Director Glenn A. Grant was a presenter for a webinar sponsored by the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executives, on creating jury lists that are representative and inclusive of the community. New Jersey courts, along with courts in Missouri and Tennessee, participated in a study by the National Center for State Courts on ways to improve inclusiveness and representativeness in juror summoning.

Gun Violence Reduction Initiative

The Judiciary's Gun Violence Reduction Initiative is a combined effort of the courts, community stakeholders and resource providers to address reducing gun violence and other weapon-related violence committed by those on probation. The initiative is designed to encourage positive behavioral change using evidence-based practices.

Ten of the Judiciary's 15 vicinages are participating in the initiative, which serves those on probation supervision who are at moderate to high risk of reoffending and who have a current, weapon-related offense. The participating vicinages are Atlantic/Cape May, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic and Union.

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.

Social Media Spotlight

Staff from the Camden Vicinage held a courtyard community celebration. The event included information from the Judiciary, demonstrations from the Camden County Metro Police Department and the Camden County Sheriff's Office, health screenings from the Camden County Health Connection Mobile Unit and local food trucks.



Statewide Ombudsmen Contacts 2013-2023

Over the past 10 years, the number of court users utilizing the services of the Ombudsman Program has shown a consistent upward trend. The Ombudsman Program continues to serve more internal and external customers every year. There were 52,385 recorded contacts in 2013. In 2023, ombudsman provided services to 87,180 court users, a 66 percent growth over the 10-year period.

	2013	2023	Growth
Total Contacts	52,385	87,180	+66%

Statewide Ombudsmen Contacts

	2022	2023	% Change
Total Contacts	84,778	87,180	+3%

Mode of Contact

In Person	25,836	35,747	+38%
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Telephone/Virtual	36,946	36,512	-1%
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Written Communication	21,996	14,912	-32%
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Access and Fairness in the Courts

Action Plan for Equal Justice

Supreme Court Committee on
Wellness in the Law

Statewide Collection of Juror
Demographic Information

Access and Fairness in the Courts

The Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness ensures that the Judiciary 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.

Action Plan for Equal Justice

The New Jersey Supreme Court released the third installment of its Action Plan for Ensuring Equal Justice, a set of nine initiatives that continue the Judiciary's commitment to fairness and equity within New Jersey's court system.

The new initiatives are designed to make the court system more equitable and accessible for a range of groups, including at-risk juveniles, the LGBTQ+ community, and populations at risk of violence.

The new plan includes initiatives that seek to:

- Enhance local efforts to reduce the inappropriate use of juvenile detention.
- Reexamine the impact of court practices on people with disabilities.
- Eliminate structural barriers to the courts for LGBTQ+ people.
- Coordinate outreach and awareness programs focused on populations at risk of violence.
- Expand the use of data analytics to identify and address potential disparate effects on people of color.

Supreme Court Committee on Wellness in the Law

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner announced the formation of the Supreme Court Committee on Wellness in the Law, a special committee to develop recommendations to support the mental health of attorneys, judges, and other members of the legal community. Justice Lee Solomon was named chair of the committee.

Statewide Collection of Juror Demographic Information

New Jersey courts have begun to collect juror demographic information at the initial stage of the selection process, giving attorneys the information necessary to assess the composition of a jury pool in advance of a trial. The collection of this information is part of statewide reforms authorized by the Supreme Court to improve the jury selection process.



New Jersey Court News

[New TCAs](#)

[New Justices](#)

[Justice Barry Albin's Retirement](#)

[State of Judiciary Address](#)

[Honoring Judge Lisa P. Thornton](#)



Edward D. Wingren III

*Essex Vicinage
July 6, 2022*



Jill L. Houck

*Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage
September 1, 2022*



Richelle A. Coleman

*Mercer Vicinage
September 28, 2022*



Melanie M. Nowling

*Passaic Vicinage
June 15, 2023*

New Jersey Court News

New Justices

Justices Douglas Fasciale and Rachel Wainer Apter were sworn in on Oct. 21, 2022. Their first day of oral arguments was Oct. 24, 2022.



Justice Barry Albin's Retirement

Before Supreme Court Justice Barry T. Albin's last day of oral arguments on April 26, 2022, his colleagues publicly celebrated him for his tremendous contribution to shaping jurisprudence in New Jersey during his nearly 20 years on the state's highest court.



State of Judiciary Address

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner delivered his annual State of the Judiciary address to the New Jersey State Bar Association in Atlantic City on May 19, 2023, where he continued to warn about the long-range impact of the judicial vacancy crisis and the potential for halting civil and matrimonial trials in additional counties.



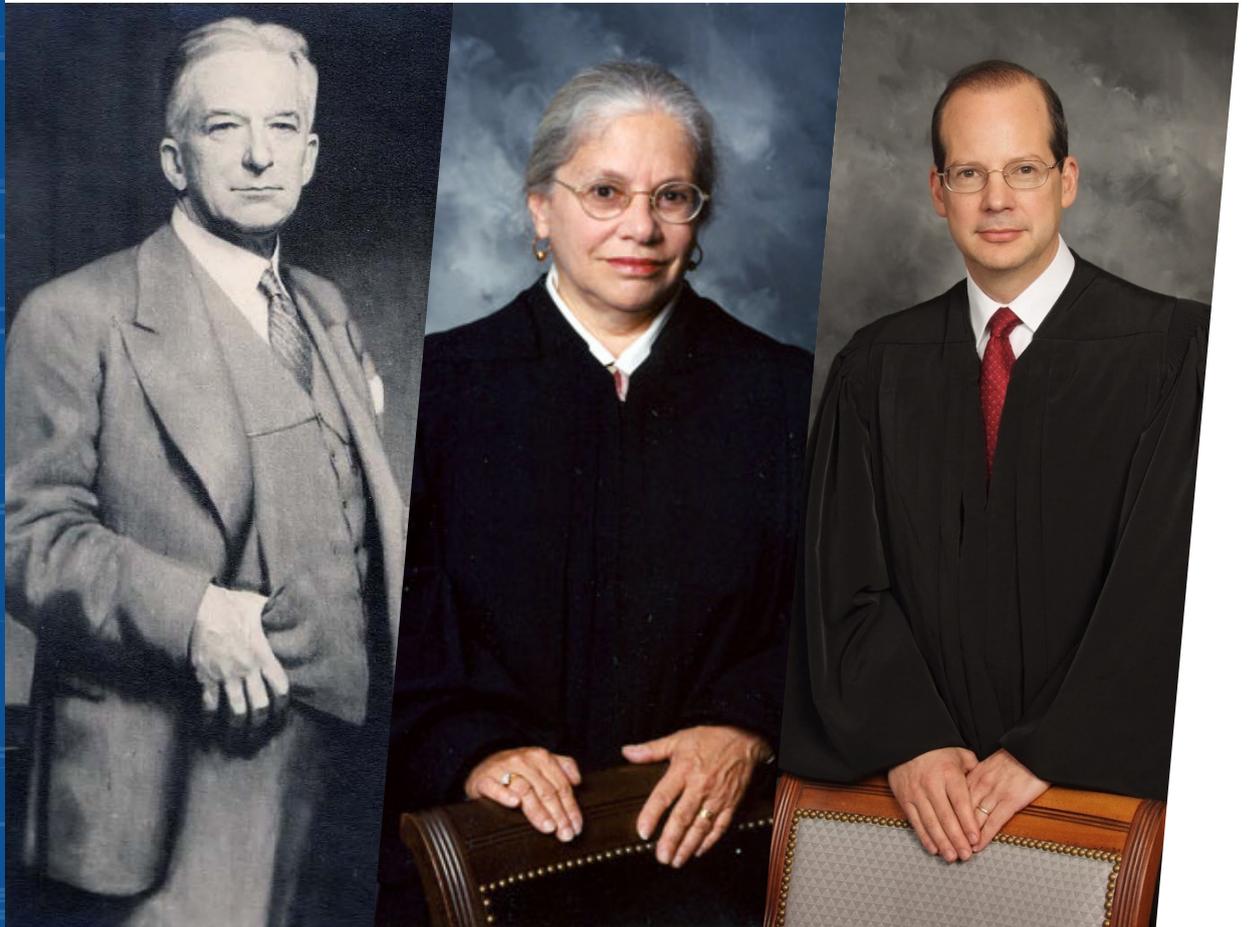
Honoring Judge Lisa P. Thornton

Flags flew half-staff on June 9, 2023.



Judges and Justices

as of June 30, 2023



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
Aravind Aithal
Mark S. Ali
Janine M. Allen
Veronica Allende
Jodi Lee Alper
Craig A. Ambrose
Ralph E. Amirata
William Anklowitz
Michael Antoniewicz
Niki Arbittier
Scott C. Arnette
Patrick J. Arre
Lorraine M. Augostini
Mark A. Baber
Robert A. Ballard Jr.
Martin F. Barbato
Patrick J. Bartels
Arthur J. Batista
David F. Bauman
Jeffrey B. Beacham
Aimee R. Belgard
Avion M. Benjamin
Scott J. Bennion
Maritza Berdote Byrne*
Stanley L. Bergman Jr.
Daniel A. Bernardin
Michael N. Beukas
Christie L. Bevacqua
Supti Bhattacharya
Robert W. Bingham II
Avis Bishop-Thompson*
Juliana E. Blackburn
Tosca E. Blandford-Bynoe
Michael J. Blee
Gwendolyn Blue
Peter A. Bogaard
Thomas T. Booth Jr.
Stacey K. Boretz

Angela Borkowski
Jodi F. Bouer
Patrick J. Bradshaw
Laurence J. Bravman
Gerard H. Breland
Robert E. Brenner
Thomas F. Brogan
Daniel H. Brown
Jeffrey R. Brown
Marc R. Brown
Benjamin, S. Bucca Jr.
James Bucci
Thomas J. Buck
Bruce D. Buechler
John J. Burke III
Henry P. Butehorn
Chad N. Cagan
Thomas A. Callahan Jr.
Marlene Caride
Andrea G. Carter
Regina Caulfield
Stevie D. Chambers
Judith S. Charny
Mark K. Chase
Tariq E. Chaudhri
Timothy W. Chell
Jean S. Chetney
Joseph M. Chiarello
Mark P. Ciarrocca
Vicki A. Citrino
Joanne Cocchiola
Rosalba L. Comas
Thomas M. Comer
Terrence R. Cook
Jorge F. Coombs
J. Randall Corman
Craig L. Corson
Mary K. Costello
Gerald J. Council
Frank Covello
Jeanne T. Covert
Michael V. Cresitello Jr.
Jennifer C. Critchley
Rodney Cunningham
Therese A. Cunningham
Heidi Willis Currier*

H. Matthew Curry
Angela White Dalton
Pamela D'Arcy
Cristen P. D'Arrigo
Miguel A. De La Carrera
Patrick DeAlmeida*
Frank J. DeAngelis
Philip James Degnan
John M. Deitch
Kathleen M. Delaney
Anthony V. D'Elia
Darren J. Delsardo
Bernard E. Delury Jr.
James M. Demarzo
James Den Uyl
Russell A. Depersia
Bina K. Desai
Darren T. Dibiasi
Lara K. Difabrizio
Francisco Dominguez
John M. Doran
Charles W. Dortch Jr.
Paula T. Dow
John G. Ducey III
John C. Eastlack Jr.
Christopher A. Edwards
Madelin F. Einbinder
Brian M. English
Richard W. English
Catherine I. Enright*
Paul X. Escandon
Kimberly Espinales-Maloney
Linda W. Eynon
James D. Fattorini
James J. Ferrelli
Eric G. Fikry
Rudolph A. Filko
Lisa A. Firko*
Colleen M. Flynn
Angela G. Foster
Margaret M. Foti
Magali M. Francois
Noah Franzblau
Sander D. Friedman
Lisa Perez Friscia
David M. Fritch

Karina D. Fuentes	John A. Jorgensen II	Jaclyn V. Medina
Harold W. Fullilove Jr.	Michael E. Joyce	Robert J. Mega
Linda A. Galella	Nadia Kahf	William G. Mennen
Mitzy Galis-Menendez	Bruce J. Kaplan	Marybel Mercado-Ramirez
Jane Gallina Mecca	Imre Karaszegi Jr.	Vincent J. Militello
George H. Gangloff Jr.	Michael J. Kassel	W. Todd Miller
Robert H. Gardner	David B. Katz	Stuart A. Minkowitz
Christopher J. Garrenger	Christopher R. Kazlau	Lisa Miralles Walsh
Michael C. Gaus	John S. Kennedy	Stephanie Ann Mitterhoff*
Peter G. Geiger	Naazneen B. Khan	Sohail Mohammed
Richard J. Geiger*	Honora O'Brien Kilgallen	Joseph G. Monaghan
Sean D. Gertner	Julie L. Kim	Thomas M. Moore
J. Christopher Gibson	Teresa A. Kondrup-Coyle	Benjamin D. Morgan
Robert J. Gilson*	Kurt Kramer	Valter H. Must
Rochelle Gizinski	Mary Beth Kramer	David V. Nasta
John I. Gizzo	Daniel M. Kurkowski	Arnold L. Natali Jr.*
Greta Gooden Brown*	David J. Labib	Justine A. Niccollai
Margaret Goodzeit	Robert Landel	Paul D. Nieves
Dara A. Govan	Susanne Lavelle	David A. Nitti
Lori Ellen Grifa	Linda L. Lawhun	Richard J. Nocella
Nora J. Grimbergen	Amy E. Lefkowitz	Carol V. Novey Catuogno
Katie A. Gummer*	Marc C. Lemieux	Maryann C. O'Brien
Michael J. Haas*	Joseph A. Levin	Patricia O'Dowd
Gavin I. Handwerker	Daniel R. Lindemann	John D. O'Dwyer
Deborah S. Hanlon-Schron	Alvin R. Little	Susan L. Olgiati
Robert M. Hanna	Robert T. Lougy	Caroline A. Oliveira
Melinda Hawkins Taylor	Lourdes Lucas	Jill G. O'Malley
Richard L. Hertzberg	Martha D. Lynes	Christine S. Orlando
Kerry Ellen Higgins	Keith E. Lynott	Michael R. Ostrowski Jr.
Francis Hodgson Jr.	Robert E. Lytle	Nicholas Ostuni Sr.
Edward W. Hoffman	Martha T. Mainor	Joseph W. Oxley
John G. Hudak	Robert G. Malestein	Gregg A. Padovano
Chanel J. Hudson	Amy K. Manigan	James R. Paganelli
J. Adam Hughes	Maureen B. Mantineo	Kenneth T. Palmer
Douglas H. Hurd	Janetta D. Marbrey	Ralph Paolone
Linda Ann Hynes	Dean R. Marcolongo	Joseph Paone
Dorothy Incarvito-Garrabrant	Joseph L. Marczyk*	Mitchell L. Pascual
David H. Ironson	Julie M. Marino	Russell J. Passamano
Thomas K. Isenhour	Margaret M. Marley	Vijayant Pawar
Jeffrey R. Jablonski	Lawrence M. Maron	Michelle D. Perry-Thompson
Adam E. Jacobs	Andrea I. Marshall	Stephen L. Petrillo
Lisa James-Beavers	Anthony M. Massi	James H. Pickering
Latoyia K. Jenkins	Hany A. Mawla*	Sheree V. Pitchford
Edward A. Jerejian	Jessica R. Mayer*	Benjamin Podolnick
Michael A. Jimenez	Edward J. McBride Jr.	Steven J. Polansky
Pedro J. Jimenez Jr.	Owen C. McCarthy	Laurie C. Poppe
Sarah Beth Johnson	James P. McClain	Joseph A. Portelli
Claudia R. Jones	Thomas D. McCloskey	John C. Porto
Linda Grasso Jones	Brian McLaughlin	Gary Potters
Robert J. Jones Jr.	Marcy McMann	Anthony M. Pugliese

Lisa A. Puglisi
Kevin Purvin
Joseph P. Quinn
Christopher D. Rafano
David M. Ragonese
Samuel J. Ragonese Jr.
Kimarie Rahill
Rosemary E. Ramsay
Marc D. Ramundo
Michael L. Ravin
Joseph L. Rea
Nina C. Remson
Nancy L. Ridgway
Alberto Rivas
Daniel Roberts
Nesle A. Rodriguez
Yolanda C. Rodriguez
Candido Rodriguez Jr.
Jonathan W. Romankow
Christopher S. Romanyshyn
Lisa Rose*
Jodi L. Rosenberg
Marysol Rosero
Gregg R. Rubenstein
Scott T. Rumana
Aldo J. Russo
Guy P. Ryan
Jack M. Sabatino*
Joshua D. Sanders
Cynthia D. Santomauro
Alberto G. Santos
James X. Sattely
Reema Y. Scaramella
Steven P. Scheffler
Tara Schillari Rich
Sherri L. Schweitzer
Annette Scoca
Renard L. Scott
Angelo Servidio
Kevin M. Shanahan
Kathleen A. Sheedy
M. Susan Sheppard
Mark B. Shoemaker
Thomas J. Shusted Jr.
Michael J. Silvanio
Deborah Silverman Katz
Glenn C. Slavin
Christine Smith
Kevin T. Smith
Morris G. Smith*

Pamela M. Snyder
William C. Soukas
L. Grace Spencer
Robin J. Stacy
Barbara J. Stanton
Bridget A. Stecher
Donald J. Stein
Mitchell I. Steinhart
Barbara C. Stolte
Anthony R. Suarez
Haekyoung Suh
Richard T. Sules
Andrea J. Sullivan
Thomas W. Sumners Jr.*
Ronald Susswein*
James R. Swift
Mark P. Tarantino
Mayra V. Tarantino
Donna M. Taylor
Heather V. Taylor
Stephen J. Taylor
Siobhan A. Teare
Benjamin C. Telsey
Frank C. Testa
Rodney Thompson
Mary F. Thurber
Peter J. Tober
Demetrica L. Todd
Ellen Torregrossa-O'Connor
Michael A. Toto
Mark A. Troncone
Christopher M. Troxell
Joseph A. Turula
Christine M. Vanek
Radames Velazquez Jr.
Sheila Ann Venable
Deborah J. Venezia
Francis J. Vernoia*
Dina M. Vicari
Lisa M. Vignuolo
Jose Vilarino
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

Jane L. Weiner
Craig L. Wellerson
Mary Gibbons Whipple*
Brian C. White
Ronald D. Wigler
Gary N. Wilcox
James P. Wilson
Jeffrey R. Wilson
Marcella Matos Wilson
Robert G. Wilson
Sherry L. Wilson
Richard C. Wischusen
Russell Wojtenko Jr.
Gary K. Wolinetz
Carolyn E. Wright
Michael Paul Wright
Daniel J. Yablonsky
John A. Young Jr.
Dalya Youssef
Mara Zazzali-Hogan
William F. Ziegler
John Zun

Supreme Court

Stuart Rabner
Douglas M. Fasciale
Michael Noriega
Anne M. Patterson
Fabiana Pierre-Louis
Rachel Wainer Apter

Tax Court

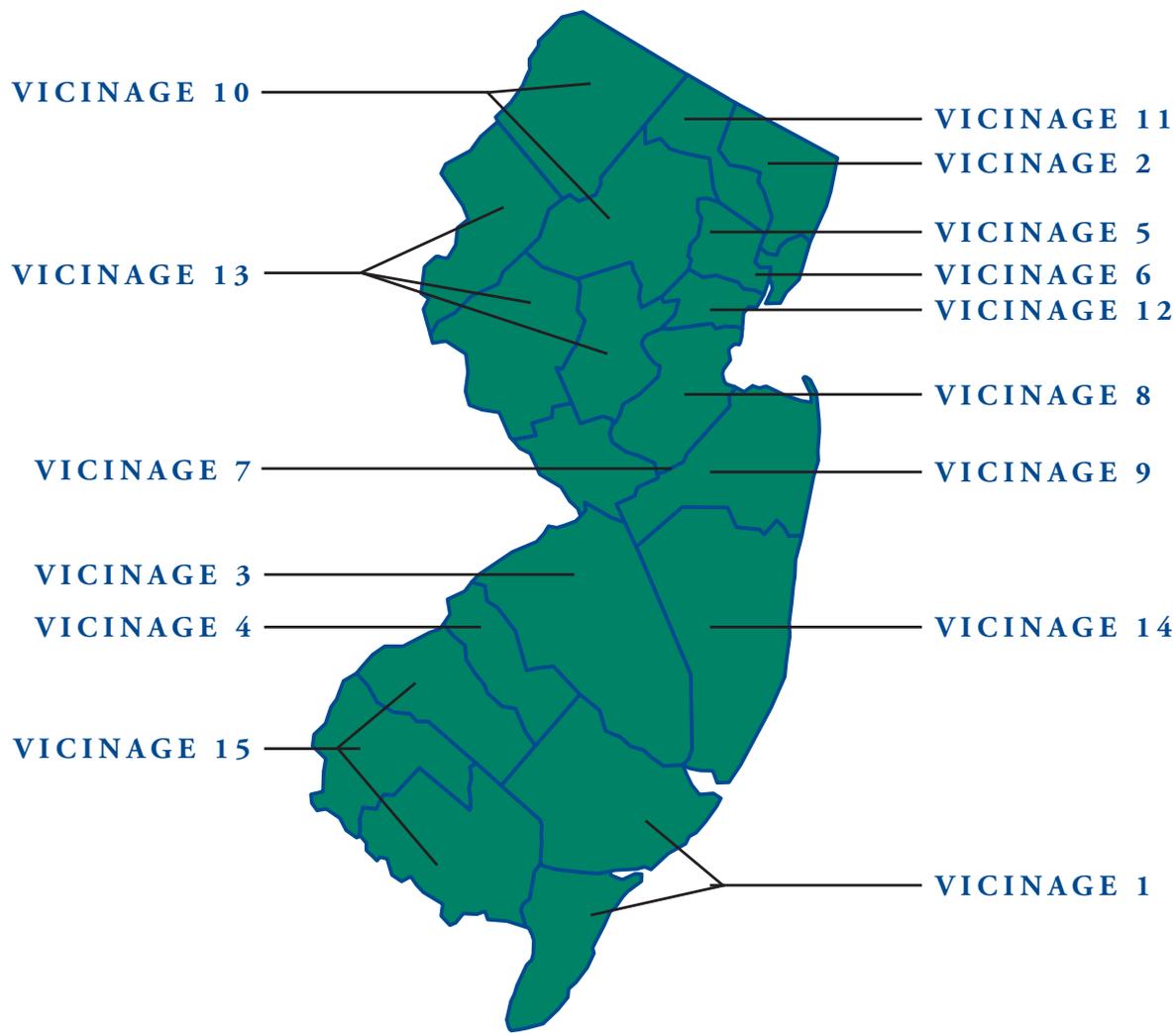
Mala Sundar
Joan Bedrin Murray
Vito L. Bianco
Mary Siobhan Brennan
Mark Cimino
Michael J. Duffy
Kathi F. Fiamingo
Michael J. Gilmore
Joshua D. Novin
Christine M. Nugent
Jonathan A. Orsen

Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by Division

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2021 to June 2022	July 2022 to June 2023	percent change	July 2021 to June 2022	July 2022 to June 2023	percent change	June 2022	June 2023	percent change	June 2022	June 2023	percent change
	Criminal Division Indictable Cases	38,235	37,665	-1%	32,006	36,150	14%	7,730	7,636	-1%	12,497	12,323
Municipal Appeals	272	318	7%	253	290	15%	72	88	22%	65	93	43%
Post-Conviction Relief	417	401	-4%	420	443	6%	313	322	3%	168	159	-5%
General Equity Total	3,533	3,952	12%	3,187	3,757	19%	1,565	1,657	6%	336	318	-5%
Contested Foreclosure	882	1,460	66%	672	1,150	73%	419	596	42%	65	73	12%
Equity (excluding foreclosure)	2,651	2,492	-6%	2,515	2,607	4%	1,146	1,064	-7%	271	245	-10%
Civil Division Civil - Total	68,057	64,639	-5%	76,252	68,928	-9%	59,227	55,027	-7%	30,198	30,286	0%
Multi-County Litigation	2,474	2,474	-29%	2,559	2,559	8%	5,237	5,237	1%	10,064	10,064	1%
Non Multi-County Litigation	65,583	65,583	-9%	73,693	73,693	11%	53,990	53,990	-13%	20,134	20,134	-1%
Special Civil - Total	243,209	290,639	20%	260,968	311,652	21%	34,260	36,792	78%	33,535	10,399	-69%
Special Civil - Auto	1,860	1,999	7%	1,873	1,994	7%	306	347	13%	78	56	-28%
Special Civil - Contract	150,476	160,060	6%	154,067	158,816	4%	19,655	21,580	10%	1,133	743	-34%
Special Civil - Other	4,156	3,972	-4%	4,428	4,154	-5%	693	594	-14%	169	97	-43%
Special Civil - Small Claims	11,858	15,179	28%	12,812	15,581	23%	1,137	1,399	23%	956	297	-69%
Special Civil - Tenancy	74,859	109,429	46%	87,788	131,107	51%	12,469	12,872	58%	31,199	9,206	-70%
Probate	6,531	6,709	3%	6,557	6,868	6%	2,043	1,866	-9%	153	145	-5%
Family Division Dissolution	43,498	43,406	0%	42,970	43,303	2%	18,658	18,195	-2%	3,465	3,973	15%
Delinquency	10,834	13,214	22%	10,351	13,177	29%	1,599	1,787	12%	804	671	-17%
Non-Dissolution	61,698	75,545	22%	57,240	76,268	35%	6,845	6,739	-2%	3,524	2,783	-21%
Domestic Violence	48,376	52,362	8%	48,412	52,482	10%	2,187	2,250	3%	938	727	-22%
Abuse / Neglect	2,117	2,088	-1%	2,515	2,181	-12%	2,368	2,278	-4%	53	48	-9%
Adoption	1,520	1,317	-13%	1,518	1,750	-9%	364	304	-16%			
Child Placement Review	1,552	1,611	4%	2,165	1,750	-18%	3,388	3,274	-3%	21	6	-71%
Juvenile / Family Crisis Petition	100	162	62%	101	163	61%	3	9	200%	8	1	-88%
Kinship	411	401	-2%	376	398	8%	76	73	-4%	6	11	83%
Termination of Parental Rights	458	385	-16%	581	483	-16%	169	132	-22%	130	67	-48%
Criminal / Quasi-Criminal	8,417	9,373	11%	8,751	8,989	4%	1,049	1,271	21%	341	428	26%
Total	539,235	604,187	12%	457,581	628,657	13%	141,916	139,700	-2%	86,242	62,438	-28%
Multi-County Litigation	2,474	986	86%	2,366	2,282	4%	5,237	2,933	-56%	10,064	11,090	10%
Non Multi-County Litigation	536,761	603,201	12%	455,215	626,375	13%	136,679	136,767	0%	51,348	51,348	-33%

Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by County

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2021 to June 2022	July 2022 to June 2023	percent change	July 2021 to June 2022	July 2022 to June 2023	percent change	June 2022	June 2023	percent change	June 2022	June 2023	percent change
	Atlantic County Total	26,260	27,157	3%	26,638	26,503	-1%	9,023	7,883	-13%	4,179	5,798
Multi-County Litigation	1,505	587	-88%	69	164	82%	3,340	1,995	-95%	1,972	3,750	62%
Non Multi-County Litigation	24,755	26,570	7%	26,569	26,339	-1%	5,683	5,888	4%	2,207	2,048	-7%
Bergen County Total	43,921	46,985	7%	49,145	48,423	-1%	12,533	12,190	-3%	6,789	5,948	-12%
Multi-County Litigation	668	143	-129%	1,378	1,464	6%	1,014	551	-59%	3,719	2,866	-26%
Non-Multicounty Litigation	43,253	46,842	8%	47,767	46,959	-2%	11,519	11,639	1%	3,070	3,082	0%
Burlington County	29,379	31,468	7%	30,066	31,371	4%	6,158	6,163	0%	895	693	-23%
Camden County	43,372	47,764	10%	45,516	49,644	9%	9,827	9,702	-1%	5,257	3,094	-41%
Cape May County	6,641	6,651	0%	7,030	6,723	-4%	1,376	1,386	1%	390	327	-16%
Cumberland County	13,925	15,581	12%	14,517	15,474	7%	2,697	2,716	1%	1,091	1,149	5%
Essex County	69,061	75,962	10%	66,327	93,069	40%	20,173	19,546	-3%	25,979	9,370	-64%
Gloucester County	17,925	18,955	6%	18,507	18,532	0%	3,845	3,932	2%	1,157	1,437	24%
Hudson County	39,299	46,544	18%	40,093	46,300	15%	9,781	10,241	-6%	7,433	7,051	-5%
Hunterdon County	4,214	4,417	5%	4,366	4,437	2%	1,007	939	-7%	238	304	28%
Mercer County	24,102	26,882	12%	24,779	26,879	8%	5,588	5,960	7%	2,606	2,084	-20%
Middlesex County Total	43,852	49,902	14%	47,204	52,595	11%	13,473	13,353	-1%	10,137	7,513	-26%
Multi-County Litigation	301	256	-16%	1,112	654	-52%	883	390	-77%	4,373	4,474	2%
Non Multi-County Litigation	43,551	49,646	14%	46,092	51,941	13%	12,590	12,963	3%	5,764	3,039	-47%
Monmouth County	29,358	35,340	20%	30,945	35,011	13%	8,218	8,097	-1%	2,448	2,987	-22%
Morris County	18,162	20,674	14%	18,539	20,927	13%	5,086	4,852	-5%	1,724	1,689	-2%
Ocean County	30,289	33,026	9%	31,718	32,045	1%	7,064	6,804	-4%	1,974	3,032	54%
Passaic County	33,374	41,297	24%	31,328	45,573	45%	9,226	9,413	2%	9,068	4,456	-51%
Salem County	5,517	5,497	0%	5,644	5,518	-2%	1,113	1,001	-10%	468	521	11%
Somerset County	12,851	14,138	10%	13,244	14,238	8%	3,440	3,414	-1%	1,003	1,028	2%
Sussex County	6,968	8,629	24%	7,023	8,655	23%	1,584	1,588	0%	433	431	0%
Union County	34,396	39,841	16%	35,641	39,590	11%	9,500	9,186	-3%	2,647	3,108	17%
Warren County	6,396	7,477	17%	6,354	7,150	13%	1,204	1,334	11%	326	418	28%
Total	539,235	604,187	12%	457,581	628,657	13%	141,916	139,700	-2%	86,242	62,438	-28%
Multi-County Litigation	2,474	986	86%	2,366	2,282	4%	5,237	2,933	-56%	10,064	11,090	10%
Non Multi-County Litigation	536,761	603,201	12%	455,215	626,375	13%	136,679	136,767	0%	51,348	51,348	-33%



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.

On the following page is a list of New Jersey's Superior Court vicinages, including their assignment judge and trial court administrator.

Atlantic/Cape May

Vicinage 1

Michael J. Blee

Assignment Judge

Jill L. Houck

Trial Court Administrator

Bergen

Vicinage 2

Carol V. Novey Catuogno

Assignment Judge

Kerri Lynn Walsh-Wood

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

Edward D. Wingren III

Trial Court Administrator

Hudson

Vicinage 6

Jeffrey R. Jablonski

Assignment Judge

Kimberly Galligan

Trial Court Administrator

Mercer

Vicinage 7

Robert T. Lougy

Assignment Judge

Richelle A. Coleman

Trial Court Administrator

Middlesex

Vicinage 8

Michael A. Toto

Assignment Judge

Gregory Lambard

Trial Court Administrator

Monmouth

Vicinage 9

Marc C. Lemieux

Assignment Judge

Gurpreet M. Singh

Trial Court Administrator

Morris/Sussex

Vicinage 10

Stuart A. Minkowitz

Assignment Judge

Susan Chait

Trial Court Administrator

Passaic

Vicinage 11

Rudolph A. Filko

Assignment Judge

Melanie Nowling

Trial Court Administrator

Union

Vicinage 12

Lisa Miralles Walsh

Assignment Judge

Devang M. Merchant

Trial Court Administrator

Somerset/ Hunterdon/Warren

Vicinage 13

Kevin M. Shanahan

Assignment Judge

Jack Failla II

Trial Court Administrator

Ocean

Vicinage 14

Francis R. Hodgson Jr.

Assignment Judge

Jill Vito

Trial Court Administrator

Cumberland/ Gloucester/Salem

Vicinage 15

Benjamin C. Telsey

Assignment Judge

Jason Corter

Trial Court Administrator



Social Media Spotlight

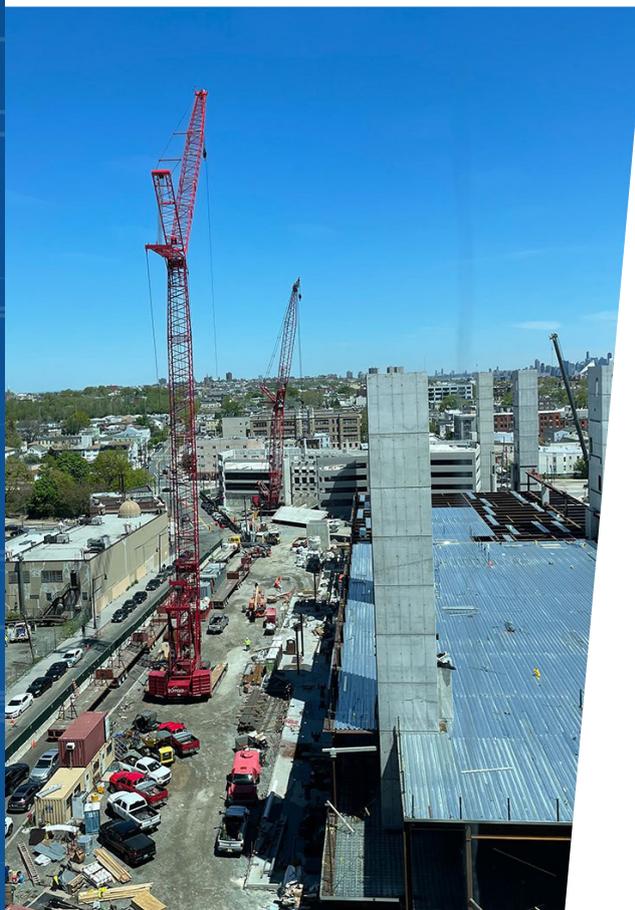
Construction of the Frank J. Guarini Justice Complex in Jersey City is well underway.

Frank J. Guarini Justice Complex Construction

Construction continued on the Frank J. Guarini Justice Complex in Jersey City.

A 479-space parking garage was finished in the summer of 2022, Nearly 40 percent of the project was completed by the end of that summer, including most of the structural steel. The building was enclosed in 2023, when significant interior work, including sheet rock, flooring, and woodwork, began.

The courthouse will have 24 courtrooms, with criminal court on the second floor and family court on the third. The William J. Brennan Courthouse will retain eight courtrooms for civil cases.





Salem Construction

Construction of the new Salem County Courthouse in Salem continued during 2022-2023. The courthouse is adding critical facilities to a building constructed in 1968, before the existence of court programs that confront societal problems such as domestic violence and drug and alcohol addiction.

When completed, it will house four new courtrooms equipped with modern technology, victim/witness rooms to ensure the separation of victims and criminal defendants prior to court hearings, ADA accessibility, and courtrooms accessible from holding cells to limit the movement of inmates through the courthouse and in courtrooms. It will also have waiting rooms for child victims of abuse and neglect to prevent contact with the alleged abuser, restroom facilities for the safe and sanitary drug testing of recovery court participants, and attorney-client meeting rooms.

Renovations to the old facility will include the construction of three courtrooms.



STUART RABNER
CHIEF JUSTICE

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

OCTOBER 2023

