



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO



Ohio Courts
Statistical Summary
2009



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

2009

OHIO COURTS STATISTICAL SUMMARY



ERIC BROWN

CHIEF JUSTICE

PAUL E. PFEIFER

EVELYN LUNDBERG STRATTON

MAUREEN O'CONNOR

TERRENCE O'DONNELL

JUDITH ANN LANZINGER

ROBERT R. CUPP

JUSTICES

STEVEN C. HOLLON

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF JUDICIAL & COURT SERVICES

DOUGLAS R. STEPHENS

DIRECTOR OF JUDICIAL & COURT SERVICES

CASE MANAGEMENT SECTION

STEPHANIE E. HESS

MANAGER OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

CONTENT DEVELOPMENT

CHRISTINE BRATTON

BRIAN FARRINGTON

PRODUCTION AND GRAPHICS

PHILLIP FARMER

KATIE RIEDEL

JAMES R. SHROYER

CAROL TAYLOR

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

MARK DUTTON

KRISTINA ROTACH



A MESSAGE
from the Chief Justice

This is the 50th consecutive year that the Supreme Court of Ohio has published an annual report of caseload statistics reflecting the work of Ohio courts. In this span of time communications has moved from bulky manual typewriters to pocket-size smart phones and the Supreme Court has made changes to the statistical reports in an attempt to keep pace with the technology.

In 2009, the traditional core content of the Ohio Courts Summary was presented for the first time within a new publication, the Ohio Courts Statistical Report which also included the inaugural edition of the Ohio Courts Statistical Summary, an analysis of long-term case statistic trends.

Along with the on-line posting of the Ohio Courts Statistical Report it is our hope that the changes have enhanced public access to a more complete statistical portrait of court dockets in Ohio.

Some statistics point toward significant changes in certain case categories:

- Marked growth over the past 10 years in breach of contract cases, which includes liability on promissory note or cognovit note and collection of accounts due. In 2009, 224,180 new breach of contracts cases were filed in municipal and county courts, representing a 68-percent increase over 2000.
- The highest number of new domestic violence civil protection order case filings in the past 10 years: 20,551.
- The lowest number of new abuse, neglect and dependency cases filed in the past 10 years: 12,727.

This year's summary also includes a special "Spotlight on Foreclosures" section that examines the past 20 years of incoming foreclosure case statistics as well as more recent indicators suggestive of growing challenges for courts to timely manage their foreclosure caseloads.

ERIC BROWN
CHIEF JUSTICE
THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

Table of Contents

Overview of the Statistical Reporting Process	1
Ohio Judicial System Structure Diagram	5
All Courts New Filings	7
The Supreme Court of Ohio	9
Courts of Appeals	15
Court of Claims	19
Courts of Common Pleas	23
General Division	25
Domestic Relations Division	33
Probate Division	37
Juvenile Division	41
Municipal and County Courts	45
Mayor’s Courts	51
Spotlight on Foreclosures: A 20-Year Retrospective	53
Glossary of Terms	55
Appendix	59

NOTE: An overview of the National Center for State Courts’ CourTools performance measures is displayed on pages 28 and 29 of this publication.



An OVERVIEW of the Statistical Reporting Process

The obligation for Ohio trial and appellate courts to report caseload statistics to the Case Management Section of the Supreme Court of Ohio is established by Rule 37 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio.

The requirement to submit regular caseload reports is fixed upon each individual judge for the cases assigned to him or her. An exception to this requirement exists in multi-judge municipal and county courts where certain activities are permitted to occur in particular sessions of court in which cases are not assigned to individual judges, but instead are grouped by subject category and presided over by a rotation among the several judges of the court.

The reporting obligations established under Sup. R. 37 are as follows:

Courts of Appeals

The presiding judge of each court of appeals must submit quarterly a presiding judge report, which describes the status of all cases pending in the court. In addition, each individual court of appeals judge must submit quarterly an appellate judge report, which provides further details on case terminations, as well as the cases assigned to the judge for authoring the court's opinions.

Courts of Common Pleas

Judges with responsibility over general, domestic relations and juvenile subject-matter jurisdiction must submit monthly a report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the number pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month. If a judge is responsible for more than one category of subject-matter jurisdiction in his or her court, the judge must submit a report for each such category. For example, a judge with responsibility over domestic relations and juvenile cases must submit two reports: one for domestic relations cases and one for juvenile cases.

Judges with responsibility over probate matters must submit quarterly a report describing the number of cases filed and closed over the quarter, as well as additional statistics.

Municipal and County Courts

As noted above, an exception to the ordinary requirement for judges to submit regular reports of the cases assigned to them exists for multi-judge municipal and county courts. Notwithstanding that exception, all municipal and county court judges must submit monthly an individual judge report describing the number of new cases assigned to them, the number pending at the beginning and end of the month, and the number of cases terminated for reporting purposes over the course of the month.

In addition to the individual judge report, each municipal and county court administrative judge must submit monthly a report including the work performed on felony and small claims cases (which are not individually assigned) and the work performed during particular sessions of court on all other case types.

General Notes Concerning Caseload Statistics

The caseload statistics reported to the Supreme Court are summary in nature and consist only of counts of cases. The Supreme Court does not collect lists of individual cases that constitute the counts reported.

The actual report forms and instructions are available on the Supreme Court Web site. The instructions include detailed information concerning the proper manner of classifying cases by type, how a “case” is defined and how to properly report incoming cases and terminations.

Regarding terminations, it is essential to understand that not all termination categories are dispositive in nature. Some termination categories simply render a case inactive for reporting purposes until such time as a condition in the case changes. An example is a criminal defendant who fails to appear for trial. The court, as long as it reasonably believes the defendant will not be apprehended in the immediate future, may terminate the case for reporting purposes. The court reactivates the case for reporting purposes at such time when that defendant is arrested. This aspect of counting terminations is important to bear in mind when evaluating a court’s case management performance against a time standard for disposing of cases.

Occasionally, a court will discover errors in its case counts following a physical case inventory or during an update to its case management system. Courts may submit amended reports at any time, and the changed data is entered into the Supreme Court’s caseload statistics system immediately. Accordingly, the caseload statistics reported in a particular static report, such as this document, may change in the future following such amendments.

In order to promote accurate and uniform statewide reporting, the staff of the Case Management Section of the Supreme Court conducts regular training for court staff responsible for preparing the monthly and quarterly reports.

Describing Data Using Median and Mean

In this document, data is sometimes described using means and medians. Mean and median are both measures of central tendency, a term that refers to the “middle” value of a set of data. The mean is calculated by dividing the sum of a data set by the number of items in the set. This is often referred to as the “average.” Median is determined by sorting the data set from lowest to highest value and identifying the data point in the middle of the range. It is the midpoint of the data at which half the items are higher and half are lower. Median, unlike mean, is not subject to the skewing effect of outliers — that is, data points at an extreme margin on the range of values.

Statewide Statistics and Population Data

Except where noted in the body of this summary, all data shown are statewide figures. All population data is from the 2000 U.S. Census.

General Notes Concerning Performance Measures

When analyzing the work of Ohio courts and judges, the Case Management Section of the Supreme Court regularly evaluates two key performance measures readily available using caseload statistics reported by the courts: clearance rates and overage rates. Both measures can be applied to a court's overall docket, individual case types or groups of case types.

Clearance Rate

This measure identifies how well a court keeps up with its incoming caseload. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Clearance Rate} = \frac{\text{Total number of outgoing cases}}{\text{Total number of incoming cases}}$$

Clearance rates can be calculated over any time period, as long as the incoming and outgoing values apply to that same time period. However, calculating clearance rates on a monthly basis is less valuable due to the ordinary variations that are seen when this data is viewed over a short time span.

Using monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of outgoing cases is determined using the reported "Total Terminations" values. The total number of incoming cases is determined using the sum of the reported "New Cases Filed" and "Cases Transferred in, Reactivated, or Redesignated" values. The ratio of outgoing cases to incoming cases (produced using the above formula) is ordinarily multiplied by 100 and expressed as percentage. The target is a clearance rate of 100 percent.

A clearance rate of 100 percent means a court terminated over a given time period exactly as many cases as it took in during that same time period. If a court's clearance rate is regularly less than 100 percent over an extended period of time, the court will develop a backlog because the pace of incoming cases exceeds the pace of outgoing cases.

While valuable, clearance rates alone do not accurately depict a court's success in moving its entire docket forward in a timely fashion. A court may regularly demonstrate a 100 percent or greater clearance rate while simultaneously keeping a sizable number of cases from being disposed of within applicable time standards. Accordingly, clearance rates should, where practicable, be viewed alongside a measure that gauges the extent to which a court's caseload is pending beyond time standards, such as the overage rate.

Overage Rate

This measure identifies the extent to which a court's pending caseload lags past applicable time standards, or, overage. To put it another way, it measures the size of a court's backlog. It is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Overage Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of cases pending beyond time guidelines}}{\text{Total number of cases pending}}$$

Using the monthly caseload statistical reports submitted by judges, the total number of cases pending beyond the time guideline is determined using the reported "Cases Pending Beyond Time Guideline" value, and the total number of cases pending is determined using the reported "Pending End of Period" value. The result is multiplied by 100 and expressed as a percentage.

In 2008, the Supreme Court, in *Disciplinary Counsel v. Sargeant*, 118 Ohio St.3d 322, 2008-Ohio-2330, identified an overage rate of 10 percent or greater as an indication of a case management problem.

While the application of these measures provides a reasonable view of a court's case management performance, it does not provide for evaluation of other aspects of a court's performance. The National Center for State Courts developed a set of 10 core court performance measures, packaged into a set of practical tools named CourTools, that provide a balanced perspective on a court's overall performance. Developed through the input of a wide range of court professionals, they are designed to assist courts in laying a solid foundation for self-evaluation and in charting a course for future improvement. The Case Management Section provides CourTools training for court personnel.

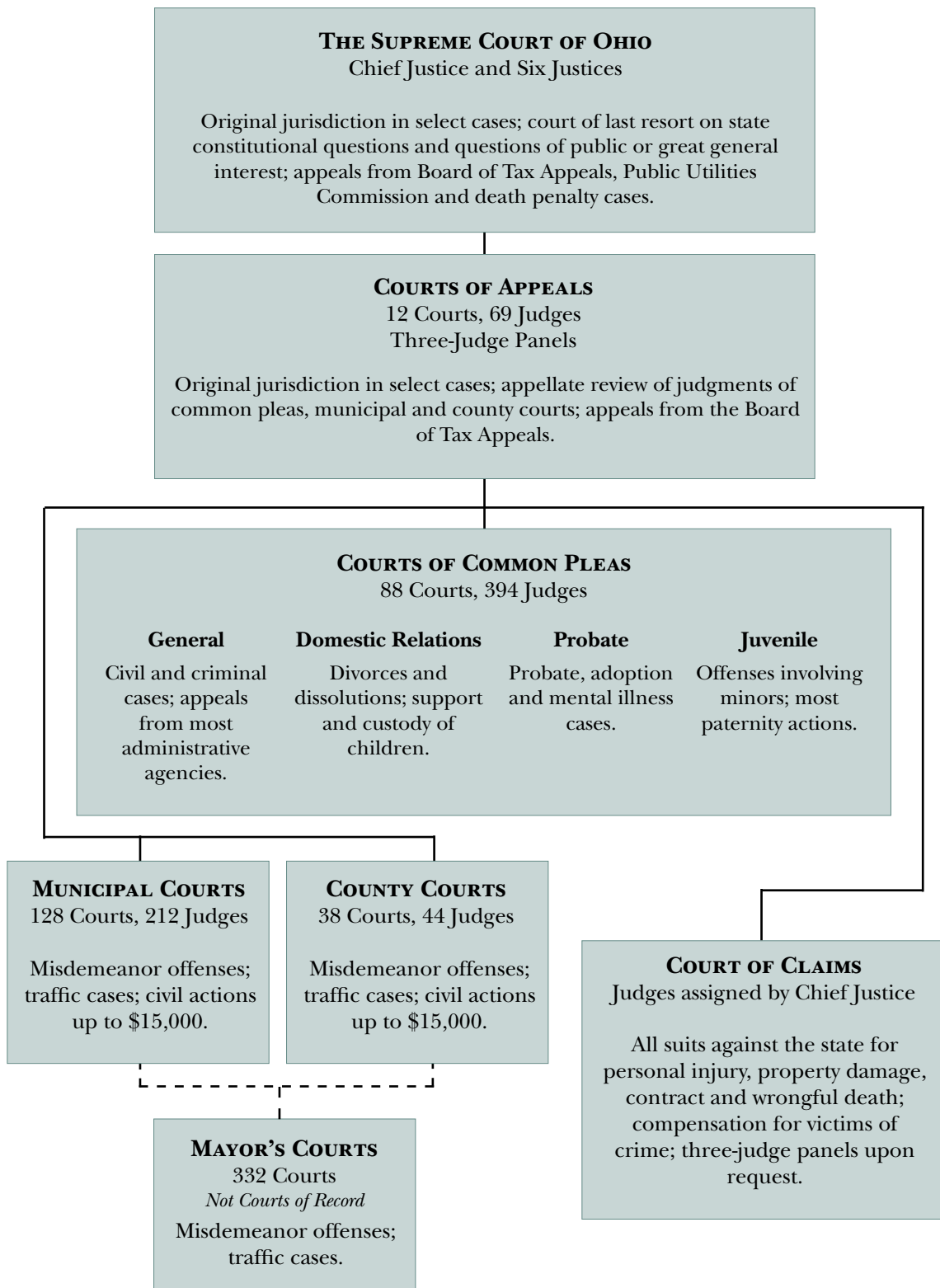
Future Plans

The current configuration of case types and termination categories has remained largely unchanged for 20 years. Changes in the law, changes in society, and changes in the Supreme Court's capacity to collect, analyze, evaluate and report caseload statistics present an opportunity for a careful re-evaluation of the overall caseload statistics reporting process. In addition, technological advancements among the courts, such as the ongoing development of the Ohio Courts Network and improvements in the design and deployment of case management software applications, point toward potential alternative means for the Supreme Court to continue its function of gathering and reporting caseload statistics.

In 2008, the Supreme Court acquired and implemented business intelligence software to greatly enhance its ability to manage the wealth of caseload data currently available. New ways of analyzing and evaluating the data are being developed, and aspects of the reporting process that can be enhanced are being identified.

As the Supreme Court continues to move forward in these areas, it will tap into the depth of knowledge and experience shared by the Ohio judiciary, court professionals and justice system partners to fully explore the best means for advancing Ohio's state-of-the-art caseload statistical reporting.

2009 STRUCTURE OF THE OHIO JUDICIAL SYSTEM





All COURTS New Filings

Shown below is the total number of new cases filed over each of the past 10 years in Ohio's courts. Detailed information concerning the variety of cases constituting these figures is contained in the various court sections of this summary.

New Cases Filed

All Courts, 2000 to 2009

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Supreme Court	2,355	2,284	2,249	2,237	2,178	2,444	2,407	2,459	2,506	2,363
Courts of Appeals	10,394	10,480	10,404	10,905	10,713	11,437	11,208	10,512	11,115	10,433
Court of Claims	1,225	1,159	1,051	1,134	1,024	1,138	734	896	1,094	902
Courts of Common Pleas	607,103	646,358	664,637	651,139	646,384	654,193	675,225	671,168	663,246	637,766
General Division	167,982	185,948	206,933	211,376	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,463
Domestic Relations Division	78,259	79,830	80,775	79,527	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,055	73,463
Probate Division	99,207	99,455	96,357	95,338	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	89,397	88,178
Juvenile Division	261,655	281,125	280,572	264,898	254,903	253,245	259,326	247,313	234,247	217,662
Municipal and County Courts	2,613,708	2,692,083	2,740,639	2,700,538	2,417,551	2,469,942	2,525,373	2,518,204	2,534,408	2,321,475
Municipal Courts	2,340,130	2,420,212	2,459,268	2,444,493	2,211,094	2,259,479	2,311,044	2,309,559	2,338,119	2,141,124
County Courts	273,578	271,871	281,371	256,045	206,457	210,463	214,329	208,645	196,289	180,351
All Courts Combined	3,234,785	3,352,364	3,418,980	3,365,953	3,077,850	3,139,154	3,214,947	3,203,239	3,212,369	2,972,939



THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO

The Supreme Court of Ohio is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution, which provides that “the judicial power of the state is vested in a Supreme Court, Courts of Appeals, Courts of Common Pleas and divisions thereof, and such other courts inferior to the Supreme Court as may from time to time be established by law.” Article IV, Section 2, of the Constitution sets the size of the court at seven — a Chief Justice and six Justices — and outlines the jurisdiction of the Court.

The Supreme Court is the court of last resort in Ohio. The Court may grant leave to appeal criminal cases from the courts of appeals and may direct any court of appeals to certify its record on civil cases found to be “cases of public or great interest.”

The Court must accept appeals of cases that originated in the courts of appeals, cases involving the death penalty, cases involving questions arising under the U.S. Constitution or the Ohio Constitution and cases in which there are conflicting opinions from two or more courts of appeals. The Court also must accept appeals from such administrative bodies as the Board of Tax Appeals and the Public Utilities Commission.

The Court has original jurisdiction for certain special remedies that permit a person to file an action in the Supreme Court. These extraordinary remedies include writs of habeas corpus (involving the release of persons allegedly unlawfully imprisoned or committed), writs of mandamus and procedendo (ordering a public official to do a required act), writs of prohibition (ordering a lower court to cease an unlawful act) and writs of quo warranto (against a person or corporation for usurpation, misuse or abuse of public office or corporate office or franchise).

The Supreme Court makes rules governing practice and procedure in Ohio’s courts. Procedural rules adopted by the Supreme Court become effective unless both houses of the General Assembly adopt a concurrent resolution of disapproval. The Supreme Court also exercises general superintendence over all state courts through its rule-making authority. The rules of superintendence set minimum standards for court administration. Unlike procedural rules, rules of superintendence do not require General Assembly review or approval to become effective.

The Chief Justice assigns judges to trial and appellate courts for temporary duty in cases of a court overload, when a judge is removed from a case because of an affidavit of disqualification and when judges recuse themselves from a particular case.

The Court has authority over the admission of attorneys to the practice of law in Ohio and may discipline admitted attorneys who violate the rules governing the practice of law.

The Chief Justice and six Justices are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. Two Justices are chosen at the general election in even-numbered years. In the year when the Chief Justice runs, voters pick three members of the Court. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the Court. The governor makes appointments for vacancies occurring between elections.

Caseloads

The Supreme Court reports detailed caseload statistics each year in its annual report. Readers are encouraged to review those reports to gain further insight into the work of the Court. In the 2009 Annual Report, and here, the Court presents performance-related statistics concerning the time to dispose of various case types.

For purposes of this analysis, the Court's overall case filings are presented under four categories: All Case Types Combined, Jurisdictional Appeals, Merit Cases and Practice of Law Cases.

All Case Types Combined

For all case types combined, the Court saw the filing of 2,363 new cases in 2009, representing a 3-percent decrease from the 2,444 cases filed five years earlier in 2005. (See **Table 1**). However, the number of total cases filed over the past four years remained considerably stable. (See **Figure 1**).

Jurisdictional Appeals

In 2009, 1,817 new jurisdictional appeals were filed, representing a 5-percent decrease from the 1,922 cases filed in 2005. During the last five years, the Court experienced a modest degree of volatility in the number of jurisdictional appeals filed, although across time, no obvious trend is noted. (See **Figure 2**).

TABLE 1

All Case Types

New Filings	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jurisdictional Appeals	1,922	1,789	1,927	2,004	1,817
Merit Cases	404	479	410	369	418
Practice of Law Cases	118	139	122	133	128
Disciplinary Cases	111	128	107	121	117
All Other Practice of Law Cases	7	11	15	12	11
All Case Types Combined	2,444	2,407	2,459	2,506	2,363

FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined

New Filings

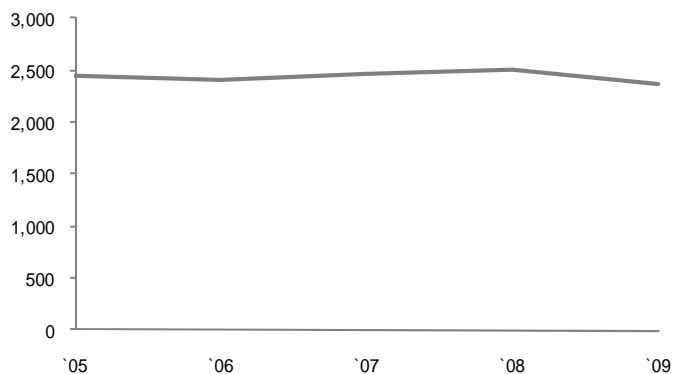


FIGURE 2

Jurisdictional Appeals

New Filings

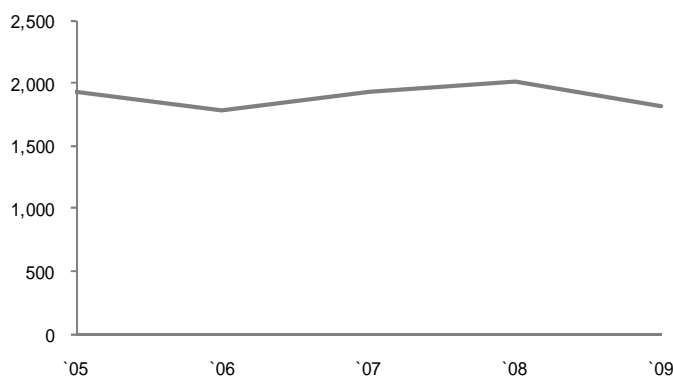


FIGURE 3

Merit Cases
New Filings

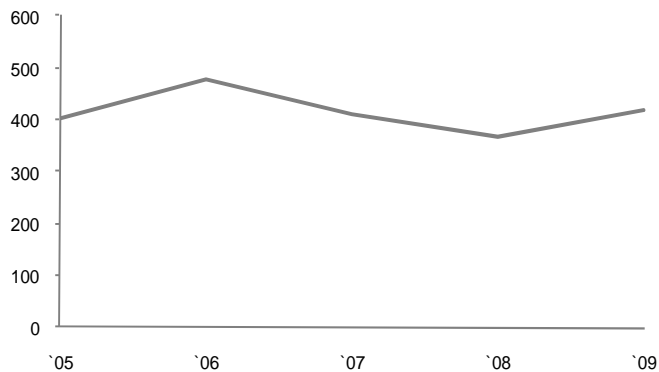
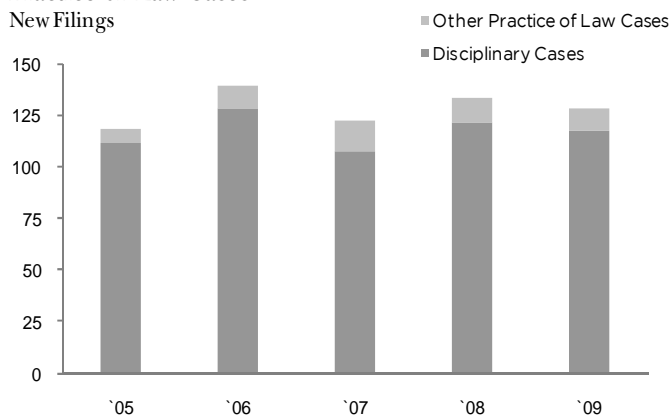


FIGURE 4

Practice of Law Cases
New Filings



Merit Cases

These are cases the Court must hear and render a decision on the merits. The general categories of merit cases consist of the following:

- Original actions
- Habeas corpus cases
- Direct appeals (cases originating in courts of appeals)
- Appeals involving certified conflicts
- Appeals from Board of Tax Appeals
- Appeals from Public Utilities Commission
- Death penalty cases
- Cases involving certified questions of state law
- Appeals of elections contests under R.C. 3515.15

In 2009, the Court saw the filing of 418 merit cases. This represents a 13-percent increase over the 369 cases filed one year earlier in 2008. A five-year view of the filing trend reveals sizable year-to-year fluctuations. (See **Figure 3**).

Practice of Law Cases

These cases arise from the Court's responsibility to govern the practice of law in Ohio. Included in this category are disciplinary cases involving allegations of ethical misconduct on the part of attorneys and judges, bar admissions cases involving applications from people seeking admission to the Ohio bar, and cases alleging the unauthorized practice of law. The vast majority of practice of law cases involve attorney discipline. In 2009, 128 practice of law cases were filed. Of those 128 cases, 117 (91 percent), were disciplinary cases. The Court's docket of disciplinary cases has remained largely stable, with periods of regular fluctuations, between 2005 and 2009. (See **Figure 4**).

Time to Disposition Analyses

Shown in **Table 2** is the number of cases disposed over each of the past five years, grouped in several different ways, including by case type and manner-of-disposition. Included in this data are the mean and median numbers of days for the Court to dispose of the various cases. Median values are included here to address instances where certain outliers (cases taking an unusually long period of time to be disposed) cause the mean to become skewed.

TABLE 2

Supreme Court of Ohio
Time to Disposition

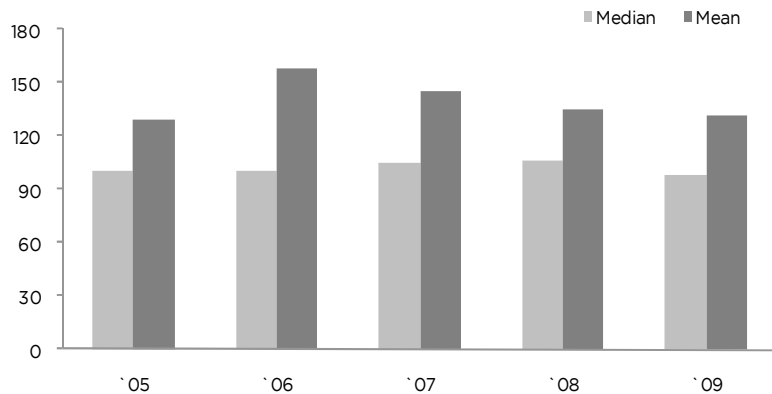
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
All Cases					
Number of Cases Disposed	2,126	2,593	2,384	2,542	2,485
Median Number of Days to Disposition	100	100	105	106	98
Mean Number of Days to Disposition	129	158	145	135	131
Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review					
Number of Cases Disposed	69	382	191	157	131
Median Number of Days to Disposition	374	322	462	423	419
Mean Number of Days to Disposition	387	342	433	403	435
Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review					
Number of Cases Disposed	1,555	1,568	1,649	1,868	1,796
Median Number of Days to Disposition	99	96	100	104	96
Mean Number of Days to Disposition	96	93	100	101	95
Original Actions					
Number of Cases Disposed	175	217	194	199	203
Median Number of Days to Disposition	65	58	68	68	61
Mean Number of Days to Disposition	73	73	85	74	74
All Cases Decided with an Opinion					
Number of Cases Disposed	191	391	335	340	346
Median Number of Days to Disposition	121	140	106	100	85
Mean Number of Days to Disposition	135	155	112	104	95

Note: The counting of the number of Days to Disposition for All Cases Decided with an Opinion begins upon submission of the cases to the Court. For all other categories shown in this table, the counting begins upon filing of the cases.

FIGURE 5

All Cases

Days from Filing to Final Disposition



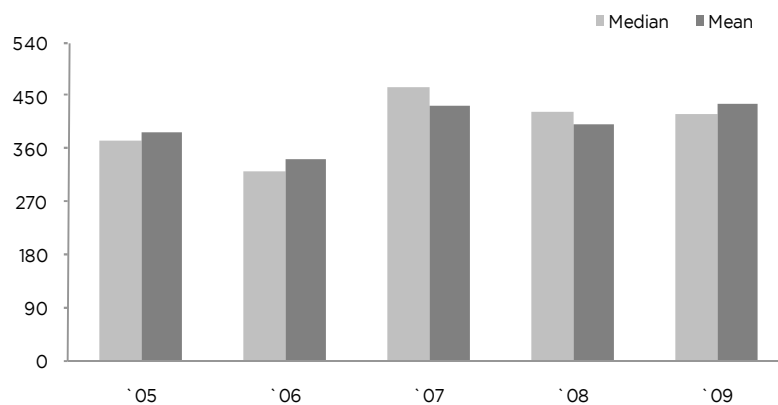
All Cases

In 2009, the Court disposed of 2,485 cases. The mean number of days those cases were pending before the Court was 131. The mean steadily declined over the last four years from a five-year high of 158 in 2006. (See **Figure 5**).

FIGURE 6

Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition



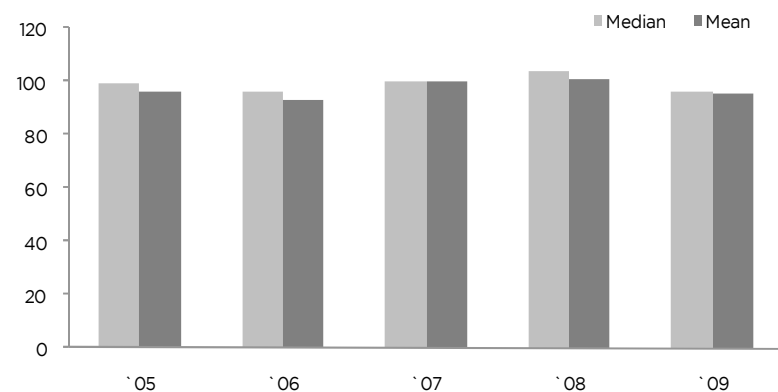
Jurisdictional Appeals Accepted for Full Merit Review

In 2009, the Court disposed of 157 jurisdictional appeals following a full merit review. The mean number of days to consider these appeals was 435, slightly more than the previous five-year high of 433 in 2007. (See **Figure 6**).

FIGURE 7

Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

Days from Filing to Final Disposition



Jurisdictional Appeals Not Accepted for Full Merit Review

Of the 2,485 total cases disposed by the Court in 2009, 1,796 (72 percent), were jurisdictional appeals not accepted for full merit review. The mean number of days to consider these appeals was 95. (See **Figure 7**).

Original Actions

The mean disposition time for original actions in 2009 was 74 days, identical to the prior year. The median number of days remained relatively steady over the past five years, ranging from 58 to 68 days. (See **Figure 8**).

All Cases Decided with an Opinion

In 2009, the Court decided 346 cases with an opinion. The mean number of days to decide these cases following submission was 95 days. Over the past four years, the Court has demonstrated a considerable and steady decrease in the time required to decide cases with an opinion following submission. (See **Figure 9**).

FIGURE 8

Original Actions

Days from Filing to Final Disposition

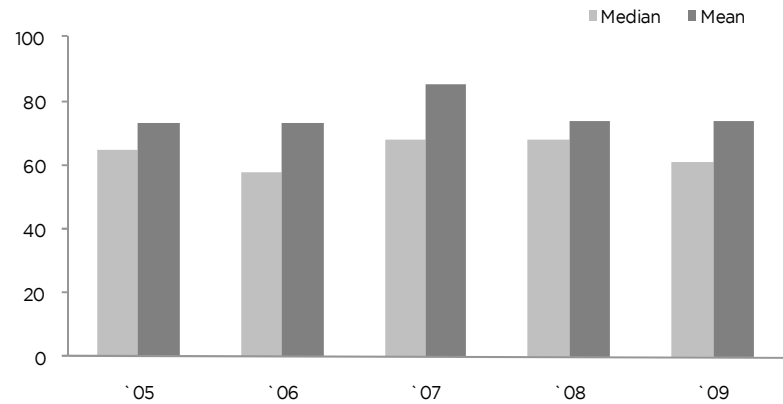
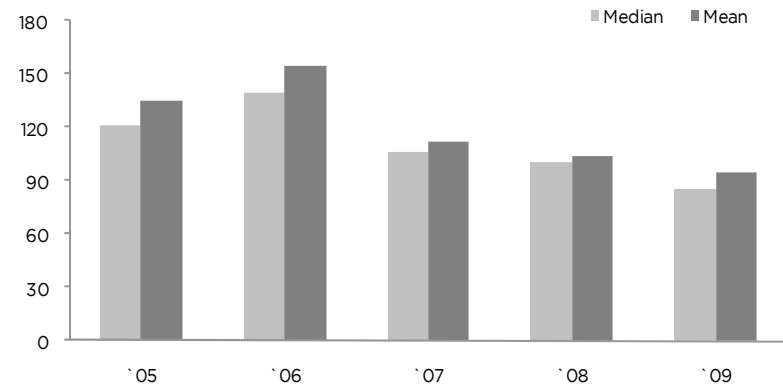


FIGURE 9

All Cases Decided with an Opinion

Days from Submission to Final Disposition





COURTS OF APPEALS

Ohio courts of appeals are established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Ohio Constitution and their jurisdiction is outlined in Article IV, Section 3. As intermediate-level appellate courts, their primary function is to hear appeals from common pleas, municipal and county courts. Each case is heard and decided by a three-judge panel.

In addition to their appellate jurisdiction, the courts of appeals have original jurisdiction, as does the Supreme Court, to hear applications for writs of habeas corpus, mandamus, procedendo, prohibition and quo warranto. The 10th District Court of Appeals in Franklin County also hears appeals from the Court of Claims.

The state is divided into 12 appellate districts, each of which is served by a court of appeals. The number of judges in each district depends on a variety of factors, including the district's population and the court's caseload. Appeals court judges are elected to six-year terms in even-numbered years. They must be admitted to the practice of law in Ohio six years prior to the commencement of the term.

Changes in 2009

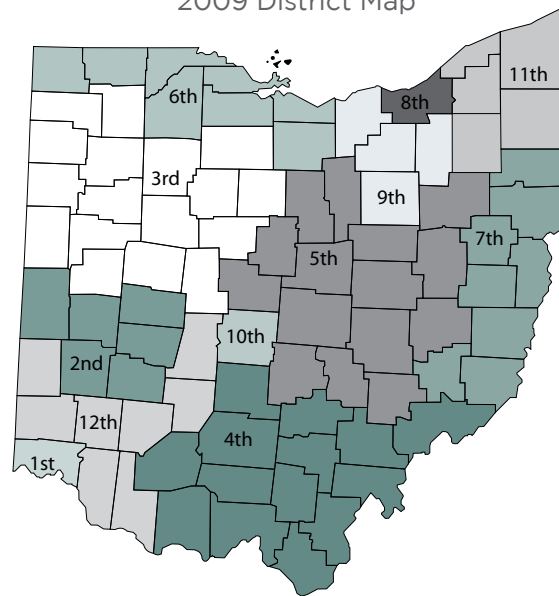
Effective Jan. 1, 2009, one seat was added to the 12th District Court of Appeals, bringing the statewide total of courts of appeals judges to 69.

Caseloads

The cases heard in Ohio courts of appeals are classified into four broad types:

- Criminal appeals arising from criminal cases heard in the general divisions of the common pleas courts and in municipal and county courts.
- Civil appeals arising from civil cases heard in the general divisions of the common pleas courts and municipal and county courts.
- Family law appeals arising from cases heard in the domestic relations, juvenile and probate divisions of Ohio common pleas courts.
- Miscellaneous appeals include original actions filed in the courts of appeals, habeas corpus cases and appeals from administrative agencies and the Court of Claims.

COURTS OF APPEALS
2009 District Map

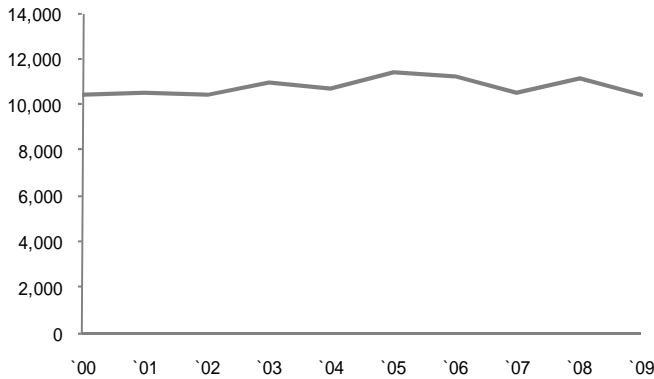


District	Number of Judges	Number of Counties
1 st	6	1
2 nd	5	6
3 rd	4	17
4 th	4	14
5 th	6	15
6 th	5	8
7 th	4	8
8 th	12	1
9 th	5	4
10 th	8	1
11 th	5	5
12 th	5	8

District	Total Population	Population Per Judge
1 st	845,303	140,884
2 nd	1,042,757	208,551
3 rd	782,234	195,559
4 th	616,789	154,197
5 th	1,364,704	227,451
6 th	899,206	179,841
7 th	587,680	146,920
8 th	1,393,978	116,165
9 th	1,090,222	218,044
10 th	1,068,978	133,622
11 th	798,311	159,662
12 th	862,978	172,596

FIGURE 1

All Case Types Combined
New Filings

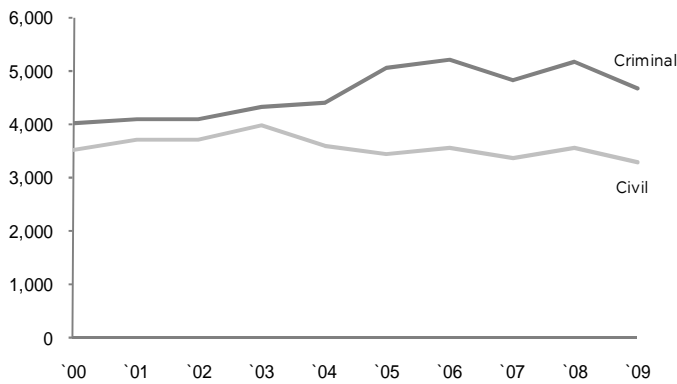


The overall number of cases heard in Ohio’s courts of appeals remained remarkably steady from 2000 through 2009. In 2000, 10,394 new cases were filed. In 2009, 10,433 new cases were filed. (See **Figure 1**).

As shown in **Figure 2**, trends in the number of new filings over the years are seen within the civil and criminal appeals categories. Criminal appeals exhibit an upward trend with some notable volatility over the past five years in particular. Throughout the 10 years shown, criminal appeals rose nearly 17 percent from 3,996 in 2000 to 4,670 in 2009. It should be noted, however, that the volume of criminal appeals filed in 2009 was 9 percent less than seen over the prior year. Civil appeals remained largely stable, with a slight downward trend.

FIGURE 2

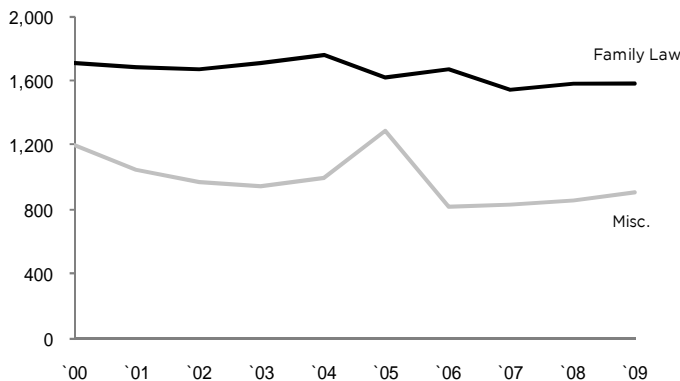
Civil and Criminal Appeals
New Filings



In regard to family law appeals, a slight downward trend in the number of new filings is seen. In 2000, 1,711 family law-related appeals were filed. In 2009, the total number of new filings was 1,577, constituting an 8-percent decrease. Miscellaneous appeals also demonstrate an overall downward trend over the 10 years shown, despite a sizable spike in 2005 and a slight uptick the last two years. (See **Figure 3**).

FIGURE 3

Family Law and Miscellaneous Appeals
New Filings





COURT OF CLAIMS

The Court of Claims has statewide original jurisdiction over all civil actions filed against the state of Ohio. Created pursuant to the Court of Claims Act in 1976, the Court of Claims sits in Franklin County. Appeals from the Court of Claims are heard by the 10th District Court of Appeals in Columbus.

Civil actions in the Court of Claims are determined in one of two ways, depending on the amount of monetary damages claimed.

Civil cases involving \$2,500 or less are determined administratively by the clerk or deputy clerk of the court. Cases involving more than \$2,500 are heard by a judge. A judge of the court also may review and enter final judgment in a civil action determined administratively. Judges on the Court of Claims are assigned by the Chief Justice.

In addition to civil actions against the state of Ohio, the Court of Claims hears appeals from decisions of the Attorney General regarding claims for reparations by victims of crime. These appeals are heard by panel commissioners of the Court of Claims, who are appointed by the Supreme Court. If the claimant wishes to further appeal, a Court of Claims judge reviews the claim and issues a final decision. No further appeals are permitted.

From 2005 through 2009, the number of new judicial cases filed each year exhibited relative stability with the number of filings varying only moderately above and below the median of 396. (See **Figure 1**).

Of note regarding the processing of judicial cases is the number of conferences and pretrials held each year. As shown in **Figure 2**, from 2005 through 2008, the court demonstrated a steadily rising trend. However, that trend was interrupted in 2009 when the court held 1,247 conferences and pretrials, constituting a 24-percent decrease in the number of conferences and pretrials held in 2008.

FIGURE 1

Judicial Cases
Cases Filed

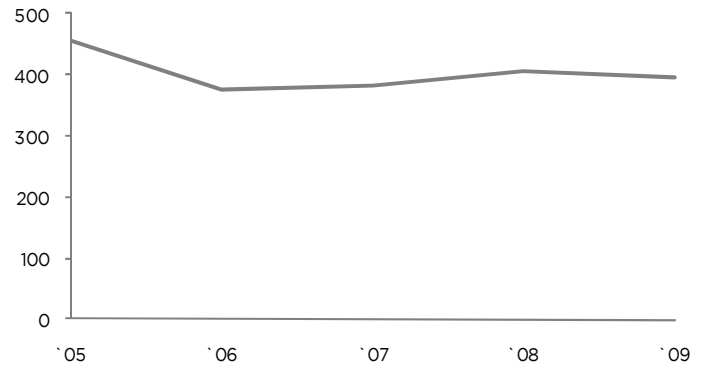


FIGURE 2

Judicial Cases
Conferences/Pretrials Held

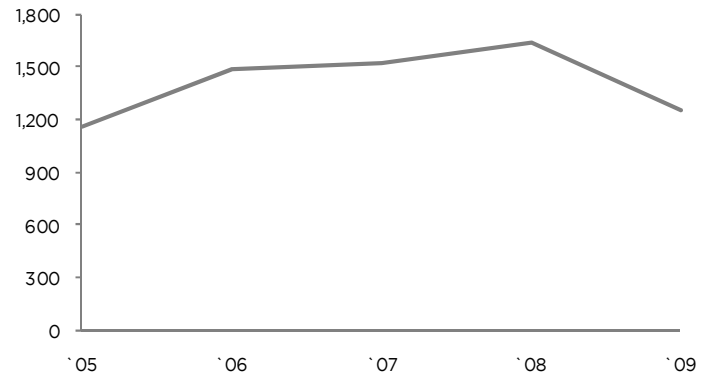
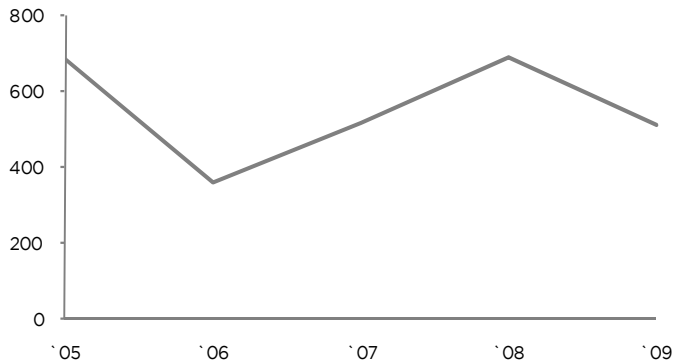


FIGURE 3

Administrative Determinations

Cases Filed



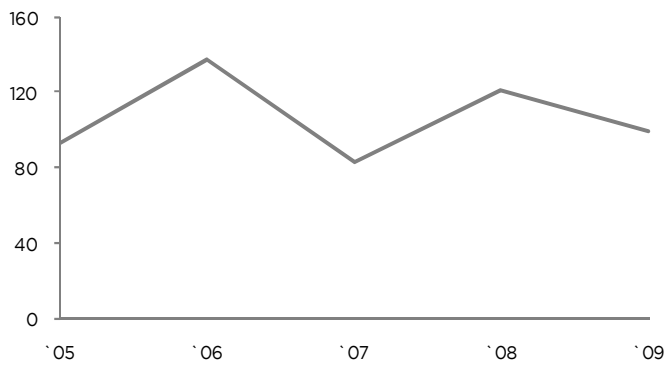
The number of administrative determination cases filed each year varies widely with no clear trend across the five years shown in **Figure 3**.

The volume of appeals from victims of crime decisions exhibits significant fluctuations over the five years shown in **Figure 4**, with no discernable trend. The 99 appeals filed in 2009 is precisely the median for the five-year period shown.

FIGURE 4

Victims of Crime Appeals

Appeals Filed





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

The court of common pleas, the only trial court created by the Ohio Constitution, is established by Article IV, Section 1, of the Constitution and its duties are outlined in Article IV, Section 4.

There is a court of common pleas in each of Ohio's 88 counties. The courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction in all criminal felony cases and original jurisdiction in all civil cases in which the amount in controversy is more than \$500. Courts of common pleas have appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of some state administrative agencies.

Common pleas judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot. A person must be an attorney with at least six years of experience in the practice of law to be elected or appointed to the court.

Most courts of common pleas have specialized divisions created by statute to decide cases involving juveniles, domestic relations matters, and probate matters. The use of the term "division" when describing the jurisdictional structure of the common pleas courts sometimes is at odds with how that term is applied when describing caseload statistics. For ease of description, it is common to group cases by type — that is, by division. For example, when describing caseloads of cases generally grouped together as "domestic relations cases," they may be referred to as "domestic relations division" cases, even though a particular county may not technically have a domestic relations division. Five courts of common pleas have no divisions: the courts in Adams, Morgan, Morrow, Noble and Wyandot counties.

Changes in 2009

In 2009, several changes were made to the jurisdictional structure and number of judges in Ohio common pleas courts.

Champaign County: Effective Feb. 9, 2009, the previously combined probate and juvenile division converted to a combined domestic relations, juvenile and probate division following the severance of domestic relations jurisdiction from the previously combined general and domestic relations division. Simultaneously, one seat was added to the newly formed combined domestic relations, juvenile and probate division.

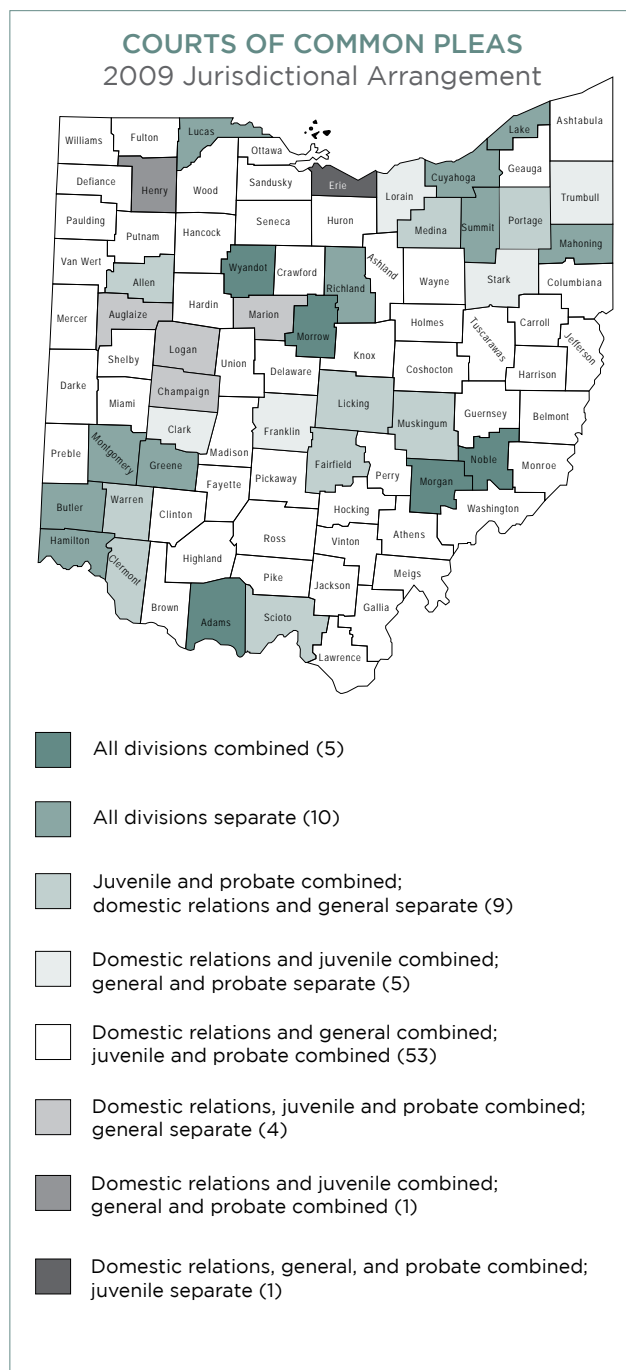
Erie County: Effective Feb. 9, 2009, the stand-alone probate division was phased out. Probate jurisdiction remains within the combined general, domestic relations and probate division, to which one seat was added.

Lorain County: Effective Feb. 8, 2009, the stand-alone probate division was phased out and an additional seat was added to the then existing family court (combined domestic relations, juvenile, and probate division). Effective Sept. 29, 2009, the stand-alone probate division was restored and the probate jurisdiction conferred upon the combined domestic relations, juvenile and probate division was removed, leaving a combined domestic relations and juvenile division.

Summit County: Two seats were added to the general division with start dates of Jan. 5 and Jan. 6, 2009.

Courts of Common Pleas Jurisdictional Distribution in 2009

Jurisdictional Structure	Number of Counties	Number of Judges
Stand-alone General Division	28	162
Stand-alone Domestic Relations Division	19	30
Stand-alone Probate Division	15	16
Stand-alone Juvenile Division	11	20
Combined General and Domestic Relations Division	53	72
Combined Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division	6	15
Combined Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile Division	4	7
Combined Probate and Juvenile Division	62	62
Combined General, Domestic Relations and Probate Division	1	3
Combined General and Probate Division	1	1
Combined General, Domestic Relations, Probate and Juvenile Division	5	6





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

General Division

The general divisions of the courts of common pleas have original jurisdiction over all criminal felony cases, all civil actions in which the amount in controversy is greater than \$500 and jurisdiction over the appeals of decisions of certain state administrative agencies.

For statistical reporting purposes, all criminal cases are counted together with no distinction based on specific charges. Civil cases are reported under a number of different case-type categories.

Cases involving tort claims are classified as either:

- Professional Tort – Such as medical and legal malpractice
- Product Liability
- Other Torts – Tort cases not otherwise classifiable as professional tort or product liability cases.

The non-tort case-type categories are:

- Workers' Compensation – Typically involving appeals from a decision of the Industrial Commission
- Foreclosures
- Administrative Appeals
- Complex Litigation – A special case type discussed further below
- Other Civil – Civil cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case type categories.

The complex litigation case type is a special category reserved for civil cases involving novel or complicated issues of law and fact, that are not likely to be resolved within the time guidelines established for other cases. A judge assigned to a civil case that meets the criteria prescribed under Sup. R. 42 may reclassify a civil case as a complex litigation case. Accordingly, no cases are filed with the courts as complex litigation cases. Instead, civil cases are first classified under their appropriate case types and then, if applicable, are reclassified as complex litigation cases. Complex litigation cases are rare. In 2008, only 94 cases were designated as complex litigation cases. From 2000 to 2009, the average number designated as such each year was 107.

Caseloads

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of new case filings in 2009 among common pleas, general division courts. Criminal cases, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases constitute 89 percent of all new filings in 2009. See the *Appendix* for a table displaying the number of new filings for each individual case type from 2000 through 2009.

The state has seen tremendous growth in the number of new filings since 2000. Shown in **Figure 2** is each case type represented by two vertical bars: One bar represents the number of new filings in 2000, the other represents the number of new filings in 2009. Of particular note is the considerable increase in Foreclosures (a 151-percent increase over 2000) and in Other Civil cases (an 88-percent increase).

FIGURE 1

All Case Types New Filings, 2009

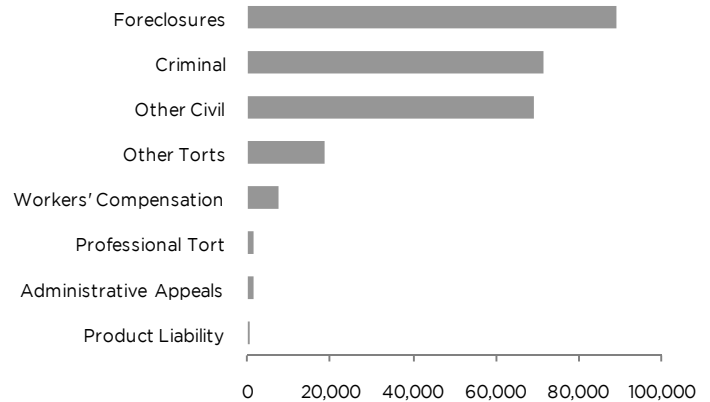


FIGURE 2

All Case Types

Growth in New Filings, 2009 Compared with 2000

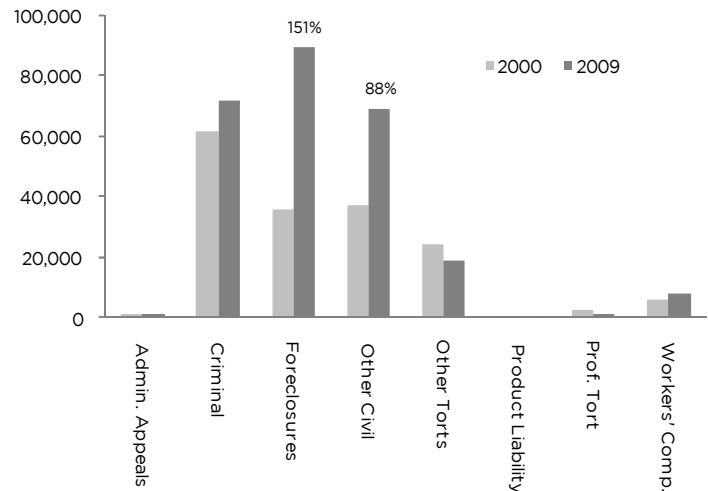
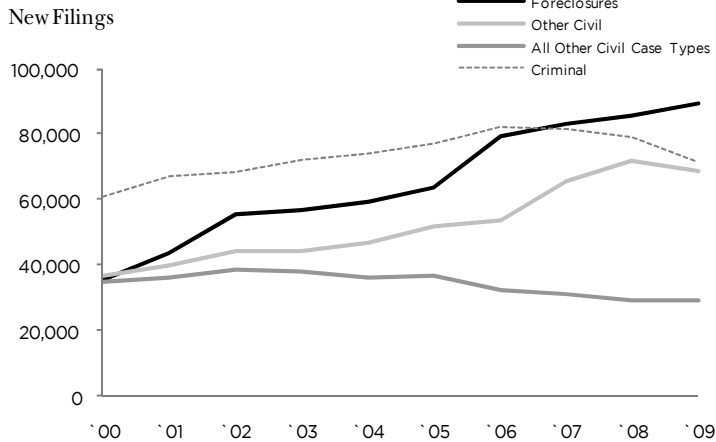


FIGURE 3

Civil and Criminal Cases



Shown in **Figure 3** is the number of new filings of Criminal, Foreclosure, Other Civil and All Other Civil Case Types combined. While the “all other civil cases types” grouping shows a moderate and steady downward trend, Foreclosures and Other Civil cases display significant growth over the past 10 years. Criminal cases exhibited a remarkably smooth and upward trend until 2007, at which time the trend reversed with continuing decreases in the past three years. Notably, Criminal case new filings dropped nearly 10 percent in 2009 compared to 2008.

TABLE 1

All Case Types

Performance Measures, 2009

	<u>Clearance Rate</u>	<u>Overage Rate</u>
Administrative Appeals	89%	19%
Complex Litigation	94%	7%
Criminal	103%	14%
Foreclosures	94%	5%
Other Civil	102%	3%
Other Torts	105%	3%
Product Liability	128%	8%
Professional Tort	103%	10%
Workers Compensation	99%	9%

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

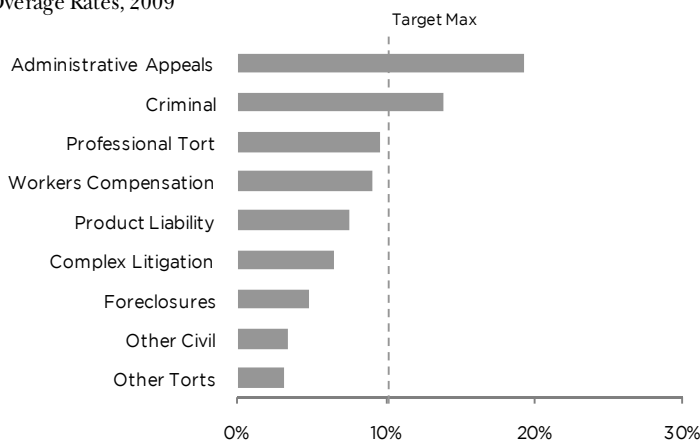
As shown in **Table 1**, the clearance rates in 2009 for all case types except Administrative Appeals, Complex Litigation and Criminal cases are close to or exceed 100 percent.

The overage rates, also shown in Table 1, are displayed graphically in **Figure 4**. Administrative Appeals and Criminal cases each exceed the 10-percent target threshold.

FIGURE 4

All Case Types

Overage Rates, 2009





CourTools

A Court Performance Framework

In 1987, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the United States Department of Justice initiated the Trial Court Performance Standards Project in order to develop a common language for describing, classifying and measuring the performance of trial courts.

Their work culminated in the 1990 release of Trial Court Performance Standards (TCPS). Included in those standards was an extensive battery of 68 performance measures. Faced with the practical challenges of implementing the multitude of performance measures prescribed in the TCPS, NCSC staff worked with state court representatives to develop a streamlined set of measures that evaluate the essential core functions of a court. The result was the 2005 completion of 10 performance measures constituting the CourTools.

The CourTools provide a balanced and comprehensive, yet workable, empirical perspective on court operations. When implemented, they give the judiciary, its justice partners and the public direct evidence into how well a court is functioning.

Court performance measurement is about knowing where things stand today — which, in turn, permits the development of a plan for the future. The CourTools provide an effective framework for courts to establish performance baselines, diagnose existing problems and plan for specific improvements.

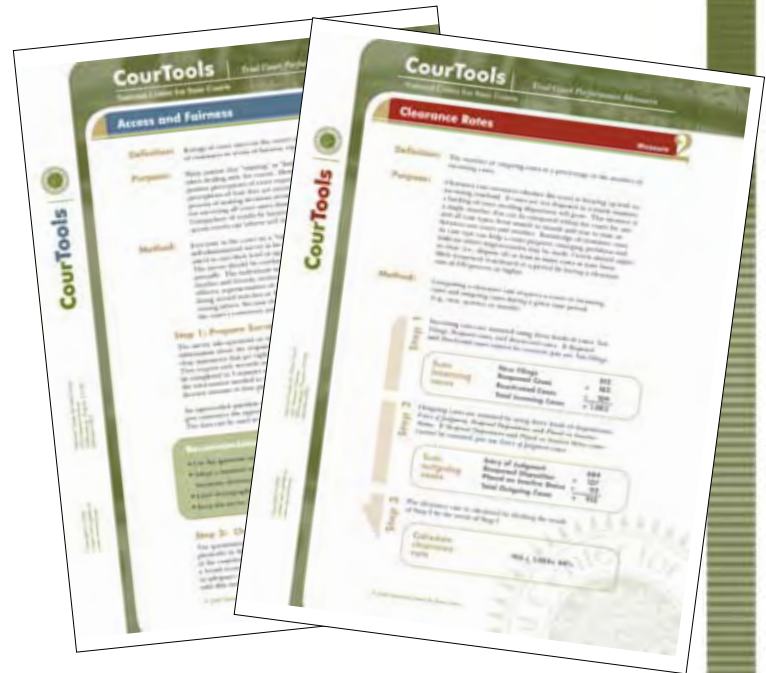


Measuring Court Performance

The Supreme Court of Ohio encourages Ohio trial courts to measure performance using the CourTools.

The Court's Case Management Section provides specific training directly to the courts on implementing, interpreting and understanding the CourTools.

The 10 CourTools are published in a visual and accessible how-to format. Brief descriptions of each are featured below.



CourTools Measure 1 measures how well a court does in providing accessibility to its services and to what extent participants in court proceedings feel they are treated fairly and with respect.

CourTools Measures 2, 3, 4 and 5 focus on the critical goals of courts functioning expeditiously and resolving cases in a timely manner.

CourTools Measure 6 focuses on the foundational element that courts maintain accurate and complete files.

CourTools Measure 7 permits a court to obtain a firm grasp on how effective it is at collecting monetary penalties.

Courts using juries can apply **CourTools Measure 8** to demonstrate the soundness of their jury management capabilities.

CourTools Measure 9 provides courts with a means to ensure that court staff are functioning at a high level and providing an optimal level of public service by measuring the work environment and the relations between staff and court management.

Lastly, **CourTools Measure 10** describes how to establish a cost-per-case foundation for responsible budgeting.

More information about CourTools is available at www.courttools.org.

Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court's performance, per se, this statistic routinely is used by the Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that are truly dispositive of the case and categories that instead simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations then are summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) in order to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

It is conventionally understood that approximately 2 percent of civil cases and 5 percent of criminal cases ultimately go to trial.

Ohio's trial rates fall below those figures. As shown in **Figure 5**, the trial rate for civil cases heard in the common pleas, general division courts in 2009 was 1.5 percent and 3.6 percent for criminal cases. Although the criminal case trial rate remained largely stable since 2000, the rate for civil trials dropped sharply by more than half from the high in 2000 of nearly 3 percent.

FIGURE 5

Trial Rates (Jury and Court Trials Combined)
Percentage of Total Dispositional Terminations

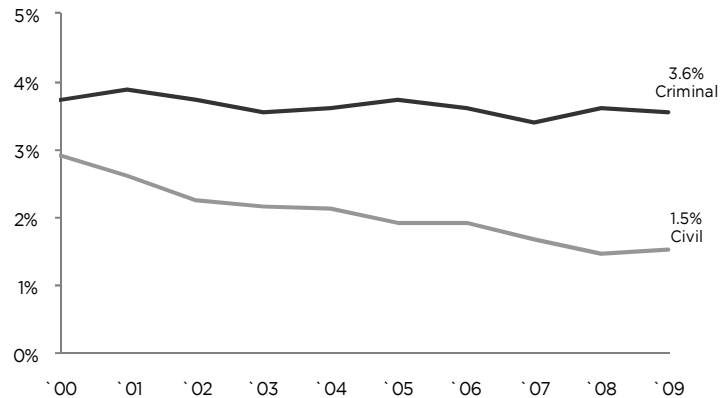


TABLE 2

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket
Overall Caseloads

Year	New Filings	Pending at End of Year	Cases Terminated
2009	152	7,717	3,000
2008	176	10,112	34,813
2007	266	44,744	279
2006	444	44,755	1,180
2005	404	45,486	1,303
2004	6,416	46,384	1,906
2003	3,396	41,865	1,347
2002	5,811	39,791	386
2001	8,251	34,365	1
2000	7,058	26,114	3

Cuyahoga County's Asbestos Docket

Not reflected in the caseload statistics shown in this report is a special group of asbestos-related cases pending in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. This docket chiefly consists of product liability cases involving alleged exposure to products containing asbestos and, to a smaller extent, silica. Also included in this docket are premises liability cases against owners or possessors of property on which plaintiffs allege injury from exposure to asbestos-containing products.

The volume of these cases filed over the years in Cuyahoga County necessitated certain extraordinary means for managing it. The cases are heard by retired assigned judges with special designated staff and are not counted among Cuyahoga County's traditional caseload statistics.

The number of new cases filed each year over the past 10 years varied widely from a high in 2001 of 8,251 new cases to a low of 152 new cases in 2009. In 2005, the court saw a precipitous drop in the number of new cases filed and the incoming volume of new filings has remained low each year since. (See **Table 2** and **Figure 6**).

The number of cases pending at the end of each year over the past 10 years reached a peak in 2004 when there were 46,384 cases pending. 2009 saw the lowest number of pending cases over the past 10 years with 7,717 cases pending at the end of the year. The number of pending cases stayed relatively stable until 2008 when more than 34,800 cases were terminated. (See **Table 2** and **Figure 7**). The majority (about 31,000) of those terminations were "administrative dismissals" rendering the cases inactive pursuant to the passage of special asbestos-related tort reform legislation. The court found those cases did not contain the requisite medical evidence to warrant keeping the cases in active status. It should be noted that a given case, which can contain dozens of defendants, cannot be counted as being terminated until every defendant in the case was subject to a condition causing a reportable termination. Consequently, the number of cases terminated each year does not align as typically expected against the number of cases filed.

FIGURE 6

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket
New Filings

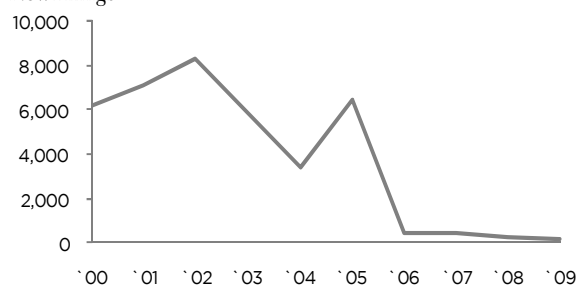
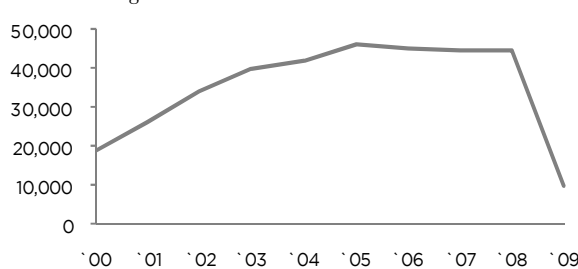


FIGURE 7

Cuyahoga County Asbestos Docket
Cases Pending at End of Year





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Domestic Relations Division

Domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas have jurisdiction over all proceedings involving divorce or dissolution of marriages, annulment, legal separation, spousal support and allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children. The domestic relations divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. The following counties have stand-alone domestic relations divisions:

Allen	Lake	Muskingum
Butler	Licking	Portage
Clermont	Lucas	Richland
Cuyahoga	Mahoning	Scioto
Fairfield	Medina	Summit
Greene	Montgomery	Warren
Hamilton		

Domestic relations cases are grouped into three general categories of cases.

Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions

Marriage Terminations (divorces) and Marriage Dissolutions involve the cessation of a marriage relationship. Both of these case categories are further broken down for caseload reporting purposes depending on whether the married couple seeking a divorce or dissolution has any children.

Post-Decree Case Types

Following the cessation of a marriage, further activities can occur and are classified under either the Change of Custody, Visitation Enforcement or Modification, or Support Enforcement or Modification categories. In some instances, a person may file a motion under more than one of these categories. For statistical reporting purposes, such matters are counted only under the category of the earliest filed motion. When that motion is resolved, the matter is reclassified under the case type for the motion filed after the first, and so on.

Miscellaneous Case Types

The remaining domestic relations case types are:

- Domestic Violence – Petitions for civil protection orders
- Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.) cases
- Parentage
- All Others – Cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case-type categories.

Caseloads

The core work performed in domestic relations courts involves divorces and dissolutions. From 2000 through 2009, the total number of divorces and dissolutions decreased by 19 percent. New Filings across the state in all case types from 2000 through 2009 are shown in a table in the *Appendix*.

While divorces and dissolutions both trended downward, of particular note is the difference in the rate of decline depending on whether the married couple had children. As displayed in **Figure 1**, the rate of the decrease is greater for divorces and dissolutions involving children. Until 2005, more cases were filed involving children than not. Since 2005, this relationship in the data reversed. More cases are now filed in which children are not involved.

FIGURE 1

Marriage Terminations and Dissolutions Combined Case Types New Filings

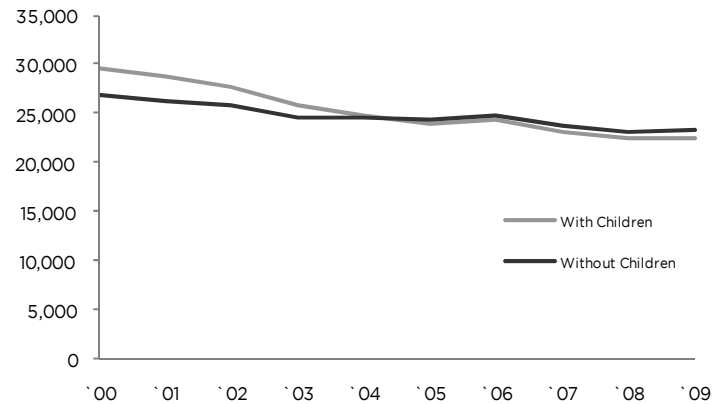


TABLE 1

Post-Decree Case Types

New Filings and Reactivations

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2009 Change from 2000
New Filings											
Change of Custody	1,027	1,217	1,078	1,067	991	939	661	611	582	448	-56%
Support - Enforce or Modify	4,417	5,062	5,479	5,194	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,271	2,534	-43%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	418	522	436	368	312	284	313	259	157	108	-74%
Reactivations											
Change of Custody	7,469	6,904	6,761	6,635	6,785	7,240	7,234	6,980	6,996	6,804	-9%
Support - Enforce or Modify	33,063	32,477	32,185	32,407	35,859	35,581	33,730	33,410	34,635	35,170	6%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,423	3,211	3,088	3,075	3,171	3,341	3,079	3,120	3,356	3,085	-10%
Total New Filings and Reactivations											
Change of Custody	8,496	8,121	7,839	7,702	7,776	8,179	7,895	7,591	7,578	7,252	-15%
Support - Enforce or Modify	37,480	37,539	37,664	37,601	40,993	40,711	37,461	36,854	37,906	37,704	1%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	3,841	3,733	3,524	3,443	3,483	3,625	3,392	3,379	3,513	3,193	-17%

FIGURE 2

Custody and Visitation Cases
New Filings and Reactivations

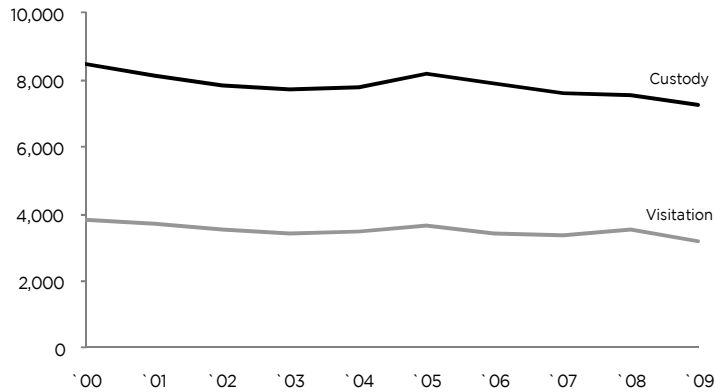
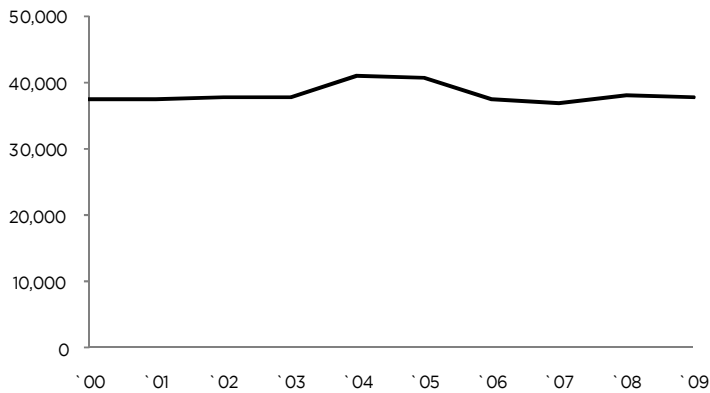


FIGURE 3

Support Cases
New Filings and Reactivations



Under the Supreme Court statistical reporting scheme for domestic relations cases, post-decree cases generally are reported as “reactivations,” rather than “new filings.” If a divorce case is heard in another state or county, any post-decree filing is reported as a new filing. Accordingly, for purposes of analyzing long-term trends in the caseloads of these post-decree matters, both sets of data (new filings and reactivations) are presented.

Similar to the downward trend seen in marriage terminations and marriage dissolutions, a corresponding downward trend in the number of custody and visitation matters is seen. This follows logically because post-decree motions are filed after a marriage is terminated. Notable is the contrast in the number of post-decree case types filed involving children (custody and visitation) and the number of support matters. It follows that because fewer marriage terminations involving children are filed, fewer custody and visitation matters are presented. Support matters, not strictly involving the presence of children, is expected to demonstrate less of a decline. These relationships in the reported caseloads are seen in **Table 1** and **Figures 2** and **3**.

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

Table 2 shows the clearance rates and overage rates for each case type in 2009. The overage rates are displayed graphically in **Figure 4**. While the overage rates for Marriage Terminations and Marriage Dissolutions along with several other case types in 2009 are below 10 percent, the overage rates for Domestic Violence, Custody, U.I.F.S.A., Visitation and All Others are above 10 percent.

The basis for the high overage rate for Domestic Violence cases is a result of an anomaly in the historical manner in which courts coded a termination for reporting purposes under the Supreme Court's statistical reporting scheme. Efforts to address this anomaly were undertaken and it is anticipated that future Domestic Violence overage rates will normalize.

TABLE 2

All Case Types

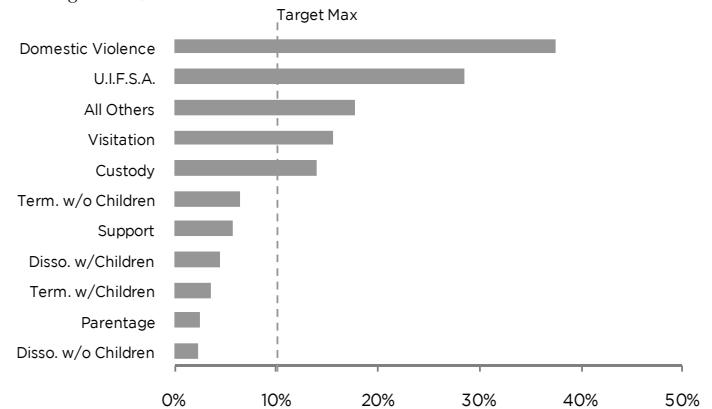
Performance Measures, 2009

	Clearance Rate	Overage Rate
All Others	105%	18%
Change of Custody	107%	14%
Domestic Violence	100%	37%
Marriage Dissolutions w/Children	99%	4%
Marriage Dissolutions w/o Children	99%	2%
Marriage Terminations w/Children	101%	3%
Marriage Terminations w/o Children	102%	6%
Parentage	95%	2%
Support - Enforce or Modify	100%	6%
U.I.F.S.A.	95%	29%
Visitation - Enforce or Modify	109%	16%

FIGURE 4

All Case Types

Overage Rates, 2009





COURTS OF COMMON PLEAS

Probate Division

The Ohio Constitution of 1851 provides that probate courts are established as separate independent courts with jurisdiction over the probate of wills and supervision of the administration of estates and guardianships. In 1968, under the Modern Courts Amendment to the Ohio Constitution, probate courts became divisions of the courts of common pleas. In addition to jurisdiction over wills, estate matters and guardianships, probate divisions have jurisdiction over the issuance of marriage licenses, adoption proceedings, determination of sanity or mental competency, and certain eminent domain proceedings. Probate judges also can solemnize marriages.

The probate divisions of the courts of common pleas exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have stand-alone probate divisions:

Butler	Hamilton	Montgomery
Clark	Lake	Richland
Cuyahoga	Lorain	Stark
Franklin	Lucas	Summit
Greene	Mahoning	Trumbull

Caseloads

Across the state, probate caseloads declined over the 10 years between 2000 and 2009. As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, 88,178 new probate cases were filed in 2009, representing 11 percent fewer than the 99,207 cases filed in 2000. However, certain case types experienced growth.

New filings of Guardianships of Incompetents, displayed in **Figure 1**, demonstrate a slight, but fairly steady upward trend. On the other hand, Guardianships of Minors, also shown in Figure 1, trend downward, with 2,896 filings in 2009 compared with 4,318 new filings in 2000 (a 33-percent decrease).

Although not as numerous when compared with other case types, Wrongful Death cases rose dramatically from a low of 244 cases in 2000 to a high of 1,039 cases in 2009. (See **Figure 2**).

Decedents' Estates cases, shown in **Figure 3**, exhibited a steady downward trend from 2000 to 2009. The 56,686 cases filed in 2009 are 15 percent fewer than the 67,036 cases filed in 2000.

FIGURE 1

Guardianships New Filings

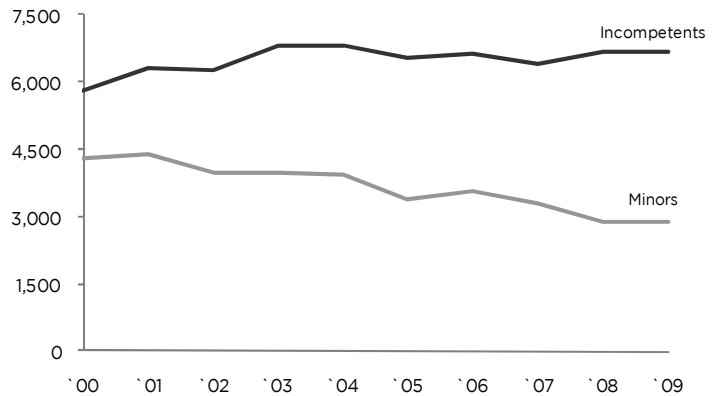


FIGURE 2

Wrongful Death Cases New Filings

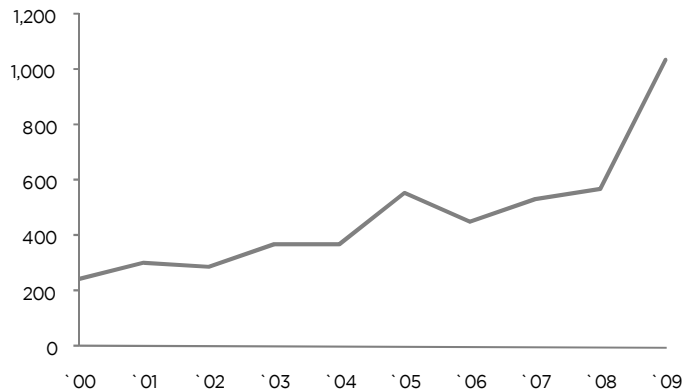


FIGURE 3

Decedents' Estates New Filings

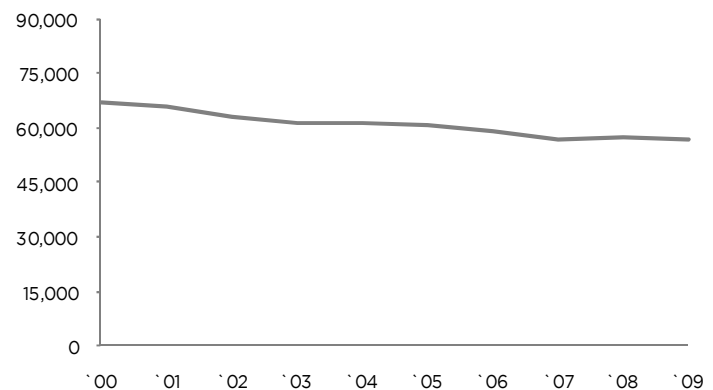
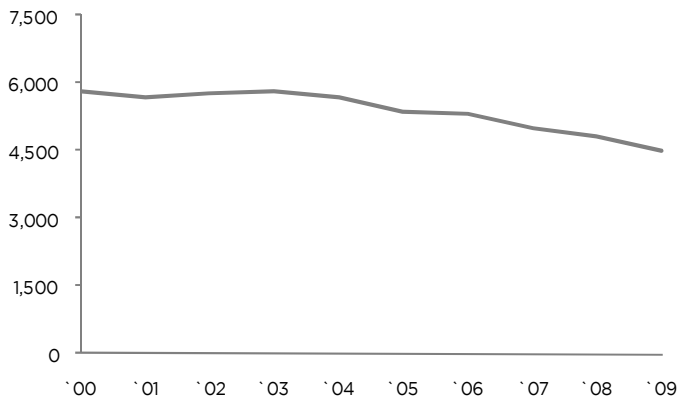


FIGURE 4

Adoptions

New Filings



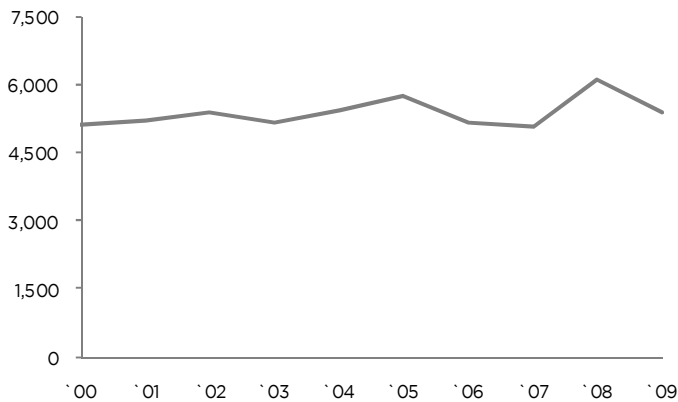
Adoption cases also demonstrated a fairly steady decrease with 4,487 cases filed in 2009, representing a 23-percent decline from the 5,800 cases filed in 2000. (See **Figure 4**).

Constituting a significant segment of the probate division workload are Mental Illness and Mental Retardation matters, which show a general, but slight upward trend since 2000 with some notable volatility in the rate of new filings over the past several years. (See **Figure 5**).

FIGURE 5

Mental Illness and Mental Retardation Cases

New Filings



Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1** and **Figure 6**, probate divisions statewide in 2009 exhibited satisfactory clearance rates in the majority of those case types amenable to this measurement. Wrongful death cases show the lowest clearance rate at 87 percent, which is suggestive of the risk of growth in a backlog of this type of case.

TABLE 1

All Case Types

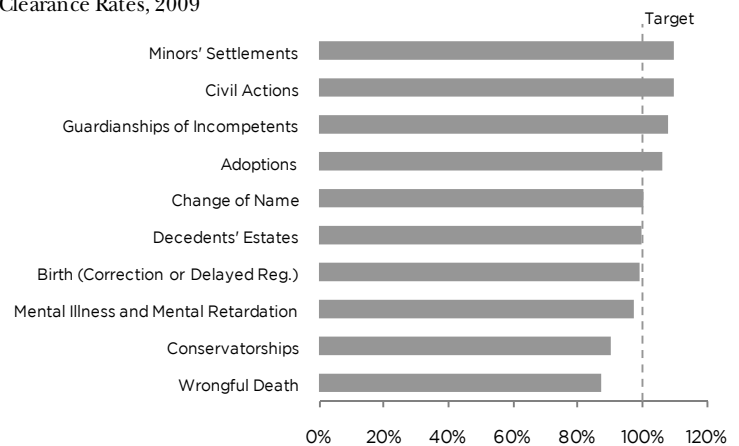
Clearance Rates, 2009

	Clearance Rate
Adoptions	106%
Birth (Correction or Delayed Registration)	99%
Change of Name	100%
Civil Actions	109%
Conservatorships	90%
Decedents' Estates	100%
Guardianships of Incompetents	108%
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation	97%
Minors' Settlements	110%
Wrongful Death	87%

FIGURE 6

All Case Types

Clearance Rates, 2009





**COURTS OF
COMMON PLEAS**
Juvenile Division

Juvenile divisions of courts of common pleas hear cases involving delinquent, unruly and neglected and dependent children and have jurisdiction in adult cases involving paternity, child abuse, non-support, contributing to the delinquency of minors and the failure to send children to school.

Juvenile divisions exist in most counties together with another division. However, the following counties have stand-alone juvenile divisions:

Butler	Hamilton	Montgomery
Cuyahoga	Lake	Richland
Erie	Lucas	Summit
Greene	Mahoning	

Caseloads

The *Appendix* contains a table showing the number of statewide new filings, by type of case, from 2000 to 2009. A variety of sizable changes in the number of new filings is seen. Overall, the state saw a 17-percent decline in the total number of new filings of juvenile cases during the 10 years shown. A large portion of that overall decline is attributed to traffic cases, which exhibited a fairly steady decline from a high in 2002 of more than 97,000 cases to slightly less than 55,000 cases in 2009 (a 43-percent decrease).

Notable in this data is the upward trend seen in those case types involving child support (Support Enforcement or Modification), and custody and visitation issues (Custody/Visitation). In 2009, 25,092 support matters were filed representing a 76-percent increase over the 14,234 filed in 2000. **Figure 1** displays graphically the increasing trend in new support filings. Although the upward trend is not as sharp, there also exists an ongoing and steady increase in the caseload presented to the courts involving Custody/Visitation matters. Over the 10 years shown, Custody/Visitation cases rose 40 percent.

These upward trends in custody, visitation and support matters align with the downward trends in related case types heard in Ohio's domestic relations divisions. The critical difference here is that the matters heard in juvenile divisions involve unmarried persons, whereas the related case types heard in domestic relations divisions necessarily are an outgrowth of a divorce or dissolution. Because divorces and dissolutions are trending down, it is perhaps not surprising to see an increase in the volume of child support, custody and visitation litigation involving unmarried persons.

FIGURE 1

Custody/Visitation and Support Cases New Filings

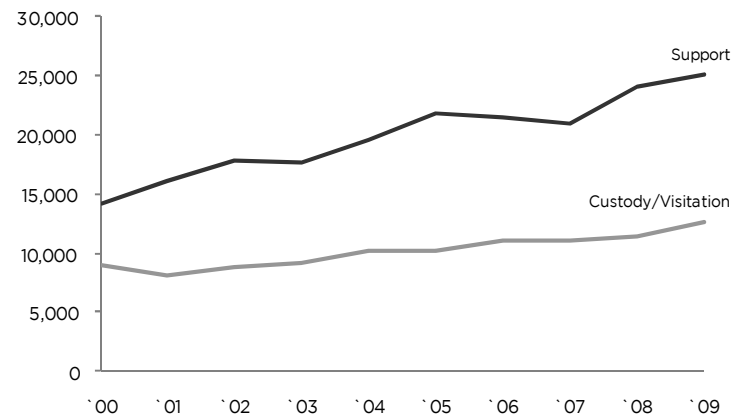


FIGURE 2

Parentage Cases New Filings

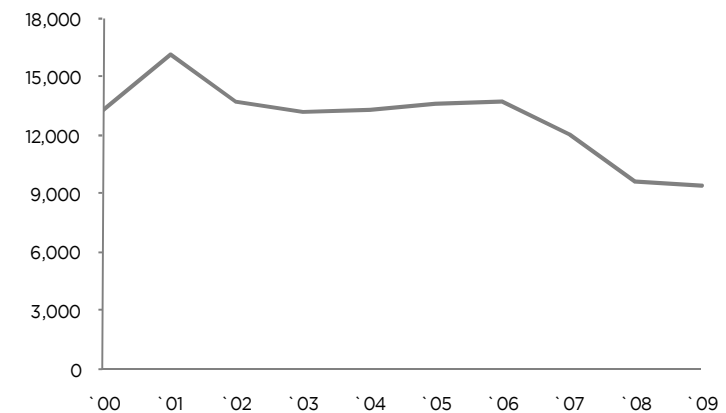


FIGURE 3

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency and Motions for Permanent Custody Cases (Combined)

New Filings

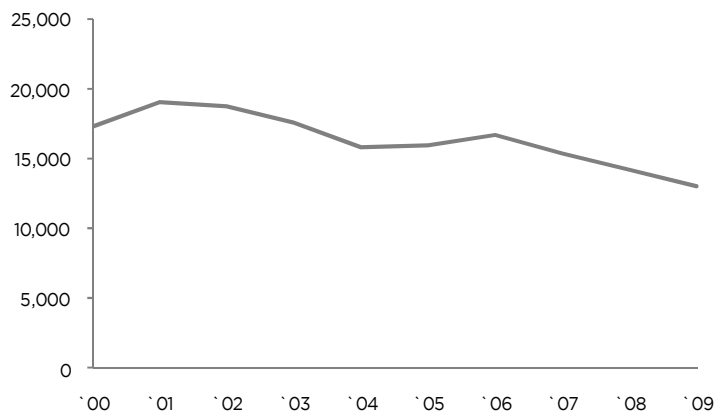
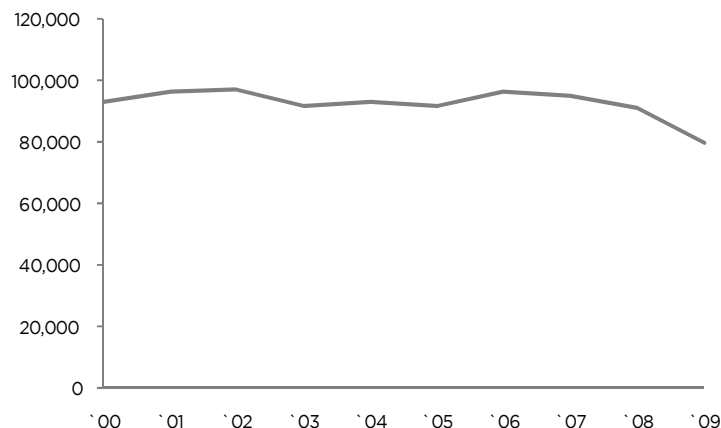


FIGURE 4

Delinquency Cases

New Filings



Parentage cases, where the establishment of paternity is at issue, show an overall downward trend over the 10 years shown, with a notable sharpening of that trend from 2007 to 2008. (See **Figure 2**).

New filings of Abuse, Neglect and Dependency cases, combined with new filings of Motions for Permanent Custody, are shown in **Figure 3**. The downward trend shown in this data mirrors the general decline seen nationally in the number of new filings of these case types. Of particular note is the 32-percent decrease in 2009 (with 13,017 cases) from the 10-year high in 2001 (with 19,056 cases).

The filing of new Delinquency cases — constituting the single largest case type by volume heard in juvenile divisions — remained largely steady over the 10 years shown, although the number of new filings in 2009 (79,527) is down 12 percent from 2008 and 17 percent lower than the 96,127 filed three years earlier in 2006 (See **Figure 4**).

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

Table 1 shows the clearance rates and overage rates for each case type in 2009. As shown in **Figure 5**, overage rates among many juvenile division cases exceed the 10-percent target threshold. Clearance rates, with two exceptions, either meet or exceed the 100 percent target.

TABLE 1

All Case Types

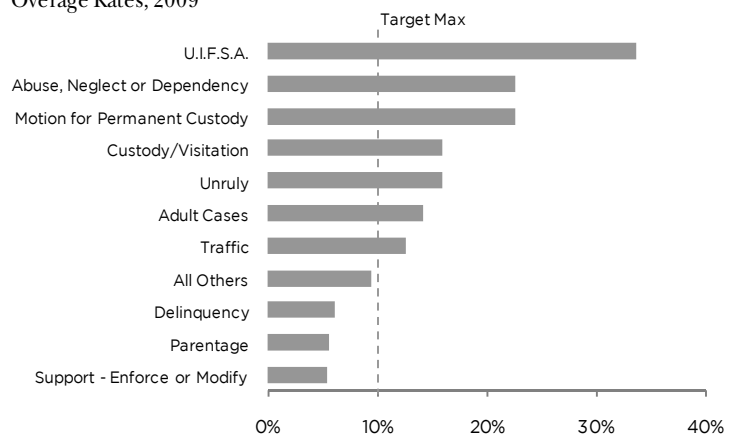
Performance Measures, 2009

	Clearance Rate	Overage Rate
Abuse, Neglect or Dependency	103%	23%
Adult Cases	100%	14%
All Others	104%	9%
Custody/Visitation	103%	16%
Delinquency	104%	6%
Motion for Permanent Custody	100%	22%
Parentage	94%	5%
Support - Enforce or Modify	99%	5%
Traffic	102%	12%
U.I.F.S.A.	108%	34%
Unruly	103%	16%

FIGURE 5

All Case Types

Overage Rates, 2009





Municipal & County Courts

The Ohio Constitution of 1851 established the Supreme Court and four types of lower courts: district courts of appeals, courts of common pleas, probate courts and justice courts. In 1910, the General Assembly established the first municipal court in Cleveland. In 1957, the General Assembly replaced justice courts with county courts. Each county court was established to have under its territorial jurisdiction those regions of a county not otherwise served by a municipal court. The General Assembly, over the ensuing years, reduced the number of county courts and expanded the territorial jurisdiction and number of municipal courts.

The subject-matter jurisdiction of municipal and county courts is identical. Municipal and county courts have the authority to conduct preliminary hearings in felony cases, and both have jurisdiction over traffic and non-traffic misdemeanors. These courts also have limited civil jurisdiction. They hear civil cases in which the amount of money in dispute does not exceed \$15,000. Judges of municipal and county courts also have statewide authority to solemnize marriage ceremonies.

In 2009, there were 128 municipal courts with 212 judges, and 38 county courts with 44 judges. Three municipal courts have specialized divisions: Cleveland Municipal Court —Housing Division, Toledo Municipal Court — Housing Division and Franklin County Municipal Court — Environmental Division.

Municipal court judges and county court judges must be attorneys with at least six years of experience in the practice of law. They are elected on a non-partisan judicial ballot. Municipal court judges serve on either a full-time or part-time basis, depending on the specific municipal court to which they are elected. All county court judges serve on a part-time basis. A municipal court judge has jurisdiction in one or more municipalities, in adjacent townships, or throughout an entire county. In 2009, statutes provided for the following 16 part-time municipal courts:

Avon Lake	Lebanon
Bellevue	Lyndhurst
Campbell	Mason
Chardon	Miamisburg
Franklin	Oakwood
Hardin County	Shelby
Huron	Struthers
Lawrence County	Vermilion

Changes in 2009

In 2009, one change was made concerning the existence of Ohio's municipal and county courts.

Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court: Effective Jan. 1, 2009, the Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court was abolished and the Stow Municipal Court was established in its place. The two sitting judges in Cuyahoga Falls Municipal Court automatically became judges of the Stow Municipal Court.

The case types heard in municipal and county courts are grouped into three general categories:

Civil Cases

Civil cases heard in municipal and county courts are Personal Injury and Property Damage (PI/PD), Contracts, Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D) (filed by landlords for eviction and possible recovery of money), Other Civil (a catchall for civil cases not otherwise classifiable in the other case type categories), and Small Claims cases (involving recovery of small debts and accounts not exceeding \$3,000).

Criminal Cases

This category includes Felonies (preliminary hearings only) and Misdemeanors.

Traffic Cases

This category includes Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.) and Other Traffic (all other cases involving the use of motor vehicles). Caseload statistics concerning parking violations and other vehicle-related infractions are not reported to the Supreme Court.

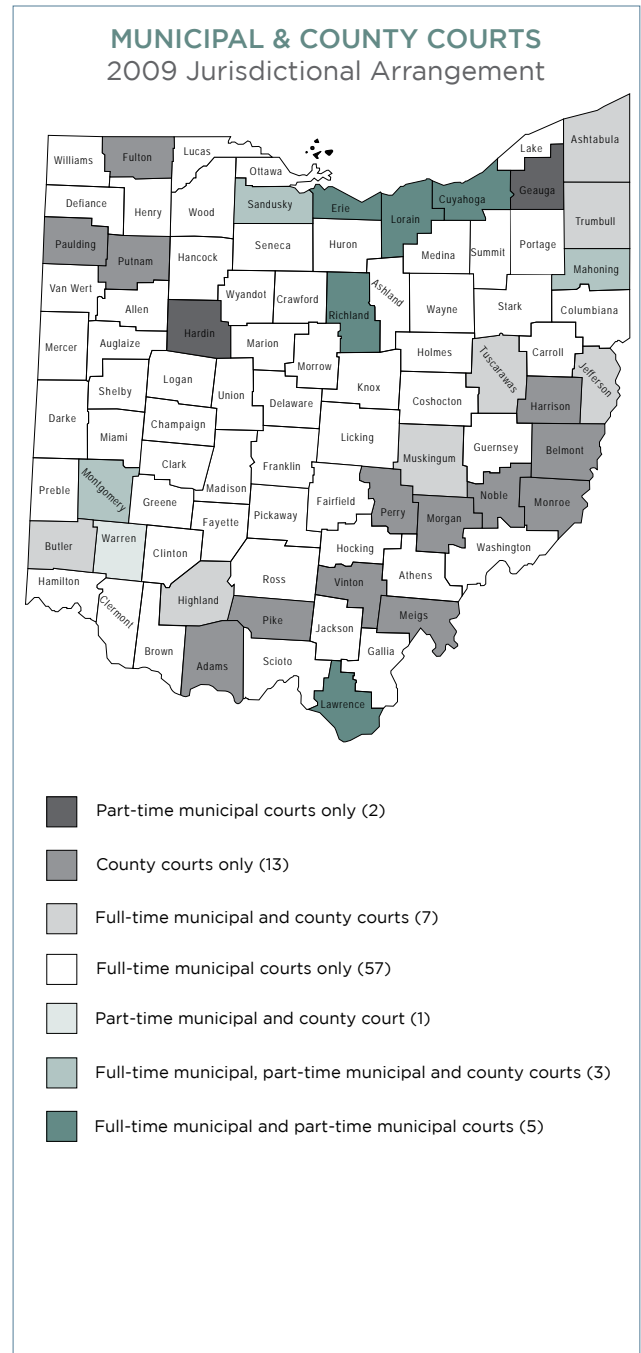


FIGURE 1

Other Traffic Cases

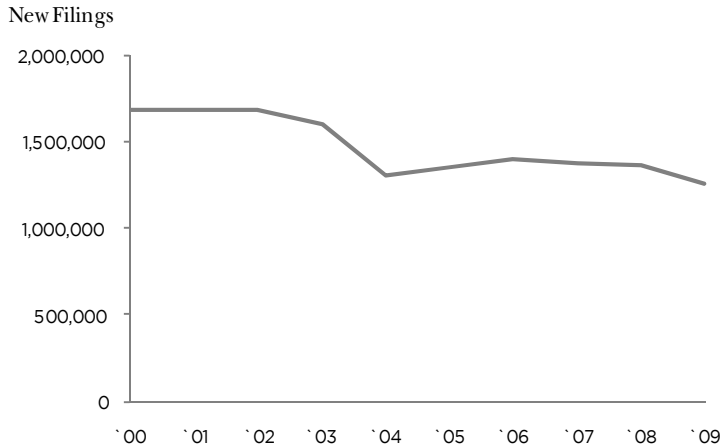


FIGURE 2

Personal Injury and Property Damage Cases

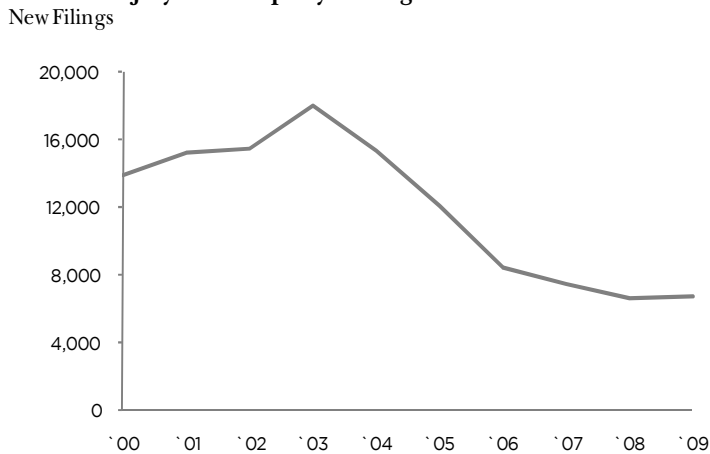
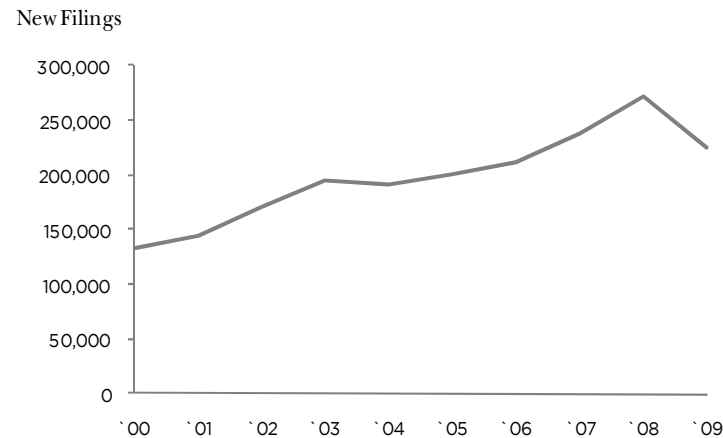


FIGURE 3

Contracts Cases



Caseloads

For purposes of presenting 10-year trend data concerning caseloads heard in Ohio’s municipal and county courts, the data reported by municipal courts and county courts is combined here in order to present a single unified perspective over the caseloads heard in Ohio’s limited jurisdiction trial courts.

As shown in a table in the *Appendix*, the total caseloads filed in Ohio municipal and county courts remained relatively stable. However, there was substantial growth in certain case types. That growth was offset by a corresponding decline in the number of Other Traffic new case filings.

Other Traffic cases, constituting 54 percent of the municipal and county courts’ total caseload filed in 2009, trended steadily downward from 2000 through 2009, with a particularly sharp decline between 2003 and 2004. (See **Figure 1**).

An overall 10-year decline also can be seen in Personal Injury and Property Damage cases. In 2009, 6,607 new cases were filed compared with the 10-year high seen in 2003, when nearly 18,000 cases were filed. (See **Figure 2**).

Contracts cases saw significant growth over the 10 years between 2000 and 2009, although 2009 exhibited a sizeable shift downward. In 2009, 224,180 cases were filed, constituting an 18-percent decrease from the 130,038 cases filed in 2008. (See **Figure 3**).

Forcible Entry and Detainer cases also exhibited a general upward trend between 2000 and 2009. Notably, 2009 saw a relatively sizable decrease of 7 percent from the number of new cases filed in 2008. (See **Figure 4**).

Small Claims case filings have not demonstrated an upward trend. Rather, a general downward trend is seen in **Figure 5**. The number of new Small Claims cases filed in 2009 (75,253) represents a drop of 8 percent from the number filed in 2008 (81,901).

Felony cases, in which municipal and county courts conduct preliminary hearings only, exhibit a notable shift in their growth rate over the 10-year period shown in **Figure 6**. From 2000 to 2006, the rate of increase was fairly sharp. Beginning in 2006, however, that trend reversed. The 80,647 Felony cases filed in 2009 represents a drop of 9 percent from 77,859 cases number filed in 2008.

FIGURE 4

Forcible Entry and Detainer Cases

New Filings

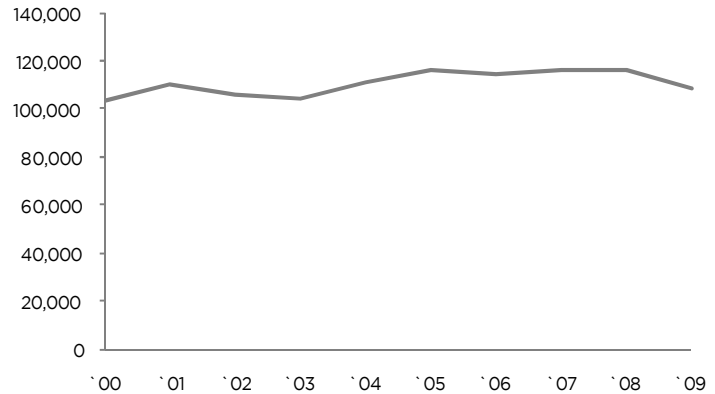


FIGURE 5

Small Claims Cases

New Filings

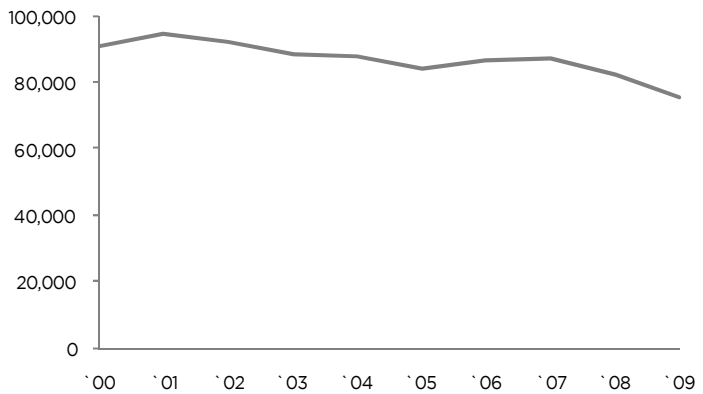


FIGURE 6

Felony Cases

New Filings

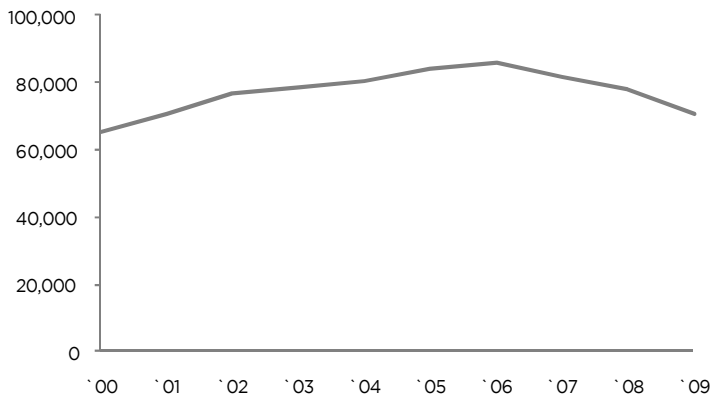
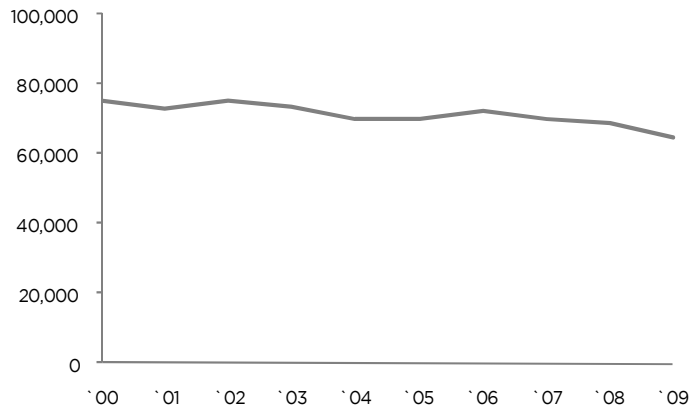


FIGURE 7

O.V.I. Cases
New Filings



Not unlike the general downward trend in Other Traffic cases, O.V.I. cases also exhibited an overall downward trend, although very slight. (See **Figure 7**).

Performance Measures

For a description of court performance measures used by the Supreme Court, see *page 3*.

As shown in **Table 1**, the clearance rates for each case type in 2009 are all satisfactory. The overage rates, shown in **Table 1** are displayed graphically in **Figure 8**. Felonies, showing an overage rate of 12 percent, is the only case type exceeding the 10-percent target threshold.

TABLE 1

All Case Types

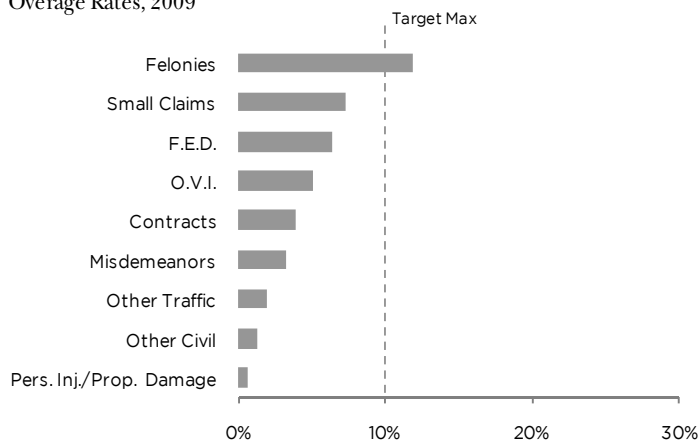
Performance Measures, 2009

	Clearance Rate	Overage Rate
Contracts	112%	4%
F.E.D.	104%	6%
Felonies	101%	12%
Misdemeanors	100%	3%
O.V.I.	101%	5%
Other Civil	101%	1%
Other Traffic	100%	2%
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	99%	1%
Small Claims	102%	7%

FIGURE 8

All Case Types

Overage Rates, 2009



Trial Rates

The rate of trials occurring in a court is a useful statistic when assisting courts in understanding the fundamentals of effective caseload management. Although it is not a measure of a court's performance, per se, this statistic routinely is used by the Supreme Court of Ohio Case Management Section as part of its caseload management training curriculum.

In order to calculate trial rates, the various termination categories reported by the courts first are separated into termination categories that truly are dispositive of the case and categories that instead simply render the case no longer active for reporting purposes. The number of dispositive terminations are then summed. The resulting sum is divided into the number of trials (either by jury, by court, or both) in order to produce the trial rate, expressed as a percentage.

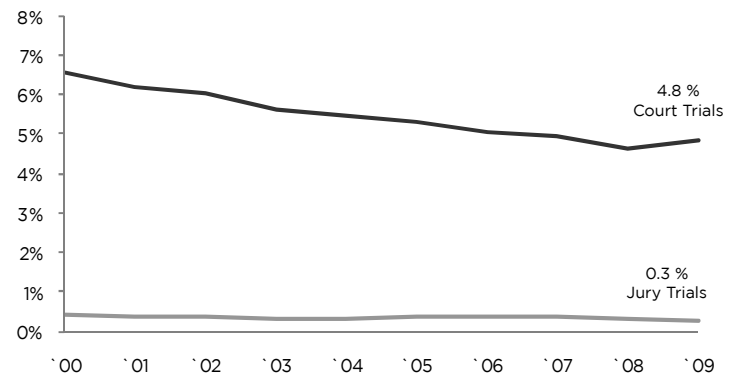
Figure 9 displays the trial rate for court trials (cases where the judge hears the evidence and renders a determination of the facts in the case) and jury trials for all case types combined.

The trial rate for court trials in 2009 was 4.8 percent, representing a sizable decrease from the 2000 trial rate for court trials of 6.6 percent. Over the 10 years shown, a general downward trend, despite the slight increase in 2009 over 2008, is seen. The rate of jury trials remained flat.

FIGURE 9

Trial Rates in All Case Types Combined

Percentage of Total Dispositional Terminations Reported by Individually Assigned Judges





MAYOR'S COURTS

In general, Ohio law allows mayors of municipal corporations populated by more than 100 people to conduct mayor's court where there are no municipal courts. These courts, which are not courts of record, only hear cases involving violations of local ordinances and state traffic laws. A person convicted in a mayor's court may appeal his or her conviction to the municipal or county court having jurisdiction within the municipal corporation.

Mayor's courts are required by law to register annually with, and submit caseload statistical reports quarterly to, the Supreme Court. At the request of the General Assembly, the Supreme Court adopted rules providing court procedures and basic legal education for mayors. Mayors whose courts hear alcohol- and drug-related traffic offenses have additional educational requirements. A mayor is not required to be a lawyer, but may appoint an attorney who has practiced law for at least three years to hear cases in mayor's court.

For the reporting year 2009, 332 mayor's courts registered with the Supreme Court. Mayor's court caseload statistics are published annually in a separate report

SPOTLIGHT ON FORECLOSURES

20year retrospective

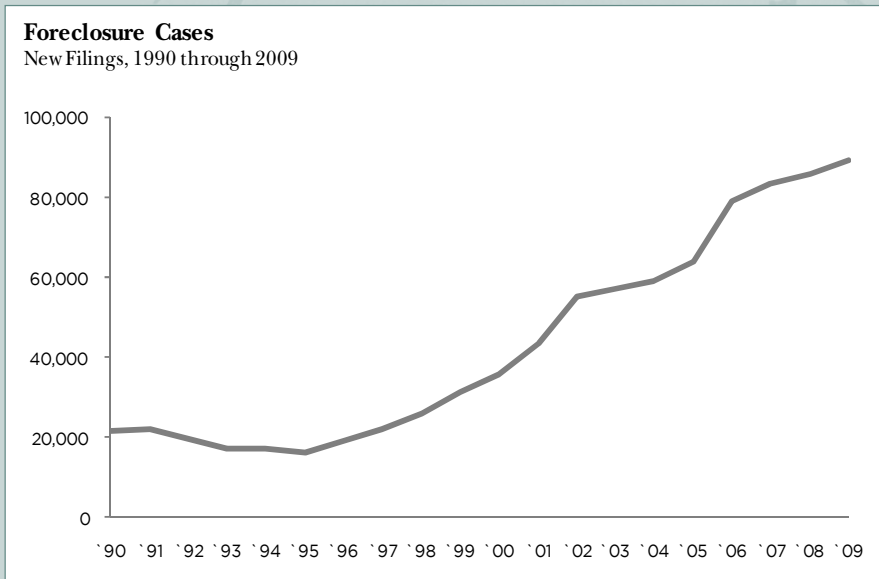
The 2008 Ohio Court Statistical Summary featured a detailed examination of Ohio’s foreclosure caseloads in a special section called “Spotlight on Foreclosures.” The section presented a 10-year retrospective, including analyses of year-to-year growth rates, the relationship between the volume of incoming foreclosure cases and all other civil case types filed in the Ohio courts of common pleas, and filing data in the hardest-hit counties. Also included was an analysis of the 10-year trend in the rate of foreclosure cases being disposed of by default judgment versus a dismissal of the case resulting from either a successful settlement or from the plaintiff otherwise dismissing the lawsuit.

Because of the continued heightened interest in foreclosure data, this special update to last year’s Spotlight on Foreclosures is presented. The Supreme Court began collecting foreclosure caseload statistics as a unique civil case type in 1990. Accordingly, a full two decades of filing trend data is presented here for analysis.

TABLE 1

New Foreclosure Cases 1990 through 2009	
Year	New Filings
2009	89,053
2008	85,773
2007	83,230
2006	79,059
2005	63,996
2004	59,041
2003	57,083
2002	55,274
2001	43,419
2000	35,422
1999	31,229
1998	25,862
1997	21,914
1996	18,818
1995	15,975
1994	17,026
1993	16,999
1992	19,465
1991	21,773
1990	21,692

FIGURE 1



Shown in **Table 1** is the number of new foreclosure case filings presented in Ohio’s courts of common pleas each year, going back to 1990. The data is displayed graphically in **Figure 1**.

Several observations can be made concerning the 20-year trend. The volume of new filings has risen 311 percent. In 1990, there were 21,692 new foreclosure cases filed, and in 2009, there were 89,053. Notably, the number did not always increase from year to year. A 20-year low was recorded in 1995, with less than 16,000 new filings.

Figure 2 displays the annual growth rate over each immediately preceding year. With the exception of 2006, when the volume increased by 24 percent over the prior year, and 2003, when the annual rate of growth dropped dramatically, year-to-year growth since 1995 was steady.

An unexpected increase in 2006 in the annual growth rate is readily seen in **Figure 2**. During the current national economic recession, Ohio’s annual growth rate in new foreclosure filings remained stable, averaging 4 percent annual growth over each of the past three years. The period between 1996 and 2002 experienced continued high annual growth rates that averaged 19 percent, far exceeding recent rates.

Courts should be aware that although the historical overage rates for foreclosure cases – measuring the backlog of cases that have been pending for longer than the Supreme Court’s time guideline of 12 months – have been low, there is a recent trend that suggests this may change.

Shown in **Figure 3** is the number of new filings each quarter over the past 10 years (shown as the black line). Shown as the lighter grey vertical bars is the number of pending cases reported at the end of each quarter.

Finally, shown as the darker grey vertical bars is the number of cases pending at the end of each quarter that have been pending for longer than 12 months. Marked as “(A)” is the recent trend line for the growth rate in pending caseload. Marked as “(B)” is the long-term trend line for the growth rate in new filings. A clear difference in these growth rates can be discerned.

Over the past year and a half, the growth in pending cases rose at a faster rate than the growth in new filings. If these trend lines continue to diverge as they recently have, courts risk significant growth in the number (and relative percentage) of cases pending beyond the time guideline.

FIGURE 2

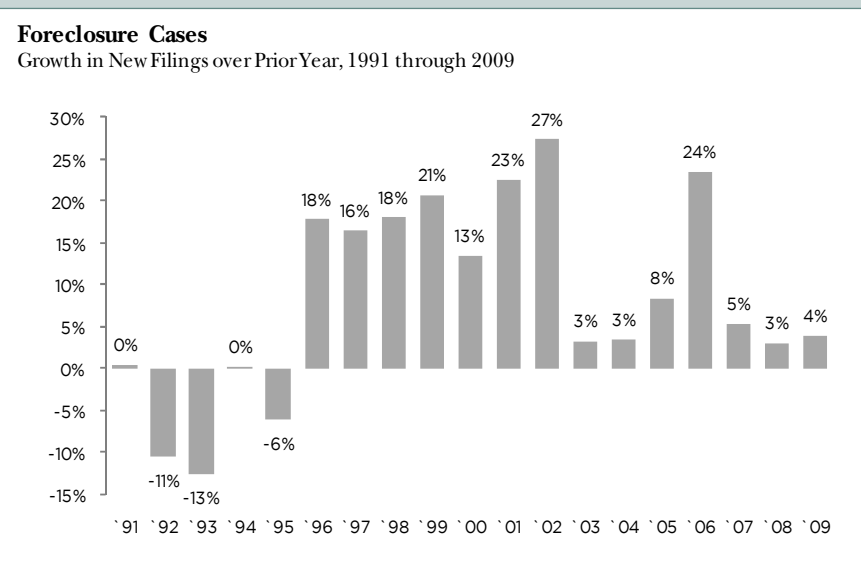
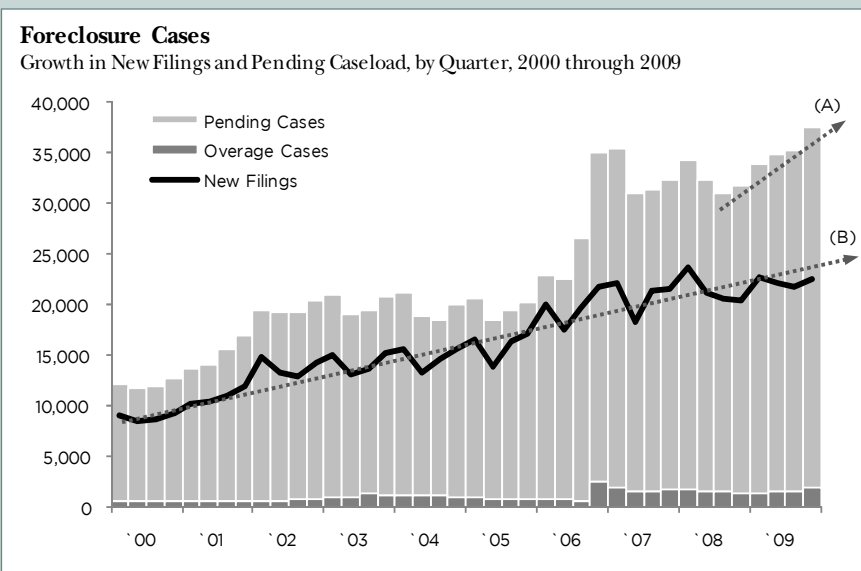


FIGURE 3





GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency: Juvenile cases concerning the neglected child, as defined by R.C. 2151.03; the dependent child, as defined by R.C. 2151.04; or the abused child, as defined by R.C. 2151.031.

Adult Cases: Juvenile court cases brought against an adult who is the defendant accused of contributing to the neglect, unruliness or delinquency of a minor.

All Others: Any case that cannot appropriately be recorded in a listed category.

C

Change of Custody: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which the court must adjudicate a motion for change of custody, including requests for change of custody based upon an election by the child and cases where custody is contested. Juvenile cases are included where there is an application for writ of habeas corpus involving the custody of a child or where a motion for change of custody is filed pursuant to Juv. R. 10(A).

Clearance Rate: Clearance rates are a statistical calculation measuring a court's performance in keeping up with its incoming caseload. A clearance rate of 100 percent indicates the court is terminating an equal number of cases as it takes in. It is determined by dividing the total number of terminations by the total number of new filings, reactivations and transfers. It is expressed as a percentage. For example, if 90 terminations and 100 total incoming cases are reported, the clearance rate is 90 percent.

Court Trial: A case is considered terminated by trial to the court (i.e. judge) if judgment is rendered after the first witness is sworn.

Criminal: Cases in which a person is charged with violation of a state law or local ordinance other than a traffic law or ordinance. For purposes of tracking the age of the case for these reports, the case begins at arraignment.

D

Delinquency: Juvenile cases filed concerning a delinquent child, as defined by R.C. 2152.02.

Domestic Violence: Domestic violence actions filed as separate cases pursuant to R.C. 3113.31. This does not include miscellaneous matters filed in pending cases, such as motions to evict.

F

Felony: A felony is defined by R.C. 2901.02 and Crim. R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a felony, regardless of penalty, or an offense in which imprisonment for more than one year can be imposed. When transferred to the common pleas court, these cases are reported as criminal cases by the receiving court.

Forcible Entry and Detainer (F.E.D.): A summary proceeding initiated under R.C. 1923. or 5321. for restoring possession of real property to one who is wrongfully kept out or wrongfully deprived of possession.

J

Jury Trial: A case is considered terminated by jury trial if judgment is rendered after the jury is sworn, regardless of the outcome of the trial.

M

Marriage Dissolutions: Domestic relations cases in which a petition for dissolution of marriage is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.63.

Marriage Terminations: Domestic relations cases in which a complaint for divorce is filed pursuant to R.C. 3105.01.

Misdemeanors: A misdemeanor is defined by R.C. 2901.02 and Crim. R. 2 as an offense specifically classified as a misdemeanor, or an offense in which imprisonment for not more than one year can be imposed. While traffic offenses fall within this definition, they are reported as operating a vehicle while under the influence or other traffic offenses and not as misdemeanors.

Motion for Permanent Custody: Juvenile cases in which a complaint or motion for permanent custody is filed when custody is contested. This does not include voluntary placements.

O

Operating a Vehicle While Under the Influence (O.V.I.): Cases that include violating R.C. 4511.19 or any local ordinance that prohibits operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or any drug of abuse.

Other Civil: Civil cases not included within any of the other categories. Ancillary proceedings are not reported as cases.

Other Traffic: Cases dealing with matters involving traffic offenders. Juveniles, as defined by R.C. 2152.02 (N), and adult traffic cases include any violation of state law or local ordinance arising out of the use of a motor vehicle, except those involving operating a vehicle while under the influence charges.

Overage Rates: Overage rates are a measure of the court's backlog. At any point in time, a court will have some number of active pending cases. Of those, some percentage may be pending beyond the time guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to Sup. R. 39. That percentage of overage cases is referred to as the overage rate. In 2008, the Supreme Court, in *Disciplinary Counsel v. Sergeant*, 118 Ohio St.3d 322, 2008-Ohio-2330, identified an overage rate of 10 percent or greater as an indication of a case management problem.

P

Parentage: Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3111., the Uniform Parentage Act. Once paternity is established, the parentage case is considered terminated for reporting purposes.

Personal Injury and Property Damage: Civil cases in which the principal issue is liability for, or the amount of damages to be received for, allegedly tortious conduct resulting in personal injury.

S

Small Claims: Civil actions brought under R.C. 1925. for the recovery of small debts and accounts, not exceeding \$3,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

Support Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, a lawful judgment of the court requiring the payment of support. A case is reported only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

T

Trial Rate: Trial rates are a statistical calculation describing the rate at which trials occur compared against all other termination categories that are dispositive of a case.

U

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (U.I.F.S.A.): Cases brought pursuant to R.C. Chapter 3115, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, handled by the domestic relations or juvenile divisions, including cases initiated in Ohio and cases in which Ohio is the responding state.

Unruly: Juvenile cases concerning unruly children, as defined by R.C. 2151.022.

V

Visitation Enforcement/Modification: Post-decree domestic relations cases in which it is alleged there is disobedience of, or resistance to, lawful judgment of the court relative to child-visitation rights. A case is listed only once, regardless of the number of pending motions.

W

Workers' Compensation: Appeals filed under R.C. 4123.512, including noncompliance actions by the state, for recovery of benefits or of premiums, and mandamus actions arising from claims or awards.

Courts of Common Pleas, General Division

New Filings

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Admin. Appeals	1,264	1,191	1,379	1,238	1,219	1,054	1,166	1,192	1,600	1,299
Criminal	61,055	66,871	68,544	72,261	73,822	77,042	82,370	81,785	79,240	71,491
Foreclosures	35,422	43,419	55,274	57,083	59,041	63,996	79,059	83,230	85,773	89,053
Other Civil	36,727	39,718	44,265	44,138	46,813	51,780	53,635	65,822	72,121	68,965
Other Torts	24,370	25,446	26,104	25,314	23,890	23,830	21,289	19,480	18,663	18,401
Product Liability	485	580	500	396	436	928	348	320	290	208
Professional Tort	2,704	2,650	2,972	2,683	2,250	1,908	1,502	1,483	1,411	1,368
Workers' Comp.	5,955	6,073	7,895	8,263	8,623	8,814	8,065	8,365	7,449	7,678
Total	167,982	185,948	206,933	211,376	216,094	229,352	247,434	261,677	266,547	258,463

Courts of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division

New Filings

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
All Others	1,157	1,142	1,541	2,763	2,868	1,443	1,258	996	833	486
Change of Custody	1,027	1,217	1,078	1,067	991	939	661	611	582	448
Domestic Violence	12,609	13,970	15,497	16,219	17,447	18,255	18,219	18,862	19,386	20,551
Mrg. Disso. w/Children	10,051	9,517	9,434	8,870	8,451	8,213	8,171	7,905	7,789	7,780
Mrg. Disso. w/o Children	12,125	11,796	11,462	11,148	11,170	10,891	10,886	10,274	10,027	10,280
Mrg. Term. w/Children	19,623	19,147	18,321	16,857	16,239	15,767	16,195	15,125	14,627	14,726
Mrg. Term. w/o Children	14,649	14,375	14,254	13,339	13,407	13,493	13,961	13,457	13,047	12,935
Parentage	713	967	990	1,653	1,676	1,570	1,530	1,747	2,045	2,103
Support	4,417	5,062	5,479	5,194	5,134	5,130	3,731	3,444	3,271	2,534
U.I.F.S.A.	1,470	2,115	2,283	2,049	2,694	1,903	1,919	1,477	1,291	1,512
Visitation	418	522	436	368	312	284	313	259	157	108
Total	78,259	79,830	80,775	79,527	80,389	77,888	76,844	74,157	73,055	73,463

Courts of Common Pleas, Probate Division

New Filings

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Adoptions	5,800	5,674	5,756	5,817	5,663	5,375	5,323	4,999	4,824	4,487
Birth (Correction or Delayed Reg.)	995	992	1,129	1,050	1,017	1,143	1,217	1,374	1,158	1,126
Change of Name	4,507	4,681	5,051	5,130	4,939	5,031	5,151	5,154	5,144	5,324
Civil Actions	2,704	2,806	2,649	2,722	2,841	2,721	2,704	2,437	2,327	2,439
Conservatorships	84	106	98	121	84	85	96	86	111	95
Decedents' Estates	67,036	65,937	62,938	61,115	61,196	60,596	58,932	56,487	57,534	56,686
Guardianships of Incompetents	5,789	6,327	6,252	6,797	6,832	6,562	6,646	6,386	6,681	6,668
Guardianships of Minors	4,318	4,413	4,001	3,980	3,950	3,407	3,551	3,291	2,896	2,896
Mental Illness and Mental Retardation	5,111	5,206	5,375	5,173	5,409	5,741	5,139	5,072	6,092	5,360
Minors' Settlements	1,881	2,054	2,076	2,082	1,917	1,916	1,836	1,706	1,531	1,506
Testamentary Trusts	738	959	743	980	782	577	571	499	527	552
Wrongful Death	244	300	289	371	368	554	455	530	572	1,039
Total	99,207	99,455	96,357	95,338	94,998	93,708	91,621	88,021	89,397	88,178
Marriage Applications Granted	90,939	86,198	83,465	79,220	79,463	77,573	75,223	72,677	71,401	68,020

APPENDIX

Courts of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division

New Filings

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Abuse, Neg. or Dep.	16,601	18,212	17,462	16,669	15,132	14,827	15,423	14,934	13,846	12,727
Adult Cases	5,297	7,093	5,661	6,111	5,659	5,972	6,111	6,454	5,914	5,611
All Others	1,490	2,324	2,274	2,068	1,854	1,881	2,179	2,395	2,090	2,228
Custody/Visitation	9,007	8,199	8,745	9,161	10,128	10,269	11,021	11,064	11,423	12,609
Delinquency	92,993	95,807	96,791	91,112	92,458	91,065	96,127	94,466	90,506	79,527
Mot. for Perm. Custody	620	844	1,253	863	623	1,094	1,165	394	378	290
Parentage	13,212	16,144	13,707	13,127	13,289	13,623	13,674	11,949	9,601	9,390
Support	14,234	16,142	17,758	17,720	19,603	21,890	21,436	21,044	24,015	25,092
Traffic	86,259	94,435	97,177	89,499	77,377	73,613	73,208	66,411	58,495	54,917
U.I.F.S.A.	876	975	955	1,275	1,033	876	898	1,003	1,008	996
Unruly	21,066	20,950	18,789	17,293	17,747	18,135	18,084	17,199	16,971	14,275
Total	261,655	281,125	280,572	264,898	254,903	253,245	259,326	247,313	234,247	217,662

Municipal and County Courts

New Filings

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Contracts	133,591	144,881	169,983	194,958	192,119	200,173	211,390	238,246	271,982	224,180
Forcible Entry and Detainer	103,030	109,733	105,645	104,365	110,579	115,854	114,642	116,284	116,173	108,325
Other Civil	21,698	80,995	108,496	142,221	153,727	144,153	131,895	127,615	138,415	122,938
Pers. Inj./Prop. Damage	13,844	15,184	15,420	17,947	15,330	12,013	8,307	7,454	6,521	6,607
Small Claims	90,992	94,442	92,252	88,430	87,538	84,205	86,164	87,269	81,901	75,253
Felonies	65,341	70,783	76,884	78,379	80,583	83,864	85,695	81,434	77,859	70,647
Misdemeanors	427,773	420,415	412,753	403,434	406,311	410,236	418,691	419,601	415,287	389,726
O.V.I.	75,148	72,901	75,281	73,442	69,927	70,015	72,475	70,062	68,874	64,704
Other Traffic	1,682,291	1,682,749	1,683,925	1,597,362	1,301,437	1,349,429	1,396,114	1,370,239	1,357,396	1,259,095
Total	2,613,708	2,692,083	2,740,639	2,700,538	2,417,551	2,469,942	2,525,373	2,518,204	2,534,408	2,321,475



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

Office of Judicial & Court Services
Case Management Section
65 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431
614.387.9410

