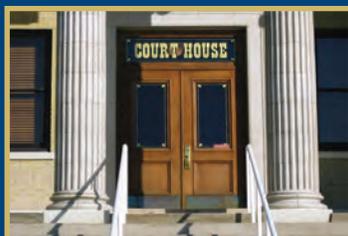




# *Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary*

*Fiscal Year 2013*





## Nevada Supreme Court

Front Row:

Justice James W. Hardesty, Chief Justice Kristina Pickering, and Justice Michael L. Douglas

Back Row:

Associate Chief Justice Mark Gibbons, Justice Michael A. Cherry, Justice Nancy M. Saitta, and Justice Ron D. Parraguirre

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

## JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013

### Table of Contents

Nevada's Court Structure.....2

A Note from the Chief Justice.....3

A Note from the State Court Administrator.....4

Funding the Nevada Judiciary.....5

State of the Judiciary Message.....8

Nevada Court of Appeals.....13

Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.....15

Commissions and Committees.....16

Work of the Courts.....19

Foreclosure Mediation.....27

**The Nevada Judiciary Court Programs  
and Caseload Report**

Uniform System for Judicial Records.....30

Supreme Court.....32

District Courts.....33

Justice Courts.....39

Municipal Courts.....42

Traffic Violations.....44

Specialty Courts.....47

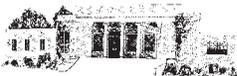
Courts with Incomplete Data.....52



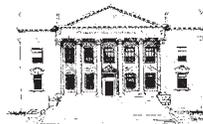
Carson City



Clark County



Douglas County



Humboldt County



Lyon County



Pershing County



Washoe County

### Architect Frederick DeLongchamps

Many of the historic courthouses in Nevada were designed by Architect Frederick DeLongchamps. The most famous is the unique Pershing County Courthouse pictured on the cover, which is believed to contain the last round courtroom still in use today.

Shown above are sketches of other Nevada courthouses DeLongchamps designed, including courthouses in Carson City, Clark County, Douglas County, Humboldt County, Lyon County, and Washoe County. Many of these courthouses are still in use today.

### Appendix Tables

Available on the Supreme Court Website

[WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US](http://WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US)

(PHOTO CREDITS ARE ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER)

Designed, prepared, and published by the Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts  
201 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701  
775-684-1700 • [WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US](http://WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US)

# NEVADA'S COURT STRUCTURE

The Nevada Judiciary is the Third Branch of government—as equal and independent as the Executive and Legislative Branches. Empowered by the Nevada Constitution, judges play a vital role in our democratic system of checks and balances to guarantee our citizens have access to fair and impartial justice under the law.

Our Justices and Judges are responsible for resolving legal disputes as quickly and fairly as possible. As the chart below demonstrates, our court system consists of the Nevada Supreme Court, the State's highest court and only appellate court, and three levels of trial courts: the District, Justice, and Municipal Courts.

## SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

Comprised of **7 Justices**, this is the State's ultimate judicial authority. Supreme Court decisions become the law of the land. The primary job of the Justices is to rule on appeals from the trial courts, determining if legal errors occurred in court cases or whether verdicts and judgments were fair and correct. The Justices sit in panels of three for the majority of cases, or as the full court to decide the most significant legal issues.

The Supreme Court oversees the administration of Nevada's legal system ranging from court procedures to the ethical and professional conduct of judges and attorneys.

The Supreme Court may also create commissions and committees to study the judicial system and recommend changes and improvements, something that has been done with great success in recent years.

The Justices also fulfill a constitutional responsibility by sitting on the State's Board of Pardons, along with the Governor and Attorney General, to review requests for mercy from people convicted of a crime.

### CLERK of the COURT

Responsible for all Supreme Court files and documents, manages the Court's caseload and dockets, coordinates public hearings, and releases the Court's decisions. Tracie Lindeman is the Clerk of the Court.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### OFFICE of the COURTS

Performs all administrative functions for the Supreme Court and provides support services to the trial courts in such areas as training and technology. Robin Sweet is the State Court Administrator.

### LAW LIBRARY

Houses law books and other documents in its facility at the Supreme Court in Carson City. The Library is used by members of the public as well as the Supreme Court. The law library is one of three significant law libraries in the state. Christine Timko is the Law Librarian.

↕ Appeals/Remands

## DISTRICT COURTS

These are courts of general jurisdiction where civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases are decided. Nevada's **82 District Court Judges** preside over felony and gross misdemeanor trials, civil cases with a value above \$10,000, family law matters, and juvenile issues including delinquency, abuse, and neglect. Appeals of District Court cases go to the Supreme Court.

↕ Appeals/Remands

## JUSTICE COURTS

Justice Courts are courts of limited jurisdiction where criminal, civil, and traffic matters are decided. Nevada's **67 Justices of the Peace\*** decide preliminary matters in felony and gross misdemeanor cases. Justice Courts also have original jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes, traffic matters, small claims, civil cases up to \$10,000, and landlord-tenant disputes. Decisions in Justice Court cases may be appealed to the District Courts.

## MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal Courts are courts of limited jurisdiction where criminal, civil, and traffic matters are decided. Nevada's **30 Municipal Court Judges\*** preside over misdemeanor crimes and traffic cases in incorporated communities. The judges also preside over some civil matters under NRS 5.050, primarily involving the collection of debts owed their cities. Appeals of Municipal Court decisions are sent to the District Courts.

\* Eight limited jurisdiction judges serve their communities as both Justice of the Peace and Municipal Judge.

# A NOTE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



This report chronicles the work of the Nevada judiciary in fiscal year 2013. Necessarily, it does so imperfectly. The statistics section quantifies case filings and case dispositions. But each filing and each disposition has its own story to tell, first in the rupture that produced the court case and then in its ultimate resolution. The overall numbers tell an additional story, one of unrelenting demand, limited resources, and accomplishment despite these challenges. In the narrative section, the report discusses a few of the challenges the judicial branch has met and overcome; these are examples, not a complete catalogue. It also discusses the Court of Appeals initiative that will go before the voters in 2014. If passed, this initiative will go far to ensure timely dispositions of appeals and adherence to the rule of law in years to come.

It has been my privilege to serve as Nevada's Chief Justice this past year. I thank my fellow members of the Nevada judiciary, judges and staff alike, for the service described in this report. I also thank those who produced this report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristina Pickering". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

Chief Justice Kristina Pickering  
Supreme Court of Nevada

*"All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression."*

— Thomas Jefferson, *First Inaugural Speech, 1801*

# A NOTE FROM THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



*"Be the change you wish to see in the world."*  
— Gandhi

A strong judiciary is important to our democracy. During these difficult economic times, the judiciary must change processes and procedures to keep our courts strong and vital to the democracy. Fortunately for the citizens of Nevada, our judiciary is frequently evaluating and changing processes and procedures to improve access to justice and the timely delivery thereof to uphold the values of fairness, independence, and service, among others.

Throughout this annual report, you will see indications of the changes to the systems or processes that some of our courts have made. Commonly, courts use technology to improve their processes. Many courts have judges and court administrators who network, attend training, and otherwise stay abreast of changes to adapt those strategies to their own courts. Sometimes though, changes are hard to document in these pages or are overlooked while making other important progress.

This annual report details some of the achievements of our Nevada courts as well as the statistics reflecting the courts' caseloads. What is not detailed is the decline in staffing to support those courts. Anecdotally during these last few years, many judges and court administrators have shared information that funding bodies have not allowed the courts to fill vacant positions or to only fill one or two when multiple positions become vacant. The lack of staff and other resources has required some courts to make difficult decisions and changes to procedures on handling inactive and active cases, for example. Sometimes, these changes may affect the case disposition rates and yet they are difficult to quantify over other causes that may reduce dispositions.

As you review the statistics, however, you will see that many courts are able to maintain productivity in their case processing as exemplified by the disposition rates for many of the courts. Judges and court staff are able to maintain this level of effort through change of processes, improving and building on the good processes that exist.

We must continue to work together for the good of all. Often this will mean juggling change in processes, change in funding structures, as well as better ways to fulfill the vital role in our democracy.

Court leaders, judges and court administrators alike, must consider the vision for their court, as well as for the Nevada Judiciary, and then be the change they want to see.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Sweet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin Sweet  
Director, Administrative Office of the Courts  
State Court Administrator  
Supreme Court of Nevada

# FUNDING OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

## Funding

Funding for the State judicial system is administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts under the direction of the Supreme Court. The State Judicial System is funded primarily from the State's General Fund and from administrative assessments that are assessed on misdemeanor criminal and traffic violations heard in limited jurisdiction courts.

For fiscal year 2013, \$30,191,409<sup>1</sup> was appropriated to the State Judicial System from the State's General Fund. This was less than 1 percent of the statewide General Fund appropriation.

Other funding contained in the budget was \$31,654,908 from administrative assessment revenue and other funding sources, which brought the total of the State Judicial System budget to \$61,846,317. To put this amount into perspective, it represented 0.78 percent of the \$7.9 billion statewide budget the Nevada Legislature approved for the fiscal year.

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, \$50,000,077 of the \$61,846,317 had been spent. Of the remaining \$11,846,240, \$737,956 was returned to the State General Fund and \$11,108,284

was retained by the Judicial Branch for subsequent year expenses, primarily for specialty court programs, court technological improvements, and foreclosure mediations.

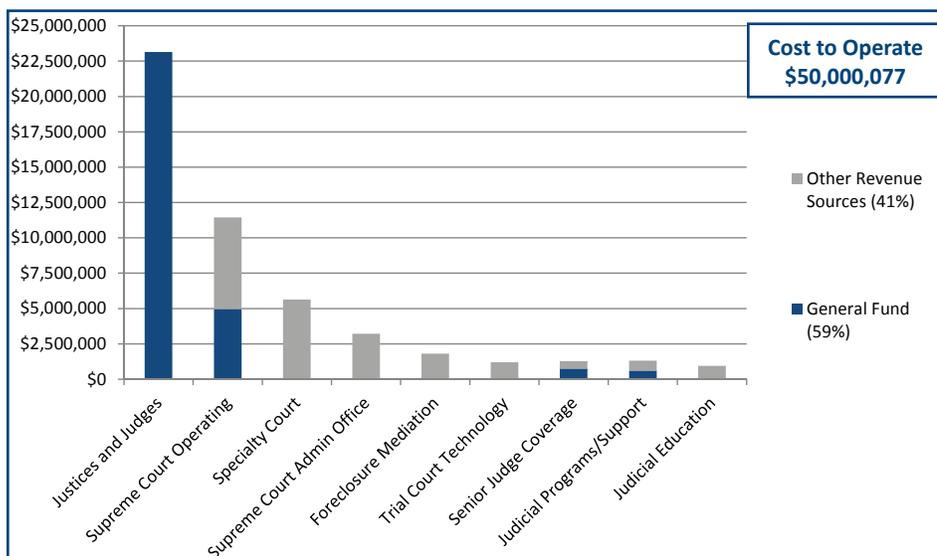
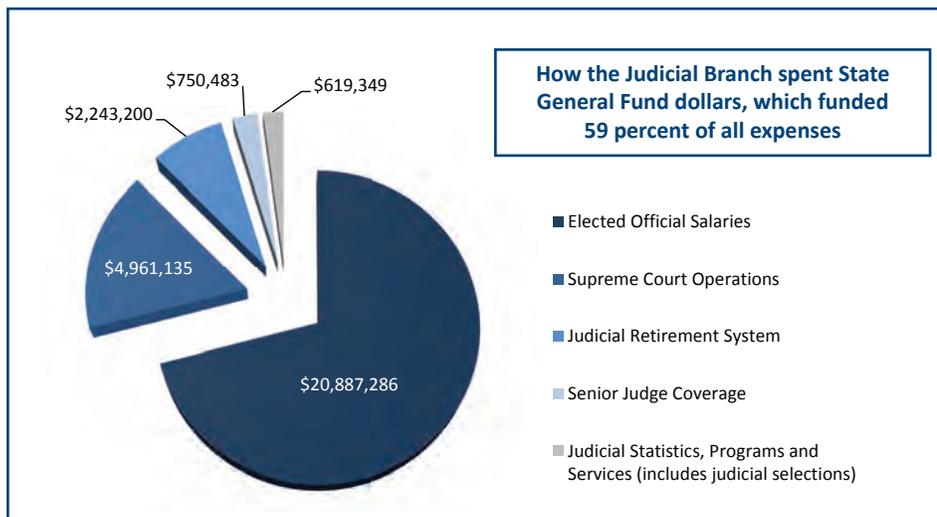
## Fiscal Year 2013 Expenditures

Of the more than \$50 million that it cost to operate the State Judicial System in 2013, salaries for justices and district judges were \$20,887,286, and represented 41.8 percent of the total cost to operate. When the costs for senior judge coverage, judicial selection, and judicial retirement system are added in, the judicial officer coverage costs come to more \$24.4 million. The remaining balance funded the operation of the Supreme Court, its Law Library, Specialty Court Programs, judicial programs and support, education, trial court technology, foreclosure mediation, and administration.

## Funding Impacts

During the 26th Special Session, the Nevada Legislature amended NRS 176.059 by increasing the amount of an administrative assessment on a fine by \$5 and authorizing the first \$5 of each administrative assessment to be sent to the State for credit to the State General Fund.

Section 34 of Assembly Bill 6 took effect March 2010. Since the implementation of the Assembly Bill, the collection of the \$5 administrative assessment has had a negative impact on the level of revenue received by the judiciary, with steady declines, while the State General Fund share has been stable. This decline threatens the sustainability of the Nevada Judiciary's resources and services, and is likely to require increased dependence on the State's General Fund in the future.



<sup>1</sup> This amount excludes the appropriation to fund the Commission on Judicial Discipline. Prior to providing any appropriations, the Nevada Legislature withheld \$552,303 from the Supreme Court's budget request due to the legislative mandate for furloughs and salary reductions.

# DISTRICT COURT JUDGES AND JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

## DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2013)

**1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge James Todd Russell  
 Judge James Wilson, Jr.

**2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Brent Adams  
 Judge Janet Berry  
 Judge Frances Doherty  
 Judge Patrick Flanagan  
 Judge Scott Freeman  
 Judge Linda Gardner  
 Judge David Hardy  
 Judge Bridget Robb Peck  
 Judge Jerome Polaha  
 Judge Elliott Sattler  
 Judge Deborah Schumacher  
 Judge Connie Steinheimer  
 Judge Lidia Stiglich  
 Judge Egan Walker  
 Judge Chuck Weller

**3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Leon Aberasturi  
 Judge William Rogers

**4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Alvin Kacin  
 Judge Nancy Porter

**5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Robert Lane  
 Judge Kimberly Wanker

**6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Michael Montero  
 Judge Richard Wagner

**7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Steven Dobrescu  
 Judge Gary Fairman

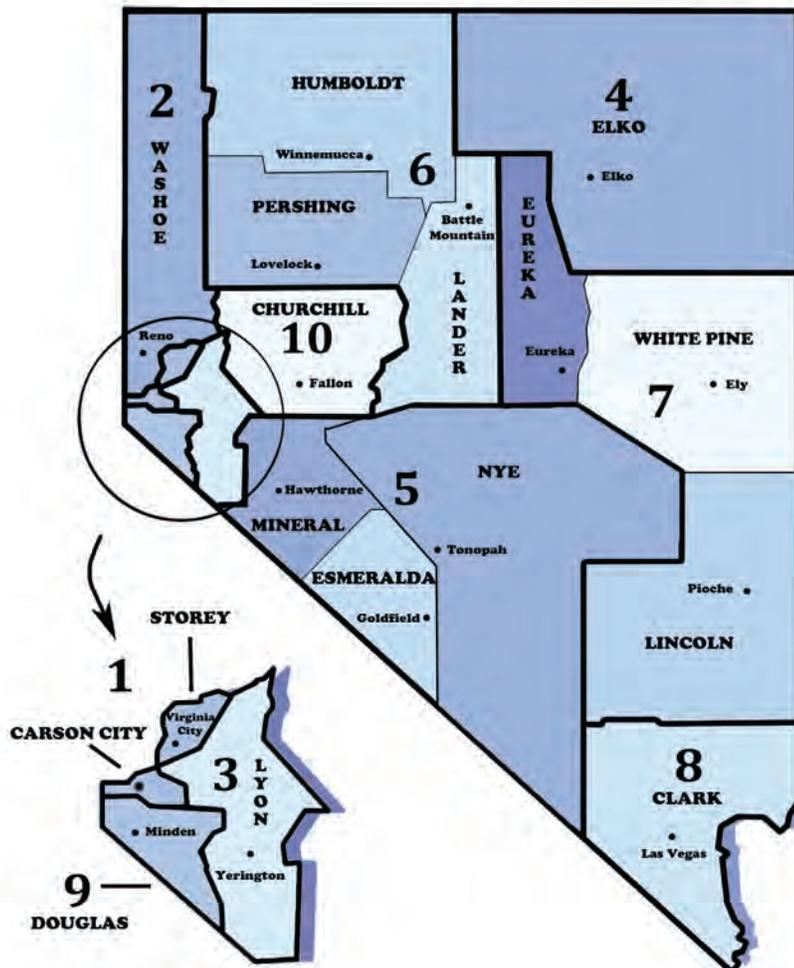
**8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Valerie Adair  
 Judge Nancy Alf  
 Judge Rob Bare  
 Judge David Barker  
 Judge Linda Bell  
 Judge James Bixler  
 Judge Elissa Cadish  
 Judge Kenneth Cory  
 Judge Kathleen Delaney  
 Judge Mark Denton

**8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.**  
 Judge Bryce Duckworth  
 Judge Allan Earl  
 Judge Kerry Earley  
 Judge Jennifer Elliott  
 Judge Carolyn Ellsworth  
 Judge Adriana Escobar  
 Judge Cynthia N. Giuliani  
 Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez  
 Judge William Gonzalez  
 Judge Mathew Harter  
 Judge Bill Henderson  
 Judge Douglas Herndon  
 Judge Charles Hoskin  
 Judge Ronald J. Israel  
 Judge Susan Johnson  
 Judge Steven E. Jones  
 Judge Joanna Kishner  
 Judge Michelle Leavitt  
 Judge Stefany Miley  
 Judge Cheryl Moss  
 Judge Gayle Nathan  
 Judge Vincent Ochoa  
 Judge Gloria O'Malley  
 Judge Kenneth Pollock  
 Judge Sandra Pomrenze

**8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.**  
 Judge William Potter  
 Judge T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.  
 Judge Susan Scann  
 Judge Abbi Silver  
 Judge Douglas Smith  
 Judge Cynthia Dianne Steel  
 Judge Gloria Sturman  
 Judge Frank Sullivan  
 Judge Jerome Tao  
 Judge Robert Teuton  
 Judge Jennifer Togliatti  
 Judge Valorie Vega  
 Judge Michael Villani  
 Judge William Voy  
 Judge Jessie Walsh  
 Judge Jerry Wiese  
 Judge Timothy Williams

**9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Michael Gibbons  
 Judge Nathan T. Young

**10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**  
 Judge Thomas Stockard



# JUSTICE AND MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES

## JUSTICE COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2013)

### 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT CARSON CITY

**Carson City Township**  
Judge Tom Armstrong\*  
Judge John Tatro\*

### STOREY COUNTY

**Virginia City Township**  
Judge Eileen F. Herrington

### 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT WASHOE COUNTY

**Incline Village Township**  
Judge E. Alan Tiras

### Reno Township

Judge David Clifton  
Judge Pierre A. Hascheff  
Judge Patricia Lynch  
Judge Scott Pearson  
Judge Jack Schroeder  
Judge Pete Sferrazza

### Sparks Township

Judge Susan Deriso  
Judge Kevin Higgins

### Wadsworth Township

Judge Terry Graham

### 3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT LYON COUNTY

#### Canal Township

Judge Robert Bennett

#### Dayton Township

Judge Camille Vecchiarelli

#### Walker River Township

Judge Michael Fletcher

### 4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ELKO COUNTY

#### Carlin Township

Judge Teri Feasel\*

#### Eastline Township

Judge Brian E. Boatman\*

#### Elko Township

Judge Mason E. Simons\*

#### Jackpot Township

Judge J. Brad Hester

#### Wells Township

Judge Patricia Calton\*

### 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ESMERALDA COUNTY

#### Esmeralda Township

Judge Juanita Colvin

### MINERAL COUNTY

#### Hawthorne Township

Judge Jay T. Gunter

### NYE COUNTY

#### Beatty Township

Judge Gus Sullivan

#### Pahrump Township

Judge Ron Kent  
Judge Kent Jaspersen

#### Tonopah Township

Judge Jennifer Klapper

### 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT HUMBOLDT COUNTY

#### Union Township

Judge Letty Norcutt

### LANDER COUNTY

#### Argenta Township

Judge Max Bunch

#### Austin Township

Judge William E. Schaeffer

\* Also serves as Municipal Court Judge

### PERSHING COUNTY

#### Lake Township

Judge Karen Stephens

### 7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### EUREKA COUNTY

#### Beowawe Township

Judge Susan Fye

#### Eureka Township

Judge John Schweble

### LINCOLN COUNTY

#### Meadow Valley Township

Judge Mike Cowley

#### Pahrangat Valley Township

Judge Nola Holton

### WHITE PINE COUNTY

#### Ely (No. 1) Township

Judge Stephen Bishop

### 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### CLARK COUNTY

#### Boulder Township

Judge Victor Miller\*

#### Bunkerville Township

Judge Darryll Dodenbier

#### Goodsprings Township

Judge Dawn Haviland

#### Henderson Township

Judge Rodney Burr

Judge Stephen George

Judge David Gibson, Sr.

#### Las Vegas Township

Judge Melanie Andress-Tobiasson

Judge Suzan Baucum

Judge Karen Bennett-Haron

Judge Joe Bonaventure

Judge Cynthia Dustin-Cruz

Judge Eric Goodman

Judge Conrad Hafen

Judge Bill Kephart

Judge Deborah Lippis

Judge Janiece Marshall

Judge Melissa Saragosa

Judge Joseph Sciscento

Judge Diana Sullivan

Judge Ann Zimmerman

#### Laughlin Township

Judge Tim Atkins

#### Mesquite Township

Judge Ryan W. Toone\*

#### Moapa Township

Judge Ruth Kolhoss

#### Moapa Valley Township

Judge D. Lanny Waite

#### North Las Vegas Township

Judge Kalani Hoo

Judge Natalie Tyrrell

Judge Chris Lee

#### Searchlight Township

Judge Richard Hill

### 9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### DOUGLAS COUNTY

#### East Fork Township

Judge Thomas Perkins

#### Tahoe Township

Judge Richard Glasson

### 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### CHURCHILL COUNTY

#### New River Township

Judge Mike Richards

## MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2013)

### 1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### Carson City

Judge Tom Armstrong\*\*  
Judge John Tatro\*\*

### 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### Reno

Judge Jay Dilworth  
Judge Bill Gardner  
Judge Dorothy Nash Holmes  
Judge Kenneth Howard

#### Sparks

Judge Barbara McCarthy  
Judge Jim Spoo

### 3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### Fernley

Judge Lori Matheus

#### Yerington

Judge Cheri Emm-Smith

### 4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### Carlin

Judge Teri Feasel\*\*

#### Elko

Judge Mason E. Simons\*\*

#### Wells

Judge Patricia Calton\*\*

#### West Wendover

Judge Brian E. Boatman\*\*

\*\* Also serves as Justice of the Peace

### 7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### Caliente

Judge Jack Lenardson

#### Ely

Judge Michael Kalleres

### 8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### Boulder City

Judge Victor Miller\*\*

#### Henderson

Judge Diana Hampton

Judge Douglas Hedger

Judge Mark Stevens

#### Las Vegas

Judge Heidi Almase

Judge Bert Brown

Judge Martin Hastings

Judge Cedric Kerns

Judge Cynthia Leung

Judge Susan Roger

#### Mesquite

Judge Ryan W. Toone\*\*

#### North Las Vegas

Judge Sean Hoefgen

Judge Catherine Ramsey

### 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### Fallon

Judge Mike Lister



Humboldt County Courthouse, Winnemucca, Nevada

# STATE OF THE JUDICIARY MESSAGE

Presented by  
Chief Justice Kristina Pickering  
To the Nevada Legislature  
Seventy-Seventh Session,  
March 1, 2013

## I. INTRODUCTION

Governor Sandoval, Madam Speaker, Mr. President, distinguished members of the Legislature, constitutional officers, honored guests.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to you on behalf of the Nevada judiciary.

First, let me introduce my colleagues on the Supreme Court: Associate Chief Justice Mark Gibbons, Justice James Hardesty, Justice Michael Douglas, and Justice Nancy Saitta. Justice Parraguire is in Las Vegas attending to a family medical emergency; and Justice Cherry is in San Francisco participating in an indigent defense panel. They asked that I send their regards, and regrets that they could not be here in person.

I would also like to introduce the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Tracie Lindeman; and the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Robin Sweet.

I count myself privileged to speak on their behalf. I am also privileged to speak on behalf of the 82 District Court Judges, 67 Justices of the Peace, 30 Municipal Court Judges and the nearly 2,000 judicial branch employees who make up our Nevada court system. Together, the judicial branch officers and employees work to provide a fair and safe place for resolving family, criminal, civil, and juvenile disputes according to the rule of law. Every day, we strive to fulfill our constitutional obligation to provide timely access to justice; to resolve disputes fairly, impartially, efficiently, and as quickly as budgets and caseloads permit; and to preserve community welfare and safety. I am proud to serve with these dedicated public servants and I thank them for their commitment to the administration of justice in Nevada.



Chief Justice Pickering Addressing the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature

## II. OVERVIEW

My task today is to report on the work of Nevada's courts over the past biennium. In doing so, I hope to lay the groundwork for a productive dialogue with you concerning the funding and legislation needed to continue to deliver adequate judicial services to the citizens we mutually serve.

I will discuss the work of the trial courts and then turn to that of the Supreme Court. Finally, I will comment on SJR14, its importance to Nevada, and outline the work it will take to make a Court of Appeals a reality in Nevada.

## III. FRAMING THE DISCUSSION: 2011 AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE REPORT ON PRESERVATION OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND RELATED RESOLUTIONS

On August 8 and 9, 2011, the American Bar Association House of Delegates met to consider the report of the ABA Task Force on Preservation of the Justice System. Led by former solicitor general Theodore Olson and attorney David Boies, the Task Force reports that:

"...over the last few years, the courts of virtually every state have been forced into debilitating combinations of hiring freezes, pay cuts,...furloughs, staff layoffs,...and outright closures. These reductions in court staff and related resources come at the very time when

the demand for the judicial resolution of economic claims has increased dramatically...

"Since judicial budgets consist almost entirely of personnel costs, the courts do not have the ability simply to postpone expensive items to a more robust economic time; and thus reductions in court funding directly and immediately curtail meaningful access to the justice system.

"When that happens, the costs to society are great. The undue delay or outright denial of effective judicial action results not only in further harm to those who need prompt and fair resolution of their disputes, but also, in many instances, to more overcrowded prisons, threats to public safety, and harm to those, such as broken families, in greatest need of legal support."

These are the direct costs. But there are indirect costs, too. Indirect costs include the economic loss that follows when businesses and citizens are stymied by delays in resolving civil and family disputes. With their assets tied up in litigation and their financial future uncertain, they cannot invest, hire, or put toward their resources to other, more productive uses. Using the Los Angeles Superior Court system as an example, the report makes the point that court budget cuts and the consequent reduction in court services involve

direct and indirect costs that far exceed the savings the cuts achieve—that they can be penny-wise and pound-foolish, in other words.

In response, the American Bar Association adopted resolutions that call for action on three fronts. First, state and local legislative bodies must establish a stable, predictable and adequate funding system for their courts. Second, tradition is not an excuse for waste; today's courts must work smarter to ensure efficient delivery of court services and financial accountability. Third, those who use, fund and serve the court system must seek out ways to better communicate to political decision-makers and the public what the court system does and why it matters. I hope by these remarks to contribute to that goal.

The ABA Task Force Report I am referring to is entitled "Crisis in the Courts." It is only 20 pages, yet is arguably the most significant study of our nation's courts in years. I commend it to you.

#### IV. THE WORK OF NEVADA'S COURTS

Broadly, the courts' job is to resolve disputes. What that means and why it matters enough to qualify the judiciary as one of the three, coequal branches of government is less clear. Quoting former Solicitor General Olson again, here is how he sums it up:

"Every day, thousands and thousands of judges—jurists whose names we never hear, from our highest court to our most local tribunal—resolve controversies, render justice, and help keep the peace by providing a safe, reliable, efficient and honest dispute resolution process. The pay is modest, the work is frequently quite challenging, and the outcome often controversial. For every winner in these cases, there is a loser. Many disputes are close calls, and the judge's decision is bound to be unpopular with someone.

"But in this country we accept the decisions of judges, even when we disagree on the merits, because the process itself is vastly more important than any individual decision. Our courts are essential to an orderly, lawful society. And a robust and productive economy

depends upon a consistent, predictable, evenhanded, and respected rule of law."

#### A. Our Nevada Trial Courts

Our judiciary in Nevada is small in relation to the number of cases filed annually and the population, both resident and visitor, that we serve.

Nevada has 82 District Court Judges. These judges sit in 10 judicial districts throughout the state and decide civil, criminal, family, and juvenile disputes. They also review arbitration awards, administrative law rulings, and petitions for judicial review arising out of Nevada's foreclosure mediation program.

**"In recent years, increasing numbers of Nevadans have turned to the courts for help with family relationships ruined by unemployment, foreclosures, and substance abuse; with landlord-tenant disputes; and with business disputes made the more urgent by financial need."**

We have, in addition, 67 Justices of the Peace and 30 Municipal Judges. The Justice Courts determine whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to be bound over to District Court for trial. They also hear civil cases involving up to \$10,000, small claims, summary evictions, requests for temporary protective orders, and many traffic matters. The Municipal Courts hear matters that involve violation of city ordinances, including traffic violations within the municipality.

Nine individuals serve as both Justices of the Peace and Municipal Court Judges. Thus, Nevada has 88 Justice and Municipal Court Judges. Added to our 82 District Judges and 7 Supreme Court Justices, we have 177 judges, total, trial and appellate, statewide.

The chief judges of Nevada's two biggest judicial districts, Judge Jennifer Togliatti of the Eighth Judicial District

Court (Clark County) and Judge David Hardy of the Second Judicial District Court (Washoe County) are here today, and I would ask that they stand and be recognized. They, and we, appreciate the 2009 Legislature's support in passing AB 64, which added 9 District Judges in Clark County and 1 in Washoe County. Elected in November 2010, the new judges took office in January 2011. Their addition enabled the Eighth Judicial District Court in fiscal year 2012 to clear more cases (104,363) than were filed (94,740), reversing recent years' backlogging trend. In numerical terms, Clark County's 104,000 plus dispositions in fiscal year 2012 amount to almost 20,000 more case dispositions than in fiscal year 2011.

Statewide, in fiscal year 2012, Nevada's District, Justice, and Municipal Court Judges disposed of almost 365,000 non-traffic matters. This works out to 1,000 non-traffic dispositions per calendar day, an extraordinary number given the small number of judicial officers and judicial branch employees we have.

I am not telling you something new when I say Nevada has been hit hard by the recession. Demand for court services does not slacken in hard economic times; it intensifies. The changing composition of our trial courts' caseloads shows this clearly. In recent years, increasing numbers of Nevadans have turned to the courts for help with family relationships ruined by unemployment, foreclosures, and substance abuse; with landlord-tenant disputes; and with business disputes made the more urgent by financial need. As an example, the number of family-related cases has steadily increased in the past 5 years. In fiscal year 2012, family-related cases made up more than half—fully 55 percent—of the statewide district court docket.

Adding to the trial courts' challenges, many citizens who need judicial services today cannot afford a lawyer. At the same time, rising demand and cuts in legal service provider budgets have reduced the availability of free legal help. This leaves citizens to forego access to the courts or to proceed on a

## STATE OF THE JUDICIARY MESSAGE (CONT.)

pro se, or self-represented, basis. When parties represent themselves, judges and their staffs must devote additional time to provide the additional guidance a lawyer would—to the extent they can without compromising their role as unbiased decision-makers.

Our trial courts are funded both locally and at the state level. Decreased funding, reduced workforces, mandatory furloughs, and the changing composition of our trial courts' caseload has forced our trial courts to do more with less than ever before.

Our Nevada trial courts have risen to these challenges through resilience, innovation, and openness to change. This was brought home to me by an exchange I had with the Nevada District Judges Association President, Chief Judge Hardy, whom I introduced a moment ago. He submits that the financial challenges of recent years have created opportunities for improvement. In his words:

"We who serve in the trenches of justice are constantly innovating to realize better results for the citizens we serve. We are experimenting with calendar efficiencies, technological enhancements, specialized dockets, and alternative dispute resolution. [Nevada's trial court] judges are responding to the changing times by changing the way we do business."

Let me share a few, among many, examples:

- In Clark County, a telecourt program has been put in place so mental health court proceedings can be conducted remotely by video link. Two hospitals in Clark County now have virtual courtrooms, allowing the proceeding to take place by audio-visual transmission rather than face-to-face court appearance. In many cases, this eliminates the need to transport mental health patients, which can be logistically challenging, costly, and potentially dangerous.
- Another example: Nevada's specialty courts. Throughout the state, Nevada's trial courts have been pioneers in the effective use of specialty courts. These courts focus on the root causes of certain kinds of crime—drug and

alcohol addiction and mental illness—and work to rehabilitate, rather than incarcerate, chronic offenders. Often, these programs involve multi-agency collaboration. Not all participants succeed, but for those who do succeed, a miracle occurs, by which they come to claim their place as productive members of society.

**"Our trial courts are funded both locally and at the state level. Decreased funding, reduced workforces, mandatory furloughs, and the changing composition of our trial courts' caseload has forced our trial courts to do more with less than ever before."**

- Take the case of Adam A. He came into the Clark County DUI Court's serious offender program in October of 2009. He had to relocate from Ohio to participate to receive the benefit of his plea bargain. He came to Las Vegas with the clothes on his back and a wallet with a few dollars in it. He found a place to live in a sober living house. Days later, his wallet was stolen. He started the program nonetheless and was able to get a job as a food server. He earned enough to pay his living expenses and for public transportation to get to counseling, support group meetings, and court appearances. Adam worked hard in treatment and within a year and a half, he got a job in sales, where he flourished. He became one of the top salesmen in his company, earning an income of more than six figures a year. District Judge Linda Bell who worked with Adam A. writes, "Today Adam has successfully completed the program and is happy, healthy, and sober. He is a productive member of society and...grateful for the program, the discipline it takes to adhere to the requirements, and the opportunity to truly invest in his life and learn from his wrong choices."

- If you have not attended a drug, youthful offender, or habitual offender court graduation ceremony, I urge you to do so—the hard work, joy, and pride of accomplishment are radiant and overwhelming. And these programs do not just benefit the participants and their families; they benefit the counties and taxpayers by reducing the prison population and decreasing recidivism rates.
- There have been an unusually high number of trial court vacancies the past biennium owing to death or mid-term retirements. We have kept the dockets moving thanks to the 22 senior or retired judges who have stepped up to help. In 2012 the senior judges provided the equivalent coverage of 8 full time District Judges, expediting cases that otherwise would have languished. Our senior judges have also done a yeoman's job covering the rural specialty courts and conducting settlement conferences. As an example, in December of 2011, senior judges engaged in a marathon settlement conference at the Family Court in Clark County. Of the 94 cases heard, 71 were settled, a 75 percent success rate.

### B. The Supreme Court

Now I would like to talk to you about the Nevada Supreme Court. As you know, the Nevada Constitution provides for a single appellate court: the Supreme Court. Because parties have a right to appellate review, the Supreme Court must—is constitutionally obligated to—hear and decide all direct appeals from all civil and criminal judgments entered by our 82 District Court Judges. We also consider writs, both original and appellate; administer the Nevada judicial system through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC); supervise the Supreme Court Law Library, one of only three significant law libraries in the state; oversee the licensure and discipline of lawyers; provide appellate review of judicial discipline; and discharge statutorily mandated obligations—a recent example: writing the rules for the foreclosure mediation program (FMP), and setting up FMP

operations under the AOC's auspices, as directed by the 2009 Legislature.

Historically, it took a trip to the courthouse to review a court record or hear an oral argument. Information technology has changed that, resulting in much greater public access and visibility. Oral arguments are webcast live on the Supreme Court's website, so anyone with access to a computer can see and hear them in real time, as they occur. The podcasts are stored on the website so they can be reviewed later, conveniently, or copied to DVD.

The court has gone to electronic filing. Each justice and staff member has immediate access to the briefs and appellate record through the Court's CTRACK system. We also have a public portal, through which the public can access the briefs, motions, orders, and opinions in any given case. No longer do copies of these materials have to be obtained at \$1 a page from the clerk of the court, who in turn had to devote staff to copying. They are available online, and can be downloaded and printed for free.

While technology has facilitated the work of the court, it has not changed it, fundamentally. Our court, as Nevada's only appellate court, hears and decides three main types of cases. These case types are the same as those Justice Cardozo wrote about in 1921, describing his work on the New York Court of Appeals. First, there are the pure error correction cases; appeals that, in Cardozo's words, "could not, with semblance of reason, be decided in any way but one. The law and its application are plain." Second, also a type of error-correction case, are those in which, "the rule of law is certain and the application alone doubtful." In these cases, the "record must be dissected, the narratives of witnesses, more or less incoherent and unintelligible, must be analyzed... Often these cases... provoke differences of opinion among judges. Jurisprudence remains untouched, however, regardless of the outcome." Finally there are those cases "where a decision one way or the other, will count for the future, will advance or retard, sometimes much, sometimes little, the development of the

law." It is this third category of cases that is the most demanding, where the matter calls for us to interpret unsettled issues of constitutional and statutory law and add to the body of decisional law with published dispositions. These dispositions resolve the individual case but they also create precedent by which future disputes will be decided or avoided altogether.

The subject matter of our published dispositions is varied and often complex. Consider, as examples, in the last biennium we have published opinions on water rights, tort law, gun rights under the Nevada Constitution and Second Amendment, state taxation, government

**"The subject matter of our published dispositions is varied and often complex. Consider, as examples, in the last biennium we have published opinions on water rights, tort law, gun rights under the Nevada Constitution and Second Amendment, state taxation, government finance, corporate governance, criminal law in both capital and non-capital cases, evidence, procedure, and election and ballot initiatives."**

finance, corporate governance, criminal law in both capital and non-capital cases, evidence, procedure, and election and ballot initiatives.

The Supreme Court's caseload has increased year after year. It took 112 years—from statehood on October 31, 1864, until August 12, 1977—for the first 10,000 cases to be filed in the Nevada Supreme Court. Over the next 30 years, 40,000 more cases were filed, 10,000 of which were filed between 2002 and 2007. The 60,000<sup>th</sup> case was filed on January 9, 2012.

In 2012 alone, 2,500 cases were filed in our court. This works out to almost 365 cases per justice per year; since we sit in panels of three or seven, in reality that number is at least 3 times higher than that, working out to three cases per justice per day every day of the year. This is one of the highest, perhaps the highest, caseloads of mandatory-review cases per justice in the country.

The court is doing what it can to manage its caseload. We have a mandatory settlement program for most civil appeals. In many error correction cases, we utilize staff attorneys to present recommended dispositions to three-justice panels. Despite these measures, the number of published dispositions, as a percentage of the total docket, has fallen steadily. It is quicker to write a memorandum disposition briefly explaining to the parties why one side lost and one side won than to author a published opinion. And yet, the backlog grows. In 2012, filings exceeded the dispositions and will likely continue to do so. Delayed dispositions and lack of precedent by which citizens can predict outcomes and regulate themselves are the result. This hurts not only citizens whose cases are delayed but Nevada's nascent economic recovery as well. In 2012, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce reported that more than two-thirds (70 percent) of the counsel and senior executives surveyed said that the quality of a state's judicial system is an important factor in the fundamental decision of where to locate and do business.

Which brings me to SJR14: If passed by you this session and approved by the voters in 2014, SJR14 would amend the Nevada Constitution to provide for a Court of Appeals. My colleague, Justice Hardesty, and I took great heart in the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approving this measure as its first order of business. We thank the Committee and the Governor, whose office attended the Senate Judiciary hearing to express his wholehearted support.

The principal, perhaps only, argument I have heard against SJR14 is that a similar ballot measure did not

## STATE OF THE JUDICIARY MESSAGE (CONT.)

pass statewide in 2010. To this criticism, however, I offer three responses. First, regardless of criticism, it would be irresponsible for us not to report just how serious a problem the court's growing caseload and backlog pose to individual litigants, small and large businesses, and the State as a whole. Second, Nevada's demographics are changing, as the poll released earlier this week by the Retail Association of Nevada shows. Conducted by Glen Bolger, this poll shows that today's Nevadans, by a margin of 48 percent to 42 percent favor amending the Constitution to provide for a Court of Appeals—in other words, that attitudes have changed. Third, we can and must do a better job explaining the Court of Appeals to the voters—that it would speed up dispositions, not delay them, because the error-correction cases assigned to the Court of Appeals will stop there. And also, we need to acquaint voters with the push-down model the Court of Appeals would follow. Under this model, cases would be filed centrally and either kept in the Supreme Court or pushed down to the Court of Appeals, depending on category. As a result, there are no added personnel costs

beyond the 3 Court of Appeals judges and their chambers staff. Just as adding District Court Judges helped expedite case resolution in Clark County, adding appellate judges will help expedite the appeals process.

**"In 2012 alone, 2,500 cases were filed in our court. This works out to almost 365 cases per justice per year; since we sit in panels of three or seven, in reality that number is at least 3 times higher than that, working out to three cases per justice per day every day of the year. This is one of the highest, perhaps the highest, caseloads of mandatory-review cases per justice in the country."**

As the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee said, the key to SJR14's success is "for us to get behind it once

it is on the ballot and make sure there is a united voice explaining to the citizens of Nevada that this matter is critical. Nevada is at a turning point where voters are starting to realize that we are no longer that little State we all grew up in. We have to move into the 21st century, and SJR14 will be a major part of that."

### V. CONCLUSION

Standing before you this morning, with Lincoln's portrait at my back, it is impossible not to feel the press of history, to imagine the footfalls of those who came before and who will come after us. Next year marks Nevada's 150th birthday, its sesquicentennial. To put time in perspective, our Constitution was adopted, and Nevada's judiciary established, just months before Lincoln was killed. History will not long remember most, or perhaps even any, of us. But it will judge us by the legacy we leave. We in the judiciary appreciate the cooperation we enjoy with our legislative and executive branch partners and hope that, together, we make positive, lasting contributions to Nevada's future.

Thank you and Godspeed.



# NEVADA COURT OF APPEALS

In 2014, Nevada voters will decide whether to amend the Nevada Constitution to create a Court of Appeals. The proposed constitutional amendment comes before the voters as a result of the 2013 Nevada Legislature’s passage of SJR14 and its implementing legislation, SB463. A representative of the Governor’s Office attended the opening session of the 2013 Senate Judiciary Committee, which took up SJR14 as its first order of business, to express the Governor’s “wholehearted support” of it. The measure passed both houses of the 2013 Nevada Legislature without a single nay vote.

Chief Justice Kristina Pickering and Justice James Hardesty made the case to the 2013 Nevada Legislature for the Court of Appeals. Their presentations addressed the need for a Nevada Court of Appeals, how it would operate, and what it would cost.

## Need for a Court of Appeals

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in Nevada. Its core constitutional function is to decide appeals from final judgments entered by Nevada’s 82 District Court Judges. As the court of last resort in Nevada, the Supreme Court must hear all jurisdictionally proper cases that are filed. The Nevada Constitution does not provide for discretionary review of direct appeals.

In fiscal year 2013, litigants filed 2,333 cases with the Supreme Court, a slight dip from the record 2,500 new cases filed in fiscal year 2012. With just seven Supreme Court Justices, that equates to 333 cases per justice per year in 2013. Since the Court sits in panels of three or seven justices, in reality, that number is at least three times higher, working out to about three cases per justice per day every day of the year. This ratio is one of the highest caseloads of mandatory-review cases per justice in the country.

The Supreme Court’s docket is diverse. It includes everything from

appeals for driver’s license revocations to appeals in family law, foreclosure mediation, business, and death penalty cases. See Figure 2, on page 30, for a percentage breakdown of major case types. Without a Court of Appeals, the Nevada Supreme Court must review and decide each case, regardless of type.

Justice delayed is justice denied. This is true regardless of case type—all cases, from child custody disputes to challenges of proposed ballot initiatives to civil monetary judgments to criminal convictions—are urgent to the parties involved.

To keep up with its caseload, the Supreme Court disposes of most matters that come before it with non-precedential memorandum dispositions, which are quicker to produce but cannot be cited or relied on as law. The published opinions that establish guidance on unsettled questions of Nevada law, as a percentage of the number of total dispositions, has declined over the years to where it now hovers between 3 and 4 percent. Table 1 demonstrates the disparity between published and non-published dispositions.

Comparisons help provide context. Nevada is one of just ten states without a Court of Appeals. A comparison of caseloads for states without a separate Court of Appeals is listed in Table 2. Of these states, Nevada has the highest ratio of cases per Justice at 333; only the West Virginia Supreme Court approaches this workload with 305 filings per justice.

The states in Table 3 were chosen by their geographical or population similarities to Nevada. When considering select states with a separate Court of Appeals listed in Table 3, the Nevada Supreme Court has more cases filed than the combined Court of Appeals and Supreme Courts for the states of Utah, New Mexico, and Idaho. The states of Oregon, Kansas, and Arizona have more combined filings than the Nevada Supreme Court. However, due to the number of justices hearing matters in these states, their numbers of filings per justice are less than the filings per justice of the Nevada Supreme Court; only the California Supreme Court is higher, and its numbers include discretionary review cases, which it declines in the vast majority of cases.

**Table 1. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2009-13.**

	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013
<b>Cases Filed</b>					
Bar Matters	42	51	52	77	64
Appeals	1,759	1,873	1,954	2,054	1,902
Original Proceedings	327	327	369	351	343
Other	7	1	0	0	4
Reinstated	17	14	20	18	20
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,333</b>
<b>Cases Disposed</b>					
By Opinions <sup>1</sup>	98	63	71	92	84
By Order	2,069	2,356	2,149	2,178	2,289
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>2,373</b>
<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>1,879</b>
<b>Authored Opinions</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>79</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes single and consolidated cases disposed *per curiam* or by authored opinion. Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk’s Office.

# NEVADA COURT OF APPEALS

**Table 2. Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected States Without Courts of Appeals.**

All data from respective states' most recent annual report or web page (2010-13).

States Without an Appeals Court	Population Ranking <sup>a</sup>	En Banc or Panels	Justices	Cases Filed	Cases per Justice
Nevada <sup>b</sup>	35	Both	7	2,333	333
West Virginia <sup>b,c</sup>	38	En Banc	5	1,524	305
Maine <sup>d</sup>	41	En Banc	7	675	96
New Hampshire <sup>d</sup>	42	Both	5	910	182
Rhode Island <sup>d</sup>	43	En Banc	5	355	71
Montana <sup>b</sup>	44	Both	7	778	111
Delaware <sup>b</sup>	45	Both	5	757	151
South Dakota <sup>b</sup>	46	En Banc	5	324	65
Vermont <sup>d</sup>	49	En Banc	5	423	85
Wyoming <sup>b,f</sup>	50	En Banc	5	270	54

<sup>a</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Table 1 (NST-EST2012-01), December 2012. <http://www.census.gov>

<sup>b</sup> State does not have discretionary case review.

<sup>c</sup> Supreme Court changed from discretionary to nondiscretionary case review on December 1, 2010.

<sup>d</sup> Includes mandatory cases and total discretionary petitions filed.

<sup>f</sup> FY 2010 information per CSP 2010 (<http://www.courtstatistics.org/>).

**Table 3. Characteristics of Nevada and Other States With Courts of Appeals.**

All data from respective states' most recent annual report or web page (2010-13).

	Nevada <sup>a</sup>	California <sup>b,c</sup>	Arizona <sup>b,c</sup>	Oregon <sup>b</sup>	Kansas <sup>b</sup>	Utah <sup>b,c</sup>	New Mexico <sup>b,c</sup>	Idaho <sup>b</sup>
Population Rank <sup>d</sup>	35	1	15	27	33	34	36	39
<b>Court of Appeals</b>								
Justices		105	22	10	13	7	10	4
En Banc or Panels		Panels	Panels	Both	Panels	Panels	Panels	Panels
Cases Filed <sup>f</sup>		21,894	3,751	3,285	1,859	956	878	554 <sup>g</sup>
Cases per 100,000 Pop.		58	57	84	64	33	42	35
Cases per Justice		209	171	329	143	137	88	139
<b>Supreme Court</b>								
Justices	7	7	5	7	7	5	5	5
En Banc or Panels	Both	En Banc	Both	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc
Cases Filed <sup>f</sup>	2,333	9,237	1,109	1,235	1,094	600	597	1,047 <sup>g</sup>
Cases per 100,000 Pop.	85	24	17	32	38	21	29	66
Cases per Justice	333	1,320	222	176	156	120	119	209

<sup>a</sup> State does not have discretionary review.

<sup>b</sup> Supreme Court has discretion in case review.

<sup>c</sup> Court of Appeals has discretion in case review.

<sup>d</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012 (NST-EST2012-01).

<sup>f</sup> Includes mandatory cases and total discretionary petitions filed, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>g</sup> Supreme Court cases filed are all appeal cases filed for the state during the reporting period. Court of Appeals cases are cases assigned from the Supreme Court cases filed.

# NEVADA COURT OF APPEALS

## Model

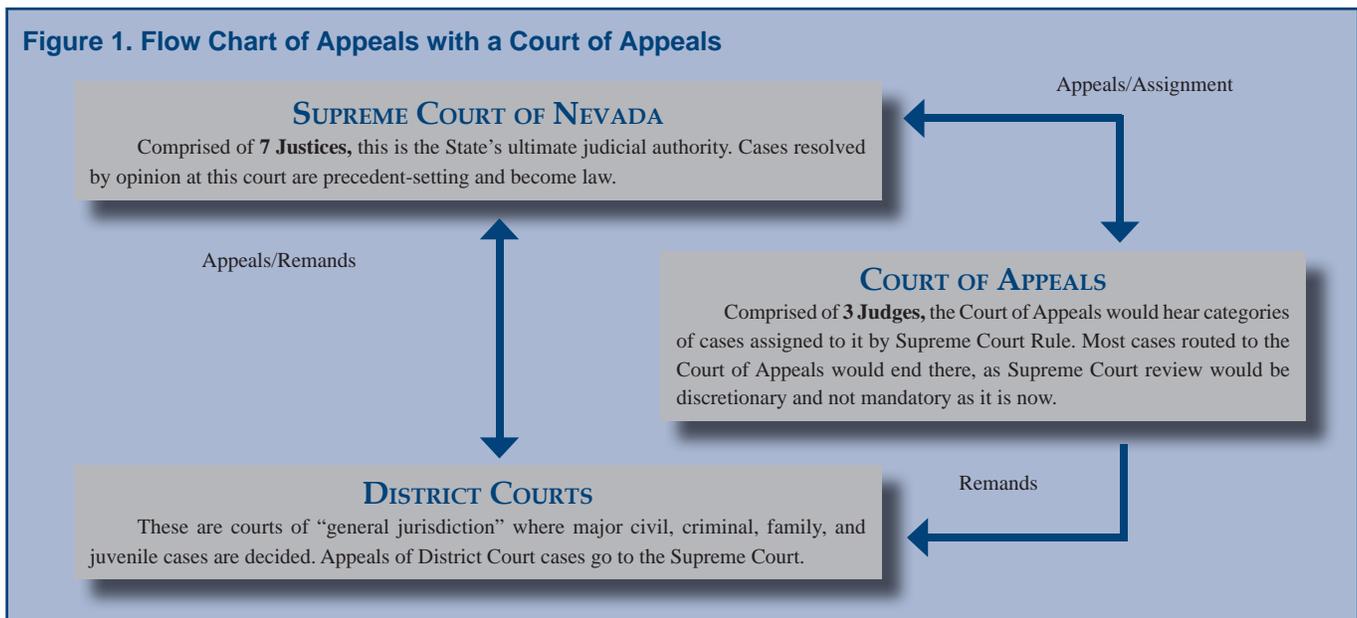
Figure 1 illustrates the proposed structure of the Court of Appeals. It would consist of three judges sitting in the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas, while also hearing cases in Carson City.

The plan is to use a “push down” model. All appeals would continue to be filed with the Supreme Court Clerk’s office. By rule, approximately one-

third of the cases currently heard by the Supreme Court would be assigned to the Court of Appeals. This proposed structure avoids additional judicial bureaucracy. Most of the expected 700 cases per year assigned to the Nevada Court of Appeals would end there, as appeals from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court would become discretionary rather than mandatory. This model would also utilize existing clerical and legal staff.

## Cost

If approved by voters, the projected costs of implementing the Court of Appeals is \$1,497,000. This would pay for the three judicial positions as well as chambers staff, to consist of one executive legal assistant and two law clerks per judge. Based on budget savings by the Nevada Supreme Court, the actual new cost should be much less.



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

## Overview

The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada assists the Supreme Court in its administrative role as head of the Nevada court system. Its mission is to promote the Nevada Judicial Branch as an equal, independent, and effective branch of government. The Council is comprised of judges from every court level, court administrators, and representatives of judicial-related organizations.

Judicial Council members meet in regional councils to address issues unique to their areas. Representatives from each of the regional councils also are members of the Judicial Council.

In addition, the Judicial Council has established the following standing committees:

- Court Administration - promotes excellence in court administration by addressing issues in the Nevada Judiciary and recommending improvements to the Judicial Council.
- Court Improvement Program - improves the lives of children and families who enter the child welfare system, reduces the amount of time children spend in foster care, and places abused and neglected children into permanent homes as quickly as possible through improvements to the court processes for these cases.
- Education - promotes the competence and professionalism of the Nevada Judiciary.
- Legislation and Rules - promotes a coordinated approach to legislation affecting the Nevada Judiciary.
- Specialty Court Funding - establishes procedures for requesting Specialty Court funds, including the development of funding criteria, distribution of funds, and data collection from funded courts.
- Technology - promotes court technological advancements and the coordination, collaboration, and integration of technology with state and local governments.

## During Fiscal Year 2013

The Council revised its bylaws to permit proxy votes when a member cannot attend, expanded the role of the Certified Court Interpreters Committee, and reactivated the Court Administration Committee.

# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA (CONT.)

The Technology Committee, which had been disbanded in 2009, was reactivated and now provides a three-tier governance model to allow for improved communication and more focused project prioritization. The program-level tier comprises business analysts and court clerks, while the user tier allows feedback from actual technology users.

The Council approved expansion of civil caseload measurements by requiring that all courts report additional statistical information.

Finally, the Judicial Council oversees the disbursement of the money available to fund Nevada's existing Specialty Courts (e.g., Drug, DUI, and Mental Health Courts). Of concern to

the Council is the continual decline in recent years of funding derived from administrative assessments. The Council approved funding for fiscal year 2014 with the proviso that if administrative assessment collections increase, the courts may seek additional funding for their Specialty Courts.

## COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

### INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

The Indigent Defense Commission continued its work on needed reforms to the public defense system in Nevada under the leadership of its chair, Justice Michael A. Cherry.

At the Commission's March 22, 2013, meeting, the Sixth Amendment Center delivered a report entitled "*Reclaiming Justice*." Prepared at

the Commission's request, this report examines the unique challenges our rural counties face in providing indigent defendants competent legal counsel, as required by the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, and suggests ways to meet those challenges.

Also in 2013, the Indigent Defense Commission focused on collecting

and reporting data in a uniform way pertaining to public lawyers and the number and scope of public defender appointments in the State. Such data will assist the Commission in assessing and making recommendations concerning the State's indigent defense needs in both the rural and the urban counties.

### COMMISSION ON COURT RECORDS

During fiscal year 2013, the Commission on Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records, chaired by Justice James W. Hardesty, held a public hearing and recommended a Policy for Handling Filed, Lodged, and

Presumptively Confidential Documents. The new policy, which became effective in August 2013, standardizes the handling of documents presented to the clerks of the Municipal, Justice, and District Courts.

In addition, the Commission appointed a subcommittee to review the Nevada Supreme Court Minimum Records Retention Schedule, and develop best practices on the proper storage and preservation of court records.

### JUDICIAL PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Law Day events showcased the work of the Supreme Court's Judicial Public Information Committee in fiscal year 2013. The Committee, chaired by Justice Nancy Saitta, provides an educational and informational voice for Nevada's courts.

For the second year in a row, Nevada was honored by the American Bar Association (ABA) for having one of the nation's top three Law Day programs for 2012.

Law Day Live 2013 utilized video technology to give high school students in Las Vegas, Carson City, and Winnemucca the experience of making arguments in real-life cases before appellate "panels" that included

Supreme Court Justices, District Court Judges, and fellow students.

Using a round robin format, students in one location presented appellant's arguments in a case followed by students at a second location arguing the respondent's position. The Justices questioned the students and decided the case in the third location.

The three cases argued were:

- The Arizona "Papers Please" Immigration Law.
- The Pennsylvania Voter ID Law.
- The Texas College Admissions Standards Law.

A Law Day website ([lawday.nevadajudiciary.us](http://lawday.nevadajudiciary.us)) was established to promote the ABA's Law Day theme and

serve as the avenue for the public to view Law Day Live. Law Day Live can still be viewed on the website, along with promotional videos, news releases, and contest information.

In addition to Law Day Live, other related Law Day events included:

- The Supreme Court's web-based five-week essay contest. Five weekly essay questions were posted on the Supreme Court website for students to answer in 100 words or less. More than 600 entries came in from students in nearly every community in the State.
- Forums and poster contests promoted by the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Nevada.

# COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Nevada Supreme Court created the Access to Justice Commission in 2006 to promote equal civil justice for all Nevadans, without regard to economic status. The Access to Justice Commission is comprised of 18 members with Justices Michael Douglas and James Hardesty serving as its co-chairs. Over the past year, the Commission has worked to improve the delivery and funding of legal services programs, pro bono services, and self-help services to those of modest economic means.

### Pro Bono Report

In calendar year 2012, Nevada had 3,511 attorneys provide pro bono services, with 2,519 of them reporting that they provided a combined 98,190 hours of pro bono service, and that 2,074 attorneys received cases through the following legal services providers: Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Nevada Legal Services, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans, Washoe County Senior Law Project, and Washoe Legal Services. Also, 2,794 attorneys reported that they provided a total of 139,647 pro bono hours of direct legal services at a substantially reduced fee, for organizations that address the needs of persons of limited means, and to activities improving the law or law related education.

While 3,511 attorneys provided pro bono services, 6,546 attorneys did not.

### One Promise Campaign

To increase pro bono participation by Nevada attorneys, the Access to Justice Commission launched Nevada's "One" campaign, <http://onepromisenevada.org>. The objective is simple: every attorney in Nevada commits to taking one pro bono case. If every attorney took just one case, the number of Nevada residents who need but cannot afford legal assistance would decrease significantly. The goal is to connect an additional 500 Nevada attorneys with pro bono cases by December 31, 2014.

### Bank Sponsored Ethics Seminars

More than \$20,000 was raised in Las Vegas and another \$6,000 in Reno at two legal ethics seminars taught by Justices Douglas and Hardesty. The proceeds will be split among the Southern and Northern Nevada legal aid organizations.

Bank of Nevada sponsored the Las Vegas event attended by more than 280 legal professionals. First Independent Bank of Nevada sponsored the Reno event attended by more than 60 attorneys and judges.

These were the latest fund-raising efforts by the partnership between Nevada's business community and the Supreme Court to help thousands of individuals who cannot afford legal representation in civil cases.

### Pro Bono Week Review

Nevada joined in the national Celebrate Pro Bono Week during October 21-26, 2012. Events included 13 legal aid fairs, clinics, and Ask-A-Lawyer events sponsored by the legal services providers across the State.

### IOLTA

Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) remains a crucial funding source for legal service providers. IOLTA rules require that attorneys maintain their trust accounts in an approved financial institution that pays preferential interest rates. There were 26 participating financial institutions and a total of 2,887 IOLTAs among them. In fiscal year 2013, IOLTA remittances totaled \$1,124,684.

The IOLTA Taskforce Committee reviewed the IOLTA fixed interest rate in November 2012 and again in May 2013. The fixed interest rate remained at 0.70 percent throughout the fiscal year.

### Dues Check Off Summary

The State Bar of Nevada implemented a Dues Check Off Program that asks attorneys to commit to pro bono services and/or make a monetary

donation to help fund pro bono services. Of the nearly 8,500 active attorneys in Nevada, 252 attorneys contributed a minimum of \$500, and in some cases more, in lieu of performing pro bono services. During calendar year 2012, Dues Check Off donations totaled \$292,892.

### Statewide Legal Services Statistics

The five core civil legal aid providers in Nevada report:

- 13,513 clients assisted without litigation.
- 7,399 clients represented in litigation.
- 30,729 people attended classes, clinics, or called hotlines.
- 6,787 people attended Ask-A-Lawyer events.
- 99,483 people assisted by Self Help Centers.
- 1,274 clients placed with, and 3,693 clients represented by, pro bono attorneys.
- 3,235 clients assisted by pro bono attorneys with hotline/brief consultations.
- 19,652 pro bono hours provided through private attorney involvement.
- 98,190 hours of pro bono services self-reported by attorneys statewide.

### Areas of Pro Bono Service

- Appeals
- Record Sealing
- Bankruptcy
- Income Maintenance
- Children's Attorney Project
- Civil Rights
- Immigration
- Education
- Employment/Farmworker
- Guardianship
- Estate Work/Probate
- Holocaust Reparations
- Landlord/Tenant
- Housing Law
- Medical/Health
- Nonprofit Assistance
- Public Benefits
- Taxes
- Representation in Tribal Court Cases

# COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

## JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

The Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform proposed a number of changes to Nevada's Juvenile Justice System in fiscal year 2013 that are designed to reduce incarceration rates and improve outcomes for young people who come into contact with the System. The Commission includes more than 30 judicial, governmental, and private enterprise individuals as members and is co-chaired by Justices James Hardesty and Nancy Saitta.

The Commission made recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services outlining a balanced process to reform funding for "deep-end commitments" (the placement of delinquent youth into youth correctional facilities or the residential placements

of youth), and redirecting State support to local jurisdictions to deal with their own juvenile delinquency issues. This shift follows national best-practice standards for improving the rehabilitation of youthful offenders.

The Commission worked with the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Committee on two bills (Senate Bills 106 and 108) that passed during the 2013 legislative session. Senate Bill 106 permits juvenile court judges to hold young offenders accountable for monetary penalties and restitution, by allowing the money owed to be converted into civil judgments. Senate Bill 108 decreased the length of time a child may remain in detention or shelter care pending the filing of a

petition alleging delinquency or need of supervision.

Currently, three Juvenile Justice Subcommittees are working on:

- Standardized Data Collection.
- School Attendance and Disturbance, with a goal of keeping pupils in school and out of the Juvenile Justice System.
- Juvenile Competency Rules.

The Commission continues to work on long-term stabilization plans for funding the Juvenile Justice System. It hopes to reduce the number of children entering the Juvenile Justice System through early intervention programs, community and evidence-based programs, education, utilization of family resources, employment opportunities, and the regionalization of facilities.

## COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) is a collaborative committee of 20 stakeholders involved in the child welfare system including judicial officers, district attorneys, child welfare administrators, public defenders, attorneys, a CASA director, a deputy attorney general, and a State Senator. Under the leadership of chair Justice Nancy Saitta, CIP helps the courts develop systemic, statewide changes to significantly improve the processing of child abuse and neglect cases through the courts while ensuring compliance with state and federal laws regarding child dependency and welfare.

In fiscal year 2013, CIP focused on three primary strategies: improving the quality of legal representation in dependency cases; increasing judicial, attorney, and stakeholder knowledge and expertise; and building systemic capacity. CIP worked with Community Improvement Councils (CICs) in each Judicial District to address the time it takes to process dependency cases and identify improvements to dependency court operations.

To help develop best court practices and increase knowledge and expertise, CIP hosted a statewide CIC Summit in collaboration with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges focusing on issues the CICs had identified in their action plans including:

- Integration of the Child Safety Model into the Court Process.
- The Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children.
- Dependency Court Order Templates and Bench Guide.
- Interpreting Court Timeliness Data into Improvement Actions.

CIP's principal 2013 initiative to improve the quality of legal representation for parents and children in dependency cases involved the development of a web-based specialized attorney training program. The topics included federal and state child welfare legislation, child safety decision making, the role of the attorney in dependency cases, and such ethical issues as competent and diligent representation and representing a client with diminished capacities.

The Court Order Template and Bench Guide project has been CIP's primary capacity building initiative. This project culminated at the CIC Summit when the templates and Bench Guide were introduced by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). NCSC worked with a statewide collaborative on these templates to improve the quality of dependency court orders and to ensure inclusion of appropriate language for judicial determinations required to allow a child to access Title IV-E funds.

The NCSC has provided Nevada with technical assistance to facilitate court event notification among the courts, child welfare, and district attorneys as a means to improve timeliness to permanency. Data exchange projects such as electronic generation and e-filing of protective custody logs, and testing a centralized case index have been funded by federal grants to improve the quality of shared data.

# COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

## JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

The Nevada Commission on Judicial Selection worked with Governor Brian Sandoval to fill four vacancies that occurred on the District Court bench during fiscal year 2013.

When a mid-term judicial vacancy occurs, it falls to the Commission on Judicial Selection to recruit, screen, and interview applicants. The Commission then nominates three finalists from whom the Governor makes his appointment.

The Commission on Judicial Selection is composed of seven permanent members—the Chief Justice, three non-attorneys appointed by the Governor, and three attorneys appointed by the State Bar of Nevada. Neither the Governor nor the Bar may appoint more than two permanent members from the same political party, nor choose more than one member from the same county. For District Court vacancies, two temporary members are appointed from the judicial district where the vacancy occurs—a non-attorney by the Governor and an attorney by the State Bar—bringing the Commission membership to nine.

Applicants for District Court vacancies must have 10 years of attorney experience, including 2 years in Nevada. The applications, minus personal

identifiers and medical information, are posted on the Commission's webpage on the Supreme Court website. Since 2007, the Commission has opened the applicant interviews to the public and set aside time for public comment.

The first vacancy in fiscal year 2013 came as the result of Second Judicial District Judge Steven Kosach's retirement on September 10, 2012, after 22 years on the bench. Reno attorney Lidia Stiglich was appointed in November 2012 to fill the vacancy.

The second vacancy occurred due to the retirement of Ninth Judicial District Judge David Gamble, who served 25 years on the bench and was Nevada's longest-sitting District Judge. Governor Sandoval named Minden attorney Nathan T. Young to fill the seat.

A third vacancy arose in the Seventh Judicial District Court, when Judge Dan Papez retired after 20 years of service. The Seventh Judicial District covers Eureka, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties. Gary Fairman, an attorney since 1978, was appointed to the bench in February 2013.

Finally, Washoe County Deputy District Attorney Elliott Sattler II was named to succeed Second Judicial

District Judge Steven Elliott, who retired from the Second Judicial District Court after 16 years of service. Judge Sattler took the bench in March 2013.

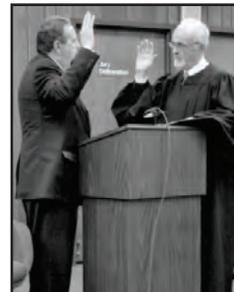
The terms for all four appointees expire in January 2015. They must run and win in the November 2014 general election to retain their seats.



Judge Lidia Stiglich



Judge Gary Fairman



Judge Nathan Young  
sworn in by Senior  
Judge Peter Breen



Judge Elliott Sattler II

## WORK OF THE COURTS

### AUDIT UNIT

The Audit Unit assists the judicial branch by ensuring that there are proper internal controls over judicial business functions. To that end, the Audit Unit provides analysis, appraisals, recommendations, direction, and information promoting effective controls and sound business practices.

In fiscal year 2013, the Unit concentrated its efforts on auditing Specialty Court program funds. These audits were performed to verify that funds were collected and expended within guidelines established by the Specialty Court Funding Committee

of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada. Four Specialty Court program audits were completed, as well as one audit follow-up contact. At the end of the fiscal year, two additional Specialty Court program audits were near completion.

Follow-up contacts about Minimum Accounting Standards compliance were performed on two courts, and several operational audits were performed to ensure appropriate internal controls are in place to safeguard public moneys.

Audits during the fiscal year utilized 1,444 available audit hours.

Recommendations for improvements to enhance financial and program operations were provided during each audit.

In addition, the Audit Unit and a work group of court representatives began creating a guide that the judiciary can use for future external audits. The guide will assist external auditors with judicial audit procedures and the required Minimum Accounting Standards, including commonly used terminology. The guide is slated for release in fiscal year 2014.

## JUSTICE ON THE ROAD

The Nevada Supreme Court once again took justice on the road during fiscal year 2013 in its educational outreach program for Nevada high school and law school students.

The seven-member court held oral arguments in September 2012 at Douglas High School in rural western Nevada. The following month, a three-justice

panel held oral arguments in the moot court facility at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

These sessions afford students the opportunity to see firsthand how the Supreme Court functions and demystify what can appear to be a complex and sometimes confusing legal process.

In past years, the Supreme Court has held oral arguments in rural communities, including Tonopah, Elko, Spring Creek, Ely, Pahrump, Winnemucca, West Wendover, Panaca, and Fallon. The Supreme Court has also held oral arguments at high schools in Nevada's urban centers of Las Vegas, Reno, and Sparks, and at the National Judicial College.

## LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature passed a number of measures affecting the Judicial Branch. Chief among the challenges was delivering a balanced budget, which the Legislature, working in concert with the Executive Branch, managed to achieve. The Judicial Branch Budget is discussed in detail on page 5.

Some 166 bills were passed by the 2013 Legislature that impact the Nevada Judiciary, the legal community, and the citizens who come into contact with the court system. A summary of each measure, with links to its full text and its legislative history, is available at [www.nevadajudiciary.us/legislative-review/](http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/legislative-review/).

The measure passed by the 2013 Legislature with the greatest potential impact on the Judicial Branch, long term, is SJR14, which puts the question

of amending the Nevada Constitution to create a Court of Appeals before the voters on the 2014 General Election Ballot. SB463 was also passed as a companion piece of legislation to SJR14, and will make the necessary statutory changes to implement a Court of Appeals should it be approved by the voters in the November 2014 General Election. The Court of Appeals measure is discussed in detail on page 13.

Other legislative measures affecting the Judicial Branch include AB54, which

raised civil filing fees in Justice Court for the first time in 20 years. Through a 25 percent fee set-aside, this measure provides an ongoing source of revenue for the Justice Courts to use to improve their functions and provide better access to the court process.

The courts, juvenile justice departments, and child welfare agencies will be better able to help Nevada's most

youths more accountable for monetary penalties and restitution levied upon them by allowing the money owed to be converted into a civil judgment subject to collection action. SB108 reduces and revises the time period that a child can be held in detention pending the filing of a petition that alleges the child is delinquent or in need of supervision.

The 2013 Nevada Legislature took steps to increase fees for misdemeanor violations. SB243, which provides for the DNA testing of everyone arrested for a felony in Nevada, also imposes a \$3 fee on every person convicted of a crime to help pay for such testing. Additionally, SB224 imposes a new \$100 fee on misdemeanor DUI offenders to raise revenue for Nevada's Specialty Courts.

The Legislature also took a step, in cooperation with the Judiciary and the Attorney General's Office, to better protect judges, elected officials, and their families and friends from frivolous lawsuits based solely on the official acts of the judges or officials. SB27 provides for the improved legal defense of people named in such frivolous court filings.

Finally, with passage of SB121, the Nevada Legislature transferred ownership of the Historic Belmont Courthouse to Nye County in order to allow the County and its partners to preserve and restore an important piece of Nevada's judicial heritage.



Historic Belmont Courthouse, Nye County, Nevada

vulnerable children with the passage of SB31. This measure allows all three entities to share information that will allow better decisions to improve child well-being. The bill also clarifies that Nevada's foster kids have a right to educational stability.

The Legislature passed two bills recommended by the Supreme Court's Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform, clarifying and changing several areas of juvenile justice. Under SB106, juvenile court judges can hold

# WORK OF THE COURTS

## SUPREME COURT TECHNOLOGY

### **Web Access to Supreme Court Records and Arguments**

The Nevada Supreme Court continues its progress in making court records and oral arguments available free of charge. The Court has implemented electronic filing of cases, public access of court documents through the Internet, the webcasting of oral arguments, and web-based applications to access court records and proceedings.

### **Supreme Court Website**

The Supreme Court began the design and development phase of a new public website during fiscal year 2013. The design includes a revamped user interface to make it easy for site visitors to access the most requested information. The homepage design features online case lookup, free online access to filed court documents, the court calendar, advance opinions, and live video streaming of oral arguments. The new website (launched October 29, 2013) is built on a powerful content management system that allows quick and accurate posting of information. The AOC and Law Library websites are slated for similar updating and redesign beginning in 2014.

### **Supreme Court Mobile Application**

In fiscal year 2013, the Technology Unit of the Nevada Supreme Court designed and launched a mobile application for smart phone and tablet devices that provides access to Supreme Court case documents, oral argument calendars, recordings, decisions, court rules, and self-help resources. The application offers viewers the ability to save cases to a “favorites” list, add court calendar events to a personal calendar, and view live webcasts of court proceedings. The application can be downloaded for free from app stores.



### **Nevada Court System**

An assessment and analysis was completed for the Nevada Court System (NCS), the State-sponsored court case management system for trial courts. The system’s current capabilities and future needs were analyzed and defined. An analysis of current products was conducted and recommendations were made on systems, services, and implementation. The assessment was an important component of a strategy to align NCS with the needs of the courts.

Additionally, family and juvenile reports were developed and implemented to meet the Uniform System of Judicial Records (USJR) phase II requirements.

Finally, a major upgrade to the case management system was completed, which updated the user interface. Future enhancements to the system will include the ability to pay tickets and access public information online.

### **Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System**

Upgrades to the Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MCIJIS) improved its reliability, increased its flexibility, and reduced operating and development costs. The system now allows the exchange of citation data between law enforcement agencies using the Brazos citation writing system. The AOC has continued to work with the Nevada Highway Patrol to make their traffic citations available electronically to courts.

### **AOC Grant Program**

The AOC launched a new grant program providing up to \$50,000 for trial court improvement projects. The grants can be used for court-ordered, statutory, or procedural requirements for technology, security, court interpreters, and USJR compliance. No matching funds are required for grant requests up to \$5,000. Grant requests over \$5,000 require a 30 percent cash match.

### 1st Judicial District Court

The audio/video systems in the First Judicial District Court, Carson City Justice/Municipal Court, and the Juvenile Court were upgraded. The upgrade was partially funded through a grant awarded from the Supreme Court.

Juvenile Probation Officers and Support Staff received new computers paid for through funding authorized by the 2009 Legislative Session in Assembly Bill 65.

A new audio/video evidence cart that will assist attorneys and pro se litigants in displaying evidence was purchased and will be shared by the First Judicial District Court and the Carson City Justice/Municipal Court.

### 2nd Judicial District Court

While the e-filing system for court documents established at the Second Judicial District Court is not mandatory, about 60 percent of court documents were voluntarily e-filed during fiscal year 2013.

The filing office front counter began electronically filing all family ex-parte documents during the fiscal year. This procedure expedites the processing of these pleadings, ensures that images are readily available to the bench, and continues to support a paper-on-demand court.

The Self-Help Center website was updated to make all forms and packets available online free of charge.

### 4th Judicial District Court

The Fourth Judicial District added a new communication system to their courtroom in Elko County to facilitate teleconferencing capabilities. This saves time and expense by allowing attorneys, litigants, and others to participate in certain court hearings through technology rather than by appearing in person.

### 6th Judicial District Court

The Sixth Judicial District Court revised its website, [www.sixthjudicialdistrict.com](http://www.sixthjudicialdistrict.com), to improve access by citizens in rural Nevada. The self-help section of the website now provides simplified step-by-step instructions to individuals needing help with specific legal matters. These improvements recognize the rural nature of the Sixth Judicial District and the limited access residents have to legal assistance. The updates provide rural residents with legal resources similar to those available in more urban areas of the state.



### 8th Judicial District Court

#### Free Smart-Phone Apps

The Eighth Judicial District Court released Courtfinder, a smartphone application that puts court calendar information in users' hands. Courtfinder, developed by the District Court Information Technology Division, shows updated dockets in real time for the courts located at the Regional Justice Center. Users can search using the application by party, judge, attorney, or case number to find the time, assigned judge, and courtroom on the daily docket. The application is free to download from app stores.

### E-filing in Criminal Cases Mandatory

The Eighth Judicial District Court began requiring electronic filing for criminal cases effective October 2012. The District Court serves almost 2 million residents throughout Clark County.

E-filing in the criminal division has become more efficient, resulting in reduced usage of paper, staff time, and other resources. Documents can be e-filed free of charge at the scanning stations in the District Court Clerk's Office in the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas. Users can also file through the Internet for a fee, although the courts

may waive fees for indigent, disabled, or self-represented litigants. Criminal defendants representing themselves can still file paper copies of their pleadings.

### Las Vegas Municipal Court

In June 2013, the Las Vegas Municipal Court created an interface between the court's case management system and the online vendor providing internet traffic school services. Now when a defendant completes court ordered traffic school, the case is updated in real time.

Information about cases at the Las Vegas Municipal Court became available online on April 22, 2013, when the court rolled out a new case search feature on the city website ([www.lasvegasnevada.gov/courtsearch](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/courtsearch)). The search function allows a person to use a case number to get information about a specific case, including case history, fines owed, and the next court date. This effort is the first phase in a plan to make court records and documents more accessible.

### 1st Judicial District Court

#### Juvenile Court

The First Judicial District Juvenile Court underwent a face lift in 2013. The courtroom seating, carpet, furniture and décor, dating to 1970, were replaced and upgraded. The courtroom was remodeled and additional security cameras and monitors were purchased, along with an X-ray machine for weapons screening.

#### Juvenile Probation

Carson City Juvenile Probation Department and Partnership Carson City implemented the “Family Youth Intervention Program” to provide life skills for teens and their parents.

### 2nd Judicial District Court

#### Project One

In July 2012, the Second Judicial District Court and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges began work on Project One—a court improvement initiative designed to enhance access to justice for families involved in court proceedings. The Second Judicial District Court is one of six sites nationwide involved in the program.

#### Pretrial Services Division

The Second Judicial District Court initiated a pilot program involving its Pretrial Services Division and Washoe County Social Services to better serve their mutual clients. Staff from Social Services provides additional screening to assist the clients in finding community resources that they may be qualified to receive.

#### Domestic Violence Outreach Program

A “Domestic Violence Outreach Program for Teens” was launched at the Second Judicial District Court. The Family Court domestic violence team’s goal is to raise awareness of this issue by meeting with students at every Washoe County high school and middle school during the 2013-14 school years. The first outreach event was held at Reno High School on May 7, 2013.

### Jury Office

The Second Judicial District Court improved juror services in 2013 by publishing a handbook that provides information about the jury system, describes courtroom procedures, and defines key terms. The handbook is available in print or on the District Court’s website. The District Court also improved the juror assembly area to add 80 seats, an additional television, and a lunch/lounge area.

### 6th Judicial District Court

During fiscal year 2013, the Sixth Judicial District Court worked to provide law-related educational opportunities to middle and high school students. District Judges Michael Montero and Richard Wagner visited multiple classrooms in Winnemucca and Lovelock, and students from those communities visited their local courthouses to observe court hearings. Students from the rural communities of Paradise Valley, Orovida, Denio, Kings River, and McDermitt also visited the District Court.

### 8th Judicial District Court

Eight new courtrooms for Eighth Judicial District Court judges opened in January 2013 at the Regional Justice Center (RJC) in Las Vegas, ending the courtroom-sharing system that had litigants, lawyers, judges, and the public searching daily for the location of their cases. The new courtrooms and offices on the third and fourth floors of the RJC occupy space formerly used to store the court’s paper files. More than 30 million pages of legal documents were scanned and converted to electronic files to free the space.

Funds to construct the courtrooms came from a business plan that raised filing fees on civil cases for the first time in 22 years, and was achieved with no fiscal impact on the State General Fund. The courtrooms were constructed on time and under budget.

### Relieving Visitor Congestion

An average of 5,000 visitors a day pass through security screening at the RJC.

In February 2013, the south gate entrance at the RJC was opened to serve jurors, law enforcement, and attorneys, thus easing congestion at the main security gate. The result of this measure is reduced waiting at security lines for members of the public visiting the RJC.

### Bridging Language Barriers

The Eighth Judicial District Family Court worked with the Consul General of Mexico to develop a proposal to assist Latino/Hispanic families by staffing the Ask-A-Lawyer program with bilingual volunteer attorneys, developing a cadre of bilingual CASA volunteers, disseminating relevant bilingual literature at Family Court, and allocating space at Family Court to facilitate the Consulate in conducting educational seminars for attorneys and CASA volunteers.

### Child Support Pilot Program

A Family Court pilot program doubling court hearings, adding a hearing master and staff, and revamping calendars for child support resulted in a 34 percent increase in child support collections, including a 17 percent increase in collections of delinquent support. Clark County, formerly ranked last in the nation in the collection of child support, has moved up to 36th in the nation after implementing the program.

### CASA Program

In October 2012, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program was recognized by Clark County as an outstanding community partner with the Department of Family Services.

The CASA program recruits, screens, trains, and supports volunteers to represent the best interests of nearly

## TRIAL COURT INNOVATION

850 foster children annually. In 2013, the Eighth Judicial District promoted the CASA volunteer program through jury services. It also developed a recruitment/outreach video and was able to create "I Am for the Child" banners, which are displayed at McCarran Airport.

### Sparks Justice Court

The Sparks Justice Court moved into a new court facility at 1675 East Prater Way on February 22, 2013. The new court facility provides three times the square footage of the previous storefront location at the same cost to the county. The new facility also has three courtrooms and a hearing room, as well as better security features and improved technology. The opening was marked by a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony.

### Carlin Justice/Municipal Courts

The City of Carlin Justice Building was created in the fall of 2012 when the City of Carlin administrative offices moved out of the facility housing the Carlin Justice and Municipal Courts and the Carlin Police Department moved in following renovations.

A security system was installed in the City of Carlin Justice Building, including motion sensors and panic buttons at the court clerk's window and the judge's bench. A buzzer also announces when someone enters the building, which assists court office staff who are located in a back corner of the building.

Digital recording equipment was installed in the courtroom in March 2013, with funding from administrative assessments collected on traffic and misdemeanor fines in the Justice and Municipal Courts.

### Eastline Justice Court/ West Wendover Municipal Court

In fiscal year 2013, a court-supervised community service program began in West Wendover. Crews of offenders worked on projects including trash collection in fields, cleaning up the rodeo grounds arena, pulling weeds from sidewalks, and working at a non-profit thrift store. Offenders receive assignments only after completing a safety orientation.

### Austin Justice Court

The Austin Justice Court sent out postcards to all individuals with outstanding bench warrants for fiscal year 2013, resulting in the collection of more than \$18,000 in fines and fees.

### Tonopah Justice Court

During fiscal year 2013, Tonopah Justice Court made an aggressive collection recovery effort by mailing letters to those with outstanding fines and fees with incentives for payment in full. The result of this effort was a 17 percent increase in revenue for this year.

### Las Vegas Municipal Court

The Las Vegas Municipal Court celebrated its 100th year serving the residents of the incorporated city. The milestone was marked August 7, 2012, during a ceremony in the Las Vegas City Council chambers that included then-Chief Justice Michael Cherry and Justices Ron Parraguirre and Nancy Saitta. Justices Parraguirre and Saitta are former Las Vegas Municipal Court Judges. The ceremony highlighted the Municipal Court's heritage of innovation and service. The court was one of the first in the nation to implement an electronic case management system, establish a paperless traffic court, and utilize video conferencing technology with the jail to hold hearings.

The Las Vegas Municipal Court was first housed in the basement of the Clark County Courthouse after the city was incorporated. It then moved to a large room behind the city jail for 16 years before occupying a trailer behind the police station for 27 years. The court expanded into courtrooms attached to City Hall before taking up its current residence in the Regional Justice Center in downtown Las Vegas.

According to Municipal Court records, in 1926, there was one judge who handled 88 cases. In 2012, the six current judges handled more than 176,000 cases.



Sparks Justice Court, Sparks, Nevada

### **Legacy of Justice Award**

Las Vegas Municipal Judge Cedric Kerns received the 2013 Legacy of Justice Award in recognition of his creation of the Municipal Court's Youth Offender (YO) Court that focuses on young defendants caught in the grip of substance abuse. Judge Kerns was also instrumental in the development of the Habitual Offender Prevention and Education (HOPE) program. He has served on the Las Vegas Municipal Court bench since 1997.

The Nevada Supreme Court presents the Legacy of Justice Award annually to a person within the judiciary who has made significant and innovative improvements in Nevada's justice system. Judge Kerns is the first Municipal Court Judge to receive the honor.

### **Chief Justice's Award**

The Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice's Award was presented to retired Eighth Judicial District Judge John McGroarty and retired Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Nancy Oesterle to recognize their decades of service and the innovative programs they started.

Judge McGroarty began his judicial career in 1978 as a Justice of the Peace. He became a District Judge in 1982, serving until he retired in 2006.

Judge McGroarty was the driving force behind the formation of Family Court and the Mental Health Court in Clark County, which changed how we treat mentally ill individuals whose actions bring them to our courts.

Justice of the Peace Oesterle was appointed to the Las Vegas Justice Court in 1990, becoming the first female appointed to that bench. She served as chief judge twice before retiring in 2010.

For more than 15 years, Judge Oesterle hosted the television show *Law for the Layman*, which explained how the courts work and explored topical legal issues. She also created the *Keys to the Courthouse* program. Judge Oesterle would visit elementary schools, and then bring the students to her courtroom so

they could see how the criminal justice system works. More than 8,000 students visited her courtroom during her career.

### **NJLJ Judge of the Year**

Tahoe Justice of the Peace Richard Glasson was named Judge of the Year by the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction.

Judge Glasson has been a Justice of the Peace for the Tahoe Justice Court since 2000. He is known for his willingness to mentor other judges, and help out in times of crisis. He was selected for his dedication to improving the judiciary in our state.

Judge Glasson serves on the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission, Ninth Judicial Districts Juvenile Probation Committee, and the State Bar of Nevada's Committee on Ethics and Professional Practices.

### **PILA Silver Staircase Award**

Nevada Supreme Court Justice Michael L. Douglas was honored by the Public Interest Law Association (PILA) of the William S. Boyd School of Law with its Silver Staircase Award during a February 22, 2013, ceremony "in recognition of outstanding commitment to public interest law in Nevada."

Justice Douglas is co-chair of the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Committee. He began his legal career in Nevada as an attorney for Nevada Legal Services and, as a judge, has worked to promote pro bono volunteerism.

The Silver Staircase Award received its name because "represents the commitment to assisting individuals in society who are often left behind and the lifting up of those individuals through service."

### **Liberty Bell Award**

The Clark County Law Foundation's Liberty Bell Award was presented to Eighth Judicial District Judge Gloria Sturman and pioneer Nevada attorney George Dickerson and his wife,

community leader Doree Dickerson, on May 2, 2013.

The Liberty Bell Award has been presented since 1983 and recognizes individuals in the community who uphold the rule of law, contribute to good government within the community, stimulate a sense of civic responsibility, and encourage respect for the law in the courts.

### **Supreme Court Clerk Recognized**

In fiscal year 2013, Nevada Supreme Court Clerk Tracie Lindeman was elected to the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks in recognition of her success in making the Supreme Court as open and efficient as possible through its website, public portal, and other means.

### **Second Judicial District Court**

Judge Brent Adams received an award from the National Judicial College in recognition of his 25 years of teaching.

Judge Patrick Flanagan received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Victims' Rights organization in Reno, Nevada.

### **NCSC Award of Excellence**

The National Center for State Courts conferred one of their three national Awards of Excellence for 2013 on the Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts in recognition of the Nevada court systems' innovations in collecting and reporting USJR criminal case statistics. The statistics help state and local governments determine resource needs and give the courts themselves necessary information to better manage their caseloads.

### **NACE Star Award**

The District Court in Clark County received the 2012 Star Award from the Nevada Association of Court Executives (NACE), whose mission is to further the field of court administration within the State.

# WORK OF THE COURTS

## AWARDS AND HONORS

In presenting the award, NACE President Matthew Fisk, said that the Eighth Judicial District Court has “strengthened the Nevada Judiciary... by serving as an exemplary model,” citing such accomplishments as:

- Operating five consecutive years within target budgets in unusually austere economic times.

- Adding 15 new judges and judicial departments to keep up with ever-increasing demands.
- Completing construction of nine new courtrooms and modifying other systems to meet changing demands for public access to justice.

### **NACE Court Executive of the Year**

Janine Baker, longtime Sparks Justice Court Administrator, was selected as the 2012 Court Executive of the Year by NACE. Ms. Baker received the award for her efforts in relocating her court, implementing a new case management system, and maintaining a balanced, yet declining, budget over the past several years.

## JUDICIAL EDUCATION

The mission of the Judicial Education Unit of the AOC is to promote the competency and professionalism of Nevada's judges and court staff. In fiscal year 2013, the Unit conducted five conferences and several specialized training programs.

### **Supreme Court**

Professor Brian Garner provided a one-day course on legal writing and statutory interpretation for Nevada Supreme Court Justices and legal staff. Professor Garner, the author of books about legal writing and editor-in-chief of the current edition of *Black's Law Dictionary*, evaluated writing samples provided in advance.

### **District Court Education**

The District Judges Seminar in Minden was attended by 45 judges. The seminar addressed ethics, evidence, and substance abuse, among other topics. The highlight was a review of U.S. Supreme Court opinions by Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of California, Irvine School of Law.

### **Family Judge Education**

The annual Family Jurisdiction Judges Conference was held in conjunction with the State Bar of Nevada Family Law Conference in Ely. The judges and masters attending the conference discussed traumatized children, NRCP 16.2 and NRCP 16.205, and child support issues.

### **NJLJ Education**

The Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ) Winter Conference in Laughlin attracted 71 Justices of the Peace and Municipal Judges. Ten educational sessions addressed topics on language assistance in the courts, reasons for reversal by the Nevada Supreme Court, sentencing, appropriate use of 12-step programs, and ethics.

The Summer Conference held in Reno drew 48 judges and included a mock trial at the National Judicial College, as well as a session on domestic violence from a judicial perspective.

### **Advanced Education**

The Judicial Education Unit also helped 87 Nevada judges obtain advanced education by funding mandatory and advanced education. More than 225 judges, treatment providers, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel attended a statewide conference sponsored by Judicial Education in partnership with the Specialty Court Program. Sessions included a showcase of Nevada's Specialty Courts, best practices, and the psychopharmacology of addiction.

More than 370 judges and court staff participated in the Distance Education Program in fiscal year 2013. The sessions covered: The Federal Language Assistance Mandate, The Four Generational Court, Minimum Accounting Standards, Performance Evaluations, Landlord/Tenant Proceedings, and other administrative trainings.

Supreme Court staff were also assisted by the Judicial Education Unit, which offered harassment and communication training. A monthly educational session for Supreme Court law clerks allowed them to acquire Continuing Legal Education credits.

### **New Judge Training**

The 14 newly elected judges of the Nevada Judiciary participated in judicial education on topics that included: judicial decorum, ethics and independence, handling the courtroom calendar, domestic violence, and court security.

### **Educational Milestone**

During the year, four judges reached educational milestones. At the Annual Nevada District Judges Association Seminar and the NJLJ Winter Conference, the Outstanding Achievement in Judicial Education Award was presented to Second Judicial District Judges David Hardy and Chuck Weller, Ninth Judicial District Judge Michael Gibbons, and Senior Justice of the Peace Joe Maslach.

The award is presented when a judge has met or exceeded 1,000 hours of judicial education and is the highest award conferred by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada. The award recognizes the exceptional and continuing effort made by the recipient to understand the law so as to fairly apply it to all who come before the court. Each recipient is presented with a statue of Lady Justice.

## CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

The Nevada Court Interpreter Certification Program coordinates the testing, registration, and certification of foreign language court interpreters in Nevada. Its goal is to ensure access to justice for those who speak languages other than English, and find themselves participating in court proceedings on issues that significantly impact their lives.

In fiscal year 2013, the Program administered written and oral examinations for languages in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, Tagalog, and Portuguese. Additionally, the program conducted oral proficiency

interviews for interpreters with language skills in Italian, Japanese, Dari, Amharic, and Tigrinya.

In addition to these examinations and interviews, the Program worked to add and renew certification for Spanish language court interpreters. The program also registered interpreters in languages for Korean, Amharic, Farsi, and German.

During fiscal year 2013, the Program published, with the Nevada Supreme Court's approval, a *Judicial Bench Card—Working with Foreign Language Interpreters in Courts* to assist judges in

working with litigants or witnesses who require interpreters.

In an effort to share the successes of the Nevada Court Interpreter Program, Eighth Judicial District Judge Valorie Vega and Supreme Court Interpreter Program Coordinator Andrea Krlickova, provided instruction, *Training of Judicial Personnel in Nevada*, at a National Summit on Language Access in the Courts, in Houston, Texas. The instruction featured in-person judicial trainings, the judges' survey on language assistance issues, written communications, and web page updates.

## FORECLOSURE MEDIATION

The Nevada Legislature created the nationally recognized State of Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program (FMP) in 2009 to provide a forum to allow homeowners and lenders to meet and discuss alternatives to foreclosure.

In fiscal year 2013, the FMP focused on improving communication between homeowners and lenders. The FMP Advisory Committee, created by the Supreme Court in 2011, provided input to the FMP on lender, homeowner, and real estate issues affecting Nevada foreclosures. The committee recommended a detailed revision of the FMP Rules to encourage better communication by means of a document exchange process that requires the parties to share information prior to the start of a scheduled mediation.

The FMP improved statistical reporting by adopting specific measurements for home retention and home relinquishment. The statistical reporting also provided a review of lender compliance with NRS chapter 107 and FMP Rules.

In October 2012, the FMP honored the more than 200 mediators who have provided 3 years of service. These mediators provided a forum for more than 19,000 homeowners to meet with

their lenders to discuss loan modifications, short sales, and other options.

### Program Statistics

- 18,655 Notices of Default (NOD) were filed statewide.
- 2,752 homeowners requested mediation.
- 1,411 mediations were completed by trained foreclosure mediators.
- 69 percent (or 972) of the 1,411 mediations completed resulted in no agreement either because no agreement could be reached between the homeowner and lender, or because of lender non-compliance.
- 571 of the 972 mediations resulted in no agreement because the homeowner and lender could not agree.



- 401 of the 972 mediations completed, ended in no agreement and were a result of lender non-compliance with NRS 107.086. In these instances, the lenders were not permitted to foreclose on a property.
- 31 percent (or 439) of the 1,411 mediations completed resulted in an agreement between the homeowner and the lender to either relinquish or retain the property.
- 216 of the 439 agreements reached in mediation allowed the homeowner to remain in the home through loan modification or another option.
- 223 of the 439 agreements reached in mediation resulted in the homeowner relinquishing the home and proceeding with an alternative to foreclosure, such as a short sale, deed in lieu of foreclosure, or another relinquishment process.
- The FMP issued 10,309 certificates allowing lenders to proceed to foreclosure.
- 92 percent (or 9,482) of certificates were issued for properties ineligible (non-owner occupied) for the FMP.
- 8 percent (or 827) of certificates were issued by the FMP allowing foreclosures to proceed for properties eligible for foreclosure mediation.

### NEVADA'S SPECIALTY COURTS CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

During fiscal year 2013, Nevada celebrated the 20th anniversary of the State's first drug court. A ceremony was held at the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas commemorating this achievement. As noted by Justice Cherry, "no court program has had such a positive impact on the criminal justice system, the prison system, and crime in general than Nevada's Drug Courts."

Retired District Judge Jack Lehman created Nevada's first drug court in Clark County. His success quickly led to the creation of a Drug Court in Washoe County, presided over by then-District Judge Peter Breen. Their pioneering work set the stage for today's network of Specialty Courts across Nevada—

Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Homeless Courts, Mental Health Courts, Youth Courts, and others. Today, Nevada has 47 Specialty Courts. The benefits of Drug Courts are available to everyone in every county in Nevada, and at every court level—including misdemeanor and felony offenders.

Specialty Courts use the authority of the court and encourage violators to commit to long-term treatment and frequent oversight by the judge. The benefit for a defendant who chooses and is accepted in a Specialty Court program is the reduction or dismissal of the underlying criminal charge upon graduation. Specialty Courts save taxpayer dollars by cutting prosecution

costs and the need for more jail and prison beds, and Specialty Courts save lives and families by helping people become productive citizens.

The success of Nevada's Specialty Courts is shown in their statistics, which are set out in detail on page 47. During fiscal year 2013, more than 2,780 individuals were served by Nevada Specialty Courts. Of those served, 1,368 graduated and 76 babies were born drug free.

While most Specialty Courts are Drug Courts, the principle has been incorporated into other Specialty Courts that address alcohol abuse, mental illness, homelessness, veterans' issues, family matters, and other societal ills.

## IN MEMORIAM

### **Judge Michael J. Wendell**

Former Eighth Judicial District Judge Michael J. Wendell, 91, died December 30, 2012. Judge Wendell served on the bench in Clark County from 1971 to 1991. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Georgetown University School of Law, Judge Wendell flew missions over Europe during World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Many prominent attorneys began their careers as his law clerk, including Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto.

### **Judge Edward C. Reed**

Senior U.S. District Judge Edward C. Reed Jr., who was appointed to the bench in Reno by President Jimmy Carter in 1979, died June 1, 2013, at age 88. Gov. Brian Sandoval, who served with Reed on the federal bench, called him a mentor and one of the finest judges he has ever known. Judge Reed served as an Army staff sergeant during World War II in the European Theater and the South Pacific. He was a prisoner of war in Germany in 1945. Judge Reed graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1949 and from Harvard Law School in 1952.

### **Judge Edyth Leavitt**

Alamo Justice of the Peace Edyth Leavitt, who was temporarily appointed to the seat in 1977, died in September 30, 2012 at age 96. A native of Overton, Nevada, Judge Leavitt moved to Las Vegas to raise her family, where she was active through the PTA and other service clubs in improving the schools. She also served in the LDS church as a teacher and temple worker.

# THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

## COURT PROGRAMS AND CASELOAD REPORT



FISCAL YEAR 2013

## Uniform System for Judicial Records

In 1999, the Nevada Supreme Court adopted the Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) by administrative order ADKT 295. USJR requires courts to identify and report monthly case filings and resolutions by identified case types. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) completed phase I in 2008. Phase II has expanded the reporting requirements, beginning with criminal case types, followed by the family and juvenile case types. Fiscal year 2013 marked a final step in the process as civil phase II reporting requirements were adopted by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to become mandatory on July 1, 2014.

The phase II expansion has required nearly every court to install new case management systems or to upgrade existing systems. These advanced systems have allowed courts to track cases more efficiently and in greater detail. Courts can now share that detail with the public and government leaders who provide for the needs of the courts in local communities.

The statistical information presented in this annual report summarizes the detailed statistics gathered. The appendix tables, available on the Supreme Court of Nevada website ([www.nevadajudiciary.us](http://www.nevadajudiciary.us)) in the documents section, provide additional detail.

## Nevada Judiciary Overview

For the trial courts in Nevada, Table 4 presents the total statewide non-traffic caseload filings for fiscal year 2013. Civil case filings represented the largest number of non-traffic cases filed statewide with 151,136 filings. Criminal cases followed closely with 149,055 filings. Family and juvenile cases combined represent more than 81,000 filings.

Table 4 also presents the caseload filings and dispositions for the past 5 years. When reviewing the table, you can see that the statewide total non-traffic caseload filings increased 7,377 cases, or 2 percent, from last fiscal year. However, the fiscal year 2013 totals are 7 percent less than the fiscal year 2011 level.

The standard measure of court performance is the closure rate, which can be calculated by dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. Courts aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a reporting period.

As shown in Table 4, a total of 149,055 criminal cases were filed in fiscal year 2013, an increase of only 86 cases, or less than a 1 percent increase from last fiscal year. Total criminal dispositions were 149,904, representing a 1 percent decrease from last year. Comparing total criminal

dispositions to filings demonstrates a 101 percent closure rate. Total civil case filings and dispositions reported for fiscal year 2013 were 151,136 and 135,785, both increases over fiscal year 2012, and represent a 90 percent closure rate. The total number of family-related filings in fiscal year 2013 was 69,680 and the total number of dispositions was 65,970. Together these show a 95 percent closure rate. Total juvenile filings in 2013 were 11,492 and dispositions were 13,282. When compared, these represent a high closure rate of 116 percent.

Totaling and comparing the filings and dispositions for all case types, the closure rate for total non-traffic filings and dispositions shows that Nevada courts addressed 96 percent of the cases that came before them in fiscal year 2013.

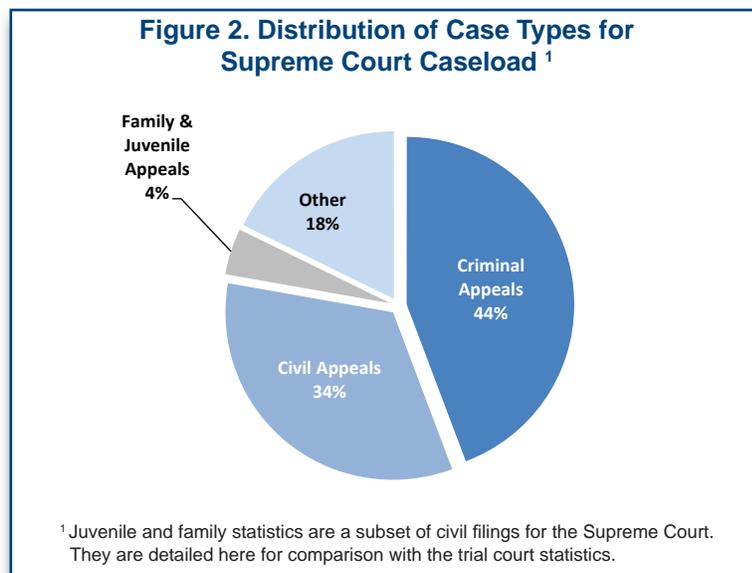
For the Nevada trial courts, the traffic and parking caseload filings and dispositions decreased by 6 and 5 percent, respectively. This resulted in a 99 percent closure rate for traffic cases this year.

During fiscal year 2013, the Nevada Legislature passed legislation allowing for voter approval for a Nevada Court of Appeals. This initiative and need for it are discussed in detail on page 13.

## Statistical Events

Various events, from adding or reducing judicial positions to modifying the statistical dictionary, can significantly affect statistical reporting. In fiscal year 2013, White Pine County made the difficult decision to close the Lund Justice Court. This closure was similar to the closure of the Baker Justice Court during fiscal year 2006, also in White Pine County.

In fiscal year 2013, family and juvenile caseload information was required to be reported in greater detail. This detailed information provides greater insight into the work of the family courts.



**Table 4. Reported Statewide Trial Court Totals, Fiscal Years 2009-13.**

**Caseload Filings <sup>a</sup>**

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal <sup>b</sup>	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Caseload	Traffic and Parking Cases <sup>c,d</sup>	Traffic and Parking Charges <sup>c,d</sup>
<b>District</b>	2013	17,270	30,584	69,680	11,492	129,026	2,917	4,014
	2012	15,481	30,770	69,716 <sup>r</sup>	11,759 <sup>r</sup>	127,726 <sup>r</sup>	4,391 <sup>r</sup>	5,941 <sup>r</sup>
	2011	15,002	34,849	67,652	14,057 <sup>r</sup>	131,560 <sup>r</sup>	4,649 <sup>r</sup>	6,113 <sup>r</sup>
	2010	13,585	36,960	67,141	13,783	131,469	5,464	7,162
	2009	13,607	41,044	63,791	13,771	132,213	5,285	8,223
<b>Justice</b>	2013	79,049	120,552	NJ	NJ	199,601	352,973	487,169
	2012	79,341	112,772 <sup>r</sup>	NJ	NJ	192,113 <sup>r</sup>	370,279	510,005 <sup>r</sup>
	2011	96,111	118,812	NJ	NJ	214,923	363,165 <sup>r</sup>	505,995 <sup>r</sup>
	2010	95,662	123,788	NJ	NJ	219,450	373,350 <sup>r</sup>	516,385 <sup>r</sup>
	2009	89,238	142,501	NJ	NJ	231,739	376,368 <sup>r</sup>	544,131 <sup>r</sup>
<b>Municipal</b>	2013	52,736	0	NJ	NJ	52,736	169,857	254,255
	2012	54,147	0	NJ	NJ	54,147	185,046	274,629 <sup>r</sup>
	2011	62,735	1	NJ	NJ	62,736	203,310	301,077
	2010	55,519	0	NJ	NJ	55,519	236,453	347,192 <sup>r</sup>
	2009	57,497	0	NJ	NJ	57,497	247,691	368,450 <sup>r</sup>
<b>Total</b>	2013	149,055	151,136	69,680	11,492	381,363	525,747	745,438
	2012	148,969	143,542 <sup>r</sup>	69,716 <sup>r</sup>	11,759 <sup>r</sup>	373,986 <sup>r</sup>	559,716 <sup>r</sup>	790,575 <sup>r</sup>
	2011	173,848	153,662	67,652	14,057 <sup>r</sup>	409,219 <sup>r</sup>	571,124 <sup>r</sup>	813,185 <sup>r</sup>
	2010	164,766	160,748	67,141	13,783	406,438	615,267 <sup>r</sup>	870,739 <sup>r</sup>
	2009	160,342	183,545	63,791	13,771	421,449	629,344 <sup>r</sup>	920,804 <sup>r</sup>

**Dispositions <sup>a</sup>**

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal <sup>b</sup>	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Dispositions	Traffic and Parking Dispositions <sup>d</sup>
<b>District</b>	2013	16,770	32,148	65,970	13,282	128,170	2,335
	2012	16,830	36,320	64,620	13,711 <sup>r</sup>	131,481 <sup>r</sup>	2,659 <sup>r</sup>
	2011	14,293	28,409	58,150	13,556 <sup>r</sup>	114,408 <sup>r</sup>	2,648 <sup>r</sup>
	2010	16,167	26,463	59,520	18,726	120,876	2,708
	2009	16,800	27,636 <sup>r</sup>	64,595	18,154	127,185 <sup>r</sup>	2,948
<b>Justice <sup>f</sup></b>	2013	75,829	103,637	NJ	NJ	179,466	344,218
	2012	78,181	94,915 <sup>r</sup>	NJ	NJ	173,096 <sup>r</sup>	360,849
	2011	91,503	99,328	NJ	NJ	190,831	335,702
	2010	33,464	112,936	NJ	NJ	146,400	342,742
	2009	32,081	143,093	NJ	NJ	175,174	375,428
<b>Municipal</b>	2013	57,305	0	NJ	NJ	57,305	172,120
	2012	56,860 <sup>r</sup>	0	NJ	NJ	56,860 <sup>r</sup>	184,457 <sup>r</sup>
	2011	67,505	1	NJ	NJ	67,506	216,143
	2010	62,676	0	NJ	NJ	62,676	256,563
	2009	62,310	1	NJ	NJ	62,311	352,581
<b>Total</b>	2013	149,904	135,785	65,970	13,282	364,941	518,673
	2012	151,871 <sup>r</sup>	131,235 <sup>r</sup>	64,620	13,711 <sup>r</sup>	361,437 <sup>r</sup>	547,965 <sup>r</sup>
	2011	173,301	127,738	58,150	13,556 <sup>r</sup>	372,745 <sup>r</sup>	554,493 <sup>r</sup>
	2010	112,307	139,399	59,520	18,726	329,952	602,013
	2009	111,191	170,730 <sup>r</sup>	64,595	18,154	364,670 <sup>r</sup>	730,957

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

<sup>a</sup> Reopened cases are included in totals.

<sup>b</sup> Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, non-traffic misdemeanor, and criminal appeals (District Court only) filings and are counted by defendant.

<sup>c</sup> Prior to fiscal year 2009, traffic and parking filings were reported on the charge level. Accordingly, both case and charge filing information is provided in the table.

<sup>d</sup> Traffic and Parking include juvenile traffic statistics.

<sup>f</sup> Las Vegas Justice Court began reporting non-traffic criminal dispositions in fiscal year 2011.

<sup>r</sup> Data totals revised from previous annual reports owing to updated or improved data collection.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

## Supreme Court

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in the state. The Chief Justice position rotates. In fiscal year 2013, the position was held by former Chief Justice Michael Cherry, whose term ended in calendar year 2012. Chief Justice Pickering's term followed, covering calendar year 2013.

The core constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review appeals of the decisions from the District Courts. The Supreme Court does not conduct any fact-finding trials, but rather determines whether procedural or legal errors occurred in the trial court. As the court of last resort, the Supreme Court hears all filed cases. The Nevada Constitution does not provide for discretionary review of cases in the court of last resort.

In the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice is the administrative head of the court system. The Justices work together to oversee the courts and issue rules governing everything from court procedures to the ethical and professional conduct of judges and attorneys.

As Table 5 shows, the Supreme Court had 2,333 filings during the last fiscal year; a decrease of less than 7 percent, or 167 filings, from the year before. The Justices disposed of 2,373

**Table 5. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2009-13.**

	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013
<b>Cases Filed</b>					
Bar Matters	42	51	52	77	64
Appeals	1,759	1,873	1,954	2,054	1,902
Original Proceedings	327	327	369	351	343
Other	7	1	0	0	4
Reinstated	17	14	20	18	20
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>2,152</b>	<b>2,266</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>2,333</b>
<b>Cases Disposed</b>					
By Opinions <sup>1</sup>	98	63	71	92	84
By Order	2,069	2,356	2,149	2,178	2,289
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>2,167</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>2,220</b>	<b>2,270</b>	<b>2,373</b>
<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>1,879</b>
<b>Authored Opinions</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>79</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes single and consolidated cases disposed *per curiam* or by authored opinion. Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

cases, an increase of more than 4 percent from the prior year, resulting in a closure rate of 102 percent. This closure rate was responsible for the pending caseload decreasing to 1,879 cases.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of appeals by case type for the Supreme Court. As shown, criminal appeals make up the largest portion of the court's caseload at 44 percent. Civil appeals make up the next largest percentage at 34 percent, while juvenile and family matters make up 4 percent. Finally, other matters, such as original proceedings, make up the remaining 18 percent of the Supreme Court's caseload.

The breakdown of appeals by Judicial District is provided in Table 6. Total civil and criminal appealed cases decreased by 93 cases (10 percent) and 61 cases (6 percent), respectively. This led to an overall decrease of 154 cases (8 percent) statewide. The two largest District Courts in Nevada, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) and Second Judicial District (Washoe County) represented 84 percent of the 1,899 cases appealed by district. The largest percentage increase in appeals filed was the Seventh Judicial District Court (Eureka, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties) at 62 percent.

**Table 6. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2009-13.**

	Civil Appeals Filed <sup>a</sup>					Criminal Appeals Filed					Total Appeals Filed				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
First	45	39	47	56	58	33	39	32	35	27	78	78	79	91	85
Second	115	117	156	181	146	191	185	164	208	203	306	302	320	389	349
Third	17	9	24	12	4	14	21	21	7	9	31	30	45	19	13
Fourth	13	5	9	4	6	12	9	22	12	17	25	14	31	16	23
Fifth	8	12	15	12	10	16	22	31	29	44	24	34	46	41	54
Sixth	7	12	18	17	16	25	22	23	33	28	32	34	41	50	44
Seventh	10	5	13	12	15	36	42	28	17	32	46	47	41	29	47
Eighth	549	611	562	646	601	648	711	777	735	645	1,197	1,322	1,339	1,381	1,246
Ninth	16	9	10	15	12	4	3	3	4	5	20	12	13	19	17
Tenth	(b)	(b)	(b)	14	8	(b)	(b)	(b)	4	13	(b)	(b)	(b)	18	21
<b>Total <sup>c</sup></b>	<b>780</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>1,084</b>	<b>1,023</b>	<b>1,759</b>	<b>1,873</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>2,053</b>	<b>1,899</b>

<sup>a</sup> Family and juvenile cases are included in civil appeals.

<sup>b</sup> The Tenth Judicial District was created from the Third Judicial District January 2012.

<sup>c</sup> Total may not equal appeals in Table 5 due to appeals filed not associated with specific judicial districts.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

## District Courts

The District Courts are general jurisdiction courts. Their caseloads encompass all case types including criminal matters involving felonies and gross misdemeanors, civil disputes that exceed \$10,000, family related proceedings such as marriage dissolutions, and juvenile cases involving matters such as dependency.

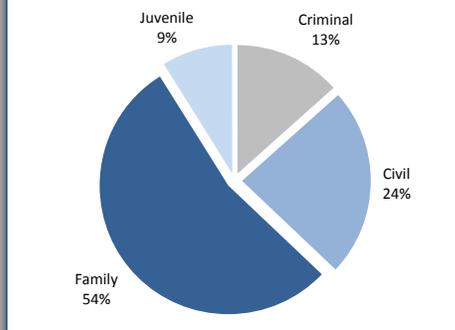
Nevada has 10 Judicial Districts that encompass its 17 counties, each of which maintains a District Court and provides court staff. The 10 Judicial Districts are served by 82 District Court Judges. The District Judges are elected and serve within the Judicial District in which they reside, but they have statewide authority and may hear cases throughout the state. In rural Nevada, four of the Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties (the First, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Judicial Districts encompass 11 counties). Judges in these rural Districts must travel within multiple counties, on a regular basis, to hear cases.

## Statistical Summary

Over the past 5 years, family cases constituted the majority of the case filings in Nevada's District Courts. Table 4 shows that family cases accounted for 52 percent of the total cases filed in District Courts. Civil cases accounted for 27 percent, while criminal and juvenile (non-traffic) cases accounted for 11 percent and 10 percent, respectively, over the past 5 years. This year's proportional breakdowns can be found in Figure 3 and are similar to the proportional breakdowns of the last 5 years (within 3 percentage points).

For fiscal year 2013, total filings in the District Courts increased 1 percent from fiscal year 2012. This increase was due to a 12 percent increase in criminal filings, as all the other major case type filings (civil, family, and juvenile) declined. The District Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 7. Summary disposition information is included in Table 8. Detailed information for fiscal

**Figure 3. Distribution of Case Types For Statewide District Court Caseload, Fiscal Year 2013**



year 2013 is available in the appendix located on the Supreme Court website ([www.nevadajudiciary.us](http://www.nevadajudiciary.us)) under the Administrative Office of the Courts documents area.

This year's increase in the number of criminal filings is due in part to the Second Judicial District Court updating its case management system to report the USJR statistics. For the first time, the Second Judicial District was able to report reopening events and detailed case types in criminal matters.

**Table 7. Summary of District Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2012-13.** (See Table 16 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Non-traffic Cases Filed <sup>a,b</sup>		Civil Cases Filed <sup>b</sup>		Family Cases Filed <sup>b</sup>		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Filed <sup>b</sup>		Total Non-traffic Cases Filed <sup>a,b</sup>	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City District Court	271	289 <sup>c</sup>	665	659	1,024	951	125	182 <sup>d</sup>	2,085	2,081
Storey County District Court	14	11	30	38	23	22	1	1 <sup>d</sup>	68	72
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County District Court	2,122 <sup>d</sup>	3,016	4,142	3,934	11,018 <sup>f</sup>	10,657	1,866	2,013 <sup>d</sup>	19,148	19,620
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Lyon County District Court	193	188	304	238	717	871	322	286	1,536	1,583
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County District Court	377	497	421	292	1,253	1,050	309	404	2,360	2,243
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County District Court	21	5	17	21	2	3	0	1	40	30
Mineral County District Court	45	41	27	26	71	58	42	34	185	159
Nye County District Court	544	683	463	503	1,289	1,244	196	398	2,492	2,828
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County District Court	156	206	97	159	498	486	352	199	1,103	1,050
Lander County District Court	5	13	33	35	54	46	50	32	142	126
Pershing County District Court	81	79	112	79	76	88	53	102	322	348
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County District Court	6	5	7	28	7	11	12	17	32	61
Lincoln County District Court	43	42	32	24	43	32	29	39	147	137
White Pine County District Court	127	160	165	130	152	170	89	141	533	601
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	11,172	11,757	23,730	23,865	51,974	52,538	7,864	7,514 <sup>d</sup>	94,740	95,674
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County District Court	153	142 <sup>d</sup>	398 <sup>f</sup>	415 <sup>d</sup>	864	774 <sup>f</sup>	135	76 <sup>d</sup>	1,550	1,407
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County District Court	151	136	127	138	651	679	314 <sup>g,f</sup>	53	1,243 <sup>f</sup>	1,006
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,481</b>	<b>17,270</b>	<b>30,770</b>	<b>30,584</b>	<b>69,716<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>69,680</b>	<b>11,759<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>11,492</b>	<b>127,726<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>129,026</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publications.

<sup>a</sup> Includes criminal appeals of lower jurisdiction courts.

<sup>b</sup> Includes reopened cases.

<sup>c</sup> Includes reopened case counts on remanded cases only.

<sup>d</sup> Reopened counts not reported.

<sup>f</sup> Reopened counts under-reported.

<sup>g</sup> Case filings are over-reported.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

**Table 8. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2012-13.** (See Table 16 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City District Court	232	206	484	453	819	869	188	224	1,723	1,752
Storey County District Court	2	5	26	23	17	16	1	1	46	45
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County District Court	1,927	2,617	2,389	3,317	6,955	10,059	4,327 <sup>a</sup>	1,182 <sup>b</sup>	15,598	17,175
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Lyon County District Court	192	189	274	261	708	869	165	333	1,339	1,652
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County District Court	281	288	240	255	962 <sup>a</sup>	1,059	270	336	1,753	1,938
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County District Court	6	9	0	6	2	1	0	1	8	17
Mineral County District Court	29	22	3	0	12	8	20	10	64	40
Nye County District Court	483	673	273	312	1,102	1,193	88	276	1,946	2,454
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County District Court	127	154	56	143	481	375	282	347 <sup>c</sup>	946	1,019
Lander County District Court	6	5	14	11	48	30	71	132 <sup>c</sup>	139	178
Pershing County District Court	57	54	96 <sup>d</sup>	49	56	79	22 <sup>d</sup>	125	231	307
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County District Court	13	8	9	24	6	9	11	18	39	59
Lincoln County District Court	35	26	17	23	31	16	25	43	108	108
White Pine County District Court	89	135	106	130	157	135	150	140	502	540
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	13,096	12,113	31,922	26,700	51,792 <sup>c,d</sup>	49,782	7,553	9,991	104,363	98,586
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County District Court	135	128	273	329	762	755	105	69	1,275	1,281
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County District Court	120	138	138	112	710	715	433 <sup>f,r</sup>	54	1,401 <sup>r</sup>	1,019
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,830</b>	<b>16,770</b>	<b>36,320</b>	<b>32,148</b>	<b>64,620</b>	<b>65,970</b>	<b>13,711<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>13,282</b>	<b>131,481<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>128,170</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publications.  
<sup>a</sup> Includes the disposition of hearings.  
<sup>b</sup> Decrease due in part to improved case tracking.  
<sup>c</sup> Includes administrative case closures.  
<sup>d</sup> Dispositions include both initial entry and final closure information.  
<sup>f</sup> Case dispositions are over-reported.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

It reported an increase of 42 percent in criminal filings from last year, and 83 percent of this increase came from reporting reopening events.

Other courts experienced increases this year as well. Lander County reported the largest percentage increase (160 percent), and Humboldt and Elko Counties both reported 32 percent more criminal filings this year from last. Overall, eight District Courts reported increases in criminal filings this year. Of the remaining nine courts, only three courts (Storey, Esmeralda, and Eureka Counties) decreased by more than 10 percent. However, the combined decrease of these three courts totaled 20 cases, or a tenth of a percent of the state's total.

Criminal dispositions, by contrast, decreased slightly (60 fewer dispositions) from fiscal year 2012. Washoe and Nye Counties had the largest magnitude increases in the District Courts, increasing by 690 and 190 dispositions, respectively. The largest magnitude decrease was in the

Clark County District Court, which reported 983 fewer criminal dispositions this year, while still reporting a closure rate (dispositions per filings) of 103 percent.

Civil case filings in fiscal year 2013 remained close to the 2012 level, decreasing by less than 1 percent (186 cases). The largest percentage increases were in Eureka (300 percent), Humboldt (64 percent), Storey (27 percent), and Esmeralda (24 percent) Counties. Still, some courts did see decreases; Elko (31 percent), Pershing (30 percent), and Lincoln Counties (25 percent) had the largest percentage decreases this year in civil case filings.

Civil dispositions decreased by more than 11 percent this year; however, the reported total represents a 105 percent closure rate for the District Courts in the state. Esmeralda, Eureka, and Humboldt Counties all more than doubled their reported dispositions from last year. The greatest magnitudes of change came in the most populous counties. The Second Judicial District

Court, which had 5 percent fewer civil filings this year, reported a 39 percent increase in dispositions (928 more) this year. The disposition increase improved their closure rate from 58 percent last year to 84 percent this year. The Eighth Judicial District Court (Clark County) reported 16 percent fewer civil dispositions (5,222 less) this year while filings only slightly increased (less than 1 percent); however, their civil closure rate was 112 percent this year.

As Figure 3 demonstrates, the family-related caseload accounts for more than half of the District Courts' total filings. This year, filings remained very close to fiscal year 2012 levels (36 fewer filings). The largest percentage increases were in Eureka (57 percent), Esmeralda (50 percent), and Lyon (22 percent) Counties. Lincoln (26 percent), Mineral (18 percent), and Elko (16 percent) Counties had the largest decreases in family filings this year.

Nine courts saw decreases in family-related dispositions, for a combined total of 2,184 fewer dispositions this

fiscal year than last. However, Washoe County's 3,104 disposition increase this year (45 percent increase) helped fuel a 2 percent increase statewide from last year. Lyon County had the second largest magnitude change, with 161 more dispositions this year (23 percent increase). Eureka County had the largest percentage increase (50 percent), with three more dispositions this year from last.

Juvenile non-traffic case filings decreased by 2 percent (267 cases) from last year. Nye County had the largest increases in both magnitude (202 more cases) and percentage change (103 percent) in the state. Pershing (93 percent) and White Pine (58 percent) Counties also saw large percentage increases this year. Other courts, such as Churchill (83 percent), Douglas (44 percent), and Humboldt (44 percent) Counties had large percentage decreases. Overall, nine courts increased juvenile non-traffic filings this year from last.

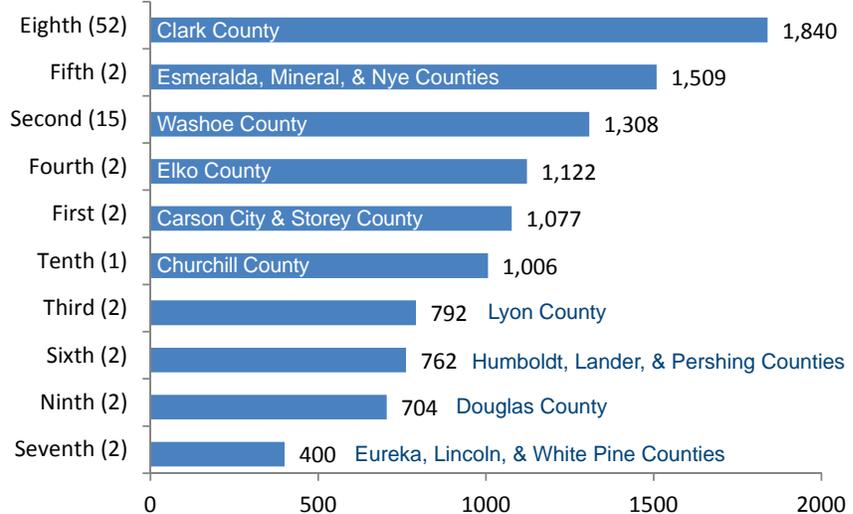
Juvenile non-traffic dispositions decreased by 3 percent, even though 12 courts increased or maintained fiscal year 2012 levels. While some courts had very large percentage increases, such as Pershing (468 percent), Nye (214 percent), and Lyon (102 percent) Counties, other counties had large percentage decreases. Some of these decreases, such as in Churchill (88 percent) and Washoe (73 percent) Counties, resulted from improved collection methods provided for USJR phase II.

Total District Court filings increased by 1 percent this year. Overall, eight



Judge Montero Conducting Court in Lander County, Nevada

**Figure 4. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2013**  
(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial positions for District Courts is 1,573.  
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

courts had increased filings. Meanwhile, dispositions decreased in only four courts this year (Storey, Mineral, Clark, and Churchill Counties) and caused the statewide disposition totals to decrease by more than 2 percent. The statewide District Court closure rate for fiscal year 2013 was 99 percent, with a median of 88 percent.

### Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for all District Courts in Nevada for fiscal year 2013 is shown in Figure 4. In the Judicial Districts that comprise more than one county (First, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases are aggregated from the counties and averaged between the Judges. To make the comparisons more consistent between court types, juvenile traffic cases were removed from the totals before calculating the amount of cases filed per judicial position. In District Court, juvenile traffic cases are handled predominately by Juvenile Masters and occasionally by District Court Judges.

The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,573, an increase of 20 cases per judge over last fiscal year (1,553). Six of the ten districts increased or maintained fiscal year 2012 levels.

The Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) continued to report the greatest number of cases per judicial position, with 1,840 reported this year (an increase of 18 cases per judge from last year). The Fifth Judicial District (Esmeralda, Mineral, and Nye Counties) reported the second most cases per judge, with 1,509 reported. The Fifth Judicial District also had the largest increase with 150 more cases per judge being reported this year. The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) followed with 1,308 cases per judicial position, an increase of 57 cases from last year. The Fourth Judicial District was the next greatest, reporting 58 cases less than last year, for a total of 1,122 cases per judicial position.

District Court Judges with smaller caseloads may assist the busier District Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. Also, in multi-county Judicial Districts, judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among the counties within their districts to hear cases. A 2011 study

**Table 9. Full-Time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts, Fiscal Year 2013.**

Court and County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
<b>First Judicial District</b>	<b>1.00</b>
Carson City	
Storey	
<b>Second Judicial District</b>	<b>7.00</b>
Washoe	
<b>Third Judicial District</b>	<b>0.25</b>
Lyon	
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>	<b>3.00</b>
Elko	
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	<b>1.25</b>
Esmeralda	
Mineral	
Nye	
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>	<b>0.46</b>
Humboldt	
Lander	
Pershing	
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	<b>0.27</b>
Eureka	
Lincoln	
White Pine	
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	<b>14.00</b>
Clark	
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>	<b>0.50</b>
Douglas	
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>	<b>0.58</b>
Churchill	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.31</b>

by the AOC (available on the Supreme Court website) indicates that these judges average at least 1 day a week on the road, which reduces their availability to hear cases.

### Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts quantify the assistance provided by Special Masters who are appointed by sitting judges to help with specific aspects of the adjudication process. Special master positions are quasi-judicial because they have limited authority and are accountable to an elected judge. Table

9 summarizes the estimated full-time equivalent assistance provided by Special Masters during the year.

Statewide, the quasi-judicial assistance provided during fiscal year 2013 was equivalent to 28.31 full-time judicial officers. This is an increase from last year's reported 26.89. In District Courts, most of the quasi-judicial officers are commissioners, referees, and masters for alternative dispute resolution, family, and juvenile cases. Additionally, in a few Judicial Districts, such as the Fifth and Seventh, Justices of the Peace serve as the Juvenile Masters for juvenile traffic cases. These quasi-judicial assistance positions are not included in the filings per judicial positions calculation (Figure 4) however, they do help with the disposition of cases.

### Business Courts

Business Courts have been established in Washoe and Clark Counties to hear and decide disputes among business entities and to provide enhanced case management and early settlement conferences.

Nevada established its Business Courts in 2001 under Supreme Court direction in ADKT 398. They are directed and managed by local court rules. In ADKT 398, the Supreme Court requested that Business Courts report on the effectiveness of their program and provide statistical data at the end of each fiscal year. Table 10 summarizes the statistics reported by each Business Court.

Cases can arrive in Business Court by original filings or request for transfer. Table 10 shows Washoe County cases filed in (5 to 20) and transferred to (1 to 4) Business Court increased in 2013. Meanwhile, Clark County experienced a decrease in filings (from 273 to 237) from fiscal year 2012.

When compared to last fiscal year, both Washoe and Clark County Business Courts experienced decreases in case dispositions by 37 and 29 percent, respectively.

Of the cases disposed, those in the Second Judicial District reported 5 fewer months to disposition than in 2012, whereas the Eighth Judicial District reported an average 4-month decrease.

### Senior Justice and Judge Program

Article 6, Section 19 of the Nevada Constitution grants authority to the Chief Justice as the administrative head of the Nevada Court system to "recall to active service any retired justice or judge of the court system who consents to such recall and who has not been removed or retired for cause or defeated for retention in office," and to assign both Senior Judges and Justices to assist in all the state's judicial districts.

"Our Senior Judge Program has proven to be a cost effective way to ensure that court cases can be heard in a timely fashion, even if the assigned judge is unavailable. Nevada is fortunate to have a number of Senior Judges available whose experience is unmatched

**Table 10. Summary of Business Court Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2012-13.**

Court	New Case Filings <sup>a</sup>		Cases Transferred In		Case Dispositions		Pending Cases at Year End		Average Time to Disposition (Mo.)	
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County District Court	5	20	1	4	27	17	55	62	19 <sup>b</sup>	14
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	273	237	NR	88	462	330 <sup>c</sup>	592 <sup>r</sup>	587	27	23

<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publication.

<sup>a</sup> Includes reopened cases.

<sup>b</sup> AOC revision from previous publication due to changes in how time measurements were calculated, to place emphasis on individual case disposition time frames rather than taking the mean of monthly average time frames.

<sup>c</sup> Includes cases transferred out of the program.

NR Not reported.

Source: Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit

**Table 11. Senior Justices and Judges Assignments for Fiscal Year 2013.**

Judicial District (JD)	Assignment Type	Number of Assignments	Number of Hours
First JD	Case Assignment	6	36.50
<b>Total for First JD</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>36.50</b>
Second JD	Case Assignment	4	105.00
	Durational	9	199.50
	Settlement Conference	1	8.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	11	1,573.00
<b>Total for Second JD</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>1,885.50</b>
Third JD	Case Assignment	8	157.50
	Settlement Conference	1	33.50
<b>Total for Third JD</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>191.00</b>
Fourth JD	Case Assignment	17	144.09
	Durational	2	47.50
	Settlement Conference	1	2.00
<b>Total for Fourth JD</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>193.59</b>
Fifth JD	Case Assignment	8	181.50
<b>Total for Fifth JD</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>181.50</b>
Sixth JD	Case Assignment	5	226.82
<b>Total for Sixth JD</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>226.82</b>
Seventh JD	Case Assignment	17	295.56
<b>Total for Seventh JD</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>295.56</b>
Eighth JD	Case Assignment	14	130.00
	Durational	76	1,471.30
	Durational – Family	64	2,079.00
	Settlement Conference	119	1,221.00
	Short Trial/Settlements – Family	24	955.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	1	56.00
<b>Total for Eighth JD</b>		<b>298</b>	<b>5,912.30</b>
Ninth JD	Case Assignment	10	146.00
	Durational	7	121.32
	Settlement Conference	2	38.00
<b>Total for Ninth JD</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>305.32</b>
Tenth JD	Case Assignment	3	76.00
	Durational	3	656.50
<b>Total for Tenth JD</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>732.50</b>
Rural Specialty Court	Specialty Court – Rural	8	480.33
<b>Total for Rural Specialty Court</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>480.33</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>421</b>	<b>10,440.92</b>

and who can step in, no matter what type of case is involved or where the need arises,” said Justice Michael Cherry, who oversees the Senior Judge Program.

The Senior Judge Program gained four newly retired District Judges as Senior Judges to help serve the courts throughout the state.

Summary information on Senior Justice and Judge assignments per judicial district during fiscal year 2013 is provided in Table 11. The table includes the types of assignments requested in each District as well as the number of assignments and number of hours for each assignment. Senior Judge or Justice assignments are made through the Administrative Office of the Courts by a Memorandum of Temporary Assignment. These memoranda assign a specific Senior Judge or Justice to a particular court or case, and may also provide for multiple days or cases.

When a judicial vacancy occurs for reasons such as a catastrophic illness, mandatory judicial education, retirement, recusal, or disqualification, a Senior Justice or Judge may be assigned.

The Senior Justices and Judges also conduct civil and medical malpractice settlement conferences. Generally, they oversee 2-8 settlement conferences per week. Additionally, Senior Justices and Judges hear short trials and settlement conferences every two weeks in the Eighth Judicial District Family Court. In the Second, Third, Fifth, and Ninth Judicial Districts, Senior Justices and Judges conduct the drug and mental health specialty courts. These programs have great success in providing alternatives to jail time for certain offenders and in assisting these offenders to become productive members of society.

During fiscal year 2013, there were 26 Senior Justices or Judges actively serving the Nevada Judiciary. Their combined efforts provided assistance equivalent to just less than six full-time judges for the State.

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs began on July 1, 1992, after passage of Senate Bill 366 (SB366) by the 1991 Legislature.

ADR programs address high caseloads by allowing less complicated cases to be resolved through arbitration or short trials. ADR programs offer litigants quicker resolutions and reduced legal costs.

SB366 required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement ADR Programs. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City, Storey County, and Douglas County) subsequently adopted the program voluntarily. Arbitration Commissioners administer the programs in each Judicial District.

While mandatory ADR Programs initially focused on certain civil cases with probable award value of less than \$25,000, later statutory revisions increased the amount to \$40,000, and then finally to \$50,000 per plaintiff in 2005. The Ninth Judicial District, in the program voluntarily, opted to keep the initial amount of \$25,000.

The caseload and settlement rates for the fiscal year and the long-term annual average for the most recent 10 years for each ADR program are provided in Table 12.

During fiscal year 2013, the four participating judicial districts reported that fewer cases entered the arbitration programs than their respective 10-year averages. This is only the second year since ADR statistics began being published in the annual report that all Judicial Districts reported fewer cases than their long-term averages.

A major goal of the ADR program is allowing parties to communicate and work out amicable settlements so as to avoid the high costs of trials. While the

settlement rate can vary greatly from one year to another for each District Court, and can be affected by the increase or decrease in the number of arbitrators, training sessions, and support staff, the 10-year average provides a good comparison for how these programs perform over time. Settlement rates are calculated by taking the number of cases settled or dismissed and dividing by the cases settled or dismissed plus the trials de novo requested (actual bench or jury trials). In fiscal year 2013, the case settlement rates continued to be high, with almost every program reporting a rate of 80 percent or higher. The Second and Eighth Judicial Districts reported settlement rates higher than their 10-year averages, reporting 91 and 84 percent, respectively.

One type of ADR is the Short Trial Program as defined in the Nevada Court Rules. A short trial follows modified rules, that include having only four jurors and limiting each party (plaintiffs and defendants) to 3 hours for presentation of their case. Three of the four jurors must agree upon a verdict. Currently, only the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts have Short Trial Programs.

As shown in Table 13, this fiscal year the Second Judicial District Court reported that 4 cases were stipulated to the Short Trial Program and 39 short trials were scheduled, including matters from previous fiscal years. Throughout the fiscal year, 20 cases were dismissed or settled and 17 short trials were actually held.

The Eighth Judicial District Court reported 14 cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program and 453 cases were scheduled for a short trial. During this fiscal year, 443 cases were dismissed or settled and 117 short trials were actually held.

Each of these District Courts collects fees (\$5 per civil case filing, except Clark County, which collects \$15 per case filing) for the administration of their arbitration programs, including staff and technology expenses. All four District Courts have expenses that exceed the amount collected in filing fees. However, the courts continue to find the programs to be successful alternatives to traditional trials. The programs are well-received by litigants, the public, and members of the bar since these cases are processed expeditiously and at reduced expense.

**Table 12. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2013.<sup>a</sup>**

	First Judicial District Court		Second Judicial District Court		Eighth Judicial District Court		Ninth Judicial District Court	
	Fiscal Year 2013	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2013	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2013	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2013	Long-Term Average (10 years)
Civil Caseload	659	694	3,934	4,262	23,865	25,264	415	418
Cases Entered	124	234	354	443	3,324	3,726	88	151
Cases Removed	21	38	479	314	242	322	36	32
Cases Settled Or Dismissed	83	151	277	325	2,904	2,718	15	26
Settlement Rate	93%	95%	91%	84%	84%	81%	79%	90%
Trials De Novo Requested	6	8	28	62	558	642	4	3
Trials De Novo Request Rate	7%	5%	9%	16%	16%	19%	21%	10%

<sup>a</sup> First, Second, and Eighth Judicial District Courts have a \$50,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District has a \$25,000 maximum. Cases that qualify are automatically included in the program and parties have to request to be removed.  
Source: Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit

**Table 13. Summary of Short Trial Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2012-13.**

Court	Cases Stipulated		Cases Scheduled		Cases Dismissed <sup>a</sup>		Cases Settled		Short Trials Held	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
	<b>Second Judicial District</b>									
Washoe County District Court	7 <sup>r</sup>	4	72 <sup>r</sup>	39	27 <sup>r</sup>	9	4 <sup>r</sup>	11	24 <sup>r</sup>	17
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	20 <sup>r</sup>	14	512 <sup>r</sup>	453	490 <sup>b,r</sup>	443 <sup>b</sup>	(b)	(b)	125	117

<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publication.  
<sup>a</sup> Includes cases removed from the program.  
<sup>b</sup> Cases settled were included in cases reported as short trials dismissed.  
Source: Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit

## Justice Courts

The Justice Courts are limited jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload is restricted to particular types of cases or actions prescribed by the Nevada Revised Statutes. Justice Courts determine whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to be bound over to District Court for trial. They hear misdemeanor non-traffic cases as well as civil cases (amounts up to \$10,000), small claims (up to \$7,500), summary eviction cases, and requests for temporary protective orders (domestic violence or stalking and harassment). They also hear traffic matters, which are discussed in detail in a later section.

Justices of the Peace are elected to serve in the judicial townships in which they reside.

Many changes occurred related to Justice Courts during fiscal year 2013. Lund Justice Court closed in December, leaving only the Ely Justice Court serving White Pine County. Also, Justice Courts began reporting juvenile traffic matters in accordance to the USJR phase II format. Reno Justice Court added a judicial position, bringing the total judges in that court to six. Due to these changes, the number of Justice Courts decreased from 43 to 42, and are now served by 67 Justices of the Peace.

Nevada's Justices of the Peace may hear cases in other townships within their county or as visiting Justices of the Peace in neighboring counties under

special circumstances. Those judges who retire or resign and have been approved and commissioned as Senior Justices of the Peace by the Supreme Court may serve temporarily in any Justice Court in the State.

### Statistical Summary

Statewide, the number of non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases filed in fiscal year 2013 increased almost 4 percent from fiscal year 2012. Civil filings accounted for the increase; they increased by almost 7 percent in fiscal year 2013. Criminal filings remained relatively stable, decreasing by 292 cases (less than one-half of 1 percent). Dispositions increased statewide by more than 3 percent; civil dispositions increased by 9 percent and criminal dispositions decreased by 3 percent. The Justice Court case filing and summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14.

Over the past 5 years (see Table 4), civil filings represent 58 percent of all non-traffic filings in Justice Courts. In fiscal year 2013, civil filings were 60 percent of total non-traffic filings. As shown in Table 14, civil filings increased by almost 7 percent; 28 courts experienced increases while 15 courts had a decline. The only townships with populations more than 50,000 that had decreases were the Carson City (6 percent) and Reno Justice Courts (2 percent). The largest

percentage increases were from Jackpot (105 percent), Beatty (83 percent), Bunkerville (77 percent), Mesquite (57 percent), Eastline (49 percent), and Dayton (42 percent) Justice Courts.

Civil dispositions increased 9 percent. As expected, some of the courts with the largest percentage increase in filings also had the largest increases in dispositions: Jackpot (78 percent), Mesquite (62 percent), and Beatty (41 percent) Justice Courts. Virginia City (73 percent) and Pahrnagat Valley (54 percent) Justice Courts increased both filings and dispositions this year when compared to last year. Of special note, the Reno Justice Court, which is undergoing a case management conversion, had a 55 percent increase in civil dispositions despite a decrease in filings. This court's closure rate went from 55 percent in 2012 to 87 percent in 2013, largely owing to improved reporting capabilities.

Criminal case filings remained relatively constant in 2013. Criminal filings increased in 18 and decreased in 25 Justice Courts. As with the civil filings, most of the decreases came from townships with populations less than 50,000; the only exceptions were the Carson City (less than 1 percent) and Reno (13 percent) Justice Courts. Most of the increases were modest: Eureka (42 percent), Esmeralda (29 percent), Tonopah (25 percent), and Sparks (19 percent) Justice Courts had the largest increases in criminal case filings this year.

Criminal dispositions in the Justice Courts decreased 3 percent from fiscal year 2012. Almost half of the courts (21) had increased dispositions. Esmeralda Justice Court had the largest percentage increase, with 268 percent more dispositions (an increase of 59) this year from last year. Mesquite (90 percent), Sparks (62 percent), Moapa (44 percent), Virginia City (34 percent), East Fork (33 percent), and Boulder (28 percent) Justice Courts had the next largest increases. The largest percentage decreases came from Bunkerville (61 percent), Searchlight (53 percent), Austin (45 percent),



Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court, Alamo, Nevada

**Table 14. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2012-13. (See Table 17 for Traffic.)**

Court	Criminal Cases <sup>a</sup>				Civil Cases <sup>a</sup>			
	Filed		Disposed		Filed		Disposed	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>First Judicial District</b>								
Carson City								
Carson City Justice Court <sup>b</sup>	2,387	2,372	1,962	1,931	4,190	3,952	2,583 <sup>c</sup>	3,006 <sup>c</sup>
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	140	160	90	121	63	82	22	38
<b>Second Judicial District</b>								
Washoe County								
Incline Village Justice Court	403	203	361	264	197	208	148	191
Reno Justice Court	6,080 <sup>d</sup>	5,309 <sup>d</sup>	6,996	5,467	11,412	11,138	6,265	9,740
Sparks Justice Court	2,117 <sup>d</sup>	2,511	1,591	2,580	4,865	6,256	3,738	4,243
Wadsworth Justice Court	87	90	81	94	49	43	40	46
<b>Third Judicial District</b>								
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	462	456	502	459	970	990	1,000	914
Dayton Justice Court	374	360	422	358	806	1,146	814	1,008
Walker River Justice Court	454	480	477	482	576	747	584	701
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>								
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	112	78	106	87	120	132	108	107
Eastline Justice Court	114	76	109	65	87	130	70	97
Elko Justice Court	1,599	1,586	1,438	1,619	1,913	1,892	1,494	1,605
Jackpot Justice Court	112	84	156	110	19	39	18 <sup>f</sup>	32 <sup>f</sup>
Wells Justice Court	220 <sup>d</sup>	195 <sup>d</sup>	162	144	64	61	36	18
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>								
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	70	90	22	81	21	16	18	10
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	425	368	276	266	202	212	145 <sup>g</sup>	142 <sup>g</sup>
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	83	84	141	87	30	55	34	48
Pahrump Justice Court	1,888	1,623	1,614	1,909	1,092	1,039	925	845
Tonopah Justice Court	158	197	168	194	77	89	83	99
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>								
Humboldt County								
Union Justice Court	798	915	806	874	656	752	613	707
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	268	189	235	238 <sup>h</sup>	261	195	190	135
Austin Justice Court	53	28	49	27	12	6	10	7
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	330	341	229	160	254	276	151	98
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>								
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	45	19	21	16	21	10	1	1
Eureka Justice Court	52	74	62	56	26	10	28	12
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	99	98	97	88	52	53	49	52
Pahranaagat Valley Justice Court	139	92	121	86	19	20	13 <sup>g</sup>	20 <sup>g</sup>
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	340	333	267	285	324	280	305	328
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court <sup>j</sup>	3	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>								
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	95	110	88	113	368	354	294	280
Bunkerville Justice Court	59	32	49	19	13	23	6	7
Goodsprings Justice Court	400	408	362	405	417	576	380	495
Henderson Justice Court	2,640	2,699	2,480	2,628	7,796	8,508	6,361	5,853
Las Vegas Justice Court	49,500	50,115	49,895	46,612	66,879	70,860	60,430	64,246
Laughlin Justice Court	853	852	607	751	236	260	278 <sup>h</sup>	762 <sup>h</sup>
Mesquite Justice Court	127	139	49	93	214	336	165	268
Moapa Justice Court	87	92	81	117 <sup>h</sup>	12	15	20	7
Moapa Valley Justice Court	126	94	113	74	56	69	57	26
North Las Vegas Justice Court	2,903	3,117	2,929	3,341	6,396	7,354	5,675	5,808
Searchlight Justice Court	75	48	76	36	15	1	52 <sup>h</sup>	0
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>								
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	1,302	1,175	1,316	1,745	857	1,172	629	669
Tahoe Justice Court	867	937	765	939	123 <sup>f</sup>	147	98 <sup>f</sup>	133
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>								
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	895	820	807	808	1,011	1,048	985	833
<b>Total</b>	<b>79,341</b>	<b>79,049</b>	<b>78,181</b>	<b>75,829</b>	<b>112,772 <sup>f</sup></b>	<b>120,552</b>	<b>94,915 <sup>f</sup></b>	<b>103,637</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publications.  
<sup>a</sup> Case statistics include reopened cases.  
<sup>b</sup> Carson City Justice Court includes municipal court information.  
<sup>c</sup> Landlord tenant dispositions under-reported.  
<sup>d</sup> Reopen counts not reported.  
<sup>f</sup> Dispositions are final case closures.  
<sup>g</sup> Dispositions include both original disposition and final case closure information.  
<sup>h</sup> Includes administrative case closures.  
<sup>j</sup> Lund Justice Court closed December 2012.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Eastline (40 percent), and Beatty (38 percent) Justice Courts.

For fiscal year 2013, the median closure rate for all civil and criminal Justice Court cases was 92 percent (87 percent last year), with a total closure rate of 90 percent.

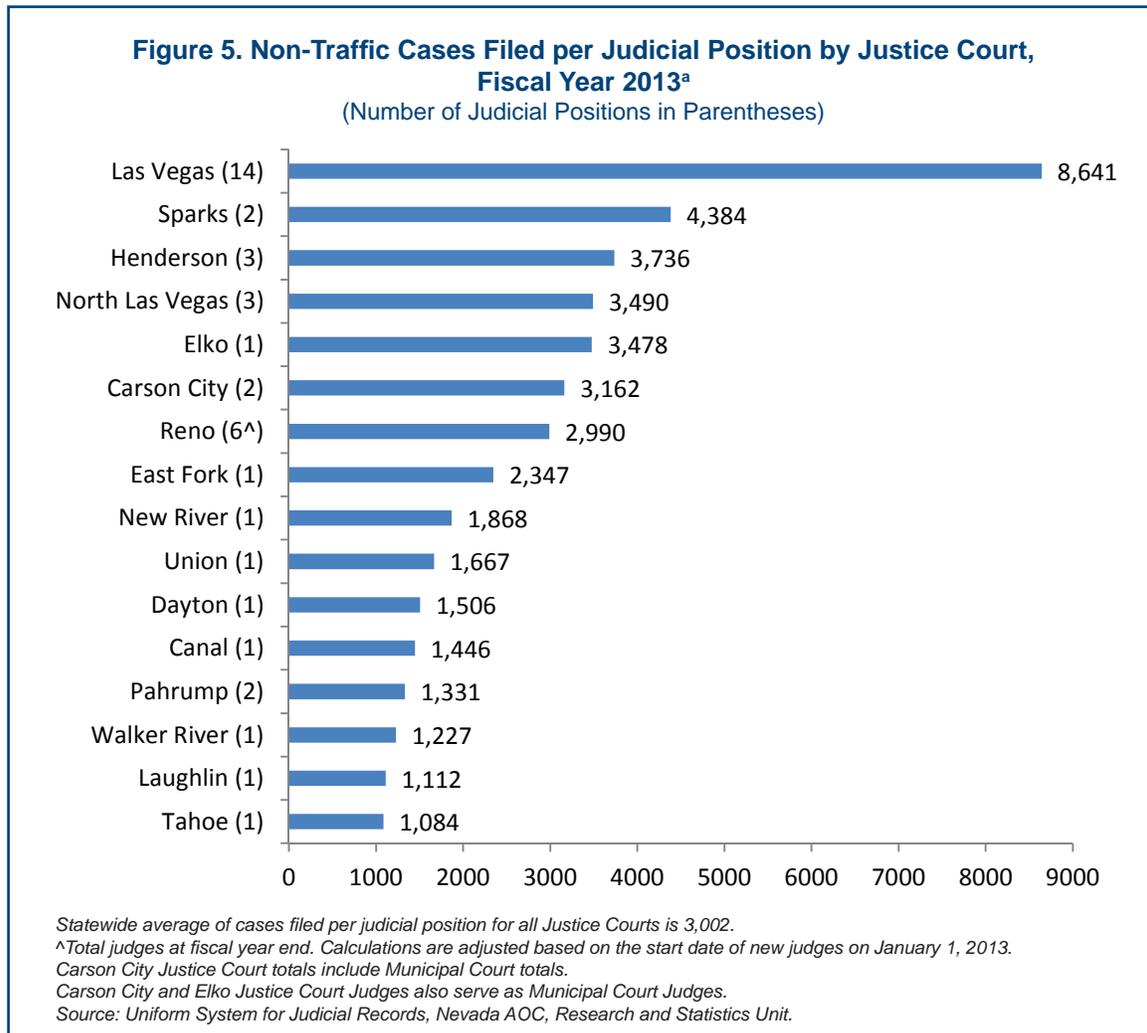
### Cases Per Judicial Position

Quantifying the Justice Court non-traffic cases per judicial position involves some unique considerations. For instance, many of the Justices of the Peace have part-time assignments. Because cases in Justice Courts tend to

be less complex than in District Courts, a Justice Court can handle a larger number of cases per judicial position. Traffic cases are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because traffic cases may be resolved by payment of fines without judicial involvement.

To simplify the presentation in Figure 5, only those Justice Courts with 1,000 or more non-traffic cases per judicial position are shown in the graphic; the remaining courts are listed in the footnote to Figure 5. The break at 1,000 was arbitrary. In Figure 5,

eight courts have more than 2,000 non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. The Las Vegas Justice Court has the largest filings per judicial positions with 8,641. The next greatest filings per judicial position were Sparks (4,384), Henderson (3,736), North Las Vegas (3,490), and Elko (3,478) Justice Courts. Reno Justice Court decreased the most this year from last year (3,498 to 2,990) due in large part to the new judicial position added this year. The statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 3,002, an increase from last fiscal year (2,868).



<sup>a</sup> Remaining Justice Courts and their non-traffic cases filed per judicial position (each court has one judicial position). Asterisk (\*) indicates judicial position as part-time. Asterisks (\*\*) indicates the judicial position also serves as a Municipal Court Judge.

Goodsprings Justice Court	984	Wells Justice Court**	256	Pahrangat Valley Justice Court*	112
Lake Justice Court	617	Virginia City Justice Court	242	Moapa Justice Court	107
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	613	Carlin Justice Court**	210	Esmeralda Justice Court	106
Hawthorne Justice Court	580	Eastline Justice Court**	206	Eureka Justice Court*	84
Mesquite Justice Court**	475	Moapa Valley Justice Court*	163	Bunkerville Justice Court*	55
Boulder Justice Court**	464	Meadow Valley Justice Court*	151	Searchlight Justice Court*	49
Incline Village Justice Court*	411	Beatty Justice Court	139	Austin Justice Court*	34
Argenta Justice Court	384	Wadsworth Justice Court*	133	Beowawe Justice Court*	29
Tonopah Justice Court	286	Jackpot Justice Court*	123	Lund (No. 2) Justice Court*	0



ESMERALDA JUSTICE COURT, GOLDFIELD, NEVADA

### Judicial Assistance

As Figure 5 shows, urban Justice Courts have significantly higher caseloads per judge than those in rural Nevada. To address these higher caseloads, urban Justice Courts may hire special masters to provide assistance and address the specific needs of the court. These special master positions, which are deemed quasi-judicial, assist in the adjudication process, but are not elected officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Three Justice Courts reported receiving assistance from quasi-judicial positions. Carson City Justice Court reported 0.20 FTE in a quasi-judicial position that helped with small claims cases. Sparks Justice Court reported 0.40 FTE to assist with the court's calendar. Las Vegas Justice Court reported 1.39 FTE in quasi-judicial positions for a small claims master (0.34 FTE) and traffic referees (1.05 FTE). Quasi-judicial officers, such as small claims referees, make recommendations or judgments that are subject to review and confirmation by sitting Justices of the Peace; the traffic referees in the Las Vegas Justice Court only handle traffic matters, and their decisions are final unless appealed.

## Municipal Courts

Municipal Courts are courts of limited jurisdiction that hear matters involving violation of city ordinances. Their jurisdiction includes non-traffic misdemeanors, traffic violations, and in some cities, parking. NRS 5.050 provides limited jurisdiction for Municipal Courts to hear civil matters (e.g., occasionally municipalities may seek collection through the courts of unpaid utility bills).

Most Municipal Court Judges are elected and serve within the municipality in which they reside; however, some are appointed by their city council or mayor, as in Caliente, Ely, Fallon, Fernley, Mesquite, and Yerington. Nevada has 17 Municipal Courts overseen by 30 Municipal Court Judges.

### Statistical Summary

The Municipal Court non-traffic caseload information (filings and dispositions) for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 15. No civil filings were reported by Municipal Courts in the past 2 years. Statewide, Municipal Court non-traffic filings in fiscal year 2013 decreased more than 2 percent from last fiscal year.

Non-traffic filings can vary greatly year to year due to population changes, events (e.g., Burning Man, Elko Motorcycle Jamboree), major construction projects (e.g., Hoover Dam Bypass Project), and changes in the number of law enforcement personnel patrolling the jurisdiction. Courts with smaller caseloads can vary greatly year to year, leading to large percentage changes even though counts remain relatively close.

This year, Carlin Municipal Court had the greatest increase in non-traffic filings with 114 percent more filings than last year. However, this year's filings were almost 17 percent less than 2 years ago. The Municipal Courts in Lyon County had the next largest increases. Yerington and Fernley Municipal Courts' non-traffic filings increased by 21 percent and 17 percent, respectively. Elko Municipal Court, the only other court that had a double-digit increase this year, increased 13 percent from last

year. Overall, nine Municipal Courts had increases in non-traffic filings in 2013.

Non-traffic filings decreased in seven Municipal Courts in 2013. Caliente (62 percent), North Las Vegas (18 percent), and Fallon (8 percent) Municipal Courts had the largest decreases. Of the four remaining courts, each decreased less than 4 percent.

As with the Justice Courts, the majority of cases heard in Municipal Courts are misdemeanor traffic matters. This year the traffic caseload was more than three times the non-traffic caseload. Traffic matters are analyzed in the next section to allow for separate comparisons.

Statewide, non-traffic Municipal Court dispositions increased almost 1 percent from last fiscal year. Some of this increase came from a continuing concerted effort by the Las Vegas Municipal Court to close out old cases. While administrative closures occur regularly at most courts, the Las Vegas Municipal Court represents 63 percent of all Municipal Court non-traffic dispositions this year. Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Reno Municipal Courts had the next largest percentage of reported dispositions, with each having more than 9 percent of the statewide non-traffic dispositions.

The statewide median closure rate for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2013 was 90 percent, with a total closure rate of 109 percent.

### Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2013 is shown in Figure 6. In the Municipal Courts, traffic cases are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because cases may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement, thus, excluding them provides a more equal comparison between courts.

Las Vegas and North Las Vegas Municipal Courts continue to have the most non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas (4,710) and North Las Vegas (3,469) were followed by Reno (1,807), Henderson (1,804), and

Sparks (992). The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,883, which is a decrease from the previous fiscal year (1,934). The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in Figure 5 and Table 14 with Justice Courts.

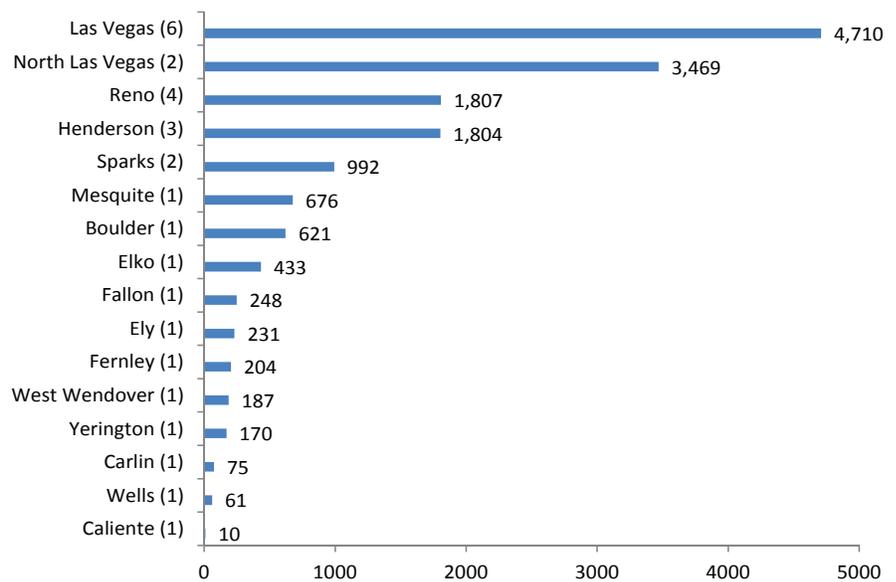
### Judicial Assistance

Some Municipal Courts in the urban areas of the state use special masters who provide quasi-judicial assistance. Since 2001, the AOC and the courts have been quantifying the quasi-judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

For fiscal year 2013, the Las Vegas Municipal Court was the only Municipal

**Figure 6. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Municipal Court, Fiscal Year 2013**

(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,883.  
 Carson City Justice Court judicial positions are noted in the municipal jurisdiction as a consolidated municipality but are not included in per judicial position calculations.  
 Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

**Table 15. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2012-13. (See Table 18 for Traffic.)**

Court	Non-traffic Misdemeanors Cases <sup>a</sup>				Civil Cases <sup>a,b</sup>			
	Filed		Disposed		Filed		Disposed	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>First Judicial District</b>								
Carson City Municipal Court	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
<b>Second Judicial District</b>								
Reno Municipal Court	7,446	7,228	6,281	5,239	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Sparks Municipal Court	2,010	1,984	2,725	2,580	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
<b>Third Judicial District</b>								
Fernley Municipal Court	175	204	155	197	NR	NR	NR	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	140	170	129	178 <sup>f</sup>	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>								
Carlin Municipal Court	35	75	34	79	NR	NR	NR	NR
Elko Municipal Court	384	433	407	416	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wells Municipal Court	56 <sup>g</sup>	61 <sup>g</sup>	50	22	NR	NR	NR	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	171	187	128	123	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>								
Caliente Municipal Court	26	10	16	3	0	NR	0	NR
Ely Municipal Court	240	231 <sup>g</sup>	209 <sup>h,r</sup>	192 <sup>j</sup>	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>								
Boulder Municipal Court	629	621	541	606	NR	NR	NR	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	5,335	5,411	5,495	5,235	NR	NR	NR	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court	28,155 <sup>g</sup>	28,259 <sup>k</sup>	34,124 <sup>m</sup>	36,232 <sup>m</sup>	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Mesquite Municipal Court	625	676	573	549	NR	NR	NR	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	8,451	6,938	5,775	5,481	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>								
Fallon Municipal Court	269	248	218	173	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,147</b>	<b>52,736</b>	<b>56,860 <sup>r</sup></b>	<b>57,305</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

NR Not reported.  
<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publications.  
<sup>a</sup> Case statistics include reopened counts.  
<sup>b</sup> Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.  
<sup>c</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table 14) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.  
<sup>d</sup> Cases are handled administratively by the city.  
<sup>f</sup> For the months preceding January 2013, dispositions were reported on the charge level. Footnote (j) applies for dispositions for these months.  
<sup>g</sup> Reopen counts not reported.  
<sup>h</sup> In FY 2012, the court reported on the charge level. Due to methodology utilized in subsequent years, court reported numbers have been normalized by the Nevada court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made on this table. The "r" footnote may be utilized to reflect this normalization.  
<sup>j</sup> Court reported non-traffic misdemeanor numbers by charges so total charges were divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.  
<sup>k</sup> Reopen counts under-reported.  
<sup>m</sup> Includes administrative case closures.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Court that reported a quasi-judicial position with 1.00 FTE for a traffic hearing commissioner who helped process traffic cases.

## Traffic Violations

Traffic violations comprise a substantial portion (58 percent) of the judicial caseload. Much of the funding of the Nevada Judiciary is made possible through the administrative assessments statutorily required to be added to misdemeanor criminal and traffic fines. Since traffic violations represent a large portion of the judicial caseload, declines in filings and dispositions usually represent a corresponding drop in revenue for the Nevada Judiciary as well as other state and local governments.

Traffic violations are handled at all three jurisdictional levels (District, Justice, and Municipal) of the Nevada trial courts. In early annual reports, traffic cases were reported as charges filed. In fiscal year 2010, traffic cases were reported by defendant rather than by charge. This change in the level of measurement was made to create a uniform standard of measurement for all case types. This year, charge information has been omitted from Tables 16-18; however, charge information can still be found in the appendix tables posted on the Nevada Supreme Court website ([www.nevadajudiciary.us](http://www.nevadajudiciary.us)) in the Administrative Office of the Courts documents area.

Traffic cases statewide decreased 6 percent; this is the fourth consecutive year filings have decreased. Several courts stated their decrease was related to law enforcement positions in their jurisdictional areas that were reallocated or left vacant.

In addition to their non-traffic caseloads, District Courts may also hear juvenile traffic cases. Similarly, Justice and Municipal Courts have jurisdiction over adult traffic and parking cases but some Justice and Municipal Courts also hear juvenile traffic matters. In these Justice and Municipal Courts, juvenile traffic matters are included in the respective total traffic case filings.

A few jurisdictions do not hear parking tickets. Instead, they are handled administratively through local government (executive branch).

## District Court Summary

At the District Court level, Juvenile Masters or District Court Judges handle juvenile traffic cases, which may be counted at the District or Justice Court level. The cases are listed in the respective District or Justice Court tables.

District Court juvenile traffic filing and disposition information for the last two fiscal years is in Table 16. Traffic filings decreased about 34 percent from last year. This decrease is due in large part to the restructuring in Clark County, which in the last part of fiscal year 2012 had all juvenile traffic citations filed in the Justice Courts. This filing practice is similar to the District Courts in the Seventh Judicial District (Eureka, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties).

In fiscal year 2013, the District Courts had 2,917 total traffic filings. Although, seven courts increased or

maintained the same amount of filings from the year before, only two courts increased by more than two cases. Nye County increased by 11 cases and Churchill County increased by 6 cases. Six courts saw decreased filings this year. Humboldt County had the largest decrease at 83 percent, which was largely due to reporting issues this year. Douglas County reported 27 percent fewer filings this year as well. Washoe County, which reported the most juvenile traffic cases, decreased by 19 percent.

Dispositions for juvenile traffic cases at the District Courts decreased 12 percent this year due in large part to restructuring in Clark County as previously discussed. Washoe County, in a major effort of updating their case management system, was able for the first time to report juvenile traffic dispositions for part of the year. The District Court traffic closure rate, the number of dispositions divided by the number of filings, was 80 percent for fiscal year 2013.

**Table 16. Summary of Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed in District Court, Fiscal Years 2012-13.**

Court	Juvenile Traffic Cases <sup>a</sup>			
	Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>First Judicial District</b>				
Carson City District Court	381	328 <sup>b</sup>	507	450
Storey County District Court	5	5 <sup>b</sup>	8	6
<b>Second Judicial District</b>				
Washoe County District Court	1,802	1,457	NR	741 <sup>c,i</sup>
<b>Third Judicial District</b>				
Lyon County District Court	226	200	272	176
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>				
Elko County District Court	505	476	479	518
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>				
Esmeralda County District Court	0	2	0	5
Mineral County District Court	0	0	0	0
Nye County District Court	40	51	10	21
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>				
Humboldt County District Court	52	9 <sup>i</sup>	54	7 <sup>i</sup>
Lander County District Court	53	54	71	61
Pershing County District Court	17	18	9	19
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>				
Eureka County District Court	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Lincoln County District Court	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
White Pine County District Court	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>				
Clark County District Court	933 <sup>f</sup>	(d)	822	(d)
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>				
Douglas County District Court	241 <sup>r</sup>	175 <sup>b</sup>	232 <sup>r</sup>	197
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>				
Churchill County District Court	136	142	195	134
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,391 <sup>r</sup></b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>2,659 <sup>r</sup></b>	<b>2,335</b>

NR Not reported.

<sup>i</sup> Incomplete.

<sup>a</sup> Case statistics include reopened cases.

<sup>b</sup> Reopen counts not reported.

<sup>c</sup> Disposition reporting began January 2013.

<sup>d</sup> Juvenile traffic violations handled and reported by Justice Courts.

<sup>f</sup> Clark County justice courts started handling all juvenile traffic cases after February 2012.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

## Justice Court Summary

In the Justice Courts, the traffic caseload represents almost 64 percent of all traffic cases filed. Parking violations are included in the Justice Court traffic numbers. The last 2 years of traffic filing and disposition information for Justice Courts is summarized in Table 17.

Statewide, Justice Court traffic cases decreased almost 5 percent. Of the 43 Justice Courts, 14 courts had increased filings from the year prior. For instance, Eureka and Eastline Justice Courts both increased 47 and 39 percent, respectively. All the courts in Nye County (Beatty, Pahrump, and Tonopah Justice Courts) increased as well. Beatty Justice Court increased 80 percent, which was the highest percentage traffic filing increase in the Justice Courts this year. This increase is occurring after a large decrease last year, with this year's filings being 3 percent less than 2 years ago.

For most Justice Courts, however, traffic filings decreased from fiscal year 2012. There were 28 courts that had decreases in traffic filings this year. Lund Justice Court, which closed in December 2012, showed the largest decrease due to its closure; however, Meadow Valley, Austin, Moapa, and Jackpot Justice Courts had the next largest decreases of 42, 38, 36, and 33 percent, respectively.

Las Vegas Justice Court, which covers the most populous township in the state, continues to have the highest traffic caseload with 57 percent of the statewide total. Reno (8 percent), Goodsprings (4 percent), Carson City (3 percent), and Sparks (3 percent) Justice Courts had the next highest shares of the Justice Court traffic caseload.

Statewide, traffic dispositions closely matched the traffic filing trends. Traffic dispositions at the Justice Courts decreased more than 4 percent from fiscal year 2012. The disposition information for Justice Court traffic and parking violations is provided in Table 17. The overall Justice Court traffic closure rate, or the number of dispositions divided by the number of filings, was 98 percent for fiscal year 2013.

**Table 17. Summary of Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2012-13.**

Court	Traffic and Parking Cases <sup>a</sup>			
	Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>First Judicial District</b>				
Carson City				
Carson City Justice Court <sup>b</sup>	13,783	12,417	13,548	12,239
Storey County				
Virginia City Justice Court	929	831	813	767
<b>Second Judicial District</b>				
Washoe County				
Incline Village Justice Court	3,423	2,496	3,472	2,466
Reno Justice Court <sup>c,d</sup>	28,561	27,417	23,376 <sup>f</sup>	27,478
Sparks Justice Court	8,206 <sup>c</sup>	9,399	6,962 <sup>g</sup>	9,539
Wadsworth Justice Court	2,875	2,566	2,886	2,655
<b>Third Judicial District</b>				
Lyon County				
Canal Justice Court	2,912	2,204	2,758	2,411
Dayton Justice Court	3,269	3,155	3,522	3,147
Walker River Justice Court	1,334	1,507	1,240	1,768
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>				
Elko County				
Carlin Justice Court	360	390	331	363
Eastline Justice Court	785	1,090	717	939
Elko Justice Court	5,585	6,377	5,305	6,247
Jackpot Justice Court	2,002	1,344	2,028	2,058 <sup>h</sup>
Wells Justice Court <sup>c</sup>	3,962	4,377	4,883	4,367
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>				
Esmeralda County				
Esmeralda Justice Court	3,251	2,613	3,061	2,551
Mineral County				
Hawthorne Justice Court	4,886	3,661	4,462	3,379
Nye County				
Beatty Justice Court	1,566	2,818	1,929 <sup>h</sup>	2,591
Pahrump Justice Court	2,794	3,155	2,522	2,720
Tonopah Justice Court	1,497	1,927	1,594	1,819
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>				
Humboldt County				
Union Justice Court	4,304	4,175	4,313	3,912
Lander County				
Argenta Justice Court	2,478	2,430	2,424	2,513
Austin Justice Court	690	431	707	439
Pershing County				
Lake Justice Court	1,386	1,257	1,141	849
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>				
Eureka County				
Beowawe Justice Court	576	490	591	391
Eureka Justice Court	713	1,051	765	1,020
Lincoln County				
Meadow Valley Justice Court	940	546	994	759 <sup>h</sup>
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court	2,653	1,912	2,747	1,820
White Pine County				
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	2,798	2,277	2,552	2,477
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court <sup>i</sup>	183	12	201	28
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>				
Clark County				
Boulder Justice Court	825	864	746	856
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,846	1,421	2,177	1,311
Goodsprings Justice Court	13,838	14,652	11,830	12,673
Henderson Justice Court	5,378	4,875	5,805	4,885
Las Vegas Justice Court	208,972	202,940	208,865 <sup>k</sup>	198,186
Laughlin Justice Court	7,060	5,583	6,678	5,315
Mesquite Justice Court	0	0	0	0
Moapa Justice Court	1,861	1,194	2,188	1,360 <sup>h</sup>
Moapa Valley Justice Court	383	431	406	431
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,536	1,182	1,536	1,105
Searchlight Justice Court	2,593	2,777	2,677	2,334
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>				
Douglas County				
East Fork Justice Court	7,440	5,324	7,114	5,187
Tahoe Justice Court	3,299	2,744	3,078	2,436
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>				
Churchill County				
New River Justice Court	6,547	4,661	5,905	4,427
<b>Total</b>	<b>370,279</b>	<b>352,973</b>	<b>360,849</b>	<b>344,218</b>

<sup>a</sup> Case and charge information include juvenile traffic (appendix table A9) and reopened cases.

<sup>b</sup> Carson City Justice Court includes municipal court information.

<sup>c</sup> Reopened counts not reported.

<sup>d</sup> Parking cases handled administratively by the city.

<sup>f</sup> Traffic and parking dispositions reported by charges so total disposed was divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made at the case level.

<sup>g</sup> Traffic and parking dispositions reported by charges during July 2011 through February 2012; footnote (f) applies for these months.

<sup>h</sup> Includes administrative closures.

<sup>i</sup> Lund Justice Court closed December 2012.

<sup>k</sup> An administrative closure of 66,406 old cases resulted in a disposition total of 275,721 cases. Because many of these dispositions are unrelated to the filings for the fiscal year, and in an effort to more accurately reflect actual dispositions of active cases, these administrative closures were not included in total dispositions but are provided in this footnote for general information.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

## Municipal Court Summary

In the Municipal Courts, the number of traffic cases has decreased 8 percent from fiscal year 2012. Municipal filing and disposition information is contained in Table 18.

Only six Municipal Courts had increased traffic filings this year. Wells Municipal Court in Elko County increased 167 percent from last year. Two other Elko County courts also had large increases: Carlin (15 percent) and Elko (14 percent) Municipal Courts. Fallon Municipal Court increased 48 percent from last year. Sparks and Ely Municipal Courts had modest increases as well.

The largest decreases in filings for the past year were at the Boulder City (50 percent) and Fernley (48 percent) Municipal Courts. Last year the Boulder City Municipal Court reached a historical high for filings due in large part to the completion of the Boulder Dam Bridge Bypass Project that allowed for increased vehicle traffic through Boulder City. Fernley Municipal Court's decrease was due in part to business changes in capturing traffic case information; however, the court did note that there were fewer filings this year as well. Five other Municipal Courts saw double digit decreases this year: Mesquite (40 percent), Caliente (32 percent), West Wendover (19 percent), Henderson (13 percent), and Yerington (13 percent).

Dispositions followed the filing trend, and declined almost 7 percent from last year. The disposition information for Municipal Court traffic and parking violations is provided in Table 18. The overall Municipal Court traffic closure rate was 101 percent for fiscal year 2013.

## Judicial Assistance

Special masters assisted in traffic dispositions in the Las Vegas Justice and Municipal Courts. Specifically, Las Vegas Justice Court reported 1.05 FTE in help from a traffic referee, while the Las Vegas Municipal Court reported 1.00 FTE for the traffic hearing commissioner in their court.

**Table 18. Summary of Municipal Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2012-13.**

Court	Traffic and Parking Cases <sup>a,b</sup>			
	Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2012	FY 2013
<b>First Judicial District</b>				
Carson City Municipal Court	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
<b>Second Judicial District</b>				
Reno Municipal Court	15,960	14,442	15,568	12,426
Sparks Municipal Court	4,945	5,050	5,308	5,450
<b>Third Judicial District</b>				
Fernley Municipal Court	978 <sup>d</sup>	510 <sup>d</sup>	1,145	484
Yerington Municipal Court	78	68	131	71 <sup>f</sup>
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>				
Carlin Municipal Court	78	90	74	83
Elko Municipal Court	766	871	761	876
Wells Municipal Court	100 <sup>g</sup>	267 <sup>g</sup>	139	213
West Wendover Municipal Court	752	612	687	495
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>				
Caliente Municipal Court	149	102	155	83
Ely Municipal Court	480	488 <sup>g</sup>	394 <sup>h,r</sup>	468 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>				
Boulder Municipal Court	6,323	3,156	5,856	3,273
Henderson Municipal Court	25,933	22,493	26,372	23,342
Las Vegas Municipal Court	90,498 <sup>g</sup>	85,994 <sup>k</sup>	98,678	92,931 <sup>m</sup>
Mesquite Municipal Court	2,652	1,595	2,252	1,656
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	34,845	33,368	26,467	29,653
<b>Tenth Judicial District</b>				
Fallon Municipal Court	509	751	470	616
<b>Total</b>	<b>185,046</b>	<b>169,857</b>	<b>184,457 <sup>r</sup></b>	<b>172,120</b>

<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publications.

<sup>a</sup> Case information include juvenile traffic statistics (see appendix table A9).

<sup>b</sup> Case statistics include reopened cases.

<sup>c</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table 17) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

<sup>d</sup> Decrease due in part to better case tracking.

<sup>f</sup> For the months preceding January 2013, dispositions were reported on the charge level.

Footnote (h) applies for dispositions for these months.

<sup>g</sup> Reopen counts not reported.

<sup>h</sup> In FY 2012, the court reported on the charge level. Due to methodology utilized in subsequent years, court reported numbers have been normalized by the Nevada court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made on this table. The "r" footnote may be utilized to reflect this normalization.

<sup>i</sup> Court reported by charges so total charges were divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

<sup>k</sup> Reopen counts under-reported.

<sup>m</sup> Includes administrative case closures.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.



ELKO COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE, ELKO, NEVADA

## Specialty Courts

Fiscal year 2013 marked the 20th anniversary of Nevada's first drug court. The benefits of Specialty Courts are now available to everyone in every county in Nevada, and at every court level, to both misdemeanor and felony offenders. Specialty Courts save taxpayer dollars by cutting prosecution costs and the need for more jail and prison beds. They provide a mechanism for the drug and alcohol dependent to regain their footing, reunite with their families, and rejoin society as productive members of their communities.

### Program Overview

Information in this section covers those Specialty Court programs funded during fiscal year 2013 from administrative assessments and other revenue sources authorized by NRS 176.0613, 176.059, and 178.518. Not all Nevada programs may be represented in this report, as courts may have a Specialty Court program for which they do not receive funding from NRS 176.0613, 176.059, and 178.518.

Specialty Courts use problem-solving processes designed to address the root causes of some criminal activity. Some of the most prominent types of Specialty Courts are Drug, Mental Health, and DUI. Specialty Courts may also further specialize to address the needs of the adult, family, or juvenile directly affected by these issues.

In addition to the benefits provided to the defendants, Specialty Courts benefit the counties and taxpayers by reducing the prison population and decreasing recidivism rates. Also, without this intervention, many or all of the babies born to participants would have likely been born with drugs in their systems and suffered associated drug-related developmental problems, requiring taxpayer-funded treatment and services.

Although Nevada operates many types of Specialty Courts, the Drug Court is the most established and widely known. Nevada is a pioneer in the development of Drug Courts as an alternative way of helping criminal



20th Anniversary Celebration of Nevada's First Specialty Court, Las Vegas, Nevada

defendants become productive members of society. Drug Courts are highly effective in participant rehabilitation.

Nevada has Drug Courts at all three court levels. The Criminal Adult Drug Court is the most common. Participants involved in the justice system may enroll in the program as part of their sentence, or as a diversion from a criminal conviction upon successful completion. Family, Dependency, and Child Support Drug Courts all deal with domestic situations aggravated by the use of illicit drugs. Juvenile Drug Courts treat youth offenders whose drug use led to juvenile delinquency.

The development of Mental Health Courts emerged as a result of the success of the Drug Court Model. Large percentages of people in jail or prison have mental health disorders. Nationally, the crisis in mental health care may be traced to the long-term effects of the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and the lack of a corresponding increase in community-based mental health care.

Mental Health Court is designed to identify the chronically and severely mentally ill who are being repeatedly incarcerated and to divert them into treatment instead of incarceration. Mental Health Courts benefit from a significant, multi-agency effort that has created coordinated systems of care and the environment necessary for success. As with Drug Courts, treating the underlying mental illness increases

an offender's chances of successful rehabilitation.

Felony DUI Courts are designed to eradicate alcohol-impaired driving and save lives. Every day, almost 30 people in the United States die in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver. This amounts to one death every 48 minutes. During 2010, drunk driving deaths involved drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.15 or higher. The most frequently recorded BAC among drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes was 0.18 BAC.

Veteran Treatment Courts are fairly new to Nevada. They were established pursuant to NRS 176A.250 through 176A.265 in July 2009. Veterans Treatment Courts are responsible for Veterans who appear before the courts for charges relating to substance abuse or mental illness. After discharge from the service, some Veterans return to their communities with health problems that interfere with responsible social functioning. If they are not properly treated, these health problems lead to unemployment, homelessness, and repeated involvement in the justice system. Drug and Mental Health Courts have always served this population; however, research has shown that traditional services do not always meet the needs of Veterans. Most Veterans are entitled to Veterans benefits and the Veterans Treatment Courts help connect them with the available benefits.

## Funding

Specialty Courts obtain funding from a variety of sources, including administrative assessments under NRS 176.0613, local governments, federal grants, and community support. Many of the programs became operational through State General Funds, federal grants, and city or county support. In those jurisdictions where federal grants expired, innovative ways to replace the funds have been created through collaborative efforts with local governments or providers. Not all jurisdictions have been successful in finding the funds to meet program needs.

All Specialty Court participants are charged a program fee. The fee amount, how it is collected, and how it is distributed varies from program to program. Some courts collect the fee to offset treatment and other operational costs. In some rural areas, the treatment provider collects and retains the fee.

Funds appropriated in fiscal year 2013 totaled \$5,412,716. In addition to this amount, \$2,930,639 was carried forward from the previous fiscal year. The balance brought forward is critical as this provides the first quarterly distribution for the following fiscal year. Table 19 presents the amount of revenue generated and how funds were allocated for fiscal year 2013.

In fiscal year 2013, funding was authorized for 44 programs by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada

on recommendations of the Specialty Court Funding Committee. All Specialty Court programs receive quarterly distributions (July, October, January, and April). Table 20 represents the carry-forward balance from fiscal year 2012, actual amount distributed, and program allocation that was approved by the Specialty Court Funding Committee and authorized by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada for fiscal year 2013. The carry-forward balance from fiscal year 2012 column is the amount the program reported as unspent. This amount is deducted from the following years' approved allocation. The amount approved is the actual amount the program has been authorized to spend.

## Program Statistics

In fiscal year 2013, the Specialty Court programs continued their effective supervision and rehabilitation of program participants. The Specialty Court programs noted in Table 21 served 2,780 defendants, with 1,368 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 76 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

The Western Region is comprised of the Western Regional Drug Court, First Judicial District Juvenile Drug Court, and the Carson City Mental Health and Felony DUI programs.

The Western Regional Drug Court programs began in fiscal year 2002, and encompasses courts within the First,

Third, Fifth, Ninth, and Tenth Judicial Districts. The adult-only program includes cases from Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, and Storey Counties.

A unique element of each Regional Drug Court is that the presiding judge must travel to hear the cases of all participating judicial districts. Individual counties within the Western Regional Drug Court program may also have a Juvenile Drug Court.

The Carson City Mental Health Court handles misdemeanor cases as well as any felony cases transferred from the First Judicial District Court. Their first Mental Health Court hearing occurred in March 2005.

The Carson City Felony DUI Court is specifically designed to handle repeat offenders who drive under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or both. Individuals in this program have no fewer than three DUI offenses.

The Western Region programs noted in Table 21 served 251 defendants, with 121 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 12 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

The Second Judicial District Court operates a Mental Health Court, Adult Drug Court, Diversion Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Prison Re-Entry Drug Court, Felony DUI Court, Veterans Treatment Court, Family Drug Court, and a Family Mental Health Court. The Second Judicial District began its

**Table 19. Summary of Specialty Courts Revenue and Allocations for Fiscal Year 2013**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Balance Forward from Previous Fiscal Year	\$2,930,639
Administrative Assessments NRS 176.0613	\$3,659,787
Bail Forfeitures NRS 178.518	\$118,765
Court Assessment NRS 176.059	\$1,634,164
<b>Total Revenue Received</b>	<b>\$8,343,355</b>
<b>Allocations</b>	
Total Specialty Court Program	\$5,632,270
Training and Education <sup>1</sup>	\$50,000
<b>Total Allocations</b>	<b>\$5,682,270</b>
<b>Balance Forward to the Next Fiscal Year<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>\$2,661,085</b>

<sup>1</sup> Training and education funds are retained by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Programs may have eligible employees apply to attend national and/or other trainings that relate to the program. Funds that are not expended each year are carried forward to the following fiscal year.

<sup>2</sup> Balance forward is projected and is required to fund the first quarterly distribution of the following fiscal year.

**Table 20. Summary of Specialty Court Program Distributions, Fiscal Year 2013**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2012 Carry Forward</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2013 Distributed</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2013 Approved</b>
<i>Programs of General Jurisdiction</i>			
<b>Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)</b>			
Second Judicial District (Includes Diversion Program)	\$0	\$705,955	\$705,955
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$1,641,194	\$1,641,194
<b>Adult Drug Courts (Rural Counties)</b>			
Western Region (5 Programs - Carson City/Storey, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, & Mineral Counties)	\$0	\$421,120	\$421,120
Fourth Judicial District	\$0	\$118,607	\$118,607
Fifth Judicial District	\$0	\$105,827	\$105,827
Sixth Judicial District (Humboldt County)	\$0	\$52,020	\$52,020
Sixth Judicial District (Pershing County)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sixth Judicial District (Lander County)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Seventh Judicial District	\$0	\$54,286	\$54,286
<b>Family Drug Court (Urban Counties)</b>			
Second Judicial District	\$0	\$72,996	\$72,996
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$312,011	\$312,011
<b>Felony DUI Courts (Urban Counties)</b>			
Second Judicial District	\$0	\$83,982	\$83,982
Eighth Judicial District	\$13,258	\$174,642	\$187,900
<b>Felony DUI Courts (Rural Counties)</b>			
Carson City	\$0	\$29,414	\$29,414
<b>Juvenile Drug Courts (Urban Counties)</b>			
Second Judicial District (Drug/Mental Health)	\$0	\$46,300	\$46,300
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$250,311	\$250,311
<b>Juvenile Drug Courts (Rural Counties)</b>			
First Judicial District	\$3,333	\$7,697	\$11,030
Fourth Judicial District	\$0	\$54,220	\$54,220
Fifth Judicial District	\$0	\$4,975	\$4,975
Seventh Judicial District	\$1,843	\$13,887	\$15,730
<b>Mental Health Courts (Urban Counties)</b>			
Second Judicial District	\$0	\$387,002	\$387,002
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$18,306	\$18,306
<b>Veteran Treatment Court (Urban Counties)</b>			
Second Judicial District	\$0	\$86,289	\$86,289
<b>Other Drug Courts (Urban Counties)</b>			
Eighth Judicial District Child Support	\$1,388	\$44,424	\$45,812
Eighth Judicial District Dependency Mothers	\$0	\$103,090	\$103,090
<i>Programs of Limited Jurisdiction</i>			
<b>Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)</b>			
Las Vegas Justice Court	\$0	\$232,424	\$232,424
Las Vegas Municipal Drug Court	\$7,606	\$47,280	\$54,886
<b>Mental Health Courts (Rural Counties)</b>			
Carson City Justice/Municipal Court	\$7,586	\$53,680	\$61,266
<b>Other Programs (Urban Counties)</b>			
Henderson Municipal Court ABC Program	\$1,129	\$27,686	\$28,815
Las Vegas Justice DUI Court (2 Programs)	\$0	\$61,110	\$61,110
Las Vegas Municipal DUI Court	\$0	\$74,100	\$74,100
Las Vegas Municipal Women in Need	\$12,899	\$26,000	\$38,899
Las Vegas Municipal HOPE Court	\$0	\$114,866	\$114,866
North Las Vegas Municipal Alcohol & Other Drug Court	\$12,775	\$21,788	\$34,563
Reno Justice Adult Drug, Alcohol, & DV Court	\$50,657	\$81,296	\$131,953
Reno Municipal Alcohol & Other Drug Court (2 Programs)	\$0	\$83,564	\$83,564
Sparks Municipal Alcohol & Drug Court	\$2,965	\$19,921	\$22,886
<b>TOTAL SPECIALTY COURT DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$115,439</b>	<b>\$5,632,270</b>	<b>\$5,747,709</b>

**Table 21. Summary of Specialty Court Information, Fiscal Year 2013.**

Jurisdiction	Court Type	New Participants Admissions <sup>1</sup>	Terminations <sup>2</sup>	Graduates	Active Cases At Year End	Drug Free Babies Born
<b>Western Region</b>						
Western Regional Drug Court	Adult Drug (5 programs)	183	99	85	186	8
Carson City & Storey County	Juvenile Drug	9	0	7	13	2
Carson City	Felony DUI Court	17	7	19	46	2
Carson City Justice	Mental Health	42	22	10	45	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Washoe Region</b>						
Second Judicial District	Adult Drug (Includes Diversion Program)	422	212	154	572	13
	Family Drug	32	11	16	30	4
	Family Mental Health Court	9	6	1	7	2
	Felony DUI	51	15	56	164	0
	Juvenile Drug	49	34	15	23	6
	Mental Health	205	75	124	222	0
	Prison Re-entry	11	3	3	9	0
	Veterans Court	56	10	28	60	2
Reno Justice	Alcohol & Drug Court	135	161	23	181	0
Sparks Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court	16	17	30	72	NR
Reno Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court (2 Programs)	142	44	121	127	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,128</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>1,467</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Eastern Region</b>						
Elko County	Adult Drug	22	11	19	44	6
	Juvenile Drug	34	14	16	19	2
White Pine County	Adult Drug	17	12	9	14	0
	Juvenile Drug	0	1	4	0	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>						
Nye County	Adult Drug	68	55	35	46	3
	Juvenile Drug	4	6	0	3	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Central Region</b>						
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	59	24	12	79	1
Lander County	Adult Drug	3	3	2	1	NR
Pershing County	Adult Drug	16	5	2	22	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Clark Region</b>						
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	350	199	179	298	20
	Child Support Drug	13	2	2	17	0
	Dependency/Family Drug	76	43	35	42	2
	Dependency Mothers	28	13	10	15	0
	Felony DUI Court	158	29	86	380	0
	Juvenile Drug	84	13	16	192	0
	Mental Health	75	34	22	109	0
	Prison Re-entry	0	0	7	0	0
Las Vegas Justice	Adult Drug	140	69	39	246	0
	DUI Court (2 programs)	89	20	132	112	0
Las Vegas Municipal	Adult Drug	35	26	6	25	2
	DUI Court	40	5	27	74	0
	Women in Need	10	11	3	16	0
	HOPE Court (Habitual Offender)	28	6	3	33	1
Henderson Municipal	ABC Court (Habitual Offender)	33	23	2	28	0
North Las Vegas Municipal	Drug and Alcohol	19	20	8	5	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>ALL SPECIALTY COURTS</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,780</b>	<b>1,360</b>	<b>1,368</b>	<b>3,577</b>	<b>76</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes new admissions and voluntary admissions.

<sup>2</sup> Includes terminations, transfers, and deceased participants.

Source: Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts, Specialty Courts Program.

Mental Health Court in November 2001, and was the first Mental Health Court in Nevada.

The Reno Justice Court has a Counseling Compliance program that includes the treatment of offenders for drug, alcohol, and domestic violence issues.

The Reno Municipal Court operates two programs: Fresh Start Therapeutic Court, Department 4, and Specialty Court, Department 3. Both programs include the treatment of offenders for drugs and alcohol.

The Sparks Municipal Alcohol and Drug Court began in 1999 and was Nevada's first limited jurisdiction Drug Court.

The Washoe Region programs noted in Table 21 served 1,128 defendants, with 571 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, at least 27 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year, which was the most of any region.

The Eastern Region is comprised of the Elko County Adult Drug Court, Elko County Juvenile Drug Court, and the Seventh Judicial District Adult Drug and Juvenile Drug Courts.

The Elko County Adult Drug Court program began April 2005. Elko County also has a Juvenile Drug Court program. The Seventh Judicial District Adult Drug Court program began in November 2005 and a Juvenile Drug Court began in July 2010.

The Eastern Region programs noted in Table 21 served 73 defendants, with 48 graduating during the fiscal year. Of

those participants, eight gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

The Fifth Judicial District Adult Drug Court program in Nye County has been operating since April 2002. A Juvenile Drug Court began operating in conjunction with the adult program in February 2004.

The Fifth Judicial District programs noted in Table 21 served a total of 72 defendants, with 35 graduating during the fiscal year. Of these participants, three gave birth to drug-free babies during the reporting period.

The Central Region Drug Court programs in Humboldt, Lander, and Pershing Counties of the Sixth Judicial District have been operating since the start of fiscal year 2005.

The Central Region programs noted in Table 21 served 78 defendants, with 16 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, at least one gave birth to a drug-free baby during the year.

The Clark Region is comprised of Mental Health Court, Adult Drug Court, Felony DUI Court, Dependency Court, Child Support Drug Court, Dependency Mothers Drug Court, Prison Re-Entry, Juvenile Drug Court, Las Vegas Justice DUI Courts, Las Vegas Justice Adult Drug Court, North Las Vegas Municipal Alcohol and Drug Court, Henderson Municipal Assistance in Breaking the Cycle (ABC) Court, and the Las Vegas Municipal HOPE Court, Women in Need Court, Adult Drug Court, and DUI Court.

The Eighth Judicial District Court began the first Nevada Drug Court in 1992. Their Mental Health Court began in December 2003.

The Las Vegas Justice Court has an Adult Drug Court program and two DUI programs. The purpose of these programs is to identify high-risk DUI offenders who would benefit from long-term treatment and intensive supervision.

The Las Vegas Municipal Court has a Habitual Offender Prevention and Education (HOPE) program, Adult Drug Court, Women in Need, and DUI Court. The HOPE program began in 2005 and focuses on habitual offenders with issues related to homelessness, criminal activity, and chemical dependency.

In the Clark Region, many program changes occurred in fiscal year 2013. Adult Drug Court added mandatory individual counseling, which promotes participants staying in treatment longer and improving their chances for success. A second treatment center was opened in the Henderson area, improving accessibility for participants. Licensed clinical coordinators have been added in Adult and Dependency Mothers Drug Courts, and the capacity for Mental Health Court was expanded from 75 to 100 through an additional contracted service provider.

The Clark Region programs noted in Table 21 served 1,178 defendants, with 577 graduating during the fiscal year. The Specialty Court programs in the Clark Region had 25 drug-free babies born during the year.

## Courts with Incomplete Data

Courts that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2013 are listed in Table 22, as are the specific elements of the missing data.

Once again, all courts provided caseload information. In a few instances, courts submitted all they could count, but acknowledged that there are still issues with the statistics they are working to correct. In those instances, the data appears in italics or is footnoted, but the court may not appear in Table 22 if all monthly reports were filed.

The Nevada State Courts continue to improve the reporting of their statistics year to year. Some courts do not have automated case management systems. In these courts, staff manually collect the information from each case or citation. As case management systems improve, and courts without automated systems move to more sophisticated methods of collecting case information, the statistics will improve as well.

The Administrative Office of the Courts continues to work with the courts

on technology projects that put case management systems in many rural and some urban courts. Case management systems provide an automated mechanism to prepare monthly statistical reports while also improving court processes and procedures.

No courts were added to the state-sponsored case management system this year. Currently, there are 33 courts using all or part of the state-sponsored system, excluding 12 courts using a similar system maintained by Clark County.

**Table 22. Data Non-Reporting by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2013.<sup>a</sup>**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Filings/ Cases</b>	<b>Charges</b>	<b>Dispo- sitions</b>	<b>Table</b>
<b>First Judicial District</b>					
Carson City District Court	Specific Delinquency Cases	NR	NR	NR	A5
	Reopened Delinquency Cases	NR			A5
Storey County District Court	Specific Delinquency Cases	NR	NR	NR	A5
	Reopened Delinquency Cases	NR			A5
<b>Second Judicial District</b>					
Washoe County District Court	Specific Family Case Types	NR		NR	A4
	Specific Delinquency Cases	NR	NR	NR	A5
	Reopened Delinquency Cases	NR			A5
	Status Petitions	NR	NR	NR	A5
Reno Justice Court	Specific Criminal Case Types	NR	NR	NR	A6
	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A6
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>					
Wells Justice Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A6
Wells Municipal Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A8
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>					
Ely Municipal Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A8
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>					
Clark County District Court	Specific Delinquency Case Types	NR		NR	A5
	Reopened Delinquency Cases	NR			A5
	Status Petitions	NR	NR	NR	A5
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>					
Douglas District Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A2
	Reopened Civil Cases	NR			A3
	Reopened Family Cases	NR			A4
	Reopened Delinquency Cases	NR			A5

NR Not Reported

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

ALL APPENDIX TABLES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
THE SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA WEBSITE  
[WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US](http://WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US).

CLICK ON ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE,  
THEN RESEARCH & STATISTICS,  
AND THEN DOCUMENTS AND FORMS.

THE SUPREME COURT WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR  
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS ANNUAL REPORT

---

### THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

THE ANNUAL REPORT WORKGROUP:  
CHIEF JUSTICE KRISTINA PICKERING  
ROBIN SWEET, STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR  
BILL GANG, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER  
HANS JESSUP, LEAD COURT RESEARCH ANALYST  
SHELDON STEELE, COURT RESEARCH ANALYST

### NON-JUDICIAL CONTRIBUTORS

JEFF HARDCASTLE  
(STATE DEMOGRAPHER)

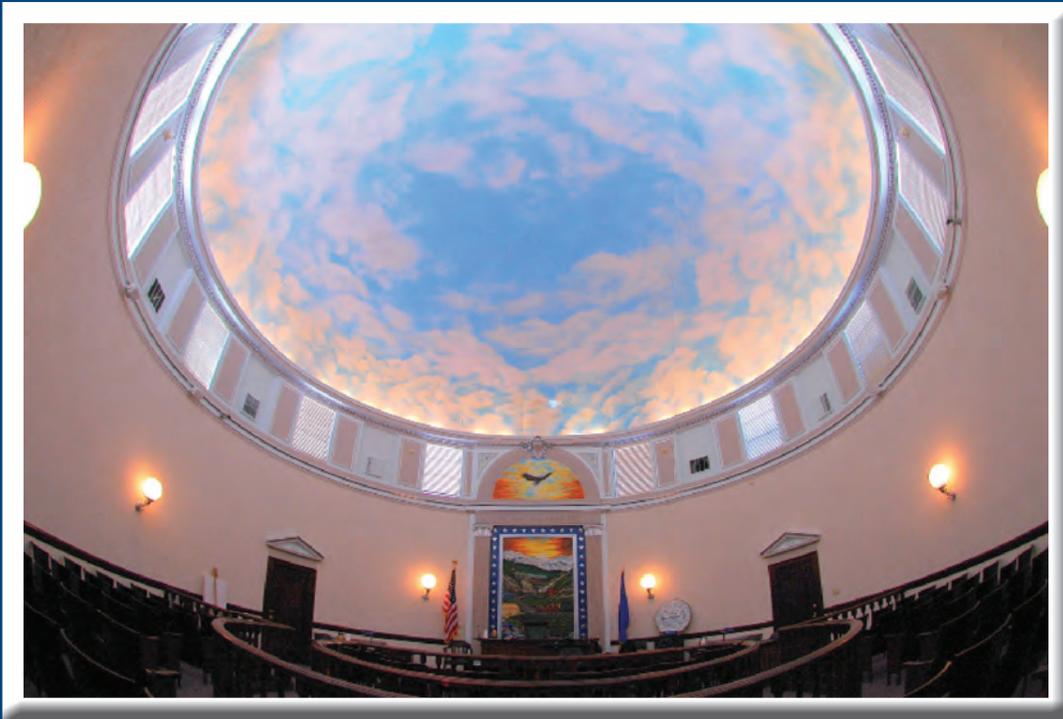
PHOTOS OF PERSHING COUNTY COURTHOUSE CONTRIBUTED IN PART BY

HENRY KINGMAN  
WINNEMUCCA WEB WORKS, LLC.  
[WWW.WINNWEBWORKS.COM/](http://WWW.WINNWEBWORKS.COM/)

&  
JUDY HARRIS

PHOTOS OF THE HISTORIC BELMONT COURTHOUSE CONTRIBUTED BY

LARRY JESSUP  
[WWW.LARRYJESSUPPHOTOGRAPHY.COM](http://WWW.LARRYJESSUPPHOTOGRAPHY.COM)



## SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
201 SOUTH CARSON STREET  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701  
775-684-1700  
[WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US](http://WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US)