



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NEVADA JUDICIARY



FISCAL YEAR 2008



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

During fiscal year 2008, Nevada's Judiciary continued to build on its reputation as one of the most progressive court systems in the nation. It was a year of achievements that we can be proud of, although many of our courts continued to struggle with the chronic problem of rising caseloads in communities suffering hard economic times.

This Annual Report not only details our achievements, but also contains information that I hope will help the public better understand how the Judicial Branch works.

### **OPENING THE COURTS**

During fiscal year 2008, court hearings and records became even more open and accessible to the public. Technology, of course, played a major role in opening our courthouses to the public.

At the Supreme Court, podcasts (audio files) of oral arguments became a routine addition on our website. We also began streaming live webcasts of major court cases and hearings over the Internet. Now Nevadans must no longer travel to Carson City to see the Supreme Court in action on many cases.

The Supreme Court initiated new rules during FY08 to limit the sealing of court records in civil cases—the result of work by the Commission on the Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records.

Another Supreme Court commission, the Indigent Defense Commission, continued their work to improve how our courts provide legal services for defendants who cannot afford to hire their own attorneys.

The Article 6 Commission has been taking a broad look at the judiciary and working diligently to make recommendations for improvements that will lead us decades into the future.

### **DOING MORE THAN OUR SHARE TO EASE THE BUDGET SHORTFALL**

Funding for Nevada's courts, and state government in general, continued to be an issue during fiscal year 2008—as it did for most states. A billion dollar shortfall in the State General Fund resulted in calls for widespread budget cuts. I am proud to say the Judiciary stepped up and did more than its share to ease Nevada's financial crisis, and did so without seriously affecting court operations.

The Judiciary has demonstrated it can be a careful steward of taxpayer dollars and still fulfill its role to provide fair and impartial justice in a timely manner.

With the continued support of our partners in the Legislative and Executive Branches, Nevada's Judiciary will continue to do all it can to serve the people of our state with fairness, commitment, efficiency, and innovation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Gibbons". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mark Gibbons  
Chief Justice  
Nevada Supreme Court

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

The Work of Nevada's Courts  
July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008



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### The Nevada Supreme Court Seal

A Nevada Supreme Court seal—to symbolize the many aspects of justice—was authorized after Nevada became a state on Oct. 31, 1864.

With the Civil War raging at the time, and liberty on the public's mind, the seal's designers chose to use the Goddess of Liberty instead of the Goddess of Justice to represent the Supreme Court. This was a logical choice because the politics of the war had led to Nevada's statehood and the preservation of the Union.

On the Seal, Liberty's left hand holds a liberty pole topped with a Phrygian cap. Her right hand supports a shield and she is accompanied by an eagle. The liberty pole and Phrygian cap continue the theme of Liberty. Phrygia was an ancient Indo-European country captured by the Romans, who later freed their Phrygian slaves. Each former slave was given a soft, close-fitting conical cap to confirm his status as a free person. In the 1700s, French revolutionaries adopted the Phrygian cap as a symbol of their struggle for liberty.

On the upper part of the seal are the words 'Supreme Court State of Nevada,' preceded and followed by single stars. Below are the Latin words *Fiat Justitia*, the court's motto, which means, 'Let Justice be Done.'

### Justices of the Supreme Court of Nevada

#### Chief Justice

Mark Gibbons

#### Associate Justices

A. William Maupin

Michael L. Douglas

James W. Hardesty

Ron D. Parraguirre

Michael A. Cherry

Nancy M. Saitta

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# THE JUSTICES OF THE NEVADA SUPREME COURT



**Chief Justice Mark Gibbons** was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2002 after serving six years as a District Judge in Clark County and a long career as a private attorney specializing in real estate related litigation. His judicial career has been marked by a commitment to modernizing Nevada's court system. On the District Court, he served as Chief District Judge in Clark County and was appointed to the Supreme Court's Jury Improvement Commission. At the Supreme Court, he continued his progressive path. He has been chair of the Specialty Court Funding Committee and the Supreme Court's Information Technology and Safety Committees. He has been re-elected to a second term, which expires in January 2015.



**Justice A. William Maupin**, vice-chief justice during fiscal year 2008, had a legal career that spanned 22 years before he was appointed to the District Court bench in Clark County in 1993. He had handled murder cases as a public defender, but eventually focused on major civil litigation as a partner in a Las Vegas law firm. He chaired the Nevada Supreme Court committee on Alternate Dispute Resolution from 1992 to 1996 and is considered to have been a driving force behind the judicial system's successful arbitration program. He was elected to the Supreme Court in 1996 and is the current court's longest serving justice. He announced his retirement at the end of his term in January 2009.



**Justice James W. Hardesty** is a native Nevadan, having been born and raised in Reno. He graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, and practiced law in that city from 1975 through 1998, when he was elected to the District Court bench in Washoe County. He served as Chief Judge and was president of the Nevada District Judges Association in 2003. He was elected to the Supreme Court in 2004. He is chair of the Nevada Legislature's Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice, and the Nevada State-Federal Judicial Council. He also co-chairs the Nevada Supreme Court's Bench-Bar Committee and the Access to Justice Commission. His term ends in January 2011.



**Justice Ron D. Parraguirre** is a fourth generation Nevadan and second generation judge (his father was a Fifth Judicial District Judge). Justice Parraguirre's judicial career began in 1991 when he won a seat on the Las Vegas Municipal Court. He served there until then-Governor Kenny Guinn appointed him in 1999 to a seat on the District Court in Clark County. As a District Judge, he served on more than a dozen commissions and committees. He also served as president of the Nevada District Judges Association during 2004. Justice Parraguirre was elected to his seat on the Nevada Supreme Court in 2004. His term ends in January 2011.



**Justice Michael L. Douglas**, the first African American justice in Nevada's history, was appointed to the Court in March 2004, and thereafter twice elected. His Nevada legal career began as an attorney with Nevada Legal Services in 1982. Two years later he was hired by the Clark County District Attorney's Office, where he worked until 1996, when he was appointed to the District Court bench. He served as Chief Judge and Business Court Judge, along with handling a variety of civil and criminal cases. He has been active in groups fighting domestic violence and also co-chairs the Access to Justice Commission and Specialty Court Funding Committee. His term expires in January 2013.



**Justice Michael A. Cherry** has been an attorney in Nevada since 1970. He began his career as a Deputy Clark County Public Defender before becoming a private attorney. He served as Special Master in the MGM Grand Hotel fire litigation case and, a short time later, served the same role in the Las Vegas Hilton fire litigation cases. In 1997, Justice Cherry returned to public service when he was named to lead the newly created Clark County Special Public Defender's Office. In 1998, he was elected a District Court Judge in Clark County. In 2006, he was elected to his current seat on the Nevada Supreme Court. His term ends in January 2013.



**Justice Nancy M. Saitta** began her judicial career when she was appointed as a Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge in 1996. Two years later she was elected to the District Court in Clark County, where she created the Complex Litigation Division to handle construction defect cases and other complex cases. At the Supreme Court she is co-chair of the Court Improvement Committee and is chair of the Judicial Public Information Committee. Prior to taking the bench, she was a Senior Deputy Attorney General and served as the Children's Advocate for the State of Nevada. She also has private practice experience in civil litigation. Elected to the Supreme Court in 2006, her term ends in January 2013.

### Nevada Supreme Court Cases

	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08
<b>Cases Filed</b>					
Appeals	1,541	1,646	1,735	1,857	1,842
Original Proceedings	248	317	305	323	334
Bar Matters	50	40	28	39	38
Reinstated	6	11	12	12	20
Other	7	8	6	7	4
<b>Total Filed</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>2,238</b>
<b>Cases Disposed</b>					
By Opinions*	83	93	122	98	90
By Order	1,667	1,887	2,007	2,095	1,869
<b>Total Disposed</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>1,959</b>
<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,682</b>
<b>Opinions Written</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>79</b>

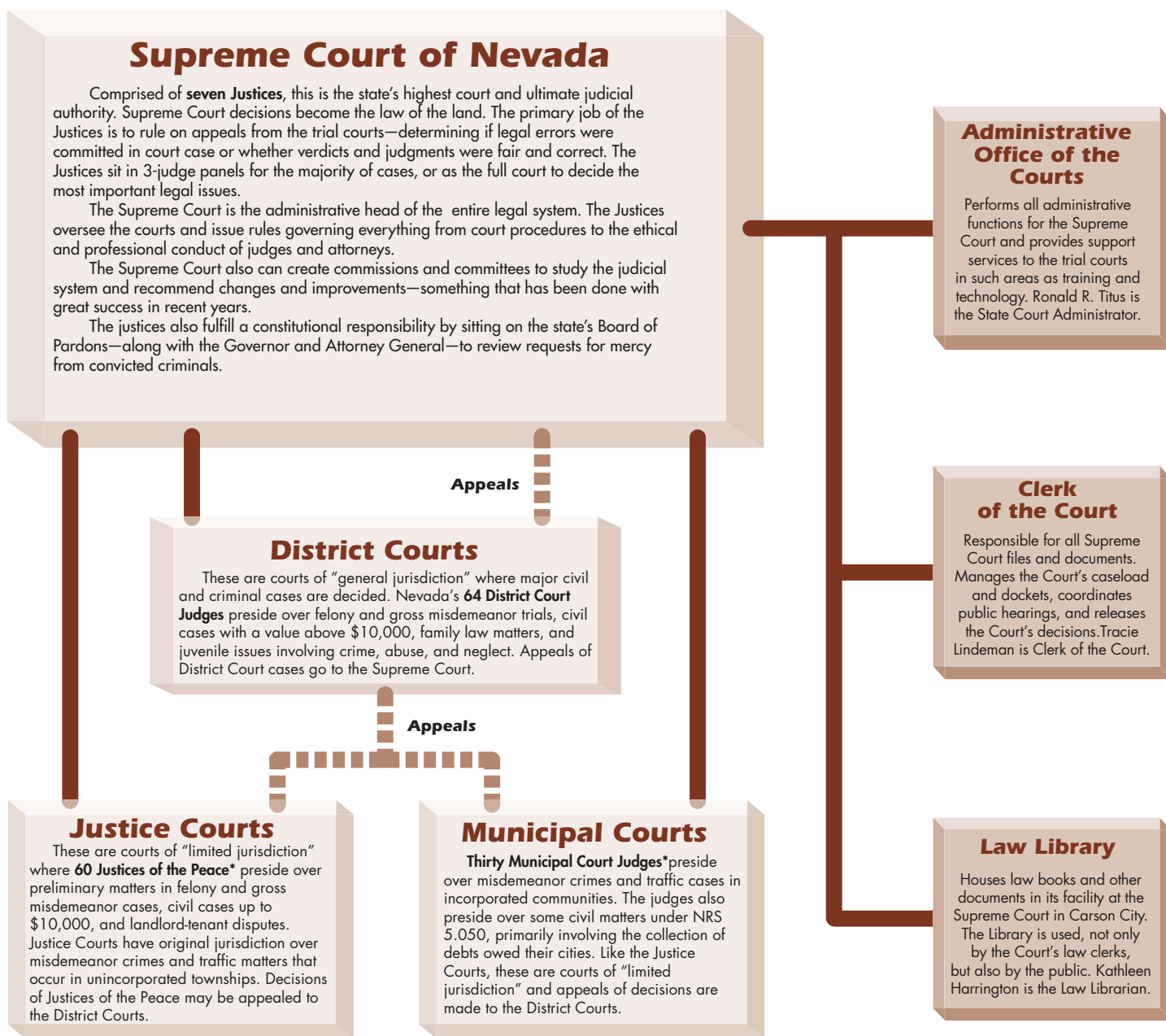
\* Includes cases consolidated and disposed of by a single written opinions

# THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

Nevada's 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 popularly elected judges and justices are responsible for resolving legal disputes as quickly and fairly as possible. 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. Judges generally serve 6-year terms.

## STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION



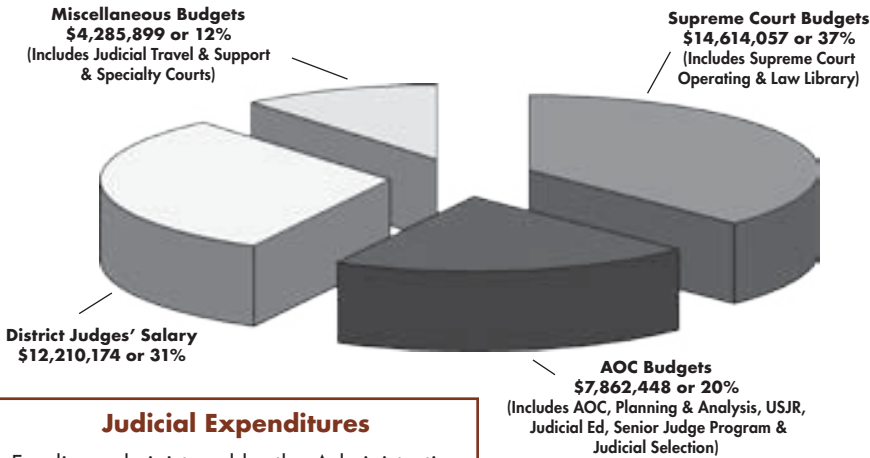
\* Nine limited jurisdiction judges serve their communities as both justice of the peace and municipal judge.

# FUNDING THE COURTS

The judicial system at the state level received \$38,972,578 in operating funds from a variety of sources during fiscal year 2008, an increase of 12.6 percent from fiscal year 2006. The portion allocated from the State General Fund increased just 2.3 percent over the same 2-year period, meaning that the State General Fund now contributes less than half (49%) of the state court budget.

Court funding also comes from administrative assessments on misdemeanor and traffic cases, peremptory challenge fees, filing fees, grants, and user fees. Peremptory challenge fees are paid by attorneys or litigants to exclude particular judges in civil cases

## JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES FISCAL YEAR 2008



**About \$200 million is needed each year to fund Nevada's Entire Judicial Branch, although most of that is provided and administered by local governments**

### More and more, the Judiciary must fund its own budget

While non-General Fund dollars now make up the majority of the state Judiciary budget—\$19,855,267—the availability of these funds can be inconsistent.

During fiscal year 2004, General Fund dollars provided 65 percent of the court budget. For fiscal year 2006, the General Fund provided 55 percent of the court budget.

### Judicial Expenditures

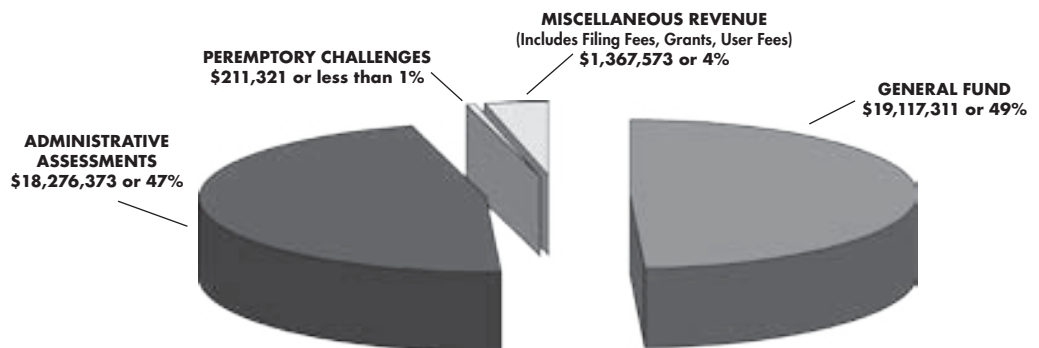
Funding administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts pays for the operating expenses of the Nevada Supreme Court, limited support services for Nevada's court system statewide, and salaries and benefits for District Court Judges and Supreme Court Justices.

The majority of costs—facilities and staff—for the District Courts are borne by the counties where the courts operate.

The counties also pay salaries and all costs for Justice Courts.

Incorporated cities fund the entire costs of the Municipal Court.

## JUDICIAL BRANCH FUNDING SOURCES FISCAL YEAR 2008



## Supreme Court Returned \$2 Million to Ease State Shortfall

At the end of fiscal year 2008, the Nevada Supreme Court returned \$1,993,514 to the State General Fund, doing far more than its share to ease the budgetary shortfall. The amount was more than 27 percent of the state funded budget that was targeted, and more than five times the 4.5 percent reduction being sought by Governor Jim Gibbons.

The Supreme Court had an authorized budgeted of \$21,110,825 in General Fund dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, but held expenditures to \$19,117,311.

Of the expenditures, however, \$13,729,568 was for statutory set salaries for the Justices and District Court Judges and could not be reduced under the Constitution.

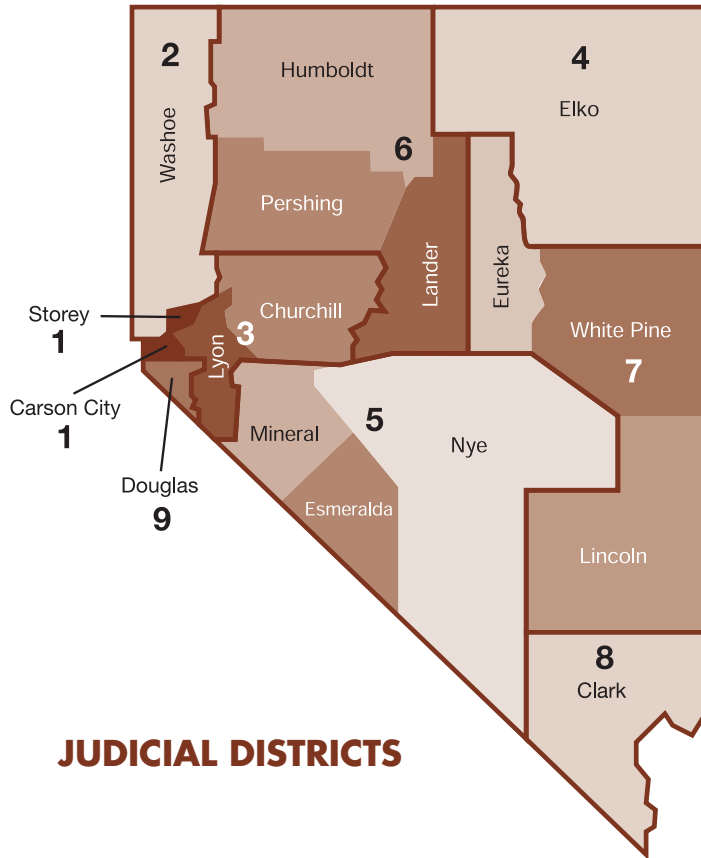
That left just over \$7.3 million in General Fund dollars that were subject to the Governor's cutback request. Of the \$1.99 million reverted, \$970,884 is a direct result of budget reductions. The remaining \$1,022,630 resulted from an increase in the collections of administrative assessments.

"The Supreme Court has gone beyond what we and most state agencies have been asked to do," said Justice James W. Hardesty. "The Judiciary is a careful steward of its funds, and a willing partner with the Executive and Legislative Branches."

The Supreme Court also returned more than \$2.5 million to the General Fund—at the end of Fiscal Year 2007, an amount that was more than twice the reduction the Governor sought at that time.

# DISTRICT COURTS AND JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

Nevada's District Courts have the most authority of any trial courts. This is where major trials are conducted. District Judges preside over felony and gross misdemeanor cases, civil matters above \$10,000, and family law issues. The Nevada Constitution created the District Courts and gave judges jurisdiction throughout the state's 17 counties, although they are elected and serve primarily in one of Nevada's nine Judicial Districts. District Judges serve 6-year terms. Five of the nine Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties in sparsely populated regions to best utilize the judges' time and taxpayer resources.



**JUDICIAL DISTRICTS**

## DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2008)

**1st Judicial District**  
William A. Maddox  
James Todd Russell

**2nd Judicial District**  
Brent T. Adams  
Janet J. Berry  
Frances Doherty  
Steve Elliot  
Patrick Flanagan  
David A. Hardy  
Steven R. Kosach  
Robert H. Perry  
Jerome M. Polaha  
Deborah Schumacher  
Connie J. Steinheimer  
Chuck Weller

**3rd Judicial District**  
Leon Aberasturi  
Robert E. Estes  
David A. Huff

**4th Judicial District**  
Mike Memeo  
Andrew Puccinelli

**5th Judicial District**  
John P. Davis  
Robert W. Lane

**6th Judicial District**  
John Iroz  
Richard Wagner

**7th Judicial District**  
Steven Dobrescu  
Dan L. Papez

**8th Judicial District**  
Valerie Adair  
David Barker  
Stewart Bell  
James Bixler  
Elissa Cadish  
Kenneth C. Cory  
Mark Denton  
Allan R. Earl  
Jennifer Elliott  
Lee A. Gates  
Jackie Glass  
Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Elizabeth Halverson  
Kathy A. Hardcastle

Gerald Hardcastle  
Douglas W. Herndon  
Susan Johnson  
Steven E. Jones  
Lisa Kent  
Michelle Leavitt  
Sally L. Loehrer  
Stefany Ann Miley  
Donald M. Mosley  
Cheryl B. Moss  
Sandra L. Pomrenze  
William S. Potter  
T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.  
Gloria S. Sanchez  
Cynthia Dianne Steel  
Jennifer P. Togliatti  
Valorie Vega  
Michael Villani  
William O. Voy  
David Wall  
Jessie Walsh  
Timothy C. Williams

**9th Judicial District**  
David R. Gamble  
Michael P. Gibbons

## DISTRICT COURT CASELOADS

Judicial District	Judicial Positions	Population as of 7-1-07	Cases filed	Avg. cases per judge
<b>First</b>	2	62,016	2,344	1,172
<b>Second</b>	12	418,061	21,574	1,798
<b>Third</b>	3	83,093	2,689	896
<b>Fourth</b>	2	50,434	2,540	1,270
<b>Fifth</b>	2	51,921	2,116	1,058
<b>Sixth</b>	2	30,875	1,288	644
<b>Seventh</b>	2	15,232	733	367
<b>Eighth</b>	37	1,954,319	90,952	2,458
<b>Ninth</b>	2	52,386	1,429	715
<b>Totals</b>	64	2,718,337	125,665	1,964



# JUSTICE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS

Justice Courts are county courts with responsibility for a variety of legal matters. Justices of the Peace preside over criminal matters that include misdemeanor crimes, traffic offenses, and felony arraignments and preliminary hearings. Justice Court is also where civil matters involving amounts below \$10,000 are resolved, in addition to small claims cases, and landlord-tenant disputes. Justices of the Peace are elected and serve 6-year terms. Many Justices of the Peace serve part time.

Municipal Courts are city courts with jurisdiction only within the city limits of incorporated municipalities. They handle traffic violations and misdemeanors, but also have jurisdiction in certain civil cases. Municipal Judges may be elected or appointed and, in smaller communities, many work part time.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND THEIR TOWNSHIPS (as of June 30, 2008)

### 1st Judicial District

#### STOREY COUNTY

Annette Daniels – Virginia City

#### Carson City

John Tatro – Carson City \*

Robey B. Willis – Carson City \*

### 2nd Judicial District

#### WASHOE COUNTY

Harold G. Albright – Reno

Susan Deriso – Sparks

Barbara K. Finley – Reno

Terry Graham – Wadsworth

Kevin Higgins – Sparks

Patricia A. Lynch – Reno

Jack Schroeder – Reno

Pete Sferrazza – Reno

E. Alan Tiras – Incline Village

### 3rd Judicial District

#### CHURCHILL COUNTY

Mike Richards – New River

#### LYON COUNTY

Robert J. Bennett – Canal

Michael Fletcher – Walker River

William G. Rogers – Dayton

### 4th Judicial District

#### ELKO COUNTY

Phyllis Black – Jackpot

Pat Calton – Wells \*

Teri Feasel – Carlin \*

Alvin R. Kacin – Elko \*

Reese F. Melville – East Line \*

### 5th Judicial District

#### ESMERALDA COUNTY

Juanita M. Colvin – Esmeralda

### MINERAL COUNTY

Jay Gunter – Hawthorne

### NYE COUNTY

Tina Brisebill – Pahrump

Joe Maslach – Tonopah

William “Gus” Sullivan – Beatty

### 6th Judicial District

#### HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Gene Wambolt – Union

#### LANDER COUNTY

Max Bunch – Argenta

Joseph W. Dory – Austin

#### PERSHING COUNTY

Carol Nelsen – Lake Township

### 7th Judicial District

#### EUREKA COUNTY

John F. Schweble – Eureka

Susan Fye – Beowawe

### LINCOLN COUNTY

Mike D. Cowley – Meadow Valley

Nola Holton – Pahranaagat Valley \*

### WHITE PINE COUNTY

Ronald J. Niman – Ely

Russell W. Peacock – Lund

### 8th Judicial District

#### CLARK COUNTY

Anthony Abbatangelo – Las Vegas

Tim Atkins – Laughlin

Karen Bennett-Haron – Las Vegas

Joe Bonaventure – Las Vegas

Rodney T. Burr – Henderson

Stephen J. Dahl – North Las Vegas

Ron L. Dodd – Mesquite \*

Darryll B. Dodenbier – Bunkerville

Stephen L. George – Henderson

Dawn L. Haviland – Goodsprings

William Jansen – Las Vegas

Ruth Kolhoss – Moapa

Deborah J. Lippis – Las Vegas

Victor L. Miller – Boulder \*

Nancy C. Oesterle – Las Vegas

Melissa A. Saragosa – Las Vegas

Abbi Silver – Las Vegas

Douglas E. Smith – Las Vegas

Wendell Turner – Searchlight

Natalie Tyrrell – North Las Vegas

D. Lanny Waite – Moapa Valley

Ann E. Zimmerman – Las Vegas

### 9th Judicial District

#### DOUGLAS COUNTY

James EnEarl – East Fork

Richard Glasson – Tahoe

\* Also serves as a Municipal Court Judge

## FIVE BUSIEST JUSTICE COURTS

Justice Court	Judicial Positions	Population as of 7-1-07	Non-traffic cases filed	Cases filed per judge*	Traffic & Parking
<b>Las Vegas</b>	10	1,393,345	146,414	<b>14,641</b>	338,832
<b>Henderson</b>	2	261,293	11,093	<b>5,547</b>	9,733
<b>Reno</b>	5	266,385	23,757	<b>4,751</b>	45,084
<b>Sparks</b>	2	137,259	9,416	<b>4,708</b>	11,398
<b>North Las Vegas</b>	2	237,958	8,804	<b>4,402</b>	2,194

\* Traffic violations may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time. Therefore, they are not included in “cases filed per judge.”

## FIVE BUSIEST MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal Court	Judicial Positions	Population as of 7-1-07	Non-traffic cases filed	Cases filed per judge*	Traffic & Parking
<b>North Las Vegas</b>	2	210,472	8,922	<b>4,461</b>	49,821
<b>Las Vegas</b>	6	590,321	25,262	<b>4,210</b>	176,977
<b>Henderson</b>	3	260,161	7,548	<b>2,516</b>	45,075
<b>Reno</b>	4	220,613	8,001	<b>2,000</b>	41,764
<b>Sparks</b>	2	89,449	2,200	<b>1,100</b>	12,811

\* Traffic violations may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time. Therefore, they are not included in “cases filed per judge.”

## MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES AND THEIR CITIES (as of June 30, 2008)

### 1st Judicial District

#### CARSON CITY

John Tatro \*\*

Robey B. Willis \*\*

### 2nd Judicial District

#### RENO

Jay D. Dilworth

Paul S. Hickman

Kenneth R. Howard

James Van Winkle

#### SPARKS

Barbara S. McCarthy

Jim Spoo

### 3rd Judicial District

#### FALLON

Michael R. Lister

#### FERNLEY

Daniel Bauer

#### YERINGTON

Frances Vidal

### 4th Judicial District

#### CARLIN

Teri Feasel \*\*

#### ELKO

Alvin R. Kacin \*\*

#### WELLS

Pat Calton \*\*

### WEST WENDOVER

Reese F. Melville \*\*

### 7th Judicial District

#### CALIENTE

Nola A. Holton \*\*

#### ELY

Michael Kalleres

### 8th Judicial District

#### BOULDER CITY

Victor L. Miller \*\*

#### HENDERSON

Diana Hampton

Douglas Hedger

Mark Stevens

### LAS VEGAS

George Assad

Bert M. Brown

Martin Hastings

Cedric A. Kerns

Elizabeth Kolkoski

Cynthia S. Leung

#### MESQUITE

Ron L. Dodd \*\*

#### NORTH LAS VEGAS

Sean Hoeffgen

Warren Van Landschoot

\*\* Also serves as a Justice of the Peace

# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

**To unite and promote Nevada's  
Judiciary as an equal, independent  
and effective branch of government**  
— Mission statement of the Judicial Council

Throughout fiscal year 2008, the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada continued to pursue its leadership role in the Judicial Branch of government.

The Judicial Council remains a unifying entity in a state that has a modest population, but covers more than 100,000 square miles.

The Judicial Council is comprised of 16 judges from every court level who meet regionally to address the issues unique to their areas — whether it be the urban problems of Las Vegas, or the challenges of rural mining or ranching communities. The regional councils have given voices to those geographic areas.

The five regional Judicial Councils together form the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to help the Supreme Court fulfill its administrative duties and improve the court system statewide.

## During fiscal year 2008, the Judicial Council:

- Approved the model policy for public access for court records.
- Explored court technology standards.
- Accepted final report from Statewide Court Security Task Force, an ad hoc committee of the Judicial Council.
- Appointed a committee to review legislative changes to standardized protection order forms.

A vital role of the Judicial Council is to approve disbursement of the money available to fund Nevada's existing Specialty Courts—such as Drug and Mental Health Courts—while allowing the establishment of additional Specialty Courts throughout Nevada.

During past years, the Judicial Council established the Commission on Rural Courts to identify problems in Nevada's smaller courts and recommend solutions, and developed a "Model Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees of the State of Nevada."

The Judicial Council has established seven standing committees:

**Legislation and Rules** to promote and support a coordinated approach to legislation affecting the Judiciary.

**Education** to promote the competency and professionalism of the Nevada Judiciary and staff.

**Technology** to promote and facilitate the use of technology by the courts and promote the coordination, collaboration, and integration of technology with state and local governments.

**Court Administration** to promote excellence in court administration throughout the state by addressing issues and recommending improvements to the Judicial Council.

**Certified Court Interpreters** to develop Certified Court Interpreter program policies.

**Specialty Court Funding** to establish procedures for courts requesting specialty court funds, including the development of funding criteria and reporting requirements.

**Court Improvement Project** to improve the lives of children and families who enter the child welfare system through initiatives to improve efficiency, reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care, and place abused and neglected children into permanent homes as quickly as possible.

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

### MEMBERS

**Justice Mark Gibbons**  
— Chair  
Nevada Supreme Court

**Justice A. William Maupin**  
— Vice Chair  
Nevada Supreme Court

**Judge Hal Albright**  
Reno Justice Court

**Judge Patricia Calton**  
Wells Justice Court

**Judge Steve Dobrescu**  
Seventh Judicial District  
Court

**Judge Michael P. Gibbons**  
Ninth Judicial District Court

**Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez**  
Eighth Judicial District Court

**Judge Kathy Hardcastle**  
Eighth Judicial District Court

**Judge Martin Hastings**  
Las Vegas Municipal Court

**Judge Nola A. Holton**  
Pahrnagat Valley Justice  
Court  
Caliente Municipal Court

**Judge John Iroz**  
Sixth Judicial District Court

**Judge Nancy Oesterle**  
Las Vegas Justice Court

**Judge Connie Steinheimer**  
Second Judicial District Court

**Judge James Van Winkle**  
Reno Municipal Court

**Judge William O. Voy**  
Eighth Judicial District Court

**Judge Robey B. Willis**  
Carson City Justice/  
Municipal Court

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

**Howard Conyers**  
Court Administrator  
Second Judicial District Court

**Chuck Short**  
Court Administrator  
Eighth Judicial District Court

**Judge John Tatro**  
President  
Nevada Judges of Limited  
Jurisdiction

### Ron Titus

State Court Administrator  
Administrative Office of the  
Courts

**Judge Jennifer Togliatti**  
President  
Nevada District Judges  
Association

# TRANSITIONS

## Justice A. William Maupin Retiring

**Justice Maupin**, the longest serving judge on the current Supreme Court announced his retirement from the court where he has served since 1997.

He was Chief Justice during 2007, shepherding the Judiciary through one of the most successful legislative sessions in recent years. New judges were authorized, a judicial pay increase was approved, and constitutional amendments were begun to create an intermediate appellate court and change the method of selecting judges to a merit selection plan. Justice Maupin's legacy, however, may be his passion to improve the efficiency of Nevada's Court system.

He was a driving force for alternate dispute resolution and improvements in civil discovery rules. In 1992, the Supreme Court appointed him to spearhead the implementation of the Nevada Court Annexed Arbitration System, one of the most successful programs of its kind in the United States.

As a member of the Supreme Court, he promoted streamlining the civil justice system.

Justice Maupin also:

- Served as head of the Supreme Court's Judicial Improvement Project for Dependent Children;
- Successfully urged the Commission on Judicial Selection to open its processes to the public;
- Initiated the Commission on the Retention, Access, and Sealing of Court Records;
- Created the Chief Justice's Task Force for Mental Health Courts; and
- Formed the Indigent Defense Commission.

## Justice Maupin Receives Liberty Bell Award

**Justice A. William Maupin** was a 2008 recipient of the Liberty Bell Award, which is presented annually by the Clark County Bar Association for outstanding contributions to our community and the legal system.

The Liberty Bell Award traditionally is presented in conjunction with Law Day.

Recipients are honored for contributions such as promoting a better understanding of our Constitution and the Bill of Rights, encouraging greater respect for the law and the courts, stimulating a deeper sense of individual responsibility so citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights, and contributing to the effective functioning of our governmental institutions.



"I am very proud of the work of this Court, particularly our efforts in providing greater access to justice for the average citizen, initiating greater standards for the provision of legal services to the public, increasing the productivity of courts around this state, and of the great body of legal precedent generated by the Court." — Justice A. William Maupin

## JUDGE BARBARA NETHERY RETIRES

Carlin Justice of the Peace and Municipal Court Judge Barbara Nethery retired July 31, 2007. She had been on the bench since 1991.

## JUDGE JACK LEHMAN RETIRES

Considered the Father of Nevada's Drug Courts, District Judge Jack Lehman retired as a Senior Judge during fiscal year 2008. He started the state's first (and the nation's fifth) Drug Court in 1992. He was appointed to the District Court in Clark County in 1987 and did not seek re-election in 2002, but continued to preside over the Drug Court as a Senior Judge. Nevada currently has 36 Specialty Courts and more than 9,000 people have been served through the adult Drug Courts.

## JANETTE BLOOM RETIRES

Nevada Supreme Court Clerk of the Court since 1988, Janette Bloom retired from the constitutional position at the beginning of 2008. She was the fifteenth Clerk of the Court since Nevada became a state in 1864.

## TRACIE LINDEMAN APPOINTED

The Nevada Supreme Court appointed Tracie Lindeman to succeed Janette Bloom as Clerk of the Court. Ms. Lindeman had been the Supervising Staff Attorney for the Court. She is a graduate of Pahrump Valley High School, Stanford University, and Gonzaga University Law School.

## PASSINGS

**JUDGE TOY R. GREGORY**, who served as Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge for 24 years, and was in his seventh year as Chief Judge, passed away Jan. 3, 2008. He was 74.

**FORMER JUDGE FRANCIS HORSEY**, 90, died Feb. 3, 2008. He served on the Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge for more than 20 years and retired in 1985.

**FORMER JUDGE EUGENE STEADMAN GATES** was Mina Justice of the Peace for 34 years. He died Feb. 13, 2008 at age 85.

**FORMER JUDGE MAX LAMAR JONES**, 91, died March 28, 2008. He served 10 years as East Fork Justice of the Peace.

# REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Significant advancements in the administration of justice have been made during the last fiscal year, July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. This report outlines many of these advancements.

Of specific mention are the advances in the problem-solving courts; these are our Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, DUI Courts, frequent offender courts, and other specialty courts that address the root causes of most of these defendants' legal problems. These courts save hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars by diverting the defendant into treatment programs that literally change their lives.



The Supreme Court has increased its use of video technology with the webcasting of its first oral arguments in June. We will be expanding this in the coming years.

We continue to increase services to our rural courts assisting them with technology, indigent defense issues, training, and sharing of resources.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is involved in meeting the technology needs of our local courts and has several projects involving case management systems. We are also working closely with our stakeholders, including local and state law enforcement, district attorney offices, and others to share information. Our successes in this area have improved the efficiency of courts tremendously. One major area in which technology has advanced justice involves the collection of court fees and fines. Employing technology has improved the tracking and payment of fines and has enabled the courts to increase collection rates.

Meanwhile, the workload of the Courts in Nevada continues to grow. The judges and staffs of our courts handle more cases each year, as the statistics in this Annual Report demonstrate. Even as we add judges at both the limited and general jurisdiction levels, our cases per judge continue to increase.

Nevada's Supreme Court is still among the busiest in the nation. The criminal, civil, and family caseloads in our District Courts have increased a combined 14 percent over the last 5 years. Our limited jurisdiction courts, the Justice and Municipal Courts, have seen an overall increase in traffic cases of 44 and 46 percent, respectively, during this same time. The civil caseloads in Justice Courts have increased 27 percent over the 5 years.

As noted in this report, the Administrative Office of the Courts continues to work with our courts to improve the quality of our statistics. We are also working toward gathering and reporting statistics on pending cases and times to disposition. These additional statistics will be featured in future reports.

I hope you find this information we have compiled on the work of our Nevada courts to be informative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Titus". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Ronald R. Titus  
State Court Administrator

## COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

### INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

#### Sweeping Changes Result From Commission Work

The Nevada Supreme Court's Indigent Defense Commission worked throughout fiscal year 2008 to craft proposed court rules to ensure that defendants who cannot afford their own attorneys will receive effective legal representation.

The Commission drafted recommendations for attorney performance standards that were adopted by the Supreme Court, mandating sweeping changes in the way legal representation is provided in indigent defense cases.

In its order, the Supreme Court was united in its belief that indigent defendants in Nevada courts deserve competent and diligent legal representation, and that it is vital to maintain the integrity and effectiveness of our criminal justice system.

The Commission also studied whether caseload limits should be enacted.

While much of the Commission's work centered on the urban centers of Clark and Washoe Counties, the Commission also looked at the issues statewide.

Indigent defense has been an acute problem in rural counties, where attorneys are rare and lawyers for conflict cases must be brought in from urban centers at a high cost. This Commission has been working to determine what works best for each area of Nevada, given the available resources.

Commission chair, Justice Michael Cherry, noted that when court appointed attorneys are ineffective or inadequate, it sometimes results in cases being reversed and new trials ordered. That is costly for taxpayers and an additional burden on the court system.

The Commission was created in April 2007 to explore how to ensure that competent, experienced, and effective attorneys are available to represent indigent defendants.

Systems for providing representation for those unable to afford their own attorneys range from state and county public defender offices to contract attorneys and court appointed lawyers.

As part of its order, the Supreme Court mandated:

- Statistics on services to indigent defendants be kept and reported to the Administrative Office of the Courts
- A permanent statewide commission be created for the oversight of indigent defense
- Judges should not be involved in the appointment of defense attorneys who represent indigent defendants

### COMMISSION ON THE PRESERVATION, ACCESS, AND SEALING OF COURT RECORDS

#### Supreme Court Rules Ensure Access To Court Civil Records

The Nevada Supreme Court on Dec. 31, 2008, enacted new rules ensuring that court records in civil cases will be open to the public with few exceptions.

The new rules, entitled Nevada Rules for Sealing and Redacting Court Records (SRCR), are based on recommendations of the Supreme Court's Commission on the Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records.

The Commission's work and resulting rule change underscored the Supreme Court's belief in open government and its commitment to preserve the public nature of the business of the judicial branch, including its records.

The rules provide clear guidelines for judges who are frequently asked to seal all or parts of files.

The Commission, co-chaired by Justice James W. Hardesty and Second Judicial District Judge Brent Adams, was composed of judges, lawyers, and non-lawyers, including members of the media. Judges in Nevada generally have had wide discretion when it comes to sealing civil cases or portions of documents in them. The new rules limit that discretion and require that a judge specify in writing why sealing a

record or redacting a portion of it is justified.

Under the new rules, any person—litigant or non-litigant—can challenge an order sealing documents and ask that the documents be unsealed any time within 5 years of a case being closed or an appeal being resolved.

The Supreme Court's "Policy" on the records issue, as set out in the rules, states that "all court records in civil actions are available to the public, except as otherwise provided in these rules or by statutes."

The new rules apply to all court records in civil actions regardless of the form.

An agreement of the parties in a civil lawsuit alone does not constitute a sufficient basis for the court to seal or redact court records.

The Supreme Court specifically prohibited records from being sealed to conceal a public hazard.

Under the new rules, records can be sealed if permitted by state or federal law or to protect such information as trade secrets, personal identifiers like social security numbers, medical or mental health records, or tax and financial records.

# COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

## COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL SELECTION

### Interviews Opened to the Public

Nevada has a system of electing judges at every level, but when a judge leaves office in mid-term, the vacancy is filled by appointment. The appointment is made by the Governor from a list of three nominees determined by the Commission on Judicial Selection.

The Nevada Commission on Judicial Selection – the group which interviews and nominates attorneys for appointment to vacant District Court and Supreme Court positions—voted on Dec. 18, 2007, to open its interviews, deliberations, and most application information to the public.

The process of screening applicants for appointment to judgeships includes gathering extensive background information on applicants and conducting comprehensive interviews.

The seven-member Commission agreed that with few exceptions the entire process, which traditionally had been confidential, would become public. Those exceptions involve such information as personal identifiers and health details.

Also remaining confidential will be the letters of comment solicited by the Commission about the candidates and letters of reference. The Commission wants to ensure the authors of the letters can be candid.

## ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

### Litigants of Limited Means Aided

Recognizing the importance of access to justice in a democratic society, the Nevada Supreme Court created a permanent Access to Justice Commission in June 2006.

Thousands of Nevada citizens of limited means lack sufficient access to justice resulting in a critical need for statewide strategic planning and coordination of efforts to expand services and improve access to justice. The Commission works to improve access to civil justice in Nevada through such means as assessing current and future needs, improving self-help services and opportunities for litigants who represent themselves, pursuing increased public and private financing to support organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means, and recommending legislation or rule changes affecting access to justice.

During fiscal year 2008, the Commission:

- Completed the Civil Legal Needs Assessment to document and critically analyze the continuum of care in our state and frame policy and solutions
- Took the first steps through the IOLTA initiative to increase badly needed funding by obtaining increased interest rates and FDIC coverage on lawyer trust accounts. The interest is used to provide services to litigants of limited means

## ARTICLE 6 COMMISSION

### Proposed Constitutional Amendments Supported

The Nevada Supreme Court blue ribbon Article 6 Commission continued its task of studying all aspects of the Nevada Judiciary and making recommendations for changes and improvements.

During fiscal year 2008, the Commission voted to support two proposed amendments to the Nevada Constitution that would dramatically alter the judiciary – the creation of an intermediate appellate court, and changing the way judges are chosen by implementing a merit selection system.

The Commission, which is composed of private citizens as well as judges and attorneys, has also been addressing such issues as:

- Judicial performance evaluations
- Judicial discipline
- Disclosure of campaign contributions beyond what is presently required
- The perception of the judicial system
- A review of specialized courts, such as Drug, Business, Family, and Complex Litigation Courts

## JUDICIAL PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

### Providing a Voice for the Court

Providing a Voice for the Court The Nevada Supreme Court created the Judicial Public Information Committee (JPIC) to provide a vehicle for letting the public know how the courts work and what they do, plus their many achievements.

With media outlets and staffs shrinking, it has become necessary for the Judiciary to take more responsibility for getting its information and message out. Technology—such as websites, podcasts, and webcasts—has made it easier to provide information the public wants and needs.

The Supreme Court website provides documents in high profile appellate cases, audio files of oral arguments and, on occasion, webcasts of arguments of special interest. The website also provides forms to assist litigants who are representing themselves in court cases.

Websites of Nevada's trial courts provide local information and often services, such as allowing traffic violators to pay their fines over the Internet.

Nevada's judges are a principle part of the Judiciary's outreach program, speaking to groups and school classes and providing tours of court facilities.

# ACCESS ACROSS NEVADA

## Audio Files of Supreme Court Arguments Posted on the Web

The Nevada Supreme Court began publishing audio files of oral arguments—or podcasts—on its website ([www.nvsupremecourt.us](http://www.nvsupremecourt.us)) in September 2007.

The recordings are posted after every court session has concluded—generally by the end of the court day—and stay on the website about a month.

Each oral argument posted on the website has a “Details” link, which provides further information, including the names of those appearing before the court, the length of the argument, the start times, and speakers. Both the “Oral Argument Audio Files” page and the “Details” page include instructions for listening to audio files on a PC, downloading the file, or using popular MP3 download sites like Apple iTunes, Juice, Odeo, and PodNova. The list of audio files is also available as an RSS feed.

## Supreme Court Creates Way To Webcast Some Arguments

In June 2008, the Supreme Court scheduled oral arguments in several high profile cases involving election ballot challenges, plus a case involving disciplinary proceedings against a sitting District Judge. The Justices decided to find a way to webcast the court sessions so everyone in the state with an interest could watch.

With the cooperation of the Legislative Council Bureau, which has had webcasting capability for years, the Supreme Court was able to tap into the Legislature’s existing technology to stream the arguments over the Internet.

The session was the first of several Supreme Court arguments of heightened public interest that would be webcast.

## Supreme Court Again Holds Oral Arguments at Boyd Law School

In October 2007, a three-Justice panel of the Nevada Supreme Court again held oral arguments at the William S. Boyd School of Law on the University of Nevada, Las Vegas campus.

The Supreme Court first heard arguments at the law school in 2005 in a highly successful session that saw more than 120 students, lawyers, and citizens crowd into a classroom at the law school to watch the high court at work. Supreme Court arguments usually only attract a fraction of that number.

The Supreme Court has returned ever year since then because the Justices believe the event is a great opportunity for the students and the community to see the court in action when they otherwise could not.

The Justices always spend some time after the arguments talking to the students about the appellate process and what Justices go through to decide cases.

## RURAL COURTS

### New Services, Cooperation Unite Rural Courts

Nevada’s rural courts still face a chronic lack of resources, funding and staffing. But the rural courts at all levels have more services than ever available through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The rural courts have engaged also in new cooperation to provide more consistent justice in sparsely populated regions.

The AOC Rural Courts Coordinator has served as a liaison to enhance communication between courts, and promote shared resources.

The Rural Courts Coordinator has also worked to develop a safety and security audit of the courthouses in rural counties.

Accountability for all trial courts, including the rural courts, was enhanced through the implementation of “Minimum Accounting Standards” to assist the courts in better managing their finances.

## COURT INTERPRETERS

### Video Links May Meet Demand For Certified Court Interpreters

During fiscal year 2008, the Nevada Judiciary explored ways to use technology to provide interpreter services for defendants and litigants who do not speak English—particularly in rural courts.

As in many states, language barriers are a growing problem for Nevada courts because of the burgeoning populations of non-English speaking individuals.

Qualified interpreters have been in short supply, especially in rural areas where judges have had to rely on uncertified court employees or bilingual residents to interpret court proceedings.

The **Court Interpreter Certification Program** began in 2002 to ensure that interpreters are measurably competent and certified to provide needed services in our courts.

But getting interpreters to sparsely populated corners of Nevada can require costly hours of travel. That has prompted the Administrative Office of the Courts to elevate and consider “video remote interpreting,” which uses videoconferencing technology and the Internet to make needed services available.

# SPECIALTY COURTS

## Nevada Continues as National Leader in Specialty Courts

Nevada has been a national leader in Specialty Courts for a decade and a half and continued to expand its list of Drug, Mental Health, Family, Juvenile, Child Support and Re-Entry Courts.

Specialty Courts help those who come in contact with the judicial system because of addictive or other behavioral issues. Specialty Courts offer non-violent substance abusing offenders an alternative to incarceration.

A large majority of participants beat their addictions and again become contributing members of society. This reduces crime and prison populations, benefiting taxpayers along with the defendants.

Nevada now provides access to the benefits of Specialty Courts for every Nevadan — even in the most rural corners of the state. At the end of fiscal year 2008, Nevada had 33 Specialty Courts at all three court levels. The courts served more than 2,700 defendants and graduated more than 1,200 of them. Of those participants, 76 gave birth to drug free babies.

Nevada launched the nation's fifth Drug Court in 1992 in Clark County. That quickly led to the creation of a Drug Court in Washoe County.

### New DUI Courts in Western Nevada

New DUI Courts were established in Carson City and Douglas and Washoe Counties, to provide access to comprehensive services for drunken drivers.

### Second DUI Court Added in Las Vegas

During fiscal year 2008, a second DUI Court was added to meet increased demand at Las Vegas Justice Court. The first DUI Court was created in 2003.

In Nevada, DUI arrests have increased to more than 18,000 annually, or one arrest for every 94 drivers, according to the Office of Traffic Safety.

### Pahrump Starts Family-Juvenile Court

An alternative court program for families with children in the Juvenile Court system has been created in Pahrump. The new specialty court offers families an alternative to the prosecution of juveniles.

### Henderson Launches A.B.C. Court

Henderson Municipal Court has implemented a new alternative sentencing program for habitual misdemeanor offenders with co-occurring disorders. It has been called the Assistance in Breaking the Cycle Court (A.B.C. Court).

## Nevada Began the Nation's First ...

- Juvenile Drug Court (Clark County)
- Family Drug Court (Washoe County)
- Early Release Re-Entry Drug Courts (Clark & Washoe Counties)
- Child Support Drug Court (Clark County)
- Multi-County Rural Drug Court (Carson City and Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, and Storey Counties)

## Achievements & Awards

### 8th Judicial District Improves Services for Impaired Jurors

The Nevada Disability and Law Center has recognized the **Eighth Judicial District Court** for its efforts to improve services for visually impaired jurors, who found it difficult to navigate through the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas.

The court improved access to the jury services assembly room and placed Braille call buttons and new signage throughout the building. New handicap parking was found for jurors and the court's website was updated to improve access for jurors with disabilities.

### Pahrump JP Tina Brisebill Named Judge of the Year

The Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ) named Pahrump **Justice of the Peace Tina Brisebill** the Judge of the Year for 2007 at their winter conference in Laughlin. NJLJ is the organization of all Justice and Municipal Court judges in the state.

Judge Brisebill earned the award for her involvement in Nevada's judicial system—serving on several judicial committees and commissions—as well as activities in her own community during her 25 years in the court system.

### Three Court Officials Receive Administrative Awards

Three Nevada court officials have been presented with awards from state organizations for their contributions. Pahrump Justice Court Clerk **Kim Barrett** was awarded the Clerk of the Year award by the Nevada Association for Court Career Advancement (NACCA) during its annual meeting.

The Nevada Association of Court Executives (NACE) awarded **Joe Tommasino** (Clark County Courts) the NACE Court Executive of the Year award. NACE also presented now-retired Second Judicial District Court Administrator **Ron Longtin** with an award of appreciation for his many years of contributions to the judiciary and to NACE.



# INNOVATIONS

## 2007 LEGISLATURE

### **New Law Changes Filing Period For Judicial Candidates**

For the Nevada Supreme Court and the judiciary in general, the 2007 Session of the Nevada Legislature was considered to be very productive.

Perhaps the most innovative achievement was the changing of the election filing period for most judges from 2 weeks in May to the first 2 weeks in January. This change was introduced in an effort to limit the need for many judges and judicial candidates to solicit campaign contributions. Statistically, about 60 percent of incumbent judges are not challenged, but they had to collect contributions in anticipation of an opponent.

After the bill passed, the Supreme Court issued a companion court rule prohibiting the collecting of campaign contributions by any judicial candidate without a challenger.

## RENO MUNICIPAL COURT

### **"Kids' Court" Created**

During fiscal year 2008, Reno Municipal Court launched its Kids' Court Program to give fifth and sixth grade students the opportunity to obtain an up close and personal view of the court and learn more about the criminal justice system.

One of the highlights is the "Ask an Inmate" session during which inmates are brought to the courthouse to answer questions from students. Students often ask how drugs, alcohol, and peer pressure affected the inmates' lives.

### **Camp Laughing Bear**

Reno Municipal Court's Camp Laughing Bear day care center provides a safe location for parents involved in court proceeds to temporarily leave their children. The facility not only minimizes a stressful situation for the children, but also prevents courtroom disruptions, which frequently occurred when children had to accompany their parents to the courtroom.

Children get an opportunity to interact with other children, create arts and crafts projects, and leave the courthouse happy rather than bored, tired, and confused.

The Municipal Court has opened the doors of its Camp Laughing Bear to the children of defendants and litigants in Justice and Family Courts that are located in the same building.

## CARSON CITY COURTS

### **Court Held at Homeless Event**

Carson City Justice of the Peace/Municipal Judge John Tatro conducted a satellite court at the Third Annual Homeless Connect. The court proceedings were conducted to assist individuals who were facing outstanding charges. Court staff also handed out school supplies to children.

## CLARK COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS

### **Collections Units Established**

The Justice Courts in Henderson, North Las Vegas, Laughlin, Searchlight, Boulder City, Moapa, Moapa Valley, and Bunkerville have joined forces in creating a court collections and judicial enforcement program.

The program was driven by concerns over growing caseloads, aging collection reports, and the courts' inability to enforce judicial orders. While debt collection is not a judicial function, if judicial orders are not enforced, justice is not being served.

The courts determined that the customary practice of simply issuing bench warrants for failures to appear or pay fines was ineffective. The courts added staff—funded solely by collection fees added to fines—to pursue funds that are owed. The courts also contracted with a collections service that has the ability to impact credit reports as a last resort to encourage compliance.

Goodsprings Justice Court established a highly successful in-house collections unit, and does not utilize the services of a collection agency.

## NORTH LAS VEGAS MUNICIPAL COURT

### **Case Information Available on Web**

The public now has internet access to case information, court dates, and defendant status at North Las Vegas Municipal Court. The court website can be accessed at:

<http://municipalcourt.cityofnorthlasvegas.com>

### **Marshal Division Re-Established**

The North Las Vegas Marshal Division was re-established by the court to take a proactive approach to the enforcement of judicial orders.

After letters are sent notifying defendants of outstanding cases or fines, Field Marshals pursue the individuals. The Field Marshals serve about 1,000 warrants and collect nearly \$250,000 each month. The collections are aided by wireless handheld credit and debit card readers, and a plea letter form. Marshals also collect partial bail, set new court dates, and place defendants on payment plans.

## SENIOR JUDGE PROGRAM

### **Clark County Taxpayers Save**

Using Senior District Judges to conduct settlement conferences and Short Trials at Family Court in Clark County not only helps resolve cases before they dissolve into costly, time consuming litigation, but saves taxpayer money.

Supreme Court statistics show that nearly 79 percent of cases are resolved without the need for full trials conducted by overworked elected judges.

# FACILITIES



## Flood Damages Historic Records At Lincoln County Courthouse

Cascading water from a broken pipe in a third floor restroom of the 70-year-old Lincoln County Courthouse in Pioche severely damaged court documents and created mold issues at the courthouse.

Court files had been stored on the basement floor along with documents belonging to other county departments. Court documents, many with historic significance, were sent to disaster recovery experts in Fort Worth, Texas, for drying and restoration.

Before the April 2008 flood was discovered, 3-4 inches of water had accumulated in the basement. The Lincoln County Courthouse was dedicated in 1938.

## AOC Outgrows Space at The Supreme Court Building

Growth of the Administrative Office of the Courts has required the relocation of some staff to a Carson City facility about a block from the Supreme Court Building.

The new location houses the Judicial Programs and Services Division (including Judicial Education), the Nevada Court System team, and the Statewide Technology Standards team. Nearly 20 court employees work in the off-site facility dubbed the Annex. Another half dozen AOC employees are stationed at the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas.

## Ely Courthouse Declared Unfit for Court Matters

The U.S. Marshal Service conducted a facility survey on the century-old White Pine County Courthouse in Ely, and concluded that "this facility should no longer be used for any courthouse related matters, either civil or criminal."

The Nevada Judiciary has been working to obtain resources for a new courthouse, but the efforts, so far, have been fruitless and the Seventh Judicial District Judges have had little choice but to continue holding court in the outdated facility.

The Marshals Service found a number of problems with the stately, but aging building that houses the District and Justice Courts in Ely. The report stated, "The facility will never meet minimum security standards based upon design and infrastructure issues." The historic courthouse is the site for trials of inmates from the maximum security Ely State Prison.

Efforts to obtain funding for a new courthouse from the Nevada Legislature in the 2005 and 2007 sessions were unsuccessful.





## The Original Supreme Court Building

After Nevada became a state on October 31, 1864, the Nevada Supreme Court had several homes before its first official courthouse - the stately art deco building pictured here - was constructed in 1937. From 1864 to 1870, the Supreme Court conducted its business in the Great Basin Hotel, on the site where the old Carson City Courthouse now stands. When the Capitol Building was constructed in 1871, chambers were built inside for the Supreme Court. Those chambers have been restored to their turn-of-the-century condition and are open to the public. The Court finally moved into its own building in 1937 and then to its current quarters in 1992. The original Supreme Court building currently provides office space for the Nevada Attorney General.

## The Nevada Supreme Court's Two Homes



The Nevada Supreme Court is not only the highest court, but is also the state's only appellate court.

Because Nevada is one of only 11 states without an intermediate Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court must decide all appellate issues along with performing its other duties. It is one of the busiest Supreme Courts in the nation.

The Supreme Court Building, completed in 1992 (above), sits in the state capital of Carson City between the Capitol Building and the Nevada Legislature. The justices decide most of their cases there.

But the justices also hear a portion of their oral arguments at their southern home atop the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas (left), which opened in 2005.

The Supreme Court has also held court sessions in Elko, Reno, Tonopah, Ely, and Virginia City.

Every year, the Court holds oral arguments at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



# TECHNOLOGY

## **E-Filing Begins At the Supreme Court**

The Nevada Supreme Court began accepting the electronic filing (e-filing) of documents in March 2008, although the e-filing initially will be limited to a pilot program consisting of criminal fast track cases in which all parties are represented by public lawyers.

The pilot program is focusing on the populous Clark and Washoe Counties. But White Pine County and Carson City will be involved also in the pilot program because those jurisdictions—where state prisons are located—are served by the State Public Defender's Office.

In the second phase of the pilot program, the district court clerks will begin to initiate fast track appeals electronically and submit trial court records and transcripts in those cases.

The final phase includes the electronic filing by district court clerks of all notices of appeals in criminal case and permitting contract defense attorneys to participate in electronic filing.

## **Statewide Technology Standards Project**

The goal of the Statewide Technology Standards project is to ensure that all Nevada courts will have the ability to electronically transmit and receive information from sources outside those courts, including other courts, executive branch agencies, and the public.

Data sharing is always a challenge when courts and other justice agencies use a myriad of disparate computer systems and there are no standardized policies and procedures in place. The lack of technology standards can result in delays of court proceedings, and limits on the public's access to records and ability to make payments or file documents electronically.

During fiscal year 2008, the project's Executive Committee focused on access to such records as arrest warrants, traffic citations, DMV convictions, and dispositions of charges.

### **Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MC-IJIS)**

One way the courts have been working to exchange information has been through the Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MC-IJIS), a computer interface project developed at the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) that allows different computers to talk with each other.

During fiscal year 2008, the AOC has been working with the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS), Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP) to share NHP citation records with the courts utilizing MC-IJIS. The AOC, DPS, and Clark County have also partnered to develop an electronic warrant exchange.

## **Nevada Court System (NCS)**

The Nevada Court System program was launched several years ago by the AOC to address the needs of Nevada's rural courts, which usually have only one or two judges and minimal staff. The objective was to provide affordable and efficient technology to Nevada courts that may not have the funds available to purchase and support such technology independently. The NCS program includes the implementation of a user friendly case management system, staff training, and ongoing technical support from the AOC.

Since its inception, NCS has expanded beyond the rural courts to include several urban courts.

During fiscal year 2008, the AOC continued to expand the project, adding the first two District Courts (Carson City and Storey County) and four Justice Courts (East Fork, Tahoe, Austin, and Tonopah). That brought the total participation for this project to 24 limited jurisdiction courts and 2 general jurisdiction courts, with 17 more courts committed to participate within the next 3 years.

## **New Case Management System At the Supreme Court**

With the Nevada Supreme Court being one of the busiest in the nation and facing a growing and ever more complex caseload, it became necessary to upgrade its case management system.

During fiscal year 2008, the Supreme Court was able to move the project forward by securing the necessary state funding, and gathering information and bids.

## **Las Vegas Justice Court Collected \$1 Million in One Month**

More than \$1 million was collected in February 2008, by Las Vegas Justice Court through the court's online and phone payment system. This was the largest amount ever collected in a single month.

Nearly 6,000 people skipped the line at the courthouse payment window and paid their traffic tickets. Since May 2006, more than \$12 million has been collected through the system.

## **Carson City Courts Upgrade Court Recording Systems**

Video recording systems have been installed at the First Judicial District Juvenile Court in Carson City and at the Carson City Justice/Municipal Courts, replacing the antiquated cassette recorders that had been in use for years.

## **First JD Website Enhanced**

The First Judicial District Court, covering Carson City and Storey County, enhanced its website to provide additional information to the public.

A 19-minute orientation video for prospective jurors is now accessible on the website in addition to links to resources, forms, and court information.

# EDUCATING NEVADA'S JUDGES

## Judicial Education Division

The mission of the Judicial Education Division is to promote the competency and professionalism of Nevada's judges and court staff. This is achieved through a comprehensive system of continuing legal education and training, primarily at the conferences of the judicial associations. Judges, however, are also encouraged to obtain more specialized education throughout the year.

The Judicial Education Division is funded entirely through administrative assessments—fees charged to defendants in misdemeanor criminal and traffic cases.

### Judicial Education Programs Continue to Grow

The Judicial Education Unit of the Administrative Office of the Courts continued to serve more Nevada judges, judicial officers, and court staff than ever, helping them gain unprecedented professional development. During fiscal year 2008, the Judicial Education Unit convened 16 educational and training conferences, providing far-reaching educational opportunities for a total of 407 judges and masters, and 599 court staff.

## The Summit

Key among the conferences was the Judicial Leadership Summit at Lake Tahoe in May 2008.

The highly regarded Summits are held every 4 years, and bring together judges, referees, masters and court administrators from all court levels. They attend educational sessions, share achievements, and discuss developments in the courts. Nearly 120 judges and 100 court executives and staff attended the 3 day conference.

The 2008 summit was specifically intended to encourage participants to reflect on their roles in ensuring that Nevada's court system remains fair and responsive to the needs of those who come before it.

A Summit highlight was a luncheon speech by Speaker of the Nevada Assembly Barbara Buckley, who praised individual courts as well as the Supreme Court for addressing a wide range of legal concerns, such as re-examining sentencing procedures, the sealing of records, legal assistance, indigent defense reforms, and expanding Specialty Courts.

Erwin Chimerinsky, dean of the University of California, Irvine, Law School, reviewed current U.S. Supreme Court decisions and then followed up with a presentation on the election of judges.

Author and attorney Mark Curriden spoke on the failure of an entire state court system, resulting in the only time the U.S. Supreme Court acted as a trial court. Mary Sammon of the National Center for State Courts discussed leadership in court administration.

This was the third Summit held since its initiation in 2000, and included meetings of Supreme Court commissions, annual business meetings of judicial associations, court administrator discussions, judicial education planning sessions, a vendor fair, and several networking events.



## Many Judges Took Advantage Of Specialized Education

The Judicial Education Unit also provided funding to enable 173 judges and court officials and staff to attend more than 67 educational conferences sponsored by national and statewide organizations, including the National Judicial College, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the State Bar of Nevada.

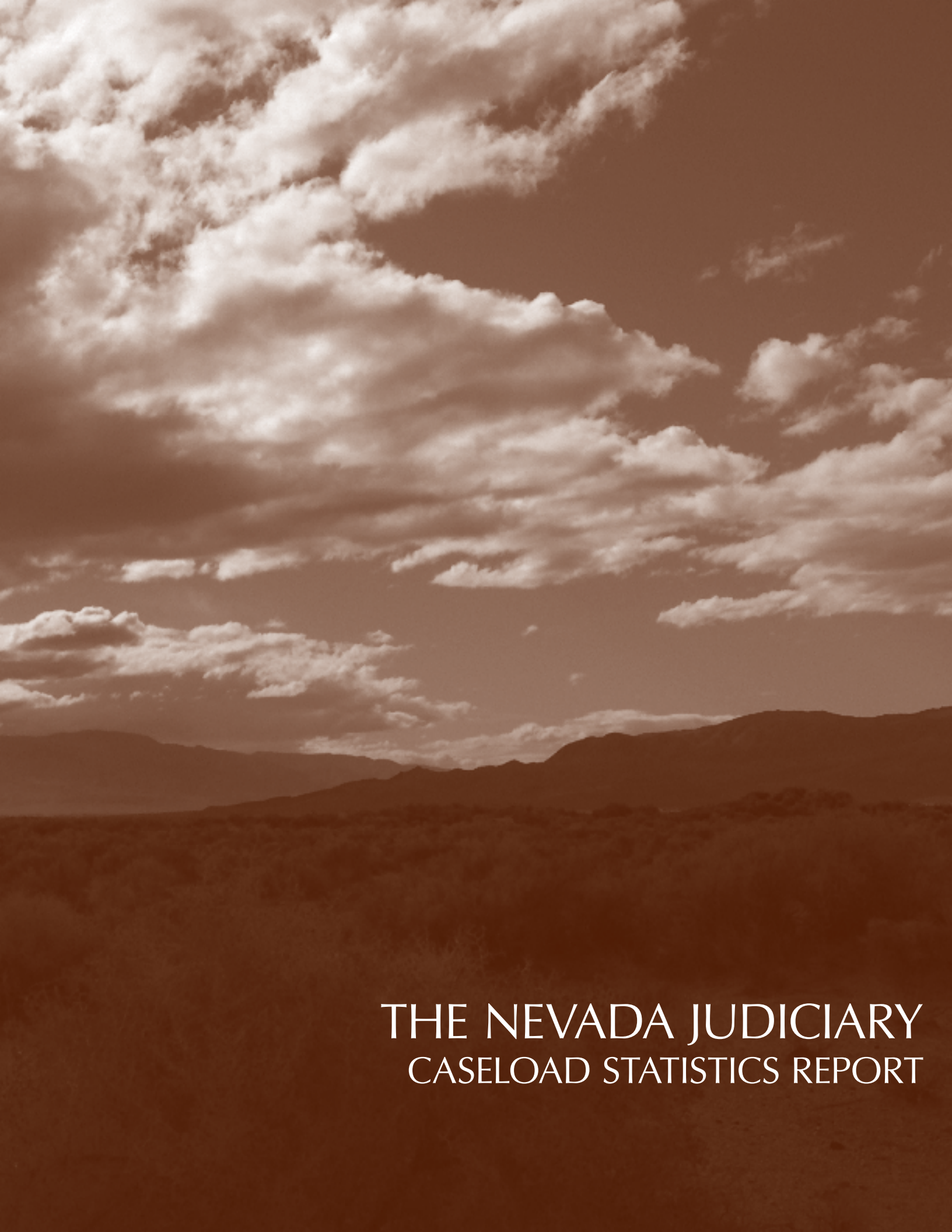
## Other Conferences

Other significant educational conferences convened by the Judicial Education Unit during fiscal year 2008 included:

- The Family Law Judges Conference was again held in Ely and focused on a variety of issues unique to those cases. Sessions included serious juvenile infractions and blended sentencing, domestic violence issues, child custody disputes in same-sex relationships, and criteria in guardianships
- Reviews of Legislation passed by the 2007 Nevada Legislature were provided for nearly 100 judges and court staff
- The biennial court staff conference drew approximately 200 participants
- Three sessions of the national Institute for Court Management certification series for Nevada court management professionals

## “Focus on Kids” Conference

The “Focus on Kids” Conference provided interactive training for judges and juvenile hearing masters who hear child abuse and neglect matters, and for attorneys who practice in that area of law. The Las Vegas conference drew 120 participants.



THE NEVADA JUDICIARY  
CASELOAD STATISTICS REPORT

# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

The **Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR)** reporting requirements were established in June 1999 by Supreme Court order. The USJR requires trial courts to submit information as defined in the Nevada Courts Statistical Reporting Dictionary<sup>1</sup> (Dictionary) to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) monthly. The information in this report is divided into four case categories: criminal, civil, family, and juvenile.

Caseloads and dispositions for each case category have been defined and consistently categorized. In fiscal year 2008 (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008), two types of statistics were collected in each of these categories. The two types are *cases filed* (cases initiated with the court) and *dispositions* (cases adjudicated or closed). Courts report these data counts by case type.

As technology and resources allow, future phases of USJR will be defined and data will be collected. The next phase will include events in court case processing and the status of pending cases.

This annual report provides caseload inventory (filing) and disposition statistics for the Supreme Court and all 77 trial courts in the state—17 District Courts, 43 Justice Courts, and 17 Municipal Courts. Where court information varies from the requirements or is incomplete, explanatory footnotes are provided.

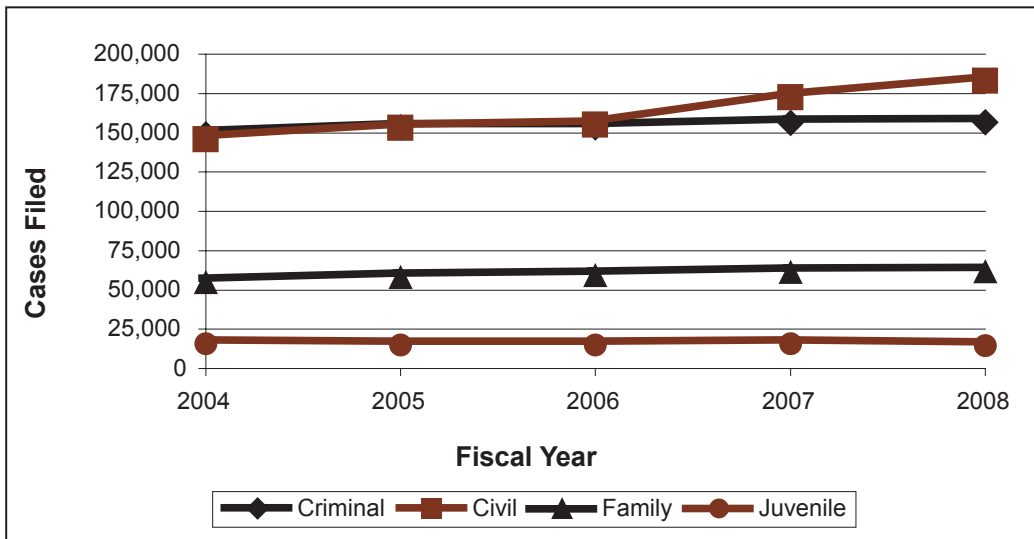
## Statewide Summary

The **Supreme Court** caseload was identical to last fiscal year with 2,238 cases filed, while the Court disposed of more than 1,950 cases during the same period.

Statewide, the total non-traffic caseload increased overall, with the amount of change varied among the three jurisdictional levels. The civil caseload increased to 182,879 filings and the criminal caseload increased slightly to 156,489 cases filed.

The trends in each case category, including civil, for the last 5 years can be seen in Figure 1. Interestingly, the civil caseload has increased more than 26 percent from 2004 to 2008. No detailed study has been completed; however, this overall increase is similar to the percentage increase of more than 27 percent in Justice Courts civil filings. The Justice Courts general civil filing limit was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in January 2005.

**Figure 1. Statewide Non-traffic Caseloads**  
Fiscal Years 2004 - 2008



<sup>1</sup> The Nevada Statistical Reporting Model was superseded in 2001 by revision 2.0, which also renamed it Nevada Courts Statistical Reporting Dictionary.

**Table 1. Reported Total Nevada Statewide Trial Court Caseload**  
Fiscal Years 2004 - 2008

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal <sup>1</sup>	Civil <sup>2</sup>	Family <sup>2</sup>	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Caseload	Traffic and Parking <sup>3</sup>
<b>District</b>	2008	14,638	34,404	62,103	14,520	125,665	9,140
	2007	15,049	31,320	61,729	15,889	123,987	6,536
	2006	14,865 <sup>r</sup>	29,091 <sup>r</sup>	59,573 <sup>r</sup>	15,093	118,622 <sup>r</sup>	7,095
	2005	14,056	29,447	58,111	15,177 <sup>r</sup>	116,791 <sup>r</sup>	7,417
	2004	13,203	29,013 <sup>r</sup>	54,961 <sup>r</sup>	15,799 <sup>r</sup>	112,976 <sup>r</sup>	6,976
<b>Justice</b>	2008	86,811	148,471	NJ	NJ	235,282	570,965
	2007	82,305 <sup>r</sup>	141,212	NJ	NJ	223,486	532,087
	2006	80,438 <sup>r</sup>	126,111 <sup>r</sup>	NJ	NJ	206,549 <sup>r</sup>	466,698 <sup>r</sup>
	2005	80,996	123,716	NJ	NJ	204,712	410,153
	2004	77,748 <sup>r</sup>	116,551	NJ	NJ	194,299	395,978
<b>Municipal</b>	2008	55,040	4	NJ	NJ	55,044	345,519
	2007	58,849 <sup>r</sup>	7 <sup>r</sup>	NJ	NJ	58,856 <sup>r</sup>	324,225 <sup>r</sup>
	2006	58,264 <sup>r</sup>	7	NJ	NJ	58,271 <sup>r</sup>	281,346
	2005	58,521	0	NJ	NJ	58,521	241,529
	2004	58,235	20	NJ	NJ	58,255	236,126
<b>TOTAL</b>	2008	156,489	182,879	62,103	14,520	415,991	925,624
	2007	156,203 <sup>r</sup>	172,532	61,729	15,889	406,329 <sup>r</sup>	862,848 <sup>r</sup>
	2006	153,567 <sup>r</sup>	155,206 <sup>r</sup>	59,573 <sup>r</sup>	15,093 <sup>r</sup>	383,442 <sup>r</sup>	755,139 <sup>r</sup>
	2005	153,573	153,163	58,111	15,177 <sup>r</sup>	380,024 <sup>r</sup>	659,099
	2004	149,186 <sup>r</sup>	145,584 <sup>r</sup>	54,961 <sup>r</sup>	15,799 <sup>r</sup>	365,530 <sup>r</sup>	639,080 <sup>r</sup>

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

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

<sup>1</sup> Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, and nontraffic misdemeanor filings and are counted by defendant.

<sup>2</sup> Reopened cases (see glossary) are included in totals.

<sup>3</sup> Traffic and parking filings are counted by charges, not defendants. Not all courts process parking violations. District Court numbers are juvenile traffic.

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

For fiscal year 2008, the District Courts' total non-traffic caseloads had varying levels of change over the previous year in all four case categories. Criminal decreased by almost 3 percent and juvenile about 8 percent, civil increased by almost 10 percent, and family was flat. The total change in District Court caseloads was a slight increase.

For fiscal year 2008, the Justice Court total non-traffic caseload increased 5 percent over last fiscal year in both categories – criminal and civil. Traffic and parking filings also increased more than 7 percent.

For fiscal year 2008, the Municipal Court criminal non-traffic caseload shows a decrease of about 6 percent from fiscal year 2007. Four civil filings were filed in one municipal court and comprise all such reported filings. Civil filings are rare in

Municipal Courts and are usually for the recovery of unpaid city utility bills. Traffic and parking filings increased more than 6 percent. Traffic filings are heavily dependent on the number of local law enforcement positions filled or left vacant.



# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

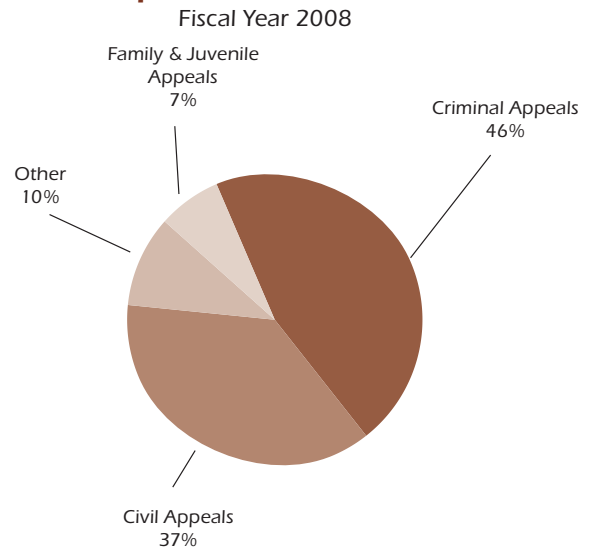
## Supreme Court

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in the state. Nevada does not have an intermediate appellate court. The main constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to resolve appeals from the decisions of the District Courts. The Supreme Court does not conduct any fact-finding trials, but rather determines whether procedural or legal errors were made in the rendering of lower court decisions. As the ultimate appellate court in the state, the Supreme Court hears all filed cases. The Nevada Constitution does not provide for discretionary review of cases in the court of last resort.

As can be seen in Table 2, the Supreme Court had 2,238 filings during the last fiscal year, which is the same number of filings the court received in fiscal year 2007. The Justices disposed of 1,959 cases; a decrease of almost 11 percent from the prior year. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the appeals by case type for the Supreme Court. The criminal appeals are the largest part of the Court's caseload at 46 percent, and that represents a 2 percent increase over fiscal year 2007.

The Supreme Court ended fiscal year 2008 with a pending caseload of 1,682 cases, its highest number since fiscal year 2000. This increase is attributable to a significant number of election-related challenges, an increase in the complexity of court cases, and an increase in criminal fast track appeals. The Court also saw an increased number of requests for extraordinary writs in fiscal year 2008.

**Figure 2. Distribution of Case Types for Supreme Court Caseload<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Juvenile and family statistics are a subset of civil filings for the Supreme Court. The combined category is provided here for comparison purposes.

The breakdown of appeals of District Court cases by Judicial District is provided in Table 3. As can be expected for the largest district court in the state, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) recorded the most appeals; an increase of 3 percent (39 cases) from last fiscal year. The second largest district court in the state, the Second Judicial District (Washoe County), recorded the next highest number of appeals, increasing by 4 percent (16 cases) from last fiscal year.

**Table 2. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Years 2004 - 2008

	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2005	Fiscal Year 2006	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2008
<b>Cases Filed</b>					
Bar Matters	50	40	28	39	38
Appeals	1,541	1,646	1,735	1,857	1,842
Original Proceedings	248	317	305	323	334
Other	7	8	6	7	4
Reinstated	6	11	12	12	20
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2,086</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>2,238</b>
<b>Cases Disposed</b>					
By Opinions*	83	93	122	98	90
By Order	1,667	1,887	2,007	2,095	1,869
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>2,193</b>	<b>1,959</b>
<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>1,682</b>
<b>Number of Opinions Written*</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>79</b>

\* Includes cases consolidated and disposed of by a single written opinion.  
Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

**Table 3. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District**  
Fiscal Years 2004 - 2008

Fiscal Year	Judicial Districts														Total <sup>1</sup>	
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth							
<b>Civil Appeals Filed<sup>2</sup></b>																
2008	43 5%	126 15%	14 2%	10 1%	15 2%	10 1%	13 2%	577 70%	17 2%	825 100%						
2007	34 4%	125 16%	16 2%	7 1%	14 2%	10 1%	13 2%	535 70%	13 2%	767 100%						
2006	24 3%	120 17%	8 1%	11 2%	9 1%	3 0%	17 2%	509 71%	16 2%	717 100%						
2005	47 7%	139 19%	9 1%	5 1%	9 1%	7 1%	8 1%	475 66%	20 3%	719 100%						
2004	47 6%	140 18%	12 2%	8 1%	13 2%	8 1%	19 2%	530 68%	8 1%	785 100%						
<b>Criminal Appeals Filed</b>																
2008	38 4%	249 24%	24 2%	21 2%	19 2%	28 3%	15 1%	618 61%	5 0%	1,017 100%						
2007	24 2%	234 24%	20 2%	20 2%	22 2%	18 2%	19 2%	621 63%	6 1%	984 100%						
2006	21 2%	251 25%	19 2%	20 2%	16 2%	14 1%	25 2%	644 63%	8 1%	1,018 100%						
2005	11 1%	240 26%	16 2%	17 2%	20 2%	11 1%	17 2%	591 64%	4 <1%	927 100%						
2004	14 2%	167 22%	12 2%	24 3%	10 1%	16 2%	22 3%	488 65%	3 <1%	756 100%						
<b>Total Appeals Filed</b>																
2008	81 4%	375 20%	38 2%	31 2%	34 2%	38 2%	28 2%	1,195 65%	22 1%	1,842 100%						
2007	58 3%	359 21%	36 2%	27 2%	36 2%	28 2%	32 2%	1,156 66%	19 1%	1,751 100%						
2006	45 3%	371 21%	27 2%	31 2%	25 1%	17 1%	42 2%	1,153 66%	24 1%	1,735 100%						
2005	58 4%	379 23%	25 2%	22 1%	29 2%	18 1%	25 2%	1,066 65%	24 1%	1,646 100%						
2004	61 4%	307 20%	24 2%	32 2%	23 1%	24 2%	41 3%	1,018 66%	11 1%	1,541 100%						

<sup>1</sup> Total of percentages may not equal 100%, due to rounding. <sup>2</sup> Family and juvenile cases are included in civil appeals.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office

## Appellate Court Comparisons

Recently, Nevada has looked at whether it should add an intermediate appellate court. Legislation passed during the 2007 session, will be heard again during the 2009 session, and will provide for a Constitutional amendment needed to add a court of appeals. A comparison of caseload and related information for selected appellate courts with some similarities<sup>2</sup> to Nevada is provided in Table 4. Information about some states that already have intermediate appellate courts is included also. Compared with the two other states in Table 4 without intermediate appellate courts, Nevada has almost three times the filings per Justice.

Comparison of recent information gathered from individual annual reports for the 12 states (including the District of Columbia) without an intermediate appellate court indicate that the Nevada Supreme Court was ranked second in filings per 100,000 persons among these courts after removing discretionary appeals from consideration. The District of Columbia was first with 254 appeals per 100,000 persons, Nevada was next with 87, Montana and Vermont were tied for third with 81.

<sup>2</sup> The states were selected because of their population ranking (Arkansas, Maine, Utah), their regional location (Alaska, Arizona, Montana, Utah) and/or they had five or seven justices in their Supreme Court (all) without regard to how many justices were in the Intermediate Appellate Court.

# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

**Table 4. Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected Appellate Courts with and without Intermediate Appellate Courts.**

All data from respective states' most recent annual report or web page (2006 or 2007)

	Nevada	Montana <sup>a</sup>	Maine <sup>a</sup>	Arizona <sup>a,b</sup>	Arkansas <sup>a</sup>	Alaska <sup>a,b</sup>	Utah <sup>a,b</sup>
<b>Population Rank<sup>c</sup></b>	35	44	40	16	32	47	34
	<b>Intermediate Appellate Court</b>						
<b>Justices</b>				22	12	3	7
<b>En Banc or Panels</b>				Panels	Both	Panels of 3	Panels of 3
<b>Cases Filed and Granted<sup>d</sup></b>				3,780 <sup>f</sup>	1,335 <sup>f</sup>	270	922 <sup>f</sup>
<b>Cases per Justice</b>				172	111	90	132
	<b>Supreme Court</b>						
<b>Justices</b>	7	7	7	5	7	5	5
<b>En Banc or Panels</b>	Both	Both	En Banc	Both	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc
<b>Cases Filed and Granted<sup>d</sup></b>	2238	774	774 <sup>f</sup>	1,262 <sup>f</sup>	843 <sup>f</sup>	431	564 <sup>f</sup>
<b>Cases per Justice</b>	320	111	111	252	120	86	113

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

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

<sup>c</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program: October 2008 website <http://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>d</sup> Includes mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed *and* granted, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>f</sup> Includes mandatory cases and total discretionary petitions filed. Number of filings granted for review not available.

## District Courts

The **District Courts** are general jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload encompasses all case types (criminal, civil, family, and juvenile) and actions prescribed by the Nevada Constitution and Nevada Revised Statutes. Criminal cases include felony and gross misdemeanor cases; and civil cases involve disputes exceeding \$10,000. Family and juvenile cases are defined by the parties involved in the action or proceedings.

The 9 Judicial Districts in Nevada encompass its 17 counties, each of which maintains a District Court and provides staff and related resources. The 9 Judicial Districts are served by 64 District Court Judges who are elected and serve within the Judicial District in which they reside; however, they have statewide authority and may hear cases throughout the state.

The sparse populations of rural Nevada have necessitated that five of the Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties. Judges in these rural Judicial Districts must travel within the multiple counties on a regular basis to hear cases.

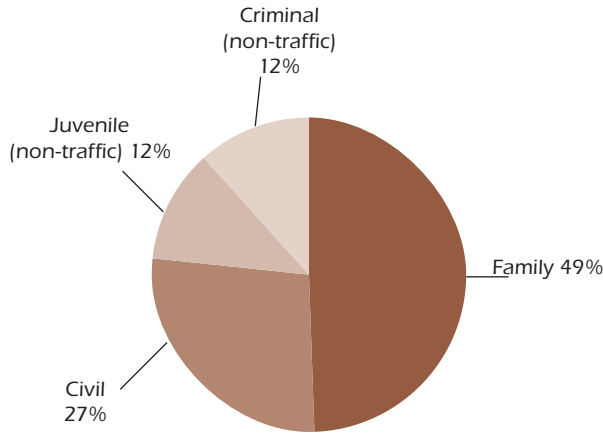
## Statistical Summary

The **District Court** case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 5. The detailed information for fiscal year 2008 is provided in the appendix (Tables A2-A5). Summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is included in Table 6.

The distribution of case types within the District Courts is shown in Figure 3. Family cases make up the largest percentage of the court caseload at 49 percent. Civil cases make up 27 percent while juvenile (non-traffic) and criminal cases follow with 12 percent each.

Statewide, the District Court criminal (non-traffic) filings for fiscal year 2008 decreased almost 3 percent from the previous year (see Table 5). Washoe County District Court criminal filings decreased the most, by nearly 7 percent (224 cases); Clark County District Court criminal filings had a slight increase (60 cases). However, District Courts in less populous counties, such as Lincoln County, had the largest increase, 30 percent (case filings went from 33 to 43), and Churchill County had a large decrease, down 28 percent (reported case filings went from 216 to 155).

**Figure 3. Distribution of Case Types for Statewide District Court Caseload**  
Fiscal Year 2008.



District Court civil filings increased almost 10 percent statewide over last fiscal year. Civil filings in Clark and Washoe Counties, the two most populous counties, increased almost 12 percent and 3 percent, in that order. Less populous counties with large percentage increases in filings included Esmeralda County with 80 percent (from 10 to 18 cases) and Pershing County with 73 percent (from 67 to 116 cases). Only four of the counties (Humboldt, Mineral, Nye, and White Pine) had decreases.

Family-related cases are handled only at the District Court level. Statewide, the total family caseload for the fiscal year had a slight increase over last year (only 374 family cases). Caseloads in slightly more than half of all District Courts increased. Of the two major urban district courts, family court filings in Clark County increased 2 percent while Washoe

**Table 5. Summary of District Court Cases Filed,**  
Fiscal Years 2007-08 (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic)

	Criminal Non-Traffic Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed		Family Cases Filed		Juvenile Non-Traffic Cases Filed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Filed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City District Court	289	300	682	614	737	656	507	461	2,215	2,031
Storey County District Court	35	35	36	22	33	26	25	25	129	108
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County District Court	3,008	3,232	4,219	4,104	12,060	12,307	2,287	2,558	21,574	22,201
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County District Court	155	216	167	167	612	629	299	316	1,233	1,328
Lyon County District Court	235	270	353	262	560	618	308	655	1,456	1,805
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County District Court	265	260	678	678	1,102	926	495	502	2,540	2,366
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County District Court	4	6	18	10	2	14	0	1	24	31
Mineral County District Court	41	51	26	31	65	59	43	60	175	201
Nye County District Court	<i>209</i>	291	<i>280</i>	387	<i>1,055</i>	1,508	<i>373</i>	503	<i>1,917</i>	2,689
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County District Court	94	133	102	106	299	262	373	553	868	1,054
Lander County District Court	20	28	48	44	46	52	1	45	115	169
Pershing County District Court	82	88	116	67	67	95	40	51	305	301
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County District Court	18	22	15	11	6	4	10	12	49	49
Lincoln County District Court	43	33	36	31	37	27	27	17	143	108
White Pine County District Court	92	74	128	151	140	120	181	195	541	540
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	9,894	9,834	27,091	24,252	44,583	43,680	9,384	9,768	90,952	87,534
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County District Court	154	176	409	383	699	746	167	167	1,429	1,472
<b>Total</b>	14,638	15,049	34,404	31,320	62,103	61,729	14,520	15,889	125,665	123,987

*Italic indicates number that are incomplete or estimated.*

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

# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

County decreased 2 percent. Several rural District Courts experienced double-digit percentage changes over their previous year. District Courts with large percentage increases (largely owing to the small number of cases) included Lincoln County, 37 percent (from 27 to 37 cases); Elko County, 19 percent (from 926 to 1,102 cases); and White Pine County, with 17 percent (120 to 140 cases).

Juvenile case filings reported by District Courts for fiscal year 2008 decreased 8 percent (1,369 cases) over last year. Clark County saw a 4 percent decrease (384 cases), while Washoe County also saw a decrease of 10 percent (271 cases). District Courts with large percentage increases included Carson City, 10 percent (from 461 to 507 cases) and Lincoln County, 6 percent (from 17 to 27 cases).

Disposition information for District Courts is provided in Table 6. Collecting and reporting of disposition information is a

complex process for the courts. Most of the District Courts count data manually. Some courts were unable to provide accurate and complete information. In addition, some case management systems have become obsolete. For example, the Clark County case management system is being replaced – a process that can take several years to complete. Clark County started with a new case management system in their family court this fiscal year.

The overall change in District Court dispositions was a decrease of 8 percent. The total decrease in civil case dispositions was 9 percent, criminal case dispositions were flat, and family case dispositions decreased almost 8 percent.

A standard measure of performance in the courts is the clearance rate. This measure can be calculated by dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. This number can be calculated for any and all case types and

**Table 6. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed**  
Fiscal Years 2007-2008 (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic)

	Criminal Non-Traffic Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile Non-Traffic Cases Disposed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City District Court	213	277	335	230	513	517	250	204	1,311	1,228
Storey County District Court	32	23	4	9	25	10	13	6	74	48
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County District Court	3,058	3,050	2,369	2,690	7,939	7,884	5,650	5,552	19,016	19,176
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County District Court	137	162	92	78	455	459	448	415	1,132	1,114
Lyon County District Court	249	237	141	83	198	186	223	627	811	1,133
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County District Court	263	296	191	201	1,032	1,199	330	429	1,816	2,125
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County District Court	2	4	3	5	6	18	0	0	11	27
Mineral County District Court	33	56	9	16	122	109	34	47	198	228
Nye County District Court	<i>163</i>	219	<i>211</i>	256	<i>1,186</i>	1,088	<i>362</i>	479	<i>1,922</i>	2,042
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County District Court	173	141	52	48	138	197	215	299	578	685
Lander County District Court	16	24	16	25	36	61	106	71	174	181
Pershing County District Court	111	131	23	32	224	89	44	43	402	295
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County District Court	29	24	13	2	9	14	18	10	69	50
Lincoln County District Court	30	26	23	12	42	23	54	34	149	95
White Pine County District Court	79	79	97	124	195	131	142	157	513	491
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	13,447	13,274	22,364	24,649	34,632	37,245	3,481	6,674	73,924	81,842
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County District Court	140	160	283	453	604	868	131	162	1,158	1,643
<b>Total</b>	18,175	18,183	26,226	28,913	47,356	51,380	11,501	15,209	103,258	112,403

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

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

allows the same case categories to be compared across courts. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

### Cases Per Judicial Position

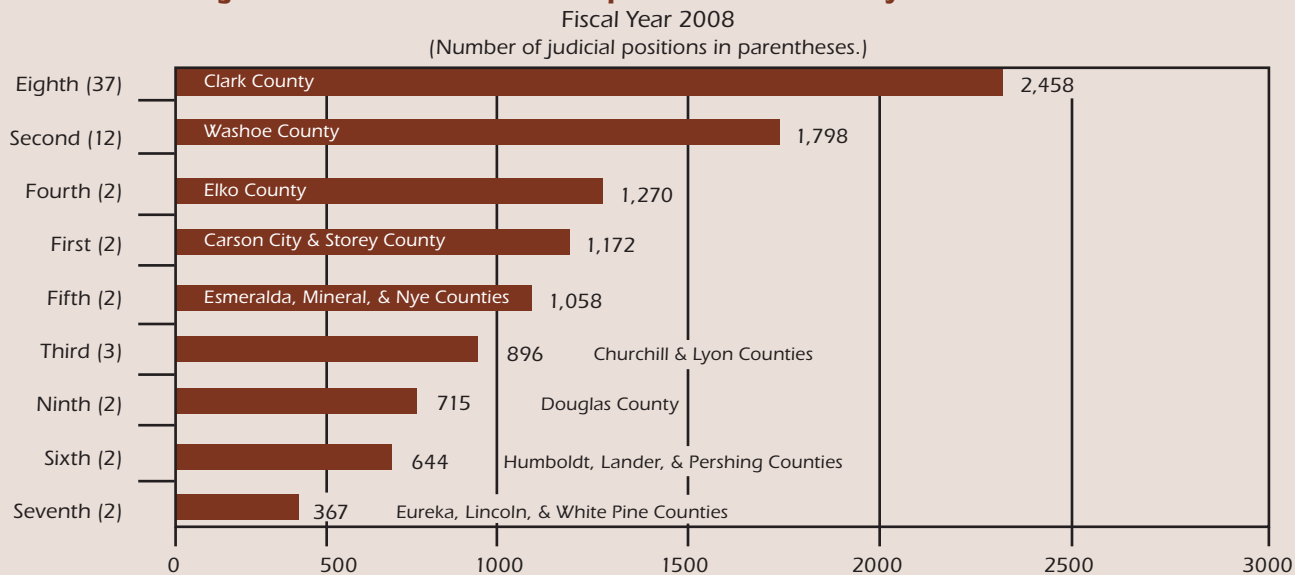
The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for all District Courts in Nevada for fiscal year 2008 is shown in Figure 4. In the Judicial Districts that contain more than one county (First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases from those counties are averaged between the Judges.

To make the comparisons more consistent among court types, juvenile traffic charges were removed from the totals before

The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,964, an increase of 27 cases per Judge over last fiscal year (1,937).

As has been the case for the last few years, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) has the largest number of non-traffic cases per judicial position at 2,458, a slight decrease from last year (2,501). The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) was next with 1,798 cases per judicial position, a 3-percent decrease over the previous fiscal year (1,850). The Fourth Judicial District (Elko County) follows with 1,270 cases per judicial position, a 7-percent increase over last fiscal year (1,183).

**Figure 4. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Judicial District**



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,964.  
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

calculating the amount of cases filed per judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines; precluding judicial involvement. In District Court, juvenile traffic cases are handled predominately by Juvenile Masters and occasionally by District Court Judges.

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 recent study<sup>3</sup> indicates these judges average 1 day a week on the road, which reduces their availability to hear cases.

<sup>3</sup> Sweet, R.L., and Dobbins, Robert, 2005, Miles Driven by Rural District Court Judges in Nevada, Fiscal Years 2000-04: Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts, Planning & Analysis Division Research Review, 4 p.

# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

Comparing the 2007 caseloads of general jurisdiction courts of Nevada to those of the surrounding seven western states highlights some interesting points (see Table 7). Nevada has the fewest Judges per 100,000 in population (2.4) and is second in the category of filings per Judge and fourth in filings per 100,000 population among these states.

**Table 7. Comparison of Nevada District Courts with Other Western States General Jurisdiction Courts.**

All data from respective states' annual reports or web pages for fiscal year 2006 or 2007

State	General Jurisdiction Court	Judges per 100,000 Population	Filings per Judge	Filings per 100,000 Population
Nevada	District	2.4	1,964	4,623
Alaska	Superior	5.9	497	1,363
Arizona	Superior	2.7	1,038	2,848
California	Superior	4.0	1,676	6,665
Hawaii	Circuit	5.4	658	3,538
Idaho	District	2.8	477	1,336
Oregon	Circuit	4.6	2,011	9,284
Washington	Superior	2.8	1,670	4,698

## Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts by Special Masters and Senior Justices and Judges who help dispose of cases. These Special Master positions are termed quasi-judicial because they have limited authority and are accountable to an elected Judge. Individuals in these positions are appointed by courts to help with the adjudication process.

### Quasi-Judicial Assistance

The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent assistance provided during the year. A summary is provided in Table 8.

The quasi-judicial assistance provided during fiscal year 2008 was equivalent to about 26 full-time judicial officers. 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 position chart.

**Table 8. Estimated Full-time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts**  
Fiscal Year 2008

District & County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
<b>First Judicial District</b> Carson City, Storey	1.00
<b>Second Judicial District</b> Washoe	8.00
<b>Third Judicial District</b> Churchill, Lyon	0.33
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b> Elko	1.00
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b> Esmeralda, Mineral, Nye	1.50
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b> Humboldt, Lander, Pershing	0.62
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b> Eureka, Lincoln, White Pine	0.10
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b> Clark	13.02
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b> Douglas	0.50

## Senior Justice and Judge Program

**Alternative methods** used to provide intermittent judicial assistance to courts include the Senior Justices and Judges Program, and temporary assignment of District Court Judges. Supreme Court Rule 10 governs the Senior Justices and Judges Program. In brief, any former Supreme Court Justice or District Court Judge who qualifies for retirement and who was not removed, retired-for-cause, or defeated for retention in an election for a particular level of court may apply to become a Senior Justice or Judge. The Senior Justices and Judges are eligible for temporary assignment by the Supreme Court to any State trial court at the level of their previous judicial service with a minimum of 2 years of service in that office.

Summary information on Senior Justice and Judge assignments per judicial district during fiscal year 2008 as well as the number of hours by reason for assignment is provided in Table 9. Each judicial assistance memorandum is counted as one assignment. Judicial assistance memoranda may also provide for multiple days or cases, depending on the assistance requested. When a judicial vacancy occurs, such as when a Judge is temporarily absent (for example, due to catastrophic

**Table 9. Hours per Judicial District and Assignment Type, Senior Justices and Judges**  
Fiscal Year 2008

Judicial Districts (JD)	Assignment Type	Number of Assignments	Number of Hours
First JD (Carson City & Storey Co.)	Case Assignment	25	441.25
	Durational	2	7.00
	Settlement Conference	1	6.00
<b>Total for First JD</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>454.25</b>
Second JD (Washoe Co.)	Case Assignment	13	279.00
	Durational	23	693.00
	Durational – Civil	2	55.00
	Durational – Criminal	3	19.50
	Durational – Family	43	847.75
	Settlement Conference	10	89.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	7	1,452.00
<b>Total for Second JD</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3,435.25</b>	
Third JD (Churchill & Lyon Co.)	Case Assignment	7	82.50
	<b>Total for Third JD</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>82.50</b>
Fourth JD (Elko Co.)	Case Assignment	9	33.00
	Durational	1	30.50
	Durational – Civil	1	24.00
<b>Total for Fourth JD</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>87.50</b>	
Fifth JD (Esmeralda, Mineral, & Nye Co.)	Case Assignment	9	156.25
	<b>Total for Fifth JD</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>156.25</b>
Sixth JD (Humboldt, Lander, & Pershing Co.)	Case Assignment	3	33.50
	<b>Total for Sixth JD</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33.50</b>
Seventh JD (Eureka, Lincoln, & White Pine Co.)	Case Assignment	11	211.42
	<b>Total for Seventh JD</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>211.42</b>
Eighth JD (Clark Co.)	Case Assignment	17	437.75
	Durational	47	2,890.20
	Durational – Civil	21	578.00
	Durational – Criminal	8	110.00
	Durational – Family	50	968.00
	Settlement Conference	16	108.00
	Short/Trial Settlement – Family	26	908.75
	Specialty Court – Urban	17	817.00
<b>Total for Eighth JD</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>6,817.70</b>	
Ninth JD (Douglas Co.)	Case Assignment	13	107.00
	Durational	3	19.00
	Settlement Conference	1	9.50
	Short Trial/Settlement – Family	1	19.25
<b>Total for Ninth JD</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>154.75</b>	
Western Region (First, Third, Fifth, & Ninth JDs)	Specialty Court – Rural	7	596.00
	<b>Total for Western Region</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>596.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>406</b>	<b>12,029.12</b>

illness or attendance at mandatory judicial education classes), or otherwise recused or disqualified, a Senior Justice or Judge may be assigned for a period of time to hear all cases previously calendared, or for an individual case. A Senior Justice or Judge may continue to hear motions on a case assigned in a previous fiscal year. Without this assistance, hearings would have to be vacated or reassigned, creating burdensome delays and frustration for litigants.

The Senior Justices and Judges also hear civil settlement conferences on a regular basis and, in the Eighth Judicial District Court, short trials/settlements in family court every 2 weeks. Since October 2006, the Senior Judges have settled 261 cases, which is 79 percent of the cases in this program.

The Senior Judges conduct the specialty court programs (drug treatment and mental health courts) in the Second, Third, Fifth, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial Districts. 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 again.

In addition to the assignments in the District Court, Senior Justices in the program are also assigned to assist in the Supreme Court. During fiscal year 2008, the three senior Justices in the program worked the equivalent of 44.75 days in the Supreme Court.

During fiscal year 2008, there were 16 Senior Justices or Judges actively serving the District and Supreme Courts. Their combined efforts provided assistance equivalent to more than seven full-time Judges for the State.

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

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

Initially, the ADR Programs focused on certain civil cases with probable award value of less than \$25,000. A later statutory revision increased the amount to \$40,000, and during the 2005 Legislative session, Assembly Bill 468 was passed, which increased the maximum amount to \$50,000 per plaintiff for mandatory programs. The Ninth Judicial District, in the program voluntarily, opted to keep the initial amount.



# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

**Table 10. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates**

Fiscal Year 2008

	First Judicial District Court		Second Judicial District Court		Eighth Judicial District Court**		Ninth Judicial District Court	
	First Year 2008	Long-Term 10-year Average	First Year 2008	Long-Term 10-year Average	First Year 2008	Long-Term 10-year Average	First Year 2008	Long-Term 10-year Average
<b>Civil Caseload</b>	718		4,219		27,091		409	
<b>Cases Entered*</b>	244	259	441	519	3,755	3,761	153	149
<b>Cases Removed</b>	45	55	56	61	744	385	29	33
<b>Cases Settled or Dismissed</b>	142	158	288	419	3,559	1,805	31	39
<b>Settlement Rate</b>	96 %	94 %	83 %	82 %	85 %	68 %	97 %	91 %
<b>Trials De Novo requested</b>	6	10	60	92	615	848	1	4
<b>Trials De Novo request rate</b>	4 %	6 %	17 %	18 %	15 %	32 %	3 %	9 %

\* First, Second, and Eighth Judicial District Courts have a \$50,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District Court has a \$25,000 maximum. Cases that qualify are automatically included in the program and parties have to request removal. The 2005 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 468 revising the maximum to \$50,000.

\*\* The case management system used by the Eighth Judicial District Court is not designed to track data within these statistical categories. As noted previously, Clark County is in the process of obtaining a new case management system that should better provide this information. Manual counting of this information is not cost effective. The actual settlement rate for the Eighth Judicial District Court may be slightly higher or lower.

## Caseload and Settlement Rate

In three of the four participating Judicial Districts during fiscal year 2008, fewer cases entered the arbitration programs than their respective 10-year averages. The Ninth Judicial District (Douglas County) was the only court whose new cases exceeded the 10-year average and that was only by four cases. The caseload and settlement rates for the fiscal year and the long-term annual average for the most recent 10 years for each district program are provided in Table 10.

All four judicial districts had settlement rates this fiscal year that were higher than their long-term program averages. 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 settlement rate is the number of cases settled or dismissed after entering the arbitration program, compared with those cases requesting trials de novo (actual bench or jury trials).

One specific type of alternative dispute resolution is the Short Trial Program as defined in the Nevada Court Rules. A Short Trial

follows modified rules including only four jurors, with each party (plaintiffs and defendants) limited to 3 hours for presentation. The verdict must be agreed upon by three of the four jurors.

This fiscal year, 52 new cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program in the Second Judicial District Court. Of the pending caseload, 39 were dismissed or settled and 7 short trials were completed this fiscal year. Of the remaining cases, 44 have been scheduled for trial.

For fiscal year 2008 in the Eighth Judicial District Court, 491 cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program. Of the total cases currently in the program, 430 cases were dismissed or settled, 111 completed the short trial, and no information was provided regarding number of cases scheduled for trial.

Each of these District Courts collect fees (\$5 per civil case filing, except Clark County which collects \$15 per case filing<sup>4</sup>) 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<sup>4</sup> fees. However, the courts continue to find the programs to be successful alternatives

<sup>4</sup> Effective October 1, 2005, the Boards of County Commissioners may reset, by ordinance, the per-case filing fee to a maximum of \$15 as provided by the passage of Senate Bill 177 during the 2005 Legislature.

to traditional trials. The programs are well-received by litigants, the public, and members of the bar, since cases are processed expeditiously and at reduced expense.

## 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 general civil cases (amounts up to \$10,000), small claims (up to \$5,000), summary eviction cases, and requests for temporary and extended protective orders (domestic violence<sup>5</sup> or stalking and harassment).

The Justices of the Peace are elected and serve within the townships in which they reside. In fiscal year 2008, the 43 Justice Courts were served by 60 Justices of the Peace. They 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 commissioned as Senior Justices of the Peace by the Supreme Court may serve temporarily in any Justice Court in the State.

### Statistical Summary

**The Justice Court** case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 11. The detailed information for fiscal year 2008 is provided in the appendix (Tables A6 and A7). Summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is included in Table 12.

Statewide, the number of Justice Court non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases filed during fiscal year 2008 increased more than 5 percent (11,765 cases) from fiscal year 2007.

In criminal case filings, some rural Justice Courts experienced large percentage increases owing to their small numbers of cases [Moapa (50 percent), Austin (48 percent), and Jackpot (33

percent) Justice Courts] or decreases [Bunkerville and Carlin (49 percent), and Hawthorne (43 percent) Justice Courts].

As can be expected for the most populous township, the Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest criminal caseload with 61 percent of the Justice Court statewide total. Reno Justice Court was next with 8 percent.

Justice Court civil filings for fiscal year 2008 increased 5 percent statewide over last year. Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest percentage of civil cases statewide (almost 63 percent). Reno Justice Court was the next highest (11 percent).

Disposition information for Justice Courts is provided in Table 12. Overall, total non-traffic dispositions were flat compared with last year (down 91 cases). Criminal case dispositions increased slightly and civil case dispositions decreased slightly. The court with the largest number of criminal filings, Las Vegas Justice Court, is currently migrating off of a legacy system, which was unable to provide criminal case dispositions.

A standard measure of performance in the courts is the clearance rate. This measure can be calculated by dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. This number can be calculated for any and all case types and allows the same case categories to be compared across courts. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

### Cases Per Judicial Position

**The comparison** of the Justice Court non-traffic cases per judicial position information requires some considerations unique to its jurisdiction. For instance, many of the Justices of the Peace are part-time employees. Cases in Justice Courts (limited jurisdictions) tend to be less complex than cases in District Courts (general jurisdictions), thus a Justice Court can handle a larger number of cases per judicial position. Traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because charges may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement.

<sup>5</sup> In some areas near the more urban cities, the Justice Court may not hear domestic violence protection orders because they are heard at the Family Division of District Court.

**Table 11. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed**  
Fiscal Years 2007 - 2008 (See Table 15 for Traffic Data)

	Criminal Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Filed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
<b>First Judicial District</b>						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court	2,198	1,949	5,441	5,446	7,639	7,395
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	253	365	77	74	330	439
<b>Second Judicial District</b>						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	1,049	1,100	269	244	1,318	1,344
Reno Justice Court	7,144	6,839	16,613	17,913	23,757	24,752
Sparks Justice Court	2,932	3,058	6,484	5,005	9,416	8,063
Wadsworth Justice Court	84	83	82	40	166	123
<b>Third Judicial District</b>						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	589	778	1,658	1,485	2,247	2,263
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	657	686 <sup>r</sup>	1,567	1,406	2,224	2,092 <sup>r</sup>
Dayton Justice Court	509	553	913	726	1,422	1,279
Walker River Justice Court	173	298	575	636	748	934
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>						
Elko County						
Carlin Justice Court	164	322	214	134	378	456
East Line Justice Court	131	173	153	232	284	405
Elko Justice Court	1,481	1,338	1,923	1,644	3,404	2,982
Jackpot Justice Court	110	83	35	38	145	121
Wells Justice Court	95	135	75	76	170	211
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	29	20	20	35	49	55
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	377	654	219	243	596	897
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	157	169	67	56	224	225
Pahrump Justice Court	1,689	1,368	1,563	1,430	3,252	2,798
Tonopah Justice Court	239	279	135	136	374	415
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>						
Humboldt County						
Union Justice Court	826	994	771	790	1,597	1,784
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	251	280	611	723	862	1,003
Austin Justice Court	173	117	7	10	180	127
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	331	288	353	317	684	605
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	44	53	17	30	61	83
Eureka Justice Court	62	71	55	57	117	128
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	65	65	36	35	101	100
Pahranagat Valley Justice Court	128	117	23	61	151	178
White Pine County						
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	178	158	420	555	598	713
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	2	0	1	5	3	5
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	88	142	418	399	506	541
Bunkerville Justice Court	23	45	17	11	40	56
Goodsprings Justice Court	266	197	93	98	359	295
Henderson Justice Court	4,338	3,907	6,755	5,487	11,093	9,394
Las Vegas Justice Court	53,193	48,961	93,221	89,267	146,414	138,228
Laughlin Justice Court	714	1,150	378	435	1,092	1,585
Mesquite Justice Court	197	203	379	448	576	651
Moapa Justice Court	78	52	30	21	108	73
Moapa Valley Justice Court	143	149 <sup>r</sup>	36	61	179	210
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,652	3,373	5,152	4,031	8,804	7,404
Searchlight Justice Court	73	89	8	9	81	98
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	1,104	954	1,427	1,139	2,531	2,093
Tahoe Justice Court	822	690	180	224	1,002	914
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,811</b>	<b>82,305<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>148,471</b>	<b>141,212</b>	<b>235,282</b>	<b>223,517<sup>r</sup></b>

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

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

**Table 12. Summary of Justice Court Cases Disposed**

Fiscal Years 2007 - 2008 (See Table 15 for Traffic Data)

	Criminal Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Total Non-Traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
<b>First Judicial District</b>						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court	2,009	2,220	3,290	3,352	5,299	5,572
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	282	239	82	68	364	307
<b>Second Judicial District</b>						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	1,000	992	206	196	1,206	1,188
Reno Justice Court	6,056	5,406	8,911	9,563	14,967	14,969
Sparks Justice Court	2,813	2,566	3,761	2,998	6,574	5,564
Wadsworth Justice Court	67	97	36	18	103	115
<b>Third Judicial District</b>						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	790	1,035	1,006	1,048	1,796	2,083
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	553	462 <sup>r</sup>	1,319	1,173	1,872	1,635 <sup>r</sup>
Dayton Justice Court	556	635	798	609	1,354	1,244
Walker River Justice Court	193	264	454	485	647	749
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>						
Elko County						
Carlin Justice Court	127	210	82	316	209	526
East Line Justice Court	210	120	53	83	263	203
Elko Justice Court	1,301	1,292	1,019	962	2,320	2,254
Jackpot Justice Court	137	120	26	41	163	161
Wells Justice Court	97	189	26	138	123	327
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	17	12	16	14	33	26
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	239	95	3	25	242	120
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	186	156	83	47	269	203
Pahrump Justice Court	1,002	1,370	1,186	1,063	2,188	2,433
Tonopah Justice Court	283	368	153	167	436	535
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>						
Humboldt County						
Union Justice Court	806	864	656	628	1,462	1,492
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	229	281	587	568	816	849
Austin Justice Court	96	15	6	2	102	17
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	314	271	150	63	464	334
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	30	43	9	13	39	56
Eureka Justice Court	50	71	52	22	102	93
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	71	71	15	7	86	78
Pahranagat Valley Justice Court	85	80	5	14	90	94
White Pine County						
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	161	132	358	429	519	561
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	2	0	2	4	4	4
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	131	133	288	292	419	425
Bunkerville Justice Court	93	101	7	11	100	112
Goodsprings Justice Court	131	200	37	50	168	250
Henderson Justice Court	3,066	3,073	3,827	2,806	6,893	5,879
Las Vegas Justice Court	NR	NR	58,384	60,711	--	--
Laughlin Justice Court	1,508	923	274	370	1,782	1,293
Mesquite Justice Court	316	289	138	27	454	316
Moapa Justice Court	374	424	7	8	381	432
Moapa Valley Justice Court	99	189	18	16	117	205
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,244	1,073	4,183	3,373	5,427	4,446
Searchlight Justice Court	50	64	2	5	52	69
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	1,116	1,403	824	871	1,940	2,274
Tahoe Justice Court	835	884	111	178	946	1,062
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,725</b>	<b>28,432<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>92,450</b>	<b>92,834</b>	<b>121,175</b>	<b>121,266<sup>r</sup></b>

NR Not reported.

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

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

# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

To simplify the presentation in Figure 5, only those Justice Courts with 1,000 or more non-traffic cases per judicial position are shown; the remaining courts are listed in a footnote<sup>6</sup>. The break at 1,000 was arbitrary.

In Figure 5, eleven courts have more than 2,000 non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas had the most at 14,641, an increase from the previous year (14,550). Next was Henderson Justice Court with 5,547 cases filed per judicial position, also an increase from last year (4,697) and moving them up one place from third. The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 3,921, an increase from last fiscal year (3,630).

## Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts by special masters who help dispose cases. These are special master positions that assist 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.

Carson City and Las Vegas Justice Courts were the only Justice Courts that reported quasi-judicial positions to help with their non-traffic caseload. Carson City Justice Court reported 0.40 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims and domestic violence protection cases. Las Vegas Justice Court reported 0.30 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims cases and 1.0 FTE in a Traffic Referee. 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; juvenile masters in Justice Court are traffic judges who act as pro tem judges and whose decisions are final unless appealed.

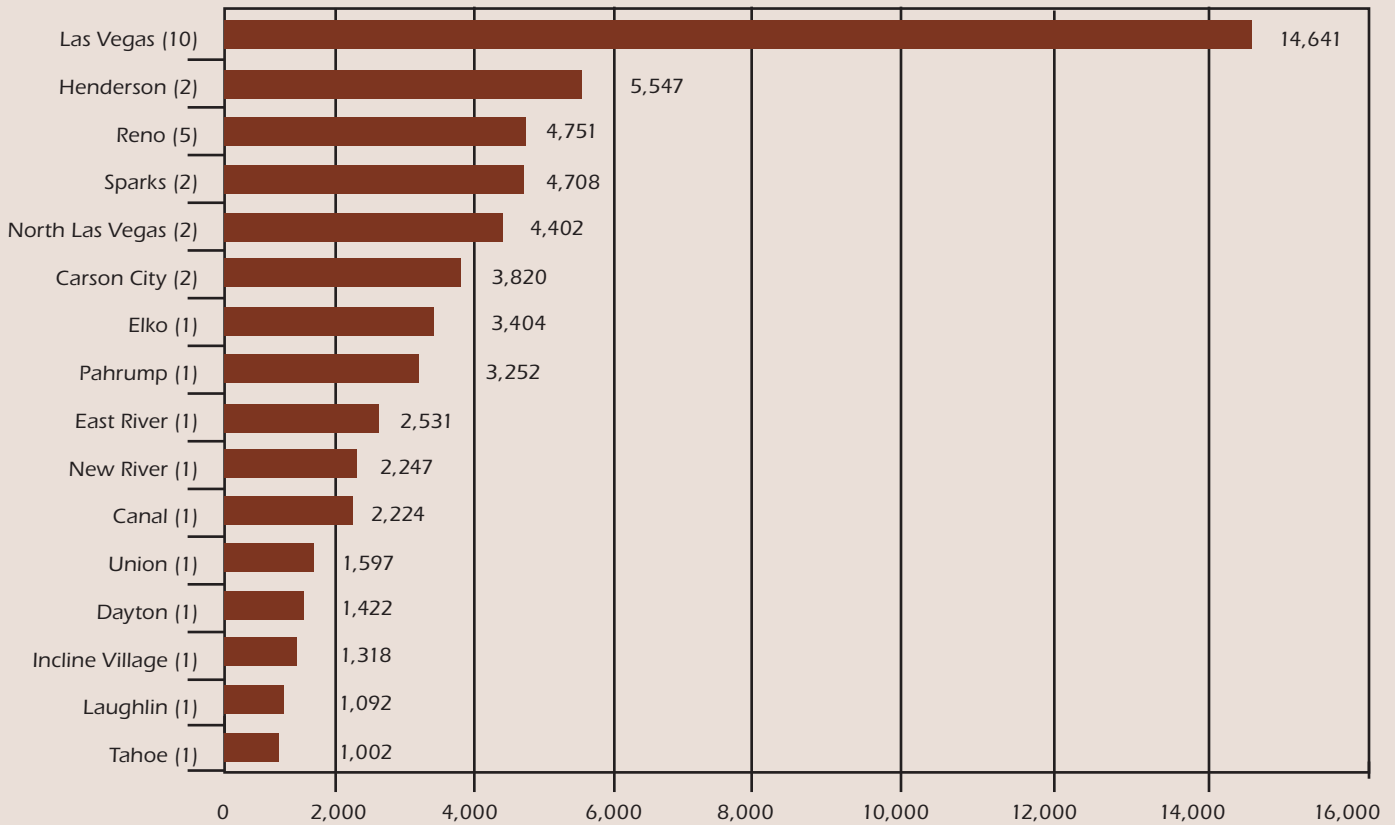
<sup>6</sup> Remaining Justice Courts and their non-traffic cases filed per judicial position (each court has one judicial position). Asterisk indicates judicial position is part-time.

Argenta Justice Court	862	Goodsprings Justice Court	359	Jackpot Justice Court*	145
Walker River Justice Court	748	Virginia City Justice Court	330	Eureka Justice Court*	117
Lake Justice Court	684	East Line Justice Court*	284	Moapa Justice Court*	108
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	598	Beatty Justice Court	224	Meadow Valley Justice Court*	101
Hawthorne Justice Court	596	Austin Justice Court*	180	Searchlight Justice Court*	81
Mesquite Justice Court	576	Moapa Valley Justice Court	179	Beowawe Justice Court*	61
Boulder Justice Court	506	Wells Justice Court*	170	Esmeralda Justice Court*	49
Carlin Justice Court*	378	Wadsworth Justice Court*	166	Bunkerville Justice Court*	40
Topah Justice Court	374	Pahrangat Valley Justice Court*	151	Lund (No. 2) Justice Court*	3

**Figure 5. Non-traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Justice Court**

Fiscal Year 2008

(Number of judicial positions in parentheses.)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for all Justice Courts is 3,921.

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

## Municipal Courts

**Municipal Courts** are city courts and only handle cases that involve violation of city ordinances. Their jurisdiction includes non-traffic misdemeanors, traffic violations and, in some cities, parking. Although they generally do not handle civil cases, Nevada Revised Statute 5.050 provides limited jurisdiction to hear them.

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. Those appointed by the city council or mayor are Caliente, Ely, Fallon, Fernley, Mesquite, and Yerington. In fiscal year 2008, the 17 Municipal Courts were served by 30 Municipal Court Judges.

## Statistical Summary

**The Municipal Court** non-traffic caseload information (filing and dispositions) for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 13.

Statewide, Municipal Court criminal filings in fiscal year 2008 decreased more than 6 percent from last fiscal year. Some Municipal Courts experienced large percentage increases [Elko (35 percent, from 586 to 793 cases), and North Las Vegas (25 percent, from 7,154 to 8,922 cases)] or decreases [Wells (49 percent, from 67 to 34 cases), Fallon (25 percent, from 429 to 322), and West Wendover (24 percent, from 240 to 182) in criminal case filings.

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The only Municipal Court with civil filings was Caliente Municipal Court, which had four filings. On occasion, municipalities may seek collection through the courts of unpaid power bills. This is the type of limited jurisdiction civil case a municipal court may handle. Although most of the courts in Table 13 show NR (not reported) for civil, they most likely did not have any to report.

The disposition information for Municipal Courts is also provided in Table 13. Non-traffic dispositions decreased about 4 percent from last fiscal year with varying changes among courts. For example, dispositions in Reno Municipal Court decreased by 25 percent and Las Vegas Municipal Court by about 8 percent while dispositions in North Las Vegas Municipal Court increased by about 30 percent and Henderson Municipal Court by about 7 percent.

A standard measure of performance in the courts is the clearance rate. This measure can be calculated by dividing the

number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. This number can be calculated for any and all case types and allows the same case categories to be compared across courts. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

## Cases per Judicial Position

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2008 is shown in Figure 6. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement, and providing a more equal comparison.

Judges in North Las Vegas and Las Vegas, again top the list for most non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. North Las Vegas (4,461) and then Las Vegas (4,210) were followed by Henderson (2,516), Reno (2,000), and Sparks (1,100). The

**Table 13. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed**

Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008 (See Table 16 for Traffic Data)

	Non-traffic Misdemeanor Defendants Charged		Non-traffic Misdemeanor Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Filed <sup>a</sup>		Civil Cases Disposed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
Boulder Municipal Court	538	478	814	916	NR	NR	NR	NR
Caliente Municipal Court	26	21 <sup>r</sup>	12	9 <sup>r</sup>	4	7 <sup>r</sup>	3	2
Carlin Municipal Court	61	93	56	41	0	0	0	0
Carson City Municipal Court	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
Elko Municipal Court	793	586	561	497	NR	NR	NR	NR
Ely Municipal Court	163	148	209	226	NR	NR	NR	NR
Fallon Municipal Court	322	429	275	299	0	0	0	0
Fernley Municipal Court	205	203	512	411	NR	NR	NR	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	7,548	6,834	8,991	8,317	NR	NR	NR	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court	25,262 <sup>c</sup>	30,336 <sup>c</sup>	28,732 <sup>c</sup>	31,167 <sup>c</sup>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
Mesquite Municipal Court	715	624	913	958	NR	NR	NR	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	8,922	7,154	8,650	6,645	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>
Reno Municipal Court	8,001	9,484	7,272	9,707 <sup>c</sup>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>
Sparks Municipal Court	2,200	2,077	2,560	3,020	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wells Municipal Court	34	67	46	91	NR	NR	NR	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	182	240	386	356	NR	NR	NR	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	68	75	115	149	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,040</b>	<b>58,849<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>60,104</b>	<b>62,809</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.

<sup>b</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

<sup>c</sup> Court reported nontraffic misdemeanor numbers by charges so total charges were divided by the statewide Municipal Court average of 1.5 charges or dispositions per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

<sup>d</sup> Cases are handled administratively by the city.

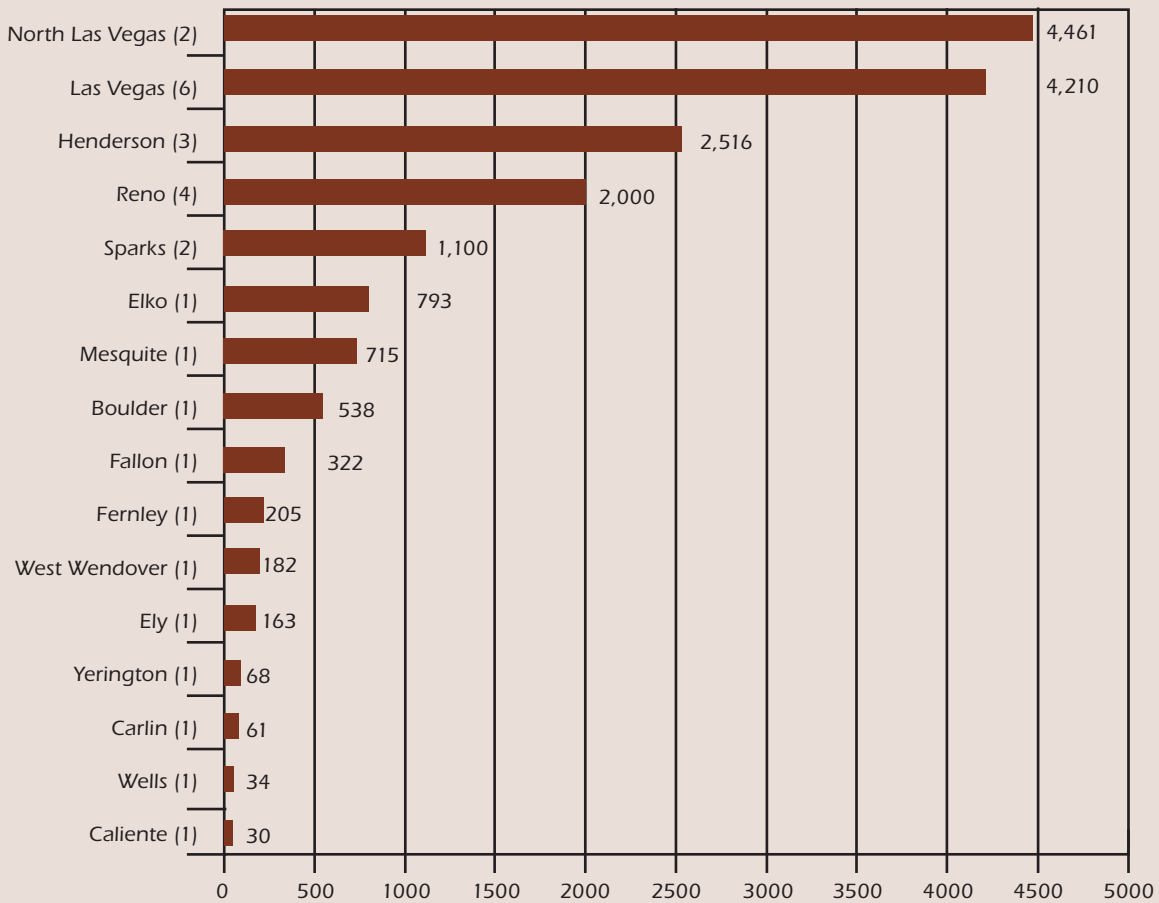
<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publication.

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

**Figure 6. Non-traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Municipal Court**

Fiscal Year 2008

(Number of judicial positions in parentheses.)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,966.

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.

statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,966, a slight decrease from the previous fiscal year (2,102). The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in Figure 5 and Table 11 with Justice Courts.

### Judicial Assistance

**Quasi-judicial assistance** may be used by Municipal courts as well as District and Justice Courts. The AOC and the courts

quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. These are positions that help with the adjudication process but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Las Vegas Municipal Court reported 1.00 FTE in other quasi-judicial position, Traffic Commissioner that helped process traffic cases.



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## Traffic and Parking Violations

**Traffic and parking violations** comprise a substantial portion of the judicial caseload and are the most common way citizens interact with the judiciary. These violations are handled at all three jurisdictional levels (District, Justice, and Municipal) of the Nevada trial courts. By separating non-traffic data from traffic data, data is more readily comparable and has been done, in part, in anticipation of a change in counting procedure (from charges to defendants, which is equivalent to cases) in a couple of years with the next phase of data collection. Detailed statistics for traffic and parking cases are included in the appendix (Tables A8-A10).

In addition to their non-traffic caseloads, District Courts also hear Juvenile Traffic cases. Justice and Municipal Courts have jurisdiction over adult traffic and parking cases as misdemeanor violations. A few jurisdictions do not hear parking tickets, as they are handled administratively by the local governments (executive branch). Current reporting requirements are to count traffic and parking cases by charge instead of defendant.

A standard measure of performance in the courts is the clearance rate. This measure can be calculated by dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100. This number can be calculated for any and all case types and allows the same case categories to be compared across courts. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many

**Table 14. Summary of Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed in District Court**  
Fiscal Years 2007 - 2008

Court	Juvenile Traffic			
	Total Charges		Total Disposed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
<b>First Judicial District</b>				
Carson City District Court	846	877	841	877
Storey County District Court	9	22	9	22
<b>Second Judicial District</b>				
Washoe County District Court	3,226	NR	NR	NR
<b>Third Judicial District</b>				
Churchill County District Court	233	262	273	267
Lyon County District Court	1,119	1,553	1,055	1,640
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>				
Elko County District Court	701	699	992	768
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>				
Esmeralda County District Court	22	25	13	16
Mineral County District Court	16	23	2	0
Nye County District Court	<i>175</i>	257	<i>214</i>	330
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>				
Humboldt County District Court	203	182	136	164
Lander County District Court	134	132	55	135
Pershing County District Court	0	0	0	0
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>				
Eureka County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
Lincoln County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
White Pine County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>				
Clark County District Court	2,057	2,003	NR	NR
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>				
Douglas County District Court	399	501	315	498
<b>Total</b>	9,140	6,536	3,905	4,717

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

NR Not reported.

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

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

**Table 15. Summary of Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Years 2007 - 2008

	Traffic and Parking			
	Total Charges		Violations Disposed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
<b>First Judicial District</b>				
Carson City				
Carson City Justice Court	22,836 <sup>a</sup>	17,622 <sup>a</sup>	21,025	17,314
Storey County				
Virginia City Justice Court	1,754	1,661	1,782	1,284
<b>Second Judicial District</b>				
Washoe County				
Incline Village Justice Court	2,783	3,912	2,580	3,351
Reno Justice Court	45,084	42,706	31,895	27,795
Sparks Justice Court	11,398	11,182	8,211	9,205
Wadsworth Justice Court	4,322	5,221	4,180	4,974
<b>Third Judicial District</b>				
Churchill County				
New River Justice Court	4,705	5,390	4,596	5,389
Lyon County				
Canal Justice Court	4,498	4,660 <sup>r</sup>	4,213	4,156 <sup>r</sup>
Dayton Justice Court	5,074	3,987	4,624	4,034
Walker River Justice Court	1,892	1,852	1,848	1,733
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>				
Elko County				
Carlin Justice Court	412	754	389	584
East Line Justice Court	1,434	1,111	622	743
Elko Justice Court	7,562	7,018	5,390	4,806
Jackpot Justice Court	1,342	794	1,199	940
Wells Justice Court	6,460	6,542	4,962	6,779
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>				
Esmeralda County				
Esmeralda Justice Court	6,139	5,756	4,391	4,387
Mineral County				
Hawthorne Justice Court	4,623	4,656 <sup>c</sup>	3,902	3,842
Nye County				
Beatty Justice Court	3,086	3,772	3,168	3,809
Pahrump Justice Court	5,623	6,408	4,668	5,110
Tonopah Justice Court	2,614	2,761	2,909	3,016
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>				
Humboldt County				
Union Justice Court	8,855	11,359	8,392	10,338
Lander County				
Argenta Justice Court	3,046	3,410	2,759	3,218
Austin Justice Court	1,938	2,002	2,032	1,714
Pershing County				
Lake Justice Court	1,095 <sup>a</sup>	853 <sup>a</sup>	971	715
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>				
Eureka County				
Beowawe Justice Court	471	1,034	416	1,009
Eureka Justice Court	908	1,560	912	1,634
Lincoln County				
Meadow Valley Justice Court	1,045	922	1,133	1,319
Pahranagat Valley Justice Court	3,686	3,521	3,459	3,310
White Pine County				
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	3,069	2,944	2,564	2,590
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	98	105	93	110
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>				
Clark County				
Boulder Justice Court	479	885	568	773
Bunkerville Justice Court	915	1,033	878	949
Goodsprings Justice Court	12,689	13,657	11,512	12,127
Henderson Justice Court	9,733	8,779	8,423	6,919
Las Vegas Justice Court	346,478	303,458	164,827	138,112
Laughlin Justice Court	8,497	9,809	7,585	7,889
Mesquite Justice Court	7	9	0	4
Moapa Justice Court	3,863	3,543	3,664	4,213
Moapa Valley Justice Court	844	851	762	779
North Las Vegas Justice Court	2,144	1,803	1,895	1,404
Searchlight Justice Court	6,395	8,609	6,648	7,327
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>				
Douglas County				
East Fork Justice Court	8,058	10,096	6,568	7,841
Tahoe Justice Court	3,011	4,080	2,755	3,010
<b>Total</b>	<b>570,965</b>	<b>532,087</b>	<b>355,370</b>	<b>330,555</b>

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in totals

<sup>b</sup> Court reported traffic numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

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

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

cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

## District Court Summary

**Juvenile traffic filings** increased 40 percent from last fiscal year largely owing to the new reporting by Washoe County. The juvenile traffic charge and disposition information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14. The detailed information for fiscal year 2008 is provided in the appendix (Table A8).

One other District Court saw a large percentage increase in their juvenile traffic charges [Humboldt County (12 percent)] and almost half of the counties had decreases. Notably, Clark County has fewer traffic citations than Washoe County because the Justice Courts in Clark County handle and report their juvenile traffic separate from the District Court (see Table A9). In Washoe County, all juvenile traffic citations are handled at the juvenile justice facility.

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 depending on the processes within the judicial district. The cases are listed in the respective District or Justice Court tables. District Court juvenile traffic violation dispositions reported by District Courts decreased by 18 percent from fiscal years 2007 to 2008.

## Justice Court Summary

**In the Justice Courts**, the number of traffic and parking violations is more than double the total non-traffic filings. The traffic and parking violations filing and disposition information for Justice Courts for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 15. The detailed information for fiscal year 2008 is provided in the appendix (Table A9).

Statewide, Justice Court traffic violations increased more than 7 percent. Some rural and suburban Justice Courts saw large percentage increases in their traffic violations [Jackpot (69 percent), Carson City (30 percent), and East Line

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(29 percent)] or decreases [Meadow Valley (89 percent), Beowawe (54 percent), and Boulder City (46 percent)].

As can be expected for the court with the most populous township, the Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest traffic caseloads with 60 percent of the statewide total. Reno Justice Court was next with almost 8 percent of the traffic caseload. Carson City Justice and Municipal Court followed with almost 4 percent of the traffic caseload.

Justice Court traffic violation dispositions increased almost 8 percent from last year. Some courts increased and some decreased. Of note, most of the courts along Interstate Highway 80 (I-80) corridor saw decreases, from Sparks (11 percent decrease) to Wendover (East Line 16 percent decrease) and many in between (Wadsworth, 16 percent; Union [Winnemucca], 19 percent; and Carlin, 33 percent). Anecdotally, the courts believe the high cost of gasoline during the latter part of the fiscal year reduced the number of vehicles on the road as well as caused those on the road to drive more conservatively.

## Municipal Court Summary

**In the Municipal Courts,** the number of traffic and parking violations has historically been more than four times the total non-traffic filings and this fiscal year was no different. The traffic and parking violations filing and disposition information for Municipal Courts for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 16. The detailed information for fiscal year 2008 is provided in the appendix (Table A10).

Municipal Court traffic violations increased about 7 percent from the previous fiscal year. Traffic filings are heavily dependent on the number of local law enforcement positions filled or vacant.

Some Municipal Courts saw large increases [Wells (59 percent), West Wendover (59 percent), and Ely (54 percent)], or decreases [Yerington (22 percent) and Reno (12 percent)] in traffic and parking violations.

The disposition information for Municipal Court traffic violations is provided in Table 16. The municipal traffic and parking violation dispositions increased almost 10 percent from last fiscal year.

**Table 16. Summary of Municipal Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Years 2007 - 2008

Court	Traffic and Parking			
	Total Charges		Total Violations Disposed	
	FY 2008	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2007
Boulder Municipal Court	7,559	5,265	6,806	4,993
Caliente Municipal Court	234	155 <sup>r</sup>	188	117 <sup>r</sup>
Carlin Municipal Court	86	72	73	66
Carson City Municipal Court	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>
Elko Municipal Court	2,336	2,163	1,367	1,644
Ely Municipal Court	694	451	903	539
Fallon Municipal Court	1,182	999	934	970
Fernley Municipal Court	1,773	1,823	1,800	1,808
Henderson Municipal Court	42,917	39,944	39,243	36,641
Las Vegas Municipal Court	176,977	163,703	158,776	143,737
Mesquite Municipal Court	4,191	4,349	3,749	3,508
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	49,648	43,306	49,676	40,759
Reno Municipal Court	41,764	47,513	41,419	46,792
Sparks Municipal Court	12,811	13,023	12,231	12,597
Wells Municipal Court	304	191	228	232
West Wendover Municipal Court	1,547	970	1,058	576
Yerington Municipal Court	233	298	204	237
<b>Total</b>	<b>345,519</b>	<b>324,225<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>318,655</b>	<b>295,216<sup>r</sup></b>

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

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

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

## Specialty Court Programs

**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, DUI, and Re-entry Courts. 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 tax payers by reducing the prison population and decreasing recidivism rates. 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 tax payer-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 defendants to become productive members of society. Drug Courts are highly effective in participant rehabilitation.

Nevada has Drug Courts at all three trial court levels. The Adult Criminal Drug Court is the most common. Participants involved in the criminal justice system may enroll in the program as part of their sentence and rehabilitation, or as a diversion from a serious criminal conviction upon successful completion. Prison Re-entry Drug Courts address prison inmate needs by combining drug treatment and early release to reduce recidivism. Family, Dependency, and Child Support Drug Courts all deal with domestic situations aggravated by the use of illicit drugs. Juvenile Drug Courts treat youthful offenders whose drug use led to juvenile delinquency. Some courts may offer treatment programs for alcohol use or abuse in addition to, or instead of, drug treatment.

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 chronic, 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 the Drug Courts, treating the mental illness increases an offender's chances of successful rehabilitation.

During the 2003 Legislature, Assembly Bill 29 was passed, which added a \$7 assessment to misdemeanor convictions in Justice and Municipal Courts, to provide additional funding for specialty courts throughout the state. The statute (NRS 176.0613) specifies what types of courts may apply for funding. A separate report is prepared for the Legislature regarding the amount and distribution of that funding. Additionally, this fund receives 10 percent of felony bail forfeitures.

All Specialty Court data submitted by the courts are compiled in Table 17. The information provided is tracked independently by the individual specialty courts' staff. Reporting standards were defined, developed, and implemented beginning this fiscal year. This report reflects the new standards.

In fiscal year 2008, the Specialty Court programs continued their effective supervision and rehabilitation of program participants. The Specialty Court programs noted in Table 17 served more than 2,700 defendants, graduating more than 1,200 of them during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 76 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

### Western Region

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

The Western Regional Drug Court program began in fiscal year 2002, and encompasses courts of the First, Third, Fifth, and Ninth 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 many of the cases in the other participating Judicial Districts. Many of the individual counties within the Western Regional Drug Court program may have some separate form of juvenile drug court.

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

The Western Region programs noted in Table 17 served more than 260 defendants, with 108 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 4 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## Washoe Region

**The Second** Judicial District Court operates a Mental Health Court, Adult Drug Court, Diversion Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Prison Re-Entry Drug Court, and a Family Drug Court. Washoe County began their Mental Health Court in November 2001, 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 Sparks Municipal Court Alcohol and Other Drug Court began in 1999 and was Nevada's first limited jurisdiction Drug Court.

The Washoe Region programs noted in Table 17 served more than 1,250 defendants, with 468 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 29 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## Eastern 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 Court.

The Elko Adult Drug Court program began April 2005. As of September 2004, Elko County began a Juvenile Drug Court program. The Seventh Judicial District Adult Drug Court program began in November 2005. There are two programs within the district, one each in White Pine and Lincoln Counties.

The Eastern Region programs noted in Table 17 served more than 91 defendants, with 39 graduating during the fiscal year.

## Fifth Judicial District

**The Fifth** Judicial 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 17 served more than 48 defendants, with 22 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 5 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## 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 17 served 56 defendants, with 27 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 5 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## Clark Region

**The Clark Region** is comprised of Mental Health Court, Adult Drug Court, Dependency Court, Child Support Drug Court, Prison Re-Entry, Juvenile Drug Court, Las Vegas Justice DUI Court, Las Vegas Justice Adult Drug Court, and the Las Vegas Municipal HOPE Court.

The Eighth Judicial District Court began the first Nevada Drug Court in 1992. In December 2000, Clark County implemented the nation's first Prison Re-entry (Early Release) Drug Court. Their Mental Health Court began in December 2003.

The Las Vegas Justice Court has an Adult Drug Court program and they also provide a DUI program, which began in December 2003. The purpose of this program 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. This program began in 2005 and focuses on habitual offenders with issues related to homelessness, criminal activity, and chemical dependency.

The Clark Region programs noted in Table 17 served more than 985 defendants, with 571 graduating during the fiscal year. The several Specialty Court programs also had 33 drug free babies born during the year.

**Table 17. Summary of Specialty Court Information**  
Fiscal Year 2008

Jurisdiction	Court Type	New Participants/ Admissions	Terminations <sup>1</sup>	Graduates	Active Cases at Years End	Drug Free Babies Born
<b>Western Region</b>						
Western Regional Drug Court (Carson City & Storey County, Churchill County, Lyon County, Mineral County, Douglas County)	Adult Drug	215	105	95	227	4
First Judicial District	Juvenile Drug	8	3	3	11	0
Carson City Justice Court	Mental Health	29	18	10	28	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Washoe Region</b>						
Second Judicial Specialty Court	Adult Drug & Diversion	390	238	224	765	16
	Family Drug	34	5	10	33	6
	Mental Health Court	150	51	109	186	4
	Juvenile Drug	27	12	6	23	0
	Prison Re-entry	14	11	4	15	0
Reno Justice	Alcohol & Drug Court	122	20	89	147	0
Reno Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court	119	31	26	86	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1,255</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Eastern Region</b>						
Fourth Judicial District (Elko Co.)	Adult Drug	30	8	21	42	0
Seventh Judicial District (Lincoln & White Pine Co.)	Adult Drug	23	10	6	34	0
Fourth Judicial District (Elko Co.)	Juvenile Drug	112	13	12	15	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>						
Nye County	Adult Drug	49	22	21	37	5
	Juvenile Drug	6	2	1	11	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Central Region</b>						
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	21	14	18	26	0
Lander County	Adult Drug	7	3	4	9	3
Pershing County	Adult Drug	12	10	5	21	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Clark Region</b>						
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	622	450	307	447	19
	Child Support	18	9	4	16	1
	Dependency	103	43	49	92	11
	Juvenile Drug	82	70	26	38	0
	Mental Health Court	31	12	19	70	0
	Prison Re-entry	29	15	11	26	0
Las Vegas Justice	Drug Court	124	62	74	104	2
Las Vegas Justice	DUI Court	147	32	79	172	0
Las Vegas Municipal	Habitual Offender Prevention and Education (HOPE)	49	12	2	20	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,205</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>ALL SPECIALTY COURTS - GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>2,473</b>	<b>1,281</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>76</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes remands/removals, transfers to other specialty courts, and deceased participants.  
Source: Individual specialty courts.

# UNIFORM SYSTEM FOR JUDICIAL RECORDS

## Courts with Incomplete Data

**Courts** that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2008 are listed in Table 18, as are the specific elements of the data missing during the year.

Other tables in this report have data in italics or a footnote (i) to indicate the data are incomplete and refers the reader here (Table 18) to determine what is missing. In a few instances, courts submitted all they could count, but acknowledge that there are issues with the numbers and the courts are working to correct them. In those instances, the data will be in italics or flagged with footnote e, estimated, but the court may not appear in Table 18 if all monthly reports were filed.

Once again, all courts provided some caseload information. Last fiscal year, five courts were unable to provide all of their caseload disposition information. Reporting by the courts continues to improve and all the courts are to be commended for their efforts to meet the Uniform System for Judicial Records reporting requirements.

The disposition data are harder for court staff to collect than the filing information. Many courts throughout Nevada do not have automated case management systems; court staff manually collect the information from each case or citation.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is working with the courts on technology projects that will bring case management systems to many of the rural courts and similar technology to some urban courts. Case management systems provide the courts with an automated mechanism to prepare their monthly statistical reports while also improving court processes and procedures.

During fiscal year 2008, East Fork and Tahoe Justice Courts and Reno Municipal Court began using the new state-sponsored case management system in its entirety. Carson City District Court also added the civil and family modules to their previous use of CourtView for criminal cases. This brings the total number of courts using all or part of the new system to 35. A few more courts are scheduled to go to the new system during the next fiscal year.

**Table 18. Data Non-Reporting by Judicial District**  
Fiscal Year 2008

Court	Case Type	Filings/ Cases	Charges	Dispositions	Primary Table
<b>Second Judicial District</b>					
Washoe County District Court	Juvenile Traffic	NR		NR	A8
Incline Justice Court	Adult Traffic	NR			A9
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>					
Elko County District Court	Juvenile Traffic	NR			A8
Carlin Justice Court	Felony & gross misdemeanor	NR			A6
	Request for Protection Orders (Non-DV)	NR			A7
East Line Justice Court	Re-opened Civil Cases	NR			A7
Jackpot Justice Court	Felony & Gross Misdemeanor	NR			A6
	Re-opened Civil Cases	NR			A7
	Adult Traffic	NR			A9
	Adult Parking	NR			A9
Wells Justice Court	Felony & gross misdemeanor	NR			A6
	Reopened	NR			A7
	Adult Parking	NR			A9
West Wendover Municipal Court	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A9
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>					
Nye County District Court	All Case Types, Apr - June	NR	NR	NR	A2-A5
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>					
Caliente Municipal Court	Adult Traffic	NR			A10
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>					
Clark County District Court	Juvenile Traffic			NR	A8
Las Vegas Justice Court	Felony & gross misdemeanor			NR	A6
	Non-Traffic Misdemeanor			NR	A6
Mesquite Justice Court	Re-opened Cases	NR			A7
	Adult Parking	NR	NR		A9
Las Vegas Municipal Court	Criminal	NR			A10

NR Not Reported. Municipal Civil cases are not included here. Civil filings and dispositions are infrequent in municipal courts.



UNIFORM SYSTEMS FOR  
JUDICIAL RECORDS

APPENDIX TABLES

AND

GLOSSARY OF  
CASE TYPES



**Table A1. Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary**

Fiscal Year 2008

Court	Population as of 7/1/07 <sup>a</sup>	Authorized Judicial Positions as of 6/30/08	Non-Traffic Cases				Traffic & Parking	
			Criminal Cases Filed <sup>b</sup>	Non-Criminal Cases Filed <sup>c</sup>	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Total Violations	Total Dispositions
<b>First Judicial District</b>	<b>62,016</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>2,344</b>	<b>1,385</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>850</b>
Carson City District Court	57,723		289	1,926	2,215	1,311	846	841
Storey County District Court	4,293		35	94	129	74	9	9
Carson City								
Carson City Justice/Municipal Court <sup>d</sup>	57,723	2	2,198	5,441	7,639	5,299	22,836	21,025
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	4,293	1	253	77	330	364	1,754	1,782
<b>Second Judicial District</b>	<b>418,061</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>18,566</b>	<b>21,574</b>	<b>19,016</b>	<b>3,226</b>	<b>NR</b>
Washoe County District Court	418,061		3,008	18,566	21,574	19,016	3,226	NR
Washoe County								
Incline Village Justice Court	11,599	1	1,049	269	1,318	1,206	2,783	2,580
Reno Justice Court	266,385	5	7,144	16,613	23,757	14,967	45,084	31,895
Sparks Justice Court	137,259	2	2,932	6,484	9,416	6,574	11,398	8,211
Wadsworth Justice Court	2,817	1	84	82	166	103	4,322	4,180
Reno Municipal Court	220,613	4	8,001	NR	8,001	7,272	41,764	41,419
Sparks Municipal Court	89,449	2	2,200	0	2,200	2,560	12,811	12,231
<b>Third Judicial District</b>	<b>83,093</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>2,299</b>	<b>2,689</b>	<b>1,943</b>	<b>1,352</b>	<b>1,328</b>
Churchill County District Court	27,190		155	1,078	1,233	1,132	233	273
Lyon County District Court	55,903		235	1,221	1,456	811	1,119	1,055
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	27,190	1	589	1,658	2,247	1,796	4,705	4,596
Fallon Municipal Court	8,452	1	322	0	322	275	1,182	934
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	19,585	1	657	1,567	2,224	1,872	4,498	4,213
Dayton Justice Court	23,533	1	509	913	1,422	1,354	5,074	4,624
Walkler River Justice Court	12,785	1	173	575	748	647	1,892	1,848
Fernley Municipal Court	19,585	1	205	NR	205	512	1,773	1,800
Yerington Municipal Court	3,319	1	68	NR	68	115	233	204
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>	<b>50,434</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>2,275</b>	<b>2,540</b>	<b>1,816</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>992</b>
Elko County District Court	50,434		265	2,275	2,540	1,816	701	992
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	2,506	1	164	214	378	209	412	389
East Line Justice Court	4,958	1	131	153	284	263	1,434	622
Elko Justice Court	38,421	1	1,481	1,923	3,404	2,320	7,562	5,390
Jackpot Justice Court	1,313	1	110	35	145	163	1,342	1,199
Wells Justice Court	3,236	1	95	75	170	123	6,460	4,962
Carlin Municipal Court	2,295	<i>f</i>	61	0	61	56	86	73
Elko Municipal Court	18,427	<i>g</i>	793	NR	793	561	2,336	1,367
Wells Municipal Court	1,508	<i>h</i>	34	NR	34	46	304	228
West Wendover Municipal Court	4,958	<i>i</i>	182	NR	182	386	1,547	1,058
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	<b>51,921</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>1,862</b>	<b>2,116</b>	<b>2,131</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>229</b>
Esmeralda County District Court	1,236		4	20	24	11	22	13
Mineral County District Court	4,377		41	134	175	198	16	2
Nye County District Court	46,308		209	1,708	1,917	1,922	175	214
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	1,236	1	29	20	49	33	6,139	4,391
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	4,377	1	377	219	596	242	4,623	3,902
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	2,294	1	157	67	224	269	3,086	3,168
Pahrump Justice Court	38,784	1	1,689	1,563	3,252	2,188	5,623	4,668
Tonopah Justice Court	5,231	1	239	135	374	436	2,614	2,909
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>	<b>30,875</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>191</b>
Humboldt County District Court	18,052		94	774	868	578	203	136
Lander County District Court	5,747		20	95	115	174	134	55
Pershing County District Court	7,076		82	223	305	402	0	0
Humboldt County								
Union Justice Court	18,052	1	826	771	1,597	1,462	8,855	8,392
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	5,163	1	251	611	862	816	3,046	2,759
Austin Justice Court	584	1	173	7	180	102	1,938	2,032
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	7,076	1	331	353	684	464	1,095	971

**Table A1. Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary (cont.)**

Fiscal Year 2008

Court	Population as of 7/1/07 <sup>a</sup>	Authorized Judicial Positions as of 6/30/08	Non-Traffic Cases				Traffic & Parking	
			Criminal Cases Filed <sup>b</sup>	Non-Criminal Cases Filed <sup>c</sup>	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Total Violations	Total Dispositions
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	<b>15,232</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>731</b>		
Eureka County District Court	1,458		18	31	49	69	<i>i</i>	<i>i</i>
Lincoln County District Court	4,184		43	100	143	149	<i>i</i>	<i>i</i>
White Pine County District Court	9,590		92	449	541	513	<i>i</i>	<i>i</i>
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	488	1	44	17	61	39	471	416
Eureka Justice Court	970	1	62	55	117	102	908	0
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	3,042	1	65	36	101	86	1,045	1,133
Pahranagat Valley Justice Court	1,142	1	128	23	151	90	3,686	3,459
Caliente Municipal Court	1,089	<i>k</i>	26	4	30	12	0	188
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	9,171	1	178	420	598	519	3,069	2,564
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	419	1	2	1	3	4	98	93
Ely Municipal Court	4,294	1	163	NR	163	209	694	903
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	<b>1,954,319</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9,894</b>	<b>81,058</b>	<b>90,952</b>	<b>73,924</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>NR</b>
Clark County District Court	1,954,319		9,894	81,058	90,952	73,924	2,057	NR
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	16,491	1	88	418	506	419	479	568
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,255	1	23	17	40	100	915	878
Goodsprings Justice Court	4,613	1	266	93	359	168	12,689	11,512
Henderson Justice Court	261,293	2	4,338	6,755	11,093	6,893	9,733	8,423
Las Vegas Justice Court	1,393,345	10	53,193	93,221	146,414	--	346,478	164,827
Laughlin Justice Court	8,853	1	714	378	1,092	1,782	8,497	7,585
Mesquite Justice Court	18,908	1	197	379	576	454	7	0
Moapa Justice Court	1,542	1	78	30	108	381	3,863	3,664
Moapa Valley Justice Court	8,428	1	143	36	179	117	844	762
North Las Vegas Justice Court	237,958	2	3,652	5,152	8,804	5,427	2,144	1,895
Searchlight Justice Court	1,634	1	73	8	81	52	6,395	6,648
Boulder Municipal Court	15,813	<i>l</i>	538	NR	538	814	7,743	6,806
Henderson Municipal Court	260,161	3	7,548	NR	7,548	8,991	43,996	39,243
Las Vegas Municipal Court	590,321	6	25,262	NJ	25,262	28,732	176,977	158,776
Mesquite Municipal Court	18,787	<i>m</i>	715	NR	715	913	4,191	3,749
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	210,472	2	8,922	NJ	8,922	8,650	49,648	49,676
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>	<b>52,386</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>315</b>
Douglas County District Court	52,386		154	1,275	1,429	1,158	399	315
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	43,863	1	1,104	1,427	2,531	1,940	8,058	6,568
Tahoe Justice Court	8,523	1	822	180	1,002	946	3,011	2,755
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,718,337</b>							
District Court Judges		64	14,638	111,027	125,665	103,258	9,140	3,905
Justice Court Judges		60	86,811	148,471	235,282	121,175	570,965	355,370
Municipal Court Judges		30	55,040	4	55,044	60,104	345,519	318,655

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

<sup>a</sup> Source: Nevada State Demographer. "Township boundaries may not correspond to incorporated cities, and are estimated using a different method than the city/town estimates. Because of this, they will differ from city estimates."

<sup>b</sup> Criminal cases include felony, gross misdemeanor, and non-traffic misdemeanor defendants. Traffic and parking violations are not included.

<sup>c</sup> Non-criminal cases include civil, family, and juvenile (non-traffic) cases for District Court and civil cases for Justice and Municipal Courts.

<sup>d</sup> Carson City is a consolidated municipality (county and city). Two judges serve in the combined Justice/Municipal Court.

<sup>f</sup> Carlin Justice Court judge also serves as Carlin Municipal Court judge.

<sup>g</sup> Elko Justice Court judge also serves as Elko Municipal Court judge.

<sup>h</sup> Wells Justice Court judge also serves as Wells Municipal Court judge.

<sup>i</sup> East Line Justice Court judge also serves as West Wendover Municipal Court judge.

<sup>j</sup> Justices of the peace serve as juvenile masters for all juvenile traffic cases.

<sup>k</sup> Pahranagat Valley Justice Court judge also serves as Caliente Municipal Court judge.

<sup>l</sup> Boulder Justice Court judge also serves as Boulder City Municipal Court judge.

<sup>m</sup> Mesquite Justice Court judge also serves as Mesquite Municipal Court judge.

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

**Table A2. Criminal Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada**  
Fiscal Year 2008

	Criminal Defendants		Appeals from Lower Court	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed
	Felony	Gross Misdemeanor			
<b>First Judicial District</b>					
Carson City District Court	222	59	8	289	213
Storey County District Court	29	5	1	35	32
<b>Second Judicial District</b>					
Washoe County District Court	1,985	994	29	3,008	3,058
<b>Third Judicial District</b>					
Churchill County District Court	135	18	2	155	137
Lyon County District Court	190	41	4	235	249
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>					
Elko County District Court	251	6	8	265	263
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>					
Esmeralda County District Court	3	1	0	4	2
Mineral County District Court	30	10	1	41	33
Nye County District Court	183 <sup>i</sup>	19 <sup>i</sup>	7 <sup>i</sup>	209 <sup>i</sup>	163 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>					
Humboldt County District Court	63	24	7	94	173
Lander County District Court	18	2	0	20	16
Pershing County District Court	81	0	1	82	111
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>					
Eureka County District Court	15	2	1	18	29
Lincoln County District Court	36	6	1	43	30
White Pine County District Court	78	8	6	92	79
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>					
Clark County District Court	8,322 <sup>a</sup>	1,427 <sup>a</sup>	145	9,894 <sup>b</sup>	13,447 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>					
Douglas County District Court	146	7	1	154	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,787</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>14,638</b>	<b>18,175</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data are by case instead of defendants.

<sup>b</sup> Criminal dispositions are over reported as they include dispositions for reopened cases; however, reopened cases are not included in the total cases filed.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See table 18 for details.

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

**Table A3. Civil Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada**  
Fiscal Year 2008

	Civil Cases Filed						Reopened Cases	Total Civil Cases	Total Cases Disposed
	Real Property	Construction Defect	Torts-Negligence	Torts	Probate	Other			
<b>First Judicial District</b>									
Carson City District Court	20	2	105	20	92	441	2	682	335
Storey County District Court	9	1	4	2	13	7	0	36	4
<b>Second Judicial District</b>									
Washoe County District Court	169	39	669	140	606	2,277	319	4,219	2,369
<b>Third Judicial District</b>									
Churchill County District Court	12	1	30	7	46	71	0	167	92
Lyon County District Court	36	0	27	6	90	194	0	353	141
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>									
Elko County District Court	24	0	48	3	145	153	306	678	191
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>									
Esmeralda County District Court	1	0	1	0	9	7	0	18	3
Mineral County District Court	4	0	0	2	9	11	0	26	9
Nye County District Court	19 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	27 <sup>i</sup>	11 <sup>i</sup>	98 <sup>i</sup>	124 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	280 <sup>i</sup>	211 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>									
Humboldt County District Court	8	0	8	0	34	52	0	102	52
Lander County District Court	7	0	7	0	17	16	1	48	16
Pershing County District Court	1	0	3	1	29	81	1	116	23
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>									
Eureka County District Court	3	0	1	1	7	3	0	15	13
Lincoln County District Court	8	0	1	1	13	5	8	36	23
White Pine County District Court	3	0	4	25	34	62	0	128	97
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>									
Clark County District Court	887	101	6,024	555	2,822	14,898	1,804	27,091	22,364
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>									
Douglas County District Court	15	1	48	6	83	253	3	409	283
<b>Total</b>	1,226	146	7,007	780	4,147	18,655	2,444	34,404	26,226

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 18 for details.

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

**Table A4. Family Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada**

Fiscal Year 2008

Family-Related Cases Filed

	Marriage Dissolution	Support/ Custody	Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	Adop- tions	Pater- nity	Termin- ation of Parental Rights	Misc. Domestic Relations	Guard- ian- ship	Mental Health Cases	Request for Domestic Violence Protective Orders (TPOs)	Re- opened Cases	Total Family Cases	Total Cases Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>													
Carson City District Court	446	20	106	14	6	19	23	63	1	39	0	737	513
Storey County District Court	25	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	33	25
<b>Second Judicial District</b>													
Washoe County District Court	2,354	315	1,708	159	49	255	309	455	666	1,574	4,216	12,060	7,939
<b>Third Judicial District</b>													
Churchill County District Court	335	24	186	10	2	11	18	26	0	0	NR	612	455
Lyon County District Court	137	5	314	6	1	11	44	42	0	0	0	560	198
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>													
Elko County District Court	289	143	252	33	15	31	33	30	1	214	61	1,102	1,032
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>													
Esmeralda County District Court	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	6
Mineral County District Court	17	7	24	2	1	2	6	5	0	1	0	65	122
Nye County District Court	635 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>i</sup>	225 <sup>i</sup>	11 <sup>i</sup>	10 <sup>i</sup>	15 <sup>i</sup>	28 <sup>i</sup>	21 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	40 <sup>i</sup>	65 <sup>i</sup>	1,055 <sup>i</sup>	1,186 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>													
Humboldt County District Court	116	16	113	8	4	6	8	20	0	0	8	299	138
Lander County District Court	27	6	0	2	1	2	0	5	0	0	3	46	36
Pershing County District Court	29	2	17	3	0	3	0	10	0	2	1	67	224
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>													
Eureka County District Court	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	6	9
Lincoln County District Court	13	2	13	3	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	37	42
White Pine County District Court	56	7	38	5	0	6	0	25	0	3	0	140	195
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>													
Clark County District Court	14,305	4,661	1,007	599	454	700	1,500	1,319	3,596	8,181	8,261	44,583	34,632
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>													
Douglas County District Court	499	23	79	13	12	16	18	37	0	0	2	699	604
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,287</b>	<b>5,237</b>	<b>4,082</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>1,077</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>2,074</b>	<b>4,264</b>	<b>10,054</b>	<b>12,617</b>	<b>62,103</b>	<b>47,356</b>

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See table 18 for details

NR Not Reported

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

**Table A5. Juvenile Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada**  
Fiscal Year 2008

	Juvenile Cases Filed				Total Non-Traffic Cases		Juvenile Hearings		
	Criminal-type Juvenile Petitions	Status Petitions	Child Abuse/Neglect Petitions	Misc. Petitions	Filed	Disposed	Informal Hearings	Detention/Extradition Hearings	Protective Custody Hearings
<b>First Judicial District</b>									
Carson City District Court	133	316	17	41	507	250	292	271	17
Storey County District Court	6	19	0	0	25	13	19	0	1
<b>Second Judicial District</b>									
Washoe County District Court	1,740	NR	547	0	2,287	5,650	0	259	404
<b>Third Judicial District</b>									
Churchill County District Court	228	43	10	18	299	448	556	48	8
Lyon County District Court	273	25	10	0	308	223	70	97	4
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>									
Elko County District Court	482	0	13	0	495	330	676	154	134
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>									
Esmeralda County District Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mineral County District Court	41	0	2	0	43	34	0	20	1
Nye County District Court	310 <sup>i</sup>	57 <sup>i</sup>	4 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	373 <sup>i</sup>	362 <sup>i</sup>	111 <sup>i</sup>	122 <sup>i</sup>	29 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>									
Humboldt County District Court	359	0	13	1	373	215	425	165	15
Lander County District Court	0	0	1	0	1	106	4	23	1
Pershing County District Court	39	0	1	0	40	44	0	0	0
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>									
Eureka County District Court	9	0	0	1	10	18	0	0	2
Lincoln County District Court	27	0	0	0	27	54	0	0	1
White Pine County District Court	158	4	19	0	181	142	27	11	81
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>									
Clark County District Court	8,430	0	933	21	9,384	3,481	0	3,219	3,352
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>									
Douglas County District Court	159	0	6	2	167	131	0	53	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,394</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>14,520</b>	<b>11,501</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>4,442</b>	<b>4,056</b>

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 18 for details.  
NR Not reported

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

**Table A6. Criminal Non-traffic Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada**  
Fiscal Years 2008

	Criminal Defendants Charges			Total Filed	Total Disposed
	Felony	Gross Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic		
<b>First Judicial District</b>					
Carson City					
Carson City Justice Court	601	106	1,491 <sup>a</sup>	2,198	2,009
Storey County					
Virginia City Justice Court	59	13	181	253	282
<b>Second Judicial District</b>					
Washoe County					
Incline Village Justice Court	72	13	964	1,049	1,000
Reno Justice Court	2,612	472	4,060	7,144	6,056
Sparks Justice Court	1,169	233	1,530	2,932	2,813
Wadsworth Justice Court	0	0	84	84	67
<b>Third Judicial District</b>					
Churchill County					
New River Justice Court	221	57	311	589	790
Lyon County					
Canal Justice Court	224	47	386	657	553
Dayton Justice Court	102	19	388	509	556
Walker River Justice Court	43	7	123	173	193
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>					
Elko County					
Carlin Justice Court	NR	NR	164	164	127
East Line Justice Court	0	0	131	131	210
Elko Justice Court	472	38	971	1,481	1,301
Jackpot Justice Court	NR	NR	110	110	137
Wells Justice Court	NR	NR	95	95	97
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>					
Esmeralda County					
Esmeralda Justice Court	14	2	13	29	17
Mineral County					
Hawthorne Justice Court	99	13	265	377	239
Nye County					
Beatty Justice Court	56	5	96	157	186
Pahrump Justice Court	665	141	883	1,689	1,002
Tonopah Justice Court	85	4	150	239	283
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>					
Humboldt County					
Union Justice Court	210	34	582	826	806
Lander County					
Argenta Justice Court	37	11	203	251	229
Austin Justice Court	7	3	163	173	96
Pershing County					
Lake Justice Court	97	21	213 <sup>a</sup>	331	314
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>					
Eureka County					
Beowawe Justice Court	7	2	35	44	30
Eureka Justice Court	17	3	42	62	50
Lincoln County					
Meadow Valley Justice Court	35	8	22	65	71
Pahrnanagat Valley Justice Court	19	7	102	128	85
White Pine County					
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	94	7	77	178	161
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	0	2	2	2
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>					
Clark County					
Boulder Justice Court	57	7	24	88	131
Bunkerville Justice Court	9	0	14	23	93
Goodsprings Justice Court	113	0	153	266	131
Henderson Justice Court	2,328	154	1,856	4,338	3,066
Las Vegas Justice Court	21,709	1,441	30,043	53,193	NR
Laughlin Justice Court	335	6	373	714	1,508
Mesquite Justice Court	168	21	8	197	316
Moapa Justice Court	26	1	51	78	374
Moapa Valley Justice Court	27	29	87	143	99
North Las Vegas Justice Court	2,787	150	715	3,652	1,244
Searchlight Justice Court	20	28	25	73	50
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>					
Douglas County					
East Fork Justice Court	186	19	899	1,104	1,116
Tahoe Justice Court	158	18	646	822	835
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,940</b>	<b>3,140</b>	<b>48,731</b>	<b>86,811</b>	<b>28,725</b>

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in totals.

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

**Table A7. Civil Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada**  
Fiscal Year 2008

	Civil Cases Filed							
	General Civil	Small Claims	Landlord/Tenant (formerly Summary Evictions)	Requests for Domestic Violence Protection Orders (TPOs)	Request for Protection Orders (non-domestic violence)	Re-Opened Cases	Total Civil Cases	Total Cases Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>								
Carson City								
Carson City Justice Court	2,497	641	1,471	483	344	5	5,441	3,290
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	17	26	5	20	9	0	77	82
<b>Second Judicial District</b>								
Washoe County								
Incline Village Justice Court	73	88	76	13	17	2	269	206
Reno Justice Court	10,907	1,833	3,027	<sup>a</sup>	846	0	16,613	8,911
Sparks Justice Court	3,408	1,010	1,785	<sup>a</sup>	281	0	6,484	3,761
Wadsworth Justice Court	22	3	37	1	19	0	82	36
<b>Third Judicial District</b>								
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	594	458	277	116	209	4	1,658	1,006
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	509	466	402	85	101	4	1,567	1,319
Dayton Justice Court	277	200	262	89	72	13	913	798
Walker River Justice Court	239	212	41	56	14	13	575	454
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>								
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	50	162	2	<sup>a</sup>	NR	0	214	82
East Line Justice Court	73	39	20	10	11	NR	153	53
Elko Justice Court	742	1,007	92	0	78	4	1,923	1,019
Jackpot Justice Court	5	19	5	2	4	NR	35	26
Wells Justice Court	19	44	2	5	5	0	75	26
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>								
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	11	2	2	3	2	0	20	16
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	41	94	51	15	17	1	219	3
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	14	3	7	26	17	0	67	83
Pahrump Justice Court	603	201	262	283	208	6	1,563	1,186
Tonopah Justice Court	34	38	10	27	25	1	135	153
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>								
Humboldt County								
Union Justice Court	243	363	17	68	80	0	771	656
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	80	499	7	23	0	2	611	587
Austin Justice Court	1	4	0	0	2	0	7	6
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	43	232	39	31	8	0	353	150
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>								
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	5	10	0	2	0	0	17	9
Eureka Justice Court	19	9	9	8	10	0	55	52
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	10	15	6	3	2	0	36	15
Pahrnanagat Valley Justice Court	10	7	1	4	1	0	23	5
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	231	110	13	39	27	0	420	358
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>								
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	149	55	70	57	83	4	418	288
Bunkerville Justice Court	8	1	0	7	1	0	17	7
Goodsprings Justice Court	40	23	9	6	15	0	93	37
Henderson Justice Court	3,106	735	2,513	0	376	25	6,755	3,827
Las Vegas Justice Court	55,698	7,248	23,960	<sup>a</sup>	2,516	3,799	93,221	58,384
Laughlin Justice Court	130	151	53	25	15	4	378	274
Mesquite Justice Court	81	169	71	34	24	NR	379	138
Moapa Justice Court	18	2	1	2	7	0	30	7
Moapa Valley Justice Court	9	3	6	11	7	0	36	18
North Las Vegas Justice Court	977	908	3,065	<sup>a</sup>	128	74	5,152	4,183
Searchlight Justice Court	3	3	2	0	0	0	8	2
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>								
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	590	472	117	136	95	17	1,427	824
Tahoe Justice Court	57	60	20	17	17	9	180	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,643</b>	<b>17,626</b>	<b>37,815</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>5,693</b>	<b>3,987</b>	<b>148,471</b>	<b>92,450</b>

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in totals.

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



**Table A8. District Court Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Year 2008

	Juvenile Traffic		
	Cases	Charges	Violations Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>			
Carson City District Court	583	846	841
Storey County District Court	7	9	9
<b>Second Judicial District</b>			
Washoe County District Court	NR	3,226	NR
<b>Third Judicial District</b>			
Churchill County District Court	178	233	273
Lyon County District Court	817	1,119	1,055
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>			
Elko County District Court	NR	701	992
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>			
Esmeralda County District Court	18	22	13
Mineral County District Court	11	16	2
Nye County District Court	114	175	214
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>			
Humboldt County District Court	156	203	136
Lander County District Court	118	134	55
Pershing County District Court	0	0	0
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>			
Eureka County District Court	a	a	a
Lincoln County District Court	a	a	a
White Pine County District Court	a	a	a
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>			
Clark County District Court	1,294	2,057	NR
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>			
Douglas County District Court	298	399	315
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,594</b>	<b>9,140</b>	<b>3,905</b>

NR Not reported.

a Juvenile traffic violations handled and reported by Justice Courts.

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

**Table A9. Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Year 2008

	Traffic and Parking Violations									
	Juvenile Traffic		Adult Traffic		Adult Parking		Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Charges	
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City										
Carson City Justice Court	NJ	NJ	16,368	22,771 <sup>a</sup>	53	65 <sup>a</sup>	16,421	22,836 <sup>a</sup>	21,025	
Storey County										
Virginia City Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,240	1,740	12	14	1,252	1,754	1,782	
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County										
Incline Village Justice Court	29	49	NR	2,209	NR	525	29	2,783	2,580	
Reno Justice Court	NJ	NJ	22,542	45,084	NJ	NJ	22,542	45,084	31,895	
Sparks Justice Court	NJ	NJ	7,481	11,398	0	0	7,481	11,398	8,211	
Wadsworth Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,589	4,321	1	1	3,590	4,322	4,180	
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County										
New River Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,633	4,699	5	6	3,638	4,705	4,596	
Lyon County										
Canal Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,303	4,496	2	2	3,305	4,498	4,213	
Dayton Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,897	5,074	0	0	3,897	5,074	4,624	
Walker River Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,498	1,890	1	2	1,499	1,892	1,848	
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County										
Carlin Justice Court	NJ	NJ	384	412	0	0	384	412	389	
East Line Justice Court	NJ	NJ	788	1,434	0	0	788	1,434	622	
Elko Justice Court	NJ	NJ	5,568	7,554	8	8	5,576	7,562	5,390	
Jackpot Justice Court	NJ	NJ	NR	1,338	NR	4	NR	1,342	1,199	
Wells Justice Court	NJ	NJ	4,774	6,460	NR	NR	4,774	6,460	4,962	
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County										
Esmeralda Justice Court	NJ	NJ	5,230	6,139	0	0	5,230	6,139	4,391	
Mineral County										
Hawthorne Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,774	4,622 <sup>b</sup>	0	1	3,774	4,623 <sup>b</sup>	3,902 <sup>b</sup>	
Nye County										
Beatty Justice Court	NJ	NJ	2,624	3,085	0	1	2,624	3,086	3,168	
Pahrump Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,601	5,615	6	8	3,607	5,623	4,668	
Tonopah Justice Court	NJ	NJ	2,139	2,614	0	0	2,139	2,614	2,909	
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County										
Union Justice Court	NJ	NJ	7,067	8,690	156	165	7,223	8,855	8,392	
Lander County										
Argenta Justice Court	NJ	NJ	2,281	3,043	2	3	2,283	3,046	2,759	
Austin Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,537	1,936	2	2	1,539	1,938	2,032	
Pershing County										
Lake Justice Court	NJ	NJ	883	1,094 <sup>a</sup>	1	1 <sup>a</sup>	884	1,095 <sup>a</sup>	971	
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County										
Beowawe Justice Court	1	1	384	470	0	0	385	471	416	
Eureka Justice Court	5	5	768	903	0	0	773	908	912	
Lincoln County										
Meadow Valley Justice Court	18	23	856	1,022	0	0	874	1,045	1,133 <sup>e</sup>	
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court	23	32	3,144	3,654	0	0	3,167	3,686	3,459	
White Pine County										
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	95	121	2,569	2,948	0	0	2,664	3,069	2,564	
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	NJ	NJ	85	98	0	0	85	98	93	
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County										
Boulder Justice Court	1	2	391	477	0	0	392	479	568	
Bunkerville Justice Court	5	7	754	906	2	2	761	915	878	
Goodsprings Justice Court	NJ	NJ	11,852	12,688	1	1	11,853	12,689	11,512	
Henderson Justice Court	160	220	6,716	9,440	68	73	6,944	9,733	8,423	
Las Vegas Justice Court	3,927	6,537	206,995	331,722	7,849	8,219	218,771	346,478	164,827	
Laughlin Justice Court	60	63	7,624	8,380	54	54	7,738	8,497	7,585	
Mesquite Justice Court	NJ	NJ	2	7	NR	NR	2	7	0	
Moapa Justice Court	52	52	3,752	3,809	2	2	3,806	3,863	3,664	
Moapa Valley Justice Court	NR	NR	605	843	1	1	606	844	762	
North Las Vegas Justice Court	37	50	1,508	2,085	9	9	1,554	2,144	1,895	
Searchlight Justice Court	52	61	5,448	6,332	2	2	5,502	6,395	6,648	
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County										
East Fork Justice Court	NJ	NJ	4,086	8,033	12	25	4,098	8,058	6,568	
Tahoe Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,208	2,891	9	120	1,217	3,011	2,755	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>7,223</b>	<b>362,948</b>	<b>554,426</b>	<b>8,258</b>	<b>9,316</b>	<b>375,671</b>	<b>570,965</b>	<b>355,370</b>	

NJ No Jurisdiction.

NR Not Reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in totals.

<sup>b</sup> Court reported traffic numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

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

**Table A10. Municipal Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Year 2008

Court	Traffic and Parking Violations								
	Juvenile		Adult		Parking		Total Filed		Total Disposed
	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Charges
Boulder Municipal Court	146	184	4,904	7,396	149	163	5,199	7,743	6,806
Caliente Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	NR	234	0	0	NR	234	188
Carlin Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	64	72	14	14	78	86	73
Carson City Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>
Elko Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	1,914	2,219	117	117	2,031	2,336	1,367
Ely Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	638	690	4	4	642	694	903
Fallon Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	827	1,176	4	6	831	1,182	934
Fernley Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	1,372	1,772	1	1	1,373	1,773	1,800
Henderson Municipal Court	753	1,079	27,690	42,197	687	720	29,130	43,996	39,243
Las Vegas Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	NR	176,977	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	NR	176,977	158,776
Mesquite Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	2,960	3,983	208	208	3,168	4,191	3,749
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	27,503	45,457	3,656	4,191	31,159	49,648	49,676
Reno Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	30,594	41,743	13	21	30,607	41,764	41,419
Sparks Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	8,113	12,259	381	552	8,494	12,811	12,231
Wells Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	215	304	0	0	215	304	228
West Wendover Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	994	1,547	NR	NR	994	1,547	1,058
Yerington Municipal Court	NJ	NJ	192	232	1	1	193	233	204
<b>Total</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>1,263</b>	<b>107,980</b>	<b>338,258</b>	<b>5,235</b>	<b>5,998</b>	<b>114,114</b>	<b>345,519</b>	<b>318,655</b>

NJ Not within court's jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

<sup>b</sup> Parking violations or civil cases are handled administratively by the city.

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

# GLOSSARY OF CASE TYPES

## Criminal Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted by defendants in District Court when the court receives notification of a bind over from a lower court or receives the formal charging document from the District Attorney's Office. Felony and gross misdemeanor filings in Justice Court are counted by defendants when the court receives the formal charging document, generally a complaint or citation. Misdemeanor and traffic filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are counted when the court receives the citation or complaint. Misdemeanors are counted by defendants and traffic violations are counted by charges.

**Felony** – Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of a state law that is punishable by death or imprisonment in the state prison.

**Gross Misdemeanor** – Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of state law that involves an offense that does not fit within the definitions of felony, misdemeanor, or traffic case.

**Misdemeanor, Non-traffic** – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for defendants charged with the violation of a state law or local ordinance that involves an offense punishable by fine or incarceration or both for no more than \$1,000 or 6 months, respectively.

**Traffic Misdemeanor** – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for moving and non-moving violations of traffic law or ordinance that do not pertain to parking of a motor vehicle. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

**Parking Violations** – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for parking of a motor vehicle in violation of a traffic law or ordinance. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

**Appeal from Lower Court** – Cases heard at District Court in which the court reviews the judgment of a Justice or Municipal Court for a criminal case.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A criminal case is considered disposed when final adjudication for that case occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as date of sentencing, date of adjudication, or date charges are disposed, whichever occurs last.

**Criminal Cases Disposed** – For District Court, cases are disposed when transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion or before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, jury trial, and other manner of disposition. For Justice and Municipal Courts, cases are dismissed before or during preliminary hearing, guilty plea before or during preliminary hearing, waiver of preliminary hearing, bound over to District Court, bail forfeiture, transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion, dismissed before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, and jury trial.

## Civil Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when a petition or complaint is filed with the court or the court receives a motion.

**Real Property** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with ownership or rights in real property excluding construction defect or negligence; includes landlord and tenant disputes, title to property, condemnation, eminent domain, and other real property cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Construction Defect** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with defects in construction.

**Negligence Torts** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with an alleged omission to perform an act or use care to perform an act that causes personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death; includes auto, medical, dental, premises liability, and other negligence tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Torts** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with an injury or wrong committed either against a person or person's property by a party who either did or did not do something they were or were not supposed to do; includes product liability, intentional misconduct, employment, and other tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Probate** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with the probate of a will or estate of a deceased person; includes summary administration, general administration, special administration, set asides, probate trusts, and other probate cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Other Civil** – Cases heard at District Court that include breach of contract, civil petition for judicial review, appeals from lower courts, civil writs, and all other civil matters that do not fit in one of the above categories or case types.

**General Civil** – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money or damages where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$10,000.

**Small Claims** – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$5,000.

**Landlord/Tenant** – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with the exclusion of tenant for default of rent or specific categories of unlawful detainer. Formerly Summary Evictions.

**Temporary Protective Orders** – Cases heard at Justice Court for temporary order for protection. TPOs are counted as either domestic violence protective orders or stalking and harassment protective orders.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A civil case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as the date judgment is entered.

**Civil Cases Disposed** – For all trial courts, civil cases are disposed by voluntary dismissal, transfer before or during trial, involuntary dismissal,

# GLOSSARY OF CASE TYPES

judgment on arbitration award, stipulated dismissal, stipulated judgment, default judgment, and adjudication on the merits by motion to dismiss, summary judgment, bench trial, and jury trial. Additionally, in Justice Courts, temporary protective orders are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transferred before or during trial, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial or hearing, decision with hearing, and decision with trial.

## Family Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when the court receives an originating petition, request, or complaint.

**Marriage Dissolution** – Cases heard at District Court that involve either divorce or annulment.

**Support/Custody** – Cases heard at District Court that require maintenance of a spouse or child or determination with regard to maintenance. Both parties must reside in Nevada.

**Uniform Interstate Family Support Act** – Cases heard at District Court that require maintenance of a spouse or child when one party resides in another state.

**Adoptions** – Cases heard at District Court that involve a request for the establishment of a new, permanent relationship of parent and child between persons not having that relationship naturally.

**Paternity** – Cases heard at District Court that involve paternity issues as defined by Nevada statute.

**Termination of Parental Rights** – Cases heard at District Court that involve termination of parental rights.

**Miscellaneous Domestic Relations Case** – Cases heard at District Court that involve a domestic relations issue that does not fit in one of the other family case types. Examples include name change or permission to marry.

**Guardianship** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with guardianship issues involving adults, minors, or trusts.

**Mental Health Cases** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with legal determination as to whether an individual is mentally ill or incompetent and should be placed or remain under care, custody, or treatment.

**Domestic Violence Protective Orders** – Cases heard at District Court for temporary order for protection when sufficient evidence exists that there has been domestic violence or the threat exists.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A family case is considered disposed when the decision is handed down and(or) the final order is filed, whichever occurs first.

**Family Cases Disposed** – For District Courts, family cases are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transfer, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial,

decision with hearing, and decision with trial. Additionally, guardianship cases can be disposed for a person by death, reaching the age of majority, or restoration of competency; and for property by an order terminating guardianship or final accounting.

## Juvenile Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when the court receives the petition or citation.

**Criminal-Type Juvenile Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court that include a behavior that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

**Status Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court that includes petitions involving a juvenile in need of supervision. The juvenile may require guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation because of habitual truancy, habitual disobedience, being ungovernable, or behavior that is injurious or dangerous to others.

**Child Abuse/Neglect Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court where the behavior of someone other than the juvenile causes the court to concern itself with the well being of the juvenile. Adults charged with abuse or neglect are counted in the appropriate criminal category.

**Miscellaneous Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court that involve juvenile cases that do not fit in one of the other juvenile categories. An example is Petition for Emancipation.

**Informal Hearing** – Any hearing by a judicial officer in which no formal charge has been filed with the court.

**Detention/Extradition Hearing** – Any hearing requesting a juvenile to be held in detention, or continued to be held in detention, pending further court action within the same or another jurisdiction.

**Protective Custody Hearing** – Any hearing held to determine if the risk to a child is great enough to warrant removal, or continued removal, from their custodian.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A juvenile case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs.

**Juvenile Cases Disposed** – For District Courts, juvenile cases are disposed by transfer, certification to adult, dismissal, plea or admission, statutory termination, wardship termination, judgment satisfied, and bench trial.



**NEVADA SUPREME COURT**

Clockwise from bottom left: Justice A. William Maupin, Justice Michael L. Douglas,  
Justice Ron D. Parraguirre, Justice Michael A. Cherry, Justice Nancy M. Saitta,  
Justice James W. Hardesty, Chief Justice Mark Gibbons



## **SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA**

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