

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY



FISCAL YEAR 2014

150 YEARS OF JUSTICE IN NEVADA





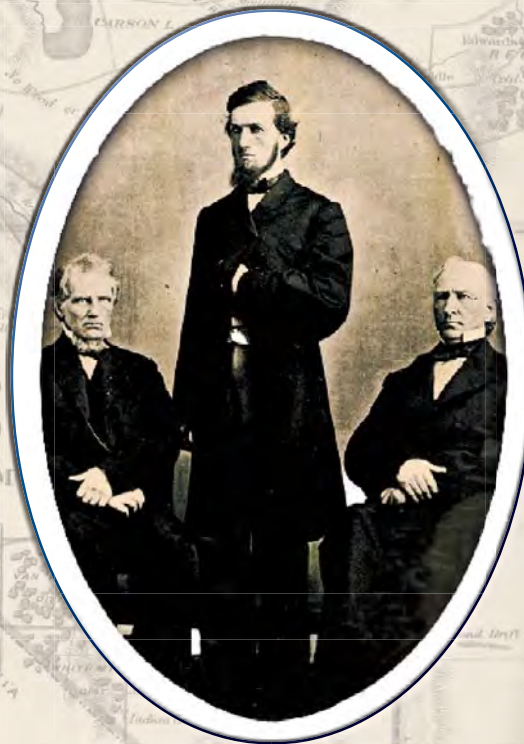
2014 Nevada Supreme Court

Back Row:

Justice Michael L. Douglas, Justice Nancy M. Saitta, Chief Justice Mark Gibbons,
Justice James W. Hardesty, and Justice Ron D. Parraguirre

Front Row:

Justice Michael A. Cherry and Associate Chief Justice Kristina Pickering



1864 Nevada Supreme Court

Justice Henry O. Beatty, Chief Justice James F. Lewis, and Justice Cornelius M. Brosnan

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

JULY 1, 2013 - JUNE 30, 2014

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Available on the Supreme Court Website

WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US

(PHOTO CREDITS ARE ON THE INSIDE BACK COVER)



When Nevada gained statehood in 1864, Nevada's constitution established a Supreme Court. From 1864 to 1871, the three Nevada Supreme Court's Justices (James F. Lewis, Henry O. Beatty, and Cornelius M. Brosnan) were housed in the second floor of the Great Basin Hotel (pictured above and on back cover) with other state offices. In 1871, the Court moved to the State Capitol Building (pictured below) where chambers and a courtroom had been built. In 1937, the Court moved into its own building where it remained for more than 50 years. With a burgeoning caseload, the Supreme Court was enlarged from three to five Justices in 1967. The number of staff and space needed to keep up with ever increasing caseload necessitated the construction of a new courthouse 25 years later. In 1992, the current Supreme Court Building (pictured on the front cover) was built to address the space needs of the court. In 1999, the Supreme Court expanded to seven Justices, and three judges' chambers were included in the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas. Today, the Supreme Court continues to serve Nevadans out of its offices in Carson City and Las Vegas, where it strives to meet the high demands placed upon it.



NEVADA'S COURT STRUCTURE

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

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

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

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

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

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

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

CLERK of the COURT

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of the COURTS

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

LAW LIBRARY

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

Appeals/Remands

DISTRICT COURTS

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

Appeals/Remands

JUSTICE COURTS

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

MUNICIPAL COURTS

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

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



On behalf of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Nevada, I am pleased to present this 2014 *Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary*. As Nevada celebrates its sesquicentennial, I appreciate this opportunity to advise the citizens of Nevada about the judiciary's many accomplishments and new projects.

Nevada's judiciary has a long history of providing exceptional service to the citizens of our state. Following statehood in 1864, Nevada's three Supreme Court Justices traveled the state hearing cases, providing access to justice and considering the needs of our citizens. The traditions established by those Justices 150 years ago continue today as Nevada's judiciary continues to protect the rights and liberties of individuals, impartially interpreting our laws, and disposing of cases in a timely manner.

The fiscal realities of the past few years have required the Supreme Court to utilize new ways to sustain Nevada's Third Branch of government. Reduced resources have led the judiciary to discover alternative ways to deliver justice and maintain existing services. I am proud of our careful fiscal stewardship of the people's money.

The complexity of the issues reaching the Supreme Court continues to increase as Nevada matures into a mixture of metropolitan cities, urban counties, and rural regions. Throughout its history, the Supreme Court has always met the challenge of providing timely resolution of cases to all citizens of Nevada. In the first 3 years of the judiciary, Nevada's Justices issued 82 opinions. In contrast, this past year the seven Justices of the Supreme Court disposed of roughly 2,400 cases. The Supreme Court's use of three-judge panels has allowed it to dispose of more cases than would typically be possible if the full panel of seven Justices had to hear all cases.

The innovations developed by the Supreme Court to hear more cases will be utilized in the new Court of Appeals, recently approved by the citizens of Nevada. The Supreme Court is grateful for the confidence expressed by Nevada's citizens with their affirmative vote. The Court of Appeals will lead to quicker decisions on cases pending in the Supreme Court.

I am pleased that during my term as Chief Justice, the Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts was recognized by the Forum on the Advancement of Court Technology for our efforts to extend technology for the purpose of improving access to justice. Our mobile app demonstrates how the court has embraced new tools to improve the work of the courts.

This report details the work of the judiciary and describes the various initiatives of the Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts. The second half of the report provides a Statistical Summary of the types and number of cases adjudicated in the past year by Nevada's Supreme, District, Justice, and Municipal Courts.

The accomplishments made in the past year reflect the dedication of judges, court administrators, and judicial employees to the administration of justice. In our sesquicentennial year, Nevada's Judiciary is committed to innovation and improved systems to make the judicial branch of government better and even more responsive to the people of Nevada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark Gibbons
Chief Justice

JUSTICES OF THE NEVADA SUPREME COURT



Chief Justice Mark Gibbons was first elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2002 after serving 6 years as a District Judge and Chief Judge in Clark County. Prior to becoming a judge, he had 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. At the District Court, he served as Chief Judge and was appointed to the Supreme Court's Jury Improvement Commission. At the Supreme Court, he is co-chair of the Specialty Court Funding Committee, and chair of the Judicial Selection Commission, and the Supreme Court's Information Technology Committee. He is a graduate of Loyola University School of Law. In August of 2014, he became the first serving Nevada Supreme Court Justice to be seated as a juror for a District Court trial.



Associate Chief Justice Kristina Pickering was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2008. She graduated from Reno High School (National Merit Scholar; Presidential Scholar), Yale University (B.A. *cum laude*), and the University of California, Davis, School of Law (Order of the Coif; Law Review). Justice Pickering clerked for United States District Judge Bruce R. Thompson in Reno, then entered private practice, focusing on complex civil litigation. Justice Pickering is a life member of the American Law Institute. Over the course of her legal career, she has served in a variety of positions to improve the legal profession and court system in Nevada and on committees at the state and national levels addressing court rules, lawyer ethics, and professional conduct.



Justice James W. Hardesty is a native Nevadan, born in Reno. A graduate of McGeorge School of Law, he practiced law in Reno from 1975 through 1998, when he was elected to the District Court bench in Washoe County. He served as Chief Judge for two terms and was president of the Nevada District Judges Association in 2003. He was first elected to the Supreme Court in 2004. He currently co-chairs the Nevada Supreme Court Bench-Bar Committee; the Nevada Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission; The Commission on Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records; and the Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform. He is vice-chair of the Nevada Legislature's Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice and chairs the Nevada State-Federal Judicial Council.



Justice Ron D. Parraguirre is a fourth generation Nevadan and second generation judge (his father was a Fifth Judicial District Judge). A graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law, Justice Parraguirre's judicial career began in 1991 when he was elected to 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 first elected to serve as a Justice on the Nevada Supreme Court in 2004. Justice Parraguirre currently serves as the chair of the Settlement Judge Core Committee.



Justice Michael A. Cherry has been an attorney in Nevada since 1970 when he became a Deputy Clark County Public Defender. He then became a private attorney and served as Special Master in the MGM Grand Hotel and Las Vegas Hilton Hotel fire litigation cases. In 1997, Justice Cherry returned to public service as the newly created Clark County Special Public Defender. In 1998, he was elected a District Court Judge in Clark County. In 2006, he was first elected to the Nevada Supreme Court and re-elected in 2012. A graduate of Washington University School of Law, Justice Cherry chairs the Indigent Defense Commission and supervises the Senior Justice and Judge Program.



Justice Michael L. Douglas, the first African American Justice in Nevada's history, was appointed to the high court in March 2004 and elected to a full term in 2006. A graduate of the University of California Hastings College of the Law, Justice Douglas began his Nevada legal career 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 co-chairs the Supreme Court Bench-Bar Committee, the Access to Justice Commission, and the Specialty Court Funding Committee.



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 specialized Complex Litigation Division for case management of construction defect and other voluminous cases. The achievement received national recognition in 2003. At the Supreme Court, she is chair of the Court Improvement Program, the Judicial Public Information Committee, and co-chairs the Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform. Justice Saitta also serves as a member of the Executive Committee for the Council of State Governments. She is a graduate of Wayne State University.

A NOTE FROM THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



"We remain imprisoned by the past as long as we deny its influence in the present."

-Justice William J. Brennan, Jr.

As part of recognizing the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of statehood, this 2014 annual report has a few historical nuggets throughout related to the judicial branch, which was established in the Nevada Constitution. In some instances, the history may only provide a little or more recent perspective, while others, such as the timeline provided before the statistics section, document the significant role over the last 150 years that the Judiciary has played in making Nevada the great state it is today.

In some of the historical information, you will see that our predecessors were preparing for and shaping the future of the Nevada Judiciary. Even recently, the vision of implementing a Uniform System for Judicial Records, a prospect many believed would never happen, not only became a reality several years ago, now this report (and its appendices) provide even more detailed data for the public and policymakers to understand how the Nevada Judiciary is performing.

This annual report not only reflects the statistical caseloads of Nevada courts, the report also details some of the related achievements of our courts during the most recent fiscal year. We have added a few feature articles in the statistics section highlighting a couple areas of research, including findings on judicial performance and processes, using some of the statistics gathered during the last few years.

The legacy of the work from our predecessors comes with the responsibilities that we must be good stewards and pioneers for the next generation. As we look forward to the next generation providing justice in Nevada, we must continue to work hard on the daily issues placed before us, while having a vision as to what will be the Nevada Judiciary of tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Sweet". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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

NEVADA COURT OF APPEALS

Nevada Court Structure with Court of Appeals

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

Comprised of **7 Justices**, this is the State's ultimate judicial authority. All cases appealed from the District Courts will be filed with the Supreme Court. Some matters will be assigned to the Court of Appeals, based on Supreme Court Rule, and the remaining matters will be heard and resolved by the Nevada Supreme Court. Cases resolved by opinion at the Nevada Supreme Court are precedent-setting and become law.

Discretionary
Appeals/Assignment

Non-Discretionary
Appeals/Remands

COURT OF APPEALS

Comprised of **3 Judges**, the Court of Appeals will hear categories of cases assigned to it by Supreme Court Rule. Most cases routed to the Court of Appeals will be decided and end there, as Supreme Court review of Court of Appeals decisions will be discretionary.

Remands

DISTRICT COURTS

These are courts of general jurisdiction where major civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases are decided. Appeals of District Court cases go to the Supreme Court.

Non-Discretionary
Appeals/Remands

JUSTICE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS

These are courts of limited jurisdiction where minor civil and criminal cases are decided. Appeals of Justice and Municipal Court cases go to the District Courts.

NEVADA COURT OF APPEALS

VOTER-APPROVED COURT OF APPEALS

In November 2014, Nevada voters approved the creation of a Court of Appeals by allowing an amendment to Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution. This unique court will hear roughly one-third of all cases submitted to the Nevada Supreme Court in a push-down model, where the Supreme Court will assign cases to a three-judge Court of Appeals. This is similar to systems used in Iowa, Idaho, and Mississippi.

Prior to this change, the Supreme Court heard all appeals including everything from final judgments entered by the District Courts, to murder convictions and appeals of driver's license revocations. For decades, the Supreme Court struggled to keep up with its caseload. This was demonstrated by the number of pending cases before the court, which delayed justice and prevented speedy resolution of cases. The purpose of creating the Court of Appeals was born out of the concern that justice delayed is justice denied. This became evident when families waited for an appeal for a child custody case, or when decisions on proposed ballot initiatives were slowed by the backlog of cases. All appeals cases are urgent to the parties involved. With the voter-approved Court of Appeals, parties waiting for their appeals to be heard will have their cases move forward quicker.

Historically, the Supreme Court has had the highest number of filings of all states without an appellate court. In 2014, each Supreme Court Justice handled a caseload of roughly 354 cases per year. This means nearly one case every day must be heard and decided by each Justice. Also, because the Supreme Court sits in panels of three or seven justices, the number of cases requiring a decision actually equates to more than three cases per justice, per day. This has been an impossible task; a large number of cases have required as much as 3 years to adjudicate and reach a decision.

Prior to the approval of the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court has disposed of most matters with orders that are not precedent-setting. This has allowed the court to reach decisions faster. However, those decisions cannot be cited or relied on as guidance by the District Courts. In fact, the number of precedent-setting cases has been reduced to roughly 4 percent of all dispositions produced by the Supreme Court.

MODEL

Appeals will continue to be filed with the Office of the Supreme Court Clerk, which will allow the court to avoid adding clerks, central staff, or bureaucracy. The Supreme Court will then decide which matters should be assigned to the Court of Appeals. The push-down model, as shown on page 6, will allow the Supreme Court to speed up the appeals process by assigning cases to the Court of Appeals, while handling cases most likely to be precedent-setting in nature. The outcome will result in more published opinions establishing guidance on Nevada law, improved decisions in the District Courts, and improved access to the appellate process.

Approximately 700 cases each year will be assigned to the three judges on the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court will establish the types of matters to be reviewed by the Court of Appeals. Many of these cases may include important reviews of business law, family law, and criminal law. Most of the cases assigned to the Court of Appeals are expected to be concluded in the Court of Appeals. This is due to the discretion afforded the Supreme Court on accepting appeals from the Court of Appeals to the Supreme Court. Accordingly, the Supreme Court will ultimately decide when Court of Appeals decisions are reviewed.

FISCAL COSTS

The addition of the Court of Appeals will require a minimal impact on the budget of the Supreme Court. The estimated cost of implementing the Court of Appeals will total \$1.5 million, with the court using existing Supreme Court facilities to hear cases and house support staff. The operating cost of the Court of Appeals is limited to the salaries of the three judges and their staff, which was approved by the Legislature in 2013.

BENEFITS

The Nevada Judiciary is appreciative of the trust and confidence of voters in approving the Constitutional amendment. The Court of Appeals will improve access to justice in the state by reviewing decisions in a timely manner and providing faster resolution of all cases. In addition, the Court of Appeals will allow an increase in the number of published opinions by the Supreme Court in all areas of Nevada law. These published opinions will improve decisions made by the District Courts and provide clarity for Nevada's citizens and businesses.

FUNDING THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

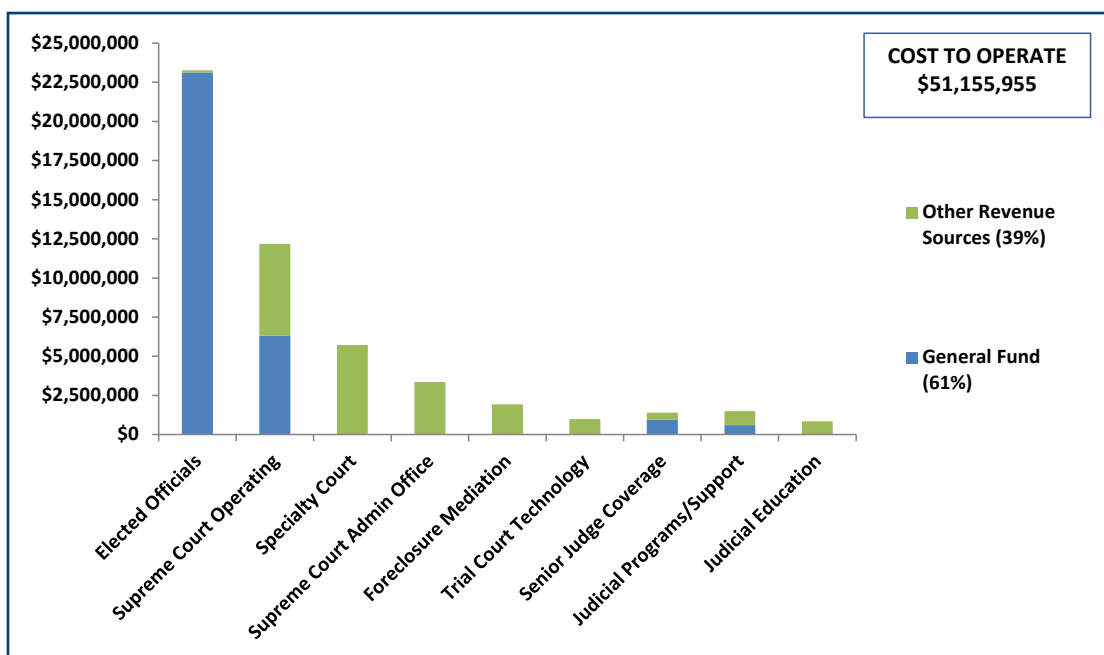
FUNDING

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

For fiscal year 2014, the state appropriated \$31,119,235¹ to the Judicial Branch of the State of Nevada from the General Fund. This was less than 1 percent of the statewide General Fund appropriation. Other funding authorized in the budget was \$29,776,081 from administrative assessment revenue and other funding sources, which brought the total of the Judicial Branch of the State of Nevada budget approved by the Nevada Legislature to \$60,895,316. To put this amount into perspective, it represented less than 1 percent of the \$8.7 billion statewide budget the Nevada Legislature approved for the fiscal year.

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the Judicial Branch of the State of Nevada spent \$51,155,955, returned \$435,392 to the State General Fund, and retained \$9,874,097 for subsequent year expenses, primarily for specialty court programs, court technological improvements, and foreclosure mediations.

¹ This amount excludes the appropriation to fund the Commission on Judicial Discipline. Prior to providing any appropriations, the Nevada Legislature withheld \$642,289 from the Supreme Court's budget request due to the legislative mandate for furloughs and salary reductions.



FISCAL YEAR 2014 EXPENDITURES

Of the more than \$51 million that it cost to operate the Judicial Branch of the State of Nevada in fiscal year 2014, salaries for Justices and District Court Judges were \$21,220,789 and represented 41.5 percent of the total cost to operate. When the costs for senior judge coverage of District Courts, judicial selection processes, and judicial retirement system are added in, the judicial officer coverage costs come to more than \$24.6 million. The remaining balance funded the operation of the Supreme Court, its Law Library, Specialty Court Programs, judicial programs and support, education, trial court technology, foreclosure mediation, and administration.

FUNDING IMPACTS

During the 26th Special Session (2010), the Nevada Legislature amended NRS 176.059 by increasing the amount of an administrative assessment on a fine by \$5 and authorizing the first \$5 of each administrative assessment to be sent to the State for credit to the State General Fund.

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

JUDICIAL COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Prior to the creation in early 1979 of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada (JCSN), there were two committees that met regularly to discuss court-related issues: Southern Nevada and Northern-Rural. Each committee consisted of five judges. Initially, concern was expressed that the new Judicial Council would go beyond the contemplation of the Nevada Constitution. However, with elected representatives from each of the five regions—Clark, North Central, Sierra, South Central, and Washoe—a balance of voice and representation was found for the administration of justice. The regional councils address issues unique to their areas.

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

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

Court Administration—promotes excellence in court administration by addressing issues in the Nevada Judiciary and recommending improvements to the Judicial Council.

Court Improvement Program—improves the lives of children and families who enter the child welfare system, reduces the amount of time children spend in foster care, and places abused and neglected children into permanent homes as quickly as possible through improvements to the court processes for dependency cases.

Language Access Committee—reviews and recommends guidelines, policies, and information related to language access for defendants, witnesses, and litigants who speak a language other than English and do not know or have limited knowledge of the English language.

Education—promotes the competence and professionalism of the Nevada Judiciary.

Legislation and Rules—promotes a coordinated approach to legislation affecting the Nevada Judiciary.

Specialty Court Funding—establishes procedures for requesting Specialty Court funds, including the development of funding criteria, distribution of funds, and data collection from funded courts.

Technology—promotes court technological advancements and the coordination, collaboration, and integration of technology with state and local governments.

DURING FISCAL YEAR 2014

During fiscal year 2014, the Council expanded the purpose and membership of the Court Interpreter Committee and renamed it the Language Access Committee, approved the Minimum Accounting Standards Guide for External Audits, and approved a new case management system for NRS 176.0613 funded specialty courts. The new case management system will help Specialty Courts with data collection efforts outlined in statute by the Legislature. In addition, a subcommittee was formed to study and address the issues of mental health and other statutory reporting requirements. This subcommittee's recommendations may result in legislative changes and, through its efforts, the subcommittee has worked to improve judicial compliance with reporting requirements.

The Court Administration Committee updated the *Model Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees*; which was distributed statewide for individual adoption by courts.

The Technology Committee made some minor changes to its bylaws, and the Judicial Education Committee revised their policies and procedures.

Fiscal Year 2014

Commission on Indigent Defense

In 2007, the Nevada Supreme Court convened the Indigent Defense Commission (IDC), with Justice Michael Cherry as chair, to examine and make recommendations regarding the delivery of indigent defense services in Nevada.

The Commission filed its initial report with the Court in November 2007.

On January 4, 2008, the Court issued an Order (ADKT 411) that contained performance standards, a requirement to remove judges from the appointment of counsel process, and also recommended that all rural counties use the State Public Defender's Office. Additionally, the Order required all jurisdictions to file a plan for the appointment of counsel and authorized the voluntary request from Clark and Washoe Counties to conduct weighted caseload studies in order to determine appropriate public defender caseloads. The Order also established a definition of 'indigent' to be used when appointing counsel.

After the initial order, objections were filed with the Court, requiring further review in March 2008; the review resulted in a subsequent Order on March 21, 2008. This Order required that new members be added to the IDC, the performance standards be reconsidered, and the Rural Subcommittee be reconstituted to re-examine the issues in rural Nevada.

During the 2014 fiscal year, the IDC continued its work on needed reforms to the public defense system in Nevada.

In the fall of 2013, the IDC tasked its Rural Subcommittee with collecting and reporting data pertaining to the number and scope of public defender appointments in the State. Additionally, the Rural Subcommittee obtained and analyzed the conflict counsel contracts currently in effect in the rural counties. The data gathered will assist the Commission in assessing indigent defense concerns and in making recommendations concerning the State's indigent defense needs in both the rural and the urban counties.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

There were no judicial vacancies this fiscal year. The Commission met on February 4 and again on April 4 to discuss the potential judgeships that would need to be filled due to the creation of a Court of Appeals. Also discussed were a proposed timeline and requisite rule changes should the voters pass the ballot initiative.

At the April meeting, the Commission voted to permanently eliminate the requirement of notifying members of the bar by mail when any judicial vacancy occurs. Judicial vacancies will be announced in local bar publications and by e-mail notification from the State Bar.

With the passage of the ballot initiative enacting a Court of Appeals, the Commission will work to provide the Governor with the names of the three most qualified attorney applicants for each of the three departments before the end of 2014. Changes, both of temporary and permanent natures, were made to the judicial application process. Changes included clarification on how applicants for the Court of Appeals vacancies must apply for a single department and will not be considered for any other department vacancy.

COMMISSION ON STATEWIDE JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

The Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform continued its study of the Juvenile Justice System in Nevada, evaluating national best practices, and implementing systemic juvenile justice reforms to improve Nevada's Juvenile Justice System. The reforms are designed to reduce the number of youth who come into contact with the Juvenile Justice System by identifying evidence-based programs that can be utilized on the front-end, thus reducing juvenile justice commitments.

Commission co-chairs, Justice James W. Hardesty and Justice Nancy M. Saitta, have provided leadership to the Commission and its multiple subcommittees on the development of juvenile justice reforms. Recent reforms have included the drafting of a juvenile competency statute, proposed amendments to the school disturbance statutes, and the approval of a Juvenile Justice Data Dictionary (JJDD). The JJDD was created to assist County Juvenile Justice Probation Departments when reporting data to the State's Juvenile Justice Program's Office and can be used as a resource for legislators, courts, and other stakeholders.

The Juvenile Justice System in Nevada has evolved since it first enacted the "Juvenile Court Law" on March 24, 1909 (*Stats. 1909, c. 180; Rev. Laws, 728*), but the overall objective to provide for the care, education, protection, and the rehabilitation of our youth, who may come into contact with the Juvenile Justice System has remained the same for over 100 years.



Ormsby County opened its courthouse in Carson City in 1922. With the dissolution of Ormsby County in 1969, the building continued as a courthouse for the City. It now serves as the location for the State Attorney General's offices.

COMMISSION ON COURT RECORDS

The Commission on Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records, chaired by Justice James W. Hardesty, continued its work to establish guidelines for the courts on the preservation, retention, and access of court records.

Currently, the Commission's Court Records Preservation and Retention Subcommittee is conducting a comprehensive review of the Nevada Supreme Court's Minimum Retention Schedule for adjudicatory records. The Subcommittee is developing programs and best practices that will assist the courts in the preservation and retention of their records.

Judicial Public Information Committee

The Committee, chaired by Nevada Supreme Court Justice Nancy M. Saitta, hosted the 5th year of Law Day Live by inviting six high school teams to present oral arguments before the Nevada Supreme Court. The annual event celebrating Law Day was one of three projects undertaken by the Committee, which provides an educational and informational voice for Nevada's courts.

Sponsored in association with the State Bar of Nevada, Law Day Live featured three notable cases concerning voting rights, with student teams taking on appellant and respondent roles in making 20-minute arguments before Justices of the Nevada Supreme Court, District and Justice Court Judges, and student judges. Five courtrooms across the state were linked by video conference to provide all students with the opportunity to address the state's highest court.

The three cases argued were:

- *Minor v. Happersett*
- *Oregon v. Mitchell*
- *Shelby County v. Holder*

The cases and student accomplishments were showcased on the Law Day website (<http://lawday.nevadajudiciary.us>) and on social media. In addition, Law Day activities included:

- A 100-word Easy Essay Contest with five weekly winners. More than 1,300 entries were received from schools across Nevada.
- Essay and poster contests promoted by the Young Lawyers section of the State Bar of Nevada.
- A total of 47 Nevada attorneys and judges visited Clark, Washoe, Humboldt, and Elko County schools in honor of Law Day.

The Committee also extended the work of the Judicial Ride-Along program, inviting legislators and county commissioners to spend a day with a judge.

The Jury Information Workgroup continued efforts to improve jury information and recognize jurors for their service.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

In 2006, the Access to Justice Commission was created to promote equal civil justice for all Nevadans, regardless of economic status. Co-chaired by Justice Michael L. Douglas and Justice James W. Hardesty, the Commission is comprised of 18 members from various legal and non-legal backgrounds, all focused on the delivery of legal services to those in need.

Over the past year, the Commission has focused on a review of service delivery with an emphasis on rural concerns. There are five core civil legal aid providers that are members of the Access to Justice Commission: Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Nevada Legal Services, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans, and Washoe Legal Services. Within the past year, these programs have provided services to clients in a variety of legal areas including guardianship matters, civil litigation, foreclosure concerns, domestic violence matters, family law issues, and estate planning and probate matters. During the past year, the Access to Justice Commission, through its legal aid provider partners, has assisted 11,889 clients (without litigation); represented 7,553 clients in litigation; provided guidance for 127,536 participants through classes, clinics and hotline programs; worked with 3,666 participants in Ask-A-Lawyer, Lawyer in the Library, and Lawyer in the Lobby events; and provided assistance to 135,479 clients via self-help centers. Additionally, the Commission used the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign to promote and increase pro bono services, and initiated plans to standardize self-help court forms.

Financial support for legal aid programs is largely derived from statutorily required filing fees. In fiscal year 2013, counties across Nevada reported collecting more than \$7,900,353 to fund legal aid services and programs benefiting elderly and/or indigent clients, abused or neglected children, and victims of domestic violence.

Pro Bono Report

During calendar year 2013, more than 1,100 clients seeking legal assistance were placed with pro bono attorneys. Additionally, 2,363 clients were represented by pro bono attorneys, and 5,111 clients were assisted by pro bono attorneys through hotline programs or brief consultations. Overall, more than 23,423 pro bono hours were provided through private attorney involvement.

ONE Promise Nevada Campaign

The Access to Justice Commission launched the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign in an effort to increase attorney pro bono participation in Nevada. The Campaign has been instrumental in raising approximately \$41,000 for pro bono services since its inception, and has raised awareness of the need for pro bono services among several law firms, Bar Sections, and legal organizations throughout the state. The objective of the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign is based on the goal that each attorney takes one pro bono case, or in the alternative, either donates time to other pro bono services or donates resources to the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign. More information may be found at the ONE Campaign website, www.onepromisenevada.org.

IOLTA

Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) is a crucial funding source for legal service providers. IOLTA rules require that attorneys maintain their trust accounts in an approved financial institution that pays preferential interest rates. Biannually, the IOLTA Taskforce Committee of the Access to Justice Commission reviews the IOLTA fixed interest rate and has maintained the fixed interest rate at 0.7 percent. At the close of fiscal year 2014, a total of 28 financial institutions participated in the IOLTA program with a total of 2,937 IOLTAs. The conclusion of the 2013 calendar year saw a issuance of \$1,994,040 of funds earmarked for grants to 13 legal services organizations in Nevada.

Dues Check Off Summary

The State Bar of Nevada Dues Check Off Program seeks a commitment to pro bono services or monetary donations from the State Bar membership. Of the nearly 8,600 active attorneys in Nevada, 320 contributed to the ONE Campaign, 803 attorneys committed to taking a pro bono case, and 17 committed both to taking a pro bono case and contributing to the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign.

In 1999, the current Carson City Courthouse was built to facilitate the growing population and needs of the First Judicial District. Currently, the Carson City Courthouse includes offices for District, Justice, and Municipal Courts; District Attorney; Clerk-Recorder; and court services.



JUDICIAL COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

NEVADA SUPREME COURT TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Justices of the Nevada Supreme Court brought the courtroom to two remote locations as part of its educational outreach program. High school students in northern Nevada were able to view oral arguments in Reno and Yerington during fiscal year 2014.

The full court of seven Justices heard oral arguments in two cases in September 2013 at Reno High School. In November, a three-justice panel heard arguments at the Jeanne Dini Cultural Center in Yerington.

In the case of *Meisler v. Nevada*, the Yerington panel heard an appeal on a constitutional rights claim. Meisler argued his rights were violated when



Justices Parraguirre, Hardesty, and Cherry in Yerington.

a Douglas County sheriff's deputy did not secure a search warrant before using his cellphone global positioning system to locate and arrest him. Cases such as this one give students a rare opportunity to see first-hand how the Supreme Court administers justice. By bringing the court to communities outside of Carson City,

the Supreme Court helps to remove the mystery about the appellate process. The Justice on the Road Program makes it easier for students to understand the role of the Supreme Court as Nevada's highest court and how the Justices work to ensure that justice is served.

In the past, the Supreme Court has held oral arguments in rural and urban communities across Nevada, including Elko, Ely, Fallon, Las Vegas, Pahrump, Panaca, Reno, Sparks, Spring Creek, Tonopah, West Wendover, and Winnemucca. Oral arguments also have been held at the National Judicial College on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno.

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM WORKS TO MAKE OUR YOUTHS' FUTURES LOOK BRIGHTER

Courts have been attempting to improve and protect the welfare of children since the Colonial days. As early as 1642, a Massachusetts law authorized magistrates to remove children from parents who did not "train them up" properly.

In the 1850s, approximately 30,000 homeless children between the ages of 6 to 18 shared a common grim existence—wretched abuse and abysmal poverty—in New York City. The Orphan Train Movement, recognized as the beginning of foster care in the United States, placed more than 120,000 of these children in 45 states across the country as well as in Canada and Mexico. Just like current foster children, these youngsters experienced a range of emotions—relief at being rescued, uncertainty about being relocated, struggles fitting into a new



family, and disappointment or hope as their new situation unfolded.

Nevada's first orphanage, operated by Sisters of Charity, opened its doors in Virginia City in 1867. A few years later, the Legislature decided that the care of homeless children was the State's responsibility and constructed the State

Orphan's Home in Carson City. The

first homeless child moved in on October 28, 1870. Although the children were treated well by the house parents, and the local people donated gifts and special treats, they longed for a forever family to love them.

Nongovernmental organized child-protection societies arose after the 1874 rescue of 9-year-old Mary Ellen Wilson, who was beaten and neglected by her guardians. By 1922, more than 300 private child protection societies had popped up across the country.

The Federal Children's Bureau was created in 1912. Today, the Children's

Bureau oversees and allocates funding to Court Improvement Programs and child welfare agencies across the country.

In the Social Security Act, brokered by President Roosevelt in 1935, the Children's Bureau was authorized to work with state welfare agencies to establish child welfare services for the protection and care of homeless, dependent, and neglected children.



Storey County's first courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1875. Rebuilt in 1877, the Storey County Courthouse cost approximately \$117,000 and was the most costly courthouse at the time. The courthouse statue of Justice does not have a blindfold, a common theme in the 19th century, but few remain today.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the government has broad authority to regulate the actions and treatment of children. Parental authority is not absolute and can be restricted in the best interests of the child (*Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U.S. 158).

Congress assumed a leadership role in child welfare with passage of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974 (CAPTA). CAPTA provided federal funds to help states respond to abuse and neglect. Shortly thereafter, in 1978, Congress enacted the Indian Child Welfare Act to address the removal of Native American children from their homes.

By the late 1970s, large numbers of children were languishing in foster care. The first comprehensive federal child protective services act, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980, required states to make “reasonable efforts” to avoid removing children from their homes and to reunite families. Some felt such family preservation actually resulted in children being left in dangerous homes.

The Children’s Bureau, State Court Improvement Program was created in 1993 to provide grants to each state’s highest court. These funds allow for assessments of foster care, adoption laws, and courts, as well as to develop and implement systematic improvements.

Nevada received its first Court Improvement Program grant in 1995. Initially, most of Nevada’s efforts focused on the implementation of pilot projects in individual courts.

In 1997, the Nevada Court Improvement Program developed Adoption and Safe Families Act case management system requirements.

State judicial leadership of Court Improvement Program was established in 2006, and the State Court Improvement Program for the Protection and Permanency of Dependent Children (CIP) was created, with the Nevada Supreme Court becoming the heart of CIP. Today, the CIP enables the courts and agencies involved in the child welfare system to develop systemic,

statewide changes to significantly improve the processing of child welfare cases, while ensuring compliance with state and federal laws regarding child dependency and child welfare matters. The CIP Select Committee is now chaired by Justice Nancy M. Saitta, who was appointed to that position in 2008.

All ten judicial districts have created Community Improvement Councils (CICs) to determine barriers to and

“... the median length of time it took for a child to be adopted in Nevada in 2012 was reduced to 30.7 months, which was less than the 36.3 months reported in 2010.”

methods for improving court timeliness as outlined in ASFA. The CICs have been so impactful that the time it takes for the courts to return children to their homes or find safe, permanent placements has been significantly reduced and now stands below the national average. For instance, in its 2013 Annual Progress and Services Report, the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) reports that the median length of time it took for a child to be adopted in Nevada in 2012 was reduced to 30.7 months, which was less than the 36.3 months reported in 2010. This example demonstrates how Nevada courts and child welfare agencies benefiting from CICs have improved median adoption time frames, by surpassing the national median rate of 32.4 months.

CICs have also become important information conduits between agencies within and among courts. A key has been keeping the CICs fully and regularly informed about the progress they are making, by providing them with their own data in a usable format. To that end, one of CIP’s data exchange projects, the Centralized Case Index, enables the generation of real-time court timeliness

reports through an integrated dashboard. Information from DCFS and court case management systems is blended into a single reporting database to facilitate this capability. CIP began publishing a quarterly CIC Newsletter this year to share valuable information about the newly implemented processes statewide. CIP brings the CICs together annually to discuss such issues as court timeliness, child safety decision-making, and the principles of quality hearings. During these summits, each judicial district develops an action plan for the upcoming year which CIP helps them implement.

Courts have been evaluating newly implemented programs such as mediation. An independent study conducted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges determined that dependency mediations significantly increase the likelihood of a father’s engagement by 44 percent, and family reunification by 75 percent.

CIP continues to forge successful collaborative working relationships with other agencies—specifically, child welfare and education. The Division of Child and Family Services invited the CICs to contribute to their 5-year strategic plan. CIP has been the impetus behind the Nevada Education, Child Welfare and the Courts Collaborative. This collaborative is responsible for a pilot project to ensure that foster children are identified quickly by the school district and afforded appropriate services.

The Storey County Courthouse is one of only three Nevada courthouses built in the 19th century still in use today. This is the oldest operating district courthouse in Nevada. The courthouse houses the judges and staff for District and Justice Courts, Clerk-Treasurer, Recorder, Assessor, and Commissioners.



JUDICIAL BRANCH AUDIT UNIT

Audit Unit Helps the Nevada Judiciary Manage Fiscal Responsibilities

OVERVIEW

The Audit Unit's mission is to provide comprehensive audit coverage of all financial related business areas within the judiciary, including assisting the judicial branch in ensuring proper internal control over judicial business functions. As an independent appraiser of the judiciary's business activities, the Audit Unit assists members of the judiciary in the effective discharge of their responsibilities by providing analyses, appraisals, recommendations, counsel, and information promoting effective controls and sound business practices related to these activities.

AUDIT SUMMARY

The unit's primary focus of auditing specialty court program funds continued throughout fiscal year 2014. The audits were performed to ensure specialty court funds were collected and expended within established guidelines set forth by the JCSN, Specialty Court Funding Committee. A total of one specialty court program audit with five court locations was completed, as well as four audit follow-up contacts. Recommendations for improvements were provided for consideration

during the audits to enhance financial and program operations. Follow-up contacts were also performed to determine recommendation implementation. In fiscal year 2014, the Audit Unit released the finalized external audit guide to be utilized by the judiciary for future external audits beginning in calendar year 2014. The guide is meant to assist external auditors with standardized audit procedures and is tailored for the judiciary and the required Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS), including commonly used terminology.

MINIMUM ACCOUNTING STANDARDS AND AUDIT UNIT HISTORY

Recommendations in the Legislative Auditor's 1995 audit report resulted in the development of the MAS. The first annual MAS compliance checklist submissions and triennial audit requirements, including financial reviews, were ordered by the Supreme Court on February 19, 1997. Originally, these requirements were only required for limited jurisdiction courts. The 1997 Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, directing the Legislative Commission to appoint an interim subcommittee to conduct a study of the "Fines, Fees, Forfeitures and Administrative Assessments Imposed and Collected by the Courts." As a result, the Administrative Office of the Courts created the Nevada Judicial Collections Task Force in October 1998 in accordance with the recommendation. The task force, made up of representatives from the judiciary and its partners from around the state, compiled five resolutions and three recommendations in their final report. One of the primary recommendations was to revise the 1997 MAS checklist to better reflect both the operations and needs of Nevada's courts, including issues related to separation of duties. The second recommendation was



to expand the MAS requirements to cover District Courts. In 2006, the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada supported a revision of the MAS. Subsequently, in October 2006, the Court ordered all District, Justice, and Municipal Courts in the state, as well as the Supreme Court, to comply with the revised MAS and submit a completed copy of their respective MAS checklists by December 1, and annually thereafter.

In order to implement recommendations from the prior Legislative audit and to oversee the MAS requirements, the Supreme Court hired the first judicial branch auditor in 2006 and a second auditor in 2009. The auditors' primary functions are performing audits of the judiciary and overseeing the MAS.

Since the hiring of the judicial branch auditors, MAS has gone through two revisions to enhance the judiciary's reporting requirements. The current version, MAS Version 3.0, was adopted and ordered by the Court on January 13, 2012. It specifies the standards required to be followed by all courts and requires each court to remit a copy of their written procedures addressing the MAS on a biennial basis. The current version also requires courts to undergo an external audit every 4 years utilizing the external audit guide. During calendar years 2015 and 2016, every court in the state is required to have an external audit performed to evaluate their compliance with MAS and generally accepted internal controls.



Washoe County's first courthouse was built in the late 1880s. In 1911, Frederic DeLongchamps completed a new courthouse (pictured above) at a cost of \$250,000, incorporating the existing courthouse. In 1963, the courthouse was expanded again to include a 3-story annex.

JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SUPREME COURT JUDICIAL EDUCATION UNIT: Maintaining the Continued and Advanced Education of the Judiciary

Judicial Education Mission

The mission of the Judicial Education Unit is “To promote the competency and professionalism of the Nevada Judiciary and staff through a comprehensive system of continuing education and training.”

Since its creation in 1987, the Judicial Education Unit has provided 1,366 conferences and seminars, with 4,303 judges attending, as well as many court executives and staff.

During this past fiscal year, 1,373 judges, court executives, and court staff have attended educational sessions provided by the Judicial Education Unit. These education sessions include the District, Justice, Municipal, and Senior Judges’ Seminars, staff development, and distance education webinars.

District Court Judges Education

The annual District Judges’ Seminar in North Las Vegas was attended by 73 judges. The seminar addressed ethics, evidence, capital cases, and mediation skills. Highlights of the seminar were Dean Erwin Chemerinsky’s analysis of U.S. Supreme Court opinions and Professor Laurie Levenson’s session on advanced evidence.

Limited Jurisdiction Judges Education

The Judicial Education Unit provided two seminars for the limited jurisdiction judges this past year.

The winter seminar was held in North Las Vegas and was attended by 73 Justices of the Peace and Municipal Court Judges. Among the topics were substance abuse and mental health training, an evidence workshop, and in-depth training on the Nevada Offence Codes.

The summer seminar was held in Elko and was attended by 46 judges. Judges attended training on the ethical considerations of court staff, conducting trials, and cyber security.

Fiscal Year 2014

Family Court Judges Education

The annual Family Jurisdiction Judges’ Conference was held in conjunction with the State Bar of Nevada Family Law Conference in Ely. The judges and masters attending the conference discussed threat assessments, same-sex marriage and divorce issues, and holiday schedule challenges of high-conflict divorce cases.

Supreme Court Staff Development

The Judicial Education Unit conducted an educational needs survey of Supreme Court Staff. As a result, a 2-hour course was developed on stress management. Six sessions were delivered in Carson City and two in Las Vegas, with a total of 60 staff attending.

Mandatory and Continued Education

The Judicial Education Unit has the responsibility for the mandatory and continuing education of the judiciary. Judges are encouraged to seek continuing education after they have completed their initial mandatory education. Many courses are taught at The National Judicial College in Reno, with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) providing support through educational requests.

During the fiscal year, 16 judges attended the course on “Ethics, Fairness, and Security in Your Courtroom and Community,” an additional 3 judges attended the “General Jurisdiction” course, and another judge received instruction attending the “Special Court Jurisdiction” course. These courses were first mandated in 1971 for limited jurisdiction judges, in 1995 for district court judges, and in 1997 for family court judges. Since then, 761 judges have attended these three courses.

In addition to the mandatory courses, the AOC assisted 91 judges to attend 1,092 hours of continuing education courses. Assistance was also provided

to 11 judiciary staff members to attend the 2013 Court Technology Conference to learn about technology advances for improving the judiciary.

Distance Education

The Distance Education Program was launched in 2012. In 2014, distance education provided 13 live webinars that were attended by 1,015 judges and court staff, providing 13,195 hours of education. These webinars were developed with the assistance of judges, court executives, and court staff who gave feedback on their educational needs. The webinars varied in content and included the following courses:

- Under the Ethics Microscope: Setting an Example for Your Court
- Judicial Independence: Challenges, Power, and Restraint
- The Ins and Outs of Mobile Home Parks Eviction
- Understanding the Dynamics of Victims of Crimes
- Professional Writing Skills Review

Judges, court executives, and court staff from the Nevada Judiciary comprised most of the faculty. Experts from related professions assisted in the delivery of specialized webinars.

Still in use today, the Washoe County Courthouse has undergone seismic retrofitting and restoration. The Courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. The courthouse currently houses the judges and staff of the Second Judicial District Court and Law Library.



JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

This year is the 150th anniversary of Nevada's entry into the Union on October 31, 1864. Additionally, it is the year of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Congress' passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal law that helped end segregation in places of public accommodation. In the spirit of the Civil Rights Act, and to better address the needs of limited English proficient (LEP) parties appearing before the courts, the Nevada Certified Court Interpreter Program was established in 2002. Over the last 12 years, the Interpreter Program has helped to increase the number of credentialed court interpreters and improve access to Nevada's judicial system. Highlighted below are some of the notable accomplishments that occurred during fiscal year 2014.

CREDENTIALING PROCESS

- The Program administered 52 written examinations as well as 24 oral examinations in the languages of Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog, Japanese, and Amharic.
- The Program renewed 19 court interpreter credentials in the Spanish, Portuguese, and German languages.
- The Program added 4 newly credentialed court interpreters in the Spanish, Mandarin, Amharic, and Tigrinya languages.

OUTREACH

- The Program Coordinator traveled to 19 Northern Nevada Rural Courts during fiscal year 2014 to provide judges, court administrators, and other court personnel with ideas and resources for effective language access services.
- The Program partnered with the "Ya Es Hora, Ciudadania!," a local non-profit organization, to assist with providing language assistance to the LEP community seeking U.S. citizenship via the services of Nevada credentialed court interpreters (September 2013).
- Two new resources for the community were designed and made available to the public via the Program's web page (<http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/index.php/courtinterpreterprogram>). The two brochures feature information regarding the Program's credentialing process for prospective court interpreters, and a guide for attorneys that lists resources and helpful insights about successful communication with clients when the services of a court interpreter are needed.

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

The Nevada Judiciary received a State Justice Institute/National Center for State Courts (NCSC) grant to conduct an assessment on video remote interpreting (VRI) needs in April 2014. The assessment will assist Nevada courts in furthering their language access as well as their LEP initiatives. The Interpreter Program has worked closely with NCSC to explore potential VRI alternatives in our state.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Language Access Committee for the Nevada Certified Court Interpreter Program was created as a subcommittee of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to address issues regarding language access in Nevada's judicial system.

COURT ASSISTANCE

The Program provided courts with assistance in locating credentialed court interpreters for languages of limited diffusion (i.e., Punjabi, Mongolian, Somali, Amharic, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, Wolof, and Khmer) when LEP parties appeared before the courts with language assistance needs.

TRAINING

"Online Skill-building Workshop for Prospective Court Interpreters" allows for interpreter training through a collaborative partnership with the University of New Mexico, Los Alamos and the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts.



Lyon County's first courthouse (pictured) was built in Dayton in 1864. Its original cost was estimated at \$30,000. Later in 1909, the courthouse was destroyed by fire. Shortly thereafter, the county seat was moved to Yerington.

JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



NEVADA'S SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM

As early as the 1800s, the primary substances abused were tobacco, alcohol, cocaine, and opium. Opium was one of the first “exotic” substances introduced in the United States. In the nineteenth century, drugs were derived from natural remedies to cure ailments and relieve pain. Today, 22 million Americans are drug or alcohol dependent. The challenges of drug use on our society and the judicial system necessitated the creation of the first drug court in the United States in 1989.

In 1992, then District Judge Jack Lehman saw how drug addiction in Nevada was overburdening the State’s legal system. Drugs were ripping families apart, addicts were committing other crimes to feed their addictions, and the criminal justice system was just housing these individuals in jails. Under this environment, Judge Lehman established the first Specialty Court in Nevada.

Nevada now has 44 Specialty Courts. Today, the benefits of Drug Courts are available in nearly every county in Nevada. Specialty Courts save taxpayer dollars by reducing prosecution costs and the need for more jail and prison beds. They provide a mechanism for the drug and alcohol dependent to regain their footing and reunite with their families.

Specialty Courts use the authority of the court to encourage addicts to commit to long-term treatment and frequent oversight by a judge. The benefit for a defendant who chooses and is accepted in a Specialty Court Program is the reduction or dismissal of the underlying criminal charge upon graduation; however, if a participant fails a drug test or misses a counseling session, a judge may sanction the participant with jail time or additional conditions, and graduation can be delayed.

Still, participants in Nevada’s Specialty Courts graduate at a rate of 49 percent. A study shows that 75 percent of drug court graduates are never arrested again¹.

The recent (pictured below) Lyon County Courthouse was built in 1912 at a cost of \$10,970. In 2012, a new courthouse was built to meet the needs of the courts including improved security. The current courthouse maintains offices for the District and Justice Courts, as well as the Sheriff’s Office.



Court officials have estimated that during the past 20 years, drug courts have saved the justice system more than \$40 million. In the last 10 years, more than 9,600 participants have graduated, and at least 471 babies were born drug-free, because of Nevada’s Specialty Court programs.

While most Specialty Courts are drug courts, the Specialty Court model has been expanded to address alcohol abuse, mental illness, homelessness, veterans’ issues, and family-related matters.

¹Finigan, M., Carey, S., & Cox, A. (2007). The impact of a mature drug court over 10 years of operation: Recidivism and costs. Portland, OR: NPC Research.

Nevada’s Specialty Courts Receive a New Case Management System

During fiscal year 2014, Nevada Specialty Courts installed and implemented a new drug court case management system (DCCM) due in part to a grant received from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The DCCM system will allow Specialty Courts to better track program participants and provide data that helps the Specialty Court programs track individual successes. Improved data will also allow program administrators to help identify and address issues within the program. For example, it will allow program managers to identify specific areas of success or find specific areas in the programs that need improvement, these specific areas can then be copied or fixed, depending on the need, and thereby increase the success of Nevada’s Specialty Courts.

Previous case management systems were either non-existent or antiquated. In addition, previous systems were autonomous, which created gaps or differences in the data collected. The new DCCM system places specialty courts on one system, making data collection and programs uniform and consistent.

With the implementation of the new case management system, programs have been required to enter new and active cases within the system. During the next fiscal year, workgroups will be created to identify and establish new Specialty Court reporting requirements, as well as discuss issues or concerns that arise from implementing the new system.

SUPREME COURT TECHNOLOGY

WEB ACCESS TO SUPREME COURT RECORDS AND ARGUMENTS

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

SUPREME COURT MOBILE APPLICATION

The Nevada Supreme Court has a mobile application for smart phone and tablet devices that provides access to Supreme Court case documents, oral argument calendars, recordings, decisions, court rules, and self-help resources. The application offers viewers the ability to save cases to a “favorites” list, add court calendar events to a personal calendar, and view live webcasts of court proceedings. The application can be downloaded at no cost from app stores.

SUPREME COURT WEBSITE

The Supreme Court began the design and development phase of a new public website during fiscal year 2013. The design included a revamped user interface to make it easy for site visitors to access the most requested information. The homepage design features online case lookup, free online access to filed

court documents, the court calendar, advance opinions, and live video streaming of oral arguments. The new website was launched October 29, 2013, and is built on a powerful content management system that allows quick and accurate posting of information. There is a similar update and redesign in progress for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Law Library websites. The new websites for the AOC and Law Library will be launched next spring.

AOC GRANT PROGRAM

The AOC Grant Program provides the opportunity for Nevada courts to seek grant funding of up to \$50,000 through either the Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) or Trial Court Improvement (TCI) sources. The USJR grant funds projects to improve the ability to provide accurate and timely mandatory statistical information to the Nevada Supreme Court. The TCI grant funds projects addressing court requirements in the areas of technology, security, and court interpreters. The grant funding process is a competitive process with grant requests due by the end of July each year. No matching funds are required for grant requests of less than \$5,000. Grant requests over \$5,000 require a 30 percent cash match by the requesting court.

NEVADA COURT SYSTEM

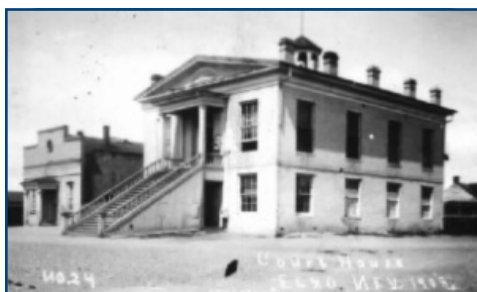
The Nevada Court System (NCS) program was established in 2000. The original focus of the program was to deliver a standardized court case management system (CMS) to rural courts that individually did not have the financial or human resources to purchase, implement, and maintain a modern system. The driving force behind offering a state-sponsored CMS is to provide courts the ability to efficiently and effectively manage their cases while also meeting USJR and Minimum Accounting Standard requirements. Today, 29 of the 76 Nevada trial courts participate in the



NCS program. Due to its success, several smaller urban courts also now participate in the program.

The program has since expanded in functionality to facilitate the electronic exchange of information between criminal justice systems with the use of the Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MCIJIS). These information exchanges include citation information from various local law enforcement agencies to courts, conviction information from courts to the Department of Motor Vehicles, and disposition information from courts to the Department of Public Safety Criminal History Repository.

This year, efforts have been focused on improvements to both the CMS and MCIJIS. These improvements include the transition to Nevada Offense Codes, improved reporting to criminal justice partners, compliance with the requirements of the USJR civil phase II reporting, and two new tools that increase case processing efficiency. Finally, the future plans of the NCS program include adding the ability to accept online payments and migrating to a new CMS solution.



Elko County's first courthouse was built in 1869 at a cost of just more than \$20,000. Shortly after its construction, a payment dispute with the contractor required the locks to the courthouse to be replaced for more than the original amount owed. Eventually, this building was replaced by the existing courthouse.

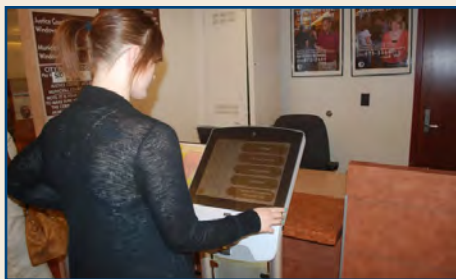
TRIAL COURT INNOVATION

Las Vegas Justice Court Improving Public Interaction

The redesigned Las Vegas Justice Court website was developed using industry standards for content management. The new website provides court users with improved site navigation, a mobile friendly site, and up-to-date content easily maintained by the Court.

In addition to the website design, the Las Vegas Justice Court has instituted a self-service, user-friendly, web-based kiosk system. The kiosk is the first physical contact with customers who visit the Regional Justice Center. This customized tool provides a simple navigation system to ensure the client's first contact with a Justice Court representative is the correct one. Additionally, this tool helps court administration adjust customer service representative staffing levels based on statistics provided by the kiosk.

The Las Vegas Justice Court has provided the capability to pay citation fines and fees online since 2006. However, if a customer wanted the option to reduce the driving record points reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles, they would need to visit the Regional Justice Center. Since November 2013, the on-line payment system has provided an online traffic school option for eligible cases. Customers can pay their citation and become electronically enrolled in the certified Las Vegas Justice Court online traffic school. Upon completion, the Las Vegas Justice Court's case management system is electronically updated with a completion certificate and correct points are reported to the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles—all without setting foot in the Regional Justice Center and without staff involvement.



Las Vegas Justice Court Kiosk.

MESQUITE JUSTICE AND MUNICIPAL COURT RECEIVE GRANT ASSISTANCE

With the assistance of an Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Trial Court Improvement Grant, the Mesquite Justice and Municipal Courts were able to purchase and install audio/visual conferencing equipment. This equipment allows the Mesquite Courts to hold certain hearings with defendants at the Clark County Detention Center via video conference. The equipment will also allow the Courts to better serve individuals wishing to make court appearances via audio/visual equipment in accordance with Nevada Supreme Court rules.

LAS VEGAS MUNICIPAL COURT LAUNCHES WEBSITE FOR PAYMENT AND WARRANT SEARCH

The Las Vegas Municipal Court has launched a website that allows people to search the status of warrants, pay traffic fines, and view wanted posters. The site also allows people to view charges, bail amounts, and mugshots and can be found at www.lasvegasnevada.gov/warrants.

After testing the site through a soft launch, along with a new interactive phone system, officials announced the website on June 21, 2014.

Through the site, attorneys can act on behalf of their clients, and bondsmen may also look up bond information.

After clicking on an individual name, the site offers a link to send an e-mail to authorities to report someone's whereabouts, or call (702) 229-3504 to pay fines or surrender.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURTS PARTNER WITH THE SUPREME COURT TO UPGRADE FACILITIES

The First Judicial District Court Judges and Carson City Justice/Municipal Court Judges agreed to devote legislatively approved facility fees to build a new courtroom in the Carson City Courthouse. The courtroom will be used by the District Court's Specialty

The existing Elko County Courthouse was built in 1911 and houses the District, Justice, and Municipal Courts, as well as the County Recorder and Treasurer. In 2010, additional county offices were added to the back of the courthouse. Also, the courthouse recently received updated security measures.



Courts and for other matters. The Justice Court will use it for small claims, preliminary hearings, and conflict matters. The total cost for the project was \$140,000. A \$30,000 Trial Court Improvement grant was received from the AOC to enable the project to be completed. Without the cooperation between the judges, legislature, and AOC grant funding, this project would not have been possible. Facility fees were also used to remodel the Juvenile Probation Offices.

These projects serve as an example of how the legislative and judicial branches working together can improve judicial services to the community.

JUVENILE PROBATION STEPS IN TO PROVIDE NEEDED TREATMENT SERVICES

The Juvenile Probation Department in the First Judicial District implemented six 1-hour substance abuse counseling sessions per week for juvenile offenders. The Department implemented the program when local treatment providers were not able to provide the services.

The Juvenile Probation Department installed a Ropes Course with six low elements for juveniles to use while being supervised by the Juvenile Probation and Detention Department. The course will be used to build cooperative learning through interactive team building.

TRIAL COURT INNOVATION



Esmeralda County's first courthouse pictured above was built in 1874 in Aurora. The county seat was moved to Hawthorne in 1887, and then to Goldfield in 1907 where it remains. After the county seat was moved, the Aurora courthouse was remodeled into the Esmeralda Hotel.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT UPGRADES SYSTEMS

During this fiscal year, the Second Judicial District Court's Technology Division completed a major upgrade to the Court's case management system and e-filing system. This upgrade allowed the division to reduce the number of databases needed by moving images away from a dedicated document management system. These images are now stored within the case management system and can be more quickly retrieved by staff and electronic filers. With this upgrade, the Court can now accept more types of filings electronically.

Also, the Second Judicial District Court upgraded their overall data storage from 12 terabytes to 21 terabytes. This upgrade allows the Court to migrate data from obsolete servers to the Court's virtual server environment. In addition, this upgrade reduces the physical footprint of the server room, saves on maintenance costs, and reduces power usage.

WASHOE INCREASES COLLECTIONS ON OUTSTANDING JUDGMENTS

Washoe County has engaged the services of a third party collections agency to collect previously assessed fines and fees to ensure defendants' debts to society are resolved. The agreement with the third party agency allows the company to earn an 11 percent commission on all

funds collected. Notices are sent by the agency to defendants who have outstanding fines or fees. To allow for collection of these fees in the filing office, and to avoid the 11 percent collection fee, a flag has been attached to each defendant's unique identifier in the District Court's case management system, thereby allowing for quick determination on how to further proceed with the presented payment. This procedure allows for an increase in collected funds as the District Court can quickly ascertain how to apply a defendant's cash payment or refer the defendant to the publicly provided terminals for credit card payment processing. This results in defendants and payments not being turned away as well as supporting an increase in outstanding debt recovery.

FAMILY PEACE CENTER RECEIVES GRANT TO EXPAND SERVICES

The District Court in Washoe County received a \$15,000 grant from the Lee F. Del Grande Foundation to support expanding services to children and families at the Family Peace Center. The addition of a visitation track to the Supervised Visitation Program has increased accessibility to visitation services and reduced time between court referral and start-up of services. Supervised visitation services provide an important tool to the Courts to keep families connected while legal issues are pending and allows children to preserve relationships with people who are important to them.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT REMODEL ELIMINATES LINES AND INCREASES EFFICIENCY

In April 2014, remodeling of the Clerk's office provided new power and data infrastructure upgrades. In addition, with the support of AOC grant funds, a Qmatic ticket system was installed to track customer waiting in the filing office. This system eliminated the need for people to stand in line by providing the public with a ticket and somewhere to sit. The project also allowed the Court to

increase the number of public terminals. Finally, this project included the installation of network scanners to assist with electronic filing at the point of document intake and additional receipt printers to better utilize the functionality of each work station.

PARTNERSHIPS CREATE SAFER COURT ENVIRONMENT IN ELKO

Feeling safe is a necessary component of an environment designed to ensure access to justice. In December 2013, the District, Justice, and Municipal Court Judges in the historic Elko County courthouse partnered with Elko County Commissioners and the Elko County Sheriff to increase the safety and security of those who visited the courthouse. The safety and security overhaul is ADA compliant and follows best practices by creating a primary entrance into the courthouse for members of the public. A sheriff's deputy is now positioned at the entrance and operates a magnetometer to ensure a safe and secure environment. Video cameras have also been added to help monitor courthouse grounds.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FEES REDUCED

The growth of the Eighth Judicial District Court has been significant over the past 6 years: 15 new judges, new courtrooms, conversion to a paperless court, and more than 50 million pages of documents archived. Essential to all this growth was the transition to mandatory electronic filing.

When electronic filing became mandatory in 2010, sufficient public funding was not available to pay for the expense of implementing mandatory electronic filing and service. While electronic filing is free for those who file documents at the clerk's front counters, the court's vendor charged a fee for the convenience of electronic filing from the office. Today, after 4 years of successful electronic filing, operations are much more efficient and conducting business with the court has improved significantly. The

TRIAL COURT INNOVATION

Neighborhood Justice Center

The Neighborhood Justice Center (NJC) was established by the Nevada Legislature in 1991 to provide conflict resolution, information, referral, and mediation services to Clark County residents, businesses, and organizations. In 2006, the NJC became a division of the Las Vegas Justice Court (LVJC). A mandatory small claims mediation program was developed in fiscal year 2012. Under this program, litigants are required to mediate their claims before a court hearing is scheduled.

The mandatory small claims mediation program has increased the number of out-of-court resolutions, thereby decreasing the number of contested cases that must be heard by the court. Currently, only LVJC has mandatory mediations; however, Henderson is moving toward replicating this model. North Las Vegas and Boulder City have a voluntary small claims mediation program staffed by NJC mediators and volunteers.

In addition to mandatory mediation for small claims matters, in fiscal year 2014 the NJC commenced work on a pre-adjudicatory Petit Larceny Program in cooperation with the Retailers Association Diversion program, to pilot a post-adjudicatory Petit Larceny Program through the LVJC. Both the pre-adjudicatory and diversion programs utilize a restorative justice mediation model.

As the NJC moves forward in expanding the number of petit larceny cases it takes on, there will be an increased need for trained volunteer mediators. To meet this need, the NJC is working in cooperation with UNLV Boyd School of Law to train volunteers, give them an opportunity to provide mediation services, and expand their understanding of the role of mediation in the court process and the importance of Specialty Courts.



Mediation Volunteer Training

court is past the hurdles and costs of conversion and negotiated to eliminate the fee for electronic service. Eighth Judicial District Court Chief Judge Jennifer Togliatti issued an administrative order in May 2014 mandating electronic service for documents identified in Rule 9 of the Nevada Electronic Filing and Conversion Rules in the Eighth Judicial District Court effective June 1, 2014. Additionally, the \$2 fee for electronic service was eliminated, thereby reducing the cost to file and serve by 36 percent.

SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT SAVE TIME AND COSTS

The Overflow Program and settlement conferences in the Eighth Judicial District Court provide ways attorneys and litigants can fast-track case resolution. Both have demonstrated an impressive record of helping ensure timely justice, cutting case backlog, and saving significant time, money, and resources for the court and involved parties.

The Settlement Conference Program settled 73 civil cases in the first half of calendar year 2014 alone. Settlement conferences allow the parties to appear before a district court judge (other than

the judge assigned to their case); they are similar to mediation, but provide the expertise of a judge at no cost to the parties.

The Overflow Program has also helped to expedite the resolution of cases, particularly criminal cases. Overflow trials must be completed in 5 days. In calendar year 2013, the Overflow Program negotiated 39 cases, while 74 cases were tried by judges who volunteered to hear overflow cases. Cases cannot have any pending motions in order to be assigned to the Overflow Program.

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT USES GRANT TO IMPROVE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In August 2013, the Tenth Judicial District Court was awarded a Justice Assistance Grant from the Nevada Department of Public Safety. The \$150,000 received has allowed the Court to install a new case management system and jury management system. The forward thinking approach of the judge and the hard work of staff has enabled the Court to upgrade from a DOS based case management program to one that allows the Court to use data to assess and follow its caseload, and to maintain it in an effective and efficient manner.

While the project was completed within the cycle of the grant, the Court continues to work with its vendors to fine tune and improve its ability to provide data when requested by outside entities. This also allows the Court to determine the best use of staff and financial resources. The data collected will assist the Court with requests for resources and help track how funds will serve the greatest number of users of judicial resources in the Tenth Judicial District.

The current Esmeralda County Courthouse was built in 1907 in Goldfield. At a cost of \$80,000, the two-story building also included a jail attached in the back. The building currently houses the Esmeralda District and Justice Courts, as well as all county offices.



AWARDS AND HONORS

LIBERTY BELL AWARD

Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Allan R. Earl was honored by the Clark County Law Foundation with the Liberty Bell Award.

Judge Earl practiced law in Las Vegas for more than 46 years and was appointed to the bench by Governor Kenny Guinn on December 5, 2000. Judge Earl was subsequently appointed by the Supreme Court to the original Select Committee to redraft the Discovery Rules under the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure.

The Liberty Bell Award has been presented since 1983 by the Clark County Law Foundation. The award recognizes individuals in the community who uphold the rule of law, contribute to the practice of good government, stimulate a sense of civic responsibility, and encourage respect for the law in the judiciary.

In addition to the Liberty Bell Award, Judge Earl was awarded the West Coast Casualty Legend of an Era Award and the Inns of Court Lifetime Achievement Award.

CLARK COUNTY LAW FOUNDATION TRIAL BY PEERS JUDGE OF THE YEAR

Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Frank P. Sullivan was awarded the Trial By Peers Judge of the Year by the Clark County Law Foundation. Judge Sullivan was recognized for presiding over 50 Trial By Peer cases, for mentoring peer

counselors on judicial procedure, and for providing positive feedback to each of the participants about their individual presentations. In addition, Judge Sullivan was honored for raising awareness of the program, instructing the majority of the summer course classes, and overseeing the summer course Student Bar Examination.

Trial By Peers is an innovative diversion program used as an alternative for first time juvenile offenders. This program allows juvenile offenders charged with misdemeanors to be tried, represented, and sentenced by their peers—other teens. All student volunteers are trained and mentored by senior attorneys and local judges. Trained student volunteers (called Peer Counselors) represent juvenile offenders in court as prosecution and defense counsel.

NJLJ JUDGE OF THE YEAR

Incline Justice Court Justice of the Peace E. Alan Tiras was recognized as Judge of the Year by the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ). Judge Tiras was honored for his work on behalf of the Nevada Judiciary and particularly his work on the NJLJ website (www.njlj.org).

Judge Tiras has served as Justice of the Peace for Incline Village—Crystal Bay since 2006. He has served as President and Chairman of the Incline Village—Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce, Incline High School Boosters Club, Incline Village Citizen's Advisory Board, and the Rotary Club of Tahoe-Incline. Judge Tiras served as NJLJ president in 2013.

JUSTICE NANCY BECKER PRO BONO AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE

The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada awarded Justice James W. Hardesty and Justice Michael L. Douglas with the Justice Nancy Becker Pro Bono Award of Judicial Excellence at its annual Pro Bono Awards Ceremony.

The award, in honor of former Supreme Court Justice Nancy Becker,

NACE Court Executive of the Year

Joey Orduna Hastings, Second Judicial District Court Administrator, was named by the Nevada Association of Court Executives (NACE) as its Court Executive of the Year.

Hastings was recruited from the Governor's Office, where she worked as a Legislative Coordinator, to return as the Court Administrator for the Second Judicial District Court in January 2012. The Court is comprised of 15 judicial officers and more than 120 employees. Hastings was honored for helping shape the Court into an elite legal institution and for performing at an incredibly high level.

NACE is a professional organization that promotes quality court management and leadership. NACE achieves this through education, best practices, and process improvements, which are all equally important to our effective delivery of services to judicial stakeholders and the public.

NACE Star Award

The Nevada Association of Court Executives (NACE) has awarded the Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), with a Star Award for excellence in providing court information and services to the public.

Specifically, NACE recognized the Supreme Court for developing a mobile application for iPhone and Android devices and for its new website found at <http://supreme.nvcourts.gov>.

In 2013, the Supreme Court redesigned its website and developed a mobile application. The app is available for no charge on both the Apple App Store and on Google Play. Since its release, the app has been installed on more than 700 devices.

In addition, NACE recognized the Supreme Court for creating several statewide committees that facilitate information exchange and encourage standardization throughout the State's trial courts. The Star Award also recognizes the Supreme Court for introducing a statewide case management system that tracks specialty court cases.



Mineral County's first courthouse was constructed in 1883 and also served as a courthouse for Esmeralda County prior to the creation of Mineral County in 1911. It is the only courthouse in Nevada to serve two counties. The courthouse remained in use until 1969.

AWARDS AND HONORS

recognizes members of the judiciary who have given their time, energy, and influence to encourage pro bono work and access to justice. Justice Becker was one of the founders of the Pro Bono Project and a strong advocate for providing education and access to the judiciary.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Cheryl Moss was awarded a Women of Distinction Award by the National Association of Women Business Owners—Southern Nevada. The award recognizes and honors women whose excellence and dedication “Inspires Success” in Southern Nevada.

ACYF COMMISSIONER AWARD

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF) awarded Second Judicial District Court Judge Deborah Schumacher with its Commissioner Award. The award was presented at the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in recognition of Judge Schumacher’s contribution to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

The Conference has been held biennially since 1976 and is the only federally sponsored national conference devoted to the issues of child maltreatment. The Conference serves as the nation’s leading training and technical assistance event for practitioners, policy makers, advocates, and researchers.

FACT AWARD

The Forum on the Advancement of Court Technology (FACT) named the Supreme Court of Nevada website as a Top 10 Court Websites Award winner. The award recognizes the Supreme Court for improving access to justice through the use of technology and for improving the online access of court resources. Judges recognized the Supreme Court’s website for providing “superior functionality and real time video of court proceedings.”

Founded in 1989, the Forum on the Advancement of Court Technology (FACT) is a consortium of private-sector companies and court representatives dedicated to strengthening the dialogue between courts who use technology and companies who provide technology.

HONOR FOR JUDGE JONES APPOINTED BY LINCOLN

During the Justice on the Road oral arguments in Yerington, the Nevada Judicial Historical Society placed a plaque honoring Judge Horatio McClean Jones who was assigned as the first Nevada Territorial Judge in Yerington by President Lincoln in 1861.

Jones, a Harvard graduate, served as one of the first three justices in the Nevada Territory carved out from the Utah Territory the same year. In addition to his duties as a Justice, Jones was assigned as a circuit judge presiding over cases in Lyon, Churchill, Humboldt, and Lander Counties.

In 1862, an unpopular decision that determined ownership of the Comstock Lode in Virginia City led to confrontations and turmoil within the legislative and legal communities. Tired of the plots and intrigues of the Storey County Bar, Justice Jones resigned on July 30, 1863, and moved to Austin, in central Nevada, to practice law.

During this time, he became a staunch supporter of statehood for Nevada. Jones gave many speeches in 1864 in support of the ballot measure approved by voters resulting in Nevada becoming in the 36th state to be admitted to the Union.

After leaving Nevada, Justice Jones returned to his home in St. Louis, Missouri, and served as a District Court Judge from 1871 to 1877.

The plaque is the sixth to be placed by the Nevada Judicial Historical Society in recent years. Similar plaques have been placed in Washoe, Clark, Lincoln, Elko, and Pershing Counties to recognize historical moments and people of Nevada’s Judiciary.

The current Mineral County Courthouse was constructed in 1970 to make room for expanded county services. It currently houses offices for the District Court, Clerk-Treasurer, County Administration, Assessor, and Sheriff’s Office. The Justice Court is maintained in a separate location.



JUDICIAL EDUCATION AWARDS

Several judges received awards during the past year for their educational achievements. In receiving the awards, the judges have acknowledged that continuing advanced judicial education is imperative to ensure citizens’ confidence in the judiciary’s decision-making process.

Distinguished Judicial Education Award (640 hours)

District Court Judge Cheryl Moss

Advanced Judicial Education Award (440 hours)

District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez
District Court Judge Jim Wilson
Justice of the Peace Terry Graham
Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Howard

Judicial Education Award (240 hours)

District Court Judge Valerie Adair
District Court Judge Linda Gardner
District Court Judge Cynthia Giuliani
District Court Judge Mathew Harter
District Court Judge Al Kacin
Justice of the Peace David Gibson
Municipal Court Judge Sean Hoeffgen

FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

The Nevada State Legislature created the State of Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program (FMP) in 2009 to provide homeowners with an opportunity to discuss alternatives to foreclosure. Administered by the Supreme Court, the FMP brings eligible homeowners and lenders together in mediation after the filing of a Notice of Default (NOD). Fiscal year 2014 marked the 5th year of the program.

The FMP is available to homeowners of owner-occupied residential property in Nevada. Homeowners must complete an enrollment form and submit a \$200 mediation fee. A matching \$200 fee is submitted to the FMP by the respective lender. Eligible homeowners may choose to waive participation by not timely submitting the required fee or opting out of the program.

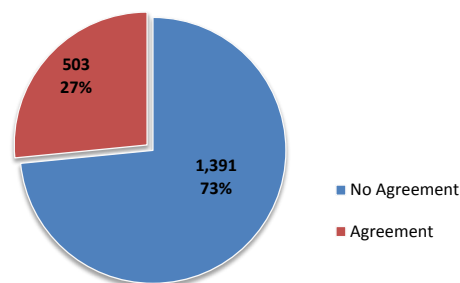
During fiscal year 2014, the FMP transitioned to automatically enrolling homeowners in mediation after the filing of an NOD. The FMP revised forms and changed its case management system to automatically accept NOD filing data from lenders electronically. This has improved the processing of cases and reduced the time required to schedule mediations. Also, during fiscal year 2014, the FMP improved its website to better serve homeowners and lenders by providing better access to information and documents.

During fiscal year 2014, FMP mediators handled 2,186 cases. A total of 1,894 mediations were held and 292 mediations were not held. Of the 292 mediations not held, 111 homeowners withdrew from mediation prior to completion. The remaining 181 mediations were not held because the homeowner failed to attend mediation, the homeowner filed for bankruptcy, or the lender rescinded the notice of default prior to mediation.

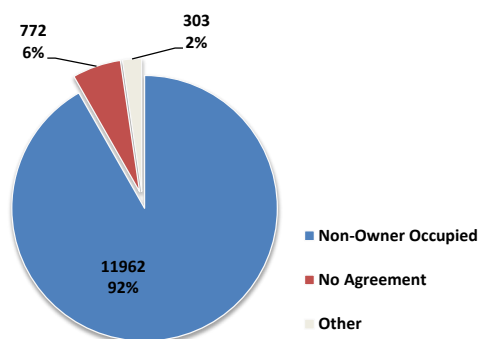
Of the 1,894 mediations held during fiscal year 2014, almost 73 percent resulted in the homeowner and the lender not coming to an agreement to retain or relinquish the property, or the lender failed to comply with FMP rules or Nevada Revised Statutes. Of the mediations failing to reach an agreement, 28 percent were unable to be resolved because the lender failed to prove it had the authority to foreclose, or the lender failed to prove ownership of the deed of trust or the mortgage note. For example, in 319 cases, the beneficiary failed to bring the required certifications for each endorsement of the mortgage note. By statute, the lender must provide a certified deed of trust, a certification of each assignment of the deed of trust, a certified mortgage note, and a certification of each endorsement and/or assignment of the mortgage note. Failure to meet the requirements of the statute results in no agreement and no certificate allowing the lender to proceed with the foreclosure.

A total of 503 homeowners reached an agreement with the lender to either retain or relinquish the home; 274 of those mediations reached an agreement between the parties to retain the property through loan modification or other methods. Agreements can reach multiple outcomes. Temporary loan modifications

1,894 Mediations Held



13,037 Total Certificates



were noted for 207 agreements and permanent loan modifications were noted by mediators in 75 agreements.

A total of 229 mediations resulted in an agreement to relinquish the property, through short sale, deed in lieu of foreclosure, or other methods; of this total, 102 properties were relinquished through a short sale.

During fiscal year 2014, the FMP issued 13,037 certificates allowing lenders to proceed to foreclosure. The majority of these certificates were for non-owner occupied residential properties and waiver of mediation participation by the homeowner.

In cases where the homeowner and lender failed to reach an agreement in a scheduled mediation, the FMP issued 772 certificates allowing the lender to proceed with foreclosure. A total of 11,962 certificates were issued for residential properties ineligible for foreclosure mediation.

The remaining 303 certificates were issued for a variety of reasons, including court orders, agreements to relinquish the property, and mediations not held.



Nye County's first courthouse was the Belmont Courthouse which was constructed in 1876, and served as the county courthouse until the county seat was moved to Tonopah in 1905. The Belmont Courthouse is currently being restored to its original grandeur.

IN MEMORIAM

THE NEVADA JUDICIARY IS AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO SERVING THE CITIZENS OF NEVADA. WHETHER WORKING WITH YOUTH TO HELP THEM MAKE BETTER CHOICES, WORKING TO PROVIDE SAFE PLACES TO LIVE, OR ENSURING PEOPLE GET THE TREATMENT THEY NEED THROUGH SPECIALTY COURTS, MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY SPEND GREAT EFFORT TO MAKE THEIR COMMUNITIES BETTER. WE REMEMBER AND HONOR THOSE JUDGES WE LOST THIS YEAR BUT WHO HAVE PAVED THE WAY.

D. JIM JENSEN

Former Henderson Municipal Court Judge D. Jim Jensen, 79, died August 2, 2013. Judge Jensen served on the Henderson Municipal Court bench for 22 years. A former policeman, Judge Jensen joined the Henderson Police Department in 1960 and eventually was promoted to the rank of detective. In addition to serving on the bench, Judge Jensen owned many businesses in Henderson, including the Lotus Chinese Restaurant on historic Water Street.

TERRANCE “TERRY” MARREN

Former Eighth Judicial District Court Judge Terry Marren, 64, died August 14, 2013. Judge Marren was one of three original Family Court Judges in Clark County, joining the court in 1993 and serving until 1998. He later served as a Senior District Court Judge. After high school, Judge Marren enlisted in the U.S. Army and was a combat medic in the Vietnam War. He graduated from University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 1974 and Western School of Law in 1977. After graduation from law school, he worked as a law clerk for the Nevada Supreme Court and then as legal advisor to Governor Mike O’Callaghan. Judge Marren was founder of the Southern Nevada Domestic Violence Task Force and served as its president from 1990 to 1996. In addition, Judge Marren was a board director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and was named Alumnus of the Year in 1992.

ROLAND EDWARD “ED” DANNAN

Retired Reno Justice of the Peace Roland Edward “Ed” Dannan, 67, died October 17, 2013. Judge Dannan served on the bench of the Reno Justice Court from 1992 to 2007. A graduate of Basic High School in Henderson, Judge Dannan graduated from University of Nevada, Reno in 1969, where he earned a degree in education, and from McGeorge School of Law in 1976. Judge Dannan was admitted to the Nevada State Bar in 1976 and went to work as a bill drafter in the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau. After serving as a Washoe County Chief Deputy District Attorney, he was elected to the Reno Justice Court in 1992.

KENNETH NORMAN PROCTOR

Former Henderson Municipal Judge Ken Proctor, 68, died May 14, 2014. Judge Proctor served on the State Domestic Violence Task Force and was the founder in 1994, along with his wife Julie, of S.A.F.E. House, the first domestic violence shelter in Henderson. Upon graduation from high school, Judge Proctor joined the U.S. Marine Corp, serving in Vietnam. Later, he joined the Ontario, Calif., and Henderson, Nev., police departments. He then served on the Henderson Municipal Court bench from 1991-2007 and was named Judge of the Year by the Nevada Judges Association in 2002.

Due to the vastness of Nye County, the county currently operates multiple courthouses. District Court offices are maintained in Pahrump and Tonopah, where Justice Courts can be found in Beatty, Pahrump, and Tonopah. Pictured below is the courthouse located in Tonopah, the county seat.



Historical Events in



1864: Nevada Supreme Court was established by the Nevada Constitution. The Supreme Court originally consisted of three justices. The Court was initially housed in the Great Basin Hotel in Carson City.

1872: Nevada Supreme Court holds that excluding African Americans from public schools is unconstitutional in *State ex rel. Stoutmeyer v. Duffy*.

1871: The Supreme Court moved into the State Capitol Building.

1897: *Huffaker v. Crosby*: Nevada Supreme Court upheld the right of a defendant to have an attorney for assisting in legal matters.

1917: *State v. Kuhl*: The first case where a palm print was used for identification. It was also the last known stage coach robbery in the U.S. (Jarbidge).

1917: The Nevada Legislature made all judicial offices nonpartisan.



1937: Supreme Court courthouse constructed in Carson City.

1864

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

Nevada's Judiciary

1976: Constitutional Amendments authorized the Governor to fill mid-term vacancies and created a Commission on Judicial Selection. It also created a Commission on Judicial Discipline, and extended District Court Judges' terms of office from 4 to 6 years.

1999: Number of Justices increased from five to seven, allowing for the creation of two panels.

2014: Nevada voters approved the creation of a Court of Appeals.



1967: Number of Justices increased from three to five.

1992: A new courthouse was constructed for the Supreme Court.

2004: *Hiibel v. 6th JDC*: A Nevada case appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court which upheld Nevada's stop and identify law.

1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2014

NEVADA JUDICIARY OVERVIEW

The Accessibility and Fairness of the Nevada Judiciary

The two most basic tenets of the judicial system are access to justice and a fair process in reaching judgment. The Supreme Court had research conducted to determine whether Nevada courts were accessible and fair using court performance measures established by the National Center for State Courts.

One might think it is easy enough to determine how accessible and fair the court is by simply looking at who won or lost the case; it is not that simple. Research has shown that whether a person considers a court fair or unfair is not driven by who won or lost a case, but is instead determined by the level of service, the opportunity to tell their side of the story, and the transparency by which the court adjudicates the matter¹.

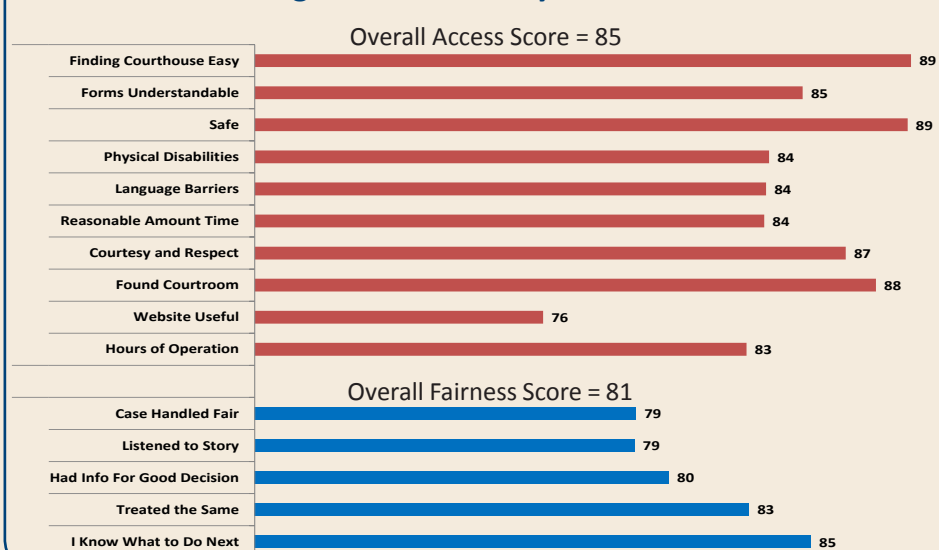
Nevada's judicial system is faced with unique challenges to providing fair and equal access to justice. Nevada's judicial system is non-unified, meaning each court is managed by local administrators and judges with no direct operational involvement from the Supreme Court of Nevada. In addition, Nevada's diverse geographical landscape and large rural counties present challenges in providing access to justice. To determine whether Nevada courts were accessible and fair, the Supreme Court of Nevada conducted research using National Center for State Courts court performance measurements. The research used a convenience sample and surveyed 3,103 court customers in rural and urban Nevada counties, at five different locations. The five court locations serve more than 90 percent of Nevada's population. Each respondent was asked to complete a survey by rating fifteen questions (ten on accessibility and five on fairness), on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), about whether or not they agreed the courts were accessible and fair. All responses were then averaged and multiplied by 20 to place it on a 100-point scale. In the figure below, scores of 80 or higher represent that court customers agree the courts are being accessible and fair.

The chart below shows the results of the survey. Of the ten accessibility questions, only the usefulness of court websites fell below the agreement threshold of 80. The questions of finding the courthouse was easy and feeling safe in the court both received the highest accessibility scores at 89. When looking at the five questions about fairness, questions regarding having a case handled fairly and judges listening to the party's side of the story received the lowest fairness scores. Knowing what to do next after a case received the highest fairness rating at 85.

The conclusion of the research found, that overall, the users of Nevada courts agree the Nevada Judiciary is fair and accessible with an overall access score of 85 and overall fairness score of 81. The findings will be used by the Supreme Court to help focus judicial education trainings and to improve public services.

¹ Tyler, T., (1988). What is Procedural Justice?: Criteria used by Citizens to Assess the Fairness of Legal Procedures. Law & Society Review, Vol. 22 (1), pp. 103-136

Ratings on Accessibility and Fairness



Each year, the Nevada Judiciary puts forth great effort to provide this publication. In turn, this publication serves as a map for Nevada's Executive and Legislative Branches, as well as the wonderful citizens of this great State, to understand where Nevada's Judiciary has originated from and where it is going. Since its beginnings in 1864, the Nevada Judiciary has evolved from a court system that handled a relatively small number of cases each year to one that now addresses more than 800,000 matters statewide.

The statistics contained in this report represent events in peoples' lives that are often lost through the use of summary tables. The impact of these events on peoples' lives is not lost to the Nevada Judiciary. Each day our courtrooms are filled with hearings on matters such as re-unifying a family torn apart by abuse and addiction, or on giving justice and closure for victims of violent crimes. Hearings are also held to right wrongs and to help those who have reached their lowest point find restorative justice.

The Nevada Supreme Court, as the head of the Nevada Judiciary, has sought to improve Nevada's judicial system to make it more accessible and better able to meet the needs of the citizens it serves.

As a part of the Supreme Court's continued effort to improve the judiciary, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Research and Statistics Unit, has assisted State trial courts



Shortly after Winnemucca was made the county seat, Humboldt County's first permanent courthouse (pictured above) was built in 1874, at a cost of \$47,800. In 1918, fire destroyed the courthouse and the designs for a new courthouse were accepted in 1919.

NEVADA JUDICIARY OVERVIEW

in implementing new caseload measurements for civil cases. This new implementation completes our goal to bring the Nevada Judiciary's statistical reporting in line with national reporting standards.

The result of these most recent changes to civil cases has necessitated an update to the existing civil cover sheets for the District Courts, and it has required the utilization of civil cover sheets in the Justice and Municipal Courts. The cover sheets will assist court staff gather statistical data on the numerous types of matters being filed with the court.

Nevada Judiciary Overview

Fiscal year 2014 marks the 15th year the Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) statistics have been reported in the *Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary*.

This year, the Supreme Court caseload had a more than 6 percent increase which was the second largest number of filings (2,481) the Court has had in a single year. Two years ago, the Court recorded the largest ever reported, at 2,500. The Court disposed of 2,372 cases this year, which was one less than last year (2,373).

For the trial courts in Nevada, Figure 1 presents the filings by case type for the judiciary as a whole for the past 10 years; Table 1 has the caseload filings and dispositions for the past 5 years.

Overall, the statewide non-traffic total filings decreased by less than 5 percent (17,510 less filings) from last year, while dispositions increased by almost 2 percent. Most of the filing decrease, as well as the disposition increase, came from the Justice Court civil caseload, which is discussed on pages 42-47. This year's 363,853 non-traffic filings represent a less than 14 percent reduction from the fiscal year 2009 high of 421,449 cases filed, and a more than 4 percent reduction over the past 10 years.

Criminal filings peaked in fiscal year 2011, with 173,848 cases filed. In fiscal year 2012, the filing total decreased by more than 14 percent and has fluctuated less than 1 percent over the past 2 years. For instance, this year's 148,159 filings

had 896 fewer filings than last year (149,055), which is a less than 1 percent decrease. There was a 96 percent criminal clearance rate this year.

Civil filing magnitudes are typically comparable to the criminal magnitudes year-to-year. In 5 of the past 10 years, there were more civil than criminal filings; however, in 4 of the past 5 years (including this year), criminal filings have exceeded civil filings. Civil filings peaked at 183,545 filed in 2009. In 2010, there was a large reduction (12 percent), and this year there was an almost 13 percent reduction from last year. This year's 131,739 filings represent a 14 percent reduction from 10 years ago. The civil clearance rate was 113 percent this year.

Family and juvenile matters are District Court functions and are discussed in greater detail on pages 33-41. Family case filings have increased every year since USJR statistics have been collected, except for fiscal year 2013. This year, filings increased almost 4 percent and dispositions increased by more than 4 percent from last year, which resulted in a clearance rate of 95 percent. This year's 72,381 filings represent a less than 25 percent increase over the past 10 years.

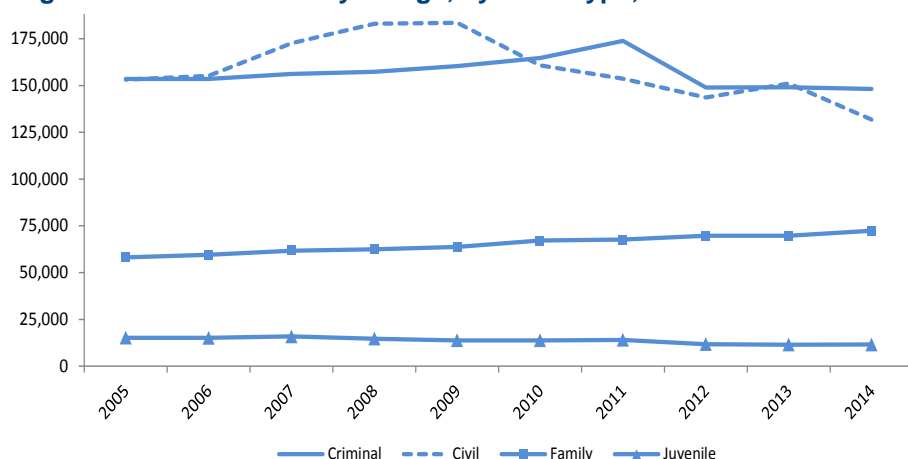
While juvenile filings fluctuate year-to-year, increasing in some and decreasing in others, filings this year increased less than 1 percent from the previous year. This year's 11,574 filings represent a less than 24 percent reduction from 10 years ago. The clearance rate was 92 percent.

In 1921, construction on the current Humboldt County Courthouse was completed at an estimated cost of nearly \$150,000. The courthouse building currently houses the courts, county and municipal offices, and the Humboldt County Sheriff.



Traffic violations comprise a substantial portion (57 percent) of the judicial caseload. Much of the funding of the Nevada Judiciary is made possible through the administrative assessments statutorily required to be added to misdemeanor criminal and traffic fines. Since traffic violations represent a large portion of the judicial caseload, declines in filings and dispositions usually represent a corresponding drop in revenue for the Nevada Judiciary as well as other state agencies and local governments. For fiscal year 2014, the traffic and parking caseload filings and dispositions decreased in the Nevada courts by almost 8 and 10 percent, respectively. This is the fifth consecutive year filings have decreased. There was a 96 percent traffic clearance rate this year.

Figure 1. Nevada Judiciary Filings, by Case Type, Fiscal Years 2005-14.



NEVADA JUDICIARY OVERVIEW

Table 1. Reported Statewide Trial Court Totals, Fiscal Years 2010-14.

Caseload Filings ^a

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^b	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Caseload	Traffic and Parking Cases ^c
District	2014	17,196	29,202	72,381	11,574	130,353	2,211
	2013	17,270	30,584	69,680	11,492	129,026	2,917
	2012	15,481	30,770	69,716	11,759	127,726	4,391
	2011	15,002	34,849	67,652	14,057	131,560	4,649
	2010	13,585	36,960	67,141	13,783	131,469	5,464
Justice	2014	78,057	102,537	NJ	NJ	180,594	324,755
	2013	79,049	120,552	NJ	NJ	199,601	352,973
	2012	79,341	112,772	NJ	NJ	192,113	370,279
	2011	96,111	118,812	NJ	NJ	214,923	363,165
	2010	95,662	123,788	NJ	NJ	219,450	373,350
Municipal	2014	52,906	0	NJ	NJ	52,906	157,947
	2013	52,736	0	NJ	NJ	52,736	169,857
	2012	54,147	0	NJ	NJ	54,147	185,046
	2011	62,735	1	NJ	NJ	62,736	203,310
	2010	55,519	0	NJ	NJ	55,519	236,453
Total	2014	148,159	131,739	72,381	11,574	363,853	484,913
	2013	149,055	151,136	69,680	11,492	381,363	525,747
	2012	148,969	143,542	69,716	11,759	373,986	559,716
	2011	173,848	153,662	67,652	14,057	409,219	571,124
	2010	164,766	160,748	67,141	13,783	406,438	615,267

Dispositions ^a

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^b	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Dispositions	Traffic and Parking Dispositions ^c
District	2014	16,007	27,528	68,955	10,691	123,181	2,512
	2013	16,770	32,148	65,970	13,282	128,170	2,335
	2012	16,830	36,320	64,620	13,711	131,481	2,659
	2011	14,293	28,409	58,150	13,556	114,408	2,648
	2010	16,167	26,463	59,520	18,726	120,876	2,708
Justice ^d	2014	76,673	121,181	NJ	NJ	197,854	318,167
	2013	75,366 ^r	103,637	NJ	NJ	179,003 ^r	344,218 ^r
	2012	78,181	94,915	NJ	NJ	173,096	360,849
	2011	91,503	99,328	NJ	NJ	190,831	335,702
	2010	33,464	112,936	NJ	NJ	146,400	342,742
Municipal	2014	50,012	0	NJ	NJ	50,012	145,970
	2013	57,305	0	NJ	NJ	57,305	172,120
	2012	56,860	0	NJ	NJ	56,860	184,457
	2011	67,505	1	NJ	NJ	67,506	216,143
	2010	62,676	0	NJ	NJ	62,676	256,563
Total	2014	142,692	148,709	68,955	10,691	371,047	466,649
	2013	149,441 ^r	135,785	65,970	13,282	364,478 ^r	518,673 ^r
	2012	151,871	131,235	64,620	13,711	361,437	547,965
	2011	173,301	127,738	58,150	13,556	372,745	554,493
	2010	112,307	139,399	59,520	18,726	329,952	602,013

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

^a Reopened cases are included in totals.

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

^c Traffic and Parking include juvenile traffic statistics.

^d Las Vegas Justice Court began reporting non-traffic criminal dispositions in fiscal year 2011.

^r Data totals revised from previous annual reports due to updated or improved data collection.

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

SUPREME COURT SUMMARY

SUPREME COURT

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort. The core constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review 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 court of last resort in Nevada, the Supreme Court hears all filed cases. The Nevada Constitution does not provide for discretionary review of cases in the court of last resort.

The Supreme Court is the administrative head of the entire legal system. The Justices oversee the courts and issue rules governing everything from court procedures to the ethical and professional conduct of judges and attorneys.

During fiscal year 2012, the Nevada Supreme Court case filings reached 60,000. It took 112 years, from October 1864 to August 1977, for the Supreme Court to reach 10,000 filings. Now, under current filings trends, more than 10,000 cases are filed every 5 years. As can be seen in Table 2, the Supreme Court had 2,481 filings during the last fiscal year which is an increase of more than 6 percent, or 148 filings, from the year before. The Justices disposed of 2,372 cases, which was just 1 case less than last year and resulted in a clearance rate of 96 percent. The number of cases pending at the end of this year was 1,988, an increase of 109 cases from last fiscal year.

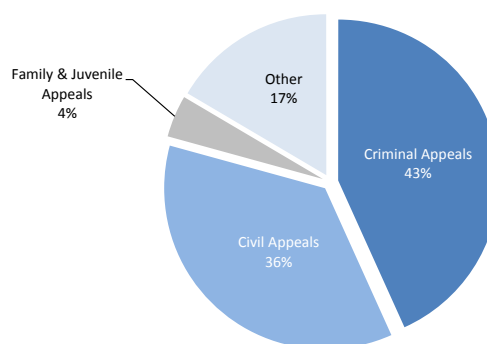
Figure 2 shows the distribution of the appeals filed in the Supreme Court by case type. Criminal appeals are the majority of the court's caseload at 43 percent. Civil appeals made up the next largest percentage at 36 percent, while juvenile and family matters made up 4 percent. Finally, other matters such as original proceedings, made up the remaining 17 percent of the Supreme Court's caseload.

The breakdown of appeals by Judicial District is provided in Table 3. Total civil and criminal appealed cases increased by 110 cases (13 percent) and 44 cases (4 percent), respectively. This led to an overall increase of 154 appealed cases (8 percent) statewide. The two largest District Courts in Nevada, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) and Second Judicial District (Washoe County), represented 87 percent of the 2,053 cases appealed from District Courts. The largest percentage increase in appeals filed with the Supreme Court was for the Third Judicial District Court (Lyon County) at 54 percent (7 more cases); the largest percentage decrease was for the Tenth Judicial District Court (Churchill County) at 38 percent (8 fewer cases).

State Supreme Court Comparisons

The Nevada Supreme Court continues to see a high number of filings each year. Table 4 presents statistical data that shows the characteristics of select appellate courts with an intermediate Court of Appeals. The states selected for Table 4 were based on their geographical location or population ranking in relation to Nevada. When looking at select states with a separate Court of Appeals in Table 4, the Nevada Supreme Court continued to have more cases filed than the combined Courts of Appeals and Supreme Courts for the states of Utah, New Mexico, and Idaho. California, Arizona, Oregon, and Kansas all had combined filings greater than Nevada. However, each of these states had fewer combined filings per justice. This was the result of each state having more combined justices to address the cases filed in their respective courts. In fact, the Nevada

Figure 2. Distribution of Case Filed in the Supreme Court ¹



¹ Juvenile and family statistics are a subset of civil filings for the Supreme Court. They are detailed here for comparison with the trial court statistics.

Table 2. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2010-14.

	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013	Fiscal Year 2014
Cases Filed					
Bar Matters	51	52	77	64	87
Appeals	1,873	1,954	2,054	1,902	2,058
Original Proceedings	327	369	351	343	306
Other	1	0	0	4	14
Reinstated	14	20	18	20	16
Total Cases Filed	2,266	2,395	2,500	2,333	2,481
Cases Disposed					
By Opinions ¹	63	71	92	84	109
By Order	2,356	2,149	2,178	2,289	2,263
Total Cases Disposed	2,419	2,220	2,270	2,373	2,372
Cases Pending	1,514	1,689	1,919	1,879	1,988
Authored Opinions	56	67	86	79	105

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

SUPREME COURT SUMMARY

Table 3. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2010-14.

	Civil Appeals Filed ^a					Criminal Appeals Filed					Total Appeals Filed				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
First	39	47	56	58	36	39	32	35	27	35	78	79	91	85	71
Second	117	156	181	146	128	185	164	208	203	191	302	320	389	349	319
Third	9	24	12	4	11	21	21	7	9	9	30	45	19	13	20
Fourth	5	9	4	6	4	9	22	12	17	22	14	31	16	23	26
Fifth	12	15	12	10	13	22	31	29	44	26	34	46	41	54	39
Sixth	12	18	17	16	29	22	23	33	28	16	34	41	50	44	45
Seventh	5	13	12	15	11	42	28	17	32	32	47	41	29	47	43
Eighth	611	562	646	601	740	711	777	735	645	718	1,322	1,339	1,381	1,246	1,458
Ninth	9	10	15	12	10	3	3	4	5	9	12	13	19	17	19
Tenth	(b)	(b)	14	8	4	(b)	(b)	4	13	9	(b)	(b)	18	21	13
Total ^c	819	854	969	876	986	1,054	1,101	1,084	1,023	1,067	1,873	1,955	2,053	1,899	2,053

^a Family and juvenile cases are included in civil appeals.

^b The Tenth Judicial District was created from the Third Judicial District in January 2012.

^c Total may not equal appeals in Table 2 due to appeals filed not associated with specific judicial districts.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

Supreme Court surpasses almost every individual court in cases per justice; only the California Supreme Court is higher. Still, Nevada has 89 cases filed per 100,000 population; California has 20. Also, California has discretionary review, meaning not all petitions filed in the court are heard by the court. In contrast, in fiscal year 2014, Nevada did not have discretionary review and was required to hear all matters filed with the court.

When comparing Court of Appeals filings to Supreme Court filings, generally, the Court of Appeals has a much greater number of new case filings. Only Idaho reports fewer filings at their Court of Appeals than their Supreme Court. In Idaho, all cases are first filed with the Supreme Court and then assigned to the Court of Appeals.

Table 4. Characteristics of Nevada and Other States with Courts of Appeals.

All data from respective states' most recent annual report or web page (2011-14).

	Nevada ^a	California ^{b,c}	Arizona ^{b,c}	Oregon ^{b,d}	Utah ^{b,c}	Kansas ^b	New Mexico ^{b,c}	Idaho ^b
Population Rank ^f	35	1	15	27	33	34	36	39
Court of Appeals								
Justices		105	22	10	7	14	10	4
En Banc or Panels		Panels	Panels	Both	Panels	Both	Panels	Panels
Cases Filed ^g		20,391	3,651	2,936	943	1,733	734	397 ^h
Cases per 100,000 Pop.		53	55	75	33	60	35	25
Cases per Justice		194	166	294	135	124	73	99
Supreme Court								
Justices	7	7	5	7	5	7	5	5
En Banc or Panels	Both	En Banc	Both	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc
Cases Filed ^g	2,481	7,813	1,054	922	595	1,109	532	1,121 ^h
Cases per 100,000 Pop.	89	20	16	23	21	38	26	70
Cases per Justice	354	1,116	211	132	119	158	106	224

^a During fiscal year 2014, Nevada did not have discretionary review.

^b Supreme Court has discretion in case review.

^c Court of Appeals has discretion in case review.

^d Statistical information is for fiscal year 2011 however, the number of Court of Appeal Judges increased from 10 to 13 in late 2013.

^f Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American FactFinder, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2013*, retrieved October 2014 from <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.

^g Includes mandatory cases and total discretionary petitions filed, unless otherwise noted.

^h Supreme Court cases filed are all appeal cases filed in the state during the reporting period. Court of Appeals cases are cases assigned from the Supreme Court cases filed.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2014)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge James Todd Russell
Judge James Wilson, Jr.

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Leon Aberasturi
Judge William Rogers

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Alvin Kacin
Judge Nancy Porter

5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Robert Lane
Judge Kimberly Wanker

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Michael Montero
Judge Richard Wagner

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Steven Dobrescu
Judge Gary Fairman

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Valerie Adair
Judge Nancy Allf
Judge Rob Bare
Judge David Barker
Judge Linda Marie Bell
Judge James Bixler
Judge Elissa Cadish
Judge Kenneth Cory
Judge Kathleen Delaney
Judge Mark Denton

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.

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

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.

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

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Michael Gibbons
Judge Nathan T. Young

10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Thomas Stockard



DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

DISTRICT COURTS

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

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

Statistical Summary

Since USJR statistics started being collected in fiscal year 2000, family cases have constituted the majority of the non-traffic case filings (criminal, civil, family, or juvenile) in Nevada's District Courts (at least 47 percent each year). This year was the fifth straight year that family filings accounted for more than half of all District Court filings.

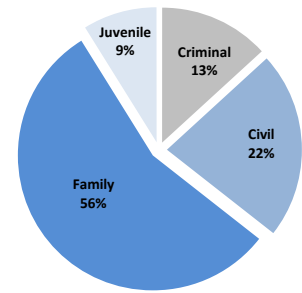
Figure 3 shows this year's distribution of cases filed in District Courts. As previously mentioned, family cases made up the majority of cases filed at 56 percent. Civil (22 percent), criminal (13 percent), and juvenile (9 percent) cases comprised of the remaining cases filed.

The District Court case filing information for the last 2 fiscal years is summarized in Table 5. Summary disposition information is included in Table 6. Overall, total filings in fiscal year 2014 were very close to fiscal year 2013 levels and only increased 1 percent. Criminal filings decreased less than 1 percent (74 cases), while civil filings decreased more than 4 percent. Family and juvenile filings both modestly increased by almost 4 percent and less than 1 percent, respectively. Overall, dispositions decreased in nine courts this year and caused the statewide disposition totals to decrease by almost 4 percent. The statewide District Court clearance rate for fiscal year 2014 was 95 percent.

The larger, more urban courts (Clark and Washoe Counties), while typically having the largest magnitude of change, normally will not have the largest percentage change due to the volume of cases processed. Drastic percentage increases (or decreases) in filings for smaller courts might not as severely affect the statewide total, but they can affect these courts by creating uncertainty for staffing and budget resources year-to-year.

As previously mentioned, criminal cases slightly decreased from last fiscal year. While there were some large percentage increases for some counties such as Esmeralda (320 percent), Douglas (54 percent), and Churchill (35 percent), the statewide totals did not change by corresponding magnitudes. These courts accounted for an increase of 139 cases, compared to 17,196 criminal cases filed statewide. Washoe County, which had a more than 10 percent increase in criminal filings this year, had the largest magnitude increase with 310 more cases. Conversely, Nye (30 percent), Storey (27 percent), and Eureka (20 percent) Counties had

Figure 3. Distribution of Cases Filed in District Courts Statewide, Fiscal Year 2014



the largest percentage decreases this year (accounting for a reduction of 211 cases from last year). Clark County, which had a 2 percent decrease in criminal filings, had the largest magnitude reduction of 264 cases.

Criminal dispositions decreased by more than 4 percent this year. Lander (220 percent), Esmeralda (144 percent), Elko (80 percent), and Lincoln (50 percent) Counties had the largest percentage increases from last year resulting in 267 more criminal dispositions (of 16,007 total criminal dispositions). Lander, Elko, and Lincoln Counties improved low clearance rates (below 62 percent last year) to above 90 percent this year. While most (12 of 17) courts saw increased or unchanged criminal dispositions this year, five courts saw decreases. The statewide total decreased mainly due to the Clark County District Court, which had a 7 percent decrease (867 fewer dispositions, with a 98 percent clearance rate). Statewide, there was a 93 percent clearance rate for all criminal cases filed in the Nevada District Courts.

Civil case filings in fiscal year 2014 decreased by more than 4 percent. Only six courts this year had increased civil filings (Lyon, Elko, Humboldt, Pershing, Lincoln, and Churchill Counties). Civil filings reached a high of 41,044 in fiscal year 2009, and have steadily decreased every year since. This year's 29,202 filings represent a 29 percent reduction in civil filings over the past 5 years. Dispositions decreased more than 14 percent from last year; the majority of the reduction came from the more urban courts. Washoe County had a reduction



Lander County's first courthouse was built in Jacobsville, a small town near Austin, NV. Later, the county seat was moved to Austin and a new courthouse was constructed in 1872 for \$30,000. Still in use, the Lander County Courthouse in Austin serves as the building for the Austin Township Justice Court.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Table 5. Summary of District Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2013-14. (See Table 8 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Non-traffic Cases Filed ^{a,b}		Civil Cases Filed ^b		Family Cases Filed ^b		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Filed ^b		Total Non-traffic Cases Filed ^{a,b}	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
First Judicial District										
Carson City District Court	289 ^c	349	659	548	951	1,058	182 ^d	137 ^d	2,081	2,092
Storey County District Court	11	8	38	26	22	19	1 ^d	15 ^d	72	68
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	3,016	3,326	3,934	3,579	10,657	11,414	2,013 ^d	2,228 ^d	19,620	20,547
Third Judicial District										
Lyon County District Court	188	204	238	257	871	847	286	215	1,583	1,523
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	497	422	292	322	1,050	1,439	404	435	2,243	2,618
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	5	21	21	17	3	5	1	1	30	44
Mineral County District Court	41	39	26	21	58	58	34	34	159	152
Nye County District Court	683	476	503	437	1,244	1,031	398	395	2,828	2,339
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	206	175	159	237	486	469	199	186	1,050	1,067
Lander County District Court	13	12	35	33	46	58	32	65 ^f	126	168
Pershing County District Court	79	82	79	110	88	72	102	200	348	464
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	5	4	28	12	11	6	17	7	61	29
Lincoln County District Court	42	42	24	36	32	40	39	12	137	130
White Pine County District Court	160	142	130	108	170	184	141	109	601	543
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	11,757	11,493	23,865	22,964	52,538	54,161	7,514 ^d	7,362	95,674	95,980
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	142 ^d	218 ^g	415 ^d	350 ^d	774 ^g	794	76 ^d	67 ^g	1,407	1,429
Tenth Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	136	183	138	145	679	726	53	106	1,006	1,160
Total	17,270	17,196	30,584	29,202	69,680	72,381	11,492	11,574	129,026	130,353

^a Includes criminal appeals of lower jurisdiction courts.

^b Includes reopened cases.

^c Includes reopened case counts on remanded cases only.

^d Reopened cases not reported.

^f Increase due to better case tracking.

^g Reopened cases under-reported.

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

of 451 dispositions, or less than 14 percent, from last year. Clark County had a reduction of 4,204 dispositions, or less than 16 percent, from last year. Statewide, there was a 94 percent clearance rate for all civil cases filed in the District Courts.

This is the 15th year of USJR statistics and family filings have increased every year except in 2013 (when filings decreased by 36 from 2012). This year, filings restarted the trend and increased by almost 4 percent to a record 72,381 filings. Eleven courts either increased or maintained last year's filing magnitudes. Esmeralda and Elko Counties had the largest percentage increases (67 and 37 percent, respectively). Clark and Washoe Counties had the largest magnitude increases, with 1,623 (3 percent) and 757 (7 percent) more filings, respectively. The six counties that had a reduction in filings (Storey, Lyon, Nye, Humboldt, Pershing, and Eureka Counties) only accounted for 278 fewer filings this year, with 213 of the reduction in Nye County alone.

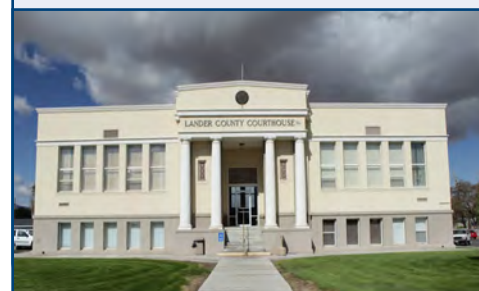
Family dispositions increased by more than 4 percent this year. Ten courts either increased or maintained fiscal year 2013 levels, and seven courts decreased from the prior year. Still, the increases or decreases represented only moderate changes. The largest percentage increase was in Esmeralda County, where there was a 500 percent (5 more dispositions) change. Lincoln (69 percent), Lander (53 percent), White Pine (35 percent), and Elko (23 percent) Counties had the next largest percentage increases. Only Nye (26 percent; 309 fewer dispositions) and Storey (25 percent; 4 fewer dispositions) Counties had relatively large percentage decreases. Statewide, there was a 95 percent clearance rate for all family cases filed in the Nevada District Courts.

While most courts experienced decreased juvenile non-traffic filings this year, filings still increased by less than 1 percent from fiscal year 2013. Eight courts either maintained or increased filings this year. Storey County had the largest percentage change (1400 percent);

the 15 filings reported this year was the third-largest magnitude this court has reported since USJR statistics started being collected. Lander and Churchill Counties each had at least doubled last year's reported filings; Pershing County had almost doubled its filings as well.

Juvenile non-traffic dispositions, however, decreased by more than 19

In 1979, Lander County moved the county seat to Battle Mountain. The moving of the county seat required the county to renovate a schoolhouse built in 1916 to serve as the Lander County Courthouse. Today, it houses the courtroom and chambers for the Sixth Judicial District and Argenta Justice Courts.



DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Table 6. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2013-14. (See Table 8 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
First Judicial District										
Carson City District Court	206	242	453	417	869	964	224	185	1,752	1,808
Storey County District Court	5	5	23	25	16	12	1	5	45	47
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	2,617	2,643	3,317	2,866	10,059	10,803	1,182	1,069	17,175	17,381
Third Judicial District										
Lyon County District Court	189	192	261	221	869	791	333	237	1,652	1,441
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	288	518	255	263	1,059	1,299	336	330	1,938	2,410
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	9	22	6	8	1	6	1	1	17	37
Mineral County District Court	22	30	0	1	8	8	10	59	40	98
Nye County District Court	673	397	312	249	1,193	884	276	460	2,454	1,990
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	154	181	143	155	375	384	347 ^a	157	1,019	877
Lander County District Court	5	16	11	8	30	46	132 ^a	36	178	106
Pershing County District Court	54	51	49	144	79	69	125	173	307	437
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	8	7	24	16	9	8	18	5	59	36
Lincoln County District Court	26	39	23	20	16	27	43	11	108	97
White Pine County District Court	135	126	130	109	135	182	140	102	540	519
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	12,113	11,246	26,700	22,496	49,782	52,090	9,991	7,747	98,586	93,579
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	128	142	329	317	755	707	69	41	1,281	1,207
Tenth Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	138	150	112	213	715	675	54	73	1,019	1,111
Total	16,770	16,007	32,148	27,528	65,970	68,955	13,282	10,691	128,170	123,181

^a Includes administrative case closures.

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

percent this year. There was a reduction of 2,591 dispositions reported from last fiscal year. Most of this reduction (2,244, or 87 percent) came from the Clark County District Court. However, Clark County's clearance rate this year was 105 percent, which means the court disposed more cases than were filed. Statewide, there was a 92 percent clearance rate for all juvenile cases filed in District Courts.

Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for all District Courts in Nevada for fiscal year 2014 is shown in Figure 4. In the Judicial Districts that comprise more than one county (First, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases are aggregated from the counties and averaged between the Judges. To make the comparisons more consistent between court types, juvenile traffic cases were removed from the totals before calculating the amount of cases filed per judicial position. In District Court, juvenile traffic cases are handled predominately by Juvenile Masters.

The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District

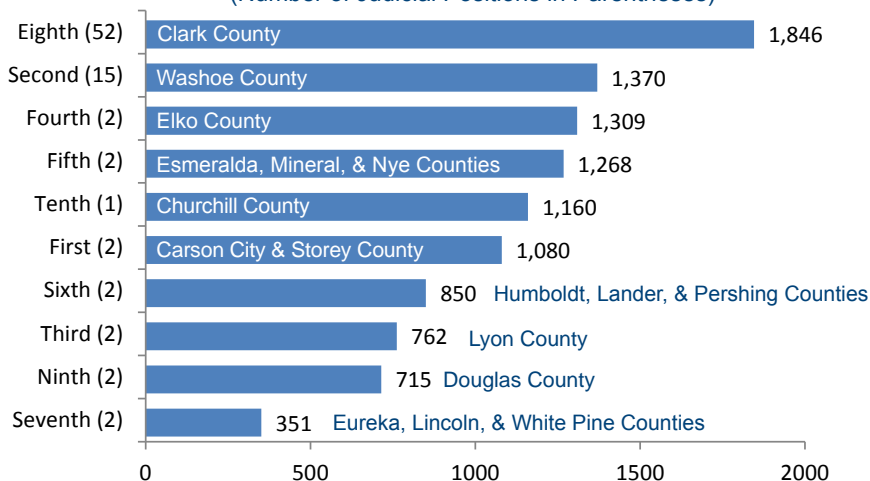
Courts was 1,590, an increase of 17 cases per judge from last fiscal year (1,573). Seven of the ten districts increased or maintained fiscal year 2013 levels.

The Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) continued to report the greatest number of cases per judicial position, with 1,846 reported this year (an increase of 6 cases per judge from last year). The

Second Judicial District (Washoe County) reported the second most cases per judge, with 1,370 reported. The Fourth Judicial District reported the next largest and had the largest increase from last year, reporting 187 more cases for a total of 1,309 cases per judicial position.

District Court Judges with smaller caseloads may assist the busier District

Figure 4. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2014
(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial positions for District Courts is 1,590.

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

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. Also, in multi-county Judicial Districts, judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among the counties within their districts to hear cases. A 2011 study by the AOC indicated that these judges average at least 1 day a week on the road, which impacts their ability to hear cases.

Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts quantify the assistance provided by Special Masters who are appointed by sitting judges to help with specific aspects of the adjudication process. Special Master positions are quasi-judicial because they have limited authority and are accountable to an elected judge. Table 7 summarizes the estimated full-time equivalent assistance provided by Special Masters during the year.

Statewide, the quasi-judicial assistance provided during fiscal year 2014 was equivalent to 27.72 full-time judicial officers. This is a decrease from last year's reported 28.31. In District Courts, most of the quasi-judicial officers are commissioners, referees, and masters for alternative dispute resolution, family,

Table 7. Full-Time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts, Fiscal Year 2014.

Court and County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
First Judicial District	1.00
Carson City	
Storey	
Second Judicial District	7.00
Washoe	
Third Judicial District	0.25
Lyon	
Fourth Judicial District	3.00
Elko	
Fifth Judicial District	0.63
Esmeralda	
Mineral	
Nye	
Sixth Judicial District	0.46
Humboldt	
Lander	
Pershing	
Seventh Judicial District	0.30
Eureka	
Lincoln	
White Pine	
Eighth Judicial District	14.00
Clark	
Ninth Judicial District	0.50
Douglas	
Tenth Judicial District	0.58
Churchill	
Total	27.72

Table 8. Summary of Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed in District Court, Fiscal Years 2013-14.

Court	Juvenile Traffic Cases ^a			
	Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
First Judicial District				
Carson City District Court	328 ^b	207 ^b	450	286
Storey County District Court	5 ^b	4 ^b	6	4
Second Judicial District				
Washoe County District Court	1,457	856	741 ^{c,i}	1,223
Third Judicial District				
Lyon County District Court	200	202	176	139
Fourth Judicial District				
Elko County District Court	476	470	518	443
Fifth Judicial District				
Esmeralda County District Court	2	3	5	3
Mineral County District Court	0	1	0	0
Nye County District Court	51	93	21	44
Sixth Judicial District				
Humboldt County District Court	9 ⁱ	54	7 ⁱ	34
Lander County District Court	54	16 ^f	61	5 ^f
Pershing County District Court	18	28	19	26
Seventh Judicial District				
Eureka County District Court	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Lincoln County District Court	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
White Pine County District Court	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Eighth Judicial District				
Clark County District Court	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)
Ninth Judicial District				
Douglas County District Court	175 ^b	165 ^b	197	202
Tenth Judicial District				
Churchill County District Court	142	112	134	103
Total	2,917	2,211	2,335	2,512

ⁱ Incomplete.

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Reopened cases not reported.

^c Disposition reporting began January 2013.

^d Juvenile traffic violations handled and reported by Justice Courts.

^f Decrease due to better case tracking.

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

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 calculation (Figure 4), however, they do help with the disposition of cases.

District Court Traffic

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

District Court juvenile traffic filing and disposition information for the last 2 fiscal years is in Table 8. Juvenile traffic filings decreased 24 percent from last year. While six courts had increased filings this year, seven did not. Humboldt County, after having reporting issues last year, revised their reporting processes and had a 500 percent increase in filings this year. Similarly, Lander County also had

business process changes which resulted in a more than 70 percent reduction in traffic filings this year. Many of these cases for Lander County, which were previously identified as traffic cases, are now being reported as juvenile non-traffic cases in Tables 5 and 6 for this year. Washoe County had the largest magnitude decrease, reporting 601 (41 percent) fewer cases this year.

Dispositions for juvenile traffic cases at the District Courts increased by less than 8 percent this year due in large part to this being the first full year of reporting for the Washoe County District Court. Only six courts increased or maintained last year's level. Humboldt County, as part of their new business processes, had the largest percentage increase of 386 percent.

The District Court traffic clearance rate, the number of dispositions divided by the number of filings, was 114 percent for fiscal year 2014.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Senior Justice and Judge Program

Article 6, Section 19 of the Nevada Constitution grants authority to the Chief Justice as the administrative head of the Nevada Court system to “recall to active service any retired justice or judge of the court system who consents to such recall and who has not been removed or retired for cause or defeated for retention in office and may assign him or her to appropriate temporary duty within the court system.”

Justice Michael Cherry, who directs the Senior Justice and Judge program, had the following statement regarding the justices and judges who participate: “Our Senior Justice and Judge Program has proven to be a cost effective way to ensure that court cases can be heard in a timely fashion, even if the assigned judge is unavailable. Nevada is fortunate to have a number of Senior Justices and Judges available whose experience is unmatched and who can step in, no matter what type of case is involved or where the need arises. I am looking forward to the addition of the District Judges who are retiring at the end of 2014 becoming Senior Judges. These men and women will be a great asset to the Judiciary and the State of Nevada.”

Summary information on Senior Justice and Judge assignments per judicial district during fiscal year 2014 is provided in Table 9. The table includes the types of assignments requested in each district, as well as the number of assignments and

number of hours for each assignment. The AOC assigns Senior Justices and Judges. Requests for assignment direct a specific Senior Justice or Judge to a particular court for several reasons. They may be assigned for a durational amount of time whenever a judicial vacancy occurs, such as illness, vacation, mandatory judicial education, or retirement. Senior Justices and Judges may also hear specific cases due to recusal, or disqualification, or if a sitting judge has an unusually heavy caseload or congested docket.

The Senior Justices and Judges hear civil and medical malpractice settlement conferences on a regular basis. On average they hear between three and eight settlement conferences per week. Currently, settlement conferences are heard in the urban Second and Eighth Judicial Districts. As of spring 2014,

settlement conference services have been expanded to the rural jurisdictions. Additionally, Senior Justices and Judges hear short trials and settlement conferences every two weeks in the Eighth Judicial District Family Court.

Senior Justices and Judges also conduct specialty court programs in the District Courts. In the Second, Third, Fifth, Ninth, and Tenth Judicial Districts, Senior Justices and Judges conduct the drug and mental health courts. These programs succeed in providing alternatives to jail time for certain offenders and in assisting these offenders to become productive members of society.

During fiscal year 2014, there were 26 Senior Justices or Judges actively serving the District Courts. Their combined efforts provided assistance almost equivalent to 6 full-time judges for Nevada.

Table 9. Senior Justices and Judges Assignments for Fiscal Year 2014.

Judicial District (JD)	Assignment Type	Number of Assignments	Number of Hours
First JD	Case Assignment	7	85.00
	Durational	1	3.00
	Settlement Conference	1	16.50
Total for First JD		9	104.50
Second JD	Case Assignment	4	236.75
	Durational	7	129.50
	Settlement Conference	1	10.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	10	1,292.00
Total for Second JD		22	1,668.25
Third JD	Case Assignment	9	97.50
Total for Third JD		9	97.50
Fourth JD	Case Assignment	19	170.25
	Durational	1	8.00
Total for Fourth JD		20	178.25
Fifth JD	Case Assignment	7	195.50
	Durational	1	12.00
Total for Fifth JD		8	207.50
Sixth JD	Case Assignment	4	59.00
	Settlement Conference	1	12.00
Total for Sixth JD		5	71.00
Seventh JD	Case Assignment	22	442.25
	Durational	1	24.00
Total for Seventh JD		23	466.25
Eighth JD	Case Assignment	14	132.00
	Durational	73	3,889.00
	Durational – Family	51	154.00
	Settlement Conference	153	1,497.00
	Short Trial/Settlements – Family	19	575.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	1	8.00
Total for Eighth JD		311	6,255.00
Ninth JD	Case Assignment	13	156.00
	Durational	1	12.00
Total for Ninth JD		14	168.00
Tenth JD	Case Assignment	11	144.00
	Durational	5	132.00
Total for Tenth JD		16	276.00
Rural Specialty Court	Specialty Court – Rural	9	676.00
Total for Rural Specialty Court		9	676.00
Supreme Court	Supreme Court Appeals	1	40.00
Total for Supreme Court		1	40.00
Grand Total		447	10,208.25



Pershing County was created in 1919. In 1921, the Pershing County Courthouse was completed. Inspired by the Thomas Jefferson Library in Virginia, the round building has 16,000 square feet of space and was built at a cost of \$99,139. It is still in use today.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Business Courts

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

Business Courts were created during fiscal year 2001 in the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts. In ADKT 398, the Supreme Court requested that Business Courts report on the effectiveness of their program and provide statistical data at the end of each fiscal year. Table 10 summarizes the statistics reported by each Business Court for fiscal years 2013-14.

Cases can arrive in the Business Court as an original filing or as a request for transfer. Table 10 shows Washoe County Business Court filings increased (20 to 51) in 2014. This 155 percent increase in new case filings represents a 10-fold increase from 2012. Meanwhile, Clark County experienced a decrease in filings (from 237 to 208) from fiscal year 2013.

Dispositions increased at both the Washoe and Clark County Business

Courts. Dispositions increased 29 percent for the Washoe Business Court, while the average time to disposition decreased by 2 months (from 14 to 12 months) from 2013. At the Clark County Business Court, dispositions increased 5 percent from last year, and the average time to disposition remained constant at 23 months from 2013.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

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

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

SB366 required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement ADR Programs. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City, Storey County, and

The Pershing County Courthouse is unique as it is one of only a few courthouse ever built, and thought to be the only courthouse still in use, with a circular courtroom. The courthouse is currently utilized by the Pershing County District Court and the Lake Justice Court.



Douglas County) subsequently adopted the program voluntarily. Arbitration Commissioners administer the programs in each Judicial District.

While mandatory ADR Programs initially focused on certain civil cases with probable award value of less than \$25,000, later statutory revisions increased the amount to \$40,000, and

Table 10. Summary of Business Court Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2013-14.

Court	New Case Filings ^a		Cases Transferred In		Case Dispositions		Pending Cases at Year End		Average Time to Disposition (Mo.)	
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	20	51	4	0	17	22	62	91	14	12
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	237	208	88	60	330 ^b	347 ^b	587	508	23	23

^a Includes reopened cases.

^b Includes cases transferred out of the program.

Source: Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Table 11. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2014.^a

	First Judicial District Court		Second Judicial District Court		Eighth Judicial District Court		Ninth Judicial District Court	
	Fiscal Year 2014	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2014	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2014	Long-Term Average (10 years)	Fiscal Year 2014	Long-Term Average (10 years)
Civil Caseload	574	713	3,579	4,211	22,964	25,445	350	413
Cases Entered	40	209	366	426	3,185	3,675	13	140
Cases Removed	2	34	253	332	239	308	27	32
Cases Settled or Dismissed	28	135	258	304	3,004	2,954	19	26
Settlement Rate	88%	96%	88%	85%	84%	82%	95%	93%
Trials De Novo requested	4	6	37	53	590	638	1	2
Trials De Novo request rate	12%	4%	12%	15%	16%	18%	5%	7%

^a First, Second, and Eighth Judicial District Courts have a \$50,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District has a \$25,000 maximum.

Source: Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Table 12. Summary of Short Trial Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2013-14.

Court	Cases Stipulated		Cases Scheduled		Cases Dismissed ^a		Cases Settled		Short Trials Held	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	4	1	39	37	9	3	11	24	17	7
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	14	12	455 ^r	481	447 ^{b,r}	396 ^b	(b)	(b)	117	86
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	NR	1	NR	2	NR	1	NR	1	NR	0

NR Not reported

^r Revised from previous publication.

^a Includes cases removed from the program.

^b Cases settled, dismissed, or removed were reported as aggregate and placed in dismissed.

Source: Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

then finally to \$50,000 per plaintiff in 2005. The Ninth Judicial District, in the program voluntarily, opted to keep the initial amount of \$25,000.

The caseload and settlement rates for the fiscal year and the long-term annual average for the most recent 10 years for each ADR program are provided in Table 11.

During fiscal year 2014, the four participating Judicial Districts reported that fewer cases entered the arbitration programs than their respective 10-year averages. This is the third year since ADR statistics began being published in the annual report that all Judicial Districts reported fewer cases than their long-term averages (and second year in a row).

A major goal of the ADR program is allowing parties to communicate and work out amicable settlements so as to avoid the high costs of trials. While the settlement rate can vary greatly from 1 year to

another for each District Court, and can be affected by the increase or decrease in the number of arbitrators, training sessions, and support staff, the 10-year average provides a good comparison for how these programs perform over time. Settlement rates are calculated by taking the number of cases settled or dismissed and dividing by the cases settled or dismissed plus the trials de novo requested (actual bench or jury trials). In fiscal year 2014, the case settlement rates continued to be high, with every program reporting a rate of 80 percent or higher. The Second, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial Districts reported settlement rates higher than their 10-year averages, reporting 88, 84, and 95 percent, respectively.

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

As shown in Table 12, this fiscal year the Second Judicial District Court reported that 1 case was stipulated to the Short Trial Program and 37 short trials were scheduled, including matters from previous fiscal years. Throughout the fiscal year, 27 cases were dismissed or settled and 7 short trials were held.

The Eighth Judicial District Court reported 12 cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program and 481 cases scheduled for a short trial. During this fiscal year,

396 cases were dismissed or settled and 86 short trials were held.

The Ninth Judicial District Court reported 1 case stipulated to the Short Trial Program and 2 cases scheduled for a short trial. During this fiscal year, 2 cases were dismissed or settled, and no short trials were held.

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



Eureka County's first courthouse was a threatened by fire that destroyed much of the buildings in Eureka in 1879. A more permanent structure was sought and built in 1880, at a cost of \$50,000. It remains as one of only three Nevada courthouses built in the 19th century still in use.

The Eureka County Courthouse houses the Eureka County District Court of the Seventh Judicial District. The courtroom and chambers are located on the second floor. The courtroom is somewhat unique as it has a suspended gallery at the back of the courtroom.



Nevada Judiciary Annual Report

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Cases in the Nevada Trial Courts

When reviewing the USJR criminal statistics, keep in mind that these numbers represent real issues that the Nevada Judiciary works to resolve involving people's lives and livelihoods. The statistics throughout this Annual Report are often interrelated due to statute and procedure. Accordingly, the Research and Statistics Unit (RSU) reviewed how statute and procedure have an effect on the workload of the courts. In Nevada, there are three major degrees of criminal offenses: felony, gross misdemeanor, and misdemeanor. Misdemeanors, crimes with up to \$1,000 in fines and up to 6 months in jail, are typically resolved at the Justice and Municipal Court level. Gross misdemeanors are crimes with punishments of up to \$2,000 in fines and up to 1 year in jail. Felonies, the most serious of crimes, have punishments with prison terms greater than a year. Some gross misdemeanor and felony cases are initiated by grand juries, with an *indictment* being filed directly with the District Court. However, most felony and gross misdemeanor cases start in the Justice Court with the filing of a *complaint*, a legal document formally charging the defendant with alleged crimes.

When a *complaint* is filed in a Justice Court for felony or gross misdemeanor crimes, the case can then move to the preliminary hearing phase where the Justice Court judge will determine if there is enough evidence to proceed to trial; otherwise, the judge will dismiss the case. The preliminary hearing phase can consist of a single hearing or multiple hearings, or it can be waived by the defendant. If the defendant waives the preliminary hearing process, or the defendant denies the allegations and the judge determines there is enough evidence to proceed to trial, then the case is bound over to District Court for trial. In some circumstances, the original felony or gross misdemeanor charges are amended to misdemeanor charges, either through discovery or negotiation, and are subsequently disposed (adjudicated) at the Justice Court.

When a case is bound over to District Court, the district attorney will then file an *information* with the court. This legal document may contain the same charges as the *complaint* previously filed, or it may contain modified allegations. The case then proceeds through pre-trial hearings at District Court. If the case is not disposed (adjudicated) through those hearings, the case then proceeds to and concludes at trial.

The table below shows the case filing of felony and gross misdemeanor cases in Nevada for the past 4 years. Justice Courts had a total of 124,533 of these types of cases, with a closure rate of slightly more than 100 percent (124,598 cases disposed). Of the 124,598 cases disposed, 50 percent (61,735 cases) were the result of waiving or proceeding to the preliminary hearing phase; of which, 76 percent (46,709 cases) were bound over (including waivers) to the District Courts. These 46,709 cases over the past 4 years represent 92 percent of the criminal cases filed in Nevada's District Courts. Indictments represent more than 3 percent (1,757 indictments) of the District Court filings for the past 4 years. The remaining 5 percent of cases could be the result of misdemeanor cases being amended to a higher degree of offense, timing issues between filings and dispositions, or other reporting issues.

Always keep in mind the underlying judicial procedures (due to statute and rules) that the USJR statistics represent. The RSU found that prosecutors, defense attorneys, and defendants worked to resolve more than 62 percent (77,889 cases) of all felony and gross misdemeanor cases in the past 4 years in the Justice Courts without the need to proceed to the trial process in the District Courts.

Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Cases and Dispositions in Nevada.

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	TOTAL
Justice Court Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Cases ^a	33,667	30,208	31,263	29,395	124,533
Justice Court Total Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Dispositions	33,991	30,999	29,964	29,644	124,598
Total Preliminary Hearing Dispositions	18,734	16,667	14,464	11,870	61,735
Justice Court Cases Not Bound Over	6,480	5,282	2,764	500	15,026
Justice Court Cases Bound Over	12,254	11,385	11,700	11,370	46,709
Indictments Filed in District Court	379	451	518	409	1,757
District Court New Filings ^a	13,153	12,327	12,825	12,564	50,869

^a Original filings, does not include reopened cases.

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

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

JUSTICE COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2014)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT CARSON CITY

Carson City Township
Judge Tom Armstrong*
Judge John Tatro*

STOREY COUNTY

Virginia City Township
Judge Eileen F. Herrington

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT WASHOE COUNTY

Incline Village Township
Judge E. Alan Tiras

RENO TOWNSHIP

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

SPARKS TOWNSHIP

Judge Kevin Higgins
Judge Chris Wilson

WADSWORTH TOWNSHIP

Judge Terry Graham

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT LYON COUNTY

Canal Township

Judge Robert J. Bennett

Dayton Township

Judge Camille Vecchiarelli

Walker River Township

Judge Michael S. Fletcher

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ELKO COUNTY

Carlin Township

Judge Teri Feasel*

Eastline Township

Judge Brian E. Boatman*

Elko Township

Judge Mason E. Simons*

Jackpot Township

Judge J. Brad Hester

Wells Township

Judge Patricia Calton*

5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ESMERALDA COUNTY

Esmeralda Township

Judge Juanita M. Colvin

MINERAL COUNTY

Hawthorne Township

Judge Jay T. Gunter

NYE COUNTY

Beatty Township

Judge Gus Sullivan

Pahrump Township

Judge Kent Jaspersen
Judge Ron Kent

Tonopah Township

Judge Jennifer Klapper

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Union Township

Judge Letty Norcutt

LANDER COUNTY

Argenta Township

Judge Max W. Bunch

Austin Township

Judge William E. Schaeffer

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT. PERSHING COUNTY

Lake Township

Judge Karen Stephens

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT EUREKA COUNTY

Beowawe Township

Judge Susan Fye

Eureka Township

Judge John F. Schweble

LINCOLN COUNTY

Meadow Valley Township

Judge Mike D. Cowley

Pahranagat Valley Township

Judge Nola A. Holton

WHITE PINE COUNTY

Ely (No. 1) Township

Judge Stephen Bishop

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CLARK COUNTY

Boulder Township

Judge Victor L. Miller*

Bunkerville Township

Judge Darryll B. Dodenbier

Goodsprings Township

Judge Dawn L. Haviland

Henderson Township

Judge Rodney T. Burr
Judge Stephen George

Judge David Gibson, Sr.

Las Vegas Township

Judge Melanie Andress-Tobiasson

Judge Suzan Baucum

Judge Karen Bennett-Haron

Judge Joe Bonaventure

Judge Cynthia Cruz

Judge Eric A. Goodman

Judge Conrad Hafen

Judge Bill Kephart

Judge Deborah J. Lippis

Judge Janiece Marshall

Judge Melissa Saragosa

Judge Joseph Sciscento

Judge Diana L. Sullivan

Judge Ann E. Zimmerman

Laughlin Township

Judge Tim Atkins

Mesquite Township

Judge Ryan W. Toone*

Moapa Township

Judge Ruth Kolhoss

Moapa Valley Township

Judge D. Lanny Waite

North Las Vegas Township

Judge Kalani Hoo

Judge Chris Lee

Judge Natalie Tyrrell

Searchlight Township

Judge Richard Hill

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DOUGLAS COUNTY

East Fork Township

Judge Thomas Perkins

Tahoe Township

Judge Richard Glasson

10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CHURCHILL COUNTY

New River Township

Judge Mike Richards

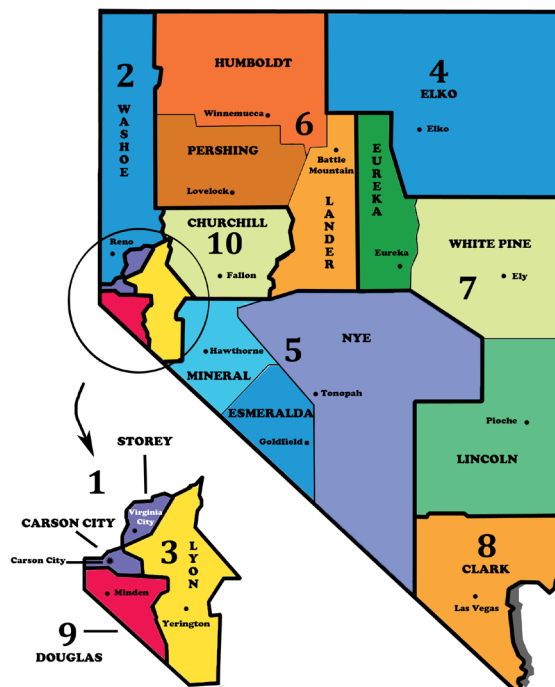
JUSTICE COURTS

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

There are 67 Justices of the Peace who serve in Nevada's 42 Justice Courts. Justices of the Peace are elected to serve in the judicial townships in which they reside, though 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 approved and commissioned as Senior Justices of the Peace by the Supreme Court may serve temporarily in any Justice Court in the State.

Statistical Summary

The Justice Court case filing and summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 13. Statewide, the number of non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases filed in the Justice Courts in fiscal year 2014 decreased more than 9 percent from fiscal year 2013. Civil filings mostly accounted for the decrease; they decreased by 15 percent in fiscal year 2014. Criminal filings remained relatively stable, decreasing by more than 1 percent. Dispositions increased statewide by more than 10 percent; civil dispositions increased by 17 percent and criminal dispositions increased by less than 2 percent. Note that courts with smaller caseloads can vary greatly year-to-year, leading to large percentage changes even though the number of cases have relatively little change.



* Also serves as Municipal Court Judge

** Retired March 2014

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

Table 13. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2013-14. (See Table 14 for Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Cases ^a				Civil Cases ^a			
	Filed		Disposed		Filed		Disposed	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
First Judicial District								
Carson City								
Carson City Justice Court ^b	2,372	2,082	1,931	1,433	3,952	3,467	3,006 ^c	5,630 ^d
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	160	134	121	114	82	62	38	32
Second Judicial District								
Washoe County								
Incline Village Justice Court	203	216	264	185	208	168	191	149
Reno Justice Court	5,309 ^f	5,858	5,467	5,669	11,138	8,648	9,740	10,362
Sparks Justice Court	2,511	2,741	2,580	2,675	6,256	4,337	4,243	4,446
Wadsworth Justice Court	90	61	94	71	43	33	46	30
Third Judicial District								
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	456	398	459	424	990	783	914	1,013
Dayton Justice Court	360	334	358	310	1,146	864	1,008	872
Walker River Justice Court	480	507	482	438	747	1,101	701	1,157
Fourth Judicial District								
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	78	68	87	79	132	103	107	108
Eastline Justice Court	76	128	65	95	130	118	97	134
Elko Justice Court	1,586	1,496	1,619	1,409	1,892	1,490	1,605	1,445
Jackpot Justice Court	84	53	110	99	39	25	32 ^g	38 ^g
Wells Justice Court	195 ^f	152 ^f	144	111	61	66	18	37
Fifth Judicial District								
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	90	94	81	93	16	15	10	15
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	368	352	266	215	212	155	142 ^h	78 ^h
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	84	75	87	61	55	29	48	28
Pahrump Justice Court	1,623	1,238	1,909	1,498	1,039	747	845	638
Tonopah Justice Court	197	216	194	170	89	100	99	85
Sixth Judicial District								
Humboldt County								
Union Justice Court	915	947	874	885	752	619	707	558
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	189	204	238 ^d	166	195	189	135	146
Austin Justice Court	28	26	27	31	6	1	7	0
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	341	310	160	227	276	228	98	151
Seventh Judicial District								
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	19	23	16	21	10	16	1	5
Eureka Justice Court	74	87	56	69	10	13	12	7
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	98	101	88	89	53	33	52	31
Pahrangat Valley Justice Court	92	131	86	105	20	10	20 ^h	7
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	333	270	285	235	280	249	328	246
Eighth Judicial District								
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	110	133	113	147	354	256	280	234
Bunkerville Justice Court	32	36	19	16	23	11	7	0
Goodsprings Justice Court	408	402	405	325	576	326	495	317
Henderson Justice Court	2,699	2,208	2,628	2,380	8,508	6,595	5,853	5,513
Las Vegas Justice Court	50,115	49,784	46,612	49,490	70,860	62,934	64,246	79,616 ^d
Laughlin Justice Court	852	862	751	570	260	241	762 ^d	461 ^d
Mesquite Justice Court	139	136	93	144	336	239	268	378 ^d
Moapa Justice Court	92	94	117 ^d	83	15	6	7	16
Moapa Valley Justice Court	94	113	74	82	69	50	26	15
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,117	2,775	3,341	3,210	7,354	6,171	5,808	5,871
Searchlight Justice Court	48	65	36	30	1	3	0	2
Ninth Judicial District								
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	1,175	1,274 ^f	1,282 ^f	1,468 ^j	1,172	881 ^f	669	311
Tahoe Justice Court	937	943	939	920	147	148	133	121
Tenth Judicial District								
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	820	930	808	831	1,048	1,007	833	878
Total	79,049	78,057	75,366 ^f	76,673	120,552	102,537	103,637	121,181

^f Revised from previous publications.

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Carson City Justice Court includes municipal court information.

^c Landlord tenant dispositions under-reported.

^d Includes administrative case closures.

^e Reopened cases not reported.

^g Dispositions are final case closures.

^h Dispositions include both original disposition and final case closure information.

^j Dispositions reported by charges so total disposed reported was divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made at the case level.

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

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

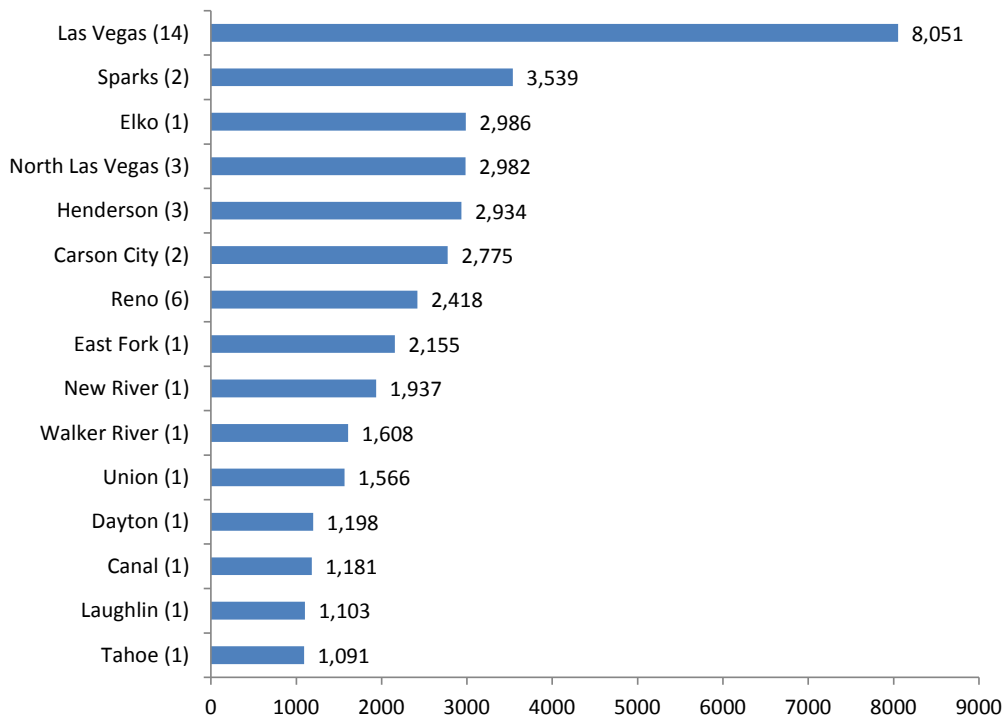
Over the past 5 years (see Table 1), civil filings have represented more than 57 percent of all non-traffic filings in Justice Courts. In fiscal year 2014, civil filings followed this trend and comprised almost 57 percent of all non-traffic filings. As shown in Table 13, civil filings decreased by 15 percent; 35 courts experienced decreases while 7 courts had increases from last fiscal year. All townships with populations of more than 50,000, which accounted for almost 90 percent of civil filings this year, had decreases. These include the Sparks (31 percent), Reno

(22 percent), Henderson (22 percent), North Las Vegas (16 percent), Carson City (12 percent), and Las Vegas (11 percent) Justice Courts. The only courts with increases were the Searchlight (200 percent), Beowawe (60 percent), Walker River (47 percent), Eureka (30 percent), Tonopah (12 percent), Wells (8 percent), and Tahoe (1 percent) Justice Courts.

Civil dispositions increased by 17 percent. As expected, some of the courts with the largest percentage increases in filings also had the largest increases in dispositions: Beowawe (400 percent),

Wells (106 percent), and Walker River (65 percent) Justice Courts. Of special note, administrative case closures contributed to several Justice Courts experiencing increases in civil dispositions despite decreases in filings. An administrative case closure happens when the court enters a dismissal judgment because the legal time frame has expired with no other judgment being rendered for the case. These increases occurred in the Carson City (87 percent), Mesquite (41 percent), and Las Vegas (24 percent) Justice Courts.

Figure 5. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Justice Court, Fiscal Year 2014^a
(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for all Justice Courts was 2,695.
Carson City Justice Court totals include Municipal Court totals.
Carson City and Elko Justice Court Judges also serve as Municipal Court Judges.
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

^a Remaining Justice Courts and their non-traffic cases filed per judicial position (each court has one judicial position, except Pahrump Justice Court, which has two). Asterisk (*) indicates judicial position as part-time. Asterisks (**) indicates the judicial position also serves as a Municipal Court Judge.

Pahrump Justice Court	993	Tonopah Justice Court	316	Beatty Justice Court	104
Goodsprings Justice Court	728	Eastline Justice Court**	246	Moapa Justice Court	100
Lake Justice Court	538	Wells Justice Court**	218	Eureka Justice Court*	100
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	519	Virginia City Justice Court	196	Wadsworth Justice Court*	94
Hawthorne Justice Court	507	Carlin Justice Court	171	Jackpot Justice Court*	78
Argenta Justice Court	393	Moapa Valley Justice Court*	163	Searchlight Justice Court*	68
Boulder Justice Court**	389	Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court*	141	Bunkerville Justice Court*	47
Incline Village Justice Court*	384	Meadow Valley Justice Court	134	Beowawe Justice Court*	39
Mesquite Justice Court**	375	Esmeralda Justice Court	109	Austin Justice Court*	27

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

Criminal case filings in the Justice Courts remained relatively constant. For fiscal year 2014, criminal filings increased in 22 courts and decreased in 20 courts. The largest percentage increases and decreases in criminal case filings this year all occurred in rural courts. Eastline (68 percent), Pahrnagat Valley (42 percent), Searchlight (35 percent), Beowawe (21 percent), and Boulder (21 percent) Justice Courts had the largest increases, while Jackpot (37 percent), Wadsworth (32 percent), Pahrump (24 percent), Wells (22 percent), and Ely (19 percent) Justice Courts had the largest decreases.

Criminal dispositions in the Justice Courts increased less than 2 percent from fiscal year 2013. Slightly less than half of the courts (17) had increased dispositions. Mesquite (55 percent), Eastline (46 percent), Lake (42 percent), Beowawe (31 percent), and Boulder (30 percent) Justice Courts had the largest percentage increases in criminal dispositions. The largest percentage decreases came from Argenta, Incline Village, and Beatty Justice Courts. Each of these three courts experienced a decrease of 30 percent. Moapa (29 percent) and Carson City (26 percent) Justice Courts had the next largest decreases in criminal dispositions this year. Part of the decrease in the Argenta and Moapa Justice Courts, however, was a result of administrative case closures that were reported in the previous fiscal year.

The clearance rate is the number of dispositions divided by the number of

filings. For fiscal year 2014, the median clearance rate for all civil and criminal Justice Court cases was 93 percent (92 percent last fiscal year), and the total clearance rate was 110 percent (90 percent last fiscal year).

The change in the total clearance rate was mostly due to an increase in the clearance rate for civil cases from 86 percent last year to 118 percent this year. The previously discussed decrease in civil filings among Nevada's urban Justice courts, as well as the administrative civil case closures reported by several Justice Courts, contributed to this increase. The clearance rate for criminal cases also increased from 95 percent last year to 98 percent this year.

Cases Per Judicial Position

Quantifying the Justice Court non-traffic cases per judicial position involves some unique considerations. For instance, many of the Justices of the Peace have part-time assignments. Because cases in Justice Courts tend to be less complex than in District Courts, a Justice Court can handle a larger number of cases per judicial position. Traffic cases are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because traffic cases may be resolved by payment of fines without judicial involvement.

To simplify the presentation in Figure 5, only those Justice Courts with 1,000 or more non-traffic cases per judicial position are shown in the graphic; the remaining courts are listed in the footnote to Figure 5. The break at 1,000 was arbitrary. For fiscal year 2014, eight courts had more than 2,000 non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas Justice Court had 8,051 filings per judicial position, the most of any Justice Court. Sparks (3,539), Elko (2,986), North Las Vegas (2,982), and Henderson (2,934) Justice Courts had the next most filings per judicial position. No judicial positions were added to or removed from the Justice Courts this year. The statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for all Justice Courts was 2,695, a decrease from last fiscal year (3,002).

Built in 1938, the current Lincoln County Courthouse houses both the District and Justice Courts, as well as other county entities. The initial cost was \$49,347. In 2008, pipes burst, causing damage to some court records. Recently, the county remodeled the courtroom and re-weatherproofed the building.



Judicial Assistance

As Figure 5 shows, urban Justice Courts have significantly higher caseloads per judge than those in rural Nevada. To address these higher caseloads, urban Justice Courts may hire Special Masters to provide assistance and address the specific needs of the court. These special master positions, which are deemed quasi-judicial, assist in the adjudication process but are not elected officials. Quasi-judicial officers make recommendations or judgments that are subject to review and confirmation by sitting Justices of the Peace.

The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided for fiscal year 2014. The reported assistance from quasi-judicial officers was unchanged from last year. Carson City Justice Court reported 0.20 FTE in a quasi-judicial position that helped with small claims cases. Sparks Justice Court reported 0.40 FTE in a quasi-judicial position that assisted with addressing the court's calendar. Las Vegas Justice Court reported 1.39 FTE in quasi-judicial positions for a small claims master (0.34 FTE) and traffic referees (1.05 FTE). The traffic referees in the Las Vegas Justice Court only handle traffic matters and their decisions are final unless appealed.



The first Lincoln County Courthouse was built in 1872. While initial costs were approximately \$75,000, fiscal mismanagement resulted in the actual costs being more than 10 times greater. The courthouse debt was retired in 1938, and the same year a new courthouse was constructed.

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

Table 14. Summary of Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2013-14.

Court	Traffic and Parking Cases ^a			
	Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
First Judicial District				
Carson City				
Carson City Justice Court ^b	12,417	10,694	12,239	10,456
Storey County				
Virginia City Justice Court	831	560	767	554
Second Judicial District				
Washoe County				
Incline Village Justice Court	2,496	2,378	2,466	2,131
Reno Justice Court	27,417 ^c	24,138	27,478 ^c	22,409
Sparks Justice Court	9,399	10,200	9,539	10,077
Wadsworth Justice Court	2,566	2,258	2,655	2,295
Third Judicial District				
Lyon County				
Canal Justice Court	2,204	1,267	2,411	1,402
Dayton Justice Court	3,155	3,835	3,147	3,731
Walker River Justice Court	1,507	1,960	1,768	1,616
Fourth Judicial District				
Elko County				
Carlin Justice Court	390	611	363	575
Eastline Justice Court	1,090	1,385	939	1,246
Elko Justice Court	6,377	6,007	6,247	5,736
Jackpot Justice Court	1,344	2,126	2,058 ^d	2,177
Wells Justice Court	4,377 ^c	5,544 ^c	4,367	4,644
Fifth Judicial District				
Esmeralda County				
Esmeralda Justice Court	2,613	2,673	2,551	2,596
Mineral County				
Hawthorne Justice Court	3,661	3,954	3,379	3,662
Nye County				
Beatty Justice Court	2,818	2,906	2,591	2,579
Pahrump Justice Court	3,155	3,615	2,720	3,578
Tonopah Justice Court	1,927	2,201	1,819	2,078
Sixth Judicial District				
Humboldt County				
Union Justice Court	4,175	5,158	3,912	4,952
Lander County				
Argenta Justice Court	2,430	1,745	2,513	1,875
Austin Justice Court	431	788	439	804
Pershing County				
Lake Justice Court	1,257	1,048	849	792
Seventh Judicial District				
Eureka County				
Beowawe Justice Court	490	323	391	358
Eureka Justice Court	1,051	1,479	1,020	1,397
Lincoln County				
Meadow Valley Justice Court	546	685	759 ^d	704
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court	1,912	3,054	1,820	2,880
White Pine County				
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	2,277	2,604	2,477	2,534
Eighth Judicial District				
Clark County				
Boulder Justice Court	864	959	856	872
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,421	1,572	1,311	1,475
Goodsprings Justice Court	14,652	12,109	12,673	11,447
Henderson Justice Court	4,875	4,499	4,885	4,394
Las Vegas Justice Court	202,940 ^f	168,852 ^f	198,186	171,675
Laughlin Justice Court	5,583	8,545	5,315	7,620
Mesquite Justice Court	0	1	0	0
Moapa Justice Court	1,194	2,167	1,360 ^d	2,093
Moapa Valley Justice Court	431	694	431	682
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,182	1,437	1,105	1,347
Searchlight Justice Court	2,777	4,169	2,334	4,013
Ninth Judicial District				
Douglas County				
East Fork Justice Court	5,324	6,676 ^c	5,187	5,130 ^g
Tahoe Justice Court	2,744	2,943	2,436	2,847
Tenth Judicial District				
Churchill County				
New River Justice Court	4,661	4,936	4,427	4,734
Total	352,973^h	324,755	344,218^h	318,167

^a Case information includes juvenile traffic statistics (see appendix table A9) and reopened cases.

^b Carson City Justice Court includes municipal court information.

^c Reopened cases not reported.

^d Includes administrative closures.

^f Reopened cases not reported for juvenile traffic.

^g Dispositions reported by charges so total disposed reported was divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made at the case level.

^h Includes 12 Total Filed and 28 Total Disposed for Lund Justice Court, which closed December 2012.

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

Justice Court Traffic

The traffic caseload of the Justice Courts represents 67 percent of all traffic cases filed in Nevada. Parking violations and juvenile traffic cases are included in the Justice Court traffic statistics. The last 2 years of traffic filing and disposition information for the Justice Courts is summarized in Table 14.

Statewide, Justice Court traffic filings decreased 8 percent from last fiscal year. There were 13 courts that had decreases in traffic filings. Canal (43 percent), Beowawe (34 percent), Virginia City (33 percent), and Argenta (28 percent) Justice Courts had the largest percentage decreases in traffic filings.

The three Justice Courts with the highest traffic caseloads also experienced decreases in their filings. Las Vegas Justice Court, which covers the most populous township in the state, continues to have the highest traffic caseload with 52 percent of the statewide total. Reno (7 percent) and Goodsprings (4 percent) Justice Courts had the next highest shares of the Justice Court traffic caseload. These three courts experienced filing decreases of 17, 12, and 17 percent, respectively.

For most Justice Courts, traffic filings increased in fiscal year 2014. There were 29 courts that had increases in traffic filings, however, these courts only accounted for 27 percent of Justice Court traffic filings. Austin (83 percent), Moapa (82 percent), Moapa Valley (61 percent), and Pahrnagat Valley (60 percent) Justice Courts had the largest percentage increases in traffic filings.

Statewide, traffic dispositions closely matched the traffic filing trends. Traffic dispositions at the Justice Courts decreased less than 8 percent from fiscal year 2013. There were 17 courts with decreases and 25 courts with increases, or no changes, in traffic dispositions from fiscal year 2013. The disposition information for Justice Court traffic and parking violations is also provided in Table 14.

The total clearance rate for traffic cases in the Justice Courts was 98 percent for fiscal year 2014, which is the same as reported in fiscal year 2013.

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

Conviction Rates in the Nevada Trial Courts

Conviction rates are an important measure that policymakers may use to better understand the performance of the criminal justice system. A conviction rate is defined in this analysis as the number of court dispositions where the defendant either pled guilty or was convicted at trial, divided by the total number of dispositions. A review of convictions in Nevada trial courts for fiscal years 2011-14 indicates that a majority of defendants are being convicted at relatively consistent rates year-to-year.

The table below shows the conviction rates for non-traffic and traffic dispositions in Nevada's District, Justice, and Municipal Courts over the past 4 fiscal years. The table includes the overall percentage of convictions, as well as their breakdown by guilty pleas and trial convictions.

District Courts are responsible for hearing felony and gross misdemeanor offenses. In fiscal year 2014, District Courts reported convictions in 13,370 of the 15,870 non-traffic cases they disposed, for a conviction rate of 84 percent. The rate has decreased every fiscal year since 2011, for an overall decrease of 3 percent. The majority of non-traffic dispositions in fiscal year 2014 were guilty pleas, with 83 percent the result of a guilty plea and 1 percent the result of a bench or jury trial conviction.

Justice Courts are responsible for addressing misdemeanor and traffic offenses. They also conduct preliminary hearings for felony and gross misdemeanor offenses, with those offenses adjudicated in District Courts. The Justice Court analysis is accordingly limited to misdemeanor dispositions, as those are the only non-traffic offenses which Justice Courts have jurisdiction to record convictions of defendants. In fiscal year 2014, Justice Courts reported convictions in 23,666 of the 47,029 misdemeanor non-traffic cases they disposed, for a conviction rate of 50 percent. The rate increased in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and decreased in fiscal year 2014, for an overall increase of 5 percent for fiscal years 2011-14. The majority of misdemeanor non-traffic dispositions in fiscal year 2014 were guilty pleas, with 50 percent the result of a guilty plea and less than 1 percent the result of a bench or jury trial conviction. Justice Courts also reported convictions in 261,456 of the 315,610 traffic cases they disposed in fiscal year 2014, for a conviction rate of 83 percent. The rate decreased in fiscal year 2012 and increased in fiscal year 2014, resulting in an overall increase of 3 percent for fiscal years 2011-14. The majority of traffic dispositions in fiscal year 2014 were guilty pleas, with 83 percent the result of a guilty plea and less than 1 percent the result of a bench trial conviction.

Municipal Courts are responsible for adjudicating misdemeanor and traffic violations in incorporated communities. In fiscal year 2014, Municipal Courts reported convictions in 33,931 of the 50,012 non-traffic cases they disposed, for a conviction rate of 68 percent. The rate decreased in fiscal years 2012 and 2013, and increased in fiscal year 2014, for an overall decrease of 6 percent for fiscal years 2011-14. The majority of non-traffic dispositions in fiscal year 2014 were guilty pleas, with 67 percent the result of a guilty plea and 1 percent the result of a bench or jury trial conviction. Municipal Courts also reported convictions in 127,991 of the 145,484 traffic cases they disposed in fiscal year 2014, for a conviction rate of 88 percent. The rate remained unchanged for fiscal years 2011-13 and decreased in fiscal year 2014, for an overall decrease of 1 percent for fiscal years 2011-14. The majority of traffic dispositions in fiscal year 2014 were guilty pleas, with 88 percent the result of a guilty plea and less than 1 percent the result of a bench trial conviction.

Conviction rates reflect the Nevada courts in terms of their consistency, as the rates remained relatively unchanged year-to-year. This analysis shows that a majority of defendants brought before the judges in Nevada are convicted. Importantly, conviction rates do not indicate an adversarial role between the courts and defendants. They do reflect the decisions of prosecutors, since conviction rates only include incidents that prosecutors decide to bring to court. They also reflect the strength of evidence presented in cases, which is exemplified here by the high conviction rate in District Courts. The preliminary hearing process in Justice Courts ensures that only cases with probable cause proceed to the trial stage in District Courts.

Statewide Trial Court Conviction Rates, Fiscal Years 2011-14.

Type of Disposition	Cases Disposed by Conviction ^{a,b}				Percentage of Dispositions Resulting in Conviction											
					Total				Guilty Plea				Bench/Jury Trial			
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
District Courts, Non-Traffic ^c	12,283	14,174	14,103	13,370	87%	85%	85%	84%	85%	84%	84%	83%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Justice Courts, Non-Traffic ^d	26,030	23,632	25,447	23,666	45%	50%	56%	50%	45%	49%	55%	50%	<1%	1%	1%	<1%
Justice Courts, Traffic ^f	278,549	290,425	264,656	261,456	80%	78%	78%	83%	80%	78%	77%	83%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%
Municipal Courts, Non-Traffic	50,020	40,631	37,410	33,931	74%	71%	65%	68%	73%	70%	65%	67%	1%	1%	<1%	1%
Municipal Courts, Traffic ^f	191,825	163,335	152,955	127,991	89%	89%	89%	88%	88%	89%	89%	88%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%

^a Includes reopened cases.

^b Totals reflect aggregate information from the Nevada courts. Information contained herein may reflect non-standard reporting.

^c Excludes criminal appeals of lower jurisdiction courts.

^d Excludes felony and gross misdemeanor cases.

^f Excludes juvenile traffic cases.

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

MUNICIPAL COURT SUMMARY

MUNICIPAL COURTS

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

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

Statistical Summary

The Municipal Court non-traffic caseload information (filings and dispositions) for the last two fiscal years

is summarized in Table 15. No civil filings have been reported by Municipal Courts for the past 3 years. Statewide, Municipal Court non-traffic filings in fiscal year 2014 remained very close to fiscal year 2013 levels.

Overall, there were 170 more (of 52,906) non-traffic filings than last fiscal year; six courts had increases in non-traffic filings. Fallon Municipal Court reported the largest percentage increase from last year at more than 29 percent; this year's reported number of filings was the largest since 2009 for the court. Reno Municipal Court had the second largest percentage increase at 25 percent, and also had the largest magnitude increase for all Municipal Courts (1,804 more filings). Some of this increase was due to improved case tracking, in particular capturing reopened cases. While new filings increased almost 15 percent for the court (7,217 to 8,289), the reopened case counts increased significantly (11 to 743).

West Wendover (12 percent), Fernley (4 percent), Boulder City (4 percent), and Yerington (1 percent) Municipal Courts also had increased filings this year. Reopened case information can be found in the Annual Report Appendix Tables.

Of the remaining 10 courts that had decreases in filings this year, Caliente (50 percent), Carlin (32 percent), Elko (23 percent), Wells (21 percent), and Ely (21 percent) Municipal Courts had the largest percentage decreases. However, courts with smaller caseloads can vary greatly year to year, leading to large percentage changes even though magnitudes remain relatively close. These five courts only accounted for 190 fewer filings from last year (100 from Elko alone), where

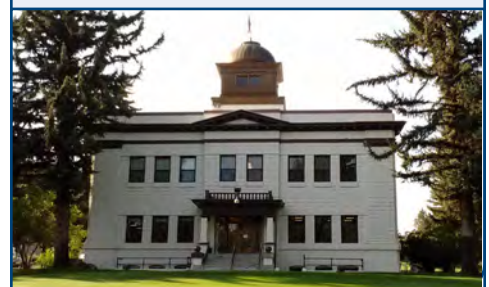


White Pine County's first courthouse was located in the town of Hamilton, but was destroyed by fire. After the county seat was moved to Ely, a temporary courthouse was built. In 1909, a two-story courthouse (pictured above) was constructed for a cost of nearly \$54,000. Later, in 1925, a jailhouse was added.

a court like Las Vegas Municipal Court (which accounted for 52 percent of all Municipal Court filings) decreased almost 3 percent but accounted for 792 less filings (the largest magnitude decrease of all Municipal Courts). Las Vegas Municipal Court, like the Reno Municipal Court, greatly improved their reopened case tracking. This fiscal year, the Las Vegas Municipal Court reported 1,959 reopened cases compared to only 3 last year.

Non-traffic dispositions decreased less than 13 percent from last year. While nine courts had fewer dispositions this year than last, some courts had large percentage increases. Caliente Municipal Court doubled the number of dispositions reported from last year, and Fallon (58 percent) and West Wendover (43 percent)

The existing White Pine County Courthouse was built in 1911 and houses the District and Justice Courts, as well as the County Recorder and Treasurer. In 2010, additional county offices were added to the back of the courthouse. Also, the courthouse needed and recently received updated security measures.



Nevada Judiciary Annual Report

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2014)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carson City

Judge Tom Armstrong*
Judge John Tatro*

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Reno

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

Sparks

Judge Barbara McCarthy
Judge Jim Spoo

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fernley

Judge Lori Matheus

Yerington

Judge Cheri Emm-Smith

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carlin

Judge Teri Feasel*

Elko

Judge Mason E. Simons*

Wells

Judge Patricia Calton*

West Wendover

Judge Brian E. Boatman*

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Caliente

Judge Jack Lenardson

Ely

Judge Michael Kalleres

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Boulder City

Judge Victor Miller*

Henderson

Judge Diana Hampton
Judge Douglas Hedger
Judge Mark Stevens

Las Vegas

Judge Heidi Almase
Judge Bert Brown
Judge Martin Hastings
Judge Cedric Kerns
Judge Cynthia Leung
Judge Susan Roger

Mesquite

Judge Ryan W. Toone*

North Las Vegas

Judge Sean Hoeffgen
Judge Catherine Ramsey

10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fallon

Judge Mike Lister

*Also serves as Justice of the Peace

MUNICIPAL COURT SUMMARY

Table 15. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2013-14.

Court	Non-traffic Misdemeanor Cases ^a				Traffic and Parking Cases ^a			
	Filed		Disposed		Filed		Disposed	
	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2013	FY 2014
First Judicial District								
Carson City Municipal Court	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Second Judicial District								
Reno Municipal Court	7,228	9,032	5,239	8,570	14,442	18,475	12,426	17,989
Sparks Municipal Court	1,984	1,896	2,580	2,543	5,050	5,185	5,450	5,706
Third Judicial District								
Fernley Municipal Court	204	213	197	242	510	2,360	484	1,837
Yerington Municipal Court	170	171	178 ^c	144	68	92	71 ^c	81
Fourth Judicial District								
Carlin Municipal Court	75	51	79	54	90	82	83	70
Elko Municipal Court	433	333	416	316	871	804	876	757
Wells Municipal Court	61 ^d	48 ^d	22	20	267 ^d	170 ^d	213	184
West Wendover Municipal Court	187	209	123	176	612	460	495	490
Seventh Judicial District								
Caliente Municipal Court	10	5	3	6	102	195	83	177
Ely Municipal Court	231 ^d	183 ^d	192 ^f	211	488 ^d	536 ^d	468 ^f	596
Eighth Judicial District								
Boulder Municipal Court	621	643	606	614	3,156	3,860	3,273	3,615
Henderson Municipal Court	5,411	4,924	5,235	4,101	22,493	19,218	23,342	20,071
Las Vegas Municipal Court	28,259 ^g	27,467	36,232 ^h	26,730	85,994 ^g	74,583	92,931 ^h	65,602
Mesquite Municipal Court	676	610	549	548	1,595	1,482	1,656	1,304
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	6,938	6,800	5,481	5,463	33,368	29,899	29,653	26,945
Tenth Judicial District								
Fallon Municipal Court	248	321	173	274	751	546	616	546
Total	52,736	52,906	57,305	50,012	169,857	157,947	172,120	145,970

NR Not reported.

^a Case statistics include reopened cases. Traffic and parking cases include juvenile traffic statistics (see appendix table A9).

^b Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Tables 13 and 14) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^c For the months preceding January 2013, dispositions were reported on the charge level. Footnote (f) applies for dispositions for these months.

^d Reopened cases not reported.

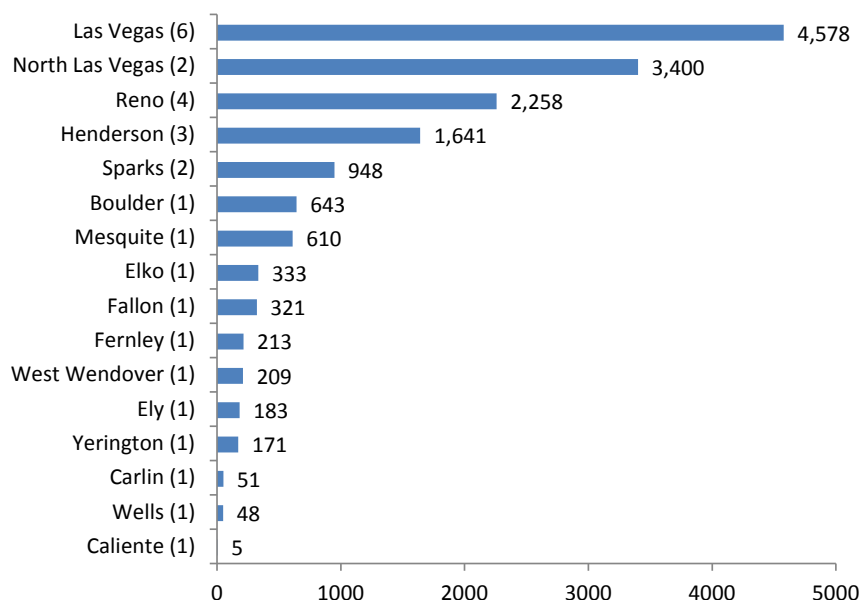
^f Court reported by charges so total charges were divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made at the case level.

^g Reopened cases under-reported.

^h Includes administrative case closures.

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 2014
(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,890.

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.

MUNICIPAL COURT SUMMARY



Built in 1914, Clark County's first courthouse replaced a temporary structure built in 1909. The initial cost of the courthouse was \$46,400. In 1958, the courthouse was demolished to make room for a newer one. Later, in 2005 the Regional Justice Center was created.

had large percentage increases as well. Reno Municipal Court had the largest magnitude (3,331) and second-largest percentage (64 percent) increase in dispositions, which was due in part to the improved business practices previously discussed. This improved tracking increased last year's reported 73 percent clearance rate to 95 percent this year for the Reno Municipal Court. Conversely, the Las Vegas Municipal Court reported the largest magnitude (9,502) decrease from last year which significantly decreased the statewide total. However, last year there was a large number of administrative closures, which pushed their clearance rate to 128 percent; this year, the rate was 97 percent.

Statewide, the clearance rate for the Municipal Courts non-traffic caseload was 95 percent.

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

Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2014 is shown in Figure 6. In the Municipal Courts, traffic cases are not included in the determination of cases

filed per judicial position because cases may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement; thus, excluding them provides a more equal comparison between courts.

Las Vegas and North Las Vegas Municipal Courts continue to have the most non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas (4,578) and North Las Vegas (3,400) were followed by Reno (2,258), Henderson (1,641), and Sparks (948). The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts (1,890) increased by 7 from fiscal year 2013. The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in Figure 5 and Table 13 with Justice Courts.

Judicial Assistance

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

For fiscal year 2014, the Las Vegas Municipal Court was the only Municipal Court that reported a quasi-judicial position, with 1.00 FTE for a traffic hearing commissioner who helped process traffic cases.

Municipal Court Traffic

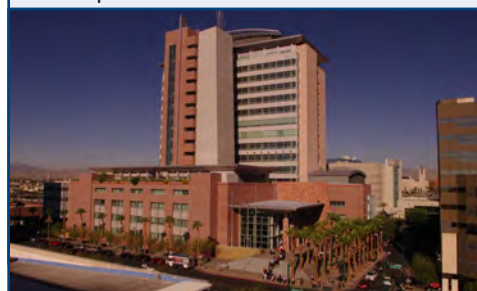
In the Municipal Courts, the number of traffic and parking violation filings decreased 7 percent (11,910 less filings, for a total of 157,947) from fiscal year 2013. Municipal filing and disposition information is contained in Table 15.

Seven Municipal Courts had increased filings this year. Fernley Municipal Court had the largest percentage increase (363 percent) in the state; this could have resulted from the new law enforcement positions filled this year. Caliente Municipal Court had the next largest percentage increase (91 percent), and Reno Municipal Court had the largest

magnitude change (4,033 more filings). Except for Boulder City (which increased filings by 22 percent), all of the municipal courts in Clark County (Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite, and North Las Vegas) had decreases and accounted for 18,268 fewer filings than last year. Las Vegas Municipal Court accounted for 47 percent of all municipal traffic cases in the state, and the Clark County Courts as a whole accounted for 82 percent of the municipal traffic and parking violations total; the Washoe County Municipal Courts (Reno and Sparks) accounted for 15 percent.

Municipal Court traffic and parking violation dispositions declined 15 percent from last year; disposition information is provided in Table 15. Courts' disposition changes trended with their filing changes; courts which had increased filings also had increased dispositions, and vice versa. For example, Fernley Municipal Court, which had the largest percentage increase in filings, also had the largest percentage increase in dispositions (280 percent). Caliente Municipal Court reported the second largest percentage increase (113 percent), and Reno Municipal Court reported the largest magnitude increase (5,563 more traffic dispositions). Conversely, the Clark County Municipal Courts reported 22 percent less dispositions in aggregate this year from last (117,537 this year versus 150,855 last year). Statewide, the clearance rate for Municipal Court traffic caseload was 92 percent.

The current courthouse in Clark County is known as the Regional Justice Center (RJC). The 17-floor RJC was completed in 2005. The Regional Justice Center houses the Supreme Court of Nevada, as well as the Clark County District, Las Vegas Justice, and Las Vegas Municipal Courts.



Nevada Judiciary Annual Report

NEVADA SPECIALTY COURTS REPORT

NEVADA SPECIALTY COURTS

This section covers Specialty Court programs funded during fiscal year 2014 from administrative assessments (AA) per NRS 176.0613 and 176.059. Not all Nevada programs may be represented in this report, as courts may have a Specialty Court program for which they do not receive funding from NRS 176.0613 or 176.059.

WHAT ARE SPECIALTY COURTS?

Criminal Specialty Courts are problem-solving courts designed to address the root causes of criminal activity by coordinating efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense, probation, law enforcement, treatment providers, and social services. Together, they maintain a critical balance of authority, supervision, support, and encouragement. Specialty Court programs are rigorous, requiring frequent drug testing and court appearances, along with tightly structured regimens of treatment and recovery services.

With the support of state and local governments, Nevada has been a national leader for Specialty Courts since it instituted its first Specialty Court in 1992. The benefits of Drug Courts and other Specialty Courts are now available in nearly every county in Nevada, and at almost every court level, involving both misdemeanor and felony offenders.



Douglas County's first courthouse was built in Genoa in 1865 and later rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1910. Shortly thereafter, the county seat was moved to Minden and the courthouse was used as a schoolhouse until 1956. Today, the Genoa courthouse serves as a museum.

The goal of a Specialty Court is to break the cycle of the "revolving door" syndrome and support participants in achieving total abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol. It promotes responsibility, accountability, and teaches participants to become productive law abiding citizens, which reduces criminal recidivism and provides for better, healthier communities.

Specialty Courts increase the probability of each participant's success, by providing a wide array of ancillary services such as counseling, mental health treatment, family therapy, job skills training, and other life-skill enhancement services. In addition, families are reunified and parents regain or are able to retain custody of their children. Most significantly, many of the judges who serve as Specialty Court Judges continue to serve in the capacity after retirement as Senior Judges, and some sitting judges have requested extensions of their assignment. Many judges have taken on Specialty Court duties in addition to their normal docket responsibilities.

SPECIALTY COURTS FUNDING

Nevada's Specialty Courts receive funding from administrative assessments

In 1916, a new courthouse was constructed when the county seat was moved to Minden, at a cost of \$25,000. Later, the District and Justice Courts moved to a more accessible location next to the sheriff's office. The 1916 courthouse now only houses Douglas County offices.



(NRS 176.0613 and 176.059), local governments, federal grants, and community support. Additionally, all Specialty Court participants are charged program fees to help offset program costs. Program fee collection and distribution varies from program to program.

Some Specialty Court Programs in Nevada became operational through the support of federal grants, State General Funds, and local government support. As these funding sources diminished due to economic down-turn, programs have been forced to be creative in obtaining the necessary resources by collaborating

Table 16. Summary of Specialty Courts Revenue and Allocations, Fiscal Year 2014

Revenue	
Balance Forward from Previous Fiscal Year	\$2,715,906
Administrative Assessments NRS 176.0613	\$3,358,074
Bail Forfeitures NRS 178.518	\$92,481
Court Assessment NRS 176.059	\$1,496,332
DUI Fee NRS 484C.515	\$217,213
Total Revenue Received	\$7,880,006
Allocations	
Total Specialty Court Program	\$5,455,079
Training and Education ¹	\$53,059
Total Allocations	\$5,508,138
Balance Forward to the Next Fiscal Year²	\$2,371,868

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

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

NEVADA SPECIALTY COURTS REPORT

Table 17. Summary of Specialty Court Program Distributions, Fiscal Year 2014

Court	Fiscal Year 2013 Carry Forward	Fiscal Year 2014 Distributed	Fiscal Year 2014 Approved
<i>Programs of General Jurisdiction</i>			
Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)			
Second Judicial District (Includes Diversion Program)	\$0	\$681,246	\$681,246
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$1,583,752	\$1,583,752
Adult Drug Courts (Rural Counties)			
Western Region (5 Programs - Carson City/Storey, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, & Mineral Counties)	\$0	\$406,380	\$406,380
Fourth Judicial District	\$0	\$114,456	\$114,456
Fifth Judicial District	\$0	\$102,123	\$102,123
Sixth Judicial District (Humboldt County)	\$0	\$50,199	\$50,199
Sixth Judicial District (Pershing County)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Seventh Judicial District	\$0	\$52,386	\$52,386
Family Drug Court (Urban Counties)			
Second Judicial District	\$11	\$70,430	\$70,441
Eighth Judicial District	\$15,162	\$285,929	\$301,091
Felony DUI Courts (Urban Counties)			
Second Judicial District	\$0	\$81,043	\$81,043
Eighth Judicial District	\$18,356	\$162,968	\$181,324
Felony DUI Courts (Rural Counties)			
Carson City	\$23,167	\$7,354	\$28,385
Juvenile Drug Courts (Urban Counties)			
Second Judicial District (Drug/Mental Health)	\$12	\$44,668	\$44,680
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$241,550	\$241,550
Juvenile Drug Courts (Rural Counties)			
First Judicial District	\$6,326	\$4,318	\$10,644
Fourth Judicial District	\$0	\$52,322	\$52,322
Fifth Judicial District	\$657	\$3,922	\$4,579
Seventh Judicial District	\$7,065	\$8,114	\$15,179
Mental Health Courts (Urban Counties)			
Second Judicial District	\$0	\$17,665	\$17,665
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$469,957	\$469,957
Veteran Treatment Court (Urban Counties)			
Second Judicial District	\$0	\$83,269	\$83,269
Eighth Judicial District	\$0	\$32,778	\$32,778
Other Drug Courts (Urban Counties)			
Eighth Judicial District Child Support	\$0	\$44,208	\$44,208
Eighth Judicial District Dependency Mothers	\$0	\$99,482	\$99,482
<i>Programs of Limited Jurisdiction</i>			
Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)			
Las Vegas Justice Court	\$0	\$224,289	\$224,289
Las Vegas Municipal Drug Court	\$8,942	\$44,023	\$52,965
Mental Health Courts (Rural Counties)			
Carson City Justice/Municipal Court	\$0	\$59,122	\$59,122
Other Programs (Urban Counties)			
Henderson Municipal Court ABC Program	\$40	\$27,766	\$27,806
Las Vegas Justice DUI Court (2 Programs)	\$0	\$58,971	\$58,971
Las Vegas Municipal DUI Court	\$29,784	\$41,722	\$71,506
Las Vegas Municipal Women in Need	\$0	\$37,537	\$37,537
Las Vegas Municipal HOPE Court	\$150	\$110,696	\$110,846
Reno Justice Adult Drug, Alcohol, & DV Court	\$79,308	\$48,027	\$127,335
Reno Municipal Alcohol & Other Drug Court (2 Programs)	\$18	\$80,621	\$80,639
Sparks Municipal Alcohol & Drug Court	\$299	\$21,786	\$22,085
TOTAL SPECIALTY COURT DISTRIBUTIONS	\$189,297	\$5,455,079	\$5,642,240

NEVADA SPECIALTY COURTS REPORT

with local providers and community support for additional funding, or by cutting back on services or the number of participants allowed into the program.

Tables 16 and 17 represent the Nevada Supreme Court's Specialty Court Programs revenues, allocations, and distributions for fiscal year 2014.

As shown in Table 16, the amount of allocations totaled \$5,508,138. The difference between the 2014 allocations and revenue left \$2,371,868 to carry forward to the next fiscal year appropriation. This carry forward amount is critical for ensuring Specialty Courts are funded during the first quarter of next fiscal year.

Table 17 provides a summary of the Specialty Court Program distributions, including the individual programs carry-forward balance from fiscal year 2013, actual amounts distributed, and the allocations authorized by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada for fiscal year 2014. Occasionally, a program's carry forward balance, in addition to the amounts distributed, may be more than the amount approved for the fiscal year.

NEVADA'S SPECIALTY COURTS' PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County in 1992 established the first drug court in the State. The program was created due to the enormous caseload involving drug related crimes. Since the program was created in a non-legislative

year, it was primarily funded by the county through funds obtained by the court's traffic and driving under the influence (DUI) schools and by funds collected from participants in the drug court. Since this program provided an alternative to incarceration, it seemed logical to approach the Legislature to provide funding for this very successful program.

During the 1993 Legislative Session, Assembly Concurrent Resolution 71, which directed the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of drug and alcohol abuse among criminal offenders was approved. The interim study committee adopted 28 recommendations; the majority of the recommendations were for legislation related to the collection of statistics, civil commitment, funding, eligibility requirements, establishment of other similar programs, deferred prosecution, treatment for first-time DUI offenders, mandatory minimum sentences, inpatient treatment services, sanctions for juvenile drug and alcohol offenders, the creation of a substance abuse program director for the Department of Prisons, funding to study the progress of treated substance abusers, and encouraging the Governor of Nevada to appropriate funds in the 1995-97 budget for treatment programs. The final report of the committee can be found on the legislative website (Bulletin 95-09).

Since the initial study of specialty courts, the Legislature has passed numerous bills to support the Specialty Court programs. That Legislative support has allowed more than 9,600 Specialty Court participants to succeed in graduating from Specialty Court programs.

Future Specialty Court participants will have the advantages of experienced and motivated program managers who have refined, expanded, and improved the Specialty Court programs throughout the state. To aid participants in the program in being successful, Specialty Court programs can now track participant progress using a new sophisticated case management system. The

In 1973, a new facility was built behind the existing courthouse to house the courtroom and judicial chambers for the Churchill County District Court. The courthouse built in 1903 now serves as the entrance to the county complex as well as office space for Churchill County.



new system will allow programs to capture, measure, and analyze specific and detailed program statistics. It is expected that the additional data provided by the case management system will help improve the Specialty Court programs in Nevada by allowing program administrators to identify areas where programs are failing participants, so they can be addressed and improved. The system will also allow administrators to identify program successes, which can then be shared and supported to ensure the continued success of Nevada's Specialty Court programs.

SPECIALTY COURTS STATISTICS

During fiscal year 2014, and as shown in Table 18, Nevada's 44 Specialty Courts admitted 2,919 participants into various programs throughout the state. Overall, 1,421 participants graduated from Specialty Court programs, which resulted in a graduation rate of 49 percent. Nevada's 49 percent graduation rate is below the average national drug court graduation rate of 53 percent¹. The number of participants terminated from the Specialty Court programs was reported to be 1,360. Typically, terminations are the result of participants' repeated non-compliance with program rules and/or court orders.

¹ Huddlestone, W. and Marlowe, D. (2011). Painting the Current Picture: A National Report on Drug Courts and Other Problem-Solving Court Programs in the United States. National Drug Court Institute, Alexandria, VA.



The location of Churchill County's Courthouse has moved several times. In 1903, a courthouse was built in Fallon and the next year the county seat was moved to Fallon from Stillwater. The courthouse served as the chambers and courtroom for the Churchill County District Court until 1973.

NEVADA SPECIALTY COURTS REPORT

Table 18. Summary of Specialty Court Information, Fiscal Year 2014.

Jurisdiction	Court Type	New Participants Admissions ^a	Graduates	Terminations ^b	Active Cases At Year End	Drug Free Babies Born
Western Region						
Western Regional Drug Court	Adult Drug (5 programs)	204	90	143	157	5
Carson City & Storey County	Juvenile Drug	4	10	1	6	1
Carson City	Felony DUI Court	23	10	6	50	2
Carson City Justice	Mental Health	38	17	36	30	1
	TOTAL	269	127	186	243	9
Washoe Region						
Second Judicial District	Adult Drug	462	204	250	580	8
	Family Drug	32	15	16	27	2
	Family Mental Health Court	8	5	0	10	0
	Felony DUI	47	64	13	134	2
	Juvenile Drug	35	18	22	18	0
	Mental Health	212	115	102	217	6
	Prison Re-entry	13	6	2	14	0
	Veterans Court	55	37	22	56	0
Reno Justice	Alcohol & Drug Court	248	50	114	277	2
Sparks Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court	17	14	13	62	0
Reno Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court (2 Programs)	107	65	54	96	6
	TOTAL	1,236	593	608	1,491	26
Eastern Region						
Elko County	Adult Drug	28	16	26	30	6
	Juvenile Drug	13	13	8	11	8
Lincoln County	Adult Drug	8	2	4	6	0
White Pine County	Adult Drug	13	8	5	14	0
	TOTAL	62	39	43	61	14
Fifth Judicial District						
Nye County	Adult Drug	78	25	39	60	4
	Juvenile Drug	1	0	3	1	0
	TOTAL	79	25	42	61	4
Central Region						
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	32	32	16	63	4
Pershing County	Adult Drug	16	6	2	30	0
	TOTAL	48	38	18	93	4
Clark Region						
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	426	179	134	411	4
	Child Support Drug	13	5	8	17	0
	Dependency/Family Drug	46	32	27	29	0
	Dependency Mothers	19	7	13	14	0
	Felony DUI Court	194	119	38	417	0
	Juvenile Drug	98	33	12	245	0
	Mental Health	52	27	36	98	0
	Veterans Court	39	20	11	43	0
	Adult Drug	114	52	93	215	7
	DUI Court (2 programs)	79	66	9	116	2
Las Vegas Municipal	Adult Drug	35	8	25	27	1
	DUI Court	42	31	14	67	0
	Women in Need	20	3	6	27	1
Henderson Municipal	HOPE Court (Habitual Offender)	31	10	21	33	2
	ABC Court (Habitual Offender)	17	7	16	22	0
	TOTAL	1,225	599	463	1,781	17
ALL SPECIALTY COURTS	GRAND TOTAL	2,919	1,421	1,360	3,730	74

^a Includes new admissions and voluntary admissions.

^b Includes terminations, transfers, and deceased participants.

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

NEVADA SPECIALTY COURTS REPORT

As seen in Table 18, the number of children born without drugs in their system to Specialty Court participants was 74. In the Specialty Court programs, drug-free children are celebrated and represent one of the greatest successes of Specialty Courts. Without Specialty Courts, these children may have been born already addicted to drugs or suffered from fetal alcohol syndrome.

Table 18 includes the subtotals for each Specialty Court Region. The Western Region has 8 Specialty Court programs including 5 adult drug courts, a juvenile drug court, a felony DUI court, and a mental health court. These programs reported 269 new participants during fiscal year 2014, while 127 participants graduated, creating a graduation rate of 47 percent. There were 186 terminations from the program, with 243 active participants remaining at the end of the fiscal year. There were 9 children born drug-free.

The Washoe Region includes 12 different Specialty Court programs including 4 alcohol and drug programs, an adult drug court, a family drug court, a family mental health court, a felony DUI court, a juvenile drug court, a mental health court, a prison re-entry court, and

a veterans court. These programs had 1,236 new participants and graduated 593, for a graduation rate of 48 percent. The number of active participants at year-end was 1,491. Those terminated from the Washoe Region programs were 608. The number of drug-free children born to participants was reported at 26.

The Eastern Region maintains 4 programs and covers the largest geographic area. The 4 programs include 3 adult drug courts and 1 juvenile drug court. The programs in this region added 62 new participants. They also reported 39 participants graduating, which produced a graduation rate of 63 percent. The number of active participants in the Eastern Region programs totaled 61, while 43 were terminated from the program during the fiscal year. The total number of children reported as born drug-free was 14.

The Fifth Judicial District reported 79 new participants entered into their 2 Specialty Court programs, which include an adult drug and a juvenile drug court. The number of participants who graduated totaled 25, and represented an almost 32 percent graduation rate. There are 61 active participants still in the program, and 42 cases were reported as terminated

during the fiscal year. Also, 4 children were born drug-free in the Fifth Judicial District Specialty Court programs.

The Central Region represents the Sixth Judicial District and has 2 adult drug court programs. These programs reported 48 new participants during fiscal year 2014, with 38 graduating, for a graduation rate of 79 percent. There were 18 terminations from the program, with 93 active participants remaining at the end of the fiscal year. They also reported 4 children born drug-free during the fiscal year.

The Clark Region maintains 16 Specialty Court programs, which can be found in the District, Justice, and Municipal Court jurisdictions. These programs address alcohol and drug addictions for families, adults, juveniles, our veterans, and the homeless. In these 16 programs, 1,225 new participants were added during fiscal year 2014. The total number of participants who graduated was 599, while 463 were terminated. The graduation rate was 49 percent. The number of participants that remain actively participating in the program totaled 1,781. The number of drug-free children born to participants during the fiscal year was reported at 17.

COURTS WITH INCOMPLETE DATA

Courts that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2014 are listed in Table 19, as are the specific elements of the missing data. Once again, all courts provided caseload information. In a few instances, courts submitted all they could count, but acknowledged that there are still issues with the statistics they are working to correct. In those instances, the data appears in italics or is footnoted, but the court may not appear in Table 19 if all monthly reports were filed.

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

The Administrative Office of the Courts continues to work with the courts on technology projects that put case management systems in many rural and some urban courts. Case management systems provide an automated mechanism to prepare monthly statistical reports while also improving court processes and procedures.

No courts were added to the state-sponsored case management system this year. Currently, there are 29 courts using all or part of the state-sponsored system, excluding 12 courts using a similar system maintained by Clark County.


Table 19. Data Non-Reporting by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2014.^a

Court	Case Type	Filings/ Cases	Charges	Dispo- sitions	Table
First Judicial District					
Carson City District Court	Specific Juvenile Cases	NR	NR	NR	A5
	Reopened Juvenile Cases	NR			A5
	Reopened Juvenile Traffic Cases	NR			A9
Storey County District Court	Specific Juvenile Cases	NR	NR	NR	A5
	Reopened Juvenile Cases	NR			A5
	Reopened Juvenile Traffic Cases	NR			A9
Second Judicial District					
Washoe County District Court	Specific Family Case Types	NR		NR	A4
	Specific Juvenile Cases	NR	NR	NR	A5
	Reopened Juvenile Cases	NR			A5
Fourth Judicial District					
Wells Justice Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A6
Wells Municipal Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A8
Seventh Judicial District					
Ely Municipal Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A8
Eighth Judicial District					
Clark County District Court	Specific Juvenile Case Types	NR		NR	A5
Las Vegas Justice Court	Reopened Juvenile Traffic Cases	NR			A9
Ninth Judicial District					
Douglas District Court	Reopened Civil Cases	NR			A3
	Reopened Juvenile Traffic Cases	NR			A9
East Fork Justice Court	Specific Criminal Case Types	NR	NR	NR	A6
	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A6
	Reopened Civil Cases	NR			A7

NR Not Reported

^a Municipal Court civil cases are not included due to infrequent filings occurring in Municipal Courts.

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



**ALL APPENDIX TABLES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE
SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA WEBSITE
WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US.**

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

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

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO KEN LeTOURNEAU, WINNER OF THE SUPREME COURT'S NEVADA DAY
CELEBRATION, WITH THE WOODEN CUTTING BOARD OF THE STATE OF NEVADA FEATURED ON PAGE 18**



REFERENCES

- Surveyor General's Office
- Land Office
- Townships Subdivided
- County Seats
- Cities, Towns
- Boundary of Land Districts
- Rail Road Limits
- Military Reservations
- Boundary of Counties
- Indian Reservations

**BATTLE
BORN
NEVADA
PROUD**
150th
Anniversary of Statehood

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GENERAL LAND OFFICE
J. A. WILLIAMSON, COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEVADA.

Scale 1/2 Miles to 1 inch.

1876.

Compiled from the official Records of the General Land Office and other sources by
C. ROESER. Principally from the Survey of 1876.

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Supreme Court of Nevada

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