

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

FISCAL YEAR 2015



Supreme Court of Nevada

Back Row: Justice Nancy M. Saitta, Justice Michael A. Cherry, Justice Kristina Pickering, and Justice Mark Gibbons
Front Row: Associate Chief Justice Ron D. Parraguirre, Chief Justice James W. Hardesty, and Justice Michael L. Douglas



Court of Appeals

Judge Abbi Silver, Chief Judge Michael P. Gibbons, and Judge Jerome T. Tao

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015

Table of Contents

A Note from the State Court Administrator.....	2
A Message from the Chief Justice.....	3
Funding of the Nevada Judiciary.....	4
State of the Nevada Judiciary.....	5
Legislative Updates.....	9
Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.....	10
Judicial Committees and Commissions.....	11
Judicial Programs and Services.....	14
Supreme Court Technology.....	18
Trial Court News and Innovation.....	19
Awards and Honors.....	21
Nevada’s Court Model and Structure.....	22
The Nevada Judiciary Court Programs and Caseload Statistics Report	
Nevada Judiciary Summary.....	24
Appellate Courts Summary.....	27
District Court Summary.....	29
Justice Court Summary.....	36
Municipal Court Summary.....	41
Specialty Court Summary.....	44
Courts with Incomplete Data.....	48
In Memoriam.....	49



In November 2014, Nevada voters approved an amendment to Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution creating a Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals consists of Chief Judge Michael P. Gibbons, Judge Abbi Silver, and Judge Jerome T. Tao, who were appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval in December 2014 and took office in January 2015.

The Nevada Supreme Court assigns cases to the Court of Appeals in a defective model. The Supreme Court assigned 500 cases during the first 6 months the Court of Appeals was in operation. During that time, the Court of Appeals disposed of 304 cases and contributed to a 246 case decrease in appeals pending a decision in the Supreme Court.

“This is a historic moment for the legal community and Nevada,” said Chief Justice James W. Hardesty. “The judiciary promised the Court of Appeals would immediately go to work and this accomplishment confirms our promise. I am very proud of these judges.”

“We have hit the ground running and are making an immediate impact,” said Chief Judge Gibbons. “All three appellate judges understand the need for speedy, fair, and accurate decisions and we are working very hard to achieve this goal.”

The first case to be decided by the Court of Appeals was *Johnson v. State*. Johnson was convicted in Las Vegas of two counts of attempted murder with the use of a deadly weapon and five other charges. The court affirmed the verdicts of the jury and the sentencing decisions of the District Court Judge.

Appendix Tables

Available on the Supreme Court Website
WWW.NVCOURTS.GOV

A NOTE FROM THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice.
—Magna Carta

This year we celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, a document that helped shape our nation's Declaration of Independence and Constitution. Last November, the voters approved amending the Nevada Constitution for the creation of the Court of Appeals.

Staff of the Supreme Court, including most of the Administrative Office of the Courts, had 60 days from voter approval to prepare for the new court. Those efforts included establishing offices for three judges in both Carson City and Las Vegas; moving existing staff who were assigned to the Court of Appeals; processing more than 30 applications for the Commission on Judicial Selection; ordering, receiving, and setting up computers and peripherals; and implementing a separate case management system and internal file structures on our servers.

Additional efforts were made by the Supreme Court and staff to create the rules for the new court, review and assign cases, as well as train the judges and their staff, who were hired and on board by March.

These efforts noted above are just a few of the many, many details that had to be completed during this year. The Supreme Court is very proud of the efforts behind this new court, which will improve the access to justice for the citizens of our State.

This report contains statistics from the first 6 months of the Court of Appeals as well as the statistics on the caseloads and work of the Supreme Court and trial courts, who continued their dedicated work of providing timely justice throughout the year.

The Nevada Judiciary was busy with many other activities this year also, and a few of the details are provided throughout our report. Many of our committees and commissions made progress and saw recommendations pass the legislative session that will improve our judicial system; carried by that success, new committees and commissions were created with an eye toward the continued enhancement of justice in Nevada.

The court staff throughout Nevada are diligent every day in their efforts to provide access to justice. Many tenets of the Magna Carta are still applicable today, and live in our courtrooms, being nourished by our dedication to provide everyone with equal access to justice. For many citizens, this work is critically important to them and yet, this year, was of critical importance to the Judiciary as a whole in the continued efforts to reduce the delay and improve the access to justice.

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

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



We are once again proud to present the Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary, but this year is unique. For the first time, we can include the initial work product of the newly established Court of Appeals. It should be immediately apparent that the Court of Appeals has already contributed to the reduction of the Supreme Court's caseload. Five hundred cases were assigned to the Court of Appeals in the first 6 months of operation. When one considers that the Judges on the Court of Appeals spent considerable time training, setting up the operations of the new court, and functioning without the benefit of all the staff authorized in the budget, it is remarkable that they resolved 304 cases by June 30, 2015. I would like to thank the Court of Appeals Judges and staff for their hard work and dedication. They have made a significant contribution to the administration of justice in our state, and I look forward to their continued efforts to help the Supreme Court reduce our pending caseload and to decrease the time it has taken to resolve appeals in Nevada.

None of this progress would have been possible without the support of the people of the State of Nevada and their enthusiastic endorsement of the constitutional amendment creating the Court of Appeals. As I have said on many occasions, we thank all Nevadans for your support and the confidence you have shown in your Supreme Court to endorse our plan to provide timely, efficient justice to all Nevadans. I would also like to thank the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts for their tireless efforts attending to the many details necessary to put the Court of Appeals in operation by January 5, 2015, as required by the newly enacted amendment to the Nevada Constitution.

The information in this year's Annual Report demonstrates the extraordinary work by the justices, judges, senior judges, masters, and court personnel. Through their collective diligence, Nevada's judicial system can provide fair and accessible justice, uphold the rights of the parties, and preserve community welfare and safety. But the numbers displayed in the following pages continue to show just how difficult this task is. In most of our courts, the caseloads continue to exceed acceptable limits and financial constraints impact the timeliness and success of the judiciary's work. It is, therefore, very important that we continue to work closely with our partners in local government and the Legislative and Executive Branches to provide fair and impartial justice in a fiscally responsible manner. To that end, we have included for the first time an analysis of the cost per case in the District, Justice, and Municipal Courts. I believe this report shows the economic efficiency of the courts in Nevada.

The Annual Report also includes a summary of the many initiatives and innovations by Nevada's Judiciary to provide access to our courts, accountability for our decisions, and transparency in all that we do. It has been my privilege to serve as Nevada's Chief Justice this past year. I thank all my fellow justices, judges, and court staff for the outstanding service this report illustrates.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. Hardesty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James W. Hardesty
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Nevada

FUNDING OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

FUNDING

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

For fiscal year 2015, the State Judicial System received \$31,532,272¹ in appropriations, or 61 percent of its total funding, from the State's General Fund. The remaining 39 percent of funding authorized in the budget of \$27,231,065 from administrative assessment revenue and other funding sources brought the total of the State Judicial System budget approved by the Nevada Legislature to \$58,763,337. This amount represents less than 1 percent of the \$9 billion statewide budget the 77th session of the Nevada Legislature approved for the fiscal year.

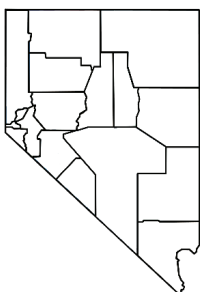
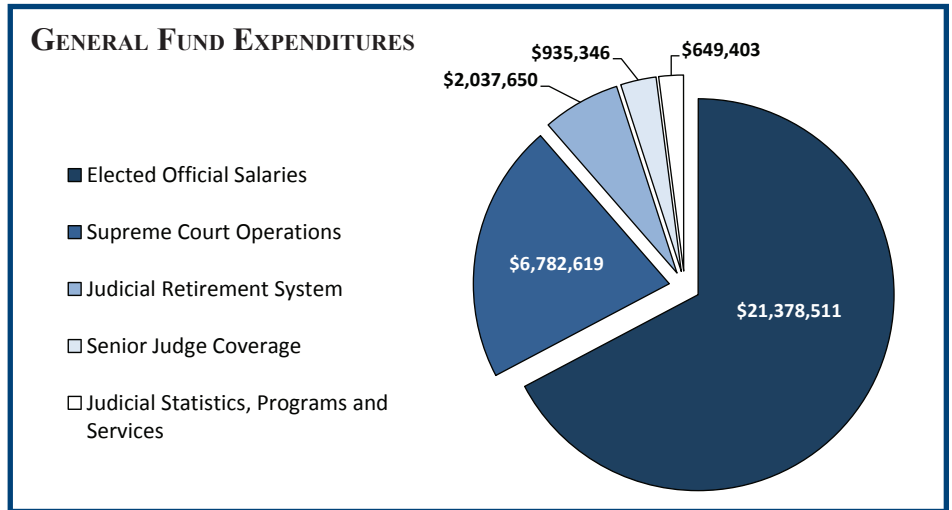
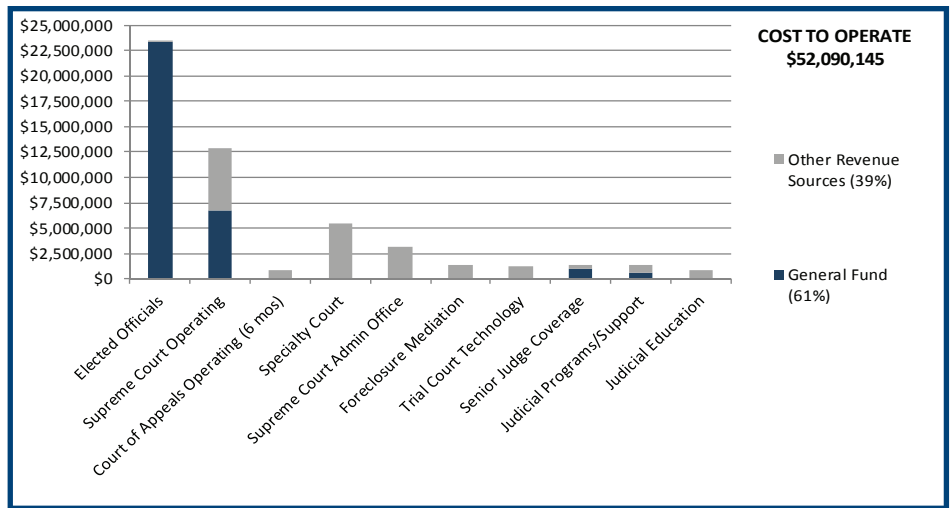
In addition, the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature approved \$782,500 to fund six months of start-up costs for the Court of Appeals approved by the voters. The 78th session of the Nevada Legislature provided supplemental funding of \$593,000 to offset a shortfall in administrative assessment revenue.

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, the State Judicial System spent \$52,090,145, returned \$341,842 to the State General Fund and \$387,441 to the Interim Finance Committee, and retained \$8,799,612 for subsequent year expenses, primarily for specialty court programs, court technological improvements, and foreclosure mediations.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 EXPENDITURES

Salaries for Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals Judges, 82 District Court Judges, and Senior Judges total \$22.7 million, or more than 43 percent of the State Judicial System's total expenditures. The balance of the expenditures provides funding for the operation of the Supreme Court, judicial selection, judicial retirement, Law Library, specialty court programs, judicial programs and services, judicial education, trial court technology, foreclosure mediation, operation of the Court of Appeals, and administration.

¹ This amount excludes the appropriation to fund the Commission on Judicial Discipline. Prior to providing any appropriations, the Nevada Legislature withheld \$709,752 from the Supreme Court's budget request due to the legislative mandate for furloughs and salary reductions.



STATE OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

PRESENTED BY: CHIEF JUSTICE JAMES W. HARDESTY

TO THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION, APRIL 15, 2015

Governor Sandoval, Lt. Gov. Hutchison, Speaker Hambrick, Senator Roberson, Senator Ford, Assemblywoman Kirkpatrick, distinguished members of the Senate and the Assembly, honorable constitutional officers, and honored guests. Thank you for the honor of speaking to the Nevada Legislature on behalf of our state's judicial system.

A week ago Monday, Senator Dean Heller began his remarks by noting that he was speaking just before the Men's National Championship basketball game. As you all know, today is tax day, the day the Titanic sank, and the day President Lincoln died. At first blush, I thought I'd trade days with the Senator until I also remembered that on April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first African-American player in Major League Baseball when he stepped onto Ebbets Field to compete for the Brooklyn Dodgers. I could not help but notice the historical coincidence of President Lincoln's death and Jackie Robinson's entrance into Major League Baseball as its first African-American player. I am proud to be able to speak to you on this day.

I'd like to introduce my friends and colleagues on the Nevada Supreme Court—Associate Chief Justice Ron Parraguirre, Justice Michael Douglas, Justice Michael Cherry, Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Mark Gibbons and Justice Kristina Pickering. It is my privilege to serve with these distinguished jurists, and I thank them for their support during my service as Chief Justice. I would also like to recognize and thank the Clerk of the Supreme Court, Tracie Lindeman; the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, Tom Harris; Legal Counsel, Phaedra Kalicki; the Reporter of Decisions, Brandee Mooneyhan; the Supreme Court's extraordinary legal staff; the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, Robin Sweet; and the dedicated, hardworking staff of the AOC.

I am also privileged to speak on behalf of our 3 Court of Appeals Judges,

82 District Court Judges, 67 Justices of the Peace, 30 Municipal Court Judges, and the nearly 2,000 court employees throughout the state. A number of judges have joined us tonight including the chief judges of the Second and Eighth Judicial District Courts—Chief Judge David Hardy and Chief Judge David Barker. I would also like to recognize the President of the State Bar of Nevada, Elana Graham.

Nevada's judicial officers and court employees are committed to the administration of fair and impartial justice in criminal, civil, family, and juvenile disputes according to the rule of law. In fulfilling our constitutional duties, we are mindful of the importance of providing timely access to the court system and resolving cases as efficiently as budgets and caseloads permit. I am proud to serve with these dedicated public servants and offer my profound thanks to all of them for their service to all Nevadans.

"I CAN STATE WITH CONFIDENCE THAT THE SUPREME COURT AND THE COURT OF APPEALS HAVE A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE."

My purpose this evening is to discuss the state of the judicial branch of Nevada's government. In doing so, I would like to share with you some of the many accomplishments of Nevada's courts and offer a vision for the future of Nevada's judiciary.

As you know, the resolution of disputes represents the core function of the court system. As Mark Twain commented in 1868, "judges have the Constitution for their guidance. They have no right to any politics save the politics of rigid right and justice when they are sitting in judgment upon the great matters that come before them." Of course, a few years later, Twain would say with a wry wit, "Do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."



In today's environment, though, what is the right role for Nevada's judiciary? Over the years, and more so in recent times, the responsibilities of the judiciary have increased in ways we could not have imagined just two decades ago. Not only do our citizens and the state turn to the courts to resolve criminal, civil, family, and juvenile cases, they also seek the courts' assistance to resolve many of society's social issues as well.

To paraphrase the former Chief Judge for the State of New York: Whether we like it or not, the state courts of this country are in the eye of the storm; we have become the emergency room for society's worst ailments—substance abuse, family violence, mental illness, mortgage foreclosures, and so much more. This reality has forced the courts to approach cases with innovation and collaboration with all involved. And these pressures underscore the need for a public judicial system that is timely and efficient in its management of a case while treating each person with respect and dignity.

I have been looking forward to this evening for a long time. For the first time in 44 years, the Nevada Supreme Court and the Nevada Legislature are not engaged in a discussion about the need for a court of appeals. Tonight, thanks to the Legislature, our distinguished Governor, and the people of the State of Nevada, I can report that last November Nevadans voted to amend the Nevada Constitution to create a Court of Appeals.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

No doubt the active participation of past and present members of the Nevada Legislature was a major factor in the educational effort to adopt Question 1. You helped make history for Nevada's judicial system, and the Supreme Court would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support.

In the 60 days following the election, the Supreme Court enacted rules to govern the jurisdiction and transfer of cases to the Court of Appeals; the Judicial Selection Commission and the Governor appointed the new judges in record time; and the Board of Examiners and the Interim Finance Committee implemented the budget to fund the Court of Appeals. By January 5, 2015, the Supreme Court's staff set up offices, installed computers, established internal procedures, and completed many other tasks needed to start a brand new court. I want to thank and recognize our Clerk Tracie Lindeman, Reporter of Decisions Brandee Mooneyhan, Legal Counsel Phaedra Kalicki and Sarah Moore, Clerk Amanda Ingersoll, and IT personnel Brian Pettijohn, Ted Xie, Fred Aker, Kathryn Burns, Karen Peterson, Jeff Sabo, and Alyssa Bland for the many hours they devoted during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays to assist the court with the numerous rule drafts, install the case management system, and implement the various procedures necessary to convert the dream of a Court of Appeals into a reality. I also want to thank and recognize the members of the AOC staff, John McCormick, Hans Jessup, Vale Trujillo, Myrna Byrd, and Deborah Crews for all their help in setting up offices north and south to make the Court of Appeals functional by January 5, 2015.

As with any endeavor, though, the success of the Court of Appeals will ultimately depend on the judges who serve. Allow me to introduce the inaugural

judges of the Court of Appeals—Chief Judge Michael Gibbons, Judge Abbi Silver, and Judge Jerome Tao. These judges were nominated by the Judicial Selection Commission from 36 highly qualified applicants and selected by the Governor. They have committed their intellect, hard work, and talent to the success of the Court of Appeals and the contribution it can make to Nevada's judicial system and Nevada law.

“STATE COURTS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE IN THE EYE OF THE STORM; WE HAVE BECOME THE EMERGENCY ROOM FOR SOCIETY’S WORST AILMENTS—SUBSTANCE ABUSE, FAMILY VIOLENCE, MENTAL ILLNESS, MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES, AND SO MUCH MORE. THIS REALITY HAS FORCED THE COURTS TO APPROACH CASES WITH INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION”

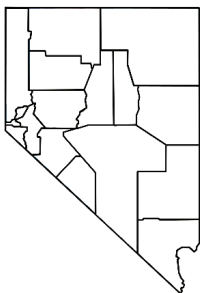
As you know, the Supreme Court has always maintained that a Court of Appeals would improve justice in our state by reducing the Supreme Court's caseload, shortening the time to decide appellate cases, increasing the number of published opinions on Nevada law, and operating within a fiscally responsible framework. From what I have witnessed during the first three and a half months of operation, I can state with confidence that the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals have a very bright future.

As 2015 began, the Supreme Court faced a pending caseload of 1,819 cases. As of March 31, 2015, 300 cases have been assigned to the Court of Appeals under the rules adopted by the Supreme Court. In the first 3 months, the Court of Appeals has decided 166 cases, conducted its first oral arguments in 4 cases, and published its first opinion. With the continued hard work of my colleagues on existing cases and the contributing work of the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court saw its first significant drop in pending cases in years to 1,568. And one more point.

Of the \$444,250 in funding provided by the Legislature to operate the Court of Appeals for the first 6 months, we currently project a reversion or return to the State General Fund of over \$56,000, or 12.6% of the original budget.

I believe the Court of Appeals is one of many examples of the Nevada judiciary's achievements. I would like to update you on a few others.

In 2001, the Supreme Court created the Business Court in the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts. Patterned loosely after Delaware's Chancery Courts, the Business Courts in Nevada are designed to resolve the most complex, lengthy, and expensive business disputes in a timely, cost efficient manner. Prior to establishing Nevada's business court system, these cases lacked case management and in most instances took more than 4 years to complete. A lot of progress has been made in the business court experience. As of the end of the fiscal year, there were 91 pending cases in the Second Judicial District Court and 508 in the Eighth Judicial District Court. I was impressed, as I believe you will be, to learn that the average time to disposition today for a Business Court case in the Eighth District is 23 months and that takes into account cases like the Harmon Tower dispute. And in the Second District, the Business Court Judges have reduced the average time to disposition in the last 2 years from 16 months to 10 months. These statistics make Nevada very competitive with Delaware and send a clear message to local businesses and those outside Nevada's borders that Nevada's judicial system is fully prepared to address the legal needs of Nevada's businesses in a timely, cost effective way. I would like to thank Eighth Judicial District Court Judges Elizabeth Gonzalez, Mark Denton, Nancy Allf, Kathleen Delaney, and Susan Scann and Second Judicial District Court Judges Patrick Flanagan and Scott Freeman for their extraordinary work in making our Business Courts the success we envisioned 14 years ago. As



STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

a result of the creation of the Court of Appeals, I believe the Supreme Court can complete the Business Court plan by publishing more opinions expanding our jurisprudence on business law cases.

In 2009, the Supreme Court presented and the Legislature approved a business plan to add 10 District Court Judges with new courtrooms, facilities, and technology expenses paid by an increase in filing fees. Under this plan, 7 civil jurisdiction Judges and 2 Family Court Judges were added in Clark County and 1 general jurisdiction Judge was added in Washoe County. This was a bold move at the time as the recession was becoming more realistic and the state's budget was in real trouble. But consider that in 2009, the number of cases filed per District Court Judge in Clark County was 2,422 and the average time to resolve a case exceeded three and one half years. In Washoe County, the number of cases filed per District Court Judge was 1,597, and a new general jurisdiction Judge had not been added to that district in 20 years. Today, the number of cases filed per District Judge in Clark County is 1,846, the average time for closure in all civil cases is 14.7 months, and the 2 additional Family Court Judges provided the opportunity to add judicial resources to cases involving the abuse and neglect of children. In Washoe County, the number of cases filed per District Judge is 1,370, and the average time to resolution is under one year. But consider this, the funds generated by the Supreme Court's business plan fully paid for the 8 new courtrooms in Clark County and the courtroom in Washoe County without any cost to the general funds of the counties or the state. Since then, Clark County's District Court has utilized these funds to, among other items, upgrade its audio/visual systems, create a disaster recovery project to protect its old and new e-filing records, and archive over 4,000,000 pages of court files. The Washoe District Court was able to renovate its probate/commissioners' courtroom. And in Elko,

Judge Nancy Porter, with the support of her colleague Judge Al Kacin, led a collaborative effort with the Elko County Sheriff and Commissioners to establish, for the first time, a security system for the courthouse including the installation of video equipment inside and out. They also replaced an audio/visual system in the small courtroom in the jail. In Carson City, the District Court constructed a new specialty courtroom, a new juvenile courtroom, and provided computers and technology to that court's clerks and staff at no cost to Carson City. To quote District Court Judge Todd Russell, "None of this would have been possible without the business plan proposed by the Supreme Court and enacted by the Legislature."

Nevada's drug courts and other specialty courts continue the incredible journey that began in 1992 when Nevada launched the nation's fifth drug court. It is a journey that saves lives, families, and the futures of unborn babies. It is also a journey that reduces recidivism and the need for more prisons and jails. The Legislature's continued support of these courts has enabled dedicated specialty court Judges and staff to achieve successes that no one thought

"ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH...ILLUSTRATE THE DEDICATION OF THE JUDGES AND COURT EMPLOYEES WHO WORK VERY HARD EVERY DAY TO MAKE THE COURTS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF NEVADA'S CITIZENS."

possible. Over the past three years, the 41 drug, mental health, and DUI courts throughout the state served an average of 3,800 clients per year and witnessed an average of 1,470 graduates per year. This past fiscal year, 74 drug free babies were born to participants in these and other specialty courts—that is 74 babies who now have a chance to grow up without the limitations imposed on them prenatally by drug addicted mothers. But the success of these and many of the specialty courts

in the state is now in jeopardy. As some of you know from my presentation to the subcommittee hearing the Supreme Court's budget, the funding for specialty courts in Nevada depends largely on a share of the administrative assessments paid on traffic citations. This funding source has always been a bit unstable, but it has never declined to the extent we have witnessed in the last 6 months. As a result, the specialty court programs are facing a shortfall in their budgets of 15%, or decline in revenue of just over \$1,400,000 in the next biennium. The impact to budgets is already being felt this fiscal year resulting in the delay of assistance to or exclusion of participants in programs in Clark County and the 6 counties that make up the Western Regional Drug Court. The consequences are clear. Our state will see increases in jail and prison costs. I would urge this Legislature to follow the unanimous recommendation of the Legislature's Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice and the Governor's recommended budget and restore the shortfall in funding and add \$3,000,000 of new revenue to expand the capabilities of Nevada's specialty courts to save lives and reduce jail and prison costs in the process.

As part of this discussion, I thought you would be interested in an update on the success of the felony DUI court program. This specialty court deals with serious and chronic DUI offenders who have failed to appreciate their actions after prior jail or prison terms. The DUI court has been remarkably successful in breaking the destructive cycle of these offenders. Last year 290 clients graduated from felony DUI court. While not all courts have experienced this type of success, I wanted to share the results of the DUI Court in Elko supervised by Judge Nancy Porter. Since 2010, not one graduate of that program has recidivated. As you know, the Legislature added funding for DUI courts during the 2013 session but that funding sunsets on June 30, 2015. I urge you to terminate the sunset and allow this funding source to

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

continue to help mitigate the reductions in all of the specialty court budgets I have mentioned tonight.

I also want to mention the Foreclosure Mediation Program. In 2009, the Legislature, with the consent of the lending industry, asked the Supreme Court to supervise a new program that would create a platform for loan mediation and mitigate the effects of the growing number of foreclosures. The program has been funded, not by the general fund, but by fees paid by lenders when seeking relief from a default. There can be little question that the program has helped thousands of Nevadans remain in their homes or work out arrangements with lenders to reduce the impact of a foreclosure. As we have noted in budget hearings, the continuation of the program is a policy decision for the Legislature and the Court has offered some options for you to consider. But tonight I would like to recognize and thank someone who has been with the program from the beginning—Verise Campbell, the Director of the Foreclosure Mediation Program for the Supreme Court. Her service has been extraordinary and we thank her for all that she has done for the citizens of Nevada.

These initiatives are a few of the many achievements of the judicial branch. But all of them illustrate the dedication of the judges and court employees who work very hard every day to make the courts responsive to the needs of Nevada’s citizens.

As we look to the future, I see a lengthy agenda for Nevada’s judicial system. I’d like to highlight just a few items on that list. First, we must continue our efforts to make the public judicial system responsive to the needs of people in civil cases. Access to justice in Nevada cannot be a goal, it must be a reality. Families and children in crisis and unrepresented litigants have every right to expect their

judicial system to work equally for them. Too often, parties turn away from the public judicial system because it is just too expensive and takes too long. This issue is not unique to Nevada. For the past two years, a committee of the Conference of Chief Justices has been

“NEVADA’S DRUG COURTS AND OTHER SPECIALTY COURTS CONTINUE THE INCREDIBLE JOURNEY...THAT SAVES LIVES, FAMILIES, AND THE FUTURES OF UNBORN BABIES. IT IS ALSO A JOURNEY THAT REDUCES RECIDIVISM AND THE NEED FOR MORE PRISONS AND JAILS.”

studying two fundamental reasons for cost and delay in the public judicial system—case management by judges and the rules of civil procedure, particularly those relating to discovery, that add cost and time to an already challenging process. The committee’s report is due this summer, and this fall I will ask all courts in Nevada to study and implement the committee’s recommendations that are relevant to our state.

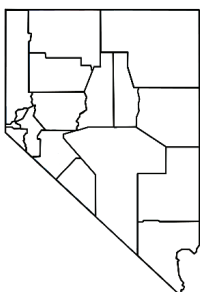
Second, I urge the Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 435—a measure that creates a new judicial district consisting of Pershing, Lander, and Mineral Counties. For the past 45 days, Judges Jim Shirley and Michael Montero and the County Commissioners in those counties and in Humboldt County have studied the benefits of this realignment and all have voted to support this effort. This “out-of-the-box” plan helps smooth out caseloads in the Fifth, Sixth, and new Eleventh Judicial Districts; reduces travel time for judges serving in these districts; significantly postpones the need for additional judges, particularly in the Fifth Judicial District and in Nye County; and increases the availability of judicial resources for all parties at little or no fiscal impact to the counties or the state.

Third, we must study and adopt evidence-based risk assessment in setting pretrial release conditions of those accused of a crime. Pretrial judicial

decisions about the release or detention of a defendant has a significant impact on thousands of defendants and adds great financial stress to publicly funded jails holding defendants who are unable to meet financial conditions of release. As our jails swell, particularly in Clark County, it is time for Nevada’s judges to follow the lead of the District of Columbia, Kentucky, New York, Arizona, and the Conference of State Court Administrators and adopt pretrial release assessment tools that better assess whether a defendant will fail to appear or will present a risk of safety to others. As the Conference report notes, “Imposing conditions on a defendant that are appropriate for that individual following a valid pretrial assessment substantially reduces pretrial detention without impairing the judicial process or threatening public safety.”

I am proud to report that 33 of Nevada’s Limited Jurisdiction Judges and 10 of our District Court Judges have already agreed to join me in the study of this issue. And I hope the Legislature will adopt Senate Bill 452 requiring the use of pretrial risk assessment tools according to rules approved by the Supreme Court. Doing so will add Nevada to the list of states leading the country in the use of evidenced-based decisions in pretrial releases for those accused of a crime.

And the last issue I will mention is that of judicial education. Over the last 4 years, we have witnessed a dramatic change in the make-up of the District Court bench in Nevada. Thirty-eight of the 82 District Court Judges in Nevada joined the bench since 2010. These judges bring new energy, innovation, and creativity to Nevada’s judicial system. Their addition provides many opportunities, including a reexamination of our approach to judicial education. It has been 16 years since district judges attended mandatory education on cases involving the death penalty. And not since 2007 have the judges been required to attend classes on domestic violence. While many of our judges obtain



STATE OF THE JUDICIARY

education on these and other areas of the law on their own, we do not have an organized system for mandatory judicial education. No matter what you may think, the work of a judge is very difficult. And I assure you, the perspective of a judge is much different than that of an experienced advocate. Anyone who has served as a judge will tell you that it takes considerable training, education, work, and time to develop a sense of confidence in the art of judging. If we are to do our best for the people that appear in Nevada's courtrooms, we must become and stay conversant in core legal and judicial subjects. We want to collaborate on the development of required subjects with varied curriculum that must be attended or taught by all judges, both old and new. With the help of the National Judicial College, the Boyd School of Law, and our own resources, we can

“NEVADA’S COURTS WILL CONTINUE TO EARN THE PUBLIC’S TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IF WE ADHERE TO THE RULE OF LAW, ARE PROACTIVE IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR CASES, CREATIVE IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE COURTS, SENSITIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WHO COME BEFORE US, INNOVATIVE IN OUR RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES, ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR BEHAVIOR AND DECISIONS, AND FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE AND TRANSPARENT IN ALL THAT WE DO.”

build a foundation for future judicial excellence.

As you may have witnessed, I am excited about the future of Nevada's judicial system. I can't think of a better time to practice law in our state. We have a top 100 law school, an active State Bar, a new Court of Appeals, and

judges and court employees who are motivated, enthusiastic, innovative, and engaged working every day to make our public judicial system the best that it can be. I am proud to serve with these outstanding public servants. But as Justice Breyer noted in his book “Making Our Democracy Work,” we cannot take the public's confidence in the Court for granted. I agree and believe that Nevada's courts will continue to earn the public's trust and confidence if we adhere to the rule of law, are proactive in the management of our cases, creative in our efforts to provide access to the courts, sensitive to the needs of people who come before us, innovative in our resolution of disputes, accountable for our behavior and decisions, and fiscally responsible and transparent in all that we do.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to visit with you this evening.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

78TH NEVADA LEGISLATURE

The 78th (2015) session of the Nevada Legislature resulted in a number of bills being passed that will have a significant impact on the judiciary. A total of 142 bills had a direct impact on the judicial branch and Nevada's legal community, with some highlights listed below. The legislative milestones during the 78th session for Nevada's judiciary and the legal community will result in improved service and a lasting positive impact on the state's citizens.

- Creating the Eleventh Judicial District comprised of Pershing, Lander, and Mineral Counties.
- Securing state general funding to support specialty courts throughout Nevada—adding \$3,000,000 each year in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.
- Repealing the statutory offer of judgment rule.
- Retaining the membership of the Supreme Court at seven justices.
- Negotiating the approval of a Supreme Court courthouse in Las Vegas increasing operating space for the Supreme Court by 11,000 square feet and reducing the court's rent by \$500,000 over the next 10 years.
- Modifying the jurisdictional limits for small claims and civil matters in Justice Courts.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada Judiciary (JCSN) assists the Supreme Court in its administrative role as head of the state court system. The JCSN consists of judicial representatives from Nevada's five regions—Clark, North Central, Sierra, South Central, and Washoe. Also, each region council reviews issues unique to their area. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court chairs the JCSN and is assisted by the judges and administrators from each region in deciding the matters of concern to the Council. The JCSN maintains the following standing committees:

Court Administration – Promotes excellence in court administration throughout the state by considering the business and problems pertaining to the delivery of judicial services and to make recommendations for its improvement to the Judicial Council.

Court Improvement Program for the Protection and Permanency of Dependent Children – Works with the state's child welfare system to ensure children and families receive the best treatment possible, reduces the amount of time a child waits for stable home placement, and suggests improvements to the adjudication of child dependency cases.

Judicial Education – Made up of two distinct committees, the judicial education committee supports the judicial education needs of Nevada's judges. One committee focuses on supporting judicial requests for education through funding. A second committee was established in fiscal year 2015 to formulate a set of courses and curriculum to improve judicial education. The set of courses would be required classes for district judges to complete over a 4 to 5 year period.

Language Access Committee – Assists the Nevada Judiciary in making language access available to litigants and witnesses who speak another language other than English, or have limited English-speaking skills.

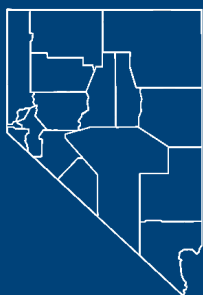
Legislation and Rules – Promotes and supports a coordinated legislative strategy for the Judicial Branch concerning legislation that affects the Nevada Judiciary and makes recommendations to the Judicial Council regarding court rules for submission to the Supreme Court for approval.

Specialty Court Funding – Aids the regional councils in supporting specialty court programs, establishes the procedures for requesting specialty court funding, distributes funds, and supports the collection of specialty court metrics.

Technology – Promotes and facilitates the application of technology to the work of the courts and promotes the coordination, collaboration and integration of technology efforts between the judiciary and state and local governments.

FISCAL YEAR 2015

The Judicial Council moved forward on efforts to require all courts to use a uniform pretrial risk assessment instrument. The effort would revamp risk assessment instruments and pretrial release evaluations for all courts in Nevada. The change would allow courts to use a predictability level to impose certain pretrial conditions with appropriate follow-up. Reforming judicial education was also a topic of concern for the Judicial Council. A new subcommittee was created to provide judges with required curriculum for district judges to complete over a 4 to 5 year period. Finally, the JCSN approved the recommendation of the Specialty Court Funding Committee to allocate \$3 million in new funding to support specialty courts statewide.



JUDICIAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

The Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform, created under Administrative Docket 455 on February 15, 2011, and co-chaired by Chief Justice James W. Hardesty and Associate Justice Nancy M. Saitta, continued its efforts to improve the juvenile justice system in Nevada during the 2015 fiscal year.

The Commission's multiple subcommittees provided statutory recommendations to the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice. The statutory recommendations included the following bills:

- Assembly Bill 113 revised provisions governing the sealing of juvenile records including providing factors the juvenile court may consider in determining whether a child has been rehabilitated to the satisfaction of the juvenile court.
- Assembly Bill 138 created a juvenile competency standard in Nevada and was a significant piece of legislation. Prior to the statute, juvenile courts had to refer to the adult competency statute for juveniles.
- Senate Bill 58 revised provisions governing the release of information relating to children within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court.
- Senate Bill 212 revised provisions governing the discipline of pupils, and prohibits acts at public schools. The proposed amendments to NRS 392.466 and 392.910 were a result of the School Attendance and Disturbance Subcommittee's review and evaluation of national best practices on school discipline policies, relevant school disturbance statutory and regulatory requirements, and current school discipline policies.

All four bills were approved and signed by the Governor. Senate Bills 58 and 212 became effective July 1, 2015, and Assembly Bills 113 and 138 became effective October 1, 2015.

Other projects the Commission completed during fiscal year 2015 included the approval of a Uniform Data Dictionary and the School Attendance Review Boards (SARB) Report. The Data Dictionary can be used as a reference for legislators, courts, and other stakeholders when interpreting data reported by the State of Nevada's Juvenile Justice Programs Office. The SARB report provides a comprehensive look at each of the 17 school districts' School Attendance Review Boards, as outlined in NRS 392.126 and 392.127.

Additionally, Commission members participated in a number of national conferences to collaborate on the Commission's efforts and successes in juvenile justice reform. A team of five members attended the Conference of Chief Judges and Conference of State Court Administrators Western Regional Workshop, "Promoting State Court Leadership for Juvenile Justice Reform." During the conference, the team identified goals and created an action plan that was brought back to the full Commission for implementation. Nevada was also 1 of 20 states invited to send a team to the National Leadership Summit on School Discipline and Climate in Washington, D.C. These conferences provided the Commission a wealth of resources and have allowed members to network with experts and individuals throughout the country who are all striving to reform the juvenile justice system to better serve our youth.

The Commission continues to look toward the future to identify and implement front-end programs and services in each judicial district to reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system. The Commission will continue to explore funding for these vital programs and services that keep our youth in their communities and in school, while keeping them out of the juvenile justice system.

BLUE RIBBON FOR KIDS COMMISSION

Supreme Court Justice Nancy Saitta created the Blue Ribbon for Kids Commission in September 2014 tasked with reviewing deficiencies in the Clark County child welfare system and courts. The panel, which met through the legislative session, made seven recommendations for county or court action.

The following individuals on the Commission joined Justice Saitta: County Commissioner Susan Brager, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Executive Director Barbara Buckley, Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman, Nevada Human Health and Services Director Amber Howell, Morrison Institute of Public Policy, Arizona State University Professor Thom Reilly, Second Judicial District Court Judge Deborah Schumacher, Assistant Clark County Manager Jeff Wells, and Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson. The Commission spent hundreds of hours listening to presentations, reviewing feedback and studying how the child welfare system operates and how the administration of justice can be improved. Issues explored by the Commission included: the overcrowding of Child Haven, the county's facility to temporarily house children removed from their homes, an examination of why relatives are not having children released to them, the shortage of quality foster homes, and long court calendars for child welfare cases.

The Blue Ribbon for Kids Commission is building action plans for each recommendation the group put forward in the spring of 2015.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

JUDICIAL SELECTION COMMISSION

The Commission on Judicial Selection took on the complex task of filling positions on the newly formed Court of Appeals in fiscal year 2015. After voters approved the Court of Appeals in November 2014, the Commission began accepting applications for the newly formed court. A total of 36 applications were received by the Commission from throughout the state and interviews were conducted in Las Vegas and made viewable on the Supreme Court website.

The Commission recommended three separate candidates for each of the three seats to Governor Brian Sandoval, who quickly interviewed the candidates and named Judge Michael Gibbons of the Ninth Judicial District Court, Judge Jerome Tao of the Eighth Judicial District Court, and Judge Abbi Silver of the Eighth Judicial District to the new court. Judge Michael Gibbons was named Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals by Chief Justice James W. Hardesty.

As a result of the appointments to the Court of Appeals, the Commission then had the task of replacing the seats vacated by the judges selected to serve on the Court of Appeals. The Commission received 13 applications for the vacancy in the Ninth Judicial District; and 49 applicants applied for the two separate seats in the Eighth Judicial District. Governor Sandoval named Thomas W. Gregory, Department 2, in the Ninth District on March 19, 2015; and Joe Hardy, Jr., Department 15, and Eric Johnson, Department 20, in the Eighth District on April 2, 2015, to fill the open positions.

Based on the amount of paperwork and staff time required to create and collate copies of the applications and supplemental materials, on June 8, 2015, the Commission voted to move to a paperless process for all future judicial vacancies. This procedure allows the administration to provide Commission members with secured laptop computers containing the files for each applicant. In addition, allowing for electronic applications will reduce the costly process of copying and shipping information to Commission members.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY EVIDENCE-BASED PRETRIAL RELEASE

In fiscal year 2015, the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada formed a committee to study evidence-based pretrial release. The committee intends to collect data on how the system might work in Nevada. The focus comes after federal cases questioned the use of bail based on financial conditions. According to many members of the committee, the current pretrial release system is a “seat of your pants” decision for most Nevada judges or requires payment of bail by an accused, who many times cannot afford it.

The committee was asked to study the current pretrial release system in the state. The committee will examine alternatives and improvements to that system through evidence-based practices and current risk assessment tools. Members of the committee have agreed to look at three areas:

- Formulating an assessment tool
- Determining how to include all of Nevada’s judicial districts
- Examining how to share information with various agencies involved in the judicial system

Knowing the risk of an accused suspect will allow judges to make a sound decision based on the risk rather than the ability to pay, according to Chief Justice James W. Hardesty, and the committee’s work will enable Nevada to do a better job of making pretrial release rulings.

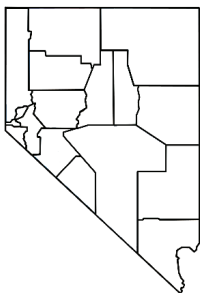
COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ADMINISTRATION OF GUARDIANSHIPS

The Commission to Study the Administration of Guardianships in Nevada’s Courts was established to review the processes for creating guardianships and conservatorships, stakeholder accountability, court documentation and tracking, judicial training, and any resources available or needed to assist Nevada’s courts in administering guardianship matters.

All Nevada guardianships are administered by Nevada’s courts pursuant to NRS 159, which will be reviewed by the Commission along with court rules, policies, and procedures. These statutes provide for the creation of guardianships, the process to appoint and supervise a guardian, the accounting of the estate of a guardianship ward, and the conditions and timing for removal or termination of the guardianship or guardian.

The 26-member commission is tasked with making recommendations for statewide policies and procedures. In setting up the Commission, the Supreme Court saw a need to address guardianship problems statewide and identify the resources necessary to assist the court system to meet Nevada’s needs.

Commission members are expected to listen to public testimony, write proposed rules, and develop a new model for Nevada guardianships within NRS 159 and court rules, policies, and procedures. The Commission is expected to make its recommendations to the Supreme Court with a final report by July 1, 2016.



JUDICIAL 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 Chief Justice James W. Hardesty and Justice Michael Douglas, the Commission is comprised of 18 members from various legal and non-legal backgrounds, all focused on the delivery of services to those in need. Over the past year, the Commission has focused on developing comprehensive statewide service delivery plans, increasing pro bono participation and rural delivery of services.

PRO BONO REPORT

In calendar year 2014, more than 3,400 attorneys in Nevada provided pro bono services to those in need. Of that number, 2,602 provided about 130,485 hours of no-fee, direct legal services to low income clients; 3,079 attorneys received cases through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Nevada Legal Services, Southern Nevada Senior Law Program, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans (VARN), Washoe Legal Services and Washoe County Senior Law Project, and other sources. Further, 3,028 attorneys reported providing a total of 146,953 hours of direct legal services, at a substantially reduced rate, to organizations that address the needs of persons of limited means and to activities dedicated to improving the law or law-related education.

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 Access to Justice Commission reviews the IOLTA fixed interest rate and last year maintained the fixed interest rate at 0.70 percent. At the close of calendar year 2014, the IOLTA program had 27 financial institutions participating and, among them, a total of 2,913 IOLTAs. The conclusion of the 2014 calendar year saw a remittance of \$2,221,535 of funds (compared to \$1,996,341 in 2013) earmarked for granting to 12 legal services organizations in Nevada.

ONE PROMISE NEVADA CAMPAIGN

The Access to Justice Commission launched the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign in order to increase attorney pro bono participation in Nevada. Since its inception, the Campaign has been instrumental in raising approximately \$45,000 for pro bono services, and has raised awareness of the need for pro bono services among several law firms, Bar Sections, and legal organizations throughout the state. The success of the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign rests with each attorney taking one pro bono case or, in the alternative, donating time and/or resources to other pro bono services or to the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign. This year, an additional initiative, Inspire One, was created from the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign; this initiative provides for encouragement or inspiration of pro bono service from attorneys. More information may be found at the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign website, www.onepromisenevada.org.

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 8,400 active attorneys in Nevada, 230 contributed to the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign, 647 attorneys committed to taking a pro bono case, and 10 committed to taking a pro bono case and contributing to the ONE Promise Nevada Campaign.

COMMISSION ON STATEWIDE RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

In 2014, the Nevada Supreme Court convened the Commission on Statewide Rules of Criminal Procedure under the Co-Chairmanship of Justice Michael Cherry and Justice Michael Douglas. The Commission was created to address a lack of uniformity of criminal procedure rules across the state. The Commission is comprised of legal professionals and members of the Nevada judiciary and is focused on examining key criminal procedure concerns and making recommendations for improvement on a statewide level.

INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

In 2007, the Nevada Supreme Court convened the Indigent Defense Commission (IDC) under the Chairmanship of Justice Michael Cherry to examine and make recommendations regarding the delivery of indigent defense services in Nevada. In 2014, the IDC's Rural Subcommittee completed gathering and analyzing data pertaining to the number and scope of public defender appointments in Nevada. The data was used to present a "Rural Subcommittee Report on the Status of Indigent Defense in the 15 Rural Counties and Recommendations to Improve Service to Indigent Defendants" to the Nevada Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court signed ADKT 411 and adopted and/or endorsed four of the Rural Subcommittee's recommendations. This banned the use of flat fee contracts in the delivery of indigent defense services, placed rural death penalty cases and appeals in the hands of the State Public Defender's Office, and encouraged the implementation of an Indigent Defense Board.

JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Fiscal year 2015 marked the 6th year of the State of Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program (FMP).

Created in 2009 by the Nevada State Legislature, the FMP is governed by NRS 107.086, which subjects a trustee under a deed of trust to certain restrictions, including prevention of the sale of owner-occupied residential property prior to the initiation of mediation with a grantor of a deed of trust or the person who holds the title of record under which a loan modification may be achieved or other alternatives to foreclosure may be discussed. 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. Under NRS Chapter 107, the FMP is administered by the Nevada Supreme Court.

Effective June 10, 2015, the Nevada Legislature expanded the parameters of the FMP through the enactment of Senate Bill 512 (SB512). SB512 permits homeowners of owner-occupied residential property who have a documented financial hardship and are at risk of imminent default to participate in the FMP prior to the filing of a Notice of Default and Election to Sale and upon assessment and referral by a U.S. Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) counseling agency and the submission of the required fee. If the parties participate in mediation in good faith prior to

a non-judicial foreclosure sale of the owner-occupied property, the requirements of mediation under current law are satisfied. When a Certificate of Foreclosure is issued in Pre-Notice of Default mediation, the property will not be eligible for mediation upon the filing of a Notice of Default. SB512 also repeals the governing statutes of the FMP, effectively ending the program on June 30, 2017. The last day of enrollment acceptance by the program is December 31, 2016.

There were 11,871 Notices of Default (NODs) filed in fiscal year 2015. Homeowner participation rate ranged from 12 to 22 percent monthly (16 percent annual average).

The FMP handled 1,609 cases prior to being sent to mediation, and 139 cases were found ineligible. A total of 1,275 mediations were held and 195 mediations were not held. Of the 195 mediations not held, 113 cases reached agreements prior to mediation and 62 homeowners withdrew from mediation prior to completion. The remaining 20 mediations were not held because of failure to attend mediation, filing for bankruptcy, or filing of a rescinded notice of default prior to mediation.

A total of 403 homeowners reached an agreement either prior to mediation or at mediation with the homeowner to either retain or relinquish the home; 175 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 were noted for 128 agreements, and permanent loan modifications were noted by mediators in 27 agreements.

Of the 1,275 mediations held during fiscal year 2015, almost 68 percent resulted in the homeowner and the lender not agreeing to retain

or relinquish the property, or the lender failing to comply with FMP rules or Nevada Revised Statutes. Of the mediations failing to reach an agreement, 27 percent were not 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 164 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 is issued that would allow the lender to proceed with the foreclosure.

A total of 230 mediations resulted in an agreement to relinquish the property, through short sale, deed in lieu of foreclosure, or other methods; of this total, 29 properties were relinquished through a short sale.

During fiscal year 2015, the FMP issued 9,459 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 homeowners. A total of 8,869 certificates were issued for residential properties ineligible for foreclosure mediation.

In cases where the homeowner and lender failed to participate or reach an agreement in a scheduled mediation, the FMP issued 386 certificates allowing the lender to proceed with foreclosure.

The remaining 179 certificates were issued for a variety of reasons, including court orders, agreements to relinquish the property, and mediations not held.



JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS

In 2010, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals launched a campaign saying, "We Will Not Rest Until There is a Drug Court and Other Problem-Solving Court Within Reach of Every American in Need." Nevada embraced this campaign and now a specialty court is available in every county in Nevada, and at every court level.

This year, there are more than 2,700 drug courts nationwide that will serve more than 136,000 people.

The goal of a specialty court is to break the cycle of the revolving door syndrome and support participants in achieving abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol by promoting responsibility, accountability, and teaching participants to become productive law abiding citizens, which in return reduces criminal recidivism and provides for better healthier communities.

Specialty courts save money. For every \$1 invested in drug court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs. When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested. Specialty courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client, and in 2007, for every federal dollar invested in specialty courts, \$9 was leveraged in state funding.

Nevada's first drug court, the nation's fifth, was established in 1992 in Clark County by District Judge Jack Lehman (ret.). Nevada now has 42 specialty courts including Drug, Felony

DUI, Family/Dependency, Veterans Treatment, DUI, Juvenile, Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Child Support, Habitual Offender, and Prostitution Prevention Courts.

Specialty courts use the authority of the court and encourage violators to commit to long-term treatment with frequent oversight by the judge. The benefit for a defendant who chooses and is accepted in a specialty court program is the reduction or dismissal of the underlying criminal charge upon graduation. But if, for example, a participant failed a drug test or missed a counseling session, a judge may sanction the participant with jail time or additional conditions and graduation can be delayed.

Participants, however, graduate at a very high rate and statistics show the chances they will return to a life of crime are greatly diminished. Court officials have estimated that during the past 20 years in Nevada, drug courts have saved the justice system more than \$40 million. More than 11,000 participants have graduated and at least 530 babies have been born drug free because of the drug court programs.

While most specialty courts are drug courts, the principle has been incorporated into other specialty courts that address alcohol abuse, mental illness, homelessness, veterans' issues, family-related matters, and other matters.

During fiscal year 2015, more than 2,516 individuals were served by Nevada's Specialty Courts, with 1,323 graduating. There were 63 drug-free babies born to women involved in specialty courts during the year.



JUDICIAL EDUCATION UNIT

While continuing to provide an ambitious slate of educational seminars, conferences, and webinars, the Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Education Unit entered a period of transition in fiscal year 2015.

Key personnel changes and transitions are a fact of life within any organization, and such changes did not serve to impede the unit's offering of two Limited Jurisdiction Judges' Seminars, the annual District Judges' Seminar, the annual Family Jurisdiction Judges' Conference, a New Judge Orientation, and a full slate of distance education programs. Additionally, the unit provided support to a Specialty Court Conference, a review of Nevada Supreme Court Criminal Opinions, and an update on the 2015 amendments to the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure. With these events, the Unit provided in-person training to 367 judges, masters, and court staff. With distance learning programs reaching 521 clients, the Judicial Education Unit provided training to a total 888 clients in fiscal year 2015.

In fiscal year 2015, the Administrative Office of the Courts was awarded a Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors

(STOP) sub-grant award by the Nevada Attorney General's Office. The \$10,000 sub-grant allowed the Judicial Education Unit to provide domestic violence training for family jurisdiction judges and temporary protection order masters, who typically are not exposed to the criminal dynamics of domestic violence. This significant milestone marks the first use of STOP Grant funding by the Judicial Education Unit and may pave the way for more grant funded training that could reach wider audiences.

In fiscal year 2015, education achievement awards were presented to 27 Nevada judges, including Honorable Cynthia Dianne Steel, a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement in Judicial Education, for logging more than 1,000 hours of continuing judicial education.

Future plans for providing education to the Nevada judiciary and court staff include pursuing more grant-funded training opportunities; development of tailored, regional trainings; and staffing a proposed Judicial Education Planning Committee to formulate a set of required courses and curricula for district court judges.

JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The future of court improvement is being built on the foundation that is laid today. The Court Improvement Program (CIP) enables the courts and agencies involved in the child welfare system to develop systemic, statewide changes intended to significantly improve the processing of child welfare cases while ensuring compliance with state and federal laws. The CIP Select Committee is chaired by Justice Nancy M. Saitta, who has held this position since 2008.

All 11 judicial districts have created Community Improvement Councils (CICs) to help courts determine barriers to, and methods for, improving timely permanency for children and increasing hearing quality. 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 stands below the national average for the second year in a row. For example, in its 2014 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 2014 was reduced to 29.0 months, down from 36.3 months, in 2010. Nevada courts and child welfare agencies continue to take less time than the national median, which is 32.4 months.

These CICs have become important information conduits between agencies within and among courts. The key is to keep 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, will enable near real-time court timeliness reporting through an integrated dashboard. CIP publishes a quarterly CIC Newsletter to share information about newly implemented processes statewide. CIP brings the CICs together annually to discuss such issues as court timeliness, child safety decision-making, and the principles and strategies of quality hearings.

During these summits, the CIC teams are not only trained on specific topics, but work together to develop action plans outlining the next steps to improve court case processing and court timeliness for the upcoming year,

which CIP helps them implement. CIP provides the judiciary and their CICs with judicial district-specific baseline and follow-up data to help self-assess their improvement and progress, and determine where to focus future efforts.

CIP will continue to forge successful collaborative working relationships with other agencies—specifically, child welfare and education. CIP will continue to be the impetus behind the Statewide Collaborative on Education, Child Welfare, and the courts. This Collaborative has implemented the majority of the first phase of its strategic plan. A protocol to ensure students remain enrolled in their same school, if in their best interests, has been drafted. A best interest decision-making process has been created. A checklist has been drafted for child welfare and schools that identifies the specific action steps needed for foster youth to be immediately enrolled in a new school to begin classes promptly.

The homeless liaisons in the schools are serving as the schools' foster child advocates, as well. A pilot project is being developed in one of the school districts in which the child welfare agency will be able to directly inform the schools when a child becomes a foster child or a foster child moves into their district or to a new school.

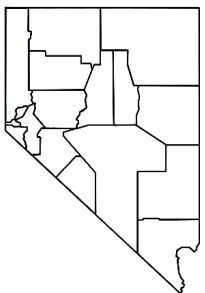
Another educational pilot project provides foster youths in Washoe County high schools with educational champions who provide educational supports to help guide and motivate them to graduate and continue some form of secondary education. Both of these models, if successful, can be replicated throughout the state in the future to ensure educational stability and improved educational outcomes for foster children.

In collaboration with DCFS, a statewide action plan to prevent future sex trafficking of children has been drafted. A Statewide Coalition to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is being formed to develop and implement a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach to combat the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Task forces will be created to address each focus area in the action plan. The future will be safer for Nevada's children.

To ensure that all federally and state required language will be included in future court orders, especially the language mandated by Title IV-E, the Statewide Collaborative on Dependency Court Order Templates and the National Center for State Courts finalized and distributed court order templates.



...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 2014 WAS REDUCED TO 29.0 MONTHS, DOWN FROM 36.3 MONTHS, IN 2010.



JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

AUDIT UNIT

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 to ensure proper internal control over judicial business functions. As independent appraisers of the judiciary's business activities, the Audit Unit assists members of the judiciary in the execution of their responsibilities by providing analyses, appraisals, recommendations, counsel, and information promoting effective controls and sound business practices.

In fiscal year 2015, the unit focused on auditing courts for compliance with Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS) and specialty court program funds. The MAS audits were performed using the external audit guide that was approved and put into use in fiscal year 2014. Additionally, specialty court program audits continue to be performed to ensure specialty court funds are collected and expended within established guidelines set forth by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, Specialty Court Funding Committee. A total of three specialty court program audits were completed, in addition to one audit follow-up contact, and one special project. Two MAS audits were started that will continue into the next fiscal year. Recommendations for improvements were provided for consideration during the audits to enhance financial and program operations.

In fiscal year 2015, the Audit Unit upgraded its audit management software. This upgrade will allow courts and their staff to electronically audit surveys and respond to audit report issues and corrective action plans. In today's busy courts, the software upgrade also provides reminders to staff for audit completion deadlines. This functionality is anticipated to be fully operational beginning in fiscal year 2016. Additionally, the unit acquired software to assist with information data mining as available during each of the audits. This software allows for large amounts of electronic data to be analyzed in an efficient manner. Currently, the unit is using this software for the tracking, review, and reconciliation of administrative assessments from the courts and financial information retained by the Nevada State Controller.

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

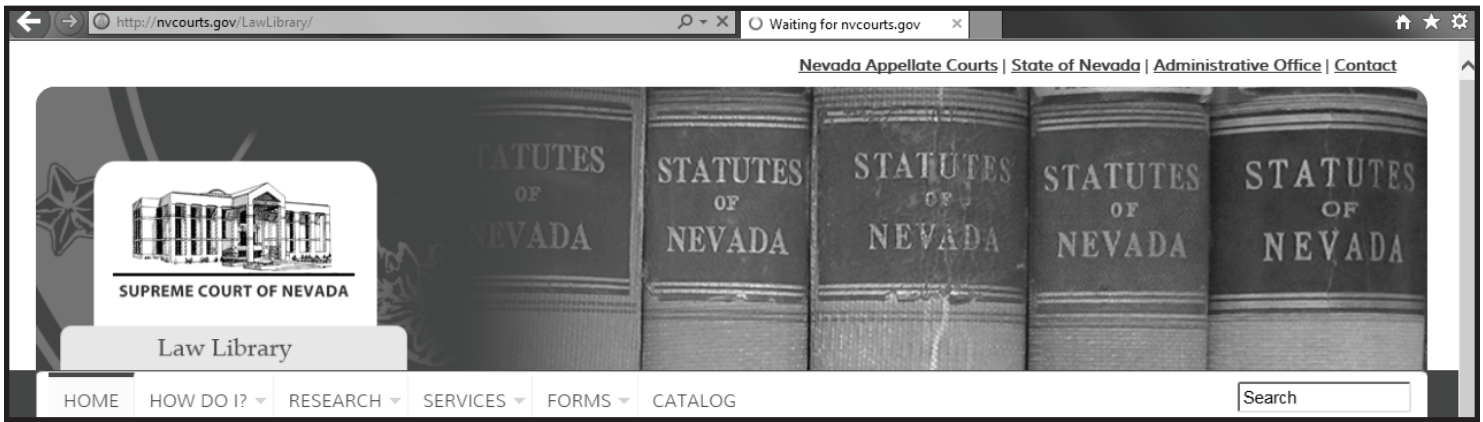
The Nevada Certified Court Interpreter Program was established in 2002. Over the last 13 years, the program has increased the number of credentialed court interpreters and improved access for Nevada's judicial system. Some highlights from fiscal year 2015 are below:

- Provided data of the Nevada credentialed interpreters to the National Center for State Courts National Interpreter Repository of Credential Interpreters Initiative, for a future plan for national video remote interpreting.
- Participated in the State Justice Institute/National Center for State Courts remote interpreting grant.
- Contributed to a Multi-State Online Orientation Workshop with the New Mexico Language Access Center.
- Revised and released the bench card for Nevada judges for the Certified Court Interpreters' Program in June 2015.
- Developed an alternate (non-credentialed) interpreter designation for the State Court Language Access Plan.
- Offered the online New Mexico Language Access Basic Training Course in conjunction with the Administrative Office of the Courts, Judicial Education Unit to Nevada court employees and judiciary.

CREDENTIALLED INTERPRETER STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 2015:

Interpreter Type:	Spanish Language Interpreter:	Languages Other Than Spanish (LOTS):
Certified	82	3
Master Level	9	1
Registered	0	11

SUPREME COURT TECHNOLOGY

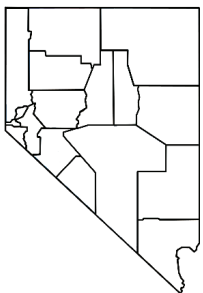


WEB REDESIGN

Following the redesign of the Supreme Court website in fiscal year 2013, the Court began a redesign of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Law Library websites. The designs of these websites closely matches the Supreme Court website design, ingrain the fact that the AOC and the Law Library are both part of the Supreme Court. Also, similar to the Supreme Court website, these redesigns included a revamped user interface that allows website visitors to quickly and more easily find information and resources. Public Meetings, Educational Events, and more up-to-date news are available on both of the websites' home pages. The AOC website was also enhanced with a new Trial Court Statistics comparison tool, which enables the comparison of filings and dispositions across Nevada's districts and courts. Both the AOC and Law Library websites were launched in April 2015. The process of improving the design, interface, and availability of information continues as plans for a Nevada Judicial Portal is under works. This portal will incorporate information from the Supreme Court, AOC, and Law Library websites, provide a better Find a Court tool, compile news related to all Nevada's courts, and provide the public with information for all levels of the judiciary. Finally, a Judicial History database is being developed for public use. This database will allow visitors to see seats held by each of Nevada's judges dating back to 1861.

E-SERVICE

An E-Services website was implemented as part of ongoing improvements to the Nevada Court Systems (NCS). This website interfaces with the NCS case management system and its payment and search features benefit the public as well as court employees. The system allows public users to make online payments through the Internet with a credit card or PayPal account, which provides a convenient option to pay court fines and costs, particularly for people who do not live near the court and those on payment plans. Courts can accept payments 7 days a week, and courts that do not have an existing credit card system will be able to accept credit card payments for the first time. Public users can



also look up the date of their next scheduled court appearance, check their outstanding balance, and view their payment history. The payment card industry compliant system was implemented for two pilot courts in 2015. Plans are underway to add other NCS trial courts to the system in 2016.

JWORKS

The AOC, Trial Court Support Unit has started working towards implementing a new case management system, JWorks, for the courts that participate in the NCS program. The current case management system is based on aging technology. The new system will provide new features along with existing features, which will help improve caseflow management. The implementing of a new case management system allows the NCS to be proactive in addressing the regular changing technology and support.

MCIJIS

The AOC worked closely with a vendor to develop Nevada's Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MCIJIS). The overall goal of MCIJIS is to increase efficiency by electronically transmitting documents containing necessary data between agencies in the justice arena that are currently transmitted via paper (mail, fax, and hand-delivered) or via spoken voice (telephone or in-person). Current electronic exchanges include citations, DMV convictions, DMV failure to appear, bookings, criminal dispositions, and warrants. The Trial Court Support Unit has started working towards implementing e-citations and DMV convictions for the remaining courts that participate in the NCS program.

COURT OF APPEALS

With the election in November 2014, the Court of Appeals was created. There were many tasks that the Information Technology department had to complete to get the new court operational. These tasks included modifying a case management system, as well as procuring, configuring and installing the necessary equipment for all of the personnel of the Court of Appeals. The case management system also needed to be modified to integrate with the internal document management system.

TRIAL COURT NEWS AND INNOVATIONS

YOUTH OFFENDER COURT

The Second Judicial District Youth Offender Drug Court was established in May 2015, under the direction of Judge Janet Berry and Judge Lidia Stiglich. This court's primary goal is to engage the opioid addicted offender, between the ages of 18-24, in a therapeutically intensive, court supervised program. To accomplish this, the court, along with its partnered agencies, addresses the specific needs of this age group, while helping them establish and maintain a level of structure in their lives, which should prevent further drug use and reduce recidivism.

The court accepts defendants who are sentenced with a NRS 453/458 diversion status. This will ensure that successful defendants are eligible to have their cases dismissed. Upon admission, each participant is assessed to determine which level of care is most appropriate. The range of services offered to these participants includes substance abuse and mental health therapy, along with primary care, academic and occupational development, and drug testing. This is the first specialty court within the Second Judicial District to offer Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to its participants. This service, along with the therapeutic and primary care needs, is provided by HOPES. Children's Cabinet has been working with the participants in developing treatment plans in line with academic and occupational development. The Youth Offender Drug Court was fortunate to have received a \$5,000 gift from Doors to Recovery, which is a project of Transforming Youth Recovery, under the Stacie Mathewson Foundation. This gift will be used to assist participants with primary care, behavioral health, MAT, and academic needs. As the Youth Offender Drug Court continues to have success, we look forward to reduced recidivism and helping the drug addicted youth in our community build better lives, while becoming more productive members of their families and the community-at-large.

COURTS USE TECHNOLOGY TO CUT CRIMINAL BINDOVERS TO 48 HOURS

The Clark County Detention Center excess population prompted Project 48, a technology-based solution to expedite the time to bindover in-custody Justice Court defendants to be arraigned on felony charges in District Court. The time for in-custody bindovers after initial appearances in Justice Court was cut from 7 to 10 days, to 48 hours (2 judicial days).

After a successful launch in April 2015 in the Justice Court with Justice of the Peace Joe Sciscento, Project 48 was rolled out to all criminal courtrooms. The Clark County Detention Center reported that, from April 15 to June 11, there were 275 individuals bound over to District Court in 2 to 5 days, cutting an estimated 2,750 jail days and totaling \$369,958 in estimated savings.

KIDS' COURT/ ASK AN INMATE PROGRAM

The Second Judicial District Court continues to have great success with its Kids' Court/Ask an Inmate program. In 1994, Judge Janet Berry began the program as a field trip for fifth and sixth grade students. In the years that have followed, hundreds of students have visited Judge Berry's courtroom to participate in a mock trial in the case of B.B. Wolf v. Curly Pig. The children are assigned roles, complete with costumes. Students and parents have the opportunity to see firsthand how jury trials are conducted.

The students meet with Judge Berry and talk about the trial and the American justice system. Upon completion of the trial, they move into the second phase of the program: Ask an Inmate.

This program includes an interactive discussion with inmates from the Washoe County Jail who tell the students their life stories and where they made wrong choices. A Deputy of the Washoe County Sheriff's Department moderates the discussion. The questions and answers are often humorous, sad, tough, and poignant.

The goal of the program is to teach students about the consequences of peer pressure, the dangers of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, gang involvement, and the importance of making wise decisions. The program is well supported by donations and volunteers. The Sierra Stitchers donate their time to sew costumes, and in March 2015, the Kids' Court/Ask an Inmate program received a \$4,000 donation from the Alliance with the Washoe County Medical Society to continue its work. The court plans to use these funds to update and repair costumes for the mock trials, purchase new costumes and materials, and pay printing costs for program booklets for participants. These booklets serve as a reminder to the participants of the valuable things they learned in the Kids' Court/Ask an Inmate Program. Students, parents, and teachers consistently report that the Kids' Court/ Ask an Inmate Program is one of their favorite and most valuable learning experiences. Since its inception in 1994, more than 1,000 elementary school classes have attended this informative program.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WASHOE LAW LIBRARY

This year celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Law Library in Washoe County. The Law Library was first established in 1915 on the second floor of the courthouse for the Second Judicial District Court as the Washoe County Law Library. During the course of its 100 years, the Law Library served the judges, attorneys and citizens of the county. It changed from a library of 2,400 books into a modern facility with thousands of more books, a boardroom and a computer room. The Library provides access, not only to books, but to databases as well. In 2009, the Second Judicial District Court assumed the operation of the Library. On May 6th, 2015, a reception was held to honor the Law Library. The District Court sent 400 invitations to persons, including past and present board members, judges, attorneys, and others. The ceremony

TRIAL COURT NEWS AND INNOVATIONS

began in a courtroom that was a part of the original courthouse. Remarks were offered by Chief Judge David Hardy; Honorable Connie Steinheimer; and Emily Reed, the Self Help Center and Law Library program manager. A reception continued under the dome of the courthouse with refreshments.

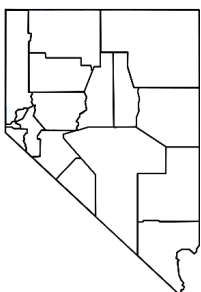
GLOBAL CASE VIEW

In June 2015, the Second Judicial Court announced that Global Case View (GCV) is now available using the eFlex electronic filing system. GCV will allow registered electronic filers, with active accounts, to search and view public documents on all public cases. This provides account holders greater access to all case types where before they had to be an active attorney of record to view such records.

TRUANCY DIVERSION PROGRAM WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL YEAR

In 2014, the the Eighth Judicial District Court Truancy Diversion Program (TDP) was one of four programs in the nation to receive a \$600,000 grant from the Department of Justice designed to keep kids in school and out of court.

Judges, attorneys, and other qualified applicants volunteer approximately 3 hours each week to hold truancy court sessions at schools where they meet individually with students and their parents. They review the students' attendance, school work, and progress to ensure that students have the resources they need to be successful. The TDP judges promote and support academic achievement using a team effort and an individual student success plan. Since 2007, the TDP has expanded from 6 to 70 schools including elementary, middle, and high schools. The goal of the Eighth Judicial District Court's Family Division is to continue to expand until all 358 Clark County schools have a TDP program.



FAMILY DIVISION MARKED MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

The Eighth Judicial District Court, Family Division has been serving Clark County for more than 20 years. During the week of November 17-21, 2014 the court had informative events highlighting the accomplishments of the division that has served more than one million families. The events included two service provider days in the Family Court atrium, a ropes challenge at the juvenile detention facility that demonstrated some of the work being accomplished to rehabilitate youth offenders, an adoption fair, a recognition ceremony to honor those who founded the Family Court and provided perspective on why it is so crucial to our community, and an art contest showcasing what family means to children in Clark County.

GRANT AWARD FUNDS ADULT DRUG COURT

The Eighth Judicial District Court received a \$325,000 grant award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for Adult Drug Court. The grant money will fund intensive in-patient treatment to improve participant odds for successful rehabilitation.

In 2014, the Drug Court had 378 participants graduate; they are contributing to the community instead of revolving through the criminal justice system.

WALL OF HISTORY UNVEILED

In September 2014, the Eighth Judicial District Court unveiled portraits dating back as far as 1910 when the District Court was created with just one department. Outside each civil/criminal department, the portraits were placed of jurists who previously served in the department. The mostly stoic photos are black and white and look like they are from another era. They show a strong contrast from today, where more than 50 percent of the bench consists of women.

SUPREME COURT TAKES CASES ON THE ROAD

The Supreme Court of Nevada held oral arguments at Palo Verde High School in Las Vegas and at Bishop Manogue High School in Reno, as part of the court's educational and outreach efforts.

The court session at Palo Verde High School involved two cases, each of which originated in the Eighth Judicial District Court in Las Vegas. In *State v. Banks*, the State of Nevada appealed the decision of a district court judge to dismiss charges against Edgar Banks. In the second case, *Martionorellan v. State*, Mr. Martionorellan was appealing his conviction related to a burglary and attempted robbery in 2010.

At Bishop Manogue High School, the first case, *Charleston Station v. Stephens*, was a negligence case seeking an appeal from a judgment entered pursuant to a jury verdict. The second case was *State v. Beaudion*, in which the State sought a reversal for a district court order granting the defendant's motion to dismiss.

The Supreme Court has been taking oral arguments on the road for more than 10 years, allowing citizens, especially students, to see how the Court works.

AWARDS AND HONORS



Eighth Judicial District Court, Family Division, 20 Years of Service event honored those who founded the Family Court.

JUSTICE CHERRY RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR

Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Cherry was recognized by the Nevada State Medical Association with its highest honor, the Nicholas J. Horn Award, at the Clark County Medical Society Dinner, June 27, 2015, in Las Vegas at the World Market Center. The Nicholas J. Horn Award recognizes distinguished contributions of persons, who are not physicians, to advance health care and medicine in Nevada.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DOES HIS DUTY

Supreme Court Justice Mark Gibbons was selected August 11, 2014, for a jury trial in Carson City's First Judicial District Court, Department 2. This is the first time, based on the Supreme Court's records, that a Nevada Supreme Court Justice has been seated as a juror in a jury trial in the state.

Justice Gibbons presided over approximately 150 jury trials as a district court judge prior to his election to the Nevada Supreme Court in 2002.

JUSTICE CHERRY RECEIVES THE 2015 JURISPRUDENCE AWARD

In May 2015, Justice Michael A. Cherry received the 2015 Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League of Nevada. The Jurisprudence Award recognizes individuals who serve the community and advocate for civil rights.

JUDGE ELIZABETH GONZALEZ AND ADMINISTRATOR LADEANA GAMBLE RECEIVE LIBERTY BELL AWARD

The Honorable Elizabeth Gonzalez and LaDeana Gamble, Court Administrator for the Las Vegas Justice Court, are the recipients of 2015 Liberty Bell awards. Judge Gonzalez and Ms. Gamble were honored on May 28th, 2015. The annual award recognizes individuals in the community who uphold the rule of law, contribute to good government within the community, stimulate a sense of civic responsibility, and encourage respect for the law in the courts.

ASSISTANT SUPREME COURT CLERK COMPLETES PUBLIC MANAGER PROGRAM

Nevada Supreme Court Chief Assistant Clerk of Court Harriet Cummings, Esq., graduated in October 2014 from the Nevada Certified Public Manager (CPM) Program, a nationally recognized accredited leadership development program. Cummings is the first judicial branch employee to complete the Nevada CPM Program. A Nevada attorney for more than 20 years, Ms. Cummings was an appellate attorney in criminal defense for 12 years before assuming her current position.

NEVADA'S COURT MO

TRIAL COURTS

DISTRICT COURTS

District Courts 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

Appeals/Remands

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.

MODEL AND STRUCTURE

APPELLATE 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 if verdicts and judgments were fair and appropriate. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Discretionary
Appeal and Assignment

COURT OF APPEALS

Comprised of **3 Judges**, cases are assigned to the Court of Appeals from the Supreme Court using a deflection model based upon Supreme Court Rules.

This deflection model allows the Supreme Court to speed up the appeals process by assigning cases to the Court of Appeals, while retaining those cases that raise questions of first impression or issues of important public policy. As a result, more published opinions are provided to establish guidance on Nevada law, improved decisions in the District Courts, and improved access to the appellate process.

Most of the cases assigned to the Court of Appeals are resolved at that court. The Supreme Court retains sole discretion for granting or denying petitions for review originating from the Court of Appeals. Such petitions are only granted in extraordinary cases.

NEVADA JUDICIARY SUMMARY

THE NEVADA JUDICIARY COST PER CASE

In an effort to better understand the performance of the Nevada Judiciary, the Research and Statistics Unit completed a cost per case analysis on the state and local general fund appropriations for the Nevada Judiciary. This cost per case analysis provides a representative view of the costs of Nevada’s District, Justice, and Municipal Courts.

This analysis focused only on the general fund appropriations budgeted (actual expenditures were used where available) for fiscal year 2015. While individual courts generate or receive additional funding (e.g., grants, administrative assessment fees, etc.), the use of these types of funds vary depending on the needs of the court or local governments. For instance, a court may receive a grant to improve juvenile justice programs, but that grant money may be used to fund a specialty court or treatment provider. While these are costs associated with the criminal justice system, they may not be associated with disposing of cases, and therefore were not included in the analysis. In addition, revenue funds were not used to offset the costs.

The table below lists the total expenditures budgeted (salaries and benefits, service and supplies, and other costs), which were \$96,922,730 for District Courts, \$54,285,058 for Justice Courts, and \$42,500,386 for Municipal Courts. Important to note for Nevada, the District Court Judges’ salaries, which were included in the total expenditures, are funded by the State General Fund, but local county governments are responsible for funding District Court staff positions and facility needs. For Justice and Municipal Courts, funding for judicial and staff positions, as well as facility needs, are provided primarily through the local government.

In addition, the table below shows that District Courts disposed of more than 125,000 cases, while Justice Courts disposed of more than 467,000 cases. Municipal Court disposed of slightly more than 180,000 cases. District Courts hear complex civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases. Justice Courts hear civil cases involving disputes under \$10,000, preliminary hearings on serious criminal offenses, all misdemeanor criminal cases, as well as traffic and protection order matters. Municipal Courts hear criminal misdemeanor and traffic matters, as well as civil matters related to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 5.050 and petitions to seal records.

Cost per case is calculated by taking the total expenditures and dividing it by the total number of cases disposed. Cases disposed is used because all judicial expenditures are provided to ensure courts can properly and completely adjudicate matters brought before them. Therefore, disposed cases best represent the outcome of judicial expenditures. When comparing District Court expenditures to dispositions, the District Courts expended \$775.08 per case during fiscal year 2015. When looking at Justice Court expenditures and cases disposed, a cost per case of \$116.14 is calculated. Municipal costs per case were calculated to be the second highest at \$236.03.

This analysis takes on added meaning when considering the passage of Assembly Bill 66 (AB66) by the 2015 Legislature, which became effective on October 1, 2015. AB66 increased the claim amount thresholds in Justice Courts on small claims matters from \$7,500 to \$10,000 and on general civil matters from \$10,000 to \$15,000. This increase allows for more litigants to adjudicate matters at a lower cost to taxpayers, thereby gaining greater access to justice and reducing the burden on Nevada citizens.

The Nevada Supreme Court, as the head of the Nevada Judiciary, has sought to improve Nevada’s judicial system to make it more transparent and accessible. As a part of that effort, the Research and Statistics Unit (RSU) of the Administrative Office of the Courts was charged with improving and increasing the amount of statistical data gathered and reported in civil matters. This effort began in 2012 with the formation of a statewide workgroup that reviewed civil cases processes, procedures, and national standards on statistical reporting. The workgroup made recommendations for changes to the Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) Dictionary to the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, which adopted the recommendations and required all courts to begin reporting new statistics on July 2014.

The RSU and Nevada’s trial courts worked together to ensure that court staff throughout the state were properly trained and that case management systems were configured to meet these new requirements. The result of these efforts brought improved clarity to what types of civil matters are filed in the courts, especially limited jurisdiction courts. For instance, civil cases types reported in Justice Courts increased from 5 to 19 case types.

In addition to the increased case types, specific training and instruction were given to Municipal Courts on how to more accurately capture civil matters filed in their courts, such as petitions to seal records and matters filed pursuant to NRS 5.050. This emphasis helped ensure Municipal Courts more accurately reflect their civil caseload, which has been historically very small or not reported.

These types of statewide efforts continue to show that the Nevada Supreme Court and trial courts are committed to improving the transparency and accuracy of the statistical information contained in this annual report and its appendices.

Total Cost Per Case, Fiscal Year 2015.

Court Type	Total Expenditure	Total Dispositions	Cost Per Case
District Court	\$96,922,730	125,049 ^a	\$775.08
Justice Court	\$54,285,058	467,424 ^b	\$116.14
Municipal Court	\$42,500,386	180,064 ^b	\$236.03

^a Does not include juvenile traffic dispositions.

^b Includes non-traffic and traffic case dispositions.

NEVADA JUDICIARY SUMMARY

NEVADA JUDICIARY OVERVIEW

Fiscal year 2015 marks the 16th 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 3 percent decline, reporting 2,402 cases filed. The Court disposed of 2,344 cases this year, which was greater than the 5-year average of 2,310. The pending caseload significantly decreased to 1,543, shedding 442 cases from last year's 1,985 total pending cases.

The decrease in the Supreme Court's pending caseload was due in large part to the 500 cases transferred to the State's newly formed three-judge Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals disposed of 304 of these cases, which resulted in 196 pending cases at the end of the fiscal year for the Court of Appeals.

With the formation of the Court of Appeals this year, the two appellate courts in Nevada were able to decrease the total pending caseload from 1,985 last year to 1,739 cases at the end of this year. This was a more than 12 percent decrease in the pending caseload, and this magnitude has not been seen since fiscal year 2011 (1,690). Considering the Court of Appeals was approved by the voters in November 2014, formed in January 2015, and managed to help decrease the pending caseload in just 6 months of operation, the decrease is expected to continue next year.

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, broken out by jurisdiction, for the past 5 years.

Overall, the statewide non-traffic total filings decreased by 3 percent (11,047 fewer filings) from last year; this was the second consecutive year where overall non-traffic filings decreased. Most of the filing decrease came from the Justice and Municipal Courts' criminal caseloads, which is discussed on pages 36-43. This year's 352,815 Fiscal Year 2015

non-traffic filings represent a 16 percent reduction from the fiscal year 2009 high of 421,449 cases filed, and a 8 percent reduction over the past 10 years.

Total non-traffic dispositions decreased by less than 3 percent from last year. This was led by the reduction in criminal filings in the Justice and Municipal Courts, as well as a reduction in the number of civil dispositions reported in the Justice Courts. Overall, the State's trial courts reported a disposition rate of 102 percent (no change from last year).

Criminal filings statewide decreased by 7 percent from last year. This is the second consecutive year that criminal filings have decreased, and was due to the decreases in the Justice (7 percent) and Municipal (10 percent) Courts. District Courts increased by more than 1 percent. Criminal dispositions decreased more than 5 percent from last year, with a 98 percent disposition rate (2 percent increase from last year).

This year marked the implementation of improved civil statistical reporting by the courts, for which all courts made the commitment to implement. The improvements included expanded case type definitions, collection of case statuses, as well as collection of reopening events at the case level. The expansion of the case type definitions resulted in the Municipal Courts, which had only reported a single civil case since fiscal year 2011, reporting 329 civil cases this year. Overall, civil filings

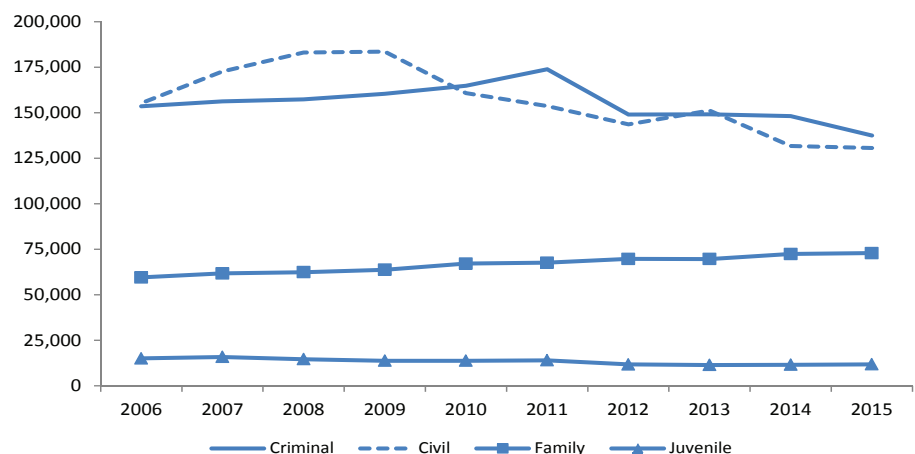
decreased almost 1 percent statewide this year, while dispositions decreased less than 2 percent, with a 112 percent disposition rate (1 percent decrease from last year).

Family and juvenile matters are District Court functions and are discussed in greater detail on pages 29-35. Family case filings have increased every year since USJR statistics have been collected, except for fiscal year 2013. This year, filings and dispositions increased less than 1 percent from last year, which resulted in a disposition rate of 95 percent (no change from last year).

Juvenile filings increased by 2 percent from last year, and dispositions decreased by less than 5 percent. The incongruent change in filings and dispositions led to a 86 percent disposition rate, which is a 6 percent decrease from last year's 92 percent rate.

Traffic violations continue to comprise a substantial portion (55 percent) of the judicial caseload. The Nevada Judiciary is funded in large part through the administrative assessments statutorily required to be added to misdemeanor non-traffic and traffic fines. Since traffic offenses 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 2015, the traffic and parking caseload filings and dispositions decreased in the Nevada

Figure 1. Nevada Judiciary Filings, by Case Type, Fiscal Years 2006-15.



NEVADA JUDICIARY SUMMARY

Table 1. Reported Statewide Trial Court Totals, Fiscal Years 2011-15.

Caseload Filings ^a							
Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^b	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Caseload	Traffic and Parking Cases ^c
District	2015	17,448	27,797	72,915	11,823	129,983	2,648
	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
Justice	2015	72,231	102,430	NJ	NJ	174,661	287,760
	2014	78,057	102,546 ^r	NJ	NJ	180,603 ^r	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
Municipal	2015	47,842	329 ^d	NJ	NJ	48,171	135,882
	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
Total	2015	137,521	130,556	72,915	11,823	352,815	426,290
	2014	148,159	131,748 ^r	72,381	11,574	363,862 ^r	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

Dispositions ^a							
Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^b	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Dispositions	Traffic and Parking Dispositions ^c
District	2015	17,219	28,401	69,254	10,175	125,049	2,804
	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
Justice	2015	72,806	117,585	NJ	NJ	190,391	277,033
	2014	76,673	121,180 ^r	NJ	NJ	197,853 ^r	318,167
	2013	75,366	103,637	NJ	NJ	179,003	344,218
	2012	78,181	94,915	NJ	NJ	173,096	360,849
	2011	91,503	99,328	NJ	NJ	190,831	335,702
Municipal	2015	44,905	271 ^d	NJ	NJ	45,176	134,888
	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
Total	2015	134,930	146,257	69,254	10,175	360,616	414,725
	2014	142,692	148,708 ^r	68,955	10,691	371,046 ^r	466,649
	2013	149,441	135,785	65,970	13,282	364,478	518,673
	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

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 While Municipal Courts have limited civil jurisdiction, USJR began tracking specific civil actions in FY 2015. Comparisons with previous years should not be made.

^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.

APPELLATE COURTS SUMMARY

courts by 12 and 11 percent, respectively. This is the sixth consecutive year filings have decreased. There was a 97 percent traffic disposition rate this year, which is a 1 percent increase from last year.

SUPREME COURT

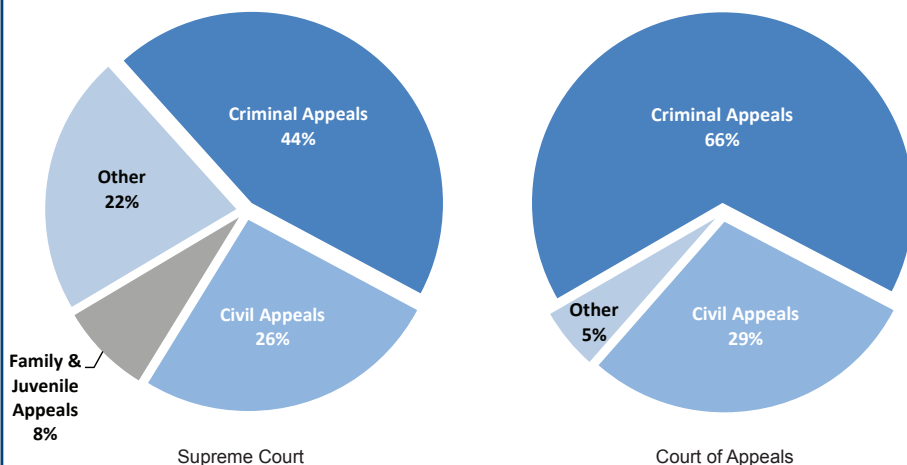
The Supreme Court is the administrative head of the entire Nevada legal system. The Justices oversee the courts and issue rules governing everything from court procedures to the ethical and professional conduct of judges and attorneys.

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort. The core constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review appeals of the decisions from the District Courts and Court of Appeals. 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 reviews all filed cases. Based upon the Supreme Court Rules for specific appeal actions and discretion for other matters, the Nevada Supreme Court assigns appeals to the Court of Appeals through a deflection model and retains all other appeals filed. Any decisions of the Court of Appeals that are appealed to the Supreme Court through a petition for review then become discretionary.

As shown in Table 2, in fiscal year 2015, the Supreme Court had 2,402 filings, which is a decrease of 3 percent, or 79 fewer filings, from the year before. The Supreme Court disposed of 2,344 cases, which was just 31 fewer cases than last year. The Court reported a disposition rate of 98 percent for the year.

During the last 6 months of the fiscal year, 13 discretionary petitions for review were filed with the Supreme Court on cases decided by the Court of Appeals. In every instance, the Supreme Court has denied the petition, which then upholds or affirms the Court of Appeals' decision.

Figure 2. Distribution of Cases Filed in the Appellate Courts 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 Appellate Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2011-15. ^a

	Fiscal Year 2011	Fiscal Year 2012	Fiscal Year 2013	Fiscal Year 2014	Fiscal Year 2015
Appeal Cases Filed					
Bar Matters	52	77	64	87	103
Appeals	1,954	2,054	1,902	2,057 ^r	1,858
Original Proceedings	365 ^r	345 ^r	343	306	398
Other	4 ^r	6 ^r	4	14	6
Reinstated	21 ^r	18	20	17 ^r	24
Petitions for Review Filed	-	-	-	-	13
Total Cases Filed	2,396^r	2,500	2,333	2,481	2,402
Supreme Court Cases Disposed					
By Opinions ^b	71	92	84	109	89
By Order	2,149	2,178	2,290 ^r	2,266 ^r	2,242
Petitions for Review Denied	-	-	-	-	13
Total Cases Disposed	2,220	2,270	2,374^r	2,375^r	2,344
Appeal Cases Assigned					
Cases Assigned to COA	-	-	-	-	500
Court of Appeals Cases Disposed					
By Opinions ^b	-	-	-	-	4
By Order	-	-	-	-	299
Other	-	-	-	-	1
Total Cases Disposed	-	-	-	-	304
Pending Cases					
Supreme Court Pending	1,690 ^r	1,920 ^r	1,879	1,985 ^r	1,543
Court of Appeals Pending	-	-	-	-	196
Total Appeal Cases Pending	1,690^r	1,920^r	1,879	1,985^r	1,739
SC Authored Opinions	67	86	79	105	87
COA Authored Opinions	-	-	-	-	4
Total Authored Opinions	67	86	79	105	91

^a Court of Appeals established January 2015 of fiscal year 2015.

^b May include single and consolidated cases disposed per curiam or by authored opinion.

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

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

APPELLATE COURTS SUMMARY

Table 3. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2011-15.

	Civil Appeals Filed ^a					Criminal Appeals Filed					Total Appeals Filed				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
First	47	56	58	36	33	32	35	27	35	40	79	91	85	71	73
Second	156	181	146	129 ^r	117	164	208	203	191	199	320	389	349	320 ^r	316
Third	24	12	4	11	8	21	7	9	9	7	45	19	13	20	15
Fourth	5 ^r	4	6	4	5	22	12	17	22	22	27 ^r	16	23	26	27
Fifth	15	12	10	13	16	32 ^r	29	44	26	48	47 ^r	41	54	39	64
Sixth	18	17	16	29	25	23	33	28	16	11	41	50	44	45	36
Seventh	13	12	15	11	8	28	17	32	32	25	41	29	47	43	33
Eighth	561 ^r	646	601	740	574	777	735	645	718	695	1,338 ^r	1,381	1,246	1,458	1,269
Ninth	10	15	12	10	12	3	4	5	9	6	13	19	17	19	18
Tenth	(b)	14	8	4	0	(b)	4	13	9	5	(b)	18	21	13	5
Total ^c	849^r	969	876	987^r	798	1,102^r	1,084	1,023	1,067	1,058	1,951^r	2,053	1,899	2,054^r	1,856

^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.

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

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of the appeals filed in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals by case type. In the Supreme Court, criminal appeals are the majority of the court's caseload at 44 percent. Civil appeals made up the second largest percentage at 26 percent, while juvenile and family matters made up 8 percent. Finally, other matters such as original proceedings, made up the remaining 22 percent of the Supreme Court's caseload.

COURT OF APPEALS

On November 4, 2014, Nevada voters agreed to amend Article 6 of the Nevada Constitution to allow for the creation of a Court of Appeals. On January 5, 2015, the Nevada Court of Appeals opened its doors with the swearing in of three judges. Prior to these changes, the Supreme Court heard all appeals, including everything from murder convictions to appeals of driver's license revocations.

As mentioned above, the Supreme Court now assigns some of the cases to the Court

of Appeals. This adds another panel of judges to hear and resolve cases, thereby allowing the Supreme Court to focus more on cases of precedence that can be relied on by lower courts, attorneys, and the public.

As seen in Table 2, the Court of Appeals was assigned 500 cases and disposed of 304 cases through opinions and orders. This resulted in a disposition rate of 61 percent.

One of the major goals attributed to the adding of a Court of Appeals in Nevada was to reduce the number of appeals pending with the Supreme Court. With only being in operation for 6 months, the number of pending appeals has reduced from 1,985 to 1,739, a decrease of more than 12 percent. This shows that the addition of the Court of Appeals is improving access to justice in Nevada, by providing for faster resolution of cases appealed to Nevada's Appellate Courts.

Figure 2 includes a chart that shows the distribution of the appeals filed in the Court of Appeals by case type. Criminal appeals are the majority of the court's caseload, at 66 percent. Civil appeals made up the second largest percentage at 29 percent, while other matters such as original proceedings made up 5 percent.

APPEALS BY DISTRICT

The breakdown of appeals by Judicial District is provided in Table 3. Total civil and criminal appealed cases decreased by 189 cases (19 percent) and 9 cases (less than 1 percent), respectively. This led to an overall decrease of 198 appealed cases (10 percent) by district statewide. The two most populous District Courts in Nevada, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) and Second Judicial District (Washoe County), represented 85 percent of the 1,856 cases appealed from District Courts, which was a 2 percent decrease from last year. The largest percentage and magnitude increase in appeals filed with the Supreme Court was from the Fifth Judicial District Court (Nye, Esmeralda, and Mineral Counties) at 64 percent (25 more cases). The largest percentage decrease was from the Tenth Judicial District Court (Churchill County) at 62 percent (8 fewer cases). The Eighth Judicial District Court reported the largest magnitude decrease, reporting 189 (13 percent) less appeals this year than last.



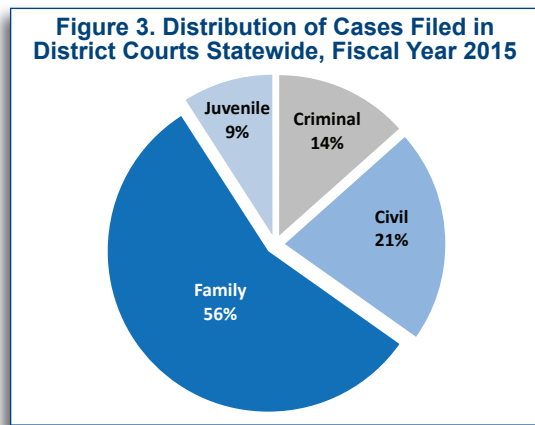
DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

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 county 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.

With passage of Assembly Bill 435 in the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature, Mineral County of the Fifth Judicial District, along with Lander and Pershing Counties of the Sixth Judicial District, were removed from their respective Districts to form a new Eleventh Judicial District effective July 1, 2015. The Judge of Department 1 of the Sixth Judicial District will serve the Eleventh Judicial District. The two Judges of the Fifth Judicial District, and the Judge of Department 2 of the Sixth Judicial District, will continue to serve their respective Districts. The revised Districts will be reflected in next year's Annual Report.



STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The District Court non-traffic case filing information for the past 2 fiscal years is summarized in Table 4, and summary disposition information is included in Table 5. Overall, total non-traffic cases filed in District Courts slightly decreased (less than half of a percent) from fiscal year 2014, while civil filings decreased less than 5 percent from last year. Criminal (1 percent), family (1 percent), and juvenile (2 percent) filings all increased from last year's levels. Overall, 7 of the 17 District Courts' total filings increased from last year, with a 96 percent disposition rate for all non-traffic cases. Figure 3 shows this year's distribution of cases filed in District Courts. Family cases continue to make up the majority of cases filed, reported at 56 percent. Civil (21 percent), criminal (14 percent), and juvenile (9 percent) cases comprised of the remaining cases filed. Only the criminal (plus 1 percent) and civil (minus 1 percent) distributions changed from last year.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

(as of June 30, 2015)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge James Todd Russell
Judge James Wilson, Jr.

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Janet Berry
Judge Frances Doherty
Judge Patrick Flanagan
Judge Scott Freeman
Judge David Hardy
Judge David Humke
Judge Bridget Robb Peck
Judge Jerome Polaha
Judge Elliott Sattler
Judge Lynne Simons
Judge Connie Steinheimer
Judge Lidia Stiglich
Judge Egan Walker
Judge Chuck Weller
Judge Cynthia Lu

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Leon Aberasturi
Judge John Schlegelmilch

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 Jim C. Shirley

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 Lisa M. Brown
Judge Rebecca L. Burton
Judge Elissa Cadish
Judge Kenneth Cory
Judge Jim Crockett

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.

Judge Kathleen Delaney
Judge Mark Denton
Judge Bryce Duckworth
Judge Kerry Earley
Judge Jennifer Elliott
Judge Carolyn Ellsworth
Judge Adriana Escobar
Judge Denise L. Gentile
Judge Cynthia N. Giuliani
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez
Judge Joe Hardy
Judge Mathew Harter
Judge Bill Henderson
Judge Douglas Herndon
Judge Charles Hoskin
Judge Rena G. Hughes
Judge Ronald J. Israel
Judge Eric Johnson
Judge Susan Johnson
Judge William Kephart
Judge Joanna Kishner
Judge Michelle Leavitt
Judge Linda Marquis
Judge Stefany Miley
Judge Cheryl Moss
Judge Vincent Ochoa
Judge Sandra Pomrenze
Judge William Potter
Judge T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.
Judge Susan Scann
Judge Richard Scotti
Judge Douglas Smith
Judge Cynthia Dianne Steel
Judge Gloria Sturman
Judge Frank Sullivan
Judge Robert Teuton
Judge Jennifer Togliatti
Judge Michael Villani
Judge William Voy
Judge Jessie Walsh
Judge Jerry Wiese
Judge Timothy Williams

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Thomas W. Gregory
Judge Nathan T. Young

10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Thomas Stockard

percent) cases comprised of the remaining cases filed. Only the criminal (plus 1 percent) and civil (minus 1 percent) distributions changed from last year.

Criminal filings in the District Courts this year increased by 252 cases from last year, for a total 17,448 filings. Ten courts had increases, with the largest magnitude increase being in Clark County (510). Other courts, such as Eureka (225 percent), Lander (142 percent), Churchill (58 percent), Storey (38 percent), and Lyon (35 percent) Counties had large percentage increases, and these increases in the five courts

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

resulted in 207 more non-traffic filings (more than half from Churchill County alone). Some courts had large percentage decreases from last year, such as Esmeralda (95 percent), Nye (28 percent), Douglas (27 percent), and Lincoln (26 percent) Counties. Washoe County, which decreased more than 9 percent from last year after increasing 10 percent the year prior, decreased by 315 filings this year.

Total criminal dispositions increased as well, with a more than 7 percent increase from last year and a 99 percent disposition rate. Overall, 9 District Courts reported at least a 90 percent disposition rate, and 10 courts reported more dispositions this year than last.

This year marked a major transition of the civil statistics, as the USJR Phase II was implemented for all Nevada trial courts. This transition was not trivial, as it required case management system upgrades, new business practices to accurately capture the new measures, and

commitment from the courts to implement the changes. All the District Courts made the transition to the new standards. Phase II made many changes, but the most notable changes were expanding the number of case types from 24 to 49, as well as collecting reopen counts at the case type level. The specifics can be found in greater detail in the appendix tables (found online at www.nvcourts.gov).

This year, civil filings decreased by less than 5 percent from last year (1,405 fewer filings, for a total of 27,797). In addition, eight District Courts increased, or maintained, last year's filing levels. Like in criminal cases, Eureka District Court (67 percent) had the largest percentage increase, which was followed by Elko (41 percent) and White Pine (20 percent) Counties. Clark County had the largest magnitude decrease (1,146 fewer cases), followed by Washoe County (350 fewer cases). Of note however, is that Washoe County is in the process of updating

reporting methods, in particular for reopen case counts, and the number of new filings (3,089) this year actually increased less than 2 percent from the year prior (3,037).

Civil dispositions reported an increase from fiscal year 2014, despite the decrease in filings. In fact, 14 of the 17 courts reported increases this year. The disposition rate improved from 94 percent in fiscal year 2014 to 102 percent this year, with eight courts reporting at least a 90 percent disposition rate. Some of this increase is due to case clean-up associated with moving to Phase II standards previously discussed.

Family case filings increased by less than 1 percent from last year (534 more filings). While only seven courts had increases this year, the 3,360-case increase at the Clark County District Court helped propel the statewide total this year; Churchill (415) and Elko (168) Counties also had significant magnitude increases this year. Eureka (83 percent)

Table 4. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2014-15. (See Table 7 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 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015
	First Judicial District									
Carson City District Court	349	385	548	570	1,058	1,024	137 ^c	123 ^d	2,092	2,102
Storey County District Court	8	11	26	26	19	20	15 ^c	7 ^d	68	64
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	3,326	3,011	3,579	3,229	11,414	8,464	2,228 ^c	1,537 ^c	20,547	16,241 ^f
Third Judicial District										
Lyon County District Court	204	276	257	254	847	808	215	340	1,523	1,678
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	422	465	322	454	1,439	1,607	435	569	2,618	3,095 ^g
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	21	1	17	16	5	4	1	7	44	28
Mineral County District Court	39	39	21	24	58	47	34	26	152	136
Nye County District Court	476	343	437	371	1,031	777	395	510	2,339	2,001
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	175	151	237	207	469	387	186	222	1,067	967
Lander County District Court	12	29	33	18	58	62	65	58	168	167
Pershing County District Court	82	84	110	126	72	73	200	176	464	459
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	4	13	12	20	6	11	7	16	29	60
Lincoln County District Court	42	31	36	24	40	30	12	16	130	101
White Pine County District Court	142	158	108	130	184	183	109	97	543	568
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	11,493	12,003	22,964	21,818	54,161	57,521	7,362	7,652	95,980	98,994
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	218 ^d	159 ^d	350 ^c	343	794	756	67 ^d	36 ^d	1,429	1,294
Tenth Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	183	289	145	167	726	1,141	106	431	1,160	2,028 ^h
Total	17,196	17,448	29,202	27,797	72,381	72,915	11,574	11,823	130,353	129,983

^a Includes appeals of lower jurisdiction courts.

^b Includes reopened cases.

^c Reopened cases not reported.

^d Reopened cases under-reported.

^f The decreased number of family cases filed does not reflect a decreased workload for the Washoe County District Court. Instead, the reported decrease in cases reflects a change in the way that the Washoe County District Court captures and reports reopen cases pursuant to guidelines maintained by the AOC.

^g Increase due in part to judicial review of older cases.

^h The increased number of family cases filed does not reflect a significant increase in workload for the Churchill County District Court. Instead, the reported increase in cases reflects a change in the way that the Churchill County District Court captures and reports reopen cases pursuant to guidelines and precipitated by the use of a new case management system.

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

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Table 5. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2014-15. (See Table 7 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
First Judicial District										
Carson City District Court	242	287	417	425	964	963	185	191	1,808	1,866
Storey County District Court	5	0	25	38	12	20	5	10	47	68
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	2,643	2,348	2,866	2,980	10,803	7,945	1,069	1,047	17,381	14,320 ^a
Third Judicial District										
Lyon County District Court	192	248	221	284	791	709 ^b	237	316	1,441	1,557
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	518	496	263	332	1,299	1,503	330	525	2,410	2,856 ^c
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	22	21 ^d	8	15	6	5	1	7	37	48
Mineral County District Court	30	55	1	7	8	10	59	19	98	91
Nye County District Court	397	428	249	278	884	703	460	632	1,990	2,041
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	181	137	155	170	384	320	157	191	877	818
Lander County District Court	16	18	8	11	46	47	36	40	106	116
Pershing County District Court	51	99	144	94	69	123	173	132	437	448
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	7	8	16	10	8	7	5	15	36	40
Lincoln County District Court	39	22	20	22	27	28	11	11	97	83
White Pine County District Court	126	139	109	124	182	153	102	99	519	515
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	11,246	12,515	22,496	23,168	52,090	54,952	7,747	6,536	93,579	97,171
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	142	133	317	210	707	600	41	20	1,207	963
Tenth Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	150	265	213	233	675	1,166	73	384	1,111	2,048 ^f
Total	16,007	17,219	27,528	28,401	68,955	69,254	10,691	10,175	123,181	125,049

^a The decreased number of family cases disposed does not reflect a decreased workload for the Washoe County District Court. Instead, the reported decrease in cases reflects a change in the way that the Washoe County District Court captures and reports reopen dispositions pursuant to guidelines maintained by the AOC.

^b In FY 2015, there were 8,770 administrative closures of older cases. To provide a better representation of current cases addressed by the court this fiscal year, these administrative closures were omitted from this table but are noted here for general information.

^c Increase due in part to judicial review of older cases.

^d Includes administrative case closures.

^f The increased number of family cases disposed does not reflect a significant increase in workload for the Churchill County District Court. Instead, the reported increase in cases reflects a change in the way that the Churchill County District Court captures and reports reopen dispositions pursuant to guidelines and precipitated by the use of a new case management system.

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

and Churchill (57 percent) Counties had the largest percentage increases this year. Four courts (Washoe, Esmeralda, Nye, and Lincoln Counties) had decreases greater than 20 percent in family filings this year. Washoe County's filing decrease (2,950 cases) came as part of the updated reporting methods for reopening events, as this court reported a more than 7 percent increase in new filings, but the reopen case counts were less than 13 percent of last year's total.

Family dispositions slightly increased from last year (less than half a percent). Eight courts reported increases, and the statewide disposition rate was 95 percent (no change from last year). Overall, ten courts reported at least a 90 percent disposition rate for family cases.

Juvenile case filings increased 2 percent from last year. Of the nine courts that had increases in filings this year, Esmeralda (600 percent), Churchill (307 percent), Eureka (129 percent), and Lyon (58 percent) Counties reported the

largest percentage increases. Storey (53 percent), Douglas (46 percent), Washoe (31 percent), and Mineral (24 percent) Counties reported the largest percentage decreases this year.

Juvenile dispositions decreased by less than 5 percent from last year, despite the increase in filings and only six courts (Washoe, Mineral, Pershing, White Pine, Clark, and Douglas Counties) reporting decreases in dispositions. The decrease in dispositions led to a 86 percent disposition rate, a 6 percent decrease from last year. Overall, only eight courts had a disposition rate of at least 90 percent this year for juvenile cases.

This year, three courts had major revisions to their case management systems (CMS) that had some degree of change on their reported totals. Lyon County's change manifested as a major case cleanup that resulted in 8,770 administrative closures in family cases. Washoe County put policies in place that allows clerks and staff to more accurately

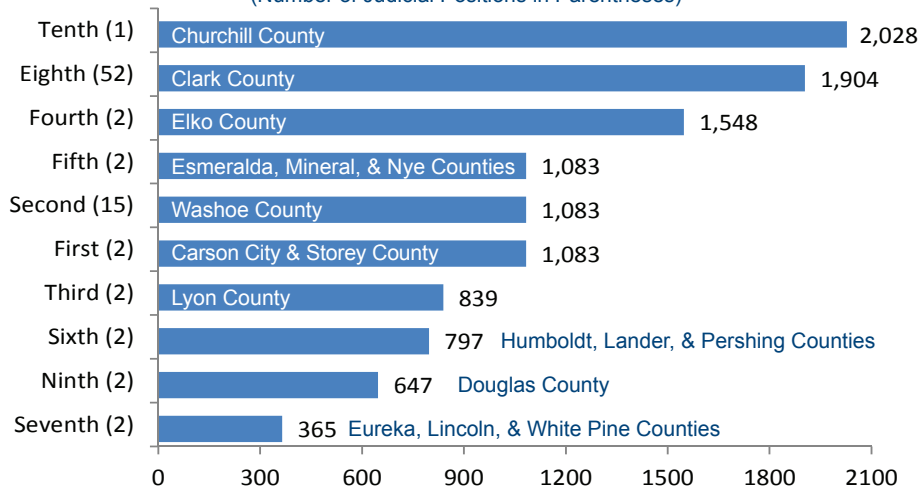
capture reopening events at the court. Churchill County's implementation of a new CMS allowed for better tracking of cases, which is partially attributable to their 75 and 84 percent increases in non-traffic filings and dispositions, respectively.

CASES PER JUDICIAL POSITION

The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for all District Courts in Nevada for fiscal year 2015 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.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Figure 4. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2015
(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial positions for District Courts is 1,585.
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts was 1,585, a decrease of 5 cases per judge from last fiscal year (1,590). When comparing the information to fiscal year 2014 statistics, 6 of the 10 judicial districts increased or maintained the number of filings per judicial position.

The Tenth Judicial District (Churchill County) reported the most number of cases per judicial position (2,028), which is a 868 case per judicial position increase—due in part to CMS improvements previously discussed. The Tenth Judicial District was followed by the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County), which increased their total cases per judicial position by 58 this year (to 1,904). This is the first time that the Eighth Judicial District did not report the most cases per judicial position in the District Courts. The Eighth Judicial District was followed by the Fourth (1,548), Fifth (1,083), Second (1,083), and First (1,083) Judicial District Courts.

While the Tenth Judicial District Court had the largest increase from last year, the Fourth Judicial District (Elko County) also significantly increased from last year, reporting 239 more cases per judicial position.

District Court Judges with smaller

caseloads may assist the busier District Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. Also, in multi-county judicial districts, judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among the counties within their districts to hear cases. A 2011 study 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 6 summarizes the estimated full-time equivalent assistance provided by Special Masters this year.

Statewide, the quasi-judicial assistance provided during fiscal year 2015 was equivalent to 27.45 full-time judicial officers. This is a slight decrease from last year's reported 27.72. In District Courts, most of the quasi-judicial officers are commissioners, referees, or masters for alternative dispute resolution, family, and juvenile cases. Additionally, in a few Judicial Districts, such as the Fifth and Seventh, Justices of the Peace serve as the Juvenile Masters for juvenile traffic

cases. 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 7. Juvenile traffic filings increased just less than 20 percent from last year. Washoe County reported the largest magnitude increase (403), along with the second largest percentage increase (47 percent), after reporting a significant decrease the year prior (41 percent decrease). Lander County had the largest percentage increase, reporting 56 percent more traffic filings this year. Overall, 7 of the 13 District Courts reporting juvenile traffic cases reported increases this year.

Dispositions for juvenile traffic cases at the District Courts increased by more

Table 6. Full-Time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts, Fiscal Year 2015.

Court and County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
First Judicial District Carson City Storey	1.00
Second Judicial District Washoe	7.00
Third Judicial District Lyon	0.25
Fourth Judicial District Elko	1.00
Fifth Judicial District Esmeralda Mineral Nye	0.82
Sixth Judicial District Humboldt Lander Pershing	2.00
Seventh Judicial District Eureka Lincoln White Pine	0.30
Eighth Judicial District Clark	14.00
Ninth Judicial District Douglas	0.50
Tenth Judicial District Churchill	0.58
Total	27.45



DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Table 7. Summary of Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed in District Court, Fiscal Years 2014-15.

Court	Juvenile Traffic Cases ^a			
	Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015
First Judicial District				
Carson City District Court	207 ^b	250	286	223
Storey County District Court	4 ^b	1	4	1
Second Judicial District				
Washoe County District Court	856	1,259	1,223	1,503
Third Judicial District				
Lyon County District Court	202	242	139	265
Fourth Judicial District				
Elko County District Court	470	381	443	343
Fifth Judicial District				
Esmeralda County District Court	3	2	3	7
Mineral County District Court	1	0	0	0
Nye County District Court	93	66	44	35
Sixth Judicial District				
Humboldt County District Court	54	77	34	57
Lander County District Court	16	25	5	26
Pershing County District Court	28	21	26	18
Seventh Judicial District				
Eureka County District Court	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Lincoln County District Court	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
White Pine County District Court	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Eighth Judicial District				
Clark County District Court	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Ninth Judicial District				
Douglas County District Court	165 ^b	202 ^b	202	202
Tenth Judicial District				
Churchill County District Court	112	122	103	124
Total	2,211	2,648	2,512	2,804

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Reopen cases not reported.

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

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

than 11 percent this year. Dispositions increased or were maintained in eight courts from last year. The disposition rate for all District Court juvenile traffic matters was 106 percent, and nine courts had rates of at least 90 percent.

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 Judge Program, had these comments regarding the justices and judges who participate: “Our Senior Judge Program has proven to be a cost effective way to ensure that court cases can be heard in a timely fashion, even if the assigned judge is unavailable. Nevada is fortunate to have a number of Senior

Judges available whose experience is unmatched and who can step in, no matter what type of case is involved or where the need arises. The addition of the District Judges who retired at the end of 2014 and became Senior Judges is a great asset to the Judiciary and the State of Nevada.” Seven former District Judges became Senior Judges during fiscal year 2015. These new Senior Judges will provide valuable knowledge and experience as courts proceed into the future with potentially greater caseloads.

When Governor Brian Sandoval appointed three sitting District Court Judges to the Nevada Court of Appeals in December 2014, vacancies were created in the Eighth and Ninth Judicial Districts the judges were selected from. Senior Judges provided extra support to those districts to keep the vacant departments in those jurisdictions operating. Senior Judges continued to assist in filling those vacant judicial positions until the Governor appointed replacements at the end of March and beginning of April.

Summary information on Senior Justice and Judge assignments per judicial district during fiscal year 2015

is provided in Table 8. 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 Administrative Office of the Courts assigns Senior Justices and Judges 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 hear specific cases due to recusal or disqualification, or if a sitting judge has an unusually heavy caseload.

The Senior Justices and Judges hear civil and medical malpractice settlement conferences on a regular basis. On average they hear between three to eight settlement conferences per week. Currently, settlement conferences are primarily heard in the urban Second and Eighth Judicial Districts, but also occur occasionally in rural jurisdictions. Additionally, Senior Justices and Judges hear short trials and settlement conferences every two weeks in the Eighth Judicial District Court.

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

BUSINESS COURTS

Business courts are a type of specialty court created in 2001 at the request of the Second and Eighth Judicial District Courts. The Nevada Supreme Court entered in administrative docket (ADKT) 398, an order creating the business courts and requiring annual statistical reporting on the status of the program in each respective district.

As shown in Table 9, the Second Judicial District Court had 37 new and transferred cases added to their business

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Table 8. Senior Justices and Judges Assignments for Fiscal Year 2015.

Judicial District (JD)	Assignment Type	Number of	
		Assignments	Hours
First JD	Case Assignment	10	153.33
	Durational	6	95.91
	Settlement Conference	4	35.00
Total for First JD		20	284.24
Second JD	Case Assignment	4	149.25
	Durational	14	472.66
	Settlement Conference	4	62.49
	Specialty Court – Urban	5	1,468.50
Total for Second JD		27	2,152.90
Third JD	Case Assignment	11	124.00
Total for Third JD		11	124.00
Fourth JD	Case Assignment	22	289.50
	Durational	8	97.33
	Settlement Conference	1	1.00
Total for Fourth JD		31	387.83
Fifth JD	Case Assignment	9	104.33
	Durational	4	162.33
	Settlement Conference	1	8.00
Total for Fifth JD		14	274.66
Sixth JD	Case Assignment	7	73.50
	Settlement Conference	1	2.00
Total for Sixth JD		8	75.50
Seventh JD	Case Assignment	13	188.25
	Durational	2	12.33
Total for Seventh JD		15	200.58
Eighth JD	Case Assignment	22	502.50
	Durational	92	3,889.00
	Durational – Family	67	1499.95
	Settlement Conference	127	1,156.42
	Short Trial/Settlements – Family	15	603.43
	Specialty Court – Urban	1	8.00
Total for Eighth JD		324	7,659.30
Ninth JD	Case Assignment	14	74.17
	Durational	8	447.50
	Settlement Conference	1	4.00
Total for Ninth JD		23	525.67
Tenth JD	Case Assignment	22	105.92
	Durational	4	44.25
Total for Tenth JD		26	150.17
Rural Specialty Court	Specialty Court – Rural	4	508.00
Total for Rural Specialty Court		4	508.00
Supreme Court	Supreme Court Appeals	1	40.00
Total for Supreme Court		1	40.00
Grand Total		504	12,382.85

resulted in pending cases decreasing from 508 last year to 493. Each court reported that cases disposed in fiscal year 2015 took on average longer to resolve than those matters resolved during fiscal year 2014 with average times to disposition of 17 and 24 months in the Second and Eighth Judicial District Courts, respectively.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs began on July 1, 1992, after passage of Senate Bill 366 (SB366) by the 1991 Legislature. ADR programs address high caseloads by allowing less complicated cases to be resolved through arbitration or short trials. ADR programs offer litigants quicker resolutions and reduced legal costs. SB366 required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement ADR Programs. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City, Storey County, and Douglas County) subsequently adopted the program voluntarily. Arbitration Commissioners administer the programs in each Judicial District.

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

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

court docket representing a decrease of more than 27 percent from last year. In contrast, the Eighth Judicial District Court had 285 new and transferred cases added to their docket, which represented a 6 percent increase from last year.

Both business courts reported a decrease in dispositions of less than 32 percent and more than 13 percent in

the Second and Eighth Judicial District Courts, respectively. In the Second Judicial District Court, resolving fewer cases than the number filed and transferred into the business court program caused an increase in pending cases at year end to 113. The Eighth Judicial District Court saw more cases resolved than filed and transferred into their program, which

Table 9. Summary of Business Court Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2014-15.

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
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	51	26	0	11	22	15	91	113	12	17
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	208	236	60	49	347 ^b	300 ^b	508	493	23	24

^a Includes reopened cases.

^b Includes cases transferred out of the program.

Source: Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Table 10. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2015.^a

	First Judicial District Court		Second Judicial District Court		Eighth Judicial District Court		Ninth Judicial District Court	
	Fiscal Year	Long-Term Average	Fiscal Year	Long-Term Average	Fiscal Year	Long-Term Average	Fiscal Year	Long-Term Average
	2015	(10 years)	2015	(10 years)	2015	(10 years)	2015	(10 years)
Civil Caseload	596	702	3,229	4,131	21,818	25,387	343	406
Cases Entered	13	186	329	412	3,495	3,660	11	125
Cases Removed	10	31	515	375	248	309	15	30
Cases Settled or Dismissed	24	121	297	295	3,087	3,171	8	22
Settlement Rate	86%	96%	86%	85%	84%	83%	73%	92%
Trials De Novo requested	4	5	48	51	589	634	3	2
Trials De Novo request rate	14%	4%	14%	15%	16%	17%	27%	8%

^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.

During fiscal year 2015, the four participating Judicial Districts reported that fewer cases entered the arbitration programs than their respective 10-year averages. This is the fourth year since ADR statistics began being published that all Judicial Districts reported fewer cases than their long-term averages (and third year in a row).

A major goal of the ADR program is allowing parties to communicate and work out amicable settlements in order to avoid the high costs of trials. While the settlement rate can vary greatly from a particular 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 2015, the case

settlement rates continued to be high, with every program reporting a rate greater than 70 percent. The Second and Eighth Judicial Districts reported settlement rates higher than their 10-year averages, reporting 86 and 84 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 11, the Second Judicial District Court reported this fiscal year that 2 cases were stipulated to the Short Trial Program and 51 short trials were scheduled, including matters from previous fiscal years. Throughout the fiscal year, 41 cases were dismissed or settled and 12 short trials were held.

The Eighth Judicial District Court reported 17 cases stipulated to the Short

Trial Program and 455 cases scheduled for a short trial. During this fiscal year, 412 cases were dismissed or settled and 83 short trials were held.

For the fiscal year, the Ninth Judicial District Court reported 1 case stipulated to the Short Trial Program, but no short trials were scheduled. Additionally, there were no cases reported as dismissed or settled, but 1 short trial was 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 and program participants continue to find the programs to be successful alternatives to traditional trials as cases are processed expeditiously and at reduced expense. During the 2015 legislature, the required reporting of this information was discontinued.

Table 11. Summary of Short Trial Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2014-15.

Court	Cases Stipulated		Cases Scheduled		Cases Dismissed ^a		Cases Settled		Short Trials Held	
	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY	FY
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	1	2	37	51	3	11	24	30	7	12
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	12	17	481	455	396 ^b	412 ^b	(b)	(b)	86	83
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1

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.

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

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.

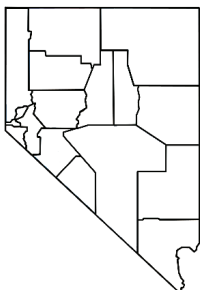
There are 67 Justices of the Peace who are elected to serve in Nevada's 42 Justice Courts; one Justice of the Peace position was left vacant in the Reno Township this year and the Beowawe Justice Court closed at the end of the fiscal year. Justices of the Peace are elected to serve in the judicial townships 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.

With passage of Assembly Bill 435 in the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature, Mineral County of the Fifth Judicial District, as well as Lander and Pershing Counties of the Sixth Judicial District, were removed from their respective Districts to form a new Eleventh Judicial District effective July 1, 2015. This change affects the Hawthorne, Argenta, Austin, and Lake Justice Courts. The revised Districts will be reflected in next year's Annual Report.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Justice Court case filing and summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 12. Overall, there were 174,661 non-traffic filings in the Justice Courts, which represents a 3 percent decrease from the 180,603 non-traffic filings in fiscal year 2014. This decrease was mostly due to the more than 7 percent decrease in criminal filings, as civil cases remained nearly flat from last year (116 fewer cases filed). Dispositions followed the filing trend, decreasing less than 4 percent from last year, and the disposition rate decreased by almost 1 percent, reported at 109 percent for all non-traffic filings this year.

From fiscal year 2000 through fiscal year 2011, there was a general increasing trend for criminal filings each year; only 2 years during this period had decreased filings. However, except for the more than 17 percent decrease in fiscal year 2012, criminal filings in the Justice Courts have been slightly decreasing each year (less than 1 percent per year, on average). This



JUSTICE COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2015)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT CARSON CITY Carson City Township Judge Tom Armstrong* Judge John Tatro*	6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT. PERSHING COUNTY Lake Township Judge Karen Stephens
STOREY COUNTY Virginia City Township Judge Eileen F. Herrington	7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT EUREKA COUNTY Beowawe Township** Judge Susan Fye Eureka Township Judge John F. Schweble
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 Pete Sferrazza	LINCOLN COUNTY Meadow Valley Township Judge Mike D. Cowley Pahranaagat Valley Township Judge Nola A. Holton
SPARKS TOWNSHIP Judge Kevin Higgins Judge Chris Wilson WADSWORTH TOWNSHIP Judge Terry Graham	WHITE PINE COUNTY Ely (No. 1) Township Judge Stephen Bishop
3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT LYON COUNTY Canal Township Judge Robert J. Bennett Dayton Township Judge Camille Vecchiarelli Walker River Township Judge Michael S. Fletcher	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.
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*	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 Bitu Khamsi Judge Deborah J. Lippis Judge Janiece Marshall Judge Melissa Saragosa Judge Joseph Sciscento Judge Diana L. Sullivan Judge Ann E. Zimmerman
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	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
6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT HUMBOLDT COUNTY Union Township Judge Letty Norcutt LANDER COUNTY Argenta Township Judge Max W. Bunch Austin Township Judge William E. Schaeffer	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

* Also serves as Municipal Court Judge

** Court closed June 30, 2015

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

Table 12. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2014-15. (See Table 13 for Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Cases ^a				Civil Cases ^a			
	Filed		Disposed		Filed		Disposed	
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015
First Judicial District								
Carson City								
Carson City Justice Court	2,082	2,347	1,433	1,440	3,467	2,628	5,630 ^b	3,509 ^b
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	134	150	114	89	62	51	32	42
Second Judicial District								
Washoe County								
Incline Village Justice Court	216	239	185	227	168	145	149	156
Reno Justice Court	5,858	5,938	5,669	5,190	8,648	7,507	10,362	9,595 ^b
Sparks Justice Court	2,741	2,892	2,675	2,761	4,337	4,093	4,446	4,416
Wadsworth Justice Court	61	93	71	76	33	28	30	11
Third Judicial District								
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	398	404	424	397	783	814	1,013	794
Dayton Justice Court	334	387	310	378	864	775	872	823
Walker River Justice Court	507	461	438	442	1,101	733	1,157	761
Fourth Judicial District								
Elko County								
Carlin Justice Court	68	83	79	92	103	124	108	103
Eastline Justice Court	128	150	95	113	118	157	134	130
Elko Justice Court	1,496	1,390	1,409	1,288	1,490	1,459	1,445	1,527
Jackpot Justice Court	53	53	99	70	25	16	38 ^c	3
Wells Justice Court	152 ^d	185 ^d	111	71	66	57 ^d	37	74 ^b
Fifth Judicial District								
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	94	28	93	9	15	15	15	15
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	352	362	215	236	155	130	78 ^f	73
Nye County								
Beatty Justice Court	75	103	61	52	29	29	28	20
Pahrump Justice Court	1,238	1,209	1,498	1,053	747	687	638	665
Tonopah Justice Court	216	182	170	150	100	76	85	70
Sixth Judicial District								
Humboldt County								
Union Justice Court	947	842	885	924	619	555	558	520
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	204	229	166	256	189	175	146	229
Austin Justice Court	26	18	31	18	1	5	0	3
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	310	231	227	200	228	213	151	126
Seventh Judicial District								
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court ^g	23	37	21	11	16	10	5	8
Eureka Justice Court	87	62	69	65	13	18	7	20
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	101	70	89	78	33	48	31	52
Pahranaagat Valley Justice Court	131	114	105	112	10	8	7	9
White Pine County								
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	270	286	235	191	249	305	246	239
Eighth Judicial District								
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	133	114	147	154	256	282	234	253
Bunkerville Justice Court	36	53	16	31	11	3	0	4
Goodsprings Justice Court	402	295	325	309	326	68	317	36
Henderson Justice Court	2,208	2,320	2,380	2,116	6,595	7,006	5,513	4,599
Las Vegas Justice Court	49,784	44,170	49,490	47,649	62,934	65,751	79,616 ^b	80,244 ^b
Laughlin Justice Court	862	689	570	811	241	141	461 ^b	170 ^b
Mesquite Justice Court	136	129	144	197	239	190	378 ^b	230 ^b
Moapa Justice Court	94	100	83	101	6	18	16	10
Moapa Valley Justice Court	113	118	82	122	59 ^f	54	14 ^f	28
North Las Vegas Justice Court	2,775	2,539	3,210	2,356	6,171	6,255	5,871	6,196
Searchlight Justice Court	65	63	30	42	3	5	2	3
Ninth Judicial District								
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	1,274 ^d	1,317	1,468 ^h	1,242	881 ^d	727	311	825
Tahoe Justice Court	943	853	920	802	148	129	121	165
Tenth Judicial District								
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	930	926	831	885	1,007	940	878	829
Total	78,057	72,231	76,673	72,806	102,546^f	102,430	121,180^f	117,585

^r Revised from previous publications.

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Includes administrative case closures.

^c Dispositions are final case closures.

^d Reopen cases not reported.

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

^g Court closed June 30, 2015.

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

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

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

year, the more than 7 percent decrease represents the least amount of filings in the Justice Courts in recent years. This is not to say that all courts had decreases this year; in fact, 22 of the 42 Justice Courts had increased, or maintained, levels of criminal filings. Wadsworth (52 percent), Bunkerville (47 percent), and Beatty (37 percent) Justice Courts all had large percentage increases in criminal filings from last year. However, the 22 courts that had increases only accounted for nearly 1 percent more cases than last year. There are five townships with populations greater than 100,000 (Reno, Sparks, Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas), and these five townships accounted for 80 percent of all criminal filings in the Justice Courts; the Las Vegas Township, where almost 52 percent of Nevada's resident's live, accounted for 61 percent of all criminal filings. While Sparks (6 percent), Henderson (5 percent), and Reno (1 percent) Justice Courts all increased from last year, Las Vegas (11 percent) and North Las Vegas (9 percent) Justice Courts had the largest magnitude decreases in the state this year.

Criminal dispositions decreased this year as well, reported at 5 percent less than last year. The disposition rate was excellent, reported at 101 percent statewide, with 26 courts reporting at least a 90 percent disposition rate.

While 15 of the 42 Justice Courts increased, or maintained, civil case filings from last year, there were still 116 fewer civil cases (of 102,430) reported from last year. Some rural courts, such as Austin (400 percent), Moapa (200 percent), Searchlight (67 percent), and Meadow Valley (45 percent) Justice Courts had large percentage increases

from last year. These large percentage changes, in these courts, accounted for only 33 more civil cases, but the larger magnitude changes in Las Vegas (2,817), Henderson

(411), North Las Vegas (84), and the 8 other courts with increases were almost able to offset the decreases in 27 other courts this year. Reno (1,141 cases), Carson (839 cases), and Walker River (368 cases) Justice Courts had the largest magnitude civil filing decreases this year.

Civil dispositions decreased 3 percent from last year, with a 115 percent disposition rate; 24 courts reported at least a 90 percent disposition rate.

This year marked a major transition of the civil statistics, as the USJR Phase II was implemented for all Nevada trial courts. This transition was not trivial, as it required case management system upgrades, new court processes to accurately capture the new measures, and commitment from the courts to implement the changes. All the Justice Courts made the transition to the new standards. Phase II made many changes, but the most notable changes were breaking out the 5 case types in Phase I into 19 case types in Phase II, as well as collecting reopen counts at the case type level. The specifics can be found in greater detail in the appendix tables (found online at www.nvcourts.gov).

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 half (21) of the Justice Courts are shown; the remaining courts are listed in the footnote to Figure 5.

The statewide average this year for all Justice Courts was 2,646; this is a decrease of 49 cases per judicial position from last year (2,695). Las Vegas Justice Court continues to report significantly more filings per judicial position, at 7,852. Sparks (3,493), Henderson (3,109), North Las Vegas (2,931), and Elko (2,849) Justice Courts had the next most filings per judicial position.

No judicial positions were added or removed from the Justice Courts this year; however, Reno Justice Court left one position unfilled, and Beowawe closed at the end of the fiscal year.

JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE

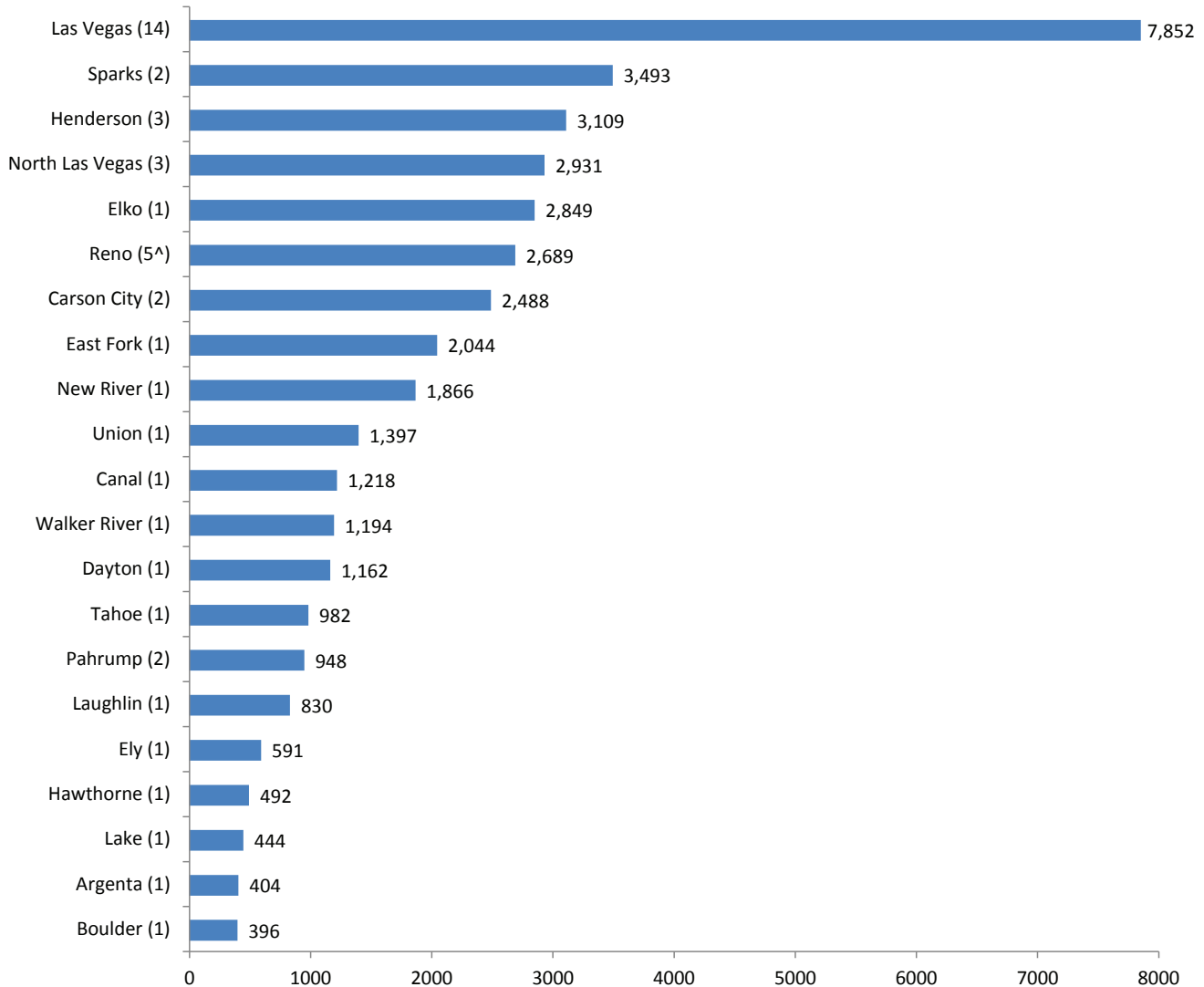
As Figure 5 shows, urban Justice Courts have significantly higher caseloads per judge than those in rural Nevada. To address these higher caseloads, urban Justice Courts may hire Special Masters to provide assistance and address the specific needs of the court. These special master positions, which are 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 2015. 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 to a Justice of the Peace in the Las Vegas Justice Court.



JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

Figure 5. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Justice Court, Fiscal Year 2015^a
(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for all Justice Courts was 2,646.

[^]Reno Justice Court has six elected judicial positions, but one position was left unfilled for the entire fiscal year.

Carson City Justice Court totals include Municipal Court totals.

Carson City, Elko, and Boulder 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).

Asterisk (*) indicates judicial position as part-time. Asterisks (**) indicates the judicial position also serves as a Municipal Court Judge.

Incline Village Justice Court*	384	Virginia City Justice Court	201	Eureka Justice Court*	80
Goodsprings Justice Court	363	Moapa Valley Justice Court*	172	Jackpot Justice Court*	69
Mesquite Justice Court**	319	Beatty Justice Court	132	Searchlight Justice Court*	68
Eastline Justice Court**	307	Pahranagat Valley Justice Court*	122	Bunkerville Justice Court*	56
Tonopah Justice Court	258	Wadsworth Justice Court*	121	Beowawe Justice Court*	47
Wells Justice Court**	242	Moapa Justice Court	118	Esmeralda Justice Court	43
Carlin Justice Court**	207	Meadow Valley Justice Court*	118	Austin Justice Court*	23

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

JUSTICE COURT TRAFFIC

The traffic caseload of the Justice Courts represents more than 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 13.

Traffic filings in the Justice Courts have been decreasing every year but one (2012) since case level reporting began in fiscal year 2010. This year, traffic filings decreased more than 11 percent (36,995 fewer filings) from last year. There were 17 courts that had increases in traffic filings this year, while 25 had decreases. Still, Esmeralda (43 percent), Lake (43 percent), Meadow Valley (38 percent), Tonopah (33 percent), and Jackpot (30 percent) Justice Courts all had at least 30 percent more filings this year. Only one township (of five) with populations of at least 100,000 had an increase this year; Henderson Justice Court traffic filings increased 26 percent this year from last. Las Vegas Justice Court, which handled nearly 50 percent of all Justice Court traffic cases in the state, decreased 15 percent from last year. Canal (60 percent), Wells (41 percent), Moapa (37 percent), Eastline (37 percent), Austin (35 percent), Dayton (33 percent), and Incline Village (33 percent) Justice Courts each had at least 30 percent decreases in traffic filings this year.

Traffic dispositions decreased almost 13 percent from last year. Every year since fiscal year 2010 has reported at least a 92 percent disposition rate. For the past 3 years (fiscal years 2012-14), that rate has been near 98 percent. This year, the statewide disposition rate was 96 percent with 36 courts reporting at least a 90 percent disposition rate.

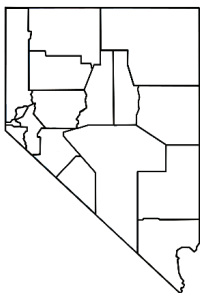


Table 13. Summary of Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2014-15.

Court	Traffic and Parking Cases ^a			
	Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015
First Judicial District				
Carson City				
Carson City Justice Court	10,694	9,900	10,456	10,771
Storey County				
Virginia City Justice Court	560	652	554	618
Second Judicial District				
Washoe County				
Incline Village Justice Court	2,378	1,594	2,131	1,599
Reno Justice Court	24,138	20,593	22,409	20,581
Sparks Justice Court	10,200	9,016	10,077	8,384
Wadsworth Justice Court	2,258	2,175	2,295	2,004
Third Judicial District				
Lyon County				
Canal Justice Court	1,267	508	1,402	543
Dayton Justice Court	3,835	2,554	3,731	2,658
Walker River Justice Court	1,960	1,586	1,616	1,582
Fourth Judicial District				
Elko County				
Carlin Justice Court	611	578	575	536
Eastline Justice Court	1,385	878	1,246	877
Elko Justice Court	6,007	5,865	5,736	5,467
Jackpot Justice Court	2,126	2,761	2,177	2,586
Wells Justice Court	5,544 ^b	3,289 ^b	4,644	3,204
Fifth Judicial District				
Esmeralda County				
Esmeralda Justice Court	2,673	3,826	2,596	3,183
Mineral County				
Hawthorne Justice Court	3,954	3,509	3,662	3,265
Nye County				
Beatty Justice Court	2,906	2,160	2,579	1,719
Pahrump Justice Court	3,615	3,642	3,578	3,299
Tonopah Justice Court	2,201	2,918	2,078	2,728
Sixth Judicial District				
Humboldt County				
Union Justice Court	5,158	5,562	4,952	5,137
Lander County				
Argenta Justice Court	1,745	2,095	1,875	2,039
Austin Justice Court	788	516	804	547
Pershing County				
Lake Justice Court	1,048	1,494	792	934
Seventh Judicial District				
Eureka County				
Beowawe Justice Court ^c	323	490	358	435
Eureka Justice Court	1,479	1,191	1,397	1,184
Lincoln County				
Meadow Valley Justice Court	685	948	704	942
Pahranaagat Valley Justice Court	3,054	3,271	2,880	3,270
White Pine County				
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	2,604	2,307	2,534	2,189
Eighth Judicial District				
Clark County				
Boulder Justice Court	959	926	872	923
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,572	1,592	1,475	1,546
Goodsprings Justice Court	12,109	12,246	11,447	10,046
Henderson Justice Court	4,499	5,674	4,394	5,396
Las Vegas Justice Court	168,852 ^d	143,522 ^d	171,675	139,909
Laughlin Justice Court	8,545	6,872	7,620	6,486
Mesquite Justice Court	1	0	0	0
Moapa Justice Court	2,167	1,362	2,093	1,491
Moapa Valley Justice Court	694	733	682	672
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,437	1,411	1,347	1,488
Searchlight Justice Court	4,169	3,283	4,013	3,174
Ninth Judicial District				
Douglas County				
East Fork Justice Court	6,676 ^b	5,597	5,130 ^f	5,722
Tahoe Justice Court	2,943	3,367	2,847	2,994
Tenth Judicial District				
Churchill County				
New River Justice Court	4,936	5,297	4,734	4,905
Total	324,755	287,760	318,167	277,033

^a Case information include juvenile traffic statistics and reopened cases.

^b Reopened cases not reported.

^c Court closed June 30, 2015.

^d Reopened cases not reported for juvenile traffic.

^f Reopened (cases) not included. Traffic and parking dispositions reported by charges so total disposed was divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made at the case level.

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

MUNICIPAL COURT SUMMARY

MUNICIPAL COURTS

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

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, or citizens will file a petition to seal records).

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. Carson City Municipal Court totals are reported in aggregate with the Justice Court (tables 12 and 13).

The Municipal Court case filing and summary disposition information for the past two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14. Fiscal year 2015 marks the start of USJR Phase II reporting for civil cases, and resulted in a significant change in how, and what, civil actions were counted at the Municipal Court level. Previous years did not account for petitions to seal records, which most of the civil filings reported this year were. Due to the change in USJR methodology, fiscal year 2014 civil filings at the Municipal Court level, were not included in Table 14, as no civil filings were reported.

Statewide, Municipal Court non-traffic filings (criminal and civil) decreased almost 9 percent from last year. Dispositions decreased less than 10 percent, with a disposition rate of 94 percent, which is a 1 percent decline from last year.

Criminal filings decreased more than 9 percent from last year, resulting in 5,064 fewer cases reported for this year. Only five courts had increases this year: Fernley (96 percent), Carlin (51 percent), Fallon (9 percent), Henderson (7 percent), and Sparks (5 percent) Municipal Courts. Caliente, Wells, and West Wendover Municipal Courts were the only courts that had decreases of more than 15 percent, but the magnitude of the decrease from last year for these three courts was just 65 fewer cases filed (of 47,842 filed statewide). The statewide decrease was largely due to the two largest urban Municipal Courts, located in Reno and Las Vegas, which decreased less than 12 percent and 15 percent, respectively (and accounted for 5,200 fewer cases filed this year). Reno's filings this year exceeded fiscal years 2011-13, as last year had a large increase; and the filings in Las Vegas have been declining for the past 2 years.

Criminal dispositions decreased 10 percent from last year, with a 94 percent disposition rate. Nine courts reported criminal disposition rates greater than 90 percent.

As previously mentioned, this year marked a major transition of the civil statistics, as the USJR Phase II was implemented for all Nevada trial courts. This transition was not trivial, as it required case management system upgrades, new court processes to accurately capture the new measures, and commitment from the courts to implement the changes. All the Municipal Courts made the transition to the new standards. Henderson Municipal Court reported the most filings this year, at 138. Reno (100), North Las Vegas (51), and Sparks (19) Municipal Courts reported the next largest magnitude of civil filings this year. Statewide, there were 329 civil filings and 271 dispositions, for a disposition rate of 82 percent.

CASES PER JUDICIAL POSITION

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2015 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.

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2015)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carson City

Judge Tom Armstrong*
Judge John Tatro*

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Reno

Judge Gene Drakulich
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 14. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2014-15.

Court	Non-traffic Misdemeanor Cases ^a				Civil Cases ^{a,b}	
	Filed		Disposed		Filed	Disposed
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2015	
First Judicial District						
Carson City Municipal Court	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)
Second Judicial District						
Reno Municipal Court	9,032	7,970	8,570	7,637	100	84
Sparks Municipal Court	1,896	1,982 ^d	2,543	2,709 ^d	19	2
Third Judicial District						
Fernley Municipal Court	213	417	242	345	0	0
Yerington Municipal Court	171	160	144	184	0	0
Fourth Judicial District						
Carlin Municipal Court	51	77	54	74	0	0
Elko Municipal Court	333	302	316	282	0	0
Wells Municipal Court	48 ^f	26 ^f	20	8	0	0
West Wendover Municipal Court	209	171	176	147	0	0
Seventh Judicial District						
Caliente Municipal Court	5	0	6	0	0	0
Ely Municipal Court	183 ^f	167 ^f	211	183	5	3
Eighth Judicial District						
Boulder Municipal Court	643	559	614	560	5	0
Henderson Municipal Court	4,924	5,277	4,101	3,897	138	133
Las Vegas Municipal Court	27,467	23,329	26,730	23,130	6	4
Mesquite Municipal Court	610	565	548	470	3	1
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	6,800	6,491	5,463	4,979	51	44
Tenth Judicial District						
Fallon Municipal Court	321	349	274	300	2	0
Total	52,906	47,842	50,012	44,905	329	271

^a Case statistics include reopened counts.

^b While Municipal Courts have limited civil jurisdiction, USJR began tracking specific civil actions in FY 2015. Comparisons with previous years should not be made.

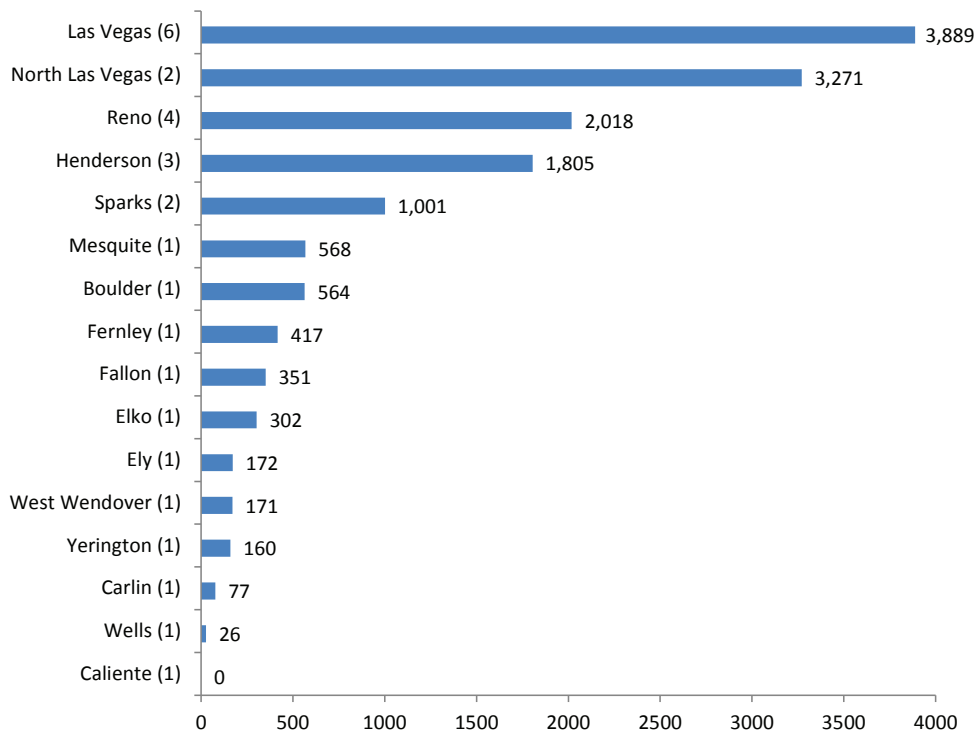
^c Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table 12) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^d High disposition rate attributable to under-reported reopen counts.

^f Reopen counts not reported.

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 2015
(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 1,720.

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

Table 15. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2014-15.

Court	Traffic and Parking Cases ^a			
	Filed		Disposed	
	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2015
First Judicial District				
Carson City Municipal Court	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)
Second Judicial District				
Reno Municipal Court	18,475	13,499	17,989	13,892
Sparks Municipal Court	5,185	4,637 ^c	5,706	5,065 ^c
Third Judicial District				
Fernley Municipal Court	2,360	3,381	1,837	3,218
Yerington Municipal Court	92	122	81	125
Fourth Judicial District				
Carlin Municipal Court	82	171	70	156
Elko Municipal Court	804	820	757	785
Wells Municipal Court	170 ^d	176 ^d	184	168
West Wendover Municipal Court	460	347	490	368
Seventh Judicial District				
Caliente Municipal Court	195	144	177	153
Ely Municipal Court	536 ^d	492 ^d	596	517
Eighth Judicial District				
Boulder Municipal Court	3,860	3,791	3,615	3,604
Henderson Municipal Court	19,218	19,151	20,071	18,751
Las Vegas Municipal Court	74,583	64,623	65,602	65,631
Mesquite Municipal Court	1,482	1,837	1,304	1,592
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	29,899	22,219	26,945	20,460
Tenth Judicial District				
Fallon Municipal Court	546	472	546	403
Total	157,947	135,882	145,970	134,888

^a Case information include juvenile traffic statistics and reopened cases.

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

^c High disposition rate attributable to under-reported reopen counts.

^d Reopen counts not reported.

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

Las Vegas and North Las Vegas Municipal Courts continue to have the most non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas (3,889) and North Las Vegas (3,271) were followed by the Reno (2,018), Henderson (1,805), and Sparks (1,001) Municipal Courts; of these courts, only Henderson and Sparks increased from last year. The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts (1,720) decreased by 170 (9 percent) from fiscal year 2014. The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in the Justice Court section in Figure 5 and Table 12.

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 of cases. The courts were asked

Fiscal Year 2015

to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

For fiscal year 2015, 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

The traffic and parking caseload represented just less than 74 percent of the total cases filed with the Municipal Courts this year, and just less than 32 percent of all traffic and parking cases filed in the state. Traffic and parking violation filings decreased 14 percent (22,065 fewer filings, for a total of 135,882) from fiscal year 2014. Traffic case level reporting began in fiscal year 2010, and traffic filings have decreased each year since in the Municipal Courts. Parking violations and juvenile traffic cases are included in the Municipal Court traffic statistics. Filing and disposition information is contained in Table 15.

Only six courts had increased traffic filings this year: Carlin (109 percent), Fernley (43 percent), Yerington (33 percent), Mesquite (24 percent), Wells (4 percent), and Elko (2 percent) Municipal Courts had increases. Of the remaining 10 courts with decreases, Henderson (slight decrease), Boulder City (2 percent), and Ely (8 percent) Municipal Courts were the only courts with decreases of less than 10 percent. And of the remaining 7 courts with decreases, the larger, more populous cities in the state (Reno, Sparks, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas) accounted for 23,164 fewer traffic filings this year.

With the decrease in traffic filings this year, dispositions expectably decreased by more than 7 percent from last year. However, Municipal Courts continue to report excellent disposition rates; since fiscal year 2010, Municipal Courts have reported at least a 92 percent disposition rate. This year, the statewide traffic clearance rate for the Municipal Courts was 99 percent, with 14 courts reporting a disposition rate of at least 90 percent.

SPECIALTY COURT SUMMARY

NEVADA SPECIALTY COURTS

This section covers specialty court programs funded during fiscal year 2015 from administrative assessments (AA) per NRS 176.0613 and 176.059. Not all Nevada programs may be represented in this report, as courts might have specialty court programs for which they do not receive funding from NRS 176.0613 or 176.059.

WHAT ARE SPECIALTY COURTS?

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 necessary authority, supervision, support, and encouragement. Specialty court programs are not easy and require increased dedication, frequent drug testing, and court appearances, along with tightly structured regimens of treatment and recovery services.

The benefits of specialty courts are available in nearly every county and at almost every jurisdictional level in Nevada, including for people charged with serious felonies to misdemeanor crimes.

The goal of a specialty court is to break the cycle of addiction and to support participants in achieving total abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol. Specialty courts promote responsibility and accountability by teaching participants to become productive law abiding citizens and thereby reducing the burden of addiction on our 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,

specialty courts allow for families to be reunified and for parents regain or retain custody of their children. Most significantly, many of the judges who served as specialty court judges continued to serve in that 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.

the impact of these losses by being creative in obtaining the necessary resources through collaboration with local providers, by seeking community support for additional funding, and by cutting back on services or the number of participants allowed into the program.

During Nevada's 78th Legislative Session, Governor Brian Sandoval and the Legislature saw the benefits and importance of the specialty court programs throughout the state, as well as the impact that diminished funding was having on the programs, and approved spending \$1.4 million to restore funding to fiscal year 2015 levels. Furthermore, they approved an additional \$3 million in funding each year during the biennium to expand services and program participation effective July 1, 2015.

Tables 16 and 17 represent the Nevada Supreme Court Specialty Court Programs' revenues, allocations, and distributions for fiscal year 2015. As shown in Table 16, the amount of funding for the programs totaled \$7,526,758, while the amount of allocations totaled \$5,479,314. The difference between the 2015 allocations and funding left a projected \$2,047,444 to carry forward

SPECIALTY COURT FUNDING

Nevada's Specialty Courts receive funding from administrative assessments (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. While these funding sources have diminished due to economic downturn, programs have worked to reduce

Table 16. Summary of Specialty Courts Revenue and Allocations, Fiscal Year 2015

Revenue	
Balance Forward from Previous Fiscal Year	\$2,357,345
Administrative Assessments NRS 176.0613	\$3,053,327
Bail Forfeitures NRS 178.518	\$88,015
Court Assessment NRS 176.059	\$1,380,403
DUI Fee NRS 484C.515	\$647,668
Total Revenue Received	\$7,526,758
Allocations	
Total Specialty Court Program	\$5,296,279
Training and Education ¹	\$47,035
Drug Court Case Management System	\$136,000
Total Allocations	\$5,479,314
Balance Forward to the Next Fiscal Year²	\$2,047,444

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.



SPECIALTY COURT SUMMARY

Table 17. Summary of Specialty Court Program Distributions, Fiscal Year 2015

Jurisdiction	Court Type	Fiscal Year 2014 Carry Forward	Fiscal Year 2015 Distributed	Fiscal Year 2015 Approved
Western Region Specialty Courts				
Western Region	Adult Drug (5 Programs)	\$0	\$400,064	\$400,064
First Judicial District	Juvenile Drug	\$4,130	\$6,349	\$10,479
Carson City Justice	Felony DUI	\$16,331	\$11,612	\$27,943
	Mental Health	\$1,304	\$56,899	\$58,203
	Total	\$21,765	\$474,924	\$496,689
Washoe Region Specialty Courts				
Second Judicial District	Adult Drug (2 Programs)	\$0	\$670,657	\$670,657
	Family Drug	\$0	\$69,346	\$69,346
	Felony DUI	\$0	\$79,783	\$79,783
	Juvenile Drug	\$3	\$43,982	\$43,985
	Mental Health	\$433	\$16,958	\$17,391
	Prison Re-Entry Drug	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Veterans Treatment	\$0	\$81,975	\$81,975
Reno Justice	Drug and Alcohol	\$41,188	\$84,167	\$125,355
Sparks Municipal	Drug and Alcohol	\$0	\$21,742	\$21,742
Reno Municipal	Drug and Alcohol (2 Programs)	\$0	\$79,386	\$79,386
	Total	\$41,624	\$1,147,996	\$1,189,620
Eastern Region Specialty Courts				
Fourth Judicial District	Adult Drug	\$0	\$112,677	\$112,677
Seventh Judicial District	Juvenile Drug	\$0	\$51,509	\$51,509
	Adult Drug	\$0	\$66,516	\$66,516
	Total	\$0	\$230,702	\$230,702
Fifth Judicial District Specialty Court				
Nye County	Adult Drug	\$0	\$100,536	\$100,536
	Total	\$0	\$100,536	\$100,536
Central Region Specialty Courts				
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	\$0	\$49,419	\$49,419
Pershing County	Adult Drug	\$0	\$45,124	\$45,124
	Total	\$0	\$94,543	\$94,543
Clark Region Specialty Courts				
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	\$77,334	\$1,481,800	\$1,559,134
	Child Support Drug	\$0	\$43,522	\$43,522
	Family Drug	\$36,066	\$260,344	\$296,410
	Felony DUI	\$14,851	\$163,654	\$178,505
	Juvenile Drug	\$67,063	\$170,732	\$237,795
	Mental Health	\$0	\$462,652	\$462,652
	Veterans Treatment	\$0	\$0	\$0
Las Vegas Justice	Dependency Mothers	\$0	\$97,936	\$97,936
	Adult Drug	\$0	\$220,803	220,803
Las Vegas Municipal	DUI Court (2 Programs)	\$0	\$58,054	\$58,054
	Adult Drug	\$7,036	\$45,106	\$52,142
	DUI Court	\$0	\$70,395	\$70,395
	Women In Need	\$498	\$36,456	\$36,954
Henderson Municipal	HOPE Court	\$218	\$108,905	\$109,123
	ABC Court	\$155	\$27,219	\$27,374
	Total	\$203,221	\$3,247,578	\$3,450,799
GRAND TOTAL SPECIALTY COURT DISTRIBUTIONS		\$266,610	\$5,296,279	\$5,562,889

SPECIALTY COURT SUMMARY

for the next fiscal year appropriation. This carry forward amount is critical for ensuring specialty courts are funded during the first quarter of the next fiscal year.

Table 17 provides a summary of the Specialty Court Program distributions, including the individual programs carry-forward balance from fiscal year 2014, actual amounts distributed, and the allocations authorized by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada for fiscal year 2015. Occasionally, a program's carry forward balance, in addition to the amounts distributed, may be more than the amount approved for the fiscal year.

SPECIALTY COURTS' IMPACT

In 1992, the Eighth Judicial District Court in Clark County established the first drug court in the state and fifth in the nation. The program was created due to the significant caseload involving drug-related crimes. Since the creation of the first specialty court, more than 11,000 specialty court participants have succeeded in graduating from specialty court programs around the state.

At the end of fiscal year 2015, Table 18 shows that Nevada's specialty courts reported 3,679 current active participants. For these specialty court participants, these programs are an opportunity to break the cycle of addiction, pain, and heartache that have dominated their lives, and provides them with a pathway that allows them to put their lives back together. While some may fail, approximately 50 percent of participants, when compared to the number of participants who entered the program over the last 5 years, succeeded in graduating. When considering the benefit this has for Nevada, we should note that

according to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, 75 percent of drug court graduates remain arrest free after graduating from the program. Nevada's specialty courts provide opportunities to

families and individuals to get their lives back and in many instances literally save lives. Specialty courts help communities through community service projects, by reducing jail overcrowding, and by reducing much of the financial burden Nevada citizens would have born if participants were instead incarcerated.

SPECIALTY COURT STATISTICS

During fiscal year 2015, and as shown in Table 18, Nevada's 42 specialty courts admitted 2,516 participants into various programs throughout the state. Overall, 1,323 participants graduated from specialty court programs. Due to most specialty courts requiring multi-year involvement from participants, the determination of graduations rates from year to year can be difficult to determine. However, studies conducted nationally have found that drug court graduation rates average between 53 to 57 percent.¹ As seen in Table 18, the number of children born without drugs in their system to specialty court participants was 63. 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 may have suffered from significant and possibly life-threatening medical conditions.

Table 18 includes the subtotals for each specialty court region. The Western Region has eight specialty court programs, including five adult drug courts, a juvenile drug court, a felony DUI court, and a mental health court. These programs reported 324 new participants during fiscal year 2015, while 112 participants graduated. There were 140 terminations from the program, and 10 children born drug-free.

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 Washoe Region includes 12 different specialty court programs, including 4 alcohol and drug programs, an adult drug court, an adult drug court diversion program, a family drug court, a felony DUI court, a juvenile drug court, a mental health court, a prison re-entry court, and a veterans treatment court. These programs had 1,108 new participants and graduated 608. Those terminated from the Washoe Region programs were 467, and the number of drug-free children born to participants were 33.

The Eastern Region maintains three programs and covers the largest geographic area. The three programs include two adult drug courts and one juvenile drug court. The programs in this region added 73 new participants, and graduated 18. The number of participants in the Eastern Region who were terminated from the program during the fiscal year totaled 27.

The Fifth Judicial District has one adult drug court and reported that 69 new participants entered their program. The number of participants who graduated totaled 25. There were 46 cases reported as terminated, and 6 children were born drug-free during the fiscal year.

The Central Region represents specialty courts in the Sixth Judicial District. This region consists of two adult drug court programs. These programs reported 47 new participants during fiscal year 2015, with 64 graduating. There were also 14 terminations from the program. The number of children born drug free was 3.

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, veterans, and the homeless. In these 16 programs, 895 new participants were added during fiscal year 2015. The total number of participants who graduated was 496. The number of drug-free children born to participants during the fiscal year was reported at 11.



SPECIALTY COURT SUMMARY

Table 18. Summary of Specialty Court Information, Fiscal Year 2015.

Jurisdiction	Court Type	New Participants Admissions ^a	Graduates	Terminations ^b	Active Cases At Year End	Drug Free Babies Born
Western Region Specialty Courts						
Western Region	Adult Drug (5 Programs)	255	80	97	221	8
First Judicial District	Juvenile Drug	16	6	2	14	0
Carson City Justice	Felony DUI	16	14	6	45	1
	Mental Health	37	12	35	29	1
	TOTAL	324	112	140	309	10
Washoe Region Specialty Courts						
Second Judicial District	Adult Drug (2 Programs)	360	163	131	642	10
	Family Drug	35	22	15	36	6
	Felony DUI	59	31	18	146	1
	Juvenile Drug	23	3	9	29	0
	Mental Health	153	148	57	206	13
	Prison Re-Entry Drug	19	9	2	22	0
	Veterans Treatment	61	30	18	69	0
Reno Justice	Drug and Alcohol	285	134	153	275	3
Sparks Municipal	Drug and Alcohol	6	6	10	52	0
Reno Municipal	Drug and Alcohol (2 Programs)	107	62	54	87	0
	TOTAL	1,108	608	467	1,564	33
Eastern Region Specialty Courts						
Fourth Judicial District	Adult Drug	32	11	12	39	0
	Juvenile Drug	15	4	8	14	0
Seventh Judicial District	Adult Drug	26	3	7	37	0
	TOTAL	73	18	27	90	0
Fifth Judicial District Specialty Court						
Nye County	Adult Drug	69	25	46	58	6
	TOTAL	69	25	46	58	6
Central Region Specialty Courts						
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	34	43	8	46	2
Pershing County	Adult Drug	13	21	6	16	1
	TOTAL	47	64	14	62	3
Clark Region Specialty Courts						
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	213	144	155	325	5
	Child Support Drug	6	3	6	14	0
	Family Drug	56	36	25	24	0
	Felony DUI	161	69	66	443	0
	Juvenile Drug	66	22	17	184	0
	Mental Health	35	33	20	80	0
	Veterans Treatment	25	9	22	37	0
	Dependency Mothers	24	12	8	18	0
Las Vegas Justice	Adult Drug	87	33	85	188	3
	DUI Court (2 Programs)	76	81	14	97	0
Las Vegas Municipal	Adult Drug	33	4	23	34	0
	DUI Court	40	32	13	62	0
	Women in Need	2	2	1	26	1
	HOPE Court (Habitual Offender)	30	9	19	36	2
Henderson Municipal	ABC Court (Habitual Offender)	41	7	28	28	0
	TOTAL	895	496	502	1,596	11
ALL SPECIALTY COURTS	GRAND TOTAL	2,516	1,323	1,196	3,679	63

^a Includes new admissions and voluntary admissions.

^b Includes terminations, transfers, and deceased participants.

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

COURTS WITH INCOMPLETE DATA

Nevada trial courts that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2015 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 is footnoted, but the court may not appear in Table 19 if all monthly reports were filed.

The trial 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.

Currently, there are 32 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 2015.

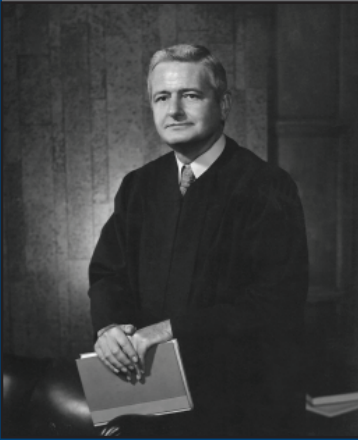
Court	Case Type	Filings/ Cases	Dispo- sitions	Table
Second Judicial District				
Washoe County District Court	Reopened Juvenile Cases	NR		A5
Fourth Judicial District				
Wells Justice Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR		A6
	Reopened Civil Cases	NR		A7
Wells Municipal Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR		A8
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 Juvenile Traffic Cases	NR		A9

NR Not Reported

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



IN MEMORIAM



Retired Second Judicial District Court Judge William N. Forman, 84, died February 18, 2015. William N. Forman was appointed as a Judge in the Second Judicial District Court by Governor Mike O'Callaghan in August 1973, where he served until retiring in 1991.

Judge Forman was born December 12, 1930, in San Francisco, Calif., although at the time his parents were residents of Carson City, where his father, William J. Forman, was serving as Deputy Attorney General.

Judge Forman attended school in Reno, graduating from high school in 1948, from the University of Nevada with a B.A. degree in 1952, and from the University of Utah with a Law Degree in 1955. He was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada in the same year.

He served as a Special Deputy Attorney General of the State of Nevada from 1959 to 1962, and was serving as Chairman of the Hard Minerals Committee, Natural Resources Section of the American Bar Association, at the time of his appointment.

Second Judicial District Court Chief Judge David Hardy said of Judge Forman's passing, "Judge William Forman leaves behind a legacy of public service that few can replicate. He was a gentleman both on and off the bench, and he took great pride in mentoring young attorneys. His examples of professionalism and integrity raised the bar for myself and all judges who came after him. He will be missed, but the values he espoused will endure through those who knew him."

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

THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

THE ANNUAL REPORT WORKGROUP

CHIEF JUSTICE JAMES W. HARDESTY
ROBIN SWEET, STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
MICHAEL S. SOMMERMEYER, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
HANS JESSUP, LEAD COURT RESEARCH ANALYST
SHELDON STEELE, COURT RESEARCH ANALYST

NON-JUDICIAL CONTRIBUTORS

JEFF HARDCASTLE, STATE DEMOGRAPHER

ALL APPENDIX TABLES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE
SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA WEBSITE
WWW.NVCOURTS.GOV

CLICK ON ABOUT THE COURTS,
AND THEN ANNUAL REPORT.



Supreme Court of Nevada

Administrative Office of the Courts
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701
(775) 684-1700

www.nvcourts.gov