



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NEVADA JUDICIARY

Fiscal Year 2011

Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary Fiscal Year 2011

The Work of Nevada's Courts
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011



SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

Administrative Office of the Courts

201 South Carson Street

Carson City, NV 89701

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WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US



NEVADA SUPREME COURT

Back Row: Justice Mark Gibbons, Justice Ron D. Parraguirre, Justice Michael A. Cherry, and Justice James W. Hardesty.

Front Row: Associate Chief Justice Nancy M. Saitta, Chief Justice Michael L. Douglas, and Justice Kristina Pickering

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HISTORY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

The area that is now the State of Nevada was originally part of the Provisional State of Deseret, later to become Utah Territory. Sitting in Salt Lake City or one of the other territorial capitals, 500 miles to the east, the Utah Territory Supreme Court had little impact on the residents at the foot of the Sierra Nevada.

With the establishment of the Nevada Territory in 1861, three justices were appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to the Territorial Supreme Court. They were Chief Justice George Turner, and Associate Justices Horatio N. Jones and Gordon N. Mott. In 1864, Powhatan B. Locke and John W. North were appointed associate justices to replace Jones and Mott.

After Nevada achieved statehood on October 31, 1864, James F. Lewis, Henry O. Beatty, and C.M. Bronsan were elected to the first State Supreme Court.

The Nevada Constitution provides that justices be elected for 6-year terms. The most senior member of the court in commission becomes the Chief Justice and should two justices be eligible, the Chief is chosen by lot. Originally the Court consisted of only three justices, but as the state has grown, so has the number of cases the Supreme Court must consider. In 1967, the legislature exercised the power granted to it by the Constitution and increased the number of justices to five. The number of justices was again increased to seven by the legislature in 1997.

In 1999, to address a burgeoning caseload, the justices began hearing cases in three-justice panels. These and other efforts have helped the court address some of the pending caseload issues. Currently, the Supreme Court of Nevada is one of the busiest appellate courts in the country.

Appendix Tables

Available on the Supreme Court Website

WWW.NEVADAJUDICIARY.US

NEVADA'S COURT STRUCTURE

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

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

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

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

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

The Supreme Court also can 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 convicted criminals.

CLERK of the COURT

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

OFFICE of the COURTS

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

LAW LIBRARY

Houses law books and other documents in its facility at the Supreme Court in Carson City. The Library is used not only by the Court's law clerks but also by the public. Christine Timko is the Law Librarian.

■ Appeals

DISTRICT COURTS

These are courts of "general jurisdiction" where major civil and criminal 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 involving crime, abuse, and neglect. Appeals of District Court cases go to the Supreme Court.

■ Appeals

JUSTICE COURTS

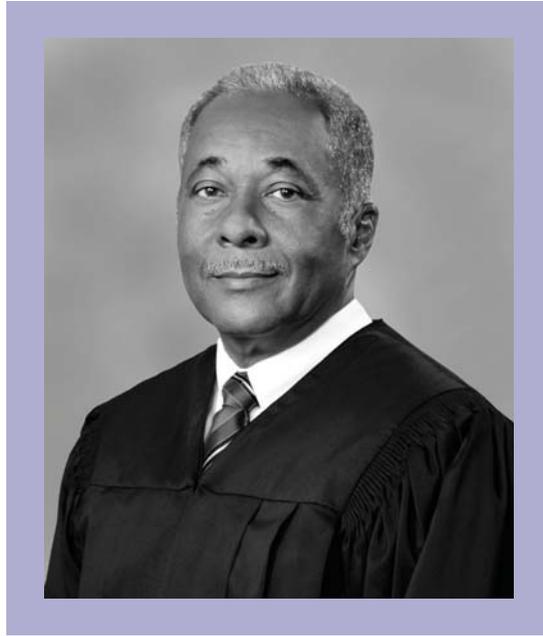
67 Justices of the Peace* preside over preliminary matters in felony and gross misdemeanor cases in these "limited jurisdiction" courts. Justice Courts also have original jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes, traffic matters, civil cases up to \$10,000, and landlord-tenant disputes. Decisions in Justice Court cases may be appealed to the District Courts.

MUNICIPAL COURTS

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. Like the Justice Courts, these are courts of "limited jurisdiction" and appeals of decisions are made to the District Courts.

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

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



The fiscal year of 2011 presented many challenges to the people of the State of Nevada and to the Nevada Judicial Branch. With our state's economy struggling to recover from the worst downturn since the Great Depression, the people of Nevada are asking what they receive from the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch, and the Judicial Branch of government.

Funding for Nevada's Judicial Branch and state government in general, continued to be an issue as it did in most states. A shortfall in the State General Fund resulted in calls for widespread budget cuts. The Judicial Branch stepped up and did its share to ease Nevada's financial crisis, and did so with the understanding that "justice delayed is justice denied".

The Judicial Branch has demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate that it can be a competent steward of the peoples' money and still fulfill its role to provide fair and impartial justice in a timely manner.

This year's Annual Report of the Nevada Judiciary provides a snapshot of what the people of Nevada received from civil, criminal, family, and juvenile justice. This report provides information pertaining to judicial programs, case filings, dispositions, and cases of significance. This report chronicles how hard the Judicial Branch (judges and court staff) work for those seeking justice in the Nevada Supreme Court; the courts of Las Vegas or Reno; and in rural Nevada courts such as Lake, Lund, and Beowawe.

The Judicial Branch is about the peoples' business. I am very proud of the dedicated people in the courthouses throughout Nevada, and I am proud of the service they provide to the people of Nevada.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael L. Douglas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael L. Douglas
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Nevada

A NOTE FROM THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



"Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

– Vince Lombardi

Fiscal year 2011 was a year of challenges and change for the Nevada Judiciary. Owing to the continued economic struggles around the state, many courts have been faced with making difficult decisions including reduction to their hours of operation or staffing levels, or they are planning it for the new fiscal year. Often when court staff have retired or resigned, positions have been left unfilled indefinitely or for long periods of time.

These cutbacks, unfortunately, come at a time when we are still facing increasing caseloads in many areas as a result of the downturn in the economy. As an example, Nevada has high unemployment rates and the highest foreclosure rate in the nation. Those judicial review cases and any subsequent appeals have become a new challenge facing the court system. These increases coupled with economic hardships have continued to provide unique challenges in the ability of the Nevada Judiciary to fulfill its Constitutional functions. This year we have proven we are equal to the challenge.

Our report details the hard work of our courts through their caseloads statistics, which is an important piece of the story. However, the report also provides examples of the achievements and innovations that set Nevada's judiciary above and apart. Although these accomplishments are not always documented directly in the statistics, they play a major role in our ability to fulfill our duties and responsibilities.

The dedication, ingenuity, and hard work of our judges and staff throughout the Nevada Judicial Branch help meet these difficulties and challenges. Indeed, it is the hard work and commitment of each individual judge and staff member that keeps our justice system working.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Sweet".

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

State of the Judiciary Message

Presented by Chief Justice Michael L. Douglas
To the Legislature of Nevada

Seventy-Sixth Session, March 7, 2011

Governor Sandoval, Lt. Governor Krolicki, Speaker Ocegüera, Senator Horsford, Senator McGinness, Assemblyman Goicoechea, members of the Senate and the Assembly, honorable Constitutional officers, and honored guests.

Tonight I address you on behalf of my friends and colleagues on the Nevada Supreme Court:

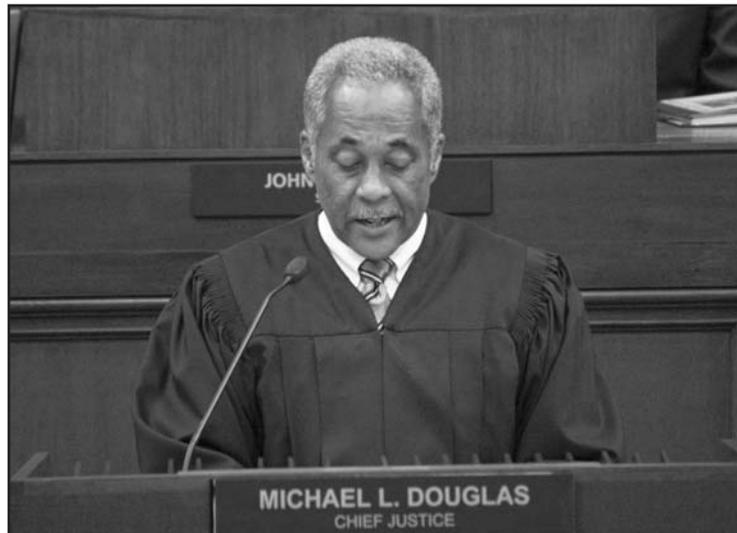
Associate Chief Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Michael Cherry, Justice Mark Gibbons, Justice Kristina Pickering, Justice James Hardesty, and Justice Ron Parraguirre.

I also address you on behalf of the Nevada Judiciary—the Municipal Courts, the Justice Courts, and the District Courts, as well as the nearly 2,000 Judicial Branch employees of the cities, counties, and State that make up those courts and provide services to the people of Nevada each day by affording a safe place for dispute resolution in civil, family, juvenile, and criminal proceedings to the individuals under emotional stress due to being entangled in the Judicial system.

Also with us this evening are several of the State’s judges including Chief Judges from our two urban Judicial Districts—Chief Judge Steinheimer (Washoe County) and Chief Judge Togliatti (Clark County), and Chief Judge Bennett-Heron (Clark County Justice Courts). Also with us are Judge Tatro (Carson City Justice Court and President of the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction), Judge Montero (Humboldt, Pershing, and Lander Counties District Courts), Judge Rogers (Churchill and Lyon Counties District Courts), Judge Deriso (Sparks Justice Court), Judge Richards (New River Justice Court), Judge Tiras (Incline Village Justice Court), and Judge Nash Holmes (Reno Municipal Court). Additionally, Steve Grierson (Chief Administrator of Clark County Courts), Dean John White (Boyd School of Law), Bill Dressel (President of the National Judicial College), Cam Ferenbach (President of the State Bar of Nevada), and members of the Board of Governors are here with us this evening.

I additionally ask that you recognize Kathleen Harrington, who just retired last Friday after 30-plus years of service to the State. First with the Department of Prisons, then with the National Judicial College, and thereafter, for 28 years, with the Nevada Supreme Court—the last 8 of those years as the Head of the Supreme Court Law Library. Kathleen, you will be missed by your coworkers, but the people of Nevada that you provided assistance for will miss you the most. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DID, and good luck and best wishes in the days ahead.

I have been provided with a challenge and opportunity to provide you with thoughts from the Nevada Judiciary. Since the



Chief Justice Michael Douglas giving State of Judiciary speech.

depression of the 1930s, we have not seen a more challenging time for the people of the State of Nevada than right now. Regardless of political parties and philosophies, one thing is clear, tough choices will be made as to the budget. To the extent necessary and possible, the Nevada Judiciary will do its share to support our State. The Supreme Court, an equal Constitutional branch of Nevada government, has operated on less than 1 percent of the State’s budget during the last budget cycle, and the Supreme Court has proposed its new budget with a 16.87 percent reduction (that is \$2,366,372 less) for the new 2011–2013 budget. It will be challenging, but we will, once again, do more with less; we understand that Nevada is at crossroads. No one envies the tough choices that have to be made by you, the Legislature, for the welfare of the people of Nevada; and it is clear that you have been chosen to find solutions—to think outside the box, if you will—for the People of Nevada who need your leadership at this time.

We should not forget the obvious, we are the “Battle Born” state and we operate under a Constitution and the rule of law that provides for stability and predictability for our free market and personal freedoms, unlike other places in the world. Under our State Constitution each branch of Government has its own responsibilities to the people. The Judicial Branch cannot pass laws like the Legislature, and the Judicial Branch cannot approve or veto laws like the Governor. The Judicial Branch interprets and honors laws as passed pursuant to our Constitution.

To fulfill that responsibility, the Judicial Branch must be independent of politics and personalities and concerns as to public popularity. The Judicial Branch—the Court—has but one true allegiance—that is to the Constitution and the rule of law. That belief is captioned in the words of the pledge of allegiance, and you can find those words in the top of your Nevada Supreme Court rotunda—“liberty and justice for all.”

“The Judicial Branch—the Court—has but one true allegiance—that is to the Constitution and the rule of law.”

State of the Judiciary Message (Cont.)

It's just that simple. Former United States Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell once remarked:

"It is perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society... It is fundamental that justice should be the same in substance and availability, without regard to... status."

Thus, the core function, if you will, of the Judicial Branch is to resolve disputes under the rule of law—our Constitution—in a fair, impartial, and timely manner.

That is the Judicial Branch's responsibility under the Constitution, which is what we must do, despite the budget challenges we face today.

Thus, in light of our challenges, I will not offer you a new vision of Nevada's judicial future. What I will do is state that your Judicial Branch will continue to do its part and look at how we can better deliver dispute resolution services to the people of Nevada.

As to our service, dispute resolution, the Nevada Judicial Branch (Municipal, Justice, District, and Supreme Courts) resolved 2,026,051 cases in years 2009-2010. The Nevada Supreme Court resolved 4,586 cases in that time period, with a 104 percent clearance rate; however, due to our case load, we still had a carry forward of 1,514 pending cases at the beginning of 2011, with the expectation that 2,050 new appeals will be filed in both 2011 and 2012. Thus, I must note that old saying, "justice delayed is justice denied."

Additionally, I would point out that our caseload and the case types of the District Courts don't track the same. At the Supreme Court, 47 percent of our cases are criminal, 33 percent are civil, and 17 percent are other, with 3 percent being family and juvenile. At the District Courts, 51 percent of cases are family, 28 percent civil, 11 percent juvenile, with 10 percent criminal; just something to think about.

Case numbers do not tell the whole story, each of the 2,000,000-plus cases require a sensibility to the needs of someone's liberty and freedom, or the disposition of someone's property, or the custody of someone's children. The enormity of dealing with a person under stress with limited resources has become more daunting in these challenging times. Limited resources, increased work loads, greater case complexity, as well as more self represented parties in court, is just an overview of the issues. The nightly news provides pictures and sounds of the coming attractions for the courts. Stories on the news related to drug use and related violence, violent crimes, followed by stories of sagging business, unemployment, mortgage foreclosure, and child, domestic, and elder abuse, should give all of us pause as to the challenges of the State Judicial Branch.

"Case numbers do not tell the whole story, each of the 2,000,000-plus cases require a sensibility to the needs of someone's liberty and freedom, or the disposition of someone's property, or the custody of someone's children."

That reality is that the State Judicial Branch must provide dispute resolution for all under the rule of law with limited funds. That will require us to think outside of the box—outside of our normal comfort zone. That resolution requires more than just standing before judges or having jury trials.

In the criminal context, resolution might be a trip to a Specialty Court. So what is a Specialty Court? Specialty Courts use problem solving processes designed to address the root causes of some criminal activity. Some of the most prominent types of Specialty Courts are drug courts, mental health courts, DUI courts, and prison re-entry courts. Specialty Courts may

additionally specialize to address the needs of adults, families, juveniles, and low-level repeat offenders directly affected by the root problems of drugs, alcohol, and mental health issues.

We have been blessed in Nevada by legislative support of the Specialty Court programs. Pioneer Judges like Peter Breen, Jack Lehman, John McGroarty, and Archie Blake have led the way. And new leaders like Judge Jackie Glass, Judge Andrew Puccinelli, and Judge Cedric Kerns have followed with new programs to break the cycle of despair.

Specialty Courts provide a direct benefit to all of us. Specialty Courts benefit the county and State budgets by reducing time in jail at taxpayer expense, and allowing the individual to return to being a contributing member of our local communities. In 2009–2010, Nevada Specialty Courts had 5,167 persons enrolled, graduated 2,542 persons, had 133 drug free babies related to participants, with 2,701 cases continuing into the start of 2011. So let me tell you a quick story about Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge Cedric Kerns' YO Court—that is Youth Offender Court. The individuals are both young and addicted to drugs. In one specific case, the female had been using crack, her mug shot from a year ago was that of a crackhead. Her family had lost all hope; they thought she was going to die, but a new arrest and YO court saved her. Judge Kerns created a year-long program with counseling, housing assistance, and court supervision that fights to keep the participants straight for a year with a plan on how to live. Judge Kerns says it's a fight—a struggle—"we save what we can save" or we go down fighting. YO court is a 20-defendant program; however, they have 30 enrolled in the program with funding provided by NRS 176.0613 and private funds. It is just one of the Specialty Courts within our State that tries to resolve disputes outside the box. All Nevada counties have a Specialty Court program through the Nevada courts.

In the civil context, before the Foreclosure Mediation Program, a desperate homeowner might have had a problem

State of the Judiciary Message (Cont.)

finding anyone in authority with his bank or lender willing to listen to his home payment problem; conversely, the banks and the lenders were not getting responses from homeowners in default. You, the Legislature, created a program in 2009 to address that problem and asked the Court to run it, to allow a new form of dispute resolution as to owner-occupied mortgage defaults. The program provided an opportunity for the homeowner and the lender to discuss, through the mediation program, alternatives to foreclosure (e.g., new payment plans, cash for keys, short sales). The program uses no State funds and is run at its inception outside the courthouse, with both sides having a right of judicial review. As to the Foreclosure Mediation Program, in 2010:

- 79,232 notices of default were filed (non-specific as to owner-occupied).
- 8,738 requested mediation.
- 6,614 were assigned mediation.
- 4,212 mediations were completed.
- 89 percent of mediations avoided foreclosure.
- 74 percent of homes were retained by the owner.

This program has been hailed as cutting-edge and is now a model for other states; that is dispute resolution outside the box, and it is also branches of government working together for all Nevadans.

I end now, not because I am finished, but due to time. I would

love to tell you more about the Judicial Branch, about: Law Day Live and texting, the Court Improvement Program—CIP—designed to help welfare families and foster kids, or Access to Justice, with private Bar pro bono attorneys helping poor Nevadans, or Nevada’s other program that has drawn national attention, related to improving Indigent Criminal Defense, or our use of Technology in the Courts—web cast, public information portals, E-filing, E-tickets, and more. But, time is an issue if I were to try to tell you about all the Judicial Branch does, so if you have a question, give me or my fellow Justices a call with your question as to the Courts and the Court’s programs.

So let me close with this:

Remember, justice belongs to all the people, not to either political party, not to any special interest. A system of justice, the rule

of law, is necessary to support our economy and to support our personal freedoms under our Constitution. A system of justice can only exist as long as the people have trust and confidence that dispute resolution will be fair, impartial, and timely.

The Judicial Branch of Nevada is committed to “justice for all” and the rule of law for all the people of Nevada.

Thank you for listening, and I know that you will answer the challenge for Nevada in the coming days.

“Specialty Courts benefit the county and State budgets by reducing time in jail at taxpayer expense, and allowing the individual to return to being a contributing member of our local communities.”

DISTRICT COURTS AND JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

(as of June 30, 2011)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge James Todd Russell
Judge James Wilson, Jr.

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Brent Adams
Judge Janet Berry
Judge Frances Doherty
Judge Steve Elliott
Judge Patrick Flanagan
Judge Linda Gardner
Judge David Hardy
Judge Steven Kosach
Judge Bridget Robb Peck
Judge Robert Perry
Judge Jerome Polaha
Judge Deborah Schumacher
Judge Connie Steinheimer
Judge Egan Walker
Judge Chuck Weller

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Leon Aberasturi
Judge David Huff
Judge William Rogers

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Michael Memeo
Judge Andrew Puccinelli

5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Robert Lane
Judge Kimberly Wanker

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Michael Montero
Judge Richard Wagner

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Steven Dobrescu
Judge Dan Papez

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge Valerie Adair
Judge Nancy Allf
Judge Rob Bare
Judge David Barker
Judge Linda Bell
Judge James Bixler
Judge Elissa Cadish
Judge Kenneth Cory
Judge Kathleen Delaney
Judge Mark Denton
Judge Bryce Duckworth
Judge Allan Earl
Judge Jennifer Elliott
Judge Cynthia Giuliani
Judge Jackie Glass
Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.

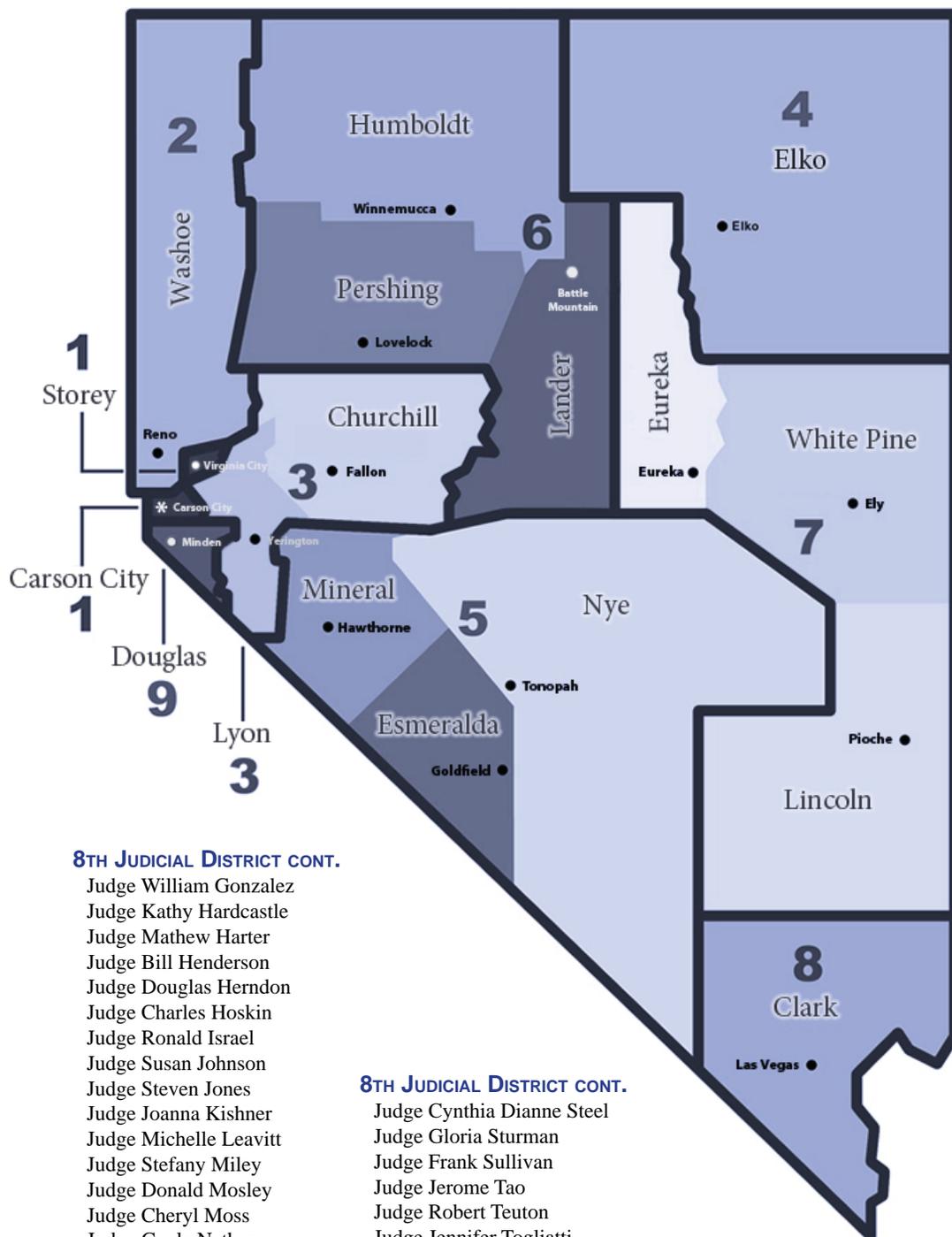
Judge William Gonzalez
Judge Kathy Hardcastle
Judge Mathew Harter
Judge Bill Henderson
Judge Douglas Herndon
Judge Charles Hoskin
Judge Ronald Israel
Judge Susan Johnson
Judge Steven Jones
Judge Joanna Kishner
Judge Michelle Leavitt
Judge Stefany Miley
Judge Donald Mosley
Judge Cheryl Moss
Judge Gayle Nathan
Judge Kenneth Pollock
Judge Sandra Pomrenze
Judge William Potter
Judge Vincent Ochoa
Judge T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.
Judge Gloria Sanchez
Judge Susan Scann
Judge Abbi Silver
Judge Douglas Smith

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CONT.

Judge Cynthia Dianne Steel
Judge Gloria Sturman
Judge Frank Sullivan
Judge Jerome Tao
Judge Robert Teuton
Judge Jennifer Togliatti
Judge Valorie Vega
Judge Michael Villani
Judge William Voy
Judge Jessie Walsh
Judge Jerry Wiese
Judge Timothy Williams

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Judge David Gamble
Judge Michael Gibbons



JUSTICE AND MUNICIPAL COURTS

JUSTICE COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2011)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT CARSON CITY

Carson City Township
Judge Tom Armstrong*
Judge John Tatro*

STOREY COUNTY

Virginia City Township
Judge Jack McGuffey

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

WASHOE COUNTY

Incline Village Township
Judge E. Alan Tiras

Reno Township

Judge David Clifton
Judge Patricia Lynch
Judge Scott Pearson
Judge Jack Schroeder
Judge Pete Sferrazza

Sparks Township

Judge Susan Deriso
Judge Kevin Higgins

Wadsworth Township

Judge Terry Graham

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CHURCHILL COUNTY

New River Township
Judge Mike Richards

LYON COUNTY

Canal Township
Judge Robert Bennett
Dayton Township
Judge Camille Vecchiarelli

Walker River Township

Judge Michael Fletcher

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ELKO COUNTY

Carlin Township
Judge Teri Feasel*

East Line Township
Judge Reese Melville*

Elko Township

Judge Alvin Kacin*

Jackpot Township

Judge Phyllis Black

Wells Township

Judge Patricia Calton*

5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ESMERALDA COUNTY

Esmeralda Township
Judge Juanita Colvin

MINERAL COUNTY

Hawthorne Township
Judge Jay T. Gunter

NYE COUNTY

Beatty Township
Judge Gus Sullivan

NYE COUNTY CONT.

Pahrump Township
Judge Christina Brisebill
Judge Kent Jaspersen

Tonopah Township

Judge Joe Maslach

6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Union Township

Judge Gene Wambolt

LANDER COUNTY

Argenta Township
Judge Max Bunch

Austin Township

Judge Joseph Dory

PERSHING COUNTY

Lake Township

Judge James Evans

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

EUREKA COUNTY

Beowawe Township
Judge Susan Fye

Eureka Township

Judge John Schwebel

LINCOLN COUNTY

Meadow Valley Township
Judge Mike Cowley

Pahrnagat Valley Township
Judge Nola Holton*

WHITE PINE COUNTY

Ely (No. 1) Township
Judge Ronald Niman

Lund (No. 2) Township
Judge Russel Peacock

8TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

CLARK COUNTY

Boulder Township
Judge Victor Miller*

Bunkerville Township
Judge Darryll Dodenbier

Goodsprings Township
Judge Dawn Haviland

Henderson Township
Judge Rodney Burr

Judge Stephen George

Judge David Gibson, Sr.

Las Vegas Township

Judge Melanie Andress-Tobiasson

Judge Suzan Baucum

Judge Karen Bennett-Haron

Judge Joe Bonaventure

Judge Eric Goodman

Judge Conrad Hafen

Judge William Jansen

Judge William Kephart

Judge Deborah Lippis

Judge Janiece Marshall

CLARK COUNTY CONT.

Judge Melissa Saragosa

Judge Joseph Sciscento

Judge Diana Sullivan

Judge Ann Zimmerman

Laughlin Township

Judge Tim Atkins

Mesquite Township

Judge Ron Dodd*

Moapa Township

Judge Ruth Kolhoss

Moapa Valley Township

Judge Lanny Waite

North Las Vegas Township

Judge Stephen Dahl

Judge Chris Lee

Judge Natalie Tyrrell

Searchlight Township

Judge Richard Hill

9TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DOUGLAS COUNTY

East Fork Township
Judge Thomas Perkins

Tahoe Township

Judge Richard Glasson

* Also serves as Municipal Court Judge

MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES (as of June 30, 2011)

1ST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carson City

Judge Tom Armstrong**
Judge John Tatro**

2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Reno

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

Sparks

Judge Barbara McCarthy
Judge Jim Spoo

3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fallon

Judge Mike Lister

Fernley

Judge Daniel Bauer

Yerington

Judge Frances Vidal

4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carlin

Judge Teri Feasel**

Elko

Judge Alvin Kacin**

Wells

Judge Patricia Calton**

West Wendover

Judge Reese Melville**

7TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Caliente

Judge Nola Holton**

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 Ron Dodd**

North Las Vegas

Judge Sean Hoeffgen

Judge Catherine Ramsey

** Also serves as Justice of the Peace

TOP TEN NEVADA SUPREME COURT DECISIONS



Supreme Court of Nevada *En Banc* Hearing in Las Vegas.

The following ten cases were the most important cases heard by the Nevada Supreme Court during fiscal year 2011 as determined by professors at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In-depth analysis of these decisions can be found on the Supreme Court website at www.nevadajudiciary.us.

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

Clean Water Coalition v. The M Resort, 255 P.3d 247 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses whether the Legislature can transfer securities and cash from a political subdivision of the State created by an inter-local agreement into the State's general fund for the State's unrestricted, general use.

Donlan v. State, 249 P.3d 1231 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses whether someone convicted of a sex offense in another state who now resides in Nevada must continue to register as a sex offender in Nevada even though the requirement to register as a sex offender in the other state has been terminated.

Landreth v. Malik, 251 P.3d 163 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses whether the Legislature has the constitutional authority to limit the powers of a District Court Judge in the Family Court division of a Judicial District.

CONTRACTS

Dynalectric Co. of Nevada, Inc. v. Clark & Sullivan Constructors, 255 P.3d 286 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses the measure of damages applicable to promissory estoppel claims.

CRIMINAL LAW

Lamb v. State, 251 P.3d 700 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses if the public safety exception to the Miranda rule is admissible.

Ybarra v. State, 247 P.3d 269 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses whether the denial of defendant's motion to disqualify the post-conviction District Court Judge based on implied bias violated state and federal guarantees of due process; additionally, this appeal addresses mental retardation and the death penalty.

FORECLOSURE MEDIATION

Pasillas v. HSBC Bank, 255 P.3d 1281 (Nev. 2011); Leyva v. National Default Servicing Corp., 255 P.3d 1275 (Nev. 2011).

These appeals address whether a lender commits sanctionable offenses when it does not produce essential documents and does not have someone present at the mediation with the authority to modify the loan. Additionally, the latter appeal addresses whether a homeowner who is not the original mortgagor is a proper party to participate in the Foreclosure Mediation Program.

HEALTH LAW / TORTS

Renown Health, Inc. v. Vanderford, 235 P.3d 614 (Nev. 2010).

This appeal addresses whether hospitals owe an absolute non-delegable duty to provide competent medical care to their emergency room patients through independent contractor doctors.

INSURANCE LAW

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department v. Coregis Insurance Co., 256 P.3d 958 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses whether an insurer may properly deny coverage to an insured based on late notice of a claim in the absence of prejudice to the insurer. Additionally, it addresses who has the burden to demonstrate prejudice or lack of prejudice.

NATURAL RESOURCES LAW

Lawrence v. Clark County, 254 P.3d 606 (Nev. 2011).

This appeal addresses whether state-owned land that was once submerged under a waterway can be freely transferred, or whether the public trust doctrine prohibits such a transfer.

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

SUPREME COURT CREATES COMMISSION ON JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

The Supreme Court issued an Order (ADKT 455) on February 15, 2011, creating a new Commission on Statewide Juvenile Justice Reform. Successes in Clark and Washoe Counties in dealing with juvenile offenders without increasing risk to public safety prompted the creation of this Commission.

The Commission was originally created to focus on principles of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), a program sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. During the first Commission meeting, the Commission discerned juvenile justice departments throughout Nevada have implemented many of the JDAI principles. The Commission reevaluated its focus and expanded its study of the juvenile justice system in Nevada to include the deep end system of placement and the feasibility of creating a unified system of data collection for juvenile justice.

In creating the Commission, the Supreme Court appointed 25 judicial, governmental, and private enterprise individuals as members.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REACHES OUT

The Nevada Supreme Court's Judicial Public Information Committee focused its fiscal year 2011 efforts on an innovative Law Day event as well as providing a more traditional educational and informational voice for the courts.

For Law Day 2011, Nevada embarked on its second annual Law Day Live program – an interactive Internet forum that had the bonus of a visit from “John Adams,” who gave life and a very real perspective to the second president. The American Bar Association's theme for Law Day 2011 was “The Legacy of John Adams – from Boston to Guantanamo.”

The audience for Law Day Live included more than 100 students present in three Nevada courtrooms in Carson City, Las Vegas, and Winnemucca, that were video linked onto a single screen which, in turn, became the webcast.

INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

The Indigent Defense Commission worked during fiscal year 2011 on proposals in Washoe County to resolve cases expeditiously to save taxpayer dollars during a time of diminished funding. The challenge has been how to ensure the due process rights of defendants are protected while processing cases to best utilize limited public dollars.

The Commission also continued to examine whether case-load standards should be established for public defenders and others who represent criminal defendants who cannot afford to hire their own counsel.

The Commission, which was created in 2007 to examine how the justice system treats indigent defendants and make recommendations for improvements, previously recommended performance standards for attorneys, which were adopted in fiscal year 2009. The Commission's Rural Subcommittee issued a report making recommendations to improve the delivery of defense services across Nevada, but particularly in the state's less populated communities.

ARTICLE 6 COMMISSION'S FINAL REPORT

The Nevada Supreme Court's Article 6 Commission, which was created in 2006 to take a broad look at matters affecting the Judiciary and make recommendations for improvements, has issued the final report of its work to this point.

The report summarizes the projects of the Commission and its Subcommittees during its first 4 years and details its achievements and aspirations. Since it was established, the Commission, which is composed of private citizens as well as judges and attorneys, addressed a variety of issues, including:

- Judicial discipline
- Judicial performance evaluations
- Jurisdiction and organization of the courts in the Nevada Judicial Branch
- Campaign contributions and fund-raising
- Perception of the judicial system
- Specialty Courts
- Promoting openness in the filling of mid-term judicial vacancies
- Merit selection of judges
- An Intermediate Appellate Court for Nevada

COMMISSION ON PRESERVATION, ACCESS, AND SEALING OF COURT RECORDS

The Commission on Preservation, Access, and Sealing of Court Records, chaired by Justice James Hardesty, continued to work on improving Nevada's policies and rules governing the court records. During fiscal year 2011, the Commission made recommendations to the Supreme Court about access to evidence and amendments to the current Nevada E-filing Rules. The Commission also submitted a bill draft request that resulted in the expansion of the law about the use of technology to preserve court records.

The Commission's Official Court Records Subcommittee worked during fiscal year 2011 on a manual that will provide standards and best practices for court reporters, court recorders, transcribers, operators of court electronics, and digital audio or video systems.

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

IOLTA FUNDS INCREASE 20%

Funding of legal services for indigents, as a result of requirements established by the Nevada Supreme Court, increased by 20 percent during fiscal year 2011. Rule changes on Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) adopted in fiscal year 2010 required attorneys to maintain trust accounts only at banks that meet established criteria, including the payment of preferential interest rates. The first compliance review undertaken as a result of the rule change, a joint effort by Access to Justice, the Nevada Law Foundation, and the State Bar of Nevada, showed the effectiveness of the high court action. IOLTA funds are used to provide legal assistance in civil cases for those without the means to hire their own attorneys.

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Court Improvement Program for the Protection and Permanency of Dependent Children, better known as the CIP Select Committee, is chaired by Justice Nancy M. Saitta. CIP continued its work to improve the effectiveness of the child welfare system by assisting in the formation of a Community Improvement Council (CIC) in each Judicial District. The intent of these CICs is to consider the current functioning and permanency time frames of dependency cases, and to identify the challenges and possible improvements to the child welfare system and dependency court operations.

Three CICs, from urban, rural, and tribal jurisdictions, identified the need for peer mentoring to support and guide the family through the process. An urban and a rural court implemented a no continuance policy when they found court continuances were causing significant barriers to timeliness. Untimely identification of relatives was determined in both rural and urban areas to delay permanency planning. Several things were suggested as solutions, from the court ordering the parents to provide relatives' names, to a coordinated system-wide effort to identify relatives. Caseworker travel time is a barrier in rural counties that is being addressed by one of the judges allowing caseworkers to appear at District Court hearings remotely via video-conferencing.

Several CICs are providing system stakeholders with training on timelines and procedures, making protective custody hearings meaningful, and providing expeditious completion of termination of parental rights (TPR) proceedings. To address a backlog of adoption cases, one court implemented a process to increase the number of adoptions completed by 35 percent. Another jurisdiction established a pro bono program for attorneys to represent adoptive parents. Throughout the rural jurisdictions, the length of time between TPR and adoption was reduced by modifying the Division of Child and Family Services' Adoption Unit's schedules and processes including assisting adoptive families to ensure timely responses to paperwork. Other CICs have implemented streamlined processes

the District Attorney (DA) uses to petition for TPR. Another county dedicated a deputy DA to child welfare cases.

Under the strong leadership of our judiciary, the Community Improvement Councils statewide have diligently and comprehensively reviewed the child welfare and dependency court processes, and built bridges among the system partners to achieve change. Each CIC recognized that in order to move forward they had to stop doing what was not working, understand why it was not working, and determine what to do about it. This investment of time and energy by our community leaders throughout the state was essential to achieving the results outlined above.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

The Access to Justice Commission during fiscal year 2011 continued its work to open the courthouse doors wider for those who come to the courts for assistance in resolving their disputes.

- Through the efforts of the Commission, civil legal aid providers in southern Nevada combined private attorney pro bono services to promote efficiency. Legal Aid of Southern Nevada and Nevada Legal Services agreed to combine pro bono services for civil litigants while maintaining their separate functions to assist those who cannot afford to hire their own attorneys.
- The Commission supported the struggle against massive cuts by Congress to the Legal Services Corporation funding, which provides grants to 136 nonprofit legal aid programs. While some in congress sought to cut funding for the Legal Services Corporation by 26 percent, the recommendation was later reduced to 2 percent.
- Nevada hosted the American Bar Association's Equal Justice Conference. Nevada became the host when the original host state became unavailable due to labor strikes. Chief Justice Michael Douglas was a speaker during the main conference and also lead several sessions on emergent access to justice issues facing western states.
- A limited jurisdiction courts focus group brought together Justice and Municipal Court Judges from rural Nevada to discuss the unique needs of courts serving those smaller populations.
- A public benefits focus group examined the impact of the recession on benefits for children and the correlation between the foreclosure crisis and the denial of benefits by managed care providers.
- Planning began during the year on rule changes that would allow some witnesses and others to appear at both civil and criminal matters through audiovisual links, rather than in person. Through the use of audiovisual technology, judges, juries, and litigants could interact with the person at the other end of the video link just as if they were in the courtroom.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

“OUR MISSION”

To promote the competency and professionalism of the Nevada Judiciary and staff through a comprehensive system of continuing education and training.

HOW WE ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION

The protection of the rights of free citizens depends upon the existence of an independent, educated, and competent judiciary. Failure to maintain this independence, education, and competence can lead to the loss of public confidence in and respect for the judiciary.

The task of maintaining judicial competence depends on the willingness of the judiciary to ensure that its members are knowledgeable and skilled in the study of law and its development and that judges are trained in the application of legal principles and the art of judging.

Fiscal year 2011 was a year of austerity for Judicial Education. The Judicial Education Unit offered its annual slate of AOC-sponsored educational conferences and training sessions, attended by 238 judges and masters. The Winter Conference included sessions on New Judge Orientation, Understanding Drug and Alcohol Evaluations, along with other sessions on law updates.

The Family Law Conference focused on self-represented litigants and youth in custody.

The District Court Judges had a special session on Psychopathic Offenders and Neuroscience Treatment, along with sessions on Social Media and the Judiciary, Post Conviction Remedies, and Cyber Ethics.

One-day Specialty Court workshops were held in Northern and Southern Nevada, drawing a total of 180 Specialty Court team participants.

In addition to the AOC-sponsored conferences and training, the Unit provided funds for 58 judges to attend elective and mandated courses during fiscal year 2011. The courses that are mandated by statute and the Supreme Court will continue to be a significant portion of the Judicial Education budget as judicial vacancies occur.

A planning committee was established and began work on the 2012 Judicial Leadership Summit. The Summit, which is held every 4 years, has been and will continue to be a priority for the Judicial Education Unit.

The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada named a six-member education committee to set policies regarding the funding of elective education. An updated set of Judicial Education Policies and Procedures was made available on the Supreme Court web site. The committee also approves judges' expenditure requests for individual elective educational sessions.

TECHNOLOGY

SUPREME COURT CASE DOCUMENTS

NOW ACCESSIBLE ON WEBSITE

The Nevada Supreme Court took a major step in fiscal year 2011 to increase openness and public access by opening a public portal on its website that allows anyone to view the electronic files of its cases.

All Supreme Court case documents, with rare exceptions, can now be accessed through the court's website. Nevada is one of only a few appellate courts nationally to offer such access to case records at no cost.

The process to open a public portal represents the latest milestone in a series of projects undertaken by the Supreme Court to improve efficiencies in case processing and continue its commitment to openness, transparency, and public access. The public portal was a planned aspect of the Supreme Court's new case management and e-filing system that the Court developed and began installing in 2008.

Court files have always been public records available to anyone, but those who wanted to view them had to go to the clerk's office at the Supreme Court in Carson City or make a request by telephone or e-mail. Now anyone with an Internet connection and the ability to read a PDF document can have access.

On the right side of the home page of the Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) is a box labeled "Supreme Court Cases" with a subheading of "Case Search." After clicking on the "Case Search" link, a viewer can access a file by typing in the name of a party or the case number.

VIDEO CONFERENCE GROWS IN NEVADA COURTS

The ability of courts across Nevada to interact through video conference equipment was expanded during fiscal year 2011, with more video conference equipment and technical support from the Administrative Office of the Courts being made available. Video links have proven effective in making communications more efficient and reducing travel expenses. Judges and staff in most rural courts can now participate in meetings, conferences, and events through video links. The expanded systems will also allow video court appearances by attorneys and others, as permitted by Supreme Court Rule.

AUTOMATED JURY PROGRAM IN NYE COUNTY

In March 2011, the Nye County District Court implemented Jury 2010, an automated jury program that has made it easier and more efficient for citizens to fulfill their jury duty, while cutting costs for taxpayers at the same time.

The program lets prospective jurors use the automated telephone and internet system to contact the court and determine whether they must appear for jury duty or if their scheduled trial is not going forward. The new system has reduced

TECHNOLOGY

the amount of time staff spends answering telephone inquiries and processing summonses. The automated system also helps trial preparation and saves substantial postage fees.

NEVADA'S FIRST "REAL TIME" ELECTRONIC WARRANT INTERFACE

Las Vegas Municipal Court pioneered Nevada's first "real time" electronic warrants interface with the Nevada Department of Public Safety (NDPS). This interface was developed with the assistance of the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC), with the AOC serving as a broker between the Municipal Court's case management system and NDPS's Nevada Criminal Justice Information System.

By having warrant issuances and cancellations available expeditiously, law enforcement personnel can rely on the validity of the electronic warrant information. The Las Vegas Municipal Court's Pre-Trial Services Unit, which had manually verified all warrants, has been able to reduce its operational hours by 31.5 hours weekly as they are no longer required to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

CARSON COURTS WORK ON CITATION UPGRADE

In January 2011, the Carson City Justice/Municipal Court began working with the Carson City Sheriff's Office, Brazos Technology, and the Administrative Office of the Courts to upgrade the current system for electronic transmission of traffic citations. The Brazos system provides enhanced functionality and is user friendly.

CARSON DISTRICT COURT TPO SYSTEM

The First Judicial District Court installed the Repository's Automated Temporary Protection Order (TPO) system and now reports TPO cases via this system. The District Court Judges' Judicial Assistants enter the information into the automated system and are processing the TPO documents.

SELF HELP FOR THE SELF REPRESENTED

In Clark County, litigants enter answers to basic questions into a computer program that auto-populates a number of forms and pleadings for them. This "HOTDOCS" system was launched at the Family Court's Self-Help Center during fiscal year 2011.

MONITORING OF HIGH RISK JUVENILE OFFENDERS

The Eighth Judicial District Court approved the allocation of \$100,000 for purchase of a GPS monitoring program for high risk juvenile offenders. Utilizing satellite technology allows for 24/7 monitoring in real time and has resulted in a reduction of detention population.

COURT INNOVATIONS

WARRANT WINDOW AT LV MUNICIPAL COURT SAVES MONEY, CLEARS WARRANTS

Las Vegas Municipal Court established a "warrant window" staffed by a clerk and a marshal to work with defendants who do not meet their obligations to the court. Court officials established the window as a solution for defendants who repeatedly violated judicial orders and often dragged out their cases for years by paying only the minimum fine amount due.

Since focusing on these defendants through the use of the warrant window, Las Vegas Municipal Court cleared more than 5,000 warrants and collected more than \$700,000 in revenue.

RENO MUNICIPAL RECEIVED GRANT FOR CO- OCCURRING DISORDER SPECIALTY COURT

Reno Municipal Court was awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant in October 2010 to implement a Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Disorder Specialty Court. This 3-year, \$975,000 federal grant allows the new court to enhance the Municipal Courts' existing Adult Drug Courts by focusing on defendants with co-occurring disorders (COD) through integrated services.

RENO MUNICIPAL COURT GETS ON THE TRAIN

Reno Municipal Court joined a coalition of governmental and non-profit agencies and service providers in the Treatment Resources Alliance for Individualized Needs (TRAIN). The group's goal is to get chronic inebriates, homeless, mentally ill, and misdemeanor offenders to become independent and break the cycle of going in and out of the jail, the emergency room, and homeless shelters.

In January 2011, a pilot project began to coordinate services informally on a small sample of TRAIN candidates. With just a dozen participants, TRAIN documented savings of more than \$100,000 because jails and emergency rooms are not used as the primary treatment resources.

FUNDING FOR JUVENILE COURT VIDEOS

More than \$20,000 was allocated at the Eighth Judicial District Court to fund two Teenworks Production probation services videos. The first video offers an overview of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services to help parents whose children have been arrested. The second video is to assist Probation Services by answering frequently asked questions while explaining terms and conditions involved when a juvenile is placed on probation.

COURT INNOVATIONS CONT.

DISTRICT COURT IN CARSON CITY SAVES FUNDS

The First Judicial District Court found a way to save public funds simply by asking that attorneys provide pre-paid, stamped envelopes for the mailing of pleadings or other documents the lawyers requested the court return to their law offices.

GRANT FUNDED JUVENILE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The First Judicial District Court, Juvenile Services Division, began a grant funded Family Youth Intervention Program. The program assists youth in Carson City by providing

early intervention and educational opportunities that assist minority youth and their families to enhance life skills. The goal is to reduce delinquency and commitments to state or county detention facilities.

FAMILY COURT INMATE APPEARANCES

The Eighth Judicial District Family Court resolved a challenging transportation issue for jail inmates with pending Family Court matters by working with the Clark County Detention Center to set up video conferencing so inmates can attend to court matters without leaving the jail.

FORECLOSURE MEDIATION PROGRAM

Fiscal year 2011 marked the second year of the highly touted Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program (FMP), which has become a national leader in the governmental efforts to ease the foreclosure crisis. The program was created by the Nevada Legislature in 2009 to bring eligible homeowners and lenders together to discuss alternatives to foreclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2011 ACHIEVEMENTS

The FMP focused much of the year on improving processes and systems to make the program more efficient. A case management system (CMS) was fully implemented, allowing the FMP to track the progress of mediations and provide faster service to homeowners and lenders. The program improved mediator training and expanded outreach to homeowners and lenders by participating in homeowner education events, lender roundtables, and monthly meetings with mediators.

A total of \$300,000 in grant funding was provided to Nevada consumer counseling and legal-aid agencies to assist homeowners in preparing for mediation through education and assistance. Programs receiving funding in fiscal year 2011 included the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Consumer Credit Counseling of Nevada, and Nevada Legal Services. The FMP provided funding and technical assistance to create an Ask-A-Lawyer program at the Civil Law Self-Help Center in the Las Vegas Regional Justice Center for homeowners facing foreclosure.

The Nevada Supreme Court created an FMP Advisory Committee to advise the FMP on rule changes, real estate foreclosure trends, other governmental programs, and laws affecting the program. Committee members include lenders, homeowners, mediators, homeowner representatives, trustee representatives, real estate professionals, and trust company representatives

Since the inception of the program in July 2009, the State of Nevada Foreclosure Mediation Program has completed 12,556 mediations with 88 percent resulting in no foreclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2011 PROGRAM STATISTICS

- 54,191 Notices of Default (NOD) were filed in the state.
- 8,133 homeowners – about 15 percent of those receiving a NOD – opted into the FMP.
- 7,424 mediations were completed by trained foreclosure mediators.
- 6,370 of the 7,424 mediations resulted in no foreclosure.
- 49 percent (or 3,143) of the 6,370 mediations that ended in non-foreclosures were a result of lender non-compliance with NRS 107.086. In these instances, the lenders were not permitted to foreclose on the properties.
- 51 percent (or 3,227) of the 6,370 mediations that ended in non-foreclosures resulted in agreements between the lender and the homeowner:
 - 60 percent (or 1,941) of the agreements reached in mediation allowed the homeowner to remain in the home through loan modification or other options.
 - 40 percent (or 1,279) of the agreements reached in mediation resulted in homeowners vacating the home and proceeding with an alternative to foreclosure, such as a deed in lieu of foreclosure, short sale agreement, or cash for keys.
 - Less than 1 percent (or 7 cases) reached an undesignated result.
- The 7,424 mediations completed in fiscal year 2011 were an increase of 76 percent from the previous fiscal year's total of 4,212.
- 709 properties were deemed ineligible for the program under NRS 107.086. The program is only available to homeowners of owner-occupied residential property.
- 47,919 certificates were issued by the FMP allowing foreclosures to go forward for properties ineligible for the FMP.
- 1,983 certificates were issued by the FMP allowing foreclosures to go forward for properties that were eligible for FMP.

FUNDING THE COURTS

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 and traffic violations heard primarily in limited jurisdiction courts.

For fiscal year 2011, the 2009 Nevada Legislature appropriated \$26,948,480¹ to the state judicial system from the state's general fund. As shown in the chart below, this was 0.81 percent of the statewide general fund appropriation. The Nevada Legislature also authorized \$29,272,496 from administrative assessment revenue and other funding sources, which brought the total of the state judicial system budget to \$56,220,976. This amount represented just 0.6 percent of the \$9.5 billion statewide budget.

At the conclusion of the fiscal year, \$48,163,540 of the \$56,220,976 was spent. The difference between the two was a result of budget reductions required by the Nevada Legislature due to a statewide revenue shortfall, budget reductions required by the Supreme Court to address significant declines in administrative assessment revenue, savings that were achieved during the fiscal year, and a need to maintain adequate reserve levels:

- The 26th special session of the Nevada Legislature reduced the Supreme Court's appropriation by \$1,055,640 over the biennium.² The court reduced \$288,756 from its budget during the fiscal year as part of this requirement, and was able to return an additional \$700,000 to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year.

¹ This amount excludes the states appropriation to fund the Commission on Judicial Discipline.

² Section 5 of Assembly Bill 6. \$766,884 was applied in 2010.

- A primary funding source of the state judicial system, administrative assessment revenue, did not reach the levels authorized by the Nevada Legislature. The revenue fell over \$3.7 million, or 17 percent, short of the levels authorized by the Nevada Legislature. This required the Supreme Court to make significant expenditure reductions.

FISCAL YEAR 2011 EXPENDITURES

Of the \$48.1 million it cost to operate the state judicial system, \$21.4 million was for judicial salaries (7 Supreme Court Justices and 82 District Judges). Judicial salaries were funded from the general fund and represented 44 percent of the total cost to operate. The remaining costs were for the operation of the Supreme Court, its Law Library, the Senior Judge Program, Specialty Court Programs, education, trial court technology, and administration.

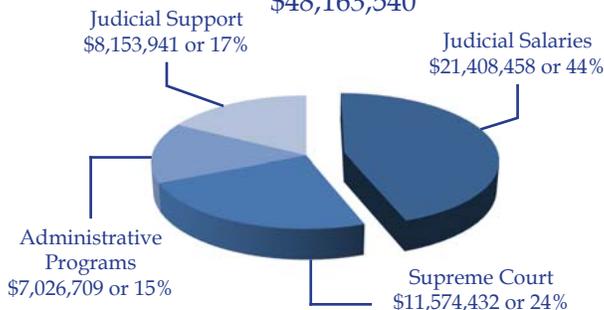
FUTURE FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Because of the way the state court system is funded, and its dependency on administrative assessment revenue, future funding requirements of the state court system remain uncertain. In the past, because administrative assessment revenue was increasing by double-digit percentages, the state court system relied less on the state general fund to fund its costs; however, administrative assessment revenue, like other state revenue sources, saw its growth diminish during the fiscal year and likely will not experience the growth patterns of the past until the economy recovers. The state judicial system, like other state entities, is working diligently to reduce and stabilize its expenditures, and yet continues to meet the needs of the state. The Supreme Court is committed to conserving its resources and assisting our state in the challenging economic times.

Judicial Branch Expenditures

Fiscal Year 2011

\$48,163,540



Judicial Branch Funding Sources

Fiscal Year 2011

\$48,163,540



Nevada Legislature General Fund Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2011

- Judicial Branch General Fund Budget \$26,948,480 or 0.81%

- State Government General Fund Budget \$3,310,028,531 or 99.19%

FUNDING THE COURTS CONT.

FUNDING OTHER COURTS IN THE STATE

Nevada's counties and cities fund all of the costs associated with District, Justice and Municipal Courts, with the exception of costs for District Judge salaries, education, and required travel costs. The costs for District Court facilities and support staff are funded by the county where the court resides. Nevada's counties fund all costs for Justice Courts. Incorporated cities fund all costs of Municipal Courts.

2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BUDGET ISSUES AND STREAMLINED PROCEDURES

During the 2011 Legislative Session, the Nevada Judiciary worked with lawmakers to ensure that the courts could meet their constitutional responsibilities during a time of economic hardship that has resulted in reduced budgets, freezes on hiring, and reductions in pay for staff.

Under the leadership of Chief Justice Michael L. Douglas, funding was ensured to keep the state courts on track to fulfill their role of resolving legal disputes in a fair and timely fashion. Funding was also extended for the Senior Judge Program, which has proven itself to be an efficient and cost-effective system for dealing with temporary judicial shortages and fulfilling specialized judicial needs.

The judiciary, however, was not immune to the state's financial difficulties. The judicial branch appropriation need was reduced by almost 17 percent through permanent general fund expenditure reductions. Additionally, Supreme Court employees had their pay reduced by 2.5 percent and will take six furlough days a year through the next biennium.

Much of the legislation from the 2011 legislative session that affected the Judiciary dealt mainly with streamlining procedure to increase efficiencies. Legislation supported by the courts also expanded access to the justice system for indigents through increased funding for legal services providers.

JUSTICE ON THE ROAD

SUPREME COURT HELD ARGUMENTS AT FIVE NEVADA HIGH SCHOOLS

For several years, the Supreme Court has taken justice on the road by holding oral arguments in high schools in both rural and urban communities. The practice gives students and residents alike a unique opportunity to see the court in action and experience how the appellate process differs from the jury trials they view on television shows.

During fiscal year 2011, Supreme Court panels held arguments at five high schools, from one end of the state to the other. In October 2011, arguments were held at the Adelson Educational Campus in Las Vegas. The following month,

Reno High School hosted a court session. In December 2010, a Supreme Court panel held arguments at Pahump Valley High School in Nye County. West Wendover on the Nevada-Utah border in Nevada's rural northeastern corner was the site for arguments on May 6, 2011. The following day, students in Winnemucca in north-central Nevada watched the justices in action.

Over the years, the Supreme Court has also held oral arguments in Tonopah, Elko, Spring Creek, Virginia City, Ely, Sparks, and Fallon. The Supreme Court conducted oral arguments at the National Judicial College in Reno and several times at the William S. Boyd School of Law in Las Vegas.

AUDITING UNIT

SUPREME COURT AUDIT UNIT

Audits enhance public trust in the Nevada Judiciary. The role of the judicial branch auditors is to promote a high level of public trust in the judiciary by providing a professional, independent, and objective review of judicial business functions.

The Audit Unit performed several audits of judicial operations during fiscal year 2011. The Unit's primary focus was to audit courts for compliance with the established Minimum Accounting Standards, as well as Specialty Court programs to ensure Specialty Court funds were collected and expended within established guidelines set forth by the Judicial Council, Specialty Court Funding Committee. The purpose of each audit is to ensure appropriate internal controls are in place to safeguard public monies. This includes ensuring the accuracy of courts financial records, which ultimately enhances transparency of judicial financial operations.

In fiscal year 2011, the Audit Unit examined the Minimum Accounting Standards, which included proposing changes to the biennial submission requirements and future changes to the standards to continue to strengthen the internal controls utilized by the courts.

ACHIEVEMENTS

CHIEF JUSTICE MICHAEL L. DOUGLAS RECEIVES LIBERTY BELL AWARD

Nevada Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael L. Douglas was presented with the Liberty Bell Award by the Clark County Law Foundation's Community Service Committee on May 12, 2011.

In presenting him with the award, the Law Foundation noted Chief Justice Douglas's contributions during his decades as an attorney and judge to the Nevada Law Foundation, the Nevada State Bar, the National Bar Association, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, youth education endeavors, and the fight against domestic violence.

ACHIEVEMENTS CONT.

RETIRED JUSTICE CLIFF YOUNG RECEIVES LEGACY OF JUSTICE AWARD

The Nevada Supreme Court presented its 2011 Legacy of Justice Award to retired Justice Cliff Young during May 2011 ceremonies that kicked off the year's Law Day events. Law Day was established by Congress in 1961 as the celebration of the nation's commitment to the rule of law.

The Legacy of Justice Award is presented annually to the person or persons within the judicial system whose contributions, innovations, and achievements have resulted in significant improvements in the justice system and benefitted the citizens of Nevada.

Justice Young was honored for his efforts to streamline Nevada's justice system. A Lovelock Nev., native, Justice Young was one of the creators of the criminal appeal "Fast Track" program and was a driving force behind the highly successful Nevada Court Annexed Arbitration Program and Supreme Court Settlement Programs. He retired at the end of 2002 after serving 18 years on the Supreme Court.

JUDGE DAHL GIVEN LIFETIME JURIST ACHIEVEMENT

North Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Stephen Dahl was presented with the Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award by the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ) at their summer seminar in June 2011 in Minden, Nev. NJLJ is the association representing Nevada's Justice and Municipal Court judges.

Judge Dahl, who has served as Justice of the Peace in North Las Vegas since 1995, has been active in the Trial by Peers (youth court) program since 1996, and has been named Judge of the Year for that program six times. He has also served on numerous statewide commissions and committees, including the Nevada Supreme Court Indigent Defense and Access to Justice Commissions and the Specialty Court Funding Committee. In 2007, he served as President for both the Clark County Bar Association and NJLJ.

SENIOR JUDGE ARCHIE BLAKE RECEIVES AWARD

Senior District Court Judge Archie E. Blake was given the William J. Raggio Award for 2010 by Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto and the Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys. The award is presented annually to a current or former prosecutor who has contributed significantly to the improvement of the administration of justice in Nevada.

Judge Blake was recognized for his service as a former Lyon County prosecutor, as a District Court Judge in the Third Judicial District, and as a Senior Judge presiding over the Western Regional Drug Court and the Second Judicial District Specialty Court Program.

JUDGE BERT BROWN NAMED JUDGE OF THE YEAR

Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge Bert Brown was named the "2011 Judge of the Year" by the Nevada Judges of Limited Jurisdiction (NJLJ) at its winter educational seminar in January 2011. Judge Brown has served on the Municipal Court bench since 1999 and has served on judicial commissions, committees and councils to help the Judicial Branch better fulfill its mission for the people of Nevada.

JUDGE CYNTHIA LEUNG RECEIVES OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

Las Vegas Municipal Court Judge Cynthia Leung was honored by the Foundation for Recovery with its "Outstanding Partner Award," which is presented to individuals who are supportive of addiction recovery and serve the greater good of the Las Vegas community. Judge Leung presides over the Women In Need (WIN) Specialty Court, which helps individuals find their "road map" and learn the tools to sustain meaningful lives through recovery.

JUDGE SULLIVAN GIVEN PRO BONO AWARD

Eighth Judicial District Family Court Judge Frank P. Sullivan received the "Justice Nancy Becker Pro Bono Award for Judicial Excellence" from the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Judge Sullivan has demonstrated judicial leadership in working to implement Model Court Best Practices to ensure that children in the child welfare system achieve permanent placement in a timely manner.

LV MUNICIPAL COURT CHIEF JUDGE KOLKOSKI HONORED BY STOP DUI

Las Vegas Municipal Court Chief Judge Elizabeth Kolkoski was honored by STOP DUI with its "Caring Enough to Make a Difference Award" as part of the annual National Drunk & Drugged Driving Awareness Month. Chief Judge Kolkoski was honored for her work with DUI Court and her efforts in support of legislation to improve the DUI laws. Judge Kolkoski served 11 years on the city court before retiring in June 2011.

AMIGO AWARD GOES TO NORTH LAS VEGAS JUDGE

North Las Vegas Justice Court Chief Judge Natalie Tyrrell received the Amigo Award from the Mexican Patriotic Committee during the 2011 Cinco de Mayo Festival. The recipient is honored for outstanding contributions to the Hispanic community.

TRANSITIONS

SITTING JUDGES

JUDGE ANDREW PUCCINELLI, 4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fourth Judicial District Judge Andrew Puccinelli, a second generation Nevada attorney who served on the Elko County bench since 2002, died in 2011 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 58.

Judge Puccinelli was active in the State Bar of Nevada, serving as its president in 1998-99. He was appointed to the District Court bench in 2002 by then Governor Kenny Guinn. In addition to presiding over civil, criminal, family, and juvenile cases, Judge Puccinelli was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve on the Court Improvement Committee, the Access to Justice Commission, and the Specialty Court Funding Committee. In 2004, he sat as a temporary justice on a Nevada Supreme Court case that resulted in a published opinion.

Shortly before his death, Judge Puccinelli completed his term as President of the Nevada District Judges Association and as a member of the Supreme Court's Judicial Public Information Committee.

JUDGE JOHN DAVIS, 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Fifth Judicial District Judge John P. Davis died January 26, 2011. Davis was elected District Judge in 1990. Prior to that, he served as Justice of the Peace in Smith Valley in Lyon County.

In the Fifth Judicial District, Judge Davis heard cases in Pahrump and Tonopah in Nye County and traveled to preside over cases in Mineral and Esmeralda Counties.

JUDGE PAUL HICKMAN, RENO MUNICIPAL

Reno Municipal Judge Paul Hickman died October 21, 2010, as a result of a medically caused vehicle accident 5 days earlier.

Judge Hickman, who grew up in Reno, survived a brutal vehicle accident when he was in his mid-thirties, which left him paralyzed and bound to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Following a career as music teacher in Kansas, he graduated from McGeorge School of Law and served as a law clerk for Nevada Supreme Court Justice Charles Springer before becoming an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Reno. In 1991, Judge Hickman was appointed to the Reno Municipal Court bench and was re-elected four times without opposition.

RETIRED JUDGES

CAMERON BATJER, SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Retired Nevada Supreme Court Justice Cameron McVicar Batjer, a member of a pioneering Nevada ranching family with roots going back to the 1800s, died June 1, 2011, at his Reno home surrounded by his three daughters. He was 91.

Justice Batjer was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1967 by Governor Paul Laxalt and served until 1981, when he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to the U.S. Parole Commission. He served in that position until his retirement in 1990. He was remembered by the current Supreme Court for his intellect, compassion, evenhanded temperament, common sense, kindness, and dedication to family, friendship, honesty and integrity.

RENO JOSEPH RATTI, GABBS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Former Gabbs Township Justice of the Peace Reno Joseph Ratti died October 19, 2010, in Sparks, after a lengthy illness. He was 84. He served as Gabbs city councilman and mayor before being appointed to the Justice Court bench in 1981 by the Nye County Commission. He served until 1991.

GORDON RICHARDSON, LOVELOCK AND TRIBAL JUDGE

Former Lovelock Judge Gordon Richardson died March 8, 2011. He was 79. Judge Richardson, who also was Pershing County's first Drug Court Master, served nearly 33 years on the bench in Lovelock.

He was appointed to the Municipal Court on Sept. 24, 1971, and served until the court closed on April 30, 2004. He was also Lake Township Justice of the Peace from Jan. 1, 1983, to Dec. 31, 1994. During his time as a Justice of the Peace, he also served as a Tribal Court Judge for the Lovelock Paiute Indian Colony.

PHIL THOMAS, GERLACH JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Former Gerlach Justice of the Peace Philip Ward Thomas died February 28, 2011, in Reno. He was 52. He was elected to two terms as Justice of the Peace in Gerlach, but ill health forced his early retirement during his second term.



THE NEVADA JUDICIARY CASELOAD STATISTICS REPORT



Storey County Courthouse, Nevada's Oldest Active Courthouse



Supreme Court of Nevada Building in Carson City.

The Uniform System for Judicial Records

Uniform System for Judicial Record (USJR)

reporting requirements were established in June 1999 by Supreme Court order ADKT 295. The USJR requires trial courts to submit information as defined in the Nevada Courts Statistical Reporting Dictionary (Dictionary) to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) monthly. The information in this report also complies with Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 1.360. Information is divided into four case categories: criminal, civil, family, and juvenile. Caseloads and dispositions for each case category have been defined and consistently categorized. In fiscal year 2011 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), two types of statistics were collected in each of these categories. The two types are cases filed (cases initiated with the court) and dispositions (cases adjudicated or closed). Courts report these data counts by case type.

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

USJR IMPROVED DATA EFFORT

The Research and Statistics Unit (RS) of the AOC has exerted a significant amount of time working with courts throughout the state to re-emphasize the importance of capturing and reporting statistical information in a consistent manner. While this effort has not completely eliminated reporting

issues with some courts, it has resulted in more complete and accurate information for most courts. Additionally, the effort to improve the consistency in statistical reporting allows for better analysis and comparisons for courts across the state.

A by-product of this effort has caused some courts to report increases, and others to report decreases, to the number of filings and dispositions for their respective court from previous years. This does not mean courts that experienced an increase or decrease in their statistics did not have a real and significant increase or decrease in their filings or dispositions. The reader should carefully review the footnotes and compare the information in this report to prior reports. In addition to the

effort to improve data quality, the Supreme Court has continued its effort to provide greater transparency to those who review the Nevada Judiciary's statistics.

In the 2010 annual report appendix tables, criminal statistics were expanded to include greater detail in the types of cases filed in the court as well as the number of reopened filings. Additionally, criminal disposition information was

expanded to include more detail on how criminal cases were disposed.

This year, civil, family, and juvenile statistical tables were expanded to provide the same type of detail on how these cases were disposed. Previously, dispositions were reported as an all-inclusive total number of dispositions. This year, dispositions were expanded to show cases disposed by dismissals, judgments, pleas, decisions with or without hearing, and trials by their respective case category. These efforts allow the public a clearer view of the important work the third branch of government performs. These expanded tables can be found at www.nevadajudiciary.us.

Figure 1. Statewide Non-Traffic Caseloads for Fiscal Year 2011.

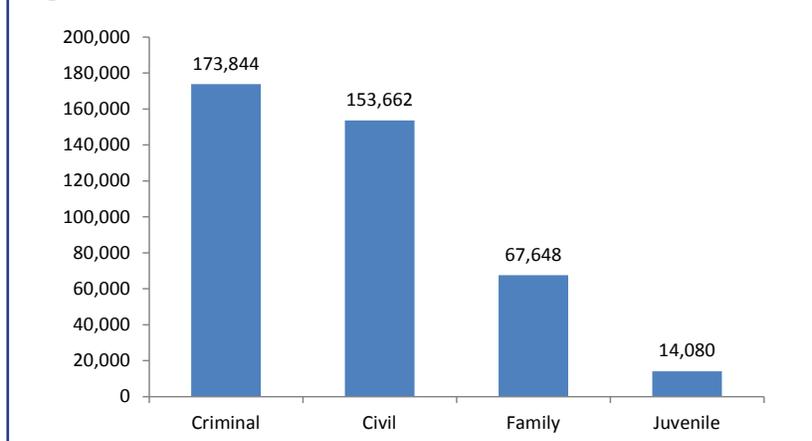


Table 1. Reported Total Nevada Statewide Trial Court Caseload, Fiscal Years 2007-11.

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^{a,b}	Civil ^b	Family ^b	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Caseload	Traffic and Parking Cases ^{c,d}	Traffic and Parking Charges ^{c,d}
District	2011	14,998	34,849	67,648	14,080	131,575	4,661	6,133
	2010	13,585 ^r	36,960	67,141	13,783 ^r	131,469 ^r	5,464 ^r	7,162 ^r
	2009	13,607	41,011	63,791	13,771	132,180	5,285	8,223
	2008	14,730	34,519	62,448	14,673	126,370	(^c)	9,265
	2007	15,049	31,434	61,729	15,862	124,074	(^c)	6,536
Justice	2011	96,111	118,812	NJ	NJ	214,923	363,185	505,957
	2010	95,662 ^r	123,788	NJ	NJ	219,450 ^r	373,352	516,383
	2009	89,238	142,501	NJ	NJ	231,739	376,376	543,745
	2008	86,894	148,473	NJ	NJ	235,367	(^c)	559,982
	2007	82,304	141,212	NJ	NJ	223,516	(^c)	530,703
Municipal	2011	62,735	1	NJ	NJ	62,736	203,310	301,077
	2010	55,519	0	NJ	NJ	55,519	236,453	347,175
	2009	57,497	0	NJ	NJ	57,497	247,685	368,440
	2008	55,752	4	NJ	NJ	55,756	(^c)	349,432
	2007	58,849	7	NJ	NJ	58,856	(^c)	324,225
Total	2011	173,844	153,662	67,648	14,080	409,234	571,156	813,167
	2010	164,766 ^r	160,748	67,141	13,783 ^r	406,438 ^r	615,269 ^r	870,720 ^r
	2009	160,342	183,512	63,791	13,771	421,416	629,346	920,408
	2008	157,376	182,996	62,448	14,673	417,493	(^c)	918,679
	2007	156,202	172,653	61,729	15,862	406,446	(^c)	861,464

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

^a Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, and non-traffic misdemeanor filings and are counted by defendant.

^b Reopened cases are included in totals.

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

^d Traffic cases and charges include juvenile traffic statistics.

^r Data totals revised from previous annual reports.

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

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

The Nevada Supreme Court caseload saw a year over year increase with 2,395 filings. This is a nearly 6 percent, or 129 case, increase for fiscal year 2011. Also, the court disposed of 2,220 cases, a decrease of 8 percent from last fiscal year.

Statewide, the total non-traffic caseload increased overall, with the amount of change varied among the three jurisdictional levels. As shown in Figure 1, the total criminal caseload increased to 173,844 filings (from 164,766 filings) while the family and juvenile caseload increased only slightly. Civil caseloads continued to drop from fiscal year 2009.

The trends in each case category for the last 5 years can be seen in Table 1. For fiscal year 2011, the District Courts' non-traffic caseload had varying levels of change over the previous year in all four case categories. Criminal increased more than 10 percent and juvenile by 2 percent, civil decreased by almost 6 percent, while family increased less than 1 percent. The resulting total change in District Court was flat, with just a 106 case increase from last year.

For fiscal year 2011, the Justice Court total non-traffic caseload decreased 2 percent over last fiscal year. While criminal caseloads increased slightly, civil filings continued to drop with a 4 percent decrease. Traffic and parking cases, which account for much of Nevada's court system revenue, decreased nearly 3 percent.

This fiscal year, the Municipal Court criminal non-traffic caseload showed a sizeable increase of 13 percent from fiscal year 2010. The increase can be attributed in part to the improvement in statistical reporting by the Las Vegas Municipal Court. A corresponding decrease of 14 percent was found in traffic and parking filings. Traffic filings are also heavily dependent on the number of local law enforcement positions filled or left vacant. During this fiscal year many law enforcement agencies reported layoffs or hiring freezes. Finally, only one civil case filing was filed in the Municipal Courts this year. Civil filings are rare in Municipal Courts and are usually for the recovery of unpaid city utility bills.

Supreme Court

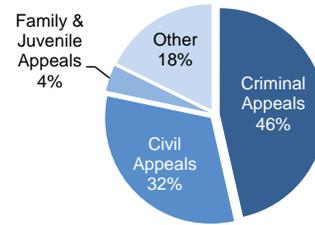
The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in the state. Nevada does not have an intermediate appellate court. The main constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review appeals from the decisions of the District Courts. The Supreme Court does not conduct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

As can be seen in Table 2, the Supreme Court had 2,395 filings during the last fiscal year, the highest ever reported for the Court. This was almost a 6 percent increase over fiscal year 2010. The Justices disposed of 2,220 cases; a decrease of 8 percent from the prior year. The Supreme Court ended fiscal year 2011 with a pending caseload of 1,689 cases, its highest level since fiscal year 2000.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of the appeals by case type for the Supreme Court. The criminal appeals are the largest part of the Court's caseload at 46 percent, and that represents a 1 percent decrease from fiscal year 2010. Civil appeals also dropped 1 percent from the year before. Other matters and proceedings, as well as family and juvenile appeals, both increased by 1 percent.

The breakdown of appeals of District Court cases by Judicial District is provided in Table 3. As can be expected for the largest District Court in the state, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) recorded the most appeals with an increase of 1 percent (17 cases) from last fiscal year. The second largest District Court in the state, the Second Judicial District (Washoe County), recorded the next highest number of

Figure 2. Distribution of Case Types for Supreme Court Caseload 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.

appeals, increasing by 6 percent (18 cases) from last fiscal year. The Ninth Judicial District, however, recorded the fewest number of the total appeals (0.7 percent or 13 cases) for fiscal year 2011.

Appellate Court Comparisons

The Nevada Supreme Court number of filings compared to the appellate courts around the country continues to make a case for an intermediate appellate court in Nevada. During the 2011 Legislative Session, Nevada Legislators passed legislation to establish an intermediate appellate court. The legislation also must be passed again during the 2013 session. If passed, the issue will be placed on the 2014 ballot for voters to approve a constitutional amendment, which if passed, would establish an intermediate appellate court.

To help inform legislators and the public, a comparison of caseloads and related information for selected appellate courts with some similarities to Nevada is provided in Table 4.

Compared with the other state appellate courts, Nevada has the second highest filings per justice. West Virginia

Table 2. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2007-11.

	Fiscal Year 2007	Fiscal Year 2008	Fiscal Year 2009	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2011
Cases Filed					
Bar Matters	39	38	42	51	52
Appeals	1,751	1,842	1,759	1,873	1,954
Original Proceedings	323	334	327	327	369
Other	7	4	7	1	0
Reinstated	12	20	17	14	20
Total Cases Filed	2,132	2,238	2,152	2,266	2,395
Cases Disposed					
By Opinions ¹	98	90	98	63	71
By Order	2,095	1,869	2,069	2,356	2,149
Total Cases Disposed	2,193	1,959	2,167	2,419	2,220
Cases Pending	1,403	1,682	1,667	1,514	1,689
Written Opinions	90	79	73	81	71

¹ Includes cases consolidated and disposed of by a single written opinion.
Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

Table 3. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2007-11.

Fiscal Year	Judicial Districts										Total ¹
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth		
Civil Appeals Filed ²											
2011	47 5.5%	156 18.3%	24 2.8%	9 1.1%	15 1.8%	18 2.1%	13 1.5%	562 65.8%	10 1.2%	854 100%	
2010	39 4.8%	117 14.3%	9 1.1%	5 0.6%	12 1.5%	12 1.5%	5 0.6%	611 74.6%	9 1.1%	819 100%	
2009	45 5.8%	115 14.7%	17 2.2%	13 1.7%	8 1.0%	7 0.9%	10 1.3%	549 70.4%	16 2.1%	780 100%	
2008	43 5.2%	126 15.3%	14 1.7%	10 1.2%	15 1.8%	10 1.2%	13 1.6%	577 69.9%	17 2.1%	825 100%	
2007	34 4.4%	125 16.3%	16 2.1%	7 0.9%	14 1.8%	10 1.3%	13 1.7%	535 69.8%	13 1.7%	767 100%	
Criminal Appeals Filed											
2011	32 2.9%	164 14.9%	21 1.9%	22 2.0%	31 2.8%	23 2.1%	28 2.5%	777 70.6%	3 0.3%	1,101 100%	
2010	39 3.7%	185 17.6%	21 2.0%	9 0.9%	22 2.1%	22 2.1%	42 4.0%	711 67.5%	3 0.3%	1,054 100%	
2009	33 3.4%	191 19.5%	14 1.4%	12 1.2%	16 1.6%	25 2.6%	36 3.7%	648 66.2%	4 0.4%	979 100%	
2008	38 3.7%	249 24.5%	24 2.4%	21 2.1%	19 1.9%	28 2.8%	15 1.5%	618 60.8%	5 0.5%	1,017 100%	
2007	24 2.4%	234 23.8%	20 2.0%	20 2.0%	22 2.2%	18 1.8%	19 1.9%	621 63.1%	6 0.6%	984 100%	
Total Appeals Filed											
2011	79 4.0%	320 16.4%	45 2.3%	31 1.6%	46 2.4%	41 2.1%	41 2.1%	1,339 68.5%	13 0.7%	1,955 100%	
2010	78 4.2%	302 16.1%	30 1.6%	14 0.7%	34 1.8%	34 1.8%	47 2.5%	1,322 70.6%	12 0.6%	1,873 100%	
2009	78 4.4%	306 17.4%	31 1.8%	25 1.4%	24 1.4%	32 1.8%	46 2.6%	1,197 68.1%	20 1.1%	1,759 100%	
2008	81 4.4%	375 20.4%	38 2.1%	31 1.7%	34 1.8%	38 2.1%	28 1.5%	1,195 64.9%	22 1.2%	1,842 100%	
2007	58 3.3%	359 20.5%	36 2.1%	27 1.5%	36 2.1%	28 1.6%	32 1.8%	1,156 66.0%	19 1.1%	1,751 100%	

¹ Total of percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

² Family and juvenile cases are included in civil appeals.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

reported a higher number of filings per justice; however, they have five justices while Nevada has seven. In addition, Nevada has the highest number of Supreme Court filings (2,395), which exceed the combined number of filings for both the Supreme Courts and Court of Appeals for New Mexico (1,529), Utah (1,491), and Idaho (1,678).

When comparing Court of Appeals filings to Supreme Court filings, generally, the Courts of Appeals have a much

higher number of filings. This is evident as all the states with a Court of Appeals in Table 4, except Idaho, have more filings than their respective Supreme Courts. In Idaho, Court of Appeals cases are assigned by the Supreme Court. These court comparisons suggest that an intermediate appellate court in Nevada would provide greater access to justice for its citizens and would help ensure timely justice.

Table 4. Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected Appellate Courts With and Without Courts of Appeals. All data from respective states' most recent annual report or web page (2009, 2010).

	Nevada	West Virginia ^a	Arizona ^{b,c}	New Mexico ^b	Kansas ^b	Utah ^{b,c}	Idaho ^b
Population rank ^d	35	37	16	36	33	34	39
Court of Appeals							
Justices			22	10	13	7	4
En banc or panels			Panels	Panels	Both	Panels	Panels
Cases filed & granted ^e			3,535 ^f	928 ^f	1,830 ^f	871 ^f	565 ^f
Cases per justice			161	93	141	124	141
Supreme Court							
Justices	7	5	5	5	7	5	5
En banc or panels	Both	En Banc	Both	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc
Cases filed & granted ^e	2,395	1,917 ^f	1,023 ^f	601 ^f	1,215 ^f	620 ^f	1,113 ^f
Cases per justice	342	383	205	120	174	119	223

^a Supreme Court changed from discretionary to nondiscretionary case review on December 1, 2010.

^b Supreme Court has discretion in case review.

^c Court of Appeals has discretion in case review.

^d Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program: August 2011 website <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

^e Includes mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed and granted, unless otherwise noted.

^f Includes mandatory cases and total discretionary petitions filed. Number of filings granted for review not available.

District Courts

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

The 9 Judicial Districts in Nevada encompass its 17 counties, each of which maintains a District Court and provides staff and related resources. The 9 Judicial Districts are served by 82 District Court Judges who are elected and serve within the Judicial District in which they reside; however, they have statewide authority and may hear cases throughout the state. The sparse populations of rural Nevada have necessitated that five of the Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties. Judges in these rural Judicial Districts must travel within the multiple counties on a regular basis to hear cases.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

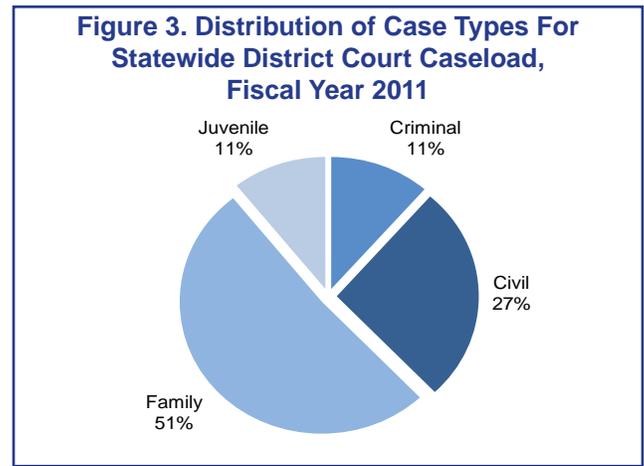
The distribution of case types within the District Courts is shown in Figure 3. Family cases make up the largest percentage of the court caseload at 51 percent. Civil cases make up 27 percent while juvenile (non-traffic) and criminal cases follow with 11 percent each.

The District Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 5 and the summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is included in Table 6

Statewide, the District Court criminal (non-traffic) filings for fiscal year 2011 increased more than 10 percent from the previous year (see Table 5). Clark County District Court saw the highest number of filings increase with 1,610 more cases filed. However, Esmeralda District Court saw the highest percentage increase of 300 percent. In contrast, 5 of the 17 District Courts saw criminal filing decreases. Washoe District Court had the highest number of filings decrease with 345 fewer filings than last year, and Pershing County District Court experienced the highest percentage decrease at nearly 22 percent.

District Court civil filings decreased nearly 6 percent statewide from last fiscal year. Civil filings in Clark and Washoe Counties, the two most populous counties, decreased 5 percent and 6 percent, respectively. Less populous counties with large percentage decreases in filings included Esmeralda County with almost 67 percent (from 15 to 5 cases) and Elko County with nearly 43 percent (from 857 to 492 cases). Only 4 of the counties (Nye, Lander, Lincoln, and White Pine) had increases, while Eureka County District Court's filings remained the same.

Family-related cases are handled only at the District Court level. Statewide, the total family caseload for the fiscal year had a slight increase over last year (only 507 cases). Caseloads



in 12 of the 17 District Courts increased. Clark County District Court saw the greatest filings increase with 259 more cases filed this fiscal year over the last. White Pine County District Court, however, had the highest percentage increase of nearly 74 percent (from 107 to 186 filings). In contrast, four District Courts reported decreases in family case filings. Washoe had the highest drop in filings with 257 fewer filings than last year, and Eureka County experienced the highest percentage drop with more than 47 percent (from 19 to 10 filings) fewer filings from fiscal year 2010.

Juvenile case filings reported by District Courts for fiscal year 2011 (which are made up of delinquency, status, abuse and neglect, and other miscellaneous juvenile type petitions) increased 2 percent (297 cases) over last year. Clark County had more than a 9 percent increase (858 cases), while Washoe County had a decrease of more than 1 percent (29 cases). Rural District Courts with large percentage increases included White Pine with nearly 44 percent (from 96 to 138 cases), and Douglas County with 12 percent (from 135 to 152 cases).

Disposition information for District Courts is provided in Table 6. Collecting and reporting of disposition information is a complex process for the courts. To assist with the data collection, many courts utilize case management systems. Still, some courts' case management systems have become obsolete and are not capable of reporting detailed information. In these instances disposition information is tracked manually. Recently, Clark County's case management system was replaced – a process that took several years to complete. Clark County District Court is now able to provide detailed criminal case disposition statistics for the first time.

Overall, District Court dispositions decreased about 5 percent. The total decrease in juvenile case dispositions was more than 27 percent, while criminal and family case dispositions decreased more than 11 and 2 percent, respectively. Civil case dispositions meanwhile showed a modest increase of 7 percent, or 1,945 cases.

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

Table 5. Summary of District Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2010-11. (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic.)

Court	Criminal Non-traffic Cases Filed ^{a,b}		Civil Cases Filed ^b		Family Cases Filed ^b		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Filed		Total Non-traffic Cases Filed ^{a,b}	
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011
	First Judicial District									
Carson City District Court	260	308	811	743	998	1,069	294 ^r	205	2,363 ^r	2,325
Storey County District Court	10	13	39	34	22	23	10 ^r	5	81 ^r	75
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	2,508	2,163	4,835	4,543	11,606	11,349	1,888	1,859	20,837	19,914
Third Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	116	135	206	184	644	730	281	258	1,247	1,307
Lyon County District Court	252	222	356	328	640	536	441	375	1,689	1,461
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	441	384	857	492	1,009	1,113	413	391	2,720	2,380
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	2	8	15	5	4	4	0	0	21	17
Mineral County District Court	81	68	53	43	84	129	61 ^r	30	279 ^r	270
Nye County District Court	362	504	440	520	1,693	1,872	497	239	2,992	3,135
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	118	137	106	97	315	321	282	288	821	843
Lander County District Court	9	12	22	74	46	50	47	45	124	181
Pershing County District Court	78	61	91	89	91	64	136	57	396	271
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	17	21	14	14	19	10	18	8	68	53
Lincoln County District Court	46	51	23	44	31	44	27	15	127	154
White Pine County District Court	92	99	182	190	107	186	96	138	477	613
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	9,038 ^c	10,648	28,460	27,035	49,035	49,294	9,157	10,015	95,690	96,992
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	155 ^r	164	450	414	797	854	135	152	1,537 ^r	1,584
Total	13,585^r	14,998	36,960	34,849	67,141	67,648	13,783^r	14,080	131,469^r	131,575

^a Includes appeals of lower jurisdiction courts.

^b Includes reopened cases.

^c Data are by cases instead of defendants.

^r Revised from previous publications.

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

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

CASES PER JUDICIAL POSITION

The number of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for all District Courts in Nevada for fiscal year 2011 is shown in Figure 4. In the Judicial Districts that contain more than one county (First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases from those counties are averaged between the Judges.

To make the comparisons more consistent among court types, juvenile traffic charges were removed from the totals before calculating the amount of cases filed per judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines; precluding judicial involvement. In District Court, juvenile traffic cases are handled predominately by Juvenile Masters and occasionally by District Court Judges.

The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,709, a decrease of 119

cases per Judge over last fiscal year (1,828). This decrease is largely attributed to the increase in judicial positions for Eighth and Second Judicial District Courts.

The Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) has the largest number of non-traffic cases per judicial position at 2,042, a decrease of 8 percent from last fiscal year (2,225). The Fifth Judicial District (Esmeralda, Mineral, and Nye Counties) was next with 1,711 cases per judicial position, a 4 percent increase from the previous fiscal year (1,644). The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) follows with 1,373 cases per judicial position, a nearly 8 percent decrease from last fiscal year (1,488).

District Court Judges with smaller caseloads may assist the busier District Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. Also, in multi-county Judicial Districts, Judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among the counties within their districts to hear cases. A recent study indicates these judges average nearly 1 day a week on the road, which reduces their availability to hear cases.¹

¹ Jessup, H. and Steele, S., "Miles Driven by Rural District Court Judges in Nevada, Fiscal Years 2007-2010," Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts, Research and Statistics Unit, 2011, p. 4.

Table 6. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2010-11. (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic.)

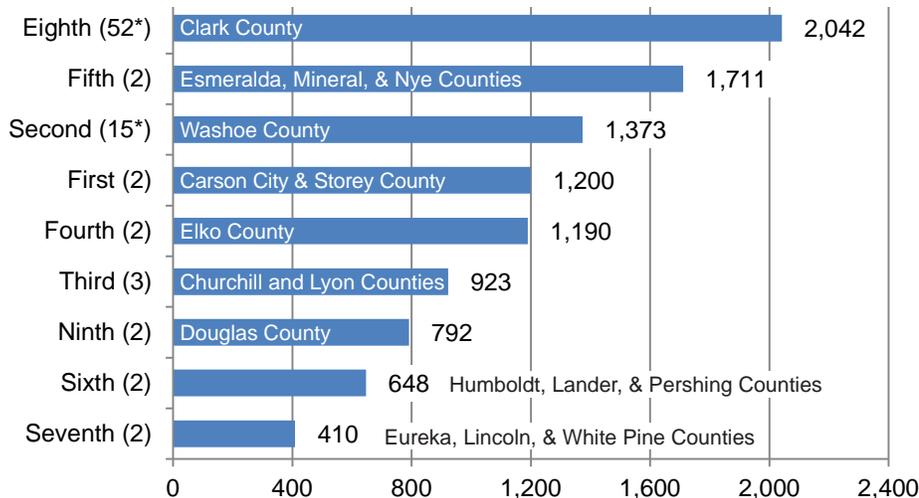
Court	Criminal Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile Non-traffic Cases Disposed		Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011
	First Judicial District									
Carson City District Court	205	252	409	347	714	736	300 ^r	294	1,628 ^r	1,629
Storey County District Court	1	2	27	43	19	31	11 ^r	1 ^a	58 ^r	77
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	2,293	2,027	2,839	2,782	6,533	6,975	4,653	4,518	16,318	16,302
Third Judicial District										
Churchill County District Court	94	127	92	151	524	593	324	394	1,034	1,265
Lyon County District Court	214	201	256	306	446	573	397	317	1,313	1,397
Fourth Judicial District										
Elko County District Court	342	345	214	199	1,105 ^b	988 ^b	357	287	2,018	1,819
Fifth Judicial District										
Esmeralda County District Court	2	6	7	4	2	2	0	0	11	12
Mineral County District Court	55	68	31	35	136	103	55 ^r	25	277 ^r	231
Nye County District Court	356	483	238	374	1,611	1,895	546	321	2,751	3,073
Sixth Judicial District										
Humboldt County District Court	110	105	40	54	152	167	256	197	558	523
Lander County District Court	31	14	18	10	38	40	84	57	171	121
Pershing County District Court	58	46	14 ^a	58 ^c	95	28	44	19 ^c	211	151
Seventh Judicial District										
Eureka County District Court	21	17	16	11	15	8	24	4 ^a	76	40
Lincoln County District Court	58	43	8	25	22	46	44	15	132	129
White Pine County District Court	77	113	132	169	164	160	176	196	549	638
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	12,141	10,298	21,781	23,505	47,205	45,000 ^c	11,351 ^d	6,815 ^c	92,478 ^d	85,618
Ninth Judicial District										
Douglas County District Court	109	143	341	335	739	801	104	112	1,293	1,391
Total	16,167	14,290	26,463	28,408	59,520	58,146	18,726^r	13,572	120,876^r	114,416

^a Dispositions are final case closures.
^b Includes the disposition of support hearings.
^c Dispositions include both initial entry and final closure information.
^d Dispositions include a high number administrative closures related to efforts with the new case management system.
^r Revised from previous publications.

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

Figure 4. Non-Traffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position By Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2010.

(Number of Judicial Positions in Parentheses)



* Total judges at fiscal year end. Calculations adjusted, based on start date of new judges on January 1, 2011. Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,709.

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

Table 7. Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected State District Courts.

All data from respective states' annual report or web page (2009 and 2010).

	Nevada	Arizona ^a	Kansas	Utah ^{a,b}	New Mexico	West Virginia ^c	Idaho ^d
Population rank	35	16	33	34	36	37	39
General Jurisdiction Court							
Judges	72	174	167	71	89	70	42
Non-Traffic Filings	131,469	259,833	292,316	331,454	102,654	86,225	44,487
Quasi-Judicial Positions	25	97	80	39	NR	45	NR
Filings per Position ^e	1,355	959	1,183	3,013	1,153	750	1,059

^a Includes tax case filings.^b Includes separate juvenile court filings and judicial positions.^c Includes separate family court filings and judicial positions.^d Does not include probate and some juvenile matters handled by magistrate courts.^e Includes Judicial and Quasi-Judicial Positions.

NR Not Reported

District Court Comparisons

Nevada's recent caseload trends for District Courts have been relatively flat. In an effort to better understand how Nevada District Courts compare to other District Courts throughout the country, total caseload information on District Courts from around the country was researched, analyzed, and compared to fiscal year 2010 caseloads (see Table 7). The states selected were the same as those used for the intermediate appellate court comparisons (Table 4) as they are similar in population, geographic location, or court structure. Some of the comparisons were more difficult due to the differing judicial structures and case processes between states.

As noted previously, Nevada's District Courts hear criminal, civil, family, and juvenile matters. In some states, juvenile and family statistics were not included and had to be subsequently added to the reported number of District Court filings. Similarly, the judicial positions responsible for hearing family and juvenile matters were added to the quasi-judicial position numbers for applicable states. Quasi-judicial positions are hearing masters who assist District Court judges in addressing matters in their courts' caseload.

As shown in Table 7, Nevada has 1,355 filings per judicial position (including quasi-judicial positions), which ranks second to Utah among the comparison states' District Courts. Arizona reported the second lowest number of filings per judicial positions while maintaining the highest population among comparison states, and West Virginia reported the lowest filings per judicial positions at 750.

Quasi-Judicial Assistance

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

In an effort to quantify quasi-judicial assistance, an estimate of the full-time equivalent assistance provided for the year in District Court is summarized in Table 8.

The quasi-judicial assistance provided during fiscal year 2011 was equivalent to almost 25 full-time judicial officers. In District Courts, most of the quasi-judicial officers are commissioners, referees, and masters for alternative dispute resolution, family, and juvenile cases. Additionally, in a few Judicial Districts, such as the Fifth and Seventh, Justices of the Peace serve as the Juvenile Masters for juvenile traffic cases. These quasi-judicial assistance positions are not included in the filings per judicial position chart.

Table 8. Estimated Full-Time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to District Courts, Fiscal Year 2011.

Court & County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
First Judicial District Carson City/Storey	1.00
Second Judicial District Washoe	7.00
Third Judicial District Churchill/Lyon	0.58
Fourth Judicial District Elko	1.00
Fifth Judicial District Esmeralda/Mineral/Nye	0.95
Sixth Judicial District Humboldt/Lander/Pershing	0.46
Seventh Judicial District Eureka/Lincoln/White Pine	0.12
Eighth Judicial District Clark	13.02
Ninth Judicial District Douglas	0.50
Total	24.63

Table 9. Senior Justices and Judges Assignments for Fiscal Year 2011.

Judicial District (JD)	Assignment Type	Number of Assignments	Number of Hours
First JD (Carson City & Storey Co.)	Case Assignment	11	79.50
	Durational	9	29.00
Total for First JD		20	108.50
Second JD (Washoe Co.)	Case Assignment	3	27.50
	Durational	5	155.05
	Durational – Family Court	14	370.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	16	1,548.00
Total for Second JD		38	2,100.55
Third JD (Churchill Co. & Lyon Co.)	Case Assignment	8	378.10
	Durational	1	3.00
Total for Third JD		9	381.10
Fourth JD (Elko Co.)	Case Assignment	28	334.6
	Durational	5	41.05
Total for Fourth JD		33	375.65
Fifth JD (Esmeralda Co., Nye Co., & Mineral Co.)	Case Assignment	19	425.00
	Settlement	1	4.00
	Durational	29	311.60
Total for Fifth JD		49	740.60
Sixth JD (Humboldt Co., Lander Co., & Pershing Co.)	Case Assignment	7	92.60
	Durational	1	61.90
Total for Sixth JD		8	154.50
Seventh JD (Eureka Co., Lincoln Co., White Pine Co.)	Case Assignment	21	252.60
Total for Seventh JD		21	252.60
Eighth JD (Clark Co.)	Case Assignment	5	48.20
	Durational	80	2,560.90
	Durational – Family	62	1,160.60
	Med. Mal. Sett. Conf. Marathon	12	566.00
	Settlement Conference	142	771.00
	Short Trial/Settlements – Family	29	1,309.00
	Specialty Court – Urban	2	344.00
Total for Eighth JD		332	6,759.70
Ninth JD (Douglas Co.)	Case Assignment	7	587.00
	Durational	3	32.00
Total for Ninth JD		10	619.00
Western Region (First, Third, Fifth, and Ninth JDs)	Specialty Court Rural	16	508.00
Supreme Court	Supreme Matters	6	51.25
Total for Other		22	559.25
Grand Total		542	12,051.45

Senior Justice and Judge Program

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

Summary information on Senior Justice and Judge assignments per judicial district during fiscal year 2011 is provided in Table 9. The table includes the types of assignments requested in each district as well as the number of assignments

and number of hours for each assignment. Senior Justice or Judge assignments are made through a judicial assistance memorandum of assignment, which is a document that assigns a specific Senior Justice or Judge to a specific court or case. Each judicial assistance memorandum is counted as one assignment. Judicial assistance memoranda may also provide for multiple days or cases, depending on the assistance requested. When a judicial vacancy occurs, such as when a Judge is temporarily absent (due to catastrophic illness or attendance at mandatory judicial education classes) or otherwise recused or disqualified, a Senior Justice or Judge may be assigned for a period of time to hear all cases previously calendared, or for an individual case. A Senior Justice or Judge may continue to hear motions on a case assigned in a previous fiscal year. Without this assistance, hearings would have to be vacated or reassigned, creating burdensome delays and frustration for litigants.

The Senior Justices and Judges also hear civil settlement conferences on a regular basis. For instance, Senior Justices and Judges hear short trials and settlement conferences every 2 weeks in the Eighth Judicial District Family Court.

² Supreme Court Rule 12 governs Senior Justices of Peace and Senior Municipal Judges.



8th Judicial District Court Judge Allan Earl holding court.

The Senior Justices and Judges also conduct Specialty Court programs in the District Courts. In the Second, Third, Fifth, and Ninth Judicial Districts, Senior Justices and Judges conduct the drug and mental health courts. In the Eighth Judicial District, they conduct the mental health court. These programs have great success in providing alternatives to jail time for certain offenders and in assisting these offenders to become productive members of society.

During fiscal year 2011, there were 20 Senior Justices or Judges actively serving the District Courts. Their combined efforts provided assistance equivalent to nearly 7 full-time judges for the State.

Business Courts

The Business Court dockets for Nevada were created during fiscal year 2001 in the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts. They were created and are managed through the court rules for these two judicial districts. Business Courts provide data to the Supreme Court on their efforts during the fiscal year; that information is contained in Table 10.

The goal of the Business Court is to identify disputes among business entities that will benefit from enhanced case management. Additionally, Business Courts help businesses avoid costly interruption during litigation and provide an opportunity for innovative case resolution. For instance, settlement conferences are regularly conducted by the Business

Court judges and have proven to be an effective and innovative tool for resolution of business cases.

In Washoe County District Court, new Business Court filings dropped more than 37 percent while Clark County District Court saw an increase of nearly 27 percent. Also, the courts reported significant decreases in dispositions of 49 and nearly 58 percent, respectively.

Business Courts in each county also reported an average time to disposition. Time to disposition measures can be used to determine the length of time it takes a court to process these types of matters. Washoe County District Court reported an average time to disposition of 5 months and Clark County reported an average time to disposition of 21 months for cases disposed in fiscal year 2011.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs began on July 1, 1992, after passage of Senate Bill 366 by the 1991 Legislature. The legislation required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement ADR Programs. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City, Storey County, and Douglas County) subsequently adopted the program voluntarily. Arbitration Commissioners administer the programs in each Judicial District.

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

CASELOAD AND SETTLEMENT RATE

In three of the four participating Judicial Districts, a greater number of cases entered the arbitration programs than their respective 10-year averages for fiscal year 2011. The caseload and settlement rates for each district program for this fiscal year and the most recent 10 years are provided in Table 11.

Table 10. Summary of Business Court Caseloads, Fiscal Years 2010-11.

Court	New Case Filings		Cases Transferred In		Case Dispositions		Pending Cases at Year End		Average Time to Disposition (Mo.)	
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011
Second Judicial District										
Washoe County District Court	16	10	22	2	45	23	88	76	14	5
Eighth Judicial District										
Clark County District Court	247	313	NR	NR	499	212	628	660	18	21
Total	263	323	22	2	544	235	716	736	NA	NA

NR Not reported.
NA Not applicable.

Table 11. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2011.

	First Judicial District Court		Second Judicial District Court		Eighth Judicial District Court		Ninth Judicial District Court	
	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10-years)	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10-years)	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10-years)	Fiscal Year 2010	Long-Term Average (10-years)
Civil Caseload	751	739	4,539	4,255	24,871	24,381	414	413
Cases Entered *	280	256	445	492	3,821	3,774	177	159
Cases Removed	44	46	564	229	256	351	28	32
Cases Settled or Dismissed	183	159	319	339	3,230	2,254	25	29
Settlement Rate	98%	95%	93%	82%	82%	76%	89%	88%
Trials De Novo Requested	3	9	23	75	716	702	3	4
Trials De Novo Request Rate	2%	5%	7%	18%	18%	24%	11%	12%

* First, Second, and Eighth Judicial District Courts have a \$50,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District has a \$25,000 maximum. Cases that qualify are automatically included in the program and parties have to request to be removed.

All four judicial districts continued to report settlement rates that were higher than their long-term program averages. The settlement rate can vary greatly from one year to another for each District Court and can be affected by the increase or decrease in the number of arbitrators, training sessions, and support staff. The settlement rate is the number of cases settled or dismissed after entering the arbitration program, compared with those cases requesting trials de novo (actual bench or jury trials).

One specific type of alternative dispute resolution is the Short Trial Program as defined in the Nevada Court Rules. A Short Trial follows modified rules including only four jurors, with each party (plaintiffs and defendants) limited to 3 hours for presentation. The verdict must be agreed upon by three of the four jurors.

This fiscal year, 62 new cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program in the Second Judicial District Court.

Throughout the fiscal year, 39 were dismissed or settled and 18 short trials were completed. In addition, 49 cases were scheduled for a short trial.

For fiscal year 2011 in the Eighth Judicial District Court, 19 cases were stipulated to the Short Trial Program (prior annual reports have reported cases scheduled for trial as cases stipulated for trial). Of the total cases currently in the program, 378 cases were dismissed or settled, 117 completed a short trial, and 569 cases were scheduled for trial.

Each of these District Courts collect 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. The courts continue to find the programs to be successful alternatives to traditional trials. The programs are well-received by litigants, the public, and members of the bar, since cases are processed expeditiously and at reduced expense.



Pershing County Courthouse

Justice Courts

The Justice Courts are limited jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload is restricted to particular types of cases or actions prescribed by the Nevada Revised Statutes. Justice Courts determine whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to be bound over to District Court for trial. They hear misdemeanor non-traffic cases as well as general civil cases (amounts up to \$10,000), small claims (up to \$5,000), summary eviction cases, and requests for temporary and extended protective orders (domestic violence or stalking and harassment). Justice Courts also hear traffic matters, which are discussed in a later section.

The Justices of the Peace are elected and serve within the townships in which they reside. In fiscal year 2011, the 43 Justice Courts were served by 67 Justices of the Peace. They may hear cases in other townships within their county or as visiting Justices of the Peace in neighboring counties under special circumstances. Those Judges who retire or resign and have been commissioned as Senior Justices of the Peace by the Supreme Court may serve temporarily in any Justice Court in the State.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Justice Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 12. Detailed information for fiscal year 2011 is provided in the appendix located on the Nevada Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) under the Administrative Office of the Courts, Research and Statistics Unit documents area. Summary disposition information for the last two fiscal years is included in Table 13.

Statewide, the number of Justice Court non-traffic (criminal and civil) cases filed during fiscal year 2011 decreased 2 percent (4,527 cases) from fiscal year 2010.

Justice Court criminal filings statewide remained mostly flat, increasing less than one half of a percent from last year. Las Vegas Justice Court, residing in the most populous township in the state, continued to have the largest share of the criminal caseload, with 67 percent of the Justice Court statewide total. Reno Justice Court was next with more than 7 percent of the total criminal caseload.

Justice Court civil filings for fiscal year 2011 decreased 4 percent statewide from last year. Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest percentage of civil cases statewide (almost 58 percent). Reno Justice Court was next the next highest with almost 11 percent of the statewide total.

Disposition information for Justice Courts is provided in Table 13. Due to an increased focus on providing complete statistical reports, the Las Vegas Justice Court reported criminal disposition information for the first time. When excluding this information, criminal case dispositions decreased almost 7 percent and total non-traffic dispositions decreased 11 percent compared with last year. Civil case dispositions decreased 12 percent statewide.

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

CASES PER JUDICIAL POSITION

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

To simplify the presentation in Figure 5, only those Justice Courts with 800 or more non-traffic cases per judicial position are shown in the graphic; the remaining courts are listed in the footnote below Figure 5. The break at 800 was arbitrary. The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 3,256, a decrease from last fiscal year (3,376). In Figure 5, seven courts have more than the statewide averages of filings per judicial position. Las Vegas had the most at 10,226, a decrease from the previous year (11,274), owing in part to two judicial positions being added mid-year. Next was Sparks (4,121) and Reno (3,970), followed by Elko (3,886) moving up three spots from last year with a 655-case increase.



Lake Justice Court Judge James Evans and Staff.

Table 12. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2010-11.
(See Table 16 for traffic data.)

	Criminal Cases Filed ^a		Civil Cases Filed ^a		Total Non-traffic Caseload ^a	
	FY10	FY11	FY10	FY11	FY10	FY11
First Judicial District						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court ^b	2,414	2,211	5,112	4,574	7,526	6,785
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	97	123	55	58	152	181
Second Judicial District						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	377	397	251	212	628	609
Reno Justice Court	7,062	7,076	13,722	12,774	20,784	19,850
Sparks Justice Court	2,854	2,611	5,929	5,630	8,783	8,241
Wadsworth Justice Court	71	74	38	55	109	129
Third Judicial District						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	729	765	1,254	999	1,983	1,764
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	471	397	1,204	1,206	1,675	1,603
Dayton Justice Court	563	455	781	906	1,344	1,361
Walker River Justice Court	506	564	681	721	1,187	1,285
Fourth Judicial District						
Elko County						
Carlin Justice Court	76	84	140	117	216	201
East Line Justice Court	106	102	126	101	232	203
Elko Justice Court	1,695	1,808	1,536	2,078	3,231	3,886
Jackpot Justice Court	197 ^c	154	28	17	225 ^c	171
Wells Justice Court	178	164	74	47	252	211
Fifth Judicial District						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	12	30	8	23	20	53
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	559	526	266	211	825	737
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	159	144	29	24	188	168
Pahrump Justice Court	1,783	1,535	1,210	1,159	2,993	2,694
Tonopah Justice Court	307	212	108	86	415	298
Sixth Judicial District						
Humboldt County						
Union Justice Court	997	859	744	696	1,741	1,555
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	287	342	319	289	606	631
Austin Justice Court	44	39	8	13	52	52
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	262	264	307	288	569	552
Seventh Judicial District						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	31	36	18	15	49	51
Eureka Justice Court	63	86	29	20	92	106
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	132	114	41	78	173	192
Pahrnanagat Valley Justice Court	107	94	6	28	113	122
White Pine County						
Ely Justice Court	246	223	354	359	600	582
Lund Justice Court	7	1	0	2	7	3
Eighth Judicial District						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	117	81	338	325	455	406
Bunkerville Justice Court	54	72	13	33 ^d	67	105
Goodsprings Justice Court	291	308	73	256 ^d	364	564
Henderson Justice Court	4,109	2,768	6,859	8,235	10,968	11,003
Las Vegas Justice Court	61,210	64,514	74,077	68,428	135,287	132,942
Laughlin Justice Court	1,012	978	220	210	1,232	1,188
Mesquite Justice Court	157 ^r	107	232	264 ^d	389 ^r	371
Moapa Justice Court	135	111	9	17 ^d	144	128
Moapa Valley Justice Court	130	221	24	84 ^d	154	305
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,749	3,374	6,383	7,092	10,132	10,466
Searchlight Justice Court	139	149	11	8	150	157
Ninth Judicial District						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	1,203	1,210	1,034	978	2,237	2,188
Tahoe Justice Court	964	728	137	96	1,101	824
Total	95,662 ^r	96,111	123,788	118,812	219,450 ^r	214,923

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Includes municipal court information.

^c Number of filings include cases and charges.

^d Increase due in part to improved case tracking.

^r Revised from previous publications.

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

Table 13. Summary of Justice Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2010-11.
(See Table 16 for traffic data.)

	Criminal Cases Disposed ^a		Civil Cases Disposed ^a		Total Non-traffic Cases Disposed ^a	
	FY10	FY11	FY10	FY11	FY10	FY11
First Judicial District						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court ^b	2,455	2,030	2,368	2,597	4,823	4,627
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	149	129	50	36	199	165
Second Judicial District						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	451	462	186	190	637	652
Reno Justice Court	7,714	7,885	8,189	6,399	15,903	14,284
Sparks Justice Court	2,748	2,381	4,285	3,813	7,033	6,194
Wadsworth Justice Court	69	71	5	15	74	86
Third Judicial District						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	707	797	835	630	1,542	1,427
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	658	459	1,180	1,114	1,838	1,573
Dayton Justice Court	607	428	715	834	1,322	1,262
Walker River Justice Court	436	468	708	716	1,144	1,184
Fourth Judicial District						
Elko County						
Carlin Justice Court	73	74	73	59	146	133
East Line Justice Court	183	100	68	92	251	192
Elko Justice Court	1,670	1,478	1,011	1,202	2,681	2,680
Jackpot Justice Court	210 ^c	164	2	10 ^d	212 ^c	174
Wells Justice Court	161	197	69	61	230	258
Fifth Judicial District						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	10	3	3	13	13	16
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	338	368	40	28	378	396
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	183	145	21	31	204	176
Pahrump Justice Court	1,713	1,291	941	970	2,654	2,261
Tonopah Justice Court	338	246	124	79	462	325
Sixth Judicial District						
Humboldt County						
Union Justice Court	999	832	656	607	1,655	1,439
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	305	362	185	196	490	558
Austin Justice Court	46	38	4	4	50	42
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	241	243	135	180	376	423
Seventh Judicial District						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	20	17	0	0	20	17
Eureka Justice Court	61	62	22	17	83	79
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	111	112	27	92	138	204
Pahrangat Valley Justice Court	102	87	0	7	102	94
White Pine County						
Ely Justice Court	228	191	339	977 ^e	567	1,168
Lund Justice Court	4	3	0	0	4	3
Eighth Judicial District						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	147	82	208	208	355	290
Bunkerville Justice Court	20	41	3	21 ^f	23	62
Goodsprings Justice Court	278	284	50	210 ^f	328	494
Henderson Justice Court	3,254	2,905	4,028	7,607 ^e	7,282	10,512
Las Vegas Justice Court	NR	60,361	80,863	63,543	80,863	123,904
Laughlin Justice Court	535	630	134	122	669	752
Mesquite Justice Court	113 ^r	77	80 ^r	163 ^r	193 ^r	240
Moapa Justice Court	140	98	3	8 ^f	143	106
Moapa Valley Justice Court	67	158	8	20 ^f	75	178
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,607	3,574	4,661	5,626	8,268	9,200
Searchlight Justice Court	125	147	9	1	134	148
Ninth Judicial District						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	1,279	1,290	546	579	1,825	1,869
Tahoe Justice Court	909	733	102	113	1,011	846
Total	33,464 ^r	91,503	112,936 ^r	99,190	146,400 ^r	190,693

NR Not reported.

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Includes municipal court information.

^c Dispositions include disposition of cases and charges.

^d Dispositions are final case closures.

^e Includes a large number of administrative case closures.

^f Increase due in part to improved case tracking.

^r Revised from previous publications.

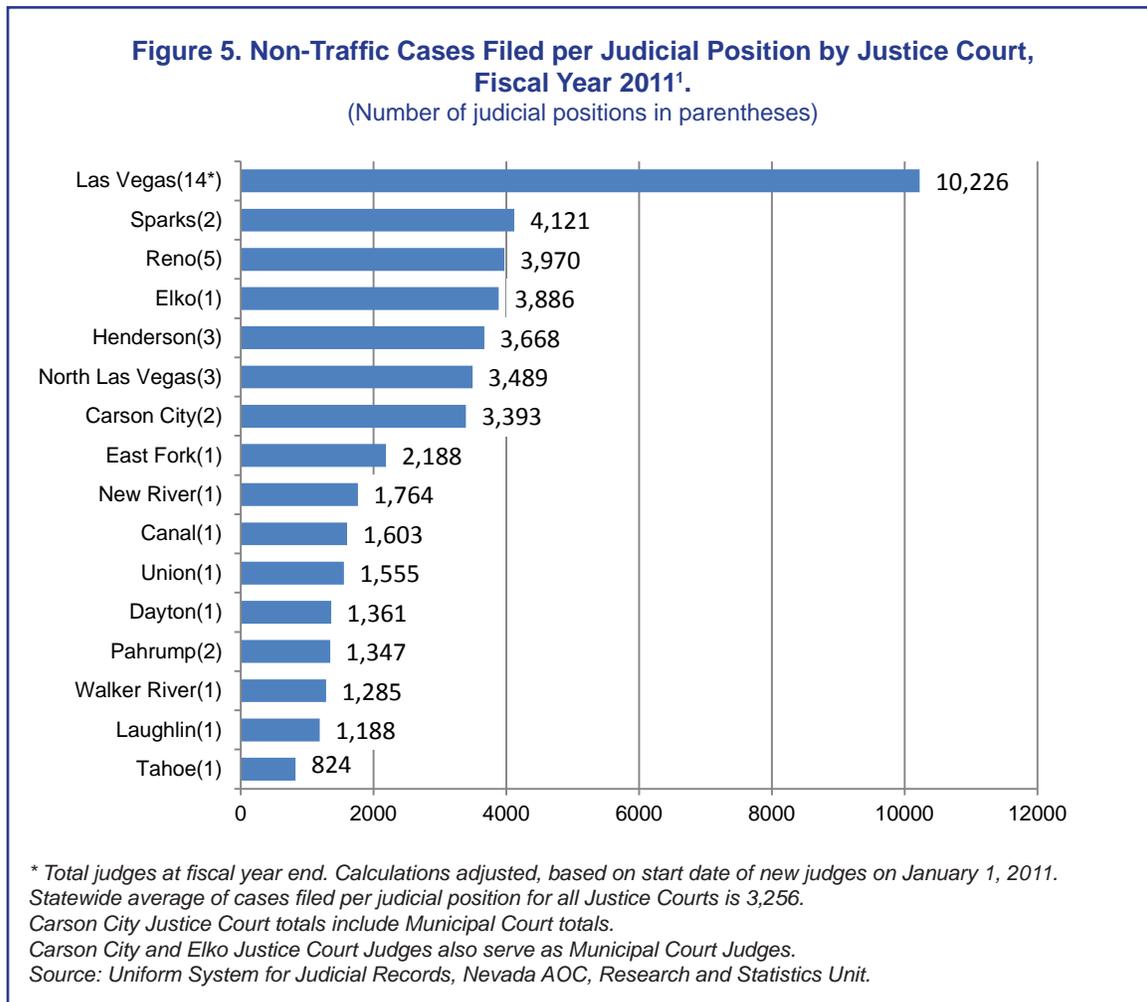
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE

The AOC and the courts quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts by special masters who help dispose cases. These are special master positions that assist the adjudication process, but are not elected officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Three Justice Courts reported quasi-judicial positions to help with their non-traffic caseload. Carson City Justice Court reported 0.40 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped

with small claims and domestic violence protection cases. Las Vegas Justice Court reported 0.14 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims cases and 1.1 FTE in a Traffic Referee. Sparks Justice Court also reported 0.40 quasi-judicial position utilization as well. Quasi-judicial officers, such as small claims referees, make recommendations or judgments that are subject to review and confirmation by sitting Justices of the Peace; Juvenile Masters in Justice Court are traffic judges whose decisions are final unless appealed.



¹ 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 judicial position also serves as a Municipal Court Judge.

Hawthorne Justice Court	737	Tonopah Justice Court	298	Wadsworth Justice Court*	129
Argenta Justice Court	631	Wells Justice Court**	211	Moapa Justice Court*	128
Incline Village Justice Court*	609	East Line Justice Court**	203	Pahrangat Valley Justice Court**	122
Ely Justice Court	582	Carlin Justice Court**	201	Eureka Justice Court*	106
Goodsprings Justice Court	564	Meadow Valley Justice Court*	192	Bunkerville Justice Court*	105
Lake Justice Court	552	Virginia City Justice Court	181	Esmeralda Justice Court*	53
Boulder Justice Court**	406	Jackpot Justice Court*	171	Austin Justice Court*	52
Mesquite Justice Court**	371	Beatty Justice Court	168	Beowawe Justice Court*	51
Moapa Valley Justice Court*	305	Searchlight Justice Court*	157	Lund Justice Court*	3

Municipal Courts

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

Most Municipal Court Judges are elected and serve within the municipality in which they reside; however, some are appointed by their city council or mayor. Those appointed by the city council or mayor are in Caliente, Ely, Fallon, Fernley, Mesquite, and Yerington. In fiscal year 2011, the 17 Municipal Courts were served by 30 Municipal Court Judges.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The Municipal Court non-traffic caseload information (filing and dispositions) for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14.

Statewide, Municipal Court criminal filings in fiscal year 2011 increased 13 percent from last fiscal year. This was driven mostly from the Las Vegas Municipal Court,

which handles over half of the Nevada Municipal caseload, and reported more than a 32 percent increase from last year. This increase came largely from case management improvements, which allowed for a more accurate count of the types of cases filed in the court. This improved reporting also accounted for a corresponding decrease in traffic filings (Table 17). Excluding this court's filing information, the remaining state municipal filings fell almost 4 percent from last year.

Still, some Municipal Courts experienced large percentage increases [Carlin (64 percent, from 55 to 90 cases) and Fernley (37 percent, from 229 to 314 cases)] in criminal case filings. Six of the reporting courts experienced increases, with the remaining ten experiencing decreases (four of which were within 2 cases from the year before).

The only Municipal Court with civil filings was Caliente Municipal Court, which had 1 case. On occasion, municipalities may seek collection through the courts of unpaid power bills. This is the type of limited jurisdiction civil case a Municipal Court may handle. Although most of the courts in Table 14 show NR (not reported) for civil, they most likely did not have any to report.

Table 14. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2010-11.

(See Table 17 for traffic data.)

Court	Non-traffic Misdemeanors ^a				Civil Cases			
	Cases Filed		Cases Disposed		Filed ^b		Disposed	
	FY10	FY11	FY10	FY11	FY10	FY11	FY10	FY11
Boulder Municipal Court	446	490 ^c	611 ^d	599 ^c	NR	NR	NR	NR
Caliente Municipal Court	34	26	19	32	0	1	0	1
Carlin Municipal Court	55	90	46	87	0	0	0	0
Carson City Municipal Court	^e	^e	^e	^e	^e	^e	^e	^e
Elko Municipal Court	604	603	627	453	NR	NR	NR	NR
Ely Municipal Court	205	240	353	293	NR	NR	NR	NR
Fallon Municipal Court	267	218	220	209	NR	NR	NR	NR
Fernley Municipal Court	229	314	377	272	NR	NR	NR	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	6,884	6,132	6,597	6,259	NR	NR	NR	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court ^f	25,914 ^d	34,299	33,390 ^d	41,892	^g	^g	^g	^g
Mesquite Municipal Court	629	518	976	469	NR	NR	NR	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	9,061	9,749	8,676	7,112	^g	^g	^g	^g
Reno Municipal Court	8,208	7,340	6,857	6,365	^g	^g	^g	^g
Sparks Municipal Court	2,585	2,324	3,509	3,058	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wells Municipal Court	56	54	59	49	NR	NR	NR	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	226	224	234	219	NR	NR	NR	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	116	114	125	137	NR	NR	NR	NR
Total	55,519	62,735	62,676	67,505	0	1	0	1

NR Not reported.

^a Case statistics include reopened cases.

^b Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.

^c For the months preceding February 2011, reopened counts were not reported and dispositions were reported on the charge level. Footnote (d) applies for dispositions for these months.

^d Court reported non-traffic misdemeanor statistics by charges so total charges were divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

^e Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Tables 12 and 13) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^f Increases in 2011 due in part to improvements in tracking case types in case management system, see associated traffic statistics decreases in Table 17.

^g Cases are handled administratively by the city.

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

The disposition information for Municipal Courts is also provided in Table 14. Non-traffic dispositions increased about 8 percent from last fiscal year; however, this includes an almost 26 percent increase from the Las Vegas Municipal Court, due in part to better case tracking. When excluding the Las Vegas Municipal Court dispositions, the remaining state aggregate dispositions fell more than 12 percent. Only four courts had increases in their dispositions from last year [Carlin (89 percent), Caliente (68 percent), Las Vegas (26 percent), and Yerington (10 percent)], while the remaining 12 reporting courts decreased. Dispositions decreased sharply for Mesquite (52 percent), Fernley (28 percent), and Elko (28 percent) Municipal Courts. When comparing the clearance rate for these courts between the years, a large portion of these decreases can be largely attributed to improved case reporting.

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

CASES PER JUDICIAL POSITION

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2011 is shown in Figure 6. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not

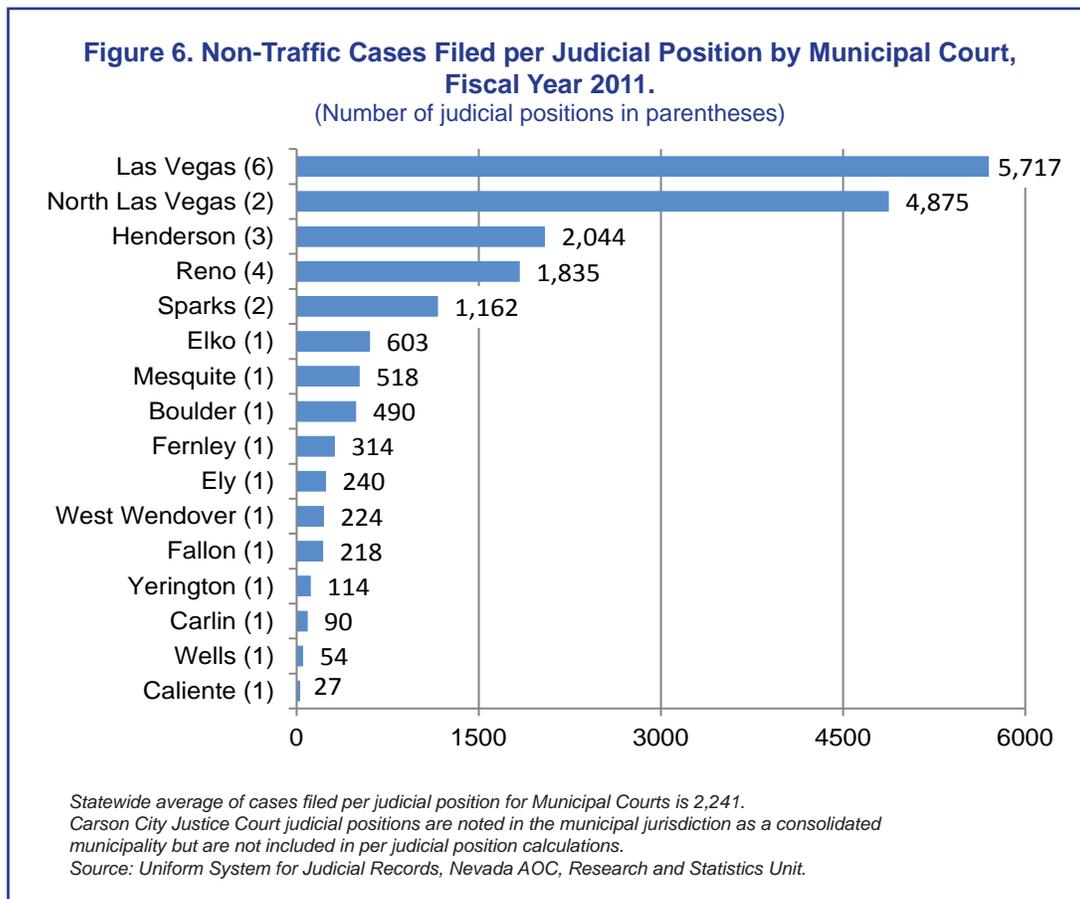
included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because cases may be resolved by payment of fines, precluding judicial involvement. This provides a more equal comparison between the courts.

Judges in Las Vegas and North Las Vegas again top the list for most non-traffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas (5,717) and then North Las Vegas (4,875) were followed by Henderson (2,044), Reno (1,835), and Sparks (1,162). The statewide average of non-traffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 2,241, a 13 percent increase from the previous fiscal year (1,983). The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in Figure 5 and Table 12 with Justice Courts.

JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE

Quasi-judicial assistance may be used by Municipal courts as well as District and Justice Courts. The AOC and the Courts quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. These are positions that help with the adjudication process but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

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



Traffic and Parking Violations

Traffic and parking violations comprise a substantial portion of the judicial caseload and are the most common way citizens interact with the judiciary. These violations are handled at all three jurisdictional levels (District, Justice, and Municipal) of the Nevada trial courts. This is the second year in which the USJR statistics are primarily presented by defendant rather than by charge. This change was implemented to create uniform standards of measurements. Charges have been included for consistency with past annual reports, with case and charge information being shown in Tables 15-17.

In addition to their non-traffic caseloads, District Courts also hear juvenile traffic cases. Justice and Municipal Courts have jurisdiction over adult traffic and parking cases as misdemeanor violations, or citations. A few jurisdictions do not hear parking tickets, as they are handled administratively by the local governments (executive branch).

Additional detailed statistics for traffic cases in fiscal year 2011 are provided in the appendix tables posted on the Nevada Supreme Court website (www.nevadajudiciary.us) in the Administrative Office of the Courts, Research and Statistics Unit documents area.

DISTRICT COURT SUMMARY

Juvenile traffic filings in the District Courts decreased almost 15 percent from last fiscal year (from 5,464 to 4,661 cases). The juvenile traffic charge and disposition information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 15. More than half of the District Courts saw decreases this year. Humboldt County decreased 51 percent this year after increasing almost 31 percent from the year before. All the courts in the Fifth Judicial District [Esmeralda County (100 percent), Mineral County (67 percent) and Nye County (35 percent)] saw decreases as well. Six District Courts experienced increases this year. Pershing County had the largest percentage increase in the state, with a 57 percent increase (11 cases, from 7); while Storey County increased 50 percent from last year with 2 added cases this year. Douglas County had the next largest percentage increase (30 percent), increasing their caseload by 66 cases (from 224 cases).

Clark County reported fewer traffic citations than Washoe County. One reason is the Justice Courts in Clark County handle and report their juvenile traffic separate from the District Court (see Appendix Table A9). In Washoe County, nearly all juvenile traffic citations are handled at the Jan Evans Juvenile Justice Center and are reported by the District Court.

Table 15. Summary of Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed in District Court, Fiscal Years 2010-11.

Court	Total Cases		Juvenile Traffic Total Charges ^a		Total Disposed ^a	
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011
First Judicial District						
Carson City District Court	356	349	468	446	465 ^r	467
Storey County District Court	4 ^r	6	5 ^r	8	4 ^r	8
Second Judicial District						
Washoe County District Court	1,859	1,637	2,704	2,343	NR	NR
Third Judicial District						
Churchill County District Court	112	134	171	200	180	205
Lyon County District Court	139	157	207	223	131	119
Fourth Judicial District						
Elko County District Court	681	585	842	729	576	594
Fifth Judicial District						
Esmeralda County District Court	2	0	2	0	2	0
Mineral County District Court	3	1	3	2	5	0
Nye County District Court	98	64	172	90	118	29
Sixth Judicial District						
Humboldt County District Court	125	61	153	83	129	70
Lander County District Court	57	68	76	101	76	101
Pershing County District Court	7	11	9	12	8	8
Seventh Judicial District						
Eureka County District Court	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
Lincoln County District Court	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
White Pine County District Court	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
Eighth Judicial District						
Clark County District Court	1,797	1,298	2,046	1,495	743	780
Ninth Judicial District						
Douglas County District Court	224	290	304	401	271	253
Total	5,464 ^r	4,661	7,162 ^r	6,133	2,708 ^r	2,634

NR Not reported.

^a Traffic violations were reported on the charge level before Fiscal Year 2010.

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

^r Revised from previous publication.

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

District Court juvenile traffic case dispositions reported an almost 3 percent decrease from fiscal years 2010 to 2011. At the District Court level, Juvenile Masters or District Court Judges handle juvenile traffic cases, which may be counted at the District or Justice Court level depending on the processes within the judicial district. The cases are listed in the respective District or Justice Court tables.

JUSTICE COURT SUMMARY

In the Justice Courts, the number of traffic and parking violations is more than one and a half times the total non-traffic filings. The traffic and parking violation filing and disposition information for Justice Courts for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 16. Detailed information for fiscal year 2011 can be found in the appendix tables, broken down by traffic, parking, and juvenile traffic cases.

Statewide, Justice Court traffic violations decreased almost 3 percent. Incline Village recently added a new Nevada Highway Patrol office, which coupled with the existing Washoe County Sheriff's office, greatly increased the traffic citations filed in the Justice Court (89 percent). Some other rural and suburban Justice Courts also saw large percentage increases in their traffic violations [Bunkerville (75 percent), Dayton (55 percent), and Beatty (44 percent)], but others saw decreases [Moapa Valley (41 percent), Hawthorne (35 percent), and Jackpot (33 percent)].

Las Vegas Justice Court, which resides in the most populous township, continued to have the highest traffic caseload with almost 57 percent of the statewide total. Reno Justice Court was next with more than 7 percent of the traffic caseload. Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, along with Goodsprings Justice Court, each had more than 3 percent of the traffic caseload as well.

Justice Court traffic violation dispositions decreased 2 percent from last year. This is the second year courts have reported on the case, not the charge level. Of note, most courts who saw the highest filing increases also had the largest disposition increases [Bunkerville (90 percent) and Incline Village (74 percent)], while Moapa Valley and Canal Justice Courts saw the largest decreases (45 and 30 percent, respectively).

MUNICIPAL COURT SUMMARY

Historically, in the Municipal Courts, the number of traffic and parking violations has been more than four times the total non-traffic filings. This year, that ratio dropped down closer to threefold. The filing and disposition information for

traffic and parking violations in the Municipal Courts during the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 17. Detailed information for fiscal year 2011 can be found in the appendix tables, broken down by traffic, parking, and juvenile traffic cases.

Municipal Court traffic violations decreased 14 percent from the previous fiscal year. Traffic filings are heavily dependent on the number of local law enforcement positions filled or vacant. This year's decrease was largely driven from the Clark County Municipal Courts (Boulder, Henderson, Las Vegas, Mesquite, and North Las Vegas), which represents almost 81 percent of all Municipal Court traffic and parking filings in the state. Clark County Municipal Courts as a whole experienced more than 15 percent in reduced traffic and parking filings this year, with Mesquite Municipal Court being the only one of these courts reporting an increase (4 percent). Some of this decline in filings is also due to the better case tracking previously discussed for the Las Vegas Municipal Court, which represents more than 47 percent of the statewide Municipal Court total.

Some Municipal Courts saw large increases [Caliente (101 percent), Wells (95 percent), and Carlin (58 percent)]; other courts saw decreases [Las Vegas (16 percent), North Las Vegas (16 percent), Boulder (16 percent), and Yerington (14 percent)] in traffic and parking cases.

The disposition information for Municipal Court traffic violations is also provided in Table 17. The municipal traffic and parking violation dispositions decreased almost 16 percent from last fiscal year.



Eureka Justice Court Judge John Schwebel and Staff.

Table 16. Summary of Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2010-11.
Traffic and Parking ^a

Court	Total Filed				Disposed ^b	
	Cases ^c		Charges		Cases ^c	
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011
First Judicial District						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court ^d	11,017	11,871	14,855	15,160	11,373	11,648
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	697	576	861	731	635	566
Second Judicial District						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	1,334	2,527	1,756	3,323	1,528	2,660
Reno Justice Court ^e	24,207	26,891	36,311 ^f	40,337 ^f	22,371	21,957
Sparks Justice Court ^e	7,768	8,190	11,774	11,903	6,985	7,300
Wadsworth Justice Court	3,687	3,410	4,517	4,022	3,433	3,478
Third Judicial District						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	4,132	4,616	5,381	5,969	4,098	4,650
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	1,793	1,514	2,375	1,928	2,165	1,511
Dayton Justice Court	2,293	3,548	2,885	4,299	2,188	3,223
Walker River Justice Court	1,645	1,532	2,040	1,900	1,484	1,381
Fourth Judicial District						
Elko County						
Carlin Justice Court	390	394	464	506	304	380
East Line Justice Court	811	769	842	868	761	633
Elko Justice Court	6,649	6,651	8,456	8,715	6,195	6,046
Jackpot Justice Court	2,097	1,401	2,087	1,440	2,071 ^g	1,458
Wells Justice Court	3,934	4,052	5,342	5,585	2,978	4,720
Fifth Judicial District						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	3,408	2,800	4,007	3,286	3,014	2,889
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	6,070	3,941	7,028	4,567	5,082	3,906
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	2,011	2,898	2,330	3,339	2,295	2,859
Pahrump Justice Court	2,993	2,451	4,748	3,646	2,955	2,242
Tonopah Justice Court	1,104	1,336	1,347	1,540	1,189	1,303
Sixth Judicial District						
Humboldt County						
Union Justice Court	5,995	4,963	7,476	5,993	5,648	4,726
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	2,768	2,876	3,406	3,693	2,645	2,795
Austin Justice Court	674	639	854	775	777	625
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	986	1,273	1,157	1,516	787	1,075
Seventh Judicial District						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	573	572	649	661	459	468
Eureka Justice Court	838	820	955	1,020	858	793
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	1,195	1,030	1,416	1,212	1,209	1,041
Pahrangat Valley Justice Court	3,213	3,077	3,655	3,484	3,194	2,937
White Pine County						
Ely Justice Court	3,017	2,591	3,554	2,974	2,911	2,551
Lund Justice Court	505	373	585	433	465	417
Eighth Judicial District						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	468	651	653	868	433 ⁱ	632
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,398	2,450	1,621	2,810	1,257	2,384
Goodsprings Justice Court	15,074	11,176	14,976	13,113	12,849 ⁱ	10,852
Henderson Justice Court	6,392	6,219	9,005	8,597	6,504	6,448
Las Vegas Justice Court	212,876	206,231	312,006	303,568	189,707 ⁱ	185,927
Laughlin Justice Court	7,247	7,883	8,235	8,947	8,295	7,489
Mesquite Justice Court	1	0	10	5	0	0
Moapa Justice Court	4,451	3,263	4,479	3,646	4,355	3,439
Moapa Valley Justice Court	931	547	1,203	689	949 ⁱ	522
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,732	1,474	2,506	2,221	1,634	1,518
Searchlight Justice Court	6,276	4,903	7,258	5,692	6,112	5,519
Ninth Judicial District						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	6,016	5,888	7,848	7,371	6,019	5,984
Tahoe Justice Court	2,686	2,918	3,470	3,605	2,571	2,750
Total	373,352	363,185	516,383	505,957	342,742	335,702

^a Case and charge information include juvenile traffic statistics (see Appendix Table A9). Totals on this sheet will not match Appendix Table A6 totals due to footnotes (e,f) and included juvenile statistics.
^b Prior to fiscal year 2010, annual report dispositions for traffic cases were reported by the charge, not the case level. Comparison between cases and charges should not be made.
^c Case statistics include reopened cases. Case reporting started in fiscal year 2010.
^d Municipal Court data included in totals.
^e Reopened (cases) are 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.
^f Cases were multiplied by 1.5 to determine the charge count so more appropriate comparisons can be made.
^g Dispositions include disposition of cases and charges.
ⁱ Incomplete.
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Table 17. Summary of Municipal Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Years 2010-11.

Court	Traffic and Parking ^a				Disposed ^b	
	Total Filed				Cases ^c	
	Cases ^c		Charges		FY 2010	FY 2011
	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2010	FY 2011
Boulder Municipal Court	4,628	3,881 ^d	6,547	5,505	4,523 ^e	4,176 ^d
Caliente Municipal Court	106	213	138	254	122	198
Carlin Municipal Court	52	82	44	99	44	80
Carson City Municipal Court						
Elko Municipal Court	1,753	1,593	2,025	1,859	1,102	1,403
Ely Municipal Court	372	511	451	662	560	449
Fallon Municipal Court	769	674	1,050	871	682	670
Fernley Municipal Court	2,166	2,333	2,704	3,019	2,498	2,009
Henderson Municipal Court	33,057	29,270	47,964	41,473	33,020	29,356
Las Vegas Municipal Court ^g	114,804 ^{e,h}	95,969	172,194	153,149	138,813 ^e	109,711
Mesquite Municipal Court	1,853	1,932	2,779	2,577	2,306	1,834
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	39,697	33,278	61,526	47,371	36,860 ^e	33,179
Reno Municipal Court	27,736	24,628	36,574	31,976	25,985	23,413
Sparks Municipal Court	8,308	7,610	11,862	10,668	8,971	8,418
Wells Municipal Court	111	216	212	331	75	180
West Wendover Municipal Court	937	1,030	980	1,142	871	964
Yerington Municipal Court	104	90	125	121	131	103
Total	236,453	203,310	347,175	301,077	256,563	216,143

^a Case and charge information include juvenile traffic statistics (see Appendix Table A9). Totals on this sheet will not match Appendix Table A8 totals due to footnote (e) and included juvenile statistics.

^b Prior to fiscal year 2010, annual report dispositions for traffic cases were reported by the charge, not the case level. Comparison between cases and charges should not be made.

^c Case statistics include reopened cases. Case reporting started in fiscal year 2010.

^d For the months preceding February 2011, reopened counts were not reported and dispositions were reported on the charge level. Footnote (e) applies for dispositions for these months.

^e Court reported traffic and parking statistics by charges so total charges was divided by the historical statewide court average of 1.5 charges per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

^f Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table 16) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

^g Decrease in 2011 due in part to improvements in tracking case types in case management system, see associated criminal statistics increase in Table 14.

^h Case counts reported include reopened matters at the charge level.

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

Specialty Court Programs

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

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

Although Nevada operates many types of Specialty Courts, the Drug Court is the most established and widely known. Nevada is a pioneer in the development of Drug Courts as an alternative way of helping criminal defendants to become productive members of society. Drug Courts are highly effective in participant rehabilitation.

Nevada has Drug Courts at all three trial court levels. The Adult Criminal Drug Court is the most common. Participants involved in the criminal justice system may enroll in the program as part of their sentence and rehabilitation, or as a diversion from a serious criminal conviction upon successful

completion. Prison Re-entry Drug Courts address prison inmate needs by combining drug treatment and early release to reduce recidivism. Family, Dependency, and Child Support Drug Courts all deal with domestic situations aggravated by the use of illicit drugs. Juvenile Drug Courts treat youthful offenders whose drug use led to juvenile delinquency.

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

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

Felony DUI Courts were established July 2007. Felony DUI Courts were designed to eradicate alcohol-impaired driving and save lives. In 2009, more than 70 percent of all alcohol related fatalities, 7,607, involved a hardcore offender. Throughout the country there are 2 million people with three

or more DWI convictions and a staggering 400,000 with five or more.¹

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

FUNDING

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

All specialty court participants are charged a program fee. The fee amount, how it is collected, and how it is distributed differs from program to program. Some courts collect the fee to offset treatment and other operational costs; however, in other courts, especially in the rural areas where resources are scarce, the treatment provider collects and retains the fee.

Funding for Specialty Courts is authorized by NRS 176.0613, 176.059, and 178.518. Funds generated in fiscal year 2011 totaled \$5,793,137. In addition to this amount, \$2,178,091 was carried forward from the previous fiscal year. The balance brought forward from the previous fiscal year is a critical component as this provides the first quarterly distribution for the next fiscal year. Table 18 represents the amount of

Table 18. Specialty Courts Revenue and Allocations, Fiscal Year 2011

Revenue	
Balance forward from previous fiscal year	\$2,178,091
Administrative assessments NRS 176.0613	\$3,883,744
Bail forfeitures NRS 178.158	\$142,986
Court assessment NRS 176.059	\$1,766,407
Total revenue received	\$7,971,228
Allocations	
Total Specialty Court Program	\$6,454,787
Training and education ¹	\$100,000
Total allocations	\$6,554,787
Balance forward to the next fiscal year²	\$1,416,441

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 required to fund the first quarterly distribution of the following fiscal year.

revenue generated and how funds were allocated for fiscal year 2011.

In fiscal year 2011, funding was authorized for 46 programs by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada on recommendations of the Specialty Court Funding Committee. All Specialty Court programs receive quarterly distributions (July, October, January, and April). Table 19 represents program distribu-

tions approved by the Specialty Court Funding Committee and authorized by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada for fiscal year 2011.

SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAM STATUS

In fiscal year 2011, the Specialty Court programs continued their effective supervision and rehabilitation of program participants. The Specialty Court programs noted in Table 20 served more than 2,600 defendants, graduating more than 1,200 of them during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 67 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

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

The Western Regional Drug Court program began in fiscal year 2002, and encompasses courts of the First, Third, Fifth, and Ninth Judicial Districts. The adult only program includes cases from Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, and Storey Counties.

A unique element of each Regional Drug Court is that the presiding judge must travel to hear many of the cases in the other participating judicial districts. Individual counties within the Western Regional Drug Court program may also have some separate form of Juvenile Drug Court.

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

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

The Western Region programs noted in Table 20 served more than 260 defendants, with 87 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 9 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

¹ "American Judges Association Endorses DWI Court," *DWI Court Reporter*, Vol. IV, No. 2, July 2011, pp. 2-3.

Table 19. Summary of Specialty Court Program Distributions, Fiscal Year 2011

Specialty Court Program	Fiscal Year 2011 Funding
<i>Programs of General Jurisdiction</i>	
Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District (3 Programs)	\$718,091
Eighth Judicial District (2 Programs)	\$1,771,127
Adult Drug Courts (Rural Counties)	
Western Region (5 Programs - Carson City/Storey, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, & Northern Mineral Counties)	\$428,360
Eastern Region (2 Programs - Elko and White Pine Counties)	\$240,620
Fifth Judicial District	\$133,616
Central Region (3 Programs - Humboldt, Lander, Pershing Counties)	\$93,614
Family Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$74,250
Eighth Judicial District	\$317,375
Felony DUI Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$85,425
Eighth Judicial District	\$203,381
Felony DUI Courts (Rural Counties)	
Carson City	\$7,480
Mental Health Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$22,300
Eighth Judicial District	\$495,373
Juvenile Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$47,664
Eighth Judicial District	\$403,875
Juvenile Drug Courts (Rural Counties)	
First Judicial District	\$11,219
Eastern Region (2 Programs - Elko and White Pine Counties)	\$96,936
Fifth Judicial District	\$7,213
Other Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Eighth Judicial District Child Support	\$46,600
Eighth Judicial District Court Dependency Mothers	\$104,862
Veteran Treatment Court (Urban Counties)	
Second Judicial District	\$106,067
<i>Programs of Limited Jurisdiction</i>	
Adult Drug Courts (Urban Counties)	
Las Vegas Justice Court	\$236,420
Las Vegas Municipal Court	\$55,830
Mental Health Courts (Rural Counties)	
Carson City Justice/Municipal Court	\$15,580
Other Programs (Urban Counties)	
Henderson Municipal Court ABC Program	\$29,310
Las Vegas Justice DUI Court (2 Programs)	\$187,882
Las Vegas Municipal DUI Court	\$80,250
Las Vegas Municipal Women in Need Court	\$39,568
Las Vegas Municipal HOPE Court	\$116,840
North Las Vegas Municipal Alcohol and Drug Court	\$35,158
Reno Justice Alcohol and Drug and Domestic Violence Court	\$134,222
Reno Municipal Alcohol and Drug Court (2 Programs)	\$85,000
Sparks Municipal Alcohol and Drug Court	\$23,279
Total Specialty Court Distributions	\$6,454,787

The Second Judicial District Court operates a Mental Health Court, Adult Drug Court, Diversion Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, Prison Re-Entry Drug Court, Felony DUI Court, Veterans Treatment Court, and a Family Drug Court. Washoe County began its Mental Health Court in November 2001, the first Mental Health Court in Nevada.

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

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

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

The Washoe Region programs noted in Table 20 served more than 900 defendants, with 481 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 23 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

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

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

The Eastern Region programs noted in Table 20 served 74 defendants, with 40 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 10 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

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

The Fifth Judicial District programs noted in Table 20 served more than 100 defendants, with 21 graduating during the fiscal year.

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

The Central Region programs noted in Table 20 served 45 defendants, with 19 graduating during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 5 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

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

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

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

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

The Clark Region programs noted in Table 20 served more than 1,200 defendants, with 574 graduating during the fiscal year. The several Specialty Court programs had 20 drug free babies born during the year.



Carlin Justice and Municipal Courts Judge Teri Feasel and Staff.

Table 20. Summary of Specialty Court Information, Fiscal Year 2011.

JURISDICTION	COURT TYPE	NEW PARTICIPANTS/ ADMISSIONS	TERMINATIONS ¹	GRADUATES	ACTIVE CASES AT YEAR END	DRUG FREE BABIES BORN
Western Region						
Western Regional Drug Court	Adult Drug (5 Programs)	200	137	72	202	6
Carson City & Storey County	Juvenile Drug	11	6	5	11	0
Carson City Justice Court	Felony DUI Court	17	4	0	63	1
Carson City Justice Court	Mental Health	35	17	10	33	2
	TOTAL	263	164	87	309	9
Washoe Region						
Second Judicial District	Adult Drug (Includes Diversion)	375	215	180	562	11
	Family Drug	29	10	19	33	2
	Felony DUI	78	21	15	190	0
	Juvenile Drug	14	8	9	17	2
	Mental Health	165	77	99	175	6
	Prison Re-entry	3	7	9	10	0
	Veterans Court	35	8	10	36	0
Reno Justice	Alcohol & Drug Court	121	61	54	251	0
Sparks Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court	40	7	30	123	0
Reno Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court (2 Programs)	74	27	56	98	2
	TOTAL	934	441	481	1,495	23
Eastern Region						
Elko County	Adult Drug	35	6	23	44	6
	Juvenile Drug	19	5	11	13	3
White Pine County	Adult Drug	13	11	6	17	1
	Juvenile Drug	7	2	0	5	0
	TOTAL	74	24	40	79	10
Fifth Judicial District						
Nye County	Adult Drug	96	59	18	50	0
	Juvenile Drug	5	4	3	6	0
	TOTAL	101	63	21	56	0
Central Region						
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	35	14	14	44	4
Lander County	Adult Drug	2	1	3	4	NR
Pershing County	Adult Drug	8	3	2	8	1
	TOTAL	45	18	19	56	5
Clark Region						
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	390	234	181	380 ^r	8
	Child Support Drug	11	7	6	13 ^r	0
	Dependency/Family Drug	70	54	40	32 ^r	5
	Dependency Mothers	10	4	4	16	6
	Felony DUI Court	120	43	67	386	0
	Juvenile Drug	77	45	24	78 ^r	0
	Mental Health	47	26	19	99	0
	Prison Re-Entry Drug	4	2	4	9 ^r	0
Las Vegas Justice	Adult Drug	145	47	37	192 ^r	0
	DUI Court (2 Programs)	168	24	114	181	0
Henderson Municipal	ABC Court (Habitual Offender)	16	10	2	21	0
Las Vegas Municipal	Adult Drug	49	15	3	53	0
	DUI Court	84	18	52	108	0
	Women in Need	16	13	6	25	1
	HOPE Court (Habitual Offender)	8	4	5	43	0
North Las Vegas Municipal	Drug and Alcohol	29	24	10	9	0
	TOTAL	1,244	570	574	1,645	20
ALL SPECIALTY COURTS	GRAND TOTAL	2,661	1,280	1,222	3,640	67

¹ Includes remands/removals, transfers to other specialty courts, and deceased participants.
^r Pending caseloads include revisions to fiscal year 2010 pending specialty court participants.
 NR Not Reported
 Source: Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts, Specialty Courts Program.

Courts with Incomplete Data

Courts that did not provide all of their data for fiscal year 2011 are listed in Table 21, as are the specific elements of the data missing during the year.

In a few instances, courts submitted all they could count, but acknowledge that there are issues with the statistics and the courts are working to correct them. In those instances, the data will be in italics or flagged with a footnote, but the court may not appear in Table 21 if all monthly reports were filed.

Statistical reporting by the courts continues to improve. This fiscal year, a large effort was undertaken to help courts report more complete information and identify data that was not meeting reporting standards. As a result of these efforts many of the courts resolved their non-reporting issues or discrepancies. While some issues remain, the Supreme Court of Nevada is committed to making sure the information contained in this report continues to reflect the great work of the Nevada Judiciary.

This year all courts provided caseload and dispositions for all case categories, though a few courts were unable to report specific case types. This year, the Las Vegas Justice Court perhaps made the greatest strides in providing complete statistical reporting. In previous reports, they were unable to report specific case types or disposition information. They are now able to provide that information.

In addition to the efforts previously mentioned, the Administrative Office of the Courts worked on technology projects that brought case management systems to many of the rural courts and similar technology to some urban courts. Case management systems provide the courts with an automated mechanism to prepare their monthly statistical reports while also improving court processes and procedures.

During fiscal year 2011, Carlin Justice and Municipal Court, Elko Justice and Municipal Court, and Boulder Municipal Court implemented the state sponsored case management system. This brings the total number of courts using all or part of the new system to 46.

Table 21. Data Non-Reporting by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2010.

Court	Case Type ¹	Filings/ Cases	Charges	Dispo- sitions	Table
Second Judicial District					
Washoe County District Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A2
	Criminal Appeals			NR	A2
	Specific Criminal Case Types	NR	NR	NR	A2
	Juvenile Informal hearings	NR			A5
	Juvenile Detention Hearings	NR			A5
	Status Petitions	NR		NR	A5
Reno Justice Court	Juvenile Traffic			NR	A9
	Specific Criminal Case Types	NR	NR	NR	A6
Sparks Justice Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A6
	Specific Criminal Case Types	NR	NR	NR	A6
	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A6
Fourth Judicial District					
Elko District Court	Status Petitions	NR		NR	A5
Wells Justice Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A6
Wells Municipal Court	Reopened Criminal Cases	NR			A8
Sixth Judicial District					
Lander County District Court	Drug Free Babies	NR			20
Eighth Judicial District					
Clark County District Court	Status Petitions	NR		NR	A5
	Cases Transferred	NR			10

¹ Municipal Civil cases are not included here. Civil filings and dispositions are infrequent in Municipal Courts.

NR Not Reported

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

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

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