

# ANNUAL REPORT | '15

*Superior and Justice Courts & Adult and Juvenile Probation*



Superior Court  
of Arizona  
for Maricopa County  
[www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov)

Fiscal Year 2015: July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

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# Mission Statement



**Mission** | The Mission of the SUPERIOR COURT is to provide equal justice under law to litigants, defendants, victims, and the public so they can resolve disputes.

**Vision** | The Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County will be the leader in delivering justice through innovation and effective programs.

**Values** | Fairness and Impartiality  
 Transparency  
 Efficiency  
 Integrity  
 Equal Access to Justice

**Strategic Issues** | Changing Workforce  
 Increased workload and case complexity  
 Public Access and Community Education  
 Technology  
 Unnecessary Delay

<b>Judicial Branch Leadership</b>	<b>Presiding Judge</b> Janet E. Barton
	<b>Associate Presiding Judge</b> Joseph Welty
	<b>Court Administrator</b> Raymond L. Billotte

## Judicial Branch of Maricopa County

We are pleased to present the 2014–2015 Annual Report of Operations for the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County.

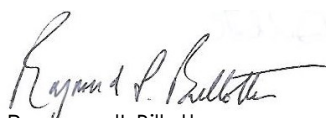
The Judicial Branch continues to refine its operations to meet the needs of Maricopa County's growing and diverse population. During the past year, we implemented numerous programs and projects intended to increase both efficiency and effectiveness, and further our responsibility to provide for the prompt and fair resolution of cases. Such programs and projects included:

- **New Risk Assessment Tools** – The Adult Probation Department, working with Criminal Department Judges, implemented a new risk assessment tool designed to assist judicial officers when making release decisions for persons arrested and charged with criminal offenses. The evidence-based tool provides valuable information on risk of flight, violence and additional criminal activity. This new tool is designed to improve public safety while assuring the rights of the accused.
- **Commercial Court Pilot Program** – Three Civil Department Judges were assigned to the newly created Commercial Court, as authorized by the Supreme Court of Arizona, for a pilot period of three years. The Commercial Court will focus on resolving commercial disputes more efficiently and economically, thus improving services to our business community.
- **Streamlining the Adoption Process** – A Juvenile Court Adoption Unit was created to help expedite the process of providing children with safe, loving and permanent homes. The new Unit will focus on eliminating unnecessary delay in the adoption process through expedited background checks, improved document management, and specialized training for staff.

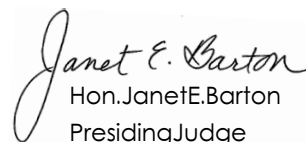
During the fiscal year, the Judicial Branch realized significant changes in personnel. With the assistance of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, we were able to increase the number of Superior Court Judicial Divisions from 95 to 98. The three additional judges will help the Court address the growing caseload in juvenile dependency cases. During the last fiscal year the Branch also lost 14 judges due to retirement. Between the addition of three new divisions and the retirement of 14 sitting judges, 17 new judges joined the bench during a 10 month time period.

Efforts to improve our information technology systems continued in earnest. Our Court Technology Services Department implemented numerous case management enhancements, expanded the eSearch Warrant application to allow greater use by law enforcement, and continued our work to protect court data from loss or abuse. The Court also heightened our electronic courtroom recording system, investing capital dollars to assure the record of court proceedings is secure and accessible.

On behalf of the entire Judicial Branch, we wish to thank the citizens of Maricopa County and the Board of Supervisors for your support. The work of the Judicial Branch is critical to the safety and welfare of our community, and we continue to work diligently to fulfill our constitutional and statutory obligations.

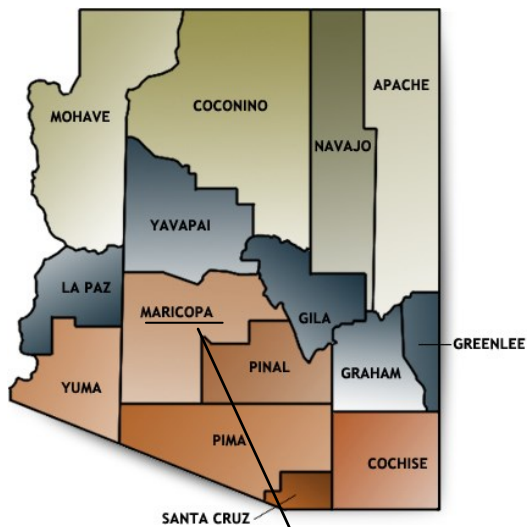


Raymond L. Billotte  
Court Administrator

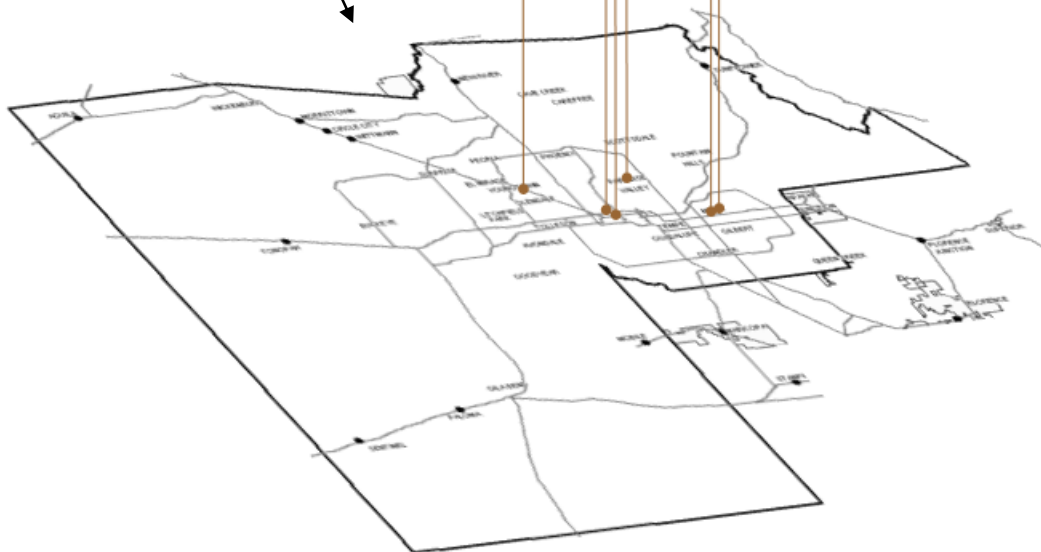


Hon. Janet E. Barton  
Presiding Judge

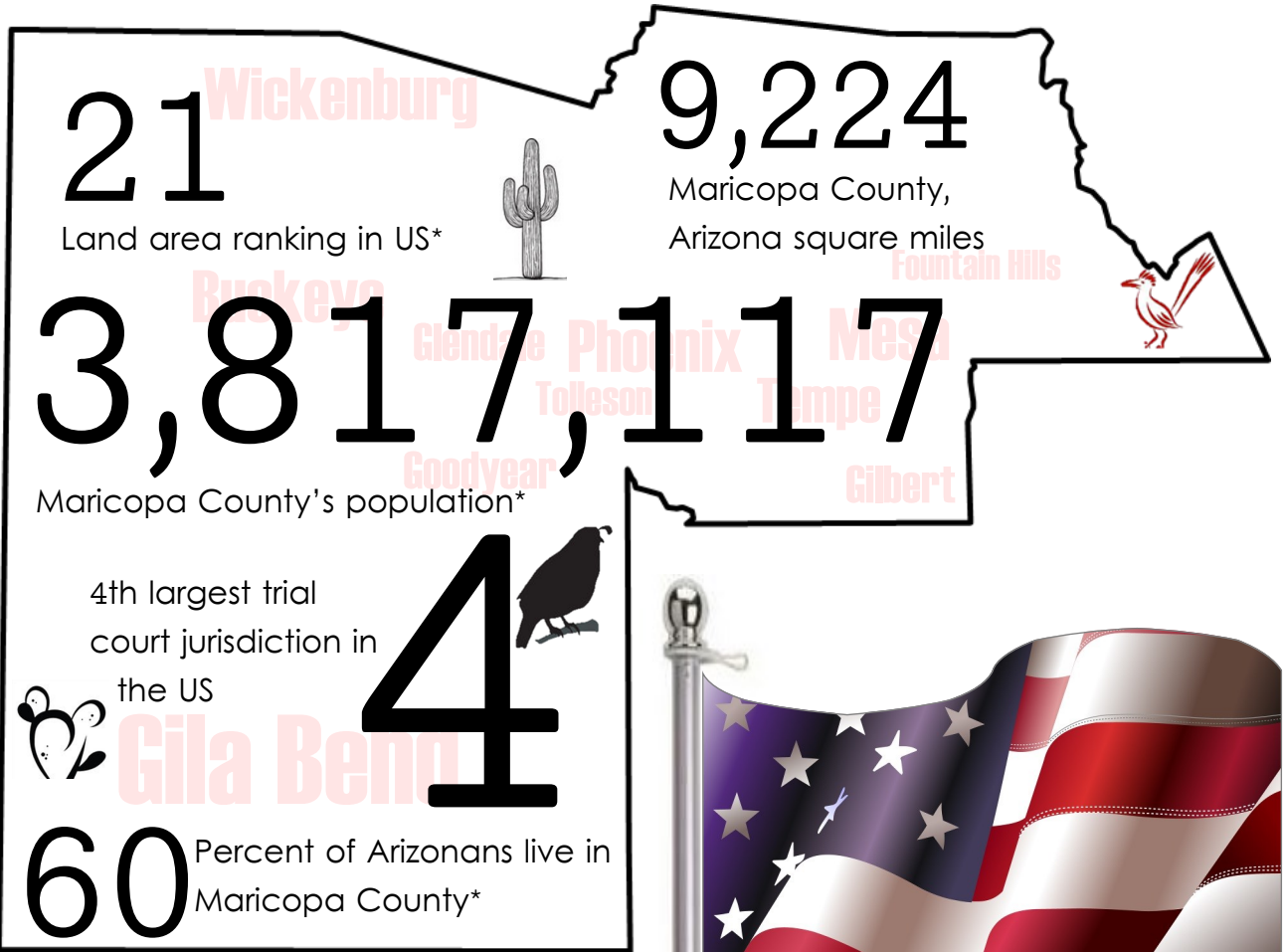
# Superior Court in Maricopa County Locations



- Northwest (Surprise)  
14264 W. Tierra Buena Lane, Surprise, AZ 85374
- Durango (Phoenix)  
3131 W. Durango, Phoenix, AZ 85009
- Downtown (Phoenix)  
201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85003
- Northeast (Phoenix)  
18380 N. 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032
- Southeast (Mesa)  
222 E. Javelina Drive, Mesa, AZ 85210-6234
- Juvenile (Mesa)  
1810 S. Lewis, Mesa, AZ 85210-6234



# Maricopa County Demographics



\*Data from 2010 US  
Census Fact for  
Maricopa County

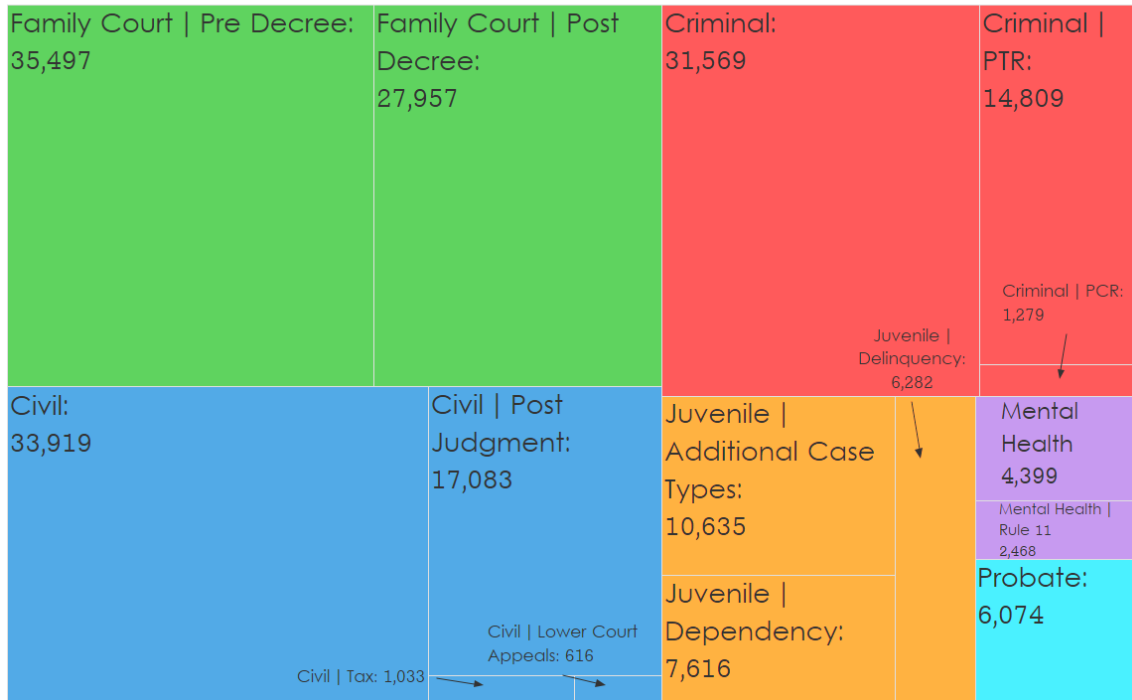


# Statistical Trends

## Fiscal Year 2015

Total Filings 201,236

Superior Court Filings  
FY 2015



Category	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
Civil	43% 98,120	35% 72,272	32% 64,743	30% 61,308	26% 51,618
Criminal	20% 45,720	22% 45,778	23% 46,807	24% 49,040	24% 47,657
Family Court	22% 50,355	24% 49,888	27% 55,702	28% 57,087	32% 63,454
Juvenile	9% 22,348	11% 22,157	11% 21,805	12% 23,813	12% 24,533
Probate	2% 5,343	3% 5,653	3% 5,811	3% 5,736	3% 6,074
Mental Health	1% 5,243	3% 6,090	3% 6,416	3% 6,490	3% 6,867
Tax Court	1% 2,331	1% 1,832	1% 1,344	1% 1,104	1% 1,033
<b>Total FY Filings:</b>	<b>222,137</b>	<b>203,670</b>	<b>202,628</b>	<b>204,578</b>	<b>201,236</b>
FY Percent Change:	15.5% ▲	-8.3% ▼	-0.5% ▼	1.0% ▲	-3.9% ▼

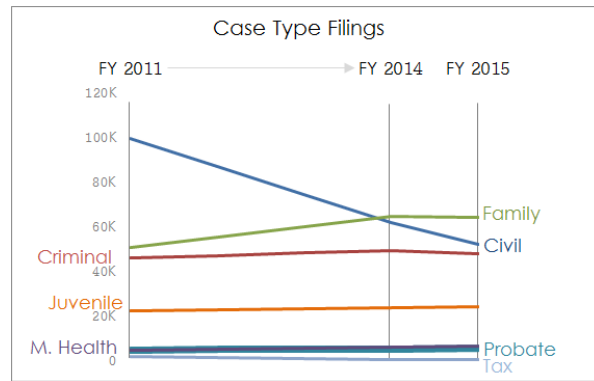
Note: Rule 11 is included in Mental Health totals.



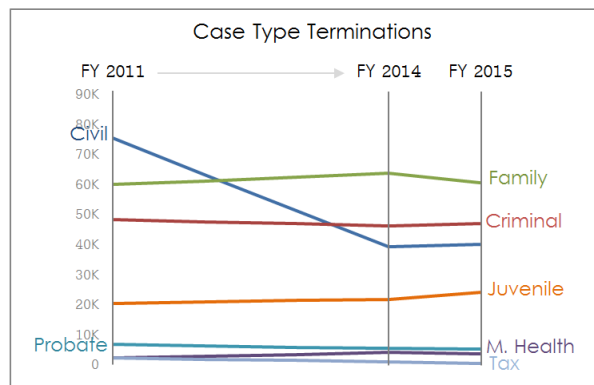
# Statistical Trends

## Fiscal Years 2011-2015

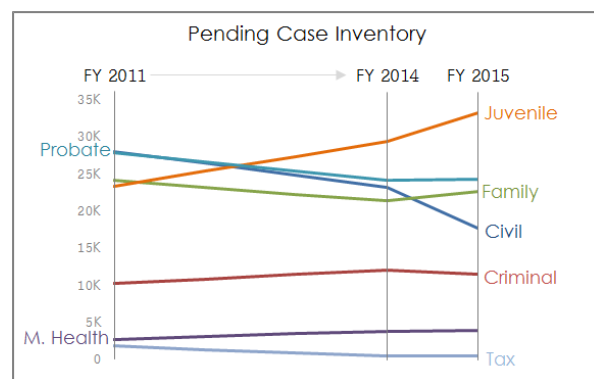
Case Type Filings					
DEPT	FY 2015	FY CHANGE FY14 - FY15		5 YEAR CHANGE FY11 - FY15	
		FY 2014	% Change	FY 2011	% Change
Civil	51,618	61,308	-16%	98,120	-47%
Criminal	47,657	49,069	-3%	45,720	4%
Family Court	63,454	64,098	-1%	50,355	26%
Juvenile	24,533	23,813	3%	22,348	10%
Probate	6,074	5,736	6%	5,343	14%
Mental Health	6,867	6,490	6%	5,243	31%
Tax	1,033	1,104	-6%	2,331	-56%



Case Type Terminations					
DEPT	FY 2015	FY CHANGE FY14 - FY15		5 YEAR CHANGE FY11 - FY15	
		FY 2014	% Change	FY 2011	% Change
Civil	41,009	40,139	2%	76,472	-46%
Criminal	48,007	47,084	2%	49,294	-3%
Family Court	61,493	64,712	-5%	60,946	1%
Juvenile	24,772	22,552	10%	21,166	17%
Probate	5,947	6,005	-1%	7,339	-19%
Mental Health	4,285	4,734	-9%	2,799	53%
Tax	1,037	1,513	-31%	2,981	-65%

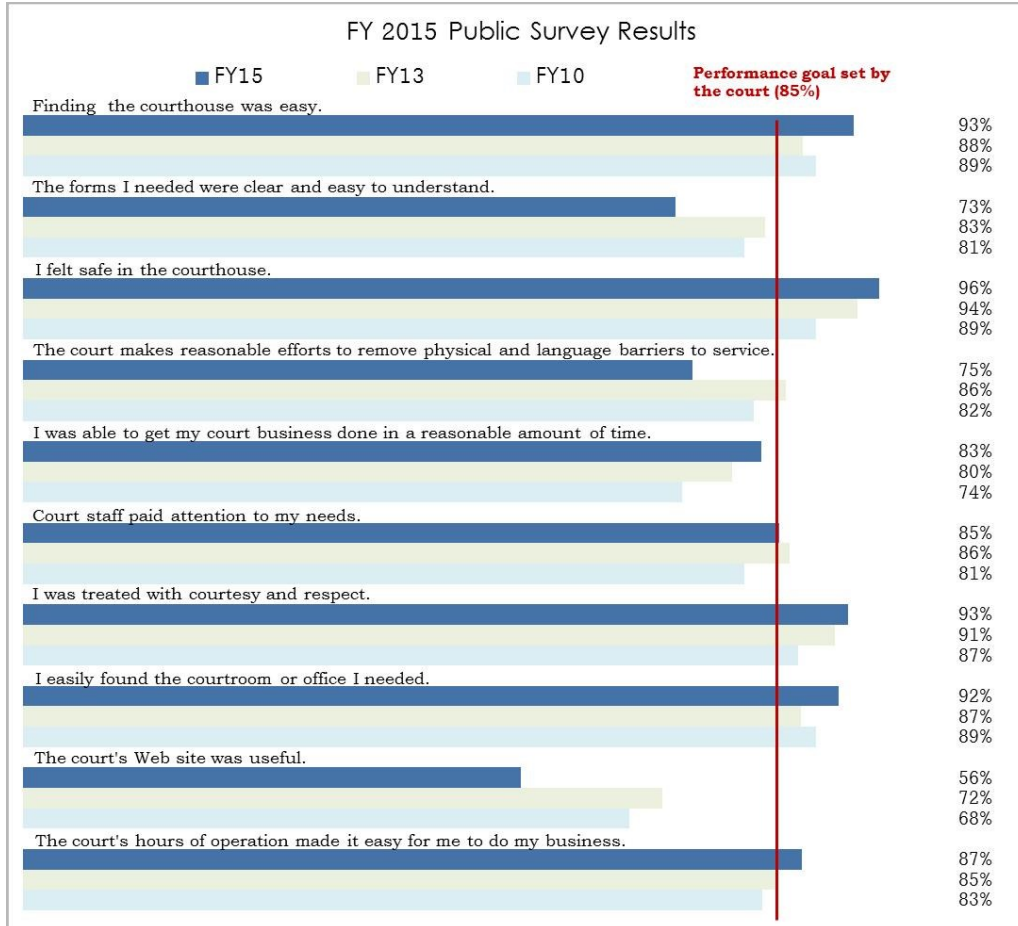


Case Type Pending Inventory					
DEPT	FY 2015	FY CHANGE FY14 - FY15		5 YEAR CHANGE FY11 - FY15	
		FY 2014	% Change	FY 2011	% Change
Civil	17,481	22,791	-23%	27,453	-36%
Criminal	11,448	11,994	-5%	10,238	12%
Family Court	22,271	20,952	6%	23,725	-6%
Juvenile	32,418	28,756	13%	22,842	42%
Probate	23,791	23,664	1%	27,256	-13%
Mental Health	4,142	4,028	3%	2,997	38%
Tax	782	786	-1%	2,100	-63%

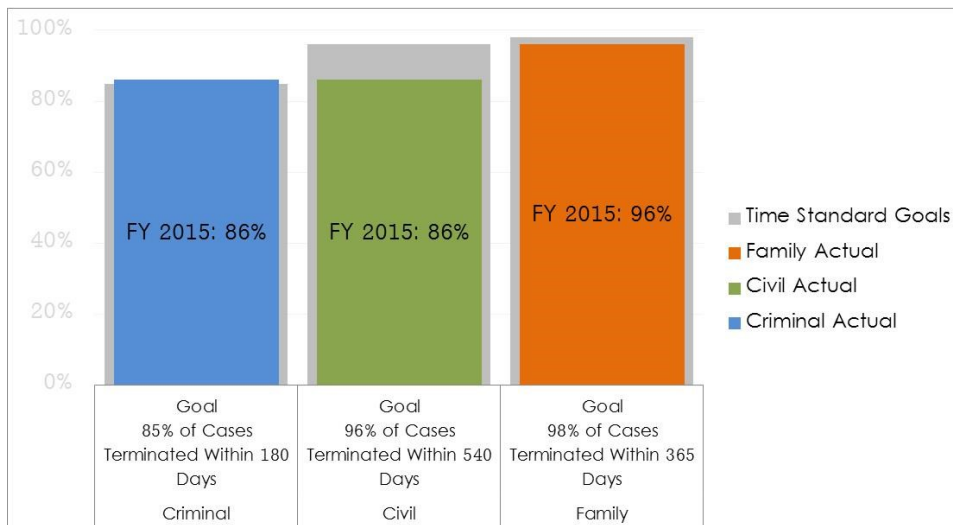


# FY2015 CourTools-Performance Measures

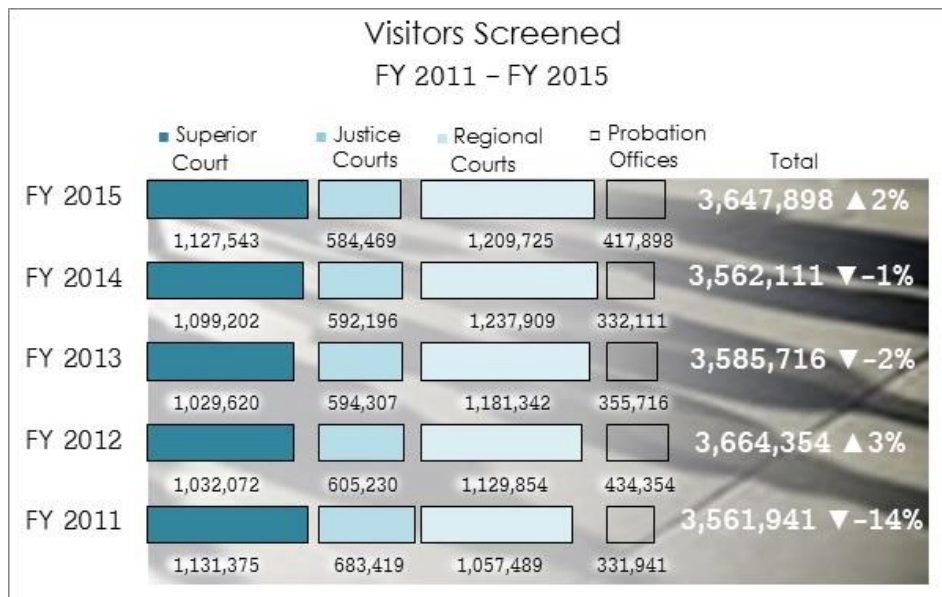
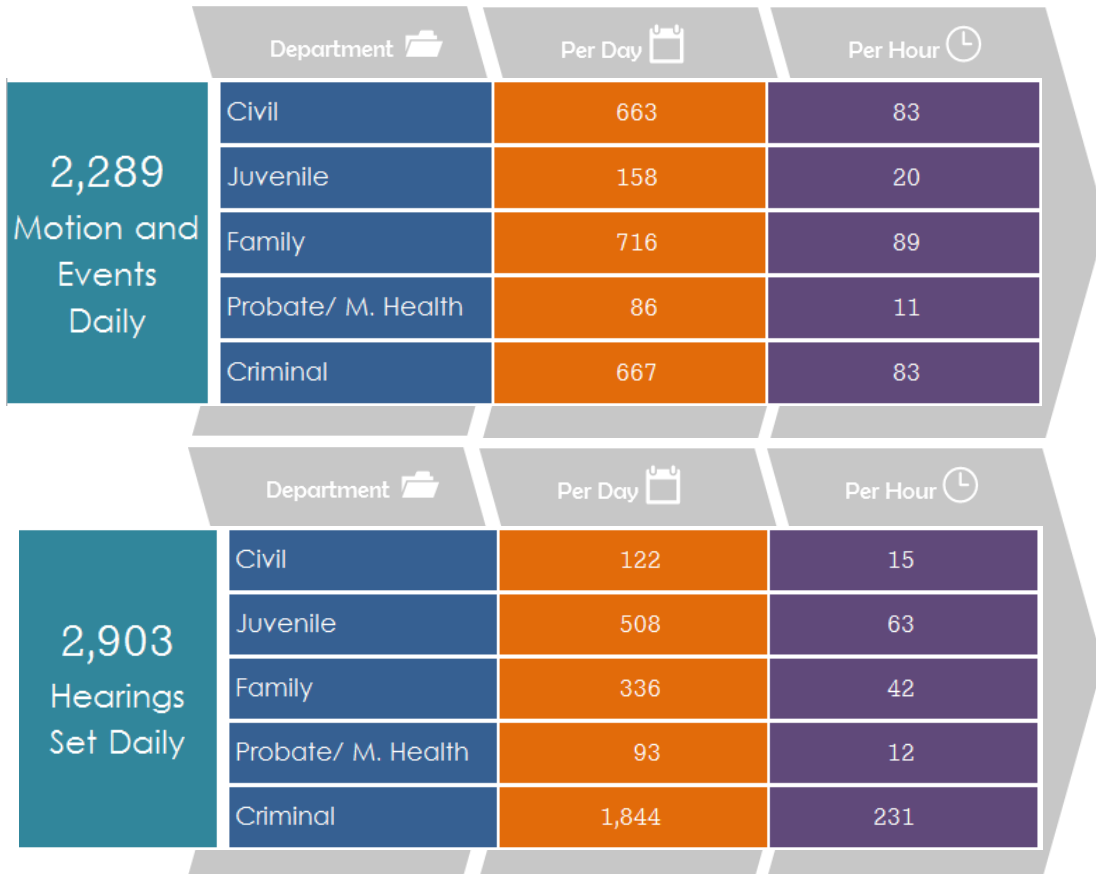
## Measure 1-Access and Fairness (Public Survey)



## Measure 3-Time to Disposition



## An Average Day in the Pursuit of Ensuring Justice in 2015










# Providing Access to Justice



## 2015 Photo Highlights



## FY2015 NACo Awards

-  *Re-engineering the Post Conviction Relief Unit* – The Criminal Department has taken significant steps to redesign how requests for post-conviction relief are processed. This effort has resulted in more timely rulings and almost a complete elimination of paper within the Court for this process.
-  *CASA Best for Babies Collaborative Program* – CASA developed this specialized program to improve outcomes for high-risk infants, toddlers, and their families. Through Best for Babies, CASA offers specialized training, resources and ongoing support in the form of bi-monthly advocate forums to any CASA volunteer working with this population to help move children through the foster care system more quickly while providing increased attention on a child's developmental needs.
-  *Court Orientation for Dependent Youth (CODY) Project* – In cooperation with community and court stakeholders, CASA hosts the CODY Project to educate foster youth 12 years of age and older about the dependency court process, offers explanations on the rights of a foster youth and provides helpful take-a-way materials for youth to plan for their upcoming hearings.
-  *Dependency Treatment Court (DTC)* – DTC is designed to improve opportunities for success for parents who have dependency court involvement due to allegations of substance abuse. DTC is voluntary, but is only available to parents who have been ordered by their Dependency Judge to observe a hearing. Court-supervised drug treatment improves success in gaining and maintaining sobriety.
-  *Early Education Collaborative* – This grant funded program focused on both micro and macro system interventions. In partnership with Catholic Charities Head Start, it conducted a pilot of home visiting services for child welfare involved families. Grant staff assessed and worked to build infrastructure to connect young foster children under the age of 5 with quality early education services. The program has four functioning workgroups focused in the areas of Educational Rights and Information Sharing, Capacity and Connection, Training and Professional Development, and Policy.
-  *The Guardian Review Program: Extended* – The main purpose is to monitor the guardianship services provided to wards, in order to ensure quality care, and to guarantee compliance by fiduciaries with statutes and court orders. Objectives of the program include reducing any potential abuse of the elderly and disabled wards, educating fiduciaries about their responsibilities as guardians and conservators, and increasing the community's awareness of the guardianship system and the problem faced by incapacitated persons. The program takes a unique approach to monitoring wards by extending an invitation for help from volunteers.
-  *eRelease Order* – The Court developed innovative technology to specifically address the need to issue release orders. The objective in creating the program was to give judicial officers an efficient way to prepare release orders for those appearing before the court. The new technology focused on improving the accessibility and efficiency of judicial officers who sign release orders and court employees who prepare the release orders, reducing the need for paper case files and allowing judicial officers to electronically prepare and issue release orders.

Merit Selection

What distinguishes Maricopa County Superior Court judges from a vast number of trial judges around the country is that they do not run for office in partisan elections.

Merit selection of superior court judges has been used in Maricopa County since 1974 as the result of a voter-approved constitutional change. More than three decades later, it is still the preferred method of judicial selection.

Merit Selection Benefits

- *Judges who are highly qualified*
- *Fair and impartial Courts*
- *Diversity*
- *Equal access to justice*
- *Accountability to the public*

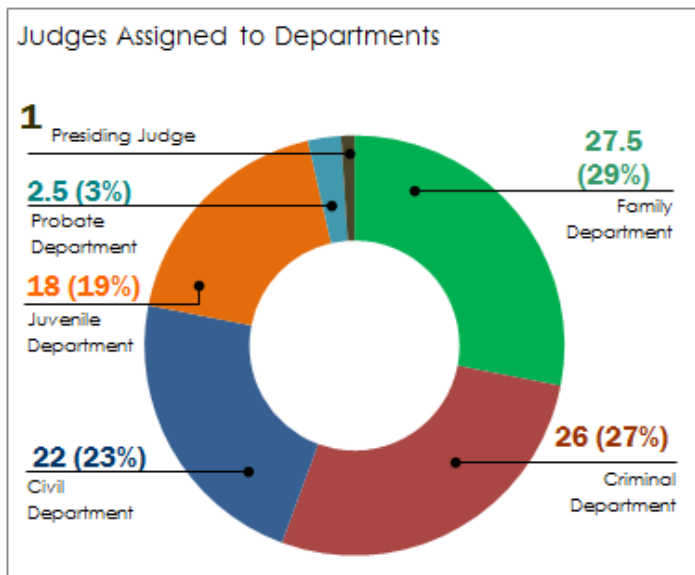
## Superior Court Judges

Every day, judicial officers of the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County make difficult decisions about guilt and innocence, punishment, and broken marriages and families. They help resolve issues involving mentally ill individuals and incapacitated adults who cannot care for themselves. They resolve contract disputes and claims of malpractice or other business misdeeds by accountants, builders, doctors, lawyers and others. Their decisions change the lives of all involved.

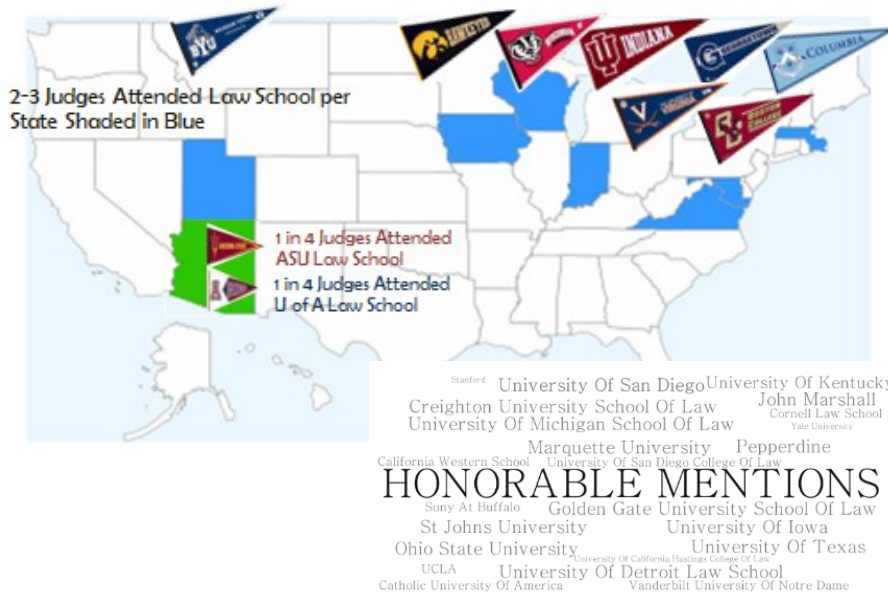
Maricopa County residents have entrusted the court with the obligation to protect their rights, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or economic status. They deserve highly competent, ethical, scholarly and compassionate judicial officers to serve them. Members of the bench reflect these ideals and are committed to equal justice under law.

Maricopa County currently has 98 Judges hearing Civil, Criminal, Family, Juvenile, Probate, Mental Health and Tax cases.

### Judicial Assignments in FY 2015



## Law Schools Most Commonly Attended by Judges



Judges are selected in a process called "merit selection." Judges are chosen because of their professional qualifications, legal competency, high ethical standards and dedication to serve the public by upholding the law.

### Retired Judges 2014 – 2015



Hon. Brian Ishikawa	Nov. 1994 – Feb. 2015
Hon. Mark Aceto	Mar. 1995 – Jun. 2015
Hon. Norman Davis	Jun. 1995 – Jun. 2015
Hon. Bethany Hicks	Mar. 1999 – Jun. 2015
Hon. Carey Hyatt	Sep. 2000 – Mar. 2015
Hon. Craig Blakey	Dec. 2001 – Jun. 2015
Hon. Linda Miles	Dec. 2001 – Apr. 2015
Hon. Robert E. Miles	Nov. 2005 – Apr. 2015
Hon. Benjamin Norris	Oct. 2008 – Jan. 2015
Hon. Thomas LeClaire	Apr. 2010 – Jun. 2015
Hon. Gerald J. Porter	May 2011 – Jun. 2015
Hon. Boyd Dunn	Nov. 2011 – Jun. 2015

## Commissioner Selection

The Superior Court conducts recruitment for candidates for appointment as Superior Court Commissioners.

Commissioner candidates must submit an extensive application. All qualified applications are reviewed by the Superior Court's Commissioner Nomination Committee. The Committee is chaired by the Associate Presiding Judge. Following initial Committee due diligence review, candidates may be invited to interview before the Nomination Committee. A second level of due diligence review is completed. Thereafter, a list of potential candidates is forwarded to the Presiding Judge for consideration of appointment as a Superior Court Commissioner.

## Superior Court Commissioners

### Family

Commissioners preside over hearings to establish, modify and enforce court orders pertaining to paternity, child support, spousal maintenance, parenting time, and Orders of Protection. Some commissioners may preside over Decree on Demand Court, IV-D Accountability Court and Family Drug Court. Commissioners may also preside over emergency/temporary orders hearings, settlement conferences, resolution management conferences and trials.

### Criminal

Commissioners preside over initial appearance hearings (including release/detainment decisions and setting bail), preliminary hearings and probable cause determinations, pretrial conferences, probation violation hearings, post-conviction relief hearings, acceptance of pleas and sentencing hearings. Some preside over evidentiary hearings and felony jury trials.

### Civil

Commissioners preside over civil default hearings, garnishment proceedings and objections, injunctions against harassment, property tax appeals, and forcible entry and detainer proceedings.

### Probate and Mental Health

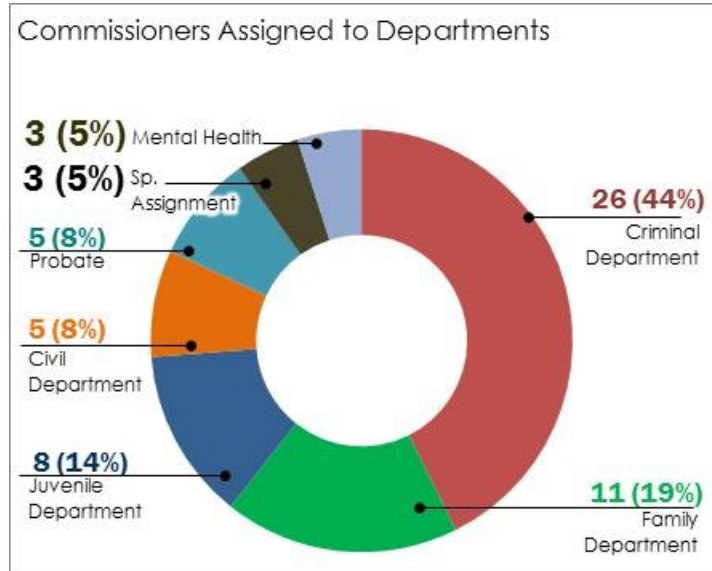
Commissioners preside over adult or minor conservatorships, adult guardianships, decedent estates (contested wills), trust administration matters and other vulnerable adult proceedings and issues. In addition, Mental Health commissioners preside over protection proceedings for mental health issues and criminal competency determinations.

### Juvenile

Commissioners preside over dependency, delinquency, guardianship, adoption and severance matters in Juvenile Court. Delinquency cases involve several different types of hearings including: Advisory Hearings, Pre-Adjudication Conferences, Adjudication Hearings, Changes of Plea, Detention Review Hearings, Review of Status Hearings, Mental Competency Hearings, Transfer Hearings, Probation Violation Advisories and Trials and Dispositions. On the Dependency side, Commissioners handle Preliminary Protective Hearings, Initial Hearings, Publication Hearings, Dependency Adjudication Hearings, Report and Review Hearings and Termination of Parental Rights Hearings.



### Commissioner Assignments in FY 2015

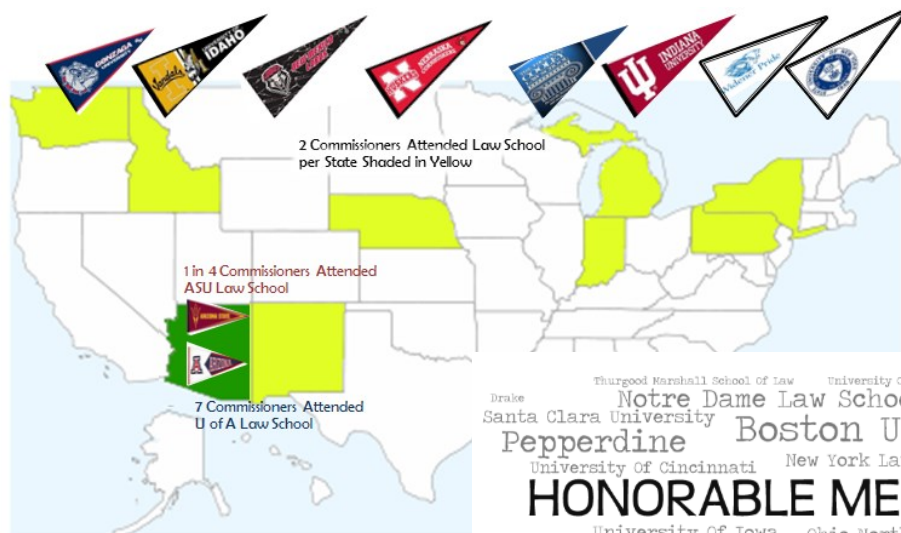


*Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County has 59 Commissioners who serve as Judges Pro Tempore in the course of their regular duties.*



The minimum qualifications for application include United States citizen, a resident of Maricopa County at the time of appointment, of good moral character, a licensed member of the State Bar of Arizona and been a resident of the State of Arizona for at least the five years preceding appointment.

### Law Schools Most Commonly Attended by Commissioners



- HONORABLE MENTIONS
- Thurgood Marshall School of Law
  - University of Illinois College of Law
  - Drake
  - Notre Dame Law School
  - Michigan State University
  - Santa Clara University
  - Pepperdine
  - Boston University
  - University of Cincinnati
  - New York Law
  - University of Wisconsin
  - University of Oklahoma
  - St Louis University
  - University of Iowa
  - Ohio Northern University
  - Washington And Lee University
  - Northern Illinois
  - Southwestern IN LA
  - New York University Law
  - George Washington University
  - University of Virginia

## PROBLEM SOLVING COURTS

Juvenile Transferred Offender Program provides high risk offenders enhanced supervision.



### Criminal/Adult Probation

#### **Drug Court**

Non-adversarial program that utilizes a team approach to break the cycle of substance abuse and dependence. Through intensive treatment, drug testing and frequent Court intervention, probationers are given the tools to lead to clean, sober and crime free lifestyles.

#### **DUI Court**

Assists probationers to change decisions regarding alcohol use, as well as drinking and driving behaviors. Frequent Judicial contact, oversight from Surveillance and Probation Officers, as well as 24/7 alcohol monitoring, are key elements to this program. There is a specialized track for Spanish language and Native American participants.

#### **Juvenile Transferred Offender**

Provides participants assessed as medium high or high risk supervision from specially trained Probation and Surveillance Officers. Officers understand and are able to coordinate the unique services needed for juveniles sentenced in the adult system.

#### **DV Court**

Protects victims by stopping violence and holding offenders accountable. Frequent Judicial involvement and oversight, Victim Advocates and specially trained Probation and Surveillance Officers are key components of this program.

#### Family

#### **Family Assessment Counseling and Testing Court (FACT)**

Provides two tracts of services to parents to improve parenting skills: 1) Education and skill building, 2) Treatment and drug testing.

#### **Accountability Court**

Focuses on litigants who are chronically non-compliant with child or spousal support obligations. This program helps litigants overcome barriers and to consistently maintain monthly court ordered support, which leads to families having financial security and improved co-parent relationships.

**Probate Mental Health**

**Comprehensive Mental Health Court**

Improve the SMI offender's opportunities for success on probation through close supervision, timely case management, education and training, advocacy, and effective collaboration with community agencies. Specialized Probation and Surveillance Officers, as well as Judicial oversight and coordination of services are key components.

**Homeless Court**

Resolves outstanding misdemeanor, victimless offenses for homeless individuals who demonstrate commitment to end their homelessness. The target population is cases with an eligible offense in a Maricopa County Municipal Court or Justice of the Peace Court.

**Veterans Court**

Interagency collaboration focused on Veterans in the criminal justice system with substance abuse and/or mental health and life issues. Close collaboration with the VA to access services and benefits is a key component.

**Juvenile Court**

**Status Offender and Citation Court**

This program reduces the number of status offenders who are detained by offering Court-ordered services and to assist youth and families early in the process to avoid further involvement with the juvenile justice system. This is accomplished by providing legal services, case management, and exclusive dispositions.

**Crossover Youth**

Provides collaborative care for youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. This program reduces the barriers between the educational, behavioral health, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems resulting in a timely and effective service delivery.

**Dependency Treatment Court**

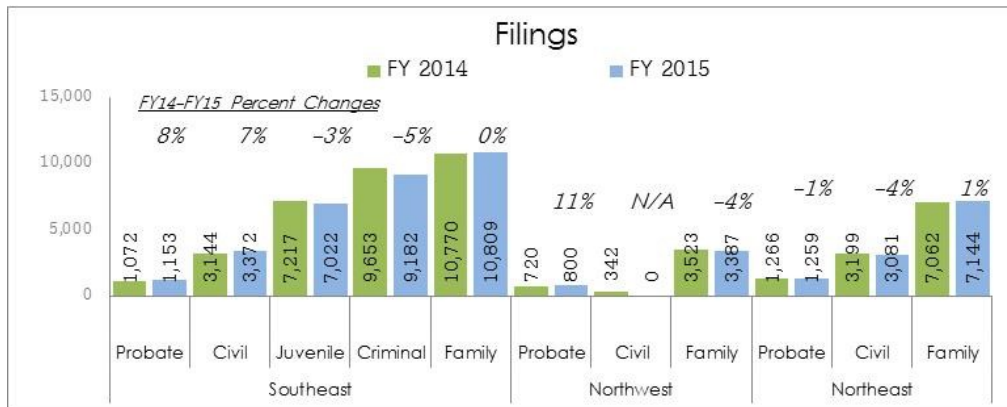
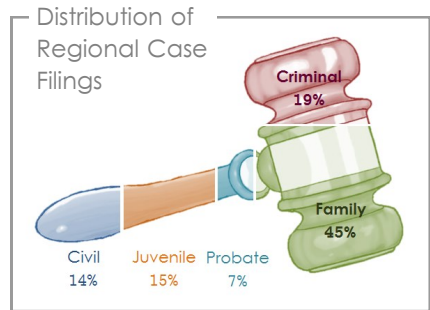
This program assists parents involved in the child welfare system in achieving and maintaining sobriety in order to achieve family reunification. The target population is parents with children under the age of three.

Veteran's Court was established to assist veterans involved with the Criminal Justice System.



# REGIONAL COURTS

Regional Courts bring the court to the people and reduce the time and travel required to attend court or obtain services in downtown Phoenix. Regional Courts are generally easier to access, most services provided downtown are available at the regional locations providing quicker and easier access to justice and court services. Approximately 23% of court filings are heard at regional courts.



**Southeast**

396,147

Visitors in FY15

31,538

Filings in FY15

12

Judicial Officers

## Calendars at Southeast

	Judge Assignments	Commissioner Assignments
Civil	👤👤👤	👤
Family	👤👤👤👤👤👤👤	👤👤
Juvenile	👤👤👤👤👤	👤👤
Criminal	—	👤👤
Probate	—	👤
Mental Health	—	👤

Southeast Regional Court Center located in Mesa, Arizona, includes adult and juvenile courts in two separate facilities. Services include the new Law Library Resource Center (formerly known as the Self Service Center and Law Library), a Protective Order Center, Child Support Modification and Paternity workshops, Parental Conflict Resolution classes, Family Court Decree on Demand, and out of custody Criminal RCC and EDC matters. By processing only out of custody matters the court decreased security costs and risks in transporting in-custody defendants to facilities. Adult and Juvenile Probation also provide services in this court.

**Northwest**

174,452 Visitors in FY15  
 4,187 Filings in FY15  
 4 Judicial Officers

Northwest Regional Court Center, located in Surprise, Arizona, is home to Superior Court and Justice Courts. Services include Law Library Resource Center, Child Support Modification workshops, and a Protective Order Center. Adult Probation provides services at this location. As of March 1, 2014 civil cases filed at Northwest are assigned to North-east, Southeast, or downtown.

Calendars at Northwest

	Judge Assignments		Commissioner Split Time Assignments	
	Full Time	Split Time		
Civil	—	50%		25%
Family	👤👤	👤	👤	50%
Probate	—	50%		25%

**Northeast**

274,694 Visitors in FY15  
 11,484 Filings in FY15  
 12 Judicial Officers

The Northeast Regional Court Center is a modern courthouse that hosts both Superior Court and Justice Courts. Services include Child Support Modification workshops and Parental Conflict Resolution classes, Self Service Center, Family Court Decree on Demand, and a Protective Order Center. In addition, Adult Probation Officers utilize the facility to provide services.

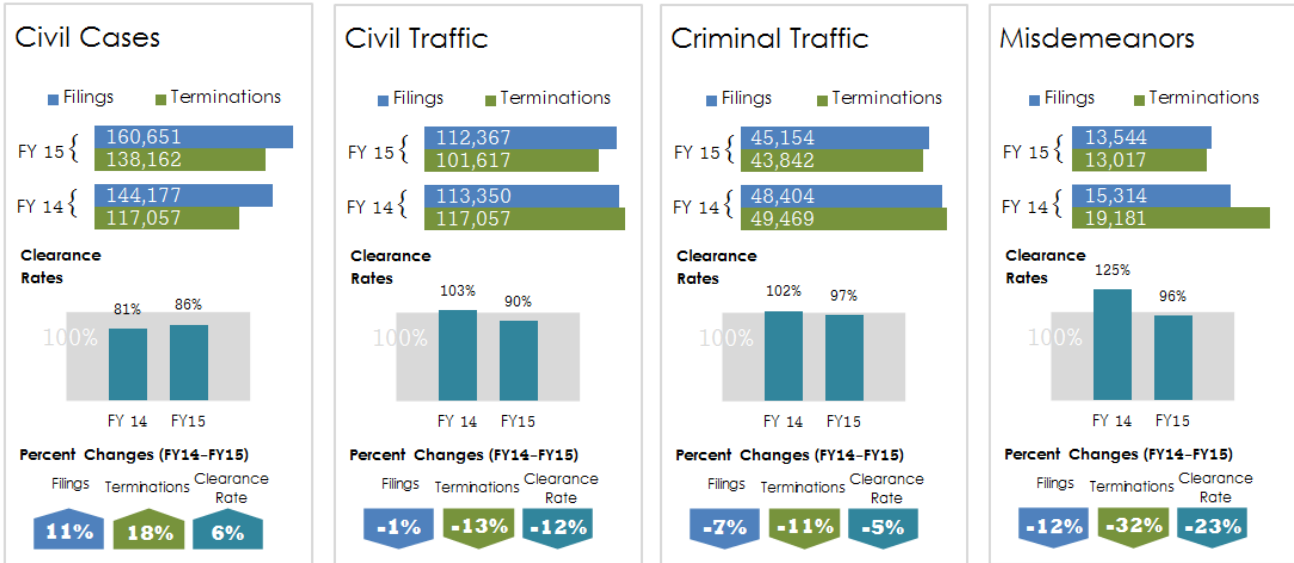
Calendars at Northeast

	Judge Assignments	Commissioner Assignments
Civil	👤👤	👤
Family	👤👤👤👤	👤👤
Probate	—	👤

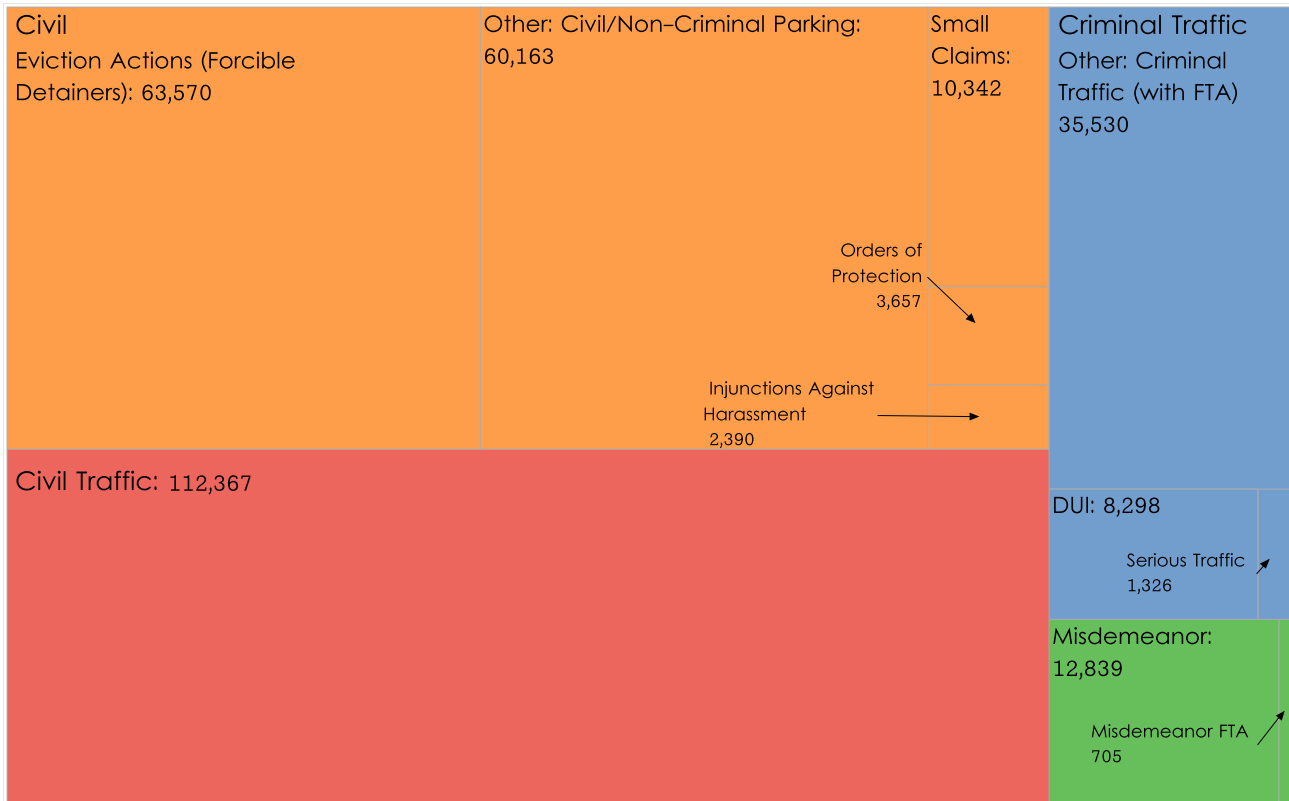
## Justice Court FY 2014 – FY 2015

### Filings

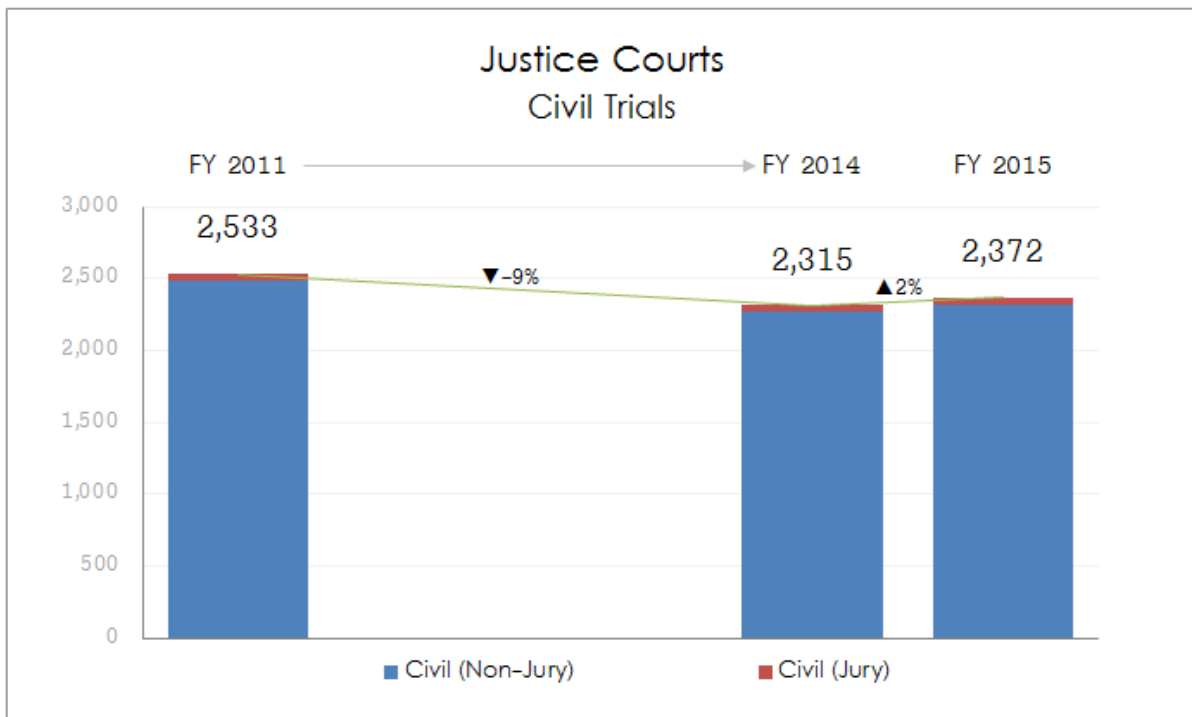
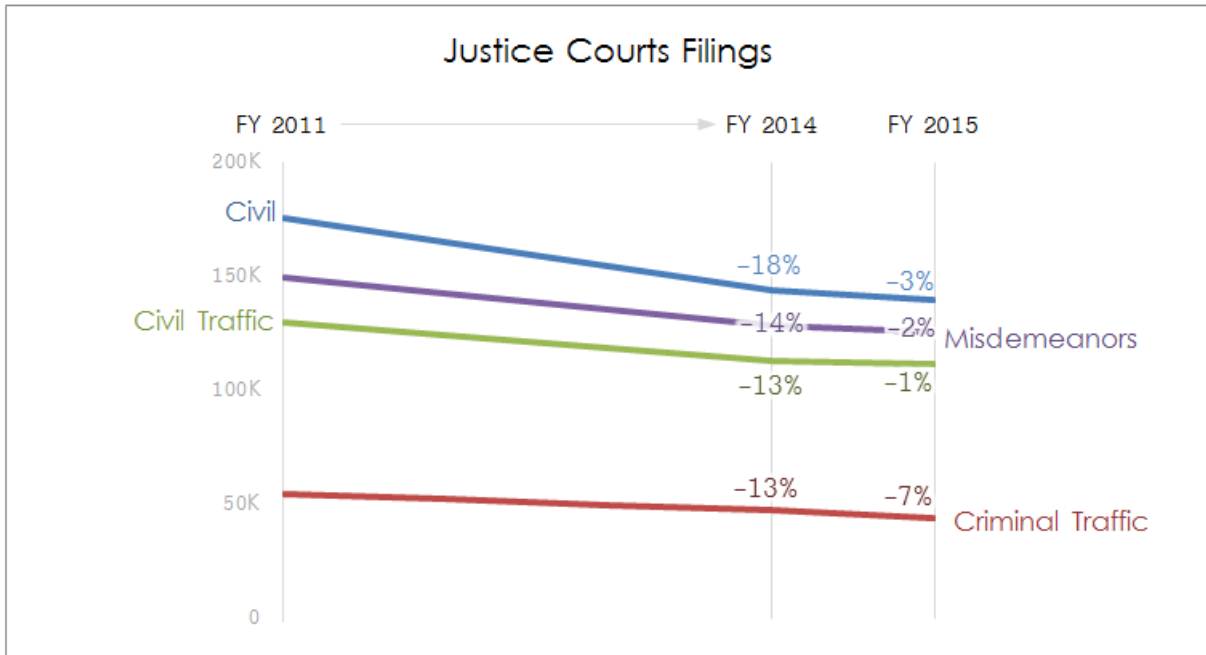
Total Filings = 311,187



### FY 2015 Case Distribution



### Justice Court FY 2011 – FY 2015 Filings Trend



# FY 2015 Welcomes New Presiding Judge

Judge Davis hands over gavel to Judge Barton

*In June 2015, the Honorable Norman Davis officially turned over the reigns of the Court's top post, Presiding Judge, to the Honorable Janet Barton and bade the Court a fond farewell for his new post, a much deserved retirement.*

Judge Janet Barton was appointed to the bench in July, 2000. Before becoming the presiding judge for Superior Court, Judge Barton was the Family Court department presiding judge where she lead the initiative to overhaul Accountability and Enforcement Courts. The court looks forward to Judge Barton's leadership over the next three years. The judge's initial focus will be on the recently reengineered Law Library Resource Center, iCISng, and Juvenile Court's burgeoning dependency caseload.



Judge Norman Davis served the Court from 1995–2015. His initiatives dramatically changed the administration of justice. Judge Davis assignments included serving as presiding judge for Family Court, Northeast Regional Court, and Juvenile. Among his most notable recent accomplishments was the upgrade of the Court's IT infrastructure and preparing the Court for the next wave of technological advances and challenges. Davis' career showcases his energy for excellence and his strength of character.

## Here We Grow Again

Superior Court Grows by Three Judges in FY 2015





# DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND STATISTICS



# CIVIL DEPARTMENT

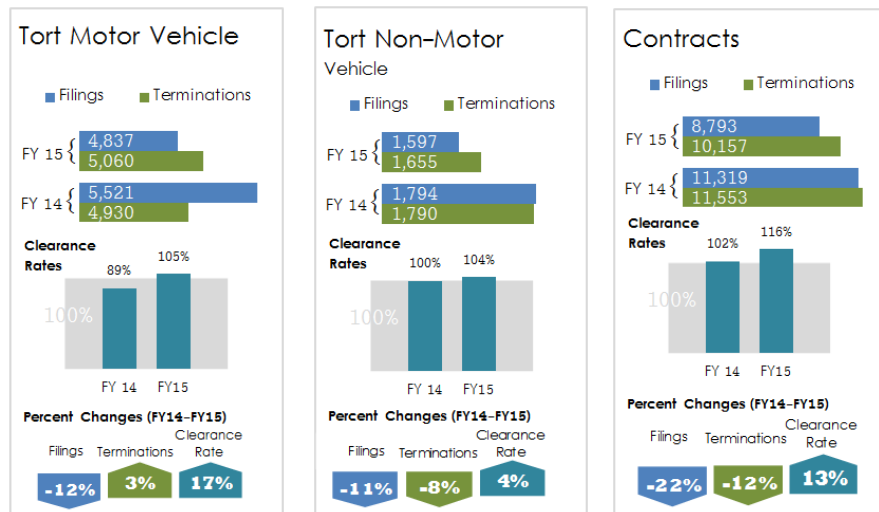
The Civil Department handles disputes between individual entities such as private citizens and businesses including Judicial officers use a variety of best practices to actively manage caseloads including periodic status conferences, referrals to compulsory arbitration and settlement conferences.

## Civil Trials

<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>
246	251

In FY15, a total of 9,113 cases were subject to arbitration. A total of 319 appeals resulted in 20 bench and 12 jury trials.

## Civil Statistics Major Filing Case Types

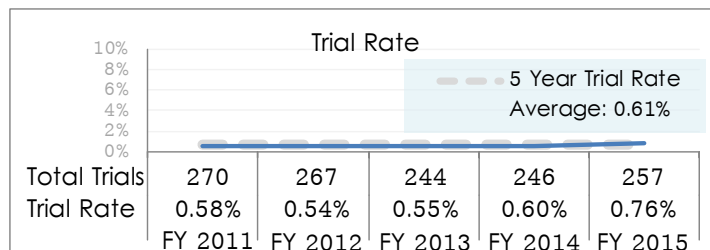


### Commercial Court Pilot Program

In July, 2015, the Supreme Court requested Superior Court start a three-year pilot Commercial Court. Its purpose is to improve the business community's access to justice, resolve business cases faster, and to lower costs.

### Civil Settlement Conference Program

The highly successful settlement conference program resolves complex matters. In FY15, a total of 15 cases were referred and 9 cases were partially or fully resolved.



Trials are new filings only.

**Arbitration Program**

Arbitration is designed to lower court costs for litigants and to utilize judicial resources more effectively. Arbitration is mandatory for disputes valued up to \$50,000. An arbitrator is appointed to assist in resolving the dispute, and in the absence of an agreement, renders a decision. In the event an arbitration award is appealed, the case is returned to the assigned judge.

**Complex Civil Litigation Program**

The Complex Civil Litigation program provides intensive case management when complicated legal issues, extensive discovery, and numerous motions and expert witnesses are involved. At the end of FY15, the program had 37 active cases.

The Tax Court serves as Arizona's State Tax Court and hears matters from most counties.

**TAX**

The Tax Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction over disputes throughout Arizona that involve the imposition, assessment, or collection of a tax except property taxes; thus, it serves as "Arizona's State Tax Court." The court adjudicates cases involving state taxes, municipal sales taxes, and property taxes, as well as appeals from the Property Oversight Commission. Tax Court also hears small claims involving controversies concerning the valuation or classification of property valued at under one million dollars. Property tax cases may be filed either in the Tax Court or in any Arizona Superior Court as a civil case. There were twelve trials in FY15.



**Arizona Tax Court**  
**Summary of Filings by County, FY 2015**

Apache	0	Greenlee	0	Pima	54
Cochise	4	La Paz	0	Pinal	3
Coconino	1	Maricopa	882	Santa Cruz	2
Gila	6	Mohave	25	Yavapai	10
Graham	0	Navajo	0	Yuma	11
				Other/Unknown	35

## PROBATE AND MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT



**P**robate and Mental Health Department has jurisdiction over trusts, estates, and protective proceedings.

**Probate Cases:** Guardianships and conservatorships are created to protect a person's well being and financial assets when the person is found to be incapacitated. Probate cases may also include guardianships and conservatorships of minors. The department oversees the informal and formal administration of decedent's estates.

**Civil Commitments:** Involuntary Commitment is a process through which an individual with symptoms of severe mental illness is court-ordered into treatment in a hospital. Orders are established for those found to be a danger to themselves or others, or persistently or acutely disabled or gravely disabled. Petitions for court-ordered treatment are heard at Desert Vista Behavioral Center and the Arizona State Hospital.

**Criminal Cases:** Rule 11 are criminal cases which have defendants who may need to be evaluated for competency. Restoration to competency orders are issued for those found incompetent to understand court proceedings or assist in their own defense. Probation violation hearings are conducted for seriously mentally ill defendants.

### Case Management Plan

The Probate and Mental Health Department Case Management Protocol provides for fair and timely resolution of probate matters. Generally, if a contested matter cannot be completed in a single hearing of one day or less, the matter will be transferred from a Commissioner to a Judge for the hearing. The Protocol requires the parties to participate in good faith in an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process prior to the contested hearing. The Court's objective with ADR services is to expeditiously identify, exercise court control over and settle those cases categorized as complex cases.

Forms and online training for non-licensed fiduciaries are found at: <http://www.azcourts.gov/probate/Probate.aspx>

Probate Intelligent Forms are available online at: <https://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/ezCourtForms/index.asp>

**Probate Protection and Volunteer Programs**

**Community Outreach**

The Guardian Review Program functions as a proactive, community outreach program utilizing volunteers. Each volunteer, referred to as Court Visitors, conducts a home visit with wards to ensure that the ward's basic needs are being met and that the wards are not being mistreated, neglected, exploited or abused. Information retrieved from interviews involving the ward, guardian and caregivers are reported back to the court. Court visitors are skilled, trained observers who act as the 'eyes and ears' of the court. Information can be found on the court website, <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/> and on Facebook, "Guardian Review Program Volunteers".

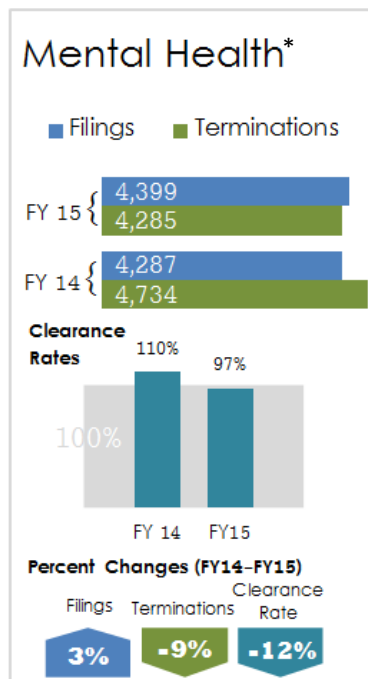
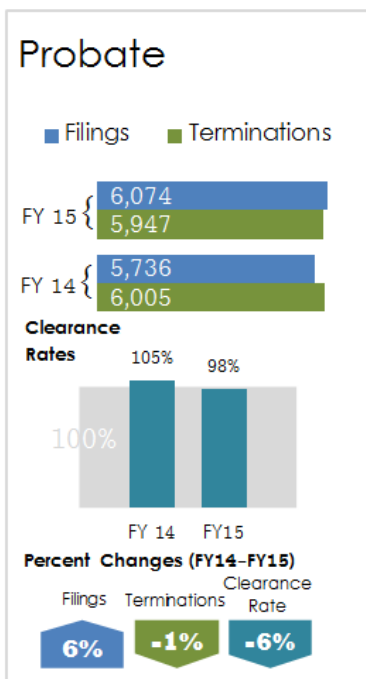
**Probate Report Line**

With the goal of helping people in harmful situations, the Probate Investigations Hotline provides the public the ability to report abuse, exploitation and/or neglect of adult wards that are under the care of a court appointed guardian or conservator. The hotline serves as a safeguard for vulnerable adults against financial or material exploitation, self-neglect, and/or abandonment.

The Probate Report line allows citizens to report concerns directly to the Probate Investigations Office. Citizens can call: 602-506-6730, or email:

[ProbateInv@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov](mailto:ProbateInv@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov)

**Probate and Mental Health Statistics**

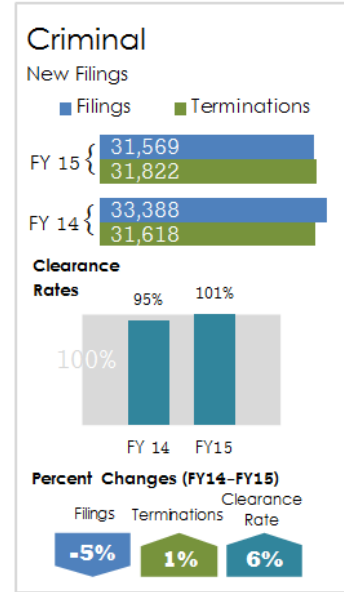


\* Rule 11 not included.

# CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT



**C**riminal Department has jurisdiction over adjudication of felony criminal matters occurring within Maricopa County and charged by the State of Arizona through the Office of the Arizona Attorney General or the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. The department's mission is to provide efficient access to the court, adherence to the law, and an independent and fair resolution of criminal cases in a manner that ensures both public protection and recognition of individual rights. Judicial officers work diligently to manage pre-adjudication and post-sentencing matters.



Post Conviction Relief petitions decreased 18% in FY15.

Rule 8.2 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure generally requires the trial for an in-custody defendant to begin within 150 days after arraignment; out-of-custody defendants' within 180 days after arraignment; complex cases within 270 days; and capital cases within 24 months after the state elects to seek the death penalty.

Charge Category	Total
DRUG PARAPHERNALIA-POSSESS/USE	7,181
DANGEROUS DRUG-POSS/USE	5,022
MARIJUANA-POSSESS/USE	4,745
FALSE STMT TO OBTAIN BENEFITS	4,407
AGG DUI-LIC SUSP/REV FOR DUI	3,429
MARIJUANA VIOLATION	3,312
AGG ASLT-DEADLY WPN/DANG INST	3,304
DRUG PARAPHERNALIA VIOLATION	3,014
NARCOTIC DRUG-POSSESS/USE	2,786
DANGEROUS DRUG VIOLATION	2,534

Top ten most charged criminal offenses in FY2015.

**Initial Appearance (IA) Court**

The IA Court operates “24/7” and is located at the Fourth Avenue Jail. Judicial officers determine release conditions or detainment orders for defendants and arrestees appearing before them. Approximately 60,638 defendants were seen in IA Court during FY15.

**Regional Court Centers (RCC)**

RCC consolidates felony preliminary hearings and arraignments to reduce the time to disposition and increase efficiencies. RCC helps reduce the number of days in pretrial incarceration, the sheriff’s transportation costs, and travel and court time for attorneys. In FY15, judicial officers handled 16,696 cases.

**Post Sentencing Case Management**

The Probation Adjudication Center (PAC) was established for defendants who are accused of violating their probation conditions. In FY15, 13,571 probation arraignments

were held. Additionally, the PAC disposed of 14,809 cases.

**Trial Management**

The Master Calendar is designed to maintain trial time standards set by Rule 8 of the Arizona Rules Criminal Procedure and maximize judicial resources. Firm trial dates are set and cases are actively managed from Initial Pretrial Conferences (IPTC) to termination by judicial officers.

**Search Warrant Center**

Officers requesting search warrants at any time on any day can utilize the Search Warrant Center. Approximately 12,860 Search Warrant Requests and 9,228 Search Warrant Returns were received this fiscal year, a 2% and 13% increase from last year.

**Post Sentencing Case Management**

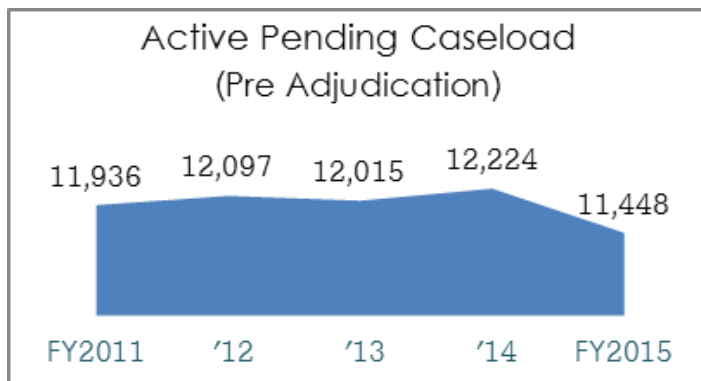
The Probation Adjudication Center (PAC) was established for defendants who are accused of violating their probation conditions. In FY15, 13,571 probation arraignments were held. Additionally, the PAC disposed of 14,809 cases.



**Early Disposition Court (EDC)**

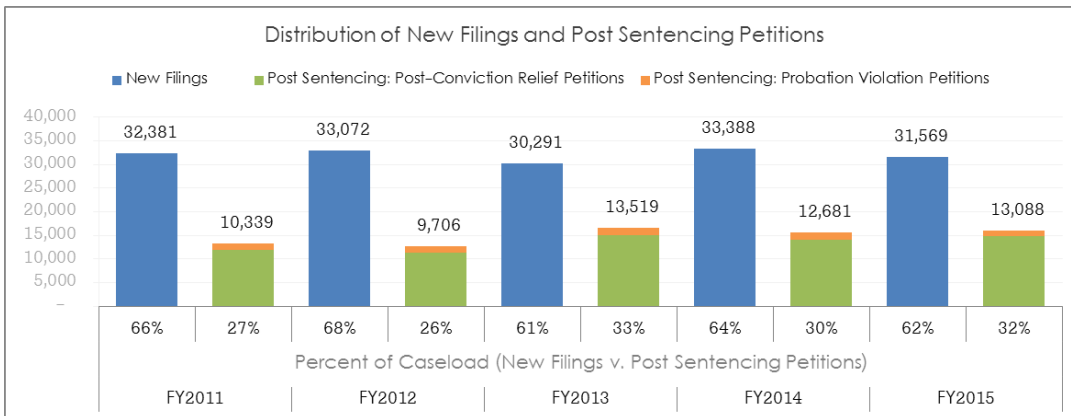
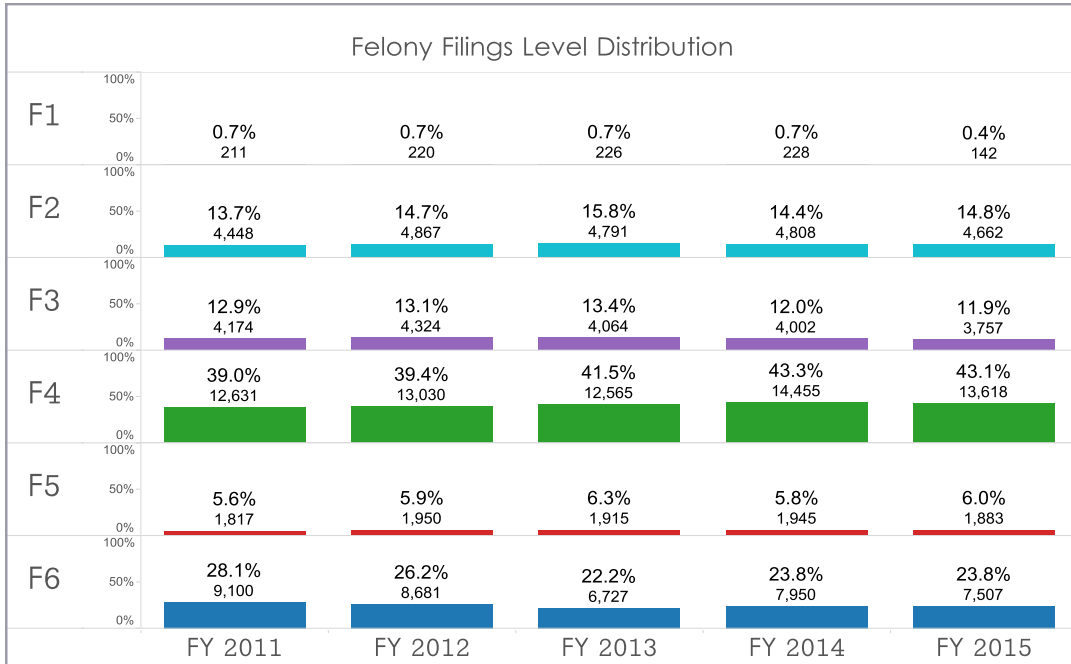
was initiated after the passage of Proposition 200, requiring treatment rather than jail as a possible sanction for minor drug possession charges.

- More than 11,330 cases were heard at EDC in FY15, which is almost 5% less than FY14 .
- Judicial officers resolve simple drug possession cases in approximately 20 days.

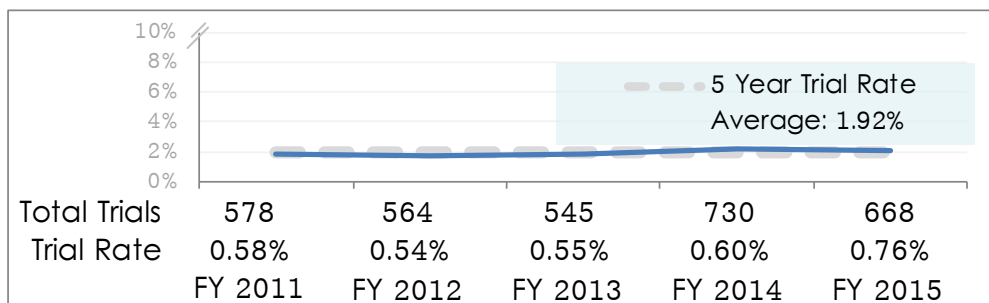


# Criminal Statistics

## Filings | FY 2011—FY 2015



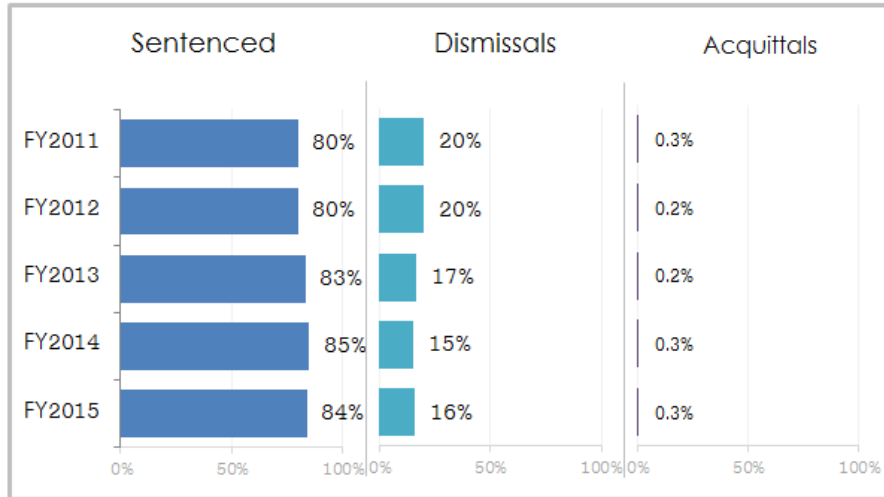
## Trial Rate | FY 2011 - FY 2015



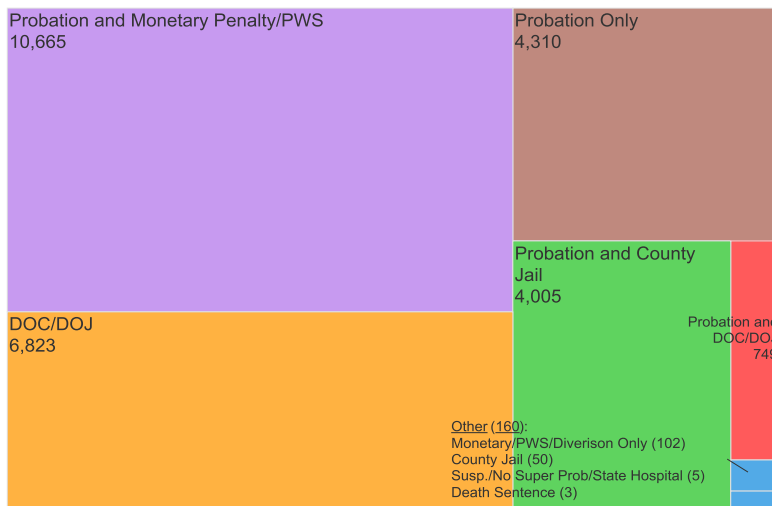


## Criminal Statistics

### Terminations | FY 2011 - FY 2015



### Sentencing Outcomes | FY 2015



### Capital Cases | FY 2015

**Capital Case Management:** Judges who specialize in presiding over capital matters meet weekly to manage scheduling conflicts among judicial officers and attorneys.

<b>B</b> eginning FY 2015	New Filings/ Remands	Terminations	<b>E</b> nding FY 2015
71	12	20	63



In FY 2015, adult probationers participated in a satisfaction survey. The results indicate that 90.5% of probationers surveyed were satisfied or very satisfied with the experience had with Adult Probation.

## ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**M**aricopa County Adult Probation Department fiscal year 2015 reflects the noble values embraced by the Department and the continuing commitment to enhance the safety and well-being of our community. In the pages that follow, we describe the variety of activities undertaken by our dedicated staff, showcase initiatives and achievements, and report positive performance results.

In collaboration with the Superior Court, Court Technology Services, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the Pretrial Services Division implemented a new risk assessment tool, the Public Safety Assessment. This tool helps the court determine, particularly at the Initial Appearance level, a defendant's risk to: fail to appear for court hearings, engage in new criminal activity, and commit violent criminal activity while on pretrial release.

### Crime Reduction

Adult Probation provides vital services that protect and enhance community safety and well-being. Employees' hard work and dedication are producing changed lives.

The Department's goal is to enhance public safety by maintaining the rate of successful completions from probation at 70% or higher (**FY2015 73.2%**), reducing the number of probationers committed to the Department of Corrections to 25% or lower (**FY2015 25%**), and reducing the number of probationers convicted of a new felony offense to 8% or lower (**FY2015 7.4%**).

**Human Trafficking**

In collaboration with Arizona State University and the Phoenix Police Department, Adult Probation took important steps to fight human trafficking. Adult Probation worked with Arizona State University to develop tools for juvenile and adult community corrections officers to provide an overview of the issues of sex trafficking and what officers can do to address this problem.

**Thinking for a Change**

Thinking for a Change is a cognitive-behavioral program designed for offenders that research has shown produces positive results. In FY2015, community-based Thinking for a Change programming coordinated by Adult Probation resulted in the provision of groups in 11 locations. More than 200 probationers graduated from the program.

As part of iCISng, the Presentence Division began a gradual roll-out of the program for distributing presentence reports. With this program, Adult Probation sends presentence reports to the Superior Court and the attorneys in the case electronically.

**Adult Probation Department  
FY 2015 Statistics**

<b>ACTIVE PROBATIONERS (Monthly Average)</b>			<b>27,568</b>
<b>Standard Probation Total</b>			<b>21,255</b>
<b>Intensive Probation Total</b>			<b>994</b>
<b>Compliance Monitoring</b>			<b>5,319</b>
<b>PRETRIAL SERVICES</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<i>Average Number of Defendants</i>	2,574	2,388	-7.2%
<b>ADDITIONAL PROBATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY</b>			
	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY14 - FY15 % Change</b>
<b>PRESENTENCE REPORTS</b>	16,495	16,397	-6%
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS</b>	365,718	407,905	11.5%
<b>COLLECTIONS</b>			
<i>Reimbursement</i>	\$80,550	\$57,555	-28.5%
<i>Restitution</i>	\$9,483,494	\$9,024,371	-4.8%
<i>Fines/Surcharges</i>	\$8,785,198	\$8,400,277	-4.4%
<i>Probation Fees</i>	\$8,643,864	\$9,101,663	5.3%
<i>Taxes Paid</i>	\$384,158	\$459,328	19.6%
<b>TOTAL COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>\$27,337,265</b>	<b>\$27,043,194</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

# FAMILY DEPARTMENT

Family Court conducts How-To Workshops for Child Support Modifications, Stop/Change Orders of Assignments, and Paternity Establishments

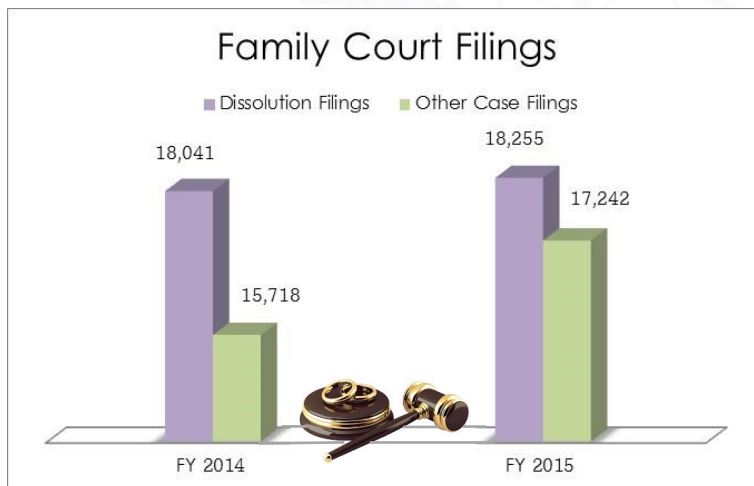
Family Court has jurisdiction over dissolution and legal decision making for child support, parenting time, paternity, maternity, and other domestic relations matters. The judicial officers assigned to Family Court adhere to the Rules of Family Law Procedure and Title 25 of the Arizona Revised Statutes. The judicial officers schedule hearings and trials as required to adjudicate all pending matters. In FY15, the Family Court bench scheduled more than 1,811 Temporary Orders hearings, 8,308 Resolution Management Conferences, and conducted more than 1,900 trials. Approximately 5.4% of the cases are contested and require a trial to conclude the matter.

### Decree on Demand



The Decree on Demand (DOD) program provides an expedited dissolution process in uncontested matters. Petitioners call the court or schedule a default hearing online. Litigants meet with court staff prior to their

hearing for final review of documents and calculation of child support. Consent Decrees and Stipulated Judgments are also expedited through DOD. During FY15, 8,999 default decrees and 3,425 consent stipulations were signed.



**Family Court Conference Center**

The Specialty Courts assist litigants seeking to establish, modify or enforce support, enforce parenting time, or change an Income Withholding Order. Post decree and post judgment petitions are resolved at the earliest possible date with minimal court hearings.

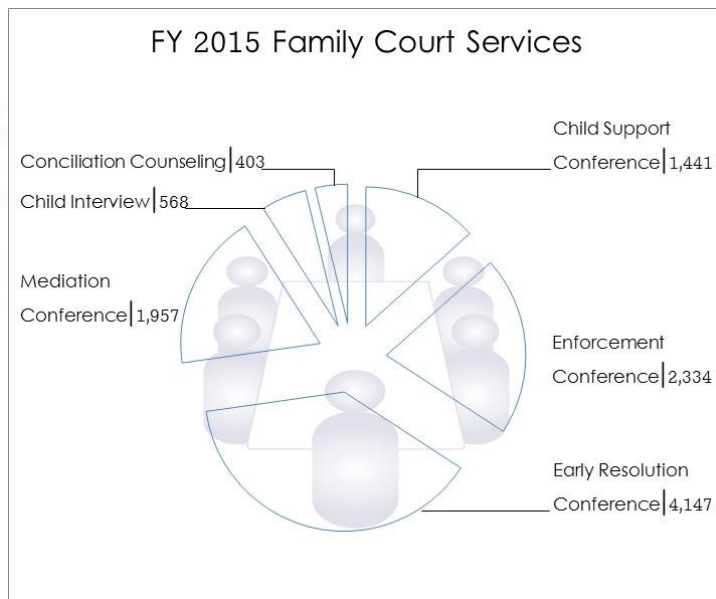
**Family Court Conciliation Services**

Conciliation Services provides conciliation court services, child interviews and mediation for families involved in a dissolution or legal decision making proceedings. Conciliation Services also manages the Parent Information Program (PIP), the Parent Conflict Resolution Class (PCR) and the Access and Visitation program that offers financial assistance for supervised parenting time to qualified parents.

**Early Resolution Program**

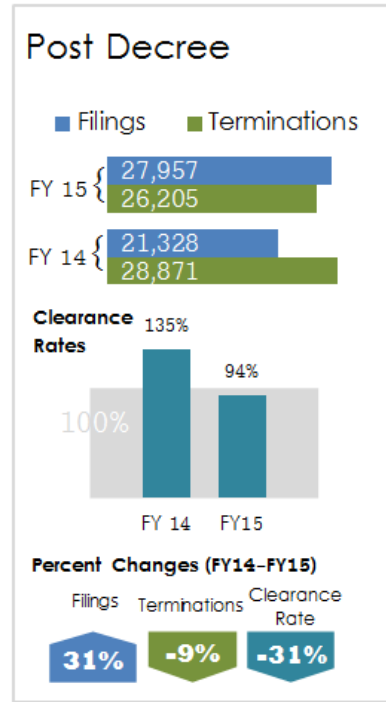
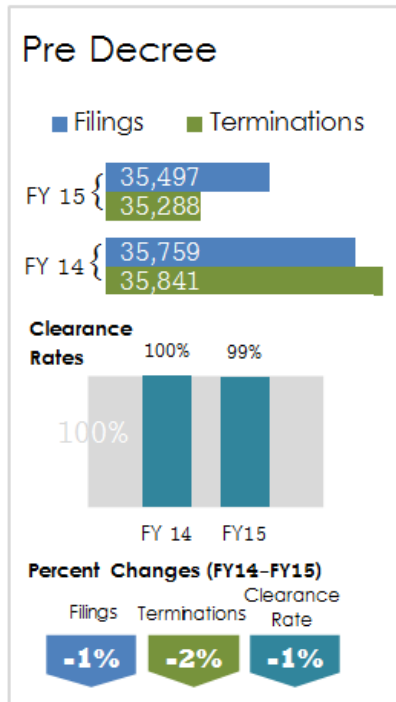
The award winning Uniform Case Management plan was implemented in 2005 and included the development of an Early Resolution Conference (ERC) program. Family Law Case Managers meet with unrepresented litigants to facilitate agreements on division of property, debt, parenting time, child support, legal decision making, and spousal maintenance. If agreements are not reached, the Family Law Case Manager schedules a trial before a judge.

Median Days	
<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
106	103



# FY 2015 Family Court Statistics

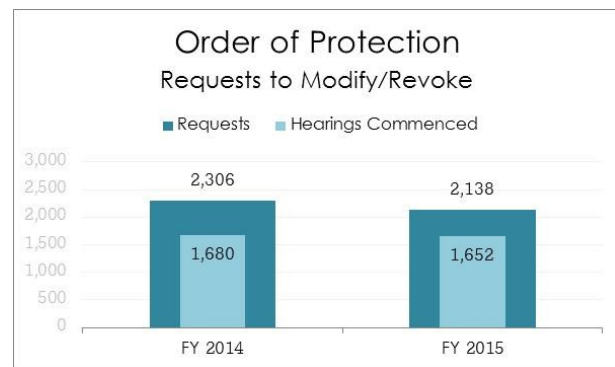
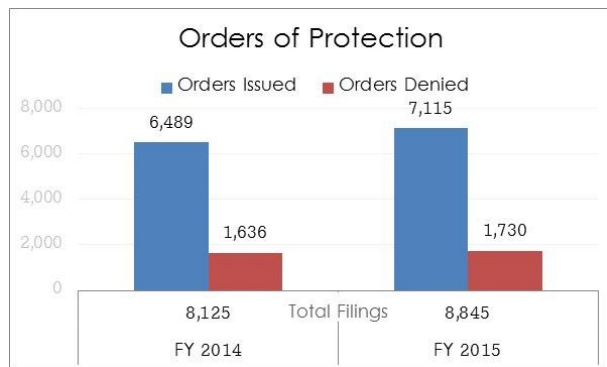
Total Filings: 63,454



## Active Pending Caseload



## Domestic Violence Statistics



# ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

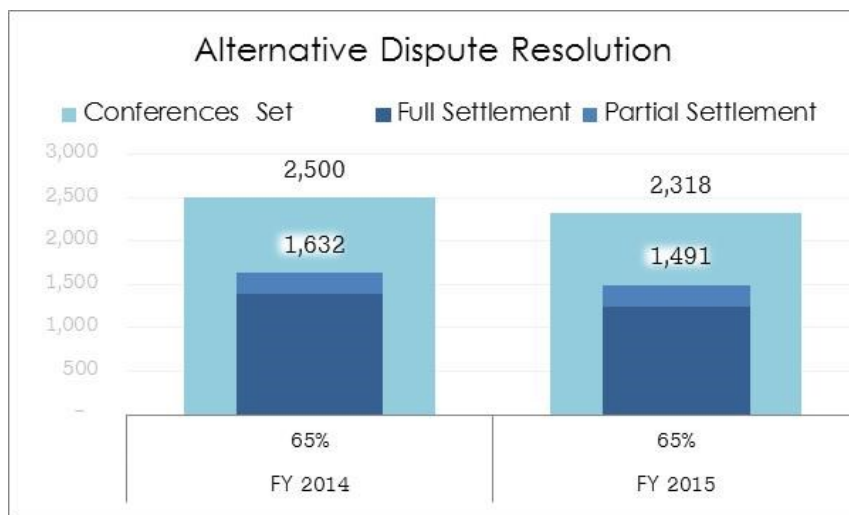
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) provides litigants with an opportunity to participate in a settlement conference prior to trial in Civil, Family and Probate matters. ADR also provides expedited short trials. Cases are referred to ADR by a judicial officer. Judges Pro Tempore and Commissioners conduct settlement conferences and short trials.



Judges Pro Tem volunteered a total of 4,052 hours in the ADR Program.

## Cases Received and Conferences Set FY 2015

	<u>Family</u>	<u>Civil</u>	<u>Short Trial</u>	<u>Probate</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Cases Received</b>	1,652	1,438	11	8	<b>3,109</b>
<b>Conferences Set</b>	1,373	931	7	7	<b>2,318</b>



## JUVENILE DEPARTMENT



### C2C Key Elements:

- ❑ Judicial leadership
- ❑ Expedited court oversight and direction
- ❑ Community coordinators for Judicial divisions
- ❑ Community services resource coordination
- ❑ Dependency treatment court
- ❑ Family time visit coaching
- ❑ Child/Parent psychotherapy
- ❑ Trauma therapy
- ❑ Early childhood education collaborative

Juvenile Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over Maricopa County youth, 17 years of age and under, who violate state or municipal law and any child who is abused, neglected or dependent. Matters heard in Juvenile Court include delinquency cases in which a youth is charged with a crime or a status offense; dependency cases in which a child has been abused or neglected by a parent or other person with care, custody or control of the juvenile; guardianship cases to determine legal guardianship of a child; and adoption.

### Cradle to Crayons (C2C)

The Cradle to Crayons (C2C) Child Welfare Program focuses on evidence-based practices to manage and resolve dependency matters. C2C provides for intensive case management and targeted services.

The mission of the Maricopa County Cradle to Crayons Child Welfare Center (C2C) is the removal of barriers for the purpose of integrated service delivery and expedited permanency for infants, young children and their families.

- ◆ Young children entering the child welfare system most often face two key risk factors: 1) prenatal exposure to alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs, and (2) early trauma due to abuse, neglect or disruption from their biological families.

- ◆ C2C addresses child maltreatment, substance abuse, domestic violence and parental mental illness. C2C implemented a comprehensive approach that enables courts to address the complex needs of abused and neglected infants and toddlers.

Key elements of C2C are designed to meet the needs of infants and toddlers and their birth parents, foster or kinship families, and other caregivers. In FY 2015, 2,443 petitions were filed involving children under the age of 3 and 1,437 infants, young children and family members received C2C services.



**Adoptions Unit**

In FY15, Juvenile Court launched a new Adoptions Unit. This Unit focuses on providing a high level of customer service to adoptive parents and community partners while also simplifying the adoptions process. The Unit's processes enhance services as well as improve operations with a focus on case flow management in adoption matters. In FY15, the Adoptions Unit processed 2,059 adoption petitions, processed 1,362 adoption certification orders.

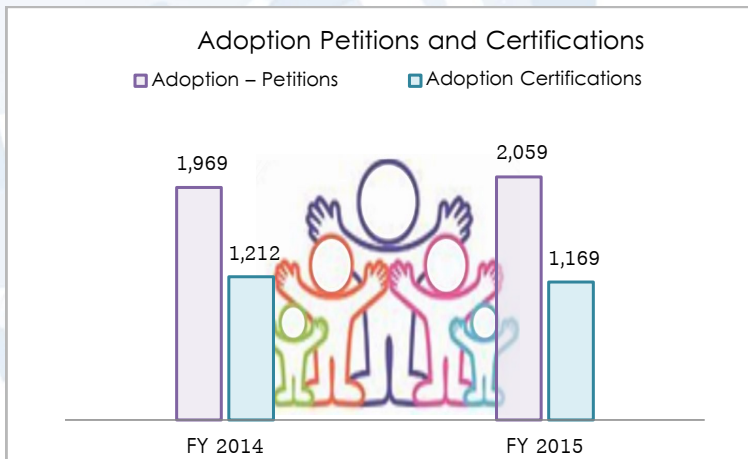
New processes will enhance services by focusing on case flow management in adoptions including expedited fingerprint processing, improved tracking of adoption documents, and dynamically generated court forms such as adoption certificates and orders.

**National Adoption Day**

In November 2014, a total of 301 adoptions were finalized, making Maricopa County one of the largest adoption day events in the country. This event could not have been a success without the help of hundreds of volunteers who donated their time including Judges, Commissioners, Court staff, CASAs, law students, CPS staff, employees from numerous adoption agencies and various other community based organizations.

**Family Reunification Day**

The Juvenile Court participates as a partner with attorneys and community groups to recognize the accomplishments of parents who have successfully reunified with their children after dependency. This celebratory luncheon honors the families and their success is a model and inspiration for others.



Visit the Juvenile Department, Adoption website at:

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/SuperiorCourt/JuvenileCourt/adoption.asp>



In FY 2015, approximately 2,484 fingerprint cards were processed in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Public Safety and the Arizona Department of Child Safety.



During FY15, a total of 676 CASA volunteers advocated for the rights and safety of 866 children.



Juvenile Court offers student internships. Contact Juvenile Court Administration for more information.

### **Community Services Unit**

The CSU provides services and alternatives to detention. In FY15, the CSU assisted 7,000 customers, made 174 referrals to ASU Law programs for free legal assistance and distributed 1,731 self service center packets.

### **Juvenile Legal Assistance Program**

The Juvenile Legal Assistance Program (JLAP), a partnership between Juvenile Court and ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and the Volunteer Lawyer's Program. In FY15, JLAP assisted 149 self-represented litigants. In addition, Juvenile & Family Justice Clinic of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University provided 84 consultations for legal advice

### **Restoration Education**

Educators spend one-on-one time with juveniles that are found to be incompetent but restorable. During FY15, competency rate was 76%.

### **Status Offense and Citation Court**

In FY15, 38 juveniles were seen in Status Offense and 76 juveniles were seen in Citation Court.

### **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**

CASA of Maricopa County provides specialized volunteer services to abused and neglected children. The court appointed volunteers ensure the needs of dependent children are met by helping navigate through the legal and social service systems. CASA volunteers work with each child until he/she is placed in a safe, permanent home.

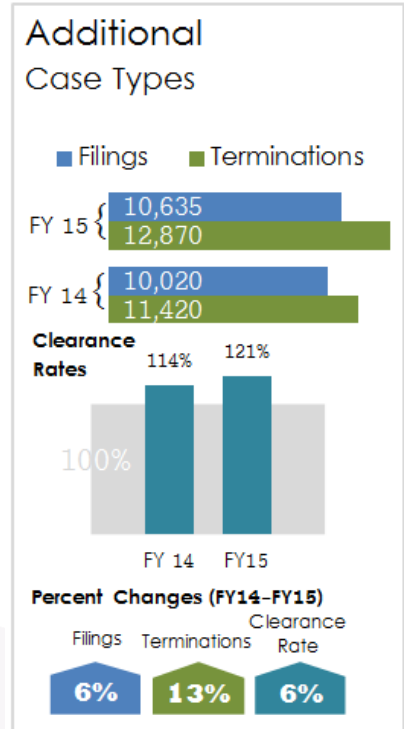
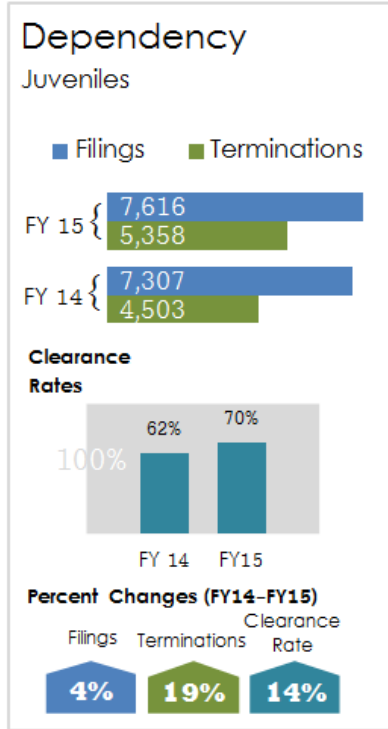
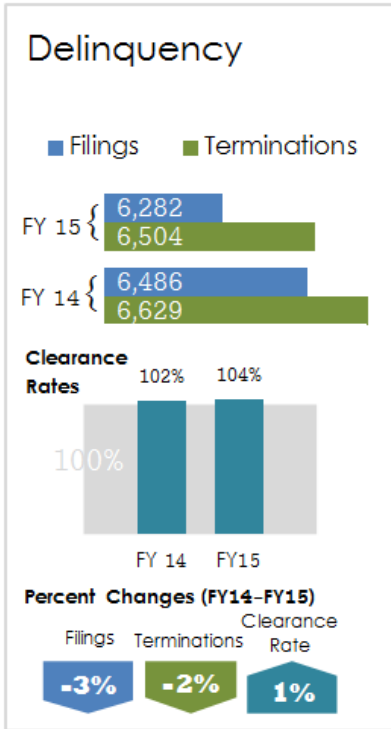
### **Court Guides**

The Juvenile Court Guides are the "ambassadors" of the Court for community members attempting to navigate the Juvenile Court system. They review guardianship forms for accuracy and completeness and review the steps of obtaining a hearing date. In FY15, the court guides assisted more than 5,679 self-represented litigants.

### **Crossover Youth**

Juvenile Court operates numerous problem solving courts. The Crossover Youth Practice Model Court was initiated to address the challenges of youth involved in both the dependency and delinquency justice systems.

## Juvenile Statistics



## Juvenile FY 2015 Highlights





Juvenile Probation operates Teen Court diverting youth from formal court processes. In FY2015, 1,338 Teen Court Hearings were held and 2,572 student volunteers worked with probation officers



MCJPD transitioned from a contracted correctional institution-like food program to an in-house school-like service model to normalize a youth's secure placement, reduce waste, and improve nutritional intake.

## JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Juvenile Probation (MCJPD) enhances public safety through accountability and evidence-based re-offense prevention delivered in a fair manner.

### **Culture of Hope**

Kids at Hope is a philosophy that believes that all youth can succeed, no exceptions. Youth who have hope and are optimistic are more likely to succeed, especially if they are connected to caring adults. The Juvenile Court and Juvenile Probation were recognized by the Kids at Hope organization as the first Juvenile Justice National Model Site for their commitment to youth and the principles that all youth are capable of success.

### **Drug Diversion**

The Drug Diversion Program goal is to reduce drug use by providing life skills. In addition to 1,945 Drug Diversion interviews, 540 parents participated in corresponding Partners in Parenting groups facilitated by the Department.

### **Ensuring Appropriate Use of Secure Detention**

MCJPD sought reductions in the use of secure detention that were the result of override screening decisions. Secure detention placements due to screening overrides were reduced by 55% as a result of new processes. FY2015, 139 warrants were resolved as result of this process.

### **Ensuring Fairness for Dually Involved Youth**

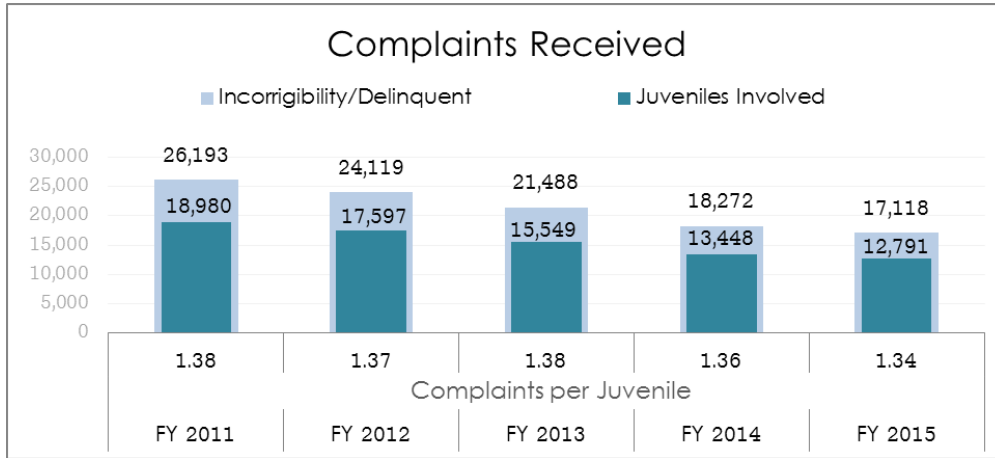
The adoption of new protocols and practice principles of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM), MCJPD increased in the number of child welfare youth participating in diversion programs. From July 2013 to May 2015, child welfare youth diversion participation increased from 9.5% to 16% and commensurately the child welfare youth involvement in Probation decreased from 71% to 64% within the same time frame.

Visit JPD's Website at:

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/JuvenileProbation/index.asp>

## Juvenile Probation Statistics

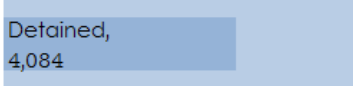
### Filings | FY 2011—FY 2015



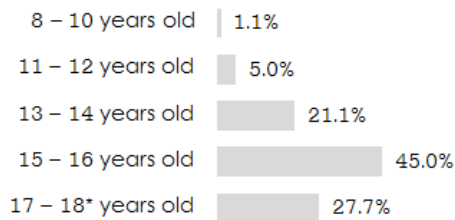
**17,118** Complaints of Incorrigibility and/or Delinquency received in FY 2015

### Detention

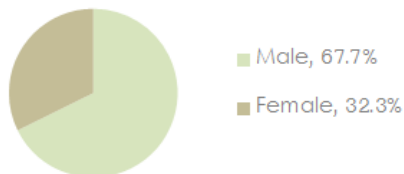
Juveniles Brought to Detention, 6,165



Age at Time of Complaint (% of total)



Gender



### Offenses

FY 2014 Totals | FY 2015 Totals

TYPE OF OFFENSE (% of total)

Felonies Against Person	6%	<b>6%</b>
Felonies Against Property	7%	<b>7%</b>
Obstruction of Justice	9%	<b>8%</b>
Misdemeanors Against Person	9%	<b>9%</b>
Drug Offense	12%	<b>12%</b>
Disturbing the Public Peace	25%	<b>24%</b>
Misdemeanors Against Property	18%	<b>18%</b>
Status (i.e. Truancy or Curfew)	13%	<b>13%</b>
Administrative Hold	.4%	<b>0.4%</b>

\*18 year olds may include some juveniles over 18 who provided false information at time of screening or date of birth errors in iCIS.



**Videos produced in FY 2015**

- ☛ Security Recruitment
- ☛ APD – Grant/ Appreciative Inquiry
- ☛ SCT Security
- ☛ Merit Selection
- ☛ APD Pretrial Interviews
- ☛ APD Pretrial Clips
- ☛ Shortened iCISng
- ☛ NAD 2014 Preview
- ☛ NAD Name Chain
- ☛ Juror/Social Media
- ☛ CASA Reunification Day
- ☛ APD Frost
- ☛ IPTC Training

# MEDIA RELATIONS

The Media Relations Department provides internal and external communication services for Superior Court and Adult and Juvenile Probation.

The Department:

- Responds to public records requests from media
- Produces videos of court events and topics for YouTube and the Court's website
- Monitors media coverage, handles all media inquiries and requests and tracks high profile cases/media issues
- Writes, edits and maintains public information on the court's website
- Develops press releases and issues media alerts
- Creates, writes and edits Court publications
- Coordinates and manages publicity for community relations programs
- Trains judges, commissioners, court staff and others on media issues
- Posts late-breaking court news and community outreach efforts on Facebook and Twitter
- Plans and organizes special events throughout the year
- Produces and posts video footage of high-profile cases to the court's website

## Media Relations Statistics

	FY 2014 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2015 <u>Totals</u>
News Releases and Articles	82	<b>97</b>
News Flashes	603	<b>684</b>
Media Trainings	9	<b>6</b>
News Clips	3,196	<b>2,608</b>
Cameras in the Courtroom	523	<b>357</b>
Initial Appearance Requests	1,523	<b>1,460</b>
Other Information Requests	570	<b>574</b>
Web Broadcast	129	<b>122</b>
Tweets	1,306	<b>1,042</b>
Facebook Entries	198	<b>223</b>
Courthouse Experience Tours	1,252	<b>1,451</b>

# COURT INTERPRETATION AND TRANSLATION SERVICES



Court Interpretation and Translation Services (CITS) provides language assistance to Limited English Proficient (LEP) court users in all court matters. In addition to usual courtroom duties, CITS provides interpretation for interviews, psychological and custodial evaluations, mediation and other out-of-court matters for justice partners, through an agreement with Maricopa County, which includes the Offices of the Public Defender, Maricopa County Attorney's Office,

and Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments. CITS also provides written translation services. There are 63 courtrooms equipped with remote interpreter technology including the Justice of Peace courts. This technology has significantly reduced mileage expenses and increased interpreter utilization time.

Requests for translation of evidentiary recordings continued to increase. There were 216 requests for translation of materials in FY15, a 25% increase from last fiscal year.

CITS conducted approximately 48,256 Spanish language interpreter matters. American Sign Language requests totaled 781 in FY15.



10,085 pages of trial related material were translated in FY15, the number of pages ranged from 78 to 1,691 pages per month. On average, 801 pages were translated monthly.

Number of Months each Language was Requested

1 month	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7 months	8 months	9 months	10 months	11 months	12 months	Requested every month during year
German Greek Hungarian Indonesian K'iche Kunama Pashto Persian Tamil Tzotzil Urdu Zo	Bari Cebuano Chuj Chuukese Gokana Kanjobal Kibembe Mam Ukrainian	Dari Khmer Laotian Tongan	Czech Ewe Gujarti Italian Mina Oromo	Armenian Cambodian Krio Mandingo	Bengali Kinyarwanda Krahn Tigrinya	Hebrew Liberian English Marshallese	Albanian Bulgarian Karenii Turkish	Assyrian Malayalam Nepali Polish Punjabi	Grebo Haitian-Creole Japanese Kirundi Thai	Amharic Bosnian Hindi Navajo Portuguese	Arabic Burmese Cantonese Dinka Farsi French Karen Korean Mandarin Romanian Russian Serbo-Croatian Somali Swahili Tagalog Vietnamese	

*A total of 77 different languages were interpreted in FY 2015*



The Library has two law librarians, in addition to the library coordinator. They respond to requests, from judicial officers, court staff, attorneys, government agencies, self-represented litigants, and inmates.

The Self-Service and Protective Order Centers are located at the following court locations:

- Downtown Superior Court Complex
- Northeast Regional Court Center
- Southeast Regional Court Center
- Northwest Regional Court Center

# LAW LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTER

The function of the Law Library Resource Center (LLRC) is to assist all customers with accessing information that will aid them in better accessing the Court and having access to justice. The LLRC comprises many units, including those that directly serve the public and internal customers: the Law Library, the Self-Service Center, the Protective Order Center, the Information Desk, and Forms Assistance.

## Resources

The Library provides access to electronic resources and offers innovative research resources and technologies, including:

- Westlaw Next for public users
- Law journals
- AZ Bar materials

## Self-Service Center

The Self-Service Center offers court forms, instructions, and information regarding court processes to self-represented litigants in the Superior Court.

## Protective Order Center:

The Protective Order Center provides a user-friendly automated process to complete petitions for protective orders, including Orders of Protection, Injunctions against Harassment and Injunctions against Workplace Harassment. Staff assists patrons with the process. Information is also available on community services and safety planning.





**Protective Order Center**


The Protective Order Center provides a user-friendly, interactive computer software program to complete petitions for protective orders, including Orders of Protection, Injunctions against Harassment and Injunctions against Workplace Harassment. Court forms to Object to or Request a Hearing on a Protective Order are also available. Staff are available to explain and answer procedural questions. Brochures, flyers and information about community services, shelters and safety planning are also available.

Walk-in appointments with a Domestic Violence Advocate from a local shelter are also available within the Center.

**Self-Service Center**

The Self-Service Center offers court forms, instructions and information to those who are representing themselves in Civil, Probate, Juvenile, Family, or Justice Court matters. The center has hundreds of legal forms available in English and Spanish. All forms are in fillable format. Some family court forms are also available through ezCourtForms, a quick and easy user-friendly interactive computer software program. In FY15, the Center served 171,225 citizens.

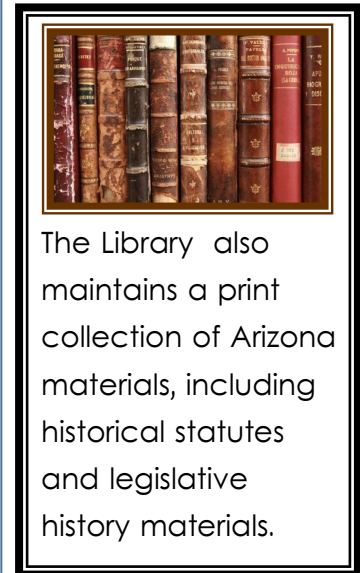
**Self-Service Center Forms Distributed in FY 2015**

Family		27,383
Probate		3,357
Juvenile		1,402
Justice Court		2,604
Civil		1,365
Other *		19,848
<b>Total Forms Distributed*</b>		<b>48,435</b>

\* Statistics do not include forms and packets downloaded from the Self-Service Center website or forms generated through ezCourtForms.

To view the forms and information available, visit the Self-Service Center's website at [http://](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/superiorcourt/self-servicecenter/)

[www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/superiorcourt/self-servicecenter/](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/superiorcourt/self-servicecenter/).



The Library also maintains a print collection of Arizona materials, including historical statutes and legislative history materials.

## OFFICE OF THE JURY COMMISSIONER

FY15, the Jury Office paid \$876,084 in juror pay and \$2.3 million in juror mileage. A total of \$448,177 was paid to jurors from this fund.

The Office of the Jury Commissioner is responsible for assembling a pool of qualified jurors who are a representative cross-section of the community. The Jury Office summons jurors for Superior Court, Justice Courts, City Courts, and both the State and County Grand Juries. The Jury Office's alternative summoning plan minimizes commute times for most jurors while still maintaining a random and fair demographic selection process. Jurors who appear for service but are not selected for a trial are excluded from being summoned again for 18 months; jurors selected to serve on a trial are excluded from being summoned again for two years.

Summoned Jurors	
Superior Court	472,769
City Courts	107,166
Justice Courts	70,054
County Grand Jury	2,565
State Grand Jury	600
Total	653,154

The jury office receives and answers approximately 7,800 emails a year, and 120,000 phone calls, as well as processing 51,000 jurors to the downtown location alone.



### Juror Convenience

Citizens summoned for Jury Duty can qualify for duty or seek postponement online, or by calling 602-506-5879. Questions can be emailed to [jury@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov](mailto:jury@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov). The Jury Office also has available two electric scooters for jurors that need extra assistance getting from the Jury Assembly Room to the court location they are assigned.

### Jury Court

In an effort to improve poor response and appearance rates the Jury Office conducts quarterly "Jury Courts" where jurors who failed to appear after being summoned three times are ordered to appear before a Judge and explain why they failed to respond to a court order. Jurors who willfully disobey a jury summons can be fined up to \$500, as well as being required to complete their jury service. These hearings are expected to be held quarterly.

<http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/JuryServices/GeneralInformation/index.asp>

# COURT TECHNOLOGY SERVICES



Court Technology Services (CTS) provides efficient, innovative, cutting edge technology support for the Superior Court, Justice Courts, Adult Probation Department, and

Juvenile Probation Department.

### Software Projects

Case Management System (iCISng)

- Criminal - eSentencing
- Criminal - eRelease Order
- Criminal/APD - ePSR
- Criminal/Pretrial - Assessment Tool
- Family Court Design Phase

eSearchWarrants

- Used by ~ Maricopa County Law Enforcement
- Working with AOC for statewide usage

ePTR

- All Judicial Branch probation
  - Increase in community safety
  - Decrease in response time from greater than 1 week to less than 2 days
  - Currently, we average 65 of these per day
- Implemented Phase II

### Infrastructure Projects

Data Center Modernization

- New Storage Array (150 TB)
  - Moving to total virtualization
- Moved from DTS to SSIS on SQL servers

Continuity of Operations

- Evaluating offsite colocation
- Aiming towards geographically-dispersed datacenter

User IT Modernization

- iPhone / Samsung Galaxy phase-in
  - Updated to Windows 7, ie. 11
- Microsoft Surface Pilot Project  
Sex Offender tracking software



### Future Projects

- ⌘ AOC / CCI
- ⌘ Justice Courts EDMS
- ⌘ Continued expansion of EDMS for all civil case filings to all Justice Courts
- ⌘ Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)
- ⌘ Commercial Court Website



Education and training also develops a variety of computer-based training that employees can learn at their desk and at times convenient to their schedule which reduces travel time and maximizes employee's work hours and productivity.



Staffing and Recruiting attends ASU Career Fairs to actively recruit individuals for the Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources oversees the Court's staffing and recruitment, payroll, and position management. In FY 2015, the department reengineered the Performance Evaluation tool. The new methodology is designed to provide meaningful feedback to reengage the workforce.

In response to an earlier Employee Satisfaction Survey, committees continued to work and make recommendations on identified areas of interest. Included is work/life balance, communication, and innovation and the use of technology. Committees made recommendations that are currently under review.

### Payroll

Judicial Branch Human Resources manages payroll operations for all employees of the Superior Court, Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation, and Justice Courts.

### Staffing and Recruiting

Judicial Branch Staffing and Recruiting oversees recruiting, interviewing, testing, background checks, and assists the Probation Departments with officer hiring and polygraph services. In addition, staff consults with and advises hiring authorities in developing recruiting strategies to find highly qualified individuals to fill open positions. In FY 2015, staff processed 122 internal promotions and hired 362 external candidates.

Judicial Branch	Total Employees
Superior Court	1,114
Superior Court Judges	98
Superior Court Commissioners	61
Adult Probation Department	1,176
Juvenile Probation Department	734
Justice Courts	416

Please visit: <https://jobs.maricopa.gov/justice-and-law-enforcement-jobs>

Superior Court and Justice Court  
Statistics Addendum

## Juvenile

## Filings (F), Terminations (T) and Clearance Rate (CR)

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 <u>Totals</u>			FY 2015 <u>Totals</u>			<i>FY14-FY15 % Change</i>		
	F	T	CR	F	T	CR	F	T	CR
Delinquency Petitions	4,586	4,648	101%	4,701	4,829	103%	3%	4%	1%
Delinquency Citations	432	479	111%	293	346	118%	-32%	-28%	7%
Delinquency – VOP	1,468	1,502	102%	1,288	1,329	103%	-12%	-12%	1%
Dependency – Petitions	4,216	2,176	52%	4,486	3,029	68%	6%	39%	31%
Dependency – Juveniles	7,307	4,503	62%	7,616	5,216	68%	4%	16%	11%
Guardianship – Petitions	2,240	2,091	93%	2,615	2,483	95%	17%	19%	2%
Guardianship – Juveniles	3,390	3,196	94%	3,735	3,538	95%	10%	11%	0%
Guardianship – Existing	11,665	-	N/A	12,823	-	N/A	10%	N/A	N/A
Adoption – Petitions	1,969	1,889	96%	2,059	2,043	99%	5%	8%	3%
Adoption – Juveniles	2,656	2,573	97%	2,801	2,797	100%	5%	9%	3%
Adoption Certifications	1,212	1,210	100%	1,169	1,098	94%	-4%	-9%	-6%
Severance – Petitions	840	784	93%	964	840	87%	15%	7%	-7%
Severance – Juveniles	1,108	1,048	95%	1,274	1,083	85%	15%	3%	-10%
Severance – Motions*	1,563	3,304	211%	1,570	4,271	272%	0%	29%	29%
Emancipation – Pet'ns/Juv's	21	22	105%	13	17	131%	-38%	-23%	25%
Relinquishments – Pet'ns/ Juv's	1	-	N/A	4	3	N/A	300%	N/A	N/A
Relinquishments – Juveniles	1	-	N/A	4	3	N/A	300%	N/A	N/A
ICWA Relinquishments – Pet'ns	2	1	50%	7	7	100%	250%	600%	100%
ICWA Relinquishments –Juv's	2	1	50%	7	7	100%	250%	600%	100%
Injunctions Against Harassment	67	66	99%	62	56	90%	-7%	-15%	-8%
<b>TOTAL FILINGS – PETITIONS</b>	18,617	18,403	99%	19,231	20,351	106%	3%	11%	7%
<b>TOTAL FILINGS – JUVENILES</b>	23,813	22,857	96%	24,533	24,590	100%	3%	8%	4%

Civil

Filings (F), Terminations (T) and Clearance Rate (CR)

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 <u>Totals</u>			FY 2015 <u>Totals</u>			<i>FY14-FY15 %Change</i>		
	F	T	CR	F	T	CR	F	T	CR
New Filings									
Tort Motor Vehicle	5,521	4,837	88%	<b>4,930</b>	<b>5,060</b>	103%	-11%	5%	17%
Tort Non-Motor Vehicle	1,794	1,597	89%	<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,655</b>	92%	0%	4%	4%
Medical Malpractice	291	291	100%	<b>326</b>	<b>274</b>	84%	12%	-6%	-16%
Contract	11,319	8,793	78%	<b>11,553</b>	<b>10,157</b>	88%	2%	16%	13%
Tax	7	3	43%	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	100%	-29%	67%	133%
Eminent Domain	70	72	103%	<b>88</b>	<b>81</b>	92%	26%	13%	-11%
Unclassified Civil	22,034	18,326	83%	<b>20,650</b>	<b>23,128</b>	112%	-6%	26%	35%
Post Judgement Filings									
Garnishment	17,565	-	N/A	<b>15,350</b>	-	N/A	-13%	N/A	N/A
Judgment Debtor Exams	1,518	-	N/A	<b>1,307</b>	-	N/A	-14%	N/A	N/A
Supplemental Proceedings	498	-	N/A	<b>426</b>	-	N/A	-14%	N/A	N/A
Injunction Against Harassment	392	-	N/A	<b>504</b>	-	N/A	29%	N/A	N/A
Lower Court Appeals*	691	<b>797</b>	115%	<b>616</b>	<b>649</b>	1	-11%	-19%	-9%
Arbitration	11,342	<b>11,193</b>	99%	<b>9,113</b>	<b>10,055</b>	1	-20%	-10%	12%
Tax									
Cases of Record	622	<b>1,015</b>	163%	730	<b>734</b>	101%	17%	-28%	-38%
Property	443	<b>801</b>	181%	381	<b>551</b>	145%	-14%	-31%	-20%
Other	179	<b>214</b>	120%	349	<b>183</b>	52%	95%	-14%	-56%
Small Claims	482	<b>498</b>	103%	303	<b>303</b>	100%	-37%	-39%	-3%
Property	479	<b>495</b>	103%	300	<b>302</b>	101%	-37%	-39%	-3%
Other	3	<b>3</b>	100%	3	<b>1</b>	33%	0%	-67%	-67%

\* Includes Criminal Traffic LCA

## Family Court

## Filings (F), Terminations (T) and Clearance Rate (CR)

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 Totals			FY 2015 Totals			FY14-FY15 % Change		
	F	T	CR	F	T	CR	F	T	CR
New Filings									
Dissolution	18,041	17,869	99%	<b>18,255</b>	<b>17,813</b>	<b>98%</b>	1%	0%	-1%
Other Case	17,718	17,972	101%	<b>17,242</b>	<b>17,475</b>	<b>101%</b>	-3%	-3%	0%
Subsequent Filings	28,339	28,871	102%	<b>27,957</b>	<b>26,205</b>	<b>94%</b>	-1%	-9%	-8%

## Probate

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 Totals			FY 2015 Totals			FY14-FY15 % Change		
	F	T	CR	F	T	CR	F	T	CR
Estate Probates and Trust Administrations	3,627	3,717	102%	<b>3,952</b>	<b>4,056</b>	<b>103%</b>	9%	9%	0%
Guardianships and Conservatorships	2,071	2,255	109%	<b>2,076</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>89%</b>	0%	-18%	-18%
Adult Adoptions	38	33	87%	<b>46</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>98%</b>	21%	36%	13%

## Mental Health

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 Totals			FY 2015 Totals			FY14-FY15 % Change		
	F	T	CR	F	T	CR	F	T	CR
Mental Health Filings	4,287	4,734	110%	4,399	4,285	97%	3%	-9%	-12%
Rule 11 Filings									
Limited Jurisdiction	266	-	N/A	312	-	N/A	17%	N/A	N/A
Superior Court	1937	-	N/A	2156	-	N/A	11%	N/A	N/A

## Criminal

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 Totals			FY 2015 Totals			FY14-FY15 % Change		
	F	T	CR	F	T	CR	F	T	CR
New Case Filings	33,388	31,618	95%	<b>31,569</b>	<b>31,822</b>	<b>101%</b>	-5%	1%	6%
Post-Sentencing Filings									
Post-Conviction Relief Petitions	1,561	1,346	86%	<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>108%</b>	-18%	2%	25%
Probation Violation Petitions	14,120	14,120	100%	<b>14,809</b>	<b>14,809</b>	<b>100%</b>	5%	5%	N/A



## Caseloads: Pending Ending as of June 30, 2015 (Open Petitions)

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2015 <u>Totals</u>	<i>FY14-FY15</i> <i>% Change</i>
Civil			
Tort-Motor Vehicle	4,066	<b>4,052</b>	-0.3%
Tort Non-Motor	1,716	<b>1,729</b>	0.8%
Medical Malpractice	387	<b>419</b>	8.3%
Contract	6,891	<b>6,024</b>	-12.6%
Tax	3	<b>1</b>	-66.7%
Eminent Domain	84	<b>77</b>	-8.3%
Non-Classified Civil	9,644	<b>5,179</b>	-46.3%
Family			
Family Pre Decree	12,015	<b>12,224</b>	1.7%
Family Post Decree	8,937	<b>10,047</b>	12.4%
Juvenile			
Delinquency	2,429	<b>2,207</b>	-9.1%
Dependency	7,107	<b>8,564</b>	20.5%
Additional Case Types	1,649	<b>1,995</b>	21.0%
<b>Juveniles Pending Resolutions as of June 30, 2015</b>			
Delinquency	2,429	<b>2,207</b>	-9.1%
Dependency	12,175	<b>14,615</b>	20.0%
Additional Case Types	2,162	<b>2,630</b>	21.6%
Additional JGs (Inactive)	11,665	<b>12,823</b>	9.9%

## Justice Courts

## Filings (F), Terminations (T) and Clearance Rate (CR)

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 Totals			FY 2015 Totals			FY14-FY15 % Change		
	F	T	CR	F	T	CR	F	T	CR
Criminal Traffic									
DUI	9,436	<b>8,703</b>	92%	8,298	<b>8,161</b>	98%	-12%	-6%	7%
Serious Traffic	1,459	<b>1,237</b>	85%	1,326	<b>1,271</b>	96%	-9%	3%	13%
Other Criminal Traffic (with FTA)	37,509	<b>39,529</b>	105%	35,530	<b>34,410</b>	97%	-5%	-13%	-8%
Civil Traffic	113,350	<b>117,057</b>	103%	112,367	<b>101,617</b>	90%	-1%	-13%	-12%
Misdemeanors									
Misdemeanor	14,574	<b>18,044</b>	124%	12,839	<b>12,291</b>	96%	-12%	-32%	-23%
Misdemeanor FTA	740	<b>1,137</b>	154%	705	<b>726</b>	103%	-5%	-36%	-33%
Civil									
Small Claims	10,506	<b>11,437</b>	109%	10,342	<b>10,659</b>	103%	-2%	-7%	-5%
Eviction Actions (Forcible Detainers)	65,520	<b>66,262</b>	101%	63,570	<b>63,700</b>	100%	-3%	-4%	-1%
Other Civil/Non-Criminal Parking	61,976	<b>76,777</b>	124%	60,163	<b>57,756</b>	96%	-3%	-25%	-23%

Orders of Protection / Injunctions Against Harassment  
Filings (F), Issued (I) and Denied (D)

CASE TYPE	FY 2014 Totals			FY 2015 Totals			FY14-FY15 % Change		
	F	I	D	F	I	D	F	I	D
Orders of Protection	3,726	3,679	47	<b>3,657</b>	<b>3,579</b>	<b>78</b>	-2%	-3%	66%
Injunctions Against Harassment	2,449	2,407	42	<b>2,390</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>63</b>	-2%	-3%	50%

## Other Proceedings

	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY14-FY15 % Change
Small Claims Hearings/Defaults	2,131	<b>2,162</b>	1.5%
Civil Traffic Hearings	31,241	<b>32,405</b>	3.7%
Order of Protection/IAH Hearings	1,002	<b>1,074</b>	7.2%
Search Warrants Issued	730	<b>826</b>	13.2%

# *“EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW”*



Superior Court of Arizona  
for Maricopa County

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*Disclaimer: Department totals reflected are current as of this publication, adjustments may occur post-publication.*