

Maryland Judiciary Annual Report 2003-2004

Statistical
Abstract and
Court-Related
Agencies

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MARYLAND
JUDICIARY

*Statistical
Abstract
and
Court-Related Agencies*

2003-2004

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THE INTRODUCTION

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January 10, 2005

I am pleased, once again, to present the Annual Report of the *Maryland Judiciary – Statistical Abstract and Court-Related Units*. This volume of the *Annual Report* provides a statistical compilation of the work of the courts and its various component parts during the past fiscal year. As you will note, the courts handled millions of matters, consisting of, *inter alia*, traffic citations, civil litigation, sensitive family issues and criminal cases. The court-related agencies also were quite busy, working tirelessly to discharge their designated responsibility: officially overseeing the admission of new lawyers; developing and proposing, for promulgation by the Court, new Rules of Practice and Procedure; operating the attorney discipline process, maintaining the client protection apparatus, establishing and improving alternative dispute resolution programs across the State.

The operation of the Judicial Branch over the past year has been effective and efficient. That is a tribute to the hardworking men and women of whom it is comprised. It is with gratitude and thanks to each of them that I present this *Report*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert M. Bell".

Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge

Judicial Revenues and Expenditures

JUDICIAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

In Fiscal Year 2004, the total amount expended to support the operations of the Judicial branch of government was approximately \$371 million. The Judicial branch consists of the Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, the Circuit Courts, the District Court of Maryland, the appellate and circuit court clerks' offices, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Court of Appeals, the State Board of Law Examiners, the Maryland State Law Library, the Commission of Judicial Disabilities, and the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office.

There were 272 judicial positions and approximately 4,239 non-judicial positions in the Judicial branch as of June 30, 2004. The State-funded portion of the Judiciary operates on a program budget and expended more than \$269 million in Fiscal Year 2004. There also are locally funded operations.

The two appellate courts and their respective clerks' offices are funded by two programs. The circuit court program contains the compensation, travel, and educational costs for circuit court judges which totaled \$43,824,243, and the costs to operate the circuit court clerks' offices of \$63,727,796 all of which totaled \$107,552,039. The State-funded District Court expended \$104,876,965. The Maryland Judicial Conference contains funds for continuing judicial education and Conference activities. As noted on the accompanying chart, there were no funds expended for the Judicial Conference during Fiscal Year 2004. Remaining programs fund the Court of Appeals, the Court of Special Appeals, the

JUDICIAL BRANCH PERSONNEL IN PROFILE	
Judicial Personnel	
Court of Appeals	7
Court of Special Appeals	13
Circuit Courts	146
District Court	106
Non-Judicial Personnel	
Court of Appeals	65
Court of Special Appeals	67
Circuit Court Clerks' Offices	1,284
District Court	1,530
Administrative Office of the Courts	398
Court-Related Agencies	
State Board of Law Examiners	8
Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure	4
State Law Library	14
Commission on Judicial Disabilities	4
Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office	5
Circuit Courts - Local Funding	860
Total	4,511

Administrative Office and court-related agencies.

The Attorney Grievance Commission and the Clients' Security Trust Fund are supported by assessments paid by lawyers entitled to practice in Maryland. These supporting funds are not included in the Judicial budget.

The figures and tables show the revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2004. With the exception of several special funds, all revenues are remitted to the State's general fund. The Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund, created by statute effective in Fiscal Year 1992, permits a surcharge by circuit court clerks for recording land instruments. The Fund is used for essential land records automation and equipment to improve land records operations in the clerks' offices. Four additional

special funds are the Victims of Crime Fund, the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, and Maryland Legal Services. The source of the funds is additional costs assessed in criminal cases, a portion of which is to be remitted to establish programs that provide victim and witness services. The other special fund is the State Transfer Tax Fund. Prior to Fiscal Year 1993, State Transfer Tax was deposited into the general fund. During Fiscal Year 2004, the circuit court clerks' offices collected State Transfer Tax totaling \$181,050,727.32. Shown on the following tables is the total revenue collected by the circuit court clerks in Fiscal Year 2004 for court related and non-court related activities. A total of \$55,378,534.81 was collected for commissions on land

records transactions, State licenses, court costs, and for criminal injuries compensation. In addition, the circuit court clerks' offices remitted \$294,291,379.72 to the local governments for recordation taxes, licenses, and court fines. An additional \$38,556,069 was collected for the Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund, \$149,597.48 was collected for the Victims of Crime Fund, \$144,536.56 was collected for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund, \$15,923.44 for the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund, and \$888,850.30 was collected for Maryland Legal Services. The District Court remitted \$84,472,507.01 in fees, fines, and costs to the State general fund. An additional \$10,774,103.83 was collected for various special funds, \$4,699,774.04 for the Law Enforcement Training Fund; \$3,506,361.01 for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; \$948,239.59 for the Victims of Crime Fund, \$112,299.22 for the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund, and \$1,507,430.00 was collected for Maryland Legal Services. The Administrative Office of the Courts also administers funds received through the Abandoned Property Fund and IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts) for Maryland Legal Services. In addition to the \$2.4 million collected by the District Court and the circuit courts, the AOC received \$3,646,560 from the aforementioned sources for disbursement to Maryland Legal Services.

The total State budget was approximately \$22 billion in Fiscal Year 2004. The State-funded Judicial budget consumes about 1 percent of the entire State budget. Other expenditures of the circuit courts come from local appropriations from Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. These appropriations were approximately \$66.5 million in Fiscal Year 2004. Revenues from fines, forfeitures and certain appearance fees are returned to the subdivisions, primarily for the support of the local court library. Other court-related revenues collected by the circuit courts come from fees and charges in domestic relations matters and service charges in collecting non-support payments.

STATE FUNDED JUDICIAL BUDGET

Revenues

Program	Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004
Court of Appeals	\$126,405	\$108,018	\$99,205
Court of Special Appeals	89,697	85,757	87,281
Circuit Courts	368,005,401	428,425,606	570,381,173
District Court	82,610,952	81,010,507	95,070,029
State Board of Law Examiners	721,383	751,032	950,329
Maryland Law Library	15,098	14,161	10,969
TOTAL	\$451,568,936	\$510,395,081	\$666,598,986

*Please refer to the narrative for an explanation of the revenues. In addition, \$38,556,069 was remitted to the Land Records Improvement Fund, \$1,097,837 to the State's Victims of Crime Fund, \$3,650,897 to the Criminal Injury

Compensation Fund, \$128,222 to the Victim and Witness Protection and Relocation Fund, \$6,042,840 to Maryland Legal Services which includes \$2.4 million collected by the District Court and the circuit courts, as well as \$3.6 million received and disbursed by the Administrative Office of the Courts from the Abandoned Property Fund and IOLTA.

**Prior to 1993, State Transfer taxes were included in General Fund revenue. Beginning in 1993, State Transfer taxes were allocated to a special fund. State Transfer taxes were \$181,050,727 for Fiscal Year 2004.

***The circuit court clerks' offices also collected \$25,040,457 in non-resident withholding taxes during Fiscal Year 2004. The taxes are withheld from sellers of real property in Maryland who reside outside of the State. The courts do not retain any of the monies collected.

Expenditures

Program	Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004
Court of Appeals	\$5,350,850	\$6,119,213	\$6,256,634
Court of Special Appeals	6,235,652	6,657,796	6,559,607
Circuit Court Judges	35,944,446	40,714,213	43,824,243
District Court	102,386,000	102,724,908	104,876,965
Maryland Judicial Conference	150,493	3,953	0
Administrative Office of the Courts	16,355,003	19,215,297	22,970,265
Court-Related Agencies	3,688,035	4,291,021	4,906,101
State Law Library	1,569,088	1,646,499	2,190,375
Judicial Information Systems	18,531,600	16,209,765	20,732,345
Clerks of the Circuit Courts	65,327,986	64,218,086	63,727,796
Family Law Divisions	9,233,577	11,796,881	11,531,242
Major Information Technology Projects	8,022,555	6,212,592	16,781,024
TOTAL	\$272,795,285	\$279,810,224	\$304,356,597

The Court of Appeals

THE COURT OF APPEALS

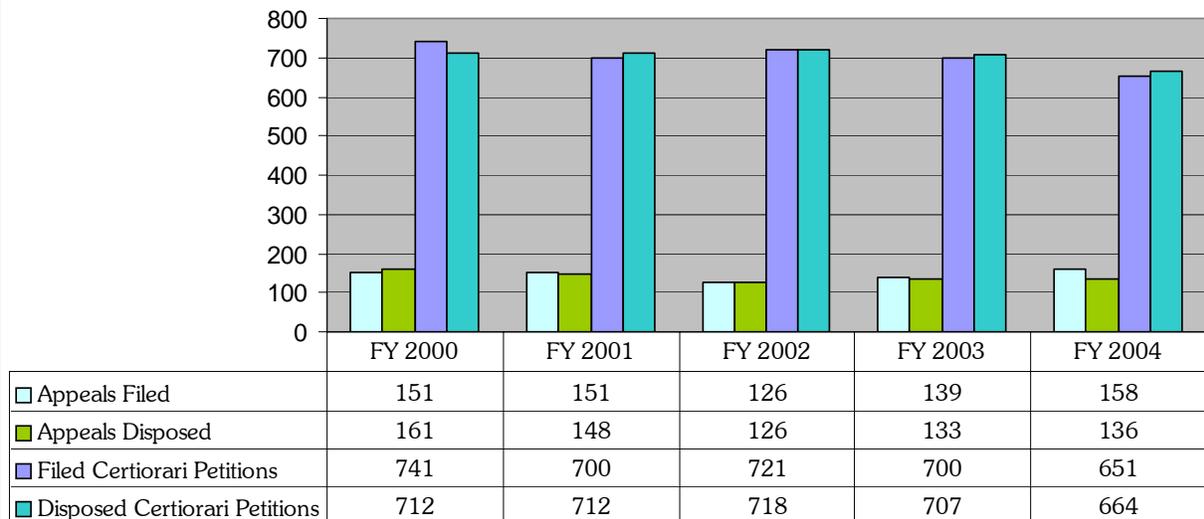
The Court of Appeals, the highest tribunal in the State of Maryland, was created by the Constitution of 1776. The Court sat in various locations throughout the State in the early years of its existence, but has sat only in Annapolis since 1851. The Court is composed of seven judges, including the chief judge, with one judge from each of the seven appellate judicial circuits. There are three single jurisdiction circuits included among the seven — Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties and Baltimore City. Members of the Court are initially appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Subsequently, they run for office on

their records, unopposed. If a judge’s retention in office is rejected by the voters or there is a tie vote, that office becomes vacant and must be filled by a new appointment. Otherwise, the incumbent judge remains in office for a ten-year term. The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is designated by the Governor and is the constitutional administrative head of the Maryland Judiciary. As a result of legislation effective January 1, 1975, the Court of Appeals hears cases almost exclusively by way of certiorari, a discretionary review process. Petitions for certiorari are granted by the Court for those cases it

deems to be “desirable and in the public interest.” That process has resulted in the reduction of the Court’s formerly excessive workload to a more manageable level, thus allowing the Court to devote more time to the most important and far-reaching issues.

The Court may review cases already decided by the Court of Special Appeals or bring up for review, cases filed in that Court before they are decided. Additionally, the Court of Appeals has exclusive jurisdiction over appeals in which a sentence of death is imposed. Cases from the circuit court level also may be reviewed by the Court of Appeals if

**TABLE CA-1
COURT OF APPEALS
APPEALS ACTUALLY FILED AND
TERMINATED WITHIN FISCAL YEAR**



■ Appeals Filed
 ■ Appeals Disposed
 ■ Filed Certiorari Petitions
 ■ Disposed Certiorari Petitions

those courts have acted in an appellate capacity with respect to an appeal from the District Court. The Court is empowered to adopt rules of judicial administration, practice, and procedure which will have the force of law. It also admits persons to the practice of law, reviews recommendations of the State Board of Law Examiners and conducts disciplinary proceedings involving members of the bench and bar. Questions of law certified by federal and other state appellate courts also may be decided by the Court of Appeals.

Filings

During the 2003 Term, the Court of Appeals docketed a total of 143 regular docket appeals and 667 petitions for certiorari, a decrease of 1.4 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively, since the previous year's term. Since the 1999 Term, regular docket appeals have decreased nine percent, from 157 appeals in 1999 to the 2003 total of 143 appeals. Criminal appeals decreased 11.1 percent over the five-year period, from 54 in the 1999 Term, to 48 in the 2003 Term. Civil appeals also decreased, from 103 cases in the 1999 Term, to 95 in the 2003 Term. Table CA-2 details the appellate judicial circuits in which appeals originated during the 2003 Term. Of the seven appellate circuits, the Sixth Appellate Circuit (Baltimore City) reported the greatest number of appeals, with 33 cases, representing 23.1 percent of the total. The Fifth Appellate Circuit followed, with 24 appeals, representing nearly 17 percent of the total. The jurisdiction reporting the greatest percentage of the total in this appellate circuit was Anne Arundel County, with 14.7 percent, or 21 total appeals. The First and Third Appellate Circuits

reported the smallest number of docketed appeals, equally comprising 9.8 percent of the total.

Table CA-1 illustrates the number of docketed appeals and petitions for certiorari filed since Fiscal Year 2000. Over the five-year period, the number of regular docket appeals filed has increased approximately 4.6 percent, from 151 cases in Fiscal Year 2000, to 158 in Fiscal Year 2004. In contrast, the number of filed certiorari petitions has decreased since Fiscal Year 2000, from 741 cases in that year, to 651 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 12.1 percent. As summarized in Table CA-4, in Fiscal Year 2004, the Court of Appeals docketed a total of 931 filings, which included the previously mentioned 158 regular docket filings and 651 petitions for certiorari, in addition to 89 attorney grievance proceedings, and 33 miscellaneous appeals. In the previous fiscal year, there were 979 total filings, representing a decrease of nearly five percent over the two-year period. Contributing to the decrease was a seven percent decrease in petitions for certiorari, from 700 filings in Fiscal Year 2003, to 651 in Fiscal Year 2004. Also decreasing significantly were attorney grievance proceedings, from 101 filings in Fiscal Year 2003, to 89 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of nearly 12 percent.

In Fiscal Year 2004, 1,408 bar admissions were recorded by the Court of Appeals.

Dispositions

In Fiscal Year 2004, there were 920 dispositions recorded by the Court of Appeals, which included 136 regular docket dispositions, 664 disposed petitions for certiorari, 85

disposed attorney grievance proceedings, and 35 disposed miscellaneous appeals. In the previous fiscal year, there were 965 total dispositions, indicating a decrease of approximately 4.6 percent over the two-year period. Contributing to the decrease was a decrease in the number of petitions for certiorari, from 707 in Fiscal Year 2003, to 664 in Fiscal Year 2004, a decrease of approximately 6.1 percent. Disposed miscellaneous appeals also decreased over the two-year period, from 44 cases in Fiscal Year 2003, to 35 in Fiscal Year 2004, a decrease of approximately 20.4 percent.

Table CA-6 summarizes a five-year comparison of disposed petitions for certiorari. Since Fiscal Year 2000, the number of petitions granted has decreased significantly, from 117 petitions in Fiscal Year 2000, to 90 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of 23 percent. In Fiscal Year 2000, there were 712 disposed petitions, which included 385 civil petitions and 327 criminal petitions. Also, during that same year, 19 percent of civil petitions were granted and 13.5 percent of criminal petitions were granted. Comparatively, in Fiscal Year 2004, 664 petitions for certiorari, which included 351 civil petitions and 313 criminal petitions, were disposed. During Fiscal Year 2004, 14.2 percent of the civil petitions were granted, while approximately 12.8 percent of criminal petitions were granted.

As shown in Table CA-8, the average amount of time expended from certiorari to argument during Fiscal Year 2004 was approximately 3.4 months, a decrease from the previous year's average of 3.6 months. Also decreasing over the two-year period was the amount of time expended from certiorari to

decision and from argument to decision. In Fiscal Year 2003, the average amount of time expended from certiorari granted to decision was approximately 9.4 months. However, this number decreased significantly in Fiscal Year 2004, when the average time expended was 8.4 months. The average amount of time expended from argument to decision decreased by a slightly lesser degree, from 5.8 months in Fiscal Year 2003 to 5.3 months in Fiscal Year 2004.

During Fiscal Year 2004, the Court issued 121 majority opinions and 15 per curiam orders. In addition, there were 13 concurring

opinions, 22 dissenting opinions, and five opinions that were concurring in part and dissenting in part. Comparatively, in the previous fiscal year, there were 117 majority opinions and 13 per curiam orders, as well as 17 concurring opinions, 32 dissenting opinions, and three opinions that were concurring in part and dissenting in part.

Pending

As illustrated in Table CA-8, there were 116 cases pending at the close of Fiscal Year 2004. Of this total,

civil cases comprised the greatest percentage of the pending caseload with 66.4 percent, or 77 cases, followed by 37 criminal cases, which comprised 32 percent of the total. Juvenile cases comprised only 1.7 percent of the total number of pending cases. Approximately 54.3 percent of the pending cases originated in the 2003 Term, while nearly 40 percent originated in the 2004 Term. The Fiscal Year 2004 pending caseload represents an increase of approximately 35 percent from the Fiscal Year 2003 pending caseload of 86 cases.

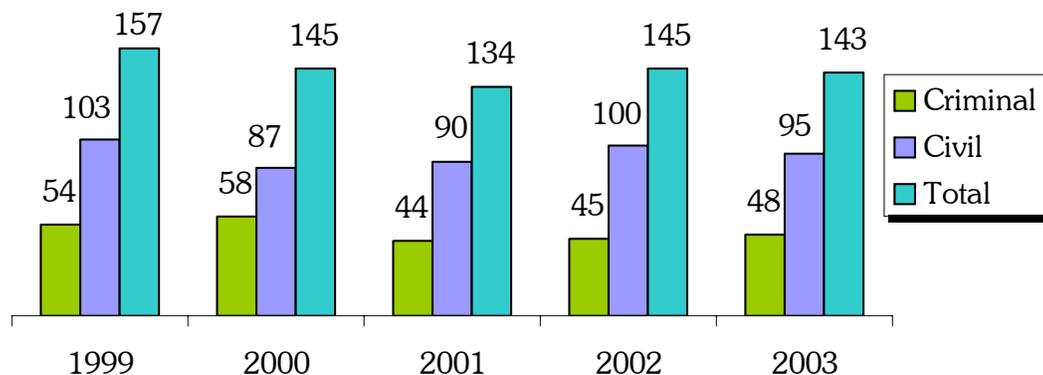
TABLE CA-2

**ORIGIN OF APPEALS BY
APPELLATE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS AND JURISDICTIONS
COURT OF APPEALS**

**REGULAR DOCKET
2003 TERM**

FIRST APPELLATE CIRCUIT	14		9.8%
Caroline County	3		
Cecil County	1		
Dorchester County	1		
Kent County	1		
Queen Anne's County	1		
Somerset County	1		
Talbot County	2		
Wicomico County	2		
Worcester County	2		
SECOND APPELLATE CIRCUIT	23		16.1%
Baltimore County	19		
Harford County	4		
THIRD APPELLATE CIRCUIT	14		9.8%
Allegany County	0		
Carroll County	2		
Frederick County	6		
Garrett County	0		
Howard County	4		
Washington County	2		
FOURTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	17		11.9%
Prince George's County	17		
FIFTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	24		16.8%
Anne Arundel County	21		
Calvert County	1		
Charles County	1		
St. Mary's County	1		
SIXTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	33		23.1%
Baltimore City	33		
SEVENTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	18		12.6%
Montgomery County	18		
TOTAL	143		100.0%

**TABLE CA-3
APPEALS DOCKETED BY TERM
COURT OF APPEALS REGULAR DOCKET**



**TABLE CA-4
FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS
COURT OF APPEALS
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004**

	Filings	Dispositions
Regular Docket	158	136
Petitions for Certiorari	651	664
Attorney Grievance Proceedings	89	85
Bar Admission Proceedings	1	1
Certified Questions of Law	1	5
Miscellaneous Appeals	31	29
Total	931	920

TABLE CA-5
DISPOSITION OF COURT OF APPEALS CASES
REGULAR DOCKET
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	CIVIL	JUVENILE	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
Affirmed	40	2	18	60
Reversed	36	0	11	47
Dismissed - Opinion Filed	2	1	2	5
Dismissed Without Opinion	2	0	1	3
Vacated and Remanded	12	0	1	13
Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part	4	0	3	7
Affirmed in Part, Vacated in Part	0	0	0	0
Dismissed Prior to Argument or Submission	1	0	0	1
Origin				
2000 Docket	3	1	2	6
2001 Docket	5	0	0	5
2002 Docket	39	0	9	48
2003 Docket	50	2	25	77
Total Cases Disposed During Fiscal Year 2004	97	3	36	136

TABLE CA-6

**FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
PETITION DOCKET DISPOSITIONS
(PETITIONS FOR CERTIORARI)**

FISCAL YEAR 2000 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

Petitions	Granted	Dismissed	Denied	Withdrawn	Total	Percentage of Certiorari Petitions Granted
<i>Civil</i>						
1999-00	73	3	301	8	385	19.0%
2000-01	84	10	300	1	395	21.3%
2001-02	79	4	268	3	354	22.3%
2002-03	71	5	331	4	411	17.3%
2003-04	50	4	296	1	351	14.2%
<i>Criminal</i>						
1999-00	44	2	279	2	327	13.5%
2000-01	42	3	270	2	317	13.2%
2001-02	41	2	319	2	364	11.3%
2002-03	31	0	262	3	296	10.5%
2003-04	40	2	270	1	313	12.8%

TABLE CA-7 AVERAGE INTERVALS FOR CASES DISPOSED BY COURT OF APPEALS REGULAR DOCKET JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004 FISCAL YEAR 2004			
	Certiorari Granted to Argument or to Disposition Without Argument*	Argument to Decision**	Certiorari Granted to Decision*
Days	103	159	251
Months	3.4	5.3	8.4
Number of Cases	136	130	136
* Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal Year 2004.			
** Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal Year 2004 which were argued.			

TABLE CA-8 CASES PENDING COURT OF APPEALS REGULAR DOCKET June 30, 2004				
	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Origin				
2002 Docket	4	1	2	7
2003 Docket	43	1	19	63
2004 Docket	30	0	16	46
Total	77	2	37	116

The Court of Special Appeals

THE COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS

Maryland's intermediate appellate court, the Court of Special Appeals, was created in 1966 to address a substantial backlog in the Court of Appeals that had developed as a result of a rapidly increasing caseload.

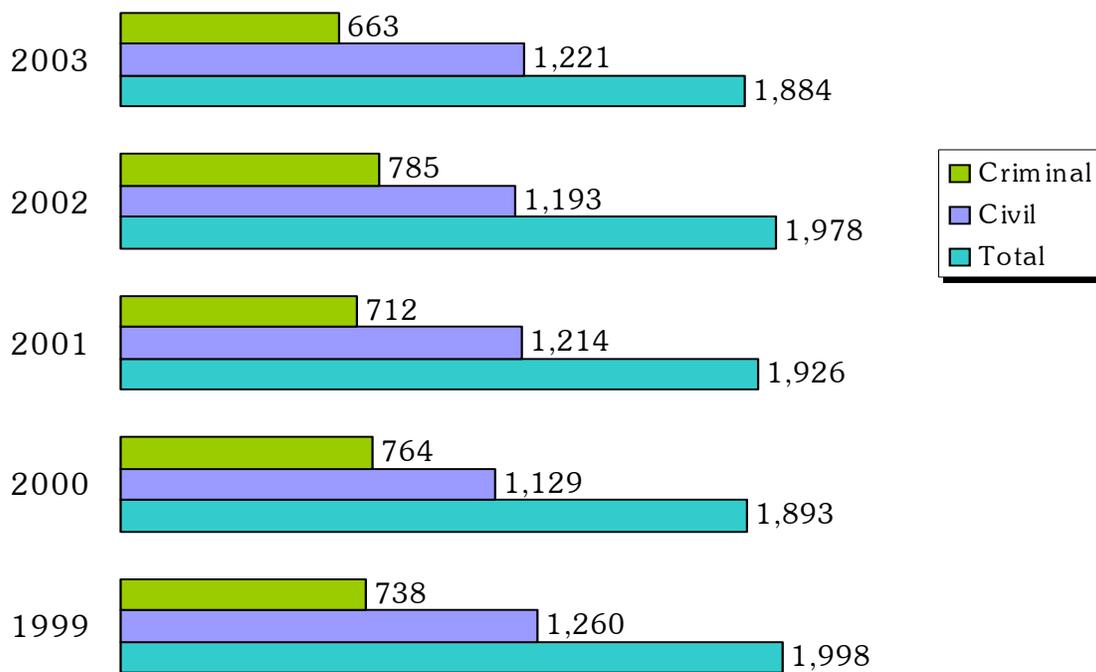
The Court of Special Appeals sits in Annapolis and is composed of thirteen members, including a chief judge. One member of the Court is elected from each of the seven appellate judicial circuits. The remaining six members are elected from the State at large. Members of the Court of Special Appeals are

appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The judges run on their records without opposition for ten-year terms. If a judge's retention in office is rejected by the voters or there is a tie vote, that office becomes vacant and must be filled by a new appointment. Otherwise, the incumbent judge remains in office for a ten-year term. The Governor designates the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals.

The Court has exclusive initial appellate jurisdiction over any reviewable judgment, decree, order

or other action of a circuit court and generally hears cases appealed directly from the circuit courts unless otherwise provided by law. The judges of the Court are empowered to sit in panels of three. A hearing or rehearing before the Court en banc may be ordered in any case by a majority of the incumbent judges. The Court also considers applications for leave to appeal in such areas as post conviction, habeas corpus matters involving denial of or excessive bail, inmate grievances, appeals from criminal guilty pleas and violations

**TABLE CSA-1
APPEALS DOCKETED BY TERM
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS**



of probation.

The Court has implemented statutorily prescribed procedures in an effort to more effectively manage its civil and criminal caseloads. Maryland Rule 8-204 and Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article Section 12-302, which removes the right of direct appeal in those criminal cases in which a guilty plea has been entered, were adopted to manage criminal caseloads more effectively. An application for leave to appeal is required in those instances in which a guilty plea has been entered in criminal cases. The Court has discretionary authority to either assign the case to the regular docket or to deny the appeal. With respect to expediting its civil appeal process, the Court of Special Appeals has used prehearing conferences. During the conferences, panels of judges review pending civil cases to identify cases suitable for resolution by the parties. The appeals are either scheduled for prehearing conferences or proceed through the regular appellate process. If there is no resolution during the conferences, the cases are placed on subsequent dockets and counted as filings. An information report, which summarizes the actions of the circuit court, is filed whenever an appeal is noted.

Since the 1999 Term, the Court of Special Appeals reported an overall decrease of 5.7 percent in the number of docketed appeals, from 1,998 appeals in the 1999 Term, to 1,884 in the 2003 Term (Table CSA-1). The number of criminal appeals docketed decreased approximately 10.2 percent over the five-year period, while the number of civil appeals docketed decreased approximately 3.1 percent. In the 2003 Term, criminal appeals comprised approximately 35.2 percent of the total number of

docketed appeals, and civil appeals comprised nearly 65 percent of the total number of appeals.

Table CSA-2 summarizes the origin of appeals by appellate judicial circuit and jurisdiction for the 2003 Term. Among the five largest jurisdictions, Baltimore City comprised the greatest percentage of docketed appeals, with 379 appeals, or 20.1 percent of the total. Since the 1999 Term, the number of appeals reported by Baltimore City has increased approximately 2.7 percent. The Court recorded 300 appeals from Prince George's County during the 2003 Term, comprising 16 percent of the overall total. Comparatively, this jurisdiction reported a total of 327 appeals in the 1999 Term, representing a decrease of approximately 8.3 percent. Montgomery County comprised approximately 14.8 percent of the total in the 2003 Term, with 279 docketed appeals. The aforementioned jurisdiction reported a rather significant decrease since the 1999 Term, reporting 325 appeals in that term, which represents a decrease of approximately 14.2 percent over the five-year period. Baltimore County reported 220 appeals in the 2003 Term, comprising approximately 11.7 percent of the total. This jurisdiction reported a minimal increase of approximately 1.4 percent in the number of docketed appeals since the 1999 Term. Among the five largest jurisdictions, Anne Arundel County comprised the smallest percentage of the total number of docketed appeals, recording 143 appeals in the 2003 Term. This figure represents a decrease of approximately 7.7 percent since the 1999 Term total of 155 appeals.

The total number of appeals filed and terminated and the number of

opinions issued since Fiscal Year 2000 is shown in Table CSA-3. During Fiscal Year 2004, 1,360 opinions were issued by the Court, 1,856 appeals were filed, and 1,936 appeals were disposed. Over the five-year period, the number of opinions issued has decreased nearly nine percent, from 1,491 opinions issued in Fiscal Year 2000, to 1,360 in Fiscal Year 2004. In addition, the number of appeals filed decreased nine percent over the same period, from 2,038 appeals in Fiscal Year 2000, to 1,856 in Fiscal Year 2004. Also decreasing since Fiscal Year 2000 were the number of disposed appeals. The Court reported a decrease of approximately six percent in the disposition of regular docket appeals, from 2,060 appeals in Fiscal Year 2000, to 1,936 in Fiscal Year 2004. In contrast, since Fiscal Year 2000, the number of disposed miscellaneous cases, including post conviction, inmate grievance, violations of probation, and other miscellaneous cases, increased significantly. As illustrated in Table CSA-6, there was an overall increase of more than 46 percent in the number of miscellaneous dispositions, from 324 in Fiscal Year 2000, to 474 in Fiscal Year 2004. Responsible for the increase was a reported rise in all categories of miscellaneous cases, with the greatest increase occurring in the number of disposed inmate grievance cases, which increased more than 100 percent, from 39 cases in Fiscal Year 2000, to 101 in Fiscal Year 2004. Also contributing to the overall increase was a 62.5 percent increase in violation of probation dispositions, from 32 in Fiscal Year 2000, to 84 in Fiscal Year 2004.

As previously mentioned, there were 1,935 dispositions reported by the Court of Special Appeals in

Fiscal Year 2004. As shown in Table CSA-7, approximately 51 percent, or 989 of the decisions of the lower court were affirmed, while 26 percent, or 501 cases, were dismissed prior to argument or submission. Of the total number of dispositions reported, 1,162 were criminal cases, 724 were civil cases, and 49 were juvenile cases. Additionally, of the total number of cases disposed in Fiscal Year 2004, 1,114 cases, or 57.5 percent, originated in the 2003 Docket. Table CSA-9 is a graphical depiction of the average time interval for disposed cases. In disposing its caseload, the Court of Special Appeals averaged 3.5 months from argument to decision during Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease

of half a month since the previous fiscal year. In contrast, the average amount of time from docketing to argument increased almost a month since Fiscal Year 2003, from 6.1 months in that year, to 6.9 in Fiscal Year 2004.

As illustrated in Table CSA-4, from the 2001 Term to the 2003 Term, the Court of Special Appeals reported a decrease of 1.5 percent in the number of information reports received. In the 2003 Term, 89 percent, or 997 cases, proceeded without a prehearing conference, while approximately 11 percent, or 125 cases, were assigned a prehearing conference. Comparatively, 78 percent of the information reports received in the 2001 Term proceeded without a

prehearing conference and approximately 22.2 percent were assigned to prehearing conferences. Of the information reports assigned to prehearing conferences in the 2003 Term, approximately 65.6 percent, or 82 cases, proceeded without limitation of issues, and 42 cases, or 33.6 percent, were pending at the end of the term (Table CSA-5).

At the end of Fiscal Year 2004, there were 1,346 cases pending in the Court of Special Appeals (Table CSA-8). This pending caseload included 663 civil cases, 635 criminal cases, and 48 juvenile cases, which primarily comprised matters that have been scheduled for argument, as well as cases that have been argued or are awaiting issuance of opinions.

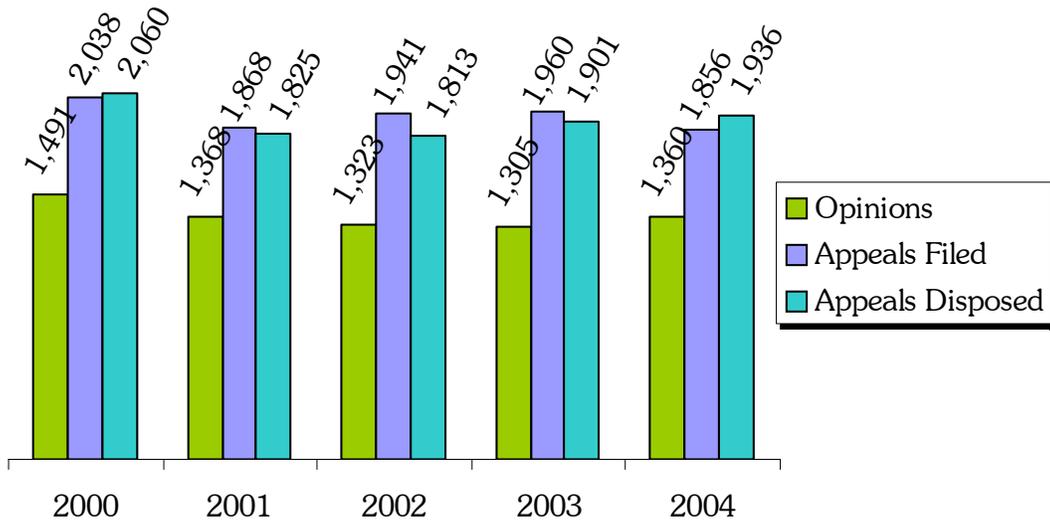
TABLE CSA-2

**ORIGIN OF APPEALS BY
APPELLATE JUDICIAL CIRCUITS AND JURISDICTIONS
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS**

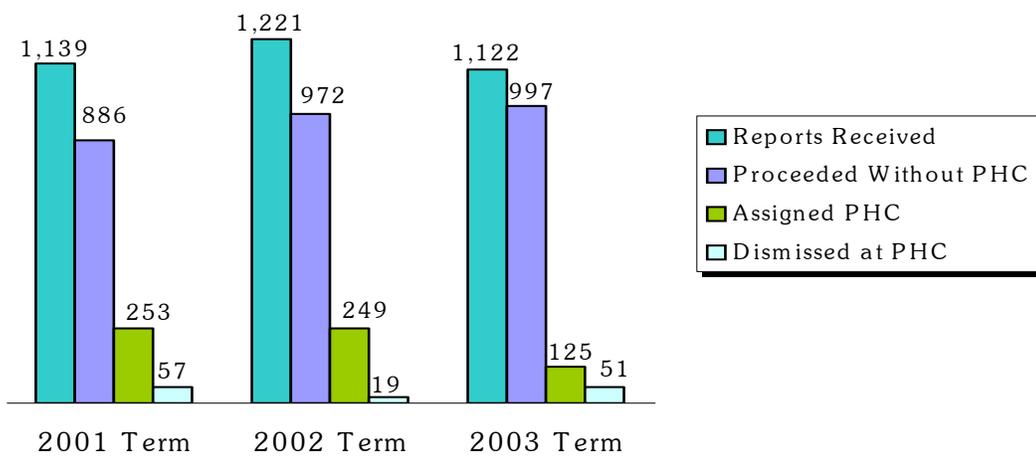
**REGULAR DOCKET
2003 TERM**

FIRST APPELLATE CIRCUIT	191		10.1%
Caroline County	12		
Cecil County	28		
Dorchester County	17		
Kent County	14		
Queen Anne's County	22		
Somerset County	11		
Talbot County	19		
Wicomico County	44		
Worcester County	24		
SECOND APPELLATE CIRCUIT	278		14.8%
Baltimore County	220		
Harford County	58		
THIRD APPELLATE CIRCUIT	238		12.6%
Allegany County	29		
Carroll County	38		
Frederick County	41		
Garrett County	4		
Howard County	62		
Washington County	64		
FOURTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	300		15.9%
Prince George's County	300		
FIFTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	219		11.6%
Anne Arundel County	143		
Calvert County	21		
Charles County	33		
St. Mary's County	22		
SIXTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	379		20.1%
Baltimore City	379		
SEVENTH APPELLATE CIRCUIT	279		14.8%
Montgomery County	279		
TOTAL	1,884		100.0%

**TABLE CSA-3
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS-APPEALS ACTUALLY
FILED AND TERMINATED WITHIN FISCAL YEAR**



**TABLE CSA-4
PREHEARING CONFERENCE REPORTS
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS**



**TABLE CSA-5
DISPOSITION OF INFORMATION REPORTS
ASSIGNED FOR PREHEARING CONFERENCE
2003 TERM**

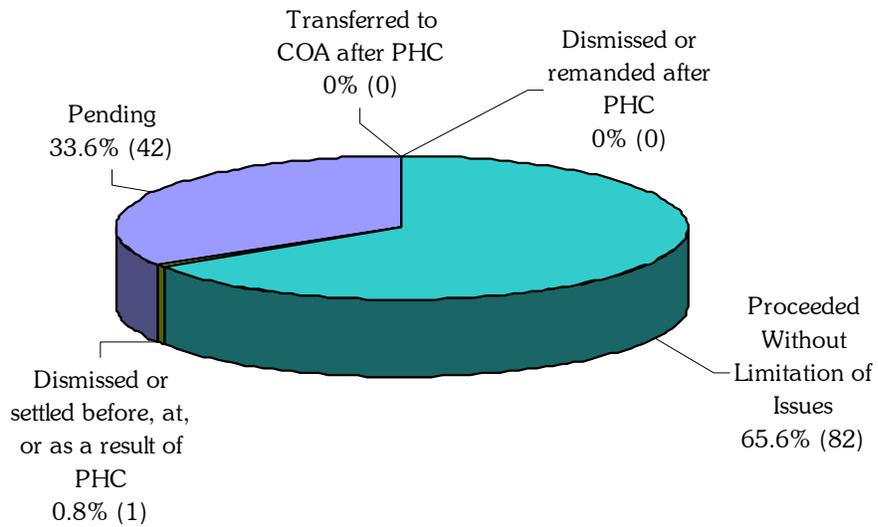


TABLE CSA-6
FIVE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
DISPOSITION OF APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE TO APPEAL
AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CASES
FISCAL YEAR 2000 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
POST CONVICTION-TOTAL	216	218	311	216	244
Granted	11	2	3	2	0
Dismissed or Transferred	6	12	19	8	30
Denied	199	204	285	206	213
Remanded	0	0	4	0	1
INMATE GRIEVANCE-TOTAL	39	113	99	117	101
Granted	0	0	0	0	0
Dismissed or Transferred	6	15	14	12	12
Denied	33	98	85	105	89
Remanded	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS-TOTAL	37	25	85	38	45
Granted	0	4	1	0	0
Dismissed or Transferred	17	4	9	16	8
Denied	17	16	70	21	36
Remanded	3	1	5	1	1
VIOLATIONS OF PROBATION-TOTAL	32	85	73	52	84
Granted	2	2	1	0	0
Dismissed or Transferred	9	24	14	11	14
Denied	21	59	58	41	69
Remanded	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	324	441	568	423	474

TABLE CSA-7
CASES DISPOSED BY
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
REGULAR DOCKET
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Affirmed	502	20	467	989
Reversed	109	7	67	183
Dismissed - Opinion Filed	42	1	1	44
Remanded Without Affirmance or Reversal	13	0	4	17
Vacated and Remanded	74	2	46	122
Affirmed in Part, Reversed in Part	11	1	1	13
Dismissed Prior to Argument or Submission	361	17	123	501
Transferred to Court of Appeals	48	1	14	63
Other	2	0	1	3
Origin				
1994 Docket	2	0	0	2
1995 Docket	0	0	0	0
1996 Docket	1	0	0	1
1997 Docket	0	0	0	0
1998 Docket	1	0	0	1
1999 Docket	2	0	1	3
2000 Docket	7	0	1	8
2001 Docket	15	0	17	32
2002 Docket	283	20	395	698
2003 Docket	795	28	291	1,114
2004 Docket	56	1	19	76
Total Cases Disposed During Fiscal Year 2004	1,162	49	724	1,935

TABLE CSA-8
AVERAGE INTERVALS FOR
CASES DISPOSED BY
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
REGULAR DOCKET
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Docketing to Argument or to Disposition Without Argument *	Argument to Decision**
Days	208	107
Months	6.9	3.6
Number of Cases	1,370	1,360
* Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal Year 2004.		
** Includes all cases disposed in Fiscal Year 2004 which were argued.		

TABLE CSA-9
CASES PENDING
COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS
REGULAR DOCKET
June 30, 2004

	Civil	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
Origin				
1996 Docket	10	0	2	12
1997 Docket	3	0	1	4
1998 Docket	2	0	0	2
1999 Docket	8	0	1	9
2000 Docket	3	0	1	4
2001 Docket	10	0	3	13
2002 Docket	46	2	77	125
2003 Docket	505	42	465	1,012
2004 Docket	76	4	85	165
Total	663	48	635	1,346

The Circuit Courts

THE CIRCUIT COURTS

The circuit courts are the highest common law and equity courts of record exercising original jurisdiction within the State. Each has full common law and equity powers and jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases within its county, along with all of the additional powers and jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and the law, except when jurisdiction has been limited or conferred upon another tribunal by law. The circuit courts handle nearly 300,000 cases per year. In addition to their judicial functions, the circuit courts are responsible for recording the State's land records

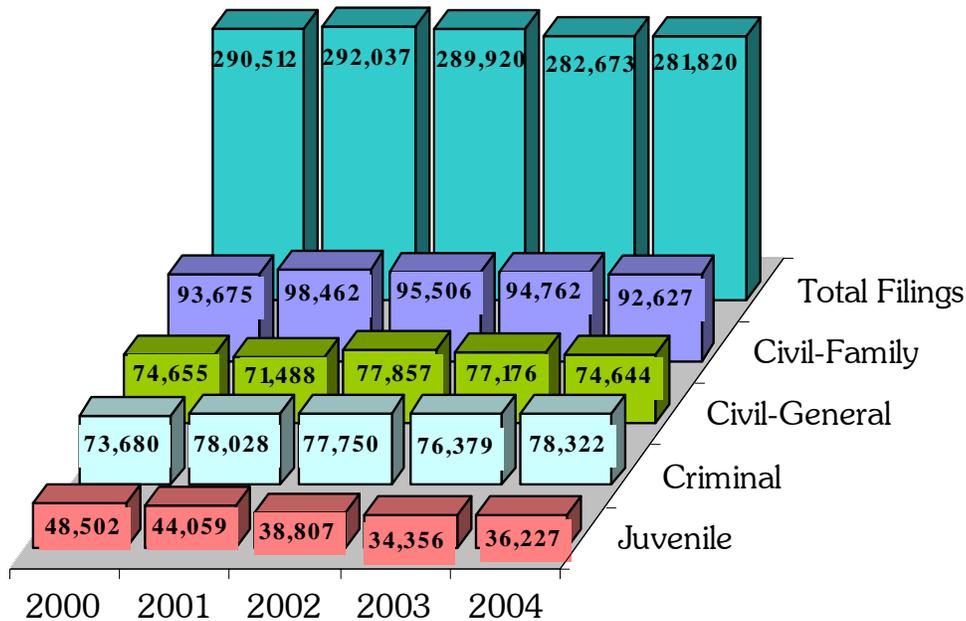
transactions, as well as issuing a number of business licenses and marriage licenses. The judges and clerks of court often are called upon to perform civil marriage ceremonies.

There is a circuit court in each county of the State and Baltimore City. Its jurisdiction is very broad, but generally, it handles the major civil cases, the more serious criminal matters, and all family matters. The circuit courts also decide appeals from the District Court and certain administrative agencies.

The courts are grouped into eight geographical circuits. Each of the first seven circuits comprises two

or more counties, while the Eighth Judicial Circuit only consists of Baltimore City. As of July 1, 2003, there were 146 authorized circuit court judgeships, with at least one judge for each county and 30 in Baltimore City. There are seven single-judge jurisdictions in the State. Unlike the other three court levels in Maryland, there is no chief judge who is administrative head of the circuit courts. There are, however, eight circuit administrative judges appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. They perform administrative duties in each of their respective circuits and are assisted by county

**TABLE CC-1
CIRCUIT COURT - FILINGS BY FISCAL YEAR**



administrative judges.

Each circuit court judge initially is appointed to office by the Governor and must stand for election at the next general election which follows, by at least one year, the vacancy the judge was appointed to fill. The judge may be opposed by one or more members of the bar. The successful candidate is elected to a fifteen-year term of office.

The Circuit Courts have experienced a slight decrease in overall filing activity over the last three years. Total filings reportedly decreased approximately 2.6 percent, from 289,920 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 282,211 filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Contributing most significantly to the decline were decreases in four of the five larger jurisdictions.

The greatest statistical decrease was reported by Prince George's County, with 40,615 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 37,383 in Fiscal Year 2004 representing a decrease of eight percent. Baltimore City followed, with 68,457 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to the Fiscal Year 2004 level of 67,291 filings, representing a decrease of approximately 1.7 percent. Montgomery and Baltimore Counties each reported a decrease of 2.7 percent. There were 34,493 total filings reported by Montgomery County during Fiscal Year 2004, compared with the Fiscal Year 2002 total of 35,921 filings, while Baltimore County's 29,078 Fiscal Year 2004 filings represented a decrease from the 29,874 filings reported in Fiscal Year 2002. In contrast, Anne Arundel County was the only large jurisdiction to report an increase over the three-year period. This jurisdiction reported an increase of approximately 15.2 percent, from 20,712 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 23,853 filings in Fiscal Year

2004. Largely responsible for the increase in Anne Arundel County were three-year increases in three of the four major functional areas.

Filings

Over the last three years, overall decreases were reported in three of the four major functional areas, with the only increase occurring in criminal cases. Civil-general filings decreased most significantly over the three-year period, from 77,857 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 74,644 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of more than four percent. During Fiscal Year 2002, civil-general filings comprised 27 percent of the total caseload, compared with 26.5 percent of the total in Fiscal Year 2004. Civil-family filings followed, decreasing three percent, from 95,506 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 92,627 filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Despite the overall decreases, civil-family filings continued to comprise the greatest percentage of total filings, with 33 percent in both Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004. Finally, juvenile filings decreased approximately 5.6 percent, from 38,807 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 36,618 filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Approximately 13.4 percent of the Fiscal Year 2002 total caseload comprised juvenile matters, compared with 13 percent during Fiscal Year 2004. The decrease in juvenile filings may be partly attributed to changes with regard to the manner in which child welfare cases are reported. As previously mentioned, criminal was the only case type in which an increase occurred over the three-year period, from 77,750 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 78,322 filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Criminal filings comprised 27 percent of the total number of filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 28 percent in

Fiscal Year 2004.

As noted, civil-general filings decreased more than four percent between Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004. Responsible for the decrease were decreases in nearly every category of civil-general filings, with the most significant decreases reported in other tort, other law, and "unreported" case filings. Since Fiscal Year 2002, the only increases were reported in motor tort, contested confessed judgment and other general cases. Among the five largest jurisdictions, decreases in civil-general cases were reported by Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, and Baltimore City, while Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties reported increases over the three-year period. Among the jurisdictions reporting decreases, Baltimore City reported the most significant decrease in civil-general filings, from 19,432 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 17,977 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 7.5 percent. The decrease in Baltimore City can be attributed to decreases in all categories with the exception of motor tort and other general filings. Montgomery County followed, with 14,035 civil-general filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 12,882 filings in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of more than eight percent. In this jurisdiction, the most significant decreases were reported in other general and unreported category filings. Prince George's County reported a decrease of approximately 5.4 percent in civil-general filings, from 11,971 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 11,330 in Fiscal Year 2004. Among the categories of civil-general filings, the most significant decreases in this jurisdiction were reported in contract and other general filings. The remaining two larger jurisdictions reported increases in civil-general filings between Fiscal

Years 2002 and 2004. Baltimore County reported the most significant increase, from 8,729 civil-general filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 9,166 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of approximately five percent. Anne Arundel County followed with a minimal increase of 2.1 percent, from 6,476 civil-general filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 6,615 in Fiscal Year 2004.

With respect to distribution of filings, Baltimore City comprised approximately 24.1 percent of the total number of civil-general filings in Fiscal Year 2004, followed by Montgomery County, which accounted for approximately 17.2 percent of the total. Prince George's County comprised 15.2 percent of the total, while Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties comprised 12.3 percent and 8.8 percent of the total number of civil-general filings, respectively.

Civil-family filings decreased approximately three percent between Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004. Decreases were reported by Baltimore City and Baltimore and Montgomery Counties, however, these decreases were mitigated by increases in Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties. Baltimore City reported the most significant decrease in civil-family filings, from 12,757 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 11,923 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 6.5 percent. In addition, this jurisdiction comprised approximately 12.8 percent of the total number of civil-family filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Largely responsible for the decrease in Baltimore City were significant decreases in paternity and domestic violence filings. Baltimore County followed, decreasing 5.5 percent, from 9,723 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 9,189 in Fiscal Year 2004. Approximately

10 percent of the total number of civil-family filings were reported by Baltimore County. The decrease in the aforementioned jurisdiction is largely due to a significant decrease in domestic violence and divorce/nullity filings over the three-year period. Finally, Montgomery County reported 11,146 civil-family filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 11,133 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of less than one percent. This jurisdiction comprised approximately 12 percent of the total number of civil-family filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Anne Arundel County reported the most significant increase in civil-family filings over the three-year period, from 5,436 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 8,270 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of approximately 52 percent. Anne Arundel County reported increases in all categories of civil-family filings, with the most significant increase in other domestic relations and paternity filings. The marked increase in Anne Arundel County's civil-family filings can also be attributed to significant increases in divorce/nullity and paternity re-opened filings. This jurisdiction accounted for approximately 5.7 percent of the total number of civil-family filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 8.9 percent in Fiscal Year 2004. Lastly, Prince George's County reported an increase of approximately 3.8 percent in filings, from 14,442 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 14,993 in Fiscal Year 2004. Responsible for the increase in Prince George's County were increases in divorce/nullity and paternity cases. This jurisdiction comprised the greatest percentage of the total number of civil-family filings in Fiscal Year 2004, with 16.2 percent of the total.

Criminal filings was the only case type in which an increase occurred, however slight, over the last three

years, from 77,750 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 78,322 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of less than one percent. Responsible for the minimal increase in criminal filings were increases reported by Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County. These increases were mitigated by significant decreases in Montgomery, Prince George's and Baltimore Counties. Baltimore City reported the most significant increase in criminal filings, from 25,378 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 27,189 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of more than seven percent over the three-year period. Baltimore City's increase is directly attributable to a 14 percent rise in indictment/information filings. Additionally, Baltimore City comprised the greatest percentage of criminal filings in Fiscal Year 2004, with 35 percent of the total. Anne Arundel County reported a lesser increase, from 6,159 criminal filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 6,389 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of approximately 3.7 percent. The increase in Anne Arundel County can be attributed to an increase in jury trial prayers emanating from the District Court. This jurisdiction comprised approximately 8.2 percent of the total number of criminal filings in Fiscal Year 2004. As previously mentioned, Montgomery, Prince George's and Baltimore Counties reported decreases in criminal filings between Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004. The most significant decrease was reported by Montgomery County, with 6,722 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 5,046 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 25 percent. Responsible for the decrease were significant decreases in jury trial prayers, largely due to the continued use of the Instant Jury Trial Program. Montgomery County comprised approximately 6.4

percent of the total number of criminal filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Prince George's County reported a decrease of more than 16 percent over the three-year period, from 9,640 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 8,080 in Fiscal Year 2004. Prince George's County recorded decreases in all criminal case categories, where, again, the most significant decrease was reported in jury trial prayers. Additionally, this jurisdiction comprised approximately 10.3 percent of the total number of criminal filings. Finally, Baltimore County reported 6,807 criminal filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 6,334 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of nearly seven percent. Decreases were reported in all categories of criminal filings except jury trial prayers. Baltimore County accounted for more than eight percent of the total number of criminal filings in Fiscal Year 2004.

Between Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004, juvenile filings decreased approximately 5.6 percent. Largely responsible for the decrease were decreases reported by four of the five larger jurisdictions. Of the jurisdictions reporting decreases, the most significant decrease was reported by Prince George's County, from 4,562 juvenile filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 2,980 in Fiscal Year 2004 representing a decrease of 35 percent, with the most significant decrease in delinquency filings. Prince George's County comprised 11.7 percent of the total number of juvenile filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to approximately 8.1 percent in Fiscal Year 2004. Baltimore City followed, with 10,890 juvenile filings in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 10,202 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 6.3 percent. Decreases in Baltimore City occurred in all categories of juvenile filings except child in need

of supervision cases. Additionally, Baltimore City comprised the greatest percentage of juvenile filings in Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004, with 28.1 percent and 28.2 percent of the total, respectively. Baltimore County followed, decreasing nearly five percent, from 4,615 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 4,389 in Fiscal Year 2004. The decrease in Baltimore County is mainly attributable to a decrease in delinquency filings. This jurisdiction comprised approximately 12.1 percent of the total number of juvenile filings in Fiscal Year 2004. Anne Arundel County reported a minimal decrease over the three-year period, from 2,641 filings in Fiscal Year 2002, to 2,579 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 2.3 percent. This jurisdiction reported approximately 7.1 percent of the total number of juvenile filings in Fiscal Year 2004, compared to 6.8 percent in Fiscal Year 2002. Responsible for the decrease over the three-year period were decreases in delinquency and child in need of assistance filings. In addition, many decreases in juvenile filings can be attributed to changes in the reporting of child welfare cases. Finally, Montgomery County reported a significant increase of 46.4 percent in juvenile filings over the three-year period, from 4,018 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 5,881 in Fiscal Year 2004 with the most noteworthy increases reported in child in need of assistance, guardianship, and peace order filings.

Terminations

Between Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004, the circuit courts recorded a 6.6 percent decrease in terminations, from 274,927 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 256,698 in Fiscal Year 2004. Four of the five larger jurisdictions

reported decreases in terminations over the three-year period. Prince George's County reported the most significant statistical decrease, from 41,611 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 34,374 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of more than 17 percent. Baltimore County followed, reporting 31,996 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 25,524 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 20.2 percent. The decrease in terminations in Baltimore County over the three-year period was due to significant decreases in civil-general and civil-family terminations. Montgomery County followed, decreasing 6.3 percent, from 35,585 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 33,333 in Fiscal Year 2004. Baltimore City reported a decrease of 3.3 percent in terminations over the three-year period. Anne Arundel County was the only large jurisdiction to report an increase in overall terminations, from 19,609 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 25,516 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of more than 30 percent. Responsible for the increase in this jurisdiction were significant increases in all case types except juvenile terminations.

Overall, a decrease of 7.7 percent occurred in civil-general terminations, from 75,791 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 69,937 in Fiscal Year 2004. In Fiscal Years 2002 and 2004, civil-general terminations comprised approximately 27.6 percent and 27.3 percent of the total, respectively. Four of the five larger jurisdictions reported decreases in terminations over the three-year period, with the most significant decrease in Baltimore County. This jurisdiction reported a 22.3 percent decrease in civil-general terminations, from 11,121 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 8,636 in Fiscal Year 2004 with the most noteworthy decreases reported in other tort and

other general case categories. Prince George's County also reported a significant decrease in terminations, from 13,255 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 10,901 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a nearly 18 percent decrease. This jurisdiction reported decreases in nearly every category of terminations over the three-year period, with the most significant decrease in other tort and contract case categories. Anne Arundel County was the only jurisdiction to report an increase in civil-general terminations, with 5,907 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, compared to 7,974 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a three-year increase of approximately 35 percent. This jurisdiction reported significant increases in confessed judgment, other law, and other general terminations.

Civil-family terminations decreased approximately 7.5 percent over the three-year period, from 93,342 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 86,357 in Fiscal Year 2004. Four of the five larger jurisdictions reported decreases in civil-family terminations, with the most significant decrease reported by Baltimore County. This jurisdiction reported a decrease of more than 34 percent, from 11,192 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 7,372 in Fiscal Year 2004. Responsible for the decrease were decreases in all categories of civil-family terminations, with the most noteworthy decrease occurring in divorce/nullity terminations. The other three larger jurisdictions reported minimal decreases in civil-family terminations. Anne Arundel County was the only jurisdiction to report an increase, from 5,480 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 9,451 in Fiscal Year 2004. Responsible for the increase were significant increases in divorce/nullity and other domestic relations terminations.

Also decreasing over the three-

year period were criminal terminations, from 72,859 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 71,297 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of more than two percent. Substantial decreases of 29.4 percent and 27.9 percent were reported by Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, respectively. Largely responsible for the decrease in criminal terminations in Prince George's County were decreases in jury trial prayers. Montgomery County also reported significant decreases in jury trial prayer terminations. Baltimore City and Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties each reported increases in criminal terminations, with the greatest increase reported by Baltimore City. This jurisdiction reported an increase of 6.7 percent, from 23,417 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 24,975 in Fiscal Year 2004, with the greatest increase in indictment/information terminations.

Juvenile terminations decreased approximately 11.6 percent, from 32,935 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 29,107 in Fiscal Year 2004. Four of the five major jurisdictions reported decreases in juvenile terminations, with the greatest decrease reported by Prince George's County with a decrease of more than 43 percent from 3,794 terminations in Fiscal Year 2002, to 2,158 in Fiscal Year 2004. The significant decrease can be attributed to a decrease in delinquency terminations. Baltimore City followed, reporting a decrease of nearly 10 percent in juvenile terminations, from 8,767 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 7,902 in Fiscal Year 2004. Largely responsible for the decrease were decreases in child welfare cases. Montgomery County was the only jurisdiction to report an increase in juvenile terminations, from 4,094 in Fiscal Year 2002, to 4,365 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of approximately 6.6 percent.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the number of days from filing to the disposition of civil cases was approximately 204 days, representing a decrease of an average of eight days from the Fiscal Year 2002 total of 212 days. Criminal filings were disposed of in an average of 120 days in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase from the Fiscal Year 2002 average of 113 days. Finally juvenile filings were disposed of in approximately 78 days in Fiscal Year 2004, increasing slightly from the Fiscal Year 2002 average of 77 days.

Trials/Hearings

The circuit courts conducted 331,912 judicial proceedings in Fiscal Year 2004. In the previous fiscal year, there were 339,809 judicial proceedings, representing a two-year decrease of approximately 2.3 percent. The overall decrease may be partly attributed to reporting problems with respect to juvenile hearings.

During Fiscal Year 2004, there were 10,846 court and jury trials conducted in the circuit courts, representing an increase of approximately 1.3 percent since Fiscal Year 2003. Overall, court trials decreased approximately 0.7 percent, while jury trials increased approximately eight percent since Fiscal Year 2003. The most significant increase occurred in criminal court trials, from 1,669 court trials in Fiscal Year 2003, to 2,097 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing an increase of approximately 26 percent. Civil court trials decreased most significantly, from 6,581 court trials in Fiscal Year 2003, to 6,092 in Fiscal Year 2004. Over the two-year period, hearings (including civil, criminal, and juvenile) decreased approximately 2.4 percent, from 329,099 hearings in Fiscal Year 2003, to 321,066 in Fiscal Year

2004. Civil hearings increased approximately two percent, from 96,954 in Fiscal Year 2003, to 98,888 in Fiscal Year 2004, while criminal hearings decreased less than one percent since Fiscal Year 2003. Juvenile hearings decreased significantly, however, this may be due to reporting problems.

Since Fiscal Year 2000, jury trial requests emanating from the District Court, have increased approximately 6.2 percent, from 30,333 in Fiscal Year 2000, to 32,202 in Fiscal Year 2004. Anne Arundel County reported a more than 100 percent increase in requests for jury trials, from 532 in Fiscal Year 2000, to 1,268 in Fiscal Year 2004. As a result of the continued utilization of the Instant Jury Trial Prayer Program, Montgomery County reported the most significant decrease in jury trial requests, from 2,014 requests in Fiscal Year 2000, to 639 in Fiscal Year 2004, representing a decrease of approximately 68.3 percent.

Fiscal Year 2004 closed with a total of 238,411 pending cases. Criminal cases comprised the greatest percentage of the pending caseload, with 71,737 cases, representing 30 percent of the total. Civil-family cases followed, with 67,976 cases, comprising approximately 28.5 percent of the total. There were 65,246 civil-general cases, comprising 27.4 percent of the total, while the juvenile pending caseload comprised 14 percent of the total, with 33,382 pending cases.

The Circuit Courts also are responsible for a myriad of non-judicial functions, such as issuing marriage and business licenses and recording land instruments. For the first time, data regarding those functions are included in the *Annual Report*. Data may be incomplete in some jurisdictions. Over the last three years, the Circuit Courts have issued a total of 264,078 business licenses and in excess of 122,000 marriage licenses.

Additionally, the clerks have performed approximately 66,253 civil marriages. During that same period, almost five million land instruments have been recorded, including nearly two million during Fiscal Year 2004 alone. The courts also recorded 390,599 judgments and liens, administered 21,826 oaths to elected officials and gubernatorial appointees, issued 64,651 notaries, and processed 31,533 passports. Over the three-year period, land records and license collections in the Circuit Courts total approximately \$1,312,491,568.

The Circuit Courts continue to serve the citizenry of Maryland in an efficient manner, effectively managing the public's resources as they conduct their judicial or case processing duties, fairly and expeditiously dispensing justice, as well as their non-judicial responsibilities.

TABLE CC-2						
THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE						
ALL CASES						
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS						
FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004						
	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED					
	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations
First Circuit	15,813	15,695	15,189	13,785	14,998	14,303
Dorchester	2,442	2,542	2,252	2,134	2,192	2,216
Somerset	2,016	2,019	1,865	1,717	1,916	1,844
Wicomico	6,185	5,948	6,412	5,781	5,977	5,541
Worcester	5,170	5,186	4,660	4,153	4,913	4,702
Second Circuit	14,420	12,922	13,530	11,418	12,765	11,701
Caroline	1,845	1,641	1,827	1,393	1,831	1,744
Cecil	7,620	6,512	7,154	5,993	6,727	6,019
Kent	1,111	997	1,087	1,030	1,160	1,031
Queen Anne's	1,515	1,467	1,488	1,382	1,453	1,360
Talbot	2,329	2,305	1,974	1,620	1,594	1,547
Third Circuit	40,331	40,503	39,726	33,843	38,526	32,459
Baltimore	29,874	31,966	30,031	26,895	29,078	25,524
Harford	10,457	8,537	9,695	6,948	9,448	6,935
Fourth Circuit	13,518	12,627	14,148	13,007	14,261	13,047
Allegany	3,470	3,292	3,564	3,505	3,647	3,269
Garrett	1,122	911	1,077	990	1,118	1,082
Washington	8,926	8,424	9,507	8,512	9,496	8,696
Fifth Circuit	35,344	33,453	37,048	33,395	37,521	38,009
Anne Arundel	20,712	19,609	22,454	20,328	23,853	25,516
Carroll	6,655	6,479	7,348	6,820	6,533	5,703
Howard	7,977	7,365	7,246	6,247	7,135	6,790
Sixth Circuit	45,173	43,078	44,526	43,105	43,187	40,324
Frederick	9,252	7,493	8,488	6,930	8,245	6,991
Montgomery	35,921	35,585	36,038	36,175	34,942	33,333
Seventh Circuit	56,864	57,217	55,835	51,839	53,662	49,380
Calvert	4,779	4,383	4,153	3,512	4,341	3,778
Charles	8,010	7,716	8,097	7,308	7,864	7,463
Prince George's	40,615	41,611	39,866	37,541	37,383	34,374
St. Mary's	3,460	3,507	3,719	3,478	4,074	3,765
Eighth Circuit	68,457	59,432	62,671	55,342	67,291	57,475
Baltimore City	68,457	59,432	62,671	55,342	67,291	57,475
STATE	289,920	274,927	282,673	255,734	282,211	256,698

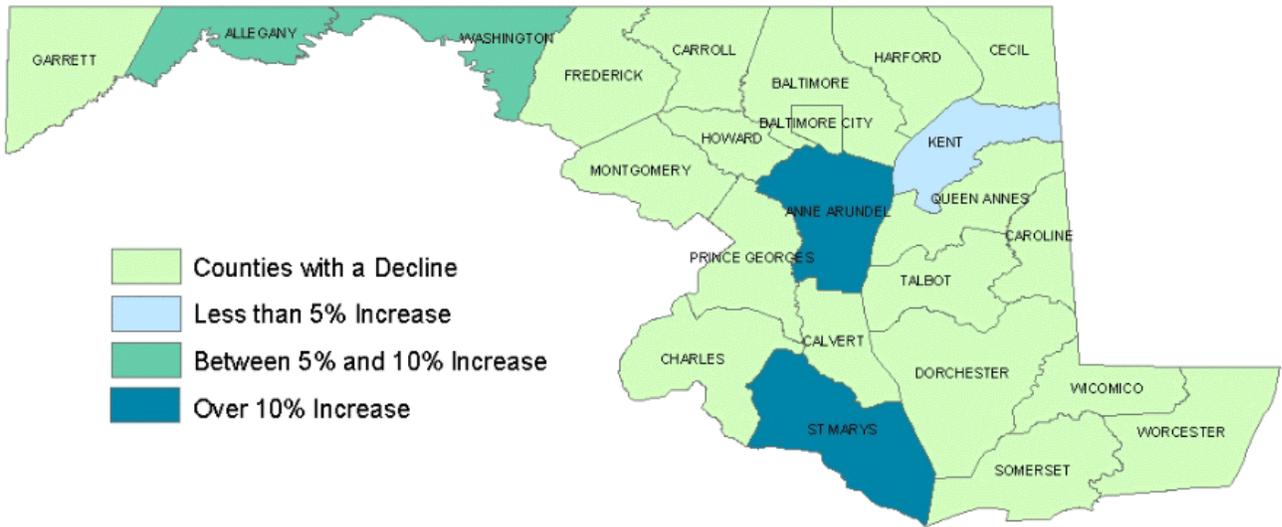
TABLE CC-3

**COMPARATIVE TABLE ON FILINGS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS**

FISCAL YEAR 2003 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

	CIVIL-GENERAL			CIVIL-FAMILY			CRIMINAL			JUVENILE			TOTAL		
	2002-03	2003-04	% Change	2002-03	2003-04	% Change									
First Circuit															
Dorchester	377	359	-4.8	1,054	1,086	3.0	693	599	-13.6	128	148	15.6	2,252	2,192	-2.7
Somerset	294	360	22.4	1,112	1,083	-2.6	352	341	-3.1	107	132	23.4	1,865	1,916	2.7
Wicomico	857	802	-6.4	2,629	1,870	-28.9	2,501	2,810	12.4	425	495	16.5	6,412	5,977	-6.8
Worcester	986	996	1.0	2,029	2,084	2.7	1,416	1,495	5.6	229	338	47.6	4,660	4,913	5.4
Second Circuit															
Caroline	287	251	-12.5	1,043	1,003	-3.8	331	370	11.8	166	207	24.7	1,827	1,831	0.2
Cecil	1,176	1,240	5.4	3,617	2,736	-24.4	1,963	2,285	16.4	398	466	17.1	7,154	6,727	-6.0
Kent	190	230	21.1	520	536	3.1	274	312	13.9	103	82	-20.4	1,087	1,160	6.7
Queen Anne's	491	463	-5.7	585	513	-12.3	249	337	35.3	163	140	-14.1	1,488	1,453	-2.4
Talbot	330	279	-15.5	902	673	-25.4	436	390	-10.6	306	252	-17.6	1,974	1,594	-19.3
Third Circuit															
Baltimore	9,039	9,166	1.4	10,443	9,189	-12.0	6,606	6,334	-4.1	3,943	4,389	11.3	30,031	29,078	-3.2
Harford	1,859	1,875	0.9	4,420	3,980	-10.0	2,538	2,683	5.7	878	910	3.6	9,695	9,448	-2.5
Fourth Circuit															
Allegany	1,004	989	-1.5	1,474	1,470	-0.3	629	743	18.1	457	445	-2.6	3,564	3,647	2.3
Garrett	238	243	2.1	580	630	8.6	160	167	4.4	99	78	-21.2	1,077	1,118	3.8
Washington	1,219	1,064	-12.7	4,567	4,256	-6.8	2,895	2,982	3.0	826	1,194	44.6	9,507	9,496	-0.1
Fifth Circuit															
Anne Arundel	7,055	6,615	-6.2	6,610	8,270	25.1	6,359	6,389	0.5	2,430	2,579	6.1	22,454	23,853	6.2
Carroll	1,502	1,203	-19.9	2,618	1,979	-24.4	2,242	2,414	7.7	986	937	-5.0	7,348	6,533	-11.1
Howard	1,854	1,895	2.2	2,455	2,324	-5.3	2,071	2,014	-2.8	866	902	4.2	7,246	7,135	-1.5
Sixth Circuit															
Frederick	1,481	1,393	-5.9	3,202	3,322	3.7	2,451	2,338	-4.6	1,354	1,192	-12.0	8,488	8,245	-2.9
Montgomery	14,057	12,882	-8.4	11,367	11,133	-2.1	5,540	5,046	-8.9	5,074	5,881	15.9	36,038	34,942	-3.0
Seventh Circuit															
Calvert	837	828	-1.1	2,300	2,338	1.7	450	502	11.6	566	673	18.9	4,153	4,341	4.5
Charles	1,553	1,502	-3.3	3,582	3,033	-15.3	1,790	1,804	0.8	1,172	1,525	30.1	8,097	7,864	-2.9
Prince George's	12,017	11,330	-5.7	14,698	14,993	2.0	8,855	8,080	-8.8	4,296	2,980	-30.6	39,866	37,383	-6.2
St. Mary's	753	702	-6.8	1,928	2,203	14.3	642	698	8.7	396	471	18.9	3,719	4,074	9.5
Eighth Circuit															
Baltimore City	17,720	17,977	1.5	11,027	11,923	8.1	24,936	27,189	9.0	8,988	10,202	13.5	62,671	67,291	7.4
STATE	77,176	74,644	-3.3	94,762	92,627	-2.3	76,379	78,322	2.5	34,356	36,618	6.6	282,673	282,211	-0.2

MAP 1
Circuit Courts
Fiscal Years 2002-2004
Percent Change in Overall Filings



**TABLE CC-4
CATEGORIES OF FILINGS
ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED**

**JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004**

	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Garrett	Washington	Anne Arundel	Carroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's	St. Mary's	Baltimore City	TOTAL
TOTAL CIVIL - GENERAL	359	360	802	996	251	1,240	230	463	279	9,166	1,875	989	243	1,064	6,615	1,203	1,895	1,393	12,882	828	1,502	11,330	702	17,977	74,644
Motor Tort	18	7	65	49	12	159	9	41	20	1,122	200	55	19	94	505	95	171	127	689	73	133	1,187	63	1,396	6,309
Other Tort	8	4	0	30	7	51	12	5	21	419	41	5	11	40	20	33	75	46	749	0	70	726	11	2,313	4,697
Contract	16	10	13	69	21	42	13	30	27	872	81	15	5	54	497	69	235	128	1,571	19	90	732	43	582	5,234
Condemnation	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	13	11	5	1	0	7	7	1	6	26	0	20	4	0	93	199
Contested Confessed Judgment	5	4	36	22	7	67	8	15	11	150	47	8	12	29	104	24	40	30	165	13	17	0	13	91	918
Other Law	14	30	33	34	4	78	21	20	24	219	74	23	14	89	159	66	84	29	5,542	75	83	577	64	1,516	8,872
Appeals																									
District Court-On Record	3	0	1	2	1	9	5	4	3	88	7	2	0	10	3	0	9	17	113	3	12	94	7	74	467
District Court-De Novo	5	1	0	2	4	13	8	6	4	154	22	8	1	23	4	20	36	32	266	14	38	136	12	132	941
Administrative Agency	30	54	54	27	10	57	14	22	13	715	191	159	18	159	260	122	208	99	500	40	75	384	32	854	4,097
Other General	256	224	596	758	183	752	138	319	153	5,361	1,200	669	162	545	4,933	753	1,028	868	3,252	586	961	7,454	451	10,819	42,421
Unreported Category	3	26	2	2	2	12	2	1	2	53	1	40	0	21	123	14	8	11	9	5	3	36	6	107	489
TOTAL CIVIL-FAMILY	1,086	1,083	1,870	2,084	1,003	2,736	536	513	673	9,189	3,980	1,470	630	4,256	8,270	1,979	2,324	3,322	11,133	2,338	3,033	14,993	2,203	11,923	92,627
Divorce/Nullity	206	186	594	356	293	691	167	218	260	4,069	1,471	542	224	1,086	4,939	918	1,249	1,367	6,217	709	1,011	7,147	674	3,265	37,859
Other Domestic Relations	399	359	594	568	361	1,156	159	165	224	3,116	1,279	618	295	1,951	1,594	554	572	1,268	1,130	704	844	3,189	688	1,965	23,752
Adoption/Guardianship	11	8	22	25	16	26	11	13	5	256	70	16	10	37	430	62	56	66	1,748	34	32	125	25	181	3,285
Paternity	422	473	629	1,112	193	722	155	114	161	1,257	843	285	89	1,158	906	113	280	544	1,393	836	835	4,013	621	6,271	23,425
Domestic Violence	48	57	31	23	140	141	44	3	23	491	317	9	12	24	401	332	167	77	645	55	311	519	195	241	4,306
TOTAL JUVENILE	148	132	495	338	207	466	82	140	252	4,389	910	445	78	1,194	2,579	937	902	1,192	5,881	673	1,525	2,980	471	10,202	36,618
Delinquency	130	87	372	276	174	417	75	124	223	3,651	708	340	32	933	2,483	869	810	938	4,057	610	1,455	2,233	437	7,055	28,489
Adult	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	14
Child In Need of Supervision	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	20	1	5	12	3	0	22	0	0	0	3	0	167	236
Child In Need of Assistance	11	36	83	58	24	43	4	14	17	556	140	77	25	202	65	31	60	165	1,546	31	48	458	24	1,957	5,675
Guardianship	4	6	13	3	3	5	1	0	5	52	30	8	6	23	2	6	13	21	149	10	12	200	3	320	895
Adoption	3		13	0	3	1	0	1	7	39	18	0	14	20	1	0	0	27	38	7	4	66	7	456	725
Peace Orders	0	3	14	0	2	0	0	0	0	90	14	0	0	11	15	22	18	18	89	15	0	0	0	242	553
Unreported Category	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	20	0	5	31
TOTAL CRIMINAL	599	341	2,810	1,495	370	2,285	312	337	390	6,334	2,683	743	167	2,982	6,389	2,414	2,014	2,338	5,046	502	1,804	8,080	698	27,189	78,322
Indictment/Information	395	172	1,066	375	129	551	99	133	210	3,592	769	229	91	949	4,152	651	747	612	3,175	270	671	3,554	341	16,061	38,994
Appeals From District Court																									
Motor Vehicle	15	3	27	36	17	84	17	33	27	512	94	31	6	96	294	79	111	146	507	8	48	55	14	217	2,477
Other	12	1	55	33	10	33	15	13	13	629	97	31	6	63	407	45	48	64	725	12	39	150	12	251	2,764
Jury Trial Prayed - Motor	39	28	569	518	68	515	40	43	34	413	696	131	26	551	314	613	436	753	187	99	405	1,946	109	584	9,117
Jury Trial Prayed - Other	124	137	938	522	137	652	131	99	94	1,161	980	308	29	1,119	954	985	610	747	452	112	509	2,068	219	9,998	23,085
Non Support	0	0	0	0	0	401	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	408
Post Conviction	8	0	35	3	5	2	4	14	2	0	27	4	7	30	5	2	5	8	0	0	31	217	0	48	457
Unreported Category	6	0	120	8	4	47	6	2	10	25	20	8	2	174	262	39	57	8	0	1	101	90	0	30	1,020
STATE	2,192	1,916	5,977	4,913	1,831	6,727	1,160	1,453	1,594	29,078	9,448	3,647	1,118	9,496	23,853	6,533	7,135	8,245	34,942	4,341	7,864	37,383	4,074	67,291	282,211

NOTE: Due to reporting problems, juvenile data may be incomplete.

TABLE CC-5

**THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CIVIL-GENERAL CASES
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS**

FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED					
	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations
First Circuit	2,749	2,701	2,514	2,306	2,517	2,414
Dorchester	391	378	377	360	359	323
Somerset	302	300	294	258	360	330
Wicomico	847	813	857	755	802	817
Worcester	1,209	1,210	986	933	996	944
Second Circuit	2,484	2,233	2,474	2,138	2,463	2,266
Caroline	274	184	287	206	251	253
Cecil	1,248	1,086	1,176	987	1,240	1,047
Kent	168	173	190	175	230	218
Queen Anne's	462	449	491	482	463	458
Talbot	332	341	330	288	279	290
Third Circuit	10,662	12,800	10,898	9,762	11,041	10,057
Baltimore	8,729	11,121	9,039	8,398	9,166	8,636
Harford	1,933	1,679	1,859	1,364	1,875	1,421
Fourth Circuit	2,333	2,266	2,461	2,361	2,296	2,184
Allegany	976	910	1,004	1,008	989	944
Garrett	235	203	238	215	243	206
Washington	1,122	1,153	1,219	1,138	1,064	1,034
Fifth Circuit	9,741	8,917	10,411	10,059	9,713	10,953
Anne Arundel	6,476	5,907	7,055	6,805	6,615	7,974
Carroll	1,245	1,205	1,502	1,490	1,203	1,094
Howard	2,020	1,805	1,854	1,764	1,895	1,885
Sixth Circuit	15,507	14,861	15,538	15,409	14,275	14,524
Frederick	1,472	1,183	1,481	1,231	1,393	1,309
Montgomery	14,035	13,678	14,057	14,178	12,882	13,215
Seventh Circuit	14,949	16,155	15,160	15,062	14,362	13,771
Calvert	788	809	837	767	828	698
Charles	1,507	1,403	1,553	1,334	1,502	1,479
Prince George's	11,971	13,255	12,017	12,198	11,330	10,901
St. Mary's	683	688	753	763	702	693
Eighth Circuit	19,432	15,858	17,720	14,602	17,977	13,768
Baltimore City	19,432	15,858	17,720	14,602	17,977	13,768
STATE	77,857	75,791	77,176	71,699	74,644	69,937

MAP 2
Circuit Courts
Fiscal Years 2002-2004
Percent Change in Civil-General Filings

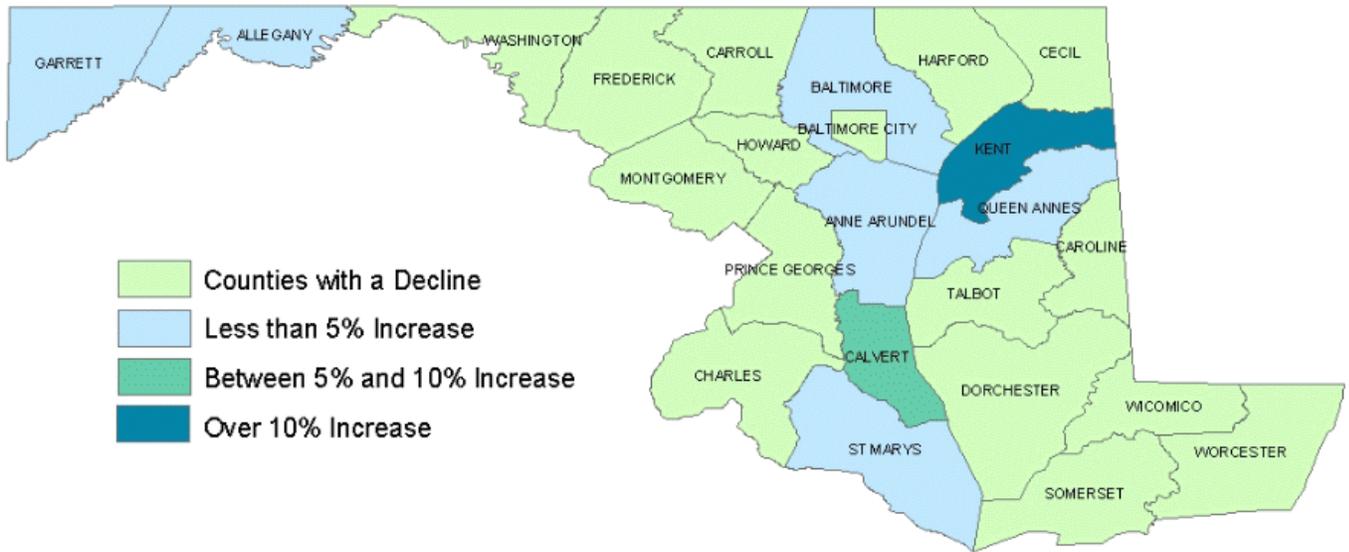


TABLE CC-6

**THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CIVIL-FAMILY CASES
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS**

FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED					
	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations
First Circuit	7,066	7,211	6,824	5,959	6,123	5,907
Dorchester	1,178	1,318	1,054	959	1,086	1,057
Somerset	1,198	1,164	1,112	1,054	1,083	1,051
Wicomico	2,367	2,262	2,629	2,281	1,870	1,793
Worcester	2,323	2,467	2,029	1,665	2,084	2,006
Second Circuit	7,164	6,818	6,667	5,764	5,461	5,409
Caroline	911	922	1,043	810	1,003	1,136
Cecil	4,000	3,655	3,617	3,243	2,736	2,611
Kent	580	527	520	502	536	459
Queen Anne's	582	607	585	561	513	541
Talbot	1,091	1,107	902	648	673	662
Third Circuit	14,890	15,291	14,863	12,773	13,169	9,838
Baltimore	9,723	11,192	10,443	9,773	9,189	7,372
Harford	5,167	4,099	4,420	3,000	3,980	2,466
Fourth Circuit	6,212	5,813	6,621	6,085	6,356	5,895
Allegany	1,429	1,318	1,474	1,435	1,470	1,356
Garrett	512	481	580	562	630	631
Washington	4,271	4,014	4,567	4,088	4,256	3,908
Fifth Circuit	10,410	10,512	11,683	10,578	12,573	13,648
Anne Arundel	5,436	5,480	6,610	5,774	8,270	9,451
Carroll	2,149	2,146	2,618	2,502	1,979	1,801
Howard	2,825	2,886	2,455	2,302	2,324	2,396
Sixth Circuit	14,359	13,535	14,569	13,732	14,455	13,439
Frederick	3,213	2,539	3,202	2,512	3,322	2,600
Montgomery	11,146	10,996	11,367	11,220	11,133	10,839
Seventh Circuit	22,648	22,772	22,508	20,702	22,567	21,391
Calvert	2,728	2,437	2,300	1,950	2,338	2,105
Charles	3,768	3,949	3,582	3,308	3,033	2,894
Prince George's	14,442	14,715	14,698	13,736	14,993	14,366
St. Mary's	1,710	1,671	1,928	1,708	2,203	2,026
Eighth Circuit	12,757	11,390	11,027	10,517	11,923	10,830
Baltimore City	12,757	11,390	11,027	10,517	11,923	10,830
STATE	95,506	93,342	94,762	86,110	92,627	86,357

MAP 3
Circuit Courts
Fiscal Years 2002-2004
Percent Change in Civil-Family Filings

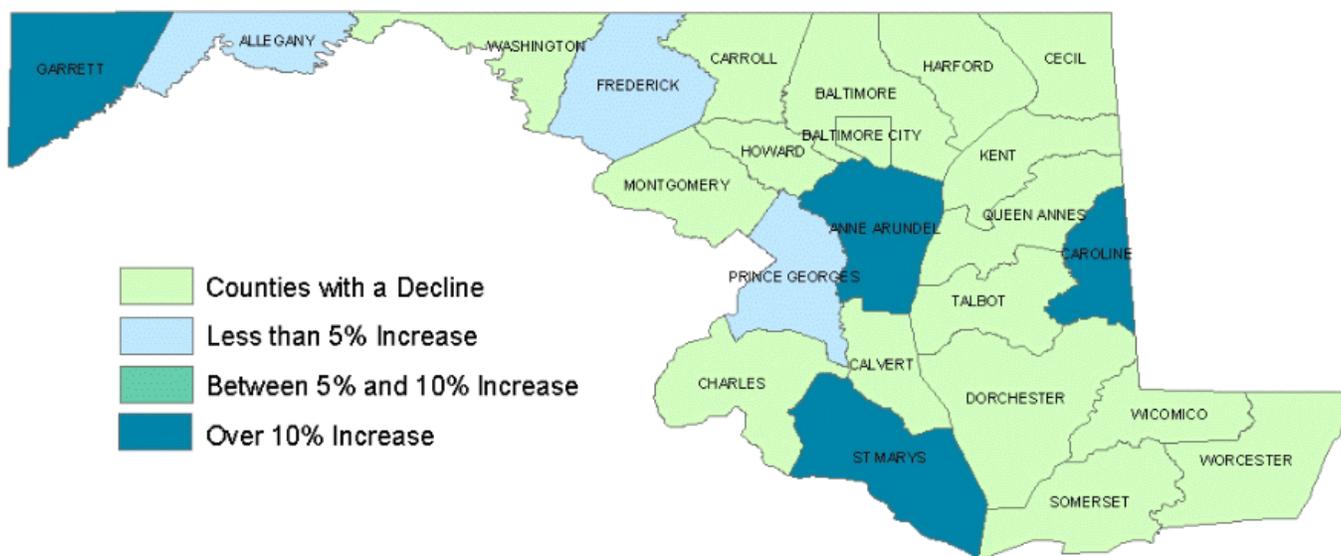


TABLE CC-7
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES HEARD IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDERS			FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDERS		
	Hearings	Orders Granted	Percent Granted	Hearings	Orders Granted	Percent Granted
First Circuit						
Dorchester	55	39	70.9	53	27	50.9
Somerset	40	28	70.0	27	21	77.8
Wicomico	4	3	75.0	3	2	66.7
Worcester	16	9	56.3	6	2	33.3
Second Circuit						
Caroline	67	50	74.6	54	32	59.3
Cecil	9	4	44.4	12	3	25.0
Kent	45	29	64.4	48	16	33.3
Queen Anne's	1	1	100.0	2	0	0.0
Talbot	22	16	72.7	24	9	37.5
Third Circuit						
Baltimore	426	273	64.1	281	160	56.9
Harford	321	193	60.1	311	112	36.0
Fourth Circuit						
Allegany	5	1	20.0	8	1	12.5
Garrett	10	2	20.0	21	2	9.5
Washington	12	4	33.3	24	5	20.8
Fifth Circuit						
Anne Arundel	237	148	62.4	272	115	42.3
Carroll	384	202	52.6	336	134	39.9
Howard	161	74	46.0	96	35	36.5
Sixth Circuit						
Frederick	35	23	65.7	32	14	43.8
Montgomery	733	413	56.3	706	266	37.7
Seventh Circuit						
Calvert	49	34	69.4	58	23	39.7
Charles	365	188	51.5	380	120	31.6
Prince George's	167	139	83.2	135	75	55.6
St. Mary's	44	22	50.0	108	65	60.2
Eighth Circuit						
Baltimore City	36	25	69.4	26	15	57.7
STATE	3,244	1,920	59.2	3,023	1,254	41.5

NOTE: This table represents only those hearings that were held in Fiscal Year 2004.

TABLE CC-8						
THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE						
CRIMINAL CASES						
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS						
FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004						
	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED					
	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations
First Circuit	4,785	4,657	4,962	4,697	5,245	5,022
Dorchester	711	696	693	697	599	677
Somerset	342	418	352	357	341	394
Wicomico	2,345	2,292	2,501	2,297	2,810	2,577
Worcester	1,387	1,251	1,416	1,346	1,495	1,374
Second Circuit	3,132	2,530	3,253	2,739	3,694	3,157
Caroline	312	265	331	320	370	218
Cecil	1,843	1,368	1,963	1,502	2,285	2,008
Kent	272	228	274	273	312	271
Queen Anne's	257	230	249	237	337	300
Talbot	448	439	436	407	390	360
Third Circuit	9,275	8,462	9,144	8,401	9,017	8,620
Baltimore	6,807	6,235	6,606	6,340	6,334	6,363
Harford	2,468	2,227	2,538	2,061	2,683	2,257
Fourth Circuit	3,499	3,173	3,684	3,479	3,892	3,493
Allegany	599	583	629	719	743	660
Garrett	186	146	160	165	167	158
Washington	2,714	2,444	2,895	2,595	2,982	2,675
Fifth Circuit	10,027	9,473	10,672	9,255	10,817	9,497
Anne Arundel	6,159	5,743	6,359	5,759	6,389	5,775
Carroll	2,093	2,023	2,242	1,911	2,414	1,985
Howard	1,775	1,707	2,071	1,585	2,014	1,737
Sixth Circuit	9,061	8,535	7,991	7,806	7,384	6,853
Frederick	2,339	1,718	2,451	2,011	2,338	1,939
Montgomery	6,722	6,817	5,540	5,795	5,046	4,914
Seventh Circuit	12,593	12,612	11,737	10,835	11,084	9,680
Calvert	555	530	450	451	502	451
Charles	1,703	1,607	1,790	1,616	1,804	1,619
Prince George's	9,640	9,847	8,855	8,073	8,080	6,949
St. Mary's	695	628	642	695	698	661
Eighth Circuit	25,378	23,417	24,936	24,156	27,189	24,975
Baltimore City	25,378	23,417	24,936	24,156	27,189	24,975
STATE	77,750	72,859	76,379	71,368	78,322	71,297

**MAP 4
Circuit Courts
Fiscal Years 2002-2004
Percent Change in Criminal Filings**

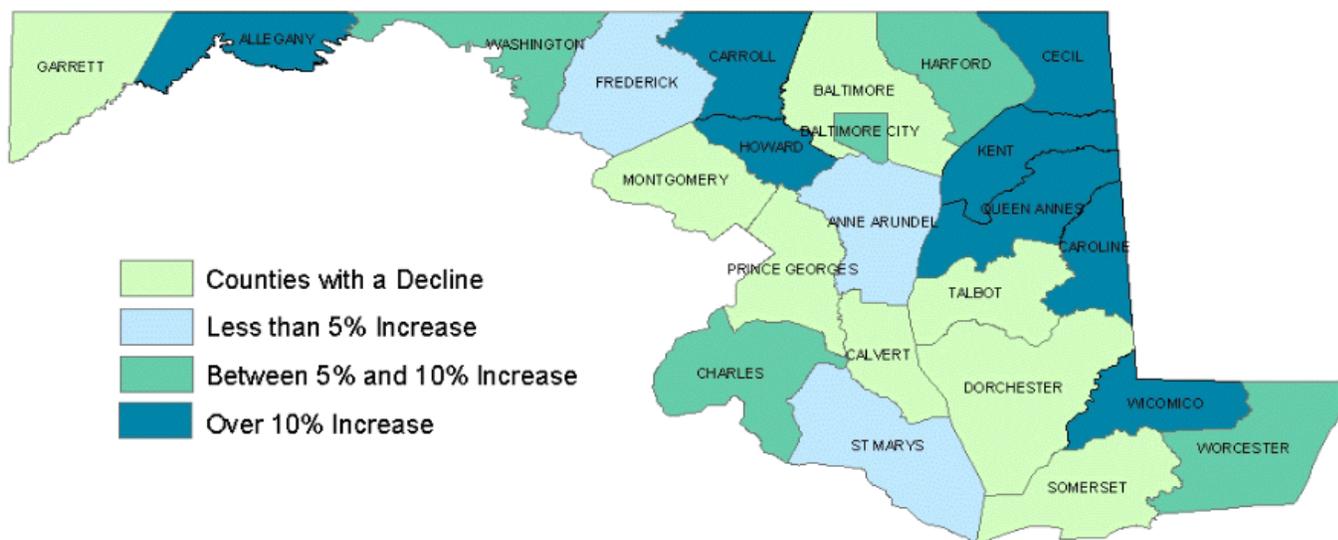


TABLE CC-9						
THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE						
JUVENILE CASES						
FILINGS AND TERMINATIONS						
FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004						
	COMBINED ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED AND TERMINATED					
	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations	Filings	Terminations
First Circuit	1,213	1,126	889	823	1,113	960
Dorchester	162	150	128	118	148	159
Somerset	174	137	107	48	132	69
Wicomico	626	581	425	448	495	354
Worcester	251	258	229	209	338	378
Second Circuit	1,640	1,341	1,136	777	1,147	869
Caroline	348	270	166	57	207	137
Cecil	529	403	398	261	466	353
Kent	91	69	103	80	82	83
Queen Anne's	214	181	163	102	140	61
Talbot	458	418	306	277	252	235
Third Circuit	5,504	3,950	4,821	2,907	5,299	3,944
Baltimore	4,615	3,418	3,943	2,384	4,389	3,153
Harford	889	532	878	523	910	791
Fourth Circuit	1,474	1,375	1,382	1,082	1,717	1,475
Allegany	466	481	457	343	445	309
Garrett	189	81	99	48	78	87
Washington	819	813	826	691	1,194	1,079
Fifth Circuit	5,166	4,551	4,282	3,503	4,418	3,911
Anne Arundel	2,641	2,479	2,430	1,990	2,579	2,316
Carroll	1,168	1,105	986	917	937	823
Howard	1,357	967	866	596	902	772
Sixth Circuit	6,246	6,147	6,428	6,158	7,073	5,508
Frederick	2,228	2,053	1,354	1,176	1,192	1,143
Montgomery	4,018	4,094	5,074	4,982	5,881	4,365
Seventh Circuit	6,674	5,678	6,430	5,240	5,649	4,538
Calvert	708	607	566	344	673	524
Charles	1,032	757	1,172	1,050	1,525	1,471
Prince George's	4,562	3,794	4,296	3,534	2,980	2,158
St. Mary's	372	520	396	312	471	385
Eighth Circuit	10,890	8,767	8,988	6,067	10,202	7,902
Baltimore City	10,890	8,767	8,988	6,067	10,202	7,902
STATE	38,807	32,935	34,356	26,557	36,618	29,107

NOTE: See note on Table CC-4.

MAP 5
Circuit Courts
Fiscal Years 2002-2004
Percent Change in Juvenile Filings

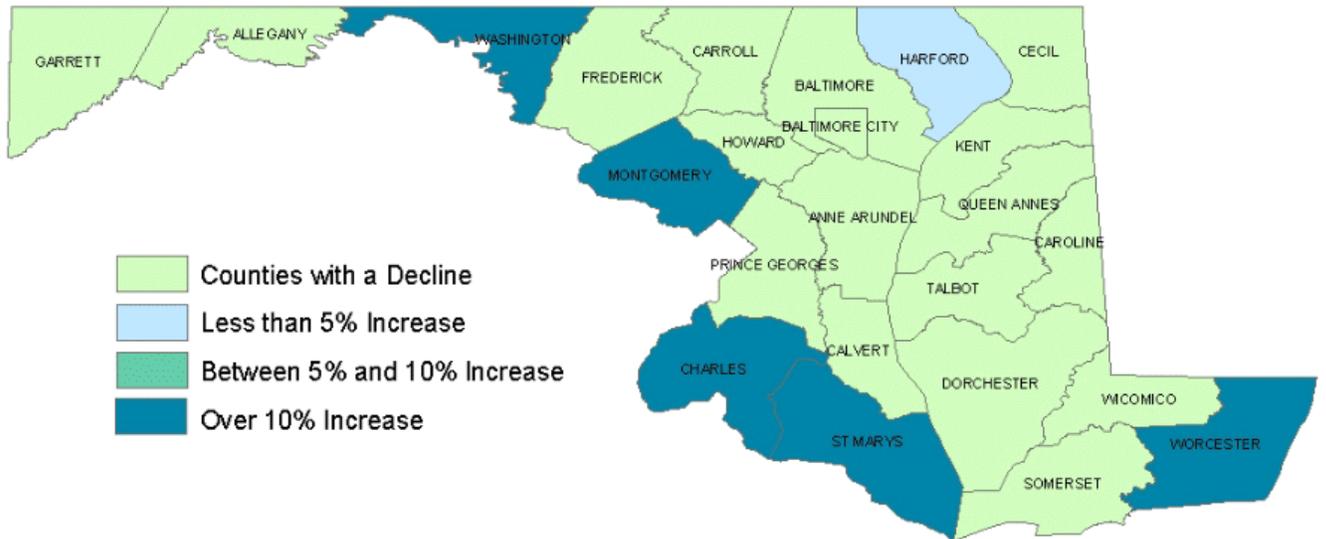


TABLE CC-10																										
CATEGORIES OF TERMINATIONS																										
TERMINATIONS OF ORIGINAL AND REOPENED CASES FILED																										
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004																										
FISCAL YEAR 2004																										
	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Garrett	Washington	Anne Arundel	Carroll	Howard	Fredrick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's	St. Mary's	Baltimore City	TOTAL	
TOTAL CIVIL-GENERAL	323	330	817	944	253	1,047	218	458	290	8,636	1,421	944	206	1,034	7,974	1,094	1,885	1,309	13,215	698	1,479	10,901	693	13,768	69,937	
Motor Tort	16	15	84	40	10	141	12	37	25	960	153	64	15	81	563	83	156	103	703	66	124	1,196	52	1,344	6,043	
Other Tort	5	1	4	26	7	30	11	3	18	430	28	11	8	23	23	21	61	32	702	0	62	729	14	938	3,187	
Contract	22	11	12	69	21	39	22	22	27	962	42	9	7	66	557	55	231	91	1,638	19	78	725	39	546	5,310	
Condemnation	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	0	2	10	2	2	1	2	10	9	15	10	34	0	17	5	1	130	257	
Confessed Judgment	3	4	32	16	8	53	10	14	8	158	39	12	7	30	42	15	39	21	168	13	16	0	10	83	801	
Other Law	22	29	26	27	11	65	30	17	27	303	61	18	13	89	89	67	112	67	5,691	65	100	522	62	1,518	9,031	
Appeals																										
District Court-On Record	4	0	0	3	1	6	1	3	3	51	5	2	0	4	27	11	11	2	138	0	7	91	4	85	459	
District Court-De Novo	1	1	2	8	1	8	0	4	2	90	7	3	0	24	44	12	19	7	270	7	10	139	7	140	806	
Administrative Agency	38	89	58	37	11	54	17	23	16	668	150	216	15	188	406	104	147	97	489	28	59	362	44	952	4,268	
Other General	212	179	597	716	181	647	112	333	162	4,997	933	606	139	526	6,210	715	1,091	873	3,362	497	1,003	7,124	458	8,030	39,703	
Unreported Category	0	1	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	7	1	1	1	1	3	2	3	6	20	3	3	8	2	2	72	
TOTAL CIVIL-FAMILY	1,057	1,051	1,793	2,006	1,136	2,611	459	541	662	7,372	2,466	1,356	631	3,908	9,451	1,801	2,396	2,600	10,839	2,105	2,894	14,366	2,026	10,830	86,357	
Divorce/Nullity	222	185	600	332	322	677	158	243	275	3,477	1,039	499	229	1,024	6,210	833	1,255	1,183	5,946	637	1,018	6,289	609	3,065	36,327	
Other Domestic Relations	383	334	564	539	432	1,049	122	151	200	2,183	703	580	287	1,771	1,651	476	581	930	1,086	617	786	3,262	637	1,469	20,793	
Adoption/Guardianship	8	8	21	24	16	25	11	11	6	261	73	20	12	34	386	73	67	60	1,806	25	26	126	26	169	3,294	
Paternity	399	465	578	1,087	216	744	126	134	161	926	378	251	90	1,052	778	104	326	355	1,353	772	759	4,216	576	5,887	21,733	
Domestic Violence	45	59	30	24	150	116	42	2	20	525	273	6	13	27	426	315	167	72	648	54	305	473	178	240	4,210	
TOTAL JUVENILE	159	69	354	378	137	353	83	61	235	3,153	791	309	87	1,079	2,316	823	772	1,143	4,365	524	1,471	2,158	385	7,902	29,107	
Delinquency	124	63	294	280	128	305	72	56	206	2,601	575	239	36	847	2,275	791	691	856	3,906	480	1,392	1,446	359	5,365	23,387	
Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1	18	
Child In Need of Supervision	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	2	3	12	1	0	18	0	0	0	3	0	18	72	
Child In Need of Assistance	28	3	30	82	7	42	9	1	16	435	157	56	24	179	15	2	62	210	285	25	51	554	11	1,653	3,937	
Guardianship	4	3	7	15	2	5	0	0	6	65	36	0	13	20	1	0	1	18	47	0	15	82	8	281	629	
Adoption	3	0	12	0	0	1	0	4	7	38	18	0	12	20	0	0	0	24	39	5	4	63	7	456	713	
Peace Orders	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	5	0	0	10	13	21	17	16	88	14	0	0	0	125	334	
Unreported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	10	0	3	17	
TOTAL CRIMINAL	677	394	2,577	1,374	218	2,008	271	300	360	6,363	2,257	660	158	2,675	5,775	1,985	1,737	1,939	4,914	451	1,619	6,949	661	24,975	71,297	
Indictment/Information	429	190	1,035	336	86	488	90	137	211	3,677	642	238	93	902	3,908	530	602	559	3,003	209	699	3,085	303	14,406	35,858	
Appeals From District Court:																										
Motor Vehicle	16	4	24	36	8	68	18	28	27	484	81	25	3	93	285	73	113	110	496	8	28	54	13	217	2,312	
Other	14	1	48	36	8	35	10	13	10	635	95	27	4	56	428	39	57	41	673	12	37	117	10	265	2,671	
Jury Trial Prayed - Motor	62	34	509	478	40	547	35	39	34	375	607	121	15	547	298	433	397	574	214	111	414	1,648	114	591	8,237	
Jury Trial Prayed - Other	146	165	954	487	76	730	115	71	77	1,093	830	246	35	1,065	845	909	559	654	528	109	413	1,885	213	9,442	21,647	
Non Support	0	0	0	0	0	138	0	0	0	76	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	219	
Post Conviction	9	0	6	0	0	1	2	11	0	3	0	0	8	11	6	1	2	0	0	0	19	156	6	51	292	
Unreported Category	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	20	2	2	0	1	3	0	7	1	0	2	9	4	0	3	61	
STATE	2,216	1,844	5,541	4,702	1,744	6,019	1,031	1,360	1,547	25,524	6,935	3,269	1,082	8,696	25,516	5,703	6,790	6,991	33,333	3,778	7,463	34,374	3,765	57,475	256,698	

NOTE: See note on Table CC-4.

TABLE CC-11
AVERAGE DAYS FROM FILING TO DISPOSITION
FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Civil			Criminal			Juvenile		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
First Circuit									
Dorchester	167	164	151	127	128	128	57	58	49
Somerset	135	138	144	92	83	99	43	46	54
Wicomico	231	195	178	86	79	85	49	52	53
Worcester	167	165	141	93	113	95	68	61	53
Second Circuit									
Caroline	171	181	208	163	153	130	36	70	58
Cecil	182	161	184	197	196	202	85	79	90
Kent	169	167	154	138	143	142	49	55	67
Queen Anne's	180	165	189	110	101	90	50	56	50
Talbot	201	166	194	125	125	113	42	42	44
Third Circuit									
Baltimore	250	206	205	123	125	115	85	85	88
Harford	174	153	160	120	125	129	64	87	90
Fourth Circuit									
Allegany	200	192	173	150	87	90	71	38	57
Garrett	206	183	162	148	167	150	60	47	60
Washington	196	188	183	105	104	103	63	51	55
Fifth Circuit									
Anne Arundel	246	241	243	114	108	108	68	63	65
Carroll	199	208	202	148	143	118	66	82	77
Howard	242	244	246	138	144	133	68	82	83
Sixth Circuit									
Frederick	245	233	225	127	100	104	60	73	76
Montgomery	138	143	148	82	97	97	83	171	57
Seventh Circuit									
Calvert	186	180	190	158	141	122	60	62	72
Charles	216	196	205	156	165	168	80	78	86
Prince George's	236	226	229	114	105	110	52	57	65
St. Mary's	176	182	176	115	108	95	68	67	70
Eighth Circuit									
Baltimore City	230	251	237	97	104	109	94	84	85
STATE	212	208	204	113	116	120	77	74	78

NOTE: A small number of lengthy cases can increase an average, particularly in a jurisdiction with a small caseload. For that reason, civil cases over 721 days old, criminal cases over 360 days old, and juvenile cases over 271 days old have been excluded in the above calculations. Approximately 90 to 95 percent of the cases are disposed of within those time periods.

TABLE CC-12
DELINQUENCY TERMINATIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Jurisdiction Waived	Dismissed	Stet	Probation	Social Services	Juvenile Services	Hospital Facility	Institutional	Transferred In	Transferred Out	Continued	Guardianship	Adoption	Other	TOTAL
First Circuit															
Dorchester	3	26	21	32	0	18	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	20	124
Somerset	14	14	6	22	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	63
Wicomico	6	45	57	61	0	39	0	0	7	10	0	0	0	68	293
Worcester	13	60	19	74	0	16	0	1	2	11	0	0	0	84	280
Second Circuit															
Caroline	8	37	6	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	73	128
Cecil	16	88	40	72	0	66	1	0	3	3	2	0	0	14	305
Kent	1	23	0	20	0	8	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	18	72
Queen Anne's	1	3	0	24	1	14	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	9	56
Talbot	2	26	0	78	0	3	0	19	3	4	1	0	0	70	206
Third Circuit															
Baltimore	0	366	1,313	645	1	184	0	1	0	3	43	0	0	45	2,601
Harford	22	74	0	187	0	59	0	0	9	18	1	0	0	205	575
Fourth Circuit															
Allegany	5	95	1	72	1	27	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	30	239
Garrett	0	6	0	9	0	5	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	12	36
Washington	2	22	76	292	4	124	1	27	3	7	1	0	0	288	847
Fifth Circuit															
Anne Arundel	5	410	261	836	26	268	0	8	37	73	187	0	0	164	2,275
Carroll	1	186	37	293	1	133	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	114	766
Howard	0	222	53	187	0	24	0	0	12	18	0	0	0	175	691
Sixth Circuit															
Frederick	2	223	0	212	0	178	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	220	856
Montgomery	0	213	31	339	66	243	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	492	1,390
Seventh Circuit															
Calvert	0	61	63	212	0	32	0	0	1	10	2	0	0	99	480
Charles	3	0	35	516	0	359	1	0	2	19	2	0	0	455	1,392
Prince George's	0	0	35	346	1	0	0	0	0	1	348	0	0	715	1,446
St. Mary's	4	30	47	132	0	12	0	24	3	6	0	0	0	101	359
Eighth Circuit															
Baltimore City	13	242	0	1	4	965	4	0	0	11	0	0	0	4,125	5,365
STATE	121	2,472	2,101	4,663	105	2,782	7	82	88	234	592	0	0	7,598	20,845

TABLE CC-13																									
COURT TRIALS, JURY TRIALS, AND HEARINGS BY																									
COUNTY, CIRCUIT, AND FUNCTIONAL AREA																									
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004																									
FISCAL YEAR 2004																									
	Dorchester	Somerset	Wicomico	Worcester	Caroline	Cecil	Kent	Queen Anne's	Talbot	Baltimore	Harford	Allegany	Garret	Washington	Anne Arundel	Carroll	Howard	Frederick	Montgomery	Calvert	Charles	Prince George's*	St. Mary's	Baltimore City**	TOTAL
TRIALS																									
<i>Civil</i>																									
Court Trials	9	3	10	53	42	82	29	61	54	2,508	192	24	60	17	179	48	166	11	841	12	651	140	19	881	6,092
Jury Trials	5	5	25	9	2	46	4	14	11	271	63	62	3	41	110	18	44	27	159	13	44	175	21	212	1,384
<i>Criminal</i>																									
Court Trials	12	10	51	735	12	22	6	7	24	83	20	11	3	62	318	245	65	8	64	9	9	3	19	299	2,097
Jury Trials	17	14	49	12	15	38	4	8	37	8	37	16	7	60	69	27	84	14	104	6	20	112	25	490	1,273
COUNTY TOTALS																									
Court Trials	21	13	61	788	54	104	35	68	78	2,591	212	35	63	79	497	293	231	19	905	21	660	143	38	1,180	8,189
Jury Trials	22	19	74	21	17	84	8	22	48	279	100	78	10	101	179	45	128	41	263	19	64	287	46	702	2,657
TOTAL	43	32	135	809	71	188	43	90	126	2,870	312	113	73	180	676	338	359	60	1,168	40	724	430	84	1,882	10,846
CIRCUIT TOTALS																									
	1ST CIRCUIT				2ND CIRCUIT				3RD CIRCUIT		4TH CIRCUIT			5TH CIRCUIT			6TH CIRCUIT		7TH CIRCUIT			8TH CIRCUIT			
Court Trials	883				339				2,803		177			1,021			924		862			1,180	8,189		
Jury Trials	136				179				379		189			352			304		416			702	2,657		
TOTAL	1,019				518				3,182		366			1,373			1,228		1,278			1,882	10,846		
HEARINGS																									
<i>Civil</i>	1,169	1,401	1,327	2,081	1,371	3,313	1,307	875	898	8,992	3,023	1,432	437	2,462	11,046	3,209	1,587	2,403	20,098	3,594	3,620	15,318	1,734	6,191	98,888
<i>Criminal</i>	852	565	3,871	823	601	5,216	686	686	726	6,563	3,932	1,204	168	3,460	12,052	5,335	5,131	1,735	10,001	1,335	3,981	12,067	1,025	17,938	99,953
<i>Juvenile</i>	391	474	1,261	674	539	1,321	211	261	643	9,871	2,933	1,661	270	2,684	5,236	1,937	2,842	3,283	11,817	1,617	2,927		1,085	68,287	122,225
COUNTY TOTALS	2,412	2,440	6,459	3,578	2,511	9,850	2,204	1,822	2,267	25,426	9,888	4,297	875	8,606	28,334	10,481	9,560	7,421	41,916	6,546	10,528	27,385	3,844	92,416	321,066
CIRCUIT TOTALS																									
	14,889				18,654				35,314		13,778			48,375			49,337		48,303			92,416	321,066		

* Juvenile hearing numbers missing due to reporting problems.

** Averages for July and August included in Civil Court and Jury Trial Numbers.

NOTE: Some differences may exist in the number of court trials for courts of similar size due to the recording of these events under incorrect headings.

TABLE CC-14

TERMINATIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF FILINGS IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

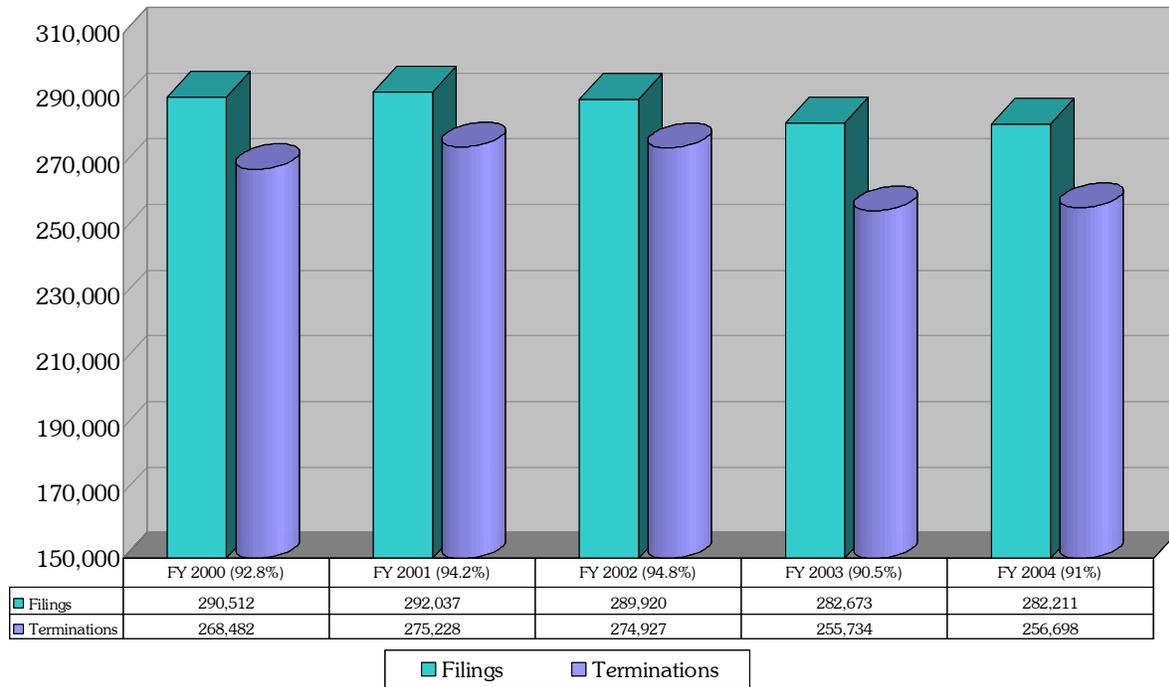


TABLE CC-15

JURY TRIAL PRAYERS

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Baltimore City	8,625	8,630	10,621	10,296	10,582
Anne Arundel County	532	624	890	1,153	1,268
Baltimore County	1,730	1,561	1,466	1,482	1,574
Montgomery County	2,014	3,040	2,743	1,145	639
Prince George's County	5,662	6,084	5,032	4,643	4,014
All Other Counties	11,770	11,827	13,144	13,639	14,125
Total	30,333	31,766	33,896	32,358	32,202

TABLE CC-16

**THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CIVIL CASES TRIED ***

FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

	2001-2002	2002-03	2003-04
First Circuit	399	144	119
Dorchester	41	35	14
Somerset	6	10	8
Wicomico	250	29	35
Worcester	102	70	62
Second Circuit	849	317	345
Caroline	9	24	44
Cecil	685	97	128
Kent	45	24	33
Queen Anne's	75	69	75
Talbot	35	103	65
Third Circuit	2,397	2,746	3,034
Baltimore	2,066	2,470	2,779
Harford	331	276	255
Fourth Circuit	227	138	207
Allegany	63	65	86
Garrett	10	13	63
Washington	154	60	58
Fifth Circuit	865	910	565
Anne Arundel	619	662	289
Carroll	58	61	66
Howard	188	187	210
Sixth Circuit	750	985	1,038
Frederick	69	38	38
Montgomery	681	947	1,000
Seventh Circuit	520	1,401	1,075
Calvert	46	27	25
Charles	132	1,057	695
Prince George's	320	299	315
St. Mary's	22	18	40
Eighth Circuit	1,504	1,261	1,093
Baltimore City	1,504	1,261	1,093
STATE	7,511	7,902	7,476

NOTE: See note on Table CC-13.

*Includes Civil-General and Civil-Family.

TABLE CC-17
CIVIL CASES*
RATIO OF TRIALS TO DISPOSITIONS
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Dispositions	Trials	Percentages	Court Trials	Percentages	Jury Trials	Percentages
First Circuit	8,321	119	1.4	75	0.9	44	0.5
Dorchester	1,380	14	1.0	9	0.7	5	0.4
Somerset	1,381	8	0.6	3	0.2	5	0.4
Wicomico	2,610	35	1.3	10	0.4	25	1.0
Worcester	2,950	62	2.1	53	1.8	9	0.3
Second Circuit	7,675	345	4.5	268	3.5	77	1.0
Caroline	1,389	44	3.2	42	3.0	2	0.1
Cecil	3,658	128	3.5	82	2.2	46	1.3
Kent	677	33	4.9	29	4.3	4	0.6
Queen Anne's	999	75	7.5	61	6.1	14	1.4
Talbot	952	65	6.8	54	5.7	11	1.2
Third Circuit	19,895	3,034	15.3	2,700	13.6	334	1.7
Baltimore	16,008	2,779	17.4	2,508	15.7	271	1.7
Harford	3,887	255	6.6	192	4.9	63	1.6
Fourth Circuit	8,079	207	2.6	101	1.3	106	1.3
Allegany	2,300	86	3.7	24	1.0	62	2.7
Garrett	837	63	7.5	60	7.2	3	0.4
Washington	4,942	58	1.2	17	0.3	41	0.8
Fifth Circuit	24,601	565	2.3	393	1.6	172	0.7
Anne Arundel	17,425	289	1.7	179	1.0	110	0.6
Carroll	2,895	66	2.3	48	1.7	18	0.6
Howard	4,281	210	4.9	166	3.9	44	1.0
Sixth Circuit	27,963	1,038	3.7	852	3.0	186	0.7
Frederick	3,909	38	1.0	11	0.3	27	0.7
Montgomery	24,054	1,000	4.2	841	3.5	159	0.7
Seventh Circuit	35,162	1,075	3.1	822	2.3	253	0.7
Calvert	2,803	25	0.9	12	0.4	13	0.5
Charles	4,373	695	15.9	651	14.9	44	1.0
Prince George's	25,267	315	1.2	140	0.6	175	0.7
St. Mary's	2,719	40	1.5	19	0.7	21	0.8
Eighth Circuit	24,598	1,093	4.4	881	3.6	212	0.9
Baltimore City	24,598	1,093	4.4	881	3.6	212	0.9
STATE	156,294	7,476	4.8	6,092	3.9	1,384	0.9

*Includes Civil-General and Civil-Family.

NOTE: See note on Table CC-13.

TABLE CC-18

**THREE-YEAR COMPARATIVE TABLE
CRIMINAL CASES TRIED**

FISCAL YEAR 2002 - FISCAL YEAR 2004

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
First Circuit	757	879	900
Dorchester	14	29	29
Somerset	14	5	24
Wicomico	89	123	100
Worcester	640	722	747
Second Circuit	190	158	173
Caroline	48	34	27
Cecil	37	44	60
Kent	16	16	10
Queen Anne's	29	26	15
Talbot	60	38	61
Third Circuit	240	79	140
Baltimore	169	26	83
Harford	71	53	57
Fourth Circuit	198	178	159
Allegany	40	24	27
Garrett	10	17	10
Washington	148	137	122
Fifth Circuit	722	729	808
Anne Arundel	443	351	387
Carroll	140	206	272
Howard	139	172	149
Sixth Circuit	237	214	190
Frederick	24	28	22
Montgomery	213	186	168
Seventh Circuit	236	196	203
Calvert	20	15	15
Charles	23	30	29
Prince George's	161	123	115
St. Mary's	32	28	44
Eighth Circuit	434	375	789
Baltimore City	434	375	789
STATE	3,014	2,808	6,724

NOTE: See note on Table CC-13.

TABLE CC-19
CRIMINAL CASES
RATIO OF TRIALS TO DISPOSITIONS

JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Dispositions	Trials	Percentages	Court Trials	Percentages	Jury Trials	Percentages
First Circuit	5,022	900	17.9	808	16.1	92	1.8
Dorchester	677	29	4.3	12	1.8	17	2.5
Somerset	394	24	6.1	10	2.5	14	3.6
Wicomico	2,577	100	3.9	51	2.0	49	1.9
Worcester	1,374	747	54.4	735	53.5	12	0.9
Second Circuit	3,157	173	5.5	71	2.2	102	3.2
Caroline	218	27	12.4	12	5.5	15	6.9
Cecil	2,008	60	3.0	22	1.1	38	1.9
Kent	271	10	3.7	6	2.2	4	1.5
Queen Anne's	300	15	5.0	7	2.3	8	2.7
Talbot	360	61	16.9	24	6.7	37	10.3
Third Circuit	8,620	140	1.6	28	0.3	112	1.0
Baltimore	6,363	83	1.3	8	0.1	75	1.2
Harford	2,257	57	2.5	20	0.9	37	1.6
Fourth Circuit	3,493	159	4.6	76	2.2	83	2.4
Allegany	660	27	4.1	11	1.7	16	2.4
Garrett	158	10	6.3	3	1.9	7	4.4
Washington	2,675	122	4.6	62	2.3	60	2.2
Fifth Circuit	9,497	808	8.5	628	6.6	180	1.9
Anne Arundel	5,775	387	6.7	318	5.5	69	1.2
Carroll	1,985	272	13.7	245	12.3	27	1.4
Howard	1,737	149	8.6	65	3.7	84	4.8
Sixth Circuit	6,853	190	2.8	72	1.1	118	1.7
Frederick	1,939	22	1.1	8	0.4	14	0.7
Montgomery	4,914	168	3.4	64	1.3	104	2.1
Seventh Circuit	9,680	212	2.2	40	0.4	163	1.7
Calvert	451	15	3.3	9	2.0	6	1.3
Charles	1,619	38	2.3	9	0.6	20	1.2
Prince George's	6,949	115	1.7	3	0.0	112	1.6
St. Mary's	661	44	6.7	19	2.9	25	3.8
Eighth Circuit	24,975	789	3.2	299	1.2	490	2.0
Baltimore City	24,975	789	3.2	299	1.2	490	2.0
STATE	71,297	3,371	4.7	2,022	2.8	1,340	1.9

NOTE: See note on Table CC-13.

TABLE CC-20
POPULATION IN RELATION TO CIRCUIT COURT CASELOAD
JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Population*	POPULATION AND CASELOAD PER CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE						CASES FILED IN THE CIRCUIT COURT PER THOUSAND POPULATION			RATIO OF JURY TRIALS TO POPULATION	
		No. of Judges	Population Per Judge	Cases Filed Per Judge		Cases Terminated Per Judge		Civil **	Criminal	Total	No. of Jury Trials	Per 1000 Population
				Civil **	Criminal	Civil **	Criminal					
First Circuit												
Dorchester	30,500	1.0	30,500	1,593	599	1,533	677	52	20	72	22	0.7
Somerset	25,900	1.0	25,900	1,575	341	1,450	394	61	13	74	19	0.7
Wicomico	88,200	3.0	29,400	1,056	937	987	859	36	32	68	74	0.8
Worcester	50,600	2.0	25,300	1,709	748	1,655	987	68	30	97	21	0.4
Second Circuit												
Caroline	30,800	1.0	30,800	1,461	370	1,526	218	47	12	59	17	0.6
Cecil	94,300	3.0	31,433	1,481	762	1,337	669	47	24	71	84	0.9
Kent	19,700	1.0	19,700	848	312	760	271	43	16	59	8	0.4
Queen Anne's	44,500	1.0	44,500	1,116	337	1,060	300	25	8	33	22	0.5
Talbot	34,800	1.0	34,800	1,204	390	1,182	360	35	11	46	48	1.4
Third Circuit												
Baltimore	781,700	16.0	48,856	1,497	396	1,188	398	31	8	39	346	0.4
Harford	233,400	5.0	46,680	1,353	508	933	451	29	11	40	100	0.4
Fourth Circuit												
Allegany	73,800	2.0	36,900	1,452	372	1,302	330	39	10	49	78	1.1
Garrett	29,900	1.0	29,900	951	167	920	158	32	6	37	10	0.3
Washington	136,100	4.0	34,025	1,629	746	1,503	669	48	22	70	101	0.7
Fifth Circuit												
Anne Arundel	516,000	10.0	51,600	1,746	639	1,974	577	34	12	46	179	0.3
Carroll	164,500	3.0	54,833	1,373	805	1,239	662	25	15	40	45	0.3
Howard	272,500	5.0	54,500	1,024	403	1,010	347	19	7	26	128	0.5
Sixth Circuit												
Frederick	219,400	4.0	54,850	1,477	585	1,258	485	27	11	38	41	0.2
Montgomery	938,200	20.0	46,910	1,495	252	1,489	246	32	5	37	263	0.3
Seventh Circuit												
Calvert	85,600	2.0	42,800	1,920	251	1,663	226	45	6	51	19	0.2
Charles	135,200	4.0	33,800	1,515	451	1,459	405	45	13	58	64	0.5
Prince George's	854,500	23.0	37,152	1,274	351	1,192	302	34	9	44	287	0.3
St. Mary's	91,400	3.0	30,933	1,125	233	1,034	220	36	8	44	46	0.5
Eighth Circuit												
Baltimore City	633,100	30.0	20,917	1,337	906	1,079	832	64	43	107	702	1.1
STATE	5,584,600	146.0	38,251	1,396	536	1,270	488	36	14	51	2,724	0.5

*Population estimate for July 1, 2004, issued by the Maryland Center for Health Statistics.

**Civil includes civil-general, civil-family and juvenile.

TABLE CC-21
TOTAL CASES PENDING
IN THE CIRCUIT COURTS

FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Civil - General	Civil - Family	Juvenile	Criminal	Total
First Circuit	1,429	2,796	840	2,112	7,177
Dorchester	222	414	87	246	969
Somerset	192	426	215	173	1,006
Wicomico	559	1,147	365	978	3,049
Worcester	456	809	173	715	2,153
Second Circuit	1,890	3,270	1,273	3,616	10,049
Caroline	276	474	323	435	1,508
Cecil	1,105	1,902	534	2,581	6,122
Kent	112	286	62	211	671
Queen Anne's	230	223	221	141	815
Talbot	167	385	133	248	933
Third Circuit	10,194	16,959	7,053	9,583	43,789
Baltimore	8,057	10,888	5,762	6,337	31,044
Harford	2,137	6,071	1,291	3,246	12,745
Fourth Circuit	1,438	3,270	1,935	1,693	8,336
Allegany	566	658	575	316	2,115
Garrett	191	241	214	96	742
Washington	681	2,371	1,146	1,281	5,479
Fifth Circuit	7,292	8,767	3,146	8,827	28,032
Anne Arundel	4,532	4,954	1,524	4,784	15,794
Carroll	929	1,602	718	1,961	5,210
Howard	1,831	2,211	904	2,082	7,028
Sixth Circuit	9,230	9,605	2,312	5,346	26,493
Frederick	1,450	3,385	702	2,177	7,714
Montgomery	7,780	6,220	1,610	3,169	18,779
Seventh Circuit	11,021	16,848	1,588	13,156	42,613
Calvert	618	1,149	556	318	2,641
Charles	1,184	2,018	647	1,613	5,462
Prince George's	8,745	12,663	***	10,946	32,354
St. Mary's	474	1,018	385	279	2,156
Eighth Circuit	22,752	6,461	15,235	27,404	71,852
Baltimore City	22,752	6,461	15,235	27,404	71,852
STATE	65,246	67,976	33,382	71,737	238,341

*** Child welfare numbers are unavailable due to reporting problems.

Note: Juvenile data is incomplete due to reporting problems.

TABLE CC-22
CIRCUIT COURT NON-JUDICIAL WORKLOAD
FISCAL YEAR 2002

	Business Licenses	Marriage Licenses	Marriage Ceremonies	Land Instruments Recorded	Judgments and Liens Recorded	Oaths Administered	Notary Commissions	Passports	Juror Qualification Forms	Land Records Cashier Collections	License Cashier Collections
First Circuit											
Dorchester	1,113	208	68	6,935	1,180	22	141	N/A	N/A	\$2,780,984.50	\$59,878.88
Somerset	745	187	36	4,689	176	125	49	0	1,200	\$584,116.47	\$29,839.21
Wicomico	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Worcester	3,458	775	177	32,781	582	408	250	0	2,599	\$13,168,670.34	\$171,144.46
Second Circuit											
Caroline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cecil	1,838	2,144	1,288	23,365	3,714	58	275	661	4,720	N/A	N/A
Kent	866	187	68	4,811	438	24	79	N/A	1,800	\$2,150,905.24	\$58,660.49
Queen Anne's	1,716	447	67	15,483	922	32	270	302	2,594	\$7,488,807.43	\$110,949.02
Talbot	N/A	364	87	11,637	712	24	178	N/A	4,600	\$8,816,080.59	\$128,430.75
Third Circuit											
Baltimore	12,178	5,184	1,781	174,418	12,578	452	3,755	N/A	N/A	\$15,284,195.59	\$1,819,902.31
Harford	N/A	1,426	526	61,058	3,074	153	1,208	N/A	N/A	\$17,999,560.00	\$346,760.00
Fourth Circuit											
Allegany	1,996	620	587	8,005	1,127	56	271	690	2,568	\$1,515,463.01	\$184,200.01
Garrett	1,090	366	134	9,799	588	1,335	1,290	N/A	N/A	\$4,797,048.00	\$96,576.00
Washington	4,004	1,122	460	26,302	N/A	687	558	1,479	4,000	\$7,986,955.00	\$11,037,192.00
Fifth Circuit											
Anne Arundel	12,269	4,090	1,315	153,087	25,605	28	2,619	949	N/A	\$86,627,843.88	\$1,254,977.81
Carroll	4,112	972	313	47,870	1,358	N/A	948	N/A	N/A	\$5,036,829.12	\$354,067.56
Howard	3,876	1,605	703	N/A	721	141	1,140	N/A	N/A	\$45,445,760.92	\$584,598.39
Sixth Circuit											
Frederick	N/A	1,700	460	66,048	1,874	142	1,054	3,480	5,841	\$9,185,781.82	Combined w/LRCC
Montgomery	N/A	6,373	6,043	256,674	10,085	312	3,350	969	N/A	\$37,233,261.16	\$1,813,633.40
Seventh Circuit											
Calvert	1,192	511	161	26,529	810	38	529	308	5,000	\$9,818,504.60	N/A
Charles	2,146	673	349	38,890	360	1,732	570	388	N/A	\$4,349,856.45	\$256,608.70
Prince George's	9,454	5,375	4,908	168,339	58,814	607	2,754	1,024	130,000	\$14,671,475.19	\$2,433,530.64
St. Mary's	1,100	639	234	20,832	1,574	271	271	N/A	6,000	\$10,572,209.22	Combined w/LRCC
Eighth Circuit											
Baltimore City	13,855	5,449	1,873	103,805	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$19,995,515.00	\$1,266,713.00
STATE	77,008	40,417	21,638	1,261,357	126,292	6,647	21,559	10,250	170,922	\$325,509,823.53	\$22,007,662.63

TABLE CC-23
CIRCUIT COURT NON-JUDICIAL WORKLOAD
FISCAL YEAR 2003

	Business Licenses	Marriage Licenses	Marriage Ceremonies	Land Instruments Recorded	Judgments and Liens Recorded	Oaths Administered	Notary Commissions	Passports	Juror Qualification Forms	Land Records Cashier Collections	License Cashier Collections
First Circuit											
Dorchester	758	209	79	7,826	1,190	98	134	N/A	N/A	\$3,325,643.43	\$60,825.71
Somerset	705	186	64	5,090	324	91	59	0	1,401	\$1,153,988.32	\$30,530.04
Wicomico	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Worcester	3,323	830	192	38,377	584	357	242	0	2,680	\$17,561,808.26	\$167,162.90
Second Circuit											
Caroline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cecil	1,871	1,903	1,556	28,146	3,979	289	281	776	4,760	N/A	N/A
Kent	831	187	73	5,547	364	69	92	N/A	1,800	\$2,544,221.03	\$56,342.83
Queen Anne's	1,575	488	86	19,971	820	97	239	336	2,262	\$8,773,711.20	\$109,916.97
Talbot	977	420	101	14,260	943	89	177	N/A	5,100	\$11,021,672.06	\$131,135.43
Third Circuit											
Baltimore	11,739	5,187	1,781	210,960	12,984	637	3,124	N/A	N/A	\$19,541,243.80	\$1,806,556.71
Harford	4,362	1,430	502	77,766	3,416	200	1,132	N/A	N/A	\$20,959,371.00	\$346,475.00
Fourth Circuit											
Allegany	2,087	656	621	9,388	1,012	149	236	577	2,655	\$1,716,081.60	\$191,677.97
Garrett	1,118	339	141	10,699	483	1,275	1,230	N/A	N/A	\$6,903,380.00	\$94,339.00
Washington	4,105	1,029	408	32,745	N/A	691	588	1,402	3,601	\$10,524,204.00	\$12,725,582.00
Fifth Circuit											
Anne Arundel	12,581	3,953	1,344	199,385	21,935	86	2,752	333	N/A	\$95,266,597.33	\$1,227,678.82
Carroll	4,066	1,028	352	63,373	1,376	N/A	1,242	N/A	N/A	\$5,959,272.17	\$342,075.29
Howard	4,114	1,655	777	N/A	931	214	1,101	N/A	N/A	\$52,679,344.98	\$572,825.94
Sixth Circuit											
Frederick	3,027	1,658	529	87,586	2,233	507	1,037	3,722	6,306	\$11,074,998.80	Combined w/LRCC
Montgomery	N/A	6,770	6,344	341,415	10,380	444	3,474	1,549	N/A	\$37,500,795.28	\$1,597,664.04
Seventh Circuit											
Calvert	1,132	509	179	35,125	845	76	458	519	5,000	\$12,309,479.55	\$73,686.75
Charles	2,097	927	416	53,343	1,401	1,813	574	574	N/A	\$5,717,353.88	\$246,128.21
Prince George's	9,136	5,346	4,993	204,626	75,912	745	2,890	991	130,000	\$16,830,232.00	\$1,845,511.16
St. Mary's	1,209	671	245	30,493	1,497	302	302	N/A	6,500	\$13,619,008.27	Combined w/LRCC
Eighth Circuit											
Baltimore City	14,859	5,450	1,852	101,419	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$23,893,472.00	\$2,242,495.00
STATE	85,672	40,831	22,635	1,577,540	142,609	8,229	21,364	10,779	172,065	\$378,875,878.96	\$23,868,609.77

TABLE CC-24
CIRCUIT COURT NON-JUDICIAL WORKLOAD
FISCAL YEAR 2004

	Business Licenses	Marriage Licenses	Marriage Ceremonies	Land Instruments Recorded	Judgments and Liens Recorded	Oaths Administered	Notary Commissions	Passports	Juror Qualification Forms	Land Records Cashier Collections	License Cashier Collections
First Circuit											
Dorchester	836	246	80	8,563	1,029	29	131	N/A	N/A	\$5,706,045.02	\$65,527.83
Somerset	1,163	166	41	5,645	241	11	69	0	1,369	\$1,432,659.74	\$56,487.48
Wicomico	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Worcester	3,234	803	215	35,418	336	327	266	0	2,957	\$25,994,343.92	\$186,043.18
Second Circuit											
Caroline	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cecil	1,875	1,818	1,061	30,738	3,548	71	270	806	4,800	N/A	N/A
Kent	828	189	76	6,002	316	27	63	N/A	1,800	\$4,746,153.13	\$56,934.92
Queen Anne's	1,791	455	72	19,127	775	57	255	447	2,654	\$11,124,704.91	\$115,841.62
Talbot	1,113	409	95	14,030	939	47	161	N/A	5,100	\$16,002,887.20	\$127,564.06
Third Circuit											
Baltimore	12,273	5,423	1,854	241,581	12,896	437	3,481	N/A	N/A	\$27,499,420.50	\$1,804,599.65
Harford	4,400	1,450	530	85,291	3,472	375	1,210	N/A	N/A	\$24,965,905.00	\$403,892.00
Fourth Circuit											
Allegany	2,049	594	557	12,025	1,058	75	235	729	2,674	\$2,879,904.53	\$185,371.03
Garrett	1,163	317	110	10,741	492	1,490	1,450	N/A	N/A	\$8,806,897.00	\$102,117.00
Washington	4,197	1,035	368	36,287	N/A	712	553	1,696	3,529	\$15,027,389.00	\$19,617,581.00
Fifth Circuit											
Anne Arundel	13,022	3,926	1,268	244,231	15,786	66	2,526	356	N/A	\$130,777,742.17	\$1,316,410.48
Carroll	4,372	984	323	61,505	1,338	N/A	966	N/A	N/A	\$8,063,898.06	\$360,796.91
Howard	5,372	1,663	755	277,998	774	89	1,159	N/A	N/A	\$69,285,262.22	\$622,387.37
Sixth Circuit											
Frederick	3,891	1,673	488	91,296	2,081	127	1,054	3,925	5,093	\$14,930,054.19	Combined w/LRCC
Montgomery	9,441	6,648	6,293	347,220	9,397	246	3,255	1,197	N/A	\$63,520,867.80	\$2,016,310.26
Seventh Circuit											
Calvert	1,163	544	181	36,805	929	45	391	0	5,000	\$15,086,036.80	\$85,902.61
Charles	1,988	1,258	558	59,945	203	1,959	601	N/A	N/A	\$6,830,097.34	\$265,566.47
Prince George's	10,962	5,527	5,054	171,437	64,533	435	3,307	1,348	130,000	\$26,544,219.69	\$1,582,934.96
St. Mary's	1,412	664	227	32,571	1,555	325	325	N/A	6,500	\$19,258,867.87	Combined w/LRCC
Eighth Circuit											
Baltimore City	14,853	5,140	1,774	117,386	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$33,318,519.00	\$1,455,453.00
STATE	101,398	40,932	21,980	1,945,842	121,698	6,950	21,728	10,504	171,476	\$531,801,875.09	\$30,427,721.83

The District Court

THE DISTRICT COURT

The District Court of Maryland is a statewide court with 34 locations whose jurisdiction includes all landlord-tenant cases, civil claims for amounts up to \$25,000, motor vehicle violations, misdemeanors, certain felonies, and peace and protective orders. It is a court of record, with all cases decided by a judge.

The Chief Judge of the District Court is appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. The Office of the Chief Judge of the District Court includes the Chief Clerk, the Coordinator of Commissioner Activity and the Coordinator of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Office. Twelve administrative judges and several judicial committees addressing administrative, civil and criminal issues, support the Office.

Chief Clerk and Headquarters

District Court Headquarters, headed by the Chief Clerk, serves as the hub for gathering and disseminating information among the 34 court locations statewide. The Chief Clerk assures uniformity in policies and procedures across the State. The Office of the Chief Clerk includes four assistant chief clerks whose departments assist in carrying out Headquarters functions:

- **Operations** provides direct support to the courts in the areas of technology, manuals and system-specific training, caseload management, etc. Operations staff also enter traffic citation data into the mainframe computer, provide telephonic assistance to individuals

regarding citations and court dates, and transcribe court records.

- **Administrative Services** produces materials and programs designed to communicate essential court information to the public and staff. This includes responsibility for the District Court internet and intranet presence on the Judiciary websites, development of brochures, forms and outreach to citizens and other stakeholders.

- **Engineering and Central Services** focuses on the safe and efficient operations of all court facilities, physical systems and supplies. In addition, ECS oversees warehouse, records management, and security issues, and is very involved with the planning and building/renovation of courthouses and other court facilities.

- **Finance** ensures all funds appropriated to the District Court by the Legislature each year are accounted for and spent in a manner consistent with Judiciary and State policies and procedures. Finance staff assist in preparing the Judiciary budget and with accounts payable. The Finance division uses a computerized system for processing payable traffic citations/scheduling trial dates.

Coordinator of Commissioner Activity

The Coordinator of Commissioner Activity develops policy and procedures for the approximately 250 commissioners sitting 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the

State at multiple locations. District Court commissioners determine probable cause and establish bail and conditions of release, among other duties. They serve as judicial officers and in this capacity also issue interim peace and protective orders during hours when the Court is closed.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Office

The District Court operates an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program in many of its locations. This office recruits and trains the volunteer mediators, and coordinates the ADR sessions, either on a scheduled or day-of-court basis.

Accomplishments

Rosenthal Appointed New Chief Clerk

Joseph P. Rosenthal was named by Chief Judge James N. Vaughan as the new Chief Clerk of the District Court. Rosenthal assumed the position of Chief Clerk upon the retirement of Patti Platt in January 2004. Mr. Rosenthal most recently served as the Administrative Clerk in Harford County, and had been the head of the District Court Internal Audit Department for several years prior to that.

E-Citations

Under the enthusiastic endorsement of Chief Judge Vaughan, the District Court began a cooperative effort with the Maryland State Police, the

Motor Vehicle Administration, the Maryland Highway Safety Office and the Chesapeake Regional Safety Council to automate traffic citations. This e-citation initiative will allow for the electronic processing of traffic tickets from the initial writing of the citation, to processing by the courts, to final disposition by the MVA on traffic license records.

New District Courthouse Opens

The John R. Hargrove Courthouse opened in Baltimore in March of 2003. The building was designed to have a lasting impact on the community and to set new standards in serving the public.

A new 71,392 square-foot, four-story courthouse in Silver Spring was near completion with an anticipated opening in the Fall of 2004.

Major renovations also were completed in facilities in Princess Anne, Somerset County, and Towson, Baltimore County.

Commissioners

The "24/7" legislation, which allows District Court commissioners to hear and rule on peace and protective orders, continues to have an impact on the workload of judges and commissioners throughout the State. While all districts have seen a significant increase in the volume of work due to the legislation, effective use of personnel by the Office of Commissioner Activity has maintained services to the public with only minor problems. The situation, however, continues to require careful monitoring.

Special Court Programs

The Harford County District Court

developed an innovative program to deal with nonviolent offenders who were continually in conflict with the law because of long term untreated mental illness. The Mental Health Diversion Project (MHDP), under the leadership of Judge Mimi Cooper, coordinates resources from the Public Defender's Office, the State's Attorney, Parole & Probation and the Clerk's office to provide closely monitored treatment in lieu of incarceration.

Statistical Overview

The District Court saw a fairly significant increase of 8.2% in case filings in Fiscal Year 2004, compared to the previous year's increase of 4.6%. The overall rise in filings can be attributed mainly to motor vehicle and criminal case increases, which were 8.2% and 10.5%, respectively. The number of cases per 1,000 population also rose in Fiscal Year 2004. There were 2,466,774 cases filed, representing 442 cases filed per 1,000 population; in Fiscal Year 2003, there were 413 cases filed per 1,000.

Over the past 10 years, case filings primarily have risen as the population has grown. The correlation between the two, however, is less than perfect. As noted in last year's Statistical Overview, a number of mitigating factors such as enforcement programs, socioeconomic conditions, new legislation, and even the weather, influence the Court's caseload. Discussion of the main case types below may include observations on those influencing factors.

Throughout the following and where long-term comparisons are discussed, figures for previous years

were calculated on the same bases, and those figures are not necessarily the ones published in the accompanying tables. (Two years ago, the District Court began including in the Statistical Abstract both filing and termination figures for all case types; it also added previously unreported case subcategories so the figures better reflect the caseload of the District Court. For instance, motor vehicle cases now include requests for trials on parking and red light citations and Mass Transit Administration cases, among other newly reported types.)

Criminal Cases

Criminal cases represent 8.7% of the District Court's total caseload. The number of criminal case filings rose by 20,375, or 10.5% in Fiscal Year 2004 over Fiscal Year 2003. This works out to an increase per 1,000 population of two, or from 36 to 38 filings statewide during the time period. It is possible that almost all of the mitigating factors described previously may have impacted the case filings, including increased enforcement activity, socioeconomic conditions, and even the relatively mild weather enjoyed in Maryland during the year. (As indicated in last year's discussion, a drop in case filings during severe weather months appeared to contribute to a year-end, slight decrease in case filings.) The increase in filings marks a change in the trend over the past five years, while the number of criminal cases filed in Fiscal Year 2004, 214,321, is not quite as high as in Fiscal Year 1999, when the highest number of criminal cases in District Court's history had been filed, interim counts were slightly below a linear

trendline. The Fiscal Year 2004 count, on the other hand, is even with the number projected based on the population. In that regard, over the past 10 years, the number of filings has risen 15.8%, slightly more than the estimated 10.1% rise in population. The difference between the numbers from 10 years ago and today might also be affected by factors described earlier (increased enforcement, etc.).

The five most populous Maryland jurisdictions (Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County) had a combined total number of 159,394 criminal case filings, or 74% of the statewide caseload. Their populations account for 66% of the total state population. The percentages of the statewide caseload were 6.4%, 43.7%, 8.7%, 6.4%, and 9.1%, respectively, and the median number of cases filed per 1,000 population was 33. Baltimore City experienced the highest with 149 and Carroll County the lowest with 34 cases filed per 1,000 population.

Based on the long-term trend and similar influencing factors, the District Court anticipates a slight rise in criminal case filings during Fiscal Year 2005.

Motor Vehicle Cases

Among the major case types, the District Court noted the greatest one-year rise in motor vehicle citations and related cases, with a 13.2% percent increase. There were 158,697 more filings in Fiscal Year 2004 than in Fiscal Year 2003. The 1,360,976 filings in this case category marked the highest number of new motor vehicle cases in District Court history. It accounted for 55.1% of the Court's new cases.

The number also reflects one of the steepest increases over a year's time. More enforcement activity appears to be the major factor in the rise, and the mild weather conditions noted above may have been an influence. Between Fiscal Year 1995 and Fiscal Year 2004, there was a 21.8% increase in payable, must appear and Section 21-902 citations (ten-year figures for these specific citations are available, whereas historical figures for other motor vehicle related cases are not). The increase over that period of time is twice that of the 10.1% rise in population mentioned earlier. Statewide, the number of citations per 1,000 population was 225, representing the highest number of citations per 1,000 for the past 10 years, with the next highest number being 216 in Fiscal Year 1999.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the five largest jurisdictions handled 58.6% of the statewide caseload in this major case type. The percentage each of those jurisdictions handled as follows: Anne Arundel County, 8.9%; Baltimore City, 11.6%; Baltimore County, 13.0%; Montgomery County, 13.9%; and Prince George's County, 11.2%. Statewide, there were 244 cases per 1,000 population, with Garrett County¹ recording the highest number (762). The median, statewide, was 278.

The District Court saw a slight rise in filings of Transportation Article Section 21-902 citations (DWI and similar charges), with an increase of 1,208 or 1.8% in Fiscal Year 2004. The number of filings has been at an all-time high over the past three fiscal years, which is attributable to high levels of enforcement. During the five-year period of Fiscal Year 2000 to Fiscal Year 2004, the caseload increased by 73.8%. The Section 21-902 citations comprised 4.9% of the statewide motor vehicle

caseload, compared to the percentage five years ago (Fiscal Year 2000) of 3.5%.

The five largest jurisdictions handled 50.4% of the Section 21-902 caseload (Anne Arundel County, 10.9%; Baltimore City, 5.4%; Baltimore County, 10.9%; Montgomery County, 15.2%; and Prince George's County, 8.0%). Statewide, the number of citations per 1,000 population was 10, with a median of 12. Worcester County¹ recorded the highest number of cases per 1,000 population with 32.

Overall, with enforcement levels apparently high statewide, the District Court anticipates for Fiscal Year 2005 a slight increase or a steady hold in the number of filings in this major case type.

Civil Cases

Civil filings (not including Landlord-Tenant cases) showed little change over the previous year. As indicated in the five-year comparative table, there was a .7% decrease in the number of cases filed. The past five years, however, saw a marked increase in civil cases, with 35.4% more cases filed in Fiscal Year 2004 than Fiscal Year 2000. This reflects the steady increase in filings noted in last year's Statistical Abstract. Statewide, there were 65 civil cases filed per 1,000 population, with a median of 57.

Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County,

¹ These counties, with popular recreation sites, deal with a large influx of visitors every year. Because the population of full-time residents is low, the caseload reflects the high number of visitors to those jurisdictions.

Montgomery County, and Prince George's County, the five largest jurisdictions, handled 73.5% of the statewide civil caseload, with 7.1%, 18.6%, 17.6%, 18.2%, and 12.0%, respectively. Those jurisdictions had 50, 108, 82, 46, and 77 cases filed per 1,000 population. Worcester County¹ had the highest rate of civil cases per 1,000 population, with 122. That figure reflects the large number of civil citations (over 2,400) issued in that jurisdiction. The second highest number of civil cases per 1,000 population was 108 in both Baltimore City and Wicomico County.

The civil case type includes domestic violence and peace order cases. Domestic violence and peace order filings continued a steady rise. There were 37,639 filings in this subcategory, reflecting an 8.4% increase over Fiscal Year 2003. During the past five years, the domestic violence and peace order caseload has increased by 61% and now accounts for 11.8% of the total

civil caseload. These cases are complex and require a great deal of processing. They frequently involve Commissioner review since legislative changes in December 2002. Statewide, the Commissioners hold an interim hearing (the first of three potential hearings) in approximately one-third of the domestic violence and protective order cases filed with the Court. The statewide median filings per 1,000 population is six, with the highest number, 11, in Washington County and second highest, 10, in Baltimore City.

The District Court anticipates that the number of civil cases overall will remain steady in Fiscal Year 2005, and that the domestic violence and peace order cases will remain steady or rise slightly.

Landlord-Tenant Cases

The number of filings in this major case type (which represents 21.5% of the District Court caseload),

remained virtually unchanged in filings over Fiscal Year 2003 (.1%). Although the past four years have seen a small but steady rise in the Landlord-Tenant cases, the number (529,405) still represents a decrease in filings over the past five and 10 years (in Fiscal Year 1995 there were 562,199 filings). Statewide there were 95 cases filed per 1,000 population, with a median of 35.

The five largest jurisdictions handled 87.4% of the Landlord-Tenant caseload, with 5.5%, 28.4%, 22.9%, 7.4%, and 23.3% being filed in Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County, respectively. Those jurisdictions saw 57, 239, 155, 42, and 144 cases filed per 1,000 population, in that order.

It is expected that the Landlord-Tenant caseload will remain steady, with a possible slight increase in Fiscal Year 2005.

TABLE DC-1										
Five-Year Comparative Table										
Motor Vehicle, Criminal and Civil Cases*										
Filed and Terminated in the District Court of Maryland										
Fiscal Year 2000 - Fiscal Year 2004										
	FY 2000		FY 2001		FY 2002		FY 2003		FY 2004	
	Filed	Terminated								
District 1										
Baltimore City	399,790	284,966	379,541	249,621	435,739	424,989	461,305	450,297	469,621	465,946
District 2										
Dorchester	14,045	13,283	15,225	13,192	15,990	16,048	14,743	14,824	17,252	16,256
Somerset	16,006	14,485	16,055	15,238	15,962	15,792	14,666	13,814	21,498	20,448
Wicomico	45,387	41,451	43,661	36,862	49,458	48,109	47,130	46,861	56,755	53,761
Worcester	30,493	31,354	29,243	29,651	35,075	33,037	37,616	36,933	43,191	40,574
District 3										
Caroline	10,208	7,341	10,237	8,291	10,815	10,835	11,396	10,873	12,585	12,159
Cecil	42,737	37,552	45,648	40,418	45,571	44,763	45,004	42,379	56,337	54,600
Kent	7,853	15,243	8,490	16,778	8,964	9,339	8,374	7,698	8,347	7,984
Queen Anne's	14,227	17,019	18,430	17,206	18,324	19,045	21,171	20,384	29,955	26,977
Talbot	16,761	9,976	18,297	9,663	17,889	18,619	19,245	18,771	18,962	18,133
District 4										
Calvert	21,851	19,778	21,641	22,337	24,514	25,143	23,435	23,301	27,175	25,872
Charles	38,561	37,800	38,215	40,827	41,582	41,157	46,340	43,353	55,285	51,688
St. Mary's	30,886	26,930	28,007	26,074	23,156	25,432	24,194	23,680	30,077	28,922
District 5										
Prince George's	386,369	237,832	312,282	228,284	320,944	333,464	348,376	346,413	361,408	351,183
District 6										
Montgomery	234,570	199,492	232,288	205,536	266,145	277,685	259,553	263,759	284,861	269,722
District 7										
Anne Arundel	162,552	145,974	157,361	140,226	159,856	167,992	169,103	162,365	190,378	181,514
District 8										
Baltimore County	337,752	226,649	326,709	225,914	347,538	357,225	358,983	348,001	381,320	376,257
District 9										
Harford	61,118	50,946	60,275	52,170	64,493	64,157	73,356	69,920	75,937	75,029
District 10										
Carroll	39,358	37,200	39,620	38,431	38,314	39,208	42,248	41,169	55,688	50,774
Howard	78,221	72,004	80,402	70,287	90,336	88,391	93,043	90,459	90,183	96,731
District 11										
Frederick	45,694	42,959	54,165	49,148	63,086	61,776	65,035	63,458	68,392	66,671
Washington	40,093	35,023	37,803	31,635	44,193	43,729	47,183	45,087	53,941	51,844
District 12										
Allegany	19,330	20,242	17,134	19,103	21,689	21,749	26,317	25,199	32,401	31,652
Garrett	13,030	12,069	13,567	12,820	19,481	18,188	21,690	20,322	25,225	24,402
Statewide	2,106,892	1,637,568	2,004,296	1,599,712	2,179,114	2,205,872	2,279,506	2,229,320	2,466,774	2,399,099

*As of FY 2002, both filed and terminated figures reported for all major case categories. Figures for FY 2002 and later include case types not previously reported in the statistical abstract. See tables for the major case categories for information on case types included.

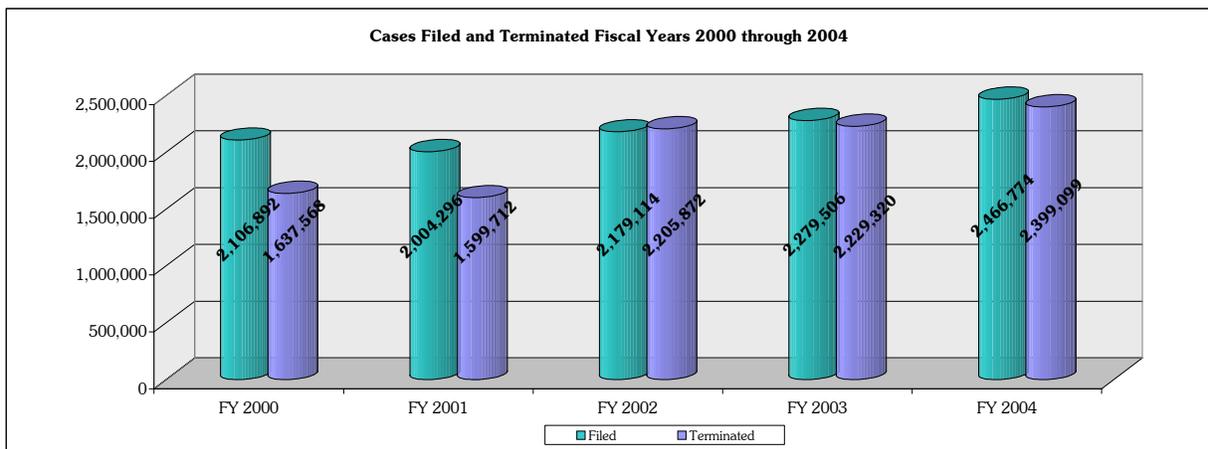


TABLE DC-2							
Motor Vehicle, Criminal and Civil Cases Filed and Terminated in the District Court of Maryland Fiscal Year 2004							
	Motor Vehicle		Criminal		Civil		Landlord-Tenant
	Filed	Terminated	Filed	Terminated	Filed	Terminated	Filed*
District 1							
Baltimore City	158,163	149,098	93,677	98,494	67,534	68,107	150,247
District 2							
Dorchester	11,769	10,900	1,482	1,505	2,613	2,463	1,388
Somerset	16,849	15,990	1,050	982	2,156	2,033	1,443
Wicomico	35,116	32,845	3,344	3,478	9,490	8,633	8,805
Worcester	30,107	27,877	6,066	6,056	6,178	5,801	840
District 3							
Caroline	8,927	8,363	1,071	1,266	1,836	1,779	751
Cecil	44,846	43,325	3,367	3,394	4,455	4,212	3,669
Kent	5,600	5,317	706	732	1,673	1,567	368
Queen Anne's	26,015	23,175	1,384	1,451	2,130	1,925	426
Talbot	14,729	13,995	1,335	1,391	2,169	2,018	729
District 4							
Calvert	19,730	18,682	2,492	2,537	3,860	3,560	1,093
Charles	40,598	37,117	4,296	4,521	7,247	6,906	3,144
St. Mary's	20,936	19,745	2,899	2,993	3,410	3,352	2,832
District 5							
Prince George's	152,818	143,826	19,590	19,504	65,896	64,749	123,104
District 6							
Montgomery	188,817	177,725	13,755	14,112	43,275	38,871	39,014
District 7							
Anne Arundel	121,709	114,882	13,738	12,988	25,721	24,434	29,210
District 8							
Baltimore County	177,529	168,014	18,634	18,755	63,771	68,102	121,386
District 9							
Harford	49,148	48,032	4,788	5,067	10,719	10,648	11,282
District 10							
Carroll	44,725	39,556	3,199	3,778	5,560	5,236	2,204
Howard	62,955	68,973	3,956	4,787	9,683	9,382	13,589
District 11							
Frederick	50,788	48,929	3,927	3,958	7,677	7,784	6,000
Washington	33,670	31,600	4,899	4,925	8,494	8,441	6,878
District 12							
Allegany	22,661	21,992	3,481	3,529	5,347	5,219	912
Garrett	22,771	21,722	1,185	1,399	1,178	1,190	91
Statewide	1,360,976	1,291,680	214,321	221,602	362,072	356,412	529,405

*Landlord-Tenant termination figures are not available.

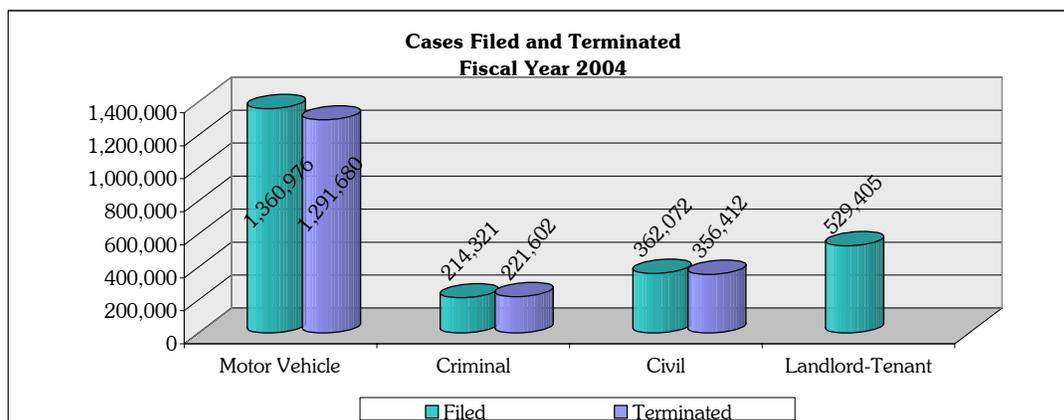


TABLE DC-3											
Population and Cases Filed and Terminated Per District Court Judge Fiscal Year 2004											
	Population	Number of Judges	Population Per Judge	Motor Vehicle		Criminal		Civil		Total	
				Filed	Terminated	Filed	Terminated	Filed	Terminated	Filed	Terminated
District 1											
Baltimore City	627,500	26	24,135	6,083	5,735	3,603	3,788	8,376	8,398	18,062	17,921
District 2											
Dorchester	30,500	1	30,500	11,769	10,900	1,482	1,505	4,001	3,851	17,252	16,256
Somerset	25,900	1	25,900	16,849	15,990	1,050	982	3,599	3,476	21,498	20,448
Wicomico	88,200	2	44,100	17,558	16,423	1,672	1,739	9,148	8,719	28,378	26,881
Worcester	50,600	1	50,600	30,107	27,877	6,066	6,056	7,018	6,641	43,191	40,574
District 3											
Caroline	30,800	1	30,800	8,927	8,363	1,071	1,266	2,587	2,530	12,585	12,159
Cecil	94,300	2	47,150	22,423	21,663	1,684	1,697	4,062	3,941	28,169	27,300
Kent	19,700	1	19,700	5,600	5,317	706	732	2,041	1,935	8,347	7,984
Queen Anne's	44,500	1	44,500	26,015	23,175	1,384	1,451	2,556	2,351	29,955	26,977
Talbot	34,800	1	34,800	14,729	13,995	1,335	1,391	2,898	2,747	18,962	18,133
District 4											
Calvert	85,600	1	85,600	19,730	18,682	2,492	2,537	4,953	4,653	27,175	25,872
Charles	135,200	2	67,600	20,299	18,559	2,148	2,261	5,196	5,025	27,643	25,844
St. Mary's	92,800	1	92,800	20,936	19,745	2,899	2,993	6,242	6,184	30,077	28,922
District 5											
Prince George's	854,500	13	65,731	11,755	11,064	1,507	1,500	14,538	14,450	27,801	27,014
District 6											
Montgomery	938,200	11	85,291	17,165	16,157	1,250	1,283	7,481	7,080	25,896	24,520
District 7											
Anne Arundel	516,000	8	64,500	15,214	14,360	1,717	1,624	6,866	6,706	23,797	22,689
District 8											
Baltimore County	781,700	13	60,131	13,656	12,924	1,433	1,443	14,243	14,576	29,332	28,943
District 9											
Harford	233,400	4	58,350	12,287	12,008	1,197	1,267	5,500	5,483	18,984	18,757
District 10											
Carroll	164,500	2	82,250	22,363	19,778	1,600	1,889	3,882	3,720	27,844	25,387
Howard	272,500	5	54,500	12,591	13,795	791	957	4,654	4,594	18,037	19,346
District 11											
Frederick	219,400	3	73,133	16,929	16,310	1,309	1,319	4,559	4,595	22,797	22,224
Washington	136,100	2	68,050	16,835	15,800	2,450	2,463	7,686	7,660	26,971	25,922
District 12											
Allegany	73,800	2	36,900	11,331	10,996	1,741	1,765	3,130	3,066	16,201	15,826
Garrett	29,900	1	29,900	22,771	21,722	1,185	1,399	1,269	1,281	25,225	24,402
Statewide	5,580,400	105	53,147	12,962	12,302	2,041	2,110	8,490	8,436	23,493	22,849

*Chief Judge of District Court not included in statistics. Number of judgeships as of June 30, 2003.

**Population estimates for July 1, 2004, issued by the State of Maryland Division of Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Administration, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

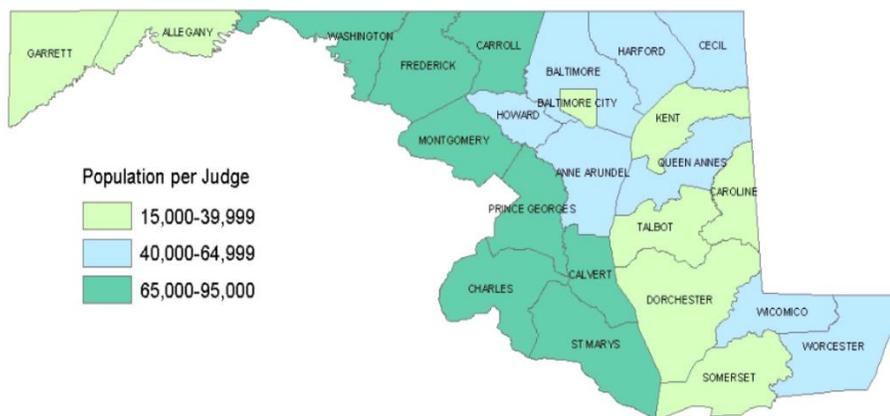


TABLE DC-4

Motor Vehicle, Criminal, and Civil Cases Filed and Processed in the District Court of Maryland
Fiscal Year 2004

	Motor Vehicle								Criminal		Civil							Total Filings
	Payable, Must Appear and Sec. 21-902				Other Cases		Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Terminated	Cases Filed	Cases Terminated	Landlord-Tenant		Contract and Tort		Other Complaints Filed	Total		
	Cases Filed	Cases Tried	Cases Paid	Other Dispositions	Cases Filed	Cases Terminated					Filed	Contested	Filed	Contested		Filed	Contested	
District 1																		
Baltimore City	152,674	49,232	67,896	26,115	5,489	5,855	158,163	149,098	93,677	98,494	150,247	6,538	53,233	10,207	14,301	217,781	16,745	469,621
District 2																		
Dorchester	11,619	2,721	6,471	1,552	150	156	11,769	10,900	1,482	1,505	1,388	152	1,939	196	674	4,001	348	17,252
Somerset	16,686	1,891	12,645	1,273	163	181	16,849	15,990	1,050	982	1,443	106	1,721	154	435	3,599	260	21,498
Wicomico	34,925	6,531	20,445	5,690	191	179	35,116	32,845	3,344	3,478	8,805	835	6,985	485	2,505	18,295	1,320	56,755
Worcester	29,407	4,011	17,546	5,677	700	643	30,107	27,877	6,066	6,056	840	101	2,944	483	3,234	7,018	584	43,191
District 3																		
Caroline	8,879	2,370	4,746	1,187	48	60	8,927	8,363	1,071	1,266	751	86	1,360	152	476	2,587	238	12,585
Cecil	44,481	6,587	30,321	6,064	365	353	44,846	43,325	3,367	3,394	3,669	533	3,384	470	1,071	8,124	1,003	56,337
Kent	5,431	1,213	3,151	805	169	148	5,600	5,317	706	732	368	47	1,294	114	379	2,041	161	8,347
Queen Anne's	25,525	6,123	12,979	3,595	490	478	26,015	23,175	1,384	1,451	426	91	1,467	239	663	2,556	330	29,955
Talbot	14,494	4,845	7,061	1,883	235	206	14,729	13,995	1,335	1,391	729	96	1,479	241	690	2,898	337	18,962
District 4																		
Calvert	19,335	5,129	8,685	4,488	395	380	19,730	18,682	2,492	2,537	1,093	103	2,901	419	959	4,953	522	27,175
Charles	40,363	9,579	20,665	6,650	235	223	40,598	37,117	4,296	4,521	3,144	347	5,235	852	2,012	10,391	1,199	55,285
St. Mary's	20,735	1,786	10,132	7,573	201	254	20,936	19,745	2,899	2,993	2,832	180	2,306	374	1,104	6,242	554	30,077
District 5																		
Prince George's	146,255	36,083	59,964	41,223	6,563	6,556	152,818	143,826	19,590	19,504	123,104	4,691	50,732	9,817	15,164	189,000	14,508	361,408
District 6																		
Montgomery	180,500	46,684	99,961	22,777	8,317	8,303	188,817	177,725	13,755	14,112	39,014	1,672	31,764	5,717	11,511	82,289	7,389	284,861
District 7																		
Anne Arundel	119,477	32,341	53,861	26,439	2,232	2,241	121,709	114,882	13,738	12,988	29,210	558	18,937	3,812	6,784	54,931	4,370	190,378
District 8																		
Baltimore County	172,788	58,699	71,669	32,886	4,741	4,760	177,529	168,014	18,634	18,755	121,386	3,296	50,008	10,748	13,763	185,157	14,044	381,320
District 9																		
Harford	48,612	14,818	25,029	7,624	536	561	49,148	48,032	4,788	5,067	11,282	431	7,844	1,482	2,875	22,001	1,913	75,937
District 10																		
Carroll	44,555	12,318	20,377	6,681	170	180	44,725	39,556	3,199	3,778	2,204	184	4,170	695	1,390	7,764	879	55,688
Howard	61,294	20,186	35,867	11,207	1,661	1,713	62,955	68,973	3,956	4,787	13,589	426	7,272	1,446	2,411	23,272	1,872	90,183
District 11																		
Frederick	50,582	12,047	29,208	7,463	206	211	50,788	48,929	3,927	3,958	6,000	288	5,606	1,024	2,071	13,677	1,312	68,392
Washington	33,243	5,898	20,462	4,820	427	420	33,670	31,600	4,899	4,925	6,878	451	5,939	646	2,555	15,372	1,097	53,941
District 12																		
Allegany	22,404	3,421	15,013	3,311	257	247	22,661	21,992	3,481	3,529	912	253	3,623	367	1,724	6,259	620	32,401
Garrett	22,174	2,279	17,215	1,656	597	572	22,771	21,722	1,185	1,399	91	30	792	107	386	1,269	137	25,225
Statewide	1,326,438	346,792	671,369	238,639	34,538	34,880	1,360,976	1,291,680	214,321	221,602	529,405	21,495	272,935	50,247	89,137	891,477	71,742	2,466,774

TABLE DC-5 Five-Year Comparative Table Motor Vehicle Cases* Filed and Terminated in the District Court of Maryland Fiscal Year 2000 - Fiscal Year 2004										
	FY 2000		FY 2001		FY 2002		FY 2003		FY 2004	
	Filed	Terminated								
District 1										
Baltimore City	105,819	122,898	107,089	103,890	153,385	135,612	161,404	150,062	158,163	149,098
District 2										
Dorchester	8,955	9,005	10,531	9,358	10,744	10,503	9,326	9,313	11,769	10,900
Somerset	12,926	11,881	12,684	12,648	12,201	12,126	10,443	9,691	16,849	15,990
Wicomico	28,298	29,632	25,863	25,403	28,806	27,594	25,827	24,933	35,116	32,845
Worcester	22,377	21,408	20,220	19,801	23,469	21,897	25,196	24,296	30,107	27,877
District 3										
Caroline	6,785	6,583	7,057	6,760	7,259	7,115	7,479	6,942	8,927	8,363
Cecil	34,521	31,604	36,786	33,281	34,957	34,029	33,972	31,448	44,846	43,325
Kent	5,799	5,317	6,299	5,943	6,404	6,520	5,750	5,219	5,600	5,317
Queen Anne's	11,485	12,221	15,627	13,651	15,166	15,435	17,538	16,610	26,015	23,175
Talbot	12,850	12,793	14,703	13,229	14,071	14,357	15,190	14,632	14,729	13,995
District 4										
Calvert	15,904	14,030	16,149	16,514	17,273	17,857	16,197	16,153	19,730	18,682
Charles	27,115	28,626	26,515	30,286	28,910	27,683	31,929	29,591	40,598	37,117
St. Mary's	23,055	21,801	20,077	20,232	14,361	16,138	14,973	14,573	20,936	19,745
District 5										
Prince George's	180,486	164,910	126,888	144,658	123,337	130,358	144,609	131,882	152,818	143,826
District 6										
Montgomery	143,965	140,345	153,768	149,900	178,205	171,594	168,780	165,927	188,817	177,725
District 7										
Anne Arundel	107,383	107,183	101,591	102,626	96,139	104,327	101,295	97,064	121,709	114,882
District 8										
Baltimore County	161,097	156,854	149,810	150,107	157,881	165,898	156,014	150,529	177,529	168,014
District 9										
Harford	39,858	38,571	39,342	37,566	39,369	38,596	47,186	43,591	49,148	48,032
District 10										
Carroll	29,932	28,812	30,149	29,883	27,618	28,546	30,991	29,881	44,725	39,556
Howard	56,108	58,726	59,009	56,632	65,648	63,427	66,704	63,539	62,955	68,973
District 11										
Frederick	31,472	31,640	39,744	37,411	45,605	44,348	47,824	46,374	50,788	48,929
Washington	25,062	23,710	21,731	20,224	24,021	24,066	28,124	26,117	33,670	31,600
District 12										
Allegany	12,244	12,154	11,432	11,144	12,841	12,650	16,394	15,614	22,661	21,992
Garrett	11,007	9,958	11,800	10,746	17,049	15,873	19,134	17,743	22,771	21,722
Statewide	1,114,503	1,100,662	1,064,864	1,061,893	1,154,719	1,146,549	1,202,279	1,141,724	1,360,976	1,291,680

*Traffic case counts include citations issued under the Maryland Transportation Article; parking and red light citation requests for trials; Department of Natural Resources cases; and Mass Transit Administration citations. Prior to FY 2002, case counts included only citations issued under the Maryland Transportation Article.

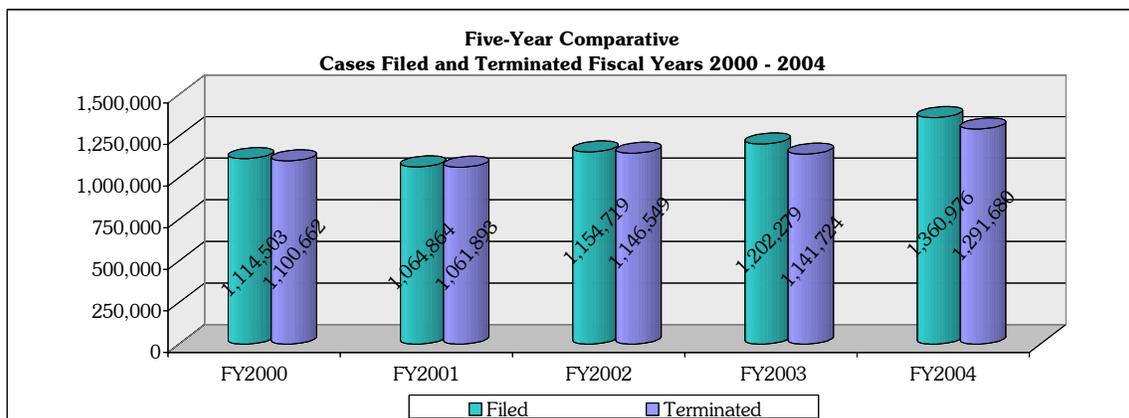


TABLE DC-6 Five-Year Comparative Table Criminal Cases Filed and Terminated in the District Court of Maryland Fiscal Year 2000 - Fiscal Year 2004										
	FY 2000		FY 2001		FY 2002		FY 2003		FY 2004	
	Filed	Terminated								
District 1										
Baltimore City	80,589	85,531	65,959	72,476	76,406	78,309	75,117	73,657	93,677	98,494
District 2										
Dorchester	1,215	1,401	1,235	1,267	1,409	1,525	1,354	1,494	1,482	1,505
Somerset	1,033	1,090	1,059	1,044	974	965	1,048	991	1,050	982
Wicomico	3,226	3,479	3,258	3,573	3,221	3,484	3,321	3,405	3,344	3,478
Worcester	4,347	4,613	5,264	4,617	5,704	5,673	5,910	5,725	6,066	6,056
District 3										
Caroline	1,208	1,431	1,139	1,263	1,160	1,251	1,239	1,408	1,071	1,266
Cecil	2,877	3,010	2,840	3,236	2,958	3,092	3,215	3,190	3,367	3,394
Kent	678	632	589	681	578	723	728	692	706	732
Queen Anne's	1,203	1,260	1,190	1,329	1,042	1,460	1,191	1,427	1,384	1,451
Talbot	1,391	1,486	1,343	1,566	1,192	1,498	1,292	1,463	1,335	1,391
District 4										
Calvert	2,828	2,505	2,619	3,055	2,531	2,937	2,360	2,497	2,492	2,537
Charles	4,365	3,992	4,442	4,850	4,007	4,858	4,316	4,491	4,296	4,521
St. Mary's	2,670	2,456	2,865	2,671	2,614	3,152	2,809	2,837	2,899	2,993
District 5										
Prince George's	24,741	24,991	21,017	25,166	22,104	24,139	20,189	21,604	19,590	19,504
District 6										
Montgomery	13,136	16,424	12,501	15,592	12,761	14,179	12,446	14,760	13,755	14,112
District 7										
Anne Arundel	13,996	14,556	12,892	14,001	13,514	14,110	13,634	13,008	13,738	12,988
District 8										
Baltimore County	21,076	23,682	19,090	23,663	18,758	21,330	18,565	19,194	18,634	18,755
District 9										
Harford	4,229	4,374	4,113	5,078	4,401	4,994	4,761	5,139	4,788	5,067
District 10										
Carroll	3,478	3,570	3,153	3,721	3,420	3,595	3,540	3,930	3,199	3,778
Howard	4,045	4,616	4,313	4,657	4,230	4,667	3,983	4,658	3,956	4,787
District 11										
Frederick	3,714	3,962	4,070	4,286	4,142	4,477	3,890	4,071	3,927	3,958
Washington	4,047	4,117	4,390	4,176	4,351	4,535	4,471	4,472	4,899	4,925
District 12										
Allegany	3,451	3,577	3,426	3,425	3,561	3,772	3,343	3,495	3,481	3,529
Garrett	1,099	975	1,045	1,015	1,250	1,214	1,224	1,224	1,185	1,399
Statewide	204,642	217,730	183,812	206,408	196,288	209,939	193,946	198,832	214,321	221,602

Note: Beginning in FY 2002, the number of criminal filings was reported. Also, the number of fugitive warrant cases was included in the case counts.

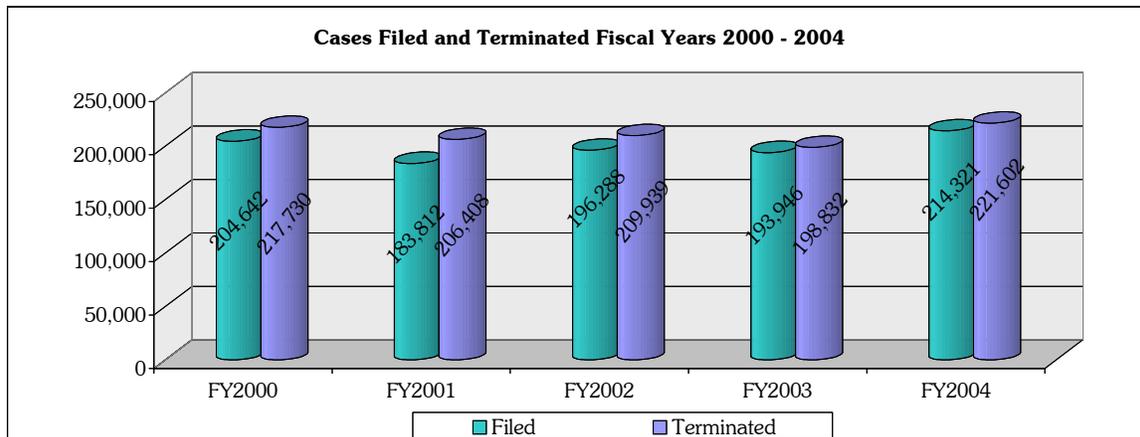


TABLE DC-7 Five-Year Comparative Table Civil Filings and Terminations* in the District Court of Maryland Fiscal Year 2000 - Fiscal Year 2004													
	FY 2000		FY 2001		FY 2002			FY 2003			FY 2004		
	Filed	Terminated	Filed	Terminated	Cases Filed	Complaints Filed	Complaints Terminated	Cases Filed	Complaints Filed	Complaints Terminated	Cases Filed	Complaints Filed	Complaints Terminated
District 1													
Baltimore City	50,240	76,537	47,704	73,255	58,725	63,669	68,789	60,229	69,416	71,210	56,889	67,534	68,107
District 2													
Dorchester	2,419	2,877	1,934	2,568	2,066	2,212	2,395	2,331	2,399	2,353	2,351	2,613	2,463
Somerset	1,177	1,514	1,322	1,546	1,720	1,853	1,767	1,921	2,227	2,184	1,955	2,156	2,033
Wicomico	5,561	8,340	5,959	7,886	8,333	8,943	8,543	9,274	9,928	10,469	8,524	9,490	8,633
Worcester	2,824	5,333	2,900	5,233	4,898	5,041	4,606	5,344	5,635	6,037	5,870	6,178	5,801
District 3													
Caroline	1,008	1,392	1,117	1,667	1,477	1,645	1,718	1,800	1,964	1,809	1,651	1,836	1,779
Cecil	2,154	2,938	2,450	3,901	3,810	4,139	4,125	3,722	4,080	4,004	3,972	4,455	4,212
Kent	1,222	1,762	1,230	1,798	1,402	1,471	1,585	1,430	1,503	1,394	1,567	1,673	1,567
Queen Anne's	1,806	2,740	1,530	2,411	1,571	1,733	1,767	1,779	1,990	1,895	1,920	2,130	1,925
Talbot	1,434	1,962	1,184	1,640	1,785	1,935	2,073	1,814	2,027	1,940	1,934	2,169	2,018
District 4													
Calvert	2,341	3,243	1,877	2,768	3,109	3,628	3,267	3,446	3,658	3,431	3,401	3,860	3,560
Charles	3,823	5,182	4,131	5,691	5,480	6,034	5,985	6,334	7,167	6,343	6,532	7,247	6,906
St. Mary's	1,991	2,673	2,149	3,171	3,000	3,267	3,228	3,159	3,378	3,236	3,025	3,410	3,352
District 5													
Prince George's	41,700	47,931	40,442	58,460	50,758	57,470	60,934	56,870	63,654	73,003	56,849	65,896	64,749
District 6													
Montgomery	32,428	42,723	29,230	40,044	37,832	40,390	57,123	35,958	40,414	45,159	38,021	43,275	38,871
District 7													
Anne Arundel	15,164	24,235	15,965	23,599	22,527	24,433	23,785	24,423	26,639	24,758	22,898	25,721	24,434
District 8													
Baltimore County	37,203	46,113	39,988	52,144	49,931	54,660	53,758	55,623	60,451	54,325	56,700	63,771	68,102
District 9													
Harford	6,567	8,001	6,629	9,526	8,950	9,980	9,824	9,226	10,320	10,101	9,456	10,719	10,648
District 10													
Carroll	3,715	4,818	3,690	4,827	5,005	5,269	5,060	5,280	5,605	5,246	5,125	5,560	5,236
Howard	5,890	8,662	5,761	8,998	8,093	9,128	8,967	8,608	9,737	9,643	8,434	9,683	9,382
District 11													
Frederick	5,128	7,357	5,161	7,451	7,157	7,848	7,460	7,102	7,732	7,424	6,646	7,677	7,784
Washington	5,059	7,196	5,458	7,235	8,771	9,379	8,686	7,403	7,897	7,807	7,529	8,494	8,441
District 12													
Allegany	2,721	4,511	2,276	4,534	4,139	4,441	4,481	5,341	5,625	5,135	5,058	5,347	5,219
Garrett	838	1,136	616	1,059	1,013	1,097	1,016	1,219	1,252	1,275	1,131	1,178	1,190
Statewide	234,413	319,176	230,703	331,412	301,552	329,665	350,942	319,636	354,698	360,181	317,438	362,072	356,412

*Excludes Landlord-Tenant cases.

Note: Starting in FY 2002, previously excluded civil case types were included in counts: civil citations, municipal infractions, forfeitures of contraband, injunctions and writs of possession. Also beginning with the FY 2002 report, terminations were reported. In order to compare terminations (judgments) with filings, the number of potential judgments ("complaints filed") is included. There is a "potential judgment" for each defendant in a case, and additional potential judgments when cross- and other claims are filed.

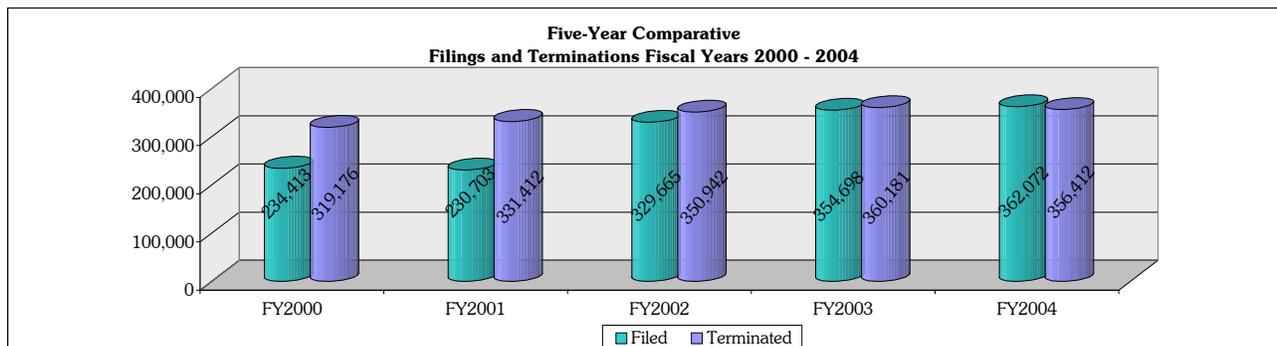


TABLE DC-8 Five-Year Comparative Table DWI Cases* Filed and Terminated in the District Court of Maryland Fiscal Year 2000 - Fiscal Year 2004										
	FY 2000		FY 2001		FY 2002		FY 2003		FY 2004	
	Filed	Terminated								
District 1										
Baltimore City	1,268	1,347	1,601	1,589	2,404	1,849	3,211	2,858	3,642	3,296
District 2										
Dorchester	178	196	211	190	379	314	506	469	525	524
Somerset	243	217	252	307	317	353	391	386	378	375
Wicomico	631	683	670	728	1,301	1,075	1,361	1,522	1,761	1,781
Worcester	977	1,082	816	849	1,606	1,258	2,228	2,258	1,959	2,106
District 3										
Caroline	222	210	206	253	383	307	429	416	509	498
Cecil	1,007	970	1,144	1,063	1,348	1,382	1,844	1,743	1,945	2,051
Kent	185	172	178	232	244	282	346	318	303	305
Queen Anne's	398	474	476	465	663	693	951	1,095	1,234	1,251
Talbot	329	364	383	369	652	640	934	854	726	759
District 4										
Calvert	1,009	704	874	914	1,794	1,444	2,157	2,210	2,076	2,039
Charles	1,229	1,073	1,082	1,400	2,334	2,051	2,433	2,740	2,097	2,178
St. Mary's	1,554	1,414	746	965	1,120	1,167	1,174	1,245	1,527	1,483
District 5										
Prince George's	4,827	4,652	4,320	4,383	4,097	4,183	4,901	4,769	5,329	5,110
District 6										
Montgomery	7,329	7,161	6,722	6,940	9,596	8,333	10,200	10,253	10,191	9,277
District 7										
Anne Arundel	7,150	6,671	6,905	7,028	6,920	8,196	7,241	7,122	7,289	7,413
District 8										
Baltimore Co.	3,043	3,132	2,930	3,565	5,635	5,386	7,075	7,666	7,316	7,834
District 9										
Harford	1,417	1,438	1,232	1,574	2,523	2,398	3,843	3,857	3,475	3,980
District 10										
Carroll	1,051	1,142	796	993	1,702	1,565	2,483	2,514	2,521	2,715
Howard	1,564	1,818	1,565	1,614	4,630	2,963	4,450	5,090	4,192	4,830
District 11										
Frederick	1,335	1,679	1,443	1,502	3,373	2,979	3,499	3,727	3,373	3,487
Washington	792	870	632	595	1,475	1,342	1,943	1,918	2,243	2,082
District 12										
Allegany	456	542	504	557	807	810	1,251	1,226	1,390	1,416
Garrett	269	302	274	314	691	549	776	837	834	832
Statewide	38,463	38,313	35,962	38,389	55,994	51,519	65,627	67,093	66,835	67,622

*Includes all citations issued under Maryland Transportation Article Sec. 21-902.

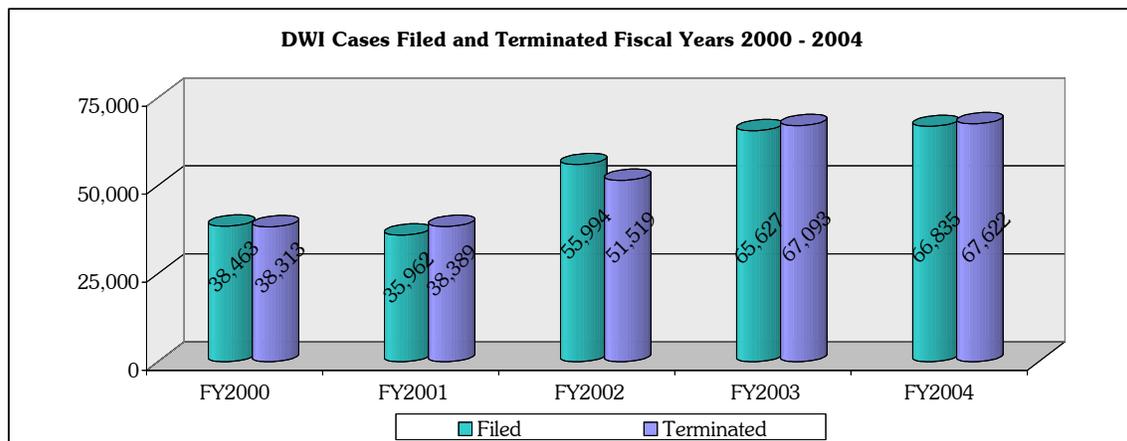


TABLE DC-9
Five-Year Comparative Table
Domestic Violence and Peace Order Cases Filed and Terminated
in the District Court of Maryland
Fiscal Year 2000 - Fiscal Year 2004

	FY 2000		FY 2001		FY 2002		FY 2003		FY 2004	
	Filed	Terminated								
District 1										
Baltimore City	4,099	3,962	4,190	4,114	4,905	4,630	5,883	5,673	6,516	6,529
District 2										
Dorchester	167	178	175	171	190	184	207	198	272	259
Somerset	47	41	62	54	79	71	87	82	156	169
Wicomico	598	569	659	634	774	719	855	822	780	758
Worcester	247	234	225	222	247	233	278	262	253	242
District 3										
Caroline	130	123	162	156	134	131	195	187	180	175
Cecil	375	363	506	512	454	442	510	502	550	533
Kent	125	133	37	33	62	64	79	74	92	80
Queen Anne's	140	141	174	177	202	194	245	252	251	250
Talbot	150	145	99	97	129	124	139	139	242	236
District 4										
Calvert	269	272	356	346	350	331	478	465	508	534
Charles	515	511	563	557	632	622	915	896	1,076	998
St. Mary's	297	210	292	275	401	381	461	435	663	587
District 5										
Prince George's	4,156	3,936	4,821	4,708	5,895	5,510	7,137	6,309	7,763	6,951
District 6										
Montgomery	1,768	1,735	2,092	2,024	2,376	2,337	2,443	2,416	2,836	2,757
District 7										
Anne Arundel	2,210	2,156	2,579	2,569	2,972	2,875	3,436	3,542	3,184	2,995
District 8										
Baltimore County	4,065	3,916	4,923	4,828	5,232	5,090	5,683	5,688	6,299	5,639
District 9										
Harford	722	659	909	894	892	880	1,025	1,004	1,103	1,067
District 10										
Carroll	433	437	490	473	476	473	578	587	582	580
Howard	635	527	739	622	898	854	915	896	921	907
District 11										
Frederick	782	757	959	929	962	945	997	986	1,123	1,063
Washington	939	908	1,062	1,035	1,175	1,158	1,400	1,371	1,498	1,430
District 12										
Allegany	364	344	392	362	433	408	483	464	531	509
Garrett	134	129	128	115	164	152	282	285	260	305
Statewide	23,367	22,386	26,594	25,907	30,034	28,808	34,711	33,535	37,639	35,553

Note: The termination count is the total number of final protective orders issued, denied and dismissed, temporary orders denied and dismissed, and interim orders denied.

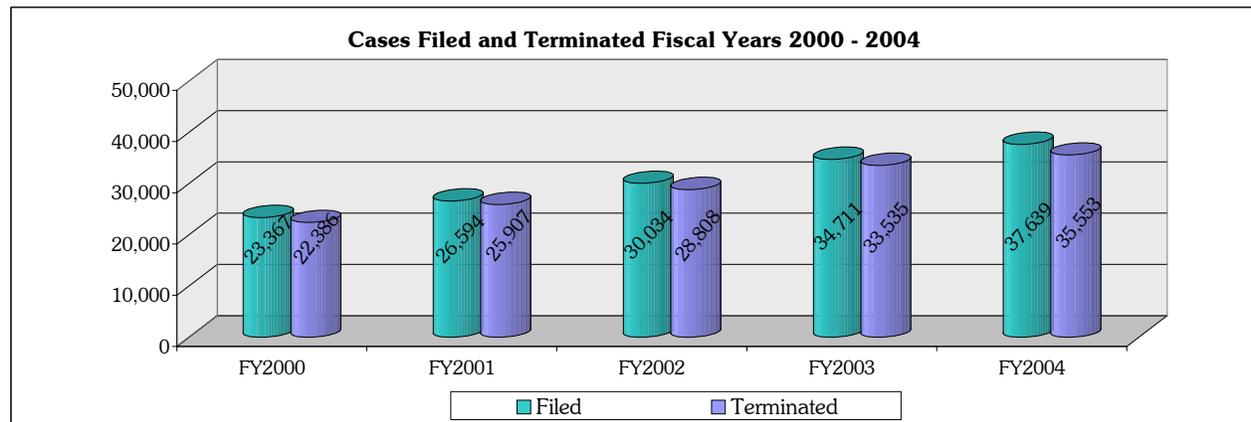


TABLE DC-10

**Domestic Violence and Peace Order Dispositions
in the District Court of Maryland
Fiscal Year 2004**

	Domestic Violence						Peace Orders				
	Cases Filed	Transfers to Circuit Court	Interim Orders Granted	Ex Parte Orders Granted	Protective Orders Granted	Appeals	Cases Filed	Interim Orders Granted	Ex Parte Orders Granted	Protective Orders Granted	Appeals
District 1											
Baltimore City	4,220	39	1,828	2,515	1,082	18	2,296	1,016	250	1,295	0
District 2											
Dorchester	159	4	74	98	57	1	113	23	76	53	0
Somerset	72	1	9	86	46	0	84	5	64	40	0
Wicomico	491	6	71	302	138	8	289	42	221	114	2
Worcester	149	0	21	100	55	1	104	15	61	30	2
District 3											
Caroline	110	9	40	77	53	0	70	15	36	29	0
Cecil	363	10	103	222	91	6	187	21	79	36	0
Kent	38	2	13	25	6	0	54	3	31	20	1
Queen Anne's	167	1	29	114	60	1	84	5	50	29	0
Talbot	144	1	66	67	66	0	98	17	63	58	0
District 4											
Calvert	289	4	128	207	157	0	219	50	152	122	0
Charles	573	4	238	300	193	12	503	139	310	248	5
St. Mary's	364	4	156	228	137	8	299	132	164	117	1
District 5											
Prince George's	4,912	94	1,750	3,135	1,564	60	2,851	731	1,997	1,096	24
District 6											
Montgomery	1,537	19	429	1,103	768	6	1,299	247	928	657	4
District 7											
Anne Arundel	1,971	59	472	1,389	777	16	1,213	211	839	566	5
District 8											
Baltimore County	3,972	10	1,201	1,888	890	43	2,327	470	1,307	626	11
District 9											
Harford	621	18	177	397	258	9	482	77	306	237	1
District 10											
Carroll	294	3	74	224	149	4	288	23	256	163	0
Howard	524	7	135	392	218	0	397	70	291	164	0
District 11											
Frederick	575	0	203	343	152	4	548	81	354	151	1
Washington	890	7	305	555	306	14	608	164	439	321	5
District 12											
Allegany	360	0	163	220	119	2	171	57	93	65	0
Garrett	139	2	75	84	53	2	121	63	55	79	0
Statewide	22,934	304	7,760	14,071	7,395	215	14,705	3,677	8,422	6,316	62

Judicial Administration

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION

Under Article IV, §18(b) of the Maryland Constitution, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals is the “administrative head of the judicial system of the State.”

More than forty years ago, the Maryland Legislature took an additional step to provide the administrative and professional staff necessary to assist the Chief Judge to carry out the administrative responsibilities under the Constitution by enacting §13-101 of the Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article. This statute established the Administrative Office of the Courts under the direction of the State Court Administrator, who is appointed and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Judge. The State Court Administrator and the Administrative Office of the Courts provide the Chief Judge with advice, information, facilities, and staff to assist in the performance of the Chief Judge’s administrative responsibilities. The administrative responsibilities include, but are not limited to, human resource administration, preparation and administration of the Judiciary Budget, planning and research, and administration of the family divisions of Maryland’s courts. Staff support is provided to the various policy-making bodies within the Judiciary, as well as the conferences that support the Judiciary. Additionally, the Administrative Office of the Courts serves as secretariat to the Appellate and Trial Court Judicial Nominating Commissions. Staff also is responsible for the complex operation of case management systems, collection and analysis of statistics, and other management information. The office also assists the Chief Judge in the assignment

of active and former judges to address shortages of judicial personnel in critical locations.

Following are some of the initiatives undertaken within various departments of the Administrative Office of the Courts during the last year.

The Department of Family Administration

The Maryland Judiciary continued its efforts to improve the experiences of families and children that come before the court by promoting an efficient, effective system of family justice.

How Are We Doing? With a grant from the State Justice Institute, the Judiciary developed four survey instruments to gather input from court users including litigants, attorneys, self-represented persons and mediation clients. The surveys were developed to permit the Judiciary to evaluate its performance in serving families in light of the *Performance Standards and Measures for Maryland’s Family Divisions*. Over the coming year, the tools will be used on a sampling basis. The first data collected will serve as a benchmark, permitting the court to measure improvements in customer satisfaction over time, and to identify areas needing improvement.

In other evaluation efforts, the Foster Care Court Improvement Project (FCCIP), with the help of consultants from the American Bar Association, recently conducted a review of its efforts over the past seven years to improve the court’s role in child protection cases. The FCCIP also has been actively

involved, with other state partners, in a federal assessment of the state’s child welfare system.

Improving Access to Justice for the Self-Represented.

The Judiciary participated in a nationwide, grant-funded study of programs designed to assist the self-represented. Maryland was the lead state in the study, and coordinated the evaluation of programs in eleven different courts in six states. Five Maryland self-help programs were evaluated using an assessment tool developed by the Trial Court Research and Improvement Consortium. Court staff conducted surveys and courtroom observations, gathering input from judges, masters, attorneys, self-help program staff and litigants on how well court programs serve the self-represented. Outside evaluators then spent a total of four weeks visiting the five Maryland sites, and produced a detailed assessment report of each. The assessments will be posted on the National Center for State Courts’ website, to serve as a national benchmark for other court-based self-help programs. The evaluators’ recommendations will be used by the Judiciary to make improvements in how Maryland responds to the needs of self-represented litigants.

Addressing Underlying Issues.

Many families involved in the child protection system have underlying substance abuse problems. By addressing the substance abuse problems of parents, courts and agency partners can often get to the root cause of child abuse and neglect. By addressing the needs of parents,

these courts can protect children from further harm and increase the likelihood that children will remain in permanent, stable homes. The Judiciary's Foster Care Court Improvement Project has joined forces with Maryland's Drug Treatment Court Commission to create a Statewide Dependency Drug Court Team. The team, which includes representatives from a broad range of state agencies serving families, has participated over the past year in a series of federally-funded training sessions to assist them in planning and developing "dependency drug courts." They will be working with Maryland jurisdictions to create and implement these specialty courts to address substance issues in child protection cases.

Broadening Minds, Expanding Horizons. The Department of Family Administration at the Administrative Office of the Courts provided a number of specialized courses and conferences for family court professionals in the state during Fiscal Year 2004. These included:

A symposium on **Custody Decision-Making in Maryland.** The symposium was sponsored by the AOC along with the Custody Subcommittee of the Judiciary Conference Committee on Family Law, the University of Maryland School of Law, the University of Baltimore School of Law, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Division of United States Studies, and the law firm of Butler, McKeon and Associates.

A **Family Caseflow Workshop**, a one and half-day seminar for domestic and juvenile case managers working in the courts.

An expanded juvenile conference - the **Child Abuse, Neglect and Delinquency Options (CANDO) Conference.** This event, formerly known as the annual CINA Conference, for the first time added a 3rd day of seminars on delinquency issues. Seminar tracks were offered for judges, masters, agency professionals and attorneys.

Training for **pro bono attorneys** willing to **represent parents in CINA cases.** This effort was intended to increase the availability and quality of representation available to parents in these cases.

A conference, jointly sponsored with Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office entitled, **A Bridge Over Troubled Waters: Meeting Challenges in Court-Related Family Mediation.**

A total of **60 hours of basic and child access mediation training** for 48 judges, masters and court professionals.

Promoting Pro Bono Activity

New rules that took effect in 2002 have required each county in Maryland to create a Local Pro Bono Committee. Each local committee is charged with conducting a local legal needs assessment and developing an action plan to address those needs. The Judiciary's Standing Committee on Local Pro Bono Legal Service has provided support and technical assistance to the local committees in these efforts.

To date, seven local committees have completed and submitted their Local Plans to the Standing Committee. Each specifies action steps to increase access to legal services for those in need. Building on local plans, the Standing

Committee will be preparing and submitting a State Pro Bono Plan to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals by July 1, 2005.

Pro Bono Reporting

The Maryland Judiciary completed the first full cycle of collecting data from attorneys who are now required to report annually on their pro bono activities. Data for Calendar Year 2002 was compiled and analyzed in a report released in October 2003. The report, *Current Status of Pro Bono Service Among Maryland Lawyers, Year 2002*, provides an excellent benchmark that will permit the Judiciary to evaluate its efforts to promote pro bono activity among the bar over time.

Major findings included the following:

Among 30,024 lawyers in Maryland, 47.8 percent reported some pro bono activity and the remaining 52.2 percent did not report any pro bono activity.

- The total number of pro bono hours rendered in 2002 was 995,615 hours among 30,024 Maryland lawyers
- Higher proportions of lawyers in two rural areas of Maryland – the Western and Eastern Regions – rendered pro bono services compared with lawyers in other more metropolitan regions.
- The Eastern Region reported the highest percentage of lawyers with 50 or more pro bono hours among full time and part time lawyers, followed by the Western Region.
- Caroline County had the highest percentage of full time lawyers (52.9) rendering 50 or more pro

bono hours, followed by Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester, and Cecil Counties – all counties in the Eastern Region.

- Howard County had the lowest number of its full time lawyers reporting 50 or more pro bono hours at 19.3 percent, followed by Baltimore County (19.5 percent), Charles County (20.4 percent), Baltimore City (21 percent), and Montgomery County (22.6 percent).
- Among Maryland lawyers who rendered pro bono service hours, 54.1 percent rendered their services to people of limited means; 13.4 percent to organizations helping people of limited means; 5.7 percent to entities in matters of civil rights; and 26.7 percent to organizations such as “non-profits” where they furthered those entities’ organizational purposes.
- The Family/Domestic practice area is the top pro bono service area while it is the fifth ranked primary practice area.
- The total hours spent participating in activities for improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession was 406,477.6 hours.
- The total financial contribution to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means was \$2,208,001.
- Lawyers who reported that their primary practice area is family law tend to provide more pro bono service, controlled for geographical region and working status.
- Lawyers who are prohibited from providing pro bono service, as well as those who are retired or work part time rendered

significantly less pro bono hours.

- Lawyers who dedicated hours participating in activities for improving the law and who offered financial contributions to organizations that provide legal services to people of limited means rendered significantly more pro bono hours.

Human Resources Department

Policy Development

The Judiciary Human Resources Department had another successful and productive year. During this reporting period, 10 new integrated human resources policies were drafted by the Human Resources Policy Committee, and approved and implemented by senior management. Those policies are as follows:

- Policy on Americans with Disabilities Act
- Policy on the Attendance Incentive Program
- Policy on Educational Assistance
- Policy on the Employment Probationary Period
- Policy on Grievances, Disciplinary Appeals and Whistleblower Reprisal Protections
- Policy on the Involuntary Termination of Employment and Rejection on Probation for Regular Employees and Employees on Initial Probation
- Policy on Reassignment and Transfer
- Policy on Reinstatement
- Policy on Telework

Policy on Workplace Violence

It is noteworthy to mention that whistleblower reprisal protections are explicit in the new grievance policy. These protections were inherent in the former policies but were not specifically mentioned. The new policy was designed to reassure employees that reprisals against them for good faith actions in these matters would not be tolerated.

The new policies, although not totally new concepts in some cases, are the result of many months of development work, Judiciary-wide feedback, and numerous edits on the part of the Committee and Judiciary Human Resources staff. Prior to the implementation of these new policies, the AOC, Circuit Courts, and the District Court operated under similar but separate policies. The new “integrated” policies apply to the entire Judiciary, a reflection of the “One Judiciary” concept fostered by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals.

Recruitment

Cost containment measures were implemented again during this reporting period, which greatly affected the recruitment of vacant positions. Vacancies were frozen for most of the year, and then later filled. During the year, exceptions to fill certain vacancies were granted in cases of urgent/critical need. HR Recruitment staff was extremely successful in coordinating the hiring of over 330 jobs during the year, throughout the Judiciary.

Professional Development

The Maryland Judiciary, in its mission to promote professional development for regular judicial employees, has two unique court certificate study programs. Both

programs consist of 12 courses offered over a three-year period. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements and are selected by a five-member Application Selection Panel. A Panel and the Professional Development Committee oversee the programs. The Professional Development Unit, of the Human Resources Department, is responsible for the course development, audio-visual, speaker assignments, etc. for each one or two-day course for each program.

The Court Professional Certificate program is a basic curriculum for Judiciary employees seeking expanded job knowledge and professional growth. This program was first offered in 2003 to 40 selected participants. Four courses were presented in 2003 and scheduled in 2004. The program will be completed in 2005 with participants receiving a certificate of completion. In 2004, another group of 31 participants began this program. Applicants will not be accepted for 2005. The application process for new participants will resume in 2006.

The Court Supervisor/Manager Certificate program began in 2004 with 19 selected participants. The courses are designed to attract Judiciary supervisors and managers. Those who have completed the Court Professional Certificate also can apply for this program. The first year participants were able to gain a thorough knowledge of supervisory skills and tools for effective leadership. Additionally, applicants will not be accepted for 2005. The application process for new participants will resume in 2006.

Work/Life Balance

The vision statement of the Judiciary Human Resources Department is to "Enable the

Judiciary to become the employer of choice, by delivering progressive, innovative, results-oriented human resources to internal external customers". In further realizing that vision, a Telework program was implemented during this reporting period. This program offers Judiciary employees the opportunity to work from home, eliminating sometimes-lengthy commute times, while providing savings in both time and travel expenses. Equally, telework programs help the community, since it leads to reduced traffic congestion and pollution. Employees who have enrolled in this program report that being able to telework allows for quiet time to concentrate on their work, and ultimately more work gets done. Currently, the Judiciary has 30 employees enrolled in the telework program.

Drug Treatment Court Commission of Maryland

The Drug Treatment Court Commission was established by order of the Court of Appeals in 2002. The Commission is comprised of representatives from Maryland's three branches of government, state and defense lawyers, and the research, academic and faith based communities. In January 2003, the Commission was staffed with an Executive Director and a Deputy Director. The Commission meets on a quarterly basis and utilizes its members on subcommittee activities in the following program areas: developing staff training, establishing best practices, creating program start up and operational guidelines, formulating a multi agency centralized management information system specifically enhanced to support drug court programs and evaluation needs, and developing a funding plan to

absorb program costs through grants, fees and county, state and federal sources.

During the Fiscal Year 2004 the Commission's accomplishment include:

Training

Two jurisdictions were awarded training opportunities from the Bureau of Justice Assistance in collaboration with the National Drug Court Institute and the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

Ten jurisdictions were awarded participation in the 2005 Bureau of Justice Assistance Drug Court Planning Initiative (DCPI)

Developing a budget and training plan to accommodate statewide needs, special topics and regionalized plans.

Funding

The Commission sponsored the funding of six drug court coordinators through a grant appropriated through the state budget.

Throughout the year, the Commission advised drug court teams of grant opportunities, assisted in writing and editing grant proposals.

St. Mary's County acquired funding for a juvenile drug court

The Commission received a Statewide Grant to enhance its MIS program with HATS.

The Commission was the recipient of a Maryland Transportation Authority DUI drug court program grant. This program is a pilot grant for three DUI drug courts. The counties participating in this grant are Harford, Howard and Anne Arundel District Court.

Statewide Management Information System (MIS)

In 2003, the Commission instituted HATS as Maryland's Drug Court statewide management information system.

In 2004, the Commission received funding to enhance the HATS program to better support the needs of drug court. Through a partnership with Department of Juvenile Services and the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, there was continued development of funding and programming to centralize the data collection for drug courts in Maryland with HATS.

The Commission received a technical assistance grant from the National Center for State Courts to create a data dictionary. The dictionary will serve to centralized drug court definitions to allow drug courts in Maryland to have exact definitions to improve the integrity and comparability of program results across Maryland.

Evaluation

In 2004, the Commission contracted with Northwest Professional Consortium, Inc. (NPC) to complete the first Cost Benefit Analysis on Baltimore City and Anne Arundel County Adult Drug Court.

In 2005, another statewide project is planned to evaluate the process and outcome of all active adult drug courts.

Family/Dependency Drug Courts

Family/Dependency drug courts are a response to the need for greater accountability of parents of abused and/or neglected children and the treatment and justice systems intended to serve them. These programs are available to

parents who have lost custody of their children or who are in danger of losing custody of their children due to abuse and/or neglect where the courts have jurisdiction over the case and family. Parents must be determined to be addicted or have a high likelihood of addiction to drugs and/or assessed for domestic violence, trauma and other mental health concerns and are offered to treatment.

DUI/Drug Courts

The DUI/Drug Court pilot project is a collaborative effort between the Drug Treatment Court Commission and the local courts. In the District Court for Anne Arundel, Harford and Howard Counties, the Drug Courts will work with their respective State's Attorney's Offices, the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Parole and Probation, the Health Department, private treatment providers, and community organizations to expand their current programs to effectively deal with the hardcore DUI offender in their respective jurisdiction.

Other Commission News

The Commission recognized six active drug courts in January 2003. As of 2004, the statewide count for operational drug courts is eighteen. The Commission meets with drug court coordinators on a quarterly basis to incorporate each program into the movement of drug court policy in the state.

National Drug Court Month: With written support from the Executive Branch, then Governor elect, Robert Ehrlich honored this judicial program by providing the Commission with a Proclamation acknowledging May as National Drug Court Month in Maryland. Multiple counties participated in drug court month by holding

graduations and community activities and presentations. During the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Training held Milwaukee, Wisconsin, three juveniles received national awards for their photo and written work. A banquet in honor of the drug court teams was held in May at the Miller Senate Building in Annapolis.

University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Program and the drug court program in Maryland will be partnering to expand the range of programming to the drug court population of children and their families. The land grant program, known as 4-H to most, has a wealth of resources for families and they are not exclusively agriculture based as most believe. The Commission is excited to expand the nature of this partnership during the next year.

Judicial Information Systems

UCS

The Anne Arundel County CORTS case management system was successfully converted to the UCS civil and criminal systems. The UCS Juvenile module is scheduled to be installed in Anne Arundel and Carroll Counties during the third quarter of 2004. The UCS criminal module is scheduled to be implemented in Baltimore County during the second quarter, 2005.

Managed LAN - Local Area Networks Upgrade

The primary objective of this project is to reduce Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) while increasing service quality, as well as to implement software distribution, software tracking, and remote control processes. The project has reached the target of 3,000

workstations updated to Judiciary standard configuration.

The Centralized Statewide DV Database and Application

The purpose of this project is to centralize all domestic violence data for the entire State (District Court, Circuit Courts, Commissioners, and the Circuit Court for Montgomery Prince George's Counties) into one database for the purpose of both inquiry and update. The project is currently in the requirements phase. Domestic Violence Sub-projects

The Domestic Violence automated forms generation process using UCS is now in place for Baltimore City, Harford, Carroll, Frederick, Kent, Garrett, Calvert, Talbot, Howard, St. Mary's, Somerset, Wicomico, and Washington Counties. Charles County is scheduled to receive this automated process next. Other counties are being scheduled.

The Centralized District Court DV Database, a project to centralize data from 35 separate District Court DV Oracle databases into one central District Court DV database, will allow for centralized inquiry and reporting, and seamless transfer of cases. The project is currently in the final development and testing phases.

MQ Series/ CJIS Reporting to DPSCS

Judicial Information Systems is collaborating with the Department of Public Safety on this joint project that requires real-time and batch shipment of CJIS data from the Judiciary to the DPSCS. The intention is to enhance the timelessness and accuracy of the data by developing a more flexible and efficient means of interacting with the applications of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS). The daily shipment of District Court

data is currently in production. Daily shipment of Circuit Court data, currently in the requirements and design phase, is scheduled for the first quarter 2005.

Access to Court Records

The Court of Appeals voted to adopt new rules clarifying access to court records in paper and electronic format at a public hearing on February 9, 2004. The rules will become effective October 1, 2004. Judicial Information Systems is reviewing systems for rule compliance and will remediate those systems accordingly. The rules likely will increase the demands for electronic access to court information and the Judiciary is considering a variety of ways to improve access to court information, using technology to implement the rules in consideration of the numerous requests it receives for data.

Network Re-Engineering

The network upgrade project goal is to replace the existing network infrastructure with a modern, standards based communications network, with up-to-date policies and security mechanisms, providing a more efficient network architecture capable of supporting increased application demands and projects leveraging newer technologies. To achieve this goal, JIS is replacing non-supported equipment, implementing circuit technology that is scalable (bandwidth) and more robust, and implementing standards for security and network management. The Judiciary network will leverage Network Maryland (the State-wide area network infrastructure) services, such as Internet services and interLATA provisioning, to the extent possible. Judicial

Information Systems is completing Phase I, which includes replacing unsupported circuit technology, and a four-site pilot. Procurement for Phase II, which entails converting 13 sites to the new technology, is complete. Procurement for Phases III and IV has been partially completed.

Enterprise Mainframe Upgrade

Judicial Information Systems upgraded the enterprise mainframe to current system technology, a robust, scalable system that increased processing capability by 45% and doubled the storage capacity. The upgrade also included newer technology for system backup and recovery.

Maryland e-License

This project provides the capability for businesses and individuals to apply for and receive business licenses more easily and efficiently. This prototype application is utilized Statewide in the 24 Circuit Court jurisdictions. A number of very effective (and significant) Prototype Enhancements were deployed during Fiscal Year 2004. With these enhancements, additional license-processing improvements have been demonstrated. As funding becomes available, additional enhancements including general Internet accessibility will be developed and deployed.

Land Records

Judicial Information Systems and the Maryland State Archives have collaborated to provide comprehensive digital land record access. The robust front-end of ELROI combines with the mdlandrec.net system to offer access to all counties from any location. The rollout for new

counties is scheduled to be completed in early 2005. The thirteen existing ELROI sites will then be upgraded.

CaseFlow Time Standards

The CaseFlow Time Standards system automates the data collection and reporting of specific case events. Version 2 of the Caseflow Assessment application, for Calendar Year 2003 (January 1, 2003 - December 31, 2003), included additional data fields and reports. Application enhancements included: conversion of all case reports to the WebFocus software environment, a Judicial Information Systems strategic software tool that enables users to view reports in tabular and graphical formats; and database conversion to Oracle, the Judicial Information Systems standard database management system. Major case types include Circuit Court criminal, civil, domestic relations, and juvenile delinquency cases, and District Court criminal, 21-902, traffic must appear, traffic payable, civil large claims, and civil small claims.

Procurement and Contract Administration

Office of Contract Compliance and Business Affairs

The Maryland Judiciary's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Policy requires that the Agency structure its procurements to attempt to obtain minority business participation on all Maryland Judiciary contracts in excess of \$50,000 in the areas of service, (i.e., janitorial), information technology to include equipment, services and supplies, office supplies, furniture and equipment, commodities and small renovation.

During Fiscal Year 2004, the Maryland Judiciary let thirty-nine contracts with a total dollar value of \$16,423,277.92. The Office of Contract Compliance and Business Affairs reviewed and assessed a total of thirty-three contracts for a total dollar value of \$8,731,204. Five of these contracts after award were less than \$50,000; four contracts having a total dollar value of \$1,158,000 were pending at the close of the fiscal year; three with a total contract value of \$185,000 were cancelled; and the remaining twenty-five contracts, valued at \$7,182, 222, were assessed for minority business participation. Six minority business enterprises acted as subcontractors, receiving \$1,005,124.54 in subcontract dollar amounts. An overall MBE goal achievement goal of 14 percent was realized.

While minority businesses are important to the economy, many of them lack sufficient expertise to grow in critical areas such as in the Information Technology arena. Providing access to the right network of information and resources can make a big difference in their achieving success and improving the overall MBE initiative for the Maryland Judiciary.

In furtherance of the Minority Business Enterprise initiative for the Maryland Judiciary, the Office of Contract Compliance and Business Affairs (MBE) in conjunction with International Business Machines (IBM) are currently developing a Mentor/Protege Program. Minority businesses can benefit from the important business knowledge and expertise of larger firms. Mentoring is a business to business relationship that includes learning and information sharing. These business to business relationships can create mutual benefits for both, larger and smaller companies, as well as between firms in the

economic mainstream and firms that have less access to resources. These relationships can be essential to business success, as well as increase the number of companies that provide services to the Maryland Judiciary.

During the year, the MBE either hosted or participated in a number of minority business outreach programs. These programs provided an opportunity for minority and small businesses to showcase their businesses, network with other vendors, and build a relationship with the end users of the Maryland Judiciary and the staff of the Department of Procurement and Contract Administration. Additionally, the MBE liaison officer served in the capacity of speaker or panelist at several minority and small business events throughout the State.

Program Services Unit

During Fiscal Year 2004, the Program Services Unit held three orientation workshops for Court Interpreters with approximately 120 attendees. Certification testing was conducted in Arabic, Cantonese, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese languages. An eight-session skills-building workshop for Spanish interpreters was held prior to administering the Spanish exam. A new Standing Committee on Court Interpreters was established with that committee currently addressing many issues including background checks, payment policies and a new written exam. In addition, the Committee is investigating the feasibility of translating court forms into several languages.

Report of Maryland's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process

In early 1987, the Maryland Judiciary and the Maryland State Bar Association created the Special Joint Committee on Gender Bias in the Courts to determine whether gender bias existed within the legal community and court system. The Select Committee on Gender Equality Report, issued in May of 1989, reached the conclusion that gender bias had a major and negative impact on the Maryland judicial system and recommended a series of changes. A major priority of the Select Committee was to conduct a retrospective study designed to measure changes in attitudes, perceptions and experiences that have occurred over the past ten years. As part of this study, the Select Committee expanded its examination of bias within the judicial system to include issues of racial and ethnic bias at the request of Chief Judge Robert M. Bell. The second report of the Select Committee on Gender Equality was issued in October 2001.

In response to growing concerns over racial and ethnic bias in Maryland's court system and the release of the second report of the Select Committee on Gender Equality, Chief Judge Bell created the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process by Administrative Order, February 1, 2002. The Commission's primary focus is to raise both public and professional awareness of the impact of race and ethnic origin on the fair delivery of justice in Maryland.

To carry out its purpose, the Commission shall:

1. Develop a methodology to reduce or eliminate unequal access,

and unequal treatment, experienced as a result of or perceived as a part of judicial processes within the Maryland court system;

2. Increase public confidence in the equal application of the law in Maryland for all citizens, by the elimination of bias and the misconceptions of bias;

3. Identify initiatives to raise both public and professional awareness of the impact of race and ethnic origin on the fair delivery of justice in Maryland courts; and

4. Recommend the development of educational programs for the bench and bar as to the means by which any racial or ethnic bias that may exist may be eliminated from the Maryland court system.

The Fairness Commission at its first meeting invited H. Clifton Grandy, Esq., Senior Court Manager, District of Columbia Courts and Dr. Yolanda P. Marlow, Administrative Assistant, Administrative Office of the New Jersey Courts, to discuss the experiences of the District of Columbia and New Jersey courts. They also gave presentations on establishing a research agenda. The results of these meetings provided the Commission with direction for its research method.

Collection of the data for this study involved three phases. First, a questionnaire was designed and approved by the Commission and its consultant, Anita M. Daniel of Market Insight. The objective of the questionnaire was to identify the experiences of actual court users - primarily litigants - as they relate to racial, ethnic and economic fairness. It also was hoped that the questionnaire would be helpful in determining what, if any, corrective actions are necessary. It was decided that the

questionnaire would include questions based upon the economic status of litigants in order to examine whether perceptions of fairness have multiple root causes as opposed to singular racial or ethnic bases.

The questionnaire contained 136 questions and took approximately twenty to twenty-five minutes to complete. Responses received through the end of April 2003 were included in the study.

Shortly after the mailing of the questionnaire, the second phase of data collection began. The Commission held five (5) public hearings at various locations across the State during the week of February 24-28, 2003 to allow citizens the opportunity to speak directly to Commission members. Citizens were allowed to give testimony in public or confidentially. The Court Information Office issued press releases about the public hearings. In addition, Commission members sent notices of the hearings in Spanish and Korean to special interest groups, and many of such groups were directly contacted by Commission members.

Due to the limited attendance at the hearings, 1,500 additional questionnaires were mailed to Administrative Judges in the District and Circuit Courts with requests to have them completed by persons participating in litigation, and returned to the consultant. The questionnaires were apportioned on a caseload basis determined by the percentage of a particular jurisdiction's caseload compared to the State's total caseload.

The third method of data collection was to accept written testimony from anyone who alleged they had experienced a racial or ethnic bias in the court system. Written testimony was acknowledged and accepted by the Commission if postmarked by April 30, 2003.

Upon receipt of the public

comment, and the responses to the questionnaire, the Commission spent six months formulating its findings, deciding upon its recommendations, and preparing preliminary Commission reports. An executive summary, recommendations, and the final report of the Commission were

approved in the first week of March 2004.

The printed Report, comprising well more than 150 pages including anecdotal information and tables developed from the questionnaire responses, was presented to the Chief Judge Robert M. Bell before

the end of the fiscal year. Upon the presentation to the Chief Judge, the current work of the Commission was concluded. The Report is available to the general public.

<i>Members of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Judicial Process</i>	
<i>Hon. Dale R. Cathell, Chair</i> <i>Hon. Charles B. Day, Vice-Chair</i> <i>Carmen M. Shepard, Esq., Vice-Chair</i>	
Jonathan Ilson Ahn, Esq. Hon. Marielsa A. Bernard Donna Burch Alice Chong, Esq. Michele Livojevic Davis, Ph.D. William B. Dulany, Esq. George Fauth Elizabeth M. Hewlett, Esq. Hon. Michele D. Hotten	Hon. W. Newton Jackson, III Rev. Nathaniel Johnson Charlene Cole-Newkirk, Esq. Spyros J. Sarbanes, Esq. Gustava E. Taler, Esq. Joseph A. Trevino, Esq. Kimberly Smith-Ward, Esq. Bernard Wynder
<i>William L. Howard, Ed.D., Staff</i>	

Court-Related Agencies

COURT RELATED AGENCIES

Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland

The Attorney Grievance Commission of Maryland was created July 1, 1975 by rules promulgated by the Court of Appeals of Maryland. The current rules, effective July 1, 2001,

replaced the original rules. Those rules are found in Title 16 of the Maryland Rules beginning with Rule 16-701 and resulted in the processing of disciplinary complaints in a shorter period of time than under the prior rules.

The Commission is composed of nine attorneys and three public

members. Each member is appointed by the Court of Appeals for a term of three years. The Commissioners maintain their practices in several different counties.

The Court designates one attorney member as Chair and one attorney member as Vice-Chair.

Five-Year Summary of Disciplinary Action

	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04
Inquiries Received	1,348	1,410	1,468	1,559	1,610
Complaints Received (Prima Facie Misconduct Indicated)	543	460	420	475	485
Totals	1,891	1,870	1,888	2,034	2,095
Complaints Concluded	605	585	556	435	487
Disciplinary Action by No. of Attorneys:					
Disbarred	9	7	15	12	22
Disbarred by Consent	11	16	15	5	6
Suspensions	28	26	27	35	23
Temporary Suspensions (new rules)	0	0	1	0	1
Public Reprimands - Court of Appeals	16	12	8	7	6
Reprimands by Commission (public)	0	0	12	12	22
Private and Bar Counsel Reprimands	25	32	26	1	0
Inactive Status	1	0	0	4	2
Dismissed by Court	3	3	8	6	6
Reinstatements - Granted	3	3	6	5	3
Reinstatements - Denied	2	2	1	4	2
Total No. of Attorneys Disciplined	98	101	119	91	93
No. of Active and Voluntary Attorneys Admitted to Practice in Maryland	29,166	29,863	30,646	31,224	31,934

David D. Downes, Esq., Baltimore County, is the Chair. Linda H. Lamone, Esq., Anne Arundel County, is Vice-Chair. Commissioners serve without compensation. Their powers and duties are set forth in Maryland Rule 16-711.

Subject to approval of the Court of Appeals, the Commission employs a Bar Counsel. The Commission also employs an Executive Secretary to assist in its functions under the rules. The duties of the Executive Secretary are set forth in Rule 16-711(e). The duties of Bar Counsel are set forth in Rule 16-712. Bar Counsel serves at the pleasure of the Commission and is responsible for employment of his staff.

Bar Counsel and staff investigate allegations of misconduct by a Maryland attorney, a member of the bar of another state engaged in the practice of law in Maryland, and non-attorneys whose activities may constitute the unauthorized practice of law.

The Commission meets at least once each month to review the activities of Bar Counsel and staff. The Commission also reviews the income and expenditures of Bar Counsel to see that the budget, previously approved by the Court of Appeals, is honored. The Commission recommends to the Court of Appeals any necessary rule or administrative guidelines which affect the disciplinary system.

The Commission also meets, at least once a month, with the Executive Secretary. These meetings require Commission review of all recommendations of Bar Counsel and staff, and the recommendations of peer review panels provided for by Maryland Rule 16-743(e) as reflected in this report under the section entitled

“The Disciplinary Process.”

Rule 16-714 provides for a disciplinary fund. A condition precedent to the practice of law in Maryland is an annual payment each attorney is required to make to the fund. The Court of Appeals, by Order, establishes the sum required by this rule which is collected together with the sum required by Rule 16-811 to be paid to the Client Protection Fund. For Fiscal Year 2004, the assessment for the disciplinary fund was \$65.00 and that of the Client Protection Fund, \$20.00. Effective July 1, 2004, the assessment for the disciplinary fund will increase to \$100.00. Late fees are assessed for attorneys who fail to pay timely. An attorney who fails to pay the mandatory assessments within the time set forth by the Trustees of the Client Protection Fund may be decertified by the Court of Appeals and are not eligible to practice until the assessments and all late fees are paid.

The budget for the Commission is submitted for approval by the Court of Appeals prior to the beginning of the Commission’s fiscal year. The budget is public and is reflected in the Commission’s detailed annual report. The Commission’s financial records are audited by an outside certified public accountant. That report is filed with the Court of Appeals. A surety bond is maintained for Bar Counsel, the Office Manager and a Commissioner designated as Treasurer.

The Commission’s annual report is released in the Fall of each year and is distributed to courts, libraries, news media, disciplinary agencies in each state, every volunteer in the disciplinary system and to any others upon

request. That report expands on the activities of Bar Counsel and staff and provides statistical information about the types of ethical violations investigated and reports all public sanctions of attorneys.

The Commission has the added duties of receiving overdraft notifications of an attorney’s trust account, reports of targeted mailings by attorneys who engage in that practice required by Section 10-605.2 of the Business Occupations and Professions Article of the Maryland Code and, when necessary, undertaking the role of a Conservator of client files and bank accounts of any attorney who has been disbarred, suspended, is incapacitated, disappears or passes away and there is no one else to serve in that role.

The Commission has a web page linked to that of the Maryland Judiciary. This page enables a grievant to download a complaint form. A prospective grievant also may request a form to be sent by mail. All public disciplined attorneys are posted on the web site, which also contains a link to the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Commission issues brochures in English and Spanish explaining the Commission and its purpose. The brochures are distributed to all courts in the State, as well as to public libraries.

The Commission staff, in addition to Bar Counsel, is composed of a Deputy Bar Counsel, eight Assistant Bar Counsel, six investigators, an Office Manager, an Administrative Assistant, two paralegals, eight secretaries and a receptionist.

The Disciplinary Process

Every grievance is reviewed to determine if further investigation is required. There were 2,095 grievances filed this fiscal year. One thousand six hundred and ten (1,610) were concluded without further investigation, generally based on the response from an attorney or a determination that the grievance was not within the jurisdiction of the Commission. A total of 485 were assigned for further investigation. This represented an increase from the number of investigations in the past two fiscal years.

Pending grievances assigned for investigation and not resolved at the close of Fiscal Year 2004 totaled 415, a slight decrease from the previous fiscal year when 417 were pending.

Unless the time for investigation of a grievance is extended for good cause, Bar Counsel is required to complete an investigation within 90 days after opening a file on the complaint. A failure to comply with the time requirements permits the Commission to take any appropriate action, including dismissal of the complaint and termination of any investigation.

When a "warning" is recommended by Bar Counsel or a peer review panel, the attorney must agree to accept it. A failure to accept a warning results in the Commission directing Bar Counsel to take further action.

When Bar Counsel and an attorney agree to a public reprimand or a conditional diversion agreement, the Commission may approve either disposition in the form submitted, request that changes be made, or reject and direct Bar Counsel to take other action.

Bar Counsel may decide to file

a statement of charges against an attorney to be heard by a peer review panel. These panels are composed of at least two attorneys and one public member. The panels meet informally, a reporter is not present. The panel may recommend to the Commission that the grievance be dismissed, the attorney be warned or that public charges be filed against the attorney. The panel also may report that, as a result of its meeting, the respondent/attorney and Bar Counsel have agreed to a public reprimand or a conditional diversion agreement. The Commission may either accept the recommendation of a peer review panel or reject it and decide what other disposition is appropriate. It is the Commission that has the final decision to direct Bar Counsel to file public charges against an attorney.

The Peer Review Committee is composed of public members solicited by the Commission from various sources. Attorneys who volunteer must be a member of the bar of Maryland who has actively and lawfully engaged in the practice of law in Maryland for five years. Judges of courts of record and attorneys who in the past have been disbarred, suspended or are the subject of a pending statement of charges or a public petition for disciplinary or remedial action may not serve. The annual mailing by the Client Protection Fund contains information for attorneys who wish to serve.

Client Protection Fund

During the past year, many changes occurred within the Fund. Computers were updated and every attorney licensed to practice law in this State was given a new identification number, finally

leaving behind the social security number as an identifier. This took a while to accomplish, but is now up and running smoothly.

A new trustee was appointed by the Court of Appeals to replace Richard A. Reid, who resigned last year. Leonard Shapiro, Esquire from Baltimore County was appointed to Mr. Reid's unexpired term.

During the past year, the trustees met on three occasions, one of which was a two-day meeting. They decided forty-five claims. Of these claims, the trustees agreed to reimburse claimants in twenty-seven of the claims. The trustees paid out a total of \$262,358 in claims this fiscal year.

Effective Fiscal Year 2004-2005 the following officers were elected: Barbara Ann Spicer, Chair, James W. Almand, Vice Chair/Secretary, and Douglas M. Bregman, Treasurer.

State Board of Law Examiners

The examining of candidates for admission to the Maryland Bar was a function of trial courts of the State of Maryland until the State Board of Law Examiners was created by Chapter 139, Laws of 1898. The Board presently is composed of seven practicing attorneys appointed by the Court of Appeals of Maryland. The mission of the Board and its administrative staff is to assist the Court of Appeals of Maryland in determining whether candidates for admission to the Maryland Bar possess the requisite qualifications to become competent practitioners of law.

Pursuant to the Rules Governing Admission to the Bar of Maryland, every person who seeks

The State Board of Law Examiners

Jonathan A. Azrael, Esquire; Chairman, *Baltimore County Bar & Baltimore City Bar*
 John F. Mudd, Esquire; *Charles County Bar*
 Robert H. Reinhart, Esquire; *Allegany County Bar*
 Christopher B. Kehoe, Esquire; *Talbot County Bar*
 Maurene Epps Webb, Esquire; *Prince George's County Bar*
 Linda D. Schwartz, Esquire; *Montgomery County Bar*
 David E. Ralph, Esquire; *Baltimore City Bar*

Results of examinations given by the State Board of Law Examiners during Fiscal Year 2004 are as follows:

Examination	Number of Candidates	Total Successful Candidates	Number of Candidates Taking First Time	Number of Candidates Passing First Time*
JULY 2003	1,426	935 (66%)	1,164	854 (73%)
Graduates				
University of Baltimore	222	133 (60%)	170	111 (65%)
University of Maryland	191	148 (77%)	171	137 (80%)
Out-of-State Law Schools	1,013	654 (65%)	823	606 (74%)
FEBRUARY 2004	575	298 (52%)	267	172 (64%)
Graduates				
University of Baltimore	139	84 (60%)	71	50 (70%)
University of Maryland	63	43 (68%)	35	24 (69%)
Out-of-State Law Schools	436	219 (50%)	213	125 (59%)

*Percentages are based upon the number of first-time applicants.

a license to practice law in the state courts of Maryland must demonstrate that he or she possesses the legal competence and character and fitness necessary for admission to the Maryland Bar. Legal competence is demonstrated by presenting the requisite educational credentials and passing the Maryland Bar Examination. A candidate demonstrates the requisite character and fitness by submitting to an investigation of his or her background conducted by the Character Committees and the State Board of Law Examiners. The Court of Appeals of Maryland reserves to itself the authority to

decide whether to admit a Bar applicant after receiving recommendations from the State Board of Law Examiners and the Character Committees.

Recent law school graduates and attorneys who do not possess the qualifications to take the Out-of-State Attorneys' Bar examination, must take the General Bar examination, which is offered at the end of February and July each year. The General Bar examination presently consists of an essay test of five hours writing time which is usually offered on Tuesday, and the Multi-state Bar Examination (MBE), a 200-item,

six hour multiple choice test offered on the last Wednesday of February and July. The essay test is developed and graded by the State Board of Law Examiners. The MBE is a national test prepared and scored under the authority of the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

The subject matter of the essay test presently includes agency, business associations, commercial transactions, constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, family law, Maryland civil procedure, professional conduct, property, and torts. The MBE subjects

include constitutional law, contracts, criminal law and procedure, evidence, real property, and torts.

The results of general bar examinations given during Fiscal Year 2004 were as follows. A total of 1,426 applicants sat for the July 2003 examination; 935 (66%) passed. A total of 638 applicants sat for the February 2004 examination; 346 (54%) passed. Passing percentages for the two preceding fiscal years were as follows: July 2001, 70%; and February 2002, 44%; July 2002, 68%; and February 2003, 52%.

Experienced attorneys who meet the eligibility standards of Bar Admission Rule 13 may take a special, three hour essay examination limited in scope to the Maryland Rules of practice and procedure in civil and criminal matters and the Maryland Rules of Professional Conduct. The examination subject matter includes the Maryland Rules of Evidence, as well as rules and statutes governing certain non-litigation transactions and proceedings. The attorney examination, which is developed by the State Board of Law Examiners, is offered in February and July on the same day as the essay test for the General Bar examination (usually, Tuesday).

A total of 80 applicants took the July 2003 Out-of-State Attorneys examination, and 71 (89%) passed. In February 2004, 77 applicants took the Attorney examination, and 74 (96%) passed.

The Court of Appeals amended Bar Admission Rule 12 by order dated November 1, 2001 to require that a candidate who passes the Maryland bar examination take the oath of admission not later than 24 months

after the date that the Court of Appeals ratifies the Board's report for that examination. A candidate who fails to take the oath within the required time period shall reapply for admission and retake the bar examination.

Bar Admission Rule 11, effective August 1, 1990, requires all persons recommended for bar admission to complete a course on legal professionalism during the period after the announcement of the examination results and prior to bar admission. This course is administered by the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc., and was implemented beginning with the February 1992 examination.

Maryland State Law Library

The Maryland State Law Library, as a court-related unit of the Judicial Branch, is primarily responsible for providing access to recorded legal information for the Judiciary and citizens of Maryland, whose lives and livelihood are increasingly impacted by the rule of law. The library's mission acts as a catalyst and guide in directing programming activities toward meeting the information needs of a very diverse customer base.

The mission of the Maryland State Law Library, as a support unit of the state court system, is to provide access for the law related information needs of the judiciary as well as the legal community, government agencies and the public. The library pursues a full range of traditional and technologically enhanced service strategies that provide timely, accurate and efficient access to the sources of law, including federal, state and local government information resources.

Originally established by the

Legislature in 1827 and restructured under the Judiciary in 1978, the library is currently staffed by eleven full time and four part-time employees. A State Law Library Committee, chaired by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals provides general policy-making guidance.

With a collection in a variety of formats totaling well over 400,000 volumes and access to multiple commercial online legal and general reference databases, the library provides remote and on-site information seekers the option to harvest three distinct and comprehensive libraries. Anglo-American law, Federal and Maryland government information and local history and genealogy make up the backbone of the library's print, microform and online information resources.

A sampling of Programs and projects initiated and continued during Fiscal Year 2004 included:

Activities of the Technical Services Unit

*continued the development of a customized online catalog of historical and current Maryland county and municipal government codes on the library's web site (<http://www.lawlib.state.md.us>).

*continued the cataloging and indexing of a large collection of Md. state agency regulations pre-dating COMAR (prior to 1974).

*continued providing citations to Md. current and retrospective law articles appearing in legal newspapers and journals on the online catalog.

Activities of the Public Services Department and Library Management

*participated in the MLAN, "People's Law Library" stakeholders group, providing active feed back and input on the redesign of that award-winning legal web site for low and moderate income Marylanders.

*continued orientation programs developed to enhance appellate court law clerk use of the library's unique collections and expertise in legislative history research and utilization of secondary sources of legal authority.

*continued the selective dissemination of library and judicial ethics information via monthly print and email notification to court officials.

*moved into the second year of a Library Outreach Services program designed to extend professional library assistance/consulting service to the State's public county law libraries and liaison with various statewide public library initiatives. Began publication of a monthly *Maryland County Law Libraries Newsletter*.

*added to the library's web-based legal pathfinder series a Resource Guide on *Unattended Children in Maryland*, and a soon to be released guide entitled, *Going to Court in Maryland? An Overview of the Judicial Process in the District and Circuit Court Civil Proceedings*.

*managed the judiciary's state-wide computer assisted legal research contract.

*continued support for the statewide LASI Citation Service extended to residents of all State correctional facilities - provided over 2,500 pages of photocopied legal resources requested by LASI.

*completed the acid free reprinting of the historical classic, *Maryland Constitutional Law*, by Alfred S. Niles (1915).

*contributed to the publication of an American Association of Law Libraries sponsored Resource Guide on *The Value of a Public Law Library*.

*published a brochure - *Audubon's Birds of America on Permanent Exhibit at the Maryland State Law Library*.

Library staff continued to be very active in promoting the library and

its services by participating in numerous educational programs throughout the year. Among some of these presentations:

*lectured Md. Justice Training Institute (25 teachers from across the State) on conducting case law research in a law library.

*seminar for the Md. Public Justice Center staff on conducting Md. legislative history research.

*library staff organized a program, *On-Line Law in the Old-Line State* open to all Judiciary employees. Carried out in conjunction with National Library Week and the National Legal Research Teach-In.

*library staff coordinated the sixth annual Maryland County Law Library Conference, held in Ellicott City and hosted by the Howard County Public Law Library.

*programmed the continuation of the Library's 175th Anniversary by hosting three well attended noontime lectures on Judicial Independence, Elder Law and the Md. Declaration of Rights.

*participated in the Law Library Association of Maryland's 2004 Legal Research Institute - *Introduction to Legal Research*, at the University of Baltimore Law School.

*conducted tour and lecture for the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Foundation Summer, 2003 Roots Program.

*library research staff prepared supplementary reading lists for fourteen Judicial Institute programs being presented in Fiscal Year 2004.

Summary Of Library Use Fiscal Year 2004	
Reference Inquiries (in person, phone, mail and email)	28,300
Email Reference Inquiries Answered	2,400
Volumes Circulated to Customers	3,710
In-Person Visitors/Customers	15,900
Website Hits	139,000
Online Catalog (Mollie) Searches	113,000
Resources Cataloged and Edited	15,378
Exhibits (Lobby & Case)	7

The Commission on Judicial Disabilities

The Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities was established by Constitutional Amendment in 1966 in response to a growing need for an independent body to assist in monitoring the conduct of judges. A 1970 Constitutional Amendment strengthened the Commission. Its powers were further clarified in a 1974 Constitutional Amendment. In 1995, the General Assembly passed a proposed Constitutional Amendment that significantly altered the membership of the Commission. That Constitutional Amendment, among other things, added four additional lay members to the Commission. It was approved by Maryland voters in November 1996. By an Order dated June 5, 1996, effective January 1, 1997, the Court of Appeals renumbered the rules applicable to the Commission to Maryland Rules 16-803 through 16-810. On June 6, 2000, the Court of Appeals amended the rules pertaining to the Commission with the changes to be effective for all complaints, proceedings and actions filed or commenced after January 2001. For actions pending on January 1, 2001, the Court ordered that the amended rules apply "insofar as practicable."

The Commission now consists of three judges, one from the Court of Special Appeals, one from the Circuit Court, and one from the District Court; three members of the bar with at least seven years experience and five lay persons. All Commission members are appointed by the Governor, and they hail from different areas of Maryland. Membership is limited to two, four-year terms.

The Commission on Judicial

Disabilities serves the public and the Judiciary in various ways. Its primary function is to receive, investigate, and act on complaints against members of Maryland's Judiciary. The Commission's jurisdiction extends to all judges who are members of the Maryland Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, Circuit Courts, District Courts, and Orphans' Courts. Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-810, the Commission also supplies the district judicial nominating commissions with confidential information concerning actions taken other than dismissals or pending charges against those judges seeking nomination or appointment to other judicial offices.

The Commission members and staff continue to participate in judicial training and informational programs for judges, lawyers, and the public.

Numerous individuals write or call the Commission expressing dissatisfaction with a judge or with the outcome of a case or some judicial ruling. While some of these complaints may not come technically within the Commission's jurisdiction, the complainants are afforded an opportunity to express their feelings and frequently are informed, for the first time, of their right to appeal. Thus, the Commission, in an informal fashion, offers an ancillary, but vital, service to members of the public.

Complaints filed with the Commission must be in writing and under affidavit, but no particular form is required. Pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-803(h), a complaint must be under affidavit and allege facts "indicating that a judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct."

Each complaint receives a consecutive docket number by the calendar year in which it is received and numeric order of the complaint in that year. Each complaint is acknowledged by letter from Investigative Counsel explaining the investigation and processing of the complaint (Maryland Rule 16-805(b)). Investigative Counsel may open a file and initiate an inquiry independently "upon receiving information from any source indicating that a judge has a disability or may have committed sanctionable conduct" (Maryland Rule 16-805(d)). Complaints opened by inquiry are investigated in the same manner as formal complaints.

Complaints filed without affidavits are labeled "LA." On receipt of such a complaint, Investigative Counsel notifies the complainant, in writing, about the necessity of filing an affidavit and supplies the complainant(s) with the proper language for the affidavit. If the affidavit is not received within 30 days of the date of notice, the Commission administratively closes the file (Maryland Rule 16-805(a)).

Having received a complaint against a member of the Judiciary, Investigative Counsel must determine whether the complaint alleges facts that, if true, would constitute a disability or sanctionable conduct (Maryland Rule 16-805(c)). If Investigative Counsel concludes that the case does not have such facial merit, the complaint is dismissed and the Investigative Counsel notifies the complainant and the Commission members of the dismissal. Otherwise, the Investigative Counsel has 90 days from the receipt of the complaint to complete a preliminary

Members of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities

The Honorable Sally D. Adkins, Chair
Associate Judge, Court of Special Appeals

The Honorable Marjorie L. Clagett <i>Associate Judge, Circuit Court for Calvert County</i>	Mr. William D. Berkshire <i>Anne Arundel County</i>
The Honorable Nancy Shuger <i>Associate Judge, District Court for Baltimore City</i>	Mr. James L. Clarke <i>Montgomery County</i>
William M. Ferris, Esquire <i>Anne Arundel County</i>	Ms. Patricia B. Pender <i>Howard County</i>
Aileen Oliver, Esquire <i>Montgomery County</i>	Mr. Samuel F. Saxton, Sr. <i>Prince George's County</i>
Paul D. Shelton, Esquire <i>Howard County</i>	Mr. William D. Schmidt, Sr. <i>Baltimore County</i>

The diversity of Commission membership in terms of experience, county of residence, gender, race, and age has been a distinct benefit in analyzing and handling complaints in an evenhanded and thorough manner. Commission members attend regular monthly meetings and actively participate in deliberations regarding each complaint, bringing to the discussion a wide range of professional experience and common sense.

investigation (Maryland Rule 16-805 (e)(5)). The Commission may extend the time period for a preliminary investigation for good cause for an additional 30 day period (Maryland Rule 16-805(e)(5)). Once the Investigative Counsel proceeds with an investigation, the judge is entitled to notice of the complaint, the name of the complainant, the substance of the complaint and his or her rights under the rules (Maryland Rule 16-805(e)(3)).

Information contained in complaints and gathered during the preliminary investigation is confidential (Maryland Rule 16-810(a)(2)).

Upon completion of the preliminary investigation, Investigative Counsel reports the results to the Commission and must recommend that one of four actions be taken:

(1) Dismissal of the Complaint with or without a warning (Maryland Rule 16-807(a)).

Dismissal with a warning may

be issued if the Commission determines that any sanctionable conduct that may have been committed by the judge will be sufficiently addressed by such a warning. A judge must, however, consent to the warning, and if the judge does not consent, the Commission has the choice of dismissing without a warning or proceed with public charges against the judge (Maryland Rule 16-807 (a)(2)). A dismissal is issued if the evidence fails to show that the judge has a disability or has committed sanctionable conduct. Either form of dismissal, with or without a warning, does not constitute discipline (Committee Note to Maryland Rule 16-807(a)(2)). Both the judge and the complainant are notified of the dismissal.

(2) Offering the judge a private reprimand (Maryland Rule 16-807(b)) or a deferred discipline agreement (Maryland Rule 16-807(c)).

Private reprimands are issued if

the Commission finds that the sanctionable conduct was not so serious, offensive or repeated to warrant formal proceedings and only if the judge agrees to accept the reprimand, and agrees (i) to waive the right to a hearing before the Commission and subsequent proceedings before the Court of Appeals, and the right to challenge the findings that serve as the basis for the private reprimand, and (ii) that the reprimand may be admitted in any subsequent disciplinary proceedings against the judge to the extent it is relevant.

For sanctionable conduct not so serious, offensive or repeated to warrant formal proceedings, the judge may agree to enter into a deferred disciplinary agreement with the Commission. A deferred discipline agreement is appropriate when Commission members conclude the judge should take specific and remedial action including undergoing specific treatments, apologizing to the complainant, participating in

educational programs, or working with a mentor judge. This agreement must include the items mentioned as (i) and (ii) in the preceding paragraph with respect to a private reprimand. Investigative Counsel then monitors the judge's compliance with the terms of the agreement. A judge's failure to comply with the terms of the agreement after written notice by Investigative Counsel may result in the Commission's revocation of the agreement and proceeding with other dispositions allowed by the rules. If Investigative Counsel notifies the Commission that the judge has satisfied the conditions of the agreement, however, the Commission shall terminate the proceedings.

The complainant(s) is/are notified of the issuance of the private reprimand or the deferred discipline agreement. Its contents are disclosed however, only if the judge gives written consent.

(3) Proceeding with further investigation (Maryland Rule 16-806).

Further investigation must be approved by the Commission. On approval, the Investigative Counsel must notify the judge in writing at his or her address of record and afford the judge the opportunity to file a written response to the complaint. The Commission may, for good cause, authorize the Investigative Counsel to issue a subpoena to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents. "To the extent practicable, a subpoena shall not divulge the name of the judge under investigation." (Maryland Rule 16-806 (b)(3)) Court files with any motion concerning the subpoena are sealed.

Further investigation must be

completed within 60 days of its authorization by the Commission, but the time period can be extended for good cause. All proceedings under this rule are confidential (Maryland Rule 16-810 (a)(2)).

At the completion of the investigation, Investigative Counsel reports the results of the investigation to the Commission along with a recommendation that the complaint be dismissed, that an offer of private reprimand or deferred discipline agreement be issued, or that formal charges be filed against the judge.

(4) Issuing Charges.

If the Commission decides to bring formal charges against a judge, the charges may be served upon the judge "by any means calculated to give actual notice (Maryland Rule 16-808((b)). On receipt of the return of service, the Commission shall notify any complainant of the pendency of the charges. Within 30 days after the service, the judge can file a written response. Thereafter, the Commission notifies the judge of the time and place of hearing. The Complainant is also notified, and a notice is placed in the *Maryland Register*. The hearing is public.

Based on the information gleaned at the hearing, the Commission may, by a majority vote of the full Commission, dismiss the complaint, or based on clear and convincing evidence, issue a public reprimand or recommend that a judge be suspended, retired, removed or censured.

The Commission then makes a recommendation of its chosen course of action to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals may adopt the Commission's recommendation, dismiss the case or order a different (either more or

less severe) discipline of the judge than the Commission recommended.

At times, retirements while investigations were ongoing, may result in the underlying complaint being dismissed.

Before complaints are formally initiated or where press coverage of some judicial actions prompt, many individuals telephone the Commission to register complaints. In Fiscal Year 2004, the Commission received numerous telephone calls. Callers are offered an opportunity to explain their grievances and also are informed about how to file a formal complaint. Callers are routinely sent a follow-up letter detailing the language and procedures necessary to file a formal complaint along with an explanation of the applicable confidentiality provisions of Maryland Rule 16-810.

During Fiscal Year 2004, the Commission considered 94 written complaints. Of the 94 complaints, 11 lacked affidavits, were outside of the Commission's jurisdiction or did not meet the requirements of the Rules. Six complaints were filed by practicing attorneys, 17 by inmates, and one was initiated by Investigative Counsel on his own initiative pursuant to Maryland Rule 16-805(d). The remaining 70 were filed by members of the general public. Some complaints were directed simultaneously against more than one judge, and sometimes a single jurist was the subject of multiple complaints.

Complaints against Circuit Court Judges totaled 72; 20 complaints were made against District Court Judges; and two complaints were filed against Orphans' Court Judges. There were no complaints filed against appellate judges.

Litigation over family law

matters (divorce, alimony custody, visitation) prompted 26 complaints, criminal cases (including traffic violations) prompted 24 complaints, and 37 arose from other civil litigation. Seven complaints failed to fit in any of those categories.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004 the Commission held one public hearing, issued two public reprimands, one private reprimand, and one dismissal with a warning.

Seventeen cases remained open at the end of the fiscal year, pending further investigation or receipt of additional information.

The vast majority of complaints in Fiscal Year 2004 were dismissed because the allegations set forth in the complaints were found to be either unsubstantiated, or the conduct complained about did not constitute sanctionable conduct.

Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office

The Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) is a small court-related agency created and chaired by the Honorable Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. MACRO serves as an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) resource for the State.

Collaborating with stakeholders from all across the state, MACRO helps establish, expand, evaluate, and support conflict resolution education and services in courts, neighborhoods, schools, state and local government agencies, criminal and juvenile justice programs, family service programs, and the business community. MACRO has played a major role in stimulating dramatic increases in the number and quality of ADR programs in Maryland.

MACRO's vision is to have high quality ADR services and education increase the public's access to justice, make the courts more efficient and user-friendly, empower more people to control the outcomes of their own disputes, and promote a more peaceful and civil society. In working toward these outcomes, MACRO is guided by a detailed action plan called *Join the Resolution*, which was adopted by its predecessor, the ADR Commission, after an extensive, statewide, consensus-building process.

Fiscal Year 2004 was a very busy year for MACRO. During the year, MACRO's activities leveraged more than \$800,000 from other sources, as well as countless volunteer hours for conflict resolution programs around the State. In Fiscal Year 2004, MACRO provided assistance to over 80 ADR programs, and laid the groundwork for three important statewide collaborative projects that are attracting national attention as potential models for other states and organizations.

The Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence (MPME)

In order to maintain and grow the advances made in the appropriate use of mediation in Maryland, there has to be public trust and confidence in the skill levels of Maryland's mediators. Identified as an important priority in the ADR Commission's Action Plan, MACRO's work in the area of mediation quality assurance involved convening and organizing Maryland mediators for what turned out to be a four-year collaborative consensus-building process on the issue of mediator quality assurance. The

collaborative process included extensive work with Maryland practitioners organizations, combined with a series of regional public forums.

Building on experiences in Maryland, and examining program models from across the U.S. and Canada, MACRO collaboratively developed a new Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence (MPME). The MPME system is designed to help Maryland mediators, at every level of experience and in every practice area, improve the quality of their mediation practice.

MACRO's work on the MPME was a major achievement in Fiscal Year 2004, taking the system from the idea phase to the pilot program phase. MACRO organized a multi-stakeholder three-day Future Search Conference to refine the MPME and launch it into action. Numerous task groups were created at the Future Search. They worked on different parts of the MPME and came back together for a Future Search follow-up meeting, and are still working on component parts of the MPME, which include regional networks, mentoring, performance-based certification, continuing education, case discussion groups, ethics discussion groups, self-reflective practice, training and practice standards and a grievance process. MACRO is supporting pilot programs for the mentoring and certification components.

MPME participants will receive recognition for accomplishments within the program and note their achievements through a new online directory of Maryland ADR practitioners. As this one-of-a-kind program develops, MACRO believes Maryland will come to be known as a leader among states when it comes to maintaining

highly skilled mediation practitioners while contributing significantly to the overall advancement of the mediation.

MACRO also works to bring Maryland's conflict resolution community together, hosting conferences and participating in statewide dialogues about major issues in the Mediation field. In Fiscal Year 2004, MACRO initiated the first-ever Maryland Mediators Convention, a one-day, self-supporting event, organized by and for Maryland mediators.

The Self-Assessment System for Court ADR Programs

MACRO convened the Court Evaluation Group, made-up of court ADR program coordinators, court administrators and others from circuit court civil (non-domestic) and family ADR programs, and from the District Court, to develop collaboratively a system that will enable them to use their ADR program data to understand, improve, and capture the benefits of their programs. Maryland's court ADR programs collect data, but most do not have a system that enables them to use the data effectively.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the Court Evaluation Group completed the creation of group goals, objectives and indicators, and is refining evaluation tools. MACRO brought in a consultant to assess the hardware and software needs of the programs and to work with the Judicial Information Systems Department of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The self-assessment system will use a web-based data collection system and scanners to enable the court ADR program coordinators to compile their quantitative and qualitative data and receive a variety of

analytical reports based on their data.

No other state has such a statewide system to continually improve court ADR programs. This effort has attracted attention in other states as a potential national model.

Public Awareness Campaign

One of the biggest barriers to advancing the appropriate use of ADR is the public's lack of knowledge about ADR and how using ADR could be of benefit. In Fiscal Year 2004, MACRO laid the groundwork for a statewide public awareness campaign.

In collaboration with the Court Information Office, MACRO is planning a "mediation week," and the release of a series of posters, public service announcements, and a MACRO brochure. It also is planning to distribute ADR video tapes and to conduct targeted mediation awareness and other educational presentations. Some of the materials developed for this campaign, such as the "Mediation, It's Your Solution" posters, will be widely distributed across the state and around the country.

To help the public keep up with the growth of mediation programs statewide, MACRO keeps current a "Consumers' Guide to Mediation Services in Maryland," identifying and describing specific mediation programs operating in each county, both within and outside of the courts. MACRO also operates an e-mail listserv to keep the ADR practitioner community abreast of its work as well as to announce job and training opportunities, conferences, and other events that help to advance the dispute resolution field in Maryland.

Highlights of MACRO's Fiscal Year 2004 accomplishments in

each major area of its work are as follows:

Circuit Court

MACRO provides assistance for ADR projects in circuit courts throughout Maryland. MACRO works collaboratively with all of the circuit courts, and supports their efforts to create new dispute resolution programs, and to expand or enhance existing programs. MACRO provides start-up support for circuit court projects for up to three years. Recipients must report on efforts to make their programs self-sufficient and/or identify local support to maintain their programs for the long term.

Mediation is provided in all contested custody/visitation cases (except those in which there are allegations of domestic violence), and the use of mediation in other civil cases continues to expand statewide. The fastest growing mediation programs in the circuit courts are dependency mediation programs, which MACRO has helped to start in eight circuit court jurisdictions, with growing interest in many other parts of the state. Two kinds of dependency cases are being mediated in these programs. Child in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases are initiated when there has been an allegation of child abuse or neglect. Appropriate cases are referred to mediation to bring groups together that may include parents, social workers, attorneys ad litem for the children, educators, health care practitioners, and extended family members or other supporters of the family, to work with a mediator to develop a plan to support the safety of the child and the well-being of the family, with reunification of children with parents as an ongoing goal.

Appropriate Termination of

Parental Rights (TPR) cases are also referred to mediation among birth parents, adoptive parents, and service providers, all of whom work with a mediator to determine under what conditions the birth parents may have a future relationship, if any, with their child post-adoption. MACRO works closely with the Department of Family Administration of the Administrative Office of the Courts to help educate stakeholders about dependency mediation programs and to collaborate on best practices for court-related family ADR programs. MACRO also is supporting an in-depth evaluation of the TPR mediation program in Baltimore City in order to document the program's benefits to the court and to litigants.

The following circuit court ADR projects received assistance from MACRO in Fiscal Year 2004:

The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, to create a civil (non-domestic) mediation program, expand its use of mediation in family cases, and create a dependency mediation program. It also partnered with the Maryland Council for Dispute Resolution on a mediator skills assessment pilot project (which will also serve as a certification pilot for MACRO's Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence).

The Circuit Court for Baltimore City, to create medical malpractice and professional liability mediation programs. It is also hiring an ADR Programs Coordinator. Adoptions Together, an organization that conducts the TPR cases for the court, contracted with an outside evaluator to assess the program's accomplishments to date.

The Circuit Court for Baltimore County, to develop a dependency mediation video to be used by multiple jurisdictions.

The Circuit Court for Carroll County, to create a dependency mediation program

The Circuit Court for Howard County, to create a dependency mediation program, and to work with the local bar to continue and expand its civil (non-domestic) ADR program.

Based on dependency mediation program models MACRO supported in the courts listed above, similar programs are being established in the Circuit Courts for Allegany, Calvert, Frederick, Prince George's and St. Mary's counties.

The Orphans' Court for Baltimore City, to create a pilot probate mediation program, and MACRO is assisting several other Orphans' Courts, including Baltimore and Wicomico Counties, that are interested in starting probate mediation programs

Baltimore City's Legal Aid Bureau, to create a mediation program for under-served clients. It is working in partnership with the Pro Bono Resources Center, which is pairing clients with pro bono mediators and pro bono counsel.

MICPEL, to co-sponsor a Family Mediation Conference and the Maryland Mediators Convention of 2004 with MACRO. It coordinated a mediation scholarship program for retired judges, sponsored an advocacy training for lawyers in the realm of ADR, and trained mediators for the City's probate mediation program.

Court ADR program coordinators from across the state are collaborating to create a statewide court ADR program self-assessment system. Pilot data collection projects are planned for Fall 2004.

District Court

MACRO works collaboratively with the District Court ADR Office to support its mission to create and operate mediation and settlement conference facilitation programs in District Court jurisdictions across Maryland. All ADR services in the District Court are offered free of charge to litigants, and services are provided by volunteers from local bar associations, community-based mediation programs, and other community organizations across the state. Services include day of trial mediation, pre-trial mediation referrals, peace order mediation, and settlement conference facilitation. In addition, the District Court ADR Office has created pretrial mediation programs for more complex "special set" cases. Volunteers receive continuing education and recognition by the court.

In Fiscal Year 2004, the District Court did the following work in the realm of ADR:

Chief Judge James Vaughan created a new District Court standing committee on ADR, Chaired by Judge Martha Rasin.

The District Court's ADR Office provided ongoing administration of mediation and settlement facilitation programs across the state, with top priority this year given to training and quality assurance. It engaged more than 300 volunteers statewide and provided them with ongoing assistance, education, recognition and quality assurance.

The District Court ADR Office launched a new effort with community mediation centers accessing the court's computerized on-line docket for referrals prior to trial.

The District Court ADR Office piloted ADR programs for special set cases

The District Court ADR Office coordinated an internship program to help handle its increased workload.

The District Court ADR Office and Training Unit trained District Court personnel in ADR awareness, and trained ADR volunteers in peace order mediation, settlement facilitation, mediation skills development, and cultural diversity.

Community Mediation

Community Mediation is an important resource for the court, providing vital conflict resolution services at the neighborhood level, preventing violence and addressing the underlying causes of conflict in a manner that cannot be achieved in a courtroom. Community mediation programs provide free services to the District Court, do outreach and conflict resolution education in the community, and also accept walk-ins and referrals from police, prosecutors, schools, social service agencies and others. They build effective working relationships with local government and community service organizations, and are on the front lines making a difference every day in our neighborhoods.

MACRO works closely with a non-profit 501(c)3 organization called the Maryland Association for Community Mediation (MACMC), which helps strengthen existing community mediation centers and create new centers throughout the state. In collaboration with MACMC, MACRO operates an innovative performance-based funding model that rewards centers for increasing their outreach efforts, intake services and number of

mediations. Since MACRO began supporting community mediation, the number of jurisdictions served by community mediation centers has increased from eight to 17 statewide, and service levels have increased dramatically, with statewide performance measures more than doubling within recent years. In addition, MACRO provides start-up support to help create new centers in areas not yet served by community mediation. All centers operate in conformance with a detailed, nine-point grassroots community mediation model adopted by the ADR Commission.

To ensure long-term financial viability, MACRO continually encourages community mediation programs to diversify their funding sources, generating additional support through grants, contracts, private foundations and individual donors. To assist in their efforts, in Fiscal Year 2004, MACRO partnered with the University of Maryland Center on Aging to train retired executives, or "Legacy Leaders," in mediation and non-profit fund raising skills. Each program graduate commits to providing a significant amount of volunteer service to a community mediation center. As an additional fund-raising incentive, MACRO is phasing in matching fund requirements and leveraged approximately \$498,000 in matching funds during Fiscal Year 2004.

With support from MACRO and the Hewlett Foundation, MACMC is collaborating with centers statewide on an important research project designed to measure the impact and quality of community mediation services in Maryland. Led by MACMC's Director of Research and Training, Lorig Charkoudian, Ph.D., this

research will have results that are expected to be of great benefit to community mediation nationally, as well as to the wider ADR community. MACMC also provides ongoing high quality training for volunteer community mediators statewide.

In Fiscal Year 2004, in addition to supporting the Legacy Leadership Fund Raising Institute, MACRO helped:

*Support and expand 13 community mediation centers in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's, Washington, and Wicomico Counties, as well as the Upper Shore region and Baltimore City and Rockville

*Create a new community mediation center in Charles County

*Support community mediation association to offer training, evaluation, research networking, advocacy and resource development statewide.

Schools and Universities

MACRO supports the development and expansion of effective peer mediation and other conflict resolution projects in schools and universities. MACRO works in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education and the University of Maryland School of Law Center for Dispute Resolution to support small and innovative school-based conflict resolution grant program. The program makes contact with every school in Maryland to offer assistance annually. Now, in its second year, the program is supporting twenty innovative

school-based initiatives, each receiving modest funding support and ongoing technical assistance from a UM Clinical Law student. As this program evolves, MACRO anticipates creating a renewed emphasis on peacemaking in Maryland schools.

In higher education, recent MACRO projects have included supporting startup of a peer mediation program at Salisbury University, as well as assistance in Salisbury's efforts to develop a post-graduate program in dispute resolution and a speakers' series on peacemaking in the community. MACRO also has recently formed a partnership with Salisbury University's Conflict Resolution Center to provide ongoing outside evaluation and research services to assess outcomes associated with court ADR program developments statewide. MACRO supports a field service program at the University of Maryland School of Social Work, a conflict resolution curriculum development initiative at the University of Maryland School of Nursing, and a health care industry ADR initiative at the University of Maryland School of Law.

Projects that MACRO supported in Fiscal Year 2004 include:

*A conference on ADR in Higher Education, organized by the Center for ADR, which is planning a Fall 2004 Conference on K-12 conflict resolution

*The Baltimore City Midtown Academy Elementary School's peacemaking, community-building, and peer mediation initiative

*The Baltimore City Canton Middle School's new PAR program (Johns Hopkins University's Participation Action &

Responsibility program)

*The Howard County Reservoir High School's replication of the successful Frederick High School "Connections" program

*The Howard County Swansfield Elementary School's new after-school program on conflict resolution

*Morgan State University's new pilot peer mediation program in its women's residence hall

*Salisbury University Conflict Resolution Center's significant mediation research and evaluation projects on court ADR programs statewide

*The University of Maryland School of Social Work's mediation and conflict resolution skills training for field placement students, in partnership with the Southeast Community Association, for neighborhood-based mediation, peacemaking and conflict resolution

Criminal/Juvenile Justice

Mediation and other conflict resolution processes in the areas of criminal and juvenile justice help address underlying conflicts and prevent disputes from escalating or recurring. MACRO has supported a wide range of new mediation programs at State's Attorneys' Offices in rural, urban and suburban jurisdictions. Programs include the use of in-house mediators and/or mediation screeners, as well as connections with community mediation centers and efforts to build mediation into case processing. The programs primarily focus on diverting many citizens' complaints summons

docket cases into mediation.

In addition, MACRO supports the ongoing work of the Community Conferencing Center, a statewide organization, whose mission is to resolve juvenile justice matters and multi-party conflicts. With MACRO's help, several community mediation programs also are beginning to offer community conferencing services. Community conferencing is a successful community-based diversion for juvenile misdemeanor crimes that strengthens existing community assets by involving everyone affected by an incident in deciding how best to repair the harm and prevent future occurrences, while helping juveniles and their families access community-based services. The conferencing model also is effective for resolving large scale neighborhood conflicts and other multi-party disputes. In Fiscal Year 2004 MACRO leveraged \$100,000 in Department of Juvenile Services funds to support a new partnership with MACRO and the Community Conferencing Center.

In addition, MACRO offered Fiscal Year 2004 assistance for:

*The African Immigrants and Refugee's Foundation, which is creating a Council of Elders to resolve disputes within the African immigrant community, in partnership with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County

*The Baltimore County Police Department to expand its mediation program for criminal and community complaints

*The Baltimore City School Police, to train resource officers, to launch a new community-based mediation ambassadors program, and to

expand dispute resolution and community building work in high-risk middle schools

*The Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, to partner with the City's Community Mediation Program for mediation of criminal summons docket cases

*The Community Conferencing Center, to coordinate and expand community conferencing activities statewide

*The Dorchester County State's Attorney's Office, to launch a new mediation program using an in-house neutral

*The Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center at Howard Community College for regional restorative justice workshops throughout Maryland

*The Prince George's County State's Attorneys Office, to run a mediation referral program in partnership with the Prince George's County Community Mediation Board

*The Maryland Transition Center, to pilot a pre-release inmate training in conflict resolution and life skills at the Baltimore City Correctional Center

State/Local Government

In the realm of government dispute resolution projects, MACRO works in close collaboration with the Attorney General's Office, state agencies and local officials. MACRO also receives advice and evaluation support from a multi-agency government ADR committee. MACRO has supported numerous collaborative problem-solving

processes, while also helping government agencies to train staff in effective conflict management and to identify possible uses of mediation. As an arm of the Judiciary, MACRO does not advise executive agencies about when to use ADR. Instead, MACRO seeks to assist agencies in efforts they identify as appropriate for ADR use, while also providing resources and technical support needed to help them explore possibilities in this field. MACRO has sponsored 40-hour mediation training programs at the Office of Administrative Hearings for Administrative Law Judges and staff, as well as for Assistant Attorneys General and Executive Branch agency personnel. In addition, MACRO has supported training at the Attorney General's Office in advanced negotiation and in effectively representing government clients in mediation. Most recently, MACRO staff have begun conducting short, customized training programs for government agency staff on such topics as dealing with angry citizens, workplace conflict management, and mediation awareness.

In Fiscal Year 2004 MACRO offered assistance to:

*The Maryland Commission on Human Relations, to provide volunteer mediators with advanced training and continuing education

*A program to train and mentor a group of Maryland's advanced mediators to provide public policy dispute facilitation training and to mentor Maryland mediators in facilitating complex multi-party cases

*The Maryland Department of Agriculture, to develop conflict

resolution tools to resolve issues between farmers and seasonal farm workers on the Eastern Shore

*The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, to train tributary strategy staff in collaboration and conflict resolution skills and connect them with community mediation centers, and to provide facilitation services to complete the tributary strategies document in collaboration with multiple stakeholders

*The Baltimore City Department of Planning, to train community planners in public policy facilitation, and to retain outside neutrals for complex land use disputes

*The Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families, to collaboratively design decision-making and conflict resolution protocols to avoid and resolve disputes over resources for multi-problem "stuck kids," whose needs overlap the missions of several agencies, and to train Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs) in conflict management and training community mediators to mediate LCC cases at impasse

*The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to coordinate an Eastern Shore Collaborative to collaboratively design protocols for agencies serving dual diagnosis patients with retardation and mental illness

*The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Center, to plan conflict management retreat for agriculture officials on emergency response teams

*The University of Maryland Institute for Governmental Service,

to create a conflict management curriculum for local elected officials

*The Maryland State Police, to create a workplace conflict resolution program

*The City of Frederick, to create a citizen advocate/ombuds position to intervene in conflicts involving city agencies

*The Prince George's County Human Relations Commission, to expand ADR programs for discrimination cases

*The Judiciary's Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to train staff in conflict resolution skills, and to propose an ombuds program for workplace conflict management

*The University of Maryland School of Nursing, to developing online curriculum and training for students and faculty

A National Leader

With Chief Judge Bell's vision and leadership, MACRO has established Maryland as a national leader in the field of conflict resolution, as well as a model for other states and even a few foreign governments just starting ADR programs. MACRO's work has been featured prominently at numerous national ADR events and acknowledged with major awards from the American Bar Association, the Association for Conflict Resolution, and the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution.

MACRO also has built a strong working relationship with mediation advocates in Scotland,

many of whom participated in a two-day mediation study visit to Maryland. Subsequently, with a grant from the Royal Bank of Scotland, the Scottish Mediation Network flew Chief Judge Bell, MACRO Executive Director Rachel Wohl and Deputy Executive Director Lou Gieszl to Scotland to participate in the first-ever Scottish Mediation Conference, as well as other site visits, meetings and speaking engagements. Ruth Wishart, a Scottish broadcast journalist and Patron of the Scottish Mediation Network, after her visit to Maryland, eloquently expressed the importance of ADR in our courts:

"Self evidently, there are areas where only the courts can usefully intervene, and that will always be the case. But, as the Maryland experience has underlined, there are huge trenches of human activity scarred by conflict where an adversarial route can only exacerbate the problem.

If instead, each party has a means of articulating their pain and their concern, and has that testimony heard and respected, a huge amount of impotent anger can be syphoned out. If a solution is hammered out on the basis of interpersonal negotiation, rather than on tablets of judicial stone, then neither party is likely to feel the sense of injured loss often engendered in a system only geared to winners and losers."

Rules Committee

Under Article IV, Section 18 (a) of the Maryland Constitution, the

Court of Appeals is empowered to regulate and revise the practice and procedure in, and the judicial administration of, the courts of this State; and under Annotated Code of Maryland, Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, §13-301 the Court of Appeals may appoint "a standing committee of lawyers, judges, and other persons competent in judicial practice, procedure or administration" to assist the Court in the exercise of its rule-making power. The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, often referred to simply as the Rules Committee, was originally appointed in 1946 to succeed an *ad hoc* Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure created in 1940. Its members meet regularly to consider proposed amendments and additions to the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure and submit recommendations for change to the Court of Appeals.

Minutes of the meetings of the Rules Committee from 1997 to the present and the text of the most recent rules changes proposed by the Committee and Rules Orders entered by the Court of Appeals are available through the Maryland Judiciary's website at www.courts.state.md.us/rules.

In addition to developing proposed new rules and amendments to existing rules, the Rules Committee and its staff maintain rules history archives; provide research assistance to judges, lawyers, and other who have rules history questions; and participate in educational programs involving the Maryland Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure

**Hon. Joseph F. Murphy, Jr., Chair, Chief Judge, Court of Special Appeals
Linda M. Schuett, Esquire, Vice Chair, Anne Arundel County Bar**

F. Vernon Boozer, Esquire
Baltimore County Bar

Timothy F. Maloney, Esquire
Prince George's County Bar

Lowell R. Bowen, Esquire
Baltimore City Bar

Hon. John F. McAuliffe
Court of Appeals (retired); Emeritus

Prof. Robert R. Bowie
Talbot County Bar; Emeritus

Robert R. Michael, Esquire
Montgomery County Bar

Albert D. Brault, Esquire
Montgomery County Bar

Hon. William D. Missouri
Circuit Court for Prince George's County

Robert L. Dean, Esquire
Prince George's County Bar

Hon. John L. Norton, III
District Court, Dorchester County

Hon. James W. Dryden
District Court, Anne Arundel County

Anne C. Ogletree, Esquire
Caroline County Bar

Hon. Ellen M. Heller
Circuit Court for Baltimore City (retired)

Debbie L. Potter, Esquire
Anne Arundel County Bar

Hon. G. R. Hovey Johnson
Circuit Court for Prince George's County (retired); Emeritus

Larry W. Shipley
Clerk, Circuit Court for Carroll County

Harry S. Johnson, Esquire
Baltimore City Bar

Twilah S. Shipley, Esquire
Baltimore City Bar

Hon. Joseph H. H. Kaplan
Circuit Court for Baltimore City; Emeritus

Norman R. Stone, Jr., Esquire
State Senator, Baltimore County

Hon. Richard M. Karceski, Esquire
Baltimore County Bar

Melvin J. Sykes, Esquire
Baltimore City Bar

Robert D. Klein, Esquire
Anne Arundel County Bar

Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Esquire
State Delegate, Prince George's County

J. Brooks Leahy, Esquire
Carroll County Bar

Robert A. Zamoch, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General

Sandra F. Haines, Esquire, *Reporter*
Sherie B. Libber, Esquire, *Assistant Reporter*

Definitions

DEFINITIONS

Adoption/Guardianship

This includes all civil adoptions and guardianships including regular adoptions, guardianship with right to adoption, and guardianship with right to consent to long-term care short of adoption. Guardianship of incompetents are reported in "Other General".

Adult

A person who is 18 years old or older charged with an offense relating to juveniles to be heard in Juvenile Court (See § 3-831 of Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article.)

Appeal

The resorting to a higher court to review, rehear, or retry a decision of a tribunal below. This includes appeals to the circuit court, the Court of Special Appeals, and the Court of Appeals.

Appeals to the circuit courts include:

1. Record - The judge's review of a written or electronic recording of the proceedings in the District Court.
2. De Novo - The retrial of an entire case initially tried in the District Court.
3. Administrative Agency - appeals from decisions rendered by administrative agencies. For example:

- Department of Personnel
- County Commissioner
- Department of Taxation and Assessments
- Employment Security

- Funeral Director
- Liquor License Commissioners
- Physical Therapy
- State Comptroller (Sales Tax, etc.)
- State Motor Vehicle Authority
- Supervisors of Elections
- Workmen's Compensation Commission
- Zoning Appeals
- Any other administrative body from which an appeal is authorized.

Application for Leave to Appeal

Procedural method by which a petitioner seeks leave of the Court of Special Appeals to grant an appeal. When it is granted, the matter addressed is transferred to the direct appeal docket of the Court for customary briefing and argument. Maryland statutes and Rules of Procedure permit applications in matters dealing with post conviction, inmate grievances, appeals from final judgment following guilty plea, and denial of or grant of excessive bail in habeas corpus proceedings.

Case

A matter having a unique docket number; includes original and reopened (post judgment) matters.

Caseload

The total number of cases filed or pending with a court during a specific period of time. Cases may include all categories of matters (civil-general, civil-family, juvenile, and criminal).

C.I.N.A. (Child in Need of Assistance)

Refers to a child who needs the assistance of the court because:

1. The child is mentally handicapped or
2. Is not receiving ordinary and proper care and attention, and
3. The parents, guardian, or custodian are unable or unwilling to give proper care and attention.

C.I.N.S. (Child in Need of Supervision)

Refers to a child who requires guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation because of habitual truancy, ungovernableness, or behavior that would endanger himself or others. Also included in this category is the commission of an offense applicable only to children.

Condemnation

The process by which property of a private owner is taken for public use without the owner's consent but upon the award and payment of just compensation.

Contested Confessed Judgment

The act of a debtor in permitting judgment to be entered by a creditor immediately upon filing of a written statement by the creditor to the court.

Contracts

A case involving a dispute over oral or written agreements between two or more parties.

Breaches of verbal or written contracts.

Landlord/tenant appeals from District Court.

Delinquency

Commission of an act by a juvenile which would be a crime if committed by an adult.

Disposition

Entry of final judgment in a case.

District Court - Contested

Only applies to civil, a case that has gone to trial and both parties (plaintiff and defendant) appear.

District Court Criminal Case

Single defendant charged per single incident. It may include multiple charges arising from the same incident.

District Court Filing

The initiation of an action or case in the District Court.

Divorce, Nullity

A proceeding to dissolve a marriage. Original filings under this category include divorce a vinculo matrimonii, divorce a mensa et thoro, and annulment. A reopened case under this category includes hearings held after final decree or other termination in the original case. A reopened case may involve review of matters other than the divorce itself as long as the original case was a divorce. (Examples of the latter may be a contempt proceeding for nonpayment of support, noncompliance with

custody agreement, modification of support, custody, etc.)

Docket

Formal record of court proceedings.

Filing

Formal commencement of a judicial proceeding by submitting the necessary papers pertaining to it. Original filing under one docket number and subsequent reopenings under the same number are counted as separate filings.

Fiscal Year

The period of time from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the next. For example: July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003.

Hearings

Criminal - Any activity occurring in the courtroom, or in the judge's chambers on the record and/or in the presence of a clerk, is considered a hearing, except trials or any hearing that does not involve a defendant.

Examples of Hearings in Criminal

- Arraignment
- Discovery motion
- Guilty plea
- Motion to quash
- Motion to dismiss
- Motion for change of venue
- Motion to continue
- Motion to suppress
- Motion to sever
- Nolo contendere
- Not guilty with agreed statement of facts
- Sentence modifications
- Violation of probation

Civil - A presentation either before a judge or before a master empowered to make recommendations, on the record or in the presence of a clerk or court reporter, for purposes other than final determination of the facts of the case. Electronic recording equipment, for definition purposes, is the equivalent to the presence of a court reporter.

Examples of Hearings in Civil

- Motion to compel an answer to an interrogatory
- Motion ne recipiatur
- Motion for judgment by default
- Demurrer
- Motion for summary judgment
- Motion to vacate, open, or modify confession of judgment
- Preliminary motions presented in court, including motions for continuance
- Determination of alimony pendente lite, temporary custody, etc., in divorce case
- Contempt or modification hearings
- Juvenile-A presentation before a judge, master, or examiner on the record in the presence of a clerk or court reporter. Electronic recording equipment, for definition purposes, is the equivalent to the presence of a court reporter.

Examples of Hearings in Juvenile

- Preliminary motions presented in court
- Arraignment or preliminary inquiry
- Detention (if after filing of petition)
- Merits or adjudication
- Disposition
- Restitution
- Waiver
- Review
- Violation of probation

Indictment

The product of a grand jury proceeding against an individual.

Information

Written accusation of a crime prepared by the State’s Attorney’s Office.

Jury Trial Prayer-Motor Vehicle

A request for trial by jury in the circuit court for a traffic charge normally heard in the District Court. To pray a jury trial in a motor vehicle case, the sentence must be for more than six months.

Jury Trial Prayer-Other (Criminal)

A request for a trial by jury in the circuit court for charges normally heard in the District Court, except traffic charges or nonsupport.

Miscellaneous Docket

Established and maintained primarily as a method of recording and identifying those preliminary proceedings or collateral matters before the Court of Appeals other than direct appeals.

Motor Torts

Personal injury and property damage cases resulting from automobile accidents. (This does not include boats, lawn mowers, etc., nor does it include consent cases settled out of court.)

Motor Vehicle Appeals

An appeal of a District Court verdict in a traffic charge.

Nolle Prosequi

A formal entry upon the record by the plaintiff in a civil suit, or the State’s Attorney in a criminal case, to no longer prosecute the case.

Nonsupport

A criminal case involving the charge of nonsupport.

Original Filing

See “Filing”.

Other Appeals (Criminal)

An appeal of a District Court verdict except one arising from a traffic charge or nonsupport.

Other Domestic Relations

Matters related to the family other than divorce, guardianship, adoption, or paternity. Examples of this category include support custody, and U.R.E.S.A. cases.

Other General

This category includes, among other things, injunctions, change of name, foreclosure, and guardianship of incompetent persons.

Other Law

This category includes, among other things, conversion, detinue, ejectment, issues from Orphans’ Court, attachments on original process, and mandamus.

Other Torts

Personal injury and property damage cases resulting from: Assault and battery-an unlawful

force to inflict bodily injury upon another.

Certain attachments.

Consent tort.

False imprisonment-the plaintiff is confined within boundaries fixed by the defendant for some period of time.

Libel and slander - a defamation of character.

Malicious prosecution-without just cause an injury was done to somebody through the means of a legal court proceeding.

Negligence-any conduct falling below the standards established by law for the protection of others from unreasonable risk of harm.

Paternity

A suit to determine fatherhood responsibility of a child born out of wedlock.

Pending Case

Case in which no final disposition has occurred.

Post Conviction

Proceeding instituted to set aside a conviction or to correct a sentence that was unlawfully imposed.

Reopened Filing

The first hearing held on a case after a final judgment on the original matters has been entered.

Stet

Proceedings, are stayed; one of

the ways a case may be terminated.

Termination

Same as “Disposition”.

Trials

• **Criminal**

Court Trial-A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide the guilt or innocence of the defendant where one or more witnesses has been sworn.

Jury Trial-A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide the guilt or innocence of the defendant, where the jury has been sworn.

• **Civil**

Court Trial-A contested hearing on any one or all merits of the case, presided over by a judge, to decide in favor of either party where testimony is given by one or more persons. Note: “Merits” is defined as all pleadings prayed by the plaintiff in the original petition

that created the case. Divorce, custody, child support, etc., are examples that might be considered merits in a civil case.

Jury Trial-A contested hearing on the facts of the case to decide in favor of either party where the jury has been sworn.

Unreported Category

A case that has been reported but not specifically identified as to case type by the reporting court.