NEW YORK STATE

Unified Court System

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

For the Calendar Year January 1 through December 31, 2015

COURT OF APPEALS

Jonathan Lippman
Chief Judge

Eugene F. Pigott Jr.
Senior Associate Judge

Susan Phillips Read[1]
Jenny Rivera
Sheila Abdus-Salaam
Leslie E. Stein
Eugene M. Fahey

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COURTS

Lawrence K. Marks

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF THE COURTS

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Chair

Henry J. Scudder

Luis A. Gonzalez

Karen K. Peters

Randall T. Eng

NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM - 2015

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Fern A. Fisher
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Barry Clarke
Chief of Operations, Office of Court Administration

Juanita Bing Newton
Dean, New York State Judicial Institute

Sherry Klein Heitler
Chief of Policy and Planning

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Michael Obus
Criminal Matters, First Judicial District

Lawrence Knipel
Civil Matters, Second Judicial District

Matthew J. D'Emic
Criminal Matters, Second Judicial District

Danny Chun
Deputy Administrative Judge, Criminal Matters, Second Judicial District

Jeremy Weinstein
Civil Matters, Eleventh Judicial District

Joseph Zayas
Criminal Matters, Eleventh Judicial District

Douglas E. McKeon
Civil Matters, Twelfth Judicial District

Robert Torres
Criminal Matters, Twelfth Judicial District

Judith N. McMahon
Civil Matters, Thirteenth Judicial District

Stephen J. Rooney
Criminal Matters, Thirteenth Judicial District

Jeanette Ruiz
NYC Family Court

Anne-Marie Jolly
Deputy Administrative Judge, Family Court

Melissa C. Jackson
NYC Criminal Court

Alexander B. Jeong
Deputy Administrative Judge, NYC Criminal Court

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Vito C. Caruso
Fourth Judicial District

James C. Tormey
Fifth Judicial District

Robert C. Mulvey
Sixth Judicial District

Craig J. Doran
Seventh Judicial District

Paula L. Feroleto
Eighth Judicial District

Alan D. Scheinkman
Ninth Judicial District

Thomas A. Adams
Nassau County

C. Randall Hinrichs
Suffolk County

Richard E. Sise
Court Of Claims

[1.] Judge Read retired on Aug. 24, 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

The New York State Unified Court System is one of the busiest in the nation, with millions of new cases filed annually. Thousands of people, many of them under great distress, visit our courthouses day in and day out. Our courthouses must be sanctuaries, where the public can resolve disputes in a peaceful forum, and cathedrals of justice, where the rule of law provides equal protection to every person, regardless of background or station in life.

This annual report—the 38th since the Unified Court System was established—documents the vitally important business that the Third Branch of government performs and the achievements of the judicial and non-judicial employees who carry out that work. Indeed, the scope and breadth of the services we provide to the public are extraordinary.

Over the past year, the court system, in addition to striving to fulfill its core mission of adjudicating cases in a fair, impartial and timely manner, introduced an array of programs ranging from narrowing the justice gap to convening an unprecedented national summit on human trafficking. In his final year, Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman followed through on a range of initiatives in furtherance of his career-long mission to ensure equal justice for all in our state courts. The year ended with the nomination of Janet DiFiore as the new Chief Judge of the state and of its highest court, the Court of Appeals.

I hope you will take the time to read more about our initiatives and programs in this edition of the Annual Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts, which also provides caseload activity data and legislative updates for calendar year 2015.

Sincerely,

Lawrence K. Marks

This 2015 edition of the Annual Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts has been submitted to the Governor and Legislature in accordance with Section 212 of the Judiciary Law.

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YEAR IN REVIEW: A SUMMARY OF 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

EVERY DAY OF EVERY YEAR, THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM confronts the challenge of ensuring public access to our courts through the efficient and cost-effective administration of justice. The court system, ever mindful of its constitutional obligations and its role as a co-equal but separate branch of government, seeks to fulfill its mandatory mission while also recognizing its responsibility to serve as faithful stewards of the public trust and the public fisc.

In 2015, the court system increasingly relied on automation and creative strategies to respond most effectively and efficiently to emerging issues and expectations. It took additional steps to close the "justice gap," pursuing the goal of ensuring that when New Yorkers are struggling for the basic necessities of life, they have the guidance of an attorney. It continued to deal with repercussions of the mortgage foreclosure crisis—and ensured that 61 percent of homeowners were represented at conference (compared to 22 percent in 2011). And it fostered cutting-edge programs, such as a historic national summit on human trafficking.

The pages that follow detail our efforts, our achievements and our aspirations.

NARROWING NEW YORK'S JUSTICE GAP

PERMANENT COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

IN 2010, CHIEF JUDGE JONATHAN LIPPMAN ESTABLISHED THE TASK FORCE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK to identify permanent civil legal services funding streams and guide the court system's efforts to boost the availability of affordable legal representation for low-income New Yorkers.

Since its formation, the Task Force has assisted Chief Judge Lippman in holding annual public hearings to assess the extent and nature of the state's civil legal services crisis. It has also conducted its own studies to measure the impact of the justice gap on vulnerable litigants and others. Over the past five years, the Task Force has worked closely with civil legal services providers, law firms, law schools and other stakeholders statewide to identify the crucial issues and formulate strategies to address the unfulfilled need for civil legal services. In 2015, Chief Judge Lippman created the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice to continue the mandate of the Task Force.

The change in status of the Task Force to a Permanent Commission was made in recognition of the Task Force's significant contributions towards increasing the availability of civil legal services, while acknowledging the work that remains to further remove barriers to justice for all New Yorkers. The Permanent Commission's mission is two-fold. It provides support for the preparation of the Chief Judge's annual hearings to assess the unmet needs for legal representation in civil legal proceedings involving fundamental human needs, as well as providing assistance in developing the Chief Judge's report and recommendations to the Legislature and the Executive branches.

JUDICIARY CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

THE JUDICIARY CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES (JCLS) PROGRAM continues to help low income residents in New York State access legal assistance in the essentials of life categories including Housing; Family Matters; Subsistence Income; and Access to Healthcare and Education.

In fiscal year 2014-15, 75 civil legal services providers handled 421,663 cases, serving a total of 3,568,520 individuals and benefitting 1,679,473 persons. These numbers continue to increase in comparison to FY 2013-14, 2012-13 and 2011-12. The increase can be attributed in large part to the rise in JCLS grant funding during this span from $12.5 million to $55 million. The increased funding enabled providers to hire additional staff, launch new initiatives, enhance training and outreach and better respond to the needs of the communities they serve.

In 2015, previously funded JCLS providers received renewals of their existing contracts totaling $55 million dollars. In May 2015 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued for an additional $15 million dollars. There are currently 78 civil legal services programs with JCLS funding statewide.

In October 2015, the Division of Professional and Court Services hosted an informational meeting with JCLS providers and applicants that have applied for funding in the past to brainstorm on the JCLS application process, outcomes and programmatic and fiscal reporting.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS, OPENING DOORS

MEETING THE CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME AND MODEST MEANS NEW YORKERS in today's challenging economic times is a never-ending task. Since there is no right to counsel in civil legal matters, the Access to Justice Program takes a multifaceted approach to the delivery of legal services, assistance and information to provide an array of court, community and internet-based programs and services, such as the CourtHelp website, Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Form document assembly programs, CourtHelp Centers, and court-based volunteer lawyer and non-lawyer programs.

In 2015, the program made considerable progress toward narrowing the justice gap. The Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program Consumer Debt initiative served 20,000 litigants. The Uncontested Divorce Program extended into Richmond County. A new CourtHelp Center was opened in Columbia County. More than 90 public presentations and trainings took place and 25 personnel trainings were conducted. And the Advocate Family Offense Petition Program won the Legal Tech West Innovation Award.

The Access to Justice Program encourages the participation of law students, law graduates awaiting admission to the New York Bar and new public service lawyers in court-based volunteer programs. The goal is to instill a life-long interest and dedication to pro bono work. Under this initiative, law students and recent law graduates provide legal advice and limited scope representation to unrepresented litigants in consumer debt, landlord-tenant, uncontested divorce and family law matters in New York City's Civil, Family and Supreme Courts. These volunteer opportunities help law students and recent law graduates make the transition from law student to law practice, while benefitting thousands of unrepresented litigants who are assisted by this energetic, enthusiastic expanded pool of volunteers.

Since 2009, law graduates and law students who have completed at least two semesters of law school are permitted to participate in the court-based volunteer programs through student practice orders of the Appellate Divisions of the First and Second Departments. Biennial renewal of both practice orders for the Access to Justice Program was granted in 2015. The Practice Orders authorize a program of activities for law students and law graduates awaiting admission to the New York State Bar, as long as they act under the supervision of the Access to Justice Program.

For more information about the Access to Justice Program's volunteer attorney efforts, do-it-yourself tools for unrepresented litigants and other initiatives, view the program's 2015 annual report online at: www.nycourts.gov/ip/nya2j/pdfs/NYA2J_2015report.pdf.

PRO BONO SCHOLARS PROGRAM

THE PRO BONO SCHOLARS PROGRAM provides an extraordinary opportunity for third-year law students to perform pro bono service for the poor while accelerating their admission to the bar. The program, announced by Chief Judge Lippman in 2014, enables law students to dedicate their final semester of law school to working at a pro bono placement while completing an academic component with the support of their law school. In return, they are permitted to take the New York State Bar Exam in February rather than July. In the second year of the program, over 100 law students participated, including 10 students from out-of-state law schools. Students performed legal services for those unable to afford counsel in areas such as juvenile rights and education advocacy, eviction defense, immigration, criminal defense and disability rights. Pro bono placements were located in New York City, Long Island, Albany, Buffalo, Rochester and Westchester, as well as in New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Pennsylvania. For the second year in a row, more than 85 percent of the Pro Bono Scholars received a passing score on the February Bar Exam.

LEGAL HAND

LEGAL HAND IS A NETWORK OF INFORMATION CENTERS that trains community volunteers to provide free legal information, assistance and referrals to help low-income New Yorkers resolve problems with housing, family issues, immigration, divorce, domestic violence and benefits. Legal Hand is run by the Center for Court Innovation in collaboration with three legal services providers: The Legal Aid Society; Legal Services NYC; and New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG). In late 2015, Legal Hand opened locations in Crown Heights, Brownsville, Brooklyn and Jamaica, Queens.

Legal Hand operates out of accessible storefront locations that allow people to easily drop-in for assistance without making an appointment beforehand. Volunteers provide simple and effective information services that help people prevent issues from becoming serious legal problems down the line. Legal Hand volunteers can turn to an on-site attorney from a partnering legal services organization or provide a referral to the appropriate services if a visitor has an emergency issue.

The program draws its volunteers from the communities it serves and provides them with thorough training on both substantive issues and the resources available to help those in need. Volunteers come from many different backgrounds: long-time community residents and transplants looking to take on a more active role in their new community; young people who want to gain experience in public service work; and retirees who want to make use of their long experience. Legal Hand aims to empower its volunteers by providing them with the skills and knowledge that will help them assert their own rights and be a resource to friends and family. Legal Hand has assisted over 3,600 New Yorkers with civil legal issues and built up a dedicated corps of volunteers to provide legal information.

POVERTY JUSTICE SOLUTIONS

POVERTY JUSTICE SOLUTIONS IS A COLLABORATION among the Unified Court System, the Robin Hood Foundation, the New York City Human Resources Administration and the Center for Court Innovation that seeks to close the justice gap by expanding the pool of attorneys available to represent low-income New Yorkers. In 2015, it handled nearly 1,500 eviction cases.

COURT INTERPRETING SERVICES HELP REMOVE BARRIERS TO JUSTICE

PART 217 OF THE UNIFORM RULES FOR NEW YORK STATE TRIAL COURTS, which mandates the appointment of a court interpreter at no cost to the user in both criminal and civil cases, has sets the standard for ensuring language access in state courts. The New York State Unified Court System remained at the forefront in this area, offering interpreting services to criminal defendants, witnesses, crime victims, parties in civil cases, jurors and others who have a language or hearing barrier.

In a state as diverse as New York, ensuring the ability of persons with limited English proficiency to fully participate in court proceedings is a daunting challenge. The Unified Court System has articulated its commitment (under Part 217 of the Uniform Rules for NYS Trial Courts, and Judiciary Law section 390 regarding sign language interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing) to provide interpreting services at no-cost to the widest possible scope of court users, in both criminal and civil matters.

The courts employ approximately 280 staff interpreters, and retain the use of several hundred per diem or freelance interpreters. Each year, these interpreters provide nearly 500,000 hours of interpreting services. Unlike some states with large linguistic minorities, in New York no single language dominates, and the Office of Language Access (OLA) assists in providing court interpreters in more than 100 different languages each year; 112 languages were provided in calendar year 2015 alone, ranging from Arabic to Zulu. Spanish is the most-frequently requested language, followed by Mandarin, Russian, Haitian Creole, Arabic and Cantonese. There is also a high demand for interpreters fluent in Polish, Korean, French, Bengali, American Sign Language and Hebrew. Recently, the courts have seen an increase in requests for languages from Central and South America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

In areas of the state where there is a shortage of interpreters, courts are encouraged to use UCS Remote Interpreting—where the interpreter appears by video or telephone from another NYS court or OLA—to avoid delays and ensure provision of a qualified court interpreter. The UCS Remote Interpreting program has been in place since 2005, and in 2015 it was used to provide interpreters for nearly 400 cases.

In April 2015, OLA began a pilot program in three Family Court locations to introduce a bilingual order of protection. Using the Family Court's automated case management system, the order can be generated in an interlinear format with translations in Spanish, Chinese or Russian appearing alongside the English text. During the pilot, litigants, advocates and court staff provided feedback on the bilingual orders. Based on the many positive assessments, use of the bilingual orders of protection was quickly expanded and is now available to Family Courts throughout the state.

A pilot program using Language Line was also introduced over the past year, providing remote interpreting services in non-courtroom venues such as Help Centers, clerks' counters and other points of contact where encounters are typically brief and sporadic, and where the provision of in-person interpreters would be difficult to arrange.

IMPROVING CASE OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS

CHILD WELFARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SUPPORTS FAMILY COURT'S MANDATE

THE CHILD WELFARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CWCIP) is a federally funded program that strives to uphold the Family Court's mandate to promote the safety, permanency and well-being of abused and neglected children.

In 2015, the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project continued its collaborative work in support of the Family Court's mandate to promote the safety, permanence and well-being of abused and neglected children, by providing resources and technical assistance at the intersection of the legal/judicial and child welfare systems. CWCIP continues to maintain its focus on multi-system continuous quality improvement in the 20 counties with the largest foster care populations. The project is engaged in several hallmark initiatives designed to improve outcomes at the individual case and systems level.

In addition, in 2015 teams from the 15 CWCIP counties outside of NYC came together to explore how to implement trauma-informed practice, and developed a curriculum for use in counties interested in an intensive look at this issue. Trainings and technical assistance are offered on Child Safety and Risk, Roles and Responsibilities, and Permanency Mediation.

PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH JUSTICE

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH JUSTICE IS AN INTER-BRANCH COLLABORATIVE focused on improving outcomes for youth in the justice system. It was formed to implement the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Partnership is co-chaired by the Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson of the New York City Family Court along with senior managers from the state's Division of Criminal Justice Services and Office of Children and Family Services. Through the Partnership, UCS engages in inter-branch collaboration to promote reforms consistent with shared objectives.

ON-SITE CENTERS PROVIDE CARE TO YOUNGSTERS WHILE PARENTS ARE IN COURT

THE COURT SYSTEM'S CHILDREN'S CENTERS PROGRAM oversees a statewide network of drop-in child care centers with a two-pronged mission: providing quality child care to youngsters while their parents are in court; and connecting children and families to vital services designed to improve their life chances. During their stay at the centers, youngsters engage in activities designed to encourage a life-long love of reading.

In 2015, the Children's Centers continued to offer a welcoming, safe and interactive environment for children while their caregivers attended to court business. Nearly 33,000 children visited the Children's Centers in 2015.

Many families use the Children's Centers because they have not accessed child care or early childhood education services in their community. Referrals to child care and Head Start programs are among the most frequently made. In 2015, Children's Center staff reported increases in the numbers of referrals to local parenting programs, support programs such as counseling, and free or low cost dental clinics. In addition to providing a safe haven, the Children's Centers provide a vehicle for connecting children and families with vital services (e.g., early childhood health, educational and nutritional benefits, including food stamps) to which they and their families are entitled.

In addition, in 2015 trainings were provided focused on working with children with special needs and understanding sexual orientation and gender identity to better serve children and families. At the trainings, each Children's Center was charged with returning to their home community to explore local services for children with special needs and services for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender.

For more information, go to www.nycourts.gov/childrenscenter/index.shtml.

COMMISSION SEEKS TO IMPROVE LIVES OF COURT-INVOLVED YOUNGSTERS

THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN was established in 1988 to improve the lives of children involved with the New York State courts. At first targeting primarily infants and younger children, the commission has devoted much of its recent efforts to adolescents in the foster care and juvenile justice systems. The Commission was chaired throughout 2015 by former Chief Judge Judith Kaye, and its members include judges, lawyers, advocates, physicians, legislators, and state and local officials.

The Commission utilizes a systemic methodology composed of convening stakeholders, conducting research, developing pilot projects, creating written materials and tools, presenting trainings and initiating efforts to change policy and practice. To learn more about the commission, visit: www.nycourts.gov/justiceforchildren.

COURT SYSTEM OFFERS TRAINING TO VOLUNTEER ADVOCATE PROGRAMS AROUND THE STATE

THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CASA) was established within the Office of Court Administration to provide programmatic guidelines, fiscal support, technical assistance and training to local CASA programs and to support Family Court's use and development of CASA programs. The program contracts with the CASA: Advocates for Children of New York State, the association representing 19 local programs throughout the state. The state CASA group assists OCA in administering the funding for programs outside New York City. OCA contracts directly to provide funding the New York City CASA program.

CASA programs provide staff and recruit, train and supervise volunteers who are appointed by Family Courts to provide unbiased, independent information to the court in child abuse and neglect cases. Local programs serve approximately 3,000 children each year. On average, each CASA volunteer donates more than 100 hours per year to their assigned cases.

CASA volunteers may meet with the child, family members, foster parents, and service providers and review reports to compile timely and thorough information about children's health, safety, well-being and permanency plans, and to monitor the implementation of court ordered service and visiting plans. The volunteers work collaboratively with legal, social service and treatment providers toward the goal of securing or maintaining safe, stable, permanent homes for children in the child welfare system.

OFFICE OVERSEES AGENCIES SERVING LEGAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN COURT

THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY FOR THE CHILD CONTRACTS (AFC) oversees 11 agencies that serve the legal needs of children in certain court proceedings in accordance with New York State law, giving youngsters a voice in child protective, juvenile delinquency, child custody and other matters. AFC provides training, fiscal oversight and other forms of administrative support to these agencies. www.nycourts.gov/attorneys/childcontracts.

PUTTING A STOP TO "REVOLVING JUSTICE"

PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS STRIVE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR VICTIMS, COMMUNITIES AND DEFENDANTS

OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES, THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM has been at the forefront in the creation and implementation of problem-solving courts. New York has continued to implement new models and enhance and strengthen established court operations.

Problem-solving courts seek to address the substance abuse or other underlying issues that contribute to the behaviors that bring individuals into the justice system. These courts engage in a collaborative process that includes the court, prosecutors, attorneys, probation officers, court managers and community and social service providers. Judges, court personnel and other partners receive specialized training in principles and practices designed to improve outcomes for victims, litigants and communities. Problem-solving courts come in many forms, including drug courts, mental health courts, community courts, sex offense courts, human trafficking intervention courts, veterans courts, DWI courts and adolescent diversion programs. These courts individualize their approaches based on the issues they address.

The Office of Policy and Planning continued to provide ongoing statewide education and training to problem-solving judges and court personnel on best practices, the latest scientific and psychological research, legal updates, and case management. Educational programs were held on topics including to mental health, veterans, drug courts, DWI and foreclosures. As of December 2015, there were 305 problem-solving courts statewide. For more information about New York's problem-solving courts, visit www.nycourts.gov/problem_solving.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION COURTS: COMBATING MODERN DAY SLAVERY

THE 11 HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERVENTION COURTS (HTIC) STATEWIDE are located in areas with the greatest concentration of prostitution and other trafficking-related offenses. Judges and court staff receive specialized training on human trafficking and the trauma it causes to the individuals involved. The goal is to give participants the tools and social service support they need to stay out of the commercial sex trade. These courts link participants with social and community services including housing assistance, healthcare, immigration services, education and drug treatment. Since inception, nearly 10,000 individuals have participated, and many have obtained dismissal or reduction of criminal charges after completion of the court-mandated programs.

DRUG TREATMENT COURTS

IN 2015, THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND PLANNING submitted a statewide strategic plan for New York's 90 adult drug treatment courts featuring recommendations for five key subject areas: fidelity to the drug treatment court model and evidence-based practices; a sustainable training strategy; data collection and evaluation; strengthening partnerships; and staffing and resource management. The Office of Policy and Planning will continue to move forward with implementation of this plan which holds the potential for greatly expanding the reach and impact of this proven model throughout the state.

FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS

NEW YORK'S 33 FAMILY TREATMENT COURTS serve families and children caught in the intersection of the child welfare, family court and chemical dependency systems. The mission of the family treatment courts has been strengthened by a statewide system reform effort that seeks both to enhance family treatment court programs and expand their effective practices to reach all families and children in child welfare court parts. With federal funding support, the Office of Policy and Planning has worked closely with our Child Welfare Court Improvement Project team to expand the capacity of the family treatment courts, pilot evidence-based practices throughout the abuse and neglect parts and implement an early screening tool for substance use disorders.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS NOW TOTAL 28, WITH MORE IN THE PLANNING STAGES. These courts seek to grant eligible veterans in the criminal justice system an alternative to incarceration by providing customized services and support to address their legal needs and behavioral health disorders. They are designed to assist justice-involved veterans who are suffering from the psychological and physical effects of service-related trauma, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, addiction, anger and depression. Many veterans also face the added stressors of homelessness.

By linking veterans to treatment programs and other indicated services, Veterans Treatment Courts help this population successfully transition back into civilian life. In addition to working with criminal justice partners, Veterans Treatment Courts judges and court personnel work closely with the federal government and veterans' organizations to ensure that veterans receive the benefits and services to which they are entitled. The Veterans Mentor program, which partners each veteran with a specially trained peer mentor, continues to be an important element of these courts.

AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

NEW YORK IS ONE OF TWO STATES THAT PROSECUTE SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN YEAR OLDS AS ADULTS, despite evidence that this approach is counterproductive and more likely to result in recidivism than rehabilitation; scientific evidence indicates that the brain of an adolescent differs from the brain of an adult in ways that bear directly on decision-making capacity and the ability to resist coercive influence. Proposed legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility has not been acted upon, and the court system in 2012 launched Adolescent Diversion Parts by order of Chief Judge Lippman. These courts use the collaborative approach of a problem-solving court to link appropriate young offenders with services that offer a pathway out of the criminal justice system. Judges, court staff and other stakeholders are well-versed in the unique legal and psychological issues of this population. An overwhelming number of these cases are resolved without a criminal conviction or jail time, which is of great significance as a criminal record irrevocably impacts an individual's future.

IMPROVING NEW YORK'S TOWN AND VILLAGE COURTS

NEW YORK'S 1,200-PLUS JUSTICE COURTS are an integral parts of New York's Unified Court System. Each Justice Court is responsible for administering justice consistent with the Constitution, as well as applicable statutes and court rules, and subject to the general oversight of the Chief Judge and Chief Administrative Judge. It is critically important that the level of justice provided in these "local" courts be consistent with that dispensed within the state's higher courts. The Office of Justice Court Support (OJCS) works to ensure this imperative.

OJCS is responsible for providing technical, legal and administrative support to the town and village courts. In this regard, the office creates and presents the annual education and training programs required of the justices, as well as assisting in the creation and presentation of training programs for court clerks. OJCS administers the $2.5 million Judicial Court Assistance Program (JCAP), digital recorder distributions, credit card machine program and many more City, Town and Village related programs. These courts have access to law libraries and online legal research databases, such as Lexis and Westlaw, at no expense to the participating localities.

Attorneys at OJCS are available to the town and village justices each and every day, including evenings and weekends, to assist the judges in fulfilling their legal, operational and financial responsibilities.

Education and training of the town and village courts is one of OJCS' major priorities. Training programs are created and presented each year to keep judges abreast of ever-changing laws, rules, regulations and procedures. While live programs continue to be conducted by the office four times yearly, OJCS' e-learning portal makes these training programs available to the town and village judges online.

In 2015, close to 600 judges, or nearly 28 percent of all town and village justices, completed all of their education training exclusively online. An even larger number completed a portion of such training online. Since its inception in 2013, the learning portal has been accessed by thousands of judges.

In addition to assisting the nearly 2,200 town and village justices, OJCS works closely with the numerous court clerks throughout the state, creating and presenting many of their training programs presented at statewide venues, as well as at local sites throughout the year.

OJCS works closely with the Supervising Judges and special counsel for the town and village courts that have been appointed to each of the Judicial Districts throughout the state involving matters that arise within these Districts and assisting them in the day-to-day operations of these courts.

HELPING PARTIES RESOLVE DISPUTES OUT OF COURT

OFFICE PROVIDES TRAINING AND OVERSIGHT OF ADR PRACTITIONERS

THE COURT SYSTEM'S OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE AND RESOLUTION (ADR) continues to expand the array of dispute resolution options available throughout New York State. A complete listing of ADR programs is maintained on the UCS website at www.nycourts.gov/adr.

The UCS ADR Office also provides funding to the statewide network of not-for-profit community dispute resolution centers (CDRCs) that offer a wide range of dispute resolution services on matters referred by courts, municipal agencies, probation departments, police departments, social service providers and other entities. Parties may also contact CDRCs directly.

Mediation represents the majority of matters handled through CDRCs, which offer services in small claims, housing, family, divorce, child custody and minor criminal matters. Some 1,000 professionally trained mediators volunteer their services to the CDRCs. Matters referred for arbitration include consumer-merchant disputes, matrimonial property division issues and automobile Lemon Law cases.

During 2015, CDRCs served 65,613 people in 26,751 total cases, resolving 75 percent of the 14,899 cases in which dispute resolution services were provided. Family matters, including child custody, visitation and support, accounted for nearly 25 percent of these cases.

The UCS ADR office also supports an ongoing effort to promote quality assurance among ADR professionals serving the courts and communities. One way in which the ADR office promotes quality assurance is through the approval of mediation courses pursuant to Part 146 of the Chief Administrative Judge which establishes "Guidelines for Qualifications and Training of ADR Neutrals Serving On Court Rosters." In 2015, the ADR Office re-approved six courses that reached the end of their three-year approval period, and approved additional trainers in connection with an existing course.

The Mediator Ethics Advisory Committee (MEAC), staffed by the UCS ADR office, is another example of the Unified Court System's commitment to quality assurance in ADR. The MEAC receives inquiries from mediators primarily serving the Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program and publishes its opinions at www.nycourt.gov/adr.

ADR staff also organized the annual Mediation Settlement Day kick-off event which brings together members of the legal, educational and ADR communities to help raise awareness of the benefits of ADR.

The UCS ADR Office administers the NYS Attorney/Client Fee Dispute Resolution Program. Since its inception on Jan. 1, 2002, the Fee Dispute Resolution Program has closed 10,955 cases. During 2015, local programs closed 1,097 cases, which is an increase from the 997 cases closed in 2014. Statewide, the average amount in dispute was $12,990.95, a small decrease in the average amount in dispute among 2014 cases ($13,013.92).

Of the 10,955 cases closed in 2015, 596 were arbitrated in which arbitrators issued awards in 428 cases. Two hundred eighty-one cases were either dismissed for lack of jurisdiction or withdrawn by the filing party. Two hundred seventeen cases were resolved outside of arbitration. Cases resolved outside of arbitration include 190 cases settled prior to arbitration or mediation and 27 mediated cases.

The Board of Governors, with the approval of the Administrative Board, raised the threshold for assembling panel arbitrations from $6,000 to $10,000 in January 2014. As a result, the number of arbitrations conducted by one arbitrator has continued to exceed the number of panel arbitrations. In 2015, solo arbitrations totaled 376 while panel arbitrations totaled 220 and the average number of weeks from intake to disposition for Part 137 arbitrations was 48.

NYC CENTER HELPS REDUCE EXPENSE AND PAIN OF DIVORCE ON FAMILIES

THE COURT SYSTEM'S COLLABORATIVE FAMILY LAW CENTER provides qualifying divorcing couples in New York City with free alternative dispute resolution services to help reduce the pain, trauma and expense of divorce on families. The Center promotes individually-tailored, child-centered and needs-based processes such as collaborative law and mediation, before couples proceed down an adversarial path. Disputes get resolved quickly, fairly and privately, without judicial intervention. The Center staff also accepts referrals of contested matrimonial cases directly from the Supreme Court. The Center provided assistance to more than 4,000 families in 2015. The services provided included information about divorce mediation, collaborative family law and general assistance on filing for divorce. The Center provided divorce assistance and information to an average of 87 families per week in 2015. Cases mediated through the Collaborative Family Law Center have a 91 percent success rate in reaching settlement.

Center staff also provided technical assistance and support to local not-for-profits starting divorce mediation programs as well as law schools interested in starting divorce mediation and other alternative dispute resolution clinics. For more information about the Collaborative Family Law Center visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/collablaw/index.shtml.

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

THE OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION'S DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY (DoT) provides hardware, software, programming, Internet connectivity, database, help desk, technical education, phone, networking and other computer services for the Unified Court System.

In 2015, the Unified Court System continued to support the expansion of e-filing of court documents, and assisted in bringing the Orleans County Surrogate's Court, Orange County Supreme Court and Tompkins County Supreme Court online. Enhanced functionality has been or is in the process of being added, such as providing judges and administrative court staff with the ability to add comments to a case and mark documents redacted or unredacted per rule or court order.

Also in 2015:

- DoT worked toward a new web-based automated Jury Management System, which is expected to be completed by mid-2017.
- The Universal Case Management System (UCMS) was implemented in all Housing Courts in New York City, replacing the old mainframe-based system.
- UCMS was deployed in 16 city courts: Batavia, Buffalo, Canandaigua, Cohoes, Cortland, Johnstown, Little Falls, Newburgh, Oneida, Oneonta, Plattsburgh, Port Jervis, Rensselaer, Rye, Saratoga Springs and Sherrill.
- In March of 2015, the first pilot courts for the UCMS-Family bilingual Order of Protection functionality went live in Westchester, Monroe and New York County Family Courts. The initial implementation included only Spanish/English bilingual orders, but later was expanded to include Chinese/English and Russian/English orders. By the end of 2015, all of the 7th Judicial District, the 9th Judicial District and New York County Queens and Bronx Family Courts were live. More than 850 bilingual orders were issued in 2015.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

THE OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT provides records management guidance and support to all NYS Courts and Offices. In an effort to reduce space requirements for paper records and costs for private storage, the Office of Records Management (ORM) encourages the disposal of records that have reached their retention requirement and digitization of records. In 2015, ORM processed 5,590 Records Disposition Request Forms, resulting in the disposal of 46,000 cubic feet of paper records—1,508 more requests and more than 15,950 cubic feet of records disposed in 2014.

In October of 2015, all ORM staff based at Beaver Street began to inventory the old court records held by the New York County Clerk's Office at 31 Chambers Street. That project has brought order to records created as early as 1674 and it has given the court system a much deeper understanding of the records held there.

CRIMINAL DISPOSITION REPORTING UNIT

THE CRIMINAL DISPOSITION REPORTING UNIT (CDR) continues to assist all criminal courts in the criminal disposition reporting process to ensure the accuracy of criminal records. The office fielded approximately 7,200 calls in 2015.

The unit works with multiple agencies on a variety of issues: Division of Criminal Justices Services for missing dispositions, reporting issues and arrest problems; Department of Motor Vehicles for reporting issues; the New York State Police for electronic traffic ticket problems; and Office of Court Administration's Division of Technology to resolve issues and improve the technology for reporting and receiving data. The unit continues to work with the DoT to maintain and update the OCA CDR website. The website contains many reports that are utilized by the criminal courts. The unit also produces reports that are sent out to the district offices.

In 2015, the CDR unit became more involved with the Universal Case Management System (UCMS) conversion process. CDR staff analyzes and resolves errors on older cases and works with UCMS staff and the courts on current CDR errors and related reporting issues.

The unit also works with the Office of Justice Court Support, the NYS Magistrates Association and the NYS Court Clerks Magistrates Association to provide training for the town and village justices and court personnel. This includes participation in three major training conferences each year in addition to local training within Districts or Counties.

OFFICE OF LEGAL INFORMATION

THE OFFICE OF LEGAL INFORMATION administers legal reference programs to a diverse community of individuals seeking current legal information and research materials: the judiciary, town and village justices, non-judicial UCS employees and those who use our public access law libraries. Legal Information staff are responsible for a statewide centralized purchase program for legal reference materials, maintain and develop databases for appellate-level records and briefs, work directly with court librarians to address the challenges facing library services to integrate and transition both staff and library researchers from traditional sources of information to a constantly increasing spectrum of electronic and online venues. OLI staff serve as system administrators for, and maintain, the statewide library automation system and provide training and assistance to library personnel on an as needed basis.

In 2015, court personnel and the public who frequent our library facilities gained access to a new digital collection of e-books. The e-book collections complement our online Lexis and Westlaw databases as well as remaining print collections. OLI began to include OCA local content (in PDF format) to the digital library as well and continues to look for OCA content to add.

OFFICE OF GUARDIAN AND FIDUCIARY SERVICES

THE OFFICE OF GUARDIAN AND FIDUCIARY SERVICES (GFS) is responsible for providing training and resources to judges, court personnel, attorneys, other professionals and lay persons in the area of guardianship under Article 81 of the Mental Hygiene Law and court fiduciary appointments under Part 36 of the Rules of the Chief Judge. In 2011, GFS expanded its efforts to provide training to non-professionals appointed as guardians for incapacitated friends and family members. The Guardian Assistance Network ('GAN"), which has since 2006 provided live training in the metropolitan New York area to over 1,000 non-professionals appointed as guardians of friends and family members, also offers free online video training. The online program, which is available statewide through the GAN website, offers practical advice to assist lay guardians in carrying out their guardianship responsibilities, and is certified to meet statutory training requirements. Over 3,500 lay guardians have completed online training since the program's debut in April 2011.

WORKING TO RESOLVE RESIDENTIAL FORECLOSURE CASES

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE CASES REPRESENT NEARLY 30 PERCENT OF THE STATEWIDE SUPREME COURT CIVIL INVENTORY, and the courts continue to prioritize foreclosure case management by streamlining case processing and improving access for litigants. An ongoing commitment to the expansion of civil legal services for New Yorkers in need has resulted in an increase for the fifth year in a row in the number of residential homeowners represented by counsel in the foreclosure settlement conference process. In 2015, 61 percent of homeowners were provided with representation in the conferences, an increase from 58 percent in 2014 and a significant increase from the 33 percent of homeowners provided representation in 2011.

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF NY'S COMMERCIAL DIVISION

IN 1993, THE CIVIL BRANCH OF THE NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT established four Commercial Parts on an experimental basis. The experiment proved successful and the Commercial and Federal Litigation Section of the New York State Bar Association recommended establishing a Commercial Division of the Supreme Court in areas where the volume of those cases warranted such a specialty court. On November 6, 1995, then Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye opened Commercial Divisions in New York and Monroe counties.

Since 1995, the Division has expanded to meet growing demand. Currently, 29 Commercial Division Justices preside in 10 different jurisdictions: Albany, Kings, Nassau, New York, Onondaga, Queens, Suffolk and Westchester counties, plus the entire Seventh and Eighth Judicial Districts. Its reputation and success has raised New York's profile as a nationally respected forum for the resolution of complex commercial disputes.

During the last three years, the Commercial Division has implemented numerous improvements to its rules, procedures and operations which have been designed to be responsive to the needs and concerns of the business community. The ultimate goal of these changes is to make the business litigation process in New York more cost-effective, consistent and expeditious, and to thereby provide a more hospitable environment for business litigation in New York State. The success of these new initiatives was the subject of separate events sponsored by the Business Council of New York State, Inc. and by the Partnership for New York City during the spring of 2015.

Additionally, the Historical Society of the New York Courts and the Commercial Division Advisory Council worked in tandem in producing a video about the Commercial Division of the New York State Supreme Court. The professionally filmed video describes the origins and evolution of the court, with glowing testimonials from no fewer than 10 general counsel of major corporations as well as judges and lawyers. It was scheduled for release in early 2016.

For more information go to: www.nycourts.gov/comdiv.

FACILITATING GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

THE COURT SYSTEM'S GRANTS AND CONTRACTS OFFICE manages approximately 200 contracts with a total value of $213 million a year. It is responsible for distributing as well as soliciting funding for various initiatives. In addition to the management of UCS's professional service contracts, the grants and contracts unit manages the grants awarded to the UCS. There are currently 47 active grants, with an aggregate value of nearly $21 million. These grants cover a broad range of areas, including child welfare, juvenile justice, substance abuse, mental health drug treatment, domestic violence and technology projects The contracts managed by the unit fall into the following categories:

- Judiciary Civil Legal Services (78 contracts totaling $70 million)
- Attorney for the Child (11 contracts totaling $69 million)
- New York City Criminal Indigent Defense (six contracts totaling $55 million)
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (21 contracts, totaling $5.3 million)
- Children's Centers (20 contracts totaling $1.5 million)
- Center for Court Innovation (one consolidated contract covering 28 projects, totaling $6.8 million)
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (recently consolidated from 18 contracts with individual providers to two contacts: NYC CASA and the State CASA Association for outside NYC, totaling $878,075)
- Attorney-Client Fee Arbitration (four contracts totaling $123,000)
- Lawyers Assistance Program (five contracts totaling $255,000)
- Agricultural Mediation (one contract, with State Dispute Resolution Association for services in all rural counties of New York, $335,000)
- Substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, consulting and evaluation services related to grant-funded programs (46 contracts for $3.7 million)

There are three primary components to the oversight of the contracts managed by the unit: fiscal management, programmatic oversight and formal audits.

The fiscal management of these contracts by the Division is designed to ensure full compliance with laws, rules and protocols governing procurement, contracting, and disbursement of state funds. Among the elements of fiscal management are a vetting of the vendors prior to contracting, a thorough review of fiscal reports, including budget reconciliation reports, and on-site desk audits by Division staff.

The programmatic oversight of these contracts by the Division is designed to ensure that each vendor is delivering the contracted-for services. Among the elements of programmatic oversight are the review of periodic written reports submitted by the vendors, data collection, training, and site visits by Division staff.

In consultation with the Division, the court system's Inspector General selects a number of the Division's contracts for formal, in-depth audits as part of the annual audit plan approved by the Chief Administrative Judge.

FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND GENDER FAIRNESS IN NY'S LEGAL COMMUNITY

THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM CELEBRATES DIVERSITY and has a longstanding commitment to equal employment opportunity, the elimination of under-representation of minorities and women in the workforce, and the fair and equal treatment of minorities and women within the court system.

FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS COMMISSION

THE FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION IS COMPOSED of judges, attorneys and court administrators appointed by the Chief Judge of the State of New York to develop strategies to make the court system more responsive to the issues of court employees of color, as well as litigants and the larger legal community, and to implement recommendations to address those issues.

The major event the Commission undertook in 2015 was the hosting of the 27th Annual Conference of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in Buffalo, N.Y. The Conference theme was "Uniting Communities: Justice for All." The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission and 37 other similar state commissions met to address issues that confront our nation's courts and communities in achieving racial and ethnic fairness. Commission members developed the conference program and assembled speakers, panelists and moderators from around the country, including national and local political leaders, educators, judges, attorneys, law enforcement officials and community leaders.

At the Conference, workshops explored pressing issues such as zero tolerance in the schools, domestic violence, alternatives-to-incarceration, the Voting Rights Act, innovations in peacemaking and immigration consequences of convictions. Also discussed was the issue of "implicit bias," and the role that hidden bias plays in decision-making unless one is made aware of this influence.

The centerpiece of the Conference was a Town Hall Meeting on improving law enforcement and police relationships within communities of color. The panelists discussed various perspectives regarding the root of the tension between law enforcement and communities of color and suggested reforms and approaches to protect the inhabitants of these various communities.

On Oct. 2, 2015, the Commission continued its fourth statewide initiative to host seminars on the path to becoming a judge in districts that lack diversity in the judiciary. The Commission partnered with the Onondaga County Bar Association to host a program, "Everything You Need to Know About Becoming a Judge," at the CNY Philanthropy Center in the 5th Judicial District. The seminar included panel discussions on election law, ethical requirements, securing the nomination in Supreme Court, making the ballot in town, city, county and family courts, evaluation, judicial and appointment processes. Continuing Legal Education credit was provided for attendees.

The annual class for new judges at the New York State Judicial Institute was conducted by Commission members and included distribution of the Commission's booklet, "Cultural Awareness Tips for Judges and Court Personnel." The discussions focused on the topic of "Implicit Bias."

On Dec. 8, 2015, a reception was held for the new Commission chair, Hon. Richard B. Lowe III and new Commission members: Lenora B. Foote, Esq., Executive Assistant to the Hon. Gerald Whalen, Presiding Justice of the 4th Department; Hon. Craig D. Hannah, Buffalo City Court; Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick, Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, First Department; Paul Kenny, Esq., Chief Clerk of the Appellate Term, Second Department; Hon. Joanne D. Quiñones, Criminal Court, Kings County; and Hon. Richard Rivera, Albany Family Court. For more information about the Commission, visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/ethnic-fairness.

THE NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS

THE NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS WORKS TO SECURE THE EQUAL JUSTICE, equal treatment and equal opportunity that the 1986 report of the New York Task Force on Women in the Courts found were often denied women. A standing committee of the New York State's Unified Court System, the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts has a diverse membership appointed by the Chief Judge of the State of New York.

Working within the New York court system, the New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts addresses a variety of concerns of women litigants, attorneys and court employees. In recent years, it has acted on behalf of constituencies that range from domestic violence victims to immigrant women and from sexually-harassed employees to self-represented matrimonial litigants. The committee was instrumental in the creation of a statewide network of human trafficking intervention courts.

Sixteen local gender bias and gender fairness committees address issues in particular geographic regions. For more information on the local committees and their activities in 2015, see www.nycourts.gov/ip/womeninthecourts/pdfs/2016%20annual%20reports%20gender%20fairness.pdf.

ENHANCING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE COURTS

INITIATIVES TO FOSTER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORK OF THE JUDICIARY

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED TO INCREASE THE PUBLIC'S UNDERSTANDING of the New York State Court system. In cooperation with court employees throughout the state, it engages in activities to promote awareness of the judicial system. The Office coordinates events involving our judicial leaders and the public. Students and teachers are included in our outreach efforts. The Office makes available court-related materials including publications, videos, DVD's etc. to the public and court employees engaged in outreach. It also produces and disseminates public service announcements.

In 2015, the Office continued to coordinate the statewide internship and Student Ambassador programs. It also recruited students for the Chief Judge's Pro-Bono Scholars Program, coordinated the visits and provided court information sessions for judicial delegations from around the world, including Thailand, Turkey, Romania, Israel, Russia, England, Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Further, it engaged SUNY and CUNY community college students and faculty for the annual David A. Garfinkel Essay Scholarship.

In addition, the Office: developed a month-long Twitter campaign in advance of Mediation Settlement Day to raise awareness about the benefits of mediation and available resources; coordinated the statewide distribution of flyers to community organizations, educational institutions, bar associations and other groups regarding the Judicial Candidate Voter Guide; fostered a month-long Twitter campaign, placed advertisements in community newspapers at a discounted rate and distributed a press advisory a week prior to Election Day; worked closely with the Queens County Commissioner of Jurors to enhance compliance with juror qualification questionnaires; and raised awareness of International Translation and Interpretation Day to publicize the court system's ability to effectively provide court interpreting services on-site and remotely.

STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS

IN 2015, THE COURT SYSTEM BOLSTERED ITS SOCIAL MEDIA FOOTPRINT with several new Twitter accounts, an Instagram account, a YouTube account, expansion of the "Amici" podcast library and launch of an "app" for the Court of Appeals. The overall strategy is to utilize a variety of social media tools to enhance transparency, promote the court system and communicate with the public.

By the end of 2015, the following Twitter accounts were operational and active: NYCourtsNotice (emergency notices and court closings, generally weather or infrastructure related); NYCourtsCOA (timely alerts on decision and daily calendar for the Court of Appeals); NYAppDiv3 (notices on calendars and arguments at the Appellate Division, Third Department; NYAppDiv4 (notices on calendars and arguments at the Appellate Division, Fourth Department; NYSCourtsNews (news and information on the courts and court system, including new initiatives and court rules; NYCourtsCareers (job openings, career opportunities and qualifying exams); and NYCourtsA2J (resources that help make the court system fair and accessible to people who do not have an attorney). Collectively, these feeds were reaching about 18,000 people by the end of 2015.

The "Amici" podcasts are a series of online interviews with individuals and topics of interest to the legal community and the community at large. Topics ranged from the connection between animal cruelty and domestic violence to human trafficking to alternative dispute resolution. These podcasts are archived on the court system's website (www.nycourts.gov/admin/amici/index.shtml).

In addition, the office provided technical writing assistance on several reports while producing speeches, articles and other materials as needed for judges and the court system.

800-COURT-NY

800-COURT-NY IS THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM'S TOLL-FREE PUBLIC-INFORMATION LINE for providing court information and assistance. In addition to the UCS website, (www.nycourts.gov) the 800# provides the public with quick and easy access to UCS services and information, while maintaining the highest levels of customer service. Calls are answered by seasoned and knowledgeable staff from UCS Law Libraries, Help Centers and the Office of Court Administration, with foreign language interpreter assistance also being available to callers, upon request. 800-Court-NY receives an average of 100,000 calls annually, which are routed through a virtual call center to staff in law libraries and court offices throughout the state.

PROMOTING INFORMED VOTER PARTICIPATION IN JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

THE JUDICIAL CAMPAIGN ETHICS CENTER serves as a central resource on campaign ethics for judicial candidates and informs the public about judicial elections in New York State. In 2015, there were 165 candidates for state-paid elective judicial office vying for 109 seats in the general election, in addition to numerous town and village court elections. Over the course of the year, the center fielded approximately 260 ethics-related inquiries from judicial candidates and provided campaign ethics training to 196 candidates. Additionally, nearly 15,000 visitors accessed the voter guide in the period leading up to the general election. For more information, visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/jcec.

PROMOTING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY'S INTEGRITY, INDEPENDENCE, AND IMPARTIALITY

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ETHICS seeks to promote public confidence in the judiciary by providing ethics training and advice to full- and part-time judges and justices, as well as quasi-judicial officials such as judicial hearing officers, support magistrates and court attorney-referees. Pursuant to the Judiciary Law, actions a judge takes in accordance with an opinion issued by the Advisory Committee are "presumed proper" for purposes of any subsequent disciplinary investigation by the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Since 1987, the Advisory Committee has issued over 3,600 opinions concerning a wide variety of ethics issues including disqualification and disclosure requirements, a judge's disciplinary obligations, permissible extrajudicial conduct, proper execution of judicial duties, as well as possible conflicts between private interests and official duties. The Advisory Committee's opinions are posted online and broadcast to the judiciary, and are often reprinted in law journals or The Magistrate. The Advisory Committee has also answered many thousands of informal inquiries by telephone.

All voting members are active or former judges who serve without compensation; collectively, their judicial experience covers a broad spectrum of courts throughout the state.

For more information visit www.nycourts.gov/ip/acje. Judges and quasi-judicial officials may also call the Advisory Committee's toll-free number (1-866-795-8343) to speak with the Chair, Special Counsel or Chief Counsel.

FOSTERING EXCELLENCE IN JUDICIAL EDUCATION

THE JUDICIAL INSTITUTE, LOCATED ON THE PACE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW CAMPUS in Westchester County, is a year-round center for education and scholarship designed to ensure judicial excellence in New York State.

During 2015, the Judicial Institute continued to offer judicial, quasi-judicial and court attorney training in both live and web-based formats, expanding its distance-learning programming by adding nearly 100 new courses to its already extensive course catalog. The Institute provided specialized live programming, including seminars for newly elected and appointed judges in January and July, as well as for Matrimonial Judges and Family Court Judges. Also in 2015, the Institute partnered with local Administrative Judges to sponsor a series of regional programs around the State, including in Albany, Broome, Erie, Kings and Suffolk counties. Specialized programs included "Understanding the Ties that Bind: Judicial Responses to Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse," sponsored by the Family Violence Task Force. In addition, the Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Unit issued over 23,000 CLE certificates of attendance in connection with live and web-based viewing of programs sponsored by the Institute.

FACILITIES TO MEET THE COURT SYSTEM'S EVOLVING NEEDS

NEW YORK COURT FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED AND OPERATED by the cities and counties they serve. Since 1987, when the Court Facilities Act was passed in response to a pervasive sense that facilities were increasingly inadequate, the UCS has provided financial assistance and guidance to local governments to help them meet their facility-related responsibilities. Amendments to the Act have enhanced the State's role and increased financial assistance to localities. As a result of the Act and the financial aid programs mentioned above, several municipalities were involved in major facility construction and renovation projects this year.

In New York City, the new Staten Island Courthouse was completed in late September providing the borough with a brand new state-of-the-art facility for the Supreme Court and the New York City Criminal Court. In Bronx County the multi-phase renovations in the historic Bronx County Supreme Courthouse began winding down with completion of the final details resulting in much improved facilities for the civil term of the Supreme Court and the City's lower civil court. Also in the Bronx, the multi-phased renovations of the facility housing the Family and New York City Criminal Courts continued to advance with completion expected during the summer of 2016.

Outside of New York City, in Nassau County, the first phase of a project to convert a county-owned building into a much needed replacement for the Family Court and the Matrimonial Center continued. This is a two-phase project (exterior followed by interior) which is projected for completion in the fall of 2019. In Westchester County, work began on a new 23,000 sq. ft. Family Court satellite facility within the City of Yonkers with completion expected early next year. In Orange County, work began on the rehabilitation and restoration of the County Court facilities in Goshen, which were closed following the damaging storms of 2011. This project is expected to be completed at the end of 2017 and will provide a completely restored Supreme Court facility at the County Government Center in Goshen.

In Ulster County, the finishing touches were put on a new courtroom and related court spaces for the County's newly created Family Court Judge and support staff. Additional planning is underway to improve the existing Family Court facility while the County looks for a new permanent home for the Family Court operations.

In Warren County, construction started on a multi-phase project that will result in a new Family Court facility adjacent to the existing county court facilities. The city of Saratoga Springs began preliminary planning for renovation of its court facility to make room for a newly created full-time judgeship. Final design and construction are expected to occur in 2016.

Finally, the city of Hudson completed re-design of a building it purchased which will serve as a new court facility and police headquarters. Construction is expected to start in early 2016 with completion scheduled to occur at the end of 2016.

COURT STRUCTURE AND CASELOAD ACTIVITY

ARTICLE VI OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION specifies the organization and jurisdiction of the courts, establishes the methods for the selection and removal of judges and provides for administrative supervision of the courts. The responsibility and authority of the New York State Unified Court System (UCS) is vested in the Chief Judge, who also serves as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court.

The UCS is made up of 11 separate trial courts: New York City Civil, New York City Criminal, City, District, town and village Justice, Supreme, County, Family, Surrogate's and the Court of Claims; the intermediate Appellate Terms and Appellate Divisions; and the Court of Appeals. This chapter describes the jurisdiction of these courts and provides an overview of their 2014 caseload activity.

APPELLATE COURTS

THE COURT OF APPEALS — New York's highest court — hears civil and criminal appeals. In most cases, the court's authority is limited to the review of questions of law. Depending on the issue, some matters may be appealed as of right and some only by leave or permission from the court or the Appellate Division. The Court of Appeals also presides over appeals of decisions reached by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (which reviews allegations of misconduct brought against judges) and sets rules governing the admission of attorneys to the bar. The Court of Appeals consists of the Chief Judge and six Associate Judges appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to 14-year terms. Five members of the court constitute a quorum, with the agreement of four required for a decision. The court's caseload activity is reported in TABLE 1.

Below the Court of Appeals is the Appellate Division of state Supreme Court, the mid-level court. For administrative purposes, there are four distinct "departments" of the Appellate Division, as follows:

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENTS BY COUNTY

First Department

Bronx	New York (Manhattan)

Second Department

Dutchess	Nassau	Putnam	Richmond	Suffolk
Kings	Orange	Queens	Rockland	Westchester

Third Department

Albany	Cortland	Hamilton	Saratoga	Tompkins
Broome	Delaware	Madison	Schenectady	Ulster
Chemung	Essex	Montgomery	Schoharie	Warren
Chenango	Franklin	Otsego	Schuyler	Washington
Clinton	Fulton	Rensselaer	Sullivan	
Columbia	Greene	St. Lawrence	Tioga	

Fourth Department

Allegany	Genesee	Monroe	Oswego	Yates
Cattaraugus	Herkimer	Niagara	Seneca	
Cayuga	Jefferson	Oneida	Steuben	
Chautauqua	Lewis	Onondaga	Wayne	
Erie	Livingston	Ontario	Wyoming	

Their responsibilities include resolving appeals from judgments or orders of the superior courts of original jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases; reviewing civil appeals taken from the Appellate Terms and County Courts acting as appellate tribunals; establishing rules governing attorney conduct; conducting proceedings to admit, suspend or disbar attorneys. Presiding and Associate Justices of each division are selected from the Supreme Court by the Governor. Presiding Justices serve for the remainder of their term; Associate Justices are designated for five-year terms of the remainder of their unexpired terms of office, if less than five years. The Appellate Divisions' caseload activity is listed in TABLE 2.

TABLE 1: CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN COURT OF APPEALS - 2015 *as of: 7/27/2016*

Applications Decided [CPL 460.20(3)(b)]	2,201
Records on Appeal Filed	217
Oral Arguments (Includes Submissions)	172
Appeals Decided	202
Motions Decided	1,427
Judicial Conduct Determinations Reviewed	0

DISPOSITIONS OF APPEALS DECIDED IN THE COURT OF APPEALS BY BASIS OF JURISDICTION

BASIS OF JURISDICTION	AFFIRMED	REVERSED	MODIFIED	DISMISSED	OTHER*	TOTAL
All Cases						
Dissents in Appellate Division	7	2	0	0	0	9
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	69	46	7	0	2	124
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	26	13	6	3	2	50
Constitutional Question	3	2	0	0	0	5
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	1	0	11	14
Total	**105**	**65**	**14**	**3**	**15**	**202**
Civil Cases						
Dissents in Appellate Division	7	2	0	0	0	9
Permission of Court of Appeals	26	19	4	0	2	51
Permission of Appellate Division	13	12	6	1	1	33
Constitutional Question	3	2	0	0	0	5
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	2	1	0	11	14
Total	**49**	**37**	**11**	**1**	**14**	**112**
Criminal Cases						
Permission of Court of Appeals Judge	43	27	3	0	0	73
Permission of Appellate Division Justice	13	1	0	2	1	17
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**56**	**28**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**90**

**Includes anomalies which did not result in an affirmance, reversal, modification or dismissal (e.g., judicial suspensions, acceptance of a case for review pursuant to Court Rule 500.27)*

APPELLATE TERMS OF THE SUPREME COURT IN THE FIRST AND SECOND DEPARTMENTS hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in New York City's Civil and Criminal Courts. In the Second Department, the Appellate Terms also hear appeals from civil and criminal cases originating in District, City, and town and village Justice Courts. Justices are selected by the Chief Administrative Judge upon approval of the Presiding Justice of the appropriate Appellate Division. The Appellate Terms' caseload activity is listed in TABLE 3.

TABLE 2: CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE APPELLATE DIVISION - 2015 *as of: 7/27/2016*

	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
Records on Appeal Filed	**1,671**	**773**	**3,191**	**596**	**1,462**	**370**	**761**	**577**	**9,401**
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	215	142	5,514	2,143	0	0	0	0	8,014
Disposed of after argument or submission:									
Affirmed	985	713	1,647	588	832	307	478	513	6,063
Reversed	299	36	711	63	136	49	146	44	1,484
Modified	252	65	276	70	159	22	148	67	1,059
Dismissed	229	5	361	5	121	3	189	23	936
Other	92	39	114	108	2	1	8	20	384
Total Dispositions	**2,072**	**1,000**	**8,623**	**2,977**	**1,250**	**382**	**969**	**667**	**17,940**

	FIRST DEPT	SECOND DEPT	THIRD DEPT	FOURTH DEPT	TOTAL
Oral Arguments*	1,292	2,053	800	855	**5,000**
Motions Decided*	5,141	10,608	7,176	4,817	**27,742**
Admissions to the Bar	2,592	2,351	3,602	364	**8,909**
Atty. Disciplinary Proceedings Decided 606	205	323	90	108	**726**

**Not broken down by civil or criminal*

TABLE 3: CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE APPELLATE TERMS - 2015 *as of: 7/27/2016*

	FIRST DEPT			SECOND DEPT			TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	
Records on Appeal Filed	**208**	**247**	**455**	**1,623**	**1,279**	**2,902**	**3,357**
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	10	4	14	1,214	866	2,080	2,094
Disposed of after argument or submission:							
Affirmed	133	108	241	336	127	463	704
Reversed	59	40	99	202	48	250	349
Modified	28	7	35	83	5	88	123
Dismissed	25	-	25	19	3	22	47
Other	6	-	6	42	9	51	57
Total Dispositions	**261**	**159**	**420**	**1,896**	**1,058**	**2,954**	**3,374**
Oral Arguments*			225			256	481
Motions Decided*			1,818			7,188	9,006

**Not broken down by civil or criminal*

TRIAL COURTS

IN 2015, 3,510,348 CASES WERE FILED STATEWIDE in the trial courts. Excluding parking tickets, filings totaled 3,410,289 — 38 percent of which were criminal filings, 39 percent civil filings, 19 percent Family Court filings and 4 percent Surrogate's Court filings. TABLE 4 shows total filings in the trial courts over a five-year period. FIGURE A shows the percentage of filings by case type.

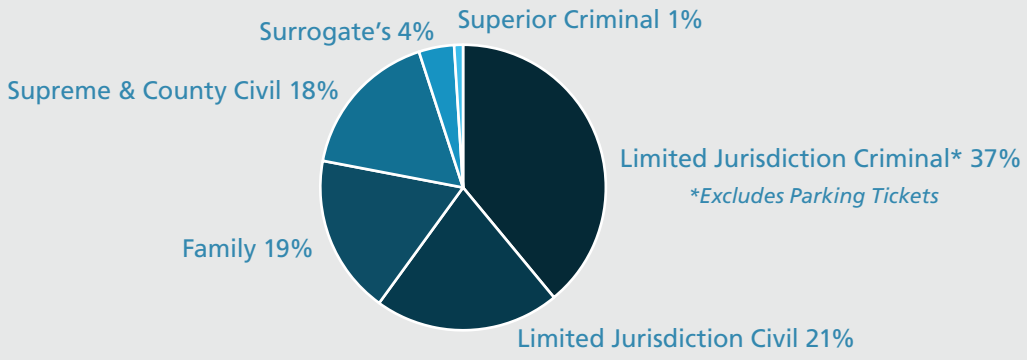
THE SUPREME COURT generally handles cases outside the authority of the lower courts such as civil matters beyond the monetary limits of the lower courts' jurisdiction; divorce, separation and annulment proceedings; equity suits, such as mortgage foreclosures and injunctions; and criminal prosecutions of felonies. THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION, which is devoted exclusively to complex business litigation, is part of the Supreme Court. Supreme Court Justices are elected by judicial district to 14-year terms.

TABLE 4: FILINGS IN THE TRIAL COURTS: FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON *as of: 7/27/2016*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Criminal					
Supreme and County Courts Criminal	77,842[a]	69,552[a]	51,857[a]	47,805[a]	45,655[a]
Criminal Court of the City of NY[b]	861,378	851,369	809,868	764,487	622,730
City & District Courts Outside NYC[b]	723,008	707,019	685,488	648,340	642,871
Parking Tickets	166,181	125,778	115,529	115,847	100,059
Criminal Total	1,828,409	1,753,718	1,662,742	1,576,479	1,411,315
Civil					
Supreme Court Civil[c]	440,026	453,846	504,910	491,203	481,719
Civil Court of the City of NY[d]	717,632	616,197	574,347	552,858	528,059
City & District Courts Outside NYC[d]	293,973	253,269	228,379	212,804	190,177
County Courts Civil[e]	48,349	49,573	83,292	54,353	61,617
Court of Claims	1,505	1,526	1,622	1,817	1,894
Small Claims Assessment Review Program[e]	33,729	96,049	66,462	54,041	55,568
Civil Total	1,535,214	1,470,460	1,459,012	1,367,076	1,319,034
Family	717,818[f]	698,372[f]	694,975[f]	646,954[f]	640,658[f]
Surrogate's	139,805	136,341	137,249	138,553	139,341
Total	**4,221,246**	**4,058,891**	**3,953,978**	**3,729,062**	**3,510,348**

[a] *Includes felonies and misdemeanors, of which 3,183 were misdemeanor filings in 2015.*
[b] *NYC includes arrest and summons cases; outside NYC includes arrest cases and uniform traffic tickets.*
[c] *Includes new cases, ex parte applications and uncontested matrimonial cases.*
[d] *Includes civil, housing, small claims and commercial claims.*
[e] *Includes new cases and ex parte applications.*
[f] *Includes Permanency Planning Hearings Held.*

FIGURE A: TRIAL COURT FILINGS BY CASE TYPE - 2015

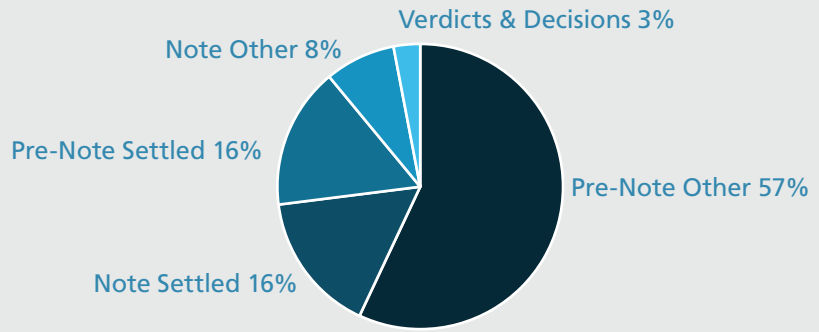


CIVIL CASES

DURING 2015, THERE WERE 481,719 CIVIL FILINGS IN SUPREME COURT, including 193,950 new cases, 240,411 ex parte applications and 47,358 uncontested matrimonial cases. A total of 480,980 matters reached disposition. Three standard and goal periods measure the length of time from filing a civil action to disposition. The first or "pre-note" standard measures the time from filing a request for judicial intervention (RJI) — when parties first seek some form of judicial relief — to filing the trial note of issue, indicating readiness for trial. The second or "note" standard measures the time from filing the note of issue to disposition. The third standard covers the entire period from filing the RJI to disposition. The respective time frames are 8-15-23 months for expedited cases; 12-15-27 months for standard cases; and 15-15-30 months for complex cases. In matrimonial cases, the standards are 6-6-12 months; and in tax certiorari cases, 48¬15-63 months.

FIGURE B shows the breakdown of cases by manner of disposition.

FIGURE B: SUPREME CIVIL DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION - 2015



COUNTY COURTS, located in each county outside New York City, handle criminal prosecutions of felonies and misdemeanors committed within the county, although in practice most minor offenses are handled by lower courts. County Courts also have limited jurisdiction over civil lawsuits, generally involving claims up to $25,000. County Courts in the Third and Fourth Departments, while primarily trial courts, hear appeals from cases originating in the City Courts and town and village Justice Courts. County Court Judges are elected to 10-year terms. The statistical data for the County Courts' felony caseload are reported in combination with the felony caseload data for Supreme Court in TABLE 5.

TABLE 5: SUPREME CRIMINAL & COUNTY COURT - FELONY CASES 2015 *as of: 7/27/2016*

	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
Location	Total	Indictments	SCI's*	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
Total State	**42,472**	**27,756**	**14,716**	**43,498**	**37,950**	**1,032**	**339**	**365**	**2,799**	**1,013**
NYC	18,771	15,245	3,526	19,305	16,079	537	227	110	1,804	548
New York	6,226	5,305	921	6,757	5,562	233	72	35	640	215
Bronx	4,189	3,839	350	4,338	3,459	62	71	11	620	115
Kings	4,654	4,028	626	4,223	3,698	118	40	16	240	111
Queens	3,077	1,695	1,382	3,390	2,841	120	44	45	246	94
Richmond	625	378	247	597	519	4	0	3	58	13

**Superior Court Information **Outside New York City*

TABLE 5: SUPREME CRIMINAL & COUNTY COURT - FELONY CASES 2015

as of: 7/27/2016

Location	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
	Total	Indictments	SCI's*	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
Total State	**42,472**	**27,756**	**14,716**	**43,498**	**37,950**	**1,032**	**339**	**365**	**2,799**	**1,013**
ONYC**	23,701	12,511	11,190	24,193	21,871	495	112	255	995	465
Albany	1,078	558	520	1,118	994	35	10	1	54	24
Allegany	89	30	59	101	99	0	0	0	2	0
Broome	756	313	443	786	724	13	4	6	38	1
Cattaraugus	308	206	102	303	285	3	1	0	10	4
Cayuga	198	94	104	203	189	7	0	2	3	2
Chautauqua	370	139	231	459	449	1	0	1	6	2
Chemung	300	278	22	326	282	6	2	14	17	5
Chenango	127	91	36	159	147	1	1	0	6	4
Clinton	264	107	157	262	251	5	1	0	3	2
Columbia	97	29	68	95	86	0	0	0	6	3
Cortland	145	47	98	156	133	11	1	0	4	7
Delaware	87	34	53	103	93	1	0	0	8	1
Dutchess	394	146	248	408	378	9	1	0	16	4
Erie	1,267	371	896	1,400	1,244	26	4	91	20	15
Essex	76	51	25	75	68	1	0	0	2	4
Franklin	135	82	53	152	142	7	1	0	0	2
Fulton	147	41	106	158	148	2	0	0	0	8
Genesee	206	81	125	205	193	4	1	1	5	1
Greene	132	57	75	153	143	1	1	1	2	5
Hamilton	9	3	6	10	6	0	0	0	2	2
Herkimer	129	36	93	140	131	0	1	1	0	7
Jefferson	454	113	341	469	453	4	0	2	8	2
Lewis	109	23	86	106	95	0	0	0	4	7
Livingston	275	144	131	269	250	8	0	1	1	9
Madison	147	64	83	154	146	5	0	0	2	1
Monroe	2,034	1,479	555	1,924	1,595	92	30	59	103	45
Montgomery	123	37	86	126	122	4	0	0	0	0
Nassau	2,048	1,157	891	1,959	1,739	40	9	10	128	33
Niagara	381	256	125	413	358	4	1	0	41	9
Oneida	660	500	160	679	637	6	2	1	27	6
Onondaga	1,209	650	559	1,271	1,117	34	8	5	90	17
Ontario	484	227	257	466	432	15	3	5	4	7
Orange	805	573	232	763	719	7	0	1	29	7
Orleans	90	80	10	106	92	4	2	1	7	0
Oswego	303	161	142	306	288	6	0	0	8	4
Otsego	71	50	21	77	70	3	0	1	2	1
Putnam	84	23	61	102	88	4	0	1	7	2
Rensselaer	299	171	128	288	257	2	3	0	24	2
Rockland	602	407	195	515	473	9	4	10	17	2
St. Lawrence	276	182	94	262	234	4	3	0	8	13
Saratoga	287	82	205	299	287	4	1	0	2	5
Schenectady	509	270	239	475	432	15	0	3	7	18
Schoharie	41	9	32	44	43	0	0	0	0	1
Schuyler	38	26	12	45	45	0	0	0	0	0
Seneca	111	47	64	115	101	3	1	1	8	1
Steuben	380	242	138	399	345	4	3	9	20	18
Suffolk	2,905	1,861	1,044	2,801	2,454	25	3	21	184	114

**Superior Court Information **Outside New York City*

TABLE 5: SUPREME CRIMINAL & COUNTY COURT - FELONY CASES 2015										as of: 7/27/2016
	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
Location	Total	Indictments	SCI's*	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
Total State	**42,472**	**27,756**	**14,716**	**43,498**	**37,950**	**1,032**	**339**	**365**	**2,799**	**1,013**
Sullivan	182	68	114	211	199	4	1	0	1	6
Tioga	105	51	54	108	98	2	0	1	6	1
Tompkins	196	67	129	205	189	5	0	1	7	3
Ulster	313	147	166	325	299	12	2	0	10	2
Warren	213	73	140	245	234	2	2	0	1	6
Washington	170	127	43	163	151	4	0	0	4	4
Wayne	183	111	72	212	195	2	0	0	13	2
Westchester	1,037	106	931	1,256	1,201	22	5	3	14	11
Wyoming	172	97	75	189	175	6	0	1	4	3
Yates	91	36	55	74	73	1	0	0	0	0

**Superior Court Information **Outside New York City*

THE COURT OF CLAIMS is a statewide court with exclusive authority over lawsuits involving monetary claims against the State of New York or certain other state-related entities such as the New York State Thruway, the City University of New York and the New York State Power Authority (claims for the appropriation of real property only). The Court hears cases at nine locations around the state. Cases are heard without juries. Court of Claims Judges are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate to nine-year terms. During 2015, 1,894 claims were filed and 1,334 cases decided.

SURROGATE'S COURT, located in every county of the state, hears cases involving the affairs of the deceased, including the validity of wills and the administration of estates. These courts are also authorized to handle adoptions. Surrogate's Court Judges are elected to 10-year terms in each county outside New York City, and to 14-year terms in all New York City counties. See TABLE 6 for 2015 filings and dispositions by case type.

TABLE 6: SURROGATE'S COURT FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS: PROCEEDINGS BY CASE TYPE - 2015						as of: 7/27/2016
	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
Case Type	Filings	Dispositions*	Filings	Dispositions*	Filings	Dispositions*
Total	**139,341**	**113,672**	**36,106**	**36,597**	**103,235**	**77,075**
Probate	41,682	44,487	11,587	12,412	30,095	32,075
Administration	15,578	18,221	6,643	8,109	8,935	10,112
Voluntary Admin.	24,834	24,834	7,457	7,457	17,377	17,377
Accounting	28,075	4,498	3,422	1,825	24,653	2,673
Inter Vivos Trust	1,399	1,287	120	235	1,279	1,052
Miscellaneous	9,300	9,292	2,802	3,752	6,498	5,540
Guardianship	17,169	8,960	3,895	2,538	13,274	6,422
Adoption	1,150	1,936	180	269	970	1,667
Estate Tax	154	157	0	0	154	157

**Includes orders and decrees signed.*

FAMILY COURT, located in every county of the state, hears matters involving children and families, including adoption, guardianship, foster care approval and review, juvenile delinquency, family violence, child abuse and neglect, custody and visitation, and child support. Family Court Judges in New York City are appointed to 10-year terms by the Mayor. Family Court Judges outside New York City are elected to 10-year terms. See TABLE 7 for a breakdown of Family Court filings and dispositions. This table also contains filings and dispositions for the state's Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Courts.

TABLE 7: FAMILY & SUPREME COURT (IDV)[a] FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS[b] BY TYPE OF PETITION - 2015

as of: 7/27/2016

	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
Type of Petition	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
Total	**640,658**	**635,697**	**223,292**	**224,256**	**417,366**	**411,441**
Termination of Parental Rights	3,288	3,217	1,041	1,164	2,247	2,053
Surrender of Child	2,127	2,078	484	485	1,643	1,593
Child Protective (Neglect & Abuse)	42,368	41,323	11,403	11,526	30,965	29,797
Juvenile Delinquency	10,276	10,175	3,839	3,714	6,437	6,461
Designated Felony	304	200	154	72	150	128
Persons in Need of Supervision	4,673	4,854	870	932	3,803	3,922
Adoption	3,019	2,915	1,343	1,268	1,676	1,647
Adoption Certification	214	228	65	68	149	160
Guardianship	9,279	8,448	3,948	3,663	5,331	4,785
Custody/Visitation	191,579	188,415	53,498	53,145	138,081	135,270
Foster Care Review	75	37	40	15	35	22
Foster Care Placement	732	680	426	395	306	285
Family Offense	59,050	58,520	23,554	23,622	35,496	34,898
Paternity	30,824	31,570	16,354	16,933	14,470	14,637
Support	232,202	232,406	77,994	78,986	154,208	153,420
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	8,977	9,027	4,513	4,533	4,464	4,494
Consent to Marry	5	5	2	1	3	4
Other	1,317	1,250	123	93	1,194	1,157
Permanency Planning Hearings Held	40,349	40,349	23,641	23,641	16,708	16,708

[a] *See Figure 9 for nonfamily case-types in the IDV courts.*
[b] *Petition type may change between filing and disposition.*

TRIAL COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION WITHIN NEW YORK CITY

THE CIVIL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK has jurisdiction over civil cases involving amounts up to $25,000. It includes small claims and commercial claims parts for the informal resolution of matters involving amounts up to $5,000, and a housing part for landlord-tenant proceedings. New York City Civil Court Judges are elected to 10-year terms; housing judges are appointed by the Chief Administrative Judge to five-year terms. TABLE 8 shows the breakdown of filings and dispositions by case type and county.

TABLE 8: NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT: FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY CASE TYPE AND COUNTY - 2015

as of: 7/27/2016

	CIVIL ACTIONS		HOUSING		SMALL CLAIMS		COMMERCIAL CLAIMS	
	Filing[a]	Dispositions[b]	Filing[a]	Dispositions[b]	Filing	Dispositions	Filing	Dispositions
New York City	**237,537**	**138,044**	**264,285**	**239,978**	**20,557**	**21,943**	**5,680**	**6,224**
New York	35,516	29,259	55,643	42,919	5,509	5,095	1,453	1,788
Bronx	37,128	33,405	92,262	86,100	3,095	3,388	838	759
Kings	97,053	35,347	70,065	69,115	5,700	5,910	1,280	1,387
Queens	47,220	28,150	40,893	36,933	4,976	6,291	1,414	1,556
Richmond	20,620	11,883	5,422	4,911	1,277	1,259	695	734

The large difference between the number of filings and dispositions is due to the number of cases filed but never pursued by the filing party.
[a] Includes both answered and unanswered cases.
[b] Includes courtroom dispositions and default judgments.

THE CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK handles misdemeanors and violations. New York City Criminal Court Judges also conduct felony arraignments and other preliminary (pre-indictment) felony proceedings. They are appointed by the Mayor to 10-year terms. During 2015, 70 percent of the arrests were misdemeanors, with 47 percent of all cases reaching disposition by plea. Another 42 percent were dismissed; 4 percent were sent to the grand jury; 6 percent were disposed of by other means; and 1 percent pled to a superior court information. TABLE 9 shows filings and dispositions by county for both arrest cases and summons cases (cases in which an appearance ticket, returnable in court, is issued to the defendant).

TABLE 9: NEW YORK CITY CRIMINAL COURT: FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY CASE TYPE AND COUNTY - 2015

as of: 7/27/2016

	ARREST CASES		SUMMONS CASES	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings*	Dispositions
New York City	**311,086**	**313,647**	**311,644**	**336,574**
New York	90,749	91,065	76,476	82,635
Bronx	60,817	58,944	68,609	72,325
Kings	86,921	88,960	92,922	101,486
Queens	63,132	63,839	61,892	63,951
Richmond	9,467	10,839	11,745	16,177

**Includes both answered and unanswered cases.*

TRIAL COURTS OF LIMITED JURISDICTION OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY

CITY COURTS ARRAIGN FELONIES AND HANDLE MISDEMEANORS AND LESSER OFFENSES as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to $15,000. Some City Courts have small claims parts for the informal disposition of matters involving claims up to $5,000 and/or housing parts to handle landlord-tenant matters and housing violations. City Court Judges are either elected or appointed, depending on the city, with full-time City Court Judges serving 10-year terms and part-time City Court Judges serving six-year terms. DISTRICT COURTS, located in Nassau County and the five western towns of Suffolk County, arraign felonies and handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to $15,000. District Court Judges are elected to six-year terms. In 2015, there were a total of 933,107 filings and 900,900 dispositions in the City and District Courts. FIGURE C shows filings by case type; TABLE 10 contains a breakdown of filings by location and case type.

FIGURE C: CITY & DISTRICT COURT FILINGS BY CASE TYPE – 2015

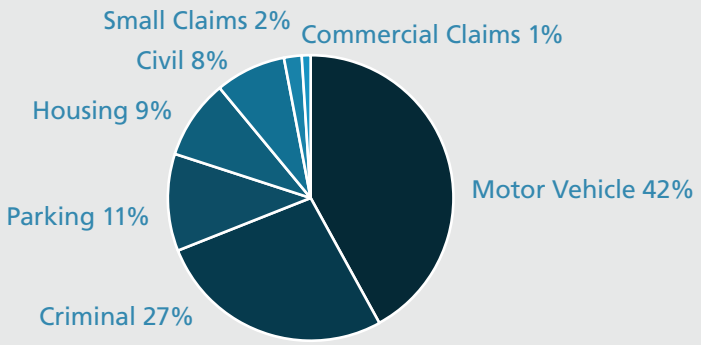


TABLE 10: CITY AND DISTRICT COURTS: FILINGS BY CASE TYPE - 2015 Total Filings: 933,107

Location	Criminal	MV	Parking	Civil	Small Claims	L&T	Commercial
Total	**248039**	**394832**	**100059**	**79102**	**20599**	**82429**	**8047**
Albany Police Ct.	5715	0	0	0	0	0	0
Albany Traffic Ct.	444	18031	0	0	0	0	0
Albany	482	0	0	2023	454	5207	130
Albany All	6641	18031	0	2023	454	5207	130
Amsterdam	880	2388	0	350	80	171	32
Auburn	1628	2257	362	407	153	726	51
Batavia	1055	2349	5	132	89	144	29
Beacon	680	3961	0	157	69	170	36
Binghamton	3544	5737	77	1173	343	1700	131
Buffalo	21521	9997	40	4441	1910	9342	614
Canandaigua	913	2578	49	202	86	114	40
Cohoes	899	2194	8	296	59	458	10
Corning	699	1836	69	652	61	96	19
Cortland	1835	2007	687	375	88	324	36
Dunkirk	866	741	203	183	67	86	21
Elmira	2015	2392	2607	903	137	674	46
Fulton	967	1874	1	378	68	257	20
Geneva	703	2553	0	133	41	184	7
Glen Cove	906	4419	4053	10	52	234	10
Glens Falls	895	2246	145	473	77	198	44
Gloversvillle	1299	2007	24	473	123	319	47
Hornell	607	1267	0	115	47	114	3

TABLE 10: CITY AND DISTRICT COURTS: FILINGS BY CASE TYPE - 2015							Total Filings: 933,107
Location	Criminal	MV	Parking	Civil	Small Claims	L&T	Commercial
Total	**248039**	**394832**	**100059**	**79102**	**20599**	**82429**	**8047**
Hudson	604	1255	0	160	112	117	118
Ithaca	5947	3497	250	195	155	254	21
Jamestown	3202	2449	708	783	205	349	179
Johnstown	464	454	2	198	48	64	11
Kingston	1861	6066	108	906	208	1206	87
Lackawanna	1231	4997	0	208	148	1746	64
Little Falls	179	387	0	172	134	18	35
Lockport	1081	3288	121	790	194	260	50
Long Beach	2868	4757	16062	9	132	161	8
Mechanicville	289	1296	0	186	51	63	58
Middletown	3450	5345	253	745	193	617	79
Mount Vernon	4096	6051	0	428	270	2924	56
New Rochelle	3115	10322	62323	1754	229	1240	69
Newburgh	2649	5420	73	500	177	874	69
Niagara Falls	3709	9846	1302	1073	216	1333	63
North Tonawanda	1011	5376	1	304	117	157	49
Norwich	495	510	19	266	79	56	60
Ogdensburg	863	1032	0	390	88	64	91
Olean	871	2153	144	151	89	155	29
Oneida	777	1783	114	1045	52	108	38
Oneonta	574	838	509	206	110	57	27
Oswego	1484	2499	2	456	149	157	30
Peekskill	1550	5405	0	142	157	352	47
Plattsburgh	1412	3125	4	197	106	163	99
Port Jervis	1240	2901	0	133	38	223	6
Poughkeepsie	1967	4635	1123	715	282	1530	88
Rensselaer	361	992	103	302	53	122	54
Rochester	12801	6810	0	3298	1808	8258	383
Rome	2441	10417	0	796	117	218	6
Rye	351	4898	0	31	59	17	81
Salamanca	639	902	0	107	39	52	20
Saratoga Springs	1723	5109	467	252	154	168	91
Schenectady	4840	9594	17	767	324	2700	88
Sherrill	53	145	0	91	18	1	10
Syracuse	14482	29295	0	4941	881	5844	196
Tonawanda	837	5127	236	187	129	123	87
Troy	2412	8714	30	930	252	3159	32
Utica	5280	11807	0	919	260	1019	136
Watertown	2241	5709	0	736	213	477	98
Watervliet	593	2889	0	207	39	618	0
White Plains	2907	19866	7091	229	385	776	144
Yonkers	9300	18787	0	813	676	9100	194
Nassau District Ct.	31235	38436	0	15211	3576	6311	1800
Suffolk District Ct.	60001	48814	667	24297	3873	8700	1770

TOWN AND VILLAGE JUSTICE COURTS handle misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to $3,000 (including small claims cases). While the majority of cases handled by these courts are minor traffic offenses, drunk-driving cases and zoning violations, town and village Justice Court Judges also conduct preliminary felony proceedings. There are approximately 1,277 Justice Courts and 2,200 Town and Village Justices. Town and Village Judges are elected to four-year terms. Most are not attorneys; non-attorney justices must complete a certification course and participate in ongoing judicial education

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM is administered by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) under the authority of the Chief Judge. OCA provides financial management, automation, public safety, personnel management and other essential services to support day-to-day court operations.

OCA comprises the following divisions: the DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES purchases goods and services, procures contracts, processes revenues and manages accounts; the DIVISION OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT prepares the judiciary budget and formulates and implements fiscal policies; the DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES is responsible for personnel and benefits administration and providing education and training programs to the nonjudicial and uniformed workforce. The Division also administers equal employment opportunity policies and programs and negotiates with the court system's labor unions. The Division works directly with judges, employees, court administrators and union representatives regarding all components of employment cycle including entitlements and resources associated with retirement.; the DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL AND COURT SERVICES provides support and guidance to trial court operations including alternative dispute resolution and court improvement programs, court interpreting services, legal information, records management, and operational issues related to the American Disabilities Act; the DIVISION OF TECHNOLOGY provides automation and telecommunications services to all courts and agencies, including oversight of the statewide Domestic Violence Registry and the courts' technical support center.

In addition, the DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY is responsible for developing and implementing uniform policies and procedures to ensure the safety and accessibility of our state courthouses; COUNSEL'S OFFICE prepares and analyzes legislation and represents the Unified Court System in litigation; the INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE is responsible for the investigation and elimination of infractions of discipline standards, conflicts of interest and criminal activities on the part of non-judicial employees and individuals or corporations doing business with the courts; the OFFICE OF COURT FACILITIES MANAGEMENT provides oversight to localities in relation to the maintenance, renovation and construction of court facilities; the OFFICE OF COURT RESEARCH provides caseload activity statistics, jury system support and operations re-search to all UCS courts; the OFFICE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS conducts internal audits and investigations to support the attainment of long-term UCS goals; the OFFICE OF JUSTICE SUPPORT provides oversight to town and village Justice Courts; the COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE serves as the courts' liaison to the media, responding to press inquiries and issuing news advisories and releases; the OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS coordinates communications and public education programs with governmental entities, the public and the bar.

FISCAL OVERVIEW

UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM 2015-2016 BUDGET

THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM IS BASED UPON A FISCAL YEAR that runs from April 1 through March 31. The budget is presented by the Chief Administrative Judge to the Court of Appeals for approval and certification by the Chief Judge, then transmitted to the Governor for submission to the Legislature in accordance with Article VII, Section 1, of the State Constitution. Appropriations of $2.8 billion were approved by the Legislature for the State Judiciary for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

REVENUES COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR 2015

IN 2015, THE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM COLLECTED FINES AND FEES totaling $563,664,995, a figure which includes all state, county and city remedies, but does not include bail or other trusts. A portion of this revenue included fees for services provided by the court system's Criminal History Search Unit, which since 2003 has sold statewide criminal history public records that include felony and misdemeanor convictions from all 62 counties. By law, the Office of Court Administration is solely responsible for the sale of such records produced by a search of its electronic database, charging a $65 fee per name and date of birth searched. The revenue generated from each search request is allocated as follows: $16 to the Office of Court Administration's Judiciary Data Processing Offset Fund; $35 to the Indigent Legal Services Fund; $9 to the Legal Services Fund; and $5 to the General Fund. In 2015, the Criminal History Search Unit received $127,847,735 for criminal history search records.

Under Section 486-a of the Judiciary Law and the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge (22NYCRRR Part 118), every attorney admitted to practice in New York must file a biennial registration fm. Attorneys actively practicing law in New York State or elsewhere must, upon registering, pay a $375 fee, allocated as follows: $60 to the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection to support programs providing restitution to clients of dishonest attorneys; $50 to the Indigent Legal Services Fund to cover fees of lawyers serving on 18-b panels representing indigent defendants; $25 to the Legal Services Assistance Funds; and the balance to the Attorney Licensing Fund to cover the cost of the Appellate Division attorney admission and disciplinary programs. In 2015, the court system collected $43,547,375 in attorney registration fees.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

THE OFFICE OF COUNSEL IS THE PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE of the Unified Court System in the legislative process. In this role, it is responsible for developing the Judiciary's legislative program and for providing the legislative and executive branches with analyses and recommendations concerning legislative measures that may have an impact on the courts and their administrative operations. It also serves a liaison function with bar association committees, judicial associations and other groups, public and private, with respect to changes in court-related statutory law.

Counsel's Office staffs the Chief Administrative Judge's advisory committees on civil practice, criminal law and procedure, family law, estates and trusts, matrimonial practice and the local courts. Annually, these committees formulate legislative proposals in their respective areas of concern and expertise for submission to the Chief Administrative Judge. When approved by the latter, they are transmitted to the Legislature, in bill form, for sponsors and legislative consideration.

Each advisory committee also analyzes other legislative proposals during the legislative session. Recommendations are submitted to the Chief Administrative Judge, who, through her Counsel, relays them to the Legislature and the Executive sometimes by informal means and sometimes more formally by legislative memoranda or letters to Governor's Counsel.

Counsel's Office also is responsible for drafting legislative measures to implement recommendations made by the Chief Judge in the State of the Judiciary message, as well as measures required by the Unified Court System, including budget requests and measures to implement collective bargaining agreements negotiated with court employee unions pursuant to the Taylor Law. In addition, Counsel's Office analyzes other legislative measures that have potential impact on the administrative operation of the courts and makes recommendations thereon to the Legislature and the Executive.

In discharge of its legislation-related duties, Counsel's Office consults frequently with legislators, professional staff of legislative committees and the Governor's Counsel for the purposes of generating support for the Judiciary's legislative program and of providing technical assistance in the development of court-related proposals initiated by the executive and legislative branches.

During the 2015 legislative session, Counsel's Office, with the assistance of the Chief Administrative Judge's advisory committees, prepared and submitted 65 measures for legislative consideration. Ultimately, 14 measures written or inspired by us were enacted into law. Also during the 2015 session, Counsel's Office furnished Counsel to the Governor with analyses and recommendations on 18 measures awaiting executive action.

MEASURES ENACTED INTO LAW IN 2015

Concurrent Resolution (Senate B2995/Assembly C776). Urges the State to continue its efforts to achieve equal access to justice for all New Yorkers; calls for provision of effective legal assistance for "persons in need" in matters involving the essentials of life.

Chapter 51 (Senate 2001-A/Assembly 3001-A). Enacts the 2015-16 Judiciary Budget. Eff. 4/1/15.

Chapter 60 [Part E] (Senate 4610-A/Assembly 6721-A). Repeals chapter 567 of the Laws of 2010 and adopts new Unconsolidated Laws creating a quadrennial salary commission to provide periodic pay increases for judges, members of the Legislature and certain Executive Branch officials. Eff. 4/1/15.

Chapter 237 (Senate 5833/Assembly 8083). Amends the Judiciary Law, the Civil Practice Law and Rules, the Court of Claims Act, the Criminal Procedure Law, the Family Court Act, the New York City Civil Court Act and the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act in relation to the use of electronic means for the commencement and filing of papers in certain actions and proceedings. Eff. 8/31/15, except that authorization for e-filing in criminal and family court cases would sunset on 9/1/19.

Chapter 269 (Senate 5678/Assembly 7645). Amends the Family Court Act and the Domestic Relations Law in relation to the duration and amount of maintenance and spousal support, establishes new formulas for the amount of maintenance and spousal support and factors the court can use to deviate from that amount. Eff. 1/23/16; provided, however, that §3 took effect on 10/25/15.

Chapter 272 (Senate 5533-B/Assembly 7939-A). Amends the Judiciary Law to expand provisions to enable persons who are deaf or hard of hearing to participate in court proceedings. Eff. 10/25/15.

Chapter 367 (Senate 6/Assembly 6262). Amends the Family Court Act, the Judiciary Law and the Executive Law to establish a pilot program for filing of petitions for temporary orders of protection by electronic means and for issuance of such orders ex parte by audio-visual means. Eff. 4/1/16.

Chapter 387 (Senate 5691/Assembly 7637). Amends the Family Court Act and the Domestic Relations Law to clarify the treatment of spousal maintenance in the calculation of child support with respect to the income of both the recipient and the payor spouse. Eff. 1/24/16.

Chapter 440 (Senate 5173/Assembly 6222). Amends the Penal Law to provide that where a sentence includes a condition that an ignition interlock device be installed and maintained on defendant's vehicle, and where a declaration of delinquency is later filed against defendant, the sentence condition continues in effect during the period of delinquency. Eff. 11/20/15.

Chapter 441 (Senate 5191/Assembly 6263). Amends the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law decanting statute to make several amendments in relation to exercise of the power to decant and to recant that exercise. Eff. 11/20/15.

Chapter 447 (Senate 5190/Assembly 7221). Amends the Domestic Relations Law to clarify that indigent pro se litigants may apply for an award of counsel fees without the formal requirement of an affidavit detailing fee arrangements with counsel, provided proof has been submitted of an inability to afford counsel. Eff. 11/20/15.

Chapter 449 (Senate 5640/Assembly 7319). Amends the Criminal Procedure Law to authorize designated local criminal courts to unseal records that the court has sealed in certain cases. Eff. 11/20/15.

Chapter 492 (Senate 5054/Assembly 7644). Amends the Family Court Act and the Executive Law to fill gaps in the law relating to severe child abuse; lack of Family Court authorization to render an enhanced finding with respect to a non-parent respondent in a child abuse case; and requires orders of protection issued in child and abuse and neglect cases to be entered onto the domestic violence registry. Eff. 2/18/16.

Chapter 499 (Senate 5286/Assembly 5897). Amends the Family Court Act to clarify applicable procedures in relation to violations of probation and conditional discharge in juvenile delinquency cases and PINS allocutions. Eff. 2/18/16.

Chapter 529 (Senate 5188/Assembly 6265). Amends the Civil Practice Law and Rules to expressly allow the use of expert affidavits in summary judgment motions whether or not expert disclosure was made prior to submission of the affidavit. Eff. 12/11/15.

Chapter 567 (Senate 5018-A/Assembly 6715-A). Amends the Family Court Act and the Domestic Relations Law to enable greater participation of non-respondent parents in abuse and neglect proceedings, and permanency hearings, involving their children. Eff. 6/8/16.

Chapter 572 (Senate 4845/Assembly 6264). Amends the Civil Practice Law and Rules to repeal its present requirement that papers served by mail upon an attorney in a pending action be mailed within the state, and extend by one day the period of time for response to such papers when they are served by mail from outside the state but within the geographic boundaries of the United States. Eff. 1/1/16.

MEASURES NEWLY INTRODUCED IN THE 2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND NOT ENACTED INTO LAW

Senate 5167/Assembly 7028. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to reform the State's bail statutes.

Assembly 7515. This measure would amend the Labor Law to adjust the level of compensation an attorney assigned to represent a claimant on appeal to the Appellate Division in an unemployment insurance case may receive with a fee at the rate of $75 per hour subject to a cap in any one case of $2,000.

Senate 5165/Assembly 7029. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law, the Family Court Act and the Executive Law in relation to identifications by witnesses and provides for the video recording, videotaping or use of other appropriate video recording devices of certain interrogations.

Senate 5175. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law, the Executive Law, the Judiciary Law and the Penal Law in relation to the age of criminal responsibility. It seeks to secure better outcomes in the justice system for youth aged 16 or 17 who are accused of non-violent crimes.

Assembly 6389. This measure would amend the County Law in relation to transfer responsibility to the Office of Indigent Legal Services for approval of bar association plans for assigned counsel services in criminal cases and for certain parties in Family and Surrogate's Court, and also relates to the filing of annual reports by counties and indigent legal service providers.

Senate 5168. This measure would amend the Penal Law and the Criminal Procedure Law in relation to sentencing, and repeal certain provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law in relation to parole sentencing.

Senate 4979. This measure would amend the New York City Civil Court Act in relation to increasing the term of office of judges of the New York City Civil Court Housing Part.

Senate 5169/Assembly 7030. This measure would amend the Correction Law, the Criminal Procedure Law and the Executive Law to provide for the sealing of certain criminal records upon application and qualification, and make provisions for unsealing and for availability of such records to various agencies.

Assembly 7047. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to permit a plea of guilty when both the prosecutor and the court are satisfied that the nature and circumstances of the criminal conduct, the available evidence and the history and character of the defendant justify such plea.

Senate 5620. This measure would amend the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law to allow a trustee to allocate to income gains from the sale or exchange of a capital asset to the extent the principal is re-characterized as income.

Senate 5684/Assembly 7638. This measure would amend the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law in relation to the revocatory effect of divorce.

Assembly 7868. This measure would amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules to include lifetime trustees in the definition of fiduciaries to whom the attorney-client privilege applies and to provide that a fiduciary's assertion of the privilege by itself shall not constitute a waiver.

Assembly 7194. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law in relation to the presence of a superior court judge at certain stages of a grand jury proceeding involving the submission of a criminal charge against a police officer for a felony charge specified in article 120, 121 or 125 of the Penal Law.

Assembly 7051. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to provide a mechanism to determine whether a mentally ill defendant who is otherwise competent to stand trial is similarly competent to proceed pro se in a criminal proceeding.

Assembly 7463. This measure would amend the Penal Law to require an applicant for a firearms license who is a New York resident but domiciled in a foreign state to exercise a waiver of confidentiality that would permit law enforcement officials to inquire of the foreign state about the applicant's mental health records.

Assembly 7254. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to correct a cross reference error in the current law governing termination of an action in favor of an accused.

Senate 5677. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law in relation to provide for the removal of a criminal action to another criminal court in the same county or an adjoining county that has been designated a veterans treatment court by the Chief Administrator of the Courts.

Assembly 7057. This measure would amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules to provide for service of a subpoena and the delivery of records for trial.

Assembly 7320. This measure would amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules in relation to the admissibility of an opposing party's statement.

Senate 5264. This measure would amend the Family Court Act in relation to determinations of willful violations of orders of protection, and bring uniformity to the prosecution of violations of orders of protection in Family Court consistent with well-established constitutional precepts.

Assembly 7879. This measure would amend the Family Court Act to provide for the removal of restraints on children under 21 years of age upon entry into Family Court except in limited situations.

Senate 4846/Assembly 6714. This measure would amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules to reinforce the continuing viability of consent as a basis for general (all-purpose) personal jurisdiction over foreign corporations authorized to do business in New York.

Assembly 7052. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to provide that a defendant may receive a copy of the pre-sentencing report prior to the time of his or her sentencing.

Assembly 7031. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to permit suspension of jury deliberations for up to seventy-two hours (excluding weekends and holidays) upon good cause shown in appropriate cases.

Assembly 7048. This measure would amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules in relation to making service upon a financial institution of orders of attachment, restraining notices, turnover orders for property of the debtor or debts owed to the debtor, and levy upon personal property in aid of enforcement of judgments effective upon any account to which the financial institution is a garnishee.

Assembly 7032. This measure would amend the Family Court Act to provide that where a temporary order of spousal support has not been issued the court may, in addition to issuing a temporary order of protection, issue an order for temporary spousal support.

Senate 5020/Assembly 7049. This measure would amend the Family Court Act in relation to the sealing and expungement of records in persons in need of supervision cases in Family Court.

Senate 5019/Assembly 7050. This measure would amend the Family Court Act in relation to permanency planning in juvenile delinquency and persons in need of supervision proceedings.

Senate 5331/Assembly 7117. This measure would amend the Family Court Act and the Social Services Law to ensure that parties to child protective and voluntary foster care placement and review proceedings and the attorneys for affected children are promptly informed of any changes in placement and of any indicated reports of maltreatment that may warrant court intervention.

Senate 5189/Assembly 7253. This measure would amend the Domestic Relations Law to eliminate the requirement that other enforcement remedies be exhausted before contempt can be sought against a person who fails to pay child support, spousal support or combined child and spousal support pursuant to a court order in a matrimonial proceeding.

Senate 5166. This measure would amend the Criminal Procedure Law to allow appeals from local criminal courts to intermediate appellate courts to be perfected based on a mechanical or electronic recording of the proceedings below.

Assembly 7916. This measure would amend the Vehicle and Traffic Law and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law to authorize a court to suspend a driver's license where the holder fails timely to appear before the court, pay a fine, complete an alcohol awareness program or complete community service associated with a charge of underage possession of alcohol.

Assembly 7552. This measure would amend the Civil Practice Law and Rules in relation to appellate review of an ex parte order or applications for provisional remedies.

Senate 5775/Assembly 7869. This measure would amend the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law to expressly authorize a fiduciary to gain access to and exercise control over any and all rights to digital assets and digital accounts of the decedent to the fullest extent permitted under applicable local, state or federal law, including copyright law, or regulations notwithstanding the provisions of any end user agreement.

New York State Judicial Districts

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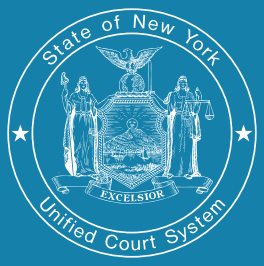
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