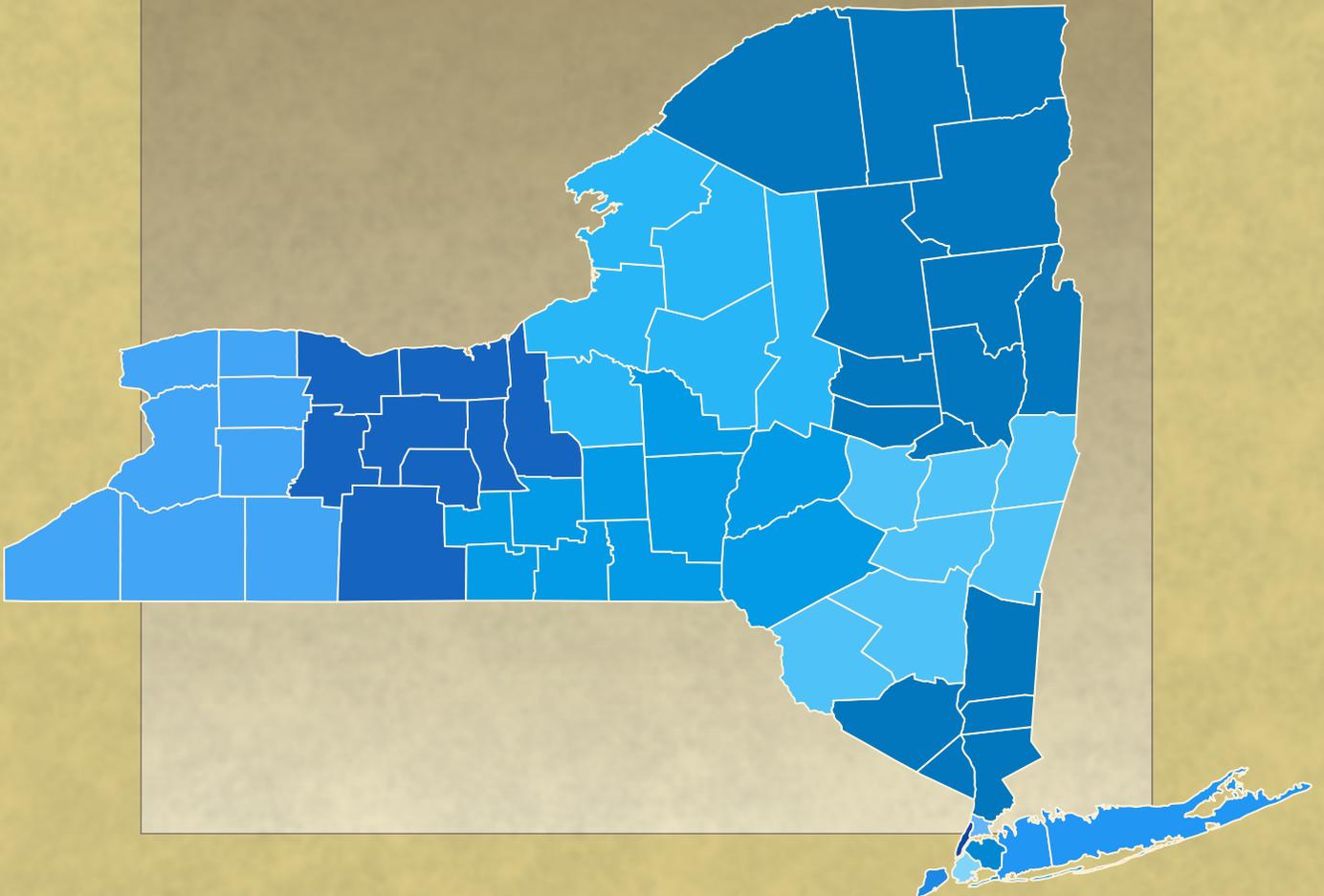




The State of Our Judiciary 2020

— *Excellence Initiative:
Year Four* —

FEBRUARY 2020



The State of Our Judiciary 2020

Excellence Initiative: Year Four

FEBRUARY 2020

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In early 2016, immediately upon being sworn in, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore announced the Excellence Initiative – a comprehensive effort to improve the courts’ ability to ensure the just and expeditious resolution of all matters, our core obligation as the judicial branch of government.

The Excellence Initiative began with a thorough evaluation of court operations around the State. A series of meetings was held with Administrative Judges to review performance data and trends in their courts. These meetings identified procedures and programs that were working well and others in need of improvement. Since then, every Administrative Judge has implemented a range of measures to improve promptness and productivity, eliminate case backlogs and delays, and provide better service to the public. Regular follow-up meetings have been held to assess progress and consider further modifications as issues arise or improvement declines.

Now, four years later, this report documents the extensive progress that courts across the State have made in improving disposition rates and times, reducing backlogs, resolving the oldest cases, increasing trial capacity, and providing better and more comprehensive service to the public. In 2020, we are committed to continuing successful practices and implementing new measures to ensure that all of our courts are moving in the right direction.

In measuring progress, this report uses several key performance markers, including “standards and goals,” our benchmark for resolving cases. Standards and goals in criminal cases are 90 days for misdemeanors and 180 days (from filing of an indictment) for felonies. For civil cases in Supreme Court, standards and goals are 23 months for expedited cases, 27



months for standard cases, 30 months for complex cases, and 12 months for contested matrimonials. For Family Court cases, standards and goals is 180 days. These markers, as they appear in the charts throughout this report, reference data from the last day of each calendar year listed. Last year, for the very first time, the court system, with the assistance of Surrogate judges and clerks from around the state, developed standards and goals for Surrogate’s Courts: 90 days for uncontested matters and 24 months for contested matters.

The dashboard we created several years ago, which provides updated information about each trial court’s inventory of cases and is searchable and sortable by judge, case type, age of case, next appearance date, attorney name, party name, and more, remains an integral tool for the courts in their efforts to meet standards and goals and improve case management. The New York State courts continue to perform far better as a whole – managing cases more efficiently and reducing case delays and backlogs. Moreover, having added dashboards and case management data for our Surrogate’s Courts across the state, we have made improvements in the processing of cases within those courts.

In 2020, we continue to make strides and adopt reforms in furtherance of the excellence envisioned by Chief Judge DiFiore. One such endeavor is our commitment to implement presumptive, early alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) in civil cases throughout the state. We will continue to work tirelessly to institutionalize presumptive, early ADR into the civil case management process statewide. It is our firm belief that this program will further reduce backlogs, decrease costs to litigants, and improve the quality of justice.

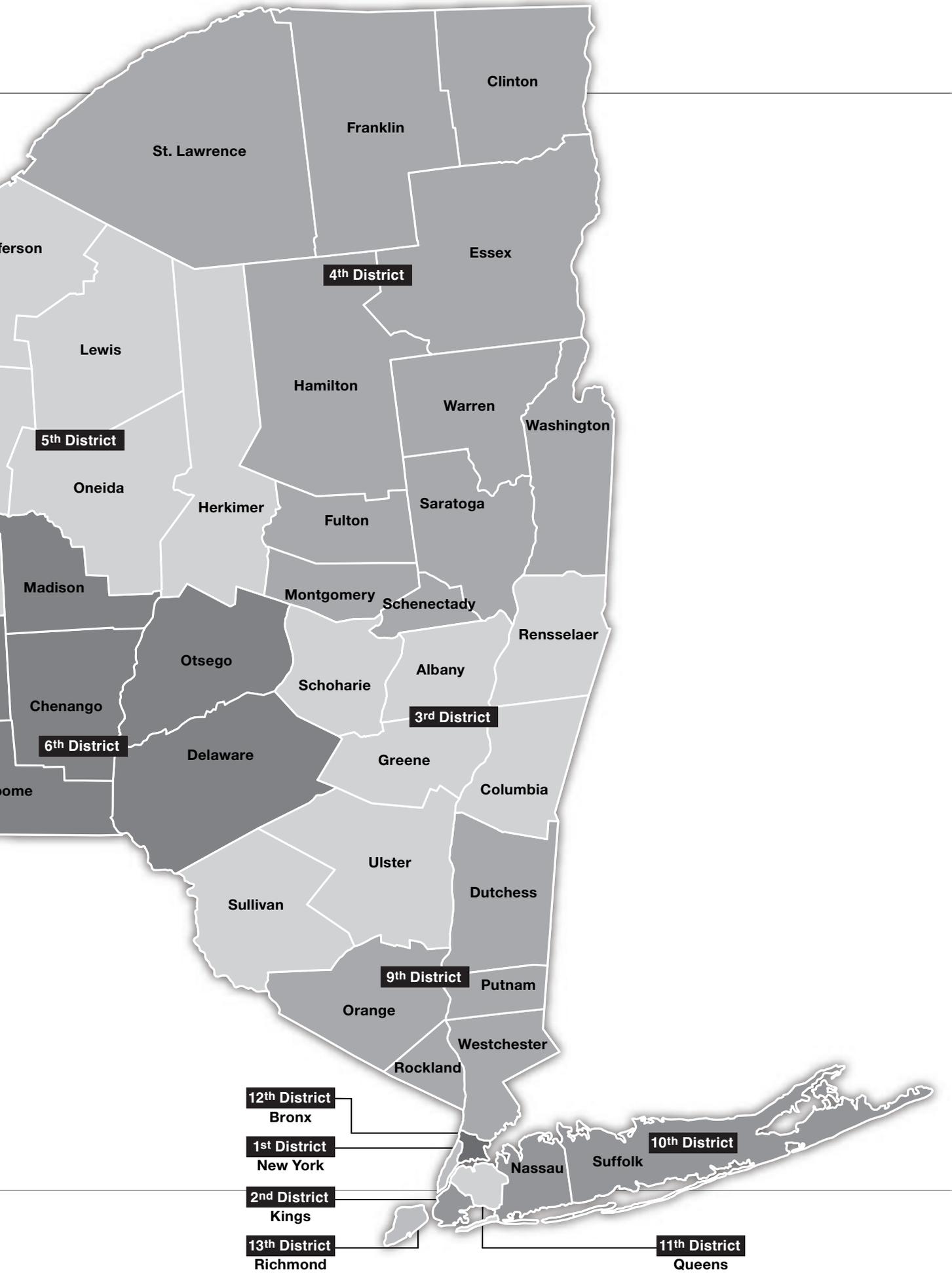


Another critically important step is the Chief Judge's push to amend the New York State Constitution to restructure and consolidate our 11 different trial courts. Our trial court structure is a major contributing factor to our confusing system of justice and continued backlogs. This will allow for a far more equitable allocation of resources and caseloads with fewer court appearances among the trial courts, enabling the more efficient and expeditious processing and adjudication of cases, and substantial cost savings for litigants.

A prevailing theme of the Excellence Initiative is that "justice delayed is justice denied." The public deserves to have its cases heard and resolved in a fair, timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner. The court system's success in carrying out this important objective would not be possible without the incredibly hard work and professionalism of New York's judges and the court staff who support them, and the support and cooperation of the practicing bar, countless justice agencies and stakeholders, and our partners in the Executive and Legislative Branches. All of them, together, deserve credit for what has been a steadfast commitment to the Excellence Initiative and our collective goal of administering a high-functioning court system that provides all litigants with just and timely dispositions and first-rate justice service.



New York State Judicial Districts and Counties



NEW YORK CITY CRIMINAL COURT

2019 PROGRESS

City-Wide

- As part of the second-year phase-in of Raise the Age legislation, Criminal Court judges began conducting off-hour arraignments of 17-year-old adolescent offenders when the new Youth Parts are closed.

Bronx County

- Cases pending over one year dropped from over 2,000 at the start of the Excellence Initiative to 160 at the end of 2019.
- Opened a Bronx Treatment Intervention Court, providing individualized, court-mandated substance abuse treatment to defendants.
- Over 145 defendants in danger of drug overdose participated in the Overdose Avoidance and Recovery (OAR) Court in 2019, and 22 completed their mandate and were no longer at risk of overdose.
- Continued Trial Request Tracking (TRT) program allowing defense attorneys to request expedited trials on any case regardless of age.

Kings County

- The OAR Part was implemented in the Red Hook Community Justice Center.
- Continued a DWI Part presided over by the supervising judge and supervising prosecutors to address aging DWI and other VTL matters.
- Continued Crossover Youth Initiative designed to inform judges, lawyers and service providers about services and mandates for adolescents with both Criminal and Family Court cases.

New York County

- Midtown Community Court continued its OAR Court. In 2019, 236 defendants in danger of drug overdose have been referred for intervention and 57 completed the program no longer at risk of overdose.
- New York's Procedural Justice Initiative enhanced the public's perception of court process with improved signs, wayfinding and court navigation; better communication between judges, court personnel and the public; and improvements to court facilities.

Queens County

- Opened the Queens Misdemeanor Veterans Treatment Court. The court was awarded a five year federal grant for approximately \$1.9 million to develop comprehensive treatment plans for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and/or substance use disorder and enhance the integration of veteran peer mentors.

Richmond County

- Started an OAR Court, in partnership with the District Attorney's HOPE 2.0 program, to refer post-arraignment defendants in danger of drug overdose for intervention.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Further reduce the time it takes to bring cases to trial or final disposition.
- Coordinate and implement new arrest-to-arraignment and discovery processes, required under the new criminal justice legislation, while continuing hard-fought successes in reducing arrest-to-arraignment times and moving cases to trial.
- Increase the availability of alternative-to-incarceration programs in all counties that allow judges to meaningfully address public safety concerns and underlying causes of criminal behavior such as mental health, substance abuse, and access to housing.

MISDEMEANOR TRENDS - TOTAL NYC						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ¹	219,049	204,686	190,888	160,001	127,969	-42%
Total Pending Cases	41,899	38,969	36,715	33,120	23,403	-44%
Over 3 Months Old	20,478	18,067	16,083	13,645	8,407	-59%
Over 1 Year Old	3,671	2,511	1,518	845	340	-91%

MISDEMEANOR TRENDS - BRONX COUNTY						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ¹	46,002	42,762	38,945	34,452	26,977	-41%
Total Pending Cases	12,253	8,526	7,824	6,833	4,323	-65%
Over 3 Months Old	7,863	4,745	4,059	3,312	1,901	-76%
Over 1 Year Old	2,375	1,425	700	377	160	-93%

MISDEMEANOR TRENDS - KINGS COUNTY						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ¹	58,121	53,802	51,723	44,156	34,700	-40%
Total Pending Cases	9,399	11,333	10,391	9,155	6,739	-28%
Over 3 Months Old	3,480	4,944	4,259	3,262	2,143	-38%
Over 1 Year Old	180	247	224	102	9	-95%

MISDEMEANOR TRENDS - NEW YORK COUNTY						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ¹	61,782	59,965	53,295	41,107	31,093	-50%
Total Pending Cases	10,658	9,167	7,736	7,328	5,140	-52%
Over 3 Months Old	5,261	3,959	2,905	2,901	1,698	-68%
Over 1 Year Old	744	392	164	115	62	-92%

MISDEMEANOR TRENDS - QUEENS COUNTY						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ¹	45,731	40,014	39,598	33,960	29,982	-34%
Total Pending Cases	7,921	7,695	8,379	7,948	6,000	-24%
Over 3 Months Old	3,161	3,349	3,592	3,355	2,230	-29%
Over 1 Year Old	326	392	358	238	105	-68%

MISDEMEANOR TRENDS - RICHMOND COUNTY						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ¹	7,413	8,143	7,327	6,326	5,217	-30%
Total Pending Cases	1,668	2,248	2,385	1,856	1,201	-28%
Over 3 Months Old	713	1,070	1,268	815	435	-39%
Over 1 Year Old	46	55	72	13	4	-91%

1. From the onset of the court going on the new Universal Case Management System, this is the number of cases arraigned as a Misdemeanor.

NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT

2019 PROGRESS

- Began implementation of the Chief Judge’s ADR Initiative, which has achieved results, including:
 - In 2019, 272 Housing cases were resolved through mediation in addition to the thousands of cases which were settled at resolution part conferencing.
 - Though arbitration remains the primary method of resolution in Small Claims Court, 2019 saw an expansion of other forms of ADR being used. For example, 342 cases were mediated in New York County and Kings County Small Claims by the local Community Dispute Resolution Center, in addition to those mediated by law school clinics.
 - Over 20 Civil and Housing Court judges and court attorneys have completed certified mediation training.
- Technology throughout the Civil Court was updated in 2019:
 - With the assistance of the Statewide Office for E-Filing, proposed rules and programming for e-filing in the Housing and general parts of the Civil Court have now been developed and await implementation.
 - Commenced installation of electronic directories in the lobbies of our courthouses. New York and Queens Counties now have digital directories with more to be installed shortly in Richmond County and the Harlem Community Justice Center.
 - Installed new sound systems and mixing technology, and began installation of digital evidence presentation for jury trials.
- Three Bronx Housing Court trial parts were relocated to the county courthouse at 851 Grand Concourse to reduce overcrowding at Housing Court’s main facility at 1118 Grand Concourse.
- Promulgated new plain language notice of petition, available in multiple languages, for nonpayment and holdover proceedings in the New York City Housing Court.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Await final approval to begin e-filing cases.
- Formation of a Consumer Debt Leadership Council to set standards for best practices within consumer debt collection parts throughout the New York City Civil Court.
- Implement more presumptive ADR in the following ways:
 - Explore the use of ADR in consumer debt and commercial landlord-tenant cases.
 - Increase the use of judicial hearing officers in settlement conferences and expand the use of summary jury trials, especially in motor vehicle accident cases.
 - Hold mass settlement conference days for insurance carriers and no-fault medical providers in an effort to streamline the settlement process.
- Launch a re-vamped Civil Court website to simplify and make more accessible the distribution of essential information to litigants.
- Introduce the Universal Case Management System to the Small Claims Part, streamlining back-office operations and reporting capabilities.
- Build a shared workspace in the New York County courthouse for legal service providers working under the City’s Universal Access to Counsel program, similar to the existing facility at Kings County Civil Court.

NEW YORK CITY - CIVIL COURT TRENDS

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Filings	528,059	507,389	529,356	552,122	540,583	2%
Civil Matters	237,537	223,810	253,616	283,987	323,971	36%
Small Claims	20,557	18,346	18,376	18,992	17,587	-14%
Landlord-Tenant	264,285	259,899	252,007	244,015	193,970	-27%
Commercial Claims	5,680	5,334	5,357	5,128	5,055	-11%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

NEW YORK CITY FAMILY COURT

2019 PROGRESS

- Queens Family Court has 3 active trial parts that handle child protection, delinquency, and custody & visitation cases. When trial-ready cases are referred to a trial part, they receive immediate trial dates and are heard on an expedited basis.
- In Bronx County, the plan for our ADR program includes an expedited trial part for those CVO cases that are not appropriate for ADR.
- Kings County Family Court has two trial parts. One is a child protective part that focuses on the oldest pending cases. The other is the Accelerated Hearing Part which hears custody, visitation, and family offense matters.
- In New York County, a new trial part was established in October 2019. The trial part hears custody, visitation, and family offense matters.
- In March 2019, the court worked with the National Center for State Courts to conduct a 2-day conference focusing on case and calendar management for the benefit of all judges, court attorney-referees, and court attorneys.
- The Parent Support Program, operating in Kings and Bronx Counties, was expanded to New York County. The program provides for the assignment of a social worker to the Family Court Support Parts to assist non-custodial parents in meeting their support obligations.
- The Court successfully adapted its procedures and bolstered its delinquency staffing to accommodate the statutory increase in the age of criminal responsibility, which became fully effective on October 1, 2019.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Courtroom Modernization Initiative (“CMI”) courtrooms will be equipped with enhanced audio systems and FTR, WiFi access, points and electrical charging stations. CMI also provides digital hubs, which enable mobile digital presentation of evidence and video conferencing systems.
- Expand the Parent Support Program to assist non-custodial parents in meeting their support obligations.
- Pilot a program in the Bronx for an ADR Track for all appropriate cases, and a Trial Track to expedite other cases to trial and disposition.
- Mediation of child protective cases will begin in Queens County in early 2020.
- Mediation of custody and visitation cases will begin in Richmond County in 2020.
- Modification of the New York State Courts Electronic Filing (NYSCEF) system to accommodate the filing of Family Court Act Article 3 and Article 10 petitions. This first phase will utilize NYSCEF to electronically deliver documents to the court and electronically serve papers on parties. Future phases will include the transfer of data directly into the court’s case management system (UCMS) and to compatible systems used by litigating agencies.
- Pilot a navigator program in Kings County Family Court.

NEW YORK CITY - FAMILY COURT TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	223,292	212,904	209,711	195,883	192,064	-14%
Cases Disposed	224,256	217,720	205,734	194,105	190,580	-15%
Pending Cases	78,008	71,096	73,432	72,423	72,002	-8%
Over 180 Days	17,382	13,298	16,399	17,729	14,679	-16%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

NEW YORK CITY SURROGATE'S COURTS

2019 PROGRESS

New York County

- Reduced pending backlog by 30%, disposing of over 1,000 cases since 2018.
- In 2019, decreased cases pending over two years by 70%.

Kings County

- Reduced total number of cases pending by 21% in 2019 and reduced the number pending over two years by 35%.

Bronx County

- Cleared over 6,500 cases out of the pending inventory since 2018, with an 86% reduction in pending cases.

Queens County

- Reduced the number of cases pending over two years by 60%.

Richmond County

- Reduced pending backlog by 28% since 2018. In 2019, reduced cases pending over two years by 55%.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Focus on implementation of ADR initiatives to improve case resolution.

NEW YORK CITY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS					
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018¹	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018
New York	3,598	3,045	2,527	-17%	-30%
Kings	3,745	3,522	2,770	-21%	-26%
Queens	4,112	3,976	3,496	-12%	-15%
Bronx	7,657	3,407	1,102	-68%	-86%
Richmond	1,043	704	751	7%	-28%
Total NYC	20,155	14,654	10,646	-27%	-47%

1. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

BRONX COUNTY SUPREME COURT

2019 PROGRESS

Criminal Term

- Created a new model for handling of multi-defendant cases, which has proven extremely successful.
- Cases over two years have been reduced by 73% since the beginning of the Excellence Initiative.

Civil Term

- Medical malpractice mediations in the Special Trial Part pre/post-note of issue, upon request of any party.
- ADR was implemented in Individual Assignment Parts.
- Created Commercial Part with judicial mediator component.
- Established three Child Victims Act parts.
- Prepared and implemented training plans for individual clerk departments.
- Provided multiple training CLE programs presented by the Judicial Institute for court attorneys and judges on relevant areas of law.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

Criminal Term

- Continue the use of the Special Term Additional Resources Trial (START) program to enhance progress in resolving the oldest felony cases with incarcerated defendants.
 - Will adopt new and modify existing procedures to reflect the 2020 criminal justice reform legislation.

Civil Term

- Continue to fill open positions and provide training within the assigned departments.
- Assign a court attorney-referee to run a structured mediation part.
- Reduce motion inventory.
- Assess and evaluate individual parts to maximize efficiency.
- Increase number of days of post-note of issue mediations.

BRONX COUNTY SUPREME COURT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	4,189	4,365	3,694	3,195	2,885	-31%
Cases Disposed	4,338	4,768	4,118	3,739	3,527	-19%
Pending Cases	4,055	3,662	3,202	2,631	2,001	-51%
Over S&G	2,771	2,493	1,994	1,696	1,217	-56%

BRONX COUNTY SUPREME COURT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	15,842	15,188	14,957	15,911	16,568	5%
Cases Disposed	13,530	15,152	17,530	18,383	17,694	31%
Pending Cases	34,633	34,045	30,912	28,863	27,439	-21%
Over S&G	12,893	13,515	12,134	10,570	9,017	-30%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	14,458	14,023	14,067	15,133	15,830	9%
Cases Disposed	11,938	13,382	14,995	16,774	16,787	41%
Pending Cases	29,910	29,933	28,459	27,185	25,922	-13%
Over S&G	10,758	11,423	10,932	9,849	8,485	-21%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	1,384	1,165	890	778	738	-47%
Cases Disposed	1,592	1,770	2,535	1,609	907	-43%
Pending Cases	4,723	4,112	2,453	1,678	1,517	-68%
Over S&G	2,135	2,092	1,202	721	532	-75%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT

2019 PROGRESS

Criminal Term

- The START program conferenced 412 cases, resulting in a disposition rate of over 50%.
- The Centralized Arraignment Pilot Part processed new indictments between February and May of 2019 and handled those cases until they were trial ready or disposed, resulting in the establishment of guidelines and best practices for efficient case processing.
- The Targeted case program, tracking cases over one year, had a 70% disposition rate in 2019.

Civil Term

- First county in New York State to implement ADR program for all new cases.
- Reduced pending foreclosure cases to the lowest level since foreclosure record keeping began.
- Reduced the total number of cases over standards and goals by 48% since the Excellence Initiative began.
- Began training for the implementation of UCMS.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

Criminal Term

- The START program model will expand to include defendants at liberty.
- Focus on resolving cases over standards and goals and increasing the number of trials.
- Implementation of e-filing programs designed to digitize the processes for filing of indictments, motions, and 730 reports.

Civil Term

- Streamline discovery process by introducing electronic filing of the preliminary conference order.
- Transition to UCMS in the spring of 2020.
- Commence consensual e-filing of contested matrimonial matters in the Spring.

KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	4,654	5,119	4,940	4,476	3,799	-18%
Cases Disposed	4,223	5,150	5,420	5,067	4,833	14%
Pending Cases	3,042	3,233	3,006	3,033	2,697	-11%
Over S&G	1,558	1,782	1,493	1,410	1,190	-24%

KINGS COUNTY SUPREME COURT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	24,497	23,214	23,327	23,339	23,688	-3%
Cases Disposed	23,047	29,026	28,160	24,148	26,059	13%
Pending Cases	55,336	46,932	43,259	45,203	42,176	-24%
Over S&G	18,970	14,219	12,104	12,610	9,954	-48%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	21,322	20,642	21,161	21,337	21,970	3%
Cases Disposed	20,121	24,108	23,670	20,987	23,313	16%
Pending Cases	43,714	37,362	36,075	39,034	37,074	-15%
Over S&G	13,730	9,310	8,256	9,549	7,549	-45%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	3,175	2,572	2,166	2,002	1,718	-46%
Cases Disposed	2,926	4,918	4,490	3,161	2,746	-6%
Pending Cases	11,622	9,570	7,184	6,169	5,102	-56%
Over S&G	5,240	4,909	3,848	3,061	2,405	-54%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT

2019 PROGRESS

Criminal Term

- Opened a Felony Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) Court, monitoring over 100 defendants.
- Completed implementation of Raise the Age for 17-year-olds.
- Created new referral procedures for Manhattan Drug Court.
- Set up procedures for Extreme Risk Protective Orders.

Civil Term

- Created a courtroom environment which takes into consideration the needs of older adults and those with special needs, thereby improving accessibility to justice.
- Created an Elder Abuse Guide for judges and court personnel.
- Expanded and enhanced ADR options, which currently include:
 - Presumptive Early Mediation for non-Commercial Division cases
 - Commercial Division ADR Program
 - Early Settlement Conference Parts
 - Judicial Mediation Part
 - Matrimonial Neutral Evaluation Program
- High resolution digital monitors were installed at 60 Centre Street to provide information about the court, interpreter services, and ADA accommodations.
- Modern evidence presentation systems were installed in 5 courtrooms, consisting of touchscreen monitors capable of supporting high-tech trials with complex digital evidence, remote video testimony, real-time court reporting, and a wide array of other functions.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

Criminal Term

- Create a court part to accommodate new procedural requirements under new legislation.
- Open Manhattan Justice Resource Center at 80 Centre Street.
- Pilot a Young Adult Track within the ATI Court.
- Open a mental health track within Manhattan Drug Court.

Civil Term

- Early mediation of labor and employment discrimination and wage and hour cases.
- Presumptive Matrimonial Mediation Pilot program will launch in the Spring.
- Create a Tort Neutral Evaluation program; a roster of Tort Neutral Evaluators is in formation.
- Develop a Motor Vehicle Early Settlement Program and a Tax Certiorari Settlement Program.

NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	6,226	6,538	5,621	5,619	4,789	-23%
Cases Disposed	6,757	6,894	7,036	5,655	6,343	-6%
Pending Cases	3,852	3,823	3,330	3,685	3,149	-18%
Over S&G	1,960	2,052	1,703	1,768	1,388	-29%

NEW YORK COUNTY SUPREME COURT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	18,048	18,193	18,810	18,474	19,099	6%
Cases Disposed	19,621	20,032	21,841	23,222	22,635	15%
Pending Cases	32,382	34,067	33,403	31,764	30,643	-5%
Over S&G	11,694	12,322	11,999	10,854	10,481	-10%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	17,734	17,959	18,570	18,215	18,832	6%
Cases Disposed	19,216	19,548	21,524	22,990	22,189	15%
Pending Cases	31,655	33,597	32,965	31,245	30,288	-4%
Over S&G	11,406	12,144	11,841	10,683	10,376	-9%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	314	234	240	259	267	-15%
Cases Disposed	405	484	317	232	446	10%
Pending Cases	727	470	438	519	355	-51%
Over S&G	288	178	158	171	105	-64%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT

2019 PROGRESS

Criminal Term

- Continued to use new technology, such as the felony dashboard, to prioritize the trial or resolution of older cases, and avoid potential delays.
- Implemented the START Part during the final quarter of 2019, which facilitated the speedy resolution of many of the oldest pending cases. The Part resolved almost 70% of its assigned cases in a 12-week period.
- Successfully implemented the second phase of the Raise the Age legislation, creating two Youth Parts, in adjacent courtrooms, and prioritized prompt disposition of all Youth Part cases by closely monitoring from arrest to arraignment and through all stages of litigation when they remained in the Youth Part.
- Successfully implemented new legislation, including the Sealing statute, the “Red Flag” statute, and the Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, and prepared to implement the new criminal justice reform legislation.

Civil Term

- Implemented an ADR program, including Blockbuster Settlement Days.
- Reduced foreclosures over standards and goals by 45% since the end of 2018 and by 73% since the beginning of the Excellence Initiative.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

Criminal Term

- Focus on changing the culture of delay while simultaneously addressing the demands of the new criminal justice legislation.

Civil Term

- Create a Centralized Preliminary Conference and Compliance Part to streamline discovery and reduce motion practice.
- Establish a Medical Malpractice Mediation Part.
- Continue expansion in participation and scope of the ADR program, including increasing the monthly Blockbuster Conferences.
- Create a dedicated Summary Jury Part.
- Increase overall trial capacity.

QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	3,077	3,001	2,984	2,839	2,527	-18%
Cases Disposed	3,390	3,340	3,230	2,982	2,965	-13%
Pending Cases	1,387	1,312	1,276	1,427	1,209	-13%
Over S&G	838	766	716	622	532	-37%

QUEENS COUNTY SUPREME COURT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	20,180	20,006	19,835	19,371	19,327	-4%
Cases Disposed	20,230	24,494	21,566	21,243	20,468	1%
Pending Cases	30,218	27,996	26,993	26,018	25,808	-15%
Over S&G	5,446	4,362	3,801	3,255	3,210	-41%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	16,752	17,363	17,811	17,451	17,614	5%
Cases Disposed	16,205	19,882	17,745	17,988	17,712	9%
Pending Cases	20,207	20,536	21,422	21,551	22,567	12%
Over S&G	1,527	1,450	1,393	1,352	2,162	42%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	3,428	2,643	2,024	1,920	1,713	-50%
Cases Disposed	4,025	4,612	3,821	3,255	2,756	-32%
Pending Cases	10,011	7,460	5,571	4,467	3,241	-68%
Over S&G	3,919	2,912	2,408	1,903	1,048	-73%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

RICHMOND COUNTY SUPREME COURT

2019 PROGRESS

Criminal Term

- Achieved 75% participation among court reporters providing Communication Access Realtime Translation (“CART”), a computer-aided transcription service to increase access to justice to individuals requiring such service.
- Completed an overhaul of self-help services by greatly improving online resources, launching an online platform providing centralized access to the most commonly requested forms and instructions in Supreme Court litigation.
- Instituted a policy of active case conferencing with defense counsel and senior members of the Richmond County District Attorney’s Office to settle the oldest criminal matters.

Civil Term

- Utilized a series of orders, which increased the disposition rate of docketed cases. Cases moved swiftly between the Foreclosure Conference calendar to the Residential Foreclosure Part calendar, where expedited litigation occurred through timely motion practice.
- Expanded the Settlement Conference Part (“SCP”) to three days a week and redesignated it the Settlement Conference/Mediation Part (“SCMP”).
- Created the Early Litigation Tort Evaluation (“ELITE”) Part to provide additional settlement resources, allowing judges to evaluate tort cases during the preliminary conference and exercise discretion to provide litigants with access to early settlement negotiations.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

Criminal Term

- Attain 100% CART certification among all court reporters to ensure any individual within the District achieves the ability to participate fully in court.
- Fully implement the START initiative across all Supreme Court Criminal Terms to tackle the aging inventory and provide speedy access to justice.

Civil Term

- Expand dispute resolution initiatives beyond those cases involving post-note of issue settlement conferences and adopt the goal of presumptive mediation at the earliest possible stage.
- Create an avenue for matrimonial litigants to receive the same increased access to dispute resolution programs enjoyed by tort litigants.
- Implement blockbuster settlement days involving auto insurers representing the majority of automobile litigation in the county.
- Designate an ADR Coordinator as a liaison with the community and to develop a pool of local attorneys as certified mediators and neutral evaluators.

RICHMOND COUNTY SUPREME COURT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	625	644	681	793	882	41%
Cases Disposed	597	678	757	738	920	54%
Pending Cases	294	280	272	393	412	40%
Over S&G	139	127	122	155	176	27%

RICHMOND COUNTY SUPREME COURT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	4,108	3,839	3,892	3,583	3,593	-13%
Cases Disposed	4,439	4,232	4,019	3,414	3,709	-16%
Pending Cases	3,992	3,683	3,714	3,939	3,793	-5%
Over S&G	411	366	317	424	457	11%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	2,791	2,813	3,040	2,850	2,921	5%
Cases Disposed	2,856	2,811	3,148	2,866	3,026	6%
Pending Cases	2,861	2,940	2,981	3,031	2,919	2%
Over S&G	297	261	223	331	360	21%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	1,317	1,026	852	733	672	-49%
Cases Disposed	1,583	1,421	871	548	683	-57%
Pending Cases	1,131	743	733	908	874	-23%
Over S&G	114	105	94	93	97	-15%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

SUFFOLK COUNTY

2019 PROGRESS

Felonies

- Pending felony cases over standards and goals decreased by 85% since end of 2015.
- Ending 2019, only 3 cases were over one year old and only 36 were over standards and goals.

Civil Cases

- Opened a newly constructed Matrimonial Mediation Center located in the Supreme Court.
- The Matrimonial Mediation Pilot Program resulted in the settlement of 56% of all cases referred and a 76% success rate for litigants who remained in mediation beyond the initial session.
- Processed uncontested divorces in six weeks or less.
- Saw a 45% decrease in civil cases over standards and goals since end of 2015.
- Pending foreclosure cases reduced by 65% (over 11,400 cases) since end of 2015.
- Established an ADR Part for the early conferencing of civil cases.

Surrogate's Court

- Cleaned up almost 1,600 cases in 2018. In 2019, reduced the percentage of cases over 6 months from 63% to 36%.

Family Court

- Only 2% of pending matters are over 180 days old.
- Implemented an in-house ADR program that mediates low conflict custody and visitation cases.
- Launched Families Overcoming Crisis through Unified Services (FOCUS), an enhancement to the existing Family Treatment Court structure, to provide additional mental health services, including child-parent psychotherapy, for families in crisis dealing with substance use and mental health issues.
- Established procedures to identify victims of human trafficking or domestic violence.
- Improved the quality of family offense petitions and services to domestic violence victims.
- Transitioned to a digital court process for all child support and paternity related matters.

Misdemeanors

- Misdemeanors over standards and goals dropped 75% since end of 2015.
- Misdemeanor cases over one year have been reduced by 68% since 2018.
- The aging case part has been increased to 5 days per week.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Implement the ADR plan in all courts.
- Create a pre-arraignment diversion program with the prosecution and defense counsel.
- Expand the Matrimonial ADR Pilot program to include all contested matrimonial filings.

SUFFOLK COUNTY - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	2,905	2,684	2,645	2,395	2,102	-28%
Cases Disposed	2,801	3,152	2,964	2,775	2,798	0%
Pending Cases	879	655	689	627	386	-56%
Over S&G	237	99	82	59	36	-85%
SUFFOLK COUNTY - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	20,886	19,099	16,607	16,136	16,475	-21%
Cases Disposed	20,246	25,071	20,626	19,108	19,765	-2%
Pending Cases	36,205	30,860	27,347	25,033	21,981	-39%
Over S&G	12,055	9,659	9,195	8,050	6,646	-45%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	13,503	14,218	12,913	12,684	13,351	-1%
Cases Disposed	14,398	16,445	13,660	12,991	14,901	3%
Pending Cases	18,531	16,693	16,393	16,649	15,736	-15%
Over S&G	6,253	4,378	4,120	4,363	4,235	-32%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	7,383	4,881	3,694	3,452	3,124	-58%
Cases Disposed	5,848	8,626	6,966	6,117	4,864	-17%
Pending Cases	17,674	14,167	10,954	8,384	6,245	-65%
Over S&G	5,802	5,281	5,075	3,687	2,411	-58%
SUFFOLK COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	3,705	2,115	1,327	-37%	-64%	
SUFFOLK COUNTY - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	44,416	43,692	43,171	39,697	39,644	-11%
Cases Disposed	43,895	43,030	42,697	40,723	39,126	-11%
Pending Cases	8,938	9,220	9,455	8,230	8,711	-3%
Over 180 Days	270	447	412	181	215	-20%
SUFFOLK COUNTY - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	60,001	58,396	59,134	56,420	56,008	-7%
Cases Disposed ³	55,058	61,209	61,101	59,527	62,744	14%
Misdemeanors Pending	18,708	13,968	14,227	9,682	7,496	-60%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	12,925	9,257	8,927	5,313	3,186	-75%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

NASSAU COUNTY

2019 PROGRESS

Felonies

- Reduced the number of felony cases pending over standards and goals by 53% in 2019.
- Secured grant funding to expand the Judicial Diversion Court.

Civil Cases

- Established a Regional Court to handle cases arising under the Child Victims Act.
- Began an Access to Justice program which (a) created a Resource Guide for Nassau County and (b) initiated Legal Help Days in public libraries focused on providing no-cost advice to the community.
- Established an ADR program to calendar cases awaiting mandatory arbitration before a judge for evaluation and mediation, reducing the backlog of mandatory arbitration cases by 83%.
- Streamlined procedures in the TAP Part, leading to a 53% reduction of note of issue pending cases over standards and goals.
- Reduced backlog of tax certiorari cases over standards and goals by 33% in 2019.
- Reviewed over 8,000 small claims cases over 6-week span in Summer 2019.
- The Matrimonial Court Unrepresented Assistance (Navigator) program expanded to 5 days a week.
- Implemented an after-hours matrimonial mediation program.

Surrogate's Court

- Surrogate's Court has made huge strides in technological advancement by centralizing the computer server and continuing to maintain the Dashboard to track open proceedings.
- Reduced backlog of cases by 13% in 2019.

Family Court

- Reduced the percent of pending cases over 180 days to only 3.6%.
- Established an ADR program for all stages of a proceeding and at each appearance, as well as an on-site mediation program for eligible custody/visitation and child support proceedings.

Misdemeanors

- Created an Opioid Court to provide a fast track option for defendants struggling with addiction to begin rehabilitation. Defendants who opt to participate receive same day assessments and are placed in treatment within one day of their assessment.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Streamline procedures in the TAP Part to further reduce cases over standards and goals.
- Expand ADR programs throughout the District.
- Expand Access to Justice Program in Supreme Court.

NASSAU COUNTY - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	2,048	2,058	2,148	2,140	2,126	4%
Cases Disposed	1,959	2,436	2,247	2,205	2,304	18%
Pending Cases	771	544	469	496	347	-55%
Over S&G	309	216	194	181	85	-72%
NASSAU COUNTY - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	20,707	20,586	17,668	17,990	16,995	-18%
Cases Disposed	20,496	30,403	20,175	17,273	21,405	4%
Pending Cases	33,708	24,018	21,920	22,389	19,524	-42%
Over S&G	8,827	3,685	2,719	2,758	2,194	-75%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	16,935	17,027	15,107	15,334	14,688	-13%
Cases Disposed	17,080	21,482	14,352	14,462	18,606	9%
Pending Cases	21,606	17,215	18,468	18,766	16,537	-23%
Over S&G	3,897	1,625	2,161	2,028	1,795	-54%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	3,772	3,559	2,561	2,656	2,307	-39%
Cases Disposed	3,416	8,921	5,823	2,811	2,799	-18%
Pending Cases	12,102	6,803	3,452	3,623	2,987	-75%
Over S&G	4,930	2,060	558	730	399	-92%
NASSAU COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	40,990	1,966	1,717	-13%	-96%	
NASSAU COUNTY - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	20,451	19,739	19,100	17,822	18,411	-10%
Cases Disposed	20,060	20,255	19,641	18,525	18,027	-10%
Pending Cases	5,721	5,019	4,367	3,555	3,820	-33%
Over 180 Days	890	476	255	156	138	-84%
NASSAU COUNTY - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	35,009	34,604	35,710	34,273	32,500	-7%
Cases Disposed ³	36,304	35,862	39,450	38,406	37,651	4%
Misdemeanors Pending	9,137	9,792	8,918	6,946	4,871	-47%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	5,651	6,108	5,123	3,608	2,345	-59%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland & Westchester Counties

2019 PROGRESS

District-wide

- Opened an Opioid Court and a Mental Health Court in Newburgh City Court.
- Implemented the first phase of the Access to Justice Initiative by creating six working sub-committees.

Felonies

- Averaged only three felonies over a year old for the past four years.

Civil Cases

- A 71% reduction in Supreme Court civil cases pending over standards and goals district-wide since the end of 2015; by the end of 2019, only 8% of the pending cases were over standards and goals.
- In 2019, as a result of the creation of a centralized foreclosure part, Rockland County reduced the percentage of foreclosures pending beyond standards and goals from 40% in 2018 to 24%.
- Foreclosures pending beyond standards and goals in Westchester County were reduced from 31% in 2018 to 17%, and in Putnam County from 38% in 2018 to 25%.

Surrogate's Court

- Addressed almost 3,000 inactive cases in 2018. In 2019, reduced the number of cases over two years old by 28%.

Family Court

- Cases pending over 180 days reduced by 60% since end of 2015.
- Since end of 2015, matters pending over 180 days were reduced by 66% in Westchester County.
- Since end of 2015, matters pending over 180 days were reduced by 72% in Rockland County.

Misdemeanors

- City Courts achieved a 75% reduction in cases over standards and goals since 2015.
- Peekskill City Drug Court opened.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Establish a Veteran's Court in Westchester County.
- Establish an Uncontested Divorce Pilot Program to assist litigants with children.
- Review, assess, and expand current presumptive ADR program for civil cases.

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	2,922	2,832	3,151	3,018	2,698	-8%
Cases Disposed	3,044	3,124	3,144	3,079	2,931	-4%
Pending Cases	615	416	442	473	351	-43%
Over S&G	78	13	7	8	15	-81%
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	22,163	20,692	19,335	19,071	18,034	-19%
Cases Disposed	22,561	24,297	27,389	23,629	23,650	5%
Pending Cases	26,624	24,045	17,435	16,593	15,643	-41%
Over S&G	4,199	4,015	2,630	2,009	1,225	-71%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	16,175	16,012	15,574	15,336	14,878	-8%
Cases Disposed	16,593	17,541	21,094	18,343	17,839	8%
Pending Cases	15,214	14,889	10,875	11,276	12,203	-20%
Over S&G	1,793	1,507	614	545	703	-61%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	5,988	4,680	3,761	3,735	3,156	-47%
Cases Disposed	5,968	6,756	6,295	5,286	5,811	-3%
Pending Cases	11,410	9,156	6,560	5,317	3,440	-70%
Over S&G	2,406	2,508	2,016	1,464	522	-78%
NINTH COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	5,791	2,910	2,743	-6%	-53%	
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	63,452	61,127	60,615	55,995	57,315	-10%
Cases Disposed	61,886	61,887	61,168	60,148	55,664	-10%
Pending Cases	20,734	19,692	18,401	13,752	14,568	-30%
Over 180 Days	2,015	1,547	1,029	728	806	-60%
NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	31,305	33,778	29,619	27,938	25,822	-18%
Cases Disposed ³	28,256	30,159	28,750	27,797	28,381	0%
Misdemeanors Pending	3,894	3,702	3,315	2,053	1,469	-62%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	1,953	1,938	1,582	693	481	-75%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans & Wyoming Counties

2019 PROGRESS

District-Wide

- A third Opioid Intervention Court was opened in November 2019.

Felonies

- Opened Centralized Arraignment Parts for Town and Village Courts in Chautauqua and Niagara.

Civil Cases

- Allegany County and Orleans County achieved zero foreclosures over standards and goals.
- Opened an Integrated Domestic Violence (“IDV”) Court in Cattaraugus County.

Surrogate’s Court

- Niagara County had nearly a 300% increase in settlements from 2018 to 2019 in contested matters.
- Erie Surrogate’s court opened a Help Desk.
- Reduced the pending caseload 48% since 2018.

Family Court

- Each county engaged in court-led, multi-disciplinary collaborative work to improve permanency outcomes for children as part of the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project.
- Niagara County initiated engagement conferences in removal cases to improve time frames.
- Wyoming County committed to creating a Peer Advocate Support program for neglect cases as well as participating in an Improving the Quality of Permanency Hearings Project.
- Cattaraugus County committed to initiating Child Permanency Mediation.
- Added new programs to implement remote temporary orders of protection for domestic violence victims and elder abuse victims.
- The ADR model was used in custody and visitation cases; Erie County had an 80% settlement rate.

Misdemeanors

- Ongoing warrant projects each year have the City Courts review and approve the disposal of all warrants that have been pending without any action for ten years.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Open five more Opioid Intervention Courts.
- Continue to expand ADR initiatives in all courts across the District.
- Expand mandatory e-filing to additional counties in the District.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	2,883	3,258	3,151	3,114	3,091	7%
Cases Disposed	3,176	3,364	3,384	3,388	3,314	4%
Pending Cases	629	651	673	570	543	-14%
Over S&G	129	103	92	59	66	-49%
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	10,522	9,936	9,412	10,412	9,729	-8%
Cases Disposed	10,936	11,340	11,442	12,640	12,229	12%
Pending Cases	12,144	11,069	8,424	8,895	8,627	-29%
Over S&G	2,246	2,135	1,708	1,301	1,206	-46%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	7,713	7,607	7,387	8,466	8,204	6%
Cases Disposed	7,720	8,117	8,597	10,100	10,054	30%
Pending Cases	8,299	8,046	6,159	7,000	7,322	-12%
Over S&G	1,641	1,568	1,310	1,026	1,105	-33%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	2,809	2,329	2,025	1,946	1,525	-46%
Cases Disposed	3,216	3,223	2,845	2,540	2,175	-32%
Pending Cases	3,845	3,023	2,265	1,895	1,305	-66%
Over S&G	605	567	398	275	101	-83%
EIGHTH COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	3,710	1,511	1,930	28%	-48%	
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	63,104	63,506	62,012	58,864	58,659	-7%
Cases Disposed	61,778	63,035	61,268	59,893	57,014	-8%
Pending Cases	16,212	16,196	16,434	15,036	16,170	0%
Over 180 Days	674	595	553	418	490	-27%
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	36,023	33,219	33,757	30,555	28,724	-20%
Cases Disposed ³	34,561	34,616	33,139	31,617	30,494	-12%
Misdemeanors Pending	4,921	3,685	3,726	2,712	2,050	-58%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	1,768	896	1,045	464	352	-80%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne & Yates Counties

2019 PROGRESS

Felonies

- Pending felony cases have dropped by 45% since 2015, with an 80% reduction in the number of felony cases over standards and goals.
- Case management guidelines have been extended district-wide.
- A new procedure to increase the number of cases resolved by superior court information in Monroe County has been created.

Civil Cases

- 18% reduction in civil cases over standards and goals since the end of 2018.
- 73% reduction in civil cases over standards and goals since 2015.
- New procedures implemented in Ontario and Seneca Counties to streamline and monitor foreclosure actions; will be expanded district-wide in early 2020.

Surrogate's Court

- Reduced pending caseload 45% since 2018. In 2019, reduced cases over two years old by 40%.

Family Court

- 57% decrease in cases pending over 180 days since 2015.
- Utilized "Check in Module" to allow for electronic check-in for attorneys and litigants in Monroe County.
- Created a Family Court "best practices" bench book.

Misdemeanors

- 53% reduction in pending misdemeanors and 69% reduction in misdemeanors over standards and goals since 2015.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Aggressively expand current ADR programs to assure presumptive ADR for every civil case type.
- Pursue more opportunities for the education of judges and staff on topics including: new laws, new policies, the importance of cultural sensitivity, and the elimination of implicit bias.
- Continue commitment to diversity, including outreach to the community regarding employment opportunities, career development for current employees, and providing opportunity and experience for all attorneys.

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	3,756	3,478	3,394	3,266	3,182	-15%
Cases Disposed	3,662	3,838	3,589	3,462	3,346	-9%
Pending Cases	1,059	706	643	576	587	-45%
Over S&G	249	92	58	46	49	-80%
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	11,120	10,667	10,730	9,033	6,628	-40%
Cases Disposed	12,040	13,930	13,397	10,108	8,610	-28%
Pending Cases	7,820	6,026	5,189	4,914	4,414	-44%
Over S&G	1,363	837	635	445	365	-73%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	8,538	8,310	8,753	7,014	4,870	-43%
Cases Disposed	8,707	10,406	10,608	7,829	6,050	-31%
Pending Cases	5,687	4,633	3,113	3,029	3,164	-44%
Over S&G	1,088	699	372	208	279	-74%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	2,582	2,357	1,977	2,019	1,758	-32%
Cases Disposed	3,333	3,524	2,789	2,279	2,560	-23%
Pending Cases	2,133	1,393	2,076	1,885	1,250	-41%
Over S&G	275	138	263	237	86	-69%
SEVENTH COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	1,124	636	621	-2%	-45%	
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	51,419	49,244	48,581	47,736	47,804	-7%
Cases Disposed	49,817	50,576	49,104	47,836	48,073	-4%
Pending Cases	13,185	11,735	11,051	10,716	10,091	-23%
Over 180 Days	786	345	444	419	339	-57%
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	17,351	15,980	15,971	14,376	12,496	-28%
Cases Disposed ³	17,372	17,751	16,873	14,843	13,901	-20%
Misdemeanors Pending	2,396	1,514	1,571	1,633	1,133	-53%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	823	476	410	479	255	-69%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuyler, Tioga & Tompkins Counties

2019 PROGRESS

District-Wide

- Statistical data from all courts was collected each term to assist in evaluation of issues and trends and to utilize in promoting strategies for compliance with the Excellence Initiative.

Felonies

- From 2015 to 2019, reduced cases over standard and goals by 47%.
- Broome County reduced cases over standard and goals by 88% since 2015.

Civil Cases

- Hired two additional court attorney referees, allowing the unit to expand services into additional counties as well as assisting judges with individual cases as needed.
- The total number of foreclosure cases over standards and goals further reduced over past year by 24%, with a 43% reduction since 2015.

Surrogate's Court

- Addressed over 1,000 cases in 2018. In 2019, cut the number of cases pending over two years in half.

Family Court

- Only 7% of all pending cases are over 180 days.
- 22% reduction of cases pending over 180 days since 2015.

Misdemeanors

- Since 2015, cases over standards and goals dropped 67%.
- City Courts continue to double or triple book hearings to promote efficiency in operations.
- A Mental Health Part was developed in Ithaca City Court.
- Opioid Parts were developed in both Elmira City Court and Otsego County Court.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Refine the ADR program in all Civil courts to increase participation in this initiative.
- Reduce the number of Supreme Civil cases over standards and goals district-wide.

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	1,972	1,972	1,772	1,867	1,671	-15%
Cases Disposed	2,119	1,939	1,888	1,895	1,779	-16%
Pending Cases	462	505	442	467	383	-17%
Over S&G	139	145	83	73	74	-47%
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	3,538	3,545	3,279	3,345	3,095	-13%
Cases Disposed	3,692	4,181	4,014	3,844	3,792	3%
Pending Cases	4,904	4,308	3,783	3,239	3,126	-36%
Over S&G	1,260	1,053	874	682	635	-50%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	2,197	2,405	2,263	2,453	2,257	3%
Cases Disposed	2,270	2,676	2,512	2,532	2,756	21%
Pending Cases	2,936	2,577	2,188	2,003	2,127	-28%
Over S&G	962	764	497	456	464	-52%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	1,341	1,140	1,016	892	838	-38%
Cases Disposed	1,422	1,505	1,502	1,312	1,036	-27%
Pending Cases	1,968	1,731	1,595	1,236	999	-49%
Over S&G	298	289	377	226	171	-43%
SIXTH COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	1,502	477	543	14%	-64%	
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	41,840	39,748	38,500	38,586	38,679	-8%
Cases Disposed	42,107	39,728	38,914	39,437	38,474	-9%
Pending Cases	9,810	9,631	9,023	8,015	7,989	-19%
Over 180 Days	673	514	487	525	523	-22%
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	15,187	13,364	12,662	11,634	10,371	-32%
Cases Disposed ³	15,315	14,041	12,986	12,763	10,660	-30%
Misdemeanors Pending	2,190	1,317	1,448	1,182	1,263	-42%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	1,273	487	567	342	425	-67%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga & Oswego Counties

2019 PROGRESS

District-Wide

- Established a committee for the Access to Justice for All Initiative in Onondaga County.
- Developed and implemented a district-wide ADR Plan to resolve cases more quickly.
- A Centralized Arraignment Part in Oswego County was implemented.
- Installed ICT/CMI equipment in Jefferson County Courts.
- Initiated and supported use of mobile CMI equipment (to be shared in 4 Onondaga County Parts).

Felonies

- Felonies pending dropped 15% since 2018.

Civil Cases

- Civil Supreme cases over standards and goals dropped approximately 40% since 2018.
- Civil Supreme cases over standards and goals dropped 72% since the beginning of the Excellence Initiative to an all time low of 7%.

Surrogate's Court

- Pending caseload reduced by half since 2018.

Family Court

- Only 3% of cases over 180 days old.

Misdemeanors

- Opioid Parts implemented in Syracuse City Court, Watertown City Court and Oswego County Court.
- Human Trafficking Part was established in Utica City Court.
- Veteran's Part became operational in Watertown City Court.
- Since end of 2015, cases over standards and goals reduced by 47%.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Improve standards and goals in misdemeanor cases in Syracuse City Court.
- Implement the new criminal justice legislation.
- Implement an Opioid Court in Utica City Court.
- Continue roll out of CMI technology in courtrooms throughout the District.

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	2,864	3,133	3,086	2,713	2,461	-14%
Cases Disposed	2,971	3,089	3,160	2,943	2,598	-13%
Pending Cases	414	530	514	428	362	-13%
Over S&G	32	50	37	31	33	3%
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	7,738	7,166	6,550	6,718	6,162	-20%
Cases Disposed	8,431	8,538	8,184	6,944	7,074	-16%
Pending Cases	6,788	5,808	4,682	4,528	4,027	-41%
Over S&G	1,031	854	528	473	284	-72%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	5,335	5,246	4,908	5,187	4,875	-9%
Cases Disposed	5,648	5,907	5,772	5,140	5,294	-6%
Pending Cases	4,207	3,821	2,963	3,015	2,972	-29%
Over S&G	811	636	347	281	204	-75%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	2,403	1,920	1,642	1,531	1,287	-46%
Cases Disposed	2,783	2,631	2,412	1,804	1,780	-36%
Pending Cases	2,581	1,987	1,719	1,513	1,055	-59%
Over S&G	220	218	181	192	80	-64%
FIFTH COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	818	384	427	11%	-48%	
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	46,797	46,643	48,006	47,232	45,885	-2%
Cases Disposed	46,146	48,204	47,087	47,700	45,954	0%
Pending Cases	11,928	10,423	11,233	10,497	10,502	-12%
Over 180 Days	385	274	275	270	333	-14%
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	27,127	26,702	25,613	24,722	21,209	-22%
Cases Disposed ³	24,303	25,954	27,106	25,645	23,092	-5%
Misdemeanors Pending	3,511	3,317	3,067	2,509	2,120	-40%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	1,573	1,415	993	967	833	-47%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Schenectady,
St. Lawrence, Warren & Washington Counties

2019 PROGRESS

District-Wide

- The District Executive continued to conduct monthly Excellence Initiative meetings with the District's Chief Clerks for each separate court type.

Felonies

- 65% drop in felonies pending over standards and goals since 2015. Washington County distinguished itself as having no felonies over standards and goals for the entirety of 2019.

Civil Cases

- Reduced conference-eligible foreclosure cases pending over standards and goals by 81% in 2019.
- Monitoring efforts expanded to include review of data entry in the ADR database. Monthly case management meetings, along with continued data monitoring, improved the District's performance in general civil case management.

Surrogate's Court

- In 2019, reduced the number of pending cases over one year by 81%. Currently, 87% of cases pending are under 6 months old.

Family Court

- In 2019, initiated a case management project targeted specifically to custody/visitation cases, achieving a 23% reduction in custody cases pending over 180 days in its first year.

Misdemeanors

- 38% reduction in misdemeanor cases pending over standards and goals compared to 2018.
- Opioid Treatment Part opened in Montgomery County in 2019.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Expand Family Court case management project to establish dedicated first appearance parts and the residential mortgage foreclosure settlement parts to include in rem tax foreclosure filings.
- Open an Opioid Treatment Part in Glens Falls City Court.

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	2,209	2,035	2,198	2,324	1,986	-10%
Cases Disposed	2,227	2,324	2,226	2,349	2,230	0%
Pending Cases	466	349	354	395	299	-36%
Over S&G	57	21	25	18	20	-65%
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	5,970	5,263	5,128	5,226	4,578	-23%
Cases Disposed	6,411	9,678	7,620	6,770	5,744	-10%
Pending Cases	9,445	5,893	4,929	4,412	3,738	-60%
Over S&G	2,694	997	764	608	427	-84%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	3,948	3,626	3,816	3,889	3,370	-15%
Cases Disposed	3,767	6,523	5,217	4,784	4,055	8%
Pending Cases	5,854	3,653	2,400	2,243	2,591	-56%
Over S&G	2,063	647	292	273	362	-82%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	2,022	1,637	1,312	1,337	1,208	-40%
Cases Disposed	2,644	3,155	2,403	1,986	1,689	-36%
Pending Cases	3,591	2,240	2,529	2,169	1,147	-68%
Over S&G	631	350	472	335	65	-90%
FOURTH COUNTY - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	1,665	616	403	-35%	-76%	
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	44,869	43,838	41,020	40,751	40,632	-9%
Cases Disposed	44,613	43,691	40,531	41,390	40,553	-9%
Pending Cases	10,454	10,346	10,502	9,465	9,284	-11%
Over 180 Days	549	421	626	442	427	-22%
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	12,665	12,603	12,174	11,894	9,688	-24%
Cases Disposed ³	12,206	13,509	12,629	12,446	10,775	-12%
Misdemeanors Pending	1,466	995	1,092	948	479	-67%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	637	249	270	173	108	-83%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Sullivan & Ulster Counties

2019 PROGRESS

District-Wide

- Launched presumptive ADR in each court handling civil matters, as noted below:
 - Litigants in small and commercial claims cases in City Courts, custody and visitation proceedings in Family Court, and accountings and contested proceedings in Surrogate's Court are referred to presumptive mediation.
 - Instituted timely judicial conferences at the outset of litigation in Supreme Court.

Felonies

- Achieved a 41% reduction in felonies over standards and goals since 2015.

Civil Cases

- Continued dedicated Foreclosure Parts in Albany, Greene, Rensselaer and Sullivan Counties, with a 56% drop in foreclosures over standard and goals district-wide since 2018.
- Special presumptive ADR parts established for the Albany Commercial Division, as well as in Rensselaer County and Ulster County Supreme Courts for eligible Matrimonial Cases.

Surrogate's Court

- Reduced pending cases 83% since 2018. In 2019, reduced backlog of cases over two years old by 46%.

Family Court

- Since end of 2015, Family Court cases over 180 days have dropped 47%.
- Refocused efforts on the Child Welfare Improvement Project.
- Strengthened Family Treatment Courts in the District.

Misdemeanors

- Achieved a 49% reduction in misdemeanors over standards and goals since 2015.

PRIORITIES FOR 2020

- Train court staff in presumptive mediation and other ADR methods, and continue development of rosters for local mediators and neutral evaluators.
- Expand Help Center access for litigants, focusing on Family Court and Surrogate's Court matters in Albany County.
- Finish efforts for mandated e-filing of eligible Surrogate's Courts and Supreme Courts.
- Expand and strengthen specialty courts by adding an Opioid Court in Columbia County and a Mental Health Court in Albany City Court.

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FELONY CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	2,142	2,022	2,099	2,079	1,834	-14%
Cases Disposed	2,234	2,191	2,252	2,231	1,907	-15%
Pending Cases	462	419	358	391	380	-18%
Over S&G	94	73	54	42	55	-41%
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT - CIVIL CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
Total Caseload						
New Cases Filed	8,631	8,168	7,672	7,542	7,462	-14%
Cases Disposed	8,901	10,071	10,263	9,067	8,071	-9%
Pending Cases	10,305	8,583	6,592	5,900	6,053	-41%
Over S&G	2,156	1,517	917	620	639	-70%
Caseload Without Foreclosures						
New Cases Filed	6,083	6,190	6,077	6,087	6,082	0%
Cases Disposed	6,045	6,875	7,317	6,859	6,230	3%
Pending Cases	6,036	5,379	4,097	3,904	4,535	-25%
Over S&G	1,562	965	358	304	499	-68%
Foreclosure Caseload						
New Cases Filed	2,548	1,978	1,595	1,455	1,380	-46%
Cases Disposed	2,856	3,196	2,946	2,208	1,841	-36%
Pending Cases	4,269	3,204	2,495	1,996	1,518	-64%
Over S&G	594	552	559	316	140	-76%
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT - SURROGATE'S COURT PENDING TRENDS						
	Pre-Cleanup Mid-2018 ²	End of 2018	End of 2019	18-19 Change	Change Since Mid-2018	
Pending Cases	4,675	889	808	-9%	-83%	
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT - FAMILY COURT CASE TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed	41,018	40,666	40,754	37,982	37,745	-8%
Cases Disposed	41,139	41,408	40,121	39,713	36,532	-11%
Pending Cases	11,032	10,048	10,687	8,863	10,059	-9%
Over 180 Days	800	332	349	217	422	-47%
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT - LOWER COURT CRIMINAL TRENDS						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 ¹	15-19 Change
New Cases Filed ³	13,371	12,471	12,976	11,323	9,586	-28%
Cases Disposed ³	11,254	12,653	12,600	12,551	10,654	-5%
Misdemeanors Pending	1,248	1,721	1,572	1,249	812	-35%
Misdemeanors Over S&G	620	693	751	482	318	-49%

1. 2019 totals are preliminary.

2. In 2018, Surrogate's Court implemented a statewide cleanup effort in response to the Excellence Initiative's standards and goals effect.

3. Includes Felony Complaints, Misdemeanors, and Violations/Infractions.

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