



NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM  
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

ONTARIO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Ontario County Courthouse, Canandaigua, NY.



As part of the 2019 Law Day celebration, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks recognized Judge Michael V. Coccoma, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City. Judge Coccoma, who held the position for 10 years, stepped down in 2019 and was succeeded by the Hon. Vito C. Caruso. Left to right, Judges DiFiore, Coccoma and Marks.



New York State Unified Court System

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Report of the Chief Administrator of the Courts

for the Calendar Year January 1 through December 31, 2019

**Janet DiFiore**

*Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the State of New York*

**Lawrence K. Marks**

*Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York*

**Associate Judges of the Court of Appeals**

Jenny Rivera

Leslie E. Stein

Eugene M. Fahey

Michael J. Garcia

Rowan D. Wilson

Paul G. Feinman

**Presiding Justices of the Appellate Division**

Rolando T. Acosta

*First Department*

Alan D. Scheinkman

*Second Department*

Elizabeth A. Garry

*Third Department*

Gerald J. Whalen

*Fourth Department*

**Deputy Chief Administrative Judges**

Vito C. Caruso

*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge,*

*Courts Outside New York City*

Edwina G. Mendelson

*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for*

*Justice Initiatives*

George J. Silver

*Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for*

*the New York City Courts*

**New York State Unified Court System**

**Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler**

*Chief of Policy and Planning*

**Hon. Juanita Bing Newton**

*Dean, NYS Judicial Institute*

**John W. McConnell**

*Executive Director, OCA*

**Nancy Barry**

*Chief of Operations, OCA*

**Eileen D. Millett**

*Counsel, OCA*

**Sherrill Spatz**

*Inspector General*

**Administrative Judges New York City**

**Deborah A. Kaplan**

*Civil Matters, First Judicial District*

**Ellen N. Biben**

*Criminal Matters, First Judicial District*

**Lawrence Knipel**

*Civil Matters, Second Judicial District*

**Danny Chun**

*Criminal Matters, Second Judicial District*

**George J. Silver (interim)**

*Civil Matters, Eleventh Judicial District*

**Joseph Zayas**

*Criminal Matters, Eleventh Judicial District*

**Robert Torres**

*Criminal Matters, Twelfth Judicial District*

**Doris Gonzalez**

*Civil Matters, Twelfth Judicial District*

**Desmond A. Green**

*Civil & Criminal Matters,  
Thirteenth Judicial District*

**Jeanette Ruiz**

*NYC Family Court*

**Tamiko Amaker**

*NYC Criminal Court*

**Anthony Cannataro**

*NYC Civil Court*

**Administrative Judges Outside New York City**

**Thomas A. Breslin**

*Third Judicial District*

**Felix J. Catena**

*Fourth Judicial District*

**James P. Murphy**

*Fifth Judicial District*

**Molly Reynolds Fitzgerald**

*Sixth Judicial District*

**Craig J. Doran**

*Seventh Judicial District*

**Paula L. Feroletto**

*Eighth Judicial District*

**Kathie E. Davidson**

*Ninth Judicial District*

**Norman St. George**

*Nassau County*

**C. Randall Hinrichs**

*Suffolk County*

**Richard E. Sise**

*Acting Presiding Judge, Court of Claims*



As part of the Law Day tradition at Court of Appeals Hall, on May 1 Chief Judge Janet DiFiore and Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks presented the Judith S. Kaye Service Awards. In 2019, 84 court system employees were honored for exemplifying extraordinary acts of courage and kindness, charitable deeds, lifesaving actions and displays of valor. Chief Judge DiFiore celebrates with the honorees in Albany.



A group of New York's Administrative Judges, left to right: Hon. Craig Doran, 7th J.D.; Hon. Molly Reynolds Fitzgerald, 6th J.D.; Hon. Kathie Davidson, 9th J.D.; Hon. Norman St. George, Nassau County, 10th J.D.; Hon. Randall Hinrichs, Suffolk County, 10th J.D.; Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler, Chief of Policy and Planning; Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives; Hon. Vito Caruso, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City; Hon. James P. Murphy, 5th J.D.; Hon. Felix Catena, 4th J.D.; Hon. Richard Sise, Acting Presiding Judge, Court of Claims; and Hon. Thomas Breslin, 3rd J.D.

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In April, the Midtown Community Court was dedicated to the memory of Hon. Robert G. M. Keating, the former Administrative Judge of NYC's Criminal Court. Among those at the event were: Greg Berman, Director of the Center for Court Innovation; Mary McCormick, President of the Fund for the City of New York; the Hon. Jonathan Lippman, former Chief Judge of the State of New York; Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks; Mary Lou Keating, Judge Keating's widow; the Hon. Judy Harris Kluger (Ret.), Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families.



Henry M. Greenberg, a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, is sworn in as president of the New York State Bar Association by Chief Judge DiFiore. Holding the bible is Greenberg's wife, Hope Engel, Consultation Clerk at the Court of Appeals.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE Chief Administrative Judge

**T**hrough our Excellence Initiative, the Chief Judge is continually raising the bar, encouraging us to think outside the box, refusing to permit us to rest on our laurels and demanding that we view every achievement not as an end, but as a stepping stone to an ever-loftier goal. The fruits of the Excellence Initiative, and the culture of accomplishment and accountability that it inspires, are summarized in this Annual Report, the 42nd since the Unified Court System was established.

We accomplished a great deal in 2019. We began implementation of presumptive alternative dispute resolution—the next stage in the evolution of the Excellence Initiative—to advance both the delivery and quality of civil justice. We rose to the occasion presented by the Child Victims Act, designating 45 judges statewide to ensure that newly initiated abuse claims are handled expeditiously. We prepared for major criminal law changes resulting from bail, discovery and speedy trial reform measures enacted by the Legislature. We opened new courts tailored to the opioid crisis and the needs of veterans. We utilized technology to better serve the public and make our processes more efficient. We improved access to justice and took important steps to fill the justice gap. And we did all of that in a spirit of fiscal discipline and restraint.

Our ability to fully achieve all we are capable of under the Excellence Initiative is unfortunately hindered by an archaic and convoluted trial court structure. Characteristically, the Chief Judge has a solution—consolidation and simplification of our trial courts. But achieving the goal of a modern, efficient court system requires the continuing support of Governor Cuomo—a strong proponent of court reform—the backing of the Legislature and, ultimately, the approval of the voters. We began that process in 2019 and will continue to make our case throughout 2020.

The Chief Judge ended her annual State of Our Judiciary address last February with these words: “This independent branch of government can be counted on to do the people’s business—without fear or favor, and with all due speed and alacrity.” That concise statement summarizes our entire reason for existence. Everything we do as a court system, as a co-equal branch of government, as a partner in the administration of justice, is in support of that principle. It is a weighty responsibility, and one that we cannot fulfill without the continued support of our partners in the Executive and Legislative branches.

I hope you find this Annual Report informative and interesting. As always, we are open to your suggestions and eager to hear your thoughts and concerns.

Sincerely,

Lawrence K. Marks



In November, U.S. District Judge Mary Kay Vyskocil, left, presented the Federal Bar Council's Emory Buckner Medal for Outstanding Public Service to Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, right.



*“Our overarching goal is simple, and it goes to the very heart of our constitutional obligation – to fairly and promptly adjudicate every case that comes before us.”*

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

**FOCUS ON EXCELLENCE:**

# The Excellence Initiative

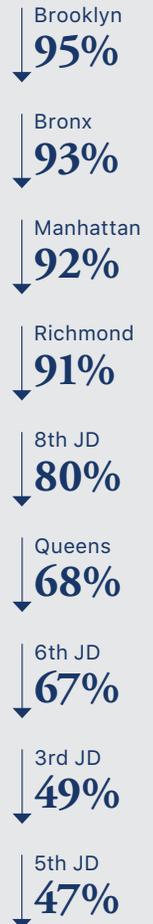
Since her earliest days in office, Chief Judge Janet DiFiore has established as the Unified Court System’s foremost priority the Excellence Initiative, a detailed, comprehensive and ongoing evaluation of all court processes and procedures to determine what is working well and what needs improvement. The initiative is an evidence-based, think-outside-the-box approach that rejects satisfaction with the status quo, encourages creativity and demands accountability. It is a recognition, on a daily basis, that the cases filed in our state courts have profound consequences not only for the parties in a given litigation but for the well-being of our communities.

## Reducing Backlogs and Delays

Each day, UCS judges address issues of crucial importance to the litigants who appear before them—issues such as whether an at-risk child is removed from parental care, a parent is awarded custody of the family’s children, a victim collects damages after suffering a life-changing personal injury, or an order of protection is issued to protect a vulnerable person in danger of imminent harm. Judges determine shareholder rights within a corporation, settle estates, appoint guardians to protect the interests of incapacitated persons, oversee criminal trials and perform innumerable other critical functions in the operation of our legal system. Each of those issues and functions must be addressed in a timely manner.

The courts use a number of measures, including “standards and goals,” to assess the timeliness of resolution of cases. Under the Excellence Initiative, the Unified Court System has improved its performance in resolving older cases across the State by virtually every measure.

**Misdemeanor Backlog Reduction**



**Felony Backlog Reduction**



**Civil Case Backlog Reduction**

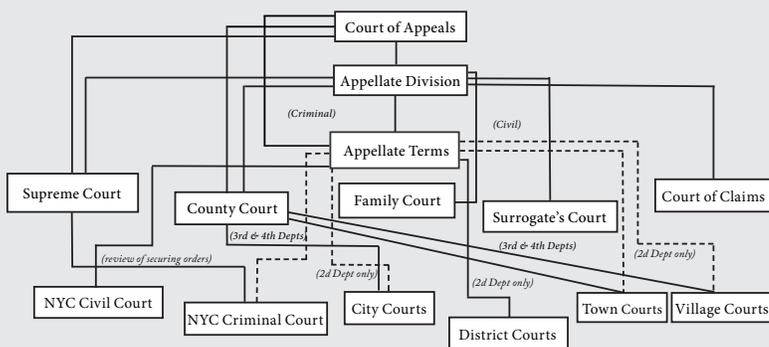


## FOCUS ON THE COURTS: Court Merger

While the court system has made tremendous progress under the Excellence Initiative, future progress has been compromised by structural hurdles and systemic inefficiencies—features of the court structure established under New York’s Constitution that greatly restrict the capacity of court administrators to deploy resources in the most effective manner. New York State has the country’s most unwieldy trial court structure, with 11 distinct trial courts, each with its own subject matter (and often geographical) jurisdiction and rules. This structure presents a confusing hodgepodge to lawyers and litigants, often makes it difficult to present complicated legal matters in a single courtroom before a single judge, and seriously hampers the effective deployment of judicial and nonjudicial resources where they are most needed. New York is alone among the 50 states in having so many trial courts and the problems presented with them. California, for example, has only one trial court.

In September 2019, Chief Judge DiFiore announced a visionary proposal to streamline this complex maze of trial courts and replace it with a simplified three-level structure that would result in a more efficient, effective and transparent trial court system.

### Current NYS Court Structure



*“New Yorkers expect and deserve a modern court system that is easy to access, use and understand; that speeds rather than impedes the resolution of cases; that keeps litigation costs down for individuals and businesses; that gives judges and court staff flexibility to perform their job functions effectively; and that enables judges to decide cases in a more coordinated, cost-effective manner.”*

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore



*“The many benefits of consolidating and simplifying New York’s trial courts include very substantial cost savings for litigants, savings in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually. These savings include lower attorney fees, fewer lost workdays, reduced childcare expenses, and lower transportation costs.”*

Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks



*“New York’s court system, with its 11 separate constitutionally enshrined trial-level courts, is unquestionably the most fragmented and complicated court system in our nation and, perhaps, even in the world. No one sitting down today to devise a judicial branch of government could have come up with it.”*

Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman  
Presiding Justice,  
Appellate Division, Second Department



If implemented, that proposal would:

- consolidate New York’s 11 different trial courts into a simple three-level structure consisting of three trial courts: Supreme Court, a Municipal Court and Justice Courts.
- merge the Court of Claims, the County Courts, the Family Courts and the Surrogate’s Courts into Supreme Court, eliminating a confusing array of courts and increasing diversity on the Supreme Court and Appellate Division, particularly upstate.
- establish within the merged Supreme Court six divisions — Family, Probate, Criminal, State Claims, Commercial and General — to permit specialization when necessary.
- combine New York City’s Civil and Criminal Courts, Long Island’s District Courts, and the 61 City Courts outside New York City into a new Municipal Court.
- preserve the pre-merger means of selection and terms of office of judges in these courts.
- eliminate the century-old constitutional cap on the number of Supreme Court judgeships that the Legislature may create (one judge per 50,000 residents in a Judicial District).
- empower the Legislature to change the number of Appellate Division departments once every 10 years to best meet New York’s appellate justice needs.

In addition to making the court system more efficient, easier to navigate and far better equipped to meet the needs of society, the proposal would ensure that every county in the state would have at least one resident Supreme Court justice.

Since the proposal necessitates a constitutional amendment, passage by two successive Legislatures is required before the initiative can be submitted to a public referendum. To accomplish the five-year phase-in proposed by the Chief Judge, the measure must be passed by the Legislature during its 2020 session, passed again during its 2021 session, and then approved by voters at the November 2021 general election.



*“Diversity and inclusion are not just trendy terms that are increasingly used in the legal profession; they are at the heart of promoting fundamental justice and respect for democratic institutions and the rule of law. . . Diversity on the bench lends credibility to a justice system that underrepresented groups, such as women and people of color, have historically viewed with suspicion and distrust.”*

Hon. Rolando T. Acosta  
Presiding Justice,  
Appellate Division, First Department



*“New York State’s court structure is an outdated can-of-worms that’s bad for families in crisis, bad for litigants, bad for business and bad for the state.”*

Hon. Craig J. Doran,  
Administrative Judge, Seventh Judicial District



*“New York State’s uniquely cumbersome court structure is not only an incoherent patchwork of courts but an actual impediment to the administration of justice, making it more difficult and more expensive for families in crisis, businesses and litigants to find the relief they so desperately seek from our judicial system.”*

Hon. Thomas A. Breslin,  
Administrative Judge, Third Judicial District



Appellate Division, First Department: central segment of a 62-foot wide mural, *The Transmission of the Law*, by H. Siddons Mowbray. This depicted segment, above the elevator in the main lobby of the courthouse, wraps around the encasement, and extends to the staircase walls on either side. The painting tracks the history of the law, starting with Mosaic Law, followed by Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Norman, Common Law, and ending with Modern Law.



*“Making ADR services widely available in civil courts throughout the State—and facilitating the use of such services as early as possible in the case—are major steps toward a more efficient, affordable and meaningful civil justice process.”*

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

## FOCUS ON INNOVATION:

# Alternative Dispute Resolution

The NYS Unified Court System is committed to promoting the appropriate use of mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) as a means of resolving disputes and conflicts. The statewide ADR office trained nearly 600 court staff and prospective neutrals in 2019. The trainings included 90-minute workshops for court attorneys, day-long workshops in settlement skills, 40-hour mediation training programs for family, estate and commercial law practitioners, and day-long tort neutral evaluation programs.

## Presumptive ADR

In a transformational move to advance the delivery and quality of civil justice, Chief Judge DiFiore and Chief Administrative Judge Marks in May of 2019 announced a systemwide initiative in which parties in civil cases will be referred to mediation or some other form of ADR as the first step in the case proceeding in court. The “presumptive ADR” model builds on prior successes of ADR in New York State and in other jurisdictions by referring cases routinely to mediation and other forms of ADR earlier in the life of a contested matter. It is based on recommendations of the court system’s Advisory Committee on ADR and includes expanding the scope of ADR to include the broadest possible range of civil case types.

As a part of the Chief Judge’s Excellence Initiative, presumptive ADR builds on prior successes of alternative dispute resolution in New York State, by referring cases to mediation and other forms of ADR earlier in the life of a contested matter. Approximately, 85,000 cases have been referred to ADR across the state so far.

- In New York City, “Blockbuster Days” are scheduled with large clusters of cases involving a single insurance carrier calendared on the same day before a single judge who works to negotiate settlements between the parties. The settlement rate at Blockbuster Days in Queens, Bronx and Manhattan is consistently above 50 percent.
- On Long island, approximately 5,600 cases in Nassau County have been referred to presumptive ADR since October, and in Suffolk County a matrimonial mediation program is settling cases at a rate of over 50 percent.
- In Western New York, 55 percent of the ADR referrals last year resulted in settlements.

Additionally, non-profit Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) have partnered with local Family Courts and judicial districts to expand custody and visitation mediation programming by piloting presumptive referrals to ADR.



*“When people are actively engaged in reaching their own resolution—rather than having one imposed on them by a court—they are invariably more satisfied with, and more likely to abide by, the resulting outcome.”*

Hon. Edwina G. Mendelson,  
Deputy Chief Administrative  
Judge for Justice Initiatives

## FOCUS ON: Family and Society

Desperate families turn to our courts, often as a last resort, to deal with all manner of vexing societal problems, from child neglect, to poverty, to housing, to crime. The UCS is committed to providing the necessary tools within the courts to make the experience as efficient and painless as possible, and to help traumatized individuals and families begin healing.

### Children’s Centers

Every day, hundreds of young children accompany caregivers to scheduled court appearances. In court, children may be exposed to disturbing proceedings, and their presence can be a distraction from judicial business. In response, the UCS developed the nation’s first statewide system of Children’s Centers in the courts. The Centers provide a safe, cheerful, welcoming, literacy-rich environment and an opportunity for positive interventions in the lives of vulnerable children. 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 2019:

- 31,143 children visited the 29 Children’s Centers.
- Children’s Center staff made 19,393 referrals to services. Our focus in the program in 2019 was improving knowledge of and referrals to community services.
- Across the State, Center staff reported utilizing volunteers to assist with operations for a total of 15,945 hours.

### Restorative Justice

A new partnership including two branches of government and four separate agencies—the Office of Court Administration, the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, the New York City Department of Probation, and the non-profit Community Dispute Resolution Centers—is taking a different approach with a new and novel program: the Community Resolve Initiative (CRI).

With an emphasis on accountability and healing, CRI will help young people gain a greater understanding of the harm they have caused, make amends to the victims and the community, heal relationships and prevent recidivism. Interventions will include:

- restorative conferences
- victim meetings
- connections to victim and other services
- impact statements from victims and other affected parties



<b>31,000+</b>	Children Visited Children Centers
<b>19,000+</b>	Referrals to Services

## Child Welfare Court Improvement Project

The Child Welfare Court Improvement Project (CWCIP) is a federally funded initiative that supports the Family Court's mandate to promote the safety, permanence and well-being of abused and neglected children.

In recognition of the integral role courts play in charting the course for children who are the subject of abuse, neglect, foster care, termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings, the project provides resources and technical assistance to promote continuous quality improvement at the intersection of the legal/judicial and child welfare systems.

The Office of Justice Initiatives is leading the statewide expansion of CWCIP to be more firmly rooted into the structure of the court system and integrated into the Chief Judge's Excellence Initiative.

For example, all eight counties of the Eighth Judicial District in Western New York joined the CWCIP, making the district the first in the state in which every county is actively engaged in court-led, multi-disciplinary collaborative work to improve permanency outcomes for children.

## Child Welfare Permanency Mediation

Permanency mediation is a consensual dispute resolution process for Family Court Article 10 cases in which a specially trained mediator helps parties to identify issues, clarify perceptions and explore options for a mutually acceptable outcome. Child permanency mediation program roster mediators are experienced mediators trained in advanced family mediation techniques, child welfare laws and regulations, domestic violence issues, large group facilitation techniques, trauma-informed care and cultural humility/implicit bias.

The Child Welfare Permanency Mediation program is offered through the CWIP. Currently there are approved programs in New York City and in the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Judicial Districts.

## Parenting Support Programs

*"Without this program, the Court may have to suspend parenting time, which may cause a further breakdown of the family relationship."*

Hon. Susan Kushner  
Albany County Family Court

In May, Third Judicial District Administrative Judge Thomas A. Breslin and Albany County Family Court Judge Susan Kushner announced an initiative to provide free supervised parenting time to families involved in custody disputes. The program is offered when a custody or family offense proceeding has been brought in Family Court and the Court must decide if a parent, due to a substance use disorder or other issues, should have only supervised visits with the child.



In May, Albany County Family Court Judge Susan Kushner presented a check from the Albany County Sheriff's Office to Frank Pindiak, Director of St. Catherine's Center for Children, to support a parenting time program for Family Court litigants. The Sheriff's Office donated \$10,000 in crime forfeiture funds. From left, Pindiak, Judge Kushner and Dave Schrepper, director of the program.

The Parent Support Program, which had been operational in Kings and Bronx counties, was expanded to New York County in 2019. The program, funded through the Center for Court Innovation, provides for the assignment of a social worker to the Family Court Support Parts to assist non-custodial parents in meeting their support obligation.



Dome of the rotunda, Court of Appeals, Albany, NY.



*“New York State has become the acknowledged national leader in meeting the civil legal needs of low-income New Yorkers.”*

Chief Judge DiFiore

The annual Kathryn A. McDonald Awards for Excellence in Service to the New York City Family Court were held in May at the New York City Bar Association. From left: Hon. Jeanette Ruiz, Administrative Judge, New York City Family Court; Chief Judge Janet DiFiore; Liberty Aldrich, Managing Director, Center for Court Innovation (award winner); Angela Britton, Supervising Court Attorney, New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program (award winner); Hon. Paula J. Hepner (Ret.), New York City Family Court (award winner); and Roger Maldonado, President, New York City Bar Association.

## FOCUS ON ACCESS:

# Access to the Courts

The courts belong to the people, and that entails more than just physical access to facilities and proceedings. It also means access to the tools to participate in the legal process in a meaningful way. The UCS is committed to ensuring that our courts are accessible, in every sense, to the people who look to them for relief.

## Access to Justice

The Office for Justice Initiatives uses every resource available, including self-help services, volunteer lawyer and non-lawyer pro bono programs, technological tools and outreach programs, to advance the goal of justice for all. The Access to Justice program is dedicated to educating the public about the judicial system and removing barriers to justice.

In 2019, the UCS launched “Court Navigator” programs in Westchester County Family Court and Yonkers City Court, and served more than more than 210,000 court users statewide at various Help Centers. We opened the first Surrogate Court Help Center outside New York City in Erie County, in partnership with the Center for Elder Law & Justice. In its first three months, the Help Center assisted 2,182 unrepresented litigants.



Additionally, we:

- worked with pro bono coordinators from some of New York City’s largest law firms and corporations to help address unmet legal needs;
- implemented the Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias CLE requirement, which included the review of program submissions in the new category; engaged in ongoing discussions with NYS CLE Accredited Providers regarding the issuance of diversity credit; and developed guidance to assist attorneys and providers;
- granted expanded training opportunities for attorneys to join Attorneys for Children panels in the Third and Fourth Judicial Departments, which lack AFC attorneys in the various rural regions; and
- at the urging of the Permanent Commission on Access to Justice, began developing a system-wide training program for judges and court staff on issues relating to cultural competency, including such topics as implicit bias, inclusion, and how poverty might impact a litigant’s interaction with and navigation of the legal system.



Hon. Sherry Klein Heitler speaking at Staten Island Clergy Day, January 30, 2019, Richmond County Courthouse.

## Access to Counsel

Chief Judge DiFiore has been steadfast in her commitment to bridging the access to justice gap and ensuring that all New Yorkers have meaningful access to the courts and the legal assistance they need to secure the essentials of life. New York is a national leader on access to justice issues, thanks in no small measure to the \$100 million annually allocated by the Judiciary via its Civil Legal Services Program. But access to counsel is a never-ending commitment. The Permanent Commission on Access to Justice, chaired by Helaine Barnett, has an ongoing obligation to study, analyze and develop recommendations on all aspects of civil legal services to low-income New Yorkers, to issue recommendations for improved and increased access and to collaborate on access to justice issues, including expanded pro bono services and help for unrepresented litigants.

## Access for Persons with Disabilities

The New York Judiciary is committed to ensuring that the courts are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Each courthouse in the State has a designated liaison who is charged with the responsibility of assisting litigants, jurors, attorneys and other court users in obtaining the accommodations needed to ensure that they can meaningfully participate in the justice system. The Advisory Committee on Access for People with Disabilities is charged with advising the Chief Judge and Chief Administrative Judge on a broad scope of issues, including the procedures for requesting accommodations, training and other needs to ensure best practices in providing access for court users with special needs.

## Access to Language and Court Interpreters

New York is a diverse community of 62 counties with unique linguistic qualities—and one of our continuing challenges is providing interpreters in languages from Albanian to Yoruba, and everything in between. The New York State courts provide interpreting services for court users, at no expense to the person with limited English proficiency, regardless of their level of ability to communicate in the spoken English language.



**90,000+** Court Appearances

**120** Languages Interpreted

- In 2019, there were 90,000 court interpreter appearances in 120 languages. There are interpreters for 202 languages listed in the Court Interpreter Registry.
- Four ethics seminars and 11 webinars were held to improve court interpreting services.
- A court interpreter internship program was established with several colleges to attract students to the field of court interpreting. The program was highly successful: of the 72 eligible Spanish Court Interpreter candidates on the last Civil Service list, 12 went through our internship program; of the 12 candidates, 10 have been hired by the courts.



Bronx Surrogate's Court Help Center grand opening.

## Access to Information

The Court System is dedicated to facilitating access by the public to court and administrative records in full conformity with State law, and utilizes several different strategies to keep the public informed about court activities and information:



- In late 2019, the court system unveiled a new tool to provide the public with timely information on court closings and delays. Users who create a New York Courts Emergency Alert Portal Account can obtain emergency alerts tailored to those counties or regions of particular interest—rather than the statewide alerts previously available—and get the alerts in various media formats, including text message, email or telephone call.
- The Office of Justice Initiatives is spearheading a “plain language” initiative to ensure that court system materials and forms are clear, concise and intelligible to all of our constituents.
- American Sign Language Video Remote Interpreting was piloted in five counties: Erie, Kings, Monroe, Onondaga and Westchester.
- Order of protection forms were translated into additional languages—French, Haitian Creole, Karen (spoken in lower Myanmar and on the Myanmar-Thailand border) and Polish.
- 1-800-COURT-NY works to improve the court system’s delivery of services by providing callers with accurate and timely information, allowing the courts to focus on their core missions and manage their workloads more efficiently. It fields an average of 100,000 calls annually.
- The UCS launched the new “Ask a Law Librarian” service to help unrepresented litigants fully utilize our Public Access Law Libraries. Information is now available through online chat, text messaging and email.
- The court system also uses social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to keep the public up-to-date on court system news, closings and delays, important decisions and calendars. In 2019, the court system’s Amici podcast series became much more widely available through SoundCloud, iTunes, Stitcher and TuneIn.
- The Public Information Office exists to provide information about the court system to the media and those who work within the court system.
- The Office of Public Affairs works to promote awareness of the work of the New York State Judiciary among the public, the legal community and court employees.



*“Most of the children who appear in my court have endured considerable trauma and often tragedy in their young lives.”*

Hon. Jill S. Polk, Schenectady County Family Court Judge

Above: Schenectady County Family Court Judge Jill S. Polk (left) forged a partnership with Sabrina Houser of Big Brothers Big Sisters to establish a U-CAN (United Against Crime-Community Action Network) program. The program, which pairs volunteer mentors with struggling youth, expanded to Family Courts in Schenectady and Warren Counties (Judge Paulette Kershko) in 2019.

## FOCUS ON:

# Solving Problems

More than two decades ago, the New York State Unified Court System began to establish problem-solving courts to help judges and court staff better respond to the needs of litigants and the community. Problem-solving courts look to the underlying issues that bring people into the court system, and employ innovative approaches to address those issues. Through intensive judicial monitoring, coordination with outside services, mandating treatment where appropriate, the removal of barriers between courts and increased communication with stakeholders, these courts are able to change the way our system manages cases and responds to individuals, families and communities.

## Drug Treatment Courts

Among the earliest of the problem-solving courts were the Drug Treatment Courts, which were established to help defendants in non-violent criminal cases address the addiction that led to their criminal conduct.

In 2019:

- Peekskill City Court launched a specialized drug part to offer a treatment-based approach to eligible participants; and
- An innovative specialty court in Staten Island opened in January, targeting eligible drug offenders at high risk of overdose.

## Veterans' Treatment Courts

Many veterans suffer from service-related issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, or struggle with mental health or substance abuse issues. Veterans' Courts are presided over by judges with specialized training in the issues that face our veterans, enabling them to make appropriate referrals to treatment and community services.

In response to the unique needs of veterans, the Syracuse Veterans Service Treatment Court—the first court for veterans in the Fifth Judicial District—opened in June to divert appropriate cases of justice-involved veterans, offering substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment and other customized services in lieu of incarceration.

## DWI Courts

UCS partners with the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to provide ongoing training to judges and court personnel to ensure timely judicial intervention, consistency of sentencing and enhanced case processing in DWI cases throughout the state—all toward the goal of enhancing public safety on the roads and highways of New York.



Queens County Misdemeanor Veterans' Treatment Court grand opening, November 13, 2019.



Hon. Matthew D'Emic, Administrative Judge for Criminal Matters, Kings County, congratulates a graduate of the Brooklyn Mental Health Court, November 6, 2019.

## Domestic Violence / Integrated Domestic Violence Courts

Domestic Violence Courts handle criminal cases in which the defendant is charged with a domestic violence-related offense.

- With the opening in 2019 of the Otsego and Cattaraugus Integrated Domestic Violence courts, there are now 43 Domestic Violence and 43 Integrated Domestic Violence courts statewide.
- For the first time, all 62 counties have a trained advocate who can access e-filing of Family Court offense petitions and arrange remote hearings for the elderly, disabled or those otherwise unable to come to court.

## Opioid Courts

Opioid Courts are rapid-response courts created to identify at arraignment those at risk of overdose and immediately link them to medical and substance abuse treatment, followed by regular, intensive supervision by a dedicated judge. The number of opioid courts in New York State doubled, from nine to 18, between 2018 and 2019, and 18 more are planned.

The Office of Policy and Planning and the Center for Court Innovation developed guidelines for the operation of Opioid Courts in New York State and published "The Essential Elements of Opioid Courts," which establishes a model for Opioid Court structure and operations and has received significant national attention.

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## Mental Health Courts

The first Mental Health Court (MHC) opened in Kings County in 2002. In 2019, new Mental Health Courts opened in Ithaca, Newburgh and Syracuse, bringing the total to 29. Four more are in the planning stages.

The Office of Policy and Planning created a Statewide Mental Health Court Working Group, which meets quarterly to discuss MHC issues and provide an opportunity for new MHC judges to learn from experienced judges.

## Human Trafficking Intervention Courts

In 2013, the Unified Court System launched a first-in-the-nation initiative to establish special courts to deal with the crisis. The opening of the Utica Human Trafficking Intervention Court (HTIC) in August marked the 12th HTIC in the state, with several more in the planning stages.

- UCS partnered with the Statewide Judicial Committee on Human Trafficking to develop a screening tool to identify these "hidden victims."
- In 2019, four HTICs were each awarded more than \$500,000 in federal grants (two from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and two from the Office on Violence Against Women) to expand the provision of mental health treatment and other support services for survivors of trafficking.



*“The Commercial Division is uniquely qualified to increase taxable revenue . . . while stimulating job growth. It strengthens New York City’s ability to attract and retain businesses, which add jobs, fuels demand for real property, and increases tax revenue. The tax revenues from local businesses also provide financial support for the New York State judicial system.”*

Proclamation,  
New York City Council

## FOCUS ON:

# Specialty Courts

In addition to problem-solving courts, the UCS maintains several specialty courts that provide a unique venue for the resolution of particular categories of cases, such as commercial cases, cases that arise in the town and village courts, and matters at the intersection of state law and Indian Nation law.

## Commercial Division

The Commercial Division, which dates to 1993, has established itself as not only a world-class court, but an economic engine for the state. In 2019, the Commercial Division Advisory Council issued a bellwether report on the economic benefits of the Commercial Division. The report demonstrates that the Commercial Division:

- helps New York State to attract and retain businesses;
- generates revenue for the legal community in New York State and for vendors, suppliers and others who benefit economically from legal activities;
- enables businesses in New York to operate more efficiently and productively by reducing the amount of time and money businesses are required to devote to dispute resolution; and
- helps to develop a body of New York commercial law which enables businesses to predict the legal consequences of their business decisions and to thereby avoid having to go to court in the first place.

In 2019, the court adopted new procedural rules and refined existing rules, revised forms and enacted innovations for expediting and streamlining litigation, utilizing technology and embracing alternative dispute resolution. The ultimate goal of these changes is to make the business litigation process in New York more cost-effective, predictable and expeditious, and to thereby provide a more hospitable and attractive environment for business litigation in New York State.



Seneca County opened a centralized arraignment court in 2019. Attending the ribbon cutting were: Seventh District Administrative Judge Craig J. Doran; Nancy Sunukjian, Director of the Office of Justice Court Support; Assistant Deputy Counsel Anthony C. Rossi; and Acting Supreme Court Justice Richard A. Dollinger of Monroe County.

## Town and Village Courts

In the 57 counties outside of New York City, more than 1,800 town and village justices and over 1,900 town and village court clerks ensure the fair, speedy and cost-effective adjudication of approximately two million cases annually. The Office of Justice Court Support provides legal, administrative and operational support to the courts, fielding more than 20,000 inquiries annually.

- During 2019, attorneys with the Office of Justice Court Support apprised judges and clerks how proceedings in the justice courts would be affected by statutory changes regarding bail, discovery in criminal cases, evictions, marijuana, crimes committed by minors and speedy trial requirements. Staff attorneys also participated in statewide working groups to ensure that the justice courts received the technical support and guidance needed to implement these changes smoothly.
- The Office of Justice Court Support administers the Justice Court Assistance Program, which provides individual local courts with up to \$30,000 in annual grant funding to improve court facilities and enhance court operations.

## Indian Nation Courts

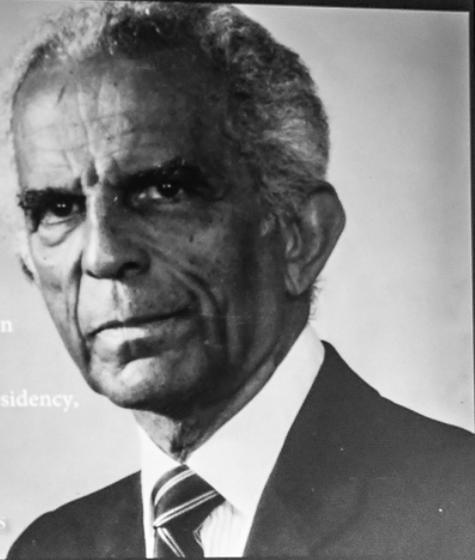
The New York State Courts promote judicial collaboration with the indigenous population and have emerged as a national leader in improving the administration of justice for tribal nations within the state.

The Child Welfare Court Improvement Project collaborates with New York State Indian Tribes through participation and support of the New York Federal-State-Tribal Courts and Indian Nations Justice Forum, Office of Children and Family Services Department of Native American Services and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court Improvement Project.

- In 2019, the first annual Indian Child Welfare Act conference was initiated by the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court Improvement Project.
- The UCS has joined with the Federal Courts within New York State and the justice systems of New York's nine Indian tribal nations to establish a Federal-State-Tribal Courts forum.
- The forum explores ways in which the different court systems can collaborate, nurture mutual understanding and foster mutual respect.
- Judges, court personnel, child welfare workers and tribal nation officials address problems of mutual concern, promote efficiency, facilitate child support enforcement and encourage common law enforcement goals.

...p now.  
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...s progressed  
...weat and blood of  
...acks; a nation that  
...lavery then outlawed it;  
...perate but equal as a valid  
...concept then rejected it; a nation  
...painfully-tragically-evolved  
...here a black can run for the presidency.  
...as come so far, must not now  
...uggle to rid itself of racism.

-Franklin H. Williams



A screening of a new documentary on Franklin H. Williams (<https://www.nspw.gov/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>) in Buffalo on June 25 attracted a large audience that included Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Buffalo Mayor Byron W. Brown, Court of Appeals Judge Eugene M. Fahey, retired Court of Appeals Judge Eugene F. Pigott Jr., Appellate Division, Fourth Department, Presiding Justice Gerald J. Whalen, Associate Justice Shirley Troutman, retired Associate Justice Samuel L. Green and Joyce Y. Hartsfield, executive director of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission.



*“Workforce diversity is an important factor in fostering mutual respect among employees. Recruitment and retention of a diverse judicial workforce is essential in promoting public trust in our judicial system.”*

Chief Judge Janet DiFiore

Above: Chief Judge DiFiore with former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson of Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton and Garrison at a June conference on race, ethnicity and immigration sponsored by the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission.

## FOCUS ON:

# Diversity and Inclusion

## Office of Diversity and Inclusion

From recruitment efforts, to outreach, and professional development programs, the mission of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion is to ensure that the court system’s workforce reflects and embraces the faces, cultures and perspectives of those it serves. It collaborates with diversity and inclusion advocates from within the court system and beyond, to reach communities of color and other underrepresented populations, with the message that the NYS Courts are a diverse and inclusive place, where we not only value our employees but where we strive to treat our “customers” with dignity, respect and equality. To that end, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in 2019:

- Created the “Diversity Dialogue” interview series featuring nonjudicial court employees who share stories of their ascension in the court system and the significance of diversity. Transcripts of those interviews are on the Diversity Dialogue web page. Additionally, the audio interviews were converted to Amici podcasts.



*“The court is a great place to work – hands down the best place I’ve ever worked. What you invest in the court system, in my opinion, is what it will invest in you.”*

Nala Woodard  
Chief Clerk, Albany County Family Court



*“I like to get to know the employees. I like to know something about their lives. Getting to know them helps me to assign them to places where they can flourish, and where they can really address the needs of the diverse individuals who come into the court.”*

Tamara Kersh  
Chief Clerk, Queens County Supreme Court



*“Diversity is everybody bringing together their own unique backgrounds and different perspectives. It’s a collaboration that strengthens and enriches the atmosphere. I think the more diverse backgrounds and viewpoints that we are all exposed to, it just makes us more knowledgeable, enriches our experience and broadens our outlook.”*

Kris Singh  
Principal Court Attorney, Fourth Judicial District



The Diversity Task Force, created in 2019, convened in Albany to create an action plan for increasing diversity in the court system workforce.

- Helped update the “Careers in the Courts” booklet, depicting women, minorities and people with disabilities in a wide range of positions;
- Expanded recruitment efforts to more than 100 historically black colleges and universities, minority bar associations throughout the state, multi-denominational religious organizations, veterans’ service organizations, housing authorities and the New York City Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities; and
- Worked with the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge’s Diversity Task Force, which is comprised of more than 40 judicial and non-judicial employees in regions outside metropolitan New York City.



The Tribune Society, Inc. of the Courts in the State of New York held its 4th Career Development Workshop in September. The career development program’s mission is to provide the tools necessary for each person to explore further job opportunities within the New York State Unified Court System.



A special ceremony was held at the Nassau County Supreme Court in July to dedicate a portrait of former Supreme Court Justice Michele M. Woodard, the first African-American woman elected to Supreme Court in the 10th Judicial District. L-R: Justice Woodard, Hon. Norman St. George, Administrative Judge of Nassau County, and Gregory Lisi, vice president of the Nassau County Bar Association



It took 116 years, but the first African-American graduate of Syracuse Law School was finally admitted to practice law in 2019, albeit posthumously. William Herbert Johnson earned a law degree in 1903, but was denied admission to the New York State Bar due to his race. That injustice was recently addressed by the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, which admitted Mr. Johnson to the profession in a ceremony in the Onondaga County Courthouse. In the front row, Presiding Justice Gerald J. Whalen, far left, and the Clerk of the Court, Mark W. Bennett, far right, flank Mr. Johnson’s grandchildren. In the back row are Appellate Division Justices John V. Centra, Edward D. Carni and Shirley Troutman.



A screening of a new documentary on Franklin H. Williams in Buffalo on June 25. Group photo left to right: Lenora Foote-Beavers Esq.; Hon. Mark A. Montour; Hon. Yvonne Lewis; Francis M. Letro, Esq.; Hon. Shirley Troutman; Lt. Governor Hochul; Justice Green, (ret.); Nadine Johnson, Esq.; and Joyce Y. Hartsfield, Esq.

## Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission

The Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission is composed of judges, attorneys and court administrators appointed by the Chief Judge to develop strategies to make the court system more responsive to the issues faced by people of color in the courts, including litigants and the larger legal community, and to implement recommendations to address those issues. In 2019:

- The Commission released a 40-minute documentary on its namesake, Franklin H. Williams, a prominent civil rights attorney who built the NAACP in the western third of the nation, helped organize the Peace Corps and served as Ambassador to Ghana, before he was asked to undertake a top-to-bottom examination of the state court system. The film debuted at Fordham Law School, Ambassador Williams’ alma mater, in February, and was followed by events in Buffalo and Albany. It was also shown during the annual Judicial Institute summer training sessions in White Plains. The film is currently being reformatted for PBS distribution.
- An immigration conference was held at St. John’s University School of Law on June 13;
- The Commission coordinated professional training sessions in the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts over a four-month period; and
- Longtime Executive Director Joyce V. Hartsfield retired after more than two decades and was succeeded by Mary Lynn Nicolas-Brewster.



FHW Director Joyce Y. Hartsfield retired in 2019 after more than two decades of service.



Lenora Foote-Beavers, a member of the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, was elected to Buffalo City Court in November.



Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin (Ret.)(center), a pioneering jurist who was the first woman appointed to the Appellate Division, First Department, and the first woman Presiding Justice of that court, was honored by the Bronx Women’s Bar Association during Women’s History Month. Justice Ellerin was presented with a proclamation, a gift and a cake commemorating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## NYS Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

In response to respected academic studies that questioned whether women were treated fairly and justly in our nation’s court systems, Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke in 1984 established a task force to examine the courts of New York State, “identify gender bias and, if found, make recommendations for its alleviation.” That led to a continuing examination and re-examination of the court system’s interactions with women.

- Twenty-four local gender bias and gender fairness committees addressed issues in different geographic regions, conducting myriad public awareness and continuing legal education programs.
- The Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts in 2019 completed a statewide survey of attorneys practicing in New York State courts to examine progress over the past three decades and identify new areas of concern. A report will be issued in 2020.
- The Third Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, chaired by Hon. Rachel Kretser (ret.), in 2019 presented programs on the role of men in women’s suffrage, and a new law criminalizing the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images (“revenge porn”), and also produced oral history interviews with pioneering women attorneys.



At the National Association of Women Judges-NY dinner in September: Hon. Kathie Davidson, Administrative Judge, 9th JD; Hon. Doris Gonzalez, Administrative Judge, 12th JD; Hon. Marguerite Grays, NAWJ-NY President & Deputy Administrative Judge, 11th JD; Hon. Marcy Kahn, Associate Justice, Appellate Division, First Department; Hon. Deborah Kaplan, Administrative Judge, 1st JD; and Hon. Hon. Joanne D. Quinones, NAWJ-NY Treasurer.



Brooklyn Judges at the National Association of Women Judges-NY dinner in September: Hon. Joanne D. Quinones; Hon. Lizette Colon; Hon. Joy Campanelli; Hon. Robin Sheares; Hon. Marguerite Grays (NAWJ-NY President & Deputy Administrative Judge, 11th JD); Hon. Betty J. Williams (ret.); Hon. Cenceria Edwards; Hon. Rosemarie Montalbano; Hon. Cheryl Gonzales; and Hon. E. Niki Warin.

- The Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, chair of the Committee on Women in the Courts, appointed a subcommittee to draft educational models for the local Gender Fairness Committees to use as a guide. The Hon. Marcia P. Hirsch, Acting Supreme Court Justice, is chairing the subcommittee.



The Hon. Marcy Kahn, the founding chair of the LGBT Community Center’s board and co-chair of the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission of the New York Courts, was honored at a Manhattan retirement party. Justice Kahn served on the Appellate Division, First Department. Front row: Tom Burrows, Hon. Margaret Walsh, Hon. Rosalyn Richter, Hon. Elizabeth Garry, Hon. Paul Feinman and Meredith Miller. Back row: Hon. Joanne Winslow, Judge Kahn, and Matthew Skinner. Photo by Amy Mayes [www.amymayesphotography.com](http://www.amymayesphotography.com)

## Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission

Bearing the name of a jurist who pioneered advocacy for LGBTQ rights throughout his career, the Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission is dedicated to promoting equal participation and access throughout the court system by all persons regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. In furtherance of that mission, the Commission in 2019:

- Led the effort—in the wake of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA)—to install restroom access signs statewide confirming that people can use restrooms consistent with their gender identity without interference;
- Proposed amendments to court system attorney registration and juror forms that will give people the option to precisely indicate their sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Played key roles with programs and symposia exploring LGBTQ history and current topics at Fordham University School of Law, St. John’s University School of Law and Albany Law School;
- Helped develop a comprehensive timeline of modern LGBTQ legal history for CLE presentations at Nixon Peabody LLP and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York;
- Organized events throughout the state for LGBTQ Pride Month in June, including the first Pride Month events ever in Nassau County, Staten Island, Jamestown and Cooperstown;
- Marked the 30th anniversary of the groundbreaking Braschi relationship recognition decision and collaborated on an event with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit to highlight the 25th anniversary of the nomination and confirmation of U.S. District Court Judge Deborah A. Batts; and
- Organized a Veterans and Families Resources Fair in conjunction with the New York State Division of Veterans’ Affairs, SAGE and the Office of Policy and Planning.



The Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission commemorated the 30th anniversary of the New York Court of Appeals decision in *Braschi v. Stahl Associates Company*, marking the first time an American appellate court gave a same-sex couple legal recognition. Left to right: Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City Courts George Silver; Richard C. Failla LGBTQ Commission Executive Director Matthew Skinner; New York State Bar Association President Hank Greenberg; Staten Island Surrogate Matthew Titone; Miguel Braschi’s sister Giannina Braschi; former State Senator Tom Duane; and Harvard Law Professor Bill Rubenstein, who argued the case.



In September, more than 70 members of the Nassau County Bar Association's Commercial Litigation Section toured a state-of-the-art courtroom that is both fully ADA-compliant and showcases technology, including large screen displays and interactive web-based presentations. Counsel will be able to use the hardware in the courtroom and access the system with their own personal devices such as laptops and smart phones.

## FOCUS ON: Technology

The UCS is committed to providing the court system with the tools it needs to achieve the efficiency expected through the Excellence Initiative. In 2019, the court system greatly expanded e-filing, and created a new dashboard for the Office of Language Access to track interpreter hours and help the courts find available nearby interpreters. It also developed a new centralized system to send automated notifications via text, phone, email or first-class mail, to remind defendants of their court appearance dates, and implemented a new Fiduciary Case Management System, providing a fully online paperless system that saves significant time and effort.

The court system also created a statewide database for all courts participating in the Presumptive Alternative Dispute Resolution initiative and administered the first large computer-based test for the office clerical exam, to 7,646 test takers. "CourtHelp" continues to serve as an online tool where people can find easy to understand legal and procedural information, forms and helpful links. A new webpage was implemented where court attorneys, marshals and court clerks can quickly and easily see the status of warrants, eliminating 350 calls a day and allowing the courts to better deploy and utilize staff.

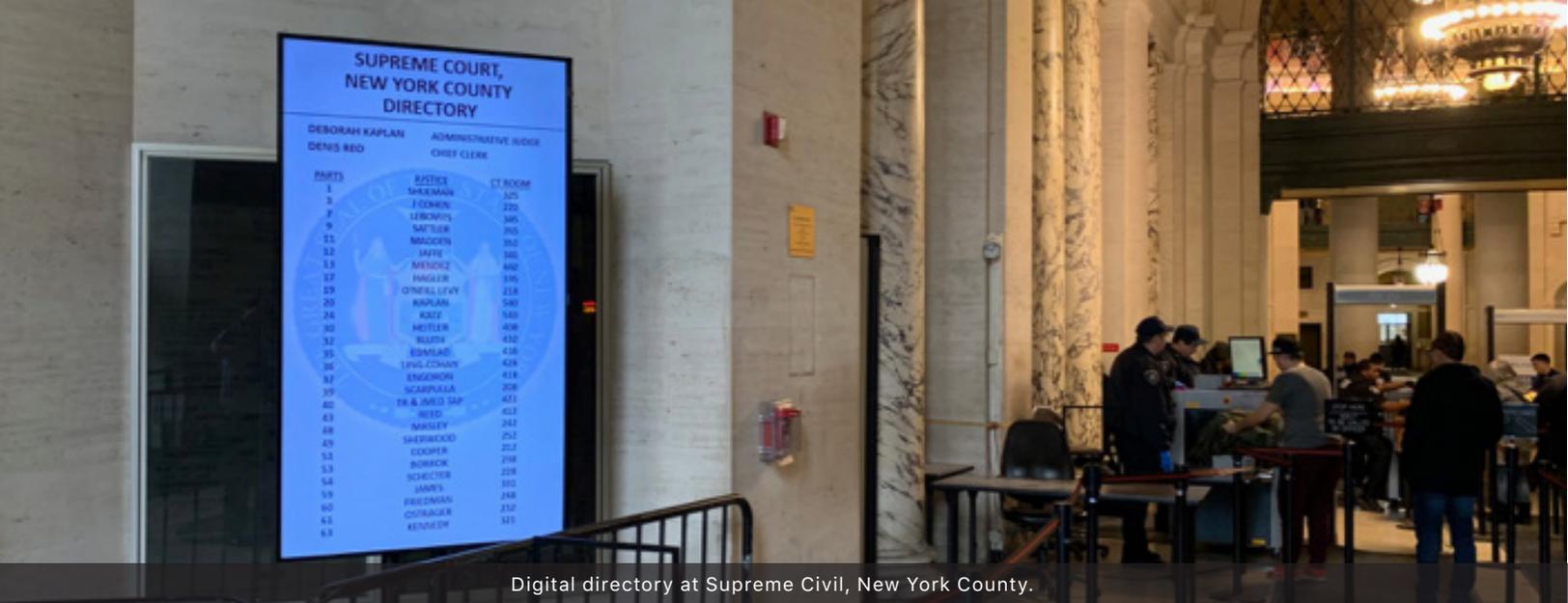
The UCS also:

- Developed electronic certification of records for individual courts with two key goals: enabling courts to store electronic records in ways that ensure readability going forward; and allowing courts to dispose of paper originals to save space in crowded facilities; and
- Equipped courts with digital hubs that enable mobile presentation of evidence and video conferencing systems.

### New Online Tool for Homeowners in Foreclosure Cases

Five years ago, at the end of 2014, there were more than 92,000 foreclosure cases across the state; by late 2019, there were fewer than 33,000. While foreclosure rates have declined since the height of the Great Recession, each year tens of thousands of New York homeowners still fall into arrears on their mortgages. The court system stepped up to the challenge presented by the residential foreclosure crisis, implementing new strategies and devoting resources toward ensuring that these cases are handled expeditiously and fairly.

- In June, the Office of Justice Initiatives and the Office of Policy and Planning unveiled an online program to assist homeowners in residential foreclosure lawsuits prepare the paperwork needed to proceed with the case. OPP also created an informational video to help familiarize homeowners with the foreclosure process.
- The new Foreclosure A2J Answer Program, a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) step-by-step computer program, asks homeowners a series of questions relating to their foreclosure cases, and then generates personalized answer forms ready for filing with the court.



Digital directory at Supreme Civil, New York County.



Nassau County Commercial Division.



Madison County Multi-Bench Court.

## e-Filing

From the introduction of e-filing in New York in 1999 through the end of 2019, over 2.3 million cases have been e-filed through the New York State Courts Electronic Filing System (NYSCEF). Over 135,000 attorneys and other persons have been active registered users of e-filing, a number that will continue to grow as attorneys and others become familiar with the ease of e-filing and its many advantages.

- e-filing was implemented in all four Appellate Divisions, and in 2020 it will expand to Kings County, with the Bronx and Richmond counties to follow.
- Ten counties will implement e-filing in 2020 in superior criminal courts, and a pilot e-filing program is in works for the New York City Housing Court.
- Integrating the various court computer applications with NYSCEF will result in efficiencies, saving labor and costs and improving service for the bar and litigants.

## eTrack

Our free case information service provides information on future appearance dates for cases in Criminal and Family Courts. Individuals may also view information on both active and disposed cases in Civil Supreme and local Civil Courts, and by signing up for our eTrack case tracking service, individuals can receive email updates and appearance reminders for Civil Supreme and Local Civil Court cases.

## FOCUS ON: Legislative Enactments

In fulfilling its constitutional role, the court system must implement the policy choices of the Executive and Legislative branches and modify its procedures to facilitate and enforce new and evolving statutory and regulatory requirements. UCS prides itself on meeting that challenge. In 2019, the Legislature enacted major bail and discovery reform measures and implemented the final phase of the “raise-the-age” initiative, all of which required major modifications in court procedures. The court system was a particularly active partner in applying legislation that raised the age of criminal responsibility to 18.

### Raise the Age

New York State was the second-to-last state in the nation to increase the age of criminal responsibility to at least 18. The Raise the Age law became fully effective on Oct. 1, 2019.



- The Office of Justice Initiatives along with the NYS Judicial Institute developed enhanced 2019 summer judicial seminars.
- The vast majority of cases of young people under age 18 are now being addressed in the Family Court system, both by direct appearance in non-Vehicle & Traffic Law misdemeanors and by way of removal of felony matters initiated in the Youth Parts.
- Expeditious removals to Family Court are occurring consistently throughout the state.
- Sixteen- and seventeen-year-old youths arrested for felonies are now having their cases heard before specially trained Youth Part judges or during off hours before specially trained Accessible Magistrates.
- After-hour proceedings have been expanded to seven-days-a-week for all Adolescent Offenders, Juvenile Offenders and for Juvenile Delinquency pre-petition hearings when the Youth Part or Family Court is not in session.
- Our courts have issued over 80 decisions addressing the application of raise-the-age.

### Bail Reform

Following an in-depth study and many months of robust debate and discussion, the New York State Justice Task Force in February 2019 released a report setting forth its recommendations for bail reform, an issue that has garnered increased attention in New York and throughout the country. The Task Force had previously endorsed a presumption that defendants facing misdemeanor and certain non-violent felony charges be released without bail, and clarified which non-violent felony charges should not be included in the presumption of release, as well as which aggravating circumstances could cause that presumption to be denied. Legislation similar to many of those recommendations was enacted and will take effect in 2020.

### Child Victims Act

*“The revived Child Victims Act cases are critically important cases, raising numerous challenging legal issues that must be adjudicated as consistently and expeditiously as possible across the State. We are fully committed to providing appropriate and sufficient resources to achieve that goal.”*

#### Chief Administrative Judge Marks

The New York State Legislature opened a one-year, one-time window period, permitting plaintiffs to file claims against their alleged abusers and the institutions that protected them, regardless of how long ago the abuse occurred. The court system responded to the anticipated influx of cases under the Child Victims Act by designating 45 judges statewide to handle those cases and implementing new rules to ensure the timely, consistent handling of the lawsuits.



Captain Michael Castellano walked down the steps of 60 Centre Street, Manhattan, for the final time on June 26. Captain Castellano, who began his 38-year career in 1981, was feted by the New York State Court Officers Pipe and Drums band as he marched to retirement.

## FOCUS ON: Safety and Security

The protection of our staff and the people we serve—the public—is paramount, and the Unified Court System employs approximately 4,000 highly-trained uniformed court officers, making it one of the largest law enforcement agencies in the nation. They are charged with ensuring the safety and security of one of the largest, busiest and most complex court systems in the world. Notwithstanding the inherent challenges, the New York State court system is one of the safest in the country.

- Court officers are peace officers under New York law, entitled and required to wear the uniform and carry a weapon.
- In 2019, the court system launched an extensive recruitment drive to attract the best possible candidates, reflecting the diversity of the state. A court officer exam will be held from April to early June of 2020.
- Potential court officers must be at least 20½ years of age, a United States citizen and a resident of New York State. They must be a high school graduate or the equivalent, have a valid NYS driver's license and be eligible to purchase and carry firearms.



Chief Administrative Judge Marks in June presided over the largest ever graduation of court officers—a class of 222—which was the inaugural class of the new Court Officers Academy in Brooklyn.



Court Officers from the Applicant Verification & Compliance Unit attended CCNY's 2019 Career and Professional Development Institute's Career Fair on October 2, 2019 to promote the upcoming Court Officer Trainee written exam which will be given starting April. <http://ww2.nycourts.gov/careers/cot/index.shtml>.



Upstate, 79 trainees were administered the oath of office by the Hon. Vito C. Caruso, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for the Courts Outside New York City.



The New York State Courts Pipes and Drums corps, surrounding Chief Michael Magliano, marched in the 2019 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

# Fiscal Overview

The UCS operates on a fiscal year that runs from April 1 through March 31, with funding supplied through the State Budget and approved by the Legislature and Governor. The Judiciary annually seeks funding through a Judiciary Budget that, after approval by the Court of Appeals and a certification of need by the Chief Judge, is transmitted to the Governor for submission to the Legislature in accordance with Article VII, Section 1, of the State Constitution. Appropriations of \$3.2 billion were approved by the Legislature for the State Judiciary for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

- The court system collects substantial revenue through fines, fees and other means. In 2019, fines and fees totaled \$809,988,627, a figure which includes all state, county and city remedies, but does not include bail or other trusts.

**\$809,988,627**

Total Fines and Fees Collected in 2019

## Grants and Contracts

The Division of Professional & Court Services Grants and Contracts Unit reviews external funding opportunities for court system eligibility and alignment with the goals of the court system, provides technical assistance throughout the grant proposal development process, submits funding proposals on behalf of the Unified Court System and supports fiscal and programmatic reporting for approximately 85 active grant-funded projects.

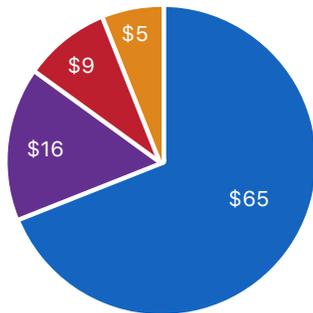
The Grants and Contracts Unit also provides fiscal management for approximately 230 contracts with external organizations that provide services in support of court operations. The ripple effect of those contracts is enormous. They support Judicial Civil Legal Services, the Attorney for the Child program, criminal indigent defense in New York City, community dispute resolution centers, the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, substance use disorder treatment programs, evaluation services, and a great deal more.

During 2019, the Grants and Contract Unit helped secure millions of dollars in grants from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance, including five grants to support drug courts and two to assist mental health courts, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office of Violence Against Women and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. These grants enable the courts to undertake cutting-edge initiatives with minimal impact on the New York State budget and the New York State taxpayers.

# \$284,728,387

## Criminal Search History Fees Collected in 2019

### \$95 Criminal Search History Fee Breakdown

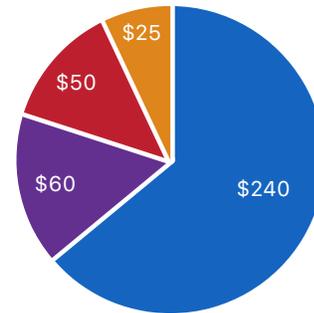


- Indigent Legal Services Fund - \$186,016,939
- Judicial Data Processing Offset Fund - \$52,646,106
- Legal Services Assistance Fund - \$29,613,434
- General Fund - \$16,451,908

# \$46,787,500

## Attorney Registration Fees Collected in 2019

### \$375 Attorney Registration Fee Breakdown



- Attorney Licensing Fund - \$29,944,000
- Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection - \$7,468,000
- Indigent Legal Services - \$6,238,333
- Legal Services Assistance Fund - \$3,119,167

## Criminal History Search Revenues

A portion of court system-collected revenue includes fees for services provided by UCS' Criminal History Search Unit, which, since 2003, has sold 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 these records produced by a search of its electronic database, charging a \$95 fee per name and date of birth searched. The fee was increased by the State Legislature in April 2019 from \$65 to benefit the Indigent Legal Services Fund.

The revenue generated from each search request is allocated as follows:

- \$65 to the Indigent Legal Services Fund
- \$16 to the Office of Court Administration's Judiciary Data Processing Offset Fund
- \$9 to the Legal Services Assistance Fund
- \$5 to the General Fund.

In 2019, the Criminal History Search Unit collected \$284.7 million for criminal history search records.

## Attorney Registration Revenues

Every attorney admitted to practice law in New York must file a biennial registration form. Attorneys actively practicing law in New York State or elsewhere must, upon registering, pay a \$375 fee, allocated as follows:

- \$240 to the Attorney Licensing Fund to cover the cost of the Appellate Division attorney admission and disciplinary programs;
- \$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 criminal defendants; and
- \$25 to the Legal Services Assistance Fund.

In 2019, the UCS collected \$46.8 million in attorney registration fees.



New York State Supreme Court, Queens County, Long Island City, New York.

# Court Structure and Caseload Activity

The Unified Court System is comprised of 11 separate trial courts, an Appellate Division with four regional departments, an Appellate Term that hears appeals from certain trial courts in certain regions of the state, and the Court of Appeals — the highest court in the State.

## Appellate Courts

The Court of Appeals is the state’s court of last resort. It 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. The court’s caseload activity is reported in Table 1.

Table 1: Caseload Activity in Court of Appeals - 2019							
Applications Decided [CPL 460.20(3)(b)]							2,493
Records on Appeal Filed							104
Oral Arguments							86
Appeals Decided							116
Motions Decided							1,177
Judicial Conduct Determinations Reviewed							7
Dispositions of Appeals Decided in the Court of Appeals by Basis of Jurisdiction							
BASIS OF JURISDICTION	AFFIRMED	REVERSED	MODIFIED	DISMISSED	OTHER*	TOTAL	
<b>All Cases</b>							
Dissents in Appellate Division	11	5	1	1	0	18	
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	32	21	4	0	0	57	
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	16	10	0	1	0	27	
Constitutional Question	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	1	0	0	0	11	12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>116</b>	
<b>Civil Cases</b>							
Dissents in Appellate Division	11	5	1	1	0	18	
Permission of Court of Appeals	11	12	2	0	0	25	
Permission of Appellate Division	4	6	0	1	0	11	
Constitutional Question	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other	1	0	0	0	11	12	
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>68</b>	
<b>Criminal Cases</b>							
Permission of Court of Appeals Judge	21	9	2	0	0	32	
Permission of Appellate Division Justice	12	4	0	0	0	16	
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>48</b>	

\*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)

Below the Court of Appeals is the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court, a mid-level appellate court. The Presiding Justice and Associate Justices of the Appellate Division in each Judicial Department are designated by the Governor from among Justices elected to the Supreme Court. The Presiding Justices serve for the duration of the term for which they were elected to Supreme Court; the Associate Justices may serve terms of five years or of indeterminate length, depending on the seats they are appointed to fill.

**Table 2: Caseload Activity in the Appellate Division - 2019**

	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal	
<b>Records on Appeal Filed</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>3,422</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>9,764</b>
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	3,439	155	4,480	516	828	111	0	0	9,529
Disposed of after argument or submission:									
Affirmed	1,127	644	1,637	966	575	291	387	393	6,020
Reversed	319	38	745	59	103	43	100	39	1,446
Modified	253	44	272	72	93	20	114	44	912
Dismissed	170	11	401	9	119	9	171	18	908
Other	78	12	98	74	1	1	2	13	279
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>5,386</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>7,633</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>774</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>19,094</b>
	FIRST DEPT		SECOND DEPT		THIRD DEPT		FOURTH DEPT		TOTAL
Oral Arguments*	1,432		2,160		607		742		<b>4,941</b>
Motions Decided*	5,564		9,114		6,803		5,483		<b>26,964</b>
Admissions to the Bar	2,652		2,336		3,353		286		<b>8,627</b>
Atty. Disciplinary Proceedings Decided	275		199		251		45		<b>770</b>

*\*Not broken down by civil or criminal.*

Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court in the First and Second Judicial 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 3: Caseload Activity in the Appellate Terms - 2019**

	FIRST DEPT			SECOND DEPT			TOTAL
	Civil	Criminal	Total	Civil	Criminal	Total	
<b>Records on Appeal Filed</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>2,153</b>
Disposed of before argument or submission (e.g., dismissed, withdrawn, settled)	9	10	19	758	651	1,409	1,428
Disposed of after argument or submission:							
Affirmed	100	187	287	293	165	458	745
Reversed	34	21	55	309	69	378	433
Modified	23	9	32	60	12	72	104
Dismissed	24	6	30	17	11	28	58
Other	2	-	2	33	4	37	39
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>2,382</b>	<b>2,807</b>
Oral Arguments*	300			359			659
Motions Decided*	1,419			5,166			6,585

*\*Not broken down by civil or criminal.*

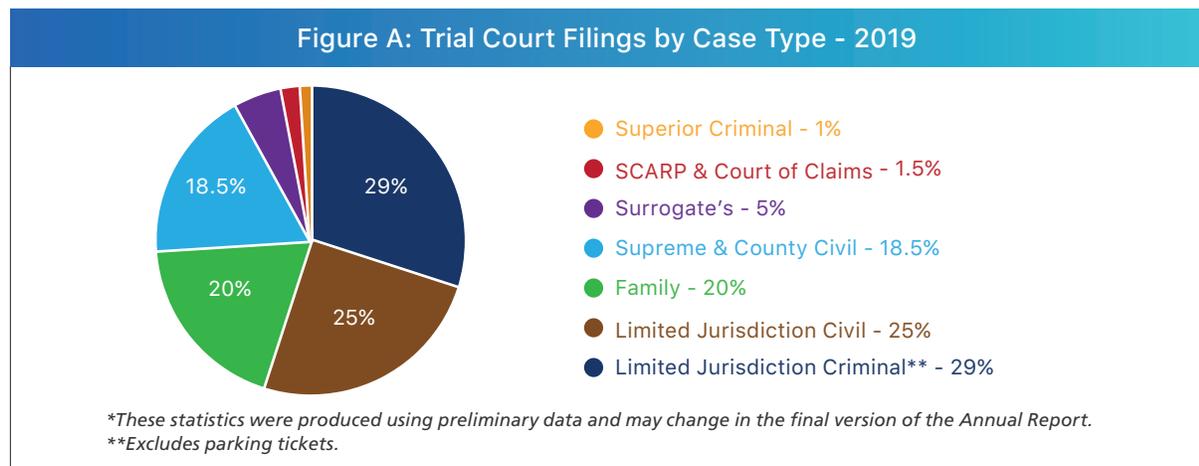
## Trial Courts

In 2019, 3,009,470 cases were filed statewide in the trial courts. Criminal cases (excluding parking tickets) accounted for 30 percent. Civil cases accounted for 45 percent. Twenty percent of the cases were in Family Court and 5 percent were in Surrogate’s Court. 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.

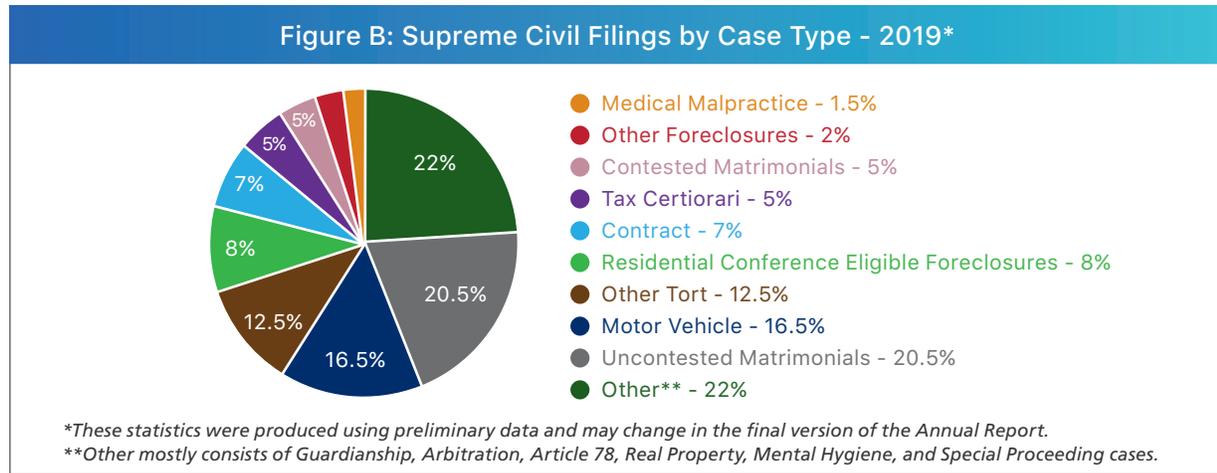
Table 4: Filings in the Trial Courts: Five-Year Comparison					
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
<b>Criminal</b>					
Supreme and County Courts Criminal <sup>a</sup>	45,655	46,067	44,283	43,040	38,966
Criminal Court of the City of NY <sup>b</sup>	622,730	566,145	434,045	313,929	278,928
City & District Courts Outside NYC <sup>b</sup>	642,871	637,044	631,255	592,231	558,700
Parking Tickets	100,059	108,452	104,984	93,286	108,950
<b>Criminal Total</b>	<b>1,411,315</b>	<b>1,357,708</b>	<b>1,214,567</b>	<b>1,042,486</b>	<b>985,544</b>
<b>Civil</b>					
Supreme Court Civil <sup>c</sup>	481,719	476,058	466,113	462,237	450,409
Civil Court of the City of NY <sup>d</sup>	528,059	507,389	529,356	552,122	540,583
City & District Courts Outside NYC <sup>d</sup>	190,177	173,574	182,450	191,675	186,406
County Courts Civil <sup>c</sup>	61,617	110,675	108,458	93,025	83,115
Court of Claims	1,894	1,794	1,816	1,765	1,801
Small Claims Assessment Review Program	55,568	46,638	44,211	40,466	42,029
<b>Civil Total</b>	<b>1,319,034</b>	<b>1,316,128</b>	<b>1,332,404</b>	<b>1,341,290</b>	<b>1,304,343</b>
<i>Family<sup>e</sup></i>	640,658	621,107	611,470	580,548	578,346
<i>Surrogate’s</i>	139,341	140,203	141,735	144,325	141,237
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,510,348</b>	<b>3,435,146</b>	<b>3,300,176</b>	<b>3,108,649</b>	<b>3,009,470</b>

\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.  
<sup>a</sup> Includes felonies and misdemeanors, of which 2,933 were misdemeanor filings in 2019.  
<sup>b</sup> NYC includes arrest and summons cases; outside NYC includes arrest cases and uniform traffic tickets.  
<sup>c</sup> Includes new cases, ex parte applications and uncontested matrimonial cases.  
<sup>d</sup> Includes civil, housing, small claims and commercial claims.  
<sup>e</sup> Includes Permanency Planning Hearings held.



**Supreme Court Civil Cases.** During 2019, there were 450,409 civil filings in Supreme Court, including 172,102 new cases, 233,767 ex parte applications and 44,540 uncontested matrimonial cases. A total of 483,880 matters reached disposition.

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



**Table 5: Supreme Civil Cases - 2019\***

Location	FILINGS		DISPOSITIONS				
	New Cases	Note of Issue	Total	Pre-Note	Note of Issue	Settlements	Verdicts
<b>Total State</b>	<b>172,102</b>	<b>47,343</b>	<b>201,538</b>	<b>147,113</b>	<b>54,425</b>	<b>59,268</b>	<b>4,293</b>
NYC	82,281	26,011	90,659	62,058	28,601	29,220	2,803
New York	16,568	3,939	17,695	13,494	4,201	7,398	332
Bronx	23,692	7,366	26,081	15,515	10,566	10,635	1,002
Kings	19,100	4,551	22,642	17,962	4,680	4,168	380
Queens	19,328	9,176	20,529	12,273	8,256	5,800	1,037
Richmond	3,593	979	3,712	2,814	898	1,219	52
ONYS	89,821	21,332	110,879	85,055	25,824	30,048	1,490
Albany	3,361	410	3,469	2,938	531	373	9
Allegany	191	47	224	177	47	35	1
Broome	1,058	138	1,384	1,120	264	33	2
Cattaraugus	331	45	372	343	29	138	0
Cayuga	437	58	586	434	152	18	0
Chautauqua	534	89	737	621	116	99	4
Chemung	471	79	478	392	86	27	0
Chenango	177	66	305	223	82	23	4
Clinton	425	71	458	373	85	115	2
Columbia	345	73	322	260	62	44	2
Cortland	147	25	203	153	50	17	3
Delaware	269	56	403	323	80	7	0
Dutchess	2,631	544	3,080	2,248	832	1,365	20
Erie	6,728	917	8,479	7,441	1,038	1,565	43
Essex	173	25	204	169	35	13	0
Franklin	301	43	370	283	87	82	0
Fulton	327	59	498	424	74	152	3
Genesee	284	31	345	286	59	104	1
Greene	327	53	349	276	73	59	1
Herkimer	303	48	394	326	68	26	2
Jefferson	488	141	712	513	199	35	3

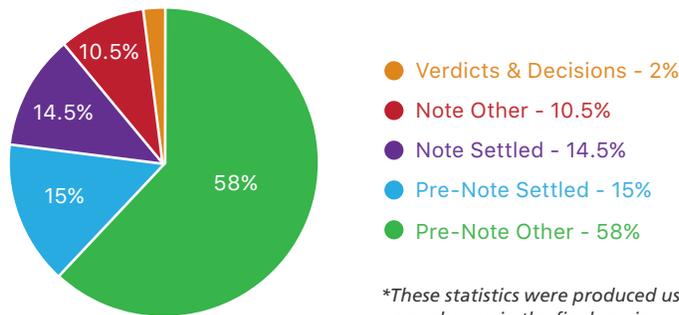
*\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.*

Table 5: Supreme Civil Cases - 2019\*

Location	FILINGS		DISPOSITIONS				
	New Cases	Note of Issue	Total	Pre-Note	Note of Issue	Settlements	Verdicts
<b>Total State</b>	<b>172,102</b>	<b>47,343</b>	<b>201,538</b>	<b>147,113</b>	<b>54,425</b>	<b>59,268</b>	<b>4,293</b>
Lewis	87	20	118	88	30	28	0
Livingston	218	47	301	248	53	18	0
Madison	233	63	192	149	43	24	0
Monroe	3,784	822	5,201	4,102	1,099	195	20
Montgomery	291	23	349	321	28	113	0
Nassau	17,045	4,743	21,405	14,049	7,356	11,341	539
Niagara	1,164	163	1,555	1,342	213	277	10
Oneida	1,895	426	2,123	1,711	412	281	194
Onondaga	2,874	772	3,214	2,433	781	317	15
Ontario	437	107	513	384	129	39	5
Orange	3,533	914	3,990	3,028	962	1,100	35
Orleans	251	0	274	269	5	37	1
Oswego	515	119	510	397	113	73	80
Otsego	272	53	290	242	48	6	1
Putnam	638	213	1,043	829	214	114	14
Rensselaer	982	146	1,182	1,004	178	93	7
Rockland	3,150	1,194	4,734	3,809	925	877	26
St. Lawrence	601	127	620	504	116	116	3
Saratoga	1,277	267	1,350	1,060	290	509	4
Schenectady	978	190	1,400	1,147	253	350	12
Schoharie	120	24	120	98	22	9	0
Schuyler	44	6	41	32	9	1	0
Seneca	310	20	382	354	28	7	0
Steuben	768	66	865	803	62	65	3
Suffolk	16,475	3,393	19,766	16,561	3,205	7,138	295
Sullivan	737	116	909	788	121	70	2
Tioga	195	31	219	184	35	16	0
Tompkins	229	59	272	199	73	23	14
Ulster	1,590	507	1,719	1,220	499	577	14
Warren	417	91	586	478	108	113	0
Washington	389	83	527	438	89	131	2
Wayne	584	62	638	570	68	25	0
Westchester	8,093	3,398	10,755	6,600	4,155	1,596	94
Wyoming	247	38	227	198	29	37	0
Yates	90	11	117	93	24	2	0

\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.

Figure C: Supreme Civil Disposition by Type of Disposition - 2019\*



\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.

**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 involving claims up to \$25,000. County Courts in the Third and Fourth Departments, while primarily trial courts, also hear appeals from cases originating in the City Courts and Town and Village Justice Courts. The statistical data for the County Courts' felony caseload are reported in combination with the felony caseload data for Supreme Court in Table 6.

**Table 6: Supreme Criminal & County Court - Felony Cases 2019\***

Location	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
	Total	Indictments	SCI's**	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
<b>Total State</b>	<b>36,033</b>	<b>22,655</b>	<b>13,378</b>	<b>41,795</b>	<b>35,068</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>3,251</b>	<b>2,038</b>
NYC	14,882	11,447	3,435	18,588	14,374	516	187	79	1,858	1,574
New York	4,789	3,835	954	6,343	4,773	224	70	17	756	503
Bronx	2,885	2,570	315	3,527	2,741	63	36	9	541	137
Kings	3,799	3,046	753	4,833	3,572	109	41	18	348	745
Queens	2,527	1,366	1,161	2,965	2,527	105	36	33	144	120
Richmond	882	630	252	920	761	15	4	2	69	69
<b>ONYC</b>	<b>21,151</b>	<b>11,208</b>	<b>9,943</b>	<b>23,207</b>	<b>20,694</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1,393</b>	<b>464</b>
Albany	775	441	334	804	707	29	3	0	46	19
Allegany	55	13	42	74	69	1	0	1	1	2
Broome	490	211	279	522	465	17	4	2	32	2
Cattaraugus	313	174	139	329	313	1	3	1	8	3
Cayuga	215	128	87	183	175	3	1	0	2	2
Chautauqua	215	65	150	241	223	1	2	0	14	1
Chemung	337	331	6	325	261	8	5	13	36	2
Chenango	117	64	53	141	133	1	0	0	5	2
Clinton	226	76	150	287	264	8	1	1	8	5
Columbia	159	48	111	151	115	4	4	0	27	1
Cortland	125	45	80	143	123	3	0	1	8	8
Delaware	71	19	52	87	83	0	2	0	1	1
Dutchess	349	144	205	387	353	8	0	0	25	1
Erie	1,637	665	972	1,749	1,605	23	7	31	66	17
Essex	38	24	14	70	67	1	0	0	1	1
Franklin	89	62	27	106	104	0	0	0	0	2
Fulton	128	39	89	141	135	2	0	0	1	3
Genesee	227	101	126	257	237	6	3	4	2	5
Greene	101	42	59	124	111	1	0	0	7	5
Hamilton	3	1	2	11	11	0	0	0	0	0
Herkimer	108	30	78	119	117	1	0	0	1	0
Jefferson	431	148	283	401	385	4	1	3	7	1
Lewis	143	26	117	160	142	0	0	0	8	10
Livingston	177	103	74	192	178	4	1	1	6	2
Madison	187	84	103	196	192	2	0	0	0	2
Monroe	1,445	933	512	1,704	1,300	46	24	32	275	27

\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.

\*\*Superior Court Information

Table 6: Supreme Criminal & County Court - Felony Cases 2019\*

Location	FILINGS			DISPOSITIONS						
	Total	Indictments	SCI's**	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Nonjury Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
<b>Total State</b>	<b>36,033</b>	<b>22,655</b>	<b>13,378</b>	<b>41,795</b>	<b>35,068</b>	<b>909</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>3,251</b>	<b>2,038</b>
Montgomery	151	90	61	177	155	2	0	0	12	8
Nassau	2,126	971	1,155	2,304	2,052	45	7	6	178	16
Niagara	380	216	164	407	322	4	0	1	21	59
Oneida	551	347	204	543	500	14	2	2	13	12
Onondaga	1,055	716	339	1,168	1,007	37	6	0	107	11
Ontario	385	175	210	371	344	8	3	1	13	2
Orange	735	473	262	871	811	6	3	1	18	32
Orleans	94	75	19	77	71	0	1	0	3	2
Oswego	173	68	105	207	200	4	2	0	1	0
Otsego	76	52	24	73	65	3	1	0	4	0
Putnam	87	51	36	80	76	1	1	1	0	1
Rensselaer	296	205	91	277	246	3	3	2	14	9
Rockland	397	282	115	419	369	11	2	9	24	4
St. Lawrence	317	164	153	324	272	4	0	0	40	8
Saratoga	346	82	264	376	364	6	1	0	2	3
Schenectady	345	217	128	349	327	7	1	1	4	9
Schoharie	48	15	33	44	44	0	0	0	0	0
Schuyler	42	19	23	39	37	0	0	1	0	1
Seneca	125	51	74	117	106	0	0	2	7	2
Steuben	602	537	65	534	439	4	1	18	21	51
Suffolk	2,102	1,219	883	2,798	2,443	17	6	6	251	75
Sullivan	204	100	104	207	198	5	0	1	3	0
Tioga	116	62	54	123	115	2	0	1	1	4
Tompkins	110	57	53	130	117	0	2	0	8	3
Ulster	251	131	120	300	276	5	1	0	8	10
Warren	187	55	132	209	206	1	2	0	0	0
Washington	156	119	37	180	166	1	2	0	9	2
Wayne	177	129	48	179	160	7	0	0	8	4
Westchester	1,130	381	749	1,174	1,110	17	3	4	29	11
Wyoming	170	89	81	180	173	3	1	2	1	0
Yates	56	43	13	66	55	2	0	2	6	1

\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.

\*\*Superior Court Information

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. During 2019, 1,801 claims were filed, and 1,747 were decided.

**The 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. See Table 7 for 2019 filings and dispositions by case type.

Table 7: Surrogate’s Court Filings & Dispositions: Proceedings by Case Type - 2019*						
Case Type	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions**	Filings	Dispositions**	Filings	Dispositions**
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,237</b>	<b>117,976</b>	<b>36,518</b>	<b>37,108</b>	<b>104,719</b>	<b>80,868</b>
Probate	40,538	44,487	10,782	12,377	29,756	32,110
Administration	18,641	21,411	7,888	8,538	10,753	12,873
Voluntary Admin.	25,282	25,282	7,666	7,666	17,616	17,616
Accounting	28,881	5,057	3,269	1,728	25,612	3,329
Inter Vivos Trust	1,354	1,198	150	209	1,204	989
Miscellaneous	8,851	9,410	2,808	3,978	6,043	5,432
Guardianship	16,779	9,485	3,819	2,429	12,960	7,056
Adoption	902	1,637	134	181	768	1,456
Estate Tax	9	9	2	2	7	7

\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.

\*\*Includes orders and decrees signed.

**The Family Court**, located in each county outside New York City and citywide in the City, 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. See Table 8 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 8: Family & Supreme Court (IDV) Filings & Dispositions by Type of Petition - 2019						
Type of Petition	TOTAL STATE		NYC		OUTSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
<b>Total</b>	<b>578,346</b>	<b>570,826</b>	<b>192,799</b>	<b>191,119</b>	<b>385,547</b>	<b>379,707</b>
Termination of Parental Rights	2,933	3,037	670	768	2,263	2,269
Surrender of Child	1,988	1,892	396	389	1,592	1,503
Child Protective (Neglect & Abuse)	40,088	41,872	14,084	16,307	26,004	25,565
Juvenile Delinquency	9,136	8,434	3,119	2,902	6,017	5,532
Designated Felony	426	204	239	71	187	133
Persons in Need of Supervision	2,748	2,915	511	504	2,237	2,411
Adoption	2,563	2,679	900	906	1,663	1,773
Adoption Certification	172	192	58	52	114	140
Guardianship	9,984	9,343	3,871	3,758	6,113	5,585
Custody/Visitation	186,500	184,248	53,260	53,206	133,240	131,042
Foster Care Review	112	71	60	38	52	33
Foster Care Placement	496	452	276	245	220	207
Family Offense	61,190	60,389	24,414	24,412	36,776	35,977
Paternity	22,437	22,024	10,277	9,701	12,160	12,323
Support	195,647	191,390	60,154	57,519	135,493	133,871
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	7,539	7,278	3,511	3,352	4,028	3,926
Consent to Marry	49	47	27	27	22	20
Other	654	675	111	101	543	574
Permanency Planning Hearings Held	33,684	33,684	16,861	16,861	16,823	16,823

**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 presided over by judges designated by the Chief Administrator 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 9 shows the breakdown of filings and dispositions by case type and county.

Table 9: New York City Civil Court: Filings & Dispositions by Case Type - 2019								
	CIVIL ACTIONS*		HOUSING		SMALL CLAIMS*		COMMERCIAL CLAIMS*	
	Filing <sup>a</sup>	Dispositions <sup>b</sup>	Filing <sup>a</sup>	Dispositions <sup>b</sup>	Filing	Dispositions	Filing	Dispositions
<b>New York City</b>	323,971	186,379	193,970	181,958	17,587	17,663	5,055	4,429
New York	49,205	40,258	38,505	32,463	4,233	4,207	1,162	1,102
Bronx	53,204	31,907	68,263	62,932	2,608	3,121	666	569
Kings	123,233	61,345	54,040	55,676	5,064	5,255	1,085	1,160
Queens	79,071	28,881	28,792	26,754	4,840	4,182	1,581	1,047
Richmond	19,258	23,988	4,370	4,133	842	898	561	551

*\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.*

*<sup>a</sup>Includes both answered and unanswered cases.*

*<sup>b</sup>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 2019, 76 percent of the arrests were misdemeanors, with 44 percent of all cases reaching disposition by plea. Another 45 percent were dismissed; 5 percent were sent to the grand jury; 4 percent were disposed of by other means; and 2 percent pled to a superior court information. Table 10 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 10: New York City Criminal Court: Filings & Dispositions - 2019				
	ARREST CASES		SUMMONS CASES	
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings*	Dispositions
<b>New York City</b>	<b>170,005</b>	<b>183,572</b>	<b>108,923</b>	<b>119,882</b>
New York	42,689	46,743	32,471	36,084
Bronx	34,412	36,295	25,058	27,038
Kings	47,294	50,245	25,738	28,024
Queens	38,255	41,934	19,328	21,987
Richmond	7,355	8,355	6,328	6,749

*\*Includes both answered and unanswered cases.*

**City Courts Outside New York City** arraign felonies and handle misdemeanor and lesser offenses, as well as civil lawsuits involving claims up to \$15,000. City Courts also 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.

**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.

In 2019, there were a total of 854,056 filings and 882,268 dispositions in the City and District Courts. Figure D shows filings by case type; Table 11 contains a breakdown of filings by location and case type.

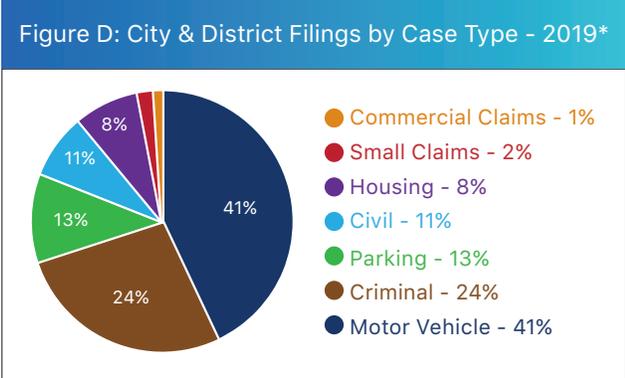


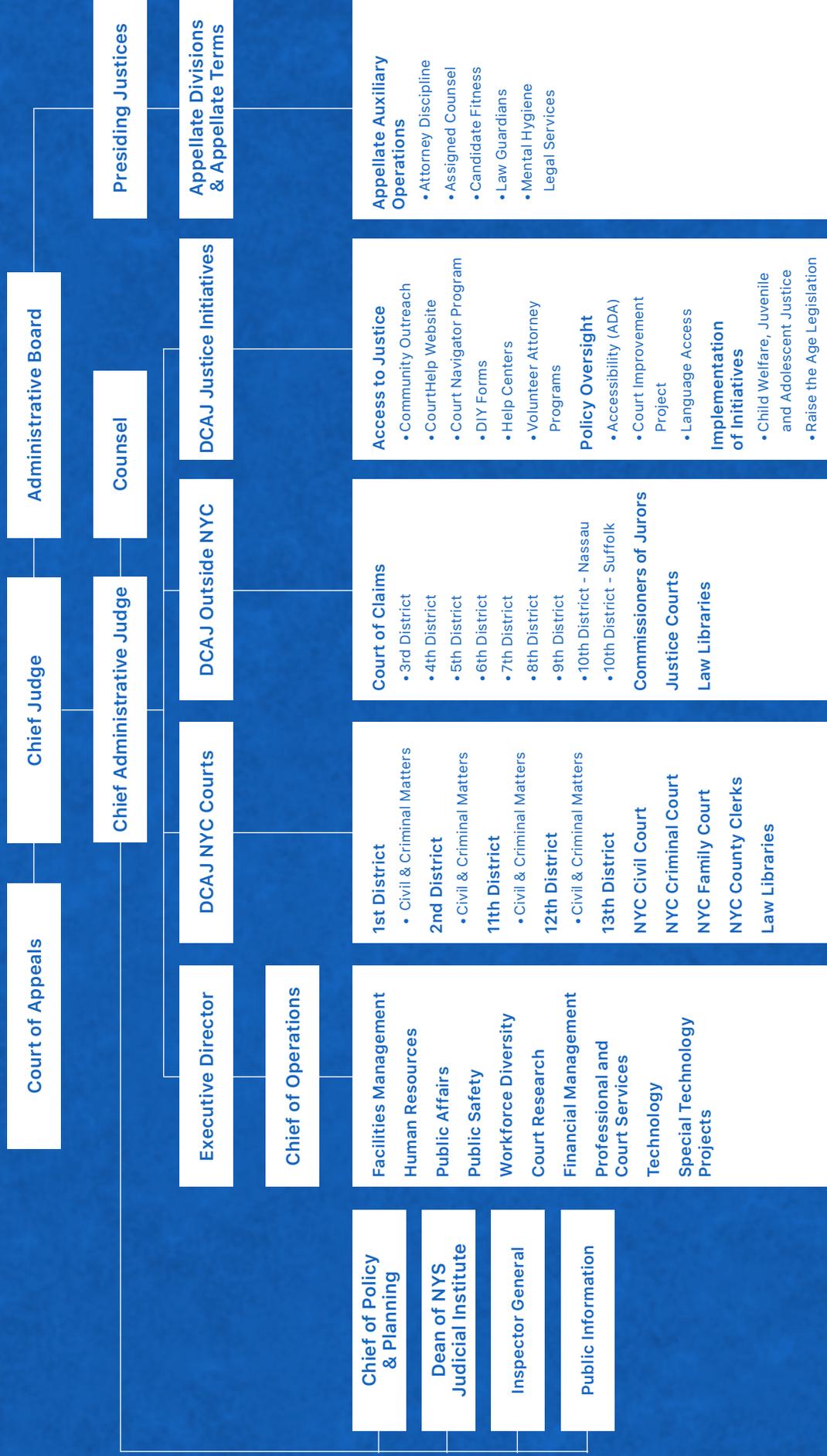
Table 11: City and District Courts: Filings by Case Type - 2019*							Total Filings: 854,056
Location	Criminal	MV	Parking	Civil	Small Claims	L&T	Commercial
<b>Total</b>	<b>206,404</b>	<b>352,296</b>	<b>108,950</b>	<b>95,505</b>	<b>16,552</b>	<b>67,192</b>	<b>7,157</b>
Albany	3,944	20,652	15	2,563	492	4,119	104
Amsterdam	934	2,995	35	469	89	200	16
Auburn	1,203	1,810	431	762	127	501	65
Batavia	803	1,443	36	265	102	130	44
Beacon	495	2,751	408	204	66	79	25
Binghamton	3,524	5,166	14	1,029	261	1,364	77
Buffalo	15,382	9,383	71	5,157	1,649	8,783	501
Canandaigua	413	2,579	65	271	43	77	22
Cohoes	713	2,912	0	220	67	381	5
Corning	634	1,543	17	751	41	67	8
Cortland	1,400	2,477	0	316	87	289	21
Dunkirk	637	1,196	3	183	76	55	21
Elmira	1,941	2,183	2	589	145	520	41
Fulton	712	1,653	0	336	80	161	81
Geneva	557	1,805	3	160	37	94	5
Glen Cove	1,356	3,372	3,327	26	50	187	21
Glens Falls	781	2,289	152	505	82	150	38
Gloversville	1,068	1,431	39	553	96	291	27
Hornell	442	1,336	9	218	29	91	7
Hudson	559	1,373	5	189	88	140	72
Ithaca	1,554	2,417	49	217	121	168	20
Jamestown	3,385	2,651	608	419	186	374	157
Johnstown	460	968	4	179	35	39	12
Kingston	1,222	2,936	15	786	167	293	56
Lackawanna	974	6,315	15	305	153	1,284	36
Little Falls	209	625	0	221	97	24	28
Lockport	1,230	2,712	35	772	206	241	44

\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.

Table 11: City and District Courts: Filings by Case Type - 2019*							Total Filings: 854,056
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<b>Total</b>	<b>206,404</b>	<b>352,296</b>	<b>108,950</b>	<b>95,505</b>	<b>16,552</b>	<b>67,192</b>	<b>7,157</b>
Long Beach	2,404	2,689	13,788	18	23	109	6
Mechanicville	414	924	2	163	69	99	87
Middletown	2,275	6,013	293	965	166	448	78
Mount Vernon	3,319	962	1	617	159	2,405	48
New Rochelle	2,814	8,661	78,431	1,969	194	854	38
Newburgh	2,788	6,064	25	694	175	768	35
Niagara Falls	3,133	6,243	1,089	925	135	1,148	33
North Tonawanda	969	5,075	0	335	116	118	54
Norwich	411	595	57	235	45	58	47
Ogdensburg	609	780	0	247	113	73	103
Olean	787	2,134	9	193	124	121	30
Oneida	842	2,157	93	892	40	106	23
Oneonta	699	1,282	178	162	72	56	30
Oswego	1,509	2,631	1	477	113	129	9
Peekskill	1,299	5,077	31	189	87	249	28
Plattsburgh	746	1,440	7	221	98	145	49
Port Jervis	1,485	2,680	0	188	32	139	9
Poughkeepsie	2,061	4,823	1,343	658	308	1,571	63
Rensselaer	230	975	7	316	55	108	33
Rochester	9,247	6,224	31	2,083	1,554	7,326	426
Rome	2,121	7,942	8	899	114	369	10
Rye	293	5,010	1	32	59	10	39
Salamanca	658	1,188	10	86	90	51	4
Saratoga Springs	1,369	3,752	674	323	135	240	81
Schenectady	3,307	6,685	7	1,194	312	2,123	67
Sherrill	39	200	0	75	22	6	3
Syracuse	10,333	16,810	22	3,491	717	3,871	148
Tonawanda	766	4,924	77	363	110	88	74
Troy	2,432	8,154	14	1,302	213	3,477	15
Utica	4,859	9,023	4	1,451	258	1,049	137
Watertown	1,427	2,157	3	783	203	366	56
Watervliet	486	3,999	1	370	76	243	5
White Plains	2,225	10,387	4,526	291	75	602	26
Yonkers	6,768	11,723	136	1,301	438	4,886	214
Nassau District	28,740	41,279	173	23,617	2,525	5,865	1,553
Suffolk District	56,008	62,661	2,550	30,715	2,855	7,814	1,942

*\*These statistics were produced using preliminary data and may change in the final version of the Annual Report.*

**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 most of the cases handled by these courts are minor traffic offenses, drunk-driving cases and zoning violations, Town and Village Justices also arraign felonies and handle misdemeanors. There are approximately 1,277 Justice Courts and 2,200 Town and Village Justices throughout the State.



**Chief of Policy & Planning**

**Dean of NYS Judicial Institute**

**Inspector General**

**Public Information**

**Court of Appeals**

**Chief Judge**

**Administrative Board**

**Chief Administrative Judge**

**Counsel**

**Presiding Justices**

**Executive Director**

**Chief of Operations**

**DCAJ NYC Courts**

**DCAJ Outside NYC**

**DCAJ Justice Initiatives**

**Appellate Divisions & Appellate Terms**

**Facilities Management**

**Human Resources**

**Public Affairs**

**Public Safety**

**Workforce Diversity**

**Court Research**

**Financial Management**

**Professional and Court Services**

**Technology**

**Special Technology Projects**

**1st District**

- Civil & Criminal Matters

**2nd District**

- Civil & Criminal Matters

**11th District**

- Civil & Criminal Matters

**12th District**

- Civil & Criminal Matters

**13th District**

- Civil & Criminal Matters

**NYC Civil Court**

**NYC Criminal Court**

**NYC Family Court**

**NYC County Clerks**

**Law Libraries**

**Court of Claims**

- 3rd District
- 4th District
- 5th District
- 6th District
- 7th District
- 8th District
- 9th District
- 10th District - Nassau
- 10th District - Suffolk

**Commissioners of Jurors**

**Justice Courts**

**Law Libraries**

**Access to Justice**

- Community Outreach
- CourtHelp Website
- Court Navigator Program
- DIY Forms
- Help Centers
- Volunteer Attorney Programs

**Policy Oversight**

- Accessibility (ADA) Project
- Court Improvement Project
- Language Access

**Implementation of Initiatives**

- Child Welfare, Juvenile and Adolescent Justice
- Raise the Age Legislation

**Appellate Auxiliary Operations**

- Attorney Discipline
- Assigned Counsel
- Candidate Fitness
- Law Guardians
- Mental Hygiene Legal Services

# Office of Court Administration

The New York State Unified Court System is administered by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) under the authority of the Chief Judge and Chief Administrative 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:

- **Division of Financial Management** prepares the Judiciary budget and formulates and implements fiscal policies.
- **Office of Public Information** coordinates communications and serves as liaison with the media.
- **Counsel's Office** provides legal advice to court administrators; prepares and analyzes legislation; and represents the Unified Court System in litigation.
- **Department of Public Safety** is responsible for developing and implementing uniform policies and procedures to ensure the safety and accessibility of state courthouses.
- **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.
- **Office of Court Facilities Management** provides oversight to localities in relation to the maintenance, renovation and construction of court facilities.
- **Division of Human Resources** is responsible for personnel and benefits administration and providing education and training programs to the non-judicial and uniformed workforce. This Division also administers equal employment opportunity policies and programs and negotiates with the court system's labor unions.
- **Office of Policy and Planning** develops best practice standards for the courts, reviews ways to streamline court operations and improve case processing and designs legal and operational seminars for court employees.
- **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 Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **Office of Diversity and Inclusion** promotes and supports diversity in hiring and promotion in the court system's workforce and promotes practices that ensure a bias-free workplace.
- **Division of Technology and Court Research** provides automation and telecommunications services to all courts and agencies, including oversight of the statewide Domestic Violence Registry and the courts' technical support center.
- **Office of Special Projects and Technology** develops and implements statewide technology initiatives.
- **Office of Internal Affairs** conducts internal audits and investigations to support the attainment of long-term UCS goals.
- **Office of Justice Court Support** provides assistance and oversight to Town and Village Justice Courts.

# Measures Enacted into Law in 2019

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 and 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.

During the 2019 legislative session, Counsel's Office, with the assistance of the Chief Administrative Judge's advisory committees, prepared and submitted 67 measures for legislative consideration. Ultimately, 18 were enacted into law. Two more passed both houses of the Legislature but ultimately were vetoed by the Governor. Also during the 2019 session, Counsel's Office furnished Counsel to the Governor with analyses and recommendations on 40 measures awaiting executive action.

- **Chapter 51** (Senate 1501-A/Assembly 2001-A). Enacts the 2019-20 Judiciary Budget. Eff. 4/1/19.
- **Chapter 214** (Senate 6395/Assembly 7500-A). Amends the CPLR in relation to judgment by confession. Eff. 8/30/19.
- **Chapter 288** (Senate 6385/Assembly 8189). Implements collective bargaining agreements between the Judiciary and certain nonjudicial officers and employees of the Unified Court System. Eff. 9/13/19.
- **Chapter 310** (Senate 6475/Assembly 7939). Amends the Family Court Act to require the probation service to consider the complainant's views and the impact of an alleged act of juvenile delinquency to determine if adjustment would be suitable. Eff. 12/12/19.
- **Chapter 335** (Senate 6423/Assembly 7529-A). Amends the Domestic Relations Law and the Family Court Act in relation to orders for temporary spousal support in conjunction with temporary and final orders of protection in Family Court and calculation of the spousal maintenance cap. Eff. 10/3/19.
- **Chapter 352** (Senate 5513/Assembly 7519). Amends the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law and the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act in relation to testamentary dispositions to a trustee under, or in accordance with, the terms of an existing inter vivos trust. Eff. 10/4/19.
- **Chapter 359** (Senate 6347/Assembly 7584). Amends the Criminal Procedure Law in relation to the definition of an accusatory instrument. Eff. 1/5/20.
- **Chapter 427** (Senate 5514-A/Assembly 8033). Amends the CPLR in relation to notification of allowance for an infant's support. Eff. 10/29/19.
- **Chapter 523** (Senate 5515/Assembly 7518). Amends the Domestic Relations Law and the Family Court Act in relation to the date of adjustment and amount of the spousal maintenance cap. Eff. 11/20/19.



Justice building and State Capitol, Albany.

- **Chapter 529** (Senate 6409/Assembly 7601). Amends the CPLR in relation to the privilege between a personal representative and the attorney to lifetime trustees. Eff. 11/20/19.
- **Chapter 569** (Senate 6351/Assembly 7751). Amends the Criminal Procedure Law in relation to suspending jury deliberations. Eff. 11/25/19.
- **Chapter 601** (Senate 5512/Assembly 7522). Amends the Surrogate's Court Procedure Act in relation to the commissions of donees of a power in trust, including donees of a power during minority. Eff. 1/1/20.
- **Chapter 602** (Senate 5516-B/Assembly 8092). Amends the Family Court Act and the Mental Hygiene Law in relation to determinations of capacity to stand trial in juvenile delinquency proceedings in Family Court. Eff. 3/5/20.
- **Chapter 627** (Senate 6471/Assembly 7600). Amends the CPLR in relation to permitted submissions in a default judgment. Eff. 12/12/19.
- **Chapter 663** (Senate 6158/Assembly 7395). Amends the Criminal Procedure Law and the Family Court Act in relation to notification of the rights of victims of domestic violence in criminal and Family Court proceedings. Eff. 3/15/20.
- **Chapter 664** (Senate 6417/Assembly 7525). Amends the New York City Civil Court Act to increase the small claims jurisdictional maximum of the Civil Court to \$10,000. Eff. 12/16/19 [and applicable to actions and proceedings commenced on or after that date].
- **Chapter 665** (Senate 5593/Assembly 7647). Amends the Correction Law to permit use of a county jail for the detention of individuals awaiting a first court appearance in an off-hours arraignment part. Eff. 12/16/19.
- **Chapter 732** (Senate 6215/Assembly 7974). Amends the Family Court Act and the Social Services Law in relation to notice of indicated reports of child maltreatment and changes of placement in child protective and voluntary foster care placement and review proceedings. Eff. 12/22/19.



Appellate Division, First Dept. courthouse entrance mural of Justice by Robert Reid. It was completed in 1899 and unveiled on January 2, 1900 when the courthouse was opened. The painting takes its name from the central figure, Justice. To the left is Prosperity, with a cornucopia, conveying the benefits conferred by Justice. This contrasts with the Willard Leroy Metcalf version of Justice on the opposite wall, demonstrating the consequences of defying Justice.





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