

NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY

ANNUAL REPORT

2011-2012



The State of New Jersey
Administrative Office of the Courts

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LETTER FROM Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

Thank you for the opportunity to share the good work that our judges and staff are doing to ensure quality justice for everyone who uses the New Jersey court system.

We continue to serve the public in a manner that is consistent with the Judiciary's mission: to work as an independent branch of government, entrusted by the Constitution with the responsibility to resolve disputes fairly and justly; to preserve the rule of law; and to protect the rights and liberties the law guarantees.

The word "entrusted" conveys a great deal. It means that our fellow citizens count on us to do the best we can for the people of New Jersey. It explains why we always strive for excellence.

As you can see from this report, we have made progress in many areas this past year. We don't just aspire to decide disputes fairly and justly; we make every effort to address them promptly to respond to litigants' real needs. We promote new efficiencies and practices as well as alternative methods of dispute resolution like mediation and arbitration.

We also continue to try to implement new technology to better serve the public. In recent years, we have increasingly relied on media like YouTube and Twitter to get information to court users quickly and efficiently. We have also made improvements to our existing technology to

afford litigants, attorneys, and the public better access to information online.

We know that true justice depends not only on the fairness of court rulings but also on a system that is accessible to all. Everyone who interacts with the Judiciary – in a courthouse, by phone, or through the Internet – should come away from their encounter confident that they have been treated with courtesy and respect. To that end, we are proceeding with our Access & Fairness Initiative, which will help judges and staff provide the best possible court experiences for all who turn to the Judiciary to seek justice.

Finally, it is vital that we continue to take steps to educate the public about the work of the Judiciary. Our system of government depends on educated and informed citizens. We will continue to serve them well by improving the overall level of civics education in our communities. To date, thanks to the help of our colleagues in Florida, we have created a joint program with the State Bar and trained scores of attorneys and judges who, in turn, will speak with local community groups about the role of the Judiciary.

These are a few of the ways that members of the New Jersey court family strive to earn the public's trust. I thank each of you for your hard work, professionalism, and dedication to the mission of the Judiciary.

Chief Justice Stuart
Rabner



State of New Jersey
Constitution agreed upon by the
on the fourteenth
year of our Lord
of the State of New Jersey
It hath in long
travours to secure and
and establish this
Article 1. Right
nature, free and in
among which are those of enjoy
and protecting property, and of
All political power is inherent in
the people, security, and benefit of the pe
the same, whenever the public good
no person shall be deprived of the in
reasonable exigencies to the dictates of his own
to attend any place of worship, contr
be obliged to pay tithes, taxes, or other
of places of worship, or for the mainte
he believes to be right, or has deliberat
there shall be no establishment of an
shall be required as a qualification for any
of any civil right merely on ac
Every person may freely speak, write, and
responsible for the abuse of that right.
of speech or of the press. No all
in evidence to the jury; and if it shal
it true, and was published with goo
that the jury shall have the rig
the right of the people to be secure in
reasonable searches and seizures, shall
probable cause, supported by oath
searched and the papers and things to

LETTER FROM
Acting Administrative Director
Judge Glenn A. Grant



The judges and staff of the New Jersey Judiciary have much to be proud of this year. From technology initiatives to therapeutic jurisprudence to public outreach, our court system continues to be a national leader in serving the community in practical, proven ways.

We share many of our accomplishments with public and private partners, with whom we have collaborated to share resources, expertise, and technical assistance. Our ongoing partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to make the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative a statewide program is only one example of how we can leverage those relationships to do bigger and better things.

County by county, we are finding alternatives to keep juveniles awaiting adjudication out of detention facilities and in their communities. Those alternatives are developed in partnership with the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission. Year by year, the number of youth held in detention continues to decline, with no detrimental effects on public safety. We are grateful to the Casey Foundation for helping us make that happen, and we are eager to share what we have learned with representatives from other states who continue to visit New Jersey to learn about this great program.

The drug court program continues to be a successful partnership involving judges, prosecutors, public defenders, substance abuse counselors, and probation personnel. Our

statewide program has improved the lives of its graduates, but also their families and communities. Drug courts save lives. They save money. They work.

Some of our partner organizations depend heavily on the Judiciary to provide real-time access to our electronic case management systems to perform their work. Law enforcement agencies, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, and the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission are some of our many partners who rely on our IT systems.

Other frequent users include attorneys, the media, and the public, all of whom receive critical information from our electronic systems and our website. Moreover, our judges and court managers are turning more and more to information technology to streamline process and meet objectives. Our progress in building and improving these systems is yet another measure of our success.

As you read this report, you will see the efforts of more than 9,000 individuals who, together, comprise the New Jersey Judiciary. These are the people who work together every day to achieve a single goal: high quality justice for every court user.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our work.

Glenn A. Grant,
J.A.D., Acting Administrative Director of the Courts

Year_{in} Review



Judiciary and State Bar Join to Launch Benchmarks Adult Civics Education Project

The New Jersey Judiciary joined with the New Jersey State Bar Association to launch the Benchmarks Adult Civics Education project. Modeled after a similar program in Florida, the Benchmarks project provides training to attorneys and judges on how to deliver civics education programs to adult community groups.

The program addresses the alarming decline in public awareness and understanding of how government works. A democracy based on the rule of law requires an informed citizenry to work properly, but civics education has been reduced or eliminated from many school curricula. The result is a growing number of adults who, for example, cannot identify the three branches of government or explain their different responsibilities.

The initial Benchmarks training is worth two professionalism credits for attorneys, who are required under court rule to earn continuing legal education (CLE) credits throughout their careers. Each presentation an attorney provides to an adult community group, such as a Rotary club, Kiwanis club, or even a homeowners' association, is worth another professionalism credit. Attorneys can give up to three presentations every two years to earn CLE credits.

The first Benchmarks training was delivered to approximately 60 attorneys at the NJSBA annual meeting in May 2012.

Studies have shown that an increased knowledge of government and basic civics leads to a higher level of public trust and confidence in the government. The Benchmarks project is one way that that courts and the bar can help address the lack of understanding and trust in government.

Access and Fairness Initiative Now Underway

The Supreme Court Committee on Access and Fairness, formed in 2011, has been working steadily to develop programs and resources for judges and court staff to focus on how the courts administer justice in the face of such challenges as the continued increase in the number of self-represented litigants, the economic pressures affecting litigants and the courts and the need to treat each case and each litigant with dignity and respect.

In forming the committee, Chief Justice Rabner said, “The millions of litigants who come to the courts each year for a just resolution of their cases are entitled to believe that they have been treated respectfully and fairly in a neutral forum. At the same time, all people, regardless of income, language barriers, or cultural or educational background, must have full access to the courts. This committee will look at ways to improve our operations so that we can meet those needs in every case.”

In Court Year 2012, the committee developed a “tool kit” to help managers and judges conduct informational meetings with staff to emphasize the core principles of access and fairness for all court users. Included in the tool kit are a slide presentation, meeting agenda and sample communication pieces to help Judiciary leaders start a conversation with staff about their role in providing an open door to justice. These conversations will take place in every county and at the Administrative Office of the Courts as statewide implementation of the Access and Fairness initiative gets underway.

Courts Expand Web-based Offerings to Improve Access and Efficiency

The Judiciary website, njcourts.com, has several new web applications that have improved access for court users who want to do business with the courts online.

A searchable database of criminal convictions resulting from indictments and adjudicated in Superior Court is now available. The **Criminal Conviction Public Access System** provides convenient access to statewide criminal conviction docket information for all cases filed after 1994. Users can search by name or docket number and learn the charge for which the defendant was convicted. Expunged cases, cases that did not result in a conviction and cases that have not been adjudicated are not available.

Visitors also can access civil cases on the **Automated Case Management System**. For each case, users can find information on the parties, the attorneys, the documents that have been filed, the status of the case and the outcome of cases that have been resolved.

Also available is the **Judgment Lien Index**, which allows anyone to find judgment liens filed in New Jersey. The index includes liens resulting from civil, criminal, and family cases, administrative agency judgments, defaulted child support payments, Motor Vehicles Commission surcharge debts, certificates of indebtedness from the office of the Public Defender, and unpaid probation fines.



One of the most common uses of the civil judgment database is to search liens against real property before it is sold. The availability of the database online will make this process easier and will give buyers and sellers of real property the ability to find judgments in advance of their intended transactions.

Members of the public looking for attorney information can use the searchable **Attorney Index** to learn when an attorney was admitted to the bar and whether he or she is in good standing. This service is particularly helpful when trying to determine if one has engaged a licensed lawyer, rather than a “notario.” While the term “notario” refers to lawyers in some cultures, it also can be used to indicate a notary public. A notary public is authorized to witness the signing of certain documents, but is not required to obtain legal training or be admitted to the bar.

New Jersey attorneys can use the website to complete their **annual registration process online**, including paying their annual fee. They also can search for **continuing legal education courses** that have been approved by the New Jersey Board on Continuing Legal Education.

Judiciary Website Available in Spanish

The Judiciary has created a Spanish version of its website, with translated versions of its most-visited webpages.

For years, self-represented litigants have been able to download forms, instructions, and some program descriptions in Spanish from the Judiciary’s Self-Help Resources page at njcourts.com. The Judiciary broadening its website to allow Spanish-speaking court users to learn more about court programs and services is the result of 2010 census data showing that Hispanics are the largest minority group in the state.

With the newly translated pages, visitors can find overviews of each of the courts, contact information for offices and customer service personnel in each vicinage, foreclosure mediation, and instructions on how to request an interpreter or an ADA accommodation for an upcoming court event. Additional pages will be translated in the coming months to provide even greater access to Judiciary resources for Spanish-speaking court users.

The New Jersey Judiciary has been a national leader in court interpreting and translation. In 2010, the courts provided interpreting services at nearly 80,000 court events in 80 languages. Approximately 85 percent of the interpreted court events were for Spanish-speaking litigants.



Pages Available in Spanish on njcourts.com

- A Walk through the Judiciary Process, which explains the principles of the court system, the different courts and the types of cases they resolve;
- Supreme Court, which gives an explanation of what the court is and how it works;
- Appellate Division of Superior Court, which explains the structure of the Appellate Division and a brief overview of its work;
- Local Courts, which provides the address and telephone number for the Superior Court in each county and a brief explanation of the family, criminal and civil divisions;
- Tax Court, which gives an overview of the court and links to an FAQ page;
- Municipal Court, which gives information for litigants in municipal court cases and links to directions on how to appeal a municipal court decision;
- Foreclosure Mediation, which provides information for homeowners facing foreclosure;
- Ombudsman Program, which describes the role of the ombudsman in helping litigants navigate the courts and contact information for the ombudsman in each vicinage;
- Interpreting Services, which provides information on obtaining an interpreter for Superior Court proceedings;
- ADA accommodations, which has overviews of Title I and Title II procedures under the Americans with Disabilities Act and gives links to local ADA coordinators as well as a form to request accommodation;
- A document titled *Concerned about Fair Treatment?*, which gives information on the Judiciary’s EEO policy and contact information for reporting concerns about fair treatment in court facilities;
- Volunteer Services, which gives a description of the Judiciary’s volunteer program and encourages bilingual visitor to consider volunteering;
- Legal Services, which provides a link to the Spanish language website maintained by Legal Services of New Jersey.



Fugitive Safe Surrender Resolves Thousands of Warrants

Administered under the leadership of the U.S. Marshal's Service, Fugitive Safe Surrender offers people with non-violent felony and misdemeanor warrants the opportunity to surrender in at a neutral location. It can provide a critical first step back into the community for those whose outstanding warrants have kept them in hiding.

The program also improves community safety because many with outstanding warrants cannot find work and rely on continued criminal activity to support themselves. Fugitives are also a burden to their loved ones who feel the need to harbor them and support them financially. Moreover, tracking fugitives can drain the resources of law enforcement agencies, further endangering the safety of law enforcement officers and communities alike.

New Jersey held its third Fugitive Safe Surrender program in Atlantic City in April 2012 to resolve outstanding warrants issued in Atlantic, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties. A total of 3,027 fugitives with a combined 8,447 outstanding warrants surrendered over four days at the Grace Assembly of God Church.

After surrender, the fugitives were transported to the Atlantic City Convention Center to have their municipal, criminal, family and probation matters resolved. Food vendors and social agencies were available to assist fugitives as they waited for their court cases to be heard in one of 13 temporary courtrooms.

To resolve those cases, the courts relied on 38 municipal and Superior Court judges and 138 staff members and managers. The program ran from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. The program, combined with earlier programs held in Camden, Essex and Somerset Counties, has resulted in more than 13,276 fugitives brought to justice. New Jersey ranks number one in the country in the number of fugitives brought to justice through the program.

Essex Vicinage Hosts National Conference for Women Judges

The 33rd annual conference of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) was held Oct. 12-16 in Newark. The 270 attendees from 28 states and 27 foreign countries gathered to discuss issues related to this year's theme, "Global Women's Issues." Topics included domestic violence, economic equality for women, human trafficking, urban revitalization, access to education, prisoner re-entry and cross-cultural issues in court.

Co-hosted by Rutgers School of Law-Newark and Seton Hall Law School, the conference took place on both campuses, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, and the Essex County Historic Courthouse.

On Oct. 12, the Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts hosted a welcome reception for conference attendees in the rotunda of the Historic Courthouse. Attendees enjoyed guided tours of the grand building designed by Cass Gilbert with its many famous murals painted by Frank D. Millet, Howard Pyle, and H. O. Walker. Chief Justice Rabner gave remarks, as did Appellate Division Judge Francine I. Axelrad, the chair of the Supreme Court Committee on Women in the Courts; Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello; and Superior Court Judge Michelle Hollar-Gregory, chair of the New Jersey chapter of NAWJ.



Supreme Court

By the numbers

Petitions for Certification Filed:	1,204
Petitions for Certification Granted:	118
Oral Arguments:	90
Written Decisions:	68



Supreme Court of New Jersey

Back row, L to R: Justice Ann Murray Patterson; Justice Barry T. Albin; Justice Helen E. Hoens; Appellate Judge Dorothea O'C. Wefing, temporarily assigned. Front row, L to R: Justice Virginia A. Long; Chief Justice Stuart Rabner, Justice Jaynee LaVecchia.

The New Jersey Supreme Court is the state's highest court. The seven justices are appointed to an initial seven-year term, after which they can be reappointed with tenure until age 70, the mandatory retirement age for all New Jersey state court judges. The court began the court year with six justices, with Appellate Division Presiding Judge for Administration Dorothea O'C Wefing on temporary assignment. An additional vacancy was created by the retirement of Justice Virginia A. Long on March 11, 2012.

The cases that are heard by the Supreme Court are appeals from the Appellate Division of Superior Court. If an appellate panel is divided on an appeal, the parties have an automatic right to Supreme Court review. If the appellate panel is unanimous, the losing party must file a petition for certification to have the court hear the case. The court grants certification in cases involving constitutional issues, cases in which there have been conflicting rulings in the past and, in certain instances, cases of great public importance.

In addition to its judicial responsibilities, the Supreme Court oversees all aspects of Judiciary administration as well as the legal system itself. The court administers bar admissions through the Board of Bar Examiners. The board recently implemented an online application system to provide a nearly paperless process for prospective attorneys to register for the state bar examination. After completing a one-page application and an authorization and release form, applicants can complete the lengthy Character and Fitness Questionnaire online and upload supplemental documents, such as drivers' abstracts, directly to their files. All communications are conducted electronically, further expediting the process and reducing costs and storage space. The system allows the attorney members of the Supreme Court Committee on Character to access character questionnaires and supplemental documents from any location at any time, while others can view the same file simultaneously. For July 2012, the first application period with the new system, 3,940 applications were submitted. During Court Year 2012, the court admitted 3,346 new attorneys to the New Jersey bar, a 2.76 percent increase from Court Year 2011.

The Supreme Court oversees the attorney discipline system, including the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) and the Disciplinary Review Board (DRB). The OAE investigates allegations of attorney misconduct and coordinates the work of the state's 18 district ethics committees and 17 fee arbitration committees to help ensure the integrity of the legal profession. Its recommendations for final discipline are reviewed by the DRB, which conducts a second investigation, hearing and review. Recommendations for disbarment are reviewed by the Supreme Court, which issues an order to show cause and offers each attorney in danger of disbarment the opportunity for oral argument. DRB decisions for lesser sanctions are usually final, except in cases where an attorney requests Supreme Court review.

The Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection also is overseen by the Supreme Court. The fund, which is supported by annual payments from the state's lawyers and judges, provides reimbursement to victims of attorneys who have been suspended or disbarred for knowing misappropriation of client funds. During Court Year 2012, the Fund approved \$2,467,496.45 to reimburse clients for losses caused by 36 lawyers.



Supreme Court Justice Virginia A. Long Retires

Supreme Court Justice Virginia A. Long retired on March 1, 2012 after a 34-year judicial career. Appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1978 by Gov. Brendan T. Byrne, Justice Long served in every trial division and in four of the state's 15 vicinages when she was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1984. She served in the Appellate Division for 15 years, authoring about 2,000 opinions. In 1999, Gov. Christine Todd Whitman nominated Justice Long to the Supreme Court bench. She was reappointed with tenure in 2006 and served until the mandatory retirement age of 70.

A pioneer in the legal world, Justice Long attended Dunbarton College of the Holy Cross in Washington, D.C. before becoming one of only four women in her Rutgers Law School-Newark class of 150 students. She began her legal career as a deputy attorney general and worked in private practice before she returned to government service in 1975 as director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. She also served as director of the Department of Insurance from 1977 until 1978.

While on the bench, Justice Long pondered the landmark cases and complex legal issues of the day, but she never forgot the impact that each case would have on real people. In speaking of her work, Justice Long said, "We may take a case to establish a legal principle going forward, but every one of these cases involves somebody's life, somebody's child, somebody's injury, somebody going to jail. Every case was a person's life, spread out on a piece of paper."



Appellate Division

OF SUPERIOR COURT

By the numbers:

Appeals received	6,461
Appeals decided	6,159
Motions decided	7,872
Written opinions	3,280
Published opinions	215

The Appellate Division of Superior Court is the state's intermediate appellate court. It hears appeals and interlocutory motions from the Superior Court, the Tax Court, and from state administrative agencies.

The 33 appellate judges are selected by the chief justice from among the state's Superior and Tax Court judges. Each of the Appellate Division's eight parts includes four judges, the most senior of whom serves as the presiding judge who oversees case flow. Each case is decided by a two- or three-judge panel from one of the parts. The panels issue their decisions in the form of written opinions that are either "published," meaning they set precedent and can be used as case law in future court cases, or "unpublished," meaning they have statewide applicability but do not break new legal ground.

The presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division works closely with the Appellate Division Clerk's Office to manage the work of the division. Judge Dorothea O'C. Wefing was named presiding judge for administration on June 10, 2011. As Judge Wefing has served on temporary assignment to the Supreme Court since then, Judge Aríel Rodríguez has filled that role. He is assisted by Judge Carmen Messano, who serves as the division's deputy presiding judge for administration.



Retirement of Judge Philip S. Carchman

Appellate Judge Philip S. Carchman reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 on March 16, 2012, after a 39-year judicial career that began in municipal court and included several temporary assignments to the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Appointed to the Superior Court in 1986, Judge Carchman sat on the criminal bench in the Essex Vicinage until 1988, when he was assigned to the civil division in the Mercer Vicinage. He was named presiding judge of the division in 1990, and also served as the Family Division presiding judge from 1990 to 1993, and the presiding judge of the general equity part in 1995. In 1995, he was named assignment judge of the Mercer Vicinage. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz elevated Judge Carchman to the Appellate Division in 1997, and selected him to serve as administrative director of the courts in 2004. Judge Carchman returned to the Appellate bench in 2007.

A graduate of the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce at the University of Pennsylvania, Judge Carchman obtained his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He served as law secretary to Assignment Judge Leon Gerofksy and Superior Court Judge John C. Demos before becoming a deputy attorney general in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety in 1967. From 1967 to 1981, Judge Carchman worked in private practice, and from 1973 to 1981 he served as a part-time municipal court judge in both Princeton Township and Princeton Borough. In 1981, he was named Mercer County prosecutor. He served in that position until his appointment to the bench.

While on the appellate bench, Judge Carchman authored 1,284 written opinions, including 152 published opinions.

Chief Justice Names New Appellate Judges



Appellate Judge Margaret M. Hayden

Judge Margaret M. Hayden was elevated to the Appellate Division effective Aug. 1, 2011. Appointed to the Superior Court in 2004, she served in the family division in Essex Vicinage. A former member of the statewide Domestic Violence Working Group, Judge Hayden served as the lead judge on domestic violence cases from 2004 to 2006. She served as lead judge for Children in Court cases and for the Newark Model Court from 2008 to 2011. Judge Hayden was named an administrative law judge by Gov. Christie Whitman in 1996. She remained in that position until her appointment to the Superior Court.

A graduate of Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and Rutgers University School of Law-Newark, Judge Hayden began her legal career in 1973 at the Newark firm of Ball, Hayden, Livingston & Smith. In 1985, she joined the Environmental Protection Bureau of the New York Office of the Attorney General as assistant attorney general.

In 1987, Judge Hayden joined Rutgers University's Environmental Law Clinic, where she worked as a senior attorney training law students in complex litigation involving environmental law. She remained at Rutgers until joining the bench.



Appellate Judge John C. Kennedy

Judge John C. Kennedy was elevated to the Appellate Division effective Sept. 1, 2011. Appointed to the bench in 2003, he served in the criminal division of the Essex Vicinage until 2008, when he was assigned to the civil bench. He has served as a panelist at a number of judicial education programs at the national and state levels. In 2009, Judge Kennedy became a science and technology fellow of the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining the Judiciary, Judge Kennedy was in private practice, most recently as a litigation partner in O'Donnell, Kennedy, Vespole & Piechta. He also has served as corporation counsel for the City of Jersey City and taught at Seton Hall University Law School.

A graduate of St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., Judge Kennedy received his law degree from Seton Hall University Law School. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Appellate Judge John F. Lynch.

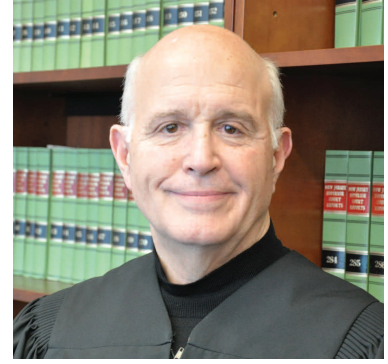


Appellate Judge Mitchell E. Ostrer

Judge Mitchell E. Ostrer was elevated to the Appellate Division effective Aug. 1, 2011. Appointed to the bench in 2003, he began his judicial career in the civil division in the Mercer Vicinage, moving to the family division in 2004 and to the criminal division in 2007. While on the bench, Judge Ostrer has been a participant in the Advanced Science and Technology Adjudication Resource Center and has served on the Evidence Rules Committee. As an attorney, he served on the District V-B Ethics Committee and the Model Civil Jury Charge Committee.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamilton College, Judge Ostrer earned a Master of Public Affairs degree from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He attended Columbia University School of Law, receiving his law degree in 1979. He served as a law clerk to the late New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Sidney M. Schreiber.

Judge Ostrer served as assistant counsel to Gov. Brendan T. Byrne before joining the political campaign and, later, the Washington, D.C. staff of Sen. Frank Lautenberg, where he became legislative director. In 1992, he returned to New Jersey and became of counsel to the law firm of Sills Cummis & Gross in Newark, concentrating in commercial litigation. He joined Gov. Jim McGreevey's administration in 2001, serving as his policy counselor before Gov. McGreevey appointed him to the bench.



Appellate Judge Jerome M. St. John

Judge Jerome M. St. John was elevated to the Appellate Division effective Aug. 1, 2011. Appointed to the Superior Court in 2006, he served in the criminal division in the Essex Vicinage until 2009, when he was transferred to the civil division. He returned to the criminal division in 2010 and has remained there until his elevation to the Appellate Division.

A graduate of Villanova University and Seton Hall School of Law, Judge St. John began his legal career in private practice, first at the Newark firm of Kraft & Hughes, and later as a partner at St. John & Wayne in Newark and New York City.

Judge St. John also served on the Essex Fells School Board and the Essex Fells Town Council. He was mayor of Essex Fells from 1996 to 1998. From 2004 to 2005, he served as chair of the Essex County Utilities Authority.

On *the* Move



Assignment Judge Julio L. Mendez

Judge Julio L. Mendez Named Assignment Judge in the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage

Chief Justice Rabner appointed Julio L. Mendez to serve as the assignment judge in the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage effective Nov. 1, 2011. Judge Mendez was appointed by Gov. Jim McGreevey in 2002 and began his judicial service in the criminal division of the Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem Vicinage. In 2009, he moved to the family division. He was named family presiding judge one year later, a role he filled until he was tapped to be the assignment judge in Atlantic/Cape May. Judge Mendez has served as chair of the Children in Court Committee of the Conference of Presiding Family Judges. He also served for six years on the Supreme Court Committee on Family Practice, and he served as a member of the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Outside Activities.



Retired Assignment Judge Valerie Armstrong

Judge Valerie Armstrong Retires After 10 Years as Assignment Judge and 20 Years on the Bench

Assignment Judge Valerie Armstrong retired on Nov. 1, 2011 after serving for 10 years as assignment judge of the Atlantic/Cape May Vicinage. Appointed to the Superior Court in 1991 by Gov. Jim Florio, Judge Armstrong served in the family division since her appointment and was named presiding judge of the division in 1995. She chaired the Conference of Presiding Family Judges from 1997 to 2000. Before her judicial appointment, Judge Armstrong served as an administrative law judge and sat on the Casino Control Commission, where she also served as vice-chair. A graduate of Beaver College and Temple University School of Law, Judge Armstrong worked in private practice before entering public service.



Assignment Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr.

Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. Selected for Top Hudson Vicinage Position

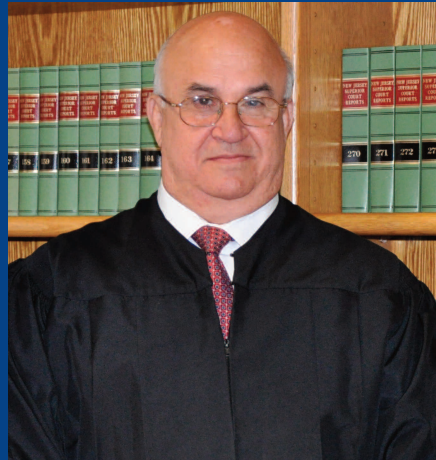
Judge Peter F. Bariso Jr. took over as the Hudson Vicinage assignment judge on Dec. 21, 2011. Appointed to the bench by Gov. Richard J. Codey in 2005, Judge Bariso was assigned to the civil division in Hudson Vicinage. He was named presiding judge of the division in 2006 and in July 2011 became chair of the Conference of Civil Presiding Judges. Judge Bariso also is the former chair of the Supreme Court Arbitration Advisory Committee and a member of the Supreme Court Committee on Jury Voir Dire. He graduated magna cum laude from Rutgers University and completed his law degree at Rutgers School of Law-Newark. He worked in private practice before his appointment to the bench.



*Retired Assignment Judge
Maurice J. Gallipoli*

Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli Says Goodbye After a 25 Years on the Bench

After 25 years on the bench, and seven years as assignment judge, Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli retired from the Judiciary on Feb. 6, 2012. Appointed in 1987, Judge Gallipoli served in the civil division of the Hudson Vicinage and was named civil presiding judge in 1988. He remained presiding judge until assuming leadership of the vicinage in 2004. He served on a number of Supreme Court committees, including the Civil Practice Committee, the Committee on Electronic Filing, and the Arbitration Advisory Committee. He chaired the Conference of Civil Presiding Judges and the Judiciary’s Information Technology Steering Committee during his time on the bench. A graduate of St. Peter’s College and New York University School of Law, Judge Gallipoli worked in private practice until his appointment to the Superior Court.



*Assignment Judge
Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina*

Judge Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina Chosen to Lead the Camden Vicinage

Chief Justice Rabner named Judge Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina assignment judge of the Camden Vicinage effective Feb. 1, 2012. Judge Fernandez-Vina was appointed to the bench in 2004 and served in the civil division of the Camden Vicinage until 2006, when he moved to the family division. In 2007, he was named presiding judge of the division, a position he held until he was named assignment judge. While on the bench, the judge has served on a number of Supreme Court Committees, including the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee. He is a graduate of Widener University and Rutgers School of Law-Camden. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Superior Court Judge E. Stevenson Fluharty and worked in private practice until his appointment to the Superior Court.



*Retired Assignment Judge
Francis J. Orlando Jr.*

Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando Jr. Retires After 20 Years on the Bench

Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando Jr., who served as the Camden Vicinage assignment judge for 16 years, retired on Feb. 1, 2012. He was appointed to the bench in 1991 and remained in the Camden Vicinage for his entire judicial career. After serving on the family bench for two years, he moved to the civil division in 1993 and was named civil presiding judge one year later. He became assignment judge on Feb. 1, 1996. A graduate of Rutgers College and Rutgers School of Law-Camden, Judge Orlando practiced law and also performed legal work for a number of municipalities. He is a former mayor and council member of Haddon Heights.



Assignment Judge Mary C. Jacobson

Judge Mary C. Jacobson Named Assignment Judge for the Mercer Vicinage

Judge Mary C. Jacobson was selected by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner to lead the Mercer Vicinage effective March 1, 2012. Appointed to the bench in 2001 by Gov. Christie Whitman, Judge Jacobson sat on the civil bench in the Essex Vicinage before moving to the general equity division. She then moved to the Mercer Vicinage, hearing civil and then family cases. She served as presiding judge of the family division from 2009 to 2010, when she was named presiding judge of general equity in the Mercer Vicinage.

A graduate of Smith College and New York University School of Law, Judge Jacobson clerked for Appellate Division Judge Samuel Lerner before joining the Division of Law in the Department of Law and Public Safety. After 10 years in the environmental protection section, she was named appellate supervisor and, later, assistant attorney general.



Retired Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg

Mercer Vicinage Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg Retires

Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg, the second woman to serve as an assignment judge in the New Jersey courts, retired from the Mercer Vicinage on March 1, 2012. Appointed to the bench in 1992, Judge Feinberg was selected to be the presiding judge of the family division in Mercer Vicinage only one year later. Before her appointment to the Superior Court bench, Judge Feinberg served as a municipal court judge in several communities. She served as the presiding judge of the municipal courts in Mercer County from 1998 to 1991. Judge Feinberg holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Rider College and a law degree from the University of Akron School of Law. Prior to her judicial service, Judge Feinberg was an assistant professor in the Department of Law and Justice at Trenton State College, now the College of New Jersey. She also served as an assistant prosecutor for Mercer County and, later, assistant Mercer County counsel, in addition to working in private practice.



Deirdre M. Naughton Named Director of Professional and Governmental Services

Deirdre M. Naughton was named director of Professional and Governmental Services effective Jan. 1, 2012.

She joined the Judiciary in 2007 as counsel to the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct (ACJC). Prior to joining the courts, she served for six years as assistant counsel to the New Jersey governor, where she oversaw the process for judicial and prosecutorial appointments.

As director, Naughton represents the Judiciary to the governor's office and the Legislature and coordinates judicial appointments and reappointments for the courts. She also oversees judicial education, judicial performance and the ACJC.

A graduate of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia and Rutgers School of Law-Camden, Naughton served as a law clerk to Superior Court Judge Jack L. Lintner from 1997 to 1998. She then worked in private practice before entering state service.



The Trial Courts

FAMILY DIVISION

CRIMINAL DIVISION

CIVIL DIVISION

GENERAL EQUITY

FAMILY DIVISION

The family division provides an impartial forum for couples to resolve disputes including divorce, dissolution of civil unions, child support, custody and visitation. The division also hears matters of domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect, termination of parental rights, adoption and kinship guardianship.

The division strives to hear these matters quickly to provide important court protections such as restraining orders for victims of domestic violence, out-of-home placements for children in unsafe family situations, and orders protecting other vulnerable litigants. Judges and staff receive training in the emotional and cultural contexts that could complicate family cases as they work to meet the short time goals assigned to most family case types.

Judiciary Expands Program to Provide Juveniles with Detention Alternatives

The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) continues to reduce the number of juveniles who are confined to detention while they await the resolution of their cases.

Although originally reserved for only those juveniles considered a serious risk to the community, the use of detention expanded considerably in the 1990s. Between 1993 and 2002, juvenile arrests for the most serious offenses decreased by nearly 25 percent, while the average daily detention population grew by almost 38 percent. The increase alarmed those in the juvenile justice community who were concerned that removing youth from their communities might be harmful to them while causing overcrowding at county facilities and doing little to improve community safety.

The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has brought together judges, court staff, public defenders, and representatives from the Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC) to develop detention alternatives that will maintain community safety and allow juveniles to remain in their communities within their familiar support network. In addition to keeping youth out of detention, JDAI redirects resources toward successful reform strategies and improves conditions of confinement for those youth who require secure supervision.

Implemented in 2004 in Atlantic, Camden, Essex, Hudson and Monmouth counties, JDAI expanded to Bergen, Burlington, Mercer, Ocean and Union counties in 2006. In 2011, the program grew to include Cumberland, Middlesex, Somerset, Passaic and Warren counties.

According to the *2011 JDAI Annual Report*, commitments to detention facilities operated by the JJC have dropped by more than 60 percent, with 627 fewer youth committed to state custody since the implementation of JDAI. Facility overcrowding, which was once a significant problem that greatly increased risk of personal injury to youth and to staff, has been eliminated. The cost savings have been significant as well, as six detention centers have been closed since the program's inception.

Also from the report:

- Comparing the year prior to JDAI in each site to the current year, across all 15 sites average daily population has decreased by 54.8 percent. On any given day, there were 446 fewer youth in secure detention, with youth of color accounting for 89.7 percent of this drop.
- Comparing the year prior to JDAI in each site to 2011, collectively across sites more than 6,000 fewer youth were admitted to detention, a decrease of 59.8 percent.
- Since JDAI implementation, the number of youth admitted to detention for noncompliance with the rules of probation dropped -65.0 percent. Additionally, youth admitted to detention for failing to appear in court decreased by -53.7 percent, and the number of youth admitted for other violations, rule noncompliance, or non-delinquency matters dropped by -33.2 percent.
- The number of girls in detention on any given day has decreased by -68.6 percent across the 15 sites.
- In 2011, across the twelve sites reporting detention alternative outcome data, an average of just 2.9 percent of youth were discharged from a detention alternative program as the result of a new delinquency charge, an indicator that JDAI public safety goals are being met.

New Jersey's successful expansion of JDAI can be attributed to the state-level cooperation between the Judiciary, the JJC and other agencies. The statewide approach and statewide support have enabled the successful planning and development of local programs that meet statewide operational standards to ensure consistency in each county.

Many states have JDAI programs, but only New Jersey has been selected by the Casey Foundation as the model site for statewide implementation. The foundation provides grants for representatives from other states to visit New Jersey to learn about the successful collaboration between agencies and branches of government that has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of youths in detention. In 2012, a delegation from Ohio traveled to New Jersey to meet with judges, managers, probation officers, and representatives from the JJC and the Office of the Public Defender to get an in-depth look at the program. Since 2008, New Jersey has hosted six states through the model site visit program.

Grant Provides Videoconferencing Technology to Speed Restraining Order Process

Under the Hospital-to-Court and Safe-House-to-Court Assistance Project, victims of domestic violence can apply for temporary restraining orders by videoconference rather than having to go to court. The program, which now includes six hospitals and seven safe houses around the state, is funded by the federal Violence Against Women Act.

Timing is critical when dealing with incidents of domestic violence. Victims who return home might be persuaded by the abuser or by other family members or friends that future incidents are avoidable or unlikely, when in fact the opposite is true. By providing the opportunity to discuss the case with court staff or a judge while they are still at the hospital or another safe location, on-site videoconferencing at locations where victims seek treatment and shelter might encourage them to follow through on their initial efforts to protect themselves.

The family divisions in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Passaic and Union counties have developed the necessary videoconferencing links, with more counties scheduled to implement the program in the coming months.

CRIMINAL DIVISION

The criminal division of Superior Court resolves serious criminal cases such as murder, robbery, and drug trafficking. The division also screens cases to determine if they are eligible for drug court or for diversionary programs such as the pre-trial intervention program.

Drug Courts Improving Lives and Communities

New Jersey's drug courts have transformed the lives of thousands of drug-addicted offenders by providing them with treatment rather than incarceration, intensive supervision and incentives to remake their lives. Drug courts are a highly specialized court process that functions within the existing Superior Court structure to address the non-violent, drug-addicted offender.

Drug courts reflect a societal shift toward therapeutic jurisprudence, with focus moved to the offender rather than the offense. Frequent attendance in court and personal interaction with the judge and other members of the drug court team have proven effective to coerce drug court participants to meet program requirements as they progress toward recovery.

New Jersey's drug court program began in 1997 as pilot programs in Camden and Passaic counties and then expanded into Essex, Union and Mercer counties in 1999. Equal access to drug courts was made available statewide in 2004. New Jersey has been a national leader in implementing a statewide program available in every county.

In Court Year 2012, a working group to assess the drug courts was established. This working group is charged with assessing the various drug court teams to ensure that they are productive and well functioning.

In addition to improving rates of employment, health coverage and drivers' licenses, drug court has improved the lives of participants' families. More than 240 babies have been born drug-free to female drug court participants, and 133 participants have regained custody of their minor children. The lives of more than 2,650 minor children have been improved considerably by their parents' graduation from the drug court program. Moreover, 30 percent of all participants who graduate

from drug court will have improved their level of education or vocational skills while in the program.

The Judiciary's drug court program has admitted 1,593 new participants in Court Year 2012. Another 398 participants graduated during the Court Year, while 570 moved into the fourth and final phase of the program. There were 4,507 active drug court participants in the statewide program as of June 30, 2012.

In Court Year 2012, the statewide drug court program exceeded the admission goal of 1,559 and exceeded the prison diversion goal of 1,002 cases by diverting 1,110 cases. Drug court admissions increased by 12 percent from the previous year and offenders diverted from state prison increased by 35 percent.

Veterans Assistance Project

The statewide Veterans Assistance Project is a combined effort of the Judiciary, the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services. Begun as a pilot in 2008 to provide referrals to existing community services as well as mentors for veterans, the project has resulted in 1,633 referrals thus far, including 765 referrals in Court Year 2012.

Some veterans return from military service with physical, mental or personal issues and may turn to drugs or alcohol in an attempt to manage the stress of returning to civilian life. The Veterans Assistance Project aims to connect service members who need help with existing programs and mentors to address those issues.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs determines which veterans are assigned mentors. The mentors, active and retired veterans themselves, volunteer to work with defendants while their criminal cases are pending and afterward. They see that veterans receive assistance and try to help them avoid behaviors that might lead them back into the criminal justice system.

CIVIL DIVISION

The civil division of Superior Court resolves cases of monetary damages ranging from small claims through complex commercial litigation. While the circumstances of each case are unique, the division has developed a series of best practices for each type of case to ensure statewide consistency and timely resolution for litigants.

Litigants seeking damages less than \$3,000 file in small claims court, where the time goal for resolution is two months. Cases involving damages between \$3,000 and \$15,000 are filed in the special civil part, with a resolution time goal of four months. The civil division places cases valued at more than \$15,000 onto one of four tracks. Depending on their complexity, the time goals for these cases range from 12 to 24 months. The civil division also consolidates multi-county litigation for certain tort claims into three counties, Atlantic, Bergen and Middlesex, where centralized management helps to streamline the resolution of thousands of cases involving litigants seeking damages against a single defendant.

The majority of cases filed with the civil division are filed in the special civil part, which resolved 538,838 cases during Court Year 2012. A total of 292,312 cases were filed electronically using the Judiciary Electronic Filing and Imaging System (JEFIS). With JEFIS, the courts are able to address the enormous caseload of special civil cases quickly and efficiently. Approximately 95 percent of the eligible special civil caseload is now filed and managed electronically. Judges, attorneys and court staff have instant access to court documents and information that help move cases through each step in the resolution process without delay. Resolved cases can remain in electronic storage for easy retrieval without the cost of maintaining physical storage space.

Involuntary Civil Outpatient Commitment

The Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) law went into effect on Aug.11, 2010. The IOC statute creates a new treatment option, mandating court-ordered supervision in the community as a less restrictive alternative to inpatient hospitalization for treatment for the class of patients defined by the legislation. Unlike involuntary and voluntary civil commitments, individuals placed on IOC remain in the community during an involuntary outpatient commitment.

Individuals are eligible for IOC if they:

- are 18 years of age or older;
- have a mental illness that will make them dangerous to self, others, or property,
- are likely to be dangerous in the reasonably foreseeable future, but not imminently;
- have the capacity to participate in their treatment and development of their individual Wellness/Recovery Action Plan, even if unwilling to do so; and
- are not an imminent risk of a medical crisis

Initial and review IOC hearings and hearings to modify treatment plans, address failures to comply with treatment plans and address conversions to involuntary commitments are conducted at local mental health facilities or psychiatric hospitals.

Mental health providers in six counties, Warren, Hudson, Essex, Union, Burlington and Ocean, are approved by the commissioner of the Department of Human Services to provide IOC treatment.

GENERAL EQUITY

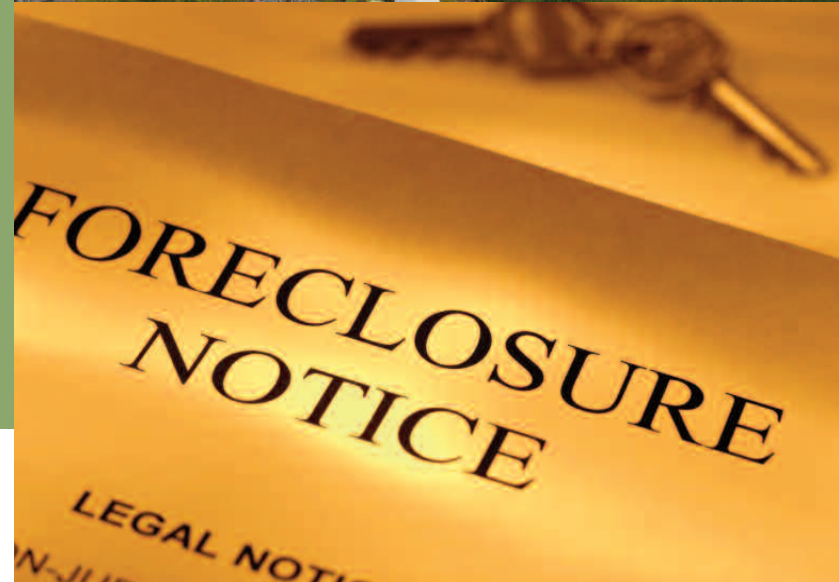
General equity cases involve non-monetary disputes such as business dissolution issues, trade secrets, restrictive covenants, labor injunctions and mortgage and tax foreclosure actions. General equity cases are heard without a jury by a specially assigned judge within the chancery division.

Judiciary Addresses Foreclosure Crisis

Like many jurisdictions around the country, the New Jersey courts have seen a tremendous increase in foreclosure cases in recent years. While 29,851 foreclosure cases were filed in Court Year 2007, that figure increased to 45,117 cases in Court Year 2008, 60,107 cases in Court Year 2009 and 65,222 cases in Court Year 2010. Foreclosure filings declined significantly in Court Year 2011 and Court Year 2012, although much of this decline is attributed to increased scrutiny of foreclosure practices at the federal and state levels. In 2010, the New Jersey Supreme Court issued an order amending the Rules of Court to require attorneys to file a certificate of diligent inquiry along with other documentation. Major lenders in New Jersey also were required to demonstrate their compliance with existing foreclosure laws. After a special master reviewed those submissions, lenders were allowed to continue filing foreclosure cases in the courts. However, many chose to delay filing,

pending the outcome of a federal review of the foreclosure practices of certain lenders. The courts anticipate a surge in foreclosure filings when those lenders move forward with their foreclosure operations.

In 2010, the courts began using JEFIS to file foreclosure cases. JEFIS-Foreclosure allows the courts and the parties to access case files remotely. The files are available instantly to attorneys or parties at any time, even if they also are being reviewed by the judge or court staff. The system generates electronic notifications if cases are deficient and if new documents are filed. All cases are stored electronically, eliminating the additional cost of storage. The 2010 rollout of JEFIS-Foreclosure included extensive training for judges, staff, and attorneys. Cases filed before the implementation date were backloaded into the system, giving the courts and court users immediate access to the convenience and efficiency of the new system. In 2012, the system was upgraded to allow complaints, judgments and writs to be docketed automatically, further streamlining those processes.





*Tax Court of NJ:
Back row, L to R: Christine N. Nugent; Mala Sundar;
Joseph M. Andresini; Mary S. Brennan.
Front row, L to R: Vito L. Bianco; Presiding Judge
Patrick DeAlmeida; Gail L. Menyuk.*

Tax Court

The Tax Court of New Jersey is a statewide trial court that resolves disputes between taxpayers and local and state taxing agencies. The Tax Court was created in 1979 as a convenient and effective forum for reviewing state and local tax assessments. Through the Tax Court, the New Jersey Judiciary has created a consistent and uniform body of tax law to guide taxpayers and taxing authorities.

Tax Court judges hear appeals directly from decisions of local tax assessors and the decisions of county boards of taxation, which hear property tax disputes involving taxpayers and municipalities. They also hear appeals from decisions of the director of the Division of Taxation on such matters as income tax, sales tax and business tax as well as homestead rebate appeals.

In October 2011, the Tax Court joined the Supreme Court and Appellate Division in publishing all of its written decisions at njcourts.com for the convenience of attorneys, litigants, governing agencies and the public.

Previously, only published Tax Court opinions, meaning opinions that set legal precedent, were available online. On the days when opinions are issued, they are available at njcourts.com at 10 a.m. As with the Supreme Court and Appellate Division opinions, they remain on the Judiciary website for 10 business days. After two weeks, they are archived by Rutgers Law School – Camden.

During the 2011-2012 court year, 15,556 complaints were docketed in the Tax Court of New Jersey. An additional 6,470 complaints were received but not docketed as of the last day of the court year. Thus, while appearing that fewer cases were filed during the 2011-2012 court year, when the backlog in docketing at the clerk's office is taken into account, it becomes clear that filings at the court remained steady at a historically high level. Despite the continuing high number of filings, the Tax Court resolved 15,457 cases during this court year. At the end of the court year, 35,798 cases remained open.



Probation

The probation division enforces court orders in a number of areas, including juvenile and adult supervision and the collection of fines, restitution and child support.

Probation units rely heavily on technology to maximize their efficiency and effectiveness to manage the supervision and child support caseloads. Many probation officers now carry laptops and mobile devices that allow them to keep track of their clients, log their contacts, and conduct necessary research while in the community rather than returning to their offices. Improvements to existing computer systems allow child support personnel to maintain better records and provide better service to their clients.

Adult Supervision

On June 30, 2012, there were 60,750 adult probationers under supervision by the probation division.

The Judiciary provides extensive training to its probation officers to enhance their effectiveness as they supervise adult offenders and deter behavior that might harm clients or the community and lead to additional criminal charges. During Court Year 2012, probation officers received training in case management, interviewing skills, substance abuse, drug testing procedures, adult and adolescent behaviors, and co-occurring disorders.

Specialized caseloads, such as clients with mental illness and those identified as sex offenders or domestic abusers, are generally smaller caseloads that require probation officers to receive even more training and preparation.

Initiated with a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice, the mental health caseload program provides a cost-effective alternative to incarceration and hospitalization for mentally ill probationers. The program offers highly structured supervision and access to community treatment and services. The grant has been in full operation since May 2010, with 30 officers each overseeing caseloads of up to 25 probationers.

Officers receive ongoing training in suicide prevention, mental illness and criminal thinking, stress management and boundary development, co-occurring disorders, and motivational interviewing. Additional training will cover pharmacology, personality characteristics and disorders, and crisis intervention.

Intensive Supervision Program

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) provides another cost-effective alternative to incarceration for non-violent offenders who complete the remainder of their prison term in the community under strict supervision by specially trained ISP officers. ISP is highly structured and emphasizes control, monitoring, surveillance and, when required, treatment for addiction or mental illness. More than 18,800 inmates have been released to ISP since 1983.

On June 30, 2012, ISP had 1,441 active participants. Each participant represents thousands of dollars saved in incarceration costs. Because participants are required to hold jobs and pay fines and restitution, the program offers additional financial benefits to the state. During Court Year 2012, ISP disbursed more than \$2.8 million in court-required payments, including nearly \$1.7 million in restitution. The program also continued successful collection of child support. More than \$168,000 was collected from participants during the year.

Historically, the vast majority of participants are employed. During the past 10 years, the program averaged a 95 percent employment rate. During the recent recession, ISP's statewide employment rate dropped to about 85 percent. Because of new initiatives, such as pre-employment counseling, counseling on interviewing and dressing for success, and special employment programs for ISP participants, the program was able to attain a statewide employment rate above 90 percent in Court Year 2012.



Comprehensive Enforcement Program

The Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP) works to improve compliance with payment obligations, including court-ordered restitution, fines, penalties, assessments, surcharges and judgments in matters that originate in the family and the criminal divisions of the Superior Court. CEP also enforces noncompliance of court ordered community service obligations that originate in both the Superior and municipal courts. CEP enforcement actions are taken on ISP participants with outstanding financial obligations following graduation. CEP provides enforcement hearings for other Judiciary components outside of probation, such as hearings for those who fail to return a jury duty questionnaire/summons document or who fail to appear for jury service. In addition, CEP enforces judgments and restitution entered in favor of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

Enforcement of court orders means that victims receive compensation for their losses and that funding will be available for important programs such as drug education, drug testing, equipping municipal police officers and assisting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. It also means that valuable community service hours are performed that provide governmental and nonprofit agencies with much needed manpower, resulting in considerable savings to the public. Just as important, CEP enforcement maintains the respect of the public for the rule of law and the credibility of the judicial process.

The CEP process begins with notices that are sent automatically to clients who are in noncompliance with court orders. Those who fail to comply with their obligations receive a summons to a CEP hearing to address their noncompliance before a CEP hearing officer. Willful noncompliance can result in the loss of driving privileges, the requirement to attend a Labor Assistance Program or Enforced Community Service Program. It also can result in additional fees, state income tax refund offsets, civil judgments, income withholding, probation extensions, increased reporting schedules, and bench warrants for failure to appear.

On June 30, 2012 CEP was monitoring the compliance of approximately 41,500 adults and juveniles in collections and community service caseloads as well as approximately 66,500 adult and juvenile active supervision clients owing financial obligations. Approximately \$22.8 million of the \$31.1 million in total probation collections for Court Year 2012 were received after the imposition of CEP strategies. CEP also has assisted vicinage staff in the enforcement of approximately 1.4 million hours of community service hours during the Court Year. At the current minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, that service is worth about \$10 million.

Juvenile Supervision

Juvenile Probation Services provides community supervision for adjudicated youth, typically for a two-year term, using the standard conditions of family probation approved by the New Jersey Supreme Court and any special conditions ordered by the judge. In addition to youth ordered to a term of supervision, probation officers supervise youth placed on a deferred status, meaning the original complaint will be dismissed after a period of time if the client complies with special conditions. On June 30, 2012, Juvenile Probation Services was supervising and monitoring 7,438 clients statewide.

The developmental issues and family circumstances of adjudicated youth create a special focus for Juvenile Probation Services. Probation officers use graduated sanctions and incentives to encourage and reward compliance. The goal of juvenile probation is rehabilitation, so probation officers address treatment and school needs and employment readiness in addition to enforcing the standard and special conditions ordered by the court. Probation officers work closely with parents and guardians to ensure that the interventions introduced are effective while under supervision and monitoring and after probation is completed. A formal orientation program for families of youth on probation has been implemented in 10 counties, with more counties scheduled to join the program in the coming months. The program provides families with a better understanding of how probation services works and gives them information about other local agencies that can assist them.



Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program

Adjudicated youth who are deemed to be at high risk for reoffending can be accepted into the Juvenile Intensive Supervision Program (JISP). Youth involved in cases of first-degree crimes, sex crimes and arson are not eligible for the program. The goal of the program is to provide a rehabilitative alternative to detention while preserving public safety.

Less costly than detention, the program allows participants to remain in approved settings in the community, keeping their support system intact. The program is more rigorous than standard juvenile probation, with more frequent contact between probation officers and their clients, parents or guardians, school officials, treatment agencies and others in the community. Clients adhere to requirements for curfews, attendance at school or work, community service, treatment programs for mental health and/or substance addictions, restitution and fines. Compared to an approximate cost of \$65,000 a year to detain a juvenile in a secure residential facility, the cost to supervise one JISP participant is about \$17,500 annually.

In Court Year 2012, a total of 275 juveniles were in the program. Of those, approximately 79 percent completed the program or remain in the program, while 21 percent were terminated from the program due to violations or new arrests. Approximately 80 percent of those in the program were in compliance with their obligations to pay fines and restitution.

Child Support Enforcement

The child support enforcement unit monitors and enforces the collection of court-ordered child support and spousal support. As of June 30, 2012, there were 320,111 cases being enforced. Collections totaled \$1.34 billion for Court Year 2012, a 2.1 percent increase over the previous year.

Building on the success of NJKiDS, the web-based statewide child support computer system, continued refinements and enhancements have promoted greater productivity, performance and coordination. NJKiDS is a real-time system that interfaces seamlessly with the Judiciary's Family Automate Case Tracking System (FACTS), where family court matters involving child support and spousal support issues are docketed. The interface with FACTS has enabled greater interdivisional coordination and collaboration in the management of shared cases. NJKiDS also has provided greater ability to seamlessly process work between the executive and judicial branches and incorporate tasks contracted out to vendors.



The Municipal Court

Court Year 2012 Filings

Case Type	Filings
Indictable *	198,914
Disorderly/Petty Disorderly Persons	426,719
Other Non-Traffic	219,381
DWI	35,063
Other Traffic	2,764,573
Parking	2,485,204
Total	6,129,854

* Indictable matters filed in the municipal court are transferred to the Superior Court and county prosecutor for resolution.

During Court Year 2012, the state's 529 municipal courts received more than 6.1 million court filings. This 1.1 percent increase from Court Year 2011 reverses a two-year trend in which the number of cases decreased. As reflected in the table above, the most common case types are traffic and parking matters.

The municipal courts achieved a 7.1 percent reduction in backlogged cases during Court Year 2012, continuing a trend in backlog reduction that has continued for more than 10 years. For example, in June 2002, the municipal court backlog 809,270 cases. In June, 2012, that total was reduced to 352,239, a decrease of 56 percent.

There were 35,063 DWI cases filed in the municipal courts during Court Year 2012, a 2.1 percent decline from the previous year. Due to their seriousness and complexity, DWI matters require significant bench time. During Court Year 2012, the Judiciary initiated an effort to identify and resolve older DWI cases in which the defendant had failed to appear in court. A second initiative involved resolving cases in which the defendant charged had two or more pending DWI cases. Both initiatives promote public safety and increase court efficiency. Thus far, the municipal courts have resolved 98 percent of active cases involving chronic DWI offenders.

New Videos Help the Public and Attorneys Prepare for Municipal Court

Three new videos based on the model opening statement made by municipal court judges at the start of every municipal court session are now available on the Judiciary's YouTube channel to help defendants know what to expect when they come to municipal court. The three videos provide opening statements for criminal sessions, traffic sessions and combined traffic and criminal sessions. The opening statements helps defendants and others understand the municipal court process and their rights. By watching the videos before they come to court, defendants can be better prepared.

Another video developed during Court Year 2012 provides attorneys with information on how to represent indigent defendants. Each year, approximately 2,000 New Jersey attorneys are assigned to provide free legal representation to defendants in certain types of cases, including contempt of domestic violence restraining orders, municipal appeals and parole revocation hearings. To ensure that the assigned defendants receive high quality representation, the Judiciary has developed training manuals, available on the Judiciary website, which explain in detail the applicable law in each type of assigned case. The video, which also will be online, provides detailed instruction on how attorneys can defend a domestic violence contempt case, the most common type of assigned case. Additional videos on municipal appeals and parole revocation hearings also will be developed.

Education and Training for Judge and Staff Expanded

The Judiciary's four-day training program for new municipal court judges has been expanded to better prepare those just appointed to the municipal court bench. The expanded training is part of the Comprehensive Judicial Orientation Program and includes a one-on-one seminar between the new judge and the presiding municipal judge and a one-day observation of the presiding judge's court proceedings by the new judge.

New training for municipal court staff also was implemented during Court Year 2012. Under the Rules of Court, municipal court directors and deputy municipal court administrators are required to complete a 25-day Principals of Municipal Court Administration (POMCA) program to ensure that municipal court staff are qualified, professional and conform to high standards of conduct. During Court Year 2012, more than 700 people attended one or more levels of POMCA training.

Additional training is available in specialized areas such as bail, domestic violence, leadership and ethics. In 2012, a new course on determining probable cause was developed to give court administrators and deputies guidance as they fulfill the quasi-judicial role of determining probable cause and setting bail.



Municipal Court Automation Enhanced

Enhancements to the municipal court Automated Traffic System and Automated Complaint System allow New Jersey counties and municipalities to contract with private collection agencies in order to recover outstanding court debt. In June 2012 the first municipality began implementing the collection process. The program could yield millions of dollars in outstanding court debt for participating towns.

In Court Year 2012 the red light camera pilot program was completed, with 25 participating municipalities actively issuing tickets. The 159 cameras in the pilot generate about 50,000 citations per month. The traffic citations are entered electronically by the vendor into the municipal traffic system and can be paid online through the NJMCDirect website.

Over the past year the number of law enforcement agencies using the e-ticketing web services has increased significantly, with more than 120 local law enforcement agencies, more than 1,000 local police vehicles and more than 500 state police vehicles now equipped with this new technology. Through the expansion of e-ticketing, red light cameras and the Parking Authority Ticketing System, the municipal courts now process more than half of the municipal caseload electronically, with no hand-on involvement by local municipal court staff. The success of those systems has enabled a major shift in how the courts do their work and a significant savings for the towns taking advantage of them.

Vicinages

ASSIGNMENT JUDGES AND TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATORS COURT YEAR 2012

Vicinage 1	Atlantic County Cape May County	Vicinage 9	Monmouth County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Julio L. Mendez Howard H. Berchtold Jr.	Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Lawrence M. Lawson Marsi L. Perkins
Vicinage 2	Bergen County	Vicinage 10	Morris County Sussex County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Peter E. Doyne Jon Goodman	Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Thomas L. Weisenbeck Rashad Shabaka-Burns
Vicinage 3	Burlington County	Vicinage 11	Passaic County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Ronald E. Bookbinder Jude Del Preore	Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Donald J. Volkert Jr. Marie L. Faber
Vicinage 4	Camden County	Vicinage 12	Union County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Faustino J. Fernandez-Vina Michael O'Brien	Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Karen M. Cassidy Elizabeth Domingo
Vicinage 5	Essex County	Vicinage 13	Hunterdon County Somerset County Warren County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Patricia K. Costello Collins E. Ijoma	Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Yolanda Ciccone Eugene L. Farkas
Vicinage 6	Hudson County	Vicinage 14	Ocean County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Peter F. Bariso Jr. Gerald A. Buccafusco	Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Vincent J. Grasso Kenneth W. Kerwin
Vicinage 7	Mercer County	Vicinage 15	Cumberland County Gloucester County Salem County
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Mary C. Jacobson Sue Regan	Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Georgia M. Curio Mark Sprock
Vicinage 8	Middlesex County		
Assignment Judge Trial Court Administrator	Travis L. Francis Gregory Edwards		



New Jersey Judicial Council

Seated (left to right):

Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson; Assignment Judge Patricia K. Costello; Chief Justice Stuart Rabner; Acting Administrative Director Glenn A. Grant; Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando Jr.

Standing (left to right):

Assignment Judge Ronald E. Bookbinder; Assignment Judge Thomas L. Weisenbeck; Judge Thomas P. Olivieri (*Chair, Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges*); Judge Eugene J. Codey Jr. (*Chair, Conference of Civil Presiding Judges*); Assignment Judge Georgia M. Curio; Assignment Judge Yolanda Ciccone; Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg; Assignment Judge Peter E. Doyne; Judge Peter J. Vazquez (*Chair, Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges*); Assignment Judge Donald J. Volkert Jr.; Assignment Judge Travis L. Francis; Assignment Judge Vincent J. Grasso; Assignment Judge Karen M. Cassidy; Assignment Judge Valerie H. Armstrong; Assignment Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli; Judge Bonnie J. Mizdol (*Chair, Conference of Family Presiding Judges*).

Supreme Court

Stuart Rabner,
Chief Justice
Barry T. Albin
Helen E. Hoens
Jaynee LaVecchia
Anne Murray Patterson

Judges and Justices *of the* NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY

as of June 30, 2012

Superior Court

Allison Accurso
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Christine Allen-Jackson
Carmen H. Alvarez*
William Ankowitz
Melanie Donohue Appleby
Paul W. Armstrong
Patrick J. Arre
Victor Ashrafi*
Eugene H. Austin
Mark A. Baber
Keith A. Bachman
Max A. Baker
Marc M. Baldwin
Peter F. Bariso Jr.
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Raymond A. Batten
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Glenn J. Berman
Stephen J. Bernstein
Robert C. Billmeier
James M. Blaney
Michael J. Blee
Gwendolyn Blue
Ronald E. Bookbinder
Angela Borkowski
Terry Paul Bottinelli
Robert J. Brennan
Kathryn A. Brock
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Noah Bronkesh
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Patricia Del Bueno Cleary
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Mary Eva Colalillo
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N. Peter Conforti
Kyran Connor
Joseph S. Conte
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Terrence R. Cook
Mary K. Costello
Patricia K. Costello
Gerald J. Council
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Thomas J. Critchley
Martin G. Cronin
Evan H.C. Crook
Mary Catherine Cuff*
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Heidi W. Currier

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William A. Daniel
Wendel E. Daniels
Cristen P. D'Arrigo
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F. Lee Forrester
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Honora O'Brien Kilgallen
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Bruno Mongiardo
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Thomas L. Weisenbeck
Craig L. Wellerson
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Mary K. White
Ronald D. Wigler
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Deanne M. Wilson
Robert C. Wilson

Gary D. Wodlinger
Carolyn E. Wright
Michael P. Wright
Daniel J. Yablonsky
Joseph L. Yannoti*
John A. Young Jr.

Tax Court

Patrick DeAlmeida, Presiding Judge
Joseph M. Andresini
Francine I. Axelrad*
Vito L. Bianco
Mary Siobhan Brennan
Angelo J. DiCamillo
Joseph L. Foster
James E. Isman
Marie E. Lihotz*
Gail L. Menyuk
Christine M. Nugent
Mala Sundar

*Appellate Division



Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by Division

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2010 to June 2011	July 2011 to June 2012	percent change	July 2010 to June 2011	July 2011 to June 2012	percent change	June 2011	June 2012	percent change	June 2011	June 2012	percent change
Criminal Division												
Indictable Cases	49,412	48,767	-1%	50,053	48,239	-4%	8,859	9,119	3%	6,502	7,357	13%
Municipal Appeals	1,087	1,035	-5%	1,170	1,065	-9%	230	251	9%	198	152	-23%
Post-Conviction Relief	1,005	1,074	7%	959	946	-1%	644	767	19%	247	288	17%
General Equity	6,852	4,866	-29%	6,844	5,854	-14%	2,318	1,787	-23%	1,111	704	-37%
Contested Foreclosure	3,763	1,904	-49%	3,675	2,750	-25%	1,075	666	-38%	808	403	-50%
Equity (excluding foreclosure)	3,089	2,962	-4%	3,169	3,104	-2%	1,243	1,121	-10%	303	301	-1%
Civil Division												
Civil	106,449	96,611	-9%	102,937	99,045	-4%	82,064	82,998	1%	17,560	15,722	-10%
Multicounty litigation	7,127	8,340	17%	1,116	4,377	292%	8,305	13,894	67%	4,783	3,526	-26%
Non-multicounty litigation	99,322	88,271	-11%	101,821	94,668	-7%	73,759	69,104	-6%	12,777	12,196	-5%
Special Civil	594,716	529,585	-11%	597,539	538,838	-10%	53,866	45,341	-16%	538	428	-20%
Special Civil - Auto	1,591	1,557	-2%	1,546	1,608	4%	236	199	-16%	19	9	-53%
Special Civil - Contract	363,818	303,710	-17%	365,862	312,758	-15%	40,541	31,776	-22%	425	363	-15%
Special Civil - Other	9,066	6,526	-28%	9,387	6,598	-30%	978	895	-8%	49	31	-37%
Special Civil - Small Claims	48,307	45,531	-6%	49,198	45,597	-7%	2,258	2,394	6%	26	17	-35%
Special Civil - Tenancy	171,934	172,261	0%	171,546	172,277	0%	9,853	10,077	2%	19	8	-58%
Probate	6,337	6,232	-2%	6,228	6,301	1%	1,673	1,658	-1%	158	148	-6%
Family Division												
Dissolution	68,620	69,168	1%	68,774	69,195	1%	18,086	17,756	-2%	1,109	1,342	21%
Delinquency	44,986	40,403	-10%	45,782	40,738	-11%	3,297	2,966	-10%	152	159	5%
Non-Dissolution	161,010	160,495	-0%	160,218	161,399	1%	11,972	10,817	-10%	439	422	-4%
Domestic Violence	57,178	54,371	-5%	57,443	54,342	-5%	1,453	1,422	-2%	61	83	36%
Abuse/Neglect	4,028	4,737	18%	4,304	4,417	3%	4,649	5,017	8%	165	114	-31%
Adoption	1,831	2,047	12%	1,893	2,096	11%	391	401	3%			
Child Placement Review	4,553	5,661	24%	5,242	5,449	4%	7,723	8,007	4%	70	35	-50%
Juvenile/Family Crisis	503	476	-5%	502	489	-3%	24	10	-58%	3	4	33%
Term of Parental Rights	1,018	904	-11%	1,073	964	-10%	378	366	-3%	247	199	-19%
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal	9,341	8,416	-10%	9,369	8,498	-9%	797	727	-9%	33	28	-15%
Kinship	659	668	1%	681	679	-0%	86	77	-10%	9	8	-11%
Total	1,119,585	1,035,516	-8%	1,121,011	1,048,554	-6%	198,510	189,487	-5%	28,602	27,193	-5%

As of March 2012, the post-conviction relief backlog goal was revised fro 3 months to 12 months. Historical data has been adjusted.



Trial Court Filings, Resolutions and Backlog by County

	Filings			Resolutions			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2010 to June 2011	July 2011 to June 2012	percent change	July 2010 to June 2011	July 2011 to June 2012	percent change	June 2011	June 2012	percent change	June 2011	June 2012	percent change
Atlantic	54,598	52,557	-4%	48,835	47,323	-3%	15,178	19,674	30%	2,411	3,208	33%
Multicounty Litigation	6,020	7,056	17%	282	1,080	283%	6,789	11,978	76%	851	1,955	130%
Non Multicounty Litigation	48,578	45,501	-6%	48,553	46,243	-5%	8,389	7,696	-8%	1,560	1,253	-20%
Bergen	93,884	81,902	-13%	94,757	85,125	-10%	16,606	15,039	-9%	1,159	1,587	37%
Multicounty Litigation	945	779	-18%	468	201	-57%	1,131	1,315	16%	29	425	1366%
Non-Multicounty Litigation	92,939	81,123	-13%	94,289	84,924	-10%	15,475	13,724	-11%	1,130	1,162	3%
Burlington	51,979	47,405	-9%	52,435	47,854	-9%	8,748	8,304	-5%	936	854	-9%
Camden	77,307	72,565	-6%	78,282	73,995	-5%	13,575	12,402	-9%	1,375	1,183	-14%
Cape May	14,728	13,538	-8%	14,653	14,032	-4%	2,424	2,013	-17%	366	300	-18%
Cumberland	29,803	28,884	-3%	30,054	28,468	-5%	3,745	4,001	7%	531	627	18%
Essex	147,823	140,350	-5%	148,908	140,933	-5%	25,086	24,339	-3%	3,037	3,507	15%
Gloucester	33,759	31,308	-7%	33,947	31,697	-7%	5,695	5,331	-6%	725	712	-2%
Hudson	95,539	88,839	-7%	94,930	90,141	-5%	16,094	14,839	-8%	1,625	1,601	-1%
Hunterdon	8,729	7,776	-11%	8,786	7,851	-11%	1,590	1,475	-7%	182	207	14%
Mercer	48,835	46,626	-5%	49,409	47,317	-4%	8,036	7,314	-9%	1,242	1,273	2%
Middlesex	88,940	81,498	-8%	89,417	85,756	-4%	16,955	15,523	-8%	5,981	3,084	-48%
Multicounty Litigation	162	505	212%	366	3,096	746%	385	601	56%	3,903	1,146	-71%
Non Multicounty Litigation	88,778	80,993	-9%	89,051	82,660	-7%	16,570	14,922	-10%	2,078	1,938	-7%
Monmouth	71,913	64,088	-11%	72,741	65,592	-10%	12,479	10,849	-13%	2,068	2,211	7%
Morris	36,758	33,009	-10%	37,006	33,678	-9%	7,017	6,402	-9%	1,200	1,138	-5%
Ocean	60,348	56,016	-7%	61,280	56,801	-7%	10,311	9,526	-8%	1,329	1,290	-3%
Passaic	70,481	63,921	-9%	70,409	65,001	-8%	12,455	11,540	-7%	1,100	1,108	1%
Salem	11,207	11,355	1%	11,450	11,423	-0%	1,526	1,511	-1%	121	99	-18%
Somerset	26,238	24,266	-8%	26,431	24,847	-6%	4,668	4,156	-11%	873	801	-8%
Sussex	15,023	13,144	-13%	15,259	13,198	-14%	2,365	2,297	-3%	360	360	0%
Union	70,002	65,624	-6%	70,160	66,502	-5%	12,268	11,355	-7%	1,752	1,854	6%
Warren	11,691	10,845	-7%	11,862	11,020	-7%	1,689	1,597	-5%	229	189	-17%
Total	1,119,585	1,035,516	-8%	1,121,011	1,048,554	-6%	198,510	189,487	-5%	28,602	27,193	-5%
Multicounty Litigation	7,127	8,340	17%	1,116	4,377	292%	8,305	13,894	67%	4,783	3,526	-26%
Non Multicounty Litigation	1,112,458	1,027,176	-8%	1,119,895	1,044,177	-7%	190,205	175,593	-8%	23,819	23,667	-1%

As of March 2012, the post-conviction relief backlog goal was revised from 3 months to 12 months. Historical data has been adjusted.