Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County

Superior and Justice Courts
Adult and Juvenile Probation

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2010
July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010

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www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov

Judicial Branch of Maricopa County

Amidst the global economic recession, the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County continues to provide a full array of quality court services with reduced resources. The courts and probation departments entered the fiscal year with a $20 million dollar budget reduction, resulting in a loss of 435 staff positions. With this loss of personnel and an overall reduction in budget for FY10, critical court services have been maintained through the tireless work of our highly dedicated Judges, Commissioners and court staff; a commitment to continuous process improvements; and evidence based practices.

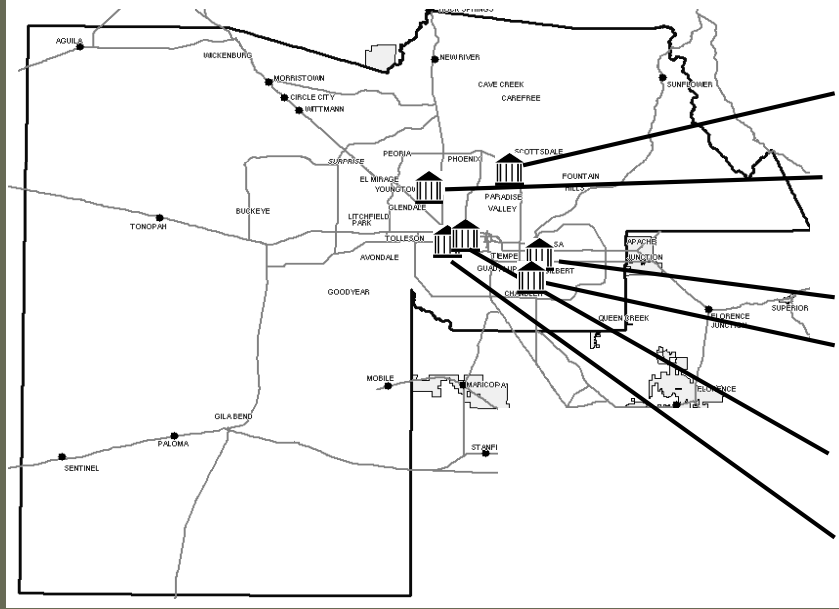
The economic crisis is generating unprecedented growth in civil litigation: 74,110 civil filings in FY10, an 8% increase from the previous year, and 3,382 tax cases, a 70% increase from the previous year. Workloads in other areas of the judicial system remain very high as reflected in this year's statistical report.

Construction of a new downtown Criminal Court Tower remains on schedule and under budget, with the opening planned for February 2012. Court representatives are working with architects and county officials to finalize plans for highly efficient and safe operations at this much needed felony court justice center.

Our sincere thanks go to the Arizona Supreme Court, Arizona State Legislature and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for their continued support during these challenging economic times.

Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer
Court Administrator

Superior Court Locations



Northeast (Phoenix)
18380 N. 40th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85032

Northwest (Surprise)
14264 W. Tierra Buena Lane, Surprise, AZ 85374

Southeast (Mesa)
222 E. Javelina Drive, Mesa, AZ 85210-6234

Juvenile (Mesa)
1810 S. Lewis, Mesa, AZ 85210-6234

Downtown (Phoenix)
201 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85003

Durango (Phoenix)
3131 W. Durango, Phoenix, AZ 85009

Judicial Branch Leadership

Presiding Judge, Current
Norman J. Davis

Presiding Judge, FY 2005-2010
Barbara Mundell

Associate Presiding Judge
Eddward Ballinger

Court Administrator
Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer

Maricopa County and Court Facts

4th Largest U.S. Trial Court

Superior Court

Judicial Officers and Administration

95 Judges

59 Commissioners

2,800 Employees

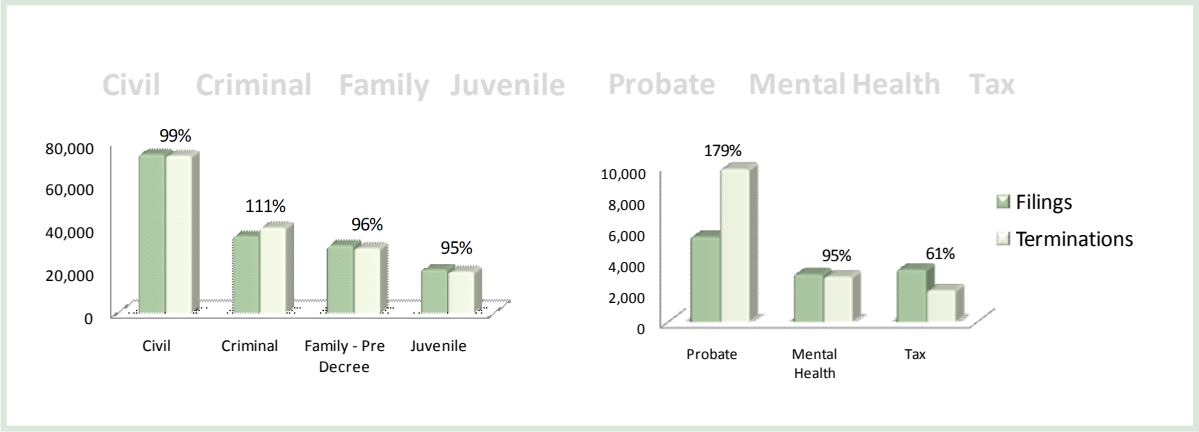
Maricopa County Demographics

- **County Population: 4,023,132**
- **61% of Arizona's population resides in Maricopa County**
- **Population increased by 31% from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2009**
- **Geography: 15th largest U.S. County**
- **Total area: 9,224 square miles**
- **Total land area: 9,203 square miles**
- **Total water area: 21 square miles**

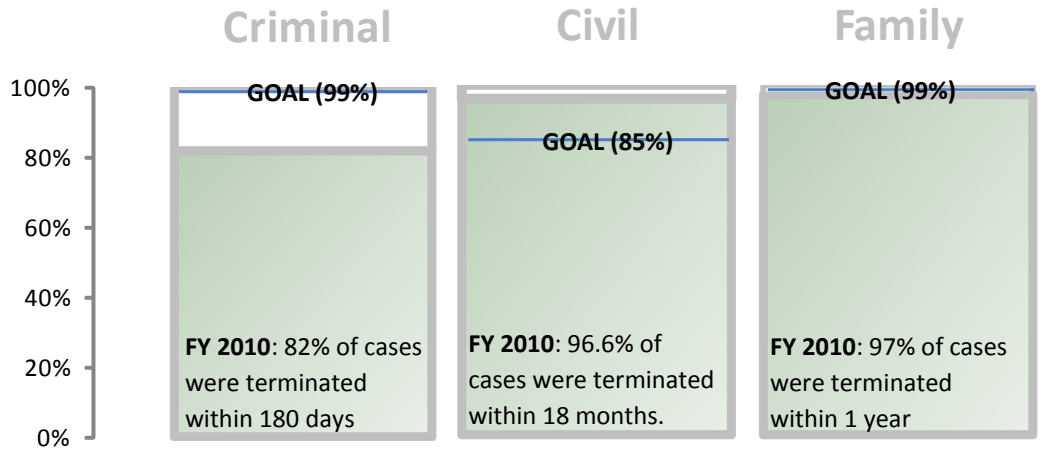
Data from US Census Facts for Maricopa County

FY2010 CourTools - Performance Measures

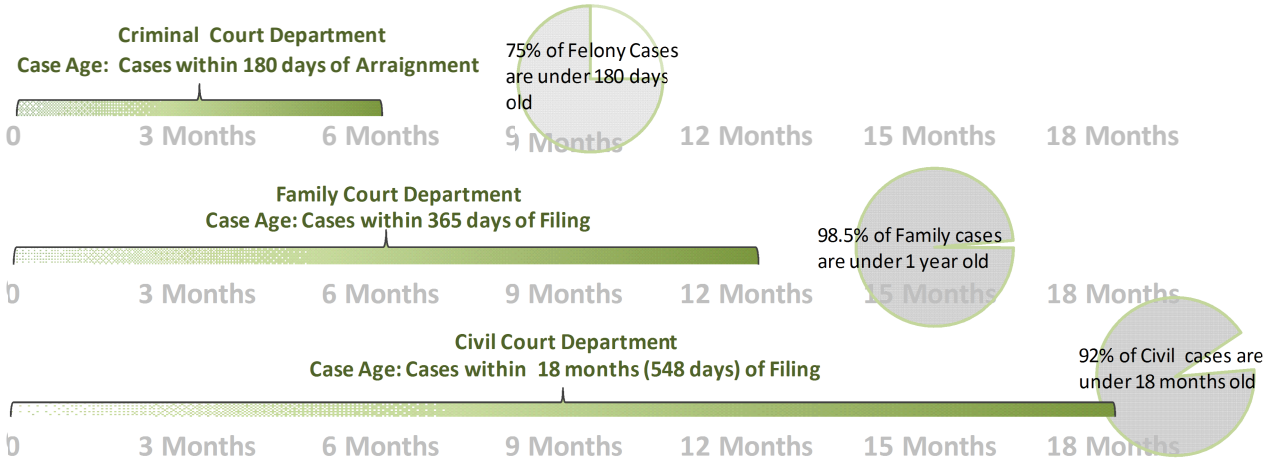
Measure 2 - Clearance Rate



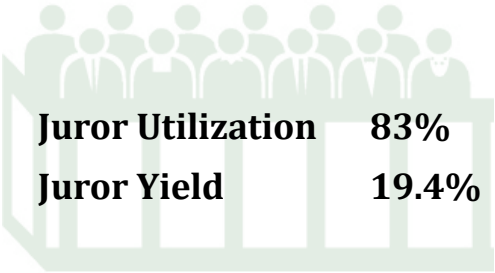
Measure 3 - Time to Disposition



Measure 4 - Age of Active Pending Caseload



Measure 8 - Effective Use of Jurors

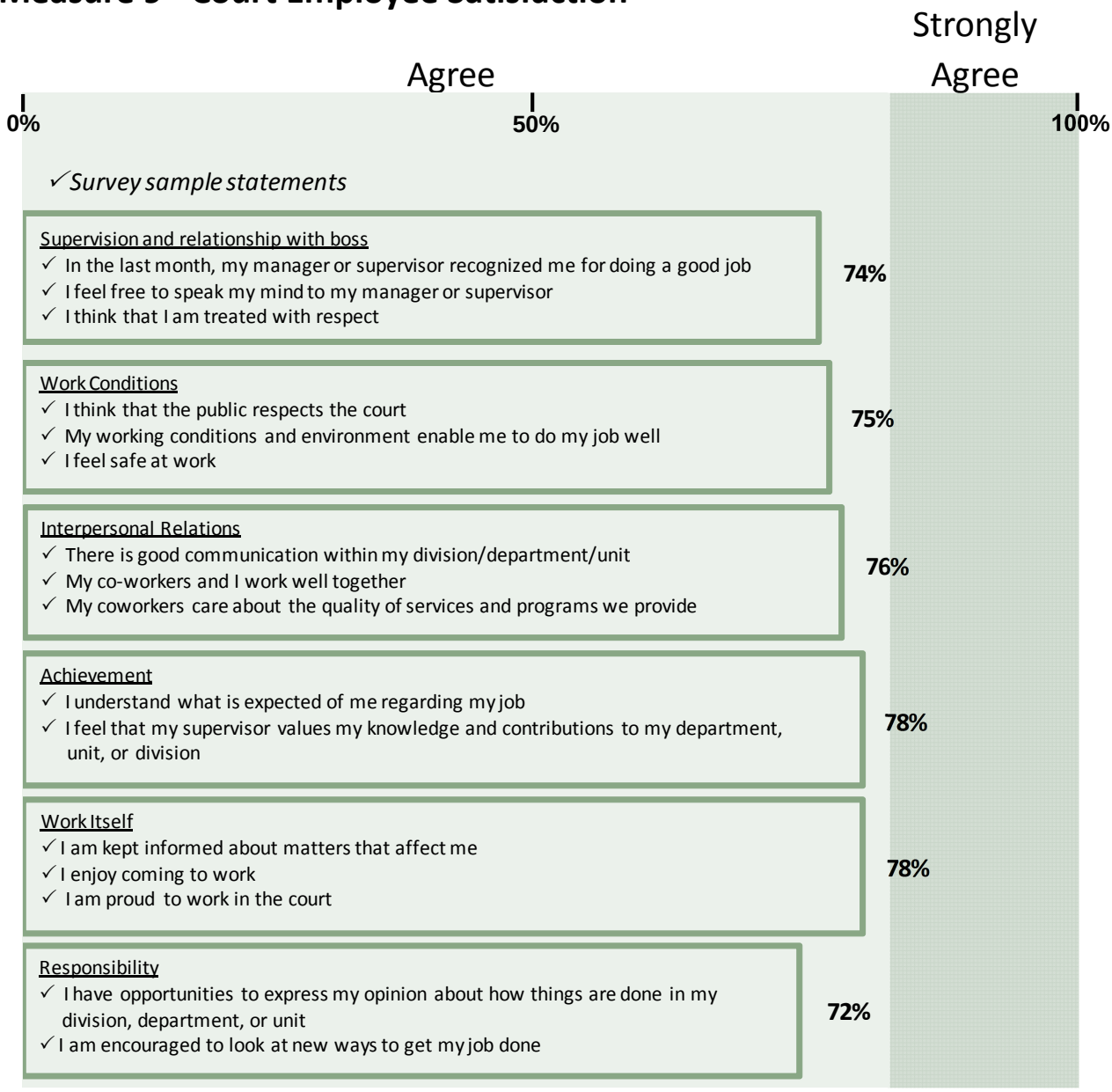


Juror Utilization	**83%**
Juror Yield	**19.4%**

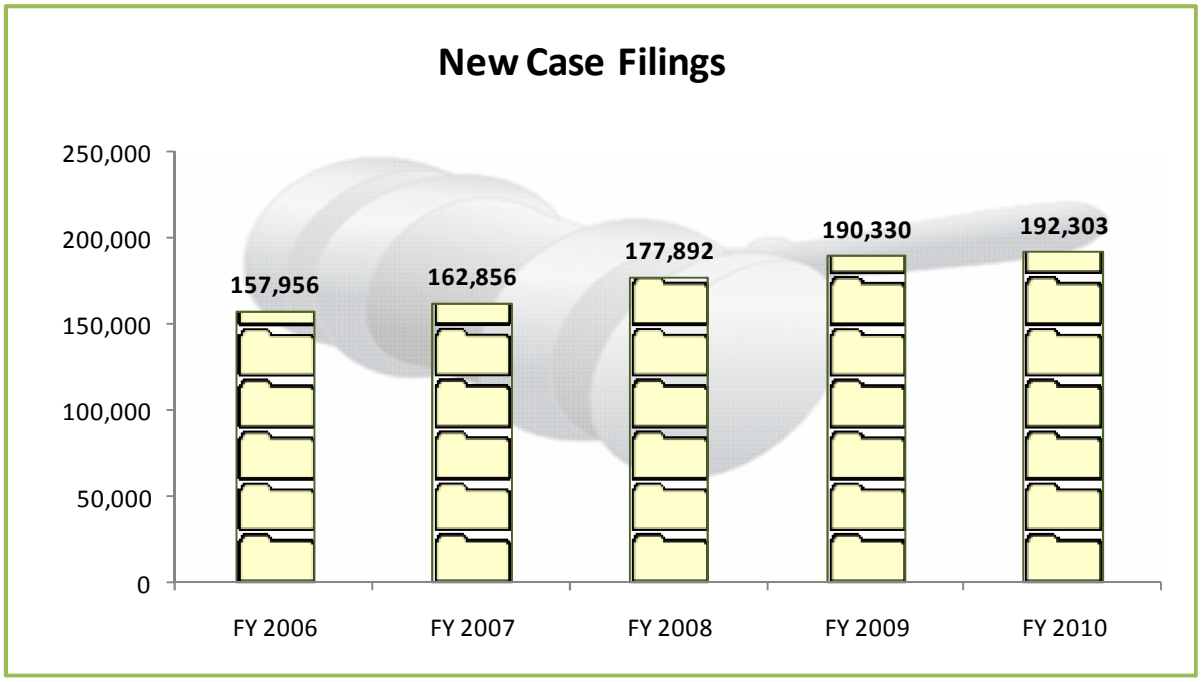
Juror utilization: the rate jurors are used at least once in trial or in voir dire.

Juror yield: total number of jurors summoned divided by qualified jurors who report for duty.

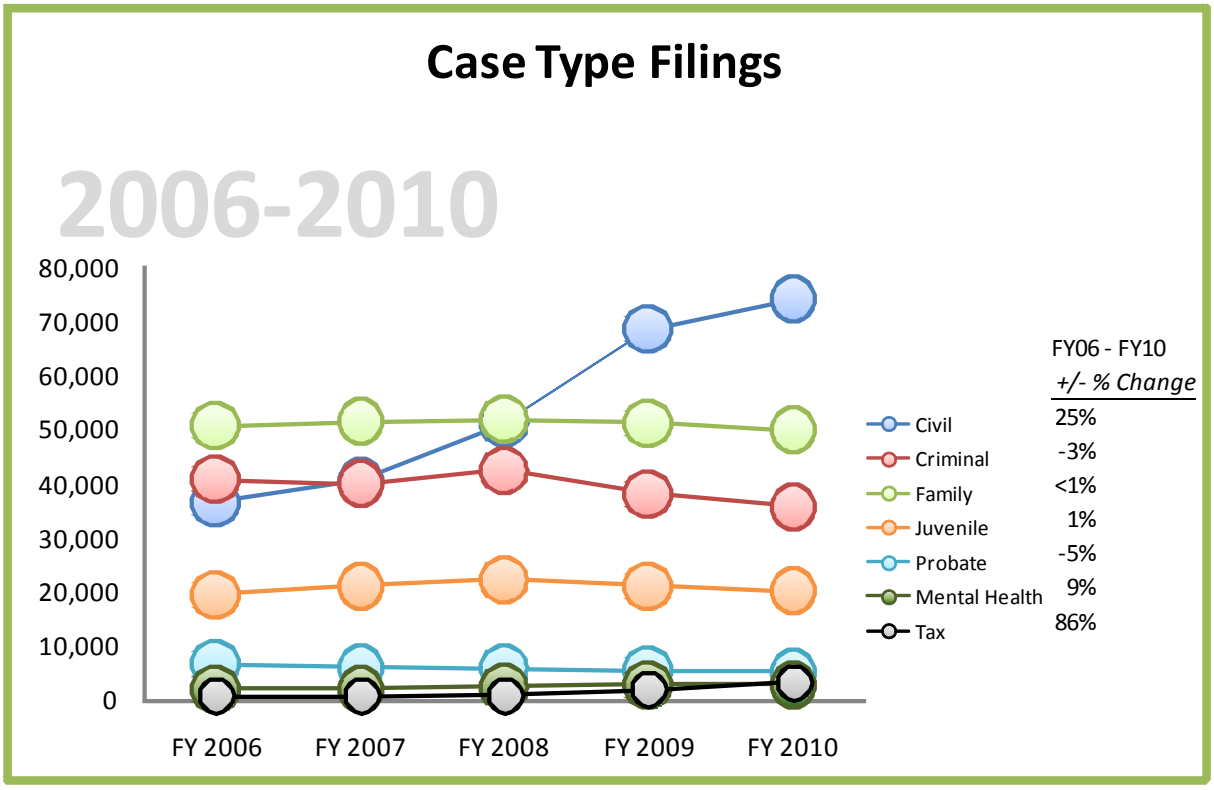
Measure 9 - Court Employee Satisfaction

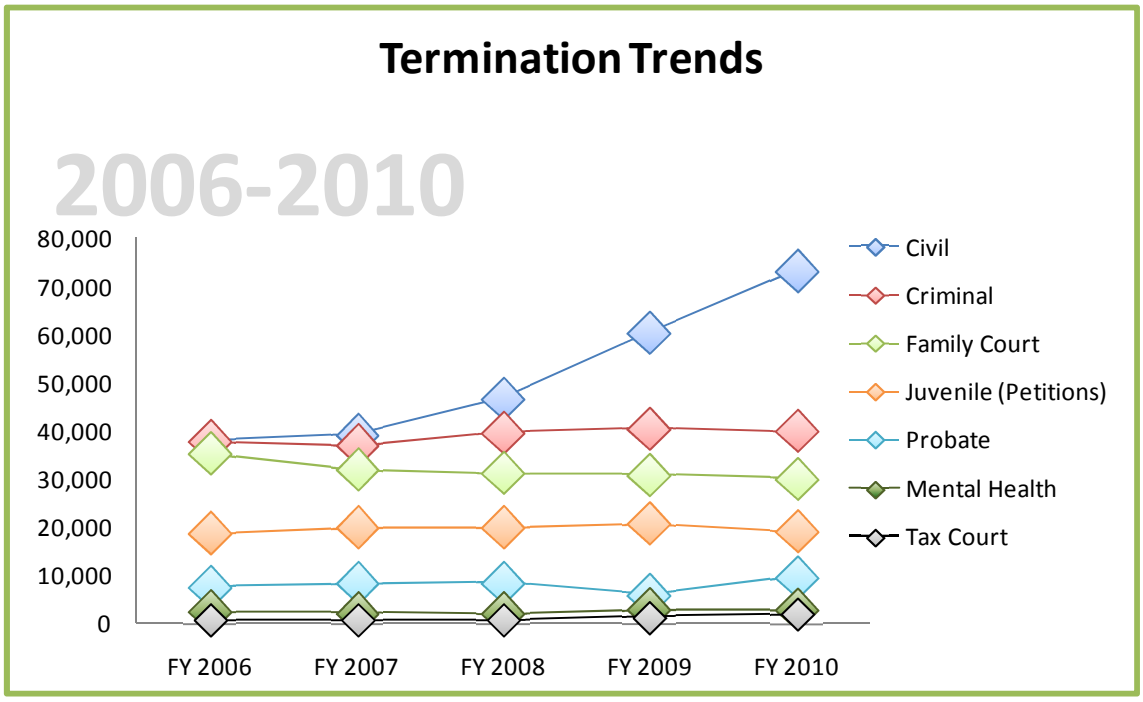


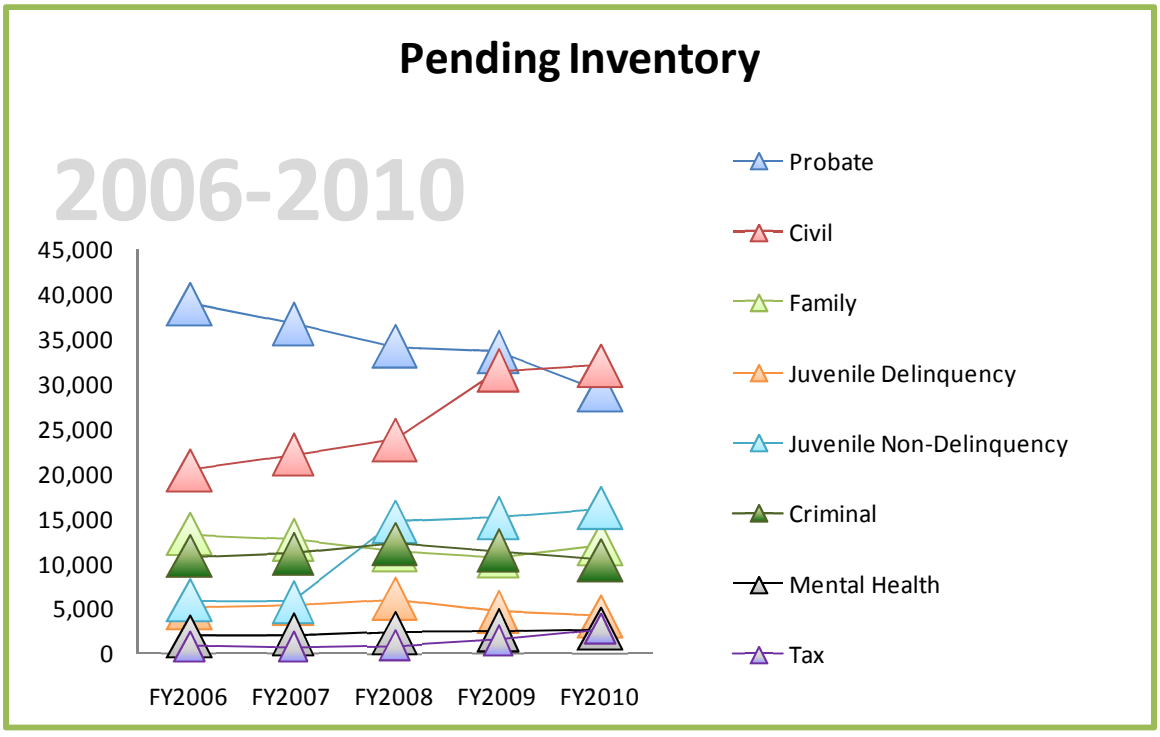
Five Year Trends



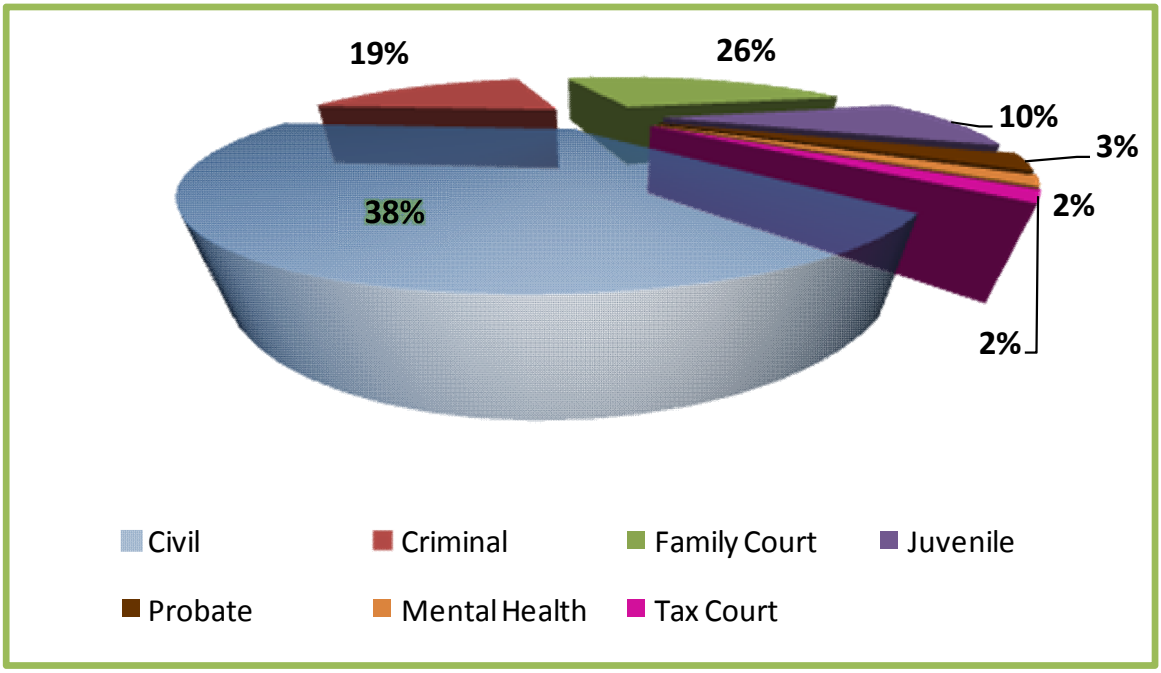
Case filings increase an average of 5% per year in the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County.

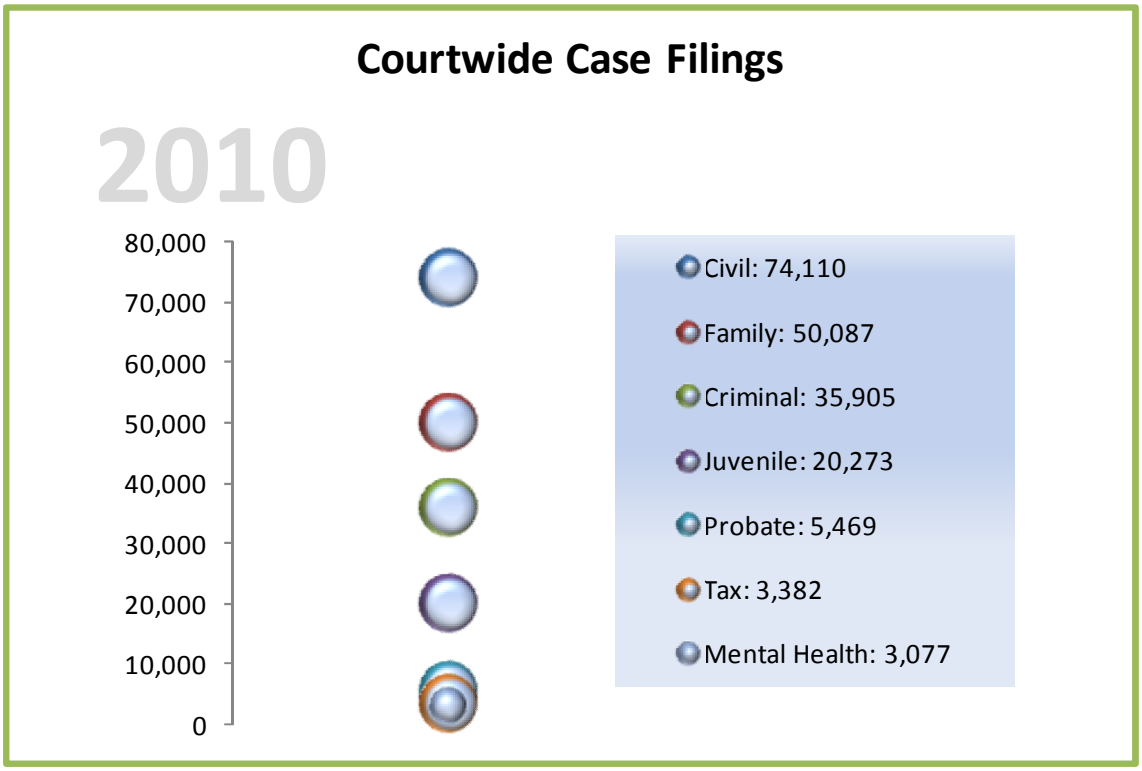


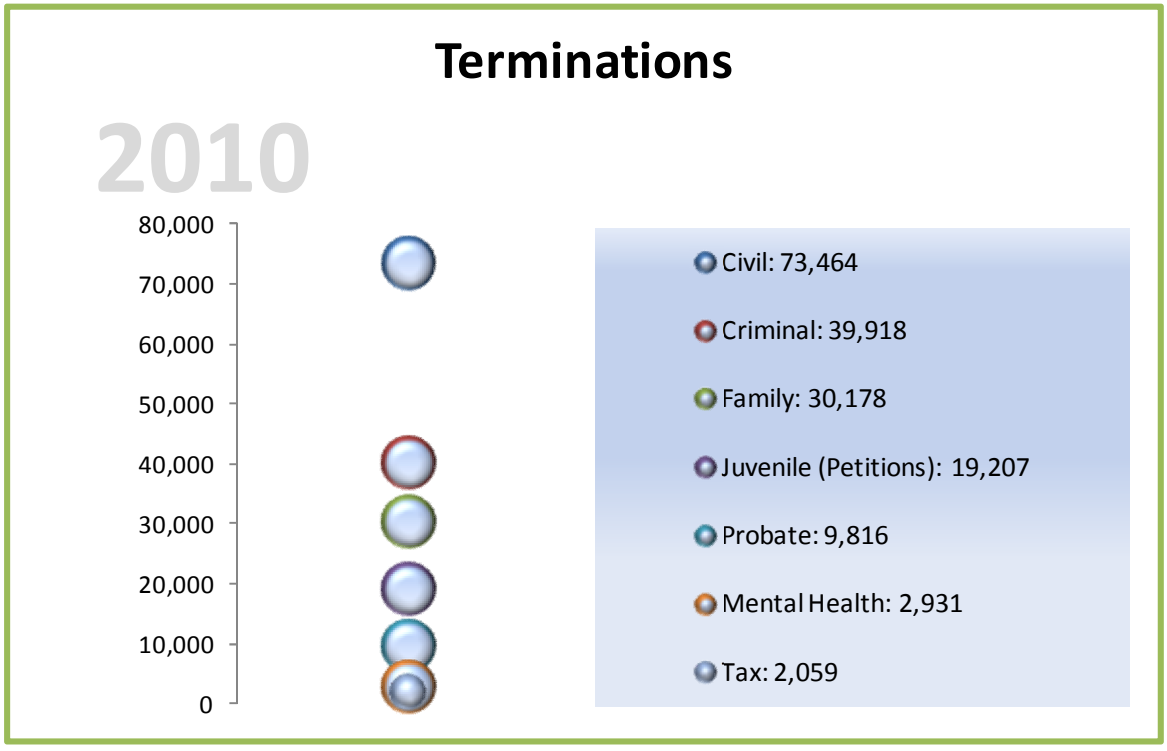

Termination Trends
2006-2010
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
FY 2006
FY 2007
FY 2008
FY 2009
FY 2010
Civil
Criminal
Family Court
Juvenile (Petitions)
Probate
Mental Health
Tax Court

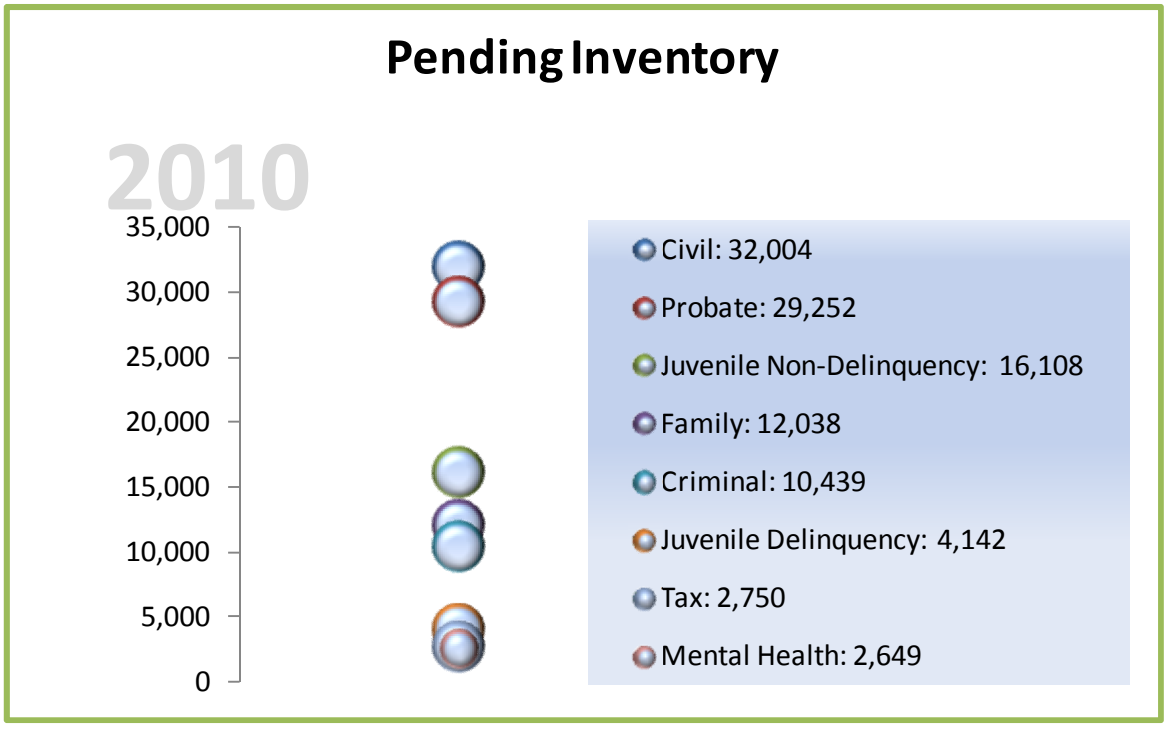

Pending Inventory
2006-2010
45,000
40,000
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
FY2006
FY2007
FY2008
FY2009
FY2010
Probate
Civil
Family
Juvenile Delinquency
Juvenile Non-Delinquency
Criminal
Mental Health
Tax

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY
CASE FILINGS BY DEPARTMENT, FY 2010
Total Filings = 192,303






Terminations
2010
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
Civil: 73,464
Criminal: 39,918
Family: 30,178
Juvenile (Petitions): 19,207
Probate: 9,816
Mental Health: 2,931
Tax: 2,059


Pending Inventory
2010
35,000
30,000
25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0
Civil: 32,004
Probate: 29,252
Juvenile Non-Delinquency: 16,108
Family: 12,038
Criminal: 10,439
Juvenile Delinquency: 4,142
Tax: 2,750
Mental Health: 2,649

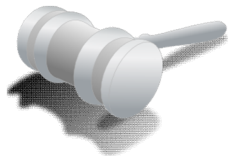
Merit Selection

What distinguishes Maricopa County Superior Court judges from a vast number of trial judges around the country is that they do not run for office in partisan elections.

Merit selection of superior court judges has been used in Maricopa County since 1974 as the result of a voter-approved constitutional change. More than three decades later, it is still the preferred method of judicial selection.

Merit Selection Benefits

- *Judges who are highly qualified*
- *Fair and impartial Courts*
- *Diversity*
- *Equal access to justice*
- *Accountability to the public*

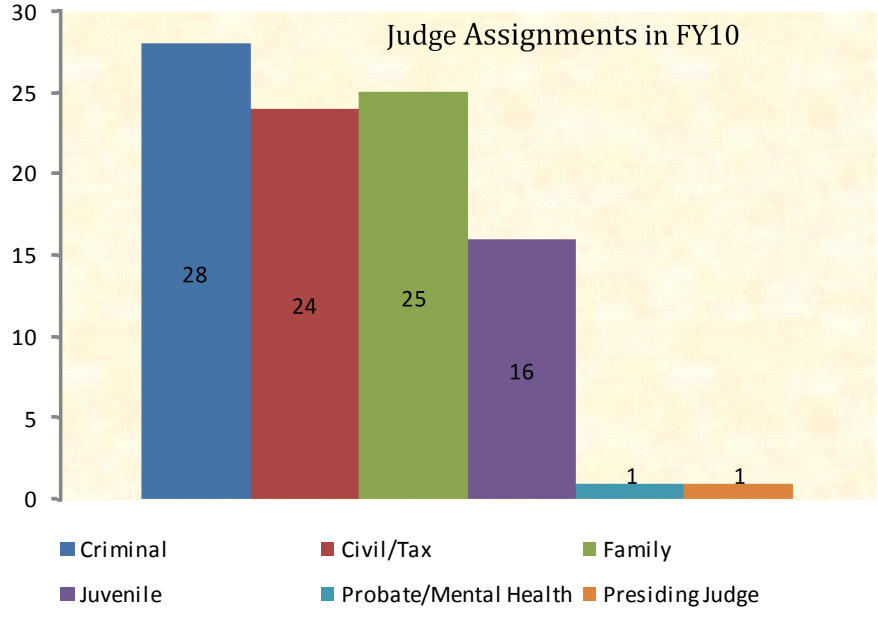


Superior Court Judges

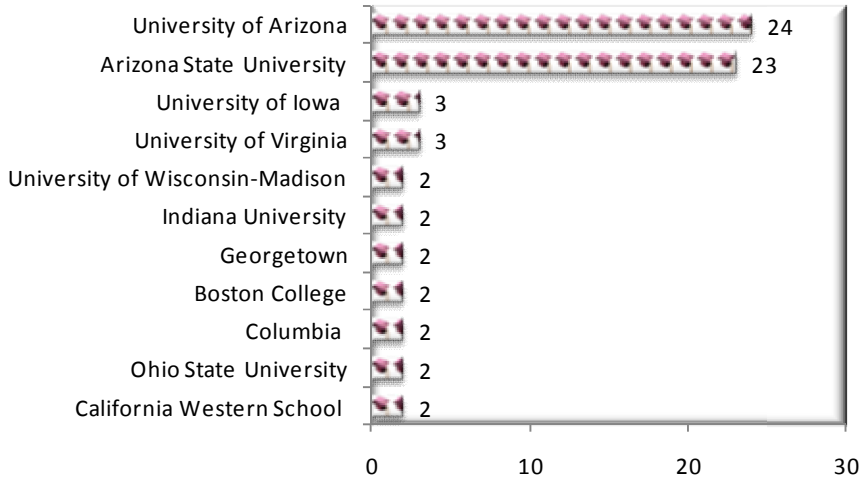
Every day, judicial officers of the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County make difficult decisions about guilt and innocence, punishment, and broken marriages and families. They help resolve issues involving mentally ill individuals and incapacitated adults who cannot care for themselves. They resolve contract disputes and claims of malpractice or other business misdeeds by accountants, builders, doctors, lawyers and others. Their decisions change the lives of all involved.

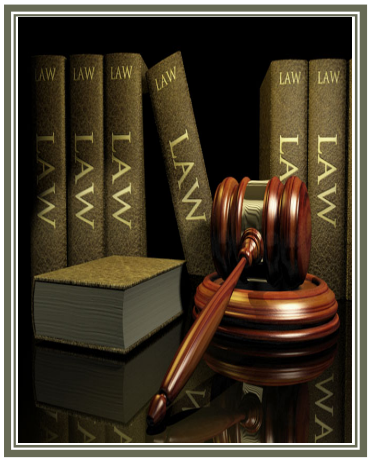
Maricopa County residents have entrusted the court with the obligation to protect their rights, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or economic status. They deserve highly competent, ethical, scholarly and compassionate judicial officers to serve them. Members of the bench reflect these ideals and are committed to equal justice under law.

Maricopa County currently has 95 Judges hearing Civil, Criminal, Family, Juvenile, Probate, Mental Health and Tax cases.



Law Schools Most Commonly Attended





Judges are selected in a process called "merit selection." Judges are chosen because of their professional qualifications, legal competency, high ethical standards and dedication to serve the public by upholding the law.

Retired Judges 2009—2010

Hon. Barbara Rodriguez Mundell	June 6, 2010
Hon. James E. Keppel	April 29, 2010
Hon. Richard J. Trujillo	March 31, 2010
Hon. Robert Houser	November 20, 2009
Hon. Thomas Dunevant, III	August 31, 2009
Hon. Silvia R. Arellano	June 20, 2009
Hon. Louis Araneta	April 8, 2009
Hon. Anna Baca	January 31, 2009
Hon. Cathy M. Holt	January 27, 2009

Commissioner Selection

The Superior Court conducts recruitment for candidates for Superior Court Commissioner.

Commissioner candidates are required to submit an extensive application that is reviewed by the members of the Commissioner Nomination Committee. After review of the applications, candidates may be invited to interview before the Nomination Committee and due diligence will be conducted. The Committee is chaired by the Associate Presiding Judge. After the interviews, a list of potential candidates are forwarded to the Presiding Judge for consideration of appointment as a Commissioner in the Superior Court.

Commissioners serve as judges *pro tempore* in the course of their regular duties and must be a United States citizen, resident of Maricopa County at the time of appointment, of good moral character, a duly licensed member of the State Bar of Arizona, and shall have engaged in the active general practice of law and been a resident of the State of Arizona for a period of not less than five years immediately preceding his or her appointment.

Superior Court Commissioners

Family Court Department Commissioners preside over hearings to establish, modify and enforce court orders pertaining to paternity, child support, spousal maintenance, parenting time, and Orders of Protection. Some commissioners preside over Decree on Demand Court, IV-D Accountability Court and Family Drug Court. Commissioners may also preside over emergency/temporary orders hearings, settlement conferences, resolution management conferences and trials.

Criminal Department Commissioners preside over initial appearance hearings (including release/detainment decisions and setting bail), preliminary hearings and probable cause determinations, pretrial conferences (including discovery disputes), probation violation hearings, post-conviction relief hearings, acceptance of pleas and sentencing hearings for felony charges. Some commissioners may preside over pretrial evidentiary hearings and felony jury trials.

Civil Department Commissioners preside over civil default hearings, garnishment proceedings and objections, Injunctions Against Harassment, property tax appeals, and forcible entry and detainer proceedings.

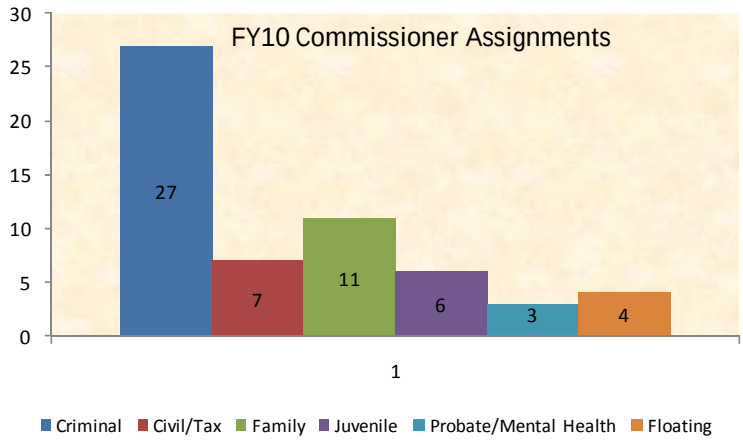
Probate and Mental Health Department Commissioners preside over general probate proceedings. Commissioners preside over adult or minor conservatorships, adult guardianships, decedent estates (contested wills), trust administration matters and other vulnerable adult proceedings and issues. In addition, Mental Health commissioners preside over protected proceedings for mental health issues and criminal incompetency determinations.

Juvenile Court Department Commissioners preside over both dependency and delinquency matters. Juvenile delinquency cases may involve detained advisory hearings, pre-adjudication conferences, change of plea hearings and disposition (sentencing) hearings. A commissioner may preside over a delinquency trial as well. Violations of probation petitions and mental competency hearings are also part of a commissioner calendar. On the dependency side, commissioners hear issues from preliminary protective hearings through dependency adjudication hearings, report and review hearings and contested severance matters.

Retired Commissioners 2009—2010

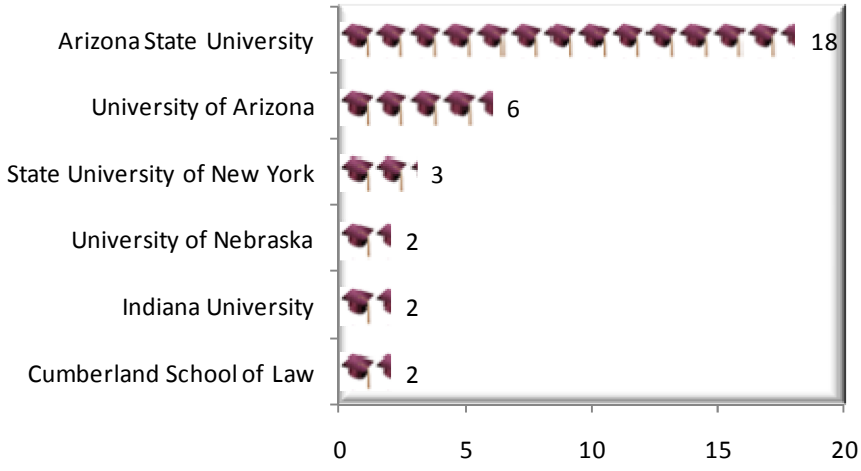
Hon. Lindsay B. Ellis
Hon. Robert A. Colosi
Hon. Randy L. Ellexson

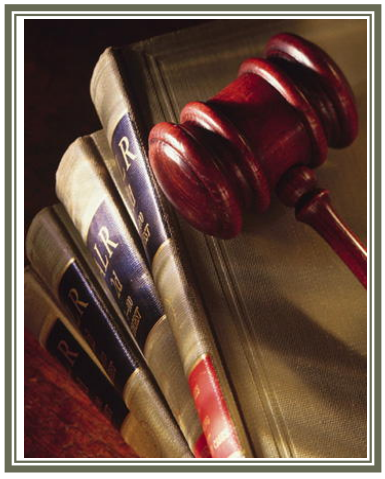
Superior Court Commissioners



Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County has 59 Commissioners who serve as Judges Pro Tempore in the course of their regular duties.

Law Schools Most Commonly Attended





Superior Court Awards

Superior Court
National Association for Court Management (NACM)
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Commissioner Judicial Performance Review

Criminal Court
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Master Calendaring of Felony Cases

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

- *National Association for Court Management (NACM)*
  Justice Achievement Award - Winner
  CASA Volunteer-Website Design

- *Centers for Digital Government*
  2010 Digital Government Achievement Award
  CASA Volunteer-Website Design

Court Security Department
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Court Security Redesign and Enhancement

Court Technology Services (CTS)

- *National Association for Court Management (NACM)*
  Justice Achievement Award – Honorable Mention
  Multiple (11) collaborative projects

- *National Association of Counties (NACo)*
  Maricopa County Photo Enforcement Program
  Protective Orders Application

Education and Training Department
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Distance Learning/Live Streaming Education

Juvenile Court
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Children's Coalition of Maricopa County
Juvenile Court Statistical Reports
Juvenile Offense Information Intake (JOII) Road Show

Media Relations and Community Outreach
National Association of Counties (NACo)
Web Broadcasting Award

Departmental Awards

ADULT PROBATION

Arizona Quality Alliance
Seriously Mentally Ill Program, Showcase in Excellence Award

American Parole and Probation Association
President's Award

Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts
Literacy Education Resource Network – Lab of the Year Award

National Association of Counties (NaCO)
Special Incident Reporting: A Management Tool for Staff Safety
Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Quality Assurance Project

Individual Awards

Honorable Barbara Rodriguez Mundell

- *Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education*
  The Mark Santana Law-Related Education Award
- *State Bar of Arizona*
  James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award
- *Latino Perspectives Magazine*
  Latina Trailblazer Award

Honorable Roland Steinle
Office of the Attorney General
Distinguished Service Award

Honorable Edward Burke
Arizona Trial Lawyers Association
Judicial Integrity Award

Gloria Washington
Arizona Black Law Enforcement Employee Officer of the Year

Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer

- *National Center for State Courts (NCSC)*
  Warren E. Burger Award for Excellence in Court Administration
- *Maricopa County*
  Pillars of Honor - Salute

Susan Armstrong
State Bar of Arizona
Award of Appreciation

Scott Hermann
Statewide Training Coordinators' Workshop
Excellence in Training Award

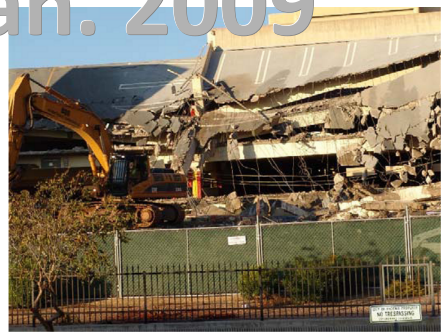
Robin Hoskins
University of Phoenix
Distinguished Faculty Award

Jessica Funkhouser
State Bar of Arizona
President's Award

Criminal Court Tower Highlights

the vision

Jan. 2009

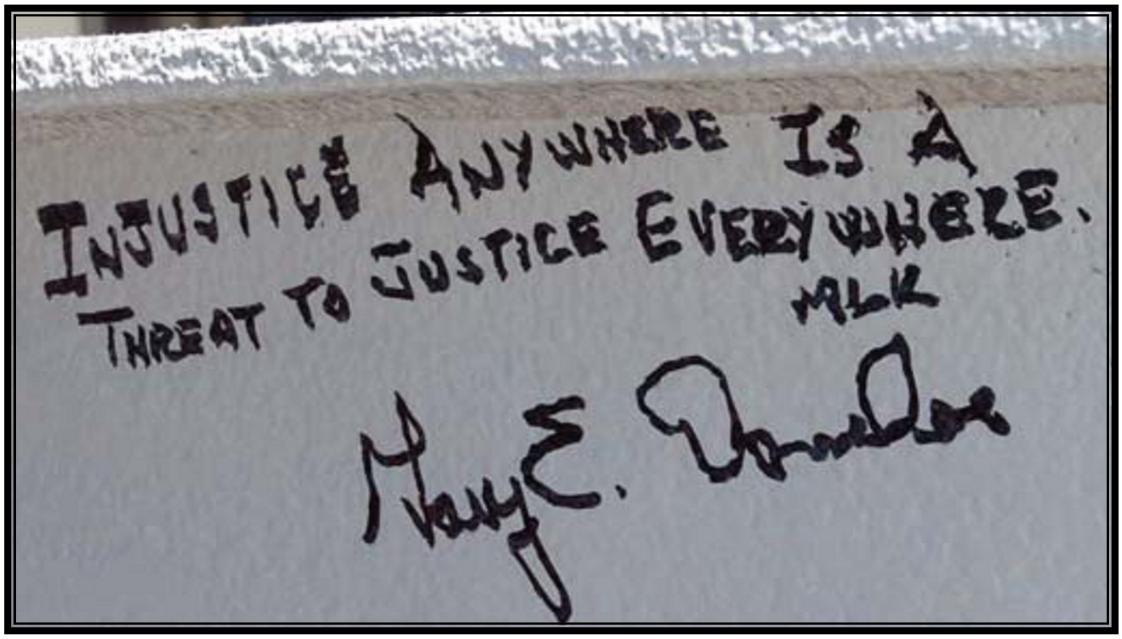


Jan. 2010

Aug. 2010

Feb. 2012

Criminal Court Tower Highlights
Topping Out Beam Signings and Ceremony

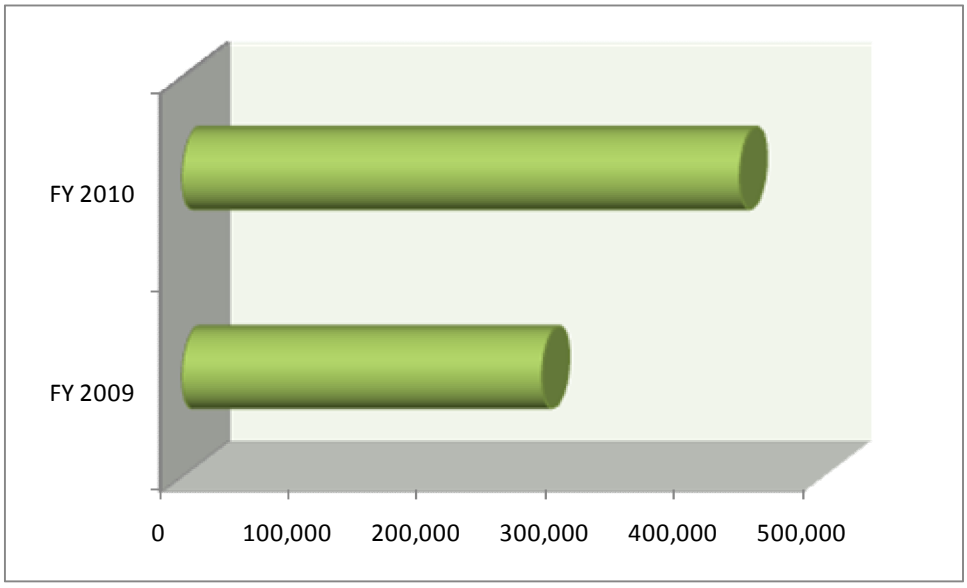


Maricopa County Justice Courts

Statewide Photo Enforcement Program and Workload

In the Fall of 2008, the Legislature approved the installation of stationary and mobile van-mounted speed cameras located throughout the freeway system in Maricopa County. In FY10, new photo enforcement speeding citations added 432,612 filings in civil traffic cases, with 56,826 of those resulting in a court hearing. Consequently, this created an increased workload and strained Justice Courts resources. The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors approved a $20 cost recovery fee to help off-set the cost of employing on-call, temporary contract employees to help process photo enforcement citations. In addition, collaborating with the camera operator and the Department of Public Safety, the Justice Courts implemented an internet "payment portal" for defendants to pay fines. The current contract between the State and the private sector camera operator expired in July 2010.

Photo Enforcement Case Filings



http://justicecourts.maricopa.gov/

F.A.R.E. (Fines/Fees and Restitution Enforcement)

Justice Courts completed the first phase implementation of F.A.R.E. – the statewide public/private collections and order enforcement program hosted through the AOC. Important contributions of F.A.R.E. include: 1) compliance with Court Orders; 2) enhanced customer service; 3) increased revenues; 4) uniform case processing; and 5) increased staff efficiencies. Over $2 million dollars in delinquent fines and fees were collected during the first three months of operation.

E-Filing and EDMS Projects

Electronic Filings (E-Filing) and the development of an Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) began in the Maricopa County Justice Courts during FY10. Ultimately all court forms and documents will be converted to an electronic format.

E-Filing was mandated through an Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order in 2009 as a pilot project in the Maricopa County Justice Courts. Case initiation filings and response documents can be filed electronically with the court through azturbocourt. Once e-filed, azturbocourt will automatically populate the court's case management system, thus eliminating redundant data entry.

EDMS allows e-filing to interface with the court's case management system and azturbocourt. Small claims and civil case filings will be the first case types used to test the EDMS. After all Justice Courts have completed the pilot, other case types will be added to EDMS. It is estimated EDMS will take approximately 24 months to fully implement.

Best Practices Committee

In December of 2009, a Best Practices Committee was established by the Presiding Justice of the Peace. The committee mission is to survey and discuss best practices involving court case processing, operating procedures, and development and use of forms. Since May 2009 the committee has discussed topics such as pretrial conferences, video conferencing for court orders of protection, and form development.

Justice Court Case Activity, FY 2009 – FY 2010
New Case Filings

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
DUI	11,933	**10,739**	*-10.0%*
Serious Traffic	1,847	**1,561**	*-15.5%*
Other Criminal Traffic (includes FTA)	64,756	**49,357**	*-23.8%*
TOTAL CRIMINAL TRAFFIC	78,536	**61,657**	*-21.5%*
TOTAL CIVIL TRAFFIC	158,241	**138,758**	*-12.3%*
Misdemeanor	22,664	**18,885**	*-16.7%*
Misdemeanor FTA	3,128	**1,434**	*-54.2%*
TOTAL MISDEMEANOR	25,792	**20,319**	*-21.2%*
Small Claims	16,060	**16,839**	*4.9%*
Eviction Actions (Forcible Detainers)	73,587	**62,784**	*-14.7%*
Other Civil/Non-Criminal Parking	85,847	**87,290**	*1.7%*
Orders of Protection	3,697	**3,851**	*4.2%*
Injunctions Against Harassment	3,848	**3,273**	*-14.9%*
TOTAL CIVIL	183,577	**174,037**	*-4.9%*
TOTAL NEW CASE FILINGS	446,146	**394,771**	*-11.4%*
Civil Traffic (photo enforcement)	279,508	**432,612**	*54.8%*
TOTAL NEW CASE FILINGS (with PE)	725,654	**827,383**	*14.1%*

• • • • • • •

TRIALS COMMENCED

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Criminal Traffic (Non-Jury)	286	**102**	*-64.3%*
Criminal Traffic (Jury)	63	**45**	*-28.6%*
Misdemeanor (Non-Jury)	775	**171**	
Misdemeanor (Jury)	25	**2**	
Civil (Non-Jury)	2,565	**2,238**	*-12.7%*
Civil (Jury)	32	**63**	*96.9%*
TOTAL NON-JURY TRIALS	3,626	**2,511**	*-30.8%*
TOTAL JURY TRIALS	120	**110**	*8.3%*

Justice Court Case Activity, FY 2009 – FY 2010
Total Cases Terminated

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
DUI	11,037	**10,847**	*-1.7%*
Serious Traffic	1,644	**1,496**	*-9.0%*
Other Criminal Traffic (includes FTA)	66,939	**54,010**	*-19.3%*
TOTAL CRIMINAL TRAFFIC	79,620	**66,353**	*-16.7%*
TOTAL CIVIL TRAFFIC	169,367	**143,625**	*-15.2%*
Misdemeanor	17,518	**16,144**	*-7.8%*
Misdemeanor FTA	2,583	**1,644**	*-36.4%*
TOTAL MISDEMEANOR	20,101	**17,788**	*-11.5%*
Small Claims	23,853	**17,505**	*-26.6%*
Eviction Actions (Forcible Detainers)	74,336	**62,821**	*-15.5%*
Other Civil/Non-Criminal Parking	80,607	**90,417**	*12.2%*
Orders of Protection Issued	3,628	**3,738**	*3.0%*
Orders of Protection Denied	69	**113**	*63.8%*
Injunctions Against Harassment Issued	3,848	**3,273**	*-14.9%*
TOTAL CIVIL	186,341	**177,867**	*-4.5%*
TOTAL CASE TERMINATIONS	455,429	**405,633**	*-10.9%*
Civil Traffic (photo enforcement)	69,763	**441,549**	*632.9%*
TOTAL TERMINATIONS (with PE)	525,192	**847,182**	*61.3%*

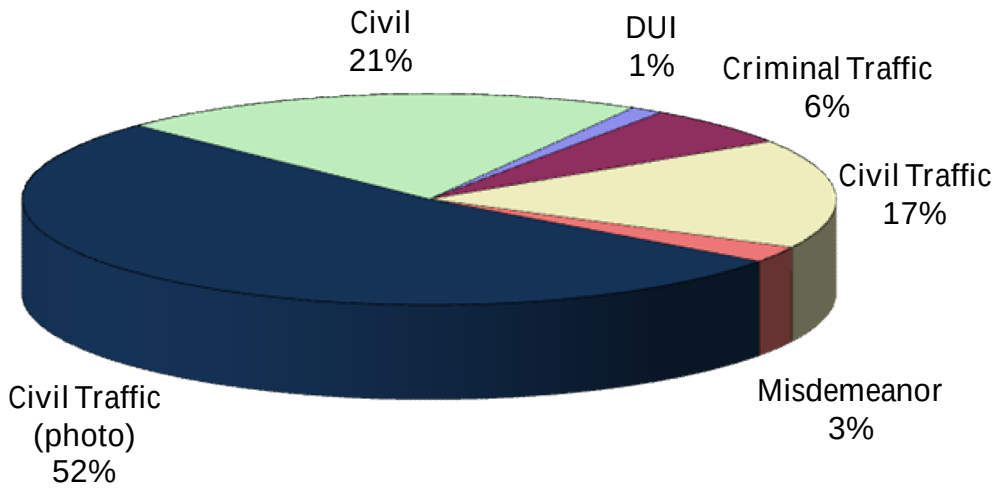
OTHER PROCEEDINGS

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Small Claims Hearings/Defaults	3,167	**3,139**	*-0.9%*
Civil Traffic Hearings	38,465	**36,187**	*-5.9%*
Civil Traffic (photo enforcement) Hearings	*n.a.*	**56,826**	
Order of Protection/IAH Hearings	1,111	**1,145**	*3.1%*
Search Warrants Issued	1,339	**1,720**	*28.5%*

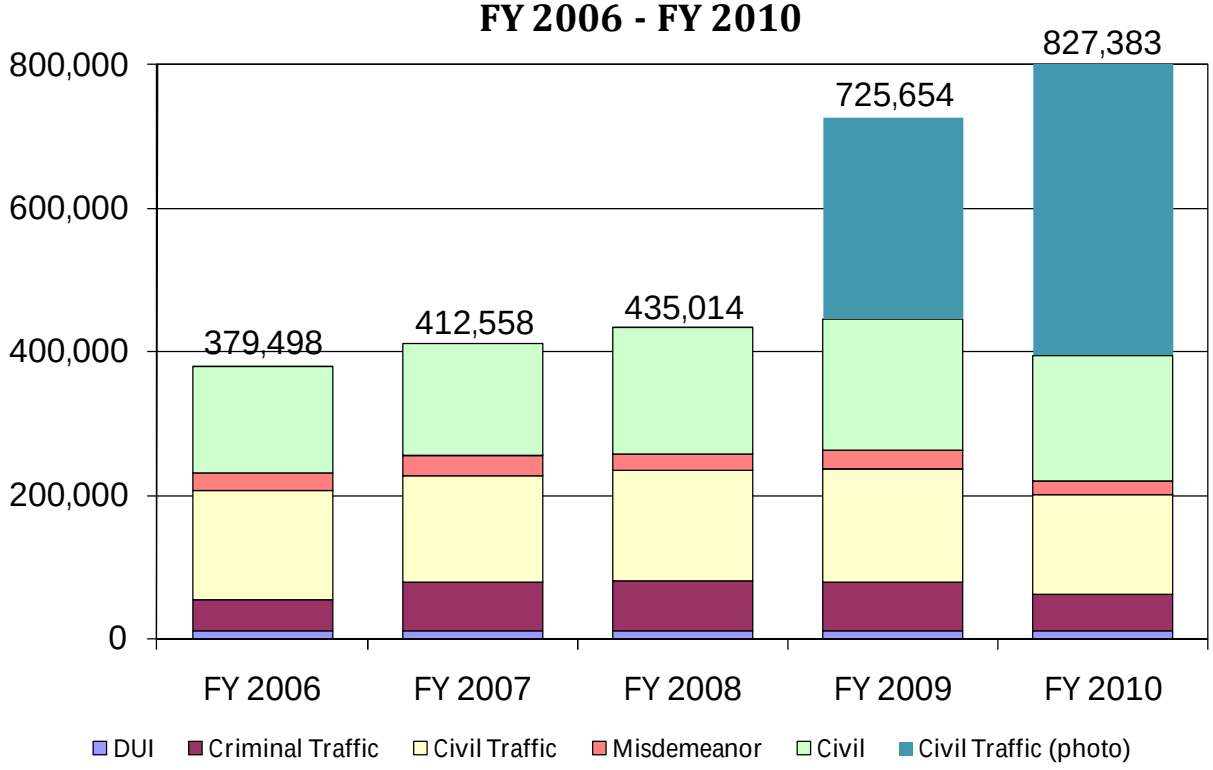
Justice Court Charts

Case Filings by Type, FY 2010

Total Filings = 827,383



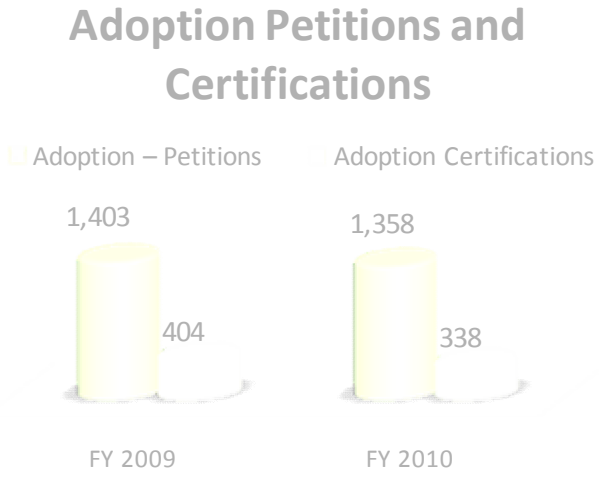
Filings by Case Types
FY 2006 - FY 2010



DEPARTMENT REPORTS AND STATISTICS

	FY 2009 Totals	FY 2010 Totals	FY09 – FY10 % Change
Diss	18,328	18,910	3.2%
Othe	12,050	12,617	4.7%
TOT	30,378	31,527	3.8%
Subs	21,064	18,560	-11.9%
TOTAL FAMILY COURT FILINGS	51,500	50,087	-2.6%
Dissolution Terminations	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5%
Other Case Terminations	12,143	12,076	-0.6%
TOTAL Pre-Decree	[illegible]	[illegible]	-2.9%
Clearance Rate	102.3%	95.7%	-6.5%
Active Pending Caseload	[illegible]	12,038	12.6%

Domestic Violence: Orders of Protection	FY 2009 Totals	FY 2010 Totals	FY09 – FY10 % Change
Total Filings	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.7%
Orders Issued	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Orders Denied	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Emergency Orders Issued	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Domestic Violence: Hearing Requests to Revoke/Modify Orders of Protection	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Requests for Hearings	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hearings Commenced	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]



Civil Department

Civil Department is where litigation is conducted to resolve disputes primarily concerning financial damages. No criminal incarceration, fines or penalties are imposed. Judicial officers utilize best practice procedures to manage each case including referring to Alternative Dispute Resolution when appropriate. When a trial is requested, the parties are given the option of a jury or bench trial.

Civil filings have increased yearly since FY07. In FY10 filings totaled 73,046, representing an increase of 8% over FY09. The largest increase in filings were contracts and unclassified civil matters.

Age of Civil Cases Terminated vs. Standards

Cases terminated:	FY 2009	FY 2010	AZ Supreme Court Standards	American Bar Association Standards
within 9 months	87.1%	87.1%	90%	NA
within 12 months	94.1%	94.1%	NA	90%
within 18 months	96.6%	96.6%	95%	98%
within 24 months	98.6%	98.7%	99%	100%

The percentage of cases terminated at 18 months exceeds standards established by the Arizona Supreme Court Standards.

Complex Civil Litigation Program

The Complex Civil Litigation (CCL) Pilot Project started in 2002 and was extended by order of the Arizona Supreme Court through December 2010. This program provides intensive case management where complicated legal issues, extensive discovery, and numerous motions and expert witnesses are involved. In FY10, 25 new cases were admitted into the CCL program and 64 cases are currently active.

Civil Trials

FY 2009	FY2010
286	434

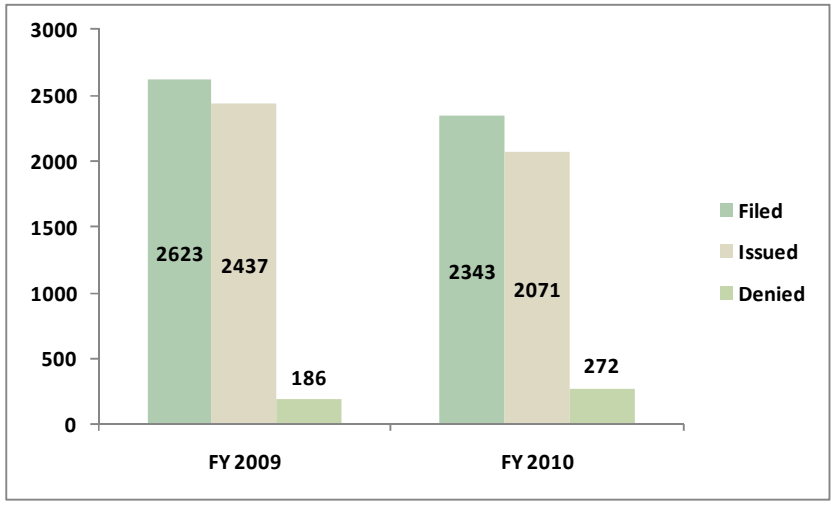
Arbitration Program

Arbitration is designed to lower court costs for litigants and to utilize judicial resources more effectively. Arbitration is mandatory for disputes valued up to $50,000. An arbitrator is appointed to assist in resolving the dispute, and in the absence of agreement, renders a decision. In the event an arbitration award is appealed, the case is returned to the Judge. In FY10, a total of 25,572 cases were subject to arbitration. A total of 184 appeals resulted in 23 bench and 10 jury trials.

Civil Department Statistics
FY 2009 - FY 2010

	New Case Filings			Case Terminations		
	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Tort Motor Vehicle	4,740	**4,393**	*-7.3%*	4,785	**4,410**	*-7.8%*
Tort Non-Motor Vehicle	2,308	**2,008**	*-13.0%*	2,353	**2,138**	*-9.1%*
Medical Malpractice	327	**356**	*8.9%*	311	**355**	*14.1%*
Contract	24,912	**26,829**	*7.7%*	19,281	**26,258**	*36.2%*
Tax	5	**16**	*220.0%*	5	**12**	*140.0%*
Eminent Domain	68	**137**	*101.5%*	96	**120**	*25.0%*
Lower Court Appeals	965	**1,064**	*10.3%*	919	**1,000**	*8.8%*
Unclassified Civil	35,324	**39,307**	*11.3%*	32,773	**39,171**	*19.5%*
TOTALS	68,649	**74,110**	*8.0%*	60,518	**73,464**	*21.4%*

Injunctions Against Harassment



Tax Department

Tax Department serves as the State-wide "Arizona Tax Court," exercising original and exclusive jurisdiction over all cases involving tax matters except property tax cases. Property tax cases may be filed either in the Tax Court or in any Arizona Superior Court as a civil case. Tax Court also hears small claims involving disputes concerning the valuation or classification of property in which the full cash value does not exceed one million dollars.

Tax filings have increased 143% during the last two years.

Arizona Tax Court
Summary of Filings by County, FY 2010

Apache	4	Graham	1	Mohave	224	Santa Cruz	4
Cochise	37	Greenlee	0	Navajo	23	Yavapai	111
Coconino	26	LaPaz	2	Pima	119	Yuma	3
Gila	4	Maricopa	2,683	Pinal	141	**TOTAL**	**3,382**

Tax Court Statistics
FY 2009 - FY 2010

	New Case Filings			Case Terminations		
	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 FY10 % Change*	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 FY10 % Change*
Cases of Record						
Property	684	**1,316**	*92.4%*	309	**508**	*64.4%*
Other	298	**168**	*-43.6%*	320	**159**	*-49.8%*
Small Claims						
Property	1,000	**1,898**	*89.0%*	861	**1,384**	*60.4%*
Other	7	**0**		7	**8**	*.85%*
TOTALS	1,989	**3,382**	*70.0%*	1,496	**2,059**	*37.8%*

Faces of the Court

Probate and Mental Health Department

Probate and Mental Health Department has jurisdiction over trusts, estates, and protective proceedings.

- **Probate Cases:** Guardianships and conservatorships are created to protect a person's well being and financial assets when the person is found to be incapacitated. The department also oversees informal and formal estates.
- **Civil Commitments:** Involuntary mental health treatment orders are established for those found to be a danger to themselves or others, or persistently or acutely disabled or gravely disabled. Petitions for Court Ordered Treatment are heard at Desert Vista Behavioral Center and the Arizona State Hospital.
- **Criminal Cases:** Restoration to competency orders are issued for those found incompetent to understand court proceedings or assist in their own defense. Probation violation hearings are conducted for seriously mentally ill defendants.

The Probate and Mental Health Department works collaboratively to oversee and resolve cases involving vulnerable adults.

The Department follows National Probate Court Standards which set reporting requirements and time standards for guardians and fiduciaries. Case monitoring is performed by three department units: investigations, examiners, and accountings.

- **Court Investigators conduct independent investigations and prepare written recommendations as to whether proposed wards need protection. Investigators must file their report within 45 days of the petition. Court Investigators conducted 1,027 investigations in FY10.**
- **Probate Examiners review all active cases and ensure compliance with statutory reporting requirements and court orders. In FY10, Examiners completed 8,294 reviews and issued 3,157 notices of noncompliance.**
- **Court Accountants review financial accountings in pending conservatorship, decedent estate, and trust administration cases. Court Accountants completed 1,307 accounting reviews, with a collective estate value of $277,031,793.**

In FY11, the Department has plans to establish a Veteran's calendar, a compliance calendar, an ADR calendar, and an educational program for fiduciaries.

Criminal Competency

Judicial officers oversee Rule 11 Competency Hearings for Superior Court and Limited Jurisdiction Courts. Mental Health Court reduced criminal competency time frames during FY10. Currently, competency hearings for in-custody defendants are scheduled within 30 days after the appointment of the physician. Hearings for out-of-custody defendants are set within 45 days after a physician has been appointed.

Continuity of Care

In FY10, the Department initiated Continuity of Care hearings. Informal hearings are set on the Continuity of Care calendar for in-custody defendants who have a serious mental illness and, are eligible for mental health services. Mental health providers, Adult Probation Officers, Correctional Health Services and attorneys gather information to determine eligibility for services and to ensure appropriate services are in place.

Probate and Mental Health Statistics
FY 2009 – FY 2010

	New Case Filings			Case Terminations		
	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Estate Probates & Trust Administrations	3,429	**3,314**	*-3.4%*	4,069	**4,674**	*14.9%*
Guardianships and Conservatorships	2,110	**2,123**	*0.6%*	2,007	**5,109**	*154.6%*
Adult Adoptions	29	**32**	*10.3%*	27	**33**	*22.2%*
TOTALS	5,568	**5,469**	*-1.8%*	6,103	**9,816**	*60.8%*

Mental Health Statistics

	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Mental Health Case Filings	3,091	**3,077**	*-0.5%*
Mental Health Case Terminations	2,847	**2,931**	*3.0%*

Criminal Department

Criminal Department has jurisdiction over the adjudication of felony criminal matters that occur within Maricopa County, Arizona. The Department's mission is to provide efficient access to the Court, adherence to the law, and an independent and fair resolution of criminal cases in a manner that ensures both public protection and recognition of individual rights. Judicial officers assigned to this Department work diligently to manage pre adjudication and post sentencing matters.

Rule 8 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure requires all in–custody defendants to have their cases resolved within 150 days after arraignment; out–of–custody defendants to have their cases resolved within 180 days after arraignment; complex cases resolved within 270 days; and capital cases resolved within 18 months. To meet these timeframes, the Criminal Department has developed innovative and award-winning caseflow management practices.

FY10 Facts…

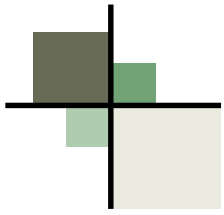
- *An average of 2,878 new felony cases were filed monthly.*
- *743 criminal trials were held.*
- *39,918 felony cases were terminated, resulting in an 111% clearance rate, the highest rate in more than a decade.*

Initial Appearance (IA) Court

The Court operates 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week and is located at the Fourth Avenue Jail. Judicial officers determine release conditions or detainment orders for defendants and arrestees appearing before them. IA Court Commissioners: 1) review new arrests for probable cause; 2) review bond amounts on defendants arrested on warrants; 3) schedule cases for disposition; 4) advise defendants of the charges filed against them and their rights; 5) appoint attorneys to represent defendants when appropriate; and, 6) evaluate defendants' mental health needs. More than 64,500 defendants were seen in IA Court during FY10.

Search Warrant Center

Officers requesting search warrants anytime of the day or night can utilize the Search Warrant Center. By statute, law enforcement officers can appear before any magistrate in Maricopa County to obtain a search warrant. More than 8,200 requests were received this fiscal year, a 19% increase from last year.



Regional Court Centers (RCC)

Fill the Gap monies created and funded RCC to speed the resolution of criminal cases. RCC consolidates felony preliminary hearings and arraignments to the same day to reduce time to disposition and increase efficiencies for all stakeholders. RCC helps to reduce the numbers of days in pretrial incarceration, sheriff's transportation costs, travel and court time for attorneys. In FY10, judicial officers handled more than 20,500 cases.

Early Disposition Court (EDC)

EDC was initiated in 1997 after passage of Proposition 200, requiring treatment rather than jail as a possible sanction for low–level drug possession charges. More than 11,100 drug cases were heard at EDC in FY10. Judicial officers assigned to hear the EDC calendars resolve simple drug possession cases in approximately 20 days. Commissioners also hear welfare fraud matters brought to the Court by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

Drug and alcohol related offenses account for about 40% of all Criminal filings.

The DUI Center

Specialty courts, such as the DUI Center, improve the efficiency of managing DUI cases for the lawyers, the court, and the parties.

Trial Management

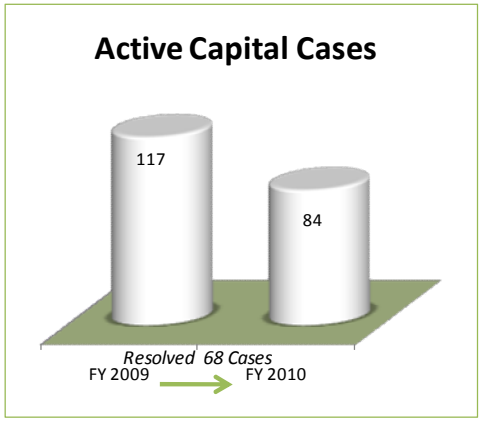
The Master Calendar is designed to maintain trial time standards set by Rule 8 of the Arizona Rule of Criminal Rules of Procedure and maximize judicial resources. The program expanded in FY10 and became the primary case management framework for felony trials. Firm trial dates are set and cases are actively managed from Initial Pretrial Conferences (IPTC) to termination by judicial officers. The Master Calendar eliminated the need for judicial officers to "multi-book" trials or send cases to case transfer.

Case Aging Days for Terminated Criminal Cases

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
(median) 50th Percentile	56	**43**	*-24.5%*
90th Percentile	280	**279**	*-0.6%*
98th Percentile	651	**644**	*-1.1%*
99th Percentile	808	**901**	*11.5%*

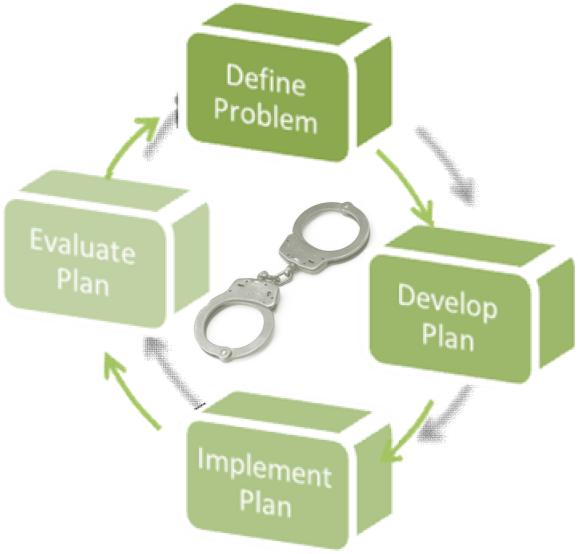
Capital Case Management

At the conclusion of FY09, there were 117 active capital cases, one of the largest pending case inventories in a single court in the United States. Under the direction of the Criminal Presiding Judge and with the support of the Arizona Supreme Court Capital Case Task Force, the court actively manages these cases. Judges who specialize in capital matters meet weekly to manage scheduling conflicts among judicial officers and attorneys. Resolution Management Conferences are scheduled to encourage parties to explore early resolution. As a result, 68 capital cases were resolved in FY10. There were 84 active capital cases at the conclusion of FY10.



Post Sentencing Case Management

The Probation Violation Center was established for defendants who violate probation. In FY10, more than 930 probation arraignments were conducted monthly resulting in more than 11,200 probation arraignments. The Probation Violation Center is located in the 4th Avenue Jail to avoid inmate transport.



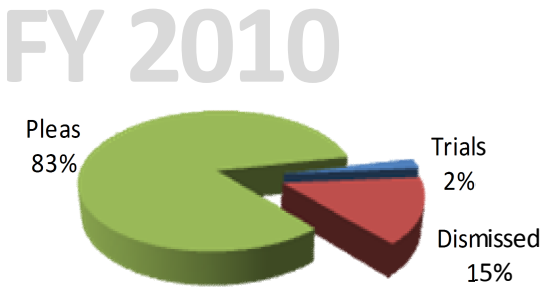
Problem Solving Courts

The Criminal Department operates several problem solving courts, including DUI Court, Adult Drug Court, Juvenile Transferred Offender Program, and Domestic Violence Court. In FY09, a Restitution Court was initiated to focus on the collection of monies owed to victims in felony criminal cases. Defendants are required to appear and explain the reason for non payment of their court ordered restitution. These efforts resulted in the collection of $197,524 during FY 2010.

Criminal Department Statistics
FY 2009 – FY 2010

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
New Case Filings	37,162	**34,538**	*-7.1%*
Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief Filed (Rule 32)	1,104	**1,367**	*23.8%*
TOTAL Case Filings	38,266	**35,905**	*6.2%*
TOTAL Terminations	39,671	**39,918**	*-2.0%*
Clearance Rate	*106.8%*	***111.2%***	*6.0%*
Active Pending Caseload	11,430	**10,439**	*-8.7%*
TOTAL Trials Completed	952	**743**	*-22.0%*
Trial Rate	*2.6%*	***2.2%***	*-15.4%*
Defendants Sentenced	33,684	**33,430**	*-0.8%*
Dismissed	5,847	**5,340**	*-8.7%*
Acquitted	140	**119**	*-15.0%*
Pleas	23,706	**30,097**	*27.0%*
Settlement Conferences Held	10,274	**8,803**	*-14.3%*
Bond Forfeiture Hearings	*1,819*	**1,918**	*5.4%*
Amount of Bonds Forfeited	*$3,586,172*	**$3,840,547**	*7.1%*

Dispositions



Family Department

Family Court has jurisdiction over dissolution, child custody, child support, parenting time, paternity, maternity, and other domestic relations matters. Family Court offers several innovative programs to assist parties in resolving disputes.

Early Resolution Program

The award winning Uniform Case Management plan was implemented in 2005 and included the development of an Early Resolution Conference (ERC) program. Attorney Case Managers meet with unrepresented litigants to facilitate agreements on division of property, debt, parenting time, child support, custody, and spousal maintenance. If agreements are not reached, the Attorney Case Manager schedules a trial before a judge.

Family Court has established numerous programs to assist unrepresented litigants resolve their cases.

Pre Decree Case Aging Days

	FY2009	FY2010	% change
50th percentile (median)	121	114	-5.5%
90th percentile	254	246	-7.0%
95th percentile	342	312	-8.7%

Decree on Demand

The Decree on Demand (DOD) program provides an expedited dissolution process. Petitioners call the court or schedule a default hearing on-line. Litigants meet with court staff prior to their hearing for final review of documents and calculation of child support. Consent Decrees and Stipulated Judgments are also expedited through DOD. During FY10, 6,832 default decrees and 4,371 consent stipulations were signed.

Comprehensive Information System

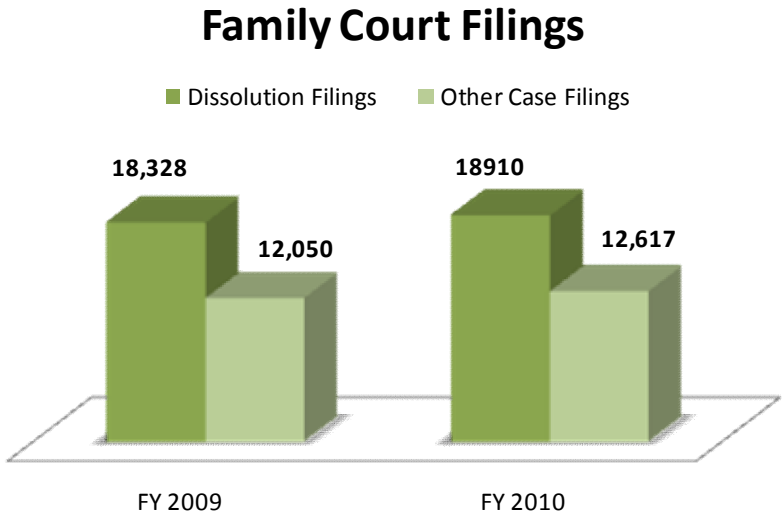
Family Court operates its Comprehensive Information System to provide How-To Workshops for Child Support Modifications, Stop/Change Orders of Assignments, and Paternity Establishments. In addition, Family Court provides litigants an opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback through the Family Court Navigator e-mail and phone number.

Family Court Conference Center

The Specialty Courts assist litigants seeking to establish, modify or enforce support, enforce parenting time, or change an Order of Assignment. Post decree and post judgment petitions are resolved at the earliest possible date with minimal court hearings. Stipulated Agreements are reached in 50% of the cases and an additional 40% of the matters result in partial agreements. In FY10, a total of 1,974 child support conferences and 1,572 enforcement conferences were held. Court staff also provided judicial officers 788 arrearage calculations and offered information to Title IV-D litigants prior to their meeting with the Attorney General. In FY10, Family Court opened an Accountability Court and managed 494 cases with arrears. Judicial officers enforced court-ordered child support obligations by monitoring progress through regular court appearances until arrears are paid.

Family Court Conciliation Services

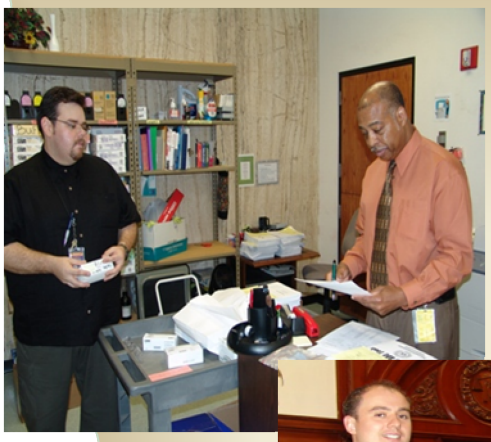
Conciliation Services provides conciliation counseling, child interviews and mediation for families involved in a dissolution or child custody proceedings. Conciliation Services also manages the Parent Information Program (PIP) and the Parent Conflict Resolution Class (PCR). During FY10, over 16,100 parents completed the PIP mandatory parent education class and 835 parents attended the PCR course. Parenting Conferences were outsourced in FY10.



Family Court Statistics

	FY 2009 Totals	FY 2010 Totals	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Dissolution Filings	**18,328**	**18,910**	***3.2%***
Other Case Filings	**12,050**	**12,617**	***4.7%***
TOTAL Pre-Decree Filings	**30,378**	**31,527**	***3.8%***
Subsequent Filings	**21,064**	**18,560**	***-11.9%***
TOTAL FAMILY COURT FILINGS	**51,500**	**50,087**	***-2.6%***
Dissolution Terminations	**18,946**	**18,102**	***-4.5%***
Other Case Terminations	**12,143**	**12,076**	***-0.6%***
TOTAL Pre-Decree TERMINATIONS	**31,089**	**30,178**	***-2.9%***
Clearance Rate	**102.3%**	**95.7%**	***-6.5%***
Active Pending Caseload	**10,689**	**12,038**	***12.6%***
Domestic Violence: Orders of Protection			
Total Filings	**7,571**	**8,001**	***5.7%***
Orders Issued	**6,592**	**6,783**	***2.9%***
Orders Denied	**979**	**1,218**	***24.4%***
Emergency Orders Issued	**63**	**79**	***25.4%***
Domestic Violence: Hearing Requests to Revoke/Modify Orders of Protection			
Requests for Hearings	**2,746**	**2,645**	***-3.7%***
Hearings Commenced	**1,983**	**1,801**	***-9.2%***

Faces of the Court



Juvenile Department

Juvenile Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over Maricopa County youth, 17 years of age and under, who violate federal, state or municipal law; and minors who are abused, neglected or dependent. Matters heard in Juvenile Court include delinquency cases after a youth is charged with a crime or a status offense; dependency cases occur after a child has been abused or neglected by a parent or other person with care, custody or control of the minor; guardianship cases to determine legal guardianship of a child; and severance and adoption cases.

Juvenile Court partners with numerous agencies to improve the delivery of services to the juveniles and citizens of our county.

Community Services Unit

The CSU provides services to children and families through collaboration among the Court, Juvenile Probation, Child Protective Services, mental health provider Magellan, the Juvenile Legal Assistance Program and other community providers. Quality services and alternatives to detention, if appropriate, are available to pre and post adjudicated youth. In FY10, the CSU received over 4,344 telephone and 2,668 walk-in requests for services and information.

Juvenile Legal Assistance Program

The Juvenile Legal Assistance Program (JLAP), a partnership between Maricopa County Juvenile Court, the ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law and the Volunteer Lawyer's Program was established in 2008. The JLAP program is staffed by ASU law students who work under the supervision of lawyers to offer free legal consultation to unrepresented litigants in Juvenile Court matters. In FY10, JLAP scheduled 130 appointments for unrepresented litigants and expanded its offices to include a Tempe location.

National Adoption Day

On November 21, 2009, Juvenile Court hosted the country's largest National Adoption Day where 278 children were adopted. National Adoption Day in Maricopa County is organized by court staff and community volunteers.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY
Celebrating a Family for Every Child
www.nationaladoptionday.org

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

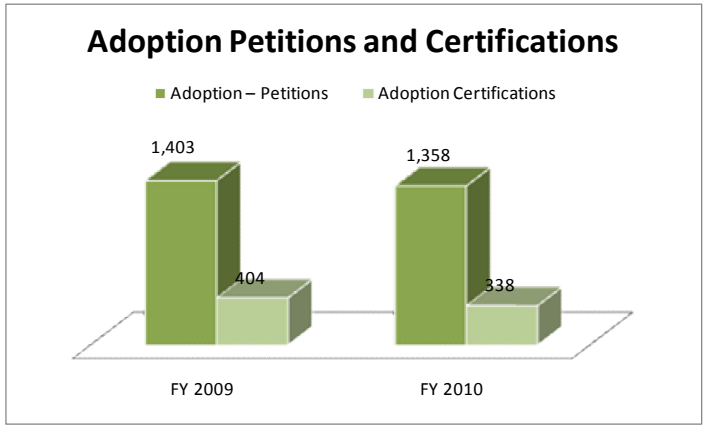
CASA of Maricopa County provides a highly-specialized volunteer service to abused and neglected children who are in the Juvenile Court System. These court appointed volunteers ensure the needs of dependent children are met by helping their cases navigate through the legal and social service system. CASA volunteers stay with each case until the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For the majority of dependent children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence throughout their involvement with the child welfare system. This year marks CASA's 25th year serving abused and neglected children in Maricopa County, and the volunteer level for FY10 was the highest in the program's history. During FY10, a total of 654 children were served, a 67% increase from FY09. Also, CASA launched a new website and received the 2010 NACM Justice Achievement Award.

Juvenile Offense Information Intake (JOII)

The Juvenile Offense Information Intake Unit was established to ensure safe communities and a streamlined, integrated justice system. In FY10, JOII processed 15,984 paper referrals, 5,028 miscellaneous referrals and 8,364 citations from 55 local law enforcement agencies and schools.

Children's Coalition of Maricopa County

Juvenile Court developed a multi-systemic approach to address the needs of children, youth and families. Regular meetings with stakeholders provide immediate and direct discussion and problem solving for the children and families involved in the justice system.



Juvenile Court Statistics
New Filings, Counts of Petitions and Juveniles
FY 2009 – FY 2010

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Delinquency and Citations	10,706	**9,545**	*-10.8%*
Delinquency – Violations of Probation	2,135	**2,242**	*5.0%*
Dependency – Petitions	2,592	**2,451**	*-5.4%*
Dependency – Juveniles	4,035	**3,700**	*-8.3%*
Guardianship – Petitions	2,042	**1,884**	*-7.7%*
Guardianship – Juveniles	2,088	**2,045**	*-2.1%*
Adoption – Petitions	1,184	**1,416**	*19.6%*
Adoption – Juveniles	1,497	**1,823**	*21.8%*
Adoption Certifications	276	**324**	*17.4%*
Severance – Petitions	376	**431**	*14.6%*
Severance - Juveniles	478	**519**	*8.6%*
Emancipation – Petitions/Juveniles	42	**17**	*-59.5%*
Relinquishments – Petitions	6	**9**	*50.0%*
Relinquishments - Juveniles	6	**9**	*50.0%*
ICWA Relinquishments – Petitions	8	**2**	*-75.0%*
ICWA Relinquishments - Juveniles	8	**2**	*-75.0%*
Injunctions Against Harassment	54	**47**	*-13.0%*
TOTAL FILINGS - PETITIONS	19,421	**18,368**	*-5.4%*
TOTAL FILINGS – JUVENILES	21,325	**20,273**	*-4.9%*

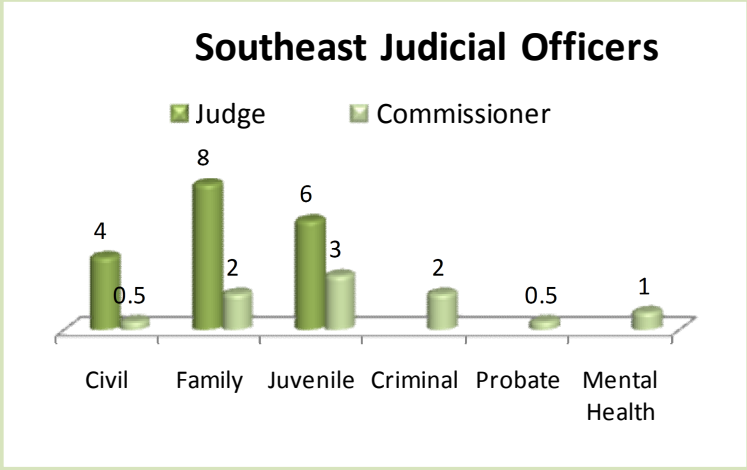
Juvenile Court Statistics
Petitions Closed and Counts of Juveniles
FY 2009 – FY 2010

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Delinquency and Citations	12,130	**9,971**	*-17.8%*
Delinquency – Violations of Probation	2,153	**2,287**	*6.2%*
Dependency – Petitions	2,329	**2,757**	*18.4%*
Dependency – Juveniles	3,814	**3,666**	*-3.9%*
Guardianship – Petitions	2,029	**1,979**	*-2.5%*
Guardianship – Petitions	2,197	**2,106**	*-4.1%*
Guardianship – Existing Juveniles	6,555	**7,555**	*15.3%*
Adoption – Petitions	1,403	**1,358**	*-3.2%*
Adoption – Juveniles	1,818	**1,731**	*-4.8%*
Adoption Certifications	404	**338**	*-16.3%*
Severance – Petitions	324	**435**	*34.3%*
Severance - Juveniles	481	**516**	*7.3%*
Emancipation – Petitions/Juveniles	41	**18**	*-56.1%*
Relinquishments – Petitions	37	**21**	*-43.2%*
Relinquishments - Juveniles	39	**8**	*-79.5%*
ICWA Relinquishments – Petitions	10	**2**	*-80.0%*
ICWA Relinquishments - Juveniles	10	**2**	*-80.0%*
Injunctions Against Harassment	60	**41**	*-31.7%*
TOTAL CLOSED - PETITIONS	20,920	**19,207**	*-8.2%*
TOTAL CLOSED - JUVENILES	23,147	**20,684**	*-10.6%*

Regional Courts

Southeast

Southeast Regional Court located in Mesa, Arizona, operates both adult and juvenile facilities. Over 35,000 people visited the juvenile facility and over 400,000 people visited the adult facility. Approximately 4,500 citizens reported for jury duty.



Southeast Statistics FY 2009—FY 2010

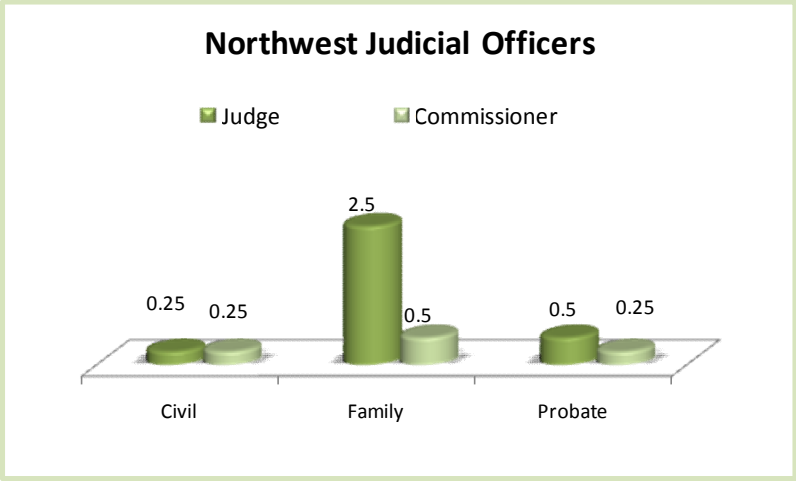
New Case Filings

	FY 2009	FY 2010	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Criminal Court*	10,398	**3,785**	*-63.60%*
Family Court	7,857	**8,445**	*7.50%*
Civil Court	4,054	**5,492**	*35.50%*
Probate Filings	971	**982**	*1.10%*
Juvenile Filings	9,069	**8,732**	*-3.70%*
TOTALS	32,349	**27,436**	*-15.20%*

* Criminal divisions moved downtown in December 2009.

Northwest

Northwest Regional Court Center, located in Surprise, Arizona, is home to Superior Court and Justice Courts. The Regional Court Center also serves as a location for educational seminars conducted by Family Court judges regarding dissolution proceedings.



- Northwest Regional Court participated in the Remote Interpreter Pilot Program, which provided interpreter services for court proceedings through video–teleconferencing.
- The Attorney General moved its Title IV-D Family Court review operation to a new location within the Northwest courthouse, providing more security for both the judicial officers and the attorneys.

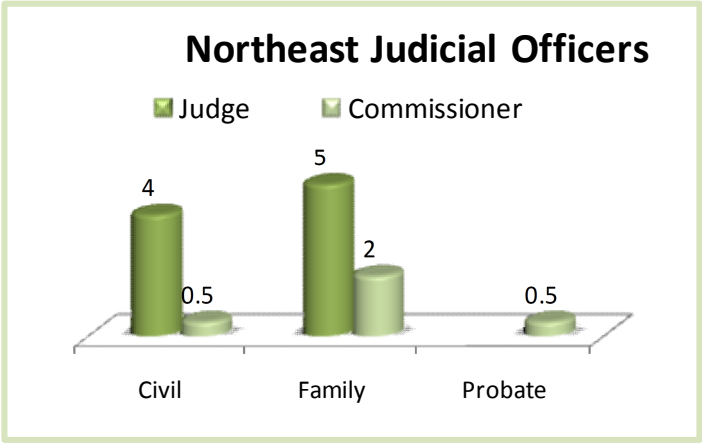
Northwest Statistics
FY 2009 - FY 2010

New Case Filings

	FY 2009	FY 2010	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Family Court	2,799	**3,009**	7.50%
Civil Court	678	**567**	-16.40%
Probate Court	712	**761**	6.90%
TOTALS	4,189	**4,337**	3.50%

Northeast

The Northeast Regional Court Center celebrated five years of operation in 2009. This modern, co-located courthouse hosts both Superior Court and Justice Courts. It serves over 200,000 visitors a year. Approximately 1,700 Maricopa County citizens reported for jury duty. Parenting Information Program, Life Skills and Credit Restoration, Substance and Alcohol Abuse, and Child Support Modification workshops are also held at the Northeast Regional Court Center.



Northeast Statistics
FY 2009 - FY 2010

New Case Filings

	FY 2009	FY 2010	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Family Court	7,200	**7,795**	*8.30%*
Civil Court	5,597	**4,996**	*-10.70%*
Probate Court	1,058	**1,125**	*6.30%*
TOTALS	13,855	**13,916**	*0.40%*

Court Interpretation and Translation Services

Court Interpretation and Translation Services (CITS) provides language assistance to Limited English Proficient (LEP) court users in all court matters, including arbitration and other court-mandated events. In addition to usual courtroom duties, CITS provides interpretation for interviews, psychological and custodial evaluations, mediation and other out-of-court matters for community stakeholders such as the Office of the Public Defender, the Maricopa County Attorney, and Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments. CITS also provides written translation services for LEP court users and court departments.

In FY10, CITS provided services for 5,150 matters that required a court interpreter for the Maricopa County Justice Courts, resulting in 1,285 actual hours of interpretation.

The Court expanded the Remote Interpreter Project from 16 courtrooms to 25 courtrooms in FY10, with plans to equip the remaining courtrooms in the next fiscal year. From November 2009 to June 2010, the Court saved roughly $30,300 from a reduction in contractor and staff mileage expenses. In FY10, demand for interpreter services in Family, Probate and Civil matters increased, while demand in Criminal, Juvenile and Justice Court decreased. Decreases in the service numbers for Criminal Court were somewhat offset by the increased length of the events needing interpreter services. Demand for translation of evidentiary recordings continued to increase.

CITS conducted approximately 42,000 Spanish language interpreter matters, representing over 20,000 hours of actual interpretation. Overall, the number of matters for American Sign Language decreased from the previous year's total of 727 to 326 matters.

Interpretation requests increased for languages and dialects from regions of the world where extremely few interpreter resources are available. The most common lesser-used languages are American Sign Language, Vietnamese, Arabic, Somali, Russian, and Korean. The demands mirror the increased diversity of the population which the Court serves.

Media Relations and Community Relations

The Media Relations and Community Outreach Department provides internal and external communication services for Superior Court and Adult and Juvenile Probation. The Department :

- Responds to public records requests from media
- Handles all media inquiries and requests
- Tracks high profile cases / media issues
- Writes, edits and maintains public information on the court's website
- Develops press releases, issues media alerts and statements
- Monitors media coverage
- Works with national media on special projects
- Creates, writes and edits Court publications
- Coordinates and manages publicity for community relations programs
- Trains judges, commissioners, court staff and others on media issues
- Plans and organizes numerous special events throughout the year
- Produces and posts video footage of high-profile cases to the court's website
- Posts late-breaking court news and community outreach efforts on Facebook and Twitter

facebook

twitter

Facebook & Twitter
The Court established a Facebook and Twitter policy that complies with the public record retention laws, the electronic communications policy and the Code of Ethics for Judicial Officers and Court Employees.

The Court joined Facebook on Feb. 23, 2010.

Fiscal Year 2010 Highlights

National Adoption Day - The department is responsible for media coverage of the event. Last year, 278 children were adopted.

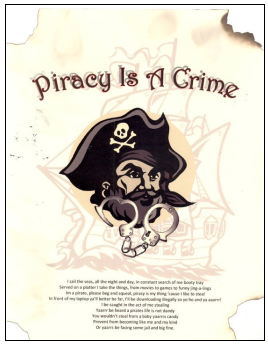
Distribution of Probable Cause Statements and Release Conditions - Reengineered processes in order for reporters to receive this information on their mobile devices.

Fiscal Year 2010 Highlights continued

Hispanic Media Forums – The Hispanic media met quarterly with Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell and other judicial officers to discuss topics affecting the Hispanic community.

Law Day – Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. It was highlighted by an editorial cartoon contest that was open to all Arizona students.

FY10 Theme: "Modern Day Pirates: Piracy Laws & Issues in the 21st Century



Media Relations and Community Outreach Statistics

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**
News Releases and Articles	96	**88**
News Flashes	185	**160**
Brochures and Newsletters	34	**37**
Media Trainings	25	**28**
News Clips	2,971	**2,830**
Cameras in the Courtroom	263	**467**
Initial Appearance Requests	401	**594**
Other Information Requests	243	**612**
Hispanic Media Meetings	4	**4**
Web Broadcast	37	**59**
Tweets	NA	**311**
Facebook Entries	NA	80
Courthouse Experience Tours (848 students)	NA	20
Speaking Engagements (including CourtTalk)	19	**24**

Law Library

The Superior Court Law Library is a public law library. It is an integral part of judicial access and a vital part of the community.

> ***Every citizen has a fundamental right to judicial access, and, open, reliable access to legal information and knowledge is an essential element of that right.***

Collections

The Library has two locations: the main library is located in downtown Phoenix in the East Court Building and the branch library is located at the Southeast Regional Court. Patrons who obtain a court library card can check out materials for one week.

Networked Resources

The Library provides access to electronic resources and offers innovative research resources and technologies, including:

- Westlaw Patron Access
- Index to Legal Periodicals: Web-based indices linking to 100 years of full-text resources
- Wireless internet access from the Library's East Court Building 2nd floor

Reference and Information Services

The staff respond to telephone, e-mail, and Internet requests from judicial officers, attorneys, court administration, government agencies, inmates, and other public users. Approximately 90% of requests are received from public users.

The Law Library maintains data on reference services provided in-house to patrons. This data is maintained in four categories: attorneys/law firm, public, superior court employees, and other governmental agencies.

Document Delivery Services

During FY10, the Law Library received 6,534 requests for material and staff distributed over 8,500 pages of information to patrons.

Education Services

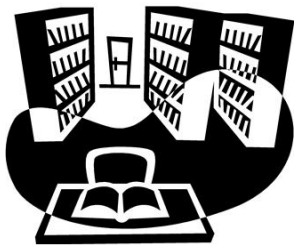
Reference and information services staff provide educational services through classroom instruction and library tours. For FY10, these courses included Westlaw for Legal Professionals; Westlaw for the General Public; Legal Information on the Internet, COJET courses; and general tours of the library.

Interlibrary Loan Services

The Law Library provides an interlibrary loan service. This includes borrowing items on behalf of patrons, as well as lending items to other institutions. During FY10, the Law Library processed 137 requests for patrons and loaned 239 items to other libraries. This was a 9% increase in borrowed items for our patrons and a 5% increase for items loaned to other libraries from FY09.

Court Informer Publication

The *Court Informer* is the Superior Court Law Library's awareness publication. An average of 47 articles were requested from each issue of the *Court Informer*.



Approximately 2,500 users have remote access from home or office to the Library's Web resources.

A total 3,009 books were checked-out of the library, an average of 12 books daily.

Approximately 26 requests for materials were received daily.

Please visit the Law Library's website at:
Law Library Website: http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/lawlibrary

Self Service Center

The Self Service Center and the Family Violence Prevention Center improve access to justice by offering court forms, instructions and information for Civil, Probate, Juvenile, Family and Justice Court matters. Currently, over 1,450 documents are provided in English and Spanish. A total of 27,300 customers were provided information by mail or at the Self Service Center.

*The SSC phone system offers more than **six hours** of recorded information on Family Law, Probate and Domestic Violence procedures and services. In FY10, a total of 26,481 callers utilized the 602-506-SELF automated phone system.*

Self-Service Center Forms Purchased in FY 2010

Divorce	12,935
Other Family Court	20,697
Probate	3,038
Juvenile	4,480
Justice Court	3,691
Civil	7,635
Service Packets	12,212
Others	8,292
Total Forms Distributed	**72,980**

Family Violence Prevention Center

The court provides a resource center to assist individuals dealing with family violence issues. On-line documents requesting protective orders and other paperwork related to dismissal or hearing on a protective order are provided. Domestic violence advocates, community resource information, and safety planning guidelines are also available at the center.

LOCATION INFORMATION

The Self-Service and Family Violence Prevention Centers are located at the following court locations:

- Downtown Superior Court
- Northeast Regional Court Center
- Southeast Adult Court
- Northwest Regional Court Center

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) provides litigants with an opportunity to participate in a settlement conference prior to trial in Civil, Family and Probate matters. ADR also provides expedited short trials. Cases are referred to ADR by a judicial officer. Judges pro tempore and commissioners conduct settlement conferences and short trials.

Cases Received and Conferences Set

	Family	Civil	Short Trial	Probate	Total
Cases Received	1,300	1,543	13	26	**2,882**
Conferences Set	1,064	1,004	9	33	**2,110**

Settlement Statistics

	FY 2009	**FY 2010**	*FY09 – FY10 % Change*
Full Settlement	1,177 *57%*	**1,047** ***50%***	*-11.0%*
Partial Settlement	287	**250** ***12%***	*-12.9%*
Pro Bono Hours	5,023	**3,553**	*-29.3%*

Judges pro tem volunteered a total of 3,553 hours in the ADR Program.

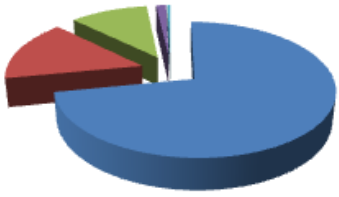
Office of the Jury Commissioner

The Office of the Jury Commissioner is responsible for creating a pool of qualified prospective jurors representative of the community. Jurors are summoned for Superior Court, Justice Courts, Municipal Courts and the State and County grand juries.

The goal is to maintain a representative and efficient jury system that evokes positive attitudes in those citizens who are called to serve on jury duty.

In January 2009, the Office of the Jury Commissioner implemented its alternative summoning plan. The plan minimizes excessive commutes for most jurors while maintaining a random and a fair demographic selection process. In FY10, juror mileage payments decreased from $2.3 million to $1.8 million representing a 22% budget savings.

Summoned Jurors



	FY2010	FY2009	% change
Superior Court	565,609	555,488	2%
Municipal Court	120,868	126,060	-4%
Justice Courts	85,919	80,597	7%
County Grand Jury	11,000	8,999	22%
State Grand Jury	3,122	3,087	1%
TOTAL	786,518	774,231	2%

Every three months, the County's voter registration list and state drivers' licenses files are merged, which produces a list of names for potential service as jurors.

• • •

In FY 10, 19.4% of prospective jurors sent to a courtroom were selected to serve on a jury panel.

Citizens called for jury service in Superior Court serve either one day or the duration of one trial. Sworn jurors are entitled to a $12 per day fee and a mileage allowance. The Office of the Jury Commissioner paid $1.3 million in juror fees and $1.8 million for juror mileage.

The Arizona Lengthy Trial Fund, created by the Arizona Legislature, reimburses certain jurors for lost wages. During FY10, a total of $546,482 was paid to jurors from this fund, a 28.6% increase from FY09.

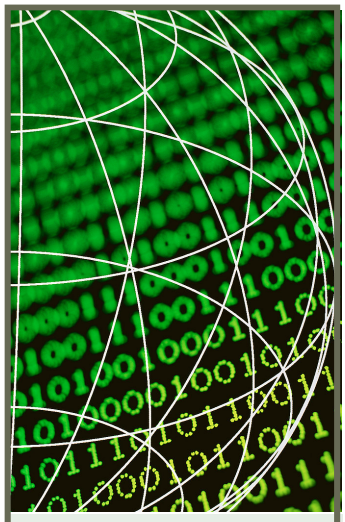
Jurors who appear for service but are not selected to serve on a trial cannot be summoned again for 18 months. Jurors who are selected to serve at trial are not eligible for the random selection process again for two years.

http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/JuryServices

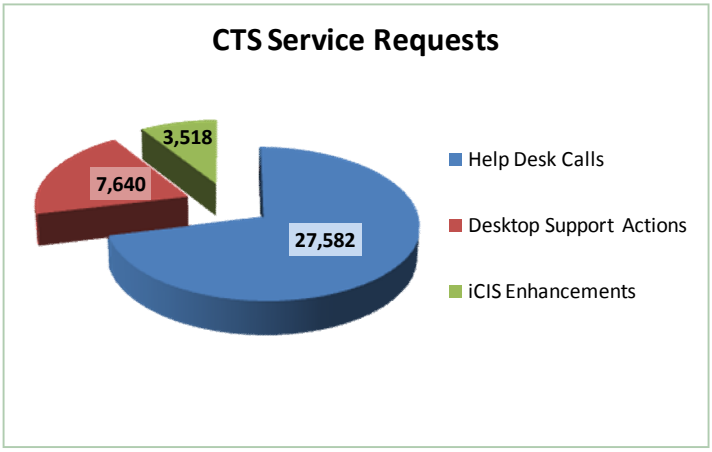
Court Technology Services

Court Technology Services (CTS) provides innovation and support for the technology needs of the Superior Court, Justice Courts, Adult Probation Department, and Juvenile Probation Department. In FY10, CTS helped the Courts reach new levels of technological sophistication and was instrumental in several award winning programs.

- Completed integration to the Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Court (AOC)'s F.A.R.E. (Fines, Fees and Restitution Enforcement) collections program for 25 Maricopa County Justice Courts (MCJC).
- Installed technology to allow interpreters to provide language services remotely via videoconferencing for 25 courtrooms.
- Collaborated with Maricopa County CASA to design and implement a website that provides critical information to the program's volunteers and staff.
- The Photo Enforcement Program was a collaborative program between DPS, AOC, CTS, and MCJC. The program, was designed to resolve photo enforcement violations by allowing on-line fine payments. The program produced $18 million dollars.
- Successfully automated and integrated Probate/Mental Health Department's Continuity of Care Plan to improve case management.



In FY10, 2,444,072 website hits were recorded. Court users rely on the Court's website for access to court information and programs.



- Completed programming of 100 Day Notices for the Civil Department that advises parties that 100 days have passed since filing and suggests that parties submit a written request for a Pretrial Conference.

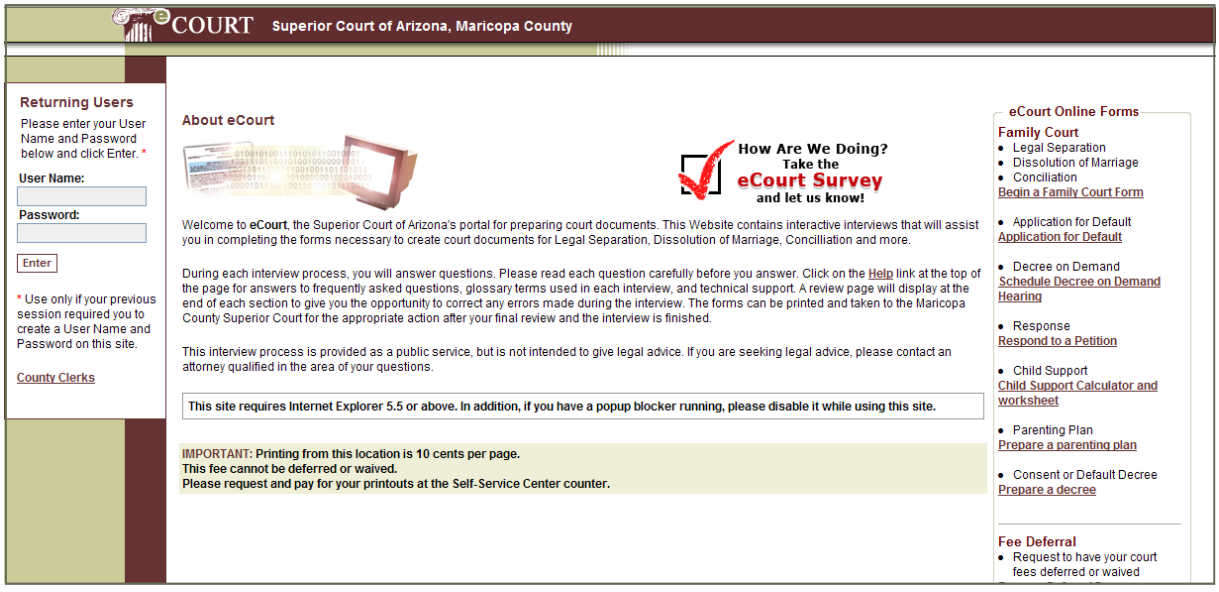
- Modifications and upgrades of the case management system were required to implement Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure, Rule 43 requiring restricted access to all Family Court documents for 45 days from initial filing.

- Implemented a Justice Court Remote Order of Protection (OOP) application. As a result domestic violence victims can seek an order of protection while at the county hospital. The judicial officer conducts a hearing via video conference.

- CTS has been participating in the development of a statewide electronic filing system via a partnership with the AOC, Maricopa County Justice Courts, Clerk of Superior Court, and vendors. After completed, all Superior Court and Justice Court filings can be filed and stored electronically.

- Implemented eCourt interactive forms for litigants to establish or enforce court orders in pre-decree and legal separation matters.

eCourt Web Page *(http://ecourt.maricopa.gov/index.asp)*



Court Security

Secure and safe access to the court is fundamental for our justice system to operate. Throughout FY10 the department focused on four major areas: emergency preparedness, education and training, upgrading security policies, procedures and equipment, and disseminating timely information to the court users and employees.

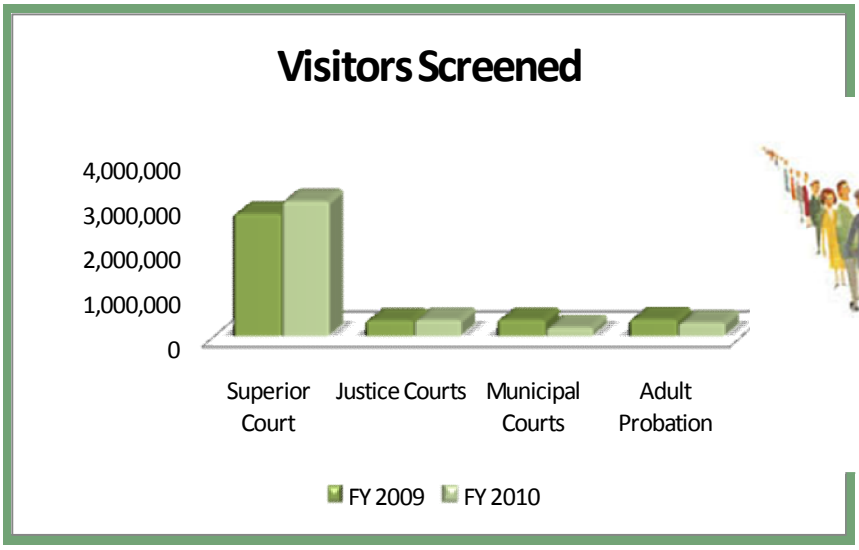
Emergency Preparedness

- The department worked with judicial officers and court administrators to develop a plan for each court department to maintain court functionality in the event of an influenza pandemic.
- The Emergency Response Guide detailing protocols and procedures was reviewed and updated.

Education and Training

- The department provided training for the effective and safe use of Tasers.
- Officers participated in training to improve threat detection skills.
- The department partnered with the Training and Education Department to train court employees regarding emergency evacuation procedures and handling workplace threats.

Superior Court's Central Court Building security checkpoint.

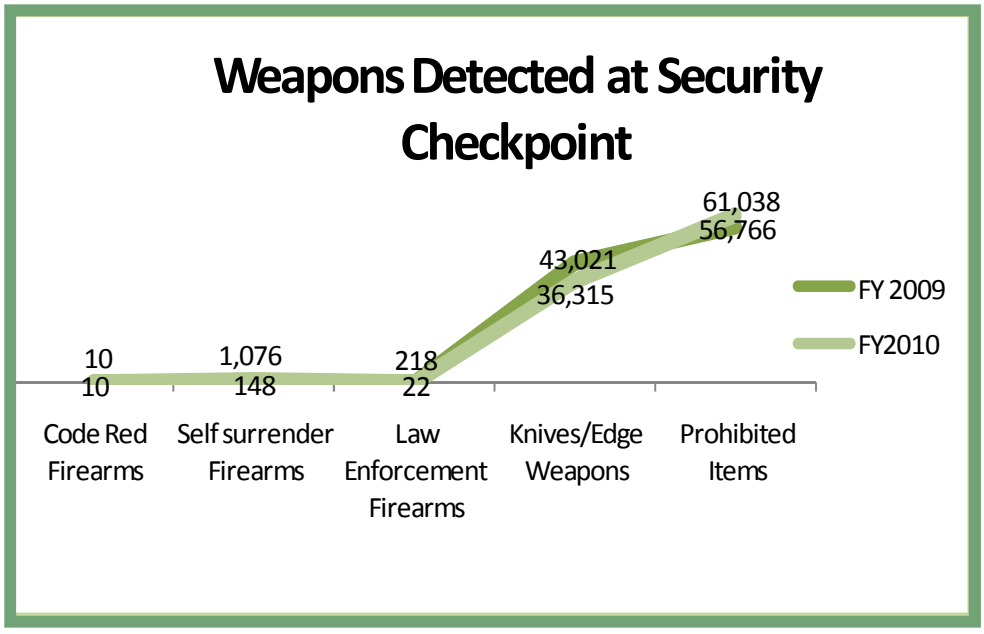


Upgrading Security Policies, Procedures and Equipment

Six new x-ray machines were purchased and located at high volume court entrances. Panic button delay issues were resolved through efforts of the County and the vendor. All U.S. mail and deliveries were screened for potential threats.

New security equipment was added in the following locations:

- NW Regional - new cameras throughout the Superior Court,
- OCH - new card readers and A-phones for all divisions,
- ECB/CCB - new card readers and cameras in certain locations,
- Durango - new cameras on all floors.

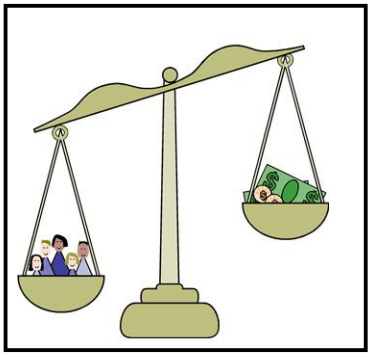


Human Resources and Administrative Services

The Department of Human Resources and Administrative Services provides support services to the judiciary and staff. Services include administration of payroll and compensation, recruitment and hiring; benefits, training and education; court purchasing; career management; organizational development; employment issues; performance management and the development; implementation and interpretation of policy and procedures.

Employee Relations

Disability Management: Employee Relations manages compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA); the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and the Workers' Compensation Program.



Internal Investigations: In an effort to ensure adherence to Court policy and that all employees have a comfortable work environment, Employee Relations receives complaints and grievances from employees, then conducts interviews and investigations as needed.

Staffing and Recruiting

The Staffing and Recruiting Unit provides both strategic and tactical services to Judicial Branch Departments to ensure the most qualified individual is fairly selected for each position.

In FY10, the Staffing and Recruiting Unit managed the following projects:

- Job Fairs – Community Outreach
- Employment Advertising
- Internships/Volunteers
- Management Development Trainings
- Critical Recruiting Initiatives
- Court Commissioner Recruitment
- Judge Pro Tempore Recruitment
- Judicial Performance Review

Purchasing

The Procurement Department provided materials, services and technical expertise, purchased supplies and negotiated with vendors to ensure the court received cost-effective and quality services. Procurement completed 487 purchase orders totaling $5.8 million in FY10.

Education and Training

During FY10, the Education and Training Department offered 1,313 educational opportunities for judges, staff and court leadership. The department established partnerships with the State Bar of Arizona, Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor Law School, and the National Judicial College to offer programming on issues impacting the Court. Educators expanded distance learning options and 53% of courses were completed online. Increased utilization of web-based education produced cost savings in reduced travel and time away from the office.

Classes Taken	Classroom	Online	Total
FY 2009	923	276	1,199
FY 2010	614	699	1,313

	FY 2009	FY 2010	% Change
APD	381	1,454	282%
COC	39	316	710%
JC	88	117	33%
JPD	157	262	67%
TC	582	1,665	186%
	1,247	3,814	206%

Juvenile Probation Department

Juvenile Probation (MCJPD) is a restorative justice department where enhancing public safety through evidence based practices is a goal for every employee. Staff members embrace the values of Character Counts!©, (responsibility, fairness, respect, caring, trustworthiness, and citizenship) for use within youth programs, as well as staff interactions. MCJPD collaborates with many state, county and local government agencies, community based and non-profit organizations, schools, and other leaders in the community to improve outcomes for youth residing in Maricopa County.

Community Involvement and Crime Reduction:

The Juvenile Probation Department Juvenile Community Restitution and Public Service (JCORPS) Program matches juveniles with community service projects so that youth can fulfill the terms of probation and/or other consequences for behavior and earn money to pay restitution. During FY10, juveniles performed 22,658 hours of community service/restitution in Maricopa County. The time spent working represents Restorative Justice in action; these youth learn through repairing harm in the community ($113,290 work value to the community) and restoring a sense of peace while being held accountable for their actions. Juveniles also earned more than $20,000 in restitution money.

Juvenile Probation utilized 524 volunteers and operated 262 Community Justice Panels in 35 locations. Community Justice Panels are an alternative way to handle diversion eligible cases. Community members sit on the Restorative Justice Panels and focus on accountability by assigning consequences and repairing harm to the community.

Throughout FY10, the department partnered with the Valley of the Sun YMCA to operate court and school based Teen Courts, and offer two different models of the program. The department operated, on average, 16 court based programs and 4 school-based programs, seeing approximately 72 youth per month. During this same period, almost 3,059 youth volunteered as Teen Court members.

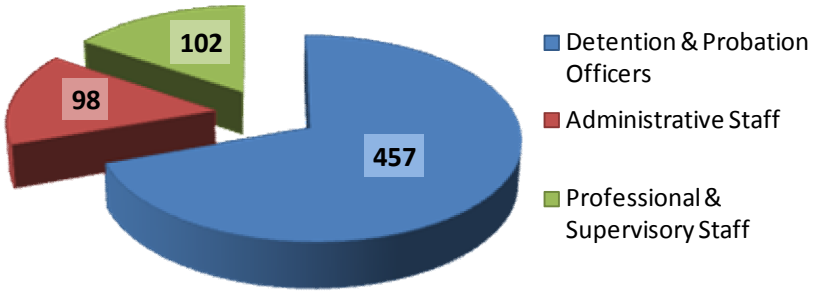
Juvenile Probation Officers began collaborating with the Herbert Kieckheffer Girls and Boys Club to conduct Teen Court and a community office at the center, to bring probation programs/services into the community. Because of the collaboration, the Boys and Girls Club graciously agreed to provide free membership to any interested youth referred by the Juvenile Probation Department, thus providing a positive, pro-social environment for juvenile probationers.

Durango Detention Facility partnered with the Maricopa County Health Department to offer a grant funded Teen Outreach Program. TOP served 180 youth in the Durango Detention Facility in FY10. TOP is an evidence based program that provides support and opportunity to youth to prepare for successful adulthood and avoid problem behavior. This program has proven to increase academic success and prevent teenage pregnancy by providing life skills training.

The Helping Others with Parenting Education (H.O.P.E.) grant, a collaborative effort addressing the needs of young mothers and fathers in detention, was re-awarded for February 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 by the Governor's Office for Children and the Arizona Parent's Commission. Along with the Girl Scouts Cactus Pine Council, City of Phoenix, Department of Economic Services (DES), and Women and Children (WIC), MCJPD offers child development, parenting skills, substance abuse, sexual health education and case management. The H.O.P.E. Program is offered to any young parent/parent-to-be entering detention. The program served 99 new youth in FY10.

Juvenile Detention partnered with the Young Arts Program, a non-profit organization, with a focus on at-risk youth. This program is designed to enhance self-esteem by exhibiting the juveniles' artwork in our community, juvenile probation offices, and the courts. Artwork is rotated twice a year.

Juvenile Probation Staff



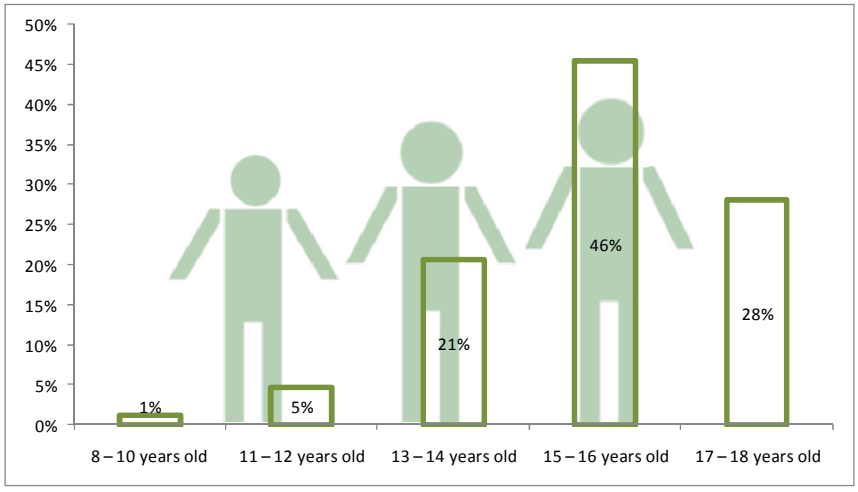
Juvenile Probation Department

	FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 - FY10 % Change*
JUVENILE POPULATION (estimates)			
County Population under 18 years old	1,133,112	**1,155,774**	*2.0%*
County Population age 8 through age 17	625,187	**637,691**	*2.0%*
REFERRALS			
Incorrigibility/Delinquent Complaints Received	33,210	**29,313**	*-13.0%*
Juveniles Involved	24,196	**21,465**	*-13.0%*
Complaints per Juvenile	1.50	**1.37**	*-10.0%*
DISPOSITIONS			
Juveniles Placed on Standard Probation	4,935	**4,412**	*-10.6%*
Juveniles on Standard Probation (end of year)	4,032	**3,829**	*-5.03%*
Juveniles Placed on Juvenile Intensive Probation (JIPS)	713	**562**	*-21.2%*
Juveniles on JIPS (end of year)	419	**369**	*-11.9%*
Placements: Outpatient	2,736	**2,678**	*-2.1%*
Residential	571	**598**	*4.7%*
Committed to State Department of Juvenile Corrections	445	**434**	*-2.5%*
DETENTION			
Juveniles Brought to Detention	10,327	**9,707**	*-6.0%*
Detained	8,227	**7,606**	*-7.6%*
Average Daily Population	*282*	***270***	*-4.3%*
Average length of detention (days)	*13*	***13***	*-0%*
Home Detention (includes Electronic Monitoring)	1,615	**2,059**	*27.5%*
Average Daily Population	*402*	***345***	*-14.2%*
Average length of home detention (days)	*40*	***40***	*0%*
Detention Alternative Care	329	**382**	*16.1%*

Juvenile Probation Department

	FY 2009 Totals	FY 2010 Totals
TYPE OF JUVENILE OFFENSE (% to total)		
Felonies Against Person	4.8%	**4.2%**
Felonies Against Property	7.4%	**6.7%**
Obstruction of Justice	7.4%	**8.8%**
Misdemeanors Against Person	7.2%	**7.4%**
Drug Offense	9.5%	**10.3%**
Disturbing the Public Peace	24.8%	**24.3%**
Misdemeanors Against Property	19.3%	**20.2%**
Status (i.e. Truancy or Curfew)	19.2%	**17.7%**
Administrative Hold	0.4%	**0.4%**
GENDER		
Male	69.3%	**66.3%**
Female	30.7%	**33.7%**

AGE AT TIME OF COMPLAINT



RECIDIVISM	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
All Juveniles	26.7%	25.8%	**26.7%**
First Time Offenders	20.0%	18.8%	**20.3%**

Recidivism is defined as the probability of getting a second complaint within 365 days of the first complaint. Excluded are juveniles who are 17 years old at the time of the first complaint and complaints alleging Violation of Probation. Juveniles referred in FY 2010 are not shown since they are less than 365 days at risk.

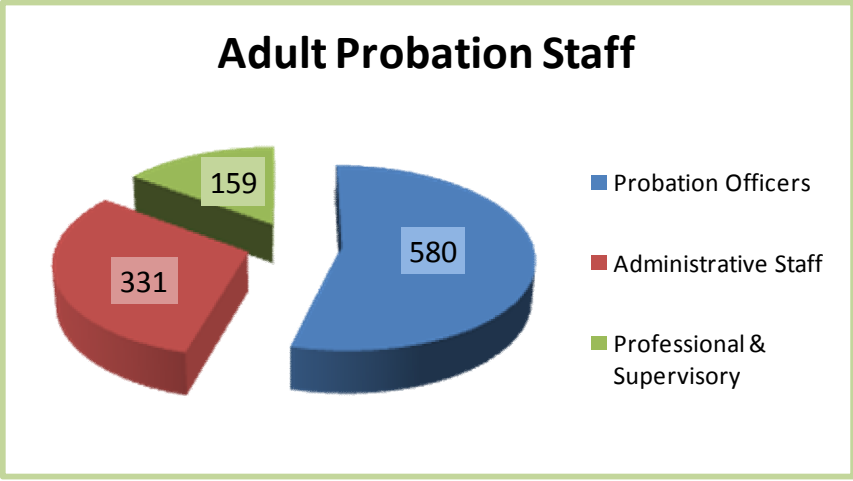
Adult Probation Department

The Adult Probation Department (MCAPD) works to enhance the safety and well-being of our neighborhoods. Through partnerships within the community, the department provides intervention, prevention services, and assesses offenders' risks and needs to guide the court in its decisions. The department also manages offender risk by enforcing court orders and facilitates victim involvement and restorative justice services. Overall, the department works toward promoting and maintaining a positive, safe and healthy community environment.

Community Involvement and Crime Reduction:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided a multitude of new grant programs. MCAPD was successful in receiving over $4 million in funding for seven grants: *Combating Criminal Narcotics Activity Stemming from the Southern Border of the U.S, Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Edward Byrne Competitive Grant, Adult Treatment Drug Courts Grant, Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant, Justice Assistance Grant (JAG - Local), Drug, Gang & Violent Crime Control Program Grant.*

To advance its primary goal of crime reduction, the department committed to an Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Initiative. Quality Assistance Supervisors provide significant staff training and coaching to improve staff's understanding and use of crime reduction techniques. Project evaluation has demonstrated advances in staff's EBP skill level.



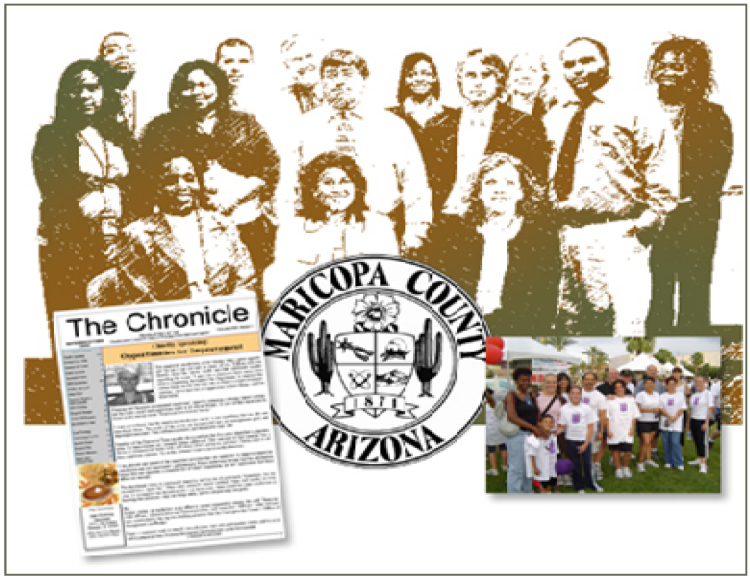
The Fugitive Apprehension Unit and the U.S. Marshals Service work together on multi-agency task force that is dedicated to apprehending violent and dangerous fugitives.

During the past year, the Garfield Probation Service Center was renovated to enhance security and improve building functionality. The Garfield Probation Service Center has 26 beds for drug-free probationers needing emergency/transitional housing. While at Garfield, probationers engage in treatment, learn basic life skills, gain a legitimate source of income, pay court-ordered fees, and work toward fulfilling other probation obligations. The house goal is for probationers to eventually save enough money to transition into stable housing.

In FY10, 77% of Probationers successfully completed probation, which is an improvement from FY09 in which 73% were successful in completing probation terms.

Probation officers and community providers work together to provide housing and services for up to 12 seriously mentally ill (SMI) clients at the Morten House. Clients of the program work toward the goal of self sufficiency and their stay provides a rental history, a benefit they can use after completing probation. Participants are required to seek employment or to attend school during their stay. Probationers are at different levels of functioning, education and employment therefore services are geared to the probationer's specific abilities.

Community Restitution Program (CRP) staff initiates, coordinates and supervises over 300 work projects throughout Maricopa County each month. Partnerships exist with over 1,200 not-for-profit and government agencies, providing probationers the opportunity to complete their court ordered obligation. On an annual basis, adult probationers complete approximately 600,000 hours of community service.



Adult Probation Statistics
FY 2010 Standard and Intensive

ACTIVE PROBATIONERS (Monthly Average)			*TOTAL*
Standard Probation Total			**19,056**
Standard Probation		14,582	
Specialized Caseloads [a]		3,072	
Interstate Compact		632	
Custody Management & Work Furlough		770	
Intensive Probation Total			**813**
Compliance Monitoring [b]			**11,291**
PRETRIAL SERVICES	FY 2009	FY2010	*% Change*
Rate of Successful Completion of Release conditions	86.9%	87.3%	*0.5%*

ADDITIONAL PROBATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

		FY 2009 Totals	**FY 2010 Totals**	*FY09 - FY10 % Change*
PRESENTENCE REPORTS		19,178	**16,883**	*-12.0%*
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS		586,723	**407,628**	*-30.5%*
Collections:	*Reimbursement*	$178,950	**$114,023**	*-36.3%*
	Restitution	$8,788,218	**$8,906,541**	*1.3%*
	Fines/Surcharges	$9,438,982	**$8,455,781**	*-10.4%*
	Probation Fees	$8,827,513	**$8,518,066**	*-3.5%*
	Taxes Paid	$851,348	**$402,247**	*-52.8%*
TOTAL COLLECTIONS		$28,690,912	**$26,396,659**	*-8.0%*
WARRANTS		TOTAL	**CLOSED**	*% Closed*
New in FY10 only		5,159	**3,200**	*62.0%*

[a] Specialized Caseloads include Sex Offenders (1,646), Domestic Violence (610), Seriously Mentally Ill (603), and Transferred Youth (213).
[b] Compliance Monitoring includes Minimum Risk Supervision (MARS) and Unsupervised.

"EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW"

Superior Court of Arizona
for Maricopa County
Research and Planning Department
125 West Washington, 4th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
superiorcourt.maricopa.gov