

**JUDICIAL BRANCH OF ARIZONA
IN MARICOPA COUNTY**

**SUPERIOR and JUSTICE COURTS
ADULT and JUVENILE PROBATION**



***ANNUAL
STATISTICAL
REPORT***

FISCAL YEAR 2006

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Office of the Presiding Judge
Office of the Court Administrator

Judicial Branch In Maricopa County

We are pleased to publish the Annual Statistical Report, Fiscal Year 2006, for the Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County. This edition presents detailed operational data on the Superior Court, Justice Courts, Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments, as well as highlights of many court programs and services currently provided to the citizens of Maricopa County. The Court continues to implement innovative programs and cost-effective services for the citizens of Maricopa County, while maintaining an exemplary level of customer service.

The Court has adopted a mission statement that communicates the goals and ideals that we believe the community should expect its courts to be: ***Committed to the timely, fair and impartial administration of justice.*** To engage in a dialogue with the Community, the Presiding Judge conducted a series of Community Forums at various Court locations during FY 2006 and expanded the locations to include Community College campuses around Maricopa County. To further assess litigant satisfaction, the Court is also conducting customer service surveys through the NCSC's CourTools performance measurement system.

Today, we have 94 Superior Court Judges, 52 Superior Court Commissioners and 23 Justices of the Peace. During FY 2006, the Court opened the new Northeast Regional Court Facility, which houses 12 Superior Court divisions and three Justice of the Peace Courts. Four Justice of the Peace Courts were added to the Northwest Regional Court Facility in Surprise. Construction of the Downtown Justice Center, which will be completed in November 2006, also highlighted this fiscal year. The Downtown Justice Center will be the home of five Justice of the Peace Courts. Also to be located in the new downtown facility are offices for the Clerk of the Superior Court, Adult Probation and Pre-Trial Services, the Public Defender's Office, Office of Contract Counsel, the Judicial Branch Education and Career development Service, Court Technology Services, and the Integrated Criminal Justice Information Services.

With the continued dramatic increase in population, the County Board of Supervisors recognized the need for more courtrooms and authorized several new construction projects to meet expanding needs. The San Tan Consolidated Justice Court Center in Chandler, which will contain four Justice of the Peace Courts, is currently under construction. Construction of the Southwest Regional Court Center in Avondale will begin in the Fall of 2007, and planning and programming for a Criminal Justice Court Tower near the Downtown Phoenix Superior Court buildings has commenced.

We take this opportunity to thank the Arizona Supreme Court, Arizona State Legislature, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and County Management for their continued and valued support of our courts.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge



Marcus W. Reinkensmeyer
Court Administrator

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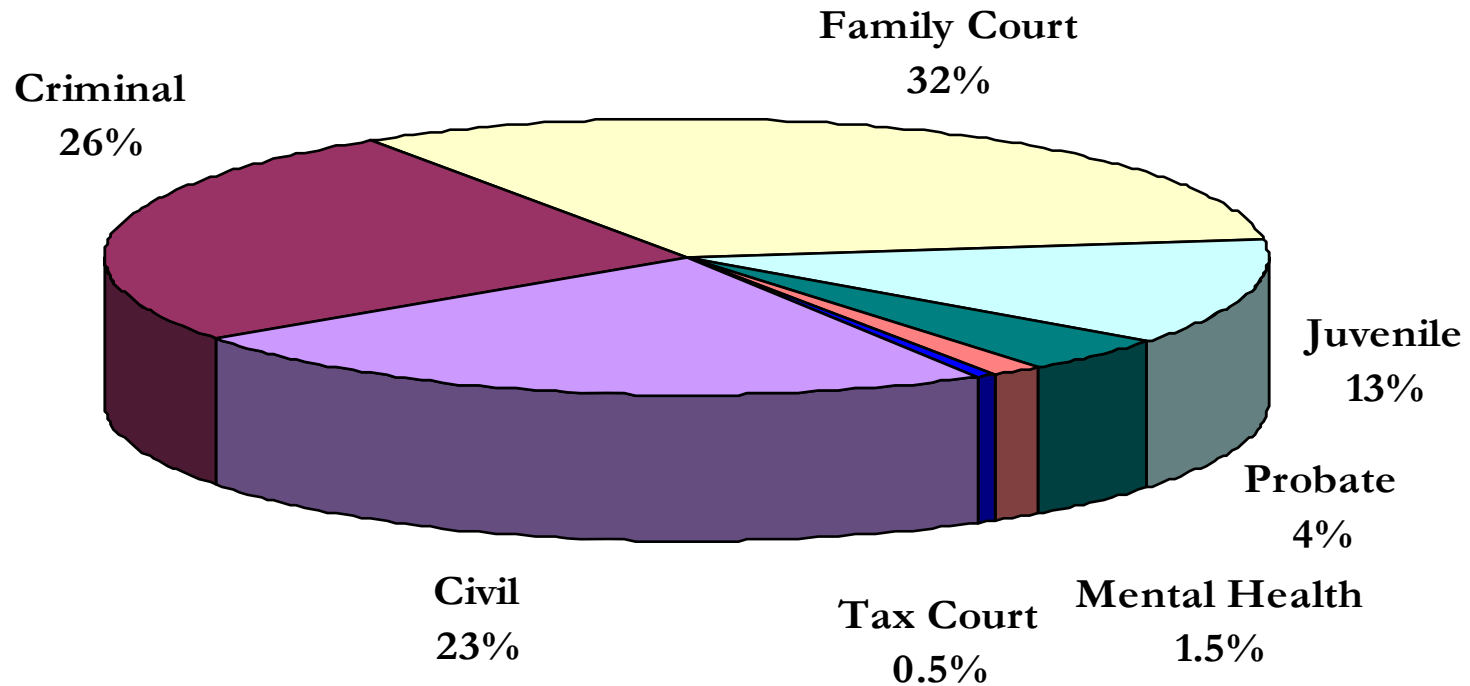
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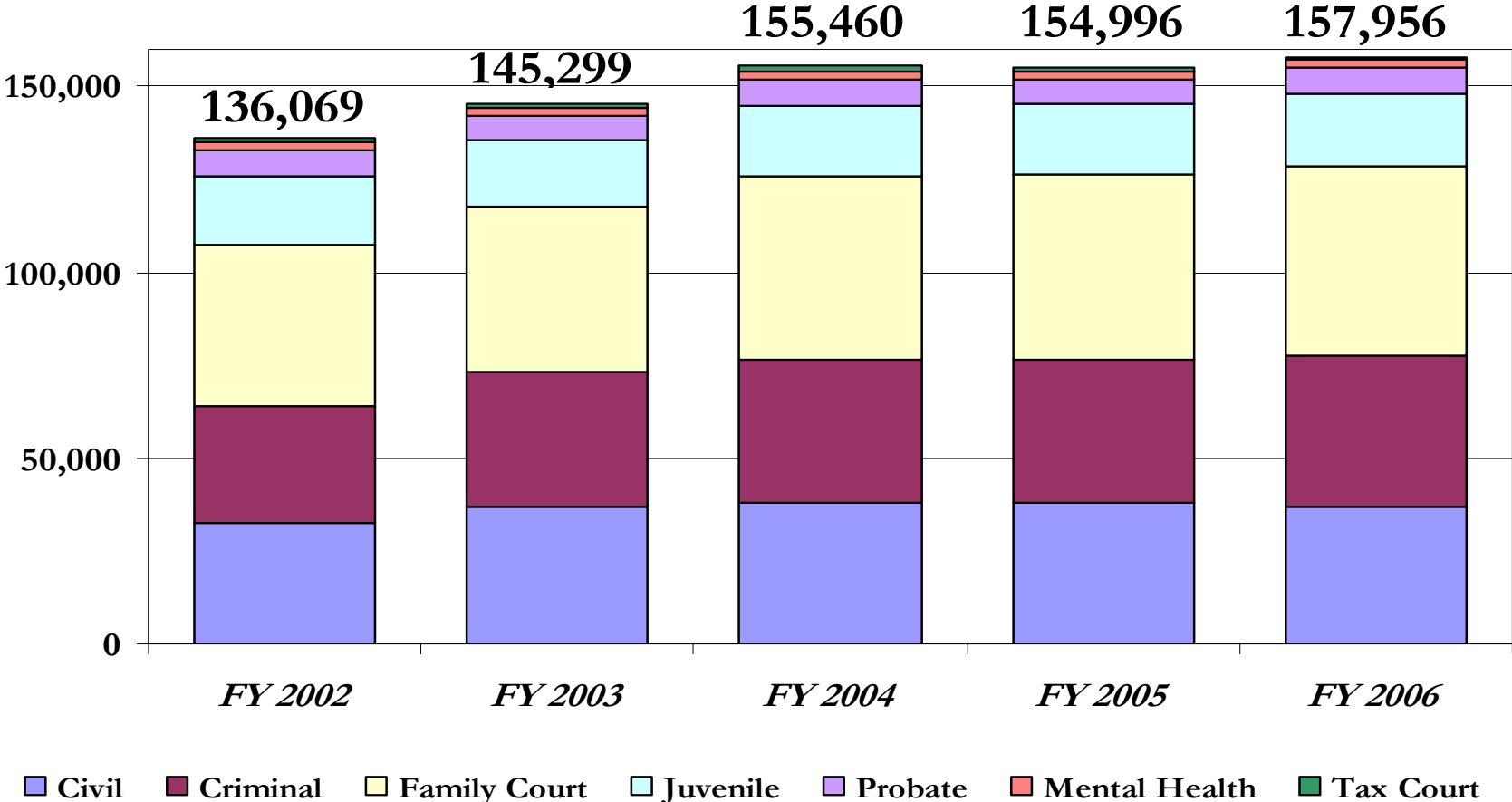
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SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY CASE FILINGS BY DEPARTMENT, FY 2006

Total Filings = 157,956



SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY CASE FILINGS BY DEPARTMENT, FY 2002 – FY 2006

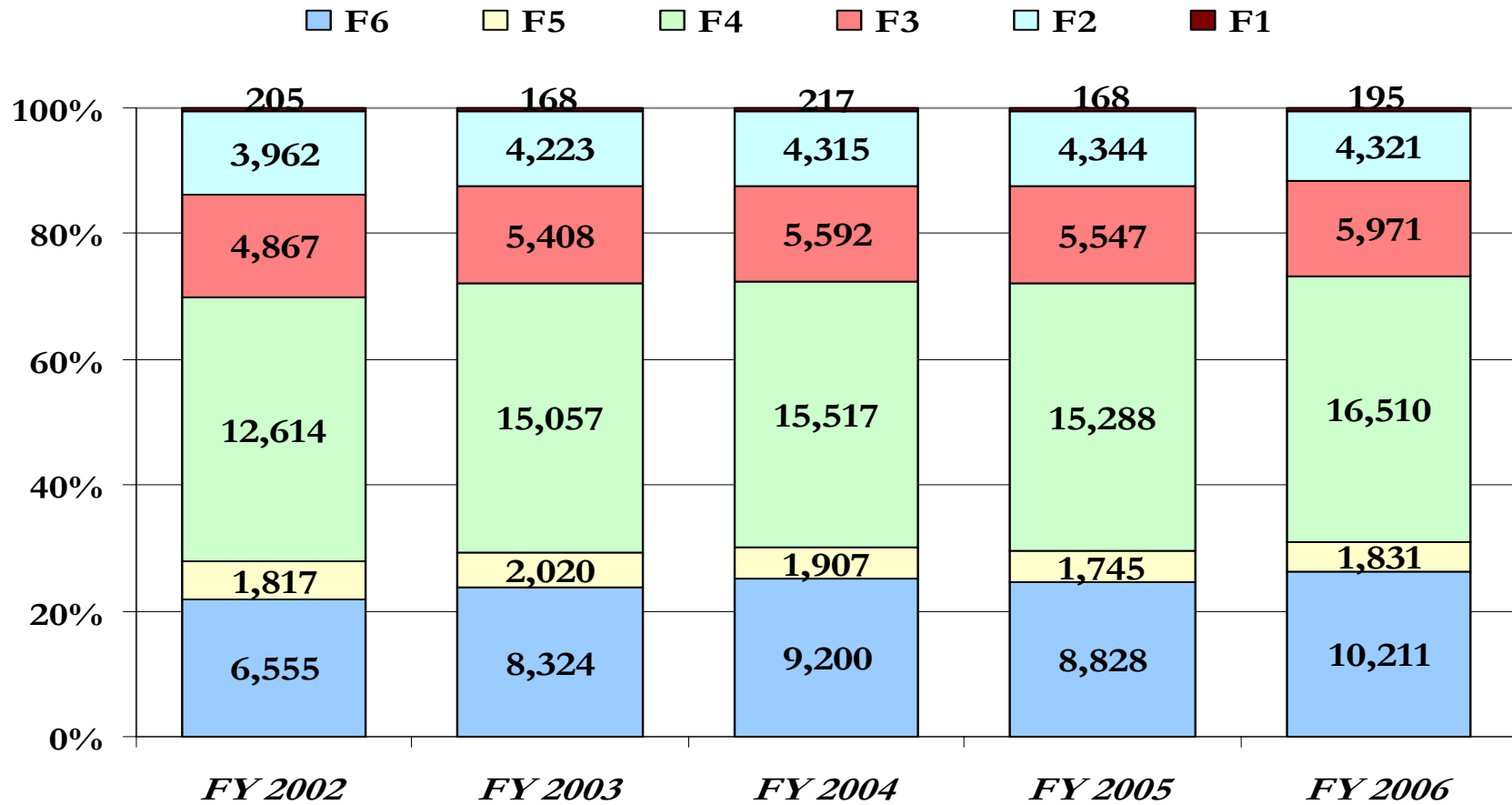


SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY TOTAL ANNUAL CASE FILINGS BY DEPARTMENT FY 2002 – FY 2006

COURT DEPARTMENT	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>%</u>
Civil	32,277	23.7%	36,749	25.3%	37,840	24.3%	38,016	24.5%	36,691	23.2%
Criminal ¹	31,617	23.2%	36,638	25.2%	38,685	24.9%	38,605	24.9%	40,928	25.9%
Family Court	43,649	32.1%	44,109	30.4%	49,098	31.6%	49,918	32.2%	50,878	32.2%
Juvenile	18,367	13.6%	17,847	12.3%	19,317	12.5%	18,825	12.1%	19,675	12.5%
Probate	7,047	5.2%	6,740	4.6%	7,067	4.5%	6,624	4.3%	6,758	4.3%
Mental Health	2,104	1.5%	2,163	1.5%	2,178	1.4%	1,994	1.3%	2,261	1.4%
Tax Court	1,008	0.7%	1,053	0.7%	1,275	0.8%	1,014	0.7%	765	0.5%
Annual Totals	136,069	100%	145,299	100%	155,460	100%	154,996	100%	157,956	100%

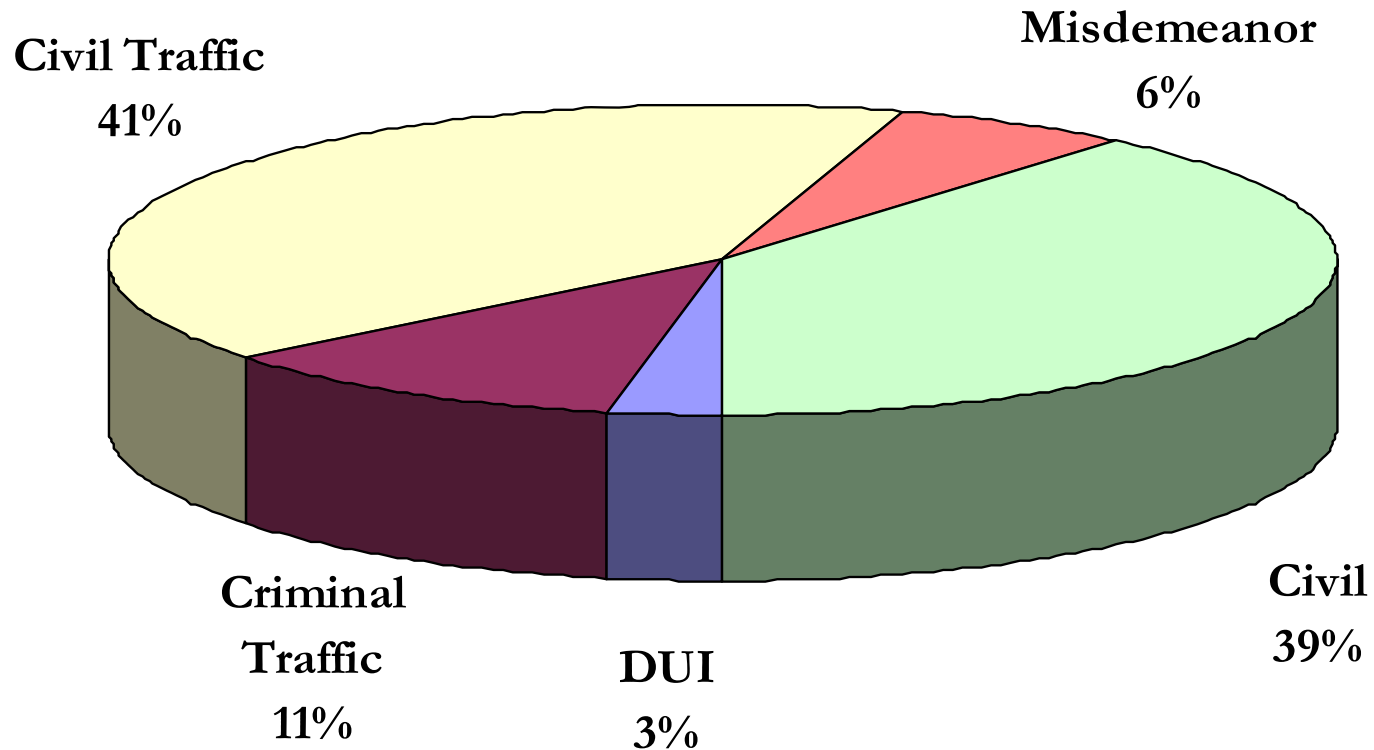
¹ May 2002, felony case processing changed to direct filing in Superior Court, as opposed to original filing in Justice Court and binding over to Superior Court.

SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA IN MARICOPA COUNTY NEW FELONY CASE FILING BY CLASS AND FISCAL YEAR

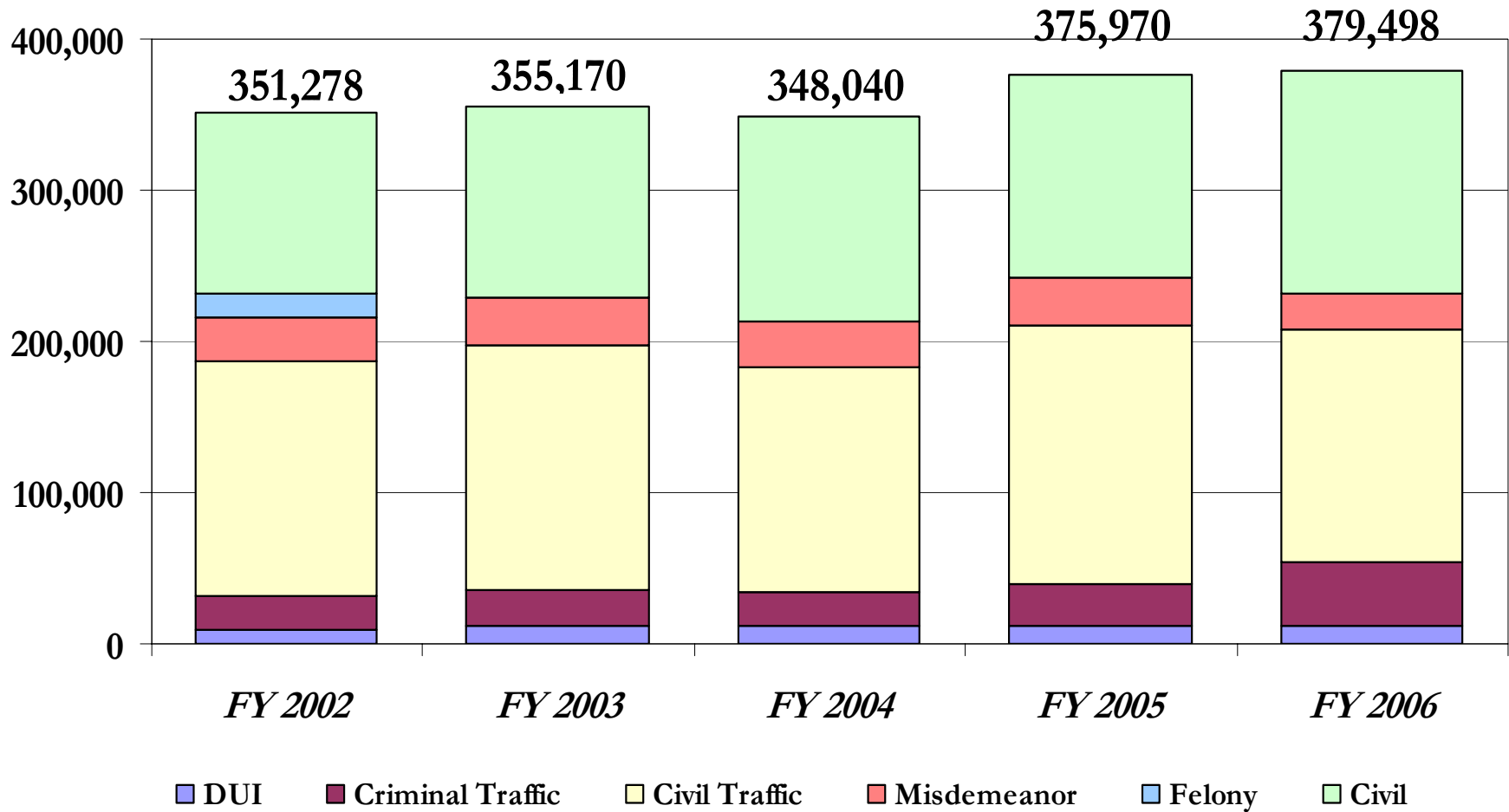


MARICOPA COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS NEW FILINGS BY CASE TYPE, FY 2006

Total Filings = 379,498



MARICOPA COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS NEW FILINGS BY CASE TYPE, FY 2002 – FY 2006



**MARICOPA COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS
TOTAL ANNUAL NEW FILINGS BY CASE TYPE
FY 2002 – FY 2006**

<u>CASE TYPE</u>	<u>FY 2002</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>%</u>
DUI	9,369	2.7%	11,392	3.2%	11,826	3.4%	12,280	3.3%	13,653	3.1%
Criminal Traffic	21,999	6.3%	23,631	6.7%	22,799	6.6%	27,018	7.2%	41,896	11.0%
Civil Traffic	155,291	44.2%	162,001	45.6%	148,230	42.6%	171,476	45.6%	153,887	40.6%
Misdemeanor	29,534	8.4%	32,566	9.2%	30,367	8.7%	30,969	8.2%	24,624	6.5%
Felony ²	15,279	4.3%	11	0.0%	1	0.0%	3	0.0%	0	0.0%
Civil	119,806	34.1%	125,569	35.4%	134,817	38.7%	134,224	35.7%	147,438	38.9%
Annual Totals	351,278	100%	355,170	100%	348,040	100%	375,970	100%	379,498	100%

² As of May 2002, all felony cases were filed directly in Superior Court, as opposed to filing originally in Justice Courts.

Justice Courts

The 23 Maricopa County Justice Courts are courts of limited jurisdiction that process DUI, criminal traffic, civil traffic, misdemeanor, civil, small claims, and forcible detainer (eviction) cases. In addition, Justice Courts issue domestic violence orders of protection and injunctions against harassment..

Fiscal Year 2006 Highlights

- *Technology.* Beginning in September 2005, the Maricopa County Justice Courts began transitioning to the integrated Court Information System (iCIS), the same relational case management platform used in Superior Court and developed by Court Technology Services (CTS). Several courts were converted each month until the final courts were brought on-line in April 2006. In addition to case management, a financial module was developed for the Justice Courts application to ensure one system would be used for all functions in the courts. This conversion also benefits Superior Court because pending misdemeanor cases can now be tracked with companion felony cases. In conjunction with the roll-out of iCIS, many of the Justice Court operations and procedures manuals were reviewed, updated, and reissued.
- *Organization.* Per an Administrative Order from the Arizona Supreme Court, management control was returned to each Justice of the Peace to some degree, leading to a reorganization of Justice Court Services. Several administrative and operational functions, such as human resources, community and media relations, training and development, court security, and litigant support remain centralized services within the Judicial Branch.
- *Regionalization.* New regional Justice Court facilities, co-located with Superior Court Regional Courts, were opened in FY 2006 in Northeast (Phoenix) and Northwest (Surprise). Each of these regional sites has three to four co-located Justice Court precincts. In FY 2007, two more regional Justice Court facilities will open. The Downtown (Phoenix) Facility and San Tan (Chandler) Chandler Facility are both expected to open in early 2007.
- *Boundary Changes.* To help equalize case filings and workload due to population growth, many Justice Court precinct boundaries were changed, effective January 2006.
- *Operational Reviews.* Justice Court Services created an operational review team in FY 2006 and completed business process evaluations of eight justice courts at the request of the affected Justices of the Peace. During FY 2007, these reviews will be expanded to include the annual Minimum Accounting Standards (MAS) submissions from each of the 23 Justice Courts.

Justice Courts

Justice Court Case Activity, FY 2005 – FY 2006 *New Case Filings*

	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
DUI	12,280	11,653	-5.1%
Serious Traffic	1,137	1,490	31.0%
Other Traffic	25,881	40,406	56.1%
TOTAL CRIMINAL TRAFFIC	39,298	53,549	36.3%
TOTAL CIVIL TRAFFIC	171,476	153,887	-10.3%
Misdemeanor	20,570	16,477	-19.9%
Misdemeanor FTA	2,820	2,557	-9.3%
Traffic FTA	7,579	5,590	-26.2%
TOTAL MISDEMEANOR	30,969	24,624	-20.5%
TOTAL FELONY ³	3	0	-100.0%
Small Claims	18,940	14,153	-25.3%
Forcible Detainer	82,102	84,730	3.2%
Other Civil/Non-Criminal Parking	33,156	48,555	46.4%
TOTAL CIVIL	134,198	147,438	9.9%
TOTAL NEW CASE FILINGS	375,944	379,498	9.0%
Orders of Protection	5,822	5,793	-0.5%
Injunctions Against Harassment	5,936	5,140	-13.4%

TRIALS COMMENCED

	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
Criminal Traffic (Non-Jury)	278	313	12.6%
Criminal Traffic (Jury)	35	160	357.1%
Misdemeanor (Non-Jury)	255	368	44.3%
Misdemeanor (Jury)	5	16	220.0%
Civil (Non-Jury) ⁴	34,082	16,949	-50.3%
Civil (Jury)	9	42	366.7%
TOTAL NON-JURY TRIALS	34,615	17,630	-49.1%
TOTAL JURY TRIALS	49	218	344.9%

³ Effective May 2002, all new felony cases were filed directly in Superior Court.

⁴ With conversion to iCIS database (April06), Civil (Non-Jury) Trials no longer include Forcible Detainer hearings.

Justice Courts

Justice Court Case Activity, FY 2005 – FY 2006 *Total Cases Terminated*

	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
DUI	10,554	12,452	18.0%
Serious Traffic	1,019	1,232	20.9%
Other Traffic	23,079	36,883	59.8%
TOTAL CRIMINAL TRAFFIC	34,652	50,567	45.9%
TOTAL CIVIL TRAFFIC	170,264	154,561	-9.2%
Misdemeanor	19,572	14,981	-23.5%
Misdemeanor FTA	2,758	1,927	-30.1%
Traffic FTA	6,373	4,198	-34.1%
TOTAL MISDEMEANOR	28,703	21,106	-26.5%
TOTAL FELONY	6	0	-100.0%
Small Claims	18,999	12,494	-34.2%
Forcible Detainer	85,912	80,877	-5.9%
Other Civil/Non-Criminal Parking	31,406	38,841	23.7%
TOTAL CIVIL	136,317	132,212	-3.0%
TOTAL CASE TERMINATIONS	369,942	358,446	-3.1%
Orders of Protection Issued	5,079	5,137	1.1%
Orders of Protection Denied	718	656	-8.6%
Injunctions Against Harassment Issued	4,747	4,619	-2.7%
Injunctions Against Harassment Denied	1,156	521	-54.9%
TOTAL ORDERS OF PROTECTION	5,797	5,793	-0.1%
TOTAL INJUNCTIONS	5,903	5,140	-12.9%
<i>OTHER PROCEEDINGS</i>			
	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
Small Claims Hearings/Defaults	5,135	2,801	-45.5%
Civil Traffic Hearings ⁵	3,323	50,147	1,409.1%
Order of Protection/IAH Hearings	1,661	1,882	3.1%
Search Warrants Issued	2,178	1,920	-11.8%

⁵ With conversion to iCIS database, Civil Traffic Hearings now include default hearings.

Adult Probation Department

Evidence-based Practice Initiative

- Assessing offender risks and needs and enhancing offender motivation are two evidence-based principles for reducing recidivism. The Department expanded use of the OST (Offender Screening Tool), now completing an OST on everyone who receives probation. Use of a validated assessment tool enables officers to determine an offender's risk, assign the appropriate level of supervision, and develop an effective supervision plan. The FROST (Field Reassessment Offender Screening Tool) was fully implemented. The FROST is used to measure the offender's progress in addressing factors that contribute to criminal behavior and to modify the supervision plan, if needed. A training plan was developed for motivational interviewing, an evidence-based practice that has a positive impact on offender behavioral change. Dr. Robert Rhodes, Applied Behavioral Health Policy, Arizona State University, provided motivational interviewing training to the executive team and the staff of Drug Court and DUI Court. A motivational interviewing curriculum is being offered on the COJET calendar. Training for managers on motivational interviewing has been planned. Drug Court program improvements, including updates to the treatment curriculum and the sanctions and rewards guidelines, and starting methamphetamine specific treatment with a private provider.

Office Security

- In conjunction with Court Security, security audits were conducted of all probation facilities to improve office safety and ensure that unauthorized firearms are not brought into the offices. A number of recommendations were made, some of which were implemented by the Department, such as increased security standards in offices when arrests occur. Additionally, architectural changes, weapon screening equipment and security officers are budgeted for the coming year.

Court Master Plan

- The Department continues to work in concert with Court management regarding the Probation Master Plan. Adult Probation's portion of the report is near completion. Ongoing design plans include sharing space and resources with Juvenile Probation where practical.

Information Technology

- The E-filing Project, as it pertains to probation memos and forms to the Court, has proceeded in a top priority status. The Department has accomplished the interface and connection to the database to auto-fill the pilot form (Memo to the Court), including necessary authorizations, signature and ability to file with the Clerk of the Court for transmittal to the Court. A pilot project is being planned with the Criminal Division of the Court. Multiple steps have been accomplished toward the e-filing of presentence reports with the Clerk of Court and for electronic distribution to the Criminal Court and the Arizona Department of Corrections. With additional on-line research tools, the Department significantly increased its ability to locate probation absconders so that they can be arrested and brought back before the Court.

Adult Probation Department

Pretrial Services

- Bail bond reviews started on a limited basis. Cases that remain in jail 10 days after bond has been set are identified, reviewed and scheduled for Court review for possible bond reduction. Following a court ruling that probation violators be considered for bond release, pretrial officers started conducting interviews with probation violation arrestees prior to their initial court hearings.

Diversity

- The Department promoted workforce diversity and cultural competency to enhance and strengthen our workforce. Along with employees from Juvenile Probation, the Department formed a Diversity Council that has provided opportunities to learn about and appreciate diversity. A Managers' Forum was devoted to the topic of diversity, and ongoing newsletters and trainings were implemented.

Leadership and Succession Planning

- Three directors and 11 supervisors were promoted. Managers are encouraged to participate in leadership training - several managers participated in the executive development program offered by the National Institute of Corrections and seven supervisors completed the six-month EDGE Leadership Training provided by Maricopa County. The Legislature approved including Probation Officers in the Correctional Officers Retirement Program, which provides a 20-year retirement package. A significant number of officers will be eligible to retire. In addition to succession planning, the Department is exploring methods to retain its workforce and knowledge base.

Partnerships and Collaboration

- The Department continued to develop and maintain strong partnerships and collaborations. The ongoing coordinated efforts of many partners to address crime in the Canyon Corridor area of Phoenix led to its designation as an official Weed and Seed site by the U.S. Department of Justice, a designation that will bring additional resources to the area. Adult Probation's Education Program opened classes that provide Life Skills instruction and computer literacy intertwined with reading, writing and math lessons at the County Human Services Campus.

Adult Probation Department

Department Awards and Recognition

The Sex Offender Program received a *Showcase in Excellence Award* from the Arizona Quality Alliance in recognition of continuous improvement and performance excellence.

The Education Center was selected by the Administrative Office of the Courts as the *LEARN Adult Education Center of the Year*.

The Spanish DUI Court received an Arizona Judicial Branch 2006 Achievement Award for *Improving Communication and Cooperation with the Community, Other Branches of Government, and within the Judicial Branch*.

The Adult Probation Department received a *FY 2006 Strategic Fitness Award* from the Maricopa County Office of Management and Budget in recognition of its efforts in effectively carrying out the strategic management requirements of the county.

The Adult Probation Department received a *FY 2006 Fiscal Fitness Award* from the Maricopa County Office of Management and Budget for excellence in budget preparation and for exhibiting fiscal prudence.

Adult Probation Department

Adult Probation Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2006 Standard and Intensive

	<u>TOTAL</u>
ACTIVE PROBATIONERS (as of 6/30/06)	30,631
<hr/>	
Standard Probation Total	29,323
<i>Standard Probation (Regular)</i>	21,799
<i>Specialized Caseloads ^(a)</i>	2,772
<i>Report and Review ^(b)</i>	3,898
Interstate Compact	854
<hr/>	
Intensive Probation Total	1,308

^(a) Specialized Caseloads include Sex Offenders (1,540), Domestic Violence (577), Seriously Mentally Ill (488), and Transferred Youth (167).

^(b) Report and Review includes Report Only and Unsupervised cases.

Source: Adult Probation Department Monthly Report to the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors and Joint Legislative Budget Committee – Reporting Period: June 2006.

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>CLOSED</u>	<u>% CLOSED</u>
WARRANTS	9,790	9,626	98.3%
<hr/>			
PETITIONS TO REVOKE PENDING (as of 7/01/05)	1,652		
FILED DURING FY 2006	5,267		
ABSCONDERS APPREHENDED & IN PROCESS	6,834		
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS ^(c) with STATISTICAL CORRECTION (+76)	12,011		
PETITIONS TO REVOKE PENDING (as of 6/30/06)	1,818		

^(c) Includes 4,573 Revoked to the Department of Corrections.

ADDITIONAL PROBATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY			
	FY 2005	FY 2006	<i>FY05 - FY06</i>
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u><i>% Change</i></u>
PRESENTENCE REPORTS	19,493	21,540	11%
COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS	891,897	813,931	-9%
<hr/>			
<i>Collections:</i>			
<i>Reimbursement</i>	\$615,968	\$473,442	-23%
<i>Restitution</i>	\$9,403,304	\$11,560,742	23%
<i>Fines/Surcharges</i>	\$7,968,178	\$8,951,960	12%
<i>Probation Fees</i>	\$8,770,764	\$9,483,355	8%
<i>Taxes Paid</i>	\$1,659,319	\$1,609,116	-3%
<hr/>			
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$28,417,533	\$32,078,615	13%

Juvenile Probation Department

The Juvenile Probation Department supervises youth placed on probation by Juvenile Court and manages two detention facilities with a 404 bed capacity. In addition, the Department administers community-based prevention programs, formal diversion in collaboration with the Maricopa County Attorney and Community Justice Centers and Communities as an extension of restorative justice.

FY 2006 Operational Highlights

- During FY 2006, the Department began working with the Arizona Supreme Court's Administrative Office of the Courts to establish an Evening Reporting Center in the Maryvale Community in West Phoenix. The intent is to provide youth with an alternative to detention that operates six days a week and offers a variety of programs including GED preparation, substance abuse education, tutoring, life skills, parenting classes and recreational activities.
- The Department currently operates two juvenile detention facilities – the Durango Detention Facility in Phoenix and the Southeast Juvenile Detention Facility in Mesa. This year, the Department was awarded a Justice Involved Youth with Children grant by the Arizona Governor's Office which will enable detention to collaborate with community partners to provide a program designed to offer teen parents the full spectrum of services, including education, mentoring, community referrals and aftercare.
- The Department received funding from Maricopa County to implement an investigative unit of juvenile probation officers assigned the responsibility of pre-disposition investigation and reporting. This first step in reducing high caseloads will allow case-carrying probation officers to spend more time working with individual probationers and their families.
- Juvenile Probation has also been working to identify alternative sources of funding for treatment. The Title IV-E program, officially launched in January 2006, allows the Department to be reimbursed with federal dollars for some treatment monies spent on out of home placements and foster care. Additionally, juvenile probation officers verify Title XIX and XXI eligibility for youth on probation or diversion.
- The Juvenile Community Offender Restitution and Public Service program (JCORPS) was very active in FY 2006. This program provides juveniles with an opportunity to pay restitution through community work hours. During the year, juveniles completed a total of 31,107 work hours (valued at \$155,535) and earned and paid over \$25,000 in restitution.
- The Detention Alternatives Unit expanded their use of Voice ID and Electronic Monitoring, thus increasing community contacts. The Unit also expanded the number of out-of-home beds available for short-term placement and family stabilization from 22 to 39.

Juvenile Probation Department

Juvenile Probation Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 - FY 2006

	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	<i>FY05 - FY06 % Change</i>
JUVENILE POPULATION (estimates)			
County Population under 18 years old	914,182	932,466	2.0%
County Population age 8 through age 17	489,312	499,098	2.0%
REFERRALS			
Incorrigibility/Delinquent Complaints Received	32,740	33,521	2.4%
Juveniles Involved	23,854	24,499	2.7%
Complaints per Juvenile	1.37	1.37	0.0%
DISPOSITIONS			
Juveniles Placed on Standard Probation	4,667	4,913	5.3%
Juveniles on Standard Probation (end of year)	4,093	4,188	2.3%
Juveniles Supervised per Probation Officer (avg)	28	35	25.0%
Placements: Day and Evening Care	359	229	-36.2%
Residential	490	491	0.2%
Committed to Department of Juvenile Corrections	398	397	-0.3%
Remands to Adult Court	71	70	-1.4%
Filed directly in Superior Court (Adult)	260	347	33.5%
DETENTION			
Juveniles Brought to Detention	9,782	10,029	2.5%
Detained	9,158	8,593	-6.2%
<i>Average Daily Population</i>	438	433	-1.1%
<i>Average length of detention (days)</i>	19	19	0.0%
Home Detention (includes Electronic Monitoring)	2,891	2,951	2.1%
<i>Average Daily Population</i>	302	307	1.7%
<i>Average length of home detention (days)</i>	43	42	-2.3%

Juvenile Probation Department

	<u>FY 2005</u> <u>Totals</u>	<u>FY 2006</u> <u>Totals</u>
TYPE OF JUVENILE OFFENSE (% to total)		
Violent Offense	4.2%	5.5%
Grand Theft	10.3%	11.4%
Obstruction of Justice	9.2%	6.6%
Fighting	7.4%	7.9%
Drug Offense	7.9%	8.0%
Disturbing the Public Peace	24.8%	24.5%
Petty Theft	15.5%	14.0%
Status (Truancy)	19.8%	21.3%
Administrative Hold	0.8%	0.6%

GENDER

Male	69.2%	67.4%
Female	30.8%	32.6%

AGE AT TIME OF COMPLAINT

8 – 10 years old	1.1%	1.5%
11 – 12 years old	5.8%	5.8%
13 – 14 years old	24.9%	24.0%
15 – 16 years old	43.4%	42.4%
17 – 18 years old	24.7%	26.4%

RECIDIVISM

	<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>
All Juveniles	34.8%	34.4%	33.1%
First Time Offenders	27.0%	27.4%	25.7%

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 also, complaints alleging Violation of Probation. Juveniles referred in FY 2006 are not shown since they are less than 365 days at risk.

Criminal Department

Fiscal Year Filings, Dispositions, and Time Standards

- New felony case filings jumped dramatically from under 36,000 filings last fiscal year to over 39,000 at the end on June 2006. The Superior Court routinely receives an average of over 3,200 new felony filings a month. FY 2006 case terminations totaled nearly 36,000, producing a 92 percent case clearance rate. This was over 8 percent more than FY 2005 terminations of about 33,000, and more than FY 2004 terminations of over 31,000.
- The active pending case inventory has moderated somewhat in FY06. By the end of June, the number stood above 10,774, up less than 200 over the June 2005 number of 10,603. Almost 85 percent of terminated cases are resolved within 180 days. This is up from June 2005, which saw 83.6 percent of cases terminated within that time frame.
- Rule Eight of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure calls for 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 270 days; and capital cases resolved within 18 months.

The Regional Court Centers (RCC)

- With over 39,000 filings, the three RCC locations (Downtown/Phoenix, Southeast/Mesa and Northwest/Glendale) are integral component in the Court's early felony case processing philosophy. By conducting preliminary hearings and arraignments at the same time, the RCCs continue to keep in-custody defendant jail days to a minimum. The RCCs processed nearly 23,000 cases, and the recent resolution rate, through either plea or dismissal, has been as high as 80 percent.

Early Disposition Court (EDC)

- Drug related offenses account for about 40 percent of all filings. Over 11,000 drug cases involving first-time offenders were assigned to EDC last fiscal year. The two Downtown Phoenix EDC Commissioners, along with the two EDC/RCC Commissioners in the Southeast Facility, resolve most nonviolent drug possession and use cases in approximately 20 days. The EDC resolution rate has consistently been above 80 percent. The Downtown EDC also hears welfare fraud and spousal support fugitive matters.

Information Technology and Collaboration

- The Court Technology Services Division (CTS) completed conversion of the County's 23 Justice Courts to the iCIS case management system. Justice Court iCIS conversion helps the Superior Court track pending misdemeanor cases with companion pending felony cases.

Criminal Department

- The first phase of the electronic File–A–Case module, designed to streamline the initiation of County Attorney complaints, has been installed and automatically streams data from the County Attorney to iCIS without re–keying. The second phase will include passing the actual electronic direct complaint from the County Attorney to iCIS.

Initial Appearance (IA) Court

- IA Court continues to operate the Search Warrant Center, which provides law enforcement officers a 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week accessible location to request search warrants. Last year the Search Warrant Center reviewed over 5,000 requests. In addition, the IA Court continues to conduct the initial appearances of over 70,000 arrested defendants each year.

Administrative Programs to Manage Cases

- Maximizing judicial resources requires the Court to “multi-book” scheduled trials for Criminal Department judges. With an average trial rate of just over two percent, most trials settle prior to the scheduled trial date. Occasionally, more trials remain scheduled on a division’s calendar than a judge can handle in a given week. To maximize judicial resources, maintain trial time standards set by Ariz.R.Crim.P. Rule 8, and spread trials to other open divisions, judges place cases scheduled for trial into *Case Transfer* so they can be placed with other available judges. *Case Transfer* helps locate judges who are available to try cases on short notice.
- Some out-of-custody defendants are summonsed to their initial appearance at a courtroom in the East Court Building. The appearance rate on summonsed defendants averages around 40 percent. The summonsed IA calendar does not require attorneys to be present allowing both the County Attorney and Public Defender to focus on preparing for other cases where the defendants are more likely to appear.

Specialty Courts

- The Court continues to operate a variety of specialty-case courts including the DUI Court, the Adult Drug Court, Family Drug Court, Juvenile Drug Court, the Juvenile Transferred Offender Program, and the Mental Health Court (now part of the Comprehensive Mental Health Department). Plans are under way to create a Homeless Court, which will address the special needs of homeless individuals within the court system.

Criminal Department

Criminal Department Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 – FY 2006

	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
Total Case Filings	35,920	39,039	8.7%
Total Terminations	33,096	35,812	8.2%
Clearance Rate ⁶	92.1%	91.7%	-0.4%
Active Pending Caseload	10,603	10,774	1.6%
Total Trials Completed	607	817	34.6%
Trial Rate ⁷	1.7%	2.1%	23.5%
Defendants Sentenced	28,348	28,596	0.9%
Dismissed	4,637	4,013	-13.5%
Acquitted	108	131	21.3%
Pleas	17,858	18,996	6.4%
Notices of Change of Judge	813	460	-43.4%
Settlement Conferences Held	5,226	7,127	36.4%
Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief Filed (Rule 32)	2,685	1,889	-29.6%
Bond Forfeiture Hearings	1,462	2,094	43.2%
Amount of Bonds Forfeited	\$2,745,651	\$3,730,679	35.9%

Case Aging Statistics (in days) ⁸ for Terminated Criminal Cases

50 th Percentile	76	68	-10.5%
90 th Percentile	225	222	-1.3%
98 th Percentile	486	460	-5.3%
99 th Percentile	636	660	3.8%

⁶ Clearance rate equals total terminations divided by total case filings.

⁷ Trial rate equals total trials completed divided by total case filings.

⁸ Case aging days are computed from Arraignment Date to Termination, which includes days to sentencing for guilty defendants. In addition, case aging days include all elapsed calendar time except days out on bench warrants, Rule 11 competency treatments, adult diversion programs, and appeals pending in a higher court

Civil Department

Fiscal Year Filings, Dispositions, and Time Standards

- Total new case filings in FY 2006 were slightly lower (3.5 percent) than in FY 2005, as was the number of civil trials held. However, the number of civil case terminations was ahead of the previous year by approximately 1 percent. The Civil Department was able to again meet the Arizona Supreme Court time standard of terminating 95 percent of cases within 18 months.

Age of Civil Cases Terminated vs. Standards

<u>Cases terminated:</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>Arizona Supreme Court Standards</u>	<u>American Bar Association Standards</u>
within 9 months	80.9%	78.1%	90%	
within 12 months	91.2%	90.8%		90%
within 18 months	95.1%	95.0%	95%	98%
within 24 months	97.9%	98.1%	99%	100%

Complex Civil Litigation

- The *Complex Civil Litigation Court*, a pilot program of the Arizona Supreme Court that runs through 2007, finished its third year in existence. Complex cases can include: time-consuming and numerous pretrial motions, extensive witness lists or documentary evidence, numerous parties, multi-jurisdictional issues, and substantial post-judgment judicial supervision. Accelerating time to disposition and maximizing judicial resources are the main goals in Complex Civil Litigation Court. Currently, there are three Superior Court Judges who handle complex civil cases in addition to their regular civil case calendars.
- As part of the Complex Civil Litigation Court, the Superior Court was authorized to hire a Complex Civil Litigation Law Clerk, specifically to perform the extensive legal research associated with these cases. This position is a shared resource between the three Judges handling complex civil cases.

Electronic Filing and Technology

- Electronic filing (e-filing) has expanded to three civil divisions, with plans to add at least two more in FY 2007. Currently, the Clerk of Court averages over 200 civil e-filings per month. The Civil Department has also enhanced its ability to define and track construction defect cases, due to a recent and significant increase in these types of construction litigations.

Civil Department and Tax Court

Selected Civil Department Operational Statistics, FY 2005 - FY 2006

	New Case Filings			Case Terminations		
	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Tort						
Motor Vehicle	5,728	5,506	-3.9%	5,373	5,491	2.2%
Tort						
Non-Motor						
Vehicle	2,590	2,371	-8.5%	2,641	2,766	4.7%
Medical						
Malpractice	465	340	-26.9%	493	474	-3.9%
Contract	10,581	10,213	-3.5%	9,874	10,686	8.2%
Tax	3	3	0.0%	5	5	0.0%
Eminent Domain	196	146	-25.5%	182	197	8.2%
Lower						
Court Appeals	962	915	-4.9%	1,126	1,010	-10.3%
Unclassified						
Civil	17,491	17,197	-1.7%	17,888	17,367	-2.9%
TOTALS	38,016	36,691	-3.5%	37,582 ⁹	37,996	1.1%
Civil Trials						
Completed	346	354	2.3%			
Trial Rate	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%			

Tax Court Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 - FY 2006

	New Case Filings			Case Terminations		
	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Cases of Record						
Property	397	302	-23.9%	394	408	3.6%
Other	324	321	-0.9%	384	294	-23.4%
Small Claims						
Property	285	142	-50.2%	284	212	-25.4%
Other	8	0	-100.0%	4	9	125.0%
TOTALS	1,014	765	-24.6%	1,066	923	-13.4%

⁹ Revised to include statistical correction.

Probate and Mental Health

Protecting Vulnerable Persons Through Increased Case Monitoring

- Recognizing the need for greater protection of vulnerable adults, the Arizona Supreme Court in 2001 mandated increased monitoring of all private fiduciaries. To meet this objective, the Probate/Mental Health Department of Superior Court employs Probate Examiners, consisting of attorneys and paralegals, who are charged with reviewing all pending probate cases to ensure compliance with statutory reporting requirements and court orders. The Department employed four Probate Examiners during FY 2006, who along with other Case Processing staff, completed 11,044 case monitoring reviews:

Adult Guardianship & Conservatorship Cases:	2,733
Minor Guardianship & Conservatorship Cases:	7,399
<u>Decedents Estate Cases:</u>	<u>912</u>
Total Monitoring Reviews:	11,044

As a result of the Department's case monitoring activities, 3,476 Notices of Non-Compliance were issued in cases where the appointed fiduciaries failed to file mandated reports as ordered by the Court or as required by Arizona law.

- Court Accountants also review financial accountings in pending conservatorship, decedent estate, and trust administration cases, and make recommendations to the Court regarding whether to approve those accountings. During FY 2006, a total of 1,782 accounting reviews were conducted of estates collectively valued at \$418,628,710.

ACCOUNTING REVIEWS

<u>Type of Review</u>	<u>Total Reviews</u>	<u>Total Estate Value</u>	<u>Average Estate Value</u>	<u>Total Problems</u>
Conservatorships of Adults	1,044	\$291,256,133	\$278,981	291
Conservatorships of Minors	142	\$76,310,143	\$537,395	40
Decedent's Estates	84	\$8,787,201	\$104,610	31
Trusts	59	\$42,275,233	\$716,529	31
Responses	453	n/a	n/a	120
TOTALS	1,782	\$418,628,710	\$314,995	513

- Court Investigators and Contract Investigators conduct independent investigations and prepare written reports to the Court regarding whether proposed wards are in need of guardians or conservators to protect them. These Court Investigators also conduct inquiries into cases where matters of concern have been brought to the Court's attention. During FY 2006, Court Investigators conducted 731 initial investigations and reports, with an additional 78 investigations and reports prepared by certified fiduciaries who serve as contract investigators.

Probate and Mental Health

- Court Volunteers in the Guardian Review Program aid the Court by providing additional oversight of adult guardianships and conservatorships. In order to monitor the welfare of these vulnerable adults, during FY 2006, this corps of dedicated Court volunteers expended 1,355 hours conducting 602 case file reviews and visits to wards to assess their well-being and report any concerns to the Court.

Expanded Mental Health Court Proceedings and Oversight

- To provide better regional access to Probate and Mental Health Court services during FY 2004, the Court created a full time mental health court facility at Desert Vista Behavioral Health Center in Mesa. As a result of having a dedicated Mental Health Commissioner, throughout FY 2006, a total of 2,401 initial mental health evaluation petitions were filed and 1,977 hearings on mental health petitions were conducted. As a result of these mental health hearings, 1,598 treatment orders were entered by the Court. During FY 2006, the Mental Health Court initiated periodic Status Review Reports and Hearings to determine how successfully patients were completing their treatment plans. As a result of this increased oversight, the Mental Health Commissioner conducted 240 status review appearance hearings and 3,954 status review non-appearance proceedings over the Department's 1,506 mental health cases which were pending at the end of FY 2006.

Expanded Regional Services for Probate

- During FY 2005, the Court expanded the administration of Probate cases to the Southeast Valley through the assignment of two Court Commissioners and one Judge to hear guardianship, conservatorship and decedent estate cases. As of the end of June 2006, there were 5,637 cases assigned to judicial officers at the Southeast Regional Center. In addition, a total of 1,192 Probate cases were initiated at the Southeast court facility during FY 2006.
- Probate cases at the Northwest Regional Center continued to be administered by the Northwest Presiding Judge and Northwest Commissioner. During FY 2006, a total of 959 Probate cases were initiated at the Northwest court facility. As of the end of June 2006, there were 3,258 cases assigned to judicial officers at the Northwest Regional Center.
- During FY 2006, the Court expanded the administration of Probate cases to the Northeast Valley through the assignment of one Court Commissioner to hear guardianship, conservatorship and decedent estate cases at the Northeast Regional Center. As of the end of June 2006, there were 5,584 cases assigned to the Probate Commissioner at the Northeast Regional Center. In addition, a total of 952 new Probate cases were initiated at the Northeast facility during FY06.

Probate and Mental Health

Comprehensive Mental Health Court

- During FY 2006, the creation of a full-time Comprehensive Mental Health Court was implemented that encompasses court proceedings in Probate, Mental Health and Criminal Court cases involving persons with serious mental illnesses (SMI). This expanded Mental Health Court, which continues to oversee civil commitment proceedings under Title 36, and adult guardianships with mental health treatment authority under Title 14, was broadened in September 2005 to include certain Criminal Court proceedings under Title 13, such as motions to determine competency under Rule 11, Ariz.R.Crim.P., and probation violation cases involving probationers with serious mental illnesses. Matters heard by the Comprehensive Mental Health Court during FY 2006 included the following:

Rule 11 Proceedings:

1,240 defendants ordered for Rule 11 prescreen evaluations

1,047 defendants ordered for full Rule 11 evaluations

4,471 Rule 11 hearings were conducted

SMI Probation Proceedings:

487 SMI probationers are assigned to the Adult Probation Department SMI Unit

139 Petitions to Revoke were filed in FY 2006

1,266 status hearings were conducted

- There is a need to provide a “continuity of care” in addressing the specific needs of this underserved population in the criminal justice system. Without consistent oversight throughout the criminal process, these individuals fall through the cracks resulting in longer incarcerations, risk of psychiatric decompensation and inconsistent dispositions. A.R.S. Titles 13, 14, and 36, all involve persons with serious mental illnesses. The Comprehensive Mental Health Court seeks to establish an integrated mental health court system that will provide better administration, services, case management and oversight of all of these cases. The desired objectives for the consolidated mental health court department include:
 - reducing criminal recidivism for persons identified as SMI;
 - increasing the success rate of SMI individuals placed on probation;
 - reducing the number of repeat civil commitment proceedings for SMI patients at Desert Vista and the Arizona State Hospital;
 - enhancing the exchange of information on court cases for improved case management and oversight;
 - increasing communication and coordination of court services among behavioral health agencies and court departments; and,
 - providing better coordination and continuity of services for persons involved in cases under the Probate, Mental Health and Criminal Departments.

Probate and Mental Health

Future Objectives

- Implementing additional technology enhancements to expand the Department's case monitoring capabilities and improve oversight of fiduciaries and the estates they administer.
- Expanding the number of Court Accountants and designating a Court Auditor, who would conduct random audits of selected probate case files administered by public and certified fiduciaries, to assure that the accountings are adequately supported by required documentation.
- Implementing E-Filing capability for all Probate matters. Currently, Electronic Filing is ongoing in the Civil and Criminal Departments. By 2007, it is anticipated that E-Filing will be expanded to include all Probate cases and pleadings.
- Addition of a second full-time Commissioner for the expansion of the Comprehensive Mental Health Court in order to conduct preliminary hearings for SMI defendants, to expand the current SMI Probation Violation Calendar, and to schedule and conduct Rule 11 evidentiary hearings more expeditiously.
- Addition of a full-time Clinical Liaison for the Comprehensive Mental Health Court pursuant to A.R.S. § 13-4513 in order to provide better oversight of Defendants who have been restored to competency and returned to the trial judge for adjudication of their criminal charges.

Probate and Mental Health

Probate and Mental Health Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 – FY 2006

	New Case Filings			Case Terminations		
	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
	Estate Probates and Trust Administrations	4,146	4,311	4.0%	7,023	3,655
Guardianships and Conservatorships	2,457	2,416	-1.7%	660	3,975	502.3%
Adult Adoptions	21	31	47.6%	19	31	63.2%
TOTALS	6,624	6,758	2.0%	7,702	7,661	-0.5%
				<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Mental Health Case Filings				1,994	2,261	13.4%
Mental Health Case Terminations				2,067	2,467	19.4%

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Family Court Settlement Conference Program

- The Family Court bench referred 1,286 cases to ADR. A total of 864 settlement conferences were conducted with an overall settlement rate of 54 percent. During 2006, 112 new and reapplying *Judges ProTempore* (JPT) were added to the list. Documents and forms used by Family Court JPTs were updated and a new form was established for agreements between parties pursuant to Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure (ARFLP), Rule 69. A revised settlement conference reporting form was created and an update of the JPT training manual was completed. The family settlement conference program logged 2,160 pro bono hours in FY 2006.

Civil Court Settlement Conference Program

- There were 1,362 cases referred for civil settlement conferences in FY 2006 with 926 settlement conferences being conducted, resulting in an overall settlement rate of 42%. Last year's JPT civil recruitment project added 237 new and reapplying JPTs to the list. The ADR civil database and procedures for case assignments was modified to reflect additional information which includes documents, forms, and training manuals used by civil JPTs. This section includes a current JPT listing. In FY 2006 the civil settlement conference program logged 2,315 pro bono hours.

Short-Trial Program

- The ADR Short Trial Program received 34 cases and held 17 short trials. During FY 2006, ADR staff conducted trainings with newly appointed civil JPTs. The ADR short trial on-line database and the short trial bench book were updated to include new administrative procedures. There are ongoing discussions with the civil bench about developing a better utilization of the Short Trial Program and its resources. One idea being discussed is arbitration appeals. Arbitration cases that are appealed would be calendared for a short trial in ADR - if both parties stipulate to having their case adjudicated in this type of judicial forum. The civil Short Trial Program in FY 2006 logged 42.5 pro bono hours.

Probate Mediation Program

- The Probate Mediation Program received 65 cases and conducted 48 mediations, with an overall full settlement agreement rate of 75 percent. The Probate Mediation Program logged 100 pro bono hours in FY 2006.

Justice Court Mediation Program

- With the co-location of several justice courts to regional court centers, ADR has been able to continuously provide mediation services to the thirteen Justice Courts that participate in the program. In FY 2006, 1,439 cases were referred to the program and 949 mediations were held, resulting in a 47 percent full settlement agreement rate. 1,423.5 pro bono hours were logged in the past fiscal year.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

- The Justice Court Mediation Program, in collaboration with the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Maricopa County Community College District, conducted five 40-hour basic mediation training sessions, resulting in more than 63 new ADR mediators for the program. In addition, in-house orientations were held for volunteers who had obtained their basic training through the University of Phoenix, the Mediation Agency, and the American Arbitration Association. Five continuing education classes were also held to further enhance the skills of mediators. In addition to this training, ADR continues to partner with Arizona State University School of Law's Lode Star Mediation Program in utilizing law students to volunteer for ADR's Justice Court Mediation Program.

ADR Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2006

	<u>Family Court</u>	<u>Civil</u>	<u>Short Trial</u>	<u>Probate Mediations</u>	<u>Justice Court Mediations</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Cases Received	1,286	1,362	34	65	1,439	4,186
Conferences Held	864	926	17	40	949	2,796
Full Settlement	463	392	17	30	447	1,349
Percent Full	<i>54%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>47%</i>	48%
Partial Settlement	226	18		3	11	258
Percent Partial	<i>26%</i>	<i>2%</i>		<i>8%</i>	<i>1%</i>	9%
Pro Bono Hours	2,160	2,315	43	100	1,423	6,041

FY 2005 – FY 2006 Comparisons

	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<i>FY05 - FY06 % Change</i>
Cases Received	4,418	4,186	-5.3%
Conferences Held	3,105	2,796	-10.0%
Full Settlement	1,386	1,396	-2.7%
Percent Full	<i>45%</i>	48%	8.1%
Partial Settlement	237	258	8.9%
Percent Partial	<i>8%</i>	9%	20.9%
Pro Bono Hours	6,529	6,041	-7.5%

Family Court

Fiscal Year 2006 Highlights

- The Family Court Department, under the leadership of Presiding Judge Norman Davis, underwent dramatic and comprehensive improvement over the last year and one-half. Judge Davis designed and implemented a comprehensive 29-initiative plan (the Maricopa Model) to reengineer Family Court to address case processing concerns expressed by the Arizona Supreme Court in August 2004. Among the most significant accomplishments was the adoption of a Uniform Case Management Plan formally adopted by the Family Court Bench in September 2005. The Plan includes a firm trial continuance policy and calls for early active judicial management, emphasis on final resolution, required litigant preparation for conferences, targeted use of ancillary referrals, early firm trial dates, and user-friendly processes in contested family law cases. In 16 months this system reduced the number of open family cases in Maricopa County by 30 percent, from 19,638 in July 2004 to 13,970 in November 2005. All of the programs highlighted below have been reengineered. Additionally, the new Post-Decree Child Support Court has been operational at all court locations since November 2005, and has greatly streamlined the procedures and time required to obtain a child support modification. These programs have made a monumental change for the public. They have dramatically reduced the time it takes to get a decision from the Court, while allowing for multiple opportunities to reduce conflict and reach settlements.

Decree on Demand

- In August 2004, the Family Court Department implemented an innovative divorce by default practice at the Downtown Phoenix courthouse. The program was fully implemented in the Northwest Regional Court in February 2004, in the Southeast Regional Court in May 2004, and most recently in the Northeast Regional Court in November 2005. Once the statutory timeframes have been met, a litigant can either call the court and obtain a hearing at their convenience or use the internet to set their own hearing. The computer enhancement, which allows a litigant to schedule their own default hearing via the internet, has been a very popular alternative to calling in. The *Decree on Demand* project continues to receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from litigants, judicial officers, and attorneys. Default hearings are available every day downtown and on select days in the outlying regions. In FY 2006, over 9,250 default hearings were scheduled at the four regional court locations, and 7,500 default decrees were signed.

Family Court

Attorney Case Managers

- The Attorney Case Manager (ACM) Program has evolved into the Early Resolution Triage Program which takes a more cooperative approach to resolving Family Court disputes. The ACMs meet with self-represented litigants in Early Resolution Conferences to mediate and conduct settlement negotiations, resolve and memorialize as many issues as possible, provide direction and management of the case and set the case for subsequent ancillary court services and/or trial for final disposition if the case does not fully resolve at the ERC. The ACMs facilitate agreement in the areas of custody, parenting time, child support, division of assets and division of debt. As part of the Triage approach, the ACMs are also able to utilize the expertise and assistance of Conciliators when the case involves domestic violence, substance abuse, or high conflict. During FY 2006, over 1,800 conferences were held with 86 percent ending in either full or partial agreements.

Expedited Services

- When Expedited Services was moved from the Office of the Clerk of Court to Family Court Administration, the Department was able to evaluate, review and change some existing business practices to make the modification and enforcement of court orders easier and eliminate unnecessary delay. Processes have been implemented which help litigants enforce court orders concerning child support, spousal support, and parenting time. In FY 2006, there were nearly 2,500 conferences held, resulting in over 900 enforcements and 1,200 modifications and establishments. The Post-Decree Child Support Court was established in 2005 and designed to address the needs of litigants seeking simplified child support modifications or other modifications of child support. This program has resolved support issues more promptly, reduced the number of times parties must come to court, and helped ensure that the use of Department ancillary services is more efficient and effective. Since October 2005, 237 post modification cases have been handled.

Family Court Navigator

- During FY 2006 the Family Court Navigator had 1,872 reported contacts, including phone calls, walk-up, e-mail and written correspondence. Litigants can obtain the phone number and e-mail address for the Navigator on the Superior Court website or from Court staff such as judicial division staff, Self Service Center staff, Clerk of Court and Family Court Administration staff. The nature of the contacts varied greatly from basic information, such as the address to a particular court region, to inquiries that require research, such as filing fee reimbursement. A large percentage of the inquiries are a request for legal advice and require a referral to community legal resources such as the Family Lawyers Assistance Project. Many of these inquiries, however, are segmented, and information can be provided to the litigant regarding one portion of the question that will lead them to the correct response to the other parts of the inquiry.

Family Court

Family Drug Court

- Family Drug Court (FDC) continued to increase in caseload during FY 2006. FDC is a program designed to assist parents with substance abuse/dependence issues and monitor their progress towards recovery and restoration of custody and parenting time privileges. Currently, one Superior Court Judge presides over FDC. The Administrative Coordinator is responsible for contract management and the monitoring of the mandatory program component compliance. The goal of the FDC is to ensure that parents develop the ability and skill necessary to successfully and appropriately function as a parent free from substance abuse.

Family Violence Prevention Center

- Established in 2001, the Family Violence Prevention Center (FVPC) continues to provide self-help resources for individuals who seek domestic violence protection orders from the Court and the individuals who are impacted by those orders. The FVPC is under the Judicial Branch Court-wide Support Services Division and initiates all petitions, dismissals, modifications and hearings on Orders of Protection that are handled through the Family Court Department. A statewide committee has drafted a universally recognized Protective Order to be utilized within the FVPC; the project was referred to as “Project Passport”. The new protective order will be utilized in all statewide Courts, and is projected to be fully implemented in the fall of 2007. For FY 2006, the FVPC generated 7,047 Order of Protection petitions.

Family Court

Family Court Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 – FY 2006

	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
Dissolution Filings	17,788	18,810	5.7%
Other Case Filings	15,347	13,708	-10.7%
TOTAL CASE FILINGS	33,135	32,518	-1.9%
Dissolution Terminations	19,345	19,815	2.4%
Other Case Terminations	16,887	15,646	-7.3%
TOTAL TERMINATIONS	36,232	35,461	-2.1%
Clearance Rate	109.3%	109.1%	-0.2%
Active Pending Caseload	16,094	13,151	-18.3%
SUBSEQUENT FILINGS ¹⁰	16,783	18,360	9.4%
Domestic Violence: Orders of Protection	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
Total Filings	5,284	4,930	-6.7%
Orders Issued	4,583	4,181	-8.8%
Orders Denied	701	746	6.4%
Emergency Orders Issued	92	79	-14.1%
Domestic Violence: Requests for Hearings to Revoke/ Modify Orders of Protection			
Requests for Hearings	2,295	2,329	1.5%
Hearings Commenced	1,520	1,650	8.6%
Case Aging (filing to termination)			
Median (50 th percentile)	162 days	143 days	-11.7%
90 th percentile	391 days	325 days	-16.9%
95 th percentile	531 days	406 days	-23.5%

¹⁰ Post-decree matters filed after original case has reached resolution - usually modifications and/or enforcements.

Family Court Conciliation Services

Parenting Conferences, Mediation, and Conciliation Counseling

- Implemented last fiscal year, parenting conferences represent over half (51 percent) of the 4,055 cases completed in Family Court Conciliation Services (FCCS) during FY 2006. To help reduce delay in case resolution due to the high no show rate experienced by FCCS, scheduling changes will be made to allow parenting conferences to be scheduled sooner. The target date for completion of parenting conference reports for FY 2007 will be 15 calendar days or less from the date of the first interview appointment.
- Mediations accounted for 31 percent of the FCCS caseload. Mediation referrals decreased by 10 percent in FY 2006; a total of 1,255 were completed. An informational hand-out explaining legal and physical custody was developed and is now sent out with mediation appointment information. It is also available in the Self-Service Centers. The purpose of the handout is to better prepare parents to discuss parenting plans.
- Due to the public misconception of “Conciliation Counseling,” the title is being changed to “Conciliation Conference.” An information brochure is being developed and separate appointments and domestic violence checks will be made to better screen conciliation conference cases. During FY 2006, a total of 733 Conciliation Conferences were conducted, representing 18 percent of the total cases completed by FCCS.

Program Management

- Parents completing a Parent Information Program (PIP) class totaled 17,110 for FY 2006. Eight percent (1,433) of these parents attended PIP classes offered in Spanish. These classes are offered by four contract providers at multiple locations across Maricopa County through FCCS’s Access and Visitation Grant. Conciliation Services is proposing a PIP on-line course be approved by the Administrative Office of the Arizona Supreme Court.
- Preliminary planning was conducted regarding the various projects included in the intergovernmental agreement for implementation of prevention programs between Arizona State University and the Court. A Joint Planning Committee was formed to assist in the identification and development of evidence-based programs to be delivered within Maricopa County. Another project is the assessment of video-based informational methods to be used to recruit participants in the existing short Parent Information Program into the longer, voluntary New Beginnings Program offered by ASU. An evaluation of an individual-based assessment and referral system to an evidence-based program (Parents and Children Together) is also included. In this project, Family Transition Guides will employ a motivational interviewing technique to help families identify their needs and become motivated to seek needed services aimed at reducing the impact of divorce on children.

Family Court Conciliation Services

- The Ninth Annual Training for Mental Health Providers was sponsored on January 6, 2006. This is a required training for mental health professionals who wish to maintain or have their names added to the Mental Health Provider roster for use by the Family Court Bench. The curriculum and guest speakers are identified by the Mental Health Committee, chaired by the Court and staffed by FCCS.
- Parents completing the parent conflict resolution (PCR) class, currently instructed by Conciliators in Superior Court, totaled 1,258 in FY 2006. The PCR program is currently under review.
- During the next fiscal year, Conciliation Services will participate in the expansion of services at the Northeast Regional Court Complex to include evening and weekend hours. Offering supervised visitation and safe exchange at the Northeast Court site is under consideration.

Conciliation Services Selected Statistics, FY 2005 – FY 2006

	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY05 - FY06
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Conciliation Counseling	305	373	22.3%
Mediation/Open Negotiation	1,496	1,255	-16.1%
Parenting Conferences	2,083	2,058	-1.2%
Emergency Child Interview	365	369	1.1%
TOTAL CASELOAD	4,249	4,055	-4.6%

Juvenile Court

Mission and Goals

- The Juvenile Court envisions a community free from crime, where every child has a functional, safe and permanent family. The mission of the Juvenile Court is to fairly and impartially decide cases and administer justice through the comprehensive delivery of services to children and families, victims of crime and the community so that: children reach their full potential; victims of crime are restored; and families and the community function in the best interest of children.
- The Juvenile Court is in a unique position to provide the necessary leadership to affect changes in delinquency and dependency processes: facilitating in-home interventions; streamlining foster care and adoption requirements and timelines; providing appropriate diversion, treatment, and various levels of supervision through the Juvenile Probation Department. The Juvenile Court promotes individualized services and assessments for all children, youth and families involved in the juvenile system.
- Evidence has shown that where there is a culture encouraging stakeholder participation in the juvenile justice system, there are corresponding positive results for public safety, the efficiency of juvenile justice and child welfare processes and successful outcomes for youth and families.
- The changing needs of a growing county population require that the Juvenile Court become increasingly available to the public in ways that move beyond normal business hours and face-to-face interaction, including special language accommodations for Spanish and other non-English speaking members of the community. This change will lead to greater public access and an enhanced ability to provide needed services.
- The youth and families that come to the Juvenile Court and Probation have greater mental and behavioral health needs (including substance abuse issues) than ever before. This necessitates an increased collaboration with treatment providers, local schools, and community partners with a new emphasis on keeping youth out of the system and a continued commitment to improving services to youth currently in the system while also focusing on reducing disproportionate contact with and disparate outcomes for youth of color.

Fiscal Year Highlights

- In FY 2006, the Juvenile Court established a Community Services Unit to centrally focus available resources within the system to provide services to children and families through collaboration among the Court, Juvenile Probation, Child Protective Services and Value Options. Services will be made available to both post and pre-adjudicated youth with an effort made towards service delivery that will lend to high quality services and alternatives to detention.

Juvenile Court

- Juvenile Court Guide Services were also established in FY 2006. Presently, Juvenile Court has Court Guides available either by phone or in person at each facility to assist members of the community seeking to file Guardianship Petitions. Oftentimes, a dependency action can be avoided if there are persons willing to take responsibility for a juvenile. Although the Juvenile Court Guides cannot give legal advice, they do educate the parties as to all the options available to them. Once the parties decide that filing a Guardianship is in the best interest of the juvenile, the Guide will assist them in filing the proper documents and will review the documents to ensure the required information is accurate and complete. This practice significantly minimizes the need for amended petitions as well as reduces the number of continued hearings due to incomplete data. The Guides similarly assist individuals in the filing of Emancipation petitions.
- In FY 2006, the Juvenile Court also entered into the planning phase for Extended Hours Court during evening and weekend hours, which will effectively serve the court and provide greater access to justice for litigants. Extended Hours Court will provide greater access to justice for the large number of self-represented litigants who use Juvenile Court. Extended Hours Court will assist litigants who have a difficult time getting off work to attend court hearings. Also, litigants will receive more timely hearings so that overall satisfaction is improved. Extended Hours Court is designed to increase access and, consequently, participation in court proceedings. Extended Hours Court hearings will include (but not be limited to) guardianships and private adoptions.

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

- The CASA program continues to recruit, train and manage community volunteers who are assigned to juvenile dependency cases. In FY 2006, the total number of CASA volunteers reached 326 with 235 of the volunteers actively serving children. These volunteers donated over 17,625 hours of their time, served over 450 children and drove over 160,000 miles visiting children and providing sibling visits. CASA volunteers submitted 478 written reports to Judicial Officers in Dependency cases.
- CASA volunteers come to the program with varied backgrounds and education. A snapshot shows that 62 percent of CASA volunteers work full time while 30 percent are retired; 73 percent of CASA volunteers hold an Associates Degree or higher. Women represent approximately 80 percent of CASA volunteers. The program continues recruitment efforts to increase and encourage men to participate in the program. CASA training staff offered volunteers over eight hours of training toward the annual CASA program volunteer training requirements.

Juvenile Court

Juvenile Court Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 – FY 2006

	FY 2005	FY 2006	<i>FY05 - FY06</i>
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Delinquency and Citations	14,065	13,772	-2.1%
Dependency (Petitions)	1,906	1,652	-13.3%
Adoption	1,081	1,152	6.6%
Severance	326	353	8.3%
Certifications	965	947	-1.9%
Guardianship	911	1,799	97.5%
TOTAL CASE FILINGS (Petitions)	19,254 ¹¹	19,675	2.2%
TOTAL DEPENDENCY FILINGS (Count of Juveniles)	2,976	2,897	-2.7%
	FY 2005	FY 2006	<i>FY05 - FY06</i>
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Delinquency and Citations	14,121	13,413	-5.0%
Dependency (Petitions)	1,884	2,004	6.4%
Adoption	1,004	1,069	6.5%
Severance	214	124	-42.1%
Certifications	899	808	-10.1%
Guardianship	463	1,289	178.4%
TOTAL CASE TERMINATIONS (Petitions)	18,585	18,707	0.7%
TOTAL DEPENDENCY TERMINATIONS (Count of Juveniles)	2,182	2,569	17.7%

¹¹ Revised filing number to include Guardianship petitions and exclude non-petition matters.

Southeast Regional Court

Fiscal Year 2006 Highlights

- The Southeast Regional Court Facility in Mesa continues to be an integral piece of the Superior Court regional case processing system. Operating both adult and juvenile buildings, the Southeast Court handles the same case types as the Downtown Phoenix Facility. At the close of FY 2006, Southeast was staffed with 18 Judges and 7 Commissioners. The Southeast Presiding Judge, who also has a Family Court calendar, five additional Family Court Judges, five Criminal Department Judges, two Civil Department Judges, and five Juvenile Court Judges. Two Commissioners carry Criminal Department calendars, two are in Juvenile Court, and there is one Commissioner each in Civil/Probate and Family Court. In addition, there is a full time Commissioner assigned to a Mental Health calendar at Desert Vista Regional Hospital in Mesa.

Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 - FY 2006

	New Case Filings		<i>FY05 - FY06 % Change</i>
	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	
Criminal Court	10,136	10,125	-0.1%
Family Court	7,009	7,827	11.7%
Civil Court	2,146	2,382	11.0%
Probate Filings	1,105	1,184	7.1%
Juvenile Filings	8,199	7,241	-11.7%
TOTALS	28,595	28,759	0.6%

Northwest Regional Court

Fiscal Year 2006 Highlights

- In April 2006, Phase II of the Northwest Regional Court Facility in Surprise opened to the public. Four Northwest Maricopa County Justice of the Peace Courts were added to the existing four Superior Court divisions in a new building adjacent to the one that opened in 2002. The \$7 million addition expanded the Regional Court Facility by 35,000 square feet and furthers the County's plan to co-locate Court facilities geographically within Maricopa County. In addition to the Courts, the Clerk of Court also provides full-service programs in the Northwest regional Facility, including the issuance of marriage licenses and passports and the filing of Probate matters and other civil cases. A one-stop Self Service center provides the public with necessary forms and information on how to file orders of protection, initiate divorce proceedings, and proceed through the Arizona Judicial System. Nearly 70 percent of the Superior Court case filings at Northwest involve Family Court matters, with the remaining 30 percent split between Probate and Civil. Approximately 600 citizens per day visit the Northwest Regional Court Facility.

Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 - FY 2006

	New Case Filings		<i>FY05 - FY06</i>
	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Family Court	2,392	2,948	23.2%
Civil Court	658	725	10.2%
Probate Court	871	954	9.5%
TOTALS	3,921	4,627	18.0%

Northeast Regional Court

Fiscal Year 2006 Highlights

- The new Northeast Regional Court Facility opened in September 2005 in North Phoenix at State Route 51 and Union Hills Drive. This was the first co-located Court site in Maricopa County, home to twelve Superior Court divisions and three Justice of the Peace Courts. Family Court, Civil, and Probate matters are heard by the Superior Court judicial officers at Northeast. In addition to the Northeast Presiding Judge, who carries a Family Court calendar, there are five additional Family Court Judges, four Civil Department Judges, and one Commissioner each in Family Court and Civil/Probate. Approximately 1,000 citizens visit the court every day, providing access to a Self Service Center and the Clerk of Court. Services provided by the Clerk include public records access, issuance of passports and marriage licenses, file processing, and document imaging. The three Justice Courts at the Northeast Facility handle cases involving civil, small claims, forcible detainers, orders of protection and injunctions against harassment, criminal traffic and civil traffic offenses, misdemeanors, and search warrants for law enforcement.

Selected Operational Statistics, FY 2005 - FY 2006

	New Case Filings	
	<u>FY 2006</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Family Court	5,534	66.9%
Civil Court	1,907	23.1%
Probate Court	831	10.0%
TOTALS	8,272	100%

Note: The Northeast Court Facility opened in September 2006, but new case filings were assigned to those calendars moving to Northeast as of July 2005.

Public Access to Court Services

The Public Access to Court Services Department provides timely, efficient, and reliable access to law and justice system resources including legally and procedurally accurate and easy-to-follow documents for the public, the Bar, Court and government agencies at the Downtown Phoenix, Southeast Adult, Northeast and Northwest Regional Court Facilities.

Public Access to Court Services Programs

- The Self-Service Center (SSC) offers Court forms, instructions and information to those who are representing themselves in cases involving Family Law, Probate, Civil, Juvenile, and also Justice Court forms. Currently, the SSC has over 1,450 different forms, instructions and procedures, printed in both English and Spanish.
- SSC staff served more than 33,434 walk-in customers at the four SSC Courthouse locations (Downtown Phoenix; Northeast Phoenix, Southeast in Mesa, and Northwest in Surprise). Another 1,484 requests for services were processed by mail.
- Self-help information was also provided through the SSC automated phone system (602-506-SELF) to more than 30,027 callers this year. The phone system offers more than six hours of recorded information on Family Law, Probate and Domestic Violence procedures and services.

Self Service Center Forms Distributed, FY 2005 – FY 2006

<i>Divorce</i>	12,749
<i>Other Family Court</i> ¹²	30,996
<i>Probate</i>	4,809
<i>Juvenile</i> ¹³	2,779
<i>Justice Court</i>	1,765
<i>Civil</i> ¹⁴	2,048
<i>Service Packets</i>	10,680
<i>Others</i> ¹⁵	5,637
<i>Total Forms Distributed</i>	71,463

¹² Includes legal separation, paternity, establishments, modifications, and enforcements

¹³ Includes juvenile dependency, juvenile guardianship, and emancipation

¹⁴ Includes name change, excess proceeds, and property tax appeal

¹⁵ Includes documents used across different case types

Public Access to Court Services

- The Family Violence Prevention Center (FVPC) provides all paperwork needed for filings related to domestic violence for both the plaintiff and the defendant. The FVPC schedules hearings and contacts the plaintiff regarding the date and time of the scheduled hearing when a defendant requests a hearing on a Superior Court Order of Protection.

Family Violence Prevention Center Forms Distributed, FY 2005 – FY 2006

<i>Domestic Violence Superior Court</i>	11,454
<i>Domestic Violence Justice Courts</i>	2,319
<hr/>	
<i>Total Distributed</i>	13,773

Law Library

The Superior Court Law Library is a public court law library open to all. 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. A court law library is an integral part of judicial access and a vital part of the community it serves. The Library strives to create services focused on the information needs of all Library users by providing a balance of traditional and innovative information services that ensure easy and quick access to legal resources, whether locally or remotely held.

Collections

- The Library comprises the main library in the Downtown Phoenix East Court Building and a branch library in the Southeast Regional facility. The Library continues to acquire a mix of print and electronic resources.

Networked Resources

- The Library provides access to a broad selection of electronic resources. Web-based resources are available from the Library's Web site, and from the Library's intranet site for in-house, Court and County government users. Approximately 2,500 users have remote access from home or office to the Library's Web resources. The Library continues to offer innovative research resources and technologies include:
 - Westlaw Patron Access – an easily-accessed version of Westlaw.
 - Index to Legal Periodicals Full-Text, Index to Legal Periodicals Retrospective, and Criminal Justice Periodicals Full Text – Web-based indexes linking to 100 years of full-text resources.
 - Wireless internet access from the Library East Court Building, 2nd floor.

Reference and Information Services

- The Law Library responds to in-house, telephone, e-mail, and Web requests from the public, the judiciary, the Bar, Court Administration, government agencies, and prisoners. Information services vary in scope from simple directional questions to in-depth research. Approximately 80 percent of requests are received from the public.

Document Delivery Services

- The Library offers document delivery services in a variety of formats and delivery mechanisms, from traditional book use, circulation and self-service photocopying, to mail, fax, e-mail, PC printing and downloading, and Web-based services.

Education Services

- Law Library staff conducted 41 tours, COJET classes and Westlaw training sessions for Superior Court Judges, Justices of the Peace and Court staff. This figure more than doubles the number of tours, classes, and training sessions held the previous fiscal year.

Court Research

- The Law Library provides research and drafting services for judicial leadership and Court Administration. FY 2006 projects included Judicial and Court Administration issues involving petitions for clearance of defendant records, a comparison study of caseload statistics for major metropolitan county courts, and a bibliographic survey of Arizona state legal and law-related documents.

FY 2006 Statistical Highlights

- Reference and Information Requests: 28,505
- Resource Use:
 - Circulation, Document Delivery, In-House Use: 31,831
 - Online searches of library catalog and databases: 53,477
 - Public Access Photocopies: 369,621

Law Library Web Site: <http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov/lawlibrary>

Office of the Jury Commissioner

Fiscal Year Highlights

- The Office of the Jury Commissioner in the Superior Court in Maricopa County is responsible for creating a pool of qualified prospective jurors representative of the community. The pool is formed every six months by merging the County's voter registration and state drivers' licenses files, which produces a list of 3.1 million names and addresses during this reporting period. In addition to the Superior Court, the Office of the Jury Commissioner also summonses jurors for all 23 Justice Courts in Maricopa County, 14 municipal courts within the county limits, and the State and Maricopa County grand juries.

	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY05 - FY06
	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Superior Court Summonses Mailed	442,442	521,698	17.9%
Municipal Court Summonses Mailed	127,787	131,558	2.95%

- Citizens called for jury service in Superior Court serve either one day or the duration of one trial. During FY 2006, more than 18 percent of prospective jurors sent to a courtroom were actually sworn as jurors. Those sworn as jurors are entitled to \$12 per day plus mileage to and from the Court complex. Fees and mileage paid to Superior Court trial jurors in FY 2006 was approximately \$2.43 million. Jurors who appear for service, but are not selected and sworn for a specific trial, are not eligible for the random selection process again for a minimum of 18 months. Jurors who serve on a trial are not eligible for the random selection process again for a minimum of two years.
- For trials commencing on or after July 1, 2004, jurors who serve for more than ten court business days, and can demonstrate financial loss related to their jury service, are eligible to receive compensation supplanting their losses from the Arizona Lengthy Trial Fund, created by the Arizona Legislature. More than \$241,000 was paid to jurors from that Fund during this reporting period.
- Nineteen standards relating to juror use and management have been developed by the American Bar Association (ABA) to measure a jury system's efficiency. A comparison of three of the ABA standards with the actual figures for the Superior Court follows:

	Actual <u>FY 2005</u>	Actual <u>FY 2006</u>	ABA <u>Standard</u>
Percent of jurors sent to voir-dire	84.8%	84.7%	100%
Percent of jurors sworn	16.5%	15.7%	≥ 50%
Percent of jurors not used	15.2%	15.3%	≤ 10%

Office of the Jury Commissioner

Jury Panel Usage, FY 2005 – FY 2006

	FY 2005 <u>Totals</u>	FY 2006 <u>Totals</u>	FY05 - FY06 <u>% Change</u>
Total Jury Trials	953	1,213	2.7%
Total Jurors Reporting	53,673	66,485	23.8%
Total Jurors Sworn	8,839	10,464	18.4%
Percent Sworn	16.5%	15.7%	
Total Jurors Not Used	8,164	10,169	24.6%
Percent Not Used	15.2%	15.3%	

- The Jury Commissioner continually measures performance, both quantitatively and qualitatively, through analysis of cost data and utilization measures from past years. This allows the Court to assess the efficiency of the jury system operation, review areas where present operations do not meet standards, suggest reasons for deficiencies, and recommend and implement strategies for improvement. The goal is to maintain a defensible, representative, and efficient jury system that evokes positive attitudes in those persons who are called to serve on jury duty.

Demographic Summary

- The Jury Commissioner first began monitoring the demographic make-up of the juror pool in 1989. The figures for FY 2006 have been collected by tabulating demographic information questionnaires completed by almost 99 percent of the total number of prospective jurors who reported for service during that period. These figures are compared with the 2000 U.S. Census figures of the population in Maricopa County.

Ethnicity	Maricopa County					
	Census (2000) ¹⁶	FY 2005		FY 2006		
White (non-Hispanic)	66.2%	40,011	75.3%	45,164	74.4%	
Hispanic	24.9%	5,758	10.8%	6,781	11.2%	
Black (non-Hispanic)	3.5%	1,564	2.9%	1,925	3.2%	
Native American	1.5%	574	1.1%	648	1.1%	
Asian	2.1%	1,067	2.0%	1,349	2.1%	
Other	1.8%	4,151	7.8%	4,843	8.0%	
TOTAL	100%	47,252	100%	60,710	100%	

¹⁶ Source: 2000 U.S. Census figures for Maricopa County, Arizona. These numbers are not adjusted to accurately reflect the percentages of people statutorily eligible for jury service per A.R.S. § 21-201.

Court Technology Services

Fiscal Year 2006 Accomplishments

September – December 2005

- During the Fall of 2005, Court Technology Services (CTS) assisted in the opening of the new Northeast Regional Facility by providing technology services and server interfaces with the other Superior Court facilities.
- Automated projects implemented during the Fall includes new court forms posted on the Internet E-Court website, E-Filing (electronic filing) and electronic minute entry distribution projects with the Office of the Clerk of Court, and a consolidated virus protection patch management throughout the Judicial Branch.
- Specific to iCIS (integrated Court Information System), an automated Family Court Default on Demand project was completed, both on-site and externally through the Internet.
- System enhancements included Criminal Department case management of competency and restoration matters, Capital case litigation tracking, Civil complex case management, and an automated E-Filing feed for Orders of Protection.

January – April 2006.

- One of the more significant accomplishments was converting the last of the 23 Maricopa County Justice Courts to the iCIS case management platform which, for the first time, includes a financial management module.
- A Judicial Branch Personnel time card system and applicant tracking system were also completed.
- Electronic technologies were expanded into an additional 15 courtrooms, bringing the total number of electronic courtrooms to 134.
- The Adult Probation Department benefited from new on-line client information screens and the Clerk of Court case file request and check-out was automated.
- Criminal History Worksheet was developed for use in coordination with the Maricopa County Integrated Criminal Justice Information System (ICJIS), the shared automation system of County criminal justice partners.

May – June 2006.

- A “disaster recovery site” for computer operations was formulated and put into use at the Durango Juvenile Facility.
- Significant design and development work was completed on the new Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Court iCIS modules. Juvenile is the last remaining Superior Court Department not operating on the iCIS platform.
- CourTools performance measurement display system was added. CourTools is a product of the National Center for State Courts that evaluates a variety of performance based measures, including employee satisfaction and customer satisfaction in addition to caseload measurements and jury utilization.
- Several E-Filing projects for Justice Courts were begun, including Forcible Detainer (eviction) notices.

In total, over 500 enhancements were completed in iCIS during Fiscal Year 2006.

Court Technology Services

FY 2007 Planned Projects

- The Juvenile On-Line Tracking System (JOLTS), utilized by both Juvenile Probation and Juvenile Court, will be moved to a new iCIS module specifically for Juvenile. This module will be written in-house and specifically designed to take advantage of existing technology for document images, electronic filing, and electronic distribution of minute entries.
- The RFR (Restitution, Fines and Reimbursement) system currently in use by the Office of the Clerk of Court will be replaced with a new iCIS application. This will allow all financial processing of Adult and Juvenile matters to be integrated into the Court's case management system.
- Request approval from the Arizona Supreme Court Commission On Technology to begin development of the Adult Probation System module of iCIS, using the Juvenile Probation module as a foundation. Once implemented, the iCIS platform would become the sole case processing and financial management database for Superior Court, Justice Courts, and Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments.
- Rewrite the Jury database system using in-house development. Currently, the Office of the Jury Commissioner utilizes a data management system written by an outside vendor several years ago. Each year, the Jury Office summonses over 500,000 citizens for service in Superior Court, Justice Court, or one of the 14 municipal courts in the County that conducts jury trials. In Superior Court alone last fiscal year, jury trials numbered 1,171.
- Complete redesign and navigation improvements to the Judicial Branch Internet web page (www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov).
- Relocation of the current Data Center from the West Court Building to the new Data Center in the Downtown Justice Center, which will also house 5 Justice Courts and many Adult Probation Department functions. The Data Center provides integral services to a variety of customers through the use of two high-speed, production printers. The Office of the Clerk of Court (minute entry electronic distribution), Jury Office (summonses, checks, and postcards), all iCIS Reports, and various reports for the Sheriff's Office are all printed and distributed through the Data Center.

E-Courtrooms and Electronic Records

FY 2006 Installations and New Courtrooms

- The Trial Courts employ a variety of electronic recording equipment in various courtroom and hearing room locations to provide an official record of proceedings, instead of the traditional record that previously was kept by a court reporter. Some courtrooms are configured with audio recording only and others have video recording capability. In addition to digital recording capability, many courtrooms have an electronic presentation podium equipped with a document camera, VCR, touch-screen monitor and light pen which allows attorneys to annotate displayed images. The podium also provides a computer interface to facilitate digital presentation of evidence which can be viewed on monitors by the judge, jury, opposing party and observers. In addition, some courtrooms have video conferencing technology to facilitate testimony by witnesses appearing from off-site locations.
- At the Juvenile Court Facility at Durango, the Northeast Regional Court Facility and the Downtown East Court Building, 4th floor, digital recording systems are centrally controlled and monitored by specially trained court personnel.
- During the past year, additional electronic equipment was installed in Justice Courts and Superior Courts, bringing to approximately 140 courtrooms and hearing rooms with digital recording capability. All 26 Family Court divisions are producing digital records, as well as many Civil and Probate divisions, Criminal Department Probation Revocation hearings, some Pre-Trial Conference hearings, and matters heard in the Early Disposition Court (EDC) and Regional Court Centers (RCCs). Nearly all felony case Preliminary Hearings are digitally recorded, with the majority requiring production of a transcript. The Juvenile Court divisions also keep digital records.

FY 2006 Records Requests

- Each month Electronic Records Services fulfills an average of 386 requests for copies of digital records and transcripts of digital recordings. Approximately 63 percent of each month's requests are in Family Court.
- Approximately 90 transcripts are prepared each month from digital recordings.
- Pursuant to the Arizona Supreme Court records retention policy, all digital recordings will be retained for 10 years. Copies of the digital recordings or transcripts may be obtained upon request to Electronic Records Services.

Court Interpretation and Translation Services (CITS)

Supporting the Language Needs of the Courts

- A language needs assessment was conducted in the Juvenile Court, demonstrating the acute need for additional language support in that department.
- New regional court locations, coupled with new and expanded programs designed to streamline the disposition of various types of cases, have resulted in a substantially increased workload for CITS.

Interpretation

- CITS has fully embraced Maricopa County's Managing for Results performance measurement and budgeting system, and is now keeping statistics on the number of matters needing Spanish and American Sign Language interpreter assistance, and the amount of actual time spent interpreting. On average, CITS handles 60,000 Spanish language interpreter matters a year, representing 20,000 hours of actual interpretation. For American Sign Language, the figures are 375 matters and 360 hours.
- CITS continued to assist the Office of the Public Defender, the Legal Defender, the Maricopa County Attorney, and Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments with interviews, psychological evaluations, and other out-of-court interpretation matters.
- In the Maricopa County Justice Courts, CITS handled in excess of 12,000 matters that required a Spanish language court interpreter.
- The demand for non-Spanish interpretation services also continued to increase during FY06. The top six lesser-use languages were: American Sign Language, Vietnamese, Arabic, Mandarin, Navajo, and Bosnian.

Translation

- CITS translated in excess of 4,000 pages, including audio taped interviews, correspondence, court documents and brochures.