Chapter 1

Court Structure and Statistics

The Judiciary, with the Executive and the Legislature, is one of the three co-equal branches of New York State government. The responsibility and authority for supervising the courts is vested in the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, who also serves as the Chief Judge of the State.

The powers and structure of the New York State Judiciary are embodied in Article VI of the State Constitution. Article VI provides for a unified court system for the State, specifies the organization and the jurisdiction of the courts, establishes the methods of selection and removal of judges and justices, and provides for the administrative

supervision of the courts. The State is divided into four judicial departments.

In New York State, the courts of original jurisdiction, or *trial courts*, hear a case in the first instance, and the *appellate courts* hear appeals from the decisions of those tribunals. The appellate structure of these courts is described herein and is shown in Figures 1a and 1b. This chapter identifies the different courts in the State, defines their jurisdiction, and reflects their caseload activity for the year 1998. In all, there are 1,220 judges and approximately 14,000 nonjudicial personnel throughout the system. Table 1 reflects the number of judges authorized to sit in each of the courts located in the State.



New York State Court of Appeals (as constituted in 1998) Howard A. Levine, George Bundy Smith, Richard C. Wesley, Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Joseph W. Bellacosa Vito J. Titone, Judith S. Kaye, *Chief Judge*

Figure 1a NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM Criminal Appeals Structure

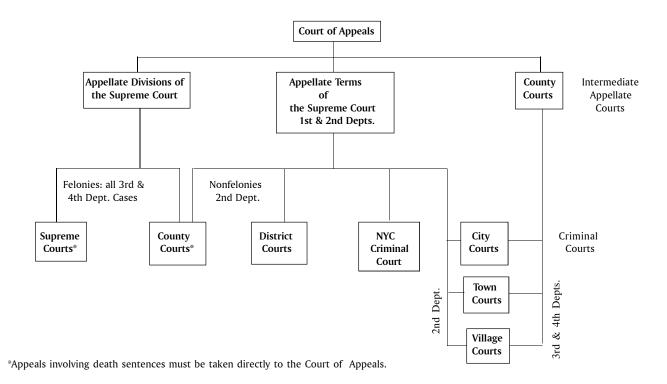
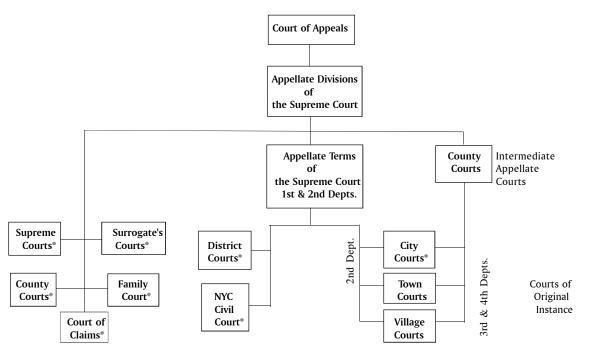


Figure 1b NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM Civil Appeals Structure



^{*}Appeals from judgments of courts of record of original instance that finally determine actions where the only question involved is the validity of a statutory provision under the New York State or United States Constitution may be taken directly to the Court of Appeals.

Table 1 NEW YORK STATE JUDICIAL SYSTEM Authorized Number of Judges

December 31, 1998

Number of Judges	Court
7	 Court of Appeals
56ª	 Supreme Court, Appellate Divisions
292 ^b	 Supreme Court, Trial Parts
77	 Supreme Court, Certificated Retired Justices
22	 Court of Claims
50	 Court of Claims (15 judges appointed pursuant to Chapter 603, Laws of 1973, Emergency Dangerous Drug Control Program, as amended by Chapters 500, 501, Laws of 1982; 23 appointed pursuant to Chapter 906, Laws of 1986; 8 appointed pursuant to Chapter 209, Laws of 1990)
30	 Surrogate's Courts (including 6 Surrogates in the City of New York)
71	 County Courts* (County Judges outside the City of New York in counties that have separate Surrogate's Court and Family Court Judges)
13	 County Courts* (County Judges who are also Surrogate's Court Judges)
6	 County Courts* (County Judges who are also Family Court Judges)
37	 County Courts* (County Judges who are also Surrogate's and Family Court Judges)
124	 Family Courts (including 47 Family Court Judges in the City of New York)
107	 Criminal Court of the City of New York
120°	 Civil Court of the City of New York
50	 District Courts (in Nassau and Suffolk Cos.)
158	 City Courts in the 61 Cities outside New York City including Acting and Part-time Judges
1,220	Total
[2,300	Town and Village Justice Courts]

In smaller counties judges may sit in two or three of the county-level courts simultaneously (County, Surrogate's or Family Courts)

a In addition to the 24 Supreme Court Justices permanently authorized, 20 Justices and 12 Certificated Retired Justices are temporarily designated to the Appellate Division.

b Does not include judges of other courts, especially the Civil and the Criminal Courts of the City of New York, who sat as Acting Supreme Court Justices during the year. Includes justices designated to an Appellate Term.

c Does not include the additional 11 Civil Court Judgeships authorized by the 1982 Session Laws, chapter 500, but still not filled.

Appellate Courts

The *appellate courts* are the Court of Appeals, the Appellate Divisions, the Appellate Terms of the Supreme Court, and the County Courts acting as appellate courts in the Third and Fourth Judicial Departments.

Court of Appeals

Structure

The Court of Appeals is the highest court in the State and is located in Albany, the capital. The Court consists of the Chief Judge and six Associate Judges. These judges are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for 14-year terms, from among persons found to be well-qualified by the State Commission on Judicial Nomination. Five members of the Court constitute a quorum, and the concurrence of four members is required for a decision. In addition to hearing cases, the Court is responsible for establishing rules governing the admission of attorneys to the Bar.

The Court of Appeals hears both civil and criminal appeals. It also hears appeals from determinations by the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, which is responsible for reviewing allegations of misconduct brought against judges.

The jurisdiction of the Court is limited by Section 3 of Article VI of the Constitution to the

review of questions of law, except in a criminal case in which the sentence is death, or a case in which the intermediate appellate-level court, the Appellate Division, in reversing or modifying a final or interlocutory judgment or order, finds new facts, and a final judgment or order is entered pursuant to that finding. An appeal may be taken directly from a court of original jurisdiction to the Court of Appeals, from a final judgment or order, in an action or proceeding in which the only question is the constitutionality of a State or federal statute. As to other matters, the Constitution provides for an appeal as a matter of right, or upon the leave or permission of the Appellate Division or the Court of Appeals, depending upon the issue.

Decisions of the Court of Appeals are final (cannot be appealed further), except that the United States Supreme Court may be asked to review cases involving questions of federal law or the United States Constitution.

Caseload Activity

During 1998, 217 records on appeal were filed and the Court decided 198 appeals and related matters. (See Table 2.) In addition, 1,552 motions and 2,982 criminal leave applications were decided.

The Court of Appeals maintains a current docket. During 1998, the average length of time from the filing of a notice of appeal, or order granting leave to appeal, to the release to the public of a decision was 220 days.

Table 2 CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE COURT OF APPEALS 1998

Applications Decided [CPL 460.20 (3:b)]	2,982
Records on Appeal Filed	217
Oral Arguments (Includes Submissions)	170
Appeals Decided	197
Motions Decided	1,552
Judicial Conduct Determinations Reviewed	2

DISPOSITIONS OF APPEALS DECIDED IN THE COURT OF APPEALS by Basis of Jurisdiction 1998

Basis Of Jurisdiction	Affirmed	Reversed	Modified	Dismissed	Other	Total
All Cases:						
Reversal, Modification, Dissent in Appellate Division	5	6	1	1	0	13
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	63	38	7	1	0	109
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	20	17	0	4	0	41
Constitutional Question	7	3	0	0	0	10
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other	1	2	1	0	20*	24
Total	96	67	9	6	20	198
Civil Cases:						
Reversal, Modification, Dissent in Appellate Division	5	6	1	1	0	13
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	27	23	6	0	0	56
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	10	10	0	0	0	20
Constitutional Question	7	3	0	0	0	10
Stipulation for Judgment Absolute	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other	1	2	1	0	20	24
Total	50	45	8	1	20	124
Criminal Cases:						
Permission of Court of Appeals or Judge thereof	36	15	1	1	0	53
Permission of Appellate Division or Justice thereof	10	7	0	4	0	21
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	46	22	1	5	0	74

^{*}Includes anomalies which did not result in an affirmance, reversal, modification or dismissal (e.g. judicial suspensions, acceptance of a case for review pursuant to Court Rule 500.17).

Appellate Division

Structure

The Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court are established in each of the State's four judicial departments (see the map at the beginning of this report). The primary responsibilities of the Courts are:

- Resolving appeals from judgments or orders of the superior courts of original jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases and reviewing civil appeals taken from the Appellate Terms and the County Courts acting as appellate courts.
- Establishing rules governing attorney conduct and conducting proceedings to admit, suspend, or disbar attorneys.

Each Appellate Division has jurisdiction over appeals from final orders and judgments, and from some intermediate orders rendered in county-level courts, and has original jurisdiction over selected proceedings.

As prescribed by Article VI, Section 4, of the Constitution, the Governor designates the Presiding and Associate Justices of each Appellate Division. The Presiding Justice serves for the remainder of the length of his or her term, while Associate Justices are designated for five-year terms, or for the remainder of their terms of office, whichever period is shorter.

Caseload Activity

During 1998, there were a total of 11,761 records on appeal filed in the four Appellate Divisions, while 19,227 appeals reached case disposition. (See Table 3.)

Table 3
CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE APPELLATE DIVISION
1998

	First Depart- ment	Second Depart- ment	Third Depart- ment	Fourth Depart- ment	Total
Records on Appeal Filed	3,258	4,456	2,244	1,803	11,761
Dispositions on Appeals: Disposed of Before Argument or Submission (e.g. Dismissed, Withdrawn, Settled)	422	6,143	61	54	6,680
Disposed of After Argument or Submission: Affirmed	2,476	2,981	1,680	1,081	8,218
Reversed	429	860	187	220	1,696
Modified Dismissed	299 164	410 510	188 92	224 271	1,121 1,037
Other	154	276	31	14	475
Subtotal	3,522	5,037	2,178	1,810	12,547
Total Dispositions	3,944	11,180	2,239	1,864	19,227
Oral Arguments	1,543	2,190	952	931	5,616
Motions Decided	7,567	13,647	5,228	4,574	31,016
Admission to Bar	2,634	2,444	1,852	384	7,314
Attorney Disciplinary Proceedings Decided	89	138	37	31	295

Appellate Terms

Structure

Appellate Terms have been established in the First and Second Departments. They exercise jurisdiction over civil and criminal appeals taken from various local courts and, in the Second Department, over non-felony appeals from the County Courts.

Section 8 of Article VI of the Constitution provides for the designation of the Justices of the Appellate Terms from among the Justices of the Supreme Court by the Chief Administrator of the Courts, with the approval of the Presiding Justice of the appropriate Appellate Division.

Caseload Activity

During 1998, in the Appellate Terms in the First and Second Departments, 2,121 records on

appeal were filed, and 2,064 appeals reached disposition. (See Table 4.)

Court of Claims

Structure

The *Court of Claims* is a special statewide trial court that has jurisdiction over claims for money damages against the State of New York. Court of Claims judges are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to nine-year terms.

Caseload Activity

During 1998, 2,143 claims were filed and the Court decided 2,341 cases.

Table 4
CASELOAD ACTIVITY IN THE APPELLATE TERMS
1998

	First Depart-	Second Depart-	
	ment	ment	Total
Records on Appeal Filed	639	1,482	2,121
Dispositions of Appeals: Disposed of Before Argument or Submission (e.g. Dismissed, Withdrawn, Settled)	39	748	787
Disposed of After Argument or Submission:			
Affirmed	261	359	620
Reversed	149	277	426
Modified	87	83	170
Dismissed	25	26	51
Other	1	9	10
Subtotal	523	754	1,277
Total Dispositions	562	1,502	2,064
Oral Arguments	368	369	737
Motions Decided	2,178	3,596	5,774

Trial Courts

Caseload Overview

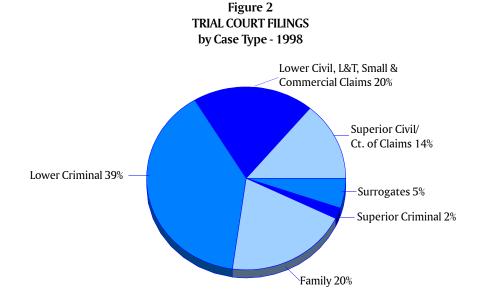
The trial courts of superior jurisdiction are the Supreme Courts, the Court of Claims, the Family Courts, the Surrogate's Courts and, outside New York City, the County Courts. In New York City, the Supreme Court exercises both civil and criminal jurisdiction. Outside New York City, Supreme Court exercises civil jurisdiction, while County Court generally handles criminal matters.

The Chief Administrator has established *Standards and Goals* to provide performance measures for the courts reflecting the time elapsed from case filing to disposition. Standards and Goals have been established for felony cases in the Supreme and County Courts, civil cases in the Supreme Courts, and proceedings in the Family Courts. The Standards and Goals performance for each of these courts during 1998 is reported later in this chapter.

In 1998, there were 3,949,691 new cases filed in the trial courts¹ of the UCS.² Of these, 3,543,795 filings reached court calendars. Excluding parking tickets, there were 3,275,116 filings as follows: 41% (1,351,371) in criminal courts, 34% (1,101,871) in civil courts, 20% (654,602) in the Family Courts, and 5% (167,272) in the Surrogate's Courts. (See Figure 2.)

During 1998, there were 3,560,812 dispositions in the trial courts. Excluding parking tickets, there were 3,292,133 dispositions, as follows: criminal courts - 40%, civil courts - 36%, Family Courts - 20%, and Surrogate's Courts - 4%.

Table 5 shows a breakdown of filings and dispositions during 1998 in the trial courts by type of court.



¹Does not include locally-funded Town and Village Courts.

² All data in this chapter is from the Caseload Activity Reporting System of the UCS. Courts report data to the Office of Court Administration pursuant to the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts (22 NYCRR §115).

Table 5
FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS IN THE TRIAL COURTS
1998

CRIMINAL Commerce and County Courts 66,332 66,835 Cirimial Court of the City of New York: 394,428 403,005 Arrest Cases 394,428 403,005 Summons Cases 300,261 273,000 City and District Courts Outside New York City: 281,599 287,929 Arrest Cases 281,599 268,679 268,679 2 District 281,599 268,679 268,679 2 Parking Tickets 1620,050 1,581,056 Civil 500,000 1,581,056 Supreme Courts: 1815,66 205,877 Ex Parte Applications 157,537 157,537 157,537 157,537 157,537 1600 Action 128,356 120,795 Landlord/Teant Actions and Special Proceedings 28,052 120,124 Small Claims Cases 40,967 48,314 Civil Actions 115,437 110,548 Landlord/Teant Actions and Special Proceedings 68,997 70,038 Small Claims 43,483 44,049 Court action <th>Court</th> <th>Filings</th> <th>Dispositions</th>	Court	Filings	Dispositions
Criminal Court of the City of New York: 394,428 403,005 Arrest Cases 309,261* 273,000 City and District Courts Outside New York City: 302,754 287,929 Arrest Cases 302,754 287,929 Uniform Traffic Tickets 281,599* 281,599* Parking Tickets 268,679* 268,679 Criminal Subtotal 1,620,050 1,581,056 CVIVI Supreme Courts: New Cases 181,566 205,877 Ex Parte Applications 157,537 157,537 Ex Parte Applications 157,537 157,537 Union Contested Matrimonial Cases 46,694 46,295 Civil Action 128,356* 120,795* Landlord/Tenant Actions and Special Proceedings 225,052* 260,121* Small Claims 225,052* 260,121* Small Claims 115,437* 110,481* City and District Courts Outside New York City: 15,437* 110,548* Count of Claims 43,483 44,049*			
Arrest Cases Summons Cases 394,428 403,005 City and District Courts Outside New York City: 309,261° 273,009 Arrest Cases Uniform Traffic Tickets 302,754 287,929 Parking Tickets 268,679° 268,679 Parking Tickets 268,679° 268,679° Civil Courts Courts New Cases Ex Parte Applications Uncontested Matrimonial Cases 181,566 205,877 Ex Parte Applications Uncontested Matrimonial Cases 157,537 157,537 Uncontested Matrimonial Cases 46,694 46,296 Civil Court of the City of New York: 225,052 260,121 Small Claims Cases Small Caims Cases And Uncontested Matrimonial Cases 40,967 48,11 Small Caims Cases And Uncontested New York City: 115,437 110,848 City and District Courts Outside New York City: 225,052 70,038 City and District Courts Outside New York City: 3115,437 110,548 Corn Commercial Claims 115,437 110,548 County Courts 13,000 31,310 County Courts 13,000 <td>•</td> <td>63,329</td> <td>66,835</td>	•	63,329	66,835
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City and District Courts Outside New York City: Arrest Cases Uniform Traffic Tickets 302,754 281,599° 281,599° 281,599° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 268,679° 278,100° 27	Arrest Cases	394,428	403,005
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Uniform Traffic Tickets	City and District Courts Outside New York City:		
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Landlord/Tenant Actions and Special Proceedings 225,052° 260,121 Small Claims Cases 40,967 48,314 Commercial Claims 10,224 11,084 City and District Courts Outside New York City: Civil Actions 115,437 110,548 Landlord/Tenant Actions and Special Proceedings 68,997 70,038 Small Claims 43,483 44,049 Commercial Claims 13,000 13,103 County Courts 18,131 18,469 Court of Claims 2,143 2,341 Arbitration Program 9,377° 9,811 Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292°	Civil Court of the City of New York:		
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City and District Courts Outside New York City: Civil Actions 115,437 110,548 Landlord/Tenant Actions and Special Proceedings 68,997 70,038 Small Claims 43,483 44,049 Commercial Claims 13,000 13,103 County Courts 18,131 18,469 Court of Claims 2,143 2,341 Arbitration Program 9,377 ° 9,811 Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 °			
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Landlord/Tenant Actions and Special Proceedings 68,997 70,038 Small Claims 43,483 44,049 Commercial Claims 13,000 13,103 County Courts 18,131 18,469 Court of Claims 2,143 2,341 Arbitration Program 9,377 ° 9,811 Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 °	City and District Courts Outside New York City:		
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Commercial Claims 13,000 13,103 County Courts 18,131 18,469 Court of Claims 2,143 2,341 Arbitration Program 9,377 ° 9,811 Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 EAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 °		68,997	70,038
County Courts 18,131 18,469 Court of Claims 2,143 2,341 Arbitration Program 9,377 ° 9,811 Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 Civil Subtotal 1,101,871 1,183,652 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 °			
Court of Claims 2,143 2,341 Arbitration Program 9,377 ° 9,811 Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 Civil Subtotal 1,101,871 1,183,652 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 °			
Arbitration Program 9,377 ° 9,811 Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 Civil Subtotal 1,101,871 1,183,652 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 °	-	18,131	18,469
Small Claims Assessment Review Program 50,284 65,269 Civil Subtotal 1,101,871 1,183,652 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292°	Court of Claims	2,143	2,341
Civil Subtotal 1,101,871 1,183,652 FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 fraction	Arbitration Program	9,377 °	9,811
FAMILY 654,602 653,812 SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 ^f	Small Claims Assessment Review Program	50,284	65,269
SURROGATE'S 167,272 142,292 ^f	Civil Subtotal	1,101,871	1,183,652
	FAMILY	654,602	653,812
Total 3,543,795 3,560,812	SURROGATE'S	167,272	142,292 ^f
	Total	3,543,795	3,560,812

 $^{^{\}rm a}$ Calendared summonses only. An additional 179,390 summonses were filed in which defendant did not appear.

^b The disposition figure is used as the number of filings. An additional 31,136 uniform traffic tickets were filed in which defendants did not respond. An additional 7,646 parking tickets were filed in which defendant did not respond.

^cCalendared cases and default judgements only. An additional 86,564 civil actions were filed but not calendared or defaulted; an additional 101,160 landlord-tenant cases were filed but not calendared or defaulted.

^d Does not include dispositions in the Arbitration Program.

^eShown here for reference only and not included in totals. Included as intake in the civil courts listed above.

^f Surrogate's Court dispositions include orders and decrees signed.

Courts of Superior Jurisdiction

Supreme Court

Structure

The *Supreme Court* has unlimited, original jurisdiction, but generally hears cases outside the jurisdiction of other courts, such as:

- Civil matters beyond the monetary limits of the lower courts' jurisdiction
- Divorce, separation, and annulment proceedings
- Equity suits, such as mortgage foreclosures and injunctions
- Criminal prosecutions of felonies

Supreme Court justices are elected by judicial district to 14-year terms.

Caseload Activity

Civil Cases

During 1998, there were 385,797 total civil filings in the Supreme Courts in New York State. This number includes 181,566 requests for judicial intervention; 157,537 ex parte applications; and 46.694 uncontested matrimonial cases. A total of 409,710 matters reached disposition in 1998, including 205,877 requests for judicial intervention; 157,537 ex parte applications; and 46,296 uncontested matrimonial cases. Table 6 lists the number of actions filed and disposed of in each county of the State. In addition, Supreme Court hears appeals from administrative proceedings brought under the Small Claims Assessment Review Program ("SCAR"). These proceedings are commenced by owners of one-, two-, or three- family owner-occupied residences to challenge their real property tax assessments. In 1998, 50,284 SCAR petitions were filed in Supreme Court and there were dispositions in 65,269 cases. Table 7 reflects filings and dispositions for each judicial district.

Civil actions are commenced in the Supreme Court with the filing of a Request for Judicial Intervention. Figure 3 shows a breakdown of these filings by type of case: motor vehicle -24%, medical malpractice - 2%, other tort - 19%, tax certiorari -11%, contract - 8%, contested matrimonial - 9% and other - 27%. (See Figure 3.) Two-thirds of the cases are disposed of before the trial note of issue is filed—either by settlement (14%) or on some other basis, *e.g.* dismissal, default, or consolidation (52%). The remaining third of the cases are disposed of after the note of issue is filed: settlements - 22%, verdict or decision - 4%, transfer to lower court -1%, motion - 1%, or other - 6%. (See Figure 4.)

For purposes of Standards and Goals compliance, there are three complementary standards which apply to all civil cases and measure the length of time from filing an action to disposition. The first, or "pre-note" standard, measures the time from filing the Request for Judicial Intervention, or RJI (the point at which the parties first seek some form of judicial relief), to filing of the trial note of issue (indicating readiness for trial). The second, or "note" standard, measures the time from filing the trial note of issue to disposition. The third, or "overall" standard, covers the entire period from filing of the RJI to disposition.

Non-complex cases (which include most tort and contract matters) must meet the first standard within 12 months, the second within 15 months, and the third within 27 months. Complex cases (e.g., medical malpractice cases) must meet the first standard within 15 months, the second within an additional 15 months, and the third within 30 months. The only exceptions to these rules are for matrimonial cases, which must meet the first standard within six months, the second within an additional six months, and the third within a total of 12 months; and tax certiorari cases, which must meet the first standard within 48 months, the second within an additional 15 months, and the third within 63 months.

Table 6 SUPREME COURT CIVIL Filings & Dispositions 1998

	Filin	σς			Disposit	ions		
	New Case	.53	Total	Pre-Note	Other Pre-Note	Post-Note	Jury Verdicts/	Other Note
Location	Filings	Note Filings	Dispositions	Settlements	Dispositions	Settlements	Decisions	Dispositions
Total State	181,596	72,991	205,889	29,752	106,576	46,297	7,983	15,281
NYC	87,143	37,441	94,763	7,954	54,553	22,349	3,263	6,644
New York	27,865	12,432	31,632	2,736	19,436	6,695	972	1,793
Bronx	12,472 25,210	4,893 10,116	14,720 24,329	692 2,549	9,852 12,344	3,287 6,457	290 1,225	599 1,754
Kings Queens	18,362	8,320	19,784	1,323	11,176	4,724	579	1,734
Richmond	3,234	1,680	4,298	654	1,745	1,186	197	516
Outside NYC	94,453	35,550	111,126	21,798	52,023	23,948	4,720	8,637
Albany	3,690	848	3,838	352	2,716	436	57	277
Allegany	171	56	196	61	98	29	4	4
Broome	973	338	1,128	103	779	113	32	101
Cattaraugus	246 940	71 111	402 1,002	211 22	124 857	42 49	6 50	19 24
Cayuga Chautauqua	716	277	784	291	156	206	1	130
Chemung	501	109	640	63	489	62	10	16
Chenango	133	70	160	17	63	49	12	19
Clinton	554	89	660	63	491	59	17	30
Columbia	444	111	470	54	307	42	5	62
Cortland	129	51 70	129	6	75 140	25	3	20
Delaware Dutchess	209 3,074	70 799	207 3,484	9 2,181	140 502	11 666	6 77	41 58
Erie	6,240	1,771	6,505	1,224	3,618	1,121	178	364
Essex	196	61	228	27	136	37	8	20
Franklin	256	85	292	70	134	62	16	10
Fulton	314	175	410	58	165	76	19	92
Genesee	187	89	215	10	66	101	3	35
Greene	464 0	127 0	585 0	136 0	324 0	70 0	15 0	40 0
Hamilton Herkimer	291	149	361	84	130	60	21	66
Jefferson	516	206	589	53	362	144	13	17
Lewis	148	29	208	15	150	18	18	7
Livingston	271	94	300	19	188	58	8	27
Madison	281	121	334	49	164	79	10	32
Monroe	3,366	1,716	5,502	1,075	2,313	1,233	88	793
Montgomery Nassau	288 20,520	140 9,014	441 23,489	26 5,509	272 7,595	76 7,100	16 1,916	51 1,369
Niagara	1,543	406	1,506	410	7,595	244	22	74
Oneida	3,018	823	3,205	302	2,057	392	312	142
Onondaga	3,510	1,254	3,525	327	1,898	611	173	516
Ontario	403	206	506	78	244	146	10	28
Orange	3,310	1,084	4,469	636	2,597	755	176	305
Orleans	298 606	69 296	316 729	113 116	152 329	30 93	1 163	20 28
Oswego Otsego	287	116	354	42	221	71	13	7
Putnam	664	277	1,106	214	465	162	31	234
Rensselaer	934	313	1,159	126	700	233	23	77
Rockland	2,779	1,178	3,231	93	1,991	911	118	118
Saratoga	1,332	501	1,164	239	532	271	59	63
Schenectady Schoharie	962 166	434 52	1,188 140	256 22	516 52	271 34	20 2	125 30
Schuyler	86	16	94	14	72	5	1	2
Seneca	164	67	213	11	120	36	1	45
St Lawrence	601	220	539	78	242	87	16	116
Steuben	388	176	701	65	467	58	6	105
Suffolk	13,928	5,245	17,206	5,755	5,802	3,571	507	1,571
Sullivan	852 169	208 62	1,010	215 20	629 80	120 31	18	28 13
Tioga Tompkins	315	155	148 439	20 21	80 250	31 45	4 5	13
Ulster	1,543	543	1,732	302	875	380	32	143
Warren	361	120	656	336	170	119	10	21
Washington	425	69	413	48	302	31	2	30
Wayne	346	158	569	48	308	45	2	166
Westchester	10,091	4,666	11,739	88	7,388	3,123	383	757
Wyoming	184	14 45	377	4	349	20	0	4
Yates	70	45	133	31	45	29	1	27

Figure 3
SUPREME CIVIL NEW CASE FILINGS
by Case Type - 1998

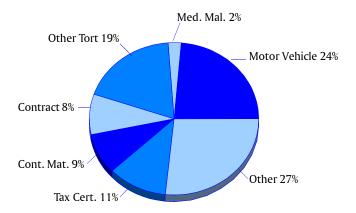
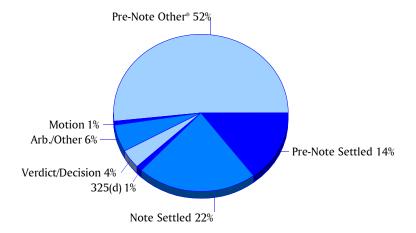


Figure 4
SUPREME CIVIL DISPOSITIONS
by Type of Disposition - 1998



*This item includes matters that were transferred pursuant to CPLR 325(d), disposed by motion, transferred to arbitration, transferred to other jurisdictions, discontinuances, defaults and consolidations.

Table 7
SMALL CLAIMS ASSESSMENT REVIEW FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
by Judicial District
1998

	Filings	Dispositions	Pending
New York City:			
1 st	1	9	1
2^{nd}	507	49	695
11 th	1,574	717	1,574
12 th	9	114	40
Subtotal	2,091	889	2,310
Outside New York City:			
3^{rd}	649	642	10
4 th	465	479	0
5 th	396	411	32
6 th	201	201	0
7 th	210	211	0
8 th	415	415	0
9 th	4,278	4,580	1,703
10 th - Nassau	32,652	46,618	8,444
10 th - Suffolk	8,927	10,823	5,936
Subtotal	48,193	64,380	16,125
Total State	50,284	65,269	18,435

Criminal Cases

Criminal felony cases are heard in the Supreme Court in New York City and predominantly in the County Courts outside of New York City. In 1998, there were a total of 63,329 filings of felony cases in the Supreme and County Courts. Table 8 shows 1998 filings and dispositions for each county. Although most cases reach disposition by plea (85%), the majority of judicial time is spent conducting trials - both jury and non-jury. (See Figure 5.)

The court system's performance standard for felony cases is disposition within six months from filing of the indictment, excluding periods when a case is not within the active management of the court (e.g. warrant outstanding). In 1998, 83% of

felony case dispositions statewide (in both Supreme and County Courts) were achieved within the six-month standard.

County Court

The County Court is established in each county outside New York City. It is authorized to handle criminal prosecutions of both felonies and lesser offenses committed within the county, although in practice most minor offenses are handled by lower courts. The County Court also has limited jurisdiction in civil cases, generally involving amounts up to \$25,000. County Court judges are elected to terms of 10 years. The statistical data for County Court's criminal felony caseload is reported in Table 8, in conjunction with those for the Supreme Court.

Figure 5
FELONY DISPOSITIONS
by Type of Disposition - 1998

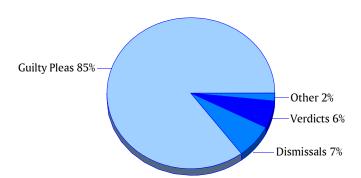


Table 8
SUPREME & COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS
Filings & Dispositions
1998

		Fil ing s				Dispos	itions			
		1 IIIII g 5	Superior Court			Jury	Jury	Non-Jury		
Location	Total	Indictments	Informations	Total	Guilty Pleas	Convictions	Acquittals	Verdicts	Dismissals	Other
Total State	63,329	40,777	22,552	66,835	57,074	2,253	888	700	5,007	913
Total NYC	36,212	26,986	9,226	38,799	31,953	1,469	648	400	3,617	712
New York	12,470	10,489	1,981	13,394	10,911	566	191	81	1,380	265
Bronx	9,192	6,417	2,775	9,689	8,134	270	223	132	761	169
Kings	8,065	6,373	1,692	8,503	6,856	319	90 129	129 51	924 511	185 81
Queens Richmond	5,869 616	3,381 326	2,488 290	6,440 773	5,3 <i>7</i> 8 674	290 24	129	7	41	12
Outside NYC	27,117	13,791	13,326	28,036	25,121	784	240	300	1,390	201
Albany	812	403	409	745	672	39	2	1	31	0
Allegany	96	39	57	109	96	1	2	0	6	4
Broome	835	361	474	824	743	23	8	2	42	6
Cattaraugus Cayuga	195 196	116 105	79 91	175 220	166 206	6 10	1 0	0	2 2	0 2
Chautauqua	506	257	249	423	402	4	2	2	10	3
Chemung	328	315	13	309	267	9	5	11	17	0
Chenango	62	58	4	56	51	0	0	0	5	0
Clinton	195	81	114	222	204	8	2	0	6	2
Columbia	164	84	80	182	160	13	5	2	2	0
Cortland Delaware	152 44	91 15	61 29	174 64	151 53	1 4	3 2	0	11 5	8 0
Dutchess	476	182	294	469	430	8	1	0	26	4
Erie	2,419	1,326	1,093	2,654	2,322	83	20	97	122	10
Essex	85	[′] 54	31	88	72	5	3	0	7	1
Franklin	96	54	42	106	93	2	0	0	9	2
Fulton	110	44	66	112	105	1	1	0	5	0
Genesee	213	93	120	215	193	14	2	1	4	1
Greene Hamilton	86 14	68 10	18 4	100 10	72 8	9	2	1 1	15 1	1 0
Herkimer	156	89	67	180	171	4	0	0	5	0
Jefferson	327	190	137	376	323	6	6	0	41	0
Lewis	80	45	35	75	62	2	0	0	11	0
Livingston	267	209	58	267	252	2	2	1	10	0
Madison	113	53	60	131	120	2	0	1	8	0
Monroe	2,259 117	886 47	1,373 70	2,224 123	1,9 <i>7</i> 3 1 17	104 2	23 1	39 1	82 0	3 2
Montgomery Nassau	3,273	692	2,581	3,914	3,352	62	19	50	376	55
Niagara	399	240	159	381	330	23	7	0	21	0
Oneida	818	626	192	904	8 18	18	12	0	54	2
Onondaga	1,163	723	440	1,169	1,020	40	17	4	82	6
Ontario	358	194	164	360	334	17	2	3	4	0
Orange Orleans	768 129	504 102	264 27	783 127	707 101	15 5	5 5	6 0	30 14	20 2
Oswego	254	90	164	257	252	1	1	1	14	1
Otsego	93	56	37	87	77	2	1	0	6	1
Putnam	127	56	71	123	1 17	3	1	1	1	0
Rensselaer	455	215	240	522	459	20	10	1	16	16
Rockland	624	477	147	607	569	12	8	3	15	0
Saratoga Schenectady	320 521	70 256	250 265	321 549	313 512	6 14	0 2	0	2 20	0 1
Schoharie	27	8	19	38	33	2	1	0	20	0
Schuyler	48	25	23	47	45	0	0	1	1	0
Seneca	99	61	38	89	84	1	1	1	2	0
St Lawrence	287	185	102	283	256	14	5	0	8	0
Steuben	389	248	141	323	296	6	2	0	15	4
Suffolk Sullivan	3,162 251	1,955 100	1,207 151	3,058 241	2,837 219	50 16	5 3	17 1	124 2	25 0
Tioga	117	100	151	107	101	2	2	1	1	0
Tompkins	173	134	39	171	141	7	5	0	16	2
Ulster	313	170	143	388	369	5	2	1	9	2
Warren	147	55	92	146	130	4	1	0	11	0
Washington	203	169	34	207	185	5	3	0	12	2
Wayne West chester	274 1,733	180 731	94 1,002	236 1,787	217 1,607	6 58	3 19	3 46	4 47	3 10
Wyoming	1,733	45	74	1,767	1,007	36 4	4	0	9	0
Yates	70	47	23	58	53	4	1	Ő	0	0

Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction in New York City

New York City Civil Court

Structure

The New York City Civil Court has jurisdiction over civil cases involving amounts up to \$25,000. It includes a Small Claims Part and a Commercial Small Claims Part for the informal disposition of matters not exceeding \$3,000. It also has a Housing Part for landlord-tenant proceedings.

New York City Civil Court judges are elected to 10-year terms. Housing judges are appointed by the Chief Administrator of the Courts to 5-year terms.

Caseload Activity

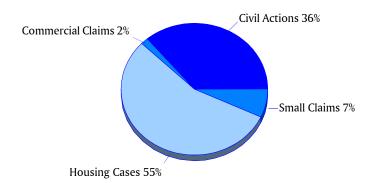
In 1998, there were 594,029 filings and 440,314 dispositions in Civil Court. (See Table 9.) The large difference between the number of filings and dispositions is due to the number of cases filed but never pursued by the filing party. Figure 6 shows the proportion of actions filed in each part of the Court during 1998: general civil - 36%, housing - 55%, small claims - 7%, and commercial claims - 2%.

Table 9 NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT Filings & Dispositions by Case Type 1998

	Civil Actions		Housing Cases		Small Claims		-Commercial Claims-	
	Filings*	Dispo- sitions**	Filings*	Dispo- sitions***	Filings	Dispo- sitions	Filings	Dispo- sitions
New York City	214,920	120,795	326,212	260,121	40,967	48,314	10,224	11,084
New York	45,680	24,738	79,179	61,745	9,893	12,416	3,946	4,674
Bronx	27,658	18,513	101,083	88,662	5,834	5,705	872	809
Kings	77,751	33,081	91,942	70,554	11,358	12,069	2,125	1,888
Queens	56,640	38,338	48,812	34,917	11,376	15,375	2,491	2,901
Richmond	7,191	6,125	5,196	4,243	2,506	2,749	790	812

^{*}Includes both answered and unanswered cases.

Figure 6 NYC CIVIL COURT FILINGS by Case Type - 1998



^{**}Includes courtroom dispositions and default judgments.

New York City Criminal Court

Structure

The *New York City Criminal Court* handles misdemeanors and violations. Criminal Court judges also act as arraigning magistrates for felonies. New York City Criminal Court judges are appointed by the Mayor to 10-year terms.

Caseload Activity

During 1998, there were 394,428 filings in the New York City Criminal Court. (See Figure 7.)

Half of the cases reached disposition by plea; 36% were dismissed; 6% were sent to the grand jury; 5% other; and 2% pled to a superior court information. Only 0.2% of the dispositions in the Criminal Court are by verdict after trial. (See Figure 8.)

During 1998, 309, 261 summons cases (cases in which an appearance ticket, returnable in court, is issued to the defendant) were filed and placed on the calendar. An additional 179,390 summons cases were filed but were not added to the calendar because the defendant failed to appear. There were 273,009 dispositions. (See Table 10.)

-----Summons Cases-----

Table 10 NEW YORK CITY CRIMINAL COURT Filings & Dispositions 1998

-----Arrest Cases-----

	Filings	Dispositions	Filings*	Dispositions
New York City	394,428	403,005	488,651	273,009
New York	131,692	134,095	136,146	87,385
Bronx	81,514	82,850	100,919	58,496
Kings	103,025	106,296	136,175	53,212
Queens	65,429	66,978	89,911	53,517
Richmond	12,768	12,786	25,500	20,399

^{*}Includes both answered and unanswered cases.

Figure 7 NYC CRIMINAL COURT FILINGS by Case Type - 1998

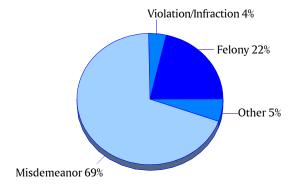
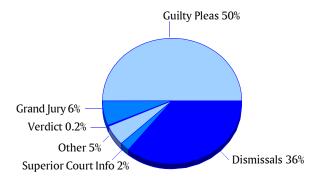


Figure 8
NYC CRIMINAL COURT DISPOSITIONS
by Type of Disposition - 1998



Trial Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Outside New York City

District and City Courts

The *trial courts of lesser jurisdiction* outside New York City are the City Courts and District Courts.

Structure

City Courts have civil jurisdiction to a maximum of \$15,000. Some City Courts have a Small Claims Part for the informal disposition of matters not exceeding \$3,000, and a Housing Part for hearing housing violations and landlord-tenant disputes. In addition, City Courts exercise criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanors, uniform traffic tickets, and parking tickets in jurisdictions without a parking violations bureau. The judges in these courts serve as criminal magistrates, with the power to arraign for felonies and to issue warrants. City Court judges are either elected or appointed, depending upon the particular city. The term of office for full-time

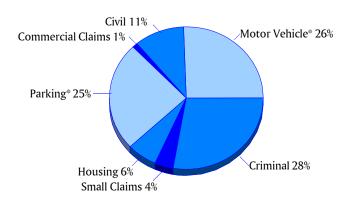
judges is 10 years, and for part-time judges, six years.

District Courts exist in Nassau County and in the five western towns of Suffolk County. District Court jurisdiction extends to civil cases involving amounts up to \$15,000 and to small claims matters not in excess of \$3,000. In criminal cases, District Courts have jurisdiction over misdemeanors, violations and offenses, and conduct arraignments in felony cases. District Court judges are elected to six-year terms.

Caseload Activity

There were 240,917 filings and 237,738 dispositions of civil actions in the City and District Courts in 1998. Figure 9 contains a comparison of the filing of different types of these actions. During 1998, there were a total of 302,754 criminal filings in the City and District Courts and 287,929 dispositions. See Table 11 for a breakdown of the caseload activity in the courts of limited jurisdiction outside New York City.

Figure 9
CITY & DISTRICT COURT FILINGS
by Case Type - 1998



*Does not include cases in which defendants did not respond.

Table 11 CITY & DISTRICT COURTS Filings by Case Type 1998

Court	Criminal	Motor Vehicle*	Parking*	Civil	Small Claims	Housing	Commercial Claims
Total State	302,754	312,735	276,325	115,437	43,483	68,997	13,000
City Court of Albany	11,552	17,364	0	2,658	1,271	3,253	283
City & Recorder"s Court Johnstown	556	1,184	0	283	94	37	22
City Court of Ansterdam	1,057	3,350	0	370	231	67	55
City Court of Auburn City Court of Batavia	2,149 1,276	2,647 2,081	0	680 212	720 300	474 121	104 33
City Court of Beacon	870	2,457	171	128	119	163	87
City Court of Binghamton	3,981	5,544	757	1,881	807	899	315
City Court of Buffalo	28,054	3,700	17	10,046	3,513	6,629	1,075
City Court of Canandaigua	772	1,584	0	469	98	78	92
City Court of Cohoes	1,288	1,299	647	281	91	220	21
City Court of Corning	954	2,589	0	412	190	61	86
City Court of Cortland	2,287	2,355	0	582	267	91	32
City Court of Dunkirk	1,186	1,379	0	183	232	48	53
City Court of Elmira City Court of Fulton	2,503 1,196	3,338 2,382	0	2,086 559	547 <i>7</i> 7	1,666 152	302 14
City Court of Turon City Court of Geneva	1,150	3,154	0	145	117	126	22
City Court of Glen Cove	674	3,967	5,151	60	171	248	70
City Court of Glens Falls	1,452	1,773	0	638	140	150	62
City Court of Gloversville	1,530	3,304	0	491	166	118	43
City Court of Hornell	802	1,156	0	65	112	125	11
City Court of Hudson	1,240	1,283	5	186	174	92	109
City Court of Ithaca	2,441	5,586	0	526	262	158	76
City Court of Jamestown	2,765	3,249	0	990	568	211	254
City Court of Kingston City Court of Lackawanna	2,863	5,091	97	439	189 358	317	148
City Court of Little Falls	1,398 413	4,756 521	0 134	446 235	118	321 14	89 43
City Court of Lockport	1,844	3,867	1	711	368	94	83
City Court of Long Beach	2,297	2,951	14,735	5	157	459	32
City Court of Mechanicville	251	770	0	171	73	42	98
City Court of Middletown	1,661	2,467	0	841	373	592	271
City Court of Mount Vernon	2,732	7,098	0	788	444	2,123	161
City Court of New Rochelle	5,252	13,377	62,321	2,010	457	1,187	153
City Court of Newburgh	4,705	8,778	22.790	893	224	1,550	75
City Court of Niagara Falls City Court of North Tonawanda	5,401 989	12,378 6,329	22,789 250	1,321 302	563 352	838 100	199 70
City Court of Norwich	799	790	250	392	257	35	49
City Court of Ogdensburg	1,064	1,304	0	331	119	17	170
City Court of Olean	1,180	1,458	0	373	230	87	45
City Court of Oneida	817	1,272	80	746	142	53	36
City Court of Oneonta	1,495	2,090	0	237	332	59	58
City Court of Oswego	2,234	4,720	658	841	169	53	45
City Court of Peekskill	2,286	3,048	1	391	150	510	67
City Court of Plattsburgh	1,558	2,892	0	553	294	171	109
City Court of Pourbleagnia	1,271	1,908	0 1,778	117 768	84 405	120	41 126
City Court of Poughkeepsie City Court of Rensselaer	2,673 785	3,148 1,718	0	278	405 86	1,615 133	120
City Court of Rochester	22,217	9,699	0	9,190	3,486	5,811	900
City Court of Rome	2,011	7,979	1	1,037	423	222	58
City Court of Rye	321	2,607	0	81	100	9	40
City Court of Salamanca	720	886	0	45	84	39	25
City Court of Saratoga Springs	1,870	3,082	0	920	494	100	14
City Court of Schenectady	5,553	6,392	0	1,937	964	1,574	211
City Court of Sherrill	114	667	1 42 720	48	11	0	8
City Court of Syracuse	14,877	25,959	143,720	6,444	1,649	5,291	419
City Court of Tonawanda City Court of Troy	1,674 2,967	4,692 6,233	0	112 1,067	164 292	45 3,735	55 155
City Court of Utica	5,248	6,256	3,177	2,470	836	5,733 518	234
City Court of Watertown	2,397	1,929	0	735	341	234	94
City Court of Watervliet	501	2,991	0	181	47	114	21
City Court of White Plains	3,043	10,207	0	741	756	725	224
City Court of Yonkers	14,053	28,822	238	1,734	1,005	8,805	323
Nassau District Court	38,567	24,778	25	26,040	8,467	7,967	2,393
Suffolk District Court	68,809	0	19,572	25,535	8,153	8,131	2,423
** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *							

^{*} Includes both answered and unanswered cases.

Family Court

Structure

The Family Court is established in each county and the City of New York to hear matters involving children and families. Its jurisdiction includes:

- —Adoption
- Guardianship
- Foster care approval and review
- Delinquency
- Persons in need of supervision
- Family offense (domestic violence)
- Child protective proceedings (abuse and neglect)
- Termination of parental rights
- Custody and visitation
- —Support

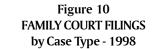
Family Court judges are elected to 10-year terms in each county outside New York City, and are appointed to 10-year terms by the Mayor in New York City.

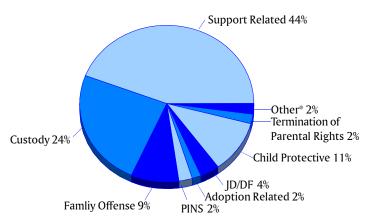
Caseload Activity

During 1998, there were 654,602 cases filed in the Family Courts throughout New York State. A total of 653,812 cases reached disposition. A breakdown of filings and dispositions is contained in Table 12. The statistical data included in the annual report pursuant to sections 213 and 385 of the Family Court Act can be found published separately as Volume II of this report.

The different types of cases filed in Family Court during 1998 are reflected in Figure 10. Cases involving paternity, support, custody, and family offenses comprised 77% of the caseload. The remaining cases involved child abuse and neglect (11%), juvenile delinquency or designated felony cases (4%), persons in need of supervision (2%), adoption (2%), termination of parental rights cases (2%), and all other case types (2%).

The court system's performance standard for Family Court cases is disposition within 180 days of the commencement of the proceeding, excluding periods when a case is not within the active management control of the Court. In 1998, 95% of dispositions statewide were reached within the standard.





*Includes Guardianship, Foster Care, Physically Handicapped, Consent to Marry, Other.

Table 12 FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS IN FAMILY COURTS Statewide by Type of Petition 1998

TYPE OF PETITION	S	STATE OU		OUT.	TSIDE NYC	
	Filings	Dispositions ^a	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions
Termination of Parental Rights	11,390	11,009	8,948	8,727	2,442	2,282
Child Protective (Neglect & Abuse)	71,234	67,365	33,559	30,451	37,675	36,914
Juvenile Delinquency	23,482	23,651	7,947	7,952	15,535	15,699
Designated Felony	999	945	705	629	294	316
Persons in Need of Supervision	16,158	16,174	3,575	3,547	12,583	12,627
Adoption	6,050	6,246	3,562	3,650	2,488	2,596
Adoption Certification	545	521	167	164	378	357
Surrender of Child	3,465	3,378	2,360	2,350	1,105	1,028
Guardianship	4,565	4,387	2,992	2,833	1,573	1,554
Custody of Minors	157,848	155,953	38,689	36,833	119,159	119,120
Foster Care Review	6,350	6,394	2,582	2,659	3,768	3,735
Approval for Foster Care	2,646	2,749	1,693	1,791	953	958
Physically Handicapped	19	1	0	0	19	1
Family Offense	58,958	58,500	27,068	26,947	31,890	31,553
Paternity	90,951	93,653	51,009	52,859	39,942	40,794
Support	186,824	188,731	41,515	43,197	145,309	145,534
Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	12,627	13,605	5,172	5,265	7,455	8,340
Consent to Marry	37	111	10	8	27	103
Other	454	439	117	116	337	323
Total	654,602	653,812	231,670	229,978	422,932	423,834

^aPetition type may change between filing and disposition

Surrogate's Court

Structure

The Surrogate's Court is established in every county and hears cases involving the affairs of decedents, including the probate of wills and the administration of estates, and adoptions. Surrogates are elected to 10-year terms in each

county outside New York City and to 14-year terms in each county in New York City. (See Figure 11.)

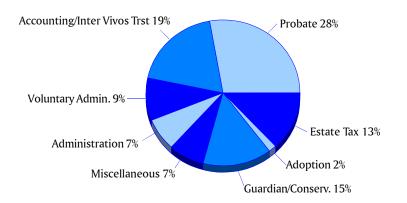
Caseload Activity

During 1998, there were 167,272 petitions filed and 142,292 dispositions in Surrogate's Court statewide. (See Table 13.)

Table 13 SURROGATE'S COURT Proceedings by Case Type 1998

	——ST	STATE		ORK CITY—	—OUTSIDE NYC—		
	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	Filings	Dispositions	
Probate	46,875	48,420	13,965	13,142	32,910	35,278	
Administration	12,076	12,466	5,179	5,089	6,897	7,377	
Voluntary Admin.	15,690	15,690	4,401	4,401	11,289	11,289	
Accounting	31,378	10,295	2,667	1,729	28,711	8,566	
Inter Vivos Trust	251	283	0	0	251	283	
Miscellaneous	12,278	12,127	4,615	1,896	7,663	10,231	
Guardian/Conser.	24,525	16,486	7,860	3,804	16,665	12,682	
Adoption	2,770	4,873	636	2,003	2,134	2,870	
Estate Tax	21,429	21,652	4,903	4,903	16,526	16,749	
Total	167,272	142,292	44,226	36,967	123,046	105,325	

Figure 11 SURROGATE'S COURT Proceedings by Case Type - 1998



Arbitration

Description

Part 28 of the Rules of the Chief Judge (22 NYCRR), provides for the establishment of mandatory arbitration programs. Thirty-one counties operate such programs. Outside New York City, the programs involve damages claimed

of \$6,000 or less, while in New York City, cases are limited to \$10,000 or less.

Caseload Activity

Statewide, 9,377 cases were received for arbitration in 1998. There were 9,811 dispositions, followed by 759 demands for trial *de novo*. (See Table 14.)

Table 14
INTAKE, DISPOSITIONS & TRIALS *DE NOVO* IN ARBITRATION PROGRAM
1998

District	Intake	Dispositions	Demands for Trial <i>De Novo</i>	De Novo Rate
1 st	1,909	2,070	389	19%
2^{nd}	0	0	0	0%
$3^{\rm rd}$	25	22	1	5%
4 th	21	42	0	0%
5 th	130	131	9	7%
6 th	58	62	2	3%
7^{th}	3,817	3,798	186	5%
8 th	163	185	16	9%
9 th	205	247	0	0%
10 th - Nassau	1,493	1,384	35	3%
10 th - Suffolk	1,556	1,870	121	6%
11 th	0	0	0	0%
12 th	0	0	0	0%
Total State	9,377	9,811	759	8%

Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program

Description

The Community Dispute Resolution Centers Program ("CDRCP") provides financial support and program oversight to nonprofit community organizations that offer dispute resolution services in all 62 counties in the State. These centers provide cost-effective dispute resolution alternatives to court for the resolution of civil and family disputes and minor criminal matters.

Case workload in each center includes walk-in clients and referrals from courts and other

agencies. Dispositions include cases conciliated without mediation, cases mediated, and cases arbitrated. Depending upon the matter in dispute or the choice of the parties, the CDRCP can be used instead of court or after the start of court proceedings. Where appropriate, agreements constructed by parties during the ADR process serve as legally binding contracts or are reviewed by judges to be entered into a court-ordered document.

Caseload Activity

In 1998, the centers received a total of 40,693 cases for review, of which 23,341 cases were determined to be appropriate for ADR. (See Table 15.)

Table 15 COMMUNITY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTERS' WORKLOAD New York State by County 1998

		1550					
		Cases Screened Appropriate for	Total Conciliation/ Mediation/ Arbitration				
County	Name of Program	Mediation	Dispositions		-Dispositions		
All Counties	All Programs	40,693	23,341	Conciliations 6,788	Mediations 15.862	Arbitrations 691	Other ² 17,352
Albany	Center for Alternative Dispute Resolution	700	449	19	430	0	251
Allegany	Dispute Settlement Center	47	25	17	8	0	22
Bronx	Institute for Mediation & Conflict Resolution	3,414	1,487	538	933	16	1,927
Broome	ACCORD Dispute Settlement Center	1,853	946	109	831	6	907
Cattaraugus Cayuga	Cayuga County Dispute Resolution Center, Inc.	251 185	115 119	78 37	36 82	1 0	136 66
Chautauqua	Dispute Settlement Center	497	270	175	91	4	227
Chemung	Dispute Resolution Center	275	102	62	40	0	173
Chenango	Dispute Resolution Center	246	69	31	37	1	177
Clinton	Northern New York Center for Conflict Resolution Common Ground	296 213	169 126	81 14	83	5 0	127 87
Columbia Cortland	New Justice	275	169	31	112 138	0	106
Delaware	Dispute Resolution Center	82	43	8	34	1	39
Dutchess	Community Dispute Resolution Center	593	399	16	383	0	194
Erie	Dispute Settlement Center	5,388	3,283	2,749	348	186	2,105
Essex	Northern New York Center for Conflict Resolution	42	26	9	16	1	16
Franklin	Northern New York Center for Conflict Resolution	242	228 20	209	16	3	14
Fulton Genesee	Tri-County Mediation Center Dispute Settlement Center	61 73	33	0 26	20 5	2	41 40
Greene	Common Ground	451	346	248	95	3	105
Hamilton	Northern New York Center for Conflict Resolution	1	0	0	0	0	1
Herkimer	Community Dispute Resolution Program	308	146	103	30	13	162
Jefferson	Jeff-Lewis Mediation Center	1,013	569	152	415	2	444
Kings	Victim Services Agency	3,145 118	1,374 66	123 27	1,251 38	0	1,771
Lewis Livingston	Jeff-Lewis Mediation Center Center for Dispute Settlement	276	171	10	36 161	1 0	52 105
Madison	New Justice	30	11	4	7	ő	19
Monroe	Center for Dispute Settlement	1,144	595	123	397	75	549
Montgomery	Tri-County Mediation Center	125	90	8	79	3	35
Nassau	Mediation Alternative Project	4,261	3,248	262	2,911	75	1,013
New York New York	Institute for Mediation & Conflict Resolution Victim Services Agency	3 1,463	2 659	0 75	2 584	0	1 804
New York	Washington Heights-Inwood Coalition	194	127	40	87	0	67
Niagara	Dispute Settlement Center	248	153	136	15	2	95
Oneida	Justice Center for Oneida County	643	482	89	269	124	161
Onondaga	New Justice	690	349	101	231	17	341
Ontario	Center for Dispute Settlement	169	115	8	107	0	54
Orange Orleans	Dispute Resolution Center of Orange & Putnam Counties Dispute Settlement Center	1,039 23	898 14	11 13	881 1	6 0	141 9
Oswego	New Justice	125	54	15	39	0	71
Otsego	Mediation Services, Inc.	430	225	23	202	0	205
Putnam	Dispute Resolution Center of Orange & Putnam Counties	283	228	46	166	16	55
Queens	Community Mediation Services	2,622	1,233	190	1,025	18	1,389
Rensselaer Richmond	Community Dispute Settlement Program Staten Island Community Dispute Resolution Center	237 1,346	102 856	2 52	95 804	5 0	135 490
Rockland	Center for Conflict Resolution	250	160	6	137	17	90
St. Lawrence	Northern New York Center for Conflict Resolution	268	207	111	80	16	61
Saratoga	Mediation of Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties	257	82	2	72	8	175
Schenectady	Conflict Resolution Services of Schenectady County	461	180	32	143	5	281
Schoharie	Tri-County Mediation Center	46	19	12	6	1	27
Schuyler Seneca	Community Dispute Resolution Center Center for Dispute Settlement	31 42	20 29	7 6	13 23	0	11 13
Steuben	Center for Dispute Settlement	303	54	33	21	0	249
Suffolk	Community Mediation Center	784	656	1	622	33	128
Sullivan	Ulster-Sullivan Mediation, Inc.	188	124	7	115	2	64
Tioga	ACCORD	216	91	31	60	0	125
Tompkins	Community Dispute Resolution Center	653	301	99 57	195	7	352
Ulster Warren	Ulster-Sullivan Mediation, Inc. Mediation of Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties	630 116	349 61	57 4	292 55	0 2	281 55
Washington	Mediation of Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties	303	170	4	160	6	133
Wayne	Center for Dispute Settlement	199	112	13	97	2	87
Westchester	Westchester Mediation Center of CLUSTER	684	431	268	157	6	253
Wyoming	Dispute Settlement Center	45	24	19	5	0	21
Yates Notes:	Center for Dispute Settlement	97	80	6	74	0	17

Notes:

Chapter 847 of the Laws of 1981 created this program, which has provided alternative mechanisms for the resolution of minor disputes, both criminal and civil.

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