

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

**MISSION:**

To administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient and impartial system of dispute resolution that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law.

**UNIFIED CRIMINAL DOCKET IS A SUCCESS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY**



*The Judges and Clerks of the Cumberland County Unified Criminal Docket*

The Cumberland County Unified Criminal Docket (UCD) was developed to replace the traditional two-tiered system with a single efficient method for processing criminal actions. The project has met its primary goals to promote the prompt and fair resolution of cases through early information sharing, to provide early access to appointed counsel for indigent defendants and to direct sufficient judicial resources for expedited case processing. It has increased efficiency by eliminating the duplicative clerical workload created by case transfers between the District and Superior Courts and by reducing the number of court appearances required to process individual cases. This successful model will be expanded to other counties; Penobscot County has already begun to use a similar process.

**FORECLOSURE DIVERSION PROGRAM CREATED TO HELP EASE CRISIS**



The Foreclosure Diversion Program was established as a result of legislation that became effective in June 2009. The purpose is to assist homeowners and lenders in achieving mutually agreeable resolutions to mortgage foreclosure actions through the diversion process. The Supreme Judicial Court created a pilot project, which began in York County in August 2009, making mediation sessions available to the parties involved in residential foreclosures. The Foreclosure Diversion Program became available statewide on January 1, 2010. More information about the Foreclosure Diversion Program is available on the Judicial Branch web site at this link [www.courts.state.me.us/court\\_info/services/foreclosure/index.html](http://www.courts.state.me.us/court_info/services/foreclosure/index.html).

**PENOBSCOT JUDICIAL CENTER OPENS DOORS TO COMMUNITY**



The Penobscot Judicial Center opened in December 2009, ahead of schedule and under budget. Located at 78 Exchange St. in Bangor, the environmentally responsible facility meets the Maine Energy Conservation Building Standards. It serves as home to a consolidated clerks' office and the Penobscot County Superior and the Bangor District Courts. It offers full-time entry screening as well as security cameras in every courtroom.

**HOULTON COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS COMPLETE**



*View from the bench*



*District Court Clerks' office*

The renovation of the Houlton Courthouse was completed in 2009, consolidating the District and Superior Courts into one building. The improvements, which included modern technology and an increase from one to two courtrooms, will greatly improve the delivery of justice in Aroostook County.



*From Left to Right: THOMAS E. HUMPHREY, Chief Justice, Superior Court, LEIGH I. SAUFLEY, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court, ANN M. MURRAY, Chief Judge, District Court, CHARLES C. LAVERDIERE, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court*



**TED GLESSNER,**  
*State Court Administrator*

## JUDICIAL BRANCH LEADERSHIP

**MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE**

	POPULATION SERVED.....	1,316,456
	GEOGRAPHIC AREA.....	35,387 sq. mi.
	COURT LOCATIONS.....	40
	BUDGET .....	\$63,388,200
	% of State General Fund.....	2.1%
	JUDGES (Total).....	60
	Supreme Judicial Court Justices.....	7
	Superior Court Justices.....	17
	District Court Judges.....	36
	FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES.....	8
	STAFF (clerks, security & support).....	444
	TOTAL 2009 CASES FILED .....	292,295
	Supreme Judicial Court.....	733
	Superior Court.....	18,667
	District Court.....	132,340
	Violations Bureau.....	140,580

# THE COURTS OF MAINE

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The Supreme Judicial Court is the governing body of the Judicial Branch. Sitting as the Law Court, it is the court of final appeal.

### SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT NEW CASE FILINGS

Criminal.....	210
Civil.....	302
Worker's Compensation.....	58
Family/Divorce.....	97
Child Protective.....	41
SJC.....	25
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>733</b>

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The Justices of the Superior Court serve the entire State, hearing both civil and criminal cases, including jury trials.

### TRIAL COURT FILINGS

#### CRIMINAL FILINGS

District Court.....	53,855
Superior Court.....	14,478
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>68,333</b>

#### CIVIL FILINGS

District Court.....	21,602
Superior Court.....	4,189
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>25,791</b>

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The District Court hears both civil and criminal cases, in addition to exercising exclusive jurisdiction over family, juvenile, child protective, protection from abuse, small claims, and traffic violation cases.

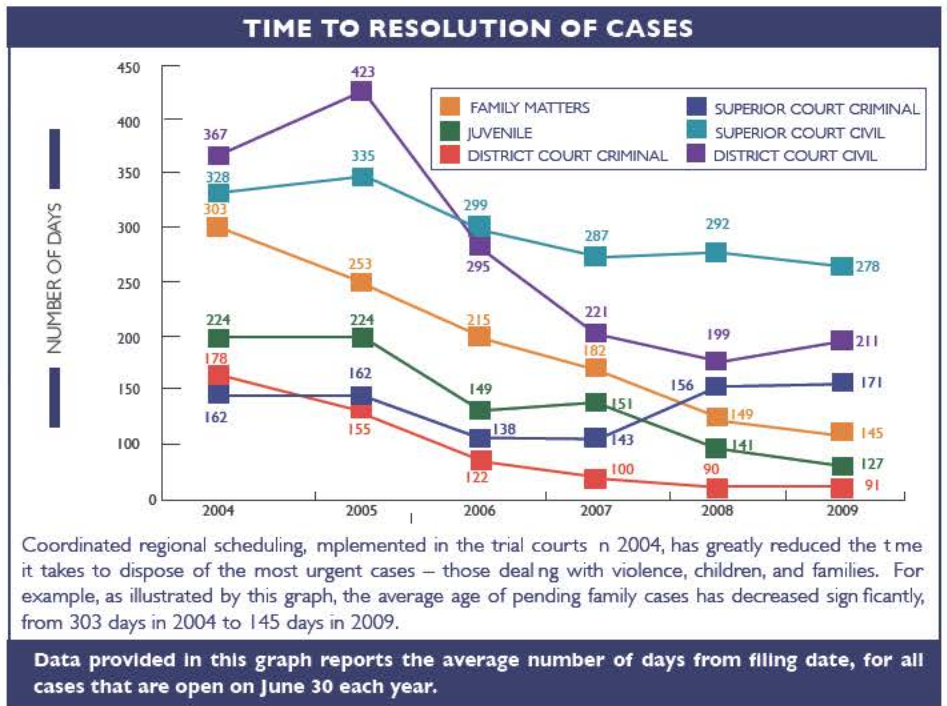
#### DISTRICT COURT NEW CASE FILINGS

Family/Divorce.....	9,316
Small Claims.....	11,392
Juvenile.....	3,504
Forcible Entry.....	4,786
Protection from Abuse.....	6,130
Protection from Harassment.....	4,022
Child Protective.....	755
Mental Health.....	1,008
Civil Violations.....	15,970
Traffic Infractions.....	140,580
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>197,463</b>

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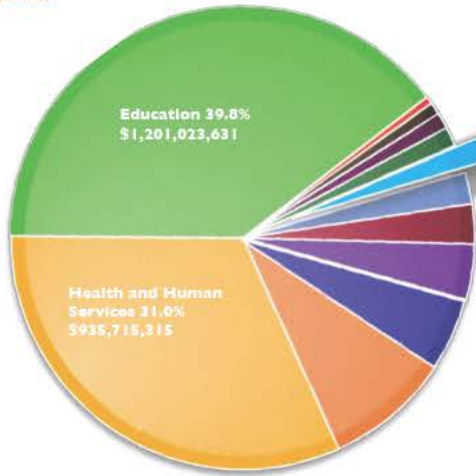
There are eight Family Law Magistrates serving the entire State.



# FISCAL INFORMATION

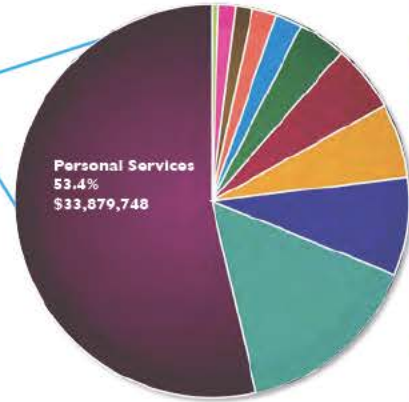
## GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES

- University & Community Colleges 8.8%  
\$266,014,980
- Corrections 5.3%  
\$159,838,115
- Administrative & Financial Services 4%  
\$121,445,364
- Treasurer of the State 2.8%  
\$83,914,018
- Natural Resources 2.3%  
\$68,290,197
- JUDICIAL BRANCH 2.1%  
\$63,388,200**
- Atty. General & Public Safety 1.3%  
\$39,376,053
- General Government 0.9%  
\$28,165,459
- Legislature 0.9%  
\$26,614,736
- Other 0.9%  
\$26,013,956



**STATEWIDE GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES, FY'09**  
Total: \$3,019,800,023

- Indigent Defense Costs 15.2%  
\$9,653,189
- Debt Service 8.2%  
\$5,221,560
- Facilities 6.1%  
\$3,839,747
- Miscellaneous Operations 5.6%  
\$3,560,469
- Guardians Ad Litem 3.9%  
\$2,465,983
- Sheriff & Security Contracts 2%  
\$1,295,402
- Postage, Print & Office Supplies 1.9%  
\$1,200,407
- Psychological Exams 1.5%  
\$960,552
- Telecommunications 1.4%  
\$890,124
- Jury Costs 0.7%  
\$421,019

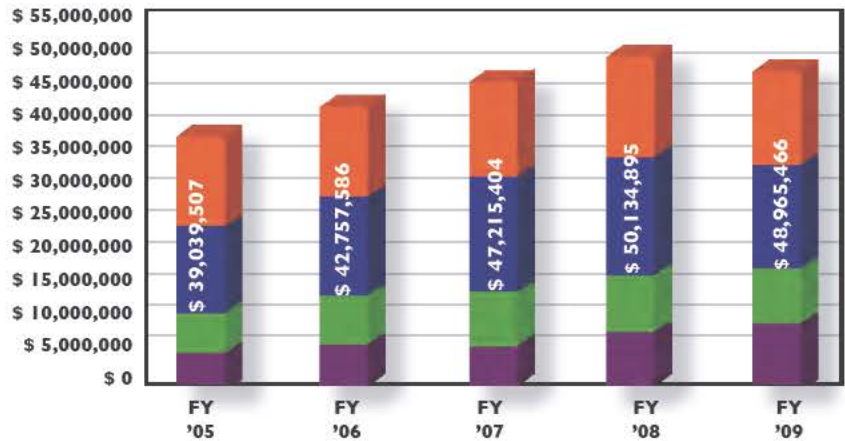


**JUDICIAL BRANCH GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES FY'09**  
Total: \$63,388,200

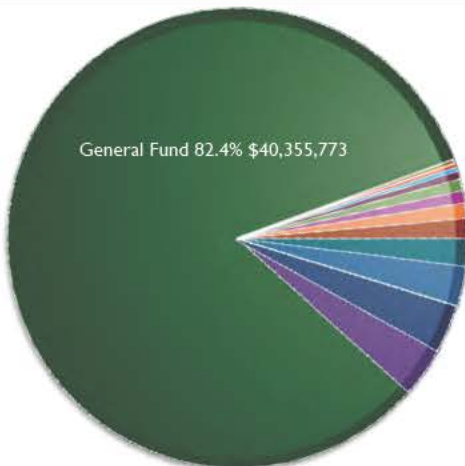
## REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

In FY'09, revenue collection declined for the first time in decades; 2.3% less than was collected in FY'08.

	FY '05	FY '06	FY '07	FY '08	FY '09
Traffic Fines	\$13,684,913	\$13,900,526	\$14,795,496	\$15,339,081	\$14,276,283
Court Fines	\$13,250,059	\$15,073,730	\$17,882,826	\$17,930,434	\$15,845,961
Surcharges	\$6,171,874	\$7,514,573	\$8,408,300	\$8,770,421	\$8,455,336
Fees	\$5,932,661	\$6,268,757	\$6,128,782	\$8,094,959	\$10,387,886
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$39,039,507</b>	<b>\$42,757,586</b>	<b>\$47,215,404</b>	<b>\$50,134,895</b>	<b>\$48,965,466</b>



## REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Civil Legal Services Fund 3.8% \$1,856,343
- Highway Fund 3.6% \$1,784,474
- Crim. Justice Academy 2.5% \$1,221,318
- County Jail Fund 2.0% \$977,921
- Inland Fish & Wildlife 1.2% \$591,570
- Victim's Compensation 1.1% \$538,349
- Ct. Appt. Counsel Reimb. 1.0% \$506,497
- Mediation 1.0% \$479,369
- Publications Fund 0.8% \$369,060
- Miscellaneous 0.2% \$120,294
- Local Ordinances 0.2% \$109,409
- Tobacco Enforcement 0.1% \$55,088

Revenue collected by the Judicial Branch is deposited into the State's General Fund and to other dedicated accounts. Sources of revenue include fees, fines, and surcharges.

**FY'09 Revenue Distribution**  
Total: \$48,965,466

# COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

## REGION 5

CASE TOTAL ..... 21,028  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 97%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 165,612  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 7

### PENOBSCOT

Bangor Superior ..... 1,727  
 Bangor District ..... 12,147  
 Newport District ..... 2,562  
 Lincoln District ..... 1,513  
 Millinocket District ..... 1,092

### PISCATAQUIS

Dover-Foxcroft Superior ..... 116  
 Dover-Foxcroft District ..... 1,871

## REGION 4

CASE TOTAL ..... 20,783  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 97%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 172,336  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 6

### SOMERSET

Skowhegan Superior ..... 624  
 Skowhegan District ..... 5,405

### KENNEBEC

Augusta Superior ..... 1,527  
 Augusta District ..... 7,419  
 Waterville District ..... 5,778

## REGION 3

CASE TOTAL ..... 22,290  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 96.2%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 193,475  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 7

### FRANKLIN

Farmington Superior ..... 458  
 Farmington District ..... 3,027

### OXFORD

South Paris Superior ..... 696  
 South Paris District ..... 2,361  
 Rumford District ..... 2,294

### ANDROSCOGGIN

Auburn Superior ..... 1,738  
 Lewiston District ..... 12,716

## REGION 2

CASE TOTAL ..... 28,422  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 99.0%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 276,047  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 2

### CUMBERLAND

Portland Superior ..... 4,560  
 Portland District ..... 19,977  
 Bridgton District ..... 3,886

## REGION 1

CASE TOTAL ..... 22,543  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 94.8%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 201,686  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 4

### YORK

Alfred Superior ..... 3,559  
 Biddeford District ..... 9,723  
 Springvale District ..... 5,328  
 York District ..... 4,933

## REGION 8

CASE TOTAL ..... 8,491  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 95.6%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 71,676  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 5

### AROOSTOOK

Caribou/Houlton Superior ..... 1,045  
 Caribou District ..... 1,647  
 Houlton District ..... 1,779  
 Presque Isle District ..... 2,760  
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District ..... 1,460

## REGION 7

CASE TOTAL ..... 8,936  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 94.1%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 85,636  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 3

### HANCOCK

Ellsworth Superior ..... 460  
 Ellsworth District ..... 4,839

### WASHINGTON

Machias Superior ..... 378  
 Machias District ..... 1,749  
 Calais District ..... 1,510

## REGION 6

CASE TOTAL ..... 16,243  
 CLEARANCE RATE ..... 100.2%  
 REGIONAL POPULATION ..... 149,988  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 6

### WALDO

Belfast Superior ..... 501  
 Belfast District ..... 3,005

### KNOX

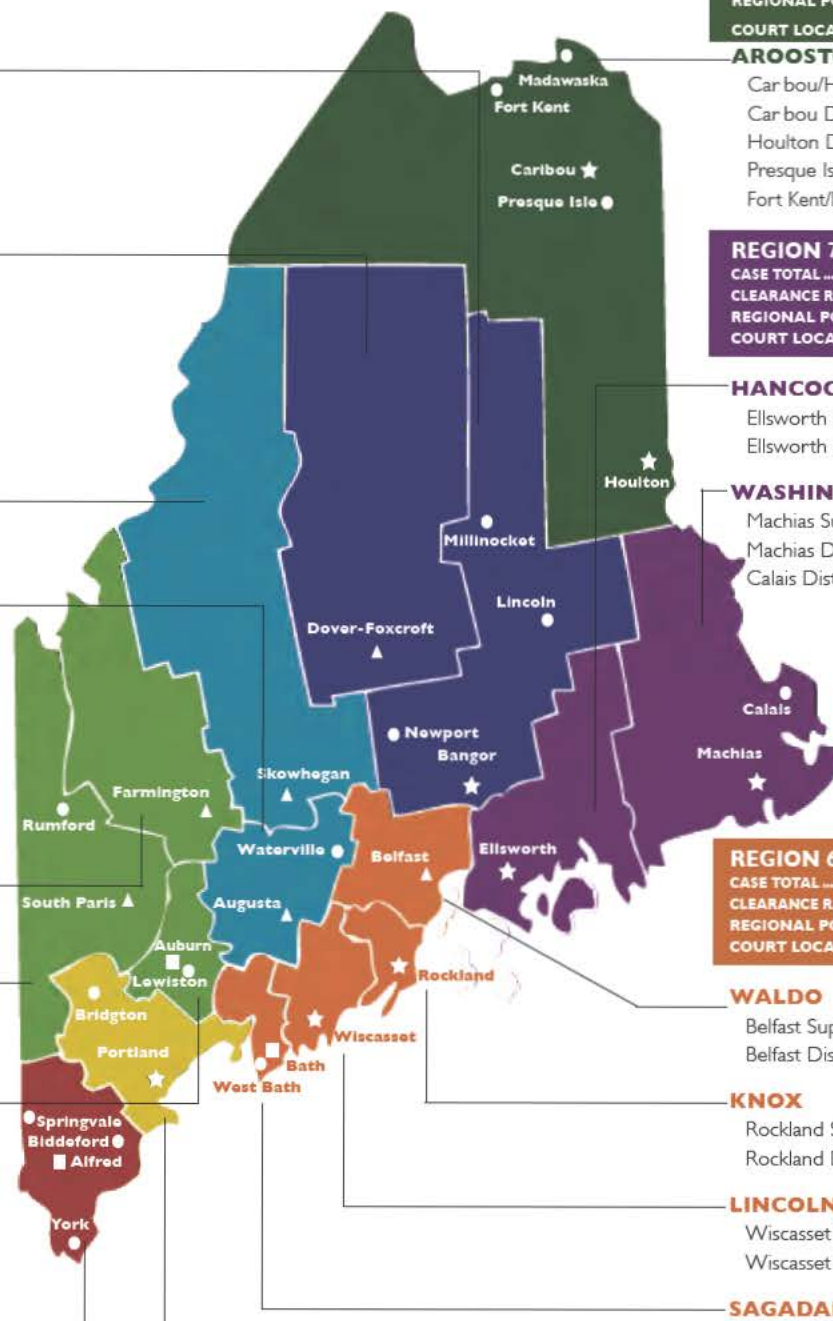
Rockland Superior ..... 465  
 Rockland District ..... 3,460

### LINCOLN

Wiscasset Superior ..... 374  
 Wiscasset District ..... 2,572

### SAGADAHOC

Bath Superior ..... 439  
 West Bath District ..... 5,527



KEY	
● District Court	Counties grouped together by color are part of a single court <b>REGION</b> , where resources and scheduling are coordinated.
■ Superior Court	
▲ District and Superior in the same city/town.	
★ District and Superior Court occupy the same building.	

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Visit the Court's web page at [www.courts.state.me.us](http://www.courts.state.me.us) where you'll find:

- PUBLICATIONS: *A Guide to Small Claims* • *A Guide to Protection from Abuse and Harassment* • *Citizens Guide to the Courts* • *Child Protective Handbooks*
- INFORMATION about court proceedings and offices
- LINKS to legal resources, volunteer opportunities, court rules, forms and opinions

An expanded version of this report is available at [www.courts.state.me.us/annual\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.courts.state.me.us/annual_reports/index.shtml)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
 PO Box 4820  
 Portland, ME 04112-4820  
 (207) 822-0792  
 (207) 822-0701 (TTY)

**TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS:**  
 Total: 140,580

\* Population Statistics source: US Census Bureau

\*\* CLEARANCE RATE is determined by dividing the number of cases disposed by the number of cases filed. It is a measure of the court's ability to keep up with its workload.