

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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.

MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE

POPULATION OF MAINE.....1,328,361
 GEOGRAPHIC AREA.....30,843 sq. mi.
 COURT LOCATIONS.....39

FY'11 EXPENDITURES:

Judicial Branch Operations\$46,177,758
 Personal Services\$33,344,332
 All Other Operation Expenses\$12,833,426
 Guardians ad Litem, Psychological Exams..... \$2,781,366
 Debt Service\$6,736,006
TOTAL: \$55,695,130

FY'11 REVENUE:

Deposited to Maine's General Fund.....\$35,710,075
 Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts.....\$8,779,430
TOTAL: \$44,489,505

JUDGES (Total).....60
 Supreme Judicial Court Justices7
 Superior Court Justices17
 District Court Judges36
 FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES.....8
 STAFF (clerks, security & support)425
TOTAL: 493

TOTAL 2011 CASES FILED.....260,788
 Supreme Judicial Court.....690
 Superior Court16,232
 Unified Criminal Dockets.....16,541
 District Court.....110,835
 Violations Bureau.....116,490

MAINE COURTS: OPEN FOR BUSINESS



The recently renovated courtroom in the Aroostook County Courthouse in Houlton.

BUSINESS AND CONSUMER DOCKET



Justice A. Mark Horton, Chief Justice of the Superior Court Thomas Humphrey and Justice John Nivison.

The Business and Consumer Docket (BCD), was established in June 2007. It was designed to improve the management and timely resolution of increasingly complex civil cases by providing Maine's business community and consumers with prompt and consistent access to justice. Its caseload is limited to disputes arising out of the operations and governance of businesses as well as consumer rights claims pertaining to transactions and dealings with business entities, and includes jury and nonjury civil cases requiring specialized and differentiated judicial management.

The goal of the BCD is to provide parties with clarity regarding the court's expectations for pretrial and trial processes; certainty regarding the prompt scheduling of pretrial matters and trials; and to contribute to a body of case law precedent to help potential litigants and their lawyers have a better understanding of those laws.

In 2011, Justice A. Mark Horton joined Chief Justice Thomas Humphrey and Justice John Nivison on the Business and Consumer Court, and the BCD clerks' office was moved to the Cumberland County Courthouse, where BCD clerks manage cases from all over the state. The BCD continues to conduct trials and hearings throughout the state, at court locations that are convenient for the parties, witnesses and the court.

SAFETY & SECURITY REMAIN TOP PRIORITIES



Entry screening at the District Court in Biddeford.

In 2011, entry screening exceeded all previous years, with judicial marshals and deputy sheriffs screening more than 463,000 persons as they entered courthouses on over 1,800 court days throughout the year. This meant that entry screening was provided about 21% of the time courthouses were open.

THE COURTS OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



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Front Row: Justice Donald G. Alexander, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, Justice Jon D. Levy

Back Row: Justice Ellen A. Gorman, Justice Warren M. Silver, Justice Andrew M. Mead, Justice Joseph M. Jabar

CHIEFS



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From Left to Right: THOMAS E. HUMPHREY, Chief Justice, Superior Court; LEIGH I. SAUFLEY, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court; CHARLES C. LAVERDIERE, Chief Judge, District Court; ROBERT E. MULLEN, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP



From Left to Right: LAURA O'HANLON, Chief of Court Management; TED GLESSNER, State Court Administrator; DEBORAH CARSON, Chief of Finance and Administration

TRIAL COURT FILINGS FY'11 TOTAL: 260,098

CIVIL FILINGS: 41,558

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT
Contract	473	8,805
Foreclosure	1,530	3,453
Tort	989	164
Other Civil	1,202	853
Small Claims		13,550
Money Judgments		5,377
FEDs (Eviction)		5,162
TOTAL(S):	4,194	37,364

CRIMINAL FILINGS: 58,315

Distict Court Criminal.....	31,988
District Ct. Probation Revocations.....	575
Superior Court Criminal.....	9,265
Sup. Ct. Probation Revocations.....	2,773
Unified Criminal Dockets.....	13,230
UCD Probation Revocations.....	484

DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION: 25,581

Juvenile.....	3,124
Divorce.....	6,824
Other Family Relations.....	2,634
Family Post-judgment.....	6,198
Child Protective.....	556
Protection from Abuse.....	6,245

OTHER ACTIONS: 18,154

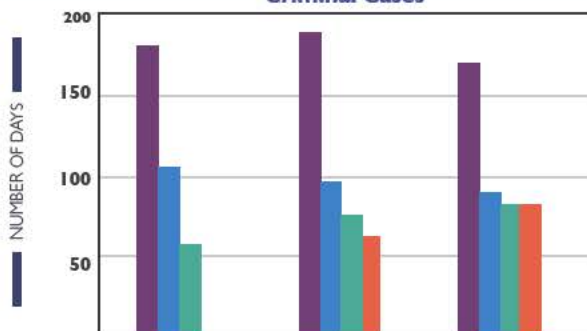
Mental Health (District Court).....	1,153
Protection from Harassment (District Court).....	4,155
Civil Violations (District Court & UCDs).....	12,846

VIOLATIONS BUREAU

Traffic Infractions.....	116,490
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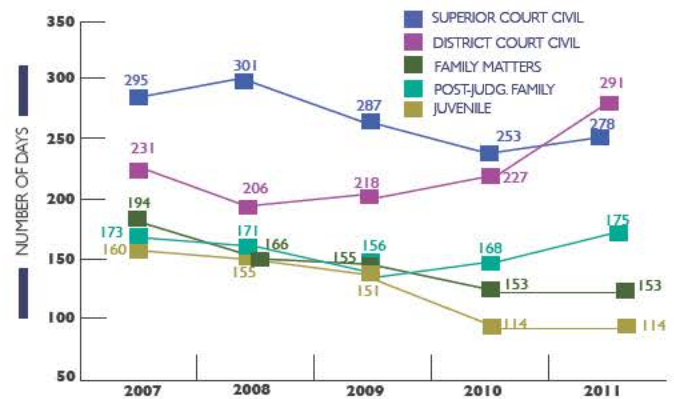
TIME TO RESOLUTION OF CASES

Criminal Cases



	FY '09	FY '10	FY '11
Superior Court Criminal	174	180	167
District Court Criminal	105	94	82
Portland UCD	52	71	79
Bangor UCD	n/a	60	79

The trial courts in Portland and Bangor have adopted a unified process for criminal cases and have eliminated the need for transferring cases from District to Superior Court. This model has simplified procedures for litigants and stakeholders, has eliminated duplication of work by clerks, and has substantially reduced the time for felony resolution.

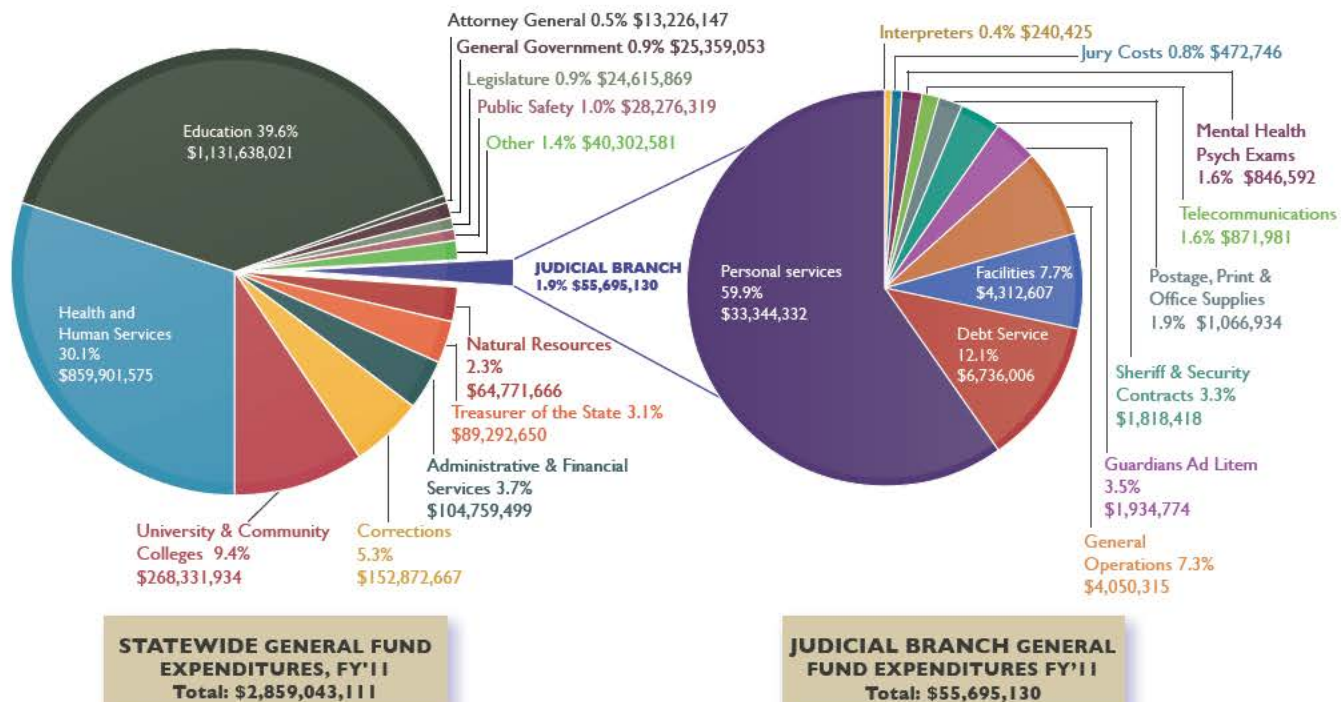


Coordinated regional scheduling has greatly reduced the time it takes to dispose of the most urgent cases – those dealing with violence, children, and families. For example, as illustrated by this graph, the average age of pending juvenile cases has decreased significantly, from 160 days in 2007 to 114 days in 2011.

Data provided in this graph illustrates the average number of days from filing date, for all cases that are open on June 30 each year.

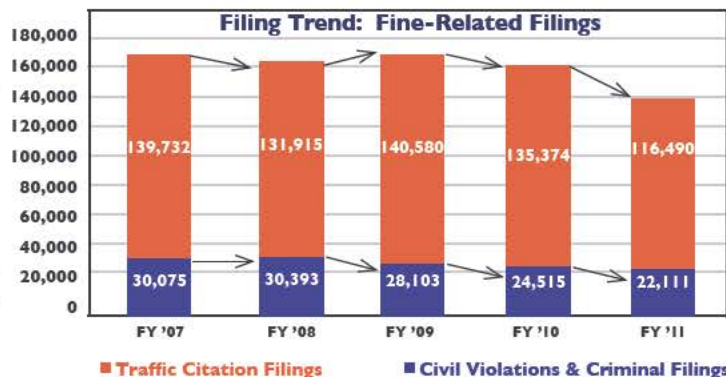
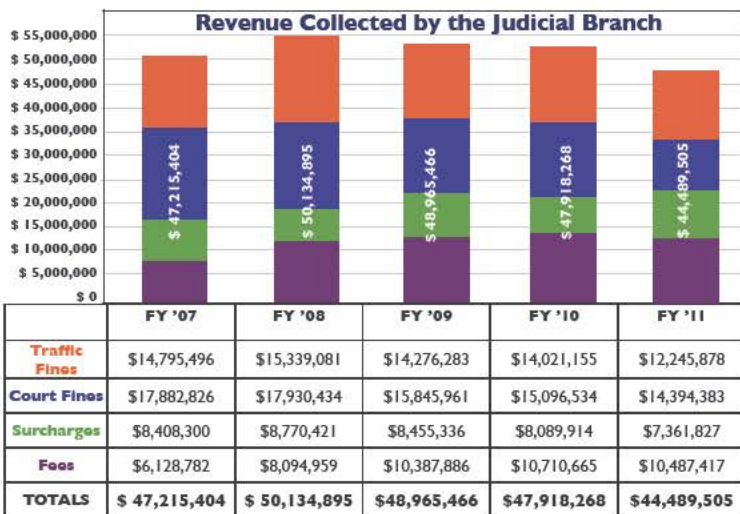
FISCAL INFORMATION

GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES



In FY'11, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were less than 2% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (59.9%) of Judicial Branch expenditures.

FY'11 REVENUE

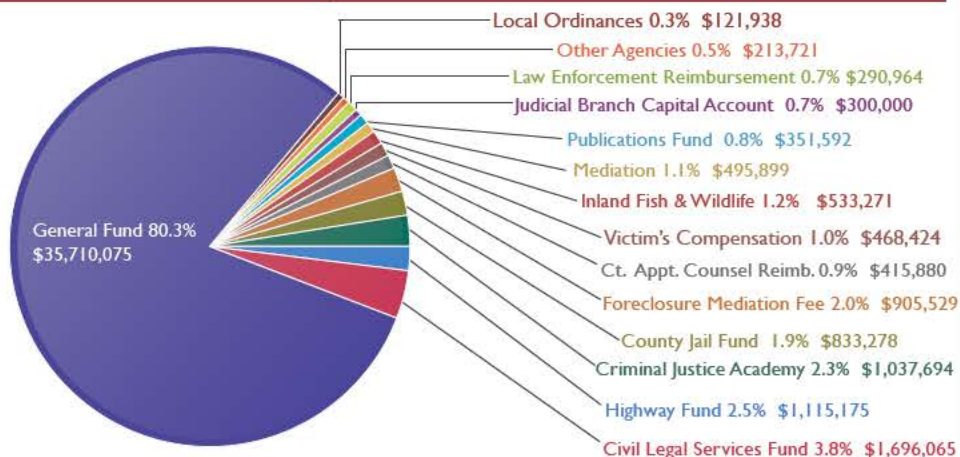


After reaching a record high in FY'08, fine and related surcharge revenue has decreased in recent years. The primary cause for the reduction is the decline in the number of criminal cases, civil violations, and traffic citations filed in the courts, as illustrated by the chart above.

REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

FY'11 Revenue Distribution
Total: \$44,489,505

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



COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

Traffic Citations: 116,490 Statewide

REGION 5

CASE TOTAL 18,816
REGIONAL POPULATION 171,458
COURT FACILITIES 6

PENOBSCOT 3,397 square miles

Bangor Superior.....670
 Penobscot UCD5,897
 Bangor District.....5,818
 Newport District.....2,359
 Lincoln/Millinocket District...2,240

PISCATAQUIS 3,961 square miles

Dover-Foxcroft Superior.....154
 Dover-Foxcroft District1,678

REGION 4

CASE TOTAL 20,154
REGIONAL POPULATION 174,379
COURT FACILITIES 6

SOMERSET 3,924 square miles

Skowhegan Superior.....859
 Skowhegan District.....5,056

KENNEBEC 868 square miles

Augusta Superior.....1,757
 Augusta District.....7,079
 Waterville District.....5,403

REGION 3

CASE TOTAL 22,709
REGIONAL POPULATION 196,303
COURT FACILITIES 7

FRANKLIN 1,697 square miles

Farmington Superior.....351
 Farmington District.....2,794

OXFORD 2,077 square miles

South Paris Superior.....851
 South Paris District.....2,604
 Rumford District.....2,159

ANDROSCOGGIN 468 square miles

Auburn Superior.....2,029
 Lewiston District.....11,921

REGION 2

CASE TOTAL 25,488
REGIONAL POPULATION 281,674
COURT FACILITIES 2

CUMBERLAND 835 square miles

Portland Superior.....1,262
 Cumberland UCD10,644
 Portland District10,014
 Bridgton District.....3,568

REGION 1

CASE TOTAL 22,999
REGIONAL POPULATION 197,131
COURT FACILITIES 4

YORK 991 square miles

Alfred Superior.....3,813
 Biddeford District9,595
 Springvale District.....5,746
 York District.....3,845

REGION 8

CASE TOTAL 8,125
REGIONAL POPULATION 71,870
COURT FACILITIES 5

AROOSTOOK 6,671 square miles

Caribou/Houlton Superior.....1,194
 Caribou District.....1,414
 Houlton District.....1,556
 Presque Isle District.....2,673
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District...1,288

REGION 7

CASE TOTAL 8,743
REGIONAL POPULATION 87,274
COURT FACILITIES 3

HANCOCK 1,587 square miles

Ellsworth Superior.....502
 Ellsworth District.....4,687

WASHINGTON 2,563 square miles

Machias Superior.....472
 Machias District.....1,700
 Calais District.....1,382

REGION 6

CASE TOTAL 16,574
REGIONAL POPULATION 148,272
COURT FACILITIES 6

WALDO 730 square miles

Belfast Superior.....585
 Belfast District.....3,079

KNOX 365 square miles

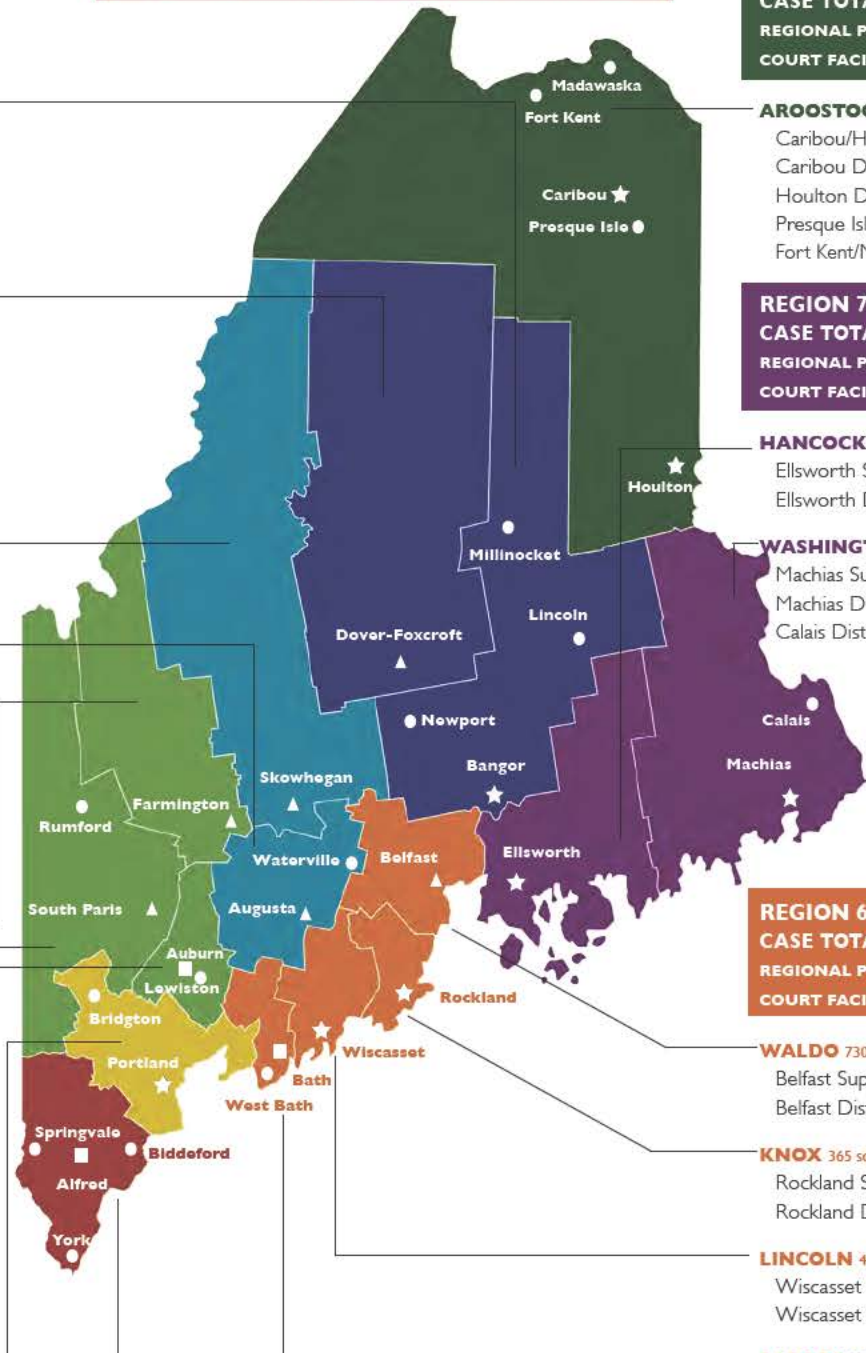
Rockland Superior.....578
 Rockland District.....3,763

LINCOLN 456 square miles

Wiscasset Superior.....591
 Wiscasset District.....2,481

SAGADAHOC 254 square miles

Bath Superior.....564
 West Bath District.....4,933



KEY

- District Court
- Superior Court
- ▲ District and Superior in the same city/town.
- ★ District and Superior Court occupy the same building.

Counties grouped together by color are part of a single court REGION, where resources and scheduling are coordinated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the Court's web page at www.courts.state.me.us where you will 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/reports_pubs/reports/annual_reports/index.shtml

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
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PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE

If You Are In Immediate Danger Call 9-1-1.

For information about Protection Orders visit www.courts.state.me.us/maine_courts/district/protection_orders.html

* Population statistics and square mileage data source: US Census Bureau