

## MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH



## **2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

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	
FY'13 EXPENDITURES:   Judicial Branch Operations \$45,983,335   Personal Services \$33,237,711   All Other Operation Expenses \$12,745,624   Guardians ad Litem, Psychological Exams \$2,993,439   Debt Service \$7,632,055   TOTAL: \$56,608,829   % of State General Fund 1.9%   FY'13 REVENUE: Deposited to Maine's General Fund \$30,897,517   Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts \$8,161,411   TOTAL: \$39,058,928	
JUDGES (Total) 60   Supreme Judicial Court Justices 7   Superior Court Justices 17   District Court Judges 36   FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES 8   STAFF (clerks, security, and administration) 423.5   Clerks' Offices 258.5   Marshals 63   Administration (Tech, HR, Finance, Faci ities, etc.) 102   TOTAL: 491.5	
TOTAL 2013 CASES FILED238,286Supreme Judicial Court690Superior Court14,659Unified Criminal Dockets18,415District Court98,964Violations Bureau105,558	

#### **INCREASED COURTHOUSE SAFETY**

With the support of Governor LePage and the 126th Legislature, entry screening is now provided on approximately 60% of all court days. This is a significant increase over prior years and, as a result, Maine's courts are safer. All of Maine's courts still need to be secure every day that they are open for business.

#### ELECTRONIC PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDERS

In 2013, through technology improvements, the courts now send civil Protection From Abuse orders electronically to the Department of Public Safety. Law enforcement throughout the state can make service immediately wherever the defendant might be located, improving safety for victims of abuse.

#### **KATAHDIN COUNSEL**

2013 saw another year in which Maine lawyers contributed the equivalent of well over \$2,000,000 worth of civil legal services to elderly and low-income people who could not otherwise afford legal assistance. The Supreme Court recognized 145 honorees in October who had each donated at least 50 hours of free legal services. Katahdin Counsel assisted citizens in many cases; for example, matters involving children, domestic violence, and housing.

#### **ACCESS TO JUSTICE: Interpreters**

The Maine Judicial Branch continued its efforts in 2013 to improve access to justice through court interpreters. Two spoken language interpreters received national court interpreter certification. Maine courts now have a statewide roster of 52 spoken language interpreters, who collectively interpret 24 different languages, and 10 legally-certified sign language interpreters. Interpretation services are provided free of charge for all case types; however, 82% of the usage is in primarily four areas: criminal, juvenile, family matters, and protection from abuse cases. Somali is the most frequently requested language, followed by Spanish and Arabic. Protection from abuse

and harassment forms have been translated into 6 languages and are now available on the Judicial Branch web page at http://www. courts.state.me.us/fees\_forms/forms/trans\_docs/index.html.

#### PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE If You Are In Immediate Danger, Call 9-1-1.

For information about Protection Orders visit www.courts.state.me.us/ma ne\_courts/district/protection\_ orders.html



Seven nationalities and eight languages are represented at this interpreter training sponsored by the Judicial Branch.

# 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

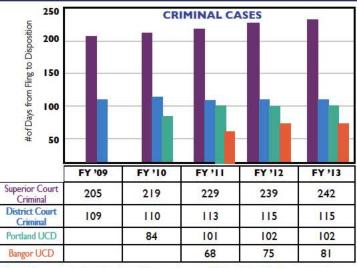


From Left to Right THOMAS E. HUMPHREY, Chief Justice, Superior Court; LEIGH I. SAUFLEY, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court; CHARLES C. LAVERDIERE, Chief Judge, District Court; ROBERT E. MULLEN, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court

### STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



TED GLESSNER, State Court Administrator



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.

#### TRIAL COURT CASE FILINGS FY'13 TOTAL: 237,596

#### CRIMINAL FILINGS: 57,331

District Court Criminal		
District Ct. Probation Revocations		
Superior Court Criminal		
Super. Ct. Probation Revocations		
Unified Criminal Dockets		
UCD Probation Revocations		

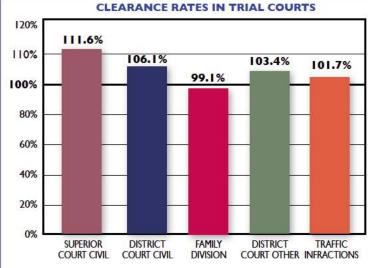
#### **DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION: 24,924**

Juvenile	
Divorce	6,225
Other Family Matters	
Family Post-Judgment	
Child Protective	
Protection from Abuse	

#### CIVIL FILINGS: 33,897 SUPERIOR DISTRICT Contract 411 5.290 Foreclosure 1.114 3.333 177 Tort 856 Other Civil 946 1,237 Small Claims 10,605 Money Judgments 4,281 FEDs (Eviction) 5.702 TOTAL(S): 3,618 30.279

#### **OTHER ACTIONS: 15,886**

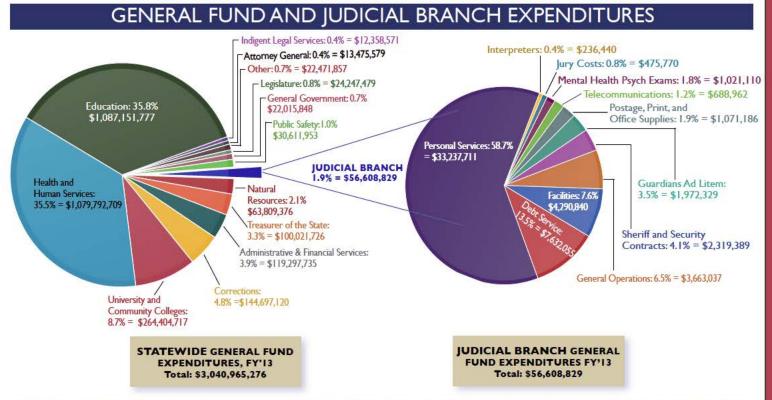
#### **VIOLATIONS BUREAU**



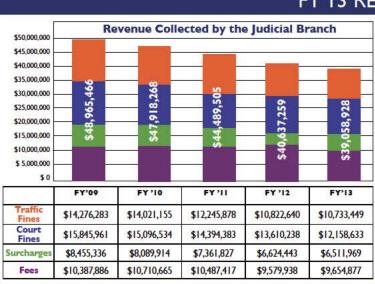
Clearance Rate measures whether the courts are keeping up with caseload. When the Clearance Rate exceeds 100%, it means that more cases were disposed than were filed during FY'13.

## COURTS PROVIDE IMPROVED CASE MANAGEMENT

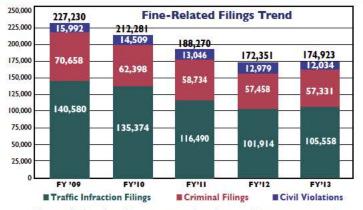
# FISCAL INFORMATION



In FY' I 3, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were less than 2% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (58.7%) of Judicial Branch expenditures.



#### FY'I3 REVENUE



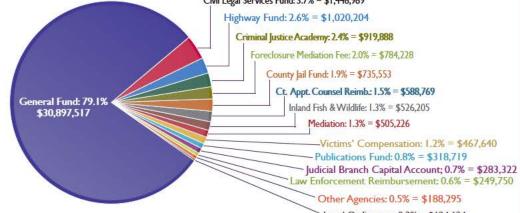
Fine and related surcharge revenue has decreased in recent years. A primary cause for the reduction is the decline in the number of criminal cases, civil violations, and traffic infractions filed in the courts, as illustrated by the chart above.

## **REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

Civil Legal Services Fund: 3.7% = \$1,448,989

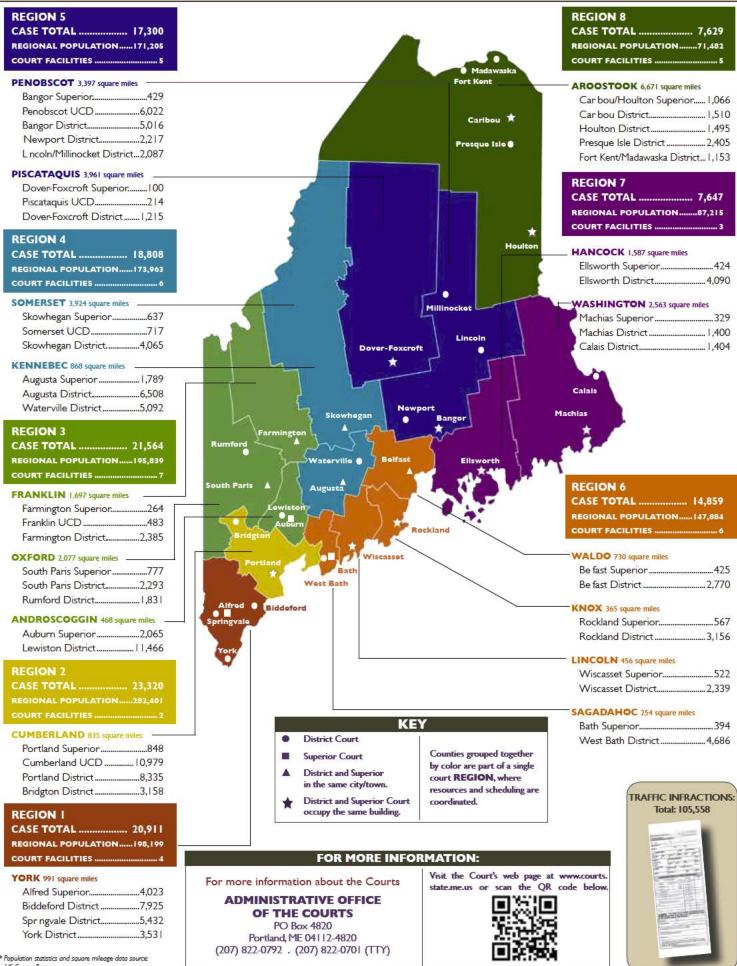
FY'I3 Revenue Distribution Total: \$39,058,928

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.



Local Ordinances: 0.3% = \$124.624

## COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED



US Census Bureau