# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH



### **2015 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	1,330,089
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	30,843 sq. mi.
COURT LOCATIONS	36

#### **FYIS EXPENDITURES:**

Judicial Branch Operations	\$50,116,371
Personal Services	\$37,502,245
All Other Operation Expenses	\$12,614,126
Guardians ad Litem and Psychological Exams.	\$3,500,915
Debt Service	\$10,267,986

TOTAL: \$63,885,272



#### FYIS REVENUE:

JUDGES (Total)...

Deposited to Maine's General	Fund\$28,907,084
Deposited to State Dedicated	Revenue Accounts\$7,838,541

TOTAL: \$36,745,625

•	
Supreme Judicial Court Justices	
Superior Court Justices	17
District Court Judges	36
FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES	8
STAFF (clerks, security, and administration)	425
Clerks' Offices	258.5
Marshals	63
Administration (Tech, HR, Finance, Facilities, etc.	.)103.5

TOTAL: 493



TAL FYIS CASES FILED	217,117
Supreme Judicial Court	625
Superior Court	
Unified Criminal Docket	27,644
District Court	
Violations Bureau	97.031

#### THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Domestic violence interpreter grant-funded training with presentations by: Faye Luppi, Director, Violence Intervention Partnership; Fatuma Hussein, Executive Director, United Somali Women of Maine; and Dolgormaa Hersom, Founding Director, House of Languages.



Chris Oberg, 2015 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year, with Deputy Chief Judge Moskowitz, Chief Justice Cole, and Chief Judge LaVerdiere.



The Washington County Courthouse in Machias renovations and new addition, including the clerks' office, two new courtrooms, judicial chambers, a large conference room, and attorney-client conference rooms, were completed in July 2015.



In 2015, Maine lawyers donated 14,793 hours of free civil legal assistance. These donated legal services have an estimated market value of more than \$2,000,000, but, more importantly, these hours are of great value to low-income, elderly, and needy Maine people. This fall, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court recognized 152 lawyers and three law students as Katahdin Counsel for their voluntary contributions statewide.

# THE COURTS OF MAINE

### SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



Front Row: Justice Donald G. Alexander, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, Justice Andrew M. Mead Back Row: Justice Jeffrey L. Hjelm, Justice Ellen A. Gorman, Justice Joseph M. Jabar, Justice Thomas E. Humphrey

### CHIEFS



From Left to Right: Leigh I. Saufley, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court; Roland A. Cole, Chief Justice, Superior Court; Charles C. La Verdiere, Chief Judge, District Court; Jeffrey Moskowitz, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court

## JUDICIAL OFFICERS



Maine Judicial Branch judicial officers gathered at the Capital Judicial Center, March 2015

## STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



Ted Glessner, State Court Administrator, (right) congratulates Bob Weigelt, the 2015 Roy Rice Award recipient.

#### **TOTAL FYIS COURT CASE FILINGS: 217,117**

CRIMINAL FILINGS: 53,935	
District Court Criminal2	0,977
District Court Probation Revocations	269
Superior Court Criminal	7,451
Superior Court Probation Revocations	2,397
Unified Criminal Docket (UCD)2	1,680
UCD Probation Revocations	

The Unified Criminal Docket (UCD) transformed the two-tiered trial court system into a single more efficient process for criminal and some civil violation cases by eliminating duplicative case processing and the need to file once in the District Court and once in Superior Court. The increased efficiency gained by eliminating the duplicative clerical workload allows court staff to focus on the needs of the public and reduces the number of court appearances in individual cases.

#### **FAMILY DIVISION: 22,781**

Divorce	5,	672
Family Post-Judgment	.6,	028
	5	558
Child Protective	1	034
Juvenile	2	128
Other Family Matters		

#### CIVIL FILINGS: 28,616

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT	
Contract	485	3,403	
Foreclosure	695	980	
Tort	826	94	
Other Civil	1,263	860	
Small Claims		11,260	
Money Judgments		2,573	
FEDs (Eviction)		6,177	
TOTAL(S):	3,269	25,347	

#### OTHER ACTIONS: 14,129

Mental Health (District Court)	897
Protection from Harassment (District Court)	2,524
Civil Violations (District Court & UCD)	.10,708

#### **SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT: 625**

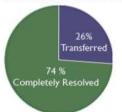
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#### **VIOLATIONS BUREAU: 97,031**

#### SERVICE CENTER UPDATE

The Judicial Branch Service Center was first established as a pilot project in 2012 to streamline and improve public service by allowing staff to focus on assisting people and processing cases. The Service Center's primary objective was to promptly answer calls to participating courthouses so callers could obtain accurate information quickly. Today the Service Center is taking calls for more courts, performs records searches, and sends information to jurors providing public service in all trial courts.

Public Calls Answered: 86,919

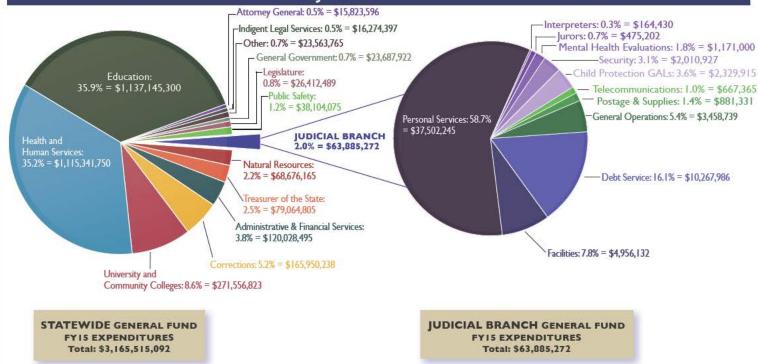


Records Search Requests: 78,530

34% Within 2-5 Days Within I Day

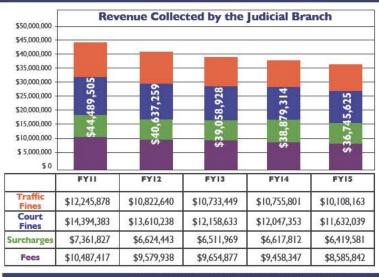
# FISCAL INFORMATION

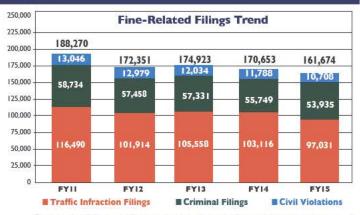
# GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES



In FY15, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were 2% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than ha f (58.7%) of Judicial Branch expenditures.

### **FY15 REVENUE**



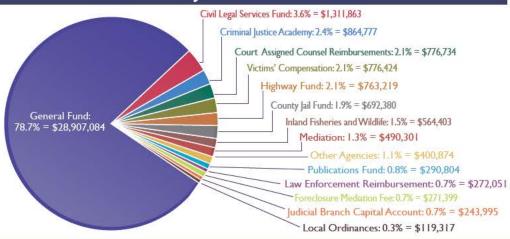


Fine and related surcharge revenue has decreased in recent years. A primary cause for the reduction is the decline in the number of criminal cases, civil violations, and traffic infractions filed in the courts, as illustrated by the chart above.

# REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

# FY15 Revenue Distribution Total: \$36,745,625

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



# COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

#### REGION 5 **REGION 8** CASE TOTAL ..... 15,955 CASE TOTAL ..... 6,317 REGIONAL POPULATION......170,440 REGIONAL POPULATION......69,447 COURT LOCATIONS......5 COURT LOCATIONS..... PENOBSCOT 3,397 sq. miles/pop. 153,414 AROOSTOOK 6,671 sq. miles/pop. 69,447 Bangor Superior.....322 Car bou/Houlton Superior..... 1,109 Penobscot UCD......6,873 Bangor District......4,602 Houlton District.......I,347 Newport District......1,562 Presque Isle 🌖 Lncoln/Millinocket District... 1,226 Fort Kent/Madawaska District......927 PISCATAQUIS 3,961 sq. miles/pop. 17,026 **REGION 7** Dover-Foxcroft Superior......43 CASE TOTAL ..... 6,753 Piscataquis UCD.....719 REGIONAL POPULATION......86,504 Dover-Foxcroft District.....608 COURT LOCATIONS......3 Houlton 1 CASE TOTAL ...... 17,437 HANCOCK 1,587 sq. miles/pop. 54,696 REGIONAL POPULATION......172.275 Ellsworth Superior...... 186 COURT LOCATIONS......4 Hancock UCD......2,215 **SOMERSET** 3,924 sq. miles/pop. 51,163 Millinocket Skowhegan Superior......175 WASHINGTON 2,563 sq. miles/pop. 31,808 Somerset UCD......2.241 Machias Superior..... Lincoln Skowhegan District......2,424 Dover-Foxcroft KENNEBEC 868 sq. miles/pop. 121,112 • Kennebec UCD......1,594 Augusta District......5,498 Machias Waterville District.....3,841 REGION 3 **REGION 6** CASE TOTAL ..... 13,774 COURT LOCATIONS..... REGIONAL POPULATION......147,942 COURT LOCATIONS..... FRANKLIN 1,697 sq. miles/pop. 30,296 Farm ngton Superior......75 WALDO 730 sq. miles/pop. 39,051 Rockland Belfast Superior..... ....321 Waldo UCD..... ....334 OXFORD 2,077 sq. miles/pop. 57,238 Bath Belfast District ......2.332 South Paris Superior.....774 West Bath KNOX 365 sq. miles/pop. 39,676 Alfred | Biddeford Rumford District......1,501 Rockland Superior.....522 Knox UCD......422 ANDROSCOGGIN 468 sq. miles/pop. 107,440 Rockland District ......2.635 Auburn Superior.....2,153 Lewiston District......9.996 LINCOLN 456 sq. miles/pop. 34,170 Wiscasset Superior.....490 Lincoln UCD......312 Wiscasset District......1,914 REGIONAL POPULATION.....287,797 KEY SAGADAHOC 254 sq. miles/pop. 35,045 District Court Bath Superior......112 CUMBERLAND 835 sq. miles/pop. 287.797 -Counties grouped together Sagadahoc UCD......1,329 Superior Court Portland Superior.....816 by color are part of a single West Bath District ...... 3,05 I District and Superior Cumberland UCD ......10,107 court REGION, where in the same city/town Portland District......7,229 resources and scheduling are TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS District and Superior Court Bridgton District......2,468 coordinated. Total: 97,031 occupy the same building REGION I CASE TOTAL ..... 19,509 FOR MORE INFORMATION: REGIONAL POPULATION.....200,710 Visit the website: courts.maine.gov COURT LOCATIONS......4 For more information about the Courts or scan the QR code YORK 991 sq. miles/pop. 200,710

# **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

OF THE COURTS PO Box 4820 Portland, ME 04112-4820

(207) 822-0792 711 (Mane Relay)



\* Square mileage and population data source: US Census Bureau 2014 Estimates

A fred Superior.....4,075

Biddeford District ......7,614

Springvale District......4,814

York District......3,006