

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..... 1,395,722
 GEOGRAPHIC AREA..... 30,843 sq. mi.
 *COURT LOCATIONS..... 31

**The consolidation of courts in York County reduced court locations from 34 to 31 in May 2023.*

Judicial Branch Operations.....\$74,746,235
 Personal Services.....\$53,081,707
 All Other Operational Expenses \$21,664,528
 Debt Service \$16,181,676
 Guardians ad Litem and Psychological Exams ..\$5,647,188

FY23 EXPENDITURES TOTAL: \$94,551,575
% of State General Fund:.....2.2%

FY23 REVENUE TOTAL: \$24,416,923
 Deposited to Maine's General Fund..... \$15,478,455
 Deposited to Revenue Accounts.....\$8,938,468

JUDICIAL OFFICERS & STAFF TOTAL: 591

JUDGES (Total)59
 District Court Judges 35
 Superior Court Justices 17
 Supreme Judicial Court Justices7

*** FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES 8**

STAFF524
 Administration8
 Clerks245
 Court Operations.....13
 Court Process, Services.....18
 Court Reporters/Tech Asst.....11
 Executive Assistants2
 Finance, HR, Facilities20
 Information Technology26
 Judicial Admins12
 Law Clerks.....32
 Security.....111
 Service Center.....26

**Magistrates: one-third General Fund, two-thirds federally funded.*

FY23 CASES FILED TOTAL: 131,425

Violations Bureau..... 49,018
 Unified Criminal Docket.....42,087
 District Court..... 37,257
 Superior Court.....2,564
 Supreme Judicial Court.....499

2023 in Review

The Judicial Branch emerged from the pandemic with a resolve to build a stronger, more resilient court system for the 21st century. In 2023 we took the first bold steps toward that goal.

Completion and opening of the York Judicial Center

As 2023 began, construction was completed on the York Judicial Center (YJC), a modern, energy-efficient facility designed to consolidate four court locations for the residents of Maine's second most populous county. The YJC features state-of-the-art technology to meet the needs of a 21st century justice system for a safe, secure, connected, and fully accessible facility. The completion of this courthouse marks the latest achievement in a two-decades old strategic plan to update aging courthouse facilities to better serve the public.



Raj Das Photography | Architect: Finegold Alexander Architects

Accelerating the transition to a modern case management and eFiling system (Maine eCourts)

As part of providing the necessary infrastructure for a 21st century court system, we continued to work on implementing a modern case management and electronic filing system. After a pause in the implementation of Maine eCourts, the Judicial Branch successfully rolled it out to Lewiston and Auburn (L/A) courts in October. Lessons learned from earlier implementations contributed to the success of the recent rollout. Since 2021 we have reengineered how staff interacts with the system to maximize efficiencies, reinvigorate training, and reorganize support to enhance success, and it worked! The smooth rollout in L/A has positioned us to accelerate implementation to more courts this year and beyond. We have an ambitious goal of transitioning all trial courts and case types statewide to Maine eCourts by 2027.

Continued on next page

THE COURTS OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



From Left to Right: Justice Rick E. Lawrence, Justice Andrew M. Horton, Justice Andrew M. Mead, Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill, Justice Joseph M. Jabar, Justice Catherine R. Connors, and Justice Wayne R. Douglas

TRIAL CHIEFS



From Left to Right: Chief Justice of the Superior Court Robert Mullen; Chief Justice of Maine's Supreme Judicial Court Valerie Stanfill; Deputy Chief Judge of the District Court Lea-Anne Sutton; Chief Judge of the District Court Brent Davis

STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



Amy A. Quinlan, Esq.

TOTAL FY23 COURT CASE FILINGS: 131,425

CRIMINAL FILINGS: 39,006

Unified Criminal Docket (UCD).....	36,602
Probation Revocations (UCD).....	2,327
Superior Court Probation Revocations.....	77

DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION: 17,501

Protection from Abuse.....	5,537
Divorce.....	4,216
Family Matters Post-Judgment.....	3,468
Parental Rights & Responsibilities.....	1,429
Child Protection.....	1,039
Juvenile.....	928
Adoptions.....	412
Other Family Matters.....	125
Guardianships.....	111
Emancipations.....	105
Foreign Judgments.....	90
Grandparents' Rights.....	35
Name Changes.....	6

CIVIL FILINGS: 18,269

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT
FEDs (Evictions)		5,794
Small Claims		2,004
Money Judgments		1,101
Other Civil	1,127	783
Tort	774	85
Foreclosure	295	710
Contract	291	5,305
TOTAL(S):	2,487	15,782

OTHER COURT ACTIONS: 7,132

Civil Violations (District Court & UCD).....	3,158
Protection from Harassment (District Court).....	2,873
Mental Health (District Court).....	1,101

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

Supreme Judicial Court.....	499
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VIOLATIONS BUREAU

Traffic Infractions.....	49,018
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Year in Review — Continued

Moving closer to a right-sized Judicial Branch

In 2023 we made the case to Maine lawmakers — supported by data collected through a study conducted by the National Center for State Courts — that the Judicial Branch was at risk of falling short of its mission to provide timely access to justice because of long-standing under-resourcing. We are grateful that the legislative and executive branches supported the creation of additional judge and staff positions. Several of the positions are re-imagined or redesigned positions to better meet the demands of a 21st century court system, including:

- Court Technical Assistants
- Call Center Personnel
- Court Attendants
- Specialized Trainers
- eFiling Specialists
- Procurement Specialist

The return on investment is already evident in better response times to public inquiries, more efficient staffing of personnel to better serve the public, and enhanced capacity to move cases. We will continue to work with the Governor's Office and the Legislature to ensure we have the resources to meet the needs of the people of Maine into the future.

Enhancing legal information resources for self-represented litigants and the public

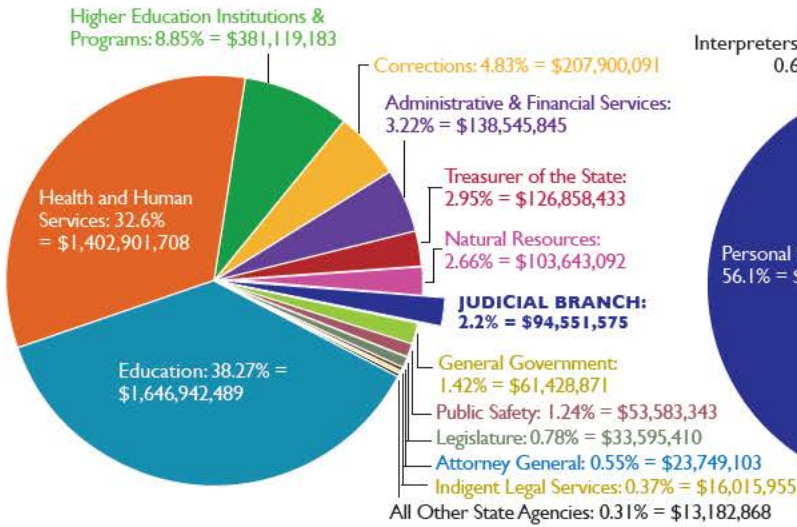
The Judicial Branch has also created and added to our website new video resources for self-represented litigants. These videos explain the court process for cases in which a high percentage of litigants are not represented by an attorney: divorce, parental rights, small claims, protection from abuse, and modifications to divorce or parental rights orders. The videos explain the court process in a way that litigants can understand what to expect when they fill out necessary forms and come for their day in court.

Fostering awareness of the role of the court system with schools and communities

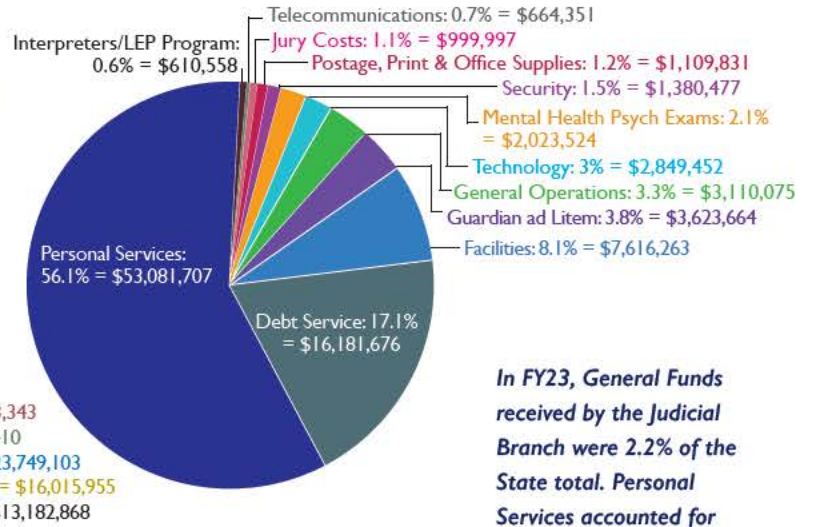
In May 2023, the Judicial Branch expanded its program of community outreach to add a resource web page for teachers and civic organizations. The Law Court continues to hold oral arguments at high schools around the state each October, and we are encouraging school and civic groups to tour our courthouses and view public court proceedings. We have also invited local legislators to tour courthouses in their districts so that they can learn how the courts are serving the needs of their constituents.

FISCAL INFORMATION

GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES



**STATEWIDE GENERAL FUND
FY23 EXPENDITURES**
Total: \$4,304,017,060

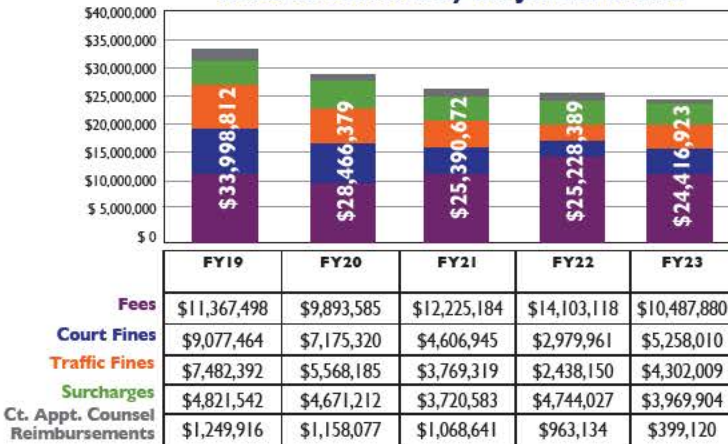


**JUDICIAL BRANCH GENERAL FUND
FY23 EXPENDITURES**
Total: \$94,551,575

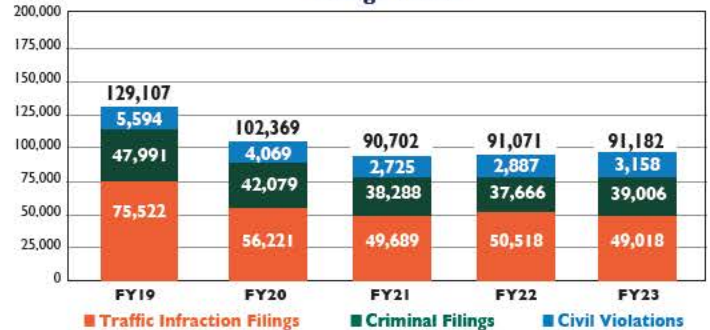
In FY23, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were 2.2% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (56.1%) of all Judicial Branch expenditures.

FY23 REVENUE

Revenue Collected by the Judicial Branch



Filings Trend

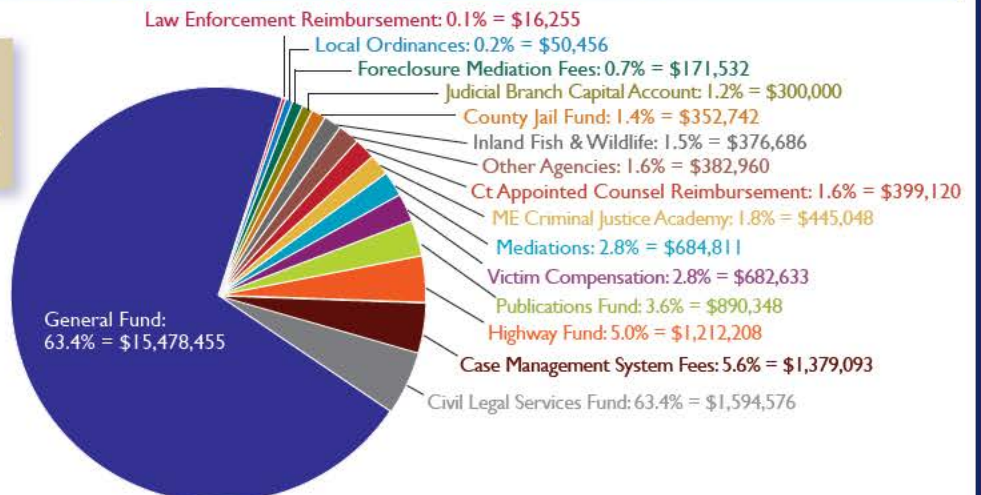


REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

FY23 Revenue Distribution
Total: \$24,416,923

Deposited to Maine's General Fund.....\$15,478,455
Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts...\$8,938,468

Revenue collected by the Judicial Branch is deposited into the State's General Fund and to other State-dedicated accounts as required by Maine Statutes.



COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

REGION 5
CASE TOTAL 11,921
REGIONAL POPULATION.....168,999
COURT LOCATIONS..... 5

PENOBSCOT 3,397 sq. miles/pop. 152,199
 Bangor Superior.....207
 Penobscot UCD.....5,795
 Bangor District.....3,272
 Newport District.....873
 Lincoln/Millinocket District..571

PISCATAQUIS 3,961 sq. miles/pop. 16,800
 Dover-Foxcroft Superior..... 17
 Piscataquis UCD.....720
 Dover-Foxcroft District.....466

REGION 4
CASE TOTAL 12,386
REGIONAL POPULATION.....174,119
COURT LOCATIONS..... 4

SOMERSET 3,924 sq. miles/pop. 50,477
 Skowhegan Superior 67
 Somerset UCD 1,898
 Skowhegan District..... 1,635

KENNEBEC 868 sq. miles/pop. 123,642
 Augusta Superior.....254
 Kennebec UCD3,697
 Augusta District.....2,850
 Waterville District 1,985

REGION 3
CASE TOTAL 13,417
REGIONAL POPULATION.....198,372
COURT LOCATIONS..... 6

FRANKLIN 1,697 sq. miles/pop. 29,456
 Farmington Superior.....28
 Franklin UCD 1,117
 Farmington District.....825

OXFORD 2,077 sq. miles/pop. 57,777
 South Paris Superior..... 91
 Oxford UCD2,009
 South Paris District.....746
 Rumford District 619

ANDROSCOGGIN 468 sq. miles/pop. 111,139
 Auburn Superior.....231
 Androscoggin UCD3,775
 Lewiston District.....3,976

REGION 2
CASE TOTAL 13,670
REGIONAL POPULATION.....303,069
COURT LOCATIONS..... 2

CUMBERLAND 835 sq. miles/pop. 303,069
 Portland Superior.....650
 Cumberland UCD.....7,138
 Portland District.....4,875
 Bridgton District.....1,007

REGION 1
CASE TOTAL 11,982
REGIONAL POPULATION.....211,972
COURT LOCATIONS..... 1

YORK 991 sq. miles/pop. 211,972
 Alfred Superior446
 York UCD6,389
 Biddeford District.....2,754
 Springvale District.....1,751
 York District.....642

REGION 8
CASE TOTAL5,296
REGIONAL POPULATION.....67,105
COURT LOCATIONS..... 5

AROOSTOOK 6,671 sq. miles/pop. 67,105
 Caribou/Houlton Superior.....169
 Aroostook UCD3,013
 Caribou District380
 Presque Isle District740
 Houlton District.....588
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District....406

REGION 7
CASE TOTAL4,868
REGIONAL POPULATION.....86,573
COURT LOCATIONS..... 3

HANCOCK 1,587 sq. miles/pop. 55,478
 Ellsworth Superior80
 Hancock UCD1,790
 Ellsworth District.....1,127

WASHINGTON 2,563 sq. miles/pop. 31,095
 Machias Superior40
 Washington UCD1,040
 Machias District.....481
 Calais District.....310

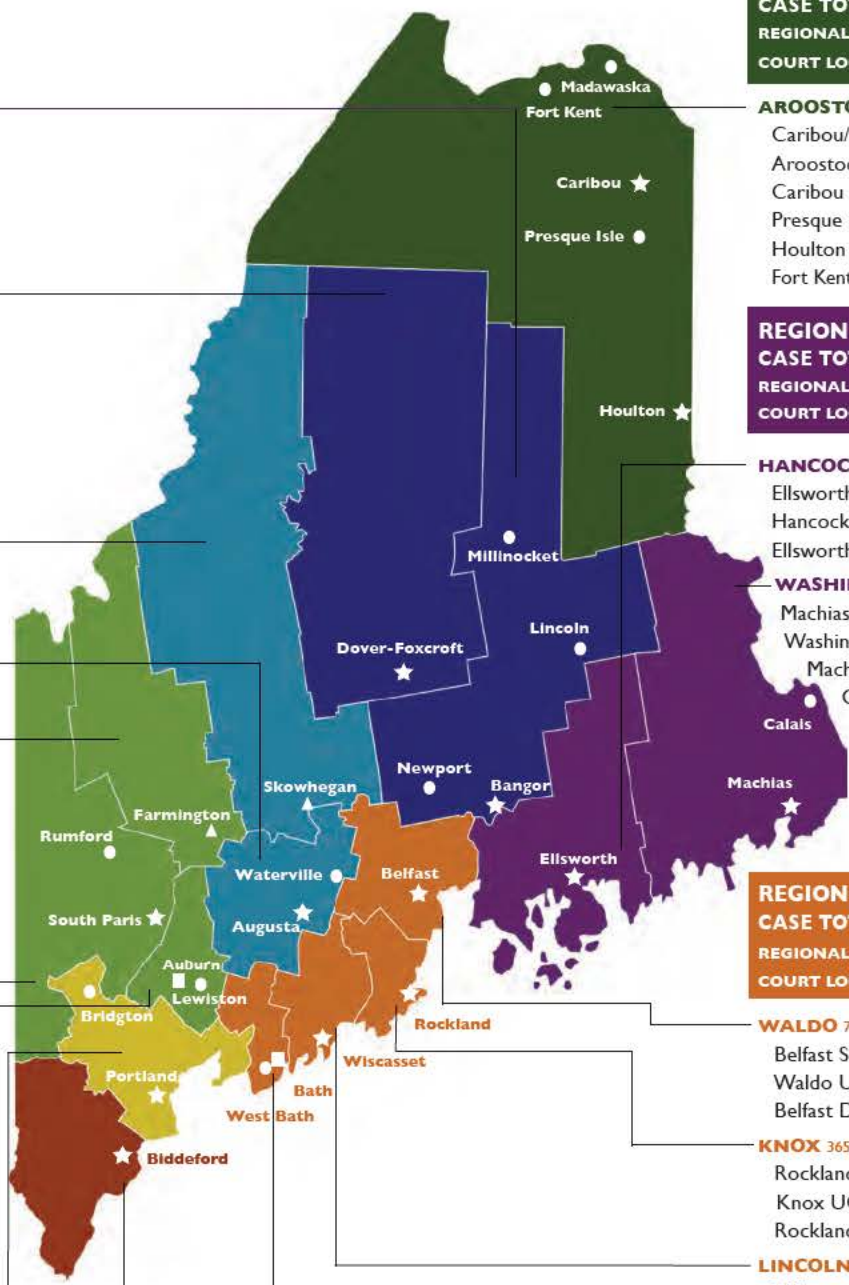
REGION 6
CASE TOTAL8,368
REGIONAL POPULATION.....152,150
COURT LOCATIONS..... 5

WALDO 730 sq. miles/pop. 39,607
 Belfast Superior67
 Waldo UCD928
 Belfast District.....1,080

KNOX 365 sq. miles/pop. 40,607
 Rockland Superior95
 Knox UCD.....1,049
 Rockland District.....1,064

LINCOLN 456 sq. miles/pop. 35,237
 Wiscasset Superior73
 Lincoln UCD894
 Wiscasset District.....795

SAGadahoc 254 sq. miles/pop. 36,699
 Bath Superior.....49
 Sagadahoc UCD.....835
 West Bath District1,439



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:

For more information about the Courts
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
 PO Box 4820
 Portland, ME 04112-4820
 (207) 822-0792 711 (Maine Relay)

Visit the website: courts.maine.gov
 or scan the QR code

TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS
 Total: 49,018

* Square mileage and population data source: U.S. Census Bureau.