

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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AUGUSTA, MAINE

BIENNIAL REPORT

TO

THE GOVERNOR

BY

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF MAINE

FOR THE YEARS 1967 and 1968

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INTRODUCTION

This report, covering the biennium 1967 and 1968, is made in two parts. The first part satisfies the statutory directive to the Judicial Council to report to the Governor biennially on "the work of the courts". This part consists almost entirely of statistics which, better than any narrative report, describe the work that has been accomplished by our Superior and District Courts during the past two years. The second part of the report covers the work of the Judicial Council itself. This section of the report explains briefly the projects and studies undertaken by the Council, legislation introduced or supported, and other activities during the two year period.

The Judicial Council would welcome comments from any people interested in the work of the courts with regard either to the Court statistics herewith presented, or to the work of the Council itself.

## PART I

### THE WORK OF THE COURTS FOR 1967 and 1968

#### SUPERIOR COURT

The next several pages of this report contain statistical material relating to the work of the Superior Court. The first presentation is the tabulation for the Superior Courts in the state as a whole for the year 1967, followed by the same tabulation for the year 1968. We then present the work of the courts in each county, county by county, for 1968 in the form of a summary tabulation. This summary tabulation does not include all of the items which are reported quarterly to the Chief Justice by the clerks of courts in the various counties but does provide information relative to the most important aspects of court work. While it is possible, of course, that there are minor errors in the tabulation, we believe that it presents fairly an overall picture of court work during 1968. Where our tabulations of statistics obtained from the various clerks of courts have indicated a figure other than that shown on the original clerks of courts forms, that figure is indicated in parentheses.

THE WORK OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS

STATE OF MAINE

For the Year 1967

1. No. of civil cases other than divorce:-	
(a) Pending at beginning of year	<u>7,417</u>
(b) Entered during year	<u>5,438</u>
(c) Total of items (a) and (b)	<u>12,852</u>
(d) Transferred to "Finished" Docket	<u>6,354</u>
(e) Pending at end of year--Item (c) less Item (d)	<u>6,507</u> (6,498)
2. Action on civil cases, other than divorce, during year	
(a) Jury verdict	<u>158</u>
(b) Heard and decided by a justice without jury	<u>716</u>
(c) Heard and decided by a referee	<u>77</u>
(d) Judgments by default--clerk, R. 55(b)(1)	<u>1,173</u>
(e) Judgments by default--Court, R. 55(b)(2)	<u>171</u>
(f) Number of cases voluntarily dismissed under R. 41(a)	<u>1,447</u>
(g) Number of cases involuntarily dismissed under R. 41(b)	<u>1,537</u>
(h) Number of cases settled	<u>547</u>
(i) Number of cases disposed of otherwise than under R. 41 (b)	<u>427</u>
(j) Number of hearings on motions	<u>947</u>
3. Civil cases, other than divorce, pre-tried during year	<u>1,543</u>
(a) Settled	<u>447</u>
(b) Tried by jury	<u>208</u>



(c) Heard by court	<u>198</u>
(d) Referred	<u>34</u>
(e) Dismissed	<u>158</u>
(f) Defaulted	<u>24</u>
(g) Continued	<u>637</u>

REMARKS:

2. (k) Directed verdict by court	<u>2</u>
(l) Decision from Law Court	<u>2</u>
3. (h) No action	<u>6</u>
(i) To law court	<u>1</u>
(j) Remanded to District Court	<u>1</u>
(k) Mistrial	<u>1</u>
(l) Transferred	<u>1</u>

DIVORCE DOCKET

1. No. of divorce complaints--		
(a) Pending at beginning of year		<u>1,314</u>
(b) Entered during year		<u>564</u>
(c) Total of Items (a) and (b)		<u>1,878</u>
(d) Transferred to "Finished" Docket		<u>1,233</u>
(e) Pending at end of year--Item (c) less Item (d)		<u>645</u>
2. Action on divorce cases during year		
(a) Divorces granted during year		<u>497</u>
(b) Divorces denied after hearing		<u>12</u>
(c) Divorce complaints dismissed under R. 41(a)		<u>179</u>
(d) Divorce complaints dismissed under R. 41(b)		<u>591</u>
(e) Divorce complaints otherwise disposed of		<u>38</u>
3. Divorce motions		
(a) No. of motions on pending divorces heard during year		<u>151</u>
(b) No. of motions on finished divorces heard during year		<u>628 (578)</u>
(1) Alteration	<u>277</u>	
(2) Execution or contempt	<u>284</u>	
(3) Release from jail	<u>1</u>	
(c) Capias executions issued during year		<u>854</u>

REMARKS:

UNIFORM RECIPROCAL SUPPORT DOCKET

1. During year ending December 31, 1967, this office handled		
As Initiating State	\$ <u>416,199.51</u>	
As Responding State	\$ <u>239,412.03</u>	
Total	(\$ 655,611.54)	<u>\$656,481.29</u>
2. Total for the year to date	(\$ 655,611.54)	<u>\$656,481.29</u>

CRIMINAL DOCKET

1.	No. of criminal cases pending at beginning of year	<u>570</u>
	(a) Indictments	<u>267</u>
	(b) Appeals	<u>276</u>
	(c) Informations	<u>23</u>
	(d) Petition for discharge	<u>1</u>
	(e) Petition for commitment for observation	<u>2</u>
	(f) Request for mental exam- ination	<u>1</u>
2.	No. of criminal cases entered during year	<u>3,224</u>
	(a) Indictments	<u>1,060</u>
	(b) Appeals	<u>1,903</u>
	(c) Informations	<u>205</u>
	(d) Petition for discharge	<u>1</u>
	(e) Petition for commitment for observation	<u>1</u>
	(f) Request for mental examination	<u>10</u>
	(g) Petition for release	<u>1</u>
	(h) Probable cause	<u>43</u>
3.	Total of Items (1) and (2)	<u>3,794</u>
	(a) Indictments (Item 1(a) plus Item 2(a))	<u>1,327</u>
	(b) Appeals (Item 1(b) plus Item 2(b))	<u>2,179</u>
	(c) Informations (Item 1(c) plus Item 2(c))	<u>228</u>
	(d) Petition for discharge (Item 1(d) +Item 2(d))	<u>2</u>
	(e) Petition for commitment for observation (Item 1(e) plus Item 2(e))	<u>3</u>

(f)	Request for mental examination (Item 1(f) plus Item 2(f))	<u>11</u>	
(g)	Petition for release (Item 1(g) plus 2(g))	<u>1</u>	
(h)	Probable cause (Item 1(h) plus 2(h))	<u>43</u>	
4.	No. of criminal cases transferred to "Finished" Docket		<u>3,098</u> (3,066)
(a)	Indictments	<u>1,184</u>	(1,192)
(b)	Appeals	<u>1,630</u>	(1,622)
(c)	Informations	<u>216</u>	
(d)	Petition for discharge	<u>1</u>	
(e)	Petition for commitment for observation	<u>3</u>	
(f)	Request for mental examination	<u>10</u>	
(g)	Petition for release	<u>1</u>	
(h)	Probable cause	<u>3</u>	
(i)	Quashed	<u>10</u>	
5.	No. of cases pending at end of year (Item 3 less Item 4)		<u>678</u> (713)
(a)	Indictments (Item 3(a) less Item 4(a))	<u>239</u>	(268)
(b)	Appeals (Item 3(b) less Item 4(b))	<u>397</u>	(390)
(c)	Informations (Item 3(c) less Item 4(c))	<u>16</u>	(12)
(d)	Petition for discharge (Item 3(d) less Item 4(d))	<u>1</u>	
(e)	Petition for commitment for observation (Item 3(e) less Item 4(e))	<u>0</u>	
(f)	Request for mental examination (Item 3(f) less Item 4(f))	<u>1</u>	
(g)	Petition for release (Item 3(g) less Item 4(g))	<u>1</u>	
(h)	Probable cause (Item 3(h) less Item 4(h))	<u>40</u>	
(i)	Quashed (Item 3(i) less Item 4(i))	<u>0</u>	

6. Action on criminal cases during year	<u>2,162</u>	(2,168)
(a) Jury trials		
(1) Convictions	<u>204</u>	
(2) Acquittals	<u>116</u>	
(3) Mistrials	<u>13</u>	
(4) Change of venue	<u>1</u>	
(5) Withdrawn from jury	<u>7</u>	
(b) Guilty pleas		<u>1,322</u>
(c) Disposed of by information		<u>271</u>
(d) Dismissed or Filed		<u>1,076</u>
(e) Indictments		<u>10</u>
(f) Probable cause		<u>3</u>
(g) Appeals		<u>21</u>
(h) Probations terminated		<u>3</u>
(i) Continued		<u>1</u>
(j) Revocation of probation hearings		<u>2</u>

THE WORK OF THE SUPERIOR COURTS

STATE OF MAINE

For the Year 1968

1. No. of civil cases other than divorce	
(a) Pending at beginning of year	<u>6,319</u>
(b) Entered during year	<u>4,641</u>
(c) Total of Items (a) and (b)	<u>10,979</u> (10,960)
(d) Transferred to "Finished" Docket	<u>5,428</u>
(e) Pending at end of year--Item (c) less Item (d)	<u>5,484</u> (5,532)
2. Action on civil cases, other than divorce, during year	
(a) Jury verdict	<u>136</u>
(b) Heard and decided by a justice without jury	<u>661</u>
(c) Heard and decided by a referee	<u>66</u>
(d) Judgments by default--Clerk, R. 55(b)(1)	<u>782</u>
(e) Judgments by default--Court, R. 55(b)(2)	<u>136</u>
(f) Number of cases voluntarily dismissed under R. 41(a)	<u>1,359</u>
(g) Number of cases voluntarily dismissed under R. 41(b)	<u>1,487</u>
(h) Number of cases settled	<u>471</u>
(i) Number of cases disposed of otherwise than under (a) through (h)	<u>244</u>
(j) Number of hearings on motions	<u>812</u>
3. Civil cases, other than divorce, pre-tried during year	<u>446</u>
Results of pre-trial:	
(a) Settled	<u>188</u>

(b)	Tried by jury	<u>92</u>
(c)	Heard by court	<u>51</u>
(d)	Referred	<u>17</u>
(e)	Dismissed	<u>35</u>
(f)	Defaulted	<u>11</u>
(g)	Continued	<u>338</u>
(h)	Miscellaneous	<u>13</u>

REMARKS :

DIVORCE DOCKET

1. No. of divorce complaints --		
(a) Pending at beginning of year		<u>758</u>
(b) Entered during year		<u>421</u>
(c) Total of Items (a) and (b)		<u>1,179</u>
(d) Transferred to "Finished" Docket		<u>724</u>
(e) Pending at end of year--Item (c) less Item (d)		<u>415</u> (398)
2. Action on divorce cases during year		
(a) Divorces granted during year		<u>300</u>
(b) Divorces denied after hearing		<u>4</u>
(c) Divorce complaints dismissed under R. (a)		<u>122</u>
(d) Divorce complaints dismissed under R. 41(b)		<u>248</u>
(e) Divorce complaints otherwise disposed of		<u>26</u>
3. Divorce motions		
(a) No. of motions on pending divorces heard during year		<u>108</u>
(b) No. of motions on finished divorces heard during year		<u>595</u>
(1) Alteration	<u>264</u>	
(2) Execution or contempt	<u>316</u>	
(3) Miscellaneous	<u>2</u>	
(c) Capias executions issued during year		<u>734</u>

REMARKS:

UNIFORM RECIPROCAL SUPPORT DOCKET

1. During year ending Dec. 1, 1968, this office handled:		
As Initiating State	<u>\$506,257.09</u>	
As Responding State	<u>\$271,116.68</u>	
Total	(\$777,373.77)	\$784,783.43
2. Total for the year to date		\$784,783.43



CRIMINAL DOCKET

1.	No. of criminal cases pending at beginning of year	<u>799</u>
	(a) Indictments	<u>283</u>
	(b) Appeals	<u>442</u>
	(c) Informations	<u>14</u>
	(d) Miscellaneous	<u>60</u>
2.	No. of criminal cases entered during year	<u>3,474</u> (3,445)
	(a) Indictments	<u>917</u>
	(b) Appeals	<u>2,029</u>
	(c) Informations	<u>218</u>
	(d) Miscellaneous	<u>279</u>
3.	Total of Items (1) and (2)	<u>4,273</u>
	(a) Indictments (Item 1(a) plus Item 2(a))	<u>1,200</u>
	(b) Appeals (Item 1(b) plus Item 2(b))	<u>2,478</u>
	(c) Informations (Item 1(c) plus Item 2(c))	<u>232</u>
	(d) Miscellaneous (Item 1(d) plus Item 2(d))	<u>339</u>
4.	No. of criminal cases transferred to "Finished" Docket	<u>3,411</u>
	(a) Indictments	<u>902</u>
	(b) Appeals	<u>1,967</u>
	(c) Informations	<u>206</u>
	(d) Miscellaneous	<u>169</u>
5.	No. of cases pending at end of year (Item 3 less Item 4)	<u>850</u>
	(a) Indictments (Item 3(a) less Item 4(a))	<u>281</u>

(b) Appeals (Item 3(b) less Item 4(b))	<u>404</u>	
(c) Informations (Item 3(c) less Item 4(c))	<u>118</u>	
(d) Miscellaneous (Item 3(d) less Item 4(d))	<u>150</u>	
6. Action on criminal cases during year		<u>2,202</u>
(a) Jury trials		
(1) Convictions	<u>162</u>	
(2) Acquittals	<u>142</u>	
(3) Mistrials	<u>12</u>	
(4) Miscellaneous	<u>6</u>	
(b) Guilty pleas		<u>1,671</u>
(c) Disposed of by information		<u>277</u>
(d) Dismissed or Filed		<u>1,127</u>
(e) Miscellaneous		<u>79</u>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
CLERK OF COURTS--1968

1. Civil Docket (other than Divorce)

	A. No. Cases Start of Year	B. Entered During Year	C. Total A + B	D. Transferred to "Finished" Docket	E. Pending at End of Year
ANDROSCOGGIN	675	505	1180	511	669
AROOSTOOK	243	307	550	278	272
CUMBERLAND	1633	1182	2815	1375	1440
FRANKLIN	105	82	187	101	86
HANCOCK	287	202	489	237	252
KENNEBEC	921	466	1387	598	789
KNOX	277	127	404	209	195
LINCOLN	112	99	211	116	95
OXFORD	234	159	393	227	166
PENOBSCOT	499	570	1069	637	432
PISCATAQUIS	55	46	101	41	60
SAGadahoc	162	74	236	138	98
SOMERSET	191	109	300	152	148
WALDO	87	106	193	103	90
WASHINGTON	157	83	240	116	124
YORK	681	524	1205	589	616
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6,319</b>	<b>4,641</b>	<b>10,960</b>	<b>5,428</b>	<b>5,532</b>

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
CLERK OF COURTS--1968

2. Criminal Docket

	A. No. Cases Start of Year	B. Entered During Year	C. Total A + B	D. Transferred to "Finished" Docket	E. Pending at End of Year
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ANDROSCOGGIN	27	162	189	181	8
AROOSTOOK	51	397	448	348	100
CUMBERLAND	377	822	1199	781	418
FRANKLIN	26	67	93	90	3
HANCOCK	22	117	139	87	52
KENNEBEC	32	229	261	212	49
KNOX	23	89	112	96	16
LINCOLN	24	131	155	128	27
OXFORD	45	178	222	215	7
PENOBSCOT	62	267	329	299	30
PISCATAQUIS	15	48	63	44	19
SAGADAHOC	10	113	123	120	3
SOMERSET	9	139	148	140	8
WALDO	7	91	98	84	14
WASHINGTON	17	91	108	89	19
YORK	52	533	585	545	40
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TOTALS	799	3,474	4,273	3,459	814

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
CLERK OF COURTS--1968

3. Divorce Docket

	A. Pending Start of Year	B. Entered During Year	C. Total A + B	D. Transferred to "Finished" Docket	E. Pending at End of Year
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
ANDROSCOGGIN	75	52	127	110	17
AROOSTOOK	9	18	27	17	10
CUMBERLAND	173	64	237	167	70
FRANKLIN	9	3	12	8	4
HANCOCK	33	17	50	35	15
KENNEBEC	134	44	178	90	88
KNOX	37	12	49	33	16
LINCOLN	12	2	14	9	5
OXFORD	88	56	144	62	82
PENOBSCOT	23	20	43	30	13
PISCATAQUIS	15	14	29	15	14
SAGADAHOC	14	17	31	13	18
SOMERSET	13	15	28	16	12
WALDO	14	3	17	13	4
WASHINGTON	8	12	20	12	8
YORK	101	72	173	94	79
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TOTALS	758	421	1,179	724	455

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES  
CLERK OF COURTS--1968

4. Uniform Reciprocal Support Docket

	As Initiating State	As Responding State	Total For Year
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
ANDROSCOGGIN	\$55,760.37	\$14,283.33	\$70,043.70
AROOSTOOK	33,942.72	14,333.14	48,275.86
CUMBERLAND	115,816.96	68,618.75	184,435.71
FRANKLIN	11,729.70	3,745.00	15,474.70
HANCOCK	23,160.75	7,718.00	30,878.75
KENNEBEC	52,698.47	19,699.77	72,398.24
KNOX	7,995.50	6,994.00	14,989.50
LINCOLN	6,594.00	3,244.75	9,838.75
OXFORD	15,363.85	2,186.00	17,549.85
PENOBSCOT	51,129.50	38,995.50	90,125.00
PISCATAQUIS	7,243.00	6,567.00	13,810.00
SAGADAHOC	9,135.34	7,110.00	16,245.34
SOMERSET	18,286.10	7,468.00	25,754.10
WALDO	17,609.30	13,174.50	30,733.80
WASHINGTON	15,151.48	6,201.00	21,352.48
YORK	64,645.05	50,777.94	115,422.99
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	\$506,262.09	\$271,116.68	\$777,378.77

## DISTRICT COURT

District Court statistics are presented in the same format as in the annual report of the Chief Judge of the District Court to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine. These are followed by reports of revenue and distribution for each year for the District Court. It will be noted that the District Court statistics are on a fiscal year basis, whereas the Superior Court statistics are on a calendar year basis. This means that we do not have available, and are not presenting with this report, statistics concerning the work of the District Court for the last six months of 1968 and that we are including statistics which actually cover the last six months of 1966.

DISTRICT COURT --- REPORT OF TOTAL CASES --- YEAR ENDING June 30, 1967

	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL Criminal	CIVIL	DIVORCE (Pending)	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL Civil	TOTAL CASES
DISTRICT 1									
Caribou	1,171	528	97	1,796	234	62	98	394	2,190
Fort Kent	796	227	--	1,023	--	--	--	--	1,023
Madawaska	586	428	28	1,042	166	11	334	511	1,553
Van Buren	358	139	15	512	--	--	--	--	512
	<u>2,911</u>	<u>1,322</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>4,373</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>905</u>	<u>5,278</u>
						(95)			
DISTRICT 2									
Presque Isle	1,595	678	82	2,355	477	76	202	755	3,110
Houlton	1,765	550	31	2,346	217	17	36	270	2,616
	<u>3,360</u>	<u>1,228</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>4,701</u>	<u>694</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>238</u>	<u>1,025</u>	<u>5,726</u>
						(72)			
DISTRICT 3									
Bangor	6,167	1,013	160	7,340	1,503	255	587	2,345	9,685
Newport	657	197	26	880	56	31	246	333	1,213
	<u>6,824</u>	<u>1,210</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>8,220</u>	<u>1,559</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>833</u>	<u>2,678</u>	<u>10,898</u>
DISTRICT 4									
Machias	419	261	12	692	64	30	147	241	933
Calais	543	441	24	1,008	44	22	86	152	1,160
	<u>962</u>	<u>702</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>393</u>	<u>2,093</u>
						(61)			
DISTRICT 5									
Belfast	665	345	--	1,010	162	48	189	399	1,409
Bar Harbor	237	301	28	566	17	18	157	192	758
Ellsworth	823	365	38	1,226	73	32	257	362	1,588
	<u>1,725</u>	<u>1,011</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>2,802</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>953</u>	<u>3,755</u>
						(76)			



DISTRICT COURT ---REPORT OF TOTAL CASES --- YEAR ENDING June 30, 1967

	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL Criminal	CIVIL	DIVORCE (Pending)	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL Civil	TOTAL CASES
DISTRICT 6									
Rockland	635	298	44	977	155	82	215	452	1,429
Wiscasset	612	237	31	880	130	38	266	434	1,298
Bath	828	280	--	1,108	316	62	78	456	1,564
	<u>2,075</u>	<u>815</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>2,965</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>559</u>	<u>1,342</u>	<u>4,307</u>
						(326)			
DISTRICT 7									
Waterville	1,792	810	130	2,732	535	65	275	875	3,607
Augusta	1,519	662	83	3,163	478	62	769	1,309	3,573
	<u>3,311</u>	<u>1,472</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>5,895</u>	<u>1,013</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>1,044</u>	<u>2,184</u>	<u>8,079</u>
						(152)			
DISTRICT 8									
Brunswick	1,341	309	22	1,672	155	58	56	269	1,941
Lewiston	4,129	1,564	115	5,808	933	329	3,113	4,375	10,183
	<u>5,470</u>	<u>1,873</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>7,480</u>	<u>1,088</u>	<u>387</u>	<u>3,169</u>	<u>4,644</u>	<u>12,124</u>
						(231)			
DISTRICT 9									
Portland	4,259	2,032	141	6,432	1,383	407	940	2,730	9,162
Bridgton	466	294	16	776	90	16	62	168	944
	<u>4,725</u>	<u>2,326</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>7,208</u>	<u>1,473</u>	<u>423</u>	<u>1,002</u>	<u>2,898</u>	<u>10,106</u>
						(420)			
DISTRICT 10									
Saco	4,331	880	73	5,284	326	117	226	669	5,953
Sanford	1,694	632	29	2,355	69	48	162	279	2,634
Kittery	3,249	823	13	4,085	53	65	103	221	4,306
	<u>9,274</u>	<u>2,335</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>11,724</u>	<u>448</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>491</u>	<u>1,169</u>	<u>12,893</u>
						(169)			

DISTRICT COURT --- REPORT OF TOTAL CASES --- YEAR ENDING June 30, 1967

	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL Criminal	CIVIL	DIVORCE (Pending)	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL Civil	TOTAL CASES
DISTRICT 11									
Rumford	1,365	434	55	1,854	68	41	214	323	2,177
So. Paris	1,559	50	40	1,649	338	38	216	592	2,241
Livermore Falls	<u>468</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>587</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>793</u>
	3,392	592	106	4,090	442	90 (73)	589	1,121	5,211

DISTRICT 12									
Farmington	1,215	447	30	1,692	221	56	494	771	2,463
Skowhegan	<u>2,240</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>110</u>	<u>3,121</u>	<u>950</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>586</u>	<u>1,611</u>	<u>4,732</u>
	3,455	1,218	140	4,813	1,171	131 (129)	1,080	2,382	7,195

DISTRICT 13									
Dover-									
Foxcroft	456	454	34	944	133	29	261	423	1,367
Millinocket	390	269	33	692	90	27	414	531	1,223
Lincoln	<u>539</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>786</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>394</u>	<u>1,180</u>
	1,385	962	75	2,422	363	87 (76)	898	1,348	3,770

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TOTALS	48,869	17,066	1,559	67,494	9,612	2,259	11,171	23,042	90,536
	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL (Criminal)	CIVIL	DIVORCE	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL Civil	TOTAL CASES

DIVORCES PENDING--- 2,273.

DISTRICT COURT --- REPORT OF TOTAL CASES --- YEAR ENDING June 30, 1968

	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL (Criminal)	CIVIL	DIVORCE (Pending)	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL Civil	TOTAL CASES
DISTRICT 1									
Caribou	894	520	79	1,493	213	72	101	386	1,879
Fort Kent	568	186	27	781	---	--	---	---	781
Madawaska	469	284	15	768	154	16	355	525	1,293
Van Buren	<u>261</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>438</u>
	2,192	1,134	154	3,480	367	88 (80)	456	911	4,391
DISTRICT 2									
Presque Isle	1,484	961	127	2,572	613	92	169	874	3,446
Houlton	<u>1,764</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>2,400</u>	<u>237</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>2,796</u>
	3,248	1,562	162	4,972	850	121 ( 57)	299	1,270	6,242
DISTRICT 3									
Bangor	4,803	1,076	210	6,089	1,445	284	343	2,072	8,161
Newport	<u>663</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>901</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>174</u>	<u>279</u>	<u>1,180</u>
	5,466	1,283	241	6,990	1,513	321 (442)	517	2,351	9,341
DISTRICT 4									
Machias	339	279	7	625	68	36	102	206	831
Calais	<u>453</u>	<u>412</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>888</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>324</u>	<u>1,212</u>
	792	691	30	1,513	122	71 (56)	337	530	2,043
DISTRICT 5									
Belfast	522	407	36	965	125	52	185	362	1,327
Bar Harbor	229	195	15	439	80	25	390	495	934
Ellsworth	<u>727</u>	<u>432</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>294</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>1,611</u>
	1,478	1,034	92	2,604	271	128 (132)	869	1,268	3,872

DISTRICT COURT --- REPORT OF TOTAL CASES --- YEAR ENDING June 30, 1968

	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL (Criminal)	CIVIL	DIVORCE (Pending)	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL CIVIL	TOTAL CASES
DISTRICT 6									
Rockland	727	370	57	1,154	239	110	362	711	1,865
Wiscasset	723	276	27	1,026	122	47	306	475	1,501
Bath	840	310	43	1,193	282	90	119	471	1,684
	<u>2,290</u>	<u>956</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>3,373</u>	<u>643</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>1,677</u>	<u>5,050</u>
						(322)			
DISTRICT 7									
Waterville	1,457	637	74	2,168	757	104	238	1,099	3,267
Augusta	1,767	1,048	90	2,905	485	126	748	1,359	4,264
	<u>3,224</u>	<u>1,685</u>	<u>164</u>	<u>5,073</u>	<u>1,242</u>	<u>230</u>	<u>986</u>	<u>2,458</u>	<u>7,531</u>
						(202)			
DISTRICT 8									
Brunswick	982	314	50	1,346	291	79	65	435	1,781
Lewiston	4,347	1,904	132	6,383	1,702	229	1,483	3,414	9,797
	<u>5,329</u>	<u>2,218</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>7,729</u>	<u>1,993</u>	<u>308</u>	<u>1,548</u>	<u>3,849</u>	<u>11,578</u>
						(538)			
DISTRICT 9									
Portland	5,673	2,264	124	8,061	1,927	574	678	3,179	11,240
Bridgton	484	336	11	831	47	22	71	140	971
	<u>6,157</u>	<u>2,600</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>8,892</u>	<u>1,974</u>	<u>596</u>	<u>749</u>	<u>3,319</u>	<u>12,211</u>
						(706)			
DISTRICT 10									
Saco	3,255	1,040	---	4,295	420	115	279	814	5,109
Sanford	1,744	643	27	2,414	120	72	121	313	2,727
Kittery	2,968	374	12	3,354	78	73	135	286	3,640
	<u>7,967</u>	<u>2,057</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>10,063</u>	<u>618</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>1,413</u>	<u>11,476</u>
						(256)			

DISTRICT COURT --- REPORT OF TOTAL CASES --- YEAR ENDING June 30, 1968

	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL CRIMINAL	CIVIL	DIVORCE (Pending)	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL CIVIL	TOTAL CASES
DISTRICT 11									
Rumford	1,344	458	68	1,870	116	39	294	449	2,319
So.Paris	1,017	241	27	1,285	409	60	274	743	2,028
Livermore Falls	<u>403</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>514</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>708</u>
	2,764	784	121	3,669	592	110 ( 96)	684	1,386	5,055

DISTRICT 12

Farmington	1,347	421	45	1,813	299	56	431	786	2,599
Skowhegan	<u>1,913</u>	<u>766</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>2,742</u>	<u>851</u>	<u>115</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>1,505</u>	<u>4,247</u>
	3,260	1,187	108	4,555	1,150	171 (174)	970	2,291	6,846

DISTRICT 13

Dover-									
Foxcroft	399	589	23	1,011	129	62	254	445	1,456
Millinocket	641	301	67	1,009	142	21	232	395	1,404
Lincoln	<u>838</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1,071</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>475</u>	<u>1,546</u>
	1,878	1,107	106	3,091	421	106 ( 82)	788	1,315	4,406

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TOTALS	46,045	18,298	1,661	66,005	11,756	2,757	9,525	24,038	90,042
	TRAFFIC	OTHER	JUVENILE	TOTAL CRIMINAL	CIVIL	DIVORCE	SMALL CLAIMS	TOTAL CIVIL	TOTAL CASES

DIVORCES PENDING -- 3,143

DISTRICT COURT

REPORT OF REVENUE AND DISTRIBUTION FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1967

	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>
District 1	96,489.77	48,244.67
District 2	78,833.17	37,774.86
District 3	158,200.84	66,196.30
District 4	35,591.24	29,468.54
District 5	54,124.30	41,981.61
District 6	49,375.42	42,922.80
District 7	115,714.95	45,166.56
District 8	95,434.54	49,331.82
District 9	101,173.04	64,592.10
District 10	172,181.33	66,269.09
District 11	65,218.20	39,626.73
District 12	88,599.13	43,659.73
District 13	42,960.92	36,703.52
Income Adjustment	(5.32)	
Office of Chief Judge		27,779.21
Judge at Large		16,562.95
*Unallocated charges to Districts		12,846.34
Payments to Counties		100,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,153,891.53	
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	<u>769,126.83</u>	
(Expenses)		
BALANCE	\$ 384,764.70	

\*Unallocated charges are composed principally of costs for printing and contribution to Retirement Fund.

DISTRICT COURT

REPORT OF REVENUE AND DISTRIBUTION FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1968

	<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>
District 1	83,029.94	48,022.59
District 2	98,961.77	37,281.86
District 3	163,491.26	73,309.17
District 4	30,775.48	30,055.64
District 5	59,589.51	45,501.67
District 6	63,297.20	45,412.84
District 7	126,823.36	48,895.26
District 8	113,869.27	59,641.63
District 9	163,816.26	72,046.94
District 10	197,089.40	69,879.64
District 11	73,447.48	44,841.04
District 12	101,531.40	43,523.62
District 13	57,793.17	38,296.29
Chief Judge, Portland		28,822.10
Judge at Large, Eastern Cumberland		6,382.73
Unallocated Charges, Printing		15,619.53
Transferred to District Court Bldg. Fund		36,000.00
Transferred to Pension Account		20,397.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,333,515.50	
Total Distribution	781,550.87	
Grants to Counties	<u>400,000.00</u>	
BALANCE	\$ 151,964.63	

## CONCLUSION

Unfortunately, printed statistics do not by any means tell the whole story. The number of cases entered in a particular county during a particular year do not reflect the continuing and growing complexity of the law and the ever increasing time which must be spent by judges and justices in preparing themselves for trials and in arriving at decisions which affect the lives and property of our citizens. Attorneys increasingly are specializing in the various branches and segments of the law which means that our justices and judges spend ever increasing time in research to keep themselves familiar with current legal decisions on a wide variety of topics. Whatever story the statistics may tell, it is clear to all those who are intimately involved with the work of the courts that the work load is increasing at a rapid pace and that, while we now pride ourselves on not having the tremendous backlogs and resulting injustices as do other more metropolitan states, that this will soon happen to our courts unless measures are immediately undertaken to make our judicial process increasingly efficient. This brings us to the work of the Judicial Council of Maine, as it is one of the primary functions of the Council to keep abreast of changing patterns of the judicial process and to assure that our court system operates in a fashion calculated to bring justice in as nearly a perfect form as possible to all citizens of Maine.



THE WORK OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL 1967 - 1968

The Judicial Council met nine times during 1967 and 1968 and at each meeting discussions were conducted concerning various phases of the operation of the courts. Out of these discussions came the decision, late in 1967, to conduct a study of the operation of the Superior Courts. A committee was named by the Council Chairman, Chief Justice Williamson, consisting of Professor Eugene MaWhinney as chairman and Justice Donald W. Webber, Justice Charles A. Pomeroy, Attorney General James S. Erwin, George A. Cowan, George B. Barnes, Esq., and Miss Edith Hary. The process of making this study consumed most of the time of various members of the Council during the year 1968 and resulted in the introduction, support or endorsement of several items of legislation in the 104th Legislature.

One of these bills reflected the realization by the membership of the Council that a volunteer organization could not conduct as thorough and painstaking a study into many aspects of the operation of the Supreme Judicial and Superior Courts as was necessary. This was reflected in the Council's introduction and support of legislation which would call for an appropriation of \$40,000 to be used for the purpose of studying the operational aspects of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Superior Court in Maine. If this legislation is passed, it will be the Council's intention to hire a professional organization to conduct this study, and if this is done, it is to be assumed that the 105th Legislature will have several items of legislation before it as a result.

The Council's study of the Superior Court resulted in support for a bill which would create the position of Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice. Several times in this report we have mentioned the growing complexity of the judicial system and it appears that the time has come in Maine to have one person responsible, under the direction and supervision of the Chief Justice, for the administrative details of court operation to assure continuing efficiency.

The study also resulted in a bill which would eliminate the statutory term system and substitute therefor a system of administratively designated terms in order to provide what the Council felt was necessary flexibility in court operation. The study also resulted in the Council's recommendation of legislation which would increase the number of Superior Court justices as well as the number of court reporters.

In addition to the study of the Superior Courts, several other studies and projects were undertaken by the Council during the biennium. At the request of the 103rd Legislature, a committee of the Council studied the District Court with particular reference to the availability of service to people in rural counties and the possibility of changes in division and district lines to make it more convenient for people in certain communities to avail themselves of court services. This committee concluded, and the Council reported to the Legislature, that piecemeal legislation changing various boundary lines creating new districts, divisions, etc.,

should be avoided and that while there were problems in some areas regarding access to the courts because of distance, these problems were not so severe as to require immediate changes. The opinion was expressed that if there are to be changes in the District Court system, they should only be made after a thoroughgoing study of court operation has been made to assure that the changes will be for the benefit of the entire system and not just for one tiny segment.

At the request of the Governor, a committee of the Council conducted research on pardon procedures and the minimum term to be served by people sentenced to serve life imprisonment. One of the results of this study was the suggestion that the Board of Probation and Parole be given at least an advisory function in the pardon procedure, but that the actual authority for pardon remain with the Governor and Council. This suggestion is reflected in a bill to be presented to the 104th Legislative Session.

Another committee of the Council initiated a study of time utilization by Superior Court justices in an attempt to determine the specific areas of judicial function which require the most time and to determine what measures would be most helpful to the Superior Court justices in carrying out their various duties. It is assumed that this type of study would be conducted in a greatly expanded form if a professional study of the court system does take place.

The Council became increasingly aware during this biennium that more effort of a public relations nature is needed in order

to acquaint the members of the bar and the general public with the existence of the Council and its function. To this end, frequent reports were made by the Executive Secretary through the Journal of the Maine Bar Association. It is hoped that these reports, in addition to the increased legislative activity on the part of the Council, will be a step toward the fuller realization of Council aims and functions by all branches of the State government, bar membership and the general public. The Council will continue to welcome suggestions for studies and projects relating to the administration of justice in Maine.