

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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BIENNIAL REPORT

TO

THE GOVERNOR

BY

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF MAINE

FOR THE YEARS 1973 and 1974

Publication Date: April 1975

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MEMBERS OF JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF MAINE DURING 1973-1974

The Honorable Edward I. Bernstein
Clerk of Courts, Superior Court
Cumberland County Courthouse
142 Federal Street
Portland, Maine 04111

Appointed 1973

The Honorable Robert L. Browne
Chief Judge, Maine District Court
142 Federal Street
Portland, Maine 04111

(Ex Officio)
Appointed to Superior
Court 1973

Mrs. Hugh Connor
Box 125
Brewer, Maine 04412

The Honorable Thomas E. Delahanty
Justice, Supreme Judicial Court
Androscoggin County Courthouse
Auburn, Maine 04210

Appointed to Supreme
Judicial Court 1973

James Dineen, Esq.
Attorney-at-Law
3 Walker Street
Kittery, Maine 03904

The Honorable Armand A. Dufresne, Jr.
Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court
Androscoggin County Courthouse
Auburn, Maine 04210

(Chairman Ex Officio)

The Honorable Jon A. Lund
Attorney General
State House
Augusta, Maine 04330

(Ex Officio)

The Honorable Hubert Godin
Clerk of Courts
Somerset County
Skowhegan, Maine 04976

Resigned 1973

Dean Edward S. Godfrey
University of Maine
School of Law
Portland, Maine

(Ex Officio)
Resigned 1973

The Honorable Ronald Hart
Judge of Probate
c/o Stinson & Hart
280 Front Street
Bath, Maine 04530

Miss Edith Hary
State Law Librarian
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Orono, Maine 04473

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Justice, Superior Court
692 Prospect Avenue
Rumford, Maine 04276

Patrick N. McTeague, Esq.
Ranger & McTeague
20 Federal Street
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Appointed in 1973

The Honorable Charles A. Pomeroy
Justice, Supreme Judicial Court
Cumberland County Courthouse
142 Federal Street
Portland, Maine 04112

Dean Bert S. Prunty
University of Maine School of Law
Portland, Maine

Appointed in 1973

The Honorable David G. Roberts
Justice, Superior Court
Penobscot County Courthouse
Bangor, Maine 04401

The Honorable Ralph H. Ross
Chief Judge, District Court
36 June Street
Sanford, Maine 04073

(Ex Officio)

The Honorable Simon Spill
Judge, District Court
14 Union Street
Biddeford, Maine 04005

Appointed in 1974

Executive Secretary:

Peter L. Murray, Esq.
30 Exchange Street
Portland, Maine 04111

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the mandate set forth in 4 M.R.S.A. § 452, the Judicial Council of Maine reports to the Governor upon the "work of the various branches of the judicial system".

As of the present time, the judicial system of Maine, established by various laws enacted by the Legislature, consists of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Superior Court, the District Court, and the Judges of Probate in the sixteen counties. It is the official function of the Judicial Council to "make a continuous study of the organization, rules and methods of procedure and practice of the judicial system of the State, the work accomplished and the results produced by that system and its various parts". 4 M.R.S.A. §451

For several years now, the Judicial Council has been engaged very actively in carrying forward this mandate and has undertaken major projects in specific areas affecting the workings of the judicial system and the results produced by that system. To these efforts the Judicial Council has brought to bear the accumulated knowledge, expertise and practical experience of its membership, which is broadly representative of the judicial system and those who are concerned with it on a day-to-day basis. It has also, from time to time as justified by the need and permitted by available resources, retained the assistance of qualified consultants in particular fields.

For many years, it has been evident that administrative

reform in the operation of the Superior Court, in particular, is long overdue. Ever since the 1971 Institute of Judicial Administration study on the operations of the Superior and Supreme Judicial Courts, the Council has advocated to the legislature, the Bar and the public of Maine a thoroughgoing administrative overhaul of the structure and operations of the Superior Court to increase its efficiency in a time of ever-mounting challenges to the judicial system. The specific reforms suggested will be treated in further detail in the discussions of the work of the respective courts and of the Judicial Council.

Finally in 1974-1975, it appears that the cry for reform is being heard, at least in the Maine legislature, which is presently considering a group of bills designed to accomplish most of the administrative reforms sought by the Council. While the ultimate fate of these pieces of legislation is uncertain, it would appear that legislators and members of the public generally are becoming more aware of the importance of an efficiently operating court system in modern society. Hopefully this growing concern will be translated into decisive action which is so badly needed.

This is not to say that the last biennium has seen no progress. Within the office of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice, a new system of statistical reporting on the operations of both the Superior and Supreme Judicial Courts has been instituted and in 1974 a full year of statistics were collected on the caseload of the Superior Court in the various

counties. Legislative efforts to do away with duplicative "trial de novo" in misdemeanor cases in Superior Court produced a 1973 transfer statute which is now in the process of further revision. (See 1975 P.L. Ch. 139, eff. 5/1/75) A legislatively appointed Trial Court Revision Commission, charged with drafting legislation to improve the efficiency of Maine's trial courts and to eliminate duplication and delay, has worked closely with the Judicial Council in urging basic reforms. It is presently co-sponsoring legislation before the 107th legislature in line with Judicial Council priorities.

Because of the fact that statewide court budgeting and financing has not yet become a reality at the Superior Court level (although it has been instituted since 1962 in the District Court), there is no financial information concerning the operation of the courts included in this report. It is hoped, that if the legislature does place the Supreme Judicial and Superior Courts on a statewide funding basis, future reports can contain a summary of the budgetary information for both courts.

The portion of this report dealing with the District Court which the Judicial Council has not treated in depth during the last biennium, will consist of such basic statistical information with respect to its workings as is presently available.

Because there is no useful information about their activities readily at hand, the Probate Courts are omitted from this report. The Probate Courts were the subject of an in-depth study by the Institute of Judicial Administration in 1969. The report of that study contains the most recent statistics available on the

operations of the Probate Courts. Implementation of the 1967 constitutional amendment providing for a different probate court system with full-time judges has not been provided by the legislature. The workings of the Probate Court are again the subject of study in connection with the review of the Uniform Probate Code currently being undertaken by a special legislatively chartered commission.

Section 4 of this report treats in some detail the work of the Judicial Council during the biennium 1973-1974.

Section 1

The Work of the Supreme Judicial Court.

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court consists of six Justices, one of whom is Chief Justice. The Supreme Judicial Court sits principally as "The Law Court" and hears appeals from decisions of the Superior Court and indirectly from the Probate Courts and the District Court. It also hears appeals from certain state administrative agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission and the Board of Environmental Protection. Sittings of the court for the hearing of arguments of appeals are held during eight months of the year at Portland, Maine. Almost all of the decisions of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court are set forth in written opinions.

The 1973-1974 biennium saw the Maine Supreme Judicial Court face an ever increasing caseload of appeals and the beginnings of a potentially serious judicial backlog problem.

Attached hereto as Appendix No. A is a ten-year statistical survey of the number of appeals filed in the Supreme Judicial Court by county on an annual basis from 1964 - 1974. From this tabulation it is apparent that there has been a startling increase in the caseload of the Supreme Judicial Court over this period of time. For example, the total number of appeals filed in the Supreme Judicial Court during 1964 amounted to 65 cases. In 1974 the six Supreme Judicial Court Justices faced 223 new appeals. Much of this increasing caseload is

due to the burgeoning volume of criminal appeals. There has also been a very significant increase in the number of appeals in civil cases, particularly in appeals relating to review of governmental agencies. Many of these originate in Kennebec County from which the number of appeals cases has increased by 140% over the last 10 years and almost 40% in the last two years alone.

The six justices of the Supreme Judicial Court are increasingly unable to keep up with this volume of new appellate business. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court is the only truly appellate court in the state and every litigant from every court in the state has the right to have his case at some point heard on appeal by the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Before the 107th Legislature is a bill with an emergency preamble to increase the number of justices on the Supreme Judicial Court from six to seven. If authorized by the legislature this increase will give the court some long overdue additional manpower to cope with an ever-increasing case burden.

In early 1973, the Supreme Judicial Court, acting upon the recommendation of the Judicial Council, appointed an Advisory Committee of seven distinguished Maine lawyers chaired by retired Chief Justice Robert B. Williamson for the purpose of studying and drafting a comprehensive set of Rules of Evidence for use in the various courts in the state of Maine. Enabling legislation, clarifying the authority of the Supreme

Judicial Court to promulgate Rules of Evidence, was obtained at the 1974 Special Session of the 106th Legislature. Since its appointment the Committee has diligently pursued its task and late in 1974 published a Tentative Draft of Rules of Evidence patterned on the recently enacted Federal Rules of Evidence and the proposed Uniform Rules of Evidence of the National Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. The Rules have been given wide dissemination among the Bar and the public. At the present time, the comprehensive set of proposed rules are under consideration by the Supreme Judicial Court with a view to promulgation later on this year.

Such Rules of Evidence, if promulgated, will provide to Maine a modern comprehensive code of Evidence Rules to govern proceedings in the courts of this state.

Section 2

The Work of the Superior Court.

The Superior Court is Maine's trial court of general jurisdiction. It hears in the first instance serious criminal cases (felonies) and also hears misdemeanor cases transferred from the District Court under the transfer statute. It has unlimited jurisdiction in civil cases. Jury trials take place in the Superior Court. The Superior Court hears appeals from the District Courts and the Probate Court. The Superior Court also hears appeals from most state and local administrative agencies. There are 14 Superior Court Justices who hold sittings in all of the 16 counties of the state.

The expenses of the Superior Court are borne partially by the state and partially by the various counties. The personnel of the Superior Court similarly is divided between county (clerks and clerical employees, courtroom employees) and state (judges and court reporters). This organizational system stymies any meaningful administrative reorganization or reforms, particularly reforms which involve regionalization of court facilities and a more even spreading of the load of judicial business among the buildings and personnel available to handle it. Legislation before the 107th Legislature providing for abolition of traditional county notions of venue and the take-over of Superior Court finances by the State would pave the way for true administrative reform in the workings of the Superior Court.

Starting with the year 1974 the Chief Clerk of Courts, Mr. Dana Hagerthy, has compiled by county on a monthly basis statistics relating to the workload of the Superior Court. Detailed monthly reports of the number, nature and disposition of civil and criminal cases handled by the Superior Court in each county are made by the respective Clerks of Courts and compiled in the office of the Administrative Assistant to the Chief Justice. These reports provide a great deal of useful information as to the nature of the workload of the Superior Court. Attached hereto as Appendix B is a summary of the case flow of the various counties for the year 1974.

Significant is the fact that judicial backlog is becoming a reality in Maine. On the civil docket of the various counties, there was a net increase in cases pending of 245 during 1974. This means that the number of cases filed in the Superior Court exceeded the number which the Court was able to dispose of during the year so that there is a backlog of pending cases developing.

The situation is far more serious on the criminal side of the Superior Court. The number of criminal prosecutions pending in the Superior Court increased from 2,620 at the beginning of the year to 4,100 at the end of the year, an increase of over 50%. Analysis of these cases indicates that the great majority of the increased backlog is as a result of the transfer statute whereby District Court cases are transferred to the docket of the Superior Court, presumably

for jury trial, before any proceedings are had in these cases in the District Court. This explosion in the criminal docket and the crippling backlog that it portends is of critical significance. At the present time pending before the 107th Legislature are various measures designed to reduce this backlog of transfer cases by having more of the proceedings in such cases take place in the District Court with a possible transfer to the Superior Court only for the extent necessary to preserve the constitutional right of trial by jury.

Also under consideration both in and out of the 107th Legislature are proposals to amend the Maine Constitution to provide that persons accused of certain minor offenses are not entitled to trial by jury. Action on these reform proposals is vital if the compounding problem of criminal backlog in the Superior Court is to be successfully met.

During the 1973-74 biennium, the operations of the Superior Court came in for detailed study and evaluation by the Trial Court Revision Commission, which was established by the 106th Legislature for the purpose of drafting legislation to improve the operational efficiency of the District and Superior Courts and to eliminate duplication and trials de novo. Acting with the assistance of the National Center for State Courts and in cooperation with the Judicial Council and the Maine Law Enforcement Planning and Assistance Agency, the Trial Court Revision Commission, chaired by the Honorable Joseph E. Brennan, now Attorney General of the State of Maine, concluded that administrative restructuring of the Superior Court

and its operations is a reform overdue. The Trial Court Revision Commission adopted and is co-sponsoring the legislative recommendations of the Judicial Council for:

1. Liberalizing traditional county notions of venue in both criminal and civil cases to make possible some regionalization of court facilities and court sessions.
2. State responsibility for complete budgeting and funding of the operations of the Superior Court.
3. Appointment rather than election of Clerks of Courts.

These legislative recommendations are presently embodied in bills being considered by the 107th Legislature.

Various other reforms in the Superior Court's operations were also recommended by the Trial Court Revision Commission. They include introduction of full-time professionally trained court administrators in judicial regions throughout the state to work with presiding Superior Court justices in each region to handle the scheduling and efficient processing of judicial business around the state. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court applied for and received authorization from the Maine Law Enforcement Planning and Assistance Agency to hire at LEAA expense a central court administrator and four regional administrators to put a plan of court regionalization into effect.

If the legislative reforms that are proposed are put into practice, the Maine Superior Court will be able to function more

efficiently and handle its judicial business with greater dispatch.

One important area of court operations in which much remains presently to be done is the provision of adequate court facilities. In the more populous counties such as York, Cumberland, and Kennebec there is a crying need for additional courtroom facilities so that more than one court sitting may be conducted at a time. The Superior Court in these counties frequently is forced to resort to makeshift courtrooms, grand jury rooms and other inadequate and inefficient quarters. While the regionalization concept will provide for a more even usage of presently existing court facilities throughout the state, in the urban centers there is a strong need for additional physical facilities for the Superior Court.

Both practical experience and careful study by qualified experts have repeatedly demonstrated that the judicial branch of Maine's government cannot continue to function in the 1970's without additional attention from the other branches. New demands imposed upon our courts by present day practices require that new resources be brought to bear. The Judicial Council, the Trial Court Revision Commission and others have made both specific and general recommendations on how some of the problems facing Maine's courts, and the Superior Court in particular, can successfully be met. The response by the leadership of the 107th Legislature and by the Governor so far has been encouraging.

We hope that the State of Maine will carry through with the reforms that are needed today to insure the quality of justice in the State of Maine for tomorrow.

Section 3

The Work of the District Court.

The Maine District Court has been functioning since the early 1960's as a statewide court of modern organization and practice. Like the Superior Court, it confronts a ballooning caseload and a relative shortage of judicial resources. However, it has the advantages of statewide organization and budgeting and modern court administrative practices. It operates under the administrative control of the Chief Judge, (presently Ralph H. Ross, Sanford, Maine,) is housed in most cases in its own quarters, has its own personnel system, and in many ways is a good example of administrative efficiency that could be followed on the Superior Court level.

The District Court exercises a large criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanors, hearings for probable cause in felony cases, pleas of guilty in felony cases, all traffic cases, and miscellaneous other criminal proceedings. The District Court is also the juvenile court and hears committments to mental institutions. The District Court also has a broad civil jurisdiction up to \$20,000 and an active jurisdiction in domestic relations, civil disclosures and similar matters. It consists of 20 district judges, of whom one is the Chief Judge.

Financially, the District Court operates under a unified state budget prepared and submitted by the Chief Judge of the District Court. In the past the revenues from fines, filing fees, forfeitures, and the like, have caused the District Court to operate at a substantial surplus of up to 2.2 million dollars annually. Recently increasing costs in the District Court have pared this

surplus to approximately \$900,000 in the most recent fiscal year. As of the present time, applicable law requires the District Court, after making provision for its own expenses and the District Court Building Fund, to turn over a large portion of its surplus to the respective counties.

Inasmuch as the District Court has not been the subject of an exhaustive study or evaluation in the last biennium, this report will not go into the operations of the District Court in any further detail. It should be mentioned, however, that since its inception, the District Court has kept careful statistical records of its operation and its growing caseload. Its statistical summaries are contained in the annual reports of the Chief Judge of the District Court to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. Since the District Court is operated and funded by the state, it operates on a fiscal year basis. The statistics kept on the caseload of the District Court are likewise kept on a fiscal year basis from July 1 through June 30 in each year. Attached hereto as Appendix C is a copy of the Annual Report of the Chief Judge of the District Court for the fiscal year July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973. Because of the change from Chief Judge Browne to Chief Judge Ralph H. Ross, the Annual Report for the fiscal year July 1, 1973 through June 30, 1974 has not yet been published. Included however in Appendix C to this report are statistical summaries of caseload processed in the District Court for both fiscal years included in the most recent biennium.

Section 4

The Work of the Judicial Council 1973-1974.

During the 1973-1974 biennium the full membership of the Judicial Council met on January 12, March 2, September 28, and November 30, 1973, and on March 29, May 31, September 27, and November 22, 1974. In addition, there were various meetings of committees and smaller groups of the Council.

During this biennium the Council undertook several different projects. A recurrent theme throughout the Council's activity has been its efforts to secure implementation of the basic organizational reforms for the Superior Court which were originally recommended in the Judicial Council sponsored Report of the Institute for Judicial Administration which was published in 1971. At each session of the legislature since 1971, the Judicial Council has sponsored one or more bills designed to accomplish some or all of these reforms, including state financing of the Superior Court, liberalization of venue in the Superior Court to pave the way for regionalization, and appointment rather than election of Clerks of Courts.

A recurring problem which has occupied the attention of the Judicial Council frequently during the last 12 years is that of providing defense council services for indigent persons accused of crime. In 1973 the Judicial Council determined to support a proposal to provide a combined assigned counsel-public defender program for Maine. A bill to that effect was supported before the 106th Legislature although it failed of

passage.

Also in 1973 the Judicial Council was requested by Governor Curtis to investigate the effect of pardons under Maine law and what measures should be enacted to improve the situation. The Judicial Council, through a research assistant at the University of Maine, School of Law prepared a brief report to the Governor, which was also made available to the Attorney General's office, upon the policy and law of pardons.

A major project during the 1973-1974 biennium was the Judicial Council sponsored Comparative Study of the ABA-LEAA Standards for Criminal Justice. This LEAA-funded project was undertaken by the Judicial Council with the assistance of Professors Arthur Lafrance, and Melvin Zarr of the University of Maine Law School, as project director. A comprehensive comparison of criminal justice as practiced in the State of Maine with the proposed standards of the American Bar Association and the Law Enforcement Planning and Assistance Administration was published late in 1974.

The Judicial Council also cooperated closely with the Trial Court Revision Commission in its efforts to produce legislation to streamline Maine Superior Court operations. On several occasions consultants to the Trial Court Revision Commission from the National Center of State Courts met with the Council and individual members of the Council to coordinate the work of both bodies.

The Council kept in close touch with the progress of the Evidence Rules Advisory Committee on the drafting and

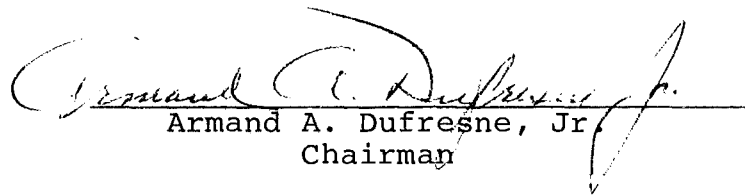
considering of comprehensive Rules of Evidence for Maine patterned on the Federal Rules of Evidence. This project had originally been recommended by the Judicial Council in 1972 and was implemented efficiently by the Supreme Judicial Court and its Advisory Committee in 1973.

The biennium wound up with the Council committed to a strong effort, in cooperation with the Trial Court Revision Commission and the State Bar Association to sponsor legislation aimed at administrative reform in the Superior Court. While the Judicial Council is not a lobbying body it does have a responsibility to recommend changes when changes are seen as appropriate and necessary. To this end the Council has drafted legislation, the Secretary of the Council has met with the Bar Association, the Criminal Law Revision Commission and other groups involved with judicial reform, and the Secretary has appeared before numerous legislative committees in support of the Council's recommendation.

In addition to the major projects heretofore mentioned, during the 1973-1974 biennium the Council has also considered minor problems affecting the workings of the courts including legislation touching the courts, the proposals of various individuals and organizations affecting the courts and developments in other states and jurisdictions having a bearing on the administration of justice in Maine. Correspondence has been carried on with judicial councils and similar groups in other states and jurisdictions and with the Maine State Bar Association and other interested groups in Maine.

The Judicial Council is fully aware of its role as a state agency particularly concerned with the improvement of justice in the courts of Maine and the relationship of the courts to the people of the State of Maine. The Judicial Council continues to stand ready to undertake new projects that may be suggested to it by the Legislature, the Governor, or any other responsible state agency or by its own membership for the purpose of improving the administration of justice in the courts of Maine.

Respectfully submitted


Armand A. Dufresne, Jr.
Chairman

CASES FILED IN MAINE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT SITTING AS THE LAW
COURT BY COUNTY AND YEAR FROM 1964 TO END OF 1974.

| YEAR | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | TOTALS |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------|
| ANDROSCOGGIN | 3 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 12 | 15 | 9 | 18 | 108 |
| AROOSTOOK | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 11 | 54 |
| CUMBERLAND | 20 | 20 | 20 | 22 | 28 | 28 | 42 | 27 | 25 | 45 | 44 | 321 |
| FRANKLIN | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 17 |
| HANCOCK | 1 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 46 |
| KENNEBEC | 20 | 18 | 12 | 18 | 21 | 22 | 27 | 34 | 32 | 35 | 48 | 287 |
| KNOX | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 9 | 15 | 16 | 81 |
| LINCOLN | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 37 |
| OXFORD | 4 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 50 |
| PENOBSCOT | 3 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 13 | 11 | 16 | 12 | 19 | 32 | 16 | 143 |
| PISCATAQUIS | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 18 |
| SAGADAHOC | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 22 |
| SOMERSET | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 45 |
| WALDO | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 35 |
| WASHINGTON | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 26 |
| YORK | 2 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 15 | 8 | 19 | 14 | 19 | 116 |
| TOTALS | 65 | 89 | 78 | 95 | 110 | 112 | 153 | 145 | 150 | 186 | 223 | 1406 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | TOTAL CASES FILED |
| CASES FINISHED | 57 | 75 | 80 | 81 | 99 | 102 | 125 | 112 | 122 | 125 | 133 | |

SUMMARY OF CLERKS MONTHLY

REPORT TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, , 19 74

CIVIL DOCKET

| COUNTY | AND | AR | CUM | FR | HAN | KEN | KNO | LIN | OX | PEN | PIS | SAG | SOM | WAL | WAS | YOR | TOTALS |
|--|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| Cases Pending at Beginning of Year | 971 | 347 | 1898 | 121 | 279 | 887 | 285 | 111 | 211 | 612 | 65 | 147 | 204 | 118 | 167 | 726 | 7149 <i>7014</i> |
| Cases Entered During Year | 512 | 321 | 1070 | 75 | 239 | 568 | 189 | 113 | 142 | 540 | 75 | 153 | 143 | 108 | 117 | 454 | 4819 |
| Cases Finished During Year | 456 | 310 | 1078 | 52 | 245 | 574 | 152 | 113 | 112 | 520 | 52 | 112 | 100 | 96 | 130 | 468 | 4574 |
| Cases Pending At End of Year | 1027 | 354 | 1890 | 144 | 273 | 881 | 322 | 111 | 241 | 632 | 88 | 188 | 247 | 130 | 154 | 712 | 7394 |
| Increase or Decrease of Pending Cases At End of Year | +56 | +7 | -8 | +23 | -6 | -6 | +37 | — | +30 | +20 | +23 | +41 | +43 | +12 | -13 | -14 | +245 |

CRIMINAL DOCKET

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------------------|
| Cases Pending at Beginning of Year | 110 | 158 | 712 | 73 | 161 | 388 | 24 | 40 | 63 | 301 | 27 | 81 | 57 | 113 | 149 | 163 | 2620 <i>2705</i> |
| Cases Entered | 547 | 724 | 2073 | 286 | 629 | 701 | 310 | 294 | 440 | 1193 | 126 | 365 | 398 | 342 | 391 | 966 | 9785 |
| Cases Finished | 560 | 566 | 1829 | 250 | 543 | 423 | 258 | 310 | 350 | 974 | 116 | 351 | 306 | 331 | 440 | 698 | 8305 |
| Cases Pending at End of Year | 97 | 316 | 956 | 109 | 247 | 666 | 76 | 24 | 153 | 520 | 37 | 95 | 149 | 124 | 100 | 431 | 4100 |
| Increase or Decrease of Pending Cases at End of Year | -13 | +158 | +244 | +36 | +86 | +278 | +52 | -16 | +90 | +219 | +10 | +14 | +92 | +11 | -49 | +268 | +1480 |

ANNUAL REPORT TO CHIEF JUSTICE ARMAND DUFRESNE
OF THE MAINE SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
ON
THE ACTIVITY OF THE MAINE DISTRICT COURT
FISCAL YEAR 1972-1973

Submitted by

ROBERT L. BROWNE, CHIEF JUDGE, MAINE DISTRICT COURT

In accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, Section 164, Paragraph 9, I submit the annual report of the Maine District Court for the Fiscal Year July 1, 1972 through June 30, 1973.

Of major significance, at least to this writer, is the fact that the Administrative Offices of the Court were moved from Portland to Bangor. The weekly travel for one and a half years either to hold Court or to the offices in Portland became quite burdensome. For many reasons, however, it was not possible to move the offices at an earlier date. First, because the personnel who were employed at the Portland office could not move to Bangor, it was necessary that they be given an opportunity to secure other employment. Second, it was necessary to secure adequate facilities at the Bangor location. When the facilities at the District Court building in Bangor became available in January 1973, they required some renovations in order to accommodate us. We, therefore, determined that our move could be made in June, when the work load would be less affected by the necessary interruptions of business at the time of moving. To compound the problem during this period it was necessary to employ temporary help to keep the functions of the office current.

It was during this unsettled period that Judge Varney, our first retiree, notified this office that he would be retiring as of July 1, 1973. It became necessary, then, for the Chief Judge to hold Court for several weeks during the move to and adjustment into the new location.

Since moving to Bangor, I have added an accountant to our staff which even in a short time has proven most beneficial in improving the monthly reporting and the flow of information from the Courts to this office, as well as the improved handling of all Court records. Because of the increased demands on this office, and the Courts increased work load generally, we have also added to the staff a new assistant to handle personnel. We now have the capacity to meet an emergency in the field. In the event of a vacancy in the office of clerk in any of our Courts this office has the capacity to fill in and administer the Court until permanent arrangements can be made.

CASE LOAD

The case load of the District Court continued to increase in the Fiscal Year 1972-73 at a substantial rate, surpassing the previous year by 14.4%, or 23,500 cases.

Total case load for Fiscal Year 1971-1972 was 138,887 cases as compared to 162,267 cases in the year 1972-1973. All 13 districts showed an increase for the year. The Court experienced an increase in the case loads on both the criminal and civil sides. Traffic was up by 17.4%, which is probably understandable with increased travel. Surprisingly, other criminal violations increased by 18.9% which is not so easily accounted for.

On the civil side of the Court, Juvenile cases increased by 33.8%, divorces were up by 6.7%. Motions associated with divorces were up by 18.8% and there was an increase of 35.7% in money judgments. Interestingly enough, small claims were down by 18% and regular civil work was down by 9%. For a more specific detailing of the statistics discussed herein, see Schedule I.

Whereas it may very well affect the case load with reference to juveniles in the coming year and because it will contribute to the problems of the Court in administering the juvenile law, I believe it is worthwhile to discuss briefly Chapter 522, passed in the 1973 Regular Session. This is an Act Relating to Commitment of Juvenile Offenders. It reads as follows: "The Juvenile Court shall not commit a juvenile to the Men's Correctional Center, the Women's Correctional Center, the Boys Training Center or the Stevens School if the offense or act committed by the juvenile would not be an offense under the criminal statutes of this State if committed by a person 18 years of age or over." I wish to explain that I have no quarrel with this new legislation except insofar as it fails to provide for an alternative disposition.

What this chapter concerns itself with are those offenses which are commonly referred to as status offenses such as truancy; danger of falling into habits of vice and immorality; and runaways. Although the Court still retains the authority to commit these children to the Department of Health and Welfare for foster home care, the experience in the past has been that

there are not a large number of foster homes available, particularly for children with behavioral problems. Probation offers no real solution if a child is to remain in an environment twenty-four hours a day to which he refuses, cannot, or will not adjust.

I doubt that there is a judge who would commit a first offender in any of these categories, except in most unusual or unique circumstance. However, the possibility was always available and became useful for its deterrent value if for no other reason. I am certain at least that once it becomes generally known that one may not be committed for this type of offense, the deterrent value of this capability will become non-existent. I foresee the possibility that if those who are responsible for initiating juvenile complaints feel that they have little or no effective control, they will avoid prosecuting these cases. When the parents, superintendents and other school officials discover that they have little or at least less help in solving these problems, it is to be anticipated that the Court will be assigned a portion of the blame.

This also means that many of these children will not be seen except or unless they have committed a violent or willful act. Only then will their problems, frustrations and inner turmoils be brought to the attention of the Court. This may be unfortunate insofar as the Court has frequently been the vehicle which has directed the child into rehabilitation or re-education prior to serious involvement.

MAINE DISTRICT COURT

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF CASES FOR THE YEAR 1972-1973

| | Case Load <u>FY - 1972</u> | Case Load <u>FY - 1973</u> | Net Increase or Decrease <u> </u> | Percentage Net Increase or Decrease <u> </u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| TRAFFIC | 77993 | 94497 | 16504 | 17.4 |
| OTHER | 27416 | 33821 | 6405 | 18.9 |
| TOTAL CRIMINAL | 105409 | 128318 | 22909 | 17.8 |
| REGULAR CIVIL | 11310 | 10285 | (1025) | (9.0) |
| JUVENILE | 2203 | 3381 | 1178 | 34.8 |
| DIVORCES | 4941 | 5300 | 359 | 6.7 |
| DIVORCE MOTIONS | 2403 | 2959 | 556 | 18.8 |
| MONEY JUDGMENTS | 2106 | 3279 | 1173 | 35.7 |
| SMALL CLAIMS | 10515 | 8583 | (1932) | (18.3) |
| RSC SUPPORT | -0- | 162 | 162 | 100.0 |
| TOTAL CRIMINAL | 33478 | 33949 | 471 | 1.3 |
| TOTAL CASES | 138887 | 162267 | 23380 | 14.4 |

Schedule I

ELECTRONIC RECORDING

The 105 Legislature authorized the use of electronic recording equipment in the District Court. For the past couple of years, therefore, this office has been evaluating the use of electronic recording; its potential as a recording method as well as the availability of equipment sufficient for courtroom use. It is not the province of this report to present an evaluation of electronic recording. It is suffice to say that this office is impressed that electronic recording is gaining wide acceptance nationally as a supplement to a Court's capacity to make records of its proceedings. Some national companies, including Lockheed, Baird Electronic, Dictaphone and others, recognizing the potential market, are devoting some of their productive ingenuity and capacity to meeting the demands of this market. New and more sophisticated equipment will be available for market this fall; equipment which is designed specifically for courtroom use. This office has ordered seven machines for Fall delivery.

At the same time we are training personnel in this office, not only in the mechanical function and capacity of the machines to record, but also in the problems of maintaining a library of tapes and the proper reproduction of a record so that when these machines are available to us we will be able to obtain the product they are designed to produce. Unquestionably, the capacity of this Court to provide adequate records of its proceedings is going to be of immeasurable benefit to the Court, to the Bar and to all parties who have occasion to use the Court's services.

FACILITIES

A continuing and nagging problem for this Court is the acquisition of adequate facilities. We have a few very good facilities, to wit; Madawaska, Presque Isle, Bangor and Augusta, but some of our major courts are operating under very shabby conditions, to wit; Lewiston, Portland, Saco, and Sanford. Most of the other courts, with few exceptions, approach minimal standards only.

We have entered into one contract this year to renovate the Kittery Court. The expected completion date is some time in December 1973.

This office has continued to investigate and evaluate every potential improvement presented in the Lewiston area. There is still a glimmer of hope that the municipality of Lewiston may participate in obtaining new facilities in the event legislative approval is obtained. I am impressed with current interest expressed by both the local Bar in the Lewiston-Auburn area, as well as some of the municipal officers in Lewiston.

There has been some local interest evidenced by either the Bar and/or the municipal officers in up-grading facilities in the communities of Livermore Falls, Saco and Sanford. As yet, however, there has been no movement locally to improve or assist in the improvement of our Portland court. This Court is working under most difficult conditions. It experiences the largest percentage of growth in the State and the potential for expansion for hearing rooms or for housing additional personnel has reached the absolute limit.

The District Court Building Fund which is to be used "...solely for the building, remodeling and furnishing of quarters for the District Court..." accrues at the rate of three thousand dollars per month. Although the language is broad enough to authorize the building of, as well as the remodeling of, and furnishing of quarters, the amount of money accumulating is so minimal that it is not practical for the Court to consider building facilities. Twelve years ago when the Court was created, a three thousand dollar monthly contribution to the Building Fund was much more realistic than it is today.

Based on today's construction costs and labor, the \$36,000.00 a year, more or less limits the Court to redecorating facilities rather than renovating.

As our work load increases and the resulting demands on the available space continues to increase, the problem of acquiring sufficient facilities will become more acute, and, will for some time to come be a matter of major concern for this office.

NEW LEGISLATION

The last session of the legislature passed four major pieces of legislation which the District Court was very much interested in; and, which will ultimately improve the efficiency of the Court in general. The Court was authorized one new Judge-at-Large. It is expected that this position will be filled soon. The last (19th) judge that we were authorized

was nearly six years ago. At that time, our case load for the Court was just over 100,000 cases per year. As previously indicated, our case load for the year ending June 30, 1973, was something over 162,000 cases. If this rate of growth is to continue, it is not unreasonable that we shall have to again turn to the legislature for more judges.

The Chief Judge was given the authority to appoint deputy clerks of court. These appointments will be made in the larger courts and should be a substantial improvement over the clerk pro temp appointments made in the absence of the clerk. Under the deputy clerk system, problems of administration of a court can be shared under the direction of the clerk.

The Chief Judge was given the authority to appoint the Complaint Justices. My report for last year indicated the problems experienced in this area, and we have every hope that we can improve the service to the Court from that office.

The legislature also spelled out in some detail the authority of the governor and council to appoint a retired district court judge to an active/retired status. Although this vehicle is not intended to meet the problems of a substantially increased case load, it will permit some flexibility in meeting the day-to-day emergencies.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR

Schedule 2, following, explains in some detail a comparative

summary of expenditures for the years 1972 and 1973, and, generally, needs no explanation. Most categories show either a normal increase or decrease, depending upon our needs from year to year. There are four major categories which account for a very substantial portion of the overall increase which probably require some comment.

Salaries and Wages The increased salaries and wages of the employees are the result of legislative enactment. This increase represents first, a minimal cost of living raise for all Court employees and, two, a few additional employees in the year 1973.

Representation of Indigents Court appointed attorneys account for an increase of almost \$61,000 between years 1972 and 1973. In Fiscal Year 1972 we spent for this item \$53,319.04. In Fiscal Year 1973 the cost for this item increased to \$114,224.94. The combination of two factors accounts for this substantial increase. First, there was an increase in the number of cases handled by the Court. Second, there was an increase in the minimum payment to attorneys for representing indigents. However, the last increase in payment to attorneys did not go into effect until January 1, 1973. Therefore, this figure only includes six months at the top rate of pay. It is to be expected, then, that next year this figure will show an additional increase over 1973 even if our case load remains the same.

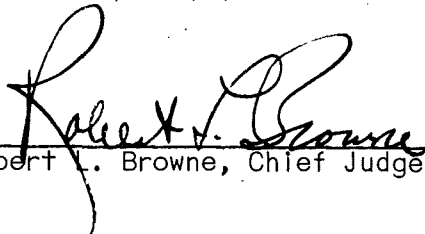
Rent of Buildings The increase in rental from 1972 to 1973 was \$25,000. There will continue to be, at least, some increase in this expenditure as leases are renegotiated because of the actual increase

in costs of services provided the Court. If, however, we are fortunate enough to acquire some new and adequate facilities in the many areas which are now in serious need of better quarters, it should be anticipated and expected that the acquisition of adequate facilities will require a reasonably substantial increase in rental costs in the years to come.

Grants to Cities and Towns This is an area of expenditure over which the Court has no control. The authority and direction for this payment is the subject of legislative enactment and needs only to be initiated by the municipality and the Court can only respond. It is somewhat precarious at this time to estimate our expenditures in this category for the coming year because we have only one year's experience with the present law as amended. I suspect that 1974 will show a normal increase in this category but not as substantial as last year.

REVENUE

The gross revenue which flowed into the Court was up something over 10% for Fiscal Year 1973. The gross receipts were \$3,179,182.41, as compared to \$2,830,812.51 in Fiscal Year 1972. This increase is normal when evaluated in light of the substantially increased case load for the same period. As was discussed earlier, traffic cases were up 17.4% and all other criminal violations were up by 18.9%. It must be concluded, then, that although there is a relationship between revenue and case load, that the revenue does not necessarily keep pace with the increased demand for services of the Court.


Robert L. Browne, Chief Judge

DISTRICT COURT FUND
ADMINISTRATION
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES

| | <u>1973</u> | <u>1972</u> | <u>Increase or Decrease</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Salaries and Wages | \$ 969,786.30 | \$ 889,192.92 | \$ 80,593.38 |
| Court Appointed Attorneys | 114,224.94 | 53,319.04 | 60,905.90 |
| Miscellaneous Professional Fees | 3,012.88 | 3,614.32 | (601.44) |
| Travel Expense | 37,226.58 | 32,390.93 | 4,835.65 |
| Telephone and Telegraph | 24,570.64 | 19,956.91 | 4,613.73 |
| Rent of Building | 117,647.65 | 92,596.69 | 25,050.96 |
| Repair Equipment | 5,897.32 | 6,371.05 | (473.73) |
| Repair Building | 1,129.12 | 526.05 | 603.07 |
| Postage | 19,711.13 | 21,311.25 | (1,600.12) |
| Printing and Office | 28,221.49 | 30,814.36 | (2,592.87) |
| Miscellaneous Supplies | 1,485.01 | 2,898.64 | (1,413.63) |
| Grants to Cities and Towns | 126,405.00 | 62,765.00 | 63,640.00 |
| Pensions Under Law | 16,125.00 | 11,076.94 | 5,048.06 |
| Equipment | 15,815.07 | 17,530.94 | (1,715.87) |
| Complaint Justice Fees | 5,236.49 | 4,530.00 | 706.49 |
| Health Insurance | 6,018.69 | 4,307.79 | 1,710.90 |
| Transfer to Bldg. Fund | 36,000.00 | 36,000.00 | -0- |
| Contribution to Retirement | 43,521.42 | 42,843.00 | 678.42 |
| Transfer to Fund (Auditing Services) | 34,526.76 | 27,245.27 | 7,281.49 |
| | \$ <u>1,606,561.49</u> | \$ <u>1,359,291.10</u> | \$ <u>247,270.39</u> |

DISCTRICT COURT - REPORT OF TOTAL CASES - YEAR ENDING, JUNE 30, 1973

| | TRAFFIC | OTHER | JUVENILE | TOTAL CRIMINAL | CIVIL | MOTIONS DIVORCES | MONEY JUDGMENTS | SMALL CLAIMS | RSC SUPPORT | TOTAL CIVIL | TOTAL CASES |
|--------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| DISTRICT 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribou | 1596 | 753 | 148 | 2497 | 207 | 175 | 61 | 180 | 9 | 632 | 3129 |
| Ft. Kent | 1100 | 517 | 84 | 1701 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1701 |
| Madawaska | 546 | 315 | 44 | 905 | 148 | 64 | 68 | 340 | - | 620 | 1525 |
| Van Buren | 353 | 199 | 33 | 585 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 585 |
| | 3595 | 1784 | 309 | 5688 | 355 | 239 | 129 | 520 | 9 | 1252 | 6940 |
| DISTRICT 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Houlton | 3439 | 891 | 47 | 4377 | 126 | 46 | 54 | 189 | 3 | 418 | 4795 |
| Presque Isle | 2273 | 1099 | 110 | 3482 | 506 | 189 | 209 | 258 | 22 | 1186 | 4668 |
| | 5712 | 1990 | 157 | 7859 | 634 | 235 | 263 | 447 | 25 | 1604 | 9463 |
| DISTRICT 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bangor | 7327 | 1681 | 317 | 9325 | 661 | 576 | 199 | 485 | 74 | 1995 | 11,320 |
| Newport | 2249 | 376 | 52 | 2677 | 92 | 228 | 94 | 160 | - | 574 | 3,251 |
| | 9576 | 2057 | 369 | 12002 | 753 | 804 | 293 | 645 | 74 | 2569 | 14,571 |
| DISTRICT 4 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Calais | 920 | 869 | 123 | 1912 | 61 | 91 | 19 | 377 | - | 548 | 2,460 |
| Machias | 1356 | 453 | 41 | 1850 | 79 | 106 | 35 | 134 | - | 354 | 2,204 |
| | 2276 | 1322 | 164 | 3762 | 140 | 197 | 54 | 511 | - | 902 | 4,664 |

DISTRICT COURT - REPORT OF TOTAL CASES - YEAR ENDING, JUNE 30, 1973

| | TRAFFIC | OTHER | JUVENILE | TOTAL CRIMINAL | CIVIL | MOTIONS DIVORCES | MONEY JUDGMENTS | SMALL CLAIMS | RSC SUPPORT | TOTAL CIVIL | TOTAL CASES |
|------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| DISTRICT 5 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellsworth | 2170 | 901 | 66 | 3137 | 266 | 205 | 61 | 537 | | 1069 | 4206 |
| Far Harbor | 661 | 459 | 44 | 1164 | 145 | 76 | 26 | 107 | 9 | 363 | 1527 |
| Belfast | 1512 | 731 | 182 | 2425 | 206 | 124 | 102 | 363 | - | 795 | 3220 |
| | 4343 | 2091 | 292 | 6726 | 617 | 405 | 189 | 1007 | 9 | 2227 | 8953 |
| DISTRICT 6 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bath | 1729 | 575 | 30 | 2334 | 236 | 179 | 53 | 199 | 16 | 683 | 3017 |
| Rockland | 1350 | 842 | 105 | 2297 | 373 | 298 | 247 | 441 | - | 1359 | 3656 |
| Wiscasset | 1221 | 512 | 40 | 1773 | 239 | 165 | 114 | 182 | 15 | 715 | 2488 |
| | 4300 | 1929 | 175 | 6404 | 848 | 642 | 414 | 822 | 31 | 2757 | 9161 |
| DISTRICT 7 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Augusta | 4477 | 1719 | 163 | 6359 | 858 | 584 | 304 | 401 | - | 2147 | 8506 |
| Waterville | 3075 | 1051 | 29 | 4155 | 799 | 416 | 321 | 215 | 5 | 1756 | 5911 |
| | 7552 | 2770 | 192 | 10514 | 1657 | 1000 | 625 | 616 | 5 | 3903 | 14,417 |
| DISTRICT 8 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brunswick | 2452 | 631 | 47 | 3130 | 124 | 214 | 29 | 227 | - | 594 | 3724 |
| Lewiston | 7702 | 2477 | 244 | 10,423 | 941 | 727 | 352 | 508 | 3 | 2531 | 12954 |
| | 10154 | 3108 | 291 | 13,553 | 1065 | 941 | 381 | 735 | 3 | 3125 | 16,678 |

DISTRICT COURT - REPORT OF TOTAL CASES - YEAR ENDING, JUNE 30, 1972

| | TRAFFIC | OTHER | JUVENILE | TOTAL CRIMINAL | CIVIL | MOTION DIVORCES | MONEY JUDGMENTS | SMALL CLAIMS | ASC SUPPORT | TOTAL CIVIL | TOTAL CASES |
|-----------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| DISTRICT 9 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bridgton | 1414 | 761 | 44 | 2219 | 54 | 99 | 20 | 167 | - | 340 | 2559 |
| Portland | 16412 | 6177 | 262 | 22851 | 2390 | 1536 | 209 | 535 | - | 4670 | 27,521 |
| | 17826 | 6938 | 306 | 25070 | 2444 | 1635 | 229 | 702 | - | 5010 | 30,080 |
| DISTRICT 10 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Saco | 7760 | 1665 | 137 | 9562 | 407 | 484 | 54 | 404 | - | 1349 | 10,911 |
| Sanford | 2585 | 1164 | 67 | 3816 | 143 | 259 | 15 | 176 | - | 593 | 4,409 |
| Wittery | 3704 | 955 | 156 | 4815 | 153 | 153 | 19 | 124 | - | 340 | 5,355 |
| | 14049 | 3784 | 360 | 18,193 | 703 | 896 | 79 | 704 | - | 2482 | 20,675 |
| DISTRICT 11 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Livermore Falls | 1022 | 188 | 28 | 1,238 | 51 | 53 | 4 | 86 | - | 194 | 1,432 |
| Rumford | 1669 | 871 | 105 | 2,645 | 72 | 149 | 59 | 263 | - | 543 | 3,188 |
| South Paris | 1024 | 371 | 52 | 1,447 | 95 | 93 | 52 | 101 | - | 341 | 1,788 |
| | 3715 | 1430 | 185 | 5,330 | 218 | 295 | 115 | 450 | - | 1078 | 6,408 |
| DISTRICT 12 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farmington | 2277 | 560 | 54 | 2,891 | 133 | 164 | 43 | 310 | 6 | 656 | 3,547 |
| Esowegan | 4356 | 1464 | 188 | 6,008 | 408 | 384 | 231 | 397 | - | 1420 | 7,428 |
| | 6633 | 2024 | 242 | 8,899 | 541 | 548 | 274 | 707 | 6 | 2076 | 10,975 |

DISTRICT COURT - REPORT OF TOTAL CASES - YEAR ENDING, JUNE 30, 1973

| | TRAFFIC | OTHER | JUVENILE | TOTAL CRIMINAL | CIVIL | MOTIONS DIVORCES | MONEY JUDGMENTS | SMALL CLAIMS | RSC SUPPORT | TOTAL CIVIL | TOTAL CASES |
|----------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| DISTRICT 13 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dover-Foxcroft | 1935 | 1328 | 142 | 3405 | 101 | 142 | 60 | 222 | - | 525 | 3930 |
| Lincoln | 1532 | 381 | 60 | 1973 | 98 | 73 | 64 | 293 | - | 528 | 2501 |
| Millinocket | 1299 | 885 | 137 | 2321 | 111 | 107 | 110 | 202 | - | 530 | 2851 |
| | 4766 | 2594 | 339 | 7699 | 310 | 322 | 234 | 717 | - | 1583 | 9282 |

TOTALS FOR THE YEAR

| TRAFFIC | OTHER | JUVENILE | TOTAL CRIMINAL | CIVIL | DIVORCES | MOTIONS JUDGMENTS | MONEY | SMALL CLAIMS | RSC SUPPORT | TOTAL CIVIL | TOTAL CASES |
|---------|-------|----------|-------------------|-------|----------|----------------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 94,497 | 33821 | 3381 | 131,699 | 10285 | 5300 | 2959 | 3279 | 8583 | 162 | 30,568 | 162,267 |

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Total Case Load For 1973 | 162,267 | 109.0 |
| Total Case Load For 1972 | <u>138,887</u> | <u>85.6</u> |
| Total Case Load Increase | 23,380 | 14.4 |
| Total Criminal Cases Pending | 1,095 | |
| Total Civil Cases Pending | <u>9,772</u> | |
| Total Cases Pending 6-30-73 | 10,867 | |

MAINE DISTRICT COURT - REPORT OF TOTAL COMPLETED CASES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1974

| | Traffic | Other | Total Criminal | Civil Ordinary | Juvenile | Separations, Motions & Divorces | Money Judgments | Small Claims | Mental Health | RSC Support | Total Civil | Total Cases |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| DISTRICT 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Caribou | 1534 | 633 | 2167 | 109 | 175 | 205 | 89 | 191 | -0- | 5 | 774 | 2941 |
| Fort Kent | 1082 | 532 | 1614 | -0- | 54 | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | 54 | 1668 |
| Madawaska | 602 | 260 | 862 | 256 | 22 | 64 | 95 | 244 | -0- | -0- | 681 | 1543 |
| Van Buren | 393 | 150 | 543 | -0- | 40 | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | -0- | 40 | 583 |
| | <u>3611</u> | <u>1575</u> | <u>5186</u> | <u>365</u> | <u>291</u> | <u>269</u> | <u>184</u> | <u>435</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>1549</u> | <u>6735</u> |
| DISTRICT 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Houlton | 3853 | 758 | 4611 | 174 | 126 | 104 | 98 | 155 | -0- | -0- | 657 | 5268 |
| Presque Isle | 2094 | 1027 | 3121 | 689 | 141 | 190 | 366 | 402 | -0- | 5 | 1793 | 4914 |
| | <u>5947</u> | <u>1785</u> | <u>7732</u> | <u>863</u> | <u>267</u> | <u>294</u> | <u>464</u> | <u>557</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>2450</u> | <u>10182</u> |
| DISTRICT 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bangor | 7660 | 1711 | 9371 | 664 | 358 | 539 | 201 | 334 | 40 | -0- | 2136 | 11507 |
| Newport | 2603 | 326 | 2929 | 111 | 70 | 196 | 122 | 124 | -0- | -0- | 623 | 3552 |
| | <u>10263</u> | <u>2037</u> | <u>12300</u> | <u>775</u> | <u>428</u> | <u>735</u> | <u>323</u> | <u>458</u> | <u>40</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>2759</u> | <u>15059</u> |
| DISTRICT 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Calais | 923 | 917 | 1840 | 73 | 127 | 117 | 32 | 399 | -0- | -0- | 748 | 2588 |
| Machias | 1380 | 548 | 1928 | 120 | 48 | 112 | 31 | 165 | -0- | -0- | 476 | 2404 |
| | <u>2303</u> | <u>1465</u> | <u>3768</u> | <u>193</u> | <u>175</u> | <u>229</u> | <u>63</u> | <u>564</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>1224</u> | <u>4992</u> |
| DISTRICT 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bar Harbor | 707 | 375 | 1082 | 44 | 18 | 65 | 9 | 119 | -0- | 1 | 256 | 1338 |
| Belfast | 1597 | 755 | 2352 | 238 | 147 | 143 | 91 | 304 | -0- | -0- | 923 | 3275 |
| Ellsworth | 2016 | 991 | 3007 | 242 | 88 | 204 | 45 | 377 | -0- | -0- | 956 | 3963 |
| | <u>4320</u> | <u>2121</u> | <u>6441</u> | <u>524</u> | <u>253</u> | <u>412</u> | <u>145</u> | <u>800</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>2135</u> | <u>8576</u> |

MAINE DISTRICT COURT - REPORT OF TOTAL COMPLETED CASES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1974

| | Traffic | Other | Total Criminal | Civil Ordinary | Juvenile | Separations, Motions & Divorces | Money Judgments | Small Claims | Mental Health | RSC Support | Total Civil | Total Cases |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| DISTRICT 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Livermore Falls | 865 | 131 | 996 | 60 | 16 | 57 | 32 | 87 | -0- | -0- | 252 | 1248 |
| Rumford | 1326 | 549 | 1875 | 141 | 78 | 155 | 82 | 314 | -0- | -0- | 770 | 2645 |
| South Paris | 830 | 287 | 1117 | 40 | 50 | 127 | 41 | 163 | -0- | -0- | 421 | 1538 |
| | <u>3021</u> | <u>967</u> | <u>3988</u> | <u>241</u> | <u>144</u> | <u>339</u> | <u>155</u> | <u>564</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>1443</u> | <u>5431</u> |
| DISTRICT 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farmington | 2061 | 653 | 2714 | 171 | 92 | 203 | 95 | 307 | -0- | -0- | 868 | 3582 |
| Skowhegan | 4283 | 1294 | 5577 | 542 | 212 | 365 | 355 | 256 | -0- | 1 | 1731 | 7308 |
| | <u>6344</u> | <u>1947</u> | <u>8291</u> | <u>713</u> | <u>304</u> | <u>568</u> | <u>450</u> | <u>563</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2599</u> | <u>10890</u> |
| DISTRICT 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dover Foxcroft | 1865 | 1406 | 3271 | 149 | 149 | 144 | 53 | 281 | -0- | -0- | 777 | 4047 |
| Lincoln | 1866 | 363 | 2229 | 99 | 78 | 58 | 72 | 298 | -0- | -0- | 605 | 2834 |
| Millinocket | 1384 | 733 | 2117 | 72 | 92 | 83 | 128 | 193 | 2 | -0- | 570 | 2687 |
| | <u>5115</u> | <u>2502</u> | <u>7617</u> | <u>320</u> | <u>319</u> | <u>285</u> | <u>253</u> | <u>772</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>-0-</u> | <u>1952</u> | <u>9568</u> |
| GRAND TOTAL FOR YEAR | 97651 | 30774 | 128425 | 10261 | 3943 | 8333 | 4245 | 7949 | 113 | 15 | 34859 | 163284 |