

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COURT SYSTEM

FY2016

Courthouses and Year of Construction

Front cover:

Wrentham District Court (1955)	Springfield Juvenile & Housing Courts (1874)	Barnstable Superior Court (1832)	Norfolk Superior Court (Dedham) (1831)
Berkshire Probate & Family Court (Pittsfield) (1876)		Brockton Trial Court (1999)	Dorchester Division/Boston Municipal Court (1925)

Back cover:

Marlborough District Court (1969)	Newton District Court (1930)
Peabody District Court (1978)	Southern Berkshire District Court (1900)
Dudley District Court (1972)	
Framingham District Court (1952)	Worcester Trial Court (2007)
Essex Superior Court (Lawrence) (1859)	



SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT
JOHN ADAMS COURTHOUSE

RALPH D. GANTS
CHIEF JUSTICE

December 30, 2016

His Excellency Charles D. Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Honorable Stanley C. Rosenberg
President of the Massachusetts Senate

Honorable Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Governor Baker, President Rosenberg, and Speaker DeLeo:

I am pleased to forward the Annual Report on the State of the Massachusetts Court System for Fiscal Year 2016, as outlined in G. L. c. 211B, § 9. The report highlights a range of accomplishments across the court system and varied data of interest.

Through the support of the Executive and Legislative Branches, the Judiciary continues to expand access to justice and enhance operational effectiveness. Strategic Plan 2.0 has been developed by the Trial Court based on the significant progress made on the initiatives outlined in the initial Trial Court Strategic Plan, *One Mission: Justice with Dignity and Speed*.

Judges, clerks, probation staff, and court employees statewide seek to improve the delivery of justice every day and to promote public safety. My colleagues across the court system achieved the essential work featured in this report, which is also available at www.mass.gov/courts.

We greatly value your continued support of our efforts to reduce recidivism and improve the efficiency and security of court operations. I look forward to our continued collaboration to enhance justice in 2017, as we serve the residents of this great Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ralph D. Gants", is positioned above the printed name.

Ralph D. Gants



The Massachusetts Court System

As of June 30, 2016

Supreme Judicial Court
Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants

Appeals Court
Scott L. Kafker

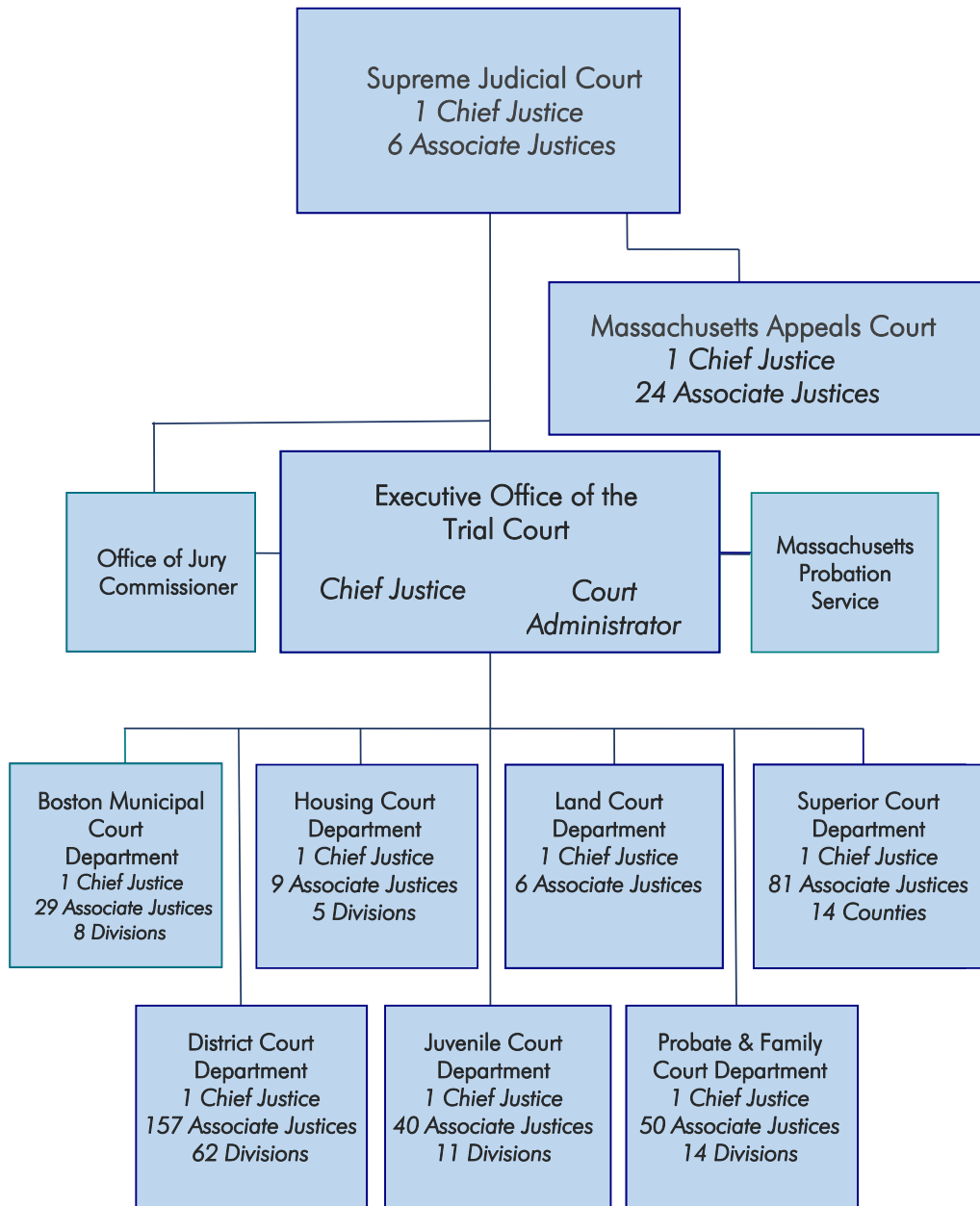
Trial Court
Chief Justice Paula M. Carey
Court Administrator Harry Spence

Boston Municipal Court	Chief Justice Roberto Ronquillo Jr.
District Court	Chief Justice Paul C. Dawley
Housing Court	Chief Justice Timothy F. Sullivan
Juvenile Court	Chief Justice Amy L. Nechtem
Land Court	Chief Justice Judith C. Cutler
Probate & Family Court	Chief Justice Angela M. Ordoñez
Superior Court	Chief Justice Judith Fabricant

Massachusetts Probation Service
Edward J. Dolan, Commissioner

Office of Jury Commissioner
Pamela J. Wood, Esq., Commissioner

The Massachusetts Court System



The number of justices for all courts is the total authorized by law.



Annual Report on the State of the Massachusetts Court System FY2016

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Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

Justices and Officials

As of June 30, 2016

Chief Justice

Ralph D. Gants

Justices

Francis X. Spina	Robert J. Cordy
Margot G. Botsford	Barbara A. Lenk
Fernande R.V. Duffly	Geraldine S. Hines

Acting Executive Director

Carol R. Lev

Clerk for the Commonwealth

Francis V. Kenneally

Clerk for The County of Suffolk

Maura S. Doyle

Supreme Judicial Court

mass.gov/courts

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), originally called the Superior Court of Judicature, was established in 1692 and is the oldest appellate court in continuous existence in the Western Hemisphere. It serves as the leader of the Massachusetts court system, holding final appellate authority regarding the decisions of all lower courts and exercising general superintendence over the administration of the lower courts.

The full Court hears appeals on a broad range of criminal and civil cases from September through May. Single justice sessions are held each week throughout the year for certain motions, bail reviews, bar discipline proceedings, petitions for admission to the bar, and a variety of other statutory proceedings. The full bench renders approximately 200 written decisions each year; the single justices decide a total of approximately 600 cases annually.

The SJC also has oversight responsibility in varying degrees, according to statutes, with several affiliated agencies of the judicial branch, including the Board of Bar Examiners, Board of Bar Overseers, Clients' Security Board, Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corp., and Massachusetts Mental Health Legal Advisors' Committee.

Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County (Single Justice Session)

The SJC for Suffolk County is known as the single justice session of the Supreme Judicial Court. An associate justice essentially acts as a trial judge, as was the function of the first justices, or as an administrator of the Court's supervisory power under G.L. c. 211, § 3. The county court, as it is often referred to, has original, concurrent, interlocutory, and appellate jurisdiction on a statewide basis. In addition to the single justice caseload, the justice sits on bar docket matters.

Supreme Judicial Court: Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Annual State of the Judiciary Address to the Legal Community

Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants delivered his second annual address to the legal community at the Massachusetts Bar Association's Bench-Bar Symposium in October 2015. Chief Justice Gants spoke about the collaborative request he made with the Governor, House Speaker, and Senate President to the Council of State Governments to examine the criminal justice system as part of its Justice Reinvestment Initiative and to provide data and analysis to assist in shaping criminal justice policy and reduce the rate of recidivism.

Regarding civil courts, Chief Justice Gants discussed the progress made developing a menu of litigation options appropriate to each case, and making civil cases more cost-effective, with the amount of discovery appropriate to the amount at issue in the case.

Chief Justice Gants also addressed access to justice initiatives focused on the large number of self-represented litigants who need assistance navigating the court system, as well as the implementation of attorney voir dire in the Superior Court. Chief Justice Gants delivered a third State of the Judiciary Address in October, 2016.

Court Management Advisory Board

Following the recommendation of the Visiting Committee on Management in the Courts (the Monan Committee), the Massachusetts Legislature in 2003 created the Court Management Advisory Board (CMAB) to advise and assist the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Chief Justice of the Trial Court, and the Court Administrator on matters pertaining to judicial administration and management and all matters of judicial reform.

In FY16, the CMAB saw a leadership transition as Chair Glenn Mangurian stepped down as Chair and Attorney Lisa Goodheart took over. The CMAB met regularly to support the Trial Court in its pursuit of continuous quality improvement, strategic innovation, and service excellence. In particular, the CMAB followed the progress on the four priorities identified in its 2014 report: SJC operational oversight of the Trial Court; talent development; knowledge management and data decision analytics; and the court user experience. In addition, the CMAB chartered an outside review of the management and use of information technology resources.

Court Improvement Program

The Supreme Judicial Court's Court Improvement Program (CIP) manages a federal grant awarded to promote improved processing of child welfare cases in the courts. In FY16, funds continued to support work on an interdisciplinary guidebook on confidentiality and information sharing for professionals working with children, youth and families. In addition, funds supported a research grant to Boston University's School of Social Work: "Designing Data Driven Directions for School Success of Children in Care," a multiagency project involving the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Children and Families and the courts.

The Child Welfare Data Analyst, funded by CIP and working at the direction of the CIP Steering Committee, expanded data reporting initiatives to include permanency based timeliness measures, as well as specialized performance measures to promote improved outcomes for children in state custody. CIP funds supported many opportunities for training, including a four-day intensive trial advocacy program taught by the National Institute

Court Management Advisory Board Members

Lisa C. Goodheart, Chair

Partner, Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, P.C.

Randy Chapman, Esq.

Chapman and Chapman, PC

Kate Donovan

Manpower Business Solutions

Hon. Gail Garinger (ret.)

Office of the Attorney General

Scott Harshbarger, Esq.

Casner & Edwards, LLP

Richard Johnston, ex officio

Office of the Attorney General

Allen B. Kachalia, MD, JD

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Liam Lowney, ex officio

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance

Hon. James McHugh (ret.)

Retired from the Massachusetts Appeals Court

Donald Oppenheimer

John F. Kennedy School of Government

Denise Squillante, Esq.

Denise Squillante PC

Kenneth Turner

Massachusetts Port Authority

of Trial Advocacy and numerous other specialized trainings for lawyers representing children and parents in child welfare cases. CIP also provided funds to publish guides for parents (in English and Spanish) involved in Care and Protections and Children Requiring Assistance cases and revised and distributed "The Answer Book," a guide for youth in foster care.

Pro Bono Legal Services

The SJC's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services works to promote volunteer legal work to help people of limited means who are in need of legal representation, in accordance with SJC Rule 6:1, Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service. In recognition of outstanding commitment to providing volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged, the Standing Committee presented the 15th annual Adams Pro Bono Publico Awards in October 2015 to three Massachusetts attorneys: Elizabeth L. Ennen, John J. Regan, and Archer B. Battista; and a special student award to Shannon Johnson, 2015 Graduate, Boston College Law School. During the awards ceremony, the Committee also acknowledged those participating in the Court's Pro Bono Honor Roll, a recognition program for those who have met the program criteria by providing significant pro bono legal services. The Pro Bono Committee also visited Boston College Law School and the Massachusetts School of Law in FY16 as part of its ongoing commitment to pay regular visits to the Massachusetts law schools to learn about and promote the pro bono activities of the law students.

Access to Justice Commission

The Commission's goal is to achieve equal justice for all persons in the Commonwealth by providing leadership and vision to, and coordination with, the many organizations and interested persons involved in providing and improving access to justice for those unable to afford counsel. The Commission includes representatives from the courts, the private bar, the legal services bar, the client community, law schools, business entities, and social service providers, and is organized around committees that reflect an expansive access to justice agenda, including Delivery of Legal Services, Access to Lawyers, Administrative Justice, Non-Lawyer Roles, Revenue Enhancement, Self-Represented Litigants, and Social Services.

SJC Rule 1:19 Governing Electronic Access to Courts

The Supreme Judicial Court approved amendments to Rule 1:19 governing cameras in the courtroom, effective September 2012. Among the changes, the amended rule allows registered news media with permission of the judge to use electronic devices in the courtroom. It defines

news media to include members of the media who are not employed by a news organization, but who are regularly engaged in the reporting and publishing of news or information about matters of public interest. The rule requires all news media to register with the Public Information Office. By the end of calendar year 2015, 146 news organizations and 88 news media individuals not employed by a news media organization had registered

Massachusetts Guide to Evidence

The Massachusetts Guide to Evidence organizes and states the law of evidence applied in the courts of the Commonwealth. Each year, the Executive Committee of the Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Evidence Law monitors judicial decisions and other relevant statutory and rule changes concerning the law of evidence and prepares a new edition of the Guide that incorporates significant new developments. The eighth annual edition was released in February 2016. The Committee also prepares an online supplement, which provides short summaries of important opinions of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Appeals Court relating to the law of evidence.

SJC Standing Advisory Committee on Professionalism

The SJC Standing Advisory Committee on Professionalism is charged with overseeing the implementation of SJC Rule 3:16 on Practicing with Professionalism, which requires a mandatory course on professionalism for lawyers admitted to the Massachusetts bar on or after the effective date of September 1, 2013.

The Committee's duties and responsibilities include: designating approved course providers; making recommendations to the Court regarding the fees to be charged for the course and any circumstances under which the fees may be waived; evaluating the course providers; reporting to the Court on at least an annual basis on the implementation of the course and an assessment of whether the program is accomplishing its intended goals and outcomes; and overseeing the administration of all aspects of SJC Rule 3:16.

The Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, and the Greater Lynn Bar Association

were selected by the Standing Committee as approved providers of the courses. During FY16, the approved providers conducted 21 courses at sites in Boston and across the state.

Judicial Evaluation

The judicial evaluation program has facilitated the collection and processing of judicial evaluations from attorneys, court employees, and jurors since its introduction in 2001. The program provides narrative comments and aggregated statistical assessments to judges concerning their professional, on-bench performance in an effort to enhance the performance of individual judges and the judiciary as a whole. In FY15, the program initiated a revised evaluation questionnaire and commenced a three-year pilot program to test the new version.

Three rounds of evaluation were conducted during this fiscal year. In the first round, 47 judges in the District, Housing, Juvenile, and Probate and Family Courts in Middlesex County were evaluated, yielding 4,362 attorney evaluations, 930 employee evaluations and 840 juror evaluations.

In the second round, 34 Superior Court judges in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties were evaluated, yielding 2,654 attorney evaluations, 556 employee evaluations and 258 juror evaluations.

In the third round, 41 judges in the District, Juvenile, Housing, Superior, and Probate and Family Courts in Worcester County were evaluated yielding 2,203 attorney evaluations, 1,016 employee evaluations and 439 juror evaluations.

Overall, in FY16, each of the 122 judges evaluated received, on average, feedback from 76 attorneys, 21 employees, and 13 jurors.

Committee to Study the Code of Judicial Conduct

This Committee completed its work and recommended a new Code of Judicial Conduct to the Justices. This Code was the culmination of more than three years of comprehensive study of the ABA's Model Code, other states' codes, statutory and case law, ethics opinions, and legal scholarship by the Committee. After publishing its draft, the Committee reviewed extensive

comments from members of the bench and bar. Following their internal review, the Justices in October 2015 adopted a new Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct, effective January 1, 2016. Committee members spent the last few months of 2015 conducting training sessions on provisions of the new Code for members of each trial court department. The Justices appointed four members of this Committee to serve on a new Committee on Judicial Ethics, effective January 1, 2016.

Community Outreach

In keeping with John Adams' passion for justice, community, and learning, the Supreme Judicial Court uses the John Adams Courthouse to provide free educational opportunities for students, educators, and the public. In FY16, these opportunities included: hosting a traveling exhibit in collaboration with the American Bar Association and Library of Congress "Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215-2015;" student group visits to the courthouse to attend oral arguments, meet with a justice, or watch a dramatic performance of an historical event; teacher training sessions; and the Court's annual celebrations of Student Government Day and Law Day.

The Supreme Judicial Court also entered its eleventh year of successful partnership with Theatre Espresso to perform educational dramas for school children at the John Adams Courthouse. The Judiciary website continues to provide easy access and updated information for litigants, lawyers, educators, and the general public. Webcasts of the Court's oral arguments continue to be available on the website through collaboration with Suffolk University Law School.

Judicial Youth Corps

Since 1991, the Supreme Judicial Court has conducted the Judicial Youth Corps (JYC), a legal education and internship program for high school students. With the volunteer assistance of judges, lawyers, court employees, bar associations, and other dedicated supporters, the 14-week program teaches students about the rule of law and the role of the judicial branch. The program has two components: educational sessions in May and June, and summer internships in court offices in July and August. The Public Information Office administers the program, which is funded by foundations and grants.

In FY16, the program was able to have 32 Boston and Worcester students participate in this rich educational experience. The SJC hopes to be able to make JYC available to Springfield students in FY17.

Supreme Judicial Court Statistics FY2016

Caseload	FY2015	FY2016
Direct Entries	83	107
Direct Appellate Review - Applications Allowed	40	53
Direct Appellate Review - Applications Considered	100	126
Further Appellate Review - Applications Allowed	26	39
Further Appellate Review - Applications Considered	697	847
Transferred by SJC on its Motion from Review of Entire Appeals Court caseload	44	30
Gross Entries	193	229
Dismissals	17	19
Net Entries	176	210
Dispositions	FY2015	FY2016
Full Opinions	161	152
Rescripts	34	39
Total Opinions	195	191
Total Appeals Decided	201	196

Massachusetts Appeals Court Justices and Officials

As of June 30, 2016

Chief Justice

Scott L. Kafker

Justices

Peter W. Agnes Jr.

Amy Lyn Blake

Judd J. Carhart

Cynthia J. Cohen

Elsbeth B. Cypher

Francis R. Fecteau

Andrew R. Grainger

Mark V. Green

Sydney Hanlon

R. Marc Kantrowitz

Gary S. Katzmann

Diana Maldonado

Gregory I. Massing

William J. Meade

James R. Milkey

Peter J. Rubin

Mary T. Sullivan

Joseph A. Trainor

Ariane D. Vuono

Gabrielle R. Wolohojian

Court Administrator

Gilbert P. Lima Jr.

Clerk

Joseph F. Stanton

Massachusetts Appeals Court

mass.gov/courts

The Appeals Court was established in 1972 to serve as the Commonwealth's intermediate appellate court. It is a court of general jurisdiction that hears criminal, civil, and administrative matters. All appeals from the Trial Court (with the exception of first-degree murder cases) are thus initially entered in the Appeals Court. Similarly, the court receives all appeals from the Appellate Tax Board, the Industrial Accident Review Board, and the Employee Relations Board.

Although the Appeals Court is responsible for deciding all such appeals, every year a small number are taken up by the Supreme Judicial Court for direct appellate review. During FY16, the Supreme Judicial Court transferred 87 cases of 1,740 appeals filed. The remaining cases must be decided or otherwise resolved (e.g., by settlement or dismissal) at the Appeals Court.

After a case is decided by the Appeals Court, the parties may request further review by the Supreme Judicial Court, but such relief is granted in very few cases. The Appeals Court is thus the court of last resort for the overwhelming majority of Massachusetts litigants seeking appellate relief.

By statute, the Appeals Court has a chief justice and 24 associate justices. The justices of the court sit in panels of three, with the composition of judicial panels changing each month.

In addition to its panel jurisdiction, the Appeals Court also runs a continuous single justice session, with a separate docket. The single justice may review interlocutory orders and orders for injunctive relief issued by certain Trial Court departments, as well as requests for review of summary process appeal bonds, certain attorney's fee awards, motions for stays of civil proceedings or criminal sentences pending appeal, and motions to review impoundment orders. During FY16, 549 cases were entered on the single justice docket.

The Appeals Court again met the appellate court guideline for the scheduling of cases and by June 2016, all cases fully briefed by February 1st had

been argued or had been submitted to panels for decision without argument.

Massachusetts Appeals Court: Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Appellate Caseload

The Appeals Court caseload for FY16 declined 7.5% from FY15 as 1,740 new appeals were entered. In FY15, for the first time, criminal entries outnumbered civil ones; this proved to be a single year aberration as civil cases again predominated in FY16. Despite being five justices short of a full court for most of the sitting year, the court still decided 1,337 cases, which was 144 more cases than the total of net entries. Net entries is the total number of cases entered after dismissals, consolidations and transfers to the Supreme Judicial Court are subtracted. This is the number of cases that the court actually has to decide. This was achieved through extra sittings and other improvements and efficiencies.

Technology Enhancement

The Appeals Court launched an electronic filing pilot program in FY16. Attorneys in civil cases are now able to pay the docket fee and enter civil appeals through e-filing. As the appeal progresses, counsel can e-file motions, briefs, and record appendix volumes in digital form only, with no paper original or duplicate required, thus saving parties the expense of filing multiple paper copies of briefs and appendices. The program will expand in FY17 to include self-represented litigants in civil

cases and all types of filings in criminal cases. The expansion of electronic filing to criminal cases will benefit the Offices of the Attorney General, District Attorneys, and the Committee for Public Counsel Services, by eliminating their paper reproduction and postage costs for filings in the Appeals Court.

Internal Initiatives

In FY16 the Court implemented a number of measures designed to enhance case management and the timely decision of appeals. Statistical analysis of various aspects of case management formed the basis of a reallocation of resources and revision of procedures which improved the timely processing of appeals. These efforts will continue in the coming year.

Early Identification of Jurisdictional Defects

The Clerk's Office now screens incoming appeals for jurisdictional and procedural defects; cases are referred for action, including correction of the defect or dismissal of the appeal, at this initial stage. Previously, the identification of such issues awaited the full briefing of the case and review by a panel of the court, which forced parties to undertake unnecessary and expensive briefing.

Pro Bono Assistance Program for Self-Represented Litigants

During FY16, an appellate pro bono pilot program commenced as a result of collaboration between the Supreme Judicial Court's Access to Justice Commission, the Appeals Court, the Volunteer Lawyers Project, other legal service entities, and multiple law firms. Volunteer pro bono attorneys meet weekly with qualified self-represented, low-income individuals in Appeals Court space and provide legal consultation concerning appellate issues and referrals for possible representation in civil appeals.

Electronic Transmission Pilots with the Trial Court

The Appeals Court and Trial Court launched two pilot programs to utilize existing technology to make transmissions between the courts more efficient. First, the Appeals Court and the Springfield division of the District Court launched a pilot program for the electronic transmission of all transcript volumes and appeals in criminal cases, eliminating the need for paper and shipping.

Second, the Appeals Court and the Essex Probate and Family Court engaged in a pilot program for the transmission of electronic notices between the courts, eliminating paper and postage costs. This latter pilot is expanding to include several Superior Court divisions in FY17.

Community Outreach

The court continued to sit in locations beyond the John Adams courthouse in FY16. Panels traveled to law schools throughout the state, a local courthouse and a college. At each of those locations the justices heard a full oral argument list and reserved time after the completion of oral argument to respond to questions by attending students.

Appeals Court Statistics FY2016

Sources/Types of Appeals	Civil	Criminal	Total
Superior Court	487	386	873
BMC/District Court	74	387	461
Probate & Family Court	138	0	138
Juvenile Court	82	27	109
Land Court	62	0	62
Housing Court	43	1	44
Appeals Court Single Justice	5	0	5
Industrial Accident Review Board	25	0	25
Appellate Tax Board	20	0	20
Employment Relations Board	3	0	3
SJC Transfer	0	0	0
Total Fiscal Year 2016	939	801	1,740
<i>Total Fiscal Year 2015</i>	<i>918</i>	<i>962</i>	<i>1,880</i>

Dispositions	Total		
Total Panel Entries	1,740		
Transferred to Supreme Judicial Court	87		
Dismissed/settled/withdrawn/consolidated	460		
Net Annual Entries	1,193		

	Civil	Criminal	Total
Total Decisions	609	728	1,337
Decision of lower court affirmed	459	581	1,040
Decision of lower court reversed	87	99	186
Other result reached	63	48	111
Published Opinions	115	87	202
Summary Dispositions	494	641	1,135

Massachusetts Trial Court

mass.gov/courts

The Massachusetts Trial Court continued to strive toward its vision of creating a 21st century justice system with the launch in June 2016 of its new Strategic Plan 2.0, One Mission: Justice with Dignity and Speed. The Trial Court also continued to implement the comprehensive initiatives outlined in the Trial Court's first three-year Strategic Plan at an aggressive pace, including the expansion of evidence-based Probation practices and technology to simplify online processing of civil and criminal cases.

The use of videoconferencing grew, with 60 courts scheduling more than 11,000 videoconferencing events for bail reviews, pre-trial hearings, discovery compliance and jury election, as well as for cross-departmental meetings and training.

The National Center for Access to Justice ranked the Massachusetts Judiciary at the top of its national index in FY16, second only to the District of Columbia, for its efforts to ensure equal access to services and resources for all court users. Access to justice, a key component of the Trial Court's Strategic Plan 2.0, includes a Language Access Plan. The plan, developed in FY15, continues to be implemented, and includes acquisition of software to improve interpreter scheduling.

The Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association presented the Trial Court with its 2016 Yvette C. Mendez Award for the role of Court Service Centers in increasing access to justice for self-represented litigants. By the end of FY16, more than 40 specialty court sessions took place across the Commonwealth, including the first family drug court in the nation and a new veterans treatment court to serve western Massachusetts.

The Legislature approved a FY16 appropriation of \$639.7 million, enabling the continued expansion of specialty courts to help address the opioid epidemic, and providing for other much-

needed operational improvements. The Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) continued its focus on workforce development and training, and aligned its efforts with the Judiciary by creating its own strategic plan. MPS also implemented evidence-based practices first identified in FY15 to enhance public safety through effective assessment, supervision, support, and services.

Use of the electronic application for criminal complaint (EACC) expanded from its original pilot at the Dudley District Court to an additional 20 District Courts, in partnership with 50 local police departments. By the end of FY16, over 12,700 EACC Trial Court cases were entered into MassCourts. More than 200 local police departments, as well as the Massachusetts State Police, plan to incorporate EACC as part of their incident reporting systems by the end of FY17.

Implementation of MassCourts, a web-based case management platform, was completed throughout the Trial Court in FY16. MassCourts now regularly processes more than one million transactions a day. The Trial Court continued its multi-year effort to install a new digital recording system, For The Record, in the state's 436 courtrooms. By the end of FY16 the system had been deployed in 133 courtrooms, including all Superior Court courtrooms across the state, as well as in all multi-court justice centers with Superior Courts. As part of its commitment to training and professional development, the Trial

Court rolled out its internet-based e-Learning Center. Close to 3,000 Trial Court personnel accessed the online system and enrolled in more than 400 separate, live training events.

The Chief Justices and Deputy Court Administrators of the Boston Municipal, District, Housing, Juvenile, Land, Probate and Family, and Superior Court departments, the Probation Commissioner, the Jury Commissioner, and the Directors of the Office of Court Management and Executive Office of the Trial Court effectively oversaw statewide court operations. The professional commitment and dedication of the state's judges, clerks, probation, and other court staff ensured the Trial Court's ability to manage more than 900,000 cases filed.

This report outlines the State of the Court System, with an overview of FY16 accomplishments and delineates recommendations and plans for FY17, in accordance with G.L. c. 211B § 9A.

This annual report highlights Trial Court accomplishments for FY16 in the following priority areas:

- Broaden Access to Justice
- Enhance Public Safety
- Provide a Safe, Sustainable Infrastructure
- Improve Operational Effectiveness
- Engage Local Communities

Recommendations & Plans for Fiscal Year 2017

Strategic Plan 2.0

Three years ago, the Trial Court embarked on an ambitious reform agenda, One Mission: Justice with Dignity and Speed. Efforts since then have led to completion of the rollout of a single case management system, creation of more than 40 specialty court sessions, introduction of a user-friendly website, expanded professional development, and the launch of electronic case filing and an electronic application for criminal complaint.

Strategic Plan 2.0 continues the work initiated in 2013 and updates the roadmap to reach the Vision for 2025. Four themes are embedded in the plan: continuous improvement, awareness of the impact of race and implicit bias on the

delivery of justice, the court user experience, and public trust and confidence.

The plan represents the collective expertise of nearly 200 Trial Court employees and external stakeholders. Additional internal and external input was obtained through focus groups, surveys, and discussions that ensured a comprehensive plan that reflects collective priorities.

Ten Trial Court and Probation task forces developed three-year plans to address priorities in the following specific areas: access to justice and court user experience, case flow management, next generation technology, talent and career development, the judicial experience, organizational decision making, and Probation practices, services, and business processes.

Close to 80 initiatives, or tactics, were identified. Milestone timelines were developed and tactic owners and reporters have been identified to track progress on each tactical plan. The plan can be viewed at mass.gov/courts.

Broaden Access to Justice

Access to Justice

Milestones reached this year include launching a guided interview and document assembly program for small claims complaints, piloting interpreter access in Probation, translating over 20 forms that affect liberty interests into seven languages and making them accessible online at mass.gov/courts/language-access.

Race & Implicit Bias Work

To foster more formal ways to address biases in the court system and in society, in FY16 the Supreme Judicial Court and the Trial Court co-sponsored an all-court conference on race and implicit bias, with help from the Flaschner Judicial Institute. More than 300 judges attended the conference. A Planning Committee on Race and Implicit Bias was formed after the conference to review the judges' evaluations and to seek volunteers at all levels of the system to help move the conversation forward. The Trial Court also appointed a Chief Diversity & Experience Officer to facilitate training and to further the development of race and implicit bias work within the Trial Court.

Best Practices in Criminal Sentencing

Four Trial Court departments with criminal jurisdiction issued comprehensive criminal sentencing reports in FY16, including best practice principles to assist judges in developing individualized, evidence-based sentences that are intended to improve offenders' chances of success upon release, reduce recidivism, and better secure public safety. The Sentencing Best Practice principles state that sentences should be proportionate to the gravity of the offense, the harm done to crime victims, and the role of the offender. A sentence should be no more severe than necessary to achieve its purposes and special conditions of probation should be narrowly tailored to the needs of the defendant, the public, and the victim, because an excessive number of special conditions may increase rather than decrease the likelihood of recidivism. The principles also encourage judges to inform defendants at the time of sentencing that the court will consider early termination of their probation or lift some conditions if they fully comply.

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

The availability of court-connected alternative dispute resolution services continued to grow in FY16 through the use of ADR in the District, Probate and Family and Superior Court Departments. District Courts in Barnstable, Brockton and Malden created new conciliation programs. The Superior Court Department approved two new court-connected ADR programs for its Middlesex and Essex County divisions. These new programs provide free conciliation services to litigants at the pre-trial hearing stage. The Trial Court Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution worked with the Housing Court Department to provide an advanced mediation training program for all Housing Specialists. The Committee also provided conciliation training for District Courts in Barnstable, Brockton, and Malden; and for Probate and Family Courts in Norfolk, Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties.

Volunteer Lawyer Initiatives

Departments of the Trial Court collaborated with local bar associations to provide pro bono legal services. The Volunteer Lawyer Project and Lawyer for the Day programs provided legal support to self-represented civil litigants in the Boston Municipal, District, Housing, and Probate

and Family Court departments. The Trial Court has compiled the court-connected resources into one comprehensive listing, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Legal Resource Finder (massLRF.org), to be posted on the Trial Court website and made available in local courthouses.

Translation of Court Forms

Trial Court continues to develop translated court forms and information, available in courthouses and on the Trial Court's language access portal (mass.gov/courts/language-access). The Trial Court also developed an online tool for court staff to submit court forms to be added to the queue for future translation work.

Language Access

Language access is a key component in ensuring dignity for all who come to court. The Trial Court's Language Access Advisory Committee continues to meet to oversee implementation of the Trial Court's Language Access Plan. In addition, the Committee for the Administration of Interpreters reconvened with the intention of revising and updating the Standards and Procedures for interpreters. The Office of Court Interpreter Services submitted a Request for Information for vendors to provide demonstrations of scheduling software capabilities that would improve efficient and effective deployment of interpreters throughout the Commonwealth. The Trial Court expects to submit an RFP in FY17 to purchase effective software to support the work of OCIS staff schedulers.

Plain Language Forms and Self-Help

In keeping with the goals of the Strategic Plan, the Trial Court has undertaken efforts to revise forms and court materials to be more easily read and understood by court users, in English as well as in other languages. FY16 projects included forms and instructions for Superior Court civil matters and administrative appeals; instructions for domestic relations procedures; Probate and Family Court resources; and domestic violence resources. The Trial Court held multiple trainings for court staff on tools to support court users, legal information, and navigation of the court system website.

Technology

In May 2016, the Trial Court launched its first Guide & File “Q&A Form,” an online question-and-answer tool that helps litigants fill out court forms. The first Guide & File form, for small claims complaints, was piloted in a collaborative effort between the Central Division of the Boston Municipal Court and the Boston Court Service Center. The three Departments that have jurisdiction over small claims – Housing, District, and Boston Municipal Courts – will expand the use of the Guide & File interview, permitting court users to fill out their small claims complaint forms online, and then print the forms to file in court. By FY17, the Trial Court intends to connect the Guide & File tool to e-filing, enabling litigants to complete the forms and filing process completely online.

Access to Justice Initiatives Overseen by the Office of Court Management:

Judicial Response System

This response system provides judicial intervention in emergency situations when the courts are closed. Judges participate through an on-call process coordinated with public safety officials in eight regions. In FY16, judges handled 5,406 emergency evening or weekend calls, for an average of 104 calls per week. For the first time, an electronic Judicial Response handbook is available to judges on the intranet.

Interpreter Services

Approximately 97,000 court events received interpretation services in 109 languages.

Law Libraries

The Trial Court’s 17 law libraries welcomed 37,525 on-site patrons, recorded 5.2 million website pages viewed, responded to 25,914 legal reference questions, and answered 5,066 questions via chat and text.

Court Service Centers

The Trial Court opened new Court Service Centers in Brockton, Greenfield, Lawrence, and Springfield in FY16. Since first opening in 2014 in Boston and Greenfield, the Trial Court’s six Court Service Centers have helped more than 50,000 people get the help they need to navigate the court system. Local advisory committees

comprised of court staff and judges have defined the vision for these resource centers that help litigants triage their needs, complete forms, learn about local resources, and connect to language services. Another three sites will be identified to open in FY17. A virtual Court Service Center on the Judiciary’s *mass.gov/courts* website is also in the works.

Enhance Public Safety

Expanded Specialty Courts

The Trial Court continued to expand the number of specialty courts to reach its goal of 50 sessions by 2017. At the end of FY16, 41 specialty court sessions operated across the state as follows:

- 26 Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts: *New locations in Fall River, Brockton, and Worcester District Courts and Taunton Juvenile Court. Family Drug Court opened in Franklin County Probate and Family Court. Slated for fall 2016: Hingham, Taunton, and Pittsfield District Courts.*
- 7 Mental Health Courts: *New location in Third Middlesex District Court.*
- 5 Veterans Treatment Courts: *New locations in Framingham, Holyoke, and Lawrence.*

Several training events were conducted and a certification process developed in collaboration with the Center of Excellence for Specialty Courts at UMass Medical School *macoe.org*. In addition, the Trial Court applied for federal grants to integrate specialty courts with the Community Corrections Centers and to expand the case management MISSION model to additional sites.

Drug Courts

The Boston Municipal Court, District Court, and Juvenile Court Departments conducted drug court sessions in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, and Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, and Department of Mental Health. Leadership of the Franklin County Probate and Family Court created a Family Drug Court to provide services to parents or caregivers needing

treatment who agree to participate. Research shows that these specialized sessions reduce crime and substance abuse, enhance public safety, and strengthen families. Key elements of this structured approach include intensive probation supervision and therapeutic programming, frequent testing, and careful monitoring by the supervising judge.

Mental Health Sessions

The Boston Municipal Court's Mental Health Diversion Initiative (MHDI) serves criminal defendants (primarily charged with misdemeanors and non-violent felonies) by offering a pre-trial diversion or post-conviction program of mental health treatment and strict probation supervision, rather than detention and jail time. The MHDI operates in the Central, Roxbury and West Roxbury divisions. The District Court now conducts mental health sessions in Quincy, Plymouth, and Springfield and, in FY16, introduced a voluntary Recovery Session in the Cambridge District Court.

Veterans Sessions

The District Court opened new Veterans Treatment sessions in Holyoke, Lawrence, and Framingham/Natick. New England's first veterans treatment court opened in 2012 at the Dedham District Court, and a session began at the Central Division of the Boston Municipal Court in 2014. Veterans treatment courts address the special needs of veterans, particularly issues of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Homeless Court

This collaborative program established by the West Roxbury Division of the Boston Municipal Court, includes participation by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, CPCS, the Pine Street Inn and Shattuck Hospital. Individuals who complete a substance abuse or job-training program are eligible to have their default warrants removed and their low-level cases terminated, since open default warrants impact a person's housing and employment opportunities.

Family Resolutions Specialty Court

The Hampshire Probate and Family Court developed a Family Resolutions Specialty Court, a voluntary program to provide intensive case management and oversight. Its purpose is to reduce conflict and lengthy litigation in domestic



Trial Court Goals

Strategic Plan 2.0, 2016

Preserve and enhance the quality of judicial decision-making.

Deliver justice with effectiveness, efficiency, and consistency in court operations and services.

Ensure fair access to the court system.

Respect the dignity of the judicial process and all participants and provide a safe environment.

Support a high-performance organization with a well-trained, engaged, collaborative, and diverse workforce.

Increase the transparency and accountability of court operations.

Strengthen relations with the Legislative and Executive branches.

Explore and expand collaborative and innovative approaches to delivering justice.

Enhance public trust and confidence in the judicial branch.

relations cases, focusing on the children in child-related cases. Issues are heard and resolved through a series of conferences, rather than in a single trial at the end of the proceedings. A Family Consultant advises parents about ways to improve communication, decrease conflict, and develop age-appropriate parenting plans.

Community Corrections Centers

In FY16 Probation's Office of Community Corrections sought to increase utilization of community corrections centers through consistent communication, increased stakeholder engagement, and continued service delivery improvement. The Office of Community Corrections (OCC) is dedicated to reducing prison commitments, thereby reserving incarceration for the most serious, violent offenders. By delivering intermediate sanctions that combine treatment and accountability measures in a manner that is innovative and motivational, OCC strengthens communities. With a network of 18 community corrections centers, OCC facilitates an enhanced supervision model that includes behavioral therapy to address criminal thinking and substance use disorder, career counseling, educational supports and comprehensive case management with accountability measures, such as drug and alcohol screening, community-work service, and leveraging the Massachusetts Probation Service's electronic monitoring.

Federal funds were received to pilot the FY17 expansion of the Brockton Community Correction Center's hours and services to support drug court participants at four nearby District Courts.

Enhancing Pretrial Services

The Trial Court continues to focus on implementing evidence-based practices into the pretrial process. The goal is to support decision making, services and supervision that deliver the best outcomes for individuals on pretrial status, while insuring public safety. As part of its efforts, the Trial Court is also pursuing legislation to allow for the pretrial population to be provided with much-needed substance abuse, education, and job development services at the 18 Community Correction Centers run by the Massachusetts Probation Service. Center staff include credentialed and licensed clinicians. By expanding the eligibility of those allowed to

receive services at the Centers, outcomes can be improved and jail costs reduced.

Court Officer Training

The Trial Court Security's training academy received national accreditation in July 2016 from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, validating that the standards of professionalism and training practices at the academy are in line with national public safety policies and best practices. In early 2016, an 8-week Court Officer Academy provided over 300 hours on court security topics, skills, and abilities, followed by a 12-week assignment to a Field Training Officer. In FY16, all Court Officers completed certification as emergency medical First Responders. In addition, all officers have been equipped and trained in the use of Naloxone, or Narcan, to use in case of a drug overdose within a courthouse and already have applied it in several life-saving situations.

Separate and Secure Waiting Areas

The Trial Court has designated 83 separate and secure waiting areas for the 91 court locations statewide that conduct criminal business. Only four designated sites existed when G.L. c. 258B passed in 2010 mandating separate areas to protect victims and witnesses. Substantial work has been completed on the eight remaining sites to be completed in FY17, which will bring the Trial Court into full compliance.

Juvenile Probation Risk Assessment Tool

The Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) was fully implemented in the Juvenile Courts across the state and the OYAS Supervision Standards, which govern the use of this tool, went into effect during the spring of 2016. OYAS is a fourth generation case management tool used for risk and criminogenic needs assessment, case planning, and to determine the most appropriate levels of probation supervision, based on rehabilitative needs of juvenile probationers.

Massachusetts Offender Recidivism Reduction (HOPE/MORR)

The HOPE/MORR recidivism reduction project for moderate and high-risk offenders continued in several District Courts, and in Essex Superior and District Courts in Salem which had received federal funding. Efforts to expand to Superior Courts in Worcester and Lowell remain in the

planning stage, dependent on resources. The guiding principle of HOPE/MORR is to reduce recidivism rates by taking swift, certain, and measured action for probation violations. The Trial Court was one of four national recipients of federal funds to launch this program, modeled after Hawaii's HOPE project. Since its inception in 2012, over 650 probationers have received HOPE/MORR supervision. In April 2016, the Trial Court delivered training to over 100 stakeholders who will be involved in this effort.

Domestic Violence Compliance

The Trial Court Domestic Violence Education Task Force leads initiatives to ensure legal compliance with the Act Relative to Domestic Violence and to support the Act's policy goals. The Domestic Violence Coordinator funded by the federal Violence Against Women Act helped the Task Force produce five mandatory, online mandatory training modules. Implementation will continue through FY17 for all Trial Court employees and guardians ad litem.

Provide a Safe, Sustainable Infrastructure

Capital Construction Projects

A total of \$73 million was invested in new construction, renovations, and repairs in courthouses in FY16.

The Facilities Management department engaged in numerous deferred maintenance projects across the state to address aging facilities. Working with the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), the department completed approximately \$1.8 million in study, design, and construction work. The Court Capital Projects Department oversaw continued construction for major renovations of the Franklin County Justice Center in Greenfield and the Essex County Probate and Family Court in Salem, as well as planning for the new Lowell Justice Center.

The \$65 million Greenfield project includes a four-story addition and renovation of the original 78-year-old courthouse. The project is estimated to be substantially complete by late 2016. The \$50 million Salem courthouse project replaces the rear addition and renovates the 1907 historic building, with the opening planned for early 2017.

Construction for the new Lowell Justice Center began in September 2016 and will take approximately 30 months. The \$200 million project will replace a leased facility and two outdated state-owned courthouses with a seven-story building. Green technologies are planned to improve energy efficiency.

Capital Master Plan

The Trial Court continues work with the state Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) on a comprehensive report on court facility capital requirements and options, along with the funding needed to achieve those improvements.

The available capital funds allocated by the Commonwealth will drive the Trial Court's ability to address deferred maintenance and capital projects for the next five to ten years.

The planning process included identification of the varying levels of deterioration found across the state's 100 courthouses. Existing facility conditions were evaluated using a high-level assessment of overall condition, building systems, space adequacy, security, code compliance, accessibility, and life safety.

Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Sight and Sound Separation for Juveniles

Work continues on efforts to remedy conditions in which sight and sound barriers are not sufficient to fully separate adult and juvenile detainees, as now required by federal guidelines. In FY16, a second group of 25 courthouses was audited and recommendations were developed to address any identified conflicts. In collaboration with the Trial Court Security Department, the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), 18 sites have been addressed through the installation of acoustical curtains and or procedural changes mandated by the Security department.

The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) has committed funding for the remaining sites, and Facilities Management has sought additional federal funding.

Energy & Water Conservation

Energy and water conservation measures are actively pursued across the entire portfolio of state-owned courthouses, either through systems changes, installation of new energy management systems, utility audits, or through the Accelerated Energy Program (AEP) managed by DCAMM.

The Trial Court has been an early and active participant in AEP, whose goal is to reduce the consumption of water, fossil fuels, and electricity at state facilities, and also reduce future operating costs.

For FY16, implemented energy conservation measures generated more than \$300,000 in annual savings energy and water cost savings. Efforts included new lighting with occupancy controls, HVAC improvements, and domestic water and sewer conservation.

Such conservation measures have or will be made across all state-owned courthouses. Additional FY16 sites included the implementation of new energy management systems at Brockton, Chelsea, and Dorchester Courts. Energy measures developed for additional courts have been planned and approved for Lawrence, Lowell, and Newburyport.

Improve Operational Effectiveness

Trial Court e-Learning Center

In FY16, Judicial Institute staff implemented a new, online learning management system for the Trial Court. The Trial Court e-Learning Center (TCe-LC) enables the Judicial Institute and other Trial Court training entities to conduct registration, track attendance and offer online training to all Trial Court employees, among other functions. By December 2016, over 3,000 Trial Court personnel accessed the new system, enrolling in over 400 separate, live training events. The implementation of the TCe-LC fulfills one of the major training-related goals of the Trial Court's first Strategic Plan.

Performance Reviews

Annual performance evaluations for all management and union employees were completed for the first time in FY16. Annual performance discussions enhance communication between employees and managers, so that employees are

aware of their major duties, understand performance expectations, receive feedback on their performance, and receive opportunities for training and development to improve performance and expand individual capacity.

MassCourts

The Trial Court completed its multi-year transition to MassCourts, an integrated, web-based case management and data system, in 2015. MassCourts enables data collection and information sharing needed to track case progress and timeliness. This robust case management system replaced 14 different legacy systems. As of June 30, 2016, MassCourts contained information on 22 million cases, 48.2 million case calendar events, and 15.2 million scanned documents. MassCourts also enables electronic data exchange with a growing number of entities, including the Board of Bar Overseers, Registry of Motor Vehicles, Department of Revenue, and Executive Office of Health & Human Services.

e-Access & Attorney Portal

The Trial Court significantly expanded the number of civil cases in its e-access portal, which allows case searches on the public internet (masscourts.org). In addition, rollout of the attorney portal occurred in conjunction with the Superior Court MassCourts implementation. This secure portal gives registered attorneys access to cases and calendar views of case data stored in the MassCourts system. By the end of FY16, over 9,100 attorneys had registered on the portal.

Digital Recording in Courtrooms

The Trial Court continues its multi-year project to install a digital recording system, For The Record, throughout the state's 436 courtrooms. The FTR system will download daily recordings of courtroom proceedings across the state to a central server, and will later be integrated with MassCourts to track and locate recordings for individual cases. FTR has completed installations in 158 courtrooms since the inception of the project in 2015. At least another 68 courtrooms are slated for FTR implementation by the end of FY17. FTR's multi-year installation continues on schedule, with projected completion in FY19. All Superior Court courtrooms and multi-court Justice Centers are now converted to the new system, including locations in Brockton, Dorchester, Salem, Worcester, Plymouth, and

Springfield. Next in line for implementation are courthouses in New Bedford, Barnstable, Quincy, and the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston.

Signature Customer Experience Training

The Trial Court will continue to expand implementation of the Signature Customer Experience program to all court divisions across the Commonwealth over the next few years. This program recognizes that for most court users, their experience in the clerk's or register's office is their first and most extensive experience with the judiciary. Ensuring that litigants have a positive experience in the clerk's/register's office is, therefore, critical to the public's trust and confidence in the courts. Court staff participate in this program as a team to examine and better understand their interactions among themselves, as well as their interactions with court users, to be able to ensure the provision of excellent service to the public. More than 70 sessions of this program were offered to the staff of more than 25 court divisions this year.

Videoconferencing

There are now 116 videoconferencing units deployed across the Trial Court, with 80% of court facilities having at least one unit. There has been a steady increase in the number of videoconferencing events over the past 18 months, with some 9,500 unique events taking place between January 2015 and June 2016. Of that total, over 4,800 bail reviews and more than 2,100 pretrial hearings were conducted via videoconferencing.

Professional Development: Expanded Training Programs

The Judicial Institute offered a wide range of additional training for Trial Court judges and employees, including a Human Resources Orientation, a mandatory program for new employees. Programs introduced in FY16 include: Assembling the Record on Appeal tailored to each Trial Court department; Courtroom Evidence for Judges, a course of workshops for judges on specific evidentiary issues; a program on bail issues; ongoing Learning Labs for judicial mentor-coaches; sessions on the new Code of Judicial Conduct for judges; and a "train the trainers" session for a group of Trial Court judges and staff who will be presenting a live session on domestic violence

that complements the online training begun in FY16.

Juror Utilization

Juror utilization remains a top priority for the Trial Court and the Office of Jury Commissioner. After declining slightly to 46.8% in FY15, the statewide juror utilization rate rose to a new record of 47.2% in FY16. Monthly utilization rates were consistently higher for most of the year, and the trend towards declining numbers of impanelments stabilized somewhat, particularly in the second half of FY16. Suffolk Superior Court, in particular, saw a significant increase in impanelments over FY15.

Indigency Verification

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) finalized major revisions to SJC Rule 3:10 clarifying the standards to determine who is to be found indigent. The revised rule adds juveniles and young adults to its definition, expands those entitled to appointment of counsel, and further clarifies the imposition and collection of various indigency fees as well as the procedural process to be used in determining indigency. The full text of the revised rule is available online at mass.gov/courts under "Case & Legal Resources."

Civil e-Filing

The Judiciary completed the six planned e-filing pilots for both the Trial Court's Worcester District Court, Essex Probate and Family Court, the Brighton Division of the Boston Municipal Court, and the Appellate Courts. These pilots were intended to integrate established case management systems with vendor Tyler Technologies' e-filing portal. The Trial Court integrated Tyler Technologies' cloud service with the CourtView CMS (MassCourts) using OASIS ECF standardized filing transactions. In the Appellate Court the same standard was used to interface with Forecourt. In addition, the Tyler Guide and File tools were used to build guided interviews for use by pro-se litigants in small claims cases. These interviews were initially used in Court Service Centers for generating traditional paper documents and will be transitioned to fully electronic filings in FY17.

Engage Local Communities

Jury Duty Cable TV Series

The Office of Jury Commissioner (OJC) created a 12-episode cable TV series for the Boston Neighborhood Network in FY15 to educate viewers about jury duty and the jury system. Based on its success, the OJC recorded and broadcast a second season of 12 episodes in FY16. Topics included: the role of juries in the Boston Municipal Court and the Housing Court, famous jury trials, the introduction of attorney voir dire, and how an impanelment is conducted. The entire series is available for viewing on the OJC website, and is being distributed to cable TV stations across the Commonwealth for broadcast.

National Adoption Day

National Adoption Day is one of several projects supported by the Massachusetts Court Improvement Program, a federally-funded program administered by the Supreme Judicial Court. In November 2015, more than 100 children who were in state foster care were formally adopted in three courthouses across the Commonwealth as part of the state's 13th annual National Adoption Day, an event to raise awareness of the thousands of Massachusetts children in need of adoptive families. Children and their adoptive families participated in adoption ceremonies at the Franklin/Hampshire Juvenile Court in Hadley, which served as the statewide media site for the event; the George N. Covett Courthouse in Brockton, the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse in Boston; the Berkshire Juvenile Court in Pittsfield, and the Worcester Trial Court.

National Family Reunification Day

The Berkshire Juvenile Court, in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, and the Berkshire Children and Families/Family Resource Center, celebrated the reunification of two local families at a special ceremony after successfully completing their conditions of court-ordered separation. The event, which took place in Pittsfield, is the first of its kind to be held in the state. The Juvenile Court hopes to make Family Reunification Day a biennial tradition at its courthouses throughout the Commonwealth, in the spirit of the Trial Court's annual Adoption Day.

Juvenile-Focused Partnerships

All divisions of the Juvenile Court partnered with local Probation and Office of Community Corrections staff, community leaders and non-profits to plan and implement a wide variety of community-based programs, including Operation Night Light, Mothers Helping Mothers, Truancy Watch, Stop Watch, Shakespeare in the Court, Bridging the Gap, and the Juvenile Resource Center.

Partnerships with Schools, Non-Profits, and Law Enforcement

Judges, clerks, probation staff, and others in all Trial Court departments partnered extensively with leaders in their local communities to develop programs that address the needs of those communities. School-based efforts shared information about the court's role in the community through opportunities such as mock trials and internships. Outreach included ongoing work with advocacy and membership groups that regularly interact with the courts. Courts worked closely with local law enforcement to provide guidance on a range of issues, including search and seizure law, new statutes and rules amendments, and law enforcement matters for new police cadets. Probation staff continued work with local police, non-profits, and other entities to design programs that combat violence and reduce crime. Celebrations to observe Law Day took place in May in courthouses throughout Massachusetts, including the John Adams Courthouse in Boston, where the Supreme Judicial Court hosted approximately 100 high school students from Fenway High School and Cathedral High School.

Jury Outreach and Education

The Office of Jury Commissioner (OJC) continued its community outreach program with schools and community groups, court personnel and others. In FY16, 6,467 people attended 178 OJC Public Outreach presentations at 89 different locations, a 5% increase in attendance and a 13% increase in presentations over FY15. The OJC also continued outreach efforts to urban, underserved, and adult audiences to ensure the most diverse and representative jury pools possible statewide.

The Family Court Answer Center

Run by the Probate and Family Court, the Family Court Answer Center is a free resource for mothers and fathers who have questions related to their family law cases. The Center provides parents with opportunities to meet individually with attorneys, as well as court staff and representatives from the Department of Revenue, Department of Children and Families, the Probation Department, and Domestic Violence advocates. The Answer Centers are held once a month at the Court Service Center in the Edward J. Brooke Courthouse in Boston.

Changing Lives Through Literature

Developed through a collaboration of higher education and Trial Court representatives, Changing Lives through Literature strives to reduce recidivism through reading. Taught by English professors, each CLTL program encourages participants, who include judges, probationers, and probation officers, to examine their experiences, challenges, and life choices by exploring diverse works of literature and poetry. In FY16, justices and probation officers from the District Court, Boston Municipal Court, Superior Court, Juvenile Court, and the Probate and Family Court participated in numerous CLTL programs at community colleges and courthouses across the Commonwealth, including Enhancing Families Through Literature, an innovative variation of CLTL for court-supervised families and their young children developed by the Berkshire Division of the Probate and Family Court in FY15.

Massachusetts Trial Court

By the Numbers

Data is for Fiscal Year 2016 or as of June 30, 2016,
unless otherwise noted.



People

Judicial positions authorized by statute	379
Total Judges and Staff	6,314
Percent Women	56.9%
Percent Diverse Staff	22.4%
Judicial Institute (JI) Training Programs	233



Access to Justice

Judicial Emergency Response (calls after hours)	5,406
Interpreted Events	97,000+
Number of Languages	109
Law Libraries	17
Law Libraries: On-site Patrons	37,525
Court Service Centers: Visitors from May '14 to Nov '16	53,890
Judiciary Website Visitors (mass.gov/courts)	3.3 M
Judiciary Website Page Views	23.3 M



Money Matters

Operating Appropriation	\$ 631.5 M
General Revenue Collected	\$ 59.4 M
Probation Fees Collected	\$ 20.2 M
Indigency Verifications Completed	115,101

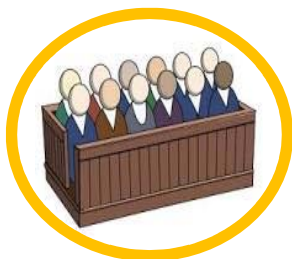
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Data is for Fiscal Year 2016 or as of June 30, 2016, unless otherwise noted.



Court Business

New Case Filings	912,757
Cases in MassCourts	22 M
Electronic Documents in MassCourts	15 M
Docket Entries	18.9 M
Trials Held	10,741
Jurors Appearing	205,353
Juror Utilization Rate	47.2%
Probation Supervision Caseload	82,789
Probation Violation Hearings	113,503
Total GPS Caseload	3,008
Community Correction Centers (CCC)	18
CCC Enrollment	2,540
Community Service Hours	223,820
Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs	53
Specialty Courts	41
Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts	26
Mental Health Courts	7
Veterans Treatment Courts	5
Other	3
Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs	53
Video Events	9,565
Stays in Lockup	237,317



Case Flow Metrics

Clearance Rate	98.1%
Cases Disposed Within Time Standards	87.0%
Pending Caseload	248,916
Trials Held Within Two Date Settings	70.7%



Facilities

Facilities with Courtrooms	100
State/County Owned Facilities	79
Number of Courtrooms	436
Total Facilities - Floor Space in Gross Sq. Ft.	5.6 M



Boston Municipal Court Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Guide & File

The Trial Court's first Guide & File interview went "live" at the Brooke Courthouse Service Center for small claims complaints filed in the Central Division of the Boston Municipal Court Department. Guide and File is one of the newest innovations in access to justice technology available for court users. An interactive electronic interview allows a litigant to answer a series of questions which then populates a small claims court form. This guided interview program will ultimately integrate with File & Serve, the Trial Court's e-filing system that will enable litigants to complete forms and file cases online. A team of Trial Court subject matter experts developed a comprehensive interview that was legally accurate and in plain language to allow a self-represented litigant to easily understand the interview.

Completed Rollout of MassCourts

The Boston Municipal Court Department completed its rollout of MassCourts with the conversion of the Central Division from a client-server based version to the web-based version of MassCourts. This rollout included implementation of full criminal docketing in MassCourts for the first of the BMC divisions. Criminal docketing will automatically generate relevant forms and docket templates to ease the data entry process.

Specialty Courts

Homeless Court

Open default warrants often affect housing and employment opportunities, therefore resolving these legal barriers gives individuals a greater chance at self-sufficiency. This program assists residents of the Pine Street Inn and other Boston shelters who have open default warrants for misdemeanors and low level felonies. The program includes participation by the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, the Committee for Public Counsel Services, Pine Street Inn, and Shattuck Hospital. Called the "Court of Second Chances," the Homeless Court allows participants who show a commitment to change behavior to receive substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as access to job training programs.

Mental Health Court

The Mental Health Diversion Initiative (MHDI) serves criminal defendants (primarily charged with misdemeanors and non-violent felonies) by offering a pre-trial diversion or post-conviction program of mental health treatment and strict probation supervision instead of detention and jail time. This collaboration between the criminal justice and mental health treatment systems aims to improve the quality of life of people with severe mental illness by providing access to comprehensive services and to improve public safety by reducing recidivism. In these sessions, probation officers collaborate with social workers, prosecutors, and defense counsel to connect mentally ill defendants with treatment providers and mental health services as an alternative to incarceration. MHDI sessions are now held in the Central, Roxbury, and West Roxbury divisions.



Edward W. Brooke Courthouse,
Boston

Judges: **30**

Divisions: **8**

FY2016 Case Filings: **84,754**

Jurisdiction:

Civil jurisdiction includes cases in which the likely recovery does not exceed \$25,000; small claims cases; summary process cases; mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse commitments; domestic violence restraining orders and harassment prevention orders. Criminal jurisdiction extends to enumerated felonies punishable by a sentence of up to five years and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; misdemeanors, including violations of domestic violence restraining orders; and violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws. The Court has jurisdiction over evictions and some related matters, and provides judicial review of some government agency determinations.

District Court Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Civil Pilot on Dedicated Civil Sessions

A new procedural pilot program involving all civil money damage actions in the five District Court divisions in Norfolk County was launched in FY16. Two Dedicated Civil Sessions (DCS) will address all actions for money damages, except for consumer debt cases. Each DCS, and the judge assigned to the session, is devoted exclusively to the management and disposition of the civil cases transferred to it. Attorney voir dire will be available in the DCS, and a Civil Case Liaison has been designated in each division to improve communication with attorneys and facilitate the movement of civil cases to disposition.

Electronic Application for Criminal Complaints

The Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint (EACC) is an electronic data exchange that allows law enforcement agencies to transmit an application for a criminal complaint, with accompanying attachments, to the Trial Court and receive electronic information back as to the results of submission. The exchange is further intended to establish reliable and immediate linkage using the Offense Based Tracking Number (OBTN) between an arrest and any pending criminal cases that may result in a finding of probable cause. Since January 2016, the use of EACC has expanded to 20 District Court divisions, in partnership with 45 local police departments. By the end of FY16, more than 3,000 EACC District Court cases had been entered into MassCourts.

Videoconferencing

Videoconferencing use and capability have dramatically increased throughout the District Court. In FY16, videoconferencing was used in over 5,000 separate criminal court events, including pretrial hearings, compliance and election hearings, speedy trial requests, and default and warrant removal hearings. The use of videoconferencing helps to reduce costs, address safety concerns and delays associated with the transportation of prisoners and detainees. Videoconferencing also improves the efficiency of case management through technology, while safeguarding individual access to justice and due process rights.

Hospital Arraignments by Videoconferencing

The Worcester District Court initiated a videoconferencing pilot project for hospital arraignments to eliminate the need for a judge and staff to travel to the hospital. It also minimizes any potential for disruption or inconvenience to others at the hospital. With the use of an oversized tablet or similar device, the defendant/patient is able to see both the judge and the courtroom, and “appears” in the courtroom via the court’s videoconferencing equipment. Plans are underway to expand this to additional District Court divisions.

New Specialty Courts

Three new Veterans Treatment sessions began in Framingham, Holyoke and Lawrence in FY16. Additionally, new drug court sessions started in Fall River, Lowell and Worcester. The Cambridge District Court also introduced the “Recovery Session,” a new mental health session.

Civil e-Filing Pilot Expansion

In April 2016, the Quincy District Court became the second division to receive new civil case filings through an electronic interface with the Trial Court and a civil e-Filing vendor. The pilot has been successful in the Worcester Division. With the expansion of the pilot project to the Quincy District Court, nearly a dozen additional law firms, as well as the code enforcement bureau of the Attorney General’s Office, can e-file new civil cases, case pleadings and motions with the court clerk. The new process expedites case filings and minimizes data entry in the clerk’s office.



Fall River Justice Center

Judges: **158**

Divisions: **62**

FY2016 Case Filings: **563,428**

Jurisdiction:

Civil jurisdiction includes cases in which the likely recovery does not exceed \$25,000; small claims cases; summary process cases and related matters; mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse commitments; domestic violence restraining orders and harassment prevention orders. The Court also provides judicial review of some governmental agency determinations. Criminal jurisdiction extends to felonies punishable by a sentence to state prison of up to five years and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; misdemeanors, including violations of domestic violence restraining orders; and violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws.

Housing Court Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

New Leadership

In September 2015, Judge Timothy F. Sullivan was appointed as Chief Justice of the Housing Court Department for a five-year term starting October 1, 2015, following the retirement of Chief Justice Steven D. Pierce. A Housing Court judge since 2004, Chief Justice Sullivan had served as First Justice of the Northeast Division and an Associate Justice in the Worcester Division.

Legislative Activity

In the 2014-2015 legislative session, hearings were held to propose statewide expansion of the Housing Court. The case for expansion was strong, however, due to budget constraints, the Legislature did not enact the bill. The Court plans to discuss refiling the bill in the next legislative session.

In 2015, the Governor signed “An Act to Clear Title to Foreclosed Properties” for effect on December 31st. The Act granted jurisdiction to the Housing Court to hear foreclosure challenges, and set forth rules for resolving competing claims of title, post-foreclosure sale.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Housing Court Specialists play a vital role in case management and the Court uses MassCourts ADR screens to monitor data on settled and unsettled cases. In May 2016, Specialists from each Housing Court division attended a three-day program conducted by Massachusetts Public Health Inspectors. The comprehensive course involved: classroom time; a written exam; supervised field training inspections; and a computer-based virtual inspection and assessment.

Community Partnership & Outreach

The Worcester Division gave after-hours presentations on housing law to the Worcester Property Owners Association, the Northern Worcester County Landlord Association, and the MetroWest Property Owners Association. The Northeast Division hosted a training session with the North Shore Community Action Programs, Northeast Legal Aid, and the Northeast Justice Center on landlord/tenant law in Salem. The Court’s Boston Division Judges, Clerk Magistrate, and Chief Housing Specialist participated in training for inspectors of the Boston Inspectional Services Department and hosted a bench-bar conference for Boston attorneys. The Southeast Division presented a program in Fall River on “The Anatomy of an Eviction.” The Western Division collaborated with the Western New England Law School’s Consumer Law Clinic. Students operating under SJC Rule 3.03 learned about housing law and represented litigants in summary process matters. Community Legal Aid played a key role in these efforts by supervising and guiding law students during their representation.



Taunton Trial Court

Judges: **10**

Divisions: **5**

FY2016 Case Filings: **41,531**
ADR Referrals: **21,243**

Jurisdiction:

The Housing Court has jurisdiction in law and equity over all civil and criminal matters involving the use of residential property and the activities conducted thereon as well as the use of any other real property and the activities conducted thereon as such affect the health, safety, or welfare of any resident, owner, or user of residential property. The Housing Court hears summary process (eviction), small claims, and civil actions involving personal injury, property damage, breach of contract, discrimination, and other claims. The Housing Court also adjudicates code enforcement actions and appeals of local zoning board decisions affecting residential property.

Juvenile Court Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Race and Implicit Bias Work

The Juvenile Court collaborated with the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and other juvenile justice partners to develop, film and produce an innovative and thought-provoking video on race and implicit bias. The video discusses why focusing on racial and ethnic disparity is so important to the work in the Juvenile Court, and will be released along with materials to facilitate trainings and further conversations.

Through the partnership with JDAI, each Juvenile Court division now receives data to enable local conversations regarding disparity at a variety of juvenile justice decision points. The Juvenile Court has also convened a Race and Implicit Bias Committee comprised of judges, clerk magistrates, and others.

Sentencing Best Practices

The Juvenile Court convened a working group to consider best practices to be used in formulating juvenile dispositions. The working group included a number of partners, including the Juvenile Court, Department of Youth Services, Probation Service, Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police and District Attorneys Association.

The committee's goal was to ensure that each judge who imposes a sentence has the information needed about the defendant and the crime to determine an appropriate sentence and, where probation is imposed, to determine which conditions will best address the particular needs of the defendant.

The working group finalized Dispositional and Sentencing Best Practices for Delinquent and Youthful Offender Matters, a comprehensive document that received an immensely favorable response.

National Reunification Day Celebration

In June 2016, the Berkshire County Juvenile Court held the first Reunification Day event together with the Department of Children and Families, Committee for Public Counsel Services and the Berkshire Children and Families/Family Resource Center. Two families were honored for their courageous efforts to reunify with their children. The Berkshire County Juvenile Court hopes to make this a biennial tradition.



Worcester Trial Court

Judges: **41**

Divisions: **11**

FY2016 Case Filings: **37,271**

Jurisdiction:

The Juvenile Court Department has general jurisdiction over delinquency, children requiring assistance (CRA), care and protection petitions, adult contributing to a delinquency of a minor, adoption, guardianship, termination of parental rights proceedings, and youthful offender cases.

Land Court Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Permit Session Report

Per MGL c. 185, §3A, cases filed in the Land Court's Permit Session are individually assigned to a judge who handles the case from commencement to conclusion. By statute, cases allowed entry into the Permit Session only include specified disputes where, "...the underlying project or development involves either 25 or more dwelling units or the construction or alteration of 25,000 square feet or more of gross floor area or both." The legislation also established three timeframes or tracks for these cases to follow from filing to disposition.

During FY16 in the Permit Session, nine cases were pending at the beginning of the fiscal year, six new cases were filed, and nine were disposed, resulting in six pending into the next fiscal year. All of the case filings or transfers into the session took place in the first seven months of the fiscal year. The case disposition timeframes ranged from one month to 11 months, with an average time to disposition of approximately 7.5 months. The filed cases originate from Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, and Plymouth Counties.

Statewide Coverage

Land Court judges continued their practice of travelling throughout the Commonwealth to conduct local judicial events. These off-site events occurred on 33 separate dates and included property site views and trial events at locations in eight counties.

Onsite Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Pilot

A retired Appeals Court Justice is conducting no-cost, onsite screening sessions of cases referred by Land Court judges at the case management conference stage. Twenty-eight cases have been screened, resulting in more parties opting to mediate with court-connected, private ADR programs. In a number of instances where one or both parties could not afford a private mediator, the retired Justice conducted mediation onsite.

As part of the pilot program, several Land Court judges conducted conciliation sessions for their colleagues in cases where a short session might move the parties to resolution. This approach proved quite effective in achieving practical, win-win resolutions.

Along with the pilot program, approximately 60 traditional case referrals were made to five court-connected Alternative Dispute Resolution providers.



Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston

Judges: 7

Case Filings in FY2016: **19,546**

Jurisdiction:

The Land Court Department of the Trial Court has statewide jurisdiction. The court has exclusive, original jurisdiction over the registration of title to real property and over all matters and disputes concerning such title subsequent to registration. The court also exercises exclusive original jurisdiction over the foreclosure and redemption of real estate tax liens. The court shares jurisdiction over other property matters. The court has concurrent jurisdiction over specific performance of contracts relating to real estate and over petitions for partitions of real estate. The court shares jurisdiction over matters arising out of decisions by local planning boards and zoning boards of appeal. Both the Land Court and the Superior Court Department have jurisdiction over the processing of mortgage foreclosure cases, determining the military status of the mortgagor. Additionally, the court has superintendency authority over the registered land office in each registry of deeds.

Probate and Family Court Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Hampshire Division Family Resolutions Specialty Court

The Hampshire Probate and Family Court this year introduced a Family Resolutions Specialty Court. The voluntary program will provide intensive case management and oversight by the judge and staff. This specialty court aims to reduce conflict and lengthy litigation in domestic relations cases involving children.

Franklin County Family Drug Court

Probation Officers will screen cases for participation in the Franklin County Family Drug Court, a new specialty court created by the Franklin County Probate and Family Court. If parents are appropriate candidates for treatment, and the parent and the children's caregiver agree to participate, time standards will be extended, giving the parent needing treatment up to two years to address his or her substance use issues without the underlying court case proceeding to trial. During that time, the parent will participate in drug treatment and mental health counseling, and will attend bi-weekly sessions at the court where progress will be monitored by the judge and court staff. Services also will be offered to children and caregivers, including trauma assessments and follow up treatment, education about addiction, referrals for resources and supportive services.

Alternative Dispute Resolution: Hampden Division Onsite Mediation

Onsite mediation services are provided through a collaboration between The Mediation and Training Collaborative and students from the Western New England School of Law (WNEU). The Hampden Probate and Family Court is the first site to pilot mandatory mediation in the Trial Court under SJC Rule 1:18, and the pilot includes participation of law students from a mediation clinic. The WNEU clinic provides onsite mediation services on a weekly basis. The clinic supervisor co-mediates as lead mediator with each student.

In FY16, 75 mediations were conducted. Of those cases, 50 settled or partially settled, for a 66% resolution rate. The WNEU Clinic conducted 24 of the 75 mediations, and 18 of those mediations reached complete or partial settlement for a 75% resolution rate.

Creating Community Connections through the Arts

The Probate and Family Court received a Trial Court Innovation Grant to engage the community in displaying artwork in its courthouses, creating a positive atmosphere for litigants, attorneys and staff. This grant expanded a previously successful art project in the Essex Division. Eleven of the 14 divisions of the Probate and Family Court benefitted from this grant that allowed local schools and artists to display artwork. These divisions have established new connections to their communities and brightened the courthouses.



Franklin County Courthouse,
Greenfield

Judges: **51**

Divisions: **14**

Case Filings in FY2016: **142,138**

Jurisdiction:

The Probate and Family Court of Massachusetts has jurisdiction over family matters such as divorce, paternity, child support, custody, parenting plans, adoption, termination of parental rights, and abuse prevention. Probate matters include wills, administrations, guardian-ships, conservatorships and change of name. The Court also has general equity jurisdiction.

Superior Court Department

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Attorney Participation in Jury Voir Dire

MGL c. 234, §28, authorized attorney participation in jury voir dire in civil and criminal trials in the Superior Court. The law, effective in February 2015, along with Superior Court Standing Order 1-15, provided an interim procedure to govern the process pending completion of the work of the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) Committee on Juror Voir Dire.

During FY16, the Superior Court gathered detailed data, including information relating to the number of civil and criminal trials in which attorney voir dire was used, how it occurred, time spent, number of jurors utilized, and the views of judges, attorneys, clerks, and jurors regarding the process. That data contributed to the conclusions of the SJC Committee regarding best practices, and will inform the Superior Court's effort to develop a rule to govern voir dire for the future.

MassCourts

The Superior Court completed its MassCourts conversion in all counties. Training was coordinated for judges, clerks' offices, and judicial secretaries. Work continues to improve data entry practices for increased consistency and accuracy. Attorneys can electronically access case information in their civil and criminal cases through an Attorney Portal. The public accesses certain civil case types, including scanned decisions, orders, and judgments, as well as criminal case information by docket number.

Sentencing Best Practices

The Superior Court established a Working Group on Best Practices in Individualized Evidence-Based Sentencing, including judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and representatives of the Massachusetts Probation Service. In March 2016, the group issued Criminal Sentencing in the Superior Court: Best Practices for Individualized Evidence Based Sentencing. The report sets out 17 best practice principles and identifies support for each principle in legal authorities and research literature.

Civil Litigation Options

A Working Group on Options for Cost Effective Civil Litigation with judges and attorneys developed proposals in FY16 to make civil litigation more just, speedy, and inexpensive. Following discussion, publication, comment, and revision, the Court adopted three initiatives: 1) parties can seek an individual case management order, including agreed-to changes in otherwise applicable procedures regarding discovery, trial, and post-trial events; 2) the Court will conduct a pilot program for early case management conferences for specified case types requiring parties to confer and exchange settlement proposals prior to the conference; 3) a new Superior Court rule will clarify requirements on timing and scope of disclosure of expert witness testimony, to avoid delays that often arise from delayed or incomplete disclosure.



J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center, Salem

Judges: **82**

Counties: **14**

Case Filings in FY2016: **24,089**

Jurisdiction:

The Superior Court has original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$25,000, and in matters where equitable relief is sought. It also has original jurisdiction in actions involving labor disputes where injunctive relief is sought, and has exclusive authority to convene medical malpractice tribunals.

The Court has exclusive original jurisdiction in first degree murder cases and original jurisdiction for all other crimes. It has jurisdiction over all felony matters, although it shares jurisdiction over crimes where other Trial Court Departments have concurrent jurisdiction. Finally, the Superior Court has appellate jurisdiction over certain administrative proceedings.

Office of Jury Commissioner

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Postcard Pilot

The OJC conducted a successful “postcard notification” pilot program, thanks to an \$8,000 Trial Court Innovation Grant awarded at the beginning of 2016. Prior to the scheduled mailing of the traditional summons package, 14,000 postcards were mailed to all jurors summoned to appear for service in the first week in August. Recipients were asked to respond on the OJC’s website, where they could find all of the information and materials typically included in the paper summons package. A remarkable 65% of those who received the postcard responded to their postcard summons, eliminating the need to send costly paper packages to well over half the scheduled recipients. The OJC estimates it will reduce annual mailing costs by more than \$120,000 by implementing the postcard program as a regular business practice.

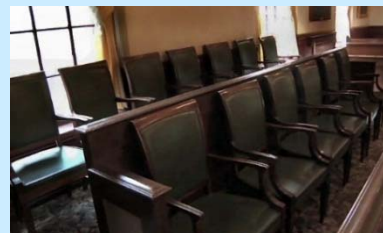
Repeal of c.234

The Governor signed a bill put forth by the OJC to repeal c.234, the former jury statute, which had been almost entirely superseded in 1982 by the current jury statute, Mass. Gen. L. c.234A. The continued existence of the outdated c.234 in the Massachusetts General Laws had been a source of ongoing confusion as jurors sought “exemptions” that had been revoked 30 years ago and courts occasionally relied upon invalid provisions of the prior law. The few provisions of c.234 that had not been superseded were added to c.234A as amendments. The quality of justice in the Commonwealth was enhanced by the elimination of contradictory provisions of law from the statute and clarification of the true state of jury law in Massachusetts.

Deaf Juror Pilot Program

In FY16, the OJC concluded its successful pilot program for deaf jurors, which was commenced in FY13 in collaboration with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH). OJC and MCDHH worked together to provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters to allow deaf citizens to perform jury service in courthouses across the state. Due to the severe shortage of court certified ASL interpreters, MCDHH had been unable to assist deaf citizens with jury service for well over a decade.

The pilot program was launched in May 2013 at the Brooke Courthouse in Boston and then continued on a quarterly basis. In FY16, deaf citizens served in Hampden, Barnstable, Suffolk and Middlesex Counties. The program has now been implemented as a permanent part of the OJC’s summoning procedure, focusing primarily on the counties with the greatest population of deaf citizens in a “summoned status,” waiting to serve. Also in FY16, the OJC met with the Disability Law Center and a private provider of interpreter services, to explore ways to expand access to deaf jurors even further.



The mission of the Office of Jury Commissioner is to provide randomly-selected pools of eligible jurors, representative of the community from which they are drawn, to each of the jury courts of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in accordance with the needs of those courts and the direction of the Trial Court.

Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Article XII

And the legislature shall not make any law, that shall subject any person to a capital or infamous punishment. . .without trial by jury.

Article XV

In all controversies concerning property, and in all suits between two or more persons . . . the parties have a right to a trial by jury; and this method of procedure shall be held sacred . . .

Jurors Summoned in FY16: **672,643**

Jurors Serving in FY16: **205,432**

Juror Utilization Rate (% of jurors appearing who are impanelled, challenged, or excused): **47.2%**

Massachusetts Probation Service

Fiscal Year 2016 Highlights

Strategic Plan

The Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) completed its first strategic plan as an integral part of the Trial Court's second planning effort. The process helped clarify goals and direction for the next three years, and served as an opportunity to strengthen leadership and communication. The plan includes tactics to develop and enhance work in programming, supervision and services, workforce development, business processes and communications and governance.

Victim Services

MPS received Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding through the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance, which enabled hiring of a dedicated Victim Services Coordinator (VSC) in October 2015 to provide services to victims and survivors whose offenders were under Electronic Monitoring (ELMO) supervision and others throughout Worcester County. In just eight months, 742 victims and survivors received direct services. In FY16, the MPS secured additional VOCA funding to hire three more VSCs and build a statewide Victim Services Unit.

Record Sealing Wait Time Reduced

The MPS Sealing Unit reduced the wait time for record sealing from more than three months to one business day for records ordered sealed by a judge and processed by Probation, and to only three days for records sealed directly by Probation's Sealing Unit. This benefits probationers whose criminal records often serve as a major barrier to securing housing and employment.

Enhanced and Expanded Drug Testing

During FY16, MPS strengthened its random drug testing by expanding the types of drugs to be tested and the types of equipment used. A new 10-panel cup was procured and includes testing for suboxone, fentanyl and K2. A newly designed, 8-panel oral fluid testing device was also procured as an alternative screen.

New and Updated GPS Devices and Remote Alcohol Monitoring Equipment

MPS introduced a new generation of GPS and alcohol monitoring devices. The GPS units utilize the most comprehensive cellular network available. New remote alcohol equipment monitors alcohol use of probationers when this is a condition of their probation. SCRAM Remote Breath® identifies probationers using facial recognition software; results are monitored by Probation's 24/7 ELMO center. The MPS was monitoring more than 600 probationers daily on SCRAM, exceeding projected use levels.

Enhancing Pre-Trial Services: Pursuing Legislation for Positive Outcomes

The Trial Court is pursuing legislation to allow for the pre-trial population to be provided much needed substance abuse, education, and job development services at community corrections centers (CCCs). If passed, the bill would allow those on pre-trial probation and those being held awaiting trial to access programming at community corrections centers when appropriate. The current statutory language limits the centers to providing services only to those sentenced to probation. Expanding the eligibility of those allowed to receive programming and services at the centers is expected to improve outcomes for those under probation supervision and reduce jail costs.



The Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS) employs 1,800 professionals who work to increase community safety, reduce recidivism, contribute to the fair and equitable administration of justice, support victims and survivors, and assist individuals and families in achieving long term positive change.

MPS supervises and provides rehabilitative services to individuals under court-ordered supervision. MPS supports court operations and decision making through case processing and managing and delivering electronic information. MPS updates and quality checks information which feeds law enforcement information systems.

MPS employs evidenced-based tools and programming to address offenders' needs. MPS plays a critical role in child protection through Probate and Family and Juvenile Courts. MPS provides dispute mediation and disposition support to ensure child safety and best interests.

MPS leverages technology to further support public safety and rehabilitation through a 24/7 electronic monitoring (ELMO) center that monitors and responds to offenders being supervised by sophisticated GPS and remote alcohol monitoring devices.

MPS's Office of Community Corrections operates 18 centers, providing intermediate sanctions and supervision for higher-risk offenders on probation, parole and correctional pre-release. Offenders receive intensive supervision and access to rehabilitative services such as substance abuse and mental health treatment and job training in one setting.

MPS's Community Service Program deploys an average of 54 crews daily, to landscape public areas, staff food kitchens and homeless shelters, and assist in trash, snow and ice removal along the highways.

2016 MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURTS **EXCELLENCE** AWARDS

Boston Municipal Court

Susan McTigue

District Court

Ellen Moulton, Joanne Spinelli

Probate and Family Court

Nancy Gargiulo

Juvenile Court

Julie Hall

Juvenile Court Probation Risk Assessment Team:

Kim Banville, Kristen Hurst, Erin Lynch, Cynthia McConville,
Colleen O'Leary, Todd Rogato, Karen Sullivan, Lonnie Welchman

Superior Court

Carlotta Patten, Mark J. Toomey

Facilities Management

Patrick Kelly

Berkshire County Probation Certified Treatment Program Development Team

Office of Community Corrections: Jeff Boyd, Pat Horne, Kevin
Kearney, Kim Norton, Kyle Schadler, Teri Trufant

Probation: Alf Barbalunga, Clifford Nilan, Francine Ryan,
Matthew Stracuzzi, Donald Wright

Domestic Violence and Training Development & Implementation of E-Learning Center

District Court: Hon. Marianne Hinkle, Sarah Ellis

Human Resources: Linda Rowe

Judicial Institute: Nufynna Callahan, Anna Evans, Donna Grieco,
Victoria Lewis, Brian Peters, Tonichia Tavares

Judicial Information Services: Erika Marshall, Mark Prior,
Rui Silva, Joseph Sullivan

Probation: Patricia Gavin, Diane Richard

Security: Heather Brouillette, Maura Garrity

Videoconferencing Deployment

Judicial Information Services: Thomas Haskins, Pedro Vargas

Facilities Management: Dana Leavitt

Security Teams in Quincy and Lawrence

Bellotti Courthouse (Quincy): John Cahill, Paul O'Rourke,
Chris Tufo, Jeanmarie Turley

Fenton Judicial Center (Lawrence): Michael Britton, Berlis Cuevas,
Carlos Morais, Angel Torres, Gregory Meehan

2015 Massachusetts Trial Courts EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Juvenile Court Sight and Sound Separation
Team

Superior Court MassCourts Implementation
Committee

Massachusetts Probation Service Training
Academy, Probation Records Unit and
Greenfield Probation Staff

Employees of the Boston Municipal, District
and Probate and Family Court

Specially Recognized Trial Court Employees

Judicial Information Services

Court Officer Academy Cadre

Facilities Management Repair and
Renovation Team

Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2016

Chief Justice of the Trial Court
Paula M. Carey

Court Administrator
Harry Spence

Boston Municipal Court

Chief Justice
Roberto Ronquillo Jr.

Deputy Court Administrator
Cheryl A. Sibley

Justices
Michael C. Bolden
David J. Breen
Catherine K. Byrne
James W. Coffey
Kathleen E. Coffey
Michael J. Coyne
Pamela M. Dashiell
Debra A. DelVecchio
David T. Donnelly
Mary Ann Driscoll**
Kenneth J. Fiandaca
Serge Georges Jr.
Lisa Grant
Lisa Ann Grant
Thomas C. Horgan
Myong J. Joun
Thomas Kaplanes
Sally A. Kelly
Tracy Lee Lyons
Lawrence E. McCormick**
John E. McDonald Jr.
Paul J. McManus
David B. Poole
Ernest L. Sarason Jr.**
Debra Shopteese
Eleanor C. Sinnott
Mark Hart Summerville

Jonathan R. Tynes
David Weingarten

Clerk Magistrates
Margaret F. Albertson
Joseph R. Faretra
Daniel J. Hogan
Sean P. Murphy
Michael W. Neighbors
Anthony S. Owens
James B. Roche
John E. Whelan

District Court

Chief Justice
Paul C. Dawley

Deputy Court Administrators
Philip J. McCue
Ellen S. Shapiro

Justices
Stephen S. Abany
Michael G. Allard-Madaus
Mary L. Amrhein
Cesar A. Archilla
Benjamin C. Barnes
Thomas S. Barrett
James D. Barretto
Julie J. Bernard
Timothy M. Bibaud
William J. Boyle
Cynthia M. Brackett
Heather M. S. Bradley
Lynn C. Brendemuehl
Robert A. Brennan
Thomas M. Brennan**
Holly V. Broadbent
Michael J. Brooks
Robert B. Calagione
Cathleen E. Campbell

John A. Canavan
Don L. Carpenter**
Jeanmarie Carroll
Martine Carroll
Ellen M. Caulo
Paula J. Clifford
Albert S. Conlon
Jacklyn M. Connly
Philip A. Contant
Mark S. Coven
Daniel C. Crane
Michael C. Creedon
J. Elizabeth Cremens
David W. Cunis
Kevan J. Cunningham
Andrew M. D'Angelo
David P. Despotopoulos
Patricia A. Dowling
Peter F. Doyle
Deborah A. Dunn
Lisa F. Edmonds
Thomas H. Estes
Michael L. Fabbri
Thomas L. Finigan
Kevin J. Finnerty
William M. Fitzpatrick
Ellen Flatley**
Gregory C. Flynn
Maurice R. Flynn
Stacey J. Fortes
David E. Frank
Kevin J. Gaffney
Timothy H. Gailey**
Robert W. Gardner Jr.
Jennifer L. Ginsburg
Franco J. GoBourne II
W. Michael Goggins
Charles W. Groce III
Margaret R. Guzman
William P. Hadley
Arthur F. Haley III
Kathryn E. Hand
Robert G. Harbour

* Acting , **Recall

Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2016

District Court

Justices, continued

Mary E. Heffernan
 Julieann Hernon
 Marianne C. Hinkle
 Michele B. Hogan
 Neil A. Hourihan
 Joseph W. Jennings III
 Emogene Johnson Smith
 Lee G. Johnson
 John M. Julian
 Emily A. Karstetter
 James T. Kirkman
 James L. Lamothe
 Gerald A. Lemire
 D. Dunbar Livingston
 David B. Locke
 Christopher P. Loconto
 Paul F. Loconto
 Matthew J. Machera
 Laurie MacLeod
 Andrew L. Mandell**
 Edmund C. Mathers
 William F. Mazanec III
 Mary F. McCabe
 Paul J. McCallum
 Maura K. McCarthy
 Paul L. McGill
 James J. McGovern
 Janet J. McGuigan
 James H. McGuinness**
 Antoinette E. McLean Leoney
 Toby S. Mooney
 Richard A. Mori
 Diane E. Moriarty
 Michael E. Mulcahy
 Robert S. Murphy
 Gilbert J. Nadeau
 Matthew J. Nestor
 Mark E. Noonan
 Kevin J. O'Dea**
 William J. O'Grady

Mary A. Orfanello
 Daniel J. O'Shea
 Stephen S. Ostrach
 Michele A. Ouimet-Rooke
 Dominic J. Paratore
 Michael A. Patten
 John M. Payne Jr.
 Barbara S. Pearson
 Robert J. Pellegrini
 Gregory L. Phillips
 Patricia T. Poehler
 Michael J. Pomarole
 Michael Ripps**
 Lynn C. Rooney
 David S. Ross
 William A. Rota
 Patrick S. Sabbs
 Bernadette L. Sabra
 Dennis P. Sargent
 Richard D. Savignano
 Matthew J. Shea
 Sabita Singh
 Paul H. Smyth
 Roanne Sragow Licht
 John P. Stapleton
 Jennifer A. Stark
 James M. Sullivan
 Mark A. Sullivan
 Mary H. Sullivan
 Allen G. Swan**
 Steven E. Thomas
 Michael A. Uhlarik
 Bethzaida Sanabria-Vega
 Vito A. Virzi
 Michael A. Vitali
 Paul M. Vrabel
 Maureen E. Walsh
 Christopher D. Welch
 Robert A. Welsh III
 James H. Wexler
 Mary D. White

Therese M. Wright
 Paul M. Yee
 Robert P. Ziemian**

Clerk Magistrates

Claudia M. Abreau
 Darren Alston
 Charles J. Ardito
 Frederick R. Baran*
 Thomas F. Bartini
 Marybeth Brady
 Marion E. Broidrick
 Whitney J. Brown
 Kenneth F. Candito
 Thomas C. Carrigan
 Carol K. Casartello
 Kenneth H. Chaffee
 Ann T. Colicchio
 Margaret Daly Crateau
 Kevin P. Creedon
 John A. Deluca
 Edward J. Doherty
 Laurie N. Dornig
 Kathryn Morris Early
 Kevin L. Finnegan
 Elizabeth M. Fitzgerald
 John D. Fitzsimmons
 John S. Gay
 Donald Hart
 Brian J. Kearney
 John F. Kennedy
 Paul M. Kozikowski
 Brian K. Lawlor
 Joseph A. Ligotti
 William A. Lisano
 Paul F. Malloy
 Patrick J. Malone
 Daryl G. Manchester
 Keith E. McDonough
 Kathleen M. McKeon
 Timothy J. Morey

* Acting , **Recall

Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2016

District Court

Clerk Magistrates, continued

Robert L. Moscow
 Manuel A. Moutinho
 Kevin G. Murphy
 William P. Nagle Jr.
 Thomas J. Noonan
 John C. O'Neil
 Philip B. O'Toole
 Salvatore Paterna
 Stephen C. Poitras
 Maryann Pozzessere
 Edward F. Savage
 Henry H. Shultz
 Christopher N. Speranzo
 Brian M. St. Onge
 Doris A. Stanziani
 Mary Jane Brady Stirgwort
 Mark E. Sturdy
 Edward B. Teague
 Peter J. Thomas
 Arthur H. Tobin
 Leonard F. Tomaiolo
 Robert A. Tomasone
 Robin E. Vaughan
 Liza Hanley Williamson
 Wendy A. Wilton

Housing Court

Chief Justice

Timothy F. Sullivan
 (Effective 10/1/2015)

Steven Pierce
 (1/2/2006-9/30/2015)

Deputy Court Administrator

Paul J. Burke

Justices

Anne K. Chaplin

Fairlie A. Dalton
 Wilbur P. Edwards Jr.
 Dina E. Fein
 Robert G. Fields
 Diana H. Horan
 David D. Kerman**
 MaryLou Muirhead
 Maria Theophilis
 Jeffrey M. Winik

Clerk Magistrates

Mark R. Jeffries
 Robert L. Lewis
 Peter Q. Montori
 Nickolas W. Moudios
 Susan M. Trippi*

Juvenile Court

Chief Justice

Amy L. Nechtem

Deputy Court Administrator

James E. Morton

Justices

Charles S. Belsky
 Jay D. Blitzman
 Bettina Borders
 Helen A. Brown Bryant
 Deborah A. Capuano
 James G. Collins
 Peter Coyne
 Terry M. Craven
 Kerry A. Diamantopoulos
 Leslie A. Donahue
 Lois M. Eaton
 Michael F. Edgerton**
 Carol A. Erskine
 Margaret S. Fearey**
 Patricia A. Flynn

Siobhan E. Foley
 Dana M. Gershengorn
 Joseph F. Johnston
 Mary Beth Keating
 Kenneth J. King
 Rebekah J. Crampton Kamukala**
 George F. Leary
 Paul D. Lewis**
 Stephen M. Limon
 Judith A. Locke
 Anthony J. Marotta
 Mary M. McCallum
 Garrett J. McManus
 Joan M. McMenemy
 Lawrence Moniz
 Mark Newman
 Mary O'Sullivan Smith
 Judith J. Phillips
 Jose Sanchez
 Carol A. Shaw
 Tracie L. Marciarelli Souza
 John S. Spinale
 Daniel J. Swords
 Gloria Tan
 James J. Torney
 Gwendolyn R. Tyre
 Kathryn A. White

Clerk Magistrates

J. D. Bowie
 Judith M. Brennan
 Donna M. Ciampoli
 Paul J. Hartnett
 Roger J. Oliveira*
 Christopher D. Reavey
 George P. Roper
 Laura Rueli
 Robert L. Ryan Jr.
 Craig D. Smith
 Donald P. Whitney

* Acting , **Recall

Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2016

Land Court

Chief Justice

Judith C. Cutler

Deputy Court Administrator

Jill K. Ziter

Justices

Robert B. Foster

Keith C. Long

Gordon H. Piper

Alexander H. Sands III**

Karyn F. Scheier

Howard P. Speicher

Recorder

Deborah J. Patterson

Probate and Family Court

Chief Justice

Angela M. Ordoñez

Deputy Court Administrator

Linda M. Medonis

Justices

Jeffrey A. Abber

Joan P. Armstrong

Kathryn M. Bailey

Theresa A. Bisenius

Edward G. Boyle III

John D. Casey

Megan H. Christopher

Kevin R. Connelly

Beth A. Crawford

David J. Dacyczyn

Peter C. DiGangi

Edward F. Donnelly Jr.

Brian J. Dunn

Linda S. Fidnick

Katherine A. Field

David M. Fuller**

Melanie J. Gargas

Anne M. Geoffrion

Geoffrey R. German

Patricia A. Gorman

Barbara M. Hyland

Susan Jacobs

Randy J. Kaplan

Leilah A. Keamy

Richard J. McMahon

William F. McSweeney

Denise L. Meagher

James V. Menno

Maureen H. Monks

Elaine M. Moriarty

Anthony R. Nesi

Lee M. Peterson

George F. Phelan

Stephen M. Rainaud

Gregory V. Roach

Lisa A. Roberts

Abbe L. Ross

Arthur C. Ryley

David G. Sacks

Mary Anne Sahagian

Robert A. Scandurra

Frances M. Siciliano

Richard A. Simons

Peter Smola

Patrick W. Stanton

Jennifer Rivera Ulwick

Virginia M. Ward

Registers

Felix D. Arroyo

Susan D. Beamish

Michael J. Carey

Gina L. DeRossi

Stephanie K. Fattman

E. J. Herrmann

Francis B. Marinaro

Patrick W. McDermott

Matthew J. McDonough

Tara E. Melo

John F. Merrigan

Pamela Casey O'Brien

Anastasia Welsh Perrino

Suzanne T. Seguin

Superior Court

Chief Justice

Judith Fabricant

Deputy Court Administrator

Elaina M. Quinn

Justices

John A. Agostini

Mary K. Ames

Thomas P. Billings

Raymond J. Brassard

Heidi E. Brieger

Kimberly S. Budd

Beverly J. Cannone

Richard J. Carey

Richard J. Chin

Rosemary Connolly

Thomas A. Connors

Robert C. Cosgrove

Dennis J. Curran

Brian A. Davis

Kenneth V. Desmond Jr.

Thomas Drechsler

Renee P. Dupuis

Elizabeth M. Fahey

Timothy Q. Feeley

John S. Ferrara

Kenneth J. Fishman

Daniel A. Ford

* Acting , **Recall

Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2016

Superior Court

Justices, continued

Shannon Frison
E. Susan Garsh
Frank M. Gaziano
Linda E. Giles
Robert B. Gordon
S. Jane Haggerty**
Bruce R. Henry
Maureen B. Hogan
Merita A. Hopkins
Garry V. Inge
Robert J. Kane
Mitchell H. Kaplan
Hélène Kazanjian
Angel Kelley Brown
Janet Kenton-Walker
Maynard M. Kirpalani
Diane M. Kottmyer**
Peter B. Krupp
James F. Lang
Peter M. Lauriat
Edward P. Leibensperger
Joseph F. Leighton Jr.
James R. Lemire
Jeffrey A. Locke
David A. Lowy
John T. Lu
Bonnie H. MacLeod
Mark D. Mason
Edward J. McDonough Jr.
Thomas F. McGuire Jr.
Rosalind H. Miller
Cornelius J. Moriarty II
Richard T. Moses**
Christopher J. Muse
Gary A. Nickerson
Tina S. Page
Gregg J. Pasquale

Laurence D. Pierce
David Ricciardone
Christine M. Roach
Robert C. Rufo
Mary-Lou Rup
Kenneth W. Salinger
Janet L. Sanders
William F. Sullivan
Constance M. Sweeney
Robert N. Tochka
Richard T. Tucker
Kathe M. Tuttmann
Robert L. Ullmann
Raymond P. Veary Jr.
Joshua I. Wall
Richard E. Welch III
Douglas H. Wilkins
Paul D. Wilson
Daniel M. Wrenn
Raffi N. Yessayan

Clerks of Court

Mary Elizabeth Adams
Deborah S. Capeless
Robert S. Creedon Jr.
Michael J. Donovan
Thomas H. Driscoll
Susan K. Emond
Laura S. Gentile
Maura A. Hennigan
H. J. Jekanowski Jr.
Dennis P. McManus
Scott Nickerson
Marc J. Santos
Joseph E. Sollitto Jr.
Michael A. Sullivan
Walter F. Timilty

* Acting , **Recall

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Trial Court Fiscal Data FY2016

Breakdown of Trial Court Funding	Dollar Amount	Percent of Total
Trial Court Operating Appropriations	\$631,553,795	97.3%
Capital / Bond Funds	\$12,486,767	1.9%
Automation Bond Funds	\$1,548,637	0.2%
Grants, Trusts & Intergovernmental Funds	\$3,446,089	0.5%
TOTAL	\$649,035,288	100.0%

Trial Court Expenditures from Operating Accounts	Dollar Amount	Percent of Total
Judicial Salaries	\$57,911,195	9.2%
Court/Admin. Employee Salaries	\$397,056,715	63.4%
Employee Related Expenses	\$22,089,715	3.5%
Case Driven Expenses	\$17,706,327	2.8%
Law Library Expenses	\$6,367,280	1.0%
Office and Court Operations	\$62,049,919	9.9%
Facility Rental, Maintenance and Operation	\$63,426,005	10.1%
TOTAL	\$626,607,156	100.0%

Interdepartmental and Reserve Transfers	Total Amount Transferred Between Accounts Within Department
Central Accounts	(\$7,776,500)
Superior Court Department	\$790,500
District Court Department	\$2,425,000
Probate Court Department	\$925,000
Land Court Department	(\$30,000)
Boston Municipal Court	\$350,000
Housing Court Department	\$97,000
Juvenile Court Department	(\$369,000)
Probation Accounts	\$3,345,000
Jury Commissioner	\$243,000

Trial Court Arraignments* by Offense and Offense Type, CY2011 to CY2015

Offense	CY2011	CY2012	CY2013	CY2014	CY2015
Total Arraignments	359,510	366,608	356,759	345,266	318,068
Person	88,834	88,129	84,209	82,892	79,510
Murder/Manslaughter	1,119	1,025	988	846	463
Assaults	56,741	55,701	53,199	53,143	52,759
Rape/Sex Assault	6,128	6,495	5,897	6,088	5,036
Robbery	2,961	2,899	2,812	2,433	2,255
Threat/Intimidation	11,877	11,894	11,204	10,880	10,192
Restraining/Harassment Order Violations	7,666	7,828	7,580	7,144	6,498
Other Violent Offense	2,342	2,287	2,529	2,358	2,307
Property	88,834	88,129	84,722	79,898	68,268
Larceny/Fraud	39,384	41,444	40,500	39,320	33,554
Burglary/B&E	12,254	11,499	10,750	8,777	7,589
Destruction of Property	12,607	11,591	10,332	9,900	9,091
Receiving/Possession Stolen Property	7,819	8,445	7,755	6,926	5,533
Forgery/Uttering	8,198	7,614	7,670	7,140	5,935
Arson/Burn	275	337	310	266	137
Trespass	5,900	6,013	5,766	6,113	5,501
Other Property Offense	1,929	1,799	1,639	1,456	928
Drug	38,382	42,657	38,917	39,129	36,020
Class A	5,587	7,945	9,304	10,665	10,719
Class B	11,313	12,080	11,157	11,315	10,907
Class C	1,600	1,879	1,939	1,835	1,724
Class D	4,492	4,902	4,390	3,535	2,889
Class E	2,827	3,227	3,039	3,162	2,967
Conspiracy to Violate Drug Laws	3,490	4,022	4,051	3,816	3,045
Possession Hypodermic Needle	5	3	3	7	14
School/Park Violation	5,485	5,017	1,978	1,612	1,252
Other Drug Offense	3,583	3,582	3,056	3,182	2,503

Trial Court Arraignments* by Offense and Offense Type, CY2011 to CY2015

Offense	CY2011	CY2012	CY2013	CY2014	CY2015
Motor Vehicle	94,533	98,437	101,049	100,081	93,153
M.V Homicide	124	106	121	108	93
Driving Under Influence	14,994	16,503	15,596	15,668	14,395
Other Major Motor Vehicle Offense	79,415	81,828	85,332	84,305	78,665
Public Order	49,395	48,643	47,852	43,266	41,117
Disturbing/Disorderly	14,265	14,273	13,495	12,160	10,598
Firearm Offense	9,273	8,616	9,781	8,961	9,507
Prostitution	1,199	1,198	1,218	926	859
Liquor Law Violation	3,871	3,236	2,508	1,839	1,269
Other Public Order Offense	20,787	21,320	20,860	19,380	18,884

*Source: Massachusetts Probation Service.

Five-Year Summary of Trial Court Case Filings by Type, FY2012 to FY2016

	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
All Case Types	1,035,558	999,063	991,708	960,412	912,757
Criminal Matters					
Criminal	236,217	233,614	233,143	219,740	209,791
Criminal Show Cause Hearings	84,670	78,940	90,963	81,042	94,607
Criminal Warrants	6,572	6,828	8,928	8,158	8,995
Sub-Total	327,459	319,382	333,034	308,940	313,393
Civil - Regular	104,379	90,511	84,767	79,993	74,331
Civil - Specialized Matters					
Small Claims	101,975	99,726	103,004	106,071	84,579
Supplementary Proceedings	28,387	20,987	16,970	16,679	9,736
Summary Process	41,559	40,871	41,812	40,946	40,140
Restraining Orders	46,141	44,153	42,907	31,155	43,092
Harassment Orders	1,888	1,441	1,467	12,505	1,476
Mental Health	12,717	12,534	13,069	13,903	15,541
CMVI Appeals	9,763	12,960	12,862	12,969	14,632
Administrative Warrants	15,729	15,916	10,743	13,395	11,903
Other Specialized Civil	2,115	2,716	3,521	3,611	4,469
Sub-Total	260,274	251,304	246,355	251,234	225,568
CMVI Hearings	151,073	148,264	132,192	130,254	117,565
Other Hearings					
Show Cause Hearings (Applications)	7,135	9,347	14,206	15,042	14,419
Non-MV Infraction Civil Hearings	4,529	5,475	4,951	5,232	5,869
Sub-Total	11,664	14,822	19,157	20,274	20,288
Juvenile Matters					
Juvenile Delinquency	17,612	7,800	10,055	10,362	9,694
Youthful Offender	333	84	151	216	218
CRA/CHINS Applications	6,973	5,624	5,843	6,160	5,712
Care & Protection Petitions	2,470	2,669	3,663	3,384	3,855
Sub-Total	27,388	16,177	19,712	20,122	19,479

Five-Year Summary of Trial Court Case Filings by Type, FY2011 to FY2016, continued

	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
All Case Types	1,035,558	999,063	991,708	960,427	912,757
Probate	40,076	47,006	48,593	42,942	39,461
Guardianship	10,897	11,920	11,174	13,229	11,891
Child Welfare and Adoption	2157	2194	2,894	2,621	2,346
Domestic Relations					
Paternity	20,459	19,101	17,560	16,650	16,010
Divorce	26,313	26,736	24,918	23,954	23,692
Modification/Contempt	51,661	50,191	50,079	49,271	47,958
Other Domestic Relations	759	442	398	0	0
Sub-Total	99,192	96,470	92,955	89,875	87,660
Appeals	999	1,013	875	928	775

Trial Court Case Filings by Department and Type, FY2016

	BMC	District	Housing	Juvenile	Land	Probate & Family	Superior	Total
All Case Types	84,754	563,428	41,531	37,271	19,546	142,138	24,089	912,757
Criminal Matters								
Criminal	23,752	179,334	1,254	419			5,032	209,791
Criminal Show Cause Hearings	16,611	74,924	3,072					94,607
Criminal Warrants	1,340	7,655						8,995
Sub-Total	41,703	261,913	4,326	419			5,032	313,393
Civil - Regular	4,716	29,618	4,893		16,629		18,475	74,331
Civil - Specialized Matters								
Small Claims	8,328	74,986	1,265					84,579
Supplementary Proceedings	941	8,705	90					9,736
Summary Process	859	11,794	27,487					40,140
Restraining Orders	3,414	36,654				3,024		43,092
Harassment Orders	945			531				1,476
Mental Health	1,378	14,028		135				15,541
CMVI Appeals	2,064	12,568						14,632
Administrative Warrants	3,308	7,464	1,131					11,903
Other Specialized Civil	593	879		80	2,917			4,469
Sub-Total	21,830	167,078	29,973	746	2,917	3,024		225,568
CMVI Hearings	16,500	101,065						117,565
Other Hearings								
Show Cause Hearings (Applications)				14,419				14,419
Non-MV Infraction Civil Hearings		3,530	2,339					5,869
Sub-Total		3,530	2,339	14,419				20,288
Juvenile Matters								
Juvenile Delinquency		36		9,658				9,694
Youthful Offender				218				218
CRA/CHINS Applications				5,712				5,712
Care & Protection Petitions				3,855				3,855
Sub-Total		36		19,443				19,479

Trial Court Case Filings by Department and Type, FY2016, *continued*

	BMC	District	Housing	Juvenile	Land	Probate & Family	Superior	Total
All Case Types	84,754	563,428	41,531	37,271	19,546	142,138	24,089	912,757
Probate				15		39,446		39,461
Guardianship				782		11,109		11,891
Child Welfare and Adoption				1,087		1,259		2,346
Domestic Relations								
Paternity				360		15,650		16,010
Divorce						23,692		23,692
Modification/Contempt						47,958		47,958
Other Domestic Relations								
Sub-Total				360		87,300		87,660
Appeals	5	188					582	775

Notes:

1. Probate & Family: Probate cases include, *Probate Estates*, *Equity*, and *Change of Name*.
2. Child Welfare and Adoption includes: *Child Welfare* cases in the Probate and Family Court and *Adoption* cases in the Juvenile Court.
3. Only the Boston Municipal and Juvenile Court Departments separate out *Harassment Orders* from *Restraining Orders*.
4. Case filings do not include *Probation Violation Hearings*.

Massachusetts Probation Service
Fiscal Year 2016 Year-End Probation Caseload
Supervision Caseload as of June 2016

Supervision Type	Boston Municipal Court	District Court	Juvenile Court	Probate & Family Court	Superior Court	Total Supervision
Administrative Supervision Cases	2,594	21,784	1,005		961	18,549
Care and Protection (<i>Petitions</i>)			4,208			11,159
Children Requiring Assistance Cases			3,250			10,561
Community Correction Cases	37	559			48	26,344
Dispute Intervention Mediations				2,510		644
Driving Under the Influence Cases	463	10,098				5,441
From and After Cases	242	1,207			3,992	3,250
Pre-Trial Supervision Cases	1,425	7,726	767		1,241	4,208
Risk Need Supervision Cases	1,383	10,393	864		5,909	2,510
Seek Work Supervision Cases				123		123
Total Supervision	6,144	51,767	10,094	2,633	12,151	82,789

Case Flow Metrics

The Trial Court looked to the work of the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in the development of performance metrics for Massachusetts. In 2005 the NCSC developed *CourTools*, a streamlined set of ten trial court performance measures. Four *CourTools* measures developed by NCSC focus on timeliness and expedition: *clearance rate*, *time to disposition*, *age of pending caseload*, and *trial date certainty*. In 2006, the Trial Court adopted these four *CourTools* measures as a common set of metrics for all seven court departments.

Clearance Rate

The number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases.

Purpose

Clearance rate measures whether the court is keeping up with its incoming caseload. If cases are not disposed of in a timely manner, a backlog of cases awaiting disposition will grow. This performance measure is a single number that can be compared within the court for any and all case types, on a monthly or yearly basis, or between one court and another. Knowledge of clearance rates by case type can help a court pinpoint emerging problems and indicate where improvements can be made.

Time to Disposition

The percentage of cases disposed or resolved within established time frames.

Purpose

This measure, used in conjunction with Clearance Rates and Age of Active Pending Caseload, is a fundamental management tool that assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. It measures a court's ability to meet prescribed time standards.

Age of Pending Cases

The number of pending cases that are beyond the disposition date set by the time standards.

Purpose

Knowing the age of the active cases pending before the court is most useful for addressing three related questions: Does a backlog exist? Which cases are a problem? Given past and present performance, what is expected in the future?

Trial Date Certainty

The number of times cases disposed by trial are scheduled for trial.

Purpose

A court's ability to hold trials on the first date they are scheduled to be heard (trial date certainty) is closely associated with timely case disposition. This measure provides a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of calendaring and continuance practices. For this measure, "trials" includes jury trials, bench trials (also known as nonjury trials), and adjudicatory hearings in juvenile cases.

Case Flow Metrics* by Trial Court Department, FY2016

Trial Court Department	Clearance Rate	%Disposed w/i Time Standards	Number of Cases Pending Beyond Time Standards	% Trials Disposed by Second Trial Date
Boston Municipal Court	104.8%	91.2%	1,140	74.9%
Civil	104.8%	93.8%	402	83.4%
Criminal	104.8%	87.4%	738	71.9%
District Court	100.0%	91.3%	12,365	70.7%
Civil	98.1%	97.0%	6,047	59.4%
Criminal	100.8%	88.7%	6,318	71.4%
Housing Court	100.1%	90.9%	1,027	82.6%
Juvenile Court	96.5%	61.2%	4,429	
Civil	96.5%	61.1%	4,346	
Criminal	96.0%	61.5%	83	
Land Court	88.6%	58.6%	10,521	100.0%
Probate & Family Court	92.6%	78.2%	54,339	97.3%
Superior Court	85.1%	70.3%	7,163	48.2%
Civil	89.4%	76.0%	5,194	59.7%
Criminal	69.0%	39.2%	1,969	40.8%
All Departments	98.1%	87.0%	90,984	70.7%

*The metrics analyses does not include all case filings.

Clearance Rate* by Trial Court Department, FY2012 to FY2016

Trial Court Department	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016		
	Clearance Rate				New Cases	Disposed Cases	Clearance Rate
Boston Municipal Court	101.9%	95.8%	97.7%	101.5%	45,373	47,566	104.8%
Civil	104.7%	96.6%	100.1%	99.9%	26,555	27,837	104.8%
Criminal	98.5%	94.8%	94.5%	103.3%	18,818	19,729	104.8%
District Court	93.5%	94.4%	101.0%	100.9%	253,347	253,188	100.0%
Civil	94.0%	93.1%	106.8%	103.7%	81,078	79,538	98.1%
Criminal	93.2%	95.0%	98.3%	99.6%	172,269	173,650	100.8%
Housing Court	96.7%	100.7%	98.9%	101.5%	41,531	41,567	100.1%
Juvenile Court**	92.3%				37,095	35,789	96.5%
Civil	98.9%				36,675	35,386	96.5%
Criminal	87.8%				420	403	96.0%
Land Court	88.0%	116.7%	92.1%	205.4%	16,624	14,731	88.6%
Probate & Family Court	87.3%	86.3%	94.6%	91.4%	59,925	55,512	92.6%
Superior Court***	100.6%	103.2%	100.3%	79.7%	23,350	19,878	85.1%
Civil	102.2%	103.5%	100.5%	82.6%	18,425	16,479	89.4%
Criminal	93.9%	101.4%	99.4%	69.5%	4,925	3,399	69.0%
All Departments	94.0%	95.2%	99.8%	101.8%	477,245	468,231	98.1%

* The metrics analyses does not include all case filings.

** Due to the conversion to a new case management system, aggregate statistics could not be produced for FY13-FY15.

*** Figures for the Superior Court do not include *Appeals*.

Time to Disposition* by Trial Court Department, FY2012 to FY2016

Trial Court Department	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016 Disposed Cases			
	% Disposed Within Time Standards				Total	Within Time Standards	Beyond Time Standards	% Within Time Standards
Boston Municipal Court	95.8%	95.3%	93.8%	90.4%	47,566	43,374	4,192	91.2%
Civil	97.5%	97.0%	97.2%	93.5%	27,837	26,123	1,714	93.8%
Criminal	93.2%	93.0%	89.3%	85.9%	19,729	17,251	2,478	87.4%
District Court	93.8%	93.0%	91.2%	87.7%	250,424	228,645	21,779	91.3%
Civil	97.7%	97.2%	96.0%	87.7%	79,555	77,168	2,387	97.0%
Criminal	91.6%	90.6%	88.9%	87.8%	170,869	151,477	19,392	88.7%
Housing Court	90.8%	89.9%	89.4%	90.5%	41,567	37,774	3,793	90.9%
Juvenile Court**	72.4%	73.4%			21,285	13,016	8,269	61.2%
Civil	77.8%	79.0%			20,882	12,768	8,114	61.1%
Criminal	68.8%	69.0%			403	248	155	61.5%
Land Court	58.8%	59.9%	64.3%	54.9%	3,121	1,830	1,291	58.6%
Probate & Family Court	83.3%	83.0%	81.1%	81.5%	55,512	43,438	12,074	78.2%
Superior Court***	67.3%	67.8%	66.6%	66.8%	19,437	13,672	5,765	70.3%
Civil	74.1%	74.3%	73.6%	74.1%	16,437	12,495	3,942	76.0%
Criminal	35.9%	35.6%	31.9%	33.4%	3,000	1,177	1,823	39.2%
All Departments	89.7%	89.1%	88.4%	86.3%	438,912	381,749	57,163	87.0%

* The metrics analyses does not include all case filings.

** Due to the conversion to a new case management system, aggregate statistics could not be produced for FY14-FY15.

*** Figures for the Superior Court do not include *Appeals*.

**Number of Pending Cases* Beyond the Time Standards by Trial Court Department
FY2012 to FY2016**

Trial Court Department	FY2012 Year-End	FY2013 Year-End	FY2014 Year-End	FY2015 Year-End	FY2016 Year-End	FY2015 to FY2016 Difference
Boston Municipal Court	825	1,186	1,849	1,681	1,140	-32.2%
Civil	188	245	707	469	402	-14.3%
Criminal	637	941	1,142	1,212	738	-39.1%
District Court	16,772	23,950	10,536	9,284	12,365	33.2%
Civil	9,603	15,372	3,560	2,958	6,047	104.4%
Criminal	7,169	8,578	6,976	6,326	6,318	-0.1%
Housing Court	2,434	2,647	2,935	1,313	1,027	-21.8%
Juvenile Court**	7,557				4,429	
Civil	3,863				4,346	
Criminal	3,694				83	
Land Court	10,397	10,314	10,252	10,378	10,521	1.4%
Probate & Family Court	21,652	28,876	37,912	47,956	54,339	13.3%
Superior Court***	8,234	7,840	7,150	5,961	7,163	20.2%
Civil	5,753	5,186	4,605	3,401	5,194	52.7%
Criminal	2,481	2,654	2,545	2,560	1,969	-23.1%
All Departments	67,871	74,813	70,634	76,573	90,984	18.8%

* The metrics analyses does not include all case filings.

** Due to the conversion to a new case management system, aggregate statistics could not be produced for FY13-FY15.

***Figures for the Superior Court do not include Appeals.

The number of cases pending beyond the time standards at the end of 2010 was adjusted to reflect the increase in the number of District Court civil cases captured for analysis due to improved reporting of case status due to expanded Trial Court automation, and to reflect the disposal of a large number of Probate and Family Court cases that had gone without activity for at least 24 months.

Trial Date Certainty* by Trial Court Department**, FY2012 to FY2016

Trial Court Department	% Trials Disposed By Second Trial Date				
	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
Boston Municipal Court	83.7%	83.4%	79.0%	81.8%	74.9%
Civil	78.7%	82.4%	80.0%	82.9%	83.4%
Criminal	84.9%	83.7%	78.7%	81.5%	71.9%
District Court	65.1%	68.3%	69.8%	71.6%	70.7%
Civil	73.6%	68.1%	64.2%	66.5%	59.4%
Criminal	64.5%	68.3%	70.1%	71.8%	71.4%
Housing Court	82.8%	81.4%	81.3%	82.2%	82.6%
Land Court	93.9%	93.8%	96.0%	86.1%	100.0%
Probate & Family Court	97.4%	98.0%	98.6%	98.2%	97.3%
Superior Court***	63.1%	66.1%	66.9%	75.1%	48.2%
Civil	63.6%	70.2%	72.9%	75.4%	59.7%
Criminal	62.6%	61.5%	60.9%	74.6%	40.8%
All Departments	73.2%	74.1%	74.6%	73.0%	70.7%

* The metrics analyses does not include all case filings.

** Due to the conversion to a new case management system, aggregate statistics could not be produced for the Juvenile Court Department.

*** Figures for the Superior Court do not include *Appeals*.



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