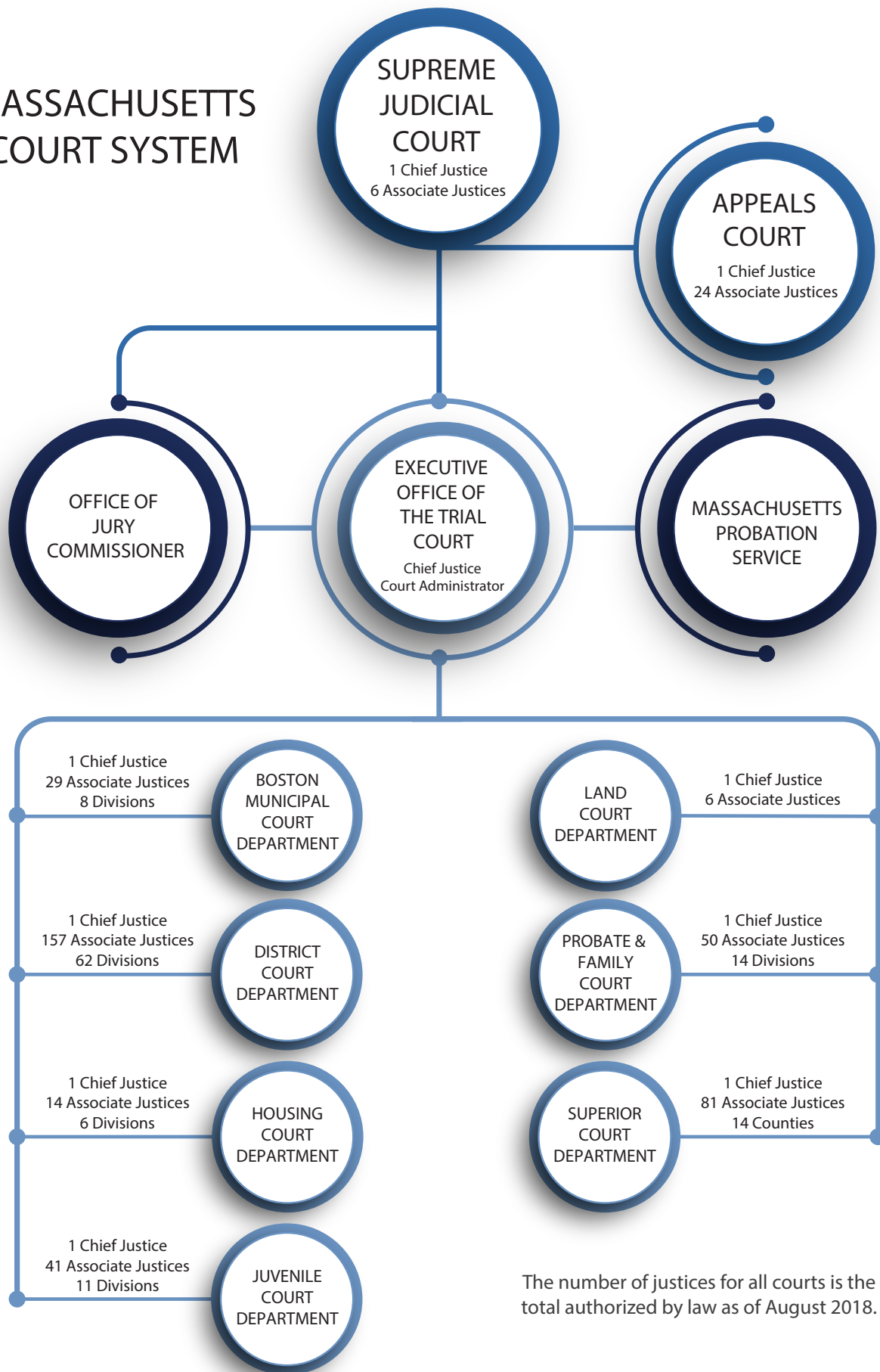


# Annual Report on the State of the Massachusetts Court System



Fiscal Year 2018

# MASSACHUSETTS COURT SYSTEM



The number of justices for all courts is the total authorized by law as of August 2018.

# FROM THE COURT LEADERSHIP

As we report on Fiscal Year 2018, we want to thank those whose daily efforts and dedication to the delivery of justice with dignity and speed sustain the Commonwealth's courts – judges and justices, clerks, court officers, probation officers, court facilities employees, and administrative staff. We are proud of what has been accomplished but know that we have the will and commitment to do even more going forward.

We believe that today's court system is more willing than ever to explore better ways to do things and is more focused in addressing the problems that plague our Commonwealth, including opiate use disorder, mental health issues, homelessness, child neglect, and intimate partner abuse. Our work in the area of diversity is an integral part of how we promote justice, equity, fairness, inclusion, and respect of all people regardless of identity.

We appreciate how fortunate we are to have a governor and legislative leaders who understand what happens in our courts, share our commitment to solving problems that bring people to court, and work with us in a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect to further the cause of fair and equal justice.

We are grateful for the close collaboration the judiciary enjoys with the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Boston Bar Association, and the regional and affinity bar associations. The private bar greatly helps our justice system function more fairly and effectively through pro bono work and public advocacy. We also collaborate with legal services attorneys, prosecutors, assistant attorneys general, and Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS) attorneys on many critical legal issues.

We began the new fiscal year with exciting initiatives underway, including statewide expansion of the Housing Court, the addition of specialty courts, and the development of a technology capital plan to help us improve services for the public and operational effectiveness. We will continue to partner with our many stakeholders as we work to enhance justice and serve the residents of this great Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

*Ralph D. Gants, Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court*

*Mark V. Green, Chief Justice of the Appeals Court*

*Paula M. Carey, Chief Justice of the Trial Court*

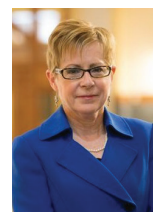
*Jonathan S. Williams, Court Administrator of the Trial Court*



Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants,  
Supreme Judicial Court



Chief Justice Mark V. Green,  
Appeals Court



Chief Justice Paula M. Carey,  
Trial Court



Court Administrator  
Jonathan S. Williams,  
Trial Court



# CHIEF JUSTICES & OFFICIALS

## Massachusetts Court System *Chief Justices and Officials*

*As of June 30, 2018*

### Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court

Ralph D. Gants

### Chief Justice of the Appeals Court

Mark V. Green

### Chief Justice of the Trial Court

Paula M. Carey

### Trial Court Administrator

Jonathan S. Williams

### Trial Court Department Leadership

#### Boston Municipal Court

Chief Justice

Deputy Court Administrator

Roberto Ronquillo Jr.

Cheryl A. Sibley

#### District Court

Chief Justice

Deputy Court Administrator

Deputy Court Administrator

Paul C. Dawley

Philip J. McCue

Ellen S. Shapiro

#### Housing Court

Chief Justice

Deputy Court Administrator

Timothy F. Sullivan

Paul J. Burke

#### Juvenile Court

Chief Justice

Deputy Court Administrator

Amy L. Nechtem

James E. Morton

#### Land Court

Chief Justice

Deputy Court Administrator

Judith C. Cutler

Jill K. Ziter

#### Probate & Family Court

Chief Justice

Deputy Court Administrator

Angela M. Ordoñez

Linda M. Medonis

#### Superior Court

Chief Justice

Deputy Court Administrator

Judith Fabricant

Elaina M. Quinn

### Massachusetts Probation Service

Edward J. Dolan, Commissioner

### Office of Jury Commissioner

Pamela J. Wood, Commissioner



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# JUSTICES & OFFICIALS

## Supreme Judicial Court *Justices and Officials*

*As of June 30, 2018*

### Chief Justice

Ralph D. Gants

### Justices

Barbara A. Lenk

David A. Lowy

Kimberly S. Budd

Frank M. Gaziano

Elspeth B. Cypher

Scott L. Kafker

### Acting Executive Director

Carol R. Lev

### Clerk for the Commonwealth

Francis V. Kenneally

### Clerk for the Commonwealth, Suffolk County

Maura S. Doyle





# SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

**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, Prisoners' Legal Services, Inc., Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corp., and the 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.

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-supreme-judicial-court>

## **Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court: Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights**

### **State of the Judiciary Address to the Legal Community**

In October 2017, Chief Justice Ralph D. Gants delivered his fourth annual address to the legal community at an event sponsored by the Massachusetts Bar Association. He stressed the urgent need for more attorneys to represent parties in care and protection cases when the Department of Children and Families has removed a child from parental custody, noting that the number of these cases jumped by 45% from 2013 to 2016. Chief Justice Gants also focused on the issue of criminal justice reform. He stressed the lesson that can be learned from the research conducted by the Council of State Governments – if we can reduce the rate of recidivism, we can reduce the rate of crime. He was confident that the courts are capable of helping reduce the rate of recidivism through various steps, such as providing drug treatment, mental health treatment and cognitive behavioral therapy to those who cannot get this treatment in our prisons and houses of correction. The Chief Justice also addressed the serious challenges faced in the Probate and Family Court, where so many self-represented individuals are trying to litigate complex disputes such as child custody and guardianship. He expressed optimism about the process that the Trial Court and Probate and Family Court Chief Justices initiated to find innovative ways to address these challenges.

### **Major Anniversary Celebrated**

The Supreme Judicial Court celebrated the 325th anniversary of its founding with a panel discussion, The Chiefs Reflect, in November 2017. For the first time, all four living Chief Justices discussed their challenges and achievements as Chief Justices of the Court and their views on the role of the judiciary in government and society. The four Chief Justices represented a combined 98 years of judicial



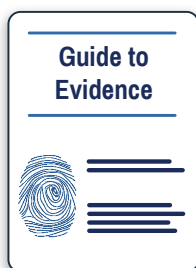


# SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

experience. Their discussion provided an opportunity for them to reflect together on that experience and for the audience to hear from the four Chief Justices who had held the highest position in the Massachusetts court system since 1996.

## Massachusetts Guide to Evidence

The Massachusetts Guide to Evidence, which organizes and states the law of evidence applied in the courts of the Commonwealth, reached a major milestone with the release of the tenth edition in January 2018. The Guide is compiled by the Executive Committee of the Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Evidence Law, which monitors judicial decisions and other relevant statutory and rule changes concerning the law of evidence and annually prepares a new edition to incorporate significant new developments. 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.



## Court Management Advisory Board

Following the recommendation of the Visiting Committee on Management in the Courts (the Monan Committee), the Massachusetts Legislature created the Court Management Advisory Board (CMAB) in 2003 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 FY18, the CMAB met regularly to support the Trial Court in its pursuit of continuous quality improvement, strategic innovation, and service excellence. Most notably, in late 2017 the CMAB completed two major projects to support Trial Court leadership in its management of the system. The Board issued a report with recommendations on hiring and promotion procedures in the Judicial Branch – the first such review since the report by the Harshbarger Task Force in 2011. The CMAB also delivered the final report of an outside committee it chartered to review the Trial Court's use of data as a management tool and to make

recommendations for improvement. In addition, the CMAB invited external experts on customer experience in other industries to engage with Trial Court leaders in meaningful discussions of strategies in this area.

## Court Management Advisory Board Members as of June 30, 2018

### **Lisa C. Goodheart, Chair**

*Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, PC*

### **Kathleen M. Donovan**

*Manpower Business Solutions*

### **Honorable Gail Garinger (ret.)**

*Office of the Attorney General*

### **Scott Harshbarger**

*Casner & Edwards, LLP*

### **Richard Johnston (ex officio)**

*Office of the Attorney General*

### **Dr. Allen B. Kachalia**

*Brigham and Women's Hospital*

### **Liam Lowney (ex officio)**

*Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance*

### **Honorable James McHugh (ret.)**

*Retired from the Massachusetts Appeals Court*

### **Donald Oppenheimer**

*John F. Kennedy School of Government*

### **Denise R. Squillante**

*Denise Squillante PC*

### **Kenneth Turner**

*Massachusetts Port Authority*

## Court Improvement Program

The Supreme Judicial Court's Court Improvement Program (CIP) manages a federal grant awarded to promote improved outcomes for children in state custody. In FY18, funds were used to complete publication of the *Guide on the Disclosure of Confidential Information: For Professionals in Massachusetts Working with Children, Youth and Families*, which is posted on the mass.gov website. In addition, funds continued to support work on a report based on research by Boston





# SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

University's School of Social Work, "Designing Data-Driven Directions for School Success of Children in Care," a multi-agency project involving the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Children and Families and the courts.

The Child Welfare Data Analyst who worked under the direction of the Department of Research and Planning and the CIP Steering Committee continued to expand data reporting to include permanency-based timeliness measures and other specialized performance measures to promote improved outcomes for children in state custody. The purchase of business intelligence tools provided accessibility to data reports to support improved case management for child welfare matters in Juvenile Court. CIP funds also supported National Adoption Day celebrations; extensive trainings on child welfare issues and advocacy for social workers, lawyers and judges; software to improve the timeliness of discovery; and updating and distributing the Indian Child Welfare Act laminated bench card. CIP also supported Chief Justice Gants' efforts to recruit and train more attorneys to represent children and parents in Care and Protection cases in western Massachusetts.

## 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 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 at least annually on the implementation of the course, assessing whether the program is accomplishing its intended goals and outcomes; and overseeing the administration of all aspects of SJC Rule 3:16.

Four organizations, 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 FY18, the approved

providers conducted 21 courses at sites in Boston and across the state.

## Access to Justice Commission

The Access to Justice 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 for their essential civil legal needs. 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. Among other activities during the past year, the Commission and its members:

- Completed a comprehensive Strategic Action Plan for improving access to justice in the Commonwealth, in collaboration with a range of representatives from the access to justice community, through a Justice for All grant funded by the Public Welfare Foundation and administered by the National Center for State Courts. This plan is intended to complement and support the access to justice tactics set out in the Trial Court's Strategic Plan 2.0.
- Partnered with legal services organizations and the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation to win a second Justice for All grant to fund pilot projects to test innovative strategies for improving access to justice in the areas of consumer debt and housing.
- Continued to support the Access to Justice Fellows program, through which 93 retired lawyers and judges have provided over 80,000 hours of pro bono service to 60 non-profit entities.
- Studied criminal-civil crossover issues involving the unmet essential civil legal needs of persons entering or exiting incarceration.
- Continued to work with the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance on allocation of \$8.3 million to support civil legal aid for victims of crime under the Federal Victims Crime Act.
- Formed an ad hoc group to study access to justice issues arising from restrictions on cellular telephones in courthouses.

**\$8.3M**

to support  
civil legal aid for  
victims of crime





# SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

## **SJC Rule 1:19**

### **Governing Electronic Access to Courts**

The Supreme Judicial Court amended Rule 1:19 governing cameras in the courtroom in 2012. 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 2017, 165 news organizations and 129 news media individuals not employed by a news media organization had registered.

### **Judicial Evaluation**

The judicial evaluation program has facilitated the collection and processing of judicial evaluations from attorneys, court employees and jurors since 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 2015, the program initiated a revised evaluation questionnaire and commenced a three-year pilot program to test the new version. While the analysis of the pilot program was being conducted in FY18, fewer evaluations than usual were administered.

A round of evaluation for 51 judges in District, Housing, Juvenile, Superior, and Probate and Family Court in Bristol, Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket counties was conducted. This evaluation yielded 2,238 attorney evaluations and 982 employee evaluations, resulting in an average of 44 attorney evaluations and 19 employee evaluations. An evaluation of five Land Court judges commenced at the end of the fiscal year.

### **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 Rule 6.1 of the Massachusetts Rules of Professional Conduct.

In recognition of outstanding commitment to providing volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged, the Standing Committee presented the 16th annual Adams Pro Bono Publico Awards in October 2017 to attorneys Susan Church and Christine Butler; the law firm Goodwin; and a special student award to Claudia Quintero, a 2017 graduate of Western New England University School of Law. The Committee also acknowledged those on the Court's Pro Bono Honor Roll, recognizing those who have provided significant pro bono legal services. In FY18, the Pro Bono Committee also visited Harvard Law School, New England Law | Boston, and the University of Massachusetts Law School at Dartmouth, as part of a commitment to regularly visit area law schools to learn about and promote the pro bono activities of the law students, faculty, and staff. Committee members also spoke about pro bono legal services at a series of Practicing with Professionalism courses offered by the Boston Bar Association.

### **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 FY18, the program engaged 22 Boston students, ten Worcester students, and five Springfield students in this rich educational experience.

### **Community Outreach**

The Supreme Judicial Court uses the John Adams Courthouse to provide free educational opportunities for students, educators, and the public consistent with John Adams' passion for justice, community, and learning. Outreach opportunities in FY18 included 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



# SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

sessions; and the Court's annual celebrations of Student Government Day and Law Day. The Supreme Judicial Court also entered its thirteenth 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 updated information for litigants, lawyers, educators, and the general public. Webcasts of the Court's oral arguments are available on the website through collaboration with Suffolk University Law School.



*SJC Justice Kimberly S. Budd and retired Justice Geraldine S. Hines with the 2018 Judicial Youth Corp students from Boston.*

## Supreme Judicial Court Statistics FY2018

Caseload	FY2017	FY2018
Direct Entries	108	102
Direct Appellate Review - Applications Allowed	48	44
Direct Appellate Review - Applications Considered	122	110
Further Appellate Review - Applications Allowed	19	15
Further Appellate Review - Applications Considered	795	726
Transferred by SJC on its Motion from Review of Entire Appeals Court Caseload	42	33
Gross Entries	217	194
Dismissals	12	14
Net Entries	205	180
Dispositions	FY2017	FY2018
Full Opinions	170	145
Rescripts	45	49
Total Opinions	215	194
Total Appeals Decided <sup>1</sup>	227	195
<sup>1</sup> Indicates the total number of appeals resolved by the Court's opinions.		



# JUSTICES & OFFICIALS

## Appeals Court *Justices and Officials*

*As of June 30, 2018*

### Chief Justice

Mark V. Green

### Justices

Peter W. Agnes Jr.

Amy Lyn Blake

Kenneth V. Desmond Jr.

Joseph M. Ditkoff

John Englander

Sydney Hanlon

Vickie L. Henry

C. Jeffrey Kinder

James Lemire

Diana Maldonado

Gregory I. Massing

Edward McDonough

William J. Meade

James R. Milkey

Eric Neyman

Peter J. Rubin

Peter Sacks

Sookyong Shin

Sabita Singh

Mary T. Sullivan

Joseph A. Trainor

Ariane D. Vuono

Dalila Wendlandt

Gabrielle R. Wolohojian

### Court Administrator

Gilbert P. Lima Jr.

### Clerk

Joseph F. Stanton





# APPEALS COURT

**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 FY18, the Supreme Judicial Court transferred 78 cases of 1,728 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 FY18, 584 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 2018, 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 2018 Highlights

### Appellate Caseload

The Appeals Court caseload for FY18 increased 1% from FY17, as 1,728 new appeals were entered. Civil cases slightly predominated over criminal cases entries at 52% of all new entries. The court decided 1,154 cases, which was only 27 cases fewer than the total of net entries.<sup>1</sup>

### Technology Enhancement

The electronic filing program initiated in FY16 continued to expand as 62% of the briefs and appendices filed in FY18 were received in electronic format only. The court also began accepting e-filed single justice petitions in FY18 and 17% were filed digitally. Attorneys and self-represented parties are also increasingly taking advantage of the efficiencies of e-filing in motion practice, as 47% of the motions filed in FY18 were in a digital format. The use of e-filing will only increase in the coming year as the court also begins accepting impounded briefs and appendices in digital format. Internally, the justices and staff are using PDF digital files and are reading, marking and annotating on desktop workstations or tablets.

**62%**  
of briefs &  
appendices  
were e-filed  
in FY18

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/appeals-court>

<sup>1</sup> 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.



## Community Outreach

The court continued to sit beyond the John Adams courthouse in FY18. Panels traveled to UMass Law School, Western New England Law School, Massachusetts School of Law, the Worcester Justice Center and both UMass at Amherst and Fitchburg State University. 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 student questions. The court intends to hold at least one session in every area of the Commonwealth during FY19.

## Oral Argument List Pilot Program

The court experimented with a program in which cases were called in specific time slots for oral argument, as opposed to the usual requirement that all cases be present and ready at the beginning of the oral argument session. This program will be continued on a regular basis in the coming year.

## Appeals Court Statistics FY2018

Sources/Types of Appeals	Civil	Criminal	Total
Superior Court	497	455	952
BMC/District Court	101	333	434
Probate & Family Court	125	0	125
Juvenile Court	79	16	95
Land Court	55	0	55
Housing Court	32	0	32
Appeals Court Single Justice	15	2	17
Industrial Accident Review Board	7	0	7
Appellate Tax Board	8	0	8
Employment Relations Board	3	0	3
SJC Transfer	0	0	0
<b>Total Fiscal Year 2018</b>	<b>922</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>1,728</b>
<b>Total Fiscal Year 2017</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>1,714</b>



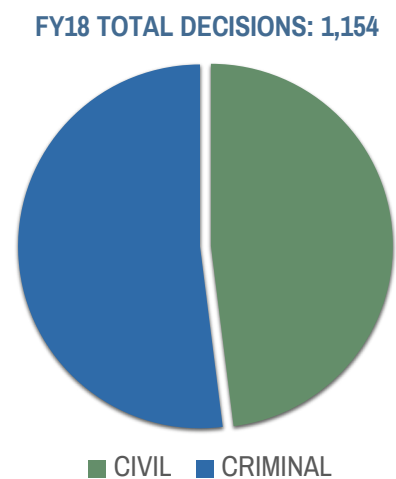
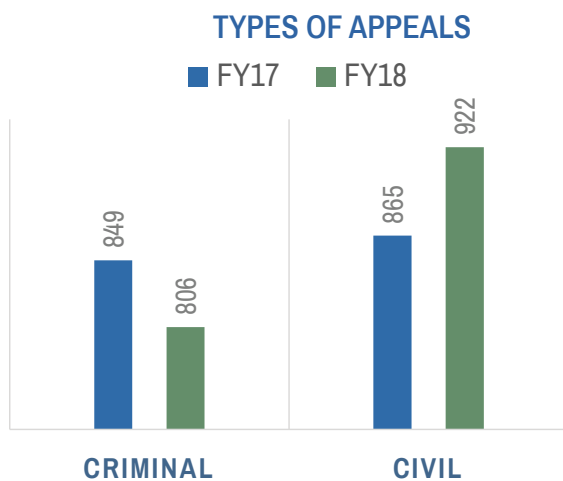


# APPEALS COURT

## Appeals Court Statistics FY2018 (continued)

Dispositions	Total
Total Panel Entries	1,728
Transferred to Supreme Judicial Court	78
Dismissed/Settled/Withdrawn/Consolidated	469
<b>Net Annual Entries</b>	<b>1,181</b>

	Civil	Criminal	Total
<b>Total Decisions</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>1,154</b>
Decision of Lower Court Affirmed	412	492	904
Decision of Lower Court Reversed	83	79	162
Other Result Reached	59	29	88
Published Opinions	94	63	157
Summary Dispositions	460	537	997





**The Massachusetts Trial Court made progress in a wide range of areas to serve those appearing in or using courts across the state. The Trial Court expanded efforts to digitize filings, increased electronic access to case information, introduced electronic payment of criminal fines and continued to improve workplace efficiencies. The Judicial Branch collaborated extensively with the Legislative and Executive Branches on significant criminal justice reform, and this work will actively continue in FY19. Court leaders continued to oversee implementation of Strategic Plan 2.0, expanding the plan to update the vision and mission and add a new domain to address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. This critical initiative creates the foundation for efforts to strengthen public trust and confidence.**

Courts continued expansion of electronic filing for criminal and civil matters, streamlining filing processes to better serve court users and to more effectively deploy court resources. Thirteen percent of cases were created using electronic interfaces, a number that continues to increase every day.

Electronic Applications for Criminal Complaint (EACC) expanded to 50 court divisions and more than 160 application for electronic complaints are received daily along with the case-related materials.

In FY18, more than 40,000 EACC cases were entered into MassCourts, the Trial Court's web-based case management platform. More than 90 local police departments have incorporated EACC into their incident reporting systems.

Over 13,000 attorneys registered to use the Attorney Portal, which provides access to personalized "my cases" and "my calendar" views of case data stored in the MassCourts system, and to certain electronic case documents.

**>40K  
electronic  
criminal  
complaints**

Civil e-filing expanded to most court departments and a growing number of case types. In FY18, 4,500 civil cases were filed electronically with close to 28,500 documents.

In FY18, the Trial Court continued efforts to finalize a comprehensive Master Capital Plan identifying significant investment needs at many of the state's 99 courthouses. In 2018, the Governor signed a bond bill that allocated \$760.5 million to address capital needs at court facilities.

The Trial Court Chief Justice and Court Administrator along with the department Chief Justices and Deputy Court Administrators of the Boston Municipal, District, Housing, Juvenile, Land, Probate and Family, and Superior Courts, the Probation Commissioner, Jury Commissioner, and Directors of the Office of Court Management provided the structure to oversee statewide court operations. The professional commitment and dedication of the state's judges, clerks, probation employees, and other court staff strengthened the Trial Court's ability to manage more than 845,000 cases filed in FY18.

This report outlines the State of the Court System, with highlights of FY18 accomplishments, as well as plans for FY19, in accordance with G.L. c.211B §9A.

## Plans for FY2019

Shared priorities with the Governor and Legislature resulted in full funding of a number of key strategic efforts for the next fiscal year. These include:

- Statewide expansion of Housing Court jurisdiction to 84 additional communities
- Addition of 10 new specialty court sessions to ensure statewide access to specialized services
- Expansion of the Diversity Office to train court staff on issues of diversity, equity and inclusion and to help recruit diverse staff
- Creation of a core infrastructure for alternative dispute resolution programs to help resolve pending cases
- Development of a new case management plan to streamline processes in the Probate and Family Court



In addition, the Trial Court will implement the comprehensive criminal justice reform legislation passed in April 2018 that included the expansion of pre-trial probation services, including the use of the Office of Community Corrections, elimination of some minimum mandatory sentences, and expansion of probation credit for good behavior.

The Trial Court also will develop Strategic Plan 3.0 for issuance by June 2019 to further and expand the goals of Strategic Plan 2.0 which was issued in 2016. Quarterly Strategic Leadership Team meetings will continue to review progress on a range of goals identified in the 'domains' or focus areas in the existing plan.

The expanded Diversity Office will work with existing committees of judges, clerks, probation, and security staff to increase communications and the management capacity of local courts on the issues of diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Judicial Branch will develop a technology capital plan to identify resources needed to speed the introduction of technologies that will enhance the delivery of justice by improving services and operational effectiveness. The court's ongoing transition to digitized operations requires continued expansion of electronic filing for criminal and civil cases, real-time case docketing, and development of electronic transmission of orders of transport and restraining and harassment orders.

The Trial Court will also continue implementation of recommendations outlined in Court Management Advisory Board reports on talent development and managing with data.

The Trial Court will complete the multi-year installation of state-of-the-art digital audio recording systems in all courtrooms to enable remote access to audio files of court proceedings and more rapid delivery of transcripts.

Construction on the new Lowell Justice Center will continue with the opening of the \$200 million, seven-story regional courthouse expected in late 2019. This model for future energy-efficient civic construction will house five court departments replacing courthouses built in 1850 and 1925 and one leased facility.

## Massachusetts Trial Court: Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

### Expanding Access to Justice for All

Access to justice activities this year focused on improving the experience of self-represented court users and expanding the Housing Court department. The number of unrepresented litigants shows no sign of abating. The Access to Justice domain of Strategic Plan 2.0 focused on this reality with efforts in several key areas.



### Simplification & Standardization of Forms

A Forms Management Governance Policy was issued in January 2018 to further the Trial Court's commitment to simplify and standardize court forms, processes, and self-help materials for court users, especially unrepresented litigants.

A Forms Management Team includes attorneys from each department who reach out to stakeholders as they draft, review and test forms and self-help materials. Each department has identified priority forms and processes that create problems for unrepresented litigants. Progress is underway in case types such as summary process; care and custody; consumer debt; small claims matters; Land Court tax liens and foreclosures; sealing and expungement of criminal and juvenile records; and orders of community corrections.

### Legal Assistance for Unrepresented Litigants

The Trial Court proposed a Uniform Limited Assistance Representation ("LAR") Rule to simplify and standardize the use of LAR across court departments, which previously had individual standing orders. New forms were developed and plans devised to track LAR usage.

Court leaders are actively recruiting and training additional LAR attorneys, as well as expanding Lawyer for the Day programs, in partnership with bar associations, through training and development of creative solutions to the challenges for litigants and the courts related to lack of representation.

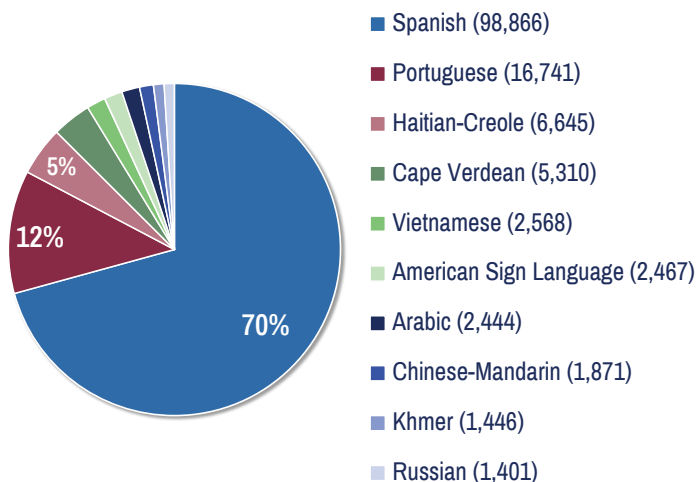


## Language Access

Significant progress was made in implementing the Trial Court's Language Access Plan:

- Revised Office of Court Interpreter Services Standards of Procedures and Code of Interpreter Ethics
- Added 11 court interpreters
- Developed procedures to assess the language skills of non-interpreter bilingual court employees
- Developed training protocols for all court employees on how to serve LEP individuals
- Increased the number of translated court documents
- Added new community members to the Language Access Advisory Committee

## FY18 Top 10 Language Requests



## Access to Justice Liaisons Pilot

A six-month Access to Justice Liaison project was highlighted by the ABA as one of four creative A2J initiatives across the country. Nineteen court employees volunteered from five, varied-size courthouses across the state. Liaisons included front-line clerk and register staff, probation officers, a security officer, a Court Service Center staff attorney, a family law specialist, and a law librarian. The pilot included completion of an A2J inventory for each court and recommendations for expansion to other locations.

Liaisons will facilitate access to justice in their courts and coordinate with colleagues across the state to share resources and program ideas, including collaboration with community organizations.

## Other Access to Justice Initiatives

• **Interpreter Services** - More than 148,000 court events received interpretation services in 114 languages. Eleven new staff interpreters were hired, bringing the total to 40 full-time interpreters in nine languages. The use of 150 contract interpreters greatly enhances language access capacity. A new mentoring program was introduced in the training of contract interpreters. Courts also may use LanguageLine if the need arises for an infrequently requested language.

• **Judicial Response** - Judges participated in an on-call, after-hours emergency response process coordinated with public safety officials in eight regions. In FY18, judges handled 5,902 emergency evening or weekend calls, for an average of 113 calls per week.

• **Law Libraries** - The Trial Court's 15 law libraries:

- welcomed 36,507 on-site visits
- responded to 17,707 questions
- held 4,274 chat or text sessions
- loaned 24,551 library materials
- created e-book files viewed by 29,744 patrons

• **Court Service Centers** - Some 60,500 people visited the Trial Court's six Court Service Centers (CSCs) in FY18 for procedural or legal information, help with forms, access to interpreter services, assistance with legal research and contact information for community resources, legal assistance programs, and social service agencies. Members of the CSC Committee continued work on an online CSC to expand remote services to court users with support from Massachusetts Appleseed and Suffolk University Law School.





## Access and Fairness Survey

The Department of Research and Planning issued results of the 1,560 Access and Fairness surveys conducted at 25 courthouses in May 2017.

This National Center of State Courts survey was completed in 2009 by 9,000 respondents at all courthouses, establishing a baseline measure of court user satisfaction on court accessibility and fairness.

Positive responses to the 11 questions on access increased to 85.6% across all courts. Scores on five fairness questions scores increased slightly to 81% with larger increases in courts with lower case volumes. Ratings in both areas reflected distinctions by race and ethnicity. Generally, diverse respondents who identified a race or ethnicity expressed less satisfaction with their experience (73.4%) than white respondents (83.3%). Hispanic/Latino respondents rated their experiences about 4% lower than white court users, while ratings by Black/African American court users were about 10% lower. Survey results were published in February 2018.



## Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Standing Committee on Dispute Resolution provides and promotes awareness of dispute resolution services, ADR information, ADR education and policy advancements to expand the understanding and access to court-connected dispute resolution services across the Trial Court.

In FY18, the Standing Committee developed ADR education information, collected dispute resolution data, and developed applicable screening models to determine appropriate cases for dispute resolution services. The committee partnered with the Massachusetts Bar Association to celebrate Conflict Resolution Week 2017 through sponsorship of several programs. One in Springfield acknowledged court-connected dispute resolution programs in western Massachusetts and another focused on youth mediation and juvenile justice.

## Improving the Criminal Justice System & Public Safety

### Criminal Justice Reform

In April, the Governor signed comprehensive criminal justice reform legislation, “An Act relative to criminal justice reform,” into law. Among its many provisions with impact on the Trial Court, this law raised the bottom age of Juvenile Court jurisdiction from 7 to 11, allowed certain criminal offenses to be sealed sooner, authorized limited expungement for juveniles and young adults, expanded juvenile and adult diversion, decriminalized certain juvenile offenses, and eliminated mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug offenses.

On the same day, the Governor also signed into law “An Act implementing the joint recommendations of the Massachusetts criminal justice review.” This new law incorporated the recommendations contained in the report “Justice Reinvestment in Massachusetts: Policy Framework,” which was the result of a partnership between state and court leaders and the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. Among the provisions with Trial Court impact, this new law created a mechanism for probationers on long-term probation to earn credit for complying with probation conditions, resulting in early discharge from probation. It also authorized access to Community Corrections Centers for people awaiting trial to reduce pre-trial incarceration by giving services to people who would otherwise be incarcerated awaiting trial.

### Community Corrections Centers

Probation’s Office of Community Corrections (OCC) conducted numerous community service and enhanced supervision programs in FY18 through its network of 16 Community Corrections Centers (CCC). Some 2,113 probationers participated in CCC programs, including: cognitive behavioral therapy, career counseling, educational supports, and comprehensive case management with accountability measures, such as drug and alcohol screening, community-work service, and electronic monitoring. More than 77% of CCC participants were drug testing compliant.

**>77%**  
drug testing  
compliant





## Domestic Violence Education

The Trial Court Domestic Violence Education Task Force continued to lead initiatives to ensure compliance with the Act Relative to Domestic Violence and to support the Act's policy goals. In FY18, judges in all departments participated in the domestic violence course *Comings & Goings* which will be presented to all court staff in FY19.

Five mandatory, online training modules on domestic violence were completed by all court staff last year and remain a valuable resource on the impact of domestic violence on victims, the impact of exposure to domestic violence on children, risk assessment, and information about intimate partner violence.

## Grant Activity

The Trial Court received several external grants from local, state, and federal entities in one-time and multi-year awards. These resources greatly enhanced and supplemented much-needed services. FY18 awards totaled \$4.2 million, including a \$2 million federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to enhance the Barnstable Drug Court. Awards in other areas support victim services, domestic violence training, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative related projects, development of a youth recidivism reduction plan, and development of online training on transgender issues.

## Responding to Community Problems: Specialty Court Expansion

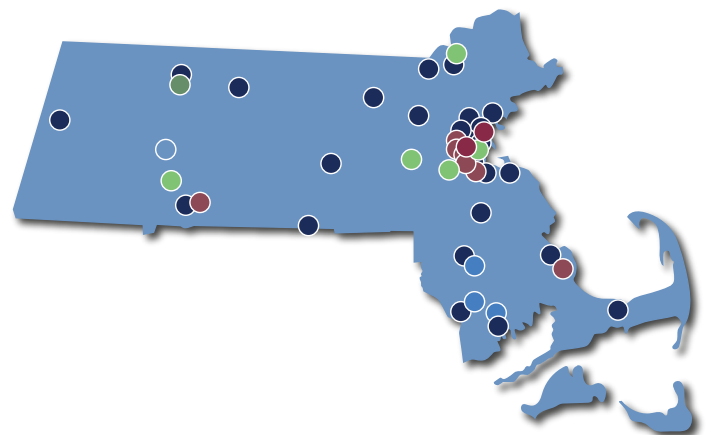
The Trial Court conducts 45 specialty court sessions across the state, almost double the number conducted in 2013. With legislative support to address the opioid crisis, the Trial Court has expanded and strengthened specialty courts and will add locations in FY19 to ensure statewide access.

Specialty courts address underlying causes for court involvement to reduce recidivism and ensure public safety. These sessions provide an alternative to incarceration by mandating treatment and increasing access to community resources with intensive probation supervision and monitoring by the supervising judge.

The Boston Municipal Court, District Court, Juvenile Court and Probate and Family Court Departments conduct these sessions in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, Department of Mental Health, and Department of Veterans Services.

Studies reflect the success of this integrated, service-intensive strategy. One Massachusetts Probation Service study showed a recidivism rate under 30% one year after participants graduated from drug court, compared to a national rate of 60-65% for high-risk individuals. Another study of 125 drug court participants showed that those who graduated from drug court recidivated at a rate of 27%, which is half of what is expected. In comparison, those who did not graduate recidivated at a rate of 61.8%.

## Specialty Court Locations Across the Commonwealth



	2013	2018
● Drug Courts	18	26
● Mental Health Courts	3	7
● Veterans Treatment Courts	1	5
● Juvenile Treatment Courts	1	3
● Homelessness Courts	1	2
● Family Drug Court	0	1
● Family Resolutions Court	0	1

# CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR SPECIALTY COURTS

COLLABORATION WITH  
UMASS MEDICAL SCHOOL

## About the CoE

Since its launch in 2014:

- Increased federal grant funding for specialty courts to \$5.25 million
- Produced research on the treatment and use of staff resources and health-related quality of life impacts
- Developed a Drug Court certification process and helped the Trial Court certify 10 courts
- Trained new and existing specialty court teams
- Collected and analyzed data for evaluation
- Created an online clearinghouse at [www.macoe.org](http://www.macoe.org)

## Drug Court Evaluation Process

- Mandated by statute in 2014
- Executed data sharing agreements
- Collected data on 293 drug court participants and 404 probationers
- Continued collection of treatment data
- Analysis and report expected in June 2019

## Drug Court Certification Process

- Reviews documents and manuals
- Conducts self-assessment by drug court team
- Conducts two-day site visits by a certification team - a retired judge, drug court probation officer, and a specialty court clinician
- 10 courts now certified and 6 planned in FY19

## Community Justice Project

- Conducted seven community mapping workshops in FY18 to identify resources and service gaps – 20 workshops held to date
- Includes community partners such as first responders, police, treatment providers and hospitals
- Develops action plans to address gaps and improve access to treatment
- Identifies “intercepts” where individuals needing assistance intersect with the justice system
- Posts community reports online



# TRIAL COURT

## Bridging the Justice Gap

The Trial Court has embarked on a multi-pronged effort to address issues of diversity, equity and inclusion by integrating awareness into all aspects of court operations in order to enhance the organization’s ability to respond to these issues. Diversity is an integral part of how the Trial Court promotes justice, equity, fairness, inclusion, and respect of all people regardless of their identity.

In FY18, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was added to the strategic plan as a priority area of ongoing focus. Also last year, the Trial Court published its first annual Diversity Report to provide data, benchmarks and trends in diverse appointments across a variety of positions.



The following efforts have taken place and continue as the Trial Court advances this work. Bar leaders have partnered with the courts to support training and outreach. Internal efforts include:

- Developed customer experience training
- Conducted all-court conference on race & implicit bias
- Formed leadership committees
- Appointed Diversity Officer
- Developed transgender training
- Building leadership capacity
- Increasing education & training
- Building cultural awareness and appreciation

Additional efforts bring together multiple stakeholders to address issues of disparities. For example, the Juvenile Justice Leadership Forum is focused on issues of racial and ethnic disparities (RED) in the juvenile justice system and has undertaken much in the area of training and systemic culture change.

In September 2017, the Trial Court and Mass. Probation Service held a statewide day of cultural sharing that included food, music, clothing, and dance at close to 80 courthouses across the state. Plans for 2018 expand the diversity celebration to a week of activities that will more widely engage local communities.



## Using Technology to Innovate and Streamline Processes

### *Electronic Filing*

By the end of FY18, Electronic Applications for Criminal Complaint (EACC) expanded to 50 court divisions and more than 160 electronic complaints were received daily with related materials. More than 36,000 EACC cases were entered into MassCourts, the Trial Court's web-based case management platform. More than 90 local police departments have incorporated the use of EACC into their daily routine.

Courts expanded the use of civil e-filing to more departments and case types. In FY18, 4,200 new cases were accepted electronically with over 25,000 documents filed into new and existing cases. This reflects a significant increase from 643 filed cases and 4,300 documents in FY17.

A new interface was completed in FY18 to schedule cases and exchange documents with the Department of Revenue to assist the Child Support Enforcement Unit with e-filing DOR-related cases in the Probate and Family Court.

The first online guided interview was made widely available to self-represented litigants in late FY18 for small claims cases using the Tyler Guide and File tool. In the first month, 92 new small claims cases were filed with this tool.

### *MassCourts Case Management System*

The rollout of ePay in March 2018 introduced the significant convenience of paying court criminal fees and fines online. Last year, almost three-quarters of the Trial Court's 298,000 criminal case payments were made at a courthouse. By the end of the fiscal year, over \$314,000 had been paid online.

Throughout FY18, MassCourts processed between 900,000 and 1.1 million transactions a day. The system continued to expand functionality to support the core case management application. Full criminal docketing was implemented in the Boston Municipal and District Courts to allow a more complete court docket along with an enhanced financial module that reduces manual docketing.

### *Public Access to Case Information*

The Trial Court continued to enhance its e-access portals allowing various case searches on the public internet, and on public computers located in courthouses across the state. E-access is now available on [www.MassCourts.org](http://www.MassCourts.org) for certain case types in every Trial Court department except the Juvenile Court. Use of the Attorney Portal continues to grow, with over 13,000 registered attorneys using the system by the end of FY18 to access "my cases" and "my calendar." On average, the court's public access portals process over 1.2 million inquiries each month.

### *Digital Recording in Courtrooms*

The Trial Court continued to upgrade courtroom digital recording systems to expand remote access to audio files of court proceedings and more quickly deliver transcripts. Recordings can now be linked to cases in MassCourts. In FY18, 76 additional courtrooms were equipped with For the Record systems, bringing the number of FTR-equipped courtrooms to 340. Completion is expected in FY19.

### *Professional Development & e-Learning*

The Judicial Institute's e-Learning Center, a learning management system that registers program participants and provides training materials, documented more than 4,367 individuals who completed one or more online training programs, as well as 6,595 in-person program hours. The Judicial Institute offered three new online courses as part of a MassCourts program series. Technology training also included 55 programs on Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other technology tools.

## Engaging Communities to Build Public Trust & Confidence

### *National Judicial Outreach Week*

More than 115 judges visited 100 schools, community groups, and senior centers as part of the American Bar Association's second annual National Judicial Outreach Week in March 2018. Judges spoke about the rule of law, the American legal system, and their work in local courts.



## *"This is Your Court" Day*

Events at nine regional courthouses across the state marked the Trial Court's first *This is Your Court Day* in November 2017. In Boston, more than 120 senior citizens toured the Adams Courthouse and visited information tables staffed by court employees and representatives of the Boston Bar Association and Massachusetts Bar Association. Courts in Worcester, Springfield, Fall River, Barnstable, Brockton and Lawrence hosted open houses and partnered with schools and community groups. In Salem, the court also partnered with local and national bar associations for an award presentation.

## *National Adoption Day*

In November 2017, 130 children in state foster care were formally adopted across the state as part of the 15th annual National Adoption Day. The event raises awareness of the thousands of Massachusetts children in need of adoptive families. The Worcester Trial Court served as the statewide media site for this annual event. Adoption ceremonies also took place at the George N. Covett Courthouse in Brockton and Boston's Edward W. Brooke Courthouse.

## *Jury Outreach and Education*

The Office of Jury Commissioner (OJC) conducted outreach to urban, underserved, and adult audiences to help ensure diverse and representative jury pools. In FY18, the OJC community outreach program with schools and community groups, court personnel and others reached 6,439 people, who attended 178 OJC Public Outreach presentations at 76 different locations.

## *Changing Lives Through Literature (CLTL)*

Close to 20 CLTL programs were offered statewide and facilitated by Probation Officers along with local faculty. CLTL is a seven-week program created more than 20 years ago by a probation officer, judge, and literature professor to engage probationers in an activity to reduce recidivism and demonstrate to probationers that better opportunities are available to them through education. CLTL explores diverse works of literature and poetry, and is one of the longest running programs of the Massachusetts Probation Service (MPS).

# MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT STRATEGIC PLAN

## ONE MISSION: JUSTICE WITH DIGNITY & SPEED

### Our Goals

- **Preserve** and enhance the quality of judicial decision-making.
- **Deliver** justice with fairness, effectiveness, efficiency, and consistency in court operations and services.
- **Ensure** fair and equal 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 professional, well-trained, engaged, collaborative, culturally competent, and diverse workforce.
- **Increase** the transparency and accountability of court operations and decision-making, with measurable and specific organizational goals and objectives.
- **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.

### Our Priorities

The Trial Court Strategic Plan includes the following seven priority areas or domains:

- **Access to Justice and the User Experience**
- **Caseflow Management**
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
- **The Judicial Experience**
- **Next Generation Technology**
- **Organizational Decision-Making and Support**
- **Talent & Career Development**

In 2018, the Trial Court added the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion domain to reflect our commitment to deliver quality justice by addressing bias, embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion, and eradicating discrimination.

# MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

Data is for Fiscal Year 2018, or as of June 30, 2018, unless otherwise noted.

## PEOPLE

Judicial Positions Authorized by Statute (as of August 2018)	385
Total Judges and Staff	6,368
Percent Women	58%
Percent Diverse Staff	25%



## ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Judicial Emergency Response (calls after hours)	5,902
Interpreted Events	148,000
Number of Languages	114
Law Libraries	15
Law Libraries: On-site Patrons	36,507
Court Service Center Locations	6
Court Service Center Visits	60,500
Judiciary Website Visitors (Mass.gov/Courts)	4.6M
Judiciary Website Page Views	25.1M



## COURT BUSINESS

New Case Filings	846,331
Jury Trial Impanelments	4,127
Jurors Appearing	199,661
Juror Utilization Rate	49.3%
Probation Supervision Caseload	66,080
Probation Surrender Hearings	40,691
Total GPS-monitored Caseload	3,897
Community Correction Centers (CCC) (as of August 2018)	16
CCC Enrollment	2,113
Specialty Courts	45
Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts	30
Mental Health Courts	7
Veterans Treatment Courts	5
Other Specialty Courts	3
Video Events	15,502
Stays in Lockup	222,741





# MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT BY THE NUMBERS

Data is for Fiscal Year 2018, or as of June 30, 2018, unless otherwise noted.

## MONEY MATTERS

Operating Appropriation	\$656.6M
General Revenue Collected	\$5.73M
Probation Fees Collected	\$16.5M
New Construction, Renovation, and Repairs	\$59.4M



## FACILITIES

Total Facilities	115
Facilities with Courtrooms	99
State/County Owned Facilities	60
Leased Facilities	55
Number of Courtrooms	429
Courtrooms with FTR Digital Recording	340
Total Facilities (Floor Space in Sq.Ft.)	5.8M



## MASSCOURTS CASE MANAGEMENT

Daily Transactions	1M
Cases in MassCourts	23.9M
Case Calendar Events	53.8M
Electronic Documents	21.4M
e-Filed Civil Cases	4,200
e-Filed Documents	25,000
Electronic Applications for Criminal Complaints	36,000
e-Payments	\$314,000
e-Portal Inquiries	1.2M/month



# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## Full Criminal Docketing

Full criminal docketing has successfully been implemented in all eight divisions of the Boston Municipal Court (BMC) department. This expanded use of the case management system allows more detailed docket entries and benefits judges and court personnel, as well as staff from district attorney offices, police officers, and defense counsel, and the general public. Full criminal docketing also has an enhanced financial module, which significantly reduces manual docketing required by court staff.

## Expansion of Civil e-Filing

Civil e-Filing has been implemented in all BMC divisions allowing court users to remotely file civil, small claims and supplementary process cases. Court staff received training on processing electronic cases and bookkeepers learned the associated bank reconciliation process.

## ePay

After piloting ePay, a web-based payment system, in the West Roxbury Division, all BMC divisions now have ePay available. ePay uses the MassCourts internet access portal to allow the public the convenience of paying criminal court fees and fines using a valid credit card or PayPal account, rather than traveling to courthouses.

## Section 35 Pilot for Civil Commitments

To alleviate the burden and time constraints faced by police officers and physicians seeking to petition for an order of civil commitment, the Boston Municipal Court Department promulgated Standing Order 1-17 for a one year pilot initiative in the West Roxbury Division, effective May 1st, to provide more immediate help for the most high-risk patients. Standing Order 1-17 established procedures for a police officer or physician seeking to file a petition for an order of civil commitment for individuals in need of hospitalization due to alcohol and/or substance disorders without having to appear in person. Under this pilot, nearly 200 Petitions for Commitment for Alcohol or Substance Use Disorder were sought by police officers and physicians.

## Specialty Courts

The importance and utility of specialized court sessions to address issues underlying criminal conduct have long been recognized by the Boston Municipal Court and are integral to the Department's commitment to restorative justice. The nine special sessions operated in FY18 include: the Boston Veterans Treatment Court to promote sobriety, recovery, and stability for veterans struggling with service-related substance abuse, mental health or other co-occurring disorders; the Homeless Court Program to enable individuals who complete a substance abuse or job training program to have default warrants removed and low-level cases dismissed; the Mental Health Diversion Initiative for defendants charged with misdemeanors or non-violent felonies to provide intensive social services and mental health treatment; and Drug Courts to address the alcohol and substance issues underlying many criminal cases.

## BOSTON MUNICIPAL COURT DEPARTMENT



Brighton Division of the  
Boston Municipal Court



Judges: 30



Divisions: 8



FY18 Case Filings:  
80,781

# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## District Court Standing Order 1-18: Voir Dire Protocol

The District Court promulgated a Voir Dire Protocol, standardizing its procedure for jury impanelment that gives attorneys and pro se litigants a fair opportunity to participate in voir dire. This can be through individual voir dire, panel voir dire, or a combination of both, so as to identify inappropriate bias among potential jurors. The procedure is designed to maintain juror privacy and dignity, identify explicit and implicit bias, and foster efficiency in the session and among sessions using the same jury pool. District Court Voir Dire Committee members have conducted a number of bench-bar presentations across the state to introduce the standing order to the bar.

## Specialty Courts

The District Court completed its planning to make a drug court session available to every probationer in the Commonwealth who may benefit from a specialized court session to address underlying medical, mental health, substance use or other issues. These sessions promote improved outcomes that reduce recidivism and enhance public safety by integrating treatment and services with judicial case oversight and intensive court supervision. In the next fiscal year, the District Court will establish the new drug court sessions to achieve this goal.

## Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint

Use of the Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint, EACC, is now functional in close to 75% of District Court divisions, with over 90 participating police departments. This electronic data exchange permits a law enforcement agency to transmit an application for a criminal complaint with accompanying attachments to the court.

## ePay

All 62 District Court divisions now use the ePay system, which permits courts to accept electronic and web-based submissions of criminal fee payments, such as restitution, victim-witness fees or probation supervision fees. Members of the public may also use public access terminals in each courthouse to look up criminal cases by docket number, make payments, and to search for other criminal cases in that division.

## Digital Recording System

New courtroom recording equipment was introduced in 38 District Court divisions, as part of an ongoing system-wide deployment. This has improved the quality and accessibility of court recordings shortly after the event. Through a Court.fm™ application, court staff, attorneys, parties and members of the public can listen to recordings remotely, via computer or tablet.

## DISTRICT COURT DEPARTMENT



Fitchburg District Court



Judges: 158



Divisions: 62



FY18 Case Filings:  
524,036

# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## Statewide Expansion

Housing Court Divisions, with support from other court departments, expanded their sessions to accommodate additional filings, due to expansion of the Housing Court's jurisdiction to 84 additional cities and towns as approved in the Commonwealth's final FY18 budget. Governor Baker nominated five new associate justices, increasing the number of Housing Court judges from 10 to 15.

The Central Division now has a full day session in Marlborough to accommodate the communities of Natick and Framingham. The Eastern Division holds a session for Middlesex County at the Cambridge District Court. The Northeast Division holds a session in Woburn to accommodate 20 additional Middlesex County communities. The Northeast Division also moved a session to Salem from Lynn to accommodate the expansion. A new division, called Metro-South, was scheduled to begin operation in August 2018.

## e-Filing

The Housing Court began planning an e-filing pilot of summary process cases in the Central Division. The pilot, which will be limited to attorneys in the first instance, will allow a plaintiff to e-file their entry package. The Housing Court will then review the pilot results to enable expansion to other divisions. Last year, 27,936 summary process cases were filed to the Housing Court, accounting for roughly 70% of the Department's total case filings.

## Community Partnership & Outreach

The Housing Department actively participated in various continuing legal education programs across the state. Judges and staff members participated in programs sponsored by Massachusetts Health Officers Association where they helped train code enforcement officers on how to bring a case in the Housing Court. Programs coordinated with Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education included the Housing Court Judicial Forum and Residential & Commercial Landlord-Tenant Practice in Massachusetts. The Northeast Division participated in a two-night City of Lawrence Landlord-Tenant Forum to educate the public about various services available in the court.

## HOUSING COURT DEPARTMENT



Therese Murray Trial Court,  
Plymouth



Judges: 15



Divisions: 6



FY18 Case Filings:  
40,025



ADR Referrals:  
21,396



# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## Caseflow Management Teams

Juvenile Court divisions across the Commonwealth created Caseflow Management Teams that meet regularly to identify and resolve case processing issues. This work is supported by funding from the national Casey Family Program and has enabled the Juvenile Court to partner with the National Center for State Courts for technical assistance in implementing Differentiated Case Management and Case Flow Management.

## Summit Held on Hampden County Attorney Shortage

A summit organized by Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Ralph Gants was held in February 2018 to identify new strategies to address the declining number of attorneys willing to take appointments in care and protection cases in Hampden County. The legislature took action and temporarily raised the hourly rate of compensation, resulting in an almost immediate resolution of the backlog of cases waiting for attorneys. Stakeholders continue to meet regularly to identify more permanent solutions.

## Specialty Courts

The Franklin/Hampshire Juvenile Court, in partnership with Franklin Probate Court, received a federal grant to enhance and strengthen the Franklin County Drug Court's efforts to reduce the negative impact of the substance abuse crisis in Franklin County. This \$2.1 million, five-year grant received in 2017 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides court-supervised services and will augment the delivery of comprehensive, trauma-informed case management, as well as integrated assessment, treatment and wrap-around services.

## Suffolk County Diversion Program

Following last year's implementation of a successful diversion program, the Suffolk County Juvenile Court, in partnership with the District Attorney's Office, plans to expand the program to Dorchester, Chelsea and West Roxbury in FY19. This innovative program is available for youth pre-arraignment and post-arraignment on both felony and misdemeanor charges. Youths are selected to participate in the program after a comprehensive individual assessment and are not automatically excluded if they have previous court involvement or felony charges. Diverted youth are referred to one of several community partners for services.

## JUVENILE COURT DEPARTMENT



George N. Covett Courthouse,  
Brockton



Judges: 42  
(as of August 2018)



Divisions: 11



FY18 Case Filings:  
32,785

# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## Permit Session Report

Pursuant to MGL c. 185, §3A, cases filed in the Land Court Permit Session are individually assigned to a judge who handles the case through to conclusion. By statute, the 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 trial and then to disposition.

At the beginning of FY18, one Permit Session case was pending. During the fiscal year, nine new Permit cases were filed and three were disposed, resulting in seven cases remaining pending at the close of the fiscal year. Two of the three cases disposed were completed within two months of filing. The third case, filed in 2013, was finally dismissed as moot after being stayed by agreement during the pendency of a closely-related case that was both brought to trial and then appealed. The seven permit session cases pending at the close of the fiscal year are comprised of five from Middlesex County and one each from Essex and Norfolk Counties.

## Operational Improvement

The Court conducted significant work to revise court forms and documents, prepare to implement new survey plan drafting and case management software, and streamline court processes to enhance operational effectiveness. Case filings remained relatively steady compared to the prior year except for a decrease in the number of mortgage foreclosure related Servicemembers case filings. Work to update and standardize MassCourts court forms was prioritized in anticipation of the installation of updated computers for staff in the new fiscal year.

## Digitization

The Court continues to implement changes to move toward more digitized data management and access environments. Work continued on the expansion of document scanning. A court e-filing implementation team was formed to plan the set up and testing of an e-filing pilot for Servicemembers cases in FY19. These efforts contribute to the Court's goal of making case documents publicly available online in the future.

In FY18, approximately 54% of registered land plans requested were delivered via email, saving time, printing, mailing and pick up costs.

The Land Court significantly advanced efforts to replace outdated Survey Division case management and plan-drafting computer systems with new hardware and software. The new systems will provide updated, secure platforms for Survey staff to draw and manage registered land plans, and eventually will allow greater public access to Survey Division plan information.

## LAND COURT DEPARTMENT



Suffolk County Courthouse,  
Boston



Judges: 7



FY18 Case Filings:  
14,983

# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## Hon. Jeffrey Abber “We CAN Settle” Initiative

In March 2018, the Massachusetts Chapter of the Family and Probate American Inn of Court began offering a free Counsel Assisted Negotiation (CAN) program at the Essex and Middlesex County locations of the Probate and Family Courts. This initiative was developed to honor the late Judge Jeffrey Abber, who strove to help litigants resolve their cases with civility, fairness, and with a keen understanding of the law. Volunteer lawyers assist with the resolution of complex cases referred by the judges of that courthouse one day each month.

## Family Resolutions Specialty Court (FRSC) Wins National Award

In June 2018, the FRSC received the Irwin Cantor Innovative Program Award at the 55th Annual Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Conference in Washington, D.C. Several court leaders and community partners accepted the prestigious award. This collaborative initiative, established by the Hampshire Division in May 2016, includes a team of professionals who help parents work together to resolve their conflicts in a manner that puts the children first. This process can alleviate negative emotions that may exist between the parents and allows them to focus on what benefits the child, rather than focusing on each other. Community partners include ServiceNet, Community Action, Smith College School for Social Work, the Mediation and Training Collaborative, and the Hampshire County Bar Association.

## Fiduciary Litigation Session

In November 2017, Standing Order 3-17 established a Fiduciary Litigation Session (FLS) to be held in the Norfolk County Probate and Family Court for a one-year pilot. The FLS provides a specialized forum for the speedy resolution of contested, complex probate litigation cases. It also provides individualized and collaborative case management to reduce the costs associated with fiduciary litigation. Initially, the FLS accepted cases only from the Middlesex, Norfolk and Suffolk divisions. In February 2018, the Standing Order was expanded to cases filed in the Essex and Plymouth divisions. The session achieved high regard and demand, reaching maximum capacity with approximately 50 cases from the participating divisions.

## Lawrence High School “Estrella Program”

The Court introduced the Estrella Program (the Spanish word for “star”) in September 2017 with help from Estrella board members. This program was created to inspire and guide Latina students who attend Lawrence High School. It consists of ten monthly workshops led by board members. Session topics include: financial literacy and accountability, healthy relationships, career paths, self-esteem, and individual and cultural identity. At a ceremony held in June 2018, Estrella graduates credited the program with giving them confidence, opening new opportunities, introducing them to new career paths and giving them a deeper appreciation of their culture and identity.

## PROBATE & FAMILY COURT DEPARTMENT



Berkshire Probate & Family Court, Pittsfield



Judges: 51



Divisions: 14



FY18 Case Filings:  
131,038

# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## e-Filing

The Superior Court successfully initiated electronic case filing in Middlesex and Barnstable Counties for civil tort cases. Worcester will accept e-filing by September 2018. An implementation committee, including staff from the Administrative Office of the Superior Court, clerks' offices, and Judiciary Information Services, meets regularly to discuss strategies to ensure effective implementation. Planning is underway for the expansion of e-filing to the remaining counties and more civil case types.

## Civil Litigation Options

The Court continued implementation of a pilot project for early case management conferences in specified case types. This effort began in 2017 to implement changes in civil litigation resulting from the recommendations of the Working Group on Options for Cost Effective Civil Litigation. These changes included new Superior Court Rules 20 and 30B, providing for individual case management orders and clarifying requirements for expert disclosure.

## Medical Malpractice Tribunals

The Court adopted new Superior Court Rule 73 to reduce delays in holding medical malpractice tribunals and trials, and to bring the management of these cases into closer conformance with G. L. c. 231, § 60B. The rule includes imposition of strict deadlines for a plaintiff to file an offer of proof, for a defendant to ensure the submission of a case-specific list of physicians to serve on the tribunal, and for the scheduling of a trial assignment conference. The rule also provides that no case will be stayed automatically pending a tribunal, and allows for a judge-only alternative to a three-person tribunal where no case-specific list of physicians is submitted.

## Business Litigation Sessions

The Superior Court's Business Litigation Session (BLS) provides a forum for business and commercial disputes. The BLS consists of two full-time sessions committed to the timely and efficient resolution of commercial disputes and other complex cases, including class actions and consumer protection claims brought by the Attorney General. Four assigned judges work in teams of two, with each judge sitting in a session for a six-month term. This continuity in assignment, together with the practice of submitting all rulings to a publicly-accessible data base, fosters consistency in judicial decision-making and the development of a well-defined body of business law. The BLS has also adopted procedural orders and practices aimed at containing the cost of litigation and moving each case toward a prompt resolution.

## SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT



Fall River Justice Center



Judges: 82



Counties: 14



FY18 Case Filings:  
23,185



# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

## Juror Utilization

Juror utilization remained a top priority for the Trial Court and the Office of Jury Commissioner. In FY18 the statewide juror utilization rate rose to a record high of 49.3%. The OJC and Trial Court departments continued to promote best practices for courts to use in projecting and modifying the number of jurors needed for possible impanelments to improve utilization and the juror experience.

## Juror Feedback

This year, the OJC began emailing “thank you” messages to persons summoned for service with a brief survey about their experience. The response was immediate and impressive. Survey responses increased from 35 in June 2017 (before the survey link) to 786 in July 2017, and by 2018 consistently averaged 1,400 per month. The OJC sorts responses by courthouse and court department and distributes juror comments to relevant parties. From this feedback many issues are addressed and new initiatives are underway to improve juror conditions statewide.

## Jury Pool Survey

The OJC completed a survey of all jury pool staff as a follow-up to a 2012 survey. Information on facilities and amenities was gathered, consolidated, and shared with Facilities Management. The OJC continues working with courthouses to address the issues identified.

## Juror Stress Brochures Distributed

In response to concerns about resources for jurors who experience stress as a result of their service on difficult or high-profile trials, the OJC created a brochure containing information, resources, and tips for managing post-trial stress. The brochures are provided to jury pools statewide for judges to distribute at the conclusion of challenging trials.

## Deaf Juror Program

The successful Deaf Juror Program continued in partnership with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH). Deaf citizens were scheduled for service with the assistance of American Sign Language interpreters in Boston, Concord, Waltham, and Lawrence. A record number of deaf citizens were impaneled on juries pursuant to the OJC / MCDHH Deaf Juror Program. For the first time since the program commenced in 2013, two deaf jurors were impaneled on the same case, at the Waltham District Court. Deaf jurors also were impaneled in Concord and Lawrence.

## OFFICE OF JURY COMMISSIONER



Concord District Court

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.



### Jurors

- Jurors Summoned in FY18: 716,587
- Jurors Serving in FY18: 199,661
- Juror Utilization Rate: 49.3% (% of jurors appearing who are impanelled, challenged, or excused)

# Fiscal Year 2018 Highlights

During FY18, MPS made significant progress in the implementation of its ambitious strategic plan, in addition to managing our daily operations and responding to legislative action. Below are some highlights of MPS accomplishments.

## Improved Operational Effectiveness

MPS evaluated, developed and launched beta testing of Northpointe case management software, which will allow probation officers to manage their work in a person-centered way, rather than docket-centered way. This state-of-the-art software promises to leverage technology, reduce paper files, allow for real-time workload management and calendaring, and improve data collection. Six courts participated in the beta test and the goal is to implement Northpointe statewide by the end of FY19.

## Enhanced Case Information Initiative

MPS initiated an effort to provide additional information to judges to aid in their decision making at key points in the criminal court process. MPS now can provide judges with CARI, sealed CARI, in-state restraining orders, as well as federal and out-of-state criminal record information.

## Broadened Access to Justice

MPS continues to expand outreach efforts through the MPS Victim Services Unit, Veterans Liaison Program, and Cultural Proficiency Champions. Victim Services added two staff members and oversaw outreach to over 4,000 victims and survivors in FY18. MPS Veterans Liaisons in each court volunteer to learn about the needs of veterans and identify veterans for referral to services. MPS hosted its first annual Veterans Day appreciation event for staff who are military veterans. MPS took a lead role in designing and hosting the Trial Court's first Cultural Appreciation Day, which provided educational and cultural presentations for staff and the community at more than 70 court and Community Corrections Center locations across the Commonwealth. The department's 120 Cultural Proficiency Champions meet regularly for education and sharing resources.

## Implementation of Criminal Justice Reform Legislative Changes

Criminal Justice Reform Legislation became effective in April 2018. MPS was actively involved in the design and discussion of many elements of this legislation and will be heavily impacted by changes in FY2019. The department's early collaboration with the Council of State Governments and the strategic planning initiatives, well position MPS to implement and adapt to many new legislative requirements in the areas of expungement, sealing, DNA collection, pretrial services, expanded Community Corrections, and juvenile diversion programs.

## MASSACHUSETTS PROBATION SERVICE (MPS)



Employees: 1,750+



Probationers Under Supervision: 60,000+



24/7 Electronic Monitoring: 4,000+

The Massachusetts Probation Service's mission is 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.

In addition to providing offender supervision, MPS staff work with children and families to ensure the best interests of children are met. MPS is also responsible for managing the records that provide information to the state criminal justice information system.

MPS employees work throughout courthouses in Massachusetts, at 16 intermediate sanction and high risk/need-serving Community Corrections Centers, and within the Community Service Program that MPS operates for the Trial Court.

Through its involvement in specialty courts and other court-based programs, MPS is an integral part of rehabilitation of offenders and the restoration of families to healthy dynamics.

MPS practice is guided by the values of evidence-based practice, inclusion, transparency and continuous organizational and individual learning.

# 2017 MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## Boston Municipal Court

- Emily Santilli, Dorchester Division

## District Court

- Natick/Framingham District Court Record Retention Project Team
- Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint Teams:
  - Brookline District Court
  - Concord District Court
  - Framingham District Court
  - Natick District Court
  - Orleans District Court

## Probate and Family Court

- Franklin County Family Drug Court Team

## Superior Court

- Edward Curley, Suffolk County
- Lucille Pasquale, Middlesex County

## Juvenile Court

- Claudia Orcutt, Hampden County

## Land Court

- Spring Conference Training Team

## Office of Court Management / Executive Office

- Andrew Mangan, Security
- Matthew Scalifani, Security
- Donna Hall, Executive Office
- Gerardo Burgos, Facilities Management
- Nantucket District Court Life-saving Effort
- Facilities Team: Supreme Judicial Court Bench Construction
- Courtyard/Intranet Development and Implementation Team

## Probation

- Michael Borden, New Bedford District Court
- Joann Fitzgerald, Taunton District Court
- Cultural Proficiency Initiative and Cultural Appreciation Day Team
- Sex Offender Risk Need Evidence-based Tools and Standards Committee



*Court leaders with representatives of the Massachusetts Probation Service Cultural Proficiency Initiative and Cultural Appreciation Day Team at the 2017 Employee Excellence Awards in November.*



*Court leaders with representatives of the Nantucket District Court Life-saving Effort Team: Court Officer Suzette Brown and Clerk Magistrate Brian Kearney.*



## Trial Court Statistical Appendix

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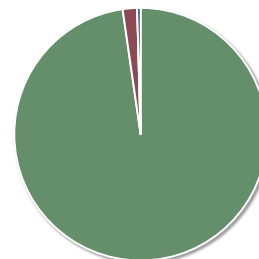
32	Fiscal Data
33	Criminal Case Charges
35	Case Filings by Department and Type
37	Massachusetts Probation Service Caseload



# TRIAL COURT FISCAL DATA FY2018

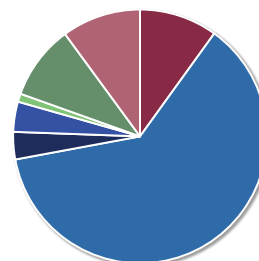
## Breakdown of Trial Court Funding

	Trial Court Operating Appropriations	\$656,610,964
	Capital / Bond Funds	\$12,398,522
	Grants, Trusts & Intergovernmental Funds	\$2,922,616
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$671,932,101.85</b>



## Trial Court Expenditures from Operating Accounts

	Judicial Salaries	\$65,331,666
	All Other Salaries	\$407,969,294
	Employee-Related Expenses	\$22,927,786
	Case-Driven Expenses	\$25,200,624
	Law Library / Legal Research Expenses	\$6,841,683
	Office and Court Operations	\$62,261,878
	Facility Rental, Maintenance and Operation	\$66,078,033
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$656,610,964</b>



## Interdepartmental and Reserve Transfers

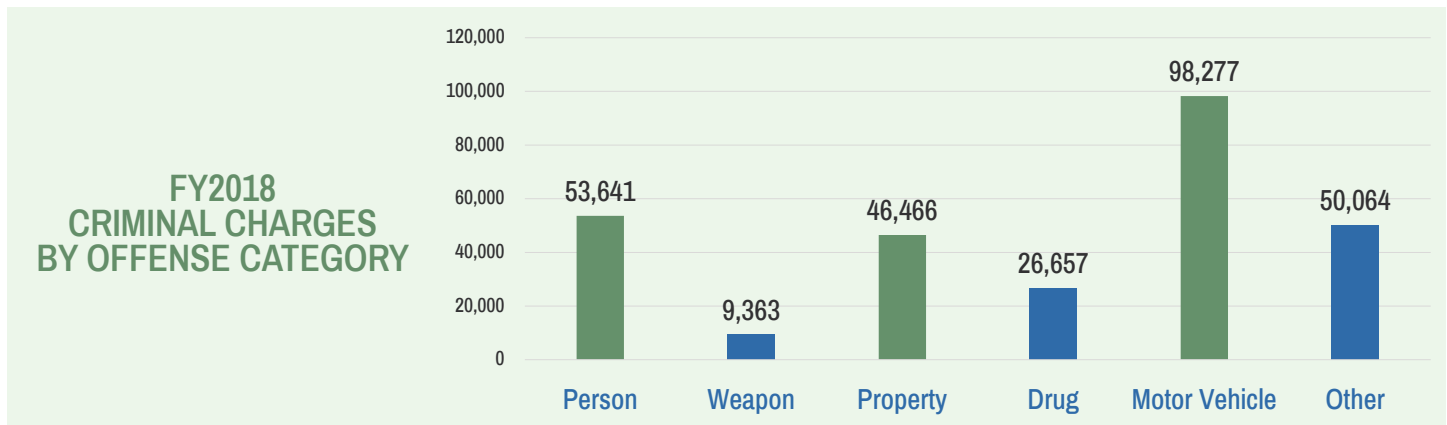
### Total Amount Transferred Between Accounts Within Departments

Central Accounts	\$2,793,514
Superior Court Department	\$825,000
District Court Department	(\$100,000)
Probate & Family Court Department	\$100,000
Land Court Department	(\$230,000)
Boston Municipal Court Department	(\$75,000)
Housing Court Department	(\$650,000)
Juvenile Court Department	(\$850,000)
Probation Accounts	(\$1,713,514)
Jury Commissioner	(\$100,000)





# TRIAL COURT CRIMINAL CASE CHARGES



## CRIMINAL CHARGES BY TYPE AND OFFENSE CATEGORY, FY2014–FY2018

Offense	Charge Type	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
	Totals	348,883	336,367	328,788	300,576	284,468
PERSON	Total	57,235	57,333	56,792	53,866	53,641
	Assault & Battery	39,094	38,118	37,537	35,104	34,668
	Assault	7,632	7,832	7,535	7,307	7,113
	Kidnap	647	607	657	682	715
	Murder / Manslaughter	200	238	243	253	273
	Robbery	2,832	2,454	2,530	2,448	2,255
	Sex	3,687	3,617	3,430	3,213	3,610
	Other Person	3,143	4,467	4,860	4,859	5,007
WEAPON	Total	8,842	7,960	8,620	8,089	9,363
	Dangerous Weapon	1,257	1,065	1,020	833	864
	Firearm	5,754	5,118	5,598	5,345	6,288
	Other Weapon	1,831	1,777	2,002	1,911	2,211
PROPERTY	Total	66,312	58,580	56,555	50,501	46,466
	Arson / Burn	325	210	167	241	231
	B&E / Burglary	8,663	7,001	6,688	5,816	5,346
	Fraud	1,903	1,745	1,772	1,679	1,504
	Motor Vehicle	1,783	1,815	1,816	1,819	1,930
	Shoplifting	8,575	7,995	7,536	6,280	5,753
	Larceny	35,095	30,663	29,356	25,790	23,167
	Trespassing	5,103	4,830	4,694	4,557	4,561
	Other Property	4,865	4,321	4,526	4,319	3,974



# TRIAL COURT CRIMINAL CASE CHARGES

## CRIMINAL CHARGES BY TYPE AND OFFENSE CATEGORY, FY2014–FY2018

Offense	Charge Type	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
DRUG	Total	30,585	29,330	30,377	24,962	26,657
	Distribute Class A	3,799	4,160	4,351	2,962	2,776
	Distribute Class B	4,584	4,192	4,797	4,269	5,117
	Distribute Class C	494	445	465	380	430
	Distribute Class D	2,952	2,338	2,292	1,435	1,682
	Distribute Class E	400	391	454	413	491
	Distribute School Zone	1,383	1,246	1,167	737	647
	Possess Class A	4,407	4,410	4,444	3,653	3,524
	Possess Class B	5,190	5,125	5,434	5,221	5,827
	Possess Class C	1,141	1,073	1,095	869	823
	Possess Class D	390	321	285	152	135
	Possess Class E	2,248	2,056	2,189	1,701	1,855
	Possess Marijuana	145	107	100	59	34
	Trafficking Class B / Cocaine	1,105	1,049	1,049	1,276	1,730
	Trafficking Heroin	637	834	1,116	920	844
	Trafficking Marijuana	26	23	26	8	30
	Other Drug	1,684	1,560	1,113	907	712
MOTOR VEHICLE	Total	118,061	119,378	116,010	108,719	98,277
	MV Homicide	110	89	101	98	75
	MV OUI	15,489	15,727	15,380	13,272	12,815
	Other Motor Vehicle	102,462	103,562	100,529	95,349	85,387
OTHER	Total	67,848	63,786	60,434	54,439	50,064
	Restraining Order Violation	5,530	5,429	5,204	5,298	5,113
	License Violation	5,350	5,450	5,257	5,128	4,693
	Public Order	14,796	13,142	12,500	11,323	10,845
	Other	42,172	39,765	37,473	32,690	29,413



# FY18 TRIAL COURT CASE FILINGS BY DEPARTMENT AND TYPE

Case Types		Boston Municipal	District	Housing	Juvenile		
All Case Types		80,781	524,036	40,025	32,785		
Criminal Matters	Criminal	21,753	163,189	744	444		
	Criminal Show Cause Hearings	23,123	79,079	1,773	—		
	Criminal Warrants	1,101	7,289	—	—		
	Subtotal	45,977	249,557	2,517	444		
Civil Matters	Civil – Regular	4,759	35,376	4,226	—		
	Servicemembers	—	—	—	—		
	Subtotal	4,759	35,376	4,226	—		
	Civil – Specialized Matters	Small Claims	9,185	79,694	1,152	—	
		Supplementary Proceedings	659	6,914	91	—	
		Summary Process	664	10,620	29,684	—	
		Restraining / Harassment Orders	4,221	36,935	—	537	
		Mental Health	2,126	14,391	—	158	
		CMVI Appeals	1,148	7,615	—	—	
		Administrative Warrants	2,695	7,285	1,535	—	
		Other Specialized Civil	54	895	—	81	
		Subtotal	20,752	164,349	32,462	776	
		Hearings	CMVI Hearings	9,174	71,640	—	—
Show Cause Hearings (Applications)	—		—	—	12,226		
Non-MV Infraction Civil Hearings	56		2,915	820	—		
Subtotal	9,230		74,555	820	12,226		
Juvenile Matters	Juvenile Delinquency	—	23	—	7,864		
	Youthful Offender	—	—	—	138		
	CRA / CHINS Applications	—	—	—	5,227		
	Care & Protection Petitions	—	—	—	3,375		
	Subtotal	—	23	—	16,604		
Probate	Guardianship	—	—	—	1,057		
	Child Welfare and Adoption	—	—	—	1,219		
Domestic Relations	Paternity	—	—	—	440		
	Divorce	—	—	—	—		
	Modification / Contempt	—	—	—	—		
	Other Domestic Relations	—	—	—	—		
	Subtotal	—	—	—	440		
Appeals		63	176	—	—		





# FY18 TRIAL COURT CASE FILINGS BY DEPARTMENT AND TYPE

Case Types		Land	Probate & Family	Superior	Total
All Case Types		14,983	131,038	23,185	846,833
Criminal Matters	Criminal	—	—	4,531	190,661
	Criminal Show Cause Hearings	—	—	—	103,975
	Criminal Warrants	—	—	—	8,390
	Subtotal	—	—	4,531	303,026
Civil Matters	Civil – Regular	3,559	—	18,425	66,345
	Servicemembers	8,637	—	—	8,637
	Subtotal	12,196	—	18,425	74,982
	Civil – Specialized Matters	—	—	—	90,031
	Small Claims	—	—	—	7,664
	Supplementary Proceedings	—	—	—	40,968
	Summary Process	—	—	—	44,737
	Restraining / Harassment Orders	—	3,044	—	16,675
	Mental Health	—	—	—	8,763
	CMVI Appeals	—	—	—	11,515
	Administrative Warrants	—	—	—	3,817
	Other Specialized Civil	2,787	—	—	224,170
	Subtotal	2,787	3,044	—	
	Hearings	—	—	—	80,814
Hearings	CMVI Hearings	—	—	—	12,226
	Show Cause Hearings (Applications)	—	—	—	3,791
	Non-MV Infraction Civil Hearings	—	—	—	96,831
	Subtotal	—	—	—	
Juvenile Matters	Juvenile Delinquency	—	—	—	7,887
	Youthful Offender	—	—	—	138
	CRA / CHINS Applications	—	—	—	5,227
	Care & Protection Petitions	—	—	—	3,375
	Subtotal	—	—	—	16,627
Probate	Guardianship	—	11,596	—	12,653
	Child Welfare and Adoption	—	1,215	—	2,434
Domestic Relations	Paternity	—	12,852	—	13,292
	Divorce	—	21,816	—	21,816
	Modification / Contempt	—	40,578	—	40,578
	Other Domestic Relations	—	355	—	355
	Subtotal	—	75,601	—	76,014
Appeals		—	—	229	468



# MASSACHUSETTS PROBATION SERVICE CASELOAD

## FISCAL YEAR 2018: YEAR-END PROBATION CASELOAD BY SUPERVISION TYPE AND COURT DEPARTMENT

Supervision Type	Boston Municipal Court	District Court	Juvenile Court	Probate & Family Court	Superior Court	Total Supervision
Administrative Supervision Cases	1,965	18,235	819		923	21,942
Care and Protection Petitions			3,749			3,749
Child Requiring Assistance Cases			2,880			2,880
Dispute Intervention Mediations				2,115		2,115
Driving Under the Influence Cases	444	9,391				9,835
Pre-trial Supervision Cases	942	6,436				9,368
Risk-Need Supervision Cases	1,047	8,938	729		5,345	16,059
Seek Work Supervision Cases				132		132
<b>Total Supervision</b>	<b>4,398</b>	<b>43,000</b>	<b>8,660</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>7,775</b>	<b>66,080</b>



# ON THE COVER

## Front Cover



**Taunton Trial Court**  
Year Built: 2011



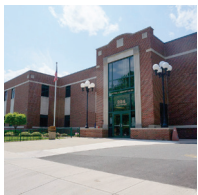
**Marlborough District Court**  
Year Built: 1969



**Wrentham District Court**  
Year Built: 1955



**Newton District Court**  
Year Built: 1930



**Westfield District Court**  
Year Built: 2001



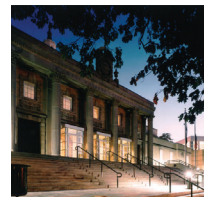
**Hampden County Courthouse, Springfield**  
Year Built: 1874

## Back Cover

**Essex County Superior Court, Newburyport**  
Year Built: 1832



**West Roxbury Division, Boston Municipal Court**  
Year Built: 1925



**Barnstable County Courthouse**  
Year Built: 1832



**B.M.C. Durfee Courthouse, Fall River**  
Year Built: 1886

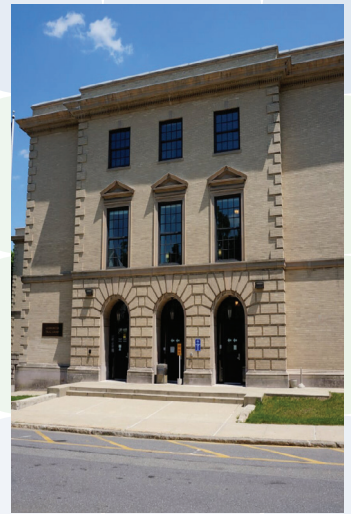


**Worcester Trial Court**  
Year Built: 2007



**Leominster District Court**  
Year Built: 1926





## Public Information Office

John Adams Courthouse, Suite 1100  
One Pemberton Square  
Boston, MA 02108-1724  
<https://www.mass.gov/courts>

