



2009 Annual Report

MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH

MISSION:

To administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient and impartial system of dispute resolution that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law.

UNIFIED CRIMINAL DOCKET IS A SUCCESS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY



The Judges and Clerks of the Cumberland County Unified Criminal Docket

The Cumberland County Unified Criminal Docket (UCD) was developed to replace the traditional two-tiered system with a single efficient method for processing criminal actions. The project has met its primary goals to promote the prompt and fair resolution of cases through early information sharing, to provide early access to appointed counsel for indigent defendants and to direct sufficient judicial resources for expedited case processing. It has increased efficiency by eliminating the duplicative clerical workload created by case transfers between the District and Superior Courts and by reducing the number of court appearances required to process individual cases. This successful model will be expanded to other counties; Penobscot County has already begun to use a similar process.

FORECLOSURE DIVERSION PROGRAM CREATED TO HELP EASE CRISIS



The Foreclosure Diversion Program was established as a result of legislation that became effective in June 2009. The purpose is to assist homeowners and lenders in achieving mutually agreeable resolutions to mortgage foreclosure actions through the diversion process. The Supreme Judicial Court created a pilot project, which began in York County in August 2009, making mediation sessions available to the parties involved in residential foreclosures. The Foreclosure Diversion Program became available statewide on January 1, 2010. More information about the Foreclosure Diversion Program is available on the Judicial Branch web site at this link www.courts.state.me.us/court_info/services/foreclosure/index.html.

PENOBSCOT JUDICIAL CENTER OPENS DOORS TO COMMUNITY



The Penobscot Judicial Center opened in December 2009, ahead of schedule and under budget. Located at 78 Exchange St. in Bangor, the environmentally responsible facility meets the Maine Energy Conservation Building Standards. It serves as home to a consolidated clerks' office and the Penobscot County Superior and the Bangor District Courts. It offers full-time entry screening as well as security cameras in every courtroom.

HOULTON COURTHOUSE RENOVATIONS COMPLETE



View from the bench



District Court Clerks' office

The renovation of the Houlton Courthouse was completed in 2009, consolidating the District and Superior Courts into one building. The improvements, which included modern technology and an increase from one to two courtrooms, will greatly improve the delivery of justice in Aroostook County.



From Left to Right: **THOMAS E. HUMPHREY**, Chief Justice, Superior Court, **LEIGH I. SAUFLEY**, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court, **ANN M. MURRAY**, Chief Judge, District Court, **CHARLES C. LAVERDIERE**, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court



TED GLESSNER,
State Court Administrator

JUDICIAL BRANCH LEADERSHIP

MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE

	POPULATION SERVED.....	1,316,456
	GEOGRAPHIC AREA.....	35,387 sq. mi.
	COURT LOCATIONS.....	40
	BUDGET	\$63,388,200
	% of State General Fund.....	2.1%
	JUDGES (Total).....	60
	Supreme Judicial Court Justices.....	7
	Superior Court Justices.....	17
	District Court Judges.....	36
	FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES.....	8
	STAFF (clerks, security & support).....	444
	TOTAL 2009 CASES FILED	292,295
	Supreme Judicial Court.....	733
	Superior Court.....	18,667
	District Court.....	132,340
	Violations Bureau.....	140,580

THE COURTS OF MAINE

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The Supreme Judicial Court is the governing body of the Judicial Branch. Sitting as the Law Court, it is the court of final appeal.

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT NEW CASE FILINGS

Criminal.....	210
Civil.....	302
Worker's Compensation.....	58
Family/Divorce.....	97
Child Protective.....	41
SJC.....	25
TOTAL.....	733

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The Justices of the Superior Court serve the entire State, hearing both civil and criminal cases, including jury trials.

TRIAL COURT FILINGS

CRIMINAL FILINGS

District Court.....	53,855
Superior Court.....	14,478
TOTAL.....	68,333

CIVIL FILINGS

District Court.....	21,602
Superior Court.....	4,189
TOTAL.....	25,791

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The District Court hears both civil and criminal cases, in addition to exercising exclusive jurisdiction over family, juvenile, child protective, protection from abuse, small claims, and traffic violation cases.

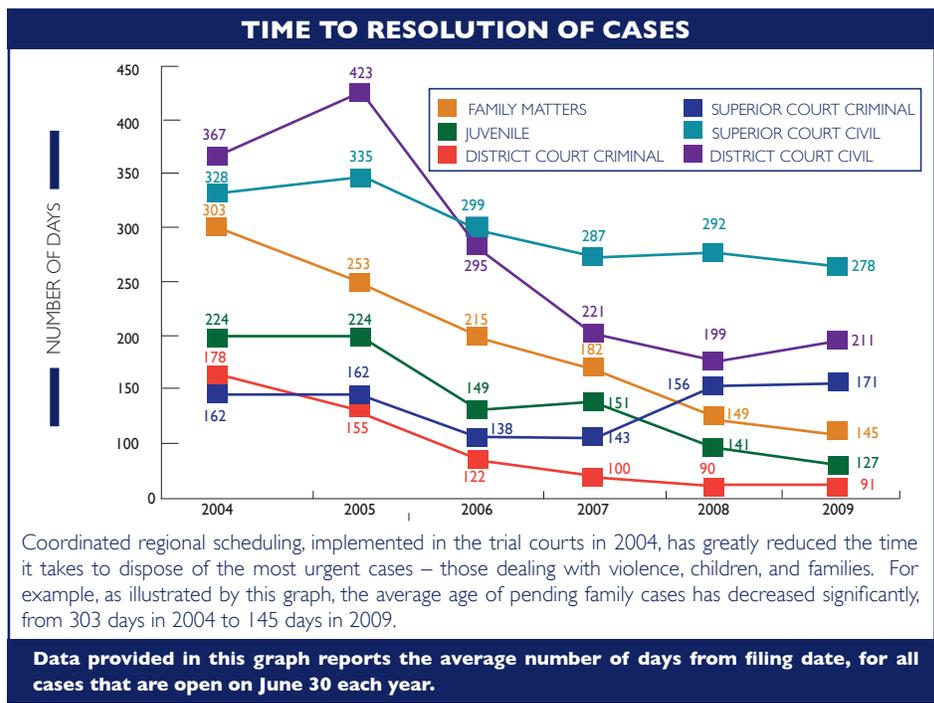
DISTRICT COURT NEW CASE FILINGS

Family/Divorce.....	9,316
Small Claims.....	11,392
Juvenile.....	3,504
Forcible Entry.....	4,786
Protection from Abuse.....	6,130
Protection from Harassment.....	4,022
Child Protective.....	755
Mental Health.....	1,008
Civil Violations.....	15,970
Traffic Infractions.....	140,580
TOTAL.....	197,463

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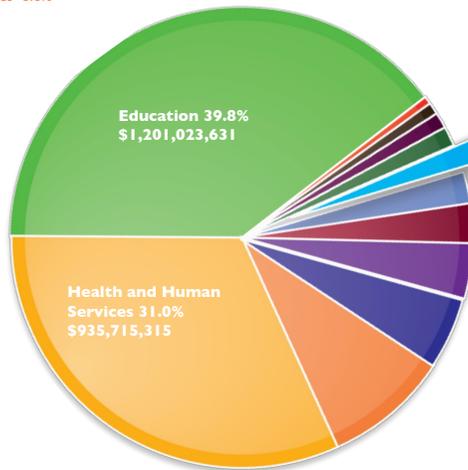
There are eight Family Law Magistrates serving the entire State.



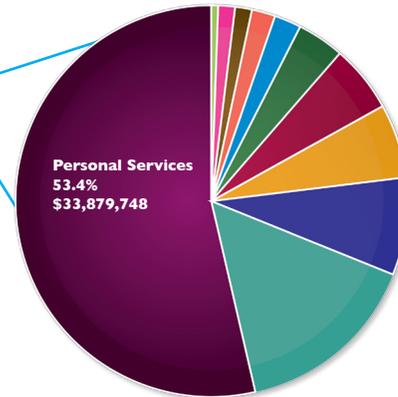
FISCAL INFORMATION

GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES

- University & Community Colleges 8.8%
\$266,014,980
- Corrections 5.3%
\$159,838,115
- Administrative & Financial Services 4%
\$121,445,364
- Treasurer of the State 2.8%
\$83,914,018
- Natural Resources 2.3%
\$68,290,197
- JUDICIAL BRANCH 2.1%
\$63,388,200**
- Atty. General & Public Safety 1.3%
\$39,376,053
- General Government 0.9%
\$28,165,459
- Legislature 0.9%
\$26,614,736
- Other 0.9%
\$26,013,956



STATEWIDE GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES, FY'09
Total: \$3,019,800,023



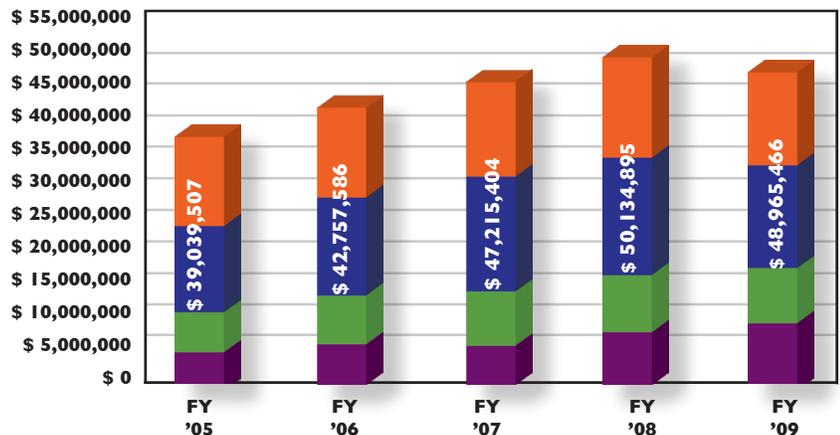
JUDICIAL BRANCH GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES FY'09
Total: \$63,388,200

- Indigent Defense Costs 15.2%
\$9,653,189
- Debt Service 8.2%
\$5,221,560
- Facilities 6.1%
\$3,839,747
- Miscellaneous Operations 5.6%
\$3,560,469
- Guardians Ad Litem 3.9%
\$2,465,983
- Sheriff & Security Contracts 2%
\$1,295,402
- Postage, Print & Office Supplies 1.9%
\$1,200,407
- Psychological Exams 1.5%
\$960,552
- Telecommunications 1.4%
\$890,124
- Jury Costs 0.7%
\$421,019

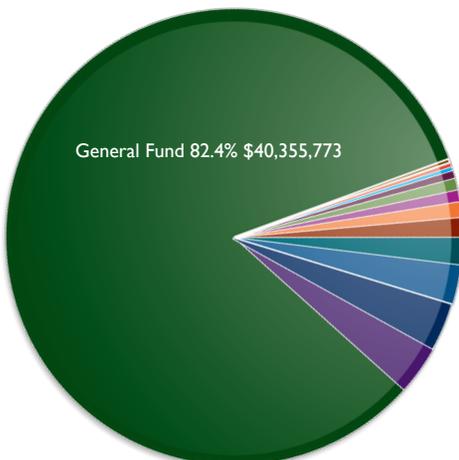
REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

In FY'09, revenue collection declined for the first time in decades; 2.3% less than was collected in FY'08.

	FY '05	FY '06	FY '07	FY '08	FY '09
Traffic Fines	\$13,684,913	\$13,900,526	\$14,795,496	\$15,339,081	\$14,276,283
Court Fines	\$13,250,059	\$15,073,730	\$17,882,826	\$17,930,434	\$15,845,961
Surcharges	\$6,171,874	\$7,514,573	\$8,408,300	\$8,770,421	\$8,455,336
Fees	\$5,932,661	\$6,268,757	\$6,128,782	\$8,094,959	\$10,387,886
TOTALS	\$39,039,507	\$42,757,586	\$47,215,404	\$50,134,895	\$48,965,466



REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



- Civil Legal Services Fund 3.8% \$1,856,343
- Highway Fund 3.6% \$1,784,474
- Crim. Justice Academy 2.5% \$1,221,318
- County Jail Fund 2.0% \$977,921
- Inland Fish & Wildlife 1.2% \$591,570
- Victim's Compensation 1.1% \$538,349
- Ct. Appt. Counsel Reimb. 1.0% \$506,497
- Mediation 1.0% \$479,369
- Publications Fund 0.8% \$369,060
- Miscellaneous 0.2% \$120,294
- Local Ordinances 0.2% \$109,409
- Tobacco Enforcement 0.1% \$55,088

Revenue collected by the Judicial Branch is deposited into the State's General Fund and to other dedicated accounts. Sources of revenue include fees, fines, and surcharges.

FY'09 Revenue Distribution
Total: \$48,965,466

COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

REGION 5

CASE TOTAL 21,028
 CLEARANCE RATE97%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....165,612
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 7

PENOBSCOT

Bangor Superior.....1,727
 Bangor District.....12,147
 Newport District.....2,562
 Lincoln District.....1,513
 Millinocket District.....1,092

PISCATAQUIS

Dover-Foxcroft Superior.....116
 Dover-Foxcroft District.....1,871

REGION 4

CASE TOTAL 20,753
 CLEARANCE RATE97%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....172,336
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 6

SOMERSET

Skowhegan Superior.....624
 Skowhegan District.....5,405

KENNEBEC

Augusta Superior.....1,527
 Augusta District.....7,419
 Waterville District.....5,778

REGION 3

CASE TOTAL 23,290
 CLEARANCE RATE96.2%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....193,475
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 7

FRANKLIN

Farmington Superior.....458
 Farmington District.....3,027

OXFORD

South Paris Superior.....696
 South Paris District.....2,361
 Rumford District.....2,294

ANDROSCOGGIN

Auburn Superior.....1,738
 Lewiston District.....12,716

REGION 2

CASE TOTAL 28,423
 CLEARANCE RATE99.0%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....276,047
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 2

CUMBERLAND

Portland Superior.....4,560
 Portland District.....19,977
 Bridgton District.....3,886

REGION 1

CASE TOTAL 23,543
 CLEARANCE RATE94.8%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....201,686
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 4

YORK

Alfred Superior.....3,559
 Biddeford District.....9,723
 Springvale District.....5,328
 York District.....4,933

REGION 8

CASE TOTAL 8,691
 CLEARANCE RATE95.6%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....71,676
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 5

AROOSTOOK

Caribou/Houlton Superior.....1,045
 Caribou District.....1,647
 Houlton District.....1,779
 Presque Isle District.....2,760
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District...1,460

REGION 7

CASE TOTAL 8,936
 CLEARANCE RATE94.1%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....85,636
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 3

HANCOCK

Ellsworth Superior.....460
 Ellsworth District.....4,839

WASHINGTON

Machias Superior.....378
 Machias District.....1,749
 Calais District.....1,510

REGION 6

CASE TOTAL 16,343
 CLEARANCE RATE100.2%
 REGIONAL POPULATION.....149,988
 COURT LOCATIONS..... 6

WALDO

Belfast Superior.....501
 Belfast District.....3,005

KNOX

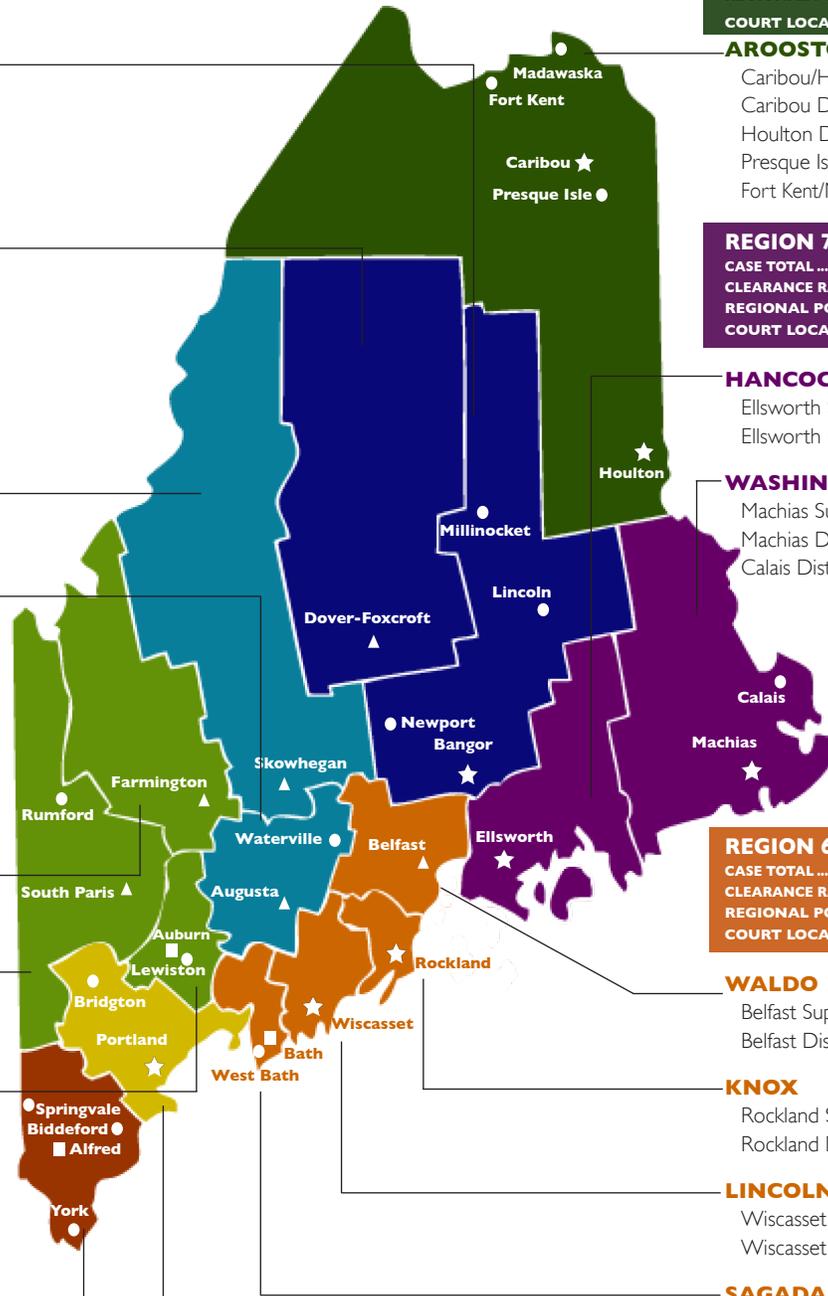
Rockland Superior.....465
 Rockland District.....3,460

LINCOLN

Wiscasset Superior.....374
 Wiscasset District.....2,572

SAGadahoc

Bath Superior.....439
 West Bath District.....5,527



KEY

- District Court
- Superior Court
- ▲ District and Superior in the same city/town.
- ★ District and Superior Court occupy the same building.

Counties grouped together by color are part of a single court **REGION**, where resources and scheduling are coordinated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the Court's web page at www.courts.state.me.us where you'll find:

- PUBLICATIONS: *A Guide to Small Claims* • *A Guide to Protection from Abuse and Harassment* *Citizens Guide to the Courts* • *Child Protective Handbooks*
- INFORMATION about court proceedings and offices
- LINKS to legal resources, volunteer opportunities, court rules, forms and opinions

An expanded version of this report is available at www.courts.state.me.us/annual_reports/index.shtml

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
 PO Box 4820
 Portland, ME 04112-4820
 (207) 822-0792
 (207) 822-0701 (TTY)

TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS:
 Total: 140,580



* Population Statistics source: US Census Bureau

** CLEARANCE RATE is determined by dividing the number of cases disposed by the number of cases filed. It is a measure of the court's ability to keep up with its workload.