



**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.

## MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE



POPULATION SERVED ..... 1,318,301  
 GEOGRAPHIC AREA ..... 35,387 sq. mi.  
 COURT LOCATIONS ..... 39



**FY'10 EXPENDITURES:**  
 Judicial Branch Operations ..... \$50,156,729  
 Indigent Legal Services ..... \$9,857,048  
 Debt Services ..... \$6,721,155  
**TOTAL \$66,734,932**



**FY'10 REVENUE:**  
 Deposited to Maine's General Fund ..... \$38,709,401  
 Dedicated Revenue Accounts ..... \$9,208,867  
**TOTAL \$47,918,268**



JUDGES (Total) ..... 60  
 Supreme Judicial Court Justices ..... 7  
 Superior Court Justices ..... 17  
 District Court Judges ..... 36

FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES ..... 8  
 STAFF (clerks, security & support) ..... 431.5\*

**TOTAL 2010 CASES FILED** ..... 286,251  
 Supreme Judicial Court ..... 684  
 Superior Court ..... 17,560  
 Unified Criminal Dockets ..... 11,735  
 District Court ..... 120,898  
 Violations Bureau ..... 135,374

\* FY'10 legislative position count was 503. Adjustments made by the JB eliminated 3.5 positions.

## CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS COURT FOCUSES ON JUSTICE FOR HIGH RISK DEFENDANTS



The Staff of the Co-Occurring Disorders Court

The State of Maine is one of few states in the nation to implement a problem-solving court that specifically targets adult criminal defendants with serious and persistent mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorders. Maine's only Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC) constitutes the "last turn" in the revolving door of multiple incarcerations, psychiatric admissions, and treatment for substance abuse. The CODC, based at the Kennebec County Superior Courthouse, combines close judicial monitoring, specialized assessment and treatment, case management, incentives or sanctions depending on participation, and frequent drug and alcohol testing. It has become well known throughout the State of Maine as an effective and highly respected resource for high risk and high need nonviolent offenders.

## FORECLOSURE DIVERSION MEDIATION PROGRAM PROVIDES FORUM FOR HOMEOWNERS & LENDERS



© Bangor Daily News Photo By John Clarke Russ

Cathy McKelway, a H.U.D. certified housing counselor, provides advice to struggling homeowners on foreclosure mediation during a foreclosure diversion informational session at the Penobscot Judicial Center.

The 124th Legislature authorized the creation of a Foreclosure Diversion Mediation Program to provide the parties in certain foreclosure actions the opportunity to participate in court sponsored mediation. Building upon the lessons learned from a summer 2009 pilot project in York County, the Court implemented a statewide foreclosure mediation service that began operating on January 1, 2010.

During the first year of statewide operation, the program trained and certified 71 mediators and conducted 1,243 mediations. Of the cases that concluded mediation in 2010, 21% reached a settlement agreement and 98 foreclosure actions were dismissed. Loan modifications accounted for nearly two-thirds (63%) of the dismissals. Overall, the experience revealed that the agreements that lead to the dismissal of the foreclosure require months of negotiation by the parties. One of the most common results of the mediation process was a request by the parties for more time to gather information and to evaluate settlement possibilities. The program will continue to monitor its progress and impact on the parties and the docket.

## INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES TRANSFERRED FROM JUDICIAL BRANCH TO INDEPENDENT COMMISSION

Legislation passed during the first session of the 124th Maine Legislature enacted 4 M.R.S. Chapter 37, establishing the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services.

An independent statutory entity, the Commission is empowered to provide legal representation at state expense to indigent persons, consistent with federal and state constitutional and statutory obligations.

The Commission was charged with developing standards for the delivery of indigent legal services and establishing and maintaining a system to provide quality and efficient indigent legal services.

### The Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

*"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a **speedy** and **public** trial, by an **impartial** jury of the **State and district** wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be **confronted** with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the **Assistance of Counsel** for his defence."*

# THE COURTS OF MAINE

## SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



From Left to Right: Justice Ellen A. Gorman, Justice Warren M. Silver, Justice Donald G. Alexander, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, Justice Jon D. Levy, Justice Andrew M. Mead and Justice Joseph M. Jabar

## TRIAL COURT LEADERSHIP



From Left to Right: THOMAS E. HUMPHREY, Chief Justice, Superior Court; CHARLES C. LAVERDIERE, Chief Judge, District Court; LEIGH I. SAUFLEY, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court; ROBERT E. MULLEN, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court; and TED GLESSNER, State Court Administrator

## TRIAL COURT CASE FILINGS FY'10

The Trial Courts serve the citizens of Maine at seventeen Superior Courts and thirty-one District Courts throughout the state. Seventeen Superior Court justices and thirty-six District Court judges hear civil, criminal, family, juvenile, and domestic violence disputes.

On a daily basis, the judges, family law magistrates, clerks and support staff of the Trial Courts work to accomplish the mission of the Judicial Branch: *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.*



Justice Jeffrey L. Hjelm presiding.

### CIVIL FILINGS: 42,323

|                 | SUPERIOR | DISTRICT |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Contract        | 515      | 11,019   |
| Foreclosure     | 1,389    | 3,778    |
| Tort            | 983      | 131      |
| Other Civil     | 1,528    | 1,356    |
| Small Claims    |          | 11,260   |
| Money Judgments |          | 5,647    |
| FEDs (Eviction) |          | 4,717    |

### DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION: 26,114

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Juvenile               | 3,622 |
| Divorce                | 6,774 |
| Other Family Relations | 2,473 |
| Family Post-Judgment   | 6,258 |
| Child Protective       | 708   |
| Protection from Abuse  | 6,279 |

### OTHER DISTRICT COURT ACTIONS: 19,568

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Mental Health              | 997    |
| Protection from Harassment | 4,223  |
| Civil Violations           | 14,348 |

### VIOLATIONS BUREAU

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Traffic Infractions | 135,374 |
|---------------------|---------|

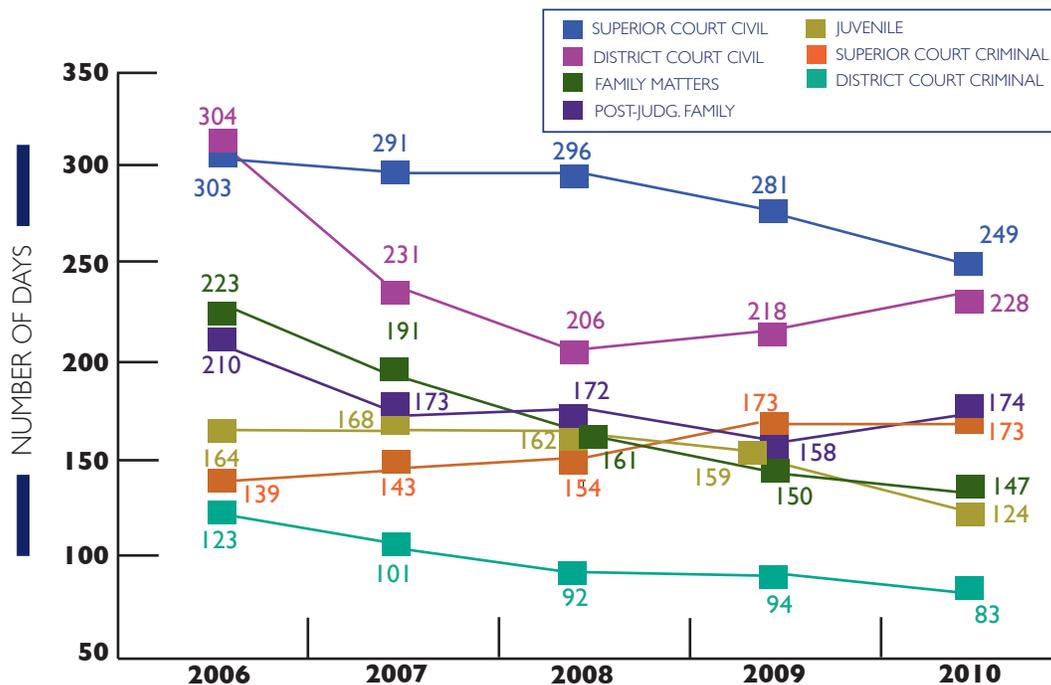
### CRIMINAL FILINGS: 62,188

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| District Court                  | 36,606 |
| Dist. Ct. Probation Revocations | 702    |
| Superior Court                  | 10,011 |
| Sup. Ct. Probation Revocations  | 3,134  |
| Unified Criminal Dockets        | 11,504 |
| UCD Probation Revocations       | 231    |

## TIME TO RESOLUTION OF CASES

Coordinated regional scheduling, implemented in the trial courts in 2004, has greatly reduced the time it takes to dispose of the most urgent cases – those dealing with violence, children, and families. For example, as illustrated by this graph, the average age of pending family cases has decreased significantly, from 223 days in 2006 to 147 days in 2010.

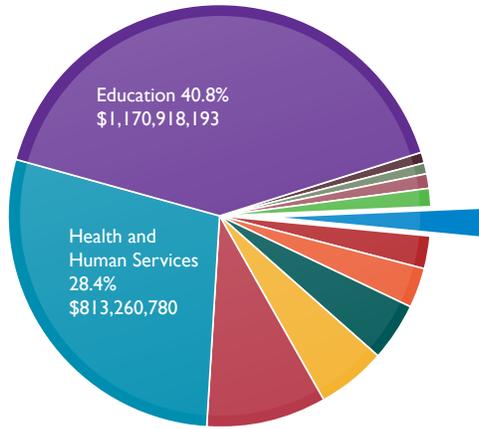
Data provided in this graph illustrates the average number of days from filing date, for all cases that are open on June 30 each year.



# FISCAL INFORMATION

## GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES

- Other 0.8%  
\$24,033,722
- Legislature 0.8%  
\$23,477,385
- General Government 0.9%  
\$25,748,206
- Atty. General & Public Safety 1.5%  
\$42,980,882
- **JUDICIAL BRANCH 2.3%  
\$66,734,932\***
- Natural Resources 2.4%  
\$67,537,822
- Treasurer of the State 3.2%  
\$92,438,646
- Administrative & Financial Services 4.2%  
\$119,589,557
- Corrections 5.5%  
\$157,939,386
- University & Community Colleges 9.1%  
\$261,774,007



**STATEWIDE GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES, FY'10**  
Total: \$2,866,433,518



**JUDICIAL BRANCH GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES FY'10**  
Total: \$66,734,932

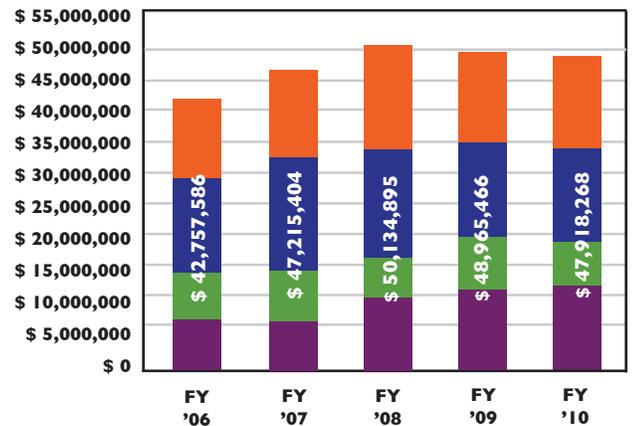
- Jury Costs 0.7%  
\$475,899
- Telecommunications 1.2%  
\$809,358
- Postage, Print & Office Supplies 1.5%  
\$1,027,992
- Sheriff & Security Contracts 2.3%  
\$1,500,634
- Guardians Ad Litem & Mental Health Psych Exams 5.0%  
\$3,325,827
- Facilities 5.7%  
\$3,815,869
- Miscellaneous Operations 6.4%  
\$4,270,192
- Debt Service 10.1%  
\$6,721,155
- Indigent Defense Costs 14.8%  
\$9,857,048

\*Total General Funds received by Judicial Branch in FY'10 included funding to pay for indigent defense (\$9,857,048). Net expenditures for Judicial Branch operations, including debt service, were \$56,877,884, just 1.98% of total state General Fund expenditures in FY'10.

## REVENUE COLLECTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

Total revenue collected by the Judicial Branch declined by approximately 2% for the second year in a row, after reaching an historic high in FY'08.

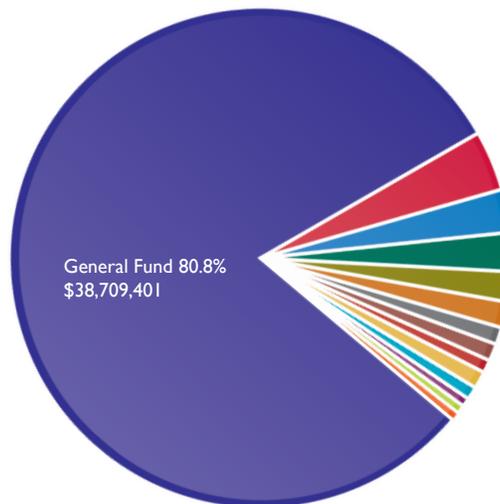
|                      | FY '06               | FY '07               | FY '08               | FY '09              | FY '10              |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Traffic Fines</b> | \$13,900,526         | \$14,795,496         | \$15,339,081         | \$14,276,283        | \$14,021,155        |
| <b>Court Fines</b>   | \$15,073,730         | \$17,882,826         | \$17,930,434         | \$15,845,961        | \$15,096,534        |
| <b>Surcharges</b>    | \$7,514,573          | \$8,408,300          | \$8,770,421          | \$8,455,336         | \$8,089,914         |
| <b>Fees</b>          | \$6,268,757          | \$6,128,782          | \$8,094,959          | \$10,387,886        | \$10,710,665        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>        | <b>\$ 42,757,586</b> | <b>\$ 47,215,404</b> | <b>\$ 50,134,895</b> | <b>\$48,965,466</b> | <b>\$47,918,268</b> |



## REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

**FY'10 Revenue Distribution**  
Total: \$47,918,268

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



- Civil Legal Services Fund 3.9% \$1,863,129
- Highway Fund 3.0% \$1,439,914
- Criminal Justice Academy 2.4% \$1,156,837
- County Jail Fund 1.9% \$922,165
- Foreclosure Mediation Fee 1.8% \$867,345
- Ct. Appt. Counsel Reimb. 1.1% \$513,199
- Victim's Compensation 1.0% \$498,394
- Inland Fish & Wildlife 1.0% \$476,164
- Mediation 1.0% \$472,469
- Publications Fund 0.8% \$365,652
- Judicial Branch Capital Account 0.6% \$300,000
- Miscellaneous 0.5% \$236,023
- Local Ordinances 0.2% \$97,576

# COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

**REGION 5**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 19,495  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....166,214  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 6

**PENOBSCOT**

Bangor Superior.....1,378  
 Penobscot UCD.....2,357  
 Bangor District.....9,470  
 Newport District.....2,296  
 Lincoln District.....1,410  
 Millinocket District.....877

**PISCATAQUIS**

Dover-Foxcroft Superior.....136  
 Dover-Foxcroft District.....1,707

**REGION 4**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 21,308  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....172,037  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 6

**SOMERSET**

Skowhegan Superior.....853  
 Skowhegan District.....5,549

**KENNEBEC**

Augusta Superior.....1,854  
 Augusta District.....7,419  
 Waterville District.....5,633

**REGION 3**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 23,871  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....192,518  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 7

**FRANKLIN**

Farmington Superior.....455  
 Farmington District.....2,942

**OXFORD**

South Paris Superior.....844  
 South Paris District.....2,540  
 Rumford District.....2,326

**ANDROSCOGGIN**

Auburn Superior.....1,971  
 Lewiston District.....12,793

**REGION 2**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 26,631  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....278,559  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 2

**CUMBERLAND**

Portland Superior.....1,578  
 Cumberland UCD.....9,378  
 Portland District.....12,304  
 Bridgton District.....3,371

**REGION 1**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 23,605  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....201,876  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 4

**YORK**

Alfred Superior.....3,967  
 Biddeford District.....9,770  
 Springvale District.....5,747  
 York District.....4,121

**REGION 8**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 8,389  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....71,488  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 5

**AROOSTOOK**

Caribou/Houlton Superior.....1,140  
 Caribou District.....1,543  
 Houlton District.....1,699  
 Presque Isle District.....2,621  
 Fort Kent/Madawaska District...1,386

**REGION 7**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 9,255  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....85,554  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 3

**HANCOCK**

Ellsworth Superior.....540  
 Ellsworth District.....4,971

**WASHINGTON**

Machias Superior.....437  
 Machias District.....1,811  
 Calais District.....1,496

**REGION 6**  
**CASE TOTAL** ..... 17,531  
**REGIONAL POPULATION**.....150,055  
**COURT FACILITIES** ..... 6

**WALDO**

Belfast Superior.....541  
 Belfast District.....3,235

**KNOX**

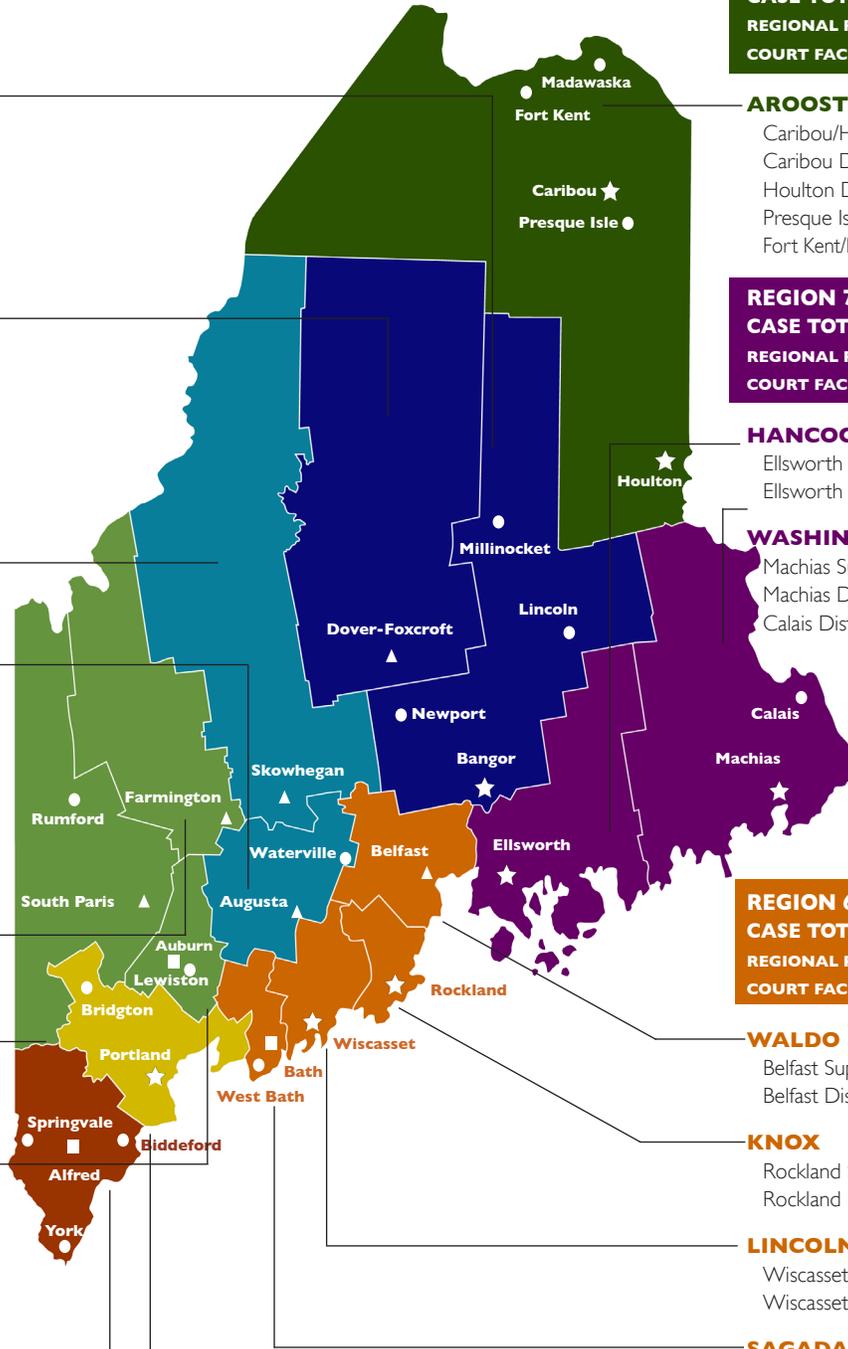
Rockland Superior.....626  
 Rockland District.....3,896

**LINCOLN**

Wiscasset Superior.....672  
 Wiscasset District.....2,780

**SAGADAHOC**

Bath Superior.....568  
 West Bath District.....5,213



**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](http://www.courts.state.me.us) where you will 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/main\\_courts/annual\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.courts.state.me.us/main_courts/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: 135,374

\* In FY'10, 28 Child Protective cases that were transferred between District Court locations are reported as filings at the receiving court locations, but are not added to the State total of new cases filed.

\*\* Population Statistics source: US Census Bureau