MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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 OF MAINE 1,328,188
GEOGRAPHIC AREA ..... 30,843 sq. mi.
COURT LOCATIONS 38

FY'12 EXPENDITURES:

Judicial Branch Operations $45,228,269
- Personal Services $33,173,478
- All Other Operation Expenses $12,054,791

Guardians ad Litem, Psychological Exams $2,915,799
Debt Service $5,812,242
% of State General Fund 1.7%

TOTAL: $53,956,310

FY'12 REVENUE:

Deposited to Maine's General Fund $32,225,057
Deposited to Dedicated Revenue Accounts $8,412,202

TOTAL: $40,637,259

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

FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES 8
STAFF (clerks, security & support) 423.5

TOTAL: 491.5

** FY'12 legislative position count was 493. Adjustments made by the JB eliminated 1.5 positions.*

TOTAL 2012 CASES FILED 243,385
- Supreme Judicial Court 675
- Superior Court 15,705
- Unified Criminal Dockets 17,197
- District Court 107,894
- Violations Bureau 101,914

IMPROVED COURTHOUSE SAFETY

With the support of the Governor and the Legislature, the last budget included an increase for courthouse entry screening. As a result, entry screening takes place on nearly 50% of all days in the Maine Courts. Maine Courts are not yet secure every day of the week, but FY '12 saw a major improvement in courthouse security.

Entry screening at the West Bath District Courthouse.

ELECTRONIC WARRANTS

In the spring of 2012, the Courts, along with Maine law enforcement, converted from paper warrants to electronic warrants. Although an invisible change to most Maine people, electronic warrants significantly improve public safety, as warrants are issued and returned, or recalled, electronically and instantaneously.

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE RENOVATED

The packed hallway at the District Court in Dover-Foxcroft prior to renovations.

© Alex Barber-from Bangor Daily News

The courtroom in the recently renovated Piscataquis County Courthouse in Dover-Foxcroft.

With 14 courthouses that are over 100 years old, and another 8 that are 50 years old or older, the Judicial Branch is challenged to renovate or replace aging, unsafe, and inefficient courthouses across the state. In 2012, the Piscataquis County Courthouse renovation was completed on time and under budget. The renovation resulted in the closure of the unsafe "farmhouse" style building that served as the District Court, and transformation of the Superior Court courthouse into a safe and secure, modern, efficient, and physically accessible building, while maintaining the architectural significance of the 1886 courthouse.

THE NEW SERVICE CENTER: IMPROVED PUBLIC SERVICE & GREATER EFFICIENCY

Maine court clerks receive approximately half a million telephone calls a year, in addition to all of their other work at the courthouses. Because the calls are received in busy courthouses, they cannot always be answered quickly or completely. To improve that aspect of public service, the Judicial Branch Service Center Pilot Project was created to receive and answer questions by phone, with the goal of answering the public's calls quickly and completely.

The pilot began in 2012, without additional funding, through the repurposing of existing positions. The Service Center staff receive all incoming court calls in Judicial & Prosecutorial Region 3 - Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties. In the first few months of operation, 70% of all calls were successfully handled by the Service Center, and only 30% required further assistance from the Clerks' Offices. Public service by phone has been greatly improved, and the clerks' ability to provide uninterrupted public service in the courthouses has increased dramatically. The public response has been excellent, and further expansion of the Service Center is planned in the upcoming year.

THE COURTS OF MAINE

SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT

© Kevin Bruse

Front Row: Justice Donald G. Alexander, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, Justice Jon D. Levy

Back Row: Justice Ellen A. Gorman, Justice Warren M. Silver, Justice Andrew M. Mead, Justice Joseph M. Jabar

CHIEFS

© Michael C. York

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

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

From Left to Right: **LAURA M. O'HANLON,** *Chief of Court Management;* **TED GLESSNER,** *State Court Administrator;* **DEBORAH CARSON,** *Chief of Finance and Administration*

TRIAL COURT CASE FILINGS FY'12 TOTAL: 242,710

CRIMINAL FILINGS: 57,355

District Court Criminal	31,116
District Ct. Probation Revocations	387
Superior Court Criminal	8,969
Super. Ct. Probation Revocations	2,594
Unified Criminal Dockets	13,622
UCD Probation Revocations	667

DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION: 25,999

Juvenile	3,136
Divorce	6,428
Other Family Matters	2,824
Family Post-Judgment	6,500
Child Protective	861
Protection from Abuse	6,250

CIVIL FILINGS: 39,360

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT
Contract	473	6,828
Foreclosure	1,405	3,044
Tort	905	134
Other Civil	1,359	956
Small Claims		14,747
Money Judgments		4,157
FEDs (Eviction)		5,352
TOTAL(S):	**4,142**	**35,218**

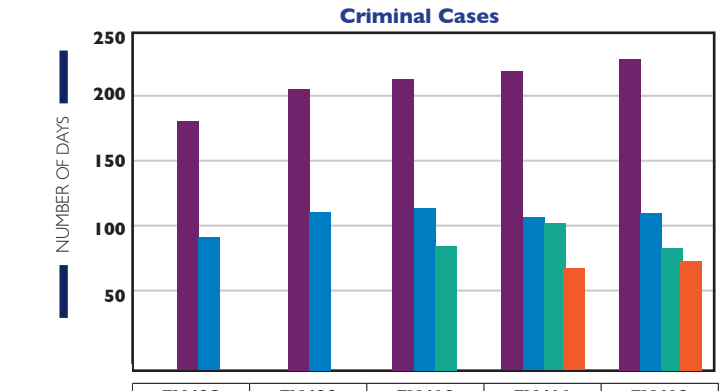
OTHER ACTIONS: 18,082

Mental Health (District Court)	1,024
Protection from Harassment (District Court)	4,100
Civil Violations (District Court & UCDs)	12,958

VIOLATIONS BUREAU

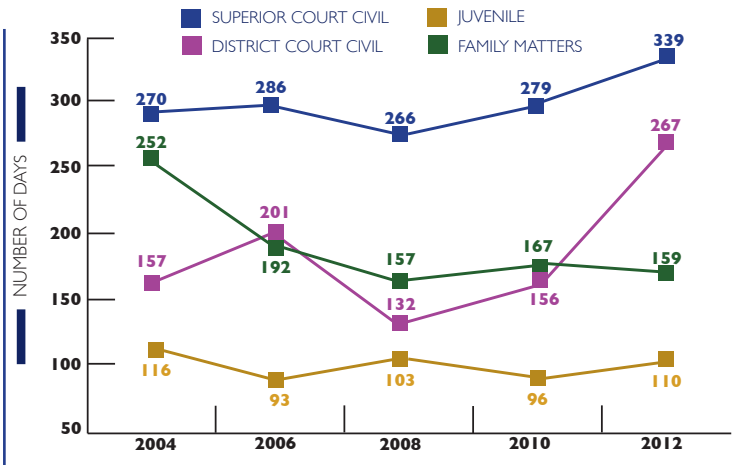
Traffic Infractions	101,914

TIME TO RESOLUTION OF CASES



	FY '08	FY '09	FY '10	FY '11	FY '12
Superior Court Criminal	179	205	219	229	237
District Court Criminal	93	109	110	113	115
Portland UCD			84	101	84
Bangor UCD				68	76

The trial courts in Portland and Bangor have adopted a unified process for criminal cases and have eliminated the need for transferring cases from District to Superior Court. This model has simplified procedures for litigants and stakeholders, has eliminated duplication of work by clerks, and has substantially reduced the time for felony resolution.

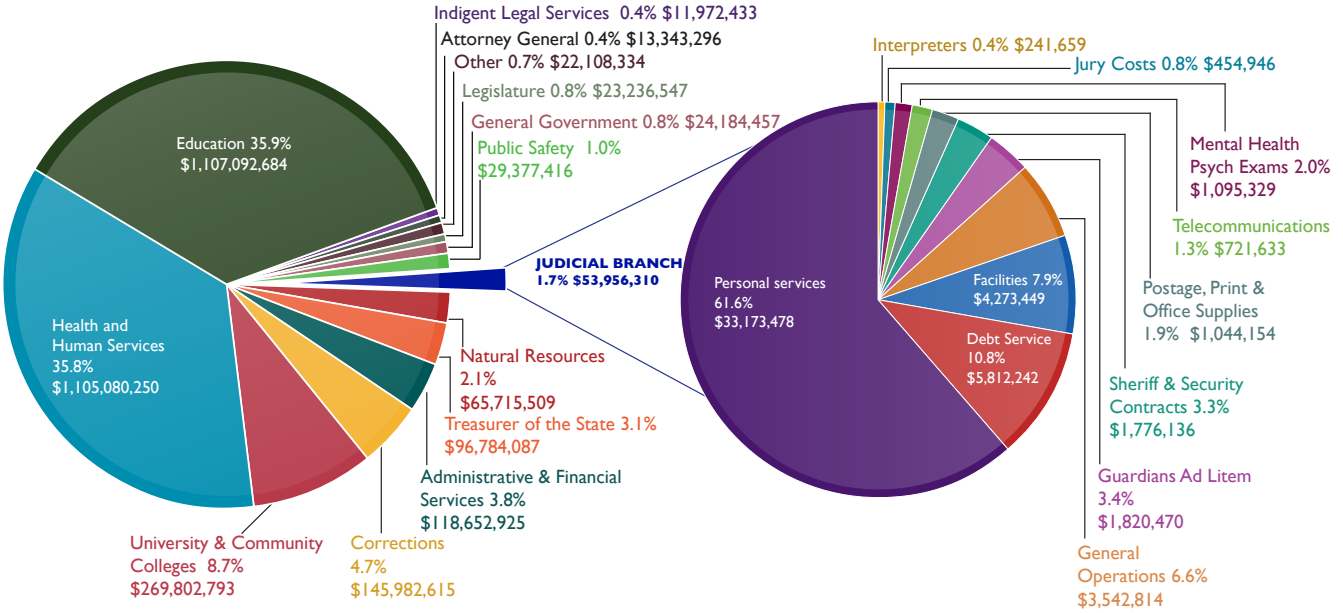


Coordinated regional scheduling has greatly reduced the time it takes to dispose of the most critical cases -- those dealing with violence, children, and families.

The processing of civil cases, however, has slowed because of the increased volume of cases associated with the economic downturn, (foreclosures, credit card and collection cases); increased volume of complex and multi-party litigation; changing processing requirements; and substantial judicial and clerk vacancies.

FISCAL INFORMATION

GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES

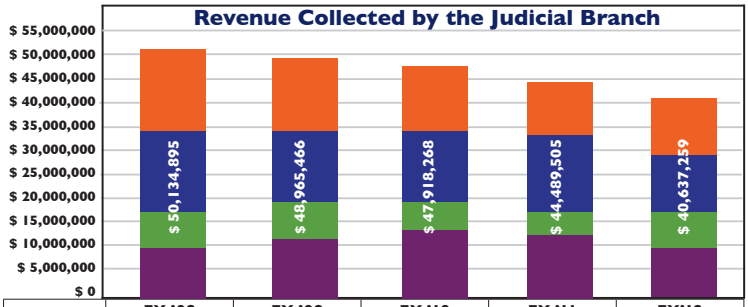


STATEWIDE GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES, FY'12
Total: $3,087,289,656

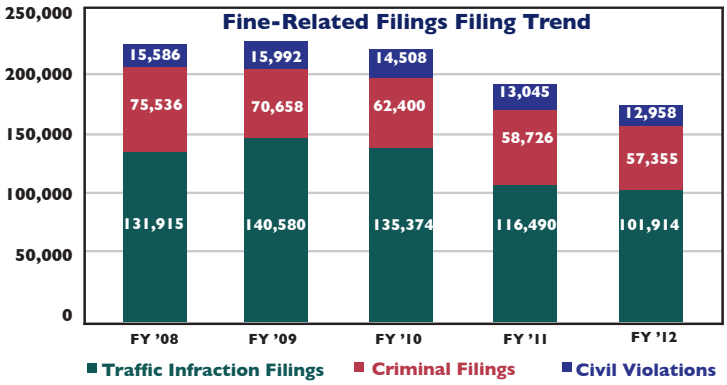
JUDICIAL BRANCH GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES FY'12
Total: $53,956,310

In FY'12, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were less than 2% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (61.5%) of Judicial Branch expenditures.

FY'12 REVENUE



	FY '08	FY '09	FY '10	FY '11	FY'12
Traffic Fines	$15,339,081	$14,276,283	$14,021,155	$12,245,878	$10,822,640
Court Fines	$17,930,434	$15,845,961	$15,096,534	$14,394,383	$13,610,238
Surcharges	$8,770,421	$8,455,336	$8,089,914	$7,361,827	$6,624,443
Fees	$8,094,959	$10,387,886	$10,710,665	$10,487,417	$9,579,938
TOTALS	**$ 50,134,895**	**$48,965,466**	**$47,918,268**	**$44,489,505**	**$40,637,259**

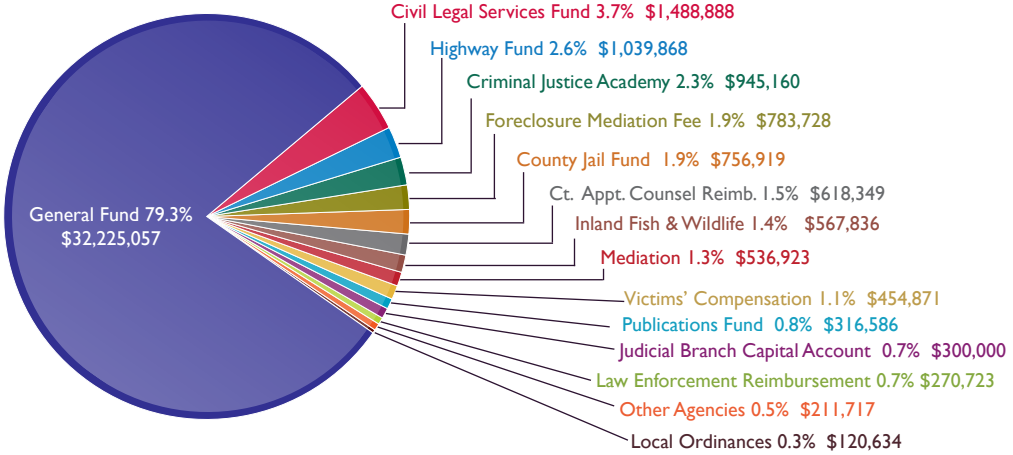


After reaching a record high in FY'08, fine and related surcharge revenue has decreased in recent years. A primary cause for the reduction is the decline in the number of criminal cases, civil violations, and traffic infractions filed in the courts, as illustrated by the chart above.

REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

FY'12 Revenue Distribution
Total: $40,637,259

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



COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

REGION 5
CASE TOTAL 18,694
REGIONAL POPULATION.....171,205*
COURT FACILITIES 5

PENOBSCOT 3,397 square miles
- Bangor Superior.....553
- Penobscot UCD.....6,347
- Bangor District.....5,540
- Newport District.....2,303
- Lincoln/Millinocket District...2,280

PISCATAQUIS 3,961 square miles
- Dover-Foxcroft Superior.....154
- Dover-Foxcroft District.....1,517

REGION 4
CASE TOTAL 19,456
REGIONAL POPULATION.....173,963*
COURT FACILITIES 6

SOMERSET 3,924 square miles
- Skowhegan Superior.....795
- Skowhegan District.....4,937

KENNEBEC 868 square miles
- Augusta Superior.....1,836
- Augusta District.....6,636
- Waterville District.....5,252

REGION 3
CASE TOTAL 22,301
REGIONAL POPULATION.....195,839*
COURT FACILITIES 7

FRANKLIN 1,697 square miles
- Farmington Superior.....366
- Farmington District.....2,750

OXFORD 2,077 square miles
- South Paris Superior.....787
- South Paris District.....2,399
- Rumford District.....2,306

ANDROSCOGGIN 468 square miles
- Auburn Superior.....2,138
- Lewiston District.....11,555

REGION 2
CASE TOTAL 25,134
REGIONAL POPULATION.....282,401*
COURT FACILITIES 2

CUMBERLAND 835 square miles
- Portland Superior.....1,073
- Cumberland UCD.....10,850
- Portland District.....9,706
- Bridgton District.....3,505

REGION 1
CASE TOTAL 21,814
REGIONAL POPULATION.....198,199*
COURT FACILITIES 4

YORK 991 square miles
- Alfred Superior.....3,765
- Biddeford District.....8,699
- Springvale District.....5,649
- York District.....3,701

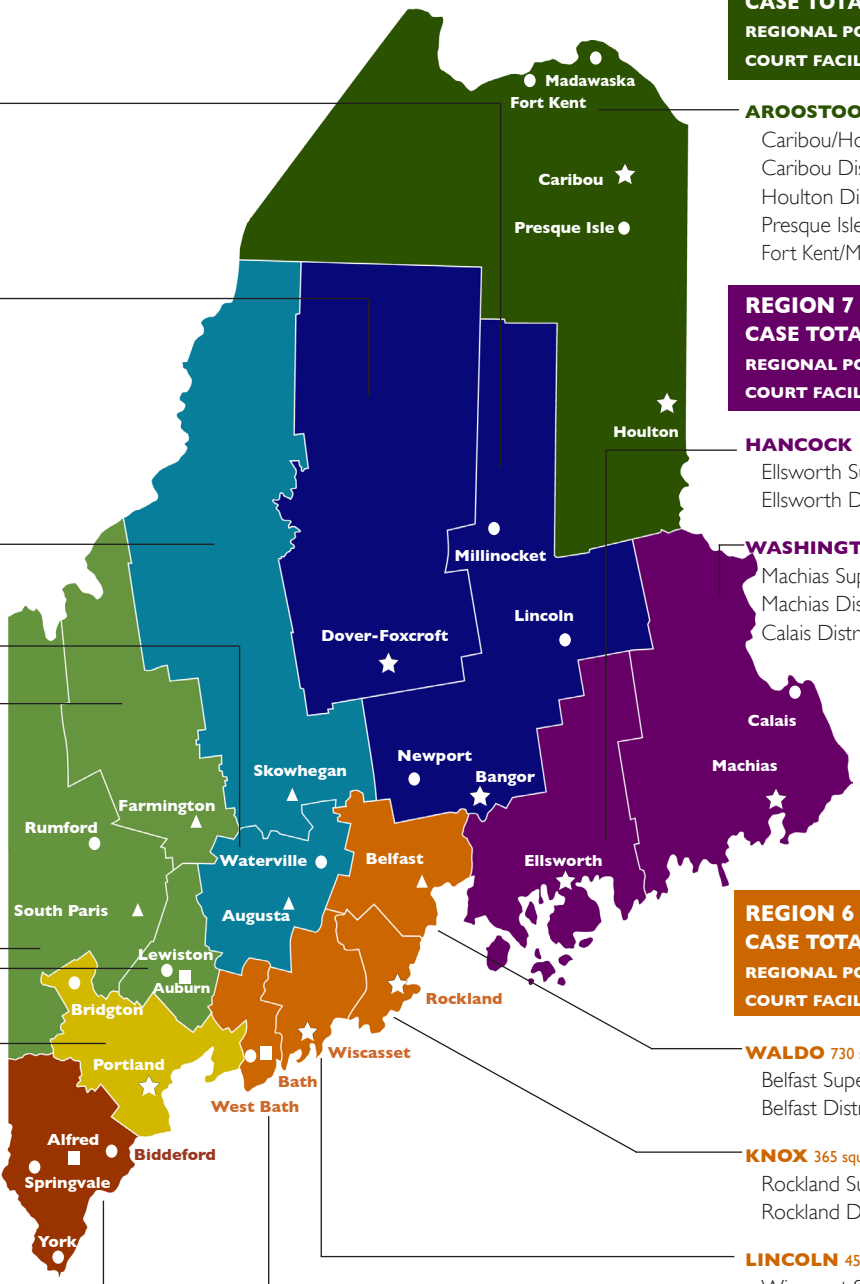
REGION 8
CASE TOTAL 8,240
REGIONAL POPULATION.....71,482*
COURT FACILITIES 5

AROOSTOOK 6,671 square miles
- Caribou/Houlton Superior.....1,157
- Caribou District.....1,555
- Houlton District.....1,567
- Presque Isle District.....2,608
- Fort Kent/Madawaska District...1,353

REGION 7
CASE TOTAL 8,365
REGIONAL POPULATION.....87,215*
COURT FACILITIES 3

HANCOCK 1,587 square miles
- Ellsworth Superior.....485
- Ellsworth District.....4,539

WASHINGTON 2,563 square miles
- Machias Superior.....432
- Machias District.....1,598
- Calais District.....1,311



REGION 6
CASE TOTAL 16,792
REGIONAL POPULATION.....147,884*
COURT FACILITIES 6

WALDO 730 square miles
- Belfast Superior.....466
- Belfast District.....3,026

KNOX 365 square miles
- Rockland Superior.....678
- Rockland District.....3,878

LINCOLN 456 square miles
- Wiscasset Superior.....562
- Wiscasset District.....2,492

SAGADAHOC 254 square miles
- Bath Superior.....458
- West Bath District.....5,232

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.

TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS:
Total: 101,914

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE
If You Are In Immediate Danger Call 9-1-1.
For information about Protection Orders visit
www.courts.state.me.us/maine_courts/district/protection_orders.html

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
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Visit the Court's web page at www.courts.state.me.us or scan the QR code below.

* *Population statistics and square mileage data source: US Census Bureau*