



1982

Rhode Island Report on the Judiciary 1980-1982

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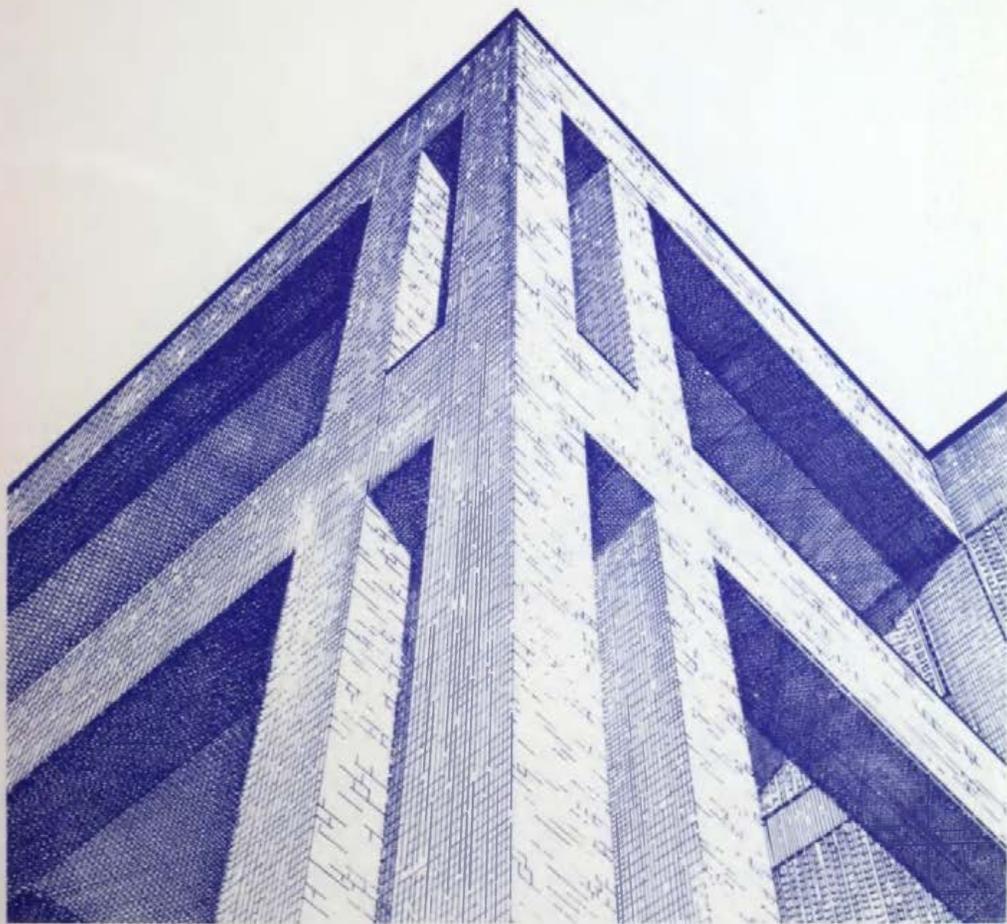
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STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND
REPORT ON THE JUDICIARY



1980-1982





TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF
THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

This ninth report on the judiciary has been produced by the Administrative Office of State Courts. During the period covered in the report the courts have made progress in several areas. Among these, major improvements to court facilities, the achievement of speedy trial goals, and the work of several study committees stand out as examples of what has been achieved.

In 1981 construction was completed on the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex. This is the first new courthouse constructed in the state in over 50 years, and it was completed under the approved budget and ahead of schedule. In addition, plans have just been approved for major renovations to the Providence County Courthouse. This courthouse is an historically significant building, and it is an important architectural feature of the college hill area. However, it has deteriorated badly and requires major repairs. In addition, plans have also been approved for construction of a new courthouse in Washington County. These three major construction projects have been possible with funds from the Public Building Authority.

Another important achievement has been in the reduction of delay in criminal and civil cases. In 1980 both the Family and District Courts reached their original goals for the disposition of juvenile and misdemeanor matters, and in 1981 both courts adopted even tighter timeframes for disposing of these cases. The Superior Court has also made significant gains in reducing the backlog of civil cases pending trial in Providence County.

Along with these achievements, several committees representing all state courts have been working to develop recommendations for improvements in other areas of court operations. An example is the Sentencing Study Committee, which has developed sentencing guidelines for certain types of felonies. These guidelines have been adopted as the sentencing policy of the Superior Court. Other committees have considered court evidence rules, use of court-appointed counsel, and media coverage of the courts.

This report describes many of the other programs of the state courts in addition to what I have highlighted above. I am proud of what we have achieved in our effort to serve the people of Rhode Island and the interests of justice.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Bevilacqua
Chief Justice, Supreme Court

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Pursuant to Chapter 8-15 of the Rhode Island General Laws as amended by Chapter 247 of the 1975 Public Laws, this report was prepared by the:

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

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This drawing from architect Robinson Green Beretta Corporation was prepared to show the Courts the design of the new courthouse to be built by the Public Building Authority. The building was completed in 1981, two months ahead of schedule and or less than the original \$16 million construction cost estimate. Dedication took place in August of 1981, and the building was named the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex.

final and subject to review only on writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court.

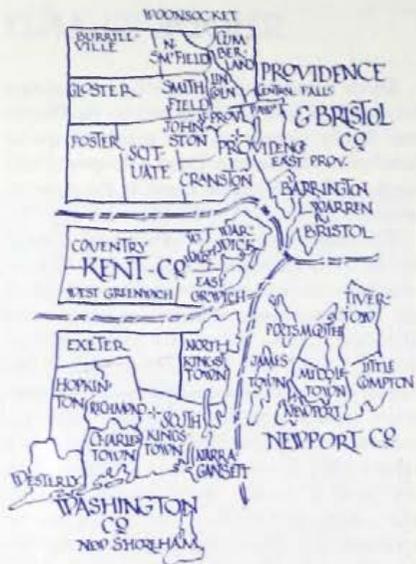
Since October 1976, the District Court has had jurisdiction over hearings on involuntary hospitalization under the mental health, drug abuse, and alcoholism laws. The District Court also has jurisdiction to hear appeals from the adjudicatory decisions of several regulatory agencies and boards. The court also has the power to order compliance with the subpoenas and rulings of the same agencies and boards. In 1977, this court's jurisdiction was again increased to include violations of state and local housing codes. District Court decisions in all these matters are only subject to review by the Supreme Court.

FAMILY COURT

The Family Court was created to focus special attention on individual and social problems concerning families and children. Consequently, its goals are to assist, protect, and, if possible, restore families whose unity or well-being is being threatened. This court is also charged with assuring that children within its jurisdiction receive the care, guidance, and control conducive to their welfare and the best interests of the state. Additionally, if children are removed from the control of their parents, the court seeks to secure for them care equivalent to that which their parents should have given them.

Reflecting these specific goals, the Family Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine all petitions for divorce from the bond of marriage and any motions in conjunction with divorce proceedings relating to the distribution of property, alimony, support, and the custody and support of children, petitions for separate maintenance, and complaints for support of parents and children. The Family Court also has jurisdiction over those matters relating to delinquent, wayward, dependent, neglected, abused or mentally defective or mentally disordered children. It also has jurisdiction over adoptions, child marriages, paternity proceedings, and a number of other matters involving domestic relations and juveniles.

Appeals from decisions of the Family Court are taken directly to the state Supreme Court.



Map of the State of Rhode Island showing the Superior and Family Courts

SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the state's trial court of general jurisdiction. It hears civil matters concerning claims in excess of \$5,000 and all equity proceedings. It also has original jurisdiction over all crimes and offenses except as otherwise provided by law. All indictments by grand juries and informations charged by the Department of Attorney General are returned to Superior Court, and all jury trials are held there. It has appellate jurisdiction over decisions of local probate and municipal courts. Except as specifically provided by statute, criminal and civil cases tried in the District Court can be brought to the Superior Court on appeal where they receive a trial de novo. In addition, there are numerous appeals and statutory proceedings, such as highway redevelopment and other land condemnation cases which are under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court. Concurrently with the Supreme Court, it has jurisdiction over

writs of *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, and certain other prerogative writs. Appeals from the Superior Court are heard by the Supreme Court.

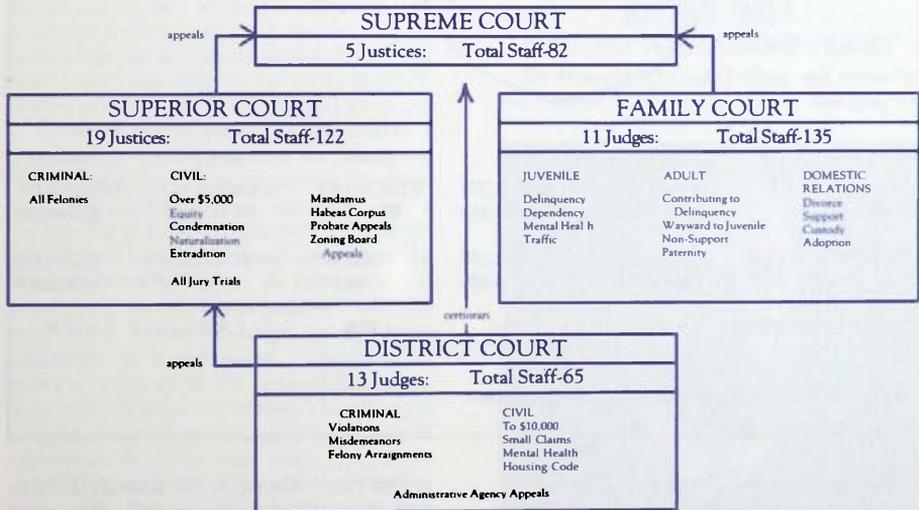
SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the state, and it not only has final advisory and appellate jurisdiction on questions of law and equity, but it also has supervisory powers over the other state courts. Its area of jurisdiction is statewide. It has general advisory responsibility to both the Legislative and Executive branches of the state government and passes upon the constitutionality of legislation. Another responsibility of the Supreme Court is the regulation of admission to the Bar and the discipline of its members.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court also serves as the executive head of the entire state court system. Acting in this capacity, he appoints

the State Court Administrator and the staff of the Administrative Office of the State Courts. This office performs personnel, fiscal, and purchasing functions for the state court system. In addition, the Administrative Office serves a wide range of management functions, including consolidated, long-range planning; the collection, analysis, and reporting of information on court caseloads and operations; the development and implementation of management improvement projects in specified areas; and the application for and administration of grants for the court system.

The State Law Library is also under the direction of the Supreme Court. This library provides an integrated legal reference system. Its primary responsibility is to provide reference materials and research services for judges and staff of all courts. However, it also serves the general community as the only exclusive law library in the state.



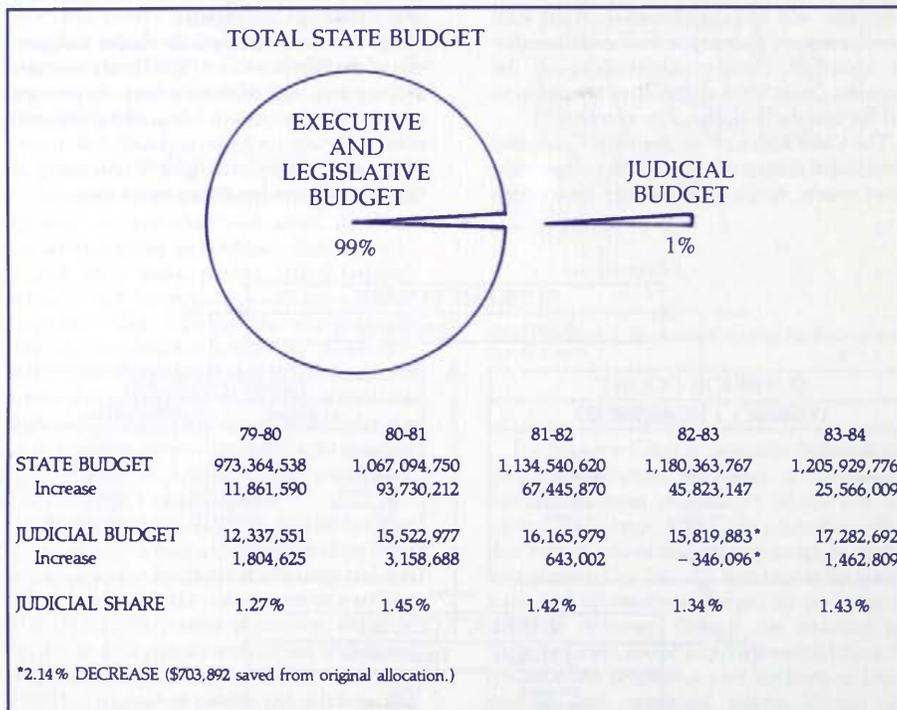
Staffing and jurisdictional organization of the Rhode Island Courts.

1980-1982 IN THE RHODE ISLAND COURTS

JUDICIAL BUDGET COMPARISON

The chart below compares the judicial budget with the total state budget for the last five fiscal years. For the first four years, actual expenditures are shown. For the 1983-84 fiscal year the figures represent the amounts allocated by the Legislature.

During the 1982-83 fiscal year, court expenditures decreased by almost \$350,000 from the previous year, and the court system spent almost \$700,000 less than was allocated. These savings were realized to comply with the governor's fiscal austerity program for the year.



The narrative that follows gives a brief overview of activity in the Rhode Island State Courts during the past three years. The programs and events described are only meant to be representative of the many activities and accomplishments of these years.

This part of the report has been divided into four main sections, one for each of the state courts. However, since there are many centralized or co-operative activities in the state court system, a program described in a section on one court could have involved another court or the entire system.

SUPREME COURT

REDUCTION OF DELAY

The Supreme Court is the state's only appellate court, and most appeals come directly from the trial courts and are as of right. As the trial court bench and caseload have expanded in recent years, the Supreme Court has experienced a significant increase in the rate of new appeals. Between 1976 and 1981 new appeals rose by over 81%.

In reaction to this increase in caseload, the court has experimented with methods to screen out cases early in the process in order to limit the number which must go through oral argument and full opinion. Thus, between 1980 and 1982 the court adopted several new procedures in a continuing effort to reduce the backlog of pending cases.

One of the new procedures which was introduced was the civil settlement conference. The settlement conference was first initiated on a trial basis. Under the experiment 50% of all new civil appeals were randomly selected for a test group, and the other 50% became the control group. All of the cases in the test group were scheduled for a pre-argument conference, while the other cases followed the regular appeal process. The pre-argument conference was conducted by a Supreme Court justice, and the purpose was to get the parties to focus on the issues and explore the possibilities for settlement. At the end of the experiment, the court was satisfied with the results and decided to adopt the settlement conference as a permanent procedure. In addition, a law clerk was assigned fulltime to assist with settlement conferences. The role of the clerk is to screen all new civil appeals and schedule conferences for those cases which show some potential for settlement or for disposition by show cause order. Also an additional hearing day was scheduled each month with a panel of three justices for civil show cause argument. At this hearing the party against whom the show cause is issued must convince the court that his/her case is not controlled by settled Rhode Island law.

In September, 1981 the Supreme Court initia-

ted another new procedure to expedite criminal appeals. Under this procedure all new criminal appeals were scheduled for a pre-briefing conference with a Supreme Court justice. Based on the conference discussions, each case was either ordered to be reset for full briefing, ordered to show cause why the appeal should not be summarily disposed, consolidated with another appeal, or remanded to the trial court.

As a result of these combined efforts to screen out cases early in the process, the Supreme Court has increased the number of dispositions in all categories by 15.6% between 1980 and 1982. Furthermore, the end of 1982 marked a major turning point in the activity of the court. For the first time since statistics have been kept, the court disposed of more cases than it took in.

JUSTICE SHEA ELECTED TO SUPREME COURT

The Honorable Donald F. Shea was elected to the Supreme Court by the General Assembly on



Honorable Donald F. Shea, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

February 6, 1981. The assembly acted to fill the vacancy left by the late Honorable Justice John F. Doris. Justice Shea had been an associate justice of the Superior Court for nine years prior to his election.

In addition to a distinguished law career, Justice Shea has had a uniquely broad record of public service. He has held important positions in all three branches of our state government. Beginning in 1960 he served four terms in the House of Representatives where he became Deputy Majority Leader. In 1969 he agreed to serve as Executive Assistant to Governor Frank Licht, and in 1972 he accepted an appointment to the Superior Court. As an attorney and judge he earned a reputation for his knowledge of court procedure, and he served on a committee responsible for reforming the rules of civil court procedure.

Justice Shea received his law degree from Georgetown University School of Law and was also a graduate of Providence College. During World War II he served three years in the Navy.

SENTENCING STUDY COMMITTEE

In 1979 the Chief Justice appointed a Sentencing Study Committee in response to expressed concerns over court sentencing practices. The committee was assigned to study existing sentencing practices and to develop appropriate recommendations for improvement. The group is chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Thomas F. Kelleher, and its membership includes judges from each of the state courts and representatives from the Attorney General, the Public Defender and the public.

The committee began its study by looking at a variety of sentencing reforms undertaken in other jurisdictions. Most of the examples studied involved some form of guidelines for sentencing which were adopted to reduce the possibility of unwarranted disparity. In the majority of the jurisdictions the guidelines were based on the average sentence given in the past, but in at least one jurisdiction, the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the guidelines represented what a com-

mittee of judges agreed were appropriate sentences within the penalty allowed by statute. The committee favored the latter approach and decided that this would be the better model for Rhode Island to follow.

At the same time the committee decided to conduct a study of sentencing practices in Rhode Island using hypothetical cases. From the results of the study the committee concluded that there was a potential for unjustified disparity in sentencing and that guidelines would be the best way to address the problem. The committee preferred guidelines over other approaches, such as mandatory sentencing, which eliminate discretion altogether.

A subcommittee of the full committee was named and given responsibility for developing the guidelines. This subcommittee included three judges of the Superior Court and a representative of the Attorney General and the Public Defender. The guidelines which the subcommittee proposed involved sentencing ranges which applied to first offenders sentenced after a trial. The fact that a defendant was a repeat offender was considered an aggravating circumstance which could justify a sentence above the guideline range, whereas, a disposition by plea was considered a mitigating factor which could justify a sentence below the range. However, any reduction as a result of a plea was to be limited to within 25% of the lower end of the sentence range.

In January 1982 the Superior Court formally adopted these guidelines as court policy. According to the policy the guidelines were to be used by all of the judges, and specific reasons were to be given on the record for deviating from them. At the time the guidelines were implemented, the Chief Justice appointed the study committee to act as a permanent committee with responsibility for monitoring use of the guidelines and for periodically revising or expanding on them.

At the end of 1982, after the guidelines had been in effect for one year, the Committee published its first study on their impact. The study involved both personal interviews conducted with judges and attorneys who handle criminal cases and use the guidelines, as well as data collected from actual cases sentenced since the guidelines were adopted.

Based on the results of the study, the Sentencing Committee concluded that the sentencing guideline project had been a success. The study showed that the guidelines were being used. Most attorneys and judges indicated that they refer to the guidelines as a starting point for sentencing and that they are taken seriously. In addition, there was a consistent feeling among those interviewed that the guidelines have brought about greater consistency in sentencing.

This feeling was supported by the data collected on particular offenses. For example, a survey made of sentences in robbery cases between 1978 and 1980 showed that there was a greater variation in sentencing for this offense prior to the guidelines. According to the survey, the sentences given for armed robbery in 1978 and 1980 ranged from less than jail to 15 years to serve, and in 1979 the range was less than jail to 12 years to serve. However, in 1982 under the guidelines the lowest sentence given was 3 years to serve and the highest was 10 years.

Another example of the effect of the guidelines was the increase in the number of defendants being sentenced to jail for housebreaks. One of the policy decisions made when the guidelines were developed was that defendants convicted of this offense should serve some jail time, and the results of the data collection showed the impact this policy has had. In a survey of Providence County cases, 6% of the defendants convicted during 1978 for breaking and entering into a dwelling were sentenced to jail, 22% went to jail in 1979, and 50% received a jail sentence in 1980. In contrast under the guidelines 79% of the defendants received jail sentences. The survey results also showed that between 1978 and 1980 there was a definite shift towards harsher sentencing for this particular offense. This shift was articulated as a policy through the guidelines and has gained general acceptance.

Although the feeling expressed during the interviews was that the guidelines have represented a positive step, there was also agreement that specific guidelines should be revised and that additional guidelines should be established. The Sentencing Study Committee will be reviewing the recommendations for revising and expanding on the guidelines.

MEDIA COVERAGE IN THE COURTS

The Media Advisory Committee was first established in 1978 to study the effect of media coverage on the courts. The committee is chaired by Associate Justice Joseph R. Weisberger and includes representatives of the judiciary, the bar, the media and the public.

After examining studies prepared by various jurisdictions, the committee concluded that most of these evaluations were based on intuitive judgment rather than fact and that Rhode Island should conduct a year-long experiment so that the issue could be decided objectively. Thus, in 1980 the committee submitted a report to the Supreme Court recommending that a one-year experiment be conducted allowing media into the courts.

Based on the committee's recommendation, the Supreme Court issued a provisional order establishing an experimental program for the period of one year starting on October 1, 1981. Under the experiment the media was allowed to film and record trials according to the following guidelines:

- 1) Only one TV camera, one still camera, and one sound system would be allowed in the courtroom;



This television camera in the Supreme Court Hearing Room was used by local stations and networks for history making live coverage of oral arguments in the case of State vs. von Bulow.

2) The equipment could not produce distracting sound or light, and this had to be demonstrated in advance to the trial justice;

3) The trial justice would designate where equipment could be positioned, and it could not be moved during any proceeding;

4) No audio pickup or broadcast would be permitted of any conference between counsel and clients, co-counsel, or counsel and the trial justice at the bench;

5) Individual jurors could not be photographed without their consent;

6) The trial justice could prohibit media coverage on his/her own motion or at the request of a participant.

During the course of the experiment the guidelines were amended to prohibit media coverage in hallways or other areas outside of courtrooms where actual proceedings were taking place before a judge and to prohibit coverage of hearings on motions taking place outside of the presence of the jury. The guidelines were also amended to prohibit coverage of *voir dire* examinations of prospective jurors.

At the end of the year the Advisory Committee circulated a questionnaire among members of the judiciary and held open hearings to determine the reaction to the experiment. From the questionnaire results, the comments received at the hearings and other supporting letters, the committee concluded that the experimental program should be continued for another year. The Supreme Court adopted this recommendation and agreed to extend the experiment through January 16, 1984.

STUDY OF COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL COMPLETED

In June 1980 the Chief Justice named a special committee to review the system for court appointment of counsel. The reasons for initiating a study were the growing cost of appointed counsel and concern over the lack of uniformity in the standards and policies being applied to court appointments.

The committee submitted a final report in February 1981, and the following is a summary of

the recommendations and findings which were included.

1) The Committee recommended that persons be entitled to counsel in all felony and misdemeanor prosecutions, in all civil commitments or other proceedings which could result in confinement, in juvenile cases and in dependency, neglect, abuse and termination of parental rights proceedings.

2) The committee also recommended that a definition for indigency be established by court rule and that the definition be based on whether a person has sufficient liquid assets and income to meet the cost of his/her defense.

3) The third recommendation was to improve the method of appointing private counsel by setting up panels of qualified attorneys and requiring that appointments be made from these lists on a rotating basis with certain exceptions.

4) To provide for uniformity among the courts, the committee recommended adoption of a single fee schedule for all types of cases and a single form for billing.

5) Finally, the committee recommended establishment of an advisory board to work out in detail the system for court appointment of counsel and to oversee the system once it is operating.

These recommendations and findings of the committee were presented to all of the judges at the Judicial Conference in June, 1981. Following the conference the Chief Justice solicited written comments on the report from all judges.

In March 1982 the Supreme Court appointed a second committee to review the recommendations of the original study committee and to propose rules of court for putting a plan for appointment of counsel into effect.

The second committee submitted a report in December of 1982. The committee report endorsed most of the recommendations of the original study committee except the adoption of a flat fee payment schedule and the designation of court clerks to oversee the appointment process. Instead the committee recommended that a fee schedule based on hourly rates be adopted and that the proposed Advisory Board oversee the appointment of counsel.

A SPECIAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DEVELOP UNIFORM RULES OF EVIDENCE

In December 1980, Chief Justice Bevilacqua appointed a special committee to assist in the development of rules of evidence to be used in all courts in the State. The 21-member committee was selected so that it would be broadly representative of the judicial and legal communities. The committee includes judges from each state court, members of the Legislature, representatives of the Department of the Attorney General, the Department of the Public Defender and representatives of the plaintiff's bar and the defense bar, both civil and criminal. The committee is chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Florence K. Murray. Professor Eric D. Green, Associate Professor of Law at Boston University Law School, is serving as the committee's adviser.

For the purpose of organization, the committee has been using the Federal Rules of Evidence as a framework for discussion. The committee has taken the position, however, that while the Federal Rules are being used as a starting point, the committee is free to depart from the Federal Rules



Honorable Florence K. Murray, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and Chairperson of the committee of judges and attorneys studying changes to court evidence rules, reviews one of the four volumes of notes prepared for committee members with Professor Eric Green, committee advisor.

in instances where the committee feels some change in the law is necessary or desirable.

Professor Green has provided the members of the committee with a voluminous set of working materials which contains each Federal Rule of Evidence and copies of the rules of evidence from various states that have significantly departed from the Federal Rule. At each committee meeting this material has been supplemented with memoranda outlining current Rhode Island practice on the issues to be discussed and with a proposed Rhode Island Rule of Evidence to be acted on by the committee.

The committee estimated that it would take from two to three years to complete a full draft of proposed rules, and thus it is anticipated that a draft will be ready by the end of 1983. The proposed rules must be adopted by the Supreme Court, and they will also be submitted as legislation to the Rhode Island General Assembly.

ATTORNEY SPECIALIZATION

The Supreme Court Committee on Attorney Specialization was appointed in 1978 to investigate proposals and programs that recognize and regulate specialization in the practice of law. The 13-member committee is chaired by retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Alfred H. Joslin and is composed of judges and members of the bar.

In developing their recommendations, the committee members reviewed reports on specialization procedures in other states, studied proposed and model specialization plans, and listened to nationally recognized experts in this area. The committee also surveyed the opinions of members of the state bar, which revealed that 75% of the respondents favored some kind of specialization plan for Rhode Island.

In 1980 the committee members decided by a close vote that they were in favor of regulated specialization. After examining summaries of both the positive and negative positions, the committee submitted an interim report to the Supreme Court indicating that the members were unable to agree on whether a plan for attorney

specialization was appropriate for this state.

The court took the committee's report under consideration and requested that the committee continue its study and produce a draft plan. In February 1981, the committee submitted a proposal to the court that included sections from a model plan suggested by the American Bar Association

and sections from a plan developed by a Rhode Island Bar Association Committee.

After the plan was submitted, the court held hearings on it. The Rhode Island Bar Association indicated that it was opposed to the proposal, and as a result the Supreme Court has taken the Specialization Plan under advisement.

ADMINISTRATION

CHIEF JUSTICE ADDRESSES THE LEGISLATURE

In April 1980, the Chief Justice delivered his first annual address to the legislature on the state of the judiciary. This was the first time in recent history that a chief justice has spoken before the legislature as a body, and the purpose was to stress the role of the judiciary as a co-equal branch of government.

In each of the annual addresses given in 1980 through 1982 the Chief Justice followed a similar format. He reviewed the progress which the courts have made in areas such as the reduction of case backlogs, the upgrading of court facilities, and the training of court personnel. He also commented on areas of current activity. For example, he described the development of a computerized information system to improve the accuracy and flow of information within the courts. He announced the development and adoption of sentencing guidelines, and he described the improvements in juror usage which have resulted in considerable savings in jury fees.

As part of each speech he also discussed judicial priorities for the legislative session. For example, in 1980 he expressed a need to increase the number of judges in the Superior and Family Courts. He also outlined several proposals to improve the efficiency of court operations including an increase in the civil jurisdiction of the District Court, establishment of a committee to review jury duty exemptions, and revision of the statute to allow for the interchangeability of judges.

In 1981 he stressed the need to restore cuts made in the judicial budget, and he urged the Legislature to postpone enactment of mandatory sentencing

legislation in order to determine the impact of sentencing guidelines. He also urged again the passage of legislation affecting the civil jurisdiction of the District Court and the transferability of judges.

Some of the highlights of the Chief Justice's 1982 address were as follows. He reaffirmed the court's opposition to mandatory sentencing and noted the success of the Superior Court sentencing guidelines as an alternative. He announced the intention of the judiciary to explore the possibility of funding renovations to the Providence County Courthouse through the Rhode Island Public Building Authority. He also announced formation of a committee to oversee the provision of counsel to indigent defendants as a result of increasing costs in this area.

The Chief Justice concluded his 1982 address by noting that the relationship between the three branches of government had improved significantly, and that it was his opinion the relationship was returning to its proper balance.

NEW JUDICIAL COMPLEX COMPLETED

Construction of the new six-story Judicial Complex in downtown Providence was completed in July 1981. The building was dedicated that August as the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex, and it was completely occupied by October. The building houses the Family and District Courts, the Workers' Compensation Commission, and the court's computer services. Space has also been provided for other justice system agencies including the Attorney General, the Public Defender, Probation and Parole, the



A six-floor high porch makes an impressive entrance to the J. Joseph Garrahy Complex.

Department of Children and their Families and the Providence Police.

The building was constructed by the Rhode Island Public Building Authority, which is an independent body created by statute in 1958. The members of the Authority are appointed by the Governor, and the Authority has the power to issue bonds to raise money for the construction of public buildings.

Construction of the judicial complex was the first project which the authority has undertaken, and it was a very successful one. The general contractor hired by the Authority used innovative construction management techniques and completed the construction within two years, which was two months ahead of schedule, and two million dollars under the planned budget.

Although the building was designed and constructed by the Public Building Authority, the courts were involved in planning the layout of the facility. The courts hired Space Management Consultants, a firm experienced in courthouse design, to determine the use of space within the building. The consultants attempted to design the space allowing for current needs, as well as for adaptation to the possible future needs of the judicial system.

The complex is the first new courthouse built in

Rhode Island in 50 years, and it provides needed additional courtroom space. In the old Family Court building there were only six courtrooms and none was equipped for jury trials. Whereas, in the new courthouse there are eleven courtrooms available to the Family Court and all can be used for jury trials. In the old Sixth Division District Court building there were only three courtrooms, and in the new courthouse there are five courtrooms available to the District Court. In addition, the new complex is better designed for security and also has many other advantages over former court buildings.

The judiciary will rent the new judicial complex so that the PBA can retire the construction bonds. When the bonds are redeemed, the state will own the building.

RIJSS

In 1980 the Rhode Island Judicial Systems and Sciences Office (RIJSS) began design and installation of a new integrated information system for the state courts. Rhode Island is the first state court system in the country to have such a large, multi-use system. The system is not just an add-on to provide some useful information, it is an integral part of many court operations. This system has become a model for other state courts, and many aspects of it are being adopted by courts throughout the country.

In August 1980, a federal grant was received from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration to begin purchasing new computer equipment. The \$289,000 grant, including state matching funds, allowed the courts to purchase "state of the art" computers, remote T.V.-type terminals, and high speed printers. With this new equipment the courts were able to take full advantage of current technology to provide "on-line" data input and information retrieval by remote terminals located in court offices throughout the state. The system also provides word-processing capability for those offices that could make effective use of it.

Through 1981, RIJSS continued to acquire more equipment and to develop the various parts of the new integrated system. The Family Court's Juvenile Case Information System was expanded

and converted to an on-line system. Also a domestic relations information and scheduling system was developed. For the Supreme Court, the prototype was developed for an integrated case processing and word processing system. This system has served as a model of automated procedures to demonstrate how automation can save work and time in clerks' offices, and also provide judges with more information on caseloads and the progress of individual cases.

The Superior Court began to automate civil case processing in 1982. Initially, the system tracked cases only from the time they were assigned to the trial calendar. The system assists in scheduling, and also provides statistics on the number of pending and disposed cases, as well as on the time taken between court proceedings. Following the models developed in other courts, this system also provides automated docketing, indexing and noticing. Starting in 1983 plans call for expanding the tracking system to include all cases from the date of filing. This system has allowed the court to better manage civil caseflow and reduce delay.

RIJSS staff began to convert the old "batch entry" criminal information system to a new on-line mode in 1982. Using the on-line version of PROMIS developed by INSLAW, a computer systems firm in Washington, D.C., a system is being developed that is tailored to the needs of the Rhode Island justice system. This planned criminal information system has the distinction of being the only statewide system in the nation to include other justice system agencies in its on-line case tracking procedures. In addition to the courts, the Attorney General, the Public Defender, the Department of Corrections, and individual law enforcement agencies will be able to tie into the automated system to share information, save paper work and keep close track of the cases they handle. While other agencies will have to provide and operate the data entry equipment in their own offices, the courts will donate the programs and main central computers that make this system possible. Budget restrictions and the lack of technical personnel have delayed the participation of some other agencies, but the Attorney

General began to install a compatible computer with terminals and printers in 1982. Testing and installation of this system statewide is planned for mid-1983.

The planned criminal case tracking system will follow a case from arraignment in the District Court through sentencing and even appeal. Participation of other agencies will extend the monitoring back to arrest and out to completion of sentence. Not only will such a system speed the handling of criminal cases, but it will also prevent procedural omissions or inadvertent delays that can make prosecution more difficult or can violate defendant rights. In addition, it will provide automated data entry procedures that avoid duplication of clerical effort and reduce case handling time.

The computer system is also able to support other specialized applications including an accounting system for the Superior Court registry of fines and costs, a statewide warrant system, a sentencing register, and an attorney registration system. By the end of 1981 RIJSS had installed 2 computers, 62 terminals and 22 printers. Updated telecommunications links were established to connect most court offices to at least part of the system. Twenty more terminals and 10 additional printers were added in 1982, and computer capacity was increased by 60%. Although budget restrictions and changing court needs could alter installation plans, 1983 plans call for the addition of 40 terminals and 20 printers plus the installation of another computer in the Kent County Courthouse.

WORD PROCESSING ASSISTS OPINION ISSUANCE

A major feature of the court's computer system is a powerful word processing capability. Beginning in 1980, the Supreme Court started using word processing to increase speed and efficiency in drafting, issuing and publishing opinions. In that year the justices' secretaries received training in this new technology, and the court support staff was reorganized to create an opinion processing office.

With word processing, changes in draft court opinions can be made and new drafts distributed to the justices in a matter of minutes rather than days. Thus, final proof reading and checking can now be done more easily and quickly, and the possibility of introducing typing errors into the final stages is virtually eliminated. The system can also produce automated indexes for opinions and is capable of transmitting text directly to a printer for automated typesetting.

IN-SERVICE EDUCATION OFFERED TO ALL COURT PERSONNEL

Beginning in 1980 the state courts have offered an in-state continuing education program for judges and court support employees. By the end of 1982 the support employee program had offered 35 courses with a combined enrollment of 448 court employees and 183 sheriffs and constables. The judicial education program has included an annual spring education conference, and in 1982 individual conferences were held for each of the 3 state courts. Although mid-year budget reductions have eliminated the money allocated to education for FY 1983, plans are to restore these



Mary Valletta, Opinion Processing Supervisor, checks the output of one of the 5 word processing printers available to the Supreme and Superior Courts as well as some other agencies in the Providence County Courthouse.

cuts in the next budget year and to continue the education program.

Education and training for all state courts is planned by a committee appointed by the Chief Justice. This committee is chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Joseph Weisberger, and there are subcommittees for judicial education and support employee programs. On the recommendation of this committee a request was made in the FY 1980 court budget for education funds. Previously the courts had paid for education with money from federal grants from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), but this program was eliminated, and no new grants were made after 1980. State money was appropriated for court education programs in the FY 1981 budget, and this allotment was increased in FY 1982.

The Judicial Education program has provided funds for all newly appointed judges to attend the comprehensive "college" programs offered by the National Judicial College, the National College of Juvenile Justice, the Institute of Judicial Administration, and the American Academy of Judicial Education. Some experienced judges have also been able to attend specialized courses offered by these institutions.

In-state judicial education programs have also been offered. In addition to the educational component of the annual Judicial Conference, there were three other educational conferences for state court judges between 1980 and 1982. In 1980 a two-day conference was held to review progress of both criminal and civil speedy trial efforts. In the next two years judicial seminars were held and presentations were made on topics such as: Press and the Courts, Constitutional Aspects of Revoking Probation or Bail, Decisions on Search and Seizure, the Federal Civil Rights Act, and Dealing with Courtroom Disruptions.

In-house education for court support employees was expanded initially with a series of 4 seminars on topics chosen to improve employees' knowledge of the goals and operations of the state courts. Titles in this series were: Justice System-Principles and Structures; Court Rules and Other Procedural Requirements; Records, Budgeting,

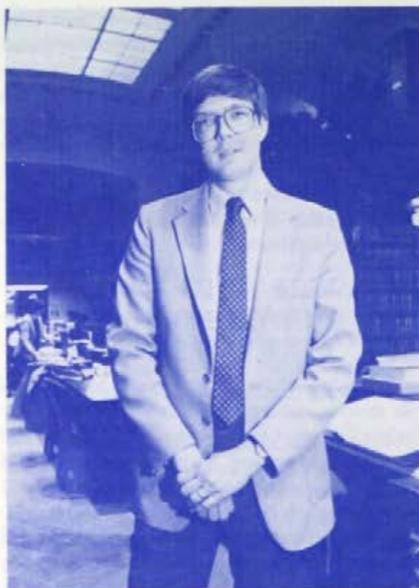
and Financial Management; Information Systems and Data Processing. Some specialized seminars were then offered on the Service of Process, Court Reporting, Word Processing, and Data Processing. Annual orientation sessions were also held for the new appellate and trial court law clerks. Through the three years 1980-1982, court employees received over 6,000 student-hours of training.

STATE LAW LIBRARY

Kendall F. Svengalis was appointed State Law Librarian by the Supreme Court, succeeding Edward V. Barlow who retired on February 19, 1982 after 32 years in state service. A native of Gary, Indiana, Mr. Svengalis received his B.A. in English Literature and M.S. in History from Purdue University. He received an M.L.S. from the Graduate Library School at the University of Rhode Island, and he has also done additional graduate work at Brown University. Prior to joining the staff of the State Law Library in 1976, he held reference posts at Roger Williams College and Providence College. He is an active member of the American Association of Law Libraries and the Law Librarians of New England, and he serves on the newly created Rhode Island Coordinating Council for State Library, Archival and Information Services.

As the 1981-82 fiscal year came to a close, plans were underway for the creation of an advisory committee to address the long-range, legal reference and research needs of the courts and legal community. The committee's agenda will include such topics as duplication in reference materials, expansion of the present collection, enhancement of library staff and services, extension of hours, the addition of computerized legal retrieval capability, and alternative sources of funding to supplement limited state appropriations.

In the three-year period ending June 30, 1982, the library acquired 4,772 new volumes, exclusive of microforms, bringing the library's total collection to over 92,000 volumes. In 1979, with the assistance of Senator Pell, the State Law Library was designated a depository for United States government documents, entitling it to receive its choice of over 5,000 available items. At present, the li-



Kendall F. Svengalis, State Law Librarian

brary receives more than 250 law-related depository items free-of-charge.

INNOVATIVE APPROACH TESTED FOR DEFENSE OF INDIGENTS IN DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT, AND ABUSE CASES

The State Court Administrator's Office has initiated an experiment to determine whether other alternatives for providing counsel to indigents would be more cost-effective than appointment of private attorneys. The office decided that the experiment should focus on representation of parents in dependency, neglect, abuse and termination of rights cases. This area was chosen because of the growing cost of private bar appointments to represent indigents in the Family Court. A review of billings for FY '82 showed that \$550,000 was spent courtwide for appointed counsel and that Family Court appointments accounted for almost 72% of this total.

The experiment began November 1, 1982, and

it involved contracting with the Public Defender's Office to provide representation to indigent parents in a portion of the cases. The rest of the cases continued to be assigned to private counsel. At the end of the experiment the cost for representation will be compared in the two groups of cases.

If the results of the experiment show that it is more cost effective for the Public Defender to provide representation to indigent parents than it is to appoint private counsel, the Administrative Office will try to make the experiment a permanent program in the Public Defender's budget. If the experiment succeeds, it will help the court gain control over the soaring cost of appointed counsel.

AFTER 12 YEARS AND \$4.6 MILLION, LEAA SUPPORT ENDS

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), which distributed federal grants to state and local agencies, was terminated by congress in 1980. Although most of LEAA's money went to police departments, prosecutors, and other law enforcement agencies, courts received about 20% of the funds distributed. This program was created under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, and over a 12-year period the Rhode Island state courts received over \$4,600,000.

LEAA grants were available to help improve court operations in 8 target areas, and the administrative office was responsible for planning and monitoring more than 25 projects that addressed each of these areas. Some of these projects are listed below grouped by target areas.

Application of Technology and Information Needs — a Prosecutors Information System (PROMIS), Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS), Statewide Judicial Information System (SJIS), Records Microfilming, Electronic recording equipment for the District and Superior Courts, Sheriffs communication equipment.

Calendar Management — Superior Court Criminal Assignment Office, Speedy Trial Conferences I and II, Consultant studies on criminal

and civil caseflow, Appellate process study, Appellate Screening Unit, Information Charging Project, Youth Diversionary Unit.

Facility Development — Courthouse security plans, Family Court Space Study, Superior Court courtroom remodeling, Providence County Courthouse renovation plans, Kent County Courthouse Library.

Technical Assistance — Family Court administration study, Superior Court and District Court operations manuals, Family Court Rules of Procedure.

Education and General Operations — Family Court child placement monitoring, Family Court alcohol counseling, judicial and administrative education.

This program has had a significant effect on our justice system. Many new projects which now are providing invaluable service to the courts could not have been started without LEAA seed money. After this grant program was eliminated from the federal budget, we have been able to continue most of the projects within our own budget, but an important impetus for additional innovation and improvement has been lost. The Governor's Justice Commission, which previously distributed LEAA grants, continues on a much reduced scale and provides central crime statistics, coordinates use of the small amount of federal money available in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention program, and distributes some other law enforcement assistance.



The Dorrance Street side of the J. Joseph Garrahy Complex.

SUPERIOR COURT

SUPERIOR COURT INSTITUTES CIVIL CASE REDUCTION PROGRAM

The success of the new criminal case scheduling system, which substantially reduced the backlog and corresponding delay in criminal cases, lead the Superior Court to begin a similar effort in 1980 for civil cases.

In order to implement this project, the Whittier Justice Institute, headed by Dean Ernest C. Friesen, was hired to study civil case processing and recommend methods for improvement. An initial presentation was made by Dean Friesen to the Superior Court Bench-Bar Committee Meeting on February 19, 1980.

The first step in the project was an extensive audit of the pending caseload during the summer of 1980. Through this audit, the caseload was reduced from approximately 8,000 cases to just over 6,000. Following this, over 1,100 lawyers were notified of their "pending" cases and instructed to contact the court if any of these cases were not, in fact, open. In this manner, another 500 cases were removed from the pending caseload.

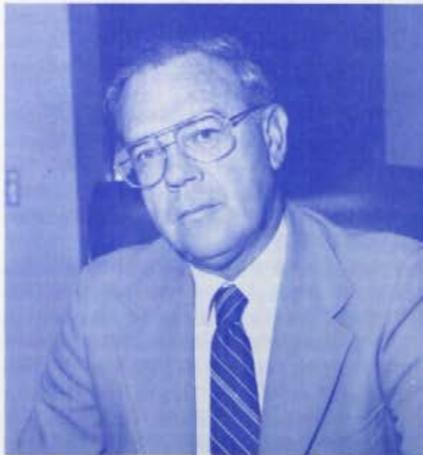
Much of 1981 was spent in consolidating the gains made in 1980. Further study was conducted to devise a system that would place control of the calendar firmly in the hands of the Court and also make use of the rapidly developing data processing capabilities of the Court. On April 30, 1982, the Justice Institute submitted a final report to the Presiding Justice. This report set forth a series of recommendations that would not only reduce the inventory of pending cases, but would also change the entire civil case calendaring process.

Implementation of this plan began July 1, 1982. Notices were mailed to the 611 attorneys who had cases pending that were filed before January 1, 1979. The attorneys were given a computerized listing of their cases and told that they would be placed on a special calendar during the Fall term. By September of 1982 this group of 842 cases had been reduced to about 550 cases. These were then

scheduled for status conferences during a two-week period at the end of October, during which time all regular civil jury trials were suspended.

All of the pre-1979 cases that did not settle by the end of the October Status Conference Period were assigned definite trial dates during the following two months. However, for the first time, a deliberate philosophical change was made in the way in which cases are scheduled in Superior Court. Rather than intentional overscheduling to ensure an always available pool of cases, (as had been the practice since 1973), the cases were deliberately underscheduled to ensure trial certainty.

The three-month effort (October-December, 1982) was highly successful. It was expected that by the end of January 1983, the Court would have disposed of almost all of the 842 pre-1979 cases that had been initially noticed on July 1, 1982. While a limited number of these cases will probably remain pending for various reasons, such as cases which are on appeal to the Supreme Court or cases awaiting bankruptcy proceedings, the oldest 18% of the backlog would have been eliminated. Furthermore, the court has clearly con-



Honorable Francis M. Kiely, Associate Justice Superior Court

veyed to the Bar that it will manage the civil calendar and caseload from this point on.

The next stage of the delay reduction program will begin in February, 1983. It will incorporate an entirely new noticing timetable, as well as a series of Control Calendars and Status Conferences for all cases, in an effort to weed out those cases that will settle or are not in a posture for trial. Thus, even more trial certainty should be achieved on the calendar.

It is hoped that by the end of 1984, given the current level of judicial manpower and commitment, the Court will have reduced the pending caseload to 2,400 cases. At that time the court will then begin automatic assignment of all cases nine months after they have been filed. Therefore, by 1985, the Superior Court should be able to dispose of all cases within eighteen months of the date they are filed.

FOUR APPOINTMENTS MADE TO THE SUPERIOR COURT

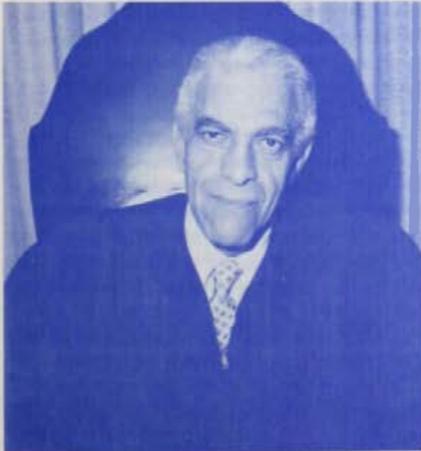
In May 1980, the Governor appointed three new judges to serve on the Superior Court, and in 1981 he appointed a fourth new judge. Two of the appointments filled positions added to the court by a 1980 law. The third appointment filled a

place left when Justice Anthony A. Giannini was chosen to be the court's Presiding Justice in 1979, and the fourth appointment filled the vacancy left when Associate Justice Donald F. Shea was elected to the Supreme Court.

The four appointments included, the Honorable Francis M. Kiely and the Honorable Antonio S. Almeida who were elevated from the District Court, the Honorable Ernest C. Torres, and the Honorable James M. Shannahan.

Justice Kiely was admitted to the Rhode Island bar in 1958 after attending Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and Georgetown University School of Law. He was also admitted to practice before the United States Court of Military Appeals in Washington, D.C. During his 18 year tenure on the District Court, Judge Kiely was at various times called on to serve temporarily in both the Superior and Family Courts.

Justice Almeida's elevation to the Superior Court follows a long career of public service. Admitted to the Rhode Island bar in 1950, Judge Almeida graduated from Providence College and Boston University School of Law. He was the Town of Cumberland's Probate Judge for 5 years, and Town Solicitor for 7 years. Judge Almeida also served as legal counsel for the state Depart-



Honorable Antonio S. Almeida, Associate Justice Superior Court



Honorable Ernest C. Torres, Associate Justice Superior Court

ment of Public Works and was recording clerk for the Rhode Island House of Representatives. Appointment to the Rhode Island District Court followed in 1969, and he served 11 years in this position, occasionally hearing cases in the Superior Court before his elevation.

Justice Ernest C. Torres has gained a reputation as an attorney with a complete and detailed knowledge of court procedures and rules. He attended Dartmouth College and Duke University Law School, and received a J.D. degree in 1968. He served as president of the East Greenwich Town Council for two years before his election to the House of Representatives in 1974. He was deputy minority leader and was a member of several important committees.

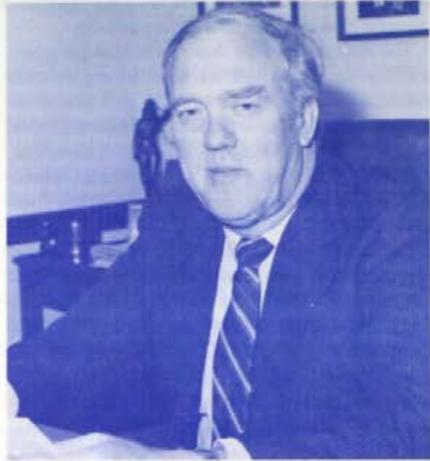
Justice Torres has been active in the community. His activities have included membership on the Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Corporation, the Rhode Island Conservation Law Foundation, the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and the Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association Advisory Board.

Judge Shannahan graduated cum laude from the Catholic University of America and received an LL.B. degree from Boston University Law School. He has served as chairman of the Central Falls Charter Commission, Cumberland Town Solicitor and President of the Pawtucket Bar Association. Before his appointment to Superior Court on April 15, 1981, Judge Shannahan was president of the Rhode Island Bar Association

NEW SUPERVISORY POSITION CREATED IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

During the 1981 legislative session General Law 8-14 was amended to provide for the position of Chief Supervisory Clerk of the Rhode Island Superior Court. The main reason for this amendment was the need to unify the clerks' offices. Mr. Leslie D. Lemieux was appointed to the new position of Chief Supervisory Clerk as of July 1981. Mr. Lemieux was formerly director of the state Division of Purchasing.

The primary duties of the Chief Supervisory



Leslie D. Lemieux, Chief Supervisory Clerk of the Superior Court

Clerk are to supervise the clerks of court in the four counties, to oversee and administer all other personnel within the Superior Court Clerk's Office, and to monitor a uniform reporting system.

This new position should result in a more efficient statewide system and create more consistent policies and procedures within the Superior Court Clerks' Offices.

AUTOMATION EXPANDS CLERKS' OFFICE CAPABILITIES

The development of a comprehensive statewide management information system and the arrival of new data and word processing equipment are producing vast improvements in the Superior Court information system. In October of 1980 a new "Assigned for Trial" civil case system became fully operational in Providence/Bristol County. The purpose of this system is to provide the Superior Court with the case management and inventory information needed to obtain control of the civil trial calendar for both jury and non-jury cases. The features of the system include the ability for on-line entry, update and inquiry of assigned cases; the addition,

deletion, or change of parties, attorneys, key dates or last transactions in a case; and a basic case tracking system from the date of assignment to the date of disposition. Additionally, plans have been made to eventually permit computer assisted scheduling. These plans were formalized by RIJSS in coordination with the office of the Chief Supervisory Clerk in 1982.

The Superior Court and RIJSS also plan to introduce an automated criminal case tracking system using the software of PROMIS, a model

developed for Washington, D.C. It will provide more current and more accurate case information and statistics. Under this system computerized files for criminal information can be immediately updated, reducing the number of necessary forms and eliminating duplication. In addition, fund accounting information on billings, receipts, and other office operations can be handled automatically. These programs, which will increase efficiency and provide up-to-date information are planned for implementation in 1983.

JURY COMMISSIONER

NEW JURY MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES SAVE MONEY

A new procedure has been established by the Jury Commissioner's Office to save money for the courts. The change was adopted through legislation passed by the General Assembly in May 1979, and it was fully implemented during 1980. It allows the Commissioner to set up an "emergency panel" of jurors every two weeks when each new group is called to serve.

The Commissioner, working closely with the trial judges, determines each week the approximate number of jurors that will be needed out of those who have been routinely summoned. The remainder are then placed on an "emergency panel." The emergency panel is selected by lottery from the entire pool, and the jurors who are selected are dismissed from the courthouse with the provision that they are on emergency call for the two-week term of juror service.

The new procedure thus saves the courts a large amount of money in jurors' fees and allows certain jurors to return to their occupations unless called in from the emergency panel.

JURY COMMISSIONER OPENS OFFICE IN KENT COUNTY

In early 1980 the Jury Commissioner opened a full-time office in Kent County. Staff for the office was transferred from the Commissioner's Office in the Providence Courthouse, and thus the out-

county office was established without any increase in personnel. The new out-county office manages the jury system for Kent, Newport and Washington Counties by putting together the jury panels, processing the necessary information, and composing and qualifying grand juries.

As a result of the opening of an out-county office, the services of the Jury Commissioner have improved significantly. The judges in the counties now have greater access to the Commissioner's Office. Furthermore, the new out-county office has brought about considerable savings in jurors' fees. Jurors' attendance records are being kept more accurately, since staff investigators are on site to check daily attendance, and thus, between 1980 and 1982 jurors' fees in the counties have been reduced by over \$110,000. In addition, the restructuring of the Jury Commissioner's Office has made it possible for statistics to be compiled on juror profiles. The purpose of the statistics is to determine whether the jury panels represent a cross-section of the population.

The program has received full cooperation from the judges and is being closely monitored by the Commissioner's Office. The savings which have resulted from the new procedures are as follows. In 1980 the reduction in jurors' fees totalled over \$125,000. In 1981 the savings totalled about \$139,000, and in 1982 the amount saved was approximately \$91,000. The 1982 figure is lower because during this year the legislature reduced the daily amount paid to jurors from \$20 to \$15.

FAMILY COURT

DELAY REDUCTION: NEW PROCEDURES ADOPTED FOR WAYWARD/DELINQUENT CASES

During 1980 the Family Court adopted new procedures for handling wayward/delinquent cases more efficiently. The objective was to reduce the time to disposition from 120 to 90 days. The most important aspect of the new procedures was the introduction of timeframes for each stage in a case.

The interim deadlines which were adopted are as follows:

- 1) 30 days from filing to the intake decision;
- 2) 15 days from the intake decision to arraignment;
- 3) 21 days from arraignment to initial trial date;
- 4) only one continuance of no more than 14 days from the initial trial date is permitted.

Even shorter timeframes are applied in cases where the juvenile is being detained pending trial.

The program was implemented in January of 1981, and the results have been positive. When the program began there were 232 wayward/delinquent cases over 90 days old, and by the end of 1981 this number was reduced to 66. During 1982 the number of cases exceeding the 90-day guideline was reduced again, and at the end of the year there were only 46 cases pending over 90 days.

The concept of the program is that by monitoring cases through each interim stage, delays can be addressed early in the process, well before 90 days have passed. Because the judges of the Family Court have been committed to meeting the interim deadlines, the program has been a success.

JJIS

The new Juvenile Justice Information System, commonly known as JJIS, has created a great sense of pride in the Family Court. JJIS is a fully automated case tracking system which operates statewide.

One of the major benefits of JJIS is that it has



Family Court offices, like the Juvenile Clerk's Office in Providence, pictured here, have over 25 computer terminals to connect them to the systems that automate their record-keeping and paper-flow.

significantly improved the record keeping of the court. Previously, when any information was needed on a case, the file had to be pulled and then sent to the courtroom or the judges' chambers. This could be especially time consuming if the file had to be delivered to one of the counties. This system now provides immediate access to information on both the personal and legal history of the juvenile, while the previously used access control system remains in effect to protect the privacy of the individual. The clerk simply keys in the juvenile's name and within seconds, the system responds by telling whether the person has a record. If so, the screen displays the juvenile's name, birthdate, sex, race, folder number and parents' name.

To look at further information about the juvenile's personal or court history, the operator strikes a program function key, and again within seconds the data is available. Personal data includes birthplace, citizenship, language, school, location if other than home address, birthdate, and marital status. In addition the screen contains a data element entitled "ALERT" which allows the inquirer to ascertain whether the court should be aware of some type of medical problem relating to the juvenile.

Furthermore, the juvenile calendar, which often contains more than 70 cases daily, is printed

by JJIS, thus eliminating time-consuming clerical work. Another feature of JJIS is the ability to discover within seconds the next scheduled court date for a juvenile, the reason for the appearance, and the location of the hearing.

JJIS also provides the court with monthly statistical reports summarizing the number of juveniles referred to court by intake, the reason for referral, the number of juveniles diverted by intake, and the action taken.

The original system was a pilot project of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. After a three-year survey of all Family Court systems in the country, the council created a model system, and Rhode Island was chosen as the experiment site for the project. Because of the success of this project, many major cities around the country have been interested in adopting the system. So far Washington, D.C.; Middlesex, N.J.; and Grand Rapids, Michigan have adopted similar systems, while New York City; Memphis, Tennessee; and parts of California have been considering it. The Rhode Island system has also been featured at symposiums in New Orleans and California in 1981.

TWO JUSTICES ADDED TO FAMILY COURT

In 1980 Haiganush R. Bedrosian and Joseph S. Gendron were appointed by the Governor



Honorable Haiganush R. Bedrosian, Associate Justice of the Family Court

to fill two newly created positions on the Family Court bench. After confirmation by the senate they were sworn in as associate justices of the court in May and June.

Justice Bedrosian is a graduate of Pembroke College in Brown University and Suffolk University School of Law. She was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar Association in 1971; and has been a member of the American Bar Association, the Trial Lawyers Association, the American Judicature Society, the Rhode Island Women's Lawyers Association, and other professional organizations. She has served on several policy making and advisory groups including the Governor's Commission on Women, the District Court Committee on Adoption of Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Commission to Study the Operation of City Government in Cranston. A member of the Roger Williams College corporation, she is also active in the alumnae association of Suffolk University Law School.

Justice Gendron has been a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association since 1969, and he graduated from Suffolk University School of Law. He also holds degrees from Georgetown University and the University of Rhode Island. He served in the Rhode Island Senate from 1966 through 1980 and in successive terms was chairman of the Special Legislation,



Honorable Joseph S. Gendron, Associate Justice of the Family Court

Finance, and Judiciary committees. He became Senate Majority Leader in 1976 and held that office for four years. His other public service has included two years as treasurer of the Board of Regents and membership on the State Retirement Board and State Investment Fund. A member of the Pawtucket Bar Association, he has also been active in local community groups.

VOLUNTEER COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

The Court Appointed Special Advocate Program (CASA) was initiated in 1978 by the Family Court. It was modeled on a program developed in Seattle, Washington and was the second program of its type in the United States. The program is based on a unique and innovative format involving trained volunteer advocates who work with full-time staff attorneys and social workers as a team to represent the best interests of dependent, neglected and abused children before the Family Court.

The project was funded initially by a block grant from the Governor's Justice Commission. In 1982 the legislature allocated sufficient state funds to continue and expand the CASA project. The expansion provided for the addition of four attorneys to the CASA staff, and it was conceived as a means of saving money as well as enhancing the services of the CASA program. The four full-time attorneys are replacing court-appointed guardians *ad litem*.

Since the program was expanded in October 1982, 120 new volunteer CASA's have been trained, bringing the total number of active volunteers to 230. These volunteers are currently representing a total of 850 children. Although volunteers are not required to handle more than one case at a time, most CASA's are handling three or more. Volunteer advocates spend an aggregate average of 3,500 hours per month interviewing Department of Children and Their Families social workers, parents, children, doctors, school teachers, and mental health professionals as well as attending court and DCF administrative hearings. When computed at the rate of reimburse-



Volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Marie Acciaro discusses a case report with CASA program staff members Christopher Nocera and Cora Chaneau.

ment formerly paid to private attorney guardians *ad litem*, the CASA's time is approximately \$45,000 per month.

At present the Rhode Island CASA program is operating in Providence County only. The feasibility of expanding the coverage to other counties is being studied.

FAMILY COURT — CHANGES IN CHILD SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Several important developments occurred during 1980 and 1981 which will ease the problems that arise when child support payments are not made. As a result of the wage assignment legislation passed in 1980, a parent who fails to make support payments may have that money taken directly from his/her paycheck through a court order and an arrangement with the employer.

The second major change occurred in the book-keeping department with the accounting of child support becoming fully computerized. This is a pilot project which has received 100% federal funding. This system, developed by a California firm, records payments much more efficiently, and automatically serves notices if payments are not being received on time. This project has become so successful that the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services is now linked with this system.

As an example of one of the benefits of this linkage, the court is immediately notified when a

parent is no longer eligible to receive AFDC payments. Subsequent child support payments are automatically directed to such parents. Under the old accounting system redirecting of payments was often delayed because of the processing of paperwork between the Court, the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services and the Data Processing Division.

Another innovation took place in 1981. Through legislation the Master of the Family Court can now attach income tax refunds to meet child support payments. If a parent has failed to pay child support, the Master may review the case and require the parent to present his/her current tax refund. This money may then be assigned as payment. The court is also experimenting with the government's intercept program. The court sends a list of delinquent support payers to the government. When tax refunds are issued, the government intercepts the checks and sends them directly to the court, bypassing the parent. This was tried on a limited basis in 1981 with good results, and thus all delinquent payers will be on the list in 1982. All of these changes have substantially increased the amount of child support money collected by the court.

FAMILY COURT BENCHBOOK

With the dismantling of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, it has become more difficult to obtain funds for special projects. However, the Family Court, with the assistance of the Northeast Regional Office of the National Center for State Courts, has just succeeded in gaining support for a special project from a private, Rhode Island foundation. The Champlin Foundations have awarded \$35,700 to the Family Court for the development of a judicial benchbook.

The benchbook will be developed by the staff of the National Center working with Associate Justices Edward Healey, Jr. and Carmine DiPetrillo. It is estimated that the project will be completed by the end of 1983.

It is intended that the benchbook will be used as a ready reference for judges in the courtroom. It will also be used as an orientation aid for new judges and as a refresher for judges conducting

proceedings that are unusual or that they have not recently been holding.

The benchbook will provide a concise compendium of leading domestic relations, juvenile and criminal case law. It will also include the elements of proof and guidelines for the admissibility of evidence, checklists for management of hearings, and judicially approved words and phrases for certain proceedings.

The Family Court Benchbook will be the first such concise and complete reference for judges developed in Rhode Island.

RULES OF PROCEDURE BEING DRAFTED FOR JUVENILE MATTERS

Rules of procedure governing domestic relations cases were approved by the Supreme Court in September 1980 and became effective in January 1981. The rules were drafted by consultants from Boston University Law School with the assistance of a committee of judges and attorneys. They were modeled after the rules of civil procedure for the Superior and District Courts.

Following the completion of these rules, the same consultants were hired to prepare rules of procedure for juvenile actions. The drafting of the juvenile rules began in 1981 and is to be completed in 1983. As with the domestic relations rules, an advisory committee has been named to assist the consultants. The rules will codify current practices in handling juvenile matters.

MOCK CHILD ABUSE PROCEEDINGS PRESENTED ON VIDEO TAPE

A two-hour video tape on important elements of court proceedings in child abuse cases was prepared by the Family Court for a local defense counsel seminar and has been copied and used in other states to help train judges, lawyers, and social workers. This is a technically sophisticated video production showing detailed and realistic, mock proceedings. It was put together at a very low cost by volunteer attorneys and court staff with assistance from the Department of Community Affairs and Rhode Island College.



Family Court Clerk's Office counters for Domestic Relations and Family Court Collections on the 2nd floor of the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex.

The tape was conceived originally by the members of the Defense Counsel Training Subcommittee of the R.I. Committee on Children, Permanency and the Courts for use at a training seminar for attorneys. The purpose was to improve the skills of attorneys involved in the very complex, adversarial process required for the removal of children from their families in dependency, neglect, abuse, and termination of rights cases. Sub-committee Chair Rogeriee Thompson, Associate Justice Thomas F. Fay, and other committee members planned and presented very believable and instructive, mock proceedings. In addition, a 250-page manual was prepared for the mock case which included the relevant statutes, orders, and case citations for these matters. The seminar was presented in September 1982 to about 200 attorneys and was very well received. Using 3 television monitors in two courtrooms the large group was able to clearly view the mock proceedings.

The courts have used federal grants to purchase video-tape equipment, and three court staff members have been trained in video production for in-house and public education programs. This was the most ambitious production to date. Some equipment was borrowed from other agencies. Two staff members from the Department of Community Affairs and a video consultant, Lew Shaw, helped with taping and editing. This allowed a two-camera production which could maintain viewer interest and clearly present the actions and statements of all parties to the proceedings.

Parts of this tape have been used to train social workers throughout Massachusetts. It has been used to help train the legal staff of the newly expanded Court Appointed Special Advocate Office, and copies have been sent to the National Conference of Family and Juvenile Court Judges, in Reno, Nevada.

DISTRICT COURT

DELAY REDUCTION EFFORTS IN THE DISTRICT COURT

In 1980 the District Court revised the goal for disposition of misdemeanors and violations from 90 days to 60 days. When the revised guideline went into effect in January 1981, there were 825 cases which were pending longer than 60 days. Within three months this number was reduced to 320 cases, a reduction of almost two thirds. From March 1981 through the end of 1982, the number of misdemeanors and violations over 60 days old remained consistently between 300 and 370 cases, which is less than 1% of annual misdemeanor filings. These results demonstrate the sustained positive effect of the management controls adopted by the District Court.

FELONY SCREENING PROGRAM

An analysis of cases in 1980, showed that the median time from arrest to Superior Court arraignment was five months in a felony case. It was acknowledged that this was considerably

longer than it should be. The rules of the Federal Court System require that cases be filed within 30 days of an arrest, and at the Second Speedy Trial conference in March of 1980 the Rhode Island courts adopted a goal of 30 days for the period between arrest and arraignment.

Recognizing the need to address the long delay at the pre-arraignment stage, the Department of Attorney General and the District and Superior Courts have developed a joint plan for a felony screening program.

The plan proposes two major changes in approach. First, the District Court will take an active role in the scheduling and monitoring of felonies from the time of arrest to Superior Court arraignment. Second, defendants will always be scheduled for some future court action within a short period of time.

The new procedures which have been adopted for felony screening are as follows:

- 1) Following an initial appearance in District Court for bail setting, the defendant is scheduled for a screening conference with the Department of Attorney General within 14 days.



Spacious public area and counter of the District Court Clerks Office in the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex.

2) After a prosecutor has reviewed the defendant's case and decided that an information should be filed, the defendant is scheduled for Superior Court arraignment in approximately 30 days.

The program has been implemented in stages. In June 1981 the new procedures were introduced in Washington and Kent Counties and in the Providence Police Department. Newport County was included in January 1982, and in March 1982 all of the other divisions in Providence County were included except the Eighth Division. The Eighth Division was finally included as of September 1982.

Monitoring of the felony screening program has shown that it has succeeded in reducing the time from arrest to arraignment to two months. The Department of Attorney General and the District and Superior Courts are continuing to try to reduce the time even further and eventually achieve the 30 day goal.

NEW JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE DISTRICT COURT

In 1980 three new District Court judges were appointed to fill the vacancies left when Judge



Honorable Michael A. Higgins, Associate Judge District Court

Francis Kiely and Judge Antonio Almeida were elevated to the Superior Court and Judge Walter Orme retired after serving eleven years on the bench. The new judges chosen by the Governor and affirmed by the Senate were the Honorable Michael Higgins, the Honorable Paul Pederzani, Jr. and the Honorable Alton Wiley.

Judge Higgins received his law degree from Catholic University Law School after graduating from Providence College. Judge Higgins is presently a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the American Trial Lawyers Association. Before his appointment to the bench, he served on various policy-making committees, and he was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives. He was a member of the legislature for eight years and served the last three years as House Majority Leader.

Judge Pederzani was admitted to the Bar in 1952 after attending Providence College and Boston College Law School. He served in the army from 1943-45 and received the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He continued serving in the army reserve until 1980, when he retired with the rank of colonel. A member of the American, Rhode Island and Washington County Bar Asso-



Honorable Paul P. Pederzani, Jr., Associate Judge District Court

ciations, he was admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Court of Military Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Before being appointed to the District Court, Judge Pederzani served as legal counsel to the Rhode Island Recreational Building Authority, and the Narragansett Town Council. He also served as Exeter Town Solicitor and acting judge of the former Second District Court.

Judge Alton Wiley graduated from the University of Rhode Island and Boston University Law School and became a member of the bar in 1957. He was admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, the U.S. Circuit Court for the First Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. Judge Wiley has been an active public servant. He was legal counsel for the Department of Social Security, Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island, and an Assistant Public Defender. His numerous community activities include serving as Vice-president for Student Affairs at the University of Rhode Island, board member of the Urban League of Rhode Island, member of the Narragansett Council of Boy Scouts in America, and chairman of the Legal Redress Committee of the Providence Branch of the NAACP.



Honorable Alton W. Wiley, Associate Judge District Court



Gerard J. Bouley, Chief Clerk of the District Court

GERARD BOULEY APPOINTED AS CHIEF CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Gerard J. Bouley was appointed by the governor as the Chief Clerk of the District Court. He succeeds Raymond George who retired in 1981. Mr. Bouley has extensive management experience in both the public and private sectors.

Mr. Bouley was mayor of Woonsocket for three terms. Woonsocket has a "strong mayoral" form of government so that the mayor is chief executive of the municipal government. In 1977 he was appointed by the governor to a special study commission on problems in Municipal Finance and Deficit Spending. Mr. Bouley previously sat on the Woonsocket City Council for 10 years and served as council president from 1967-1973. He has also been a manager for a national retailing concern and served in the Navy for three years.

Mr. Bouley is active in community groups. He has achieved the Fourth Degree in the Knights of Columbus and is a member of the Elks. He has also been an active and honored alumnus of Mt. St. Charles Academy.

By statute the Chief Clerk supervises the clerks of the District Court statewide. In coordination with Chief Judge Laliberte, Mr. Bouley has been adjusting staff assignments among the eight divisions to deal with changing workloads, budget reductions and periodic vacancies.

COURT DIRECTORY

SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

JOSEPH A. BEVILACQUA, Chief Justice
 THOMAS F. KELLEHER, Associate Justice
 JOSEPH R. WEISBERGER, Associate Justice
 FLORENCE K. MURRAY, Associate Justice
 DONALD F. SHEA, Associate Justice

SUPERIOR COURT JUSTICES

ANTHONY A. GIANNINI, Presiding Justice
 EUGENE F. COCHRAN, Associate Justice
 RONALD R. LAGUEUX, Associate Justice
 EUGENE G. GALLANT, Associate Justice
 JOHN E. ORTON III, Associate Justice
 THOMAS H. NEEDHAM, Associate Justice
 JOHN P. BOURCIER, Associate Justice
 JOSEPH F. RODGERS, JR., Associate Justice
 CLIFFORD J. CAWLEY, JR., Associate Justice
 CORINNE P. GRANDE, Associate Justice
 ALBERT E. DeROBBIO, Associate Justice
 DOMINIC F. CRESTO, Associate Justice
 ANTONIO S. ALMEIDA, Associate Justice
 FRANCIS M. KIELY, Associate Justice
 ERNEST C. TORRES, Associate Justice
 PAUL P. PEDERZANI, JR., Associate Justice
 THOMAS J. CALDARONE, JR., Associate Justice
 ALICE BRIDGET GIBNEY, Associate Justice
 RICHARD J. ISRAEL, Associate Justice

FAMILY COURT JUSTICES

EDWARD P. GALLOGLY, Chief Judge
 EDWARD V. HEALEY, JR., Associate Justice
 WILLIAM R. GOLDBERG, Associate Justice
 CARMINE R. DiPETRILLO, Associate Justice
 ROBERT G. CROUCHLEY, Associate Justice
 JOHN K. NAJARIAN, Associate Justice
 THOMAS F. FAY, Associate Justice
 JOSEPH S. GENDRON, Associate Justice
 HAIGANUSH R. BEDROSIAN, Associate Justice
 JOHN E. FUYAT, Associate Justice
 PAMELA M. MACKTAZ, Associate Justice

DISTRICT COURT JUSTICES

HENRY E. LALIBERTE, Chief Judge
 CHARLES F. TRUMPETTO, Associate Judge
 ORIST D. CHAHARYN, Associate Judge
 PAUL J. DEL NERO, Associate Judge
 ANTHONY J. DENNIS, Associate Judge
 VICTOR J. BERETTA, Associate Judge
 ROBERT J. McOSKER, Associate Judge
 VINCENT A. RAGOSTA, Associate Judge
 JOHN A. CAPPELLI, Associate Judge
 MICHAEL A. HIGGINS, Associate Judge
 ALTON W. WILEY, Associate Judge
 FRANCIS J. DARIGAN, JR., Associate Judge
 ROBERT K. PIRRAGLIA, Associate Judge

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

SUPREME COURT:

250 Benefit St., Providence, R.I.
 Walter J. Kane, Administrator,
 State Courts/Clerk 277-3272
 Ronald A. Tutalo, Administrative
 Asst. to Chief Justice 277-3073
 Robert C. Harrall, Deputy
 Administrator, State Courts 277-3266
 Brian B. Burns, Chief Deputy Clerk 277-3272
 John J. Manning, Business Manager 277-3266
 Kendall F. Svengalis, State
 Law Librarian 277-3275
 Frank J. Sylvia, Security Supervisor 277-3296
 Sophie D. Pfeiffer, Chief Appellate
 Screening Unit 277-3297
 Susan W. McCalmont, Judicial
 Planning 277-3382
 William D. Craven, Director, RIJS 277-3358
 William A. Melone, Judicial
 Education Officer 277-3266
 Linda D. Bonaccorsi, Employee
 Relations Officer 277-3266

Thomas A. Dorazio, E.E.O.
 Officer 277-3266
 Frank A. Ciccone, Court Records
 Center 277-3274
 James W. McElroy, Central Registry 277-2074

SUPERIOR COURT:

250 Benefit St., Providence, R.I.
 John J. Hogan, Administrator 277-3215
 Leslie D. Lemieux, Chief Supervisory
 Clerk 277-2622
 Joseph Q. Calista, Clerk 277-3250
 Alfred Travers, Jr., Jury Commissioner 277-3245
 Charles Garganese, Civil
 Assignment Clerk 277-3225
 Thomas P. McGann, Public
 Contact Officer 277-3292
 Bonnie L. Williamson, Criminal
 Scheduling Office 277-3602

KENT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Ernest W. Reposa, Clerk 822-1311
 222 Quaker Lane
 West Warwick, R.I. 02893
 Raymond D. Gallogly, Associate
 Jury Commissioner 822-0400
 222 Quaker Lane
 West Warwick, R.I. 02893
 Thomas G. Healey, Criminal Scheduling
 Officer 277-6645
 222 Quaker Lane
 West Warwick, R.I. 02893

WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Edgar J. Timothy, Clerk 783-5441
 1693 Kingstown Road
 West Kingston, R.I. 02892

NEWPORT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

John H. McGann, Clerk 846-5556
 Eisenhower Square
 Newport, R.I. 02840

FAMILY COURT

1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, R.I.

Charles E. Joyce, Administrator/Clerk 277-3331
 Joseph D. Butler, Deputy Court
 Administrator 277-3334
 John J. O'Brien, Master 277-3360
 Dolores M. Murphy, Chief Juvenile
 Intake Supervisor 277-3345
 Howard F. Foley, Chief Family
 Counselor 277-3362
 Raymond J. Gibbons, Supervisor of
 Collections 277-3356
 Mary A. McKenna, Fiscal Officer 277-3300
 George J. Salome, Chief Deputy Clerk
 (Domestic Relations) 277-3340
 Janet Diano, Principal Deputy Clerk
 (Juvenile) 277-3352
 Mary M. Lisi, CASA/GAL Director 277-6853

JUDICIAL COUNCIL:

1025 Fleet National Bank Building
 Providence, RI 02903
 Charles J. McGovern, Chairman
 Girard R. Visconti, Secretary 331-3563

DISTRICT COURT:

1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, R.I.

SIXTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Joseph Senerchia, Administrative
 Assistant to Chief Judge 277-6777
 Gerard J. Bouley, Chief Clerk 277-6703

FIRST DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Dorothy E. Chapman, Supervising
 Deputy Clerk 245-7977
 516 Main Street
 Warren, R.I. 02885

SECOND DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Francis W. Donnelly, Supervising
 Deputy Clerk 846-6500
 Eisenhower Square
 Newport, R.I. 02840

THIRD DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

James A. Signorelli, Supervising
 Deputy Clerk 822-1771
 222 Quaker Lane
 West Warwick, R.I. 02893

FOURTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Frank J. DiMaio, First Deputy Clerk 783-3328
 1693 Kingstown Road
 West Kingston, R.I. 02892

FIFTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Robert Kando, Supervising
 Deputy Clerk 722-1024
 145 Roosevelt Avenue
 Pawtucket, R.I. 02865

SEVENTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Alfred Soulliere, Supervising
 Deputy Clerk 762-2700
 24 Front Street
 Woonsocket, R.I. 02895

EIGHTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

William W. O'Brien, Supervising
 Deputy Clerk 944-5550
 275 Atwood Avenue
 Cranston, R.I. 02920

DISCIPLINARY BOARD:

250 Benefit Street
 Providence, R.I. 02903
 Jeremiah Lynch, Chairman
 Frank H. Carter, Disciplinary Counsel 277-3270

CASELOAD STATISTICS

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

ANNUAL CASEFLOW*	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Cases Docketed	460	486	608	643	592
Cases Disposed	418	478	544	581	629
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 42	+ 8	+ 64	+ 62	- 37
Cases Pending at Year End	569	577	641	703	666
Average Time to Disposition (in months)			13.1 mo.	12.3 mo.	13.1 mo.

TYPES OF CASES FILED	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Criminal	82	82	116	96	97
Civil	205	248	304	342	328
Certiorari	113	98	139	134	124
Other	60	58	49	71	43
TOTAL	460	486	608	643	592

*Collected for the Court Year, which runs from October 1 to September 30.

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CIVIL ACTIONS	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Total Cases Filed	4,608	5,158	5,159	5,542	5,224
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,138	2,290	2,094	2,064	2,043
Cases Disposed	<u>1,951</u>	<u>1,743</u>	<u>4,596</u>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>2,293</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 187	+ 547	- 2,502	- 86	- 250
Pending at Year End	7,567	8,112	4,597	4,707	4,522
KENT					
Total Cases Filed	967	1,033	1,054	1,054	989
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	454	437	478	496	433
Cases Disposed	<u>303</u>	<u>594</u>	<u>385</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>233</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 151	- 157	+ 93	+ 85	+ 200
Pending at Year End	649	527	620	611	811
WASHINGTON					
Total Cases Filed	415	476	495	694	501
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	171	158	164	178	177
Cases Disposed	<u>109</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>130</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 62	- 5	+ 47	- 81	+ 47
Pending at Year End	279	274	322	241	288
NEWPORT					
Total Cases Filed	363	420	450	467	498
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	189	141	132	137	157
Cases Disposed	<u>121</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>75</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 68	+ 20	+ 28	+ 65	+ 82
Pending at Year End	160	181	163	169	251
STATEWIDE					
Total Cases Filed	6,353	7,087	7,158	7,757	7,212
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,952	3,026	2,868	2,875	2,810
Cases Disposed	<u>2,484</u>	<u>2,621</u>	<u>5,202</u>	<u>2,892</u>	<u>2,731</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 468	+ 405	- 2,334	- 17	+ 79
Pending at Year End	8,655	9,094	5,702	5,728	5,872

RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

FELONIES	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	2,013	1,788	2,505	3,302	3,014
Cases Disposed	<u>1,686</u>	<u>3,098</u>	<u>2,232</u>	<u>2,543</u>	<u>2,912</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+327	-1,310	+273	+759	+102
Pending Cases Over 180 Days Old	1,826	512	388	707	*
KENT					
Cases Filed	541	354	621	697	753
Cases Disposed	<u>425</u>	<u>613</u>	<u>532</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>648</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+116	-259	+89	+189	+105
Pending Cases Over 180 Days Old	297	55	45	41	*
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	211	185	332	331	345
Cases Disposed	<u>177</u>	<u>184</u>	<u>491</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>281</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+34	+1	-159	+59	+64
Pending Cases Over 180 Days Old	240	208	45	83	*
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	120	188	209	246	288
Cases Disposed	<u>206</u>	<u>197</u>	<u>207</u>	<u>172</u>	<u>288</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-86	-9	+2	+74	0
Pending Cases Over 180 Days Old	136	74	82	67	*
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	2,885	2,515	3,667	4,576	4,400
Cases Disposed	<u>2,494</u>	<u>4,092</u>	<u>3,462</u>	<u>3,495</u>	<u>4,129</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+391	-1,577	+205	+1,081	+271
Pending Cases Over 180 Days Old	2,499	849	560	898	*
MISDEMEANOR APPEALS/TRANSFERS					
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Providence/Bristol	494	712	398	559	669
Kent	185	139	159	118	156
Washington	88	150	77	111	159
Newport	<u>87</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>180</u>
STATEWIDE TOTAL	854	1,067	772	901	1,164

*Unavailable at publication time.

RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT

JUVENILE CASEFLOW	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
JUVENILE REFERRALS					
Wayward/Delinquent			5,624	5,536	5,065
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	420	589	636	647	519
Termination of Parental Rights	134	137	201	297	266
Other			662	795	845
TOTAL REFERRALS	5,709	6,444	7,123	7,275	6,695
JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR RESULTS					
Cases Added	1,501	1,922	2,823	2,719	2,682
Cases Disposed	1,318	1,783	2,815	2,918	2,734
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+ 183	+ 139	+ 8	- 199	- 52
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases Over 90 Days Old	*	*	232	66	46
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW					
	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
DIVORCE PETITIONS FILED					
Providence/Bristol	2,849	3,242	3,163	3,240	3,217
Kent	796	912	925	922	896
Newport	428	493	542	501	502
Washington	496	541	561	565	522
STATEWIDE TOTAL	4,569	5,188	5,191	5,228	5,137
CONTESTED DIVORCE CASELOAD					
Cases Pending Over 180 Days	78	116	127	279	154
Cases Pending Over 360 Days	43	7	37	101	37

*The 90-day goal was adopted as of 1/1/81

RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
MISDEMEANORS					
Cases Filed	25,545	28,423	31,944	33,475	33,665
Cases Disposed	26,954	27,166	31,522	32,469	33,457
Caseload Increase/Decrease	- 1,409	+ 1,257	+ 422	+ 1,006	+ 208
Pending Cases Over 60 Days Old	*	*	*	321	352
Cases Appealed	285	291	411	457	278
Cases Transferred			321	632	934
TOTAL			732	1,089	1,212
FELONIES					
Charges Filed	5,868	7,297	7,878	8,584	8,275
CIVIL ACTIONS					
REGULAR CIVIL					
Cases Filed	22,378	23,425	23,308	23,689	22,625
Cases Disposed	17,393	18,425	20,174	20,016	18,842
Judgments	2,750	2,642	3,680	3,715	3,061
Defaults and Settlements	14,643	15,783	16,494	16,301	15,781
Appeals	433	530	441	473	483
SMALL CLAIMS					
Cases Filed	6,802	8,161	7,796	8,383	8,475
Cases Disposed	5,331	5,869	5,860	6,248	5,892
Judgments	622	985	632	885	739
Defaults and Settlements	4,709	4,884	5,228	5,363	5,153
Appeals	36	48	65	67	115

*The 60-day goal was adopted as of 1/1/81.