



1985

## Rhode Island Report on the Judiciary 1985

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STATE OF  
RHODE ISLAND  
REPORT ON THE JUDICIARY



1985

## TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

This is the eleventh annual report produced by the Administrative Office of State Courts, and it shows that the courts have continued to make improvements in several areas. Accomplishments for 1985 include the continued effort to meet speedy trial guidelines, major improvements to court buildings, and the work of study committees to resolve particular problems affecting the judicial system.

Some examples in the area of speedy trial are that the Supreme Court again disposed of more cases than were docketed and reduced the pending caseload to below 600 for the first time since 1979. The Family Court continued to meet speedy trial guidelines for wayward delinquent cases and succeeded in disposing of 99% of the juvenile cases that were added to the trial calendar. Also, Superior Court again conducted a special program to dispose of out-county major felony cases during the summer. The program results show that 59% of the cases transferred were disposed.

During 1985 the upgrading of court facilities continued to be a top priority. In April a five-million dollar rehabilitation project began on the Providence County Courthouse, and planning continued for the construction of a new courthouse in South County. The construction is expected to begin in the fall of 1986.

During the year several study committees addressed issues of vital importance to the court system. Among these were a committee to review bail practices, a committee to formulate uniform rules of evidence, and a committee to resolve problems with the assessment and collection of restitution and fines.

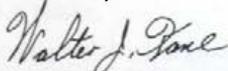
The Advisory Committee on Legal Reference and Research Needs developed a long-range plan, in July 1983, for the improvement of law library services throughout the state. Also, a Committee on Women in the Courts was appointed, making Rhode Island the third state in which the judiciary has taken the initiative in examining the treatment of women by the courts.

Finally, the courts have continued to introduce new technology where it will improve efficiency, such as the purchase of a computer-aided transcription system for court stenographers and the purchase of automated cash registers for the handling of fines, costs and bail in the district court.

The report which follows describes these efforts in more detail.

With all these improvements the judiciary received a mere 1.37% of the total state budget for 1985. Our concern remains that the judiciary is not receiving adequate funding to meet the demands placed on it.

Sincerely,



Walter J. Kane  
Administrator, State Courts

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This report covers calendar year 1985

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

250 Benefit Street

Providence, R. I. 02903

JOSEPH A. BEVILACQUA, Chief Justice, Supreme Court

WALTER J. KANE, Administrator, State Courts

SUSAN W. McCALMONT, Editor

RICHARD FINNEGAN, Production

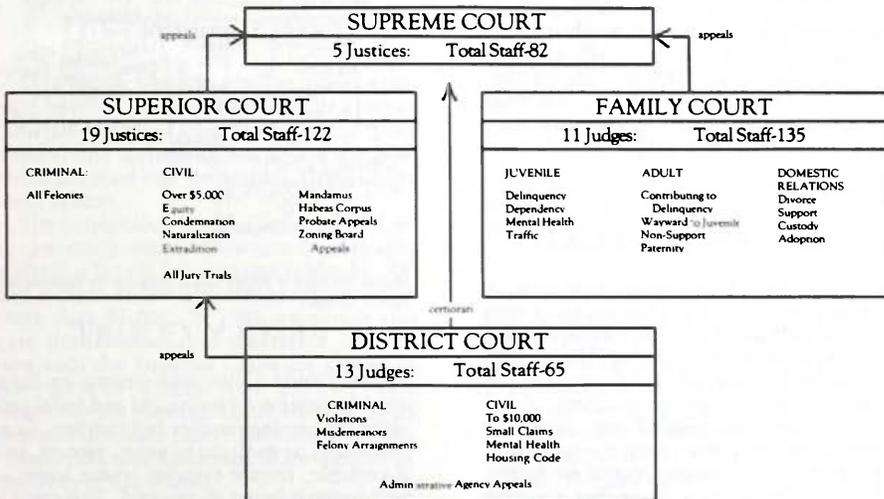
HENRY T. RANDALL, Photographer

# RHODE ISLAND COURT STRUCTURE

Rhode Island has a unified court system composed of four statewide courts: the District and Family Courts are trial courts of special jurisdiction, the Superior Court is the general trial court, and the Supreme Court is the court of review.

The entire system in Rhode Island is state-funded with the exception of Probate Courts, which are the responsibility of cities and towns; and the Municipal Courts, which are local courts of limited jurisdiction. The Chief

Justice of the Supreme Court is the executive head of the state court system and has authority over the judicial budget. The Chief Justice appoints a state court administrator and an administrative staff to handle budgetary and general administrative functions. Each court has responsibility over its own operations and has a chief judge who appoints an administrator to handle internal court management.



*Staffing and jurisdictional organization of the Rhode Island Courts.*

## SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court has final advisory and appellate jurisdiction on questions of law and equity, and it also has supervisory powers over the other state courts. In addition, the Supreme Court has general advisory responsibility to both the Legislative and Executive

branches of the state government concerning 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 state court system. The Chief Justice 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 the development and operation of automated information systems for all courts; 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 supervision of facilities.

The State Law Library is also under the direction of the Supreme Court. The library's primary function is to provide reference materials and research services for the judges and staff of the courts. However, it also serves the general community as the only comprehensive law library in the state.

## SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. Civil matters concerning claims in excess of \$5,000 and all equity proceedings are heard in this court. The Superior Court also has original jurisdiction over all crimes and offenses except as otherwise provided by law, and thus all indictments by grand juries and informations charged by the Department of Attorney General are returned there. The Superior Court has appellate jurisdiction from decisions of local probate and municipal courts. Also, except as specifically provided by statute, criminal and civil cases tried in the District Court are brought to the Superior Court on appeal for a trial de novo. In addition, there are numerous appeals and statutory proceedings, such as redevelopment, land condemnation cases, zoning appeals, and enforcement of arbitrators' awards, which are under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court. The Superior Court also has concurrent jurisdiction with the Supreme Court over writs of

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



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

## 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, such as motions

relating to the distribution of property, alimony, support, and the custody of children. It also hears petitions for separate maintenance, and complaints regarding support for 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.

## DISTRICT COURT

Most people who come before courts in this state have contact initially with the District Court. Thus, the District Court has been divided into eight divisions to give the people of the state easy geographic access to the court system.

The jurisdiction of the District Court includes small claims that can be brought without a lawyer for amounts under \$1,000 and actions at law concerning claims of no more than \$5,000. In 1981 legislation also gave the District Court concurrent jurisdiction with the Superior Court for actions at law between \$5,000 and \$10,000 with transfer to the Superior Court available upon demand of either party. This court also has jurisdiction over violations of municipal ordinances or regulations.

The District Court also has original jurisdiction over misdemeanors where the right to a jury trial in the first instance has been waived. If a defendant invokes the right to a jury trial, the case is transferred to the Superior Court.

Unlike many limited jurisdiction courts, the Rhode Island District Court does not handle traffic violations, except for a very few of the most serious offenses.

Appeals from the District Court decisions in both civil and criminal cases go to the Superior Court for trial de novo. In actual practice, this right to a new trial is seldom



*Map of the State of Rhode Island showing the divisions of the District Court*

used, and District Court dispositions are final in 96.7% of all criminal cases and 98.5% of all civil cases. An additional category of minor offense, called violations, was created by the Legislature in 1976. Decisions of the District Court on violation cases are 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 the state tax administrator and 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.

# 1985 IN THE RHODE ISLAND COURTS

## JUDICIAL BUDGET COMPARISON

The court budget request for the 1985-86 fiscal year was presented to the Governor's Budget Office in the fall of 1984. The Governor's Budget Office usually makes some adjustments to this budget before including it in the total state budget which is submitted to the Legislature. The chart below compares the judicial budget with the total state budget for the last four fiscal years. These figures are actual expenditures, while the figures used for 1985-86 fiscal year are the amounts allocated by the Legislature.

Prior to 1981, the judiciary received slightly in excess of 1.4% share of the state budget. However, as noted above, after 1982 the judicial budget share has fallen below that level. The fiscal 1985-86 allocation to the judiciary represents the smallest dollar increase in over a decade. This increase of about one-half of a million dollars is approximately one third of the previous year's increase.

	1981-1982	1982-1983	1983-1984	1984-1985	1985-1986
STATE BUDGET	1,134,540,620	1,170,913,932	1,241,831,166	1,366,811,928	1,396,120,637
Increase	67,445,870	36,373,312	70,917,234	124,980,762	29,308,709
JUDICIAL BUDGET	16,165,979	15,819,883*	17,282,692	18,638,929	19,195,033
Increase	643,002	-346,096*	1,462,809	1,597,675	556,104
JUDICIAL SHARE	1.42%	1.34%	1.39%	1.36%	1.37%

\*2.14% decrease (\$703,892 saved from original allocation)

# SUPREME COURT

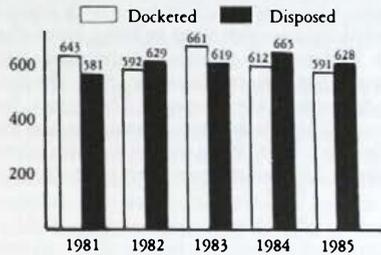
## APPELLATE CASELOAD REDUCED BELOW 600

The 1985 Supreme Court term which ended on September 30th was again a successful one. For the second year in a row, the court disposed of more cases than were docketed. This marks only the third time in over ten years that dispositions have exceeded new appeals. In addition, this term the court was able to reduce the pending caseload to below 600 for the first time since 1979. Clearly these results show that the court's efforts to increase dispositions and control new appeals have had a profound effect.

Part of what made this a successful term was that new appeals were at their lowest level since 1979. The total number docketed this year was 591, whereas from 1980 through 1984, the total consistently rose above 600. The major difference this term was in appeals from the Workers' Compensation Commission. With the new legislation in effect, there was only one appeal filed in this category compared to 77 last term and 95 the previous term. However, the trade off has been an increase in petitions for writs of certiorari, which is now the route of appeal from decisions by the Workers' Compensation Commission. This year there were 177 petitions for certiorari filed compared to 128 last term. Thus, the net drop in appeals due to the new legislation has been 25, which is approximately the difference in docketed cases between this term and last term.

The number of cases disposed this term was 628, which was 37 less than the total for last term. Although dispositions were lower compared to last year, the disposition rate for the two terms was just about the same. In 1984 the rate was 108% of filings, and this term it was 106%. (The rate of criminal appeals this term was 100%.) The difference this term in the number of cases disposed was due primarily to a decrease in criminal dispositions. There were 84 appeals disposed in this category compared to 107 last term. Although there was also a large drop in the disposition of workers' compensation appeals, this was offset by an increase in the

CASES DOCKETED vs. CASES DISPOSED  
End of Term



disposition of petitions for certiorari. Disposition of workers' compensation appeals fell by 60, and disposition of petitions for certiorari rose by 50.

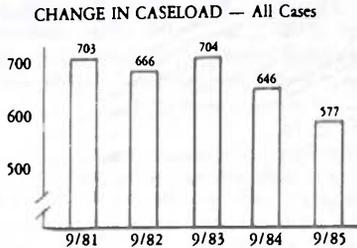
The drop in dispositions was almost entirely in the number disposed on the show cause calendar. Last term there were 189 cases disposed at this stage, and this term the total was 135.

The average time to disposition from the time of docketing this term for all cases was 13.7 months compared to 14.7 last term. (For criminal cases the average was only 8.9 months.) Also, of the 628 cases disposed, 234 or 37% took less than six months. This percentage was comparable to last year's results.

At the end of the term, there were 577 appeals pending, which is the lowest number since 1979. Civil appeals showed the largest decrease, and for the first time since 1980 the number in this category has dropped to below 400. The total pending at the end of the term was 385. Pending criminal appeals also dropped by five cases, but what is most significant about this category is that at the end of the term there were only three cases of this type pending with both briefs filed. Petitions for writ of certiorari were the only major category showing an increase. The number pending in this category rose from 104 to 117.

The backlog of cases with both briefs filed has almost been eliminated. At the end of the term, there were 203 cases pending at this stage, enough for next term's oral argument calendar. However, a new bottleneck has

developed, which is the cases awaiting the appellant's brief. There were 282 cases pending at this stage at the end of the term, and more than one half of them (144 cases) had been at this point for over 130 days. This delay is caused because the time to file a brief does not begin until after a pre-briefing conference, but the statistics count from the time of docketing the appeal. The court has allocated additional resources to shorten the time that elapses from the time of docketing to the holding of the pre-briefing conference.



## PRE-BRIEFING EXPANDED

The pre-briefing procedure for screening all civil and criminal appeals before full briefing and argument underwent some changes in September, 1985. Whereas, previously two to three conference days per month were scheduled, under the new plan conferences are held four days of each month, one day with each Associate Justice. Approximately eight cases per conference day are heard by the justice for a total of thirty-two cases per month. In preparation for the conference all attorneys of record are notified and a memo is prepared by the staff attorney's office. This memo sets forth the factual and procedural posture of the cases, discusses the issues raised and recommends the disposition, whether the case should be fully briefed or assigned to the show cause calendar.

The goal of this procedure is to hold as many conferences per month as is necessary to remain even with the number of appeals filed. Among other benefits, this will decrease the lag time between docketing of an appeal and submission of briefs for those cases that are assigned to a full hearing. For

those cases in which summary disposition is appropriate, the time between docketing and disposition will be reduced. In either instance, the actual amount of time a case is pending before the court will decrease.

## LAW LIBRARY COLLECTION APPROACHES 100,000 VOLUMES

The State Law Library continued to make significant progress in a number of areas during 1985. Of particular note, the library was the beneficiary of long-awaited physical improvements to the Providence County Courthouse. As a part of Phase I of the building renovation, the State Law Library was closed for a period of nine weeks during the month of August, while construction crews replaced a leaking roof and interior storm drains, repaired crumbling plaster, and gave the entire library a fresh coat of paint. During this period, the library moved its base of operations to the branch library in the Garrahy Judicial Complex. In future phases of the project, the library will receive air conditioning, carpeting, new furnishings and improved lighting.

For the first time in many years, appropriations for law books and other legal materials reached a level which will permit the staff to purchase the most significant of the new legal titles as well as supplements to all existing legal works. As the primary legal research collection in Rhode Island, the State Law Library strives to provide the widest range of legal materials possible within its budgetary allowance to meet the growing legal reference needs of a broad-based constituency, including not only judges, lawyers and government employees, but an increasing number of students and private citizens.

The library acquired over 1,700 new hard-copy volumes in 1985, in addition to over 1,200 volumes in the microfiche format, bringing the total collection to nearly 100,000 volumes. As the year drew to a close, the library anticipated the delivery of an electronic theft detection system which should significantly reduce the number of volumes which are stolen annually from its shelves.

Finally, under the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Legal Reference and Research Needs, the library anticipates a number of developments which will improve the overall quality of library services, including the introduction of the Westlaw computerized legal research system, an increase in professional staff, and the addition of limited evening hours.



*Law library acquires over 1,700 new volumes in 1985.*

## SENTENCING STUDY COMMITTEE EXAMINES BAIL PRACTICES

In early 1985, the Chief Justice charged the Sentencing Study Committee with responsibility for reviewing bail practices. The catalyst for initiating such a project was a report by the Governor's Task Force on Prison Overcrowding which questioned whether defendants are being needlessly confined in the intake/awaiting trial unit of the Adult Correctional Institutions, particularly persons charged with misdemeanors. The Task Force recommended that a committee be established to formulate standards for bail. It was the Task Force's assumption that a more uniform approach would help to alleviate the overcrowding problem.

The Chief Justice charged the committee to investigate whether, in fact, there are wide differences in bail setting practices among District, Family and Superior Court judges

and whether the amount of bail imposed is often excessive. If so, the committee was directed to propose a set of bail guidelines and a method for implementing them.

As a first step, the committee decided to collect information about bail setting and any other possible causes of overcrowding.

One facet of the study was performed by two consultants from the National Institute of Corrections Jail Center. In their final report to the committee they proposed several reforms to bail setting. One proposal was to improve the bail commissioner system by establishing a rotating schedule for commissioners. This would prevent police departments from seeking out those commissioners most likely to agree with their recommendations. Another recommendation was to set up a bail schedule for commissioners covering certain types of offenses.

The Jail Center also proposed an immediate review of cases where defendants cannot make bail before they are transported to the ACI. If it is found that the defendants have strong community ties then the cases should immediately be reviewed by a judge.

A final issue addressed in the Jail Center's report was the large backlog of felony cases pending in Providence County and the effect this has had on the numbers of people being held in the ACI awaiting trial section. The recommendation for reducing this problem was to give the highest priority to jail cases and to reinstitute the jail list which was at one time produced by the Department of Attorney General.

The Bail Study Committee is reviewing the report of the Jail Center and also doing further data gathering on the causes of the overcrowding. The committee anticipates that it will present its findings some time in 1986.

## FIRST DRAFT OF UNIFORM RULES OF EVIDENCE

In December, 1980, Chief Justice Joseph A. Bevilacqua announced the appointment of a Special Committee to Develop Uniform Rules of Evidence. The charge to the Committee was to assist in formulating rules of

evidence which would apply to proceedings in all state courts.

The Committee appointed by the Chief Justice is broadly representative of the legal community and includes members of the judiciary, representatives of the Department of the Attorney General and the Public Defender, members of the private bar, and General Assembly members. Supreme Court Associate Justice Florence K. Murray was asked to serve as committee chairperson.

Professor Eric D. Green of the Boston University School of Law serves as consultant to the Committee, and Attorney Bruce E. Vealey is the staff attorney.

After four years of work, the Rules of Evidence Committee met and unanimously approved a tentative draft of the Rhode Island Rules of Evidence in March, 1985.

This draft was presented to the members of the judiciary at the Judicial Education Conference in April. Professor Eric Green presented the draft rules and answered questions and received comments and suggestions from the judiciary.

At the request of Justice Florence Murray the members of the several Courts met in the Fall to discuss the proposed rules in detail and also submit suggested revisions to the Committee.

In January, 1986, Professor Green will again address the Judicial Education Seminar on the proposed Rules of Evidence to discuss the revisions suggested by the several Courts.

The Rules of Evidence Committee is then scheduled to meet in February to discuss and consider the revisions. Following this meeting the draft Rules will be submitted to the members of the Bar for comment at a seminar organized by the Rhode Island Law Institute. Justice Murray plans to have a finalized draft of the Rules available to the Bar for the seminar.

The Committee plans to make its final recommendations and submit the proposed Rules to the Supreme Court in June, 1986.

## COMMITTEE ON WOMEN IN THE COURTS COLLECTS EVIDENCE OF GENDER BIAS

In 1984, Chief Justice Joseph A. Bevilacqua appointed a Committee on the Treatment of Women in the Courts. His charge to the Committee was to examine the extent of gender bias in the court system and to propose programs to eliminate the problem. Associate Justice Corinne P. Grande of the Superior Court was named chair of this committee.

Rhode Island is the third state in which the judiciary has taken the initiative in examining the treatment of women by the courts. The other two states which have undertaken similar studies are New Jersey and New York. Rhode Island's interest in such a study developed when Judge Marilyn Loftus, chair of the New Jersey Task Force, discussed the work of her task force at the 1984 judicial conference. Another factor was a report by the Rhode Island Bar Association's Committee on Sex Discrimination which cited instances of sex discrimination on the part of judges, court personnel and opposing counsel.

In developing a study approach the committee's major concern was to be sure that the findings would be based on an objective documentation of the problem. This concern was echoed by Judge Loftus, who strongly recommended involving a research professional to be sure that data gathering would be done in a valid manner. Therefore, the committee hired a consultant with both work experience in government and an extensive background in studying behavior.

Based on the consultant's recommendation, the study is being done in three phases. The first two parts, which have been completed, focused on collecting objective evidence of gender bias in the courts. The third part will survey court personnel, judges, attorneys and jurors concerning their perceptions of gender bias. This three-part approach was adopted so that the results from each can be compared.

Phase one was completed in June and involved direct observation of courtroom behavior. The purpose of this phase was to

determine if any of the standard behavior implying inferior status or stereotypical expectations of women occurred. The observers included volunteers and court staff, and altogether they spent approximately 48 hours in court. The types of behavior they recorded included the following:

1. ignoring or being inattentive to women speakers;
2. addressing women using first names, terms of endearment, or other informal salutations as opposed to the formal address expected in the courtroom;
3. making extraneous comments having no relevance to the case under discussion which contain a gender bias, such as comments on appearance or dress;
4. using sex stereotypes to support or elaborate on an argument;
5. adopting stereotypical male or female roles in conducting the argument of a case;
6. making inappropriate physical contact in the courtroom.



*Judge Bedoniat hears a request for temporary restraining order. Procedure studied by the Committee on Women in the Courts*

Phase two was completed in September and involved a review of 488 case files selected from the Superior and Family Courts. District Court case records were not included because they were not computerized at the time of the survey. Also, Supreme Court cases were not included, because these cases involve the validity of the lower court rulings and are not a reflection of the characteristics of the defendants, plaintiffs, or their attorneys. The pur-

pose of this phase was to test whether court decisions vary systematically with the sex of the parties, attorneys or the judge. Another aspect of part two involved a review of attorney appointments by the court to represent indigent defendants to determine if sex is a factor in the selection.

Phase three will be done in 1986 and will involve a survey of judges, attorneys, jurors, and court employees concerning their own experiences and perceptions of gender bias in the courts.

The findings of phases one and two suggest that there is gender bias in the Rhode Island court system. Women appear to be treated differently or are subject to different behavioral expectations because they are women. The following are several major findings from phases one and two:

1. There are about two (1.7) gender bias events per hour of court.
2. Attorneys are the most likely court participants to use some form of gender bias in their behavior.
3. Men are twice as likely as women to show a gender bias event in their behavior.
4. The most common form of gender bias involves form of address.
5. There is evidence of gender bias in the decisions of certain types of cases.
6. There is evidence of gender bias in the appointment of attorneys to represent indigents, although the results vary court to court.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL REFERENCE AND RESEARCH NEEDS RECOMMENDS INSTALLATION OF WESTLAW AND INCREASE IN LIBRARY HOURS

Since its first meeting in July, 1983, the Advisory Committee on Legal Reference and Research Needs has worked to develop a long-range plan for the improvement of law library services throughout the state. The commit-

tee is chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Thomas F. Kelleher, and the members represent the various segments of the legal community which use the Law Library and have an interest in the improvement of library services.

The committee submitted a final report to the Chief Justice in September, 1985, and made the following recommendations:

1. The various library facilities should be upgraded, especially those in Newport and Washington Counties.
2. The library facilities should be open in the evening.
3. The library staff should be increased to accommodate the longer hours of operation, computerized legal research services, and increased patron usage.
4. The Westlaw computerized legal research system should be installed in the State Law Library with some provision for use by the public.
5. The library collections should be upgraded in specific areas.
6. The Supreme Court should consider an attorney assessment to generate additional funding for the library.
7. A user fee should be devised for special library services such as Westlaw.



*Security system installed in Law Library.*

## AUTOMATION OF CENTRAL REGISTRY COMPLETED

During 1985 the last step was completed in fully automating the files of the Central Registry. This last step involved entering information from all of the Registry's pending accounts. With all of the records now on a computer file, the Registry can closely monitor the progress of each probationer in meeting the payment terms of his/her court restitution.

The Registry now automatically notifies the Probation Department whenever a probation period is about to expire and restitution has not been fully paid. This allows probation to focus its limited resources on those cases requiring closer supervision.

Computerization of the Central Registry records has eliminated the tedious and time-consuming task of manually compiling reports on delinquent payments. It should also result in more money being collected for crime victims, and the waiting period for reimbursement should be reduced.



*Registry's pending accounts are entered onto a computer file.*

## ADMINISTRATION

### REHABILITATION OF PROVIDENCE COUNTY COURTHOUSE BEGINS

During 1985 the upgrading of court facilities continued to be a top priority. A five-million dollar rehabilitation project began on the Providence County Courthouse in April. This project involved constructing one of the most difficult scaffolding systems ever erected on a Rhode Island building. Dimeo Construction Co. erected the intricate, 23,000-piece Patent Scaffolding system around the courthouse over a period of two-and-a-half months. The scaffolding contained some 4,000 steel frames, about 19,000 cross braces and hinge pins, and thousands of feet of planks. Workmen had to secure the scaffolding at approximately 350 locations and anchor the system to steel plates which were fastened by half-inch diameter bolts driven through the mortar.

The rehabilitation project concentrated on replacement of 38,000 square feet of slate roofing and the replacement of leaking roof drains and about 120 internal rain leaders. Leaking from the roof and drains had caused extensive damage to walls, ceilings, floors, elaborate woodwork, and ornate plaster within many areas of the courthouse.

Crews also replaced more than 600 windows in the building with new thermally efficient windows made to resemble the original ones. It is estimated that 20% of the building's heating costs will be saved because of the installation of some 16,000 square feet of new thermal glass.

Workers also repaired ornamental lighting fixtures, damaged limestone ballusters and ornamental trim, as well as the gold leaf on the tower roof and weathervane. Another phase of the restoration involved washing and repointing the brick facade and, in some areas, removing the old mortar and replacing it with new mortar and a sealant.

In addition to the exterior improvements to the Providence Courthouse, renovations were also completed to the Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court. These improvements in-

cluded reorganization of the office space. They also included installation of an acoustical ceiling, state of the art non-glare lighting, and acoustical partitions. The acoustics of the office were further improved by the use of vinyl wall covering and by the carpeting of the office area. This new setting was enhanced by the purchase of new office furniture.

The plans for construction of a new courthouse in South County also progressed in 1985. In late December, 1984, the Public Buildings Authority sold four million dollars worth of bonds for the construction of the new courthouse which is to be located on the former Mount St. Joseph College property. An architect was chosen in June, 1985, and during the same period a space management consultant was hired. Court administrators met with the Washington County Bar Association in June, and in December they held a public meeting. Both meetings confirmed support for the new courthouse.



*New courthouse in South County to replace this outdated Washington County Courthouse.*

The design of the facility is proceeding and construction is expected to begin in the Fall of 1986. The new courthouse will accommodate the needs of the Superior, Family, and District Courts for Washington County. The building will provide approximately 40,000 square feet of space for four courtrooms; judges' chambers; attorney-client conference rooms; clerks' offices; a prisoner holding area; child care facilities; petit jury facilities; office space for the Department of Attorney General, the Public Defender and probation; a law library; a grand jury room and a sheriff's office.

### COMMITTEE STUDIES PROBLEMS WITH RESTITUTION AND FINES

The Committee on Restitution and Fines was formed by Walter J. Kane, State Court Administrator, in the Fall of 1985. The purpose was to resolve problems with the assessment and collection of restitution and fines. The committee members include judges of the Superior and District Courts, staff members of the Clerks' Offices of the Superior and District Courts, a staff member of the Supreme Court Central Registry, a representative of the Department of Attorney General, and a representative of Probation.

One topic of discussion was the recent R.I. Supreme Court decision, *State v. Linda M. Santos*, published on September 19, 1985. According to the *Santos* decision the state cannot use criminal sanctions to collect restitution after probation has expired, and thus the victim must continue any further action civilly.

In response to the *Santos* decision, the committee recommended requiring that restitution be paid in full some time prior to the end of probation. The committee agreed that probation should be extended when the defendant does not pay according to schedule and that the payment should only be forgiven when the defendant is not capable of paying and/or has been incarcerated due to failure to make payment.

Another issue discussed by the committee was the need to develop procedures for determining what restitution should be. The committee agreed that insurance companies representing victims should pursue any civil remedies that are available and that the court's role should be to order reimbursement for victims for their out-of-pocket expenses only.

The committee is looking into possible ways of determining what the victim's actual losses are and will continue to meet and address other problems with the collection of fines and restitution.

# SUPERIOR COURT

## SUPERIOR COURT FILINGS INCREASE IN 1985

The results for 1985 show that there has been an increase in the Superior Court workload in the number of felony filings and in the number of cases added to the civil trial calendar. On the other hand, there was a slight decrease this year in misdemeanor appeals.

The largest area of growth has been the felony caseload. Filings in this category totalled 4,780 cases statewide for 1985. This was higher than the number filed in any of the previous five years, and compared to last year it represents an increase of 515 cases, or 12%. However, not all of the counties showed increases. Felony filings in Washington and Newport Counties were almost unchanged from 1984; Providence had an increase of 297 cases, or ten percent; and Kent County showed a significant growth of over 30%. In Kent County, felony filings for 1985 totalled 909 cases, compared to 697 last year.

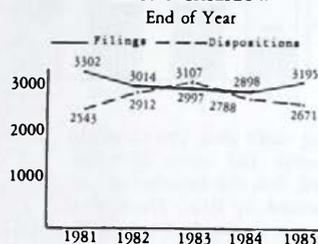
On the civil side there were increases in both total filings and in the number of cases added to the trial calendar in Providence County, while in the other counties the numbers were approximately the same as in 1984. In Providence, civil filings rose to 5,653 for the year, which is an increase of about 500 cases. There were also 2,196 civil cases added to the trial calendar, which was approximately 300 more cases than in 1984. However, the 1984 number was especially low for Providence, since the number of added cases usually does not vary greatly from between 2,000 and 2,100.

The only category of filings which did not increase statewide was misdemeanor appeals. There were 930 cases of this type filed this year, which was 73 less than the year before. However, again the pattern varied from county to county. In Newport and Providence Counties misdemeanor appeals were lower compared to last year. There were 486 appeals filed in Providence compared to 538 a year ago, and there were 96 cases filed in Newport, compared to 199 in 1984. There was no change in Washington County, and

in Kent County, filings increased by 75 cases compared to a year ago.

At the same time that filings increased in two of the three major categories, the number of dispositions decreased, and dispositions did not keep pace with filings.

PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY  
FELONY CASEFLOW



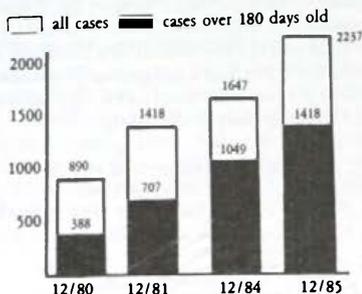
In Providence County the gap between filings and dispositions increased during 1985 for two of the major case categories — felonies and civil cases. For felonies, the number disposed was 2,671, which was 117 cases less than in 1984, and dispositions were 524 cases below filings; whereas the previous year the gap was 110 cases. Likewise, on the civil calendar, there were 1,653 cases disposed in 1985. This was a drop in dispositions of 242 cases compared to the prior year, and the difference between added and disposed cases was 543, whereas in 1984 it was only 49 cases.

As a result, the pending caseload for both felonies and civil matters continued to increase in Providence County. The pending felony caseload has now climbed to 2,237, which is the highest it has been since 1978, and the number of cases over 180 days old reached 1,418, or 64%, of the total, which is also the highest it has been in seven years.

On the civil trial calendar the number pending at the end of the year was 5,222, which is the highest it has been since October, 1980.

In the counties the results were more positive. For example, although there was a gap between felony filings and dispositions, there was no change in the number of

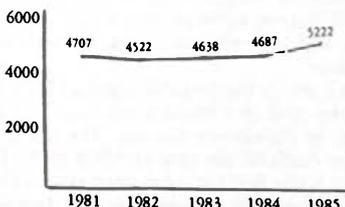
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY  
PENDING ACTIVE FELONY CASES



pending cases over 180 days old. This year there were 182 more felonies filed than disposed, but the number of older cases only increased by five. There were 176 cases pending at the end of the year which were more than 180 days old.

The felony backlog in each county at the end of the year was as follows: Kent had 106 cases over 180 days old, which represents 39% of that county's caseload; Washington had 52 cases in this category, which is 38% of the pending cases; and Newport had 18 cases, which is 19% of the total.

PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY  
CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR CASELOAD  
End of Year



On the civil side there were more cases disposed on the trial calendar than were added in Kent County, and thus the number of pending civil trials was reduced from 788 to 678 this year. However, in both Washington and Newport Counties the number pending trial increased. In Washington County the number rose from 133 to 193 and in Newport it went from 164 to 219.

## MAJOR FELONIES DISPOSED DURING SUMMER SESSION

Under the direction of Presiding Justice Anthony A. Giannini, the 1985 summer period marked the second consecutive year of a special effort to dispose of out-county major felony cases. Thirty-seven capital cases (i.e., murder, robbery, first degree sexual assault, first degree child molestation, first degree arson) were transferred to Providence County Superior Court from Kent and Washington counties and scheduled for trial throughout the summer session.

The results were impressive: 59% of the cases transferred were disposed. Those cases not disposed were reassigned for trial with priority in the county of original jurisdiction.

Following the successful summer program of 1984, additional judicial resources were made available throughout the summer of 1985. Although judges were assigned to hear both criminal and civil matters, a higher priority was placed on reaching these capital cases for trial.

## COMPUTER-AIDED TRANSCRIPTION TECHNOLOGY INTRODUCED

In the Winter of 1985, a Stenographer's Conference was held for both Superior and Family Court stenographers to discuss computer-aided transcription (CAT) technology. Following a keynote address by Mr. William Oliver, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Shorthand Reporters Association, a panel of vendors described the features of their computer products and answered questions from the audience. Demonstrations were then conducted by the vendors in order to familiarize the stenographers with the different types of available CAT equipment.

The potential for CAT is considerable. CAT technology eliminates some of the time-consuming steps in preparing transcripts. Under the CAT system, stenographers still produce notes with a stenotype machine in the courtroom. However, a cassette copy of the notes is simultaneously produced by the CAT stenotype machine. The stenographer

then processes the cassette into a computer, which translates the stenographic shorthand into English. The stenographer then reviews the transcript either on a video terminal or in printed form and, after editing this copy, the final copy of the transcript can be produced.

Since the benefits of CAT are many, and the response of the stenographers enthusiastic, it is anticipated that 1986 will see the introduction of CAT technology for use by Superior and Family Court stenographers.



*Computer-aided transcription (CAT) reduces steps in preparing transcripts.*

# FAMILY COURT

## FAMILY COURT MEETS SPEEDY TRIAL GUIDELINES

During 1985, the court experienced another year when filings in most categories of the court's jurisdiction increased. The following chart compares 1984 and 1985 filings.

FILINGS			
	1984	1985	%
Domestic Relations Filings	4,773	5,015	5.1
Juvenile Filings	6,701	6,584	-1.8
Domestic Abuse Filings	981	1,487	51.6
Paternity Filings	784	1,046	33.4
URESA Filings	1,896	1,689	-10.9
Consent for Abortion	132	145	9.8
Adult Criminal	71	86	21.1

As a whole, juvenile filings were slightly lower in 1985 than in the previous year. The total number filed was 6,584, which was 122 less than in 1984. The reason for the decline was a drop in wayward/delinquent filings, which is the largest category of juvenile cases. There were 4,611 cases filed of this type in 1985, which was 120 less than the total for 1984. However, despite the overall decrease in juvenile filings, dependency/neglect/abuse referrals rose significantly. New cases in this category climbed to 791 for the year, which was an increase of 155, or 24%.

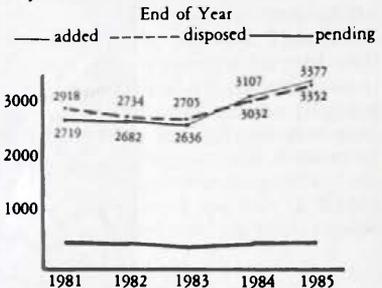
Although there were fewer juvenile cases filed for the year, the number of cases added to the trial calendar increased for the second time in a row. In fact, the number added, 3,377 cases, was a record high for the Family Court. Added cases in the wayward/delinquent category totaled 2,654, which was an increase of 126. In the dependency/neglect/abuse category they totaled 723, which was 144 more than in the previous year.

While juvenile filings decreased slightly, the number of cases disposed showed an increase. In 1985 total juvenile dispositions equalled 6,317, which was 96% of the cases filed. In comparison, in 1984, the number disposed was 5,767, which was 86% of filings. Of the 6,317 dispositions this year,

1,498, or 24%, were handled non-judicially by Intake or the Youth Diversionary Unit. Another 1,467, or 23%, were disposed at arraignment, and the remaining 3,352, or 53%, were disposed at pre-trial or trial.

Dispositions at the intake level increased this year by 386, at the pre-trial and trial stage they rose by 320, and it was only at arraignment where the number disposed dropped by 260 cases.

JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR RESULTS



With the increase in juvenile dispositions on the trial calendar this year, the court succeeded in disposing of 99% of the cases that were added, and the difference between added and disposed cases was only 25.

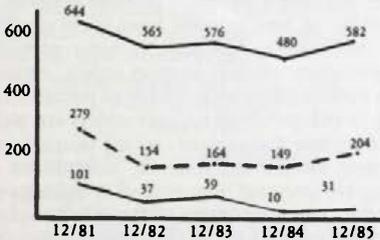
As a result, at the end of the year there were 415 cases pending on the juvenile calendar compared to 390 a year ago. Of this total 263, or 63%, were wayward/delinquent cases and 152 were dependency/neglect/abuse or other civil matters. Whereas wayward/delinquent cases awaiting trial showed a decrease of 21 compared to last year, the civil cases jumped by 43% from 106 to 152. Likewise, the number of wayward/delinquent cases over 90 days old dropped from 40 to 32, while the civil backlog has risen from 39 to 67.

On the domestic relations side, there was an increase in divorce petitions this year. The total filed was 5,015, which was about 240 more than in 1983 or 1984, but was lower than in the previous three years. Also the number of contested cases added to the calendar rose this year from 802 to 842. Unfor-

unately, dispositions of contested cases dropped significantly. A year ago the number disposed was 898, whereas this year it was 740. Due to the increase in added cases and the drop in dispositions, the number pending on the contested calendar increased by 102 cases, from 480 to 582. The drop in dispositions also affected the age of the pending cases. At the end of the year there were 204 contested matters over 180 days old compared to 149 a year ago, and there were 31 cases over a year old compared to ten in 1984. This year the average time to disposition for contested cases was 225 days, which was just about the same as in 1984.

#### CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR RESULTS

— total pending  
 - - - pending over 180 days old  
 — pending over 360 days old



## CASA EXPANDS TO THE COUNTIES

The Court Appointed Special Advocate program was established by the Family Court in 1978 as a pilot project providing lay volunteers as advocates for neglected and abused children. The CASA's primary objective is to insure that every child who comes into foster care has a permanent placement as soon as possible.

Originally, the CASA staff was located only in Providence and consisted of twelve full-time employees. In November, 1985, CASA increased its staff by adding three new positions: a lawyer, a program coordinator, and a secretary. The expansion has enabled CASA to extend its services into Kent County, Newport County and Washington County, with a satellite office located in the Kent County Courthouse in West Warwick.

In 1985 the CASA program was responsi-

ble for representing the best interests of over 1,600 children in foster care.



*CASA staff plans expansion to the counties.*

## CHILD SUPPORT INFORMATION SYSTEM TO BE IMPROVED

For the past several years the Family Court and the Bureau of Family Support have jointly operated an automated system for child support collection and disbursement. This system has also been used by the Bureau of Family Support to monitor child support payments to insure that payers are conforming to their child support orders.

Because child support payments have increased substantially since the time that this system was designed, and because federal and state laws have been significantly modified to insure that child support payments are being made in a timely fashion, a need has developed to modify the present automated system to provide for an on-line, real time system that will generate new management reports and also provide better internal accounting controls.

Recognizing this need, the federal government has contracted with a private consultant to determine the needs and objectives of the project, determine the enhancements to the system required to meet these needs and objectives, and perform a cost/benefit analysis which essentially determines the cost-worthiness of the project. During 1985, the consultant documented the present system and its deficiencies and also completed a study of the enhancements necessary to upgrade the present system. The cost/benefit

analysis is to be completed by April, 1986. The services of this contractor were completely funded by the federal government.

When the cost/benefit analysis is completed, the state and federal government will review the project and make a determination regarding the programming of a new automated child support system. The federal government will provide 86.45% funding for the cost of reprogramming.

## FAMILY COURT BENCHBOOK COMPLETED

In December of 1982 the National Center for State Courts received a \$33,700 grant from the Champlin Foundation to prepare a benchbook for the Rhode Island Family Court. Chief Judge Gallogly designated Associate Justice Carmine R. DiPetrillo to be the Family Court liaison with the National Center's project director, David Steelman.

The benchbook is designed to give the Family Court a step-by-step checklist of procedures relating to all types of cases within the court's jurisdiction. Additionally, the benchbook lists important state and federal decisions affecting each segment of the court's jurisdiction.

During May of 1985, the three-volume benchbook (Volume 1 — Domestic Relations; Volume 2 — Juvenile; Volume 3 — Adult Criminal, Jury and Miscellaneous) was printed and distributed to the judges, Master and appropriate clerks' offices. This three-volume work has been an excellent resource which has assisted judges in the hearing of cases and in the writing of decisions.

The original three-volume benchbook reflected legislative enactments through the June, 1984, session of the Rhode Island General Assembly, as well as decisions of the United States Supreme Court through July 5, 1984, and the Rhode Island Supreme Court through July 5, 1985.

In order for the benchbook to continue to be a useful resource, it is necessary that it be updated periodically to reflect new legislation and case law. As a result, Judge DiPetrillo has been preparing such revisions. It is estimated that the three volumes will be

updated during the Spring of 1986 to reflect legislative enactments of the 1985 General Assembly as well as decisions of the United States Supreme and Rhode Island Supreme Courts through the middle of 1985.

Because the three volumes are presently maintained on this court's word processing system, updating of the benchbook will be greatly facilitated. So that the judges will be aware that a section has been updated, it is envisioned that such sections will be color-coded with a special notation as to the date of updating.

## CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS INCREASE

Because of the federal and state concern over the timely payment of child support, a number of new statutes have been enacted by the General Assembly to assist with the enforcement of child support orders. Among the various resources available to parties seeking to enforce child support orders are wage and income assignment, set off of state and federal income tax refunds, assignment of tangible personal property of a delinquent spouse, and assignment of pension benefits.

As a result of these new statutes and the court's interest in the enforcement of child support orders, collections through the Family Court have increased appreciably during the past three calendar years. This is demonstrated by a comparison between child support collections for calendar year 1985 and collections for 1983. During the latter year Family Court collections totalled \$7,368,648, whereas in 1985 collections totalled \$10,140,017. This represents a 37.6% increase in child support collections over a two-year period.

The Family Court will continue to support legislation needed to strengthen child support enforcement by working with the Joint Legislative Commission on Child Support Enforcement and the Bureau of Family Support. Additionally, the court will continue to work with the Legislative Commission and the Bureau of Family Support to institute administrative procedures that will allow for the timely hearing of child support matters.

# DISTRICT COURT

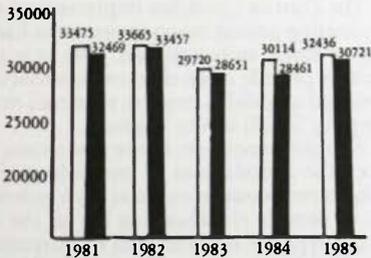
## CIVIL FILINGS INCREASE

The District Court report covers the full calendar year. The Court's workload increased in all areas during 1985. For example, misdemeanor filings, which totalled 30,114 in 1984, rose this year to 32,436. However, even though misdemeanor filings were higher compared to the prior year, they still did not reach the levels of 1981 and 1982. In these two years, misdemeanor filings were at their highest point.

A breakdown of misdemeanor filings by division shows that six of the eight had increases this year, and in two divisions, the sixth and the seventh, misdemeanor filings were at an all-time high. The only two divisions with lower misdemeanor filings for 1985 were the first and second.

MISDEMEANORS and VIOLATIONS  
Filings vs. Dispositions  
End of Year

□ Filings    ■ Dispositions



Felony filings also increased compared to 1984 but they were still below the total for 1981, which was when felonies reached their highest level. The number of felonies filed in 1985 was 8,332. This was an increase of 216 over the previous year, but it was also about 3% less than in 1981.

On the civil side total filings were at an all-time high in 1985. Filings for the year totalled 33,393, which was 2,547, or 8.3% more than in 1984. Also in a break from recent trends, regular civil filings increased dramatically for the year while small claims levelled off. Regular civil filings have been

dropping for the past three years, and at their lowest point last year they dropped to 18,750. However, in a turnaround this year, the number jumped to 21,396, which was an increase of 2,637, or 14%. On the other hand, although small claims have risen each year since 1981, this year they showed almost no change. The total number filed in this category for the year was 11,997, which was 90 less than in 1984.

MISDEMEANOR AND VIOLATION  
FILINGS BY DIVISION

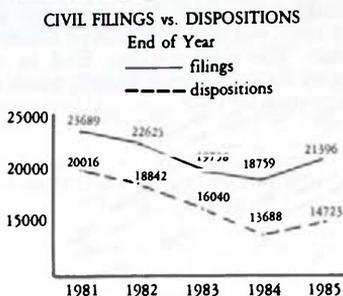
	1982	1983	1984	1985
1st	1201	972	1255	1196
2nd	4878	3984	3656	3405
3rd	5903	5384	5713	5899
4th	5350	4674	4285	4798
5th	3454	2926	3248	3624
6th	6345	6020	5883	6693
7th	2555	2312	2461	2779
8th	3979	3448	3612	4042

Along with the increase in filings this year there was an increase in dispositions for misdemeanors and for civil matters.

Misdemeanor dispositions rose to 30,721 for the year, which was an increase of 2,260, or almost 8% over the number for 1984. However, even with the increase, there were fewer cases disposed than were filed. The gap between filings and dispositions at the end of the year was 1,715. In addition, the disposition rate for misdemeanors showed almost no increase compared to 1984. In 1984 the court disposed of 94.5% of the misdemeanors filed, and in 1985 the percentage was 94.7%. This was slightly lower than in the previous four years.

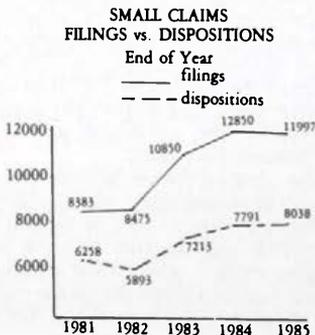
Also, despite the rise in dispositions, the number of misdemeanors pending more than 60 days grew significantly at the end of the year. The total number pending in this category was 635, which is the highest it has been at year's end since the 60-day guideline was adopted. The increase was due to six

police departments which have accumulated a higher than average number of older cases. These were Newport, with 30 cases; Warwick, with 33 cases; Pawtucket, with 59 cases; Providence, with 89; Woonsocket, with 35; and North Providence, with 40 cases. This was the first time that some of these departments have had a backlog of this size.



Dispositions were also higher this year on the civil side. The number of regular civil cases disposed rose from 13,688 in 1984 to 14,723, which was an increase of 1,035, or 7.5%. However, despite the increase, the disposition rate actually dropped. Last year dispositions equalled 72.9% of filings, and in the three previous years it was over 80%. In comparison, the percent dropped this year to 68.8%.

Small claims dispositions also rose, but only by 47 cases, which gave a total number disposed for the year of 8,038. Yet, although the increase in cases was marginal, the disposition rate for small claims went up from 64.4% last year to 67%.



## DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION EXPANDS

Legislation was passed in 1985 expanding the jurisdiction of the District Court to include the issuance of temporary and permanent restraining orders in cases of domestic assault.

Formerly only the Family Court could issue such orders, but the Family Court's jurisdiction is limited to cases where the parties are related by marriage or where there are children involved. The new legislation provides protection for individuals whose relationship would not come under the jurisdiction of the Family Court.

District Court judges report that the new remedy is being used, but that the added workload has not been excessive.

## CASH ACCOUNTING AUTOMATED

The District Court has implemented new accounting procedures to improve the handling of fines, costs and bail. The new procedures provide more effective financial controls and establish a uniform system of record keeping for all of the divisions.

A major component of the new system has been the introduction of new ledgers. The ledgers previously in use have been redesigned to provide classifications for all the different types of revenues and disbursements handled by the court. These classifications match those on the reports submitted monthly to the General Treasurer, which allows for easier internal control of moneys that are taken in and disbursed by the court.

Another important component of the system has been the installation of electronic cash registers. Use of these registers has eliminated some of the manual records which required several entries for each transaction and were a source of errors.

The next major step planned by the District Court is the introduction of automated accounting for bail. This is now in the test stage in one of the divisions, and



*Old accounts were hand-written.*

it is anticipated that it will be implemented courtwide by the end of 1986. Automating this process will eliminate many of the time-consuming reports that were previously done manually. For example, a printout from the system will take the place of the daily journal of transactions. The system will prepare the



*Electronic cash registers improve record keeping*

monthly report for the General Treasurer's Office. The system will also produce reports on unclaimed bail.

Another step proposed for the future is a computer program to maintain an inventory of all the equipment and machines in each of the divisions.

# 1985 COURT DIRECTORY

## SUPREME COURT

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

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, Associate Justice  
 CORINNE P. GRANDE, Associate Justice  
 ALBERT E. DeROBBI O., Associate Justice  
 DOMINIC F. CRESTO, Associate Justice  
 ANTONIO S. ALMEIDA, Associate Justice  
 FRANCIS M. KIM Y., 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

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, Jr., Associate Justice  
 PAMELA M. MACKTAZ, Associate Justice

## DISTRICT COURT

HENRY E. LALIBERTE, Chief Judge  
 CHARLES F. TRUMPETTO, Associate Judge  
 ORIST D. CHAHARYN, Associate Judge  
 PAUL J. DELNERO, Associate Judge  
 ANTHONY J. DENNIS, Associate Judge  
 VICTOR J. BERETTA, Associate Judge  
 ROBERT J. McOSKER, Associate Judge  
 VINCENT A. RAGOSTA, Associate Judge  
 JOHN J. 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, RI  
 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  
 Executive Director, Rhode Island Judicial  
 Systems & Sciences (RJSS) 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, RI  
 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. Repos, Clerk 822-1311  
 222 Quaker Lane  
 West Warwick, RI 02893  
 Raymond D. Gallogly, Associate  
 Jury Commissioner 822-0400  
 222 Quaker Lane  
 West Warwick, RI 02893  
 Thomas G. Healey, Criminal  
 Scheduling Officer 277-6645  
 222 Quaker Lane  
 West Warwick, RI 02893

WASHINGTON COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Edgar J. Timothy, Clerk 783-5441  
1693 Kingstown Road  
West Kingstown, RI 02892

NEWPORT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

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

FAMILY COURT

1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI

Joseph D. Butler, Administrator 277-3334  
Deputy Court Administrator 277-3334  
John J. O'Brien, Master 277-3360  
Dolores M. Murphy, Chief Juvenile  
Intake Supervisor 277-3345  
Chief Family Counselor 277-3362  
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

DISTRICT COURT

1 Dorrance Plaza, Providence, RI

SIXTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

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

FIRST DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

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

SECOND DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Frances J. Connelly, Supervising  
Deputy Clerk 846-6500  
Eisenhower Square  
Newport, RI 02840

THIRD DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

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

FOURTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

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

FIFTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Robert Kando, Supervising Deputy Clerk 722-1024  
145 Roosevelt Avenue  
Pawtucket, RI 02865

SEVENTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Donald L. St. Pierre, Supervising  
Deputy Clerk 762-2700  
24 Front Street  
Woonsocket, RI 02895

EIGHTH DIVISION DISTRICT COURT

Martha J. Cerra, Supervising  
Deputy Clerk 944-5550  
275 Atwood Avenue  
Cranston, RI 02920

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

1025 Fleet National Bank Building  
Providence, RI 02903  
Charles J. McGovern, Chairman  
Girard R. Visconti, Secretary 331-3800

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

250 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
Leonard A. Kiernan, Chairman  
Frank H. Carter, Disciplinary Counsel 277-3270

# CASELOAD STATISTICS

## RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

### APPELLATE CASEFLOW

CASE TYPES	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
CRIMINAL					
Added	96	97	103	91	84
Disposed	<u>117</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>84</u>
Pending	130	105	82	65	60
CIVIL					
Added	342	328	391	349	283
Disposed	<u>269</u>	<u>334</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>399</u>	<u>339</u>
Pending	465	459	519	465	385
CERTIORARI					
Added	134	124	122	129	177
Disposed	<u>127</u>	<u>132</u>	<u>120</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>162</u>
Pending	91	83	87	104	117
OTHER					
Added	71	43	45	43	47
Disposed	<u>68</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>43</u>
Pending	17	19	16	12	15
ALL CASES					
Added	643	592	661	612	591
Disposed	<u>581</u>	<u>629</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>665</u>	<u>628</u>
Pending	703	666	704	646	577

# RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

## DISPOSITION DETAIL

MANNER AND STAGE OF DISPOSITION	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>BEFORE ARGUMENT</b>					
Withdrawn	133	115	109	91	95
Dismissed	42	57	105	102	86
Petition Granted	14	11	5	8	5
Petition Denied	117	115	77	83	109
Other	13	5	11	65	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MOTION CALENDAR</b>					
Withdrawn	*	*	5	4	*
Affirmed	*	*	86	143	107
Modified	*	*	2	*	*
Reversed	*	*	18	16	12
16G Affirmed			9	12	
Other			10	14	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>AFTER ARGUMENT ON THE MERITS</b>					
Withdrawn	1	3	4	4	1
Affirmed	135	137	115	102	121
Modified	9	15	13	13	15
Reversed	44	67	50	67	56
Other	16	8			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>TOTAL DISPOSITIONS</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>628</b>
<b>AVERAGE TIME TO DISPOSITION</b>	<b>12.3</b> mos.	<b>13.05</b> mos.	<b>13.9</b> mos.	<b>14.7</b> mos.	<b>13.7</b> mos.
<b>MEDIAN TIME TO DISPOSITION</b>	*	*	8.9 mos.	10.4 mos.	9.4 mos.

# RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

## CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

FELONIES	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL					
Cases Filed	3,302	3,014	2,997	2,898	3,195
Cases Disposed	<u>2,543</u>	<u>2,912</u>	<u>3,107</u>	<u>2,788</u>	<u>2,671</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+759	+102	-110	+110	+524
Total Pending Cases	1,418	*	*	1,647	2,237
Cases Over 180 Days Old	707	*	*	1,049	1,418
% Over 180 Days Old	(49.8%)	*	*	(63.7%)	(63.4%)
KENT					
Cases Files	697	753	648	697	909
Cases Disposed	<u>508</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>841</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+189	+105	+210	-71	+68
Total Pending Cases	164			273	270
Cases Over 180 Days Old	41	*	*	110	106
% Over 180 Days Old	(25%)	*	*	(40.3%)	(39.2%)
WASHINGTON					
Cases Filed	331	345	363	355	370
Cases Disposed	<u>272</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>273</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+59	+64	-145	+32	+97
Total Pending Cases	160	*	*	80	135
Cases Over 180 Days Old	83	*	*	25	52
% Over 180 Days Old	(51.9%)	*	*	(31.3%)	(38.5%)
NEWPORT					
Cases Filed	246	288	224	315	306
Cases Disposed	<u>172</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>289</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+74	0	+32	-110	+17
Total Pending Cases	134	*	*	88	96
Cases Over 180 Days Old	67	*	*	9	18
% Over 180 Days Old	(50%)	*	*	(10.2%)	(18.7%)
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	4,576	4,400	4,232	4,265	4,780
Cases Disposed	<u>3,495</u>	<u>4,129</u>	<u>4,245</u>	<u>4,266</u>	<u>4,074</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,081	+271	-13	-1	+706
Total Pending Cases	1,876	*	*	2,088	2,738
Cases Over 180 Days Old	898	*	*	1,220	1,594
% Over 180 Days Old	(47.9%)	*	*	(58.4%)	(58.2%)

## RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

### CRIMINAL CASEFLOW (cont.)

MISDEMEANORS	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL</b>					
Cases Filed	533	662	394	538	486
Cases Disposed	<u>388</u>	<u>747</u>	<u>440</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>407</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+145	-85	-46	+116	+79
Total Pending Cases	381	*	*	413	477
Cases Over 180 Days Old	111	*	*	214	340
% Over 180 Days Old	(29.1%)	*	*	(51.8%)	(71.3%)
<b>KENT</b>					
Cases Filed	118	161	190	180	255
Cases Disposed	<u>137</u>	<u>162</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>167</u>	<u>177</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-19	-1	+71	+13	+78
Total Pending Cases	46	*	*	78	97
Cases Over 180 Days Old	18	*	*	34	50
% Over 180 Days Old	(39.1%)	*	*	(43.6%)	(51.5%)
<b>WASHINGTON</b>					
Cases Filed	111	159	151	86	96
Cases Disposed	<u>97</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>223</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>80</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+14	+76	-72	+14	+16
Total Pending Cases	67	*	*	17	21
Cases Over 180 Days Old	25	*	*	3	8
% Over 180 Days Old	(37.3%)	*	*	(17.6%)	(38.1%)
<b>NEWPORT</b>					
Cases Filed	106	161	299	199	93
Cases Disposed	<u>83</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>167</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+23	+88	+236	-216	-74
Total Pending Cases	99	*	*	124	43
Cases Over 180 Days Old	59	*	*	28	4
% Over 180 Days Old	(59.6%)	*	*	(22.6%)	(9.3%)
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Cases Filed	868	1,143	1,034	1,003	930
Cases Disposed	<u>705</u>	<u>1,065</u>	<u>845</u>	<u>1,076</u>	<u>831</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+163	+78	+189	-73	+99
Total Pending Cases	593	*	*	632	638
Cases Over 180 Days Old	213	*	*	279	402
% Over 180 Days Old	(35.9%)	*	*	(44.1%)	(63%)

# RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

## MANNER OF DISPOSITION

FELONIES	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL</b>					
Plea	2,095	2,375	2,530	2,355	2,120
Dismissal	342	389	488	360	436
Trial	106	148	89	73	115
Total	<u>2,543</u>	<u>2,912</u>	<u>3,107</u>	<u>2,788</u>	<u>2,671</u>
<b>KENT</b>					
Plea	400	557	367	685	761
Dismissal	85	82	57	71	70
Trial	23	9	14	12	10
Total	<u>508</u>	<u>648</u>	<u>438</u>	<u>768</u>	<u>841</u>
<b>WASHINGTON</b>					
Plea	234	252	433	295	242
Dismissal	26	21	62	22	26
Trial	12	8	13	6	5
Total	<u>272</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>323</u>	<u>273</u>
<b>NEWPORT</b>					
Plea	136	238	166	367	231
Dismissal	28	35	25	45	49
Trial	8	15	1	13	9
Total	<u>172</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>425</u>	<u>289</u>
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Plea	2,865	3,422	3,496	3,702	3,354
Dismissal	481	527	632	498	581
Trial	149	180	117	104	139
Total	<u>3,495</u>	<u>4,129</u>	<u>4,245</u>	<u>4,304</u>	<u>4,074</u>

## RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

### MANNER OF DISPOSITION (cont.)

MISDEMEANORS	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL</b>					
Plea	277	397	260	311	303
Dismissal	105	343	130	100	96
Trial	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>
Total	388	747	440	422	407
<b>KENT</b>					
Plea	81	110	89	112	129
Dismissal	50	46	26	48	45
Trial	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	137	162	119	167	177
<b>WASHINGTON</b>					
Plea	74	65	161	49	54
Dismissal	18	17	55	11	24
Trial	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	97	83	223	72	80
<b>NEWPORT</b>					
Plea	62	41	50	283	152
Dismissal	21	28	11	130	13
Trial	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	83	73	63	415	167
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Plea	494	613	560	755	638
Dismissal	194	434	222	289	178
Trial	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	705	1,065	845	1,076	831

# RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

## CIVIL CASEFLOW

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>CIVIL ACTIONS</b>					
<b>PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL</b>					
Total Cases Filed	5,542	5,224	5,351	5,156	5,653
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,064	2,043	2,179	1,895	2,196
Cases Disposed	<u>2,150</u>	<u>2,293</u>	<u>2,053</u>	<u>1,846</u>	<u>1,653</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-86	-250	+126	+49	+543
Pending at Year End	4,707	4,522	4,638	4,687	5,222
<b>KENT</b>					
Total Cases Filed	1,054	989	943	969	963
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	496	433	406	320	364
Cases Disposed	<u>411</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>514</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+85	+200	+165	-135	-150
Pending at Year End	611	811	923	788	678
<b>WASHINGTON</b>					
Total Cases Filed	694	501	444	580	555
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	178	177	283	204	199
Cases Disposed	<u>259</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>194</u>	<u>346</u>	<u>130</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-81	+47	+89	-142	+69
Pending at Year End	241	288	377	133	193
<b>NEWPORT</b>					
Total Cases Filed	467	498	501	589	561
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	137	157	159	160	159
Cases Disposed	<u>72</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>114</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+65	+82	+72	-48	+45
Pending at Year End	169	251	290	164	219
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Total Cases Filed	7,757	7,212	7,239	7,294	7,732
Trial Calendar Summary					
Cases Added	2,875	2,810	3,027	2,579	2,918
Cases Disposed	<u>2,892</u>	<u>2,731</u>	<u>2,575</u>	<u>2,855</u>	<u>2,411</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-17	+79	+452	-276	+507
Pending at Year End	5,728	5,872	6,228	5,772	6,112

## RHODE ISLAND SUPERIOR COURT

### MANNER OF DISPOSITION — TRIAL CALENDAR ONLY

CIVIL ACTIONS	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL</b>					
Verdicts	198	*	116	91	80
Judicial Decisions	<u>113</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>65</u>
Total Trials	311	264	181	159	145
Dismissed/Settled/Other	<u>1,839</u>	<u>1,971</u>	<u>1,872</u>	<u>1,687</u>	<u>1,508</u>
Total Disposed	2,150	2,235	2,053	1,846	1,653
<b>KENT</b>					
Verdicts	42	19	9	34	31
Judicial Decisions	<u>53</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>140</u>
Total Trials	95	37	35	119	171
Dismissed/Settled/Other	<u>316</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>343</u>
Total Disposed	411	233	241	455	514
<b>WASHINGTON</b>					
Verdicts	9	10	5	12	7
Judicial Decisions	<u>29</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
Total Trials	38	32	37	19	15
Dismissed/Settled/Other	<u>221</u>	<u>145</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>327</u>	<u>115</u>
Total Disposed	259	177	194	346	130
<b>NEWPORT</b>					
Verdicts	15	4	12	9	7
Judicial Decisions	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>11</u>
Total Trials	21	19	31	49	18
Dismissed/Settled/Other	<u>51</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>96</u>
Total Disposed	72	75	87	208	114
<b>STATEWIDE</b>					
Verdicts	264	*	142	146	125
Judicial Decisions	<u>201</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>224</u>
Total Trials	465	352	284	346	349
Dismissed/Settled/Other	<u>2,427</u>	<u>2,368</u>	<u>2,291</u>	<u>2,509</u>	<u>2,062</u>
Total Disposed	2,892	2,720	2,575	2,855	2,411

## RHODE ISLAND FAMILY COURT

### JUVENILE CASEFLOW

JUVENILE FILINGS	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Wayward/Delinquent	5,536	5,065	4,373	4,731	4,611
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	647	519	632	636	791
Termination of Parental Rights	297	266	329	259	262
Other	79	845	948	1,080	920
Total Filings	7,275	6,695	6,282	6,706	6,584
Total Dispositions	*	*	*	5,767	6,317
Caseload Increase/Decrease	*	*	*	+939	+267
<b>JUVENILE TRIAL CALENDAR RESULTS</b>					
Cases Added	2,719	2,682	2,636	3,107	3,377
Cases Disposed	2,918	2,734	2,705	3,032	3,352
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-199	-52	-69	+75	+25
Total Pending	436	384	315	390	415
Pending Wayward/Delinquent Cases Over 90 Days Old	66	46	32	40	32
Average Time to Disposition for Wayward/ Delinquent Cases	69.6 days	71 days	61.3 days	66.3 days	73.9 days

### DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW

DIVORCE PETITIONS FILED	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Providence/Bristol	3,240	3,217	3,039	2,999	3,101
Kent	922	896	828	834	868
Newport	501	502	413	438	519
Washington	565	522	474	502	527
STATEWIDE TOTAL	5,228	5,137	4,754	4,773	5,015
<b>CONTESTED DIVORCE CALENDAR RESULTS</b>					
Cases Added	*	*	*	802	842
Cases Disposed	*	*	*	898	740
Caseload Increase/Decrease				-96	+102
Total Pending	644	565	576	480	582
Cases Pending Over 180 Days	279	154	164	149	204
Cases Pending Over 360 Days	101	37	59	10	31
Average Time to Disposition	*	*	*	226.4 days	225 days

## RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

### CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

MISDEMEANORS	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Cases Filed	33,475	33,665	29,720	30,114	32,436
Cases Disposed	<u>32,469</u>	<u>33,457</u>	<u>28,651</u>	<u>28,461</u>	<u>30,721</u>
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,006	+208	+1,069	+1,653	+1,715
Total Pending Cases	1,595	1,671	1,511	1,934	2,390
Cases Over 60 Days Old	321	352	471	480	635

### MANNER OF DISPOSITION

MISDEMEANORS					
Pleas	18,480	18,944	17,180	16,006	17,311
Filed	4,649	4,181	3,592	3,494	3,874
Dismissed	7,436	7,758	5,783	6,837	7,263
Trials	553	565	652	623	577
Other	719	1,075	886	987	1,108
Cases Transferred	<u>632</u>	<u>934</u>	<u>558</u>	<u>514</u>	<u>588</u>
TOTAL	32,469	33,457	28,651	28,461	30,721
Cases Appealed	457	278	281	344	291

FELONIES					
Charges Filed	8,584	8,064	7,981	8,116	8,332
Charges Disposed	9,060	8,299	7,993	8,271	8,005

MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Charged	2,127	3,468	4,472	4,831	4,837
Not Charged/Dismissed	<u>6,933</u>	<u>4,831</u>	<u>3,521</u>	<u>3,440</u>	<u>3,168</u>
TOTAL	9,060	8,299	7,993	8,271	8,005

### CIVIL CASEFLOW

REGULAR CIVIL					
Cases Filed	23,689	22,625	19,758	18,759	21,396
Cases Disposed	20,016	18,842	16,040	13,688	14,723

MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	11,375	12,262	9,609	7,754	8,274
Settlements	4,926	3,519	3,556	2,823	3,513
Judgements	3,715	3,061	2,783	3,031	2,915
Transfers			<u>92</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>21</u>
TOTAL	20,016	18,842	16,040	13,688	14,723
Appeals	473	485	406	339	395

## RHODE ISLAND DISTRICT COURT

### CIVIL CASEFLOW (cont.)

SMALL CLAIMS	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Cases Filed	8,383	8,475	10,850	12,087	11,997
Cases Disposed	6,248	5,893	7,213	7,791	8,038
<b>MANNER OF DISPOSITION</b>					
Defaults	4,316	3,984	4,143	4,531	4,962
Settlements	1,047	1,170	1,841	1,983	1,544
Judgements	885	739	1,229	1,277	1,532
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>6,248</u>	<u>5,893</u>	<u>7,213</u>	<u>7,791</u>	<u>8,038</u>
Appeals	67	115	103	116	97