



1994

Rhode Island Report on the Judiciary 1994

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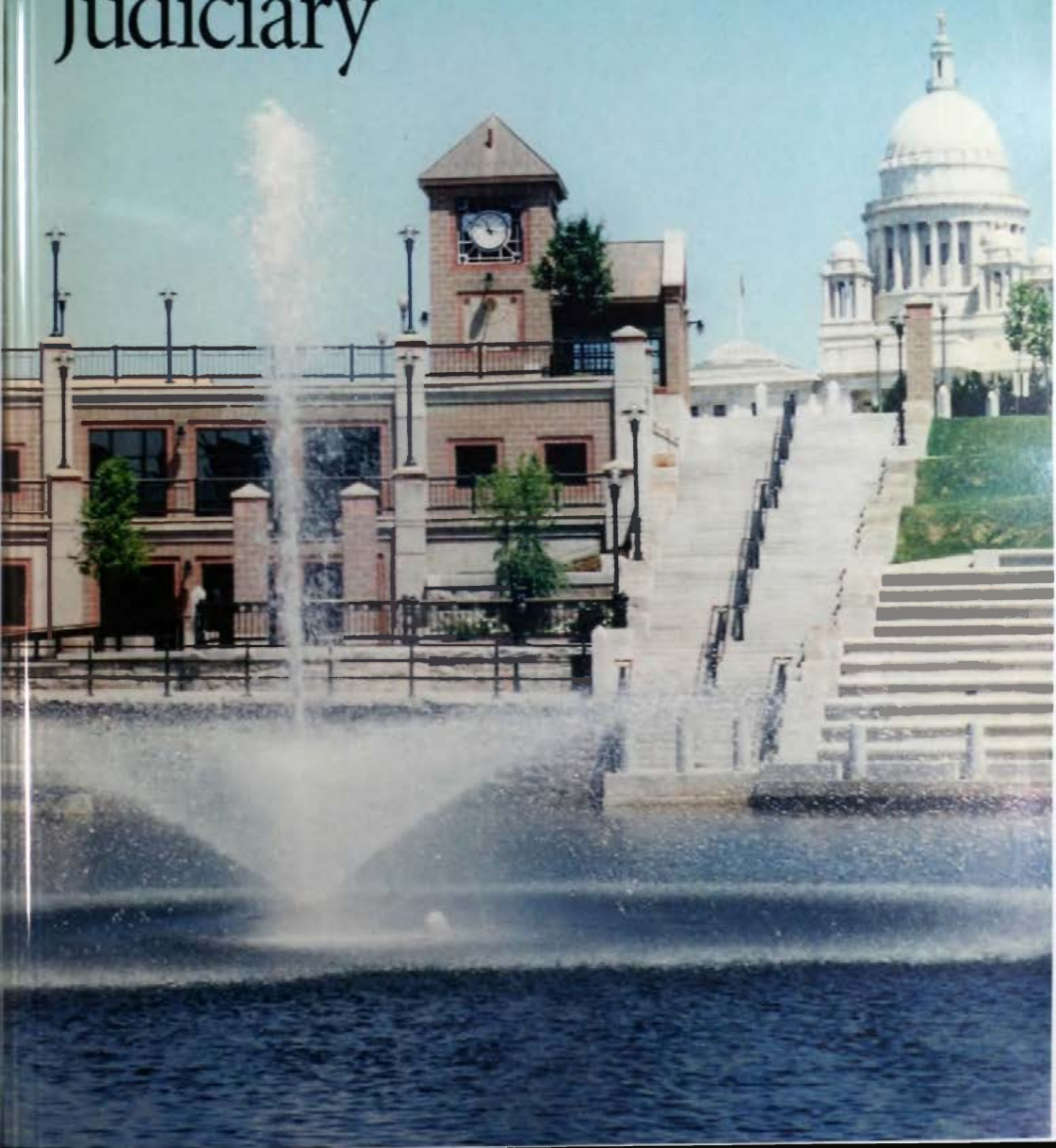
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

1994 Report
on the
Judiciary





Robert C. Harrall

LETTER of TRANSMITTAL

It is my pleasure to transmit the 1994 Annual Report on the Judicial Department as required by § 8-15-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws.

The report's purpose is to inform the honorable members of the General Assembly and the public of significant changes that have occurred in the judicial system during calendar year 1994.

Appreciation is expressed to the administrative staff members who participated in the production of the report.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Robert C. Harrall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Robert C. Harrall
State Court Administrator



Joseph P. Weisberger

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly

The year 1994 was a very busy year for Rhode Island's unified judicial system. As in prior years, the members of the judiciary processed a record number of cases. Taking into account all courts, more than 200,000 cases were considered and processed by the Rhode Island judicial system.

Significant efforts have been made to further important remedial work, including the recently formed User Friendly Committee, designed to make all of our courts less forbidding and more friendly to litigants, members of the bar, and witnesses.

Thanks to our magnificent volunteers, the various boards and commissions staffed by members of the bar and by public members, have been performing their important tasks with vigor and effectiveness.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the judiciary, members of the bar and the public volunteers who have contributed to the success of the numerous programs sponsored by the judiciary.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph R. Weisberger".

Joseph R. Weisberger
Chief Justice

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Pursuant to Chapter 8-15 of the Rhode Island General Laws this report was prepared by The Administrative Office of State Courts, Frank Licht Judicial Complex, 250 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903. Phone: (401) 277-3266; Fax: (401) 277-3599.

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RHODE ISLAND

Court Structure



SUPREME COURT

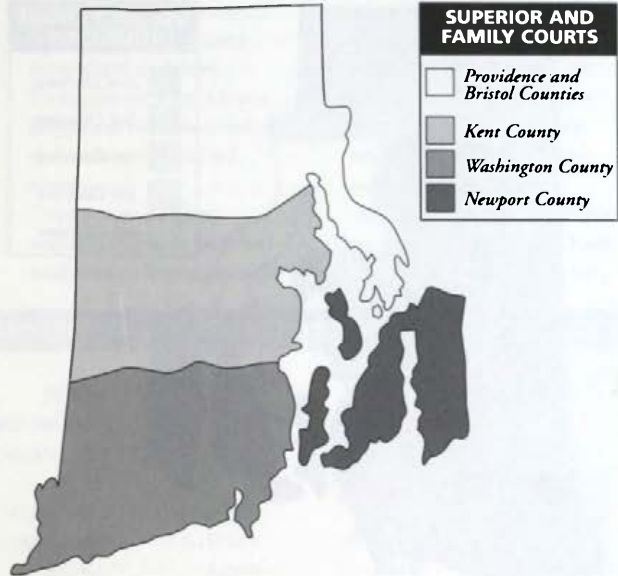
The Supreme Court has final appellate jurisdiction on questions of law and equity, supervisory powers over other state courts, and general advisory responsibility to the legislative and executive branches of state government concerning the constitutionality of legislation. The Supreme Court is also responsible for regulating admission to the Rhode Island Bar and disciplining its members.

The Supreme Court has an administrative office that oversees all personnel, fiscal, and purchasing functions for the entire state court system. The administrative office also performs a wide range of managerial tasks, 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, which is also under the direction of the Supreme Court, provides reference materials and research services for judges and court staff, as well as serving as the only comprehensive public law library in the state.

SUPERIOR COURT

Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction. Civil matters involving claims in excess of \$5,000 and all equity proceedings are heard there.



Superior Court also has original jurisdiction over all criminal offenses, except as otherwise provided by law.

As a consequence, all indictments by grand juries and informations charged by the Department of the Attorney General are returned to this court.

Superior Court also hears appeals from decisions of local Probate and Municipal Courts. In addition, criminal and civil cases tried in the District Court, except as specifically provided by statute, are also brought to the Superior Court on appeal for a trial de novo.

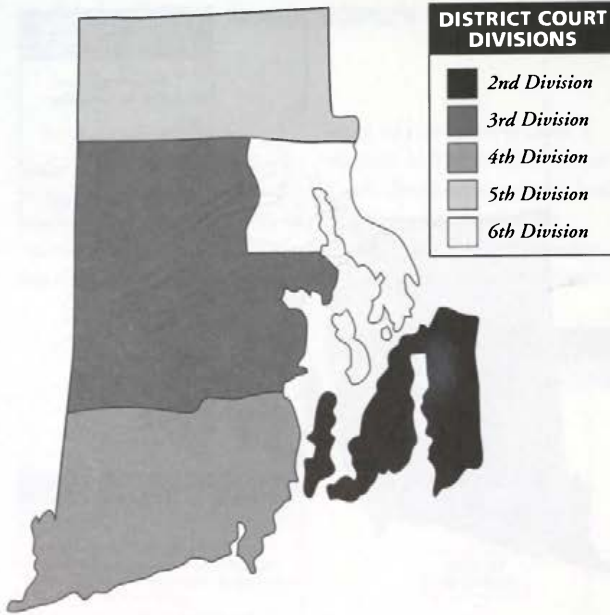
Other types of appeals and statutory proceedings, such as redevelopment, land condemnation, zoning appeals, and enforcement of

arbitrators' awards, also fall under Superior Court jurisdiction.

Finally, Superior Court shares concurrent jurisdiction with the Supreme Court over writs of habeas corpus and mandamus and certain other prerogative writs. Appeals from the Superior Court are heard by the Supreme Court.

FAMILY COURT

Family Court was created to focus attention on problems involving families and children. Its goals are to assist, to protect, and if possible, to restore families whose unity or well-being has been or is threatened. This court also ensures that children within its jurisdiction receive the care, guidance, and



control conducive to their welfare and the best interests of the state. If children are removed from their parents, the court also seeks to provide them with the equivalent of high-quality parental care.

Family Court has jurisdiction to hear all petitions for divorce and any motions in conjunction with divorce proceedings, such as property distribution, alimony, support, and child custody. It hears petitions for separate maintenance and complaints regarding support for parents and children. It has jurisdiction over matters relating to delinquent, wayward, dependent, neglected, abused, or mentally defective or disordered children. It also has jurisdiction over adoptions, child

marriages, paternity proceedings, and other matters involving domestic relations and juveniles.

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

DISTRICT COURT

Since most people appearing before a court in this state initially appear in District Court, District Court has been divided into five divisions to provide easy geographic access to the court system.

District Court jurisdiction includes small claims, violations of municipal ordinances and regulations, and misdemeanors when 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. Appeals from District Court decisions go to the Superior Court for trial de novo.

Violations and hearings on involuntary hospitalization under the mental-health, drug-abuse, and alcoholism laws also fall under District Court jurisdiction. District Court hears appeals from and orders compliance with the subpoenas and rulings of the state tax administrator and several regulatory agencies and boards. District Court also hears violations of state and local housing codes, except when a Municipal Court has been established to handle these matters. Decisions in all these areas are subject to review only by the Supreme Court.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

The Workers' Compensation Commission was established in 1954 and functioned independently until it was made part of the unified court system in 1991. The court has jurisdiction over disputes between employees and employers relating to compensation for occupational disabilities, the reasonableness of medical and hospital bills, and the extent and duration of a disability.

The workers' compensation statutes establish that employers assume the cost of occupational disabilities without regard to fault.

Six basic objectives underlie workers' compensation laws:

- To provide sure, prompt, and reasonable income and medical benefits to work-accident victims or income benefits to their dependents, regardless of fault.
 - To provide a single remedy and to reduce court delays, costs, and work loads arising out of personal-injury litigation.
 - To relieve public and private charities of financial drains incident to uncompensated occupational disabilities.
 - To regulate payment of fees to lawyers and witnesses as well as time-consuming trials and appeals.
 - To encourage maximum employer interest in safety and rehabilitation through an appropriate experience-rating mechanism.
 - To promote frank study of the causes of accidents (rather than concealment of fault), thereby reducing preventable accidents and human suffering.
- Appeals from Workers' Compensation Court decisions are first heard by an appellate division within the

THE RHODE ISLAND COURTS JUDICIAL BUDGET COMPARISONS

	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95*
<i>State Budget</i>	2,607,546,920	2,556,097,852	2,453,681,210	2,653,001,469
Increase or decrease	566,354,090	(51,449,068)	(102,416,642)	199,320,259
<i>Judicial Budget</i>	41,846,359	47,003,961	57,316,933	49,274,420
Increase	3,497,539	5,157,602	10,312,972	(8,042,513)
<i>Judicial Share</i>	1.60%	1.83%	2.33%	1.85%
<i>Expenditures by Program</i>				
Supreme Court	12,094,254	13,212,862	22,952,219 [†]	11,504,298
Superior Court	10,612,403	11,941,589	12,569,136	13,180,834
Family Court	8,015,130	8,726,045	8,875,744	9,411,873
District Court	3,836,021	4,303,576	5,068,243	5,728,064
Admin. Adjudication Court	4,618,326	5,668,492	4,429,446	5,541,991
Workers' Compensation Court	2,670,225	3,151,397	3,422,145	3,907,360
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>41,846,359</i>	<i>47,003,961</i>	<i>57,316,933</i>	<i>49,274,420</i>
<i>Expenditures by Object</i>				
Personnel	28,616,511	32,745,253	34,978,595	35,847,588
Other State Operations	4,595,950	4,649,902	15,129,877	6,046,902
Aid to Local Units of Gov't	—	—	—	—
Assistance, Grants, and Benefits	4,979,870	5,704,802	3,277,147	3,426,965
<i>Subtotal: Operating Expenditures</i>	<i>38,192,331</i>	<i>43,099,957</i>	<i>53,385,619</i>	<i>45,321,455</i>
Capital Improvements	—	—	—	—
Capital Debt Service	3,654,028	3,904,004	3,931,314	3,952,965
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>41,846,359</i>	<i>47,003,961</i>	<i>57,316,933</i>	<i>49,274,420</i>

* Budget as enacted — previous years are actual expenditures.

†Supreme Court budget is an anomaly caused by one-time transfer of CJIS restricted-receipt funds to the State General Fund.

court. The appellate division is a three-judge panel made up of any three judges of the court other than the trial judge.

The appellate panel first determines if a basis for appeal exists by reviewing the transcript and the record of the case along with any briefs or memoranda of law submitted by the appellant. If a basis is found, the panel hears oral argument and enters a final decision.

If either party is aggrieved by the decision of the appellate division, the party may petition the Supreme Court by writ of certiorari.

ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION COURT

The Administrative Adjudication Court (AAC) was established in 1992 to succeed the Administrative Adjudication Division (AAD) of the Department of Transportation.

Operating under title 31, chapter 43, of the General Laws, the AAC is responsible for hearing most traffic cases, for distributing and controlling traffic summonses, for operating driver-retraining schools, and for maintaining accurate driver accident and violation records. The court is also the appellate court for traffic offenses heard in Municipal Courts.

Prior to 1975 all traffic offenses in Rhode Island, except parking, were criminal violations (misdemeanors or felonies) and were heard by the District Court. With the establishment of the AAD, most traffic offenses were decriminalized and placed under the jurisdiction of this quasi-judicial body. Those that were not decriminalized are still handled by the District Court and include driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless driving, driving without a valid license, or leaving the scene of an accident.

The advantage of an AAC is that traffic offenses are processed administratively rather than as criminal matters, thereby focusing attention on the traffic-safety aspect of the violation. In addition, the court has the resource of a driver-retraining school for chronic violators, and a driver history can be developed to determine the most appropriate course of action to follow with individual violators.

The AAC also has an appellate division. Appeals are reviewed by a panel of three neutral judges. The appellate division hears appeals from aggrieved motorists who have appeared before a single judge for a trial. It also reviews decisions of Municipal Courts (particularly traffic offenses) and hears appeals from the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Appeals from the Administrative Adjudication Court are by writ of certiorari to the Supreme Court.

1994

IN
THE

Rhode Island Courts



Report on the Court's Domestic Abuse Victim Advocacy Program

Since 1988 the Supreme Court has contracted with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence to administer a court-based domestic-abuse victim-advocacy program. The statewide program was established in accordance with R.I.G.L. 12-28-10 and 12-29-7. The advocacy program assists victims of domestic violence to obtain protection through the criminal and civil system in the Family Court, the District Court, and the Superior Court.

The coalition is an association of six nonprofit domestic-violence programs including the Blackstone Shelter, the Elizabeth Buffum Chase House, the Newport County Women's Resource Center, the Sojourner House, the Women's Center of Rhode Island, and the Women's Resource Center of South County.

The victim-advocacy program comprises three components. Victim advocates are assigned in each of the divisions of the District Court to assist victims of misdemeanor crimes involving domestic violence. In addition, the coalition assists victims of domestic violence to obtain civil protective orders in the Family or District Courts throughout the state. The third component, located in the Superior Court in Providence County, serves those domestic-abuse

victims whose cases have resulted in the filing of felony charges. In addition to assisting victims through the court process, the advocates assist victims in protecting themselves and their children and obtaining other support services.

In 1994 the program provided services to over 9,000 domestic-abuse victims. Of those victims 4,565 were assisted through the criminal justice system in the District Court, and 211 victims were assisted through the Superior Court in Providence County. Another 3,208 were assisted in obtaining restraining orders from the Family Court, and an additional 1,096 victims were assisted in obtaining restraining orders in the District Court. Since the inception of the Victim Advocacy Program, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence and its member agencies have provided comprehensive assistance to victims of domestic violence in nearly 40,000 cases.

Crime Victim Compensation

The Crime Victim Compensation Program provides financial assistance to eligible victims of violent crime. Compensation may be awarded either to the victim or, in cases of homicide, to family members. Compensation is awarded to cover medical bills, funeral and burial expenses, pain and suffering, lost wages, and loss of support for dependents. The program is supported by assessments levied against offenders and by Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds. Over \$12.5 million have been awarded to crime victims since the program began operating in 1983.

1994 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE VIOLENT CRIMES INDEMNITY FUND

(Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 12-25-11)

	1994
Fund balance as of October 1, 1993	\$34,380
Amount of payments ordered to be paid to the fund during the year*	\$1,457,204
Funds collected during the FFY	\$1,345,452
<i>(includes \$291,000 Federal VOCA grant)</i>	
Number of claims filed	374
Number of claims adjudicated	172
Number of claims awarded	138
Number of claims denied	34
Funds Disbursed	\$1,342,541

*Federal fiscal year 10/1/93 to 9/30/94

1994 Report on the State Court Victim Services Unit

Justice Assistance is a private, nonprofit organization that has operated Project Victim Services since 1985 under a state court contract. This project provides support, counseling, and advocacy for Rhode Island crime victims. Project Victim Services requests each victim to complete and return to Justice Assistance a victim-impact

statement, which records physical, financial, emotional, or other losses resulting from or the impact of the criminal action. The statement becomes part of the court record and may be used to assess damages, restitution, fees, fines, or other terms of sentence. In addition, Project Victim Services answers clients' questions, prepares them for court

proceedings, and provides them with practical and emotional assistance.

The program assisted 4,097 crime victims in 1994. In addition to the court contract, Justice Assistance receives financial support from the Governor's Justice Commission, fines collected through the Violent Crimes Indemnity Fund, and private-sector contributions.

1994 VICTIM SERVICES UNIT REPORT

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Enrollment</i>	5,035	4,628	3,954	3,508	4,097
<i>Disposition Outcome</i>					
Bench warrant issued	916	383	639	368	549
Case dismissed	151	125	100	97	96
Entered diversion program	25	24	52	53	30
Case filed	35	79	30	12	13
Case filed with restitution	24	496	183	3	3
Guilty	10	8	1	0	5
Not guilty	10	8	0	0	2
Nolo contendere	1,727	1,557	1,272	1,239	1,483
Case passed for trial	709	657	612	413	604
Case waived	55	48	57	70	43
Pending	1,373	1,243	969	1,231	1,230
<i>Services Provided</i>					
Case status notification	5,035	4,628	3,954	3,163	2,868
Court escort	957	126	282	203	354
Crime impact statements	2,366	1,241	1,373	1,262	1,245
Crisis counseling	1,561	60	103	100	28
Employer intervention	1	0	0	2	2
Referral service	302	170	455	245	402
Restitution service	641	556	205	1	4
System orientation	5,035	4,628	3,954	2,293	2,895

Supreme Court



The Supreme Court Caseload Continues to Rise

During 1994 the Supreme Court experienced a further increase in appeals. In 1990 new appeals totaled 635. They jumped to 703 (up 12 percent) in 1991 and rose again in 1993 to 737. In 1994 the number docketed was 776, marking a 22 percent increase in caseload over a five-year period.

The increase in caseload can be attributed to the growing number of miscellaneous petitions filed, particularly petitions for writs of certiorari. New petitions in this category totaled 267 in 1994, which was 22 percent more than in 1993 (219), and 76 percent more than the number filed in 1990 (152). The other types of miscellaneous petitions, including writs of habeas corpus, almost doubled in number between 1993 and 1994 (from 41 to 77). However, this increase was probably a one-time occurrence since it was due to an influx of petitions filed by prisoners transferred to Rhode Island from North Carolina.

Criminal appeals also rose slightly in 1994. The number docketed for the year was 114, which was 14 more than the average for the four previous years (100). Civil appeals declined by 61 cases (17 percent) compared to 1993. There were 292 civil appeals docketed whereas in 1993 the number was 353.

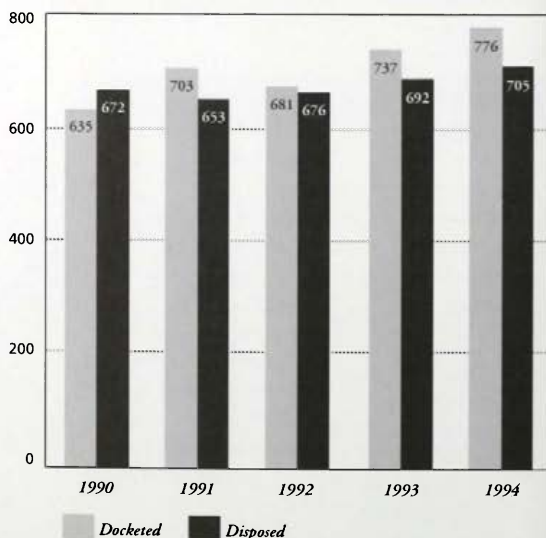
Total dispositions rose by a small margin in 1994. The total disposed was 705 as compared to 692 in 1993. The increase was due in part to a slightly higher number of cases disposed of prior to hearing on the motion calendar. The number disposed of at this stage was 393—12 more than a year ago. Actually the number of petitions denied at this stage increased significantly, with 176 petitions denied as compared to 137 last year. However, this increase was offset by a decrease in dismissals. In 1993 dismissals totaled 152, and

this year they dropped to 126.

The number of full opinions issued by the court was also higher. The total was 113 as compared to 86 in 1993. In both years there were roughly the same number of cases argued and submitted that were still pending an opinion (30 in 1994 and 32 in 1993).

On the other hand, dispositions after hearing on the motion calendar were lower by almost 12 percent in 1994. There were 198 appeals disposed at this stage whereas a year earlier the number was 224.

CASES DOCKETED VS. CASES DISPOSED



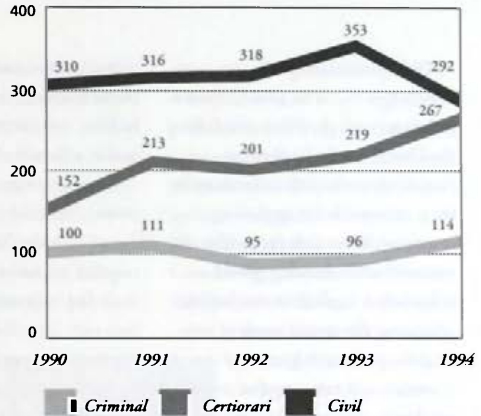
Despite the increase in total dispositions, there was still a gap of 71 cases between the number docketed and number disposed. As a result, the pending caseload at the end of the year rose from 521 to 597.

The increase affected all categories. The number of pending criminal appeals climbed from 92 to 110, appeals went up from 286 to 298, pending petitions for writs of certiorari rose from 126 to 158, and other pending miscellaneous appeals increased from 20 to 31.

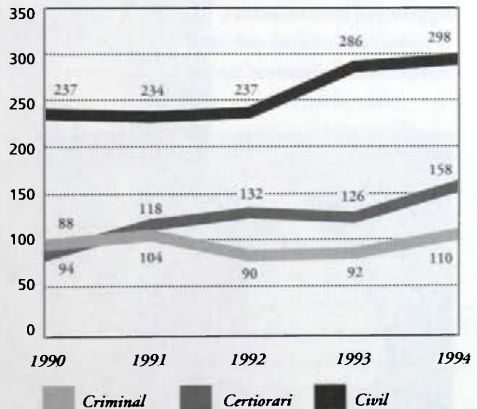
The number of cases in a posture for court action was also higher at the end of 1994. There were 88 cases pending on the show-cause calendar, up from 71 a year earlier. In addition, there were 83 cases with both briefs filed awaiting oral argument, which was more than double the number at the end of 1993 (37). Only the number of cases awaiting prebriefing conference was roughly comparable to last year, 103 as compared to 98.

The average time from docketing to disposition dropped slightly in 1994, from 8.2 to 7.9 months—probably because of the increase in the disposition of miscellaneous petitions. Most of these petitions were disposed of at an earlier stage, before argument on the motion calendar.

CHANGE IN DOCKETED CASES



CHANGE IN PENDING CASELOAD BY MAJOR CATEGORY



Chief Justice Makes Providing Quality Service to the Public a Top Priority

Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger issued an administrative order on April 11, 1994, establishing the User Friendly Committee. According to the order, the committee is responsible for improving communication with the public. Its tasks include enhancing posted information in all the court facilities, addressing the special needs of non-English speaking litigants and witnesses, and ensuring that court employees respond effectively and sensitively to all individuals. The committee is chaired by Justice Victoria Lederberg of the Supreme Court and includes judges and support staff from each court.

At its first meeting the committee identified three categories of con-

cern: (1) communications, (2) employee relations, and (3) physical facilities. Subcommittees were formed to deal with each of these issues.

The communications subcommittee, chaired by District Court Associate Judge Robert K. Pirraglia, targeted several areas for action, including improving communication with the public, improving in-court communication, and overcoming language barriers. The subcommittee suggested that multilingual interpreters be available at all courthouses to provide information to visitors and also recommended that the counter clerks have a Directory of Information on hand that lists the services provided by the court.

The employee-retraining subcommittee is chaired by Associate Judge Carmine A. Rao of the Workers' Compensation Court. The committee emphasized the need for sensitizing all court personnel, judicial and nonjudicial, to the impact that their attitude and demeanor have on court users.

The physical-facilities subcommittee, chaired by District Court Clerk Kevin Spina, suggested ways for improving the security and appearance of the courts. The subcommittee also focused on the need for expanding the services available to handicapped/disabled persons.

A number of changes occurred following the formation of the User Friendly Committee. The city of Providence agreed to examine the traffic-flow patterns around the Garrahy and Licht Judicial Complexes to alleviate congestion. The judges of the District Court, with the assistance of the building superintendent for the Garrahy Judicial Complex, instituted a community-service program for individuals placed on probation or found unable to pay their court fines. Under the program these individuals perform light maintenance/housekeeping chores at the Garrahy Judicial Complex. In addition, court employees in the Garrahy building initiated a voluntary beautification program at the site.



State Court Assistant Administrator Susan M. Calmont and Supreme Court Justice Victoria Lederberg.

Judiciary Complies with Mandatory Education Requirements

The Supreme Court Judicial Education Commission, chaired by Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger, continued to serve the state judiciary in 1994 by offering seminars on topics pertinent to all the courts. The educational seminars sponsored by the commission included "Medical Testimony," given on March 11, 1994; "Domestic Violence: The Critical Role of the Court," given on May 6, 1994 (cosponsored by the Office of the Attorney General); "Gender Bias," given on June 17, 1994; and "Advanced Evidence," given on December 9 and 10, 1994. The curricula included judicial ethics as an integral part of each topic. Together these programs offered 17 credits, more than the 10 credits that are the minimum requirement as set forth in Article 6, Rule 3, of the Rhode Island Supreme Court Rules. The in-house programs were all well attended, thereby maximizing the educational impact and minimizing the monetary expense for mandatory judicial education. The

judiciary is 100 percent in compliance with the mandatory judicial requirements for 1994.

In addition to the above seminars, a majority of the judges participated in other continuing judicial/legal-education programs on a voluntary basis to enrich their judicial skills. These programs focused primarily on

issues pertaining to the individual courts.

In addition, newly appointed judges were able to attend training programs provided by the National Judicial College, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the 21st Workers' Compensation College. It should be

noted that in the past two years, 17 new judges have been appointed at various court levels. Because of the limited funding available for judicial education, it has been impossible for all the "new judges" to attend initial training programs. The Judicial Education Commission's state appropriation has remained constant for the last few years, but federal funds that were formerly used to supplement the education budget have completely dried up. The Judicial Education Commission has noted the critical nature of bar-to-bench-transition education and continues to seek increased funding through the budget process.



Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Director Holly Hitchcock (left) and new Chair Supreme Court Justice Florence K. Murray.

Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee Issues First Annual Report

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee issued its first annual report on November 1, 1994. The committee was established pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 4 "in recognition of the fact that the periodic evaluation of a judge's performance is a reliable method for promoting judicial excellence and competence." The committee is chaired by Supreme Court Justice Victoria Lederberg and includes the Chief Judges of each court, representatives of the bar, and members of the public.

The committee's first step was to develop a process for conducting reliable evaluations of judicial performance, which involved designing an effective evaluation tool and determining the groups that should perform the evaluation. To do so, the committee relied both on the experience of other states and on the judicial-evaluation program established by the Superior Court under Presiding Justice Rodgers in 1992.

The Superior Court program was designed by a committee that included Superior Court judges, the jury commissioner, and the president of the Rhode Island Trial Lawyers Association. Evaluations are conducted in Superior Court by distributing questionnaires to lawyers and to jurors at the conclusion of each trial.

The questionnaire the committee adopted for the courtwide program



Justice Victoria Lederberg

measures such judicial characteristics as integrity, communication skills, and administrative ability. In the first phase starting in September 1993, the questionnaire was distributed to attorneys in the Workers' Compensation and Supreme Courts. In February 1994, the survey was extended to attorneys in the Family, District, and Administrative Adjudication Courts.

Additionally, as a way of providing balance to the evaluation process, the committee initiated a panel review program in District Court. The panels were made up of five members of the community, and each panel was assigned one or two judges for evaluation. The assumption was that panels would provide an objective, impartial evaluation that might vary from the evaluations given by attorneys who may be biased by the outcome of the case. Because of its success in the District Court, the

panel-review system was expanded to the Family and the Workers' Compensation Courts.

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 4.3 all information obtained on judicial performance is kept absolutely confidential. Respondents are cautioned not to include any information that could reveal their identities. Furthermore, any information obtained by the committee is kept in confidence between the judge being evaluated and the Chief Judge of the court who reviews the data with each judge. The information is used strictly for self-improvement and the development of judicial-education programs. It is not used to discipline an individual judge, except as required by the Canons of Judicial Ethics.

The committee learned a great deal in its first year and will strive during the second year to address the problems it encountered. The primary difficulty to be overcome is distribution of the questionnaires in the high-volume courts.

The results from the Superior Court's evaluation program indicate that judges appreciate the mentoring relationship and have shown marked improvement. Because the Superior Court's program has proven to be so effective, the committee is optimistic that other courts will reap similar benefits as the procedures become more fully operational.

Advisory Committee on Women Gains Permanent Status

Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger gave permanent status to the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Women in the Courts by Executive Order No. 93-03 issued on September 30, 1993. The committee has been in existence since 1984 and has made great strides in eliminating gender bias in the judiciary. The committee membership includes judges, members of the bar, and representatives of the public. The current chair is Associate Justice Francis J.

Darigan, Jr., of the Superior Court. One accomplishment of the committee this year was organizing a judicial seminar on gender bias. Its purpose was to sensitize judges about proper forms of communication in the court setting and to encourage their leadership in eliminating biased behavior. Dr. Richard Lucas of the Houston Law Center led the seminar. He is both a noted author and an expert in the field of communications.

Beyond organizing the program for judges, the committee worked with the sheriffs' departments. On

the basis of meetings with the advisory committee, Rene Lafayette, high sheriff of Providence County, issued an administrative order against sexual harassment and expanded sexual-harassment training in his department to include all employees. In the past only new employees received this training. The committee also began developing similar programs with the sheriffs' depart-

ments in the other counties, and that process is ongoing.

This year the committee published a booklet on gender bias in the courts entitled *Blind Justice* for distribution at the various programs the committee has conducted. The booklet's section "Rights and Responsibilities" is aimed at court participants and outlines guidelines for behavior in the court setting.



Superior Court Justice Francis J. Darrigan (left) chairs the Advisory Committee. Justice Howard S. Lipsey of the Family Court was recently appointed as chair of an education subcommittee.

Chief Justice Seeks Solutions to the Soaring Cost of Indigent Defense

Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger established a blue ribbon study committee in February 1994 to review the court's expenditures on legal representation for indigent defendants. The committee membership includes judges from each of the courts where indigent appointments are made, representatives of the legislature and the state budget office, and representatives of organizations that serve indigent clients, such as Rhode Island Legal Services and the Office of the Public Defender.



Subcommittee members (left to right) Barbara Margolis, Disciplinary Board, Janet Gilligan, Legal Services, and Family Court Associate Justice Kathleen Voccola.

In the previous two fiscal years the courts exceeded the amount allocated for defense of indigents by more than \$300,000 each year. To avoid a deficit in this account for fiscal year 1995, the Chief Justice issued an executive order on June 27, 1994, stating that private counsel could be appointed to assist indigent litigants

only when it is constitutionally required. This order virtually eliminated the appointment of private counsel in cases involving dependency, neglect, or abuse of children and in wayward or misdemeanor cases except in circumstances in which the charge could result in incarceration. This was an interim measure, and the Chief Justice urged the blue ribbon study committee to develop a viable proposal for long-term containment of costs in this area.

The committee identified the Family Court as having the largest share of all appointments and expenses, and the Chief Justice named a subcommittee to make an in-depth study of indigent representation in this court. Family Court Associate Justice Kathleen Voccola chaired the subcommittee, and its

analysis focused on two questions: whether contracting for legal services with the Legal Aid Society and/or R.I. Legal Services would be beneficial and whether appointments made in the Family Court that are not either constitutionally required or statutorily authorized should be discontinued.

The subcommittee found that contracting with a nonprofit legal-service agency to handle a portion of the representation of indigents in Family Court would result in significant savings and still ensure a high quality of representation to indigent defendants. In addition, the subcommittee concluded that the appointment of educational advocates is the statutory responsibility of the Department of Education, hence private attorneys should no longer be appointed by the court to perform this service for children in state care.

The committee agreed that the Supreme Court should solicit proposals for a contract in the Family Court to provide counsel for some indigent litigants, and the court is currently working with the State Department of Purchases to accomplish this goal. The committee also urged the court to request \$1.3 million in funding from the General Assembly for indigent defense in fiscal year 1996 and alert the leadership of the General Assembly as soon as possible to the critical need for an increased appropriation.

Fugitive Task Force Initiates Program to Clear Warrants

The Rhode Island Fugitive Task Force is a single-mission, state law-enforcement agency dedicated to the arrest of state fugitives from justice. The task force assists the various divisions of the unified court system by apprehending individuals who have failed to comply with court orders or to make payments for fines, costs, assessments, and restitution that have been ordered by the court.

Cross-checking between the information systems of the court and the Department of Corrections enabled the Fugitive Task Force to clear over 250 outstanding warrants on prison inmates in 1994. By comparing the court's warrant system with the Adult Correctional Institutions population list, offenders were identified and, with the cooperation of affected courts, were habeased to appear in court so that their outstanding warrants could be withdrawn.

Although the primary focus of the task force is to provide a coordinated approach to pursuing individuals wanted on warrants who pose a threat to the public, the task force also assists different law agencies in the state in conducting warrant sweeps involving restitution delinquents and domestic-violence and

sexual-abuse offenders. The task force cooperates with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the FBI in the apprehension of UFAP (Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution) and UFAC (Unlawful Flight to Avoid Conviction) individuals.

An innovative program initiated in 1991 continues to be effective and this past year resulted in 25 arrests. A regular Monday night

feature as part of the six o'clock news on local channel 12, "Southern New England's Most Wanted" presents a mug shot and case summary of a fugitive. Listeners who have information are asked to call the task force number that appears on the screen. An unexpected benefit has arisen because viewers also call with information about other fugitives who are known to them.



Officers await instructions prior to engaging in fugitive sweep operations. Agencies represented are U.S. Marshal's office, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Rhode Island State Police, Providence Police, North Providence Police, Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.



State Law Librarian Kendall F. Svengalis

State Law Library Joins Information Revolution

Keeping abreast of the information revolution and its impact on the delivery of legal information has been the chief preoccupation of the staff of the State Law Library over the past year. Even though the library will continue to carry a significant number of materials in hard copy, these materials are now increasingly supplemented by on-line services (Westlaw, CD-ROM) and now a vast information network known as the Internet.

The Internet is a massive collection of computer networks owned by the federal government, universities, and large corporations that are linked electronically to one another. Until recently, the Internet was primarily limited to users who had job-related electronic-mail (e-mail) access to the computer network operated by their employers. Now the Internet is accessible to anyone with a computer, a modem, and a telephone line.

The Internet allows the Law Library to use three types of services: (1) File Transfer Protocol (FTP), which gives users the capability to transfer and download data to local computers, (2) Telnet, a program providing a pathway and access to data from remote computer sites, and (3) e-mail, a relay system that allows users to send electronic messages back and forth. At present, 200 organizations provide 10 million users with some

form of dial-up connectivity.

In 1994 the library began accessing LAWLIB, a national bulletin board providing law librarians, information vendors, and other interested parties with the ability to post and read messages and to posit information queries. Staff now can monitor law library developments across the country and seek or provide assistance when answering more challenging questions posed by library users.

Although much legal information, including primary law emanating from government agencies, has heretofore been controlled by a few publishing giants, the Internet increasingly promises to make such public-domain materials available at no charge to anyone with the ability to dial up the appropriate network. Connecting with this information highway and determining the most economical means to retrieve data will be a major challenge for State Law Library staff in the coming years.

The library continued to expand its CD-ROM collection in 1994 and now offers patrons the ability to access 21 different titles on five computers. Insufficient computer hardware is limiting the Law Library's use of a greater number of CD-ROM products as well as preventing a linkup to other courts and judges via a wide-area network.

Judiciary Initiates Action to Manage Court Facilities as Recommended by RIPEC Study

Acting on the recommendations incorporated in the recent study of the Judicial Department by the Rhode Island Public Expenditures Council (RIPEC), lawmakers introduced legislation to shift control of the courts' facilities to the judiciary. The report emphasized that the present system is administratively inefficient and creates numerous difficulties when repairs and renovations are necessary. Buildings that are used exclusively by the courts rely on maintenance-staff members who report to the Executive Department and thus are insulated from the direct supervision of the department to which they provide service. This change will promote greater accountability on the part of both maintenance staff and court administrators.

REPAIRS CAUSE KENT COUNTY COURTHOUSE TO CLOSE FOR FOUR MONTHS

Court-ordered repairs to the heating and ventilation system at the James H. Leighton Judicial Complex (Kent County Courthouse) caused the closing of the facility from September until mid-December. The court action was the result of a

suit that was brought on behalf of certain courthouse employees who maintained that difficulties with air quality were causing health problems.

After analyzing the possible options, the decision was made to replace the existing heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in the the Kent facility. Because the repairs were so extensive, it was necessary to close the building and relocate the District, Family, and Superior Courts. By using every available space, these courts and their operations were absorbed into the Washington, Newport, and Providence County Courthouses. With the cooperation of all affected court personnel, attorneys, and other related parties, the various courts were able to maintain their calendars despite the crowded quarters.

The cost of the repairs was \$1.4 million, which was \$2.8 million less than the projected cost to move the three courts to another location. The new systems provide six air changes per hour and allow for a more balanced climate throughout the building.

Juvenile Case Tracking System Has Twenty-first Century Capability

In late 1993 Family Court staff became increasingly concerned about the ability of the Juvenile Information System (JISRA) to meet the court's scheduling requirements.

A juvenile case-tracking system must have the capability to schedule cases five to ten years into the future, and there was no provision to

the task of converting the year prefix from two to four digits. Lead programmer Brenda O'Brien, assisted by Pat Zompa and Judy Medeiros, worked throughout 1994 to develop the necessary procedures to convert 282,517 active JISRA files. Almost a half million disposed cases were also included in the programming task. Once the test programs were produced, the actual conversion took a few hours to implement.

Coincidentally with the programming changes, and as part of an ongoing RIJSS hardware upgrade, information that had been previously stored on large and bulky disc and tape-drive peripherals was converted to a state-of-the-art Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI), which not only requires far less space but is also considerably less expensive. The system has a 200-megabyte memory.

Revamping all the court's civil and criminal case-tracking systems so that they can accommodate the numbering of cases with dates in the next century represents a major hurdle for the Judicial Department to overcome. An increase in personnel and substantial programming will be required if new hardware and software are not acquired to allow tracking of new cases and to provide quick and responsive access to that information.



RIJSS Executive Director Edward J. Plunkett, Jr., and programmers Brenda O'Brien (left) and Judy Medeiros (right).

accommodate dates that have a 2000 prefix when JISRA was first installed in the late 1970s.

In response to this need, the court's information-systems office (RIJSS) assigned three programmers

Superior Court



Superior Court Further Reduces Civil Trial Caseload

Superior Court case filings showed little change overall compared to 1993. There were 15,829 filings courtwide a year ago, and in 1994 there were 15,655, a difference of less than 1 percent (174 cases).

On the criminal side felony filings totaled 5,682 and misdemeanor appeals/transfers, 521. For both categories this figure was just slightly lower than the previous year (5,772 felonies and 536 misdemeanors).

However, there was some variation county by county. Felony filings declined in both Providence and Washington Counties but increased in Kent and Newport Counties. The differences in Providence and Kent Counties were not significant (99 fewer cases in Providence and 15 more in Kent). For both the difference amounted to roughly 2 percent. On the other hand, the decline in Washington County (34

fewer cases) represented almost a 10 percent decrease, and as a result, felony filings were at their lowest point in Washington County in five years. At the same time the increase in Newport County (from 384 to 412) brought felony filings to their highest level for the period.

Misdemeanor appeals also reached their highest level in five years in Newport County (90) but dropped to a five-year low in

SUPERIOR COURT CASELOAD

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Felony Filings</i>					
Providence	4,385	4,114	4,149	4,274	4,175
Kent	839	886	857	757	772
Newport	307	279	334	384	412
Washington	480	386	424	357	323
Total	6,011	5,665	5,764	5,772	5,682
<i>Misdemeanor Filings</i>					
Providence	493	343	312	303	261
Kent	89	118	310	118	116
Newport	30	59	57	74	90
Washington	37	48	61	41	60
Total	649	568	740	536	527
<i>Civil Cases Added to the Trial Calendar</i>					
Providence	1,806	2,118	2,345	2,213	2,026
Kent	612	371	401	343	297
Newport	123	174	182	141	122
Washington	264	200	200	220	182
Total	2,805	2,863	3,128	2,917	2,627

Providence County (261).

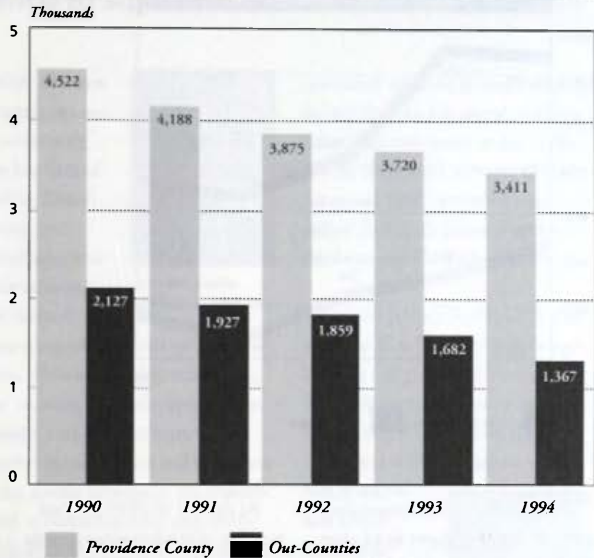
On the civil side 1994 filings courtwide were also slightly lower than in 1993 (69 fewer cases or a 7 percent decline), and there were variations by county. The number filed actually increased in Washington and Newport Counties, marking a change from the two previous years. Between 1991 and 1993 civil filings fell by 19 percent in Newport and by 22 percent in Washington County.

In all four counties dispositions exceeded the number added on the civil trial calendar. In Providence County there were 2,207 cases disposed, which was 187 more than the number added. Dispositions totaled 498 in Kent County, 201 more than were added. The number disposed in Washington County was 64 greater than the number added (246 compared to 182), and in Newport County the difference was 27 cases (149 disposed and 122 added).

This year the cases handled by arbitration accounted for 20 percent of the dispositions on the trial calendar (614 out of 3,100). In addition, another 6.6 percent (205 cases) were disposed through mediation in conjunction with the court's December Settlement Week.

Because of the disposition rate, the number of civil cases pending trial was reduced for the fifth consecutive year. Since 1990 the number pending courtwide dropped by over 30 percent (from 6,649 to

CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR PENDING CASELOAD

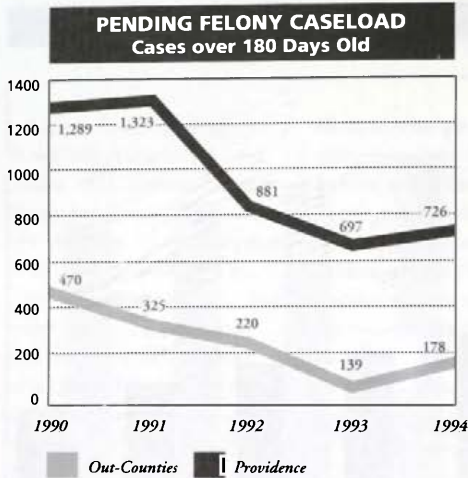


4,781). At the end of the year Providence County had 3,411 cases pending trial, Kent had 655, Washington had 453, and Newport had 262. On the basis of the current number of pending cases the time to trial is calculated to be down to approximately 2.5 years in Providence County at this time.

On the criminal side, felony and misdemeanor dispositions exceeded filings in three of the four counties — Providence, Washington, and Newport. In Kent County felony dispositions totaled 668, which was 104 fewer than the number filed, and misdemeanor dispositions fell short of filings by 21 (95 disposed and 116 filed). The closure of the

Kent County Courthouse for five months in 1994 was certainly a factor in these results.

At the end of the year there was little change in the pending felony caseload in both Providence and Washington Counties. The total pending in Providence was 1,278, which was slightly less than at the end of 1993 (1,333), while Washington County ended with a small increase (from 81 to 88). On the other hand, the pending felony caseload in Newport County was reduced by almost 37 percent, from 122 to 77, whereas the number pending in Kent County jumped by approximately 42 percent from 206 to 292.



The number of felonies pending over 180 days was down to 14 cases in Washington County (15.9 percent). The number totaled 726 in Providence County (56.8 percent) and 40 in Newport County (51.9 percent). For all three counties these numbers were roughly comparable to a year ago. In contrast, the number of felonies over 180 days old rose from 75 to 124 in Kent County.

At the end of 1994 the total number of misdemeanor appeals pending courtwide was 286, a slight increase from 1993 (254). However, the number pending in Providence County was reduced to 146, which was the lowest it has been in at least ten years.

Four New Justices Named to Superior Court

On September 23, 1994, Edward C. Clifton, Michael A. Silverstein, Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr., and Netti C. Vogel were named Associate Justices of the Superior Court.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE EDWARD C. CLIFTON comes to the state's trial court after having served for one and a half years in the District Court. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, and was educated in California, receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972 and his law degree

from UCLA in 1975. He served as a Municipal Court judge and as city solicitor from 1985 to 1991 for the city of Providence. He was a member of the Supreme Court's Disciplinary Board and Committee on Character and Fitness prior to his appointment to the District Court bench on February 3, 1993.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE MICHAEL A. SILVERSTEIN, a Rhode Island native, is a graduate of Moses Brown and a 1956 Brown University graduate. Justice Silverstein received a law degree from Boston University in

1959. He then entered private practice with the law firm of Tobin, Decof, Leroy, and Silverstein, and later achieved the rank of

managing partner with its successor firm. He specialized in matters of law focusing on bankruptcy, receiverships, and contract matters involving commercial and real estate cases. Justice Silverstein has contributed to numerous civic and charitable organizations as a corporator or a board member, including Rhode Island Hospital, Meeting Street School, and Landmark Medical Center. He is also a trustee of Roger Williams University.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE STEPHEN J. FORTUNATO, JR., attended Moses Brown and received a BA in history from Providence College in 1965. George Washington University



*Associate Justice
Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr.*



*Associate Justice
Michael A. Silverstein*

granted him a law degree in 1970. He has been engaged in private practice since that time and has garnered a reputation as a

concerned advocate in issues relating to civil liberties. He served as a State Senator for two terms in the 1970s. He has also been a member of the American Trial Lawyer's Association and of the Rhode Island chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE NETTI C. VOGEL attended Von Steuben High School in Ohio and graduated from Roosevelt University with a BA in English in 1970 and from the University of North Dakota with an MA in education a year later. After being awarded a law degree from the New England School of Law in 1975, she



*Associate Justice
Netti C. Vogel*

engaged in private practice until her appointment to Superior Court. She has been a member of the Supreme Court's Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline and the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee and has also served as a member of the Rhode Island Legal Services Board of Directors.

Superior Court Establishes Gun Court

Presiding Superior Court Justice Joseph F. Rodgers, Jr., named Judge John P. Bourcier to preside over the Gun Court, the first special jurisdiction firearms court in the nation. The court began operations on September 1, 1994. Its jurisdiction covers two counties, Providence and Bristol. The city of Providence provides \$300,000 a year to fund the court.

The Gun Court was established through legislation enacted in June 1994. It deals with offenses involving the following: (1) illegally carrying a

firearm, (2) altering firearm-identification marks, (3) theft of a firearm, (4) possessing a firearm after the conviction of a violent crime or while a fugitive from justice, and (5) carrying a dangerous weapon or substance while committing a crime of violence.

The Gun Court has succeeded both in reducing the time to disposition and in raising the penalties imposed for gun-related crimes. About 550 cases involving firearms are heard in the Superior Court annually.



Providence Mayor Vincent A. Cianci (left), Superior Court Presiding Justice Joseph F. Rodgers, Jr., and present Gun Court Judge Robert D. Krause.

Family Court



The Family Court Workload Continues to Increase

Year-end results for 1994 showed further increases in the Family Court workload as a whole. Total filings for the year were 24,746, almost 12 percent more than the number filed in 1993 (22,167). Compared to 1990 the workload grew by roughly 26 percent.

However, a breakdown of case filings by category showed a wide variation in trends. Filings doubled in two areas over the five-year period: support petitions and petitions for

termination of parental rights. There were significant increases in two other areas. Wayward/delinquent petitions went up by 24 percent, and neglect/abuse petitions rose by 17 percent. On the other hand, divorce petitions, which are the third largest category, declined by 8.6 percent, and domestic-abuse petitions dropped by 4 percent.

Juvenile dispositions rose again in 1994 and were at the highest level for the five-year period. The total

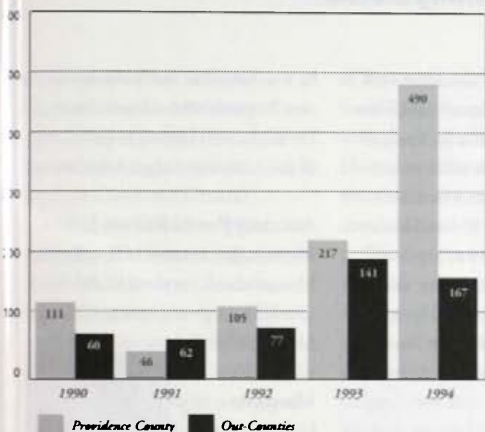
disposed of was 9,100, which was almost 23 percent higher than in 1990 (7,404). Of this number, 6,843 were wayward/delinquent cases, and roughly 34 percent of these (2,328) were handled nonjudicially by the Juvenile Intake Office.

However, the results varied significantly by county. In contrast to the others, Kent County made a significant dent in the pending juvenile caseload during 1994. The

FAMILY COURT CASELOAD

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Juvenile Filings</i>					
Wayward/Delinquent	5,794	5,641	6,447	6,489	7,175
Neglect/Abuse	1,283	1,477	1,439	1,589	1,507
Termination of Rights	208	214	424	332	435
Adoption	335	426	440	445	489
Other	524	403	493	551	557
Total	8,144	8,161	9,243	9,406	10,163
<i>Pending Juvenile Cases</i>					
Providence	615	456	541	956	1,354
Kent	130	128	125	171	121
Newport	70	62	49	82	90
Washington	63	43	50	73	145
Total	878	689	765	1,282	1,710
<i>Pending Contested Divorce Cases</i>					
Providence	339	254	164	210	178
Kent	106	100	92	42	49
Newport	25	23	16	30	26
Washington	107	45	13	24	38
Total	577	422	285	306	291

WAYWARD/DELINQUENT CASES OVER 90 DAYS OLD



number pending at the end of the year was 121, which was a 29 percent reduction (50 fewer cases) from the year before. On the other hand, Newport County showed a small increase in pending cases (8 more cases). Compared to 1993 the number rose from 82 to 90. The pending juvenile caseload climbed by 42 percent in Providence County (from 956 to 1,354), and in Washington County the number pending doubled (from 73 to 145).

Kent County not only reduced the total number of pending juvenile cases but also cut in half the number of wayward/delinquent cases over 90 days old (from 80 to 40). Elsewhere the increase in caseload resulted in a growing backlog of wayward/delinquent cases. Those over 90 days old rose by 30.6 percent in Newport County (from 36 to 47). The figure

number pending at the end of the year was 121, which was a 29 percent reduction (50 fewer cases) from the year before. On the other hand, Newport County showed a small increase in pending cases (8 more cases). Compared to 1993 the number rose from 82 to 90. The pending juvenile caseload climbed by 42 percent in Providence County (from 956 to 1,354), and in Washington County the number pending doubled (from 73 to 145).

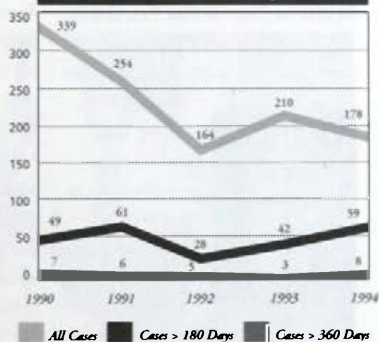
On the domestic side dispositions on the contested divorce calendar were higher than in 1993 in Providence, Washington, and Newport Counties. Also Providence and Newport Counties showed a reduction in the number of pending contested cases. In Providence County the number pending was reduced from 210 to 178, and in Newport County it was reduced from 30 to 26. On the other

hand, both Kent and Washington Counties ended the year with an increase in this category. In Kent the number of pending contested cases rose from 42 to 49, and in Washington County the number jumped from 24 to 38.

Courtwide there were 15 contested-divorce cases pending at the end of 1994 that were more than a year old, an increase of 4 cases compared to 1993. The increase was due to the results in Providence County, where the number rose from 3 to 8.

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PENDING CONTESTED CASELOAD
Providence CountyPENDING CONTESTED CASELOAD
Out-Counties

Three New Justices Named to Family Court

Three new justices were appointed to the Family Court in 1994 — Gilbert T. Rocha, John A. Mutter, and Francis J. Murray, Jr. Justices Rocha and Mutter were sworn in on September 29 and Justice Murray on November 11. Justice Murray filled the newly created position on the court, increasing the number of associate justices from 10 to 11.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE GILBERT T.

ROCHA was born in East Providence. He served briefly as a District Court judge prior to his appointment to the

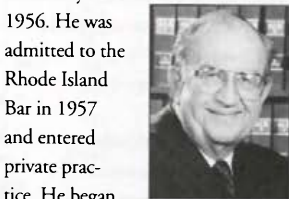


*Associate Justice
Gilbert T. Rocha*

Family Court, having been named on an interim basis on August 22, 1993, while the General Assembly was in recess. Justice Rocha began his public-service career as a State Senator, serving from 1959 until 1967. He was also secretary to the

1966 Rhode Island Constitutional Convention. His formal education included attendance at St. Raphael and Marianopolis Academies and Boston College, from which he received his BS in 1954 and his law degree in 1957. He was in private practice for almost 25 years, concentrating on family law, and he served as legal counsel to the East Providence Housing Authority from 1981 to 1982.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE JOHN A. MUTTER, a lifelong Rhode Islander, received his BA from Providence College and then his law degree from Boston



*Associate Justice
John A. Mutter.*

University in 1956. He was admitted to the Rhode Island Bar in 1957 and entered private practice. He began a long association with Rhode Island's Legal Aid Society and subsequently was appointed Chief Counsel in 1980. During that time

he was named as the first judge of the new Pawtucket Municipal Court. He is currently serving as president of the American Judges Association.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE FRANCIS J.

MURRAY, JR., a native of Brockton, Massachusetts, received his BA from Our Lady of Providence in 1971, an MA in political

science from Marquette University in 1973, and a law degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1976. He

served as assistant legal counsel to Governor J. Joseph Garrahy from 1977 to 1985. Prior to his appointment, he was engaged for almost 20 years in private practice, concentrating in family law.



*Associate Justice
Francis J. Murray*

Comprehensive Family Court Assessment Undertaken

Recognizing that the Family Court workload is continuing to increase, Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr., joined with the Supreme Court, the General Assembly, the Executive Department, and the Governor's Justice Commission to obtain funds for a full assessment of the court. This comprehensive assessment will review all the Family Court's operations, including an analysis of case-scheduling and court-calendaring procedures, an assessment of the court's personnel needs to meet the demands of the present caseload and future trends, and an evaluation of the current management information system.

In October the court awarded the contract to conduct this assessment to the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The NCSC is widely recognized for its achievement in improving court operations and management. The staff of the center has extensive experience in court assessments.

Chief Judge Jeremiah established an oversight committee for the assessment. The Chief Judge chairs the committee, and the other members represent the components

of the system that provided the funds for it. The oversight committee met with project staff from the NCSC in December 1994 and established timeframes and a methodology for the assessment.

The assessment will include an extensive review of court statistics and legislation. In addition, the center will spend approximately 40 days in Rhode Island interviewing judges, court staff, attorneys, social workers, service providers, and other

professionals who are affected by the operation of the court. The NCSC anticipates that a final report including recommendations and implementation strategies will be completed in 1995.

In addition to providing the court with a future plan, the evaluation of the court's handling of child-protective cases will qualify the court to receive federal funds under the Family Preservation and Support Act (see related story).



Family Court Administrator George N. DiMuro and Deputy Administrator Anthony T. Pagnotta review assessment proposal.

Court Receives Federal Grant to Address Child-Protection Cases

As part of the Family Preservation and Support Act, Congress has set aside \$35 million for grants to family/juvenile courts to improve their response to the needs of children in dependency, neglect, abuse, and termination-of-parental-rights cases. This is a four-year

\$105,000 in each of the next three years. After the first year the court is required to provide a 25 percent cash match.

Rhode Island is ahead of most states in applying for these funds because in 1992 Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr., established

has severely strained the resources of the Family Court.

Through a cooperative initiative among the Supreme Court, the Family Court, the General Assembly, and the Executive Department, the Supreme Court contracted with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the entire Family Court. The assessment began in December 1994 and should be completed by June 1995. The section of this study that addresses the court's response to child-protection cases has been tentatively approved to meet the federal requirement for a comprehensive assessment (see related story).

In November 1994 the Supreme and Family Courts submitted a proposal to the United States Department of Human Services for the first year of Family Preservation Act funds. The proposal requested funds to support an additional attorney in the Office of the Public Defender to be assigned to the child-protection case calendar in Providence County. In addition, funds will be used to wire areas in the Garrahy Judicial Complex for computers. Initial reaction to the court's proposal was favorable. The court hopes to have an official response on the proposal in early 1995.



Staff members Bill White and Elaine Wood will assist the court in implementing a proposed federal grant.

entitlement program that will be administered by the Federal Department of Human Services. To participate in the program, states must conduct a comprehensive assessment of their handling of child protection and may use their first-year federal funding for this purpose.

Rhode Island is eligible for \$80,000 in the first year of this program and approximately

a committee to address the area of child-protection cases. The committee, which is chaired by the Chief Judge, was established in response to the dramatic increase in filings of this type. In five years the number of child-protection cases has more than doubled. In addition, the issues that the court must address in these cases have become more complex, and as a result this caseload

CASA Program Celebrates Fifteenth Year

In 1994 the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program celebrated its fifteenth year of providing services to children. The program assists children who are removed from their homes by providing them with trained volunteer advocates. Advocates conduct independent investigations into the factors leading to a child's removal from his/her home and provide the court with recommendations based on the best interest of the child. The CASA staff and the advocates also monitor the progress of a child's case through the Family Court and the child-welfare system.

This past year the program received cases involving 1,834 children. This figure represents an increase of 7.6 percent in one year and continues the steady increase in referrals that this office has seen since 1988. Of the total referrals the CASA office in Providence/Bristol County received 1,518; Kent County, 130; Washington County, 92; and Newport County, 94.

Recruitment, training, and retention of the volunteer advocates are major components of the program. Advocates are recruited in several ways, including public-service announcements on television and radio and in newspapers, at speaking engagements, and during volunteer fairs. Of special note during 1994,

the program worked with a local cable company, TCI Cablevision, to develop recruitment announcements that will appear on this cable network. In addition, the program staff and members of the board participated in a special volunteer-recruitment effort sponsored by a large shopping mall in collaboration with Brown University's Outreach Night. These and other initiatives helped to increase the number of advocates from 110 to 134 by the end of 1994.

However, despite extensive recruitment efforts, the tremendous increase in the number of children referred to the program does not allow for an advocate to be assigned to each child.

The program and board members conduct an extensive training program for new advocates and ongoing training to assist the advocates in addressing the challenges they face. The program also has developed a peer support group to assist the advocates. During 1994 a dozen training/support-group

seminars were held addressing various issues, such as cultural diversity, adolescent suicide, identification of substance abuse and intervention strategies, domestic violence, and court-report writing.

The program received a grant



Left to right: Rossie Harris, staff attorney, Jim Pickett, CASA Director, and Jean George, CASA Deputy Director.

from NYNEX in recognition of the CASA volunteers' commitment to serve others. The funds were used to provide children removed from their homes with some personal belongings and to assist in advocate training. In addition, Debbie Weida received a Feinstein Award in recognition of her extensive volunteer involvement with the CASA Program.

Program Offered to Help Divorcing Parents

Going through a divorce has long been identified as one of the most stressful situations that an adult can face, but only recently has it been recognized that the breakup of a marriage is also a traumatic event in the life of a child. To address this issue, the Family Court and St. Mary's Home for Children have developed a program to help parents reduce the trauma that their children experience during and after the

divorce. The program, entitled "Divided Yet United," is a five-hour educational program that is conducted in two sessions. The program deals with issues such as the impact of divorce at the various stages of a child's development as well as discipline, communication, and conflict resolution.

"Divided Yet United" ran as a pilot project in 1993, and over 80 divorcing parents participated in the

program. Their evaluations clearly indicated that they found it very beneficial. Based on the participants' response during the pilot project, four sessions of the program were held in 1994. Again, the evaluations were positive and encouraged the court and St. Mary's to continue this initiative.

This initiative came about as a result of the work of a court committee that studied the feasibility of implementing a wide range of alternative-dispute-resolution (ADR) programs in the Family Court. The committee, which was created and chaired by Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr., identified a number of priorities for the court. Top priorities were the need to establish an educational program to assist parents to parent effectively during the divorce and the need to offer mediation to divorcing parties (see related story on mediation). Because of the success of this program in 1994, the Family Court and St. Mary's will continue this initiative in 1995.



Staff members of St. Mary's Home for Children "Divided Yet United" program (from left): Dianne Sprague, Fred Barbosa and Jean Field.

Family Services Unit Provides Range of Services to Court

The Family Services Unit assists families and individuals by providing services such as family and alcohol counseling, mediation for divorcing parties, investigations in child-support cases, and supervision in certain cases involving court-ordered child visitation and by administering court-ordered drug/alcohol screening.

As a result of legislation enacted in 1993, the Family Services Unit was assigned an additional responsibility in 1994. The legislation mandates that the Family Court maintain an adoption registry, and the Family Services Unit has been designated to provide this service. The act requires that prior to the release of adoption information to a qualifying adult the person requesting it must participate in at least a one-hour consultation to deal with a number of issues that can arise when obtaining this information. This consultation may be at a private agency or at the Family Court. In 1994 the unit held 20 of these consultation sessions.

The unit conducted 1,198 investigations into matters such as child support, visitation and custody issues, minors requesting permission to marry, and stepparent adoptions.

The information obtained through these investigations assists judges in resolving such issues in a fair and timely manner.

The staff also provides individuals with drug and alcohol counseling. Those who participate in this service are ordered by the court to do so or can voluntarily seek this help even if they are not involved in the court system. In addition to counseling, the staff administered 451 drug/alcohol screenings at the request of judges.

Trained mediators within the unit handled 29 court-ordered divorce mediations. The mediators assist divorcing parents in focusing on parental involvement with their children during and after the divorce and in developing a new structure for the family.

The Family Services Unit also has been involved in supervising certain court-ordered visitations. In 1994 staff and volunteers supervised 818 hours of these visits and completed the necessary reports.



Unit staff members (left to right) Susan Vendetti, Lori Tremblay and Jack Hamilton.

Juvenile Services Develops New Alternatives for Wayward Youth

The Juvenile Services Unit continues to work with state and community agencies to develop alternatives to meet the needs of certain juvenile offenders. The unit strives to work with programs that can offer the young person and his/her family support to avoid further community and family difficulties. In past years the unit has worked with programs such as the Narragansett Boy Scouts of America and the state's Treatment Alternatives to Street Crimes (TASC) program. In 1994 the Juvenile

Services Unit began an initiative with the community-based Ocean Tides Outreach Program. This program is designed for at-risk youths from the Central Falls-Pawtucket area and is marked by a special focus on intensive supervision. The program supervises approximately 50 young people referred from the Family Court or DCYF through a team approach that results in numerous day-to-day contacts with the young person.

Aside from the many programs with which the Juvenile Services

Unit is involved, its main responsibility continues to consist of screening all wayward/delinquent petitions (other than emergencies) that are filed with the court. Staff members employ case-screening criteria in an effort to determine whether each case can be handled without a formal court appearance. In such a situation, the staff develops appropriate dispositions to which the young person must adhere in order to avoid a formal court hearing. The dispositions can include counseling, restitution, community service, curfew, regular attendance at school, and/or referrals to community-based programs, including those described above.

In addition, the Youth Diversionary Unit, a special department within Juvenile Services, serves as a community-outreach unit. Field workers generally handle matters that involve disobeying parental rules or truancy.

In 1994 the department screened 9,766 wayward/delinquent petitions, compared to 6,489 petitions in 1993 and 6,457 petitions in 1992. This comparison represents an increase of approximately 50 percent in the number of cases screened. Furthermore, in 1994 the number of cases that the unit diverted away from the formal court process increased from 30 percent in 1993 to 40 percent of the cases handled.



Left to right: Brother Michael Reis, Ocean Tides, Dave Heden, Chief Intake Supervisor, Joe Conley, case worker, Helynn Giroux, Executive Secretary to the Chief Judge.

Ten Percent Increase in Child Support Collections

Family Court child-support collection continues to show a dramatic year-to-year increase. Collections rose from \$32,701,420 in 1993 to \$35,912,512 in 1994. This amount represents an increase of \$3,211,092 or 9 percent from the previous year.

Since 1990 child-support collections have gone up from \$22,202,565 to \$35,912,512, an increase of \$13,709,947 or 61.7 percent over the last five years. The chart to the right depicts collections during that five-year period. The funds collected through this initiative are used to reimburse the state for the benefits paid to custodial parents and to support their children under the Aid to Dependent Children program of the Department of Human Services.

The federal government supports the enforcement of child-support orders by reimbursing Rhode Island for approximately 67 percent of the expenses directly related to child-support collection and enforcement.

These expenses include salaries, fringe benefits, telephone services, and computer costs.

The state also receives federal reimbursement for various indirect expenses. Indirect activities include administrative services provided by the Family Court and the Administrative Office of State Courts, as well as certain executive-department agencies such as the personnel office,

the budget office, and the office of accounts and controls. In 1994 the state received \$1,0944,525 in federal reimbursements.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Amount Collected</i>
1990	\$22,202,562
1991	\$25,220,539
1992	\$30,140,095
1993	\$32,701,420
1995	\$35,912,512



Collections Unit staff (left to right) Debra A. Eck, Doreen Adamo and Linda Anderson.

New Family Court Administrator Named

Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr., appointed George N. DiMuro as Family Court administrator on January 9, 1994, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Earl Croft, who had held the position from August 1987 to December 1993.

A Rhode Island native, DiMuro received his undergraduate degree from Providence College in 1966 and a law degree from Catholic University in 1969. He also did

graduate work in taxation at Bryant College. He engaged in private practice from 1969 to the time of his acceptance of the appointment as administrator. Chief Judge Jeremiah also named him Family Court Special Master on February 23, 1994. His previous public service includes serving on the Cranston city council from 1972 to 1976 and as a member of the Cranston Zoning Board from 1976 to 1992.



Family Court Chief Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr. (seated) and Court Administrator George N. DiMuro.

District Court



District Court Reduces Misdemeanor Backlog to a Record Low Number

The 1994 tabulated results for District Court show that filings declined slightly in three out of the four major categories. On the civil side 1994 is the third year in a row in which filings were lower, and on the criminal side filings fell for the fourth year.

Regular civil filings totaled 16,832 courtwide, which was 26 percent less than in 1991. (There were 22,719 civil filings that year.) Despite an

overall decrease in this category, two divisions, the Second and the Fourth, showed increases compared to a year earlier. Moreover, the number filed in the Fourth Division (2,121) was the highest in the past five years.

Small claims followed a similar trend. There were 18,330 filings of this type of action in 1991, and in 1994 the number fell to 13,740, a difference of 25 percent. However,

again the same two divisions, the Second and Fourth, actually had more small claims filed than in 1993. (Note that for five months Third Division civil and small-claims cases were filed in the Sixth Division because of the closing of the Kent County Courthouse. This circumstance inflated the number of filings in the Sixth Division for the year and deflated the number in the Third Division.)

DISTRICT COURT FILINGS					
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Misdemeanor Cases</i>					
Second				3,735	3,350
Third				6,422	6,251
Fourth				3,976	3,501
Sixth				14,959	15,388
Total				29,092	28,490
<i>Felony Cases</i>					
Courtwide				6,502	6,652
<i>Felony and Misdemeanor Charges</i>					
Courtwide	57,129	53,868	50,342	49,062	48,110
<i>Civil Cases</i>					
Second	1,526	1,263	1,147	1,020	1,097
Third	3,054	3,386	2,665	2,536	1,461
Fourth	1,700	1,635	1,404	1,170	2,121
Sixth	16,038	16,435	13,599	12,115	12,153
Total	22,318	22,719	18,815	16,841	16,832
<i>Small Claims</i>					
Second	1,200	1,207	1,093	895	1,034
Third	3,307	2,957	3,061	2,584	1,370
Fourth	2,207	2,266	1,956	1,326	1,350
Sixth	11,279	11,900	10,896	9,457	9,986
Total	17,993	18,330	17,006	14,262	13,740

Criminal filings are counted in two ways, by cases (for two years only) and by charges. In regard to the number of charges, criminal filings dropped by 15.6 percent between 1990 and 1994 from 57,129 to 48,110. Case filings in 1994 totaled 35,142. Of this number, 28,490 were misdemeanors and 6,652 were felonies.

The other two categories of cases in the District Court are domestic-abuse and administrative appeals. Domestic-abuse filings leveled off in 1994 after doubling in number over the previous five years. The total filed was 1,041, and a year earlier it was 1,086. In comparison, six years ago the court was handling 536 cases per year. The second category, administrative appeals, showed a significant increase. There were 253 appeals last year, and the number rose to 356 this year.

Disposition results for 1994 suggest that the District Court continues to be up to date in handling small claims. Every division reported disposing of more small claims than were filed.

However, there was a wide difference in results for regular civil cases. The Second Division disposed of more cases than were filed (1,226 disposed compared to 1,097 filed) while dispositions were 74.4 percent of filings in the Fourth Division, and 86.8 percent of filings in the Third and Sixth Divisions combined. (Disposition results are added together for the purposes of this report since filings were combined in

these two divisions for five months of the year.)

There was more consistency between divisions in the results reported for misdemeanors. Again the Second Division disposed of more cases than were filed. In the other divisions the disposition rate varied from 90 percent to 96 percent. The Third Division disposed of roughly 96 percent of the number filed; the rate was 92 percent in the Third Division and 90 percent in the Sixth Division.

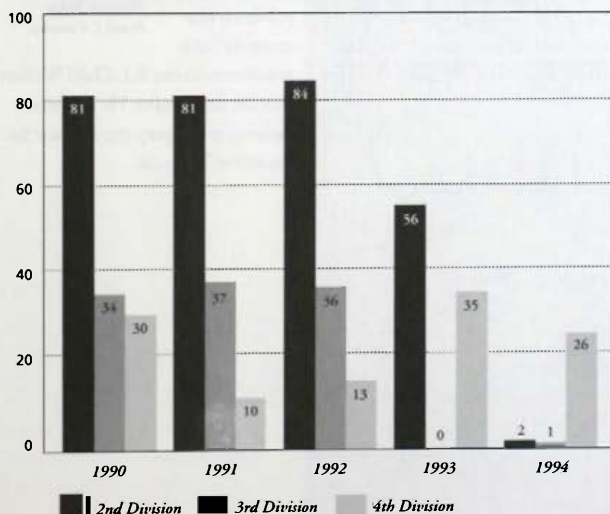
At the end of 1994 the Second Division had 166 misdemeanors pending, which was approximately the same number as at the end of 1993 (168). The Third Division had 178 cases, 12 more than at the end of 1993. The Fourth Division

ended the year with 216 cases pending, 28 fewer cases than 1993.

In the last quarter the District Court made a concerted effort to reduce the number of misdemeanor cases over 60 days old, and as a result at the end of 1994 there were only 29 cases in this category in the Second, Third, and Fourth Divisions combined. The Second Division reported 2 cases over 60 days old, the Third Division reported 1, and the remaining 26 were in the Fourth Division.

At this time there is no accurate information on the pending misdemeanor caseload in the Sixth Division. However, disposition results for this division show that 94 percent of the cases were disposed of within 60 days.

PENDING MISDEMEANOR CASELOAD
Cases over 60 Days Old



Three New Judges Named to District Court

On September 30, 1994, John M. McLoughlin and Frank J. Cenerini were sworn in as Associate Judges of the Rhode Island District Court. Judge Elaine T. Bucci was sworn in on October 16, 1994.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE JOHN M.

McLOUGHLIN is a Rhode Island native. He graduated from Boston College in 1962 with a degree in business administration and received his law degree from the University of Baltimore in 1966. He is a member of the Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Rhode Island Bars. He served as legal



*Associate Judge
John M. McLoughlin*

counsel to the Maryland Liquor Board from 1969 to 1974. In 1986 he joined the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. He was a trial attorney and general prosecutor in Washington County at the time of his appointment to the District Court.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE FRANK J. CENERINI is a 1966 graduate of Providence College. He received an MA from Columbia University in 1968 and a law degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1975. His public-service career includes positions with the R.I. Child Welfare Services department. He has been assistant and deputy city solicitor for the city of Warwick.



*Associate Judge
Frank J. Cenerini*

ASSOCIATE JUDGE ELAINE T. BUCCI was born in Providence and attended Hope High School. She is a 1979 graduate of Boston College and received a law degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1982. She entered private practice and was named clerk of the Providence Probate Court in August of 1988, where she served until her appointment to District Court. Her public service includes serving as a State Representative from 1985 to 1992.



*Associate Judge
Elaine T. Bucci*

Workers' Compensation Court



Workers' Compensation Court Reduces Caseload for the Third Consecutive Year

For the third consecutive year the Workers' Compensation Court made progress in reducing its pending caseload. Since 1991 the court succeeded in cutting the number of pending cases almost in half. The number of pending cases totaled 7,159 four years ago, and at the end of this year it was down to 3,662, a difference of 49 percent.

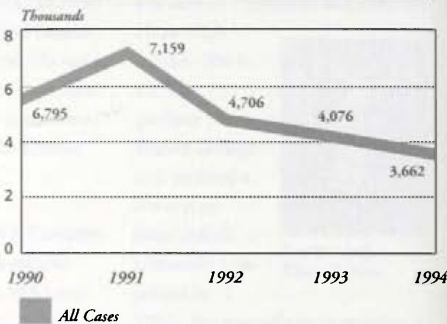
The primary factor in this reduction was the court's disposition rate. In 1994, as in the two previous years, the court disposed of more cases than were filed. This year dispositions totaled 11,020 whereas filings totaled 10,590.

The court continued to dispose of

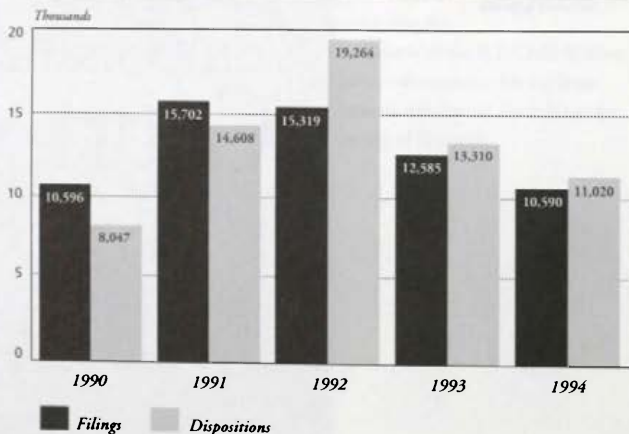
the majority of the cases at the pretrial stage. In 1994, 60.4 percent of all dispositions occurred at this point (6,449 cases).

As a result roughly a third of the cases (3,951), or 37 percent, were disposed of in less than 30 days' time. Approximately one half of the cases were disposed of within 60 days (5,375), and 80 percent were disposed of within 90 days (8,485).

CHANGE IN PENDING CASELOAD



FILINGS VS. DISPOSITIONS



Workers' compensation claims also continued to decline for the third year in a row, demonstrating the positive impact of the workers' compensation reform legislation. Over a three-year period annual claims (including appeals to the appellate division of the court) dropped from 15,702 to 10,590, a difference of 5,112 cases or almost 33 percent. Employer petitions decreased by the greatest percentage. Three years ago there were 4,015 petitions of this type filed, and this year there were 2,454, which is a difference of roughly 39 percent. Employee petitions also declined. There were 9,195 employee claims filed in 1991 and 6,343 in 1994, a decrease of around 31 percent.

Compliance Not Punishment Goal of Violation Process

In addition to developing medical protocols, the Medical Advisory Board is charged by statute with the enforcement of specifics of the Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. The act authorizes the Medical Advisory Board to disqualify or to suspend any qualified provider for a number of reasons. Among them are the following:

1. Violating protocols and/or standards.
2. Submitting improper affidavits.
3. Providing unnecessary and/or inappropriate treatment.
4. Violating approved fee schedules.
5. Being censured or disciplined by the licensing body of the provider's profession.
6. Instituting improper collection efforts against an employee.

When a complaint is filed by an insurer, an employer, an employee, or the court, it is reviewed for substance. If the complaint is nonmedical in nature, the administrator may make a finding, which can be appealed to the board. If the violation concerns medical practice or repeated offenses, a formal hearing process is initiated.

Under this process a three-member screening panel from the board reviews the case to determine if probable cause exists to proceed to

a full hearing. If probable cause does exist, the full board, minus the screening-panel members, hears the case. The board hears testimony and issues a decision shortly after the hearing. This decision can be appealed to the Workers' Compensation Court.

However, the fact that a health-care provider's livelihood and reputation could be affected has led the Medical Advisory Board Office to act in some cases in the capacity of an arbitrator.

Thus, when the screening panel determines there is probable cause, the panel will offer the provider the opportunity to resolve the complaint at a settlement conference. This action affords the provider the chance to be heard and the matter to be resolved without the embarrassment of an appearance before a board of his/her peers. The results of the screening panel are usually in the form of a private censure. As an interesting footnote—when private censures have

been executed, health-care providers have not repeated the violation.

From January through December of 1994, 145 violations were filed with the Medical Advisory Board. This number is down from 190 complaints in 1993. Of the 145 complaints, 24 percent were for violation of protocols, 34 percent were for failure to write up paperwork, and 33 percent were for



Chief Judge Robert F. Arvigo (left) and Medical Advisory Board Chairman Julius Stoll, Jr., M.D.

improper billing of the employee. Of these, 31 percent involved actual violations, 29 percent were unfounded, and 40 percent were settled.

Relying on the success of the settlement process, the board will continue to promote compliance rather than punishment.

Medical Advisory Board Expands Protocols

During 1994 the Medical Advisory Board promulgated diagnostic testing protocols, temporomandibular joint-disorder protocols, and acute hand-injury protocols. A pharmaceutical protocol was also adopted and will be scheduled for a public hearing in 1995.

The protocols were established to ensure the provision of quality medical care for all injured workers while limiting costly, inappropriate intervention and unnecessary delay in returning workers to their jobs. These protocols offer information to all physicians and health-care providers.

Each protocol is divided into three main categories: (1) background, (2) diagnostic criteria, and (3) treatment. The background is a

general description of the injury and how it could occur in the work place. The diagnostic criteria describe both the physical and the objective testing procedures for each injury. The treatment section of each protocol describes both in-patient and out-patient treatment including the estimated duration of care.

It is difficult to measure the impact of the treatment protocols on the workers' compensation system. However, the available data suggests that they have been beneficial. The most important aspect of this legislation often tends to be overlooked, that is, the spirit of participation and cooperation among the business, labor, and medical communities and the government.



Medical Advisory Board staff (left to right): Lisa DeLorenzo, M. Rachel Sousa, Donna Maria Gemma and Administrator Maureen H. Arvo.

Administrative Adjudication Court Book

Administrative Adjudication Court Book
Volume 1, 1998-1999
Volume 2, 2000-2001
Volume 3, 2002-2003
Volume 4, 2004-2005
Volume 5, 2006-2007
Volume 6, 2008-2009
Volume 7, 2010-2011
Volume 8, 2012-2013
Volume 9, 2014-2015
Volume 10, 2016-2017
Volume 11, 2018-2019
Volume 12, 2020-2021
Volume 13, 2022-2023
Volume 14, 2024-2025

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Volume 14, 2024-2025

Administrative Adjudication Court



Administrative Adjudication Court

The Administrative Adjudication Court (AAC) does not yet have its own computer system and therefore has no capacity to produce in-depth statistics. The court is in the process of obtaining equipment and software and anticipates that it will have its own computer system installed and operating in 1996.



Court Review Officer Cheryl DiOrio assists the court in processing more than 175,000 cases annually.

The following is the only information that is currently available on the workload of the AAC. In fiscal year 1994 the AAC processed 145,753 traffic summonses. Roughly 1,612 of these summonses involved refusal to submit to a breathalyzer test. In addition, the court monitored another 31,964 summonses that were handled by municipal courts.

The court estimates that 38 percent of the summonses under the jurisdiction of the AAC result in hearings. Thus, out of the 145,753 summonses issued, approximately 55,386 involved court hearings, and the other 90,367 were processed by mail.

The AAC has an appellate division, and in 1994 there were 841 appeals filed.

The AAC collects substantial moneys from fines and other assessments. During 1994 the total amount collected was \$9,129,460.

Two New Judges Named To Administrative Adjudication Court Bench

On August 2, 1993, Albert A. Ciullo and Edward C. Parker were sworn in as Associate Judges of the Administrative Adjudication Court.

A Rhode Island native, JUDGE ALBERT A. CIULLO graduated from Providence College in 1966 and received a law degree from Boston University in 1969. From 1970 to 1976 he served as a Providence assistant city solicitor, and in 1986 he was appointed legal counsel to the



*Associate Judge
Albert A. Ciullo*

State Senate's Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare, serving in that position for three years. He was also engaged in private practice for 24 years prior to his appointment to the bench.

JUDGE EDWARD C. PARKER was named to the Administrative Adjudication Court after serving for six years in the Department of the Attorney General. A Pawtucket



*Associate Judge
Edward C. Parker*

native, he graduated from Boston College in 1961 and received his law degree from New England School of Law in 1966. He was engaged in private practice from that time until his selection as executive director/legal counsel to the Rhode Island State Fire Safety Board of Appeals and Review in 1977. He served in that position until his appointment as deputy attorney general in 1987. Judge Parker's public service also includes a term as a member of the Pawtucket Housing Authority from 1984 to 1988 and as a District Court bail commissioner from 1969 to 1978.



Justice [Name]
Family Court
Justice [Name]

Justice [Name]
Justice [Name]
Service Court

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Acknowledgments





Superior Court Justice Wiley Retires

Alton W. Wiley, Associate Justice of the Superior Court, retired on August 1, 1994. Justice Wiley was appointed to the Superior Court on June 28, 1991. Born in Wisconsin, he graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1951 and received a law degree from Boston University in 1956. His public-service career included positions as legal counsel for the Department of Employment Security, assistant United States attorney, and assistant public defender. Justice Wiley was named to the District Court bench in 1980 and served in that court for 11 years until his appointment to the Superior Court. He was a member of the United States Army Reserve from 1953 to 1979 and retired as a lieutenant colonel.



Justice Caldarone Ends Public Service Career

After ten years as a Rhode Island Superior Court Associate Justice, Thomas J. Caldarone, Jr., retired on January 28, 1994. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in industrial engineering and received his law degree from Boston University in 1957. He began his public service as legal counsel to the Providence Department of Public Assistance in 1959 and served in subsequent years as chief of legal services for the Department of Social Welfare, as deputy attorney general, and as director of the Department of Business Regulation. Justice Caldarone was appointed to the Superior Court on January 19, 1984.



Family Court Justice DiPetrillo Retires

Carmine R. DiPetrillo, Associate Justice of the Family Court, retired on May, 20 1994, after serving on that court for more than 20 years. A Rhode Island native, he graduated from Boston University in 1950 and from its law school two years later. A Korean War veteran, he was elected to the General Assembly in 1963, serving as a State Representative for 11 years. He was appointed to the bench on May 8, 1974.

Boards AND Panels





Standing: Joseph A. Kelly, Esq., Mary Louise Kennedy, Esq., Beverly A. Clark, Executive Secretary, Joseph V. Cavanaugh, Jr., Esq., Brian B. Burns, Administrator. Seated: Alfred J. Factor, Esq., Frank Williams, Esq., Chair, Marilyn Shannon McConaghy, Esq., Kathleen Cacchiotti, Recording Secretary. Not Pictured: Robert Pitassi, Esq.

Board of Bar Examiners

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT, 250 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
(401) 272-3272

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Article 2, Rule 5)

The Board of Bar Examiners tests the legal knowledge of bar applicants by administering bar exams on the last Wednesday and Thursday of February and July. Applicants must be graduates of an American Bar Association approved and accredited law school and must have received a scaled score of 80 on the Multistate Professional Responsibility exam prior to sitting for the two-day examination. The Multistate Bar Exam (MBE) is given on the first day

and essay questions on Rhode Island law are given on the second day. Applicants need a scaled score of 130 (140 in 1995) on the MBE and must successfully answer 7 of 12 essay questions.

The Supreme Court appoints seven attorneys to the board for five-year terms. Members proctor the bar exam and score responses to the questions. In 1994 the board processed 227 applications and recommended 178 individuals for admission to the bar.

Members:

Frank Williams, Esq., Chair
Joseph V. Cavanaugh, Jr., Esq.
Alfred J. Factor, Esq.
Joseph A. Kelly, Esq.
Mary Louise Kennedy, Esq.
Marilyn Shannon McConaghy, Esq.
Robert Pitassi, Esq.
Brian B. Burns, Administrator
Beverly A. Clark, Executive Secretary
Kathleen Cacchiotti, Recording Secretary



Standing: Joseph A. Kelly, Esq., Brian B. Burns, Administrator, Beverly A. Clark, Executive Secretary, Gail Higgins Fogarty, Staff Attorney. Seated: Steven M. McInnis, Esq., Chair, Jane M. McSoley, Esq., Berndt W. Anderson, Esq. Not Pictured: William C. Clifton, Esq., Deborah DiNardo, Esq., Edward Gorman, Investigator.

Committee on Character and Fitness

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT, 250 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

(401) 277-3272

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Article 2, Rule 3)

Established by the Supreme Court in 1988, the Committee on Character and Fitness determines the moral fitness of Rhode Island Bar applicants by scrutinizing their finances, legal training, and criminal records, if any. Applicants also must participate in a personal interview.

Following the interview, applicants may be referred to the full committee for a hearing if further review is warranted. A recommenda-

tion is then made to the Supreme Court concerning whether an applicant should be admitted to the bar or even allowed to take the bar examination. The court may then grant the applicant's request or require the applicant to show cause why the court should grant the request.

The seven Supreme Court appointed members serve three-year terms.

Members:

Steven M. McInnis, Esq., Chair
 Berndt W. Anderson, Esq.
 William C. Clifton, Esq.
 Deborah DiNardo, Esq.
 Joseph A. Kelly, Esq.
 Jane M. McSoley, Esq.
 Brian B. Burns, Administrator
 Beverly A. Clark, Executive Secretary
 Gail Higgins Fogarty, Staff Attorney
 Edward Gorman, Investigator



Standing: Diane Finkle, Esq., Chair, Nancy Fisher Chuda, Esq., Merlyn P. O'Keefe, Esq., Gerald G. McClure, C. Russell Bengtson, Esq., James J. Rubois, Vincent Brown. Seated: Robert G. Jeffrey, Esq., Sydney O. Williams, E. Howard Bowen, Esq., Vice Chair, Susan Leach DeBlasio, Esq. Not pictured: Maryjo Carr, Esq.

Disciplinary Board

FOGART JUDICIAL ANNEX, 24 WEYBOSSET STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
(401) 277-3270

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Article 3, Rule 4)

The Disciplinary Board consists of eight attorneys and four public members who are appointed by the Supreme Court. Members may serve only two terms, although those terms vary in length from one to three years. The board oversees the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel, which reviews and investigates all allegations of attorney misconduct received from complainants. The board must authorize the filing of formal charges against an attorney. It then conducts hearings and makes

recommendations for discipline if such is deemed necessary. The board may petition the court to place an attorney on inactive status if the attorney is mentally or physically incapacitated. The board may also ask attorneys to appear before it to clarify an alleged infraction of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

The Disciplinary Counsel has instituted a screening process whereby any complainant may speak to a staff attorney prior to the filing of the complaint. This procedure

increases the efficiency of the board by eliminating frivolous complaints and by bringing serious matters to the immediate attention of the board. Staff attorneys cannot provide legal advice to complainants; however, they are able to give assistance by referring complainants to other agencies that may assist them in obtaining legal representation.

During 1994 the Disciplinary Counsel received 38 notices of overdrafts on attorney trust accounts.

The notices were transmitted pursuant to Article 4, Rule 2. In each case of an overdraft notification the attorney was requested to provide an explanation, and in most cases Disciplinary Counsel interviewed the attorney. None of these matters resulted in a formal investigation of misconduct.

The number of formal complaints opened by the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel in 1994 was 253, down from 310 in calendar year 1993. This reduction may be attributed to early intervention by staff attorneys prior to the formal filing of complaints. The advent of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education, with its emphasis on ethics, may also be partially responsible for the decrease in complaints. As a result there is greater efficiency in the complaint-handling process. The processing of complaints has remained current.

Members:

Diane Finkle, Esq., Chair
 E. Howland Bowen, Esq.,
 Vice Chair
 C. Russell Bengtson, Esq.
 Maryjo Carr, Esq.
 Nancy Fisher Chudacoff, Esq.
 Susan Leach DeBlasio, Esq.
 Robert G. Jeffrey, Esq.
 Merlyn P. O'Keefe, Esq.
 Vincent Brown
 Gerald G. McClure
 James J. Rubovits
 Sydney O. Williams

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS			
	1992	1993	1994
<i>Intake Screening and Complaint Processing</i>			
Complaints received	589	570	524
Complaints opened for investigation	371	301	253
Complaints outside jurisdiction of Disciplinary Board	119	114	144
Informal complaints	87	88	122
Fee disputes (no misconduct alleged)	12	7	5
<i>Nature of Complaints</i>			
Dissatisfaction	176	126	113
Fee dispute	59	49	39
Neglect	22	13	6
Failure to account for funds	28	13	3
Conviction of a crime	0	3	3
Conflict of interest	17	19	3
Conduct reflects adversely on bar	10	2	5
Other	156	143	115
<i>Source of Complaints*</i>			
Client	320	252	199
Nonclient	16	23	35
Judge	1	0	0
Opposing counsel	0	0	1
Other attorney	10	6	7
Chief Disciplinary Counsel	14	9	14
Creditor	0	0	1
Other	34	35	8
<i>Board Actions</i>			
Complaints dismissed	258	327	279
Complaints dismissed with admonition or cautionary letter	60	48	25
Referred to R.I. Bar Association fee arbitration	9	12	12
Letter of reprimand	*	*	4
Petition to issue	61	28	11
Referred to court (Rule 6 (e))	14	5	2
Decision to court (Rule 6 (b))	27	42	19
<i>Court Actions</i>			
Ordered to respond pursuant to Rule 6 (e)	14	2	2
Private censure	4	10	8
Public censure	0	5	2
Suspension (including interim suspension)	6	4	3
Disbarment (including consent to disbarment)	7	4	6
Transfer to inactive status	3	2	1
Resignations	*	*	2

† The total will exceed the number of complaints opened for investigation because some complaints fall within more than one category.

* Not available



Standing: Stephen A. Rodio, Esq., Michael R. Goldenberg, Esq. Seated: Nina Ricci Igliazzi, Staff Attorney, Francis X. Flaherty, Esq., Sarah T. Dowling, Esq. Not pictured: Barbara Margolis, Esq., Chair.

Ethics Advisory Panel

FOGARTY JUDICIAL ANNEX, 24 WEYBOSSET STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
(401) 277-3270

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Article 5, Rule 9)

The Ethics Advisory Panel was established by the Supreme Court in 1986 to provide Rhode Island attorneys with confidential advice on prospective behavior based on the Rules of Professional Conduct. Although attorneys are not required to abide by panel opinions, those who do so are fully protected from any subsequent charge of impropriety.

Panel opinions are published in the *Rhode Island Bar Journal* and the *Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*. The State Law Library maintains a set of panel opinions and a topical index. The ABA/BNA Manual on Professional Conduct also indexes and publishes summaries of panel opinion digests.

The Supreme Court appoints five Rhode Island attorneys to serve one- or two-year terms.

The panel issued 82 advisory opinions in 1994 and rendered many informal opinions to members of the bar. The Staff Attorney receives telephone calls daily and renders general advice and guidance to inquiring attorneys.

Members:

Barbara Margolis, Esq., Chair
Sarah T. Dowling, Esq.
Francis X. Flaherty, Esq.
Michael R. Goldenberg, Esq.
Stephen A. Rodio, Esq.
Nina Ricci Igliazzi, Staff Attorney



Standing: Nina Ricci Iglizzo, Staff Attorney, Edward C. Clifton, Associate Justice, Superior Court, Richard J. Israel, Associate Justice, Superior Court. Seated: Dominic F. Cresto, Associate Justice, Superior Court, Pamela M. Macktaz, Associate Justice, Family Court, Chair, Patricia D. Moore, Associate Judge, District Court.

Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics

FIDGART JUDICIAL ANNEX, 24 WEYBOSSET STREET, PROVIDENCE RI 02903

(401) 277-3270

(Pursuant to Canon 31, Supreme Court Rule 48)

In 1983 the Supreme Court amended the Canons of Judicial Ethics to create the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics. The amendment restricts judicial participation in testimonials and fundraising and establishes criteria for determining judges' involvement in these events. The amendment also specifies that advisory committee members be drawn from several state courts "to assist judges in complying with the canons by responding to requests for opinions."

Advisory opinions are often sought to confirm if a token of recognition offered to a judge is

within the guidelines of the canon.

These opinions also help judges communicate the restrictions imposed by the canons to groups requesting their help in worthy causes. The committee can also respond to requests for advice on other canons.

Committee members are appointed to staggered two-year terms. The Supreme Court usually appoints members for a single term only so that both the burden and the experience of this duty are shared widely by members of the judiciary.

In 1994 the Supreme Court ruled that judicial advisory opinions

are a matter of public record and the requesting judge's name is not confidential.

The committee issued eight written opinions in 1994.

Members:

The Honorable Pamela M. Macktaz, Associate Justice, Family Court, Chair
 The Honorable Edward C. Clifton, Associate Justice, Superior Court
 The Honorable Dominic F. Cresto, Associate Justice, Superior Court
 The Honorable Richard J. Israel, Associate Justice, Superior Court
 The Honorable Patricia D. Moore, Associate Judge, District Court
 Nina Ricci Iglizzo, Staff Attorney



Standing: William P. Robinson, Esq., Robert F. Arrigan, Chief Judge, Workers' Compensation Court, Albert E. DeRobbio, Chief Judge, District Court, Michael P. DeFanti, Esq., Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr., Chief Judge, Family Court. Seated: Lauren Jones, Esq., Victoria Lederberg, Justice, Supreme Court, Chair, Dr. Milton H. Hamolsky, Dr. Eleanor McMahon. Not pictured: Joseph R. Rodgers, Jr., Presiding Justice, Superior Court, Vincent Pallozzi, Chief Judge, Administrative Adjudication Court.

Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee

250 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

(401) 277-2500

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 4)

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee was established by Supreme Court Rule 4, issued on March 25, 1993. The rule was adopted in recognition of the fact that the periodic evaluation of a judge's performance is a reliable method for promoting judicial excellence and competence. Under the rule the committee is responsible for developing and administering the program for the continuing evaluation of judicial performance under the Court's supervision.

The primary goals of performance evaluation are to promote the self-

improvement of individual judges and the improvement of the judiciary as a whole. A secondary goal is the improvement of the design and content of continuing judicial education programs.

The data that has been compiled is periodically transmitted to the Chief Justice and the Chief Judges of each court. The Chief Judge then reviews each judge's evaluation with the judge. In the Superior Court, either the Presiding Justice or one of the several retired judges of that court may conduct this review.

Members:

The Honorable Victoria Lederberg, Justice, Supreme Court, Chair
 The Honorable Joseph R. Rodgers, Jr., Presiding Justice, Superior Court
 The Honorable Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr., Chief Judge, Family Court
 The Honorable Albert E. DeRobbio, Chief Judge, District Court
 The Honorable Robert F. Arrigan, Chief Judge, Workers' Compensation Court
 The Honorable Vincent Pallozzi, Chief Judge, Administrative Adjudication Court
 Michael P. DeFanti, Esq.
 Lauren Jones, Esq.
 William P. Robinson, Esq.
 Dr. Milton H. Hamolsky
 Dr. Eleanor McMahon



Standing: John J. Capelli, Associate Judge, District Court, Raymond E. Shawcross, Associate Justice, Family Court, Richard S. Humphrey, Esq., George L. Santopietro, Esq., Jerome Batty, Esq. Seated: Dennis E. Sherman, Esq., Representative Robert A. Watson, Thomas H. Needham, Associate Justice, Superior Court, Chair (at large), Deborah M. Tate, Esq., Alice B. Gibney, Associate Justice, Superior Court. Not Pictured: George E. Healy, Associate Judge, Workers' Compensation Court, Senator Domenic A. DiSandro, Representative Donald J. Lally, Richmond Vial.

Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline

FOGARTY JUDICIAL ANNEX, 24 WEYBOSSET STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

(401) 277-1188

(Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 8-16-1)

The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline was created in 1974 to provide a forum for complaints against any justice of the Supreme, Superior, Family, District, Workers' Compensation, or Administrative Adjudication Courts. The commission reviews allegations of serious violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct including willful and persistent failure to perform judicial duties; disabling addiction to alcohol, drugs, or narcotics; conduct

that brings the judicial office into serious disrepute; or a physical or mental disability that seriously interferes, and will continue to interfere, with the performance of judicial duties.

Following a formal hearing, the commission determines whether charges have been sustained. If eight members of the commission who were present throughout the hearing find that the charges have been sustained, the commission reports its

finding to the Supreme Court and recommends a reprimand, censure, suspension, removal, or retirement of the judge. The commission may also recommend immediate temporary suspension of the judge during the pendency of further proceedings. If charges have not been sustained, the complaint is dismissed, and the judge and the complaining party are notified.

The 14-member commission represents a cross section of the

population: 6 represent the Bar Association and the public at large and are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate; 1 is appointed by the Senate majority leader; 2 are appointed by the Speaker of the House; and 5 judges are appointed by the Supreme Court and represent each judicial division. All appointments are for three-year terms.

Members:

The Honorable Thomas H. Needham,
Associate Justice, Superior Court,
Chair (at large)

The Honorable Alice B. Gibney,
Associate Justice, Superior Court

The Honorable Raymond E. Shawcross,
Associate Justice, Family Court

The Honorable John J. Capelli,
Associate Judge, District Court

The Honorable George E. Healy,
Associate Judge, Workers'
Compensation Court

Senator Domenic A. DiSandro

Representative Donald J. Lally

Representative Robert A. Watson

E. Jerome Batty, Esq.

Richard S. Humphrey, Esq.

George L. Santopietro, Esq.

Deming E. Sherman, Esq.

Deborah M. Tate, Esq.

Richmond Viall



Standing: John Ryan, Esq., Stephen A. Fanning, Esq., R. Kelly Sheridan, Esq., Judith C. Savage, Associate Justice, Superior Court, Amato DeLuca, Esq., Janice Ricciardi, Secretary. Seated: Patricia Buckley, Esq., Dr. Judeth Crowley, Florence K. Murray, Associate Justice, Supreme Court, Chair, Donald F. Shea, Associate Justice, Supreme Court, Holly Hitchcock, Director. Not pictured: Bruce Q. Morin, Associate Judge, Workers' Compensation, Court, Christopher DelSesto, Esq.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT, 250 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903
(401) 277-4942

(Pursuant to Supreme Court Article 4, Rule 3)

Article 4, Rule 3, of the Rhode Island Supreme Court Rules established a mandatory continuing legal education (MCLE) requirement for all Rhode Island licensed attorneys. The article was signed on January 25, 1993, and set forth a minimum standard of professional development as one of the criteria to ensure ongoing lawyer competence. The Court appointed a rotating commission, with 11 members, chaired by the Hon. Florence K. Murray, to oversee the regulations, administration, and compliance with MCLE. The members are professionals from the bench, the bar, and academia.

Ending its first compliance year on June 30, 1994, and its first make-up phase on February 15, 1995, the Rhode Island MCLE Commission reported a 97 percent compliance rate by the 4,300 active attorneys who fall under the rule. Each attorney must take and report ten approved credits per year, including at least two in legal ethics.

The commission office, located in the Licht Judicial Complex, issues official regulations on an annual basis. In addition, attorneys often rely on guidance from the MCLE office in choosing programs that best suit their practices.

Members:

The Honorable Florence K. Murray, Associate Justice, Supreme Court, Chair

The Honorable Donald F. Shea, Associate Justice, Supreme Court

The Honorable Judith C. Savage, Associate Justice, Superior Court

The Honorable Bruce Q. Morin, Associate Judge, Workers' Compensation, Court

Patricia Buckley, Esq.

Christopher DelSesto, Esq.

Amato DeLuca, Esq.

Stephen A. Fanning, Esq.

John Ryan, Esq.

R. Kelly Sheridan, Esq.

Dr. Judeth Crowley

Holly Hitchcock, Director

Janice Ricciardi, Secretary



Joseph T. Little, Esq., Paul K. Sprague, Esq., Linda Buffardi, Esq., Avram N. Cohen, Esq., Chair, Albert J. Mainelli, Esq.

Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT, 250 BENEFIT STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI 02903

(401) 277-3272

(Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 11-27-19)

The Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee was established in 1984 to work with the Office of the Attorney General in investigating and prosecuting alleged instances of unauthorized individuals' practicing law. The Supreme Court appoints seven Rhode Island Bar members to the committee to review complaints from the bar, the public, and both federal and state judiciaries.

Since most litigation initiated by the committee requests injunctive relief, the chair is required to sign verified complaints and to testify in court hearings. Although litigation is

handled by the Office of the Attorney General, committee members, and particularly the chair, draft substantially all the necessary pleadings and do the required legal research.

Members:

Avram N. Cohen, Esq., Chair

Carolyn Barone, Esq.

Linda Buffardi, Esq.

Joseph T. Little, Esq.

Albert J. Mainelli, Esq.

Robert V. Rossi, Esq.

Paul K. Sprague, Esq.

Appendices



1994 Judicial Roster

SUPREME COURT

Joseph R. Weisberger,
Chief Justice
Florence K. Murray,
Associate Justice
Donald F. Shea,
Associate Justice
Victoria Lederberg,
Associate Justice

SUPERIOR COURT

Joseph F. Rodgers, Jr.,
Presiding Justice
Thomas H. Needham,
Associate Justice
John P. Bourcier,
Associate Justice
Dominic F. Cresto,
Associate Justice
Paul P. Pederzani, Jr.,
Associate Justice
Alice Bridget Gibney,
Associate Justice
Richard J. Israel,
Associate Justice
Americo Campanella,
Associate Justice
Robert D. Krause,
Associate Justice
Melanie Wilk Famiglietti,
Associate Justice
Vincent A. Ragosta,
Associate Justice
John F. Sheehan,
Associate Justice
Ronald R. Gagnon,
Associate Justice
Henry Gemma, Jr.,
Associate Justice
Mark A. Pfeiffer,
Associate Justice

Maureen McK. Goldberg,
Associate Justice
Patricia A. Hurst,
Associate Justice
Francis J. Darigan, Jr.,
Associate Justice
Judith Colenback Savage,
Associate Justice
Michael A. Silverstein,
Associate Justice
Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr.,
Associate Justice
Edward C. Clifton,
Associate Justice
Nettie C. Vogel,
Associate Justice
Anthony Carnevale, Jr.,
General Master
William J. McAtee,
Administrator/Master

FAMILY COURT

Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.,
Chief Judge
Haiganush R. Bedrosian,
Associate Justice
Pamela M. Macktaz,
Associate Justice
Raymond E. Shawcross,
Associate Justice
Michael B. Forte,
Associate Justice
Kathleen A. Voccola,
Associate Justice
Paul A. Suttrell,
Associate Justice
Peter Palombo, Jr.,
Associate Justice
Howard I. Lipsy,
Associate Justice

John A. Mutter,
Associate Justice
Gilbert T. Rocha,
Associate Justice
Francis Murray,
Associate Justice
John J. O'Brien, Jr.,
General Master
Debra E. DiSegna,
Master
George W. DiMuro,
Administrator/Master

DISTRICT COURT

Albert E. DeRobbio,
Chief Judge
John J. Cappelli,
Associate Justice
Michael A. Higgins,
Associate Justice
Robert K. Pirraglia,
Associate Justice
Patricia D. Moore,
Associate Justice
O. Rogerice Thompson,
Associate Justice
Gilbert V. Indeglia,
Associate Justice
Stephen P. Erickson,
Associate Justice
Walter Gorman,
Associate Justice
Robert J. Rahill,
Associate Justice
John M. McLoughlin,
Associate Justice
Frank J. Cenerini,
Associate Justice
Elaine T. Bucci,
Associate Justice
Joseph P. Ippolito,
Administrator/Master

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

Robert F. Arrigan,
Chief Judge
William G. Gilroy,
Associate Judge
John Rotondi, Jr.,
Associate Judge
Andrew E. McConnell,
Associate Judge
Carmine A. Rao,
Associate Judge
Constance L. Messoro,
Associate Judge
George E. Healy, Jr.,
Associate Judge
Debra L. Olsson,
Associate Judge
Bruce Q. Morin,
Associate Judge
Janette A. Bertness,
Associate Judge

ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION COURT

Vincent Pallozzi,
Chief Judge
John F. Lallo,
Associate Judge
Majorie R. Yashar,
Associate Judge
Benedetto A. Cerilli,
Associate Judge
Lillian M. Almeida,
Associate Judge
Edward C. Parker,
Associate Judge
Albert R. Ciullo,
Associate Judge

1994 Court Directory

SUPREME COURT

CLERK/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence RI 02903

Robert C. Harrall,
State Court Administrator
277-3263

Joseph D. Butler,
Associate Administrator
State Courts
277-3266

Brian B. Burns,
Clerk Pro-tem
Director of Bar Admissions
277-3272

Ronald A. Tutalo,
Administrative Assistant
to Chief Justice
277-3073

Gail Higgins Fogarty,
General Counsel
277-3266

Kendall F. Svengalis,
State Law Librarian
277-3275

Martha Newcomb,
Chief, Appellate Screening
277-3297

Carol Bourcier Fargnoli,
Chief Law Clerk
277-6536

Edward J. Plunkett, Jr.,
Executive Director, RIJSS
277-3358

Susan W. McCalmont,
Assistant Administrator,
Policy and Programs
277-2500

Robert E. Johnson,
Assistant Administrator,
Facilities and Operations
277-3249

William A. Melone,
Assistant Administrator,
Human Resources
277-2700

Dennis E. Morgan,
Assistant Administrator,
Planning/Caseload
Management
277-3358

Holly Hitchcock,
Director, Court Education,
MCLE
277-4942

Linda D. Bonaccorsi,
Chief, Employee Relations
277-2700

Central Registry
277-2084

Robert J. Melucci,
State Coordinator,
Crime Victim
Compensation Program
277-2500

JUDICIAL RECORDS CENTER

1 Hill Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
277-3249

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

1025 Fleet National Bank
Providence, RI 02903

Girard R. Visconti,
Chair
331-3800

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

John E. Fogarty
Judicial Annex
24 Weybosset Street
Providence, RI 02903

Diane Finkle,
Chair
277-3270

David D. Curtin,
Disciplinary Counsel
277-3270

SUPERIOR COURT

PROVIDENCE COUNTY

Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

William J. McAtee, Esq.,
Administrator/Master
277-3215

John H. Barrette,
Deputy Administrator
277-3215

Charles A. Aube,
Chief Supervisory Clerk
277-2622, ext. 2054

Frank R. Camera,
Clerk, Providence and
Bristol Counties
277-3220, ext. 2020

Michael Ahn,
General Chief Clerk
277-3220, ext. 2021

Raymond J. Gallogly,
Jury Commissioner
277-3245

Henry J. Vivier,
Assistant Jury Commissioner
277-3248

Evelyn A. Keene,
Assistant Administrator,
Management and Finance
277-3215

Susan L. Revens
Assistant Administrator
Planning and Caseload
Management
277-3215

Bonnie L. Williamson,
Manager, Calendar Services
277-3602

Thomas P. McGann,
Manager, Security and
Operations
277-3292

Kathleen A. Maher,
Administrator,
Arbitration Program
277-6147

KENT COUNTY

Leighton Judicial Complex
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

Ernest W. Reposa,
Clerk
822-1311

Eugene J. McMahon,
Associate Jury Commissioner
822-0400

Jean Heden,
Manager, Calendar Services
(out counties)
277-6645

WASHINGTON COUNTY

McGrath Judicial
Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Henry S. Kinch, Jr.,
Clerk
782-4121

NEWPORT COUNTY

Murray Judicial Complex
45 Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

Anne M. Collins,
Clerk
841-8330

FAMILY COURT

Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

George N. DiMuro, Esq.,
Administrator/Clerk
277-3334

Anthony T. Panichas,
Deputy Administrator/Clerk
277-3334

Barbara M. Rogers,
Chief Family Counselor
277-3504

David Heden,
Chief Intake Supervisor,
Juvenile
277-3345

William Aliferakis,
Supervising Clerk of
Collections
277-3356

John Colafrancesco, Jr.,
Supervisory Accountant
277-3300

Mary A. McKenna,
Fiscal Officer
277-6684

F. Charles Haigh, Jr.,
Chief Deputy Clerk
(Domestic Relations)
277-3340

Janet Diano,
Principal Deputy Clerk,
Juvenile
277-3352

Francis Pickett, Jr.,
CASA / GAL Director
277-6863

KENT COUNTY

Leighton Judicial Complex
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

Joyce C. Dube,
Supervisory Deputy Clerk
822-1600

NEWPORT COUNTY

Murray Judicial Complex
45 Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

Ellen F. Burdett,
Supervisory Deputy Clerk
841-8340

WASHINGTON COUNTY

McGrath Judicial
Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Frank P. DeMarco,
Supervisory Deputy Clerk
782-4111

DISTRICT COURT

Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Joseph P. Ippolito, Esq.,
Administrator/Clerk
277-6777

Jerome Smith,
Chief Clerk
277-6960

Patricia I. Dankievitch,
Deputy Administrator
277-6960

Joseph Senerchia,
Administrative Clerk
277-6960

Joan M. Godfrey,
Assistant Administrator
277-6960

FIRST DIVISION

Garrahy Judicial Complex
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Cynthia Clegg,
Supervising Deputy Clerk/
Training Officer
277-6710

SECOND DIVISION

Murray Judicial Complex
45 Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

Susan M. Caldaroni,
Supervising Deputy Clerk
(acting)
841-8350

THIRD DIVISION

Leighton Judicial Complex
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

James A. Signorelli,
Chief Supervising Deputy
Clerk
822-1771

FOURTH DIVISION

McGrath Judicial
Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

RoseMary T. Canney,
Supervising Deputy Clerk
782-4131

FIFTH DIVISION

Garrahy Judicial Complex
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Alice Albuquerque,
Supervising Deputy Clerk
277-6710

SIXTH DIVISION

Garrahy Judicial Complex
One Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Kevin M. Spina,
Principal Deputy Clerk
277-6710

Raymond E. Ricci,
Supervising Deputy Clerk
277-6710

**WORKERS'
COMPENSATION
COURT**

Garrah Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Dennis I. Revens,
Court Administrator
277-3097

Kenneth D. Haupt,
Deputy Administrator
277-3097

Maureen H. Aveno,
Administrator,
Medical Advisory Board
277-1174

Joann M. Faioli,
Principal Assistant
Administrator
277-3097

Dennis R. Cooney,
Senior Assistant
Administrator
277-3097

Edward J. McGovern,
Senior Assistant
Administrator
277-3097

**ADMINISTRATIVE
ADJUDICATION
COURT**

345 Harris Avenue
Providence, RI 02909-1082

Leo Skenyon,
Administrator/Clerk
277-2251

Robert Halpin,
Deputy Administrator/Clerk
277-2994

Allen Simpkins,
Deputy Administrator/Clerk
277-2931

Raymond Denisewich,
Supervising Collection Clerk
277-2873

J. Ryder Kenney, Esq.,
Legal Counsel
277-1170

TDD/TDY NUMBERS

Licht Judicial Complex
(401) 277-3269

Garrah Judicial Complex
(401) 277-3332

Leighton Judicial Complex
(401) 822-1607

McGrath Judicial
Complex
(401) 782-4139

Murray Judicial Complex
(401) 841-8331

Administrative
Adjudication Court
(401) 277-2994/3096

Rhode Island Supreme Court

APPELLATE CASEFLOW					
Case Types	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Criminal</i>					
Added	100	111	95	96	114
Disposed	89	102	109	95	98
Pending	94	104	90	92	110
<i>Civil</i>					
Added	310	316	318	353	292
Disposed	327	318	312	305	280
Pending	237	234	237	286	298
<i>Certiorari</i>					
Added	152	213	201	219	267
Disposed	179	182	187	227	235
Pending	88	118	132	126	158
<i>Other</i>					
Added	73	63	67	69	103
Disposed	77	51	68	65	92
Pending	10	23	17	20	31
<i>All Cases</i>					
Added	635	703	681	737	776
Disposed	672	653	676	692	705
Pending	429	479	476	521	597

Rhode Island Supreme Court

DISPOSITION DETAIL

Manner/Stage of Disposition	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Before Argument</i>					
Withdrawn	64	85	82	77	75
Dismissed	99	95	108	152	126
Petition Granted	1	2	4	4	7
Petition Denied	119	98	132	137	176
Other	29	24	15	12	10
Total	312	304	341	382	394
<i>After Argument / Motion Calendar</i>					
Withdrawn	—	—	—	1	1
Affirmed	143	143	128	145	102
Modified	2	—	1	—	—
Reversed	25	23	24	26	11
16 G Affirmed	—	—	—	—	—
Other	29	46	56	52	84
Total	199	212	209	224	198
<i>After Argument / Merits</i>					
Withdrawn	3	—	—	1	2
Affirmed	102	82	77	59	67
Modified	7	8	9	6	13
Reversed	49	47	40	20	31
Other	—	—	—	—	—
Total	161	137	126	86	113
Total Dispositions	672	653	676	692	705
<i>Average Time to Disposition</i>	8.5 mos.	8.7 mos.	8.3 mos.	8.2 mos.	7.9 mos.
<i>Median Time to Disposition</i>	8.1 mos.	8.2 mos.	7.9 mos.	8.1 mos.	7.4 mos.

Rhode Island Superior Court

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW					
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Felonies					
<i>Providence/Bristol</i>					
Cases Filed	4,385	4,114	4,149	4,274	4,175
Cases Disposed	4,129	4,049	4,607	4,283	4,389
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+256	+65	-458	-9	-214
Total Pending Cases	1,997	2,056	1,440	1,333	1,278
Cases over 180 Days Old	1,289	1,323	881	697	726
% over 180 Days Old	(64.5%)	(64.3%)	(61.2%)	(52.3%)	(56.8%)
<i>Kent</i>					
Cases Filed	839	886	857	757	772
Cases Disposed	700	785	893	712	667
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+139	+101	-36	+45	+105
Total Pending Cases	260	281	235	206	292
Cases over 180 Days Old	128	125	129	75	124
% over 180 Days Old	(49.2%)	(44.5%)	(55%)	(36.4%)	(42.5%)
<i>Washington</i>					
Cases Filed	480	386	424	357	323
Cases Disposed	401	415	493	375	332
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+79	-29	-69	-18	-9
Total Pending Cases	273	218	128	81	88
Cases over 180 Days Old	163	112	39	15	14
% over 180 Days Old	(59.7%)	(51.4%)	(30.5%)	(18.5%)	(15.9%)
<i>Newport</i>					
Cases Filed	307	279	334	384	412
Cases Disposed	318	329	279	414	467
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-11	-50	-45	-30	-55
Total Pending Cases	265	165	141	122	77
Cases over 180 Days Old	179	88	52	49	40
% over 180 Days Old	(67.5%)	(53.3%)	(36.9%)	(40.2%)	(51.9%)
<i>Statewide</i>					
Cases Filed	6,011	5,665	5,764	5,772	5,682
Cases Disposed	5,548	5,578	6,372	5,785	5,856
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+463	+87	-608	-13	-174
Total Pending Cases	2,795	2,720	1,944	1,742	1,735
Cases over 180 Days Old	1,759	1,648	1,101	836	904
% over 180 Days Old	(62.9%)	(60.6%)	(57%)	(47.9%)	(52.1%)

Rhode Island Superior Court

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Misdemeanors					
<i>Providence Bristol</i>					
Cases Filed	493	343	312	303	261
Cases Disposed	510	417	297	477	263
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-17	-74	+15	-174	-2
Total Pending Cases	387	309	294	159	146
Cases over 90 Days Old	284	269	269	134	121
% over 90 Days Old	(73%)	(87%)	(91%)	(84%)	(83%)
<i>Kent</i>					
Cases Filed	89	118	310	118	116
Cases Disposed	106	123	333	183	95
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-17	-5	-23	-65	+21
Total Pending Cases	44	50	70	35	68
Cases over 90 Days Old	25	21	47	23	39
% over 90 Days Old	(57%)	(42%)	(67%)	(66%)	(57%)
<i>Washington</i>					
Cases Filed	37	48	61	41	60
Cases Disposed	55	56	65	63	67
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-18	-8	-4	-22	-7
Total Pending Cases	31	33	27	20	20
Cases over 90 Days Old	26	17	15	11	12
% over 90 Days Old	(84%)	(52%)	(56%)	(55%)	(60%)
<i>Newport</i>					
Cases Filed	30	59	57	74	90
Cases Disposed	45	128	72	77	101
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-15	-69	-15	-3	-11
Total Pending Cases	121	36	41	40	52
Cases over 90 Days Old	92	28	28	23	18
% over 90 Days Old	(76%)	(78%)	(68%)	(58%)	(35%)
<i>Statewide</i>					
Cases Filed	649	568	740	536	527
Cases Disposed	716	724	767	799	526
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-67	-156	-27	-263	-1
Total Pending Cases	583	428	432	254	286
Cases over 90 Days Old	427	335	359	191	190
% over 90 Days Old	(73%)	(78%)	(83%)	(75%)	(66%)

Rhode Island Superior Court

MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Felonies	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Providence/Bristol</i>					
Plead	3,554	3,515	3,981	3,753	3,923
Filed	36	28	49	41	23
Dismissed	435	430	490	401	358
Trial	103	70	84	82	78
Other	1	4	3	6	7*
Total	4,129	4,047	4,607	4,283	4,389
<i>Kent</i>					
Plead	653	711	822	609	606
Filed	4	2	7	16	3
Dismissed	28	57	49	57	50
Trial	15	13	11	28	7
Other	0	2	4	2	1*
Total	700	785	893	712	667
<i>Washington</i>					
Plead	317	347	422	345	299
Filed	9	7	5	3	3
Dismissed	52	53	59	20	23
Trial	21	8	6	7	7
Other	2	0	1	0	0*
Total	401	415	493	375	332
<i>Newport</i>					
Plead	260	268	331	347	407
Filed	3	7	8	6	9
Dismissed	40	41	33	57	43
Trial	15	12	3	3	8
Other	0	1	4	1	0*
Total	318	329	379	414	467
<i>Statewide</i>					
Plead	4,784	4,841	5,556	5,054	5,235
Filed	52	44	69	66	38
Dismissed	555	581	631	535	474
Trial	154	103	104	120	100
Other	3	—	12	9	8*
Total	5,548	5,576	6,372	5,784	5,855

*Referred to lower courts

Rhode Island Superior Court

MANNER OF DISPOSITION

Misdemeanors	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Providence/Bristol</i>					
Plead	291	234	145	253	165
Filed	55	74	32	42	21
Dismissed	146	101	113	163	65
Trial	9	4	2	13	6
Other	9	4	5	6	6*
Total	510	417	297	477	263
<i>Kent</i>					
Plead	75	77	256	117	67
Filed	7	18	36	28	8
Dismissed	17	13	30	27	10
Trial	3	3	1	4	0
Other	4	12	10	7	10*
Total	106	123	333	183	95
<i>Washington</i>					
Plead	21	20	32	44	41
Filed	7	8	8	13	16
Dismissed	9	14	18	5	7
Trial	4	7	2	0	0
Other	14	7	5	1	3*
Total	55	56	65	63	67
<i>Newport</i>					
Plead	28	62	27	37	59
Filed	1	20	18	13	13
Dismissed	11	31	18	16	26
Trial	2	6	1	2	2
Other	3	9	8	9	1*
Total	45	128	72	77	101
<i>Statewide</i>					
Plead	415	394	460	483	332
Filed	70	120	94	96	58
Dismissed	183	159	179	212	108
Trial	18	20	6	20	8
Other	30	32	28	22	20*
Total	716	725	767	833	526

*Referred to lower court

Rhode Island Superior Court

CIVIL CASEFLOW					
Civil Actions	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Providence/Bristol</i>					
Total Cases Filed	8,564	8,694	7,419	7,145	7,099
<i>Trial Calendar Summary</i>					
Cases Added	1,806	2,118	2,345	2,213	2,026
Cases Disposed	2,246	2,391	2,293	2,360	2,207
Case load Increase/Decrease	-440	-273	+52	-147	-187
Pending at Year End	4,522	4,188	3,875	3,720	3,411
<i>Kent</i>					
Total Cases Filed	1,450	1,433	1,219	1,168	1,070
<i>Trial Calendar Summary</i>					
Cases Added	612	371	401	343	297
Cases Disposed	434	517	374	478	498
Case load Increase/Decrease	+178	-146	+27	-135	-201
Pending at Year End	1,191	1,026	1,038	885	655
<i>Washington</i>					
Total Cases Filed	834	810	741	631	687
<i>Trial Calendar Summary</i>					
Cases Added	264	200	200	220	182
Cases Disposed	175	245	250	212	246
Case load Increase/Decrease	+89	-45	-50	+8	-64
Pending at Year End	580	533	491	508	453
<i>Newport</i>					
Total Cases Filed	622	716	623	577	596
<i>Trial Calendar Summary</i>					
Cases Added	123	174	182	141	122
Cases Disposed	104	181	186	192	149
Case load Increase/Decrease	+19	-7	-4	-51	-27
Pending at Year End	356	368	330	289	262
<i>Statewide</i>					
Total Cases Filed	11,470	11,653	10,002	9,521	9,452
<i>Trial Calendar Summary</i>					
Cases Added	2,805	2,863	3,128	2,917	2,627
Cases Disposed	2,959	3,334	3,103	3,242	3,100
Case load Increase/Decrease	-154	-471	+25	-325	-473
Pending at Year End	6,649	6,115	5,734	5,402	4,781

Rhode Island Superior Court

MANNER OF DISPOSITION — TRIAL CALENDAR ONLY

Civil Actions	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Providence/Bristol</i>					
Verdicts	84	103	110	85	117
Judicial Decisions	64	76	86	64	61
Total Trials	148	179	196	149	178
Dismissed/Settled/Other	2,098	1,325	1,692	1,601	1,571
Arbitration		887	405	610	458
Total Disposed	2,246	2,391	2,293	2,360	2,207
<i>Kent</i>					
Verdicts	26	9	10	17	16
Judicial Decisions	24	12	2	9	13
Total Trials	50	21	12	26	29
Dismissed/Settled/Other	384	284	269	343	363
Arbitration		212	93	109	106
Total Disposed	434	517	374	478	498
<i>Washington</i>					
Verdicts	9	6	3	7	6
Judicial Decisions	9	9	18	7	18
Total Trials	18	15	21	14	24
Dismissed/Settled/Other	157	175	190	135	190
Arbitration		55	39	43	32
Total Disposed	175	245	250	192	246
<i>Newport</i>					
Verdicts	3	3	5	7	3
Judicial Decisions	7	30	27	6	1
Total Trials	10	33	32	13	4
Dismissed/Settled/Other	94	93	126	163	127
Arbitration		55	28	36	18
Total Disposed	104	181	186	212	149
<i>Statewide</i>					
Verdicts	122	121	128	116	86
Judicial Decisions	104	127	133	86	149
Total Trials	226	248	261	202	235
Dismissed/Settled/Other	2,733	1,877	2,277	2,242	2,251
Arbitration		1,209	565	798	614
Total Disposed	2,959	3,334	3,103	3,242	3,100

Rhode Island Family Court

JUVENILE CASEFLOW					
Juvenile Filings	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Wayward/Delinquent	5,794	5,641	6,447	6,489	7,175
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	1,283	1,477	1,439	1,589	1,507
Termination/Parental Rights	208	214	424	332	435
Adoptions	335	426	440	445	489
Other	524	403	493	551	557
Total Filings	8,144	8,161	9,243	9,406	10,163
Total Dispositions	7,404	7,871	8,176	8,516	9,100
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+740	+290	+1,067	+890	+1,063
Juvenile Trial Calendar Results	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Providence/Bristol</i>					
Cases Added	3,316	3,238	3,385	3,770	4,089
Cases Disposed	3,030	3,397	3,300	3,343	3,691
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+286	-159	+85	+427	+398
Total Pending Cases	615	456	541	956	354
Pending Wayward/Delinquent					
Cases over 90 Days Old	111	46	105	217	490
% over 90 Days Old	42%	26.7%	43.8%	58.5%	68.7%
<i>Kent</i>					
Cases Added	729	826	689	752	633
Cases Disposed	695	828	692	706	683
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+34	-2	-3	+46	-50
Total Pending Cases	130	128	125	171	121
Pending Wayward/Delinquent					
Cases over 90 Days Old	24	32	48	80	40
% over 90 Days Old	24%	35.9%	48.5%	65.6%	52.6%

Rhode Island Family Court

JUVENILE CASEFLOW

Juvenile Trial Calendar Results <i>(Continued)</i>	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Washington</i>					
Cases Added	324	358	326	394	426
Cases Disposed	310	378	319	366	354
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+14	-20	+7	+28	+72
Total Pending Cases	63	43	50	73	145
Pending Wayward/Delinquent					
Cases over 90 Days Old	13	8	17	25	80
% over 90 Days Old	29.5%	40%	50%	46.3%	73.4%
<i>Newport</i>					
Cases Added	378	380	372	491	435
Cases Disposed	349	388	385	453	372
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+29	-8	-13	+38	+8
Total Pending Cases	70	62	49	82	90
Pending Wayward/Delinquent					
Cases over 90 Days Old	23	22	12	36	47
% over 90 Days Old	41.1%	56.4%	36.4%	52.9%	65.3%
<i>Statewide</i>					
Cases Added	4,747	4,802	4,772	5,407	5,583
Cases Disposed	4,384	4,991	4,696	4,868	5,100
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+363	-189	+76	+539	+483
Total Pending Cases	878	689	765	1,282	1,710
Pending Wayward/Delinquent					
Cases over 90 Days Old	171	108	182	358	657
Average Time to Disposition for Wayward/Delinquent Cases	86.7 days	97.3 days	104.1 days	111.8 days	113.7 days

Rhode Island Family Court

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW					
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Divorce Petitions Filed</i>					
Providence/Bristol	3,022	2,916	2,867	2,744	2,774
Kent	875	794	846	802	796
Washington	591	518	542	552	512
Newport	412	408	417	404	397
Statewide Total	4,900	4,636	4,672	4,502	4,479
<i>Abuse Complaints</i>					
Providence/Bristol	2,409	2,183	2,087	2,165	2,339
Kent	390	422	408	410	360
Washington	275	178	174	260	235
Newport	189	255	236	176	191
Statewide Total	3,263	3,038	2,905	3,011	3,125
Contested Divorce Calendar Results					
<i>Providence/Bristol</i>					
Cases Added	625	555	459	445	410
Cases Disposed	545	640	549	399	442
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+80	-85	-90	+46	-32
Total Pending Cases	339	254	164	210	178
Cases over 180 Days Old	49	61	28	42	59
Cases over 360 Days Old	7	6	5	3	8
<i>Kent</i>					
Cases Added	211	202	153	113	105
Cases Disposed	253	208	161	163	98
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-42	-6	-8	-50	+7
Total Pending Cases	106	100	92	42	49
Cases over 180 Days Old	26	28	46	9	8
Cases over 360 Days Old	6	8	14	1	1

Rhode Island Family Court

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASEFLOW

Contested Divorce Calendar Results <i>(Continued)</i>	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Washington</i>					
Cases Added	139	92	46	38	49
Cases Disposed	130	154	78	27	35
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+9	-62	-32	+11	+14
Total Pending Cases	107	45	13	24	38
Cases over 180 Days Old	61	26	2	12	16
Cases over 360 Days Old	12	8	0	4	2
<i>Newport</i>					
Cases Added	49	51	42	32	29
Cases Disposed	52	53	49	18	33
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-3	-2	-7	+14	-4
Total Pending Cases	25	23	16	30	26
Cases over 180 Days Old	1	3	3	15	10
Cases over 360 Days Old	0	0	0	3	4
<i>Statewide</i>					
Cases Added	1,024	900	700	628	593
Cases Disposed	980	1,055	837	607	608
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+44	-155	-137	+21	-15
Total Pending Cases	577	422	285	306	291
Cases over 180 Days Old	137	118	79	78	93
Cases over 360 Days Old	25	22	21	11	15
Average Time to Disposition	176.1 days	176.8 days	192.9 days	171.9 days	186.1 days
<i>Support Petitions Filed</i>	3,315	5,356	4,842	5,248	6,979

Rhode Island District Court

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW					
Misdemeanors	1990	1991	1992	1993**	1994
<i>First Division</i>					
Filed	2,196	#	#	#	#
Disposed	1,821	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+375	#	#	#	#
<i>Second Division</i>					
Filed	5,578	5,166	4,671	3,735	3,350
Disposed	5,492	5,056	4,803	3,954	4,094
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+86	+110	-132	-219	-744
Total Pending Cases	268	242	245	168	166
Cases over 60 Days Old	81	81	84	56	29
<i>Third Division</i>					
Filed	10,417	10,399	10,059	6,422	6,251
Disposed	9,406	9,417	8,333	6,233	5,731
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,011	+982	+1,726	+189	+520
Total Pending Cases	643	658	706	166	178
Cases over 60 Days Old	34	37	36	0	1
<i>Fourth Division</i>					
Filed	6,049	6,340	5,287	3,976	3,501
Disposed	5,991	5,933	5,313	3,750	3,433
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+58	+407	-26	+226	+68
Total Pending Cases	488	330	212	244	216
Cases over 60 Days Old	30	10	13	35	26
<i>Fifth Division</i>					
Filed	4,566	#	#	#	#
Disposed	3,722	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+844	#	#	#	#
<i>Sixth Division</i>					
Filed	13,523	22,156	20,688	14,959	15,388
Disposed	11,819	17,393	18,438	13,861	13,685
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,704	+4,763	+2,250	+1,098	+1,703

* These divisions were combined with the Sixth Division.

* Unavailable due to automated system changeover.

** In 1993 there was a change in the method for counting misdemeanors. The unit of units became the case instead of each charge.

Rhode Island District Court

CRIMINAL CASEFLOW

Misdemeanors (Continued)	1990	1991	1992	1993**	1994
<i>Seventh Division</i>					
Filed	4,399	#	#	#	#
Disposed	4,225	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+174	#	#	#	#
<i>Courtwide</i>					
Filed	46,728	44,061	40,705	29,092	28,490
Disposed	42,476	37,799	36,887	27,798	26,943
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+4,252	+6,262	+3,818	+1,294	+1,547
<i>Manner of Disposition</i>					
Plead	*	*	*	14,220	14,897
Filed	*	*	*	5,050	4,465
Dismissed	*	*	*	6,982	5,933
Trials	*	*	*	559	457
Other	*	*	*	987	1,191
Transferred	*	*	*	*	*
Total	*	*	*	27,798	26,943
Felonies					
<i>Courtwide</i>					
Filed	10,401	9,807	9,637	6,502	6,652
Felonies and Misdemeanors					
<i>Courtwide</i>					
Charges Filed	57,129	53,868	50,342	49,062	48,110
Bail Hearings	*	595	*	544	748

These divisions have been combined with the Sixth Division.

* Unavailable due to automated system changeover.

** In 1993 there was a change in the method for counting misdemeanors. The unit of count became the case instead of each charge.

Rhode Island District Court

CIVIL CASEFLOW					
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Regular Civil					
<i>First Division</i>					
Cases Filed	413	#	#	#	#
Cases Disposed	414	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-1	#	#	#	#
<i>Second Division</i>					
Cases Filed	1,526	1,263	1,147	1,020	1,097
Cases Disposed	893	1,182	1,193	1,015	1,226
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+633	+81	-46	+5	-129
<i>Third Division</i>					
Cases Filed	3,054	3,386	2,665	2,536	1,461
Cases Disposed	3,423	2,544	2,103	2,050	1,922
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-369	+842	+562	+486	-461
<i>Fourth Division</i>					
Cases Filed	1,700	1,635	1,404	1,170	2,121
Cases Disposed	1,373	1,180	1,236	991	1,579
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+327	+455	+168	+179	+542
<i>Fifth Division</i>					
Cases Filed	2,592	#	#	#	#
Cases Disposed	1,489	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+1,103	#	#	#	#
<i>Sixth Division</i>					
Cases Filed	11,664	16,435	13,599	12,115	12,153
Cases Disposed	6,586	12,480	15,140	12,161	9,894
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+5,078	+3,955	-1,541	-46	2,259
<i>Seventh Division</i>					
Cases Filed	1,369	#	#	#	#
Cases Disposed	761	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+608	#	#	#	#
<i>Courtwide</i>					
Cases Filed	22,318	22,719	18,815	16,841	16,832
Cases Disposed	14,939	17,386	19,672	16,217	14,621

These divisions have been combined with the Sixth Division.

Rhode Island District Court

CIVIL CASEFLOW

Regular Civil (Continued)	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Manner of Disposition</i>					
Defaults	3,736	8,835	10,606	8,463	5,847
Settlements	6,109	4,110	4,800	3,915	4,118
Judgments	5,070	4,431	4,135	3,832	4,645
Transfers	24	10	131	7	11
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total	14,939	17,386	19,672	16,217	14,621
Appeals	482	453	329	293	306
Small Claims					
<i>First Division</i>					
Cases Filed	934	#	#	#	#
Cases Disposed	856	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+78	#	#	#	#
<i>Second Division</i>					
Cases Filed	1,200	1,207	1,093	895	1,034
Cases Disposed	2,509	3,103	2,396	1,467	1,586
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-1,309	-1,896	-1,303	-572	-552
<i>Third Division</i>					
Cases Filed	3,307	2,957	3,061	2,584	1,370
Cases Disposed	4,121	3,916	4,042	4,078	2,198
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-814	-959	-981	-1,494	-828
<i>Fourth Division</i>					
Cases Filed	2,207	2,266	1,956	1,326	1,350
Cases Disposed	1,997	1,917	1,829	1,404	1,469
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+210	+349	+127	-78	-119
<i>Fifth Division</i>					
Cases Filed	1,872	#	#	#	#
Cases Disposed	1,024	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+848	#	#	#	#

These divisions have been combined with the Sixth Division.

Rhode Island District Court

CIVIL CASEFLOW					
Small Claims <i>(Continued)</i>	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Sixth Division</i>					
Cases Filed	7,255	11,900	10,896	9,457	9,986
Cases Disposed	3,034	10,002	12,014	10,039	11,663
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+4,221	+1,898	-1,118	-582	-1,677
<i>Seventh Division</i>					
Cases Filed	1,218	#	#	#	#
Cases Disposed	1,265	#	#	#	#
Caseload Increase/Decrease	-47	#	#	#	#
<i>Courtwide</i>					
Cases Filed	17,993	18,330	17,006	14,262	13,746
Cases Disposed	14,806	18,938	20,281	16,988	16,916
<i>Matter of Disposition</i>					
Defaults	7,305	9,779	10,787	8,677	7,800
Settlements	5,008	6,463	6,736	5,827	6,858
Judgments	2,493	2,696	2,758	2,484	2,258
Total	14,806	18,938	20,281	16,988	16,916
Appeals	312	244	160	105	13
<i>Other Categories</i>					
Domestic Abuse	713	803	933	1,086	1,041
Administrative Appeals	400	349	402	253	356

These divisions have been combined with the Sixth Division.

Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court

PETITIONS FILED

Petitions Filed	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Employee Petitions</i>					
Original	968	3,854	3,738	3,544	3,548
To Review	1,284	2,986	3,162	2,550	1,906
For Specific Compensation	346	543	—	—	—
To Amend	304	146	—	—	—
For Surgery	65	317	—	—	—
Contempt	133	42	—	—	—
Second Injury	27	4	11	9	3
To Enforce	499	1,303	1,258	999	886
Total	3,626	9,195	8,169	7,102	6,343
<i>Employer Petitions</i>					
To Review	681	3,819	3,843	3,156	2,454
To Suspend	176	192	—	—	—
To Amend	304	4	—	—	—
Total	1,161	4,015	3,843	3,156	2,454
<i>Other</i>					
De Novo	3,790	—	—	—	—
Lump Sum Settlement	1,944	2,024	2,060	1,693	1,303
Hospital/Physician Fees	30	391	667	243	188
Other	45	77	580	391	302
Total	5,809	2,492	3,307	2,327	1,793
Total Petitions	10,596	15,702	15,319	12,585	10,590
Total Dispositions	8,047	14,608	19,264	13,310	11,020
Caseload Increase/Decrease	+2,549	+1,094	-3,945	-725	-430
Pending Caseload	5,795	7,159	4,706	4,076	3,662

Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court

MANNER/STAGE OF DISPOSITION					
Manner/Stage of Disposition	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
<i>Pretrial</i>					
Pretrial Order	—	—	4,584	3,633	3,139
Order	—	—	15	5	4
Decree	—	—	41	53	34
Consent Decree	—	—	550	265	185
Major Surgery	—	—	332	36	106
Withdrawn	—	—	4,606	3,140	2,749
Discontinued	—	—	104	166	57
Dismissed	—	—	501	190	121
Other	—	—	335	100	54
Total	—	—	11,068	7,588	6,449
<i>Trial</i>					
Decision	—	—	4,261	3,011	1,580
Consent Decree	—	—	524	414	347
Trial Claim Withdrawn	—	—	986	1,067	826
Petition Withdrawn	—	—	899	331	357
Order	—	—	99	99	78
Dismissed	—	—	223	82	68
Discontinued	—	—	89	59	32
Other	—	—	192	240	939
Total	—	—	7,273	5,303	4,227
Total Dispositions	—	—	18,342	12,891	10,676

Rhode Island Administrative Adjudication Court

CASELOAD SUMMARY

	FY1994
Disposed Summonses	92,167
Outstanding Summonses	53,586
<i>AAC Subtotal Caseload</i>	145,753
AAC Municipal Court Caseload	31,964
<i>AAC Total Caseload</i>	177,617
Appeals (Filed)	841
<i>Driver Retraining</i>	
DWI School (Fee)	1,665
DWI School (No Fee)	1,033
Defensive Driving Retraining (Fee)	343
Drug Treatment (No Fee)	645
Expenditures (Fee)	3,480
Suspensions Ordered	69,612

