



2002

Rhode Island Report on the Judiciary 2002

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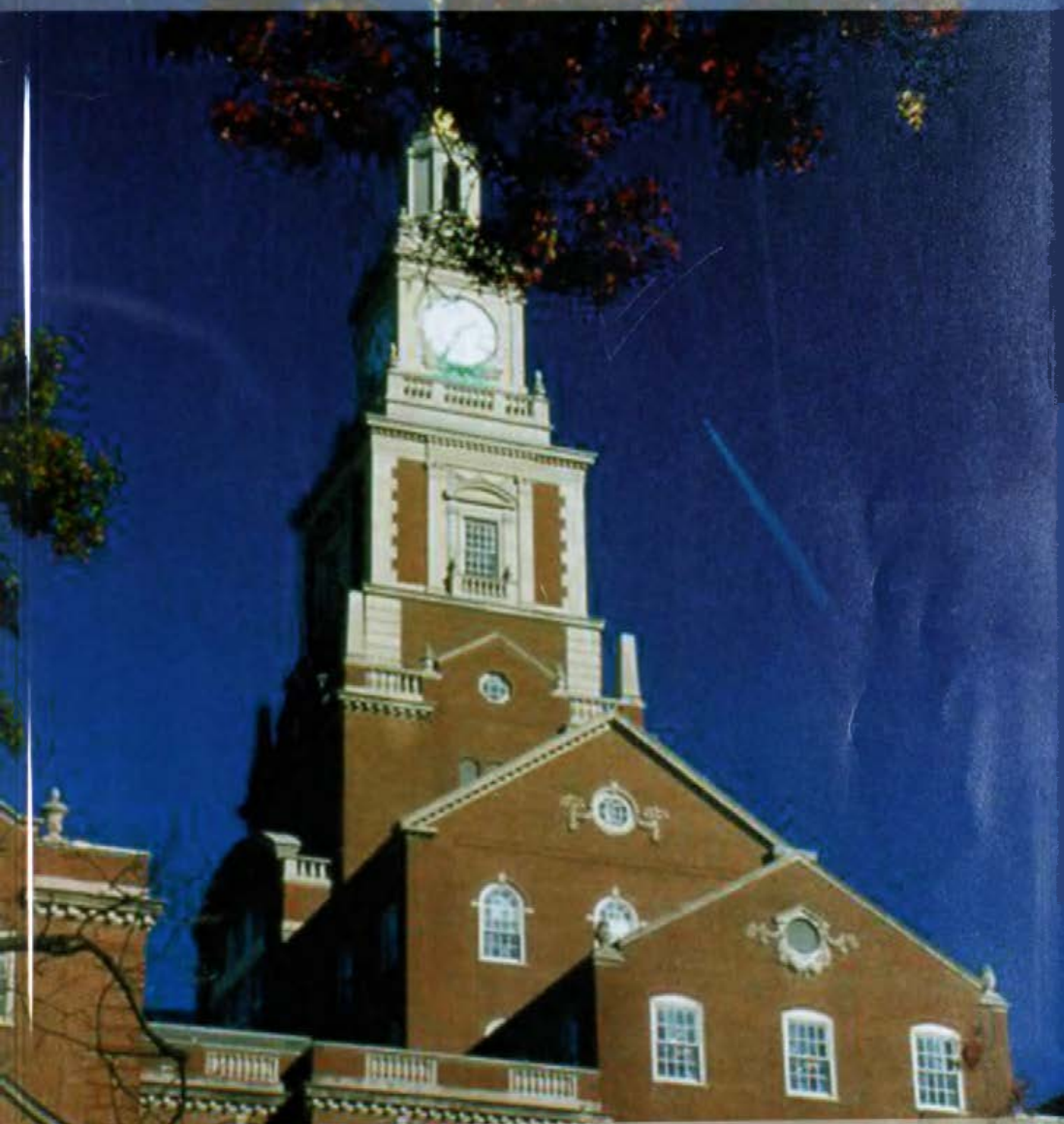
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A N N U A L R E P O R T



R H O D E I S L A N D J U D I C I A R Y

U S T I C E & I N D E P E N D E N C E & H O N O R

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL



John H. Barrette
State Court Administrator

Pursuant to G.L. 1956 (1997 Reenactment) § 8-15-7, it is with great satisfaction that I submit the 2002 Annual Report on the Rhode Island Judiciary.

The report outlines the activities of the court system during the most recent calendar year and is a reliable source of information on the operation of the Judiciary. As can be seen from the many accomplishments referenced in this Annual Report, the Rhode Island Judiciary continues to make noteworthy progress as we become more secure, accessible, and user friendly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John H. Barrette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "J" and "B".

John H. Barrette
State Court Administrator

LETTER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

It is with great pride and pleasure that I submit to you the Annual Report on the Rhode Island Judiciary for the year 2002.

February 26, 2003 marked the second year of my administration as your 50th Chief Justice. Over these past two years, the Rhode Island Judiciary has been steadfast in its dedication to serving the needs of the public so that we can better provide expeditious justice to our fellow citizens. We readily adopt this challenge and consistently serve our citizens in a timely, innovative manner with attention to duty and honor.



Frank J. Williams
Chief Justice

As you peruse this report, you will find that throughout the year 2002, all of our courts have continued to build upon a foundation of new initiatives in:

Internal Operations

- + Supreme Court established an Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution;
- + Superior Court implemented jury management system software;
- + Family Court established a Family Treatment Drug Court which protects infants and children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected by parental use of drugs and/or alcohol;
- + District Court established the Pretrial Services Unit to promote equality of justice by eliminating racial disparity in bail decisions;
- + Workers' Compensation Court continued to offer litigants an efficient dispute resolution system and formalized the settlement conference procedures in its Appellate Division;
- + Traffic Tribunal established an Enforcement of Judgment Unit which prepares and monitors the issuance of all Writs of Execution/Citations served upon motorists for nonpayment of assessed fines and costs as mandated by the court;

Facilities and Operations

- + Held the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Kent County Courthouse, after completion of the schematic design of the building and review of the exterior plans;

Technology

- + Continued the conversion of our civil case management project from the now obsolete, antiquated, and expensive WANG system;
- + Unveiled an updated website and e-criminal calendar;
- + Began electronically distributing opinions and decisions using email;

Public Relations/Community Outreach

- + Designed and piloted an integrated curriculum called "Justice Rules" to reach out to the state's public schools;
- + In conjunction with the Community College of Rhode Island, almost two dozen interpreters participated in a new certification program;
- + Provided website translations of the following eight (8) languages by clicking on the appropriate national flag: Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, Simplified Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Russian;

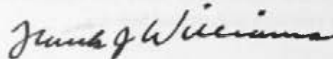
Security

- + Developed a written security handbook created specifically for each facility; and
- + Installed a digital swipe card identification system at all our courthouse entrances.

These innovations and developments are the result of the dedication and hard work of an understaffed Judiciary. Consider how much more our courts could accomplish with additional personnel, modern technology, and new infrastructure to accommodate the large number of cases and court users.

Endurance of our democracy is the greatest legacy that we leave our children. Central to our mission as a Judiciary is ensuring that the legal system is available to all, regardless of race, creed, or economic status. All members of the Rhode Island Judiciary are mindful that as Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "true peace is not merely the absence of tension, it is the presence of Justice."

Respectfully submitted,



Frank J. Williams
Chief Justice



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This publication is available on the Rhode Island Judiciary's website at www.ricourts.com.

Pursuant to Chapter 15, Title 8 of the Rhode Island General Laws, this report was prepared by the:

Administrative Office of State Courts

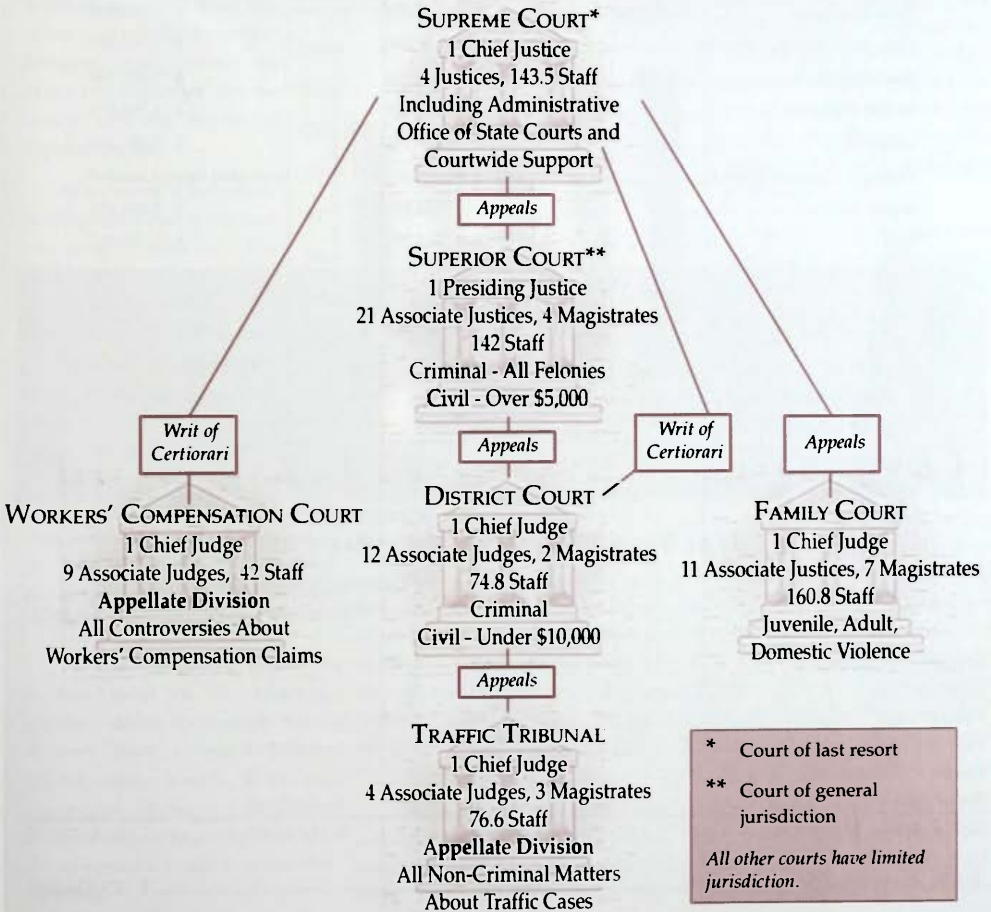
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 Telephone: (401) 222-3266
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 Fax: (401) 222-3599

H I G H L I G H T S

JUDICIAL STRUCTURE

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

State Court Administrator + Finance and Budget + Employee Relations + State Law Library + Judicial Technology Center + Facilities and Operations + Judicial Records Center + Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit + Rhode Island State Fugitive Task Force + Education Office + Public Relations/Community Outreach Office + Law Clerk Department + Judicial Planning Unit + General Counsel + Disciplinary Counsel + Clerk's Office + Appellate Screening + Administrative Assistant to Chief Justice



A T A G L A N C E

COURT FACTS

2002 CASELOAD YEAR

Hearings/Filings	213,285
Disposed	210,773

BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

	ALL FUNDS	GENERAL REVENUE
Supreme Court	\$ 22,157,811	\$ 20,454,904
Defense of Indigent Persons	\$ 1,550,000	\$ 1,550,000
Superior Court	\$ 16,086,764	\$ 15,922,344
Family Court	\$ 14,211,398	\$ 11,934,221
District Court	\$ 7,490,297	\$ 7,490,297
Workers' Compensation Court	\$ 5,645,676	restricted receipt funded
Traffic Tribunal	\$ 5,884,651	\$ 5,884,651
Total	\$ 73,026,597	\$ 63,236,417

JUDGES

66 Judges
16 Magistrates
(27 Female)
(3 Minority)

EMPLOYEES

721.7
Full-Time
Equivalent ("FTE")
Positions

FACILITIES

6 Courthouses
73 Courtrooms

FISCAL YEAR 2002 REVENUES - ALL FUNDS

	CIVIL	CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC/JUVENILE- FINES/FEES/COSTS	GRANTS
Supreme Court	\$ 1,015,733	\$ N/A	\$
Superior Court	\$ 1,046,522	\$ 2,818,130	\$
Family Court	\$ 527,309	\$ 77,885	\$
District Court	\$ 1,356,771	\$ 2,875,365	\$
Workers' Compensation Court	\$ 174,736	\$ N/A	\$
Traffic Tribunal	\$ N/A	\$ 9,442,645	\$
Total Revenues Generated	\$ 4,121,071	\$ 15,214,025	\$ 4,101,797

TOTAL REVENUES FISCAL YEAR 2002 \$ 23,436,893

JUDICIAL OVERVIEW

SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court consists of a Chief Justice and four (4) Justices. In selecting Justices of the Supreme Court, the Judicial Nominating Commission publicly submits three (3) to five (5) names to the Governor. The Governor appoints a Justice from the names received, and the Justice-designate must receive the advice and consent of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

As the court of last resort, the Supreme Court is the final interpreter of state law. The Supreme Court has final appellate jurisdiction over questions of law and equity, supervisory powers over other state courts, and general advisory responsibility to the Legislative and the Executive branches of state government concerning the constitutionality of state laws. Regulating admission to the Rhode Island Bar and disciplining its members are also responsibilities of the court.

The Supreme Court generally sits en banc (with all five members together) during the first two weeks of every month, except for January and the summer months, to hear oral arguments. During oral argument weeks, the court hears the cases that are scheduled for each day, one after the other.

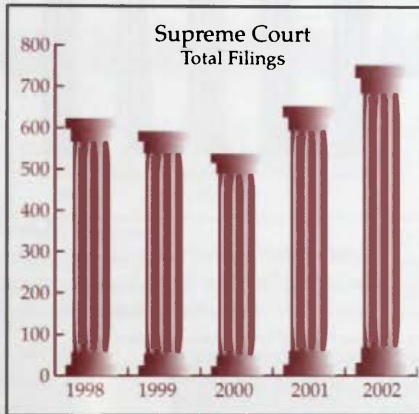
In full cases (also known as plenary cases) each side has thirty (30) minutes to verbally argue its position. The side challenging the lower court decision presents its oral argument first and may reserve ten (10) minutes for rebuttal.

take preliminary votes on the outcome. Cases are discussed by each Justice. One Justice is randomly assigned to write each opinion. If the proposed author is in the minority, a Justice from the majority will be assigned to write the majority opinion. The dissenting Justice drafts the dissenting and/or concurring opinions. Draft opinions are circulated privately among the Justices and revisions are made until an agreement is reached for a final draft.

Decisions of the court are made public when the court files them with the Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court. The Clerk's Office then sends copies of the decision to the attorneys in the case and makes copies available to the public.

In addition to the jurisprudential responsibilities, the Chief Justice also serves as the executive head of the judicial system and has authority over the judicial budget. The Chief Justice appoints a State Court Administrator and staff to handle budgetary and administrative tasks. The unified court system consists of six state-funded courts, each having their own chief judge and administrator to handle internal court management.

The Administrative Office of State Courts oversees all personnel matters, fiscal concerns, and purchasing functions for the entire state court system.



Motions, which generally involve fewer legal issues than plenary cases, are argued by each side for ten (10) minutes with no opportunity for rebuttal.

Once oral arguments have concluded, the Justices begin the task of making decisions and writing opinions. This process usually takes four (4) to six (6) weeks. Intensive research, and frequently, lengthy discussions precede the opinion writing process.

Between the time of oral arguments and the issuing of opinions, the Justices meet in private conferences, closed even to their staffs, to discuss the cases and

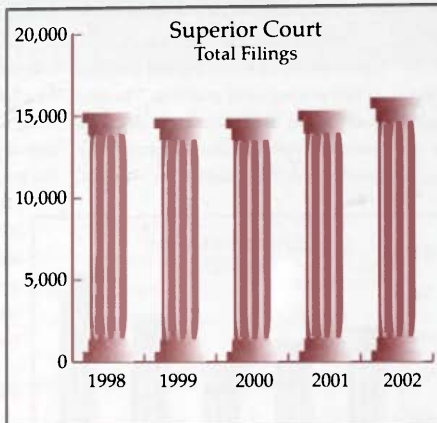
SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction and has original jurisdiction over all civil actions at law involving title or interest in real estate, except landlord and tenant actions, equity proceedings, and all other civil matters involving claims in excess of \$10,000. The court retains its equity jurisdiction even during arbitration, notwithstanding agreements providing otherwise.

When the Superior Court's equity jurisdiction is invoked, the court has jurisdiction over all other actions, including legal claims arising out of the same transaction or occurrence pursuant to applicable rules. In all other actions at law, whenever the claim is greater than \$5,000 and does not exceed \$10,000, the Superior Court has concurrent jurisdiction with the District Court.

The Superior Court shares jurisdiction with the Probate Court over matters involving replacing, removing

and filling the vacancy of a trustee under a trust established by will or with respect to tax minimization or estate



planning. The Superior Court also has concurrent jurisdiction with the Probate Court over the name changes of persons eighteen years or older who have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony.

The Superior Court has original jurisdiction over all crimes and offenses, both felonies and

misdemeanors, except as otherwise provided by law. As a consequence, all indictments by grand juries and informations charged by the Department of Attorney General are returned to this court.

The 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, administrative appeals, and enforcement of arbitrator's awards, also fall under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court.

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

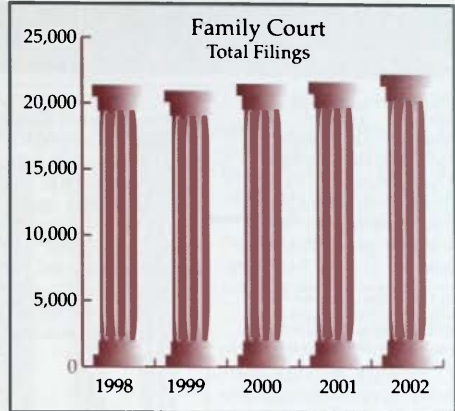
FAMILY COURT

The Family Court was created to focus attention on and address problems involving families and children. The goals of the Family Court are to assist, protect, and if possible, restore a family whose well-being or unity is threatened.

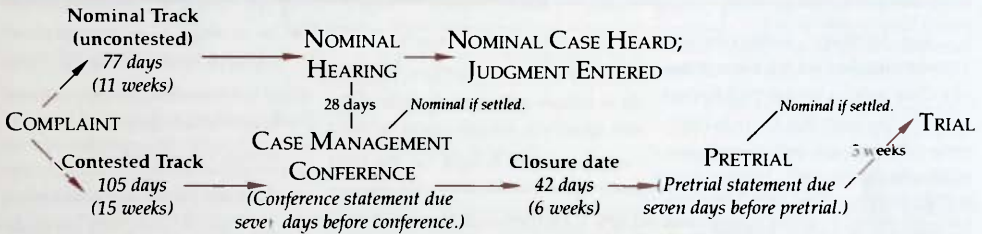
The court also ensures that children within its jurisdiction receive the care, guidance, and control conducive to their best interests and welfare. If children are removed from their parents' custody, the court also seeks to provide them with the equivalent of high quality parental care.

The Family Court has jurisdiction to hear all petitions for divorce and any motions in conjunction with divorce proceedings, such as property distribution, alimony, child support, and child custody. The Family Court also hears petitions for separate maintenance and complaints regarding support for parents and children.

The Family Court has jurisdiction over matters relating to delinquent, wayward, dependent, neglected, abused, mentally deficient, or disordered children. The Family Court also hears and determines all petitions for guardianship of any child who has been placed in the care, custody, and control of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. The court also has jurisdiction over adoptions, child marriages, paternity proceedings, matters involving domestic relations, juveniles and all matters relating to the enforcement of laws regulating childcare providers and child placing agencies. Appeals from Family Court decisions are taken directly to the Supreme Court.



FAMILY COURT DOMESTIC PROCESS

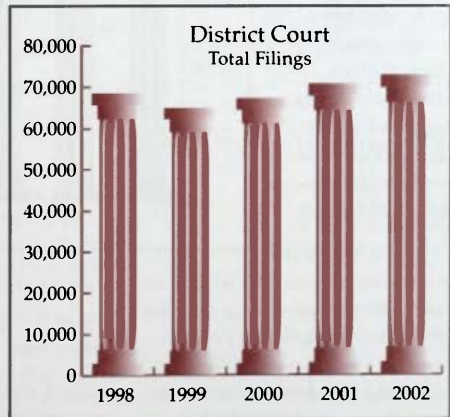


DISTRICT COURT

The jurisdiction of the District Court 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 a trial de novo.

Violations and hearings on involuntary hospitalization under the mental health, drug abuse, and alcoholism laws fall under the District Court's jurisdiction. The District Court also hears appeals from the state tax administrator as well as several regulatory agencies and boards and has the authority to order compliance with its subpoenas and rulings. The court's jurisdiction includes all actions between landlords and tenants and all other actions for possession of premises and estates.

The 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 these areas are subject to review by the Supreme Court only.



DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL PROCESS

ARRAIGNMENT

The formal reading of charges against a defendant. The defendant is advised of his or her right to an attorney. The defendant can enter a plea of *nolo contendere** not guilty, or guilty at this phase.

*Nolo Contendere - A statement that the defendant will not contest a charge made against him or her. Has the same effect as a guilty plea for the purposes of a particular case, but cannot be used as an admission in a different proceeding (i.e., a civil suit arising from the same facts)

PRETRIAL

At the pretrial conference, the prosecution and defense compare the strength of their cases. A plea agreement may be arranged, the plea entered, and the defendant sentenced. If no plea agreement is reached, the case goes to trial. There are about two weeks between the pretrial conference and trial.

TRIAL

If the defendant does not plead *nolo contendere* or guilty, the case goes to trial. At trial, it is the responsibility of the prosecution to prove that the defendant is guilty of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt.

TRIAL DE NOVO
An appeal to Superior Court for a jury trial.

SENTENCING

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

The Workers' Compensation Court, established in 1991, is comprised of a Chief Judge and nine (9) Associate Judges. The court has jurisdiction over employers and employees relative to work injuries, whether traumatic or occupational in nature, resulting in disability, medical, and hospital expenses, scarring, loss of use, reinstatement, and related issues. The court also retains jurisdiction over disputes between an insurance carrier and an employer under a workers' compensation insurance contract.

The Workers'

Compensation Court has adopted its own rules of procedure and has periodically amended them to address statutory changes which have revised the court's jurisdiction. The rules are published for use by the Rhode Island Bar and the general public.

Annual filings at the Workers' Compensation Court have increased for the fourth straight year. In spite of the increase, the court, with a full complement of judges for the first



eleven months of 2002, disposed of 304 cases more than were docketed for the calendar year

Six (6) 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 reduce court delays, costs, and workloads 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, physicians, and expert witnesses.
- 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 the number of preventable accidents and consequent human suffering.

TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL

On July 1, 1999, the Rhode Island Legislature, pursuant to G.L. 1956 § 8-8.2-1, abolished the former Administrative Adjudication Court, and created the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal.

Within a three and one-half year period, under the supervision of District Court Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio, the Traffic Tribunal has been transformed into a true judicial entity. During this period, many changes have been implemented such as coordinated union representation, personnel reorganization, and a restructuring of all court functions.

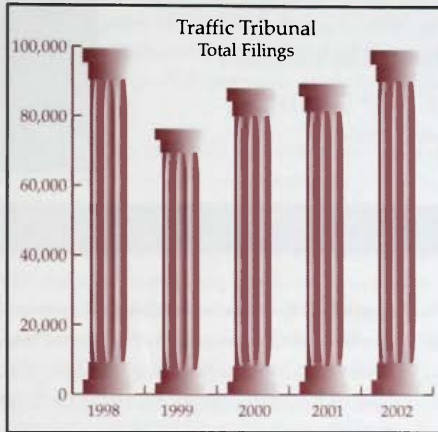
The judicial process of the Traffic Tribunal begins when a ticket is issued by law enforcement. This ticket is a legal document charging the litigant with a violation and a legal summons for his or her appearance at a hearing.

The litigant may pay the ticket by mail or appear in court at a hearing. If the litigant pays by mail, he or she will have no costs assessed and does not have to appear in court.

If the litigant appears for a hearing, there will be an arraignment. At the arraignment, the litigant may admit the violation or request a full hearing where evidence will be presented.

If the litigant admits to the violation(s), he or she may give an explanation. A judgment will enter with the assessment of a fine and/or costs. Payment will be required at that time.

If the litigant pleads not guilty to the violation(s), the matter will be continued to a date certain for trial. The litigant will sign a notice for trial with a copy retained for his or her file.



A policy of no continuance is in effect. On the trial date, all witnesses should be present. The state has the burden of proving the offense by clear and convincing evidence.

If, after trial, the litigant is found not to have violated the law, the matter will be dismissed. No money will be paid and the litigant will have no record of a traffic violation.

Any fines, costs, and assessments incurred as a result of trial must be paid immediately. If the litigant is unable to pay at the end of the trial, a payment schedule may be established.

Failure to pay fines and costs will result in a loss of the litigant's license and/or loss of his or her automobile registration.

A litigant has the right to appeal any judgment to the appellate panel of the Traffic Tribunal but must file a notice of appeal within ten (10) days with a fee of \$25.00.

The appeal procedure requires certification that a copy of the complaint has been served on the prosecution. The rules and procedures that govern the appeal are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act.

The Appellate Panel will review the record to determine if the judgment is in accordance with the applicable law. A new trial or evidentiary hearing will not be held unless the matter is remanded back to the trial court for further hearing.

If a litigant has a good driving record, he or she may request that the summons be dismissed upon payment of costs by pleading guilty with a good driving record. The litigant must appear in court to request this procedure. "Good driving record" means no moving violations within three years prior to the current violation.

If the litigant is an out-of-state motorist, he or she must bring a certified copy of his or her driving record to the arraignment. This record should be requested from their state's registry at least thirty (30) days before the court date.

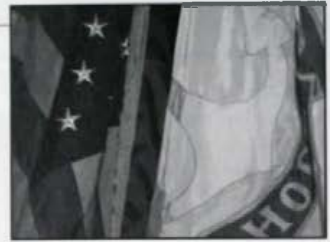
If a litigant fails to appear in court, the following will occur:

- ☛ A default judgment will enter for fine and costs. The judgment is valid for twenty (20) years and interest will accrue at a rate of 1% per month;
- ☛ The litigant's license will be suspended;
- ☛ The litigant's registration will be revoked;
- ☛ An execution and citation form will be served upon the litigant, making demand for payment and providing a new court date;
- ☛ Failure to appear will result in a body attachment being issued (a civil arrest warrant); and
- ☛ All costs for this procedure will be assessed to the litigant.

INTEGRITY

*Conviction is worthless unless
it is converted into conduct.*

- Thomas Carlyle



COURTS

TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL

In July 2002, District Court Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio took another step towards completing the restructure of the Traffic Tribunal by upgrading existing employees to Courtroom Clerks/Recorders. This upgrade was enacted with existing personnel and without additional cost to the taxpayers of the State of Rhode Island. These employees assist the judges and magistrates in the courtrooms with the cases and are responsible for the electronic recording of all court hearings. This was an area that had been lacking at the Traffic Tribunal for some time and will add decorum and professionalism to the numerous court proceedings that are held each day, as well as, create a suitable record in the event an aggrieved motorist appeals.

While many of these changes have been either mandated by the Legislature or necessary for the efficient operation of the court, the Traffic Tribunal is always striving to initiate a more efficient and streamlined system. We are currently examining the positive impact that digital licenses would have on the court, as well as, the advantages of a paperless system where violation information would be transmitted to the court via a computer located in the issuing police officer's vehicle.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

EDUCATION OFFICE

The Education Office provides primary administrative support for programs, policies, finances, communications, and records of a two pronged continuing legal education endeavor. These include such areas as increased pro se litigation, increased demand for alternative dispute resolution, advances in science, gender and minority concerns, the aging of our populous, requests to solve social ills, multilingual needs of litigants, and faith in the judicial process.

In 2002, the Judiciary sponsored its second annual Judicial Conference. Using a retreat style format, all state court judges and magistrates convened in Newport, Rhode Island to discuss the current status of our courts and strategies for responding to the needs of the public. Through a groundbreaking partnership with the Providence Black Repertory Company, the Rhode Island Judiciary commissioned a one-act play on cultural diversity. With funding assistance from the Rhode Island Foundation, the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities and the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, the play was completed in 2002 and was performed at the Fall Judicial Conference. The play is now touring the state.

In addition to coordinating the Judicial Conference, the Education Office also oversees the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission. The Commission handles all applications for academic accreditation, maintains communication with 150 sponsor agencies, reviews 1,000 attorney applications and 4,500 compliance reports annually, maintains 6,500 physical files and computer records, sends approximately 600 noncompliance notifications, fosters positive attorney relations, and conducts ongoing curriculum development with key personnel at Bar Associations, law schools, law firms, and private for-

profit and nonprofit agencies. The Education Office provides daily troubleshooting and consumer relations to all members on the active Rhode Island Bar.

In 2002, the Commission increased its number of accredited sponsors, public speaking engagements, and orientations for new lawyers. The Commission's Technology Subcommittee is researching distance learning modalities to enhance convenient access to mandatory continuing legal education.

Through the educational programs offered by this Office, members of the Bench and Bar sharpen their ability to respond to dynamic changes in our community.

LAW CLERK DEPARTMENT

The law clerks perform legal research and writing in the areas of civil, criminal, family, administrative, and zoning law. Specific duties include preparing legal memoranda, writing draft decisions, reviewing case files for the civil Daily Motion Calendar, and drafting jury instructions. Additionally, some of the law clerks serve as guardians ad litem in Mary Moe proceedings pursuant to G.L. 1956 § 23-4.7-6. Because of the diverse workload, law clerks must become knowledgeable in many areas of the law and versatile in handling multiple assignments concurrently. Law clerks not assigned to a special calendar must expeditiously address a multitude of legal assignments from the various courts.

Special rotation assignments for the Providence-based law clerks are the Superior Court Civil Motion Calendar, the Superior Court Business Calendar, and the Appeals Panel of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal. The law clerk assigned to the Civil Motion Calendar reviews case files and prepares legal memoranda for the dispositive motions to be heard weekly by the Associate Justice in charge of the calendar. The Business Calendar law clerk assists the assigned Associate Justice on matters which focus exclusively on business, including complicated commercial transactions, insolvency, and receiver actions. The law clerk who assists the Appeals Panel of the Traffic Tribunal is responsible for appellate writing assigned by the Associate Judges and Magistrates and is also assigned to a commission reviewing the court's policies. Additionally, a law clerk is specifically assigned to the Superior Court asbestos litigation calendar to assist the Associate Justice in charge of its calendar.

As of 2002, all law clerks write a brief synopsis of the procedural posture and legal holdings of each Superior Court case that is published electronically. These annotations assist the public, the attorneys, and other law clerks with legal research.

"Through the educational programs offered by this Office, members of the Bench and Bar sharpen their ability to respond to dynamic changes in our community."

PROGRAMS, BOARDS, AND PANELS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In order to assist judges in complying with the Canons of Judicial Conduct, the Supreme Court established the Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct. Chaired by District Court Associate Judge Patricia Moore, the Committee is charged with interpreting the Canons of Judicial Conduct and providing opinions in response to questions posed by judges regarding proposed behavior. Any judge who acts in accordance with an Advisory Committee opinion is presumed to have abided by the Canons. In 2002, the Committee issued four (4) such opinions.

At the request of Chief Justice Frank J. Williams, the Committee reviewed the Code of Judicial Conduct to determine whether or not changes were necessary. For this purpose, Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg of the Supreme Court served as co-chair, with the assistance of Associate Justice Haiganush Bedrosian of the Family Court. In June 2002, the Committee sent its final report to Chief Justice Williams.

BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS

The Board of Bar Examiners tests the legal knowledge of bar applicants by administering the Rhode Island Bar examination in February and July. The Supreme Court appoints seven attorneys to the Board for five-year terms. In 2002, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board were Joseph Houlihan, Esquire, and John A. MacFadyen III, Esquire, respectively. Members of the Board proctor the Bar exam and score the responses to the essay questions. In 2002, the Board processed 282 applications and recommended 176 individuals for admission to the Rhode Island Bar.

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL TENURE AND DISCIPLINE

The Commission on Judicial Tenure and Discipline was created in 1974 to provide a forum for complaints against any judge or magistrate of the Supreme, Superior, Family, District, and Workers' Compensation Courts, and the Traffic Tribunal. The fourteen-member Commission represents a cross-section of the population and all members are appointed for three-year terms. Chaired by Superior Court Associate Justice Alice B. Gibney, the Commission reviews allegations of violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

COMMITTEE ON CHARACTER AND FITNESS

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. Additionally, applicants must participate in a personal interview with a Committee member.

If, following the interview, further review is warranted, applicants may be referred to the full Committee for a hearing. A recommendation is then made to the Supreme Court as to whether or not an applicant should be admitted to the Bar or even allowed to take the Bar examination. The Supreme Court may either grant the applicant's request or require the applicant to show cause why the court should grant the request.

The Committee, chaired by Kristin Rodgers, Esquire, has seven members who are appointed by the Supreme Court. Members serve three-year terms.

JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Judicial Performance Evaluation Committee, established in March 1993, is charged with developing and administering a confidential method of effectively evaluating judicial performance. These periodic assessments are intended to promote judicial excellence, and competence in the judges individually and the system as a whole. A secondary goal is the improvement of the design and the content of continuing judicial education programs.

The performance evaluation data compiled is strictly confidential and is transmitted periodically to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Presiding Justice or Chief Judges of their respective courts. The Committee is in the process of implementing an optical scanning system that will compile and analyze the data from the evaluations.

STEWARDSHIP

*Without a sense of caring, there
can be no sense of community.*

- Anthony J. D'Angelo



COURTS

FAMILY TREATMENT DRUG COURT

In 2002, the Rhode Island Family Court received a 1.2 million dollar grant award for the Family Treatment Drug Court. The Drug Court protects infants and children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected by parental use of drugs and/or alcohol, strengthens the family unit, enhances parental capacity to meet the health and developmental needs of their children, and expedites permanency for infants and children in state care.

The Family Court has been working closely with the Women & Infants Hospital's Vulnerable Infants Program, whose expertise and experience with this population is critical to ensuring that mothers, newborns, and other family members receive the appropriate and necessary services in a timely fashion to assist in a safe and healthy reunification and/or permanent placement for the infant. A grant of \$400,000 per year for a three-year period, will help to increase treatment and wraparound services, including substance abuse and mental health treatment, parental education and support, and other much needed ancillary services. The grant will provide us the opportunity to respond to the pressing need for immediate and coordinated services for drug-exposed infants and their mothers.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICE

In 2002, the Public Relations/Community Outreach Office developed a civics education curriculum which was launched in Rhode Island schools. The K-12 curriculum called "Justice Rules" has the endorsement of the State Commissioner of Education and teaches students about the justice system, their rights, and the workings of the Rhode Island Judiciary.

The Office also coordinated a more active Judicial Speakers' Bureau which gave community groups a chance to hear directly from judges and other court officials on such varied topics as alternative dispute resolution, the appeals process, bail review, domestic violence, jury duty, the role of a judge, and sentencing.

Over the past twelve months, the Speakers' Bureau has provided numerous Rhode Island judges the opportunity to make regular appearances on television and/or radio news programs.

PROGRAMS, BOARDS, AND PANELS

LAW DAY COMMITTEE

The Rhode Island Judiciary celebrates National Law Day on May 1st of each year. In 1996, Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger (Retired) formally appointed a Law Day Committee to coordinate the activities of all Rhode Island judges and magistrates on this annual occasion. The Law Day Committee is currently chaired by Supreme Court Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg and District Court Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio. Along with the Rhode Island Bar Association, Roger Williams University School of Law, the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association, the Law Day Committee coordinates judges, magistrates, and attorneys who visit Rhode Island schools on May 1st. These one-day programs emphasize the importance of law as a unifying force in our diverse society and provide students with opportunities to discuss various issues with members of the legal community.

The Law Day program for 2002 introduced an essay contest for tenth and eleventh grade students. The winning school was awarded possession of a Law Day Cup for the next academic year and the winning essay was published in the Rhode Island Bar Journal.

"These one day programs emphasize the importance of law as a unifying force in our diverse society and provide students with opportunities to discuss various issues with members of the legal community."



ACCESSIBILITY

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

- Abraham Lincoln



COURTS

FAMILY AND JUVENILE DRUG COURT

The mission of the Family and Juvenile Drug Court is to reduce substance abuse and dependence among juveniles and their families. The Family and Juvenile Drug Court has now been in operation for eighteen (18) months. Since its inception, the activity of the Drug Court has increased dramatically. To date, there are Family and Juvenile Drug Court sessions held in Providence, Kent, Washington, and Newport Counties. Currently, there are fifty-two (52) post-adjudication participants of which fourteen (14) have successfully completed the program and graduated; there are seventy-five (75) diversion participants of which twelve (12) have successfully completed the program; and two (2) drug-free babies were born to program participants.

FAMILY TRUANCY COURT

The mission of the Family Truancy Court is to reduce the statewide truancy rate and to maximize juveniles' opportunities and likelihood of success. Currently, there are Truancy Courts in Cranston, Central Falls, Bristol, Providence, Pawtucket, Newport, Warwick, Woonsocket, West Warwick, Warren, Johnston, Smithfield, Foster, and Glocester. The Truancy Court services twenty (20) schools and last year over 480 students participated in the program. During the second year of operation (2001 - 2002 school year), the Truancy Court continued to have success with 81% of the students having increased their attendance and 67% of the students having increased their grade point average.

TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL

In 2003, Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio made dramatic changes to the systems and operating functions of the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal. The physical facilities were also redesigned in order to accommodate the implementation of new systems and procedures. Most notably, the Traffic Tribunal has been departmentalized into the following eight (8) units: a Clerk's Office with a phone bank consisting of five (5) employees responsible for answering all telephone calls; an Appeals Office; a Collection Department and attached courtroom; a Breathalyzer Refusal Office; a Scheduling Office; a Pay By Mail Department; a Data Entry Department; an Enforcement of Judgment Unit; and Court Recorders. Creating these new offices and departments enabled employees to more efficiently and expediently service motorists and the legal community.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

JUDICIAL RECORDS CENTER

The Judicial Records Center (JRC) provides secure storage for the semi-active, inactive, and archival records of the Rhode Island Judiciary. The JRC also provides efficient reference services for the courts, members of the the Rhode Island Bar, and members of the public who require court records for research purposes.

In 2002, the JRC accessioned 238,769 case files in 4,757 boxes. The JRC now stores over 3,500,000 case files in 58,304 cubic foot boxes, and 5,123 manuscript court docket, minute, and record books. Over the past twelve (12) months, the JRC staff also responded to over 53,000 requests for records.

Last year, the JRC updated, and the Committee on Court Records approved, revised records retention schedules for all of the state courts. Adherence to these schedules will ensure that the courts, and hence the public, will not be paying to store records that have outlived its usefulness. Implementation of this schedule will result in significant savings in storage costs.

During the past year, the JRC has become increasingly proactive in going out to the courts in order to alleviate the space problems for records storage in the courthouses. The JRC has accessioned, and will continue to do so, more recent and active records than had previously been stored at the facility. As a result, the number of requests for records handled at the JRC in 2002 increased 60% over the previous year. This not only alleviates space problems at each of the courts, but also eases the reference burden of the court clerks.

Finally, there has been an increase in archival requests in the past year due primarily to website generated email requests. Perhaps most importantly, the products of the research conducted by historians at the Judicial Archives over the last few years are now reaching the publication stage. Research conducted in the court records of the neighboring states of Massachusetts and Connecticut has resulted in important studies which have added much to our historical understanding of those states and the nation. The archival court records of Rhode Island have always held similar potential. Until the establishment of the Judicial Archives within the JRC, however, these historical records had been inaccessible to researchers. This resulted in a glaring gap in Rhode Island's historical literature. Recent research in the Judicial Archives is now addressing this deficiency and adding much to our understanding of Rhode Island history.

"During the past year, the JRC has become increasingly proactive in going out to the courts in order to alleviate the space problems for records storage in the courthouses."

PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY OUTREACH OFFICE

The Public Relations/Community Outreach Office is responsible for planning, designing, and executing programs to inform and educate the public about the services, programs, and activities of the Judiciary. Additionally, it keeps the general public, through the media, apprised of newsworthy events, as well as providing media assistance to Rhode Island judges when handling high profile cases or responding to unjust criticism.

STATE LAW LIBRARY

As the only comprehensive public law library in the state, the State Law Library continues to provide the best access to legal information for judges, attorneys, librarians, students, pro se patrons, and members of the general public.

In 2002, the State Law Library experienced the changing nature of law library usage. Many younger attorneys who have been trained in computer-assisted legal research primarily relied on the librarians for assistance in crafting searches and advice on Internet sites. An increased number of individuals who came to the Law Library were representing themselves in court and needed help researching questions regarding process and procedure. Students also continued to use the Law Library for materials needed for class assignments. In addition to the library's visitors, the department also saw an increase in telephone consultation and requests for faxed information.

In order to meet increased research and archival needs while facing the challenges of limited physical space, the Law Library actively pursued alternative formats, such as on-line preservation of electronic documents to maintain as much legal information on site or in readily accessible locations as possible.

After an extensive review of the Law Library's budget and survey of the county libraries this past summer, the librarians conducted a comprehensive evaluation of its collection of print materials. Books are being updated and new materials in high demand areas are being added to the collection. The Law Library's cd-rom and microfiche collections and the on-line services are expanding. New computer terminals have been added with internet access so that the public can obtain legal materials at no cost.

PROGRAMS, BOARDS, AND PANELS

AFFORDABLE LEGAL SERVICES TASK FORCE

Recognizing the need to help foster improved access to qualified legal assistance for all Rhode Islanders, Chief Justice Frank J. Williams established the Affordable Legal Services Task Force. Chaired by Robert D. Oster, Esquire, the Task Force membership included representatives from the court, community based agencies, state and private agencies that provide legal services to a wide spectrum of the state's population, and members of the Rhode Island Bar. The Task Force began its work in July 2001 and submitted a Final Report to the Chief Justice in September 2002.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY COURTHOUSE TASK FORCE

When it was constructed, the Garrah Judicial Complex was a vast improvement over the existing Family Court facilities at 22 Hayes Street in Providence. Recognizing the need to improve access to justice, Chief Justice Frank J. Williams established a Blackstone Valley Courthouse Task Force to study the feasibility of constructing a full service courthouse in northern Rhode Island area to serve the populations of Pawtucket, Cumberland, Lincoln, Smithfield, North Smithfield, Woonsocket, and Burrillville. The Task Force held its organizational meeting on November 13, 2002, with representatives from all areas of the court system in attendance.

Chaired by Joseph J. Roszkowski, the Task Force also met in December and is expected to meet monthly until the spring of 2003. At the end of its investigation, the Task Force will submit a comprehensive report to Chief Justice Williams.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS TASK FORCE

In 2002, Chief Justice Frank J. Williams created the Public Access to Court Records Task Force in order to ensure that the Judiciary's record-access policies remain responsive to the increasingly technological characteristics of obtaining information while maintaining confidentiality of sensitive information. The Public Access to Court Records Task Force was established to carefully consider and address the vital privacy, public safety, and public access interests involved before implementing an e-filing system. The twenty (20) member Task Force, co-chaired by Superior Court Associate Justice Gilbert Indeglia and Public Information Officer Stephen Grimes, consists of privacy experts, public access advocates, media representatives, domestic violence experts, court administrators, clerks, jurists, and technologists. In the context of e-filing technology, the members of the Task Force will carefully analyze state and federal statutes, regulations, and case law, as well as current court policies and procedures. The Task Force will also explore the types of sensitive personal information that may be contained in court documents, which could pose a privacy problem if made available through remote electronic access.

Court records have traditionally been among the most accessible of government records. To ensure judicial accountability to the citizens of Rhode Island, the format of court records is evolving as the judicial system continues to upgrade its technological capabilities. Recent developments include the improvement of the Judiciary's website and the implementation of new civil case software. Future plans include introducing electronic filing (e-filing) to the Judiciary. These technological developments hold significant implications for the accessibility of court records, as electronic filing of court records promises to provide broader and more convenient access to the documents filed in court cases.

The fact that gaining access to court documents now requires researchers to physically visit the courthouse provides much of the information in these records with a level of "practical obscurity" that lessens the dissemination of sensitive personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, medical information, home addresses, and telephone numbers. With the advent of the electronic filing of court records, the veil of practical obscurity will be lifted, allowing for the possible dissemination of the information in these documents over the Internet through the Judiciary's website. In exchange for ease of access, the Judiciary must also be increasingly diligent in protecting individuals' right to privacy.

The Public Access to Court Records Task Force will work to produce rules and procedures that will strive to ensure individuals' privacy while providing the fullest possible public access to state court records. The goal of the Task Force is to proffer proposals that maximize the benefits of court technology for all users, while reconciling the right to public access with their right to privacy.

TASK FORCE ON LIMITED ENGLISH SPEAKING LITIGANTS

The Task Force on Limited English Speaking Litigants is comprised of a chairperson, Superior Court Associate Justice O. Rogeriee Thompson, representatives from the Department of Attorney General, Office of the Public Defender, Federal District Court Interpreter's Office, court staff, social service agencies, and free-lance language interpreters. The Task Force is charged with gathering information regarding the need for interpreter services; assessing the current status of interpreter services in Rhode Island courtrooms; compiling a list of persons and agencies that provide interpreter services in Rhode Island; assisting with educational programs for training

prospective interpreters to advance the skill levels of the pool of interpreters available to the courts; and laying groundwork for a testing and certification process for court interpreters.

The need for individuals specifically trained to interpret during court proceedings far exceeds the number of language interpreters presently available to perform this function. Thus, the Task Force, in conjunction with the Office of the Public Defender, the Department of Attorney General, community representatives, current interpreters and the Division of Higher Education, developed a one-year, statewide certification program for court interpreters. The implementation of this program advances uniform standards for court interpreters in Rhode Island, which will assist defendants, witnesses, and victims in criminal cases.

USER-FRIENDLY COURTS COMMITTEE

The User-Friendly Courts Committee consists of forty-one (41) members representing all of the primary users of court services: lawyers, victims, jurors, witnesses, governmental entities, the media, law enforcement, private business, court staff, and judges. The Committee's role is to identify areas where the Judiciary is not meeting the needs of these user groups and recommend how the deficiencies can be addressed.

Last year, the Committee focused on court facilities. The members organized into subcommittees representing the user constituencies of each of the six (6) court buildings and victims' issues. The Committee discovered that users in all locations share many of the same concerns: a lack of adequate parking; an inadequate number of attorney/client conference areas; inadequate signage and information on court hearings; and inadequate cleaning services.

The Committee outlined its recommendations for addressing these concerns in an interim report submitted to Chief Justice Frank J. Willims in March 2002. Since then, much progress has been made in many of these areas and the Committee continues to monitor the improvements. Also, because certain issues such as parking and building congestion are ongoing, the Committee continues to investigate possible solutions.

In addition, the Committee is currently focused on court procedures including scheduling, forms, continuances, and any other processes that relate to the operation of the courts. Early next year the Committee will issue a second interim report with recommendations for making court procedures more user-friendly.

INNOVATION

*Do not [always] go where the path
may lead, go instead where there
is no path and leave a trail.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



COURTS

SUPERIOR COURT - BUSINESS CALENDAR

During 2002, Associate Justice Michael A. Silverstein continued to preside over the Superior Court Business Calendar. The calendar was created in order to track and resolve civil actions affecting jobs and businesses in a more expeditious manner than if it was assigned to the standard civil trial calendar.

Since its creation eighteen (18) months ago, 367 cases have been assigned to the Business Calendar and a total of 132 have been disposed. There has been a very positive reaction to the advantages that this system has provided to businesses, the job market, and the economic climate of the state.

SUPERIOR COURT - DRUG COURT

Court supervised treatment is the cornerstone of the Drug Court established by the Superior Court. Designed as an alternative to incarceration for nonviolent drug-addicted offenders, the program has serviced thirty-three (33) adult participants through a post-adjudication sentencing option during these nearly two years of operation. The program focuses on intensive treatment for offenders who have a history of substance abuse, who are not first-time offenders, and who have not been charged with crimes of violence. The Department of Attorney General recommends appropriate nonviolent offenders to the Drug Court for participation in the program, with input from the Office of the Public Defender or from private counsel.

Since its creation, the Drug Court has realized a greatly reduced recidivism rate among its graduates. When a defendant is able to break his or her habit of substance abuse, it is less likely that he or she will need to resort to crime. The markedly high success rate of the Drug Court frees up prison space for more serious offenders and also saves tax dollars. The overall savings to the state is about \$31,000 per offender per year based upon \$35,063 for the annual average cost of incarceration versus only \$4,000 per offender per year for treatment.

SUPERIOR COURT - JURY SYSTEM

The Superior Court also continues to be at the forefront with its improvements to the jury system. The Superior Court's two day - one trial system, initiated in Providence/Bristol and Kent Counties, has proven to be a great improvement for those citizens called for jury duty because it requires a much shorter term of service. Individuals who are not selected to sit for a trial on the first or second day after they report for duty will have completed their service by the end of the

second day. If, however, a juror has been selected for a trial, he or she will continue to serve for the duration of that trial.

During the first year of this new program, 14,761 jurors were summoned for petit jury duty in Providence/Bristol and Kent Counties, and 7,541 reported for service. This has allowed a much greater number of individuals the opportunity to participate and significantly widens the diversity of the potential jury pool.

"The purpose of the Pretrial Services Unit is to promote equality of justice by eliminating racial disparity in bail decisions and ensure the fair and equal treatment of all defendants at the initial stages of the criminal justice process."

DISTRICT COURT - PRETRIAL SERVICES UNIT

The purpose of the Pretrial Services Unit is to promote equality of justice by eliminating racial disparity in bail decisions and ensure the fair and equal treatment of all defendants at the initial stages of the criminal justice process.

The Unit seeks to accomplish this goal by interviewing defendants prior to their initial appearance in order to assist judges in making more informed bail decisions. The information gathered during the interview is verified and includes an examination of a defendant's criminal background, employment, ties to the community, mental/physical status, substance abuse history, and/or other data that may assist the Associate Judge in determining bail. The Unit is also responsible for creating alternative bail options, such as a supervised release, rather than traditional monetary bail to secure a defendant's release while maintaining community safety. A defendant who may now be released to the community with a comprehensive discharge plan monitored by the Unit, may previously have remained in jail until they were able to meet the financial conditions imposed.

During the past nine (9) months, the Unit has offered an array of services to the court and has also addressed its responsibility of establishing a reporting mechanism to gather statistics.

At the behest of the Unit, and prior to their next scheduled court appearance, many defendants originally detained in lieu of bail received a review from the Associate Judge who set the original bail. The process saved the State of Rhode Island over \$40,000 in direct savings.

The Unit has also had a major impact at bail hearings and motions to reduce bail. Some defendants become eligible for bail after their hearing, while some are able to have the original bail reduced after an Associate Judge receives additional information and/or a pretrial intervention plan. A number of defendants were released after the Unit's intervention which avoided detention for twenty (20) defendants and resulted in saving \$117,481.

DISTRICT COURT - REORGANIZATION OF SERVICES

During 2002, the District Court implemented a streamlined personnel structure that will permit a more effective use of its staffing. Formulated by an agreement with Laborers' Local Union 808, the new reorganization plan provides an effective career ladder in each District Court Clerk's Office. The reorganization received the support of Chief Justice Frank J. Williams and Chief Judge Albert E. DeRobbio.

Most significantly, the reorganization permits the combining of the courtroom clerk and court recorder functions. This is crucial because the District Court has long endured shortages of courtroom clerks and court recorders. By combining

these functions, more courtrooms have been able to be serviced appropriately. For the first time, most District Court courtrooms are now creating a verbatim tape recording of all proceedings, a process vital to the dignity and professionalism of the court.

TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL

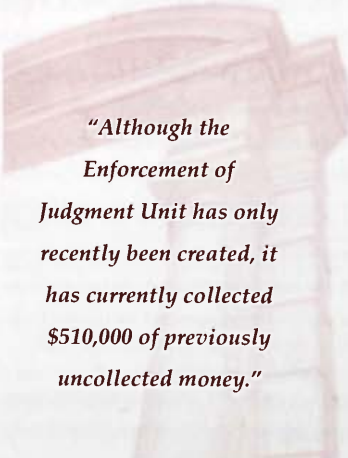
In April 2002, the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal established an Enforcement of Judgment Unit pursuant to G.L. 1956 § 8-8.2-3. The Unit prepares and monitors the issuance of all Writs of Execution/Citation that are to be served upon motorists for nonpayment of court-mandated fines and costs. Currently, the Traffic Tribunal and the District Court are interrelated. Both courts monitor payments and service of Writs of Execution/Citation upon defendants who appear before the District Court that owe outstanding fines and costs to the Traffic Tribunal. The unified monitoring system has resulted in the issuance of body attachments for motorists who fail to appear for a citation hearing and who would not otherwise have been served. The Traffic Tribunal currently has the capability to view information contained in the criminal computer system thus enabling the court to detain a motorist with an outstanding warrant from any other court.

Although the Unit has only recently been created, it has currently collected \$510,000 of previously uncollected money. The Unit issues approximately 102 writs of executions/citations weekly, along with thirty (30) writs of body attachments, which are issued for motorists who do not appear for their scheduled citation hearing. The Unit has become a vital component to the total transformation of the RITT, and more importantly, the authority to enforce judgments has enhanced the credibility of the court.

PROGRAMS, BOARDS, AND PANELS

COMMITTEE ON THE SPECIALIZATION OF LEGAL PRACTICE

The Committee on the Specialization of Legal Practice is charged with determining the feasibility of developing specialized areas for the practice of law in Rhode Island and specifying which, if any, areas of specialization should be certified. Chaired by Superior Court Associate Justice Netti C. Vogel, the Committee includes five (5) attorney members, one of whom was selected by the Rhode Island Bar Association.



“Although the Enforcement of Judgment Unit has only recently been created, it has currently collected \$510,000 of previously uncollected money.”

On October 22, 2002, Justice Vogel and several Committee members appeared before the House of Delegates of the Rhode Island Bar Association in order to address the membership about the issue of specialization and the Committee’s work. With the assistance of the Executive Director of the Bar Association, the Committee responded to certain concerns raised at the meeting by contacting additional states to determine their experiences regarding this subject. The inquiries focused on states with smaller populations and on the exception of their Bar members on the issue of whether specialization programs discriminated against general practitioners. Additionally, in further response to the concerns of the House of Delegates, the Committee has made an effort to determine what effect, if any, the establishment of a specialization procedure has had on legal malpractice premiums in other states. The committee expects to complete its work and present a report with its findings to Chief Justice Frank J. Williams in early 2003.

TECHNOLOGY

*Our Age of Anxiety is, in great part,
the result of trying to do today's
jobs with yesterday's tools.*

- Marshall McLuhan



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

JUDICIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER

In April 2002, the Rhode Island Judicial Technology Center ("RI-JTC") began accepting bid proposals for converting the Judiciary's outdated computer system. After receiving and reviewing six (6) bids, ACS was awarded the project. The conversion "kickoff" was conducted on October 26, 2002 and by the end of the year, many project start-up activities were completed. The conversion project will span two and one-half years and cost 6 million dollars.

In 2002, the RI-JTC also successfully completed the conversion of the Supreme Court's networking software from Banyan to MS Windows 2000 Server. When the project was implemented, over 650 desktop computers were converted over five (5) weeks. Most of the building cutovers were accomplished on the weekends to reduce project risk and enable employees to return to work on Monday and log into their new MS Windows Network. The desktop conversion provided judicial employees with a number of benefits including: MS Office products on the desktop; MS Outlook for email and calendaring; web-based email; more stable network with increased security; and easier network management.

In June 2002, the judicial website was completely redesigned and outfitted with consistent navigation and pull down menus.

JUSTICE LINK

In 2002, the Rhode Island Judiciary and other state and local agencies continued to collaborate with the Rhode Island Justice Commission to design, develop, fund, and implement a statewide comprehensive criminal and juvenile justice information network called Justice Link. This extensive, multi-agency initiative resulted in tremendous improvements in the criminal and juvenile justice systems' ability to enter data, access this information in a timely manner, and produce valuable management and planning reports. Staff in the RI-JTC, the Administrative Office of State Courts, and the various courts were instrumental in implementing the court component of Justice Link, which included infrastructure improvements in each court building and hardware and software enhancements. A central component of the Justice Link project was the replacement of the court's criminal and juvenile information systems, which had been in place since the early 1980s. To implement the new software, the courts converted the data collected on more than 550,000 cases that were maintained on the antiquated WANG system. In addition, technical training was provided and continues to be provided to staff in the RI-JTC. Extensive training was also provided to more than 150 end-users in the various courts while training was provided

to users in numerous other state and local criminal and juvenile justice agencies. The new adult-criminal information system was implemented in December 1999 (Banner Criminal), and the new juvenile system was implemented in August 2000 (Banner Juvenile). Implementation of the court component of Justice Link cost approximately 13.5 million dollars, with federal funds supporting approximately 50% of the initiative.

Improvements and upgrades to Justice Link created a foundation upon which to build interfaces that will allow the Judiciary and the various criminal and juvenile justice agencies to share information collected at various points in the process. The development of interfaces and connectivity to the Judiciary's information system, as well as those in the design phase, will enhance the safety of law enforcement officers and the general public and will assist probation/parole officers and child protective staff in working with individuals and families under their supervision. Below is a brief overview of several key enhancements or interfaces that the Rhode Island Judiciary and its Justice Link partners have in place or are developing.

ACCESS TO THE RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY'S INFORMATION SYSTEM

As part of Justice Link, users in all appropriate state agencies were given access to the Rhode Island Judiciary's adult and juvenile information system and court staff provided training on the new software to the end users in these agencies. The enhanced security features in the Judiciary's software provides controlled access to the system where the information that can be viewed is limited depending upon the users in the various state agencies.

WARRANT INTERFACE

In the WANG system, court staff were required to access and enter information in two systems to issue, quash, or modify warrants. With the new system, court staff enter this information on a single screen. Another enhancement that resulted from Justice Link was the upgrade of the Rhode Island Law Enforcement Telecommunications System ("RILETS") from a network that processed twelve (12) transactions per second to a network capable of processing 200 transactions per second, a 1,566% increase in transactions per second.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC ACCESS

The acquisition of the new software included a product that allowed the court to develop and implement an Internet site for law enforcement agencies and the public to access certain data in the court's criminal database. The site provides law enforcement officers and bail commissioners with additional information to use in charging defendants and setting bail. In addition, access to this information assists law enforcement personnel to track and manage the progress of their cases through the court. The site does not replace the state's criminal history repository maintained by the Department of Attorney General but provides easier access to this information as required by law.

"The development of interfaces and connectivity to the Judiciary's information system . . . will enhance the safety of law enforcement officers and the general public . . ."

RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY – BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION ("BCI") INTERFACE FOR SENTENCE AND DISPOSITION INFORMATION

The Rhode Island Judiciary and the Department of Attorney General developed a report that provides statewide information on court dispositions and sentences and have begun work on an interface that will electronically transmit this information to BCI. Staff in the Department of Attorney General then will review the data on-line and accept the information into the BCI record with only a few keystrokes.

ON-LINE WARRANT REPORTS

The Rhode Island Judiciary has developed a security protected site that allows law enforcement agencies to access reports on pending warrants. The site provides police with two reports. A police department can view and print a report on all warrants issued on cases that the department filed, and the second report provides the department with information on all defendants with a warrant who have an address in the Judiciary's database that is in the police department's jurisdiction. However, the project has experienced some networking problems. The staff of RI-JTC have found it increasingly difficult to respond to the needs of the police departments. Therefore, the rollout of this interface has been suspended for a brief period of time. Approximately one-third of the state's local law enforcement agencies are able to access this site.

RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY – POLICE ARREST INTERFACE

The Rhode Island Judiciary entered into a contract with Information Management Corporation ("IMC") to design and develop an interface that transmits arrest information to the courts, returns case information to the police, and prints the criminal complaint form. The interface is currently operating in pilot between the District Court (Third Division), and the Coventry Police Department. Additional pilot sites will be created in early 2003. The contract was entered into with IMC because this company provides the record management system to the Rhode Island State Police and thirty-two (32) of the state's thirty-eight (38) local police departments. However, the court-to-police interface is designed to work with any law enforcement records management system. Therefore, the Rhode Island Judiciary will work with any department that does not use the IMC software to develop this interface.

RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY – NO CONTACT ORDER INTERFACE

The accurate and timely entry of all restraining orders and no contact orders in the Department of Attorney General's Restraining Order No Contact Order System ("RONCO") is vital to providing police with the information necessary to protect victims of domestic violence. Currently, this information is faxed or hand-delivered to the Department of Attorney General. The Judiciary has designed and developed its side of an interface that will electronically send information on criminal no contact orders to BCI. The court is working with the Department of Attorney General to complete this project. Until the court's civil system is converted from the WANG system, civil protective orders from Family and District Courts cannot be part of this interface.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS – COURT INTERFACE

The Rhode Island Judiciary and the Department of Corrections ("DOC") are working on an interface between the court's criminal system and DOC's Inmate Facility Tracking System ("INFACTS"). A major benefit of this interface would be the reduction of duplicate data entry and the ability for the Judiciary to know if a defendant is still at the Adult Correctional Institutions. As a preliminary step, the DOC is undertaking an initiative to modify its software to accept the BCI number, which is used to track criminal defendants. The interface is scheduled to be completed in late 2003.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES – COURT INTERFACE

The Rhode Island Judiciary has worked with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families ("DCYF") to develop an interface to share appropriate information on juvenile cases. The Judiciary's side of the interface has been designed and developed. Test data has been provided to DCYF to assist the agency in designing and testing its side of the interface.

ENFORCEMENT



The sword of justice has no scabbard.

- Antoine De Reveral

RHODE ISLAND STATE FUGITIVE TASK FORCE

The Rhode Island State Fugitive Task Force ("FTF") operates under the authority of the Supreme Court as a single-mission, state law enforcement agency dedicated to the arrest of state fugitives from justice.

Over the past twelve (12) months, the Warrant Squad implemented a number of improvements to its operations. Efforts were also undertaken to enhance coordination between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. These efforts included: improved communication between the Rhode Island State Police Violent Fugitive Task Force and the FTF to prevent duplication of efforts and efficient allocation of resources between the two units; creation of a case management system; completion of case reviews and implementation of in-service training; creation of a secure room and a revamped booking room area; the purchase of body armor; and the creation of an operating procedures manual.

FTF STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Total Arrests for Year 2002	722
FTF Arrests	485
Surrenders to FTF	113
Surrenders to Court	124
Total Amount Owed to the Rhode Island Judiciary from FTF Arrests and Surrenders	\$1,678,415
Cost and Restitution Cases for Year 2002	1,775
Criminal Cases Received for Year 2002	306

EMPOWERMENT

*I am only one; but I am still one. I
cannot do everything, but still I
can do something.*

- Helen Keller



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TRAINING AND MONITORING UNIT

The Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit works closely with each police department and the Rhode Island State Police barracks in the administration of the legislatively mandated Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault ("DV/SA") Police Reporting Forms and the DV/SA database, thereby generating comprehensive criminal data on domestic violence and sexual assault in Rhode Island.

PROGRAMS, BOARDS, AND PANELS

DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Since 1988, the Rhode Island Judiciary 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 to help victims of domestic violence obtain protection in the Family, District, and Superior Courts.

The victim advocacy program has three (3) components. Advocates are assigned in each of the divisions of the District Court to assist victims in the criminal court process. In addition, advocates are available to help victims obtain civil protection orders in the Family and District Courts throughout the state. Finally, the advocates also help victims to protect themselves and their children and obtain other support services.

In 2002, the member agencies of the Coalition provided services to 9,707 unduplicated individual clients, of which 90% were adults and 10% were children and teens. The advocates handled 5,545 cases in District Court and assisted 3,086 clients in obtaining temporary restraining orders. The number of people calling for help continues to increase each year with a total of 19,026 individual callers receiving support, information, and referrals during 2002. Since the inception of the Victim Advocacy Program, the Coalition and its member agencies have provided comprehensive advocacy and support services in more than 100,145 cases.

THE PERMANENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN THE COURTS

The Permanent Advisory Committee on Women and Minorities was established to propose methods by which the Rhode Island Judiciary can ensure fair and equal treatment of all women and minorities who come in contact with the

court system. To accomplish this goal, the Committee is charged with "examining all levels of the state judicial system, including a review of court statutes, rules, practices and conduct, and raising awareness about the problems and effects of bias in the judicial process."

In July 2002, the Committee submitted its first interim report to Chief Justice Frank J. Williams with recommendations from each of three (3) subcommittees: the Survey Subcommittee, the Education Subcommittee, and the Forms Subcommittee.

The Survey Subcommittee made ten (10) recommendations to Chief Justice Williams based on the outcome of two (2) studies it conducted during the year, underscoring the importance of three (3) recommendations in particular: conduct a study regarding bail practices; create greater diversity amongst judicial employees; and increase the diversity of the jury pool.

In 2002, the Education Subcommittee also was the catalyst for the diversity training for judges and magistrates that took place at the 2002 Judicial Conference and for diversity training for new lawyers offered twice a year as part of the orientation for newly admitted members of the Bar.

The Forms Subcommittee reviewed forms used by all the courts. Establishing those that have a legal consequence as its first priority, the subcommittee arranged for the Spanish translation of several key forms. Chief Justice Williams forwarded the translated versions to the Presiding Justice and Chief Judges of the respective courts to begin the implementation process.

SUPREME COURT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

In the fall of 2002, Chief Justice Frank J. Williams established the Domestic Violence Committee in order to develop uniform restraining order forms to be used in the District and Family Courts; develop uniform no contact order forms to be used in the Superior, District, and Family Courts; develop a procedure for or enact legislation entering restraining orders that are issued as part of a divorce decree in the Restraining Order No Contact Order system ("RONCO"); and review and/or create procedures for police to contact a District or Family Court judge to obtain a temporary restraining order during nights, weekends, and holidays. Co-chaired by Family Court Associate Justice Gilbert T. Rocha and District Court Associate Judge Elaine T. Bucci, Committee members include staff from the Supreme, Superior, Family, and District Courts, as well as representatives from the Department of Attorney General, the Department of Corrections, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Rhode Island Legal Services, Roger Williams University School of Law, and private attorneys.

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

Justice Assistance, a well established private, nonprofit organization, operates two (2) court-based programs, Project Restitution (initiated in 1983) and Project Victim Services (initiated in 1985) under a state court contract. These projects provide information, support, restitution, counseling, referral, and advocacy for Rhode Island crime victims.

Justice Assistance requests that each victim complete and return a victim-impact statement/statement of losses, which records physical, financial, emotional, or other losses that have resulted from or reflect 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 a sentence. In addition, Justice Assistance answers victims' questions, prepares them for court proceedings, provides them with practical and emotional assistance, and monitors court ordered conditions when required.

The program assisted 12,371 crime victims in 2002.

COURT STATISTICAL TABLES

SUPREME COURT APPELLATE CASELOAD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
CRIMINAL					
Docketed	98	102	97	79	81
Disposed	79	98	95	96	106
Pending	141	147	148	137	113
CIVIL					
Docketed	287	281	253	237	234
Disposed	337	271	254	277	266
Pending	303	318	319	279	250
CERTIORARI					
Docketed	196	155	138	132	130
Disposed	215	160	167	106	131
Pending	102	100	72	98	99
MISCELLANEOUS					
Docketed	42	54	50	206	309
Disposed	53	48	48	182	315
Pending	4	11	13	38	28
ALL CASES					
Docketed	623	592	538	654	754
Disposed	684	577	564	661	818
Pending	550	576	552	552	490
NOTICES OF APPEAL PENDING					
Pending Greater Than 180 Days	208	139	105	115	44
	129	54	19	100	23

SUPREME COURT MANNER OF DISPOSITION

MANNER/STAGE OF DISPOSITION	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
BEFORE ARGUMENT					
Withdrawn	87	89	71	69	73
Dismissed	128	70	83	141	217
Petition Granted	9	5	6	49	146
Petition Denied	139	114	126	75	103
Other	31	26	17	32	29
Total	352	304	303	366	568
AFTER ARGUMENT/ MOTION CALENDAR					
Withdrawn	0	1	2	1	0
Affirmed	83	44	43	48	51
Modified	0	1	0	1	0
Reversed	19	3	6	12	2
Article I, Rule 16(g) - Affirm Order or Judgment Below	1	0	0	0	0
Article I, Rule 12A - Show Cause Orders	42	49	8	14	12
Other	88	5	6	5	5
Total Orders	114	103	65	81	70
Per Curiam	77	96	105	118	105
Total	191	199	170	199	175
AFTER ARGUMENT/MERITS					
Withdrawn	0	0	0	2	0
Affirmed	56	49	62	52	47
Modified	12	8	13	15	11
Reversed	31	17	16	27	17
Total	99	74	91	96	75
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	684	577	564	661	818
% Disposed of Within 300 Days of Docketing	*	47%	45%	43%	59%

* Not available.

SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL CASELOAD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
CIVIL ACTIONS					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Cases Filed	6,479	6,643	6,700	6,858	7,136
Cases Disposed	*	*	*	4,950	5,195
<i>Trial Calendar Summary:</i>					
Cases Added	1,893	1,865	1,794	1,803	1,625
Cases Disposed	2,006	2,117	2,029	1,833	1,797
Pending at Year End	3,142	2,798	2,422	2,280	2,004
KENT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	1,071	1,039	958	1,088	1,182
Cases Disposed	*	*	*	823	836
<i>Trial Calendar Summary:</i>					
Cases Added	276	266	328	340	347
Cases Disposed	240	395	452	369	299
Pending at Year End	475	351	348	330	381
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Cases Filed	654	631	639	669	682
Cases Disposed	*	*	*	477	547
<i>Trial Calendar Summary:</i>					
Cases Added	243	201	181	195	174
Cases Disposed	220	180	220	166	192
Pending at Year End	271	298	258	285	268
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	543	543	564	587	670
Cases Disposed	*	*	*	507	443
<i>Trial Calendar Summary:</i>					
Cases Added	137	179	196	176	175
Cases Disposed	203	193	170	253	172
Pending at Year End	225	204	231	149	157
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	8,747	8,856	8,861	9,202	9,670
Cases Disposed	*	*	*	6,757	7,021
<i>Trial Calendar Summary:</i>					
Cases Added	2,549	2,511	2,499	2,514	2,321
Cases Disposed	2,669	2,885	2,871	2,621	2,460
Pending at Year End	4,113	3,651	3,259	3,044	2,810

* Not available.

SUPERIOR COURT MANNER OF DISPOSITION CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
CIVIL ACTIONS					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Verdicts	117	118	148	114	81
Judicial Decisions	80	101	97	94	72
Total Trials	197	219	245	208	153
Dismissed/Settled/Other	1,485	1,530	1,449	1,243	1,310
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	324	368	335	382	334
Total Disposed	2,006	2,117	2,029	1,833	1,797
KENT COUNTY					
Verdicts	3	9	32	18	15
Judicial Decisions	8	22	22	21	32
Total Trials	11	31	54	39	47
Dismissed/Settled/Other	120	230	308	258	208
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	109	134	90	72	44
Total Disposed	240	395	452	369	299
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Verdicts	16	8	14	11	4
Judicial Decisions	8	6	10	4	15
Total Trials	24	14	24	15	19
Dismissed/Settled/Other	173	139	180	126	137
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	23	27	16	25	36
Total Disposed	220	180	220	166	192
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Verdicts	1	7	9	5	4
Judicial Decisions	7	5	12	30	17
Total Trials	8	12	21	35	21
Dismissed/Settled/Other	175	168	132	178	128
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	20	13	17	40	23
Total Disposed	203	193	170	253	172
STATEWIDE					
Verdicts	137	142	203	148	104
Judicial Decisions	103	134	141	149	136
Total Trials	240	275	344	297	240
Dismissed/Settled/Other	1,953	2,067	2,069	1,805	1,783
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	476	542	458	519	437
Total Disposed	2,669	2,885	2,871	2,621	2,460

SUPERIOR COURT FELONY CASELOAD

FELONIES	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Cases Filed	4,606	4,130	4,180	4,271	4,073
Cases Disposed	4,672	4,491	4,220	4,383	4,233
Total Pending Cases	1,674	1,562	1,619	1,761	1,535
% Over 180 Days Old	49%	43%	51%	33%	33%
KENT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	689	575	671	563	693
Cases Disposed	786	590	581	598	728
Total Pending Cases	113	121	198	195	141
% Over 180 Days Old	27%	29%	39%	37%	26%
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Cases Filed	342	352	386	449	489
Cases Disposed	375	328	405	496	482
Total Pending Cases	68	91	132	78	61
% Over 180 Days Old	25%	25%	21%	17%	23%
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	276	305	314	311	366
Cases Disposed	316	265	334	343	405
Total Pending Cases	43	49	91	95	66
% Over 180 Days Old	35%	41%	29%	25%	26%
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	5,913	5,362	5,551	5,594	5,621
Cases Disposed	6,149	5,674	5,540	5,820	5,848
Total Pending Cases	1,898	1,823	2,040	2,129	1,803
% Over 180 Days Old	46%	42%	47%	33%	32%

SUPERIOR COURT MANNER OF DISPOSITION-FELONIES

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
FELONIES					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Pled	4,178	4,027	3,825	3,943	3,827
Filed	8	8	5	6	3
Dismissed	406	390	311	367	352
Trial	73	65	79	66	50
Other	7	1	0	1	1
Total	4,672	4,491	4,220	4,383	4,233
% Disposed of Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	66%	67%	67%
KENT COUNTY					
Pled	699	517	492	480	612
Filed	17	233	26	39	24
Dismissed	37	43	48	64	73
Trial	30	6	14	15	18
Other	3	1	1	0	1
Total	786	590	581	598	728
% Disposed of Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	76%	68%	71%
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Pled	320	295	341	427	457
Filed	9	9	14	14	4
Dismissed	34	19	45	41	16
Trial	11	4	5	8	4
Other	1	1	0	6	1
Total	375	328	405	496	482
% Disp. sed of Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	68%	81%	85%
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Pled	269	234	284	313	356
Filed	14	11	13	9	11
Dismissed	31	18	34	19	36
Trial	2	1	3	2	2
Other	0	1	0	0	0
Total	316	265	334	343	405
% Disposed of Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	76%	78%	79%
STATEWIDE					
Pled	5,466	5,073	4,942	5,163	5,252
Filed	48	51	58	68	42
Dismissed	508	470	438	491	477
Trial	116	76	101	91	74
Other	11	4	1	7	3
Total	6,149	5,674	5,540	5,820	5,848
% Disposed of Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	68%	69%	70%

* Not available.

SUPERIOR COURT MISDEMEANOR CASELOAD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
MISDEMEANORS					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Cases Filed	402	458	171	187	167
Cases Disposed	218	557	192	147	152
Total Pending Cases	248	188	135	89	74
% Over 90 Days Old	46%	71%	76%	71%	65%
KENT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	63	89	95	71	107
Cases Disposed	69	69	90	79	136
Total Pending Cases	14	31	15	31	18
% Over 90 Days Old	57%	48%	60%	39%	45%
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Cases Filed	42	46	62	40	57
Cases Disposed	65	46	90	51	55
Total Pending Cases	15	20	15	6	26
% Over 90 Days Old	27%	10%	67%	33%	23%
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	54	41	60	152	380
Cases Disposed	72	74	106	115	387
Total Pending Cases	18	23	18	53	38
% Over 90 Days Old	56%	78%	94%	32%	37%
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	561	634	388	450	711
Cases Disposed	424	746	478	392	730
Total Pending Cases	295	262	183	179	156
% Over 90 Days Old	46%	64%	76%	53%	49%

SUPERIOR COURT MANNER OF DISPOSITION- MISDEMEANORS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
MISDEMEANORS					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Pled	154	449	141	89	84
Filed	5	11	0	3	14
Dismissed	38	85	33	39	46
Trial	17	11	18	16	7
Other	4	1	0	0	1
Total	218	557	192	147	152
% Disposed of Within 90 Days of Filing	*	*	18%	17%	10%
KENT COUNTY					
Pled	40	45	34	46	75
Filed	16	9	28	16	27
Dismissed	9	10	15	14	31
Trial	2	2	7	1	1
Other	2	3	6	3	2
Total	69	69	90	79	136
% Disposed of Within 90 Days of Filing	*	*	48%	56%	56%
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Pled	35	18	43	24	36
Filed	11	8	9	7	8
Dismissed	15	8	30	16	8
Trial	3	2	6	3	3
Other	1	10	2	1	0
Total	65	46	90	51	55
% Disposed of Within 90 Days of Filing	*	*	32%	54%	59%
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Pled	38	49	61	56	187
Filed	12	8	15	41	124
Dismissed	14	13	25	16	70
Trial	5	3	2	2	2
Other	3	1	3	0	4
Total	72	74	106	115	387
% Disposed of Within 90 Days of Filing	*	*	47%	55%	74%
STATEWIDE					
Pled	267	561	279	215	382
Filed	44	36	52	67	173
Dismissed	76	116	103	85	155
Trial	27	18	33	20	13
Other	10	15	11	4	7
Total	424	746	478	392	730
% Disposed of Within 90 Days of Filing	*	*	31%	38%	53%

* Not available.

FAMILY COURT DOMESTIC RELATIONS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
DOMESTIC					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Filed	2,785	2,942	3,062	3,172	3,212
Filed-Divorce Only	*	*	*	2,780	2,788
Disposed	*	*	*	2,853	2,826
Cases Greater than 360 Days Old	26	47	14	6	17
KENT COUNTY					
Filed	871	833	895	854	791
Filed-Divorce Only	*	*	*	749	717
Disposed	*	*	*	868	768
Cases Greater than 360 Days Old	0	1	0	15	5
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Filed	612	570	556	595	581
Filed-Divorce Only	*	*	*	507	514
Disposed	*	*	*	530	551
Cases Greater than 360 Days Old	0	0	0	2	2
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Filed	369	353	361	396	407
Filed-Divorce Only	*	*	*	343	350
Disposed	*	*	*	379	394
Cases Greater than 360 Days Old	0	0	0	5	4
STATEWIDE					
Filed	4,637	4,698	4,874	5,017	4,991
Filed-Divorce Only	*	*	*	4,379	4,369
Disposed	*	*	*	4,630	4,539
Cases Greater than 360 Days Old	26	48	14	28	28
ABUSE COMPLAINTS FILED					
Providence/Bristol County	2,066	2,015	2,026	2,064	2,126
Kent County	358	332	342	348	353
Washington County	211	221	177	167	145
Newport County	183	201	190	181	169
Statewide Total	2,818	2,769	2,735	2,760	2,793
SUPPORT PETITIONS FILED					
	3,370	3,998	3,743	3,857	3,839

* Not available.

FAMILY COURT JUVENILE CASELOAD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
JUVENILE FILINGS BY CATEGORY					
Wayward/Delinquent	6,880	6,126	6,756	6,823	7,067
Dependency/Neglect/Abuse	1,770	1,486	1,445	1,569	1,827
Termination of Parental Rights	396	324	411	325	350
Adoption/Guardianship	591	610	570	492	524
Violations	854	884	901	786	845
Other	64	71	76	59	80
Total Filings	10,555	9,501	10,159	10,054	10,693

JUVENILE CALENDAR RESULTS FOR WAYWARD/DELINQUENT CASES

PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Filed	*	*	5,076	5,190	5,304
Disposed	*	*	4,652	4,741	5,121
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	*	*	56.5%

KENT COUNTY					
Filed	*	*	1,240	1,141	1,264
Disposed	*	*	1,099	1,075	1,101
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	*	*	48%

WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Filed	*	*	817	736	753
Disposed	*	*	708	717	771
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	*	*	67%

NEWPORT COUNTY					
Filed	*	*	524	542	591
Disposed	*	*	524	481	578
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	*	*	54%

STATEWIDE					
Filed	*	*	7,657	7,609	7,912
Disposed	*	*	6,983	7,014	7,571
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	*	*	*	*	56%

* Not available.

FAMILY COURT CHILD PROTECTION

JUVENILE CALENDAR RESULTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION CASES		
	2001	2002
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY		
<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>		
Filed	266	283
Disposed	322	282
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	72%	62%
<i>Dependency/Neglect/Abuse</i>		
Filed	1,171	1,386
Disposed	1,322	1,283
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	61%	62%
<i>Other</i>		
Filed	417	454
Disposed	496	478
KENT COUNTY		
<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>		
Filed	30	37
Disposed	25	23
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	62%	44%
<i>Dependency/Neglect/Abuse</i>		
Filed	210	216
Disposed	153	203
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	53%	72%
<i>Other</i>		
Filed	55	81
Disposed	62	69

FAMILY COURT CHILD PROTECTION CONTINUED

JUVENILE CALENDAR RESULTS FOR CHILD PROTECTION CASES CONTINUED

WASHINGTON COUNTY

	2001	2002
<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>		
Filed	20	17
Disposed	10	25
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	63%	75%

Dependency/Neglect/Abuse

Filed	105	108
Disposed	143	167
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	63%	38%

Other

Filed	51	48
Disposed	61	52

NEWPORT COUNTY

<i>Termination of Parental Rights</i>		
Filed	10	13
Disposed	19	10
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	100%	50%

Dependency/Neglect/Abuse

Filed	83	117
Disposed	70	103
% Adjudicated Within 180 Days of Filing	39%	37%

Other

Filed	27	21
Disposed	29	23

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASELOAD

	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>
SECOND DIVISION					
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	1,169	1,208	1,175	1,259	1,196
Cases Disposed	1,337	1,428	1,371	1,093	1,247
THIRD DIVISION					
KENT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	2,199	2,306	2,267	2,604	2,523
Cases Disposed	2,918	3,263	3,182	3,168	3,723
FOURTH DIVISION					
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Cases Filed	1,148	1,008	989	1,037	1,167
Cases Disposed	982	889	962	1,048	1,101
SIXTH DIVISION					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Cases Filed	11,969	12,083	12,996	13,034	14,167
Cases Disposed	8,885	8,814	9,296	11,499	12,945
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	16,485	16,605	17,427	17,934	19,053
Cases Disposed	14,122	14,394	14,811	16,808	19,016
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	5,827	5,539	5,940	6,026	7,122
Settlements	3,492	3,297	3,596	5,418	6,272
Judgements	4,794	5,538	5,259	5,360	5,618
Other	9	20	16	4	4
Total	14,122	14,394	14,811	16,808	19,016

DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL CASELOAD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
MISDEMEANORS					
SECOND DIVISION					
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	2,584	2,106	2,437	2,760	2,454
Cases Disposed	2,589	1,920	2,597	2,723	2,578
Total Pending	*	*	609	397	153
% Over 60 Days Old	*	*	*	*	17%
THIRD DIVISION					
KENT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	5,236	5,288	4,687	4,786	4,879
Cases Disposed	5,050	5,162	5,971	4,858	4,984
Total Pending	*	*	489	273	197
% Over 60 Days Old	*	*	*	*	16%
FOURTH DIVISION					
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Cases Filed	3,437	3,481	3,943	4,508	4,271
Cases Disposed	3,302	3,394	3,800	4,443	4,314
Total Pending	*	*	529	528	205
% Over 60 Days Old	*	*	*	*	6%
SIXTH DIVISION					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Cases Filed	15,002	14,984	16,950	18,298	18,384
Cases Disposed	14,478	14,054	16,481	18,159	18,383
Total Pending	*	*	2,912	2,622	1,833
% Over 60 Days Old	*	*	*	*	*
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	26,259	25,864	28,017	30,352	29,988
Cases Disposed	25,319	24,504	28,850	30,183	30,259
Total Pending	*	*	4,539	3,820	2,388
% Over 60 Days Old	*	*	*	*	*
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Plead	14,224	12,742	19,632	20,690	21,721
Filed	4,214	6,126	183	166	129
Dismissed	5,977	4,166	5,942	7,656	6,441
Trials	256	245	473	634	760
Other	648	1,225	2,620	1,036	1,208
Total	25,319	24,504	28,850	30,182	30,259
% Disposed of Within 60 Days of Filing	*	*	83%	88%	89%
STATEWIDE FELONIES					
Filed	5,941	5,885	6,671	7,197	7,242

* Not available.

DISTRICT COURT SMALL CLAIMS

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
SECOND DIVISION					
NEWPORT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	1,192	944	939	802	702
Cases Disposed	1,387	746	1,020	693	795
THIRD DIVISION					
KENT COUNTY					
Cases Filed	2,750	2,359	2,113	2,167	2,256
Cases Disposed	4,192	4,219	4,312	3,897	3,457
FOURTH DIVISION					
WASHINGTON COUNTY					
Cases Filed	1,433	974	1,456	1,312	1,607
Cases Disposed	1,746	1,276	1,383	1,377	1,794
SIXTH DIVISION					
PROVIDENCE/BRISTOL COUNTY					
Cases Filed	12,962	10,842	10,090	9,760	10,639
Cases Disposed	14,225	11,735	13,642	11,144	11,859
STATEWIDE					
Cases Filed	18,337	15,119	14,598	14,041	15,204
Cases Disposed	21,556	17,976	20,357	17,111	17,905
MANNER OF DISPOSITION					
Defaults	12,285	9,447	10,504	8,684	8,846
Settlements	6,554	6,205	7,684	6,453	6,981
Judgments	2,717	2,324	2,169	1,974	2,078
Total	21,556	17,976	20,357	17,111	17,905
CASES FILED - OTHER CATEGORIES					
Domestic Abuse	961	793	760	669	926
Administrative Appeals	67	130	140	152	134
Mental Health Hearings	537	629	624	516	430

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT CASELOAD SUMMARY

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
EMPLOYEE PETITIONS					
Original	2,807	3,006	3,168	3,201	3,076
To Review	1,476	1,544	1,565	2,400	2,178
Second Injury	9	1	3	1	0
To Enforce	608	544	714	786	929
Total	4,900	5,095	5,450	6,388	6,183
EMPLOYER PETITIONS					
To Review	1,566	1,594	1,504	1,678	1,767
OTHER					
Lump Sum Settlement	836	742	754	713	856
Hospital/Physician Fees	*	*	*	42	70
Miscellaneous	102	120	119	143	106
Total	938	862	873	898	1,032
Total Petitions	7,404	7,551	7,827	8,964	8,982
Total Dispositions	7,743	7,319	8,018	8,877	9,258
Total Pending Caseload	2,462	2,706	2,519	2,603	2,326
Total Cases Pending Trial	1,366	1,479	1,328	1,188	910
% Pending Trial More Than 270 Days	33%	38%	41%	40%	29%

* Not available.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT MANNER/STAGE OF DISPOSITION

	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>
PRETRIAL					
Pretrial Order	2,087	2,370	2,700	3,281	3,160
Order	23	14	18	14	13
Decree	31	47	49	50	64
Consent Decree	97	113	145	123	85
Major Surgery	24	47	29	20	5
Withdrawn	1,109	1,153	1,295	1,511	2,773
Discontinued	38	48	46	44	40
Dismissed	35	12	14	35	27
Other	968	925	956	1,142	90
Total	4,412	4,729	5,252	6,220	6,257
TRIAL					
Decision	777	505	577	604	770
Consent Decree	328	272	274	251	211
Trial Claim Withdrawn	685	579	686	620	740
Petition Withdrawn	206	139	141	154	161
Order	113	71	114	80	58
Dismissed	43	24	16	19	16
Discontinued	4	1	12	14	11
Other	900	820	814	817	912
Total	3,079	2,422	2,635	2,559	2,879
APPEALS	252	168	131	98	122
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	7,743	7,319	8,018	8,877	9,258

RHODE ISLAND TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL ("RITT") CASELOAD

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Total Summonses Issued	164,059	123,719	160,056*	152,525	163,390
RITT Summonses Issued	99,389	76,343	88,149	89,727	99,406
Total Violations			116,309	128,449	130,576
RITT Summonses Disposed	106,512+	128,862	123,673	104,042	102,136
BREAKDOWN OF DISPOSED SUMMONSES					
Court Hearings	79,115	95,225	90,607	66,990	62,824
Pay by Mail	27,397+	33,637	33,066	37,052	39,312
Total	106,512+	128,862	123,673	104,042	102,136
% Disposed of Within 60 Days	**	**	**	**	98%
BREATHALYZER REFUSALS					
Filed	1,687	1,570	1,693	1,633	1,655
Disposed	1,958	1,528	1,903	1,678	1,700
% Disposed of Within 60 Days	**	**	**	**	93%
DUI / .08					
Filed	**	**	**	26	50
Disposed	**	**	**	27	50
% Disposed of Within 60 Days	**	**	**	**	88%
INSURANCE					
Filed	10,055	8,342	9,862	9,539	10,143
Disposed	17,221	16,249	18,014	10,855	10,625
% Disposed of Within 60 Days	**	**	**	**	94%
APPEALS					
Filed	1,256	611	562	513	565
Disposed	**	**	**	**	426
Pending	**	**	**	**	139

* Includes summonses issued to both RITT and Municipal Courts.

** Not available.

+ Information incomplete due to a backlog in data entry.

Note: Reported pending insurance cases may be higher than actual number due to computer program conversion issues.

SUMMARY OF THE JUDICIARY'S CASELOAD FOR THE YEAR 2002

COURT	CASE TYPE	FILINGS	DISPOSITIONS
SUPREME COURT		754	818
SUPERIOR COURT	<i>Felonies</i>	5,621	5,848
	<i>Misdemeanors</i>	711	730
	<i>Civil</i>	9,670	7,021
FAMILY COURT	<i>Juvenile</i>	10,693	10,612
	<i>Divorce</i>	4,369	4,539
	<i>Miscellaneous Petitions</i>	622	*
	<i>Abuse</i>	2,793	2,629
	<i>Child Support</i>	3,839	*
DISTRICT COURT	<i>Misdemeanors</i>	29,988	
	<i>Small Claims</i>	15,204	30,259
	<i>Civil</i>	19,053	17,905
	<i>Abuse</i>	926	19,016
	<i>Other</i>	564	
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT		8,982	9,260
TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL		99,496	102,136
TOTAL FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS		213,285	210,773

THE BUDGET FOR THE RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY

FIVE - YEAR COMPARISON

	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Actual	FY 2002 Unaudited	FY 2003 Revised
State Budget	\$4,119,405,179	\$4,425,876,809	\$4,839,154,658	\$5,206,672,492	\$5,506,797,113
Increase	396,412,155	306,471,630	413,277,849	367,517,834	300,124,621
Judicial Budget	60,902,247	61,083,015	64,133,462	72,732,817	74,789,557
Increase	3,580,539	180,768	3,050,447	8,599,355	2,056,740
Judicial Share	1.47%	1.38%	1.33%	1.40%	1.36%
Supreme Court	15,934,809	16,017,698	18,397,510	25,572,973	22,858,364
Superior Court	14,096,389	13,447,159	14,164,107	14,786,789	16,279,483
Family Court	11,616,099	11,885,448	12,463,668	13,179,338	14,892,743
District Court	6,360,100	6,370,701	6,520,242	6,947,321	7,829,945
Workers' Compensation Court	4,072,743	3,956,375	4,592,071	4,875,611	5,638,239
Traffic Tribunal	5,247,013	5,231,864	5,334,788	5,453,330	5,959,045
Justice Link	3,575,094	4,173,770	2,661,076	1,917,455	1,331,738
Total Expenditures	\$60,902,247	\$61,083,015	\$64,133,462	\$72,732,817	\$74,789,557
Expenditures by Object					
Personnel	44,626,338	49,202,979	51,101,378	53,655,563	57,970,949
Other State Operations	9,257,982	7,950,783	7,873,467	11,482,869	11,748,615
Assistance, Grants, and Benefits	3,677,797	3,875,403	4,313,737	4,600,463	4,841,266
Subtotal:	\$57,562,117	\$61,029,165	\$63,288,582	\$69,738,895	\$74,560,557
Operating Expenditures					
Capital Improvements	*	53,850	844,880	2,993,922	228,727
Total Expenditures	\$60,902,247	\$61,083,015	\$64,133,462	\$72,732,817	\$74,789,557
Expenditures by Funds					
General Revenue	51,779,503	53,381,137	55,926,803	60,688,095	63,802,330
Federal Grants	3,166,041	2,775,666	1,992,474	2,550,317	4,075,503
Restricted Receipts	5,710,477	4,863,989	5,544,455	5,851,785	6,682,997
Other	246,226	62,226	669,730	3,642,620	228,727
Total Expenditures	\$60,902,247	\$61,083,015	\$64,133,462	\$72,732,817	\$74,789,557

A P P E N D I C E S

SUPREME COURT

Frank J. Williams
Chief Justice

Robert G. Flanders, Jr.
Justice

Maureen McKenna
Goldberg
Justice

Francis X. Flaherty
Justice

Joseph R. Weisberg
Chief Justice (Retired)

Donald F. Shea
Justice (Retired)

SUPERIOR COURT

Joseph F. Rodgers, Jr.
Presiding Justice

Alice Bridget Gibney
Associate Justice

Robert D. Kraus
Associate Justice

Melanie Wilk Thunberg
Associate Justice

Vincent A. Ragosta
Associate Justice

Mark A. Pfeiffer
Associate Justice

Patricia A. Hurs
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

Netti C. Vogel
Associate Justice

William A. Dimitri, Jr.
Associate Justice

O. Rogeriee Thompson
Associate Justice

Gilbert V. Indeglia
Associate Justice

JUDICIAL ROSTER

Stephen P. Nugent
Associate Justice

Edwin J. Gale
Associate Justice

Susan E. McGuirl
Associate Justice

Daniel A. Procaccini
Associate Justice

Jeffrey A. Lanphear
Associate Justice

William J. McAtee
Magistrate

Joseph A. Keough
Special Magistrate

Patricia L. Harwood
General Magistrate

Susan L. Revens
Administrator/Magistrate

FAMILY COURT

Jeremiah S. Jeremiah, Jr.
Chief Judge

Haiganush R. Bedrosian
Associate Justice

Pamela M. Mactaz
Associate Justice

Raymond E. Shawcross
Associate Justice

Michael B. Forte
Associate Justice

Kathleen A. Voccola
Associate Justice

Paul A. Suttell
Associate Justice

Howard I. Lipsey
Associate Justice

John A. Mutter
Associate Justice

Gilbert T. Rocha
Associate Justice

Francis J. Murray, Jr.
Associate Justice

Stephen J. Capineri
Associate Justice

John J. O'Brien, Jr.
General Magistrate

Debra E. DiSegna
Magistrate

George N. DiMuro
Magistrate

Jeanne L. Shepard
Magistrate

Angela M. Paulhus
Magistrate

Patricia K. Asquith
Magistrate

Edward H. Newman
Magistrate

DISTRICT COURT

Albert E. DeRobbio
Chief Judge

Michael A. Higgins
Administrative Judge

Robert K. Pirraglia
Associate Judge

Patricia D. Moore
Associate Judge

Stephen P. Erickson
Associate Judge

Robert J. Rahill
Associate Judge

Walter Gorman
Associate Judge

John M. McLoughlin
Associate Judge

Frank J. Cenerini
Associate Judge

Elaine T. Bucci
Associate Judge

Madeline Quirk
Associate Judge

Richard A. Gonnella
Associate Judge

Jeanne E. LaFazia
Associate Judge

Joseph P. Ippolito, Jr.
Administrator/Magistrate

Christine S. Joubert
Clerk/Magistrate

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

Robert F. Arrigan
Chief Judge

John Rotondi, Jr.
Associate Judge

George E. Healy, Jr.
Associate Judge

Debra L. Olsson
Associate Judge

Bruce Q. Morin
Associate Judge

Janette A. Bertness
Associate Judge

Edward P. Sowa, Jr.
Associate Judge

Dianne M. Connor
Associate Judge

George T. Salem, Jr.
Associate Judge

Hugo L. Ricci, Jr.
Associate Judge

TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL

Albert E. DeRobbio
Chief Judge

Joseph P. Ippolito, Jr.
Administrative Magistrate

Marjorie R. Yashar
Associate Judge

Lillian M. Almeida
Associate Judge

Albert R. Ciullo
Associate Judge

Edward C. Parker
Associate Judge

Aurendina G. Veiga
Magistrate

Domenic A. DiSandro III
Magistrate

William T. Noonan
Magistrate

COURT DIRECTORY

SUPREME COURT Licht Judicial Complex 250 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

- John H. Barrette**
State Court Administrator ----- 222-3263
- Gail M. Valuk, Esquire**
Assistant State Court Administrator ----- 222-3266
- Robert Sieczkiewicz, Ph.D.**
Director of Finance and Budget - ----- 222-3266
- Paul M. Petit**
Executive Director of Facilities and Operations ---- 222-6700
- J. Joseph Baxter**
Assistant Administrator of Employee Relations
Interim Director of Security ----- 222-2700
- Erika Leigh Kruse, Esquire**
General Counsel ----- 222-3267
- Dyana Koelsh**
Director of Public Relations/Community
Outreach Office ----- 222-8631
- Brian B. Burns**
Supreme Court Clerk, Director of Bar Admissions -- 222-3272
- Ronald A. Tutalo, Esquire**
Administrative Assistant to Chief Justice ----- 222-3074
- Philleatra Gaylor**
State Law Librarian ----- 222-8645
- Martha F. Newcomb, Esquire**
Chief Staff Attorney ----- 222-8671
- Carol Bourcier Fargnoli, Esquire**
Chief Law Clerk ----- 222-6536
- Susan W. McCalmont**
Assistant Administrator of Policy and Programs --- 222-8666
- Holly Hitchcock**
Director of Education Office ----- 222-8670

Lieutenant Stephen J. Lynch

Interim Director of
Rhode Island State Fugitive Task Force ----- 222-2018

Janice B. Dubois

Executive Director of Domestic Violence
Training and Monitoring Unit ----- 782-4154

John E. Fogarty

Judicial Annex
24 Weybosset Street
Providence, RI 02903

Tracy E. Williams

Executive Director of
Rhode Island Judicial Technology Center ----- 222-8360

David D. Curtin, Esquire

Chief Disciplinary Counsel ----- 222-3270

Judicial Records Center

5 Hill Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860

J. Stephen Grimes

Director ----- 721-2640

SUPERIOR COURT

Providence County
Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

Susan L. Revens, Esquire

Administrator/Magistrate ----- 222-3250

Joseph V. Conley

Deputy Administrator/Clerk ----- 222-3215

Henry S. Kinch, Jr.

Clerk, Providence/Bristol County ----- 222-3230

Michael C. Kelleher

General Chief Clerk ----- 222-3230

Henry G. Vivier

Jury Commissioner ----- 222-3245

John O'Hara

Associate Jury Commissioner ----- 222-3248

Evelyn A. Keene

Assistant Administrator, Management and Finance ---- 222-3215

Bonnie L. Williamson

Project Coordinator, Calendar Services ----- 222-3602

Robert J. Johnson

Security and Program Manager ----- 222-3292

Kathleen A. Maher McKendall

Administrator, Arbitration Program ----- 222-6147

Kent County

Leighton Judicial Complex
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

Jane M. Anthony

Clerk ----- 822-1311

Eugene J. McMahon

Associate Jury Commissioner ----- 822-0400

Jean Heden

Manager, Calendar Services for Counties ----- 822-0785

Washington County

McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Courtland R. Chapman, Jr.

Clerk ----- 782-4121

Newport County

Murray Judicial Complex
45 Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

Charles Henry Hollis

Clerk ----- 841-8330

FAMILY COURT

Providence County
Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Buddy Croft

Director ----- 458-3203

F. Charles Haigh, Jr.

Administrator/Clerk ----- 458-3203

David Tassoni, Esquire

Assistant Administrator ----- 458-3141

David Heden

Executive Director, Juvenile Services ----- 458-3250

William Burgess

Deputy Administrator/Clerk, Child Support ----- 458-3100

Louis Cairone

Supervisory Accountant ----- 458-3100

Frank Demarco

Executive Director/Administrator, Domestic Relations -- 458-3200

Elaine Wood

Principal Supervisory Clerk, Juvenile ----- 458-3290

Francis Pickett, Jr.

*Director, Court Appointed Special Advocate/
Guardian Ad Litem* ----- 458-3330

Kent County

Leighton Judicial Complex
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

William Laferriere

Principal Supervisory Clerk ----- 822-1600

Newport County

Murray Judicial Complex
45 Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840

John Martino

Principal Supervisory Clerk ----- 841-8340

Washington County

McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879

Denise Dupre

Principal Supervisory Clerk ----- 782-4111

DISTRICT COURT

Sixth Division
Providence/Bristol County
Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Joseph P. Ippolito, Jr.

Administrator/Magistrate ----- 458-5211

Jerome Smith
Chief Clerk ----- 458-5219

Patricia I. Dankievitch
Assistant Administrator, Finance Management ----- 458-5214

Joan M. Godfrey
Assistant Administrator, Finance Management ----- 458-5212

Alice Albuquerque
Administrative Clerk, Office Services ----- 458-3144

**Second Division
Newport County
Murray Judicial Complex
45 Washington Square
Newport, RI 02840**

Susan M. Caldarone
Deputy Clerk I ----- 841-8350

**Third Division
Kent County
Leighton Judicial Complex
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886**

Melvin J. Enright
Supervisory Clerk ----- 822-1771

**Fourth Division
Washington County
McGrath Judicial Complex
4800 Tower Hill Road
Wakefield, RI 02879**

Rose Mary T. Cantley
Deputy Clerk I ----- 782-4131

WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT
Garrahy Judicial Complex
1 Dorrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

Dennis Revens
Administrator ----- 458-3403

John A. Sabatini
Deputy Administrator ----- 458-5132

Arlene E. Maloney
Associate Deputy Administrator, Systems ----- 458-3422

Maureen H. Aveno
Administrator, Medical Advisory Board ----- 458-3461

Patricia E. Creamer
Principle Assistant Administrator ----- 458-3421

Dennis R. Cooney
Senior Assistant Administrator ----- 458-3418

Edward J. McGovern
Senior Assistant Administrator ----- 458-3419

TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL
345 Harris Avenue
Providence, RI 02909-1082

Kevin Spina
Administrator ----- 222-3027

Leo Skenyon
Clerk ----- 222-2636

J. Ryder Kenney, Esquire
Assistant Legal Counsel ----- 222-1170

**TDD/TTY
NUMBERS**

Licht Judicial Complex ----- (401) 222-3269
Garrahy Judicial Complex ----- (401) 458-5275
Leighton Judicial Complex ----- (401) 822-1607
McGrath Judicial Complex ----- (401) 782-4139
Murray Judicial Complex ----- (401) 841-8331
Traffic Tribunal ----- (401) 222-1566