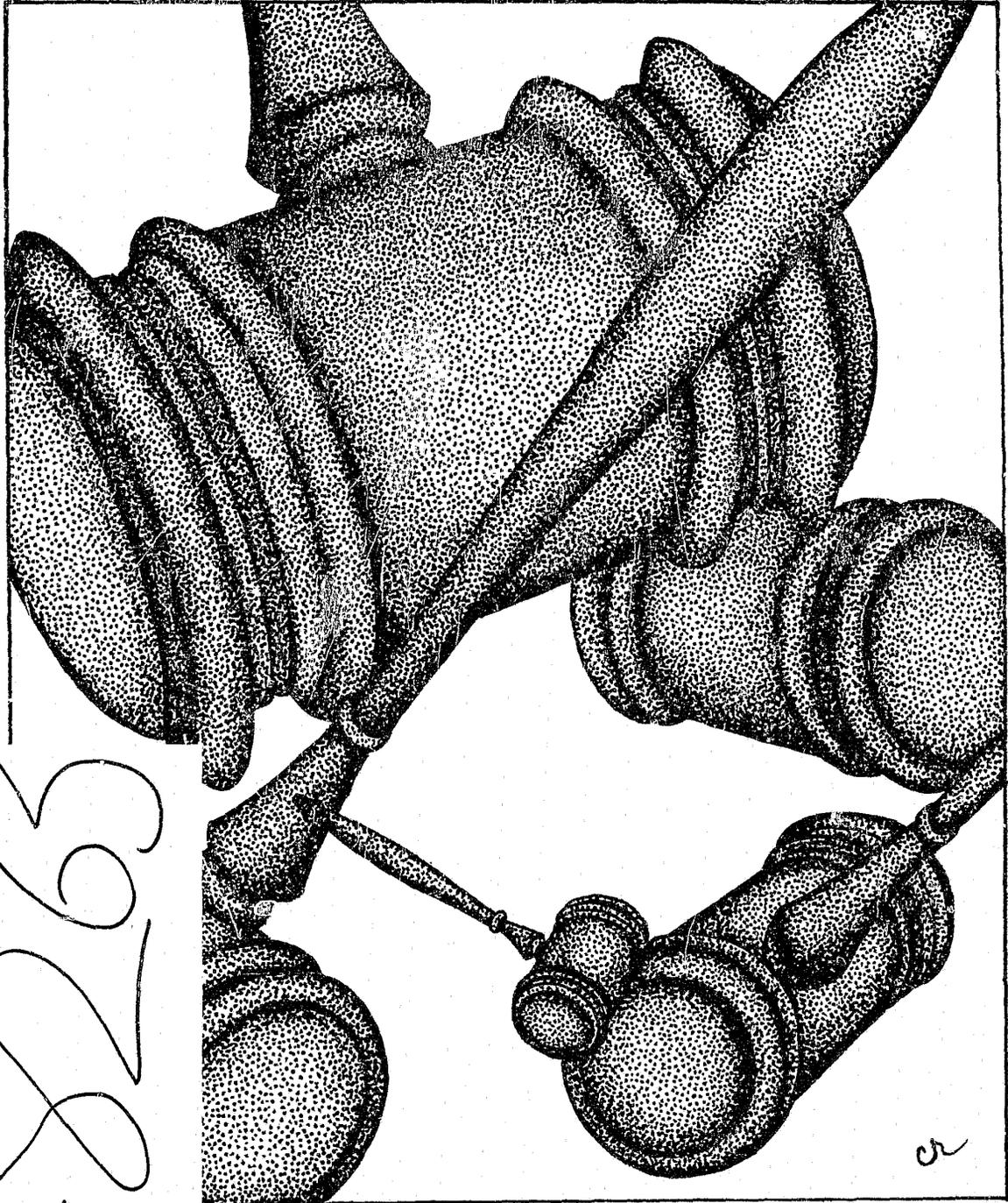


1977 ANNUAL REPORT



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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

Under the provisions of 11 D.C. Code 1701 (c)(2) and 1745(a), the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in the District of Columbia and the Executive Officer publish the 1977 Annual Report of the District of Columbia Courts.



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Hon. Austin L. Fickling
(May 11, 1914 - March 6, 1977)

On March 6, 1977, the Honorable Austin L. Fickling, Associate Judge of the D.C. Court of Appeals, died of cancer. Judge Fickling left a legacy of diligent service to the bench, bar, and the community which was reflected poetically in the eulogy of Associate Judge Hubert B. Pair, Retired, at the Memorial Service for Judge Fickling, held on May 9, 1977:

Integrity, patience, civility, fairness, intellectual honesty, and a sense of the proprieties characterized his public and private life. He came to the end of a public career spanning more than thirty-five years unsullied by even a suggestion of impropriety or dishonor in the discharge of his responsibilities as a lawyer in private practice, as an Assistant United States Attorney, as a trial judge, and as a judge of the highest court in the District of Columbia judicial system. Perhaps a fitting conclusion would be to say, with Shelley, that our brother, Austin L. Fickling, has simply 'outsoared the shadows of our night.'

In his honor, the Court will dedicate the Attorneys' Waiting Room in the new District of Columbia Courthouse as the Fickling Memorial Room.

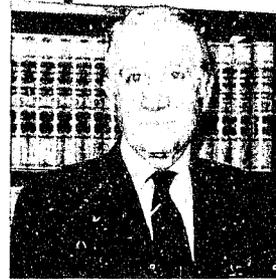
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



**Chief Judge Theodore R. Newman, Jr.
District of Columbia Court of Appeals
Chairman**



**Chief Judge Harold H. Greene
Superior Court of the
District of Columbia**



**Judge George R. Gallagher
District of Columbia
Court of Appeals**

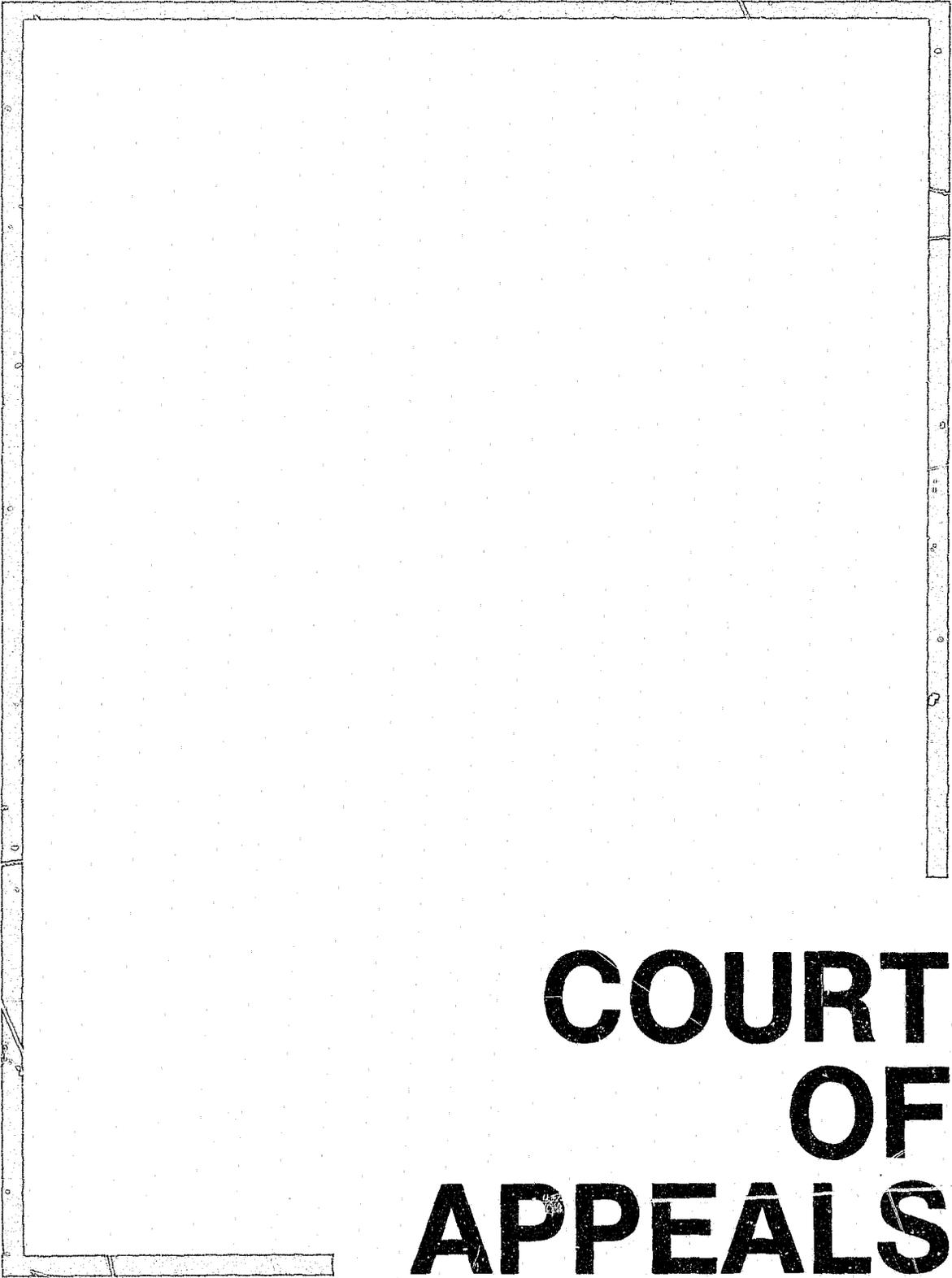


**Judge Fred L. McIntyre
Superior Court of the
District of Columbia**



**Judge William S. Thompson
Superior Court of the
District of Columbia**





COURT OF APPEALS

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS

Chief Judge

Theodore R. Newman, Jr.

Associate Judges

Catherine B. Kelly

John W. Kern III

George R. Gallagher

Frank Q. Nebeker

J. Walter Yeagley

Stanley S. Harris

Julia Cooper Mack

John M. Ferren

Retired Judges

Andrew M. Hood

Hubert B. Pair

Gerard D. Reilly

Clerk of the Court

Alexander L. Stevas

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT OF APPEALS



Chief Judge Theodore R. Newman, Jr.



Catherine B. Kelly



John W. Kern III



George R. Gallagher



Frank Q. Nebeker



J. Walter Yeagley



Stanley S. Harris



Julia Cooper Mack



John M. Ferren

REPORT OF CHIEF JUDGE THEODORE R. NEWMAN, JR., ON THE STATE OF THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

It is with pleasure that I submit this report pertaining to the business of the D.C. Court of Appeals and Court System following my first full year as Chief Judge and Chairman of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration. This year I am able to point with pride to several major accomplishments.

The report is divided into two sections: the first section deals with the new and improved facilities, programs, and procedures designed specifically to insure the efficient administration of justice. The second section provides the annual statistical analysis of the Court of Appeals case flow. Chief Judge Harold H. Greene will report, in detail, on the business of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

Section I. Planning and Operations

A. Judicial Planning for the Courts

By Order dated January 12, 1977, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals established the District of Columbia Judicial Planning Committee (JPC), pursuant to the provisions of the Crime Control Act of 1976 (Pub.L. 94-503, approved October 15, 1976). Sixteen members of the JPC were appointed, serving at the pleasure of the Court. They included:

Honorable Theodore R. Newman, Jr., Chief Judge
D.C. Court of Appeals
Honorable Frank Q. Nebeker, Associate Judge
D.C. Court of Appeals
Honorable Julia C. Mack, Associate Judge
D.C. Court of Appeals
Honorable Harold H. Greene, Chief Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Honorable Fred B. Ugast, Associate Judge
Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Executive Officer of the D.C. Courts
Earl J. Silbert, United States Attorney
J. Patrick Hickey, Director, Public Defender
Service
John R. Risher, Corporation Counsel
J. Clay Smith, Jr., Esquire
Stephen J. Pollak, Esquire
Robert L. Weinberg, President-Elect of the District
of Columbia Bar

Howard P. Willens, Esquire
Alice B. Popkin, Esquire
Curtis E. von Kann, Esquire
Thomas H. Queen, Esquire

The JPC was charged with the following responsibilities:

- (1) establish priorities for the improvement of the Courts of the District of Columbia;
- (2) define, develop, and coordinate programs and projects for the improvement of the Courts of the District of Columbia;
- (3) develop an annual judicial plan for improvement of the Courts of the District of Columbia to be included in the District of Columbia's comprehensive plan to be submitted to the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration;
- (4) develop a multi-year comprehensive plan for Court improvement and coordinate and evaluate the implementation thereof; and
- (5) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals from time to time.

The organizational meeting of the JPC was held on April 26, 1977, and, as a result of discussion at that meeting, the National Center for State Courts was employed to prepare the *1978 Judicial Plan for the Improvement of the Courts*.

Over the next four months, the staff of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Office of the National Center for State Courts worked closely with members of the JPC and a task force chaired by Mrs. Claire M. Whitaker which consisted primarily of representatives of the various components of the administration of justice system in the City. As a result of their efforts, the first Judicial Plan for the Improvement of the Courts was submitted to the Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Board on September 1, 1977.

Simultaneous with the development of the 1978 Judicial Plan, a subcommittee of the JPC was appointed, chaired by Curtis E. von Kann, Esquire, and composed of distinguished lawyers and jurists to

analyze the extent to which the Court of Appeals was in compliance with the ABA Standards on Appellate Courts. The subcommittee developed an extensive questionnaire which elicited the following major findings:

- (1) The D.C. Court of Appeals has a "high rate" of conformance with the ABA Standards.
- (2) A backlog of cases has been building constantly. This is a critical problem which has reached "ominous proportions" even though the annual rate of disposition of cases by the court has increased by approximately 138% over the last six years.
- (3) There is an insufficiency of judicial and nonjudicial personnel to properly handle the appellate case load. (With respect to this finding, it appears to me, as Chief Judge of the Judicial System of the District of Columbia, proper to suggest the time is at hand when the appropriate legislative and executive officials, in conjunction with bench, bar, and public, must seriously evaluate the need for creating a two-tier appellate court system composed of an intermediate appellate court and a highest appellate court.) See Statistical Analysis.
- (4) The management of a court system by nonjudicial personnel is inadequate. The report pointed to the difficulty the District of Columbia Court of Appeals has in managing a court system when the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration, the body which is by statute charged with supervising court management, is composed of three trial court judges and only two judges of the appellate court.
- (5) There are serious problems relating to case flow management and related internal systems.

I have also asked the JPC to investigate a number of other areas in which I have had some concern. These investigations have resulted in (1) a study of the personnel grievance and appeal procedures in the courts; (2) a feasibility study of the Court of Appeals' docketing and reporting system prior to the systems design; and (3) the evaluation of four court-related projects funded by federal grant funds over the last two years.

B. D.C. Court of Appeals' Operations

I reported last year that, in my first two months as Chief Judge, I initiated work on two proposals directed toward improving the efficiency of the D.C. Court of Appeals. One related to the establishment of a procedure for Pre-argument Settlement Conferences which would result in early dispositions of many complex civil appeals. I am happy to report that the settlement conference has proved successful in several cases, one of

which resulted in the settlement of a \$599,000 judgment against the City for \$225,000. Another case which was settled through the settlement conference procedure involved a \$2.5 million verdict which settled for \$1.5 million. Both these cases involved extensive records and complex legal issues which would have consumed vast amounts of time to resolve judicially.

The second proposal related to the adoption of Internal Operating Rules. After ten months of drafting, the Rules Committee presented its proposal to the Board of Judges at the December Judges' Meeting. Rules were adopted at that time which I anticipate will assist in expediting the appellate process. Highlights of these rules include the establishment of a listing of types of appeals which take priority in the opinion writing process; time schedules for writing opinions and the clearance of same by the judges; an outline of the procedure to be followed in the review of petitions for rehearing and rehearing en banc and detailed description of the duties and responsibilities of the Chief Judge and the Clerk of the Court.

During 1977, the Court also adopted a number of important General Rules changes. For example, the rules relating to admission to the Bar of the District of Columbia without examination were revised. The admission rules, as amended, now provide that five years' prior practice is required, or in the alternative, the applicant is treated in a reciprocal manner, i.e., as his state would treat an applicant from the District of Columbia, excluding the residency requirement. This tightening of the rules was initially recommended in resolution form by the members of the Judicial Conference of the District of Columbia at its 1976 meeting. It is my hope that the Conference, which is composed of many of the leaders of the legal community, including judges, lawyers, and law school deans, will continue to provide guidance crucial to improving the efficiency of the local court system. Other important rules changes adopted by the Court involved the disciplining of attorneys. These changes will now permit citizen members to serve on the Board of Professional Responsibility, previously named The Disciplinary Board. The first two citizen members will be appointed early in 1978.

C. New Court Facility

The sixth floor of the District of Columbia Courthouse was virtually completed and ready for occupancy by the Court of Appeals on December 15, 1977. The Court of Appeals' quarters will bring the Court together in one building for the first time in over 10 years. Working closely with the architects and construction engineers, the Court was given the unique opportunity of building efficiency into the Courthouse. Accommodations have been made for computerization of records, for an electronic filing system, and for microfilming and reading systems.

The public and attorneys have been taken into consideration in several design factors. For example, there are separate reading and waiting rooms for these users of the system. The sound system in the courtroom will insure that they will be able to hear the arguments with no difficulty. A Hearing Room will have a specially constructed bench which will unite with the counsel table for more informal or conference type hearings. Glass is used throughout the public areas to provide privacy on the one hand and the ability to observe operations on the other.

With respect to the judges' library in the new Court building, it is large enough now to permit the combining of the two libraries necessitated by the fact that the nine judges were housed in two locations for many years. It also has customized features which will make it not only useful but also a pleasant place in which to work. For example, the shelving for the heavy decennial digests will have counter-high working surfaces. Private anterooms will be available for repairing and cataloging books, typing, dictating, and the future viewing of computer terminals; and an area will be set up for the law reviews from all local and major law schools which the Court purchased last summer when it was ascertained that none had been acquired by the Court.

In summary, the new facilities, programs, and procedures instituted in 1977 have laid the foundation for the D.C. Court of Appeals to provide fair and impartial administration of appellate justice on an expedited basis.

Section II. Statistical Analysis

The District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act, enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1970, established the District of Columbia Court of Appeals as the highest court of this jurisdiction. Despite its brief history of only seven and one-half years, a burgeoning backlog of pending cases has emerged as a critical problem during the last three of those years. Although the Court of Appeals is steadily increasing the number of its dispositions each year (see Table 6 and Chart C), it has nevertheless experienced a marked inability to keep pace with the mounting backlog. The backlog of cases pending at each year's end now approaches record proportions. Professor Robert A. Leflar, the well-known scholar on appellate justice, has summed up the problems created in a court system by an uncontrollable backlog:

Every purpose served by the appellate judicial process is frustrated by the resulting delay in rendering decisions; justice between litigants is defeated; guidance to the citizenry, the bar, and the lower court is unavailable; development of the law is slowed.

(Leflar, *Internal Operating Procedures of Appellate Courts*, American Bar Foundation, 1976, p. 9.)

The D.C. Court of Appeals, as the following discussion will demonstrate, has reached the critical stage at which the effective administration of the appellate justice is rapidly becoming an elusive goal.

A. The Case Load

Statistics reflecting the volume and types of cases filed annually in this Court since 1971 are exhibited in Table 1 and Chart A. As the data illustrate, the nature of the appellate docket has taken on a marked character during the past several years. Of the three categories of cases within the Court's jurisdiction—civil, criminal, and administrative agency review—by far, the most dramatic and most constant increase has occurred in the number of criminal case filings. During the five-year period between 1971 and 1976 there was a steady rise in criminal appeals from 269 to 826, respectively—a 207% increase. Then, unexpectedly, in 1977, the Court experienced a 17.2% decrease in criminal appeals from the number filed during the previous year. This decline, it should be noted, may be directly correlated with a similar decrease in the number of criminal indictments filed in the D.C. Superior Court during the same year. As Table 2 indicates, however, the decline in the volume of criminal appeals in 1977 did not significantly affect the annual ratio of the number of appeals filed to the number of indictments issued; the rate of 22% established in 1976 remained constant for a second consecutive year in 1977.

In contrast to the criminal docket, the civil case load has fluctuated dramatically during the last few years. For instance, civil cases rose from 274 in 1971 to 329 in 1973, declined to 308 in 1974, rose again to 380 in 1975, and then dropped to 346 in 1976. In 1977, civil filings increased by 36.7% over the 1976 level to 473. This 1977 increase represents the largest single percentage increase of any type of case since 1974. Although it is impossible to attribute this increase to any one factor, a review of comparable Superior Court statistics seems to indicate that the number of civil case filings in the trial court is on the upswing and is, therefore, resulting in a greater number of civil appeals.

As in the civil and criminal areas, administrative agency filings have also increased steadily during the past several years. During the five-year period between 1971 and 1976, the volume of these filings more than doubled, from 70 to 170, respectively—a 142.8% increase. The number of agency appeals, however, remained constant at 170 in 1976 and in 1977.

Although the disposition of appeals on the merits comprises the bulk of the Court's work load, several

other functions require the expenditure of a significant amount of Court time and resources. In addition to adjudicating the regular appellate docket, the judges of the Court rotate assignments on the monthly motions divisions, the Disciplinary Division of the Court, various Court committees, and other special Court projects. Table 3 indicates that the monthly motions divisions alone considered 1,609 substantive motions in 1977. See also Chart B summarizing the motions case load. These assignments are time-consuming, and, for the most part, have no significant impact on the backlog of pending appeals. Statistics on disciplinary actions and bar admissions, which, in addition to the motions docket, create a particularly heavy burden in the work load of the Court's nonjudicial personnel, are exhibited at Tables 4 and 5.

As mentioned in Section I, the Court has adopted various procedures to expedite consideration of its tremendous case load. Some cases are diverted out of the system entirely by means of the pre-argument settlement conference. Others are disposed of effectively as a result of substantive motions rulings. Moreover, after one year of decline, the usage of unpublished memorandum opinions—a more abbreviated form of judicial opinion used in the disposition of routine appeals raising well-settled legal issues—is again on the rise. Although the number of orders and judgments issued has increased, it must be noted that the number of published opinions produced has only slightly decreased. See Table 6 and Chart C.

In addition to the employment of the above devices to expedite the appellate process, the Court has augmented its judicial manpower of nine judges by enlisting the part-time assistance of three retired judges and five visiting trial judges. With such assistance, the Court in 1977 calendared 680 cases for consideration on the merits and produced 279 published opinions. Each judge wrote an average of 31 opinions that year. This figure compares favorably with the median number of opinions written by supreme court justices in appeals courts without intermediate appellate courts, 26.2 opinions, reported by the Council of State Governments several years ago. Moreover, it is greater than the level of output which is suggested by the authors of the book, *Justice on Appeal*, as the maximum judicial capacity:

... Given all the other burdens imposed upon him, a judge who makes 300 decisions would do well to create one full opinion each fortnight, or about 25 per year.

(Carrington, Meador, Rosenberg, *Justice on Appeal*, West Publishing Company, 1976, p. 145.)

The figure of 300 decisions per year stated by the above-quoted authors refers to the actual number of

times an appellate judge must decide a case—even though the judge does not individually produce a written opinion in each such case. The authors further indicate that this docket should consist of 200 cases decided after oral argument and another 100 cases decided without oral argument. The number of cases calendared in 1977 exceeds the recommended judicial work load and demonstrates that the Court is operating at its maximum capacity.

B. Backlog and Delay

As may be anticipated from the dramatic increase in the size of the Court's backlog, the average time which transpires from the initial filing to the final disposition of each case has increased significantly from approximately 8 months in 1971 to more than 14 months in 1977. See Table 7. The stated overall time period for 1977 is more than three times that recommended in Standard 3.52 of the American Bar Association's *Standards on Appellate Courts* (1977). Indeed, the time required for completion of every stage of the Court's appellate process, reflected in the table, is substantially greater than that recommended in the ABA Standard.

The factors contributing to the lengthy time intervals between the various stages of appeal are interrelated. As stated heretofore, an increase in the number of filings substantially greater than the increase in the Court's rate of disposition has resulted in a large backlog, which in turn has increased the time required for disposition on appeal. Court reporters and counsel contribute to the delay and thus lengthen the time intervals during the initial stages of appeal by requesting extensions of the deadline for filing transcripts and briefs. Then, during the middle stage of appeals, further delays may occur due to the postponement of oral argument at the request of counsel. Because of the length of time required on appeal anyway, the Court is less inclined to adopt a rigid policy of denial of such extensions. As a result, the appellate process has become enmeshed in a cycle which feeds on itself—delay breeds delay which breeds more delay.

Several observations are readily apparent from the foregoing discussion:

- (1) The number of cases pending at the end of 1976, 1,110, combined with the 1,327 new filings in 1977, produced in that year the greatest total case load the Court has ever experienced. Based on the statistics of past years, a projection that the number of appellate filings will continue to rise each year is well-founded. See Chart D.
- (2) As the Court's work load continues to increase, the total time period required for completion of the appellate process will continue to increase.
- (3) Although the Court's disposition rate has increased, this increase has not resulted in a significant reduction of the number of pending

cases. Nor has it served to reduce the overall time period or most of the time intervals on appeal at all, although the Court's efforts to shorten the time from oral argument or submission of the briefs to final decision have been successful for two consecutive years—1976 and 1977. If the Court has already reached its maximum output, the continuation of the methods currently employed to expedite case dispositions will have only minimal success.

The conclusion is inescapable that the present level of judicial resources is insufficient to decide even more appeals at an even faster rate. It is the lack of adequate judicial personnel to decide appeals which lies at the core of the Court's pressing problems of increasing case backlog and delay.

Several alternative strategies for alleviating the burden on the present system exist. First, commissioners have been used successfully as quasi-judicial officers in other jurisdictions to assist in such court functions as the initial screening of appeals and the writing of opinions in the final phases of the appellate process. Such officials, however, do not possess the requisite judicial authority to decide cases and thus are of limited utility in attacking the problem.

Second, trial judges and retired appellate judges have also been used effectively to mitigate the delay caused by crowded dockets. This option, however, provides only a temporary solution in the District of Columbia. Because the Superior Court judges themselves sit on a heavily congested trial court, frequent utilization of such personnel may adversely affect the administration of justice at the trial level. Further, the extent to which the Court may tap the resources of the pool of retired judges is limited as well. Although the retired judges are certainly willing to contribute their expertise to the Court, they serve only on a part-time basis.

The enlargement of the Court of Appeals provides a third solution to the problem. The presence, however, of more than nine judges on the highest level appellate tribunal of a jurisdiction has enough serious inherent problems in itself to render this option unpracticable and unwise.*

*The ABA Standards relating to Court Organization state at 1.13(a) ". . . The court should have not less than five nor more than nine members . . ."

Several states which have been burdened by heavy appellate case loads have successfully ameliorated the problem by the creation of an intermediate court of appeals. This approach to remedying the severe problem of expanding appellate backlog in state court systems has been widely advocated as the best permanent solution to the problem. Significantly, Standard 1.13, "Appellate Court," of the ABA's *Standards on Court Organization* (1974) adopts that approach:

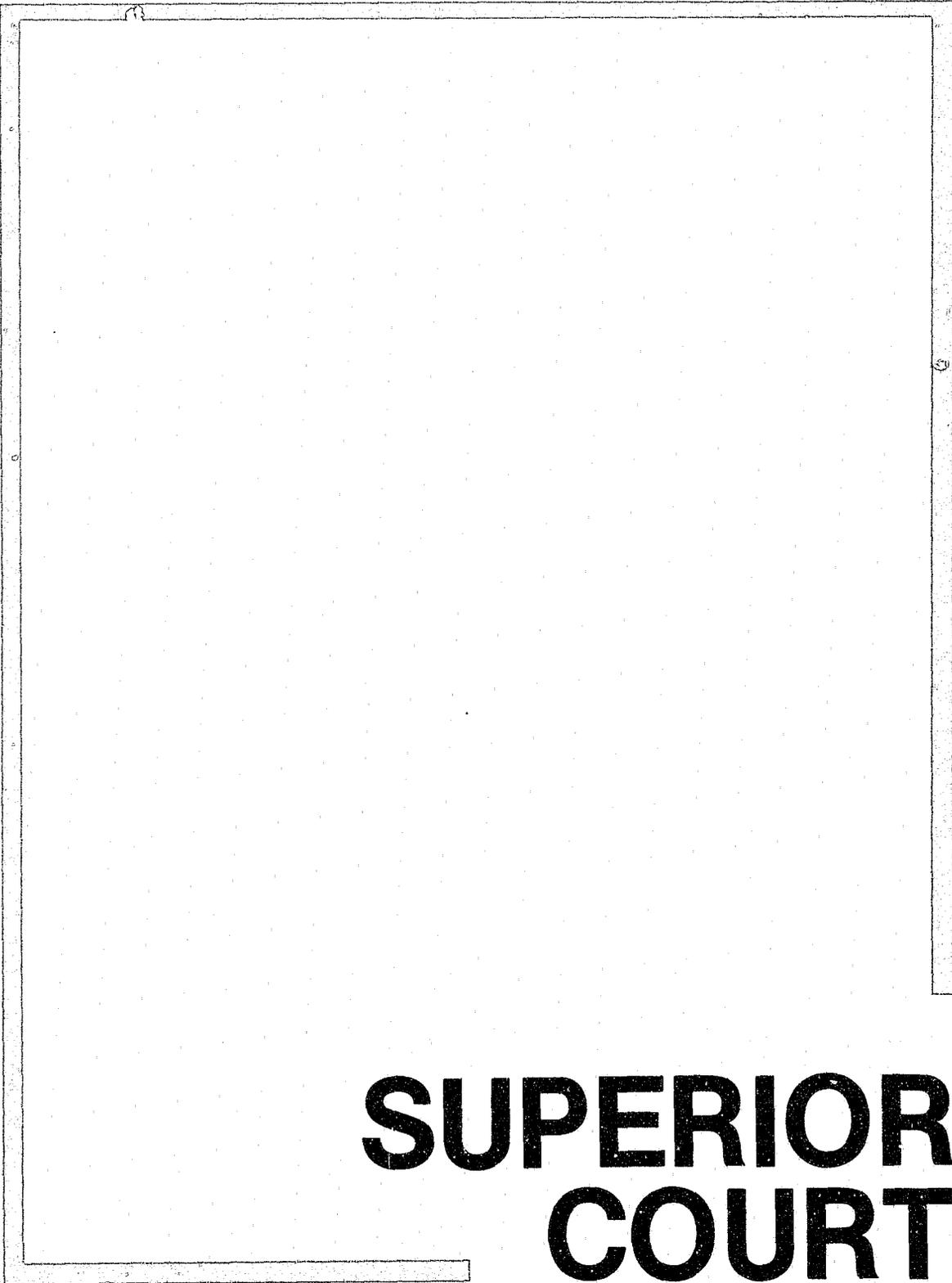
The appellate court should fulfill the judicial functions of reviewing trial court proceedings and formalizing and developing the law. Where the volume of appeals is such that the state's highest court cannot satisfactorily perform these functions, a system of intermediate appellate courts should be organized.

Dismissing temporary measures such as those discussed above as inadequate, the commentary to this standard concludes:

Since there seems little prospect for a long run decline in the volume of appellate litigation once the surge of appellate cases has been felt in a state having only one appellate court, steps should be taken forthwith to establish an intermediate appellate court rather than temporizing with substitute arrangements.

This alternative, for several reasons, presents the most viable solution to eliminating the backlog and achieving a manageable appellate case load for the District of Columbia. The new court system created by the injection of an intermediate appellate level basically would operate as follows. The more simplistic, routine cases which require only error review, and thus necessitate the application of well-established legal principles could be disposed of by judges at the intermediate level. The resources of the judges of the highest appellate court could then be focused on the adjudication of appeals which present the more complex legal issues and require the court to exercise its law-making function for the jurisdiction.

It is time for the appropriate legislative and executive branches of the government, in conjunction with the bench, the bar, and the public, to commence serious evaluation of this alternative.



SUPERIOR COURT

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chief Judge

Harold H. Greene

Associate Judges

DeWitt S. Hyde
Joseph M. F. Ryan, Jr.
Edmond T. Daly
Tim Murphy
Fred L. McIntyre
Alfred Burka
John D. Fauntleroy
Joyce Hens Green
James A. Belson
William C. Pryor
W. Byron Sorrell
George Herbert Goodrich
William S. Thompson
George H. Revercomb
James A. Washington, Jr.
John F. Doyle
Paul F. McArdle
William E. Stewart, Jr.
Dyer Justice Taylor
Leonard Braman
Nicholas S. Nunzio
Sylvia Bacon

John Garrett Penn
Norma Holloway Johnson
Eugene N. Hamilton
Samuel B. Block
Margaret Austin Haywood
Joseph Michael Hannon
Robert H. Campbell
Luke C. Moore
John R. Hess
Donald S. Smith
H. Carl Moultrie I
David L. Norman
Fred B. Ugast
Bruce S. Mencher
Robert M. Scott
Paul R. Webber III
Annice McBryde Wagner
Gladys Kessler
Robert A. Shuker
Carlisle E. Pratt
Frederick H. Weisberg

Retired Judges

George D. Neilson
Thomas C. Scalley
Milton S. Kronheim, Jr.
John J. Malloy
Edward A. Beard
Richard R. Atkinson
Milton D. Korman

Clerk of the Court

Joseph M. Burton

JUDGES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



Chief Judge
Harold H. Greene



DeWitt S. Hyde



Joseph M. F. Ryan, Jr.



Edmond T. Daly



Tim Murphy



Fred L. McIntyre



Alfred Burka



John D. Fauntleroy



Joyce Hens Green



James A. Belson



William C. Pryor



W. Byron Sorrell



George Herbert Goodrich



William S. Thompson



George H. Revercomb



James A. Washington, Jr.



John F. Doyle



Paul F. McArdle



William E. Stewart, Jr.



Dyer Justice Taylor



Leonard Braman



Nicholas S. Nunzio



Sylvia Bacon



John Garrett Penn



Norma Holloway Johnson



Eugene N. Hamilton



Samuel B. Block



Margaret Austin Haywood



Joseph Michael Hannon



Robert H. Campbell



Luke C. Moore



John R. Hess



Donald S. Smith



H. Carl Moultrie I



David L. Norman



Fred B. Ugast



Bruce S. Mencher



Robert M. Scott



Paul R. Webber III



Gladys Kessler



Robert A. Shuker

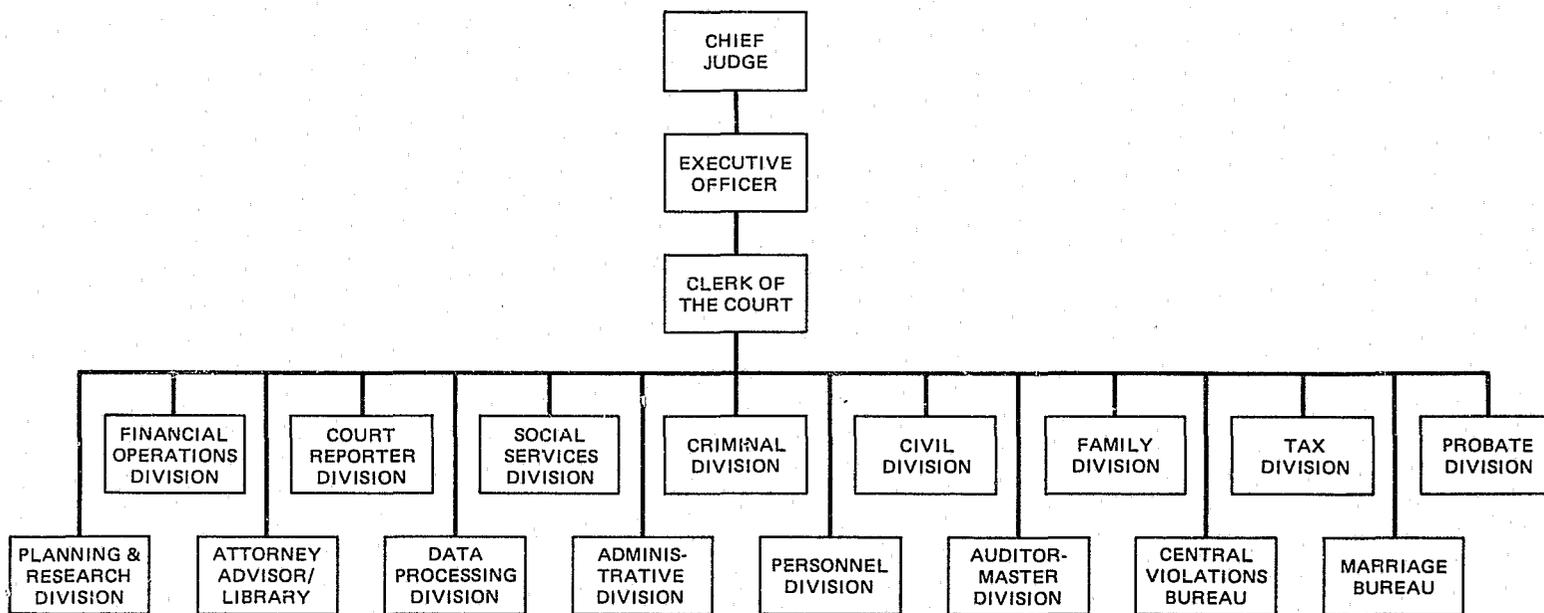


Carlisle E. Pratt



Frederick H. Weisberg

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE





**REPORT OF
CHIEF JUDGE HAROLD H. GREENE
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**I
GENERAL**

During 1977 six new judges were appointed to the Superior Court to fill vacancies which had been pending for various periods of time. As a result of these new appointments, the Court, for the first time in several years, was able by the end of the year to operate with all authorized judicial positions filled.

For most of 1977, however, the Court had to function without a full judicial complement. Because of that fact, and because non-judicial resources continued to be reduced, the Court was again caught in the vise of diminished resources on the one hand, and a high work load, on the other. Yet because the level of productivity was maintained or increased in almost all areas of litigation, the Court was able for the most

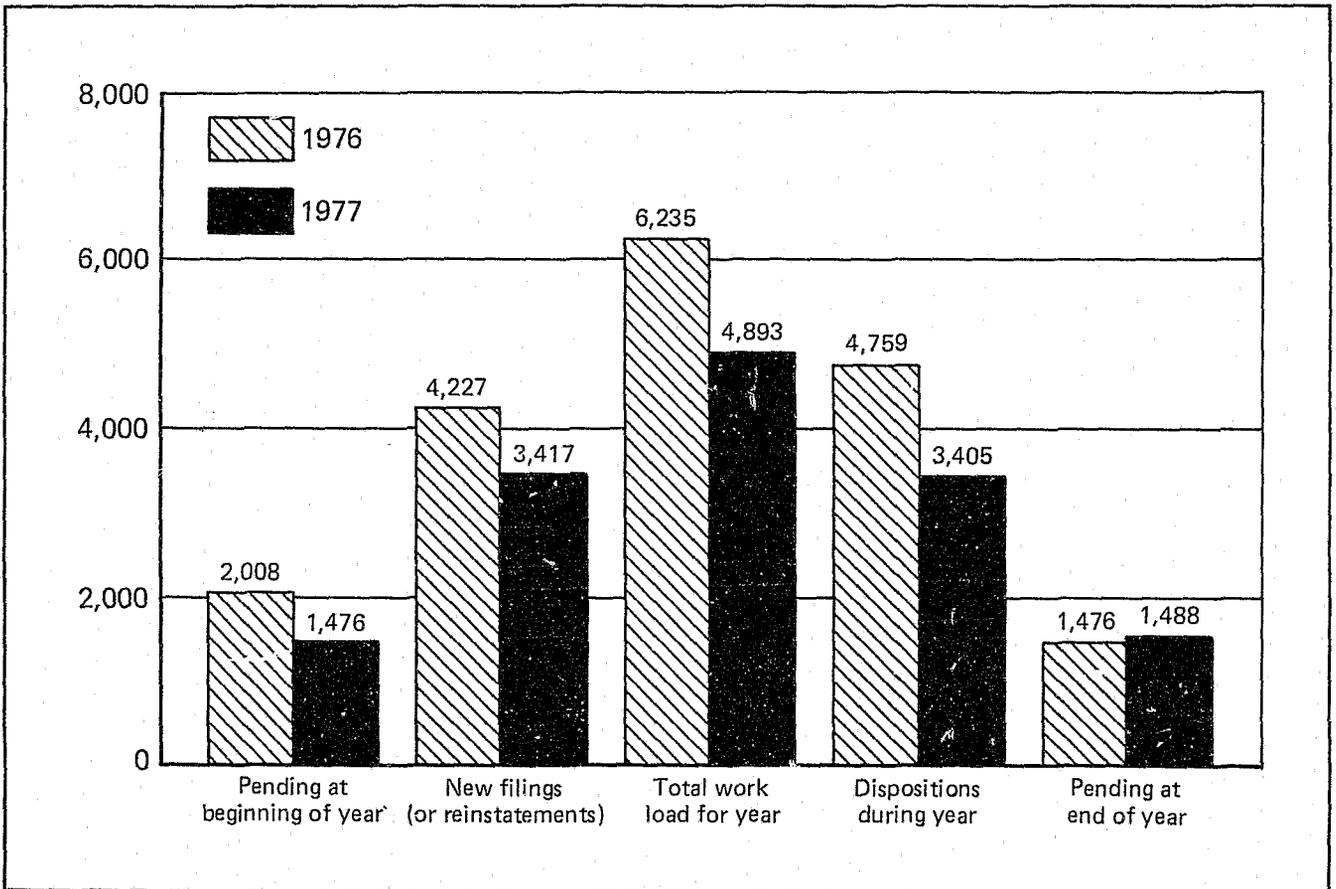
part either to decrease the number of pending cases or to maintain the pending case-load level at about the point where it was at the beginning of the year.

It is difficult to predict at this time what the long-term effect will be of a Superior Court fully staffed with the presently authorized number of judges, but with an inadequate number of supporting personnel. Much will depend upon the case-load trends, some of which appear to be substantially downward (most significantly with respect to felonies) while others may be sharply on the increase (*e.g.*, jury-demandable traffic matters, civil diversity cases now handled in U.S. District Court). It is therefore too early to predict whether or not additional judges, or possibly magistrates or masters, will be needed to continue to provide the kind of fair, efficient administration of justice to which this city is entitled.

II
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

A. *Felonies.* There were 3,417 felony indictments (including reinstatements) returned in 1977. This was a reduction of 19.2 percent over 1976, by far the most significant decrease in new felonies since court reorganization. As a result of this reduction, the Court was able to absorb increases in other parts of the case load without any significant change in the felony backlog.¹

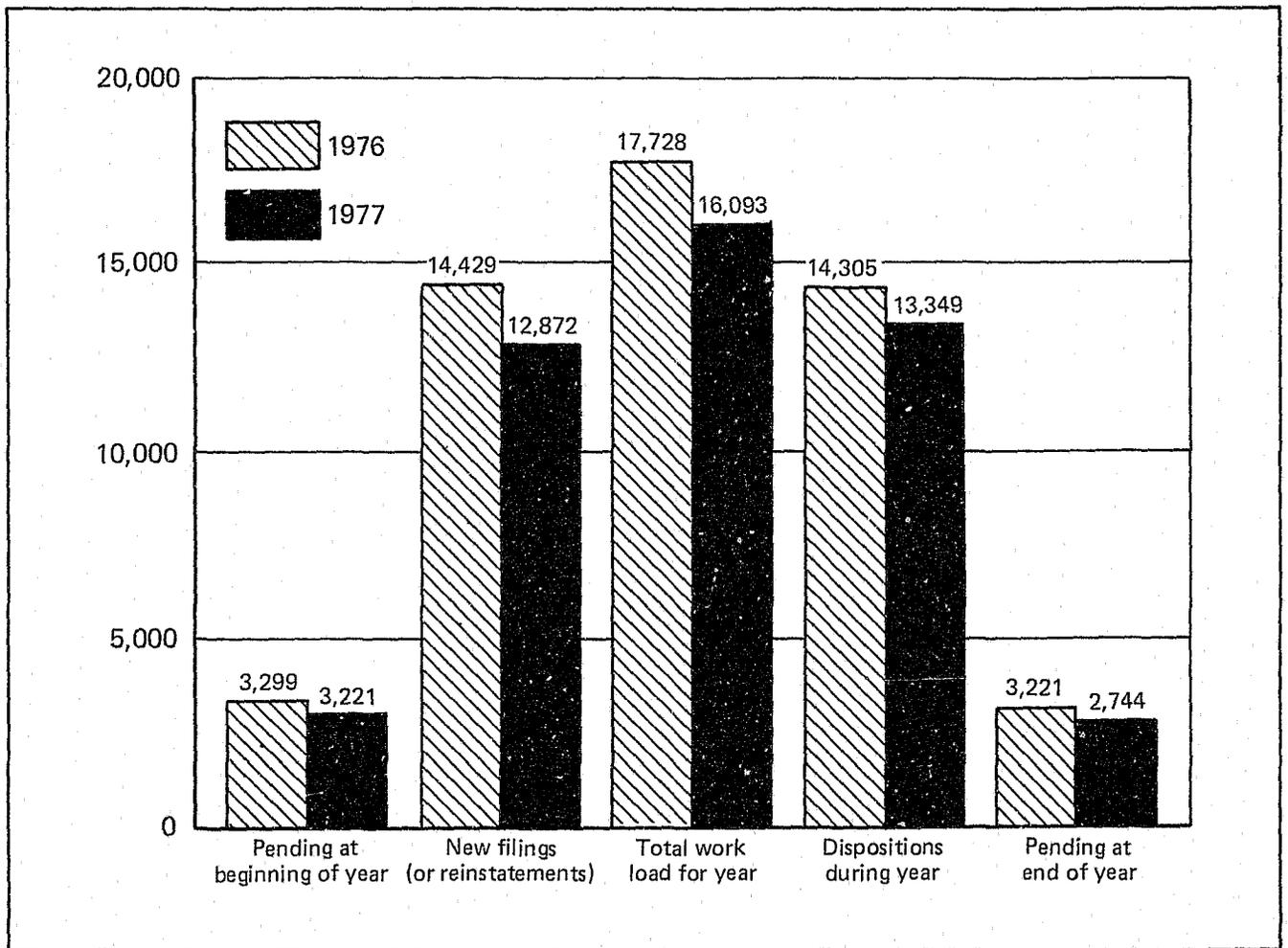
CHART A: FELONY CASES



¹A more accurate description than "backlog" would be the "number of cases pending trial." A case, particularly an important or complex case, such as one involving one or more felony charges cannot properly be regarded as constituting part of a "backlog" until both prosecution and defense have had an opportunity to complete trial preparations, which frequently takes considerable time. By that standard, very few of the 1,488 felonies pending can fairly be characterized as being part of a backlog. The term "backlog" is thus used herein in its popular, albeit technically incorrect, sense.

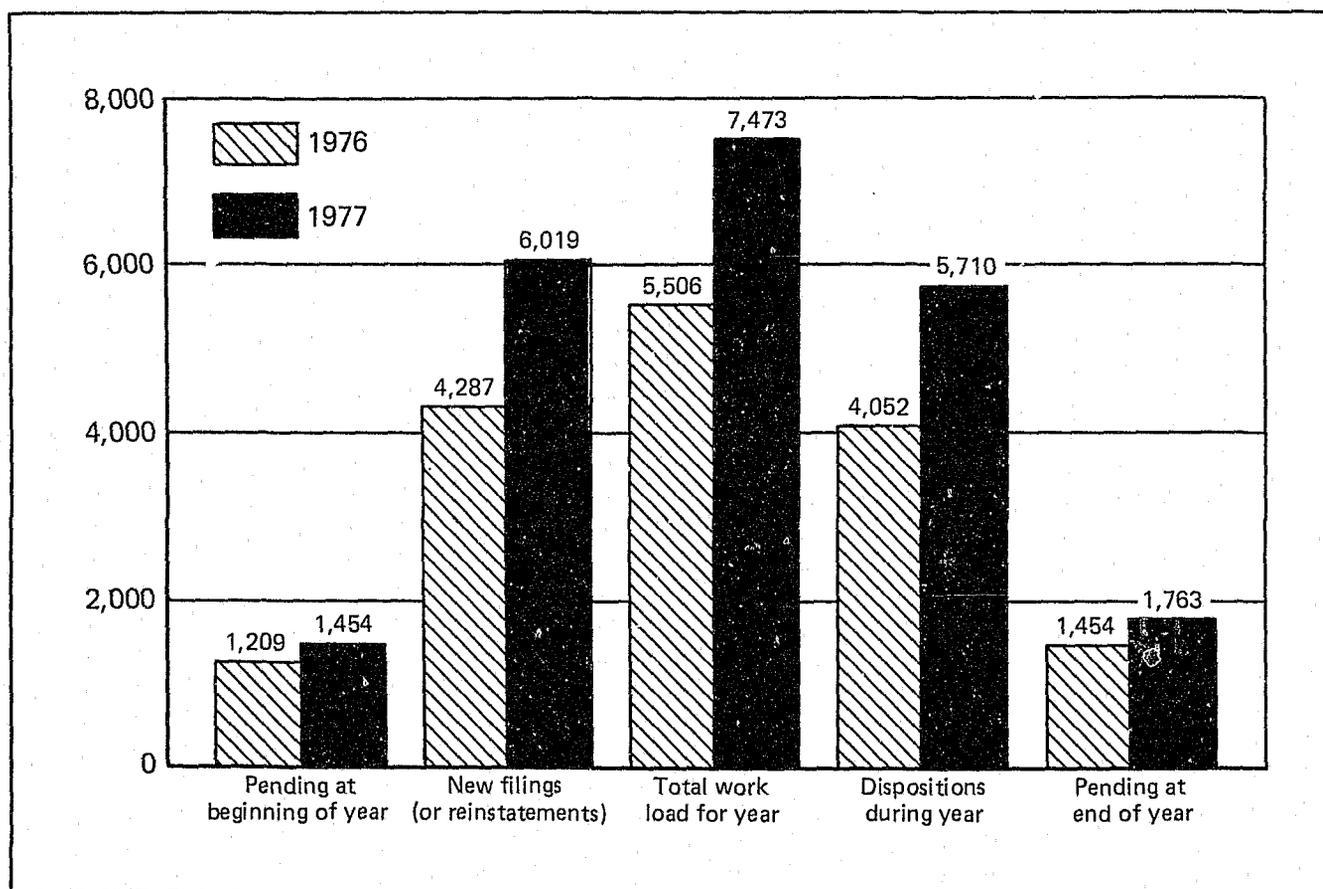
B. U.S. Misdemeanors. The U.S. misdemeanor work load was slightly reduced in 1977, with 12,872 cases filed during the year as compared to filings of 14,429 in 1976. Since the level of dispositions remained proportionately stable, and the number of new or reinstated cases dropped somewhat, the Court was able to reduce its misdemeanor backlog by almost 500 by the end of 1977.

CHART B: U.S. MISDEMEANORS



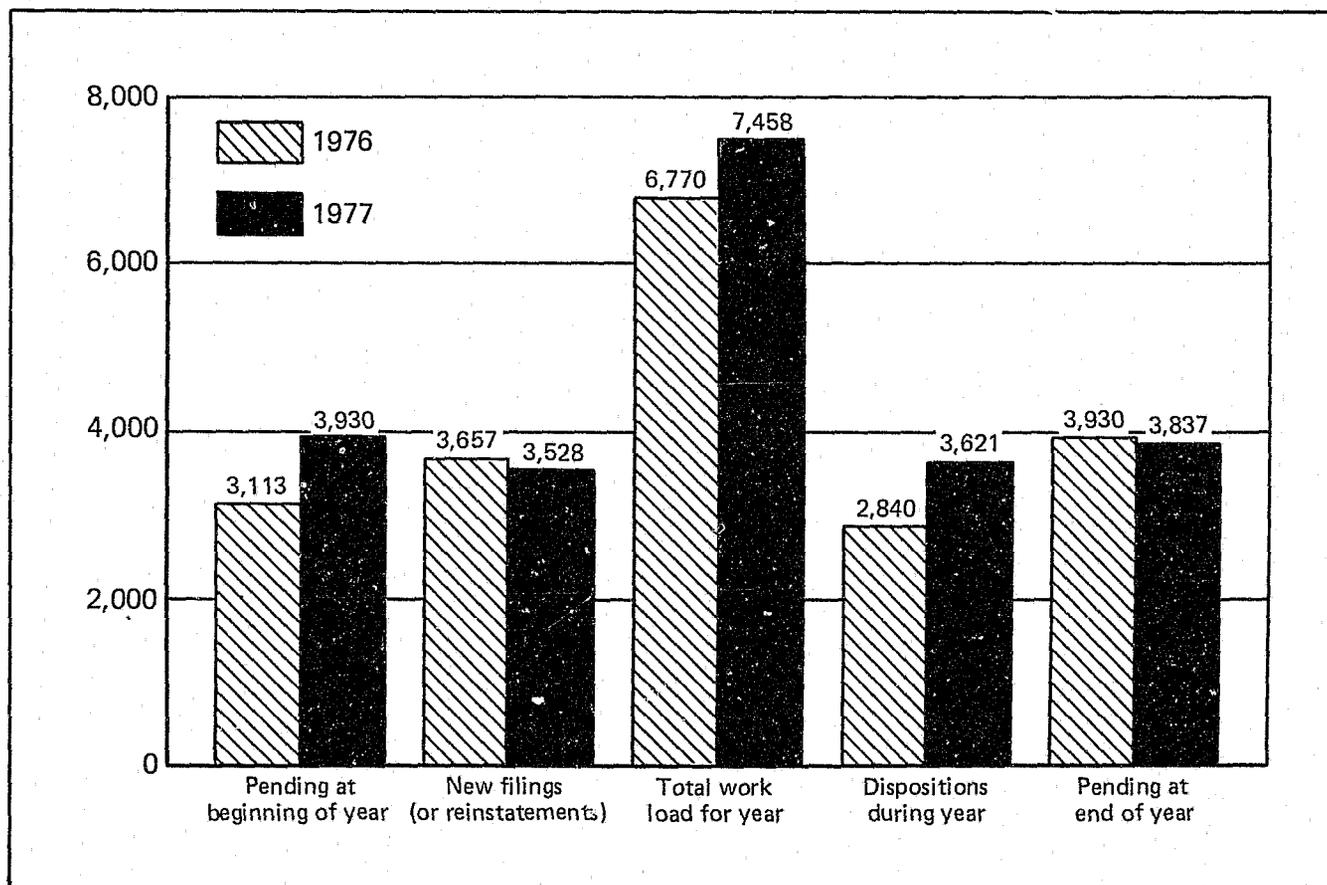
C. Major Triable Traffic Cases. Perhaps the most significant rise in work load in any area of the Court's jurisdiction occurred in the so-called jury-demandable traffic cases. The total work load in this category rose drastically from 3,141 in 1975, to 5,506 in 1976, and to 7,473 in 1977 (including 5,565 new filings). Since 1974 the jury-demandable traffic case work load has increased almost 300% (from 2,566 in 1974 to 7,473 in 1977). The Court has kept substantial pace with the increased work load, the total number of dispositions rising between 1976 and 1977 from 4,052 to 5,710, while the number of pending cases had increased only slightly by the end of the year (from 1,454 to 1,763).

CHART C: MAJOR TRIABLE TRAFFIC CASES



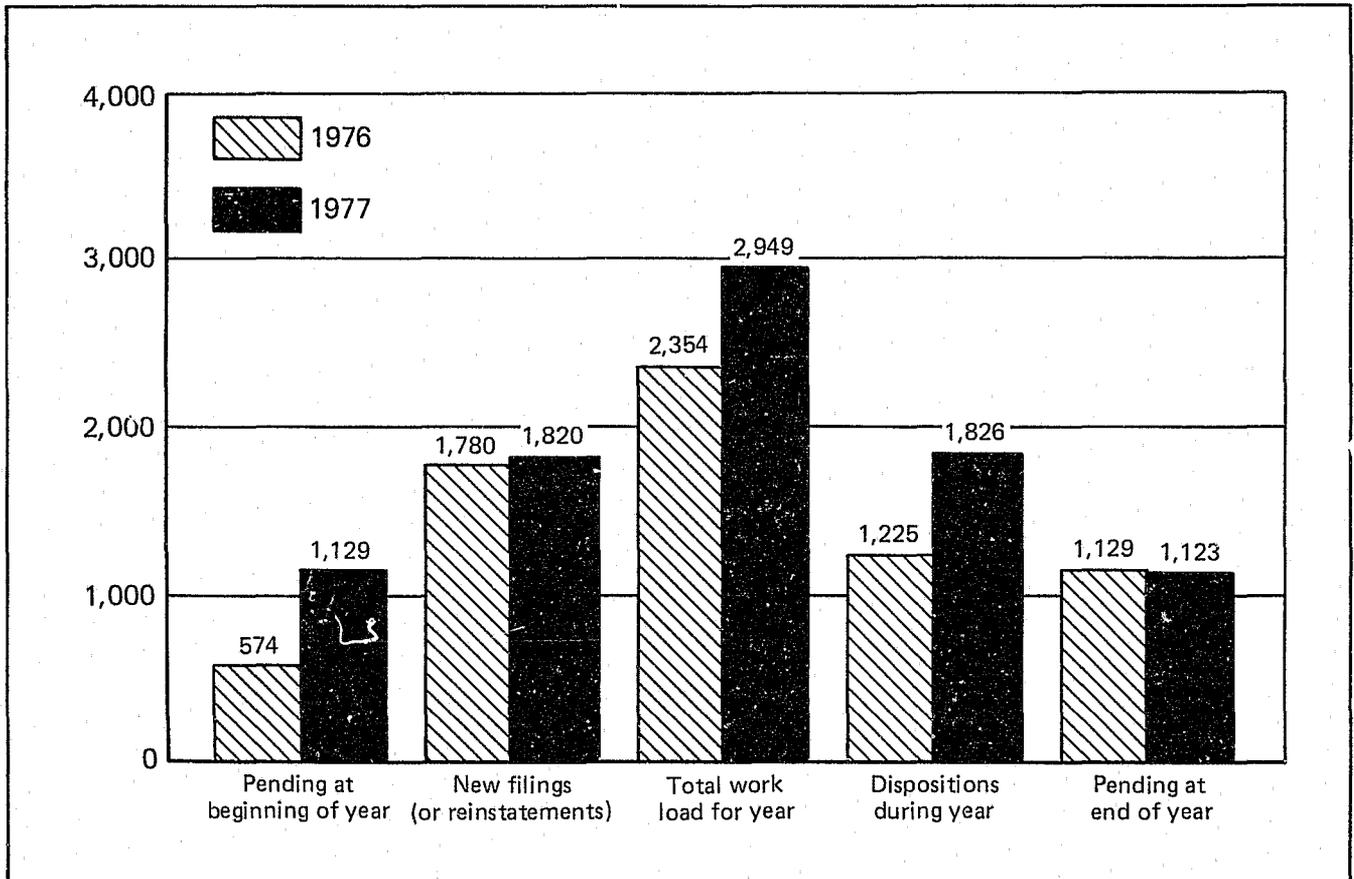
D. *Civil Jury*. As a consequence of the establishment of a program aimed at more and more thoroughly conducted settlement conferences in civil cases, as well as the special assignment of four additional judges in September 1977 to the handling of civil trials, the number of civil jury dispositions increased by 27.5% compared to 1976. As a consequence, even though there were 10.2% more cases on the trial calendar in 1977 than in 1976, the total number of pending cases at issue decreased by 2.4% by the end of 1977, and the average time from joinder of issue to trial was maintained at twelve months.

CHART D: CIVIL JURY CASES



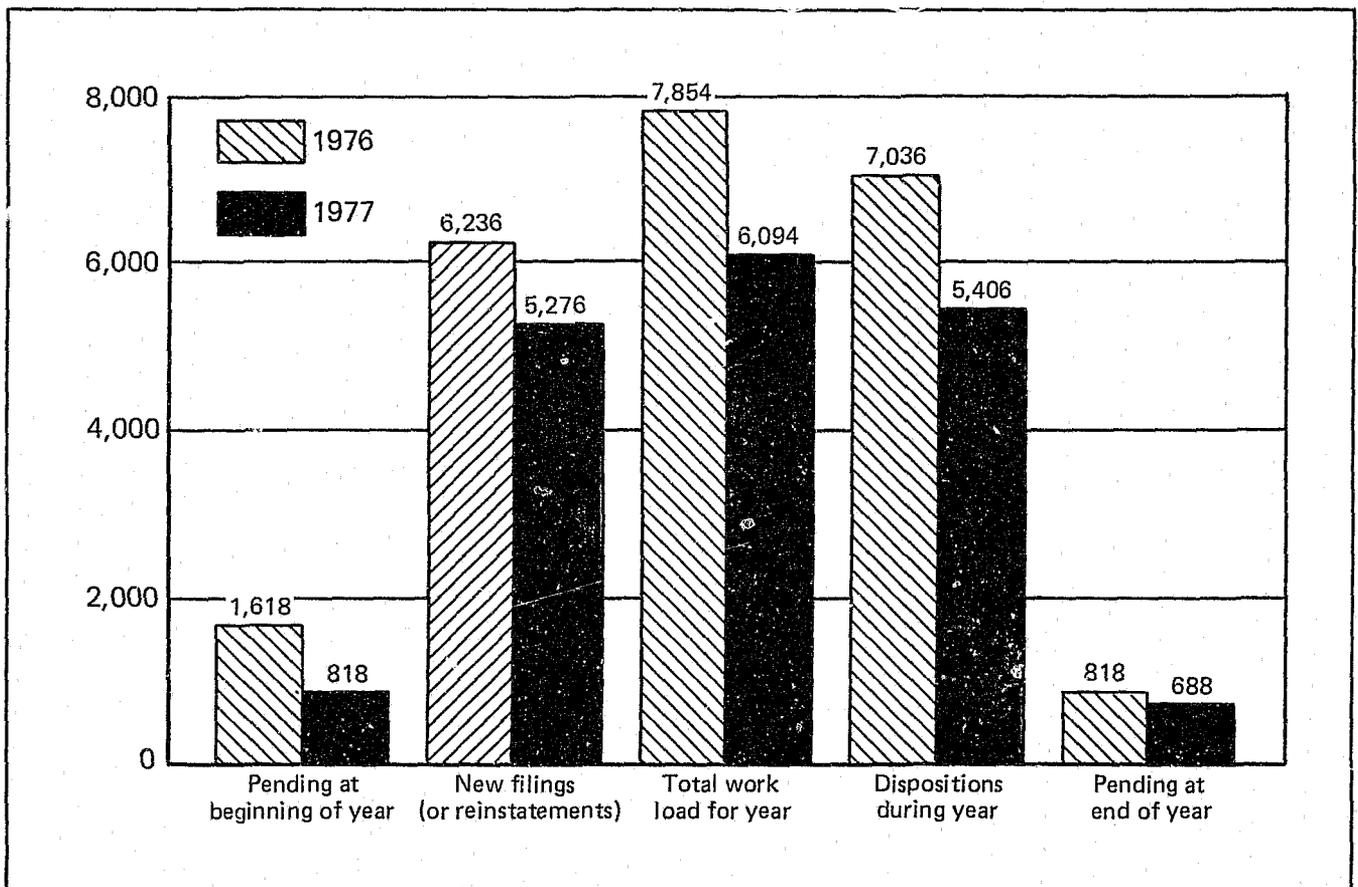
E. *Civil Non-Jury*. New non-jury cases on the calendar increased by 25.3% compared to one year ago. Additional judicial manpower was assigned to the civil calendar for several months during 1977, and, as a result of this effort, the dispositions increased to 1,826 cases, or 49% more cases than in 1976. The civil non-jury pending case load on January 1, 1978, was 1,123, with trials available within six months from the date of joinder of issue.

CHART E: CIVIL NON-JURY CASES



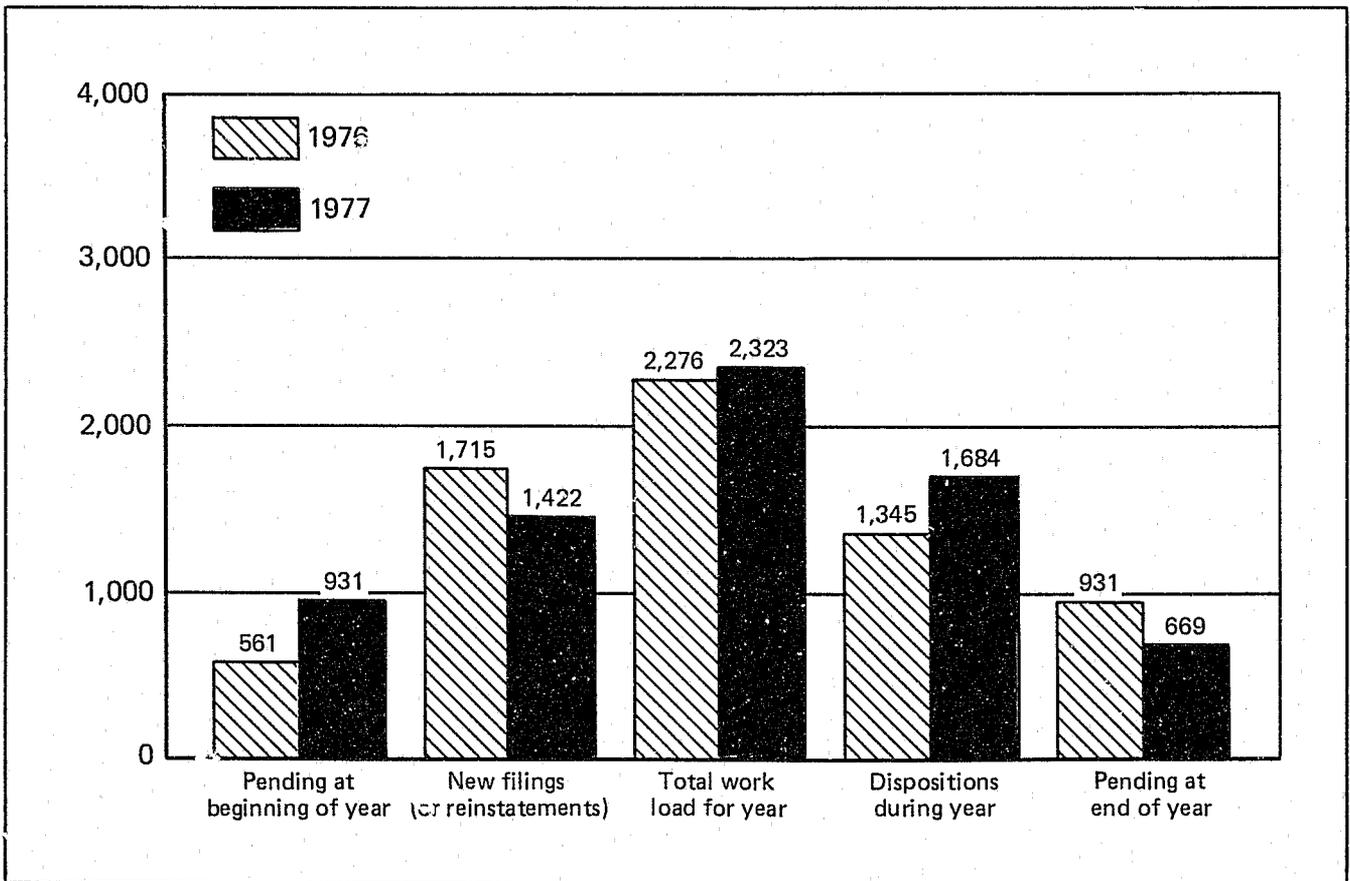
F. *Juvenile Delinquency.* Juvenile delinquency dispositions for 1977 were 5,406. A more stringent screening program initiated in the Office of the Corporation Counsel resulted in fewer delinquency cases being filed in 1977 than in 1976. Because of that factor, and the special attention given to this area of jurisdiction, the pending juvenile case load was reduced by 16% and was at an all-time low on December 31, 1977 (688 cases). The Court was regularly able to schedule juvenile cases for trial within 45 days of arrest. If this trend continues, it may be possible to decrease the average time from arrest to trial to 30 days over the next year.

CHART F: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES



G. *Divorce.* The number of contested divorce cases filed was 1,422 compared to 1,715 in 1976. The number of dispositions was 1,684, leaving only 669 cases pending at the end of the year. Implementation of new legislation pertaining to marriage and divorce in the District of Columbia was probably responsible for the filing of a larger number of uncontested divorce cases (2,670 in 1977 compared to 1,475 in 1976), and this trend may be expected to continue, at least for the immediate future. The on-call system for attorneys and witnesses in contested domestic relations cases was continued. This system was designed to increase the convenience of case participants by decreasing their in-court waiting time, and it appears to have had that effect. As announced earlier, on-call systems may gradually be expanded to other areas, as long as they do not create an obstacle to the efficient operation of the Court and the administration of justice.

CHART G: CONTESTED DIVORCE



H. *Other Dispositions.* In addition to the dispositions in the major categories of litigation, the Court during 1977 disposed of 33,798 Small Claims cases, 110,539 Landlord-Tenant cases, 115,098 nonjury-demandable D.C. and traffic prosecutions (including 93,473 dispositions prior to adjudication), 4,040 probate, fiduciary, and related matters,² 1,154 auditor-master division matters, 623 tax cases (577 criminal and 46 civil), 1,870 uncontested divorce cases, 3452 miscellaneous family matters,³ and 4,102 preliminary hearings in felony cases, for a total (including the major cases) of 309,677 matters.

III PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PAST YEAR

As in past years, the Superior Court during 1977 undertook a number of initiatives in all areas of its jurisdiction aimed at improving the administration of justice in the District.

A. *Reduction of Civil Backlogs.* Beginning in September, the Court began a sustained effort to reduce both the number of pending civil cases and the period between joinder of issue and trial in such cases. As part of this effort several new procedures were adopted. First, it was determined that judges assigned to civil trials should be available only for trials and that they should not normally entertain requests for continuances or requests for last-minute settlement conferences. Second, the Court undertook to enforce more strictly the rule requiring that requests for continuances of trial dates in civil cases be received at least five days in advance of the scheduled trial date. Third, two retired judges agreed to be available at various times to conduct settlement conferences, and they were significantly successful in that regard. Fourth, additional judges were assigned to the trial of civil cases, and cases were scheduled for trial at the rate of approximately 1,000 per month instead of the normal 600 per month.

This effort to reduce the civil backlog was markedly successful. Settlements were achieved at a 50% higher rate than during the comparable period in 1976, and the rate of civil case dispositions was almost twice as great as during the equivalent period in 1976.

On September 1, 1977, 4,676 civil jury cases and 1,427 civil non-jury cases were pending, for a total of 6,103 civil matters awaiting trial. Between September 1

²This includes: 189 fiduciary dispositions; 2,455 estates closed and approved; and 1,396 miscellaneous probate orders (small estates, etc.).

³Including: 830 reciprocal support dispositions; 391 adoption dispositions; 445 paternity dispositions; 494 support dispositions; 20 habeas corpus cases; 721 intrafamily; and 551 neglect cases.

and December 31 a total of 1,914 jury cases and 866 non-jury cases were disposed of. New filings (cases at issue) between September 1 and December 31 amounted to 1,081 jury matters and 562 non-jury matters. Thus, as a result of the special effort, which was begun on September 19, 1977, and ended on December 16, 1977, the overall number of pending jury cases was reduced by 833 or 17.8%, and the number of pending non-jury cases was reduced by 304 or 21.3%. The 2,780 civil cases disposed of during the September-December period this year amounted to almost twice the number disposed of during the equivalent period in 1976 (1,501 cases). The result of this drive was that, while the number of civil cases pending trial at the beginning of 1977 exceeded those pending at the beginning of 1976 by 37.2%, the Court's total civil case load at the end of 1977 was 1.9% less than the end of 1976.

B. *Reduction in Backlog of Jury-Demandable Traffic Cases.* Between 1975 and 1977 the Metropolitan Police Department and the Corporation Counsel's Office received over \$500,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation for use in a concentrated campaign against drunk driving. This effort led to an overwhelming increase in the actual number of defendants prosecuted for driving while intoxicated, from 900 in 1974, to 2,572 in 1976, and to 4,275 in 1977.

The number of prosecutions⁴ for all jury demandable traffic offenses (drunk driving, hit and run, driving after revocation or suspension, reckless driving) which had remained relatively stable at around 250 per month during the ten-year period ending in 1975 but had increased to almost 450 per month in 1976, once again increased last year, this time to around 600 per month. Almost two-thirds of these cases, nearly 375 per month, were accounted for by charges of driving while intoxicated. Thus, during 1977, jury-demandable traffic cases rose to the point where they constituted 30% of the total misdemeanor calendar as compared with just over 15% of that calendar during 1974, and 20% in 1975, and 24% in 1976. As a practical matter, this increased case load meant that the Court's calendar of jury-demandable traffic cases jumped from around 12 per day in 1975 to nearly 30 per day in 1977.

In an effort to deal with this increased work load, initially some portion of the Court's available judicial power was assigned to the misdemeanor case load for the period from July 1 through August 15, 1977, with a reduction in the number of pending misdemeanor cases during that period from 5,771 to 5,590. Thereafter, three judges were assigned during September

⁴The figures represent cases as distinguished from individual defendants.

and October 1977, to conduct status calls of each of the 2,410 jury-demandable traffic cases then pending. The objective of these status calls was to identify and dispose of those cases which would not ultimately require jury trials. As a result of this effort, the number of jury-demandable traffic cases pending on November 1 was 1,649, that is 27% fewer than two months earlier (2,255 jury-demandable traffic cases were pending on September 1, 1977). New cases were filed (or reinstated) at the rate of approximately 510 per month, for a total of 3,260 such cases before the Court for disposition during this period. Thus, the total misdemeanor backlog, including jury-demandable traffic cases and major triable D.C. offenses (e.g., ABC liquor violations, indecent exposure), was reduced to 4,568 by the end of 1977.

The results of these two special drives on particular aspects of the Superior Court's case load show that concentrated efforts and special judicial assignments can reduce case accumulations in any area of the Court's jurisdiction. This type of special assignment, however, is essentially an emergency measure, and it is clear that diversion of large numbers of judges to any one part of the Court's case load will often result in an increased backlog in other areas. Over the past several years the Court has been able to maintain its total backlog at a relatively constant level only through periodic special assignments of judges to diminish backlogs in areas where they had increased to unmanageable proportions. As indicated above, the Court now for the first time is operating at full strength, and it remains to be seen whether pending cases can be kept within appropriate bounds without the addition of more judges and without emergency assignments of judges to critical areas.

C. *Diversion of Traffic Cases to an Administrative Tribunal.* Late in 1976 the Court was approached by the Mayor and the Director of the D.C. Department of Transportation who sought the Court's support for a system, patterned after that in effect in New York City and several other jurisdictions, for the decriminalization of parking and minor moving traffic offenses and for their handling through an administrative adjudication mechanism located in the Executive Branch of the D.C. Government rather than through the Court system. Both the Court's Traffic Committee and I looked into this proposal in some detail and, on March 17, 1977, the Board of Judges adopted a resolution supporting the concept of the transfer of authority over violations of traffic regulations from the Court to an administrative hearing examiner process (except violations of sufficient seriousness to entitle the defendant to trial by jury). I represented the Court at hearings before the City Council and the Congress where this legislation was discussed, and it now ap-

pears that such a transfer of jurisdiction will occur by January 1, 1979.

One by-product of this transfer of jurisdiction was to have been to reduce the Court's work load to such an extent that it could cease assigning a judge regularly to the handling of traffic matters. However, the increase in the filings of drunk driving prosecutions has undermined this expectation, and it now appears that any judicial manpower saved as a result of the transfer of minor traffic offenses will have to be assigned to processing the increased number of the more serious traffic charges. The transfer of jurisdiction has substantive value, however. Even if the Court does not, in effect, gain judicial personnel for the trial of non-traffic cases, the transfer of jurisdiction over minor traffic offenses to an administrative adjudication bureau will permit enforcement of parking and minor traffic regulations to be handled more rationally as part of a comprehensive transportation policy, and it may result in more efficient scheduling of traffic matters.

D. *Appointment of Counsel for Indigent Defendants in Traffic Cases.* In July of 1977 the Board of Judges adopted a policy to have publicly-paid counsel appointed for indigent defendants in traffic matters in any case where the defendant is actually detained. After further review of the situation in the Traffic Branch, a broader program was adopted for dealing with representation of indigent defendants in traffic cases. Thus, it was determined that in all jury-demandable traffic cases counsel should be appointed unless the defendant has an attorney or in open court waives his right to counsel. The Court adopted a routine procedure whereby the judge, or the courtroom clerk on the judge's behalf, would inform each defendant that he was entitled to be represented by counsel, that he could retain his own attorney or have the Court appoint counsel; and that he would be entitled to free counsel if he was determined to be indigent on the basis of an interview conducted by the Public Defender Service. At the present time, indigent defendants in such cases are being represented, insofar as possible, by law students participating in the various clinical legal programs in the Superior Court. After a trial period, the experiment of providing free counsel will be evaluated and a determination will be made as to whether, and in what form, the program should continue. In addition to these new procedures, counsel will continue to be appointed for all indigent defendants who are brought into the Traffic Branch under detention status, unless they are ordered released at their first Court appearance, and for all traffic defendants who are ordered detained because they are unable to post a required bond. The Court also agrees that sentences of imprisonment would not normally be

imposed for minor traffic offenses.

E. Changes in Jury Procedures. After a lengthy study of jury management operations, the Court instituted a number of new procedures for the handling of jurors, and it began to experiment with decreasing the period of jury service from 30 days to two weeks. The new procedures were aimed at reducing the time jurors spend waiting to be sent to courtrooms, easing the burden imposed by jury service on citizens, reducing the number of jurors enrolled each month, reducing the total cost of jury operations, minimizing the use of judicial time in the processing of jurors, and increasing the satisfaction felt by jurors throughout their period of service.

As a result of close monitoring of the daily need for jurors, the Court is now able to predict with greater accuracy the actual number of jurors who will be needed on any given day. Jurors not needed after reporting for service on a particular day are released for the day, generally by about lunch time. Moreover, more precise predictions have enabled the Court to reduce to 300 the total number of jurors called each term as compared with an average of 400 to 450 jurors per term previously.

A jury service period of two weeks, rather than the previous period of thirty days, was begun in October of 1977. The experiment was closely monitored to determine whether shortened periods of jury service caused delay in the judicial process and whether juror satisfaction was increased as a result of the shorter period of service. The reduction in service does not seem to have had a negative impact on the judicial process, and it certainly greatly reduced the burden of jury service on individuals. While all those involved in the court process will be given an opportunity to present their views before any final decision is made, it presently appears that it may be possible to reduce the term of jury service to two weeks on a permanent basis.

In the past, jury enrollment on the first scheduled day of service was a time-consuming process which meant that few, if any, of the new jurors were available to serve before the afternoon on the enrollment day. This resulted in a delay in the administration of justice because the courts could not commence jury trials on that day until the new jurors were available (some judges, to avoid this problem, empaneled a jury of "old" jurors on their last day of service so that they could commence a jury trial early on the morning when new jurors were scheduled to be enrolled). Additionally, the jury occupation list was not ready for use until the Monday following enrollment on Friday. Now jurors pre-register by mail after receipt of their jury summons so that both the jurors and the occupation list are available by 8:30 a.m. on the first

day of jury service. Thus, there is no delay in the administration of justice and trials are not continued, as they frequently had to be in the past, because jurors were not available. Additionally, new and expedited jury enrollment procedures have been adopted so that the juror check-in process—which used to be extremely time-consuming—now takes only a few seconds per juror.

As part of the pre-enrollment procedures steps have been taken to assure that jury summonses are mailed in sufficient time to provide jurors with approximately 30 days advance notice of service. To insure these early mailings—which have alleviated a major complaint of jurors that their notice of proposed service came too late for them to arrange their personal affairs in order to serve—the Court assumed direct responsibility for mailing the summonses which were previously mailed by the U.S. Marshal's Service.

Previously a judge spent one day per month on jury enrollment and orientation as well as substantial additional hours ruling on requests for excuse for jury service. Now non-judicial officers hear and decide on requests for excuse or delay of jury service, on the basis of guidelines adopted by the Chief Judge. These guidelines assure uniform handling of requests for excuse from jury service, and they also provide a procedure whereby jurors can be excused from one period of jury service and rescheduled for service at a more convenient time within an 18-month period, on a case-by-case basis.

Jury orientation now takes the form of frequent showing of a film on jury service rather than requiring a judge to devote the better part of a day to juror information.

F. New Courthouse. Much of the Court's effort during 1977 was focused on planning for the move into the new court building at 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W. The Building Committee, which was selected by the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration in 1974, and consists of trial and appellate judges, Clerks of the Courts, and other officials, worked hard to make the new courthouse a reality, and made it possible for the first court offices to relocate in the new building in December 1977. The major portion of the Court will move during the first part of 1978, and it is expected that the Court will be able to commence full operation in its new facility by May 8, 1978.

The new District of Columbia Courthouse was built in response to the obvious need for one central court facility. The decentralization of Court activities into seven buildings had led to confusion, inconvenience and serious delays at every level of Court operation affecting the public, judges, jurors, court support staff, attorneys, witnesses, plaintiffs, and defendants. Over and above these difficulties were the problems of

security and of the dignity of the administration of justice which inevitably suffered under these conditions. Defendants and witnesses were intermingled in elevators, hallways and courtrooms. No effective methods for avoiding harassment or worse were available. The new courthouse has been designed to preserve the integrity of the court process by having separate corridors for judges, prisoners, and the general public. Special prisoner corridors and elevators lead from the detention facility on a lower level to holding cells behind each courtroom, and a separate vehicular entry accommodates special vehicles carrying prisoners. Thus, at no time will prisoners come into contact with the public prior to their appearance in the courtroom.

There is also a specially-designed courtroom adjacent to the central detention facility for trials requiring maximum security measures. This courtroom has an independent electrical air flow system, specially-equipped audiovisual features, and a transparent bullet-resistant partition which can be used, if necessary, to separate spectators from the participants in the proceedings.

The new courthouse is a nine-story building with 800,000 square feet of floor space. There is one appellate courtroom and 44 trial courtrooms, designed with various court functions in mind. For example, there are special courtrooms for the Landlord-Tenant Branch, Small Claims Branch, Arraignment Branch, Preliminary Hearings, Criminal Calendar Control, Civil Calendar Control, Family Calendar Control, Family New Referrals, and Family Motions. There are also four medium-sized general-purpose courtrooms which hold up to 72 spectators each, and 30 small general purpose courtrooms which hold up to 48 spectators each. Although their sizes and shapes vary, the basic design of the courtrooms is based on the model courtroom constructed for testing purposes in 1975. Special features include speakers in the ceiling for optimal acoustics, lighting and theater seating designed to insure focus on the primary activity—the court proceedings—and computer terminals to provide the latest information on the status of cases, the location of judges, attorneys and jurors, and other pertinent information.

Each courtroom is part of a cluster of rooms which include the judge's suite, jury deliberation room, witness rooms, holding cell, and attorneys' waiting area. This clustering design was developed in order to promote efficiency and preserve the dignity of the court proceedings.

Other innovations in the design include planting areas both inside and outside to enhance the building's appearance, pedestrian ramps for the convenience of the handicapped users of the building, and the use of glass partitioning in the various court offices to

brighten working conditions.

G. Adoption of Standards for Third Party Custody Programs. During 1977 a committee of the Board of Judges developed Standards for third party custodians operating in the Superior Court. These Standards, which were adopted by the Board of Judges, for the first time articulate the philosophy for the use of third party custodians, and they establish qualifications and criteria which a third party custodian must meet before being certified to accept defendants released from the Superior Court. The Standards establish that:

The primary purpose of the use of third party custodians in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia is to provide more intensive supervision to selected defendants than can be provided by the D.C. Bail Agency and to assure, insofar as possible, that such defendants appear in court as required and do not engage in criminal activities while in pretrial release status.

There are separate Standards for organizational and individual third party custodians. The Standards require that an organizational third party custodian "must articulate clearly the types and categories of defendants for whom it will provide services and the regularity of supervision and contact as well as the types and frequency of services which it will undertake to provide." The Standards also establish a required staff-client ratio of 15-20 clients per supervisor, and establish a requirement that the minimum number of contacts between a third party custodian and a defendant shall be three per week (two in person, one by telephone). The Standards also deal with such matters as required reports, required records, financial stability, hours of operation, and procedures to be followed in the event of a loss of client contact.

The Standards establish a procedure to be followed for the certification of third party custodians. By the end of 1977, a number of organizations had been certified as meeting the Third Party Custody Standards, and others are under consideration.

H. New Mental Health Procedures. Following approximately 18 months of study by a committee which included representatives from the Superior Court, the Department of Corrections, the Office of the Corporation Counsel, the Public Defender Service, and the Forensic Psychiatric Service new procedures were adopted governing the transfer of prisoners from correctional facilities to mental health facilities. Basically, these procedures seek to shorten the time between a request for a psychiatric evaluation of a prisoner and the date he is transferred to a mental health facility if such a transfer is found to be necessary. The new procedures were established on an experimental basis and have been monitored for several months. As a result of this experiment it was determined that substan-

tial reductions in delays would occur and new rules and a monitoring system were established to make permanent the new procedures.

An interagency committee was also established to consider problems in the area of mental health services for juvenile offenders. At the recommendation of the committee, a pilot project was established by the Forensic Psychiatric Division of the Department of Human Resources to screen juvenile offenders who appear to be in need of pretrial mental observations or pretrial mental health services. This project was based on the Forensic Psychiatric Services screening program utilized in the Criminal Division prior to the entry of an order of institutionalization for a pretrial mental observation.

During the pilot project referrals were accepted only from the New Referral Branch. Reasons for such transfer included requests for hospitalization, problems in the relationships between children and parents, questions about the courtroom behavior of a youngster, or a need for additional information as to a juvenile's psychological functioning level. Hospitalization was recommended for a small percentage of the juveniles screened. Most were referred to resources in the community for any needed services; a few were returned to Cedar Knoll but with a recommendation of close observation. Where youngsters were referred to St. Elizabeths Hospital, the hospital noted that the screening provided them with helpful background information which might otherwise not have been available. Additionally, the screening project was successful in referring to community resources juveniles who did not need hospitalization, but who, in the absence of the program, would probably have been sent to St. Elizabeths Hospital.

The program is continuing to operate two days a week. Funding is being sought to enable it to operate on a daily basis.

I. *Sentencing.* A great deal of attention has been focused during the past several years on sentencing, with most commentators recommending a move away from indeterminate sentences, imposed largely in the discretion of the judiciary, and toward determinate sentences which allow little room for judicial discretion. In an effort to determine the actual criteria and purposes for sentences imposed in felony cases the Superior Court conducted a study of felony sentences imposed during January through October of 1977. Judges assigned to felony cases during that period were asked to complete a questionnaire, for every felony sentence imposed, outlining the purposes sought to be achieved by the sentence and the major factors in the circumstances of the crime or the background of the defendant which were considered in imposing sentence. Additionally, information dealing with the sentence

itself and the presentence data provided were obtained from questionnaires filled out by courtroom clerks and probation officers.

The data has been largely analyzed, but a report on the findings is not quite complete. Once the results have been fully evaluated, it may be possible to develop sentence profiles so that judges sentencing in the future will have available to them an indication of the average or usual sentence imposed for a particular crime where the circumstances are similar and the defendant has a comparable background.

Preliminary analysis of the data reveals that higher sentences (e.g., longer periods of incarceration) are generally imposed when the defendant is of adult status, between the ages of 22 to 40 years; when there is a record of prior felony convictions; when the defendant has an unstable family background and a work history of only occasional or no employment; when there is evidence of the usage of alcohol or drugs; when the circumstances surrounding the offense are aggravated; when the judge's estimation of the nature of the offense is that it is very serious; and when the judge's purpose when sentencing is to deter others as well as to protect society.

During the year the Law Revision Commission asked me to testify several times on policies and procedures relating to imposition of criminal sentences. My basic recommendation has been for a sentencing scheme which would structure and somewhat limit, but not abolish, judicial discretion. I recommended a system of presumptive sentencing ranges, with specifically-enumerated aggravating and mitigating factors to be considered in determining where within the range a particular sentence should fall. Sentences within the prescribed range should not, in my view, require specific findings or be subject to review, but sentences which are not within the recommended range would require written justification and would be reviewable by an appellate tribunal. The virtually unlimited judicial discretion which is now present in criminal sentencing may well have led to unwarranted disparities in the sentences imposed. On the other hand, it is my view that the intricacies of the almost unlimited differences in the facts of particular crimes, as well as in the backgrounds and motivations of particular defendants, are such that justice requires that the judge be given sufficient discretion to mold a sentence which is fair in the context of the particular case and the particular defendant being sentenced.

One factor which would seem to be very important in seeking to reduce unwarranted sentence disparities would be for the legislature to articulate clearly the goals and purposes sought to be achieved by criminal sentencing in general, and to indicate, either in general or for particular types of cases, which purposes it in-

tends to predominate. I believe that with such a legislative statement of intent, coupled with the type of program I have suggested to structure, but not to eliminate, judicial discretion would go far toward insuring greater uniformity in criminal sentencing while maintaining those differences which are essential to a system which truly dispenses justice.

J. Computer Operations. The Superior Court began using data processing technology as early as 1954, under the leadership of Joseph M. Burton, Clerk of the Court, and indeed it was one of the first courts in the nation to utilize computers. Through the years, the Court has used the computer as a tool to provide up-to-date and comprehensive information on many aspects of court operations, as well as using it for such purposes as calendaring, management reports, and other functions.

Our current efforts are focused at making certain that the Court will be the beneficiary of recent advances in computer technology which have made possible utilization of the computer for the reduction of clerical burdens and the generation of complex management statistics in a way which in the past would have been far too expensive to be feasible. Implementation of the data processing plan developed during this year should insure that the Superior Court will continue to be a leader in the court use of data processing. To that end, during 1977, a great deal of attention was focused on reviewing the Court's data processing operations and planning for ways in which the Court's computer could more effectively serve the needs of the operating divisions.

1. A Transfer Team, composed of representatives from the Court's Data Processing and Planning and Research Divisions and IBM technical personnel, made a comprehensive review of all present court uses of the computer. The Transfer Team then reviewed with each operating division its current and prospective needs for data processing services. As a result of this review various problems in the reports being provided to the various operating divisions were identified and corrected, and areas were identified in which expansion, upgrading, or merger of certain data processing activities could improve the information provided to other court functions. As a result of this study the Transfer Team recommended that the Court take advantage of the most current data processing technology and proceed with the implementation of a court-wide information system in which all court information would be made part of a common data base. Complete implementation of such a system, on a court-wide basis, will take several years, but, when it is completed, the Court will have an assurance of having comparable management and statistical data available from all operating divisions, and it will be able to implement programs—such as conflict-free scheduling of cases—throughout the Court.

As a result of this study the Court has developed immediate action plans for improvement of the data processing operation as well as an intermediate and long-term plan. Thus, a system to permit updating criminal records on an on-line basis has been completed. This will mean that information about actions taken in criminal cases will be available virtually immediately, rather than only 24-48 hours after the action (as was true previously). Additionally, the Court has applied for funding to implement an on-line recordkeeping system in the juvenile area.

2. During this year several other data processing projects were completed. Special computer systems were installed in the Central Violations Bureau and in the Adult Probation Office. These systems, which are located in their respective offices, are independent computer processing units for data collection, storage, and inquiry during the day. At night data is transferred to the main computer for further processing and storage for statistics and backup.

Specifically, the citation revenue collection system in the Central Violations Bureau Finance Office became operational in March of 1977. This system records payments of fines for moving and parking tickets paid either by mail or in person, and has greatly increased management control over the collection of traffic fines as well as making possible the retrieval of information on the status of paid tickets within 24 hours. The way it operates is as follows.

Eight mail clerks each operate a data entry terminal, and two in-person clerks likewise operate computer terminals. The clerk enters data about the ticket or tickets submitted; the system stores the information needed for closing the ticket later; it totals the amount due for payment of multiple tickets; and it accumulates totals for each clerk as well as for the entire office. A significant feature of this system is the addition of a "check digit" on the ticket number. This is a pre-calculated pre-printed number. When the clerk enters the ticket number a calculation is made to verify that the number is valid. If not, an error message is displayed and the number must be re-entered. This has greatly improved accuracy and diminished the incidence of unmatched payments and tickets. When all activity has been processed for an individual violator, the system endorses the check and/or prints a cash receipt. The checks are then immediately ready for the bank. This system thus totally eliminates an additional manual activity of endorsing all checks later.

A journal log is printed for all in-person transactions and thus provides an important audit trail of all cash payments. Upon request, a transaction log can also be printed for any mail clerk.

Payments that used to take two to three days for processing against the ticket file are now processed the same

day they are received. In the event of a bad check, the ticket or tickets can be readily identified and reopened.

If an individual elects to stand trial for a parking violation rather than forfeit the fine, he comes to the in-person window to receive a court date. This date is entered into the system and stored for future printing of the traffic calendar for the particular day.

Office statistics are provided at the end of the day indicating the number of tickets processed and amount of money collected with subtotals by type of ticket and type of payment. This system has potential for other revenue collections to be added in the future.

3. Probation Management Information System. A special mini-computer system was implemented in the Social Services Division in the Adult Probation Office, as the first phase of a three-phase plan which will include the Intrafamily Neglect Branch and the Juvenile Probation Branch. This system, which operates through the use of a 3790 distributive processor, provides immediate information on adult probation case loads and services while reducing manual recordkeeping requirements for probation officers and clerical personnel. Ultimately, the system will have the capacity for generating notices of court appearances, providing officers with notifications of reports due, and generating more comprehensive figures on case load management which will be helpful both from a direct management perspective and as a research tool.

There are three display terminals in the Adult Probation Office. These are used for data entry and display of all probation cases and all requests for presentence investigations. Follow-on information and supervision tracking is added to the record as it occurs. Extensive editing is provided by this system to assure that accurate data is entered.

The data record is the case information; however, if an individual has multiple records, the system maintains correlation of all cases for that individual, and inquiry can be made of the system by case number or by an individual's name or I.D. number.

A significant feature of this system is that it provides an up-date when an individual has multiple cases. Certain elements, such as a telephone number, might be common to all cases pertaining to an individual; yet

other elements, such as court disposition, would be unique to only one case. The up-date program distinguishes the difference, and if information is common to all, up-dates all records; if it is unique it up-dates only the one case.

The probation officers, as well as the clerical staff, are able to make inquiries through the terminal instead of searching through folders and papers. This provides quicker answers and prevents lack of information as a result of lost or misplaced folders.

The records in this system are also the basis for the statistical reports for the Probation Department and for management reports. Case-load management and presentence report due dates are printed monthly. These monthly reports assist the probation officers in tracking their cases and they enable supervisory personnel to distribute the case load on an equal and equitable basis.

4. Civil Division. During the past year, steps were taken to computerize new information coming from the Civil Clerk's office. Previously, only index information on civil cases was available but the new system provides more comprehensive information including attorney information, plaintiff and defendant information, information on types of cases, and the like. Plans are now under way to expand the Civil Division program to include information on motions and other court action after case filing.

IV CONCLUSION

During 1977, the Superior Court did not solve all the problems which arise from its location in a relatively high-crime urban area where there is also a great deal of civil litigation, and where the city government is almost consistently hard-pressed fiscally. Yet, it would appear that on any objective and detached assessment, it would be recognized (1) that the problems inherent in a combination of high case loads and low resources are being solved here more successfully than in most other metropolitan areas, and (2) that 1977 saw further progress in the District of Columbia toward the goal of an efficient, fair, and impartial system of justice.



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT OF APPEALS
DETAILED STATISTICAL TABLES**

APPENDIX I

TABLE 1
APPEALS AND PETITIONS FOR REVIEW

Filings	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	Percent Change	
								1976-77	1971-77
Criminal	269	392	569	702	706	826	684	-17.2	154.3
Civil	274	310	329	308	380	346	473	36.7	72.6
Agency	70	94	82	118	135	170	170	—	142.8
Total	613	796	980	1,128	1,221	1,342	1,327		

TABLE 2
COMPARISON OF INDICTMENTS AND CRIMINAL APPEALS

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Criminal Appeals	269	392	569	702	706	826	684
Indictments	1,841	2,348	3,354	3,514	4,138	3,737	3,044
Percentage of Indictments which resulted in Criminal Appeals	14.6%	16.7%	16.9%	19.9%	17.1%	22.1%	22.5%

TABLE 3
MOTIONS

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	Percent Change	
								1976-77	1971-77
Procedural Motions	1,516	2,286	3,823	4,695	5,335	5,628	6,551	16.4	332.1
Substantive Motions	<u>545</u>	<u>764</u>	<u>1,020</u>	<u>1,107</u>	<u>1,321</u>	<u>1,737</u>	<u>1,609</u>	-7.4	195.2
Total	2,061	3,050	4,843	5,802	6,656	7,365	8,160		

TABLE 4
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Disbarments	0	1	4	6	4	8
Suspensions	10	10	12	9	7	5
Public Censure	—	—	—	1	—	—
Petitions for Reinstatement	0	3	2	4	3	5
Petitions of Bar Counsel of Disciplinary Board to Conduct Formal Hearing	0	1	16	20	8	6
Miscellaneous Petitions	0	5	7	4	5	2

TABLE 5
BAR ADMISSIONS

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Applications for Admission to Bar by Examination						
Total Number Filed	785	1,265	1,155	1,072	1,094	1,134
Number of Applications Withdrawn	51	84	53	47	53	55
Number of Applications Rejected	3	5	7	13	7	12
Number of Unsuccessful Applicants	173	443	389	347	394	378
Number of Successful Applicants	558	733	696	656	636	692
Number of Applicants Admitted	556	733	235	1,097	662	714
Application for Admission to the Bar by Motion						
Total Number Filed	402	809	1,005	1,496	1,319	2,552
Number of Applicants Admitted	195	705	829	1,162	1,467	1,478
Number of Applications Rejected	8	3	18	31	56	67

The Court also monitors the Law-Student-in-Court program which provides for limited practice in the local courts for third-year law students. The program now enrolls 335 students.

TABLE 6
DISPOSITIONS

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	Percent Change	
								1976-77	1971-77
Opinion	190	219	221	251	247	307	279	-9.1	46.8
Judgment	86	165	284	382	494	373	474	27.0	451.2
Order	226	224	284	312	379	517	535	3.5	136.7
Total Dispositions	502	608	789	945	1,120	1,197	1,288		

TABLE 7
SUMMARY OF TIME ON APPEAL

Stages of Appeal	Number of Days						
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Time from notice of appeal to the filing of the record	67	65	61	62	63	82	103
Time from filing of record until briefing is completed	97	96	97	90	94	122	124
Time from completing briefing to argument or submission	24	25	47	62	67	101	103
Time from argument or submission to decision	55	79	81	97	155	127	126
Overall time from notice of appeal to decision	243	265	286	311	379	432	456

CHART A: CASE FILINGS

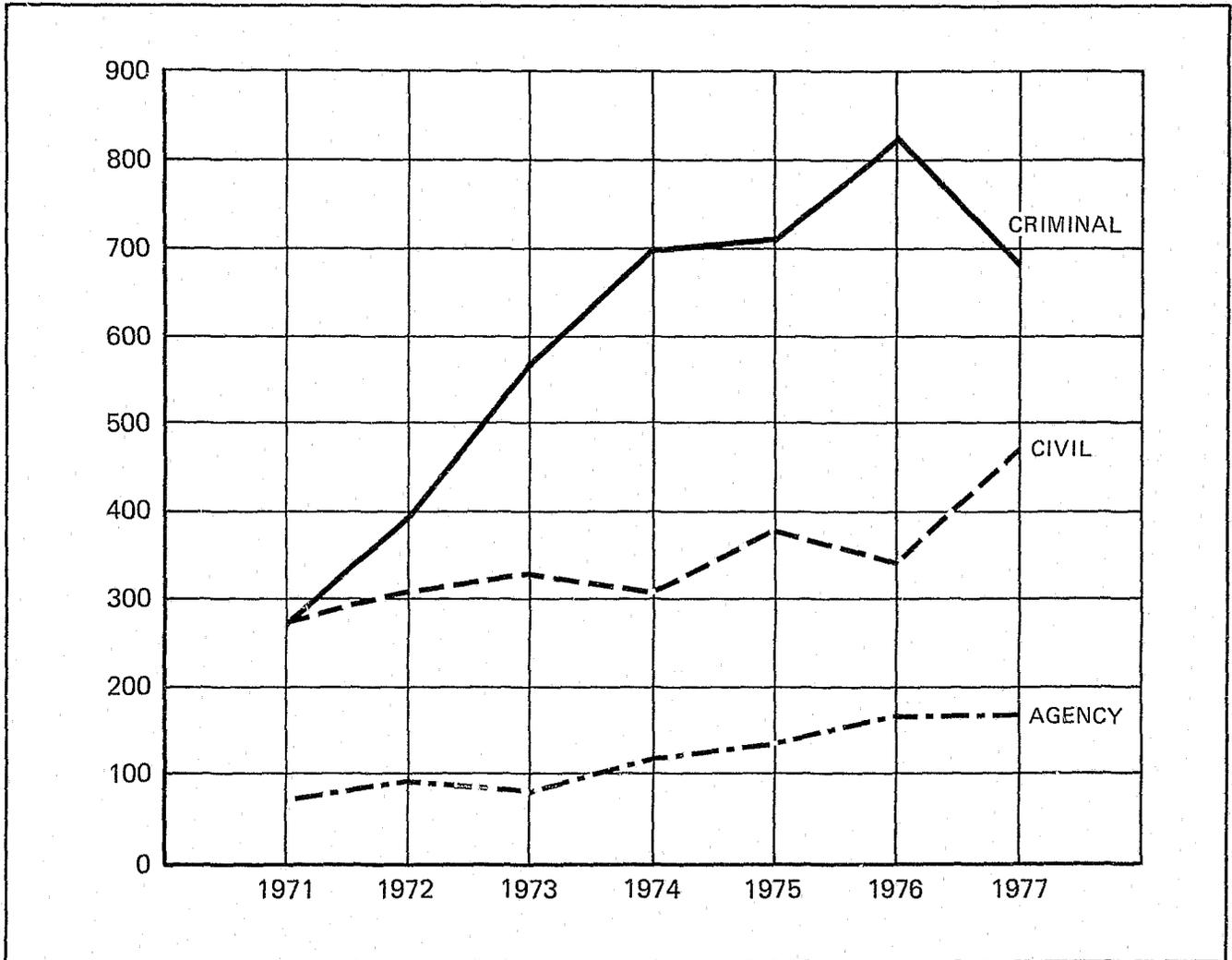


CHART B: SUMMARY OF MOTIONS CASE LOAD

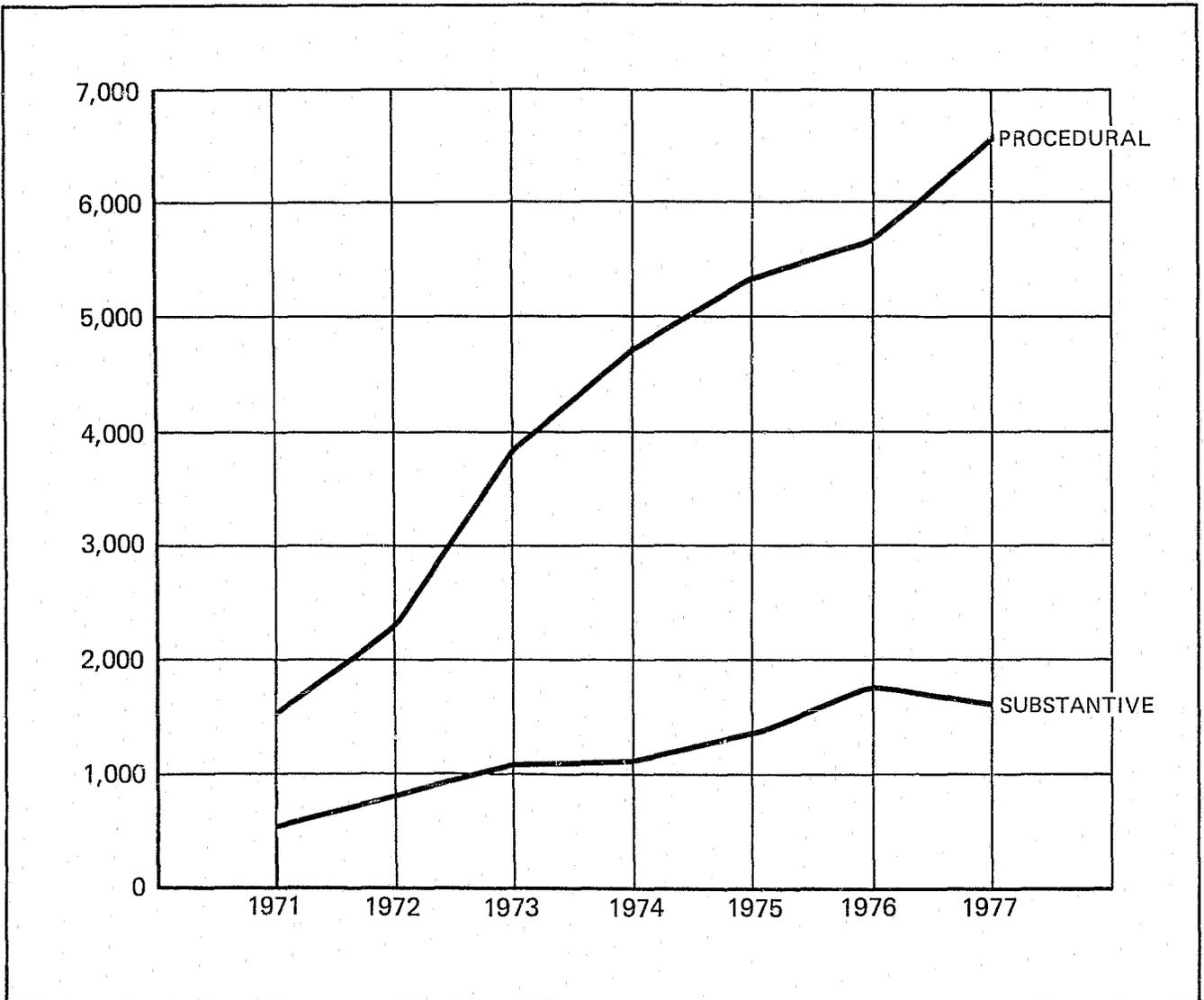


CHART C: DISPOSITIONS

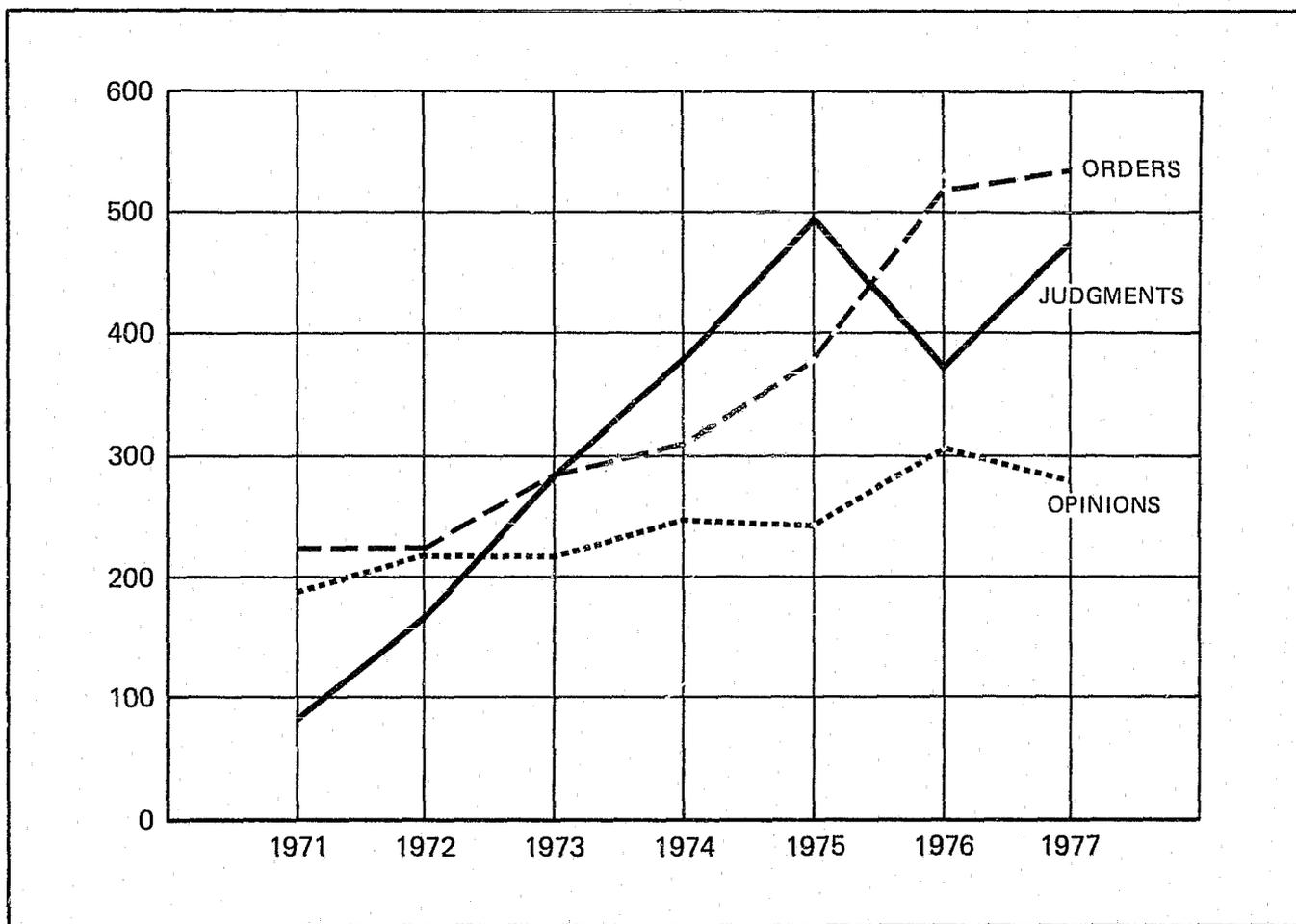
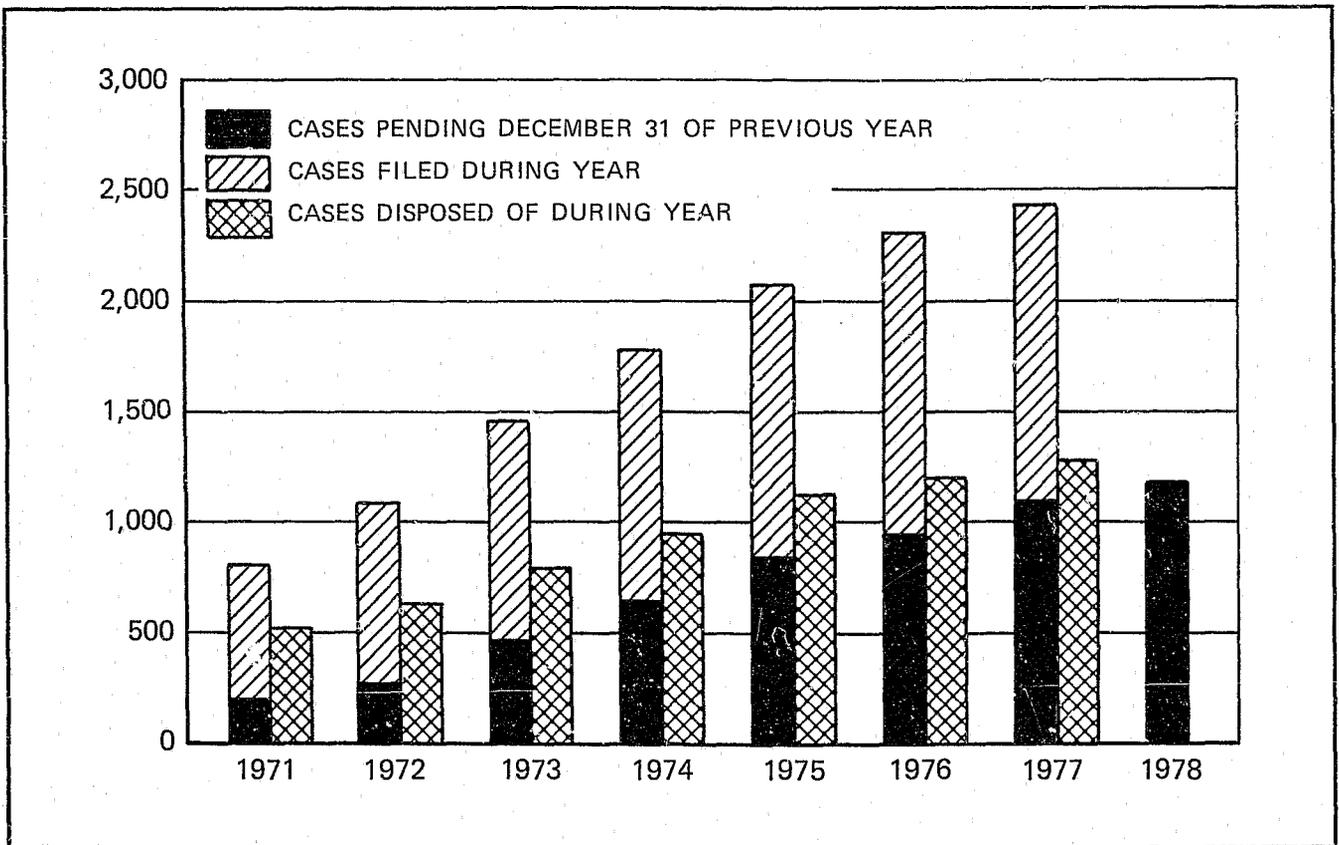


CHART D: GROWTH OF CASE LOAD AND DISPOSITIONS



**SUPERIOR COURT
DETAILED STATISTICAL TABLES**

APPENDIX II



COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF COURT BUSINESS

Division	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Criminal Division							
District of Columbia Branch	3,427	3,238	3,383	3,010	3,004	2,995	-0.3
United States Branch	23,097	23,166	25,282	27,024	25,462	23,662	-7.1
Traffic Branch	47,771	51,464	65,549	74,905	87,583	94,592	8.0
Total	74,295	77,868	94,214	104,939	116,049	121,249	4.5
Civil Division							
Civil Actions Branch	9,734	10,981	11,361	11,716	12,674	12,862	1.5
Landlord & Tenant Branch	120,653	115,703	116,782	120,608	114,408	110,461	-3.5
Small Claims Branch	33,967	35,832	30,512	27,839	28,347	25,833	-8.9
Total	164,351	162,516	158,655	160,163	155,429	149,156	-4.0
Family Division							
Domestic Relations Branch	6,813	6,230	6,250	6,166	5,919	6,631	12.0
Intrafamily Branch	968	907	734	795	818	815	-0.4
Neglect Branch	577	659	693	544	565	539	-4.7
Juvenile Branch	7,088	7,188	7,079	7,212	6,826	5,750	-15.8
Total	15,446	14,984	14,756	14,717	14,128	13,735	-2.8
Tax Division							
Civil Tax Cases	21	26	53	78	63	58	-7.9
Criminal Tax Cases	240	91	7	64	562	363	-35.4
Total	261	117	60	142	625	421	-32.7
Probate Division							
New Wills	0	2,263	2,240	2,048	2,134	2,045	-4.2
New Decedents' Estates	0	2,456	2,452	2,430	2,416	2,352	-2.7
New Minors' Estates	0	165	158	177	152	150	-1.3
Total	0	4,904	4,850	4,655	4,702	4,547	-3.3
Grand Total	254,353	260,389	272,535	284,616	290,933	289,108	-0.6
Monthly Average of New Cases	21,196	21,699	22,711	23,718	24,244	24,092	-0.6



CRIMINAL DIVISION

SUMMARY OF MAJOR CRIMINAL TRIABLE CASES^a

Activity	Defendants						% Change 1976-1977
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Pending January 1	2,223	1,974	2,892	3,391	6,528	6,186	-5.2
New Filings	11,509	16,341	17,577	20,300	20,754	20,708	-0.2
Reinstated	73	1,131	2,368	2,682	2,314	1,720	-25.7
Total to be Disposed	13,805	19,446	22,837	26,373	29,596	28,614	-3.3
Dispositions by Court							
Jury Trial	1,292	1,065	1,291	1,095	1,203	1,078	-10.4
Trial by Court	703	786	878	919	856	517	-39.6
Plea	4,132	4,776	6,027	7,234	8,625	8,591	-0.4
Dismissed	596	455	972	868	948	1,134	19.6
Subtotal	6,723	7,082	9,168	10,116	11,632	11,320	-2.7
Dispositions Prior to Adjudication							
No Papers	0	3,108	3,007	2,653	2,693	2,469	-8.3
Nolle Prosequi	3,775	3,536	4,125	3,520	5,060	5,034	-0.5
Absconded	1,063	1,672	1,893	2,516	2,756	2,667	-3.2
Mental Observation	0	116	164	108	92	93	1.1
Transfer Rule 105	0	422	277	350	427	420	-1.6
Dismissed	295	378	658	424	497	300	-39.6
Others ^b	48	240	154	158	253	255	0.8
Subtotal	5,181	9,472	10,278	9,729	11,778	11,238	-4.6
Total Dispositions	11,904	16,554	19,446	19,845	23,410	22,558	-3.6
Pending December 31	1,901	2,892	3,391	6,528	6,186	6,056	-2.1

^aIncludes felonies, misdemeanors, and serious District of Columbia and traffic cases.

^bIncludes cases exiting because of death of defendants or transfer to another jurisdiction pursuant to court rule; these are mostly final dispositions.

FELONY BRANCH

Activity	Defendants						% Change 1976-1977
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Pending January 1	556	802	1,529	1,401	2,008	1,476	-26.5
New Filings (Indictments)	2,348	3,354	3,514	4,138	3,737	3,044	-18.5
Reinstated	73	91	780	784	490	373	-23.9
Total to be Disposed	2,977	4,247	5,823	6,323	6,235	4,893	-21.5
Dispositions by Court							
Jury Trial	466	428	731	667	795	593	-25.4
Trial by Court	80	65	96	63	82	42	-48.8
Plea	1,117	1,373	2,296	2,463	2,807	2,016	-28.2
Dismissed	13	16	58	7	46	33	-28.3
Subtotal	1,676	1,882	3,181	3,200	3,730	2,684	-28.0
Dispositions Prior to Adjudication							
Dismissed	295	378	658	424	497	300	-39.6
Nolle Prosequi	2	1	10	18	21	30	42.9
Absconded	154	428	538	637	463	272	-41.3
Others	48	29	35	36	48	119	147.9
Subtotal	499	836	1,241	1,115	1,029	721	-29.9
Total Dispositions	2,175	2,718	4,422	4,315	4,759	3,405	-28.5
Pending December 31	802	1,529	1,401	2,008	1,476	1,488	0.8

MISDEMEANOR BRANCH

Activity	Defendants					% Change 1976-1977
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Pending January 1	913	996	1,497	3,299	3,221	-2.4
New Filings	10,967	11,976	12,984	12,909	11,982	-7.2
Reinstated	859	1,335	1,599	1,520	890	-41.5
Total to be Disposed	12,739	14,307	16,080	17,728	16,093	-9.2
Dispositions by Court						
Jury Trial	585	527	396	372	433	16.4
Trial by Court	562	657	713	620	380	-38.7
Plea	2,476	2,637	3,350	3,675	3,353	-8.8
Dismissed	343	748	669	695	750	10.7
Subtotal	3,966	4,569	5,128	5,362	4,935	-8.0
Dispositions prior to Adjudication						
No Paper	3,108	3,007	2,653	2,693	2,469	-8.3
Nolle Prosequi	2,964	3,608	2,975	4,306	4,039	-6.2
Absconded	957	1,069	1,445	1,424	1,258	-11.7
Mental Observation	116	164	108	92	92	—
Transfer Rule 105	421	274	350	423	420	-0.7
Others	211	119	122	205	136	-33.7
Subtotal	7,777	8,241	7,653	9,143	8,414	-7.8
Total Dispositions	11,743	12,810	12,781	14,305	13,349	-6.7
Pending December 31	996	1,497	3,299	3,221	2,744	-14.8

TRAFFIC CASES

Activity	Defendants				% Change 1976-1977
	1974	1975	1976	1977	
MAJOR TRIABLE TRAFFIC CASES^a					
Pending January 1	357	473	1,209	1,454	20.3
New Filings	1,970	3,141	3,998	5,565	39.2
Reinstated	239	297	299	454	51.8
Total to be Disposed	2,566	3,911	5,506	7,473	35.7
Dispositions by Court					
Jury Trial	31	32	36	49	36.1
Trial by Court	122	142	153	93	-39.2
Plea	1,058	1,411	2,099	3,180	51.5
Dismissed	156	185	196	322	63.3
Subtotal	1,367	1,770	2,484	3,644	46.7
Dispositions prior to Adjudication					
Nolle	439	500	701	935	33.4
Absconded	284	432	862	1,131	31.2
Transfer Rule 105	3	0	5	0	-100.0
Subtotal	726	932	1,568	2,066	31.8
Total Dispositions	2,093	2,702	4,052	5,710	40.9
Pending December 31	473	1,209	1,454	1,763	21.3
OTHER TRAFFIC CASES					
Pending January 1	772	1,658	3,078	5,413	75.9
New Filings	63,579	71,764	83,585	89,027	6.5
Reinstated	889	1,697	10,021	25,480	154.3
Total to be Disposed	65,240	75,119	96,684	119,920	24.0
Dispositions by Court					
Trial by Court	1,522	758	752	1,310	74.2
Plea	4,248	3,890	3,941	6,679	69.5
Dismissed	1,425	1,458	2,867	5,822	103.1
Security Forfeit	2,781	4,337	9,367	7,814	-16.6
Subtotal	9,976	10,443	16,927	21,625	27.8
Dispositions prior to Adjudication					
No Paper	5,190	3,880	3,852	1,120	-70.9
Nolle	7,151	8,516	10,992	13,862	26.1
Absconded	1,720	2,167	1,137	1,748	53.7
Transfer Rule 105	2	4	6	8	33.3
Others ^b	39,543	47,031	58,357	56,382	-3.4
Subtotal	53,606	61,598	74,344	73,120	-1.7
Total Dispositions	63,582	72,041	91,271	115,098	26.1
Pending December 31	1,658	3,078	5,413	4,822	-10.9

^aIncludes those cases in which there is a jury trial by right, covering driving while under the influence, reckless driving, leaving the scene after collision involving personal injury, driving with a revoked or suspended permit.

^bIncludes defendants whose cases are in the traffic summons stage in accordance with procedures outlined in the Traffic Violations Notice System.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASES

Activity	Defendants				% Change 1976-1977
	1974	1975	1976	1977	
MAJOR TRIABLE D.C. CASES^a					
Pending January 1	10	20	12	34	183.3
New Filings	117	37	112	117	4.5
Reinstated	14	2	5	3	-40.0
Total to be Disposed	141	59	129	154	19.4
Dispositions by Court					
Jury Trial	2	0	0	3	0
Trial by Court	3	1	1	2	100.0
Plea	36	10	44	42	-4.6
Dismissed	10	7	11	10	-9.1
Subtotal	51	18	56	57	1.8
Dispositions prior to Adjudication					
Nolle	68	27	32	30	6.3
Absconded	2	2	7	5	-28.6
Mental Observation	0	0	0	1	100.0
Subtotal	70	29	39	36	-7.7
Total Dispositions	121	47	95	93	-2.1
Pending December 31	20	12	34	51	79.4
OTHER D.C. CASES^b					
Pending January 1	100	174	225	248	10.2
New Filings	3,266	2,973	2,892	2,878	-0.5
Reinstated	120	142	168	100	-40.5
Total to be Disposed	3,486	3,289	3,285	3,226	-1.8
Dispositions by Court					
Trial by Court	86	47	39	57	46.2
Plea	156	207	263	145	-44.9
Dismissed	88	130	128	165	28.9
Security Forfeit	480	599	571	559	-2.1
Subtotal	810	983	1,001	926	-7.5
Dispositions prior to Adjudication					
No Paper	1,651	1,447	1,474	1,352	-8.3
Nolle	624	449	503	544	8.2
Absconded	220	182	49	56	14.3
Mental Observation	2	1	6	10	66.7
Transfer Rule 105	4	2	4	3	-25.0
Others	1	0	0	13	100.0
Subtotal	2,502	2,081	2,036	1,978	-2.9
Total Dispositions	3,312	3,064	3,073	2,904	-5.5
Pending December 31	174	225	248	322	29.8

^aIncludes District of Columbia cases in which there is a jury trial by right for ABC liquor violations and indecent exposure.

^bOther than major triable offenses under the D.C. Code and Traffic laws.

PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

Activity	Defendants					% Change 1976-1977
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Pending January 1	249	199	161	243	177	-27.2
Reinstated	0	35	239	156	84	-46.2
Filed	8,192	9,083	9,088	7,917	7,702	-2.7
Total to be Disposed	8,441	9,317	9,488	8,316	7,963	-4.2
Dispositions by Court						
Held for Grand Jury	2,979	3,596	4,174	3,627	3,305	-8.9
Wavied to Grand Jury	576	614	651	903	686	-24.0
No Probable Cause	104	150	155	145	111	-23.5
Subtotal	3,659	4,360	4,980	4,675	4,102	-12.3
Dispositions Prior to Hearing						
Certified U.S. Magistrate	160	157	136	111	104	-6.3
Nolle Prosequi	823	1,242	1,055	743	531	-28.5
No Papers	2,727	2,862	2,467	2,226	2,532	13.8
Dismissed (DWP)	539	207	202	119	136	14.3
Mental Observation	119	118	123	51	98	82.4
Absconded	215	197	229	150	110	26.7
Indictment Filed	0	9	40	54	64	18.5
Others	0	4	13	10	129	1330.0
Subtotal	4,583	4,796	4,265	3,464	3,713	7.2
Total Dispositions	8,242	9,156	9,245	8,139	7,815	-4.0
Pending December 31	199	161	243	177	148	-16.4

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Activity	Defendants					% Change 1976-1977
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Pending January 1	1	17	57	45	48	6.7
Filed ^a	1,017	1,504	1,923	2,039	1,857	-8.9
Reinstated	11	3	14	11	10	9.1
Total to be Disposed	1,029	1,524	1,994	2,095	1,915	-8.6
Disposition by Court						
Extradition Granted	56	48	66	70	37	-47.1
Extradition Denied	8	2	4	8	1	-87.5
Dismissed	104	177	105	15	12	-20.0
Special Proceedings ^b						
Granted	321	683	979	969	781	-19.4
Denied	39	108	112	159	132	-17.0
Subtotal	528	1,018	1,266	1,221	963	-21.1
Dispositions prior to Adjudication						
Nolle Prosequi	81	72	234	283	265	-6.4
Extradition Waived	373	356	401	521	619	18.8
Absconded	26	20	38	19	16	-15.8
Others	4	1	10	3	0	-100.0
Subtotal	484	449	683	826	900	9.0
Total Dispositions	1,012	1,467	1,949	2,047	1,863	-9.0
Pending December 31	17	57	45	48	52	8.3

^a Included in the new filings are 653 fugitive complaints in 1973, 709 in 1974, 814 in 1975, 901 in 1976 and 934 in 1977.

^b Includes extradition of witnesses for out-of-state proceedings, adversary hearings regarding matters such as pornography, writs of habeas corpus, and show cause or contempt proceedings.

CRIMINAL WARRANTS

Type	Defendants						% Change 1976-1977
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Felony Warrants	2,333	2,079	2,283	2,139	1,948	1,715	-12.0
Serious Misdemeanor Warrants	599	496	582	738	708	738	4.2
District of Columbia Warrants	326	153	167	82	341	204	-40.2
Traffic Warrants	50,000	59,950	212*	0	0	0	0
Search Warrants	799	638	598	718	740	602	-18.7
Bench Warrants	3,958	5,712	7,121	10,268	12,982	16,051	23.6
Felony Complaints	4,517	4,440	5,388	5,127	5,018	4,708	-6.2
Judicial Summons	409	577	455	620	642	410	-36.1
Total Criminal Warrants	62,941	74,045	16,806	19,692	22,379	24,428	9.2

*Starting in January 1974, traffic warrants were incorporated into the Traffic Violations Notice System which is controlled by the Central Violations Bureau and the Data Processing Division.

CRIMINAL APPEALS

Activity	Defendants						% Change 1976-1977
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Appeals Filed							
By Defendant	181	466	388	625	700	602	-14.0
By U.S. Attorney	53	71	280	93	34	44	29.4
By Corporation Counsel	12	2	3	1	5	1	-80.0
Total	246	539	671	719	739	647	-12.5
Appeals Returned							
Dismissed	53	134	174	248	212	202	-4.7
Affirmed	49	167	229	211	296	364	23.0
Reversed	26	41	160	143	35	29	-17.1
Remanded	0	11	15	51	39	15	-61.5
Withdrawn	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	128	354	578	653	582	610	4.8
Pending December 31	118	185	93	66	157	37	-76.4



CIVIL DIVISION

CIVIL DIVISION SUMMARY OF NEW FILINGS

Type	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Civil Actions	10,857	9,734	10,981	11,361	11,716	12,674	12,862	1.5
Landlord & Tenant	122,357	120,653	115,703	116,782	120,608	114,408	110,461	-3.4
Small Claims	<u>30,244</u>	<u>33,967</u>	<u>35,832</u>	<u>30,512</u>	<u>27,839</u>	<u>28,347</u>	<u>25,833</u>	-8.9
Total	163,458	164,351	162,516	158,655	160,163	155,429	149,156	-4.0

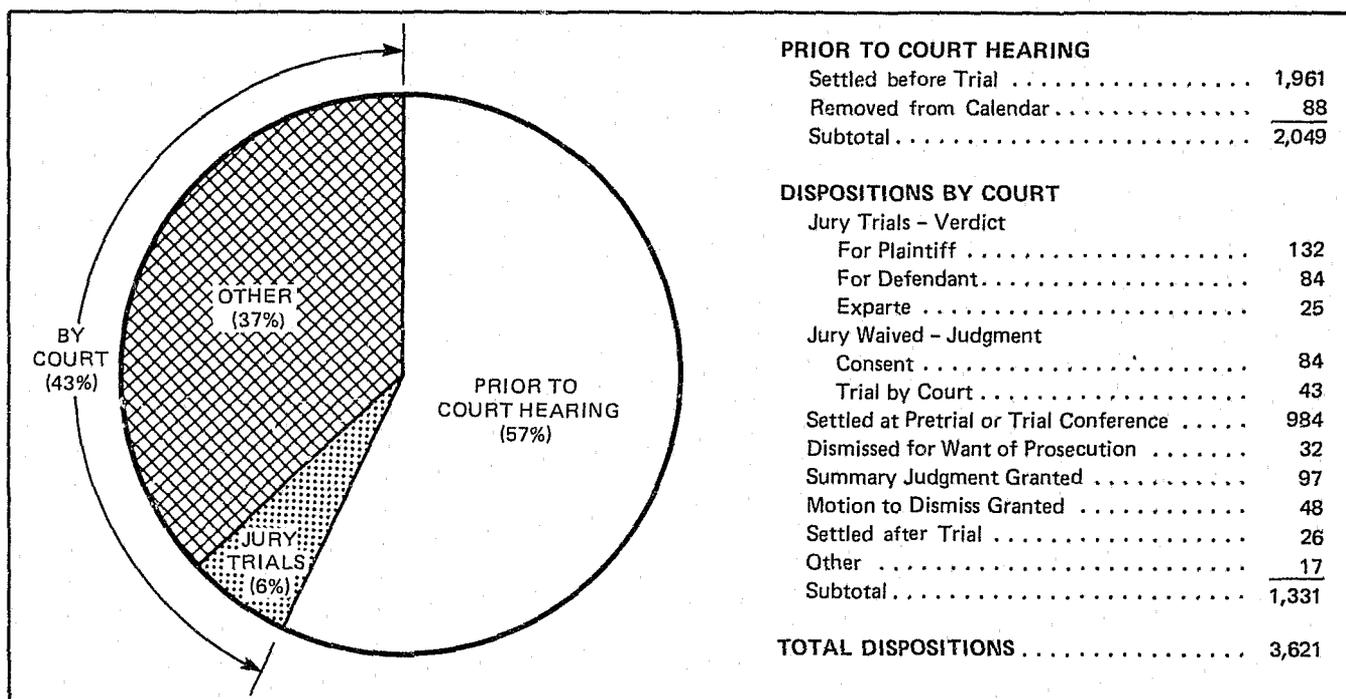
SUMMARY OF CIVIL ACTION FILINGS

Activity	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Jury & Nonjury Cases on Trial Calendar Pending January 1	6,603	3,734	2,925	3,330	3,421	3,687	5,059	37.2
New Cases Placed on Trial Calendar Dispositions	5,663 8,532	4,601 5,410	4,711 4,306	4,425 4,334	5,101 4,835	5,437 4,065	5,348 5,447	-1.6 34.0
Cases on Trial Calendar Pending December 31	3,734	2,925	3,330	3,421	3,687	5,059	4,960	-1.9

CIVIL JURY CALENDAR

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Cases on Trial Calendar Pending January 1	2,419	2,682	2,663	3,113	3,930	26.2
New Cases Placed on Trial Calendar	<u>2,982</u>	<u>3,002</u>	<u>3,786</u>	<u>3,657</u>	<u>3,528</u>	-3.5
Total Cases on Trial Calendar	5,401	5,684	6,449	6,770	7,458	10.2
Dispositions	2,719	3,021	3,336	2,840	3,621	27.5
Cases on Trial Calendar Pending December 31	2,682	2,663	3,113	3,930	3,837	-2.4
Average Time Trial Could Be Had After Case Was Placed on Trial Calendar	7 mos	8 mos	8 mos	12 mos	12 mos	

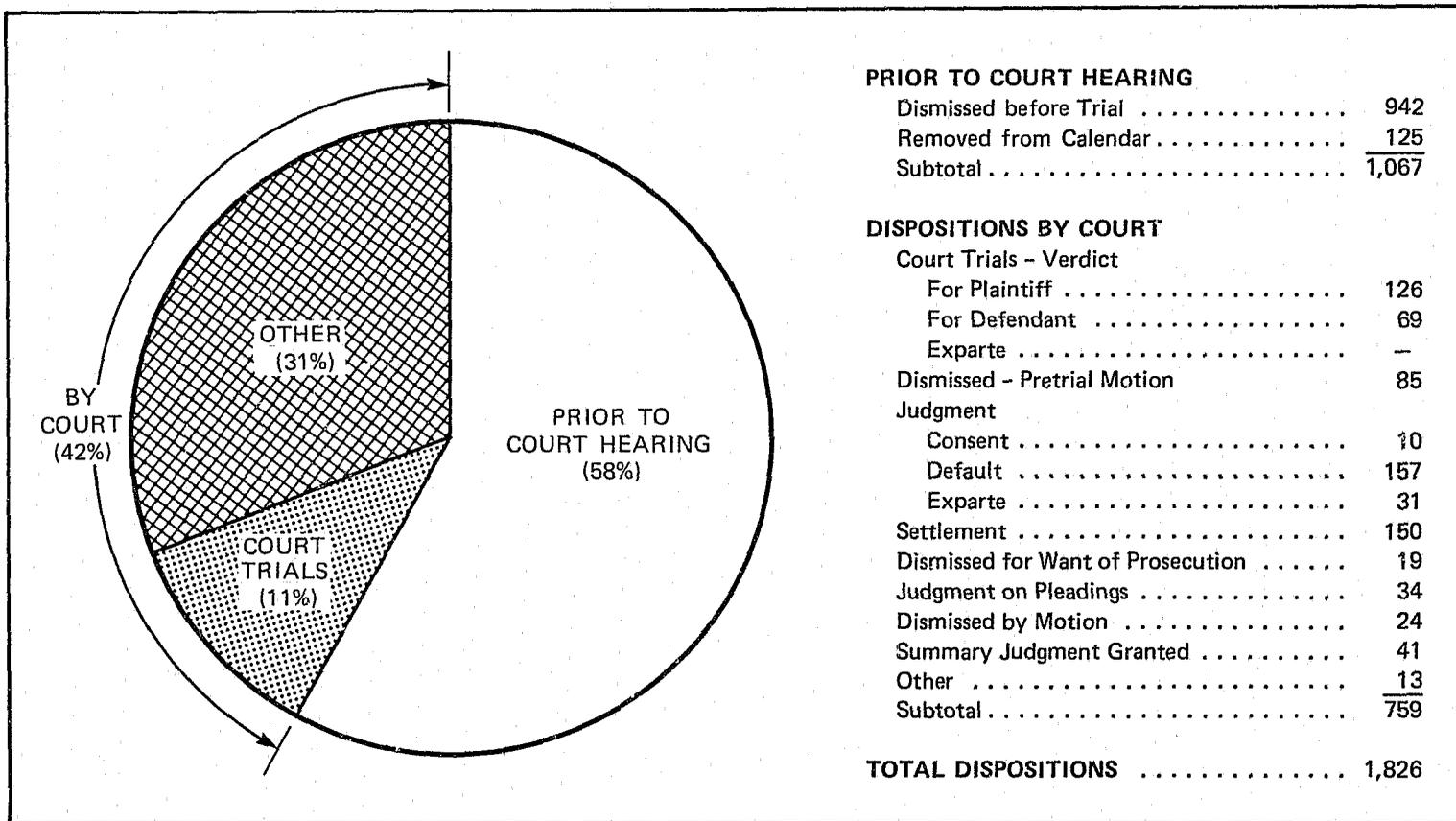
CIVIL JURY DISPOSITIONS FOR 1977



CIVIL NONJURY CALENDAR

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Cases on Trial Calendar Pending January 1	506	648	758	574	1,129	96.7
New Cases Placed on Trial Calendar	<u>1,729</u>	<u>1,423</u>	<u>1,315</u>	<u>1,780</u>	<u>1,820</u>	2.2
Total Cases on Trial Calendar	2,235	2,071	2,073	2,354	2,949	25.3
Dispositions	1,587	1,313	1,499	1,225	1,826	-49.0
Cases on Trial Calendar Pending December 31	648	758	574	1,129	1,123	-0.5
Average Time Trial Could Be Had After Case Was Placed on Trial Calendar	2.5 mos	2.5 mos	2 mos	6 mos	6 mos	

CIVIL NONJURY DISPOSITIONS FOR 1977



PRIOR TO COURT HEARING

Dismissed before Trial	942
Removed from Calendar	<u>125</u>
Subtotal	1,067

DISPOSITIONS BY COURT

Court Trials - Verdict	
For Plaintiff	126
For Defendant	69
Exparte	-
Dismissed - Pretrial Motion	
Judgment	85
Consent	10
Default	157
Exparte	31
Settlement	150
Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	19
Judgment on Pleadings	34
Dismissed by Motion	24
Summary Judgment Granted	41
Other	<u>13</u>
Subtotal	759

TOTAL DISPOSITIONS 1,826



1977 CIVIL JURY DEMANDS

Type	Grand Total	Six-Person Jury			Twelve-Person Jury		
		Total	Plaintiff	Defendant	Total	Plaintiff	Defendant
Personal Torts							
Automobile	462	307	304	3	155	147	8
Assault and Battery	155	98	95	3	57	57	—
Personal Injury	494	268	253	15	226	217	9
False Arrest	51	28	27	1	23	22	1
Malpractice	91	52	52	—	39	37	2
Negligence	984	621	596	25	363	346	17
Libel and Slander	24	19	15	4	5	5	—
Other	98	61	55	6	37	35	2
Property Torts							
Automobile	285	146	143	3	139	137	2
Destruction of Property	14	8	8	—	6	6	—
Property Damage	86	57	53	4	29	22	7
Conversion	12	8	8	—	4	4	—
Other	12	9	7	2	3	3	—
Contracts							
Breach of Contract	354	234	174	60	120	97	23
Specific Performance	3	—	—	—	3	2	1
Debt	18	14	9	5	4	2	2
Money Owed	6	4	2	2	2	2	—
Promissory Note	8	4	2	2	4	3	1
Services Rendered	11	8	3	5	3	1	2
Other	78	56	33	23	22	14	8
Landlord and Tenant	539	419	—	419	120	—	120
Small Claims	71	56	2	54	15	1	14
Others							
Change of Name	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Foreign Judgment	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Petition to Enforce Mechanic Liens	2	1	1	—	1	1	—
Other	48	27	26	1	21	20	1
Total Jury Demands	3,907*	2,506	1,868	638	1,401	1,181	220
Percentage		100	75	25	100	84	16

*Of these 3,907 cases, 2,978 were jury demands on originally filed Civil Actions cases; 539 Landlord and Tenant cases, 71 Small Claims cases and 319 changes or subsequent jury demands on Civil Actions.

CIVIL MOTIONS BRANCH

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Motions & Oppositions Filed	5,866	7,011	10,635	12,359	13,495	9.2
Papers Rejected	680	700	904	1,010	963	-4.7
Orders Reviewed for and Signed by Judge	2,497	2,291	2,577	3,096	3,213	3.8
Telephone Assistance	NA	NA	8,088	10,978	12,080	10.0
Window Assistance	NA	NA	NA	5,828	6,646	14.0
Conferences with Motions Commissioner	NA	NA	NA	354	244	-31.0
Contested Motions Heard	2,084	2,263	2,059	1,137	1,175	33.0

INTERVIEW AND JUDGMENT SECTION

Activity	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Default Judgments Confession & Consent Judgments	2,575	2,828	3,266	3,187	-2.4
Default Judgments under Rule 55-II	191	228	279	376	35.1
Judgment of Condemnation	184	157	237	284	19.8
Rule 62-II Judgments	155	210	298	323	8.4
	<u>153</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>352</u>	28.5
Total	3,258	3,667	4,314	4,523	4.8

SMALL CLAIMS & CONCILIATION BRANCH

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Pending January 1	2,062	2,388	2,127	1,955	2,063	5.5
New Filings	35,832	30,512	27,839	28,347	25,833	-8.9
Cases Removed from Filed for Settlement	5,413	5,063	6,591	9,697	7,902	-18.5
Total Case Load	43,037	37,963	36,557	39,999	35,798	-10.5
Dispositions						
Default Judgment	15,270	12,431	11,484	12,918	11,957	-7.4
Consent or Confession Judgment	1,746	1,618	1,453	1,722	2,035	18.2
Continuances	4,886	4,851	4,714	4,711	4,346	-7.7
Trials	914	724	557	982	874	-11.0
Conciliations	23	15	2	0	0	0
Case to Files Pending Settlement	8,269	8,582	8,911	9,393	9,367	-0.28
Dismissed by Plaintiff or Plaintiff's Counsel before Trial	1,500	1,271	1,293	1,316	995	-24.4
Certified to Another Judge	25	0	0	0	15	400.0
Judgment Paid and Satisfied	7,608	6,027	5,918	6,517	3,969	-39.1
Dismissed for Want of Prosecution	288	233	206	266	241	-8.6
Non-Suits	18	8	11	19	10	-47.4
Jury Demands (Certified to Jury)	102	76	53	89	75	-15.7
Total	40,649	35,836	34,602	37,936	33,798	-10.7
Pending December 31	2,388	2,127	1,955	2,063	1,912	-7.3
Cases Filed by Individual without Attorney	2,617	3,720	4,045	5,088	4,723	-7.1

SUMMARY OF LANDLORD AND TENANT CASES

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Pending January 1	2	122	198	444	301	-32.2
New Cases Filed	<u>115,703</u>	<u>116,782</u>	<u>120,608</u>	<u>114,408</u>	<u>110,461</u>	- 3.4
Total To Be Disposed	115,705	116,904	120,806	114,852	110,762	- 3.6
Dispositions	115,583	116,706	120,362	114,564	110,539	- 3.6
Pending December 31	122	198	444	301	235	-22.0
SUMMARY OF JURY DEMANDS:						
Jury Demands	11	485	876	710	614	-13.5
Percentage of Jury Demands over Total L&T Cases	.009%	.4%	.7%	.6%	.6%	
Dispositions						
Trial	(0)	(1)	(2)	(4)	(2)	-50
Judgment	2	77	142	123	106	-13.8
Settled	5	185	183	213	210	- 1.4
Dismissed	1	75	151	123	101	-17.8
Jury Demand Withdrawn or Stricken	1	1	4	1	1	
Plea of Title	0	0	0	0	1	
Total	9	339	482	460	419	- 9.0
Pending from Previous Years	NA	NA	NA	13	15	15.4
Pending December 31	2	146	394	263	210	-20.2

LANDLORD AND TENANT DETAILS

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Defaults	NA	60,402	59,821	55,319	54,617	- 1.3
Confessions	NA	6,053	7,425	9,506	11,213	17.9
Stays	NA	5,837	7,342	9,478	11,208	18.2
Dismissals	NA	45,168	50,296	46,311	44,074	- 4.8
Dismissed without						
Prejudice—Rule 11	NA	803	857	530	496	- 6.4
Continuances	NA	5,241	5,196	5,222	4,874	- 6.7
Motions	NA	2,014	2,639	3,322	3,352	.90
Files	NA	1,211	959	860	994	15.6
Certified to Another Judge	NA	6	88	78		
Plea of Title	NA	4	3	6	10	66.7
Nonjury Trials	NA	116	36	44	54	22.7
Nonjury Trials Pending December 31	NA	52	50	38	25	-34.2

FIDUCIARY SECTION

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Petitions for Appointment of Conservators Pending January 1	13	16	17	14	17	21.4
New Petitions for Appointment of Conservators Filed during Year	164	134	153	147	140	- 4.8
Committeeships Terminated and New Conservators Appointed during Year	18	12	16	7	6	-14.3
Miscellaneous Fiduciary Cases as of January 1	0	0	15	12	16	33.3
Miscellaneous Fiduciary Cases Filed during Year	<u>40</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>47</u>	14.6
Total Fiduciary Cases	235	214	258	221	226	2.3
Dispositions (Combined)*	219	182	232	188	189	.53
Petitions for Appointment of Conservators Pending December 31	16	17	14	17	18	5.9
Miscellaneous Fiduciary Cases Pending December 31	<u>0</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	18.7
Total Fiduciary Cases Pending	16	32	26	33	37	12.1
Total Active Conservatorships and Committeeships as of January 1	1,270	1,178	1,110	1,090	1,055	- 3.2
Total Conservatorships and Committeeships from Previous Years Terminated during Year	<u>243</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>153</u>	- 7.3
Total Active Conservatorships and Committeeships from Previous Years Active as of December 31	1,027	989	947	925	902	- 2.5
SUMMARY OF FIDUCIARY MATTERS:						
Committeeships Terminated and New Conservators Appointed during Year	18	12	16	7	6	-14.3
Conservators Appointed during Year	137	120	141	133	133	-11.3
Conservators Terminated after Appointment during Same Year	4	11	14	10	3	-70
Total Active New Conservatorships	151	121	143	130	121	-8.5
Total Active Conservatorships and Committeeships from Previous Years Active as of December 31	1,027	989	947	925	902	- 2.5
Total Active Conservatorships and Committeeships as of December 31	1,178	1,110	1,090	1,055	1,023	- 3
Total Petitions for Appointment of Conservators Pending December 31	16	17	14	17	18	5.9
Total Miscellaneous Fiduciary Cases Pending December 31	0	15	12	16	19	18.7
Total Active Miscellaneous Cases	12	29	42	57	45	-21
Total Active Fiduciary Cases	1,206	1,171	1,158	1,145	1,105	- 3.5

*This term, when used in connection with fiduciary cases, means that some type of action has been taken on the original petition or complaint. This action could be a withdrawal, dismissal, termination, appointment of a conservator and creation of a conservatorship, appointment of a trustee, or some type of final adjudication.



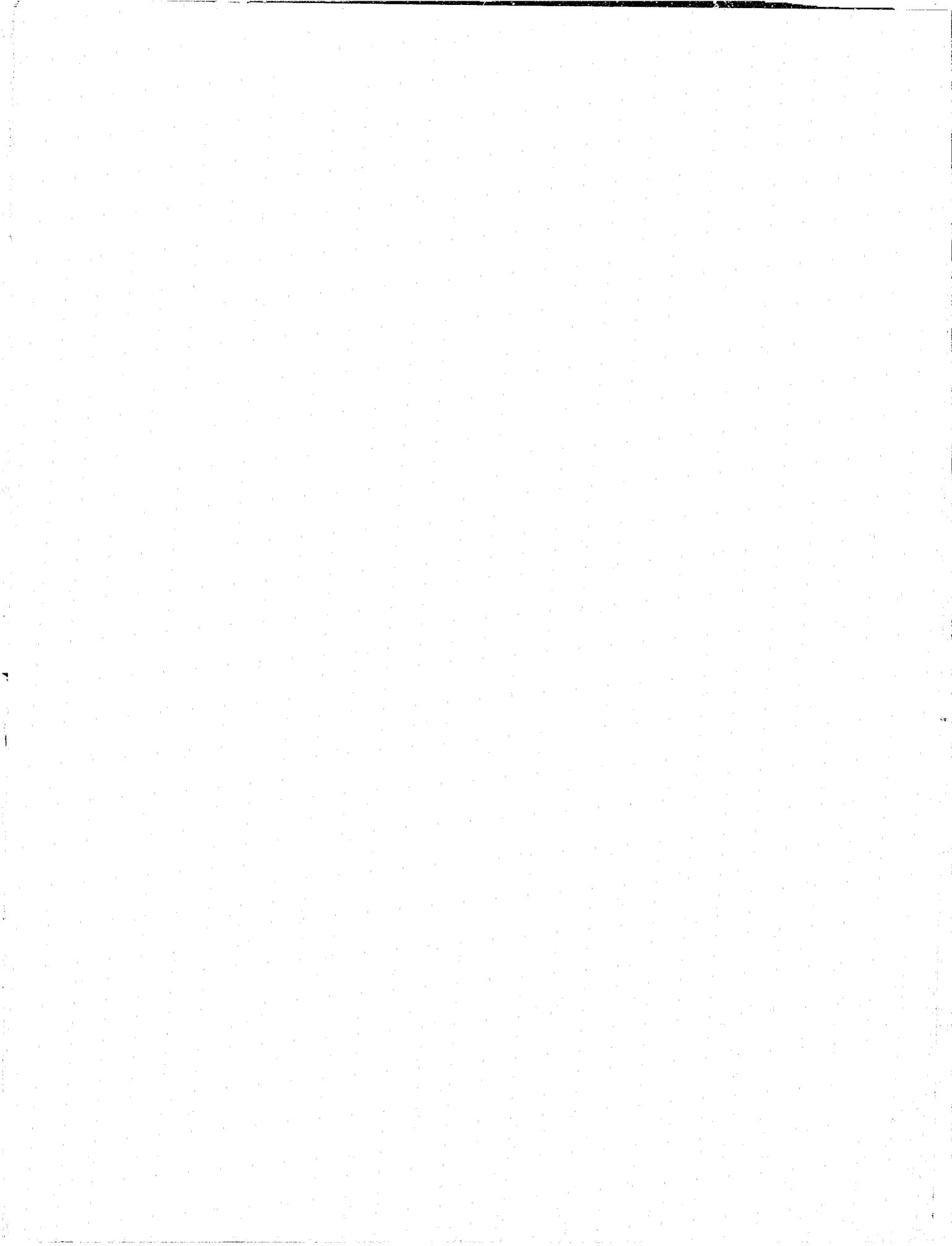
FAMILY DIVISION

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES

Activity	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Pending January 1	1,267	1,618	818	-49.4
New Referrals	<u>6,608</u>	<u>6,236</u>	5,276	-15.4
Total To Be Disposed	7,875	7,854	6,094	-22.4
Dispositions	6,257	7,036	5,406	-23.2
Pending December 31	1,618	818	688	-15.9
Average Time between Arrest and Disposition (Months)	3.5	2.5	2.5	

DELINQUENCY AND PINS CASES—REASON FOR REFERRAL

Reason	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Acts against Persons (assault, homicide, robbery, rape)	1,860	2,313	2,039	1,692	-17.0
Acts against Property (burglary, larceny, unauthorized use of auto)	3,410	3,302	3,216	2,945	- 8.4
Acts against Public Order (disorderly conduct, narcotics)	1,107	993	981	639	-34.9
Persons in Need of Supervision (truancy, beyond control)	<u>702</u>	<u>604</u>	<u>590</u>	474	-19.7
Total	7,079	7,212	6,826	5,750	-15.8



DELINQUENCY AND PINS CASES—DISPOSITIONS BY NUMBER AND TYPE

Type of Dispositions	Combined Totals				Boys								Girls							
					Delinquency				PINS				Delinquency				PINS			
	1974	1975	1976	1977	1974	1975	1976	1977	1974	1975	1976	1977	1974	1975	1976	1977	1974	1975	1976	1977
Dispositions by Judicial Action																				
Closed without a Finding	1,833	2,046	2,596	1,075	1,596	1,761	2,249	897	38	34	53	41	158	173	219	104	41	78	77	32
Commitment to S.R.A.	256	269	390	428	218	241	337	368	13	9	15	8	7	8	11	23	18	11	27	29
Consent Decree	1,210	1,448	1,369	777	1,031	1,223	1,108	651	32	23	32	13	94	159	155	93	53	43	64	20
Dismissed	822	1,198	610	408	706	1,028	453	331	24	43	30	24	66	86	83	29	26	41	50	24
Disposed on Another Case	38	24	143	4	35	23	133	193	1	0	0	1	2	1	9	14	0	0	1	0
Transferred to Adult Court	2	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Probation	710	534	584	700	650	472	519	614	14	10	13	12	32	44	42	64	14	8	10	10
Suspended Commitment	90	181	274	313	86	171	264	299	2	1	1	0	2	7	8	10	0	2	1	4
Other	70	4	0	3	7	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additions and Corrections to Dispositions for the Calendar Year				106				98				3				5				0
Subtotal	4,968	5,705	5,973	4,022	4,330	4,922	5,064	3,454	124	120	144	102	362	430	535	347	152	183	230	119
Not Petitioned	1,341	684	1,044	1,722	837	374	706	1,217	209	130	106	147	113	57	103	217	182	123	129	141
Total Dispositions	6,309	6,389	7,017	5,744	5,167	5,296	5,770	4,671	333	250	250	249	475	537	638	564	334	305	359	260

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES

Type of Case	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Divorce							
Pending January 1	4,189	3,348	3,506	3,597	3,963	4,831	21.9
Filed	4,062	4,309	4,251	4,155	3,990	4,334	8.6
Disposed	4,903	4,151	4,160	3,789	3,122	3,554	13.8
Pending December 31	3,348	3,506	3,597	3,963	4,831	5,611	16.2
Adoption							
Pending January 1	327	302	214	220	168	210	25.0
Filed	539	473	440	387	388	404	4.1
Disposed	564	561	434	439	346	391	13.0
Pending December 31	302	214	220	168	210	223	6.2
Paternity							
Pending January 1	234	169	259	278	359	395	10.0
Filed	302	266	224	293	406	410	1.0
Disposed	367	176	205	212	370	445	20.3
Pending December 31	169	259	278	359	395	360	-8.9
Support							
Pending January 1	560	463	307	621	584	676	15.8
Filed	555	365	465	378	242	405	67.2
Disposed	652	521	377	415	150	494	229.3
Pending December 31	463	307	621 ^a	584	676	587	-13.2
Habeas Corpus							
Pending January 1	11	8	11	10	25	26	4.0
Filed	9	17	6	24	6	17	183.3
Disposed	12	14	7	25	5	20	300.0
Pending December 31	8	11	10	25 ^b	26	23	-11.5
Reciprocal Support							
Pending January 1	1,289	766	594	768	975	879	-9.9
Filed	836	800	864	929	887	1,062	19.7
Disposed	1,359	972	690	722	983	830	-15.6
Pending December 31	766	594	768	975	879	1,111	26.4

^aIncludes an adjustment of 226 cases.

^bIncludes an adjustment of 16 cases.

SUMMARY OF INTRAFAMILY AND NEGLECT CASES

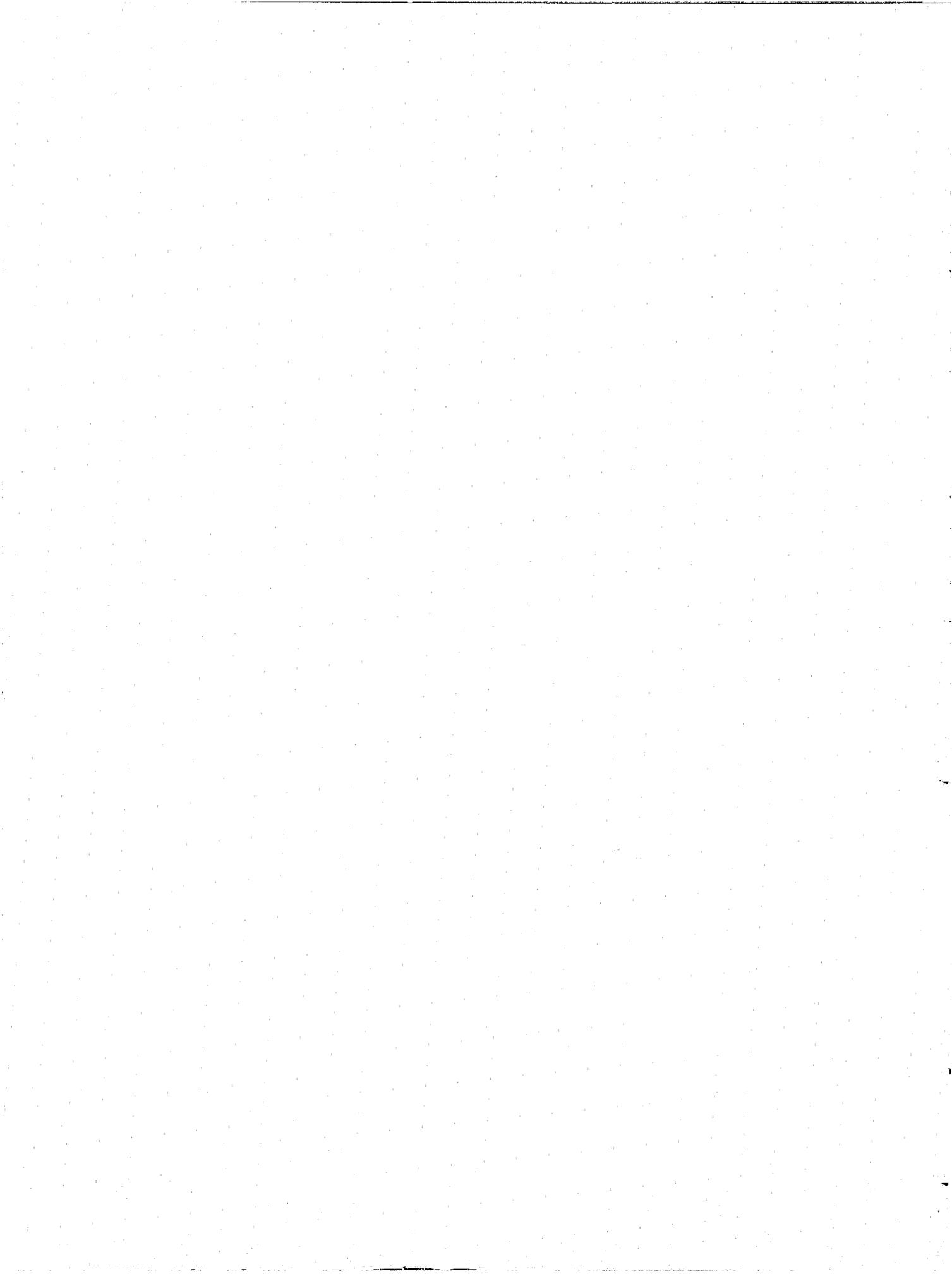
Type of Case	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
INTRAFAMILY							
Pending January 1	209	415	339	489	482	515*	6.9
Referrals during Year	<u>968</u>	<u>875</u>	<u>734</u>	<u>795</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>815</u>	- 0.4
Total	1,177	1,290	1,073	1,284	1,300	1,330	2.3
Dispositions							
Pending December 31	415	339	489	492	505	609**	20.6
NEGLECT							
Pending January 1	84	156	323	218	225	181*	-19.6
Referrals during Year	<u>577</u>	<u>643</u>	<u>693</u>	<u>544</u>	<u>565</u>	<u>539</u>	- 4.6
Total	661	799	1,016	762	790	719	- 9.0
Dispositions							
Pending December 31	156	323	218	221	181	168	- 7.2

*Adjustment

**Includes 476 "Return to Files" cases

COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH TRIALS

Activity	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Trial by Jury	4	4	7	11	9	3	-66.7
Trial by Court	7	0	1	3	3	22	633.3
Miscellaneous Mental Health Cases Filed							
Judicial Petitions Filed	NA	2,009	1,993	1,584	1,576	1,418	-10.0
Judicial Petitions Closed	NA	729	686	593	760	686	- 9.7
Judicial Petitions Pending	NA	751	665	601	726	726	-
Orders Signed	NA	57	78	70	104	69	-33.7
	NA	NA	3,619	3,161	3,665	3,373	- 8.0



SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION

ADULT PROBATION BRANCH

Case Load	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Probationers under Supervision January 1	3,217	4,062	3,579	3,305	4,089	4,263	- 4.3
New Cases Received for Supervision during Year	3,817	2,393	2,523	3,302	3,323	3,066	- 7.7
Cases Removed during Year							
Expiration of Probation	2,222	1,872	1,713	1,378	1,659	1,837	10.7
Probation Revocation	250	195	205	186	296	260	-12.2
Early Termination	500	809	651	658	709	716	1.0
Placed in Fugitive Status	0	0	0	0	* 485	*	
Transferred to SCORP	0	0	0	296	0		
Total	2,972	2,876	2,569	2,518	3,149	2,813	-10.7
Probationers under Supervision December 31							
Felony Cases	545	903	1,253	1,526	1,690	1,752	3.7
Misdemeanor Cases	3,517	2,676	2,280	2,563	2,573	2,764	7.4
Total	4,062	3,579	3,533	4,089	4,263	4,516	5.9
Presentence Investigations							
Felony Cases	1,027	1,478	1,658	2,077	2,059	1,702	-17.3
Misdemeanor Cases	3,387	2,098	2,343	2,483	2,677	2,940	9.8
Total	4,414	3,576	4,001	4,560	4,736	4,642	- 2.0
Average Monthly Probation Case Load	3,639	3,810	3,502	3,667	4,001	4,334	8.3
Total Authorized Probation Officer Positions	69	81	81	69	64	70	9.4

*Fugitive cases were removed from each probation officer's active case load.

JUVENILE PROBATION BRANCH

Case Load	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Cases under Supervision January 1							
Consent Decree	448	868	743	504	600	581	- 3.2
Probation				574	606	614	1.3
Suspended Commitment	1,914*	1,261*	963*	170	233	29	-87.6
Total	2,362	2,129	1,706	1,248	1,439	1,487	3.3
New Cases Received for Supervision							
Consent Decree	1,456	1,389	1,089	1,467	1,221	743	-39.2
Probation				779	736	812	10.3
Suspended Commitment	1,146*	928*	817*	219	244	253	3.7
Total	2,602	2,317	1,906	2,465	2,201	1,808	-17.9
Cases Removed during Year							
Expiration	NA	2,317	1,841	1,744	1,817	1,581	-13.0
Revocation	NA	254	209	188	103	152	47.6
Early Termination	NA	349	314	219	233	324	39.1
Transferred to SCORP	0	0	0	123	0	0	
Total	2,835	2,740	2,364	2,274	2,153	2,057	- 4.5
Cases under Supervision December 31							
Consent Decree	868	743	504	600	581	314	46.0
Probation			574	606	614	639	4.1
Suspended Commitment	1,261*	963*	170	233	292	285	- 2.4
Total	2,129	1,706	1,248	1,439	1,487	1,238	-16.8
Social Reports Completed	2,267	1,830	1,887	2,051	2,867	2,588	- 9.7
Average Monthly Supervision Case Load	2,245	1,918	1,406	1,344	1,471	1,409	- 4.2
Total Intake Cases	4,422	4,471	4,464	4,501	4,368	2,876	-34.4
Total Authorized Probation Officer Positions	56	57	55	50	47	46	- 2.1

*Includes both Probation and Suspended Commitment cases; separate case load data is not available.

INTRAFAMILY, NEGLECT, AND CONCILIATION BRANCH

Case Load	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Cases under Supervision January 1							
Intrafamily			345	545	585	544	- 7.0
Neglect	188 ^a	318 ^a	105	128 ^b	153	174 ^e	19.5
Child Support	4,747	4,279	3,917	3,624	1,572 ^c	1,475	- 6.2
Total	4,935	4,597	4,367	4,297	2,310	2,193	- 5.1
Cases Received during Year							
Intrafamily		3,408	3,024	2,995	2,778	2,316	-16.6
Neglect	4,176 ^a	670	851 ^b	163	150	131	-12.7
Child Support	185	522	184	145	93	89	- 4.3
Total	4,361	4,600	4,059	3,303	3,021	2,536	-16.1
Cases Removed during year							
Intrafamily		3,336	2,824	2,951	2,819	2,410	-14.5
Neglect	4,046 ^a	610	610 ^b	132	187	128	-31.6
Child Support	653	884	477	320	190 ^c	279	46.7
Transferred to SCORP	0	0	0	269 ^d	0		
Total	4,699	4,830	3,911	3,672	4,196	2,817	-32.9
Cases under Supervision December 31							
Intrafamily		345	545	585	544	450	-17.3
Neglect	318 ^a	105	346 ^b	153	116	177	52.6
Child Support	4,279	3,917	3,624	3,190	1,475 ^c	1,285	-12.9
Total	4,597	4,367	4,515	3,928	2,135	1,912	-10.4
Average Monthly Case Load							
Intrafamily		299	445	581	565	497	-12.0
Neglect	253 ^a	75	225 ^b	154	135	176	30.4
Child Support	4,513	4,108	3,771	3,277	1,524 ^c	1,380	-9.5
Total	4,766	4,482	4,441	4,012	2,225	2,053	-7.7
Social Investigations Completed	NA	NA	546	515	529	473	-10.6
Total Authorized Probation Officer Positions	25	28	31	32	29	24	-17.2

^aIncludes both Intrafamily and Neglect cases; separate case load data is not available.

^bIncludes protective supervision cases and cases being supervised during intake phase. For 1975 and thereafter to show Neglect case load more accurately, intake cases are deleted and only protective supervision cases are shown.

^cIncludes only those cases being actively supervised. Pending January 1, 1976, the Locator's case load was an additional 1,618 cases, of which 105 were removed during the year, with 1,513 pending December 31; active monthly case load at 1,666 cases.

^dAmong the 269 cases transferred to SCORP, there were four Intrafamily, six Neglect, and 259 Child Support cases.

^eAdjustment to neglect case load made by physical case count.

SUPERIOR COURT OUTREACH PROJECT

Case Load	1975	1976	1977
Supervision Cases at Beginning of Year^a			
Adult	296	344	417
Juvenile	123	151	214
Intrafamily	4	15	26
Neglect	6	29	27
Child Support	<u>259</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>247</u>
Total	688	786	931
New Cases Received for Supervision			
Adult	294	414	286
Juvenile	294	300	250
Intrafamily	24	207 ^b	7
Neglect	44	24	165
Child Support	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	656	947	708
Cases Removed during Year			
Adult	246	348	254
Juvenile	266	237	281
Intrafamily	13	195 ^b	14
Neglect	21	27	165
Child Support	<u>12</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	558	809	715
Cases under Supervision December 31			
Adult	344	417	449
Juvenile	151	214	183
Intrafamily	15	27	19
Neglect	29	26	27
Child Support	<u>247</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>246</u>
Total	786	931	924
Social Investigations Completed			
Adult	464	513	508
Juvenile	269	294	386
Intrafamily & Neglect	<u>80</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>34</u>
Total	763	856	928
Total Authorized Positions	16	16	16

^a SCORP commenced in July 1975.

^b Intrafamily cases were not fully integrated into SCORP's case load until early 1976.

FRIENDS OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

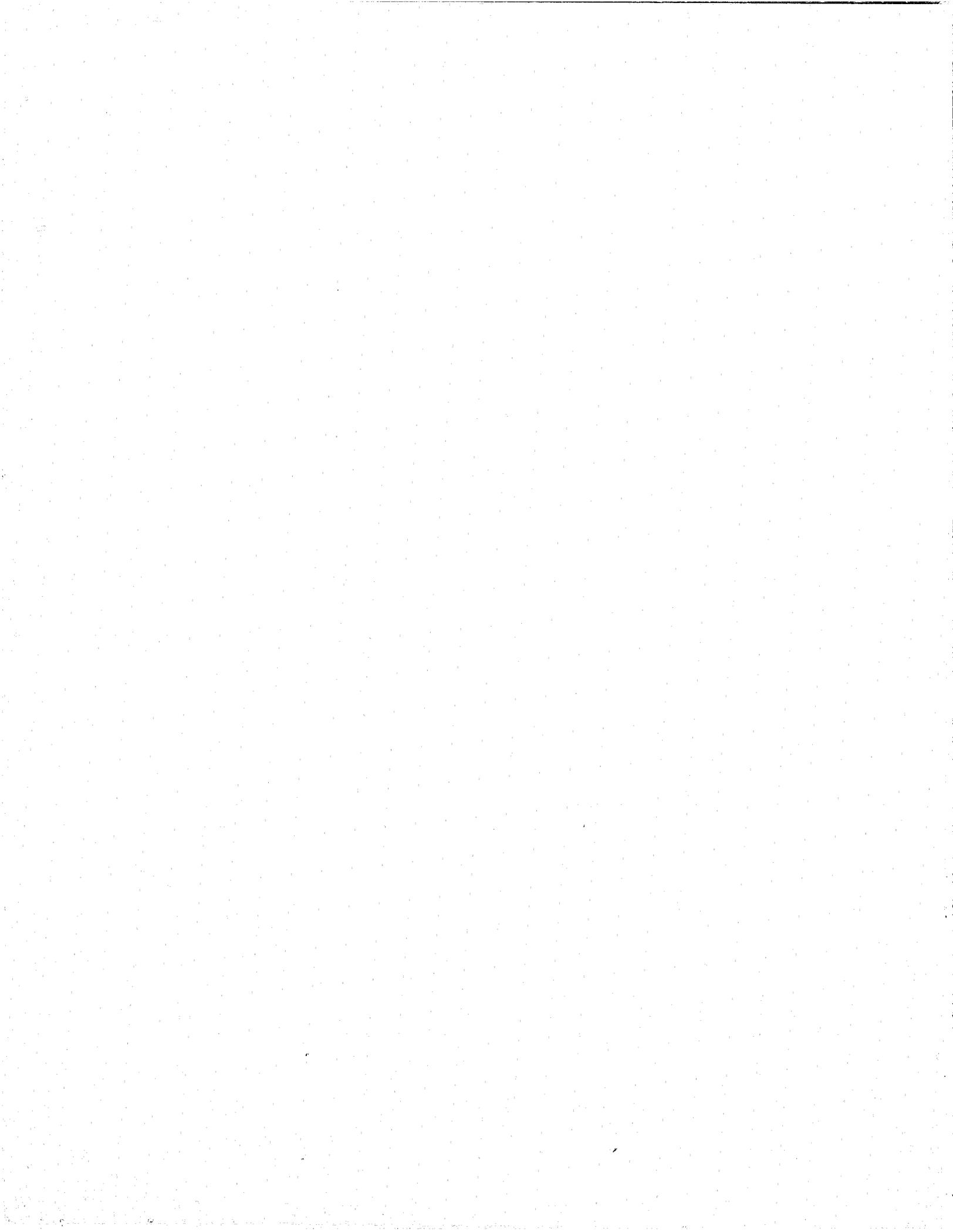
Number of Volunteers/Interns by Area of Placement			
	Volunteers	Interns	Total
Location			
Adult Branch, SSD	17	13	30
Juvenile Branch, SSD	26	23	49
Intrafamily Branch, SSD	0	1	1
Narcotic Diversion Unit	0	2	2
SCORP	26	30	56
Administration:			
a. Summer Camp	3	0	3
b. Resource Development	0	1	1
c. Research	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	72	72	144

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY ACTIVITY

	Cases	Clients	Number of Attorneys	Hours
Supervising Attorneys	-	-	-	237
Student Attorneys	98*	-	-	653
Volunteer Attorneys	<u>2,020</u>	<u>3,450</u>	<u>171*</u>	<u>2,456</u>
Totals	2,118	3,450	171	3,346

*The same attorney may have made repeated appearances.

TAX DIVISION



CONTINUED

1 OF 2

SUMMARY OF TAX DIVISION CASES

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
CRIMINAL TAX CASES						
Pending January 1	79	53	0	28	522	1,764.3
Cases Filed	91	7	64	562 ¹	363 ³	-35.4
Reinstated	0	0	0	0	0	
Total to be Disposed	170	60	64	590	885	50.0
Dispositions						
Nolle Prosequi	75	34	17	47	346	636.2
Dismissed	1	19	0	9	22	144.4
Trial by Court	41	0	19	12	179	1,391.7
Jury Trial	0	2	0	0	30	
Total	117	60	36	68	577	748.6
Pending December 31	53	0	28	522	311 ⁴	-40.4
Fines Imposed	\$9,700.00	\$5,548.00	\$16,200.00	\$4,800.00	\$31,850.00	563.6
Fines Collected	\$3,805.00	\$3,775.00	\$ 1,400.00	\$4,050.00	\$ 2,925.00	-27.8
Fines Suspended	\$2,450.00	\$1,275.00	\$15,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$12,950.00	1,195.0
CIVIL TAX CASES						
Pending January 1	70	73	79	103	118	14.6
Petitions Filed	26	53	78	63	58	-7.8
Certified from Another Division	0	1	0	3	0	-100.00
Reinstated	1	4	5	2	4	100.0
Total to be Disposed	97	131	162	171	180	5.3
Dispositions						
Dismissed	1	35	22	16	9	-43.8
Trial by Court	12	6	16	9	6	-33.3
Judgments	23	17	37	28	30	7.1
Total	36	58	59	53	46	-13.2
Pending December 31	73	79	103	118 ²	134 ⁵	13.6
Tax Invoked	\$63,915,907.49	\$9,323,584.90	\$17,942,586.23	\$2,175,732.52	\$2,768,405.85	27.2
Tax Refunded	\$ 197,862.08	\$ 106,609.86	\$ 575,755.11	\$ 391,457.55	\$ 977,362.26	149.7
TAX APPEALS						
Appeals Filed	10	7	6	11	10	-9.1
Appeals Returned						
Affirmed	3	2	4	0	2	100.0
Remanded	1	0	3	1	3	200.0
Dismissed	0	2	2	3	5	66.7
Affirmed in Part				1	0	-100.0
Reversed in Part	0	0	1			
Withdrawn				0	2	
Reversed				0	1	
Pending December 31	6	9	5	11	9	-18.2

¹This figure indicates number of charges brought against 51 individuals and organizations.

²Of the 118 petitions pending December 31, 1976, 18 are held on Reserve Calendar by Order of this Court, 65 are awaiting judgment, 21 are held under advisement, 14 have not been brought to issue.

³This figure indicates number of charges brought against 64 individuals and organizations.

⁴This figure includes an administrative adjustment of +3 charges.

⁵Of the 134 cases pending December 31, 1977, 29 are held on the Reserve Calendar by Order of this Court, 15 are held under advisement, 5 have not been brought to issue, and the remainder, 85, are awaiting judgment.

CENTRAL VIOLATIONS BUREAU

TRAFFIC VIOLATION ACTIONS

Activity	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Total Number of TVN's Received from Police Department	1,309,365	1,652,204	1,532,874	1,293,764	-16
Number of TVI's Processed and Closed at CVB	1,020,379	1,054,007	1,514,750	1,007,887	-34
Number of Trials Requested	59,015	78,570	106,052	101,168	-5
Number of Notices of Intent to Issue Warrant	444,997	522,586	472,756	344,042	-27
Number of Warrants Issued	246,936	353,862	339,854	260,034	-24

PROBATE DIVISION

SUMMARY OF PROBATE DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Activity	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Fees Collected	\$255,145.46	\$399,512.37	\$348,869.45	\$326,803.58	\$331,067.44	1.3
New Wills Filed	2,283	2,240	2,048	2,134	2,045	-4.2
New Cases Filed						
Decedents' Estates	2,456	2,452	2,430	2,416	2,352	-2.7
Minors' Estates	165	158	177	152	150	-1.3
Orders Signed by Court:						
Appointing Fiduciaries and Granting Fiduciary Intermediate Relief	3,740	4,094	3,796	3,681	3,469	-5.8
Approving and Closing Estates	2,768	2,705	2,758	2,701	2,455	-9.1
Miscellaneous Orders*	1,333	999	1,231	1,388	1,396	.6

*Includes summary hearings, payment of funeral expenses, small estates (under \$2,500), and orders nisi.

AUDITOR-MASTER DIVISION

SUMMARY OF AUDITOR-MASTER DIVISION ACTIVITIES

Activity*	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Pending January 1							
Superior Court	0	328	296	373	296	333	12.5
U.S. District Court	<u>547</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>59</u>	7.3
Total	547	494	391	462	351	392	11.7
New Filings							
Superior Court	863	1,461	1,547	1,512	1,475	1,340	-9.2
U.S. District Court	<u>1,308</u>	<u>383</u>	<u>296</u>	<u>246</u>	<u>242</u>	<u>227</u>	-6.2
Total	2,171	1,844	1,843	1,758	1,717	1,567	-8.7
Dispositions							
Superior Court	535	1,493	1,470	1,589	1,438	1,154	-19.8
U.S. District Court	<u>1,689</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>302</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>238</u>	<u>202</u>	-15.1
Total	2,224	1,947	1,772	1,869	1,676	1,356	-19.1
Pending December 31							
Superior Court	328	296	373	296	333	519	55.9
U.S. District Court	<u>166</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>84</u>	42.4
Total	494	391	462	351	392	603	53.8

*Business includes fiduciary accounts, orders of reference, and inventories.

MARRIAGE BUREAU

SUMMARY OF MARRIAGE BUREAU ACTIVITIES

Activity	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Fees Collected	\$26,404	\$26,012	\$24,882	\$25,119	\$24,880	\$24,948	\$26,296	5.4
Ministers' Licenses Issued	457	439	419	400	399	385	386	0.3
Marriage Applications Received	7,031	6,606	5,978	5,456	5,079	4,900	4,923	0.5
Marriage Licenses Issued	6,847	6,415	5,812	5,305	4,902	4,676	4,787	2.4
Religious Ceremonies Performed	5,676	5,265	4,775	4,496	4,102	4,103	4,105	0.1
Civil Ceremonies Performed	1,110	1,019	886	775	682	508	534	5.1

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT SYSTEM
DETAILED STATISTICAL TABLES

L APPENDIX III



FINANCIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

**TOTAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS**

	1975		1976		1977	
	Receipts	Disbursements	Receipts	Disbursements	Receipts	Disbursements
COURT OF APPEALS	\$ 293,620.65	\$ 293,620.65	\$ 372,659.25	\$ 372,659.25	\$ 458,481.40	\$ 458,481.40
SUPERIOR COURT						
Criminal Division:						
Fines & Forfeitures	10,004,957.96	9,125,456.20	14,904,586.44	13,972,190.13	15,435,618.15	14,357,370.65
Refunds	—	375,563.27	—	603,711.90	—	832,636.82
Total	\$10,004,957.96	\$ 9,501,019.47	\$14,904,586.44	\$14,575,902.03	\$15,435,618.15	\$15,190,007.47
Tax Division—Fees	\$ 380.00	\$ 380.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 340.00	\$ 340.00
Civil Division:						
Fees	\$ 400,772.25	\$ 400,772.25	\$ 392,830.27	\$ 392,830.27	\$ 1,061,579.42	\$ 1,061,579.42
Escrow	1,533,129.78	1,223,188.24	2,046,650.53	1,555,612.33	1,300,226.34	1,592,403.57
Total	\$ 1,933,902.03	\$ 1,623,960.49	\$ 2,439,480.80	\$ 1,948,442.60	\$ 2,361,805.76	\$ 2,653,982.99
Marriage Bureau—Fees	\$ 25,592.21	\$ 25,592.21	\$ 22,985.15	\$ 22,985.15	\$ 26,347.75	\$ 26,347.75
Family Division:						
Fees	\$ 34,208.70	\$ 34,208.70	\$ 33,185.09	\$ 33,185.09	\$ 37,615.96	\$ 37,615.96
Escrow	7,091,484.87	7,095,654.77	7,784,875.90	7,776,317.87	8,071,895.62	8,102,480.38
Total	\$ 7,125,693.57	\$ 7,129,863.47	\$ 7,818,060.99	\$ 7,809,502.96	\$ 8,109,511.58	\$ 8,140,096.34
Auditor-Master—Fees	\$ 128,941.53	\$ 128,941.53	\$ 132,450.85	\$ 132,450.85	\$ 103,329.94	\$ 103,329.94
Register of Wills:						
Fees	\$ 344,289.25	\$ 344,289.25	\$ 320,997.97	\$ 320,997.97	\$ 331,047.44	\$ 331,047.44
Escrow	85,923.25	85,923.25	76,017.26	76,017.26	230,922.11	230,922.11
Total	\$ 430,212.50	\$ 430,212.50	\$ 397,015.23	\$ 397,015.23	\$ 561,969.55	\$ 561,969.55
Other Income:						
Court Reporter Transcripts	\$ 5,348.25	\$ 5,348.25	\$ 3,064.20	\$ 3,064.20	\$ 2,304.75	\$ 2,304.75
Interest Income	14,907.57	14,907.57	17,702.35	17,702.35	54,697.94	54,697.94
Total	\$ 20,255.82	\$ 20,255.82	\$ 20,766.55	\$ 20,766.55	\$ 57,002.69	\$ 57,002.69
Unclaimed Deposits (over two years old)	—	\$ 151,285.52	—	\$ 142,556.44	—	\$ 150,947.94
Superior Court—Total Received and Disbursed	\$19,669,935.62	\$19,011,511.01	\$25,735,611.01	\$25,049,886.81	\$26,655,925.52	\$26,884,024.67
TOTAL—DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS	\$19,963,556.27	\$19,305,131.66	\$26,108,270.26	\$25,422,546.06	\$27,114,406.82	\$27,342,506.07

CASH INCOME OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS

	1975	1976	1977
COURT OF APPEALS			
Fees:	\$ 293,620.65	\$ 372,659.25	\$ 458,481.40
SUPERIOR COURT			
Criminal Division			
Fines and Forfeitures			
District of Columbia	\$ 109,508.50	\$ 136,798.00	120,693.50
United States	57,579.43	128,638.99	94,914.63
Traffic	<u>8,958,368.27</u>	<u>13,706,753.14</u>	<u>14,141,762.52</u>
Total	\$ 9,125,456.20	\$13,972,190.13	\$14,357,370.65
Tax Division—Fees	\$ 380.00	\$ 265.00	\$ 340.00
Civil Division—Fees			
Civil Action	\$ 111,827.65	\$ 114,987.56	\$ 346,014.05
Small Claims	35,707.85	37,370.47	126,141.77
Landlord and Tenant	253,236.75	240,472.24	589,423.60
Marriage Bureau	<u>25,592.21</u>	<u>22,985.15</u>	<u>26,347.75</u>
Total	\$ 426,364.46	\$ 415,815.42	\$ 1,087,927.17
Family Division—Fees	\$ 34,208.70	\$ 33,185.09	\$ 37,615.96
Auditor-Master—Fees	\$ 128,941.53	\$ 132,450.85	\$ 103,329.94
Register of Wills—Fees	\$ 344,289.25	\$ 320,997.97	\$ 331,048.34
Other Income			
Court Reporter Transcripts	\$ 5,348.25	\$ 3,064.20	\$ 2,304.75
Interest Income	14,907.57	17,702.35	54,697.94
Unclaimed Deposits (over two years old)	<u>151,285.52</u>	<u>142,556.44</u>	<u>150,947.94</u>
Total	\$ 171,541.34	\$ 163,322.99	\$ 207,950.63
TOTAL CASH INCOME	\$10,524,802.13	\$15,410,886.70	\$16,584,064.09



COURT REPORTER DIVISION

TRANSCRIPT PRODUCTION BY COURT REPORTERS

Production/Staffing	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Total Pages Produced	82,354	150,778	180,772	204,640	219,667	204,578	-6.86
Number of Pages Produced for Appeals	43,327	67,567	117,802	106,749	127,873	126,092	-1.39
Number of Pages Produced for Judges	NA	2,993	8,237	14,298	3,350	4,377	30.07
Percentage of Appeal Pages/Total Pages Produced	52.6%	44.8%	65.2%	52.2%	58.2%	61.6%	5.05
Number of Appeal Orders Processed	660	592	1,196	860	1,006	1,104	9.07
Number of Reporter Positions Filled as of December 31	40	41	41	39	40	40	0

TRANSCRIPT PRODUCTION FROM AUDIO TAPES BY TRANSCRIBER-TYPISTS

Production/Staffing	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	% Change 1976-1977
Pages Produced by Transcriber-Typists:							
Appeal Cases	297	700	880	751	763	321	-57.9
Non-Appeal Cases	2,614	3,607	2,202	2,446	1,202	1,185	-1.4
Judges' Transcripts	NA	63	277	315	506	181	-64.0
Total	NA	4,370	3,359	3,512	2,471	1,687	-31.7
Pages Produced by Reporter Volunteers:							
Appeal Cases	1,105	1,804	334	523	1,486	256	-82.0
Non-Appeal Cases	2,358	2,200	844	494	1,010	1,019	9.9
Total	3,463	4,004	1,178	1,017	2,496	1,275	-48.9
Total Pages Produced from Court Memory System	NA	8,374	4,537	4,529	4,967	2,962	-40.3
Number of Cases Pending Transcription as of December 31	NA	NA	NA	NA	40	19	-52.5
Number of Transcriber- Typist Positions Authorized as of December 31	3	4	4	5	3	2	-33.3
Number of Courtrooms Equipped with Court Memory System	9	9	9	9	9	9	—



END