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1981 ANNUAL REPORT  
**NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY**  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1980—AUGUST 31, 1981

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex • CN-037 • Trenton • New Jersey • 08625

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ROBERT D. LIPSCHER  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COURTS



CN-087  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

To the Honorable Chief Justice  
and Justices of the Supreme Court

The annual report of the Judiciary of the State of New Jersey tells a story of effort and diligence throughout the judicial branch. It presents an accounting of the work of the Judiciary for the court year 1981. That accounting -- of each level of court, of each vicinage, and of each new program and activity -- shows the accomplishments of the past year to be balanced, effective, and significant.

The report shows balance in that progress in one area has not meant reduction in performance in another. It shows effectiveness in the ability of the court system to clear its calendar for the second year in a row and reduce the number of pending cases. It shows significance in the activities of several important program such as the Statewide Speedy Trial program and the recommendations of the Committee on Efficiency for improvement trial court operations. The instances of higher productivity and efforts to improve services extend throughout the Judiciary; in virtually every division the volume of work grew and the ability of the court system to handle the workload increased. The New Jersey court system, in short, is continuing its traditional position of national leadership while building and maintaining quality in the service to the public.

Programs receive their effectiveness only from the people who implement them. The accomplishments recorded here were made possible through the dedication of the many persons who make up the judicial branch, the judges, the court clerks, the trial court administrators, the chief probation officers, and the staffs of each of them, as well as the staff of the Administrative Office of the Courts. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court, the members of the judicial system strive to fulfill the promise upon which this system was founded: to give to the people of New Jersey high quality justice through a continuing and unremitting search for excellence. With the knowledge that progress in judicial administration is made only when that fundamental commitment to quality is renewed each year by each judge, each court officer, and each court employee, I am proud to present on behalf of the entire court family our accounting for court year 1981.

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert D Lipscher*

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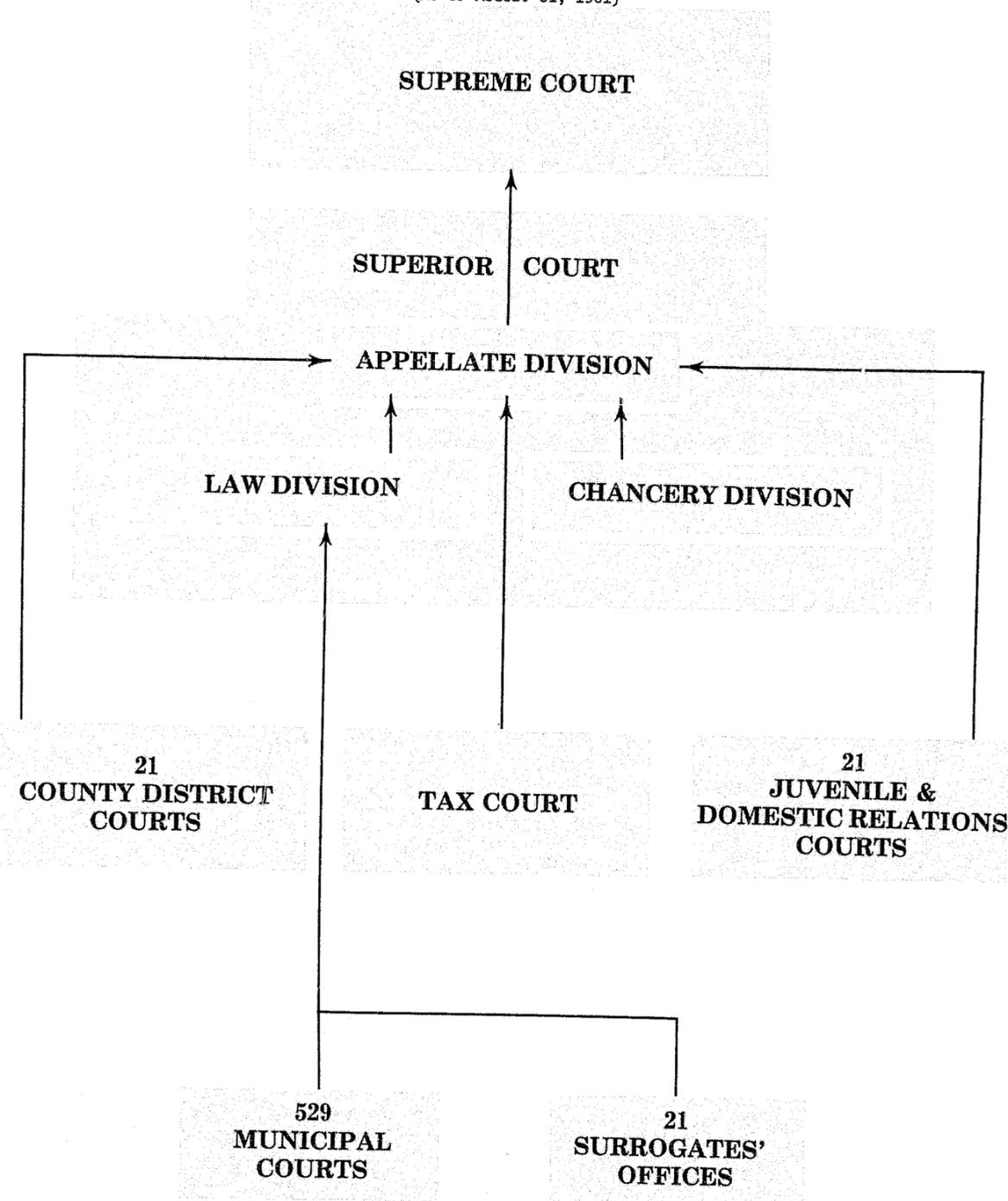
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# The Court System

(AS OF AUGUST 31, 1981)



# of New Jersey

(JUSTICES, JUDGES AND JURISDICTIONS)

**SUPREME COURT:** Chief Justice and 6 Associate Justices. Initial term of 7 years with tenure on reappointment. Mandatory retirement at 70.

**Final Appeal in:**

1. Constitutional questions
2. Issues where dissent in Appellate Division
3. Capital causes
4. Certifications
5. In such causes as provided by law

**SUPERIOR COURT:** 236 Judges authorized. Term, tenure and retirement same as Supreme Court. (Tenured former County Court judges have tenure on the Superior Court, and former County Court judges not having tenure as of December 7, 1978 hold office for the unexpired portion of their terms and acquire tenure upon reappointment.)

**APPELLATE DIVISION**

**Appeals from:**

1. Law and Chancery Divisions
2. County District Courts
3. Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courts
4. State Administrative Agencies
5. Tax Court
6. As provided by law

**LAW DIVISION**

1. General jurisdiction in all causes, civil and criminal
2. Proceedings in lieu of prerogative writs, except review of state administrative agencies
3. Appeals from Municipal Courts and Wage Collection Section, Office of Wage and Hour Compliance
4. Probate

**CHANCERY DIVISION**

1. General equity
2. Matrimonial
3. Probate

**COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS:** 39 Judges authorized. Term: 5 years. Tenure after 10 years and third appointment. Mandatory retirement at 70.

1. Contract, penalty, and tort actions at \$5,000
2. Landlord and tenant
3. Small claims at \$1,000
4. Concurrent criminal and quasi-criminal jurisdiction with Municipal Courts
5. Bastardy and filiation proceedings
6. Actions by creditors against an estate up to \$5,000
7. Up to \$5,000 for disciplinary sanctions by professional and occupational boards of the Division of Consumer Affairs.

**TAX COURT (Effective July 1, 1979):** 12 Judges authorized. Term same as Supreme Court except for the 1979 appointments. Tenure and retirement same as Supreme Court. The Tax Court reviews the determinations of agencies and officials charged with administration of state and local taxes and in particular:

1. Local property tax assessments
2. State tax assessments
3. Equalization tables promulgated by the director of the Division of Taxation or the County Boards of Taxation

**JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS:** 35 Judges authorized. Term: 5 years. Tenure after 10 years and third appointment. Mandatory retirement at 70.

1. Exclusive jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency\* and "juveniles in need of supervision."
2. Child abuse matters
3. Support
4. Temporary custody of children
5. Bastardy and filiation proceedings

**MUNICIPAL COURTS:** 364 Judges. Term: 3 years.

1. Traffic and motor vehicle violations
2. Ordinance violations
3. Disorderly persons offenses
4. Fish and game and navigation violations
5. Bastardy and filiation proceedings
6. Other specified crimes (where penalty does not exceed 1 year incarceration or \$1,000 fine) and offenses (where value of property does not exceed \$500), including some

7. crimes where indictment and trial by jury can be waived.
7. Probable cause hearings on indictable offenses.

**SURROGATES' OFFICES:** 21 Surrogates. Elected. Term: 5 years.

1. Uncontested probate matters
2. Deputy clerk of the Superior Court for probate matters

\*"Juvenile delinquency" excludes violations of chapters 3, 4, 6 and 8 of Title 39 of the N.J. Statutes where juveniles are 17 years old.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### CALENDAR CLEARANCE

For the second consecutive year, New Jersey's courts disposed of more cases than were added: 711,391 terminations compared to 700,516 cases added. The goal of calendar clearance had previously been achieved only three times since 1948, once in each decade of the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. The past year, however, marked the first time in history that the court system cleared overall for two years in a row. The success at achieving clearance is particularly noteworthy because the total number of cases added in 1981 increased by 6.9%, and the time consuming trial court calendars of Law, Civil and Law, Criminal had increases of 8% and 27%, respectively.

### COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY

The Supreme Court Committee on Efficiency in the Operations of the Courts brought together businessmen, government leaders of all levels, and judges in a major effort to improve the efficiency and productivity of the trial courts. Chaired by Robert Van Fossan, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, the Committee presented reports to the 1981 Judicial Conference preliminary to presenting its first-year report to the Supreme Court in 1982.

The findings in the report go to the heart of trial court operation. The Committee found that the trial courts operated not as one comprehensive court organization, but in different ways in each county, subject to the vicissitudes of approaches followed by independent units within each county. While these separate units seek to do their best within their own areas of operation, their performance would be improved by better integration into the overall operations of the Judiciary, where they

would be part of a total organization which sustained and supported them. This lack of cohesiveness, particularly with respect to such vital functions as caseflow management, severely handicaps the Judiciary in its ability to achieve management goals.

The Committee recommended several major changes to integrate the trial court support system and to achieve improved judicial accountability. The recommendations include state funding of the trial courts and their support system, the creation of a statewide judicial personnel system, better internal management in the Judiciary, direct judicial control over clerical support operations, and the use of modern records management and information processing.

### SPEEDY TRIAL

After months of local and statewide planning, the criminal Speedy Trial program began on January 1, 1981. The program sets a goal over a three-year period of reducing the time from arrest to disposition to 135 days for all but exceptional cases. The statewide program, the first of its kind in the nation, sets specific time goals for each of the major intervals of the criminal case process.

In the first year, the program achieved notable successes. Most importantly, the median time from complaint to disposition for all criminal cases that went to trial declined from 350 days in late-1980 to just 217 days at the end of 1981. In addition, nearly three-quarters of the 1981 criminal case filings were tried within 161 days, compared with just one-third in 1980.

These impressive results showed that the Speedy Trial program had succeeded in substantially accomplishing

its first year goals. More complete data during 1982, and the imposition of the more demanding second-year time goals, present continued challenges for the program; but Speedy Trial in New Jersey has been launched successfully.

#### COMPUTERIZATION AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

The New Jersey project for computerization in the courts advanced considerably during 1981. A Supreme Court committee working with AOC staff and the National Center for State Courts examined the need for computerization and the ways to introduce it. The committee has as its goal the development of a master plan for automation at all levels of court.

Other management information projects continued with the need for integration with the master plan in mind. Chief among them is CAMIS, or computer-assisted micrographics, being developed in the Superior Court. CAMIS became operational in the Matrimonial Division during 1981, and it was implemented in General Equity as well. Installation in the Law Division will take effect in September 1982. CAMIS, which permits the elimination of manual docketing and the production of timely reports for case management, also eliminates the duplicate filing of papers with both the county offices and the Superior Court Clerk in Trenton.

The project to develop an automated system to manage the Superior Court Trust Fund also advanced. Working with the National Center, the AOC developed a computer program to manage each of the 7,000 plus individual accounts in the Fund, and to accurately post accrued interest on a timely basis.

#### JUVENILE JUSTICE/FAMILY COURT

In anticipation of legislation proposing major changes in the juvenile justice system and the creation of the long-sought family court, Chief

Justice Wilentz appointed a five-member Preliminary Family Part Planning Committee. Chaired by Associate Justice Morris Pashman, the committee's mandate is to identify major policy issues to confront the Judiciary in its effort to implement the family court concept. Once identified these issues will then be referred to a broad-based Supreme Court Committee for discussion and recommendation.

The legislation will bring large scale changes to the courts which must be accommodated by sound advance planning. It would abolish the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and establish county family courts, require family crisis intervention units in every county, eliminate the offense category Juveniles in Need of Supervision, revise criteria for disclosure of information about juvenile offenders, and authorize the court to order both the juvenile and his or her parents to participate in programs to rehabilitate the juvenile.

#### YOUTH SERVICES/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Chief Justice and the State Attorney General have launched a community-based effort to fight juvenile delinquency through the Youth Services/Community Involvement Project.

Starting with pilot committees in Burlington, Middlesex, and Somerset Counties, the new program offers citizens an opportunity work with court, law enforcement, education, police, child welfare professionals, and others to assist children in trouble and to help curb juvenile delinquency.

Commissions have been established at the municipal, county, and state levels. It is the first such project to attempt to coordinate the responses to juvenile delinquency at the state and county levels. With this program, the Judiciary and law enforcement system are calling upon the knowledge and participation of key community representatives to confront the difficult issues of juvenile

delinquency in an effort to find new approaches to help resolve these problems.

#### CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The Child Support Enforcement Program, jointly administered by Probation Departments and county welfare agencies, now involves more than a quarter of a million children, or one in every eight children living in New Jersey. In 1981, the program collected \$124.4 million in court ordered support payments, a 10% increase over the previous year. A total of \$92.4 million went directly to families not on welfare, and \$31.9 million went to county welfare boards as reimbursement for welfare payments. The 1981 caseload in child support enforcement increased 8% over the previous year to 140,982 cases.

#### BAIL REFORM

The 10% cash bail program became universal in all New Jersey counties during the year. The program allows a judge to release defendants who post 10% of the bail amount, but no less than \$25. Previously, a defendant's basic alternative to jail pending trial was to seek the assistance of a bail bondsman whose rates were prohibitive to many, thus increasing the number of persons incarcerated at county expense. Since many such persons had roots in the community which largely assured their appearance, which is the fundamental purpose of posting bond, the new program provided a low cost and humanitarian approach for accommodating both social and individual needs without unnecessary imposition on the taxpayers of the county.

During the year judges in certain municipalities in Essex and Passaic Counties were given greater authority in setting bail in an experimental relaxation of Rule 3:26-2. Under the experiment certain municipal judges may set bail in cases involving aggravated assault, aggravated sexual assault, and second degree robbery, which, under the rule, previously

could only be set by a Superior Court Judge. These two counties were selected because of heavy workload and extensive time delays experienced in getting bail conditions set. The experiment is being closely monitored.

#### JAIL OVERCROWDING

Throughout 1981, the total population in county jails exceeded capacity. To help insure that the situation would be closely watched, the Administrative Office of the Courts developed a system for monitoring the county jail populations on a weekly basis for court, law enforcement, and State and county corrections officials. It also participated on a Task Force to study prison overcrowding and recommend alternative space for prisoners. The AOC recommendation for intensive probation supervision was considered to be a significant innovation directed toward alleviating the prison overcrowding problem. Under intensive supervision, certain selected non-violent offenders may gain release from prison by remaining under a probation officer's close supervision and by maintaining steady employment.

#### RESTITUTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE: ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION

Six counties pursued restitution and community service work during the year with emphasis on rehabilitation of the defendant. A total of 459 people, out of 1,453 considered, were selected for the program. More than half of those people paid restitution totalling \$234,882, the rest performed community service work for a total of 167 community agencies, and seven individuals paid restitution and performed community service. Examples of community service include: assistance to probation departments, service on youth "hotlines," repairs and improvements to public playgrounds.

#### VIOLENT CRIMES COMPENSATION

Accelerated efforts to improve penalty assessment and collection under the Violent Crimes Compensation

Act of 1980, produced more than \$700,000 in collections and an average 98% assessment rate in Superior and Municipal Courts, during the first seven months of 1981. The law requires that a minimum penalty of \$25 for all persons convicted of a crime or the indictable offense of simple assault. If the crime caused injury or death, the sentencing judge can impose a penalty up to \$10,000 for each criminal act. These penalties are turned over to the Violent Crimes Compensation Board, which aids crime victims. Collections are made by the courts and county probation departments, and by the Department of Corrections for penalties owed by those incarcerated.

#### SUPREME COURT TASK FORCE ON SMALL CLAIMS

During the Spring of 1981, Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz appointed the Task Force on Small Claims and in his mandate to its members encouraged them to "be bold" in suggesting improvements covering small claims litigation. The Task Force, composed of members of the bench and bar, focused on five areas for improvement will submit its Final Report to the Supreme Court Committee on County District Court in 1982.

The five areas examined by the Task Force in the Small Claims Division of the County District Court are:

1. Statutes and rules concerning jurisdiction and practice;
2. Information to the public and litigants, filing and pretrial matters;
3. Alternate modes of dispute resolution or case disposition;
4. Conduct at the court trial; and
5. Post-trial matters.

The Task Force is recommending that, where appropriate, alternative court hours be available for hearing disputes, further, it recommends that a variety of notices and explanations

be given to the parties both during the course of litigation so that the parties truly understand the functioning of the court and the resolution of their dispute and also after judgment is rendered so that payment is more likely. The Task Force also recommends that alternative methods of dispute resolution, such as mediation, be explored to provide assistance to all parties.

#### CIVIL APPEALS SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

The first six months of an experimental Civil Appeals Settlement Program has produced a success rate of more than 40%. The program, conducted by Judge Baruch Seidman, Appellate Division Superior Court, is designed to reduce the number of cases heard in the Appellate Division. Essentially the program deals with negligence, divorce property settlements, wills and estates, and general equity cases. Criminal matters are not heard.

The appeals settlement program offers direct financial benefits to all concerned. Litigants save considerably on the costs of an appeal, and the state saves resources also. The settlements are achieved more quickly than a contested appeal could be, and the results are often more satisfactory than a court-imposed decision might be.

The settlement program offers civil litigants the opportunity for settlement prior to the argument of their appeal. A settlement conference is held with Judge Seidman, who has been the only judge assigned to the program since its inception in Fall of 1981. At the conference, a settlement may be achieved or issues in controversy may be narrowed. During the first six months, 205 conferences were held, and 90 cases settled either prior to conference or following the settlement conference.

#### JURY UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The past court year signalled the start of comprehensive jury system

management in New Jersey. Until this time, the jury systems operated independently in each county, and little centralized management existed.

The first step in a statewide jury program was to collect data on each county's jury operations. The data helped to identify concerns and problems, especially concerning jury system management and the experiences of jurors. Many of the problems were similar from county to county, emphasizing the utility of a statewide program. Work also progressed in the next step in the project, the development of performance standards for jury systems.

The five pilot counties selected under L.E.A.A.'s Jury Utilization/Management Incentive Program to experiment with modern management techniques began their efforts mid-way through the court year. Two of the counties instituted noteworthy changes during the court year. Camden County instituted a one day/one trial term of service, starting in March of 1981. Under one day/one trial, jurors are summoned for one day only. If not selected for a trial during the day, the juror is released from service. If selected to sit on a trial, the juror serves until the end of the trial and is then released from service. The program in Camden has been a tremendous success both from the juror's and administrator's perspective. In conjunction with other measures taken to streamline the administrative operation, Camden has projected an overall savings of approximately \$40,000 over a one year period. Camden's program has convinced other counties to adopt reduced service terms.

Union County attacked an administrative problem of excessive paperwork by adopting a one-step qualification and summoning system. Under the traditional system, prospective jurors are mailed a qualification questionnaire and, at some later date, the person may receive a summons for service. The one-step concept allows a prospective juror to be qualified and summoned using one mailing, thus

reducing postage and forms costs substantially. Use of the one step system also streamlines administrative processes involved with getting jurors to the court house. Administrators in Union County project a \$30,000 savings for the first year of operation.

#### UNION COUNTY NIGHT COURT

Court is in session two nights a month in Union County in an experimental program approved by the Supreme Court and begun in January, 1980. The program is designed to hear cases involving small amounts in controversy using as its jurisdictional limit that established for District Court (\$5,000 or less). Using a rotating staff of judges, law clerks, and support personnel, the program has been able to serve a large number of litigants at a relatively low cost.

The Night Court is conducted on the first and third Wednesday or Thursday of each month. It begins at 6:00 P.M. and continues until all cases scheduled for that night have been heard, usually ending by 9:30 P.M. There are one or two judges in attendance for each session as well as three law clerks, two sergeants-at-arms and a court clerk. A supervisor is also present to make the files and records available.

Whether the matter is settled or tried, Night Court gives the litigants an opportunity to appear at a time which they have found to be more convenient than the regular court hours. The Night Court experiment demonstrates the Court's awareness of and concern for the position of litigants who appear pro se in disputes that are not large in the amount of money involved.

#### CREDIT CARDS

A three-month experiment with the use of credit cards in Vicinage 1 (Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, and Salem Counties) to post bail, pay fees or fines, or installments on fees has worked well and is currently

under consideration for Statewide implementation. There is no charge or expense to the court.

The procedure involves the issuance of a check payable to the Court by Western Union and the placement of the amount, plus all charges and fees on the Master-charge or Visa card of the person wishing to pay the bail, fee or fine, after verification is obtained by Western Union from the credit card company. This is a 24-hour service and the transactions are all done by phone. The procedure permits defendants to be released on bail promptly, reducing the time spent in jail waiting for other methods of posting bail.

#### MOTION PRACTICE

In response to bulging motion calendars and complaints from the bench, bar and public, the Supreme Court adopted reforms, contained in Court Rule 1:6-2, designed to reduce the number of motions filed and the time spent hearing arguments.

The several points of Rule 1:6-2 are as follows:

.All motions submitted by attorneys must contain a proposed form of order for consideration by the Court. Further, all motions must contain a checklist which can be used by the court to indicate all papers which were considered.

.Certain motions, including those in complex cases, can be filed directly with a judge.

.Civil discovery and calendar motions will not be listed for oral argument. Further, such motions will not be considered at all unless the moving party certified that efforts have been made to settle the dispute.

.The Court may direct that any argument of a motion be by telephone conference. Expanded use of telephone conferences for motions has been especially successful in meeting the goals. The procedure frees judges for more bench

time, and reduces the cost to litigants because of the time and travel savings on the part of lawyers.

An experimental program of telephone conferences began in 1981 in Vicinage 1. Assisted by the Institute for Court Management and the ABA Commission to Reduce Court Costs and Delay, courts in the vicinage heard oral arguments on civil motions and other matters by telephone instead of in-court hearings. During the first nine months of the experiment, over 150 civil motions were argued in the vicinage, and over 80% of them were conducted by telephone conference. Motions to compel discovery and for summary judgment were most frequently argued in a telephone conference. Use of the telephone saved at least 23,000 miles of attorney travel and many hours of time for judges and attorneys. A companion project to use telephone conferences for some criminal matters began in late 1981.

#### SHOPLIFTERS PROGRAM

First offenders convicted of shoplifting may, at the judge's discretion, receive a suspended sentence, if they agree to attend an anti-shoplifting course given by the National Corrective Training Institute (NCTI), in a pilot program underway in several municipal courts. The offenders must agree to complete the course and return to court.

The 8-hour course, offered at a regional site, is designed to aid the offender in understanding the impulse behind this anti-social behavior to prevent future incidents. The AOC is collecting data on the program for evaluation and possible implementation statewide.

#### CAMERAS IN THE COURTROOM

During 1981, the Supreme Court made permanent the rules permitting film, tape and still cameras in court under specific guidelines, first introduced as an experiment in 1979. The guidelines require individual approval before cameras can be admitted, and specify equipment, position, and

other requirements the media must meet. The Court rules do not permit cameras in court in cases involving matrimonial disputes, juvenile cases, or trade secrets, or in municipal courts.

#### PUBLIC TELEVISION ON THE COURTS

In 1981, the Administrative Office of the Courts' Judicial Education and Training Unit and New Jersey Network, the State public television agency, co-produced six one-hour segments on court programs. The programs were aired live at noon on weekdays over the network's four stations. Televisions were set up in courthouses throughout the State for the convenience of court personnel, attorneys, jurors, and other citizens. The programs covered topics such as speedy trial, pre-trial programs, bail and court delay reduction measures, and featured a call-in portion for questions answered by guests, including Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz.

#### PUBLIC MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

Efforts to broaden public representation on Supreme Court Committees are continuing. More than a dozen non-attorneys are currently serving on seven standing committees. Representatives of the broadcast and print media are now serving on the Committee on Media Relations, while other public members serve on the Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics, Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct, Disciplinary Review Board, Advisory Committee on Bar Admissions, Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law and the Clients' Security Fund.

#### MUNICIPAL COURT REFORM

Management studies of the Newark and Paterson Municipal Courts have been completed in an ongoing program of the Administrative Office of the Courts to examine New Jersey's ten largest municipal courts. The two studies completed have yielded detailed recommendations to improve court operations, which are being implemented.

The remaining courts to be studied are: Trenton, East Orange, Hoboken, Jersey City, New Brunswick, Camden, Elizabeth, Irvington.

#### BAR EXAM REFORM

In 1981, the Supreme Court's Committee to Evaluate Bar Administration Requirements reported to the Court, which prompted significant changes in the bar examination.

Commencing with the February 1982 bar examination, each candidate is now required to pass both the multistate bar examination and the New Jersey essay questions. The scoring of the essay has been greatly simplified. The questions have been shortened and the design of the questions is more varied.

All candidates for admission to the bar must complete the skills and methods course before admission and are required to complete the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination successfully or submit evidence of the satisfactory completion of a law school course in legal ethics. The Supreme Court has also mandated a review of the skills course to increase its effectiveness.

#### RANDOM AUDIT COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

The Random Audit Compliance Program, financed by the Clients' Security Fund, began in 1981 to ensure that lawyers are fully aware of and comply with stringent recordkeeping requirements imposed by the Supreme Court. The program involves the periodic review of business and trust account records that all attorneys are required to maintain when handling clients' funds.

The program is designed to aid attorneys in acquiring the most efficient methods of office accounting procedures, and consists of two full-time auditors and clerical support staff. Attorneys are randomly selected and audited on a county-by-county basis. A total of 144 audits in 11 counties have been completed.

**ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION**

Upon the recommendations of the Board of Trial Attorney Certification, the Supreme Court certified 265 civil and 81 criminal trial attorneys practicing in New Jersey. The trial attorney certification program, entirely voluntary, is an effort to give attorneys an opportunity to show experience in trial work and to give the public a list of some of the attorneys with trial experience.

Attorneys interested in certification

must submit an extensive application and pass a full-day examination. The program, divided into civil and criminal parts, is administered by the 11-member Board of Trial Attorney Certification. Certification by the Board is for seven years, after which the attorney must seek recertification.

The Supreme Court will oversee the program and review the recommendations of the Board for certification twice each year.

**STATISTICAL OVERVIEW**

**CALENDAR CLEARANCE**

During the 1981 court year, cases added in the New Jersey court system, excluding municipal courts, increased by 6.9% to a record level of 700,516. Cases disposed also increased, to a record level of 711,391, exceeding the number of cases added by 10,875.

Each year over the last five years the number of cases added to the New Jersey court dockets has increased. From 541,867 in 1976 cases added yearly have grown by 29.3% to 700,516. Dispositions, however, have increased at an even faster rate, 34.4%. The graph below shows the trend in cases added, disposed, and pending.

Disposing of at least as many cases as were added has been the explicit "calendar clearance" goal of the judiciary for the past two court years. The margin of clearance during 1981 of 10,875 cases afforded a 5.1% decrease in the number of cases pending during the year.

Fig. 1  
CASELOAD 1980-81

TOTAL CASES	1980	1981	%Change
Added	655,517	700,516	+6.9%
Disposed	675,835	711,391	+5.3%
Pending	212,768*	201,893	-5.1%
Clearance	+20,318	+10,875	

Nine of the 13 trial and appellate calendars and the Tax Court achieved clearance in 1981. All five calendars of the limited jurisdiction

\* Data on cases pending as of August 31, 1980 differs from the data published in the 1980 Annual Report due to inventory recounts and changes in statistical definitions.

trial courts -- County District, Juvenile Delinquency, Juveniles in Need of Supervision (JINS), Domestic Relations, and Tax Court -- had more dispositions than cases added. Four of the eight Superior Court trial calendars cleared during 1981. Of the two appellate court calendars, the Supreme Court was able to clear its calendar.

**TOTAL CASES ADDED, DISPOSED,  
PENDING 1976-1981**

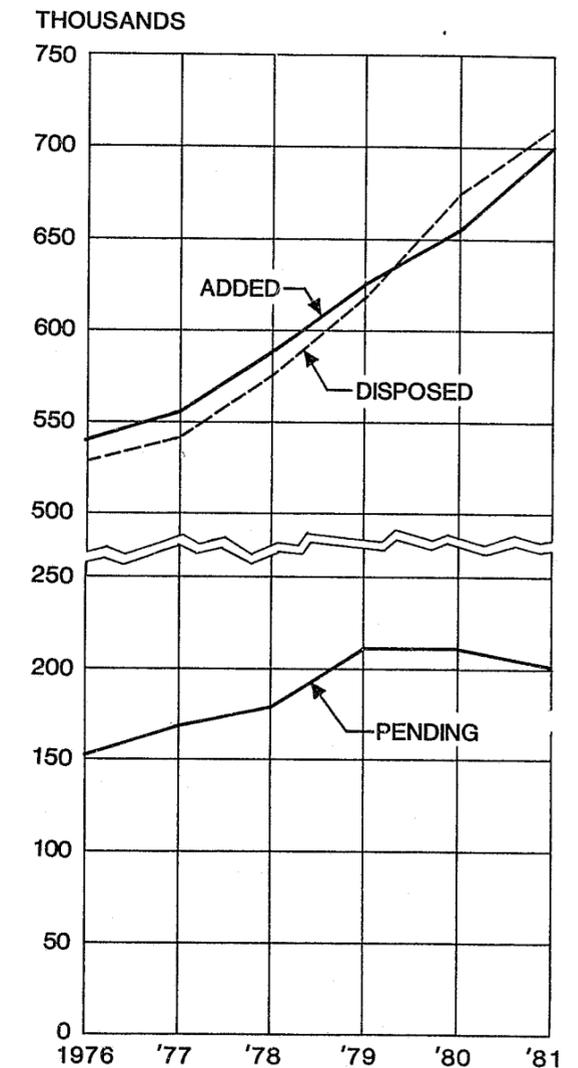


Fig. 2

CALENDAR CLEARANCE BY CALENDAR 1980-81

CALENDAR	CASES ADDED	CASES DISPOSED	CLEARANCE
<u>Limited Jurisdiction Trial Courts</u>			
County District	360,941	367,855	+ 6,914
Juvenile Delinquency	101,124	101,388	+ 264
JINS	12,469	12,591	+ 122
Domestic Relations	90,347	91,172	+ 825
Tax Court	8,343	15,564	+ 7,221
<u>General Jurisdiction Trial Courts</u>			
Civil	51,982	50,762	- 1,220
Criminal	29,101	27,055	- 2,046
Post-Conviction Relief	105	122	+ 17
General Equity	4,305	4,996	+ 691
Matrimonial	32,237	31,146	- 1,091
Contested Probate	612	594	- 18
Municipal Appeals	2,942	2,950	+ 8
<u>Appellate Courts</u>			
Appellate Division, Superior Court	5,792	4,980	- 812
Supreme Court	216	216	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>700,516</b>	<b>711,391</b>	<b>+10,875</b>

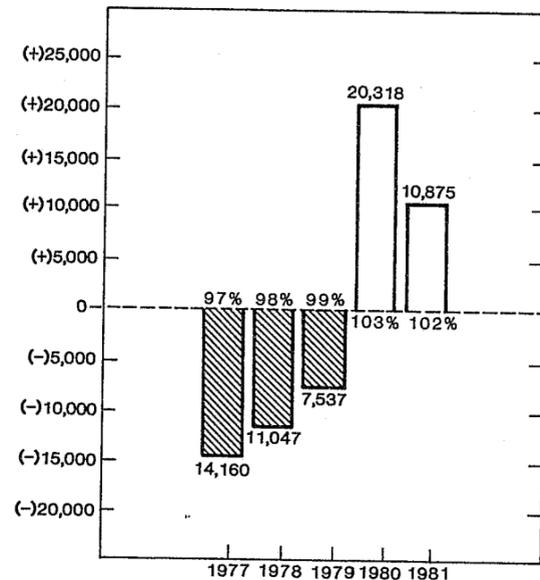
The cumulative clearance of the past two court years (31,193 cases) has all but eradicated the cumulative short-fall of 32,744 cases accumulated during the prior three court years (1977 to 1979).

Although the court system has become bigger (adding the Tax Court in 1979) and has increased by nearly one-fourth in the volume of incoming cases during the past five years, the system is now achieving equilibrium and cutting into the backlog which had plagued it for a number of years.

CASES ADDED

Total cases added in the trial and appellate courts (exclusive of the municipal courts) increased by 49,999 cases to an all-time high of 700,516 for the court year ending August 31, 1981. This increase of nearly 50,000 cases was the largest

Figure 3  
CALENDAR CLEARANCES BY COURT YEAR FOR ALL COURTS 1977 - 1981



CLEARANCES  
SHORTFALLS  
INCLUDES TAX COURT, SUPREME COURT & APPELLATE DIV.

jump in total cases added ever recorded. Further, in percentage terms, it amounted to 6.9%, representing the largest percentage increase in annual cases added registered in the past seven years.

Among individual dockets (or court calendars), the fastest growing calendars were Criminal, 26.6%, Tax, 20.5%, and the Appellate Division, 14.6%, followed closely by Domestic Relations, 12.8%. On the basis of absolute numbers, the growth in cases added was much more evenly distributed, and in general favored the larger volume, limited jurisdiction trial courts. Calendars showing the

largest increases in the number of cases added were: Domestic Relations, 10,214, Juvenile Delinquency, 7,772, County District, 7,024, and Criminal, 6,121.

The distribution of cases added reflects a heavy concentration of cases on three high-volume calendars, County District, Domestic Relations, and Juvenile Delinquency. Together, these calendars account for more than

Fig. 4

CASES ADDED BY CALENDAR 1980-81

CALENDAR	CASES ADDED 1980	CASES ADDED 1981	DIFFERENCE NO.	%
<u>Limited Jurisdiction Trial Court</u>				
County District	353,917	360,941	+ 7,024	+ 2.0%
Juvenile Delinquency	93,352	101,124	+ 7,772	+ 8.3%
JINS	12,126	12,469	+ 343	+ 2.8%
Domestic Relations	80,133	90,347	+10,214	+12.8%
Tax Court	6,925	8,343	+ 1,418	+20.5%
<u>General Jurisdiction Trial Court</u>				
Civil	48,065	51,982	+ 3,917	+ 8.2%
Criminal	22,980	29,101	+ 6,121	+26.6%
Post-Conviction Relief	135	105	- 30	-22.2%
General Equity	4,424	4,305	- 119	- 2.7%
Matrimonial*	24,849	32,237	+ 7,388	+ 29.7%
Contested Probate	542	612	+ 70	+12.9%
Municipal Appeals	2,783	2,942	+ 159	+ 5.7%
<u>Appellate Courts</u>				
Appellate Division, Superior Court	5,054	5,792	+ 738	+14.6%
Supreme	232	216	- 16	- 6.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>655,517</b>	<b>700,516</b>	<b>+44,999</b>	<b>+ 6.9%</b>

79% of all cases added. Superior Court trial calendars and the Tax Court account for nearly 19% of all cases added, while the State's two appellate courts, the Appellate Division and the Supreme Court, account for less than 1% of all cases added.

Trial court cases added in the state's 12 judicial districts (vicinages) increased by 6.7% or 42,859 cases during the 1981 court year. Every vicinage recorded an increase in trial court cases added over the 1980 court year.

\* The chart shows a substantial increase in the Matrimonial calendar as well (7,388 cases, or 29.7%). This increase is due primarily to a redefinition in terms which results in counting each case sooner. Since the increase in this one year is due more to the method of counting than to a real increase in workload, the Matrimonial calendar is not included in these comparisons of workload.

Vicinages located in the central portion of the state showed the greatest percentage growth in cases added. Vicinage #3, Burlington/Ocean, which extends across the south central portion of the state, had the highest

Fig. 5

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL TRIAL COURT CASES ADDED BY VICINAGE 1981

VICINAGE	TRIAL COURT CASES ADDED	PERCENT OF STATE TRIAL COURT TOTAL
Vicinage #1 Atlantic Cape May Cumberland Salem	54,830	8.0%
Vicinage #2 Bergen	56,779	8.3%
Vicinage #3 Burlington Ocean	54,441	7.9%
Vicinage #4 Camden Gloucester	62,276	9.1%
Vicinage #5 Essex	130,046	19.0%
Vicinage #6 Hudson	58,294	8.5%
Vicinage #7 Hunterdon Mercer Somerset	49,307	7.2%
Vicinage #8 Middlesex	47,160	6.9%
Vicinage #9 Monmouth	40,746	5.9%
Vicinage #10 Morris Sussex Warren	36,360	5.3%
Vicinage #11 Passaic	51,499	7.5%
Vicinage #12 Union	44,427	6.4%
<b>COUNTY TOTAL</b>	<b>686,165</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

growth with 9.5%, followed closely by Vicinage #12, Union, with 9.1%. Two other vicinages, Vicinage #9, Monmouth (8.4%), and Vicinage #6, Hudson (+8.2%) showed increases in cases added of over 8.0%.

The distribution by vicinage of cases added during 1981 (exclusive of the supreme, appellate, and tax courts) reflects the heavy concentration of trial court cases in Vicinage #5, Essex, which had 19.0% of all trial cases in the State. Vicinage #4, Camden/Gloucester, was second in cases added with 9.1% of the trial cases in the State. Only three other vicinages had 8% or more of the State's added caseload: Hudson, Bergen, and the Atlantic vicinage.

#### DISPOSITIONS

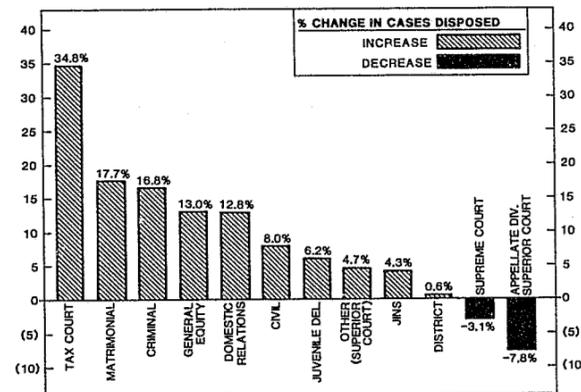
Cases disposed of in the trial and appellate courts increased by 35,556 to an all-time high of 711,391 for court year 1981. This was the fifteenth consecutive year that total cases disposed of in the court system have increased over the prior year.

In percentage terms, total dispositions increased by 5.3% over the 675,835 dispositions recorded during the 1980 court year. Although this rate of increase was not nearly so great as the 9.2% increase in total productivity achieved in 1980 when Tax Court workload data was first integrated into the court system totals, 1981 marked the fourth consecutive court year in which total dispositions have increased by more than 5%. This indicates that the court system has been able to achieve sustained growth in productivity for a period of years.

Much of the growth in dispositions occurred on the Superior Court trial calendars, cases which typically require more judge time per disposition. The Tax Court had the greatest growth in dispositions, but the next three calendars in terms of rate of increase in dispositions were all Superior Court calendars:

Matrimonial, 17.7%, Criminal, 16.8%, (the first year of the Criminal Speedy Trial Program), and General Equity, 13.0%.

Figure 6  
PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN CASES DISPOSED  
BY CALENDAR 1980 - 81



By number of cases, the increase in dispositions was much more evenly distributed (due to the large volumes of limited jurisdictional court calendars where even a small percentage increase translates into a large number of cases). Calendars recording the greatest increase in the number of dispositions are: Domestic Relations, 10,324, Juvenile Delinquent, 5,944, Matrimonial, 4,680, Tax, 4,015, and Criminal, 3,889. Only the two appellate calendars and the Post-Conviction Relief calendar (included in Other) recorded fewer dispositions in 1981 than in 1980.

During the 1981 court year almost all calendars achieved record levels of dispositions. This was true for all major Superior Court calendars except Criminal. The 27,055 dispositions for the Criminal calendar were the most in nine years, ranking second to the 27,362 criminal dispositions achieved in 1972. All-time record disposition levels were also achieved on all limited jurisdiction trial calendars: Juvenile Delinquency, JINS, Domestic Relations, County District, and Tax Court.

More than 80% of all dispositions recorded are from the calendars of

Fig. 7  
CASES DISPOSED BY CALENDAR 1980-81

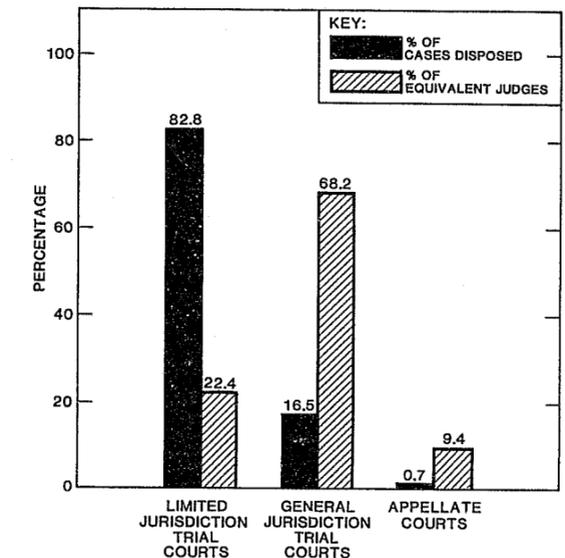
CALENDAR	1980	1981	DIFFERENCE	
			No.	%
<b>Limited Jurisdiction Trial Courts</b>				
County District	365,721	367,855	+ 2,134	+ 0.6%
Juvenile Delinquent	95,444	101,388	+ 5,944	+ 6.2%
JINS	12,072	12,591	+ 519	+ 4.3%
Domestic Relations	80,848	91,172	+10,324	+12.8%
Tax Court	11,549	15,564	+ 4,015	+34.8%
<b>General Jurisdiction Trial Courts</b>				
Civil	47,025	50,762	+ 3,737	+ 8.0%
Criminal	23,166	27,055	+ 3,889	+16.8%
Matrimonial	26,466	31,146	+ 4,680	+17.7%
General Equity	4,420	4,996	+ 576	+13.0%
Other (Superior Ct.)	3,501	3,666	+ 165	+ 4.7%
<b>Appellate Courts</b>				
Appellate Division, Superior Court	5,400	4,980	- 420	- 7.8%
Supreme Court	223	216	- 7	- 3.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>675,835</b>	<b>711,391</b>	<b>+35,556</b>	<b>5.3%</b>

the limited jurisdiction trial court, while 19% of dispositions come from general jurisdiction court dockets, and less than 1% come from appellate court dockets.

It is interesting to compare the distribution of trial calendar dispositions with the distribution of judge hours required to hear cases from those calendars during the 1981 court year.

The distribution of trial calendar dispositions stands in stark contrast with the distribution of judges required to dispose of those cases. Less than 70 (or 22.4%) of the state's average of 296 judges were needed to dispose of matters heard in limited jurisdiction trial courts whereas matters heard in Superior Court trial divisions required approximately 202 or 68.2% of the State's judicial strength and matters heard in the state's appellate courts required 28 or 9.4% of the state's judges.

Figure 8  
PERCENT OF CASES DISPOSED AND EQUIVALENT JUDGES  
BY TYPE OF COURT, 1980-81



Trial court dispositions in the state's 12 judicial districts increased by 4.9%, or 31,968 cases, during 1981. Eleven of the 12 vicinages showed an increase in dispositions as compared with the prior year.

Vicinages located along the Atlantic shore showed the greatest increase in cases disposed. The Monmouth vicinage (Vicinage #9), located in the central section of the state, led the way with an 11.4% increase. Four other vicinages reflected increases in cases disposed of, exceeding 6.0%. Those were: Vicinage #1, Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland/Salem, 8.0%; Vicinage #3, Burlington/Ocean, 7.1%; Vicinage #6, Hudson, 6.7%; Vicinage #11, Passaic, 6.7%.

Six vicinages reported increases in the number of cases disposed of totaling 3,000 cases or more. Five of those were vicinages with growth rates exceeding 6.0%. Leading vicinages in increased number of dispositions were: Vicinage #9, Monmouth, 4,468 cases; Vicinage #1, Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland/Salem, 4,196 cases; Vicinage #5, Essex, 4,099 cases; Vicinage #3, Burlington/Ocean, 3,607 cases; Vicinage #6, Hudson, 3,606 cases; Vicinage #11, Passaic, 3,178 cases.

CASES PENDING

Total cases pending in the trial and appellate courts decreased by 10,875 cases to stand at 201,893 at the end of the 1981 court year. (This figure includes adjustments for recounts and changes in statistical definitions.)

This was the second consecutive year that the number of pending cases decreased. The court system has approximately the same number of cases pending (after adjustments) that were pending five years ago, while the volume of cases added has increased by more than 26% during this same period.

Examining individual court calendars, a total of five calendars recorded decreases in the number of pending cases larger than 10%. Those dockets were: Tax, -35.3%, General Equity, -22.3%, County District, -13.2%, Domestic Relations, -12.0% and JINS, -11.5%. Most of the increases in the pending caseload occurred on Superior Court dockets: Appellate Division, 16.1%, Criminal, 6.9%, and Matrimonial, 5.5% (as a result of the changed definition of cases added).

Fig. 9

TRIAL COURT CASES PENDING BY CALENDAR AS A PERCENTAGE OF STATE TRIAL COURT TOTAL CASES PENDING 1981

CALENDAR	TRIAL COURT CASES PENDING	PERCENT OF TOTAL STATE TRIAL COURT CASES PENDING
Civil	61,245	33.5%
Criminal	31,518	17.3%
General Equity	2,413	1.3%
Matrimonial	21,040	11.5%
District Court	45,451	24.9%
Juvenile Del.	13,036	7.2%
JINS	936	0.5%
Domestic Rel.	6,072	3.3%
Other	979	0.5%
TOTAL	182,690	100.0%

Most of the pending cases are in the Superior Court. Superior Court trial calendars account for 58.0% of all

cases pending while limited jurisdiction trial court calendars account for only 39.0% of cases pending. The two Appellate court calendars make up

Fig. 10

DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL TRIAL COURT CASES PENDING BY VICINAGE 1981

VICINAGE	TRIAL COURT CASES PENDING	PERCENT OF TOTAL STATE TRIAL COURT CASES PENDING
Vicinage #1 Atlantic Cape May Cumberland Salem	12,231	6.7%
Vicinage #2 Bergen	20,373	11.2%
Vicinage #3 Burlington Ocean	12,857	7.0%
Vicinage #4 Camden Gloucester	17,580	9.6%
Vicinage #5 Essex	24,421	13.4%
Vicinage #6 Hudson	15,104	8.3%
Vicinage #7 Hunterdon Mercer Somerset	12,813	7.0%
Vicinage #8 Middlesex	18,107	9.9%
Vicinage #9 Monmouth	14,420	7.9%
Vicinage #10 Morris Sussex Warren	10,346	5.7%
Vicinage #11 Passaic	12,881	7.0%
Vicinage #12 Union	11,557	6.3%
TOTAL	182,690	100.0%

the remaining 3.0% of all cases pending. Clearly, pending cases are more of a factor in the court calendars that require relatively more judge time.

In total, cases pending in the state's 12 vicinages decreased by 4,466 cases or 2.4% from 187,156 cases at the start of the year to 182,690 at the close. Seven vicinages showed decreases in the number of cases pending, while the remaining five vicinages showed increases in the pending caseload.

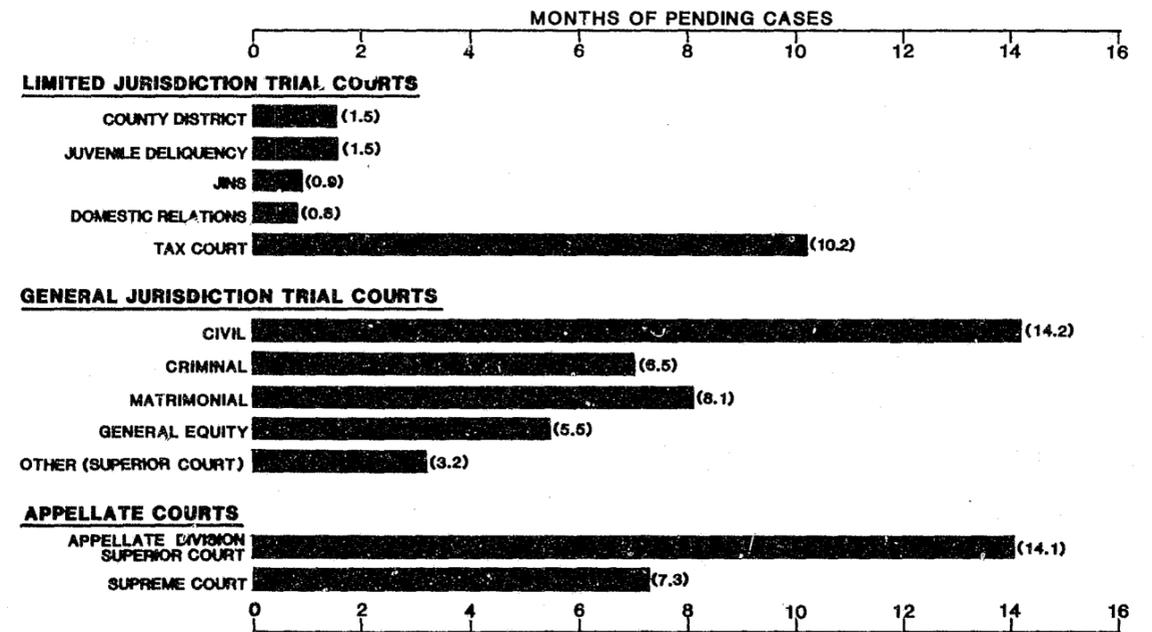
Three vicinages had decreases in pending caseloads exceeding 10%. Those were Vicinage #9, Monmouth, -16.6%, Vicinage #7, Mercer/Hunterdon/Somerset, -14.5%, and Vicinage #1, Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland/Salem, -12.0%. Two vicinages had an increase in pending caseloads of more than 5%, Vicinage #11, Passaic, +7.7% and Vicinage #6, Hudson, +7.3%.

PENDING CASELOAD COMPARED TO ANNUAL VOLUME OF CASES DISPOSED

Another means to evaluate a court's pending caseload is to compare the pending caseload to the monthly volume of cases disposed of. This calculation has been termed an "inventory control index" and is calculated by dividing the annual number of terminations (dispositions) by 12 to arrive at a monthly disposition rate. By dividing the number of cases pending by the monthly disposition rate, an index can be created representing the number of months it would take the court to dispose of all of its pending caseload.

In 1981, all of the limited jurisdiction trial courts except the Tax Court had low inventory control indices. The Domestic Relations calendar has the lowest index of any calendar with .8 months. The index for the JINS calendar is nearly as low, at .9 months. Both the Juvenile Delinquency and County District calendars have indices of 1.5 months.

Figure 11 ACTIVE CASES PENDING TRIAL AUGUST 31, 1981 - EXPRESSED IN MONTHS



These indices indicate that by and large the limited jurisdiction courts are up to date and have no excess delay among their active caseload. (These figures do not include inactive cases.) Five years ago, each of these three calendars had higher inventory indices: Domestic Relations, 1.1 months, JINS, 1.3 months, Juvenile Delinquency, 2.1 months.

General jurisdiction trial courts (Superior Court trial calendars) generally have longer time intervals from filing to case disposition and higher inventory indices due to the increased need for discovery, research, and investigation of facts and issues.

The three miscellaneous calendars termed "Other" (post-conviction relief, contested probate, and municipal appeals) have the lowest pending case index on the Superior Court calendars in 1981 at 3.2 months.

The Chancery Division calendar of the Superior Court had the next lowest inventory indices equalling 5.5 months for General Equity and 8.1 months for Matrimonial. In 1977, the inventory index for General Equity was 6.7 months. No comparison can be made for the Matrimonial calendar since there has been a change in the statistical reporting definition of cases added.

The two Law Division calendars (Civil and Criminal) have much greater pending caseload indices. The Civil index of 14.2 months while the Criminal calendar has an index of 6.5 months for active non-fugitive cases. There are more than a year of cases pending trial on the Civil calendar, representing a backlog problem. Both of the pending case indices are lower than comparable indices from 1977: Civil was 19.0 months and Criminal was 8.3 months.

The state's two appellate courts, the Appellate Division of the Superior Court and the Supreme Court, have pending case indices of 14.1 months and 1.3 months respectively. The pending caseload of the Appellate Division indicates a backlog problem while the pending caseload in the Supreme Court is at an appropriate level considering the complexity of these appeals. In 1977, the Appellate Division's caseload index was 16.0 months and the index for the Supreme Court was 8.7 months indicating substantially higher pending case indices five years ago.

Also, the caseload index for 1981 compared to 1980 shows substantial improvement in most courts.

Fig. 12  
PENDING CASELOAD INDEX 1981  
COMPARED WITH 1980

	1981 ACTIVE PENDING	1980 ACTIVE PENDING	1980/1981 % DIFFERENCE ACTIVE PENDING
<b>LIMITED JURISDICTION TRIAL COURTS</b>			
County District Court	1.5	1.7	-11.8
Juvenile Delinquent	1.5	1.7	-11.8
JINS	0.9	1.1	-18.2
Domestic Relations	0.8	1.0	-0.2
Tax Court	10.2	21.3	-52.1
<b>GENERAL JURISDICTION TRIAL COURTS</b>			
Civil	14.2	15.1	-6.0
Criminal	6.5	7.5	-13.3
Matrimonial	8.1	9.0	-10.0
General Equity	5.5	8.1	-32.1
Other	3.2	3.4	-5.9
<b>APPELLATE COURTS</b>			
SUPREME COURT	14.1	11.2	+25.9
	7.3	6.9	+5.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-3.1</b>

This favorable comparison to pending case indices of past years shows the substantial progress made in keeping the work of the New Jersey courts current. As the next section shows, these improving measures of the work of the courts at all levels come from increases in the productivity of the judges.

## JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

### AUTHORIZED JUDGESHIPS

The New Jersey court system is comprised of 329 authorized judgeships. The court of last resort, the Supreme Court, has 7 authorized judgeships. The Superior Court is divided into two divisions totaling 236 authorized judgeships. The Appellate Division (the court of intermediate appeal) has 21 of the 236 authorized judgeships while the trial divisions (general jurisdiction trial courts) are authorized for the remaining 215 positions. There are three limited jurisdiction courts in New Jersey: the Tax Court (12 authorized judgeships), the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (35 authorized judgeships), and the County District Court (39 authorized judgeships).

In the past five years, the number of authorized judgeships has increased by 23 due mainly to the addition of the Tax Court 12 authorized judgeships) to the court system in 1979. The remaining growth in authorized judgeships has occurred in the Superior Court (8 authorized judgeships)\* and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts (3 authorized judgeships).

Not all authorized judgeships are filled due to the time required for the gubernatorial nomination and the legislative approval process when judges leave the bench. Further, in the Tax Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court the need has not been clearly shown to fill all authorized positions.

At the close of the 1981 court year 31 of the 329 authorized positions were vacant (for a vacancy rate of

9.4%), meaning 298 judges were in office. The vacancy rate in 1981 was substantially lower than the vacancy rate a year earlier (38 unfilled positions, 11.6%), but is still above

1978, when vacancies dropped to 24 judgeships, or 7.6% of authorized judicial strength.

Fig. 1

JUDICIAL DISTRIBUTION BY COURT OF JURISDICTION  
1977 - 1981

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
<b>Supreme</b>					
Justices	7	7	7	7	7
Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0
Total Authorized	7	7	7	7	7
<b>Superior</b>					
Judges	210	224	225	220	225
Vacancies	18	12	11	16	11
Total Authorized	228	236	236	236	236
<b>District</b>					
Judges	28	30	27	27	28
Vacancies	11	9	12	12	11
Total Authorized	39	39	39	39	39
<b>Juvenile and Domestic Rel.</b>					
Judges	29	29	29	29	30
Vacancies	3	3	4	6	5
Total Authorized	32	32	33	35	35
<b>Tax *</b>					
Judges			6	8	8
Vacancies			6	4	4
Total Authorized			12	12	12
<b>STATE TOTALS W/O TAX COURT</b>					
Judges	274	290	288	283	290
Vacancies	32	24	27	34	27
Total Authorized	306	314	315	317	317
<b>STATE TOTALS WITH TAX COURT</b>					
Judges	274	290	294	291	298
Vacancies	32	24	33	38	31
Total Authorized	306	314	327	329	329
Vacancy Rate	10.5%	7.6%	10.1%	11.6%	9.4%

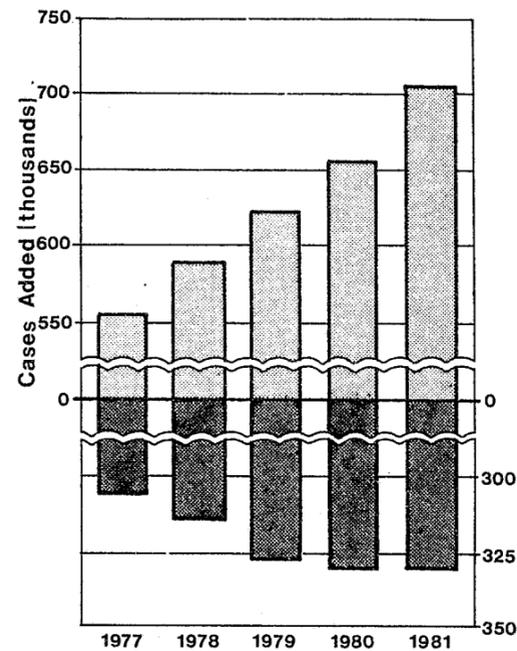
\* The Tax Court was established on 7/1/79.

To gain a perspective of the growth in workload and responsibilities facing New Jersey judges it is meaningful to compare the growth in judgeships with the growth in judicial workload (cases added). Since 1977, total judgeships authorized have increased 7.5% from 306 to 329 but, however, since 1977, total cases added in the court system (other than

\* Established as County Court judgeships and then merged with the Superior Court in 1978.

the municipal courts) have increased by a sizeable 26.1% from 555,371 to 700,516. Because the growth in case-loads has been 3 to 4 times the rate of increases in judgeships, New Jersey judges must be increasingly productive if the court system is to keep pace with the inflow of new business.

**Figure 2**  
**JUDGESHIPS AUTHORIZED AND CASES ADDED**  
**1977-1981**



**Distribution of Judges**

Due to the cross assignment powers of the Chief Justice, judges assigned to a particular court or county can be reassigned, either temporarily or permanently, to another court or county in response to changes in court workloads or to compensate for losses in judicial strength because of retirements, deaths, or extended illnesses. Also, retired judges can be recalled and temporarily assigned to the bench. A refined system of measuring judicial strength in each court and county has been developed by the Administrative Office to track judicial assignments on a daily basis.

Presented below is the average daily deployment of judges for the 1980 and 1981 court years. Judges classified as trial judges (excluding Tax Court judges) and retired judges are assigned to a particular county. Judicial assignments to the Supreme Court, the Appellate Division, Assignment Judge positions, and to the Tax Court are not further allocated to a particular county. Vacancies are calculated as the difference between authorized judicial strength and the total of available full-time (non-retired) judges in office.

**Fig. 3**  
**DEPLOYMENT OF JUDGES**  
**1980 - 1981**

	1980	1981
Total authorized judicial strength	329.0	329.0
Full time judges in office:		
Supreme Court	7.0	7.0
Appellate Division, Superior Court	21.0	21.5 <sup>1/</sup>
Assignment Judges, Superior Court (1 per vicinage)	12.0	12.0
Tax Court	8.0	8.0
Trial Judges, Superior Court, J&DR, and County District	244.7*	248.7*
Total Full Time Judges in Office	292.7	296.7
Vacancies	36.3	31.8
Retired Judges recalled and assigned to the trial courts	5.9*	6.7*
Net unfilled judicial positions	30.4	25.1

\* Allocated to particular counties.

<sup>1/</sup> Includes additional temporary assignment of trial judges to Appellate Division due to illnesses.

The average number of full-time judges in office during 1981 was 296.7, an increase of 4.0 judges, or 1.3% over the average 292.7 judges in office during 1980. The average level of judicial vacancies fell from 36.3 in 1980 to 31.8 in 1981, a decrease of 12.4% (4 judgeships).

Retired judges recalled for temporary assignment to the trial courts averaged 6.7 per court day, up by 0.8 judges, or 13.6%, over the 5.9 retired judges recalled per court day during 1980. The net number of unfilled judicial positions decreased by 5.3, or 17.4%, from 30.4 in 1980 to 25.1 in 1981.

Trial judges assigned to particular counties and retired judges recalled

for temporary service on the trial courts represent available trial court judges. During 1981 an average of 255.4 trial judges were available for work in the counties, up by 1.9% from the 250.6 available trial court judges assigned to the counties during the 1980 court year.

The distribution of available judges for 1981 and 1980 by county is displayed below in county/vicinage order. Essex County (Vicinage #5) had the greatest deployment of judges

with 37.04 during 1981, followed by Bergen County (Vicinage #2) with 27.02 judges. Other large vicinages include Camden/Gloucester (Vicinage #4) with 24.18 judges (17.25 in Camden and 6.93 in Gloucester), Middlesex (Vicinage #8) with 23.33 judges, and Union (Vicinage #12) with 22.47 judges. Vicinages with the least deployment of judges include Morris/Sussex/Warren (Vicinage #10) with 12.64 judges, Monmouth (Vicinage #9) with 15.64 judges and Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland/Salem (Vicinage #1) with 16.48 judges.

**Fig. 4**  
**AVERAGE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE TRIAL JUDGES \***  
**(FULL TIME AND RETIRED)**  
**1980 - 1981**

	1980	1981	Diff.	%
<b>Vic. #1</b>				
Atlantic	8.27	8.30	+0.03	+ 0.4
Cape May	2.14	2.40	+0.26	+12.1
Cumberland	3.61	3.64	+0.03	+ 0.8
Salem	2.28	2.14	-0.14	- 6.1
Vic. Total	16.30	16.48	+0.18	+ 1.1
<b>Vic. #2</b>				
Bergen	25.71	27.02	+1.31	+ 5.1
<b>Vic. #3</b>				
Burlington	7.90	8.56	+0.66	+ 8.4
Ocean	9.00	9.22	+0.22	+ 2.4
Vic. Total	16.90	17.78	+0.88	+ 5.2
<b>Vic. #4</b>				
Camden	16.92	17.25	+0.33	+ 2.0
Gloucester	6.35	6.93	+0.58	+ 9.1
Vic. Total	23.27	24.18	+0.91	+ 3.9
<b>Vic. #5</b>				
Essex	36.16	37.04	+0.88	+ 2.4
<b>Vic. #6</b>				
Hudson	21.56	20.58	-0.98	- 4.5
<b>Vic. #7</b>				
Hunterdon	2.16	2.45	+0.29	+13.4
Mercer	10.26	10.52	+0.26	+ 2.5
Somerset	5.67	5.47	-0.20	- 3.5
Vic. Total	18.09	18.44	+0.35	+ 1.9
<b>Vic. #8</b>				
Middlesex	22.41	23.33	+0.92	+ 4.1
<b>Vic. #9</b>				
Monmouth	14.84	15.64	+0.80	+ 5.4
<b>Vic. #10</b>				
Morris	9.90	8.66	-1.24	-12.5
Sussex	2.21	2.25	+0.04	+ 1.8
Warren	1.95	1.73	-0.22	-11.3
Vic. Total	14.06	12.64	-1.42	-10.1
<b>Vic. #11</b>				
Passaic	20.37	19.78	-0.59	- 2.9
<b>Vic. #12</b>				
Union	20.97	22.47	+1.50	+ 7.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>250.64</b>	<b>255.38</b>	<b>+4.74</b>	<b>+ 1.9</b>

\* Excluding Assignment Judges, Supreme Court, Appellate Division, and Tax Court.

Since the State total of available judges grew by only 1.9%, there were very few large increases in judges assigned to any vicinage. The Union (+1.50) and Bergen (+1.31) vicinages were the only two to average one more available judge, while Middlesex (+0.92) was just below a full judge increase. In percentage terms, Union (+7.2%), Monmouth (+5.4%), Burlington/Ocean (+5.2%), Bergen (+5.1%), and Middlesex (+4.1%) showed the largest growth among vicinages, with Hunterdon (+13.4%), Cape May (+12.1%), and Gloucester (+9.1%) showing the greatest increase in judicial strength among counties. Figure 4 shows the changes in judicial resources in each county and vicinage.

Judges assigned to trial court work in the counties can be further allocated among six major calendar types using a concept termed equivalent judges. The average number of available judges is divided among the major court calendars by means of the hours reported on the Judges Weekly Reports. Displayed below are State totals of equivalent judges assigned to the six major trial court calendars in each county.

As with the number of judges assigned to each county, total equivalent judges increased by 4.7 judges, or 1.9%, for 1981 as compared with 1980.

Only two calendars showed increases in State total number of equivalent judges assigned, criminal and matrimonial.

Fig. 5

EQUIVALENT JUDGES BY TRIAL COURT CALENDAR \*  
COURT YEAR 1981 COMPARED TO 1980

CaleNDAR	1980	1981	Difference	Percent
Civil	78.0	76.1	-1.9	-2.4%
Criminal	69.2	75.9	6.7	9.7%
General Equity	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0%
Matrimonial	30.0	31.7	1.7	5.7%
District Court	24.6	23.2	-1.4	-5.7%
J&DR	34.8	34.2	-.6	-1.7%
TOTAL	250.6	255.4	4.7	1.9%

\* Excludes Supreme, Appellate and Tax Courts.

An increase of 6.7 equivalent judges, or 9.7%, was reflected on the Criminal calendar. The assignment of additional judge time to criminal cases shows the Judiciary's commitment to the speedy disposition of criminal cases and is a response to the tremendous increase in criminal case filings during 1981 (+26.6% over 1980). These additional judges assigned to the criminal calendar produced 16.8% more dispositions in 1981 compared with the prior year.

The increase of 1.7 equivalent judges, or 5.7%, in the number of judges assigned to the Matrimonial calendar coincided with a 17.7% increase in dispositions from the Matrimonial calendar.

All other trial calendars were able to produce more dispositions with the same or less judicial strength.

Although the Tax Court judges are centrally assigned and are not included in the available judge calculations, for the past two years 8.0 judges have been assigned to the Tax Court. With no increase in judicial strength the Tax Court judges were able to increase dispositions by 34.8%. This was the second full year that the Tax Court operated as part of the State's judicial system.

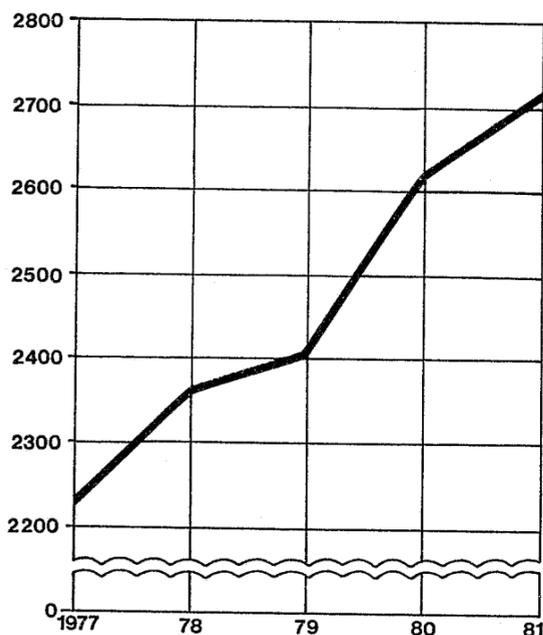
NUMBER OF TRIAL JUDGES COMPARED WITH WORKLOADS

Over the past five years (1977-1981), there has been a precipitous rise in trial court workloads. Cases added to trial court calendars have

increased from 549,948 in 1977 to 686,165 in 1981 -- an increase of 24.8%. During this same period, the average of available trial court judges has grown much more slowly, increasing only 8.1% from 236.2 to 255.4. This means that since 1977 filings have risen from 2,328 to 2,687 for each trial judge available.

The court system has been able to cope with this rapid increase in incoming business by dramatic increase in dispositions. Dispositions per trial judge available has risen 19% to 2,704 cases in 1981, compared to 2,272 in 1977.

Figure 6  
TRIAL COURT DISPOSITIONS  
PER AVAILABLE JUDGE 1977-1981



The increase in productivity is no doubt due to several factors. Better calendar management techniques at the county and vicinage level are evident, and there may be better support for the judges. Primarily, however, the increased productivity is due to the extraordinary efforts of judges working harder, longer, and more effectively to meet court goals.

On a per-equivalent-judge basis, all major trial calendars exhibited an increase in productivity during the 1981 court year as compared with

1980. The increase in dispositions per judge assigned was the most dramatic on the Tax Court calendar (+34.8%). Other calendars showing substantial increases in dispositions per judge during 1981 included: General Equity +12.9%, Matrimonial +11.6%, Juvenile and Domestic Relations +10.8%, and Civil +10.6%. This increased production per judge indicates more effective use of judicial resources on all calendars.

Fig. 7

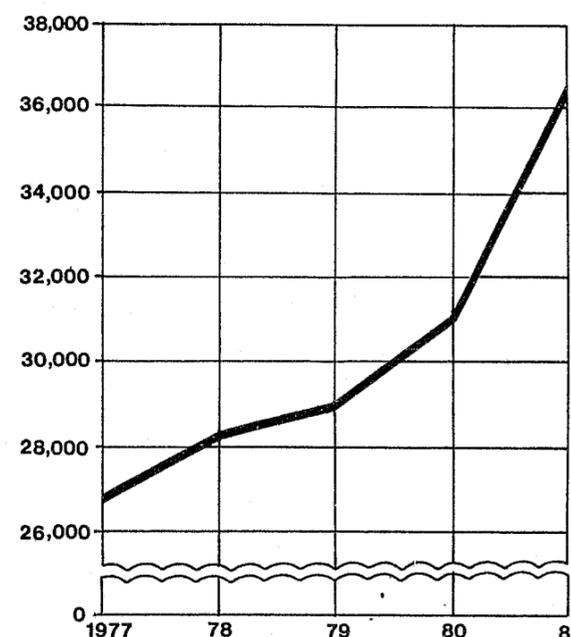
DISPOSITIONS PER AVERAGE EQUIVALENT  
TRIAL COURT JUDGE  
1980 - 1981

	1980	1981	% CHANGE 1980 - 81
CIVIL	603	667	10.6%
CRIMINAL	335	357	6.6%
GENERAL EQUITY	309	349	12.9%
MATRIMONIAL	882	984	11.6%
J&DR	5,413	5,999	10.8%
DISTRICT COURT	14,867	15,829	6.5%
TAX COURT	1,444	1,946	34.8%

TRENDS IN JUDICIAL WORKLOADS

The trends in the manner of disposing of trial court cases has changed somewhat over the last five years. The number of cases resolved through

Figure 8  
CASES CONCLUDED BY PLEA OR SETTLEMENT  
1977-1981



settlement has risen by 35.3%, a faster rate than the total number of dispositions (28.7%).

The table below details the increase in settlements achieved between 1977 and 1981. Overall, civil settlements have increased by 53.1%, led by percentage increases in Matrimonial (+152.5%), Civil (+72.3%), and General Equity (+73.4%). Criminal settlements (pleas of guilty or non vult) have increased at a slower pace (+19.2%) but have risen considerably in the past year with the onset of the Speedy Trial Program. In terms of number of cases settled, trial judges resolved 9,433 more cases through settlement (exclusive of J&DR cases) in 1981 than they did in 1977.

Fig. 9

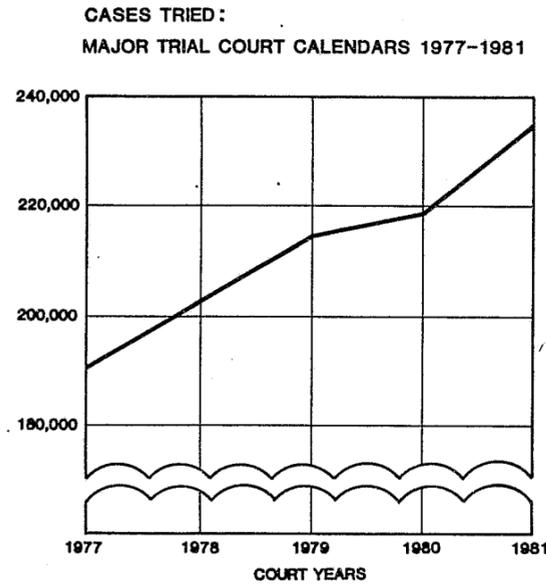
CASES CONCLUDED BY PLEA OR SETTLEMENT  
PER EQUIVALENT JUDGE

	1980	1981	PERCENT
<b>CIVIL</b>			
No. Settlements	12,668	13,965	
Settlements per Judge	163	184	12.9%
<b>GENERAL EQUITY</b>			
No. Settlements	490	704	
Settlements per Judge	34	49	44.1%
<b>MATRIMONIAL</b>			
No. Settlements	296	356	
Settlements per Judge	10	11	10.0%
<b>DISTRICT COURT</b>			
No. Settlements	4,604	4,398	
Settlements per Judge	187	190	1.6%
<b>CRIMINAL</b>			
No. Pleas of Guilty/Non Vult per Judge	12,987 188	16,715 220	17.0%

In recent years there has been an emphasis on diversion in J&DR courts. During 1981, 45,899 out of 113,979, or 40.3%, Juvenile Delinquent and Juvenile in Need of Supervision (JINS) were disposed through referral to diversion programs whereas, in 1977, only 24,767 out of 81,675, or 30.3%, of juvenile cases were disposed through the referral process.

Although there has been a tremendous increase in settlement activity over the past five years, there has also been an increase in trials. Overall, the number of trials has increased by 23.6% from 1977 to 1981.

Figure 10



Increased trial activity in 1981 compared to 1980 was greatest in the General Equity and Matrimonial calendars. Only the Civil calendar showed a decrease in the number of cases concluded by trial.

Fig. 11

CASES CONCLUDED BY TRIAL  
1980-1981

CALENDAR	1980	1981	PERCENT
CIVIL*	4,299	3,570	-17.0%
CRIMINAL	2,403	2,547	6.0%
GEN. EQUITY*	985	1,235	25.4%
MATRIMONIAL	25,969	29,637	14.1%
JUV. DEL.	51,794	53,485	3.3%
DOM. REL.	66,547	74,232	11.6%
JINS	6,004	6,333	5.5%
J&DR			
TOTAL	124,345	134,050	7.8%
DISTRICT*	60,441	64,227	6.3%
TOTAL	218,442	235,266	7.7%

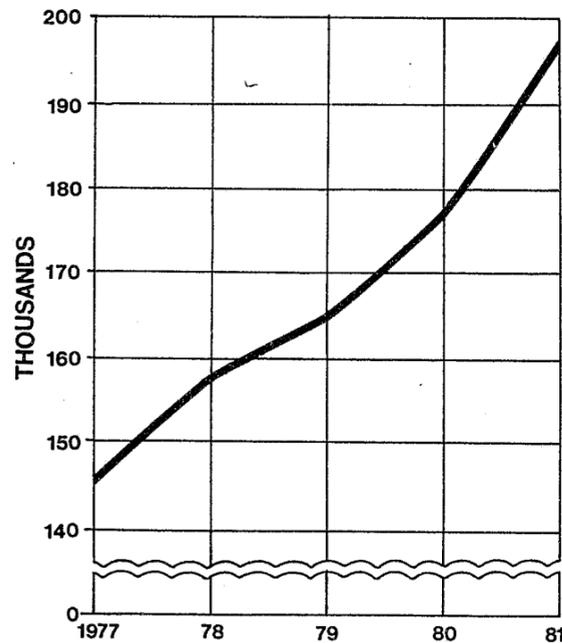
\*Includes Partially Tried and Tried to Completion

SOURCE: Monthly Status of the Calendars Report.

Motion activity is also significantly up in the past five years (motions are recorded on all major trial dockets except J&DR court). In 1981, judges heard 52,016, or 35.7% more motions than were heard in 1977.

Figure 12

TRIAL COURT MOTIONS HEARD 1977-1981



Over the last year, motion activity increased significantly in the Law Division calendars, Civil and Criminal. The only decline in motions occurred in General Equity cases.

Fig. 13

GROWTH IN MOTIONS  
1980-1981

COURT	1980	1981	%
CIVIL	80,612	94,469	17.2%
CRIMINAL	41,401*	45,810	10.7%
GEN. EQUITY	9,737	8,783	-9.8%
MATRIMONIAL	30,779	31,411	2.1%
DIST. COURT	16,462	17,147	4.2%
TOTAL	178,991	197,620	10.4%

\* Reported incorrectly in 1980 Annual Report.

It is interesting to compare how judicial workloads vary by type of trial court to which a judge is assigned. The table below indicates that a judge assigned full-time to Law Civil cases would have 47 trials and 1,241 motions in the course of a year. A majority (731 out of 1,241) motions heard are uncontested while the majority of the trials (30 out of 47) are jury trials.

Fig. 14

NUMBER OF MOTIONS AND TRIALS PER JUDGE  
1981 COURT YEAR

	Con- tested Motions	Uncon- tested Motions	Total Motions	Jury Trials	Non- Jury Trials	Total <sup>1/</sup> Trials
CIVIL	510	731	1,241	30	17	47
CRIMINAL	350	254	604	28	5	33
GENERAL EQUITY	412	203	615	*	86	86
MATRIMONIAL	758	233	991	0	935	935
DISTRICT COURT	294	445	739	22	2,747	2,769

\* 0.14 Jury trials per judge assigned.

<sup>1/</sup> Includes partially tried and tried to completion.

Judges assigned full-time to the Criminal calendar average 604 motions and 33 trials per year. A majority of the motions heard (350 out of 604) are contested and the vast majority of the trials (28 out of 33) are jury trials. Thus, in the Law Division (Civil and Criminal) the clear majority of trials require juries.

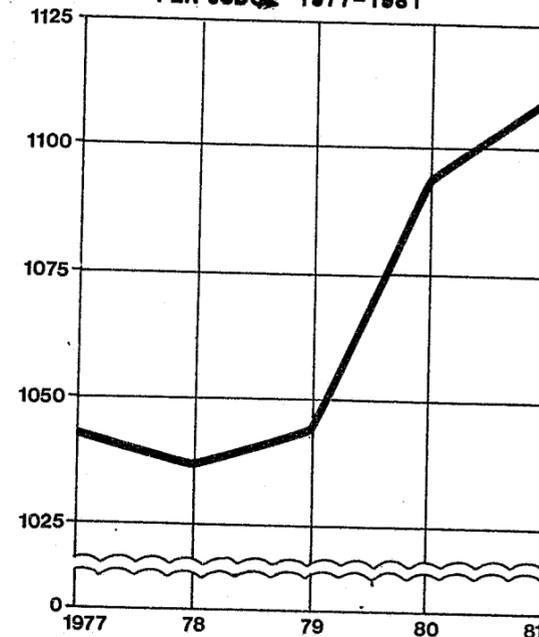
Trials in the Chancery Division of the Superior Court are almost entirely non-jury. Judges assigned full-time to General Equity matters average 615 motions and 86 trials per year. A majority of the motions (412) are contested and virtually all of the trials are non-jury.

Allocation of Judge Time

From 1977 to 1981, total judge bench and settlement hours devoted to the six major trial calendars in the

Figure 15

TOTAL BENCH AND SETTLEMENT HOURS  
PER JUDGE 1977-1981



counties have increased by 15.0% from 246,184 to 283,137. This increase was twice the rate of increase of available judges (8.1%). In total, there were 36,953 more judge hours available in 1981 than in 1977.

Per available judge, annual bench and settlement hours increased by 6.4% from 1,042 to 1,109 providing the additional case processing time required. Almost all of this increase was realized in the past two years. This increase in annual hours per judge is another example of the extraordinary judicial efforts toward expeditious case disposition.

Fig. 16 below shows that the largest increases in judge time occurred on the Criminal and Matrimonial calendars. Over a five-year period, however, the Civil and General Equity calendars also increased significantly.

Fig. 16

INCREASE IN TRIAL JUDGE HOURS  
BETWEEN 1980 AND 1981

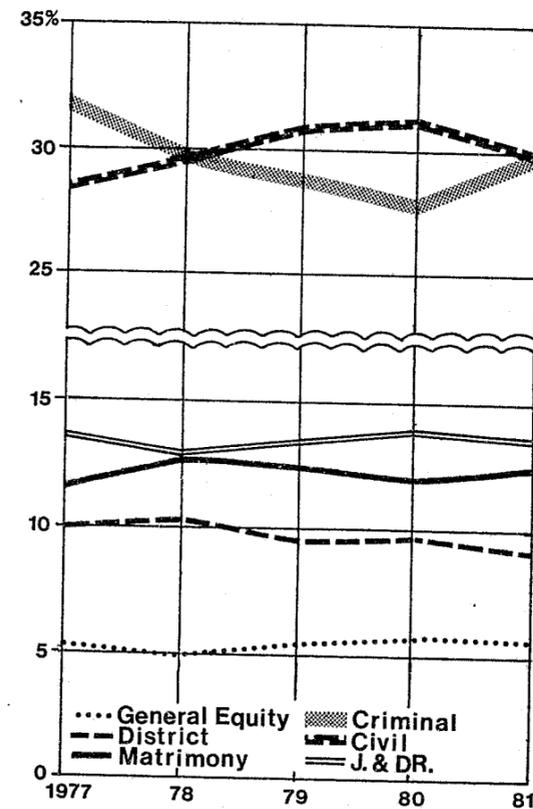
COURT	1980	1981	%
CIVIL	85,367	84,311	-1.2%
CRIMINAL	75,653	84,167	11.3%
GEN. EQUITY	15,729	15,836	.7%
MATRIMONIAL	32,569	35,102	7.8%
J&DR	38,026	37,973	-.1%
DISTRICT CT	26,858	25,748	-4.1%
TOTAL HRS.	274,202	283,137	3.3%
TOTAL HOURS PER AVAILABLE JUDGE	1,094	1,109	1.4%

Figure 17 presents the percentage of total judge hours devoted to the six major trial court calendars.

In summary, it is clear that the most dramatic trend in judicial workload over recent years has been the increase in productivity. The judicial resources available have increased slightly, but the cases disposed of have increased substantially. Part of this productivity is due to the increase in settlements and the decline in the trial rate in the major time-consuming matters in

the Law Division of the Superior Court. At the same time, the increased workload, including substantial increases in motions, show that the judges are working harder and developing new techniques to cope with ever-greater demands on their time.

Figure 17  
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL JUDGE TIME  
BY CALENDAR 1977-1981



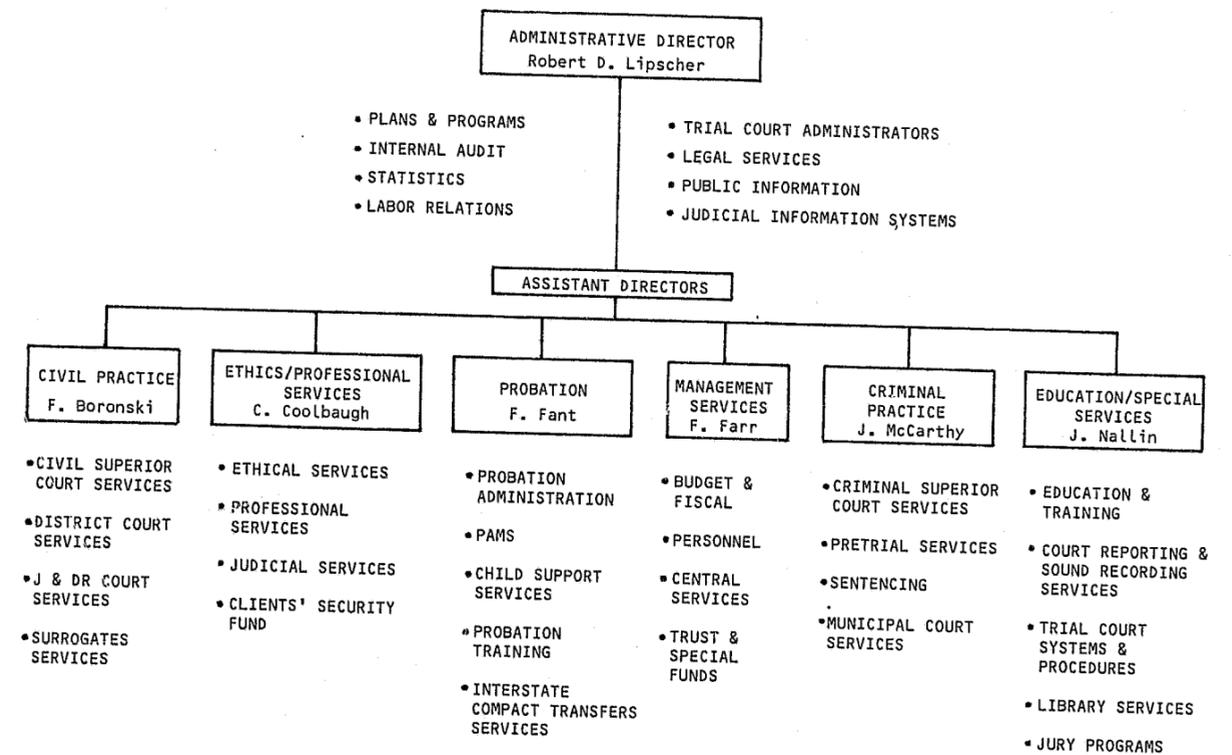
## Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the administrative arm of the Chief Justice, who is designated by the New Jersey Constitution as administrative head of the court system. The Chief Justice appoints the Director of the AOC.

The AOC continually monitors and evaluates the operations of the state judicial system under the direction of the Chief Justice. This work includes the gathering of statistics on the workload of the courts, the development of training programs for judges and staff, the budget, personnel, and office support tasks essential to judicial operations, and the

responses to requests for information about the judiciary.

The AOC also plans and implements reforms in judicial administration. Under the supervision of the Chief Justice, these changes extend to every area of court activity: criminal case processing, probation office administration, clerical support, jury improvement, streamlined procedures in trial and appellate courts, and municipal court operations are just a few of the many areas of current interest. These reforms may involve responses to new legislation, rule changes, or administrative policies.



# 1 Focus '81

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## COMMITTEE ON EFFICIENCY

In February 1980, the Supreme Court appointed a committee on efficiency in the operations of the courts. This Committee, composed of leading businessmen in New Jersey, government officials, and judges, studied trial court operations throughout the 1981 court year. In June 1981, the seven subcommittees of the full Committee presented the draft of their reports and recommendations to the annual Judicial Conference. Based on the conference discussions and additional points of view, the committee then prepared its final report, released in early 1982.

The creation of the Committee on Efficiency in the Operations of the Courts, 33 years after the 1947 Constitutional Convention, marks one of the most significant developments in the court reform efforts in New Jersey since that convention and may well prove to be an event of national significance.

The Committee focused its attention on the support operation of the trial courts and the need for improvement in the Trial Court system. It found that the trial courts are supported by competent and dedicated people who perform well in the face of severe problems in the operation of the trial courts

Chief among these problems is the absence from the trial court environment of a true "system." The Committee found that the trial courts were being supported by a multitude of independent units, each of which performs well within its individual sphere but without cohesiveness and a sense of the whole, particularly with respect to such key centralized functions as caseload management.

Contributing to the sense of fractionalization is the absence of a strong, statewide management structure. The Committee noted that while

earlier reforms had clearly established the managerial authority and responsibility of the Chief Justice and Assignment Judges with respect to the courts themselves, the same had not evolved with respect to the vitally important support systems. The Committee concluded that the role of the AOC -- to provide centralized direction and technical assistance to the trial courts -- had not been developed sufficiently nor had the relationship between the Assignment Judges and the numerous units which provide court support services. Similarly, the Committee found that the relationships between Assignment Judges and the Trial Court Administrators, who should be providing strong, experienced management support, were vague, undefined and varied. The Committee concluded that the trial court system is not characterized by the exercise of the strong managerial authority which should characterize an organization of the size and scope of the trial courts.

Although all of the recommendations made by the Committee are significant, there are five which are of major import with respect to the future development of the trial court system.

1. The trial court system should be state-funded. The judicial reform efforts in New Jersey have moved inexorably towards the recognition that the various courts in the State are, in reality, all part of a single system. Successive reforms have resulted in the progressive consolidation and unification of the upper courts in New Jersey. The Committee recommended that it is now time to unify the trial courts and their support systems. It recommended a single funding source. Without a single funding source, meaningful and efficient management is virtually impossible. Control of the budget inevitably means control

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over operations which in turn facilitates uniformity, consistency, predictability and, in sum, a stronger more easily managed system capable of responding to statewide priorities.

2. The trial court system should be supported by a single personnel system. An important characteristic of a statewide system susceptible to efficient management is a strong and responsive personnel system. The Committee therefore recommended a single personnel system responsive to the Judiciary. The Committee particularly noted that a judicial civil service system and the gradual evolution of collective bargaining units encompassing only judicial employees will contribute substantially toward the development of an ability on the part of the Judiciary to better manage its major resource--people.

3. The Judiciary must develop a stronger internal management capability. Fundamental to the efficient and effective operations of any organization is a strong management capability designed to identify organizational priorities and to provide a clear direction to those responsible for carrying out these priorities. The present judicial system, the Committee recommended, must substantially strengthen its ability to provide coherent direction to the multitude of units which comprise the trial court system.

4. The Judiciary should exercise direct control over all court clerical support operations presently exercised by the county clerk in connection with pending cases. The clerical processing of court papers is an integral part of the adjudication process. The Committee found that the responsibility for processing key documents which in themselves are responsible for triggering such fundamental judicial activities as holding hearings and issuing judgments, is divided among numerous separate units, some of which are under the direct supervisory control of a non-judicial officer. This divided control is inconsistent with widely accepted business principles.

The Committee recommended that the courts must have uninterrupted authority over all aspects of caseflow, from filing to disposition, if they are to be held accountable for their performance.

5. Modern methods of information processing and records management must be introduced into and utilized by the trial court system as quickly as possible. Modern methods of information processing and records management are not utilized within the trial court support system, which is heavily labor intensive. The Committee found that the almost total reliance on manual activity and the absence of even rudimentary office automation is costly, time consuming, and inefficient. It therefore recommended that modern technology, from word processing to computerization, be integrated into the work of the trial court support system as quickly as possible to minimize cost and maximize efficiency.

The members of the Committee included businessmen, two county freeholders, four county administrative officials, two Assistant Judges, one Appellate Division judge, a surrogate, a county clerk, a sheriff, a chief probation officer, a trial court administrator, a city authority director, and two management consultants with substantial government experience. Among the businessmen were top level managers of some of New Jersey's largest corporate enterprises. The chairman of the Committee was Robert Van Fossan, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company. The other businessmen members were: James G. Affleck, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of American Cyanamid Company; John J. Horan, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of Merck and Company, Inc.; Robert N. Schaberle, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Nabisco, Inc.; Morris Tannenbaum, Executive Vice-

President of American Telephone and Telegraph Company.

The recommendations of the Committee on Efficiency presented a long-range vision of the courts of the future. The Committee laid out a course of reform crucial to the efficient and effective performance of the trial court system. Consolidation and unification of the courts themselves

largely have been accomplished. The critical task which remains to be done, as pointed out by the Committee on Efficiency, is the consolidation and unification of the support system so that the goal of timely, economical and meaningful justice to all can be realized. The Committee and its work represent the first and critical step in the major court reform effort of our decade.

## SPEEDY TRIAL PROGRAM

On January 1, 1981, New Jersey commenced a Statewide Speedy Trial Program, the first of its kind in the nation. The statewide program set specific goals for each of the major intervals of the criminal case process.

After nearly a year of planning on both the state and local levels, detailed plans of action were put into operation in each of the 21 counties. These plans, and two major state task force reports, were developed during 1980 to respond to steadily increasing delays in the processing of the criminal case. The statewide program is a three-year effort designed to cut the time from arrest to disposition to 135 days for all but exceptional cases. The goal for the first year was to move cases from arrest to disposition in 251 days. When the defendant is incarcerated, the project calls for an accelerated time frame. In the first year, the goal in "jail" cases is 125 days; in the third year it will be 68 days.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FRAMEWORK FOR DELAY REDUCTION

Early in 1980, two task forces were formed to study factors causing pre- and post-indictment delay and to develop recommendations for policy and rule amendments. These reports led to the amendment of Rule 3:9-1 which calls for in-person arraignments in open court and Rule 3:13-1 requiring pre-trial conferences of all parties within 60 days of arraignment. The reports also led to the promulgation of specific time goals for disposition of cases which were spread over a three-year period, and the development of a local planning process to achieve these goals. Another important contribution of the task forces was to focus attention on the probable cause hearing, the complaint process, the discovery process, and the plea negotiation procedures.

### The Demonstration Projects

During the first six months of 1980, a series of demonstration projects were established to experiment with certain innovative approaches in criminal case processing. In Passaic and Union Counties the concept of verticalization, that is, assigning a specific team (judge, prosecutor and defense counsel) to a case was tested. It was felt that such a procedure would promote disciplined case management, create a better environment for disposition by developing close working relationships between key actors, establish continuing familiarity with cases, and provide for better accountability among those responsible for each case. (This concept differs drastically from the horizontal process which carries a case through a myriad of specialized units.) Both experiments showed that time could be dramatically reduced, with average time from arrest to disposition reduced to about 60 days in Passaic County.

Demonstration projects were also commenced, in Gloucester County to test elimination of probable cause hearings, and in Somerset County to test direct prosecutor filing of complaints.

The demonstration projects tested alternate methods of handling cases; all of the approaches have been useful and productive. All four counties are among the leaders in the statewide program. These projects demonstrate the proposition that a essential attribute of success in a speedy trial program is the willingness of the participants to have a positive attitude regarding change. The two characteristics of successful reform go hand-in-hand: improvements in management and administrative procedures, and the cooperation and coordination of the various components of the system.

### The Local Planning Process

The local speedy trial planning process began in 1980. While some

important changes were designed on a statewide basis, much delay is indigenous to local methods. These problems needed to be considered and resolved on a local level, and it was recognized that lasting change could occur only if implemented by each individual county. Each county's program, then, could be different, based on the concerns and interests of the participants in the county.

Each county conducted a step-by-step review of the criminal case process under auspices of a committee comprised of all key participants in the criminal process. Local speedy trial plans outlined delay points and recommended procedures to deal with this delay. The plans include methods to implement various common procedures such as backlog reduction, case tracking and age monitoring, expeditious processing of complaint paperwork, new duties of criminal assignment clerks, and procedures for conducting in-court arraignments and pre-trial conferences.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF SPEEDY TRIAL PROGRAM - JANUARY 1981

All 21 counties now have plans approved by the Supreme Court. The local speedy trial planning committees have continued to meet regularly to oversee the implementation of their local plans. This process has played an important role by leading to new and stronger working relationships among the court, prosecutor, and defense, and other key components of the system.

The Statewide Speedy Trial Coordinating Committee, chaired by the Chief Justice, was formed in early 1981 to create a forum for the exchange of views among various officials, to provide for exchange of information on results of new procedures, to address common problems, and to disseminate policy decisions.

This committee receives reports from the counties on various aspects of

their programs, and feeds back information on how the other various programs have handled such problems. A major part of the Statewide Committee's work has been to assure the coordinated development of case tracking and age monitoring systems so that overall performance can be evaluated and problem cases identified for specific handling.

Case tracking and age monitoring have become an integral and essential aspect of delay reduction. These systems report on the age of a case since its last major event (e.g., complaint, indictment, or arraignment). If a case age is beyond its stated goal, then the case is listed on an exception report. These reports are circulated within the county, allowing for special attention to the case. Copies are also forwarded to the statewide committee to evaluate performance. Many counties have gone well beyond minimum requirements and have developed detailed case tracking systems which have allowed for a more highly refined case management.

#### New Rules and Procedures

Two rule changes have substantially reorganized criminal case processing. The procedural cornerstones of the program have been the rule amendments requiring formal in-court arraignments and mandatory pre-trial conference with all parties present.

At the arraignment, one to two weeks after return of an indictment, all parties meet in court where several important case needs are met: the early exchange of discovery, identification of defense counsel, scheduling and notification of future events, initiation of PTI applications, identification of potential fugitive problems, and possible initiation of plea negotiations. While it may be that all of these could be accomplished without requiring a formal court appearance, they were not regularly accomplished in the past,

and the appearance has served to insure that they occur on a timely basis.

The pre-trial conference requires a second meeting of all parties within two months of arraignment, prior to listing for trial. At the conference, a report is made on the status of plea negotiations and other case needs are managed. These pre-trial conferences provide a forum for plea negotiations in advance of any trial date. Not only are cases disposed of more expeditiously, but subsequent trial lists become firmer and trial scheduling becomes more certain.

Both the arraignment rule and the pre-trial conference rule are important techniques for managing the individual cases and the entire calendar. While both require valuable time for personal appearances, the benefit of the new rules has greatly surpassed the cost. Other post-indictment innovations include reduction of time for filing of motions and pre-trial intervention applications, use of conditional pleas when PTI applications are pending at pre-trial conferences, omnibus hearings, more expeditious return of grand jury indictments, pre-arraignment discovery, enter of pleas on the same day as negotiated, post-indictment team verticalization of both court and counsel, and sharing of non-sensitive information by bail, PTI, and presentence report services.

Much of the planning focused on delays in the initial stages of the criminal process, and numerous changes in procedures have occurred. Delays were found in the municipal court's notification to the parties of the filing of a complaint, the initial appearance, the forwarding of police and lab reports to the prosecutor, the timing of screening discussions, and the case preparation for grand jury. During these early days, appropriate management can be most effective in assuring that the

case develops properly, that defense counsel is involved, and that required procedures are commenced.

In two counties, Bergen and Middlesex, central adult intake services were developed. Defendants are required to appear at the county courthouse within one day of arrest or first appearance in municipal court. These units begin processes such as completion of public defender applications, PTI applications, and verification of address and other information.

In Hudson County, a Central Judicial Processing System includes most of the benefits of the intake concept and contains a formal Rule 3:4-2 hearing (an initial appearance during which the court informs the defendant of the charge and of his rights), at which time appropriate cases are remanded or dismissed by the prosecutor after review of arrest or incident reports.

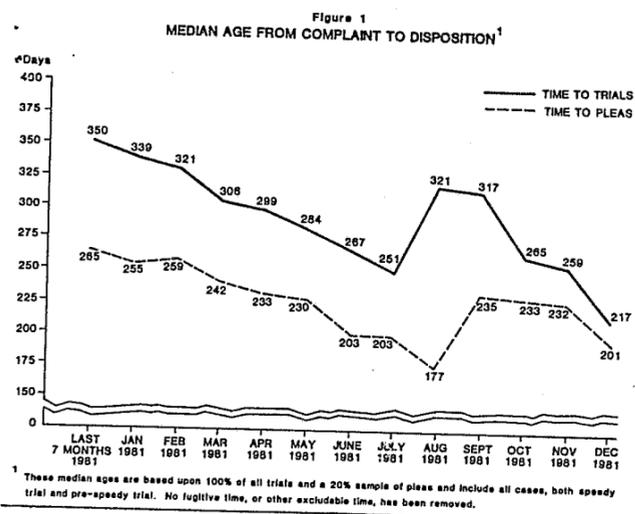
For the last part of the 1981 term, the Chief Justice established a county visitation program, selecting the Honorable Sidney H. Reiss from Passaic County and John P. McCarthy, Jr., Esq. from the Administrative Office of the Courts to visit each of the 21 counties and discuss the program with local officials. The purposes of the visitation program are to learn new activities in each county, to provide information to the counties on what was working in other counties, to advise the statewide committee of common problems, and to assist in the development of case tracking systems.

#### PRELIMINARY RESULTS

It is too early to assess definitively the results of the Speedy Trial program. It is a three-year program, and only the first year is complete. Further, many of the cases filed during the first year were still pending at the end of the reporting period. While a final evaluation

requires a longer time span, the early indications show a promising start for the program.

By the end of 1981, median time to disposition in criminal cases had dropped from twelve months to seven months. Figure 1 shows a steady decline in the median for all trials and a 20% sample of all pleas. Except for an increase in the summer months due to vacations, the decline was steady, and the figures at year's end were substantially below those at the start.



This improvement occurred despite a 27% increase in criminal filings in 1981 compared to 1980, which is discussed in greater detail in the Law, Criminal section. With the attention on tracking and managing cases that the Speedy Trial program provides, judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel are able to increase their productivity significantly and meet much of the pressure of greater volume of work.

The figures available at the end of the first year present strong indications for the success of the Speedy Trial program. This early success is due partly to the availability of case-tracking data and reports on cases over-goal, but it is due much more to the hard work and dedication of the judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, and others involved in local planning and to the oversight of those on the statewide committee. The goals of Speedy Trial will continue to challenge the justice system, but the first year established a promising start.

## COMPUTERIZATION & MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Operating courts is a very labor-intensive activity. A great deal of paper comes into the courts for review and processing and the courts themselves produce more. Docketing and indexing of case pleadings, motions, judgments and other papers must be accurate and timely. Also, the courts handle a great deal of money, in the form of court-generated revenue from fees, fines and forfeitures, and in trust funds held by the courts. Finally, court scheduling and case processing require the coordination of many different persons, facilities, and resources. Good court management calls for the monitoring of the status of pending cases and court workloads. Traditionally, all of this work has been a manual operation.

For some time it has been clear that economy and efficiency demand that a large portion of this work be computerized. Automated systems would handle the large volume of paper processing, filings, bookkeeping, scheduling, and monitoring more quickly and with greater accessibility. For the computerization to be effective, however, good planning is absolutely necessary. Without it, the computers will add to the burdens of court operations instead of reducing them. Plans must address the technical characteristics of an automated system and its capabilities, but they must also cover considerations such as how a system will be accepted by users or how it will work within the existing routines of the court. Complete planning anticipates these issues and ensures better use of the computers.

The report of the Committee on Efficiency strongly indicates need for a comprehensive program for data automation in the courts. The committee identified 17 major areas for automation in the records and management information area alone, plus

others in related areas such as probation. The committee further found that existing automated systems are diverse with respect to application, equipment, and computer language. It recommended a unified plan for computerization, with hardware, software, and programming language of a standardized or coordinated kind. The committee also recommended a study to establish the trial court's needs for automation and that the AOC assume a leadership role in data processing and word processing throughout the courts.

### PLANNING

In order to develop a rational plan for the most effective use of computers in New Jersey courts, the AOC engaged the National Center for State Courts in the Statewide Computerization Study. The Statewide Computerization Study will identify needed computer systems or improvements in existing systems, and will establish a master plan for reaching the required capabilities. The plan will include considerations of policy, organization, and funding as well as equipment and system analysis. When complete, the plan will enable the State to coordinate the implementation of computer systems throughout the courts.

The computerization study will produce two significant documents. First, a system requirements report will describe the specific needs for computers and consider the system configurations that seem most appropriate. Second, a master plan will cover development and implementation of the system. Existing automated systems will be integrated into the plan to the greatest extent possible. The project covers case management, finance, and personnel in all courts, except municipal and surrogate courts, and in the Administrative Office and related agencies.

The National Center is working with an Advisory Committee during the study. The committee, chaired by Justice Stewart G. Pollock of the Supreme Court, reviews the work of the project and will work toward implementation after the reports are complete. The reports will be finished in mid-1982.

Anticipating the submission of the project reports, the AOC announced in February, 1981 a moratorium on computer systems development. Counties desiring to pursue computerization for judicial management information and case processing may do so with the prior approval of the AOC. The AOC review will help to reduce duplication and mismatched equipment and software once the master plan is complete. With AOC approval, counties may pursue computerization with the expectation that their investment will be compatible with the comprehensive plan being developed.

#### JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION PROJECTS

The continuing work in judicial management information is closely tied to the planning effort in the computerization study. The Judicial Management Information Systems (JMIS) unit is working with the study while pursuing daily tasks. Current projects exist in the clerks' offices, in the AOC, and in local courts around the State. In the last year, significant progress has been made in the Appellate Division's information system, in the computer-assisted micrographics system (CAMIS) in the Superior Court, in case tracking for speedy trial purposes, and in several other areas. Further JMIS planning is underway to produce accurate and timely management information in personnel and financial areas.

#### Appellate Project

The information system currently operational in the clerk's office of the Appellate Division, Superior Court produces reports on case man-

agement and case tracking. It has eliminated manual docketing and some hard-copy logs and files, thereby reducing clerical time and filing space. It produces reports to track delinquent transcripts and briefs, and it tracks inventory and caseloads to monitor the work of the Appellate Division.

#### Computer-assisted Micrographics

The computer-assisted micrographics (CAMIS) project in the Superior Court has been significantly expanded in the last year. CAMIS is an automated system to docket and microfilm filing documents and then prepare statistical reports from docket data. CAMIS improves filing accuracy and reduces lost documents. Additional case-tracking and case-management activity is possible, since computerized reports are easily produced.

Before the installation of CAMIS, docketing, indexing, maintenance of case files, and records retention were all carried out manually at both the Superior Court clerk's office in Trenton and in the local clerk's offices around the state. With CAMIS, the index and docket work is automatically generated. The case file is established and retained locally while the case is pending, and the Superior Court clerk in Trenton retains only a microfiche copy of the files. The duplicate record-keeping is therefore eliminated, and the microfilmed records of the case are produced immediately instead of years after the case is disposed of.

Initially placed in the Matrimonial section of the Superior Court in 1980, the system is now operational on matrimonial cases. Docket information and case management reports at both State and county levels have eliminated the need for manual docketing. CAMIS was also implemented during the last year in the General Equity section of the Superior Court.

System analysis and design are now

complete to install CAMIS in the Law Division. Like the other divisions, the Law Division will be able to eliminate manual docketing and receive timely case management reports. The next step for the Law Division is to acquire equipment and implement the system.

In the future, CAMIS will be tailored to include a fee accounting system. It will track all fees paid to the court, charge attorney accounts where appropriate, and produce timely cash account reports. As in the case management system, the accounting capability will reduce clerical tasks and increase operational efficiency.

#### Other Projects

The JMIS unit is planning an automated system to manage Superior Court Trust Funds. These trust funds, now

totaling over \$60 million, involve frequent receipts and disbursements and computation of interest. The Trust Fund System automation will provide accurate and up-to-date information for accounting and management.

JMIS is also developing personnel systems for judges and for support personnel. Computerized systems for personnel will provide records of appointments, tenures, and current assignments of judges and pertinent data for other personnel.

Information programs are currently producing reports for a wide variety of other management purposes. These include billing and accounting of the Clients' Security Fund, Bar Examination statistics, Central Appellate Research records, data on pretrial programs, and judicial education records.

## **2** Court Operations

- APPELLATE COURTS
- TRIAL COURTS of  
GENERAL JURISDICTION
- TRIAL COURTS of  
LIMITED JURISDICTION
- MUNICIPAL COURTS

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## SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court with seven members, the Chief Justice and six Associate Justices, is New Jersey's court of last resort. The Justices are appointed for seven-year terms and, upon reappointment, serve until age 70.

Cases are routed to the Supreme Court by way of direct appeal or petition for certification from a final judgment of the Appellate Division. In addition, every year it considers hundreds of interlocutory matters.

The Supreme Court also regulates admission to the bar and imposes the rules of practice on New Jersey attorneys. It acts as the final arbiter in disciplinary matters concerning members of the bar.

### JURISDICTION

The Supreme Court's jurisdiction in litigated matters can be invoked in one of several ways. From a final judgment, a party may petition the Supreme Court to certify his case for review. If the matter is one which the Supreme Court must hear, then the appeal can be taken "as of right." Although 33% of the appeals added in the 1981 term were filed "as of right," the Rules of Court favor the certification process.

### APPEALS AS OF RIGHT

An appeal "as of right" is permitted in the Supreme Court only if it involves a substantial constitutional question not passed upon by an appellate court previously, or if a dissenting opinion was filed in the Appellate Division. The latter occurs rarely, and court rules limit the scope of the appeal to the precise issue discussed in the dissent--often a small part of the overall decision. The former, appeals based on constitutional issues, occurs more frequently, but with a marked lack of success.

In the 1981 term, 70 notices of appeal were filed "as of right"; 50 were dismissed prior to argument, almost all for failure to meet the Court's strict standards for a substantial constitutional question.

### PETITIONS FOR CERTIFICATION

To invoke the Court's discretionary review process, parties must petition for certification. Certification will be granted only if: 1) the case involves a matter of general public importance that has not been, but should be, settled by the Court; 2) the question is similar to one already on appeal; 3) the decision below conflicts with another appellate decision or calls for the general supervisory powers of the Court; or 4) the interest of justice requires it.

These certification standards are not easy to meet. The percentage of petitions for certifications granted has remained close to 10% of petitions filed for the last three years.

### APPLICATIONS AND MOTIONS

In addition to matters arising out of final judgments, the Supreme Court considers interlocutory applications, many of which first pass through the trial courts and the Appellate Division. A great variety of motions come before the Court; the most frequent involve requests for leave to appeal, extensions of time, stays, and direct certification. The Court's jurisdiction over admissions to the bar also generates many applications. These include requests for the relaxation of education requirements and various other requests for relief.

**ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE**

The final area of the Court's case jurisdiction is attorney discipline. The ethics process begins with the filing of a complaint with a District Ethics Committee. Presentments from those Committees are filed with the Disciplinary Review Board which, in turn, files with the Supreme Court a report and recommendation on the discipline to be imposed.

In 1981, the Supreme Court heard 68 disciplinary matters, up 14 or 26% from 1980. Of these dispositions, 47 resulted in the imposition of sanctions, one was a restoration to the practice of law, and the balance included miscellaneous applications.

**FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS**

Case filings (appeals, certifications, motions and disciplinaries) increased by 61 in 1981 for a combined total of 2,682. At the same time, overall dispositions for the term amounted to 2,565, a decrease of 171 from the previous year. The table below shows that the Supreme Court has been subject to the same pressures of increasing workload as the rest of the court system.

Fig. 1

FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS 1977-1981	1977-1981				
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Appeals filed	227	193	214	232	216
disposed	244	218	243	223	216
Petitions for Certification filed	765	866	931	979	986
disposed	967	698	975	1,075	915
Motions filed	1,210	1,129	1,348	1,353	1,409
disposed	1,193	1,070	1,343	1,384	1,366
Disciplinaries filed	62	64	84	57	71
disposed	70	66	94	54	68
Total filed	2,262	2,252	2,577	2,621	2,682
disposed	2,474	2,052	2,655	2,736	2,565

All categories in the Court's case-load increased in 1981 except for a moderate decline in appeals of 16 for the term. Certifications and motions continue to lead all categories in filings and dispositions. Modifications in bar admission procedures in September 1981 should reduce motions in that area, but the pressures of appellate review of final judgments will continue to grow.

The steady addition of more certification filings since 1977 can generally be ascribed to the increases in Appellate Division dispositions. The percentage of petitions for certifications, as a percentage of appellate division dispositions, has remained relatively steady for the past 5 years except for a 2% decrease in 1979 brought about by the institution of an administrative dismissal procedure in the Appellate Division under which hundreds of inactive cases were dismissed with few calls for review by the Supreme Court. With these cases eliminated, the overall number of dispositions in 1981 in the Appellate Division declined. As a result, the percentage of certifications filed rose to 19.8%.

Fig. 2  
PETITIONS FOR CERTIFICATION AS A PERCENTAGE  
OF APPELLATE DIVISION DISPOSITIONS

1977-81			
	Appellate Div. Disp.	Petitions for Cert.	Cert. as % of App. Div. Dispositions
1977	4,237	765	18.1%
1978	4,741	866	18.3%
1979	5,622	931	16.6%
1980	5,400	979	18.1%
1981	4,980	986	19.8%

**PENDING CASES**

Pending cases before the Supreme Court rose in all four categories. The sharpest increase occurred in petitions for certification, up 71 to 282 in 1981, approximately a one-third increase over 1980 cases on hand. Pending motions at the end of the 1981 Court term numbered 195, up

43 or more than 28% from 1980. Disciplinaries showed only a nominal increase of three matters. Pending appeals remain unchanged.

The graph below sets forth the matters pending for the last five years.

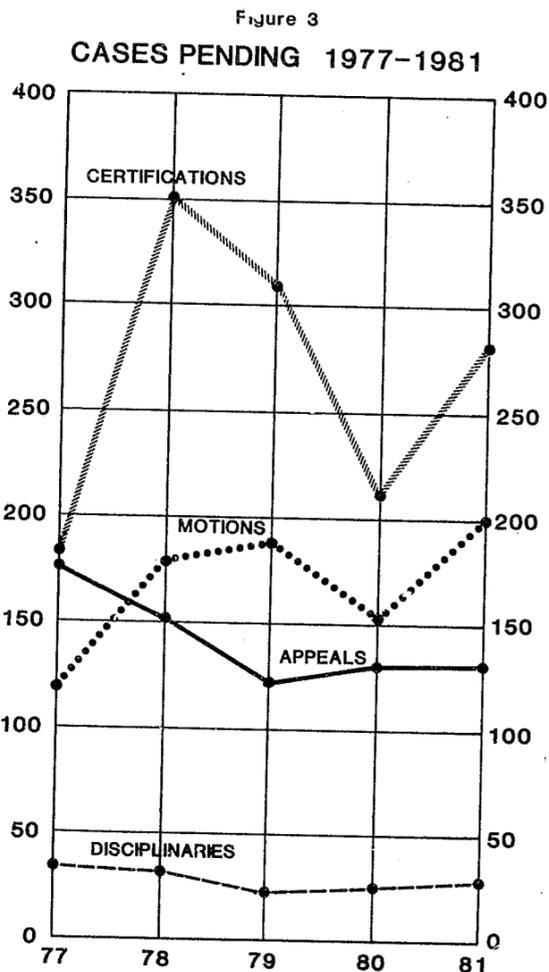


Figure 3 shows that the number of appeals and disciplinaries has been rather steady. It also points up the results of the increasing number of motions filed in recent years. Finally, it graphically displays the wide fluctuations in the number of petitions for certification that remain on hand in a given year. Much of the pending certifications category consists of matters filed in the summer months while the Court is in recess.

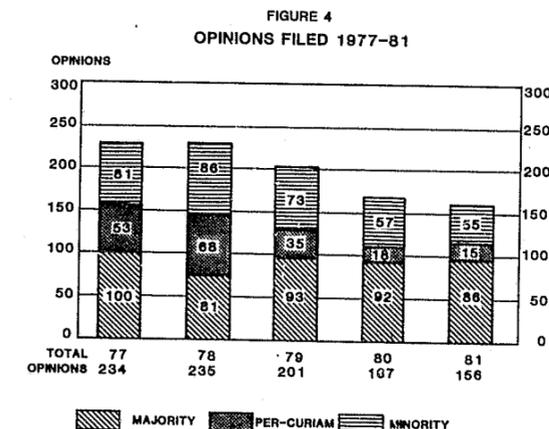
**OPINIONS FILED**

While considerable time and effort is expended on discretionary review matters, the opinions of the Court remain its most visible work. The Court, under the direction of the Chief Justice, discusses each case first before it is argued and then again at the conference following oral arguments. Opinion assignment is made by the Chief Justice if the Court is unanimous or if the Chief Justice is in the majority. In cases where the Chief Justice does not participate or is one of the members in minority, the opinion is assigned by the senior Justice voting with the majority.

Although upward of 20 opinions may be in circulation at any given time, each Justice must be fully conversant with every opinion before the court, whether a first or a final draft. Circulating opinions hold the highest priority at Court conferences and every effort is made to insure that the decisions of the Court are truly collegial in nature.

In 1981, the Supreme Court filed 156 opinions (majority, minority, and *per curiam*), deciding 121 appeals and five disciplinaries. The number of signed majority opinions decreased in 1981 by 6 to 86. Minority opinions also declined in 1981 by 2 to 55. The balance of the opinions filed were *per curiam*.

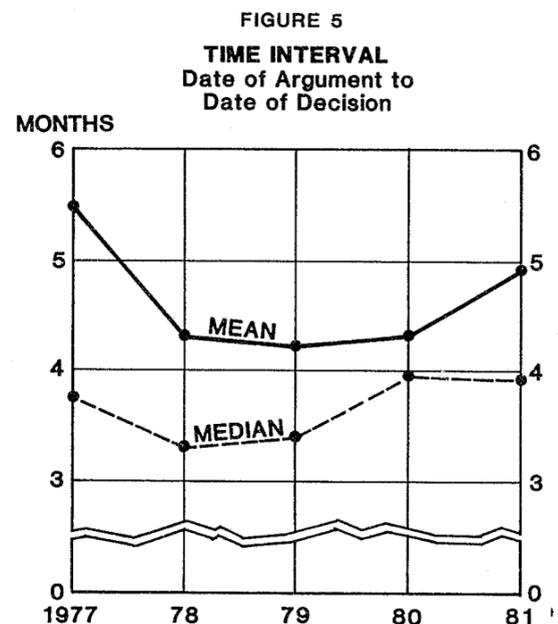
A comparison of five years' opinions filings (see chart below) shows the



decline in opinion production by the Supreme Court to be mainly attributed to reductions in minority and per curiam opinions. Per curiam decisions have been reduced particularly in the areas of disciplinary matters and summary affirmances of the opinion below.

#### TIME TO DECISION

More difficult to answer than the question of what the Court decides is "how long" it takes to make that decision. Any given case can be disposed of promptly if there is a consensus on the part of the members of the Court involved. However, the decisional process in a multi-member court does not, if truly collegial determinations are sought, lend itself to the immediate generation of full opinions in many cases. The complexity of the case and divergent views about the legal issues can combine to seriously affect the timing of any disposition. Nonetheless, the time it takes from the date of argument to the date of decision in the Supreme Court has remained fairly



constant over the last five years. The median time of three months and 28 days in 1981 falls within the parameters of the 1977-1980 period.

## SUPERIOR COURT • APPELLATE DIVISION

The Appellate Division of the Superior Court is the intermediate appellate court in New Jersey but for most litigants it is the court of last resort. Relatively few cases go beyond the Appellate Division to the Supreme Court because the Supreme Court's jurisdiction is largely discretionary. For the Appellate Division, however, the New Jersey Constitution permits an appeal as of right to be taken from the Chancery and Law Divisions of the Superior Court. In addition, various statutes allow appeals to the Appellate Division from other courts such as the County District Court, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and the Tax Court. Even appeals from municipal courts may eventually find their way to the Appellate Division although they first must pass through the Law Division. The Supreme Court has designated the Appellate Division as the court which hears appeals from the actions of state agencies.

Thus by virtue of the New Jersey Constitution, the relevant statutes and the Supreme Court's exercise of its constitutional function, the Appellate Division is available to almost every litigant who loses at the trial level.

The Appellate Division is made up of 21 judges of the Superior Court, each of whom was appointed to the Appellate Division by the Chief Justice after serving as a trial judge. The court consists of seven "parts" each of which has a presiding judge and two "side" judges. The entire court is administratively coordinated by a presiding judge for administration, designated by the Chief Justice, who takes on that function in addition to all the other duties normally performed by an Appellate Division judge. At the start of each court year the Chief

Justice, after consultation with the Presiding Judge for Administration, designates which side-judges shall sit with which presiding judges. In this way, over the course of the years, each judge gets to work with every other judge thereby sharing individual expertise and techniques.

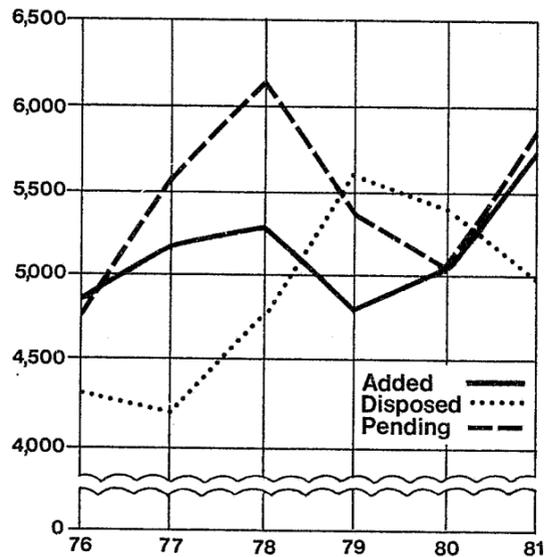
Each part of the Appellate Division "sits" 31 times between September and June. At each sitting the judges consider 15 or more appeals. Some of the cases are decided by two judges and some by three depending upon the relative difficulty of the cases. Typically about 70% of all appeals are decided by two judges. During the 1981 court year that figure dipped a little to 65% which perhaps indicates a somewhat tougher group of appeals being decided.

In addition to deciding calendared cases the court also disposes of thousands of motions and emergent applications. These follow no predictable schedule in terms of when they are filed, and if they "bunch up" the court or a particular part can be exceptionally burdened. The Appellate Division, however, prides itself on its availability and it is open for emergent matters literally 365 days a year.

#### FILINGS AND DISPOSITIONS

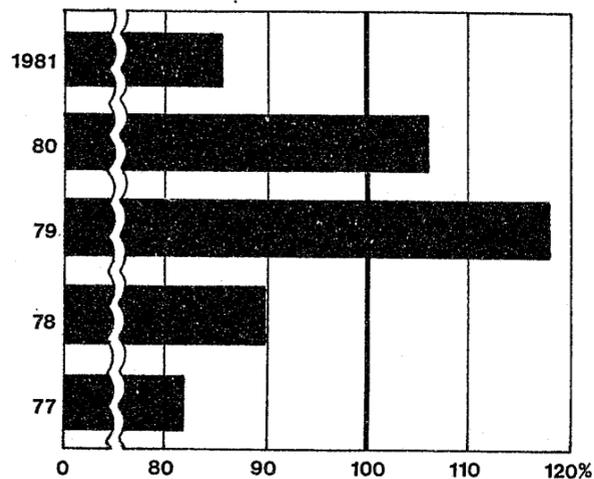
During the 1981 court year the court's tradition of availability and flexibility were once again put to a vigorous test. 5,716 notices of appeal were filed (not including reinstatements and certifications remanded from Supreme Court), up by nearly 631 from the prior year. The court decided more appeals than ever before by written decision, 3747 this year compared with 3,738 in the prior year and 3,001 in the 1977 court year

**Figure 1**  
**CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING**  
**1976-1981**



a 25% increase over 1977. While the number of cases decided by written opinions increased, the number of settlements and dismissals decreased in the 1981 court year. This year those dispositions numbered 1,233 which was down 26% from 1,662 in the prior year. The net result is that total dispositions, by written decision, dismissal or settlement, were down 8% to 5,001 from 5,431 the previous year.

**Figure 2**  
**CALENDAR CLEARANCE**  
**1977-1981**



At the close of the 1981 court year 5,845 appeals were pending in the system. After clearing its calendar (by deciding at least as many cases as were filed) in the previous two years, the Appellate Division failed to clear its calendar in 1981; the number of cases pending increased by 812 or 16%, as shown in Figure 2.

**SOURCES OF CASES FILED**

This year, as in all prior years, the lion's share of the 5,716 notices of appeal came from the Law Division of Superior Court and the majority of those were criminal cases. Of the 3,525 notices of appeal filed from the Law Division, 2,082 were criminal cases. This is an increase of 567 notices of appeal from the Law Division over the prior court year. Figure 3 presents the breakdown on sources of cases added.

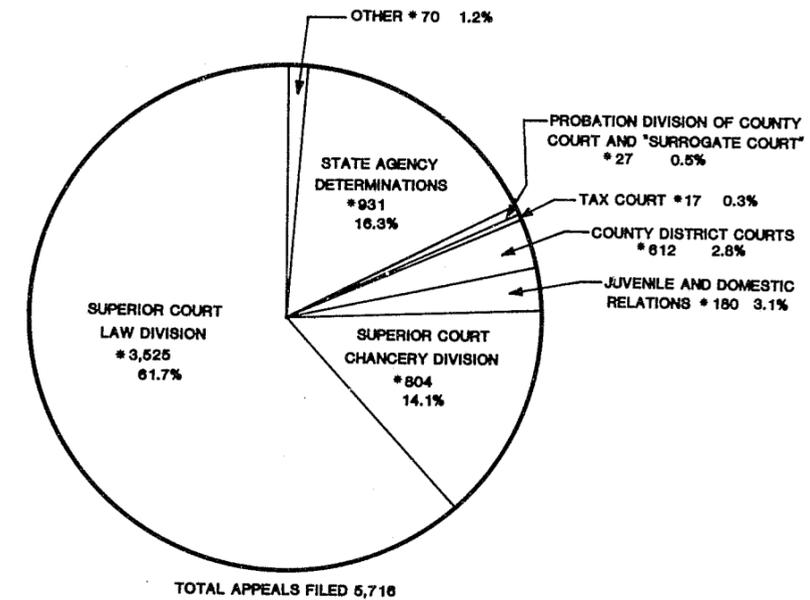
With the exception of the County District Courts (which produced 10 fewer notices of appeal than last year) the filings from all courts were up. Aside from the Law Division the increase was not numerically significant from any particular court. Combined, the other courts accounted for only 64 of the additional 631 notices of appeal filed this year over last year.

The number of appeals filed from state agencies dropped from 1,030 to 931 this year but the decreases were widely dispersed among approximately 40 departments and divisions. Appeals from state agencies accounted for a little over 16% of total appeals filed, down from 20.3% in the 1980 court year. State agencies remain the second largest source of appellate business. Over the last five years there has been no significant shift in the sources of appeals.

**ISSUES ON APPEAL**

There are over 60 basic types of arguments which can be presented to an appellate court. Over the last

**FIGURE 3**  
**SOURCES OF CASES FILED 1981**



TOTAL APPEALS FILED 5,716  
\* DOES NOT INCLUDE REINSTATED CASES AND CERTIFICATIONS REMANDED FROM SUPREME COURT.  
OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN THE SOURCES OF APPEALS.

five years, the same ten issues have been most often raised. The most prevalent assertion of appellants is not that a mistake of law was made but rather that a judge or state agency made erroneous fact findings. Close to 1,000 appellants asserted this argument although only 123 succeeded, for a success rate of 12.4%. Over the last few years, this issue has never succeeded more than 18.3% of the time it was raised. Nevertheless, the issue has never constituted less than 26% of all issues raised in all appeals.

The second most popular issue in each of the last 5 years has been the allegation by criminal defendants that their sentence was excessive. This was argued to the court 818 times in the 1981 court year, yet it only persuaded the judges on 13 occasions, for a success rate of 1.56%. Interestingly enough, over the last five years this issue has been raised more frequently from year to year and for the most part has met with less success each year.

The eight remaining issues from the top ten, their frequency of

appearance and relative success rates are reflected in the following chart.

Fig. 4

ISSUE RAISED BY APPELLANT	GROUND ASSERTED ON APPEAL	% OF APPEAL GROUND	NO. OF REVERSALS ON GROUND	% OF REVERSALS ON GROUND
Statutory interpretation	693	18.49	129	18.61
Erroneous ruling on admissibility of evidence (admitting or excluding evidence)	544	14.52	34	6.25
Abuse of discretion	501	13.37	76	15.17
Error in imposing, failing to impose or computing interest, damage, penalty, award or assessment	383	10.22	114	29.77
Erroneous application of law	374	9.98	33	8.82
Erroneous instructions to the jury (giving or failing to give instructions)	336	8.97	24	7.14
Evidence insufficient to support verdict (in jury cases)	289	7.71	9	3.11
Denial of due process	266	7.10	20	7.52

**TERMINATIONS**

In the 1981 court year the Appellate Division disposed of 5,001 appeals. Of this number 3,747 were decided by written decision on the merits and 1,233 were dismissed before calendaring either because they had settled or because attorneys had failed to comply with the rules of the court. The Supreme Court directly certified 21 appeals. It is

interesting to note that although the court's caseload has increased steadily over the last five years, there has not been a commensurate rise in dismissals. In the 1977 court year 1,236 appeals were dismissed -- virtually the same as the 1,233 dismissals in the most recent year.

Of the cases decided by written decision, approximately 35% were decided by three judges and the remainder by two judges. The criteria for determining whether a case will be heard by two or three judges are set forth in the Rules of Court and applied by the presiding judge of each part when he receives the cases from the Clerk's Office. Two-judge dispositions are a relatively recent innovation in the Appellate Division and statistics have only been kept over the last three years. To the extent a trend can be discerned it may be that the appeals are becoming more difficult because the percentage of cases heard by three judges has moved from 30% to 35% of decided appeals.

The overall success rate on appeal has remained strikingly constant. In the 1981 court year, 68% of all civil appeals and 85% of all criminal appeals, failed. In the 1980 court year those percentages of failure were virtually identical and indeed over the last five years the rates have not varied in either direction by more than four or five points.

Fig. 5

REVERSALS 1977-81

COURT YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES REVERSED		% OF CASES REVERSED	
	Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
1976-77	575	246	32.3%	20.1%
1977-78	580	261	33.8%	19.8%
1978-79	587	268	30.4%	17.9%
1979-80	624	283	31.6%	16.1%
1980-81	652	247	31.7%	14.6%

TIME TO DECISION

The time it takes an appeal to go through the appellate process is sometimes as significant to the

appellate litigants as the outcome of the appeal itself.

In the 1981 court year the average case took 13 months 8 days to go from notice of appeal to decision by the court. This is a 15 day improvement over the previous year but about a month and a half longer than it took the average appeal in the 1977 court year.

As a general proposition a civil appeal moves significantly faster than a criminal appeal. In the 1981 court year the majority of criminal appeals took approximately 15 months while the bulk of the civil appeals took approximately 12 1/2 months. A criminal appeal takes longer to get through the appellate process because it takes the attorney longer to "perfect" the case for the court's review, i.e. to oversee transcript preparation and write briefs.

Fig. 6

CRIMINAL AND CIVIL APPEALS TIME INTERVALS

	1980	1981
<b>CRIMINAL</b>		
Notice of Appeal to Perfection	11 mos, 19 days	8 mos, 22 days
Perfection to Calendar Date	4 mos, 16 days	5 mos, 16 days
Calendar Date to Decision	11 days	13 days
Notice of Appeal to Decision	16 mos, 26 days	14 mos, 25 days
<b>CIVIL</b>		
Notice of Appeal to Perfection	5 mos, 3 days	4 mos, 16 days
Perfection to Calendar Date	6 mos, 5 days	6 mos, 2 days
Calendar Date to Decision	14 days	14 days
Notice of Appeal to Decision	12 mos, 20 days	12 mos, 5 days

AGES OF PENDING CASES

It is relevant to know not only how many cases are pending but also the age of those cases. This analysis presents a bright spot for the Appellate Division. At the end of the 1977 court year approximately 26% of pending cases were over a year old as compared to about 19% at the close of 1981. These figures are significant because they show that even though total backlog has grown somewhat a successful attack on the oldest cases is being waged. Clearly the backlog problems of the Appellate Division remain, despite the increased efforts of the 21 judges and their support staff.

Fig. 7  
AGES OF PENDING CASES  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 1981

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Under 5 months	2,273	2,214	2,002	2,121	2,538
5 to 12 months	1,956	2,064	1,787	1,746	2,167
Over 1 Year	1,478	1,915	1,533	1,128	1,102
Remand or Stay	N/A	N/A	N/A	38	38
TOTAL	*5,707	*6,193	*5,322	*5,033	*5,845
% over 1 Year	26%	31%	29%	22%	19%

\* Actual cases pending at end of court year (did not adjust pending figures to recounts).

WORK OF JUDGES:

During 1981 the Appellate Division judges in New Jersey each produced an average of 170 opinions. Moreover each judge participated in the decision of 200 or more additional cases. Compared with the 1977 court year the number of written opinions has increased by about 25%. As Figure 8 shows, almost 75% of all dispositions in 1981 were by written opinion, the highest percentage in the last five years.

Fig. 8

APPEALS DECIDED BY WRITTEN OPINION

COURT YEAR	APPEALS DECIDED BY OPINION	TOTAL APPEALS DISPOSED OF*	PERCENT
1976-77	3,001	4,249	70.6%
1977-78	3,032	4,754	63.8%
1978-79	3,427	5,634	60.8%
1979-80	3,738	5,431	68.8%
1980-81	3,747	5,001	74.9%

\* In addition to appeals decided by opinion this includes appeals dismissed and appeals certified directly to the Supreme Court.

\*\* Filings include Reinstated cases and Certifications remanded from Supreme Court.

The Appellate Division's motion practice must also be taken into consideration when considering the court's total caseload. In the 1977 court year the court considered and decided 3,499 motions. That figure grew inexorably to a phenomenal 5,556 during the 1980 court year. Happily the 1981 court year brought a modicum of relief and the court was obligated to decide "only" 4,740 motions. This decrease is probably most directly attributable to the recent institu-

tion of the team management system in the Appellate Division Clerk's Office. This system, among other things, encourages greater contact between the litigating attorneys and the person in the clerk's office with the responsibility for moving an appeal to perfection. Such contact reduces the quantity of formal motions for such things as extensions of time to file briefs.

Fig. 9

MOTIONS DECIDED 1977-81

COURT YEAR	MOTIONS FILED	MOTIONS DECIDED
1977	4,054	3,499
1978	4,593	4,749
1979	5,596	5,321
1980	5,680	5,556
1981	4,840	4,740

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The 1981 court year placed a new emphasis on flexibility and simplification in the perfection of appellate cases. Court rules were amended and internal procedures altered so that litigants might use the appellate system with a minimum of difficulty and expense. Form notice of appeals, motions for summary disposition, letter briefs and abbreviated transcripts are all available to appellate attorneys and are excellent tools for serving the interests of the appellate client.

Also during the course of the year the groundwork was laid for an appellate settlement program which began with the start of the 1982 court year. If a program of this nature is successful it may be capable of making the difference between a court that is current and one that is always facing an expanding backlog.

# SUPERIOR COURT • LAW DIVISION • CRIMINAL

In New Jersey all criminal indictments and accusations which are not downgraded to the Municipal Courts or diverted through the pretrial intervention program are handled in the Superior Court Law Division. Approximately 75 judges hear criminal matters throughout the state. In each vicinage a criminal assignment judge has the overall responsibility for managing the criminal docket and supervising the flow of cases through the system. The work of a criminal judge may involve presiding at trials, hearing pre-trial motions, sentencing defendants, setting bail, or hearing and determining a variety of applications for legal relief. Further, criminal judges are assuming more case management responsibilities, especially in counties with individual calendars.

## CASELOAD: GENERAL

In 1981, the criminal division encountered a staggering 27% increase in indictments. The magnitude of this figure negated a strong increase in terminations and resulted in a 7% rise in cases pending, both active and inactive. Significantly, active cases pending increased by less than 2%. Despite the overwhelming increase in cases this year, the courts by strong efforts to clear the criminal calendar, produced a 17% increase in terminations, and achieved a clearance rate of 96%.

Fig. 1

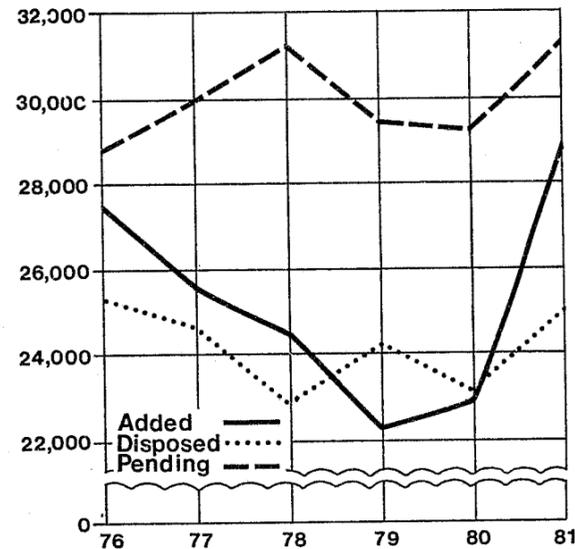
### CASELOAD SUMMARY 1980-1981

Cases	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Added	22,980	29,101	+26.6%
Terminated	23,166	27,055	+16.8%
Pending	29,472	31,518	+ 6.9%
Active	14,495	14,733	+ 1.6%
Inactive	14,977	16,785	+12.1%

Despite the achievement of clearance in the prior two court years, crimi-

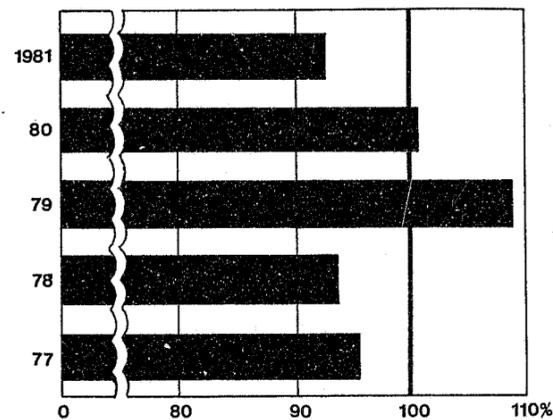
nal calendar clearance in New Jersey has, historically, been a rarity.

Figure 2  
CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING  
1976-1981



The Speedy Trial Program had a major effect this year on the effort to clear the criminal calendar. The program aimed at reducing the time necessary for each step in the criminal court processing, including the time from complaint to indictment.

Figure 3  
CALENDAR CLEARANCE  
1977-1981



As a large number of cases moved more speedily to indictment, there were far more indictments reported in 1981 than the year before. Once the Speedy Trial Program is fully implemented, large increases like the one seen this year are less likely to occur and the goal of calendar clearance will again be met.

**CASES ADDED**

With over 6,000 additional new indictments in 1981, the criminal calendar was the fastest growing of all court calendars in 1981.

Fig. 4

CRIMINAL FILINGS  
1980-1981

1980	1981	DIFFERENCE	% DIFFERENCE
22,980	29,101	+6,121	+26.6%

On the criminal docket, a "filing" results from the return of an indictment or accusation. In recent years, the number of indictments had decreased, but 1981 saw the reversal of this previous trend.

Criminal cases usually are initiated by complaints filed in municipal courts where preliminary hearings are held as to indictable matters. Indictable complaints are forwarded to the prosecutor for evaluation and presentation to the grand jury where appropriate. Complaints may be administratively dismissed, downgraded or diverted by the prosecutor prior to reaching the grand jury which can decline to indict or "no bill" any defendant.

Traditionally, only indictments are counted as criminal filings in Superior Court. However, the number of indictable complaints filed at the municipal level is a significant

barometer of the workload of the criminal justice system.

During 1981, 86,380 municipal court complaints involving indictable offenses were referred to county prosecutors. This was an increase of 15% over 1980 when 74,907 referrals were made. This significant increase is another indication of the burden of increased filings with which the criminal system had to cope with in 1981.

The large increase in indictments during 1981, although reflecting case disposition acceleration under Speedy Trial, may also have other causes. The level of indictments in the previous 3 years was abnormally low. In 1977 and earlier the level of indictments hovered close to 26,000 per year. In 1978 and 1979, the level dropped markedly, remaining low in 1980. Whatever the reasons, the previous indictment levels seemed too low in comparison to the general trend of increased criminal activity. The rebounding to previous levels was not entirely unexpected. This factor, in combination with the Speedy Trial program, produced the massive surge in indictments in 1981 which might have overwhelmed the system were it not for extensive planning and case monitoring by all elements of the criminal justice system produced as part of the Speedy Trial effort.

**DISPOSITIONS**

During 1981, 27,055 criminal cases were terminated, the highest level of dispositions in nine years (only slightly lower than the 27,362 dispositions achieved in 1972.) The growth in dispositions over 1980 was 16.8% one of the fastest growth rates of any calendar in the state court system.

Criminal indictments may be terminated by a number of methods. Only some 10% of all criminal indictments reach trial, leaving the remainder to filter through the system in some other manner. Examples are guilty pleas, post-indictment dismissals of

Fig. 5

CASES AND METHOD OF TERMINATIONS

	1980	1981	Number Difference	Percent Difference
TOTAL CASES TERMINATED	23,166	27,055	+3,889	+16.8%
Convictions	1,280	1,400	+ 120	+ 9.4%
Acquittals	896	926	+ 30	+ 3.3%
Pleas	12,987	16,715	+3,728	+28.7%
Dismissals	7,905	7,840	- 65	- 0.8%
Con. Disch.	98	174	+ 76	+77.6%

TRIALS*	1980	1981	Number Difference	Percent Difference
Jury	1,969	2,145	+ 176	+ 8.9%
Non-Jury	434	402	- 32	- 7.4%
WITHOUT TRIAL				
Pleas	12,930	16,731	+ 3,801	+29.4%
Dismissals	7,833	7,777	- 56	- 0.7%

\* Includes partially tried and tried to completion

a complaint by motion, diversionary programs such as pre-trial intervention and conditional discharge of first-time drug offenders, and the "downgrading" of charges for handling in the municipal courts.

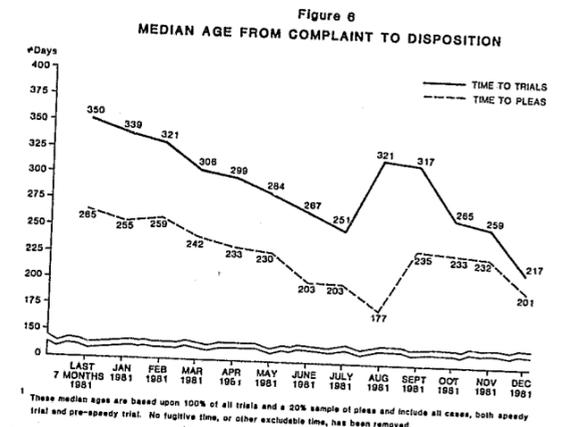
**Trials**

During 1981, 2,547 criminal trials were commenced (almost identical to the number of trials commenced in 1980). A substantial number (2,213) of all trials were tried to completion. Most criminal trials are conducted before a jury. There were only 402 non-jury trials commenced in 1981, a decrease from 434 in 1980. As noted above, very few indictments ever reach trial, during 1981 only 9%.

**Time to Disposition**

As a result of efforts commenced under the Speedy Trial Program, the median time from complaint to disposition has dropped to seven months from a high of almost twelve months reached in 1980. The graph below shows that the median age from complaint to disposition declined substantially from the start of the

Speedy Trial Program in January 1981 except for the summer, when court recesses temporarily, reversed the trend.



**Pleas**

During 1981, 16,558 guilty pleas were entered by defendants, either prior to or at trial. The level of guilty pleas jumped substantially from 1980 when 12,834 pleas were entered. This is in contrast to the decreasing rate of dismissals, as noted below.

**Dismissals**

The number of indictments dismissed has remained constant over the past two court years. In 1981, 7,777 cases were terminated by dismissals, a slight decrease from the 1980 figure of 7,833.

**Convictions**

Of cases tried to completion during 1981, 1,400 convictions resulted, an increase of 9% from 1980 when there were 1,280 convictions. The rebounding of the conviction levels were in keeping with years prior to 1979 when conviction levels were at 1,400 and above. There were 926 acquittals during 1981 a slight increase over the 1980 figure of 896.

**Sentences**

36,087 defendants were originally sentenced in 1981, a dramatic increase over the 1980 total of 33,173. During both years over 50% of all persons sentenced were incarcerated.

Fig. 7

	1980	1981	Number Difference
Persons sentenced	33,173	36,087	+ 2,914
Average term	5 years	5 years	--
Number incarcerated	6,472	8,572	+ 2,100
Percent incarcerated	44.8%	48.4%	+ 3.6%

The dramatic rise in the numbers of persons sentenced reflects not only the increase in criminal filings during 1981 but also the impact of the Code of Criminal Justice and subsequently enacted laws requiring mandatory minimum terms.

CASES PENDING

The number of pending cases increased substantially during 1981, but the increase was confined largely to the inactive caseload.

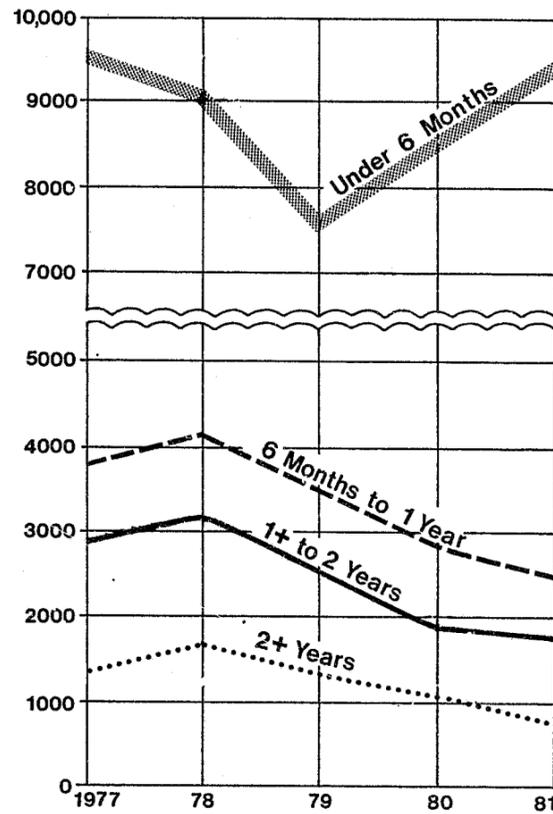
Fig. 8  
CASES PENDING

	1980	1981	Number Difference	Percent Difference
Active:	14,495	14,733	+ 238	+ 1.6%
Inactive:	14,977	16,785	+1,808	+12.1%

An inactive case is one which cannot be moved to trial or disposition, because witnesses are unavailable or, more commonly, the defendant cannot be located. Cases which can reasonably be brought to disposition are classified as "active pending" cases.

The average age of active pending cases has been decreasing in the past three years. At the end of 1981, 63% of active indictments were under 6 months old. This trend evidences the elimination of older cases and highlights the strong efforts of all those in the criminal justice process to efficiently process and dispose of ever increasing numbers of indictments.

Figure 9  
AGE OF ACTIVE PENDING CASES



Motions

The total number of motions heard by criminal judges during 1981 totaled close to 46,000, or approximately 600 for each judge assigned criminal matters. As can be seen below, this number was more than 10% above the 1980 level, and the percentage of total motions that were contested increased slightly.

Fig. 10  
MOTIONS

	1980	1981	Number Difference	Percent Difference
Contested	22,423	26,517	+ 4,094	+ 18.3%
Uncontested	18,978	19,293	+ 315	+ 1.7%
TOTAL	41,401	45,810	+ 4,409	+ 10.7%
% Contested	54.2%	57.9%	+ 3.7%	--

Hearings and Other Proceedings

As shown in the figure below, the number of hearings and related pro-

ceedings conducted by criminal judges also increased during 1981. The most explosive growth was in the area of the pre-trial conferences. As a result of Speedy Trial efforts to monitor and screen cases, pre-trial disposition conferences are required in all cases. This explains the dramatic increase in such matters.

Fig. 11  
HEARINGS

	1980	1981	Number Differences	Percent Differences
Probation Violation	3,626	4,172	+ 546	+ 15.1%
Extradition	1,193	796	- 397	- 33.3%
Mun. Ct. Appeals	2,678	2,615	- 63	- 2.4%
Pre-Trial Conferences	2,229	8,552	+ 6,323	+ 283.7%

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

The workload and productivity of judges can be evaluated by various measurements including total bench hours, number of equivalent judges assigned, and workload per capita. By any measurement employed, the workload of criminal judges has increased. In order to dispose of cases at a rate even approaching the rate of new filings the productivity of judges has had to increase considerably. More judicial resources were devoted to criminal cases in 1981 compared to 1980, but the increase (9.6%) was far less than the increase

in cases added (26.6%). Both the number of filings and dispositions per equivalent criminal judge increased during 1981.

Fig. 12

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD  
1980-1981

	1980	1981	% Change
NUMBER OF EQUIVALENT JUDGES	69.2	75.9	+9.7%
FILINGS PER JUDGE	332	384	+15.7%
TERMINATIONS PER JUDGE	335	357	+6.6%
Bench Hours			

The number of bench hours logged by judges of criminal cases increased during 1981, as could be expected from the rate of growth of both filings and determinations.

Fig. 13

BENCH HOURS - CRIMINAL JUDGES

1980	1981	Number Difference	Percent Difference
75,653	84,167	8,514	11.3%

# SUPERIOR COURT • LAW DIVISION • CIVIL

The Superior Court, Law Division has general, statewide jurisdiction over all criminal and civil matters. This section focuses on the civil jurisdiction of the Law Division, excluding discussion of its criminal, probate, matrimonial, and general equity jurisdiction.

The Superior Court, Law Division hears all civil causes including proceedings in lieu of prerogative writs. The civil docket of the Law Division, in the design of the 1947 Constitution, was intended to handle complex matters. The less complex civil cases were intended for the district court with its limited jurisdictional monetary ceiling and simplified procedures. Over the course of time, however, inflation has disrupted the rationale behind the division of Law Division and district court jurisdictions by, in effect, substantially lowering the ceiling and bringing into the Law Division many of the simpler cases. In 1951, 71.1% of all civil cases were added to the calendars of the district courts; now, only 51.5% of cases are added to their calendars.

In contract and tort actions, effective July 20, 1981, legislation raised the jurisdictional ceiling of the county district courts from \$3,000 to \$5,000. This movement of the jurisdictional boundary line should slow the enlargement of the Law Division's volume and foster better distribution of cases between the two courts in the coming years. Because this change occurred only six weeks before the close of the 1981 court year, its impact on the caseload of the Law Division was minimal and will not be fully realized until the close of the 1982 court year.

Judges serving the Law Division are drawn from the general population of Superior Court judges. During 1981,

192 judges handled Superior Court work. Of these, 76 judges heard civil matters in the Law Division.

## CASELOAD

The judges assigned to handle Law Division civil matters had a highly productive and efficient year. A record number of cases were added and disposed and the judges cleared 98% of the cases added to the civil docket (98 cases were disposed for every 100 cases added), which equalled the 1980 rate of clearance. The following table shows the overall activity in 1981 as compared with 1980:

Fig. 1

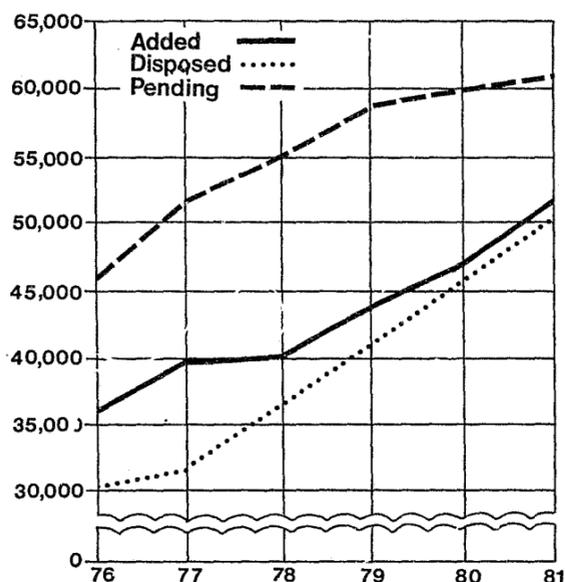
CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING  
1980-1981

CASES	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Added	48,065	51,982	+ 8.2%
Disposed	47,025	50,762	+ 8.0%
Pending	60,025	61,245	+ 2.0%

There were a record number of dispositions and cases added in the Law Division during 1981. Pending cases also reached record levels, but the gap between dispositions and pending cases is narrowing. Through the extraordinary efforts of judges, 1981 dispositions increased 8% over the previous year, while the number of pending cases increased only 2%.

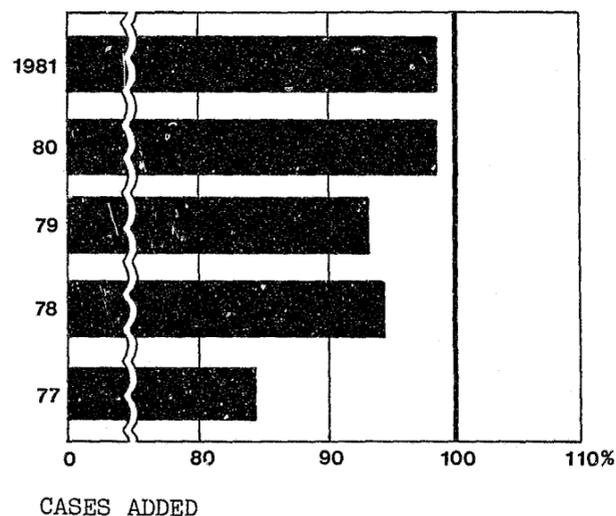
In four of the last five years the number of cases added has grown substantially over the year before. Fortunately this is true also of the number of cases disposed, and the last five years have seen a moderation in the increases in pending cases.

Figure 2  
CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING  
1976-1981



Since the low year of 1976 there has been steady progress toward calendar clearance; the yearly rate of increase in dispositions has exceeded the rate of increase in cases added in each year since then.

Figure 3  
CALENDAR CLEARANCE  
1977-1981



The caseload of the Law Division's civil docket is divided among various types of cases, the large majority of

which are contract disputes, tort actions (auto negligence, general negligence, products liability, etc.) and actions in lieu of prerogative writs.

The caseload has grown by 32.8% since 1976. The table below shows the rates of increase each year:

Fig. 4  
CASELOAD TRENDS  
1977-1981

YEAR	CASES ADDED	% CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR
1977	39,143	5.9%
1978	40,233	2.8%
1979	44,688	1.0%
1980	48,065	7.6%
1981	51,982	8.2%

#### DISPOSITIONS

The Law Division disposed of 50,762 civil matters during 1981, more than in any prior year and exceeding 1980's record by 8% and 1977's by 54%.

Dispositions of civil matters is accomplished by trials, settlements, dismissals, or transfers to other courts. The table (below) shows the breakdown in dispositions over the past two years.

Fig. 5

DISPOSITIONS PROFILE  
1980-1981

	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Trials	4,299	3,570	-17.0%
Settlements w/aid of Court Before Trial	12,688	13,965	+10.1%
Settlements w/o court, Dismissals and Transfers to Other Courts	30,038	33,227	+10.6%
Total Dispositions	47,025	50,762	+ 8.0%

Trials decreased by a substantial percentage, but the settlement increase raised 1981 dispositions, compared to 1980, by 8%.

In 1980, a trial was concluded in 1 of 11 cases disposed; in 1981, a trial was concluded in only 1 of 14 cases. Similarly stated, trials constituted 9.1% of all dispositions in 1980 but decreased to 7.0% of all dispositions in 1981. Jury trials, generally more time consuming than a single judge sitting as the fact-finder, make up 65% of all trials held. The type of civil case most likely to be tried before a jury is one involving negligence in the operation of an automobile.

Settlements, as noted, have become the focus of much recent attention as a management tool to divert cases from trial where appropriate. Arbitration and settlement programs have been instituted in various counties to facilitate the disposition of civil cases. In Camden County, an experimental program of nonbinding, compulsory arbitration has been instituted with the arbitrators drawn from the county bar association. Civil settlement panels, also operated by the bar associations, seek to achieve disposition of Law Division matters without the aid of the judges and have been quite successful. Much of the 10.6% increase in "settlements without aid of court, dismissals, and transfers" (shown in Fig. 5), is attributable to the efforts of the attorneys who have volunteered their time to serve on the panels.

Court-aided settlements also continue to grow in importance and volume. The following illustrates the progress made in case management through settlement efforts of the judges.

Fig. 6

JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT EFFORTS & ACHIEVEMENTS  
1980-1981

	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Settlement Hours	18,494	20,391	+10.3%
Settlements	12,668	13,965	+10.2%
Hours per Settlement	1.46	1.46	0.0%
Settlements per Judge	163	184	+12.9%

These figures show equivalent increases in judges' hours spent on settlements (10.3%) and number of settlements with the aid of judges (10.2%), which is an expected result.

#### CASES PENDING

Pending cases in the Law Division increased only 2% over 1980, roughly equivalent to 1980's increase of 1.6% over 1979. As can be seen from Figure 2, above, the gap between pending and disposed cases has been narrowing in the last two years. The total number of pending cases at the close of 1981 was 61,245, the highest number ever, and 15.4% more cases than were pending in 1977.

The table below shows that most of the cases pending are younger at the end of 1981 than a year earlier.

Fig. 7

AGES OF PENDING CASES  
1980-1981

AGE	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Over 36 mos.	588	666	+13.3%
24 - 36	5,401	4,290	-20.6%
18 - 24	8,370	7,261	-13.3%
12 - 18	14,405	14,785	+ 2.6%
6 - 12	17,754	18,491	+ 4.2%
Under 6	12,467	14,802	+18.7%
TOTAL	58,985	60,295	+ 2.2%

Although there has been an increase in the relatively small number of active pending cases more than 36 months old, attributable to the complexity of the cases on the calendar (with increased time spent on discovery, investigating facts, and motions), there were substantial decreases of -20.6% and -13.3%, in the categories of 24-36 month old cases and 18-24 month old cases respectively. Corresponding increases were realized in the growth of younger cases, with the largest increase being 18.7% more cases which are less than six months old. As the ages of active pending cases steadily decrease, the stock of these cases clearly experience an ever-reducing "shelf-life" before disposition.

Fully 45% of all active pending cases are less than one year old, compared with 49% last year and five years ago, in 1977, only 50% of active pending cases were less than a year old.

**MOTIONS**

Repercussions from the "motion explosion" have hit the Law Division's civil work and hit it hardest among all courts as the "paper wars" have escalated.

Fig. 8

Motions	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Number	80,612	94,469	17.2%
Per Disposition	1.71	1.86	8.8%
Per Judge	1,033.5	1,241.4	20.1%

With 17.2% more motions, and 20.1% more motions per judge in 1981 over 1980, it is apparent that efforts must be continued to reduce the number of motions. Since 1977, motions have grown by 59.5%. These trends are being addressed by requiring strict compliance with procedures designed to make the motion practice as effective and expeditious as possible. The telephone conference on motions, unique to civil matters, including Matrimonial and General Equity matters, promises great savings in time.

**JUDICIAL WORKLOAD**

The efforts of the judges assigned to the civil calendar of the Law Division clearly account for the improvements in case processing time. In 1981, fewer available judges using

less bench and conference time disposed of a record number of cases.

Fig. 9

THE JUDGES AND THEIR TIME	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Equivalent Judges	78.8	76.1	- 2.4%
Bench & Conf. Hrs.	85,367	84,311	- 1.2%
Hours per Judge	1,094	1,108	+ 1.3%

Law Division civil matters consume a substantial proportion of judicial resources: 30% (76.1) of all available trial judges (255.4) handled the Law Division's civil docket and 29.8% of all judges' bench and conference time was devoted to this caseload.

As shown, judges worked more hours on average to achieve the record-setting disposition pace of 1981. The picture becomes clearer when their productivity is considered:

Fig. 10

WORK OF JUDGES 1980-1981	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Dispositions per Judge	602.9	667.0	10.6%
Trials per Judge	55.1	46.9	-14.9%
Settlements per Judge	163.0	184.0	12.9%
Motions per Judge	1,033.5	1,241.4	20.1%

The reduction in trials per judge, combined with the lessened duration of trials, clearly has freed the judges to handle 10.6% more dispositions, 12.9% more settlements and 20.1% more motions. The profile of their work could not be more favorable: fewer judges working harder, achieving a record number of dispositions and reducing the backlog of cases.

**SUPERIOR COURT • CHANCERY DIVISION • GENERAL EQUITY**

The General Equity part of the Chancery Division of the Superior Court hears those cases in which the relief required by the parties involves something other than, or in addition to, money alone. Examples include requests for injunctions forbidding certain alleged harmful conduct, specific performance of a contract, or cancelling or rewriting disputed contracts.

Equity cases tend to be among the most complicated civil matters. Included are many emergent matters, initiated by orders to show cause, which seek temporary restraints or preliminary injunctions and require expedited hearings.

**CASELOAD**

An analysis of the workload history of the General Equity Division over the last five years shows an overall growth in the number of cases added to the calendar and an impressive performance in the disposition of cases in each of the last three years.

In 1981, a substantial case management effort got underway in the General Equity court. The general equity judges undertook an effort to oversee cases much earlier than they had been and to participate at an early stage in the processing of the cases. As a result of this effort the court disposed of 13.0% more cases this year than last, for a total of 4,996 cases, and it reduced the number of cases pending by 22.3%.

Fig. 2

CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING 1980-1981	1980	1981	% Change
Cases Added	4,424	4,305	- 2.7
Cases Disposed	4,420	4,996	+ 13.0
Pending	3,104	2,413	- 22.3

In 1981, for the first time since 1977 and only the second time since 1970, the General Equity court cleared its calendar. It not only disposed of as many cases as were added, but exceeded that goal by 16%.

Figure 1  
CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING 1976-1981

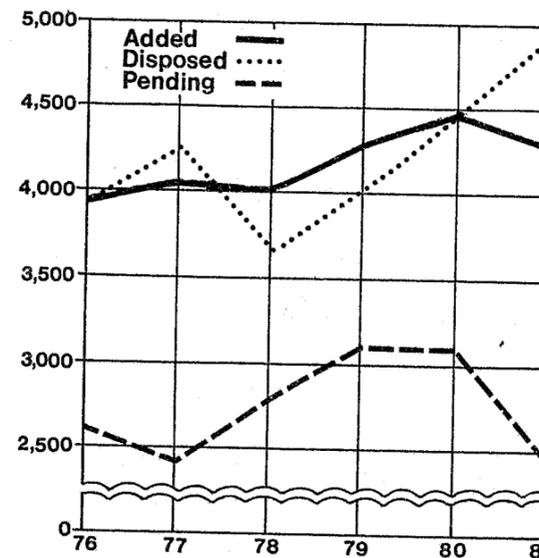
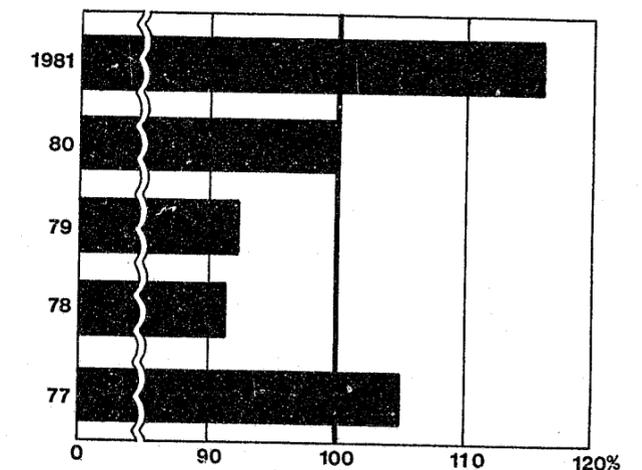


Figure 3  
CALENDAR CLEARANCE 1977-1981



CASES ADDED

The general trend in cases added has been one of modest increases; the new cases in 1981 were 9.4% more than in 1976, or an average increase of 1.9% per year. Figure 1 above shows the changes in cases added since 1976.

DISPOSITIONS

The rate of change in dispositions of general equity cases has been more dramatic. This year, the increase was 13.0% above 1980 and 27.8% above the 1976 figure.

Dispositions in general equity are by trial (almost always non-jury), settlement, dismissal, or transfer and consolidation. A comparison of disposition types between this year and last year appears below. There were 25% more trials in 1981 than in 1980.

Fig. 4

	1980	1981	%Change
Trial	985	1,235	25.4
% of Total	22.3%	24.7%	-
Settlement	1,926	2,117	9.9
% of Total	43.6%	42.4%	-
Dismissal	1,102	1,075	- 2.5
% of Total	24.9%	21.5%	-
Transferred or Consolidated	407	569	39.8
% of Total	9.2%	11.4%	-
TOTAL	4,420	4,996	13.0
	100.0%	100.0%	-

A substantial segment of the trials in General Equity are not tried to completion. Without a jury trial and with the judge as fact-finder, it is possible in some cases to achieve a settlement after the trial has begun. In 1981, almost one-third of the trials did not reach completion, and

that percentage has increased in the last few years:

Fig. 5

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Partially Tried	260	222	207	319	406
Tried to Completion	752	640	759	666	829
Total (Jury & non-jury)	1,012	862	966	985	1,235
% Partially Tried	25.7	25.8	21.4	32.4	32.9

Most trials are short. Two-thirds take one day or less, and less than 10% take more than three days. The chart below breaks down the length of trial in General Equity cases:

Fig. 6

DAYS	1980	1981
Less than 1	65.9%	67.0%
1-3	22.7%	24.6%
3-5	7.5%	5.0%
More than 5	3.9%	3.4%

CASES PENDING

The cases pending at the end of the 1981 court year numbered 2,413, a decline of 22.3% from the year before. Of this total, 2,300 are considered active. When the active cases pending are broken down by age, it is clear that all categories declined in 1981 from 1980. Further, only 3.0% of all pending cases are more than two years old.

As with the other calendars, the number of cases pending on the General Equity calendar can be related to the number of dispositions in order to gauge whether a backlog

Fig. 7

AGES OF ACTIVE PENDING CASES 1980-1981

YEARS	1980	1981	% CHANGE
0 - 1/2	1,301	1,135	- 12.8
1/2+ - 1	1,073	712	- 33.6
1+ - 1 1/2	389	283	- 27.2
1 1/2+ - 2	124	101	- 18.5
2+ - 3	80	48	- 40.0
3+	24	21	- 12.5
TOTAL	2,991	2,300	

problem exists or not. By dividing the cases pending by the court's yearly rate of dispositions, represented by the number of cases disposed of in the past year, the "expected" time to disposition" of the cases currently pending is shown, assuming that court maintains the same rate of disposition. For General Equity cases at the end of the 1981 court year, the 2,413 cases pending represents 5.8 months of work on the calendar. If one assumes that six months' worth of General Equity cases is a reasonable inventory of cases to be pending at any one time, then it is clear that the General Equity division has no backlog of cases in excess of its reasonable inventory.

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

Judicial time available for General Equity matters did not change in 1981 from 1980. While the number of Superior Court judges regularly assigned to the General Equity calendar is 12, the Chief Justice uses his cross-assignment authority to assign other judges as necessary and to use recall judges for these cases. As a result, the number of judges available for General Equity is somewhat higher, and it varies from day to day. To indicate the judicial time available, the statistical measurement of "average available trial court judge" is used. For General Equity this figure was 14.3 judges in 1981, the same as in 1980. Even though the judicial resources did not

increase their time was substantially more productive in 1981:

Fig. 8

DISPOSITIONS PER AVERAGE AVAILABLE JUDGE 1980-1981

	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Trials to Completion	46.6	58.0	+ 24.5
Partial Trials	22.3	28.4	+ 27.4
TOTAL TRIALS	68.9	86.4	+ 25.4
Settlements	134.7	148.0	+ 9.9
Dismissals	77.1	75.2	- 2.5
Other (Consolidations and Transfers)	28.5	39.8	+ 39.6
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	309.1	349.4	+ 13.0

CASE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

Last year General Equity judges began exploring creative managerial techniques to facilitate disposition.

Many judges have put into practice certain techniques authorized last year, among other things, to 1) conduct conferences immediately after joinder of issues; 2) require specific types of information in pretrial memoranda, including a statement of proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law; 3) encourage informality in resolving matters that may be the subject of a motion; and 4) facilitate the process of discovery.

Efforts continue, as reported last year, to equalize the case loads of Bergen, Passaic and Hudson counties by transferring a portion of the cases from Bergen to the other two counties. A similar plan has been instituted for Essex and Union counties. This plan responds to the relative lack of judicial resources in certain counties with disproportionately heavy case loads without incurring the high costs of transferring judges from county to county.

# SUPERIOR COURT • CHANCERY DIVISION • MATRIMONIAL

The Matrimonial part of the Chancery Division of Superior Court has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to divorce. It must deal with complex and emotional litigation, devoting much of its time to issues of equitable distribution of the assets of the marriage, custody, alimony, and child support. It must deal regularly with the intricate areas of property interests, corporate activity, trusts, and tax law. In presiding over the dissolution and restructuring of a family unit, it must continually be aware of the severe psychological and sociological implications of its decisions.

## CASELOAD

There were 31,052 matrimonial complaints filed in the 1981 court year. This figure is 2.6% more than in 1980.

Fig.1

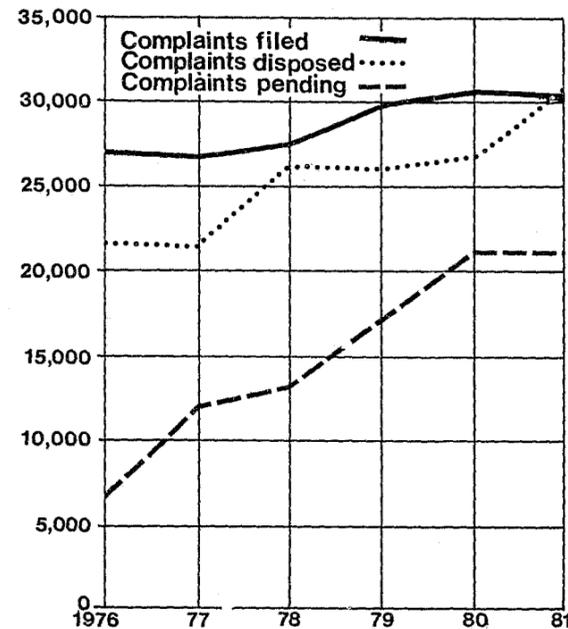
MATRIMONIAL DIVISION - CASELOAD SUMMARY  
1980-81

COMPLAINTS	1980	1981	% CHANGE
FILED	30,262	31,052	2.6%
TERMINATED	26,466	31,146	17.7%
PENDING	21,134	21,040	0.4%

The number of complaints filed in the Matrimonial part has increased each year since 1977. However, dispositions in most of the last five years lagged far behind filings, as Figure 2 shows, and pending cases increased yearly.

In 1981 at last the Matrimonial part was able to dispose of more cases in the year than were filed. It cleared its calendar by 100.3%.

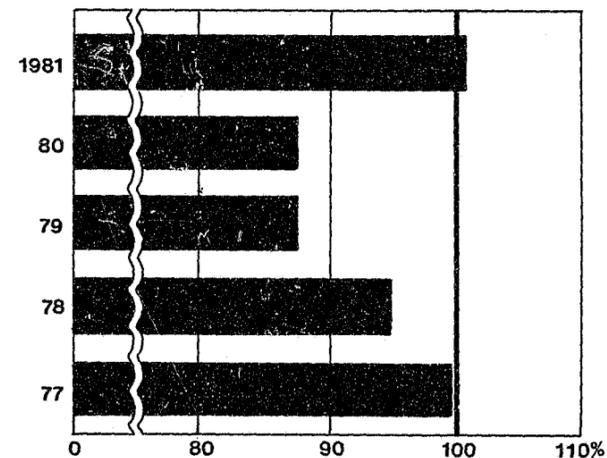
Figure 2  
COMPLAINTS FILED, DISPOSED, PENDING  
1976-1981



## DISPOSITIONS

During the court year, the division disposed of 31,146 matrimonial matters, an all-time high and 17.7% more than the previous year.

Figure 3  
CALENDAR CLEARANCE  
1977-1981



Since parties in a divorce case must appear in court, most dispositions are counted as a trial even if the matter is uncontested. As a result, trial rates in matrimonial cases are very high. The table below gives the manner of dispositions, including a small number of out-of-court settlements in non-divorce cases.

Fig. 4

MATRIMONIAL DISPOSITIONS 1977-1981					
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
IN COURT	21,761	26,012	25,764	25,969	29,637
Contested	8,431	9,349	10,036	10,388	12,232
Uncontested	13,330	16,663	15,728	15,581	17,405
SETTLEMENT	22	25	8	43	58
DISMISSALS	315	443	503	451	1,444
TOTAL	22,098	26,483	26,275	26,466	31,146
% IN COURT	98.5	98.2	98.1	98.1	95.2
% CONTESTED IN COURT	38.7	35.9	38.9	40.0	41.3

While the rate of dispositions in court has been very high, the percentage of contested cases has been about 40% over the last five years. It has risen slowly during that time from 38.7% to 41.3%. The actual number of contested dispositions in the Matrimonial division, however, has increased by 45.1% as the case-load has risen.

#### ACTIVE CASES PENDING

At the end of the court year, 21,004 active matrimonial cases were pending, out of a total of 21,040 pending. Most were less than six months old, and less than 13% of the pending cases were over a year old. The following table shows the age of the pending cases:

Fig. 5

#### AGE OF PENDING CASES

	CASES	%
3 years or more	43	0.2%
2 - 3 years	281	1.3%
18 months - 2 years	490	2.3%
12 - 18 months	2,006	9.6%
6 - 12 months	5,145	24.5%
Up to 6 months	13,039	62.1%

#### WORK OF THE JUDGES

There was a slight increase in judicial resources for the matrimonial calendar in 1981 over 1980. The number of "average available judges" rose for the Matrimonial Division from 30.0 in 1980 to 31.7 in 1981, an increase in judicial resources of 6.2%. The total number of hours judges spent on matrimonial matters rose by 7.8% to 35,101 hours. On a per-judge basis, this time can be divided into hours on the bench and hours in conference, as follows:

Fig. 6

	HOURS PER AVERAGE AVAILABLE TRIAL COURT JUDGE		
	1980	1981	CHANGE
BENCH HOURS	966.4	973.1	+ 0.7
CONFERENCE HOURS	119.3	134.2	+12.5
TOTAL	1,085.74	1,107.3	+ 2.0

In short, the additional judicial time available in matrimonial cases enabled the court to remain on top of its work, disposing of more cases than ever before, in spite of higher filings.

#### COMMITTEE ON MATRIMONIAL LITIGATION

During this past court year, the Supreme Court Phase Two Committee on Matrimonial Litigation released its final report. Appointed in June 1980, the Committee consisted of Associate Justice Morris Pashman, Chairman; Associate Justice Sidney M. Schreiber; retired Associate Justice Worrall F. Mountain; matrimonial attorneys; trial judges assigned to matrimonial cases, and an Appellate Division judge formerly assigned to the matrimonial trial bench.

The report is the culmination of a two-year, intensive effort to review all aspects of matrimonial practice. It covers a wide range of subjects dealing with divorce. The report stresses the importance of enforcing the court's determinations and makes

recommendations concerning the process by which courts determine custody of children. It also recognizes the problems of litigants obtaining adequate legal representation, emphasizing the special problems encountered when parties choose to represent themselves. Also significant is its detailed treatment of important procedural recommendations, particularly the structuring of settlement procedures and imposition of strict requirements on the parties to provide the court with adequate financial information. The Committee acknowledges that the assignment of adequate numbers of top quality judges is essential for the success of any attempts at matrimonial reform. "The judge's canon must be dispassionate sensitivity; his role, that of intimate stranger."

The AOC has undertaken a detailed analysis of the flow of matrimonial cases at the trial court level with a view toward identifying the most efficient case processing procedures. Further, attempts have been made to identify those tasks routinely performed by court support personnel that lend themselves to automation, and to identify data elements necessary for a comprehensive case management system.

Streamlining the paper flow in a matrimonial case will enable expeditious preparation of a case for resolution. The objective is to achieve full implementation of the Matrimonial Litigation Committee's recommendations without automatically requiring additional staff.

# JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT

Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts have exclusive jurisdiction over juvenile delinquency, juvenile in need of supervision (JINS), non-criminal child abuse, and reciprocal support complaints and over complaints filed under the Child Placement Review Act. The court shares with other courts jurisdiction over domestic relations complaints involving support, custody, visitation and paternity.

Judges who sit in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court are appointed to the court or are Superior Court judges temporarily assigned to the court. Twelve counties have a Juvenile and Domestic Relation Court to which judges are appointed, while nine counties have a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to which Superior Court judges are assigned.

Filings and dispositions both increased considerably in the J&DR court in 1981. The 203,940 filings were 9.9% more than the 1980 total, and the 205,151 dispositions represented a 8.9% increase over 1980. The excess of dispositions over filings meant that for the second consecutive year the J&DR court cleared its calendar.

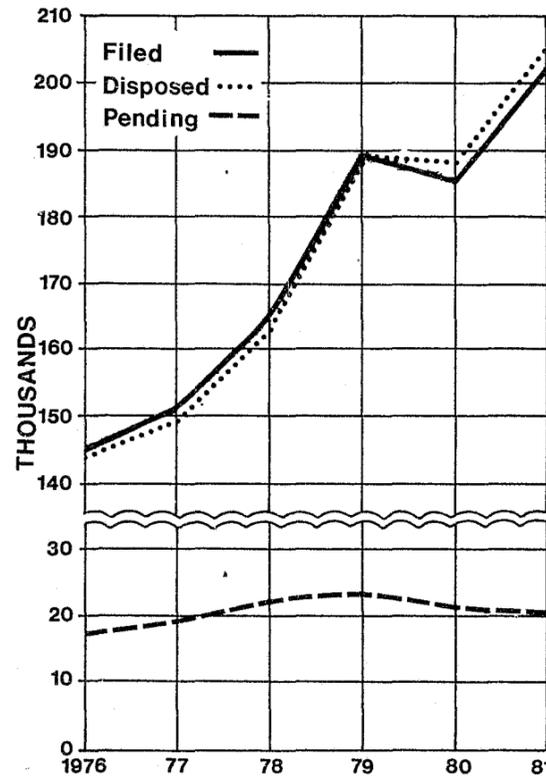
The filings and dispositions in the court can be summarized as follows:

Fig. 1  
CASELOAD SUMMARY  
1980-1981

	1980	1981	% CHANGE
<b>ADDED</b>			
Delinquency	93,352	101,124	+ 8.3%
JINS	12,126	12,469	+ 2.8%
Domestic Relations	80,133	90,347	+12.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185,611</b>	<b>203,940</b>	<b>+ 9.9%</b>
<b>DISPOSED</b>			
Delinquency	95,444	101,388	+ 6.2%
JINS	12,072	12,591	+ 4.3%
Domestic Relations	80,848	91,172	+12.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>188,364</b>	<b>205,151</b>	<b>+ 8.9%</b>
<b>PENDING</b>			
Delinquency	13,300	13,036	- 2.0%
JINS	1,058	936	-11.5%
Domestic Relations	6,897	6,072	-12.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,255</b>	<b>20,044</b>	<b>- 5.7%</b>

The trend since 1977 is shown in the graph below. The total case filings have increased 34.4%, while the dispositions have risen 37.3%. The number of cases pending has remained fairly steady, rising just 1.9%.

Figure 2  
TOTAL CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING  
1976-1981



## JUVENILE DIVISION

### Filings

As noted above, the Juvenile and Domestic Relation Courts exercise jurisdiction over complaints charging juveniles with being delinquent or alleging them to be in need of supervision. Acts of juvenile delinquency are those which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime, a disorderly person's offense or a violation of any other statute, ordinance or regulation. A juvenile in need of supervision is a juvenile who is habitually disobedient to his

parent or guardian, is ungovernable or incorrigible, is habitually and voluntarily truant from school or has committed a violation of a statute or ordinance applicable only to juveniles.

In 1981 both juvenile delinquency and juvenile in need of supervision complaints increased to record levels.

In the five years from 1977 through 1981, the number of complaints filed increased by 38.1%, from 82,243 to 113,593.

Fig. 3

JUVENILE CASES ADDED  
1977-1981

YEAR	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY	JINS	TOTAL
1977	73,400	8,843	82,243
1978	81,827	10,553	92,380
1979	97,110	11,555	108,665
1980	93,352	12,126	105,478
1981	101,124	12,469	113,593

Dispositions

Dispositions in the Juvenile Division also reached a record level in 1981. In the five years from 1977 to 1981, the number of juvenile complaints disposed of increased by approximately 40%, from 81,675 to 113,679, an increase of 32,304.

Fig. 4

JUVENILE CASES DISPOSED  
1977-1981

YEAR	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY	JINS	TOTAL
1977	72,986	8,689	81,675
1978	80,352	10,384	90,736
1979	96,750	11,764	108,514
1980	95,444	12,072	107,516
1981	101,387	12,591	113,979

Of all trial calendars, the Juvenile Delinquency calendar experienced the

second greatest rate of increase between 1981 and 1980 in the number of complaints disposed of. Both the juvenile delinquency and juvenile in need of supervision calendars reached the goal of calendar clearance.

Cases Pending

While juvenile complaints filed rose by 38.1% over the last five years and dispositions by 39.6%, the number of cases pending increased by just 3.6%. Figure #5 below shows that the number of juvenile cases pending has remained fairly stable since 1977 and further, that it has declined over the last two years.

Fig. 5

JUVENILE CASES PENDING  
1977-1981

YEAR	JUVENILE DELINQUENCY	JINS	TOTAL
1977	12,554	937	13,491
1978	13,841	1,135	14,976
1979	14,698	984	15,682
1980	13,300	1,058	14,358
1981	13,036	936	13,972

Juvenile cases, both delinquency and JINS, should be rapidly disposed. Once the case is filed, the J&DR court seeks to resolve it quickly in order to keep to a minimum the time of uncertainty for the juvenile and the family. At the end of the 1981 court year, 13,036 delinquency cases and 936 JINS cases were pending. This level of cases pending shows that the calendars have a reasonable inventory of cases and very little backlog. By dividing the cases pending by the rate of dispositions per month, one can arrive at an expected time to disposition for the cases pending at the end of the court year. That expected time to disposition is 1.5 months for juvenile delinquency cases and 0.9 months for JINS cases.

DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

Filings

Domestic Relations complaints filed in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court also increased in 1981. Filings (including reinstated cases) rose from 69,474 in 1977 to 90,347 in 1981, an increase of 20,873 or 30%. Of all court calendars, domestic relations had the largest increase in cases added between 1980 and 1981 -- 10,214 cases.

Fig. 6

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES ADDED  
1977-1981

YEAR	NUMBER	% CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR
1977	69,474	
1978	73,460	+ 5.7%
1979	80,878	+10.1%
1980	80,133	- 0.9%
1981	90,347	+12.8%

Dispositions

Like the rest of the calendar activity in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, dispositions in domestic relations cases reached a record level in 1981. Dispositions reached 91,172, an increase of 34.7% over 1977.

Fig. 7

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES DISPOSED  
1977-1981

YEAR	DISPOSED	% CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR
1977	67,707	
1978	72,397	+ 6.9%
1979	80,619	+11.4%
1980	80,848	+ 0.3%
1981	91,172	+12.8%

Pending

Due to the high number of dispositions in 1981, the number of cases pending on the domestic relations calendar declined. The total of

6,072 cases pending is the lowest for the last five years:

Fig. 8

DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES PENDING  
1977-1981

YEAR	PENDING	% CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR
1977	6,178	
1978	7,035	+13.9%
1979	7,437	+ 5.7%
1980	6,897	- 7.3%
1981	6,072	-12.0%

When the number of cases pending is related to the number of dispositions on the domestic relations calendar, the ratio shows the relatively low number of pending cases. As with the other calendars, one can compute an expected time to disposition of the cases pending at the end of the court year. That figure is 0.8 months for domestic relations cases pending, which indicates a very rapid turnover of cases.

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

There are 35 judges specifically appointed to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in the State. In addition, in ten counties Superior Court judges are assigned to the court. As in the other calendars, the actual number of judges available, will vary and is best expressed by the "average available trial court judge" figure. For 1981, this statistical measure for the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court was 34.2 judges, down 1.8% from 34.8 in 1980.

Since the amount of judicial resources available in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court actually declined in 1981, it is remarkable that the court's productivity increased as it did. The total of 205,151 dispositions represents 5,995 cases per average available trial court judge, an increase of 10.9% over 1980.

#### Youth Services/Community Involvement

This project began in October 1981 and is the result of a cooperative effort between Chief Justice Wilentz and the AOC and former Attorney General James R. Zazzali, Attorney General Irwin I. Kimmelman and the Department of Law and Public Safety.

The project, funded by a \$106,994 grant to three counties from the State Law Enforcement Planning Agency, brings together a cross section of community interests to identify juvenile crime problems and coordinate efforts to provide the best possible help for troubled youths.

The project is operating in Burlington, Middlesex and Somerset Counties with youth services commissions established by the Presiding Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judge in selected municipalities and at the county level. Upon evaluation, it may be expanded to other counties.

The State Youth Services Commission, co-chaired by the Chief Justice and the Attorney General, will identify and seek solutions to statewide juvenile justice system problems, assist county and local commissions and make policy recommendations in areas affecting youths.

The State commission is made up of the chairperson from each county commission and officials such as the Administrative Director of the Courts, the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice, the President of the County Prosecutors' Association, the Public Defender and various Executive Branch Department heads.

#### Child Placement Review Act

The Child Placement Review Act, which became effective in October 1978, sets forth procedures for Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judges, assisted by citizen review boards, to

review periodically the cases of children who have been placed outside their homes by the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, pursuant to court order or to an agreement between the child's parents and the Division. The intent of the Act is to help assure a permanent home for such children. During the 1981 court year, a child placement evaluation questionnaire, a child placement review summary initial form and other forms which assist the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court judges in implementing the Act were employed. Many of these forms were prepared by the State Child Placement Council, which is composed of one representative from each of the State's 36 child placement review boards.

During calendar year of 1981, review boards conducted 10,172 reviews. Of these, 3,091 were initial reviews, 5,217 were periodic reviews, and 1,864 were special reviews.

In October 1981 the AOC and the Child Placement Advisory Council with the assistance of the Somerset County Board of Freeholders conducted a statewide training session for child placement review board members, judges, county child placement coordinators and representatives of the Division of Youth and Family Services. The training covered such topics as legal constraints in the adoption process, legal aspects of neglect and abuse, court award of custody, permanency planning, termination of parental rights and techniques of conducting a review board hearing.

#### Juvenile Detention and Shelter Care Admissions

An AOC staff person conducts periodic visits to each county to monitor compliance of juvenile detention and shelter care admission procedures with the Supreme Court Directive which established them. The monitor

holds meetings with judges and intake personnel, and reviews detention and shelter care admission records, and reports findings and recommendations to the Assignment Judge.

All eleven counties visited during

1981 were found to be in complete or substantial compliance with the Court's Directive. Counties in substantial compliance have taken the recommended remedial steps and are now in complete compliance.

# COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

The County District Court is New Jersey's highest volume full-time court. During 1981, more than 360,000 cases were filed in the court. This amount represents one-half of all cases filed in the state's courts.

The District Court was created by statute. The jurisdiction of the court was limited to contract and tort actions under \$3,000, landlord/tenant disputes and small claims matters under \$500. Effective July 20, 1981, the Legislature raised the jurisdictional limits of the district court and the small claims division to \$5,000 and \$1,000 respectively. It is anticipated that the number of filings will increase significantly next year as a result of the statutory increase.

In District Court cases, especially small claims, many litigants represent themselves. Jury trials are permitted in all types of cases other than landlord/tenant matters, but they are fairly rare.

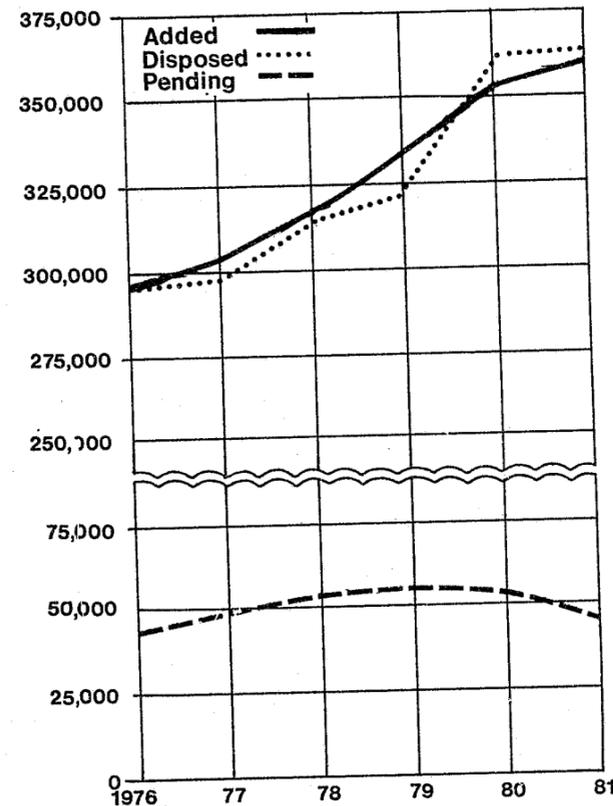
In 19 of 21 counties, boards of freeholders have established small claims divisions within the court. The small claims courts hear contract disputes as well as property damage claims arising from motor vehicle accidents where the amount claimed is within the jurisdictional limit. The small claims divisions are geared to provide speedy and inexpensive resolution of disputes and to allow litigants to present and defend their cases without the need for attorneys.

Thirty-nine judges sit in the district courts throughout the state. By order of the Chief Justice they may be cross-assigned to the Superior Court and they sometimes devote time to the Superior Court's workload.

## CASELOAD

Since 1977, filings in district courts have increased by 19.1%. Despite this increase the courts by a 23.0% increase in dispositions have managed to reduce the number of their pending cases below the 1977 mark.

**Figure 1**  
**CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING**  
**1976-1981**



The work load of the district courts increased in 1981 over the year before. Cases added rose 2%, and dispositions grew by 0.6%. Pending cases decreased by 13.2%.

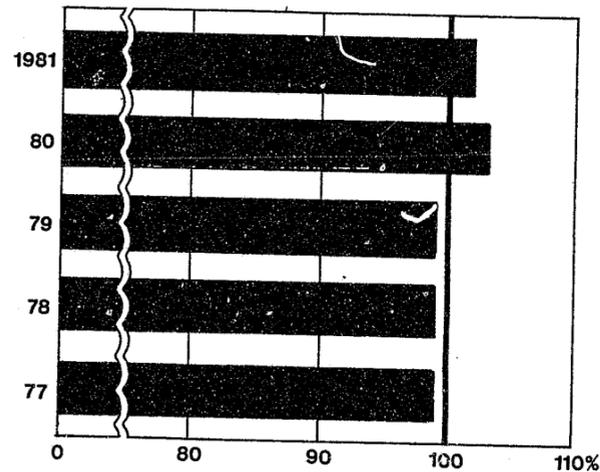
Fig. 2

CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, PENDING  
1980-1981

CASES	1980	1981	% Change
Added	353,917	360,941	2.0%
Disposed	365,721	367,855	0.6%
Pending	52,365	45,451	13.2%

This year, the district courts throughout the state achieved the goal of calendar clearance (disposing of as many cases as were added) for the second consecutive year. They had failed to clear the calendar from 1977 to 1979.

Figure 3  
CALENDAR CLEARANCE  
1977-1981



CASES ADDED

The number of cases added in the county district court in 1980 was 360,941, an increase of 2% over 1980. This increase is the smallest in nine years. Case filings declined in automobile negligence cases and small claims, possibly as a result of inflation, while other categories had a relatively modest increase in case filings.

Half of the cases coming to the district court in 1981 were contract actions. One-third were landlord/tenant matters. The rest were small claims and tort actions.

Fig. 4

CASELOAD TRENDS  
1977-1981

Case Type	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	% Change 1980-81	% Change 1977-81
Automobile Negligence	14,099	12,842	13,387	14,222	12,482	-12.2	-11.5
Other Tort	4,188	4,460	4,736	4,627	4,733	2.3	13.0
Contract	156,161	161,927	164,641	175,782	182,304	3.7	16.7
Small Claims	39,149	41,166	42,247	44,873	42,012	-6.4	7.3
Tenancy	89,460	97,490	105,661	114,413	119,410	4.4	33.5
TOTAL	303,057	317,885	331,672	353,917	360,941	2.0	19.1

DISPOSITIONS

Total dispositions in 1981 were 367,855 cases, a rise of 0.6% over 1980. As the chart below shows, dispositions in contract and tenancy cases rose, while auto negligence cases, other torts, and small claims matters had somewhat fewer dispositions.

Fig. 5  
DISPOSITIONS CASE PROFILE  
1977-1981

Case Type	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	% Change 1980-81	% Change 1977-81
Automobile Negligence	13,429	13,252	12,856	14,873	13,526	-9.1	0.7
Other Tort	4,109	4,434	4,629	5,186	4,716	-9.1	14.8
Contract	154,675	160,022	163,634	181,752	187,488	3.2	21.2
Small Claims	38,320	40,535	40,669	46,458	43,080	-7.4	12.4
Tenancy	88,515	97,020	102,868	117,452	119,045	1.4	34.5
TOTAL	299,048	315,263	324,656	365,721	367,855	0.6	23.0

The number of cases disposed of by trial rose 6.3% in the last year to 64,227. (This figure represents 17.5% of all dispositions.) Of these trials only 499 (0.8%) involved juries, or 1.4 jury trials per 1,000 dispositions. While the trial rate was increasing, the rate of other forms of disposition held steady or declined:

Fig. 6

DISPOSITIONS: MANNER PROFILE

	1980	1981	% Change
Trial	60,441	64,227	6.3
Settlement	118,135	118,837	0.6
Dismissal	43,628	40,930	-6.2
Default	139,258	139,601	0.3
Transfer	4,259	4,260	0.02
TOTAL	365,721	367,855	0.6

CASES PENDING

At the end of the 1981 court year, there were 45,451 cases pending in the district court, down 13.2% from one year earlier. Together with the substantial decline in cases pending in 1980, the 1981 figure shows a reduction of 21% since 1979.

In a high-volume court like the county district court, it is natural that few cases would remain active for many months. As the table below shows, 94% of the cases pending at the end of the 1981 court year were less than six months old.

Fig. 7

Ages of Pending Cases  
1981

Ages	No.	% of total
Over two years	136	0.3
18 months - 2 years	119	0.3
12 months - 18 months	427	0.9
6 months - 12 months	2,166	4.8
Less than 6 months	42,603	93.7
Total	45,451	100.0

The number of cases pending may be expressed in another form. By relating the cases pending to the rate of dispositions, one may compute an expected "time to disposition" of the cases pending at the end of the 1981 court year. At the monthly rate of dispositions achieved during 1981, the 45,451 cases pending at the end of the year could be expected to be disposed of in just 1.5 months. This is not an unreasonable average figure. It shows that most cases in district court are processed rapidly, so that the district court continues to be available as a forum for resolving relatively simple disputes without considerable delay.

The average life of an active matter in the County District Court is generally between six and eight weeks. The average life of an inactive case or one disposed by dismissal is probably six months. The latter is due to procedural

requirements regarding dismissal of inactive matters and account for approximately 11.5% of all dispositions. All other matters move quickly to adjudication. Thus, 95.1% of all cases "added" during the first eleven months of the court year (excluding August) were disposed of by the end of the year.

JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

There are 39 judgeships authorized in the county district courts. Since there may be vacancies, and since the judges are sometimes assigned to hear Superior Court cases, the actual number of judges sitting in district court was fewer than the authorized level, and it varied from day to day. The statistical measure used to calculate the judicial resources available is the "average available trial court judge." This statistical average was 23.2 judges in 1981, down 5.7% from the 1980 level of 24.6.

In spite of the decline in available judicial resources, the courts productivity increased. The total number of dispositions rose to 367,855, or 15,856 per average available judge.

Fig. 8

Dispositions Per Average Available Judge

Type of Disposition	1980	1981	% Change
	(24.6)	(23.2)	
Trial	2,457	2,768	12.7%
Default	5,661	6,017	6.3%
Dismissal	1,773	1,764	-0.5%
Settlement	4,802	5,122	6.7%
Inactive	173	184	6.4%
TOTAL	14,867	15,856	6.7%

NEW PROGRAMS

Projects this year have sought to expedite the disposition of cases and to improve the administration of the County District Courts generally.

Union County Evening Court

As reported last year, a night court program was begun in Union County for minor matters in the County District Court. Under this program, since January 1981, the cases of pro se litigants are heard after the regular business day twice a month. All matters are resolved by mediation or trial on the date scheduled, unless the court grants a postponement for reasonable cause shown.

Statistics for the first six months of the pilot program indicate that it has been very successful. Of the cases ready for trial, 68% were settled following a mediation session with a law clerk and the remainder were tried to completion the same evening. Plaintiffs polled were very pleased with the alternate court hours, method of disposition of the litigation and final outcome.

Service By Mail

In another experiment, the AOC worked with the County District Court in Passaic County in a project to test service by mail. Summonses and complaints were sent to the defendant simultaneously by certified and regular mail. The efficiency and effectiveness of such service was carefully examined and compared with information collected on personal service over a two-month period.

The results indicate that service of district court summonses and complaints can be made by regular and certified mail without resulting in any harm to the defendants.

Delay Reduction

This year, special emphasis has been placed on elimination of delays which

have developed in various County District courts. The AOC has worked closely with the presiding judges, county district court clerks and court staff in efforts to better manage work within the County District courts, train existing personnel for multiple purposes, shift resources within the County District courts to meet changing demands and examine alternative programs, methods, and systems.

District Court Computerization

One of the long term solutions to the increased volume of work in the County District Court is to establish a network of computer facilities, based in the AOC, which would provide each County District Court with additional processing capabilities beyond those available at the local level.

The AOC now provides various County District Courts resources necessary to evaluate computer needs at the county level.

Small Claims Task Force

The Chief Justice established a Small Claims Task Force to examine the small claims court operations in New Jersey and to learn from experiences in other states. Their report will be submitted to the Supreme Court in January 1982.

Fee Sub-Committee

The Supreme Court Committee on County District Courts established a fee subcommittee to examine all fees assessed in the county district courts. Their recommendations for a more effective and efficient fee structure have been forwarded to the Supreme Court.

TAX COURT

The Tax Court of New Jersey is a trial court having statewide jurisdiction. The court was established by the Legislature as a court of limited jurisdiction under Article VI, Section I, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution. The enabling legislation can be found in N.J.S.A. 2A:3A-1 et seq. The court reviews state and local property tax assessments; the actions and determinations of the 21 county boards of taxation with respect to local property tax matters, and determinations the Director of the Division of Taxation with respect to state taxes.

The court year 1981 marked the second year of operation of the Tax Court and the first year in which all eight Tax Court judges served for the full year. This has been a productive year. The judges, the Clerk, and their respective staffs have attained a level of experience which enables the court to operate efficiently. The backlog of unassigned and undecided cases has been substantially reduced. Improvements were made in

the rules, forms, and procedures, as well as in the Clerk's Office procedures.

CASELOAD

At the beginning of the court year the number of Tax Court cases pending was 20,448. Filings, transfers, and miscellaneous applications during the court year totaled 8,343, aggregating a total of 28,791 cases. The court disposed of 15,564 cases, reducing the cases pending to 13,227 by the end of the year.

At the beginning of the court year, there were approximately 16,000 pending cases contesting pre-1979 assessments. By the end of the court year, pre-1979 cases were reduced to approximately 6,000 and in many areas of the state cases were being scheduled for hearing on a current basis.

There can be no direct comparison of the performance of the court for this court year either with that of the

Fig. 1

CASELOAD PROFILE  
1981

Cases Added, Disposed, and Pending:	Local	State	Equali-	Total
	Property Tax	Tax	zation Table	
1. Cases pending as of 9/1/80	19,568	870	10	20,448
2. Cases added including reinstated cases	4,403	1,017	24	5,444
3. Transferred and remanded cases	70	1,550	0	1,620
4. Miscellaneous applications	1,279	0	0	1,279
	25,320	3,437	34	28,791
5. Cases disposed	-13,517	-2,020	-27	-15,564
6. Cases pending as of 8/31/81	11,803	1,417	7	13,227
	=====	=====	==	=====

Fig. 2

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FILED  
1981

Number of Complaints Filed In Each Filing Fee Category

	Local Property Tax	State Tax	Equali- zation Table	Total
Regular	2,768	84	24	2,876
Small Claims	1,635	933	0	2,568
	4,403	1,017	24	5,444
	=====	=====	==	=====

court's activity for the prior year or with the activity for earlier years of the court's predecessor, the Division of Tax Appeals. However, it can be noted that the total dispositions of the Tax Court for the prior court year amounted to 11,549 cases and for the fiscal years ending June 30, 1978 and 1977 the Division of Tax Appeals' dispositions totaled approximately 8,500 and 7,000 cases, respectively.

FILINGS

Local property tax cases accounted for 95% of the cases pending at the

beginning of the court year and 80% of the new cases filed during the court year. Of new local property tax filings, 63% were regular complaints and 37% were small claims.

Of state tax case filings, 87% consisted of homestead rebate claims. Contest of determinations with regard to various state taxes, principally corporation business tax, gross income tax and sales and use tax, comprised 11% of state tax case filings, and county and state equalization table cases made up 2%.

The dollar amount of contested local property tax assessments exceeded six billion dollars. With respect to

Fig. 3  
CHARACTER OF COMPLAINTS FILED

Local Property Tax	
Regular Appeals	420
Vacant Land	883
Residential	50
Farmland	1,050
Commercial	461
Industrial	1,207
Multi-family Residential	282
Other	50
Correction of Error	4,403
State Tax	
Business Personal Property Tax	9
Capital Gains & Other Unearned Income Tax	4
Cigarette Tax	1
Corporation Business Tax	20
Emergency Transportation Tax	3
Gross Income Tax	23
Homestead Rebate	910
Insurance Retaliatory Tax	4
Complaint to Remove Docketed Judgment	1
Motor Fuels Tax	3
Public Utilities Franchise & Gross Receipts Tax	4
Sales & Use Tax	21
Spill Compensation Tax	2
Transfer Inheritance & Estate Taxes	10
Unincorporated Business Tax	1
Wage Tax	1
	1,017
Equalization Table	
County Equalization Table	1
County Rebate	2
Table of Equalized Valuation (School Aid)	21
	24

Fig. 4  
CONTESTED PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS IN DOLLARS  
1981

1. Dollar Amount of Local Property Tax Assessments Contested in Complaints Filed*	\$6,219,432,685 <sup>1/</sup>
2. Dollar Amount of State Tax Assessments Contested in Complaints Filed*	
By Type of Tax	
Business Personal Property Tax	192,836
Capital Gains & Other Unearned Income Tax	121,139
Cigarette Tax	12,245
Corporation Business Tax	1,045,126
County Equalization Table	**
Emergency Transportation Tax	116,212
Gross Income Tax	177,826
Homestead Rebate	**
Insurance Retaliatory Tax	158,475
Complaint to Remove Docketed Judgment	**
Motor Fuels Tax	247,110
Public Utilities Franchise & Gross Receipts Tax	22,644
Sales & Use Tax	973,489
Spill Compensation Tax	2,316,409
Transfer Inheritance & Estate Taxes	71,719
Unincorporated Business Tax	15,076
Wage Tax	68

\* These figures are taken from filed complaints.

\*\* No contested tax figures shown in complaint

<sup>1/</sup> Total New Jersey real property tax assessments as of October 1, 1980 - \$101,728,001,802. Real property tax assessments contested in complaints filed with the Tax Court during court year 1980 were \$7,148,186,867.

state tax assessments where the complaint shows a contested amount, the largest totals in contest were in the categories of spill compensation tax, corporation business tax, and sales and use tax. The number of local property tax complaints filed in 1981 varied greatly among counties from a high of 807 in Essex to a low of 13 in Salem.

Fig. 5

PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS FILED BY COUNTY  
1981

1. Atlantic	144
2. Bergen	876
3. Burlington	102
4. Camden	50
5. Cape May	48
6. Cumberland	14
7. Essex	807
8. Gloucester	14
9. Hudson	247
10. Hunterdon	217
11. Mercer	113
12. Middlesex	503
13. Monmouth	191
14. Morris	246
15. Ocean	82
16. Passaic	226
17. Salem	13
18. Somerset	168
19. Sussex	65
20. Union	252
21. Warren	25

Total 4,403

DISPOSITIONS

Ninety per cent of the local property tax cases were disposed of by settlement, withdrawal, or motion and 10% were tried to completion. Eighty-two per cent of the state tax cases, other than homestead rebate cases, were disposed of by settlement, withdrawal or motion and 18% were tried to completion. Of the homestead rebate cases, 4.4% were tried to completion, the balance being decided by settlement, withdrawal, or motion.

PENDING CASES

As of August 31, 1981, 11,803 local property tax cases, 1,417 state tax

cases, and 7 equalization cases were pending. Of these, approximately 5,500 are 1980 and 1981 filings and approximately 1,500 are 1979 filings. These 7,000 cases from 1979, 1980, and 1981 are regarded as normal case inventory. The approximately 6,000 pre-1979 cases are regarded as backlog.

APPEALS FROM TAX COURT DECISIONS

During the 1980 court year, 10 Tax Court decisions were appealed to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court. An additional 53 Tax Court decisions were appealed during the 1981 court year. The Appellate Division rendered 28 decisions on Tax Court cases during the court year. These break down as follows: 14 affirmed, 8 dismissed, withdrawn or refused for filing, 5 remanded to the Tax Court for further action and 1, *Alid, Inc. v. No. Bergen Tp.*, transferred the Tax Court case to the Law Division of the Superior Court. A Supreme Court Order of July 10, 1981 resulted in the assignment of the *Alid* case to a Tax Court judge temporarily assigned to the Superior Court. The appeal of the *Alid* case to the Supreme Court was later dismissed as moot.

At the end of the court year, appeals from 35 Tax Court decisions were pending before the Appellate Division of the Superior Court.

Appeals of Tax Court decisions to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court represented one-third of 1% of the 1981 Tax Court dispositions and 3.4% of cases tried to completion.

Petitions for certification were denied by the Supreme Court in 4 cases during the court year. Petitions for certification in 3 additional cases remained pending at the end of the court year.

PUBLICATION OF TAX COURT OPINIONS

Availability of Tax Court opinions to taxpayers, the tax bar, tax administrators, and other tax professionals

is a key objective of the court. Ready access to these decisions assists in tax planning, administration, and tax enforcement.

Volume 1 of the New Jersey Tax Court Reports was published in April 1981. This volume contains 70 state and local tax opinions. Advance sheets for Volume 2 of the New Jersey Tax Court Reports were issued during the court year. It is anticipated that one bound volume of the New Jersey Tax Court Reports will be published annually.

#### THE JUDGES

The Tax Court maintains permanent courtrooms and chambers in Hackensack, Newark, New Brunswick, Trenton, Camden, and Mays Landing. Tax Court cases originating in Bergen, Passaic, Hudson, Essex, Union, and Middlesex Counties are heard by the judges who sit in permanent courtroom locations in northern New Jersey. The Tax Court cases originating in the remaining counties are heard in the permanent courtroom locations in Trenton, Camden, and Mays Landing and, as required, in court houses in Morristown, Belvidere, Somerville, Freehold, and Toms River.

During this court year, the judges continued to meet monthly to discuss areas of mutual concern in the operation of the court. Most of the judges also participated in educational courses in the areas of property valuation and trial procedure. In January, the Tax Court judges joined tax judges from New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Oregon, and the District of Columbia at a National Conference of State Tax Judges' seminar in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The judges also participated as speakers in educational programs sponsored by the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the New Jersey State Bar Association, Rutgers University, the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers, and various county assessors' associations.

The Supreme Court Committee on the Tax Court was initiated with representation from the bar, taxpayers, and tax administrators. Meetings were held with representatives of the Office of the Attorney General, the Division of Taxation, the New Jersey Association of Tax Board Commissioners and County Tax Administrators, the Association of Municipal Assessors of New Jersey and the Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association of New Jersey to discuss court procedure and its relationship to the areas of tax court administration with which these organizations are concerned.

#### OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT

The Office of the Clerk is the administrative arm of the Tax Court. A significant function of the Clerk's Office is to provide information and sample forms to taxpayers. A team system has been established, and is operating successfully, to handle the large volume of filings which occur during peak filing periods. Since the initiation of this system, acknowledgments of filings, with assigned docket numbers, are being sent to all parties, and filing fees are being verified within 48 hours after receipt.

The relationship between the Office of the Clerk of the Tax Court and the county tax administrators, tax assessors, and tax collectors was explored by meetings with representatives of these organizations. As a result, the Tax Court Clerk's Office established procedures to inform county tax administrators of Tax Court appeals and their results.

#### STANDARDS OF ASSESSMENT AND LEGAL PRINCIPLES UTILIZED BY THE TAX COURT

Local property tax cases generally involve a determination of value of the property for assessment purposes. Value for assessing purposes is fair market value, the price that would be paid by a willing purchaser and that a willing seller would accept, neither being compelled to buy nor sell. It is the fair market value standard that is utilized to achieve

the uniformity in assessment that is required by the New Jersey Constitution. The court applies the valuation principles required by the statute and the Constitution and determines fair market value by application of such of the three approaches to value as may be presented in evidence. These three approaches are: (1) the market approach, which estimates value based on comparable sales, (2) the cost approach, which estimates value based on construction cost less depreciation, and (3) the income approach, which estimates value based on capitalization of the income stream produced by the property. Local property tax cases sometimes involve a claim of discrimination. In such cases, the court has followed the legal principles established by the Supreme Court in In re Appeals of Kents 2124 Atlantic Ave., Inc., 35 N.J. 21 (1961) and the Supreme Court decision dealing with discrimination which followed.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Based on the cases heard by the court, it appears that the system for review of state and local tax disputes is generally functioning satisfactorily. However, the experience of the court with taxpayers, attorneys, and tax administrators has revealed areas where the state and local tax system can be improved. Legislative changes that might be considered at this time are:

1. A Technical Changes Act to update the statutes by deleting references to the "Board of Tax Appeals" and "Division of Tax Appeals," correcting filing time period inconsistencies, and making other procedural changes necessary to accommodate present Tax Court procedure.

2. Clarification of the provision for direct appeal to the Tax Court in local property tax cases where the assessment exceeds \$750,000 to specifically deal with added and omitted assessments. (N.J.S.A. 54:3-21.)

3. A statutory definition of personal property for the purpose of distinguishing such property from real property when dealing with the real property tax and the business personal property tax.

4. The case of Galloway Tp. v. Dorflinger, 2 N.J. Tax 358 (Tax Ct. 1980), raises the question of whether some reduction in property tax should be afforded a taxpayer whose property is destroyed during the course of the tax year.

5. The case of Clairola-Barber Post No. 2342, Inc. v. Fort Lee, 2 N.J. Tax 262 (Tax Ct. 1981), points out the existence of a conflict between N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.5 and N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.25 as to property owned by veterans' organizations. Section 3.5 was referred to by the court as "the most liberal of our state's many exemption statutes" because it does not require exclusive use for veterans' purposes.

**CONTINUED**

**1 OF 3**

## MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal Courts are authorized by the Legislature under N.J.S.A. 2A:8-1, and established by the local governing bodies of the State's municipalities. In 1981, there were 529 municipal courts in the State, 15 of which were joint courts serving more than one municipality.

The municipal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. Under N.J.S.A. 2A:8-21 and 22, the municipal courts have jurisdiction over motor vehicle and traffic violations, ordinance violations, disorderly and petty disorderly persons offenses, certain Penalty Enforcement Actions (N.J.S.A. 2A:58-1, et seq.) such as fish and game navigation violations, bastardy and filiation proceedings, specified criminal offenses and probable cause hearings on indictable offenses. The territorial jurisdiction of these courts generally extends to the boundaries of the municipality, and in a joint court, to the boundaries of all municipalities served by the joint court. Although municipal courts have limited civil jurisdiction, exercise of such jurisdiction is dependent upon Supreme Court approval, and currently no courts have the requisite approval.

The judges are appointed by the local governing body, except in joint courts where appointment is by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. All judges serve for a term of three years and until their successor is appointed and qualified. There is no tenure of office for municipal court judges, nor is there a mandatory retirement age, conditions of office which distinguish these judges from all others in the Judiciary.

The number of municipal court judges holding office during the 1981 court year was 364, of whom 4 were nonlawyers and the remaining 360 were attorneys. This represents a decrease of 10 in the total number of judges compared to 1980. The number

of nonlawyer judges remained the same as in 1980.

Of the 364 judges presiding over the municipal courts, 91 judges presided over more than one court. Most of the multi-court judges presided over two or three courts; however, one judge presided over 13 courts, another over 10 courts and yet another over 9 courts. In 12 municipalities, the municipal courts have more than one judge. There were 32 judges in these courts, which have the largest case loads among the municipal courts.

Very few municipal court judges devote their full time to judicial duties. The vast majority serve part-time and maintain private law practices. Five courts had full-time judges during 1981, an increase of two courts 1980.

Appeals from the municipal courts are taken to the Superior Court, Law Division as cases de novo. However, since the introduction of sound recording in the municipal courts, the Superior Court judge re-hears the case by review of the sound recording transcript and supplemental oral argument by the attorneys or pro se appellants. This method of re-trial on appeal has reduced Superior Court bench time from more than one hour, on average, to less than fifteen minutes in the average municipal court appeal.

### CASELOAD

The municipal courts handle the vast majority of minor offenses. In the 1981 court year 4,573,184 complaints were filed. This figure exceeds the number of complaints in 1980 by 0.6%, and it is a 19.4% increase over 1977. Dispositions also reached a new high, with a total of 3,590,921, 4.1% over 1980. The table below compares the 1981 figures to those of 1980.

Fig.1  
CASELOAD SUMMARY  
1980-1981

	1980	1981	% Change
Total Complaints Filed	4,546,042	4,573,184	+ 0.6%
Total Dispositions	3,449,901	3,590,921	+ 4.1%
Pending	1,096,152	982,263	-10.4%

More significantly, for the first time in the five year period analyzed, the number of cases not disposed at the conclusion of the 1981 court year had been reduced by a significant number. Cases not disposed at the conclusion of the 1980 court year totalled 1,096,152 while at the end of the 1981 court year the total was 982,263, a reduction of 10.4%.

The municipal court workload contains three separate components: parking violations, traffic violations, and criminal proceedings.

#### PARKING

The table below isolates the municipal court workload and productivity with respect to parking violations for the 1980-1981 court years:

	1980	1981	%Change
Added	2,822,489	2,864,161	+ 1.5%
Disposed	1,975,897	2,077,166	+ 5.1%
Rate of Disposition	70.0%	72.5%	+10.1%
Revenues	\$15,315,783	\$16,858,357	+10.1%
Revenues Per Disposition	\$7.75	\$8.11	+4.8%

Parking violations made up more than 60% of all complaints filed in municipal court in 1981. The number of violations rose by only 1.5% over 1980, a smaller increase than the 5.4% in 1980.

Despite the fact that understaffing problems often require that parking cases receive a lower priority than more serious offenses in the municipal

pal courts, the figures above point to increased productivity. Dispositions rose 5.1% in 1981 over 1980. Increased productivity may be due in part to the increased use of computer operations in the busier municipal courts to process parking tickets.

Most dispositions in parking violations, 94% of the total, are handled by the violations bureau. The violations bureau affords an opportunity to most persons receiving tickets to pay fines without a formal court appearance.

Parking revenues rose by about \$1.5 million to \$16,858,357. This figure equals 23.9% of all revenues generated by the municipal courts in the State. Fines and costs from the disposition of most parking violations are remitted to the municipality.

#### TRAFFIC

The table below isolates the municipal court workload and productivity with respect to traffic violations for the 1980-1981 court years:

	1980	1981	%Change
Added	1,336,039	1,295,652	- 3.0%
Disposed	1,212,796	1,224,848	+ 1.0%
Rate of Disposition	90.8%	94.5%	+ 3.7%
Revenues	\$40,491,142	\$41,309,782	+ 2.0%
Revenues Per Disposition	\$33.39	\$33.73	+ 1.0%

Traffic complaints make up more than 28% of all complaints filed in the municipal courts 34% of complaints disposed of in the municipal courts.

Traffic filings decreased in the past year by 3%. Prior to 1981, filings had increased each year since 1978. The decrease seems to show a shifting priorities by law enforcement units to more serious offenses. Nevertheless, the rate of dispositions increased considerably to 94.5% of the complaints filed.

Revenues generated by the disposition of traffic complaints total more than \$4 out of every \$7 of municipal court assessments despite the fact that traffic complaints disposed of represent only about 1 out of every 3 cases. Fines received for violations of local traffic ordinances are remitted to the municipality. Most fines received from state violations are remitted to the county, but if the complaint was instituted by the state police or the Division of Motor Vehicles, the revenue goes to the state.

Most of the traffic cases, like parking complaints, are disposed of by the violations bureau. Of those tried in court (31% of the total dispositions), there were 310,225 cases disposed of by convictions and guilty pleas in open court and 72,330 by dismissals and findings of not guilty. About 44% of all bench time is devoted to the disposition of traffic matters. While this is a significant amount of all municipal court bench time, the court rules require court appearances in some more serious traffic offenses, such as drunk driving, even if defendant intends to plead guilty.

#### CRIMINAL

The table below isolates the municipal court workload and productivity with respect to criminal violations for the 1980-1981 court year.

	1980	1981	%Change
Added	387,514	413,371	+ 6.7%
Disposed	261,208	288,907	+10.6%
Rate of Disposition	67.4%	69.4%	+ 3.7%
Revenues	\$10,548,138	\$12,420,275	+17.8%
Revenues Per Disposition	\$40.38	\$42.99	+ 6.5%

In criminal matters, filings, dispositions, the rate of disposition, and revenues all rose.

Dispositions included 2,822 indictable complaints adjudicated in the municipal court on waiver of indictment and jury trial. The remainder

of the dispositions involved non-indictable offenses, included among them were 28,195 cases disposed of through the violations bureau. There were 12,855 dismissals after conditional discharge, and pretrial intervention, 140,309 convictions and guilty pleas in open court.

Fig. 5

DISPOSITION PROFILE  
1980-1981

Adjudicated in in Municipal Court	2,822	1.0%
Through Violations Bureau	28,195	4.4%
Dismissals after Conditional Discharge	12,855	9.8%
Conviction Guilty Plea in open court	140,309	48.6%
Dismissed and Findings of Not Guilty	104,726	36.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>288,907</b>	

Of those defendants convicted in the municipal courts of criminal violations, 11,941 defendants were sentenced to jail, 8,789 were placed on probation, 21,015 received suspended sentences. As the table below shows, all of these matters of sentences increased substantially in 1981.

Fig. 6

SENTENCES PROFILE  
1980-1981

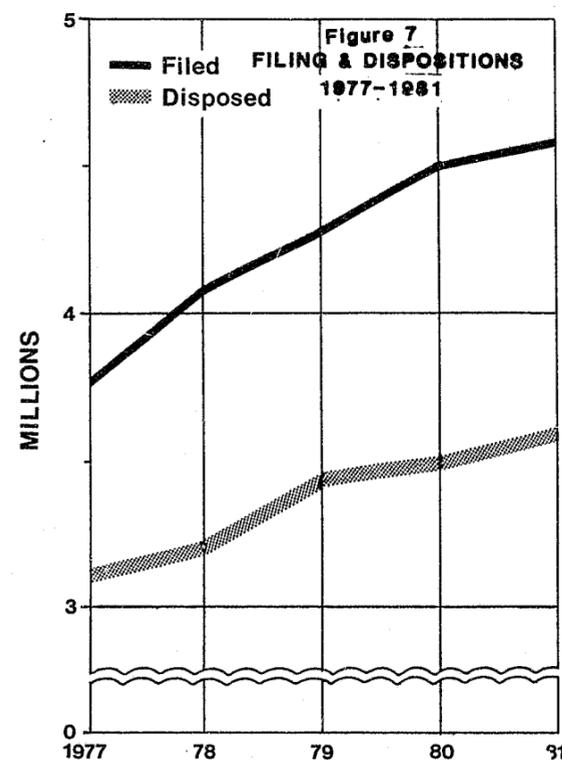
	1980	1981	% Change
Jail	10,228	11,941	+16.8%
Probation	7,507	8,789	+17.1%
Suspended Sentence	17,642	21,015	+19.1%

Revenues assessed in criminal cases rose about \$1.9 million from 1980 to

\$12,420,275. Criminal case revenue assessments are significant, 17.6% of total revenues, given the fact that criminal cases make up only 8.1% of dispositions. It seems clear that the increased revenue from criminal cases reflects the operation of the new Code of Criminal Justice and the higher fines for disorderly person violations authorized by the code. The imposition of special penalties on criminal defendants, under the Violent Crimes Compensation Act, also accounted for an increase in revenues.

#### FIVE YEAR TRENDS IN CASELOAD AND REVENUES

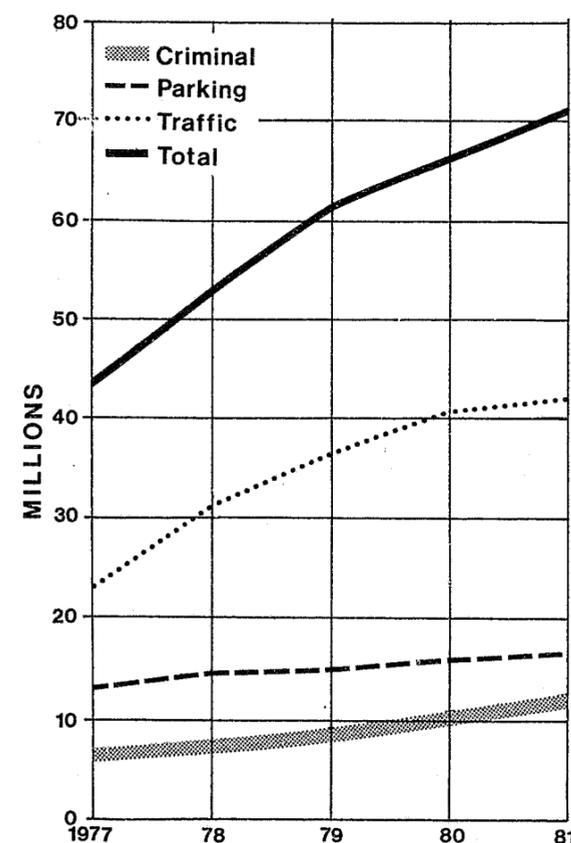
As can be seen from Figure 7 the years 1977-1980 were years of continuous increase in case filings. In 1981, the number of case filings did not increase as much as in the previous years. Dispositions increased throughout the five years, but in 1981, for the first time in half a decade, the rise in dispositions was greater than the rise in filings.



Revenues (fines, court costs and bail forfeitures imposed) generated by the municipal courts rose to record levels in the 1981 court year. The municipal courts assessed \$70,588,414 in 1981 as compared with \$66,355,063 in the 1980 court year, an increase of \$4,233,351 or 6.4%. The revenue figure as noted is a record although the five year trend would seem to point to a slowing down in the yearly increase of revenues generated by the municipal courts.

The graph below traces the unbroken increase in revenues over the past five years.

Figure 8  
REVENUES 1977-1981



Traffic revenues, after showing sharp increases in the years 1977-80, increased at a slower rate in 1981. Parking revenues showed continued steady increase. Criminal revenues have also showed a steady increase over the past half a decade with a

noticeable increase in 1981 of nearly \$2 million, attributable to increase maximum fines for disorderly persons offenses under the Code of Criminal Justice and the creation of petty disorderly persons offenses under the Code.

#### RATES OF DISPOSITION

The municipal courts as a whole improved their performance in all three components of their workload over the last year as depicted by the table below:

Fig. 9

#### RATES OF DISPOSITION

	% 1980	% 1981
Parking	70.0	72.5
Traffic	90.8	94.5
Criminal	67.4	69.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>75.9</b>	<b>78.5</b>

Of particular significance is the fact that the rate of criminal dispositions continues to rise in the second year of implementation of the Code of Criminal Justice as the judges and court support personnel continue to adapt to the burdens of new terminology, new offenses and new defenses.

#### JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

The 364 municipal court judges in 1981 spent 116,377 hours on the bench, a slight increase over last year. There was also an increase in bench hours per judge and the judges' disposition rate per bench hour of 6.55 cases was a 6.0% increase over 1980.

Fig. 10

#### JUDICIAL BENCH HOURS 1980-1981

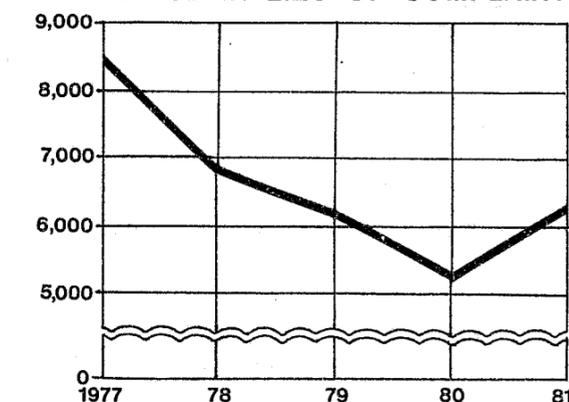
	1980	1981	% Change
Judges	374	364	- 2.7%
Hours on bench	114,769	116,377	+ 1.4%
Bench hours per year per judge	306	319	+ 4.3%
Bench hours per week per judge	5.88	6.13	+ 4.3%

#### NOTICE IN LIEU OF COMPLAINT

After four successive years of declining use of the notice in lieu of complaint, the court year of 1981 witnessed a dramatic increase in its use. Use of the notice had declined each year from 1977-1980 from 8,545 in 1977 to 5,252 in 1980, a decrease of 38.5%. In 1981, however, 6,341 notices in lieu of complaint were generated, an increase of 20.7% over 1980.

The notice in lieu of complaint is a document generated by the court requiring the person to whom the notice is addressed to appear and discuss the particulars of a minor neighborhood or domestic dispute. The matter is discussed by the disputing parties in the presence of the judge or a person designated by the court and approved by the Assignment Judge. This conference results in the recommendation that a formal complaint should or should not issue, and frequently leads to settlement of the dispute, making a trial unnecessary. This use of the formal complaint with its frequently worked harsh consequences and creates unnecessary burdens on the disputing parties in the neighborhood or domestic disputes setting has been increasingly avoided. Figure 11 shows the steady decline in the use of the notice in lieu of complaint in the years 1977-1980 followed by the increase in 1981.

Figure 11  
NOTICE-IN-LIEU-OF-COMPLAINT



The increase in the use of the notice may be attributable to the developing use of conferences presided over by a person designated by the court and approved by the Assignment Judge as now permitted by the court rule. The increased use of the notice in this manner also allows the municipal courts to devote its limited resources to more serious offenses.

#### SUMMONS IN LIEU OF WARRANT

For some time, the Administrative Office of the Courts has emphasized that the summons is the favored form of process unless circumstances require the use of the warrant. This policy applies to indictable offenses as well as non-indictable offenses. The efforts to educate elements of the criminal justice system to the increased use of summons have been successful as there has been a steady increase in the percentage of summonses issued in both indictable and non-indictable matters. Effective for the 1981 court year, the rules of court governing the procedure for issuance of court process (R.3:3-1 and R.3:4-1) were amended to contain detailed guidelines on the issuance of the warrant and favor the summons as the more frequently appropriate form of process. As evidenced by the table below, the percentage of summons increased for indictable and non-indictable matters in the 1981 court year as well as in the court years 1977-1980.

Fig. 12

SUMMONS/WARRANT INDICTABLES & NON-INDICTABLES  
1977-1981

	1977	%	1978	%	1979	%	1980	%	1981	%
<b>Indictable</b>										
Summons	12,106	14.2	15,193	17.5	16,772	19.0	19,712	21.3	29,320	26.2
Warrant	76,890	85.8	71,791	82.5	71,072	81.0	72,745	78.7	74,678	71.8
<b>Non-Indictable</b>										
Summons	107,679	61.2	116,246	65.2	125,270	67.1	143,733	69.8	173,550	78.4
Warrant	68,175	38.8	62,046	34.8	61,490	32.9	62,043	30.2	47,829	21.6

It should be noted that the table above does not include "process" for local ordinance violations, which are not written up on the CDR-1 (Summons) or CDR-2 (Warrant) Forms. The data in the table are based on the issuance of CDR Forms for petty disorderly, and disorderly persons, and indictable offenses.

#### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The Administrative Office of the Courts is continuing its management study project for the ten largest municipal courts. The Newark Municipal Court report has been completed and many of its recommendations have been implemented. The study of the Paterson Municipal Court is about to be released and a study of the Camden Municipal Court is expected to begin early in 1982 in cooperation with the Rutgers School of Law in Camden. These large courts handle approximately 30% of all municipal court work, yet are subject to the greatest pressures of budgetary and staffing losses.

In addition to the management study, a municipal court research project was conducted in conjunction with the Interfunctional Management Department of the Rutgers Graduate School of Management. The purpose of the project was to assist Newark Municipal Court in developing a plan to implement several of the recommendations in the Newark study report. The research was conducted by a ten member team of advanced students from the Graduate School of Management, who used their diverse backgrounds and skills in the business field to analyze related problems in municipal courts. This research may be used as a basis for developing standards for municipal courts throughout the State.

The Administrative Office of the Courts will soon be releasing an updated Municipal Court Manual, which will include appropriate references to the Code of Criminal Justice. Judges and court clerks are also provided with bulletin letters which digest case law, inform of new rules and legislation and provide general information on administrative procedures.

The AOC in conjunction with the National Corrective Training Institute (NCTI) is involved in developing an experimental program for the

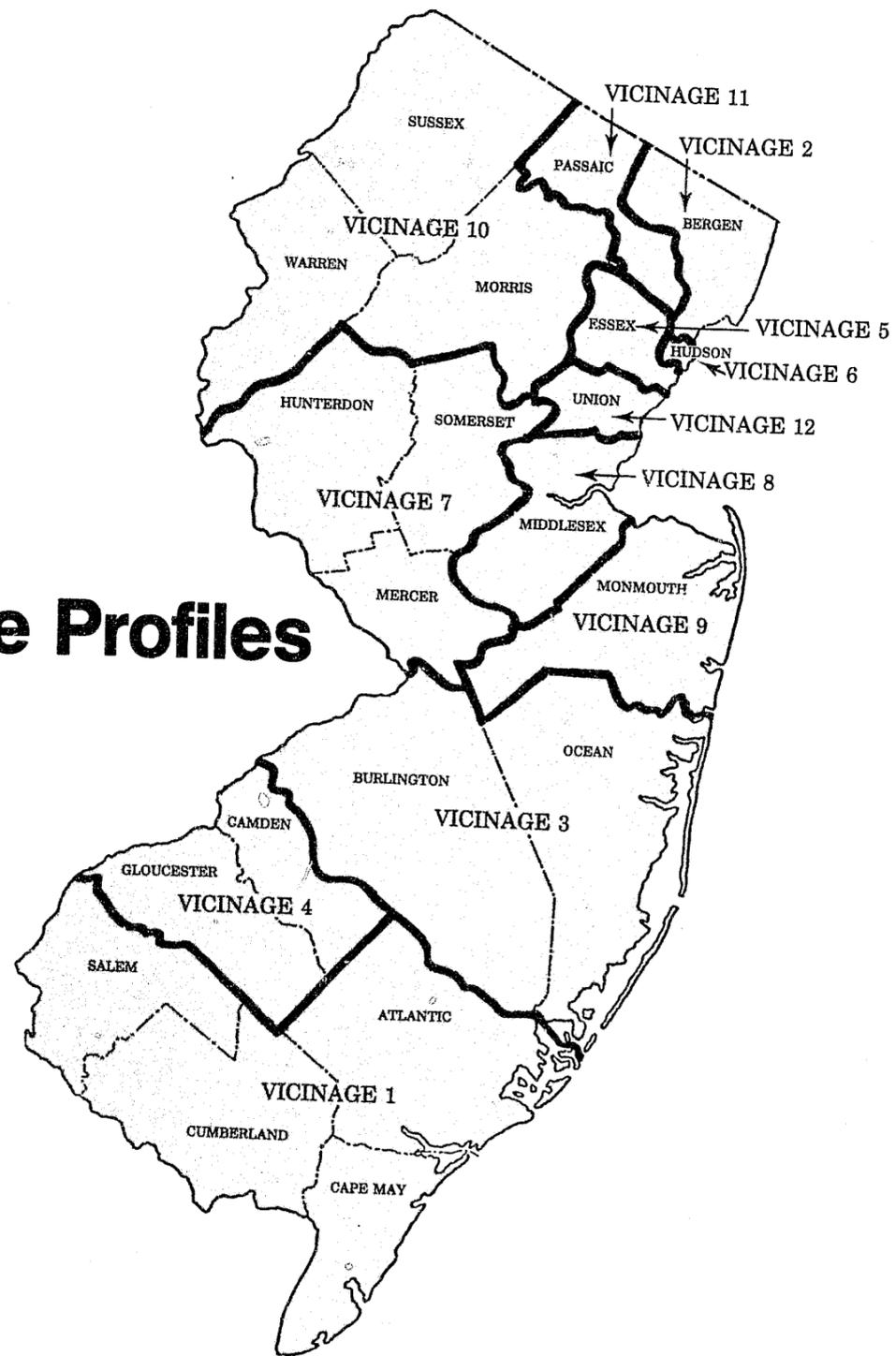
alternative disposition of first offenders convicted of shoplifting. The pilot program is underway in several municipal courts throughout the State. These defendants may be given the opportunity of taking a course offered by NCTI instructors at a regional site. If the offender consents to take the course, sentence is suspended upon condition that defendant attends the course and returns to the court at the completion of the program. The purpose of the course is to help the offender understand the impulse behind his anti-social behavior and thereby reduce the rate of recidivism for this offense.

The AOC has approved a pilot program in the Atlantic vicinage for the acceptance of credit cards by municipal courts in that vicinage. The program is based on an arrangement

with Western Union whereby Western Union issues checks to the municipal court and the charge is put on the individual's credit card. The individual pays a predetermined service fee. This 24 hour service permits a number of defendants to be released on bail promptly without having to spend time in jail awaiting the posting of bail by some other method.

During the past year the AOC was awarded a grant by the Office of Highway Safety and as a result four municipal court judges attended an alcohol and drug specialty session for judges. The session was an exploration of alternative dispositions of drug or alcohol offenders for the purpose of reducing recidivism.

# 3 Vicinage Profiles



**VICINAGE 1 ATLANTIC • CAPE MAY • CUMBERLAND • SALEM COUNTIES**

Assignment Judge: HON. PHILIP A GRUCCIO  
 Trial Court Administrator: STEPHEN E. FINGERMAN

FIG. 1  
 VICINAGE 1 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage counties	459,921	479,688	+ 4.3	41,638	57,292	+37.6	1:11	1:8
Atlantic	189,012	196,027	+ 3.7	17,450	23,822	+36.5	1:11	1:8
Cape May	75,874	84,537	+11.4	7,028	8,797	+25.2	1:11	1:10
Cumberland	131,984	134,015	+ 1.5	11,474	15,559	+35.6	1:12	1:9
Salem	63,051	65,109	+ 3.3	5,686	9,114	+60.3	1:11	1:7

Vicinage 1, consisting of Atlantic, Cumberland, Cape May, and Salem counties, had a 4.3% increase in population between 1977 and 1981. Total filings increased by 37.6%, third highest in the state, during the same period. The ratio of filings to population rose from 1:11 in 1977 to 1:8 in 1981.

There was an increase in cases added (6.5%) and cases disposed (8.0%) during 1981 compared to 1980. The higher rate of dispositions, second highest in the state, resulted in a 12% decrease in the number of pending cases. This reduction of cases pending ranked third in the state.

The largest increase in cases added occurred in the civil calendar (19.8%) while the highest increase in dispositions was in the criminal calendar (57.2%). Vicinage 1 ranked first in the state for increased criminal dispositions.

It ranked second in total dispositions per equivalent judge (3,428) and first in dispositions per equivalent judge in the criminal (700), domestic relations (13,140), and district court (23,699) calendars.

Vicinage 1 ranked first in total trials/hearings per equivalent judge (1,453).

During the 1980-81 court year, Vicinage 1 was involved in several significant efforts in administration and operation. Some of their projects follow:

- Family Court Planning
- Jury system improvements and reduction of term of jury service
- Local committees on personnel practices, facilities and technology, education, and records
- Use of credit cards for bail
- Word processing
- Telephonic motion hearings
- Unified records storage.

VICINAGE 1

FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	51,495	54,830	+ 6.5
cases disposed	52,297	56,493	+ 8.0
change in pending	-802	-1,663	
pending	13,894	12,231	-12.0

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 1

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	2,472	2,107	19.8	14.5
	1980	2,063	1,840		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	3,286	4,152	9.0	57.2
	1980	3,015	2,641		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	2,012	2,303	*	19.5
	1980	1,537	1,927		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	465	587	.7	-19.7
	1980	462	731		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	12,741	12,965	8.2	7.0
	1980	11,771	12,115		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	11,281	11,695	13.0	16.2
	1980	9,987	10,062		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	22,205	22,277	.6	-1.3
	1980	22,335	22,576		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	368	407	13.2	.5
	1980	325	405		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 1

FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		Trials/* Hearings
		Added	Disposed	
CIVIL . . . . .	3.64	679.1	578.8	31.6
CRIMINAL . . . . .	5.93	554.1	700.2	30.5
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	2.03	991.1	1,134.5	1,078.3
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1.58	294.3	371.5	50.6
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1.47	8,667.3	8,819.7	4,691.8
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	0.89	12,675.3	13,140.4	12,215.7
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	0.94	23,622.3	23,698.9	3,843.6
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	16.48	3,327.1	3,428.0	1,453.1

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 2 BERGEN COUNTY**

Assignment Judge: HON. ARTHUR J. SIMPSON, JR.  
 Trial Court Administrator: DR. CONRAD J. RONCATI

VICINAGE 2 FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 2 Bergen	872,959	840,209	-3.8	54,465	59,179	8.7	1:16	1:14

Bergen County's population decreased by 3.8% from 1977 to 1981, but total filings during the period increased by 8.7%. The filings to population ratio increased from 1:16 in 1977 to 1:14 in 1981.

Cases added increased by 5.0%, dispositions increased by 5.4%, and pending cases decreased by .7% from 1980 to 1981.

Bergen County experienced the largest growth in the state for post-conviction relief, appeals, and probate cases (13.9%). The matrimonial calendar had the greatest increase in cases disposed (31.3%).

Cases disposed per equivalent judge ranked third in the state for the general equity calendar (387). Bergen County had 585 total trials/hearings per equivalent judge.

Significant projects for the 1980-81 court year include the following:

- Continuing education for court personnel

- Public education activities in the classroom and offering courthouse tours to school groups
- Court orientation for new attorneys
- Jury system improvements
- Individual calendars in civil cases
- Improvements in criminal data processing
- Monitoring of civil commitment cases.

VICINAGE 2 FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	54,093	56,779	5.0
cases disposed	54,003	56,912	5.4
change in pending	90	-133	
pending	20,506	20,373	-.7

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 2

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	6,270	5,525	-5.2	-14.0
	1980	6,613	6,23		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	1,505	1,565	3.2	9.8
	1980	1,459	1,425		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	3,906	3,608	*	31.3
	1980	2,737	2,747		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	426	437	-27.3	-19.8
	1980	586	545		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	8,626	8,967	5.8	13.9
	1980	8,156	7,876		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	2,336	2,374	-6.0	-12.2
	1980	2,486	2,704		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	33,333	34,083	5.1	6.8
	1980	31,725	31,924		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	377	353	13.9	-1.7
	1980	331	359		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 2 FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	8.40	746.4	657.7	30.0
CRIMINAL . . . . .	6.38	235.9	245.3	22.9
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	3.65	1,070.1	988.5	977.0
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1.13	377.0	386.7	63.7
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	2.35	3,670.6	3,815.7	2,037.4
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	0.62	3,767.7	3,829.0	2,596.8
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	4.49	7,423.8	7,590.9	1,194.9
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	27.02	2,101.4	2,106.3	587.7

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 3 BURLINGTON • OCEAN COUNTIES**

Assignment Judge: HON. MARTIN L. HAINES  
 Trial Court Administrator: FRANK W. KIRKLESKI, JR.

VICINAGE 3 FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 3	682,081	726,278	6.5	40,984	56,966	39.0	1:17	1:13
Burlington	362,259	366,483	1.2	20,152	28,572	41.8	1:18	1:13
Ocean	319,822	359,795	12.5	20,832	28,394	36.3	1:15	1:13

The population increase (6.5%) from 1977 to 1981 was highest in Vicinage 3, Burlington and Ocean counties, with Ocean (12.5%) ranking second among the counties. Total filings increased by 39.0%, the second highest statewide. The ratio of filings to population increased from 1:15 in 1977 to 1:13 in 1981.

Vicinage 3 had the largest increase in cases added (9.5%) and the third highest increase in dispositions (7.1%) between 1980 and 1981. The higher percentage of cases added compared to cases disposed, however, increased the number of pending cases by .8%.

The criminal calendars showed the greatest increase in cases added (44.8%). The largest increase in dispositions occurred in the matrimonial calendar (33.6%). This vicinage ranked first in the state for increase matrimonial dispositions.

Total dispositions per equivalent judge (3,056) were the third highest in the state. Dispositions per equivalent judge ranked first for the juvenile calendars (11,163) and

second for the criminal calendar (531). There were 976 total trials/hearings per equivalent judge, fourth highest statewide. Juvenile hearings per equivalent judge (5,887) ranked first.

Vicinage 3 worked on several projects for improved court operation during the 1980-81 court year:

- Liason with the municipal courts
- New Justice facility in Burlington County
- Case tracking for the speedy trial program
- Jury system efficiency
- Ten percent bail

VICINAGE 3 FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	49,716	54,441	9.5
cases disposed	50,730	54,337	7.1
change in pending	-1,014	104	
pending	12,753	12,857	.8

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 3

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	3,441	3,518	5.1	11.4
	1980	3,273	3,157		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	1,979	1,784	44.8	-5.1
	1980	1,367	1,879		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	3,906	3,668	*	33.6
	1980	2,562	2,746		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	502	537	2.9	12.3
	1980	488	478		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	10,694	10,493	21.3	15.5
	1980	8,813	9,085		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	5,910	5,986	-9.4	-7.8
	1980	6,522	6,492		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	27,573	27,920	4.8	5.3
	1980	26,300	26,515		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	436	431	11.5	14.0
	1980	391	378		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 3 FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	5.71	602.6	616.1	36.4
CRIMINAL . . . . .	3.36	589.0	531.0	27.1
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	3.43	1,138.8	1,069.4	1,018.1
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1.76	285.2	305.1	38.6
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	0.94	11,376.6	11,162.8	5,887.2
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1.17	5,051.3	5,116.2	4,257.3
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1.41	19,555.3	19,801.4	2,107.8
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	17.78	3,061.9	3,056.1	975.5

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 4 CAMDEN • GLOUCESTER COUNTIES**

Assignment Judge: HON. I. W. DIMARTINO  
 Trial Court Administrator: DOLLIE E. GALLAGHER

VICINAGE 4 FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 4	669,003	675,827	1.0	52,411	66,481	26.8	1:13	1:10
Camden	474,044	473,186	-.2	39,585	49,383	24.8	1:12	1:10
Gloucester	194,959	202,641	3.9	12,826	17,098	33.3	1:15	1:12

There was a 1% population increase in Vicinage 4, Camden and Gloucester counties, from 1977 to 1981. Filings increased by 26.8% and the ratio of filings to population rose from 1:13 to 1:10 during the same period.

Cases added increased by 6.4%, cases disposed increased by 2.9%, and pending cases were reduced by .4% from 1980 to 1981.

Vicinage 4 disposed of 2,578 cases per equivalent judge. It ranked fourth in dispositions per equivalent judge on three calendars: district court (21,096), juvenile (7,856), and criminal (487). This vicinage had 558 trials/hearings per equivalent judge with Juvenile hearings (3,359) ranking fourth in the state.

Vicinage 4 established several major projects during last year. Camden County inaugurated a

One-Day/One-Trial Jury System in March 1981, becoming one of the first counties in the state to have it. It also developed an arbitration program in civil cases calling for mandatory, non-binding arbitration. In addition, a program of bar panels to increase the chance of reaching settlements in civil cases is now operating in the vicinage.

VICINAGE 4 FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	58,544	62,276	6.4
cases disposed	60,587	62,341	2.9
change in pending	-2,043	-65	
pending	17,645	17,580	-.4

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 4  
 WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	4,363	4,266	3.3	3.7
	1980	4,224	4,114		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	3,455	3,602	21.6	18.1
	1980	2,842	3,051		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	3,342	3,000	*	27.3
	1980	2,206	2,356		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	391	446	-9.3	7.7
	1980	431	414		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	13,241	13,120	3.8	2.0
	1980	12,759	12,859		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	8,216	8,104	14.2	12.7
	1980	7,195	7,189		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	28,992	29,534	1.2	-2.7
	1980	28,636	30,364		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	276	269	10.0	12.1
	1980	251	240		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 4 FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	7.76	562.2	549.7	20.2
CRIMINAL . . . . .	7.40	466.9	486.8	24.1
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	2.95	1,132.9	1,016.9	958.3
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1.45	269.7	307.6	33.8
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1.67	7,928.7	7,856.3	3,358.7
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1.55	5,300.6	5,228.4	2,238.7
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1.40	20,708.6	21,095.7	865.0
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	24.18	2,575.5	2,578.2	558.4

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 5 ESSEX COUNTY**

Assignment Judge: HON. ARTHUR J. BLAKE  
 Trial Court Administrator: WILLIAM W. CARPENTER

VICINAGE 5 FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 5 Essex	847,995	842,244	-.7	122,856	134,091	9.1	1:7	1:6

The population decreased by .7% in Vicinage 5, Essex County, from 1977 to 1981. There was, however, a 9.1% increase in total filings. Vicinage 5 has the highest filings to population ratio, rising from 1:7 in 1977 to 1:6 in 1981.

Essex County had 7.9% more cases added in 1981 than 1980. While dispositions increased 3.3%, the pending caseload rose by 1.8%.

The greatest increases in cases added occurred in the domestic relations (30.8%) and criminal (30.4%) calendars. Disposition increases were highest in general equity (55.6%), ranking second statewide, and domestic relations (29.1%), the highest domestic relations disposition increase in the state.

Total dispositions per equivalent judge (3,499) rank first in the state with domestic relations (11,775) and matrimonial (1,141) ranking second and civil dispositions (772) ranking third. Vicinage 5 had 1,188 trials/hearings per equivalent judge,

second highest in the state. The number of trials/hearings on the matrimonial (1,125) and domestic relations calendars (9,568) ranked second statewide.

Essex County undertook two major programs during the 1980-81 court year. One is an effort to install an automated case processing and management system in the juvenile court, based on PROMIS/GRAVEL software. The second is a pilot project to improve child support enforcement practices, in which Essex County is one of nine locations in the nation under study.

VICINAGE 5 FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	120,561	130,046	7.9
cases disposed	125,520	129,619	3.3
change in pending	-4,959	427	
pending	23,994	24,421	1.8

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 5

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	7,662	8,208	10.5	9.9
	1980	6,935	7,466		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	4,526	3,558	30.4	-14.6
	1980	3,471	4,168		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	3,031	2,499	*	-7.3
	1980	2,398	2,695		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	403	565	-25.5	55.6
	1980	541	363		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	13,486	13,632	13.4	15.4
	1980	11,892	11,813		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	27,760	27,907	30.8	29.1
	1980	21,224	21,612		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	72,867	72,949	-1.3	-5.4
	1980	73,818	77,115		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	311	301	10.3	4.5
	1980	282	288		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 5 FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	10.63	720.8	772.2	34.3
CRIMINAL . . . . .	13.07	346.3	272.2	27.6
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	2.19	1,384.0	1,141.1	1,125.1
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1.56	258.3	362.2	83.3
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	3.29	4,099.1	4,143.5	2,076.3
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	2.37	11,713.1	11,775.1	9,567.9
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	3.93	18,541.2	18,562.1	2,842.5
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	37.04	3,511.0	3,499.4	1,187.9

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 6 HUDSON COUNTY**

Assignment Judge: HON. THOMAS S. O'BRIEN  
 Trial Court Administrator: GORI J. CARFORA

VICINAGE 6 FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 6 Hudson	563,116	551,885	-2.0	46,663	60,058	28.7	1:12	1:9

Hudson County had a 2.0% population decrease from 1977 to 1981. Filings rose by 28.7% and the ratio of filings to population increased from 1:12 to 1:9.

There was an 8.2% growth in cases added from 1980 to 1981. Dispositions increased by 6.7% and pending cases rose by 7.3%.

Calendars showing the largest increases were criminal (33.4%) and domestic relations (32.1%), the highest growth rate for domestic relations cases statewide. Increases in disposed cases were highest in domestic relations (27.8%), ranking second in the state, and general equity (23.3%).

Overall, there were 2,783 dispositions per equivalent judge. Hudson County ranked first in matrimonial (1,178) and civil (870) dispositions per equivalent judge. Vicinage 6 ranked third in total trials/hearings

per equivalent judge (1,167). It ranked first on the District Court (4,622) and matrimonial (1,126) calendars and second on the civil calendar (42.9).

Hudson County's major management project during the past year has been the speedy trial program. Hudson County's speedy trial plan focuses on central judicial processing for indictable complaints at the municipal court level.

VICINAGE 6 FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	53,856	58,294	8.2
cases disposed	53,667	57,273	6.7
change in pending	189	1,021	
pending	14,083	15,104	7.3

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 6

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	4,682	4,587	5.9	1.2
	1980	4,422	4,534		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	2,069	1,610	33.4	5.4
	1980	1,551	1,527		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	2,491	2,108	*	15.1
	1980	1,746	1,832		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	250	317	22.0	23.3
	1980	205	257		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	7,774	7,079	7.9	.1
	1980	7,206	7,071		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	6,655	6,516	32.1	27.8
	1980	5,039	5,097		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	34,241	34,937	2.0	5.2
	1980	33,555	33,221		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	132	119	0	-7.0
	1980	132	128		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 6 FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	5.27	888.4	870.4	42.9
CRIMINAL . . . . .	7.39	280.0	217.9	17.3
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1.79	1,391.6	1,177.7	1,125.7
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	0.99	252.5	320.2	80.8
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1.58	4,920.3	4,480.4	2,388.6
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	0.97	6,860.8	6,717.5	5,903.1
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	2.59	13,220.5	13,489.2	4,662.4
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	20.58	2,832.6	2,782.9	1,166.7

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 7 HUNTERDON • MERCER • SOMERSET COUNTIES**

Assignment Judge: HON. SAMUEL D. LENOX, JR.  
 Trial Court Administrator: ROBERT J. REED

VICINAGE 7 FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 7	605,874	600,968	-0.8	39,492	52,105	31.9	1:15	1:12
Hunterdon	82,720	89,125	7.7	3,832	5,467	42.7	1:22	1:16
Mercer	317,159	308,238	-2.8	25,484	33,171	30.2	1:12	1:9
Somerset	205,995	203,605	-1.2	10,176	13,467	32.3	1:20	1:15

Vicinage 7, Hunterdon, Mercer, and Somerset counties, had a .8% decrease in population from 1977 to 1981. There was a 31.9% increase in filings and a rise in the ratio of filings to population from 1:15 in 1977 to 1:12 in 1981.

The cases added between 1980 and 1981 increased by 4.5% and dispositions rose by 5.6%. Reduction in pending cases (-14.5%) was the second highest in the state.

The largest growth occurred in the criminal calendar (25.1%) which also had the highest disposition increase (26.5%). Vicinage 7 ranked second in the state on cases added (6.5%) and first on cases disposed (8.2%) in district court.

There were 2,792 dispositions per equivalent judge with general equity dispositions (379) ranking fourth in

the state. This vicinage had 764 total trials/hearings per equivalent judge with civil (39) and criminal (35) trials ranking third in the state.

The projects carried out in Vicinage 7 during the past year include one to use counselors to mediate landlord/tenant matters and small claims cases in Mercer County and improvements in the jury management system.

VICINAGE 7 FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	47,206	49,307	4.5
cases disposed	48,732	51,483	5.6
change in pending	-1,526	-2,176	
pending	14,989	12,813	-14.5

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 7

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	3,046	3,041	5.5	7.2
	1980	2,886	2,836		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	2,794	2,492	25.1	26.5
	1980	2,234	1,970		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	2,714	2,900	*	18.9
	1980	2,405	2,438		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	337	341	10.9	8.3
	1980	304	315		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	8,438	8,604	-.8	-.8
	1980	8,502	8,670		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	4,247	4,441	-11.0	-11.7
	1980	4,774	5,030		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	27,268	29,193	6.5	8.2
	1980	25,612	26,984		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	463	471	-5.3	-3.7
	1980	489	489		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 7 FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	4.69	649.5	648.4	39.2
CRIMINAL . . . . .	5.61	498.0	444.2	34.8
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	3.28	827.4	884.1	812.8
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	0.90	374.4	378.9	23.3
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1.64	5,145.1	5,246.3	3,063.4
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	0.79	5,375.9	5,621.5	4,660.8
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1.53	17,822.2	19,080.4	1,517.0
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	18.44	2,673.9	2,791.9	764.3

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 8 MIDDLESEX COUNTY**

Assignment Judge: HON. JOHN C. DEMOS  
 Trial Court Administrator: DR. JAMES S. WINSTON

VICINAGE 8

FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 8 Middlesex	590,394	597,101	1.1	43,180	50,172	16.2	1:14	1:12

The population of Middlesex County increased 1.1% from 1977 to 1981. Filings rose by 16.2% and there was an increase in the filings to population ratio from 1:14 in 1977 to 1:12 in 1981.

Vicinage 8 had a 1.1% increase in cases added and a 4.0% decrease in cases disposed during the past year. The pending caseload was reduced by 1.6%.

Cases added to the criminal calendar (59.7%) was the largest increase in the vicinage and in the state. The increase in disposed cases was also highest for the criminal calendar (30.4%) followed by civil dispositions (24.2%) which ranked second state wide.

There were 2,034 dispositions per equivalent judge. Overall, there were 676 trials/hearings per equivalent judge. Matrimonial hearings (1,062) ranked fourth in the state.

Middlesex County pursued several major programs for improving court operations during 1980-81:

- Establishment of a Youth

- Services Commission to develop volunteer programs in juvenile delinquency matters in three municipalities;
- Several improvements in jury management, including a combined juror summons and questionnaire, and a plan for one-step juror summons and qualification;
- an automated juvenile justice management information system for effective case management, calendar control, scheduling, diversion and automated docketing;
- a community relations program that features orientation and education of high school students about court systems.

VICINAGE 8

FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	46,652	47,160	1.1
cases disposed	49,448	47,452	-4.0
change in pending	-2,796	-292	
pending	18,399	18,107	-1.6

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 8

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	6,272	6,232	8.8	24.2
	1980	5,763	5,017		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	2,453	2,057	59.7	30.4
	1980	1,536	1,578		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	2,362	2,690	*	12.4
	1980	2,193	2,394		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	271	269	-1.8	.4
	1980	276	268		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	7,638	7,808	3.0	-5.7
	1980	7,417	8,282		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	4,906	4,913	5.3	4.5
	1980	4,660	4,701		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	22,935	23,164	-6.4	-13.9
	1980	24,501	26,905		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	323	319	5.6	5.3
	1980	306	303		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 8

FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	9.50	660.2	656.0	18.3
CRIMINAL . . . . .	5.60	438.0	367.3	24.5
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	2.45	964.1	1,098.0	1,062.4
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	0.84	322.6	320.2	70.2
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	2.14	3,569.2	3,648.6	1,916.8
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1.12	4,380.4	4,386.6	3,598.2
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1.68	13,651.8	13,788.1	2,770.8
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	23.33	2,012.4	2,033.9	675.5

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 9 MONMOUTH COUNTY**

Assignment Judge: HON. THOMAS F. SHEBELL, JR.  
 Trial Court Administrator: ROBERT W. EISLER

VICINAGE 9

FIG. 1

POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 9 Monmouth	494,823	507,305	+ 2.5	34,431	43,108	+25.2	1:14	1:12

Monmouth County's population increased by 2.5% from 1977 to 1981. Filings grew by 25.2% and there was an increase in the filings to population ratio from 1:14 in 1977 to 1:12 in 1981.

This vicinage had the third largest increase in cases added (8.4%) from 1980 to 1981. It ranked first in disposed cases (11.4%) and pending caseload reduction (-16.6%).

Largest calendar growth occurred in civil (33.5%), second highest in the state, and criminal (26.6%). Increases in disposed cases were largest in three calendars: civil (59.8%), ranking first in the state, matrimonial (32.1%), second in the state, and domestic relations (20.1%), ranking third statewide.

Vicinage 9 disposed of 2,789 cases per equivalent judge. It ranked first in general equity dispositions (529) and second in district court (22,942) and civil (792) dispositions. Monmouth County had 805 trials/hearings per equivalent judge

ranking first in criminal (49) and fourth in civil (37) trials.

In the last year, Monmouth County reduced its pending caseload through active case management, including a Bar Panel program to review the status of pending cases. Other activities in the vicinage included the dedication of the East Wing of the courthouse, the planning of a new facility for the county law library, improvements in criminal and J&DR recordkeeping, installation of additional computer terminals for computerized case tracking, and improvements in the bail process and municipal court staffing.

VICINAGE 9

FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	37,589	40,746	8.4
cases disposed	39,151	43,619	11.4
change in pending	-1,562	-2,873	
pending	17,293	14,420	-16.6

FIG. 3  
VICINAGE 9

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	3,716	4,508	33.5	59.8
	1980	2,783	2,821		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	1,791	1,584	26.6	12.3
	1980	1,415	1,410		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	2,284	2,467	*	32.1
	1980	1,715	1,867		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	343	370	4.9	9.5
	1980	327	338		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	7,379	7,789	.2	2.9
	1980	7,361	7,567		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	3,417	3,636	8.4	20.1
	1980	3,153	3,028		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	21,517	22,942	4.8	5.1
	1980	20,523	21,821		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	299	323	-4.2	8.0
	1980	312	299		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 9

FIG. 4  
JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	5.69	653.1	792.3	37.4
CRIMINAL . . . . .	3.05	587.2	519.3	48.9
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	2.71	842.8	910.3	756.1
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	0.70	490.0	528.6	37.1
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1.61	4,583.2	4,837.9	2,628.6
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	0.88	3,883.0	4,131.8	4,069.3
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1.00	21,517.0	22,942.0	2,347.0
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	15.64	2,605.2	2,788.9	805.4

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

VICINAGE 10 MORRIS • SUSSEX • WARREN COUNTIES

Assignment Judge: HON. ROBERT MUIR, JR.  
 Trial Court Administrator: DAVID P. ANDERSON, JR.

VICINAGE 10

FIG. 1

POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 10	588,058	615,502	4.7	27,768	39,292	41.5	1:21	1:16
Morris	400,149	410,048	2.5	17,966	25,130	39.9	1:22	1:16
Sussex	105,574	119,978	13.6	5,983	8,186	36.8	1:18	1:15
Warren	82,335	85,476	3.8	3,819	5,976	56.5	1:22	1:14

Vicinage 10, Morris, Sussex, and Warren counties had the State's second largest population growth (4.7%) between 1977 and 1981. Sussex County's increase (13.6%) ranked first in the state. This vicinage had the largest increase in the number of filings (41.5%) during the last five years. The ratio of filings to population rose from 1:21 to 1:16.

There was a 4.2% increase in cases added, a 2.5% increase in disposed cases, and a 3.9% increase in pending cases during the past year.

The criminal calendar had the largest increase in cases added (12.7%) followed by district court (8.3%) which ranked first in the state. The greatest increase in dispositions occurred in the general equity calendar (52.2%), the third highest in the state.

There were 2,846 dispositions per equivalent judge. General equity dispositions (489) ranked second and district court (21,248) and juvenile (8,049) dispositions ranked third.

There were 715 trials/hearings per equivalent judge. Civil (44) and general equity (103) trials ranked first and juvenile (3,461) and domestic relations (6,768) hearings ranked third statewide.

Morris County's projects in the past court year included:

- Installation of a minicomputer with PROMIS/GRAVEL software
- Plans for a One-Day/One-Trial jury system
- Jury call-in procedures
- Employee merit system for county employees
- Seminar for municipal court clerks.

VICINAGE 10

FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	34,902	36,360	4.2
cases disposed	35,108	35,971	2.5
change in pending	-206	389	
pending	9,957	10,346	3.9

FIG. 3  
VICINAGE 10

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	2,903	2,166	-1.7	-18.3
	1980	2,954	2,651		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	1,417	1,238	12.7	10.9
	1980	1,257	1,116		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	1,951	1,980	*	-8.8
	1980	2,111	2,172		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	401	484	6.6	52.2
	1980	376	318		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	6,710	6,922	-2.4	4.0
	1980	6,874	6,658		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	2,437	2,463	3.5	5.8
	1980	2,355	2,329		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	20,215	20,398	8.3	4.2
	1980	18,669	19,585		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	326	320	6.5	14.7
	1980	306	279		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 10

FIG. 4  
JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	3.10	936.5	698.7	43.9
CRIMINAL . . . . .	3.45	410.7	358.8	32.5
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	2.94	663.6	673.5	664.6
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	0.99	405.1	488.9	103.0
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	0.86	7,802.3	8,048.8	3,460.5
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	0.34	7,167.6	7,244.1	6,767.6
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	0.96	21,057.3	21,247.9	1,521.9
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	12.64	2,876.6	2,845.8	715.3

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 11 PASSAIC COUNTY**

Assignment Judge: HON. PETER CIOLINO  
 Trial Court Administrator: RICHARD M. CENTANNI

VICINAGE 11 FIG. 1  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
	vicinage 11 Passaic	470,899	446,265	-5.2	39,448	52,977	34.3	1:12

Passaic county had a 5.2% population decrease between 1977 and 1981. Total filings grew by 34.3% and the ratio of filings to population increased from 1:12 in 1977 to 1:8 in 1981.

This vicinage's workload increased by 7.3% from 1980 to 1981. Disposed cases increased by 6.7% and the pending caseload grew by 7.7%.

Increases in cases added were highest in general equity (40.9%), ranking first in the state, civil (34.2%), also ranking first in the state, and criminal (29.4%). Disposition increases were highest in general equity (87.6%), ranking first state-wide, and criminal (43.4%), second highest in the state.

Vicinage 11 had 2,557 dispositions per equivalent judge. Passaic County had 865 total trials/ hearings per equivalent judge. It ranked second in criminal (48) and general equity (84) trials and third in district court (3,600) trials.

Passaic County had several significant projects in the 1980-81 court year:

- Jury system improvements
- Service by mail in district court matters
- Counseling unit for family crisis cases
- Evening hours in the Surrogate's Court
- Automation of calendar in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations court
- expedited docketing in criminal cases.

VICINAGE 11 FIG. 2

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	47,982	51,499	7.3
cases disposed	47,403	50,581	6.7
change in pending	579	918	
pending	11,963	12,881	7.7

FIG. 3  
 VICINAGE 11

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	4,242	3,746	34.2	14.6
	1980	3,161	3,269		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	1,787	1,610	29.4	43.4
	1980	1,381	1,123		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	1,945	1,763	*	8.4
	1980	1,672	1,626		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	317	409	40.9	87.6
	1980	225	218		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	9,357	8,897	8.3	7.1
	1980	8,639	8,306		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	6,025	5,835	-1.0	-2.5
	1980	6,086	5,984		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	27,681	28,174	3.8	5.5
	1980	26,667	26,712		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	145	147	-4.0	-10.9
	1980	151	165		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 11 FIG. 4  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	5.78	733.9	648.1	34.9
CRIMINAL . . . . .	7.20	248.2	223.6	47.5
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1.82	1,068.7	968.7	936.3
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1.27	249.6	322.0	84.3
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1.52	6,155.9	5,853.3	3,323.0
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	0.75	8,033.3	7,780.0	6,037.3
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1.44	19,222.9	19,565.3	3,600.0
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	19.78	2,603.6	2,557.2	865.4

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

**VICINAGE 12 UNION COUNTY**

Assignment Judge: HON. V. WILLIAM DiBUONO  
 Trial Court Administrator: JOHN N. MIRI

VICINAGE 12 **FIG. 1**  
 POPULATION AND FILINGS CHANGES 1977-1981

	POPULATION			FILINGS			RATIO OF FILINGS TO POPULATION	
	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981	% Change	1977	1981
vicinage 12	513,441	500,192	-2.6	34,895	46,250	32.5	1:15	1:11
Union								

Vicinage 12 had a 2.6% decrease in population during the past five years. Filings increased by 32.5% and the filings to population ratio rose from 1:15 to 1:11.

Union County ranked second in the state for cases added (9.1%) during the past year. There was an increase in dispositions of 6.0%, and pending cases decreased by 1.1%.

Growth was greatest in the criminal calendar (40.4%), ranking third in the state, and juvenile (23.3%), the highest statewide. Increases in disposed cases were highest in criminal (41.1%), third highest in the state, and general equity (33.7%). Vicinage 12 ranked first in the state for disposition increases in post-conviction relief, appeals, and probate cases (22.6%).

Union County disposed of 1,983 cases per equivalent judge. There were 704 total trials/hearings per equivalent judge.

In Union County, several projects

were underway during the 1980-81 court year:

- Evening sessions of the District Court in small claims
- Early settlement of negligence cases by means of a bar panel
- Early management of civil cases in Superior Court before assignment to trial
- Counseling to pro se litigants in district court
- Bar Panel to review matrimonial cases to narrow contested issues
- Jury system improvements.

**FIG. 2**  
 VICINAGE 12

COURT WORKLOAD	1980	1981	% Change
cases added	40,710	44,427	9.1
cases disposed	42,017	44,550	6.0
change in pending	-1,307	-123	
pending	11,680	11,557	-1.1

**FIG. 3**  
 VICINAGE 12

WORKLOAD BY COURT CALENDAR

	Year	Added	Disposed	Percent Change	
				Added	Disposed
CIVIL . . . . .	1981	2,913	2,858	-2.5	-1.3
	1980	2,988	2,897		
CRIMINAL . . . . .	1981	2,039	1,803	40.4	41.1
	1980	1,452	1,278		
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	1981	2,293	2,160	*	29.7
	1980	1,567	1,666		
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1981	199	234	-2.0	33.7
	1980	203	175		
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1981	7,509	7,703	23.3	6.8
	1980	6,088	7,214		
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1981	7,157	7,302	7.6	10.3
	1980	6,652	6,620		
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1981	22,114	22,284	2.5	1.3
	1980	21,576	21,999		
OTHER . . . . .	1981	203	206	10.3	22.6
	1980	184	168		

\* Percent cannot be calculated due to a change in definition.

VICINAGE 12 **FIG. 4**  
 JUDICIAL WORKLOAD

	No. of Equivalent Judges	Per Equivalent Judge		
		Added	Disposed	Trials/* Hearings
CIVIL . . . . .	5.95	489.6	480.3	26.6
CRIMINAL . . . . .	7.48	272.6	241.0	25.8
MATRIMONIAL . . . . .	2.38	963.4	907.6	885.7
GENERAL EQUITY . . . . .	1.06	187.7	220.8	33.0
JUVENILE & JINS . . . . .	1.73	4,340.5	4,452.6	2,890.2
DOMESTIC RELATIONS . . . . .	1.91	3,747.1	3,823.0	3,547.1
DISTRICT COURT . . . . .	1.96	11,282.7	11,369.4	786.7
ALL CALENDARS . . . . .	22.47	1,977.2	1,982.6	703.6

\* Does not include partially tried cases. A comparison cannot be made with 1979-80 trials/hearings because different data sources were used.

# 4 Court Support

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## JUDICIAL EDUCATION & TRAINING

On appointment and continuing throughout their tenure, New Jersey judges and court-support personnel are encouraged to participate in a wide variety of educational programs on law and court administration. These programs have become increasingly important in recent years because of the growing volume of litigation and court administrative responsibilities.

During 1981, a new dimension was added to the overall education effort with the broadcast of four one-hour segments on court programs over New Jersey Network, the State's four-channel public television outlet. Co-produced by New Jersey Network and the Administrative Office of the Courts, the programs were aired live at noontime; guest speakers, including Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz, were featured and viewers were encouraged to call in with questions. Topics covered included court delay reduction, the speedy trial program, pretrial intervention and pretrial release and bail. Televisions and telephones were placed in courthouses throughout the State so that judges and court personnel could participate as well as private citizens tuned to New Jersey Network. Expanded use of television is contemplated in the future because of the success of the program as an efficient means to reach large numbers of court personnel inexpensively and without disrupting normal working conditions.

### Orientation Seminars

Each new judge appointed to the Superior Court, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, or the District Court, attends an intensive, five-day resident orientation program. Thirty-one newly appointed judges attended the seminar held in February, 1981. The program is designed to familiarize them with all aspects of a judge's role. Courses, taught by experienced judges selected

for their expertise, cover such diverse topics as judicial demeanor, judicial ethics, courtroom decorum, case load management, and delay reduction. Numerous substantive and procedural law courses also are offered in civil, criminal, juvenile, matrimonial, and probate law.

An orientation seminar for municipal judges is also conducted annually. The two-day seminar includes lectures and panel discussions on topics such as judicial conduct, limitations and conflicts, marriages and filiation cases, bail, identification and referral of alcoholics, sentencing and diversion alternatives, courtroom administration, motor vehicle moving violations, and probable cause hearings. A total of 23 municipal judges attended the 1981 seminar.

### Judicial College

The annual 2-1/2 day New Jersey Judicial College is a major component of continuing education and is attended by all judges, except municipal judges. The event traditionally includes a report by the Chief Justice and the Administrative Director on the state of the Judiciary. A wide variety of courses on substantive and procedural law and techniques and skills used in judging are offered to judges who select courses based on their interest, for a total of 12 hours of classroom instruction. In 1981, a record 20 three-hour courses were offered and taught by some of New Jersey's and the nation's most experienced judges, as well as law professors and acknowledged experts in law-related fields. Among the courses offered were Developments in Civil and Criminal Law, Learning Disabilities and Delinquency Relationship, Medical Malpractice, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Conduct of a Trial Judge.

### Special Programs

In addition to these regularly sche-

duled education events, the Administrative Office of the Courts

also conducts special programs to meet specific needs or address changes in procedures or legislation. These specialized sessions are held during non-court hours. Programs in 1981 included a Seminar for Juvenile and Domestic Court Judges, District Court Seminar on Small Claims and Consumer Law, Labor Relations Program for Assignment Judges, and Jury Charges. A Management Seminar for Court Reporters with supervisory responsibilities, and a program for Child Placement Review Board members, judiciary personnel and representatives of the Foster Parents Association were also held. Finally, a Jury Utilization seminar and a Microfilm seminar for court support staff occurred.

The Audio-Video Library provides access, in the form of tapes, to virtually all judicial education programs conducted by the Administrative Office of the Courts, as well as presentations from around the country on judicial topics. Its

resources are heavily utilized by judiciary personnel.

In-state programs are also supplemented by the participation of some judges in summer sessions of the National Judicial College, the National College of Juvenile Justice, and the American Academy of Judicial Education. These sessions provide information about techniques and procedures that have been developed and tested in other states, and principal expenses are paid for by the State Law Enforcement Planning Agency. Participating judges also use portions of their vacation time to attend, thus reducing costs.

Judges may also participate in highly specialized training programs sponsored by the American Bar Association, the Institute of Judicial Administration/New York University Program, and the American Law Institute. Judges and administrative personnel may also attend evening and Saturday courses at the Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

## PROBATION

Probation services are a major part of the work of the New Jersey courts. Organized at the county level, the 21 probation departments are each headed by a chief probation officer who reports to the Assignment Judge of the vicinage.

The four major functions of the probation department are as follows:

- investigation, to provide reports and data to the courts to aid decision-making about sentencing, juvenile dispositions, bail, child custody, and the like;
- supervision, to counsel and monitor adult and juvenile probationers under the supervision of the courts;
- collections, to receive and disburse fines, restitution, child support, alimony, and other payments; and
- diversion, to provide alternatives to the criminal justice process in appropriate cases.

The work of the county probation departments is supported by the Probation Services Division of the AOC which seeks to monitor and assist the departments. The AOC carries out training of probation officers, research and data collection, and several special programs to complement the work of the departments.

In recognition of the important position of probation services in the judiciary, the Supreme Court has directed that the 1982 Judicial Conference be devoted to the subject of probation. The Conference, held each year in June, brings together by invitation a broad spectrum of State and county officials, legislators,

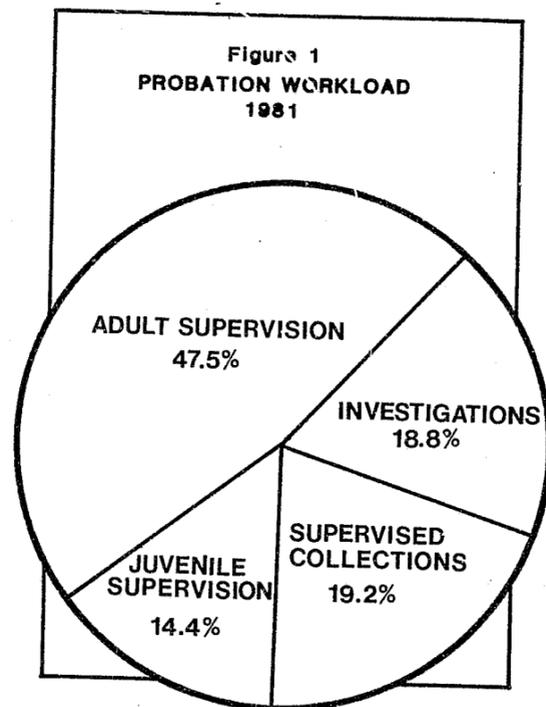
members of the Judiciary and the bar, and private citizens. In 1982 the Conference will examine the major issues involved in probation, its role in the courts and the criminal justice system, the proper structure for delivering services, and the expectations that the public and justice system personnel have about it.

To prepare for the conference, the Supreme Court has established a Judicial Conference Planning Committee. The planning committee reviewed the recommendations of the Committee on Efficiency and determined to study the following: the pre-dispositional role of probation, post-disposition guidelines for placement on probation, child support and its enforcement, operating standards and guidelines, community support and state-level coordination, and possible unification of the county probation departments into a statewide administrative structure.

To ensure broad-based participation in the examination of probation services, an advisory committee was established in each of the 12 vicinages in the state. Chaired by trial judges, these committees were comprised of probation personnel, court administrators, criminal justice staff, as well as representatives from the bar, clergy, schools, social welfare agencies, county and municipal government, and other individuals interested in the criminal justice system. Position papers on each major issue confronting probation, prepared and approved by the Planning Committee, were distributed to the local advisory committees for their discussion and substantive recommendations. This planning approach, "bottom-up" participation and decision-making, has been designed to permit maximum involvement of the community in defining probation services for the future. At the Judicial Conference

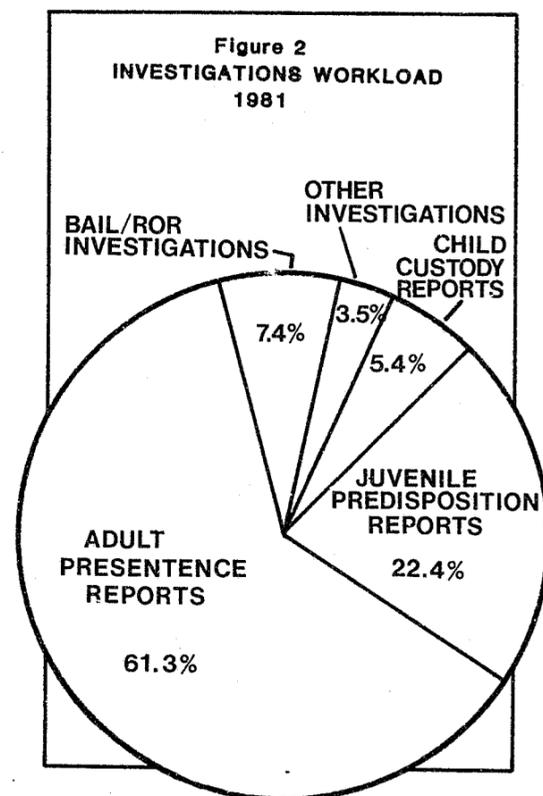
in June, a framework for probation services will be developed, based on the input from the committees, and submitted with recommendations for action to the Supreme Court.

The chart below shows the breakdown of the workload in probation during 1981. More than 60% of the cases involved supervision of probationers.



**INVESTIGATIONS**

Conducting investigations is one of the principal activities of the probation departments. Most investigations are made to provide information for adult presentence reports, to assist the judge in the sentencing decision. In addition, probation personnel prepare juvenile predisposition reports and perform investigations prior to bail or other pretrial release and investigations relating to child custody. Finally, some investigations concern grand juries, work release, juvenile detention, and financial status. The total in 1981 was 66,931 completed investigations. The work load can be divided as follows:



Probation departments performed more investigations in 1981 than in 1980 in all major categories of investigation. Figure 3 shows the increase in investigations over the past year.

Fig. 3

INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED 1980-81

	1980	1981	% Change
<b>Long Form</b>			
Superior Court	15,362	18,643	+21.4%
Municipal Court	933	934	+ 0.1%
Total	16,295	19,577	+20.1%
<b>Short Form</b>			
Superior Court	459	438	- 4.6%
Municipal Court	1,904	2,274	+19.4%
Total	2,363	2,712	+14.8%
Juvenile Predisposition Reports	7,974	7,563	- 5.2%
Bail/ROR Investigations	20,422	25,134	+23.1%
Child Custody Reports	1,643	1,830	+11.4%
Other Investigations	12,150	10,115	-16.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,847</b>	<b>66,931</b>	<b>+10.0%</b>

Probation departments completed 18,643 "long form" Superior Court reports, an increase of 21.4% over 1980. The increase in these investigations is due in a large part to the implementation of speedy trial programs. They also completed substantially more presentence reports for municipal courts.

It is hard to calculate workload per probation officer in the investigation area. For county probation departments in which an officer is assigned solely to investigations, however, the monthly average in the state is either 14 investigations if the officer works with adults or 12 investigations for an officer working with juveniles.

**ADULT SUPERVISION**

The county probation departments' caseload of adult probationer supervision increased by 8.5% last year to a total of 35,433 active cases at the end of the court year. Figure 4, below, shows the increased workload.

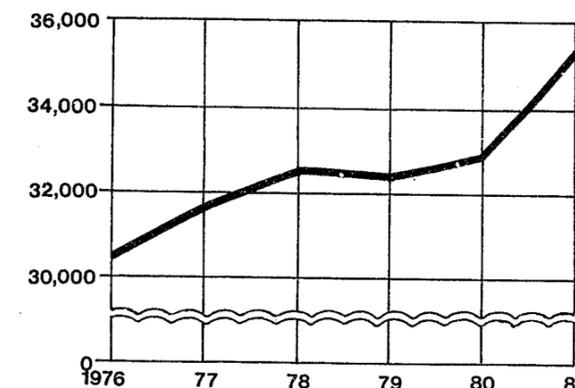
Fig. 4

ADULT SUPERVISIONS WORKLOAD END OF COURT YEAR 1980-81

	1980	1981	% Change
Superior Court	20,062	21,835	+ 8.8%
Municipal Court	8,439	9,309	+10.3%
Domestic Relations	4,163	4,289	+ 3.0%
<b>Total Adult Supervisions</b>	<b>32,664</b>	<b>35,433</b>	<b>+ 8.5%</b>

Throughout the state, caseloads in all but a few of the counties increased; 18 of the 21 county departments supervised more Superior Court probation cases in 1981 than in 1980. The trend since 1976 in total cases is shown below:

Figure 5  
ADULT SUPERVISION CASELOAD 1977-1981



The Superior Court criminal cases, which are generally the most serious criminal matters, have increased by 21.1% since 1976.

It is difficult to determine the average statewide adult supervision caseload per probation officer. In those offices where the client supervision staff does not conduct investigations, however, the average is 109 cases, with a range from 48 to 199 cases per adult supervision officer.

**JUVENILE SUPERVISION**

The number of juvenile supervision cases was stable in 1981 compared to 1980. Over the last five years, it has declined 5.8%

Most of the juvenile supervision cases are Juvenile Delinquency cases. The delinquency cases involve offenses that would be criminal if committed by an adult. The remainder of the juvenile cases are called Juveniles in Need of Supervision (JINS). These cases grow out of actions which, like truancy or running away from home, are offenses only because they were committed by a juvenile. The table below shows the change in juvenile supervision cases during the last year.

Fig. 8

COLLECTIONS  
1981

Child Support	\$122,249,740
Alimony	5,190,403
Fines	2,972,676
Restitutions	2,124,078
Court Costs and Other	93,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$132,630,547</b>

The dollar amounts in all the collections areas have increased, but the most substantial rise has been in restitution payments. The amount paid in restitutions to victims in 1981 was 28% more than the previous year and 208% over the level five years ago.

OPERATING PROBATION DEPARTMENTS

Supervising thousands of probationers, undertaking thousands of investigations, and monitoring the compliance with court orders in several areas requires a large enterprise. The county probation departments spent \$39,397,715 in fiscal 1981 and employed 2,572 staff persons (1,765 professional and 807 support staff). The total number of staff persons has been constant; only four more persons are employed by county probation offices than one year ago.

Training probation staff members is a major function of the probation department of the AOC. In 1981, AOC courses in probation were attended by 757 staff persons. They received a total of 20,189 staff hours of training.

Highlights of the AOC training this past court year included a new course for experienced line officers in recent changes and innovations in probation, and advanced problem-

solving and analysis techniques. A specialized two-day seminar trained probation officers in techniques for dealing with clients released by court order from state psychiatric hospitals. Courses were offered also in Child Custody Investigations, Management By Objectives, Volunteer Managers Training, and Advanced Guided Group Interaction. Aided by the Department of the Public Advocate, the Division of Alcoholism, and the Rutgers University School of Alcohol Studies, the AOC offered probation training courses in Mediation and Conciliation, Alcohol Training, and Advanced Alcohol Training.

Training at the county level decreased by 13.3% last year; 193 persons spent 18,357 hours of training provided by the counties. While the counties doubled the amount of training offered in counseling, all other training (orientation, substance abuse, management, and miscellaneous courses) declined.

The regular probation staff is augmented in 19 of the 21 counties by volunteers in probation (VIP). These volunteers supplement the work of the probation officers and establish a valuable link with the community. Volunteers usually work one-to-one with a probationer in counseling. In addition, some volunteers perform group counseling and perform administrative and training tasks.

The level of activity in the VIP programs declined slightly in 1981. At the end of the year, 2,484 volunteers were assigned to cases, 3% less than the year before. The volunteers supervised 1,549 cases; about three-quarters of which were juveniles.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

During the year, the Probation Services Division of the AOC has operated several major projects designed to enhance the ability of probation departments to meet the demands placed on them, particularly to improve the management of their caseloads.

Fig. 6

JUVENILE SUPERVISIONS WORKLOAD  
END OF COURT YEAR

	1980-81		
	1980	1981	% Change
Juvenile Delinquency	9,451	9,482	+0.3%
JINS	1,372	1,316	-4.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,823</b>	<b>10,798</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>

Over the last five years, the total juvenile caseload has been remarkably stable, but the JINS caseload has declined by 14%. This trend may be due to the greater use of other diversion programs, the larger number of volunteers-in-probation cases, and the greater reliance on crisis intervention centers in the community.

Reports on caseloads for probation officers vary widely around the state for juvenile supervision, as they do for adult supervision. The average, however, is significantly smaller for juvenile supervision. For probation officers who devote full time to supervision as distinct from investigations, the average caseload is 66 cases, well under the 109 cases reported for officers with adult cases.

RESULTS OF SUPERVISION

In recent years, courts and probation departments have tried to measure the accomplishments of the supervision of probationers. As a measurement of performance of the probation departments, data is now being gathered based on the manner of discharge from probation. Six categories of discharge have been devised. Of the six, two categories may be considered "successful." They are "Discharge-Completed term" and "Discharge - Other" (primarily early terminations before the original term of probation expired). Three are "unsuccessful": "Discharge -

Violation of Probation," "Discharge - New Offense," and "Discharge - Absconder" (a probationer whose whereabouts are unknown). The sixth category ("Deceased") is not included in this calculation.

The following table shows the results of terminated cases of supervision in 1981:

Fig. 7  
DISCHARGES FROM SUPERVISION  
1981

	Successful	Unsuccessful	Deceased	Total Discharged
Adult	14,548 (82.2%)	3,154 (17.8%)	160	17,862
Juvenile	7,678 (88.5%)	996 (11.5%)	15	8,689
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,226 (84.3%)</b>	<b>4,150 (15.7%)</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>26,551</b>

Clearly the great majority of probationers successfully met their terms of probation and were not convicted of another offense while under supervision. It is important to note, however, that the categories of discharge have been set up without formal, rigorous definitions or guidelines statewide. As a result, there may be some variance among the categories from county to county.

SUPERVISED COLLECTIONS

The Probation department collections cases fell into five main categories: child support and alimony payments, fines, court costs, and restitution payments to victims.

At the end of the court year, the probation departments had a total of 7,855 collection cases, 5.2% more than in 1980 and 79.7% over the case load in 1976.

The funds collected, excluding child support payments, totaled \$10,287,156 in 1981. A breakdown of all collections follows:

The first such project is the Objectives-Based Case Management project (OBCM). Under this project, funded primarily by the National Institute of Corrections, eight counties are developing operational goals for supervising probationers. With established goals, the county departments can balance the resources, the needs of the clients, and the goals to build a case management system. The case management system will be focused on the particular needs of the county but will provide consistency in supervision services statewide. The eight counties involved are Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Gloucester, Middlesex, Morris, and Union.

The OBCM project is complemented by a Probation Management Information System project (PMIS). PMIS will help county departments to implement computerized systems for case tracking and management of both adult and juvenile supervision. With better and more timely data on cases, the departments will be able to improve their supervision services. PMIS will also improve the ability to research the effect of certain probation services on the probationers and the community.

Also working with the National Institute of Corrections, the AOC will build on these two projects to construct a model project for classification in probation. The effort here is to develop a mechanism for case planning, classification of probation cases, and a weighted work load system for the effective use of the probation department staff. This project is beginning in four counties.

The final special project currently underway is the continuation of the Presentence Research project. This project has developed a revised format for adult presentence reports. Evaluation showed that the report was more flexible and more helpful to

the courts, especially at the municipal court level, and that its compilation was less time-consuming than the earlier report form.

In the process of developing and evaluating the report form, the AOC developed a mechanism for evaluating report quality and efficiency in using investigative data. As a result, the project produced several other recommendations concerning presentence research. The Supreme Court is now reviewing these recommendations.

The probation department of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem counties are currently operating an Adult Community Service project as a joint venture. Funded by a grant from the L.E.A.A., the program is staffed by probation officers in each of the four departments. Working with approximately 235 non-profit agencies in the four counties, the staff provide a sentencing option to the court for use with certain non-violent offenders. Those offenders sentenced to Community Service must complete a specified number of hours of service as a condition of their sentence. To date, 750 offenders placed on probation have participated in the program and only 6 have failed to complete their required service.

## PRETRIAL PROGRAMS

Programs of pretrial services and pretrial intervention received special attention during the last year. The attention to pretrial services was especially important because of the severe jail overcrowding situation; effective pretrial programs and good bail procedures would help to relieve some of the jail overcrowding. To meet these urgent and yet sometimes conflicting needs, the Pretrial Services Unit was very active in the following areas:

- bail reform
- relief of jail overcrowding
- alternatives to prosecution
- restitution and community service programs
- neighborhood dispute settlement
- Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC)

Pretrial programs are designed to provide alternatives within the criminal justice system. These alternatives, when applied early in the processing of criminal cases, improve the operation of the system by offering diverse means of handling the thousands of criminal matters that arise each year and permit selected defendants to obtain non-criminal disposition of their cases where appropriate. The non-criminal dispositions emphasize treatment, counseling, restitution to victims, and community service. They are applied in selected non-serious criminal matters. Combined with an effective bail program, they focus the main resources of the system on the most serious cases.

In December 1980, the Chief Justice appointed the Supreme Court Committee on Pretrial Intervention to review the issues involved in pretrial services and recommend changes. The committee, composed of judges, lawyers, prosecutors, program directors, and counselors, examined eligibility criteria, delay resulting from program participation, administration and staffing questions, treatment stan-

dards, and other issues involved in intervention and diversion. The report, issued in June 1981, includes 19 recommendations for expanded criteria for pretrial intervention eligibility, clearer guidelines for maintaining confidentiality of records, and tightened admission standards for serious offenses.

Pretrial services in New Jersey are vital to the effective functioning of the criminal justice system. As the jail overcrowding problem becomes more and more acute, and as the Speedy Trial program develops, it is imperative to evaluate criminal defendants for diversion from the adjudication process and still have available strong programs to deal effectively with them.

### JAIL OVERCROWDING

The most visible portion of the work of the Pretrial Unit involves the statewide program of jail overcrowding. During the year, both state and local jails became more overcrowded; by January 1981, county jail populations were nearing the rated capacities of the facilities. The Bail Unit worked successfully to expedite the process for pretrial release, without relaxing the standards, with the result that during the first 6 months of 1981 the number of prisoners awaiting trial declined while the number of sentenced prisoners continued to grow. Throughout the rest of 1981, the total population in the county jails met and exceeded stated capacity, largely because of an increase in the number of state prisoners being held. On September 1, 1981, the county jail population stood at 5,418, or 104% of capacity, and by February 1, 1982, it was 6,245, or 120% of capacity.

In late 1981, the Administrative Office of the Courts began to compile weekly reports for monitoring and management of jail population at both the county and state levels. These

reports have shown continuing increases in county jail population, now running at about 3% per month.

#### BAIL REFORM

One of the ways in which the Bail Unit worked to reduce the jail population of pretrial detainees was to encourage the use of the 10% bail option. Under 10% bail, accused persons admitted to bail may get pretrial release by posting 10% of the bail. Some vicinages had used 10% bail for more than nine years. Based on the results of those programs, the Chief Justice urged all vicinages to adopt a 10% bail program. As of January 1982, all counties use 10% bail.

In a related effort, the Superior Court found ways to obtain more quickly the information it needs to review bail decisions. County bail units can gather additional information about a defendant after an initial bail decision is made in municipal court. This information allows the Superior Court to make more appropriate pretrial release and bail conditions and prevent extended pretrial jailing.

In addition, an experimental program begun in Essex and Passaic counties permits municipal judges to exercise greater authority in setting bail in all cases except those involving murder, kidnapping, manslaughter, first degree robbery, or a person held for extradition. Under the experiment defendants have bail set earlier and in many instances do not incur a period of pretrial detention in the county jail.

#### ALTERNATIVES TO PROSECUTION

##### Pretrial Intervention

The principal effort at pretrial intervention (PTI) is designed to relieve the criminal justice system of cases in which prosecution would be ineffective, unwarranted, or counterproductive. A defendant who successfully participates in a PTI program will benefit by having

criminal charges dismissed. PTI encourages rehabilitation of the defendant and assists prosecutors in handling the large volume of criminal cases.

When a defendant applies for the PTI program, the local program director evaluates the application and determines whether rehabilitative or supervised release might correct the behavior which caused the criminal complaint. Most defendants with prior criminal records, and most defendants accused of serious or violent offenses, are excluded from eligibility in PTI.

In 1981, the number of defendants seeking enrollment in PTI increased by more than 28% to the highest it has been in the 11 years of the program. This increase is due largely to modification in the application process and a reduction in early screening by defense counsel.

The following table shows the rate of applications, acceptances, and rejections since 1977. The significant increase in rejections in 1981 is a result of the overall increase in application filings during the year.

Fig. 1

ENROLLMENT OF PERSONS IN PTI  
1977-1981\*

Year	Applications		
	Filed	Enrollments	Rejections
1977	16,328	4,078	9,308
1978	16,940	5,421	11,544
1979	15,703	6,620	10,769
1980	13,479	3,711	9,442
1981	17,297	3,918	13,460

\* Note: The number of enrolled and rejected do not add up to the number of applications filed because of the applications that were pending at the beginning and the end of the court year and because of cases dismissed or terminated while applications were pending.

Applicants who are rejected receive a statement of the reasons for the action. Defendants may request a review of the rejection, but to obtain reversal they must show that the action was arbitrary and capricious. Last year 14% (1,840) of the defendants whose applications were

rejected sought review; 11% of those (about 200) were later successful in being admitted to a PTI program.

The PTI programs assist in disposing of many cases in the Superior Court. Over 3,400 criminal cases disposed in the last year can be directly attributed to PTI. The following table shows that those dispositions account for 34% of the criminal cases dismissed without trial during the year.

Fig. 2

DISMISSALS ATTRIBUTED TO PTI  
(Indictable Cases)  
1978-1981

Year	PTI Dismissals	Total Dismissals Without Trial Entered in Law Division	Attributable to PTI
		(# Persons)	
1978	3,307	9,948	33.2%
1979	3,925	11,056	35.5%
1980	3,196	9,973	32.1%
1981	3,452	10,161	34.0%

##### Community Service and Victim Restitution

Community service or restitution programs have been developed as part of a pretrial intervention program. They are designed to encourage restitution to victims and/or community service work as part of an alternative to prosecution. The emphasis is on rehabilitation of the defendant and on making a positive contribution to the victim and the community.

Six counties pursued projects in 1981 for restitution to victims and for community service. Middlesex County began a project in 1979, and five other counties (Camden, Essex, Mercer, Ocean, and Union) began programs in 1981.

In the six sites, 459 persons participated in the program during 1981. The 459 were selected from 1,453 defendants who were considered for the program. Slightly more than half the defendants paid restitution, the rest were active in a community service project, and seven did both.

Pretrial restitution agreements in 1981 totaled \$234,882. For the community service projects, 167 community agencies indicated they were willing to serve as placement sites. Some of the projects performed for the community follow:

- assist the Essex County probation department in graphics design for posters and brochures;
- improve a playground and fire house in Ocean County;
- work on a youth "Hotline Service" in Union County.

##### Neighborhood and Family Dispute Program

New Jersey has been active for over a decade in developing programs for diverting minor family and neighborhood disputes from the courts and into mediation and conciliation forums for resolution. There are now 13 active programs in the state. These programs handled 6,139 disputes during the year and reported success in 85%. These successful programs have helped to relieve the courts of thousands of non-serious matters, while the persons involved in the disputes, for whom they are neither small nor non-serious, receive the dispute resolution service to which they are entitled.

County-wide dispute resolution programs now operate in Bergen, Middlesex, Hudson, and Mercer Counties. In addition, there are municipal-based programs in Bridgeton, Orange, East Orange, Milville, Newark, Willingboro, Vineland, Bloomfield, and Montclair. Of the 13 programs, several can be quickly described.

The Essex County Bar Association runs the Bloomfield and Montclair programs. They use volunteer attorneys as mediators, working in evenings when court is in session. From March to September 1981, the project processed 79 cases and held mediation sessions in 43. Of the 43, 96% reached mediation agreements.

The Mercer County project began mediating small claims and landlord-tenant disputes in October 1981. Since then, 174 cases were mediated and 133 (76%) had successful agreements.

The first county-wide program in New Jersey for resolving disputes by mediation and conciliation was in Middlesex County, begun in 1976. The program was evaluated by the State Law Enforcement Planning Agency (SLEPA) in December 1980. The evaluation found that the program was delivering an excellent service, well suited to the resolution of disputes with a close personal relationship involved. Of the 262 matters examined in detail, 45% involved neighbors, 37% involved relatives, 12% between landlords and tenants, and 6% between friends. The evaluation produced the following breakdown by category of dispute:

Fig. 3

MIDDLESEX COUNTY CONCILIATION PROGRAM CATEGORIES OF DISPUTES		
Assault and battery	91	35%
Obstruct, hinder and molest	84	32%
Destruction of property	30	11%
Harassment	12	5%
Complaints about noise	12	5%
Larceny	11	4%
Annoying telephone calls	9	3%
Animal complaints	7	3%
Trespassing	3	1%
Criminal mischief	3	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100%</b>

The final element of the Pretrial Services Unit is the Treatment Alternative to Street Crime project (TASC). TASC is designed to reduce the volume of drug and alcohol abuse-related crimes by identifying the substance-abusing offender and providing treatment as an alternative to the normal criminal justice process. TASC endeavors to make maximum use of community resources for the alcohol or drug-abuser. Once a defendant is identified as having a substance-abuse problem, he or she is evaluated and, if eligible and if they volunteer, placed in treatment programs. Their progress is then monitored by TASC and reported to the proper office in the criminal justice system.

The TASC staff works directly with existing PTI programs and probation departments. They are coordinated by a unit in the Administrative Office of the Courts.

In this first year, much of the work involved establishing the project, selecting the 11 counties for implementation, setting up the local programs, and training the personnel.

During the first 11 months of the program, 1,004 offenders enrolled in the program. Most of the treatment programs will last for six months to one year in it. At the end of the year, 176 individuals had successfully completed the program and 624 were still actively involved in it.

## CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

The Child Support Enforcement Program helps to provide financial support for almost 250,000 children in New Jersey, or about one of every eight children in the State. The program collects funds from absentee parents to reimburse counties for payments made by public welfare, and over 66,000 families not on public welfare depend on the program to help them avoid the welfare roll.

The goal of the program is to enforce child support payments from absentee parents. Ensuring these payments has two benefits: one is to stabilize income in non-welfare families with an absent parent in order to avoid welfare, and the other is to reduce the welfare burden on counties for families already receiving public assistance.

In 1981, the Child Support Enforcement Program collected \$124,432,551 from absentee parents. This amount is 10% higher than the amount collected a year earlier. Of the total, over \$92 million went directly to families not on welfare, and \$31.9 million went to county welfare boards as reimbursement for welfare payments. The table below shows this change in 1981 from the year before.

Fig. 1

COLLECTIONS & DISTRIBUTIONS 1980-1981			
	1980	1981	% Change
Total Collections	\$113,088,750	\$124,432,551	+10.0%
Not on Welfare	\$84,929,884	\$92,472,972	+ 8.9%
Reimbursement	\$28,158,866	\$31,959,479	+13.5%

New Jersey's courts have been a fore-runner in child support enforcement. For 40 years, under authorized legislation, the courts have worked to compel financial support from absent parents. In recent years, the federal government has become involved in the same program.

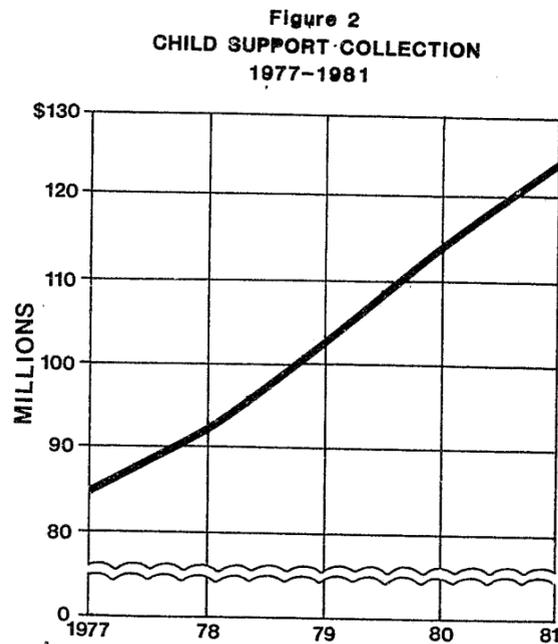
Enacted in 1975 as an amendment to the Social Security Act, Title IV-D provides reimbursement to the states for their efforts in the enforcement of child support. The program has lowered welfare costs which otherwise would be borne by the taxpayers. The federal government now reimburses 75% of the costs of the Child Support Enforcement Program, and it also provides an incentive payment of 15% of the amounts collected to reimburse welfare payments. As a result, this program operates at very little cost to the State.

In running this program, the Judiciary is jointly responsible with state and local welfare agencies. At the county level, the Matrimonial and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations courts work with the county probation department and the county welfare agency. These activities are supported by State level coordination and administered by both the Administrative Office of the Courts and the New Jersey Division of Public Welfare. The Administrative Office of the Courts, through its probation unit, facilitates the processing of child support enforcement cases in the courts. It also monitors the program to ensure compliance with federal regulation and to arrange for the federal reimbursement.

In the 1981 court year, the case load of the Child Support Enforcement Program increased by 8%. It helped to enforce child support in 140,982 cases (a total of about 250,000 children), compared to 130,998 the year before. The case load includes 127,963 children receiving public welfare assistance for whom the enforcement program provided some reimbursement of welfare costs.

The \$124,432,551 collected in 1981 represents not only a 10% increase over \$113,088,750 collected the year before, but a 46% increase over collections in 1977. The average

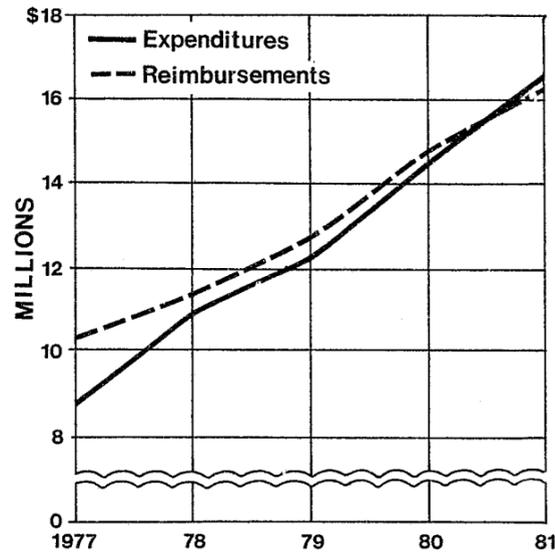
amount collected per case in 1981 was \$900.27, or \$37 per case more than in 1980. The graph below shows amounts collected from 1977 to 1981.



To achieve these collections, the State spent 16,489,121, of which the federal government reimbursed \$16,180,056, offsetting the cost of the total program (welfare and non-welfare) by 98%. The increase in expenses in 1981 over 1980 was \$2 million, or 14.1%. The graph below shows the trend over the last five years.

Finally, Figure 4 presents similar data for welfare cases only. This graph shows that in welfare cases, as in total support efforts, the enforcement program is bringing in substantial funds from absent parents at a low cost, and the state and counties receive reimbursements from the federal government which offset the expenses. Considering welfare cases only, the amount of reimbursements and incentives exceeded the expenditures in 1981 as in past years.

**Figure 3  
EXPENDITURES & REIMBURSEMENTS  
1977-1981**



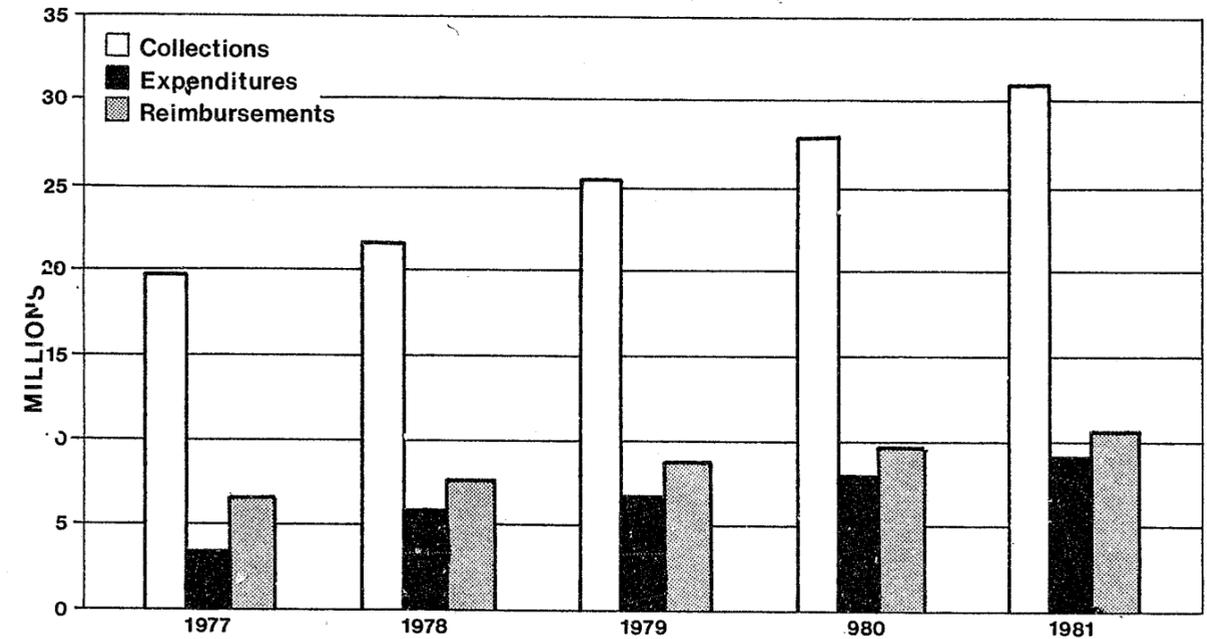
**New Projects**

The Child Support Enforcement Program developed several projects over the last year to increase its enforcement effectiveness. The projects have examined both the administration of the program and new techniques for enforcement.

A management task force, comprised of AOC staff and county probation personnel, conducted management studies in Ocean, Atlantic, and Cape May Counties to improve work flow and establish cost effective management systems.

The management task force has also developed a plan to prioritize cases for child support enforcement. The local probation office will give greater attention to those cases having the highest potential for collection. In Hudson and Essex counties, where such a program has been implemented, support payment collections have increased significantly.

**Figure 4  
CHILD SUPPORT IN WELFARE CASES  
1977-1981**



In addition, the AOC is working with the Department of Public Welfare to develop procedures to automate the support payment enforcement program. Once implemented, computerization should be able to provide more accurate and timely data on child support and the enforcement program should be able to monitor a greater number of cases.

Another new project for collecting child support involves federal and state tax refunds. In accordance

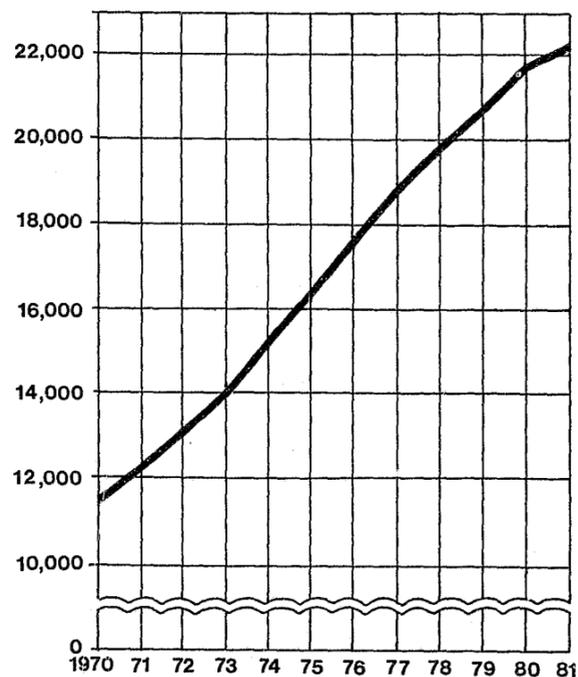
with legislation passed by both Congress and the New Jersey Legislature, the State may apply to the Internal Revenue Service and the state Treasury Department for delinquent public assistance child support accounts to be deducted from any tax refunds or rebates. The probation departments submitted 44,619 welfare cases (62% of the total) to the IRS and the New Jersey offset program. The results of this enforcement tool will be known in 1982.

# PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

The Supreme Court has constitutional responsibility for the integrity of the legal profession and the Judiciary. It exercises this responsibility through a number of offices, including the Division of Ethics and Professional Services (DEPS) in the Administrative Office of the Courts. The division handles complaints, inquiries from attorneys about ethics, Client Security Fund matters, and fee disputes. It also conducts staff work in matters relating to judicial conduct. The increased work of this division is a recognition not only of the growing number of attorneys in New Jersey but also of rising public demands for high ethical standards and accountability.

The decade of the seventies produced a very large increase in the attorney population in New Jersey. In 1969 there were 10,348 members of the bar admitted to practice. That figure

Figure 1  
ATTORNEY POPULATION



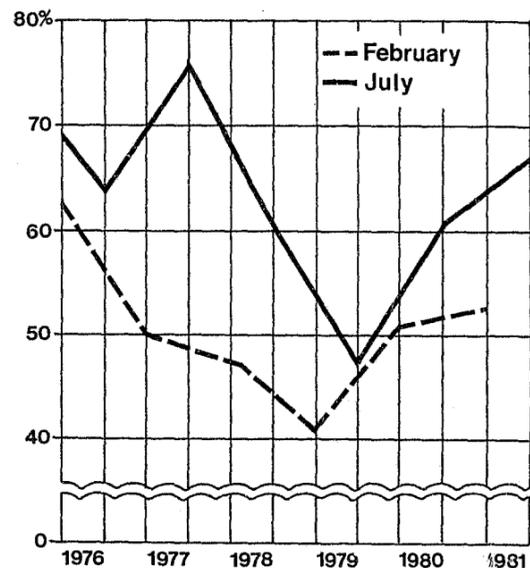
more than doubled by the end of calendar year 1980 when the total attorney population reached 21,748.

## ADMISSION TO THE BAR

Lawyers are admitted to the bar of New Jersey only after taking a bar examination. The New Jersey examination is given in February and July to coincide with the national administration of the Multistate Bar Examination. The essay examination is prepared and graded by the Board of Bar Examiners and administered by the Clerk of the Supreme Court serving in his capacity as Secretary to the Board and his staff.

Performance on the bar examinations has continued to improve over the 1979 results that were the poorest since 1962. The February passing rate increased from 51% in 1980 to 53% in 1981. The July rate improved from 61% in 1980 to 67% in 1981.

Figure 2  
BAR EXAMINATION PASSAGE RATE  
FEBRUARY, JULY 1976-1981



Passing rates for summer examinations have always been higher than winter rates because the majority of law

students graduate in June and more individuals who were unsuccessful on a prior bar examination take the winter examination. The likelihood of passing declines the more often the examination is taken.

New Jersey law school graduates continue to perform better on the bar examination than those educated in other jurisdictions.

The Supreme Court's Committee to Evaluate Bar Admission Requirements reported to the Court in 1981. Based on this report the Court adopted significant changes in the bar examination. Commencing with the February 1982 bar examination, each candidate will now have to pass both the multistate bar examination and the New Jersey essay questions. The scoring of the essay will be greatly simplified. The questions will be shortened and the design of the questions will be more varied.

The Board of Bar Examiners has been granted permission to use consultants to aid them in maintaining the integrity of the bar examination. The February and July 1982 examinations will be closely monitored for fairness and effectiveness.

All candidates for admission to the bar will have to complete the skills and methods course before admission; they will have to complete the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination successfully or submit evidence of the satisfactory completion of a law school course in legal ethics. The Supreme Court has mandated a review of the skills course to increase its effectiveness.

#### TRIAL ATTORNEY CERTIFICATION

The goals of the trial attorney certification program are to improve the quality of trial advocacy and to inform the consumer about those members of the bar who have achieved a certain level of skill, knowledge, and experience in trial representation.

The Board, appointed in 1979, developed program regulations and began accepting applications in late 1980. A total of 415 attorneys were found to be eligible to take the separate criminal and civil examinations, based on their applications. The 14-page application requests, for example, references from members of the bar who can attest to the applicant's skill as a trial advocate, detailed information on 10 cases tried, courses in trial practice or programs taken or taught within three years of the application date, and speeches, published articles and professional committee work in the trial advocacy area.

A total of 389 took the examinations, 89 in criminal and 300 in civil, in September 1981. Of that total, 89% received certification. In future years, the examinations will be conducted each September.

The Supreme Court announced that it has accepted the recommendations of the Board of Trial Attorney Certification and certified the first group of 81 criminal and 265 civil trial attorneys practicing in New Jersey. Board certification is for seven years, after which the attorney must seek recertification.

#### ATTORNEY DISCIPLINE

Just as the number of attorneys has increased in the last decade, so has the number of complaints, investigations, and inquiries concerned with the Supreme Court's supervision of the practice of law and the conduct of the judiciary. The number of matters filed over the last two calendar years is shown in Figure 3. Overall, it shows a 14.6% increase in cases in 1981 over 1980.

#### DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

Over the last few years, the Supreme Court and the DEPS have considerably changed the structure for monitoring the practice of law in the state and

Fig. 3

#### NEW FILINGS 1980-1981

	1980	1981	% CHANGE
Ethics Complaints	1026	1235	+ 20.4%
Fee Disputes	660	760	+ 15.2%
Disciplinary Review	229	287	+ 25.3%
Board Cases			
Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics Inquiries	67	44	- 34.3%
Unauthorized Practice of Law Investigations	51	69	+ 35.3%
Clients' Security Fund Claims	172	132	- 23.3%
Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct Complaints	77	88	+ 14.3%
Total Matters Filed	2282	2615	+ 14.6%

handling complaints against lawyers. In 1978 and 1979 a district ethics committee and fee arbitration committee were established in each vicinage. These committees, composed of volunteer lawyers and laypersons appointed by the Supreme Court, review all complaints against lawyers in the vicinage. The AOC provides the committees with administrative, auditing, and prosecutorial assistance. The statewide Disciplinary Review Board (DRB), whose members consist of retired judges, lawyers, and laypersons appointed by the Supreme Court, reviews recommendations of the ethics committees in serious cases and also determines appeals from decisions of local ethics committees. The AOC is staff to the Board. Since its creation in 1978, the Supreme Court has accepted nearly 80% of the Board's recommendations for disciplinary action. Additionally, the Court has in several instances imposed more severe discipline than that recommended by the Board.

#### RANDOM AUDIT PROGRAM

During the past year, the AOC implemented a Random Audit Compliance Program. Financed by the Clients' Security Fund, the Program employs

two full-time auditors and clerical staff. The program involves the periodic review of business and trust account records that all attorneys are required to maintain when handling clients' funds in accordance with Supreme Court Rule. New Jersey thus becomes one of only three states in the nation to undertake a full-time compliance program to insure that lawyers are fully aware of and comply with stringent recordkeeping requirements imposed by the Court. These requirements include detailed records of receipts and disbursements, bank statements, cancelled checks, and appropriate identifying information that would enable an auditor to trace transactions. Additionally, attorneys are also required to maintain a separate ledger page for each trust client so that the exact status of a matter can be easily determined. The principal objective of the program is supervisory and educational, not punitive, and is designed to aid the attorney in acquiring better methods in office accounting procedures. Practitioners are randomly selected and audits are being made on a county to county basis. Counties in which audits were completed during this past court year were Burlington, Morris, Ocean, and Somerset.

**CLIENTS' SECURITY FUND**

The Clients' Security Fund, which is administered through the AOC, continued the important work of dealing with claims against the small number of attorneys who have appropriated clients' funds to their use. Established in 1969, the Fund paid its three millionth dollar in 1980. After reaching the highest number of claims filed in 1980, the Clients' Security Fund had a decrease in 1981, but the level of filings was still above the 99 claims in 1979.

Fig. 4

**CLIENTS' SECURITY FUND**

	1980	1981	% change
Claims filed	172	132	-23.3%
Claims paid	83	84	+1.2%
Amount paid	\$490,954	\$441,804	-10.0%

**SUPREME COURT COMMITTEES**

The Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, also staffed by the AOC, continued its efforts to assure that legal services in this state are performed by qualified practitioners with the consequent benefit and protection to the consumers of legal services. Likewise, the Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics continued its function of offering guidance to New Jersey practitioners on difficult ethical questions concerning the practice of law.

The Division of Ethics and Professional Services of the AOC also acts as staff for the efforts to ensure

prompt resolution of complaints against judges. The Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct continued its work in monitoring the ethical conduct of New Jersey's judiciary. Letters of guidance or admonition were issued to nine judges in calendar year 1980, but no presentment of unethical conduct was filed against a judge during the year.

The members of the Judicial Performance Committee continued the difficult job of designing a comprehensive program to improve the quality and level of performance of members of the New Jersey judiciary. The Committee continued to meet with noted experts from around the country in order to determine the best methods of assuring effective judicial performance. This program, when implemented, will enhance public confidence in the performance of judges and in the entire judicial system.

The geometric increase in the number of attorneys admitted to practice in the last ten years has not gone without notice by the Supreme Court. Included in its consideration also is the projection that, at a constant admission rate of approximately 1,100 per annum, the attorney population could triple (compared to 1969) to 30,000 members by 1987-88. As a commitment to improve on past efforts in this area, the Supreme Court created a task force known as the Supreme Court Committee on Attorney Disciplinary Structure. This group will analyze, evaluate, and recommend to the Supreme Court the path that should be followed for attorney discipline in the 1980's and beyond. The committee will issue its report in 1982.

**COST OF OPERATING THE COURTS**

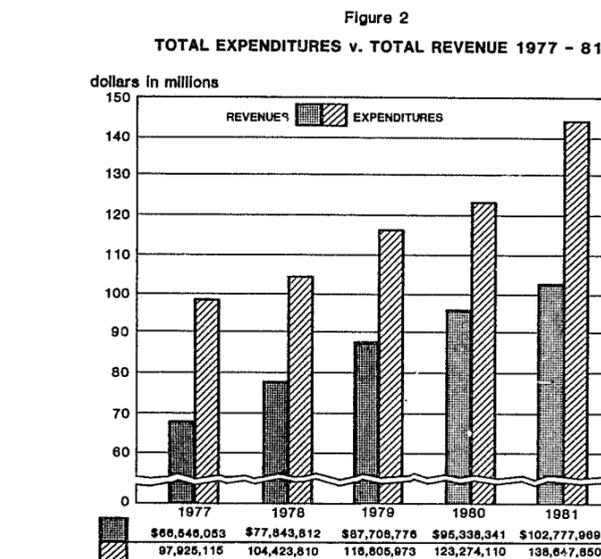
In 1981, total state, county and municipal expenditures for the courts amounted to \$138,647,850 an increase of 12.5% over 1980's expenditures. The total revenues raised by the courts to all levels of government also increased, to a total of \$102,777,969, or 7.8% over the previous year. The trend in increasing expenditures and revenues is shown in the chart below.

Fig. 1  
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & REVENUES 1980-1981

	1980	1981	% Change
Total Expenditures	\$123,274,110	\$138,647,850	+ 12.5%
Total court related revenues	\$95,338,341	\$102,777,969	+ 7.8%

The trend over the past five years is consistent. The total amount spent for the Judiciary has increased by 41.6%, considerably less than the increases in the national cost-of-living index for the same period. Likewise, the total increase in court-generated revenue has been 54.4%.

Throughout the section on finances, several caveats are important to note. First, the time period is referred to as 1981. For state expenditures and revenues, the reference is to the 1981 fiscal year, from July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981. For county and municipal funds, the reference is to costs and revenue during the calendar year 1980. Second, county and municipal data mostly come from audit reports to the Division of Local Government Services. The counties and municipalities use different account codes and categories, so they are not always comparable among the different levels of government, and there are some gaps in the data available.

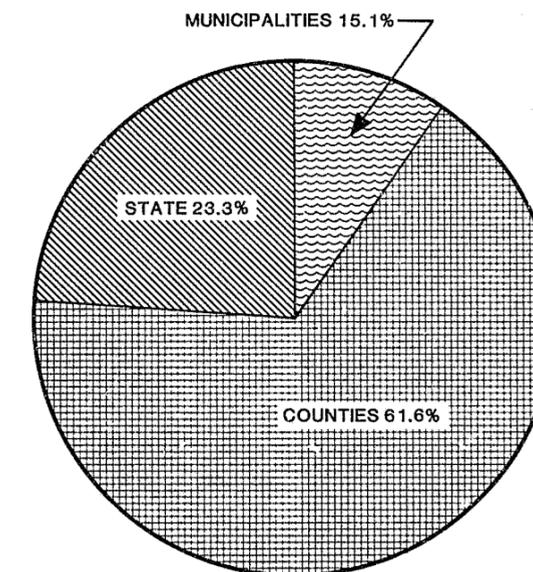


**EXPENDITURES**

The total amount spent to operate the Judiciary in 1981 for state, county, and municipal sources was \$138,647,850. Of this total, 23.3% came from the State, 61.6% from the counties, and 15.1% from the municipalities.

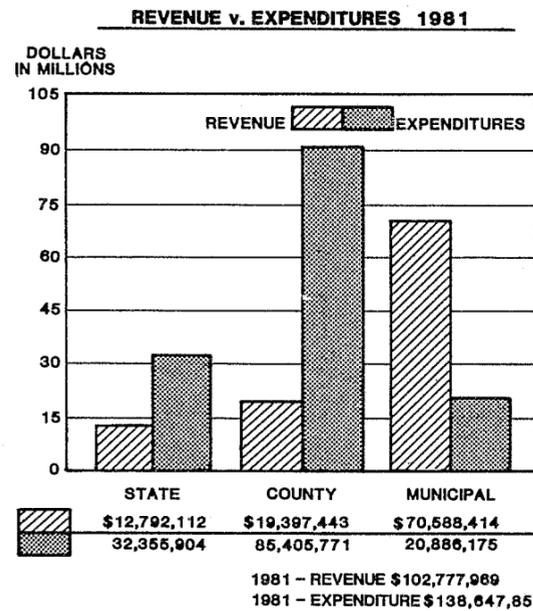
Figure 3

**SOURCES OF FUNDS 1981**



From 1977 to 1980 the state percentage of total court expenditures had been slowly but steadily increasing, from 18.3% in 1977 to 24.2% in 1980; and the counties' share of expenditures had been decreasing from 65.5% to 60.6%. The municipal share had been fairly steady at about 15%. In 1981, there was very little change: all three sources provided about the same percentage they had in 1980. Figure 4 illustrates the trend.

Figure 4



#### State Funds

State expenditures for the courts support salaries for the Supreme Court justices and the 236 Superior Court judges. In addition, the State funds all staff salaries and operating expenses of the Supreme Court, the Appellate Division and Chancery Division of the Superior Court, the Tax Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts, court reporting services, and other court support units. The total of these expenses in 1981 was \$32,355,904, an 8.3% increase over the \$29,880,336 spent the year before.

Despite the increase in state funds for the Judiciary, the total amount appropriated for the courts represented only .7% of the total state budget. For the last several years, the Judiciary's budget has been slightly more than one-half of one percent of the State's total.

#### County Funds

The counties fund most of the total judicial expenditures. In the last year, the counties expended \$85,405,771, or 62% of all funds spent on the courts. That figure is an increase of 14.3% over the \$74,744,129 spent the previous year.

The counties fund salaries and operating expenses in the Superior Court, Law Division (excluding salaries, home library program, and travel expenses of the judges), the county district courts, juvenile and domestic relations courts, and related activities such as jury commissions, surrogates' office, probation departments, and law libraries.

#### Municipal Funds

During 1981, municipalities supported the 529 municipal courts at a cost of \$20,886,175, or 15.5% of the total judicial expenditures. This figure represents a 12% increase over the expenses of the municipalities the year before. Municipal funds pay for all expenses of the municipal courts, including salaries for judges and staff and all operating expenses.

Expenditures for the municipal courts were highest in Essex County, with \$2.7 million, and lowest in Salem County, with just \$226,000.

#### THE JUDICIAL DOLLAR

By far, the bulk of the Judiciary's funds was used to pay salaries for judges, their staffs, court reporters, court clerks' staffs, and administrative costs.

The total amount paid for salaries was \$123.8 million, or 89.3% of all Judiciary funds. The chart below breaks down the main categories of expenses.

Fig. 5

MAJOR JUDICIARY EXPENSES - 1981  
(in millions of dollars)

	Judges' Salaries	Support Staff Salaries	Operating Expenses	Total
State	\$12.7	\$ 15.7	\$ 3.9	\$ 32.3
County	3.7	73.6	8.1	85.4
Municipal	4.6	13.5	2.8	20.9
Total	\$21.0	\$102.8	\$14.8	\$138.6

#### The State's Dollar

At the state level, the total increase was 8.3%. The \$32.3 million total expenditure included only \$3.9 million in non-salary operating

expenses actually declined by \$82,000, or 4.4%, in 1981 compared to 1980. At the same time, salaries increased by 10%.

The chart below breaks down the total State expenses by major functional category. It shows that more than 65% of the total State funds went to direct expenses for operating the courts. Court support services, including court reporters, took 28% of all State expenditures, and about 7% went to court administration.

#### The Counties' Dollar

Of the \$85.4 million expended by the counties for court-related matters, the two large categories were for clerks' office support for the Law Division of the Superior Court, and the Probation Department. The chart below shows the functional categories of county expenses.

Fig. 6  
STATE EXPENSES FOR THE JUDICIARY-1981

COURT OPERATION	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	PERCENT OF TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM 1980
Supreme Court	\$ 1,630,542	5.0%	+ 11.8%
Superior Court			
Appellate Division *	3,113,402	9.6%	+ 11.9%
Law Division *	13,309,192	41.1%	+ 5.0%
Chancery Division	1,965,165	6.1%	+ 23.7%
Tax Court	1,107,930	3.4%	+ 49.5%
<b>COURT SUPPORT SERVICES</b>			
Official Court Reporters	\$ 5,377,506	16.6%	+ 9.6%
Bar Examiners	132,883	0.4%	- 0.4%
General Support	3,598,736	11.1%	- 2.0%
<b>COURT ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Legal Services	\$ 1,029,689	3.2%	+ 20.2%
Probation Services	60,401	0.2%	- 10.1%
Management Services	1,030,458	3.2%	+ 5.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,355,904</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>+ 8.3%</b>

\* Includes Clerk's Office expenditures.

Fig. 7

COUNTY EXPENDITURES			
	1980 EXPENSES	PERCENT OF TOTAL	% CHANGE FROM 1979
Law Division, Superior Court	\$32,007,486	37.5%	+ 9.0%
District Court	7,746,650	9.1%	+ 14%
Juvenile and Domestic Relations	4,716,315	5.5%	+ 16%
Jury	3,279,618	3.8%	+ 20%
Surrogate	3,624,806	4.3%	+ 27%
Probation	33,581,564	39.3%	+ 18%
Law Library	449,332	0.5%	+ 9%
Total	\$85,405,771	100.0%	+14.3%

Finally, the expenses of the municipalities for the State's 529 municipal courts rose to \$20.9 million. Of this total, 86.6% was for salaries, and only 13.4% for operating expenses.

REVENUES

New Jersey courts are not designed to be self-supporting. The courts receive a substantial amount of money for fines, bail forfeitures, costs, filing fees, and certain other fees in the course of handling the cases submitted to them. In 1981, the total amount of funds received was \$102,777,969, an increase of 7.8% over the \$95,338,341 raised the year before. These funds are neither kept by the courts nor used for judicial purposes; they go to the State General Fund or to the counties and municipalities.

The following table shows the trend in court-related revenue over the last five years. It shows that total revenues have risen by 54.4% since 1977.

FIVE-YEAR COMPARISON OF COURT-RELATED REVENUES 1977-81

	STATE	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	TOTAL
1977	\$ 8,014,285	\$14,175,838	\$44,355,980	\$ 66,546,103
1978	8,193,142	16,290,043	53,360,627	77,843,812
1979	9,258,568	17,368,666	61,081,542	87,708,776
1980	9,333,483	19,649,795	66,355,063	95,338,341
1981	\$12,792,112	\$19,397,443	\$70,588,414	\$102,777,969

The distribution of revenues among the levels of government is very different from the distribution of expenses. Only the municipalities collect more in court-generated revenues than they spend for the courts, and the municipalities received 68.7% of the total for the last year. (The State received 12.4% of the total, and the counties took in 18.9%.) See Figure 4, above.

State Revenues

Most of the revenues generated at the state level come from fees and commissions of the Superior Court. Figure 9 shows the breakdown of the sources of state funds.

Fig. 9

STATE GENERATED REVENUES - 1981			
Supreme Court	\$ 246,041	1.9%	
Superior Court	11,047,432	86.4%	
Tax Court	225,865	1.8%	
Court Reporters	234,696	1.8%	
General Support	2,160	0.02%	
Probation Services	1,035,918	8.1%	
Total	\$12,792,112	100.0%	

The bulk of the funds comes from case filing fees. In addition, the Supreme Court receives fees for bar examinations, the Superior Court receives commissions from handling trust funds, the court reporters' services receive payments by counties (pursuant to N.J.S. 2A:11-16), and the State receives funds from certain fines related to probation (pursuant to P.L. 1979, C. 396). These funds go to the State General Fund.

County Revenues

Court-related revenues to the counties decreased in 1981 for the first time in the last several years. The \$19,397,443 collected was 1.3% less than the year before. The funds come from filing fees, fines, and penalties.

Municipal Revenues

The bulk of all the court-generated revenues goes to municipalities. Fines, court costs, and bail forfeitures from the municipal courts amounted to \$70,588,414, an increase of 6.4% over the funds collected one year before.

Superior Court Trust Fund

The Superior Court Trust Fund consists of monies deposited in Court as the result of various types of litigation, the more common of which are: condemnations, foreclosures, liquidations, dissolutions, sales of infants' lands, receivers' and trustees' accounts, interpleaders, partitions, dower and curtesy interests, and cash in lieu of bonds. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the monies deposited with the court are commingled and become part of the general fund.

Since September 1948, when the Trust Fund became the responsibility of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, all investments have been in U.S. Government or federal agency securities. During 1981 interest paid to depositors was 8%.

Pursuant to the Chief Justice's direction, the Supreme Court Committee on the Disposition of Excess Reserves is determining how to return to depositors excess reserves accumulated during the years in which interest earned by the Fund was substantially in excess of that paid out.

The State is reimbursed for the salaries and expenses of operating the Trust Fund (N.J.S.A. 2A:15-74), receives a commission on the disbursement of deposits in Court (N.J.S.A. 22A:2-20), and receives, as unclaimed deposits, funds from all accounts that have been inactive for a period of ten years (N.J.S.A. 2A:15-76 to 85). For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1981, the salaries and expenses amounted to \$73,698 and the commissions to \$204,934. Unclaimed deposits first escheated to the State Treasurer in 1947. Since that time a total of \$3,814,843.59 in eight separate installments has gone to the State by escheat. The latest installment, made in 1980, amounted to \$761,871.82.

FEDERAL FUNDS

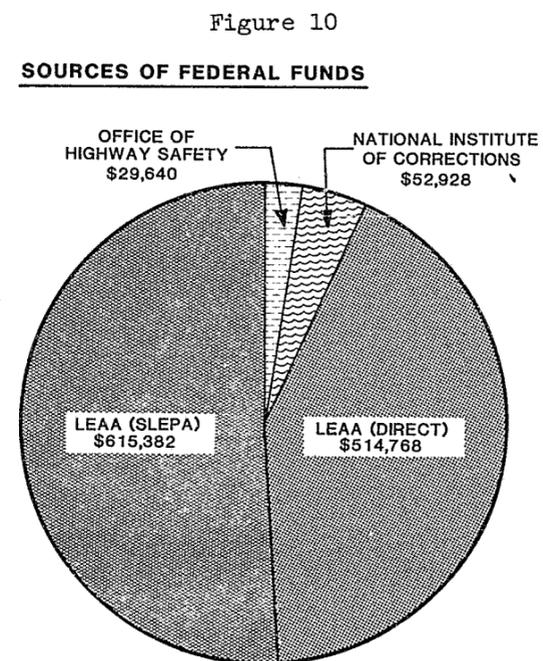
In 1981, the Judiciary received and allocated about \$1.2 million in federal funds. This expenditure is in addition to the state and local funds previously described. Most of these funds come from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA). With the demise of LEAA and the overall reduction in federal government spending in this area, the funds received last year are likely to be the last major infusion of federal funds in the New Jersey courts in the foreseeable future.

The total of federal funds allocated in 1981 was \$1,212,718. This amount came from four sources: LEAA funds available to New Jersey in block grants from the State Law Enforcement Planning Agency (SLEPA), discretionary funds direct from LEAA, the National Institute of Corrections, and the Office of Highway Safety. Figure 10 shows the amounts from each source.

The federal funds were allocated in a total of 18 separate grants or projects. They can be grouped and classified as follows:

1. TASC Projects (Treatment Alternatives Street Crime)	\$ 551,558
2. Education and Training (both judges and non-judicial)	222,732
3. Court Structure and Information Services	190,825
4. Probation	107,246
5. Criminal Sentences and Disposition	78,138
6. Judicial Coordinating Committee	62,219
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,212,718</b>

There will doubtless be a hard adjustment over the next few years, as federal funds are not widely available for justice-related activities. Over the last five years, over \$7 million has been used by the Judiciary at the State and local levels for judicial education, computerization, probation programs, municipal court improvement, jury system reform, and efficiency programs. These activities have been a vital part of the continuing effort



to improve the performance of the New Jersey courts. Most of these programs would probably not have been undertaken without federal funds. Future projects for improvement may be difficult to fund.

# 5 Statistical Tables

WORKLOAD TRENDS 1977 TO 1981

Percentage Increase Over Prior Year  
Percentage Increase Over Court Year 1977

Court Years Ending August 31

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>With Tax Court 1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>With Tax Court 1981</u>
<u>CASES ADDED</u>	555,371	588,519	626,506	648,592	655,517	692,173	700,516
% Change from Prior Year	--	+ 6.0%	+ 6.5%	+ 3.5%	+ 4.6%	+ 6.7%	+ 6.9%
% Change from Court Year 1977	--	+ 6.0%	+12.8%	+16.8%	+18.0%	+24.6%	+26.1%
 <u>TOTAL WORK VOLUME 1/</u>	 709,022	 756,500	 805,151	 835,382	 868,307	 884,493	 913,284
% Change from Prior Year	--	+ 6.7%	+ 6.4%	+ 3.8%	+ 7.8%	+ 5.9%	+ 5.2%
% Change from Court Year 1977	--	+ 6.7%	+13.6%	+17.8%	+22.5%	+24.8%	+28.8%
 <u>CASES DISPOSED OF</u>	 541,211	 577,472	 618,969	 664,286	 675,835	 695,827	 711,391
% Change from Prior Year	--	+ 6.7%	+ 7.2%	+ 7.3%	+ 9.2%	+ 4.8%	+ 5.3%
% Change from Court Year 1977	--	+ 6.7%	+14.4%	+22.7%	+24.9%	+28.6%	+31.4%
 <u>PENDING (BACKLOG)</u>	 167,981	 178,645	 186,790	 192,320	 --	 188,666	 --
% Change from Prior Year	--	+ 6.4%	+ 4.6%	+ 3.0%	--	- 1.9%	--
% Change from Court Year 1977	--	+ 6.4%	+11.2%	+14.5%	--	+12.3%	--
 <u>PENDING (BACKLOG WITH TAX COURT)</u>			212,790	--	212,768	--	201,893
			+19.1%	--	- 0.01%	--	- 5.1%
			+26.7%	--	+26.7%	--	+20.2%

1/ Computed by adding pending at end of previous year to cases added during the year.

NUMBER OF JUDGES AND VACANCIES BY COURT  
1948 - 1970  
(as of September 1)

COURT		9/15/48	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
SUPREME	Justices	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPERIOR	Judges	27	28	27	27	27	32	36	36	36	38	38	37	36	44	42	43	46	50	54	72	76	76	76
	Vacancies	11	10	11	11	11	6	2	2	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	6	2	24	6	2	2	2
	Advisory Masters	5	5	5	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	43	43	43	42	42	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	44	44	44	52	52	78	78	78	78	78
COUNTY	Full Time Judges	21	24	24	24	23	24	26	34	38	38	39	46	47	57	61	62	63	61	73	81	85	83	85
	Vacancies	2	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	0	0	3	0	10	11	8	7	8	10	6	4	3	5	3
	Part Time Judges	14	10	11	11	11	11	9	7	7	7	7	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Vacancies	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	37	37	37	37	37	39	43	45	45	49	49	59	69	69	69	71	71	79	85	88	88	88	88
DISTRICT	Full Time Judges	4	4	4	4	4	4	13	13	13	11	16	14	20	22	22	21	24	29	30	29	33	31	31
	Vacancies	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	3	4	1	4	3	5	1	3	3
	Part Time Judges	31	32	32	32	33	32	29	17	15	15	13	9	9	7	6	3	4	2	2	2	1	1	1
	Vacancies	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	36	36	36	36	37	34	30	28	28	28	25	24	31	31	30	30	30	35	35	35	35	35	35
JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS	Full Time Judges	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	4	4	5	5	8	11	13	13	21	23	24	27	27
	Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	0
	Part Time Judges	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	5	6	6	6	7	7	6	2	2	0	0
	Vacancies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	4	4	4	4	5	6	6	6	7	9	9	9	14	14	16	20	20	20	26	26	27	27	27
STATE TOTALS	Full Time Judges	60	64	63	63	62	68	75	92	96	99	99	110	108	133	137	142	148	155	176	211	220	223	224
	Vacancies	14	12	13	13	14	8	7	4	2	1	5	1	13	15	13	11	20	13	35	16	11	11	10
	Advisory Masters	5	5	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Part Time Judges	48	45	46	46	48	47	42	28	26	25	24	17	16	14	12	9	11	9	8	4	3	1	1
	Vacancies	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	3	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	127	127	127	126	128	124	124	124	125	131	128	137	165	165	166	180	180	219	231	234	235	235	

NUMBER OF JUDGES AND VACANCIES BY COURT

1971 - 1981  
as of September 1

		1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
SUPREME	Justices	7	7	7	7	6	6	7	7	7	7	7
	Vacancies	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
1/SUPERIOR	Full Time Judges	76	87	110	115	109	109	111	117	225	224	225
	Vacancies	2	9	10	5	11	11	9	3	11	16	11
	TOTAL	78	96	120	120	120	120	120	120	236	236	236
COUNTY * Merged with Superior Ct. 12/7/78	Full Time Judges	88	93	94	94	93	92	99	107	* Merged	-	-
	Vacancies	2	8	9	9	10	11	9	9			
	TOTAL	90	101	103	103	103	103	108	116			
DISTRICT	Full Time Judges	34	33	30	31	31	31	28	30	27	27	28
	Vacancies	0	1	4	3	3	3	11	9	12	12	11
	Part Time Judges	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	35	34	34	34	34	34	39	39	39	39	39
JUVENILE & DOMESTIC RELATIONS	Full Time Judges	27	28	26	23	25	25	29	29	29	29	30
	Vacancies	0	2	3	6	4	6	3	3	4	6	5
	TOTAL	27	30	29	29	29	31	32	32	33	35	35
** TAX COURT	Full Time Judges									** 6	8	8
	Vacancies									6	4	4
	TOTAL									12	12	12
STATE TOTALS (WITHOUT TAX COURT)	Full Time Judges	232	248	267	270	264	263	274	290	288	283	290
	Vacancies	4	20	26	23	29	32	32	24	27	31	27
	Part Time Judges	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	237	268	293	293	293	295	306	314	315	317	317
STATE TOTALS (WITH TAX COURT)	Full Time Judges	232	248	267	270	264	263	274	290	294	291	298
	Vacancies	4	20	26	23	29	32	32	24	33	38	31
	Part Time Judges	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	237	268	293	293	293	295	306	314	327	329	329

\* Merged with Superior Court by statute, effective 12/7/78.  
 \*\* Established by statute, effective 7/1/79. N.J.S.A. 2A:3A-2 provides for not less than 6 or more than 12 tax court judges.  
 1/ Including judges assigned to the Appellate Division of the Superior Court, currently 21 positions are assigned to the Appellate Division.

CASES ADDED, DISPOSED OF, AND PENDING BY COURT  
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY  
1948-49 to 1957-58

	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
Supreme Court Appeals:										
Appeals filed and certified	247	178	158	160	174	174	137	173	152	221
Disposed of					25	193	177	165	157	205
Pending at end						20	10	10	22	42
Superior Court, App. Div. Appeals:										
Appeals filed (not including appeals certified by Supreme Court before calendaring)	414	537	642	645	652	656	604	677	654	565
Disposed of		364		410	474	507	600	633	611	525
Pending at end			322	410	313	222	364	376	412	335
Superior Court, Law Div. & Co. Cts.										
Combined Civil Cases:										
Added	13,157	10,720	11,342	13,426	14,013	13,802	13,370	13,134	13,236	15,587
Disposed of	12,107	14,476	11,318	11,340	10,373	12,973	13,091	13,632	15,506	14,382
Pending at end	10,445	7,005	6,560	8,122	7,700	10,629	11,444	11,061	10,491	11,656
*Criminal Cases:										
Added				6,406	3,373	4,125	11,361	11,226	9,620*	9,753
Disposed of				1,111	10,223	10,143	11,305	10,056	9,614	9,360
Pending at end				3,703	3,923	3,763	4,771	4,469	5,268	5,932
**** Post-Conviction Relief Petitions:										
Added			3,049							
Disposed of										
Pending at end										
Superior Court, Chancery Division										
General Equity Cases:										
Added	1,786	1,487	1,667	1,710	1,740	1,814	1,761	1,836	2,014	2,133
Disposed of	1,473	1,527	1,569	1,789	1,619	1,855	1,661	1,904	1,907	1,929
Pending at end	506	466	569	490	611	570	621	603	710	920
Matrimonial Cases:										
Added	2,819	3,869	5,273	5,964	5,745	5,638	5,354	5,455	5,330	5,057
Disposed of	2,253	4,004	5,467	5,467	5,467	5,467	5,467	5,467	5,467	5,467
Pending at end	614	1,004	910	1,107	1,398	1,682	1,566	1,341	1,057	1,058
County Courts										
Contested Probate Matters:										
Added										
Disposed of										
Pending at end										
Civil Appeals:										
Added			122	150	147	164	194	243	264	142
Disposed of			118	127	142	153	163	175	156	140
Pending at end		43	47	70	75	40	80	57	61	63
Criminal Appeals:										
Added			609	615	647	745	773	934	1,053	1,110
Disposed of			679	561	612	726	796	857	1,069	1,006
Pending at end		261	191	245	280	293	230	287	281	387
Juvenile and Dom. Rel. Courts										
Hearings										
Rehearings										
Total	11,145	15,587	15,901	18,258	21,728	23,801	26,722	29,218	35,508	38,455
**Juvenile Complaints										
Added										
Disposed of										
Pending at end										
***Juveniles in Need of Supervision										
Added										
Disposed of										
Pending at end										
**Domestic Relations and Reciprocal Support Complaints										
Added										
Disposed of										
Pending at end										
County District Courts										
Cases instituted in and transferred to the District Court										
Disposed of										
Pending at end		14,176	107,995	118,626	123,966	132,752	139,236	138,490	147,311	155,114
TOTAL, All Courts (Except Municipal Courts)	20,762	18,345	127,650	143,942	156,950	165,770	173,630	172,279	181,594	185,701
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Hearings										
Rehearings										
TOTAL	11,145	15,587	15,901	18,258	21,728	23,801	26,722	29,218	35,508	38,455
Disposed of	20,524	22,197	128,667	141,184	151,955	166,288	171,798	172,274	184,675	186,345
Pending at end	11,615	23,323	26,476	29,404	35,527	35,136	37,268	31,053	39,133	42,754
Municipal Courts										
Disposed of by Municipal Court Hearings:										
Moving traffic cases										
Parking cases										
Non-traffic cases										
Disposed of in Violations Bureau:										
Moving traffic cases										
Parking cases										
Non-traffic cases										
Total	557,497	639,697	693,367	756,481	894,946	1,063,606	1,213,916	1,319,441	1,347,433	

\*New unit of reporting commencing 1956-57 court year  
 \*\*New unit of reporting commencing July, 1960  
 \*\*\*Juveniles in Need of Supervision Status Effective March 1, 1974  
 \*\*\*\*Rule 3:22, effective 1/1/65  
 NOTE: The year-to-year figures on cases pending, added, disposed of and pending at ending of the subsequent year may not balance because of "recounts" as a result of physical inventories by the reporting sources.

CASES ADDED, DISPOSED OF, AND PENDING BY COURT  
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY  
1958-59 to 1969-70

	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69	1969-70
Supreme Court Appeals:												
Appeals filed and certified	244	161	136	139	133	140	133	209	160	147	139	170
Disposed of	148	150	152	151	152	145	141	157	131	170	154	167
Pending at end	38	49	33	71	52	47	39	91	120	92	77	80
Superior Court, App. Div. Appeals:												
Appeals filed (not including appeals certified by Supreme Court before calendaring)	733	918	880	1,039	1,061	1,166	1,121	1,263	1,449	1,214	2,056	2,397
Disposed of	631	771	851	1,054	1,054	1,000	1,139	1,263	1,394	1,530	1,619	1,885
Pending at end	487	634	663	645	762	825	1,139	1,263	1,394	1,266	1,673	2,135
Superior Court, Law Div. & Co. Cts.												
Combined Civil Cases:												
Added	18,962	20,131	21,689	24,145	25,230	27,925	30,035	31,576	32,126	35,555	34,341	33,872
Disposed of	15,123	15,063	19,688	23,056	23,315	26,768	28,439	29,927	28,793	33,792	33,875	31,523
Pending at end	15,538	20,603	22,604	23,930	25,745	29,509	30,509	41,072	44,581	46,159	46,457	48,673
*Criminal Cases:												
Added	10,425	10,486	11,407	11,566	12,724	12,030	12,609	11,506	12,173	14,273	17,207	19,924
Disposed of	8,960	11,185	11,912	11,805	11,620	11,304	12,817	12,071	13,074	14,746	14,746	16,823
Pending at end	10,357	9,450	8,945	6,698	9,797	11,579	12,336	11,029	11,133	12,364	14,813	17,302
**** Post-Conviction Relief Petitions:												
Added												
Disposed of												
Pending at end												
Superior Court, Chancery Division												
General Equity Cases:												
Added	2,046	2,304	2,256	2,470	2,352	2,725	2,555	2,700	2,791	2,636	2,473	2,443
Disposed of	1,985	2,210	2,290	2,261	2,248	2,501	2,421	2,750	2,631	2,918	2,559	2,447
Pending at end	981	1,075	1,041	1,209	1,354	1,340	1,674	1,624	1,484	1,602	1,482	1,490
Matrimonial Cases:												
Added	5,271	5,606	5,691	5,895	6,183	6,488	6,803	7,727	8,100	9,056	9,222	11,041
Disposed of	5,032	5,381	5,391	6,012	5,874	6,488	6,403	7,172	7,574	8,173	8,155	10,465
Pending at end	1,335	1,560	1,260	1,126	1,435	1,734	2,134	1,886	1,814	1,737	1,807	2,370
County Courts												
Contested Probate Matters:												
Added		139	284	301	260	281	247	263	263	234	237	240
Disposed of			324	306	264	270	241	244	277	242	234	244
Pending at end			99	98	94	105	111	129	111	106	107	103
Civil Appeals:												
Added	283	228	209	173	174	207	157	186	155	206	157	194
Disposed of	173	221	215	215	192	184	193	194	153	146	146	170
Pending at end	93	100	94	75	75	122	87	87	81	137	89	104
Criminal Appeals:												
Added	1,389	1,506	1,540	1,612	1,784	1,886	2,160	2,186	2,212	2,353	2,517	2,905
Disposed of	1,348	1,468	1,559	1,725	1,694							

CASES ADDED, DISPOSED OF, AND PENDING BY COURT  
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY  
1970-71 to 1980-81

	1970-1971	1971-1972	1972-1973	1973-1974	1974-1975	1975-1976	1976-1977	1977-1978	1978-1979	1979-1980	1980-1981
Supreme Court Appeals: Appeals filed and certified Disposed of Pending at end	195 157 118	169 183 104	173 170 107	163 179 111	221 182 150	232 187 195	225 241 176	193 218 151	214 243 122	232 223 131	216 216 131
Superior Court, Appellate Division Appeals: Appeals filed 1/ Disposed of Pending at end	2,695 2,349 2,521	3,548 2,977 3,992	3,833 3,411 3,514	3,779 3,568 3,725	4,362 3,877 4,210	4,803 4,333 4,746	5,198 4,227 5,041	5,293 4,741 6,170	4,774 5,622 5,380	5,054 5,400 5,033	5,792 4,080 5,045
3/ Superior Court, Law Div. & Co. Cts. Combined Civil Cases: Added Disposed of Pending at end	30,394 31,882 49,189	31,107 32,801 44,560	31,750 36,896 39,656	32,169 35,359 38,462	36,201 31,990 40,677	36,966 39,759 46,952	39,143 33,011 53,095	40,233 37,867 55,607	44,688 41,353 58,759	48,055 47,025 60,025	51,082 50,762 61,245
* Criminal Cases: Added Disposed of Pending at end	25,159 22,367 20,761	29,127 27,362 22,362	25,134 29,427 23,903	24,170 24,194 25,595	27,567 23,250 28,595	27,663 24,495 28,734	25,748 24,648 29,947	24,311 27,266 31,590	22,138 24,256 29,495	22,980 23,165 29,472	22,101 27,055 31,518
**** Post-Conviction Relief Petitions: Added Disposed of Pending at end	358 361 98	445 432 112	458 417 142	488 402 161	304 402 63	227 241 55	227 226 57	219 161 38	159 161 35	135 127 42	105 122 25
Superior Court, Chancery Division General Equity Cases: Added Disposed of Pending at end	2,807 2,320 1,772	2,967 2,690 2,090	3,301 3,186 2,218	3,595 3,469 2,362	3,844 3,523 3,047	3,936 3,810 2,684	4,130 4,368 2,862	4,023 3,702 2,820	4,318 4,009 3,114	4,424 4,420 3,162	4,305 4,996 2,413
Matrimonial Cases: Added Disposed of Pending at end	13,349 13,240 2,455	17,940 15,858 4,535	22,933 20,868 4,993	20,790 23,294 5,000	22,782 23,944 5,818	23,331 22,098 6,948	22,170 26,483 6,961	27,371 26,275 7,978	25,609 26,275 7,272	24,849 26,466 19,949	32,237 31,146 21,040
County Courts Contested Probate Matters: Added Disposed of Pending at end	240 225 109	324 310 95	382 336 145	347 310 183	404 395 172	584 510 233	693 622 277	597 562 262	587 562 252	542 520 249	612 590 267
Civil Appeals: Added Disposed of Pending at end	190 189 105	92 181 21	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Criminal Appeals: Added Disposed of Pending at end	2,355 2,359 565	2,569 2,536 610	3,238 3,117 725	3,375 3,331 769	3,629 3,586 812	3,790 3,730 846	3,063 3,336 580	2,564 2,486 654	2,784 2,699 739	2,783 2,828 695	2,942 2,920 687
Juvenile and Dom. Rel. Courts Hearings Rehearings Total	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
** Juvenile Complaints Added Disposed of Pending at end	53,581 55,216 8,636	58,816 57,239 10,275	63,852 63,175 10,903	68,547 69,451 10,004	74,790 73,893 11,902	75,862 74,752 11,902	73,400 80,352 13,641	81,827 80,352 13,641	87,110 96,750 14,698	93,352 95,444 13,300	101,184 101,388 13,036
*** Juveniles in Need of Supervision* Added Disposed of Pending at end	3,788 3,129 562	7,867 7,932 677	8,682 8,524 776	8,843 8,669 937	10,583 11,754 1,135	11,525 10,583 984	12,126 12,076 984	12,469 12,076 984	12,469 12,076 984	12,469 12,076 984	12,469 12,076 984
** Domestic Relations and Reciprocal Support Complaints Added Disposed of Pending at end	35,089 34,874 5,015	40,445 40,045 5,414	41,407 42,723 3,563	49,358 49,819 5,461	50,889 51,439 4,736	61,874 61,439 4,736	69,474 67,707 6,178	73,460 72,397 7,035	80,878 80,848 7,437	80,133 80,848 6,997	90,347 91,172 6,072
County District Courts Instituted in and transferred to the District Court Disposed of Pending at end	237,548 232,228 34,238	239,213 236,106 37,344	251,743 253,277 44,384	260,664 262,832 45,442	289,981 285,582 40,801	293,917 293,777 44,854	303,057 315,263 49,092	317,885 315,263 51,504	331,672 324,656 58,503	333,917 327,721 56,365	360,811 367,856 45,451
TOTAL, ALL COURTS (except Municipal Courts and Tax Court) Added Disposed of Pending at end	405,880 397,587 125,782	426,771 421,711 130,575	448,204 454,516 132,575	471,253 476,584 130,538	513,801 506,741 137,598	541,867 529,271 153,651	555,371 541,211 167,981	588,519 577,472 178,645	626,506 618,969 186,790	648,592 664,286 192,320	692,173 695,827 188,665
2/ TAX COURT Filed Disposed of Pending at end	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	N.A. N.A. 26,000	6,925 11,549 20,448	8,343 15,564 19,227
GRAND TOTAL, ALL COURTS (Other than Municipal Courts) Filed Disposed of Pending at end	405,880 397,587 125,782	426,771 421,711 130,575	448,204 454,516 132,575	471,253 476,584 130,538	513,801 506,741 137,598	541,867 529,271 153,651	555,371 541,211 167,981	588,519 577,472 178,645	626,506 618,969 186,790	648,592 664,286 192,320	700,516 711,301 201,893
Municipal Courts Disposed of by Municipal Court Hearings: Moving traffic cases Parking cases Non-traffic cases	295,320 164,640 137,939	304,054 202,484 161,071	309,905 158,975 162,582	323,441 154,604 177,915	337,037 127,051 195,945	332,505 136,235 206,703	331,742 132,007 207,615	344,399 115,361 207,615	331,245 114,941 224,903	383,156 92,337 233,981	382,555 119,504 260,712
Disposed of in Violations Bureau: Moving traffic cases Parking cases Non-traffic cases	463,130 1,645,379 12,498	555,469 1,701,691 12,483	599,740 1,684,833 13,700	598,247 1,795,097 15,476	660,372 1,795,284 16,941	644,944 1,801,970 19,134	611,778 1,801,970 20,619	692,896 1,915,611 22,891	791,289 1,876,927 23,692	829,640 1,883,560 27,827	842,293 1,957,662 28,195
TOTAL	2,738,956	2,937,212	2,929,735	2,974,780	3,138,630	3,061,941	3,101,570	3,298,143	3,412,597	3,449,901	3,590,921

1/ Not including appeals certified by Supreme Court before calendaring  
2/ Does not include data for the New Jersey Tax Court which was instituted effective 7/1/79.  
3/ Includes matters instituted in the County Court prior to the Amendment to the New Jersey Constitution effective 12/7/78, as well as matters instituted in the Superior Court.  
\* New unit of reporting commencing 1956-57 court year  
\*\* New unit of reporting commencing July, 1960  
\*\*\* Juveniles in Need of Supervision\* Statute Effective March 1, 1974  
\*\*\*\* Rule 3:22, effective January 1, 1965  
NOTE: The year-to-year figures on cases pending, added, disposed of and pending at ending of the subsequent year may not balance because of "recounts" as a result of physical inventories by the reporting sources.

CASES ADDED, DISPOSED, AND PENDING COMPARED WITH PRIOR COURT YEAR  
BY COUNTY AND JUDICIAL VICINAGE  
SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 TO AUGUST 31, 1981

COUNTY/ VICINAGE	CASES ADDED				CASES DISPOSED				CASES PENDING			
	YEAR ENDING 8/31/81	YEAR ENDING 8/31/80	DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR/ PRIOR YEAR	PERCENT	YEAR ENDING 8/31/81	YEAR ENDING 8/31/80	DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR/ PRIOR YEAR	PERCENT	YEAR ENDING 8/31/81	YEAR ENDING* 8/31/80	DIFFERENCE THIS YEAR/ PRIOR YEAR	PERCENT
	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	PERCENT
1 Atlantic	22,874	19,084	3,790	19.9%	23,084	19,558	3,526	18.0%	5,407	5,617	-210	-3.7%
2 Bergen	56,779	54,093	2,686	5.0%	56,912	54,003	2,909	5.4%	20,373	20,506	-133	-0.7%
3 Burlington	27,214	23,405	3,809	16.3%	27,180	23,302	3,878	16.6%	6,251	6,217	34	.6%
4 Camden	46,073	42,765	3,307	7.7%	46,561	44,183	2,378	5.4%	11,387	11,875	-488	-4.1%
5 Cape May	8,103	8,059	44	.4%	8,490	8,186	304	3.7%	2,081	2,468	-387	-15.7%
6 Cumberland	15,125	15,586	-461	-3.0%	15,889	15,450	439	2.8%	3,176	3,940	-764	-19.4%
7 Essex	130,046	120,561	9,485	7.9%	129,619	125,520	4,099	3.3%	24,421	23,994	427	1.8%
8 Gloucester	16,203	15,778	425	2.7%	15,780	16,404	-624	-3.8%	6,193	5,770	423	7.3%
9 Hudson	58,294	53,856	4,438	8.2%	57,273	53,667	3,606	6.7%	15,104	14,083	1,021	7.3%
10 Hunterdon	5,031	4,857	174	3.6%	5,174	5,047	127	2.5%	1,853	1,996	-143	-7.2%
11 Mercer	31,554	29,975	1,579	5.3%	33,440	31,582	1,858	5.9%	7,639	9,525	-1,886	-19.8%
12 Middlesex	47,160	46,692	468	1.0%	47,452	49,448	-1,996	-4.0%	18,107	18,399	-292	-1.6%
13 Monmouth	40,746	37,589	3,157	8.4%	43,619	49,448	-5,829	-11.8%	14,420	17,293	-2,873	-16.6%
14 Morris	23,253	22,006	1,247	5.7%	22,844	22,279	565	2.5%	6,606	6,536	70	1.1%
15 Ocean	27,227	26,311	916	3.5%	27,157	27,428	-271	-1.0%	12,881	11,953	928	7.7%
16 Passaic	51,499	47,982	3,517	7.3%	50,581	47,403	3,178	6.7%	12,881	11,953	928	7.7%
17 Salem	8,728	8,756	-28	-0.3%	9,030	9,103	-73	-0.8%	1,567	1,869	-302	-16.2%
18 Somerset	12,722	12,374	348	2.8%	12,869	12,103	766	6.3%	3,321	3,468	-147	-4.2%
19 Sussex	7,638	7,427	211	2.8%	7,765	7,509	256	3.4%	2,219	2,346	-127	-5.4%
20 Union	44,427	40,710	3,717	9.1%	44,550	42,017	2,533	6.0%	11,557	11,680	-123	-1.1%
21 Warren	5,469	5,469	0	0%	5,362	5,320	42	.8%	1,819	1,712	107	6.3%
Vicinage 1	54,830	51,495	3,335	6.5%	56,493	52,297	4,196	8.0%	12,221	13,894	-1,663	-12.0%
Vicinage 2	56,779	54,093	2,686	5.0%	56,912	54,003	2,909	5.4%	20,373	20,506	-133	-0.7%
Vicinage 3	54,441	49,716	4,725	9.5%	54,332	50,730	3,602	7.1%	12,857	12,753	104	.8%
Vicinage 4	62,276	58,544	3,732	6.4%	62,341	60,587	1,754	2.9%	17,580	17,645	-65	-0.4%
Vicinage 5	130,046	120,561	9,485	7.9%	129,619	125,520	4,099	3.3%	24,421	23,994	427	1.8%
Vicinage 6	58,294	53,856	4,438	8.2%	57,273	53,667	3,606	6.7%	15,104	14,083	1,021	7.3%
Vicinage 7	49,307	47,206	2,101	4.5%	51,483	48,732	2,751	5.6%	12,813	14,989	-2,176	-14.5%
Vicinage 8	47,160	46,692	468	1.0%	47,452	49,448	-1,996	-4.0%	18,107	18,399	-292	-1.6%
Vicinage 9	40,746	37,589	3,157	8.4%	43,619	49,448	-5,829	-11.8%	14,420	17,293	-2,873	-16.6%
Vicinage 10	36,360	34,902	1,458	4.2%	35,971	35,108	863	2.5%	10,346	9,957	389	3.9%
Vicinage 11	51,499	47,982	3,517	7.3%	50,581	47,403	3,178	6.7%	12,881	11,953	928	7.7%
Vicinage 12	44,427	40,710	3,717	9.1%	44,550	42,017	2,533	6.0%	11,557	11,680	-123	-1.1%
COUNTY TOTALS	686,165	643,306	42,859	6.7%	690,631	658,663	31,968	4.9%	182,690	187,156	-4,466	-2.4%
Tax Court	8,343	6,925	1,418	20.5%	15,564	11,549	4,015	34.8%	13,227	20,448	-7,221	-35.3%
Trial Court	694,508	650,231	44,277	6.8%	706,195	670,212	35,983	5.4%	195,917	207,604	-11,687	-5.6%
Totals				</								

STATUS OF THE CALENDARS  
 CASES ADDED, DISPOSED AND PENDING  
 COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF COURT YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 1981  
 COMPARED WITH COURT YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 1980

	9/1/80 to 8/31/81	9/1,80* to 8/31/80	Difference 1980-81 v. 1979-80	Percent Increase or
<b>TRIAL COURTS</b>				
<b>SUPERIOR COURT, LAW AND CHANCERY:</b>				
Combined Civil Cases on Calendars				
Added	51,982	48,065	+ 3,917	+ 8.2%
Disposed	50,762	47,025	+ 3,737	+ 8.0%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +226)	61,245	60,025*	+ 1,220	+ 2.0%
Criminal (Indictments and Accusations)				
Filed	29,101	22,980	+ 6,121	+26.6%
Disposed	27,055	23,166	+ 3,889	+16.8%
Pending at end of year (not including those awaiting sentence only) *(Recount difference +163)	31,518	29,472*	+ 2,046	+ 6.9%
Post-Conviction Relief Petitions				
Filed	105	135	- 30	-22.2%
Disposed	122	127	- 5	- 3.9%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference -1)	25	42*	- 17	-40.5%
Chancery Division, General Equity Cases on Calendars				
Added	4,305	4,424	- 119	- 2.7%
Disposed	4,996	4,420	+ 576	+13.0%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference -14)	2,413	3,104*	- 691	-22.3%
Chancery Division, Matrimonial Cases on Calendars				
Added	32,237	24,849	+ 7,388	+29.7%
Disposed	31,146	26,466	+ 4,680	+17.7%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +14,294)	21,040	19,949*	+ 1,091	+ 5.5%
Contented Probate Matters				
Added	612	542	+ 70	+12.9%
Disposed	594	546	+ 48	+ 8.8%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +1)	267	249*	+ 18	+ 7.2%
Appeals from the Municipal Courts				
Added	2,942	2,783	+ 159	+ 5.7%
Disposed	2,950	2,828	+ 122	+ 4.3%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +1)	687	695*	- 8	- 1.2%
<b>JUVENILE &amp; DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS:</b>				
Juvenile Delinquent				
Filed	101,124	93,352	+ 7,772	+ 8.3%
Disposed	101,388	95,444	+ 5,944	+ 6.2%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +694)	13,036	13,300*	- 264	- 2.0%
Juvenile - In Need of Supervision				
Filed	12,469	12,126	+ 343	+ 2.8%
Disposed	12,591	12,072	+ 519	+ 4.3%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +20)	936	1,098*	- 122	-11.5%
Domestic Relations and Reciprocal Support Complaints				
Filed	90,347	80,133	+ 10,214	+12.8%
Disposed	91,172	80,848	+ 10,324	+12.8%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +175)	6,072	6,897*	- 825	-12.0%
<b>COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS, CIVIL COMPLAINTS:</b>				
Filed	360,941	353,917	+ 7,024	+ 2.0%
Disposed	367,855	365,721	+ 2,134	+ 0.6%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +5,666)	45,451	52,365*	- 6,914	-13.2%
<b>TOTAL TRIAL COURTS:</b>				
Filed	686,165	643,306	+ 42,859	+ 6.7%
Disposed	690,631	658,663	+ 31,968	+ 4.9%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +21,225)	182,690	187,156*	- 4,466	- 2.4%
<b>TAX COURT:</b>				
Filed	8,343	6,925	+ 1,418	+20.5%
Disposed	15,564	11,549	+ 4,015	+34.5%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference -928)	13,227	20,448*	- 7,221	-35.3%
<b>TOTAL CASES:</b>				
Filed/Added	694,508	650,231	+ 44,277	+ 6.8%
Disposed	706,195	670,212	+ 35,983	+ 5.4%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +14,297)	195,917	207,604*	- 11,687	- 5.6%
<b>SUPREME COURT:</b>				
Appeals filed and certified	216	232	- 16	- 6.9%
Appeals disposed	216	223	- 7	- 3.1%
Appeals pending at end of year	131	131	-	- %
<b>SUPERIOR COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION:</b>				
Appeals filed ** Not including appeals certified by Supreme Court before calendaring	5,792	5,054	+ 738	+14.6%
Appeals disposed	4,980	5,400	- 420	- 7.8%
Appeals pending at end of year *(Recount difference -1)	5,345	5,033*	+ 312	+6.1%
<b>GRAND TOTAL: (OTHER THAN MUNICIPAL COURTS)</b>				
Filed/Added	700,316	655,517	+ 44,999	+ 6.9%
Disposed	711,391	675,825	+ 35,566	+ 5.3%
Pending at end of year *(Recount difference +20,296)	201,693	212,768*	- 10,875	- 5.1%

\* Data of "Cases Pending" as of August 31, 1980 differs from the data published in the Annual Report for 1979-80 because of changes due to physical inventories and recount in the counties during 1981.  
 \*\* There were 21 appeals certified during 1980-81 and 31 appeals during 1979-80. The number of appeals certified from the Appellate Division before calendaring may not agree with the number of certifications received by the Supreme court due to variances in case classification and docketing procedures.

COMPARISON OF CASES ADDED AND DISPOSED OF  
 COURT YEAR 1980-81 COMPARED WITH 1979-80

	September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981		September 1, 1979 to August 31, 1980	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
<b>SUPERIOR COURT</b>				
<b>Law Division -- Civil:</b>				
Added	51,982	--	48,065	--
Disposed of (Total)	50,762	--	47,025	--
Jury Trials	2,303	4.5%	2,797	5.9%
Non-Jury Trials	1,267	2.5%	1,502	3.2%
Settled, Dismissed or Discontinued:				
Before Trial Date	23,436	46.2%	21,233	45.2%
On Trial Date	22,667	44.7%	20,395	43.4%
Other (Transferred, etc.)	1,089	2.1%	1,098	2.3%
<b>Law Division -- Criminal:</b>				
Added	29,101	--	22,980	--
Disposed of (Total)	27,055	--	23,166	--
Jury Trials	2,145	7.9%	1,969	8.5%
Non-Jury Trials	402	1.5%	434	1.9%
Plea	16,731	61.8%	12,930	55.8%
Dismissal	7,777	28.8%	7,833	33.8%
<b>Chancery Division -- General Equity:</b>				
Added	4,305	--	4,424	--
Disposed of (Total)	4,996	--	4,420	--
Jury Trials	2	0.1%	4	0.1%
Non-Jury Trials	1,233	24.6%	981	22.2%
Settled, Dismissed or Discontinued:				
Before Trial Date	3,192	63.9%	3,028	68.5%
Other (Transferred, etc.)	569	11.4%	407	9.2%
<b>Chancery Division -- Matrimonial:</b>				
Added	32,237	--	24,849	--
Disposed of (Total)	31,146	--	26,466	--
In Court -- Contested	12,232	39.3%	10,388	39.2%
Uncontested	17,405	55.9%	15,581	58.9%
Settled Out of Court	58	0.2%	43	0.2%
Dismissed or Discontinued Out of Court	1,444	4.6%	451	1.7%
To General Equity, Law Division, etc.	7	0.02%	3	0.01%
<b>Juvenile &amp; Domestic Relations Courts</b>				
<b>Juvenile Delinquent:</b>				
Added	101,124	--	93,352	--
Disposed of (Total)	101,388	--	95,444	--
Downgraded to JINS Complaints	61	0.1%	123	0.1%
Marked Inactive	7,402	7.3%	6,178	6.5%
Suspended Dispositions (Narcotics) NJSA 24:21-27 (a) (1)	53	0.1%	25	0.03%
Referred Elsewhere	40,387	39.8%	37,324	39.1%
Represented by Counsel	36,235	35.7%	32,913	34.5%
Not Represented by Counsel	17,250	17.0%	18,881	19.8%
<b>Juvenile In Need of Supervision:</b>				
Added	12,469	--	12,126	--
Disposed of (Total)	12,591	--	12,072	--
Represented by Counsel	2,531	20.1%	2,454	20.3%
Not Represented by Counsel	3,802	30.2%	3,550	29.4%
Marked Inactive	746	5.9%	690	5.7%
Referred Elsewhere	5,512	43.8%	5,378	44.6%
<b>Domestic Relations &amp; Reciprocal Support:</b>				
Added	90,347	--	80,133	--
Disposed of (Total)	91,172	--	80,848	--
By Hearing	74,232	81.4%	66,547	82.3%
Referred Elsewhere	7,572	8.3%	7,226	8.9%
Marked Inactive	3,368	10.3%	7,075	8.8%
<b>County District Court:</b>				
Added	360,941	--	353,917	--
Disposed of (Total)	367,855	--	365,721	--
Jury Trials	499	0.1%	490	0.1%
Non-Jury Trials	63,728	17.3%	59,951	16.4%
Judgment by Default	139,601	37.9%	139,258	38.1%
Settled, Dismissed or Discontinued:				
By Dismissal of Inactive Cases	40,930	11.1%	43,628	11.9%
Before Trial Date	35,146	9.6%	33,943	9.3%
On Trial Date	83,691	22.8%	84,192	23.0%
Other (Marked Inactive, Transferred, etc.)	4,260	1.2%	4,259	1.2%
<b>Tax Court:</b>				
Added	8,407	--	6,925	--
Disposed of (Total)	15,564	--	11,549	--
By Trial:				
Tried to Completion	1,485	9.5%	3,134	27.1%
Without Trial:				
Withdrawn or settled before case assigned to judge	2,529	16.3%	1,689	14.6%
Withdrawn or settled after case assigned to judge	9,912	63.7%	6,275	54.3%
Disposed of by motion	358	2.3%	447	3.9%
Transferred to other courts	1	0.01%	4	0.01%
Miscellaneous Applications	1,279	8.2%	N.A.	N.A.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPREME COURT

	Sept. 1, 1980 to Aug. 31, 1981	Sept. 1, 1979 to Aug. 31, 1980	
<b>APPEALS</b>			
At beginning of Period	131	122	
Notices of appeal filed	70	68	
Certification on petitions granted	96	109	
Certifications on motion	* 22	* 37	
Appeals by leave granted	28	18	354
<b>Appeals removed from calendar:</b>			
Argued and decided	124	133	
Consolidated with certification	5	8	
Dismissed before argument	50	55	
Remanded	26	19	
Decided without argument	8	5	
Dismissed after argument	3	3	223
<b>Appeals pending at end of period:</b>			
Argued but not decided	14	12	
Held for further argument	3	2	
Perfect and ready for argument	93	79	
Not yet perfected	21	38	131
<b>Appeals pending at end of period-- Dates notices of appeal filed or certification granted:</b>			
Prior to January 1, 1979	0	2	
January 1, 1979 to March 31, 1979	0	1	
April 1, 1979 to June 30, 1979	0	1	
July 1, 1979 to August 31, 1979	0	1	
September 1, 1979 to December 31, 1979	1	14	
January 1, 1980 to March 31, 1980	9	37	
April 1, 1980 to June 30, 1980	6	38	
July 1, 1980 to August 31, 1980	3	37	
September 1, 1980 to December 31, 1980	9	0	
January 1, 1981 to March 31, 1981	16	0	
April 1, 1981 to June 30, 1981	59	0	
July 1, 1981 to August 31, 1981	28	0	131
<b>Total number of appeals argued</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>141</b>	
<b>PETITIONS FOR CERTIFICATION</b>			
At beginning of Period	211	307	
Filed	982	975	
Reinstated	4	4	
Disposed of by:			
Decision of court	837	994	
Dismissal prior to determination	78	81	
Pending at end of period	282	211	
<b>MOTIONS AND OTHER PETITIONS</b>			
At beginning of Period	152	183	
Filed	1,409	1,353	
Disposed of by:			
Decision of court	1,320	1,310	
Withdrawn prior to presentation to court	46	74	
Pending at end of period	195	152	
<b>DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS (To discipline and for reinstatement)</b>			
At beginning of Period	25	22	
Added	71	57	
Disposed of	68	54	
Pending at end of period	28	25	

\* The number of appeals certified from the Appellate Division before calendaring may not agree with the number of certifications received by the Supreme Court due to case-classification and docketing procedures.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE APPELLATE DIVISION  
OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

	Sept. 1, 1980 to Aug. 31, 1981	As published In Sept. 1, 1979 to Aug. 31, 1980	
<b>APPEALS</b>			
<b>At Beginning of Period</b>			
Argued but not decided	1	34	
Submitted on brief but not decided	0	17	
Perfect and ready for calendaring	2,333	2,115	
Not Yet Perfected	2,662	3,214	
Remand or Stay	37	N.A.	5,380
<b>Appeals Added to the Calendar</b>			
Filed	5,716	5,085	
Reinstated	90	N.A.	
Certifications remanded from Supreme Court	7	0	
<b>Total Appeals Added</b>	<b>5,813</b>	<b>5,085</b>	
<b>Appeals Removed from Calendar</b>			
Argued and decided	1,549	1,496	
Submitted and decided	2,149	2,242	
Summary disposition	49	N.A.	
Oral disposition	0	N.A.	
Dismissed before calendaring	1,233	1,662	
Certified before calendaring	** 21	** 31	5,431
<b>Appeals Pending at End of Period</b>			
Argued but not decided	3	1	
Submitted but not decided	7	0	
* Perfect and ready for calendaring	2,283	2,333	
Not Yet Perfected	3,514	2,662	
Remand or Stay	38	38	5,034
<b>Appeals Pending at End of Period -- Dates of Filing of Appeals:</b>			
Prior to January 1, 1979		181	
January 1, 1979 to March 31, 1979		174	
April 1, 1979 to June 30, 1979	112	319	
July 1, 1980 to August 31, 1979		455	
September 1, 1979 to December 31, 1979		874	
January 1, 1980 to March 31, 1980	170	872	
April 1, 1980 to June 30, 1980	350	1,150	
July 1, 1980 to August 31, 1980	470	971	
September 1, 1980 to December 31, 1980	1,033	0	
January 1, 1981 to March 31, 1981	1,134	0	
April 1, 1981 to June 30, 1981	1,455	0	
July 1, 1981 to August 31, 1981	1,083	0	
Remand or Stay	38	38	5,034
<b>Total number of appeals argued</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>1,497</b>	
<b>Total number of appeals submitted</b>	<b>2,156</b>	<b>2,242</b>	
<b>MOTIONS AND PETITIONS</b>			
At beginning of Period		351	
Filed	4,840	5,680	
Disposed of by:			
Decision of court	4,740	5,556	
Withdrawn prior to presentation to court	131	176	
Pending at end of period	285	299	

\* This figure includes those appeals already assigned dates.

\*\* The number of appeals certified from the Appellate Division before calendaring may not agree with the number of certifications received by the Supreme Court due to variance in case-classification and docketing procedures.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE TAX COURT

	Sept. 1, 1980 to Aug. 31, 1981	Sept. 1, 1979 to Aug. 31, 1980
Cases Pending at Beginning of Period	20,426	26,000
Cases Added:		
New Filings	5,509	6,082
Reinstated and Transferred Cases (Including Remands)	1,619	843
Miscellaneous Applications	<u>1,279</u>	<u>N.A.</u>
Total Cases Added	8,407	6,925
Total Pending and Added Cases	28,833	32,925
Cases Disposed of:		
By Trial:		
Tried to Completion	1,485	3,134
Without Trial:		
Withdrawn or settled <u>before</u> case assigned to judge	2,529	1,689
Withdrawn or settled <u>after</u> case assigned to judge	9,912	6,275
Disposed of by motion	358	447
Transferred to other courts	1	4
Miscellaneous Applications	<u>1,279</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Cases Disposed of	15,564	11,549
Cases Pending at End of Period	13,269	21,376
By Age:		
Less Than 1 Year	5,437	5,385
1 to 2 Years	1,666	10,586
Over 2 Years	<u>6,166</u>	<u>5,405</u>
Total Active Cases Pending	13,269	21,376

(SUMMARY OF TAX COURT ACTION IN REVIEW OF DIRECT APPEAL COMPLAINTS  
AND COUNTY TAX BOARD JUDGMENTS (LOCAL PROPERTY TAX))

165

(1) Tax Year Reviewed	(2) Total Assessments on Direct Appeal Complaints Reviewed by Tax Court	(3) Total Assessments as determined by County Tax Board Judgments in cases reviewed by Tax Court	(4) Total of Columns (2) & (3)	(5) Total Decreases in Assessments by Tax Court below assess- ments shown on Direct Appeals or County Tax Board Judgments	(6) Total Increases in Assessments by Tax Court above assess- ments shown on Direct Appeals or County Tax Board Judgments	(7) Total Assessments as deter- mined by Tax Court Judgments
1971		478,650	478,650	0	0	478,650
1972		132,200	132,200	0	0	132,200
1973		15,112,550	15,112,550	5,127,860	135,600	10,120,290
1974		57,072,125	57,072,125	13,391,813	1,132,257	44,812,569
1975		224,295,605	224,295,605	33,812,052	3,124,201	193,607,754
1976		713,805,476	713,805,476	90,029,146	13,015,182	636,791,512
1977		939,937,279	939,937,279	116,800,288	10,422,903	833,559,894
1978		1,242,557,603	1,242,557,603	175,954,429	15,594,896	1,082,198,070
1979	113,020,900	977,255,687	1,090,276,587	163,922,939	15,346,364	941,700,012
1980	465,630,504	341,318,634	806,949,138	140,429,240	7,763,840	674,283,738
1981	23,898,150	0	23,898,150	6,460,650	0	17,437,500
TOTALS	\$602,549,554	\$4,511,965,809	\$5,114,515,363	\$745,928,417	\$66,535,243	\$4,435,122,189

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION

DISPOSITION OF CIVIL CASES

FOR THE PERIOD: September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	CALENDAR AS OF: 9/1/80	CASES <sup>1</sup> / ADDED INCLUDING TRANSFRS FROM CH. DIV. OR COUNTYS	TOTAL CASES DISPOSED INCLUDING TRANSFRS OF	CALENDAR AS OF: 8/31/81			CALENDAR ONE YEAR AGO
				ACTIVE	INACTIVE	TOTAL	
ATLANTIC	1,447	1,406	1,101	1,706	46	1,752	1,447
CAPE MAY	435	400	307	506	22	528	435
CUMBERLAND	797	542	576	734	29	763	797
SALEM	149	124	123	146	4	150	149
VIC. TOT.	2,828	2,472	2,107	3,092	101	3,193	2,828
BERGEN	8,730	6,270	5,525	9,319	156	9,475	8,730
BURLINGTON	1,528	1,319	1,407	1,423	17	1,440	1,528
OCEAN	2,545	2,122	2,111	2,554	2	2,556	2,545
VIC. TOT.	4,073	3,441	3,518	3,977	19	3,996	4,073
CAMDEN	5,096	3,459	3,352	5,129	74	5,203	5,096
GLOUCESTER	1,424	904	914	1,375	39	1,414	1,424
VIC. TOT.	6,520	4,363	4,266	6,504	113	6,617	6,520
ESSEX	7,900	7,662	8,208	7,278	76	7,354	7,900
HUDSON	3,987	4,682	4,587	3,990	92	4,082	3,987
HUNTERDON	382	298	302	371	7	378	382
MERCER	2,143	1,764	1,901	1,931	75	2,006	2,143
SOMERSET	905	984	838	1,033	18	1,051	905
VIC. TOT.	3,430	3,046	3,041	3,335	100	3,435	3,430
MIDDLESEX	7,877	6,272	6,232	7,917	0	7,917	7,877
MONMOUTH*	5,730	3,716	4,508	4,885	53	4,938	5,509
MORRIS*	2,053	2,234	1,544	2,714	29	2,743	2,048
SUSSEX	504	451	380	563	12	575	504
WARREN	222	218	242	189	9	198	222
VIC. TOT.*	2,779	2,903	2,166	3,466	50	3,516	2,774
PASSAIC	2,545	4,242	3,746	2,975	66	3,041	2,545
UNION	3,626	2,913	2,858	3,557	124	3,681	3,626
TOTAL*	60,025	51,982	50,762	60,295	950	61,245	--
TOTAL ONE YEAR AGO	**58,759	48,065	47,025	58,985	814	--	**59,799

\* Data differs from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the 1979-80 Annual report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.

\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to +226 cases pending as of 8/31/80.

1/ The calendar is the list of cases which have reached issue. A case is added to the calendar when the first answer is filed, R 4:36-2.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION

AGES OF ACTIVE CIVIL CASES ON CALENDAR

(AGE FROM DATE OF COMPLAINT OR REINSTATEMENT)

As of August 31, 1981

COUNTY	UNDER 6 MO.	6 TO 12 MO.	1+ TO 1 1/2 YEARS	1 1/2+ TO 2 YEARS	2+ TO 3 YEARS	OVER 3 YEARS	TOTAL	% OVER 1 YEAR OLD	% OVER 2 YEARS OLD
CAPE MAY	117	129	133	74	45	8	506	51.38%	10.47%
CUMBERLAND	169	198	169	124	63	11	734	50.00%	10.08%
SALEM	38	38	35	20	12	3	146	47.95%	10.27%
VIC. TOT.	721	870	789	476	200	36	3,092	48.54%	7.63%
BERGEN	1,687	2,600	1,946	1,378	1,544	164	9,319	54.00%	18.33%
BURLINGTON	459	417	363	132	40	12	1,423	38.44%	3.65%
OCEAN	678	787	597	242	174	76	2,554	42.64%	9.79%
VIC. TOT.	1,137	1,204	960	374	214	88	3,977	41.14%	7.59%
CAMDEN	833	1,319	1,266	914	681	116	5,129	58.04%	15.54%
GLOUCESTER	223	318	354	224	213	43	1,375	60.65%	18.62%
VIC. TOT.	1,056	1,637	1,620	1,138	894	159	6,504	58.59%	16.19%
ESSEX	1,601	2,675	2,400	440	121	41	7,278	41.25%	2.23%
HUDSON	1,101	1,508	976	299	96	10	3,990	34.61%	2.66%
HUNTERDON	97	116	105	27	20	6	371	42.59%	7.01%
MERCER	292	522	530	417	139	31	1,921	57.85%	8.80%
SOMERSET	318	343	300	53	12	7	1,033	36.01%	1.84%
VIC. TOT.	707	981	935	497	171	44	3,335	49.39%	6.45%
MIDDLESEX	2,936	2,354	1,723	694	192	18	7,917	33.18%	2.65%
MONMOUTH	1,179	1,287	1,117	647	580	75	4,885	49.52%	13.41%
MORRIS	760	761	779	380	34	0	2,714	43.96%	1.25%
SUSSEX	137	146	139	80	55	6	563	49.73%	10.83%
WARREN	121	42	17	9	0	0	189	13.76%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	1,018	949	935	469	89	6	3,466	43.25%	2.74%
PASSAIC	1,012	1,350	515	77	15	6	2,975	20.61%	.71%
UNION	647	1,076	869	772	174	19	3,557	51.56%	5.43%
TOTAL	14,802	18,491	14,785	7,261	4,290	666	60,295	44.78%	8.22%
TOTALS 1 YEAR * AGO	12,467	17,754	14,405	8,370	5,401	588	58,985	48.76%	10.15%

\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION  
INVENTORY OF INDICTMENTS AND ACCUSATIONS

COMBINED

FOR THE PERIOD September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	PENDING THIS MONTH'S AS OF : 9/1/80				PENDING AS OF : 8/31/81				PEND. PLEA/ TRIAL 1 YEAR AGO	TOTAL PEND. 1 YEAR AGO	
	ACTIVE PLEA/ TRIAL	ADDED INCL. KE - OPENED	DISPO- TIONS	ACTIVE PLEA/ TRIAL	SUSP. (NAR- COTIC)	POST- PONE, UNTRI- (PTI) ABLE*	INACT. (BY JUDGE)	TOTAL			
ATLANTIC **1,629	585	1,421	2,016	361	91	74	508	0	1,034	585	1,390
CAPE MAY 552	233	412	537	112	0	33	266	16	427	233	552
CUMBERLAND 1,155	562	871	1,071	213	34	80	618	10	955	562	1,155
SALEM **531	218	582	528	217	29	55	280	4	585	218	532
VIC. TOT**3,867	1,598	3,286	4,152	903	154	242	1,672	30	3,001	1,598	3,629
BERGEN **1,607	1,147	1,505	1,565	1,105	83	74	0	285	1,547	1,147	1,608
BURLINGTON **458	244	1,264	1,043	405	3	21	244	6	679	244	449
OCEAN 559	468	715	741	386	26	106	0	15	533	468	559
VIC. TOT**1,017	712	1,979	1,784	791	29	127	244	21	1,212	712	1,008
CAMDEN 3,068	1,266	2,238	2,371	1,067	68	128	1,652	20	2,935	1,266	3,068
GLOUCESTER 1,277	651	1,217	1,231	478	91	98	512	84	1,263	651	1,277
VIC. TOT. 4,345	1,917	3,455	3,602	1,545	159	226	2,164	104	4,198	1,917	4,345
ESSEX **4,858	1,970	4,526	3,558	2,827	24	0	2,148	487	5,826	1,970	4,879
HUDSON **2,637	1,218	2,069	1,610	1,435	18	126	1,306	211	3,096	1,218	2,651
HUNTERDON 409	193	375	386	199	13	37	41	108	398	193	409
MERCER 1,438	683	1,337	1,548	772	32	126	109	688	1,727	683	1,438
SOMERSET 396	292	582	558	210	0	38	0	172	420	292	396
VIC. TOT. 2,243	1,168	2,794	2,492	1,181	45	201	150	968	2,545	1,168	2,243
MIDDLESEX**2,580	1,501	2,453	2,057	1,459	110	61	1,346	0	2,976	1,501	2,638
MONMOUTH 1,120	530	1,791	1,584	541	73	111	153	449	1,327	530	1,120
MORRIS **625	317	811	692	325	47	131	18	223	744	317	621
SUSSEX **246	131	315	269	173	19	47	29	24	292	131	241
WARREN 673	596	291	277	386	28	82	0	191	687	596	673
VIC. TOT**1,544	1,044	1,417	1,238	884	94	260	47	438	1,723	1,044	1,535
PASSAIC **2,169	890	1,787	1,610	1,157	28	172	77	912	2,346	890	2,167
UNION **1,485	800	2,039	1,803	905	65	111	69	571	1,721	800	1,486
TOTAL **29,472	14,495	29,101	27,055	14,733	882	2,051	9,376	4,476	31,518	--	--
TOTALS										***	
1 YEAR***29,495	13,877	22,980	23,166	14,495	627	1,501	6,595	6,091	29,309	14,495	29,309
AGO											

\* Warrant outstanding or parties not available for trial; however, indictments and accusations thereon not marked inactive. Counties may vary as to criteria for considering indictments and accusations "untrialable."  
 \*\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.  
 \*\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to +163 cases pending as of August 31, 1980.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION

ACTIVE INDICTMENTS AND ACCUSATIONS PENDING PLEA OR TRIAL  
AGES FROM DATE OF FILING OF INDICTMENTS AND ACCUSATIONS

COMBINED

As of August 31, 1981

COUNTY	UNDER 6 MO.	6 TO 12 MO.	1+ TO 1 1/2 YEARS	1 1/2+ TO 2 YEARS	2+ TO 3 YEARS	OVER 3 YEARS	TOTAL	% OVER 1 YEAR OLD	% OVER 2 YEARS OLD
ATLANTIC	304	48	7	1	0	1	361	2.49%	.28%
CAPE MAY	74	24	9	2	2	1	112	12.50%	2.68%
CUMBERLAND	207	6	0	0	0	0	213	.00%	.00%
SALEM	185	28	2	2	0	0	217	1.84%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	770	106	18	5	2	2	903	2.99%	.44%
BERGEN	507	239	180	61	79	39	1,105	32.49%	10.68%
BURLINGTON	333	71	1	0	0	0	405	.25%	.00%
OCEAN	228	78	59	14	7	0	386	20.73%	1.81%
VIC. TOT.	561	149	60	14	7	0	791	10.24%	.88%
CAMDEN	852	69	14	14	31	87	1,067	13.68%	11.06%
GLOUCESTER	289	31	73	16	16	3	478	22.59%	3.97%
VIC. TOT.	1,141	150	87	30	47	90	1,545	16.44%	8.87%
ESSEX	1,582	652	281	108	106	98	2,827	20.98%	7.22%
HUDSON	760	271	152	107	79	66	1,435	28.15%	10.10%
HUNTERDON	167	19	5	2	3	3	199	6.53%	3.02%
MERCER	576	127	28	19	12	10	772	8.94%	2.85%
SOMERSET	136	39	28	5	2	0	210	16.67%	.95%
VIC. TOT.	879	185	61	26	17	13	1,181	9.91%	2.54%
MIDDLESEX	818	247	200	60	102	32	1,459	27.00%	9.18%
MONMOUTH	450	53	24	6	4	4	541	7.02%	1.48%
MORRIS	271	25	15	8	5	1	325	8.92%	1.85%
SUSSEX	106	54	6	4	1	2	173	7.51%	1.73%
WARREN	113	105	89	61	12	6	386	43.52%	4.66%
VIC. TOT.	490	184	110	73	18	9	884	23.76%	3.05%
PASSAIC	796	194	119	25	17	6	1,157	14.43%	1.99%
UNION	679	125	23	32	20	21	905	11.16%	4.53%
TOTAL*	9,433	2,555	1,320	547	498	380	14,733	18.63%	5.96%
TOTAL 1 YEAR AGO	* 8,682	2,871	1,296	610	666	370	14,495	20.29%	7.14%

\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report.

SUPERIOR COURT LAW DIVISION  
 SUPPLEMENTAL CRIMINAL REPORT  
 COMBINED  
 INVENTORY OF CRIMINAL CASES 1/ (INDICTMENTS AND ACCUSATIONS X PERSONS)  
 FOR THE PERIOD of September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	PENDING AS OF : 9/1/80				THIS MONTH'S TRANSACTIONS:				PENDING AS OF : 8/31/81				ACTIVE PEND.	
	TOTAL	ACTIVE PLEA/ TRIAL	ADDED RE - OPENED	DISPO- SI- TIONS	ACTIVE PLEA/ TRIAL	SUSP. (NAR- COTIC)	POST- PONE, (PTI)	UNTRI- ABLE*	INACT. (BY JUDGE)	TOTAL	PLEA/ TRIAL 1 YEAR AGO	TOTAL PEND. 1 YEAR AGO		
Atlantic	** 1,623	827	1,716	2,174	435	101	79	550	0	1,165	827	1,781		
Cape May	663	338	503	680	153	0	35	281	17	486	338	663		
Cumberland	1,297	673	1,184	1,448	237	42	98	645	11	1,033	673	1,297		
Salem	** 621	274	726	689	255	30	61	308	4	658	274	619		
Vic. Total**	4,204	2,112	4,129	4,991	1,080	173	273	1,784	32	3,342	2,112	4,360		
Bergen	** 2,126	1,576	2,134	2,128	1,610	104	93	0	325	2,132	1,576	2,128		
Burlington	** 499	280	1,291	1,095	416	3	21	249	6	695	280	496		
Ocean	717	608	927	970	505	32	121	0	16	674	608	717		
Vic. Total**	1,216	888	2,218	2,065	921	35	142	249	22	1,369	888	1,213		
Camden	3,562	1,488	2,699	2,938	1,298	81	139	1,785	20	3,323	1,488	3,562		
Gloucester	1,623	846	1,274	1,503	516	99	102	575	102	1,394	846	1,623		
Vic. Total	5,185	2,334	3,973	4,441	1,814	180	241	2,360	122	4,717	2,334	5,185		
Essex	** 5,817	2,585	5,972	4,604	3,735	25	389	2,506	530	7,185	2,585	5,813		
Hudson	** 3,349	1,634	2,861	2,252	1,900	28	161	1,653	216	3,958	1,634	3,386		
Hunterdon	494	241	461	492	237	13	41	47	125	463	241	494		
Mercer	1,663	794	2,142	1,821	891	33	134	124	802	1,984	794	1,663		
Somerset	475	364	804	694	344	1	48	0	192	585	364	475		
Vic. Total	2,632	1,399	3,407	3,007	1,472	47	223	171	1,119	3,032	1,399	2,632		
Middlesex	** 2,951	1,807	3,055	2,513	1,775	125	66	1,527	0	3,493	1,807	3,063		
Monmouth	** 1,392	710	2,393	2,140	728	83	127	211	496	1,645	710	1,393		
Morris	** 799	445	1,086	949	464	52	156	19	245	936	445	797		
Sussex	** 294	163	417	353	229	20	52	32	25	358	163	290		
Warren	** 823	724	333	320	477	34	87	0	238	836	724	807		
Vic. Total**	1,916	1,332	1,836	1,622	1,170	106	295	51	508	2,130	1,332	1,894		
Passaic	** 2,608	1,098	2,191	2,072	1,372	29	206	93	1,027	2,727	1,098	2,604		
Union	** 1,823	1,041	2,534	2,323	1,131	70	120	96	617	2,034	1,041	1,824		
TOTAL	** 35,219	18,516	36,703	34,158	18,708	1,005	2,336	10,701	5,014	37,764	-	-		
TOTAL 1 YEAR AGO	35,434	17,592	28,943	28,882	18,516	713	1,753	7,575	6,938	35,495	18,516	35,495		

1/ For the purpose of this page, each defendant named on each indictment is counted as a separate case. For example, if A and B are indicted in one indictment containing five counts against each defendant, there are two cases: one against A and one against B. If A is indicted on four indictments, there are four cases against A. In other words, each indictment against each defendant constitutes a separate case.

\* Warrant outstanding or parties not available for trial; however, indictments and accusations thereon not marked inactive. Counties may vary as to criteria for considering indictments and accusations "untrialable".

\*\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION  
 SUPPLEMENTAL CRIMINAL REPORT  
 AGES OF ACTIVE CRIMINAL CASES  
 (COMBINED)  
 (INDICTMENTS AND ACCUSATIONS X PERSONS) PENDING PLEA OR TRIAL  
 AS OF AUGUST 31, 1981

COUNTY	Under 6 Months	6 to 12 Months	1+ to 11/2 Years	11/2+ to 2 Years	2+ to 3 Years	Over 3 Years	TOTAL	% Over 1 Year Old
Atlantic	359	60	13	2	0	1	435	3.68%
Cape May	104	29	15	2	2	1	153	13.07%
Cumberland	228	9	0	0	0	0	237	.00%
Salem	216	32	4	3	0	0	255	2.75%
Vic. Total	907	130	32	7	2	2	1,080	4.26%
Bergen	761	338	271	85	106	49	1,610	31.74%
Burlington	335	80	1	0	0	0	416	.24%
Ocean	297	109	72	19	8	0	505	19.60%
Vic. Total	632	189	73	19	8	0	921	10.86%
Camden	1,045	78	15	16	41	103	1,298	13.48%
Gloucester	292	81	103	16	21	3	516	27.71%
Vic. Total	1,337	159	118	32	62	106	1,814	17.53%
Essex	2,080	853	385	121	165	131	3,735	21.47%
Hudson	1,096	333	192	109	92	78	1,900	24.79%
Hunterdon	204	19	5	2	4	3	237	5.91%
Mercer	661	156	30	20	13	11	891	8.31%
Somerset	200	106	31	5	2	0	344	11.05%
Vic. Total	1,065	281	66	27	19	14	1,472	8.56%
Middlesex	1,016	299	239	79	109	33	1,775	25.92%
Monmouth	609	72	27	12	4	4	728	6.46%
Morris	397	32	15	14	5	1	464	7.54%
Sussex	145	67	8	5	1	3	229	7.42%
Warren	130	142	114	73	12	6	477	42.98%
Vic. Total	672	241	137	92	18	10	1,170	21.97%
Passaic	940	228	140	33	24	7	1,372	14.87%
Union	851	152	44	38	24	22	1,131	11.32%
TOTAL	11,966	3,275	1,724	654	633	456	18,708	18.53%
TOTAL 1 YEAR AGO	11,204	3,622	1,662	755	826	447	18,516	19.93%

1/ For the purpose of this page, each defendant named on each indictment is counted as a separate case. For example, if A and B are indicted in one indictment containing five counts against each defendant, there are two cases: one against A and one against B. If A is indicted on four indictments, there are four cases against A. In other words, each indictment against each defendant constitutes a separate case.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION  
 PETITIONS FOR POST-CONVICTION RELIEF, RULE 3:22  
 September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	Petitions Pending at Beginning of Month	Petitions Filed During Month	Petitions Disposed of During Month	PETITIONS PENDING AT END OF MONTH BY AGE FROM DATE OF FILING					TOTAL	Pending 1 Year Ago
				Under 1 Month Old	1 to 3 Months Old	3+ to 6 Months Old	Over 6 Months Old	TOTAL		
Atlantic	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Cape May	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Cumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Salem	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>	
<u>Bergen</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	
Burlington	2	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Ocean	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	
Camden	3	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Gloucester	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	
<u>Essex</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	
<u>Hudson</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	
Hunterdon	0	5	4	0	1	0	0	1	0	
Mercer	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	2	0	
Somerset	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Middlesex</u>	<u>* 4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	
<u>Monmouth</u>	<u>* 8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	
Morris	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sussex	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Warren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>* 0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
<u>Passaic</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	
<u>Union</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>*42</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>--</b>	
<b>TOTAL 1 YEAR AGO</b>	<b>**35</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>**43</b>	

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.

\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recount amounted to -1 case pending as of August 31, 1980.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION  
 PROBATE PART  
 DISPOSITION OF CONTESTED PROBATE MATTERS

September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	Calendar as of Sept. 1, 1980	Cases Added	Cases Disposed of	CALENDAR AS OF August 31, 1981			Total	Calendar as of 1 Year Ago
				Under 6 Months old	6 to 12 Months old	Over 1 year old		
Atlantic	* 20	24	23	9	4	8	21	21
Cape May	10	32	35	6	0	1	7	10
Cumberland	10	7	11	4	0	2	6	10
Salem	1	5	2	2	1	1	4	1
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>* 41</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>Bergen</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>20</u>
Burlington	4	20	22	2	0	0	2	4
Ocean	13	23	23	9	1	3	13	13
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>
Camden	12	17	14	4	7	4	15	12
Gloucester	1	4	4	0	1	0	1	1
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Essex</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Hudson</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>
Hunterdon	9	46	43	10	2	0	12	9
Mercer	44	100	124	18	1	1	20	44
Somerset	11	22	18	6	4	5	15	11
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>64</u>
<u>Middlesex</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Monmouth</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
Morris	* 11	37	32	13	0	3	16	9
Sussex	4	7	6	3	1	1	5	4
Warren	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>* 16</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Passaic</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Union</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>* 249</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>TOTAL 1 YEAR AGO</b>	<b>**252</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>** 248</b>

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the year.

\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recount amounted to +1 case pending as of August 31, 1980.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION  
APPEALS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COURTS

September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	Total Ap- peals Pend- ing at Beg- of Period	Appeals Taken	Appeals Disposed of	Ages of Pending Appeals from Date of Filing of Notice				Total Ap- peals Pend- ing at End of Period	Appeals Pending 1 Year Ago
				Under 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6+ to 12 Months	Over 1 Year		
Atlantic	35	143	155	23	0	0	0	23	35
Cape May	14	53	52	14	1	0	0	15	14
Cumberland	22	59	79	2	0	0	0	2	22
Salem	4	40	39	5	0	0	0	5	4
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>325</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>75</u>
<u>Bergen</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>304</u>	<u>290</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>83</u>
Burlington	56	181	177	38	14	6	2	60	56
Ocean	26	203	198	29	2	0	0	31	26
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>384</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>82</u>
Camden	40	158	162	35	1	0	0	36	40
Gloucester	18	90	77	20	7	2	2	31	18
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>239</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>58</u>
<u>Essex</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>251</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>52</u>
<u>Hudson</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>
Hunterdon	6	37	22	8	12	1	0	21	6
Mercer	67	164	170	36	25	0	0	61	67
Somerset	15	84	87	11	1	0	0	12	15
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>279</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>Middlesex</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>288</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Monmouth</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>272</u>	<u>293</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>51</u>
Morris	40	171	177	29	1	3	1	34	40
Sussex	* 25	68	53	18	13	9	1	40	24
Warren	23	42	50	10	3	2	0	15	23
<u>Vic. Total</u>	<u>* 88</u>	<u>281</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>87</u>
<u>Passaic</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>109</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Union</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>48</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>*695</b>	<b>2,942</b>	<b>2,950</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>TOTAL 1 YEAR AGO</b>	<b>** 739</b>	<b>2,783</b>	<b>2,828</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>**694</b>

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.  
\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amount to +1 case pending as of August 31, 1980.

NOTICE TO READERS

Beginning March 1, 1981, caseload data reported from the Matrimonial Courts reflects cases as added to the calendar upon filing of a complaint. Prior Matrimonial reporting definitions required that cases be added to the calendar only after an answer or appearance had been made (usually several months after the date of the complaint). This change in reporting definitions has necessitated a recount of all open Matrimonial complaints as of March 1, 1981.

Statewide, a total of 19,021 Matrimonial complaints were open as of March 1, 1981 compared with the tally of 6,685 under the prior reporting definitions. Therefore, an additional 12,336 cases were placed on the trial calendars adjusting for the new reporting definitions.

This adjustment was shown as additional cases pending but without being included in cases added for March, 1981. Starting with March, 1981, new Matrimonial complaints filed and received by the county will be recorded as cases added.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION

MATRIMONIAL

DISPOSITION OF CASES

FOR PERIOD As of September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	1/CAL- NEW ENDAR CASES AS OF: ADDED CASES * AND DIS- 9/1/80 REINST. POSED			CALENDAR AS OF: 8/31/81			TOTAL PENDING 1 YEAR AGO
	ACTIVE	IN- ACTIVE	TOTAL CASES PENDING				
ATLANTIC	781	995	1,140	533	3	636	144
CAPE MAY	297	172	271	198	0	198	63
CUMBERLAND	431	588	611	407	1	408	98
SALEM	190	257	281	162	4	166	25
VIC. TOT.	1,699	2,012	2,303	1,400	8	1,408	330
BERGEN	1,887	3,906	3,608	2,178	7	2,185	806
BURLINGTON	955	1,913	1,826	1,039	3	1,042	275
OCEAN	501	1,993	1,842	652	0	652	134
VIC. TOT.	1,456	3,906	3,668	1,691	3	1,694	409
CAMDEN	804	2,278	1,994	1,088	0	1,088	362
GLOUCESTER	677	1,064	1,006	734	1	735	121
VIC. TOT.	1,481	3,342	3,000	1,822	1	1,823	483
ESSEX	2,007	3,031	2,499	2,539	0	2,539	350
HUDSON	1,259	2,491	2,108	1,642	0	1,642	374
HUNTERDON	230	468	451	246	1	247	126
MERCER	1,151	1,465	1,622	980	14	994	504
SOMERSET	473	781	827	427	0	427	146
VIC. TOT.	1,854	2,714	2,900	1,653	15	1,668	776
MIDDLESEX	2,151	2,362	2,690	1,823	0	1,823	481
MONMOUTH	1,767	2,284	2,467	1,584	0	1,584	552
MORRIS	1,245	1,119	1,135	1,229	0	1,229	354
SUSSEX	408	494	486	416	0	416	110
WARREN	237	338	359	216	0	216	70
VIC. TOT.	1,890	1,951	1,980	1,861	0	1,861	534
PASSAIC	1,369	1,945	1,763	1,551	0	1,551	287
UNION	1,129	2,293	2,160	1,260	2	1,262	273
TOTAL*	19,949	32,237	31,146	21,004	36	21,040	--
TOTALS 1 YEAR*- AGO	7,272	24,849	26,466	5,619	36	--	**5,655

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in 1979-80 Annual Report, because of transfers among counties and recounts by the counties from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of their reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.

\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to 14,294 cases pending as of August 31, 1980.

1/ A change in procedure occurred during 1980-81 court year. Cases added are number of complaints filed. Prior to this year cases added were the number of complaints to which an answer was filed.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION

MATRIMONIAL

AGES OF ACTIVE CASES ON CALENDAR

AGE FROM DATE OF COMPLAINT OR REINSTATEMENT

As of August 31, 1981

COUNTY	UNDER 6 MO.	6 TO 12 MO.	1+ TO 1 1/2 YEARS	1 1/2+ TO 2 YEARS	2+ TO 3 YEARS	OVER 3 YEARS	TOTAL	% OVER	
								1 YEAR OLD	2 YEARS OLD
ATLANTIC	424	200	5	3	1	0	633	1.42%	.16%
CAPE MAY	134	39	18	5	2	0	198	12.63%	1.01%
CUMBERLAND	283	66	33	8	10	7	407	14.25%	4.18%
SALEM	103	29	18	4	6	2	162	18.52%	4.94%
VIC. TOT.	944	334	74	20	19	9	1,400	8.71%	2.00%
BERGEN	1,185	611	256	85	40	1	2,178	17.54%	1.88%
BURLINGTON	720	175	74	45	22	3	1,039	13.86%	2.41%
OCEAN	571	76	5	0	0	0	652	.77%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	1,291	251	79	45	22	3	1,691	8.81%	1.48%
CAMDEN	889	109	49	24	15	2	1,088	8.27%	1.56%
GLOUCESTER	445	134	68	46	29	12	734	21.12%	5.59%
VIC. TOT.	1,334	243	117	70	44	14	1,822	13.45%	3.18%
ESSEX	1,158	883	431	41	26	0	2,539	19.61%	1.02%
HUDSON	1,036	378	157	54	16	1	1,642	13.89%	1.04%
HUNTERDON	191	42	9	3	1	0	246	5.28%	.41%
MERCER	646	212	87	34	1	0	980	12.45%	.10%
SOMERSET	302	104	21	0	0	0	427	4.92%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	1,139	358	117	37	2	0	1,653	9.44%	.12%
MIDDLESEX	1,032	465	197	67	56	6	1,823	17.88%	3.40%
MONMOUTH	1,081	329	118	21	27	8	1,584	10.98%	2.21%
MORRIS	651	453	110	10	5	0	1,229	10.17%	.41%
SUSSEX	218	107	53	16	21	1	416	21.88%	5.29%
WARREN	157	51	8	0	0	0	216	3.70%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	1,026	611	171	26	26	1	1,861	12.04%	1.45%
PASSAIC	979	396	151	23	2	0	1,551	11.35%	.13%
UNION	834	286	138	1	1	0	1,260	11.11%	.08%
TOTAL	13,039	5,145	2,006	490	281	43	21,004	13.43%	1.54%
TOTALS 1 YEAR* AGO	1,764	2,137	1,097	394	179	48	5,619	30.57%	4.04%

\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION

GENERAL EQUITY

DISPOSITION OF CASES

FOR PERIOD September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	CAL- ENDAR AS OF: * 9/1/80	NEW CASES ADDED AND REINST.	CASES DIS- POSED	CALENDAR AS OF: 8/31/81				TOTAL PEND. 1 YEAR AGO	
				PRE- TRIED	NOT PRE TRIED	IN- ACTIVE	TOTAL PEND.		
ATLANTIC	225	267	351	75	66	141	0	141	236
CAPE MAY	79	96	107	25	43	59	9	68	82
CUMBERLAND	65	85	100	25	25	49	1	50	64
SALEM	20	17	29	6	2	7	1	8	20
VIC. TOT.	389	465	587	131	136	256	11	267	402
BERGEN	199	426	437	39	149	182	6	188	358
BURLINGTON	160	199	201	71	87	149	9	158	151
OCEAN	196	303	336	48	115	151	12	163	194
VIC. TOT.	356	502	537	119	202	300	21	321	345
CAMDEN	221	266	309	90	88	156	22	178	223
GLOUCESTER	103	125	137	25	66	86	5	91	103
VIC. TOT.	324	391	446	115	154	242	27	269	326
ESSEX	437	403	565	133	142	270	5	275	435
HUDSON	188	250	317	34	87	116	5	121	93
HUNTERDON	39	93	79	7	46	51	2	53	39
MERCER	89	148	160	6	71	69	8	77	88
SOMERSET	66	96	102	6	54	53	7	60	67
VIC. TOT.	194	337	341	19	171	173	17	190	194
MIDDLESEX	171	271	269	35	138	172	1	173	170
MONMOUTH	184	343	370	39	118	157	0	157	187
MORRIS	204	246	335	25	90	113	2	115	205
SUSSEX	50	105	106	7	42	47	2	49	49
WARREN	19	50	43	7	19	25	1	26	19
VIC. TOT.	273	401	484	39	151	185	5	190	273
PASSAIC	229	317	409	40	97	131	6	137	175
UNION	160	199	234	45	80	116	9	125	160
TOTAL	*3,104	4,305	4,996	788	1,625	2,300	113	2,413	--
TOTALS 1 YEAR** AGO	3,114	4,424	4,420	1,113	2,005	2,991	127	--	**3,118

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report, because of transfers and recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.  
\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to -14 cases pending as of August 31, 1980.

SUPERIOR COURT, LAW DIVISION

GENERAL EQUITY  
AGES OF ACTIVE CASES ON CALENDAR

AGE FROM DATE OF COMPLAINT OR REINSTATEMENT

As of August 31, 1981

COUNTY	UNDER 6 MO.	6 TO 12 MO.	1+ TO 1 1/2 YEARS	1 1/2+ TO 2 YEARS	2+ TO 3 YEARS	OVER 3 YEARS	TOTAL	% OVER	
								1 YEAR OLD	2 YEARS OLD
ATLANTIC	67	34	36	4	0	0	141	28.37%	.00%
CAPE MAY	37	15	5	1	0	1	59	11.86%	1.69%
CUMBERLAND	17	14	9	4	3	2	49	36.73%	10.20%
SALEM	2	4	1	0	0	0	7	14.29%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	123	67	51	9	3	3	256	25.78%	2.34%
BERGEN	74	62	29	10	6	1	182	25.27%	3.85%
BURLINGTON	47	59	24	15	2	2	149	28.86%	2.68%
OCEAN	63	62	21	4	1	0	151	17.22%	.66%
VIC. TOT.	110	121	45	19	3	2	300	23.00%	1.67%
CAMDEN	86	41	11	11	4	3	156	18.59%	4.49%
GLOUCESTER	38	24	8	10	4	2	86	27.91%	6.98%
VIC. TOT.	124	65	19	21	8	5	242	21.90%	5.37%
ESSEX	85	108	47	16	11	3	270	28.52%	5.19%
HUDSON	86	25	2	0	2	1	116	4.31%	2.59%
HUNTERDON	26	18	5	1	0	1	51	13.73%	1.96%
MERCER	39	19	7	3	0	1	69	15.94%	1.45%
SOMERSET	36	10	5	2	0	0	53	13.21%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	101	47	17	6	0	2	173	14.45%	1.16%
MIDDLESEX	98	44	21	4	5	0	172	17.44%	2.91%
MONMOUTH	112	32	9	3	1	0	157	8.28%	.64%
MORRIS	60	37	9	1	4	2	113	14.16%	5.31%
SUSSEX	21	18	3	4	1	0	47	17.02%	2.13%
WARREN	16	5	3	1	0	0	25	16.00%	.00%
VIC. TOT.	97	60	15	6	5	2	185	15.14%	3.78%
PASSAIC	76	42	11	1	0	1	131	9.92%	.76%
UNION	49	39	17	6	4	1	116	24.14%	4.31%
TOTAL	1,135	712	283	101	48	21	2,300	19.70%	3.00%
TOTALS 1 YEAR * AGO	1,301	1,073	389	124	80	24	2,991	20.63%	3.48%

\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report.

**CONTINUED**

**2 OF 3**

JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT  
DISPOSITION OF JUVENILE DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS

FOR THE PERIOD September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	ACTIVE COMPL. PENDING 9/1/80	COMPL. FILED INCL. REINS. & TRANS.	COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF							ACTIVE COMPLAINTS PENDING AT END OF MONTH				PENDING 1 YEAR AGO
			DOWN-GRADED TO JINSD.	MARKED BY JUDGE	SUSP. DISP. (NAR-COTIC)	REF. INTAKE, BY ETC.	HEARING		TOTAL OF	AT END OF MONTH				
							REP. COUNS.	NOT REP. COUNS.		REP. MAND.	REP. NOT MAND.	OTHER	TOTAL	
ATLANTIC	275	5,574	0	671	0	1,696	2,047	1,086	5,500	212	137	0	349	275
CAPE MAY	416	2,324	3	167	11	950	637	2,460	194	86	0	280	416	
CUMBERLAND	171	2,385	0	128	0	1,264	608	511	2,511	28	9	8	45	171
SALEM	211	1,018	1	18	0	445	450	98	1,012	187	30	0	217	211
VIC. TOT.	1,073	11,301	4	984	11	4,355	3,797	2,332	11,483	621	262	8	891	1,073
BERGEN	1,216	7,578	0	312	0	3,485	1,573	2,495	7,865	469	460	0	929	1,216
BURLINGTON	353	6,140	0	189	0	2,580	1,482	1,812	6,063	295	135	0	430	353
OCEAN	184	3,615	0	14	0	1,611	1,234	625	3,484	198	117	0	315	184
VIC. TOT.	537	9,755	0	203	0	4,191	2,716	2,437	9,547	493	252	0	745	537
CAMDEN	574	9,221	0	568	0	4,466	3,112	971	9,117	540	138	0	678	574
GLOUCESTER	* 457	3,229	0	45	0	1,914	626	634	3,219	332	135	0	467	459
VIC. TOT.	* 1,031	12,450	0	613	0	6,380	3,738	1,605	12,336	872	273	0	1,145	1,033
ESSEX	1,369	12,252	0	1,528	0	4,485	6,331	28	12,372	1,249	0	0	1,249	1,369
HUDSON	* 992	6,311	0	825	0	1,882	2,213	747	5,667	1,221	415	0	1,636	990
HUNTERDON	* 163	890	2	56	0	299	263	241	861	132	60	0	192	165
MERCER	* 1,050	5,225	2	568	0	1,615	1,713	1,451	5,349	556	330	40	926	1,022
SOMERSET	286	1,530	0	37	0	651	659	244	1,591	159	66	0	225	286
VIC. TOT.	* 1,499	7,645	4	661	0	2,565	2,635	1,936	7,801	847	456	40	1,343	1,473
MIDDLESEX	886	7,078	1	588	33	2,825	2,174	1,580	7,201	526	237	0	763	886
MONMOUTH	* 1,119	6,693	3	236	1	2,983	2,562	1,309	7,094	438	280	0	718	1,128
MORRIS	405	3,395	13	50	0	2,263	705	518	3,549	132	119	0	251	405
SUSSEX	132	1,059	0	56	0	481	201	360	1,098	0	93	0	93	132
WARREN	252	1,247	14	0	3	466	479	273	1,235	264	0	0	264	252
VIC. TOT.	789	5,701	27	106	3	3,210	1,385	1,151	5,882	396	212	0	608	789
PASSAIC	* 1,974	8,085	0	975	0	2,187	4,343	196	7,701	2,135	223	0	2,358	1,297
UNION	815	6,275	22	371	5	1,839	2,768	1,434	6,439	423	228	0	651	815
TOTAL*	13,300	101,124	61	7,402	53	40,387	36,235	17,250	101,388	9,690	3,298	48	13,036	--
TOTALS 1 YEAR** AGO	14,698	93,352	123	6,178	25	37	24	32,913	18,881	95,444	8,831	3,561	214	--**12,606

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.  
\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to +694 cases pending as of August 31, 1980.

JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS  
ACTIVE JUVENILE DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS PENDING AT END OF MONTH  
BY COUNSEL STATUS AND BY AGE FROM DATE OF COMPLAINT

As of August 31, 1981

COUNTY	UNDER 1 MONTH			1+ TO 3 MONTHS			3+ TO 6 MONTHS			OVER 6 MONTHS		
	REP. BY COUNS. MAND.	REP. BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER	REP. BY COUNS. MAND.	REP. BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER	REP. BY COUNS. MAND.	REP. BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER	REP. BY COUNS. MAND.	REP. BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER
	ATLANTIC	148	119	0	64	17	0	0	1	0	0	0
CAPE MAY	49	49	0	102	37	0	33	0	0	10	0	0
CUMBERLAND	7	5	8	21	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALEM	41	9	0	69	10	0	57	8	0	20	3	0
VIC. TOT.	245	182	8	256	68	0	90	9	0	30	3	0
BERGEN	52	134	0	171	224	0	163	71	0	83	31	0
BURLINGTON	176	112	0	61	18	0	52	4	0	6	1	0
OCEAN	129	77	0	61	30	0	8	10	0	0	0	0
VIC. TOT.	305	189	0	122	48	0	60	14	0	6	1	0
CAMDEN	250	37	0	265	91	0	25	10	0	0	0	0
GLOUCESTER	109	45	0	139	82	0	73	4	0	11	4	0
VIC. TOT.	359	82	0	404	173	0	98	14	0	11	4	0
ESSEX	414	0	0	501	0	0	223	0	0	111	0	0
HUDSON	201	79	0	336	194	0	349	92	0	335	50	0
HUNTERDON	26	19	0	93	40	0	13	1	0	0	0	0
MERCER	137	70	37	298	247	3	111	12	0	10	1	0
SOMERSET	27	20	0	106	38	0	26	7	0	0	1	0
VIC. TOT.	190	109	37	497	325	3	150	20	0	10	2	0
MIDDLESEX	131	89	0	238	111	0	92	27	0	65	10	0
MONMOUTH	193	151	0	206	123	0	23	1	0	16	5	0
MORRIS	16	38	0	69	40	0	27	14	0	20	27	0
SUSSEX	0	25	0	0	49	0	0	15	0	0	4	0
WARREN	25	0	0	35	0	0	139	0	0	65	0	0
VIC. TOT.	41	63	0	104	89	0	166	29	0	85	31	0
PASSAIC	220	0	0	857	41	0	677	62	0	381	120	0
UNION	130	128	0	262	94	0	30	6	0	1	0	0
TOTAL	2,481	1,206	45	3,954	1,490	3	2,121	345	0	1,134	257	0
TOTALS 1 YEAR* AGO	2,277	1,239	210	3,993	1,706	4	1,879	447	0	682	169	0

\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report.

JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS  
DISPOSITION OF "JUVENILE IN NEED OF SUPERVISION" COMPLAINTS  
FOR THE PERIOD September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	ACTIVE COMPL. FILED		COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF HEARING				ACTIVE COMPLAINTS PENDING AT END OF MONTH				PEND. 1 YEAR AGO	
	COMPL. PENDING 9/1/80	INCL. REINS. & JUDGE TRANS.	MARKED	REF. INTAKE, BY COUNS.	REP. BY COUNS.	NOT REP. BY COUNS.	TOTAL OF DISP.	COUNS. REP. MAND.	COUNS. REP. NOT MAND.	OTHER		TOTAL
ATLANTIC	20	517	34	224	34	222	514	5	18	0	23	20
CAPE MAY	69	388	23	176	79	150	428	13	16	0	29	69
CUMBERLAND	25	372	15	169	72	135	391	2	3	1	6	25
SALEM	12	163	2	71	40	36	149	14	12	0	26	12
VIC. TOT.	126	1,440	74	640	225	543	1,482	34	49	1	84	126
BERGEN	178	1,048	79	303	230	490	1,102	51	73	0	124	178
BURLINGTON	16	422	11	262	64	93	430	4	4	0	8	16
OCEAN	10	517	0	292	56	168	516	0	11	0	11	10
VIC. TOT.	26	939	11	554	120	261	946	4	15	0	19	26
CAMDEN	6	509	19	310	61	116	506	8	1	0	9	6
GLOUCESTER	25	282	0	189	20	69	278	12	17	0	29	25
VIC. TOT.	31	791	19	499	81	185	784	20	18	0	38	31
ESSEX	81	1,234	51	737	451	21	1,260	55	0	0	55	81
HUDSON	106	1,463	131	467	514	300	1,412	94	63	0	157	106
HUNTERDON	30	132	8	40	29	50	127	30	5	0	35	30
MERCER	* 67	551	77	179	64	242	562	10	40	6	56	76
SOMERSET	14	110	16	30	65	3	114	9	1	0	10	14
VIC. TOT.	* 111	793	101	249	158	295	803	49	46	6	101	120
MIDDLESEX	81	560	35	224	64	284	607	13	21	0	34	81
MONMOUTH	* 64	686	20	314	55	306	695	15	40	0	55	65
MORRIS	55	725	4	485	56	220	765	4	11	0	15	55
SUSSEX	11	122	6	46	8	67	127	0	6	0	6	11
WARREN	* 3	162	0	59	28	61	148	17	0	0	17	0
VIC. TOT.	* 69	1,009	10	590	92	348	1,040	21	17	0	38	66
PASSAIC	* 127	1,272	141	543	406	106	1,196	113	90	0	203	100
UNION	58	1,234	74	392	135	663	1,264	6	22	0	28	58
TOTAL*	1,058	12,469	746	5,512	2,531	3,802	12,591	475	454	7	936	--
TOTALS 1 YEAR** AGO	984	12,126	690	5,378	2,454	3,550	12,072	464	552	22	--	**1,038

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.  
\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to +20 cases pending as of August 31, 1980.

JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS  
ACTIVE "JUVENILE IN NEED OF SUPERVISION" COMPLAINTS PENDING AT END OF MONTH  
BY COUNSEL STATUS AND BY AGE FROM DATE OF COMPLAINT

As of August 31, 1981

COUNTY	UNDER 1 MONTH			1+ TO 3 MONTHS			3+ TO 6 MONTHS			OVER 6 MONTHS		
	REP.			REP.			REP.			REP.		
	BY COUNS. MAND.	BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER	BY COUNS. MAND.	BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER	BY COUNS. MAND.	BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER	BY COUNS. MAND.	BY COUNS. NOT MAND.	OTHER
ATLANTIC	4	12	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPE MAY	6	10	0	5	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
CUMBERLAND	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
SALEM	3	7	0	5	3	0	5	1	0	1	1	0
VIC. TOT.	14	30	1	11	16	0	8	1	0	1	2	0
BERGEN	6	24	0	25	29	0	13	18	0	7	2	0
BURLINGTON	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OCEAN	3	7	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC. TOT.	2	11	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAMDEN	6	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GLOUCESTER	4	6	0	6	9	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
VIC. TOT.	10	7	0	7	9	0	3	2	0	0	0	0
ESSEX	25	0	0	20	0	0	8	0	0	2	0	0
HUDSON	18	18	0	17	20	0	39	21	0	20	4	0
HUNTERDON	10	1	0	18	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
MERCER	4	8	5	5	31	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
SOMERSET	0	0	0	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
VIC. TOT.	14	9	5	31	36	1	4	0	0	0	1	0
MIDDLESEX	4	10	0	4	9	0	2	1	0	3	1	0
MONMOUTH	10	18	0	3	20	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
MORRIS	1	5	0	1	6	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
SUSSEX	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
WARREN	2	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	9	0	0
VIC. TOT.	3	8	0	4	8	0	4	1	0	10	0	0
PASSAIC	10	1	0	40	26	0	23	47	0	40	16	0
UNION	1	8	0	5	13	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	117	144	6	169	190	1	105	93	0	84	27	0
TOTALS 1 YEAR* AGO	120	185	22	176	217	0	104	98	0	64	52	0

\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report.

JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURTS  
DISPOSITIONS OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND RECIPROCAL SUPPORT COMPLAINTS  
FOR THE PERIOD September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	ACTIVE COMPL. PEND. AS OF: 9/1/80	COMPLAINTS FILED AND REINSTATED				COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF:				ACTIVE COMPLAINTS PENDING AT END OF PERIOD				PEND- ING 1 YEAR AGO
		INIT. IN NEW JERSEY	REC'D FROM OTHER STATES	TOTAL REIN- STATED FILED	MARKED INACT. BY JUDGE	OTHER DISPO- SITION	POSED BY HEARNG	TOTAL DIS- POSED	UNDER 1 MONTH	1 TO 3 MONTHS	OVER 3 MONTHS	TOTAL		
ATLANTIC *	395	924	198	1,766	2,888	524	10	2,432	2,966	76	104	137	317	391
CAPE MAY	78	381	79	878	1,338	1	6	1,350	1,357	30	22	7	59	78
CUMBERLAND	39	989	93	2,814	3,896	146	0	3,732	3,878	44	12	1	57	39
SALEM *	419	806	41	2,312	3,159	90	46	3,358	3,494	81	3	0	84	289
VIC. TOT.	931	3,100	411	7,770	11,281	761	62	10,872	11,695	231	141	145	517	797
BERGEN	271	975	682	679	2,336	384	380	1,610	2,374	85	91	57	233	271
BURLINGTON	390	2,414	329	0	2,743	214	715	1,912	2,841	161	123	8	292	390
OCEAN	126	1,817	199	1,151	3,167	76	0	3,069	3,145	97	42	9	148	126
VIC. TOT.	516	4,231	528	1,151	5,910	290	715	4,981	5,986	258	165	17	440	516
CAMDEN	204	2,981	340	2,884	6,205	486	2,966	2,718	6,170	160	77	2	239	204
GLOUCESTER *	308	1,556	155	300	2,011	263	919	752	1,934	115	173	97	385	285
VIC. TOT.	512	4,537	495	3,184	8,216	749	3,885	3,470	8,104	275	250	99	624	489
ESSEX	1,120	6,236	462	21,062	27,760	4,271	960	22,676	27,907	523	337	113	973	1,120
HUDSON	614	4,252	386	2,017	6,655	786	4	5,726	6,516	289	242	222	753	614
HUNTERDON	45	160	43	8	211	5	65	151	221	9	18	8	35	45
MERCER	574	982	113	1,717	2,812	222	297	2,508	3,027	81	135	143	359	574
SOMERSET	22	337	63	824	1,224	23	147	1,023	1,193	26	22	5	53	22
VIC. TOT.	641	1,479	219	2,549	4,247	250	509	3,682	4,441	116	175	156	447	641
MIDDLESEX	380	1,873	241	2,792	4,906	571	312	4,030	4,913	311	62	0	373	380
MONMOUTH *	605	1,705	261	1,451	3,417	55	0	3,581	3,636	194	178	14	386	591
MORRIS	93	512	158	182	852	5	12	852	869	35	35	6	76	93
SUSSEX	90	397	118	201	716	1	125	619	745	21	21	19	61	90
WARREN	123	365	110	394	869	16	3	830	849	35	80	28	143	123
VIC. TOT.	306	1,274	386	777	2,437	22	140	2,301	2,463	91	136	53	280	306
PASSAIC	422	2,686	298	3,041	6,025	1,117	190	4,528	5,835	220	261	131	612	422
UNION *	579	2,026	238	4,893	7,157	112	415	6,775	7,302	140	215	79	434	575
TOTAL*	6,897	34,374	4,607	51,366	90,347	9,368	7,572	74,232	91,172	2,733	2,253	1,086	6,072	--
TOTALS 1 YEAR ** AGO	7,437	32,823	4,039	43,271	80,133	7,075	7,226	66,547	80,848	2,581	2,872	1,269	--	**6,722

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.

\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to +175 cases pending as of August 31, 1980.

DISTRICT COURTS - CIVIL COMPLAINTS  
DISPOSITIONS

FOR THE PERIOD September 1, 1980 to August 31, 1981

COUNTY	COMPL. PEND. AS OF * 9/1/80	COMPL. ADDED, FILED, RESTOR.	COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF:					TOTAL COMPL. POSED	TOTAL PEND- ING END MONTH	TOTAL PEND- ING LAST YEAR
			BY TRIAL		WITHOUT TRIAL					
			NON- JURY	TOTAL JURY	BY SETTL., DIS- ETC.	TOTAL	TOTAL			
ATLANTIC	787	9,636	5	1,215	1,220	6,246	1,846	9,312	1,111	787
CAPE MAY	516	2,886	0	316	316	2,046	570	2,932	470	516
CUMBERLAND	1,225	6,320	2	2,046	2,048	2,221	2,392	6,661	884	1,225
SALEM	331	3,363	12	47	59	1,933	1,380	3,372	322	331
VIC. TOT.	2,859	22,205	19	3,624	3,643	12,446	6,188	22,277	2,787	2,859
BERGEN	6,312	33,333	98	5,822	5,920	13,180	14,983	34,083	5,562	6,312
BURLINGTON *	2,295	13,008	10	885	895	7,405	4,863	13,163	2,140	4,198
OCEAN	2,376	14,565	17	2,069	2,086	6,110	6,561	14,757	2,184	2,376
VIC. TOT. *	4,671	27,573	27	2,954	2,981	13,515	11,424	27,920	4,324	6,574
CAMDEN *	1,847	21,717	6	923	929	12,023	9,606	22,558	1,006	1,852
GLOUCESTER *	1,478	7,275	18	276	294	3,915	2,767	6,976	1,777	1,561
VIC. TOT. *	3,325	28,992	24	1,199	1,223	15,938	12,373	29,534	2,783	3,413
ESSEX	6,150	72,867	38	11,133	11,171	22,012	39,766	72,949	6,068	6,150
HUDSON	4,257	34,241	12	13,128	13,140	9,980	11,817	34,937	3,561	4,257
HUNTERDON	683	2,476	9	208	217	1,063	1,398	2,678	481	683
MERCER *	2,902	17,484	57	2,289	2,346	8,427	8,202	18,975	1,411	2,261
SOMERSET *	1,280	7,308	3	1,030	1,033	2,445	4,062	7,540	1,048	703
VIC. TOT. *	4,865	27,268	69	3,527	3,596	11,935	13,662	29,193	2,940	3,647
MIDDLESEX *	4,224	22,935	21	8,772	8,793	6,665	7,706	23,164	3,995	2,301
MONMOUTH *	6,636	21,517	130	5,345	5,475	7,044	10,423	22,942	5,211	2,120
MORRIS	1,168	13,663	13	942	955	6,741	6,050	13,746	1,085	1,168
SUSSEX	876	4,300	10	280	290	2,340	1,864	4,494	682	876
WARREN	159	2,252	2	255	257	1,222	679	2,158	253	159
VIC. TOT.	2,203	20,215	25	1,477	1,502	10,303	8,593	20,398	2,020	2,203
PASSAIC	3,108	27,681	23	5,176	5,199	5,881	17,094	28,174	2,615	3,108
UNION	3,755	22,114	13	1,571	1,584	10,702	9,998	22,284	3,585	3,755
TOTAL*	52,365	360,941	499	63,728	64,227	139,601	164,027	367,855	45,451	--
TOTALS 1 YEAR** AGO	58,503	353,917	490	59,951	60,441	139,258	166,022	365,721	--	**46,699

\* Data differ from cases pending August 31, 1980 as reported in 1979-80 Annual Report, because of recounts by the counties resulting from their periodic physical inventories and the discovery of other reporting errors by the counties during the course of the year.

\*\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report. Subsequent recounts amounted to +5,666 cases pending as of August 31, 1980.

DISTRICT COURTS  
AGES OF ACTIVE COMPLAINTS PENDING

As of August 31, 1981

COUNTY	UNDER 6 MONTHS		6 TO 12 MONTHS		1+ TO 1 1/2 YEARS		1 1/2+ TO 2 YEARS		OVER 2 YEARS		TOTAL		% OVER 6 MONTHS OLD	
	JURY	NON-JURY	JURY	NON-JURY	JURY	NON-JURY	JURY	NON-JURY	JURY	NON-JURY	JURY	NON-JURY		TOTAL
ATLANTIC	25	1,045	11	15	11	0	4	0	0	0	51	1,060	1,111	3.69%
CAPE MAY	5	336	6	81	3	32	0	3	0	4	14	456	470	27.45%
CUMBERLAND	12	792	10	64	3	3	0	0	0	0	25	859	884	9.05%
SALEM	4	298	3	13	0	2	0	2	0	0	7	315	322	6.21%
VIC. TOT.	46	2,471	30	173	17	37	4	5	0	4	97	2,690	2,787	9.69%
BERGEN	244	5,054	160	93	11	0	0	0	0	0	415	5,147	5,562	4.75%
BURLINGTON	40	2,055	10	26	1	6	0	0	2	51	2,089	2,140	2.10%	
OCEAN	56	2,055	16	57	0	0	0	0	0	72	2,112	2,184	3.34%	
VIC. TOT.	96	4,110	26	83	1	6	0	0	2	123	4,201	4,324	2.73%	
CAMDEN	35	645	46	128	13	108	2	23	3	99	907	1,006	32.41%	
GLOUCESTER	27	1,362	28	261	23	29	24	8	9	6	111	1,666	1,777	21.83%
VIC. TOT.	62	2,007	74	389	36	137	26	31	12	9	210	2,573	2,783	25.66%
ESSEX	133	5,454	49	184	24	79	8	35	13	89	227	5,841	6,068	7.93%
HUDSON	88	3,252	59	159	1	2	0	0	0	0	148	3,413	3,561	6.21%
HUNTERDON	8	337	4	108	1	22	1	0	0	0	14	467	481	28.27%
MERCER	28	1,274	16	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	1,367	1,411	7.73%
SOMERSET	45	980	4	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	999	1,048	2.19%
VIC. TOT.	81	2,591	24	220	1	22	1	0	0	0	107	2,833	2,940	9.12%
MIDDLESEX	58	3,775	18	132	0	12	0	0	0	0	76	3,919	3,995	4.06%
MONMOUTH	75	4,906	86	101	11	24	1	3	2	2	175	5,036	5,211	4.41%
MORRIS	51	1,005	11	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	64	1,021	1,085	2.67%
SUSSEX	15	625	8	22	0	4	2	3	0	3	25	657	682	6.16%
WARREN	7	218	3	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	243	253	11.07%
VIC. TOT.	73	1,848	22	63	2	4	2	3	0	3	99	1,921	2,020	4.90%
PASSAIC	122	2,491	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	2,491	2,615	.08%
UNION	74	3,492	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	74	3,511	3,585	.53%
TOTAL	1,152	41,451	550	1,616	104	323	42	77	27	109	1,875	43,576	45,451	6.27%
TOTALS 1 YEAR * AGO	1,329	41,542	653	2,359	205	371	52	84	31	73	2,270	44,429	46,699	8.19%

\* As reported in the 1979-80 Annual Report.

STATUS AND NUMBER OF MUNICIPAL COURT AND JUDGES

AS OF AUGUST 31, 1981

COUNTY	TOTAL # OF COURTS NOT INCLUDING DIST. CT.	# OF JOINT COURTS	# OF MUNICIPAL. COVERED BY JOINT COURTS	MUNICIPAL JUDGES		
				LAWYERS	NON* LAWYERS	TOTAL
Atlantic	20	1	3	10	0	10
Bergen	71	0	0	56	0	56
Burlington	38	2	4	16	1	17
Camden	36	0	0	22	0	22
Cape May	16	0	0	9	1	10
Cumberland	13	0	0	6	0	6
Essex	22	0	0	29	0	29
Gloucester	23	1	2	9	1	10
Hudson	12	0	0	16	0	16
Hunterdon	11	4	19	6	0	6
Mercer	13	0	0	16	0	16
Middlesex	25	0	0	22	0	22
Monmouth	52	1	2	30	0	30
Morris	39	0	0	27	0	27
Ocean	33	0	0	19	0	19
Passaic	16	0	0	16	0	16
Salem	15	0	0	3	0	3
Somerset	21	0	0	14	0	14
Sussex	17	4	10	8	0	8
Union	21	0	0	19	1	20
Warren	15	2	6	7	0	7
TOTAL	529	15	46	360	4	364

\* By statute, a municipal court judge must be an attorney at law of this State or have held the office of municipal court magistrate, recorder, police judge or justice of the peace on January 1, 1952. While all of these offices, except that of municipal court judge, have been abolished, non-attorneys continue to serve as judges of the municipal courts because they held one of the specified offices on January 1, 1952.

COUNTY TOTALS

PROCEEDINGS IN THE MUNICIPAL COURTS (1)  
 TRAFFIC CASES (NON-PARKING), PARKING CASES AND CRIMINAL CASES  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 TO AUGUST 31, 1981

COUNTY AND TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL HOURS ON BENCH (REPORTED NEAREST HOUR) (2)	NOTICES IN LIEU OF COMPLAINTS HEARD, R7-22, ("INFORMAL COMPLAINTS") (3)	COMPLAINTS FILED	INDICTABLE COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO PROSECUTOR (4)	COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO J & DR COURT OR OTHER MUNICIPAL COURT	COMPLAINTS ADJUDICATED IN MUNIC. CT., ON WAIVER OF INDICT. & JURY TRIAL (5)	CONVICTIONS AND GUILTY PLEAS IN OPEN COURT	DISMISSALS AFTER COND. DISCH. (INAPPROPRIATE) AND PRE-TRIAL INTERVENTION (6)	DISMISSALS AND FINDINGS OF NOT GUILTY OTHER THAN THOSE IN PRIOR COLUMN	COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF THROUGH VIOLATIONS BUREAU, R7-7	FINES, COURT COSTS & FORFEITURES OF BAIL ASSESSED (EVEN IF NOT ACTUALLY REC'D.), TOTAL, COURT & VIOL. BUR.	DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO JAIL	DEFENDANTS PLACED ON PROBATION (7)	N.J. MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES REVOKED OR SUSPENDED BY THE COURT (8)	SUSPENDED SENTENCES (9)
<b>ATLANTIC COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	2,137	0	62,558	0	115	0	14,101	0	3,669	47,238	\$ 2,342,209	80	15	1,751	638
PARK	94	0	74,899	1	1	0	5,563	0	3,953	50,959	\$ 407,187	3	0	3	455
CRIM	2,349	263	20,393	6,132	85	7	5,569	442	9,881	427	\$ 686,338	444	412	0	1,121
TOTAL	4,580	263	157,850	6,132	201	7	20,233	442	14,503	98,624	\$ 3,435,734	527	427	1,754	2,214
<b>BERGEN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT ONLY</b>															
TRAF	5,336	0	106,261	0	88	0	24,151	0	5,748	64,654	\$ 3,187,477	82	73	2,245	556
PARK	850	0	364,927	0	9	0	4,751	0	4,097	287,841	\$ 1,919,131	0	1	17	433
CRIM	1,861	186	27,208	5,376	224	29	9,839	499	7,475	2,225	\$ 1,019,668	1,014	825	9	1,313
TOTAL	11,047	186	498,396	5,376	321	29	38,741	499	17,320	354,720	\$ 6,126,276	899	899	2,271	2,302
<b>BERGEN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT</b>															
TRAF	189	0	21,445	0	0	0	1,991	0	571	15,692	\$ 623,774	1	0	138	21
PARK	0	0	2,298	0	0	0	19	0	73	1,991	\$ 3,973	0	0	0	3
CRIM	226	0	2,253	593	9	519	117	57	344	1,058	\$ 39,172	18	36	1	23
TOTAL	415	0	25,996	593	9	519	2,127	57	988	18,741	\$ 666,919	19	36	139	47
<b>BERGEN COUNTY TOTALS</b>															
TRAF	5,525	0	127,706	0	88	0	26,142	0	6,319	80,346	\$ 3,811,251	83	73	2,383	577
PARK	850	0	367,225	0	9	0	4,770	0	4,170	289,832	\$ 1,923,104	0	1	17	436
CRIM	5,087	186	29,461	5,969	233	548	9,956	556	7,819	3,283	\$ 1,058,840	1,032	861	10	1,336
TOTAL	11,462	186	524,392	5,969	330	548	40,868	556	18,308	373,461	\$ 6,793,195	1,115	935	2,410	2,349
<b>BURLINGTON COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	3,185	0	88,012	0	159	0	19,896	0	4,612	60,176	\$ 3,093,398	687	10	1,866	852
PARK	91	0	19,759	0	0	0	831	0	453	17,104	\$ 135,680	1	0	0	215
CRIM	2,324	126	19,090	3,817	96	71	7,699	635	4,578	1,955	\$ 1,053,521	483	290	1	807
TOTAL	5,600	126	126,861	3,817	255	71	28,426	635	9,643	79,235	\$ 4,282,599	1,171	300	1,867	1,874
<b>CAMDEN COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	2,549	0	78,236	0	58	0	19,774	0	6,944	41,625	\$ 2,273,868	302	21	2,179	2,540
PARK	221	0	83,079	0	2	0	2,269	0	1,890	67,264	\$ 651,694	19	0	98	322
CRIM	2,714	439	27,377	8,688	98	15	6,689	2,859	6,253	180	\$ 663,020	813	610	4	1,586
TOTAL	5,484	439	188,692	8,688	158	15	28,732	2,859	15,087	109,069	\$ 3,588,582	1,134	631	2,281	4,448
<b>CAPE MAY COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	1,036	0	22,314	0	18	0	6,296	0	1,074	14,432	\$ 829,700	50	6	652	48
PARK	180	0	55,483	0	0	0	421	0	1,226	36,951	\$ 308,035	0	0	0	25
CRIM	1,479	28	10,652	1,961	297	78	3,823	375	2,148	1,144	\$ 495,071	117	105	0	282
TOTAL	2,695	28	88,449	1,961	315	78	10,540	375	4,448	52,527	\$ 1,632,806	167	111	652	355
<b>CUMBERLAND COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	1,052	0	21,715	0	35	0	9,058	0	2,225	10,460	\$ 1,005,651	187	19	1,072	1,032
PARK	20	0	6,648	0	0	0	292	0	63	6,145	\$ 47,231	5	0	0	18
CRIM	1,089	27	13,288	3,382	346	22	5,322	67	3,348	460	\$ 393,885	529	208	0	562
TOTAL	2,161	27	41,651	3,382	381	22	14,672	67	5,636	17,065	\$ 1,446,767	721	227	1,072	1,612
<b>ESSEX COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	2,961	0	90,284	0	51	0	22,791	0	4,472	56,576	\$ 2,583,200	164	1,402	1,536	1,230
PARK	1,049	0	549,197	0	5	0	25,645	0	9,357	414,841	\$ 4,511,267	99	558	27	6,051
CRIM	8,893	926	56,187	14,273	1,240	1,165	15,571	1,906	12,875	1,259	\$ 1,124,486	2,291	2,012	37	4,587
TOTAL	12,903	926	695,668	14,273	1,296	1,165	64,007	1,906	26,704	472,676	\$ 8,218,953	2,554	3,972	1,600	11,868

COUNTY TOTALS

PROCEEDINGS IN THE MUNICIPAL COURTS (1)  
 TRAFFIC CASES (NON-PARKING), PARKING CASES AND CRIMINAL CASES  
 SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 TO AUGUST 31, 1981

COUNTY AND TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL HOURS ON BENCH (REPORTED NEAREST HOUR) (2)	NOTICES IN LIEU OF COMPLAINTS HEARD, R7-22, ("INFORMAL COMPLAINTS") (3)	COMPLAINTS FILED	INDICTABLE COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO COUNTY PROSECUTOR (4)	COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO J & DR COURT OR OTHER MUNICIPAL COURT	COMPLAINTS ADJUDICATED IN MUNIC. CT., ON WAIVER OF INDICT. & JURY TRIAL (5)	CONVICTIONS AND GUILTY PLEAS IN OPEN COURT	DISMISSALS AFTER COND. DISCH. (INAPPROPRIATE) AND PRE-TRIAL INTERVENTION (6)	DISMISSALS AND FINDINGS OF NOT GUILTY OTHER THAN THOSE IN PRIOR COLUMN	COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF THROUGH VIOLATIONS BUREAU, R7-7	FINES, COURT COSTS & FORFEITURES OF BAIL ASSESSED (EVEN IF NOT ACTUALLY REC'D.), TOTAL, COURT & VIOL. BUR.	DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO JAIL	DEFENDANTS PLACED ON PROBATION (7)	N.J. MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES REVOKED OR SUSPENDED BY THE COURT (8)	SUSPENDED SENTENCES (9)
<b>GLOUCESTER COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	1,416	0	37,109	0	28	0	9,649	0	2,927	21,179	\$ 1,252,779	112	15	1,440	355
PARK	74	0	9,481	0	0	0	224	0	615	7,323	\$ 68,694	0	0	0	25
CRIM	1,235	74	10,322	2,812	35	31	2,899	282	2,765	348	\$ 253,756	173	189	9	223
TOTAL	2,725	74	56,912	2,812	63	31	12,772	282	6,307	28,850	\$ 1,575,229	285	204	1,449	603
<b>HUDSON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT ONLY</b>															
TRAF	1,789	0	61,073	0	71	0	11,145	0	4,628	31,136	\$ 1,314,337	31	2	753	662
PARK	441	0	804,357	0	1	0	6,122	0	4,985	406,252	\$ 3,368,523	11	0	23	1,463
CRIM	7,478	2,447	36,830	4,429	139	173	12,146	665	12,235	525	\$ 530,651	969	718	3	3,834
TOTAL	9,708	2,447	902,260	4,429	211	173	28,276	665	22,985	437,913	\$ 5,213,511	1,011	720	779	5,979
<b>HUDSON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT</b>															
TRAF	115	0	2,084	0	0	0	1,014	0	148	934	\$ 66,519	0	0	41	33
PARK	35	0	32,437	0	0	0	223	0	80	17,847	\$ 217,525	0	0	0	172
CRIM	152	0	344	0	0	0	136	0	26	110	\$ 7,485	3	3	0	4
TOTAL	302	0	34,865	0	0	0	1,373	0	254	18,891	\$ 291,529	3	3	41	209
<b>HUDSON COUNTY TOTALS</b>															
TRAF	1,904	0	63,157	0	71	0	12,159	0	4,776	32,070	\$ 1,380,856	31	2	794	695
PARK	476	0	836,794	0	1	0	6,202	0	6,202	424,099	\$ 3,586,048	11	0	23	1,655
CRIM	7,630	2,447	37,174	4,429	139	173	12,282	665	12,261	635	\$ 538,136	972	718	3	3,834
TOTAL	10,010	2,447	937,125	4,429	211	173	29,649	665	23,239	456,804	\$ 5,505,040	1,014	720	820	6,188
<b>HUNTERDON COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	888	0	24,029	0	27	0	4,335	0	704	18,262	\$ 775,156	25	3	405	48
PARK	26	0	8,041	0	0	0	132	0	113	5,639	\$ 37,345	0	0	0	7
CRIM	424	13	3,382	821	36	0	1,153	68	559	441	\$ 120,955	41	15	36	30
TOTAL	1,338	13	35,452	821	63	0	5,620	68	1,376	24,342	\$ 933,456	66	18	441	85
<b>MERCER COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	2,988	0	82,868	0	27	0	19,849	0	5,908	48,918	\$ 2,258,999	311	14	1,248	593
PARK	162	0	122,431	0	0	0	2,537	0	9,894	88,571	\$ 620,958	10	1	6	180
CRIM	3,090	463	20,569	4,340	396	35	11,778	243	4,572	1,827	\$ 519,111	968	770	5	423
TOTAL	6,240	463	225,866	4,340	423	35	34,164	243	20,374	139,316	\$ 3,399,068	1,289	785	1,259	1,196
<b>MIDDLESEX COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	4,494	0	131,301	0	31	0	28,747	0	5,659	90,245	\$ 3,801,816	106	62	2,281	951
PARK	362	0	135,965	0	27	0	1,715	0	1,272	93,339	\$ 619,916	6	0	1	489
CRIM	3,975	237	25,741	5,435	153	90	8,206	690	7,006	594	\$ 715,265	556	587	29	847
TOTAL	8,831	237	293,007	5,435	211	90	38,668	690	13,917	184,178	\$ 5,136,997	668	649	2,311	2,287
<b>MONMOUTH COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	4,532	0	105,432	0	189	0	29,501	0	6,563	70,807	\$ 3,529,984	207	60	2,954	675
PARK	340	0	84,978	0	6	0	1,648	0	2,497	67,975	\$ 611,324	3	0	4	391

**COUNTY TOTALS**  
**PROCEEDINGS IN THE MUNICIPAL COURTS (1)**  
**TRAFFIC CASES (NON-PARKING), PARKING CASES AND CRIMINAL CASES**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 TO AUGUST 31, 1981**

COUNTY AND TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL HOURS ON BENCH (REPORTED MONTHLY TO NEAREST HOUR) (2)	NOTICES IN LIEU OF COMPLAINTS HEARD (COMPLAINTS) (3)	COMPLAINTS FILED	INDICTABLE COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO COUNTY PROSECUTOR (4)	COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO J & DR COURT OR OTHER MUNICIPAL COURT	COMPLAINTS ADJUDICATED IN MUNICIPAL COURT, ON WAIVER OF INDICT. & JURY TRIAL (5)	CONVICTIONS AND GUILTY PLEAS IN OPEN COURT	DISMISSALS AFTER CONDIC. DISCH. (NAR-COIC) AND PRE-TRIAL INTERVENTION (6)	DISMISSALS AND FININGS OF NOT GUILTY OTHER THAN THOSE IN PRIOR COLUMN	COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF THROUGH VIOLATIONS BUREAU, R:7-7	FINE COURT COSTS & FEE/ASSESSED (EVEN IF NOT ACTUALLY RECD.) TOTAL, COURT & VIOL. BUR.	DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO JAIL	DEFENDANTS PLACED ON PROBATION (7)	N. J. MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES REVOKED OR SUSPENDED BY THE COURT (8)	SUSPENDED SENTENCES (9)
<b>OCEAN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT ONLY</b>															
TRAF	2,843	0	59,368	0	42	0	13,677	0	3,096	41,157	\$ 2,244,140	198	111	1,863	289
PARK	158	0	60,413	0	1	0	831	0	1,099	46,598	\$ 610,322	0	0	0	71
CRIM	2,375	301	20,597	3,305	175	53	5,875	546	5,556	4,981	\$ 732,549	504	184	1	893
TOTAL	5,376	301	140,378	3,305	218	53	20,383	546	9,751	92,836	\$ 3,587,011	702	595	1,864	1,253
<b>OCEAN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT</b>															
TRAF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	0	0	0	0
PARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	0	0	0	0
CRIM	56	0	225	5	0	29	103	9	0	0	\$ 22,650	43	0	0	36
TOTAL	56	0	225	5	0	29	103	9	0	0	\$ 22,650	43	0	0	36
<b>OCEAN COUNTY TOTALS</b>															
TRAF	2,843	0	59,368	0	42	0	13,677	0	3,096	41,157	\$ 2,244,140	198	111	1,863	289
PARK	158	0	60,413	0	1	0	831	0	1,099	46,598	\$ 610,322	0	0	0	71
CRIM	2,431	301	20,822	3,310	175	82	5,978	555	5,556	4,981	\$ 755,199	547	184	1	929
TOTAL	5,432	301	140,603	3,310	218	82	20,486	555	9,751	92,836	\$ 3,609,661	745	595	1,864	1,289
<b>PASSAIC COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	1,744	0	54,293	0	158	0	14,363	0	2,941	36,240	\$ 1,642,182	48	19	1,612	191
PARK	530	0	135,565	0	5	0	17,319	0	2,060	92,371	\$ 987,816	0	0	65	180
CRIM	2,467	260	23,445	5,258	546	21	9,303	381	7,348	1,149	\$ 777,632	634	279	5	1,085
TOTAL	4,741	260	213,303	5,258	709	21	40,985	381	12,349	129,760	\$ 3,407,630	682	298	1,682	1,456
<b>SALEM COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	512	0	18,275	0	16	0	4,506	0	599	11,111	\$ 688,986	26	0	565	125
PARK	16	0	4,672	0	0	0	8	0	50	4,901	\$ 31,198	0	0	0	2
CRIM	387	12	4,108	666	35	15	1,780	116	759	278,731	\$ 278,731	61	7	35	35
TOTAL	915	12	27,055	666	51	15	6,344	116	1,408	16,068	\$ 998,915	87	7	565	162
<b>SOMERSET COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	2,062	0	51,538	0	26	0	12,283	0	2,158	36,359	\$ 1,773,994	62	11	1,303	533
PARK	135	0	26,741	0	0	0	1,111	0	802	24,351	\$ 196,939	0	0	0	200
CRIM	1,048	35	8,915	104	47	6	3,303	220	2,303	1,844	\$ 376,074	236	152	1	315
TOTAL	3,245	35	87,194	104	73	6	16,697	220	5,263	62,354	\$ 2,347,007	298	163	1,304	1,048
<b>SUSSEX COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT ONLY</b>															
TRAF	2,054	0	19,669	0	32	0	4,474	0	722	13,930	\$ 823,072	57	19	889	22
PARK	26	0	4,175	0	0	0	108	0	116	3,979	\$ 34,911	41	0	0	2
CRIM	771	25	5,970	1,035	76	35	1,954	84	1,155	855	\$ 198,289	157	106	2	174
TOTAL	2,851	25	29,814	1,035	108	35	6,536	84	1,993	18,774	\$ 1,056,272	255	125	891	198
<b>SUSSEX COUNTY DISTRICT COURT</b>															
TRAF	2	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	\$ 4,584	0	0	0	0
PARK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$ 0	0	0	0	0
CRIM	5	0	84	10	2	0	10	0	0	23	\$ 2,395	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	7	0	84	10	2	0	22	0	0	23	\$ 6,979	1	1	0	0
<b>SUSSEX COUNTY TOTALS</b>															
TRAF	2,054	0	19,669	0	32	0	4,486	0	722	13,930	\$ 827,656	57	19	889	22
PARK	26	0	4,175	0	0	0	108	0	116	3,979	\$ 34,911	41	0	0	2
CRIM	776	25	6,054	1,045	78	35	1,964	84	1,155	888	\$ 200,684	158	107	2	174
TOTAL	2,858	25	29,898	1,045	110	35	6,558	84	1,993	18,797	\$ 1,063,251	256	126	891	198
<b>UNION COUNTY TOTALS (No Matters Heard In County District Court on Concurrent Jurisdiction)</b>															
TRAF	2,963	0	57,359	0	29	0	15,973	0	3,222	37,098	\$ 1,762,133	139	42	1,349	662
PARK	524	0	175,029	0	1	0	2,871	0	2,498	158,655	\$ 973,924	1	0	7	691
CRIM	4,226	101	23,149	5,167	258	58	8,051	1,189	5,279	410	\$ 523,370	760	397	9	1,084
TOTAL	7,713	101	255,537	5,167	288	58	26,895	1,189	10,999	176,163	\$ 3,329,427	900	439	1,365	2,437

**COUNTY TOTALS**  
**PROCEEDINGS IN THE MUNICIPAL COURTS (1)**  
**TRAFFIC CASES (NON-PARKING), PARKING CASES AND CRIMINAL CASES**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 TO AUGUST 31, 1981**

COUNTY AND TYPE OF CASE	TOTAL HOURS ON BENCH (REPORTED MONTHLY TO NEAREST HOUR) (2)	NOTICES IN LIEU OF COMPLAINTS HEARD (COMPLAINTS) (3)	COMPLAINTS FILED	INDICTABLE COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO COUNTY PROSECUTOR (4)	COMPLAINTS REFERRED TO J & DR COURT OR OTHER MUNICIPAL COURT	COMPLAINTS ADJUDICATED IN MUNICIPAL COURT, ON WAIVER OF INDICT. & JURY TRIAL (5)	CONVICTIONS AND GUILTY PLEAS IN OPEN COURT	DISMISSALS AFTER CONDIC. DISCH. (NAR-COIC) AND PRE-TRIAL INTERVENTION (6)	DISMISSALS AND FININGS OF NOT GUILTY OTHER THAN THOSE IN PRIOR COLUMN	COMPLAINTS DISPOSED OF THROUGH VIOLATIONS BUREAU, R:7-7	FINE COURT COSTS & FORFEITURES OF BAIL ASSESSED (EVEN IF NOT ACTUALLY RECD.) TOTAL, COURT & VIOL. BUR.	DEFENDANTS SENTENCED TO JAIL	DEFENDANTS PLACED ON PROBATION (7)	N. J. MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES REVOKED OR SUSPENDED BY THE COURT (8)	SUSPENDED SENTENCES (9)
<b>WARREN COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT ONLY</b>															
TRAF	836	0	17,265	0	5	0	3,358	0	575	13,547	\$ 685,209	12	3	645	18
PARK	69	0	11,085	0	0	0	356	0	266	10,060	\$ 59,114	0	0	0	6
CRIM	692	21	4,086	940	61	93	1,412	79	762	132	\$ 127,372	56	45	6	43
TOTAL	1,597	21	34,436	940	66	93	5,126	79	1,603	23,739	\$ 871,695	68	48	651	67
<b>WARREN COUNTY DISTRICT COURT</b>															
TRAF	38	0	1,430	0	4	0	228	0	27	1,069	\$ 41,895	0	0	29	0
PARK	0	0	12	0	0	0	7	0	0	7	\$ 70	0	0	0	0
CRIM	34	0	485	87	3	0	325	17	128	10	\$ 11,675	3	0	0	2
TOTAL	72	0	1,927	87	7	0	553	17	155	1,086	\$ 53,640	3	0	29	2
<b>WARREN COUNTY TOTALS</b>															
TRAF	874	0	18,695	0	9	0	3,586	0	602	14,616	\$ 727,104	12	3	674	18
PARK	69	0	11,097	0	0	0	356	0	266	10,067	\$ 59,184	0	0	0	6
CRIM	726	21	4,571	1,027	64	93	1,737	96	890	142	\$ 139,047	59	45	6	45
TOTAL	1,669	21	34,363	1,027	73	93	5,679	96	1,758	24,825	\$ 925,335	71	48	680	69
<b>STATE TOTALS - MUNICIPAL COURT ONLY</b>															
TRAF	50,902	0	1,270,693	0	1,307	0	306,980	0	71,584	824,598	\$40,573,010	3,044	1,989	30,836	12,338
PARK	5,600	0	2,829,414	0	59	0	70,722	0	48,387	1,937,817	\$16,636,789	199	560	261	11,345
CRIM	59,014	6,341	409,980	85,685	4,858	2,274	139,618	12,772	104,228	26,994	\$12,336,898	11,873	8,752	163	20,950
TOTAL	115,525	6,341	4,510,087	85,685	6,224	2,274	517,320	12,772	224,199	2,789,409	\$69,546,697	15,116	11,301	31,260	44,633
<b>STATE TOTALS - COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS ON CONCURRENT JURISDICTION</b>															
TRAF	344	0	24,959	0	4	0	3,245	0	746	17,695	\$ 736,772	1	0	208	54
PARK	35	0	34,747	0	0	0	282	0	153	19,845	\$ 221,568	0	0	0	175
CRIM	473	0	3,391	695	14	548	691	83	498	1,201	\$ 83,377	68	37	1	65
TOTAL	852	0	63,097	695	18	548	4,178	83	1,397	38,741	\$ 1,041,717	69	37	209	294
<b>NEW JERSEY TOTALS - MUNICIPAL COURTS AND COUNTY DISTRICT COURTS ON CONCURRENT JURISDICTION</b>															
TRAF	51,246	0	1,295,652	0	1,311	0	310,225	0	72,330	842,293	\$41,309,782	3,045	1,989	31,044	12,392
PARK	5,644	0	2,864,161	0	59	0	70,954	0	48,540	1,957,662	\$16,858,357	199	560	261	11,520
CRIM	59,487	6,341	413,371	86,380	4,872	2,822	140,309	12,855	104,726	28,195	\$12,420,275	11,941	8,789	164	21,015
TOTAL	116,377	6,341	4,573,184	86,380	6,242	2,822	521,498	12,855	225,596	2,828,150	\$70,588,414	15,185	11,338	31,469	44,927

- Includes proceedings in the County District Courts of Bergen, Hudson, Ocean, Sussex and Warren Counties which exercised concurrent jurisdiction during the court year. Also includes proceedings in the Palisades Interstate Park Police Court in Bergen County.
- "Hours on Bench" are reported monthly to the nearest hour, therefore the yearly total in some courts may be "0" if no full hours were reported for any month.
- If the offense charged constitutes a minor neighborhood or domestic dispute, a notice may issue to the person or persons charged, requesting their appearance before the court, or such person designated by the court and approved by the Assignment Judge, in order to determine whether or not a complaint should issue or other appropriate action be taken. Rule 7:3-2. Not applicable in traffic cases.
- Rule 7:2: The Provisions of R. 3:2 (complaint), R. 3:3 (warrant or summons upon complaint) and R. 3:4-1, 3:4-2, 3:4-3, and 3:4-5 (proceedings before the committing judge) are applicable to the municipal and county district courts in respect of indictable offenses; the provisions of R. 3:4-4 are applicable to such courts in proceedings under the Uniform Fresh Pursuit Law.
- N.J.S.A. 2A:8-22 confers jurisdiction on the municipal courts to try specific cases involving crimes occurring within their territorial jurisdiction provided defendant first executes in writing a waiver of indictment and trial by jury.
- Dismissals under Rule 3:28 (Pretrial Intervention Programs) and N.J.S.A. 24:21-27(b) (Dismissals after conditional discharge - controlled dangerous substance abuse only).
- Defendants placed on probation in accordance with Rule 3:28-7. Does not include suspended dispositions or conditional discharges under N.J.S.A. 24:21-27 or Pretrial Intervention Programs, R. 3:28.
- Not including those revoked or suspended by the Director of the N.J. Division of Motor Vehicles, but does include revocations and suspensions in disorderly persons and other violations as provided by statutes.
- Does not include conditional discharges in cases involving controlled dangerous substance abuse, N.J.S.A. 24:21-27(b), or Pretrial Intervention Programs, R. 3:28. The count here is the number of sentences suspended, irrespective of the number of persons, complaints, or charges involved.

Source: Monthly Reports from the Municipal Courts and the Clerks of the County District Courts exercising concurrent jurisdiction and the Palisades Interstate Park Police Court in Bergen County.

COUNTY TOTALS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 to AUGUST 31, 1981

	COMP/SUMMONSES FILED		COMP/WARRANTS FILED		MUNICIPAL COURT DEFENDANTS STATUS REPORT			DEFTS REP BY	
	INDICT. OFFENSES	NON-INDIC OFFENSES	INDICT. OFFENSES	NON-INDIC OFFENSES	BAIL/JAIL REL. ON RECOG.**	STATUS OF DEFTS AT BEGIN OF TRIAL* REL ON BAIL, SURETY, ETC.	DEFTS AT BEGIN OF TRIAL* IN JAIL 2 TO 4 D. > 4 DAYS	ASGND COUNSEL OR REF PUB DEF (NON-INDICT.)	DEFTS REFRD TO PUB. DEF (INDICT.)
ATLANTIC	TOTALS								
3,517	10,005	3,152	2,128	1,462	2,864	177	129	1,184	952
BERGEN	TOTALS								
1,569	14,242	4,565	2,603	3,255	3,061	436	125	1,172	251
BURLINGTON	TOTALS								
1,202	8,260	2,700	1,855	2,103	2,811	353	217	349	261
CAMDEN	TOTALS								
1,397	11,265	6,694	5,169	2,030	4,956	325	343	826	670
CAPE MAY	TOTALS								
487	3,532	820	978	250	1,478	37	86	116	404
CUMBERLAND	TOTALS								
904	5,951	2,768	1,891	2,321	1,118	531	140	212	961
ESSEX	TOTALS								
6,211	15,168	16,938	9,531	7,355	6,040	459	448	3,371	4,467
GLoucester	TOTALS								
935	5,643	1,741	978	846	730	123	48	268	540
HUUSON	TOTALS								
1,399	9,934	7,726	6,732	1,585	4,966	450	374	3,367	2,420
HUNTERDON	TOTALS								
276	1,770	566	93	127	152	9	12	20	2
MERCER	TOTALS								
1,036	12,040	3,394	1,583	1,095	5,654	37	4	1,052	196
MIDDLESEX	TOTALS								
1,204	12,625	4,160	3,129	2,112	1,674	196	76	292	1,034

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\* Defendants whose municipal court trials were completed this year - Status at commencement of trial. Columns 5 et seq deal with Municipal Court trials whereas columns 1 & 3 also include indictable offenses.

\*\* Reporting instructions specify that this item should also include only defendants who were released after a recognizance form was signed and executed before the person authorized to take bail. It is apparent that the reporting instructions may not have been followed in all instances.

COUNTY TOTALS

SEPTEMBER 1, 1980 to AUGUST 31, 1981

	COMP/SUMMONSES FILED		COMP/WARRANTS FILED		MUNICIPAL COURT DEFENDANTS STATUS REPORT				DEFTS REP BY	
	INDICT. OFFENSES	NON-INDIC OFFENSES	INDICT. OFFENSES	NON-INDIC OFFENSES	REL. ON RECOG.**	REL ON BAIL, SURETY, ETC.	IN JAIL 2 TO 4 D.	IN JAIL > 4 DAYS	ASGND COUNSEL OR REF PUB DEF (NON-INDICT.)	DEFTS REFRRO TO PUB. DEF (INDICT.)
MCYMOOUTH	TOTALS									
1,964	14,002	3,740	2,730	4,554	3,023	408	393	676	1,197	
MORRIS	TOTALS									
745	7,818	1,916	733	1,089	738	154	107	204	222	
OCEAN	TOTALS									
1,883	8,028	1,815	1,354	1,100	1,314	137	81	560	380	
PASSAIC	TOTALS									
311	10,227	5,634	2,621	2,904	4,682	126	469	525	1,564	
SALEM	TOTALS									
243	2,419	433	583	330	528	30	62	27	171	
193 SCHEMSET	TOTALS									
4	4,985	49	216	517	1,736	66	62	289	17	
SUSSEX	TOTALS									
307	2,507	528	255	182	264	30	36	62	33	
UNION	TOTALS									
3,538	10,462	4,604	2,541	2,638	4,512	156	627	501	1,633	
WARREN	TOTALS									
188	2,667	735	126	146	180	9	25	64	5	
NEW JERSEY	TOTALS									
29,320	173,550	74,678	47,829	38,001	52,481	4,249	3,864	15,137	17,380	
*****										
NEW JERSEY TOTALS 1 YEAR AGO										
19,712	143,733	72,745	62,043	34,704	56,763	4,639	4,411	13,883	18,837	

\* Defendants whose municipal court trials were completed this year - Status at commencement of trial. Columns 5 et seq deal with Municipal Court trials whereas columns 1 & 3 also include indictable offenses.

\*\* Reporting instructions specify that this item should also include only defendants who were released after a recognizance form was signed and executed before the person authorized to take bail. It is apparent that the reporting instructions may not have been followed in all instances.

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**END**