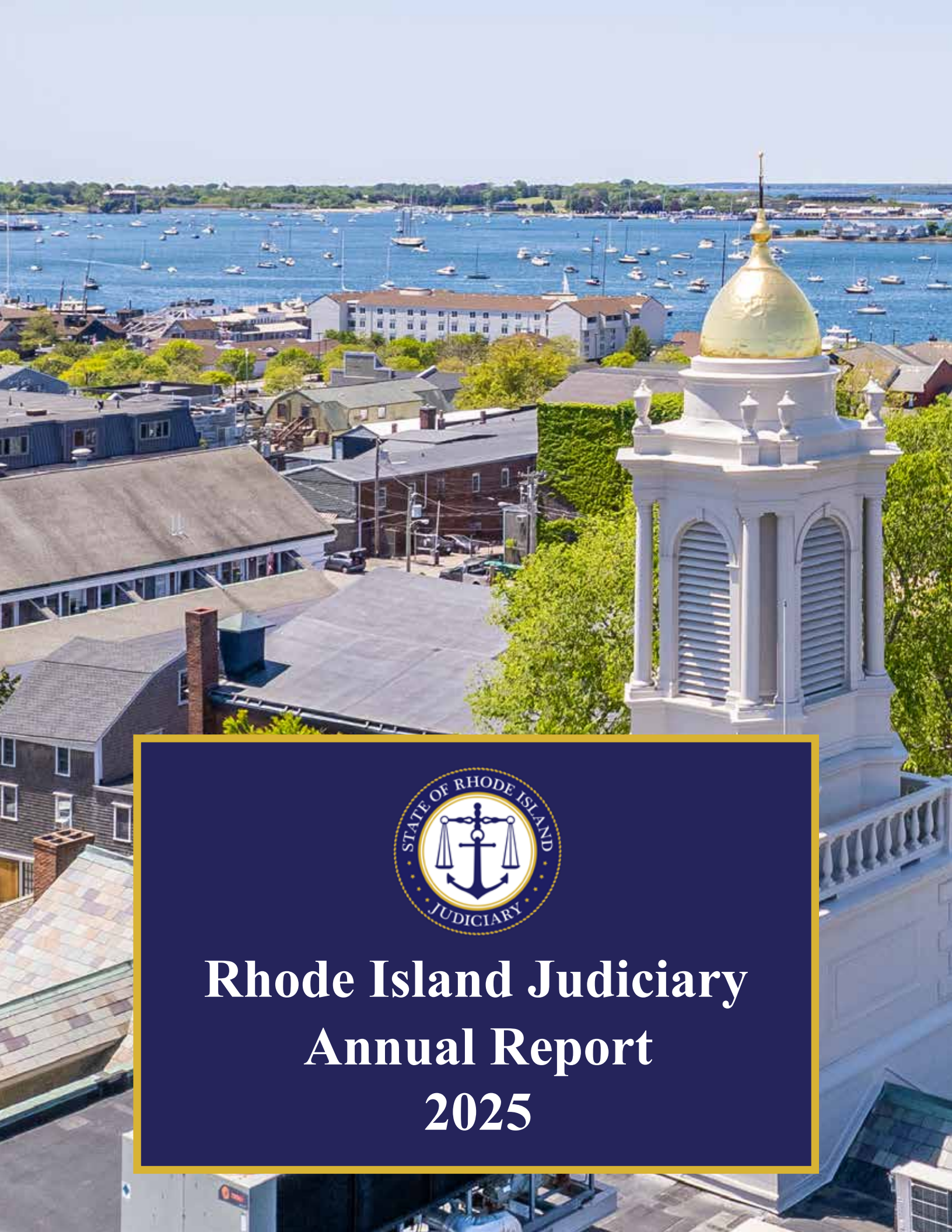




Rhode Island Judiciary Annual Report 2025

Letter of Transmittal

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

The following is the 2025 Annual Report of the Rhode Island Judiciary, submitted pursuant to G.L. 1956 (2012 Reenactment) § 8-15-7. The Judiciary serves the Rhode Island community with ninety (90) judicial officers when at full complement, and nearly seven hundred (700) permanent staff across six (6) courts operating in four (4) counties. We maintain and operate six (6) courthouses as well as the Judicial Records Center in Pawtucket and the John E. Fogarty Judicial Annex in Providence.

The Judiciary continued to pursue its mission to administer justice in a fair and timely manner throughout 2025. The courts not only built upon existing partnerships and technologies, but also forged new relationships and responded to user feedback to better serve visitors. The courts addressed apprehension expressed by community members regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities around courthouses throughout the country. Related outreach to the courts reinvigorated dialogue on how to best uphold the Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution for all court users. The Court worked to assuage public concerns and instructed the Access to Justice Office to streamline pre-existing remote hearing request processes Judiciary-wide; the number of remote hearing requests remains very low.

In addition to providing an overview of 2025 caseload data, this report underscores access to justice initiatives undertaken and completed over the course of the calendar year. The Judiciary is continually evaluating its available resources and strategies to enhance services for court users and to improve public trust and confidence in the third branch of government. From assisting court users with form completion at the Judiciary’s first Resource Center, to the establishing a new procedure to post Supreme Court case summaries to courts.ri.gov, the Judiciary is dedicated to reducing barriers to justice and to creating greater transparency as to how it operates.

While the Judiciary did not add any judicial officers in 2025, we would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the retirement of pioneering Superior Court Presiding Justice Alice B. Gibney after forty-four (44) years of service to the State of Rhode Island. We wish Presiding Justice Gibney and all the judicial officers and staff who retired in 2025 well.

The pursuit of justice begins and ends with people. We wish to publicly thank all members of the justice system who work together every day to serve Rhode Island: our judicial officers, our staff, the Capitol Police and the Rhode Island Division of Sheriffs, our justice partners, and our neighbors.

As always, we are grateful to the General Assembly’s leadership team and our colleagues and collaborators on Smith Hill who serve as stewards in supporting the courts and advancing judicial innovation.



Chief Justice Paul A. Suttel and State Court Administrator Julie P. Hamil

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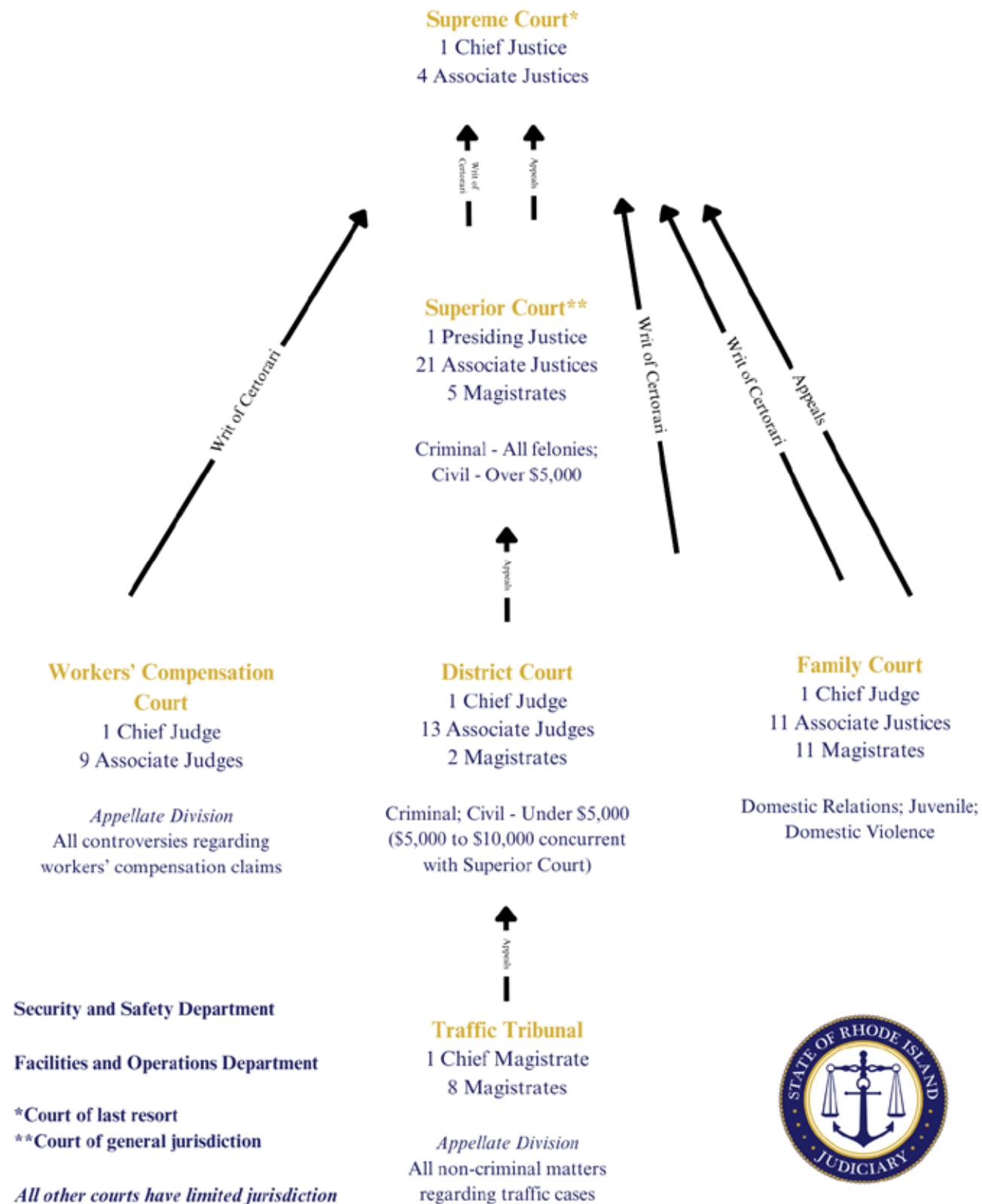
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Rhode Island Court Structure



Court Chiefs

From left: Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal Chief Magistrate Domenic A. DiSandro III, Family Court Chief Judge Michael B. Forte, Superior Court Presiding Justice Alice B. Gibney, Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, District Court Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia, and Workers' Compensation Court Chief Judge Robert M. Ferrieri.



Court Administrators

From left: Workers' Compensation Court Administrator John McBurney IV, District Court Administrator Jamie Hainsworth, State Court Administrator Julie P. Hamil, Superior Court Administrator Marisa Brown, Family Court Administrator Ron Pagliarini, and Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal Administrator Kevin Lanni.



March 7

Legislator Orientation

New and veteran legislators visited the Garrahy Judicial Complex and Licht Judicial Complex for the biannual Legislator Judiciary Orientation. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with chief judicial officers and administrators from each court within the unified judicial system to learn about each court's unique jurisdiction and programs.



April 15

Civic Leadership Summit

In partnership with the Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office, the Judiciary participated in a Civic Leadership Summit to provide Rhode Island high school students with an experiential learning opportunity at two courthouses. Students toured the Garrahy Judicial Complex and the Licht Judicial Complex where they had the chance to interface with judicial officers and staff from every court in the unified judiciary.

Year In Review

January 1 - December 31, 2025



February 4

Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts' First Joint Steering and Subcommittee Meeting

The Committee on Artificial Intelligence and the Courts (CAIC) Steering Committee met for its first joint Steering and Subcommittee meeting in February. Rhode Island College's Institute for Cybersecurity & Emerging Technologies provided a presentation to the committee, which is co-chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Erin Lynch Prata and Superior Court Associate Justice Brian P. Stern.



April 10-11

Workers' Compensation Educational Conference

Hundreds of attendees convened at the Rhode Island Convention Center for the Workers' Compensation Court's Annual Education Conference. Retired Workers' Compensation Court Chief Judge George E. Healy Jr. was honored for his lifetime of dedication to the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation System.



April 13-16

National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Annual Conference

Rhode Island was selected as the virtual host state for the 37th Annual National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (NCREFC) Conference. The Judiciary was honored to host Pulitzer Prize and National Humanities Medal-winning author Isabel Wilkerson as well as Margaret A. Burnham, Distinguished Professor of Law at the Northeastern University School of Law and founder of the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project.



May 2

Law Day

The Rhode Island Judiciary partnered with the Rhode Island Bar Association for Law Day 2025: "The Constitution's Promise: Out of Many, One." Forty-three (43) Rhode Island schools welcomed seventy-eight (78) classroom presentations.



June 12-13

Rhode Island Bar Association Annual Meeting

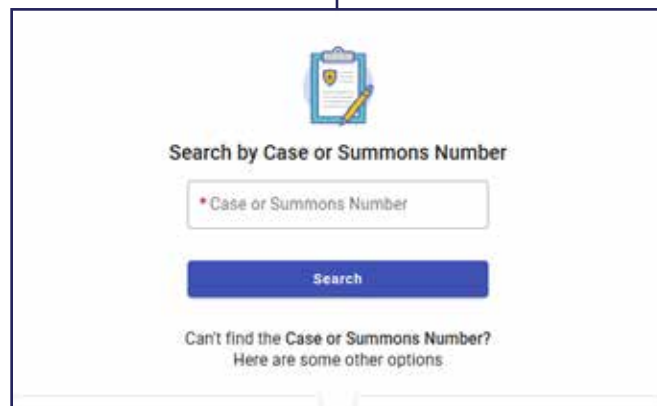
Judicial officers and staff both presented at and attended the Rhode Island Bar Association's Annual Meeting at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell presented the State of the Judiciary address at the annual luncheon.



September 27

Honor Flight

Superior Court Associate Justice Francis J. Darigan, Jr. (Ret.), is pictured with District Court Administrator Jamie Hainsworth. Justice Darigan is an Army veteran who was assigned to an Intelligence Unit and stationed at the Pentagon during the Vietnam War. At the invitation of District Court Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia and her husband, Workers' Compensation Court's George Mason, he participated in the September 27, 2025 "Honor Flight" to Washington D.C.



May 16

Implementation of Updated Online Payment Portal

The Judiciary announced the launch of an updated Online Payment Portal. The updated Portal can be utilized by court users to pay court-ordered costs and fees by credit card and enables users who are not on a payment plan to make payments toward balances owed. The portal is designed to be more user-friendly than the previous portal.



June 25

Appellate Screening Turns 50

The Rhode Island Supreme Court's Appellate Screening Unit turned 50 in 2025. The Supreme Court received funding through a federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) grant to start the Unit under Chief Justice Thomas Roberts in 1975.



September 17

Constitution Day

Constitution Day commemorates the signing of the Constitution in 1787. The Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (CREF) partnered with the Rhode Island Bar Association for a third year to bring civics programming about the Constitution into local schools. Presentations focused on the First Amendment and its implications for social media, artificial intelligence, and the role of media in the spread and verification of information. There were twenty-five (25) presentations at fourteen (14) schools.



November 22

Adoption Day

The Rhode Island Family Court finalized thirteen (13) adoptions with ten (10) families at the 22nd annual National Adoption Day. The Rhode Island Family Court granted 125 adoptions in 2025. National Adoption Day not only celebrates the adoptions of children that are finalized after days, months and years in foster care, but it is also a day that raises awareness for the need for more foster parents and homes to become forever homes for children nationwide.



Supreme Court

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*Back, from left: Associate Justice Erin Lynch Prata and Associate Justice Melissa A. Long
Front, from left: Associate Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg, Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, and Associate Justice William P. Robinson III*

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the state’s court of last resort. The Court has absolute appellate jurisdiction over questions of law and equity, supervisory powers over other state courts, and general advisory responsibility to the Legislative and the Executive branches of state government concerning the constitutionality of legislation. The Supreme Court is also responsible for regulating admission to the Rhode Island Bar and disciplining the members.

Administrative Office of State Courts

The Administrative Office of State Courts (AOSC) oversees the functions and services of the following departments that support all courts within the unified judicial system: the Access to Justice Office; the Community Outreach and Public Relations Office; the Data Management and Statistics Office; Disciplinary Counsel’s Office; the Diversity Office; the Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit; the Employee Relations Office; the Facilities, Operations, and Security Department; the Finance and Budget Office; the Office of General Counsel; the Judicial Technology Center; the Judicial Records Center; the Law Clerk Department; the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office; the State Law Library; and the Supreme Court Clerk’s Office. The AOSC operates under the Supreme Court and is led by the State Court Administrator, who reports to the Chief Justice.

Access to Justice Office

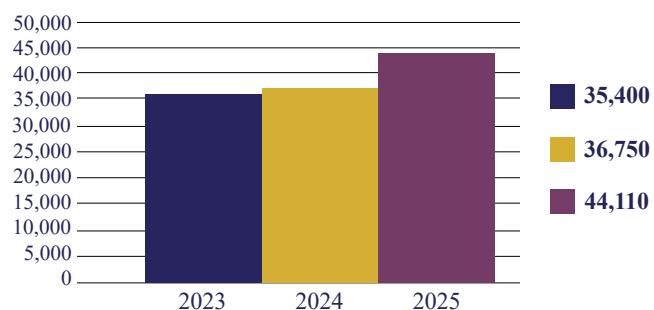
The Access to Justice Office is responsible for overseeing three (3) vital court services: services for self-represented litigants; language access services delivered through the Office of Court Interpreters and services coordinated with outside vendors; and the Judiciary’s compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Services for Self-Represented Litigants

The Rhode Island Judiciary has seen year-over-year increases in the number of cases involving at least one (1) self-represented litigant. In 2023 there were 35,400 cases; in 2024 there were 36,750 cases; and in 2025 there were 44,110 cases. Increases in self-represented litigants is consistent with shifts outlined in the National Center for State Court’s 2025 Trends in State Courts report.

Cases with at Least One Pro-se Litigant*

**Does not include Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal*



One way the Judiciary endeavored to address the needs of the increasing number of self-represented litigants and all court users was through the creation of a Resource Center. Following national best practice guidelines, the Resource Center is designed to assist self-represented litigants and members of the public and to streamline court processes. The intended outcomes of providing such support include an increase in legally sufficient filings, an uptick in compliance with court rules, policies, and procedures, and improved efficiency. 2025 marked the first full calendar year during which the Judiciary’s Resource Center was operational. The Center opened in November 2024 at the Philip W. Noel Judicial Complex (Noel Judicial Complex) in Kent County. In 2025, the Resource Center recorded 2,127 events in which court staff assisted court users. The top three services provided by Resource Center staff were courthouse wayfinding, court form completion support, and providing court procedure explanations. In 2026, the Access to Justice Office will open a second court-based Resource Center at the J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex (Garrahy Judicial Complex) in Providence County.



Access to Justice Spotlight

In 2025, in order to make the remote hearing request process easier to navigate, the Access to Justice Office worked with the lower courts to streamline the remote hearing request process. Court users can find these resources on courts.ri.gov under the “Public Resources” heading on the “Your Day in Court” page. As has been the case since the Judiciary developed remote hearing access capabilities, members of the public may request that a pending hearing be conducted remotely. Requests are to be submitted to and considered by the judicial officer presiding over the matter.



A court user utilized the new computers in the Noel Judicial Complex Resource Center.



Access to Justice Director Tamara Rocha assisted a court user in navigating the Judiciary’s website.

Language Access Services

The Access to Justice Office continues to meet the demand for language access services and ADA accommodations. In 2025, there were more than 11,700 language access service events in more than twenty-eight (28) languages. The most requested languages were Spanish, Cape Verdean Creole, and Portuguese. The Access to Justice Office grew its full-time interpreter staff to meet the pace of requests and to ensure timely access to services. As of 2025, there were nine (9) full-time Spanish language interpreters and two (2) seasonal Spanish interpreters.

ADA Compliance

The Access to Justice Office provided more than 110 reasonable accommodations to court users, employees, and bar applicants pursuant to the ADA in 2025. The most common accommodation requests were for sign language interpreters. In 2025, the Access to Justice Office continued discussions with the Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to develop methods to better fulfill the increasing demand for sign language interpreters authorized to provide services to deaf and hard of hearing court users in court proceedings.

The Access to Justice Office is engaged in local and national conversations to ensure its efforts to address the needs of Rhode Islanders are met through researched and innovative methodologies.

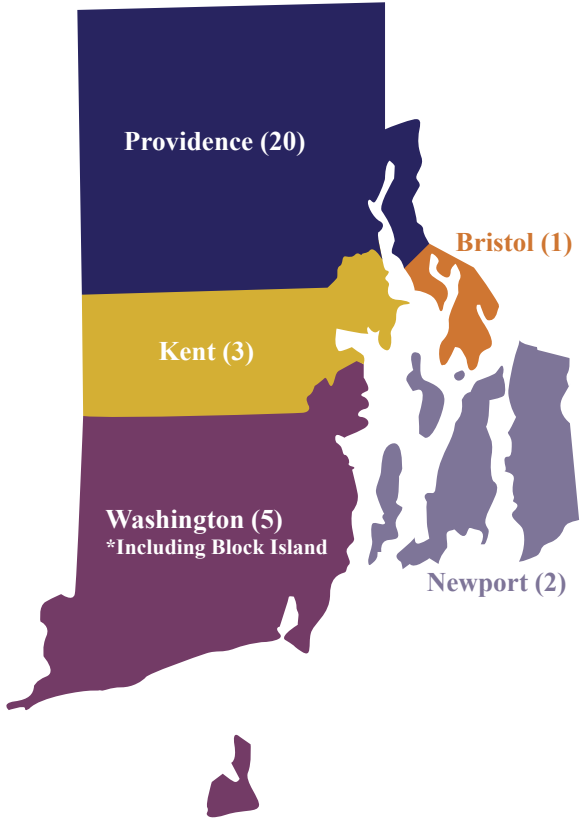
The “Access to Justice Spotlights” in each lower court section will underscore an initiative or process that was designed to reduce barriers and increase access to justice.

Community Outreach and Public Relations

The Community Outreach and Public Relations Office (COPR) is responsible for Judiciary-wide internal communications, serves as the central external-facing office, addresses public

affairs matters, leads civics education efforts, and seeks new ways to instill public confidence in the courts. The office hosted thirty-one (31) in-person and virtual courthouse tours in 2025, which included schools and community groups from across Rhode Island. From the Judiciary’s tours alone, the Office reached 533 individuals from twenty-eight (28) organizations and schools. COPR also welcomed several groups with specific interests in the judicial system; two (2) groups included the Leadership Rhode Island (LRI) cohort and a class from the International Surface Warfare School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Community Tours by Visitors’ County



The Community Outreach and Public Relations Office collaborates with organizations to bring civics education into classrooms and to support judicial officers and staff who are invited to speak about Rhode Island’s judicial system. Annual events include Law Day, Constitution Day, and the Secretary of State’s Civic Leadership Summit. For Law Day, The Rhode Island Judiciary and the Rhode Island Bar Association (RIBA) partner to pair judicial officers, attorneys, and law clerks to form teaching teams to present at schools across the state. Forty-three (43) schools participated and seventy-eight (78) classroom presentations were scheduled in 2025. Judicial officers and attorneys spoke to thousands of students about all aspects of state and federal law.



A group of students met with Superior Court leadership during the Secretary of State’s Civic Leadership Summit.

The Judiciary entered the third year of Constitution Day programming in September of 2025. The initiative is led by the Supreme Court’s Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts (CREF) in partnership with RIBA. The 2025 program again focused on the theme “First Amendment Rights of Students in the Digital Age: Navigating Social Media, AI, and the Dangers of Information Overload.” Through this theme, students explored the role of First Amendment rights



Superior Court Associate Justice Christopher K. Smith and Access to Justice Office Director Tamera Rocha, Esq. presented at the Rhode Island Training School during Constitution Day 2025.

in today’s digital landscape with a focus on the complexities of social media, artificial intelligence, and the challenges posed by information overload. Constitution Day education grew to offer programming from five (5) schools in 2023, to twelve (12) schools in 2024, to fourteen (14) schools in 2025; there was a forty-eight percent (48%) increase in the number of presentations made from 2024 to 2025. As a result of specialized outreach to the Rhode Island Training School and the Block Island School, COPR was able to reestablish partnerships with these institutions and provide them with programming for the first time in more than a decade.

The Office of Community Outreach and Public Relations also worked with all six (6) courts of Rhode Island’s unified judicial system to facilitate a day-long program as part of the Office of the Secretary of State’s second annual Civic Leadership Summit in April of 2025. Through the Summit, more than eighty (80) high school students spent a full day at each of the three branches of local government. On the judicial education day, students met with Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, toured the Garrahy Judicial Complex and the Frank J. Licht Judicial Complex (Licht Judicial Complex), heard from representatives from each court, and had the opportunity to have dinner with judicial officers.

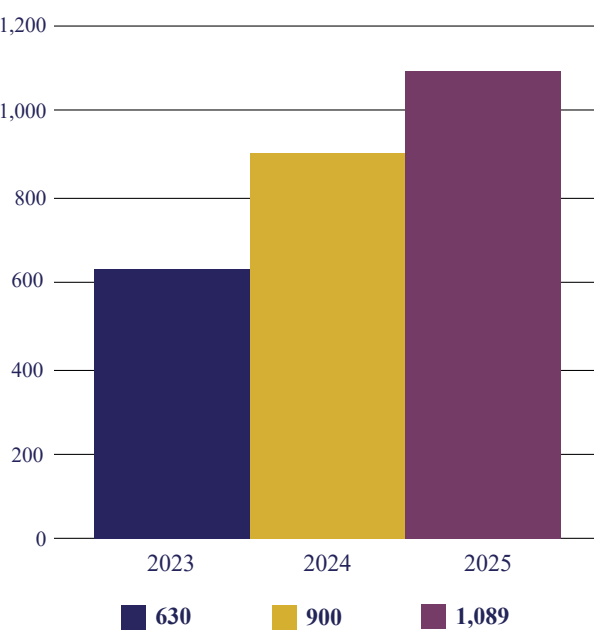
The Office has also helped to facilitate the provision of resources to visitors at the courthouses that are designed to improve the courthouse experience. Such services include Windwalker Pet Assisted Therapy, the Art in the Courthouse Program, and the Anchor Recovery information and Narcan distribution and education initiative.

In 2025, the Community Outreach and Public Relations Office responded to 1,100 media and public inquiries, a twenty-one percent (21%) increase from 2024.



Supreme Court Associate Justice Erin Lynch Prata spoke with students in the Supreme Court courtroom during the Leadership Summit.

Media and Public Inquiries Received



Chair of the Supreme Court’s Committee on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts Associate Supreme Court Justice Melissa A. Long, Secretary of State Gregg Amore, and Rhode Island Bar Association President Patrick Guida presented at Shea High School in Pawtucket.

Data Management and Statistics Office

In alignment with national best practices regarding data and transparency, including those outlined by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC), the Data Management and Statistics Office ensures the Rhode Island Judiciary continually adheres to the highest standards of data quality. The team focuses on accessibility, accuracy, and standardization.

The AOSC does and will continue to emphasize data collection and quality because data-informed policy making is a national best practice with the data management tools now available.

The Office generated forty (40) data reports in 2025 in response to public requests for data as well as several internal data requests. Consistent with previous years, the office completed the statistical analysis for the NCSC data submission for all courts, calculated the statistics for the Judiciary’s annual report, produced court-specific case load reports for administrators, assisted lower courts with case processing improvements, completed several audit reports for District and Superior Courts, and performed various grant management functions.

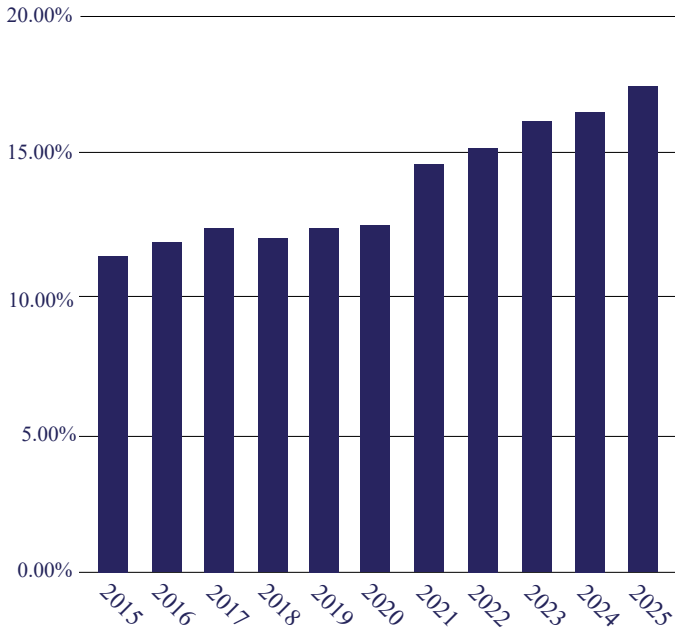
Diversity Office

The goal of the Diversity Office, now in its tenth year, is to create career pathways that result in a workforce that is representative of the Rhode Island population. Based on fiscal year data, the percentage of Judiciary employees who identify as a person of color rose to seventeen-point-thirty-nine percent (17.39%), an increase from 2024 (sixteen-point-fourty-four percent (16.44%).

In order to strengthen pathways to employment at the Judiciary for individuals from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, the Diversity Office entered its second year of partnership with PrepareRI. Through the partnership, the Judiciary hosts high school summer interns. In 2025, nine (9) high school interns participated. The students represented Classical High School, Paul Cuffee Upper School, Achievement First High School, and Providence Country Day School. Throughout the program, students had the opportunity to observe court proceedings and to meet with and shadow judiciary employees from those in entry level positions to others requiring a J.D.

The Diversity Office continued to partner with internal departments, educational institutions, and community organizations to expand outreach, support equitable hiring practices, and increase awareness of career opportunities at the Judiciary.

Employee Self-Identification by Race/Ethnicity (Fiscal Year)



2015	11.36%	2021	14.56%
2016	11.77%	2022	15.20%
2017	12.37%	2023	16.16%
2018	11.92%	2024	16.44%
2019	12.34%	2025	17.39%
2020	12.39%		

Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit

The Rhode Island Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit (DV Unit) was formed with the passage of the Domestic Violence Prevention Act in 1988 and placed under the administration of the State Court Administrator. The DV Unit’s principal responsibilities are the development, printing, dissemination, and collection of the legislatively mandated Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault (DV/SA) reporting form for the purpose of establishing accurate data, on the extent and severity of domestic violence, sexual assaults, and child molestation incidents, which include arrests and non-arrests.

As mandated, all law enforcement agents that respond to or investigate any case of domestic violence, sexual assault, or child molestation must complete a DV/SA Reporting form.

The forms are delivered to the DV Unit and are entered into a database that stores the information on all cases and provides statistics that are used by law enforcement and many research outlets.

NO STAPLES PLEASE!

DV/SA REPORTING FORM - 2020 revision
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT/CHILD MOLESTATION

POLICE CASE #:

A. INCIDENT INFORMATION

LOCATION (street address) CITY: ZIP: INCIDENT DATE: TIME (military):
☐ PUBLIC PLACES/INDOORS ☐ PUBLIC PLACES/OUTDOORS ☐ HOUSE ☐ VEHICLE ☐ APARTMENT ☐ OTHER (specify):
REPORT DATE: (if different from incident date)

WHO CONTACTED POLICE?
☐ VICTIM ☐ FAMILY MEMBER ☐ FRIEND ☐ NEIGHBOR
☐ SUSPECT ☐ HOSPITAL ☐ 911 ☐ ANON ☐ CHILD
☐ OTHER (specify type):

ALCOHOL/DRUG USE:
* IN OFFICER'S OPINION, ALCOHOL INVOLVED? ☐ SUSPECT ☐ VICTIM ☐ NEITHER ☐ UNKNOWN
* DRUGS INVOLVED? ☐ SUSPECT ☐ VICTIM ☐ NEITHER ☐ UNKNOWN

B. ARREST INFORMATION

* DID PROBABLE CAUSE EXIST TO BELIEVE A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) CRIME OCCURRED? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* DID PROBABLE CAUSE EXIST TO BELIEVE A SEXUAL ASSAULT (SACA) CRIME OCCURRED? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* WERE PHOTO(S) TAKEN OF VICTIM? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* WERE PHOTO(S) TAKEN OF CRIME SCENE? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* WAS OTHER PHYSICAL EVIDENCE COLLECTED? ☐ YES ☐ NO

C. INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

* VICTIM PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* VICTIM SEXUALLY ASSAULTED? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* VISIBLE VICTIM INJURIES DUE TO INCIDENT? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* WEAPON / OBJECT USED TO HURT / INJURE? ☐ YES ☐ NO
IF YES, WHAT? ☐ HANDGUN ☐ LONG GUN ☐ KNIFE ☐ OTHER (describe):
* WEAPON / OBJECT USED TO THREATEN? ☐ YES ☐ NO
IF YES, WHAT? ☐ HANDGUN ☐ LONG GUN ☐ KNIFE ☐ OTHER (describe):

D. SEXUAL ASSAULT / CHILD MOLESTATION INFO.

IF AN ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT OR CHILD MOLESTATION, DATE OF ALLEGED ASSAULT:
* WAS A FORENSIC RAPE EXAM DONE? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* WAS DVIC NOTIFIED (R01-740-4443)? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* ADULT REPORTING OWN ABUSE AS A CHILD? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* WAS SEXUAL ABUSE ONGOING? ☐ YES ☐ NO
IF YES, HOW LONG? ☐ LESS THAN 1 YR. ☐ 1-5 YEARS ☐ MANY YRS OVER TIME, BEGINNING WHEN:
* HAS CASE BEEN REFERRED TO THE AG'S OFFICE? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* NUMBER OF SUSPECTS: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ MORE THAN 3 - HOW MANY? _____

E. VICTIM INFORMATION

NAME: LAST FIRST MI DOB: ☐ (F) ☐ (M)
ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP: HOME PH# CELL PH#
FAX OF CONTACT PERSON: VICTIM / SUSPECT LIVING TOGETHER AT TIME OF INCIDENT? ☐ YES ☐ NO
* IF VICTIM WAS 60 YRS OR OLDER, WAS OHA NOTIFIED? ☐ YES ☐ NO (001-482-0555 Abuse Unit)

VICTIM ETHNIC / RACIAL BACKGROUND:
☐ WHITE ☐ BLACK ☐ WH HISPANIC ☐ BL HISPANIC
☐ ASIAN ☐ NATIVE AMERICAN ☐ OTHER (specify):

VICTIM DEemeanor (choose all that apply):
☐ TEARFUL/CRYING ☐ HYSTERICAL ☐ AFRAID
☐ SHAKING/TREMBLING ☐ ANGRY ☐ NERVOUS
☐ UPSET ☐ WITHDRAWN/FLAT AFFECT
☐ OTHER (describe):
* DID VICTIM SAY ANYTHING? ☐ YES ☐ NO
IF YES, WHAT WAS SAID? _____

F. SUSPECT INFORMATION

NAME: LAST FIRST MI DOB: ☐ (F) ☐ (M)
ADDRESS: CITY: STATE: ZIP: HOME PH# CELL PH#

DV/SA Reporting Form

The DV Unit distributes and processes the State’s Victim Information and Safety Planning Pamphlets. The DV Unit supplied approximately 12,000 of the Victim Information and Safety Planning pamphlets to the state’s law enforcement agencies for distribution to victims and survivors in 2025, a 202% increase over 2024 (most likely due to the depletion of an early multi-year supply). The pamphlets are available in five (5) languages (English, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic, and Mandarin Chinese) in paper form and on the DV Unit’s webpage. 10,764 DV/SA forms were reviewed and compared to their accompanying police report narratives, ensuring the accuracy of submitted information. Police departments were contacted to verify and/or obtain missing information. The written data from 9,900 DV/SA forms was manually input into the database. 7,437 forms were scanned to capture the information from the remaining data fields and to assign each form a Domestic Violence Identification (DVID) number and to generate statistics. These forms are

primarily used in the District Court. In addition, the DV Unit processed 406 electronic forms; the Unit processes these forms from two (2) of the states’s law enforcement agencies that utilize electronic data transfer interfaces.

The Director of the DV Unit also trains professionals around the state as part of her duties. As an Active member of the DV/SA Law Enforcement Training Curriculum Committee, Director Veronica Hobbs was one of the in-person team trainers for the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy (March) and for the Domestic Violence Prosecutors training sponsored by the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office (May and June). Director Hobbs remains an active member of the Rhode Island Domestic Violence Executive Working Group.

Facilities, Operations, and Security

The Facilities, Operations, and Security Department of the Supreme Court oversees the preservation and maintenance of key capital State of Rhode Island assets in addition to coordinating and managing courthouse security measures and security system updates.

In addition to ongoing building maintenance initiatives, the Department made several key hardware and software security updates in 2025.

The Department initiated the process of creating 3D digital maps of all state court buildings utilizing Matterport 3D mapping technology. The platform creates 3D models by scanning spaces with a specialized camera to process and capture data. The scans provide a visual record and enables staff to take measurements, add engineering notes, and create custom plans. The collected information can also be shared with police and fire personnel to streamline future emergency response training.

New hardware was purchased and installed to increase security in areas utilized by judicial officers. Security cameras were installed in the state law libraries to close any gaps in courthouse video surveillance. The Division of Sheriffs’ control room workstations and computers were also updated.

The Department implemented a new threat detection and notification system enabled by a new software product to enhance court security. AlertUs/AlertAware is integrated with a third-party shooter detection system, which enables staff to capture judicial computer screens during an emergency; in doing so, the system allows for the rapid dissemination of emergency notifications and instructional information to all judiciary employees.



Updates by Building

J. Joseph Garrahy Judicial Complex

- Interior renovations continued on the 2nd and 3rd floors; wallpaper was removed, wood surfaces were stained, and flooring was replaced.

Frank J. Licht Judicial Complex

- The colonnade on the South Main Street side of the building was repaired. Repairs included a fresh coat of paint for the metal roof, improvements to the original gutters, masonry work, a sponge blasting of the limestone and granite surfaces, and rerouting of the existing lighting. The original brass seal was polished.
- Twenty-five (25) FCU units were replaced on the 5th and 6th floors; manual Direct Digital Controls (DDC) were updated for efficiency.



J. Howard McGrath Judicial Complex

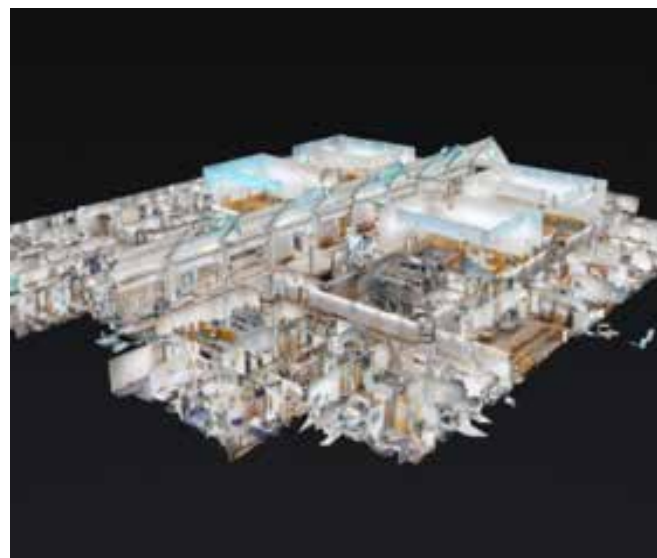
- The generators were replaced; replacement ensured that during a building power loss, life safety equipment remains operational.

Phillip W. Noel Judicial Complex

- The parking garage generators were replaced; replacement ensured that during a building power loss, life safety equipment remains operational.

Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal

- Two (2) refrigerant units were replaced on the rooftop of RITT. The R22 units that were replaced have been phased out by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the new 401a refrigerant is more energy efficient and environmentally friendly.



Judicial Technology Center

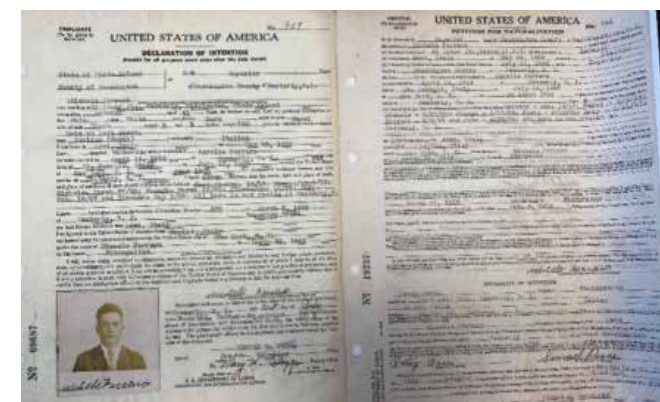
The staff of the Judicial Technology Center (JTC) is responsible for supporting the technology needs, including upgrades and development of new digital processes, for all six (6) courts of the unified judiciary system. The JTC continued to prioritize cybersecurity and is working to develop industry best practice backup and restoration plans and mechanisms in the event of an attack.

In 2025, the JTC led and supported several Judiciary-wide projects. JTC updated the system that enables court users to pay court costs and fines online; the Defendant Access system allows for more flexibility in searching for records. The JTC also worked in collaboration with the Access to Justice Office to launch a new online exam registration site for individuals seeking to become court interpreters.

The Judicial Records Center

The Judicial Records Center (JRC), located at 5 Hill Street in Pawtucket, serves as the central repository for the Judiciary's semi-active, inactive, and archival records. Court users seeking court documents entered before file digitization began in 2014 can contact the JRC for file searches.

In addition to the JRC's work inventorying tens of thousands of cases from various courts and processing hundreds of archival case requests and naturalization document requests, the JRC undertook several new projects in 2025. JRC staff created a specialized chronological archive that highlights documents that involve women in courts, which is available for research purposes. The JRC continues to serve the internal and external needs of courts locally and nationally.



A "Declaration of Intention" and a "Petition for Naturalization" are two documents that represent thousands stored at the Judicial Records Center.

The Law Clerk Department

The Law Clerk Department provides the Superior Court, Family Court, District Court, and Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal with ongoing support in complex legal research, analysis, and writing. In 2025, the department hired and oversaw seventeen (17) law clerks who serve one (1) year terms. Clerks assisted with more than 2,000 cases.

In 2025, the Department focused on refining its internal processes to maximize efficiency. Law Clerk Department leadership introduced surveys and structured feedback channels to inform management decisions and to determine law clerks' individual roles.

The Workers' Compensation Court continued to oversee a court-specific law clerk program.



2025 trial law clerks posed with Chief Staff Attorney Georgi Vogel-Rosen during their fall orientation.



Chamber law clerks gathered for a holiday photo in the Supreme Court courtroom.

Chamber Law Clerks

Each Supreme Court Justice selects two (2) to three (3) law clerks annually or biannually. Chamber law clerks assist in legal research, draft and review memoranda, orders, and opinions, and provide administrative support when needed.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) Office assists Rhode Island attorneys in achieving compliance with Article IV, Rule 3 of the Supreme Court Rules. In 2025, the MCLE Commission approved an amendment to Rule 3.2(b), effective July 1, 2025, which requires all attorneys admitted to practice in the State of Rhode Island to complete one (1) credit hour in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as part of their MCLE requirements. Judicial education programming included a variety of topics to enhance judicial excellence among veteran and new jurists and attorneys.

Judicial officers served as both instructors and attendees at sponsored judicial education courses offered through a variety of organizations such as Rhode Island Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Office of the Rhode Island Attorney General, and the Pawtucket Bar Association. Courses offered by State Court judicial officers included “Mastering Mediation: Strategies to Settle Your Case,” “100 Yankee Jurists in Judge Frank M. Johnson’s Alabama Court,” “Bridging Tradition and Technology: RI Legal Practice and the Rise of Artificial Intelligence,” and “Chemical Test Refusals: From Traffic Stop to Sentencing.”

State Law Library

Founded in 1827, the Rhode Island State Law Library provides research and reference services to the bench and the bar, state agencies, students, self-represented litigants, and the general public. The Law Library offers visitors a number of premier legal databases such as Westlaw and Lexis, and Bloomberg Law.

The Judiciary operates a main law library at the Licht Judicial Complex, with additional locations at the Garrahy Judicial Complex, McGrath Judicial Complex, Murray Judicial Complex, and the Noel Judicial Complex. The library at the Licht Judicial Complex is staffed continuously during operating hours. The libraries at the other four (4) complexes are staffed on a rotating basis.

In 2025, the AOSC announced the promotion of Liz Sarkisian to State Law Librarian upon veteran State Law Librarian Colleen Hanna’s retirement.

Supreme Court Clerk’s Office

The Office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court acts as an umbrella office for several related, but distinct functions of the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

The Office assists the Rhode Island Supreme Court with many key functions. The primary functions of the Clerk’s Office are to serve as the keeper of records, create oral argument calendars, docket cases, issue orders and opinions, present administrative issues to the Court for their consideration, and present and implement rule changes.

Additional offices and functions include: Office of the Assistant to the Chief Justice, the Office of the Opinion Analyst, bar admissions, attorney licensing and registration, the court appointed attorney program, and the Appellate Mediation Program.

The Supreme Court Clerk also serves on or acts as liaison to various committees, including the Committee on Character and Fitness, the Board of Bar Examiners, and the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee (UPLC).

In 2025, following an extensive study conducted by the Board of Bar Examiners, the Rhode Island Supreme Court issued an order adopting the NextGen Uniform Bar Examination (NextGen), created by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), which will replace the current examination. Rhode Island’s first administration of NextGen will be in July 2028.

The Court also embarked on a thorough review of Rhode Island specific character and fitness questions that are asked in connection with the bar application. The Court revised and reworked some of those questions, which reduced redundancies for applicants.

In 2025, in an effort to enhance Supreme Court transparency and to make cases before the court more accessible, the Office began posting pending case summaries in addition to opinions. The case summaries can be easily accessed at courts.ri.gov.



Associate Justice Maureen McKenna Goldberg swore in a group of Rhode Island’s newest attorneys in the Supreme Court courtroom.



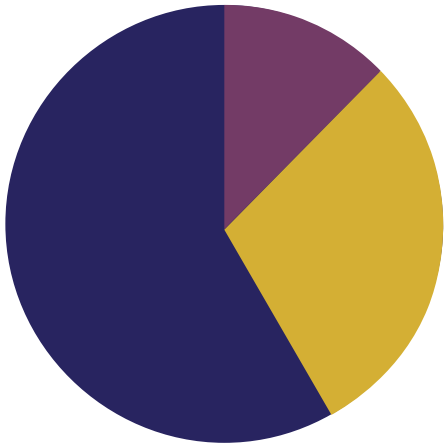
Supreme Court Law Librarian Liz Sarkisian stepped into her new role in April of 2025.



The Supreme Court Clerk's Office is located on the 7th floor of the Licht Judicial Complex.

Supreme Court 2025 Statistics

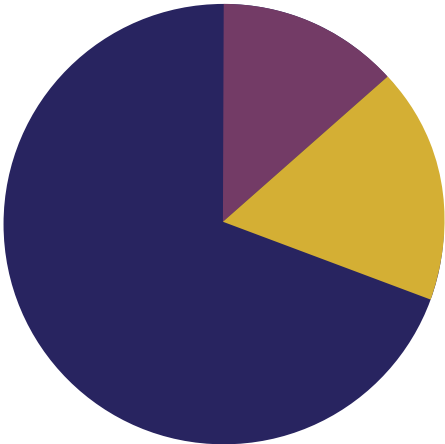
2025 Appellate Filings



Total Filed 402

- Miscellaneous (234)
- Criminal (50)
- Civil (118)

2025 Appellate Manner of Disposition



Total Disposed 388

- Decided on the merits (269)
- Permission denied (52)
- Disposed prior to decision (67)

2025 Appellate Caseloads

Criminal



Civil



Miscellaneous



Total Filed
402

Total Disposed
388

Superior Court

27	The Superior Court
28	Rehabilitation and Diversion Programs
30	Superior Court 2025 Statistics





Back, from left: Magistrate John F. McBurney III, Associate Justice Joseph McBurney, Associate Justice Kevin McHugh, Associate Justice Linda Rekas Sloan, Associate Justice Richard Raspallo, Associate Justice R. David Cruise, Associate Justice Christopher Smith, Special Magistrate Patrick T. Burke, and Magistrate Amanda Leigh Valentino.

Middle, from left: Associate Justice Maureen Keough, Associate Justice Joseph Montalbano, Associate Justice Sarah Taft-Carter, Associate Justice Brian P. Stern, Associate Justice Kristin E. Rodgers, Associate Justice Brian Van Couyghen, Associate Justice Luis Matos, Associate Justice Richard Licht, and Associate Justice Melissa Darigan.

Front, from left: Associate Justice Jeffrey A. Lanphear, Associate Justice Stephen P. Nugent, Associate Justice Robert D. Krause, Presiding Justice Alice Bridget Gibney, Associate Justice Melanie Wilk Thunderberg, Associate Justice Daniel A. Procaccini, and Associate Justice William E. Carnes, Jr.

Not Pictured: General Magistrate Gina Lopes.

The Superior Court

The Superior Court is comprised of twenty-two (22) judges and five (5) magistrates. The court is the forum for jury and non-jury trials in both civil and criminal matters.

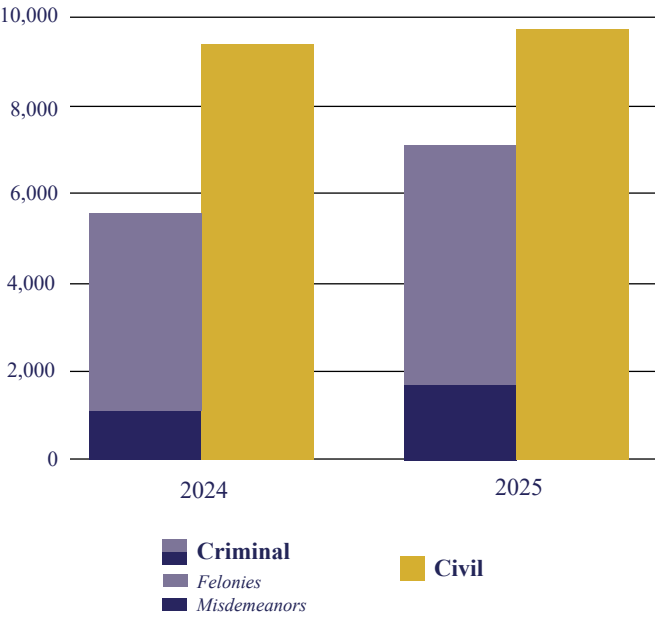
Appeals from District Court trials result in trials de novo (entirely new trials) in the Superior Court. The court also hears agency, zoning board, and probate court appeals, among others. There were 16,764 criminal and civil filings in Superior Court in 2025; there were 14,864 cases filed in 2024, a thirteen percent (13%) increase. Felony filings increased from 4,424 in 2024 to 5,402 in 2025, a twenty-two percent (22%) increase. Civil case filings increased in 2025; there were 9,682 civil cases filed in 2025 and 9,322 filed in 2024, a four percent (4%) increase.

Of the 7,082 criminal cases filed, 5,402 were felony cases and 1,675 were misdemeanors. Misdemeanor filings increased from 1,114 in 2024 to 1,675 in 2025, a fifty percent (50%) increase.

There were a total of 1,178 felony and misdemeanor domestic violence filings in 2025 in Providence County, up from 880 cases in 2024, a thirty-four percent (34%) increase.

There was also a spike in misdemeanor drug possession cases in 2025. In 2025, there were 1,386 cases filed with “Possession of a Schedule I to V Controlled Substance 10 Grams or Less” charges filed compared to 886 in 2024, a fifty-six percent (56%) increase.

Criminal and Civil Filings



2024	Misdemeanors - 1,114	Felonies - 4,424	Civil - 9,322
2025	Misdemeanors - 1,675	Felonies - 5,402	Civil - 9,682

Dispositions

There were a total of 13,742 criminal and civil dispositions in 2025. There were 5,449 total criminal dispositions in 2025, down four percent (4%) from the 5,672 criminal cases disposed of in 2024.

Jury and Bench Trials

The Superior Court held a total of 140 trials in 2025. There was a thirty-eight percent (38%) decrease in trials from 2024 to 2025. There were seventy-nine (79) jury trials held in 2025, down fifteen percent (15%) from the ninety-three (93) held in 2024. There were also fewer bench trials in 2025. There were sixty-one (61) bench trials in 2025, down fifty-four percent (54%) from 2024. The reduction in bench trials can be attributable to the significant drop in trespassing and ejection trials.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders

The Superior Court processed sixty-six (66) Extreme Risk Protection Order petitions under the “red flag” law, which allows state or local police to file a petition to order the temporary surrender of firearms upon receiving credible information of significant and imminent risk. This represents a thirty-five percent (35%) increase from 2024 when forty-nine (49) petitions were filed.

Sixty-six (66) temporary orders were granted; in forty-one (41) of those cases, the judge granted a one-year protection order. In nine (9) cases, the temporary order was terminated. Twenty-three (23) cases were pending at the end of 2025. By county, there were forty-five (45) cases filed in Providence and Bristol Counties, eight (8) in Kent County, one (1) in Newport County, and twelve (12) in Washington County.

Court-Annexed Arbitration

Court-Annexed Arbitration, Superior Court’s alternative dispute resolution process, completed its 36th year in 2025. The program is a significant contributor to lightening the court’s civil caseload. The Arbitration Unit captured thirty-two percent (32%) of all personal injury cases filed in Superior Court.

In 2025, there were 488 arbitration certificates, the initial filing by a party that places a case in the Court-Annexed Arbitration Program filed, down from 555 in 2024. The decrease can be attributed to a continued decline in overall personal injury case filings, which accounted for eighty-five percent (85%) of the Arbitration Unit’s workload. A total of 496 cases were designated for arbitration in 2025. Seventy-six (76) arbitrators participated in the program and 348 of the 496 cases designated for arbitration were disposed in 2025, compared to 345 of 523 disposed in 2024.

Settlement Week

2025 marked the 33rd year of the Settlement Week program. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the cases heard over the course of the program have settled. In 2025, there were ninety-one (91) cases heard during the annual event in December. The program was created in 1993 to assist in eliminating a backlog on the civil trial calendar. 8,000 cases have been mediated and more than 5,000 resolved through mediation since the program’s inception.

Rehabilitation and Diversion Programs

Courts throughout the Judiciary continue to administer and see sustained success in rehabilitative and diversionary programs that offer alternatives to traditional incarceration and probation sentencing.

The Adult Drug Court Program

The Adult Drug Court Program is designed to connect people with treatment, counseling, and resources while offering participants an opportunity to clear their records upon successful completion of the program. Since 2006, a total of 1,318 participants were admitted into the program and 990 people have successfully completed it. In 2025, sixty-two (62) people were admitted into the program and thirty-six (36) people completed the program. Since its inception, 990 people have graduated and 434 have been terminated from the program, resulting in a success rate of seventy percent (70%).



Superior Court Presiding Justice Alice B. Gibney retired from the Superior Court after forty-four (44) years of service to the Superior Court on Friday, October 31, 2025. Presiding Justice Gibney joined the Superior Court bench in 1984 and was appointed Presiding Justice by then-Governor Donald Carcieri in 2009. Early in her career she clerked for then-Superior Court Judge Florence K. Murray, later served as assistant U.S. Attorney, and was selected as the Workers' Compensation Court Commissioner before the Workers' Compensation Court was established as it is today.

Superior Court Diversion Program

The Rhode Island Superior Court Diversion Program provides eligible defendants with a framework of supervision and services in lieu of incarceration or probation. The program, legislatively created in 2020, is designed to offer an alternative to traditional conviction, sentencing, incarceration, and probation.

Judicial officers and Superior Court Diversion Program staff work with nonviolent offenders to access services, including substance use counseling, educational opportunities, and mental health treatment. Individuals who complete the requirements are eligible to graduate and to have their cases dismissed.

Program participants sign contracts detailing the specific expectations necessary to successfully complete the program. In the five (5) years since the program has been in operation by the Superior Court, the Diversion Program has graduated 1,724 participants, the majority of whom were first-time offenders. In 2025, 402 offenders were accepted into the program. Since its inception, the program has a success rate of eighty-two percent (82%).

Of the 288 graduates in 2025, 124 received substance use treatment, sixty-nine (69) received mental health treatment, and 151 participants contributed a combined 7,479 hours of community service to meet their program requirements. Restitution collected on behalf of the victims totaled \$225,217.



Access to Justice Spotlight

~Letters Shared from the Superior Court~

Joe* entered Diversion with 2 Possession charges and no previous exposure to recovery. He had an engineering degree and a new job but his boss was not supportive of him missing work for random toxicology screens. For 2 months he tried to maintain his job but his recovery was secondary and he began to understand that he needed to focus on his health.

He entered detox, then a residential Substance Use Treatment Center attending groups, individual counseling and a Life Skills program and his mood began to brighten. Within 5 months Joe got a full-time job as a laborer, working with concrete, and told me he was exhausted at the end of every day but was saving money, and felt humbled. Over the next several months Joe lived in a Halfway House followed by a Sober House and slowly began to build a new life for himself.

Eight months after entering Diversion, Joe got a great job in engineering in Cambridge, MA and eventually moved into his own apartment. He understood that recovery is ongoing and continued to attend meetings, work with his sponsor, and reach out to newcomers to offer them the support he received.

Joe successfully completed Diversion 11 months after entering. Email received 10 months later from Joe:

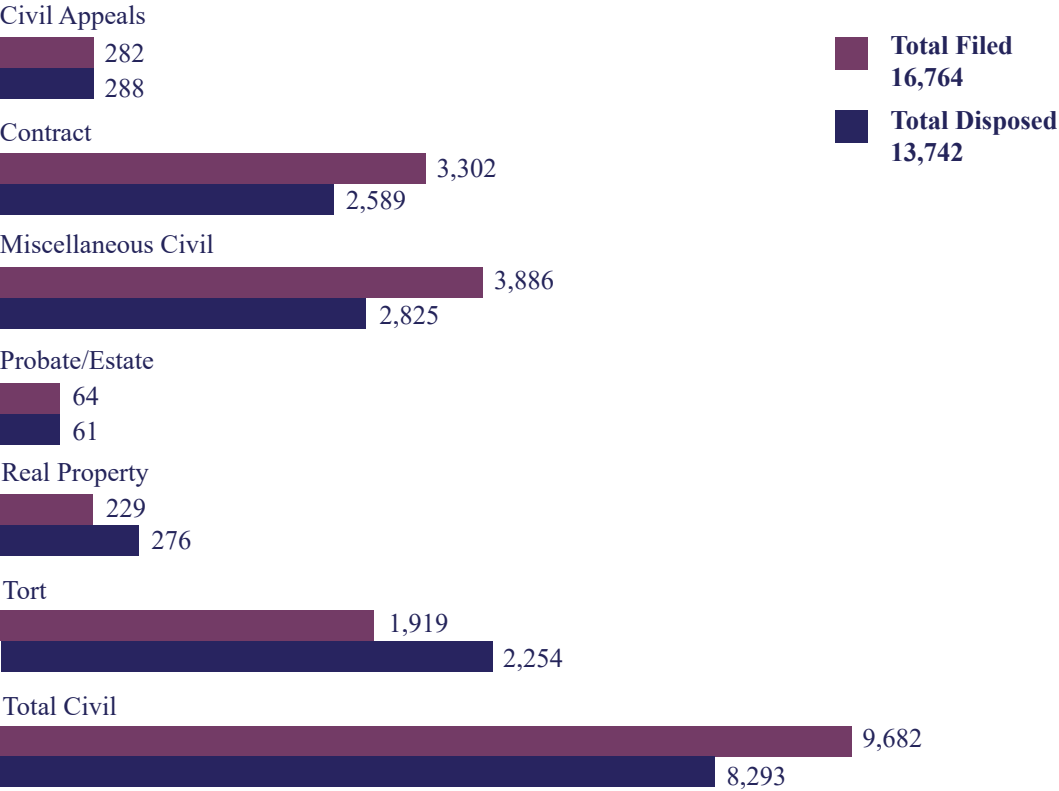
I was just thinking about Providence and how different my life is now. Also thought about you in this process so wanted to check in. Still sober- 1 year and 7 months. Honestly, life is amazing, not perfect, but I'm learning to deal with my past. I am thinking of getting a ring for my girlfriend and babies in the near future. Also, looking to buy a house.

I don't forget about what happened when drugs were hijacking my brain, but it is very hard to explain to certain people. Some understand, like you, that it really is possible to recover and stay sober. Others it is hard to convince. But thanks for pushing me and helping me to straighten my life out. I will never forget that.

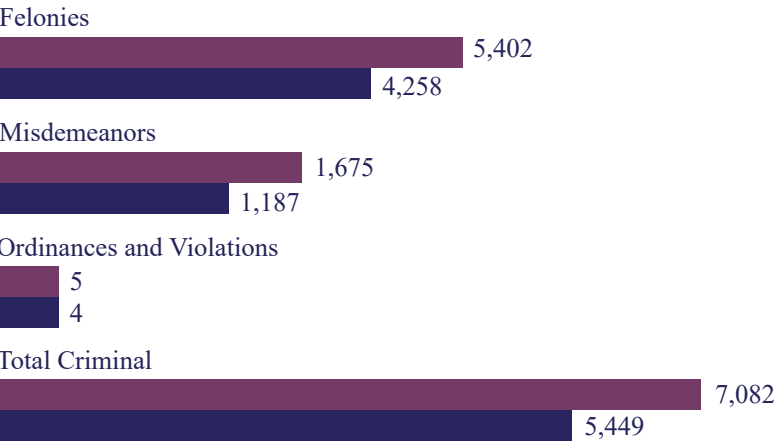
*Name changed to protect the individual's anonymity.

Superior Court 2025 Statistics

2025 Superior Court Civil Caseload



2025 Superior Court Criminal Caseload





Family Court

33 Family Court
Adoption Day

35 Specialty Courts

36 Family Court 2025 Statistics



Back, from left: Magistrate Samantha Polisen, Magistrate Denise C. Finkelman, Magistrate Andrea M. Iannazzi, Magistrate Paul T. Jones Jr., Magistrate Edward H. Newman, Magistrate Alberto Aponte Cardona, Magistrate Ronald Cascione, and Magistrate Susan Nahabedian.
Middle, from left: Magistrate Jeanne L. Shepard, General Magistrate Daniel V. Ballirano, Associate Justice Richard A. Merola, Associate Justice Elizabeth Ortiz Whited, Associate Justice Feidlim Gill, Associate Justice Shilpa Naik, Associate Justice Jeanine P. McConaghy, and Magistrate Angela M. Bucci.
Front, from left: Associate Justice Patricia K. Asquith, Associate Justice Karen Lynch Bernard, Associate Justice Laureen D'Ambra, Chief Judge Michael B. Forte, Associate Justice Debra E. DiSegna, Associate Justice Sandra Lanni, and Associate Justice Lia N. Stuhlsatz.

Family Court

The Family Court is comprised of twelve (12) justices and eleven (11) magistrates. The Family Court was created to focus special attention on individual and social issues concerning families and children. Consequently, the court's goals are to assist, to protect, and if possible, to restore families whose unity or well-being is threatened.

This court is also charged with ensuring that children within the court's jurisdiction receive care and guidance conducive to the welfare and the best interest of the child. If children are removed from the parents' control, the court seeks to secure care equivalent to that which the parents should have provided.

In 2025, there were 12,492 cases filed and 11,353 cases

disposed in Family Court. Of those cases, there were 2,721 wayward and delinquent cases filed, 2,845 divorces filed, and 2,355 child support cases filed.

Adoption Day

Adoption Day remains a highlight of the year for the Family Court and the Rhode Island community. On November 25, 2025, the Rhode Island Family Court finalized thirteen (13) adoptions with ten (10) different families at the 22nd Annual National Adoption Day Celebration.

The Rhode Island Family Court granted 125 adoptions during the calendar year. National Adoption Day not only celebrates the adoptions that were finalized that day, but also adoptions throughout the year. The day raises awareness about the need for foster parents and highlights adoption opportunities.



Family Court Associate Justice Karen Lynch Bernard shared her gavel with a newly adopted child on Adoption Day.



Adopted children and their families who completed adoptions on Adoption Day pose together in Associate Justice Karen Lynch Bernard's courtroom.

Specialty Courts
Safe and Secure Baby Calendar

The Family Court’s Safe and Secure Baby Calendar (SSBC) seeks to serve parents of new babies (zero (0) to eighteen (18) months old) who may have been in the juvenile system themselves who have mental health issues, experience housing insecurities, domestic violence exposure, a substance use history without present active use, or lack of parenting skills and natural support.

A judicial officer, attorney, hospital personnel, social worker, service provider, or other concerned individual can refer a parent for a SSBC intake as long as the Rhode Island Department of Youth, Children, and Families (DCYF) petition has been open for less than six (6) months and the case plan goal is reunification. However, transfer of a case from the DCYF calendar to the SSBC calendar is ultimately the decision of the original presiding justice.

The SSBC now has a dedicated social worker that serves as the primary contact for the court. The addition of the social worker had made a partnership with McCauley Village possible. McCauley Village is a housing community dedicated to helping families who have experienced domestic violence and homelessness through the provision of stable housing and trauma-informed services. This partnership led to available apartments for the SSBC participants; the presiding judge is specifically able to direct the funding of these apartments by DCYF in their orders.

Domestic Violence Calendar

In 2025, the Family Court continued to build on the success of the Domestic Violence Calendar by utilizing staff to optimize outcomes. The Domestic Violence Calendar benefits from the case manager that was added to the court team in 2023. The addition of the case manager is intended to improve the return rate of plaintiffs for their initial hearing. Since 2023 the Domestic Violence Court Victim Advocate of the Family Court and the Director of Women’s Services have participated in a monthly meeting with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence to address analyze high risk cases. In 2025, the Supervised Parenting Time Director joined these meetings to add valuable insights to support the court personnel, probation and parole staff, and domestic violence advocates who have traditionally assessed such cases.

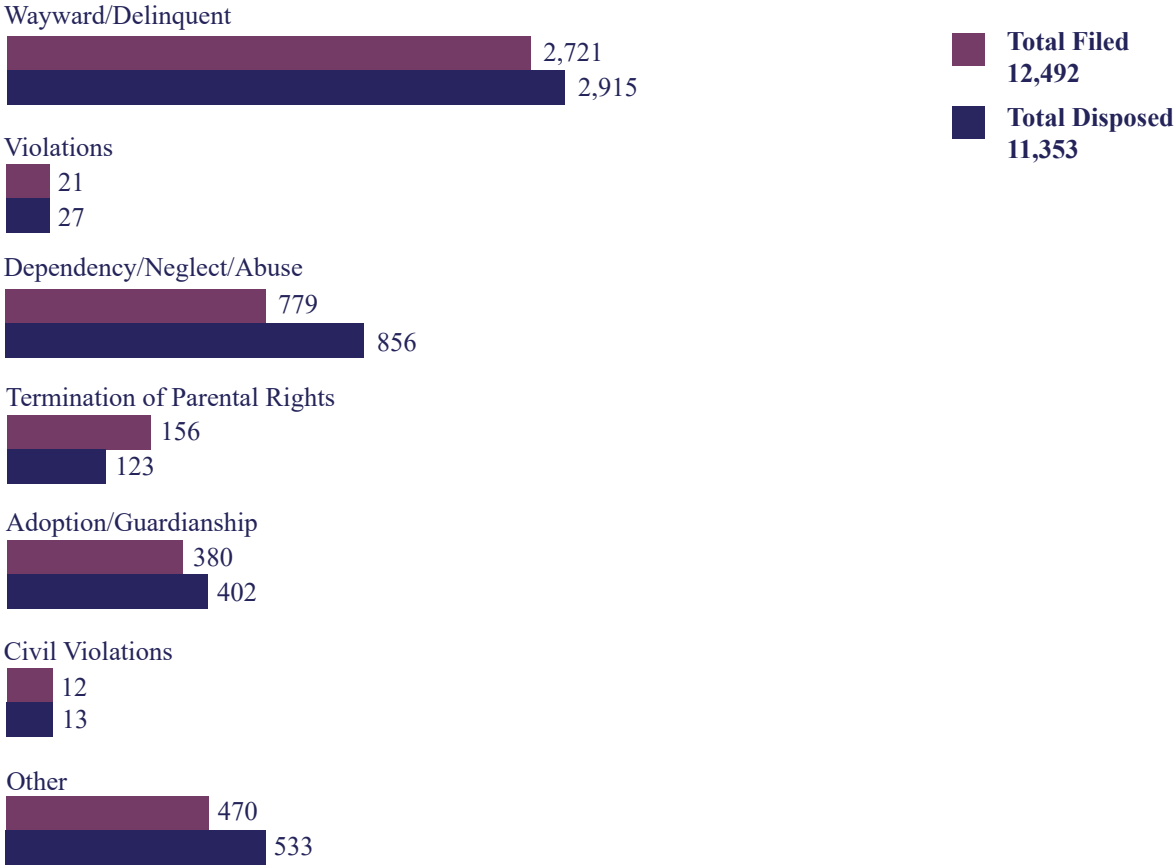
 Access to Justice Spotlight

The Access to Justice Office has assisted Family Court users in completing hundreds of forms. The Family Court’s clerk’s offices have directed many court users to the Resource Center for assistance with form completion, especially with decision pending and final judgments entered in divorce cases. Because divorces are often filed by self-represented litigants, this partnership increased filings accepted by the court.

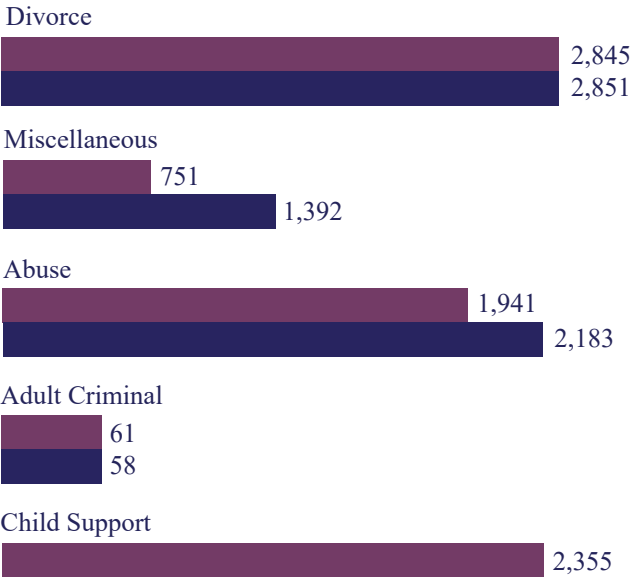
Family Court

2025 Statistics

2025 Family Court Juvenile Caseload



2025 Family Court Domestic/Other Caseload



District Court

39	District Court Rehabilitation Programs
41	Specialty Calendars
42	District Court 2025 Statistics





Back, from left: Magistrate Joseph P. Ippolito, Jr., Associate Judge Debra A. Saunders, Associate Judge J. Patrick O'Neill, Associate Judge Brian A. Goldman, Associate Judge James J. Caruolo, Associate Judge Walter Gorman (Ret.), Associate Judge William J. Trezvant, Associate Judge Nicholas J. Parrillo, Associate Judge Kas R. DeCarvalho, Magistrate Alan Goulart (sitting by designation per order of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court).
Front, from left: Associate Judge Colleen M. Hastings, Associate Judge Anthony A. Capraro, Administrative Judge Pamela Woodcock Pfeiffer, Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia, Associate Judge Mary E. McCaffrey, Associate Judge J. Terence Houlihan, Associate Judge Stephen M. Isherwood.

District Court

The District Court is comprised of fifteen (15) judges and two (2) magistrates. The District Court is a court of general jurisdiction, hearing both criminal and civil matters. This high volume and fast-paced court is often referred to as “the People’s Court.” The court has original jurisdiction of misdemeanors carrying up to one (1) year of jail time. Most felonies are also initially arraigned in the District Court where bail is set and monitored until the case proceeds to the Superior Court. Initial bail hearings on felonies are conducted in the District Court.

In 2025, there were 62,603 new filings. In 2024, there were 56,532 new filings, a ten-point-six percent (10.6%) increase.

Rehabilitation Programs

Many cases with conditions of bail are referred to Pretrial

Services. The Pretrial Services Unit (PTSU) is the bail monitoring unit of the District Court, which ensures community safety while promoting fairness and accountability.

Pretrial Services Unit

The PTSU operates under the principles of evidence-based practices and provides timely, objective, and validated reports on a defendant’s success with bail and release conditions.

PTSU is responsible for conducting risk assessments using tools such as the Public Safety Assessment (PSA) and Domestic Violence Screening Instrument (DVSI), and interviewing defendants for background factors, including substance use and mental health indicators. Staff monitor compliance with court-ordered conditions, make treatment referrals when necessary, and relay compliance through court reports.



District Court Associate Judge Kas R. DeCarvalho takes questions from students at East Providence High School during a Constitution Day presentation.

The unit plays a key role in the Veterans Treatment Court and Mental Health Treatment Calendar, supporting participants through supervision, referrals, data tracking, and grant-funded initiatives. The PTSU also works closely with treatment providers, evaluators, and external stakeholders, leveraging federal funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and Substance Abuse and the Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support innovative practices and to track outcomes. The PTSU has been lauded for its innovative use of funds to support wellness and transition programs, which include providing support services such as gym memberships to encourage physical fitness and sober activities, and gifting backpacks filled with hygiene products, clothing, food, and bedding to sustain participants through the reentry process as they navigate new housing options.

The PTSU received 3,225 referrals in 2025. The PTSU received 3,000 referrals in 2024, a seven-point-five percent (7.5%) increase. These case referrals include domestic violence related cases; 939 cases involved individuals who were determined to be at a high-risk for re-offending. The PTSU continues to participate in monthly meetings of the Domestic Violence Critical Case Review and to participate in professional development on all related topics.



In 2025, the District Court, led by Chief Justice Jeanne LaFazia, demonstrated their deep commitment to Rhode Island Veterans by participating in an Honor Flight on September 27, 2025. District Court judicial officers and staff traveled with more than 70 veterans from 5:00 a.m. until almost midnight, as they flew to Washington, D.C., toured the war monuments, shared stories, and flew back to Rhode Island in the same day. There were processions at the Providence and Washington, D.C. airports complete with marching bands to send-off, welcome, and thank the participating veterans for their service.



Access to Justice Spotlight

In 2025, the Access to Justice Office collaborated with the District Court to create new forms for self-represented litigants to utilize in filing complaints and answers in small claim matters. The forms were designed to increase usability of the small claims filing process and to give court users the ability to file their own matters in alignment with court expectations.

Specialty Calendars

The District Court has three (3) treatment calendars: the Veterans Treatment Calendar, the Mental Health Treatment Calendar, and the Civil Certification Calendar.

The Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Calendar

The Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Calendar continues to be one of the most active Veterans Treatment Calendars in the country. The calendar has been in operation for fifteen (15) years, providing treatment options and wraparound services for active military personnel and veterans who experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other serious mental health conditions. In 2025, the program received one hundred and fifty-three (153) referrals, slightly up from one hundred and forty-six (146) received in 2024. Ninety-seven (97) veterans were eligible and accepted into the voluntary program. In 2025, eighty-five (85) veterans graduated from



The Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Calendar hosted an event for participants and alumni at Medicine Horse, LLC as an introduction to the program's Equine Therapy Services on May 9. These services are now part of the RIVTC's wellness package, which was made possible through a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant.

the program, which yielded an eighty-seven percent (87%) graduation rate.

Mental Health Treatment Calendar

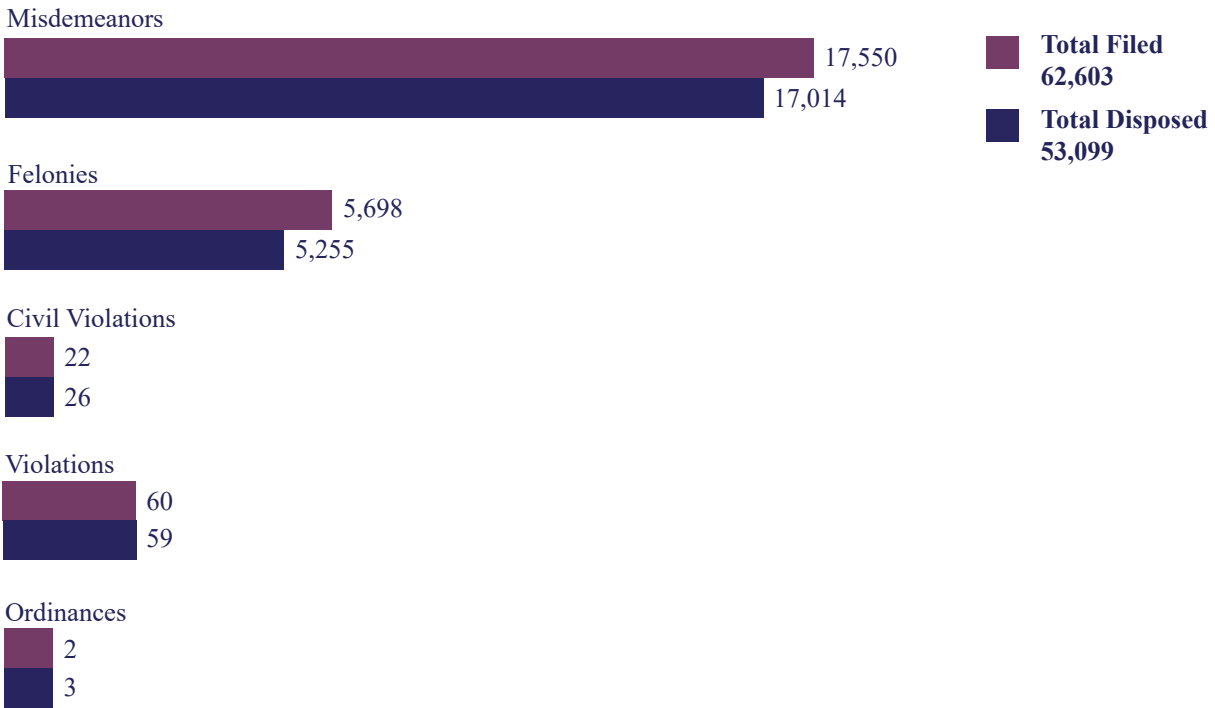
The Mental Health Treatment Calendar, which was instituted in 2023, assists individuals who are living with severe persistent mental health diagnoses and who are charged with misdemeanors. In 2025, the program received eighty-nine (89) referrals. Of the eighty-nine (89) referrals, eleven (11) new participants were accepted into the program. In 2024, the average number of active participants ranged from eighteen (18) to twenty-three (23) individuals. Nineteen (19) participants successfully completed the program in 2025. Through involvement with the court calendar, participants have established strong and consistent relationships with treatment providers, strengthened ties with family members, obtained educational training, completed high school equivalent degrees, enrolled in college courses, found employment opportunities, and restored their drivers' licenses. The cases judges handle on the Mental Health Treatment Calendar and through the Civil Certification Calendar are considered by the District Court as some of the most complex the court oversees.

Civil Certification Calendar

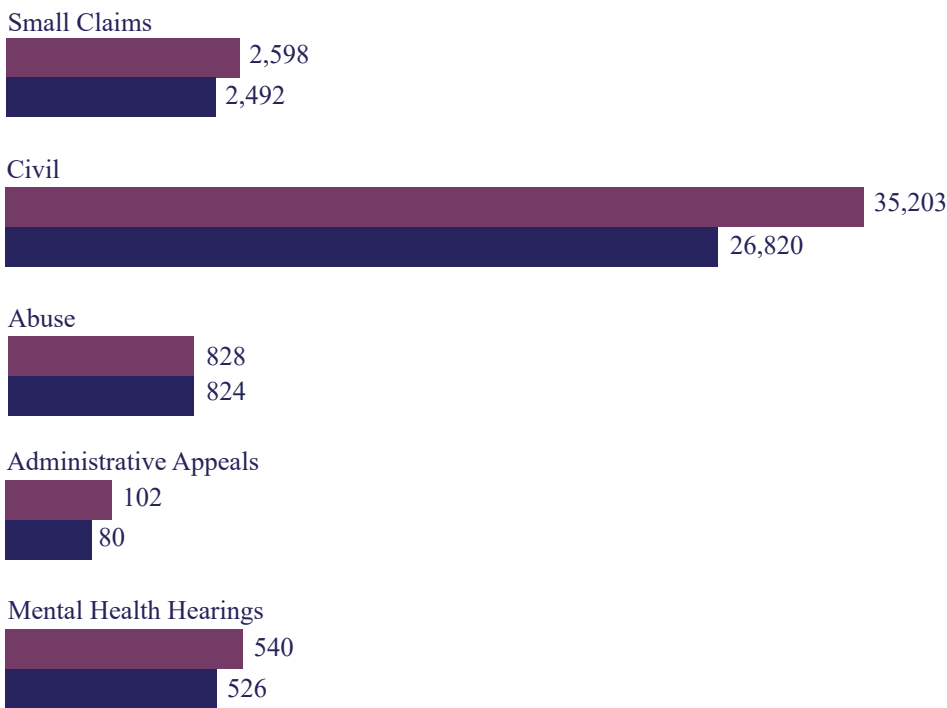
On the District Court's Civil Certification Calendar, District Court judges, sitting by assignment, review petitions for the involuntary psychiatric treatment of an individual who may pose a serious risk of harm to themselves or others.

District Court 2025 Statistics

2025 District Court Criminal Caseload



2025 District Court Civil Caseload





Workers' Compensation Court

45

Workers' Compensation Court

48

Workers' Compensation Court 2025 Statistics



From left: Associate Judge Alfredo T. Conte, Associate Judge George J. Lazieh, Associate Judge Robert E. Hardman, Associate Judge Susan Pepin Fay, Associate Judge Keith Cardoza Jr., Chief Judge Robert M. Ferrieri, Associate Judge Michael Feeney, Associate Judge Moira Reynolds, Associate Judge Steven A. Minicucci, and Associate Judge Kevin B. Reall.

Workers' Compensation Court

The Workers' Compensation Court is comprised of ten (10) judges who hear and decide all disputes between an injured employee and an employer relating to workers' compensation benefits.

The court was created by the General Assembly in 1991 as part of a holistic reform of the workers' compensation system. The responsibility of the court is to create a fair and efficient system to get weekly benefits to a deserving employee and to discontinue those benefits when the employee is no longer disabled. The court created forms and procedures which allow the litigants to bring cases to the court without great expense or paperwork.

The Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court Medical Advisory Board (Board) was statutorily created to "ensure that every person who suffers a compensable injury with resulting disability should be provided with high quality medical care and the opportunity to return to gainful employment as soon as possible with minimal dependence on compensation awards."

The Board regularly reviews the thirty-five (35) protocols to make certain injured workers and the health care providers who treat these workers have the most current treatment

options available should the need arise. In 2025, the Board commenced a review of the Pharmaceuticals, Trigger Point Injections, Dry Needling and Prolotherapy, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, and Evaluation and Management of Acute Shoulder Injuries protocols.

The court currently has 125 total medical professionals spread across twenty-six (26) medical specialties available to conduct examinations.

Mediation Alternatives

Established by Chief Judge of the Workers' Compensation Court Robert M. Ferrieri, in 2017, the mediation program has been successful for nine (9) years. In 2025, a total of 231 cases were referred to the mediation program and in 2024 a total of 263 cases were referred, representing a twelve percent (12%) decrease. Of those 231 cases, 191 were successfully mediated, twenty-one (21) cases saw no resolution and returned to trial, and twenty (20) were still pending an outcome at the end of 2025. Cases which saw a conclusion to the mediation process (settlement or return to trial) in 2025 achieved a ninety-one percent (91%) rate of settlement. The mediation program's ten (10) year average success rate is eighty-eight-point-nine percent (88.9%), with most mediations concluded in forty-five (45) days or fewer.



Workers' Compensation Court judges and industry experts presented and answered questions during a plenary session at the educational conference.

Education Initiatives

The Workers' Compensation Court works independently and with the Department of Community Outreach and Public Relations to host educational programming for a wide range of learners from young adults entering the workforce to industry experts.

The court hosted the renowned Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Educational Conference on April 10 and April 11 of 2025. The event, held at the Rhode Island Convention Center, attracted more than 200 workers' compensation industry professionals including attorneys, insurers, safety and human resource managers, healthcare experts, and rehabilitation professionals. Workers' compensation field experts gave presentations on topics ranging from the investigation of workers' compensation claims using surveillance and social media, to treatments, including surgical interventions available for injured workers with shoulder injuries, and the new advances in physical therapy.

Retired Workers' Compensation Court Chief Judge George E. Healy, Jr. was presented with a lifetime achievement award, which will bear his name and will be awarded annually in his honor hereafter. The award will celebrate advocacy, leadership, public service, fairness, and integrity.

Throughout the year, Workers' Compensation Court judges, staff, affiliated lawyers, and safety engineers visit schools to present the Young Employee Safety-Rhode Island (YES-RI) program. In 2024, the court offered eighteen (18) presentations to ensure hundreds of young Rhode Islanders know their workplace rights.



Access to Justice Spotlight

In 2025, the WCC completed the fourth year of its Law Clerk/Externship Program. For the first time, the program specifically included "First Generation" pre-law undergraduate students. The Court initiated a two (2) week winter break program for first generation undergraduate students interested in the law. Students from Providence College, Bryant University, and the University of Rhode Island were represented. The program offered court observations, hand-on experiential learning opportunities, and more than forty-five (45) meetings with judicial officers, Judiciary staff, trial attorneys, and medical staff.



Workers' Compensation Court interns pictured in the Supreme Court courtroom in the summer of 2025.



The Workers' Compensation Court made a surprise award presentation to retired WCC Chief Judge George E. Healy Jr. (Ret.) for his, "Lifetime of dedication to the Rhode Island Workers' Compensation System." Chief Healy (Ret.) is pictured with current WCC Chief Judge Robert Ferrieri and WCC Associate Judge Bruce Morin (Ret.).



Supreme Court Justice Gilbert V. Indeglia (Ret.) met with Workers' Compensation Court interns in the Bourcier Conference Room at the Licht Judicial Complex.

Workers' Compensation Court

2025 Statistics

2025 Workers' Compensation Court Caseload

Employee's Petition for No Lost Time Finding



Total Filed
8,257

Total Disposed
8,476

Employee Petitions to Review



Employer Petitions to Review



Lump Sum Settlement



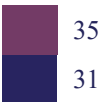
Miscellaneous Petitions



Original Petitions



Petitions for Medical



Petitions to Enforce



Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal

51	Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal
52	Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal 2025 Statistics





*Back, from left: Magistrate Mark Welch, Magistrate Norman Landroche Jr., Magistrate Michael DiChiro Jr., Magistrate William T. Noonan, Magistrate Alan R. Goulart
Front, from left: Magistrate Erika Kruse Weller, Chief Magistrate Domenic A. DiSandro III, Administrative Magistrate Joseph Abbate, and Magistrate Allison Abilheira*

Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal

The Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal is comprised of nine (9) magistrates. The The Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal (RITT) was created by the Rhode Island General Assembly in July 1999 to replace the former Administrative Adjudication Court. In 2007, RITT was made a standalone and independent court operating under the direction of the Chief Magistrate. The RITT has original jurisdiction over civil traffic offenses committed in Rhode Island, including breathalyzer refusals. Additionally, RITT has authority over certain Department of Environmental Management offenses. The RITT has oversight responsibilities and concurrent jurisdiction with the municipal courts for lesser traffic offenses.

Most Rhode Islanders interact with the Rhode Island Judiciary through the RITT. The RITT aims to handle motorists’ matters as efficiently as possible. In calendar year 2025, RITT adjudicated 110,931 violations, representing a two percent (2%) increase from 2024.

A total of 80,257 summonses were adjudicated. There are a number of programs the Tribunal has implemented to reduce barriers to doing business. The RITT’s goal is to create pathways for Rhode Islanders to safely maintain good driving records in order for them to operate motor vehicles and to maintain daily functionality.

License Restoration Program

The Chief Magistrate of the RITT established the License Restoration Program. The License Restoration Program was

created to help motorists with a suspended Rhode Island drivers license to reinstate driving privileges. In 2025, 205 people entered into payment plans through the program, up from 180 in 2024.

Ability to Pay Calendar

The Ability to Pay Calendar provides motorists with an opportunity to request an Ability to Pay Hearing upon receipt of a civil violation and fine. Once a hearing has been scheduled, the court will determine the motorist’s ability to pay the summons amount. If the court finds the motorist unable to pay their summons in full, the court can choose to reduce the amount owed or enter an order requiring the motorist to make regular, periodic payments until the summons is paid in full. In 2025, the program allowed a total of 2,165 motorists to obtain or maintain their driving privileges, reducing unnecessary suspensions and undue economic burden. The RITT also has an established relationship with Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, the state’s leading non-profit in providing resources to at-risk veterans and veterans experiencing homelessness. Operation Stand Down Rhode Island often assists veterans in seeking Ability to Pay Hearings.



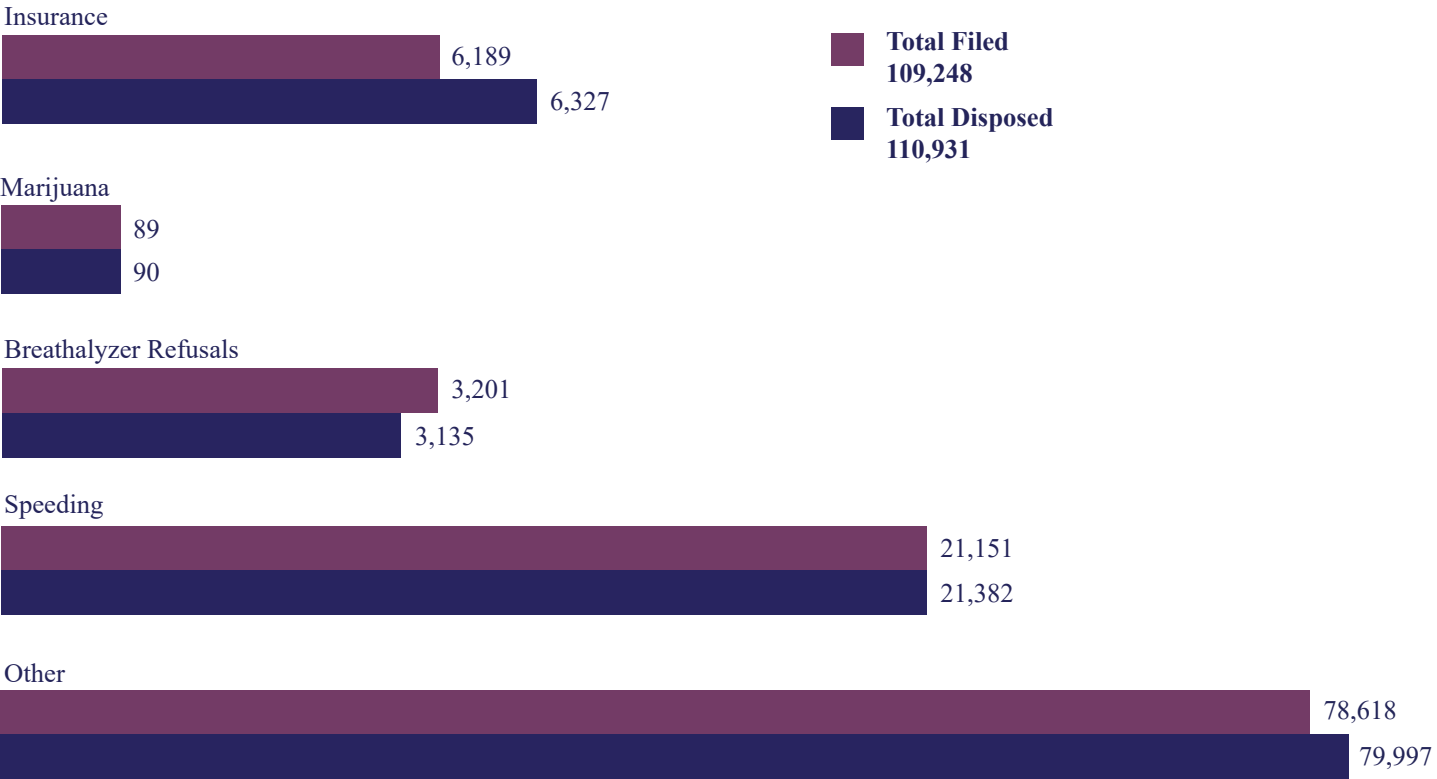
Access to Justice Spotlight

RITT expanded access to remote hearings, increasing the volume of these hearings in 2025 by three percent (3%) to 13,388. Virtual hearings reduce barriers and costs associated with physically appearing at the Tribunal.

Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal

2025 Statistics

Traffic Tribunal Total Violations



RITT Summonses Issued	78,750
RITT Summonses Disposed	80,257

** Effective as of calendar year 2024, the amended dispositions shown below are reported separately from the original dispositions depicted above.*

Amended Dispositions

Amended Summonses Disposed	6,991
Amended Violations Disposed	9,753

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