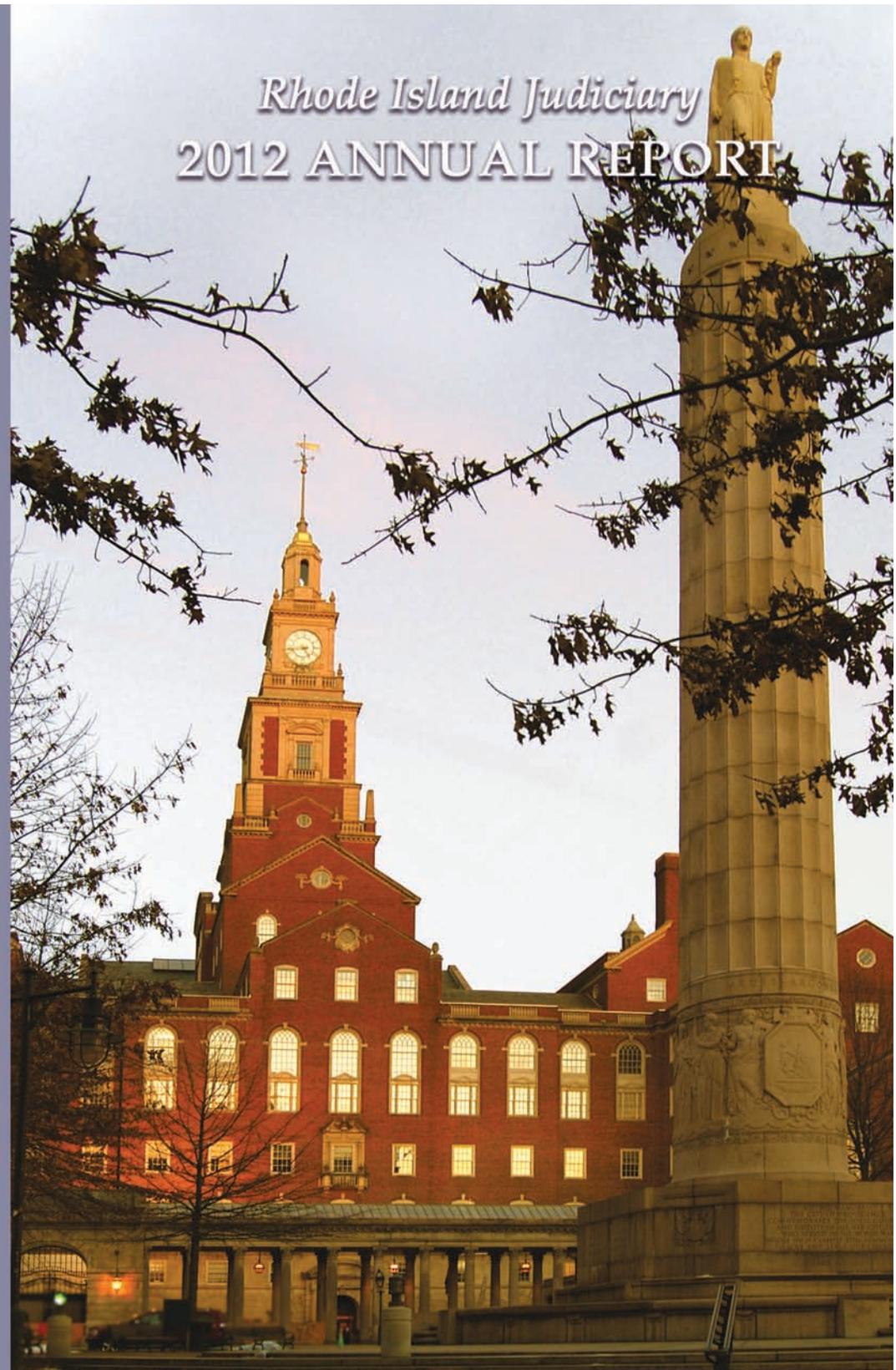


*Rhode Island Judiciary*  
2012 ANNUAL REPORT



250 Benefit Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
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[www.courts.ri.gov](http://www.courts.ri.gov)

# LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

It is my privilege to present to you the 2012 Annual Report of the Rhode Island Judiciary, pursuant to G.L. 1956 (1997 Reenactment) § 8-15-7. The report's purpose is to inform you and the public of significant changes in the Judiciary in 2012 as well as provide statistics on caseloads, budget, and revenue collections.



From an administrative standpoint, among the more consequential projects launched in 2012 was the Judiciary's Request for Proposals for a new case management system (CMS) for all courts in our unified Judiciary. A component of the new CMS will be electronic filing. Not only will electronic filing save paper and storage space, it will more efficiently serve court users, members of the bar, and the public.

In recognition of the changing demographic of the people we serve, the Judiciary looked to further its ability to accommodate those individuals who are limited English proficient by examining interpreter services not only in the courtroom but at our counters as well.

We continue to be ever-mindful of court security and all it entails and are reminded of its importance whenever a violent incident makes headlines at courthouses across the country. With our security, we aim to strike a balance between convenience and a safe environment for all who walk through our doors each day.

I am grateful for the professionalism of our judicial employees in these difficult times, and I appreciate the efforts of administrative staff who participated in the production of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Joseph Baxter, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Joseph Baxter, Jr.  
State Court Administrator

## LETTER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To the Honorable Members of the General Assembly:

As you will see on the pages that follow, the Judiciary topped 200,000 cases filed in 2012 after experiencing a downturn during the previous two years. Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal cases were up sharply and child support hearings in the Family Court continued a steady upward trend.

The Judiciary continued to carry many employee vacancies in 2012 that remained a cause for concern. There is a deteriorating ripple effect that has a long-term impact on court services. This can lead to restrictions toward justice rather than enhancing access to justice – our mission at its very core.

Because not all cases are cut out for the four corners of traditional case flow, we continue to think progressively in our approach to mediation, alternative dispute resolution, and specialty calendars in all of our courts. Special calendars for guns, drugs, business, and juvenile intake have long been staples in their respective courts. In 2012, the District Court's veterans' calendar took hold with a diversion program that aims to guide men and women who have served our country in uniform but who have lost their way upon their return to society and committed crimes.

In 2012, we continued to expand our knowledge and use of new media. Following our 2011 redesign of the Judiciary's website, a Twitter feed was initiated in March. By year-end, this social media feed had 600 followers who receive almost daily updates on court decisions, executive orders, employment and bid opportunities, appointments, posting of calendars, weather conditions affecting court schedules, notices of interest to the bar, community outreach, and other news. These enhancements are all implemented with the goal of providing greater access to make our courts more user-friendly at an economical cost.



Constance Brown

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Suttell". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Paul A. Suttell  
Chief Justice

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Transmittal	I
Letter to the General Assembly	III
Table of Contents	V

## THE COURTS

Supreme Court	2
Administrative Office of State Courts	4
Superior Court	10
Family Court	12
District Court	14
Workers' Compensation Court	16
Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal	18

## JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE

At a Glance	22
Judiciary's Caseload Summary	23
Statistical Tables for All Courts	24

## COURT STRUCTURE

Rhode Island Court Structure	42
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# THE COURTS





The Rhode Island Supreme Court, with Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, seated, and standing, left to right, Maureen McKenna Goldberg, William P. Robinson III, Francis X. Flaherty, and Gilbert V. Indeglia.

## SUPREME COURT

### **Appellate Mediation Program**

The Appellate Mediation Program lost one of its most successful mediators with the death of Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger (retired), who served with the program since its inception in 2003. The number of cases added to the Appellate Mediation Program for civil matters remained steady at around 200 for 2012. Due to judicial recalls in the lower courts, the number of retired mediator-justices available to provide services to the program was reduced to three. The program increased its resolution rate slightly to 44 percent and attained its highest rating in 10 years from attorneys and parties who participated in the program.

### **Law Clerk Department**

The Law Clerk Department had a productive term in 2012. Overall, the law clerks provide legal research and writing assistance to the various trial courts of the Judiciary. The law clerks also assist with motion calendars, special calendars, the Family and District Courts, and the Rhode Island Traffic Tribunal Appeals Panel. Their assignments encompass civil, criminal, and administrative matters.

Additionally, the law clerks make presentations in classrooms for Law Day, help with the updating of bench books, and occasionally provide reading assistance for disabled litigants.

In 2012, sixteen law clerks worked on many of the 199 Superior Court trial assignments, an increase in output from the previous year. At the outset of the judicial term, the law clerks participated in a comprehensive weeklong orientation program. This year's orientation encompassed department procedures, court procedures, legal updates, legal writing and research techniques, and review of substantive areas of the law. However, for 2012, to increase practical application of legal principles and court procedures, the law clerks attended more court sessions as part of the orientation. Additional orientation was also provided for the Business Calendar, which is now heard both in Providence/Bristol and Kent Counties, and for the busy Civil Daily Motion Calendar. The Law Clerk Department engaged departing law clerks to mentor their successors for those calendars to ensure a seamless transition from one year to the next. The department also markedly expanded its use of interns from summers to the entire year. The department worked with various New England law schools to provide course credit for internships and continued working with interns from the State Government Internship Program. The use of interns has further enhanced the department's production. In the fall of 2012, the department's supervising staff attorney gave a presentation on the Law Clerk Department program to interested prospective law school applicants from Roger Williams School of Law and met with a clerkship director from a New England law school, effectively promoting interest in the department. During the clerkship year, bimonthly department meetings to review new case law, discuss legal topics, and review procedures continued to be held at each of the courthouses. Such meetings promoted consistency in work product and procedures, familiarity with the different courthouses, and teamwork among the department members.

For 2013, a top initiative will be promoting law clerk assistance with various special calendars while providing legal research and writing to the general trial calendar judges, justices, and magistrates. The Formal and Special Cause Calendar, Business Calendar, and the Traffic Tribunal Appeals Panel will have a designated law clerk who splits his or her time between special calendar and general trial calendar assignments. However, one law clerk will be assigned exclusively to the growing calendar involving Mortgage Electronic Registration System (MERS) cases. This assignment should promote consistency and efficiency with respect to the handling of MERS matters. The department will also continue to utilize and even expand its comprehensive, computerized tracking system for case assignments. The Law Clerk Department will strive to arrange for more courtroom attendance by law clerks, at the same time ensuring that law clerks balance their research and writing assignments with their time spent in the courtroom.

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

### **Community Outreach and Public Relations**

The Office of Community Outreach and Public Relations in 2012 continued to advance Rhode Island's participation in a national civics education initiative for middle schools. The Chief Justice, as state chair for iCivics, visited middle schools and commissioned workshops to expand the program's reach to teachers across the state.

Founded by retired United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 2010, iCivics fills a void in information and tools available to middle school students to participate in society. The free program appeals to this demographic largely due to its focus on educational games and digital entertainment. The iCivics national office reported in 2012 that Rhode Island users of the program's website were "engaging with the material quite deeply," ranking first of all states for average number of web pages viewed per visit and third overall for average time spent on the site.

The Office of Community Outreach and Public Relations augmented its ongoing relationships with local schools, the Department of Education, scouting organizations, and the military to promote better understanding of the justice system, cultivate positive attitudes about the third branch of government, and promote interest in careers in the Judiciary. Through these efforts, hundreds of Rhode Island schoolchildren have become familiar with the judicial branch.

The staff arranged for the Supreme Court to continue its regular practice of "riding the circuit" to hear oral arguments of actual cases away from the Licht Judicial Complex. In 2012, the Court sat at Tolman High School in Pawtucket.

Social media also came to the Judiciary in 2012 as the courts began a Twitter feed in March. The feed provides information about court cases, executive and administrative orders, notices to the Rhode Island Bar, employment and bid opportunities, appointments, outreach, schedule changes, and other news. By year-end, the Twitter feed (@CourtsRI) had more than 600 followers..

### **Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit**

In 2012, the Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit completed its final testing for the conversion of its legislatively mandated paper forms to an electronic database. The new database will go live in 2013 and will replace the original paper form that was quite lengthy and had to be hand delivered or mailed to the Domestic Violence Unit. Police officers will enter domestic violence, sexual assault and child molestation cases into their vehicle computers for automatic electronic transmission

to this unit. This new system will provide greater accountability as well as save time. Training for police officers will also help them understand the correct reporting procedure for domestic violence and sexual assault cases. Domestic violence has been steadily increasing over the past few years at the rate of 5 percent annually.

### **Facilities, Operations, and Security**

The department's mission is to provide economical, efficient, and well-organized maintenance and security services to all of the Judiciary with professionalism, courtesy, and proficiency. It provides oversight of the planning of space and property, capital budgeting, and construction management to include renovations, maintenance, and repair of all judicial buildings and facilities, as well as utilities, grounds care, custodial, and other services.

The department continually fine-tunes its project and maintenance plans. Valuable feedback from vendors not only allows for fewer breakdowns on vital pieces of equipment but nurtures a better grasp on planned replacement projects for that equipment. The most important aspect is the ability to use utility rebates to help finance future projects. The department completed a boiler replacement and domestic hot water project at the Murray Judicial Complex in Newport, making it the most efficient system of the seven court facilities. Likewise, a boiler and domestic hot water project is in progress at the Garrahy Judicial Complex, as well as a complete replacement of the heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) units. These projects will have a positive impact on not only the levels of physical comfort but also the operating budget for the Judiciary.

The construction division completed several capital improvement projects in 2012. Elevator refinishing at the Licht Judicial Complex in Providence was completed, as well as the repair and restoration of the courtyard. Restrooms were renovated at the McGrath Judicial Complex in South Kingstown and new carpeting was installed throughout the building. A new District Court payment room was constructed at the Garrahy Judicial Complex in Providence and restoration work at the Fogarty Judicial Annex was completed.

Recent violence throughout the country demonstrates the need to provide the most comprehensive security plan possible. In July, the department began conversion from bar code entry readers to the proximity entry card readers at all of the court building public entrances. In conjunction with this change, more than 3,000 proximity identification cards were reissued to attorneys and court staff. Utilizing the

proximity card reader will assist in processing cardholders faster and more effectively. Surveillance cameras at the McGrath and Murray Judicial Complexes were upgraded to Internet Protocol (IP) cameras. Additional IP cameras were installed to provide better coverage in vulnerable areas. The Judiciary also provided new security equipment for the control rooms for the Capitol Police and the Sheriff's Department.

#### **Judicial Education and Mandatory Continuing Legal Education**

The Rhode Island Supreme Court Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Commission launched its electronic filing system within the Rhode Island Supreme Court Attorney Portal in 2012, thereby creating a user-friendly database for attorneys and sponsors of continuing legal education. Attorneys are now able to easily access their continuing legal education records, including carryover credit balances. Continuing legal education sponsors now submit curricula online, enabling MCLE Commission administration to swiftly review and respond to submissions in a paperless fashion.

New attorneys admitted to practice law in Rhode Island are now required to complete the Rhode Island Bridge the Gap daylong course. The course combines a skill-based curriculum that includes legal writing, stress management, attorney ethics, law practice management, and interviewing, along with a general orientation to the bar. This course provides the new practitioner with a solid foundation that aids the transition from law school to the Rhode Island Bar. The course is offered online for out-of-state attorneys who cannot travel to Rhode Island to participate in person.

All state court justices, judges, and magistrates attended fall, winter, and spring judicial education conferences designed to enhance judicial excellence. The University of Rhode Island's Bay Campus in Narragansett provided the setting for the Fall Judicial Conference, which focused on maritime and environmental law as well as cutting-edge forensics. Speakers included Dr. Robert Ballard, Dr. Victor Fay-Wolfe, and Roger Williams University School of Law Professor Susan Farady. The Honorable Kevin S. Burke, of the Hennepin County District Court, Minnesota, delivered the Winter Judicial Conference keynote address on procedural fairness.

#### **Judicial Records Center**

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

In 2012, the JRC added more than 65,000 case files in 2,199 boxes. The JRC now stores over 5,000,000 case files in 95,301 cubic foot boxes, and 5,124 manuscript court docket, minute, and record books. The JRC staff responded to over 50,000 requests for records during the year. These included more than 29,000 individual records that were viewed at the JRC. Staff also provided access to an additional 16,000 case files for researchers for credit agencies and social policy institutes.

While the JRC houses 30,000 cubic feet of active and archival court records in its Pawtucket facility, it also manages close to 60,000 boxes of semi-active case files through an offsite records storage vendor. The Judiciary and the State Records Program collaborated to issue a request for proposals to find a professional records storage company that could satisfy the state's need. After an intensive and thorough evaluation of the proposals, Iron Mountain was chosen as the lowest-cost and best-qualified vendor. The transfer of the court records from the current vendor to Iron Mountain will be completed by March 2014.

There were 7,241 archival requests for the pre-1900 court records in 2012. These include requests from genealogists as well as graduate students, lawyers, and professional historians. Scholars investigated a broad range of topics, including: African-American women in the New Republic, colonial naval history, Jews in 18th- and 19th-century Rhode Island, the history of Touro synagogue, dual citizenship, slavery in Rhode Island, and Indian tribes on colonial Block Island.

#### **Judicial Technology Center**

In the beginning of 2012, the Judiciary published a request for proposals for a new case management system to replace the antiquated existing system. The new system will include all civil and criminal cases, and it will enable the courts to engage in electronic filing, electronic content management, a finance component, public and attorney portals, and an electronic payments system. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2016.

The Judicial Technology Center (JTC) replaced the redundant core network switches in the Garrahy Judicial Complex that controlled the Judiciary's network. This enhancement enables the network to perform at higher speeds and security levels and prepares the Judiciary for the upcoming case management and electronic filing project. The JTC has updated network appliances to protect the Judiciary against security breaches and virus threats.

A new indigent defense system started in October 2012. This system allows attorneys to submit their timesheets, correspond through e-mail with the finance office, and receive records of the timesheets they have submitted.

In 2012, the Judiciary continued to work with the Division of Taxation to intercept income tax refunds from people who owe the Judiciary money. The Judiciary collected \$475,911 through the program and collected \$112,260 in sales of data and reports. All receipts are forwarded to the state's general revenue fund.

#### **Office of Court Interpreters**

The Office of Court Interpreters (OCI) provided services in more than 20 languages to 8,657 court users during 2012. Those services included all types of criminal and civil court proceedings held in all counties. In addition to court proceedings, the office continued to provide services for the Family Court's mediation and juvenile divisions and the District Court's Pretrial Services Unit.

In October 2012, the office participated in a national conference on "Language Access in the Courts," which focused on interpreting services. That same month, the Rhode Island Judiciary was invited to participate in a New England states' collaboration to train and certify interpreters through the National Center for State Courts. This process is closely related to the commitment taken by the Judiciary to provide quality interpreting services. The progress of this process and information to be shared with the public will be forthcoming in 2013. The office continued disseminating information to the public regarding its free services.

The Judiciary's website continues to be a popular avenue for court users to request language services. Most requests were submitted through an e-mail link provided on the Judiciary's website.

#### **State Law Library**

In 2012, the Law Library was visited by more than 8,000 visitors and patrons, circulated nearly 6,000 items and answered more than 5,000 reference and research questions. The development of a robust print collection supplemented by a wide selection of electronic resources continued as a primary objective.

While the collection is considered the heart of the library, it is the staff that represents the soul. Four staff members had the opportunity to sharpen their skills and attend outstanding educational programs at the 105th Annual Association of Law Librarians Conference held in Boston in 2012. Attendance was possible because of the meeting's close proximity and a grant from the AALL regional chapter.

The library continues to offer the highest quality print and electronic materials in an ever-changing technological environment. The library introduced the Westlaw Next platform, which is now the nexus of the Judiciary contract. It offers the courts a next generation legal research tool that combines primary materials as well as secondary and analytical results in one easy-to-use search window. Lexis is available in the main and county law libraries throughout the state and is utilized by court personnel as well as the public. HeinOnline has been integrated into the Encore Synergy discovery application. Typing a topic or subject into the HELIN library catalog will not only retrieve bibliographic records of available books, government documents, and multimedia materials, but also full text of articles from Hein's 40 million pages of legal periodicals and history.

In 2012, the library was the recipient of a generous grant from the Champlin Foundations. The library purchased the ScanPro 2000, a computer peripheral allowing microforms to be brought into the digital world. Materials formerly only in microform can now be retrieved, downloaded, searched, and saved on any computer. New and upgraded computers and printers in the county libraries, as well as shelving and other functional and aesthetic improvements were also part of this grant.

The library continued to participate in the Judiciary's community outreach program. Classes of secondary students who visit the library receive an introduction to the library and the court system. Students gain insight into the interdependency of the three branches of government and the law these branches generate.

In 2012, the library also participated in the Bridge the Gap program, a series of educational seminars administered through the Rhode Island Bar Association. The program, the vision of Rhode Island Supreme Court Chief Justice Paul A. Suttell, is designed to help new attorneys transition from law school to law practice.

Constant change is a daily reality in law libraries today. Libraries struggle with changing demographics, emerging technologies, escalating costs, and shrinking budgets. The State Law Library recognizes and embraces these changes as it continues to improve and reassess its collections and services.



Bottom - Left to right: Edward C. Clifton, Judith C. Savage, Patricia A. Hurst, Robert D. Krause, Alice Bridget Gibney (Presiding Justice), Melanie Wilk Thunberg, Francis J. Darigan, Jr., Michael A. Silverstein, and Netti C. Vogel.  
 Second Row - Left to right: Brian P. Stern, Bennett R. Gallo, Allen P. Rubine, Daniel A. Procaccini, Edwin J. Gale, Stephen P. Nugent, Susan E. McGuire, Jeffrey A. Lanphear, William E. Carnes, Jr., and Kristin E. Rodgers.  
 Top - Left to right: Gordon M. Smith, Patrick T. Burke, Patricia L. Harwood, Sarah Taff-Carter, Walter Stone, Brian Van Couyghen, William J. McAtee, and Susan L. Kenny.

## SUPERIOR COURT

### Civil and Criminal Trial Calendars – Providence/Bristol County

As a result of the court’s active involvement in the settlement process, there has been a drastic reduction (58 percent) in the number of cases requiring trials. No trial dates are assigned until the court has conducted meaningful conferences to determine possible resolution. The court is current in reaching cases for trial within the assigned time frame.

### Business Calendar in the Counties

During its first full year of operation, the Out-County Business Calendar (outside of Providence/Bristol) administered 45 receivership proceedings. In addition, there was a significant increase in the number of commercial transactions filed, or transferred, to this calendar.

Each matter is conferenced, scheduling orders unique to each case are implemented, early determination of legal issues is made, discovery is expedited and, where appropriate, mandatory mediation occurs. The numbers are expected to increase in 2013.

### Gun Calendar

In 2012, the Gun Calendar addressed 175 cases, of which 143 (82 percent) were disposed. Average days to disposition: 144.

Of the 143 dispositions:

Number of sentences imposed, 127 (89 percent)

Number of jail terms imposed, 95 (68 percent)

Jail terms were imposed in 77 percent of all sentences

### Master Control of Civil Trial Calendar

Final results of the 2009 “push” of inactive civil cases: 1,068 cases were addressed, of which 1,025 (96 percent) were closed.

### Master Control of Arbitration Cases

Final results of the 2010 “push” of civil cases: 370 cases were addressed, of which 355 (96 percent) were closed.

### Settlement Week

In this annual event held in mid-December, 152 civil cases were mediated, and 94 (62 percent) were settled.



Bottom - Left to right: Stephen J. Capineri, John A. Mutter, Michael B. Forte, Haiganush R. Bedrosian (Chief Judge), Kathleen A. Voccola, Francis J. Murray, Jr., and Laureen D'Ambra.

Top - Left to right: Charles Levesque, Edward H. Newman, Angela M. Paulhus, George N. DiMuro, John E. McCann III, Debra E. DiSegna, Karen Lynch Bernard, Jeanne L. Shepard, Patricia K. Asquith, and Armando O. Monaco II.

## FAMILY COURT

### National Adoption Day

The Rhode Island Family Court hosted its 9th Annual National Adoption Day on November 17, 2012. Rhode Island's celebration coincided with events held across the United States to draw attention to the adoption process and the large number of children available for adoption. The Family Court finalized 19 adoptions with 16 different families, as Chief Judge Haiganush R. Bedrosian welcomed more than 250 participants to the event.

### Court Appointed Special Advocate

The Office of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is locally and nationally recognized as a leader in the field of child representation. Rhode Island CASA represents more than 2,600 children in the care of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. With a full-time staff of 9 lawyers, 5 social caseworkers, and 3 support staff, CASA relies upon the 300 sworn volunteers to assist in representing the abused and neglected children of Rhode Island.

While volunteers undergo 30 hours of training and are asked for an 18-month commitment to the program, many remain active for much longer. The average volunteer commits an average of 12 hours a month to each assigned case both in and outside of court.

### Child Support Collections

The Rhode Island Family Court Child Support/Collections Office collected \$90,496,882 in 2012. Family Court magistrates held a total of 29,308 child support hearings. The office continues to work with Child Support Enforcement in efforts to increase the amount of electronic fund transfers. The department opened 5,420 new cases.

### Mediation

The Family Court Mediation Unit was established in 2011 to organize, track, and expand the court's mediation activities. Mediation plays a vital role in helping the court meet the growing challenge of serving self-represented litigants. Although mediators cannot provide legal advice or guidance, they facilitate a structured, efficient process for helping parties work through conflicts in their cases in an expeditious manner.

The Mediation Unit continues to partner with the Roger Williams University School of Law, which provides pro bono mediation services to the Family Court and supplements the work of staff mediators.

From 2010 through 2012, 90 percent of all mediations resulted in full or partial resolution of cases. The number of cases mediated has grown significantly over the last three years. In 2012, the number was 880 – an increase of almost 40 percent. At the conclusion of mediation, parties are given a satisfaction survey to complete anonymously and drop off at the department exit. Ninety percent of the parties have said they would recommend the mediation process to others.

### Juvenile Justice

The Rhode Island Family Court Juvenile Services Department continues to evolve in order to meet the complex needs of families that come to court for juvenile matters. In 2012, the Family Court received 5,780 wayward and delinquent offenses that included violent crimes, alcohol and drugs, property damage, and status offenses to name a few. With the exception of emergency detentions, the Juvenile Services Department is typically the first point of contact for these cases.

Through the court's rehabilitative mission and a strong infrastructure of diversion programs, great efforts are taken to resolve matters through informal hearings or specialty calendars. These resources are designed to address the needs of a family at the earliest stages of judicial contact and aim to minimize the utilization of the formal juvenile calendar.



*Bottom - Left to right:* Bottom – Left to right: Pamela Woodcock Pfeiffer, William C. Clifton, Frank J. Cenerini, Jeanne E. LaFazia (Chief Judge), Elaine T. Bucci, Madeline Quirk, and Rafael A. Ovalles.

*Top - Left to right:* Joseph A. Montalbano, Stephen M. Isherwood, Colleen M. Hastings, Anthony Capraro, Mary E. McCaffrey, Joseph T. Houlihan Jr., Christine S. Jabour, and Joseph P. Ippolito, Jr.

## DISTRICT COURT

### **Sixth Division Civil Clerk's Office**

With the assistance of the Supreme Court's Office of Facilities, Operations, and Security, the Sixth Division's civil clerk's office has been moved to the third floor of the Garrahy Judicial Complex. Two new courtrooms have been constructed. The clerk's office for all civil and small claims filings is now more efficient and easy to use. All criminal filings and payment of fines and costs are handled on the second floor in the criminal clerk's office.

### **Computer-Generated ACI Documents**

The District Court is currently working on a process to have all Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) documents issued and transmitted by the clerk electronically to the prison and the Sheriff's Department. These documents are orders of the court to lodge, transport, or hold a defendant at the ACI until their next court appearance.

### **Veterans Calendar**

In 2011, Chief Judge Jeanne E. LaFazia introduced the Veterans Calendar to the District Court in Kent County as a pilot program, which grew throughout 2012 and became very successful. The calendar accepts referrals from every

division of the District Court. The court's volunteer Mentor Program has done an outstanding job supporting these veterans throughout the judicial process and has become a vital part of this calendar's success.

### **19th Operation Stand Down Rhode Island**

The District Court, in conjunction with the Supreme Court's Judicial Technology Center and the Rhode Island Sheriff's Department, participated for the second straight year in the annual Stand Down Weekend in Cumberland for veterans. Chief Judge LaFazia, administrative, clerical, and Pretrial Services Unit staff all donated their time to assist homeless veterans with a multitude of legal issues pending before the court. Chief Judge LaFazia held court hearings for these veterans, and with the assistance of the Judicial Technology Center, the District Court was able to electronically record all proceedings and had direct wireless computer access into the District Court's criminal database.



Bottom - Left to right: Debra L. Olsson, George E. Healy, Jr. (Chief Judge), and Janette A. Bertness.  
 Top - Left to right: Robert E. Hardman, George T. Salem, Jr., Edward P. Sowa, Jr., Dianne M. Connor, Hugo L. Ricci, Jr., and Robert M. Ferrieri.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

Throughout the past year, the Workers' Compensation Court continued to pursue its traditional outreach efforts while preparing for the challenges that will arise in the immediate future.

### Impartial Medical Examiners

Since workers' compensation litigation relies heavily upon medical evidence, the court often seeks guidance from impartial medical professionals willing to conduct examinations. The approval and management of the impartial medical examiners are functions of the court's Medical Advisory Board. In recent years, the number of physicians willing to perform impartial evaluations had declined. As the medical community faced increasing economic and professional demands, its availability to conduct evaluations at the request of the court had diminished. The Medical Advisory Board began an initiative to reach out to the Rhode Island medical community to hear and address their concerns. As a result of this effort, the number of health-care providers willing to perform impartial examinations increased by 23 percent.

### Disability Retirement Litigation

In the 2011 legislative session, the General Assembly revised the process for appealing an adverse decision of the State Retirement Board in cases where a police officer or firefighter seeks a disability retirement as a result of a service-related injury.

While the Legislature mandated that claims for accidental disability retirement which arise after July 1, 2011 be appealed to the Workers' Compensation Court, the injured officer must be disabled for 18 months before a claim can be filed. Thus, the new jurisdictional path would become effective on January 1, 2013. In anticipation of this new jurisdiction, representatives from the court met with all interested stakeholders to craft procedural rules and to create form pleadings to accommodate this new practice. With the cooperation of the interested parties, the court is ready to address this new type of litigation as it arises.

### Medical Seminar on Narcotics Abuse and the Management of Chronic Pain

One of the most difficult and far-reaching issues confronting medical providers and personal injury advocates is the management of chronic pain and the alarming number of people who are becoming dependent on narcotic pain medication. While this is a societal issue, it is particularly acute in the field of workers' compensation. Injured workers who receive pain medication for the treatment of an acute injury are at risk to develop a substance dependency problem. While the human toll is of paramount concern, the addicted employee who is unable to return to work and who develops numerous collateral medical issues, exponentially increases the cost to the system. The court has been a leader in the effort to address this issue in Rhode Island. The Medical Advisory Board began the process of drafting treatment protocols for the prescription of pharmaceuticals and the management of chronic pain.

### Outreach

In 2004, the Workers' Compensation Court initiated a program to educate our youngest workers about their right to a safe workplace and their entitlement to workers' compensation benefits in the event that they suffer a work-related injury. Every year, more school districts request a visit from a YES-RI team, and the schools that have hosted the program strive to increase the number of students we reach. In addition, the program has expanded to address at-risk youths who are no longer in school. The students not only receive valuable information regarding their rights as workers but they also feel empowered by the court's efforts to meet with them. Since the YES-RI program is a partnership among the court, the bar, and safety professionals, it also fosters a strong sense of collegiality among diverse interest groups.

The court has also continued its outreach efforts in the immigrant community. In addition to the community forums in the Spanish-speaking communities of Rhode Island, the court has also met with representatives of Rhode Island's large Southeast Asian community. These educational efforts inform limited-English proficient workers of their rights to a safe work environment and their rights to compensation benefits should an injury occur.



Left to right: Albert Ciullo, R. David Cruise, Lillian M. Almeida, William R. Guglietta (Chief Magistrate), Domenic DiSandro III, William T. Noonan, Alan R. Goulart, and Edward C. Parker.

## RHODE ISLAND TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL

The Traffic Tribunal handled 115,127 violations, marking the eighth straight year with more than 100,000. This is an increase of 13,081 violations over the previous year. In addition to these filings, the Traffic Tribunal had increases in motion hearings (4,350) and show cause hearings (9,674). The Appellate Division heard 119 traffic and municipal court appeals and 401 appeals for the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Despite the large number of cases filed during 2012, the Traffic Tribunal was able to dispose of more than 117,000 violations, which is 103 percent of cases filed in 2012.

Moreover, the Traffic Tribunal continued to be a major contributor to the general fund of the State of Rhode Island. In 2012, the Traffic Tribunal collected \$13,111,240 in payments. The Traffic Tribunal was also a major participant with the State of Rhode Island's Tax Intercept Program, in conjunction with the Department of Revenue. The Tribunal collected over \$592,010 through this program.

Several judicial functions assisted the tribunal in handling the thousands of citizens who appeared on its calendars. In 2012, the Chief Magistrate enhanced the public's accessibility to the judges and magistrates by continuing the miscellaneous "2A" calendar. This calendar allows any "walk-in" motorist to have access to a judge or magistrate during the working hours of the court. The Traffic Tribunal also restructured its Web and telephone payment processes, which reduced costs to the motorist, and provided an automated teller machine in the main concourse of the courthouse so that motorists may have access to funds to pay their fines and court costs.

For the first time, in 2012, several Traffic Tribunal magistrates and staff members volunteered to participate in "Operation Stand Down," a veterans outreach program aimed at assisting homeless and low-income veterans in Rhode Island. The Traffic Tribunal held special calendars, assisting the veterans in resolving outstanding traffic violations and licensing issues.

The role of the Traffic Tribunal continues to evolve. In 2012, Public Laws 2012-221 and 2012-233 were enacted. These laws decriminalized possession of one ounce or less of marijuana, providing for a civil fine and, in the case of a juvenile, a drug awareness program and community service. The jurisdiction for these new civil violations was placed with the Traffic Tribunal. The Traffic Tribunal worked extensively with prosecutors, law enforcement agencies, community groups, and members of the bar to prepare for the implementation of this law in April 2013.

In 2012, the Traffic Tribunal continued an important relationship with the 26 municipal courts in Rhode Island that have concurrent jurisdiction over some lesser traffic violations. The Traffic Tribunal enters all violations and dispositions into the state judicial computer case management system. In 2012, some 69,599 Municipal Court jurisdiction violations were entered by the staff of the Traffic Tribunal.

The Traffic Tribunal has continued to work with all municipal courts, completing site visits to each one in an effort to review their procedures and promote best practices for the administration of justice in those courts. The Traffic Tribunal is working with the municipal court clerks and their judges to create better lines of communication, ensure accurate reporting of fines and costs, reduce errors in reporting dispositions, as well as ensuring that payments are being made in a timely manner.

In 2011, the General Assembly passed legislation requiring a mandatory court appearance for defendants who receive a third summons within a 12-month period. The Traffic Tribunal partnered with the Rhode Island State Police to provide an alert to law enforcement officers in their vehicles about the existence of previous violations. In addition to this alert, internally the Traffic Tribunal flagged 9,069 cases in 2012 as ineligible to pay by mail as indicated on the summons. The motorists were notified that a hearing was required, allowing for judicial review of the motorist's driving history prior to disposition of the summons.

Additionally, the Traffic Tribunal continued the implementation of the "Colin Foote Act." This piece of legislation, which passed in 2010, created new penalties for multiple moving offenses. It also was enacted to address the issues of individuals convicted of four separate and distinct offenses within an 18-month period.

# JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE



## AT A GLANCE

### SUMMARY OF JUDICIAL BUDGETS

Description	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013 Enacted
Supreme Court Operations	25,352,352	26,380,466	25,969,098
Defense of Indigents	3,448,104	3,248,180	3,562,240
Superior Court Operations	18,793,335	19,783,098	20,304,277
Jury Operations	1,510,192	1,558,730	1,628,051
Family Court	16,875,534	17,147,852	18,044,955
District Court	10,642,265	11,308,170	11,435,878
Traffic Tribunal	7,572,756	8,192,012	8,191,888
Judicial Tenure and Discipline	106,076	105,450	113,609
<b>General Revenue Total</b>	<b>84,300,614</b>	<b>87,723,958</b>	<b>89,249,996</b>
Supreme Court	269,004	101,870	220,021
Superior Court	87,692	65,573	175,025
Family Court	2,187,175	2,113,121	2,156,933
District Court	12,050	97,352	130,128
<b>Federal Funds Total</b>	<b>2,555,921</b>	<b>2,377,916</b>	<b>2,682,107</b>
Supreme Court	1,364,642	1,073,493	1,417,495
Superior Court	459,959	447,876	508,174
Family Court	74,213	766,398	704,529
District Court	307,618	238,463	285,916
Workers' Compensation Court	6,432,824	7,204,814	7,725,081
<b>Restricted Receipts Total</b>	<b>8,639,256</b>	<b>9,731,044</b>	<b>10,641,195</b>
Supreme Court	829,704	1,074,878	1,675,000
<b>Other Funds Total</b>	<b>829,704</b>	<b>1,074,878</b>	<b>1,675,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>96,325,495</b>	<b>100,907,796</b>	<b>104,248,298</b>
Percent of State Budget	1.75%	1.84%	1.29%
<b>Percent of State Budget General Fund</b>	<b>2.85%</b>	<b>2.82%</b>	<b>2.71%</b>

### REVENUE DATA

Description	Type	FY 2012	Calendar Year 2012
Supreme Court	Fees	14,889	23,220
Superior Court	Fines	101,268	110,009
	Fees	1,471,695	1,415,540
Family Court	Fees	529,903	563,302
District Court	Fines	2,431,830	2,413,781
	Fees	2,312,354	2,317,335
Traffic Tribunal	Fines	11,757,146	11,598,313
Probation and Parole	Fines	1,304,368	1,290,453
Warrant Fees	Fines	405,608	414,620
Writ of Execution	Fees	225,154	208,250
Miscellaneous Judicial Revenue	Miscellaneous	721,707	777,257
Domestic Violence Fines	Fines	31,341	29,992
Sex Offenders Fines	Fines	1,989	2,024
Department of Health	Fines	266,045	246,504
	Fees	7,194	7,348
State Fire Marshal	Fines	503	1,754
<b>Total General Fund</b>		<b>21,582,996</b>	<b>21,419,703</b>
Department of Labor and Training	Fines	141,980	147,450
Disciplinary Counsel	Fees	1,122,265	1,122,700
Department of Environmental Management	Fines	1,924	4,613
Violent Crimes Compensation	Fines	1,256,777	1,194,948
<b>Total Restricted Receipt</b>		<b>2,522,946</b>	<b>2,469,711</b>
Rhode Island Legal Services	Fines/Fees	372,218	371,766
Rhode Island State Colleges	Fines	75,282	74,780
Rhode Island Bridge and Turnpike Authority	Fines	90	50
Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Fines/Fees	125,368	119,969
Restitution	Fines	2,159,243	2,055,235
Municipalities	Fines	1,769,286	1,720,761
<b>Other Total</b>		<b>4,501,488</b>	<b>4,342,563</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>28,607,430</b>	<b>28,231,976</b>

## AT A GLANCE continued

JUDGES	EMPLOYEES	FACILITIES
64 Judges (4 vacancies)	FTE Count	6 Courthouses
4 Minorities	723.3 authorized	(2 administrative buildings)
25 Female	666.4 average filled	74 Courtrooms
22 Magistrates (2 vacancies)		(5 shelled courtrooms,
5 Female		4 Grand Jury rooms,
		2 mental health courtrooms)

## JUDICIARY'S CASELOAD SUMMARY

COURT	CASE TYPE	FILING/ HEARINGS	DISPOSITIONS
Supreme Court	Appeals	355	373
	Appellate Mediation	*62	*27
Superior Court	Felony	4,788	4,831
	Misdemeanor	224	239
	Civil	9,290	**25,085
Family Court	Juvenile	7,106	7,175
	Divorce	3,561	3,711
	Miscellaneous Petitions	925	
	Abuse	2,210	1,992
	Child Support	***5,420	
	Support Hearings	****29,308	
District Court	Misdemeanors	27,670	26,174
	Small Claims	11,130	10,986
	Civil	22,969	19,501
	Abuse	730	665
	Mental Health/Other	1,214	
	Administrative Appeals	257	
Workers' Compensation Court		7,480	7,243
Traffic Tribunal		94,721	97,701
<b>Total Filings and Dispositions</b>		<b>200,050</b>	<b>205,676</b>
<i>Including Support Hearings</i>		229,358	

### APPELLATE MEDIATION PROGRAM - January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012

- 373 appeals disposed by the Supreme Court
  - 27 (7%) of the 373 cases were disposed at some stage in the mediation process (percent of total)
    - 22 of the 27 were disposed (settled/withdrawn) at or after mediation
    - 5 of the 27 were disposed (dismissed/withdrawn) at a stage in the process before mediation
  - As of December 31, 2012 – 6 cases scheduled for mediation
  - As of December 31, 2012 – 26 cases pending screening for mediation
  - Currently 3 retired justices/judges available to mediate appeals
- \* Appellate Mediation cases are included in the Supreme Court appeals and, therefore, are not counted in the total filings and dispositions.
- \*\* Civil dispositions in 2012 include a mass dismissal of cases with no action in 5 years (18,274)
- \*\*\* Reciprocal filings stay open until age of majority of child unless otherwise ordered by court
- \*\*\*\* Support hearings represent the number of hearings held. Therefore, the same case may be counted more than once.

## SUPREME COURT APPELLATE CASELOAD

	2011	2012
<b>All Cases</b>		
Docketed	375	355
Disposed	381	373
Pending	474	447
<b>Criminal</b>		
Docketed	75	62
Disposed	87	72
Pending	117	101
<b>Civil</b>		
Docketed	176	180
Disposed	158	184
Pending	234	231
<b>Certiorari</b>		
Docketed	68	62
Disposed	71	68
Pending	89	83
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Docketed	56	51
Disposed	65	49
Pending	34	32

## SUPREME COURT MANNER OF DISPOSITION

	2011	2012
<b>Total Dispositions</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>373</b>
% Disposed of Within 300 Days of Docketing	51%	47%
<b>Before Argument</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>202</b>
Withdrawn	99	80
Dismissed	26	25
Petition Granted	6	2
Petition Denied	49	43
Other	54	52
<b>After Argument/Motion Calendar</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>103</b>
Withdrawn	0	2
Affirmed	77	83
Modified	0	2
Reversed	16	10
Other	14	6
Orders	25	17
Opinions	82	84
Withdrawn	0	2
<b>After Argument/Merits</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>68</b>
Withdrawn	1	2
Affirmed	22	54
Modified	5	5
Reversed	11	7
Other	1	0
Orders	1	4
Opinions	38	62
Withdrawn	1	2

## SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL CASELOAD

CIVIL ACTIONS		
	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>		
Cases Filed	10,351	9,290
Cases Disposed	7,218	25,085
<b>Providence/Bristol County</b>		
Cases Filed	7,317	6,426
Cases Disposed	4,858	*18,951
<b>Kent County</b>		
Cases Filed	1,559	1,506
Cases Disposed	1,199	2,775
<b>Washington County</b>		
Cases Filed	831	792
Cases Disposed	679	1,824
<b>Newport County</b>		
Cases Filed	644	566
Cases Disposed	482	1,535

\*18,274 civil cases were disposed on January 3, 2012 through an automated mass dismissal of pending unassigned cases with a filing date prior to September 15, 2005. Under G.L. 1956 § 9-8-6, the court is authorized to dismiss civil cases with no action in 5 years or more, provided it complies with the required notification.

## SUPERIOR COURT CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR SUMMARY

CIVIL ACTIONS		
	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>		
Added	1,246	958
Disposed	1,601	1,378
Pending	1,491	1,145
<b>Providence/Bristol County</b>		
Added	810	599
Disposed	1,041	915
Pending	1,233	914
<b>Kent County</b>		
Added	227	193
Disposed	285	262
Pending	125	98
<b>Washington County</b>		
Added	122	105
Disposed	164	122
Pending	85	84
<b>Newport County</b>		
Added	87	61
Disposed	111	79
Pending	48	49

SUPERIOR COURT  
MANNER OF DISPOSITION CIVIL TRIAL CALENDAR

**FELONIES**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>1,378</b>
Trials	28	21
Dismissed/Settled/Other	1,225	1,123
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	348	234
Verdicts	12	14
Judicial Decisions	16	7

**Providence/Bristol County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Providence/Bristol County</b>	<b>1,041</b>	<b>915</b>
Trials	7	4
Dismissed/Settled/Other	818	785
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	216	126
Verdicts	2	3
Judicial Decisions	5	1

**Kent County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Kent County</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>262</b>
Trials	3	4
Dismissed/Settled/Other	212	187
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	70	71
Verdicts	0	3
Judicial Decisions	3	1

**Washington County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Washington County</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>122</b>
Trials	10	10
Dismissed/Settled/Other	118	92
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	36	20
Verdicts	6	6
Judicial Decisions	4	4

**Newport County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Newport County</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>79</b>
Trials	8	3
Dismissed/Settled/Other	77	59
Arbitration/Other Exceptions	26	17
Verdicts	4	2
Judicial Decisions	4	1

SUPERIOR COURT FELONY CASELOAD

**FELONIES**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Statewide</b>		
Cases Filed	5,393	4,788
Cases Disposed	5,559	4,831
Total Pending Cases	2,763	2,618
% Over 180 Days Old	55%	57%

**Providence/Bristol County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Providence/Bristol County</b>		
Cases Filed	3,766	3,343
Cases Disposed	3,904	3,415
Total Pending Cases	2,264	2,135
% Over 180 Days Old	62%	63%

**Kent County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Kent County</b>		
Cases Filed	901	695
Cases Disposed	919	722
Total Pending Cases	257	232
% Over 180 Days Old	30%	38%

**Washington County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Washington County</b>		
Cases Filed	390	411
Cases Disposed	388	379
Total Pending Cases	142	158
% Over 180 Days Old	25%	31%

**Newport County**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Newport County</b>		
Cases Filed	336	339
Cases Disposed	348	315
Total Pending Cases	100	93
% Over 180 Days Old	21%	14%

SUPERIOR COURT  
MANNER OF DISPOSITION FELONIES

**FELONIES**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>5,559</b>	<b>4,831</b>
Pled	4,950	4,280
Filed	23	29
Dismissed	518	452
Trial	68	70
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 180 Days	62%	57%

<b>Providence/Bristol County</b>	<b>3,904</b>	<b>3,415</b>
Pled	3,480	3,047
Filed	17	10
Dismissed	354	298
Trial	53	60
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 180 Days	55%	51%

<b>Kent County</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>722</b>
Pled	842	654
Filed	1	1
Dismissed	67	65
Trial	9	2
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 180 Days	79%	70%

<b>Washington County</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>379</b>
Pled	324	308
Filed	1	16
Dismissed	59	50
Trial	4	5
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 180 Days	72%	72%

<b>Newport County</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>315</b>
Pled	304	271
Filed	4	2
Dismissed	38	39
Trial	2	3
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 180 Days	76%	77%

SUPERIOR COURT MISDEMEANOR CASELOAD

**MISDEMEANORS**

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>Statewide</b>		
Cases Filed	203	224
Cases Disposed	209	239
Total Pending Cases	171	150
% Over 90 Days Old	82%	73%

<b>Providence/Bristol County</b>		
Cases Filed	118	111
Cases Disposed	121	127
Total Pending Cases	144	121
% Over 90 Days Old	87%	79%

<b>Kent County</b>		
Cases Filed	30	43
Cases Disposed	36	36
Total Pending Cases	7	12
% Over 90 Days Old	57%	50%

<b>Washington County</b>		
Cases Filed	36	45
Cases Disposed	27	50
Total Pending Cases	16	14
% Over 90 Days Old	56%	47%

<b>Newport County</b>		
Cases Filed	19	25
Cases Disposed	25	26
Total Pending Cases	4	3
% Over 90 Days Old	75%	2%

SUPERIOR COURT  
MANNER OF DISPOSITION MISDEMEANORS

MISDEMEANORS	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>239</b>
Pled	148	145
Filed	16	17
Dismissed	37	70
Trial	8	7
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 90 Days	35%	34%
<b>Providence/Bristol County</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>127</b>
Pled	86	83
Filed	12	10
Dismissed	19	30
Trial	4	4
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 90 Days	20%	14%
<b>Kent County</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>
Pled	22	25
Filed	1	1
Dismissed	10	9
Trial	3	1
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 90 Days	50%	64%
<b>Washington County</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>50</b>
Pled	23	23
Filed	1	6
Dismissed	3	21
Trial	0	0
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 90 Days	67%	56%
<b>Newport County</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Pled	17	14
Filed	2	0
Dismissed	5	10
Trial	1	2
Other	0	0
% Disposed of Within 90 Days	44%	52%

FAMILY COURT DOMESTIC RELATIONS

DOMESTIC	2011			2012		
	Filed	Disposed	Pending over 1 year	Filed	Disposed	Pending over 1 year
<b>Divorce Statewide</b>	<b>3,729</b>	<b>3,726</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,561</b>	<b>3,711</b>	<b>51</b>
Providence/ Bristol County	2,377	2,343	5	2,324	2,425	29
Kent County	658	676	0	608	647	4
Washington County	398	429	0	371	374	15
Newport County	296	278	4	258	265	3
<b>Abuse Statewide</b>	<b>2,492</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>NA</b>
Providence/ Bristol County	1,887	1,707		1,701	1,635	
Kent County	357	228		305	145	
Washington County	92	86		106	111	
Newport County	156	138		98	101	

OTHER FILINGS

Statewide	2011	2012
Miscellaneous	883	925
Child Support	*5,530	*5,420
Total Pending Cases	**26,173	**29,308

\* Reciprocal filings stay open until age of majority of child unless otherwise ordered by court.

\*\* *Support hearings* represent the number of hearings held. Therefore, the same case may be counted more than once.

FAMILY COURT JUVENILE CASELOAD

FAMILY COURT JUVENILE CASELOAD CONTINUED

	2011		2012	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Statewide	7,855	8,726	7,106	7,175
Wayward/Delinquent	5,138	5,388	4,306	4,484
Dependency/Neglect/ Abuse	1,205	1,705	1,411	1,295
Termination of Parental Rights	202	321	199	211
Adoption/Guardianship	486	452	442	408
Violations	767	805	682	712
Other	57	55	66	65

	2011			2012		
	Filed	Disposed	Over 180 days	Filed	Disposed	Over 180 days
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>7,855</b>	<b>8,726</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>7,106</b>	<b>7,175</b>	<b>56%</b>
Wayward/Delinquent and Violations	5,905	6,193	59%	4,988	5,196	55%
Dependency/Neglect/ Abuse	1,205	1,705	36%	1,411	1,295	44%
Termination of Parental Rights	202	321	58%	199	211	69%
Adoption/Guardianship	543	507	NA	508	473	NA
<b>Providence/ Bristol County</b>	<b>5,643</b>	<b>6,218</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>5,254</b>	<b>57%</b>
Wayward/Delinquent and Violations	4,232	4,417	60%	3,441	3,831	56%
Dependency/Neglect/ Abuse	874	1,227	35%	1,071	932	46%
Termination of Parental Rights	150	255	58%	139	156	69%
Adoption/Guardianship	387	319	NA	376	335	NA
<b>Kent County</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>53%</b>
Wayward/Delinquent and Violations	757	802	54%	689	505	52%
Dependency/Neglect/ Abuse	182	270	46%	175	182	39%
Termination of Parental Rights	37	49	63%	31	32	54%
Adoption/Guardianship	92	111	NA	66	74	NA
<b>Washington County</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>54%</b>
Wayward/Delinquent and Violations	550	589	65%	515	534	51%
Dependency/Neglect/ Abuse	70	109	35%	95	99	45%
Termination of Parental Rights	8	9	33%	17	11	100%
Adoption/Guardianship	31	41	NA	38	30	NA
<b>Newport County</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>51%</b>
Wayward/Delinquent and Violations	366	385	48%	343	326	49%
Dependency/Neglect/ Abuse	79	99	34%	70	82	31%
Termination of Parental Rights	7	8	50%	12	12	100%
Adoption/Guardianship	33	36	NA	28	34	NA

## DISTRICT COURT SMALL CLAIMS

### SMALL CLAIMS CASELOAD SUMMARY

	2011		2012	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>11,544</b>	<b>14,785</b>	<b>11,130</b>	<b>10,986</b>
Second Division - Newport County	602	744	584	505
Third Division - Kent County	3,791	4,912	4,644	4,691
Fourth Division - Washington County	872	1,102	749	658
Sixth Division - Providence/ Bristol County	6,279	8,027	5,153	5,132

### MANNER OF DISPOSITION

	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>14,785</b>	<b>10,986</b>
Defaults	9,012	6,573
Settlements	4,312	3,495
Judgments	1,461	918
<b>Second Division - Newport County</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>505</b>
Defaults	496	285
Settlements	213	180
Judgments	35	40
<b>Third Division - Kent County</b>	<b>4,912</b>	<b>4,691</b>
Defaults	3,211	2,806
Settlements	1,390	1,282
Judgments	311	603
<b>Fourth Division - Washington County</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>658</b>
Defaults	620	408
Settlements	290	210
Judgments	192	40
<b>Sixth Division - Providence/Bristol County</b>	<b>8,027</b>	<b>5,132</b>
Defaults	4,685	3,074
Settlements	2,419	1,823
Judgments	923	235

### CASES FILED - OTHER CATEGORIES

	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,362</b>	<b>2,201</b>
Domestic Abuse	860	730
Administrative Appeals	203	257
Mental Health Hearings	1,299	1,214

## DISTRICT COURT CIVIL CASELOAD

### CIVIL CASELOAD SUMMARY

	2011		2012	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>23,567</b>	<b>20,188</b>	<b>22,969</b>	<b>19,501</b>
Second Division - Newport County	1,378	1,053	1,261	921
Third Division - Kent County	7,110	5,702	8,152	6,301
Fourth Division - Washington County	1,569	1,543	1,156	1,071
Sixth Division - Providence/ Bristol County	13,510	11,890	12,400	11,208

### MANNER OF DISPOSITION

	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>20,188</b>	<b>19,501</b>
Defaults	7,930	8,180
Settlements	3,935	3,187
Judgments	8,323	8,134
<b>Second Division - Newport County</b>	<b>1,053</b>	<b>921</b>
Defaults	464	476
Settlements	207	100
Judgments	382	345
<b>Third Division - Kent County</b>	<b>5,702</b>	<b>6,301</b>
Defaults	2,155	2,993
Settlements	797	612
Judgments	2,750	2,696
<b>Fourth Division - Washington County</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>1,071</b>
Defaults	712	455
Settlements	400	317
Judgments	431	299
<b>Sixth Division - Providence/Bristol County</b>	<b>11,890</b>	<b>11,208</b>
Defaults	4,599	4,256
Settlements	2,531	2,158
Judgments	4,760	4,794

## DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL CASELOAD

### CRIMINAL CASELOAD SUMMARY

	2011	2012
<b>Misdemeanors - Statewide</b>		
Filed	26,012	27,640
Disposed	25,070	26,174
Pending	3,042	3,604
% Over 60 Days	33%	40%
<b>Second Division - Newport County</b>		
Filed	2,605	2,534
Disposed	2,453	2,496
Pending	377	273
% Over 60 Days	43%	51%
<b>Third Division - Kent County</b>		
Filed	8,276	10,649
Disposed	7,634	10,122
Pending	950	1,374
% Over 60 Days	28%	33%
<b>Fourth Division - Washington County</b>		
Filed	2,889	2,993
Disposed	2,814	2,862
Pending	405	399
% Over 60 Days	37%	42%
<b>Sixth Division - Providence/ Bristol County</b>		
Filed	12,242	11,464
Disposed	12,169	10,694
Pending	1,310	1,558
% Over 60 Days	33%	43%
<b>Felonies - Statewide</b>		
Filed	7,384	7,280
Disposed	6,184	5,286
Pending	NA	NA
% Over 60 Days	NA	NA

## DISTRICT COURT CRIMINAL CASELOAD

### MANNER OF DISPOSITION - MISDEMEANORS

	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>25,070</b>	<b>26,174</b>
Pled	14,918	14,876
Filed	88	96
Dismissed	8,156	9,295
Trial	166	142
Other	1,742	1,765
% Disposed Within 60 Days of Filing	75%	73%
<b>Second Division - Newport County</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>2,496</b>
Pled	1,563	1,535
Filed	22	10
Dismissed	710	736
Trial	8	22
Other	150	193
% Disposed Within 60 Days of Filing	77%	76%
<b>Third Division - Kent County</b>	<b>7,634</b>	<b>10,122</b>
Pled	4,861	6,051
Filed	4	22
Dismissed	2,342	3,516
Trial	46	44
Other	381	489
% Disposed Within 60 Days of Filing	78%	77%
<b>Fourth Division - Washington County</b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>2,862</b>
Pled	1,578	1,332
Filed	3	6
Dismissed	1,030	1,363
Trial	23	17
Other	180	144
% Disposed Within 60 Days of Filing	76%	68%
<b>Sixth Division - Providence/ Bristol County</b>	<b>12,169</b>	<b>10,694</b>
Pled	6,916	5,959
Filed	59	58
Dismissed	4,074	3,679
Trial	89	59
Other	1,031	939
% Disposed Within 60 Days of Filing	73%	71%

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT

CASELOAD SUMMARY	2011			2012		
	Filed	Disposed	Pending	Filed	Disposed	Pending
<b>All Cases</b>	<b>7,222</b>	<b>7,271</b>	<b>1,629</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>7,243</b>	<b>1,871</b>
<b>Employee Petitions</b>	<b>4,819</b>	<b>4,836</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>5,033</b>	<b>1,225</b>
Original	2,281	2,306	534	2,300	2,283	551
To Review	1,861	1,871	521	2,000	1,953	568
Second Injury	0	0	0	1	0	1
To Enforce	677	659	100	802	797	105
<b>Employer Petitions</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>1,273</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>1,111</b>	<b>398</b>
To Review	1,225	1,273	293	1,215	1,111	398
<b>Other</b>	<b>1,178</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>1,099</b>	<b>248</b>
Lump Sum Settlement	837	803	114	881	824	174
Hospital/Physician Fees	151	164	17	101	96	22
Miscellaneous	190	195	50	180	179	52
Pending Trial	NA	NA	697	NA	NA	832
% Pending > 210 Days	NA	NA	32%	NA	NA	36%

### MANNER/STAGE OF DISPOSITION

	2011	2012
<b>TOTAL DISPOSITIONS</b>	<b>7,271</b>	<b>7,243</b>
<b>Pretrial</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>5,357</b>
Pretrial Order	2,699	2,671
Order	6	4
Decree	138	151
Consent Decree	126	124
Withdrawn	2,361	2,361
Discontinued	2	3
Dismissed	39	43
Other	0	0
% Disposed Within 90 Days	88%	88%
<b>Trial</b>	<b>1,868</b>	<b>1,862</b>
Pretrial Order	1,112	1,133
Order	7	11
Decree	122	130
Consent Decree	544	512
Withdrawn	51	52
Discontinued	0	0
Dismissed	8	9
Other	24	15
% Disposed Within 360 Days	89%	89%
<b>Appeals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>

## RHODE ISLAND TRAFFIC TRIBUNAL (RITT) CASELOAD

### RITT CASELOAD SUMMARY

	2011	2012
<b>RITT Summonses - Statewide</b>		
Issued	82,960	94,721
Disposed	82,729	97,701
Disposed in 60 Days	96%	96%
Pending	2,236	2,196
<b>Breathalyzer Refusals</b>		
Issued	1,594	1,866
Disposed	1,613	1,870
Disposed in 60 Days	81%	78%
Pending	153	143
<b>Insurance Violations</b>		
Issued	9,055	9,134
Disposed	9,322	9,141
Disposed in 60 Days	94%	93%
Pending	160	160
<b>Appeals</b>		
Issued	443	513
Disposed	427	490
Disposed in 60 Days	NA	NA
Pending	77	66
<b>Total Summonses*</b>		
Issued	149,284	161,001
Disposed	NA	NA
Disposed in 60 Days	NA	NA
Pending	NA	NA
<b>RITT Violations</b>		
Issued	102,046	115,127
Disposed	NA	NA
Disposed in 60 Days	NA	NA
Pending	NA	NA

\* Includes both Municipal Court and RITT summonses issued.

### BREAKDOWN OF DISPOSITIONS

	2011	2012
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>82,729</b>	<b>97,701</b>
Court Hearings	56,764	70,622
Pay by Mail	25,965	27,079

# Rhode Island Court Structure

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF STATE COURTS

State Court Administrator • Finance and Budget • Employee Relations  
 State Law Library • Judicial Technology Center • Facilities and Operations/Security  
 Judicial Records Center • Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit  
 Mandatory Continuing Legal Education • Community Outreach and Public Relations  
 Law Clerk Department • Judicial Planning • General Counsel and Alternative Dispute Resolution  
 Disciplinary Counsel • Supreme Court Clerk's Office • Appellate Screening  
 Administrative Assistant to Chief Justice • Interpreters' Office

