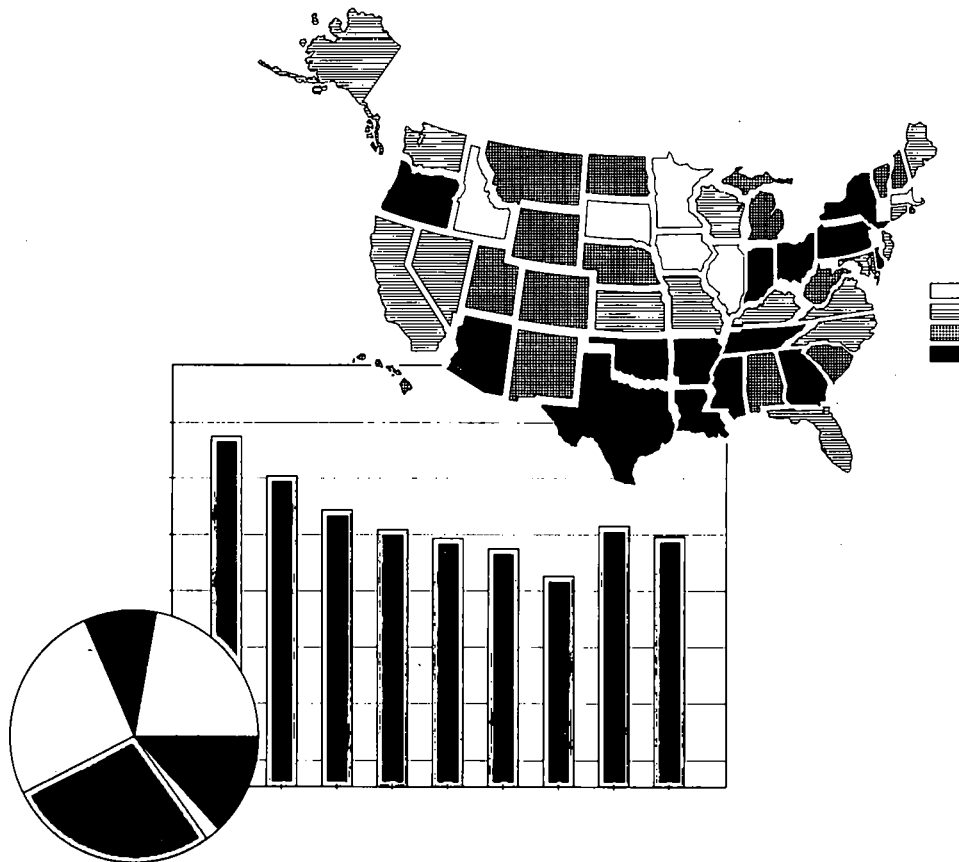




State Court Caseload Statistics: ANNUAL REPORT 1991



A commentary on State Court Caseloads and Trends in 1991

*A joint project of the Conference of State Court Administrators, the State Justice Institute,
and the National Center for State Courts*

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State Court Caseload Statistics: ANNUAL REPORT, 1991

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A Joint Project of the Conference of State Court Administrators, the State Justice Institute,
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Our debt of gratitude, however, extends well beyond the support we have received from the COSCA Court Statistics Committee. We are very appreciative of the assistance and guidance provided by the state court administrators, the appellate court clerks, and their staffs who have provided the bulk of the information included in this *Report*. They have been consistently patient and helpful in answering written and telephone inquiries for more data or for explanations of the data provided. Their continuing support of the development of a national database of state court statistics within the National Center for State Courts is the crucial element in determining the quality of the information being gathered.

The Court Statistics Project is funded through the generous support of the State Justice Institute. SJI's commitment to the project is greatly appreciated, as is the input from Kathy Schwartz, the project monitor. It should be noted that the points of view stated in this *Report* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the policies of the State Justice Institute.

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Thanks are also due to the Microsoft Corporation for the donation of Microsoft Word for Windows and Excel. In addition, we want to thank SPSS Corporation for the donation of SPSS statistical software, which was used for all analysis in this *Report*.

Responsibility for the information reported here and the analysis in Parts I and II nevertheless rests fully with the Court Statistics Project staff. The more general responsibility for the development of the *Report* series and promoting improvements to court statistics is shared with the National Center for State Courts management, working under the policy direction of the COSCA Court Statistics Committee.

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OVERVIEW



This *Report* offers judges, court managers, and policymakers an authoritative guide to the demands that increasing caseload volume places on state trial and appellate courts. The more than 93 million new cases filed in state courts in 1991 underscore that the state courts will continue to be the primary arena for resolving legal disputes in the United States. Increases in filings were observed in 1991 for most major categories of cases, including civil cases, criminal caseloads in general jurisdiction courts (primarily felonies), and juvenile cases. The exceptions to the pattern of rising caseloads were the declines in routine traffic offenses and criminal filings in limited jurisdiction courts (primarily misdemeanors).

Three themes emerge from the *Report's* analysis of caseload volume.

- First, the increases in caseload volume for 1991 are part of a continuing upward trend. An extrapolation based on past trends suggests that many trial and appellate courts are likely to see their caseloads double in size before the end of the decade.
- Second, many courts are having difficulties in keeping up with the growing volume. They dispose of fewer cases than they take in each year, thereby adding to the size of their pending caseloads. This suggests that the public's demand for services in many courts is outstripping the available resources.
- Third, the greatest caseload increase during the past five years has been in the criminal arena. State trial court felonies and criminal appeals are increasing faster than the rest of the caseload. As a result, more resources and innovative management procedures are necessary to respond to these specific trends. Unless trial and appellate courts are able to meet these demands, they will find it difficult to avoid civil case backlogs.

What Specific Findings Emerge?

State trial courts

Part I of the *Report* examines state trial court caseloads in 1991 and how the 1991 experience fits with

recent trends. The total reported state trial court caseload includes data from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. What stands out is that trial court caseload volume continues to rise in most states.

- More than 93 million new cases were filed in state courts during 1991. Mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions to state appellate courts account for 245,000 new cases. The remaining new cases are trial court filings: 19 million civil cases, 12.4 million criminal cases, 1.6 million juvenile cases, and 60.1 million traffic or other ordinance violation cases.
- In 1991 there were over 31 million civil and criminal cases filed in the nation's state trial courts, compared to fewer than 253,500 such filings in the U.S. district courts, the main federal trial courts. Consequently, over 100 times as many civil and criminal cases commenced in the state courts as in the federal courts.
- Civil trial court filings, which encompass torts, contracts, domestic relations, estate, and small claims cases, grew by over 3 percent compared to 1990.
- Total criminal filings in courts of general jurisdiction increased by 1 percent between 1990 and 1991, while criminal filings in courts of limited jurisdiction declined by over 7 percent.
- Traffic cases dropped by 43 percent in courts of general jurisdiction between 1989 and 1991, while remaining virtually constant in limited jurisdiction courts. The decline in traffic cases in general jurisdiction courts stems solely from fewer parking cases as more courts move toward the administrative handling of such cases.

The evidence of rising trial court filings raises the issue of whether courts are disposing of these cases at the same rate. The number of case dispositions expressed as a proportion of the cases filed during the same time period provides a clearance rate, which is a summary measure of whether a court or a state court system is keeping up with its incoming caseload.

- The number of new cases filed in 1991 often substantially exceeded the number of cases that were disposed of by the courts.

But do these 1991 clearance rates reflect a short-term or a long-term problem for the state courts? To address this issue, a three-year clearance rate has been constructed. The three-year rate is computed by first summing all filings and dispositions between 1989 and 1991 and then dividing the three-year sum of dispositions by the corresponding sum of filings. Examining the three-year clearance rate provides the opportunity to see if courts are generally keeping up with new cases even when there is a shortfall in a given year.

- The 1991 clearance rate for criminal cases in general jurisdiction courts is higher than the three-year rate in over one-half of the states. This encouraging result implies that clearance rates in 1991 tended to be better than the average clearance rates for 1989 to 1991.
- The three-year clearance rate for civil cases was above 100 percent in only one-fifth of the state general jurisdiction court systems.

Because courts must give priority to criminal caseloads, maintaining high criminal clearance rates is necessary for the timely disposition of all other case types.

The *Report* goes beyond offering a comprehensive summary of state trial court activity related to major types of cases (e.g., civil and criminal cases) to examine the composition of trial court caseloads. As courts automate their information systems, states collect increasingly more detailed information. They can distinguish, for example, tort cases from other civil filings, and they can break down criminal caseloads into felony, misdemeanor, and DWI/DUI cases. Examination of these more detailed data reveal a striking consistency across states; that is, the underlying composition of civil and criminal caseloads is similar across the country. For example, the relative size or ranking of different areas of law (e.g., domestic relations, tort, contract) within a given type of case (e.g., civil) is quite similar across most courts. The largest category of civil caseload in most general jurisdiction state courts is domestic relations followed by general civil (i.e., tort, contract, and real property rights). Thus, while the specific percentage of domestic relations varies from court to court, it is consistently the largest category. Hence, the business of the state courts is quite similar, despite considerable differences in jurisdiction or context (e.g., crime rates, law enforcement practices, and social conditions).

Finally, an examination of caseload trends fits the 1991 experience into recent history. From this perspective, the 1991 caseload growth may be seen as an extension of a growth cycle.

- Since 1984, civil caseloads have risen by 33 percent, criminal caseloads by 24 percent, juve-

nile caseloads by 34 percent. In contrast, national population has increased by less than 7 percent over the same eight-year period.

- The most dramatic increase in the general civil caseload is in the area of real property rights cases, not in tort or contract cases.
- Total felony filings have increased by an average of more than 50 percent since 1985 (in the 32 general jurisdiction courts for which felony-filing data are available). In aggregate, the nation has faced consistent annual increases of about 7 percent throughout this seven-year period.

State appellate courts

Part II describes the volume and trends in state appellate court caseloads. For the first time, this *Report* compares the rise in the rate of civil and criminal appeals. Courts can use this information to place themselves in the context of other courts facing similar caseload pressures, and to examine those other courts' responses to the pressures.

- The volume of appeals reached a new high in 1991. State appellate courts reported 245,103 mandatory and discretionary filings in 1991, slightly more than a 3 percent increase over 1990.

Appeals are heard in two types of courts: intermediate appellate courts (IACs) and courts of last resort (COLRs). All states have established a COLR, often called the supreme court, which has final jurisdiction over all appeals within the state. Thirty-nine states have responded to caseload growth by creating one or more intermediate appellate courts to hear appeals from trial courts or administrative agencies, as specified by law or at the direction or assignment of the COLR. Twenty-six of these states have established their IACs since 1958. Yet, despite the common contexts in which they were created, important differences exist across states in the allocation of jurisdiction between COLRs and IACs.

The consequences of these differences are highlighted when appellate structure is linked with jurisdiction. The process suggests four categories of appellate cases: (1) IAC mandatory appeals, (2) IAC discretionary appeals, (3) COLR mandatory appeals, and (4) COLR discretionary appeals.

- The IACs handle the bulk of the caseload in the appellate system. In 1991 mandatory appeals in the IACs accounted for 62 percent of total appellate filings. The more than 151,000 mandatory appeals filed in IACs in 1991 represent a 2 percent increase over the 1990 total.
- The COLRs experienced a 10 percent increase between 1990 and 1991 in the number of discretionary petitions, which constitutes the bulk of their work.

These figures reveal the varying caseload pressures confronting courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts. COLRs face increases in discretionary petitions, which is the largest part of their caseloads. By contrast, IACs face increases in mandatory appeals; however, this category of appeals is also the major portion of their caseloads.

Because mandatory appeals must be heard, the rising number of these appeals in first-level appellate courts, as well as in some COLRs with IACs, increases caseload pressure on the courts. In addition, the number of discretionary petitions continues to rise. This makes the issue of whether appellate courts are disposing of their growing caseloads an important policy concern.

- Three-quarters of the IACs had three-year clearance rates of under 100 percent for mandatory appeals.
- Two-thirds of the COLRs had three-year clearance rates for discretionary petitions under 100.

Thus, most state court appellate systems were unable to dispose of as many cases as were filed from 1989 to 1991. Part of the explanation is steadily increasing caseloads. The data contained in this *Report* show that between 1987 and 1991 state COLR and IAC caseloads grew in a majority of appellate courts. However, growth was not uniform, and the *Report* examines whether the increases in the number of appeals were more pronounced for civil or criminal appeals and how the composition of appellate caseloads is changing over time.

- Mandatory criminal appeals in IACs grew by 21 percent between 1987 and 1991, while mandatory civil appeals in IACs grew by 4 percent during the same period.
- Discretionary criminal appeals in COLRs increased by 7 percent from 1987 to 1991, while discretionary civil appeals in COLRs were up by 14 percent.

To summarize, appellate courts are having limited success in meeting the demands placed on them. Caseload pressures continue to confront state appellate courts, and many are having difficulty keeping up.

How Are the *Report* Data Collected?

Information for the *Report's* national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data are typically taken from official state court annual reports, so they take many forms and vary greatly in detail. Data from published sources are often supplemented by unpublished data received from the state courts in many formats, including internal management memoranda and computer-generated output.

Extensive telephone contacts and follow-up correspondence are used in preparing the *Report* to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and determine the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected on the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state population (based on Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. A complete review of the data collection procedures and the sources of each state's 1991 caseload statistics is provided in Appendices A and B.

How Is Comparability In the Data Encouraged?

Because there are 50 states and thus 50 different state court systems, the biggest challenge is presenting the data so that valid state-to-state comparisons can be made. Frequent mention is made in this *Report* of a model approach for collecting and using caseload information. The Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts have jointly developed that approach over the past 15 years. It is laid out in *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*. The key to the approach is providing a standard for comparison: comparison among states and comparison over time. The COSCA/NCSC approach makes comparison possible and highlights some aspects that remain problematic as the *Report* series continues to build a comprehensive statistical profile of the work of the state appellate and trial courts nationally.

The organization of the *Report* is intended to enhance the potential for meaningful comparisons. The information on current caseload volume and the analysis of key caseload trends in the state trial and appellate courts, described in Parts I and II, are made more understandable by the information in the remaining sections of the *Report*. To facilitate comparisons among the states, the rest of the *Report* provides detailed tables of state caseload statistics, descriptions of how states organize and allocate jurisdiction to their courts, and basic information on how courts compile and report court statistics.

What Is Contained in Parts III, IV, and V of the *Report*?

Part III contains the detailed caseload statistics. Appellate court caseloads in 1991 are provided in the first six tables. Table 1 gives the total caseload for appellate courts for the year and describes the comparability and completeness of that information. Tables 2-6 describe particular types of appellate cases and particular aspects of case processing.

Trial court caseloads in 1991 are detailed in the next six tables. Table 7 shows the total trial court civil and criminal caseload and reviews the comparability and completeness of the underlying state statistics. Table 8

examines the grand total of state court cases filed and disposed for each state and individual courts within each state. Tables 9-12 describe the civil, criminal, traffic/other ordinance violation, and juvenile caseloads of state trial courts.

Tables 13-16 describe trends in the volume of case filings and dispositions. Tables 13 and 14 indicate the patterns between 1984-91 for mandatory and discretionary cases in state appellate courts. The trend in felony case filings in state trial courts for the same period is contained in Table 15, and the trend in tort filings for those eight years is in Table 16.

All of the tables in Part III are intended as basic reference sources. Each one compiles information from the nation's state courts. In addition, the tables indicate the extent of standardization in the numbers for each state. The factors that most strongly affect the comparability of caseload information across the states (for example, the unit of count) are incorporated into the tables. Footnotes explain how a court system's reported caseloads are related to the standard categories for reporting such information recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*. Caseload numbers are cited if they are incomplete in the types of cases represented, if they are overinclusive, or both. Numbers without footnotes should be interpreted as in compliance with the *Dictionary's* standard definitions.

Part IV displays the overall structure of each state court system on a one-page chart. The chart for each state identifies all the courts in operation in that state during the year, describes their geographic and subject matter jurisdiction, notes the number of authorized judicial positions, indicates whether funding is primarily local or state, and outlines the routes of appeal that link the courts.

Part V lists jurisdiction and state court-reporting practices that may affect the comparability of caseload information reported by the courts. Eight figures note, for example, the time period used for court statistical reporting (calendar year, fiscal year, or court calendar year); define the method by which cases are counted in appellate courts and in criminal, civil, and juvenile trial courts; and identify trial courts with the authority to hear appeals. The figures define what constitutes a case in each court, making it possible to determine which appellate and trial courts compile caseload statistics on a similar basis. The most important information in the figures in Part V for making comparative use of caseload statistics in Part III is repeated in that section.

Appendix A reviews the method used to collate the information provided by the states into a standard format. The 1991 *Report* improves the completeness and accuracy of the information provided over previous editions. The procedural changes responsible for the improvement are described, as are the specific results in the form of new data and corrections to previously reported caseloads.

The NCSC Court Statistics Project

The NCSC Court Statistics Project was established in 1977 to develop a meaningful profile of the work of the state courts. The caseload report series and other project publications, such as the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*, seek to encourage uniformity in how courts and state court administrative offices collect and publish caseload information.

The 1991 *Report*, like previous reports, is a joint project of the Conference of State Court Administrators and the National Center for State Courts. COSCA, through its Court Statistics Committee, oversees the preparation of project publications and provides policy guidance for devising or revising generic reporting categories and procedures. The NCSC provides project staff and support facilities. Preparation of the 1991 *Report* is funded in part by a grant to the NCSC from the State Justice Institute.

The staff of the Court Statistics Project can provide advice and clarification on the use of the statistics from this and previous caseload reports. Project staff can also provide the full range of information available from each state. The prototype spreadsheets (Appendix C) used by project staff to collect data reflect the full range of information sought from the states. Most states provide far more detailed caseload information than could be presented in Part III of this report.

Comments, suggestions, and corrections from users of the *Report* are encouraged. Questions and reactions to the *Report* can be sent to:

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PART

I



STATE TRIAL COURT CASELOADS IN 1991 AND 1984-91 TRENDS



The state trial courts are the primary mechanism for adjudication in the United States, with over 93 million new cases filed in 1991. This enormous volume of cases consists of more than 31 million civil and criminal cases, nearly 2 million juvenile cases, and over 60 million traffic cases. Most case types increased since 1990, with total civil cases up by 3 percent, criminal cases filed in courts of general jurisdiction up by 1 percent, and total juvenile case filings up by 1 percent. The one area of marked decline was traffic case filings. Due primarily to the increasing use of administrative procedures in handling minor traffic offenses, total traffic filings dropped by 11 percent between 1990 and 1991.

Part I uses caseload statistics to describe the work of the state trial courts and to assess the consequences of caseload volume on the capacity of courts to hear and to decide cases. Five distinct methods are used to examine the volume of cases being brought to the state courts:

- **The annual volume of cases in the state trial courts.** How many cases were filed in the state trial courts in 1991? How is the caseload distributed between limited jurisdiction and general jurisdiction courts? How do caseload levels compare across different states?
- **Disposing of the caseload.** Are more new cases being filed than the courts are disposing of during the year, thus contributing to the size of the pending caseload? Which states have experienced the greatest difficulties in keeping up with the inflow of cases?
- **Population and caseload.** Is the number of case filings a function of population? Or are some state court caseloads rising at rates in excess of population growth?
- **The composition of caseloads.** What proportion of civil case filings are tort and what proportion are contract? What proportion involve domestic relations? What proportion of criminal caseloads are felonies? Does the relative frequency of different types of cases tend to be similar or different across the country?

- **Recent trends in state court caseloads.** What is the national trend in caseload growth during the latter half of the 1980s and into the 1990s? What are the similarities and differences among states in particular categories of caseload growth?

This section begins with a summary of overall state trial court activity in 1991 (pages 3 to 4). Caseload patterns between and within courts of general and limited jurisdiction are then highlighted (pages 4 to 7). Variation among states in the rates at which civil (pages 7 to 23), criminal (pages 23 to 36), and traffic (pages 36 to 40) caseloads were filed and disposed of in 1991, as well as trends in divorce, tort, contract, real property rights, and felony caseloads, are then reviewed and discussed. Part I finishes with a comparison of state and federal court caseloads (pages 40 to 44): How does the number of case filings in the state courts compare to the caseload in the federal court system? Do the state and federal courts display similar growth patterns in civil and criminal caseloads? The main conclusions to the entire section are then summarized.

Annual Volume: How Many Cases Were Filed in the State Trial Courts in 1991?

States reported that 93,149,152 cases were filed in trial courts in 1991.¹ Total trial court filings are composed of a broad range of case types. The *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* series distinguishes between four main case categories: (1) civil, (2) criminal, (3) juvenile, and (4) traffic/other ordinance violation cases. These four categories represent the basic information that one can reasonably expect most states to provide. Abbreviated definitions of these categories are provided in **Text Table I.1**.

In 1991 the grand total consisted of 18,971,437 civil cases, 12,430,910 criminal cases, 1,626,958 juvenile cases, and 60,119,847 traffic and other ordinance violation cases. **Chart I.1** shows how the case types that consume the majority of court time and resources (civil,

¹ The 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will all be referred to as *state courts* throughout the remainder of this *Report*.

TEXT TABLE I.1: Abbreviated Definitions of the Four Main Reporting Categories Used in the State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report Series

Civil case:	request for an enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong.
Criminal case:	charge of a state law violation.
Juvenile petition:	case processed through the special procedures that a state established to handle matters relating to individuals defined as juveniles.
Traffic/other ordinance violation:	charge that a traffic law or a city, town, or village ordinance was violated.

Complete definitions of these terms as well as all statistical and related terms used in classifying state court caseload statistics are found in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

criminal, and juvenile) have grown from 1984 to 1991.² The overall pattern is increasing filings³:

- Total civil filings increased by 33 percent from 1984 to 1991.
- Total criminal filings grew by 24 percent from 1984 to 1991.
- Total juvenile caseloads rose by 34 percent during the 1984-1991 period.

In contrast, those eight years saw the nation's population grow by less than 7 percent.

Reported traffic caseloads dropped between 1990 and 1991, with the 1991 total falling to the lowest level in eight years (see **Chart I.2**).⁴ The primary reason is the decriminalization of many minor traffic offenses and the adjudication of these cases either by quasi-judicial officers, traffic ticket bureaus, or by an administrative agency within the executive branch (e.g., department of motor

vehicles). This is discussed in more detail in the traffic section of the *Report*.

How Is the Caseload Distributed Between General Jurisdiction and Limited Jurisdiction Courts?

General jurisdiction courts.

In most states, the trial court is divided into two levels: an upper and lower level.⁵ The upper-level trial court, which usually has original jurisdiction over all subject matter or persons within its geographical limits, is called the court of general jurisdiction. In the criminal area, general jurisdiction courts have authority to try felony cases and to impose the maximum penalty authorized by state statute. On the civil side, they have unlimited jurisdiction over all matters not specifically assigned to a court of limited or special jurisdiction. These are courts of record from which an appeal is available.

Of the reported total of more than 93 million court filings, 23,036,299 were in general jurisdiction courts (25 percent of the total—see **Chart I.3**). Civil case filings (excluding domestic relations) represented just over one-quarter of the total general jurisdiction caseload (6,267,580), domestic relations cases accounted for 13 percent of the total (3,098,963), criminal case filings

² The caseload statistics series published by the National Center for State Courts began in 1975; however no *Reports* were published for 1982 or 1983. Therefore, the period 1984 to 1991 is the longest continuous time span for which caseload data comparable to that reported in this volume can be obtained for a significant number of courts. The only other annual series on state court caseloads was collected and published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The last volume in that series reported statistics for 1946.

³ The percentage growth rates for civil and criminal caseloads, as well as all other trends discussed in this volume, are calculated for a fixed number of states. Only states that have reported data for the entire eight years are included in the calculation. Because the number of reporting states has increased over time, the civil and criminal totals reported for 1991 will be greater than the totals displayed on **Chart I.1**.

⁴ In 1984 total traffic filings were 56,716,003 (looking at just the states that reported traffic filings throughout the eight-year period).

⁵ State courts vary in the details of their organization and jurisdiction. Whereas the federal courts are relatively uniform throughout the country, state court systems vary greatly in structure, which makes nationwide generalizations about court organization hazardous. Differences in court structure and jurisdiction are important to understanding caseload data from a state. Hence, the introduction to Part IV of the *Report* covers some important dimensions on which state trial and appellate court systems differ. A comprehensive examination and comparison of state court caseloads requires a thorough understanding of the variation in state court structure. See also Victor E. Flango and David Rottman, *Defining the Dimensions of Court Unification*, 16 *Justice System Journal*, no. 1 at 65 (1993).

CHART I.1: Total Filings by Major Category, 1984-1991

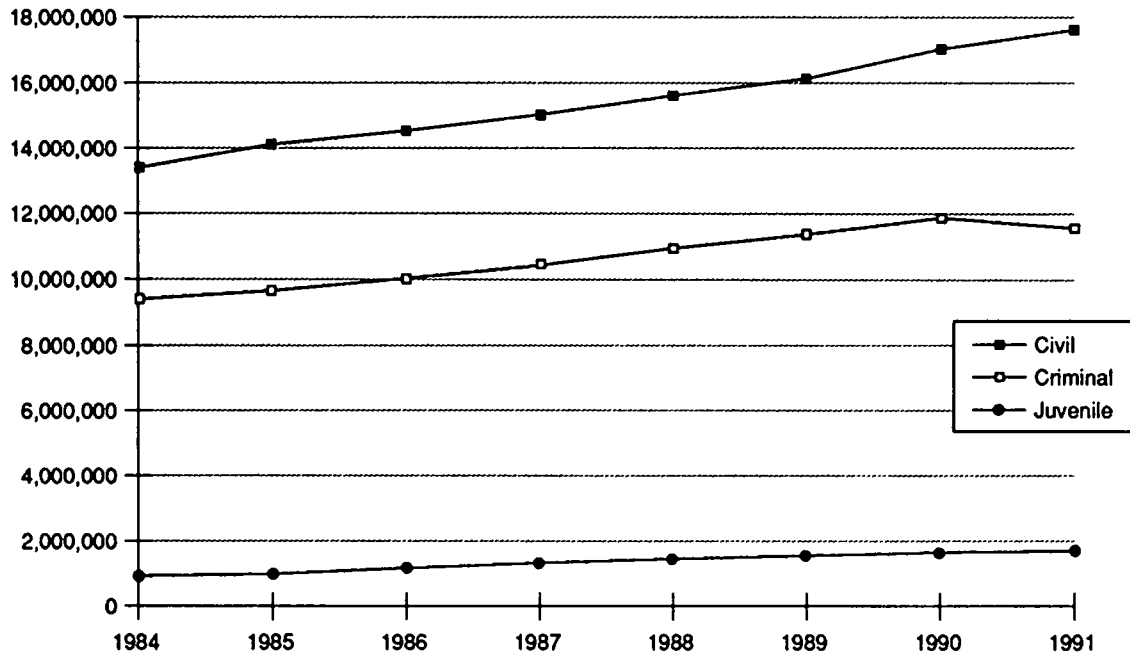


Chart includes data from: CA, IL, MI, MN, NY, NC, OH, OR, VA, WA, WV, WI

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

CHART I.2: Total Traffic Filings, 1984-1991

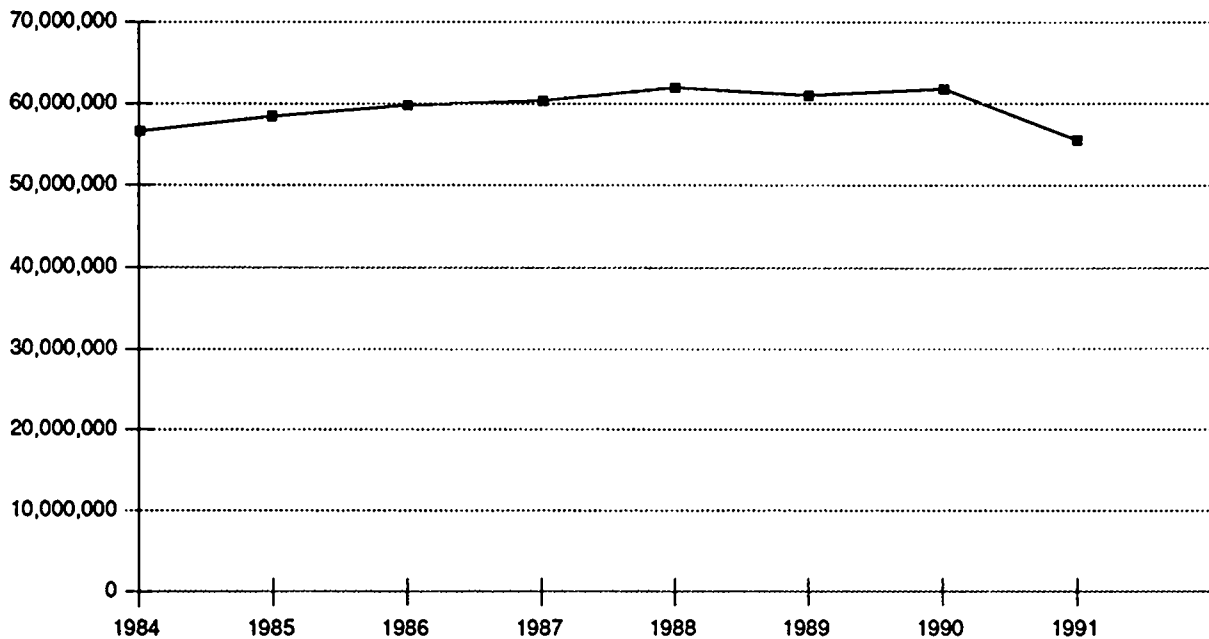


Chart includes data from: CA, IL, MI, MN, NY, NC, OH, OR, VA, WA, WV, WI

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

Chart I.3: The Composition of Trial Court Caseload Filings In General Jurisdiction Courts, 1991

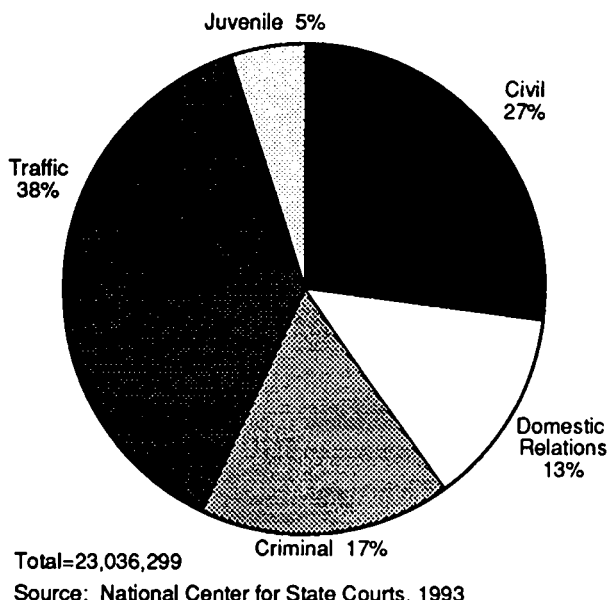
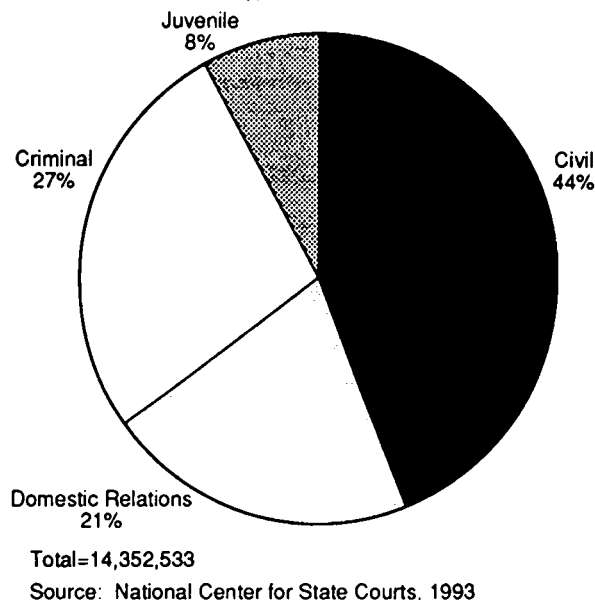


Chart I.4: The Composition of Trial Court Caseload Filings In General Jurisdiction Courts (Excluding Traffic), 1991



nearly one-fifth (3,843,902), and juvenile cases about one-twentieth (1,142,108). Even though general jurisdiction courts are most often associated with serious criminal and civil cases, over one-third of their total caseload consists of traffic/other ordinance violation cases (8,683,746). While traffic cases are a major part of many states' general jurisdiction court caseload, it is particularly pronounced in those states (e.g., District of Columbia, Illinois, and Minnesota) where all matters, including traffic, are heard exclusively by a general jurisdiction court because there is no lower court.

It can be argued that the majority of traffic cases are disposed of with a minimum of judicial attention.⁶ In particular, states vary to the extent they count uncontested parking violations as traffic cases (see Table 11, Part III, p.127). Traffic filings, although they account for the bulk of total case filings, do not consume a majority of court time or resources. One way to compensate for the

⁶ Weighted caseload studies have continually found traffic cases to use significantly fewer court resources per case than, for example, felony, tort, or divorce cases. In the Wisconsin Circuit Court, the court of general jurisdiction, it was found that one felony was equivalent to over five contested traffic cases (those few traffic cases where an appearance is made by the defendant). Differences are more marked at the limited jurisdiction court level. The *Washington District Court Weighted Caseload Study, 1991* found that a felony case filed in the limited jurisdiction court consumed approximately 26 times the court resources as a typical parking infraction.

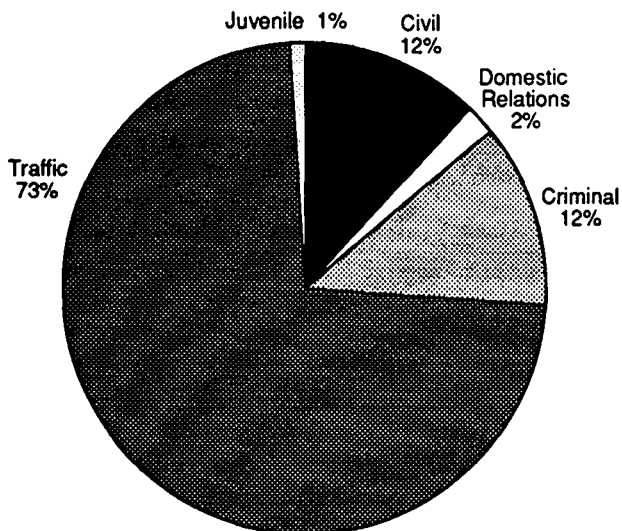
unequal draw on court resources is to remove traffic caseloads from the picture (**Chart I.4**). Examining the composition of general jurisdiction caseloads without the traffic component shows that general jurisdiction courts are dominated by civil cases (jumping from 27 percent to 44 percent of the total) and criminal cases (moving from 17 percent to 27 percent).

Limited jurisdiction courts.

In 1991, 44 states had a lower-level trial court consisting of courts of limited or special jurisdiction. Various called district, justice, justice of the peace, magistrate, county, or municipal courts, these courts are restricted in the range of cases that they can decide. Yet, the bulk of the nation's disputes are handled in these courts of limited jurisdiction. The number of such courts ranges from zero in the seven states with unified or single-level court systems to more than 1,000 courts in Georgia, New York, and Texas. Although a state appellate court might review some judgments of limited jurisdiction courts, appellate review is typically the responsibility of general jurisdiction courts.

Limited jurisdiction courts are dominated by traffic cases, though an increasing number of these cases are being handled administratively. The proportions of civil and criminal cases in limited jurisdiction courts vary greatly from state to state. With respect to civil caseloads, one-fourth of these courts are limited to hearing cases involving claims of less than \$3,000. Many of these courts have exclusive jurisdiction over specialized areas, most commonly juvenile.

Chart I.5: The Composition of Trial Court Caseload Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



Total=70,112,853

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

Chart I.5 divides the limited jurisdiction court caseload into the five main case types.

- Civil and criminal filings each account for 12 percent of the total, domestic relations filings are 2 percent of the total, while juvenile filings represent 1 percent. The remaining three-fourths (73 percent) of the filings are traffic/other ordinance violation cases.

Although the proportions are small, limited jurisdiction courts still handled over 8.6 million civil cases (excluding domestic relations) and 8.6 million criminal cases in 1991.

How many courts and judges process state court caseloads? To gain a perspective on the caseload totals from general and limited jurisdiction courts, the number of judges and courts that are available to decide the cases is summarized in **Text Table I.2**.⁷ Not surprisingly, there are far more judges in limited jurisdiction courts. Collectively, there are nearly 4,000 general jurisdiction courts and nearly 14,000 limited jurisdiction courts in the nation.

⁷ State-by-state variation in court organization, subject matter, and terminology makes determining the number of state courts problematic. To count as a court, the CSP requires two of the three following factors to be present: (1) there is a courthouse; (2) there is a judge resident at the court; and (3) there is a clerk of the court.

TEXT TABLE I.2: State Trial Courts in Aggregate, 1991

Total Trial Court Cases Filed in 1991: 93,149,152

17,825 Courts:	27,791 Judges :
3,908 General Jurisdiction Courts	9,502 Judges
13,917 Limited Jurisdiction Courts	18,289 Judges

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

Composition of Trial Court Caseloads: 1991 and 1984-91 Trends

A more detailed analysis of civil, criminal, and traffic cases follows. The analysis blends an in-depth examination of each case type in 1991 with information on trends through the latter half of the 1980s.

Civil Filings in 1991 and 1984-91 Trends

States reported the filing of 18,971,437 civil cases in 1991, which is an increase of over 3 percent from the previous year. In examining the recent history of civil caseloads in the state courts, a number of issues are covered. They include the following:

- **The volume of civil caseloads.** How are civil cases distributed between general and limited jurisdiction courts? What is the variation in the size of civil caseloads among states? After adjusting for population, are state civil caseload levels similar or different across the country? How has the volume of civil cases changed among the states since 1987?
- **Clearance rates for civil cases.** Are courts keeping up with the inflow of new civil cases? Are courts that have experienced above-average increases in civil caseloads having more trouble than other courts in disposing of their cases?
- **The composition of civil caseloads.** What is the largest category of civil cases? What is the smallest category? Is the composition of civil cases similar or different across the country?
- **Domestic relations cases.** What is the composition of domestic relations caseloads? Are civil courts really "divorce courts"?
- **Tort, contract, and real property rights.** Is there evidence of a "litigation explosion" in tort filings? Are torts growing at a rate faster or slower than contract or real property rights cases?

How are civil cases distributed between general and limited jurisdiction courts? Total civil filings⁸ reported for general and limited jurisdiction courts in 1991 as well as each state's population ranking are shown in **Text Table I.3**.⁹ The completeness and comparability of the data can be evaluated through a review of the footnotes to Table 9, Part III (p. 111), which indicates the degree to which states report data conforming to the recommended definition. The proportion of civil cases filed in each state's courts of general and limited jurisdiction tends to vary widely across the states and reflect differences in how civil case jurisdiction is allocated. In aggregate, however, there is almost an equal number of civil cases filed in courts of general and limited jurisdiction. **Map I.1** shows the states that experienced an increase in the number of civil filings in their courts of general jurisdiction between 1990 and 1991. Specifically, 37 states reported that civil filings were on the rise in 1991.

Civil filings in the state courts (Text Table I.3) exhibit two distinct patterns. First, the range is wide: looking only at states that provide data from all courts, total civil filings extend from a low of 29,775 filings in Wyoming to a high of 1,906,188 filings in California. Second, civil cases are highly concentrated in particular states.

- The 10 million civil filings in the nine states with the largest civil caseloads account for more than 53 percent of the nation's total of 19 million civil filings.
- Seven of these nine states are among the nine states with the largest populations, underscoring the strong, direct correspondence between population levels and total civil filing rates.

How do civil caseloads compare across states and how is this influenced by population? A cursory glance at Text Table I.3 shows that the more heavily populated a state is, the more civil filings it has. This relationship raises the question of whether the states with the highest number of civil filings (e.g., California) really differ from the states with the lowest number of civil filings (e.g., Wyoming) in terms of litigiousness. That is, does every state have an equally litigious population, with the only difference being that there are more people in some states than in others? Or do some states have more (or less) filings than one would expect on the basis of

8 A civil case is a request for the enforcement or protection of a right or the redress or prevention of a wrong. To meet the definition recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*, the category includes all torts, contracts, real property rights, small claims, domestic relations, mental health, and estate cases over which the court has jurisdiction. It also includes all appeals of administrative agency decisions filed in the court and appeals to general jurisdiction courts of decisions by limited jurisdiction trial courts in civil cases.

9 Actual state population figures for 1984 to 1991 are provided in Appendix D.

population alone? If so, with what might the higher filings per capita be attributed?

Adjusting for population will show whether people tend to file civil cases at about the same rate around the country and should also reveal other, more subtle factors that produce interstate differences among the civil filing levels. **Chart I.6** displays civil case filings per 100,000 population for both general jurisdiction and limited jurisdiction courts in 43 state court systems.¹⁰

- Once adjusted for population, most states report civil filing rates close to the average level of civil filing (the median level is Vermont, with 6,743 civil filings per 100,000 population). The clustering of many states close to the median is a product of population to a very strong degree.

Controlling for population reduces the variation between states considerably. California had 64 times as many filings as Wyoming (see Text Table I.3), while Wyoming actually had slightly more civil filings per 100,000 population (see Chart I.6). The difference between the states with the highest (District of Columbia) and lowest (Puerto Rico) population-adjusted civil filings is only a factor of six.

Although civil filing rates per 100,000 population are broadly similar across the states, there are some differences, which suggest that other factors also influence civil case filing rates. For example, of the 10 states with the highest adjusted filing rates (see Chart I.6) only Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York are also among the top 10 states with the highest absolute civil caseloads. If population is the exclusive determinant of civil caseloads, the absolute and population-adjusted rankings of states would be identical. Because they are not, it is important to recognize that civil caseloads are also affected by how cases are classified and how they are counted.

Reported civil caseloads are affected by the point at which filings are counted, whether reopened cases are treated as new filings, and the manner in which support/custody proceedings are incorporated into court statistics on marriage dissolution cases. Figure H, Part V (p. 262), details the method by which each court counts civil cases and Table 9, Part III (p. 111), the method by which support/custody cases are counted.

- How states count civil, and especially support/custody, caseloads affects the ranking of states in Chart I.6.
- Differences in counting practices between courts of general and limited jurisdiction in a state are likely to influence the calculation of the share of the civil caseload heard at each court level.

10 The relationship between population and total civil filings is confirmed by a positive Pearson correlation coefficient of .90. This suggests that for every increase in a state's population, there is a proportional increase in the number of cases filed.

TEXT TABLE I.3: Total Civil Filings Reported, 1991

	State	Total Civil Filings	Total Civil Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts	Total Civil Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Population Ranking
1.	California	1,906,188	719,433	1,186,755	1
2.	New York	1,569,457	230,657	1,338,800	2
3.	Virginia	1,427,105	118,250	1,308,855	12
4.	Florida	924,067	565,458	358,609	4
5.	Maryland	913,698	137,362	776,336	19
6.	New Jersey	911,714	900,857	10,857	9
7.	Texas	857,322	451,436	405,886	3
8.	Ohio	853,533	418,844	434,689	7
9.	Illinois	726,359	726,359	N/AppI	6
10.	Michigan	725,517	186,459	539,058	8
11.	Georgia	705,771	187,417	518,354	11
12.	North Carolina	615,088	116,744	498,344	10
13.	Massachusetts	539,899	539,899	N/AppI	13
14.	Pennsylvania	438,074	309,172	128,902	5
15.	Indiana	426,646	272,390	154,256	14
16.	Wisconsin	346,557	346,557	NJ	17
17.	South Carolina	311,201	58,362	252,839	25
18.	Washington	278,534	149,765	128,769	16
19.	Alabama	276,881	99,053	177,828	22
20.	Missouri	269,673	269,673	NJ	15
21.	Louisiana	260,930	194,024	66,906	21
22.	Colorado	257,147	93,231	163,916	27
23.	Connecticut	248,373	189,580	58,793	28
24.	Arizona	240,734	110,275	130,459	23
25.	Kentucky	219,406	70,977	148,429	24
26.	Minnesota	219,010	219,010	N/AppI	20
27.	Oklahoma	199,218	199,218	N/A	29
28.	Iowa	155,927	155,927	N/AppI	31
29.	Oregon	183,687	96,202	87,485	30
30.	Kansas	166,846	166,846	NJ	33
31.	Utah	147,800	31,832	115,968	36
32.	Arkansas	149,382	91,745	57,637	34
33.	District of Columbia	141,144	141,144	N/AppI	49
34.	Puerto Rico	136,960	76,517	60,443	26
35.	Tennessee	127,841	127,841	N/A	18
36.	Nebraska	112,440	50,946	61,494	37
37.	Mississippi	105,826	80,438	25,388	32
38.	New Hampshire	95,733	31,012	64,721	42
39.	West Virginia	94,449	45,709	48,740	35
40.	Rhode Island	84,464	27,827	56,637	44
41.	New Mexico	78,912	56,913	21,999	38
42.	Maine	77,050	6,647	70,403	40
43.	Delaware	75,977	9,706	66,271	47
44.	Idaho	66,737	66,737	N/AppI	43
45.	Hawaii	51,016	27,668	23,348	41
46.	Nevada	48,959	48,959	N/A	39
47.	South Dakota	42,871	42,871	N/AppI	46
48.	Vermont	38,231	33,317	4,914	51
49.	North Dakota	34,390	18,854	15,536	48
50.	Alaska	32,239	14,636	17,603	50
51.	Wyoming	29,775	11,108	18,667	52
52.	Montana	24,679	24,679	N/A	45
	TOTAL	18,971,437	9,366,543	9,604,894	

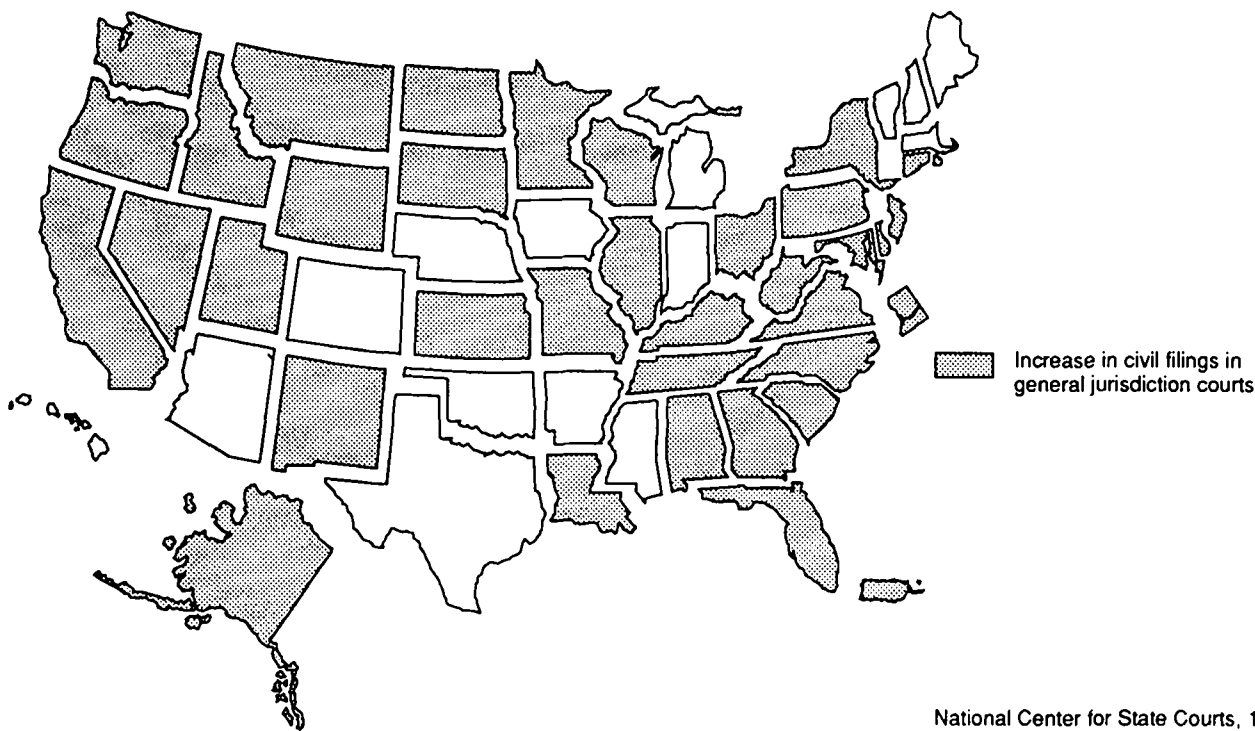
N/AppI = Not applicable (state does not have a limited jurisdiction court)

N/A = Data are not available

NJ = No civil jurisdiction

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

MAP I.1: States That Experienced an Increase in Civil Filings in Their Courts of General Jurisdiction Between 1990 and 1991



To help clarify the influence of unit of count on total filing rates, Chart I.6 distinguishes between filings in general jurisdiction courts (the black portion of each state's bar) and limited jurisdiction courts (the white portion of each state's bar). As an example, Virginia's high population-adjusted filing rate is driven primarily by much higher than average filings in the limited jurisdiction court. One explanation is that Virginia's limited jurisdiction court, the district court, regards all reopened civil cases as new filings and counts support/custody proceedings as separate cases. Most states, and Virginia's general jurisdiction court, the circuit court, do not count reopened civil cases as new filings and count support/custody proceedings as part of the original marriage dissolution filing unless other issues arise later or as a postdecree action. The allocation of subject matter jurisdiction is also relevant. The circuit court in Virginia has domestic relations jurisdiction, with the exception of support/custody, URESA, and miscellaneous domestic relations cases, which can be heard in the district court. Thus, the relatively high rate of civil filings in Virginia and concentration of civil cases in the state's limited jurisdiction court are attributable, in part, to choices made when the state's court recordkeeping procedures were designed.

Filings per 100,000 population provide a standard measure of caseload levels that adjusts for differences in population among the states. This measure does not, however, provide information on whether a court is keeping up with its incoming civil caseload. Two factors

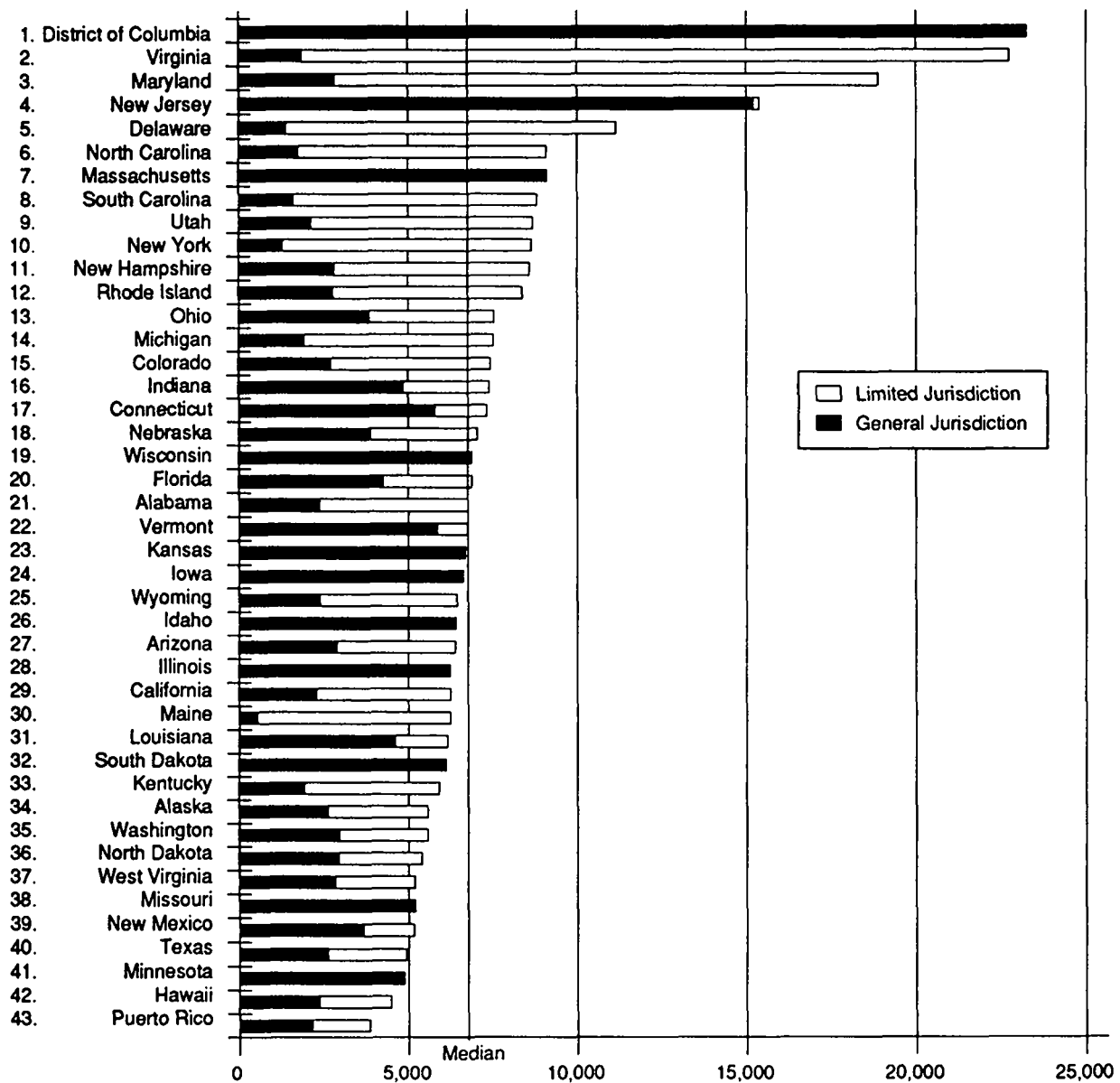
complicate resource planning and the allocation of resources within the courts and are likely to affect the ability of a court system to dispose of its caseload expeditiously: (1) rapid, sustained caseload growth over time and (2) fluctuating caseloads, where big increases one year are followed by small increases or even declines in the next year.

How has volume changed since 1987?

Comparable civil filing data for general jurisdiction court systems for 1987 to 1991 are shown in Text Table I.4. This table is designed for two purposes: (a) it presents the actual caseload filings over the past five years, and (b) it provides an immediate reference to the change that has occurred over the past three years. Hence, the percentage change in civil filings between 1989 and 1991 for each state is displayed in the "index" column. For example, the value of 118 for the Alabama index indicates that Alabama civil filings grew by 18 percent between 1989 and 1991.

Since 1987, total civil filings have increased in 42 of the 49 states that report data for all five years. The declines were most often minimal, and the lowest level of filings was actually reached before 1991 in all but Colorado and Iowa. The dominant pattern of growth in civil caseloads is evident by examining the trend over the past three years: the 1989 to 1991 growth index exceeds 100 in all but five states. In 14 states, the three-year index is 115 or greater, which indicates an average annual increase in civil filings of 5 percent or more. Although

CHART I.6: Civil Filings per 100,000 Total Population in State Courts, 1991



The following states are not included: AR, GA, MS, MT, NV, OK, OR, PA, TN

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

there are obvious concerns about basing projections on only three-years' data, 2 states (New Hampshire and Wyoming) have experienced average yearly growth in excess of 10 percent and are on course to double their civil caseloads in only four more years.

Are courts keeping up with the inflow of new civil cases? The primary concern of court managers facing this rapid, ongoing expansion of civil caseloads is the increasing difficulty it poses for the timely disposition of cases. Trial courts reduced the size of their pending civil

caseload if they disposed of more civil cases during 1991 than were filed. **Text Table I.5** abstracts the relevant information from Table 9, Part III (p. 111), to present clearance rates for general jurisdiction and limited jurisdiction courts with the authority to hear civil cases. The clearance rate is the number of dispositions in a given year divided by the number of filings in the same year. While the cases disposed in 1991 were not necessarily filed that same year, the clearance rate is an easily calculated and useful measure of the demand for

TEXT TABLE I.4: Total Civil Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1987 to 1991

State	Total Civil Filings 1987	Total Civil Filings 1988	Total Civil Filings 1989	Total Civil Filings 1990	Total Civil Filings 1991	Growth Index 1989 to 1991
Alabama	84,329	80,681	83,958	94,189	99,053	118
Alaska	15,168	14,587	14,246	13,861	14,636	103
Arizona *	101,148	107,170	101,281	111,080	110,275	109
Arkansas	89,827	83,247	76,933	91,769	91,745	119
California	674,912	676,691	672,630	685,816	719,433	107
Colorado	105,995	110,525	107,036	99,429	93,231	87
Connecticut	149,851	151,153	154,640	173,337	189,580	123
Delaware	7,917	8,664	9,165	9,255	9,706	106
District of Columbia	143,590	152,782	145,952	141,053	141,144	97
Florida	444,952	471,451	515,830	557,913	565,458	110
Georgia	144,081	156,312	167,730	180,432	187,417	112
Hawaii	26,031	27,178	27,523	28,179	27,668	101
Idaho	57,605	58,717	61,525	62,075	66,737	108
Illinois	532,279	662,465	615,059	695,416	726,359	118
Indiana	249,380	257,994	281,441	294,730	272,390	97
Iowa	170,471	175,037	176,321	184,692	155,927	88
Kansas	140,586	143,851	148,525	160,398	166,846	112
Kentucky	52,752	63,373	60,195	67,914	70,977	118
Louisiana **	181,554	174,920	184,127	185,872	194,024	105
Maine	5,981	6,838	6,858	6,893	6,647	97
Maryland	106,193	112,645	116,085	128,893	137,362	118
Massachusetts	493,006	515,957	514,025	560,420	539,899	105
Michigan	171,359	180,902	184,557	207,022	186,459	101
Minnesota	231,244	231,819	208,062	215,792	219,010	105
Mississippi	N/A	N/A	N/A	81,040	80,438	N/A
Missouri	248,190	257,667	264,464	264,923	269,673	102
Montana ***	26,815	24,645	22,197	23,115	24,679	111
Nebraska	36,536	45,648	46,360	51,504	50,946	110
Nevada	N/A	36,986	41,849	45,579	48,959	117
New Hampshire	19,201	21,321	22,858	33,709	31,012	136
New Jersey	638,975	681,986	782,227	844,051	900,857	115
New Mexico	51,013	51,072	51,953	56,709	56,913	110
New York	121,443	114,916	207,728	219,605	230,657	111
North Carolina	97,979	103,650	110,998	114,005	116,744	105
North Dakota	15,382	17,398	17,253	18,131	18,854	109
Ohio	337,637	344,946	361,187	398,357	418,844	116
Oklahoma	222,754	200,332	193,254	205,833	199,218	103
Oregon	76,635	79,621	85,717	93,972	96,202	112
Pennsylvania	262,333	272,402	294,097	302,739	309,172	105
Puerto Rico	65,146	60,687	67,719	70,961	76,517	113
Rhode Island ****	8,405	8,863	10,121	11,470	27,827	275
South Carolina	54,917	53,506	53,953	55,151	58,362	108
South Dakota	40,948	40,209	40,091	40,573	42,871	107
Tennessee *****	111,102	N/A	117,384	122,672	127,841	109
Texas	442,052	456,240	445,936	454,991	451,436	101
Utah	29,543	29,960	28,234	29,947	31,832	113
Vermont	28,255	29,396	30,785	35,375	33,317	108
Virginia	87,020	94,484	95,129	113,927	118,250	124
Washington	129,842	134,180	140,703	147,111	149,765	106
West Virginia	37,292	40,402	44,349	43,658	45,709	103
Wisconsin	347,766	345,825	298,589	341,909	346,557	116
Wyoming	7,587	7,340	7,907	10,744	11,108	140

N/A = Data are not available.

* Arizona Tax Court was created in 1989. Data for 1987 and 1988, therefore, do not include tax court data.

** Louisiana Family and Juvenile Court data were first available in 1989. Data for 1987 and 1988, therefore, do not include family and juvenile court data.

*** Montana Workers' Compensation Court data were added in 1991. Data for 1987 through 1990, therefore, do not include workers' compensation court data.

**** Rhode Island Workers' Compensation Court was created in 1991. Data for 1987 through 1990, therefore, do not include workers' compensation court data.

***** Tennessee Probate Court data were first available in 1991. Data for 1987 through 1990, therefore, do not include probate court data.

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

TEXT TABLE I.5: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Civil Cases, 1991

General Jurisdiction Courts					Limited Jurisdiction Courts				
State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate	State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate
Maryland	81.8	79.3	79.7	80.2	New Jersey	54.0	54.8	50.6	52.5
Florida	82.5	80.1	83.2	82.0	Washington	76.3	70.0	66.4	70.7
Delaware	90.1	85.5	87.8	87.8	California	74.7	76.2	91.8	81.0
Virginia	95.0	84.5	86.9	88.4	Hawaii	92.3	89.6	76.5	86.5
California	89.1	87.1	92.1	89.5	Utah	86.8	95.1	93.7	92.0
Washington	90.9	90.9	89.6	90.4	Florida	95.0	92.8	88.4	92.1
North Carolina	92.3	89.8	92.9	91.7	Kentucky	90.8	92.4	98.0	93.8
Kentucky	93.3	93.1	90.3	92.2	North Dakota	92.5	94.8	95.5	94.3
New Hampshire	93.3	86.8	103.0	94.2	Indiana	96.9	93.7	93.3	94.6
Puerto Rico	91.9	96.4	96.8	95.2	Nebraska	96.2	96.2	96.1	96.1
Pennsylvania	93.7	93.8	98.2	95.3	Puerto Rico	98.2	99.7	98.5	98.8
South Carolina	100.8	93.4	92.5	95.5	South Carolina	98.2	99.2	99.6	99.1
Indiana	97.8	96.8	94.9	96.5	Ohio	101.9	99.6	97.5	99.6
Minnesota	95.1	96.2	99.7	97.0	Virginia	101.2	101.7	102.0	101.7
Arizona	102.4	98.2	92.1	97.4	Arizona	96.4	96.7	119.0	103.7
New Jersey	96.3	98.0	97.9	97.4	Alaska	101.3	166.5	122.2	130.1
Illinois	97.0	97.3	98.3	97.6	Delaware		100.6	96.1	
Colorado	101.1	97.3	95.7	98.2	West Virginia	98.4		112.7	
Maine	95.4	103.5	95.9	98.3					
North Dakota	98.3	97.7	99.0	98.4					
Arkansas	108.3	94.4	94.7	98.6					
District of Columbia	103.4	99.9	92.3	98.6					
Kansas	99.7	97.8	98.8	98.8					
Ohio	99.6	97.4	99.8	98.9					
Wisconsin	100.2	97.5	99.4	99.0					
Nebraska	98.9	98.9	99.7	99.2					
Idaho	99.3	100.7	98.2	99.4					
Texas	101.7	98.5	100.6	100.3					
Alabama	96.1	103.8	100.7	100.4					
Alaska	96.1	105.9	99.8	100.5					
Michigan	102.9	99.6	99.5	100.6					
West Virginia	92.3	100.1	110.1	100.9					
Oklahoma	108.7	97.2	99.5	101.7					
Hawaii	99.5	130.2	98.7	109.6					
Utah	85.1		101.5						
New York			90.5						
Connecticut			95.3						
Missouri		92.2	98.1						
Vermont			98.5						
Massachusetts		99.1	100.0						
Oregon			103.0						

General jurisdiction court data from the following states are not included: GA, IA, LA, MS, MT, NM, NV, RI, SD, TN, WY

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

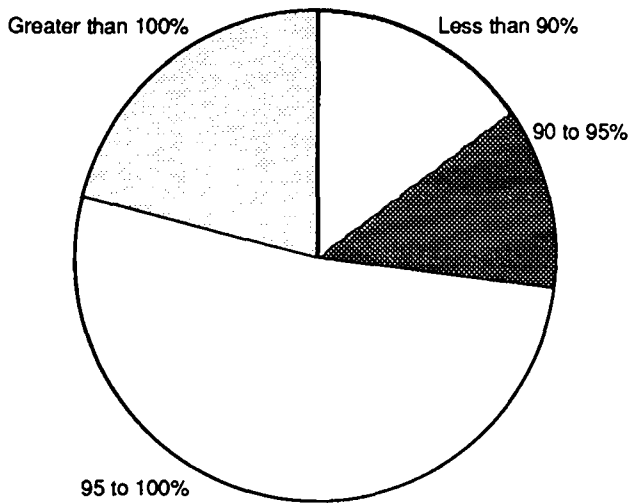
court services. General jurisdiction courts in 41 states and limited jurisdiction courts in 18 states are included in Text Table I.5.

- Most states ended 1991 with increases to pending caseloads.
- In courts of general jurisdiction, less than one in seven reported clearance rates of 100 percent or greater for 1991.
- Most courts of general jurisdiction had clearance rates between 95 and 100 percent, nine had clearance rates between 90 and 95 percent, and five had clearance rates less than 90 percent.

The general jurisdiction courts of West Virginia reported the largest clearance rate: 110.1 percent, followed by Oregon and New Hampshire (both at 103.0 percent). The other states that also disposed of more cases than were filed had clearance rates very close to 100 and, therefore, did not reduce the size of their pending caseloads significantly. The rising volume of civil cases is creating trouble for many state courts, and is particularly evident for the 14 states with 1991 clearance rates below 95 percent.

Are low clearance rates related to above average growth in civil caseloads? Text Table I.4 helps to clarify why some states are having difficulty clearing their civil caseloads. Three of the five states with clearance rates less than 90 percent have experienced substantial

Chart I.7: Three-year Clearance Rates for Civil Cases in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



The chart includes data from 34 states

Source: Text Table I.5, National Center for State Courts, 1993

growth in civil filings since 1989. For example, Maryland's civil filings have increased by 18 percent and Virginia's by 24 percent. In addition, three of the seven states with clearance rates in excess of 100 percent benefited from a decline in civil filings between 1990 and 1991 (New Hampshire, Texas, and Massachusetts).

To address the question of whether the findings for 1991 reflect short-term or long-term problems of the state courts, Text Table I.5 includes the clearance rates of the general and limited jurisdiction courts of each state from 1989, 1990, and 1991. Clearance rates over the three years are similar in some, but vary widely in other general jurisdiction courts. To take year-to-year fluctuations in clearance rates into account, a "three-year" clearance rate has been constructed. This three-year rate is computed by first summing all filings and dispositions during 1989-1991 and then dividing the three-year sum of dispositions by the corresponding sum of filings. Examining the three-year clearance rate provides the opportunity to see if courts are keeping up with new cases, despite a possible shortfall in a given year. Text Table I.5 is sorted by this three-year rate.

- Between 1989 and 1991, only one court in five had an average clearance rate of 100 percent or more.

Many of the other jurisdictions show a problem in keeping up with the inflow of cases. Chart I.7 shows the distribution of three-year clearance rates. Over a quarter of the general jurisdiction courts have disposed of less than 95 percent of their civil filings since 1989. For 16 states the

situation seems to be worsening in that the three-year rate exceeds the 1991 clearance rate. Because the three-year rate reflects the average success that a particular court has had in disposing of cases over the past three years, 16 states disposed of a lower percentage of cases in 1991 than is typical over this three-year period.

An explanation for this condition may be that the eight states with the lowest three-year clearance rates were the states with the highest absolute number of civil filings (Maryland, Florida, California, and Virginia) and states with the highest per capita civil filing rates (Delaware, New Hampshire, Virginia, and North Carolina). This pattern suggests that courts experiencing high absolute numbers of cases or high per capita filing rates do not have sufficient resources to deal with incoming caseloads.

Limited jurisdiction courts are experiencing similar problems to general jurisdiction courts in disposing of their civil caseloads. Text Table I.5 also shows 1991 clearance rates for the limited jurisdiction courts of 18 states.

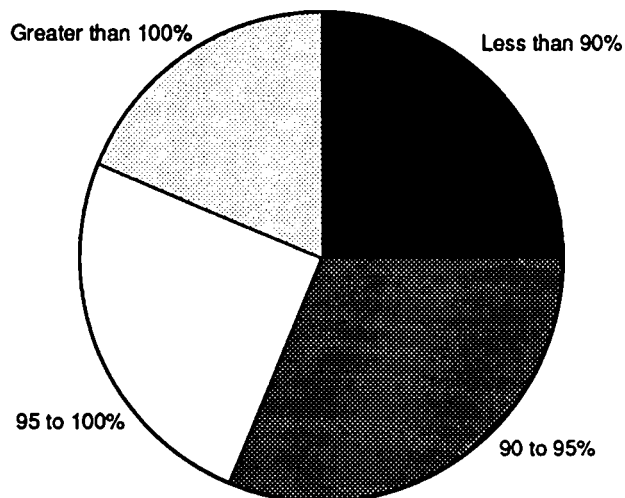
- Only four statewide limited jurisdiction courts reported clearance rates of 100 percent or greater for 1991.

The highest rate was 122.2 percent, recorded in Alaska. In seven states the clearance rates were between 95 and 100 percent, and in three more states the rate was between 90 and 95 percent. Limited jurisdiction courts in four states—Florida, Hawaii, New Jersey, and Washington—reported clearance rates below 90 percent. The court systems of New Jersey and Washington also reported the lowest rates in 1989 and 1990. The three-year clearance rates below 100 percent indicate that some states are having continuing problems keeping pace with caseload. As seen in Chart I.8, the three-year clearance rate is below 95 percent in over one-half of the limited jurisdiction courts. In 8 of the 16 limited jurisdiction courts for which a three-year clearance rate can be calculated, the three-year rate exceeds the 1991 clearance rate. This pattern indicates a downward trend in the success of these courts in handling their caseload volume.

Therefore, the information for both limited and general jurisdiction courts indicates that most courts are failing to keep pace with the flow of new case filings. This condition is expressed in terms of declining clearance rates (the three-year clearance rate exceeds the 1991 rate) and rising caseload levels. These facts suggest the possibility that while short-term factors (e.g., new laws and procedures) contribute to the difficulty of courts in keeping pace with the flow of new cases, the underlying difficulties may be rooted in more fundamental factors of fixed resources and steadily increasing workload due to steadily increasing state populations.

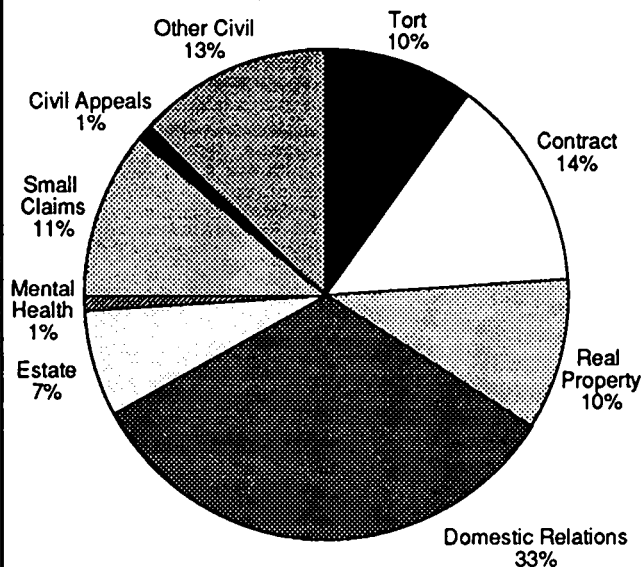
What is the composition of civil caseloads? Given that state courts handled nearly 19 million civil cases in 1991, what is the nature of that caseload? What types of disputes are filed and in what numbers? What trends are emerging? Chart I.9 summarizes the composition of

Chart I.8: Three-year Clearance Rates for Civil Cases in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



The chart includes data from 16 states
 Source: Text Table I.5, National Center for State Courts, 1993

Chart I.9: The Composition of Civil Caseload Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



The chart includes data from 27 states
 Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

civil caseloads in 27 general jurisdiction courts in 1991.¹¹ Domestic relations cases form the largest caseload category (33 percent), while general civil cases account for an additional 34 percent of the total (10 percent tort, 14 percent contract, 10 percent real property rights). Although only 8 of the 27 general jurisdiction courts used in Chart I.9 have small claims jurisdiction, small claims cases were common enough in those courts to account for 11 percent of the total. Other civil cases, accounting for 13 percent of the total, are composed of all civil cases that cannot be identified as belonging to one of the other major categories.

In the next section, domestic relations caseloads in 1991 are examined in more detail (pages 15 to 16); then trends in divorce (pages 18 to 19), tort (pages 19 to 22), contract (pages 22 to 23), and real property rights cases (pages 22 to 23) are analyzed.

What cases compose the domestic relations caseload? The most frequently reported category of civil filings is domestic relations. In 1991 a third of all civil

filings in courts of general jurisdiction were domestic relations cases (see Chart I.9). This figure is an underestimate because state courts often consolidate related cases involving the family into one case and reopen cases rather than file new ones when a subsequent order or modification is needed. As shown in Chart I.10, the domestic relations caseload is composed of six case types: (1) marriage dissolution (divorce), (2) support/custody, (3) Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act (URESA), (4) adoption, (5) paternity, and (6) a miscellaneous category. Text Table I.6 gives the composition of domestic relations caseloads in 1991 for 35 states.¹²

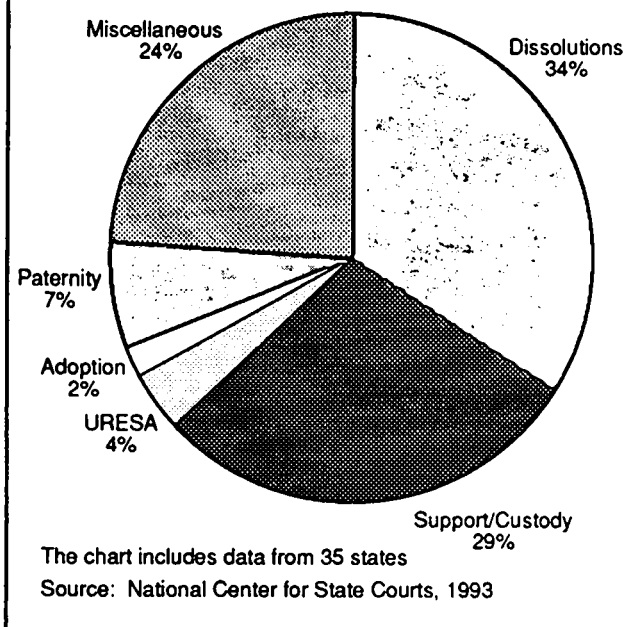
- Divorces represent the highest percent of cases in the domestic relations category (34 percent) in all but 12 states.

Differences in statistical reporting practices among the states, however, account for some of the variation in the

11 This aggregate picture of civil composition appears to reflect the composition of civil caseloads within each of the 27 individual state courts. That is, the largest percentage of civil cases in most states is domestic relations, followed by general civil, small claims, etc. The coefficient of concordance (W) measures, in this instance, the extent to which pooled rankings of case types match with the case type rankings within each of the 27 courts. A high (.45) and statistically significant value of W may be interpreted as meaning that the relative percentage of case types making up the aggregate ordering is similar to the civil composition found in the 27 courts.

12 States included in this table provide (1) complete domestic relations caseload data (as defined by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*) and (2) relatively complete information on the composition of their domestic relations caseload. States are still included in the table if their data for some small types of domestic relations cases are unavailable. A blank space on the table indicates that while the general jurisdiction court has jurisdiction over the case type, the particular caseload number has been included in the total for a different case category. All filings are in the states' courts of general jurisdiction except where noted.

Chart I.10: The Composition of Domestic Relations Caseload Filings, 1991



largest reported category.¹³ For example, in New Jersey the greater percentage of support/custody cases is due to the inclusion of paternity and URESA cases in the support/custody caseload that other states report separately. North Dakota also combines URESA with the support/custody caseload.

- In 1991 support/custody cases reported independently of marriage dissolutions compose the second largest component of the domestic relations caseload (29 percent). Many states do not report support/custody separately if a marriage dissolution is involved, but treat it instead as a proceeding of the divorce.
- Paternity cases account for 7 percent of the total domestic relations caseload in 1991. However, this figure masks that in states such as West Virginia and North Carolina, paternity is counted as part of the marriage dissolution caseload,

¹³ States differ on how they define the civil unit of count and how they count reopened cases. Table 9 (Part III, p. 111) explains more fully how support/custody cases are counted in each state court, and Figure H (Part V, p. 262) provides the method of counting civil cases (including reopened cases) in each of the state trial courts. Some states consider reopened cases as new filings, while others do not. Differences also exist in how case types are defined. For example, termination of parental rights may be considered a separate case type in one state court and part of an adoption or child abuse case in others. Most states classify adoptions as part of their domestic relations caseload, while others include them in juvenile filings.

while in New Jersey paternity cases are included in the support/custody caseload.

- URESA or interstate child support cases make up 4 percent of the total domestic relations caseload. In 1991, 24 states shown on Text Table I.6 reported a separate total for URESA cases; in the remaining states, URESA cases were frequently included in the support/custody caseload.
- At 2 percent, adoptions are the smallest part of the domestic relations caseload.
- Finally, the miscellaneous domestic relations category accounts for 24 percent of total domestic relations filings. The miscellaneous domestic relations category includes such cases as domestic violence petitions and termination of parental rights.

Managing large domestic relations caseloads creates unique problems for the state courts. Judges and court managers consistently cite (1) the need for additional resources and facilities; (2) the challenges presented by large numbers of pro se litigants; and (3) the administrative burden and complexity introduced by frequent changes in the laws governing domestic relations cases.¹⁴ In response, states have adopted a wide range of case management procedures for improving the processing of domestic relations caseloads. One of the most successful procedures has been the use of mediation for contested divorce and divorce-related custody and visitation cases. Referral to mediation tends to reduce the number of contested trials and is also associated with faster case-processing times.

Are the courts keeping up with the rise in civil caseloads? Trends offer an important perspective by indicating whether 1991 state court caseloads are in a period of stability or flux. In addition, trends inform whether caseload growth or decline is consistent among states and across types of cases. Finally, trend analysis allows each state to serve as its own baseline. States tend to maintain their systems for classifying and counting caseloads, reducing measurement problems caused by different units of count, points of count, and the composition of specific caseload categories. When changes do occur from one year to the next in a state's caseload, the alteration can be examined in relation to planned changes in statutes and procedural rules.

In this section, 1984-91 trends in divorce, tort, contract, and real property rights cases are examined with an eye to the cyclical changes that have occurred in these

¹⁴ For a more complete discussion of alternative procedures and problems associated with domestic relations caseloads, see John Goerd, *Divorce Courts: Case Management, Case Characteristics, and the Pace of Litigation in 16 Urban Jurisdictions* (National Center for State Courts 1992).

TEXT TABLE I.6: The Composition of Domestic Relations Caseload Filings, 1991

State	Dissolution	Support/Custody	URESA	Adoption	Paternity	Miscellaneous	Total
General Jurisdiction Courts							
Alaska	3,944		855	625	790	3,368	9,582
Arizona *	27,332			1,605		10,860	39,797
Arkansas	24,230	15,173	1,944	1,716	5,347	3,812	52,222
Colorado	24,912	800	3,113	1,981	3,698	1,804	36,308
Connecticut	14,021	12,498		NJ	37	705	27,261
District of Columbia	2,055	1,536	1,370	205	2,931	2,654	10,751
Florida	134,737	28,228	23,286			84,852	271,103
Hawaii	6,171		639	620	1,690	6,803	15,923
Idaho	10,113	1,799		898		4,427	17,237
Indiana	47,156		6,693	3,381	14,808		72,038
Iowa	19,267		7,075			1,398	27,740
Kansas	18,888		2,418	1,730	2,479	6,425	31,940
Louisiana **	4,813	4,002	15,073	1,910	6,305	38	32,141
Maine	7,611		230	NJ	NJ	7,722	15,563
Michigan	56,038	14,180	4,275	NJ	25,734	8,443	108,670
Minnesota	17,431		13,190	2,071		12,433	45,125
Missouri *	33,306		1,778	2,356	9,074	31,809	78,323
Montana	5,066	716		729		1,185	7,696
Nevada	14,269			779	1,263	11,919	28,230
New Jersey	49,226	124,733		2,400		37,323	213,682
New York **	62,849	133,218	17,139	7,263	58,130	305,364	583,963
North Dakota	3,035	8,385		313	777	596	13,106
Ohio	69,515	76,834	8,442	5,498	35,510	27,063	222,862
Oklahoma	31,204		1,587	2,117		10,526	45,434
Oregon	20,903	1,733	5,345	2,065	4,714	18,238	52,998
Pennsylvania	47,524	201,774	NJ	4,362		3,240	256,900
South Dakota	3,776			378		326	4,480
Tennessee	55,627		5,213	2,585		910	64,335
Utah	10,925	130	1,839	1,312	2,695		16,901
West Virginia	15,791			941		7,242	23,974
Wisconsin	21,862	4,958	2,111	1,994	18,135	1,976	51,036
Family Courts							
Delaware	4,983	19,529	NJ	190	1,052	2,067	27,821
Rhode Island	4,636	NJ	5,356	433	759	3,252	14,436
Vermont **	5,637		272	502		6,921	13,332
Limited Jurisdiction Courts							
North Carolina	45,951	35,830	3,550	NJ		984	86,315
GRAND TOTAL	924,804	686,056	132,793	52,959	195,928	626,685	2,619,225

* Miscellaneous data for AZ, LA, and MO include unclassified domestic relations cases. (Missouri data also include support/custody cases).

** NY data are combined from general & limited jurisdiction courts; VT from family & probate courts; LA from district, family & juvenile courts.

NJ = no jurisdiction

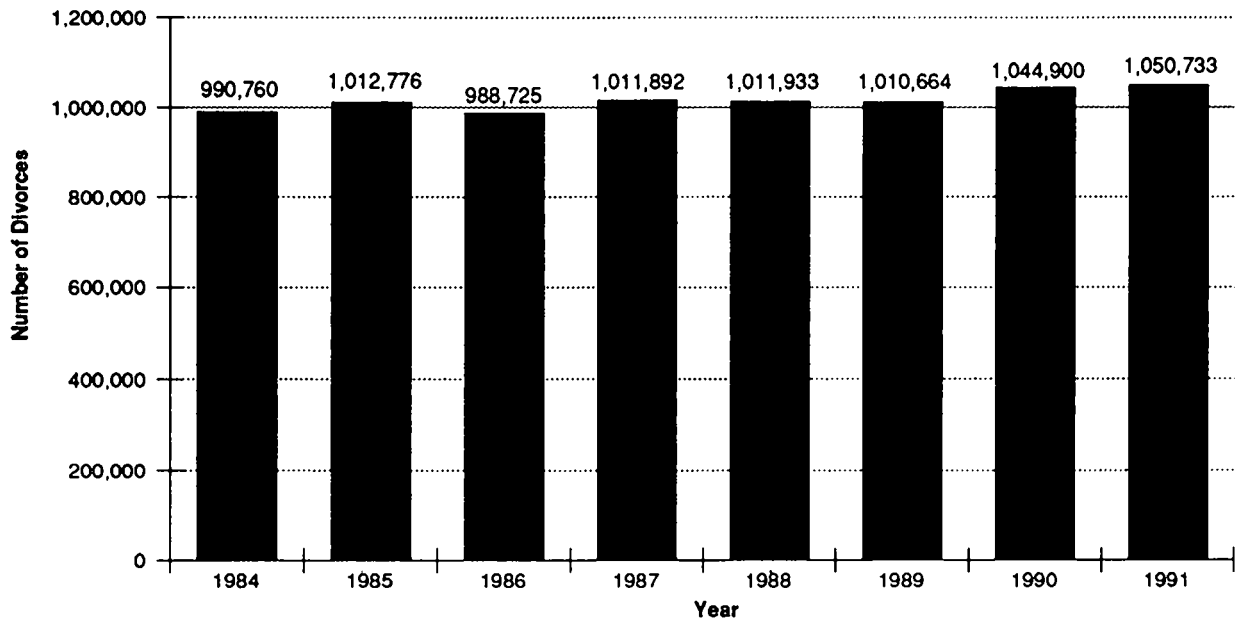
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

important case types. Change has not been uniform throughout the courts: some states have experienced substantial growth, while others have moved downward against the general trend. This trend analysis makes use

of index numbers to measure changes over time against a common standard.

Filings in 1989 are set equal to 100 and all other years are measured relative to that benchmark. The

CHART I.11: Marriage Dissolution Filings, 1991



The chart includes data from 29 states

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

choice of 1989 as the base year allows an assessment of recent experience over the last three years, while also providing historical perspective for those states that have provided the Court Statistics Project with longer data time series. Divorce cases are chosen because of their numbers and their significance to the size of the caseload in all general jurisdiction courts. Tort, contract, and real property rights cases are examined because of their visibility and because these cases tend to consume more court resources than other civil case categories and to speak directly to the concerns and questions court managers, legislators, and the public have about the work of the state courts.

What is the national trend in divorce cases? Marriage dissolutions are 34 percent of domestic relations caseloads (see Chart I.10). Divorce cases are a large and socially important segment of cases for judges and court managers. Divorce cases are a high-volume case type (see Chart I.11). For six of the past eight years, the total number of divorce cases has exceeded one million in the 29 states that report this information. Divorce affects not only the couple directly involved, but their children as well.

- Nationally, over one-half of all reported divorces involve children.¹⁵

Therefore, a substantial number of other domestic relations cases related to child custody, support, and visitation arise from divorce cases. These related case types greatly affect court operations in that the Family Support Act of 1988 requires review of all Title IV-D child support cases every three years to determine the sufficiency of child support awards. This recent federal legislation makes effective management of divorce and divorce-related cases essential in a time of tight resources.

Are national trends in divorces consistent, or do they vary by state? Text Table I.7 summarizes the experience between 1984 and 1991 in 29 states. To help trace the year-to-year changes as well as to gauge the overall change, 1989 caseload levels have been set equal to 100. Although the total number of divorces has remained relatively constant, this masks the often substantial variation that exists among the states.

Twenty-three states experienced an increase in divorce filings between 1989 and 1991. Typically, however, the growth was slight and was close to the national average. Exceptions were the substantial growth in Arkansas, New Jersey, District of Columbia, Utah, and Florida. Declining filing rates were experienced in six states.

When the eight-year span is examined, one-fourth of the states (8) had their highest number of divorce filings in 1991, but in only 6 states did the eight-year growth exceed 10 percent. In addition, divorce filings decreased in 10 states between 1984 and 1991. The District of Columbia is an example of a state with considerable

15 See Goerd, *supra* note 14.

TEXT TABLE I.7: Marriage Dissolution Trends, 1984-1991

Divorce Filings	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Alaska	117	122	111	109	100	100	100	93
Arkansas	118	121	123	121	121	100	123	124
California	96	96	96	101	101	100	101	101
Colorado	109	102	102	98	101	100	99	103
Delaware	88	92	100	103	100	100	98	105
District of Columbia	108	105	111	168	139	100	149	121
Florida	95	99	91	92	92	100	108	113
Hawaii	93	96	96	91	95	100	108	101
Indiana	91	90	90	97	99	100	103	99
Iowa	91	92	92	92	97	100	102	105
Kansas	107	108	105	103	103	100	105	104
Maine	101	98	94	98	100	100	98	97
Maryland	98	101	98	97	99	100	101	104
Massachusetts	106	104	101	100	99	100	93	96
Michigan	97	95	105	103	102	100	110	101
Montana	114	114	109	103	100	100	101	106
New Jersey	75	75	76	86	94	100	106	122
New York	101	103	97	113	102	100	95	93
North Dakota	96	100	99	102	107	100	107	105
Oklahoma	113	114	110	104	100	100	103	107
Pennsylvania	72	103	102	99	103	100	104	102
Puerto Rico	101	101	102	103	95	100	99	101
Rhode Island	97	101	100	99	106	100	99	94
South Dakota	95	96	99	95	102	100	108	112
Tennessee	89	89	90	92	100	100	106	102
Texas	112	114	104	103	101	100	101	101
Utah	101	104	112	111	105	100	114	114
Virginia	106	98	100	101	102	100	104	107
Wisconsin	100	106	99	100	102	100	105	103
Total	98	100	98	100	100	100	103	104

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

annual variation during the period—a 60 percent increase between 1984 and 1987 then a return to within 13 percent of the 1984 level in 1991.

To summarize, the sheer number of divorce cases and their related case types is a significant proportion of the caseload in all general jurisdiction courts. Domestic relations cases are the largest component of civil filings, and marriage dissolutions are the largest portion of domestic relations in all but a few states. After decades of steady increases, the number of divorce cases filed in state courts has remained relatively steady since 1984. Although divorces are a high-volume case type, relatively stable filing patterns allow court managers to better estimate the time and staffing needs necessary to handle these cases effectively.

How many tort cases are there? Torts are the case type that figures most prominently in the debate over the need for reform of the civil justice system.¹⁶ These are the

cases with the highest visibility and include suits against doctors for malpractice, against manufacturers for dangerous products, and against motorists involved in automobile accidents.

Statistically, tort cases have remained relatively constant in the state courts over the past few years.

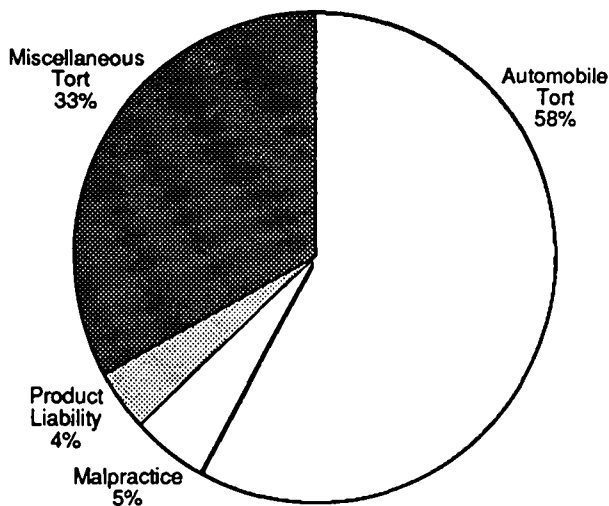
- It is estimated that about 1,155,000 tort cases were filed in state courts in 1991.¹⁷

The composition of tort cases provides insight into the types of torts that are being brought to the state courts. **Chart I.12** (based on data from four states) shows that tort filings are dominated by automobile torts. Malpractice and product liability, the focus of most attention, tend to be substantially fewer in number. **Chart I.13** changes the perspective by showing the composition

¹⁶ Torts are allegations of injury or wrong committed either against a person or against a person's property by a party or parties who either failed to do something that they were obligated to do or did something that they were obligated not to do.

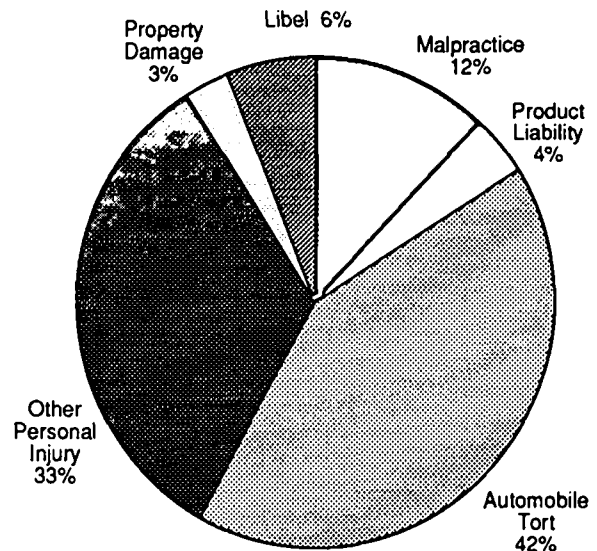
¹⁷ This estimate is based on a regression analysis where tort filings are regressed against total civil filings and population using data from the 32 states that provide accurate information on these totals in 1991. The regression coefficients were then used to estimate total tort filings for the nation as a whole.

Chart I.12: Composition of Tort Filings from Four States, 1991



The chart includes data from FL, CT, NV, WI
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

Chart I.13: Composition of Tort Cases that Reach Trial, 1991



Based on data from 762 tort cases decided by trial in 27 trial courts
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

of tort cases that reach trial. This chart, based on data from 27 trial courts in 16 states, indicates that automobile torts remain the largest category, although smaller than at the filing stage.

Is there a litigation explosion in tort cases in the nation's state courts? Tort filings have increased by about 18 percent over the past seven years. This is based on aggregating tort filing data obtained from 23 general jurisdiction courts that have reported comparable data for the 1985 to 1991 period. The totals are displayed in **Chart I.14** and contain data from 6 of the 10 most populous states. As is evident, most of the growth occurred between 1985 and 1986 (17 percent). There was little change between 1986 and 1989 (a drop of less than 1 percent). Following a slightly more than 2 percent increase between 1989 and 1990, 1991 saw a slight decline of about 1 percent. The evidence points to tort litigation growing more slowly than civil cases generally: the total number of civil cases in general jurisdiction courts grew by 2 percent between 1990 and 1991.

The actual numbers of tort filings per year are detailed in Table 16 (Part III, p. 160). **Text Table I.8** summarizes that information by using index numbers to express the change in tort filings experienced by each court. Taking 1989 as the base (index equals 100), one can quickly see the percentage change in tort litigation over the past three years. Because the volume of civil litigation is so closely tied to population, **Text Table I.8** also shows state-by-state population growth for the period 1989 to 1991. In addition, the use of 1989 as a base allows the

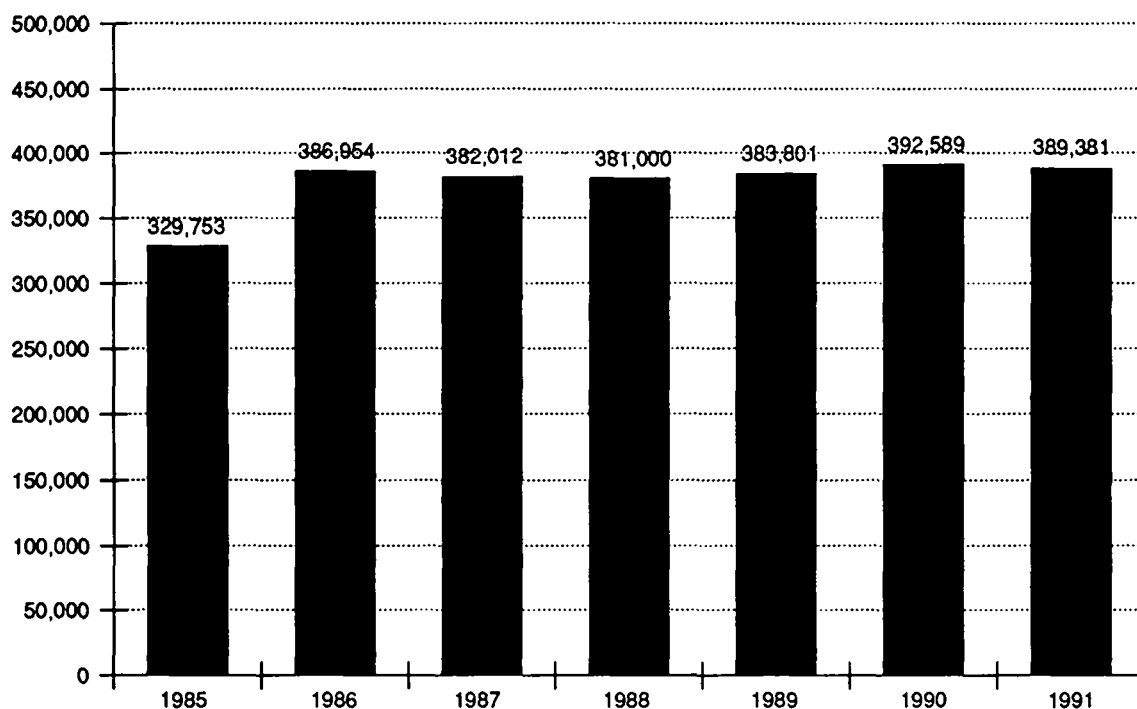
inclusion of five states missing from **Chart I.14** that have only recently begun reporting tort filing data. Finally, examining years prior to 1989, one is able to discern the very different cycles of tort litigation among the states. An index number higher than 100 indicates that tort filings were higher at that time and proportionately how much higher.

- Sharp differences in individual state experiences with tort litigation since 1989 belies the relative calm in the aggregate.

Twelve of the 28 states reported a decline in tort filings between 1989 and 1991, with relatively large decreases in California and Maine. (The decline in the number of tort filings in Minnesota is due partially to a change in the way civil cases are counted beginning in 1990.) Growth in the remaining 16 states falls into one of three categories: 4 states had growth of 10 percent or less, 7 states had growth of 11 to 20 percent, and 5 states experienced growth of 20 percent or more in tort filings over the past three years. These last 5 states include 3 states (Hawaii, Indiana, and Utah) that saw tort filings rise by 32 percent or more since 1989. This rate of growth (10 to 13 percent per year) is sufficient to double tort caseloads in about seven years.

Text Table I.8 also allows us to take a longer view on trends in tort litigation. Filing rates increased for most states in 1985 and again in 1986. Since then, tort filings have continued to increase, but at a substantially slower

CHART I.14: Total Tort Filings from 23 States



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

pace. Growth in tort filings between 1986 and 1989 was essentially flat, with as many states experiencing year-to-year decreases as increases.

- Tort filings in 1990 increased over the levels reached in 1989, but were flat or down in most states in 1991.

Whatever factors propelled the sharp increases in the mid-1980s, they appear to have diminished in strength entering the 1990s. The most plausible explanation for the trends in many states is the effect of specific tort reform legislation on the plaintiff's decision of where and when to file a lawsuit.¹⁸

State-by-state fluctuations make generalizations difficult. Moreover, the different components of the tort caseload within these states showed different patterns of change. The nine states on **Chart I.15** reported a breakdown of the tort caseload that distinguished between automobile and nonautomobile torts. Total tort filings in these states increased by 5 percent between 1986 and

1991. But automobile accident filings rose by 10 percent during this period, while nonautomobile torts, which include medical malpractice and product liability, decreased by 3 percent. On the one hand, if we can use this data to generalize to the nation, it would appear that there is little evidence of an "explosion" in the types of cases that are the focus of most attention (malpractice and product liability). On the other hand, the growth in automobile torts presents an alternative problem. Because cases related to automobiles are the single largest tort category, any increase will have a substantial effect on the overall pattern of tort filings.¹⁹

To summarize, tort filings nationwide are increasing at slower rates than during the mid-1980s. In aggregate, tort filings are continuing to rise, but at quite modest rates. This trend is not entirely uniform and, in fact, an examination of selected states reveals substantial variability. This suggests that the direction of change in tort-filing

¹⁸ An analysis of the effect of tort reform legislation on changes in Alaska, Arizona, Michigan, New Jersey, Utah, and Washington is presented in *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1989*, at 42-44 (National Center for State Courts 1991).

¹⁹ Recent research has found that automobile torts are not necessarily unimportant and routine. Automobile torts involve a broad range of litigant types (e.g., corporations, insurance companies, and government agencies), many levels of severity of injury, and often very large compensatory damages. See, e.g., Brian Ostrom, David Rottman, and Roger Hanson, *What Are Tort Awards Really Like? The Untold Story from the State Courts*, 14 *Law and Policy* No. 2 (1992).

TEXT TABLE I.8: Trends in Tort Filings

State	General Jurisdiction Courts								
	Tort Index 1984	Tort Index 1985	Tort Index 1986	Tort Index 1987	Tort Index 1988	Tort Index 1989	Tort Index 1990	Tort Index 1991	Total Population Growth 1989 to 1991
Alaska	153	246	275	196	110	100	97	98	108
Arizona	73	86	95	98	163	100	123	123	105
Arkansas	N/A	108	111	112	103	100	101	102	99
California	74	85	99	104	100	100	92	87	105
Colorado	76	83	112	67	82	100	107	115	102
Connecticut	N/A	75	81	91	93	100	97	96	102
Florida	70	78	89	88	89	100	106	115	105
Hawaii	90	93	98	100	97	100	115	132	102
Idaho	117	136	143	119	98	100	96	85	102
Indiana	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	118	139	100
Kansas	89	90	95	97	102	100	89	90	99
Maine	107	106	105	92	91	100	96	86	101
Maryland	76	71	87	91	99	100	104	114	104
Michigan	71	70	100	91	95	100	119	98	101
Minnesota	N/A	104	107	111	105	100	74	75	102
Montana	102	116	114	111	96	100	102	94	100
Nevada	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	90	100	110	122	116
New Jersey	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	102	103	100
New York	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	105	106	101
North Carolina	N/A	78	N/A	114	97	100	104	110	103
North Dakota	91	85	93	92	92	100	124	88	96
Ohio	76	88	97	101	99	100	119	119	100
Puerto Rico	71	79	82	86	73	100	109	118	107
Tennessee	87	93	98	101	N/A	100	100	98	100
Texas	93	102	104	111	100	100	108	120	102
Utah	116	101	205	108	114	100	132	140	104
Washington	89	96	192	79	86	100	100	112	105
Wisconsin	N/A	N/A	N/A	104	104	100	106	97	102

N/A = Data are either not available or not comparable

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

rates is affected primarily by factors operating at the state or, perhaps, regional level, such as legislative initiatives and economic conditions.

Torts have become the primary focus of the debate on whether the level of litigation in this country is rising to a degree that is detrimental to businesses and a challenge to judges and court managers. However, extending consideration to contract and real property rights cases permits comment on how representative tort cases are of civil caseload trends and puts what is occurring in tort litigation into perspective.

How do torts compare with contract and real property rights filings? Complete and comparable data on contract cases are available between 1989 and 1991 for the general jurisdiction courts of 22 states (5 of these states are among the 10 most populous).²⁰ The

index numbers tracing the trends for those courts can be found in **Text Table I.9**. Statistics for the 18 states that have reported contract case filings since 1985 are aggregated in **Chart I.16**.

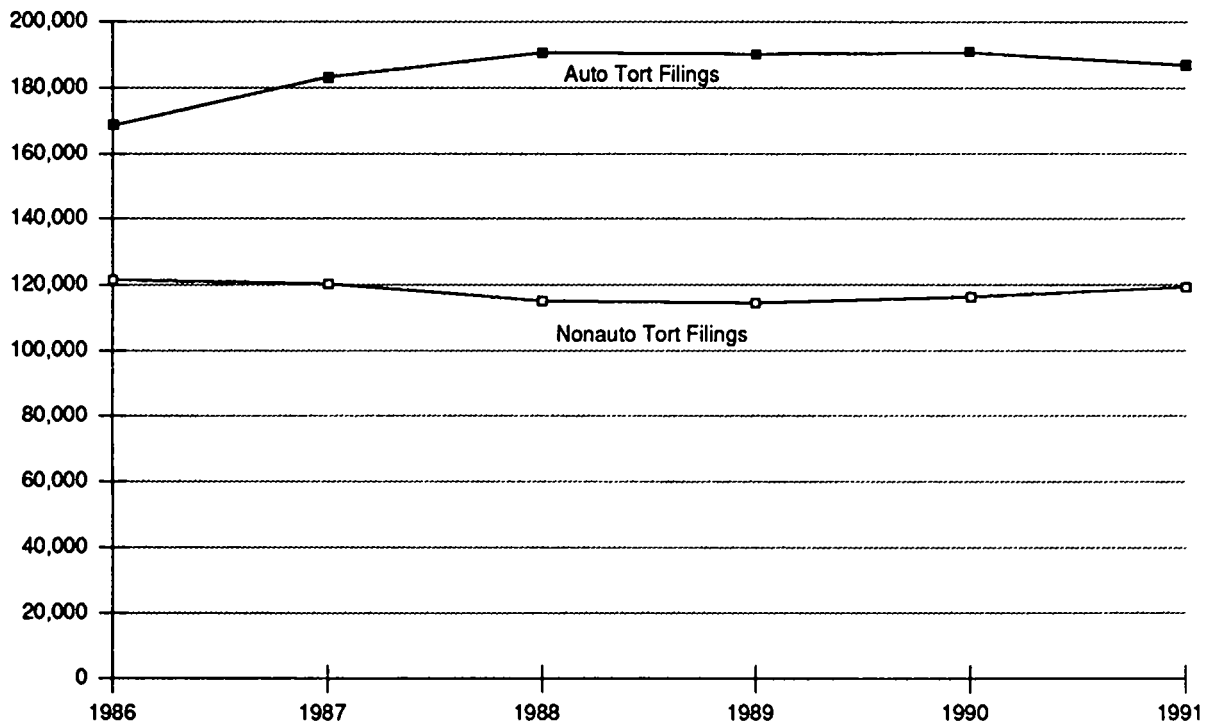
Real property rights filings are available for the general jurisdiction courts in 24 states for the period 1989 to 1991, including those from 5 of the 10 most populous states.²¹ The index numbers for individual courts can be found in **Text Table I.10**, and the aggregate trend in **Chart I.17**, from the 20 states that have reported real property rights filings since 1985.

Different patterns are evident for the aggregate trends in tort, contract, and real property rights filings over the 1985-91 period. Although, on average, all three case types grew during those seven years, only real property rights filings show a consistent year-to-year increase.

20 Contracts form a major category for classifying civil cases. Contract cases are disputes over a promissory agreement between two or more parties (see the entry in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*).

21 Real property rights cases arise out of contention over the ownership, use, or disposition of land or real estate (see *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*).

CHART I.15: Recent Trends In Tort Filings: Auto vs. Nonauto Filings from 9 States



States with available data are: AZ, CA, CT, FL, HI, MD, MI, NC, TX

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

- In aggregate, tort filings increased by 18 percent, contract filings by 8 percent, and real property rights by 31 percent between 1985 and 1991.
- While a majority of general jurisdiction courts saw an increase in contract filings between 1989 and 1990 (17 of 22), this pattern has reversed in 1991.

Compared to the base year of 1989, seven states have experienced a decline in contract filings, and another five states have remained essentially unchanged. The ten states with rising contract caseloads, however, are all experiencing steady growth. Five states saw contracts up between 10 and 20 percent since 1989, and five more states experienced growth of more than 20 percent. At the extreme, both Maryland and Utah had over 60 percent more contract cases filed in 1991 than 1989.

- Nationwide real property rights filings show the smoothest growth pattern within the general civil category.

However, the variation becomes extreme when the individual states are examined. The 1989 to 1991 trend is split with 10 states showing decreases and 10 states showing increases. Five states had rather steep drops of 20 percent or more since 1989, while 5 other states

showed an increase of 30 percent or more during the same period. Four states had roughly the same number of real property rights filings in 1991 as in 1989, although even here abrupt changes occurred: Arizona experienced a 34 percent increase between 1989 and 1990 and a subsequent 35 percent decrease the next year to bring the 1991 total back to the level of 1989.

In summary, the evidence indicates that tort filings are not increasing at a faster rate than other major categories of civil filings. **Chart I.18** shows the growth in tort, contract, and real property rights filings in the 16 states that reported comparable data over the 1985 to 1991 period. Only between 1985 and 1986 did the aggregate growth in torts exceed the growth in both contract and real property rights filings. No state recorded a continual, yearly rise in tort filings relative to contract and real property rights cases during the 1985-91 period. There are sufficient differences between tort, contract, and real property rights case-filing patterns to suggest that the factors promoting the increase or the decrease of tort litigation in states are not having parallel effects on contract and real property rights litigation.

Criminal Filings in 1991 and 1984-91 Trends

States reported 12,430,910 new criminal case filings in 1991, with 31 percent in courts of general jurisdiction and 69 percent in courts of limited jurisdiction. The 1991 total was a 5 percent decrease from 1990. A closer

TEXT TABLE I.9: Trends in Contract Filings

State	General Jurisdiction Courts								
	Contract Index 1984	Contract Index 1985	Contract Index 1986	Contract Index 1987	Contract Index 1988	Contract Index 1989	Contract Index 1990	Contract Index 1991	Total Population Growth 1989 to 1991
Arizona	78	85	100	99	100	100	102	90	105
Arkansas	N/A	152	163	164	118	100	84	86	99
Colorado	92	91	110	114	104	100	96	76	102
Connecticut	N/A	72	77	77	85	100	109	112	102
Florida	55	66	79	81	85	100	102	80	105
Hawaii	126	108	107	100	106	100	105	99	102
Kansas	73	81	90	92	93	100	111	123	99
Maine	74	77	64	72	94	100	103	102	101
Maryland	53	51	61	71	76	100	160	162	104
Minnesota	N/A	121	123	117	112	100	108	100	102
Montana	161	174	184	153	114	100	102	94	100
Nevada	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	92	100	110	118	116
New Jersey	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	109	116	100
New York	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	105	111	101
North Carolina	N/A	54	81	82	88	100	122	121	103
North Dakota	141	135	136	125	127	100	91	101	96
Puerto Rico	65	66	74	74	78	100	120	144	107
Tennessee	84	85	87	92	N/A	100	106	99	100
Texas	135	152	147	150	124	100	82	79	102
Utah	134	114	20	6	10	100	163	161	104
Washington	102	110	114	105	102	100	104	113	105
Wisconsin	N/A	N/A	N/A	188	151	100	90	95	102

N/A = Data are either not available or not comparable

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

examination reveals that criminal filings in general jurisdiction courts (primarily felonies) increased by 1 percent between 1990 and 1991, while criminal filings in limited jurisdiction courts (primarily misdemeanors) declined by over 7 percent. A method similar to that used with civil caseloads is used to examine criminal caseloads. The issues covered in this section include:

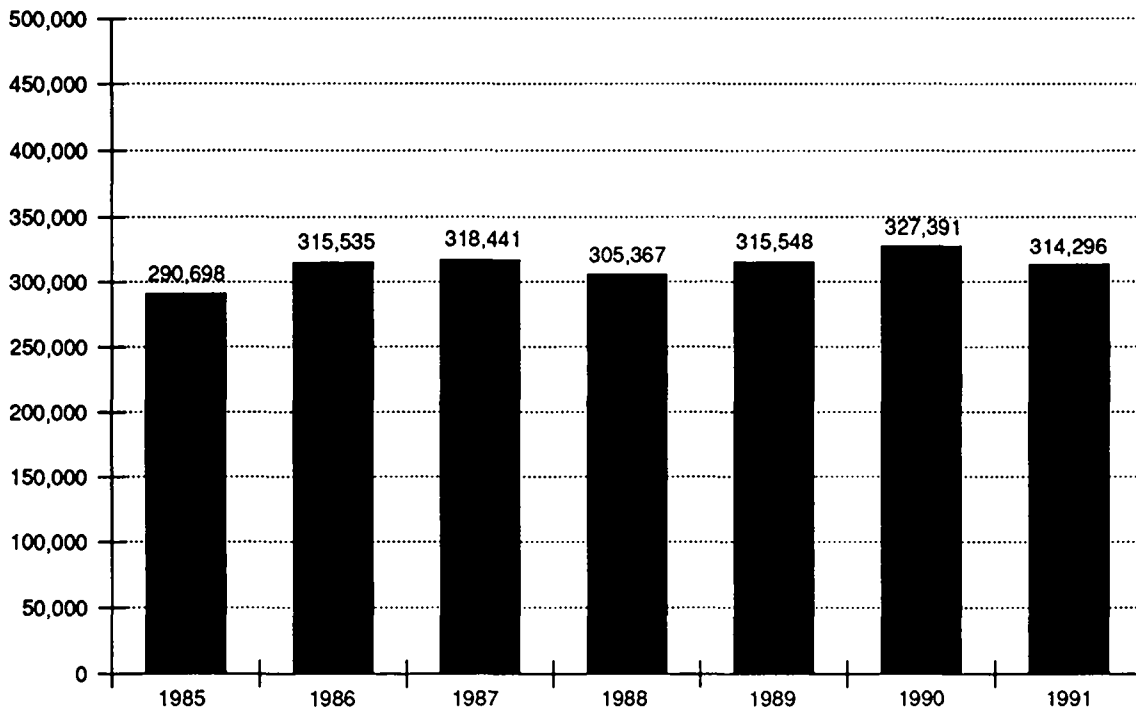
- **The volume of criminal caseloads.** How are criminal cases distributed between general and limited jurisdiction courts? What is the relationship between population and criminal caseload? How do differences in criminal-case-counting practices among the states affect the measure of volume? How have criminal caseloads changed since 1987?
- **Clearance rates for criminal cases.** Are courts successful in disposing of their criminal caseloads? Is increasing caseload volume linked to the ability of a court to dispose of its criminal caseload?
- **The composition of criminal caseloads.** Are felonies the bulk of criminal caseloads? How

does the composition vary between general and limited jurisdiction courts?

- **Misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases.** How large are these caseloads? Are these two case types, adjusted for population, similar across states?
- **Trends in felony filings.** How fast are felony caseloads increasing in size? Are all states experiencing substantial growth in filing levels?

How are criminal cases distributed between general and limited jurisdiction courts? Reported criminal filings from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for both general and limited jurisdiction courts are shown in **Text Table I.11**. States are ranked according to the number of total criminal filings in 1991. Additionally, the table shows the ranking of each state according to the size of its adult population. Detailed information on the extent to which states report data conforming to the recommended definitions, the method of counting criminal cases, and the point at which a filing is counted as a case is provided in Table 10 (Part III, p. 119). The states that experienced an increase in criminal filings between 1990 and 1991 are shown in **Map I.2**.

CHART I.16: Total Contract Filings from 18 States



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* defines a criminal case as one in which a defendant is charged with the violation of a state law.²² Total criminal caseloads range widely from 13,552 filings in Wyoming to 1,687,280 filings in Texas (see Text Table I.11). The median number of criminal filings is 141,857 (midway between the total reported by West Virginia and Missouri). The broad difference in the absolute number of criminal cases can be shown in two different ways. First, states cluster into three broad categories. Twenty-three states reported less than 100,000 criminal cases, and 27 states have between 100,000 and 661,000 criminal cases. Only 2 states reported over one million criminal cases in 1991. Second, there is a high concentration of criminal filings in a few states:

²² Subcategories of criminal cases include felonies, misdemeanors, driving while intoxicated (DWI/DUI), and appeals of trial court cases. Felonies that can be tried to completion in the court in which they are filed are distinguished from felony cases that must be bound over for trial to another court. Limited jurisdiction courts in most states hold preliminary hearings for felony cases and in 26 states can dismiss a felony case; however, such courts can sentence felons in only six states (Alabama, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, and South Carolina). Filings of felony cases in limited jurisdiction courts for preliminary hearings are not added to the state criminal caseload if the result is a defendant being bound over for trial in another court. Such cases are thus only counted once, as a filing in the court of general jurisdiction.

- Nine states account for more than 50 percent of all criminal filings.²³
- Seven of the states accounting for the majority of criminal filings are among the nine most populous states.

Changes in the volume of cases handled in these nine states will affect the picture of criminal caseloads in significant ways.

What is the relationship between population and criminal caseload? What factors influence the volume of criminal cases in the state courts? Many reasons underlie the observed variation in criminal-filing levels between the states, including (1) differences in the procedures used by states to decide which cases are to be prosecuted; (2) differences in the underlying crime rates; and (3) differences in the methods used by states to count criminal cases. A complete discussion of the reasons is beyond the scope of this *Report*, but it is possible to show the essential importance of population as a key element in determining the size of state criminal

²³ Eight of these nine states accounting for the bulk of criminal filings also are in the group of nine states that account for the majority of civil filings.

TEXT TABLE I.10: Trends in Real Property Rights Filings

State	General Jurisdiction Courts								Total Population Growth 1989 to 1991
	Real Property Index 1984	Real Property Index 1985	Real Property Index 1986	Real Property Index 1987	Real Property Index 1988	Real Property Index 1989	Real Property Index 1990	Real Property Index 1991	
Arizona	37	63	82	92	87	100	134	99	105
Arkansas	N/A	56	60	85	85	100	98	116	99
California	53	61	96	70	94	100	90	87	105
Colorado	48	63	84	97	113	100	74	59	102
Connecticut	77	82	86	119	132	100	155	176	102
Delaware	84	86	84	97	106	100	107	163	101
District of Columbia	128	125	122	115	110	100	96	94	99
Florida	50	63	78	80	88	100	111	132	105
Hawaii	92	95	82	72	79	100	128	132	102
Kansas	71	79	93	100	99	100	102	101	99
Maine	N/A	N/A	N/A	74	97	100	152	235	101
Maryland	96	84	86	70	61	100	98	79	104
Massachusetts	70	73	79	82	97	100	114	126	101
Minnesota	N/A	56	55	58	63	100	92	95	102
Montana	84	104	109	120	97	100	81	78	100
Nevada	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	83	100	98	104	116
New Jersey	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	105	110	100
North Carolina	N/A	N/A	96	94	111	100	98	100	103
North Dakota	86	105	120	133	114	100	87	77	96
Puerto Rico	123	120	132	113	100	100	95	99	107
Tennessee	101	109	122	125	N/A	100	105	102	100
Texas	113	104	103	99	100	100	77	94	102
Utah	118	97	109	106	109	100	84	79	104
Washington	65	77	77	87	96	100	98	97	105

N/A = Data are either not available or not comparable

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

caseloads. There is obviously a positive correlation between population and the number of criminal filings (see Text Table I.11).²⁴ Using the standard technique of comparing criminal filings per 100,000 adult population will clarify the similarities and differences between states.

Total criminal filings per 100,000 adult population are shown in **Chart I.19**.²⁵ Rates per 100,000 adult population show considerable variation in 1991: ranging from a low of 2,457 reported by Wisconsin to a high of 21,806 reported by Delaware.

24 There is a positive Pearson correlation coefficient of .84 between state population and total criminal filings; the correlation between state population and total civil filings was .90. This means if you know a state's population, it is possible to predict with considerable accuracy how many cases are being filed in its courts.

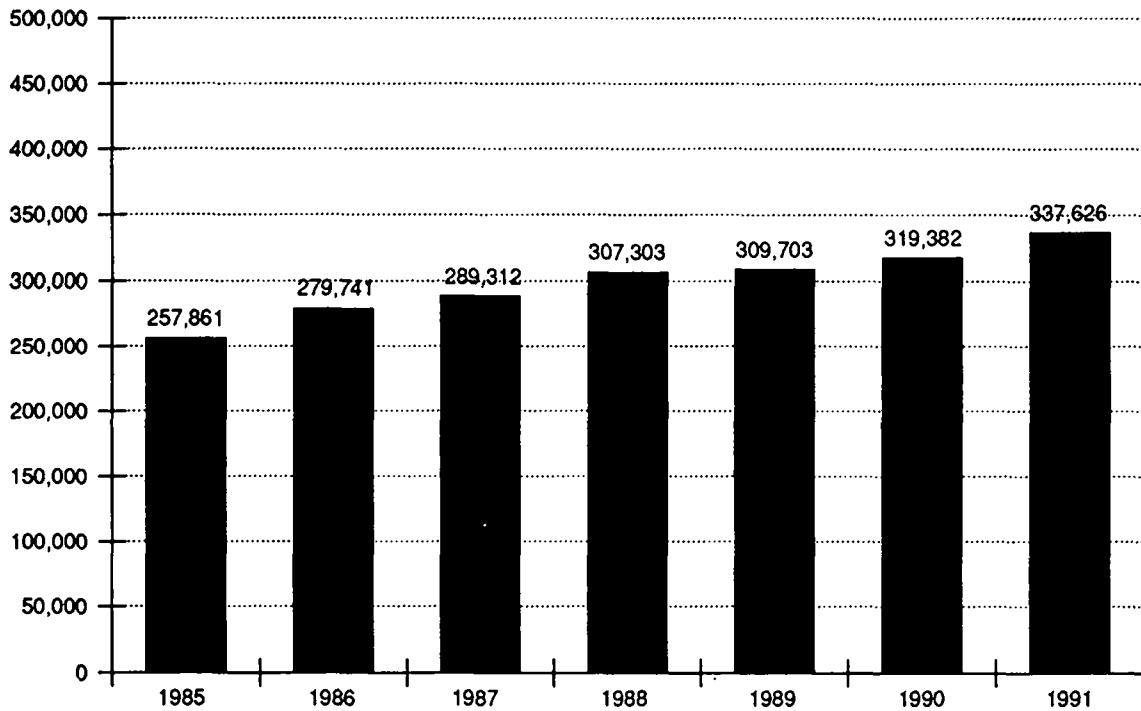
25 Included in the graph are states that (1) report data from all general jurisdiction courts with relevant subject matter jurisdiction and (2) report data that is at least 75 percent complete at the limited jurisdiction court level. Forty-five states report data from all courts with relevant subject matter jurisdiction. Reference to the footnotes to the statistics in Table 10 (Part III, p. 119) indicates why the remaining states were excluded and the extent to which the caseload for a state at either the general or limited jurisdiction level is incomplete or overinclusive.

- Criminal-filing rates tend to be dispersed around the median, which is represented by Washington (6,322). The relationship between adult population and criminal-filing rates is looser than it is for civil cases.

Three patterns are evident in criminal filings per 100,000 adult population. First, state criminal-filing rates are consistent over time, particularly for those states appearing at either end of the range. The same two states have defined the lower (Wisconsin) and upper (Delaware) bounds of the range since 1986. In 1991 six jurisdictions reported distinctively low rates of criminal filings: Wisconsin, Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, and Missouri. The same jurisdictions have had the lowest filing rates since 1988. At the other end of the range, five states that reported more than 10,000 filings per 100,000 adult population, Delaware, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia, and Arizona, have occupied the high end of the chart since 1987.

Second, while there may be consistency over time in the ranking of states in any given year, there tends to be a wide range in filing rates and a greater dispersion around the median that contrasts with the noticeable consistency found for state civil-filing rates. Variation

CHART I.17: Total Real Property Filings from 20 States



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

CHART I.18: Recent General Civil Filing Trends from 16 States with Comparable Data

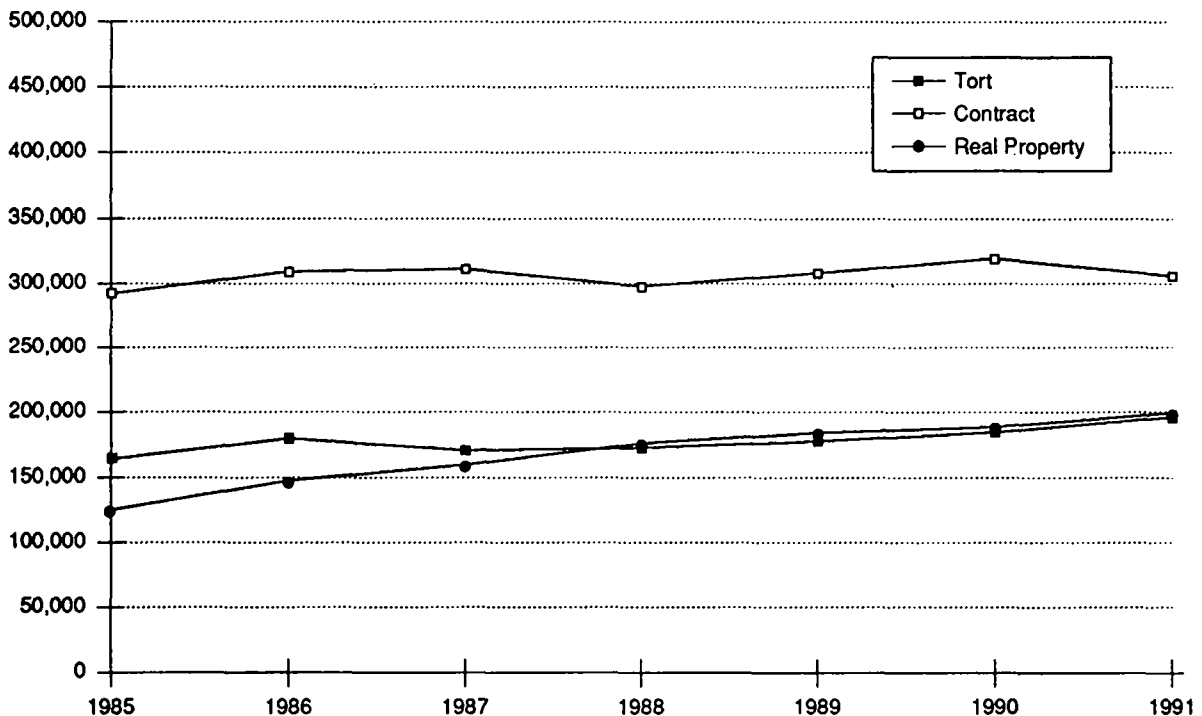


Chart includes data from: AZ, AR, CO, CT, FL, HI, KS, MD, MN, MT, ND, PR, TN, TX, UT, WA

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

TEXT TABLE I.11: Total Criminal Filings Reported, 1991

	State	Total Criminal Filings	Total Criminal Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts	Total Criminal Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Adult Population Ranking
1.	Texas	1,687,280	167,529	1,519,751	3
2.	California	1,011,474	166,202	845,272	1
3.	North Carolina	660,082	115,099	544,983	10
4.	Florida	608,135	187,658	420,477	4
5.	Ohio	587,722	61,836	525,886	7
6.	Virginia	568,149	105,000	463,149	12
7.	New York	533,234	79,356	453,878	2
8.	Illinois	498,780	498,780	N/Appl	6
9.	New Jersey	457,890	58,220	399,670	9
10.	Massachusetts	368,439	368,439	N/Appl	13
11.	South Carolina	357,837	109,580	248,257	25
12.	Alabama	344,967	49,782	295,185	22
13.	Michigan	340,071	64,404	275,667	8
14.	Arizona	313,100	28,757	284,343	23
15.	Maryland	278,144	68,910	209,234	19
16.	Arkansas	273,630	35,188	238,442	34
17.	Louisiana	268,063	110,822	157,241	21
18.	Indiana	235,076	111,607	123,469	14
19.	Washington	234,088	28,577	205,511	16
20.	Georgia	223,930	96,715	127,215	11
21.	Pennsylvania	198,991	137,046	61,945	5
22.	Kentucky	194,559	15,367	179,192	24
23.	Minnesota	177,861	177,861	N/Appl	20
24.	Connecticut	161,134	161,134	NJ	28
25.	New Mexico	153,090	12,050	141,040	38
26.	West Virginia	143,981	7,015	136,966	35
27.	Missouri	139,733	139,733	NJ	15
28.	Colorado	137,253	21,530	115,723	27
29.	Delaware	111,645	7,003	104,642	47
30.	Oregon	99,693	26,699	72,994	30
31.	Wisconsin	89,547	89,547	N/A	17
32.	Nebraska	88,481	8,038	80,443	37
33.	Puerto Rico	81,704	40,575	41,129	26
34.	Oklahoma	79,774	79,774	NJ	29
35.	Utah	79,708	4,316	75,392	36
36.	Idaho	69,183	69,183	N/Appl	43
37.	Iowa	65,471	65,471	N/Appl	31
38.	Tennessee	64,563	64,563	N/A	18
39.	Kansas	55,328	42,416	12,912	33
40.	Maine	52,354	10,755	41,599	40
41.	Rhode Island	50,294	6,233	44,061	44
42.	Hawaii	49,095	9,230	39,865	41
43.	New Hampshire	48,384	12,844	35,540	42
44.	District of Columbia	45,773	45,773	N/Appl	49
45.	South Dakota	31,279	31,279	N/Appl	46
46.	Alaska	30,403	2,442	27,961	50
47.	North Dakota	22,550	1,914	20,636	48
48.	Mississippi	21,872	16,660	5,212	32
49.	Vermont	19,515	19,515	NJ	51
50.	Wyoming	13,552	1,426	12,126	52
51.	Montana	4,048	4,048	N/A	45
52.	Nevada *	1	1	N/A	39
	TOTAL	12,430,910	3,843,902	8,587,008	

N/Appl = Not applicable (state does not have a limited jurisdiction court)

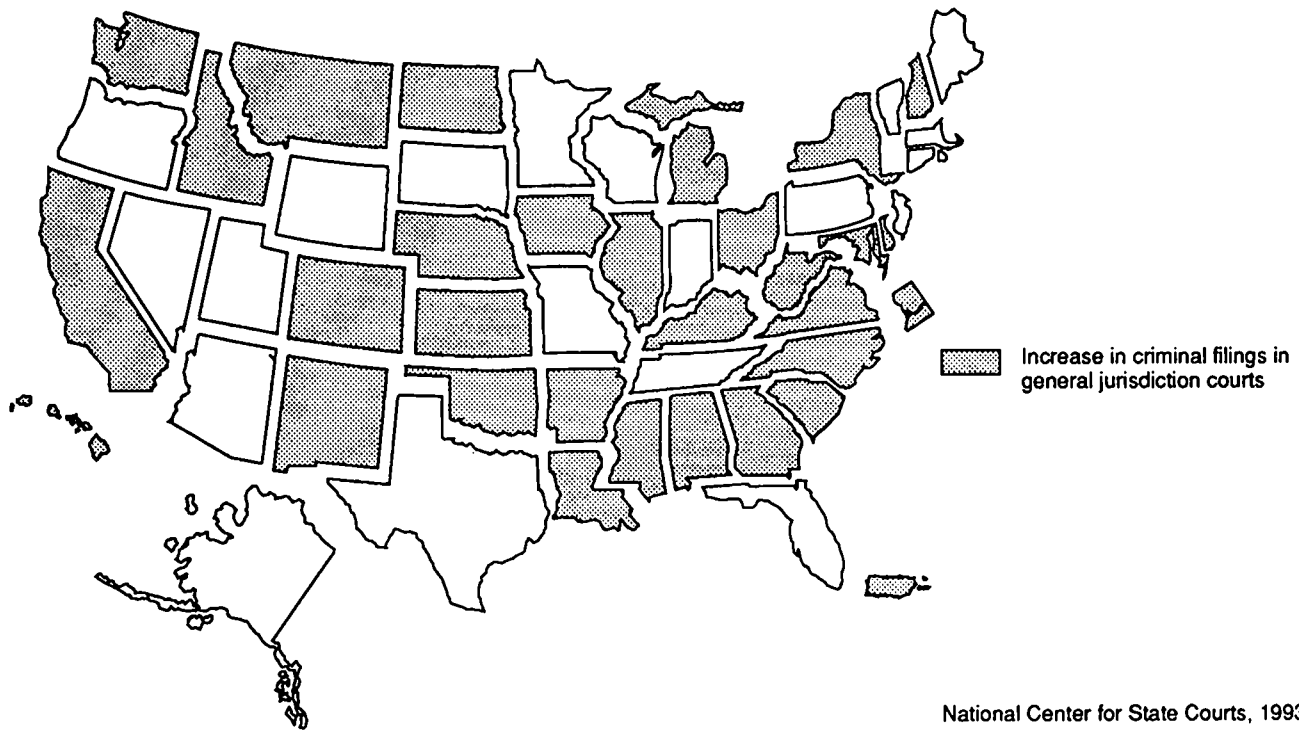
N/A = Data are not available

NJ = No criminal case jurisdiction

* = Nevada criminal data represent only DUI appeals; the remainder of the criminal data are not available

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

MAP I.2: States That Experienced an Increase in Criminal Filings in Their Courts of General Jurisdiction Between 1990 and 1991



among the states in crime rates, police arrest rates, and prosecutorial practices explain part of the variation in filings per 100,000 adult population. In addition, differences in how and when criminal cases are counted also affect the filing rates.²⁶

Third, the dispersion around the median is primarily driven by differences in limited jurisdiction court criminal filings. There is a good deal of consistency across general jurisdiction courts, especially when one focuses on the states with two-tier court systems (i.e., states with two-color bars on Chart I.19) and excludes states with consolidated court systems or states where the limited jurisdiction court does not have criminal jurisdiction (i.e., states with a solid black bar). In the first group of two-tiered courts, the black portion of the bar is roughly the same length across courts, indicating that most general jurisdiction courts have similar population-adjusted criminal caseloads.

How do differences in criminal-case-counting practices affect the measure of volume? Many observed differences between the states are due to variation in the point at which a criminal case is counted as a

filing. Actual practice varies among states and sometimes between trial courts within a state.

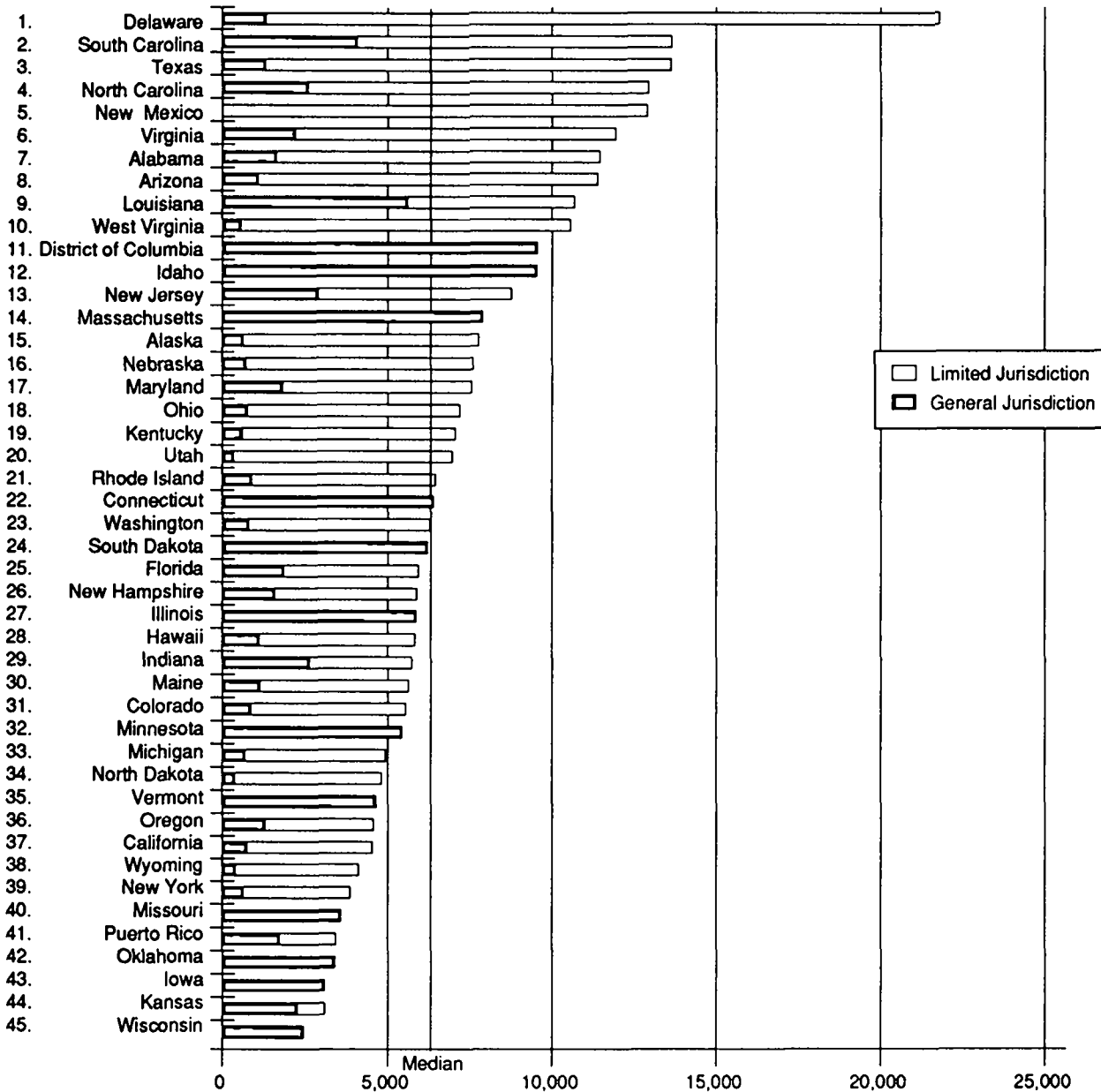
- Differences in the point at which a criminal case is counted as a filing will affect the ranks of individual states on Chart I.19.
- States vary in how criminal cases are counted.

Some states count filings at an early point, typically the filing of a complaint, information, or indictment. On the other hand, some states only count a case as filed when the defendant enters a plea, thus reducing the filing count due to cases that are dismissed before a plea is entered. The number of defendants per case and the number of charges per charging document may also affect the number of cases reported as filed during a year.

Units of count, points of filing, and the extent of the count are important factors to bear in mind when reviewing Chart I.19. Wisconsin, the state with the lowest filing rate, counts filings at the defendant's first appearance before the court, a point later than the filing of the information or indictment, which is the point used by most states. Wisconsin does not report municipal court criminal filings in its total criminal case filings. This practice clearly affects the placement of states on Chart I.19 as it minimizes the number of petty criminal offenses reported. Kansas (with the second lowest filing rate) follows the Wisconsin unit-of-count practice, but does include municipal court filings. Some states count codefendants charged with a

²⁶ The ranking of states on Chart I.19 (particularly at either extreme) is influenced by the unit of count and the point at which the count is taken in compiling court statistics. Figure D (Part V, p. 244) describes and Table 10 (Part III, p. 119) summarizes the practice in each court with criminal jurisdiction.

CHART I.19: Criminal Case Filings per 100,000 Adult Population in State Trial Courts, 1991



The following states are not included: AR, GA, MS, MT, NV, PA, TN

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

crime as a single case. That practice will understate the filing rate relative to states that base their counts on every defendant. The position of Missouri, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, and Wyoming among the states with the lowest filing rates may reflect their use of a unit of count that groups defendants into a single case for statistical reporting purposes (Wyoming also does not include municipal court filings in its state total).

By contrast, states with the highest filing rates tend to count each charge against each defendant as a

separate filing, e.g., Arizona, Delaware (in its courts of limited jurisdiction excluding the family court), Texas, and Virginia. Other states with high filing rates are those where the case count is determined by the prosecutor (e.g., North Carolina). For example, comparing the states with the top ten largest absolute criminal caseloads in Text Table I.11 with the states with the ten largest population-adjusted caseloads shows only three states common to both groups: Texas, North Carolina, and Virginia. These three states exhibit the dual impact of

large populations and the use of a case-counting method that enlarges the reported total of criminal filings.

Estimating the impact of the unit of count on state-filing rates is difficult when the units of count are different at the general jurisdiction level than they are at the limited jurisdiction level. The absence of a standard unit of count within a state not only creates more difficulties for intrastate comparisons, but also complicates any interpretation of the filing rates shown in Chart I.19. For while one may know that several states use the same case-counting practices in their general jurisdiction courts, the same unit of count is not necessarily used in the courts of limited jurisdiction. Furthermore, the types of criminal cases handled in limited jurisdiction courts are often quite different from the types of cases handled in general jurisdiction courts. Therefore, to increase comparability, the remaining discussion of criminal caseloads will look separately at general and limited jurisdiction courts.

How have criminal caseloads changed since 1987? Criminal-filing data from courts of general jurisdiction available for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for the period 1987 to 1991 are shown in Text Table I.12. These data show that many states have experienced substantial growth in their criminal caseloads over the past five years, while only five states have posted a decline (Alaska, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia) from the level in 1987. Focusing on more recent variation, the "growth index" column makes explicit the change in criminal filings seen by general jurisdiction courts during the period 1989 to 1991. For example, total criminal filings in California have risen from 135,924 in 1989 to 166,202 in 1991 leading to a growth index of 122 (or an increase of 22 percent).

While the aggregate trend in criminal filings in general jurisdiction courts is on the rise, the growth index shows that substantial variation exists at the state level. Specifically, 10 states have experienced a drop in criminal filings since 1989, with the three-year decline in Alaska, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Vermont exceeding 10 percent. Criminal filings are up by 10 percent or less in 13 states since 1989. This relatively modest growth implies an average annual increase of no more than 3 percent. One-half of the states (25 of the 50 reporting criminal figures for the 1989 to 1991 period), however, are averaging increases in criminal filings of more than 3 percent a year. If current patterns of growth continue in the 7 states with index values exceeding 121, their criminal caseloads will double in the next five to seven years.

Are general jurisdiction courts successful in disposing of their criminal cases? Large and expanding criminal caseloads present a number of challenges to state court systems. Criminal cases consume a disproportionately large amount of court resources. Constitutional requirements covering the right to counsel in felony and misdemeanor cases ensure that attorneys, judges, and other court personnel will be involved at all critical stages in the processing of criminal cases. Additionally, criminal cases must often be disposed under

tighter time standards than other types of cases. Finally, courts are required by constitution, statutes, rules of procedure, and other policies to give priority to criminal cases, regardless of whether the case is viewed as relatively minor or very severe. Because courts must deal with criminal cases expeditiously, the processing of other types of cases may be slowed. Hence, the success of states in disposing of criminal cases is an important indicator of the overall sufficiency of court resources and an important factor influencing not only the pace of criminal litigation but the pace of civil litigation as well.

Criminal-case clearance rates for 1991 are shown in Text Table I.13 for the general jurisdiction courts of 45 states.

- Only one in four general jurisdiction court systems reported criminal clearance rates greater than 100 percent.²⁷

Seven states had clearance rates of 90 percent or less, with Hawaii recording the lowest at 67.7 percent. Thus, during 1991, only about one state in four managed to keep pace with the flow of new case filings, the remainder adding to the inventory of cases pending before their general jurisdiction trial courts. Relative to 1990, 20 states had higher clearance rates in 1991 and 21 states had lower clearance rates.

Only six states had three-year clearance rates in excess of 100 percent (see Chart I.20). The news is not altogether bad, however, because the clearance rates in 1991 exceed the three-year clearance rate in 22 of 39 states.²⁸ This implies that clearance rates in 1991 tended to be above the average clearance rates based on the period from 1989 to 1991.

What is the relationship between caseload growth and clearance rates for courts of general jurisdiction? Low three-year clearance rates are partially explained by rapid increases in criminal filings over the past three years. Of the eight states on Text Table I.12 that experienced a 20 percent or greater increase in general jurisdiction criminal filings, all had three-year clearance rates of 96.8 or less. However, in contrast to the pattern observed for civil clearance rates, those states with the lowest three-year rates are not the states with the highest absolute number of filings in 1991 or the states with the highest population-adjusted rates in 1991.

Are limited jurisdiction courts disposing of their criminal caseloads? Limited jurisdiction courts, which

27 Complete information relevant to the calculation of criminal case clearance rates in general and limited jurisdiction courts is displayed in Table 10 (Part III, p. 119).

28 Criminal clearance rates will also be affected by how a particular court handles bench warrants for failure to appear (FTA). A recent study showed that an average of 20 percent of all felony cases had at least one FTA. John Goerdts et al., *Examining Court Delay* 70 (National Center for State Courts 1989). Courts differ in how they handle FTAs. Some enter an administrative dismissal after 60 to 180 days, while others keep them on the list of pending cases.

TEXT TABLE I.12: Total Criminal Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1987 to 1991

State	Total Criminal Filings 1987	Total Criminal Filings 1988	Total Criminal Filings 1989	Total Criminal Filings 1990	Total Criminal Filings 1991	Growth Index 1989 to 1991
Alabama	34,125	34,161	41,462	43,945	49,782	120
Alaska	2,661	2,526	2,757	2,718	2,442	89
Arizona	24,237	25,297	26,993	29,073	28,757	107
Arkansas	32,245	29,191	31,606	32,358	35,188	111
California	108,329	119,441	135,924	154,482	166,202	122
Colorado	17,102	18,429	20,304	21,054	21,530	106
Connecticut	159,617	159,858	176,268	176,301	161,134	91
Delaware	4,462	4,340	5,265	6,833	7,003	133
District of Columbia	41,608	42,036	40,810	40,310	45,773	112
Florida	160,786	185,709	200,121	193,740	187,658	94
Georgia	70,577	77,551	87,429	92,063	96,715	111
Hawaii	3,845	5,667	7,178	7,917	9,230	129
Idaho	60,536	56,391	61,965	67,520	69,183	112
Illinois	478,096	569,124	436,003	447,565	498,780	114
Indiana	77,581	79,494	103,668	112,555	111,607	108
Iowa	45,115	49,704	55,888	60,942	65,471	117
Kansas	36,301	35,853	37,737	40,376	42,416	112
Kentucky	11,775	12,812	14,680	15,111	15,367	105
Louisiana	96,136	119,167	105,239	110,354	110,822	105
Maine	8,978	8,730	9,561	11,003	10,755	112
Maryland	54,980	57,753	61,106	60,229	68,910	113
Massachusetts	334,230	357,273	389,258	391,658	368,439	95
Michigan	49,563	54,787	60,772	60,096	64,404	106
Minnesota	167,616	182,288	178,580	178,504	177,861	100
Mississippi	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,953	16,660	N/A
Missouri	113,543	124,048	132,581	139,971	139,733	105
Montana	3,280	3,398	3,611	3,771	4,048	112
Nebraska	4,898	5,748	6,377	6,524	8,038	126
Nevada	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire	7,951	8,810	9,116	12,756	12,844	141
New Jersey	44,272	47,063	56,741	61,098	58,220	103
New Mexico	9,906	10,256	10,762	11,502	12,050	112
New York	62,940	67,177	79,025	79,322	79,356	100
North Carolina	83,478	88,948	100,587	108,784	115,099	114
North Dakota	1,554	1,554	1,531	1,775	1,914	125
Ohio	39,376	43,613	51,959	55,949	61,836	119
Oklahoma	71,890	68,096	68,152	75,352	79,774	117
Oregon	24,589	26,857	27,248	28,523	26,699	98
Pennsylvania	106,972	113,605	128,478	139,699	137,046	107
Puerto Rico	30,352	32,316	32,288	35,539	40,575	126
Rhode Island	5,144	7,863	7,607	6,671	6,233	82
South Carolina	50,585	58,871	95,334	101,461	109,580	115
South Dakota	36,403	33,869	39,726	36,128	31,279	79
Tennessee	47,759	N/A	57,747	64,855	64,563	112
Texas	137,355	140,929	159,415	168,269	167,529	105
Utah	4,320	4,182	4,215	4,608	4,316	102
Vermont	21,361	21,411	22,328	22,087	19,515	87
Virginia	77,833	82,623	93,991	97,266	105,000	112
Washington	22,348	26,793	29,208	28,047	28,577	98
West Virginia	7,497	6,605	6,786	6,820	7,015	103
Wisconsin	68,777	71,439	85,407	89,648	89,547	105
Wyoming	1,353	1,480	1,591	1,503	1,426	90

N/A = Data are not available

N/C = Data are not comparable to the data reported in other years

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

TEXT TABLE I.13: Trial Court Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases, 1991

General Jurisdiction Courts					Limited Jurisdiction Courts				
State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate	State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate
Hawaii	73.9	82.7	67.7	74.4	Louisiana	80.4	76.2	79.4	78.6
South Carolina	72.5	90.3	88.6	84.2	Florida	83.2	83.5	82.1	82.9
Tennessee	83.2	81.9	94.9	86.8	California	81.4	83.8	90.3	84.9
Florida	88.2	86.8	90.2	88.4	Maine	90.6	95.5	91.8	92.7
Indiana	87.9	86.7	92.3	89.0	Indiana	93.0	88.5	97.2	92.8
Missouri	90.7	86.7	91.3	89.6	New Jersey	91.3	95.4	97.6	94.8
Washington	88.4	91.2	91.7	90.4	Alaska	92.2	97.5	100.3	96.8
Oklahoma	93.0	89.5	89.3	90.5	Hawaii	98.3	96.3	96.1	96.9
Maryland	86.4	93.1	92.3	90.7	North Carolina	96.2	96.9	99.1	97.4
Nebraska	100.2	97.1	81.2	91.9	Puerto Rico	94.2	99.8	99.2	97.6
Arizona	91.8	92.4	93.5	92.6	Arizona	96.9	100.9	98.3	98.7
Minnesota	98.1	92.1	88.3	92.8	Maryland	93.3	103.8	101.9	99.7
Puerto Rico	90.3	94.4	93.9	93.0	Alabama	93.7	104.9	104.8	101.6
Maine	94.1	92.5	93.3	93.3	Virginia	108.1	104.2	103.9	105.4
North Carolina	94.1	91.8	95.2	93.7	New Mexico	95.7		57.2	
California	93.8	92.8	94.8	93.8	Rhode Island		90.9	85.8	
Alabama	91.4	97.1	93.7	94.1	Kentucky		91.2	90.9	
New Jersey	88.6	89.8	105.0	94.5	Michigan		95.1	93.2	
Wisconsin	89.8	94.6	100.4	95.0	Utah	89.9		92.6	
North Dakota	96.8	95.3	94.4	95.4	Nebraska		96.4	98.8	
Alaska	87.4	100.6	98.9	95.5	Kansas		89.1	104.6	
New Hampshire	97.2	93.5	96.8	95.7					
New Mexico	98.3	93.4	96.2	95.9					
Oregon	97.1	96.2	95.5	96.3					
Virginia	93.7	98.8	96.2	96.3					
Iowa	94.4	98.4	96.9	96.7					
Delaware	95.2	99.2	95.8	96.8					
Idaho	93.9	98.6	98.0	96.9					
Michigan	97.4	99.8	96.4	97.6					
Pennsylvania	93.0	100.3	101.0	98.2					
Ohio	99.6	98.4	97.0	98.3					
New York	95.2	97.9	104.8	99.3					
Colorado	97.7	102.5	99.5	99.9					
West Virginia	99.6	100.9	105.4	102.0					
Kansas	105.4	104.6	104.8	104.9					
Wyoming	99.6	101.9	114.2	104.9					
Arkansas	128.2	91.5	99.3	106.0					
Illinois	122.9	114.9	109.8	115.6					
Montana	123.5	125.5	122.0	123.6					
South Dakota			82.1						
Kentucky		96.2	87.5						
Vermont			95.2						
Texas		95.7	99.3						
Rhode Island			101.1						
Utah	123.9		103.8						

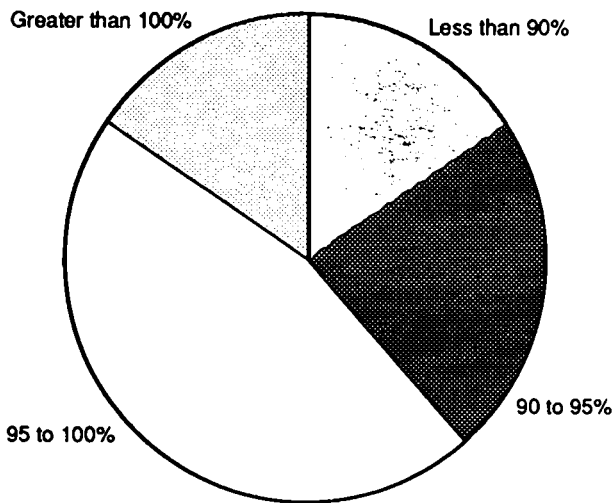
General jurisdiction court data from the following states are not included: CT, DC, GA, LA, MA, MS, NV

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

in most states hear and decide the bulk of criminal caseloads (Table 10, Part III, p. 119), were no more successful than general jurisdiction courts in coping with the flow of new cases. The 1991 clearance rate exceeded 100 percent in only 5 of the 21 states included in Text Table I.13. Seven states were in the 95 to 100 percent range and 5 in the 90 to 95 percent range. Four of the 21 states reported limited jurisdiction court clearance rates

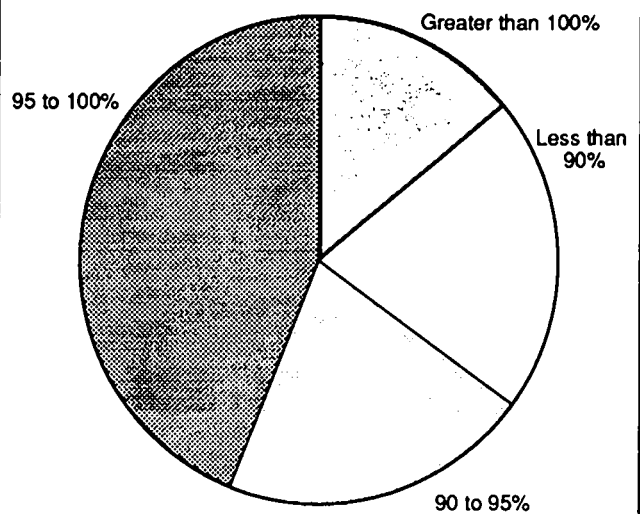
of less than 90 percent in 1991. Limited jurisdiction courts tended to be less successful in disposing of criminal cases in 1991 than in 1990. The three-year clearance rates below 100 percent indicate that most limited jurisdiction courts are experiencing long-term problems keeping up with incoming criminal cases. The three-year rate is below 100 in all but two states (see Chart I.21).

Chart I.20: Three-year Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



The chart includes data from 39 states
Source: Text Table I.13, National Center for State Courts, 1993

Chart I.21: Three-year Clearance Rates for Criminal Cases in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



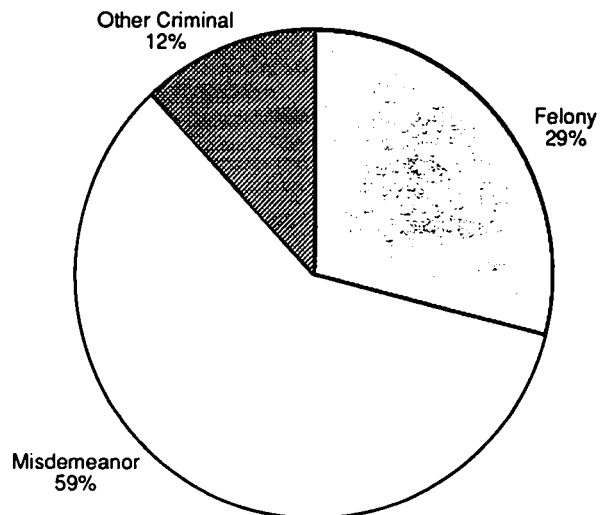
The chart includes data from 13 states
Source: Text Table I.13, National Center for State Courts, 1993

Low clearance rates are particularly disappointing given the drop in limited jurisdiction criminal caseloads in 1991. The pool of pending cases awaiting adjudication continues to rise and that in itself points to problems that merit corrective action. As noted, criminal cases are subject to more stringent time standards for case processing than are civil cases. Directing resources to the backlog of criminal cases is one solution, but it may simply displace the problem by imposing further delay on civil litigants who want and are entitled to court adjudication of their disputes.

Are felonies the bulk of criminal caseloads?

Courts are part of the criminal justice system and, as such, are concerned with public wrongs. The types of cases brought to criminal courts are primarily composed of (1) felonies²⁹ and (2) misdemeanors.³⁰ Charts I.22 and I.23 show the distribution of criminal case filings in general jurisdiction courts in 1991. When the general jurisdiction courts are grouped regardless of court structure (Chart I.22), felony filings represent 29 percent of the

Chart I.22: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



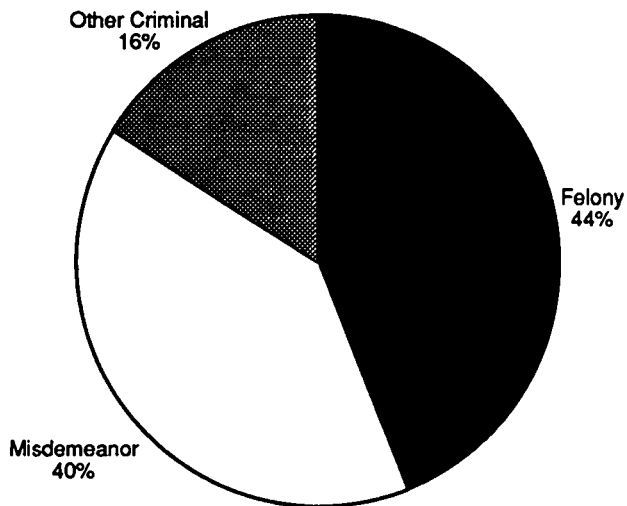
The chart includes data from 27 states
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

29 Felonies are serious criminal offenses. Typically, a felony is an offense for which the minimum prison sentence is one year or more. States use different criteria when distinguishing a felony from other offenses, but felony case filings always include the most serious offenses and exclude minor offenses. For more information, see Wayne Logan, Lindsay Stellwagen, and Patrick Langan, *Felony Sentencing Law of the 50 States and the District of Columbia, 1986* (U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics (NCJ-105066) 1988).

30 Misdemeanors are less serious criminal offenses that are usually punishable by a fine, a short period of incarceration, or both.

total, while misdemeanors constitute an additional 59 percent. The "other criminal" category, 12 percent of the total, comprises DWI/DUI, criminal appeals from lower trial courts, and miscellaneous criminal cases (e.g., extradition).

Chart I.23: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in Non-consolidated Courts, 1991



The chart includes data from 21 states that have both general and limited jurisdiction courts

The following states that have only a general jurisdiction court are not included: DC, ID, IL, MA, MN, SD

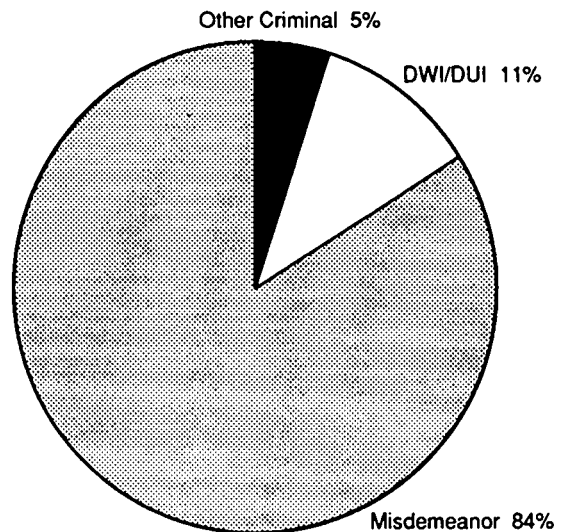
Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

In contrast, a very different picture emerges when one limits the focus solely to general jurisdiction courts in states with a two-tier court structure (Chart I.23). This selection excludes the six states that have consolidated their general and limited jurisdiction courts into a single court with jurisdiction over all criminal cases and procedures. Because general jurisdiction courts hear primarily felonies and serious misdemeanors, it is understandable that felonies make up most of the criminal filings (44 percent) and that misdemeanors make up the next largest category (see Chart I.23).

What is the composition of criminal cases in limited jurisdiction courts? Chart I.24 divides criminal filings in limited jurisdiction courts into the three main categories. Misdemeanor filings represent 84 percent of the caseload, DWI/DUI cases 11 percent, and other criminal cases 5 percent of the total. The "other criminal" category comprises a small number of felony filings (from those limited jurisdiction courts that have felony jurisdiction) and miscellaneous criminal cases.

How do the number of misdemeanor and DWI/DUI filings vary between limited jurisdiction courts? Criminal caseloads in limited jurisdiction courts are composed almost exclusively of misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases (see Text Table I.14). Even though the filing data have been adjusted for adult population, misdemeanor filings range from a low of 1,597 per 100,000 adult population in Oklahoma to 14,906 per 100,000 adult population in Delaware. This distribution is not unexpected for two reasons. First, limited jurisdiction

Chart I.24: The Composition of Criminal Caseload Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1991



The chart includes data from 17 states

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

courts have considerable flexibility in how they count criminal cases and at what point the count is taken. As was noted earlier, states with high misdemeanor-filing rates, such as Delaware and Texas, count cases in a way that increases their totals relative to other states. Second, the misdemeanor category contains a mixture of case types with quite different levels of severity. The more serious misdemeanors are likely to be enforced uniformly across the states, but the less serious may not receive the same attention in every state. Local police, prosecution, and adjudication practices are likely to vary more for misdemeanors than for any other criminal category.

In contrast, DWI/DUI filings per 100,000 adult population show a good deal of consistency. This consistency may reflect the uniform importance given to DWI/DUI cases in the state courts. While several types of criminal cases are the focus of nationwide control policies (e.g., drug cases), it is difficult to judge the adoption of these policies across the states when the cases of interest are grouped into large categories such as misdemeanor or felony. But focusing on the specific category of DWI/DUI, one can see a basic consistency across states. This suggests that national attention to the problem of drunken driving has led to fairly uniform enforcement of these laws.

How fast are felony caseloads rising in courts of general jurisdiction? Trend analysis offers a way to mitigate some of the limitations to making criminal caseload comparisons. Because states tend to retain their systems for classifying and counting cases, it reduces concern over issues such as unit of count and point of

TEXT TABLE I.14: Misdemeanor and DWI/DUI Filings per 100,000 Adult Population, 1991 *

State	Misdemeanor	DWI/DUI	Total Criminal
Arizona	8,419	1,959	10,377
Colorado	N/A	1,496	4,640
Connecticut	6,191	N/A	6,376
Delaware	14,906	610	15,694
District of Columbia	3,827	555	9,596
Florida	3,521	570	4,091
Hawaii	3,708	951	4,707
Idaho	6,543	2,120	9,595
Illinois	4,926	N/A	5,837
Iowa	1,599	921	3,163
Louisiana	4,674	535	5,208
Maryland	4,633	1,085	5,718
Massachusetts	6,807	6,100	7,971
Minnesota	4,983	N/A	5,484
Missouri	2,383	N/A	3,660
New Hampshire	3,317	990	4,308
New Jersey	N/A	786	6,753
New Mexico	7,970	803	8,773
Ohio	N/A	1,261	6,476
Oklahoma	1,597	611	3,424
South Carolina	9,174	294	9,468
South Dakota	3,840	1,648	6,218
Texas	10,886	870	12,276
Vermont	4,073	N/A	4,623
Virginia	6,739	N/A	9,757
Washington	4,509	1,041	5,550
Wyoming	2,958	777	3,743

* Data are for limited jurisdiction courts and those general jurisdiction courts that have exclusive jurisdiction over misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases

N/A = Data are not available

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

filing and allows each state to be compared validly to itself (i.e., its filings at different points in time). For this Report, comparable felony-filing data covering the period 1985 to 1991 are available for general jurisdiction trial court systems in 32 states. The number of felony cases filed annually in each court system is detailed in Table 15 (Part III, p. 156).

The basic trend over the second half of the 1980s and into the 1990s is clear: felony filings are increasing substantially. Total felony filings have increased by over 50 percent in the 32 states providing felony data for the 1985 to 1991 period (see Chart I.25). In aggregate, the nation has faced annual increases of about 7 percent consistently throughout this seven-year period.

Felony caseloads grew in 28 of the 36 jurisdictions examined between 1989 and 1991, with increases ranging from a modest 2 percent in the District of Columbia,

Hawaii, and West Virginia to a 22 percent increase in California, a 23 percent increase in Iowa, a 24 percent increase in Idaho, a 27 percent increase in North Dakota, and a 32 percent increase in Puerto Rico (see Text Table I.15). In 24 states, 1991 marked the highest level yet in felony filings. Four states (Alaska, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Wyoming) experienced declines in felony filings of 10 percent or more since 1989.

Three trends emerge for felony cases:

- Nearly continuous and often substantial increases were recorded by 18 jurisdictions. California is an example. Felony filings in 1984 were only 56 percent of the total in 1989 and have grown an additional 22 percent since then.
- Initial increases in the mid-1980s have given way to only slight increases or decreases since 1989. Felony-filing rates have tended to remain relatively flat over the last three to six years in Hawaii, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Vermont, and Washington.
- Filing levels may have peaked in some states in 1989 or 1990, since the number of cases has declined subsequently. This is a plausible scenario for Alaska, Kansas, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

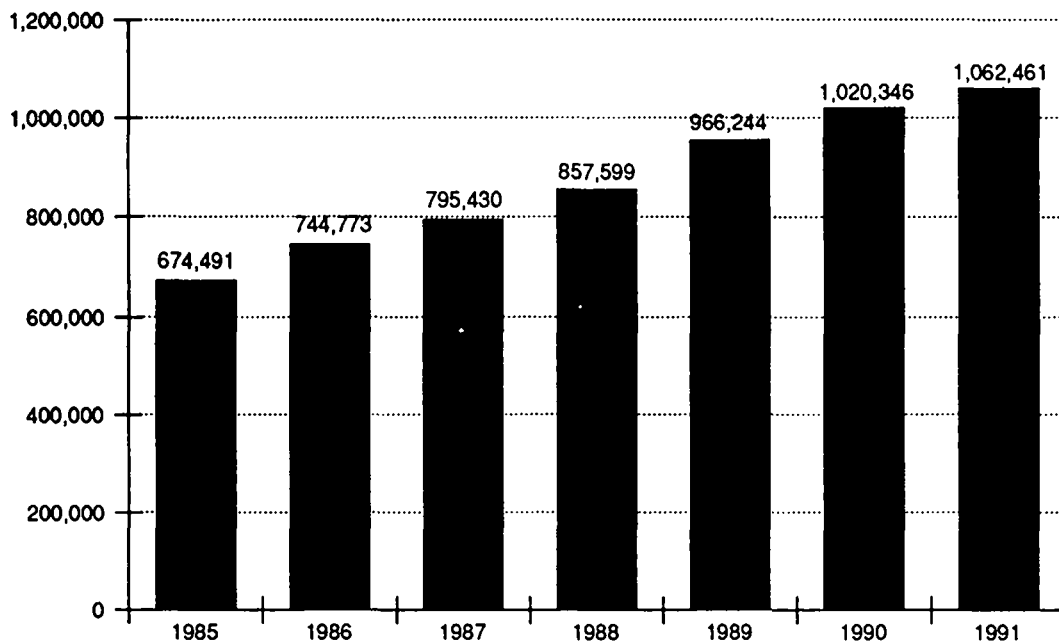
In sum, felony caseloads are clearly increasing rapidly in some states. Most states, including states from all regions of the country, demonstrate an unambiguous pattern of rising felony case filings. Hence, the expectation is that there will be still more felony cases in the future. This projection has substantial implications for the planning and allocation of court resources.

Traffic Filings in the State Courts and 1989-91 Trends

Traffic/other violation cases are the single largest category of cases in the state trial courts. States reported 60,119,847 new traffic/other violation cases in 1991, with 14 percent in the courts of general jurisdiction and 86 percent in the courts of limited jurisdiction. As noted earlier, traffic filings declined substantially between 1989 and 1991. The following issues related to this decrease in volume are covered in this section:

- **The changing composition of traffic caseloads.** What is the volume of traffic cases in the state courts? What is the composition of traffic cases in general and limited jurisdiction courts and how has it changed since 1989?
- **Measuring the volume of traffic caseloads.** Does the court have any administrative adjudication of traffic offenses? Are traffic cases that are handled administratively incorporated into the court's reported data? What type of parking

CHART I.25: Felony Filings In Courts of General Jurisdiction, 1985-1991



The chart includes data from 32 states

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

case jurisdiction does the court have: both contested and uncontested parking cases; only contested parking cases; or no parking jurisdiction at all?

What is the volume of traffic cases in the state courts? Traffic cases impose a serious burden on many courts (see Text Table I.16). In many larger courts, hundreds of cases must be scheduled each day as well as dealing with the accompanying paperwork and shortage of courtroom space. Traditionally, traffic offenses were classified as criminal offenses and, thus, were processed under rules of criminal procedure. In recent years, a number of jurisdictions have moved toward the decriminalization of minor traffic offenses. Decriminalization occasionally involves the transfer of jurisdiction over some traffic offenses to the adjudication bureau of an administrative agency within the executive branch of government. In many states, the judiciary has retained jurisdiction over traffic offenses, but proceedings are governed by rules of civil, instead of criminal, procedure.³¹

31 A more in-depth analysis of alternative methods of handling traffic cases is found in John Goerd, *Small Claims and Traffic Courts: Case Management Procedures, Case Characteristics, and Outcomes in 12 Urban Jurisdictions* (National Center for State Courts 1992).

Map I.3 identifies states that have decriminalized minor traffic offenses and their method of adjudication. The available alternatives for adjudicating "decriminalized" traffic offenses consist of three basic approaches: traditional judicial, modified judicial, and administrative.³² In the traditional judicial approach, all traffic offenses are handled by the judiciary. Thirteen states currently use this approach. In a modified judicial approach, jurisdiction over traffic offenses is maintained within the court system, but the involvement of judges is limited through the use of one of two options. Under the first option, the responsibility for traffic cases is given to parajudicial officers such as special magistrates, referees, or hearing officers. Under the second option, there is a centralized traffic bureau that processes all tickets issued by law enforcement agencies within the state. If the ticket is contested, the case is sent back to the court for processing. Twelve states are currently using a modified judicial approach. Finally, the administrative approach offers the same two options as the modified judicial approach. The only difference is that the functions are controlled by an administrative agency of the executive branch, usually the state's motor vehicle-licensing authority. There are four states (District of Columbia, Illinois, Massachusetts,

32 State of Oregon, *The AAFTI Project: Adjudication Alternatives for Traffic Infractions*, Final Report (1980).

TEXT TABLE I.15: Trends In Felony Filings

State	General Jurisdiction Courts								Adult Population Growth 1989 to 1991
	Felony Index 1984	Felony Index 1985	Felony Index 1986	Felony Index 1987	Felony Index 1988	Felony Index 1989	Felony Index 1990	Felony Index 1991	
Alaska	67	65	96	97	92	100	99	89	108
Arizona	64	72	86	89	92	100	109	109	106
Arkansas	72	86	88	100	89	100	104	112	99
California	56	62	72	79	87	100	114	122	104
Colorado	77	82	83	84	90	100	105	107	102
Connecticut	63	67	73	80	100	100	85	76	102
District of Columbia	50	58	76	94	101	100	94	102	103
Hawaii	95	92	91	89	93	100	97	102	103
Idaho	N/A	76	N/A	N/A	90	100	109	124	102
Illinois	67	66	68	67	84	100	108	113	98
Indiana	52	57	70	75	81	100	105	110	100
Iowa	73	76	73	79	83	100	104	123	97
Kansas	90	83	88	91	96	100	97	91	98
Kentucky	97	93	93	80	87	100	103	105	100
Maine	77	88	87	87	88	100	115	110	101
Massachusetts	N/A	N/A	N/A	122	109	100	112	104	101
Minnesota	87	90	91	96	100	100	108	120	101
Missouri	76	76	82	88	93	100	103	111	99
New Hampshire	58	64	74	84	92	100	101	111	100
New Jersey	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	108	103	100
New York	62	65	71	80	85	100	100	99	101
North Carolina	67	65	72	82	88	100	111	118	103
North Dakota	89	91	96	103	104	100	113	127	96
Ohio	71	70	74	76	84	100	108	119	100
Oklahoma	91	93	97	100	98	100	104	107	98
Oregon	73	76	83	90	99	100	105	96	102
Puerto Rico	67	72	93	94	100	100	108	132	115
Rhode Island	63	71	65	63	99	100	89	84	101
South Dakota	77	91	94	97	96	100	120	108	97
Texas	62	67	80	86	88	100	105	103	103
Vermont	87	89	102	103	105	100	106	109	99
Virginia	67	68	72	78	84	100	101	111	103
Washington	55	64	70	75	91	100	96	98	104
West Virginia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	99	102	98
Wisconsin	77	83	82	78	82	100	106	111	101
Wyoming	92	92	92	85	93	100	94	86	96

N/A = Data are either not available or not comparable

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

and New York) currently using the administrative approach.

Why has the number of traffic cases in general jurisdiction courts dropped since 1989? Traffic case filings dropped by 43 percent in courts of general jurisdiction between 1989 and 1991, while remaining essentially constant in limited jurisdiction courts (see **Chart I.26**). A movement toward decriminalization and the administrative handling of traffic offenses clearly has altered the volume of traffic caseloads in general jurisdiction courts. Moreover, the composition has changed. The decline in traffic filings is based solely on a drop in the number of parking cases (see **Chart I.27**). Parking cases dropped

from 42 percent of the general jurisdiction traffic caseload in 1989 to 9 percent in 1991.

Parking caseload is affected by two basic factors: how it is counted and reported by the courts, and whether there is a system for administrative adjudication of parking cases. A special parking code is reflected for each court on Table 11 (Part III, p.127). Two examples clarify the effect. In Chicago alone, parking filings dropped from 8,015,073 in 1989 to 2,968,244 in 1991 when a system of administrative adjudication was implemented midway through 1990. When Vermont decriminalized most traffic offenses and placed them under the jurisdiction of the traffic ticket bureau, only 20,000 of 90,000 new filings

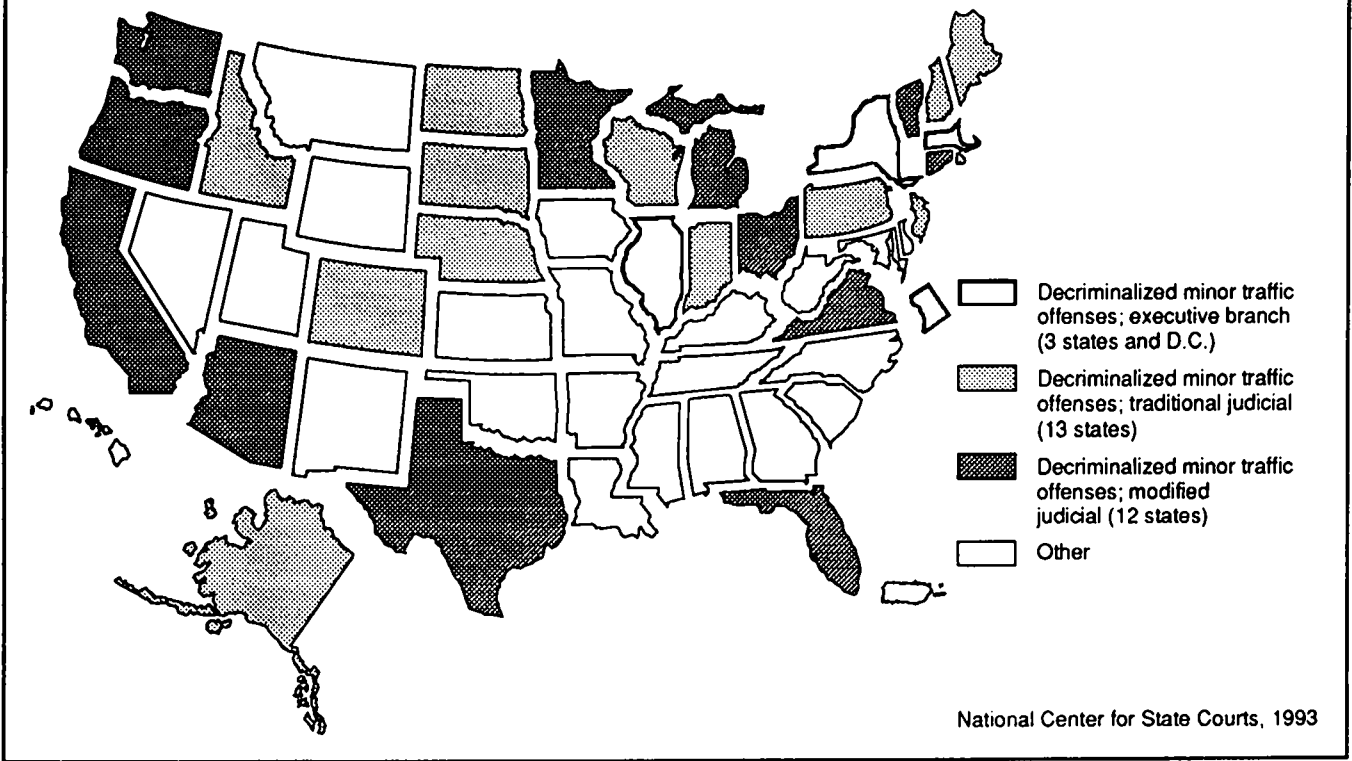
TEXT TABLE I.16: Total Traffic Filings Reported, 1991

	State	Total Traffic Filings	Total Traffic Filings in General Jurisdiction Courts	Total Traffic Filings in Limited Jurisdiction Courts	Population Ranking
1.	California	13,546,848	NJ	13,546,848	1
2.	Texas	7,132,670	NJ	7,132,670	3
3.	New Jersey	5,803,479	NJ	5,803,479	9
4.	Florida	3,680,616	NJ	3,680,616	4
5.	Illinois	2,968,244	2,968,244	N/Appl	6
6.	Michigan	2,672,599	NJ	2,672,599	8
7.	Washington	1,807,406	NJ	1,807,406	16
8.	Ohio	1,791,588	108,209	1,683,379	7
9.	Virginia	1,685,949	N/A	1,685,949	12
10.	Minnesota	1,386,508	1,386,508	N/Appl	20
11.	Maryland	1,212,061	NJ	1,212,061	19
12.	Arizona	1,204,923	NJ	1,204,923	23
13.	North Carolina	1,145,702	NJ	1,145,702	10
14.	New York	1,095,462	NJ	1,095,462	2
15.	Alabama	1,026,415	NJ	1,026,415	22
16.	South Carolina	1,000,076	NJ	1,000,076	25
17.	Massachusetts	969,994	969,994	N/Appl	13
18.	Hawaii	904,660	480	904,180	41
19.	Pennsylvania	737,565	NJ	737,565	5
20.	Louisiana	686,538	239,412	447,126	21
21.	Iowa	677,647	677,647	N/Appl	31
22.	Indiana	641,200	266,644	374,556	14
23.	Kansas	611,958	255,639	356,319	33
24.	Wisconsin	558,025	558,025	N/A	17
25.	Utah	446,411	NJ	446,411	36
26.	Colorado	429,286	NJ	429,286	27
27.	Georgia	415,085	N/A	415,085	11
28.	Missouri	411,719	411,719	N/A	15
29.	Arkansas	350,748	NJ	350,748	34
30.	Oregon	332,511	195	332,316	30
31.	Kentucky	315,311	NJ	315,311	24
32.	New Mexico	278,205	NJ	278,205	38
33.	Nebraska	275,514	NJ	275,514	37
34.	Delaware	262,438	NJ	262,438	47
35.	Idaho	239,543	239,543	N/Appl	43
36.	Connecticut	232,381	232,381	NJ	28
37.	New Hampshire	211,100	NJ	211,100	42
38.	Maine	208,581	2,736	205,845	40
39.	Oklahoma	205,398	205,398	N/A	29
40.	West Virginia	137,614	NJ	137,614	35
41.	South Dakota	135,677	135,677	N/Appl	46
42.	Wyoming	69,929	NJ	69,929	52
43.	Puerto Rico	69,203	NJ	69,203	26
44.	North Dakota	63,917	574	63,343	48
45.	Alaska	56,422	NJ	56,422	50
46.	District of Columbia	19,010	19,010	N/Appl	49
47.	Vermont	5,711	5,711	NJ	51
48.	Tennessee	N/A	N/A	N/A	18
49.	Mississippi	N/A	NJ	N/A	32
50.	Nevada	N/A	NJ	N/A	39
51.	Rhode Island	N/A	NJ	N/A	44
52.	Montana	N/A	NJ	N/A	45
	TOTAL	60,119,847	8,683,746	51,436,101	

N/Appl = Not applicable (state does not have a limited jurisdiction court)
 N/A = Data are not available
 NJ = No traffic jurisdiction

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

MAP I.3: States That Have Decriminalized Minor Traffic Offenses and Method of Adjudication



were contested and required to be heard by a traffic-hearing officer assigned to the district court. The remaining 70,000 were handled by the traffic ticket bureau and were no longer counted as part of the court caseload. The District of Columbia reports only contested parking cases, since uncontested parking cases are handled administratively. Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, and Wisconsin also report only contested parking cases. Texas recently began handling parking cases administratively in cities with more than 500,000 population. Parking case filings dropped from 2,434,727 in 1985 to 1,190,214 in 1991 (a decrease of 51 percent) at a time when other traffic case categories have shown an increase.

Workloads of the Federal and State Judiciaries

How do state court caseloads compare to federal court caseloads? To this point, the *Report* has focused exclusively on the work of the state courts. States have been compared in terms of the total volume of cases with adjustments for differences in population. Additionally, the composition of state court caseloads has been examined. Finally, state court caseloads have been compared over time. However, the uses of statistics can extend beyond state comparisons to such topical issues as the relative size of state and federal trial court caseloads. Therefore, before turning to the situation in the appellate courts, data from this *Report* and from the *Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, 1991*, are used to construct a federal and

state comparison. Caseload statistics for the federal courts are based on a uniform method of collection, applied with consistency from district to district and from circuit to circuit. However, they share some limitations inherent to caseload statistics, such as the treatment of all new filings as equivalent.

With the *Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee* (April 1990), the debate about the proper distribution of jurisdiction between federal and state courts continues. On the basis of the "goal [of a] principled allocation of jurisdiction,"³³ the committee proposed abolishing, with limited exceptions, federal diversity jurisdiction and curtailing federal drug prosecutions.

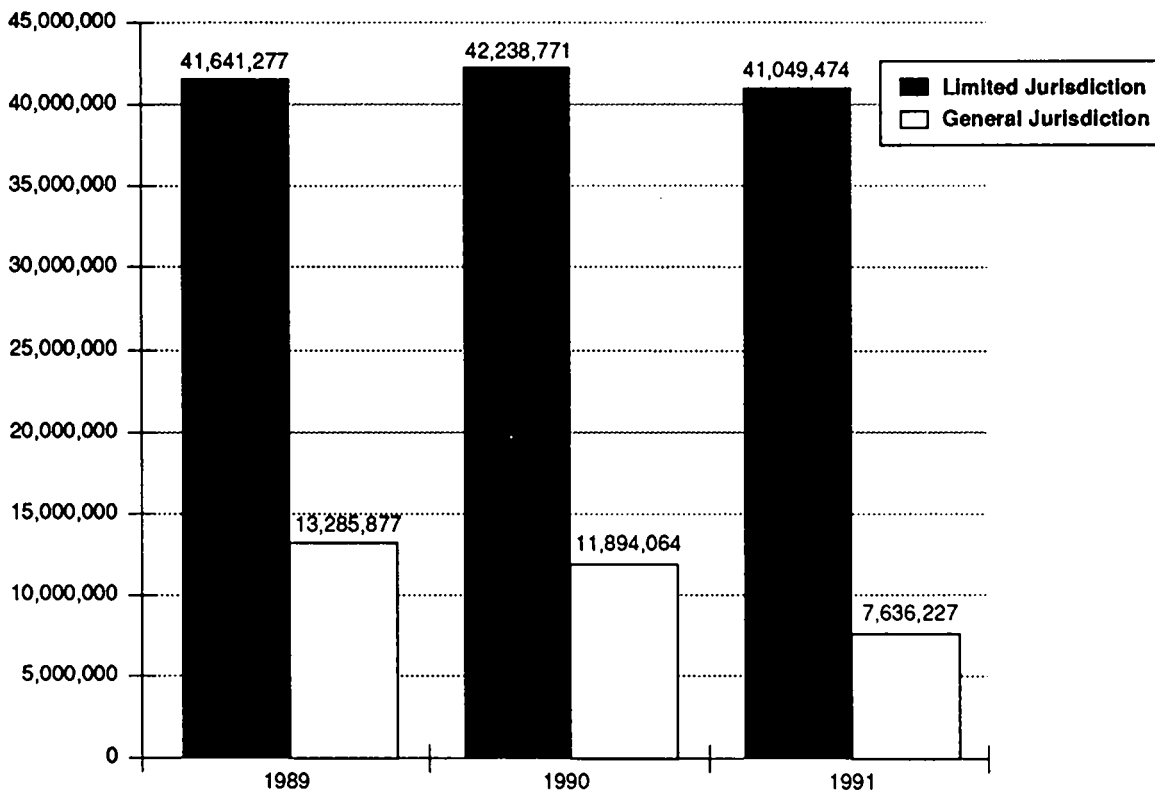
Implementing the committee's proposals requires that state courts assume responsibility for most diversity and drug cases now handled by federal courts. The committee acknowledges that state courts may also be overburdened. As a response to the committee's analysis of federal court caseload burdens, an estimate of the relative caseload currently being handled by federal courts as compared to state courts is presented next.³⁴

How have state and federal caseloads changed over time? To maximize the comparability of the state and federal court systems, the comparison will focus on

33 Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee, at 35.

34 This issue is considered in more depth in Brian J. Ostrom and Geoff Gallas, *Case Space: Do Workload Considerations Support a Shift From Federal to State Court Systems*, 14 *State Court Journal* 15-22 (Summer 1990).

CHART I.26: Total Traffic Filings in Limited and General Jurisdiction Courts, 1989-1991



The chart includes general jurisdiction court data from 12 states and limited jurisdiction court data from 23 states

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

civil and criminal caseloads in the primary trial courts of each system: the U.S. district courts and the state trial courts of general jurisdiction. This restriction increases confidence that analogous caseloads are being compared. On the criminal side, the U.S. district courts and the state trial courts of general jurisdiction handle primarily felonies with some serious misdemeanor cases. On the civil side, the state trial courts of general jurisdiction somewhat approximate the dollar limits and case types faced by the U.S. district courts. The similarity is greatest for tort, contract, and real property rights cases; there are, however, some differences in the remainder of the civil caseload.³⁵ Nonetheless, civil and criminal filings in the state trial courts of general jurisdiction and the U.S. district courts provide a reasonable basis for comparison.

³⁵ For example, domestic relations cases compose a sizable portion of general jurisdiction court civil caseloads, but are nonexistent in the U.S. district courts. U.S. district courts also have jurisdiction over some civil cases that require a minimum of judicial attention. These include, for example, cases involving defaulted student loans, the overpayment of veterans benefits, and social security disability claims as well as §1983 cases filed by state prisoners.

Charts I.28 and I.29 display total civil and criminal filings in the U.S. district courts and the state trial courts of general jurisdiction for the period 1985 to 1991. Two main points emerge. First, it is clear that the state court caseload volume is a different order of magnitude than the federal courts.

- In 1991, criminal filings in the state general jurisdiction courts were 84 times higher and civil filings were 45 times higher than in the U.S. district courts.

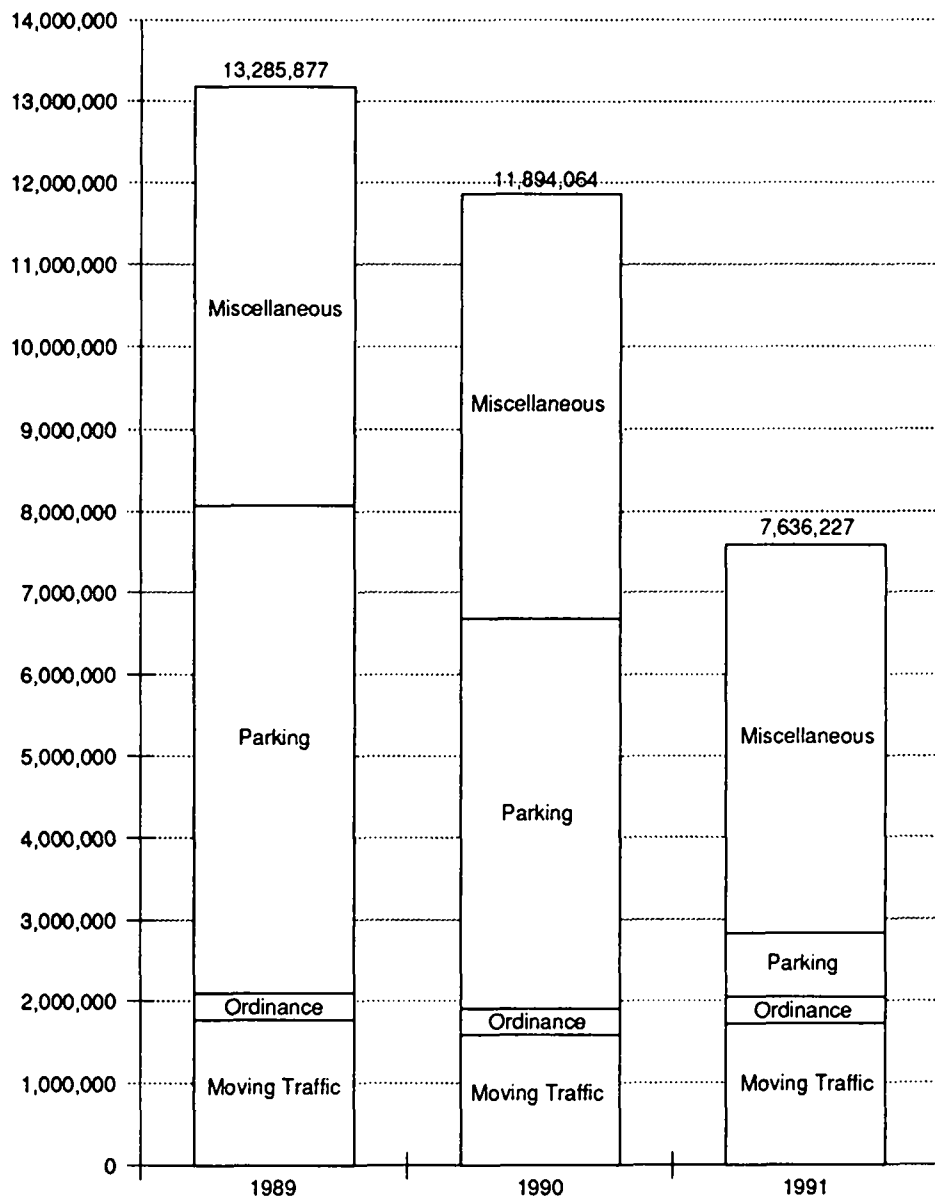
Second, the differences are becoming greater.

- Civil filings in the U.S. district courts declined by 24 percent between 1985 and 1991, while civil filings in the state general jurisdiction courts increased by 24 percent.

Criminal filings in state courts of general jurisdiction grew at almost twice the rate of criminal filings in U.S. district courts over the same period.

What is the average caseload handled by state and federal judges? Filings-per-judge provides a direct

CHART I.27: Recent Trends in General Jurisdiction Court Traffic Filings, 1989-1991



The chart includes data from 12 states

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

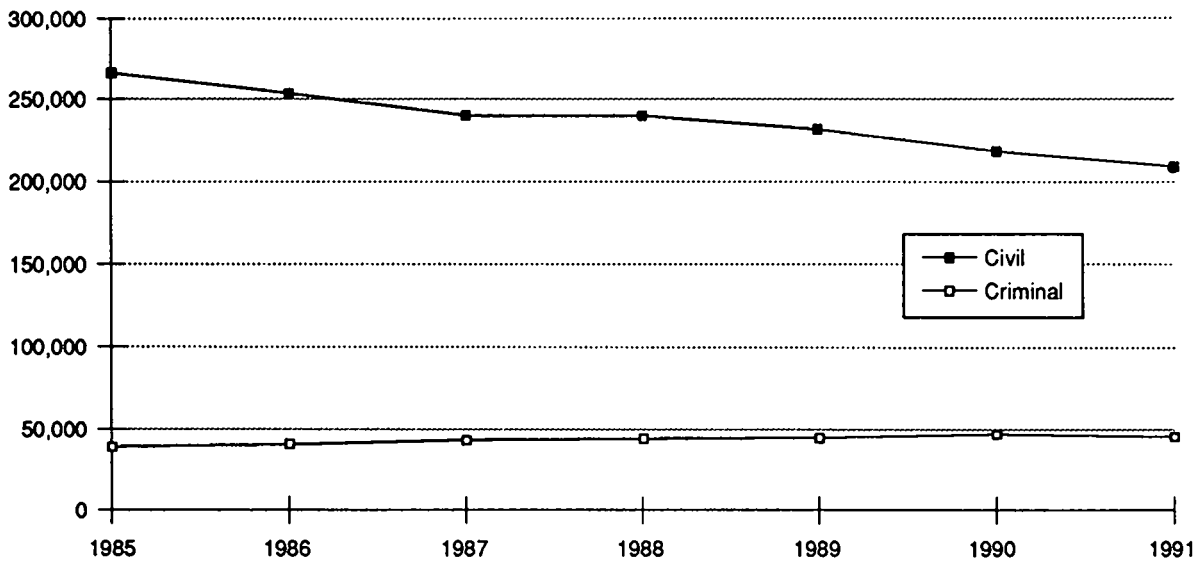
means to compare the relative caseloads of the federal and state courts. The state general jurisdiction judiciary handles over 52 times as many civil and criminal cases with only 15 times as many judges as the federal judiciary (see **Text Table I.17**).

- On average, the caseload for a judge in a state court of general jurisdiction is three times larger than for a U.S. district court judge.

Before these relative workloads can be fully interpreted, it is necessary to know whether cases handled in

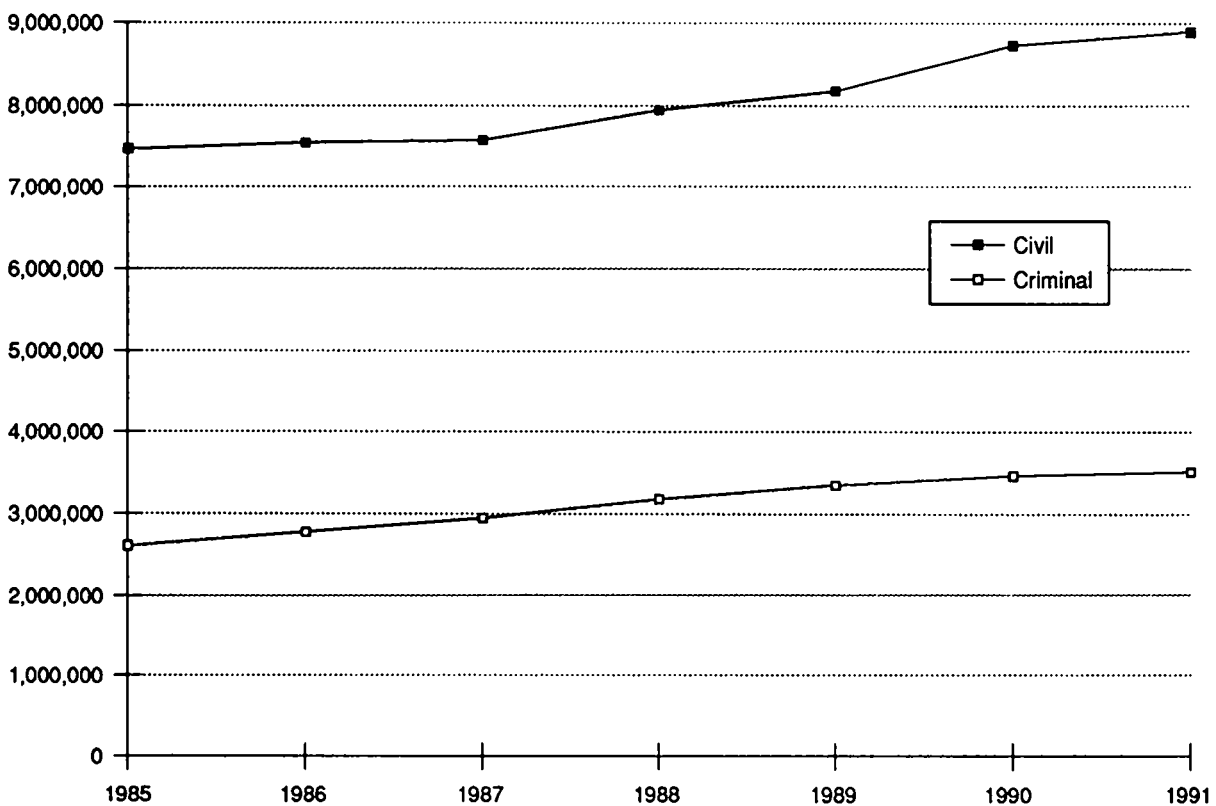
the federal courts are more complex than those handled in the state courts. If federal court cases are more complex, then perhaps the difference in caseload per judge between the state and federal courts exists because federal cases require more judge time than state court cases. Yet, if the cases currently handled in the federal courts are more complex, it is crucial to know the dimensions of this complexity before these cases are shifted to the state courts. At this point, the relative complexity of federal and state court cases is primarily a matter of assumption due to the lack of systematic data on the subject. However, the debate over whether to shift cases

CHART I.28: Recent Trends in Civil and Criminal Filings in U.S. District Courts



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

CHART I.29: Recent Trends in Civil and Criminal Filings in State Courts of General Jurisdiction



Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993

**TEXT TABLE: I.17: Civil and Criminal Filings
In U. S. District Courts
and State Trial Courts of
General Jurisdiction, 1991**

	Fillings	Judges	Fillings per Judge
All U. S. District Courts:			
Criminal	45,735	649	70
Civil	207,742	649	320
TOTAL	253,477	649	391
All General Jurisdiction State Courts:			
Criminal	3,843,902	9,502	405
Civil	9,366,543	9,502	986
TOTAL	13,210,445	9,502	1,390

Source: National Center for State Courts, 1993, and U.S. Government Printing Office

from the federal to state courts ought not to proceed on the basis of an untested but testable assumption. Evidence on case complexity has important and direct implications for the feasibility and consequences of transferring federal drug and diversity-of-citizenship cases to the state courts. It seems reasonable to examine the evidence before tampering with so fundamental an institution as the state courts.

Summary of Trial Court Activity

What stands out in examining trial court caseloads is that volume is up, and up substantially in many states. Trends in the case types that consume the majority of court time and resources are rising. Since 1984, civil caseloads have risen by 33 percent, criminal caseloads by 24 percent, and juvenile caseloads by 34 percent. The one area of decline was the reported number of traffic filings. Traffic caseloads fell to their lowest level in eight years due almost exclusively to the increased use of administrative procedures outside the courthouse. In comparison, national population has increased by only about 7 percent over the same eight-year period.

Volume

Ten or fewer states account for 50 percent or more of each of the different case types. The states with the largest civil filings are not necessarily the same as the states with the largest criminal or traffic filings. However, the states that dominate each of the major types of cases have one thing in common: they tend to be the largest in

population. Caseload is correlated highly with population, although other factors affect caseload.

Caseload Adjusted for Population

There is state-to-state variability in civil and criminal caseloads, and it is not exclusively related to population. This is seen by the simple fact that not every state has the same number of filings per 100,000 population. Civil filings showed the least variation and may reflect the broadly similar civil law and procedure across the country. Greater variation characterized criminal filings, which may be partially due to differences in crime rates, substantive criminal laws, law enforcement practices, and criminal justice resources. However, state population is a variable that exercises considerable influence on the number of cases filed in each state.

Clearance Rates

The upward trend in civil and criminal case filings puts increasing pressure on courts as they attempt to stay current in the disposition of these cases. Many courts are experiencing difficulty in keeping up with the inflow of new cases. The number of new cases filed in 1991 often substantially exceeded the number of cases that were disposed of by the court. The problem is more prevalent for civil cases than for criminal cases, and more prevalent for limited than for general jurisdiction courts.

An examination of the three-year clearance rates, however, offers some encouragement. The 1991 clearance rate for criminal cases in general jurisdiction courts exceeds the three-year rate in two-thirds of the states. This implies that clearance rates in 1991 tended to be above the average clearance rates for 1989 to 1991. Further, the three-year clearance rate for civil cases was above 98 percent in nearly one-half of the state general jurisdiction court systems. Because courts must give priority to criminal caseloads, maintaining high criminal clearance rates is necessary to ensuring the timely disposition of all other case types.

Caseload Composition

The main point to emerge in the analysis of civil and criminal caseload composition is consistency. The underlying composition of civil and criminal caseloads is strikingly similar across different states. The number of cases may vary, but the business of the state courts is about the same. Despite differences in such factors as jurisdiction, crime rates, and law enforcement practices, states are handling cases in similar proportions.

Trial Court Filing Trends, 1984-91

What conclusions emerge from the data on recent trends in felony and civil filings? The trend in felony case filings is upward. With increases over an eight-year

period that more than doubled the number of cases being filed in some states, the pressures on the courts are substantial indeed. Moreover, felony cases are usually heard at the general jurisdiction court level and are the type of criminal case with the most substantial implications for court staffing and resources.

The addition of 1991 data to the tort-filing time series is far from conclusive in establishing clear trends. Between 1985 and 1986, tort-filing rates increased in most states. This pattern was largely reversed between 1986 and 1989, with tort filings leveling off, often near pre-1986 levels. The total was slightly up in 1990 before moving back downward in 1991. The aggregate decrease was too minimal and the state-to-state variation too great to draw firm expectations on the course of tort litigation.

The trend analysis also suggests that tort filings are changing over time in a manner that differs from other general civil case categories. Much of the variation in tort-filing rates is attributable to specific legislative changes enacted by states during the second wave of major tort reform. Recent trends for contract and real property rights cases offer more consistency. Contract cases are experiencing moderate annual growth and real property rights cases substantial growth. Given the prevailing economic climate, it is possible that those types of cases will replace torts as the predictors of the increasing volume of litigation.

PART

II



APPELLATE COURT FILINGS IN 1991 AND CASELOAD TRENDS: 1984-91



Introduction

Appeals offer litigants the opportunity to modify an unfavorable trial court decision by convincing an appellate court that the lower court judgment was based on a reversible error. The party bringing the appeal might contend that the trial court erred when it allowed inadmissible testimony, that the jury was given improper instructions, or that the trial court misinterpreted the correct meaning of a state statute or the state's constitution.

An awareness of appellate court caseload statistics is important because the nature of appellate review is influenced by the volume of cases filed each year. In those courts where the number of cases is rising and there is not an accompanying increase in the size of the judiciary or court staff, more cases mean less time for appellate judges to review the record, to read the briefs, to hear oral arguments, to discuss the case, and to prepare an order or opinion resolving the case. The increased demands on the available work time of judges and court staff prompt courts to seek more efficient and productive ways of handling cases. One option is adopting procedural innovations designed to permit the court to spend time in direct proportion to case complexity—more time for the complex case and less time for the routine case.¹ As caseload volume continues to grow, however, many argue that the only way for the court to maintain both quality and productivity is to increase the number of judges. And if judges are not added, then either quality is diminished or overall court productivity

drops and a backlog begins. Thus, there are elements of appellate court caseloads and resources that have a direct bearing on the courts' institutional responsibilities to correct lower court errors, to ensure uniformity in the application of laws, to protect the constitutional rights of litigants, and to clarify the meaning of laws.

First, trends in volume need to be identified and monitored. Is the caseload increasing, decreasing, or staying the same? What is the magnitude of changes in caseload over time? For example, is the doubling of the caseload that was observed in many states during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s continuing into the 1990s? Second, the areas of greatest change need to be determined. Are mandatory, discretionary, or both types of appeals rising? Does the increase lie in criminal, civil, or both types of appeals? Third, courts need to examine alternative approaches (e.g., case management, fast-track procedures, settlement conferences) to respond to the pressures that volume places on timeliness, productivity, and quality. Which alternative is likely to fit the court's particular needs and circumstances? The most promising approaches are then implemented, evaluated, and reexamined in light of their effects.

This section of the *Report* provides a view of caseload volume, trends, and composition in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The information in this section offers a unique comparative perspective on appeals. Where are the nation's state appellate courts headed? How consistent are national patterns? And where does each state fit into that broad pattern?

The answers to these questions should assist appellate courts in carrying out basic research and development activities, identifying caseload trends, and determining the areas of greatest increase in caseload. Courts can use this information to see which courts face similar caseload pressures and to examine other courts' responses to the pressures. The issues addressed in this section can be summarized by the following three points:

- **Volume of appellate court caseload.** How many appeals are filed nationwide and in individual states? After adjusting for population, are appellate court caseloads similar or different across the country? What is the appellate court caseload composition? Is volume related to clearance rates?

¹ See, e.g., Joy A. Chapper and Roger A. Hanson, *Expedited Procedures for Appellate Courts: Evidence from California's Third District Court of Appeal*, 42 Maryland Law Review 696 (1983); *Managing the Criminal Appeals Process*, 12 State Court Journal (Winter 1988); Dale M. Green and Michael F. Keys, *Motion on the Merits: An Effective Response to Appellate Congestion and Delay*, 70 Judicature No. 3 (1986). Charles G. Douglas, *Innovative Appellate Court Processing: New Hampshire's Experience with the Summary Affirmance*, 69 Judicature No. 3 (1985); Thomas B. Marvell, *Abbreviated Appellate Procedure: An Evaluation of New Mexico Summary Calendar*, 75 Judicature No. 2 (1991); Joy A. Chapper and Roger A. Hanson, *Intermediate Appellate Courts: Improving Case Processing* (National Center for State Courts 1990).

- **Clearance rates for appellate cases.** Are appellate courts keeping up with the new cases that are filed each year? Do clearance rates vary between mandatory and discretionary caseloads?
- **Trends in appellate court caseloads.** Is the volume of civil and criminal appeals rising, falling, or remaining relatively constant? Do civil and criminal appeals follow the same path? Are the trends consistent across courts?

State Appellate Caseloads in 1991

Overview

During 1991, more appeals were filed in state appellate courts than in any preceding year. Based on information from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, the total number of filings was 245,103, which is a 3.1 percent increase over 1990. If the rate of increase were to remain constant the rest of the decade, there will be over 350,000 appeals by the year 2000—a cumulative increase of at least 40 percent since 1990. Hence, the 1991 filings should put state appellate courts on notice that they face the prospect of even more cases in the future.

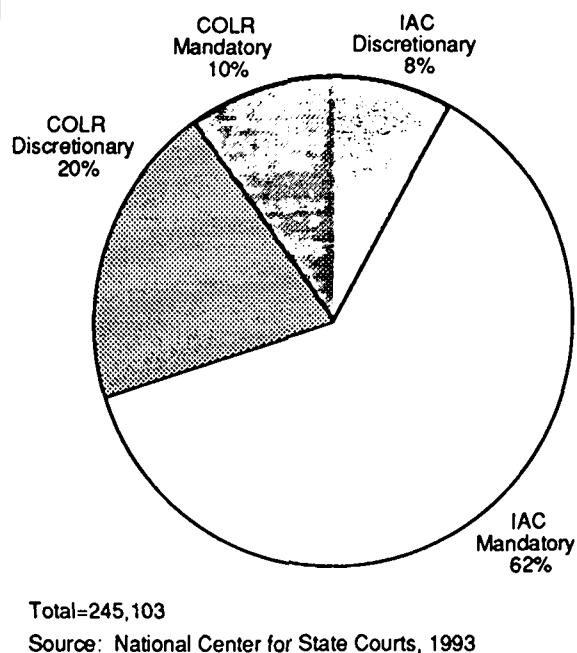
Most of the 245,000 cases were appeals of right that the state appellate courts are mandated to hear. Mandatory appeals numbered 175,842 in 1991, or 72 percent of the nationwide appellate court caseload. Intermediate appellate courts (IACs), which hear most of the mandatory appeals, saw their share of the mandatory caseload grow from 148,832 to 151,745. Courts of last resort, which tend to have few mandatory appeals, saw their share drop from 25,420 to 24,097.

The area of greatest percentage change from 1990 occurred in the volume of discretionary petitions, which commonly are heard by courts of last resort (COLRs). The COLRs experienced a 10 percent increase from 44,815 to 48,988 in their discretionary caseload. The discretionary caseload of IACs also went up, but at a lower rate. IACs received 20,273 discretionary petitions in 1991 compared to 18,941 in 1990.

The importance of these figures is threefold. First, they demonstrate that appellate court caseloads in 1991 continue a long-term trend of increasing volume that began in the 1960s and that the increase confronts both COLRs and IACs.² Second, the caseload pressures for courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts are different in fundamental ways. Courts of last resort are confronted with increases in discretionary petitions, which account for the largest share of their caseloads. In contrast, intermediate appellate courts are confronted

² Previous studies have pointed out that appellate court caseloads have been doubling every 8 to 10 years since the 1960s. See Victor E. Flango and Mary E. Elsner, *Advance Report: The Latest State Court Data*, 7 *State Court Journal* 16 (Winter 1983); Thomas B. Marvell and Sue A. Lindgren, *The Growth of Appeals* (U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics 1985).

Chart II.1: Appellate Case Filings, 1991



with increases in mandatory appeals, which account for the largest share of their caseloads. Third, the image of intermediate appellate courts as the workhorses of state appellate court systems is consistent with reality. As seen in Chart II.1, IACs have most of the appeals (70 percent). Furthermore, the largest category of appeals consists of those that fall within the mandatory jurisdiction of IACs (62 percent). Hence, for every discretionary petition that an IAC is asked to accept, there are nearly eight appeals of right that they should accept.

How Many Appeals Are Filed Nationwide and in Individual States?

Looking at the individual states, how are the nation's nearly 250,000 appeals distributed? What states have the largest number of appeals, and what states have the smallest number of appeals? Is there a concentration of appeals in a few states?

Caseload levels extend from a low of 301 appeals in Wyoming to a high of 25,072 in California (see Text Table II.1). The median number of appeals in each state is represented by the 3,029 cases filed in Tennessee. Half of the states have fewer appeals than Tennessee, and half of the states have more appeals. Yet, while this median point conveys important information, further examination of the distribution of caseload levels across the states enhances the descriptive picture.

The difference in the absolute number of appeals can be represented in two ways. First, the states cluster into three groups, with approximately one-quarter of the states having a relatively small number of appeals; one-half of the states having close to the median number of appeals; and one-quarter of the states having a relatively

TEXT TABLE II.1: Total Appellate Court Filings, 1991

	State	Total Appellate Court Filings	Total Mandatory Filings	Total Discretionary Filings	Population Ranking
1.	California	25,072	13,055	12,017	1
2.	Florida	20,247	16,332	3,915	4
3.	New York	17,249	12,829	4,420	2
4.	Pennsylvania	14,198	10,614	3,584	5
5.	Michigan	14,060	11,827	2,233	8
6.	Ohio	13,607	11,623	1,984	7
7.	Texas	13,377	10,754	2,623	3
8.	Louisiana	11,630	3,888	7,742	21
9.	Illinois	10,640	8,967	1,673	6
10.	New Jersey	9,977	7,070	2,907	9
11.	Oregon	6,165	5,320	845	29
12.	Arizona	6,041	4,846	1,195	23
13.	Washington	5,162	3,926	1,236	16
14.	Missouri	4,787	4,077	710	15
15.	Alabama	4,751	3,723	1,028	22
16.	Georgia	4,496	2,961	1,535	11
17.	Kentucky	4,341	3,239	1,102	24
18.	Virginia	4,299	510	3,789	12
19.	Wisconsin	3,962	2,970	992	17
20.	Oklahoma	3,548	3,160	388	28
21.	Colorado	3,412	2,349	1,063	26
22.	Minnesota	3,282	2,097	1,185	20
23.	Maryland	3,194	2,294	900	19
24.	West Virginia	3,180	NJ	3,180	34
25.	Massachusetts	3,059	1,608	1,451	13
26.	Tennessee	3,029	2,052	977	18
27.	Indiana	2,973	2,058	915	14
28.	North Carolina	2,369	1,462	907	10
29.	Iowa	2,009	2,009	NJ	30
30.	Kansas	1,944	1,444	500	32
31.	Arkansas	1,734	1,734	NJ	33
32.	Connecticut	1,695	1,393	302	27
33.	District of Columbia	1,603	1,567	36	48
34.	New Mexico	1,491	1,078	413	37
35.	Utah	1,341	1,308	33	35
36.	Alaska	1,126	810	316	49
37.	Nevada	1,080	1,080	NJ	38
38.	Mississippi	992	912	80	31
39.	South Carolina	859	764	95	25
40.	Hawaii	843	811	32	40
41.	Nebraska	834	834	NA	36
42.	Idaho	715	622	93	42
43.	Maine	646	646	NA	39
44.	Rhode Island	646	445	201	43
45.	Montana	636	636	NJ	44
46.	New Hampshire	597	NJ	597	41
47.	Vermont	578	542	36	50
48.	Delaware	473	473	NA	46
49.	North Dakota	456	456	NJ	47
50.	South Dakota	397	366	31	45
51.	Wyoming	301	301	NJ	51
Totals		245,103	175,842	69,261	

large number of appeals. More specifically, 14 states had fewer than 1,000 appeals; 24 states had between 1,000 and 5,000 appeals; and 13 states handled over

5,000 appeals each. Second, there is a concentration of appeals in particular states. Eight states (Louisiana, Texas, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, and California) have a majority of the nation's appeals. Hence, fluctuations in the volume of appeals in these eight states will shape the national picture significantly.

Yet, despite the variation in the absolute number of appeals per state, two distinct patterns emerge. First, the states with the fewest number of cases tend to have appellate systems composed only of a court of last resort. Eleven of the 14 states with fewer than 1,000 appeals do not have an intermediate appellate court; conversely, of the 13 states with 5,000 or more filings, all have two-tiered appellate systems. Furthermore, all but two of these have a regional intermediate appellate court system. Only New Jersey's and Michigan's IACs have statewide jurisdiction.

Second, as one might expect, the ratio of mandatory to discretionary petitions varies with the total number of filings; states with the smallest number of filings have a greater number of mandatory than discretionary filings. This tendency occurs because in the 14 states with the fewest number of total filings, IACs have not been established, and the COLRs in these states have not expanded their discretionary jurisdiction. On the other hand, among the 24 states with close to an average number of appeals, there is closer balance between the two types of petitions. Mandatory petitions outnumber discretionary petitions, but to a lesser degree than in the states with the fewest number of total filings. Finally, among the 13 states with the largest number of filings, the ratio of mandatory to discretionary petitions is greater than in states with an average number of appeals. In large states, the COLRs have almost exclusive discretionary jurisdiction, and the IACs, which handle most of the system's caseload in these states, have virtually no discretionary jurisdiction.

Analysis of the information in Text Table II.1 supports these conclusions. Discretionary petitions are almost nonexistent among the one-third of the states with the smallest number of total filings. New Hampshire is an exception to the pattern, but that is understandable because New Hampshire lacks an IAC and its supreme court has a completely discretionary jurisdiction. Among the middle third of the states, most systems have ratios of two or three mandatory appeals to every discretionary appeal. Finally, among the third of the states with the largest number of total filings, most of the states have ratios of four, five, or six mandatory filings to every discretionary petition.

What Is the Relationship Between the Total Number of Appeals and State Population?

What drives the volume of appeals? Undoubtedly, there are many reasons why the volume of appeals changes over time, including the opportunity for indigent criminal defendants to appeal their cases with the support of publicly appointed counsel and the effects of changing economic conditions (e.g., a recession may depress particular types of litigation and stimulate other types). The full catalog of reasons why appeals are filed

is beyond the scope of this *Report*, but we are able to show the fundamental importance of state population size as a predictor of litigation. State population exercises considerable influence on the absolute number of appeals filed in each of the states. Simply stated, the larger the state's population, the larger the number of appeals filed. This proposition is supported by the data presented in Text Table II.1, which show a very strong correspondence between each state's total caseload and its population size.³ Moreover, the most populous states tend to have a higher than average total of appellate court filings per 100,000 population.

The congruence between caseload and population has at least two important implications. First, states that are experiencing population increases should expect caseload increases, although the exact rate of growth in caseload volume may not be directly proportional to population growth alone because of the effects of other factors that may vary from state to state (e.g., the populations' litigiousness, social and economic conditions, the accessibility of the courts to potential litigants, crime levels, and so forth). States that experience sharp population growth for a while and then experience limited or no growth should expect parallel fluctuations in the volume of appeals. However, as both the nation and most individual states grow in population, the nation's state appellate court caseloads will rise unless the particular areas of litigation (e.g., direct appellate review of sentencing issues) are completely removed from the systems' jurisdictions and transferred to some other dispute resolution process. Second, the close connection between population size and total caseload levels suggests the need to control for population size when statistical comparisons are made of different state appellate systems. If population is taken into account, do trends across states look similar or different?

Applying the common standard of comparing appellate case filings per 100,000 population will clarify the similarity of the states. The difference between the two charts is that Chart II.2 includes states with both a COLR and IAC, where Chart II.3 includes states with a COLR but no IAC.

Turning first to **Chart II.2**, the volume of each of the four basic categories of appeals per 100,000 population for states is represented by a bar. The larger the ratio of appeals to population, the longer the length of the bar. Because population is such an important determinant of the number of appeals, it is not surprising that the

appellate-filing rates of most states fall within approximately 50 filings of the median rate of 83 filings per 100,000 population (California). Thus, while California has the largest absolute number of filings, its number of filings per 100,000 population actually is the nation's midpoint rate.

Similarly, the information in **Chart II.3** indicates that the ratio of all appeals to population is quite similar across 11 of the 13 states. All COLRs without an IAC, with the exception of the District of Columbia and West Virginia, are alike in total caseload levels adjusted for population, suggesting that they are a homogenous group of courts. Finally, the COLRs without an IAC have one characteristic in common with some of the two-tiered systems. The high frequency of mandatory appeals in the COLRs without an IAC is similar to the dominance of mandatory appeals among those states in Chart II.2 that have the largest ratio of filings to population. This finding suggests that first-level appellate courts, whether they are COLRs without an IAC or IACs with large caseloads, are similar in caseload composition; they tend to have virtually all mandatory jurisdiction, and they handle all or the bulk of their respective state's appeals.

How Are Mandatory and Discretionary Petitions Distributed Between COLRs and IACs?

Scholars have observed that there has been a very important organizational evolution in state court systems from 1870-1970.⁴ During that time period, COLRs responded to caseload volume pressures in two basic ways: (1) the creation of intermediate appellate courts and (2) the expansion of their discretionary jurisdiction. The first response extended beyond 1970 as several states adopted two-tiered systems in the 1970s (e.g., Arizona), the 1980s (e.g., Minnesota), and 1990s (e.g., Nebraska).

The information contained in this *Report* provides some insight into the second response of COLRs to take on almost exclusively discretionary jurisdiction. This is commonly referred to as the development of "cert. courts."⁵ Are all COLRs in the 1990s primarily discretionary jurisdiction courts? Are there any exceptions? If so, what explains deviations from the national pattern? As the information in Charts II.2 and II.3 indicate, there are three important patterns that emerge in attempting to answer these questions.

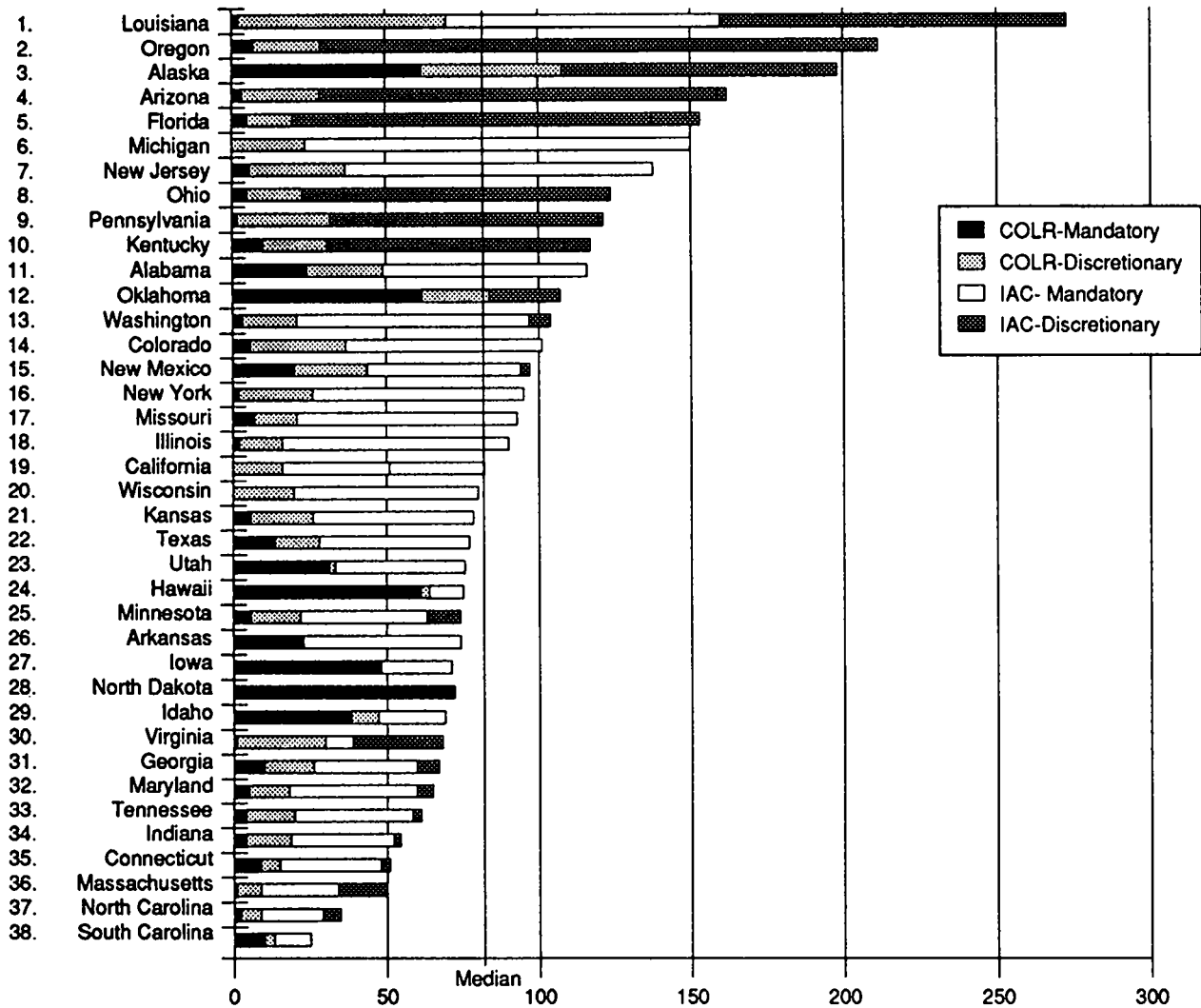
First, virtually all state COLRs are alike in that mandatory petitions constitute a minority of their caseloads. This is evident in Chart II.2 where the portion of the bar

3 This conclusion is based on visual examination of Text Table II.1, corroborated by a statistical correlation. The Pearson correlation coefficient between the volume of appeals and state population is +.92. This indicates that states with the smallest populations have smaller caseloads and states with largest populations have larger caseloads. However, there are exceptions to this overall pattern. Michigan, for example, has the fifth largest number of appeals, but it ranks eighth in population, which means that it has somewhat more appeals than one would predict on the basis of population alone.

4 Robert A. Kagan, Bliss Cartwright, Lawrence M. Friedman, Stanton Wheeler, *The Evolution of State Supreme Courts*, 76 Michigan Law Review 961-1005 (1978).

5 A writ of certiorari, or petition of final judgment, is the method of presenting a case to an appellate court when the case is within the court's discretion. A court's discretion is exercised through a two-stage decision process. First, the court must decide whether to grant the petition. If granted, the case is then decided on its merits.

CHART II.2: Total Appellate Filings per 100,000 Total Population (States with COLR and IAC), 1991



States that are not included: DC, DE, ME, MS, MT, NE, NH, NV, PR, RI, SD, VT, WV, WY

Source: Table 2, Part III, National Center for State Courts

representing the ratio of COLR mandatory appeals to population is short and of the same relative length for most states. The exceptions to this pattern include five COLRs (Hawaii, Iowa, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Carolina) that screen cases before sending some of them on to the IACs. In these states, one might expect more mandatory appeals to be retained by the COLR, leaving relatively fewer mandatory appeals at the IAC level than in other states. This expectation is met because the portion of the bar representing COLR mandatory appeals is longer relative to the IAC mandatory portion in these five states than it is in the other states.⁶

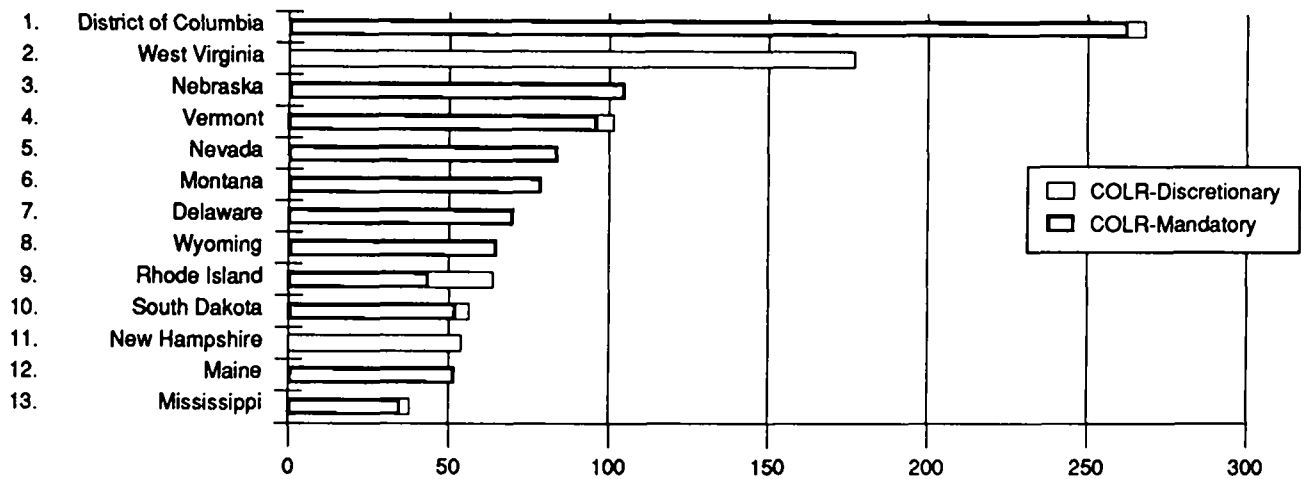
Second, as the volume of cases in the state appellate system increases relative to population, the IACs bear a larger share of that burden. This phenomenon can be

seen in Chart II.2 by noting that as the total length of each bar increases, the IAC portion of the bar becomes relatively larger.

Third, in states where the appellate system consists of a COLR without an IAC, another set of patterns emerge. In Chart II.3, the caseload levels per 100,000

⁶ There is another set of states where the COLR has not emerged as a "cert. court." This set includes Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, and New Mexico. For Alaska and Idaho, their situation may be explained by the fact that they recently established IACs. Alabama and New Mexico, on the other hand, appear to be more anomalous. However, if the historical trend continues, one expects to see these two states eventually become part of the national pattern.

CHART II.3: Total Appellate Filings per 100,000 Total Population (States with COLR only), 1991



Source: Table 2, Part III, National Center for State Courts

population for each of these 12 states and the District of Columbia are represented by separate bars. Mandatory caseloads dominate the overall picture of these appellate systems, except in West Virginia and New Hampshire, both of which have entirely discretionary jurisdiction. Thus, it appears that unless a COLR without an IAC has completely discretionary jurisdiction, it will have virtually no discretionary petitions. In these systems, discretionary petitions tend to be all or nothing.

How Successful Are Courts in Keeping Up with Caseload Volume?

Are appellate courts able to keep up with the volume of their work? How successful are IACs in resolving the bulk of the nation's appeals? Similarly, how successful are COLRs in coping with discretionary petitions, which continue to increase in volume?

One measure of whether an appellate court is keeping up with its caseload is to calculate the court's clearance rate. A clearance rate is the number of appeals filed in a given year divided by the number of dispositions in the same year. While the two sets of cases are not necessarily identical (cases disposed of in 1991 may have been filed in 1990 or before), this measure can be calculated readily and is a useful gauge of whether there is a balance between the demands for court services and outputs. A rate of 100 percent or more indicates that more cases were disposed of than were taken in that year. However, as rates fall below 100 percent, this indicates that the court's backlog is growing.

Based on available data, a 1991 clearance rate for mandatory cases is calculated for COLRs in 35 states and for the IACs in 34 states. Examining the three-year clearance rates in Text Table II.2 shows that the COLRs are having moderate success in keeping up with their mandatory caseloads: 17 of the 33 states have a clearance rate of 100 percent or greater. Moreover, 14

of the remaining 16 states have clearance rates at 90 percent or more. It is the states of North Carolina and Maine that register clearance rates below 90 percent.

Clearance rates of mandatory appeals reported by IACs are of more widespread concern (see Text Table II.2b). The three-year clearance rates suggest that IACs are experiencing increasing difficulty with their caseloads: 8 states had three-year rates of 100 percent or more; 12 states had rates of 95 to 100 percent; 6 states had rates between 90 and 95 percent; and 7 states had rates below 90 percent.

There is cause for concern in the 25 IACs with clearance rates of less than 100 percent because these courts handle the bulk of the nation's appeals. The problem is particularly acute for those courts with three-year rates below 90 percent. A continuing pattern of low clearance rates means that a sizable number of cases are not being disposed of and that there will be a corresponding increase in the pending caseload. For some courts, improved clearance rates will require increased resources and/or alternative ways of handling cases more efficiently and productively.

An examination of how appellate courts, including both courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts, are managing discretionary petitions presents a more positive picture than the limited success of IACs in keeping up with mandatory appeals. Discretionary petitions constitute the bulk of the work load for courts of last resort, especially those in a two-tiered appellate system. The three-year clearance rates for 9 of the 31 COLRs for which a three-year rate could be calculated are 100 percent or better (see Text Table II.3). Hence, COLRs do not enjoy the same degree of success in keeping up with discretionary petitions as they do in keeping up with mandatory cases. Intermediate appellate courts are also meeting limited success in disposing of discretionary petitions. Five of the 14 states for which data are

TEXT TABLE II.2: Courts of Last Resort Clearance Rates for Mandatory Appeals, 1989-1991

State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate
Georgia		72.8	93.2	
Alabama			117.1	
Maine	83.7	76.4	88.9	83.0
North Carolina	87.2	87.9	86.9	87.3
Minnesota	97.6	92.2	81.4	90.2
Ohio	85.4	77.5	109.5	90.3
Alaska	87.1	100.6	86.0	91.2
Arkansas	95.0	92.9	95.1	94.4
New York	89.4	95.0	101.4	95.0
Florida	90.3	96.4	98.9	95.3
North Dakota	96.0	102.3	89.5	95.8
Montana	98.6	98.6	90.9	96.0
Illinois	124.8	93.0	75.3	96.1
Kentucky	100.3	98.9	90.8	96.3
Maryland	107.8	93.5	93.8	97.7
Rhode Island	87.0	102.4	106.1	98.5
Nevada	105.0	97.1	95.8	99.1
Delaware	92.8	114.5	92.8	99.9
Idaho	94.8	105.7	99.7	100.0
Wyoming	113.1	91.4	99.7	101.5
Louisiana	97.2	115.9	95.3	101.7
Mississippi	108.7	98.2	101.1	102.3
Connecticut	108.0	101.4	99.7	102.9
Missouri	100.0	108.1	101.3	103.0
New Jersey	92.7	103.6	111.2	103.1
Hawaii	115.2	116.3	89.2	105.7
Texas	108.6	109.0	103.8	107.4
District of Columbia	105.5	109.0	110.2	108.3
New Mexico	99.2	105.4	124.5	109.1
Washington	125.7	93.9	116.1	110.1
Vermont	100.8	116.1	121.0	112.2
South Carolina	116.0	89.2	165.2	116.4
South Dakota	125.1	107.7	116.9	116.4
Arizona	83.6	176.1	122.0	118.8
Indiana	124.4	130.2	116.7	123.8

TEXT TABLE II.2b: Intermediate Appellate Courts Clearance Rates for Mandatory Appeals, 1989-1991

State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate
Massachusetts		74.7	95.0	
Georgia	81.2	64.4	83.3	76.2
Washington	90.1	84.5	78.9	84.2
Michigan	82.0	85.1	86.6	84.6
Arizona	90.2	81.5	86.3	85.8
Oregon	94.9	81.3	89.0	88.0
Kentucky	89.9	95.9	81.4	88.8
South Carolina	84.2	99.2	88.0	89.9
Oklahoma	97.4	78.5	94.8	90.2
Maryland	98.4	90.1	89.9	92.6
Alaska	106.7	90.2	85.7	93.8
Missouri	91.0	100.1	92.8	94.6
Arkansas	90.6	92.7	99.9	94.6
Tennessee	96.1	89.2	99.7	94.9
Hawaii	98.6	87.0	102.4	95.8
Illinois	94.9	97.1	95.5	95.8
North Carolina	86.2	97.0	106.7	96.5
Kansas	105.5	95.9	89.8	96.8
Texas	95.5	100.9	94.5	96.9
New Mexico	95.4	95.7	100.4	97.1
Louisiana	102.4	91.7	99.0	97.6
Wisconsin	102.5	91.6	99.5	97.6
New Jersey	100.6	89.7	103.1	97.6
Alabama	91.3	94.5	107.1	97.7
Ohio	91.6	101.9	104.9	99.5
Minnesota	105.6	94.7	99.5	99.6
Colorado	109.0	92.8	102.1	101.0
Florida	101.1	100.8	102.1	101.3
Pennsylvania	111.3	98.1	95.7	101.4
Iowa	117.8	89.1	104.3	103.3
Connecticut	115.2	100.0	97.8	104.0
Idaho	104.5	94.9	116.1	105.3
California	120.3	112.1	98.9	110.0
New York	120.1	114.8	120.6	118.5

available achieved three-year clearance rates of 100 percent or more (see Text Table II.3).

Thus, the success with which appellate courts meet the demands placed on them is limited. COLRs manage to dispose of mandatory appeals, at least in most courts. However, success is less widespread among these courts in handling discretionary petitions, which are the bulk of their work. Furthermore, most IACs are not keeping up in either the discretionary or the mandatory arena. Success is limited to approximately a third of the IACs (see Text Table II.3b). The gap between filings and dispositions in IACs is troublesome because this is where the bulk of the appellate caseload resides. A clearance rate that falls below 100 percent affects a large number of cases in both absolute terms and as a proportion of the total appellate court caseload. Hence, courts and policymakers need to join together to assess what can and should be done to alleviate this undesirable situation.

Discretionary Petitions Granted

The U.S. Supreme Court accepts for review about 5 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.⁷ State COLRs tend to accept a larger percentage of petitions filed. On average during 1991, state COLRs granted 14 percent of the discretionary petitions filed.

That percentage is derived from Text Table II.4, which shows the number of petitions filed, and the number and the percentage granted, for the COLRs of 23 states. The percentage granted ranges from a low of 2.8 percent in Vermont to highs of 40.9 percent in Massachusetts and 34.4 percent in Hawaii. However, in states with an IAC, the precise boundaries of the COLR's jurisdiction

⁷ Doris Marie Provine, *Certiorari*, in *Encyclopedia of the American Judicial Process* 783-84 (R. Janoski ed.).

TEXT TABLE II.3: Courts of Last Resort Clearance Rates for Discretionary Petitions, 1989-1991

State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate
New York	82.1	84.6	88.4	85.0
Ohio	81.4	75.5	89.7	82.4
Virginia	114.4	90.7	87.1	89.0
Wisconsin	89.5	86.5	91.2	89.2
Mississippi	74.4	92.2	95.0	89.3
Kentucky	85.6	95.4	89.1	90.0
New Hampshire	90.6	90.4	91.0	90.7
West Virginia	105.5	97.7	84.1	93.0
Illinois	95.3	94.7	92.7	94.2
Oregon	103.4	89.4	91.5	94.4
New Mexico	94.0	97.1	91.8	94.4
North Carolina	88.8	96.0	101.2	95.6
Florida	86.9	96.0	102.8	95.7
Minnesota	96.1	102.6	89.2	95.8
Indiana	106.0	91.2	93.7	96.2
Maryland	90.8	97.1	102.0	96.8
Idaho	96.7	111.7	84.9	96.9
Alaska	96.8	101.7	94.1	97.4
Arizona	99.1	96.4	98.1	97.8
Washington	101.0	99.1	97.8	99.3
Rhode Island	94.4	111.3	93.5	99.5
California	105.4	96.1	98.3	99.7
District of Columbia	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
New Jersey	99.3	98.6	101.2	100.1
Missouri	101.6	101.7	99.0	100.9
Michigan	87.5	109.9	109.4	101.4
Vermont	102.9	112.5	91.7	102.0
Hawaii	107.1	100.0	100.0	102.6
Louisiana	94.8	106.9	106.4	102.7
Texas	109.8	97.3	102.5	103.5
Alabama	137.0	143.9	121.4	133.3

TEXT TABLE II.3b: Intermediate Appellate Courts Clearance Rates for Discretionary Petitions, 1989-1991

State	1989	1990	1991	Three-year Clearance Rate
New Mexico			18.4	
Indiana			114.0	
Massachusetts		100.0	100.0	
Tennessee	77.6	67.1	75.2	73.5
Arizona	101.9	67.5	87.6	83.9
Minnesota	95.9	98.1	82.0	90.4
Florida	83.8	93.5	93.4	90.5
Washington	95.9	100.9	76.1	90.7
Georgia	87.3	100.0	85.8	91.9
Louisiana	98.8	99.1	91.7	96.2
North Carolina	100.0	95.6	100.0	98.4
Maryland	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Alaska	90.3	104.9	110.0	101.6
California	101.5	102.8	103.4	102.6
Kentucky	100.0	128.8	100.3	103.9
Virginia	116.7	136.3	124.6	125.9

jurisdiction is often over interlocutory matters, rather than appeals of final judgment.

Discretionary jurisdiction enables appellate courts to control their dockets. Although courts are generally selective in the petitions that are granted, this discretion is exercised differently across the states. IACs also exercise discretionary power differently than COLRs, reflecting their respective roles in state appellate systems and, perhaps, the greater likelihood that IACs will experience an expansion in the number of authorized judgeships in the face of rising caseloads.

Appellate Court Opinions in 1991

The preparation of full written opinions has been called "the single most time-consuming task in the appellate process."⁸ Rising appellate caseloads have led both to curtailment of full opinions for the bulk of cases and to concern over the availability of sufficient judicial time to prepare full opinions in particularly important cases.

Table 6, Part III (p. 96), presents the number of signed opinions issued by state appellate courts during 1991. The table also provides supplementary information about whether this count is by case or by written document and whether majority opinions, per curiam opinions, and memoranda/orders are included in the count. Information is also provided on the number of justices or judges serving on each court and the number of support staff with legal training that the court employs. The number of justices or judges is particularly significant

become important to understanding the flow of cases to the COLR and, possibly, the percentage of petitions that are granted. For example, the types of cases that would go to the IAC in Michigan are filed instead in the COLR in West Virginia, where no IAC has been established and the supreme court has full discretion over its docket.

IACs with discretionary jurisdiction tend to grant a higher percentage of petitions than is the practice in their state COLR or in COLRs generally. Table 2, Part III (p. 68), provides information on the percentage of discretionary petitions granted in seven IACs: California Courts of Appeal, 10.4 percent; Indiana Court of Appeals, 44.1 percent; Louisiana Courts of Appeal, 33.7 percent; Maryland Court of Special Appeals, 11.4 percent; Minnesota Court of Appeals, 59.7 percent; New Mexico Court of Appeals, 14.2 percent; and North Carolina Court of Appeals, 41.9 percent. However, while (with the exception of Maryland) the IACs grant a higher percentage of discretionary petitions than do their state COLRs, the comparison is inexact because the IAC discretionary

8 Judicial Administration Division, American Bar Association, Standards Relating to Appellate Delay Reduction 21 (1988).

TEXT TABLE II.4 Discretionary Petitions Granted as a Percentage of Total Discretionary Cases Filed in COLRs, 1991

State	Number of Petitions Filed	Number of Petitions Granted	Percentage of Petitions Granted
Alaska	256	27	10.5
California	4,992	193	3.9
Georgia	1,082	162	14.9
Hawaii	32	11	34.4
Illinois	1,673	150	9.0
Kansas	500	38	7.6
Louisiana	2,898	722	24.9
Maryland	646	131	20.3
Massachusetts	501	205	40.9
Michigan	2,233	64	2.9
Minnesota	703	71	10.1
Mississippi	80	4	5.0
Missouri	710	84	11.8
New Mexico	364	37	10.2
North Carolina	492	52	10.6
Ohio	1,984	163	8.2
Oregon	845	98	11.6
Tennessee	775	59	7.6
Texas	2,623	355	13.5
Vermont	36	1	2.8
Virginia	1,936	169	8.7
West Virginia	3,180	973	30.6
Wisconsin	992	140	14.1

and, as noted earlier, varies considerably from court to court.

The restricted size of COLRs and the nature of their responsibilities tend to limit the number of signed opinions to several hundred in a year in most jurisdictions (the U.S. Supreme Court typically decides about 150 cases a year by opinion).⁹ Generally, courts can determine how they decide cases, whether by full explanatory opinion, per curiam opinion, or by order, and thus manage their caseload. Therefore, the number of signed opinions is not directly related to the number of cases decided by the court on the merits during 1991. Among COLRs, the number of signed opinions ranges from 53 in Delaware to 861 in Alabama.

Caseload Composition and Trends in Appellate Courts

Caseload composition reflects both an appellate court's subject matter jurisdiction and the nature and volume of its trial court activity. Two dimensions on which caseload composition can be examined are (1) the

⁹ In 1991, the U.S. Supreme Court disposed of 107 cases by signed opinion and 20 cases by per curiam opinion. (Statistics supplied by the U. S. Supreme Court Clerk's Office.)

relative frequency of civil and criminal appeals and (2) how the composition is changing over time. Examining trends in civil and criminal appeals is important because it provides a benchmark for policymakers, judges, and those involved in the day-to-day operation of appellate courts to determine what changes, if any, the courts are experiencing. A trend analysis offers perspective on where state appellate courts stand at a time when there is ample concern for their well-being. Judges both at the federal and the state level are concerned about the volume of cases that are entering the system each year. These cases must be disposed of in a reasonable amount of time, and the court should have the resources to carry out this work.

At the federal level, it has been asserted that "a crisis of volume" afflicts the U.S. circuit courts of appeals.¹⁰ The main cause is clear: while in the 1940s one trial termination in forty was subject to an appeal, by the mid-1980s one termination in eight was contested through an appeal.¹¹ The result is that the federal appellate system, without major structural reform, will not survive its case volume into the next century.

At the state level, observers note a similar crisis, since "state appellate court caseloads have on average, doubled every ten years since the Second World War."¹² Such long-term growth emerges from what may appear to be relatively modest year-to-year growth: an average annual increase of 7 percent will double caseload volume in 10 years, an average growth rate of 5 percent will increase total volume by two-thirds in 10 years, and an average growth rate of 3 percent will, over 10 years, cause caseload volume to rise by 34 percent. Moreover, appellate courts are not merely confronting more of the same: rather, "as the number of cases has grown, so has the range of complexity. Increasing numbers of complex cases, especially death penalty litigation, require substantial expenditure of judicial time."¹³ Volume and complexity combined to bring an intermediate appellate court to many states during the 1970s and to make the 1980s a period of significant institutional innovation, notably through streamlined appellate procedures, settlement conferences, and alternatives to full appellate review.

Trends in Mandatory Civil Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts

Text Table II.5 reports the data on mandatory civil filings in intermediate appellate courts in 26 states. Caseload growth during the five-year period from 1987 to 1991 has slowed from the rate observed over the past three preceding decades. Mandatory civil appeals in

¹⁰ Federal Courts Study Committee, Judicial Conference of the United States, Report of the Federal Courts Study Committee ch. 6 (1990).

¹¹ *Id.*, at 110.

¹² Judicial Administration Division, *supra* note 8, at 11.

¹³ Judicial Administration Division, *supra* note 8, at 11.

TEXT TABLE II.5 Trends in Mandatory Civil Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts, 1985-1991

State	IAC Mandatory Civil Appeals 1985	IAC Mandatory Civil Appeals 1986	IAC Mandatory Civil Appeals 1987	IAC Mandatory Civil Appeals 1988	IAC Mandatory Civil Appeals 1989	IAC Mandatory Civil Appeals 1990	IAC Mandatory Civil Appeals 1991	Growth Index 1987-1991
Alaska	548	530	584	529	556	651	770	132
Arizona	866	952	955	1,051	922	962	961	101
Arkansas	626	710	704	422	528	528	542	77
California	4,997	5,066	4,892	5,298	5,332	6,443	5,374	110
Hawaii	87	99	72	66	73	38	36	50
Idaho	74	86	77	94	99	85	70	91
Illinois	4,056	4,036	3,904	4,324	4,224	4,224	4,530	116
Indiana	547	540	519	567	654	810	725	140
Iowa	526	392	482	555	519	603	522	108
Kentucky	2,353	2,031	1,914	1,846	1,827	1,704	1,896	99
Louisiana	2,635	2,698	2,774	2,877	2,522	2,698	2,715	98
Maryland	891	865	879	892	912	965	950	108
Massachusetts	889	906	1,026	960	1,035	1,024	934	91
Michigan			2,623	2,731	3,223	3,287	3,205	122
Minnesota	1,250	1,272	1,363	1,487	1,278	1,569	1,293	95
Missouri	1,911	1,887	1,870	2,136	2,502	2,272	2,291	123
New Mexico	410	220	197	219	253	289	284	144
North Carolina	775	788	781	824	898	813	819	105
Ohio	5,632	5,738	5,809	5,971	6,275	4,594	4,672	80
Oregon	1,002	937	795	894	818	818	924	116
Pennsylvania	1,727	1,614	1,339	1,405	1,417	1,589	1,628	122
South Carolina	372	347	436	303	443	255	274	63
Texas	3,416	3,379	3,759	3,873	4,008	3,982	3,936	105
Virginia	250	197	195	225	209	251	247	127
Washington	1,301	1,206	1,353	1,338	1,414	1,533	1,437	106
Wisconsin	1,713	1,550	1,463	1,439	1,689	1,901	1,978	135
Total	38,854	38,046	40,765	42,326	43,630	43,888	43,013	106

IACs grew 6 percent over this time period (or about 1 percent per year). The limited growth at the national level is attributed to the fact that the IACs in nine states (Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, and South Carolina) actually experienced a decrease in the number of mandatory civil cases. Because the national growth rate is positive, some states grew considerably more than the national average. Since 1987, two states—New Mexico and Indiana—are on track to double their mandatory civil appeals by 1996. New Mexico's caseload grew by 44 percent, and Indiana's caseload grew by 40 percent. Annual growth rates in mandatory civil appeals of about 5 percent have led to a substantial five-year growth in states such as Wisconsin (35 percent), Alaska (32 percent), Virginia (27 percent), Michigan (22 percent) and Pennsylvania (22 percent). The rates of growth in these courts are of profound significance because many of these cases are complex and involve multiple issues, which place appreciable demands on the court's limited resources.

Finally, more moderate increases were registered in nine states where the civil caseloads increased by 16 percent or less since 1987 (an annual increase of no

more than 3 percent). However, even these moderate increases in caseload mean that the courts must be increasingly productive to avoid the development of case backlogs.

Trends in Mandatory Criminal Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts

Text Table II.6 reports the mandatory criminal appeals in intermediate appellate courts in 24 states. Overall, from 1987 to 1991 these courts have experienced an enormous and rapid growth in criminal appeals. Criminal appeals filed in IACs grew at a rate of 21 percent, which is five times greater than the rate of growth in civil appeals, although a limited number of courts (seven) did have a decrease in filings. Hawaii experienced the greatest drop in the rate of filings, but this decrease might be attributed to the fact that the Supreme Court of Hawaii has jurisdiction over criminal cases from the circuit, family, and district trial courts. This route of appeal differs from the majority of states with an intermediate appellate court, where appeals are filed with the intermediate appellate court and can subsequently be appealed to the court of last resort.

TEXT TABLE II.6 Trends in Mandatory Criminal Appeals in Intermediate Appellate Courts, 1985-1991

	IAC Mandatory Criminal Appeals 1985	IAC Mandatory Criminal Appeals 1986	IAC Mandatory Criminal Appeals 1987	IAC Mandatory Criminal Appeals 1988	IAC Mandatory Criminal Appeals 1989	IAC Mandatory Criminal Appeals 1990	IAC Mandatory Criminal Appeals 1991	Growth Index Appeals 1987-1991
Alabama	1,520	1,537	1,695	1,784	2,132	2,042	1,829	108
Alaska	445	504	469	433	404	429	454	97
Arizona	1,396	1,652	1,645	1,919	1,949	2,418	2,595	158
Arkansas	220	241	245	285	312	350	361	147
California	5,255	4,969	5,093	5,656	6,210	6,569	6,275	123
Hawaii	39	32	61	53	65	61	52	85
Idaho	68	82	82	111	104	115	136	166
Illinois	3,468	3,419	3,793	3,708	3,810	3,810	4,177	110
Indiana	452	490	591	619	828	1,156	1,025	173
Iowa	204	160	136	173	159	140	132	97
Kentucky	609	596	614	629	717	688	799	130
Louisiana	943	997	1,072	1,090	969	1,137	1,009	94
Maryland	751	779	835	862	929	1,041	1,085	130
Massachusetts	412	446	408	434	416	544	593	145
Michigan			2,950	3,222	4,641	6,046	5,585	189
Minnesota	335	357	407	430	386	417	402	99
Missouri	810	751	726	691	700	753	713	98
New Mexico	233	427	293	237	328	304	290	99
North Carolina	503	516	432	483	477	496	434	100
Ohio	3,129	3,096	3,376	3,259	3,541	3,684	3,585	106
Oregon	1,735	1,753	1,929	1,805	1,675	1,675	2,613	135
South Carolina	15	0	0	0	1	31	49	327
Texas	4,538	4,453	4,098	4,377	4,805	4,080	4,627	113
Washington	1,051	1,045	1,083	1,281	1,334	1,575	1,728	160
Wisconsin	521	550	579	575	666	952	992	171
Total	28,652	28,852	32,612	34,116	37,558	40,513	41,540	127

Six states experienced an average annual growth rate of 10 to 17 percent during this time period, which means that, if this trend continues, the caseload will have doubled in just two more years. Those states with the highest rates of growth over five years include Michigan (89 percent), Indiana (73 percent), Wisconsin (71 percent), Idaho (66 percent), Washington (60 percent), and Arizona (58 percent). The growth rate in these six states is substantial, but the situation is most severe—both in terms of volume and growth—in Michigan. Whereas the volume of cases in some IACs in the 1960s and 1970s were doubling every decade, Michigan has nearly doubled its criminal caseload in 5 years.

States that are on track to see mandatory criminal appeals increase by between 50 percent and 67 percent by 1996 include Arkansas, California, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Oregon. While criminal appeals tend to be less complex than civil cases, courts have to expend time and effort to dispose of them properly.¹⁴ Because these cases are mandatory and must be heard by the court, there is little hope for relief

unless the court adopts some type of expedited procedure. If courts do not find innovative ways to expedite the routine criminal appeals, they will find themselves with less time to handle the complex civil and criminal cases, and their backlog will continue to grow.

Discretionary Civil Appeals In Courts of Last Resort

Courts of last resort are able by their jurisdictional nature to decide what types of cases they will hear during any given year. The justices of these courts rarely turn down cases where there is a state constitutional question at issue or where an advisory opinion is sought. **Text Table II.7** shows that from 1987 to 1991, 13 states were able to provide statistics on the number of discretionary civil petitions filed in their state supreme courts. Overall, discretionary civil appeals increased by 14 percent, although five states experienced no change or a decrease during this period. The national picture is shaped primarily by the relatively large number of filings in California, New York, and Ohio. California is exceptional in that it has experienced an average annual increase in discretionary civil appeals of nearly 10 percent since 1987. In comparison, West Virginia, the one state where the

¹⁴ John Wold, *Going Through the Motions: The Monotony of Appellate Court Decision-making*, 62 *Judicature* No. 2 (1978).

TEXT TABLE II.7 Trends in Discretionary Civil Appeals in Courts of Last Resort, 1987-1991

State	COLR Discretionary Civil Appeals 1987	COLR Discretionary Civil Appeals 1988	COLR Discretionary Civil Appeals 1989	COLR Discretionary Civil Appeals 1990	COLR Discretionary Civil Appeals 1991	Growth Index 1987-1991
California	1,092	1,099	1,560	1,633	1,713	157
Illinois	788	760	686	686	737	94
Louisiana	1,131	1,284	1,291	1,262	1,364	121
Michigan	880	1,036	1,155	1,109	975	111
Minnesota	321	331	361	338	331	103
New York	1,400	1,435	1,532	1,421	1,494	107
North Carolina	293	297	210	330	273	93
Ohio	1,159	1,100	1,066	1,234	1,338	115
Oregon	271	223	256	256	193	71
Virginia	577	574	631	586	702	122
Washington	324	276	255	263	283	87
West Virginia	422	394	419	417	524	124
Wisconsin	488	542	481	474	487	100
Total	9,146	9,351	9,903	10,009	10,414	114

TEXT TABLE II.8 Trends in Discretionary Criminal Appeals in Courts of Last Resort, 1987-1991

State	COLR Discretionary Criminal Appeals 1987	COLR Discretionary Criminal Appeals 1988	COLR Discretionary Criminal Appeals 1989	COLR Discretionary Criminal Appeals 1990	COLR Discretionary Criminal Appeals 1991	Growth Index 1987-1991
California	1,212	1,132	1,459	1,776	1,792	148
Illinois	800	712	769	769	839	105
Louisiana	1,685	1,969	1,837	1,422	1,534	91
Michigan	1,157	1,567	1,610	1,318	1,218	105
Minnesota	143	161	187	166	193	135
New York	2,800	2,831	2,859	3,066	2,914	104
North Carolina	316	298	185	191	191	60
Ohio	687	670	620	638	646	94
Texas	1,339	1,416	1,792	1,380	1,340	100
Oregon	409	310	218	218	333	81
Virginia	344	371	419	536	676	197
Washington	327	284	253	293	275	84
West Virginia	176	182	168	192	181	103
Wisconsin	256	279	325	252	365	143
Total	11,651	12,182	12,701	12,217	12,497	107

jurisdiction of the COLR is entirely discretionary and there is no intermediate appellate court, experienced growth in civil cases at one-half the rate of California (about 5 percent per year).

Discretionary Criminal Appeals In Courts of Last Resort

Between 1987 and 1991, courts of last resort had a 7 percent increase in the total number of discretionary criminal cases filed. There is a good deal of variance, however, between the 13 COLRs displayed in **Text Table II.8** in both volume and growth. Four states experienced a decline in discretionary criminal appeals

since 1987, while an additional five states had average annual growth rates of less than 1 percent. In contrast, the remaining four states (California, Minnesota, Virginia, and Wisconsin) are experiencing average annual growth rates sufficient to double the number of discretionary criminal filings by 1996. The COLR in California appears to be facing the deepest crisis in volume in that it has experienced the largest increase in both discretionary civil and criminal appeals since 1987.

With states that are experiencing a rise in the discretionary caseloads, it is important that they develop methods to dispose of these cases in a timely manner. From casual observation, the amount of time spent disposing of discretionary appeals is uncertain given that few are

granted and actually decided on the merits. However, any increase in appeals reaching a court of last resort is important because these courts are fixed in size by state constitution, and additional justices are rarely if ever added to the court.

Conclusion

The data contained in this *Report* suggest that state courts of last resort and intermediate appellate courts operate under conditions of high caseload volume. Although only particular state COLRs and IACs continue to experience the rapid growth found in earlier decades, increases in caseload remain substantial. Appellate caseloads nationally grew by over 3 percent between 1990 and 1991. Moreover, the larger caseloads that a majority of appellate courts experienced in 1991 were part of a trend since 1984.

- IACs have been confronted with substantial increases in mandatory appeals from 1984 to 1991, which account for the largest share of their caseloads.
- COLRs have faced consistent growth in discretionary petitions from 1984 to 1991, which account for the largest share of their caseloads.

Systematic information on caseload composition helps clarify both the subject matter jurisdiction and the nature of appellate court caseloads. Two aspects of caseload composition are examined: the relative frequency of civil and criminal appeals and how the composition is changing over time.

- Mandatory civil appeals in IACs grew by 6 percent between 1987 and 1991, while mandatory criminal appeals in IACs grew by 27 percent over the same period.
- Discretionary civil appeals in COLRs increased by 14 percent from 1987 to 1991, while discretionary criminal appeals in COLRs were up by 7 percent.

The consequences of these increases over time is a pronounced inability of appellate courts to keep up. Most simply do not dispose of as many appeals as are filed, as reflected clearly in the number of courts with three-year clearance rates below 100 percent. The concern is most pronounced for the categories of cases that make up the bulk of the work load handled at each appellate court level:

- Nearly three-quarters of the IACs had three-year clearance rates of less than 100 percent for mandatory appeals.
- Less than one-third of the COLRs had three-year clearance rates for discretionary petitions of more than 100 percent.

To summarize, the success that appellate courts are having in meeting the demands placed on them is limited. Caseload pressures continue to confront state appellate courts, and many are having difficulty keeping up.

PART

III

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1991 STATE COURT CASELOAD TABLES

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Part III: 1991 State Court Caseload Tables

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TABLE 1: Reported National Caseload for State Appellate Courts, 1991

Reported Caseload	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	
Courts of last resort:			
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:			
A. Number of reported complete cases	18,627	15,986	
Number of courts reporting complete data	40	32	
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary petitions	3,054	4,970	
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions	5	8	
C. Number of reported cases that are incomplete	2,416	2,057	
Number of courts reporting incomplete data	5	4	
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:			
A. Number of reported complete petitions	47,319	38,027	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions	41	31	
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	3,020	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	3	
C. Number of reported petitions that are incomplete	1,669	7,189	
Number of courts reporting incomplete petitions	3	9	
Intermediate appellate courts:			
I. Mandatory jurisdiction cases:			
A. Number of reported complete cases	114,328	106,556	
Number of courts reporting complete data	37	34	
B. Number of reported complete cases that include some discretionary petitions	37,417	42,137	
Number of courts reporting complete data with some discretionary petitions	6	8	
C. Number of reported cases that are incomplete	0	0	
Number of courts reporting incomplete data	0	0	
II. Discretionary jurisdiction petitions:			
A. Number of reported complete petitions	20,273	19,852	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions	19	17	
B. Number of reported complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	0	
Number of courts reporting complete petitions that include some mandatory cases	0	0	
C. Number of reported petitions that are incomplete	0	0	
Number of courts reporting incomplete petitions	0	0	
Summary section for all appellate courts:			
	Reported filings		
	<u>COLR</u>	<u>IAC</u>	<u>Total</u>
A. Number of reported complete cases/petitions	65,946	134,601	200,547
B. Number of reported complete cases/petitions that include other case types	3,054	37,417	40,471
C. Number of reported cases/petitions that are incomplete	4,085	0	4,085
Total	73,085	172,018	245,103

Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	356	256	27	612	122	383	77
Court of Appeals	454	60	11	514	171	465	155
State Total	810	316	38	1,126	141	848	106
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	100	1,082	NA	1,182	236		
Court of Appeals	4,746	113	NA	4,859	231		
State Total	4,846	1,195		6,041	232		
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	534 C	(C)	NA	534	76		
Court of Appeals	1,200	NJ	NJ	1,200	200	1,200	200
State Total	1,734 *				1,734	133	
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	31	4,992	193 A	5,023	718	224	32
Courts of Appeal	13,024	7,025	734	20,049	228	13,758	156
State Total	13,055	12,017	927 *	25,072	264	13,982	147
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	202 A	1,063	NA	1,265	181		
Court of Appeals	2,147	NJ	NJ	2,147	134	2,147	134
State Total	2,349 *	1,063		3,412	148		
CONNECTICUT							
Supreme Court	302	207	NA	509	73		
Appellate Court	1,091	95	NA	1,186	132		
State Total	1,393	302		1,695	106		
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	662	1,324	NA	1,986	284		
District Courts of Appeal	15,670	2,591	NA	18,261	320		
State Total	16,332	3,915		20,247	316		
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	696	1,085	162	1,781	254	858	123
Court of Appeals	2,265	450	NA	2,715	302		
State Total	2,961	1,535		4,496	281		
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	688	32	11	720	144	699	140
Intermediate Court of Appeals	123	NJ	NJ	123	41	123	41
State Total	811	32	11	843	105	822	103
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	398 C	93	NA	491	98		
Court of Appeals	224	NJ	NJ	224	75	224	75
State Total	622 *	93		715	89		

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
306	241	NA	547		COLR	1
389	66	NA	455		IAC	1
695	307		1,002			
122	1,061	0	1,183	122	COLR	6
4,095	99	NA	4,194		IAC	6
4,217	1,160		5,377			
508 C	(C)	NA	508		COLR	2
1,199	NJ	NJ	1,199	1,199	IAC	2
1,707 •				1,707		
28	4,907	3,314	4,935	3,342	COLR	6
12,880	7,266	NA	20,146		IAC	2
12,908	12,173			25,081		
NA	1,326 B	NA			COLR	1
2,192	NJ	NJ	2,192	2,192	IAC	1
	1,326 •					
301	NA	NA			COLR	1
1,067	NA	NA			IAC	1
1,368						
655	1,361	NA	2,016		COLR	1
15,994	2,421	NA	18,415		IAC	1
16,649	3,782		20,431			
649	986 B	NA	1,635		COLR	2
1,886	386	NA	2,272		IAC	2
2,535	1,372 •		3,907			
614	32	NA	646		COLR	2
126	NJ	NJ	126	126	IAC	2
740	32		772			
397 C	79	NA	476		COLR	1
260	NJ	NJ	260	260	IAC	4
657 •	79			736		

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Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ILLINOIS**							
Supreme Court	182	1,673	150	1,855	265	332	47
Appellate Court	8,785 B	(B)	NA	8,785	176		
State Total	8,967 *				10,640	187	
IOWA							
Supreme Court	1,355	NA	NA				
Court of Appeals	654	NJ	NJ	654	109	654	109
State Total	2,009						
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	147	500	38	647	92	185	26
Court of Appeals	1,297 B	(B)	NA	1,297	130		
State Total	1,444 *				1,944	114	
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	357	788 A	NA	1,145	164		
Court of Appeals	2,882	314	NA	3,196	228		
State Total	3,239	1,102 *		4,341	207		
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	106	2,898	722	3,004	429	828	118
Courts of Appeal	3,782	4,844	1,634	8,626	163	5,416	102
State Total	3,888	7,742	2,356	11,630	194	6,244	104
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	259	646	131	905	129	390	56
Court of Special Appeals	2,035	254	29	2,289	176	2,064	159
State Total	2,294	900	160	3,194	160	2,454	123
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	81	501	205	582	83	286	41
Appeals Court	1,527	950	NA	2,477	177		
State Total	1,608	1,451		3,059	146		
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	2	2,233	64	2,235	319	66	9
Court of Appeals	11,825 B	(B)	NA	11,825	493		
State Total	11,827 *			14,060	454		
MINNESOTA							
Supreme Court	269	703	71	972	139	340	49
Court of Appeals	1,828	482	288	2,310	154	2,116	141
State Total	2,097	1,185	359	3,282	149	2,456	112
MISSOURI							
Supreme Court	371	710	84	1,081	154	455	65
Court of Appeals	3,706	NJ	NJ	3,706	116	3,706	116
State Total	4,077	710	84	4,787	123	4,161	107
NEW JERSEY							
Supreme Court	501	2,907	120	3,408	487	621	89
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	6,569	NJ	NA	6,569	235		
State Total	7,070	2,907		9,977	285		

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
137 8,387 B 8,524 *	1,551 (B)	89 NA	1,688 8,387 10,075	226	COLR IAC	1 1
1,110 B 682 1,792 *	320 A NJ 320 *	72 NJ 72	1,430 682 2,112	1,182 682 1,864	COLR IAC	1 4
291 1,165 B 1,456 *	NA (B)	NA NA	1,165		COLR IAC	5 5
324 2,347 2,671	702 A 315 1,017 *	NA NA	1,026 2,662 3,688		COLR IAC	6 3
101 3,745 3,846	3,084 4,440 7,524	774 1,624 2,398	3,185 8,185 11,370	875 5,369	COLR IAC 6,244	2 2
243 1,829 2,072	659 254 913	NA NA	902 2,083 2,985		COLR IAC	2 2
(B) 1,450	NA 950	286 B NA	2,400	286	COLR IAC	2 2
(B) 10,237 B	2,444 B (B)	NA NA	2,444 10,237 12,681		COLR IAC	1 1
219 1,818 2,037	627 395 1,022	71 219 290	846 2,213 3,059	290 2,037 2,327	COLR IAC	1 1
376 3,440 3,816	703 NJ 703	94 NJ 94	1,079 3,440 4,519	470 3,440 3,910	COLR IAC	1 1
557 6,770 7,327	2,941 NJ 2,941	NA 3 NJ	,498 6,770 10,268	6,770	COLR IAC	1 1

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Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
NEW MEXICO***							
Supreme Court	310	364	37	674	135	347	69
Court of Appeals	768	49	7	817	82	775	78
State Total	1,078	413	44	1,491	99	1,122	75
NORTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	137	492	52	629	90	189	27
Court of Appeals	1,325	415	174	1,740	145	1,499	125
State Total	1,462	907	226	2,369	125	1,688	89
NORTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	456	NJ	NJ	456	91	456	91
Court of Appeals	0	NJ	NJ	0	0	0	0
State Total	456	0	0	456	57	456	57
OHIO							
Supreme Court	592	1,984	163	2,576	368	755	108
Courts of Appeals	11,031	NJ	NJ	11,031	187	11,031	187
State Total	11,623	1,984	163	13,607	206	11,786	179
OREGON							
Supreme Court	197	845	98	1,042	149	295	42
Court of Appeals	5,123	NJ	NJ	5,123	512	5,123	512
State Total	5,320	845	98	6,165	363	5,418	319
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	339	95	95	434	87	434	87
Court of Appeals	425	NJ	NJ	425	71	425	71
State Total	764	95	95	859	78	859	78
UTAH							
Supreme Court	553	33	NA	586	117		
Court of Appeals	755	NA	NA				
State Total	1,308						
VIRGINIA****							
Supreme Court	20	1,936	169	1,956	279	189	27
Court of Appeals	490	1,853	327 A	2,343	234	817	82
State Total	510	3,789	496 *	4,299	253	1,006	59
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	137 B	881 A	NA	1,018	113		
Court of Appeals	3,789	355	NA	4,144	244		
State Total	3,926 *	1,236 *		5,162	199		
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	NJ	992	140	992	142	140	20
Court of Appeals	2,970 B	(B)	NA	2,970	228		
State Total	2,970 *			3,962	198		

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
386	334	NJ	720	386	COLR	5
771	9	NA	780		IAC	5
1,157	343		1,500			
119	498	54	617	173	COLR	2
1,414	415	NA	1,829		IAC	2
1,533	913		2,446			
408	NJ	NJ	408	408	COLR	1
6	NJ	NJ	6	6	IAC	3
414	0	0	414	414		
648	1,956	NA	2,604		COLR	1
11,569	NJ	NJ	11,569	11,569	IAC	1
12,217	1,956		14,173			
257 B	773	(B)	1,030	257	COLR	1
4,558	NJ	NJ	4,558	4,558	IAC	1
4,815 *	773		5,588	4,815		
560 B	NA	NA			COLR	2
374	NJ	NJ	374	374	IAC	4
934 *						
597 B	(B)	NA	597		COLR	1
725 B	(B)	NA	725		IAC	1
1,322 *			1,322			
13	1,295	38	1,308	51	COLR	1
(B)	2,308 B	NA	2,308		IAC	1
	3,603 *		3,616			
159 B	862 A	23	1,021	182	COLR	6
2,991	270	NA	3,261		IAC	6
3,150 *	1,132 *		4,282			
NJ	905	74	905	74	COLR	6
2,955 B	(B)	NA	2,955		IAC	6
2,955 *			3,860			

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Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions filed granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
States with no intermediate appellate court							
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	473 B	0 A	NA	473	95		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	1,567	36	NA	1,603	178		
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	646 C	(C)	NA	646	92		
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	912	80	4	992	110	916	102
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	636 A	NJ	NA	636	91		
NEBRASKA							
Supreme Court	834 B	(B)	NA	834	119		
NEVADA							
Supreme Court	1,080	NJ	NJ	1,080	216	1,080	216
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	NJ	597	NA	597	119		
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	445	201	NA	646	129		
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	366 B	31 A	7	397	79	373	75
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	542	36	1	578	116	543	109
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	NJ	3,180	973	3,180	636	973	195
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	301	NJ	NJ	301	60	301	60
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	1,000	1,028	NA	2,028	225		
Court of Civil Appeals	770	NJ	NJ	770	257	770	257
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,953	NJ	12	1,953	326	1,965	328
State Total	3,723	1,028			4,751	264	

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

<u>Total mandatory cases disposed</u>	<u>Total discretionary petitions disposed</u>	<u>Total discretionary petitions granted disposed</u>	<u>Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed</u>	<u>Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Point at which cases are counted</u>
439 B	0	NA	439		COLR	1
1,727	36	NA	1,763		COLR	1
574 C	(C)	NA	574		COLR	1
922	76	0	998	922	COLR	2
578 A	NJ	NA	578		COLR	1
1,420 B	(B)	NA	1,420		COLR	1
1,035	NJ	NJ	1,035	1,035	COLR	2
NJ	543	NA	543		COLR	1
472	188	NA	660		COLR	1
428 B	(B)	NA	428		COLR	2
656	33	NA	689		COLR	1
NJ	2,675	820	2,675	820	COLR	1
300	NJ	NJ	300	300	COLR	1
750	1,248	NA	1,998		COLR	1
673	NJ	NJ	673	673	IAC	1
2,243	NJ	NJ	2,243	2,243	IAC	1
3,666	1,248			4,914		

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Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	TOTAL CASES FILED						
	Total mandatory cases filed	Total discretionary petitions filed	Total discretionary petitions granted	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed		Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed granted	
				Number	Filed per judge	Number	Filed per judge
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	210	822	NA	1,032	206		
Court of Appeals	1,779	93	41	1,872	144	1,820	140
Tax Court	69	NJ	NJ	69	5	69	5
State Total	2,058	915		2,973	96		
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	289	4,420	NA	4,709	673		
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	10,339 B	(B)	NA	10,339	220		
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	2,201 B	(B)	NA	2,201	147		
State Total	12,829 *			17,249	250		
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	732	388	NA	1,120	124		
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,244 B	(B)	126	1,244	249	1,370	274
Court of Appeals	1,184	NJ	NJ	1,184	99	1,184	99
State Total	3,160 *			3,548	136		
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	97	3,456	263 A	3,553	508	360	51
Superior Court	6,743	NJ	NJ	6,743	450	6,743	450
Commonwealth Court	3,774	128	NA	3,902	434		
State Total	10,614	3,584		14,198	458		
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	192	775	59	967	193	251	50
Court of Criminal Appeals	899	71	13	970	108	912	101
Court of Appeals	961	131	21	1,092	91	982	82
State Total	2,052	977	93	3,029	117	2,145	83
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	2	1,283	145	1,285	143	147	16
Court of Criminal Appeals	2,189	1,340	210	3,529	392	2,399	267
Courts of Appeals	8,563	NJ	NJ	8,563	107	8,563	107
State Total	10,754	2,623	355	13,377	137	11,109	113

TOTAL CASES DISPOSED

Total mandatory cases disposed	Total discretionary petitions disposed	Total discretionary petitions granted disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions disposed	Sum of mandatory cases and discretionary petitions granted disposed	Court type	Point at which cases are counted
245	70	89	1,015	334	COLR	6
2,162	106	52	2,268	2,214	IAC	6
43	NJ	NJ	43	43	IAC	6
2,450	876	141	3,326	2,591		
293	3,907	195	4,200	488	COLR	1
12,885 B	(B)	NA	12,885		IAC	2
2,232 B	(B)	NA	2,232		IAC	2
15,410 *			19,317			
NA	NA	NA			COLR	1
814	412	126	1,226	940	COLR	2
1,123	NJ	NJ	1,123	1,123	IAC	
NA	NA	NA			COLR	6
6,514	NJ	NJ	6,514	6,514	IAC	1
3,551 B	NA	NA			IAC	1
(B)	708 B	63	708	63	COLR	1
923	37	NA	960		IAC	1
932	115	NA	1,047		IAC	1
	860 *		2,715			
2	1,301	130	1,303	132	COLR	1
2,273	1,387	232	3,660	2,505	COLR	5
8,091	NJ	NJ	8,091	8,091	IAC	1
10,366	2,688	362	13,054	10,728		

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Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of last resort

IAC = Intermediate appellate court

POINTS AT WHICH CASES ARE COUNTED:

- 1 = At the notice of appeal
- 2 = At the filing of trial record
- 3 = At the filing of trial record and complete briefs
- 4 = At transfer
- 5 = Other
- 6 = Varies

NOTE:

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.

() = **Mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction** cases cannot be separately identified. Data are reported within the jurisdiction where the court has the majority of its caseload.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

An absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that the data are complete.

- * See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.
- ** Total mandatory cases filed and disposed in the Illinois Supreme Court do not include the **miscellaneous record cases**.
- *** Total mandatory cases filed in the New Mexico Supreme Court do not include **petitions for extension of time** in criminal cases.
- **** Total cases filed in the Virginia Supreme Court reflect data reported by the clerk's office. See methodology for further discussion.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions granted** data do not include **original proceedings** and **administrative agency** cases.

Colorado—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed data do not include some reopened cases, some **disciplinary matters**, and some **interlocutory decisions**.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions filed and disposed data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory petitions** and some **discretionary advisory opinions**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—**Discretionary petitions granted and disposed** data do not include some **discretionary original proceedings**.

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Total discretionary filed and disposed data do not include some unclassified **discretionary petitions**.

Montana—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency, advisory opinions, and original proceedings**.

Pennsylvania—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include **original proceedings petitions**.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** filed data do not include **advisory opinions**, which are reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include **original proceeding petitions granted**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions filed and disposed data do not include some **discretionary petitions**.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Colorado—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**, and filed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Georgia—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include all **mandatory appeals and discretionary petitions granted** that are refiled as **mandatory** cases.

Illinois—Appellate Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the Court, which are reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Massachusetts—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions granted** disposed data include all **mandatory** cases.

Michigan—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

—Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

—Appellate Terms of Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

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Table 2: Reported Total Caseload for All State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

Oklahoma—Court of Criminal Appeals—Total mandatory filed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Total mandatory cases disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary petitions that were disposed**.

South Dakota—Total mandatory filed data include **discretionary advisory opinions**. Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Tennessee—Supreme Court—Total **discretionary petitions** disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction cases**.

Utah—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Appeals—Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include all **mandatory jurisdiction cases**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

Wisconsin—Court of Appeals—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary cases** and **certified questions from the federal courts**.

Idaho—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary original proceedings, interlocutory decisions** and **advisory opinions**, but do not include **mandatory interlocutory decisions**.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court—Total mandatory jurisdiction filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases**.

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	356	306	86	5	71	62
Court of Appeals	IAC	454	389	86	3	151	80
State Total		810	695	86	8	101	142
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	COLR	100	122	122	5	20	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	4,746	4,095	86	21	226	127
State Total		4,846	4,217	87	26	186	129
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	534 C	508 C	95	7	76	23
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,200	1,199	100	6	200	51
State Total		1,734 *	1,707 *	98	13	133	73
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	31	28	90	7	4	1
Courts of Appeal	IAC	13,024	12,880	99	88	148	43
State Total		13,055	12,908	99	95	137	43
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	COLR	202 A	NA		7	29	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,147	2,192	102	16	134	64
State Total		2,349 *			23	102	70
CONNECTICUT							
Supreme Court	COLR	302	301	100	7	43	9
Appellate Court	IAC	1,091	1,067	98	9	121	33
State Total		1,393	1,368	98	16	87	42
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	COLR	662	655	99	7	95	5
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	15,670	15,994	102	57	275	118
State Total		16,332	16,649	102	64	255	123
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	696	649	93	7	99	11
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,265	1,886	83	9	252	34
State Total		2,961	2,535	86	16	185	45
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	COLR	688	614	89	5	138	61
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	123	126	102	3	41	11
State Total		811	740	91	8	101	71
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	COLR	398 C	397 C	100	5	80	38
Court of Appeals	IAC	224	260	116	3	75	22
State Total		622 *	657 *	106	8	78	60
ILLINOIS							
Supreme Court	COLR	182	137	75	7	26	2
Appellate Court	IAC	8,785 B	8,387 B	95	50	176	76
State Total		8,967 *	8,524 *	95	57	157	78

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
IOWA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,355	1,110 B		9	151	48
Court of Appeals	IAC	654	682	104	6	109	23
State Total		2,009	1,792 *		15	134	72
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	147	291	198	7	21	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,297 B	1,165 B	90	10	130	52
State Total		1,444 *	1,456 *	101	17	85	58
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	COLR	357	324	91	7	51	10
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,882	2,347	81	14	206	78
State Total		3,239	2,671	82	21	154	87
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	106	101	95	7	15	2
Courts of Appeal	IAC	3,782	3,745	99	53	71	89
State Total		3,888	3,846	99	60	65	91
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	COLR	259	243	94	7	37	5
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	2,035	1,829	90	13	157	42
State Total		2,294	2,072	90	20	115	47
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	81	NA		7	12	1
Appeals Court	IAC	1,527	1,450	95	14	109	25
State Total		1,608				21	77
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	COLR	2	NA		7	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	11,825 B	10,237 B	87	24	493	126
State Total		11,827 *			31	382	126
MINNESOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	269	219	81	7	38	6
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,828	1,818	99	15	122	41
State Total		2,097	2,037	97	22	95	47
MISSOURI							
Supreme Court	COLR	371	376	101	7	53	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,706	3,440	93	32	116	72
State Total		4,077	3,816	94	39	105	79
NEW JERSEY							
Supreme Court	COLR	501	557	111	7	72	6
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	6,569	6,770	103	28	235	85
State Total		7,070	7,327	104	35	202	91
NEW MEXICO							
Supreme Court	COLR	310	386	125	5	62	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	768	771	100	10	77	50
State Total		1,078	1,157	107	15	72	70
NORTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	COLR	137	119	87	7	20	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,325	1,414	107	12	110	20
State Total		1,462	1,533	105	19	77	22

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
NORTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	456	408	89	5	91	72
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	6		3		
State Total		456	414	91	8	57	72
OHIO							
Supreme Court	COLR	592	648	109	7	85	5
Courts of Appeals	IAC	11,031	11,569	105	59	187	101
State Total		11,623	12,217	105	66	176	106
OREGON							
Supreme Court	COLR	197	257 B		7	28	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	5,123	4,558	89	10	512	175
State Total		5,320	4,815 *		17	313	182
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	COLR	339	560 B		5	68	10
Court of Appeals	IAC	425	374	88	6	71	12
State Total		764	934 *		11	69	21
UTAH							
Supreme Court	COLR	553	597 B		5	111	31
Court of Appeals	IAC	755	725 B		7	108	43
State Total		1,308	1,322 *		12	109	74
VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	20	13	65	7	3	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	490	(B)		10	49	8
State Total		510			17	30	8
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	COLR	137 B	159 B	116	9	15	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	3,789	2,991	79	17	223	76
State Total		3,926 *	3,150 *	80	26	151	78
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		7		
Court of Appeals	IAC	2,970 B	2,955 B	99	13	228	60
State Total		2,970 *	2,955 *	99	20	149	60
States with no intermediate appellate court							
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	COLR	473 B	439 B	93	5	95	70
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	COLR	1,567	1,727	110	9	174	262
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	646 C	574 C	89	7	92	52
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	COLR	912	922	101	9	101	35
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	636 A	578 A	91	7	91	79

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TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
NEBRASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	834 B	1,420 B	170	7	119	52
NEVADA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,080	1,035	96	5	216	84
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	COLR	445	472	106	5	89	44
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	366 B	428 B	117	5	73	52
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	COLR	542	656	121	5	108	96
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	COLR	301	300	100	5	60	65
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,000	750	75	9	111	24
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	770	673	87	3	257	19
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	1,953	2,243	115	6	326	48
State Total		3,723	3,666	98	18	207	91
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	210	245	117	5	42	4
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,779	2,162	122	13	137	32
Tax Court	IAC	69	43	62	1	69	1
State Total		2,058	2,450	119	19	108	37
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	COLR	289	293	101	7	41	2
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	10,339 B	12,885 B	125	47	220	57
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	2,201 B	2,232 B	101	15	147	12
State Total		12,829 *	15,410 *	120	69	186	71
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	732	NA		9	81	23
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	1,244 B	814		5	249	39
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,184	1,123	95	12	99	37
State Total		3,160 *			26	122	100
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	97	NA		7	14	1
Superior Court	IAC	6,743	6,514	97	15	450	56
Commonwealth Court	IAC	3,774	3,551 B		9	419	32
State Total		10,614			31	342	89

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TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	COLR	192	NA		5	38	4
Court of Appeals	IAC	961	932	97	12	80	19
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	899	923	103	9	100	18
State Total		2,052			26	79	41
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	2	2	100	9	0	0
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	2,189	2,273	104	9	243	13
Courts of Appeals	IAC	8,563	8,091	94	80	107	49
State Total		10,754	10,366	96	98	110	62

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

NOTE:

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.

— = Inapplicable

(B) = **Mandatory jurisdiction** cases cannot be separately identified and are reported with **discretionary petitions**. (See Table 4.)

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

• See the qualifying footnote for each court in the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Colorado—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed data do not include some reopened cases some **disciplinary matters** and some **interlocutory decisions**.

Montana—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals, advisory opinions, and original proceedings**.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions and discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Illinois—Appellate Court—Total filed and disposed mandatory data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include some **discretionary cases that were dismissed**.

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Michigan—Court of Appeals—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

—Appellate Terms of Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

Oklahoma—Court of Criminal Appeals—Total mandatory filed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Total mandatory disposed data include some **discretionary cases**.

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary petitions that were disposed**.

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TABLE 3: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Mandatory Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed data include **discretionary advisory opinions**. Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary advisory opinions**.

Utah—Supreme Court—Total mandatory disposed data include **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Appeals—Total mandatory disposed data include all **discretionary petitions**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include some **discretionary petitions**.

Wisconsin—Court of Appeals—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary cases** and **certified questions from the federal courts**.

Idaho—Supreme Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary original proceedings, interlocutory decisions** and **advisory opinions**, but do not include **mandatory interlocutory decisions**.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court—Total mandatory filed and disposed data include **discretionary petition cases**, but do not include **mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases**.

TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1991

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court							
ALASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	256	241	94	5	51	45
Court of Appeals	IAC	60	66	110	3	20	11
State Total		316	307	97	8	40	55
ARIZONA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,082	1,061	98	5	216	29
Court of Appeals	IAC	113	99	88	21	5	3
State Total		1,195	1,160	97	26	46	32
ARKANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA		7		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total					13		
CALIFORNIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	4,992	4,907	98	7	713	16
Courts of Appeal	IAC	7,025	7,266	103	88	80	23
State Total		12,017	12,173	101	95	126	40
COLORADO							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,063	1,326 B		7	152	31
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		16		
State Total		1,063	1,326 *		23	46	31
CONNECTICUT							
Supreme Court	COLR	207	NA		7	30	6
Appellate Court	IAC	95	NA		9	11	3
State Total		302			16	19	9
FLORIDA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,324	1,361	103	7	189	10
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	2,591	2,421	93	57	45	20
State Total		3,915	3,782	97	64	61	29
GEORGIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,085	986 B		7	155	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	450	386	86	9	50	7
State Total		1,535	1,372 *		16	96	23
HAWAII							
Supreme Court	COLR	32	32	100	5	6	3
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		32	32	100	8	4	3
IDAHO							
Supreme Court	COLR	93	79	85	5	19	9
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		93	79	85	8	12	9

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
ILLINOIS							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,673	1,551	93	7	239	14
Appellate Court	IAC	(B)	(B)		50		
State Total					57		
IOWA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	320 A		9		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total			320 •		15		
KANSAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	500	NA		7	71	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	(B)	(B)		10		
State Total		500			17		20
KENTUCKY							
Supreme Court	COLR	788 A	702 A	89	7	113	21
Court of Appeals	IAC	314	315	100	14	22	8
State Total		1,102 •	1,017 •	92	21	52	30
LOUISIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,898	3,084	106	7	414	68
Courts of Appeal	IAC	4,844	4,440	92	53	91	114
State Total		7,742	7,524	97	60	129	182
MARYLAND							
Court of Appeals	COLR	646	659	102	7	92	13
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	254	254	100	13	20	5
State Total		900	913	101	20	45	19
MASSACHUSETTS							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	501	NA		7	72	8
Appeals Court	IAC	950	950	100	14	68	16
State Total		1,451			21	69	24
MICHIGAN							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,233	2,444 B		7	319	24
Court of Appeals	IAC	(B)	(B)		24		
State Total					31		
MINNESOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	703	627	89	7	100	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	482	395	82	15	32	11
State Total		1,185	1,022	86	22	54	27
MISSOURI							
Supreme Court	COLR	710	703	99	7	101	14
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		32		
State Total		710	703	99	39	18	14
NEW JERSEY							
Supreme Court	COLR	2,907	2,941	101	7	415	37
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	NJ	NJ		28		
State Total		2,907	2,941	101	35	83	37
NEW MEXICO							
Supreme Court	COLR	364	334	92	5	73	24
Court of Appeals	IAC	49	9	18	10	5	3
State Total		413	343	83	15	28	27

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
NORTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	COLR	492	498	101	7	70	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	15	415	100	12	35	6
State Total		907	913	101	19	48	13
NORTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
State Total		0	0		8	0	0
OHIO							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,984	1,956	99	7	283	18
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		59		
State Total		1,984	1,956	99	66	30	18
OREGON							
Supreme Court	COLR	845	773	91	7	121	29
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		10		
State Total		845	773	91	17	50	29
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Supreme Court	COLR	95	NA		5	19	3
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total		95			11	9	3
UTAH							
Supreme Court	COLR	33	(B)		5	7	2
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	(B)		7		
State Total					12		
VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,936	1,295	67	7	277	31
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,853	2,308 B		10	185	29
State Total		3,789	3,603 *		17	223	60
WASHINGTON							
Supreme Court	COLR	881 A	862 A	98	9	98	18
Court of Appeals	IAC	355	270	76	17	21	7
State Total		1,236 *	1,132 *	92	26	48	25
WISCONSIN							
Supreme Court	COLR	992	905	91	7	142	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA		13		
State Total					20		
States with no intermediate appellate court							
DELAWARE							
Supreme Court	COLR	0 A	0 A		5		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Court of Appeals	COLR	36	36	100	9	4	6
MAINE							
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	(B)	(B)		7		
MISSISSIPPI							
Supreme Court	COLR	80	76	95	9	9	3

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed per judge</u>	<u>Filed per 100,000 population</u>
MONTANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		7		
NEBRASKA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA		7		
NEVADA							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Supreme Court	COLR	597	543	91	5	119	54
RHODE ISLAND							
Supreme Court	COLR	201	188	94	5	40	20
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Supreme Court	COLR	31 A	(B)		5	6	4
VERMONT							
Supreme Court	COLR	36	33	92	5	7	6
WEST VIRGINIA							
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	3,180	2,675	84	5	636	177
WYOMING							
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ		5		
States with multiple appellate courts at any level							
ALABAMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,028	1,248	121	9	114	25
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		3		
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		6		
State Total		1,028	1,248	121	18	57	25
INDIANA							
Supreme Court	COLR	822	770	94	5	164	15
Court of Appeals	IAC	93	106	114	13	7	2
Tax Court	IAC	NJ	NJ		1		
State Total		915 *	876	96	19	48	16
NEW YORK							
Court of Appeals	COLR	4,420	3,907	88	7	631	24
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	(B)	(B)		47		
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	(B)	(B)		15		
State Total					69		
OKLAHOMA							
Supreme Court	COLR	388	NA		9	43	12
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	NA	412		5		
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		12		
State Total					26		
PENNSYLVANIA							
Supreme Court	COLR	3,456	NA		7	494	29
Superior Court	IAC	NJ	NJ		15		
Commonwealth Court	IAC	128	NA		9	14	1
State Total		3,584			31	116	30

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TABLE 4: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Filed	Disposed	Disposed as a percent of filed	Number of judges	Filed per judge	Filed per 100,000 population
TENNESSEE							
Supreme Court	COLR	775	708 B		5	155	16
Court of Appeals	IAC	131	115	88	12	11	3
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	71	37	52	9	8	1
State Total		977	860 *		26	38	20
TEXAS							
Supreme Court	COLR	1,283	1,301	101	9	143	7
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	1,340	1,387	104	9	149	8
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ		80		
State Total		2,623	2,688	102	98	27	15

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

NOTE:

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.

(B) = Discretionary petitions cannot be separately identified and are reported with mandatory cases. (See Table 3).

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

* See the qualifying footnote for each court in the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions filed and disposed data do not include some discretionary interlocutory petitions and some discretionary advisory opinions that are reported with the mandatory jurisdiction cases.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Discretionary petitions granted and disposed do not include some discretionary original proceedings.

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions filed and disposed data do not include some unclassified discretionary petitions.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions filed data do not include advisory opinions, which are reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions filed and disposed data do not include some discretionary petitions that are reported with mandatory jurisdiction cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Colorado—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.

Georgia—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases and discretionary petitions granted that are refiled as mandatory cases.

Michigan—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include mandatory jurisdiction cases.

Tennessee—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Total discretionary petitions disposed data include all mandatory jurisdiction cases.

TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted In State Appellate Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
ALASKA								
Supreme Court	COLR	256	27	NA	11		5	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	60	11	NA	18		3	4
State Total		316	38		12			
ARIZONA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,082	NA	0			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	113	NA	NA			21	
State Total		1,195						
ARKANSAS								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total								
CALIFORNIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	4,992	193 A	3,314			7	28
Courts of Appeal	IAC	7,025	734	NA	10		88	8
State Total		12,017	927 *					
COLORADO								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,063	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			16	
State Total		1,063						
CONNECTICUT								
Supreme Court	COLR	207	NA	NA			7	
Appellate Court	IAC	95	NA	NA			9	
State Total		302						
FLORIDA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,324	NA	NA			7	
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	2,591	NA	NA			57	
State Total		3,915						
GEORGIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,085	162	NA	15		7	23
Court of Appeals	IAC	450	NA	NA			9	
State Total		1,535						
HAWAII								
Supreme Court	COLR	32	11	NA	34		5	2
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		32	11		34			
IDAHO								
Supreme Court	COLR	93	NA	NA			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		93						

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
ILLINOIS								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,673	150	89	9	59	7	21
Appellate Court	IAC	NA	NA	NA			50	
State Total								
IOWA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NA	NA	72			9	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total				72				
KANSAS								
Supreme Court	COLR	500	38	NA	8		7	5
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			10	
State Total								
KENTUCKY								
Supreme Court	COLR	788 A	NA	NA			7	
Court of Appeals	IAC	314	NA	NA			14	
State Total		1,102 *						
LOUISIANA								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,898	722	774	25	107	7	103
Courts of Appeal	IAC	4,844	1,634	1,624	34	99	53	31
State Total		7,742	2,356	2,398	30	102	60	39
MARYLAND								
Court of Appeals	COLR	646	131	NA	20		7	19
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	254	29	NA	11		13	2
State Total		900	160				18	
MASSACHUSETTS								
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	501	205	NA	41		7	29
Appeals Court	IAC	950	NA	NA			14	
State Total				1,451				
MICHIGAN								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,233	64	NA	3		7	9
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			24	
State Total								
MINNESOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	703	71	71	10	100	7	10
Court of Appeals	IAC	482	288	219	60	76	15	19
State Total		1,185	359	290	30	81	22	16
MISSOURI								
Supreme Court	COLR	710	84	94	12	112	7	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			32	
State Total		710	84	94	12	112		
NEW JERSEY								
Supreme Court	COLR	2,907	120	NA	4		7	17
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	IAC	NJ	NA	NJ			28	
State Total		2,907						

(continued on next page)

TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Court type</u>	<u>Discretionary petitions:</u>			<u>Granted as a percent of filed</u>	<u>Disposed as a percent of granted</u>	<u>Number of judges</u>	<u>Filed granted per judge</u>
		<u>filed</u>	<u>filed granted</u>	<u>granted disposed</u>				
NEW MEXICO								
Supreme Court	COLR	364	37	NJ	10		5	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	49	7	NA	14	10	1	
State Total		413	44				11	
NORTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	COLR	492	52	54	11	104	7	7
Court of Appeals	IAC	415	174	NA	42	12	15	
State Total		907	226		25			
NORTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ	NJ	NJ			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			3	
State Total		0	0	0				
OHIO								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,984	163	NA	8		7	23
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			59	
State Total		1,984	163		8			
OREGON								
Supreme Court	COLR	845	98	NA	12		7	14
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			10	
State Total		845	98		12			
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	COLR	95	95	NA	100		5	19
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			6	
State Total		95	95		100			
UTAH								
Supreme Court	COLR	33	NA	NA			5	
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			7	
State Total								
VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,936	169	38	9	22	7	24
Court of Appeals	IAC	1,853	327 A	NA			10	33
State Total		3,789	496 *					
WASHINGTON								
Supreme Court	COLR	881 A	NA	23			9	
Court of Appeals	IAC	355	NA	NA			17	
State Total		1,236 *						
WISCONSIN								
Supreme Court	COLR	992	140	74	14	53	7	20
Court of Appeals	IAC	NA	NA	NA			13	
State Total								

(continued on next page)

TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge	
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed					
States with no intermediate appellate court									
DELAWARE									
Supreme Court	COLR	0	A	NA	NA		5		
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Court of Appeals	COLR	36		NA	NA		9		
MAINE									
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	NA		NA	NA		7		
MISSISSIPPI									
Supreme Court	COLR	80		4	0	5	9	0	
MONTANA									
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ		NA	NA		7		
NEBRASKA									
Supreme Court	COLR	NA		NA	NA		7		
NEVADA									
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ		NJ	NJ		5		
NEW HAMPSHIRE									
Supreme Court	COLR	597		NA	NA		5		
RHODE ISLAND									
Supreme Court	COLR	201		NA	NA		5		
SOUTH DAKOTA									
Supreme Court	COLR	31		7	NA	23	5	1	
VERMONT									
Supreme Court	COLR	36		1	NA	3	5	0	
WEST VIRGINIA									
Supreme Court of Appeals	COLR	3,180		973	820	31	84	5	195
WYOMING									
Supreme Court	COLR	NJ		NJ	NJ		5		
States with multiple appellate courts at any level									
ALABAMA									
Supreme Court	COLR	1,028		NA	NA		9		
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	NJ		NJ	NJ		3		
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	NJ		12	NJ		6	2	
State Total					1,028				
INDIANA									
Supreme Court	COLR	822		NA	89		5		
Court of Appeals	IAC	93		41	52	44	127	13	3
Tax Court	IAC	NJ		NJ	NJ		1		
State Total		915			141				

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TABLE 5: Selected Caseload and Processing Measures for Discretionary Petitions Granted in State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Discretionary petitions:			Granted as a percent of filed	Disposed as a percent of granted	Number of judges	Filed granted per judge
		filed	filed granted	granted disposed				
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	COLR	4,420	NA	195			7	
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA	NA			47	
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	IAC	NA	NA	NA			15	
State Total								
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	COLR	88	NA	NA			9	
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	NA	126	126		100	5	25
Court of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			12	
State Total								
PENNSYLVANIA								
Supreme Court	COLR	3,456	263 A	NA			7	38
Superior Court	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			15	
Commonwealth Court	IAC	128	NA	NA			9	
State Total		3,584						
TENNESSEE								
Supreme Court	COLR	775	59	63	8	107	5	12
Court of Appeals	IAC	131	21	NA	16		12	2
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	71	13	NA	18		9	1
State Total		977	93		10			
TEXAS								
Supreme Court	COLR	1,283	145	130	11	90	9	16
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	1,340	210	232	16	110	9	23
Courts of Appeals	IAC	NJ	NJ	NJ			80	
State Total		2,623	355	362	14	102		

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of Last Resort

IAC = Intermediate Appellate Court

NOTE:

NA = Data are unavailable. Blank spaces indicate that a calculation is inappropriate.

NJ = This case type is not handled in this court.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

* See the qualifying footnote for each court in the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A:

The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include **original proceedings** and **administrative agency** cases.

Delaware—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include some **discretionary interlocutory petitions** and some **discretionary advisory opinions**.

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include some **unclassified discretionary petitions**.

Pennsylvania—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include **original proceeding petitions**.

Virginia—Court of Appeals—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include **original proceedings petitions granted**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Total discretionary petitions granted filed data do not include some cases reported with **mandatory jurisdiction** cases.

TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
ALASKA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	103	5	11
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	95	3	8
ARIZONA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	93	5	16
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	303	21	48
ARKANSAS								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	X	424	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	651	6	16
CALIFORNIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	127	7	50
Courts of Appeal	X	O	X	X	some	10,716	88	206
COLORADO								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	227	7	14
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	some	370	16	32
CONNECTICUT								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	253	7	14
Appellate Court	X	O	X	X	some	431	9	14
FLORIDA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	NA	7	15
District Courts of Appeal	X	O	X	X	O	2,361	57	102
GEORGIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	310	7	17
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	NA	9	28
HAWAII								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	361	5	14
Intermediate Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	122	3	6
IDAHO								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	X	NA	5	11
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	X	O	NA	3	6
ILLINOIS								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	NA	7	24
Appellate Court	X	O	X	X	some	2,284	50	88
IOWA								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	247	9	16
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	588	6	6
KANSAS								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	203	7	7
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	922	10	21
KENTUCKY								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	NA	7	11
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	NA	14	22

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
LOUISIANA								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	some	111	7	27
Courts of Appeal	O	X	X	X	X	3,141	53	103
MARYLAND								
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	137	7	14
Court of Special Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	225	13	29
MASSACHUSETTS								
Supreme Judicial Court	O	X	X	O	O	229	7	20
Appeals Court	O	X	X	X	X	199	14	31
MICHIGAN								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	66	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	4,627	24	84
MINNESOTA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	97	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	446	15	36
MISSOURI								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	115	7	15
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	1,667	32	54
NEW JERSEY								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	85	7	26
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	X	O	X	X	X	NA	28	60
NEW MEXICO								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	some	188	5	10
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	O	O	140	10	20
NORTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	some	118	7	19
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	X	1,414	12	28
NORTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	278	5	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	O	O	O	6	3	0
OHIO								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	X	NA	7	20
Courts of Appeals	X	O	X	O	X	7,700	59	varies
OREGON								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	72	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	597	10	18
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	244	5	19
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	348	6	11
UTAH								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	111	5	12
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	249	7	9

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	144	7	23
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	477	10	12
WASHINGTON								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	122	9	23
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	1,214	17	32
WISCONSIN								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	91	7	10
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	849	13	25
States with no intermediate appellate court								
DELAWARE								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	53	5	5
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	356	9	27
MAINE								
Supreme Judicial Court	O	X	X	O	O	393	7	9
MISSISSIPPI								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	X	312	9	38
MONTANA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	331	7	14
NEBRASKA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	X	508	7	14
NEVADA								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	X	O	149	5	20
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	163	5	12
RHODE ISLAND								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	153	5	17
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	222	5	1
VERMONT								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	186	5	8
WEST VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	274	5	20
WYOMING								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	189	5	12

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TABLE 6: Opinions Reported by State Appellate Courts, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Opinion count is by:		Composition of opinion count:			Total dispositions by signed opinion	Number of authorized justices/judges	Number of lawyer support personnel
	case	written document	signed opinions	per curiam opinions	memos/orders			
States with multiple appellate courts at any level								
ALABAMA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	861	9	18
Court of Civil Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	436	3	6
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	O	some	428	6	16
INDIANA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	204	5	13
Court of Appeals	X	X	X	X	X	2,194	13	10
Tax Court	X	X	X	X	X	0	1	2
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	O	X	X	O	O	112	7	28
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	O	X	X	X	some	NA	47	25
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	O	X	X	X	some	NA	15	171
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	O	250	9	16
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	X	O	NA	5	6
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	X	1,123	12	12
PENNSYLVANIA								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	O	O	209	7	NA
Superior Court	X	O	X	X	X	596	15	NA
Commonwealth Court	O	X	X	X	X	1,516	9	58
TENNESSEE								
Supreme Court	X	O	X	X	some	161	5	12
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	838	9	9
Court of Appeals	X	O	X	X	some	774	12	12
TEXAS								
Supreme Court	O	X	X	O	O	119	9	44
Court of Criminal Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	201	9	30
Courts of Appeals	X	O	X	O	O	4,762	80	217

CODES:

X = Court follows this method when counting opinions.

O = Court does not follow this method when counting opinions.

NA = Data are not available.

TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseloads for State Trial Courts, 1991

<u>Reported Caseload</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>
Civil cases:		
I. General jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete civil cases	3,778,399	3,484,189
Number of courts reporting complete civil data	34	30
B. Number of reported complete civil cases that include other case types	3,528,667	3,010,696
Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other case types	23	18
C. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete	2,008,531	1,941,548
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete	8	10
D. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	50,946	228,446
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	1	3
II. Limited jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete civil cases	6,080,703	4,144,905
Number of courts reporting complete civil data	53	40
B. Number of reported complete civil cases that include other case types	203,869	26,968
Number of courts reporting complete civil data that include other case types	2	1
C. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete	3,320,322	3,644,395
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete	16	23
D. Number of reported civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	0	96,066
Number of courts reporting civil cases that are incomplete and include noncivil case types	0	1
Criminal cases:		
I. General jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete criminal cases	1,437,912	1,205,015
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data	27	24
B. Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other case types	516,213	676,824
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other case types	12	13
C. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete	1,041,247	688,608
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete	11	10
D. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	848,530	986,529
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	4	4
II. Limited jurisdiction courts:		
A. Number of reported complete criminal cases	2,586,835	1,873,369
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data	18	14
B. Number of reported complete criminal cases that include other case types	1,598,301	1,343,676
Number of courts reporting complete criminal data that include other case types	17	14
C. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete	1,875,556	2,055,403
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete	10	9
D. Number of reported criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	2,526,316	2,382,685
Number of courts reporting criminal cases that are incomplete and include noncriminal case types	14	15

(continued on next page)

TABLE 7: Reported National Civil and Criminal Caseloads for State Trial Courts, 1991 (continued)

Summary section for all trial courts:

	General Jurisdiction		Reported filings		Total (incomplete)	
	Civil	Criminal	Limited Jurisdiction		Civil	Criminal
			Civil	Criminal		
1. Total number of reported complete cases	3,778,399	1,437,912	6,080,703	2,586,835	9,859,102	4,024,747
2. Total number of reported complete cases that include other case types	3,528,667	516,213	203,869	1,598,301	3,732,536	2,114,514
3. Total number of reported cases that are incomplete	2,008,531	1,041,247	3,320,322	1,875,556	5,328,853	2,916,803
4. Total number of reported cases that are incomplete and include other case types . .	50,946	848,530	0	2,526,316	50,946	3,374,846
Total (incomplete)	9,366,543	3,843,902	9,604,894	8,587,008	18,971,437	12,430,910

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
ALABAMA								
Circuit	G	2	G	6	164,770 B	162,350 B	99	4,030
District	L	1	B	1	585,459 B	591,609 B	101	14,318
Municipal	L	1	M	1	938,315 A	811,278 A	86	22,947
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
ALASKA								
Superior	G	1	B	6	19,250 C	18,692 C	97	3,377
District	L	3	B	5	102,064	106,044	104	17,906
State Total					121,314 *	124,736 *	103	21,283
ARIZONA								
Superior	G	2	D	6	152,094	141,228	93	4,056
Tax	G	2	I	1	1,778	1,534	86	47
Justice of the Peace	L	1	Z	1	599,915	592,463	99	15,998
Municipal	L	1	Z	1	1,019,810	1,026,273	101	27,195
State Total					1,773,597	1,761,498	99	47,296
ARKANSAS								
Chancery and Probate	G	2	I	3	81,311	76,402	94	3,428
Circuit	G	1	A	1	58,201	57,599	99	2,454
City	L	1	A	1	27,461	15,334	56	1,158
County	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	2	A	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	A	1	619,366 A	388,896 A	63	26,112
Police	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
CALIFORNIA								
Superior	G	2	B	6	1,022,060 A	940,233 A	92	3,364
Justice	L	3	B	1	405,726	355,063	88	1,336
Municipal	L	3	B	1	15,173,149	13,892,961	92	49,945
State Total					16,600,935 *	15,188,257 *	91	54,644
COLORADO								
District, Denver Juvenile,								
Denver Probate	G	2	D	3	133,667 B	126,023 B	94	3,958
Water	G	2	I	1	917	1,179	129	27
County	L	2	D	1	708,925 B	377,665 C		20,993
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
CONNECTICUT								
Superior	G	6	E	5 **	598,550 B	622,711 B	104	18,187
Probate	L	2	I	1	58,793	NA		1,786
State Total					657,343 *			19,974
DELAWARE								
Court of Chancery	G	2	I	1	3,365	3,147	94	495
Superior	G	2	B	1	13,344 B	12,084 B	91	1,962
Alderman's	L	4	A	1	27,744	25,978	94	4,080
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	A	1	51,336	47,735	93	7,549
Family	L	2	B	3 **	41,498	40,101	97	6,103
Justice of the Peace	L	2	A	1	281,001 A	279,004 A	99	41,324
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	5	A	1	40,713	41,387	102	5,987
State Total					459,001 *	449,436 *	98	67,500

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Superior	G	6	B	6 **	212,336	195,878 A		35,508
FLORIDA								
Circuit	G	2	E	4	873,478	721,631	83	6,579
County	L	5	A	1	4,459,702	3,565,038	80	33,590
State Total					5,333,180	4,286,669	80	40,169
GEORGIA								
Superior	G	2	G	3	84,132	282,207	99	4,290
Civil	L	2	M	1	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	41,600 A	36,168 A	87	628
Magistrate	L	2	B	1	349,011 A	292,898 A	84	5,270
Municipal	L	2	M	1	NA	NA		
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	B	1	116,707 A	82,960 A		1,762
State	L	2	G	1	589,735 A	495,165 A	84	8,904
State Total								
HAWAII								
Circuit	G	2	G	6	56,807 B	51,741 B	91	5,005
District	L	4	A	1	967,393	971,340	100	85,233
State Total					1,024,200 *	1,023,081 *	100	90,238
IDAHO								
District	G	3	D	6 **	386,079 C	382,660 C	99	37,159
ILLINOIS								
Circuit	G	4	G	6 **	4,234,194 B	4,619,174 B	109	36,682
INDIANA								
Probate	G	2	I	1	2,780	2,520	91	50
Superior and Circuit	G	3	B	5	682,191 A	655,768 A	96	12,160
City and Town	L	3	B	1	233,763	247,898	106	4,167
County	L	4	B	1	185,389	171,657	93	3,305
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	B	1	159,710 A	128,670 A	81	2,847
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	2	I	1	73,419	67,292	92	1,309
State Total					1,337,252 *	1,273,805 *	95	23,837
IOWA								
District	G	3	B	6	906,755 B	897,340 C		32,442
KANSAS								
District	G	4	B	6 **	481,271	476,643	99	19,289
Municipal	L	1	B	1	369,231 A	348,685 A	94	14,799
State Total					850,502 *	825,328 *	97	34,088
KENTUCKY								
Circuit	G	2	B	6	86,344	77,554	90	2,325
District	L	3	B	1	686,712 B	661,010 B	96	18,495
State Total					773,056 *	738,564 *	96	20,820

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of court	Support/custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
LOUISIANA								
District	G	1	Z	6	539,420 B	NA		12,686
Family and Juvenile	G	2	I	4 ***	31,733	27,250	86	746
City and Parish	L	1	B	1	678,461	559,962	83	15,956
Justice of the Peace	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Mayor's	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MAINE								
Superior	G	2	E	6	20,138 B	19,172 B	95	1,631
Administrative	L	2	I	1	423	404	96	34
District	L	4	E	5	307,776 B	300,259 B	98	24,921
Probate	L	2	I	1	14,267	NA		1,155
State Total					342,604 *			
MARYLAND								
Circuit	G	2	B	6 **	238,963 B	201,613 B	84	4,917
District	L	1	B	1	2,201,786	1,282,176 A		45,304
Orphan's	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MASSACHUSETTS								
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	1	D	5 **	1,922,005 A	1,000,643 A		32,055
MICHIGAN								
Circuit	G	2	B	6 **	234,164	231,824	99	2,500
Court of Claims	G	2	I	1	930	947	102	10
Recorder's Court of Detroit	G	1	B	1	15,769	14,732	93	168
District	L	4	B	1	3,317,164	3,167,136	95	35,410
Municipal	L	4	B	1	48,985	46,578	95	523
Probate	L	2	I	1	190,070	123,500 A		2,029
State Total					3,807,082	3,584,717 *		40,639
MINNESOTA								
District	G	4	B	6	1,823,547	1,754,196	96	41,145
MISSISSIPPI								
Chancery	G	1	I	5	62,967 C	NA		2,429
Circuit	G	1	B	1	37,612 B	NA		1,451
County	L	1	B	1	42,061	NA		1,623
Family	L	1	I	1	964	NA		37
Justice	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MISSOURI								
Circuit	G	2	G	6 **	839,873 A	809,286 A	96	16,283
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
MONTANA								
District	G	2	G	3	30,155	29,942	99	3,732
Water	G	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Workers' Compensation	G	2	I	1	296	178 A		37
City	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
State Total								

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of court	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
NEBRASKA								
District	G	2	B	5	58,984 B	57,316 B	97	3,703
County	L	1	B	1	421,674 A	421,950 A	100	26,470
Separate Juvenile	L	2	I	1	2,418	NA		152
Workers' Compensation	L	2	I	1	526	524	100	33
State Total					483,602 *			30,358
NEVADA								
District	G	2	Z	2	48,960 A	NA		3,813
Justice	L	1	Z	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	Z	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Superior	G	2	A	5	43,856	44,374	101	3,969
District	L	4	A	1	298,163	898 A		26,983
Municipal	L	4	A	1	3,099	NA		280
Probate	L	2	I	1	17,553	7,377 A		1,589
State Total					362,671			32,821
NEW JERSEY								
Superior	G	2	B	6 **	1,099,891	1,085,776	99	14,174
Municipal	L	4	B	1	6,203,149	7,811,740	126	79,937
Tax	L	2	I	1	10,857	5,494	51	140
State Total					7,313,897	8,903,010	122	94,251
NEW MEXICO								
District	G	2	E	6	78,233 B	76,616 B	98	5,054
Magistrate	L	3	E	1	129,739 B	116,017 B	89	8,381
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	3	E	1	311,505 A	219,356 A	70	20,123
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
NEW YORK								
Supreme and County Civil Court of the City of New York	G	2	E	1	310,013 B	291,833 B	94	1,717
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	438,325 A	401,818 A	92	2,427
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	2	I	1	2,799	2,131	76	16
District and City	L	2	E	1	327,655 A	313,187 A	96	1,814
Family	L	4	E	1	1,476,779 A	1,447,577 A	98	8,178
Surrogates'	L	2	I	4	581,708	572,611	98	3,221
Town and Village Justice	L	2	I	1	122,023	111,542	91	676
State Total					NA	NA		
NORTH CAROLINA								
Superior	G	2	E	1	231,843	218,005	94	3,441
District	L	6	E	6 **	2,218,691	2,141,226 A		32,933
State Total					2,450,534	2,359,231 *		36,374
NORTH DAKOTA								
District	G	4	B	6 **	31,659 B	30,769 B	97	4,986
County	L	1	E	1	99,515	99,420	100	15,672
Municipal	L	1	B	1	NA	47,976 A		
State Total						178,165 *		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/ custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
OHIO								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	6 **	738,588 B	734,451 B	99	6,752
County	L	5	B	1	289,864	295,279	102	2,650
Court of Claims	L	2	I	1	8,263	6,318	76	76
Mayor's	L	1	B	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	5	B	1	2,345,827	2,343,422	100	21,445
State Total								
OKLAHOMA								
District	G	2	J	6	493,633	481,655	98	15,547
Court of Tax Review	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Criminal Court of Record	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
OREGON								
Circuit	G	2	E	6 **	137,134	124,482 A		4,693
Tax	G	2	I	1	139	203	146	5
County	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
District	L	1	E	1	492,795 A	472,769 A	96	16,865
Justice	L	3	E	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	3	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
PENNSYLVANIA								
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	B	4	505,126 A	499,605 A	99	4,223
District Justice	L	4	B	1	NA	NA		
Philadelphia Municipal	L	2	B	1	191,551 B	193,859 B	101	1,601
Philadelphia Traffic	L	1	I	1	308,443 A	99,186 A		2,579
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	B	1	428,418	NA		3,582
State Total								
PUERTO RICO								
Superior	G	2	J	6	125,936 A	120,243 A	95	3,576
District	L	2	J	1	170,775 A	169,327 A	99	4,849
Justice of the Peace	L	2	I	1	NJ	NJ		
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
RHODE ISLAND								
Superior	G	2	D	1	17,886 B	6,299 A		1,781
Workers' Compensation	G	2	I	1	16,174	14,797	91	1,611
District	L	2	A	1	86,262 A	74,123 A	86	8,592
Family	L	2	I	6	22,383	14,964 A		2,229
Municipal	L	1	I	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Circuit	G	2	B	1	167,942 B	151,125 B	90	4,717
Family	L	2	I	6 **	86,846	83,704	96	2,439
Magistrate	L	4	B	1	960,000 A	956,535 A	100	26,966
Municipal	L	4	B	1	448,653	443,245	99	12,603
Probate	L	2	I	1	23,672	25,221	107	665
State Total					1,687,113 *	1,659,830 *	98	47,391
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Circuit	G	3	A	A	214,087	197,196 A		30,453

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Parking	Criminal unit of count	Support/custody	Grand total filings and qualifying footnotes	Grand total dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
TENNESSEE								
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	2	Z	6 **	188,669 A	173,458 A	92	3,809
Probate	G	2	I	1	3,735	1,741 A		75
General Sessions	L	1	M	6 **	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	M	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
TEXAS								
District	G	2	B	6 **	634,730	636,811	100	3,659
County-level	L	2	B	6 **	645,340	578,803 A		3,720
Justice of the Peace	L	4	A	1	2,390,691 A	2,323,264 A	97	13,780
Municipal	L	4	A	1	6,025,570 A	4,992,371 A	83	34,732
State Total					9,696,331 *	8,531,249 *		55,890
UTAH								
District	G	2	J	3	36,148 B	36,804 B	102	2,042
Circuit	L	4	B	1	338,442 B	323,497 B	96	19,121
Justice	L	4	B	1	298,298	286,268	96	16,853
Juvenile	L	2	I	1	38,753	41,673	108	2,189
State Total					711,641 *	688,242 *	97	40,206
VERMONT								
District	G	2	D	4 ***	39,185	43,721	112	6,911
Family	G	2	D	4 ***	11,951	11,380	95	2,108
Superior	G	2	B	5	9,085	8,511	94	1,602
Environmental	L	2	I	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	I	1	4,914	5,474	111	867
State Total								
VIRGINIA								
Circuit	G	2	A	3	223,250	203,761	91	3,552
District	L	4	A	4	3,559,583	3,623,940	102	56,627
State Total					3,782,833	3,827,701	101	60,179
WASHINGTON								
Superior	G	2	D	6	207,448 B	186,958 B	90	4,134
District	L	4	C	1	926,519 A	919,388 A		18,464
Municipal	L	4	C	1	1,215,167 A	545,467 A		24,216
State Total					2,349,134 *	1,651,813 *		46,814
WEST VIRGINIA								
Circuit	G	2	J	5	59,773 B	64,527 B	108	3,319
Magistrate	L	2	J	1	323,320	309,090	96	17,952
Municipal	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								
WISCONSIN								
Circuit	G	3	D	6 **	1,035,026	1,035,350	100	20,889
Municipal	L	3	A	1	NA	367,048 A		
State Total					1,402,398 *			
WYOMING								
District	G	2	J	5	13,969 B	10,447 B	75	3,037
County	L	1	J	4	100,722	101,475 A		21,896
Justice of the Peace	L	1	J	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	A	1	NA	NA		
State Total								

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

NOTE: All state trial courts with grand total jurisdiction are listed in the table, regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

- G = General Jurisdiction
- L = Limited Jurisdiction

SUPPORT/CUSTODY CODES:

- 1 = The court does not have jurisdiction over support/custody cases
- 2 = Support/custody caseload data are not available
- 3 = Only contested support/custody cases and all URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
- 4 = Both contested and uncontested support/custody cases and URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
- 5 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution and, thus, a marriage dissolution that involves support/custody is counted as one case
- 6 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution, but URESA cases are counted separately
- ** = Nondissolution support/custody cases are also counted separately
- *** = Court has only URESA jurisdiction

PARKING CODES:

- 1 = Parking data are unavailable
- 2 = Court does not have parking jurisdiction
- 3 = Only contested parking cases are included
- 4 = Both contested and uncontested parking cases are included
- 5 = Parking cases are handled administratively
- 6 = Uncontested parking cases are handled administratively; contested parking cases are handled by the court

CRIMINAL UNIT OF COUNT CODES:

- M = Missing data
- I = Data element is inapplicable
- A = Single defendant—single charge
- B = Single defendant—single incident (one/more charges)
- C = Single defendant—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
- D = Single defendant—one/more incidents
- E = Single defendant—content varies with prosecutor

- F = One/more defendants—single charge
- G = One/more defendants—single incident (one/more charges)
- H = One/more defendants—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)
- J = One/more defendants—one/more incidents
- K = One/more defendants—content varies with prosecutor
- L = Inconsistent during reporting year
- Z = Both the defendant and charge components vary within the state

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

- * See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

- A: The following courts' data are incomplete:
 - Alabama—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from 70 municipalities.
 - Arkansas—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include any data from 3 municipalities and partial data from 13 others.
 - California—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report.
 - Delaware—Justice of the Peace Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include some **DWI/DUI** cases.
 - District of Columbia—Superior Court—Grand total disposed data do not include most **child-victim petition** cases.
 - Georgia—Juvenile Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from 50 counties, and are less than 75% complete.
 - Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **misdemeanor** cases, any data from 21 counties, and partial data from 13 counties.
 - Probate Court—Grand total filed data do not include any **civil** cases from 59 of 159 counties, and partial **civil** data from nine counties, **criminal** and **traffic** cases from 48 counties, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data do not include any **civil** cases, **criminal** and **traffic** data from 48 counties, and are less than 75% complete.
 - State Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include any data from 27 of 62 courts, partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete.
 - Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **civil appeals**, **criminal appeals** and some **support/custody** cases.
 - Municipal Court of Marion County—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **appeals of trial court** cases.
 - Kansas—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases.

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

Maryland—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **ordinance violation, parking** and most **civil** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Grand total filed data do not include **misdemeanor** cases from the Juvenile Court Department. Disposed data do not include **civil** cases from the Housing Court Department, some **civil** cases from the Boston Municipal Court Department, **criminal** cases from the Boston Municipal Court, Housing Court and Juvenile Court Departments, **DWI/DUI** and **criminal appeals** cases from the District Court Department, **moving traffic violation** cases from the Boston Municipal Court Department, **ordinance violation, and miscellaneous criminal** cases; most **juvenile** data from the Juvenile Court Department, and some **juvenile** data from the District Court Department, and are less than 75% complete.

Michigan—Probate Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, miscellaneous civil, and adoption** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Missouri—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include those **ordinance violations** heard by Municipal judges.

Montana—Workers' Compensation Court—Grand total disposed data do not include some **administrative agency appeals** cases.

Nebraska—County Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases.

Nevada—District Court—Grand total filed data do not include **felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, miscellaneous criminal, and all juvenile** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

New Hampshire—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **criminal, traffic, and juvenile** cases, are missing all **civil** case types except **mental health**, and are less than 75% complete.

—Probate Court—Grand total disposed data do not include some **estate** and some **miscellaneous civil** cases.

New Mexico—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include most **miscellaneous traffic** cases.

New York—District and City Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

—Civil Court of the City of New York—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

—Criminal Court of the City of New York—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and some ordinance violation** cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **miscellaneous civil** cases.

North Dakota—Municipal Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **ordinance violation and parking** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Oregon—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **juvenile** cases.

—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases and some traffic cases from one county due to underreporting.

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include some **civil appeals** and some **criminal appeals** cases.

—Philadelphia Traffic Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation, parking, and miscellaneous traffic** cases, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also do not include most **moving traffic violation** cases.

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **URESAs** cases.

—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **small claims** cases.

Rhode Island—Superior Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **civil** cases.

—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals and mental health** cases.

—Family Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **paternity** and **URESAs** cases.

South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

South Dakota—Circuit Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **adoption, estate, administrative agency appeals, and juvenile** data.

Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous criminal and traffic/other violation** cases.

—Probate Court—Grand total disposed data do not include cases from Shelby County and are less than 75% complete.

Texas—County-level Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **estate** and **mental health** cases.

—Justice of the Peace Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 86%.

—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 98%.

Washington—District Court—Grand total filed data do not include cases from four districts. Disposed data do not include cases from five districts.

—Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data do not include cases from 36 courts. Disposed data do not include cases from 40 courts, including Seattle Municipal Court, which handled more than half the total filings statewide. Disposed data are less than 75% complete.

Wisconsin—Municipal Court—Grand total disposed data do not include data from 45 of 195 municipalities.

Wyoming—County Court—Grand total disposed data do not include **trial court civil appeals and criminal appeals** cases.

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TABLE 8: Reported Grand Total State Trial Court Caseload, 1991 (continued)

- B:** The following courts' data are overinclusive:
- Alabama—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.
 - Colorado—District, Denver Juvenile, and Denver Probate Courts—Grand total filed and disposed data include **extraditions, revocations, parole, and release from commitment hearings**.
 - County Court—Grand total filed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**.
 - Connecticut—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Delaware—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings and extraordinary writs**.
 - Hawaii—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **criminal postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Illinois—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**.
 - Iowa—District Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Kentucky—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **sentence review only proceedings**.
 - Louisiana—District Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Maine—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings**.
 - District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.
 - Maryland—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **estate cases from the Orphan's Court, and some postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings**.
 - Mississippi—Circuit Court—Grand total filed data include **extraordinary writs**.
 - Nebraska—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - New Mexico—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Magistrate Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.
 - New York—Supreme and County Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - North Dakota—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Ohio—Court of Common Pleas—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **preliminary hearing proceedings**.
 - Rhode Island—Superior Court—Grand total filed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - South Carolina—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Utah—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings**.
 - Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - Washington—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
 - West Virginia—Circuit Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings and extraordinary writs**.
 - Wyoming—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**.
- C:** The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:
- Alaska—Superior Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **extraordinary writs, orders to show cause, unfair trade practices, and postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **criminal appeals cases**.
 - Colorado—County Court—Grand total disposed data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**, but do not include cases from Denver County Court.
 - Idaho—District Court—Grand total filed and disposed data include **postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings**, but do not include **mental health cases**.
 - Iowa—District Court—Grand total disposed data include **postconviction remedy proceedings**, but do not include **juvenile cases and a few domestic relations cases**.
 - Mississippi—Chancery Court—Grand total filed data include **extraordinary writs**, but do not include **juvenile cases from two counties**.

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
ALABAMA							
Circuit	G	6	NF	99,053 B	99,776 B	101	2,422
District	L	1		177,828	182,516	103	4,349
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
ALASKA							
Superior	G	6	R	14,636 B	14,608 B	100	2,568
District	L	5		17,603	21,506	122	3,088
State Total				32,239	36,114 *	112	5,656
ARIZONA							
Superior	G	6	NF	108,497	100,041	92	2,893
Tax	G	1		1,778	1,534	86	47
Justice of the Peace	L	1		119,776	144,673	121	3,194
Municipal	L	1		10,683	10,635	100	285
State Total				240,734	256,883	107	6,420
ARKANSAS							
Chancery and Probate	G	3	R	68,732	64,194	93	2,898
Circuit	G	1		23,013	22,668	99	970
City	L	1		336	154	46	14
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
County	L	1		NA	NA		
Court of Common Pleas	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		57,301 A	25,590 A	45	2,416
Police	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
CALIFORNIA							
Superior	G	6	NC	719,433 A	662,369 A	92	2,368
Justice	L	1		25,843	21,221	82	85
Municipal	L	1		1,160,912	1,067,933	92	3,821
State Total				1,906,188	1,751,523 *	92	6,274
COLORADO							
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	3	R	92,314	88,054	95	2,734
Water	G	1		917	1,179	129	27
County	L	1		163,916	116,184 A		4,854
State Total				257,147	205,417 *		7,615
CONNECTICUT							
Superior	G	5 **	NC	189,580 B	180,621 B	95	5,761
Probate	L	1		58,793	NA		1,786
State Total				248,373 *			7,547
DELAWARE							
Court of Chancery	G	1		3,365	3,147	94	495
Superior	G	1		6,341 B	5,375 B	85	933
Alderman's	L	1		0	0		
Court of Common Pleas	L	1		5,711	5,062	89	840
Family	L	3 **	R	27,821 B	26,968 B		4,091
Justice of the Peace	L	1		32,739	31,643	97	4,815
State Total				75,977 *	72,195 *		11,173

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Superior	G	6 **	R	141,144	130,288	92	23,603
FLORIDA							
Circuit	G	4	R	565,458	470,645	83	4,259
County	L	1		358,609	316,866	88	2,701
State Total				924,067	787,511	85	6,960
GEORGIA							
Superior	G	3	NF	187,417	188,048	100	2,830
Civil	L	1		NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	1		279,613 A	240,243 A	86	4,222
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
Probate	L	1		29,525 A	NA		446
State Total	L	1		209,216 A	118,196 A	56	3,159
HAWAII							
Circuit	G	6	R	27,668 B	27,301 B	99	2,438
District	L	1		23,348	17,872	77	2,057
State Total				51,016 *	45,173 *	89	4,495
IDAHO							
District	G	6 **	R	66,737 A	65,549 A	98	6,423
ILLINOIS							
Circuit	G	6 **	R	726,359 B	713,674 B	98	6,293
INDIANA							
Probate	G	1		1,938 A	1,721 A	89	35
Superior and Circuit	G	5	R	270,452 A	256,620 A	95	4,821
City and Town	L	1		15,205	16,011	105	271
County	L	1		54,725	50,292	92	975
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	1		10,907 A	10,389 A	95	194
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	1		73,419	67,292	92	1,309
State Total				426,646 *	402,325 *	94	7,605
IOWA							
District	G	6	NF	155,927 B	154,001 C		5,579
KANSAS							
District	G	6 **	NC	166,846	164,850	99	6,687
KENTUCKY							
Circuit	G	6	R	70,977	64,101	90	1,912
District	L	1		148,429 A	145,426 A	98	3,998
State Total				219,406 *	209,527 *	95	5,909
LOUISIANA							
District	G	6	R	182,404 B	NA		4,290
Family and Juvenile	G	4 ***	R	11,620	8,970	77	273
City and Parish	L	1		66,906	48,538	73	1,574
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
MAINE							
Superior	G	6	NC	6,647	6,373	96	538
Administrative	L	1		423	404	96	34
District	L	5	NC	55,713	54,384	98	4,511
Probate	L	1		14,267	NA		1,155
State Total				77,050			
MARYLAND							
Circuit	G	6 **	NF	137,362 B	109,492 B	80	2,826
District	L	1		776,336	6,754 A		15,974
Orphan's	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
MASSACHUSETTS							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	5 **	R	539,899 A	539,876 A		9,004
MICHIGAN							
Circuit	G	6 **	NC	185,529	184,501	99	1,980
Court of Claims	G	1		930	947	102	10
District	L	1		432,266	431,901	100	4,614
Municipal	L	1		822	823	100	9
Probate	L	1		105,970	45,990 A		1,131
State Total				725,517	664,162 *		7,745
MINNESOTA							
District	G	6	NF	219,010	218,251	100	4,942
MISSISSIPPI							
Chancery	G	5	NF	59,486 B	NA		2,295
Circuit	G	1	I	20,952 B	NA		808
County	L	1	I	25,388	NA		979
Family	L	1	I	NA	NA		
Justice	L	1	I	NA	NA		
State Total							
MISSOURI							
Circuit	G	6 **	NF	269,673	264,623	98	5,228
MONTANA							
District	G	3	R	24,383 A	23,653 C		3,018
Water	G	1		NA	NA		
Workers' Compensation	G	1		296	178 A		37
City	L	1		NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
NEBRASKA							
District	G	5	R	50,946 C	50,792 C	100	3,198
County	L	1		60,968	58,546	96	3,827
Workers' Compensation	L	1		526	524	100	33
State Total				112,440 *	109,862 *	98	7,058

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
NEVADA							
District Justice	G	2	R	48,959	NA		3,813
Municipal	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total				NA	NA		
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Superior District	G	5	R	31,012	31,943	103	2,807
Municipal	L	1		46,852	898 A		4,240
Probate	L	1		316	NA		29
State Total				17,553	7,377 A		1,589
				95,733			8,664
NEW JERSEY							
Superior Tax	G	6 **	R	900,857	881,686	98	11,609
State Total	L	1		10,857	5,494	51	140
				911,714	887,180	97	11,749
NEW MEXICO							
District Magistrate	G	6	R	56,913 B	56,196 B	99	3,677
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	1		11,676	10,441	89	754
Probate	L	1		10,323	10,363	100	667
State Total				NA	NA		
NEW YORK							
Supreme and County Civil Court of the City of New York	G	1		230,657 B	208,651 B	90	1,277
Court of Claims	L	1		438,325 A	401,818 A	92	2,427
District and City Family	L	1		2,799	2,131	76	16
Surrogates'	L	4	R	255,094 A	242,010 A	95	1,413
Town and Village Justice	L	1		520,559	509,619	98	2,883
State Total	L	1		122,023	111,542	91	676
				NA	NA		
NORTH CAROLINA							
Superior District	G	1		116,744	108,433	93	1,733
State Total	L	6 **	R	498,344	423,826 A		7,397
				615,088	532,259 *		9,130
NORTH DAKOTA							
District County	G	6 **	NF	18,854	18,670	99	2,969
State Total	L	1		15,536	14,837	96	2,447
				34,390	33,507	97	5,416
OHIO							
Court of Common Pleas	G	6 **	R	418,844 B	417,839 B	100	3,829
County Court of Claims	L	1		27,297	28,014	103	250
Municipal	L	1		8,263	6,318	76	76
State Total				399,129	389,453	98	3,649
				853,533 *	841,624 *	99	7,803
OKLAHOMA							
District Court of Tax Review	G	6	R	199,218	198,298	100	6,275
State Total	L	1		NA	NA		

(continued on next page)

TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
OREGON							
Circuit	G	6 **	R	96,063 B	98,875 B	103	3,288
Tax	G	1		139	203	146	5
County	L	1		NA	NA		
District	L	1		87,485	86,921	99	2,994
Justice	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
PENNSYLVANIA							
Court of Common Pleas	G	4	NF	309,172 A	303,546 A	98	2,585
District Justice	L	1		NA	NA		
Philadelphia Municipal	L	1		121,806 A	125,632 A	103	1,018
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	1		7,096	NA		59
State Total							
PUERTO RICO							
Superior	G	6	NF	76,517 A	74,102 A	97	2,173
District	L	1		60,443 A	59,551 A	99	1,716
State Total				136,960 *	133,653 *	98	3,889
RHODE ISLAND							
Superior	G	1		11,653 B	NA		1,161
Workers' Compensation	G	1		16,174	14,797	91	1,611
District	L	1		42,201 A	36,324 A	86	4,203
Family	L	6	R	14,436	7,307 A		1,438
Probate	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Circuit	G	1		58,362 B	53,993 B	93	1,639
Family	L	6 **	NF	68,847	66,845	97	1,934
Magistrate	L	1		160,320	159,815	100	4,503
Probate	L	1		23,672	25,221	107	665
State Total				311,201 *	305,874 *	98	8,742
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Circuit	G	A	B	42,871	35,846 A		6,098
TENNESSEE							
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	6 **	R	124,106	112,210	90	2,506
Probate	G	1		3,735	1,741 A		75
General Sessions	L	6 **	R	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							
TEXAS							
District	G	6 **	R	451,436	454,010 B	101	2,602
County-level	L	6 **	R	176,048 B	96,066 C		1,015
Justice of the Peace	L	1		228,949 A	191,652 A	84	1,320
Municipal	L	1		889 A	889 A	100	5
State Total				857,322 *	742,617 *		4,942

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Support/custody:		Total civil filings and qualifying footnotes	Total civil dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 total population
		(a) method of count code	(b) decree change counted as				
UTAH							
District	G	3	R	31,832 B	32,322 B	102	1,798
Circuit	L	1		113,737	106,453	94	6,426
Justice	L	1		2,231	2,247	101	126
State Total				147,800 *	141,022 *	95	8,350
VERMONT							
District	G	4 ***	NC	13,965	14,738	106	2,463
Family	G	4 ***	NC	10,273	9,581	93	1,812
Superior	G	5	NC	9,079	8,503	94	1,601
Environmental	L	1		NA	NA		
Probate	L	1		4,914	5,474	111	867
State Total							
VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	3	R	118,250	102,713	87	1,881
District	L	4	R	1,308,855 A	1,334,580 A	102	20,822
State Total				1,427,105 *	1,437,293 *	101	22,703
WASHINGTON							
Superior	G	6	R	149,765 B	134,167 B	90	2,985
District	L	1		128,559 A	85,350 A		2,562
Municipal	L	1		210 A	202 A		4
State Total				278,534 *	219,719 *		5,551
WEST VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	5	R	45,709 B	50,343 B	110	2,538
Magistrate	L	1		48,740	54,921	113	2,706
State Total				94,449 *	105,264 *	111	5,244
WISCONSIN							
Circuit	G	6 **	NF	346,557 B	344,634 B	99	6,994
WYOMING							
District	G	5	R	11,108 B	8,819 B		2,415
County	L	4	R	18,667	18,207 A		4,058
Justice of the Peace	L	1		NA	NA		
State Total							

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991 (continued)

NOTE: All state trial courts with civil jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available

JURISDICTION CODES:

- G = General Jurisdiction
- L = Limited Jurisdiction

SUPPORT/CUSTODY CODES:

(a) Method of count codes:

- 1 = The court does not have jurisdiction over support/custody cases
- 2 = Support/custody caseload data are not available
- 3 = Only contested support/custody cases and all URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
- 4 = Both contested and uncontested support/custody cases and URESA cases (where the court has jurisdiction) are counted separately from marriage dissolution cases
- 5 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution and, thus, a marriage dissolution that involves support/custody is counted as one case
- 6 = Support/custody is counted as a proceeding of the marriage dissolution, but URESA cases are counted separately

** Nondissolution support/custody cases are also counted separately

*** Court has only URESA jurisdiction

(b) Decree change counted as:

- NC = Not counted/collected
- NF = New filing
- R = Reopened case

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

- See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Arkansas—Municipal Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 3 municipalities, and partial data from 13 others.

California—Superior Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report.

Colorado—County Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include cases from Denver County.

Georgia—Magistrate Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 21 counties, and partial data from 13 counties.

—Probate Court—Total **civil** filed data do not include any cases from 59 of 159 counties, and partial data from nine counties, and are less than 75% complete.

—State Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 27 of 62 courts, and partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete.

Idaho—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **mental health** cases.

Indiana—Probate Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **civil appeals, miscellaneous domestic relations, and support/custody** cases.

—Municipal Court of Marion County—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **appeals of trial court** cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **paternity** cases.

Maryland—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, and miscellaneous civil** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **civil** filed data do not include some **domestic relations** cases. Disposed data do not include some **real property rights** and some **small claims** cases.

Michigan—Probate Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **adoption, paternity, miscellaneous domestic relations, mental health, and miscellaneous civil** cases and are less than 75% complete.

Montana—District Court—Total **civil** filed data do not include some **trial court civil appeals** cases.

—Workers' Compensation Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include some **administrative agency appeals** cases.

New Hampshire—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, and miscellaneous domestic relations** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

—Probate Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include some **estate** and some **miscellaneous civil** cases.

New York—District and City Court—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

—Civil Court of the City of New York—Total **civil** filed and disposed data do not include **administrative agency appeals** cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Total **civil** disposed data do not include **miscellaneous civil** cases.

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TABLE 9: Reported Total State Trial Court Civil Caseload, 1991 (continued)

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Total civil filed and disposed data do not include some civil appeals cases.

—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total civil filed and disposed data do not include miscellaneous domestic relations cases.

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Total civil filed and disposed data do not include URESA cases.

—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data do not include small claims cases.

Rhode Island—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data do not include administrative agency appeals and mental health cases.

—Family Court—Total civil disposed data do not include URESA and paternity cases.

South Dakota—Circuit Court—Total civil disposed data do not include adoption, estate, and administrative agency appeals cases.

Tennessee—Probate Court—Total civil disposed data do not include cases from Shelby County, and are less than 75% complete.

Texas—Justice of the Peace Court—Total civil filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 86%.

—Municipal Court—Total civil filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 98%.

Virginia—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data do not include some domestic relations cases.

Washington—District Court—Total civil filed data do not include cases from four districts. Disposed data do not include cases from five districts.

—Municipal Court—Total civil filed data do not include cases from 36 courts. Disposed data do not include cases from 40 courts.

Wyoming—County Court—Total civil disposed data do not include trial court civil appeals cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alabama—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

Alaska—Superior Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include extraordinary writs, orders to show cause, unfair trade practices, and postconviction remedy proceedings.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

Delaware—Superior Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include extraordinary writs.

—Family Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include status offense petition cases. Disposed data also include child-victim petition cases.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include criminal postconviction remedy proceedings and some criminal and traffic/other violation cases.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include miscellaneous criminal cases.

Iowa—District Court—Total civil filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

Louisiana—District Court—Total civil filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

Maryland—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include estate cases from the Orphan's Court.

Mississippi—Chancery Court—Total civil filed data include extraordinary writs.

—Circuit Court—Total civil filed data include extraordinary writs.

New Mexico—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

New York—Supreme and County Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

Ohio—Court of Common Pleas—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

Oregon—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include criminal appeals cases.

Rhode Island—Superior Court—Total civil filed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

South Carolina—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

Texas—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include child-victim petition cases.

—County-level Court—Total civil filed data include child-victim petition cases.

Utah—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include some postconviction remedy proceedings.

Washington—Superior Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

West Virginia—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings and extraordinary writs.

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include criminal appeals cases.

Wyoming—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings. Disposed data also include juvenile cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Iowa—District Court—Total civil disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include some miscellaneous domestic relations cases.

Montana—District Court—Total civil disposed data include some juvenile cases, but do not include some trial court civil appeals cases.

Nebraska—District Court—Total civil filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include civil appeals cases.

Texas—County-level Court—Total civil disposed data include child-victim petition cases, but do not include probate/wills/intestate, guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship, and mental health cases. The court conducted 78,859 probate hearings and 27,385 mental health hearings during the year.

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
ALABAMA							
Circuit	G	G	A	49,782 B	46,633 B	94	1,650
District	L	B	B	143,618 B	142,935 B	100	4,759
Municipal	L	M	B	151,567 C	166,295 C		5,022
State Total				344,967 *	355,863 *		11,430
ALASKA							
Superior	G	B	A	2,442 A	2,415 A	99	626
District	L	B	B	27,961 B	28,054 B	100	7,169
State Total				30,403 *	30,469 *	100	7,796
ARIZONA							
Superior	G	D	A	28,757	26,897	94	1,050
Justice of the Peace	L	Z	B	70,850	64,943	92	2,586
Municipal	L	Z	B	213,493	214,681	101	7,792
State Total				313,100	306,521	98	11,427
ARKANSAS							
Circuit	G	A	A	35,188	34,931	99	2,015
City	L	A	B	7,985 B	4,615 B	58	457
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	A	B	230,457 C	147,164 C	64	13,199
Police	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
CALIFORNIA							
Superior	G	B	A	166,202 A	157,506 A	95	748
Justice	L	B	B	39,892 C	32,519 C	82	180
Municipal	L	B	B	805,380 C	730,958 C	91	3,625
State Total				1,011,474 *	920,983 *	91	4,553
COLORADO							
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	D	B	21,530 B	21,414 B	99	863
County	L	D	B	115,723 B	52,051 C		4,640
State Total				137,253 *	73,465 *		5,503
CONNECTICUT							
Superior	G	E	A	161,134 C	186,464 B		6,376
DELAWARE							
Superior	G	B	A	7,003 B	6,709 B	96	1,368
Alderman's	L	A	B	4,940 B	5,009 B	101	965
Court of Common Pleas	L	A	B	5,371 A	NA		1,049
Family	L	B	B	4,383	4,787	109	856
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	70,598 A	70,154 A	99	13,789
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	A	B	19,350 C	19,591 C	101	3,779
State Total				111,645 *			21,806
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA							
Superior	G	B	G	45,773	40,954 A		9,596
FLORIDA							
Circuit	G	E	A	187,658	169,321	90	1,826
County	L	A	B	420,477	345,171	82	4,091
State Total				608,135	514,492	85	5,916

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of court	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
GEORGIA							
Superior	G	G	A	96,715 B	94,159 B	97	1,995
Civil	L	M	M	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Probate	L	B	A	2,721 A	2,500 A	92	56
State	L	G	A	124,494 C	113,546 C		2,568
State Total							
HAWAII							
Circuit	G	G	B	9,230 A	6,245 A	68	1,090
District	L	A	C	39,865 A	38,326 A	96	4,707
State Total				49,095 *	44,571 *	91	5,796
IDAHO							
District	G	D	F	69,183 B	67,780 B	98	9,595
ILLINOIS							
Circuit	G	G	A	498,780 C	547,672 C	110	5,837
INDIANA							
Superior and Circuit	G	B	A	111,607 A	102,970 A	92	2,693
City and Town	L	B	F	51,880 B	49,050 B	95	1,252
County	L	B	F	38,382	38,905	101	926
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	B	F	33,207	32,073	97	801
State Total				235,076 *	222,998 *	95	5,671
IOWA							
District	G	B	A	65,471 A	63,439 A	97	3,163
KANSAS							
District	G	B	C	42,416	44,436	105	2,327
Municipal	L	B	C	12,912	13,503	105	708
State Total				55,328	57,939	105	3,035
KENTUCKY							
Circuit	G	B	A	15,367	13,453	88	558
District	L	B	F	179,192 B	162,931 B	91	6,507
State Total				194,559 *	176,384 *	91	7,065
LOUISIANA							
District	G	Z	A	110,822	NA		3,671
City and Parish	L	B	F	157,241	124,807	79	5,208
State Total				268,063			8,879
MAINE							
Superior	G	E	A	10,755 C	10,038 C	93	1,163
District	L	E	F	41,599 C	38,206 C	92	4,497
State Total				52,354 *	48,244 *	92	5,660
MARYLAND							
Circuit	G	B	A	68,910 B	63,625 B	92	1,883
District	L	B	A	209,234	213,127	102	5,718
State Total				278,144 *	276,752 *	99	7,602

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Unit of count</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 adult population</u>
MASSACHUSETTS							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	D	B	368,439 A	271,796 C		7,971
MICHIGAN							
Circuit	G	B	A	48,635	47,323	97	706
Recorder's Court of Detroit	G	B	A	15,769	14,732	93	229
District	L	B	B	273,019 C	254,743 C	93	3,966
Municipal	L	B	B	2,648 C	2,166 C	82	38
State Total				340,071 *	318,964 *	94	4,940
MINNESOTA							
District	G	B	B	177,861 C	157,023 C	88	5,484
MISSISSIPPI							
Circuit	G	B	B	16,660	NA		905
County	L	B	B	5,212 B	NA		283
Justice	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
MISSOURI							
Circuit	G	G	G	139,733	127,509	91	3,660
MONTANA							
District	G	G	A	4,048 B	4,940 B	122	693
City	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
NEBRASKA							
District	G	B	A	8,038 B	6,524 B	8	694
County	L	B	F	80,443 B	79,480 B	99	6,947
State Total				88,481 *	86,004 *	9	7,641
NEVADA							
District	G	Z	A	1 A	NA		
Justice	L	Z	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	Z	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
NEW HAMPSHIRE							
Superior	G	A	A	12,844	12,431	97	1,557
District	L	A	B	34,913	NA		4,232
Municipal	L	A	B	627	NA		76
State Total				48,384			5,865
NEW JERSEY							
Superior	G	B	A	58,220	62,218	107	984
Municipal	L	B	B	399,670	389,879	98	6,753
State Total				457,890	452,097	99	7,737
NEW MEXICO							
District	G	E	A	12,050	11,595	96	1,106
Magistrate	L	E	B	45,409 B	40,606 B	89	4,166
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	E	B	95,631 B	40,097 B	42	8,773
State Total				153,090 *	92,298 *	60	

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unit of count	Point of filing	Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes	Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes	Dispositions as a percentage of filings	Filings per 100,000 adult population
NEW YORK							
Supreme and County	G	E	A	79,356	83,182	105	580
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	E	D	229,377	219,475	96	1,675
District and City	L	E	D	224,501 B	208,383 B	93	1,640
Town and Village Justice	L	E	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
NORTH CAROLINA							
Superior	G	E	A	115,099	109,572	95	2,260
District	L	E	G	544,983 C	539,983 C	99	10,699
State Total				660,082 *	649,555 *	98	12,958
NORTH DAKOTA							
District	G	B	A	1,914 B	1,806 B	94	414
County	L	E	F	20,636	21,240	103	4,467
Municipal	L	B	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
OHIO							
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	C	61,836	59,999	97	762
County	L	B	E	48,046 B	48,205 B	100	592
Mayor's	L	B	E	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	B	E	477,840 B	471,578 B	99	5,885
State Total							
OKLAHOMA							
District	G	J	A	79,774 B	71,240 B	89	3,424
OREGON							
Circuit	G	E	G	26,699 A	25,499 A	96	1,228
District	L	E	G	72,994	68,107	93	3,358
Justice	L	E	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
PENNSYLVANIA							
Court of Common Pleas	G	B	A	137,046 A	138,399 A	101	1,501
District Justice	L	B	B	NA	NA		
Philadelphia Municipal	L	B	B	41,112 C	39,679 C	97	450
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	B	B	20,833 B	NA		228
State Total							
PUERTO RICO							
Superior	G	J	B	40,575	38,112	94	1,714
District	L	J	B	41,129 C	40,781 C	99	1,738
State Total				81,704 *	78,893 *	97	3,452
RHODE ISLAND							
Superior	G	D	A	6,233	6,299	101	805
District	L	A	B	44,061 B	37,799 B	86	5,693
State Total				50,294 *	44,098 *	88	6,498
SOUTH CAROLINA							
Circuit	G	B	A	109,580	97,132	89	4,179
Magistrate	L	B	E	160,320 C	160,123 C	100	6,114
Municipal	L	B	E	87,937	NA		3,354
State Total				357,837 *			13,647

(continued on next page)

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Unit of count</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total criminal filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total criminal dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 adult population</u>
SOUTH DAKOTA							
Circuit	G	A	B	31,279	25,673	82	6,218
TENNESSEE							
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	Z	A	64,563 A	61,248 A	95	1,734
General Sessions	L	M	M	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	M	M	NA	NA		
State Total							
TEXAS							
District	G	B	A	167,529	166,375	99	1,353
County-level	L	B	F	443,536	390,046 A		3,583
Justice of the Peace	L	A	B	532,379 A	504,176 A	95	4,300
Municipal	L	A	B	543,836 A	403,918 A	74	4,393
State Total				1,687,280 *	1,464,515 *		13,629
UTAH							
District	G	J	A	4,316 B	4,482 B	104	383
Circuit	L	B	A	50,366 C	44,880 C	89	4,465
Justice	L	B	B	25,026 B	24,934 B	100	2,219
State Total				79,708 *	74,296 *	93	7,066
VERMONT							
District	G	D	C	19,509	18,577	95	4,623
Superior	G	B	A	6	8	133	1
State Total				19,515	18,585	95	4,624
VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	A	A	105,000 B	101,048 B	96	2,212
District	L	A	E	463,149 A	481,246 A	104	9,757
State Total				568,149 *	582,294 *	102	11,969
WASHINGTON							
Superior	G	D	F	28,577	26,216	92	772
District	L	C	B	125,889 A	117,110 A	93	3,400
Municipal	L	C	B	79,622 A	47,927 A		2,150
State Total				234,088 *	191,253 *		6,322
WEST VIRGINIA							
Circuit	G	J	A	7,015	7,396	105	514
Magistrate	L	J	E	136,966	122,671	90	10,041
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
WISCONSIN							
Circuit	G	D	C	89,547 A	89,933 A	100	2,457
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							
WYOMING							
District	G	J	A	1,426	1,628	114	440
County	L	J	B	12,126 A	NA		3,743
Justice of the Peace	L	J	B	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	A	B	NA	NA		
State Total							

TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991 (continued)

NOTE: All state trial courts with criminal jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction

L = Limited Jurisdiction

UNIT OF COUNT CODES:

M = Missing data

I = Data element is inapplicable

A = Single defendant—single charge

B = Single defendant—single incident (one/more charges)

C = Single defendant—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)

D = Single defendant—one/more incidents

E = Single defendant—content varies with prosecutor

F = One/more defendants—single charge

G = One/more defendants—single incident (one/more charges)

H = One/more defendants—single incident/maximum number charges (usually two)

J = One/more defendants—one/more incidents

K = One/more defendants—content varies with prosecutor

L = Inconsistent during reporting year

Z = Both the defendant and charge components vary within the state

POINT OF FILING CODES:

M = Missing data

I = Data element is inapplicable

A = At the filing of the information/indictment

B = At the filing of the complaint

C = When defendant enters plea/initial appearance

D = When docketed

E = At issuing of warrant

F = At filing of information/complaint

G = Varies (at filing of the complaint, information, indictment)

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

- See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Alaska—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

California—Superior Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report data.

Delaware—Court of Common Pleas—Total **criminal** filed data do not include most **misdemeanor** cases.

—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **DWI/DUI** cases.

District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total **criminal** disposed data do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Georgia—Probate Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 48 of 159 counties, do not include **DWI/DUI** cases, which are reported with **traffic/other violation** data, and are less than 75% complete.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include reopened prior cases.

—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

Iowa—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **criminal** filed data do not include some **misdemeanor** cases.

Nevada—District Court—Total **criminal** filed data do not include **felony, misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and miscellaneous criminal** cases and are less than 75% complete.

Oregon—Circuit Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **criminal appeals** cases.

Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include some **criminal appeals** cases.

Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Courts— Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **miscellaneous criminal** cases.

Texas—County-level Court—Total **criminal** disposed data do not include some **criminal appeals** cases.

—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 86%.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 98%.

Virginia—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include **DWI/DUI** cases.

Washington—District Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts.

—Municipal Court—Total **criminal** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts. Disposed data also do not include cases from Seattle Municipal Court and are less than 75% complete.

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991 (continued)

Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data do not include criminal appeals and uncontested first offense DWI/DUI cases.

Wyoming—County Court—Total criminal filed data do not include reopened misdemeanor and reopened DWI/DUI cases.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Alabama—Circuit Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings.

Alaska—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some moving traffic violation cases and all ordinance violation cases.

Arkansas—City Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

Colorado—District, Denver Juvenile, and Denver Probate Courts—Total criminal filed and disposed data include extraditions, revocations, parole, and release from commitment hearings.

—County Court—Total criminal filed data include some preliminary hearing proceedings.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total criminal disposed data include some ordinance violation cases.

Delaware—Superior Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings.

—Alderman's Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

Georgia—Superior Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include all traffic/other violation cases.

Idaho—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings.

Indiana—City and Town Courts—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some ordinance violation and some unclassified traffic cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases and sentence review only proceedings.

Maryland—Circuit Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings.

Mississippi—County Court—Total criminal filed data include preliminary hearing proceedings.

Montana—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some trial court civil appeals cases.

Nebraska—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include civil appeals cases.

—County Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

New Mexico—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

—Magistrate Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings.

New York—District and City Courts—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

North Dakota—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings.

Ohio—County Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

—Municipal Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

Oklahoma—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

Pennsylvania—Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court—Total criminal filed data include ordinance violation cases.

Rhode Island—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include moving traffic violation and ordinance violation cases.

Utah—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings.

—Justice Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some moving traffic violation cases.

Virginia—Circuit Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Alabama—Municipal Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include data that were unavailable from 70 municipalities. Filed data also do not include DWI/DUI cases.

Arkansas—Municipal Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include data from several municipalities.

California—Justice Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.

—Municipal Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.

Colorado—County Court—Total criminal disposed data include some preliminary hearing proceedings, but do not include DWI/DUI cases and data from Denver County Court.

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total criminal filed data include some ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.

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TABLE 10: Reported Total State Trial Court Criminal Caseload, 1991 (continued)

Delaware—Municipal Court of Wilmington—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include most DWI/DUI cases.

Georgia—State Court—Total criminal filed data include traffic/other violation cases from five of 62 courts, but do not include some DWI/DUI cases, any data from 27 courts, partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data include traffic/other violation cases from five courts, but do not include some DWI/DUI cases, any data from 28 courts, partial data from one court, and are less than 75% complete.

Illinois—Circuit Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some preliminary hearing proceedings and some ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI and miscellaneous criminal cases.

Maine—Superior Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, and postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings, but do not include DWI/DUI and some criminal appeals cases.

—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings and some ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI and some misdemeanor cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total criminal disposed data include some moving traffic violation cases, but do not include some cases from the Boston Municipal, Juvenile, District, and Housing Court Departments.

Michigan—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.

—Municipal Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.

Minnesota—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include some DWI/DUI cases.

North Carolina—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include some ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include preliminary hearing proceedings, but do not include some misdemeanor cases.

Puerto Rico—District Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include ordinance violation cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases.

South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include miscellaneous juvenile cases, but do not include DWI/DUI cases. (Filed data were estimated using percentages provided by the AOC.)

Utah—Circuit Court—Total criminal filed and disposed data include postconviction remedy proceedings, but do not include some miscellaneous criminal cases.

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1991

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 total population</u>
ALABAMA						
District	L	1	239,667	243,557	102	5,861
Municipal	L	1	786,748 C	644,983 A		19,241
State Total			1,026,415 *	888,540 *		25,102
ALASKA						
District	L	3	56,422 A	56,422 A	100	9,899
ARIZONA						
Justice of the Peace	L	1	409,289	382,847	94	10,914
Municipal	L	1	795,634	800,957	101	21,217
State Total			1,204,923	1,183,804	98	
ARKANSAS						
City	L	1	19,140 A	10,565 A	55	807
Municipal	L	1	331,608 A	216,142 A	65	13,980
Police	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
CALIFORNIA						
Justice	L	3	339,991 C	301,323 C	89	1,119
Municipal	L	3	13,206,857 C	12,094,070 C	92	43,472
State Total			13,546,848 *	12,395,393 *	92	
COLORADO						
County	L	2	429,286	209,430 C		12,712
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
CONNECTICUT						
Superior	G	6	232,381 C	240,316 B		7,061
DELAWARE						
Alderman's	L	4	22,804 A	20,969 A	92	3,354
Court of Common Pleas	L	2	40,254 B	42,673 B		5,920
Family	L	2	353	409	116	52
Justice of the Peace	L	2	177,664	177,207	100	26,127
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	5	21,363 C	21,796 C	102	3,142
State Total			262,438 *	263,054 *	100	
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						
Superior	G	6	19,010	18,665 B		3,179
FLORIDA						
County	L	5	3,680,616	2,903,001	79	27,722
GEORGIA						
Superior	G	2	NA	NA		
County Recorder's	L	1	NA	NA		
Juvenile	L	2	5,201 A	4,799 A	92	79
Magistrate	L	2	69,398 A	52,655 A	76	1,048
Municipal and City of Atlanta	L	1	NA	NA		
Probate	L	2	84,461 C	80,460 C	95	1,275
State	L	2	256,025 C	263,423 C		3,866
State Total						

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 total population</u>
HAWAII						
Circuit	G	2	480 A	342 A	71	42
District	L	4	904,180 B	915,142 B	101	79,663
State Total			904,660 *	915,484 *	101	
IDAHO						
District	G	3	239,543	239,535	100	23,055
ILLINOIS						
Circuit	G	4	2,968,244 C	3,324,449 C	112	25,715
INDIANA						
Superior and Circuit	G	3	266,644	265,201	99	4,753
City and Town	L	3	166,678 A	182,837 A	110	2,971
County	L	4	92,282	82,460	89	1,645
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	3	115,596	86,208	75	2,061
State Total			641,200 *	616,706 *	96	
IOWA						
District	G	3	677,647 B	679,900 B	100	24,245
KANSAS						
District	G	4	255,639 A	251,760 A	98	10,246
Municipal	L	1	356,319 A	335,182 A	94	14,281
State Total			611,958 *	586,942 *	96	
KENTUCKY						
District	L	3	315,311 A	312,355 A	99	8,492
LOUISIANA						
District	G	1	239,412	NA		5,631
City and Parish Justice of the Peace	L	1	447,126	380,096	85	10,516
Mayor's	L	1	NA	NA		
MAINE						
Superior	G	2	2,736 C	2,761 C	101	222
District	L	4	205,845 C	203,671 C	99	16,668
State Total			208,581 *	206,432 *	99	
MARYLAND						
District	L	1	1,212,061	1,058,060 A		24,940
MASSACHUSETTS						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	1	969,994 B	173,256 C		16,177
MICHIGAN						
District	L	4	2,611,879 C	2,480,492 C	95	27,881
Municipal	L	4	45,515 C	43,589 C	96	486
Probate	L	2	15,205	15,021	99	162
State Total			2,672,599 *	2,539,102 *	95	
MINNESOTA						
District	G	4	1,386,508 C	1,340,032 C	97	31,284

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 total population</u>
MISSISSIPPI						
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
MISSOURI						
Circuit	G	2	411,719 A	398,832 A	97	7,982
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
MONTANA						
City	L	1	NA	NA		
Justice of the Peace	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEBRASKA						
County	L	1	275,514 A	279,267 A	101	17,295
NEVADA						
Justice	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEW HAMPSHIRE						
District	L	4	208,944	NA		18,909
Municipal	L	4	2,156	NA		195
State Total			211,100			
NEW JERSEY						
Municipal	L	4	5,803,479	7,421,861	128	74,787
NEW MEXICO						
Magistrate	L	3	72,654	64,970	89	4,693
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	3	205,551 A	168,896 A	82	13,278
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NEW YORK						
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	2	98,278 A	93,712 A	95	544
District and City	L	4	997,184 A	997,184 A	100	5,522
Town and Village Justice	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
NORTH CAROLINA						
District	L	6	1,145,702 C	1,147,659 C	100	17,006
NORTH DAKOTA						
District	G	4	574	NA		90
County	L	1	63,343 A	63,343 A	100	9,975
Municipal	L	1	NA	47,976 C		
State Total						

(continued on next page)

TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 total population</u>
OHIO						
Court of Common Pleas	G	2	108,209	107,893	100	989
County	L	5	214,521 A	219,060 A	102	1,961
Mayor's Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total	L	5	1,468,858 A	1,482,391 A	101	13,428
OKLAHOMA						
District	G	2	205,398 A	201,481 A	98	6,469
Municipal Court Not of Record	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal Criminal Court of Record	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
OREGON						
District	L	1	332,316 A	317,741 A	96	11,373
Justice	L	3	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	3	NA	NA		
State Total						
PENNSYLVANIA						
District Justice	L	4	NA	NA		
Philadelphia Municipal	L	2	28,633 B	28,548 B	100	239
Philadelphia Traffic	L	1	308,443 A	99,186 A		2,579
Pittsburgh City Magistrates	L	4	400,489 A	NA		3,348
State Total						
PUERTO RICO						
District	L	2	69,203 C	68,995 C	100	1,965
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
RHODE ISLAND						
District	L	2	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
SOUTH CAROLINA						
Family	L	2	NA	NA		
Magistrate	L	4	639,360 C	636,597 C	100	17,960
Municipal	L	4	360,716	443,245 B		10,132
State Total						
SOUTH DAKOTA						
Circuit	G	3	135,677	135,677	100	19,300
TENNESSEE						
Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	G	2	NA	NA		
General Sessions	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
TEXAS						
County-level	L	2	22,462	89,620 B		129
Justice of the Peace	L	4	1,629,363 A	1,627,436 A	100	9,392
Municipal	L	4	5,480,845 A	4,587,564 A	84	31,592
State Total			7,132,670 *	6,304,620 *		

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Parking</u>	<u>Total traffic filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total traffic dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 total population</u>
UTAH						
Circuit	L	4	174,339 B	172,164 B	99	9,850
Justice	L	4	271,041 A	259,087 A	96	15,313
Juvenile	L	2	1,031	1,031	100	58
State Total			446,411 *	432,282 *	97	
VERMONT						
District	G	2	5,711	10,406	182	1,007
VIRGINIA						
Circuit	G	2	NA	NA		
District	L	4	1,685,949 B	1,708,548 B	101	26,821
State Total						
WASHINGTON						
District	L	4	672,071 A	716,928 A	107	13,393
Municipal	L	4	1,135,335 A	497,338 A		22,625
State Total			1,807,406 *	1,214,266 *		
WEST VIRGINIA						
Magistrate	L	2	137,614	131,498	96	7,641
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						
WISCONSIN						
Circuit	G	3	558,025 B	560,358 B	100	11,262
Municipal	L	3	NA	367,048 C		
State Total				927,406 *		
WYOMING						
County	L	1	69,929 B	83,268 B	119	15,202
Justice of the Peace	L	1	NA	NA		
Municipal	L	1	NA	NA		
State Total						

NOTE: Parking violations are defined as part of the traffic/other violation caseload. However, states and courts within a state differ to the extent in which parking violations are processed through the courts. A code opposite the name of each court indicates the manner in which parking cases are reported by the court. Qualifying footnotes in Table 11 do not repeat the information provided by the code, and, thus, refer only to the status of the statistics on moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and ordinance violations. All state trial courts with traffic/other violation jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA = Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

- G = General Jurisdiction
- L = Limited Jurisdiction

PARKING CODES:

- 1 = Parking data are unavailable
- 2 = Court does not have parking jurisdiction
- 3 = Only contested parking cases are included
- 4 = Both contested and uncontested parking cases are included
- 5 = Parking cases are handled administratively
- 6 = Uncontested parking cases are handled administratively; contested parking cases are handled by the court

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1991 (continued)

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

- See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Alabama—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases and represent data from 197 of 267 municipalities.

Alaska—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include some **moving traffic violation** cases and all **ordinance violation** cases.

Arkansas—City Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases and are missing all data from several municipalities.

Delaware—Alderman's Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Georgia—Juvenile Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include cases from 50 counties, and are less than 75% complete.

—Magistrate Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include any cases from 21 counties, and partial data from 13 counties.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include reopened prior cases.

Indiana—City and Town Courts—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include some **ordinance violation** and some other **traffic** cases.

Kansas—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include juvenile **traffic** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include parking cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Maryland—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data do not include **parking** and **ordinance violation** cases.

Missouri—Circuit Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include those **ordinance violation** cases heard by municipal judges.

Nebraska—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** and **parking** cases.

New Mexico—Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** and most **miscellaneous traffic** cases.

New York—Criminal Court of the City of New York—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **moving traffic, miscellaneous traffic, and some ordinance violation** cases and are less than 75% complete.

—District and City Courts—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

North Dakota—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases, and are less than 75% complete.

Ohio—County Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Oklahoma—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Oregon—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **parking** cases, and some cases from one county due to underreporting.

Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Traffic Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include **ordinance violation, parking, and miscellaneous traffic** cases, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also do not include most **moving traffic violation** cases.

—Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data do not include **ordinance violation** cases.

Texas—Justice of the Peace Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 98%.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data represent a reporting rate of 86%.

Utah—Justice Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include some **moving traffic violation** cases.

Washington—District Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts.

—Municipal Court—Total **traffic/other violation** filed and disposed data do not include cases from several courts. Disposed data also do not include cases from Seattle Municipal Court, which handled more than one-half of the total case filings for the municipal courts statewide. Disposed data are therefore less than 75% complete.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Connecticut—Superior Court—Total **traffic/other violation** disposed data include **ordinance violation** cases disposed by the Centralized Infractions Bureau.

Delaware—Court of Common Pleas—Total **traffic/other violation** filed data include most **misdemeanor** cases. Disposed data include all **felony and misdemeanor** cases.

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TABLE 11: Reported Total State Trial Court Traffic/Other Violation Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<p>District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total traffic/other violation disposed data include DWI/DUI cases.</p> <p>Hawaii—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some misdemeanor cases.</p> <p>Iowa—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some misdemeanor cases.</p> <p>Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total traffic/other violation filed data include some misdemeanor cases.</p> <p>Pennsylvania—Philadelphia Municipal Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include miscellaneous domestic relations and some misdemeanor cases.</p> <p>South Carolina—Municipal Court—Total traffic/other violation disposed data include misdemeanor and DWI/DUI cases.</p> <p>Texas—County-level Court—Total traffic/other violation disposed data include some criminal appeals cases.</p> <p>Utah—Circuit Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some miscellaneous criminal cases.</p> <p>Virginia—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases.</p> <p>Wisconsin—Circuit Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include uncontested first offense DWI/DUI cases.</p> <p>Wyoming—County Court—Total traffic/other violation filed data include reopened misdemeanor and reopened DWI/DUI cases. Disposed data include all misdemeanor and all DWI/DUI cases.</p>	<p>Georgia—Probate Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include data from 48 of 159 counties, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>—State Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some DWI/DUI cases, but do not include data from 32 of 62 courts, and are less than 75% complete. Disposed data also include misdemeanor cases from one court.</p> <p>Illinois—Circuit Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include some ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>Maine—Superior Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI and some criminal appeals cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI and some misdemeanor cases, but do not include some ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total traffic/other violation disposed data include some misdemeanor cases, but do not include ordinance violation and most moving traffic cases.</p> <p>Michigan—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>—Municipal Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>Minnesota—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include some DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>North Carolina—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include some ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>North Dakota—Municipal Court—Total traffic/other violation disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation and parking cases, and are less than 75% complete.</p> <p>Puerto Rico—District Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>South Carolina—Magistrate Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>Wisconsin—Municipal Court—Total traffic/other violation disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include cases from several municipalities.</p>
<p>C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:</p> <p>Alabama—Municipal Court—Total traffic/other violation filed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases and data that were unavailable from 70 municipalities.</p> <p>California—Justice Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include some ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>—Municipal Court—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include some ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>Colorado—County Court—Total traffic/other violation disposed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include data from Denver County Court.</p> <p>Connecticut—Superior Court—Total traffic/other violation filed data include DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p> <p>Delaware—Municipal Court of Wilmington—Total traffic/other violation filed and disposed data include most DWI/DUI cases, but do not include ordinance violation cases.</p>	

TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1991

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 juvenile population</u>
ALABAMA						
Circuit	G	A	15,935	15,941	100	1,505
District	L	A	24,346	22,601	93	2,299
State Total			40,281	38,542	96	
ALASKA						
Superior	G	C	2,172	1,669	77	1,260
District	L	I	78	62	79	45
State Total			2,250	1,731	77	
ARIZONA						
Superior	G	C	14,840	14,290	96	1,513
ARKANSAS						
Chancery and Probate	G	C	12,579	12,208	97	2,025
CALIFORNIA						
Superior	G	C	136,425 A	120,358 A	88	1,760
COLORADO						
District, Denver Juvenile, Denver Probate	G	A	19,823	16,555	84	2,302
CONNECTICUT						
Superior	G	F	15,455	15,310	99	2,062
DELAWARE						
Family	L	C	8,941 A	7,937 A		5,474
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA						
Superior	G	B	6,409	5,971 A		5,473
FLORIDA						
Circuit	G	A	120,362	81,665	68	4,199
GEORGIA						
Juvenile	L	A	36,399 A	31,369 A	86	2,107
HAWAII						
Circuit	G	F	19,429	17,853	92	6,936
IDAHO						
District	G	C	10,616	9,796	92	3,442
ILLINOIS						
Circuit	G	C	40,811	33,379	82	1,385
INDIANA						
Probate	G	C	842 B	799 B	95	58
Superior and Circuit	G	C	33,488 B	30,977 B	93	2,300
State Total			34,330 *	31,776 *	93	
IOWA						
District	G	A	7,710	NA		1,073
KANSAS						
District	G	C	16,370 B	15,597 B	95	2,474

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TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 juvenile population</u>
KENTUCKY						
District	L	C	43,780 B	40,298 B	92	4,589
LOUISIANA						
District	G	C	6,782	NA		553
Family and Juvenile City and Parish	G	C	20,113	18,280	91	1,639
State Total	L	C	7,188	6,521	91	586
			34,083			
MAINE						
District	L	C	4,619	3,998	87	1,495
MARYLAND						
Circuit	G	C	32,691	28,496	87	2,813
District	L	C	4,155	4,235	102	357
State Total			36,846	32,731	89	
MASSACHUSETTS						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth	G	C	43,673	15,715 C		
MICHIGAN						
Probate	L	C	68,895	62,489	91	2,802
MINNESOTA						
District	G	C	40,168	38,890	97	3,443
MISSISSIPPI						
Chancery	G	C	3,481 A	NA		466
County	L	C	11,461	NA		1,535
Family	L	C	964 B	NA		129
State Total			15,906 *			
MISSOURI						
Circuit	G	C	18,748	18,322	98	1,426
MONTANA						
District	G	C	1,724	1,349 A		776
NEBRASKA						
County	L	C	4,749	4,657	98	1,107
Separate Juvenile	L	C	2,418	NA		564
State Total			7,167			
NEVADA						
District	G	C	NA	NA		
NEW HAMPSHIRE						
District	L	C	7,454	NA		2,674
NEW JERSEY						
Superior	G	F	140,814	141,872	101	7,825
NEW MEXICO						
District	G	C	9,270	8,825	95	2,075
NEW YORK						
Family	L	C	61,149	62,992	103	1,436

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TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 juvenile population</u>
NORTH CAROLINA District	L	C	29,662	29,758	100	1,847
NORTH DAKOTA District	G	C	10,317	10,293 B		5,882
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	G	E	149,699	148,720	99	5,347
OKLAHOMA District	G	G	9,243	10,636	115	1,104
OREGON Circuit	G	C	14,177	NA		1,958
PENNSYLVANIA Court of Common Pleas	G	F	58,908	57,660	98	2,108
PUERTO RICO Superior	G	C	8,844	8,029	91	
RHODE ISLAND Family	L	C	7,947	7,657	96	3,521
SOUTH CAROLINA Family Magistrate State Total	L L	C I	17,999 B NA	16,859 B NA	94	1,956
SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit	G	B	4,260	NA		2,147
TENNESSEE General Sessions Juvenile State Total	L L	B B	NA NA	NA NA		
TEXAS District County-level State Total	G L	C C	15,765 A 3,294 A 19,059 *	16,426 A 3,071 A 19,497 *	104 93 102	326 68
UTAH Juvenile	L	C	37,722	40,642	108	6,012
VERMONT Family	G	C	1,678	1,799	107	1,173
VIRGINIA District	L	C	101,630 B	99,566 B	98	6,754
WASHINGTON Superior	G	A	29,106	26,575	91	2,307
WEST VIRGINIA Circuit	G	C	7,049	6,788	96	1,589

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TABLE 12: Reported Total State Trial Court Juvenile Caseload, 1991 (continued)

<u>State/court name:</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Point of filing</u>	<u>Total juvenile filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Total juvenile dispositions and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>Dispositions as a percentage of filings</u>	<u>Filings per 100,000 juvenile population</u>
WISCONSIN Circuit	G	C	40,897	40,425	99	3,173
WYOMING District	G	C	1,435	NA		1,059

NOTE: All state trial courts with juvenile jurisdiction are listed in the table regardless of whether caseload data are available. Blank spaces in the table indicate that a particular calculation, such as the total state caseload, is not appropriate. State total "filings per 100,000 population" may not equal the sum of the filing rates for the individual courts due to rounding.

NA= Data are not available.

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction

L = Limited Jurisdiction

POINT OF FILING CODES:

M = Missing data

I = Data element is inapplicable

A = Filing of complaint

B = At initial hearing (intake)

C = Filing of petition

E = Issuance of warrant

F = At referral

G = Varies

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

The absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that data are complete.

- See the qualifying footnote for each court within the state. Each footnote has an effect on the state's total.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

California—Superior Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include cases from one court that did not report data.

Delaware—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data do not include **status offense** cases. Disposed data also do not include **child-victim petition** cases.

District of Columbia—Superior Court—Total **juvenile** disposed data do not include most **child_victim petition** cases and are less than 75% complete.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Indiana—Probate Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

—Superior and Circuit Courts—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **miscellaneous domestic relations** and some **support/custody** cases.

Kansas—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include juvenile **traffic/other violation** cases.

Kentucky—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **paternity** cases.

Mississippi—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed data include **adoption** and **paternity** cases.

North Dakota—District Court—Total **juvenile** disposed data include **traffic/other violation** cases.

South Carolina—Family Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include **traffic/other violation** cases.

Virginia—District Court—Total **juvenile** filed and disposed data include some **miscellaneous domestic relations** cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Total **juvenile** disposed data include juvenile **traffic** cases from the District Court Department, but do not include most cases from the Juvenile Court Department and some cases from the District Court Department. The data are less than 75% complete.

TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
ALASKA								
Supreme Court	320	334	318	368	363	342	34	356
Court of Appeals	467	446	505	469	435	404	429	454
ARIZONA								
Supreme Court	105 A	81 A	118 A	116 A	112 A	159 A	92	100
Court of Appeals	2,753	2,843	3,352	3,451	3,902	3,858	4,491	4,746
ARKANSAS								
Supreme Court	479 C	439 C	411 C	459 C	400 C	443 C	482 C	534 C
Court of Appeals	855	846 951	949	899	1,079	1,096	1,200	827
CALIFORNIA								
Supreme Court	222 A	284 A	236 A	315 A	319 A	380 A	522	31
Courts of Appeal	10,118	10,252	10,035	9,985	10,954	11,542	13,012	13,024
COLORADO								
Supreme Court	256	200	205	214	197	205	228	202
Court of Appeals	1,580	1,626	1,862	1,930	1,946	2,012	2,269	2,147
CONNECTICUT								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	58	86	274	281	302
Appellate Court	1,362 B	934 B	953 B	945	995	985	1,107	1,091
FLORIDA								
Supreme Court	587	597	629	581	510	642	617	662
District Cts. of Appeal	11,770	12,262	13,502	13,861	14,195	13,924	14,386	15,670
GEORGIA								
Supreme Court	663 B	692 B	616 B	640 B	639 B	674	690	696
Court of Appeals	2,070 B	1,946 B	2,666 B	2,071 B	2,306 B	2,361 B	2,384	2,265
HAWAII								
Supreme Court	471 B	496 B	604 B	616 B	715 B	650 B	489	688
Intermediate Ct. of App.	101	132	132	134	120	140	138	123
IDAHO								
Supreme Court	349 B	348 B	288 B	289 B	382 B	366 B	349	398 B
Court of Appeals	146	149	174	181	227	221	215	224
ILLINOIS								
Supreme Court	118	167	218	176	275	153	199	182
Appellate Court	7,134 B	7,611 B	7,550 B	7,954 B	8,119 B	8,139 B	8,191 B	8,785 B
IOWA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	1,528	877 B	801 B	1,303	1,211	1,355
Court of Appeals	569	730	552	618	728	678	743	654
KANSAS								
Supreme Court	169	177	189	214	347	179	165	147
Court of Appeals	1,041 B	1,087 B	1,131 B	1,127 B	1,176 B	1,154 B	1,201 B	1,297 B

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1991 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
347	287	355	291	394	298	349	306
449	406	589	429	403	431	387	389
111 A	87 A	70 A	86 A	79 A	133 A	162	122
2,598	2,953	3,445	3,372	3,240	3,478	3,659	4,095
448 C	451 C	404 C	416 C	457 C	421 C	448 C	508 C
895	840	983	827	978	1,016	1,199	
NA	NA	NA	73 C	101 C	46	20 A	28
NA	NA	NA	10,669	10,577	13,886	14,584	12,880
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,411	1,396	1,590	1,602	2,028	2,193	2,105	2,192
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	296 B	285	301
568 B	877 B	1,055 B	893	1,026	1,135	1,107	1,067
530	639	644	548	534	580	595	655
11,941	12,540	12,847	13,591	13,559	14,073	14,503	15,994
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	502	649
2,090 B	NA	NA	1,961 B	1,986 B	1,918 B	1,535	1,886
454 B	516 B	691 B	579 B	609 B	749 B	565	614
125	105	132	142	129	138	120	126
352 B	333 B	359 B	295 B	332 B	347 B	369	397 B
175	282	174	174	162	231	204	260
120	152	207	152	292	191	185	137
6,891 B	6,961 B	7,007 B	7,451 B	7,648 B	7,722 B	7,951 B	8,387 B
846 B	868 B	933 B	944 B	899 B	970 B	947 B	1,110
532	637	589	578	669	799	662	682
343	344	331	333	459	290	267	291
1,045 B	989 B	1,106 B	1,143 B	1,174 B	1,218 B	1,152 B	1,165 B

(continued on next page)

TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
KENTUCKY								
Supreme Court	221	282	251	261	258	304	281	357
Court of Appeals	2,725	3,156	2,769	2,691	2,665	2,712	2,569	2,882
LOUISIANA								
Supreme Court	147 B	79 B	112	135	124	108	82	106
Courts of Appeal	3,870 B	3,578 B	3,695	3,846	3,967	3,562	3,835	3,782
MARYLAND								
Court of Appeals	220 B	218 B	238 B	233 B	242 B	205 B	261	259
Court of Spec. Appeals	1,777	1,642	1,644	1,714	1,754	1,841	2,006	2,035
MASSACHUSETTS								
Supreme Judicial Court	141	129	86	72	96	75	86	81
Appeals Court	1,375 B	1,301 B	1,352 B	1,434 B	1,394 B	1,451 B	1,568	1,527
MICHIGAN								
Supreme Court	5	3	4	5	4	4	2	2
Court of Appeals	4,796	5,187	NA	8,186 B	8,559 B	10,951 B	12,340 B	11,825 B
MINNESOTA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	175	241	271	248	282	269
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	1,767	1,924	2,065	1,772	2,157	1,828
MISSOURI								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	219	227	247	371
Court of Appeals	2,852	3,166	3,147	3,055	3,315	3,659	3,565	3,706
NEW JERSEY								
Supreme Court	368	227	236	349	357	413	387	501
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	6,224 B	6,037 B	6,106 B	6,277 B	6,458 B	6,492 B	7,007	6,569
NEW MEXICO								
Supreme Court	322	303	325	320	296	368	297	310
Court of Appeals	572	662	671	604	648	777	797	768
NORTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	230	222	249	182	147	109	116	137
Court of Appeals	1,314 B	1,375 B	1,381 B	1,265 B	1,351 B	1,378	1,408	1,325
NORTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	370	338	377	382	367	397	429	456
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	NC	9	0	13	0
OHIO								
Supreme Court	338	442	491	422	500	535	685	592
Court of Appeals	9,383	9,522	9,683	9,983	10,005	10,771	10,721	11,031
OREGON								
Supreme Court	205	180	145	176	192	217	194	197
Court of Appeals	3,828	3,981	4,146	4,305	3,739	3,795	4,584	5,123
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	479	451	519	511	624	463	602	339
Court of Appeals	404	391	351	440	307	448	370	425

<u>1984</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
280 2,696	259 2,757	253 2,661	271 2,304	302 2,243	305 2,438	278 2,463	324 2,347
NA NA	NA NA	71 3,944	123 3,380	134 3,429	105 3,646	95 3,517	101 3,745
230 B 1,877	232 B 1,807	188 B 1,552	222 B 1,777	183 B 1,762	221 B 1,811	244 1,808	243 1,824
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA 1,171	NA 1,450
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA 7,502 B	NA 8,497 B	NA 8,983 B	NA 10,503 B	NA 10,237 B
NA NA	NA NA	157 1,848	204 1,916	250 1,949	242 1,872	260 2,042	219 1,818
NA 3,159	NA 3,177	NA 3,206	NA 3,259	222 3,145	227 3,331	267 3,568	376 3,440
408 6,262 B	251 6,056 B	237 6,611 B	381 6,400 B	349 6,494 B	383 6,531 B	401 6,284	556 6,770
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA 853 B	NA 690 B	365 A 741 B	313 763 B	386 771
219 1,412 B	183 1,464 B	245 1,626 B	192 1,310 B	213 1,272 B	95 1,188 B	102 1,366	119 1,414
331 NC	335 NC	357 NC	357 NC	405 13	381 0	439 7	408 6
320 9,124	383 9,491	414 9,296	380 9,393	462 9,668	457 9,871	531 10,928	648 11,569
390 B 3,759	296 B 3,784	262 B 4,014	313 B 4,232	322 B 3,985	301 B 3,601	271 B 3,725	257 B 4,558
NA 441	NA 398	NA 374	596 B 368	385 B 367	537 B 377	537 367	560 B 374

(continued on next page)

TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
UTAH								
Supreme Court	640	628	623	474	443	498	566	553
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	560 A	721	764	629	755
VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	20
Court of Appeals	NC	538	419	422	455	443	464	490
WASHINGTON								
Supreme Court	228 B	194 B	162 B	135 B	123 B	101 B	148 B	137 B
Court of Appeals	2,866	3,270	3,535	3,238	3,157	3,222	3,653	3,789
WISCONSIN								
Supreme Court	98	91	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	2,239	2,358	2,053	2,185	2,147	2,355	2,853 B	2,970 B
States with no intermediate appellate court								
DELAWARE								
Supreme Court	331 B	406 B	417 B	397 B	473 B	517 B	483 B	473 B
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Court of Appeals	1,810 B	1,770 B	1,556	1,500	1,624	1,515	1,650	1,567
MAINE								
Supreme Judicial Court	61 A	NA	59 A	631 C	528 C	540 C	622 C	646 C
MISSISSIPPI								
Supreme Court	838	815	1,010	891	919	773	961	912
MONTANA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	566	546	597	627	633 A	636 A
NEBRASKA								
Supreme Court	1,002 B	997 B	1,014 B	1,196 B	1,103 B	1,497 B	1,207 B	834 B
NEVADA								
Supreme Court	799	777	853	856	991	997	1,089	1,080
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RHODE ISLAND								
Supreme Court	409	403	389	323	410	455	465	445
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	344 B	358 B	363 B	422 B	428 B	387 B	403 B	366 B

<u>1984</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
NA	NA	NA	521 B	617 B	642 B	556 B	560 B
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	785 B	691 B	725 B
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	13
NC	216	476	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
176 B	184 B	209 B	148 B	154 B	127 B	139 B	159 B
2,724	2,994	3,238	3,870	3,289	2,902	3,086	2,991
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2,223	2,501	2,178	2,206	2,368	2,414	2,612	2,955
354 B	373 B	415 B	419 B	407 B	480 B	553 B	439 B
1,510 B	1,568 B	1,568 B	1,595	1,602	1,598	1,798	1,727
494 A	506 A	521 A	495 A	507 C	452 C	475 C	574 C
637	853	912	831	793	840	944	922
NA	NA	355	NA	NA	618 B	624	578 A
NA	NA	NA	964 B	1,094 B	1,277 B	1,022 B	1,420 B
788	867	854	1,013	922	1,047	1,057	1,035
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
447	393	478	402	403	396	476	472
NA	NA	NA	NA	463 B	484 B	434 B	428 B

(continued on next page)

TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1991 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with no intermediate appellate court								
VERMONT								
Supreme Court	623 B	575	550	538	620	619	590	542
WEST VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
WYOMING								
Supreme Court	331	306	342	320	357	321	314	301
States with multiple appellate courts at any level								
ALABAMA								
Supreme Court	745	798	827	998	829	908	998	1,000
Court of Civil Appeals	532	548	530	584	529	556	651	770
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,400	1,520	1,537	1,695	1,784	2,132	2,042	1,953
INDIANA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	409	NA	336	199	210
Court of Appeals	1,150 B	1,037 B	1,073 B	1,149 B	1,222 B	1,516	1,966	1,779
Tax Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	69
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	680	409	324 B	330 B	302	289
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	NA	135 C	NA	9,205 B	10,740 B	11,338 B	10,577 B	10,339 B
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	2,208 B	2,192 B	2,461 B	2,245 B	2,201 B
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	789	1,128	788	1,105	809	862	1,033	732
Court of Appeals	788	635	971	931	1,362	1,373	1,323	1,184
Court of Criminal Appeals	502	NA	NA	980 B	1,046 B	1,192 B	1,445 B	1,244 B
PENNSYLVANIA								
Supreme Court	268	142	92	80	121	94	225	97
Commonwealth Court	4,012	3,554	3,737 A	3,030 A	3,164 A	3,115 A	3,491	3,774
Superior Court	5,793 B	5,878 B	5,989 B	6,137 B	6,439 B	6,040 B	6,291	6,743
TENNESSEE								
Supreme Court	216	139	146	170	161	161	107	192
Court of Appeals	951	999	1,173	1,003	889	889	980	961
Court of Criminal Appeals	868 B	850 B	885 B	811 B	994	994	1,002	899
TEXAS								
Supreme Court	0	1	2	3	3	3	3	2
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,959	1,998	2,221	2,450	3,578	3,504	2,281	2,189
Courts of Appeals	7,386	7,954	7,832	7,857	8,250	8,813	8,062	8,563

<u>1984</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
532 B	506	535	527	593	624	685	656
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
250	347	327	302	334	363	287	300
NA	797	940	1,017	994	620	569	750
536	516	548	518	576	528	641	673
1,480	1,424	1,745	1,819	1,774	1,927	1,904	2,243
357	359	470	384	380	418	259	245
1,137 B	1,062 B	1,116 B	1,130 B	1,137 B	1,334	1,657	2,162
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	43
391	401	350	369	369 B	295	287	293
NA	135 C	NA	13,392 B	13,225 B	14,534 B	12,540 B	12,885
NA	NA	NA	2,133 B	2,124 B	2,034 B	2,179 B	2,235
229 A	149 A	174 A	813 B	852 B	NA	NA	NA
801	693	856	728	1,215	1,337	1,038	1,123
645	404	536	626	693	773	774	814
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	4,053 B	4,392 B	3,973 B	3,519 B	3,551 B
5,908 B	8,355 B	7,410 B	6,253 B	6,416 B	6,218 B	6,079	6,514
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,010	1,010	1,330	1,033	1,015 B	1,015 B	924	932
851 B	891 B	946 B	747 B	794 B	794 B	843 B	923
0	1	2	3	3	1	3	2
2,237	2,084	2,027	2,448	3,546	3,806	2,487	2,273
8,274	7,981	8,161	7,824	7,984	8,416	8,134	8,091

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of last resort

IAC = Intermediate appellate court

NOTE:

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable.

NC = Indicates that the court did not exist during that year.

NJ = Indicates that the court does not have jurisdiction.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

An absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that the data are complete.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

- Arizona—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1989 do not include **mandatory judge disciplinary cases**.
- California—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1989 do not include **judge disciplinary cases**.
- Maine—Supreme Judicial Court—Filed data for 1984-1986 and 1984-1987 disposed data do not include **mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases**.
- Montana—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1989 do not include **advisory opinions** and some **original proceedings**. Data for 1991 do not include **administrative agency, advisory opinions, and original proceedings**.
- New Mexico—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1989 do not include **criminal or administrative agency cases**.
- Oklahoma—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984_ 1986 do not include **mandatory appeals of final judgments, mandatory disciplinary cases and mandatory interlocutory decisions**.
- Pennsylvania—Commonwealth Court—Filed data for 1986_1989 do not include transfers from the Superior Court and Court of Common Pleas.
- Utah—Court of Appeals—Filed data for 1987 represent an 11-month reporting period.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

- Connecticut—Appellate Court—Data for 1984-1986 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted review**.
- Delaware—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1991 include some **discretionary petitions** and filed data include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.
- District of Columbia—Court of Appeals—Data for 1984 and 1985 include **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.
- Georgia—Supreme Court—Total **mandatory** filed data for 1984-1988 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.
- Court of Appeals—Total **mandatory** data for 1984-1989 include all **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Hawaii—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1989 include a few **discretionary petitions granted**.

Idaho—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1989 include **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Illinois—Appellate Court—Data for 1984-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Indiana—Court of Appeals—Data for 1984-1988 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1987-1988 include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the court. Disposed data for 1984-1990 include some **discretionary petitions that were dismissed** by the court.

Kansas—Court of Appeals—Filed data for 1984-1991 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted**. Disposed data for 1984-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Louisiana—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1984 and 1985 include a few **discretionary appeals**.

—Courts of Appeal—Filed data for 1984 and 1985 include refiled **discretionary petitions that were granted review**.

Maryland—Court of Appeals—Data for 1984-1989 include **discretionary petitions that were granted**, and refiled as appeals.

Massachusetts—Appeals Court—Data for 1984-1989 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Michigan—Court of Appeals—Data for 1987-1991 include **discretionary petitions**.

Montana—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1989 include **discretionary petitions**.

Nebraska—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1991 include **discretionary petitions**.

New Jersey—Appellate Division of Superior Court—Data for 1984-1989 include all **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

New Mexico—Court of Appeals—Disposed data for 1987-1990 include **interlocutory decisions**.

New York—Appellate Divisions and Terms of Supreme Court—Data for 1987-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

North Carolina—Court of Appeals—**Mandatory** data for 1984-1989 include a few **discretionary petitions that were granted** and refiled as appeals. Data include some cases where relief, not review, were granted.

Oklahoma—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987 and 1988 includes **granted discretionary petitions that were disposed**.

—Court of Criminal Appeals—Data for 1987-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Oregon—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984-1991 include all **discretionary petitions that were granted**.

Pennsylvania—Superior Court—Data for 1984-1989 include all **discretionary petitions disposed that were granted**.

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TABLE 13: Mandatory Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

—Commonwealth Court—Disposed data for 1987-1991 include some discretionary cases.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1991 include **discretionary advisory opinions**.

Tennessee—Court of Appeals—Filed data for 1988-1989 include **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Criminal Appeals—Filed data for 1984-1987 and disposed data for 1984-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Utah—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

—Court of Appeals—Disposed data for 1989-1991 include all **discretionary petitions**.

Vermont—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984-1991 include **discretionary petitions that were granted and decided**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1991 include some **discretionary petitions**.

Wisconsin—Court of Appeals—Data for 1990-1991 include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Arkansas—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1991 include a few **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory attorney disciplinary cases and certified questions from the federal courts**.

Maine—Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court—Filed and 1987-1991 disposed data include **discretionary petitions**, but do not include **mandatory disciplinary and advisory opinion cases**.

New York—Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court—Data for 1985 footnote could not be determined because of manner reported.

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload In State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
ALASKA								
Supreme Court	221	194	313	219	244	251	231	256
Court of Appeals	63	64	83	54	62	62	61	60
ARIZONA								
Supreme Court	1,016 B	1,161 B	1,156 B	995 B	1,018 B	1,004 B	1,044 B	1,082
Court of Appeals	50	40	49	51	60	52	83	113
ARKANSAS								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
CALIFORNIA								
Supreme Court	3,991	4,346	4,808	4,558	4,351	4,214	4,622	4,992
Courts of Appeal	5,838	5,938	6,234	6,732	7,005	6,966	7,236	7,025
COLORADO								
Supreme Court	813	767	783	756	825	993	1,072	1,063
Appellate Court	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
FLORIDA								
Supreme Court	1,056	1,175	1,097	1,270	1,316	1,111	1,303	1,324
District Courts of Appeal	1,970	1,975	2,294	2,282	2,285	2,259	2,457	2,591
GEORGIA								
Supreme Court	941	975	980	1,006	998	1,101	1,079	1,085
Court of Appeals	623	641	647	733	717	809	794	450
HAWAII								
Supreme Court	32	41	43	57	45	42	43	32
Intermediate Ct. of App.	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
IDAHO								
Supreme Court	60	92	77	82	76	91	77	93
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
ILLINOIS								
Supreme Court	1,675	1,579	1,637	1,673	1,558	1,558	1,582	1,673
Appellate Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
IOWA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	352	327	371	NA	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
KANSAS								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	526	461	500
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
KENTUCKY								
Supreme Court	986	813	847	693 A	686 A	748 A	753 A	788 A
Court of Appeals	79	96	94	90	92	89	59	314

<u>1984</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
220 77	197 54	290 99	231 54	255 66	243 56	235 64	241 66
1,048 B 59	1,078 B 45	1,156 B 48	1,054 B 45	905 B 63	995 B 53	1,006 B 56	1,061 99
NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	4,004 6,776	4,052 7,334	4,442 7,070	4,442 7,438	4,907 7,266
NA NJ	NA NJ	NA NJ	1,036 B NJ	1,001 B NJ	1,215 B NJ	1,261 B NJ	1,326 B NJ
1,060 1,669	1,123 1,683	1,260 1,751	1,223 1,887	1,426 1,839	965 1,893	1,251 2,297	1,361 2,421
NA 629	NA NA	NA NA	1,524 B 701	1,615 B 683	1,885 B 706	1,559 B 794	986 B 386
35 NJ	39 NJ	45 MJ	58 NJ	42 NJ	45 NJ	43 NJ	32 NJ
55 NJ	99 NJ	71 NJ	76 NJ	84 NJ	88 NJ	86 NJ	79 NJ
1,715 NA	1,673 NA	1,622 NA	1,633 NA	1,482 NA	1,484 NA	1,498 NA	1,551 NA
479 A NJ	497 A NJ	520 A NJ	317 A NJ	291 A NJ	303 A NJ	311 A NJ	501 NJ
NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA	NA NA
793 73	1,044 87	898 107	706 A 71	678 A 77	640 A 89	718 A 76	702 A 315

(continued on next page)

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1991 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
LOUISIANA								
Supreme Court	2,126 A	2,313 A	2,455	2,673	2,657	2,776	2,684	2,298
Courts of Appeal	1,842	2,538	3,016	3,541	3,877	4,189	3,980	4,844
MARYLAND								
Court of Appeals	761	713	607	655	682	598	626	646
Court of Special Appeals	308	192	240	294	220	230	204	254
MASSACHUSETTS								
Supreme Judicial Court	1,246	1,336	1,473	336	563	592	444	501
Appeals Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	886	959	916	950
MICHIGAN								
Supreme Court	2,347	2,069	2,042	2,082	2,662	2,805	2,507	2,233
Court of Appeals	NA	2,249	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MISSOURI								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	900	857	809	710
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
NEW JERSEY								
Supreme Court	1,142 A	1,053 A	1,382 A	1,382 A	1,354 A	1,482 A	1,217 A	2,907
Appellate Div. of Super. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NEW MEXICO								
Supreme Court	174	155	202	350	295	366	414	364
Court of Appeals	57	68	52	57	64	44	46	49
NORTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	541	620	735	676	636	447	626	492
Court of Appeals	471	484	546	483	446	385	451	415
NORTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	6	0	NA	NA
Court of Appeals	NC	NC	NC	NC	NA	NA	NA	NA
OHIO								
Supreme Court	1,704	1,644	1,733	1,846	1,770	1,686	1,872	1,984
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
OREGON								
Supreme Court	870	903	990	1,086	857	709	791	845
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
SOUTH CAROLINA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	24 A	32 A	26 A	43 A	61	95
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
UTAH								
Supreme Court	72	42	51	30	61	36	48	33
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	10	20	NA	NA	NA
VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court	1,915	1,043	1,193	1,441	1,439	1,573	1,775	1,936
Court of Appeals	NC	1,103	1,113	1,201	1,291	1,523	1,570	1,853

<u>1984</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>	<u>1985</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>	<u>1986</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>	<u>1987</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>	<u>1988</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>	<u>1989</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>	<u>1990</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>	<u>1991</u> <u>Number of</u> <u>dispositions</u> <u>and qualifying</u> <u>footnotes</u>
NA	NA	,230	2,660	2,404	2,633	2,870	3,084
NA	NA	2,935	3,460	3,802	4,138	3,945	4,440
785	678	700	562	776	543	608	659
308	192	185	294	220	230	204	254
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	916	950
2,495 B	2,314 B	2,397 B	2,168 B	2,254 B	2,453 B	2,755	2,444
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	902	871	823	703
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
1,075 A	1,025 A	1,378 A	1,411 A	1,398 A	1,472 A	1,200 A	2,941
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	344	402	334
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	9
465	665	748	637	727	397	601	498
423	462	560	483	446	385	431	415
NA	NA	NA	NA	5	0	NA	NA
NC	NC	NC	NC	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,293	1,428	1,532	1,598	1,621	1,372	1,413	1,956
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
NA	873	1,013	1,042	871	733	707	773
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
1,919	1,321	1,095	1,169	1,655	1,800 A	1,610	1,295
NC	637	881	1,743	1,454	1,777	2,140	2,308

(continued on next page)

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with one court of last resort and one intermediate appellate court								
WASHINGTON								
Supreme Court	881 C	906 C	897 C	1,151 C	947 A	821 A	891 A	881 A
Court of Appeals	263	320	371	346	372	318	351	355
WISCONSIN								
Supreme Court	718	761	836	869	915	896	842	992
Court of Appeals	245	228	241	221	228	191	NA	NA
States with no intermediate appellate court								
DELAWARE								
Supreme Court	5 A	3 A	3 A	4 A	4 A	6 A	1 A	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA								
Court of Appeals	85	81	76	96	61	49	45	36
MAINE								
Supreme Judicial Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MISSISSIPPI								
Supreme Court	2	4	3	2	0	43	64	80
MONTANA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	36	25	31	6	NA	NA
NEBRASKA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NEW HAMPSHIRE								
Supreme Court	603 A	574 A	534 A	516 A	504	567	627	597
RHODE ISLAND								
Supreme Court	202	288	168	219	189	179	177	201
SOUTH DAKOTA								
Supreme Court	27 A	17 A	32 A	27 A	35 A	39 A	49	31
VERMONT								
Supreme Court	25	19	24	31	32	34	32	36
WEST VIRGINIA								
Supreme Court of Appeals	1,282	1,372	1,585	2,037	1,621	1,644	1,623	3,180
WYOMING								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
States with multiple appellate courts at any level								
ALABAMA								
Supreme Court	712	606	763	713	765	806	867	1,028
Court of Civil Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
Court of Criminal Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ

<u>1984</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
905 C 270	907 C 283	786 C 317	1,093 C 388	1,060 A 388	829 A 305	883 A 354	862 A 270
721 B 209	699 228	765 241	725 188	866 162	802 148	728 NA	905 NA
5 A	2 A	3 A	4 A	3 A	5 A	5 A	0
NA	77	72	87	65	49	45	36
52	68	67	40	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	4	3	2	0	32	59	76
NA	NA	19	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
550 A	602 A	415 A	451 A	543	532	567	543
218	219	199	241	178	169	197	188
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
26	20	21	26	32	35	36	33
1,124	1,268	1,396	1,909	1,775	1,735	1,586	2,675
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA NJ NJ	588 NJ NJ	582 NJ NJ	654 NJ NJ	603 JNJ NJ	1,104 NJ NJ	1,248 NJ NJ	1,248 NJ NJ

(continued on next page)

TABLE 14: Discretionary Caseload in State Appellate Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1991 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
States with multiple appellate courts at any level								
INDIANA								
Supreme Court	NA	NA	NA	404	NA	565	690	822
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	81	112	93
Tax Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NJ	NJ
NEW YORK								
Court of Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,280	4,411	4,499	4,420
Appellate Div. of Sup. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Appellate Terms of Sup. Ct.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
OKLAHOMA								
Supreme Court	388	295	340	293	295	443	446	388
Court of Appeals	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
Court of Criminal Appeals	284	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
PENNSYLVANIA								
Supreme Court	1,537	2,579	2,242	1,936	2,207	2,227	3,645	3,456
Commonwealth Court	82	81	NA	115	45	29	36	128
Superior Court	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
TENNESSEE								
Supreme Court	842	772	765	758	758	820	731	775
Court of Appeals	57	82	74	77	77	103	109	131
Court of Criminal Appeals	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	67	55	71
TEXAS								
Supreme Court	1,130	1,169	1,228	1,176	1,243	1,126	1,206	1,283
Court of Criminal Appeals	1,281	1,360	1,360	1,339	1,416	1,792	1,380	1,340
Courts of Appeal	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ

COURT TYPE:

COLR = Court of last resort

IAC = Intermediate appellate court

NOTE:

NA = Indicates that the data are unavailable.

NC = Indicates that the court did not exist during that year.

NJ = Indicates that the court does not have jurisdiction.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

An absence of a qualifying footnote indicates that the data are complete.

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Delaware—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1990 do not include some **discretionary interlocutory decision cases**.

Iowa—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984-1990 do not include some **discretionary original proceedings**.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Arizona—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1990 include **mandatory judge disciplinary cases**.

Colorado—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987-1991 include **mandatory jurisdiction cases**.

Kentucky—Supreme Court—Data for 1987-1991 do not include some **unclassified discretionary petitions**.

Louisiana—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1984 and 1985 do not include some **discretionary petitions**.

New Hampshire—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1987 include **discretionary judge disciplinary cases**.

New Jersey—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1990 do not include **discretionary interlocutory decisions**.

South Dakota—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1984-1989 do not include **advisory opinions**.

South Carolina—Supreme Court—Filed data for 1986-1989 do not include **discretionary petitions that were denied or otherwise dismissed/withdrawn or settled**.

Washington—Supreme Court—Data for 1988-1991 do not include some **discretionary cases**.

1984 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes	1991 Number of dispositions and qualifying footnotes
356	325	355	437	494	599	629	770
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	76	116	106
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NJ	NJ
3,477	3,505	3,549	3,478	3,392	3,621	3,808	3,907
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	237	231	NA	NA	NA
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ
256	267	264	283	291	312	412	412
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	1,087	1,087	1,057	772	708
57	82	74	77	77	97	74	115
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	35	36	37
1,034	1,187	1,166	1,261	1,168	1,096	1,166	1,301
1,081	1,046	1,100	1,672	1,437	2,107	1,352	1,387
NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ	NJ

Georgia—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1987-1991 represent some double counting because they include all **mandatory appeals** and **discretionary appeals that were granted** and refiled as appeals.

Michigan—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984-1989 include a few **mandatory jurisdiction cases**.

Wisconsin—Supreme Court—Disposed data for 1984 include all disposed **mandatory jurisdiction cases**.

C: The following courts' data are both incomplete and overinclusive:

Washington—Supreme Court—Data for 1984-1987 include **mandatory certified questions from the federal courts**, but do not include some **discretionary petitions**.

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1991

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1991 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>
General jurisdiction courts								
ALABAMA Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	31,807	35,066
ALASKA Superior	NA	NA	2,658	2,661	2,526	2,757	2,718	2,442
ARIZONA Superior	15,360	17,295	20,653	21,444	22,176	23,981	26,057 B	26,140 B
ARKANSAS Circuit	17,993 B	21,425 B	21,944 B	24,805 B	22,110 B	24,842 B	25,755 B	27,742 B
CALIFORNIA Superior	74,412 B	82,372 B	94,779 B	104,906 B	115,595 B	132,486 C	150,975 C	161,871 C
COLORADO District	14,783	15,804	16,087	16,223	17,391	19,284	20,212	20,655
CONNECTICUT Superior*	3,879	4,179	4,512	4,985	6,204	6,194	5,268	4,684
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	10,583	12,399	16,207	19,986	21,472	21,332	20,138	21,774
FLORIDA Circuit	173,420 B	NA	146,449 B	159,701 B	184,532 B	199,111 B	192,976 B	186,732 B
GEORGIA Superior	33,725	36,182	37,146	45,104	53,984	63,977	66,275	70,339
HAWAII Circuit*	2,969 C	2,878 C	2,842 C	2,766 C	2,909 C	3,115 C	3,025 C	3,174 C
IDAHO District	NA	4,006	NA	NA	4,747	5,260	5,725	6,535
ILLINOIS Circuit	46,107 B	45,925 B	47,075 B	46,342 B	56,289 B	69,114 B	74,541 C	77,849 B
MAINE Superior	3,189	3,656	3,583	3,612	3,657	4,142	4,745	4,571
MARYLAND Circuit	31,757 C	NA	44,656 C	50,939 C	53,229 C	56,775 C	55,755 C	62,935 C
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	NA	NA	NA	6,790	6,075	5,583	6,271	5,796
MINNESOTA District	11,777	12,208	12,366	13,008	13,637	13,607	14,747	16,277
MISSOURI Circuit	30,305 B	30,494 B	32,796 B	34,971 B	36,965 B	39,952 B	40,968 B	44,208 B

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TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
MONTANA District	2,378 C	2,574 C	2,591 C	2,443 C	2,726 C	2,710 C	2,966 C	3,140 C
NEBRASKA District	2,878 B	NA	NA	3,445 B	4,024 B	4,823 B	5,105 B	5,348 B
NEW HAMPSHIRE Superior	3,813	4,198	4,857	5,527	6,079	6,599	6,678	7,345
NEW JERSEY Superior	37,135	37,784	38,443	41,198	43,837	53,215	57,223	54,703
NEW YORK Supreme and County*	49,191 B	51,034 B	56,356 B	62,940 B	67,177 B	79,025 B	79,322 B	78,354 B
NORTH CAROLINA Superior	42,160	40,915	44,980	51,210	55,284	62,752	69,810	73,908
NORTH DAKOTA District	1,284 B	1,312 B	1,390 B	1,487 B	1,497 B	1,444 B	1,637 B	1,837 B
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	37,073	36,249	38,374	39,376	43,613	51,959	55,949	61,836
OKLAHOMA District	24,178 B	24,673 B	25,782 B	26,438 B	25,997 B	26,482 B	27,541 B	28,325 B
OREGON Circuit	19,913	20,682	22,533	24,591	26,859	27,248	28,523	26,050
PENNSYLVANIA Court of Common Pleas	86,083 B	NA	98,880 B	106,972 B	113,605 B	128,478 B	139,699 B	137,046 B
PUERTO RICO Superior	14,511 B	15,516 B	20,073 B	20,314 B	21,532 B	21,548 B	23,328 B	28,340 B
RHODE ISLAND Superior	4,232	4,780	4,360	4,278	6,685	6,740	6,011	5,665
SOUTH DAKOTA Circuit	2,606	3,088	3,182	3,275	3,257	3,388	4,072	3,675
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	33,994 B	NA	38,656 B	41,533 B	NA	50,412 B	55,622 B	55,587 B
TEXAS District	87,249	93,968	111,331	119,395	122,903	139,611	147,230	144,408
UTAH District	3,937 B	NA	5,055 B	4,320 B	4,182 B	4,215 B	4,608 B	4,316 B
VERMONT District	1,837	1,897	2,177	2,111	2,115	1,993	2,202	2,319
Superior	8	6	1	85	112	138	53	6

(continued on next page)

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>	<u>1991 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes</u>
VIRGINIA								
Circuit	42,642	43,096	45,646	49,481	53,445	63,304	64,053	70,145
WASHINGTON								
Superior	15,432	17,885	19,693	21,071	25,476	28,121	26,914	27,503
WEST VIRGINIA								
Circuit	4,724 B	4,707 B	4,546 B	4,885 B	4,291 B	4,121 B	4,071 B	4,217 B
WISCONSIN								
Circuit	13,607	14,549	14,470	13,802	14,484	17,625	18,738	19,523
WYOMING								
District	1,462	1,468	1,466	1,353	1,480	1,591	1,503	1,365
Limited jurisdiction courts								
CALIFORNIA								
Justice	10,165 B	10,700 B	10,571 B	11,640 B	12,076 B	11,628 C	11,025 C	6,732
Municipal	133,315 B	145,133 B	163,959 B	185,995 B	197,176 B	210,615 B	228,340 C	143,266
COLORADO								
County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	15,522 B
DELAWARE								
Court of Common Pleas	656	520	726	819	804	787	736	912
HAWAII								
District	381	230	256	235	229	409	508	407
INDIANA								
County*	7,442 B	8,623 B	8,437 B	8,271 B	7,602 B	7,261 B	7,443 B	7,465 B
Municipal Court of Marion County	NA	NA	8,789 B	8,517 B	6,451 B	7,045 B	5,803 B	5,027 B
MAINE								
District	NA	NA	NA	4,263 B	4,936 B	5,255 B	5,520 B	5,522 B
MICHIGAN								
District	NA	NA	18,568	20,445	20,036	22,029	23,217	23,936
Municipal	NA	NA	307	178	191	264	186	226
OHIO								
County	856	1,199	1,048	1,139	1,112	1,278	1,349	1,478
Municipal	17,354	16,561	18,371	20,222	23,643	31,475	33,552	37,685
PENNSYLVANIA								
District Justice	147,535 B	NA	NA	52,331 B	55,352 B	64,095 B	67,348 B	NA
UTAH								
Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8,900
VIRGINIA								
District	NA	42,412	49,685	51,358	52,739	57,786	60,909	66,344

(continued on next page)

TABLE 15: Felony Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

NOTE: The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1984-1987 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991.

NA = Data were unavailable or not comparable.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

- Arizona—Superior Court—Felony data for 1990 and 1991 include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- Arkansas—Circuit Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- California—Superior Court—Felony data for 1984-1988 include **DWI/DUI** cases.
 - Justice Court—Felony data for 1984-1988 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers.
 - Municipal Court—Felony data for 1984-1989 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers.
- Colorado—County Court—Felony data include some **preliminary hearing proceedings**.
- Florida—Circuit Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and miscellaneous criminal** cases.
- Illinois—Circuit Court—Felony data include **preliminary hearings** for courts "downstate."
- Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
 - County Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
 - Municipal Court of Marion County—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- Iowa—District Court—Felony data include third-offense **DWI/DUI** cases.
- Kentucky—Circuit Court—All felony data include **misdemeanor** cases. 1984-1990 data also include **sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings**.
- Maine—District Court—Felony data include **preliminary hearings**.
- Missouri—Circuit Court—Felony data include some **DWI/DUI** cases.
- Nebraska—District Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and miscellaneous criminal** cases.
- New York—Supreme and County Courts—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- North Dakota—District Court—Felony data include **sentence review only and postconviction remedy proceedings**.
- Oklahoma—District Court—Felony data include some **miscellaneous criminal** cases.
- Pennsylvania—Court of Common Pleas—Felony data include **misdemeanor, DWI/DUI, and some criminal appeals** cases.
 - District Justice Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.
- Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Felony data include **appeals**.

Tennessee—Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor** and some **criminal appeals** cases.

Utah—District Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor and criminal appeals** cases, and some **postconviction remedy and sentence review only proceedings**.

West Virginia—Circuit Court—Felony data include **DWI/DUI** cases.

C: The following courts' data are incomplete and overinclusive:

- California—Superior Court—Felony data for 1989 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include partial year data from several courts. Data for 1990 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include partial year data from one court. Data for 1991 include **DWI/DUI** cases, but do not include data from one court.
 - Justice Court—Felony data for 1989 and 1990 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from several courts for 1989, and one court for 1990.
 - Municipal Court—Felony data for 1990 include **preliminary hearing** bindovers and transfers, but do not include partial year data from one court.
- Hawaii—Circuit Court—Felony data include **misdemeanor** cases, but do not include reopened prior cases.
- Illinois—Circuit Court—Felony data for 1990 include **preliminary hearings** for courts downstate, but do not include some reinstated and transferred cases.
- Maryland—Circuit Court—Felony data include some **misdemeanor** cases, but do not include some cases.
- Montana—District Court—Felony data include some **trial court civil appeals**, but do not include some cases reported with unclassified criminal data.
- Additional court information:
 - Connecticut—Superior Court—Figures for felony filings do not match those reported in the 1984, 1985, and 1986 *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports*. Felony filings have been adjusted to include only triable felonies so as to be comparable to 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991 data.
 - Hawaii—Circuit Court—Figures for felony filings do not match those reported in the 1984, 1985, and 1986 *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Reports*. Misdemeanor cases have been included to allow comparability with 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991 data.
 - Indiana—Superior and Circuit Courts—County Court—1985-1991 data are not comparable with previous years' figures due to changes in classification of County Court function.
 - New York—Supreme and County Courts—These courts experienced a significant increase in the number of filings due to the change to an individual calendaring system in 1986.

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1991

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
General jurisdiction courts								
ALASKA Superior	1,305	2,096	2,344	1,664	937	851	826	838
ARIZONA Superior	9,173	10,748	11,888	12,260	20,490	12,559	15,418	15,442
ARKANSAS Circuit	NA	5,382	5,541	5,606	5,132	5,000	5,045	5,099
CALIFORNIA Superior	97,068 A	112,049 A	130,206 A	137,455 A	132,378 A	131,900 A	121,960 A	114,298 A
COLORADO District*	4,199	4,537	6,145	3,666	4,506	5,490	5,886	6,295
CONNECTICUT Superior	NA	12,742	13,754	15,385	15,741	16,955	16,477	16,266
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Superior	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3,605
FLORIDA Circuit*	NA	NA	35,535	35,453	35,986	38,415	40,748	44,257
HAWAII Circuit	1,611 A	1,676 A	1,749 A	1,785 A	1,736 A	1,793 A	2,065 A	2,365 A
IDAHO District	1,729 A	2,010 A	2,118 A	1,757 A	1,453 A	1,478 A	1,417 A	1,257 A
INDIANA Superior and Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,697	6,719	7,910
KANSAS District	4,033	4,061	4,273	4,380	4,595	4,513	4,010	4,076
MAINE Superior	2,083	2,072	2,044	1,786	1,776	1,950	1,878	1,686
MARYLAND Circuit	10,826 A	10,120 A	12,373 A	12,938 A	14,170 A	14,274 A	14,908 A	16,270 A
MASSACHUSETTS Trial Court of the Commonwealth	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	76,806 A	74,641 A
MICHIGAN Circuit	23,186 A	22,811	32,612	29,756	30,966	32,663	38,784	31,869
MINNESOTA District	NA	NA	10,356	10,739	10,125	9,658	7,135	7,252
MISSOURI Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21,680	21,245

(continued on next page)

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

<u>State/Court name:</u>	<u>1984</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1985</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1986</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1987</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1988</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1989</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1990</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	<u>1991</u> Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
MONTANA District	1,640	1,870	1,836	1,792	1,541	1,613	1,651	1,518
NEVADA District	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,329	4,799	5,295	5,871
NEW JERSEY Superior*	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	71,367 A	72,463 A	73,614 A
NEW YORK Supreme and County*	NA	NA	NA	NA	53,104	62,189	65,026	65,767
NORTH CAROLINA Superior	NA	8,062	8,897	8,981	7,639	7,879	8,175	8,656
NORTH DAKOTA District	550	512	561	551	552	602	744	531
OHIO Court of Common Pleas	22,149	25,518	28,225	29,375	28,614	29,039	34,488	34,422
OREGON Circuit	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	5,999
PUERTO RICO Superior	3,968 B	4,388 B	4,558 B	4,811 B	4,077 B	5,579 B	6,095 B	6,569 B
TENNESSEE Circuit, Criminal, and Chancery	11,775	12,565	13,167	13,597	NA	13,501	13,453	13,223
TEXAS District	34,224	37,596	38,238	40,764	36,597	36,710	39,648	44,088
UTAH District	1,433 B	1,245 B	2,527 B	1,335 B	1,404 B	1,233 B	1,631 B	1,729 B
WASHINGTON Superior	8,997	9,747	19,515	8,007	8,746	10,146	10,147	11,375
WISCONSIN Circuit	NA	NA	NA	9,545	9,534	9,152	9,669	8,865
Limited jurisdiction courts								
ALASKA District	NA	860 A	4,069 A	1,071 A	445 A	474 A	341 A	462 A
FLORIDA County	NA	NA	42,229	52,491	53,992	57,375	60,796	75,796
HAWAII District	693	652	738	937	781	870	1,062	969

(continued on next page)

TABLE 16: Tort Caseload in State Trial Courts, 1984-1991 (continued)

State/Court name:	1984 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1985 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1986 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1987 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1988 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1989 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1990 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes	1991 Number of filings and qualifying footnotes
INDIANA								
City and Town	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,626	3,672	0
County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	52	44	97
Municipal Court of Marion County	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	51	340
NEW MEXICO								
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	NA	NA	NA	1,497	1,401	1,835	1,357	1,749
NORTH DAKOTA								
County	NA	NA	NA	22	28	18	12	NA
OHIO								
County	519	464	463	406	410	528	430	461
Municipal	13,503	12,992	13,999	15,505	15,373	15,078	14,674	15,316
OREGON								
District	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,101
PUERTO RICO								
District	1,550 B	1,579 B	1,779 B	1,729 B	1,860 B	2,010 B	1,932 B	1,951 B
TEXAS								
County-level	7,143	8,242	9,833	11,314	12,188	11,437	12,355	14,201

NOTE: The footnoting scheme has been consolidated. Footnotes for 1984-1987 have been translated into the footnote scheme for 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1991.

NA = Data were unavailable or not comparable.

Michigan—Circuit Court—Tort data for 1984 do not include cases from four counties.

New Jersey—Superior Court—Tort data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

QUALIFYING FOOTNOTES:

A: The following courts' data are incomplete:

Alaska—District Court—Tort data do not include filings in the low volume District Courts, which are reported with unclassified civil cases.

California—Superior Court—Tort data do not include **medical malpractice** and **product liability** cases. Tort data for 1989 also do not include partial data from several courts. Data for 1990 also do not include partial data from one court. Data for 1991 also do not include data from one court.

Hawaii—Circuit Court—Tort data do not include a small number of District Court transfers reported with other civil cases.

Idaho—District Court—Tort data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

Maryland—Circuit Court—Tort data do not include some cases reported with unclassified civil cases.

Massachusetts—Trial Court of the Commonwealth—Tort data do not include cases from the Boston Municipal Court Department.

B: The following courts' data are overinclusive:

Puerto Rico—Superior Court—Tort data include **appeals**.
—District Court—Tort data include **appeals**.

Utah—District Court—Tort data include **de novo appeals** from the Justice Court.

• Additional court information:

Colorado—District and Denver Superior Courts—The Denver Superior Court was abolished 11/14/86 and the caseload absorbed by the District Court.

Florida—Circuit Court—The large increase in tort filings for 1991 is due in part to the filing of 1,113 asbestos cases in Miami in July of 1991.

New Jersey—Superior Court—The unit of count changed in 1989, so data from previous years are not comparable.

New York—Supreme and County Court—The unit of count changed in 1988, so data from previous years are not comparable.

PART



IV

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1991 STATE COURT STRUCTURE CHARTS



Overview of State Trial and Appellate Court Structure in 1991

American courts inhabit two different though related realms—state and federal. There are currently 50 states and, therefore, 50 state trial and appellate systems. Separate systems similar to the state courts also exist in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.¹

TRIAL COURT STRUCTURE. The federal judiciary and the 52 state courts are similar in broad outline, but they vary in the detail of their organization and jurisdiction. Whereas the federal courts are relatively uniform throughout the country, state trial court systems vary greatly in structure, and none are simple to describe. In general, there are four types of state court systems: (1) consolidated, (2) complex, (3) mixed, and (4) mainly consolidated. Differences in court structure and jurisdiction are important to understanding caseload data from a state. Hence, some important dimensions on which state trial court systems differ need to be reviewed before examining and comparing state caseloads in more detail.

The conventional wisdom of state court reform stresses the virtues of consolidation. In trial courts, two dimensions on which this is manifest are the uniformity and the simplicity of jurisdiction. Uniform jurisdiction means that all trial courts at each level have identical authority to decide cases. Simplicity in jurisdiction means that the allocation of subject matter jurisdiction does not overlap between levels. The degree of consolidation offers a related basis for classification, reflecting the extent to which states have merged limited and special jurisdiction courts. **Maps IV.1 through IV.4** summarize the differences in state court structure during 1991.

APPELLATE COURT STRUCTURE. Appeals are heard by two types of appellate courts: (1) courts of last resort and (2) intermediate appellate courts. Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have a court of last resort (COLR), usually designated the state supreme court. These courts were generally established early in each state's history. In contrast, the intermediate

appellate court (IAC), usually named the state court of appeals, is a more contemporary development. In 1957 only 13 states had permanent intermediate appellate courts; by 1990 there were permanent intermediate appellate courts in all but 12 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.² **Map IV.5** displays the geographic distribution of states with only a COLR and states with both a COLR and an IAC.

In those states with both types of appellate courts, parties challenging trial court decisions generally bring their appeal first to the intermediate appellate court. For virtually all criminal appeals, the intermediate appellate court must accept the case because the court's jurisdiction is mandatory. However, because intermediate appellate courts tend to have some limited discretion to determine which civil cases they will hear, all civil appeals are not necessarily accepted.³ After the intermediate appellate court hears a case and reaches a decision, a party dissatisfied with the decision may petition the court of last resort for further review.⁴ The court of last resort, which generally has broad discretionary jurisdiction in both criminal and civil appeals, must first decide whether to accept the case for review. If the petition is granted, then the court of last resort hears the case and renders a decision. On the other hand, if the petition is denied, the litigation terminates, and the intermediate appellate court's ruling stands. The clearest exception to this pattern of review occurs in those states with capital punishment. In all instances, death-penalty appeals bypass the intermediate appellate court and go directly to the court of last resort. A geographic representation of how states with

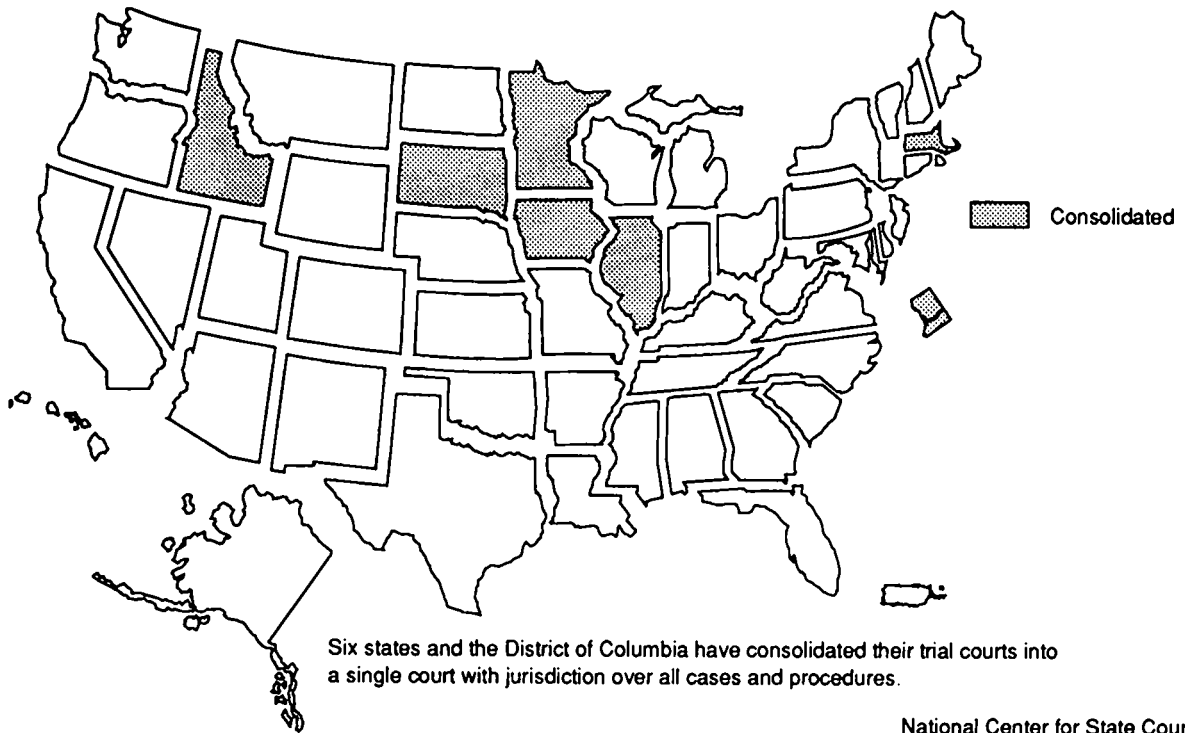
1. There are territorial courts in the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, court statistics are not collected from these territorial courts.

2. In 1991 the picture changed again when an intermediate appellate court was established in Nebraska, thus reducing the number of states without an IAC. Additionally, North Dakota has been operating for the past several years with a temporary IAC that operates when the North Dakota Supreme Court deems it appropriate. It seems reasonable to expect that additional states may establish an intermediate appellate court as a way of handling appellate caseload pressures.

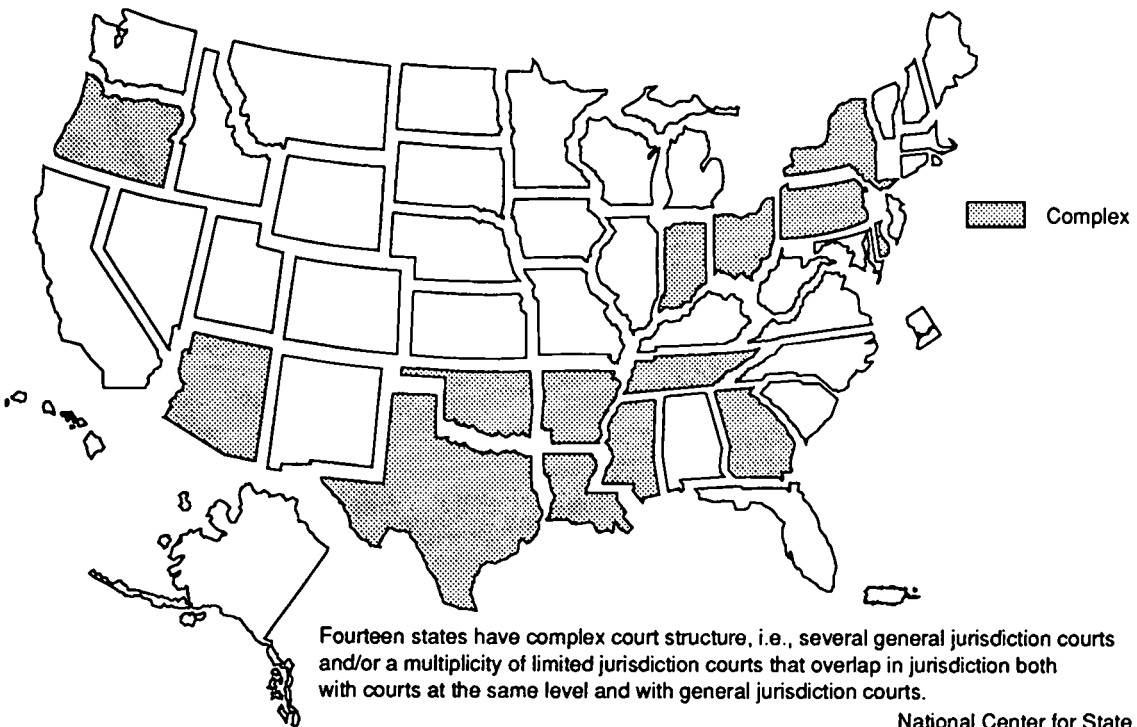
3. Discretionary jurisdiction should not be assumed to be a light responsibility. The process of screening petitions is very labor-intensive and imposes a burden on courts in addition to work necessary to decide the cases that they do choose to hear.

4. The fact that appellate courts must accept some cases does not mean, of course, that the courts render a decision in each case. Some cases are withdrawn or settled before the court reaches a decision, or are dismissed by the court.

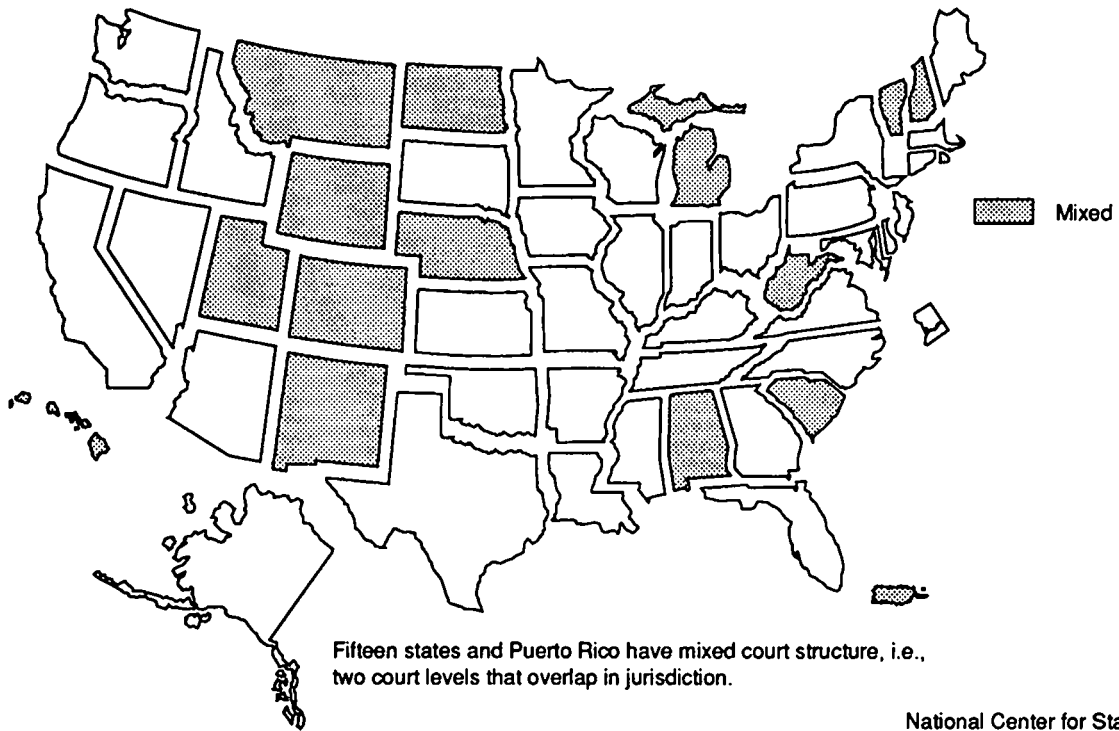
MAP IV.1: Trial Court Structure, 1991
Consolidated court structure



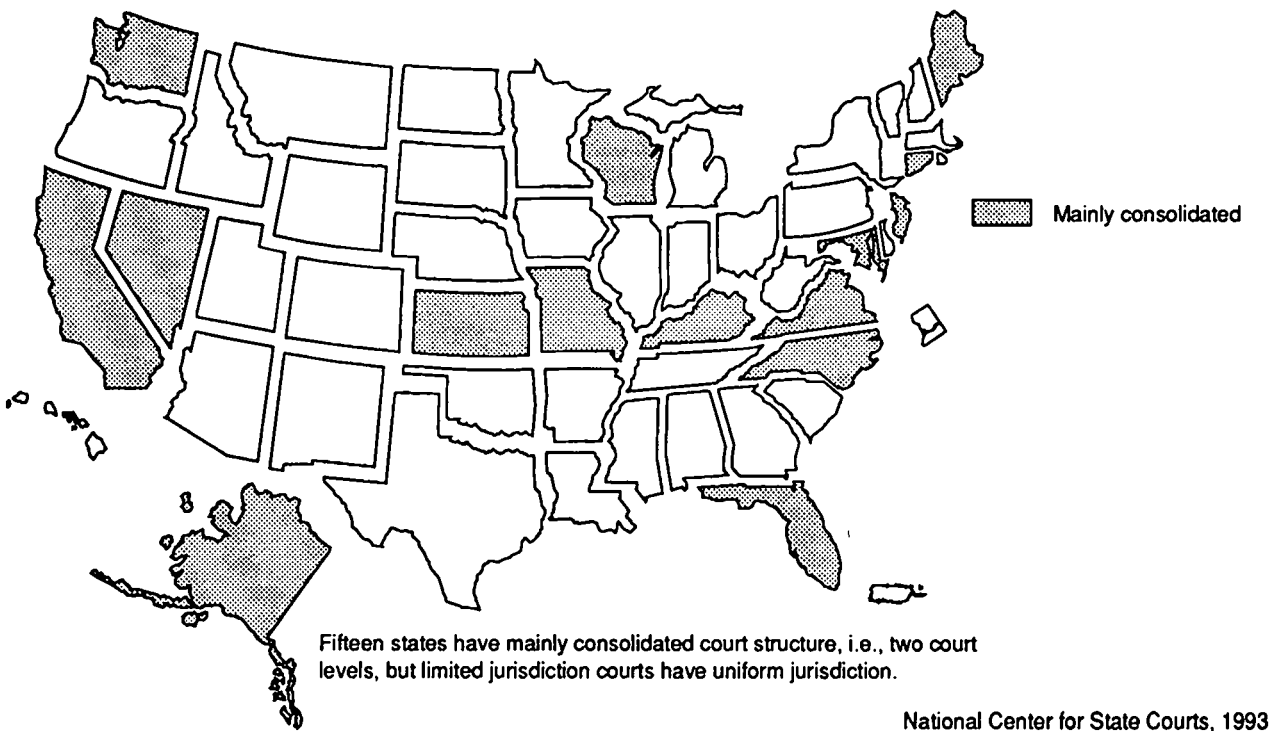
MAP IV.2: Trial Court Structure, 1991
Complex court structure



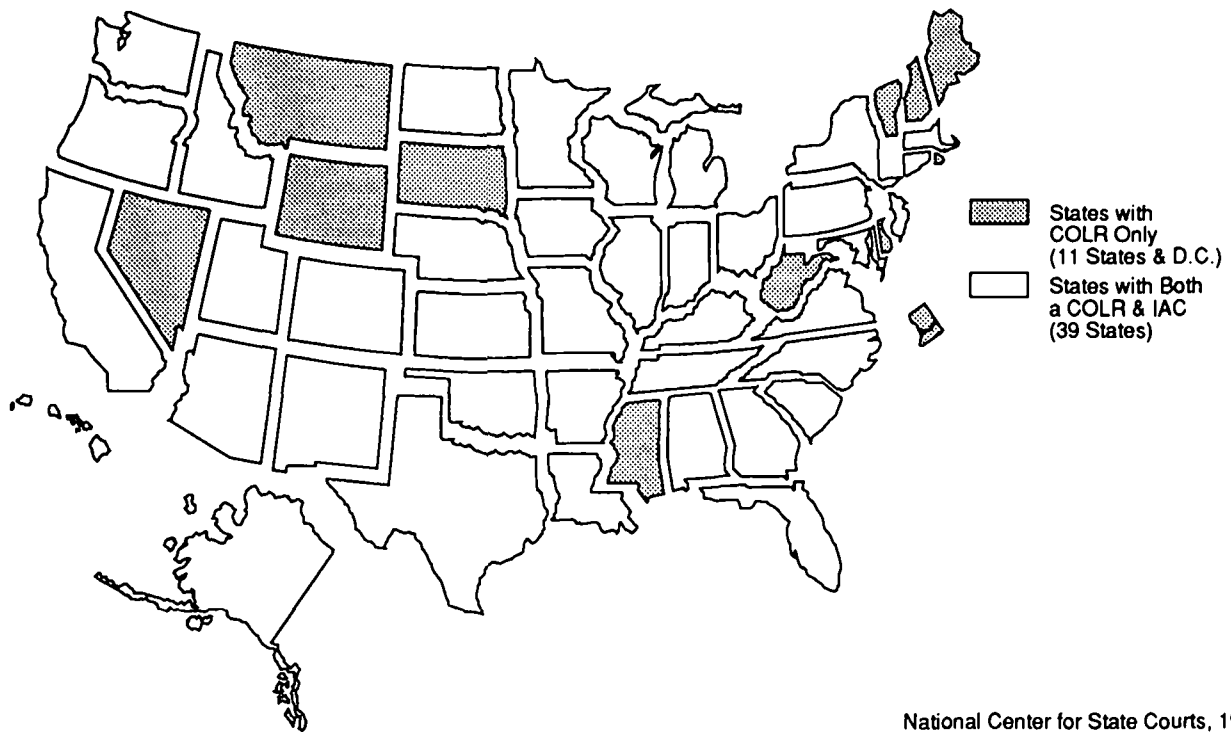
MAP IV.3: Trial Court Structure, 1991
Mixed court structure



MAP IV.4: Trial Court Structure, 1991
Mainly consolidated court structure



MAP IV.5: Appellate Court Structure, 1991



National Center for State Courts, 1993

both a COLR and IAC allocate mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction between the two levels is shown in **Map IV.6**.

In those states where there is no intermediate appellate court, civil and criminal litigants bring their appeals directly to the court of last resort. In these 12 states and the District of Columbia, the court of last resort tends to resemble an intermediate appellate court in terms of its caseload levels and trends. This is because the jurisdiction of these courts of last resort commonly is mandatory, which is also true for most intermediate appellate courts. As seen in **Map IV.7**, however, there are two exceptions. New Hampshire and West Virginia have courts of last resort with exclusively discretionary jurisdiction, although neither state has an intermediate appellate court.⁵

The Trial and Appellate Court Structure In Each State

Understanding the Court Structure Charts

The court structure charts summarize in a one-page diagram the key features of each state's court organization. The format meets two objectives: (1) it is comprehensive, indicating all court systems in the state and their interrelationships, and (2) it describes the jurisdiction of

the court systems, using a comparable set of terminology and symbols. The court structure charts employ the common terminology developed by the NCSC's Court Statistics Project for reporting caseload statistics.

The first chart is a prototype. It represents a state court organization in which there is one of each of the four court system levels recognized by the Court Statistics Project: courts of last resort, intermediate appellate courts, general jurisdiction trial courts, and limited jurisdiction trial courts. Routes of appeal from one court to another are indicated by lines, with an arrow showing which court receives the appeal or petition.

The charts also provide basic descriptive information, such as the number of authorized justices, judges, and magistrates (or other judicial officers). Each court system's subject matter jurisdiction is indicated using the Court Statistics Project case types. Information is also provided on the use of districts, circuits, or divisions in organizing the courts within the system and the number of courts, where this coincides with a basic government unit.

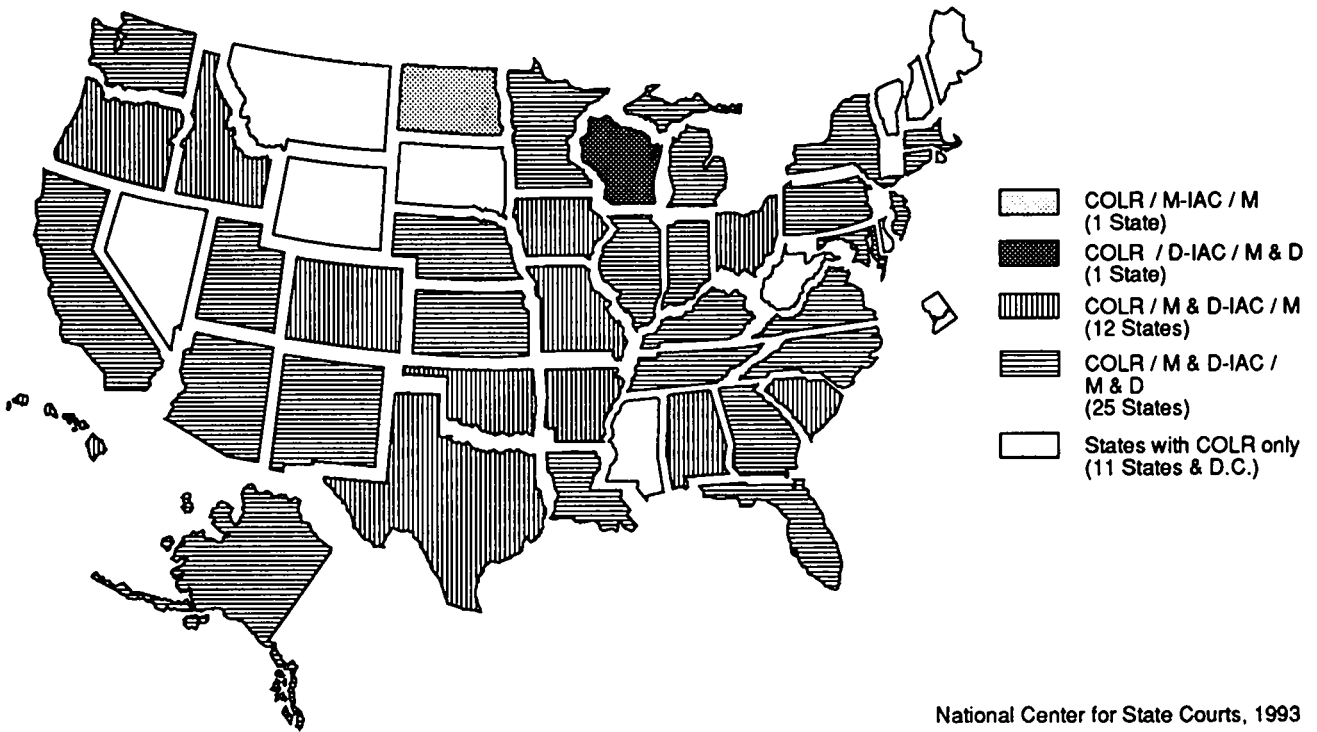
The case types, which define a court system's subject matter jurisdiction, require the most explanation.

Appellate Courts

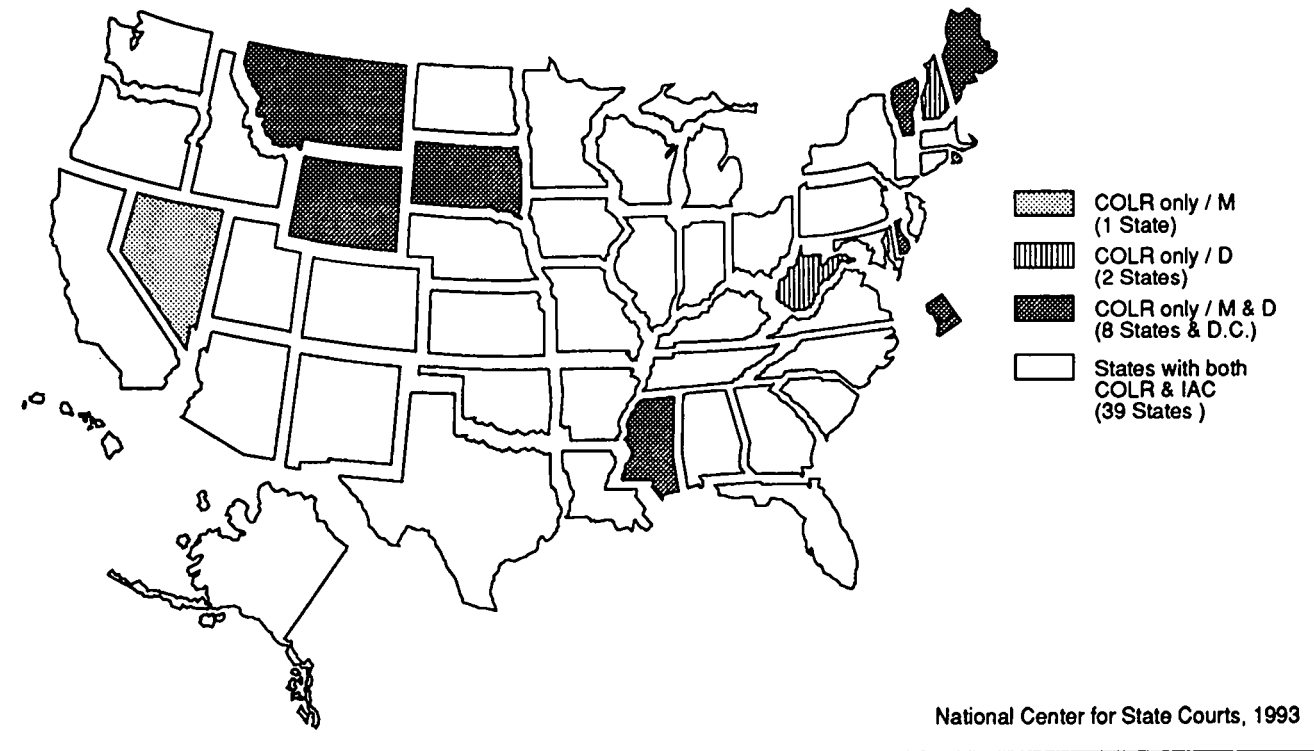
The rectangle representing each appellate court contains information on the number of authorized justices; the number of geographic divisions, if any; whether

5. The court structure charts provide a point of reference for further distinctions among appellate court structures.

**MAP IV.6: Appellate Court Jurisdiction, 1991
States with both COLR and IAC**



**MAP IV.7: Appellate Court Jurisdiction, 1991
States with a COLR only**



court decisions are made en banc, in panels, or both; and the Court Statistics Project case types that are heard by the court. The case types are shown separately for mandatory and discretionary cases. The case types themselves are defined in other Court Statistics Project publications, especially *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting* and *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary: 1989 Edition*.

An appellate court can have both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction over the same Court Statistics Project case type. This arises, in part, because the Court Statistics Project case types are defined broadly in order to be applicable to every state's courts. There are, for example, only two appellate Court Statistics Project case types for criminal appeals: capital and noncapital. A court may have mandatory jurisdiction over felony cases, but discretionary jurisdiction over misdemeanors. The list of case types would include "criminal" for both mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction. The duplication of a case type under both headings can also occur if appeals from one lower court for that case type are mandatory, while appeals from another lower court are discretionary. Also, statutory provisions or court rules in some states automatically convert a mandatory appeal into a discretionary petition—for example, when an appeal is not filed within a specified time limit. A more comprehensive description of each appellate court's subject matter jurisdiction can be found in the *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting*.

Trial Courts

The rectangle representing each trial court also lists the applicable Court Statistics Project case types. These include civil, criminal, traffic/other violation, and juvenile. Where a case type is simply listed, it means that the court system shares jurisdiction over it with other courts. The presence of exclusive jurisdiction is always explicitly stated. The absence of a case type from a list means that the court does not have that subject matter jurisdiction. The dollar amount jurisdiction is shown where there is an upper or a lower limit to the cases that can be filed in a court. A dollar limit is not listed if a court does not have a minimum or maximum dollar jurisdiction for general civil cases. In criminal cases, jurisdiction is distinguished between "triable felony," where the court can try a felony case to verdict and sentencing, and "limited felony," which applies to those limited jurisdiction courts that can conduct preliminary hearings that bind a defendant over for trial in a higher court.

Trial courts can have what is termed incidental appellate jurisdiction. The presence of such jurisdiction over the decisions of other courts is noted in the list of case types as either "civil appeals," "criminal appeals," or "administrative agency appeals." A trial court that hears

appeals directly from an administrative agency has an "A" in the upper right corner of the rectangle.

For each trial court, the chart states the authorized number of judges and whether the court can impanel a jury. The rectangle representing the court also indicates the number of districts, divisions, or circuits into which the court system is divided. These subdivisions are stated using the court system's own terminology. The descriptions, therefore, are not standardized across states or court systems.

Some trial courts are totally funded from local sources and some receive some form of state funds. Locally funded court systems are drawn with broken lines. A solid line indicates some or all of the funding is derived from state funds.

Symbols and Abbreviations

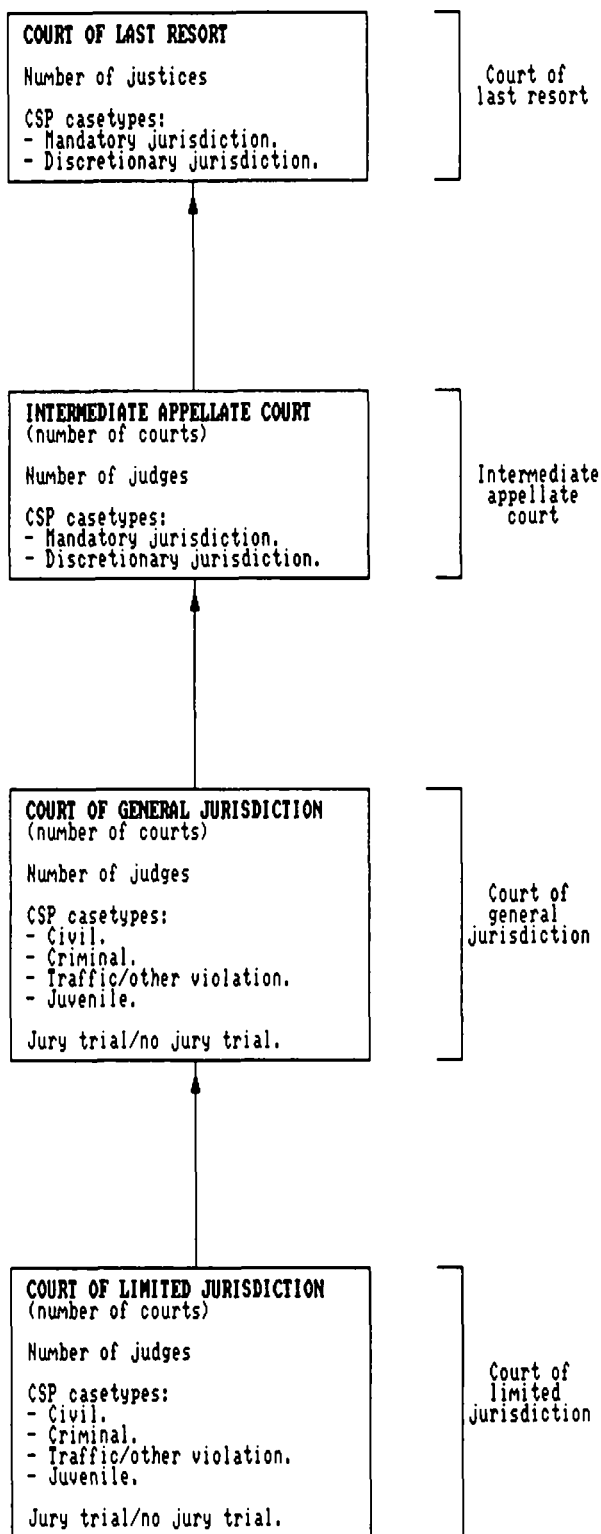
An "A" in the upper right corner of a rectangle, representing either an appellate or a trial court, indicates that the court receives appeals directly from the decisions of an administrative agency. Where "administrative agency appeals" is listed as a case type, it indicates that the court hears appeals from decisions of another court on an administrative agency's actions. It is possible for a court to have both an "A" designation and to have "administrative agency appeals" listed as a case type. Such a court hears appeals directly from an administrative agency ("A") and has appellate jurisdiction over the decisions of a lower court that has already reviewed the decision of the administrative agency.

The number of justices or judges is sometimes stated as "FTE." This represents "full-time equivalent" authorized judicial positions. "DWI/DUI" stands for "driving while intoxicated/driving under the influence." The "SC" abbreviation stands for "small claims." The dollar amount jurisdiction for civil cases is indicated in parentheses with a dollar sign. Where the small claims dollar amount jurisdiction is different, it is noted.

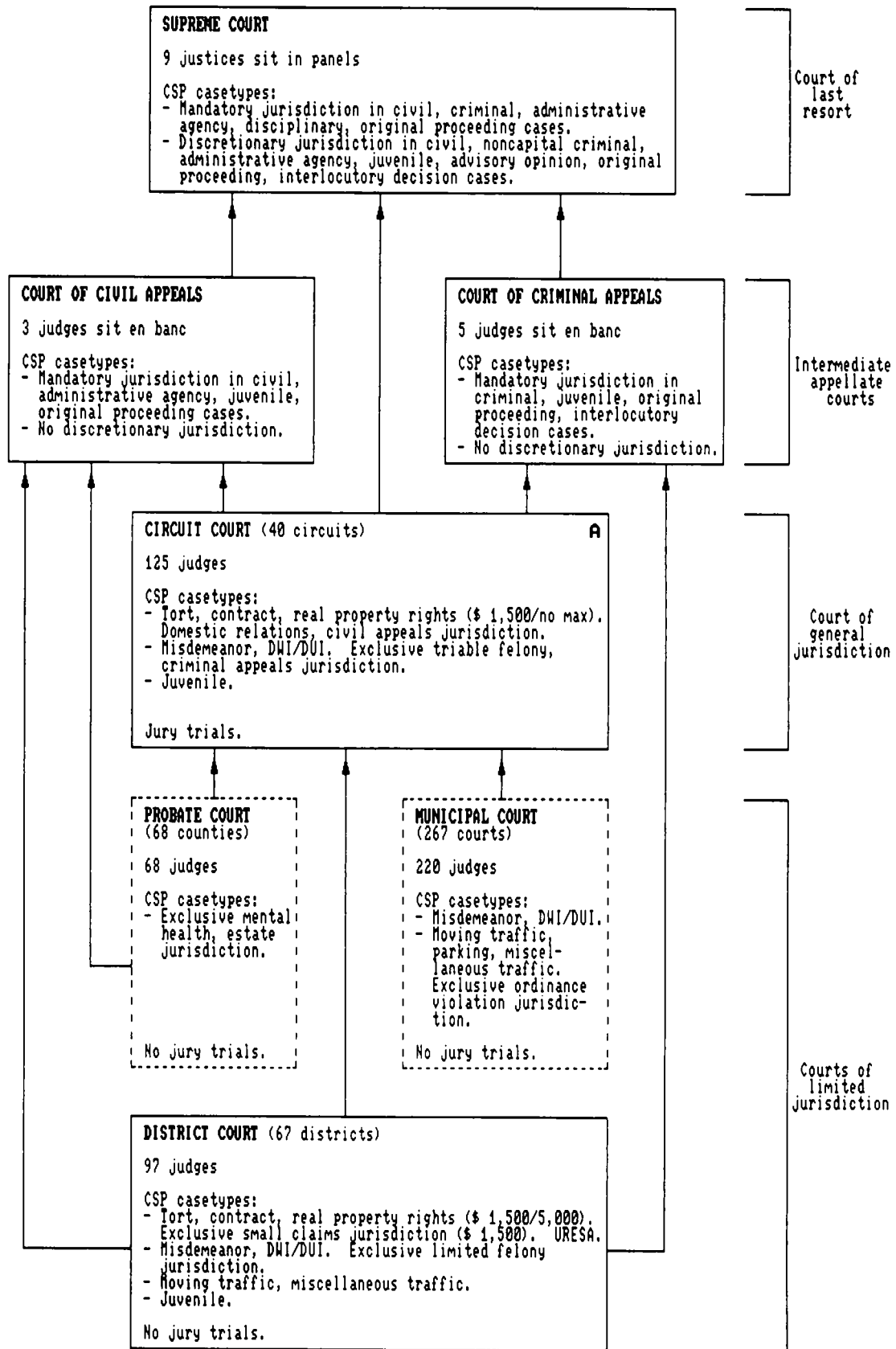
Conclusion

The court structure charts are convenient summaries. They do not substitute for the detailed descriptive material contained in *State Court Organization, 1987*, another Court Statistics Project publication. Moreover, they are based on the Court Statistics Project's terminology and categories. This means that a state may have established courts that are not included in these charts. Some states have courts of special jurisdiction to receive complaints on matters that are more typically directed to administrative boards and agencies. Since these courts receive cases that do not fall within the Court Statistics Project case types, they are not included in the charts. The existence of such courts, however, is recognized in a footnote to the state's court structure chart.

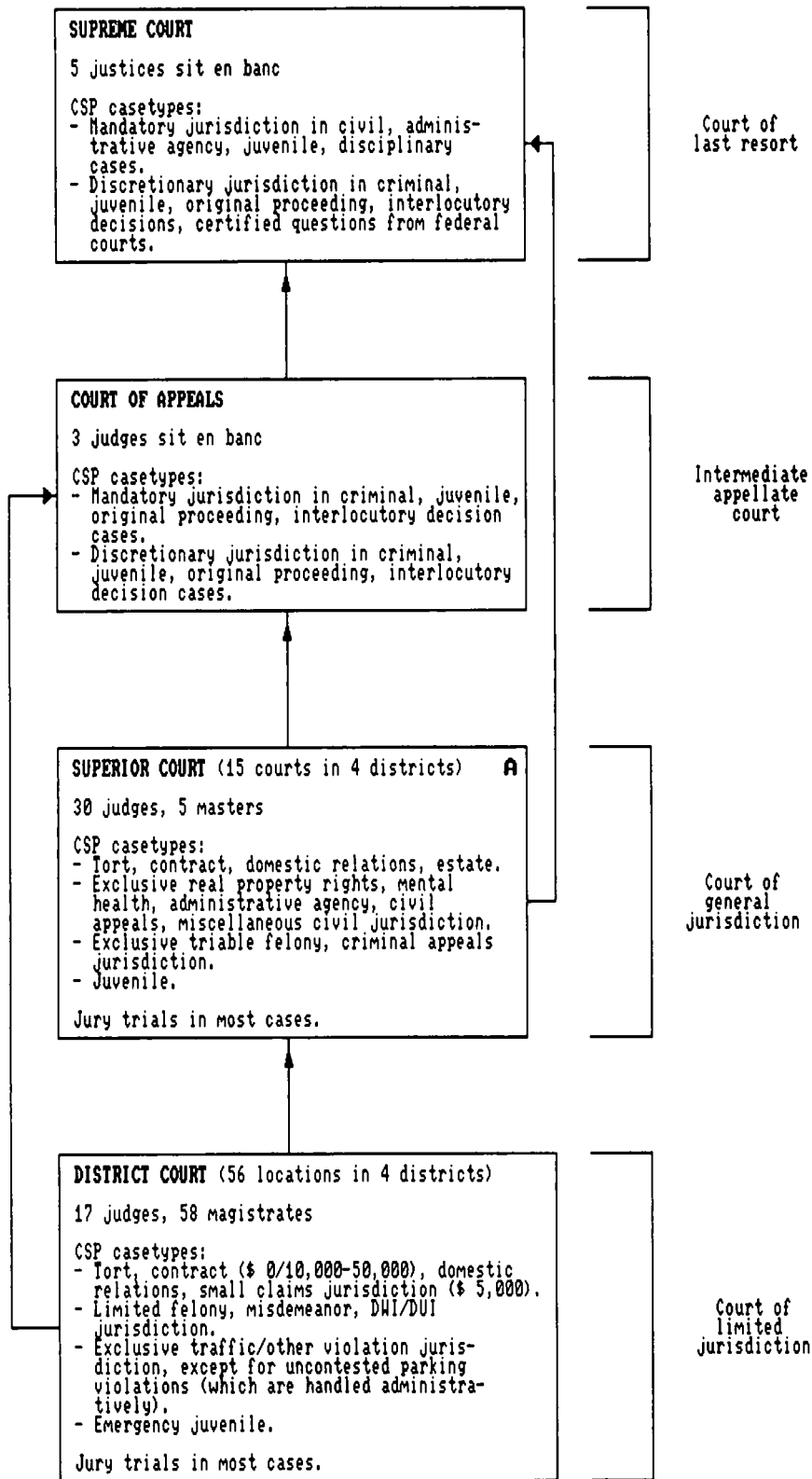
STATE COURT STRUCTURE PROTOTYPE, 1991



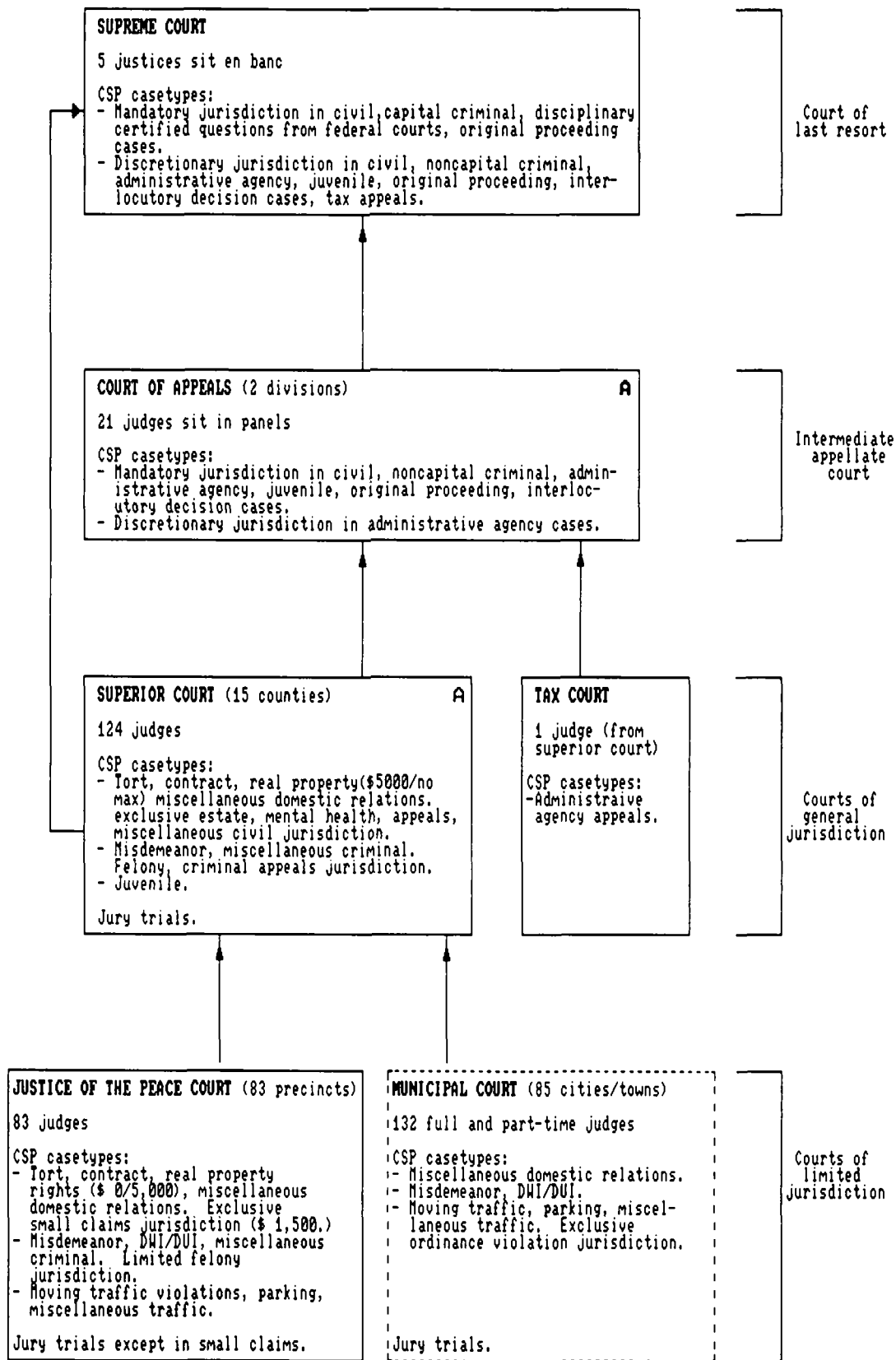
ALABAMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



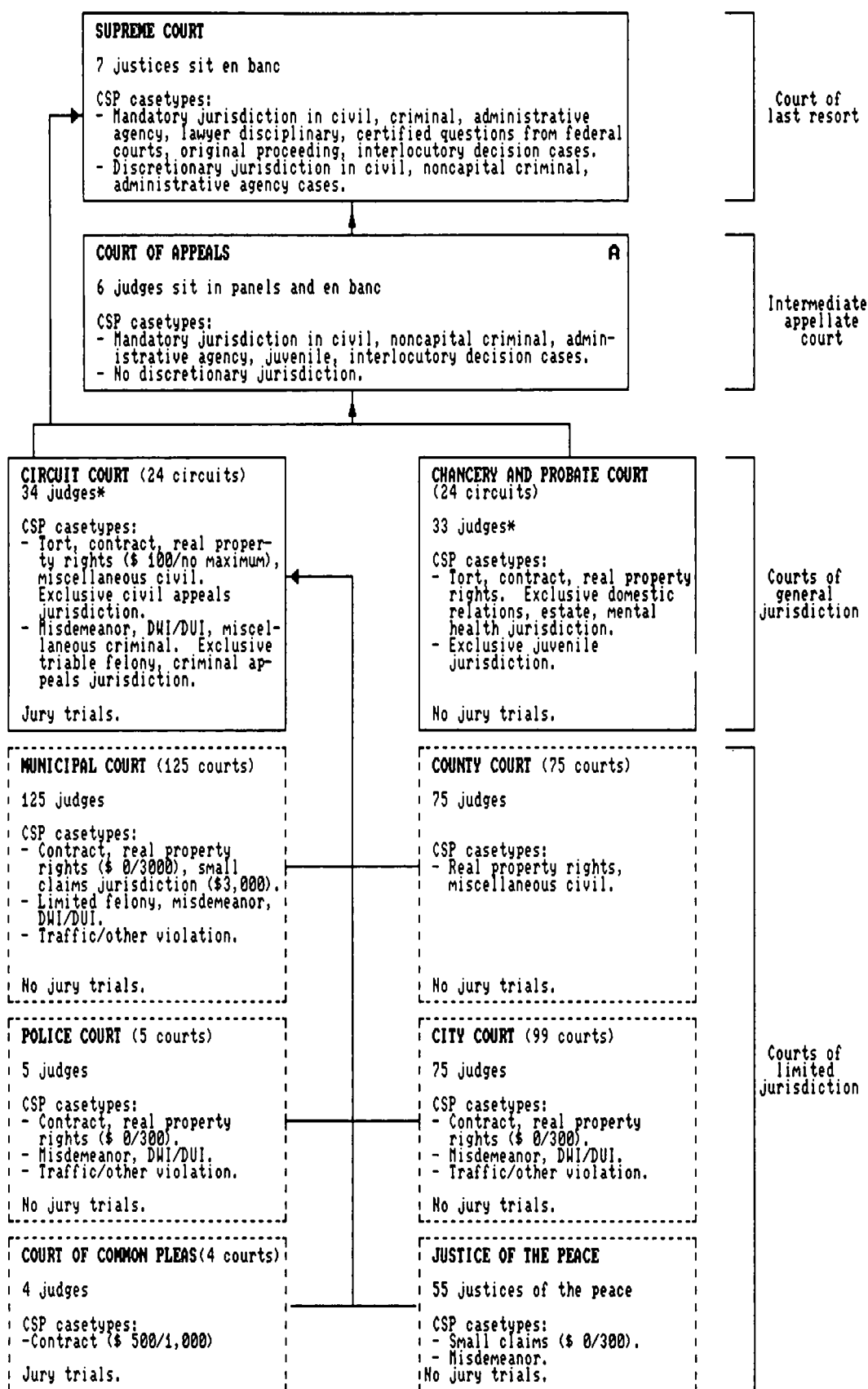
ALASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



ARIZONA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

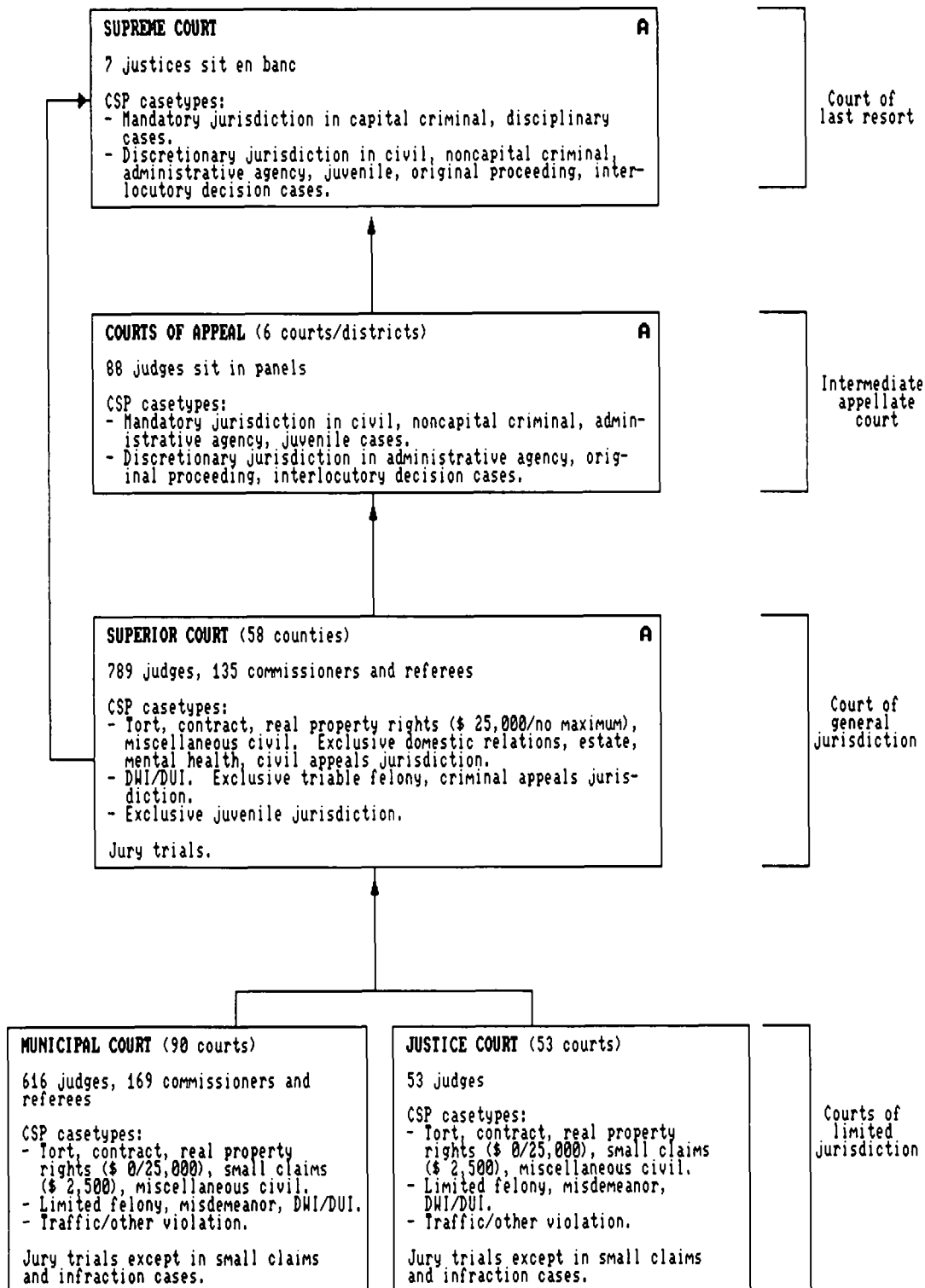


ARKANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

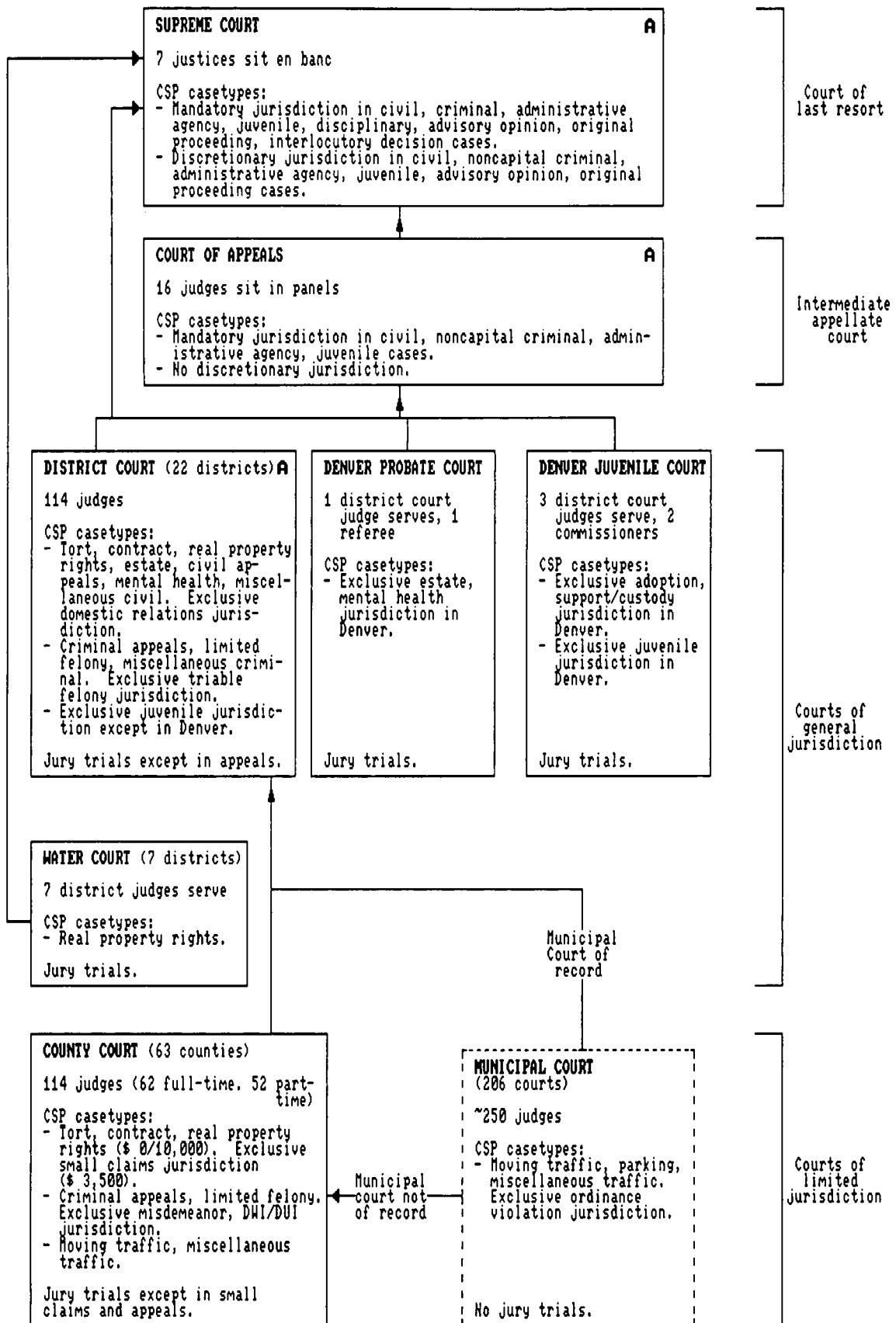


* Thirty-two additional judges serve both circuit and chancery courts, 20 of which are primarily responsible for the juvenile division of chancery court.

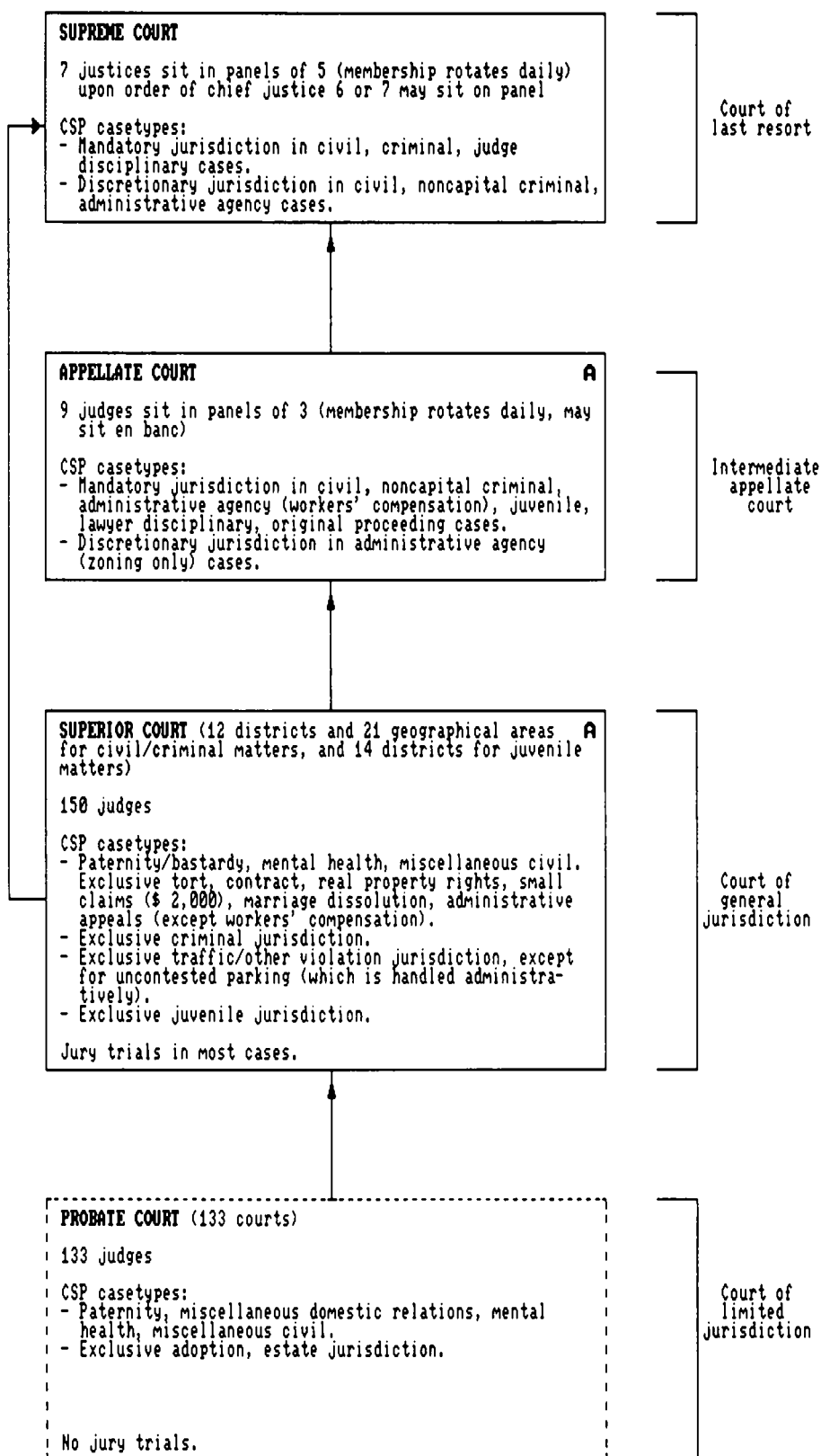
CALIFORNIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



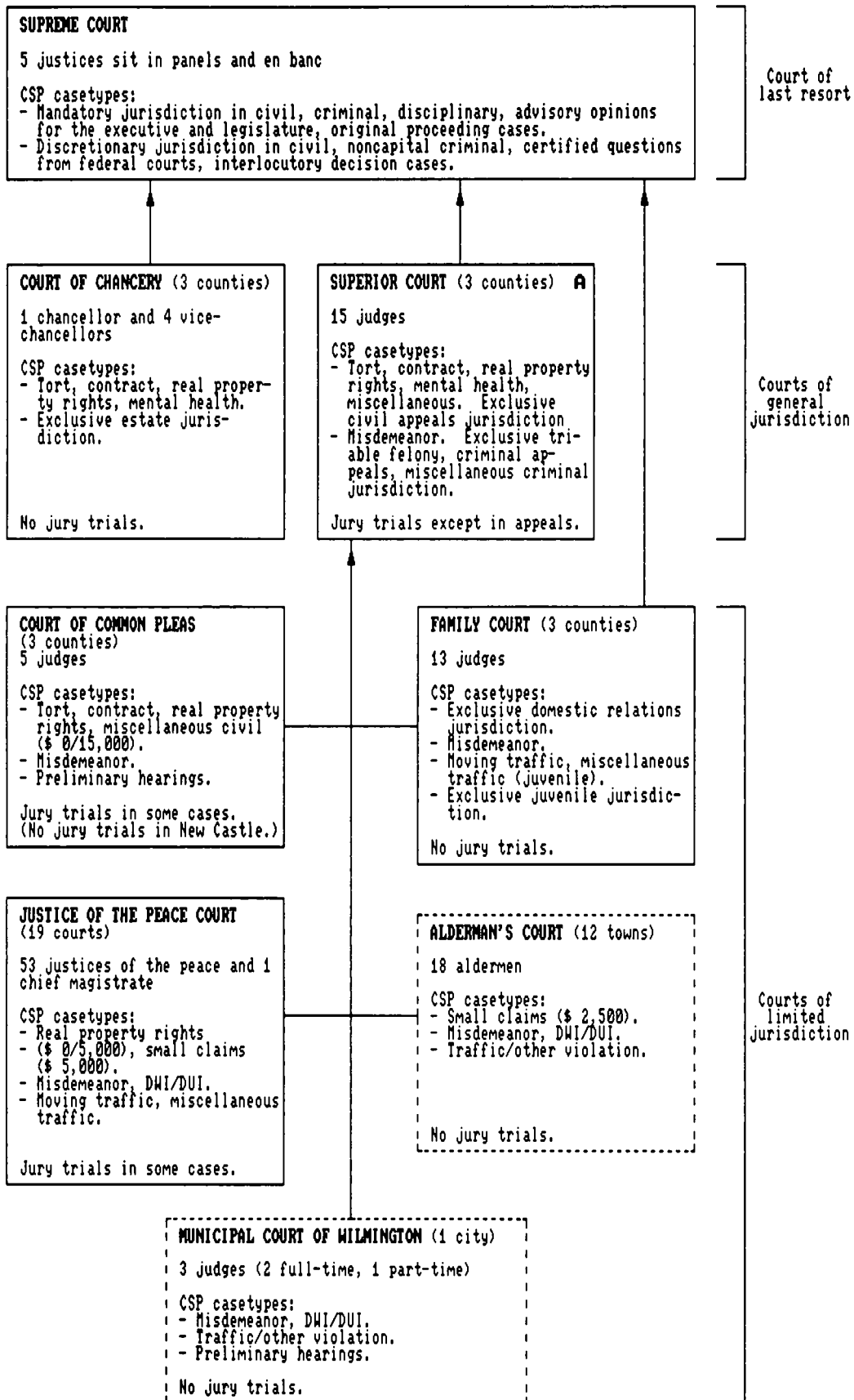
COLORADO COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



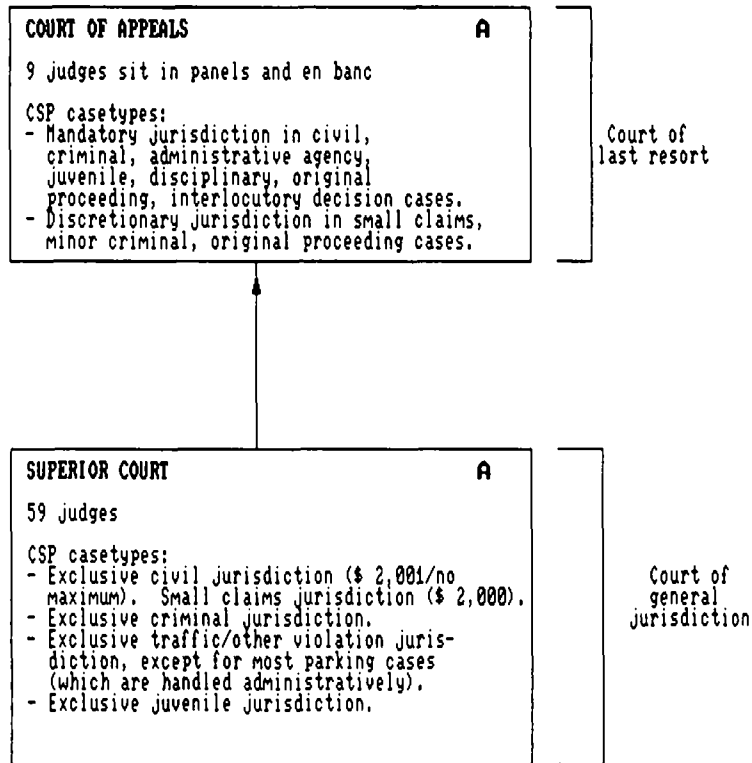
CONNECTICUT COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



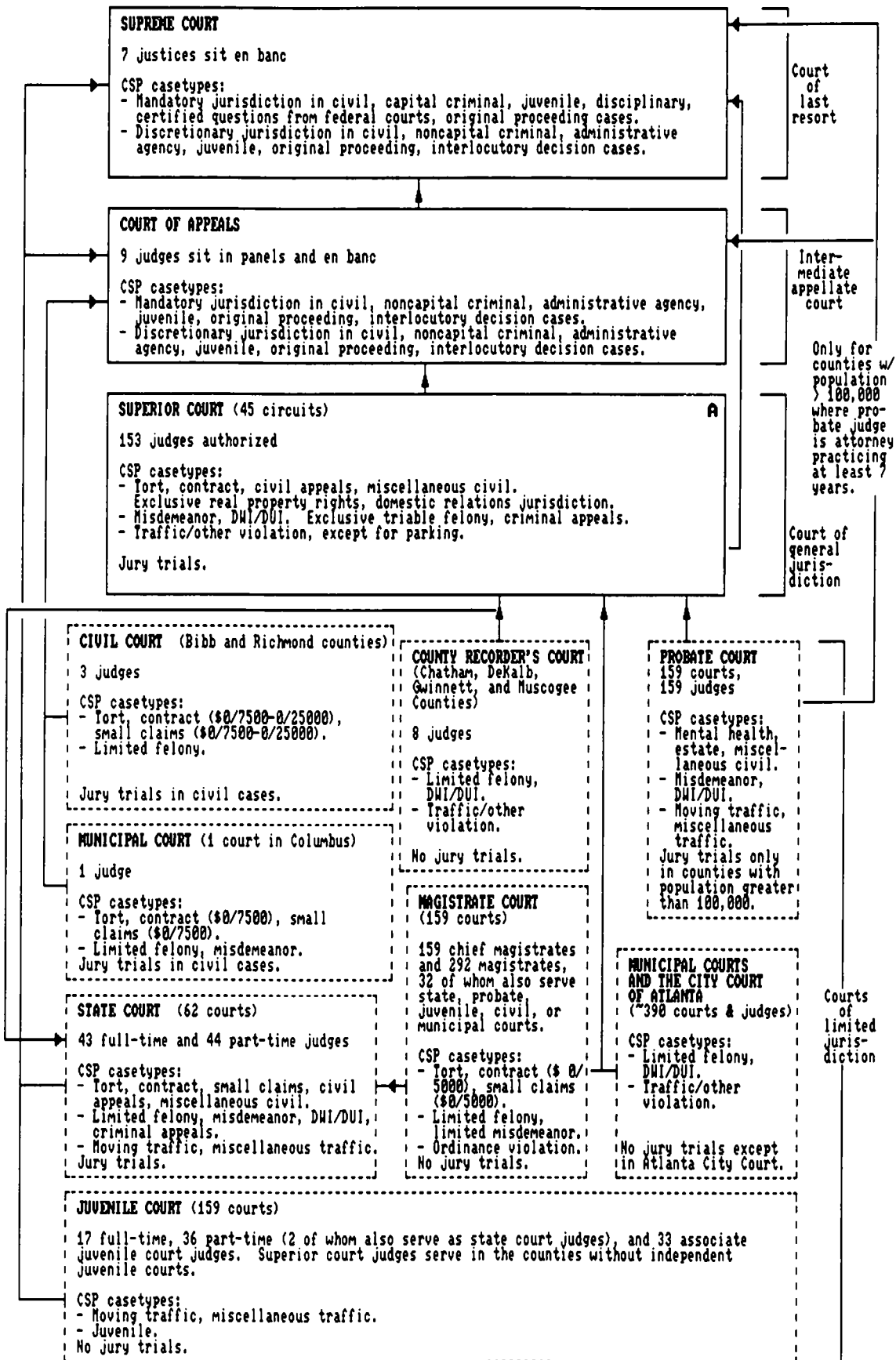
DELAWARE COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



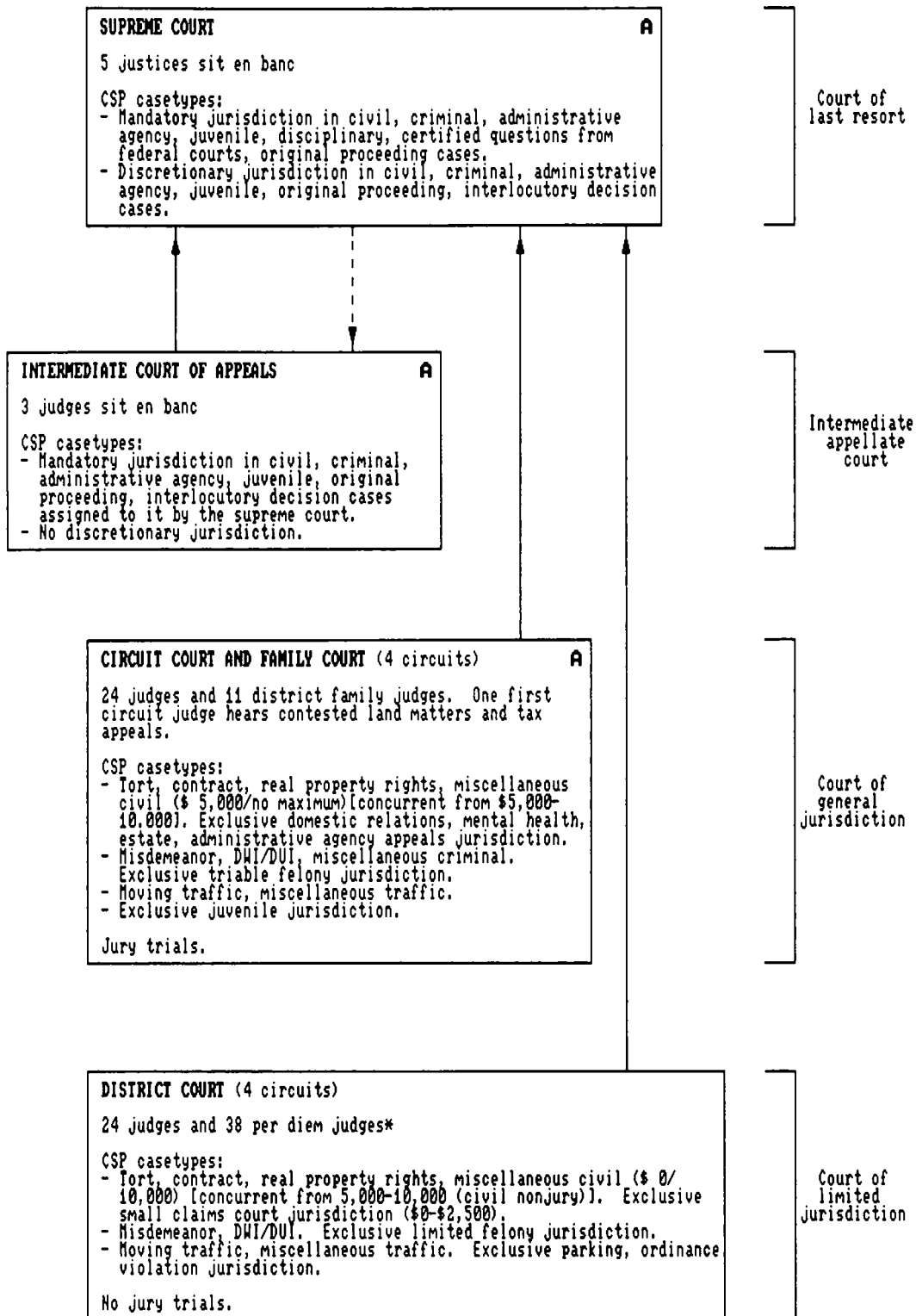
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



GEORGIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



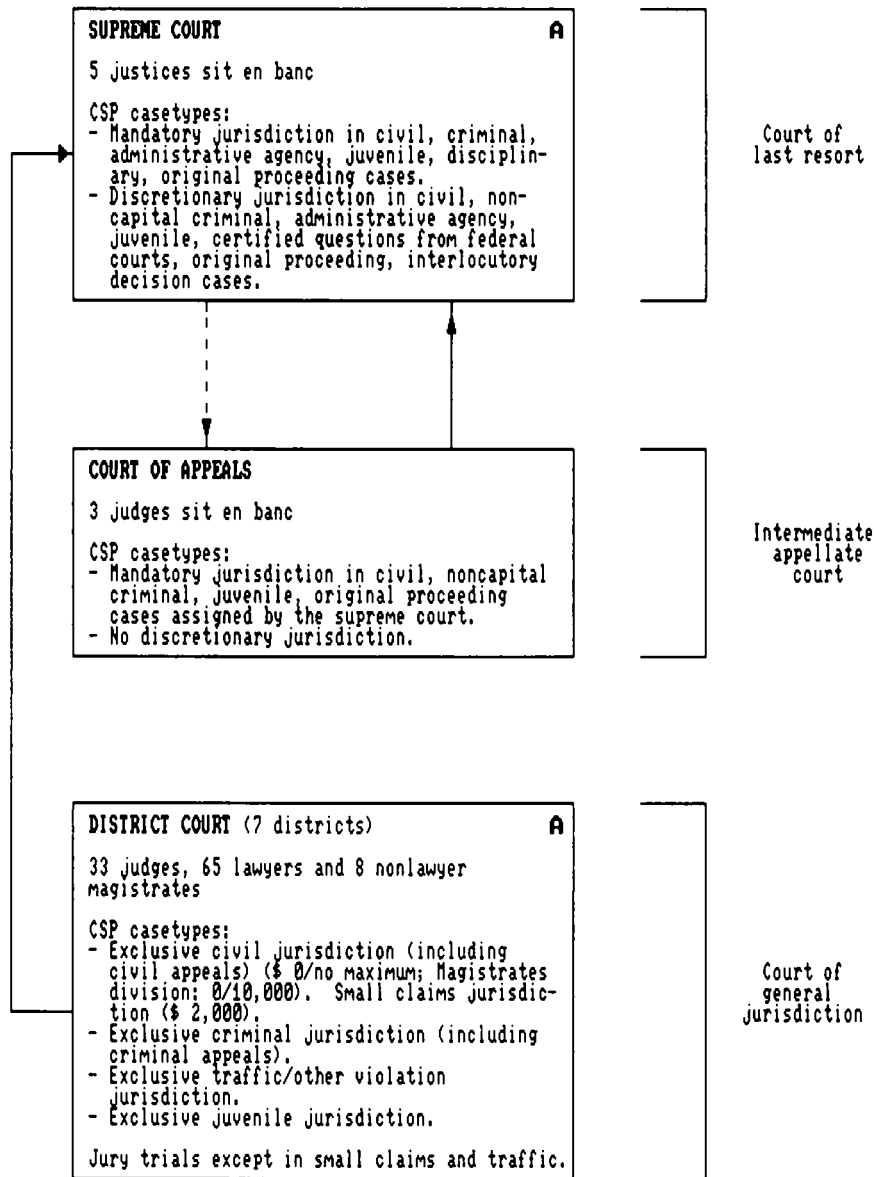
HAWAII COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



---- Indicates assignment of cases.

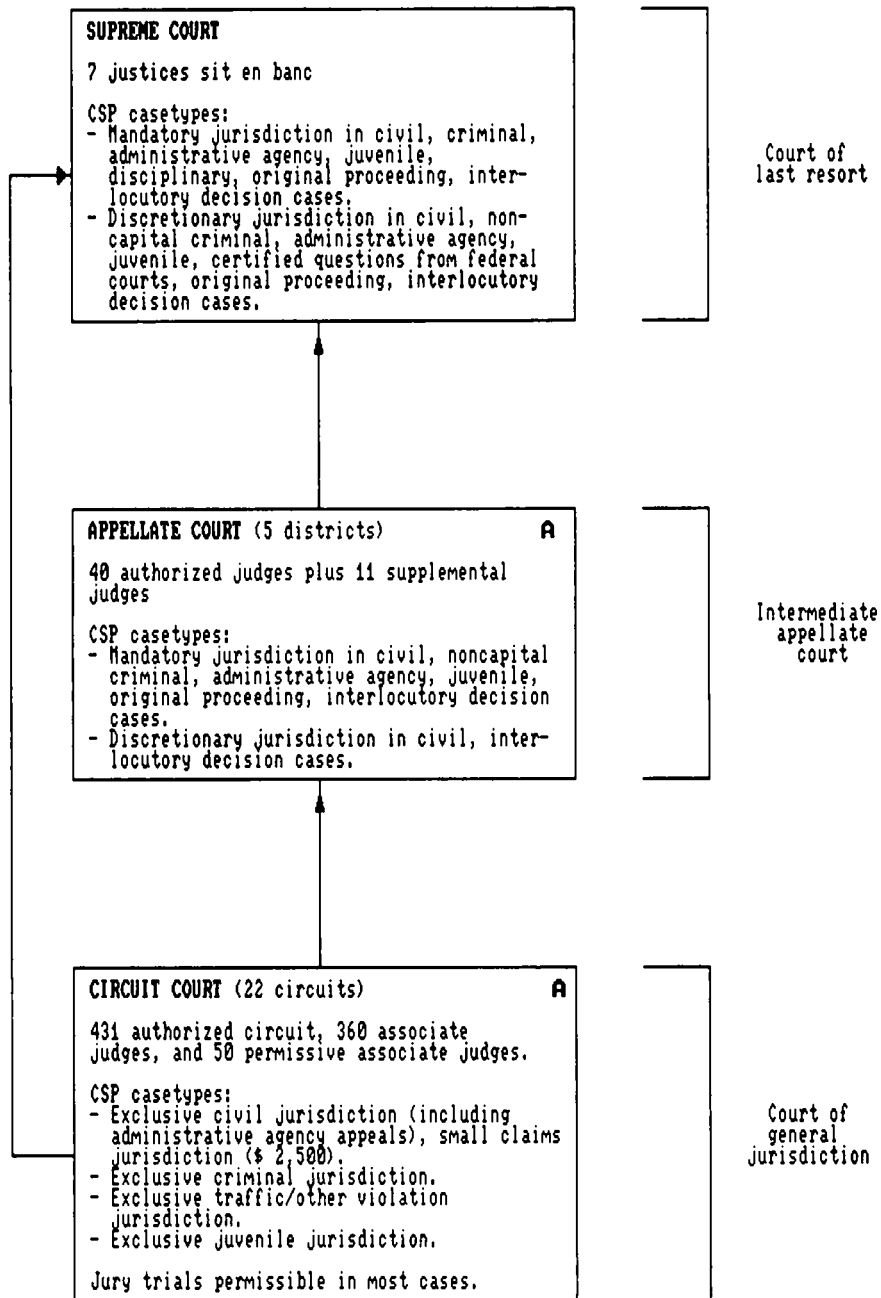
* Some per diem judges are assigned to serve as per diem district & family court judges in the first circuit.

IDAHO COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

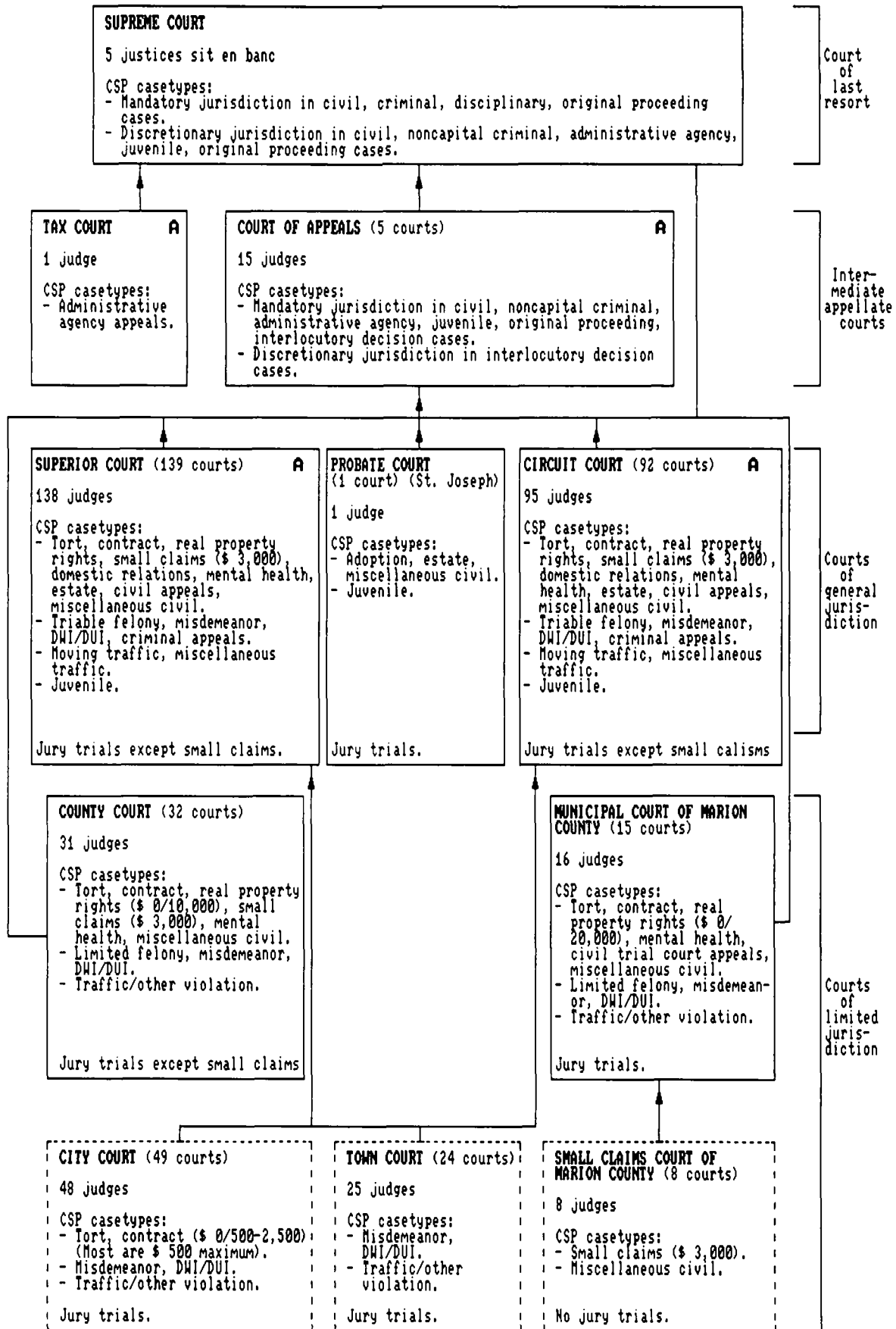


---- indicates assignment of cases.

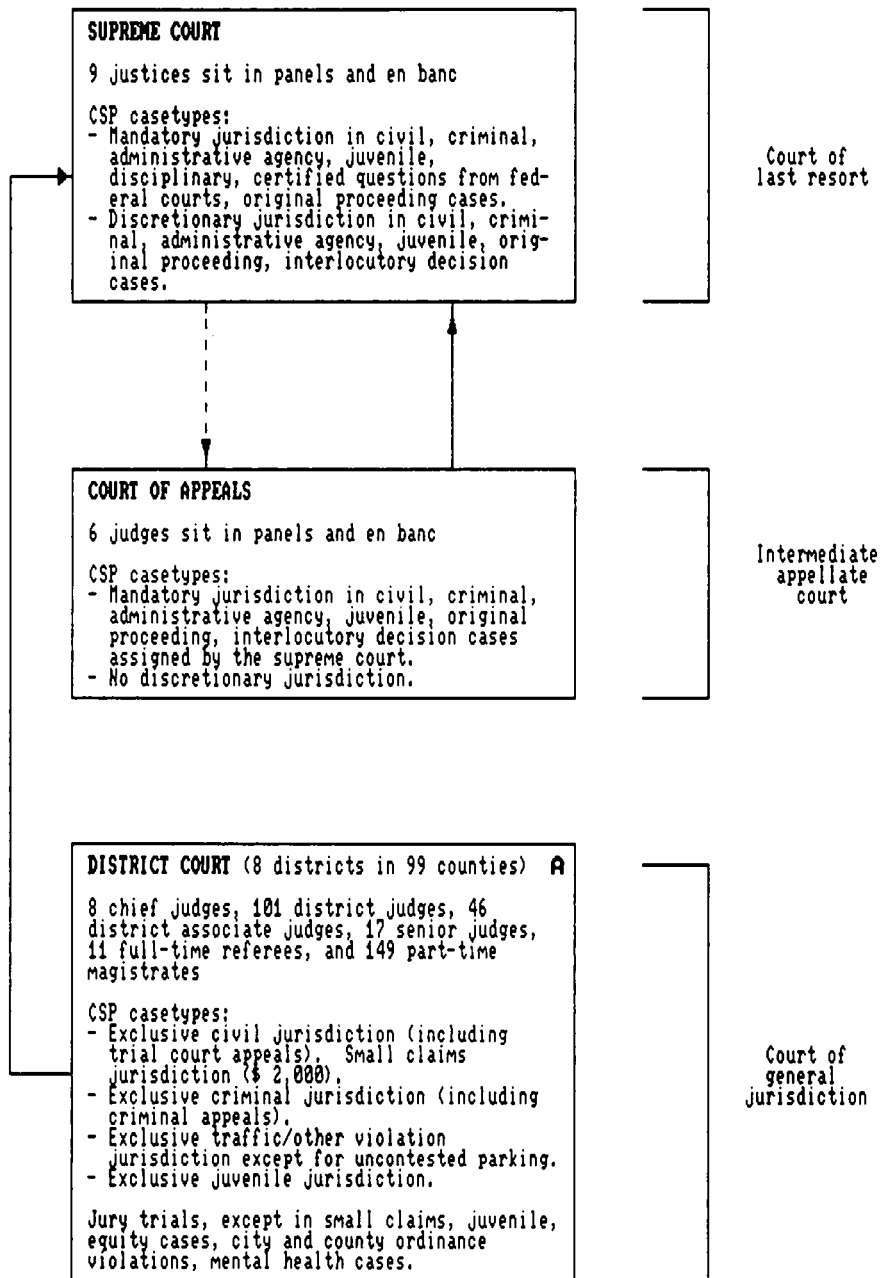
ILLINOIS COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



INDIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

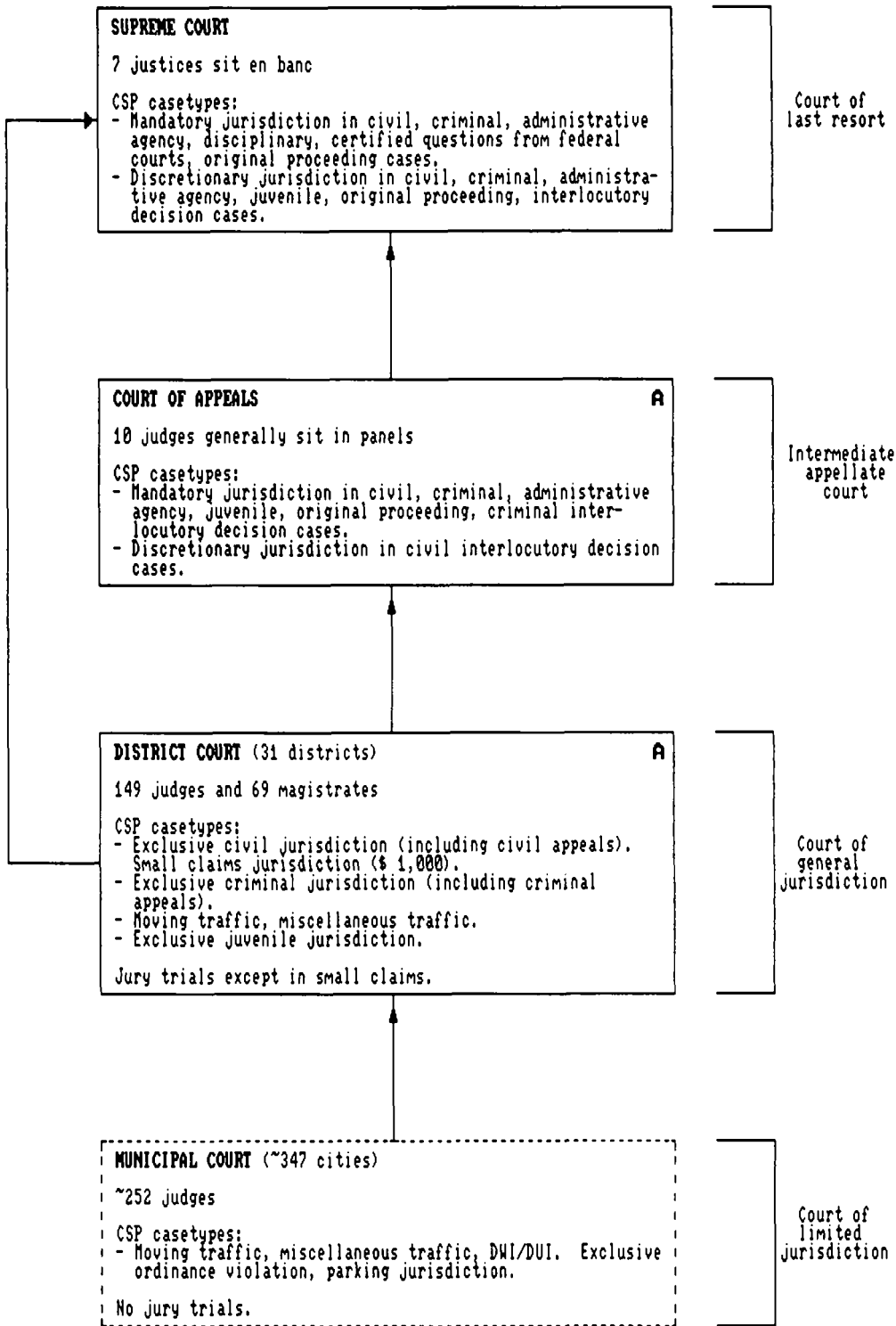


IOWA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

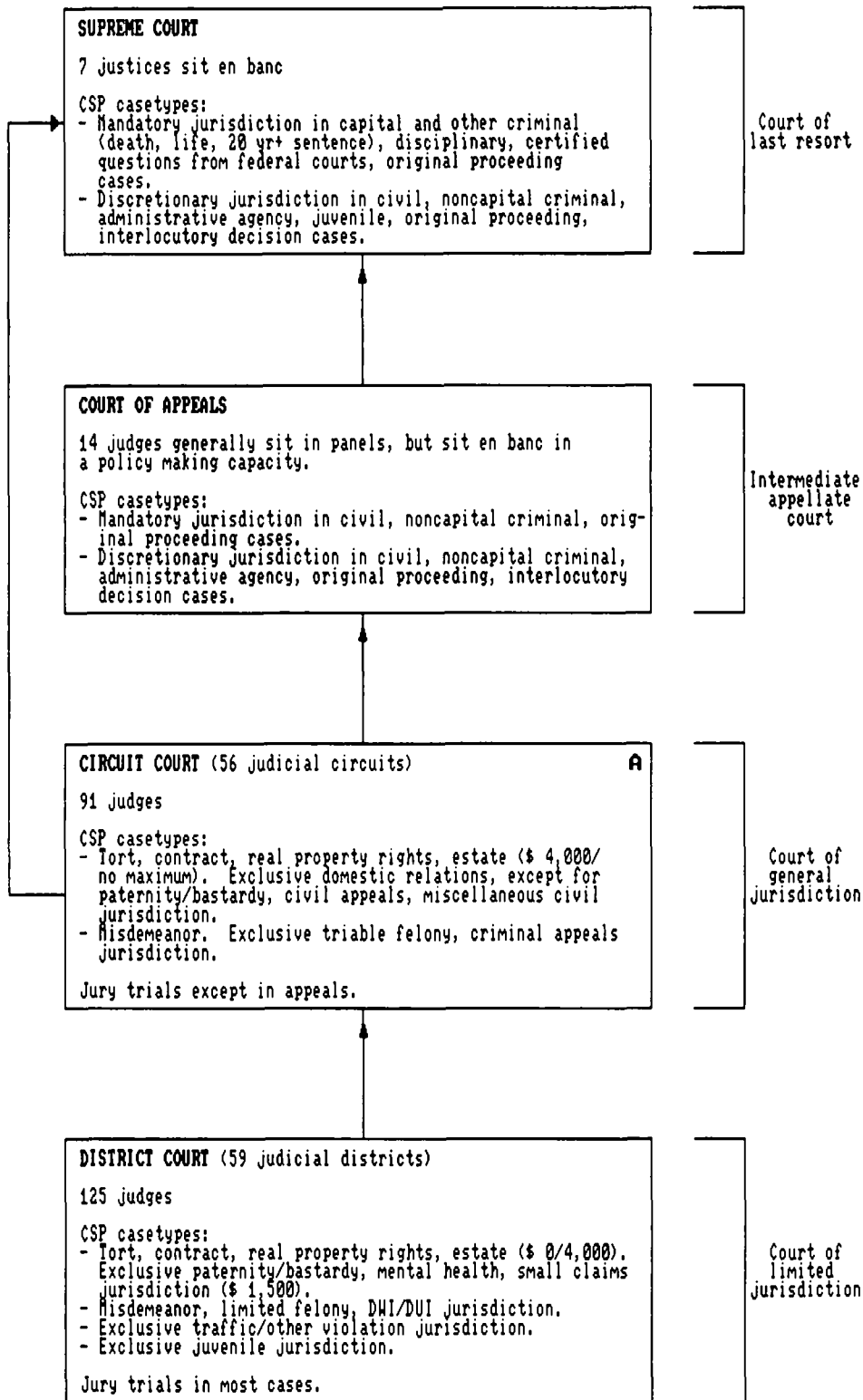


---- Indicates assignment of cases.

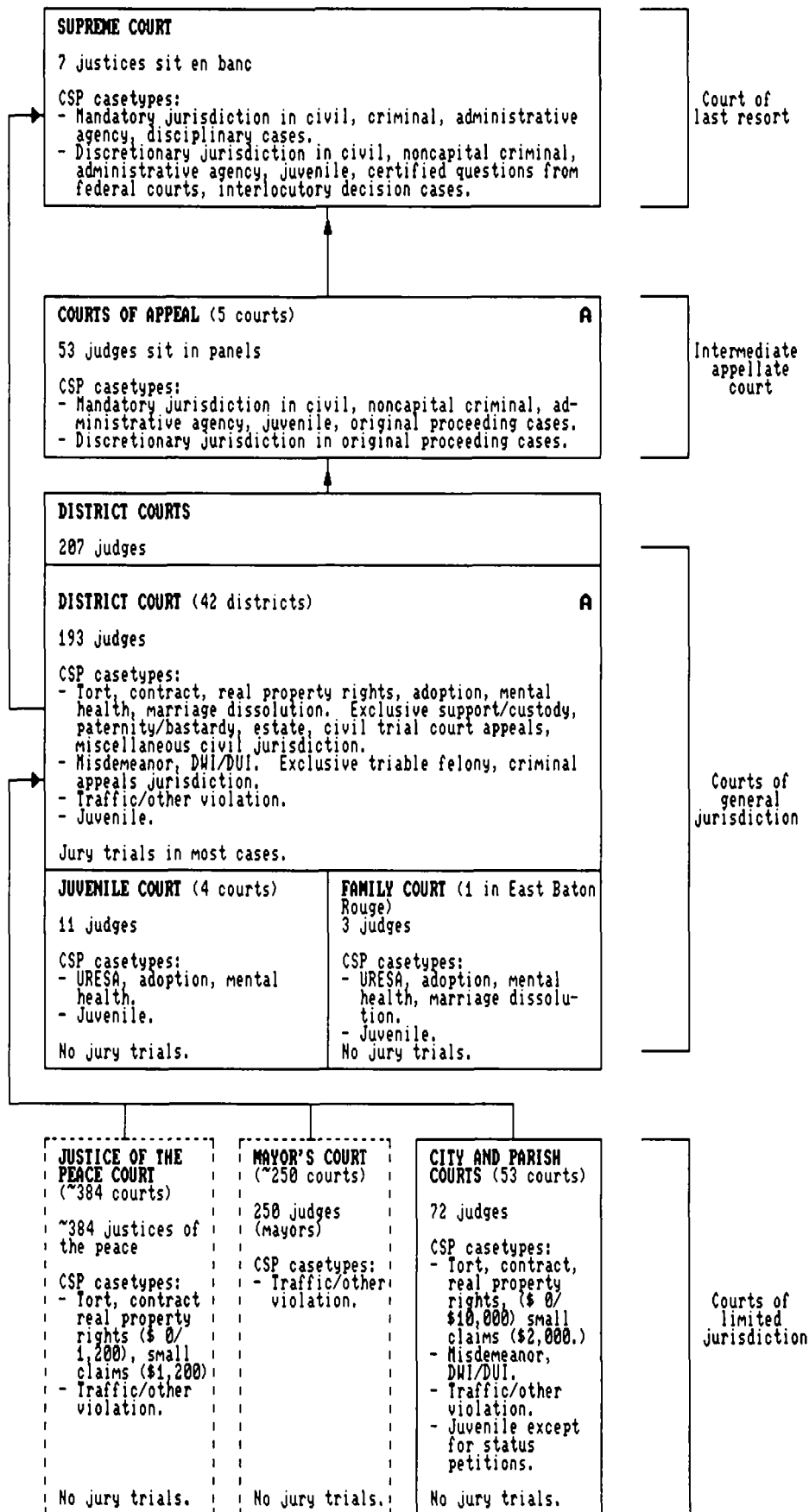
KANSAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



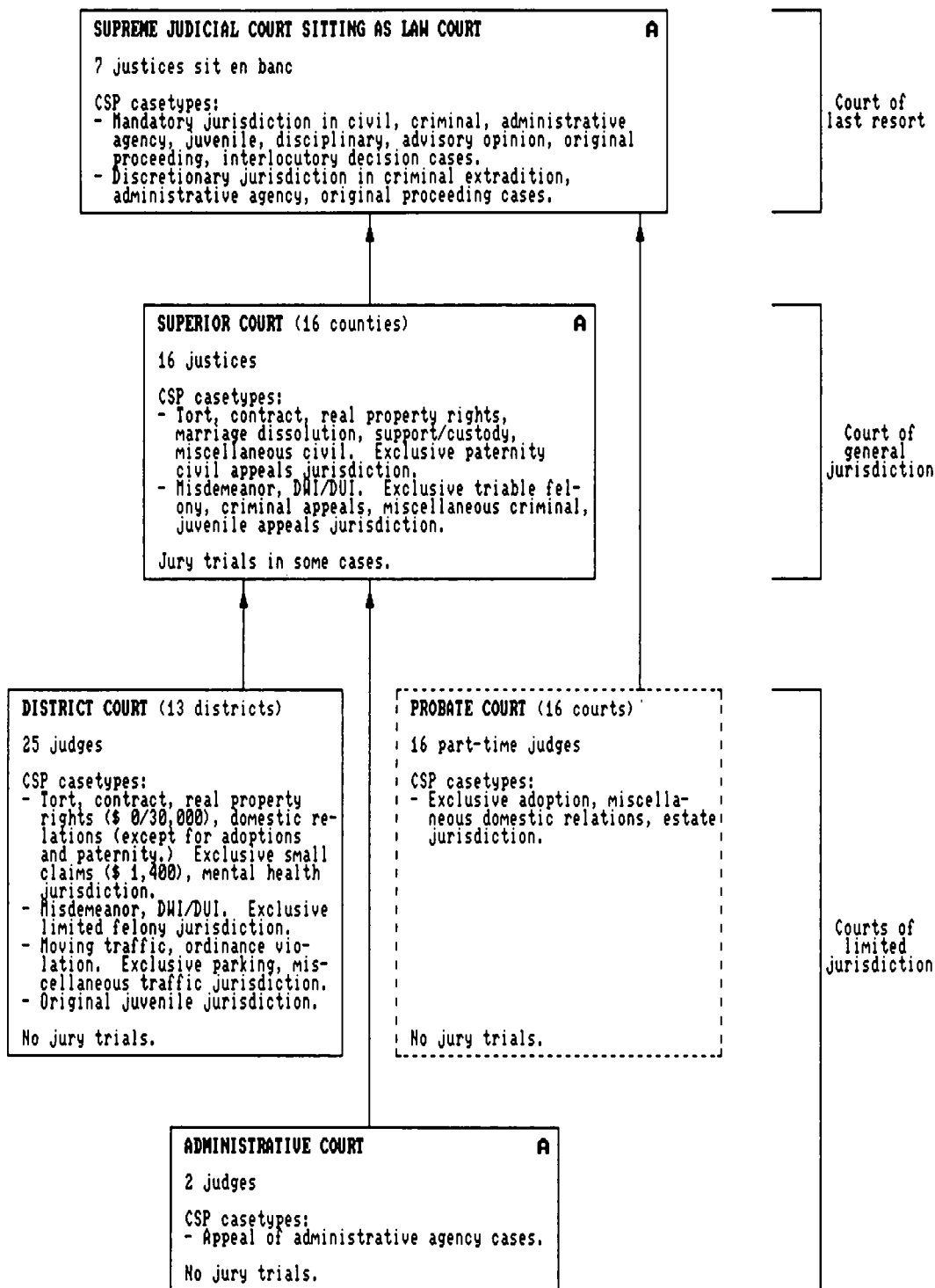
KENTUCKY COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



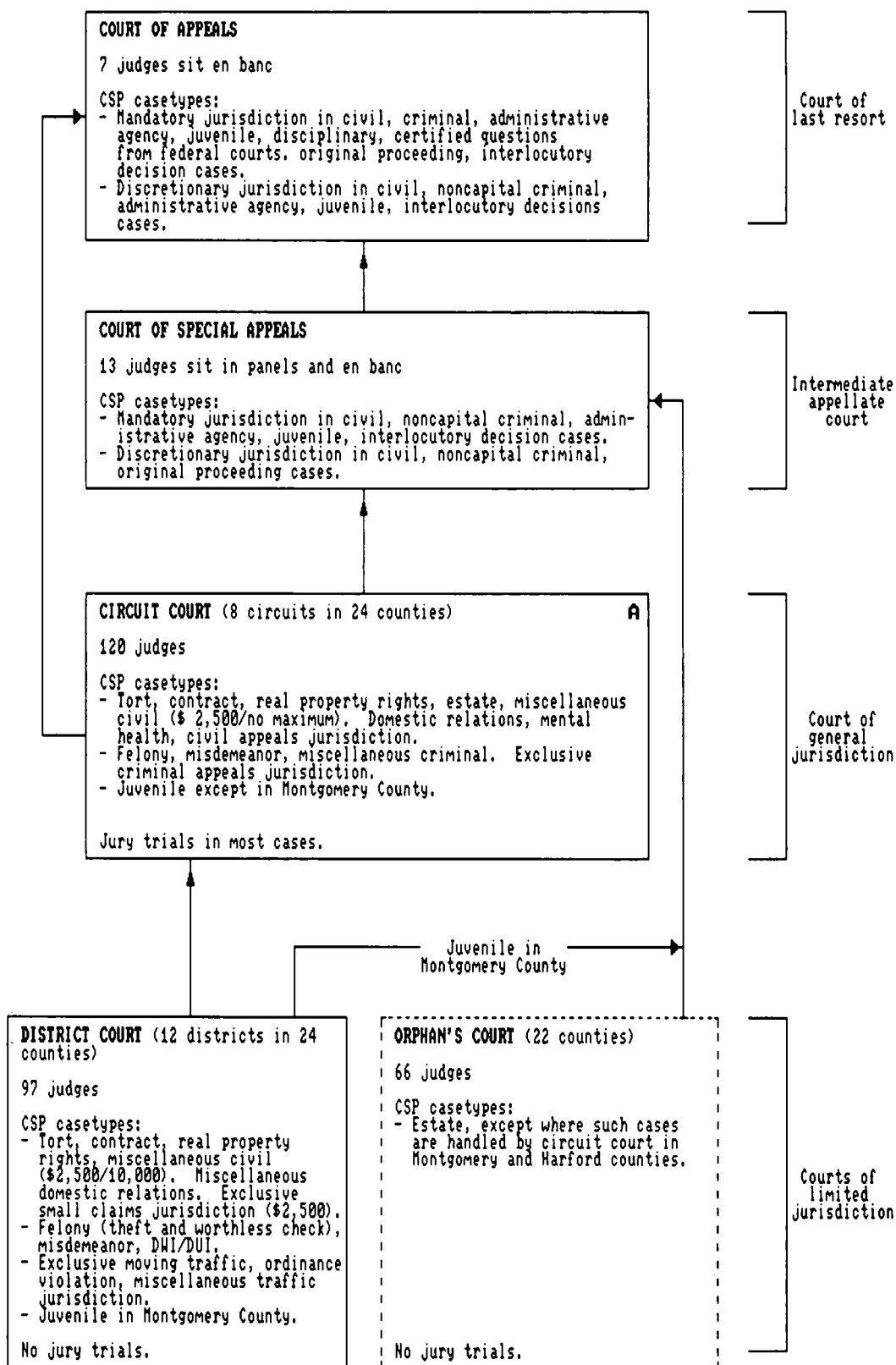
LOUISIANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



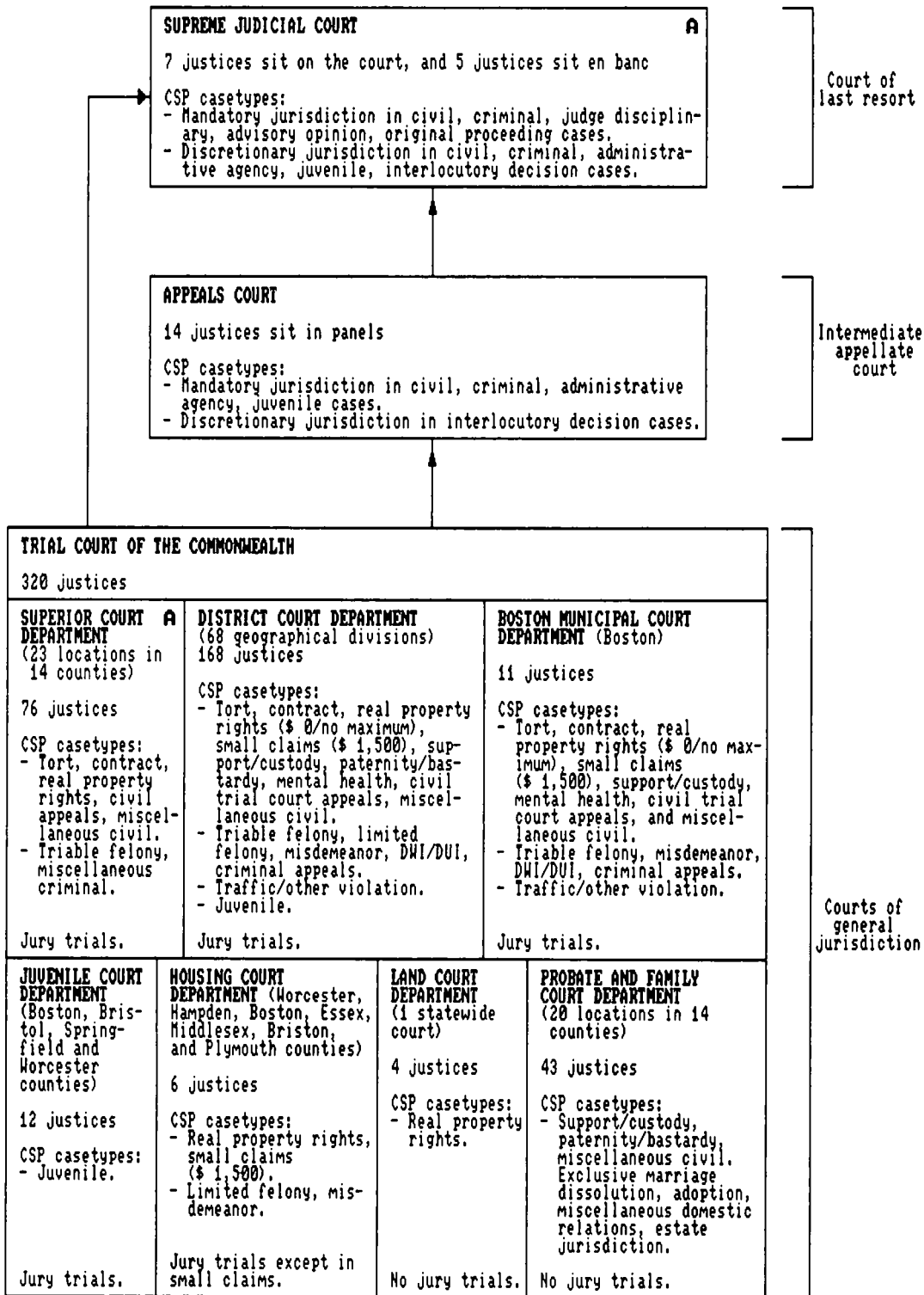
MAINE COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



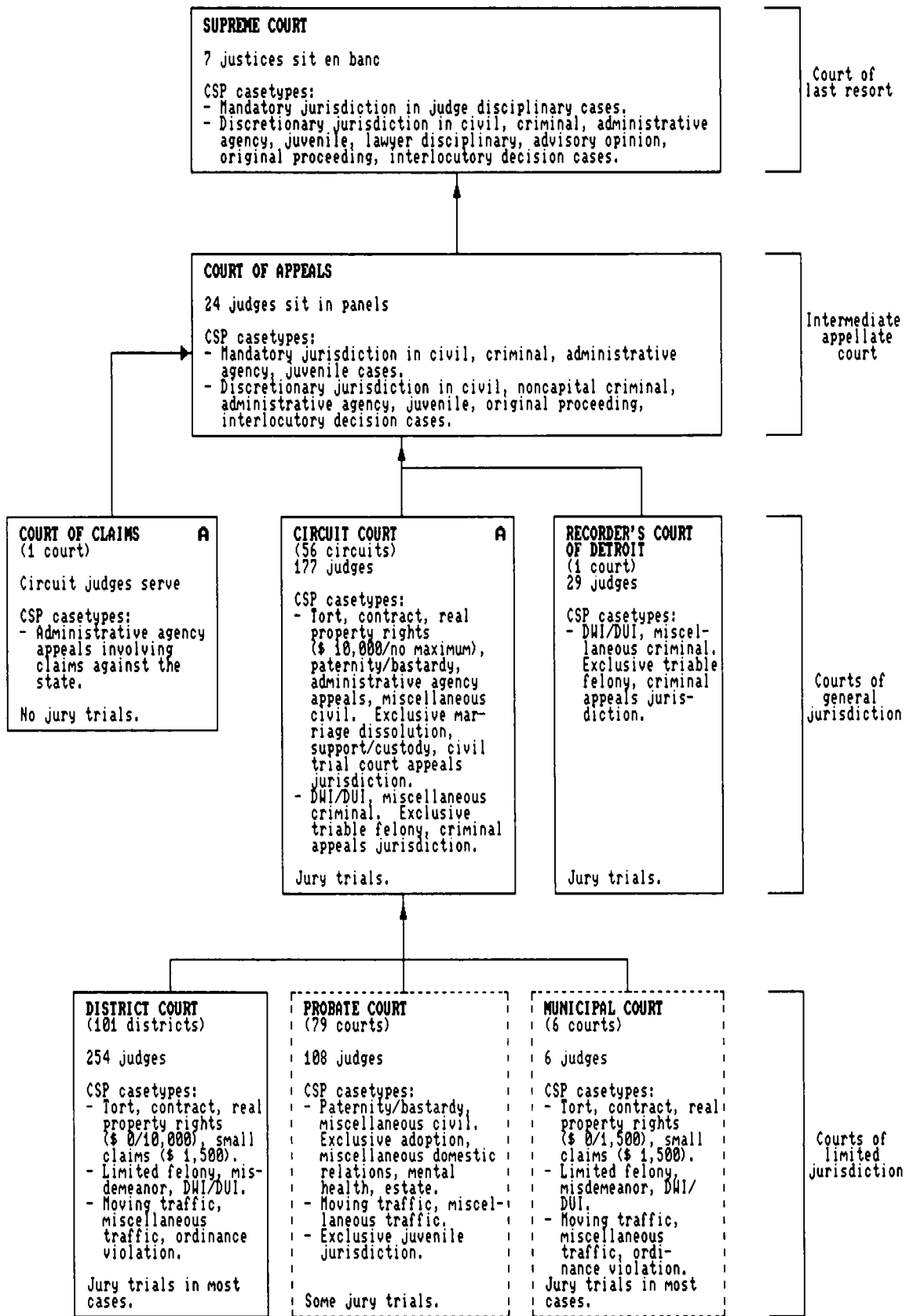
MARYLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



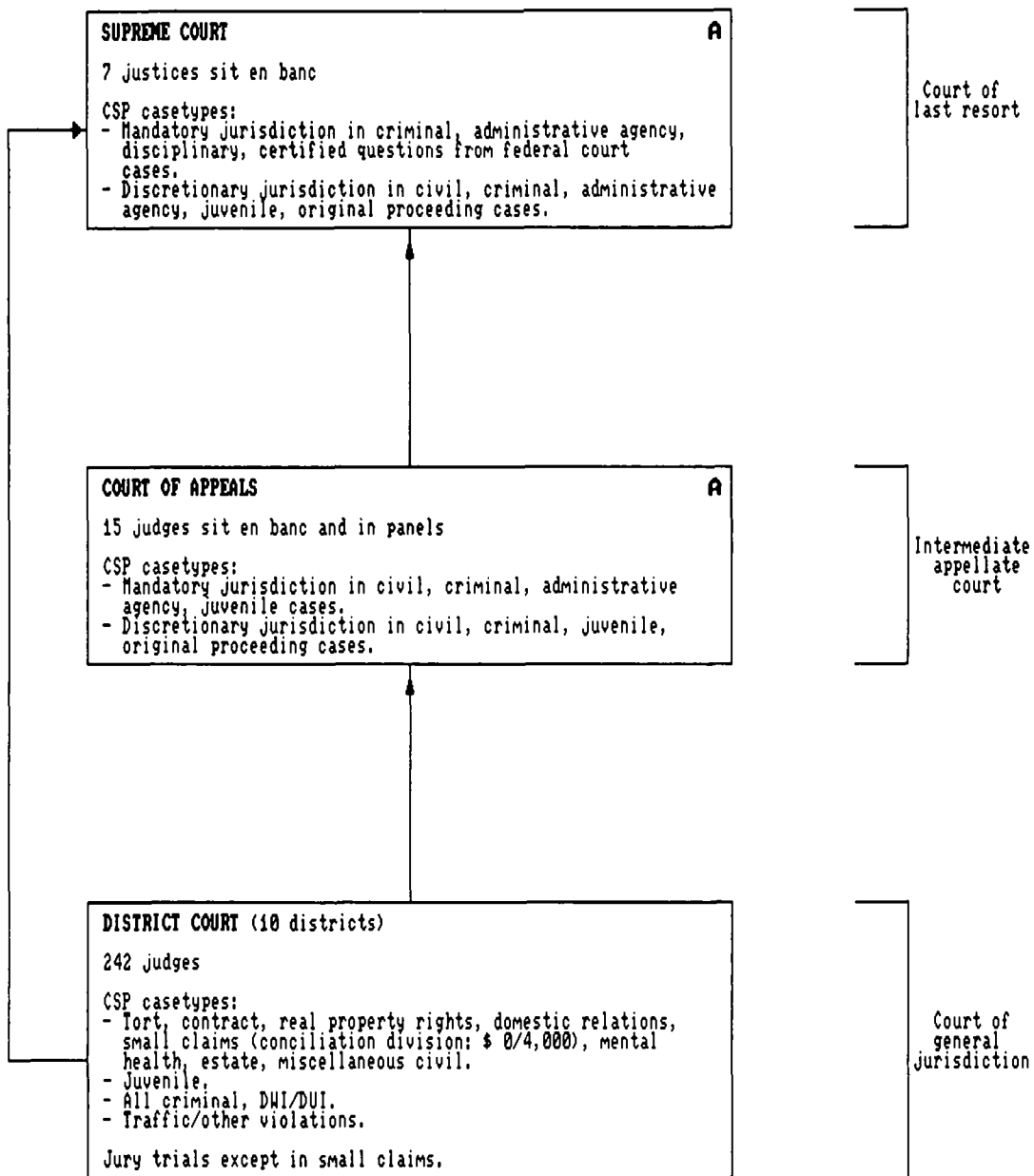
MASSACHUSETTS COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



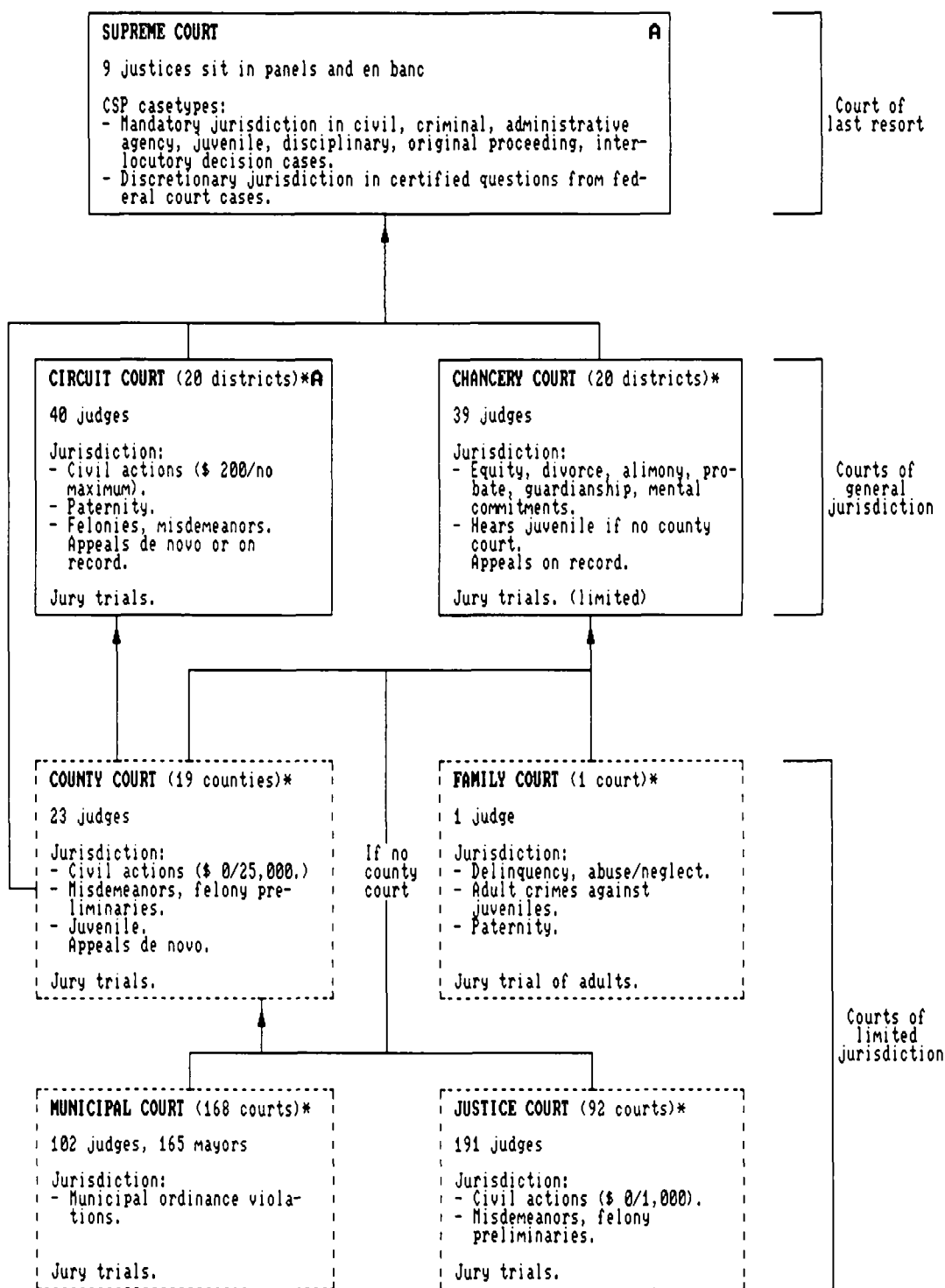
MICHIGAN COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



MINNESOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

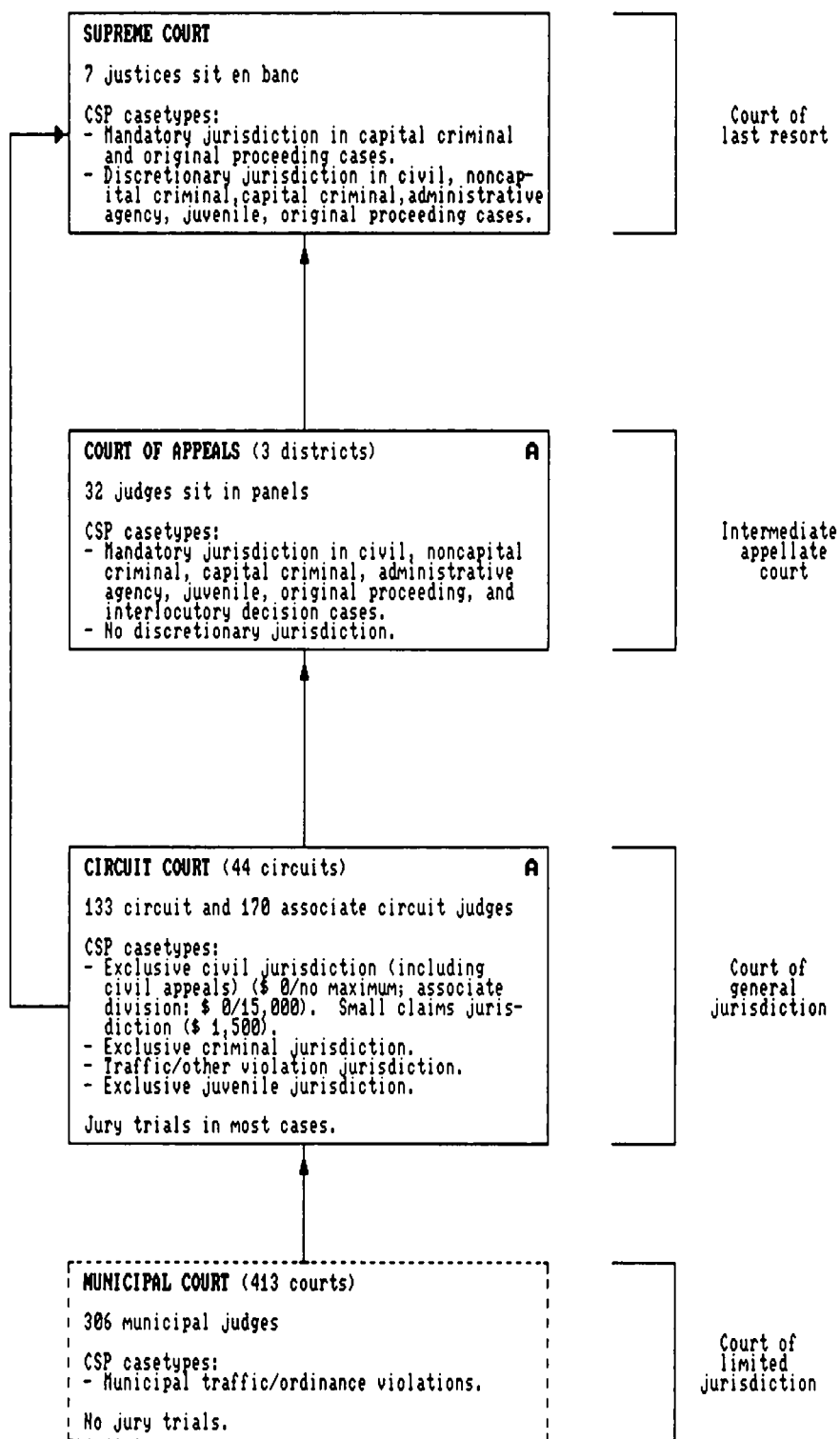


MISSISSIPPI COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

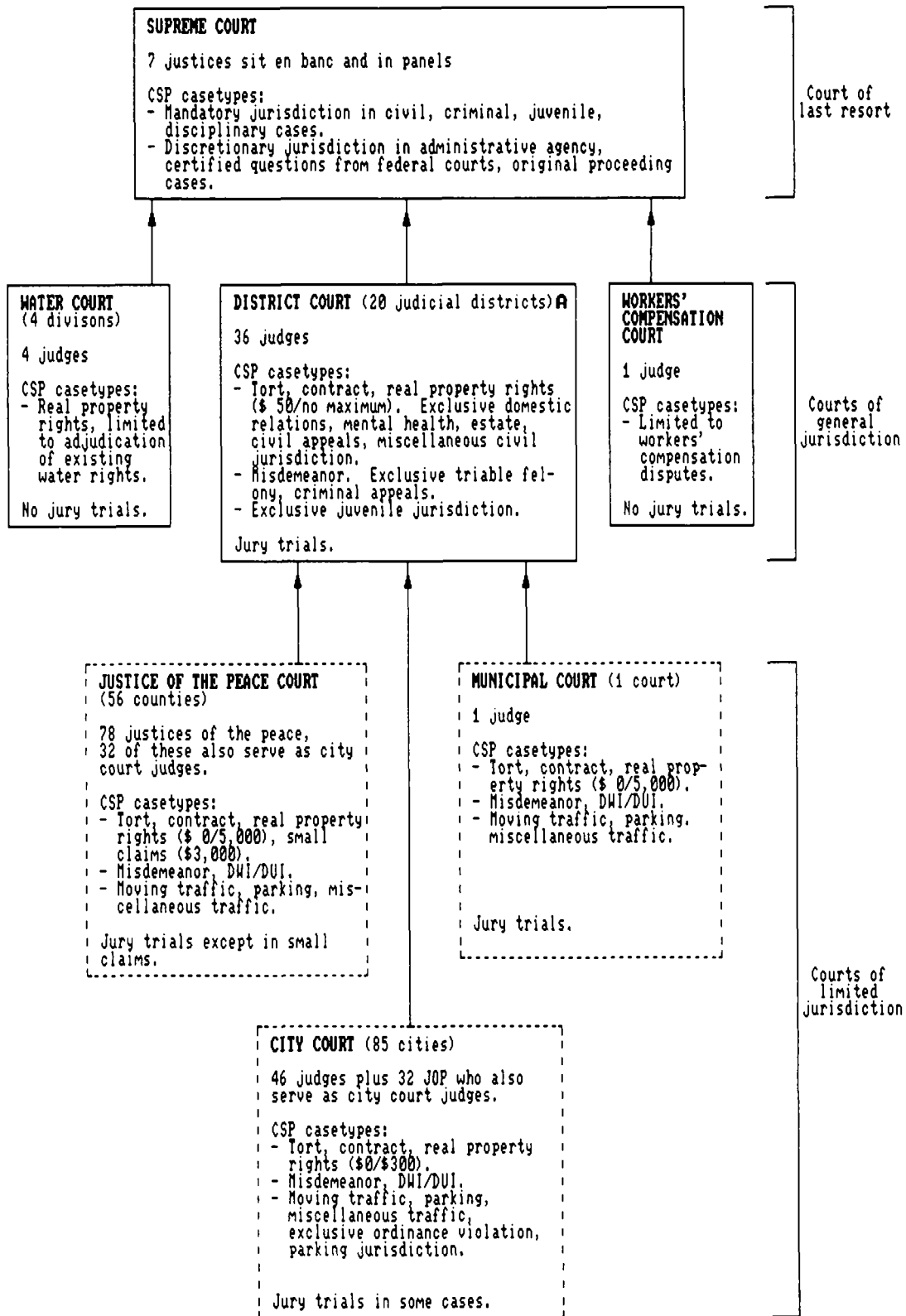


* A trial court jurisdiction guide was never completed by Mississippi, therefore, the trial court terminology reported in this court structure chart does not reflect CSP model reporting terms.

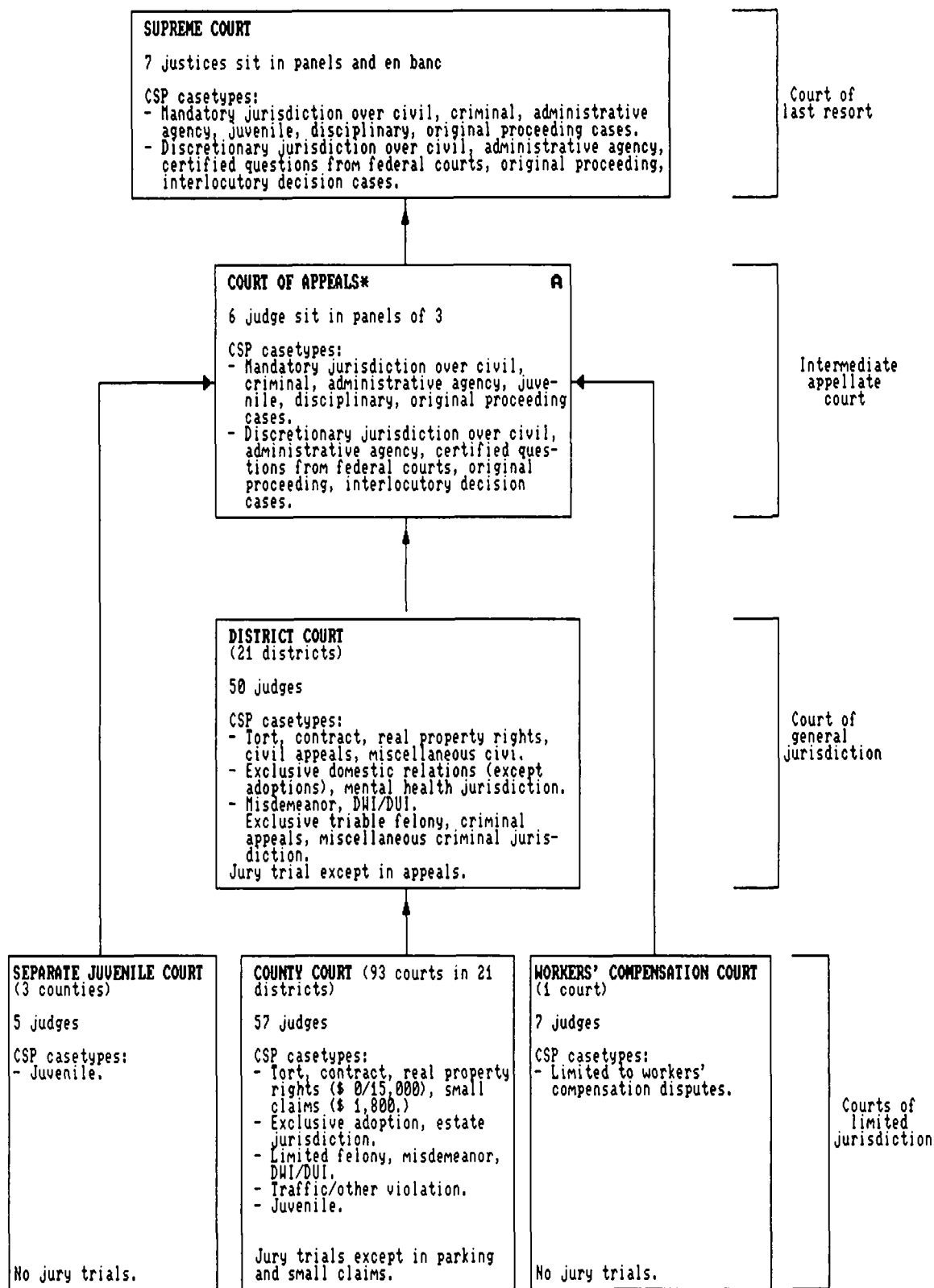
MISSOURI COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



MONTANA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

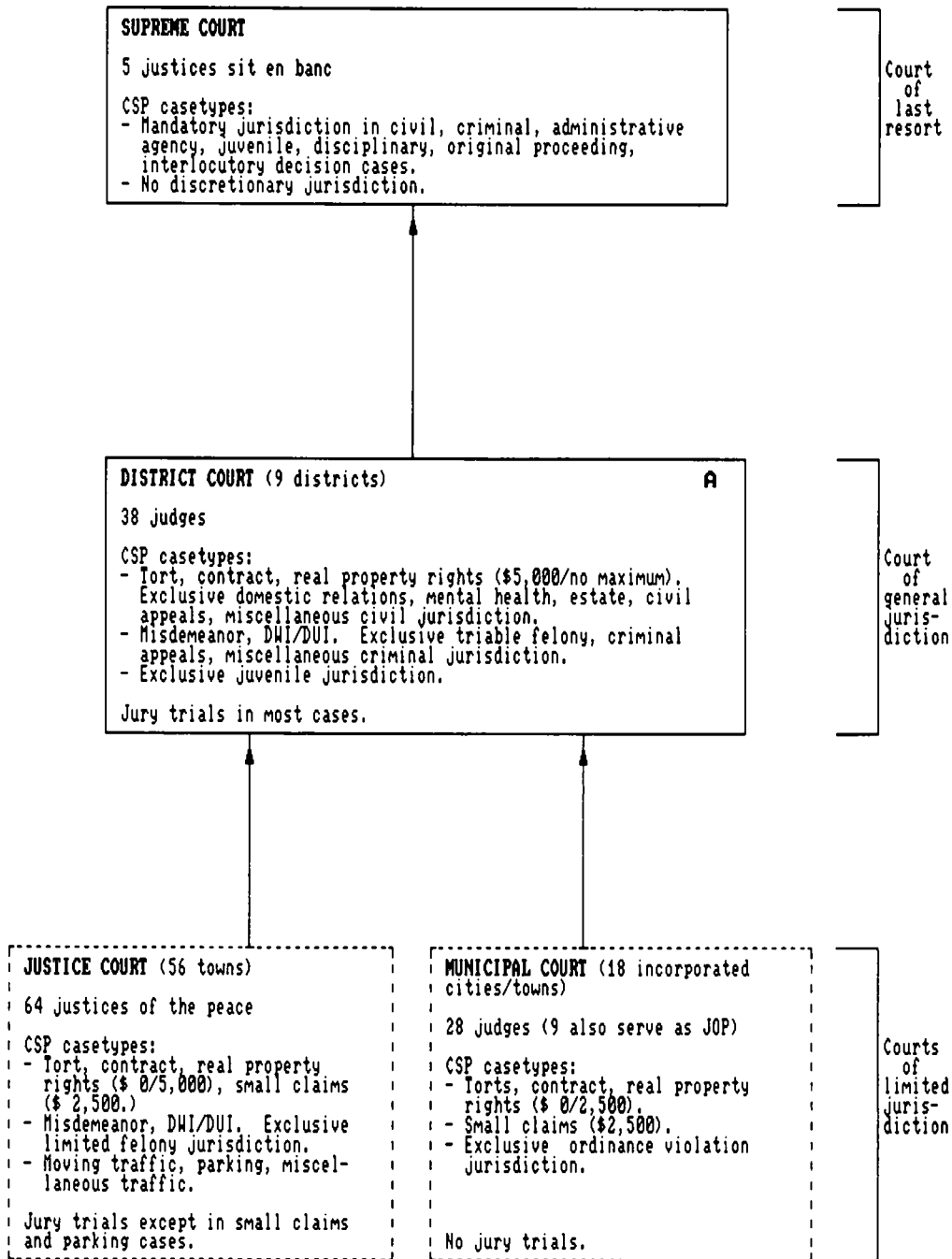


NEBRASKA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

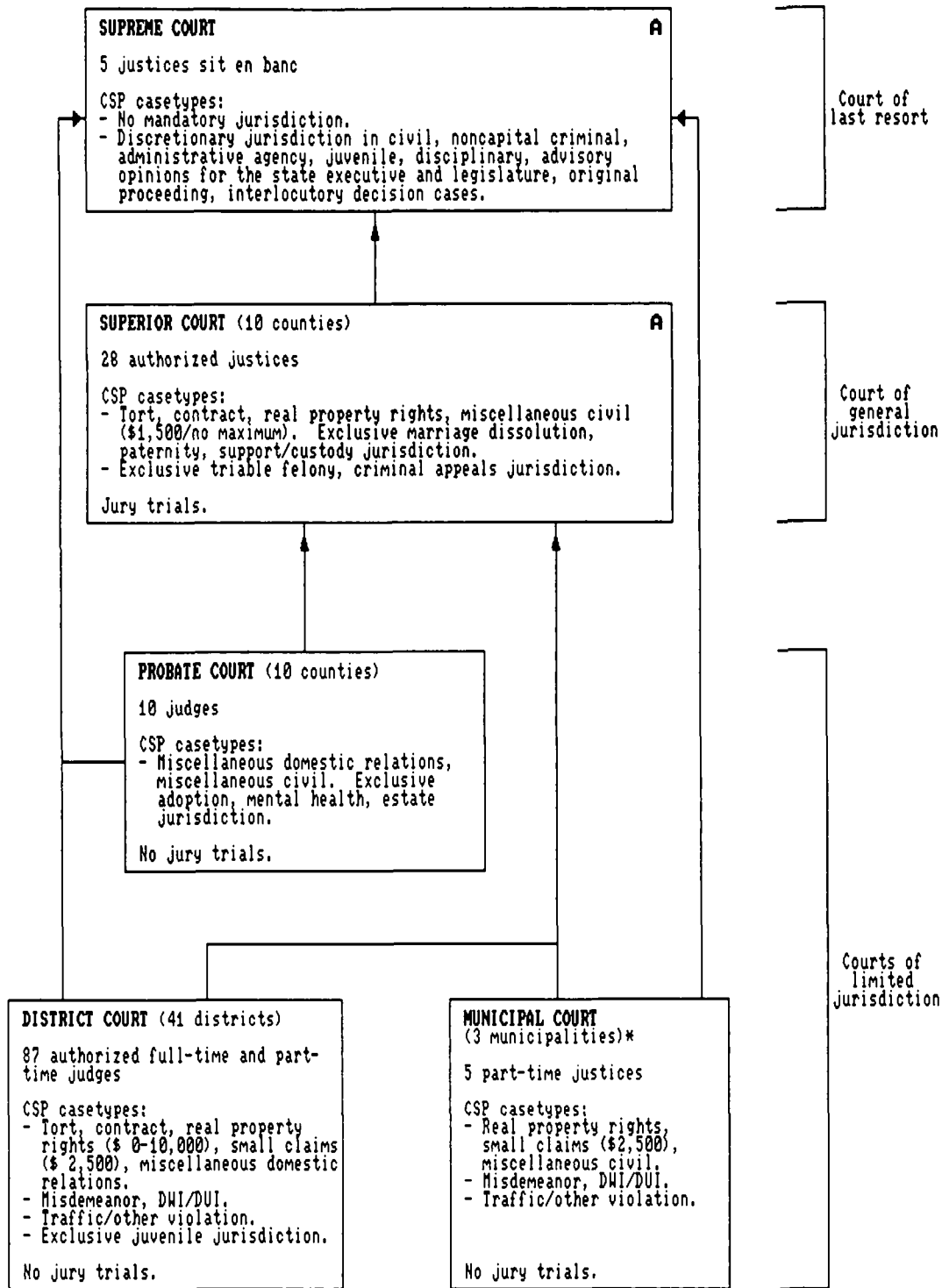


* The Nebraska Court of Appeals was established September 6, 1991.

NEVADA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

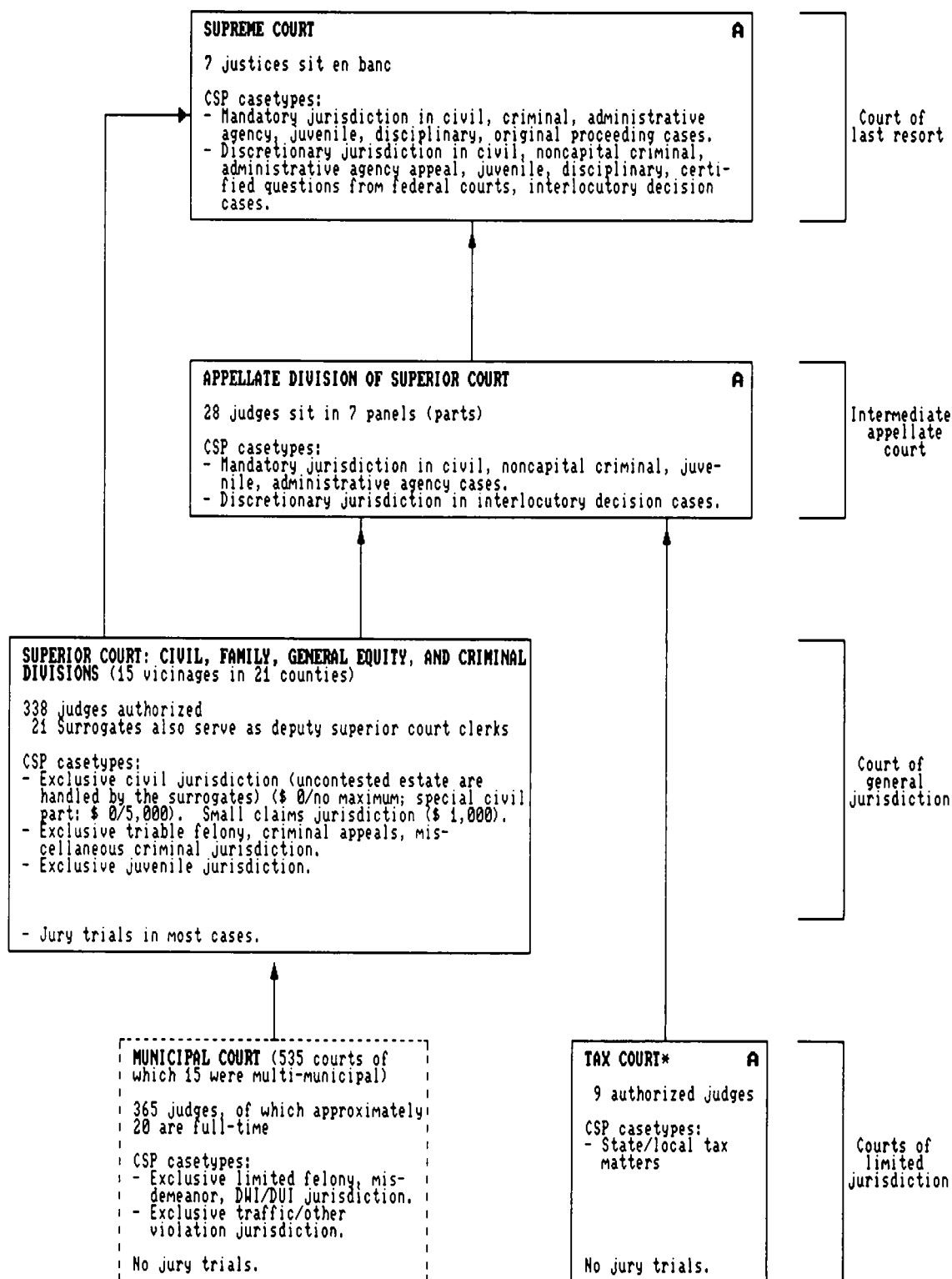


NEW HAMPSHIRE COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



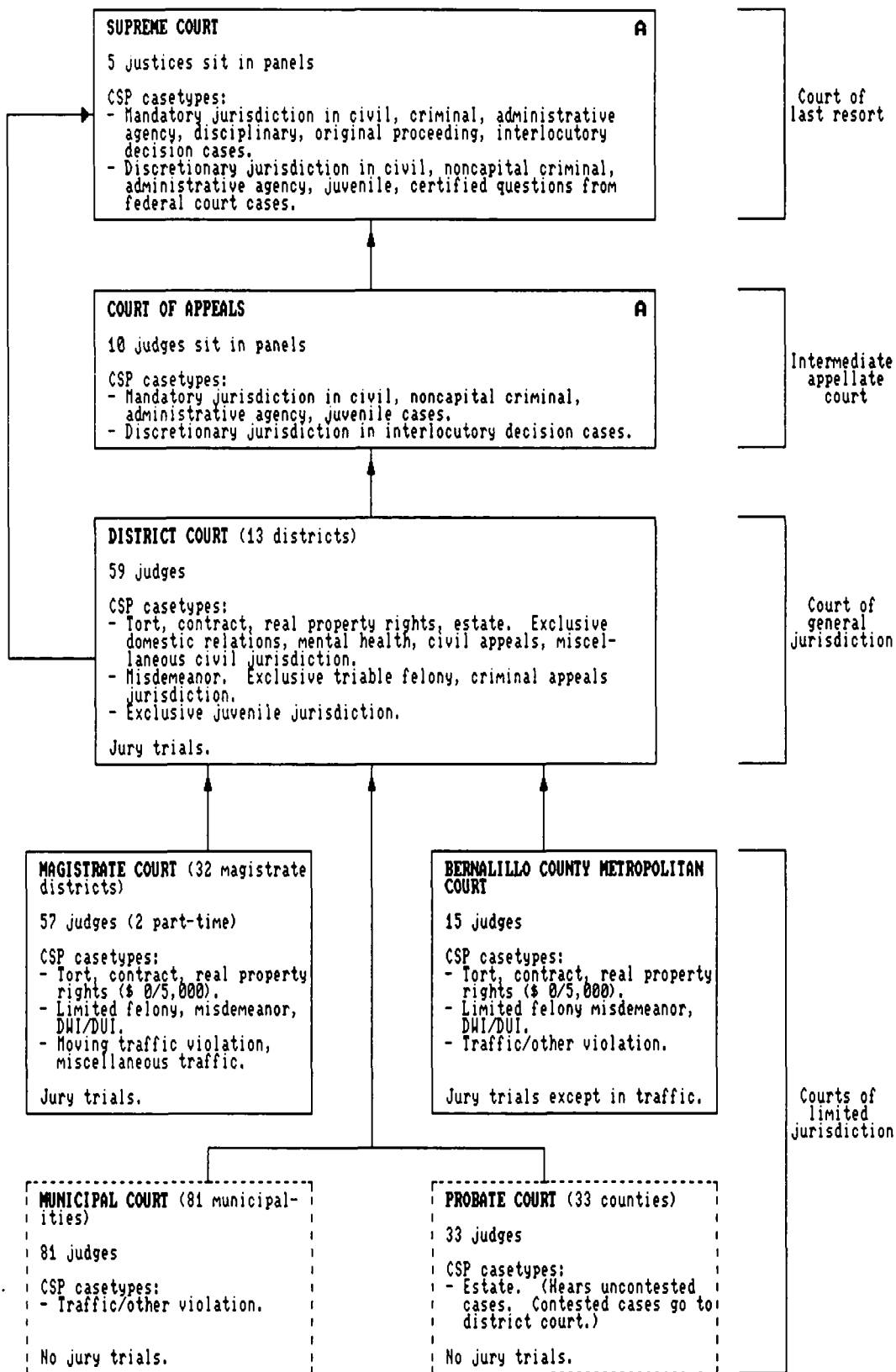
* The municipal court is being phased out (by statute) upon retirement and/or resignation of sitting justices.

NEW JERSEY COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

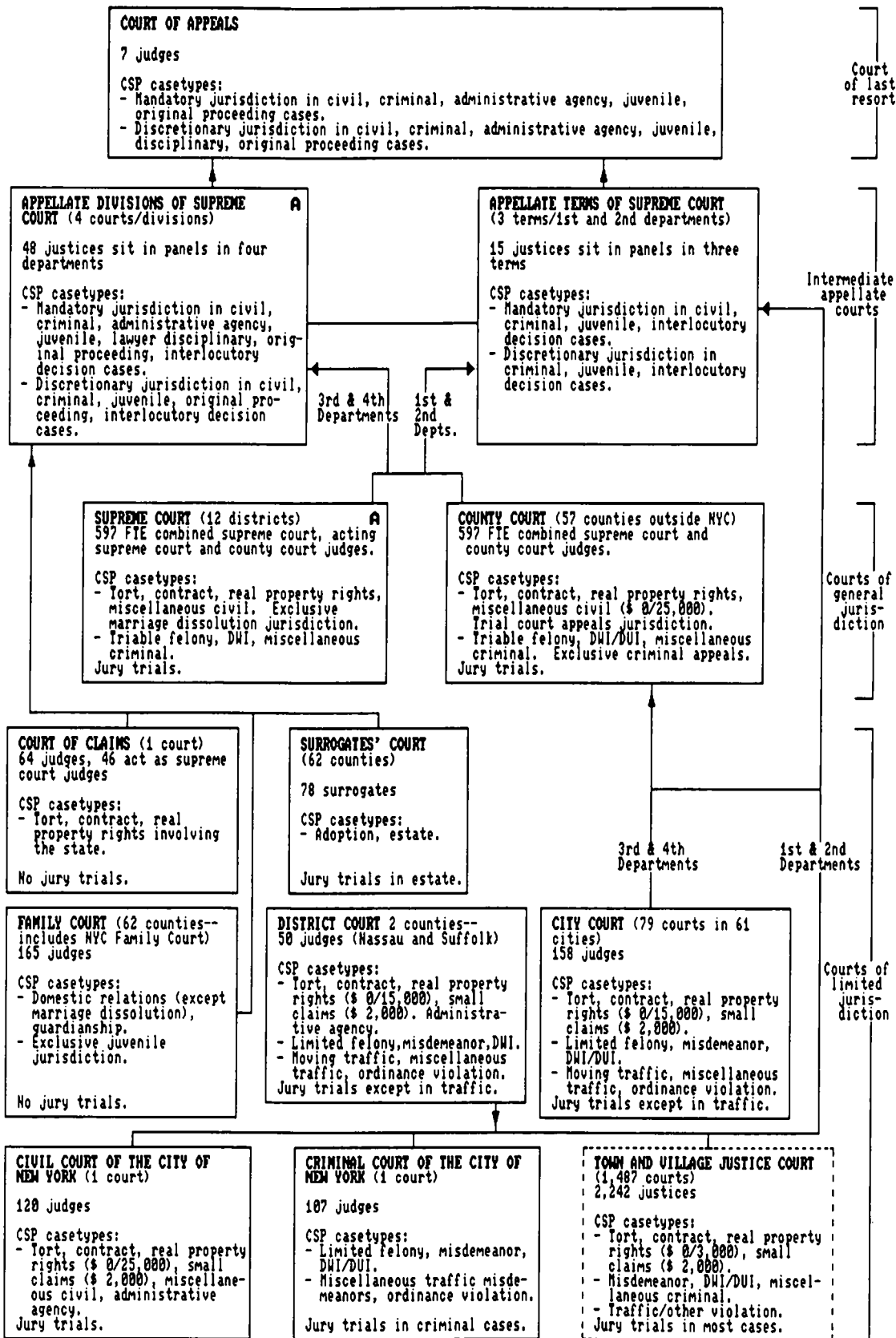


* Tax court is considered a limited jurisdiction court because of its specialized subject matter. Nevertheless, it receives appeals from administrative bodies and its cases are appealed to the intermediate appellate court. Tax court judges have the same general qualifications and terms of service as superior court judges and can be cross assigned.

NEW MEXICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

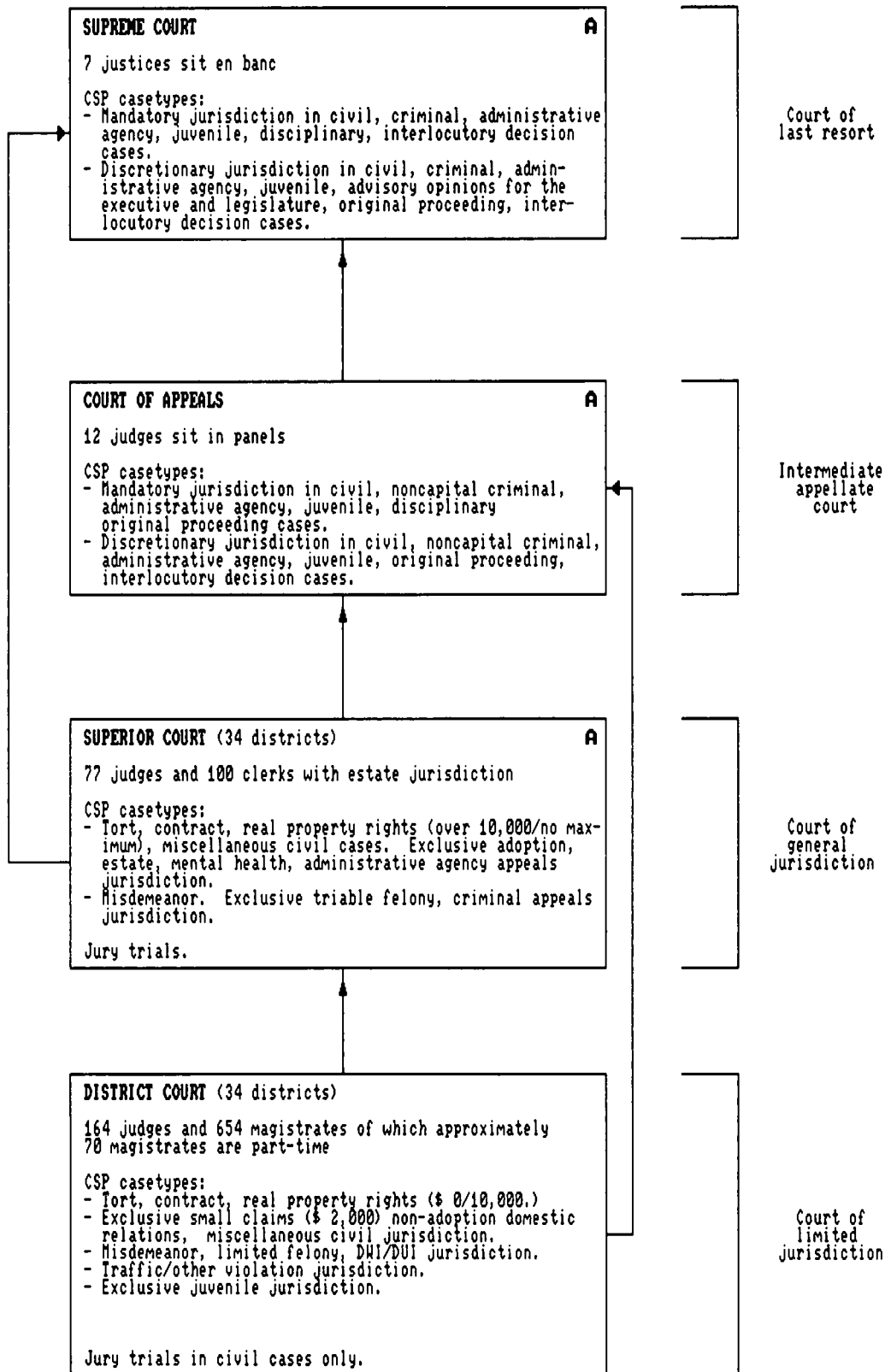


NEW YORK COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

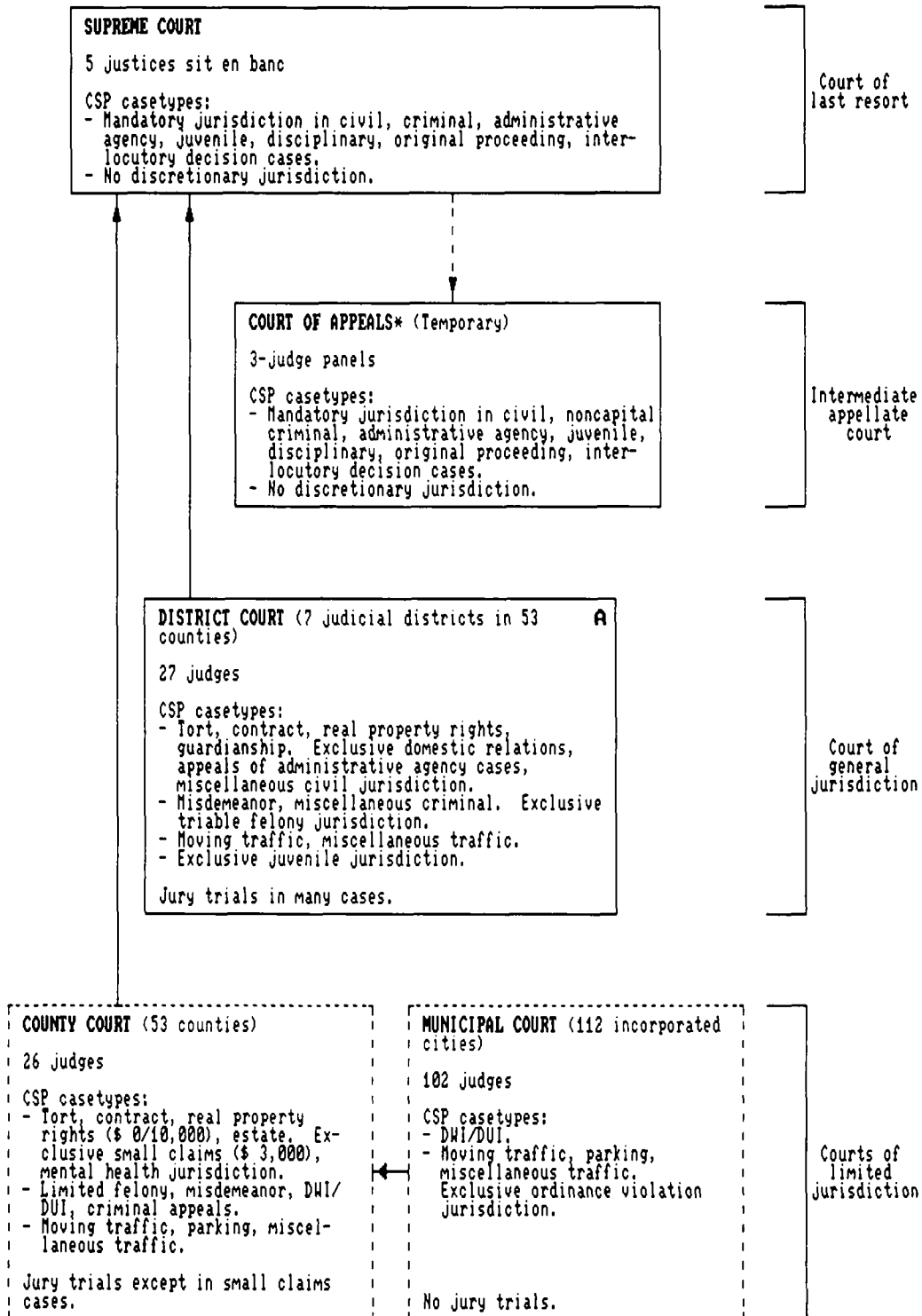


* Unless otherwise noted numbers reflect statutory authorization. Many judges sit in more than one court so the number of judgeships indicated in this chart does not reflect the actual number of judges in the system.

NORTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



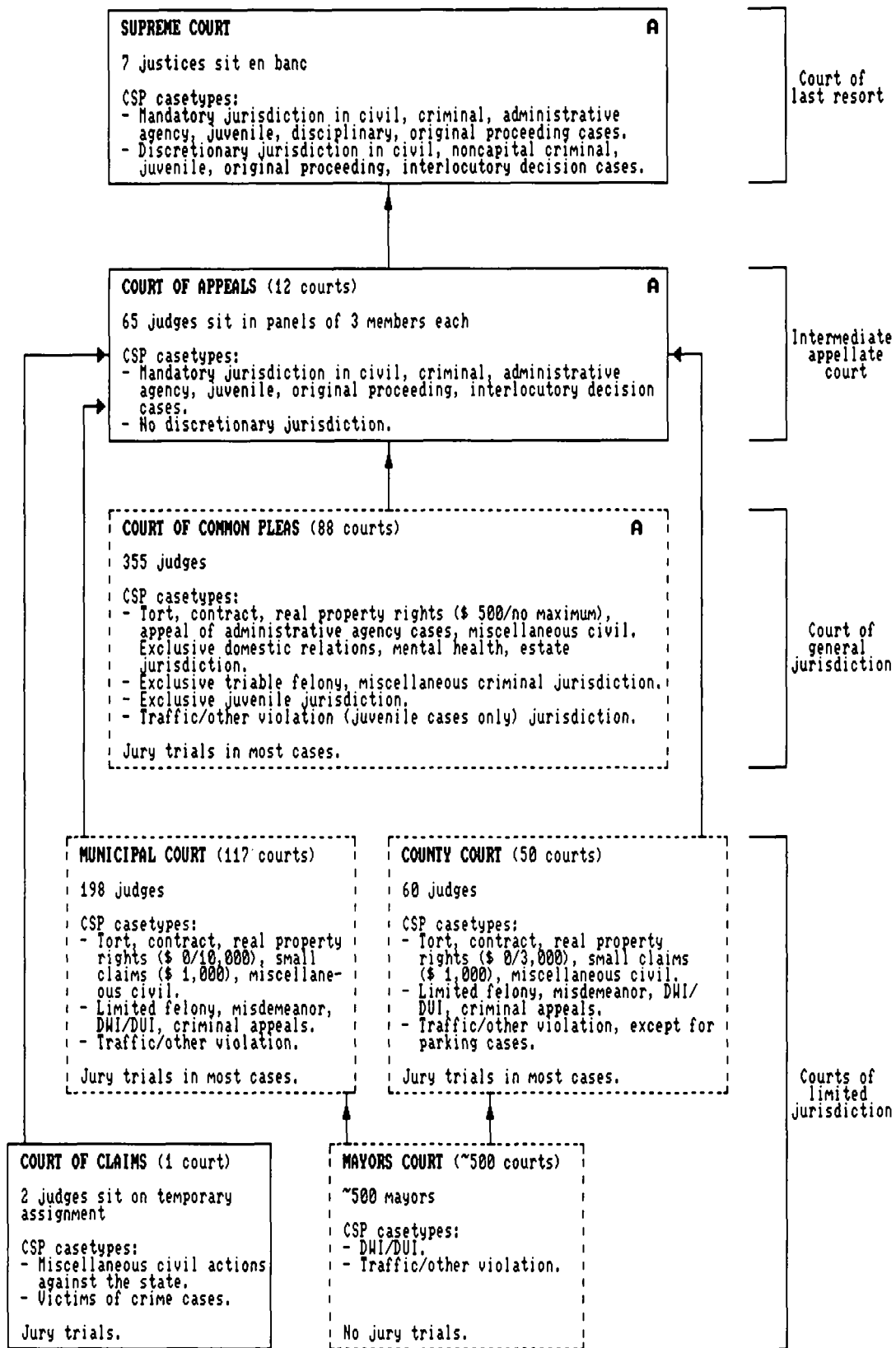
NORTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



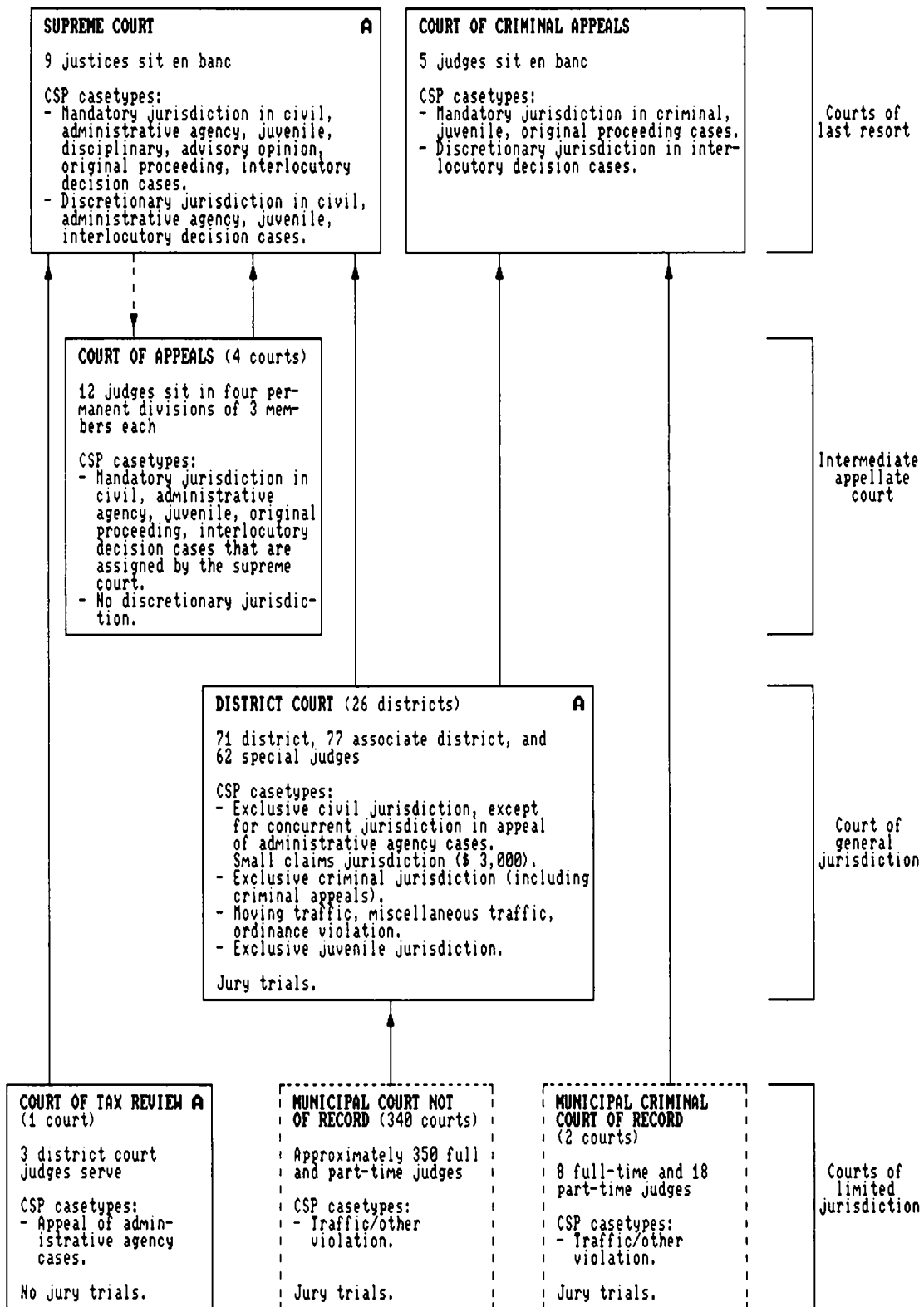
---- Indicates assignment of cases.

* Effective July 1, 1987 through January 1, 1994, a temporary court of appeals is established to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the supreme court.

OHIO COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



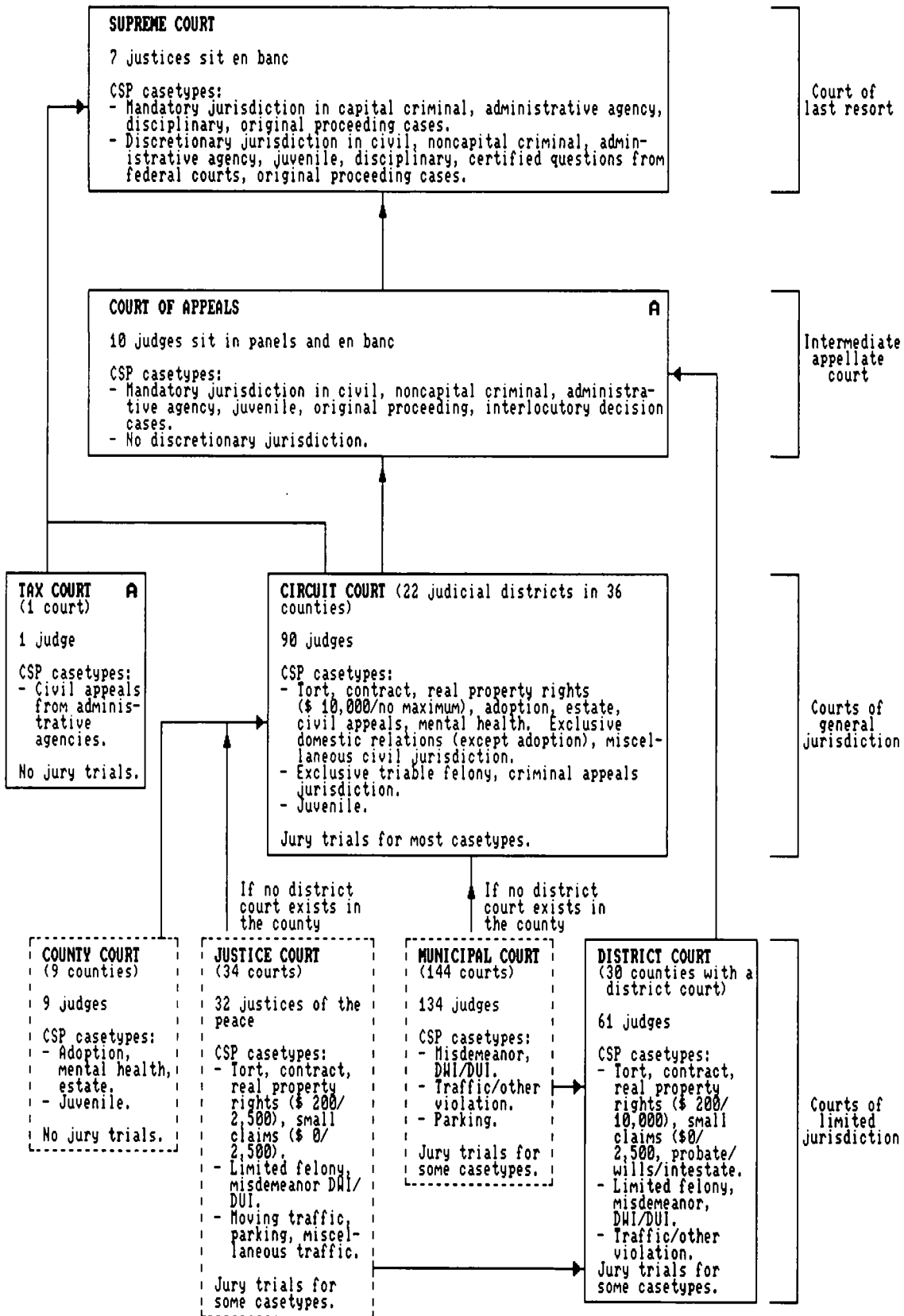
OKLAHOMA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



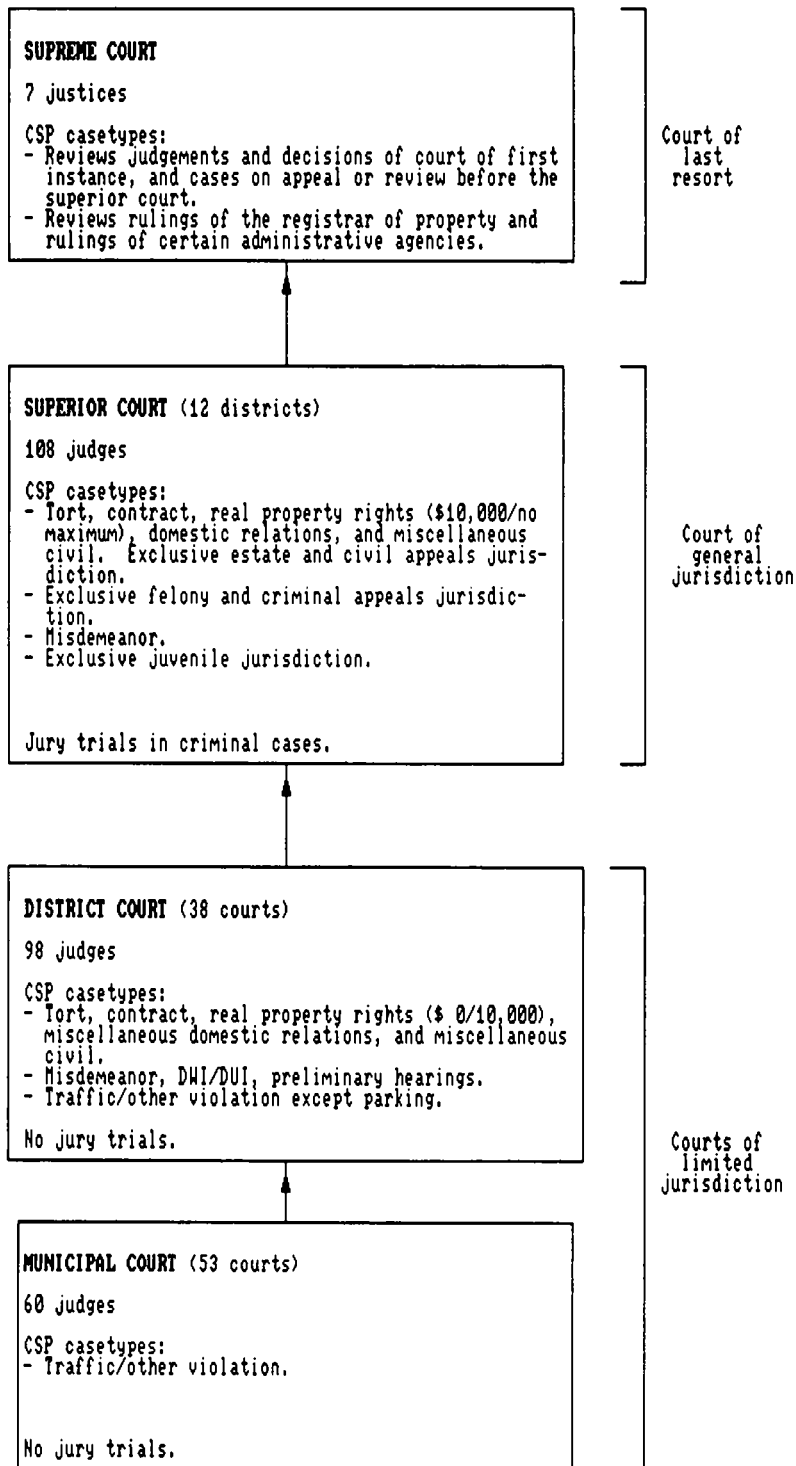
---- Indicates assignment of cases.

Oklahoma has a workers' compensation court, which hears complaints that are handled exclusively by administrative agencies in other states.

OREGON COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

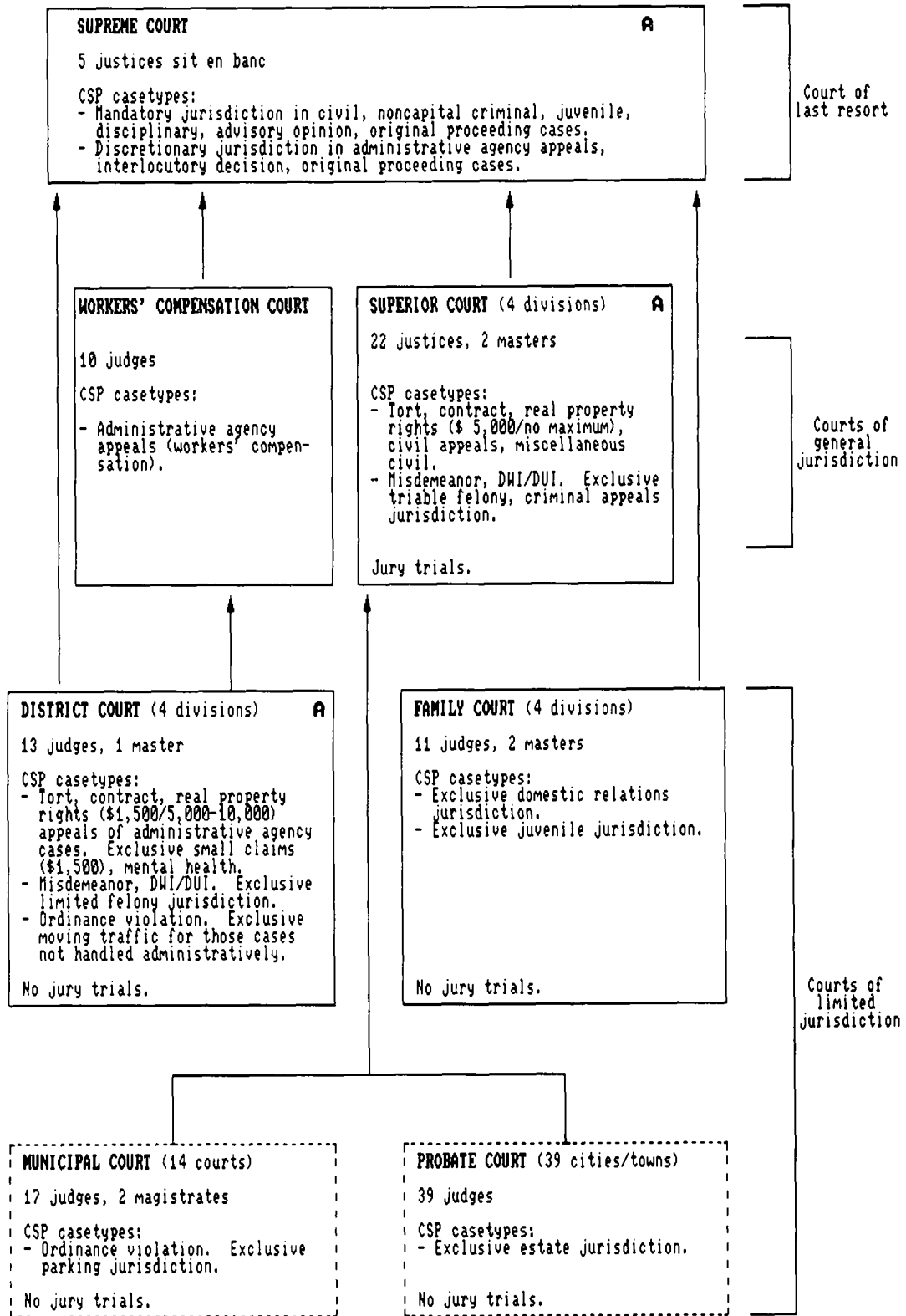


PUERTO RICO COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

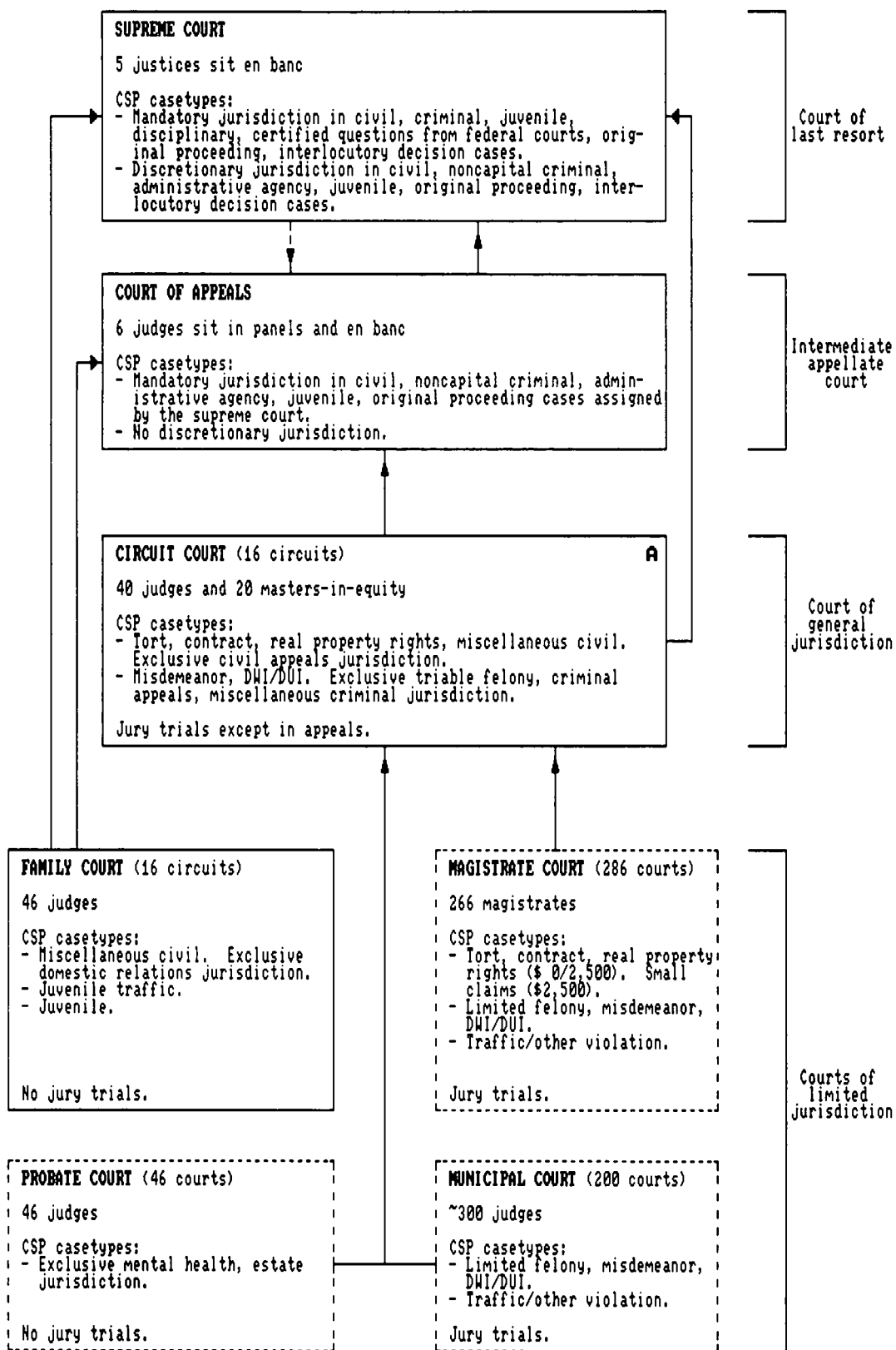


NOTE: Since June 30, 1991, the justice of the peace court was eliminated according to Law #17 of July 21, 1990. This jurisdiction is now with the municipal court.

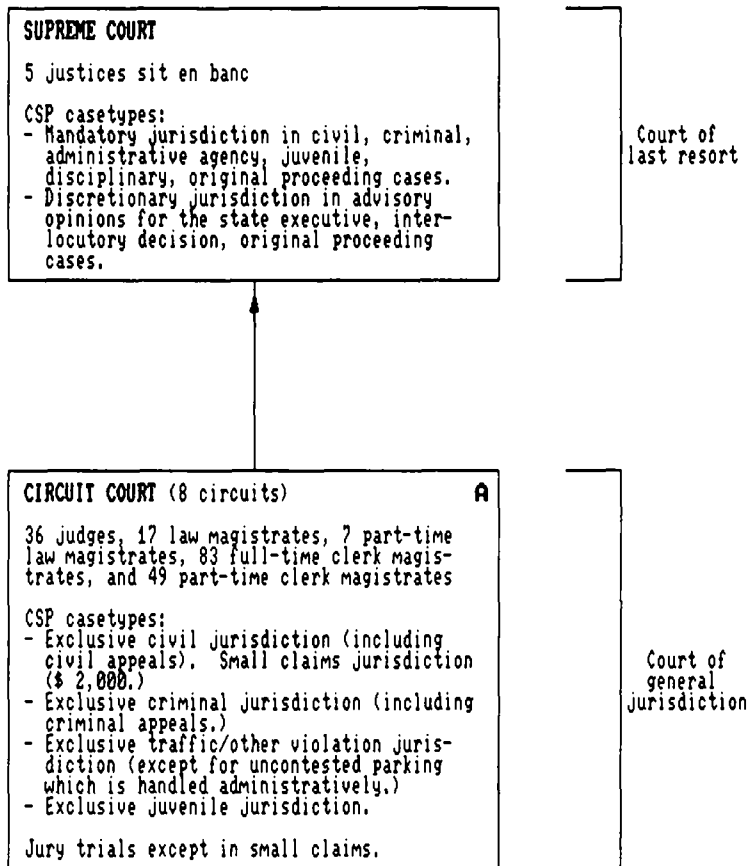
RHODE ISLAND COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



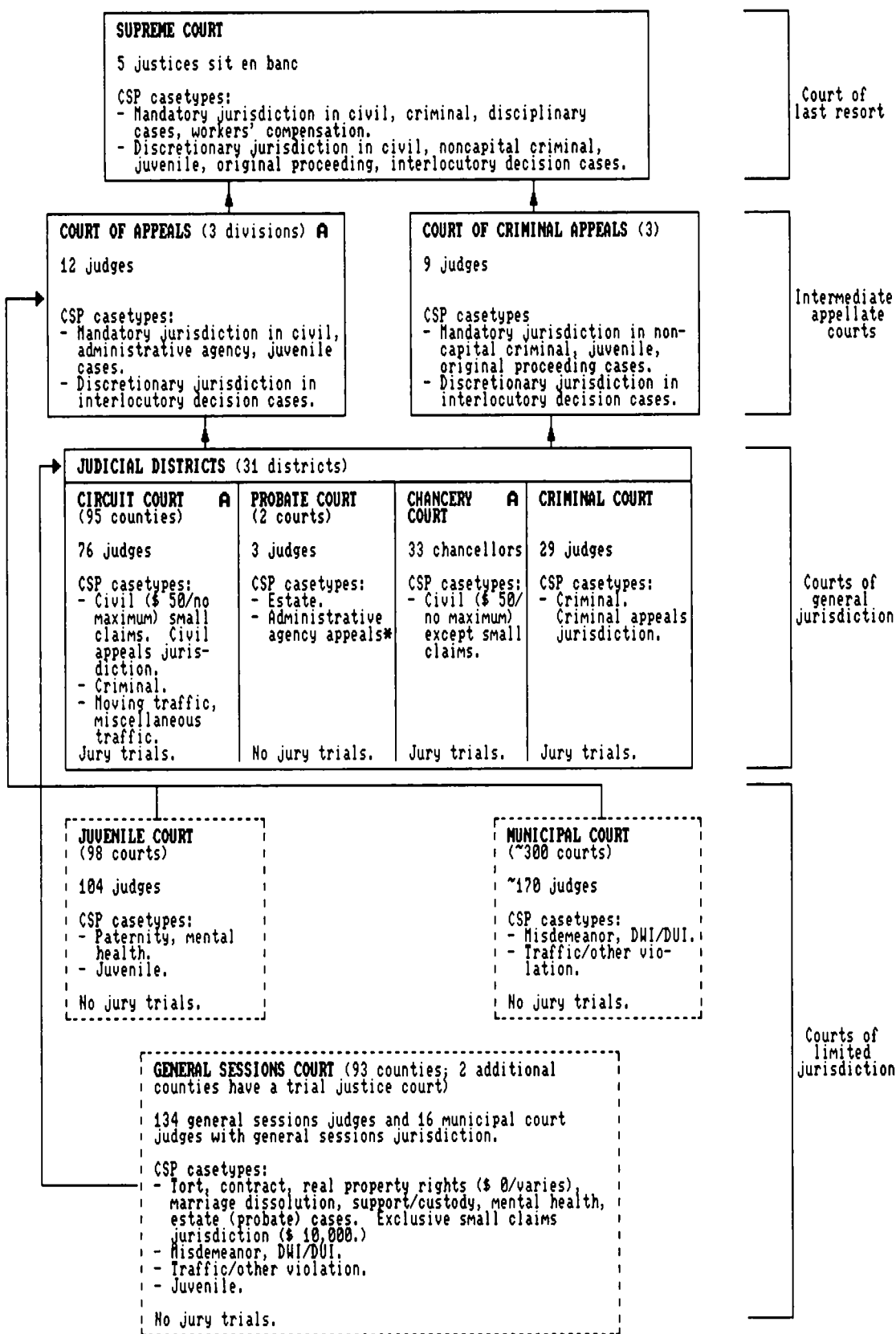
SOUTH CAROLINA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



SOUTH DAKOTA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

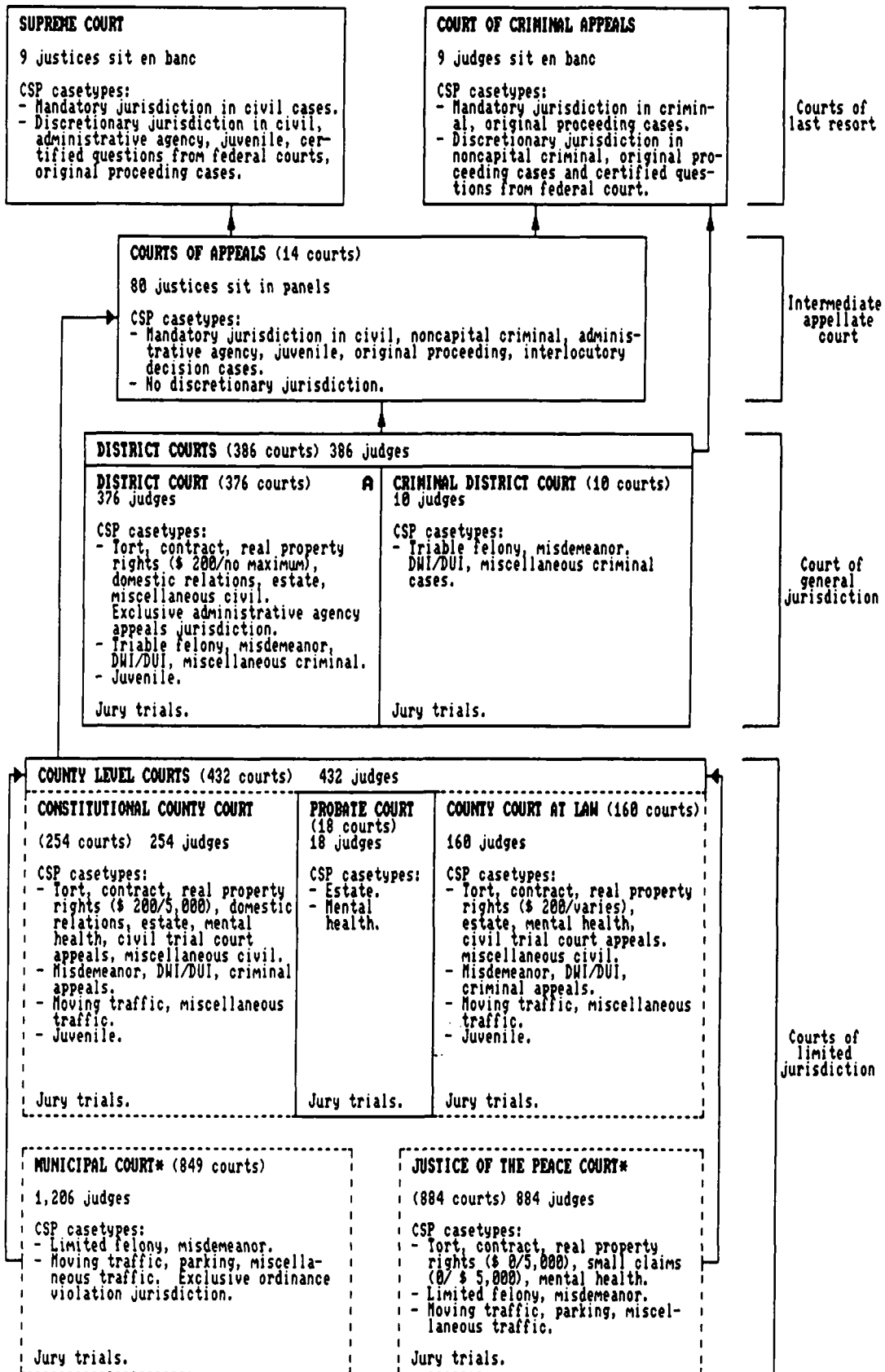


TENNESSEE COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



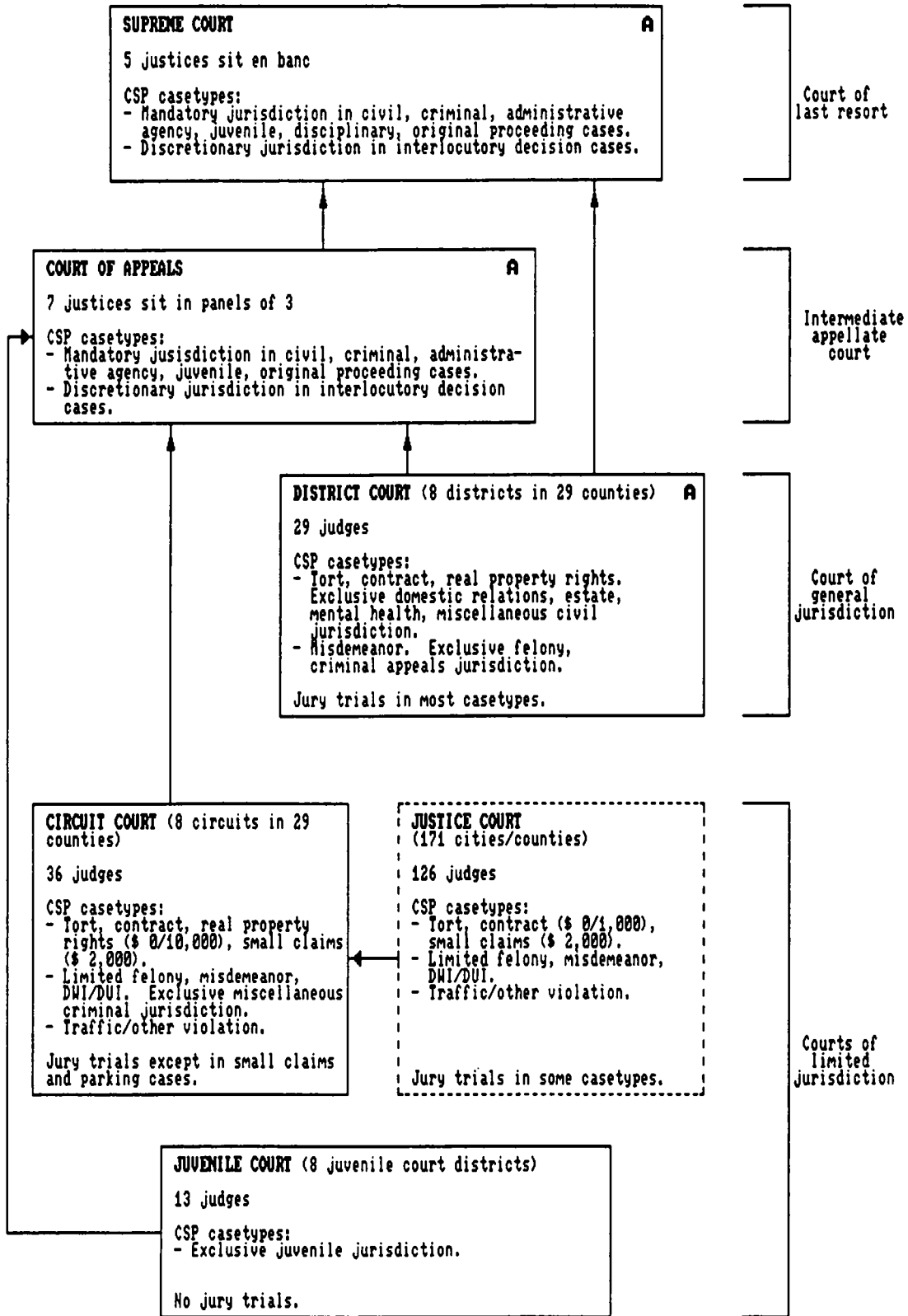
*Administrative agency appeals in the probate court are appealed directly to the supreme court.

TEXAS COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

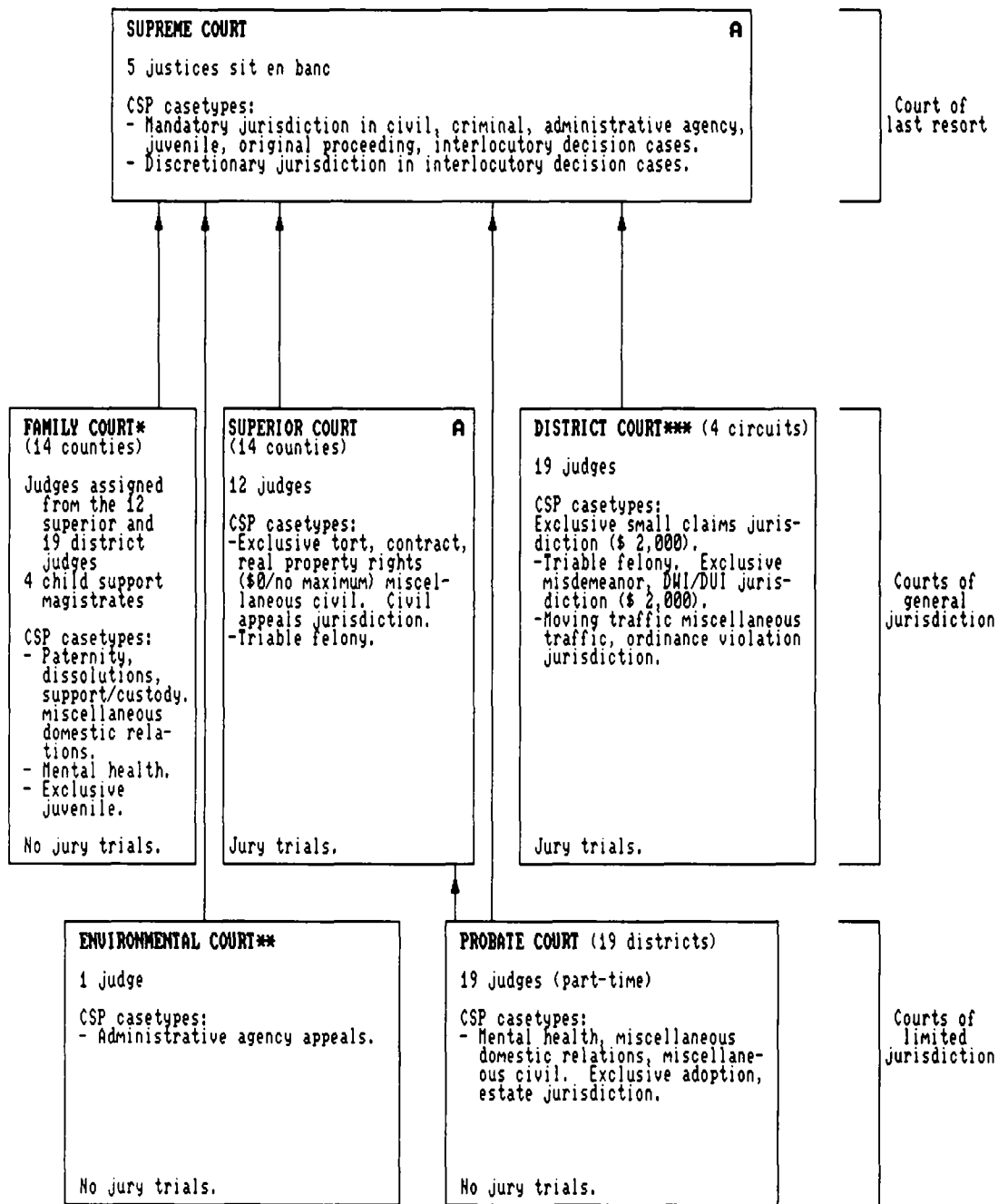


* Some municipal and justice of the peace courts may appeal to the district court.

UTAH COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



VERMONT COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

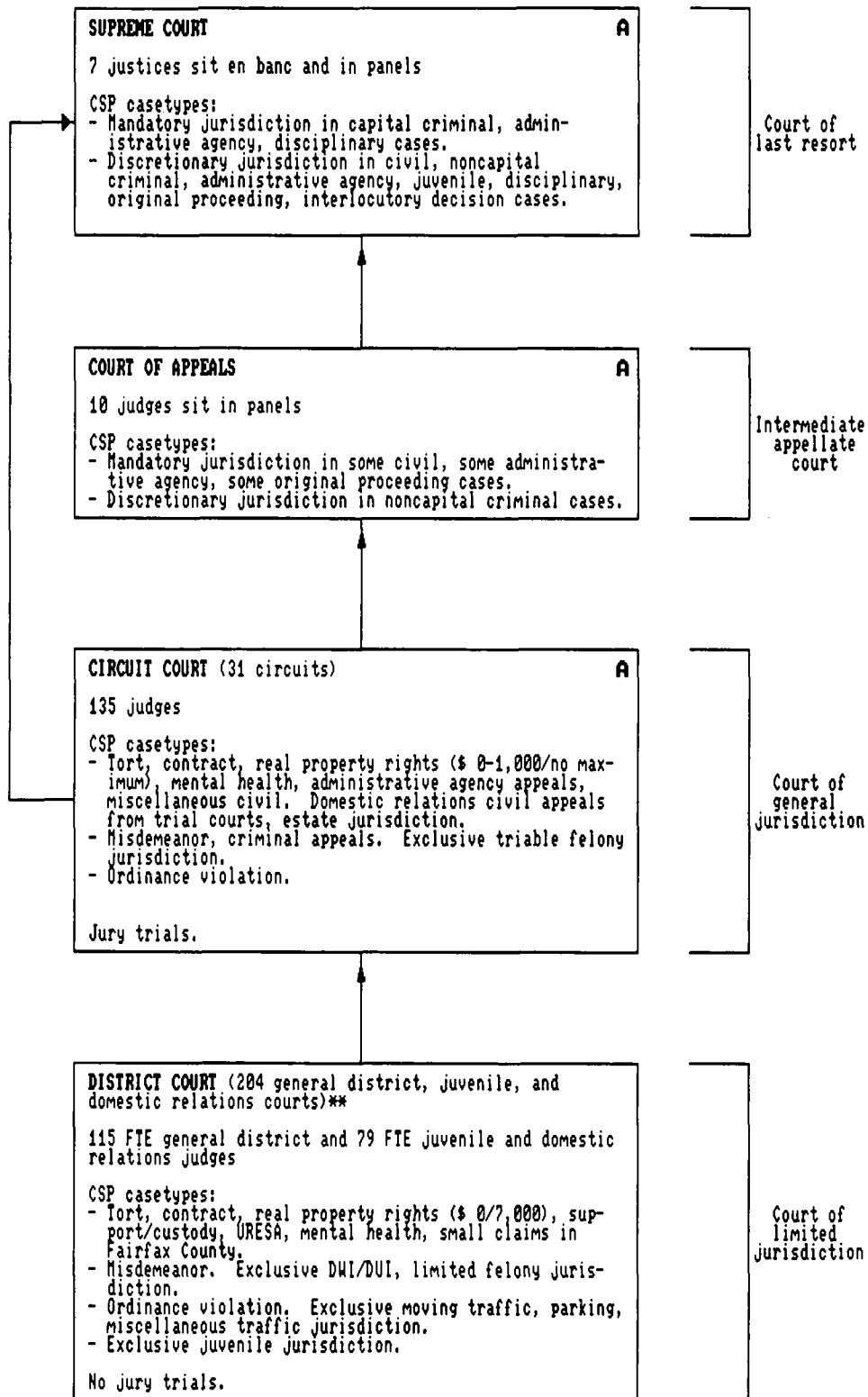


* Vermont established a family court in 1991.

** Vermont established an environmental court in 1990.

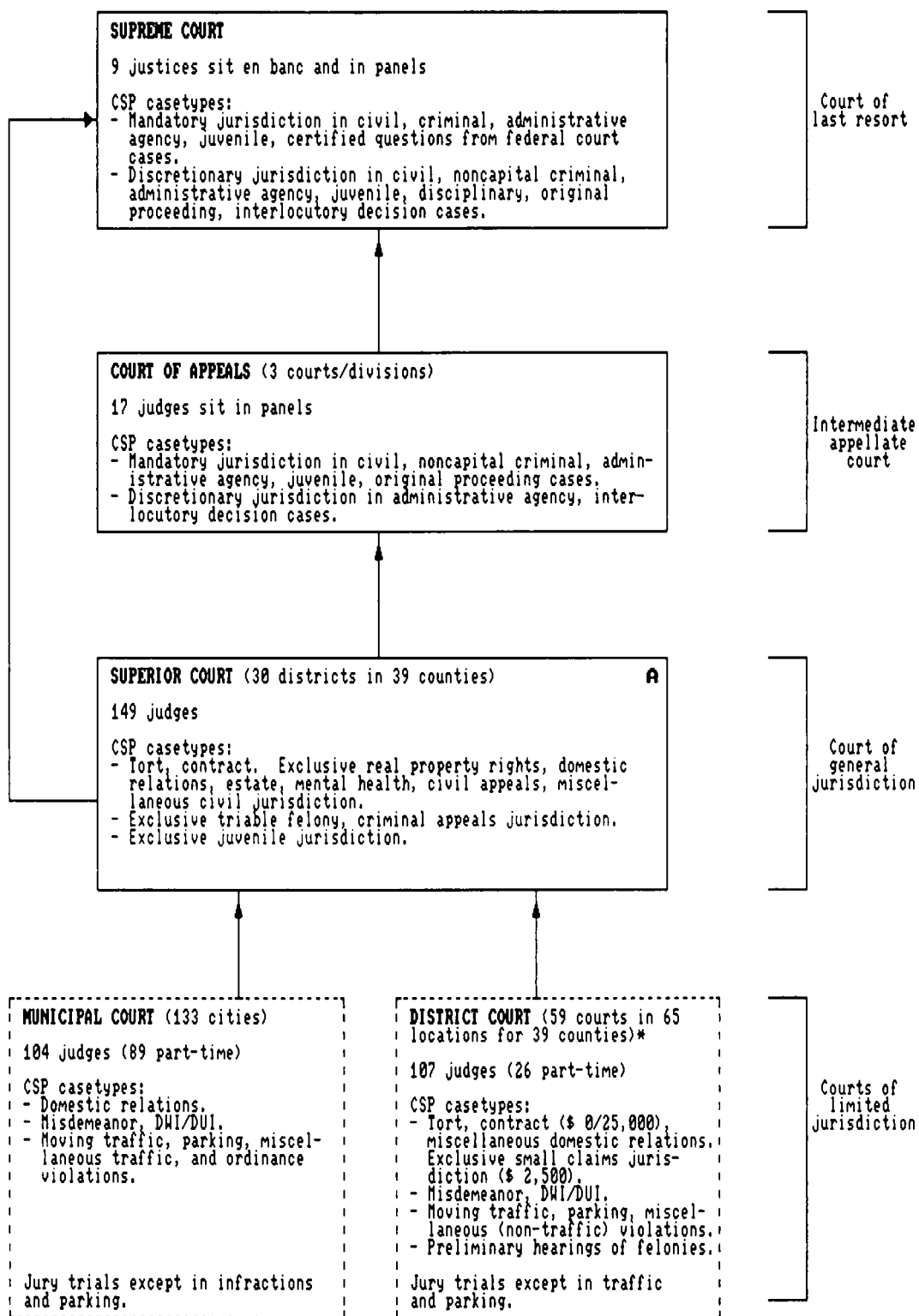
*** The district court, although created as a court of limited jurisdiction, has steadily increased its scope to include almost all criminal matters. In 1983, the district court was granted jurisdiction over all criminal cases, and has become the court of general jurisdiction for most criminal matters. A small number of appeals go to the superior court.

VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



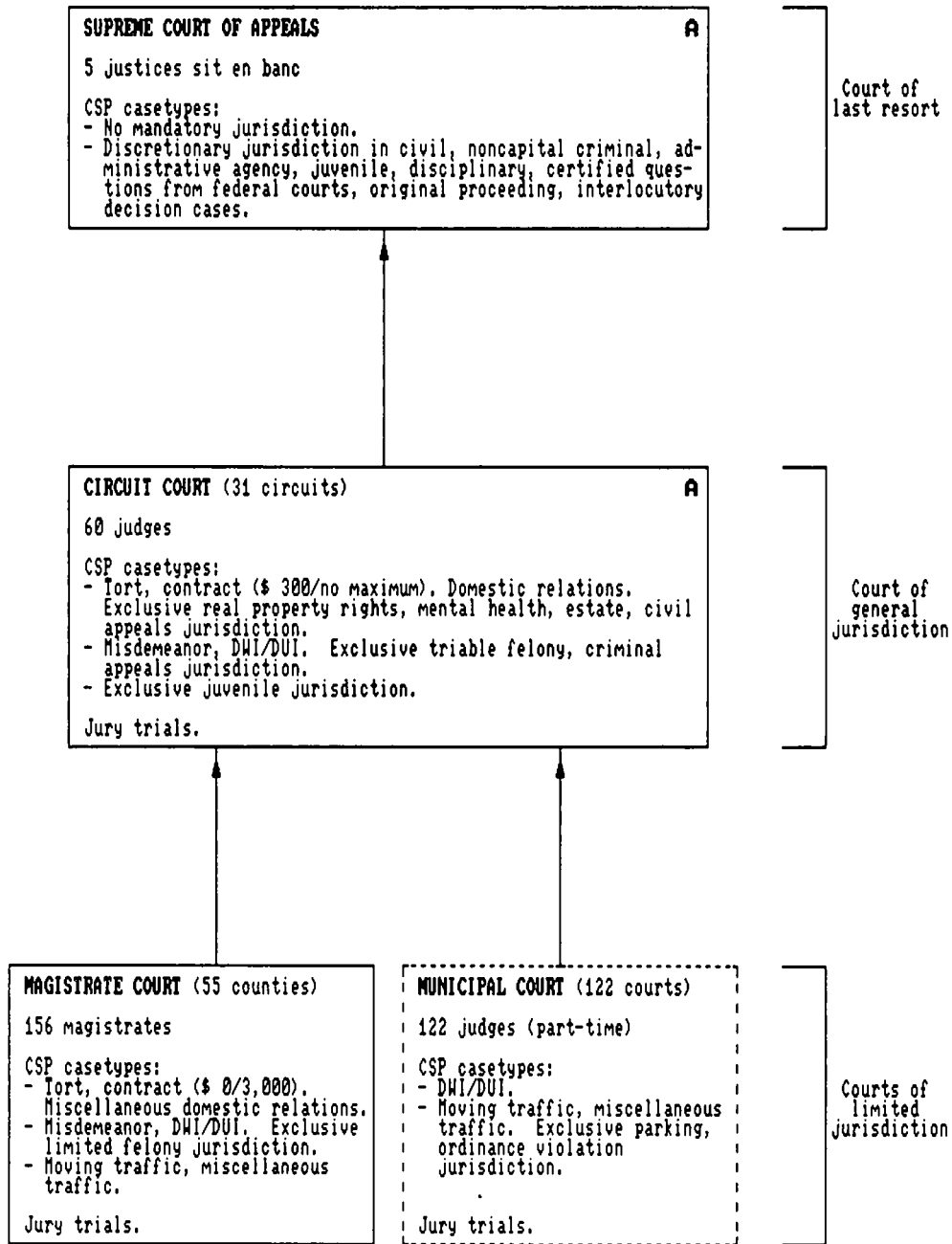
* A family court pilot project authorized by legislation passed in the 1989 session of the general assembly became operational on January 2, 1990, and concluded its two-year pilot operation on December 31, 1991.
** The district court is referred to as the juvenile and domestic relations court when hearing juvenile and domestic relations cases, and as the general district court for the balance of the cases.

WASHINGTON COURT STRUCTURE, 1991

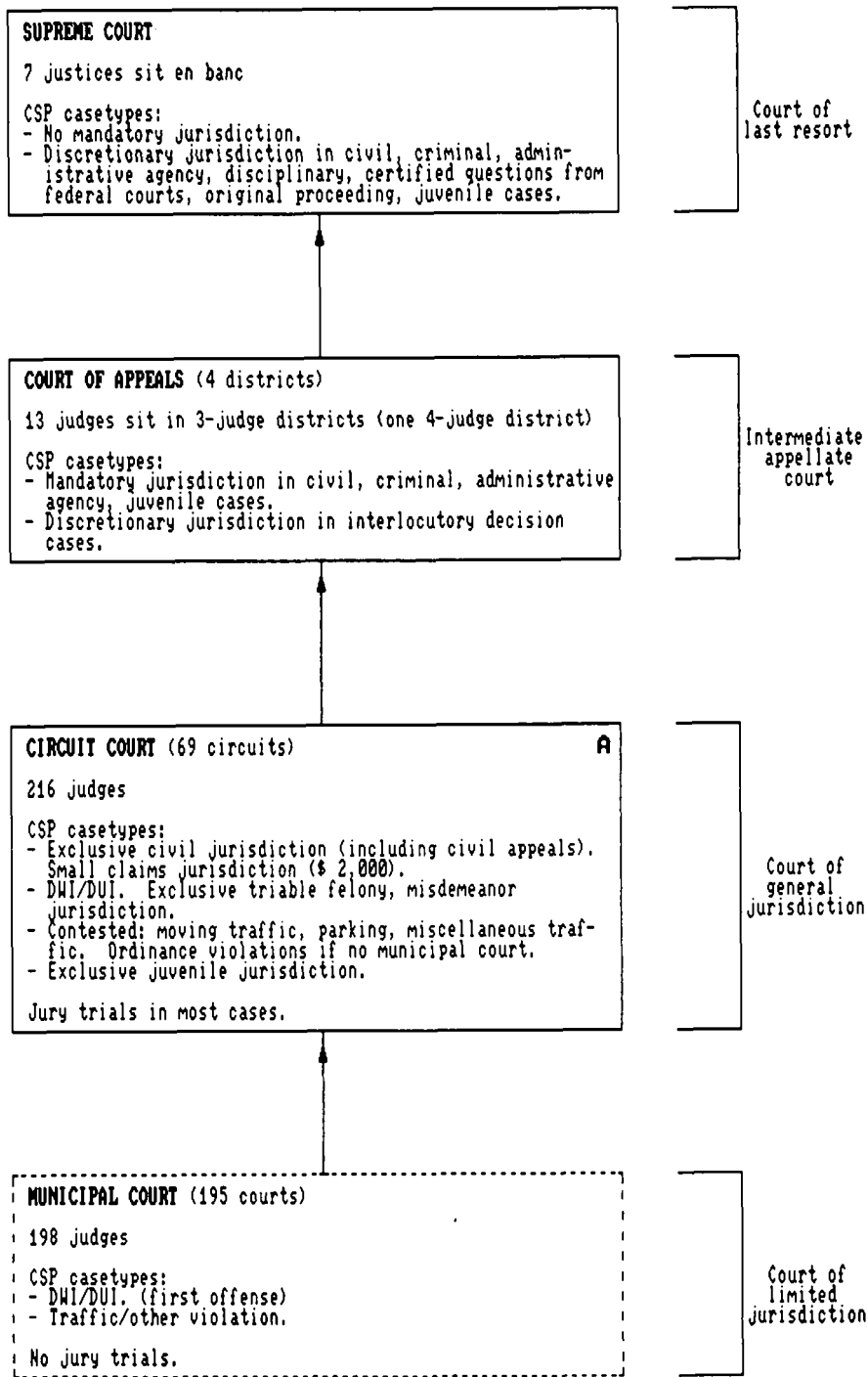


* District court provides services to municipalities that do not have a municipal court.

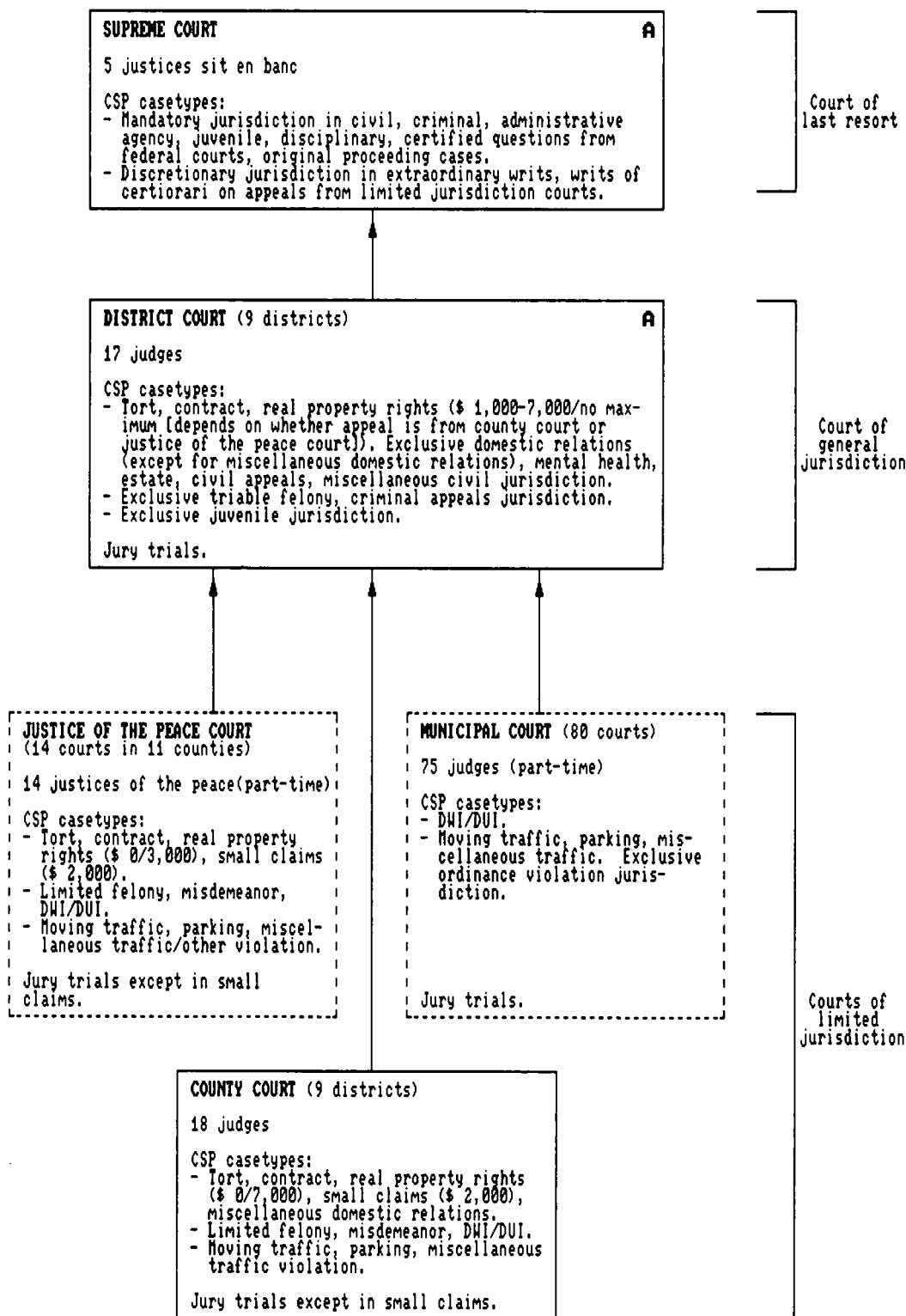
WEST VIRGINIA COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



WISCONSIN COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



WYOMING COURT STRUCTURE, 1991



PART

V

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JURISDICTION AND STATE COURT REPORTING PRACTICES



FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1991

State	Reporting periods			
	January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991	July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991	September 1, 1990 to August 31, 1991	October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991
Alabama	X Municipal Court			X
Alaska		X		
Arizona		X		
Arkansas		X		
California	X (Trial Courts)	X		
Colorado		X		
Connecticut	X Probate Court	X		
Delaware		X		
District of Columbia	X			
Florida	X			
Georgia	X Court of Appeals Superior Court State Court Juvenile Court Probate Court	X Magistrate Court	X Supreme Court (Aug. 1, 1990 - July 31, 1991)	
Hawaii	X			
Idaho	X			
Illinois	X			
Indiana	X			
Iowa	X			
Kansas		X		
Kentucky		X		
Louisiana	X	X		
Maine	X Supreme Court	X (Trial Courts)		
Maryland		X		
Massachusetts	X (District Court Department only)	X Trial Court (all but District Court Department)		X Supreme Judicial Court Appeals Court
Michigan	X Court of Appeals (Trial Courts)	X Supreme Court		
Minnesota	X			
Mississippi	X			
Missouri		X		
Montana	X Supreme Court District Court	X City Court Justice of the Peace Court Municipal Court		
Nebraska	X Supreme Court Court of Appeals District Court County Court Separate Juvenile	X Workers' Compensation Court		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE A: Reporting Periods for All State Courts, 1991. (continued)

State	Reporting periods			
	January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1991	July 1, 1990 to June 30, 1991	September 1, 1990 to August 31, 1991	October 1, 1990 to September 30, 1991
Nevada	X District Court		X Supreme Court (April 1990 - March 1991)	
New Hampshire	X Supreme Court Superior Court District Court Municipal Court	X Probate Court		
New Jersey		X		
New Mexico		X		
New York	X			
North Carolina		X		
North Dakota	X			
Ohio	X			
Oklahoma		X		
Oregon	X			
Pennsylvania	X			
Puerto Rico		X		
Rhode Island	X (Trial Courts)			X Supreme Court
South Carolina	X			
South Dakota		X		
Tennessee		X		
Texas			X	
Utah	X Supreme Court	X (Trial Courts)		
Vermont		X		
Virginia		X		
Washington	X			
West Virginia	X			
Wisconsin	X			
Wyoming	X			

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, an "X" means that all of the trial and appellate courts in that state report data for the time period indicated by the column.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1991 State Trial and Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles and state administrative offices of the courts.

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases In State Appellate Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
ALABAMA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Civil Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
ALASKA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
ARIZONA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X-CR	0	0	X*	0	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X-CR*	X*	X*	X	0	X	0	0	0
						(except industrial cases & civil petition or special action)	(only industrial cases & civil petition for special action)			
ARKANSAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X	0
CALIFORNIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X*	X	0	0	X	COLR (if petition for review of IAC)	X	0	0
Courts of Appeal	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
COLORADO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
CONNECTICUT:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Appellate Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	(if motion to open) X	0	0
								(if motion to open or if remand by COLR)		
DELAWARE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
FLORIDA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	IAC	X	0	0
District Courts of Appeal	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	(ADM. AGY. and Workers Comp.)	X	0	0
GEORGIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	X	0	X (notice of appeal)	0	0	X (if new appeal)
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	X	X	0	0
HAWAII:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	X (original proceeding)	0	0	X
Intermediate Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X (when assigned by COLR)	0	0	0	0	X
IDAHO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	X (appeal from trial court when assigned by COLR)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X	0	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0
ILLINOIS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Appellate Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
INDIANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X (any first filing, notice, record, brief, or motion)	X (only death penalty and/or sentence over 10 years)	X (if petition for transfer from IAC)	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X (any first filing)	X (praecipe)	0	0	0	X
Tax Court	IAC	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	X

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
IOWA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X (if appeal from trial court)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER (if appeal from trial court)	X	0	X	0	0
KANSAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X*	X	0	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X*	X	0	0	0	X
KENTUCKY:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X*	X (COLR if review is sought from IAC)	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	0	0
LOUISIANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
MAINE:										
Supreme Judicial Court Sitting as Law Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if remanded)	0	X (if new appeal)
MARYLAND:										
Court of Appeals	COLR	0	X	0	0	X (if direct appeal)	X (IAC if appeal from IAC)	0	0	X
Court of Special Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
MASSACHUSETTS:										
Supreme Judicial Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Appeals Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	0	X (if originally dismissed as premature)	0

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
MICHIGAN:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded w/jurisdiction retained)	0 X	X (if new appeal)
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	X
MINNESOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
MISSISSIPPI:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
MISSOURI:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
MONTANA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X (notice plus any other filing: fee, record, motion)	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NEBRASKA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NEVADA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
NEW HAMPSHIRE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X (if remanded & jurisdiction retained)	0	X
NEW JERSEY:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Appellate Division of Superior Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

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FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
NEW MEXICO: Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	X (within 30 days of notice)	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	X (within 30 days of notice)	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
NEW YORK: Court of Appeals	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X (if remit for specific issues)	0	X (if remand for mand new trial)
Appellate Terms of Supreme Court	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
NORTH CAROLINA: Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X (if direct appeal)	X (COLR if appeal from IAC)	X (if petition to rehear)	X	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	X	0	0	X	0	X (if reconsidering dismissal)	X	0
NORTH DAKOTA: Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
OHIO: Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	IAC	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X*	0	X	0	0
OKLAHOMA: Supreme Court	COLR	X*	0	0	0	X	0	X*	0	X*
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	0 (notice plus transcript)	X	0	0	X	0	X*	0	X*
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	0	COLR	X*	0	X*
OREGON: Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
PENNSYLVANIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X (direct appeal only)	0	0	X (discretionary certiorari granted)	X*	X*	X (if reinstated to enforce order)	X (if new appeal)	0
Superior Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Commonwealth Court	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	X	0 (ADM. AGY.)	0	X
PUERTO RICO:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	CR	CV	X IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
RHODE ISLAND:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	X
SOUTH CAROLINA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	X	0	0	X	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	0	0	0	TRANSFER	0	0	X	0	0
SOUTH DAKOTA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
TENNESSEE:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X (Court of Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Criminal Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	0	X (Court of Criminal Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
TEXAS:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Criminal Appeals	COLR	0	0	0	(any first filing)	X	X (Court of Crim. Appeals)	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
Court of Appeals	IAC	X (Civil only)	0	0	0	X	0	IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY		
UTAH:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X (ADM. AGY.)	0	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	0

(continued on next page)

FIGURE B: Methods of Counting Cases in State Appellate Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Court type	Case counted at:				Case filed with:		Does the court count reinstated/reopened cases in its count of new filings?		
		Filing of				Trial court	Appellate court	No	Rarely	Yes, or frequently as new case
		Notice of appeal	the trial record	Record plus briefs	Other point					
VERMONT:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (if dismissed & reinstated)	0	X (if after final decision or if statistical period has ended)
VIRGINIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
WASHINGTON:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	0
WEST VIRGINIA:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	X	0	X (Counted as new filings as of 8/86)	0	0
WISCONSIN:										
Supreme Court	COLR	0	0	0	(When accepted by court)	0	X	0	0	X
Court of Appeals	IAC	X	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	X
WYOMING:										
Supreme Court	COLR	X	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	X

ADM. AGY. = Administrative agency cases only.
 CR = Criminal cases only.
 CV = Civil cases only.
 DP = Death penalty cases only.
 COLR = Court of last resort.
 IAC = Intermediate appellate court.
 X = Yes
 0 = No

FOOTNOTES*

Arizona-Supreme Court: Civil cases: A case is counted when the fee is paid within 30 days after trial record is filed.
 Arizona-Court of Appeals: Civil cases: A case is counted when the fee is paid within 30 days after trial record is filed. For juvenile/industrial/habeas corpus cases, a case is counted at receipt of notice or at receipt of the trial record.

California-Supreme Court: Cases are counted at the notice of appeal for discretionary review cases from the IAC.

Kansas-Cases are counted at the docketing, which occurs 21 days after a notice of appeal is filed in the trial court.

Kentucky-Cases are counted at either the filing of the brief or request for intermediate relief.

Ohio-Court of Appeals: The clerk of the trial court is also the clerk of the Court of Appeals.

Oklahoma-The notice of appeal refers to the petition in error. The courts do not count reinstated cases as new filings, but do count any subsequent appeal of an earlier decided case as a new filing.

Pennsylvania-Supreme Court: Mandatory cases are filed with the trial court, and discretionary cases are filed with the appellate court.

Source: State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, as updated and verified for 1991 by state administrative offices of the courts.

FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
ALABAMA:							
Circuit Court	G	\$1,500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	\$1,500/\$5,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Optional
ALASKA:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
ARIZONA:							
Superior Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	No
ARKANSAS:							
Circuit Court	G	\$100/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Court of Common Pleas	L	-	\$500/\$1,000 (contract only)	-	-	-	-
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$3,000 (contract and real property)	\$3,000	No	Yes	No
City Court, Police Court	L	-	0/\$300 (contract and real property)	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace	L	-	-	\$300	No	Yes	No
CALIFORNIA:							
Superior Court	G	\$25,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
COLORADO:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Water Court	G	0/No maximum (only real property)	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$3,500	No	Yes	No
CONNECTICUT:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
DELAWARE:							
Court of Chancery	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Court of Common Pleas	L	-	0/\$15,000	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Alderman's Court	L	-	-	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:							
Superior Court	G	\$2,001/No maximum (no minimum for real property)	-	\$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
FLORIDA:							
Circuit Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	\$2,500/\$10,000	\$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1991.
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
GEORGIA:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	No max	Yes	No	Yes
State Court	L	0/No maximum (No real property)	-	No max	Yes	No	Yes
Civil Court (Bibb & Richmond counties only)	L	-	0/\$7,500 - 0/\$25,000 (Bibb) - (Richmond)	\$25,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/\$5,000 (No real property)	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court (Columbus)	L	-	0/\$7,500	\$7,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
HAWAII:							
Circuit Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,500 (No maximum in summary possession or ejectment)	No (Except in residential security de- posit cases)	Yes	Yes
IDAHO:							
District Court: (Magistrates Division)	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	No
ILLINOIS:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
INDIANA:							
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
County Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	-	0/\$20,000	-	-	-	-
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	-	-	\$3,000	No	Yes	Yes
City Court	L	-	0/ \$500- \$2,500 (No real property)	-	-	-	-
IOWA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
KANSAS:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$1,000	No	Yes	No
KENTUCKY:							
Circuit Court	G	\$4,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/ \$4,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
LOUISIANA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
City Court, Parish Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/ \$1,200	\$1,200	No	Yes	Yes

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1991.
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
MAINE:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$30,000	\$1,400	No	Yes	Yes
MARYLAND:							
Circuit Court	G	\$2,500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	0/No maximum (real property)	\$2,500/\$10,000 (tort, contract)	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
MASSACHUSETTS:							
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:							
Superior Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Housing Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	-	\$1,500	No	No	Yes
District Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	-	\$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
Boston Municipal Court Dept.	G	0/No maximum	-	\$1,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
MICHIGAN:							
Circuit Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	-	0/ \$1,500	\$1,500	No	Yes	No
MINNESOTA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$4,000	No	Yes	Yes
MISSISSIPPI:							
Circuit Court	G	\$200/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	0/\$25,000	-	-	-	-	-
Justice Court	L	0/\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-
MISSOURI:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
(Associate Division)	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
MONTANA:							
District Court	G	\$50/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/\$5,000	\$3,000	No	Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	-	0/ \$5,000	\$3,000	No	Yes	No
City Court	L	-	0/ \$300	-	-	-	-
NEBRASKA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$1,800	No	Yes	No
NEVADA:							
District Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Justice Court	L	-	0/ \$5,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	-	0/ \$2,500	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE:							
Superior Court	G	\$1,500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	-	0/ \$2,500 (only landlord-tenant, and small claims)	\$2,500	No	Yes	Yes

(continued on next page)

FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1991.
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
NEW JERSEY:							
Superior Court (Law Division and Chancery Division)	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
(Law Division, Special Civil Part)	L	-	0/ \$5,000	\$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
NEW MEXICO:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/ \$5,000	-	-	-	-
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	-	0/ \$5,000	-	-	-	-
NEW YORK:							
Supreme Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	G	-	0/\$25,000	-	-	-	-
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	-	0/\$25,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
City Court	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
District Court	L	-	0/\$15,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
Court of Claims	L	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	-	0/ \$3,000	\$2,000	-	Yes	Yes
NORTH CAROLINA:							
Superior Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
NORTH DAKOTA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$3,000	No	Yes	Varies
OHIO:							
Court of Common Pleas	G	\$500/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/ \$3,000	\$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
Municipal Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$1,000	No	Yes	Yes
OKLAHOMA:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$3,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
OREGON:							
Circuit Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	\$200/\$10,000	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
Justice Court	L	-	\$200/ \$2,500	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
PENNSYLVANIA:							
Court of Common Pleas	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Justice Court	L	-	0/ \$4,000	-	-	-	-
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	-	0/ \$5,000 (only real property)	\$5,000	No	Yes	Yes
Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court	L	-	0/No maximum (only real property)	-	-	-	-
PUERTO RICO:							
Superior Court	G	\$10,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	-	-	-	-

(continued on next page)

FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1991.
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Limited dollar amount torts, contracts, real property	Small claims			
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
RHODE ISLAND:							
Superior Court	G	\$5,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	\$1,500/ \$5,000- \$10,000	\$1,500	No	Yes	Yes
SOUTH CAROLINA:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/ \$2,500 (no max. in landlord-tenant)	\$2,500	Yes	Yes	Yes
SOUTH DAKOTA:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
TENNESSEE:							
Circuit Court, Chancery Court	G	\$50/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
General Sessions Court	L	0/No maximum (Forcible entry, detainer, and in actions to recover personal property)	0/\$15,000(All civil actions in counties with population under 700,000) 0/\$25,000 (All civil actions in counties with popula- tion over 700,000)	\$10,000	No	Yes	Yes
TEXAS:							
District Court	G	\$200/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court at Law, Consti- tutional County Court	L	-	\$200/varies	-	-	-	-
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/ \$5,000	\$5,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
UTAH:							
District Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Circuit Court	L	-	0/\$10,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice Court	L	-	0/\$1,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
VERMONT:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	G	-	-	\$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
VIRGINIA:							
Circuit Court	G	0-\$1,000/No maximum 0/No maximum(real property)	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/ \$7,000	-	-	-	-
WASHINGTON:							
Superior Court	G	0/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
District Court	L	-	0/\$25,000 (No real property)	\$2,500	No	Yes	No
WEST VIRGINIA:							
Circuit Court	G	\$300/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
Magistrate Court	L	-	0/ \$3,000 (No real property)	-	-	-	-

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FIGURE C: Dollar Amount Jurisdiction for Original Tort, Contract, Real Property Rights, and Small Claims Filings in State Trial Courts, 1991.
(continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Unlimited dollar amount	Limited dollar amount	Small claims			
		torts, contracts, real property	torts, contracts, real property	Maximum dollar amount	Jury trials	Summary procedures	Lawyers permitted
		Minimum/maximum	Minimum/maximum				
WISCONSIN:							
Circuit Court	G	0/No maximum	-	\$2,000	Yes	Yes	Yes
WYOMING:							
District Court	G	\$1,000-\$7,000/No maximum	-	-	-	-	-
County Court	L	-	0/ \$7,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes
Justice of the Peace Court	L	-	0/ \$3,000	\$2,000	No	Yes	Yes

JURISDICTION CODES:

- G = General jurisdiction court.
- L = Limited jurisdiction court.
- = Information not available.

Source: Data were gathered from the state administrative offices of the courts.

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
ALABAMA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/Indictment		X				X
District Court	L	Complaint	X					X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
ALASKA:								
Superior Court	G	Indictment	X		multiple charges			X
District Court	L	Complaint	X		multiple counts			X
ARIZONA:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint				Varies with prosecutor*		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint				Varies with prosecutor*		
ARKANSAS:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
City Court, Police Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
CALIFORNIA:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Justice Court	L	Complaint	X					X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X					X
COLORADO:								
District Court	G	Complaint	X					X
County Court	L	Complaint/summons	X					X
CONNECTICUT:								
Superior Court	G	Information	X				(varies among local police departments)	
DELAWARE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Family Court	L	Petition	X					X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Court of Common Pleas	L	Complaint	X		X			
Municipal Court of Wilmington	L	Complaint	X		X			
Alderman's Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:								
Superior Court	G	Complaint/information/indictment	X					X
FLORIDA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				(prosecutor decides)	
County Court	L	Complaint	X				X	

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
GEORGIA:								
Superior Court	G	Indictment/accusation		X			X	
State Court	L	Accusation/citation		X			X	
Magistrate Court	L	Accusation/citation	X				X	
Probate Court	L	Accusation/citation	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	No data reported						
Civil Court	L	No data reported						
County Recorder's Court	L	No data reported						
Municipal Courts and the City Court of Atlanta	L	No data reported						
HAWAII:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/indictment	X				X	(most serious charge)
District Court	L	First appearance information	X		X			
IDAHO:								
District Court (Magistrates Division)	G	Information	X					X
	L	Complaint	X					X
ILLINOIS:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/information/indictment		X			X	
INDIANA:								
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(may not be consistent)
County Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	(may not be consistent)
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	Information/complaint	X				X	(may not be consistent)
City Court and Town Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	(may not be consistent)
IOWA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
KANSAS:								
District Court	G	First appearance	X				X	
KENTUCKY:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X				X	
LOUISIANA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	Varies				Varies	
City and Parish Court	L	Information/complaint	X		X			
MAINE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Information/complaint	X		X			

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
MARYLAND:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	
District Court	L	Citation/information	X				X	
MASSACHUSETTS:								
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:								
Superior Court Dept.	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Housing Court Dept.	L	Complaint	X					X
District Court Dept.	L	Complaint	X					X
Boston Municipal Ct.	L	Complaint	X					X
MICHIGAN:								
Circuit Court	G	Information	X				X	
District Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
MINNESOTA:								
District Court	G	Complaint	X				X	
MISSISSIPPI:								
Circuit Court	G	Indictment	X				X	
County Court	L	Indictment	X				X	
Justice Court	L	Indictment	X				X	
MISSOURI:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
(Associate Division)	L	Complaint/Information		X			X	
MONTANA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X	
Justice of Peace Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
City Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
NEBRASKA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(not consistently observed statewide)
County Court	L	Information/complaint	X				X	
NEVADA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	Varies				Varies, depending on prosecutor	
Justice Court	L	Complaint	Varies				Varies, depending on prosecutor	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	Varies				Varies, depending on prosecutor	
NEW HAMPSHIRE:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
NEW JERSEY:								
Superior Court (Law Division)	G	Accusation/indictment	X				X	X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	X

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
NEW MEXICO:								
District Court	G	Indictment/information	X				X	(may vary with prosecutor)
Magistrate Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
NEW YORK:								
Supreme Court	G	Defendant/indictment	X			Varies depending on prosecutor		
County Court	G	Defendant/indictment	X			Varies depending on prosecutor		
Criminal Court of the City of New York	L	Defendant/docket	X			Varies depending on prosecutor		
District Court and City Court	L	Defendant/docket	X			Varies depending on prosecutor		
Town Court and Village Justice Court	L	N/A						
NORTH CAROLINA:								
Superior Court	G	Transfer (from District Court) Indictment (when case originates in Superior Court)	X			Varies depending on prosecutor		
District Court	L	Warrant/summons (includes citations, Magistrates order, misdemeanor statement of charges)	X			Varies depending on prosecutor		
NORTH DAKOTA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment	X				X	(may vary)
County Court	L	Complaint/information	X				Varies	
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
OHIO:								
Court of Common Pleas	G	Arraignment	X				X	
County Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
Municipal Court	L	Warrant/summons	X				X	
Mayor's Court	L	No data reported						
OKLAHOMA:								
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
OREGON:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint/indictment		X		(number of charges not consistent statewide)		
District Court	L	Complaint/indictment		X		(number of charges not consistent statewide)		
Justice Court	L	Complaint		X		(number of charges not consistent statewide)		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint		X		X		
PENNSYLVANIA:								
Court of Common Pleas	G	Information/docket						
		Transcript	X				X	
District Justice Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Philadelphia Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X				X	
Pittsburgh City Magistrates Ct.	L	Complaint	X				X	
PUERTO RICO:								
Superior Court	G	Accusation	X		X			
District Court	L	Filing of Charge	X		X			

(continued on next page)

FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document			
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)	One or more incidents
RHODE ISLAND:								
Superior Court	G	Information/indictment		X				X
District Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
SOUTH CAROLINA:								
Circuit Court	G	Warrant/summons	X		X			
Magistrate Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
Municipal Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
SOUTH DAKOTA:								
Circuit Court	G	Complaint	X					X
TENNESSEE:								
Circuit Court and Criminal Court	G	Information/indictment	Not consistent statewide					
General Sessions Court	L	No data reported						
Municipal Court	L	No data reported						
TEXAS:								
District Court and Criminal District Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
County-level Courts	L	Complaint/information	X					X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
UTAH:								
District Court	G	Information		X				X
Circuit Court	L	Information/citation	X					X
Justice Court	L	Citation	X					X
VERMONT:								
District Court	G	Arraignment	X					X
VIRGINIA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X		X			
District Court	L	Warrant/summons	X		X			
WASHINGTON:								
Superior Court	G	(Original) Information	X					X
District Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
Municipal Court	L	Complaint/citation	X			X (2 max)		
WEST VIRGINIA:								
Circuit Court	G	Information/indictment	X					X
Magistrate Court	L	Complaint			X			X
Municipal Court	L	Complaint	X		X			
WISCONSIN:								
Circuit Court	G	Initial appearance	X					X
Municipal Court	L	Citation*	X		X			

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FIGURE D: Criminal Case Unit of Count Used by State Trial Courts, 1990. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Point of counting a criminal case	Number of defendants		Contents of charging document		
			One	One or more	Single charge	Single incident (set # of charges per case)	Single incident (unlimited # of charges)
WYOMING:							
District Court	G	Information/indictment		X			X
County Court	L	Citation/information		X			X
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Citation/information		X			X
Municipal Court	L	Citation/information	X		X		

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.

FOOTNOTES*

Arizona-Varies in limited jurisdiction courts. Prosecutor can file either long or short form. Long form can involve one or more defendants and/or charges; short form involves one defendant and a single charge.

Wisconsin-Municipal Court-The court has exclusively civil jurisdiction, but its caseload includes first offense DWI/DUI cases. The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* treats all DWI/DUI cases as a subcategory of criminal cases.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, updated and verified for 1991 by state administrative offices of the courts.

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
ALABAMA:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
District Court	L		X	X		18
ALASKA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
ARIZONA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
ARKANSAS:						
Chancery Court	G		X		X	18
CALIFORNIA:						
Superior Court	G		X	X		18
COLORADO:						
District Court (includes Denver Juvenile Court)	G		X		X	18
CONNECTICUT:						
Superior Court	G	X			X	16
DELAWARE:						
Family Court	L		X		X	18
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:						
Superior Court	G	X			X	18 *
FLORIDA:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
GEORGIA:						
Superior Court and Juvenile Court	G (special)		X		X	17 *
HAWAII:						
Circuit Court (Family Court Division)	G	X		X		16
IDAHO:						
District Court	G		X	X		18
ILLINOIS:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	17 (15 for first-degree murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, armed robbery, robbery with a firearm, and unlawful use of weapons on school grounds)

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
INDIANA:						
Superior Court and Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
Probate Court	L		X	X		18
IOWA:						
District Court	G		X	Disposition data are not collected		18
KANSAS:						
District Court	G		X		X	18 14 (for traffic violation) 16 (for fish and game or charged with felony with two prior juvenile adjudications, which would be considered a felony)
KENTUCKY:						
District Court	L		X	X		18
LOUISIANA:						
District Court	G		X	X		17
Family Court and Juvenile Court	G		X	X		15 (for first- and second-degree murder, manslaughter, and aggravated rape)
City Court	L		X	X		16 (for armed robbery, aggravated burglary, and aggravated kidnapping)
MAINE:						
District Court	L		X		X	18
MARYLAND:						
Circuit Court	G		X		X	18
District Court	L		X		X	18
MASSACHUSETTS:						
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:	G					
District Court Dept.			X	X		17
Juvenile Court Dept.			X	X		17
MICHIGAN:						
Probate Court	L		X		X	17
MINNESOTA:						
District Court	G		X	X		18

(continued on next page)

FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
MISSISSIPPI:						
County Court	L		X	X		
Family Court	L		X	X		
MISSOURI:						
Circuit Court	G		X	X		17
MONTANA:						
District Court	G		X		X	18
NEBRASKA:						
Separate Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18
County Court	L		X		X	18
NEVADA:						
District Court	G		Varies by district		Varies by district	18 *
NEW HAMPSHIRE:						
District Court	L		X		X	18 16 (for traffic violation) 15 (for some felony charges)
NEW JERSEY:*						
Superior Court	G	X		X		18 complaint
NEW MEXICO:						
District Court	G		X	X		18
NEW YORK:						
Family Court	L		X		X	16 13 (for murder and kidnapping)
NORTH CAROLINA:						
District Court	L		X (first filing only)	X		16
NORTH DAKOTA:						
District Court	G		X		X	18
OHIO:						
Court of Common Pleas	G	X (warrant)			X	18
OKLAHOMA:						
District Court	G		X (case number)	X		18
OREGON:						
Circuit Court	G		X	Dispositions are not counted		18
County Court	L		X			18

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FIGURE E: Juvenile Unit of Count Used in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Filings are counted		Disposition counted		Age at which juvenile jurisdiction transfers to adult courts
		At intake or referral	At filing of petition or complaint	At adjudication of petition	At disposition of juvenile	
PENNSYLVANIA: Court of Common Pleas	G	X		X		18
PUERTO RICO: Superior Court	G		X	X		18
RHODE ISLAND: Family Court	L		X	X		18
SOUTH CAROLINA: Family Court	L		X	X		17
SOUTH DAKOTA: Circuit Court	G	X		X		18
TENNESSEE: General Sessions Court Juvenile Court	L L	X X			X X	18 18
TEXAS: District Court County Court at Law, Constitutional County Court, Probate Court	G L		X X		X X	17 17
UTAH: Juvenile Court	L		X		X	18
VERMONT: Family Court	G		X		X	16
VIRGINIA: District Court	L		X		X	18
WASHINGTON: Superior Court	G		X	X		18
WEST VIRGINIA: Circuit Court	G		X		X	18
WISCONSIN: Circuit Court	G		X	X		18
WYOMING: District Court	G		X	X		19

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General jurisdiction court.
L = Limited jurisdiction court.

FOOTNOTES*

District of Columbia-Depending on the severity of the offense a juvenile between the ages of 16-18 can be charged as an adult.

Georgia-18 for deprived juveniles.

New Jersey-All signed juvenile delinquency complaints are filed with the court and are docketed upon receipt (and therefore counted). Once complaints have been docketed they are screened by Court Intake Services and decisions are made as to how complaints will be processed (e.g., diversion, court hearings, etc.)

Nevada-Unless certified at a younger age because of felony charged.

Source: State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, updated and verified for 1991 by state administrative offices of the courts.

FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
ALABAMA: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	District, Probate, Municipal Courts
ALASKA: Superior Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
		X	X	X	on the record	District Court
ARIZONA: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo (if no record)	Justice of the Peace, Municipal Court
ARKANSAS: Circuit Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Court of Common Pleas, County, Municipal, City, and Police Courts, and Justice of the Peace
CALIFORNIA: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice Court, Municipal Court
COLORADO: District Court	G	X	X	O	on the record	County and Municipal Court of Record
		O	O	X	de novo	County and Municipal Court of Record
County Court	L	O	X	X	de novo not of record	Municipal Court
CONNECTICUT: Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court
DELAWARE: Superior Court	G	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court of Wilmington, Alderman's, Justice of Peace Courts
		X	X	X	on the record (arbitration)	Superior Court
						Court of Common Pleas
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Superior Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	Office of Employee Appeals, Administrative Traffic Agency
FLORIDA: Circuit Court	G	O	X	O	de novo on the record	County Court
		O	O	X	on the record	County Court

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
GEORGIA: Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo or on the record	Probate Court, Magistrate Court
		O	O	X	de novo, on the record, or certiorari	Probate Court, Municipal Court, Magistrate Court, County Recorder's Court
State Court	L	O	X	O	certiorari on the record	Magistrate Court County Recorder's Court
HAWAII: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	
IDAHO: District Court	G	X (small claims only) O	X X	X O	de novo on the record	Magistrates Division Magistrates Division
ILLINOIS: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
INDIANA: Superior Court and Circuit Court Municipal Court of Marion County	G L	X O	X X	X O	de novo de novo	City and Town Courts Small Claims Court of Marion County
IOWA: District Court	G	X O	O X	O X	de novo on the record	Magistrates Division
KANSAS: District Court	G	X	X	X	criminal on the record civil on the record	Criminal (from Municipal Court) Civil (from limited jurisdiction judge)
KENTUCKY: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court
LOUISIANA: District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	City and Parish, Justice of the Peace, Mayor's Courts
MAINE: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	District Court, Administrative Court
MARYLAND: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo, on the record	District Court

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
MASSACHUSETTS:						
Superior Court Department	G	X	X	O	de novo, on the record	Other departments
District Court Department and Boston Municipal Court	G	X	X	X	de novo, first instance	Other departments
MICHIGAN:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court
		O	X	O	on the record	District, Municipal, and Probate Courts
MINNESOTA:						
District Court	G	O	X		de novo	Conciliation Division
MISSISSIPPI:						
Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	County and Municipal Courts
Chancery Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	Commission
MISSOURI:						
Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	
		X	X	O	de novo	Municipal Court, Associate Divisions
MONTANA:						
District Court	G	X	X	O	de novo and on the record	Justice of Peace, Municipal, City Courts, and State Boards
		O	O	X	de novo	
NEBRASKA:						
District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo on the record	
		O	X	X	on the record	County Court
NEVADA:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	on the record	Justice Court
		O	O	X	de novo on the record	Municipal Court
NEW HAMPSHIRE:						
Superior Court	G	X	O	X	de novo	District, Municipal, Probate Courts
NEW JERSEY:						
Superior Court	G	O	O	X	de novo on the record	Municipal Court
NEW MEXICO:						
District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Magistrate, Probate, Municipal, Bernalillo County Metropolitan Courts

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
NEW YORK: County Court	G	O	X	X	on the record	City, Town and Village Justice Courts
NORTH CAROLINA: Superior Court	G	X X X	O O O	X O O	de novo de novo on the record on the record	District Court
NORTH DAKOTA: District Court County Court	G L	X O	O X	O X	Varies de novo	Municipal Court
OHIO: Court of Common Pleas County Court Municipal Court Court of Claims	G L L L	X O O X	O O O O	O X X O	de novo and on the record de novo de novo de novo	Mayor's Court Mayor's Court
OKLAHOMA: District Court Court of Tax Review	G L	X X	O O	X O	de novo on the record de novo on the record	Municipal Court Not of Record
OREGON: Circuit Court Tax Court	G G	X X	X O	X O	on the record on the record	County Court, Municipal Court (in counties with no District Court), Justice Court (in counties with no District Court)
PENNSYLVANIA: Court of Common Pleas	G	X O	X O	O X	on the record de novo	Philadelphia Municipal Court, District Justice, Philadelphia Traffic, Pittsburgh City Magistrates Court
PUERTO RICO: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	-	District Court
RHODE ISLAND: Superior Court District Court	G L	X O X	O X O	O X O	on the record de novo on the record	District, Municipal, Probate Courts
SOUTH CAROLINA: Circuit Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Magistrate, Probate, Municipal Courts

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Administrative Agency Appeals	Trial Court Appeals		Type of Appeal	Source of Trial Court Appeal
			Civil	Criminal		
SOUTH DAKOTA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	de novo and on the record	Magistrates Division
		O	X	X	de novo	
TENNESSEE: Circuit, Criminal and Chancery Courts	G	X	X	X	de novo	General Sessions, Municipal, and Juvenile Courts
TEXAS: District Court	G	X	O	O	de novo	Municipal Court not of record, Justice of the Peace Courts Municipal Courts of record
					de novo on the record	
County-level Courts	L	O	X	X	de novo	Municipal Court not of record, Justice of the Peace Courts Municipal Courts of record
					de novo on the record	
UTAH: District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo	Justice of the Peace Justice of the Peace Courts
Circuit Court	L	O	X	X	de novo	
VERMONT: Superior Court	G	X	X	O	de novo on the record	Probate Court Probate Court
District Court	G	O	X	O	de novo	
VIRGINIA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	District Court
		O	X	X	de novo	
WASHINGTON: Superior Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	District, Municipal Courts
WEST VIRGINIA: Circuit Court	G	X	O	O	on the record	Municipal Court Magistrate Court
		O	X	X	de novo	
WISCONSIN: Circuit Court	G	O	X	X (first offense DWI/DUI only)	de novo	Municipal Court
WYOMING: District Court	G	X	X	X	de novo on the record	Justice of the Peace, Municipal, County Courts

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FIGURE F: State Trial Courts with Incidental Appellate Jurisdiction, 1991. (continued)

JURISDICTION CODES:

- G = General jurisdiction court.
- L = Limited jurisdiction court.
- = Information not available.
- X = Yes
- O = No

Definitions of types of appeal:

- certiorari:** An appellate court case category in which a petition is presented to an appellate court asking the court to review the judgment of a trial court or administrative agency, or the decision of an intermediate appellate court.
 - first instance:** If dissatisfied with the de novo verdict of the judge, defendant can go before the jury.
 - de novo:** An appeal from one trial court to another trial court that results in a totally new set of proceedings and a new trial court judgment.
 - de novo on the record:** An appeal from one trial court to another trial court that is based on the record and results in a new trial court judgment.
 - on the record:** An appeal from one trial court to another trial court in which procedural challenges to the original trial proceedings are claimed, and an evaluation of those challenges are made—there is not a new trial court judgment on the case.
- Source: Data were gathered from the 1991 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles and state administrative offices of the courts.

FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in State Courts, 1991

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
Alabama	9	8	125	385
Alaska	5	3	35 (includes 5 masters)	75 (includes 58 magistrates)
Arizona	5	21	124	215 (includes 83 justices of the peace, 55 part-time judges)
Arkansas	7	6	99	339 (includes 55 justices of the peace)
California	7	88	924 (includes 135 commissioners and referees)	838 (includes 169 commissioners and referees)
Colorado	7	16	117 (includes 1 referee, 2 commissioners)	364 (includes 52 part-time judges)
Connecticut	7	9	150	133
Delaware	5	—	20 (includes 1 chancellor and 4 vice-chancellors)	93 (includes 53 justices of the peace, 1 chief magistrate, 18 aldermen, 1 part-time judge)
District of Columbia	9	—	59	—
Florida	7	57	421	241
Georgia	7	9	153 (authorized)	1,183 (includes 80 part-time judges, 159 chief magistrates, 292 full-time and 32 part-time magistrates, and 33 associate juvenile court judges)
Hawaii	5	3	35 (includes 11 family court judges)	62 (includes 38 per diem judges)
Idaho	5	3	106 (includes 63 lawyer and 8 nonlawyer magistrates)	—
Illinois	7	51 (includes 11 supplemental judges)	841	—
Indiana	5	16 (includes 1 tax court judge)	234	128
Iowa	9	6	332 (includes 149 part-time magistrates, and 11 referees)	—
Kansas	7	10	218 (includes 69 district magistrates)	252
Kentucky	7	14	91	125
Louisiana	7	53	207	706 (includes 384 justices of the peace, 250 mayors)
Maine	7	—	16	43 (includes 16 part-time judges)
Maryland	7	13	120	163
Massachusetts	7	14	320	—
Michigan	7	24	200	368
Minnesota	7	15	242 *	— *
Mississippi	9	—	79 (includes 39 chancellors)	482 (includes 165 mayors, 191 justices of the peace)
Missouri	7	32	303	306
Montana	7	—	41	125 (includes 32 justices of the peace that also serve on the city court)

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FIGURE G: Number of Judges/Justices in State Courts, 1991. (continued)

State:	Court(s) of last resort	Intermediate appellate court(s)	General jurisdiction court(s)	Limited jurisdiction court(s)
Nebraska	7	6 *	50	69
Nevada	5	—	38	92 (includes 64 justices of the peace)
New Hampshire	5	—	28	102 (includes part-time judges)
New Jersey	7	28	359	374 (includes 345 part-time judges)
New Mexico	5	10	59	
New York	7	63	597	2,938 (includes 78 surrogates, 2,242 justices of the peace)
North Carolina	7	12	177 (includes 100 clerks who hear uncontested probate)	818 (includes 654 magistrates of which approximately 70 are part-time)
North Dakota	5	3 *	27	128
Ohio	7	65	355	758 (includes 500 mayors)
Oklahoma	14	12	210 (includes 62 special judges)	376 (includes unknown number of part-time judges)
Oregon	7	10	91	236 (includes 32 justices of the peace)
Pennsylvania	7	24	343	572 (includes 538 district justices and 6 magistrates)
Puerto Rico	7	—	108	158
Rhode Island	5	—	34 (includes 2 masters)	85 (includes 3 masters, 2 magistrates)
South Carolina	5	6	60 (includes 20 masters-in-equity)	658 (includes 266 magistrates)
South Dakota	5	—	192 (includes 7 part-time lay magistrates, 17 law magistrates, 83 full-time magistrate/clerks, 49 part-time lay magistrate/clerks)	—
Tennessee	5	21	141 (includes 33 chancellors)	408
Texas	18	80	386	2,522 (includes 884 justices of the peace)
Utah	5	7	23	175 (includes 126 justices of peace)
Vermont	5	—	35 (includes 4 magistrates)	20 (part-time)
Virginia	7	10	135	194 (includes 79 FTE juvenile and domestic relations judges)
Washington	9	17	149	211 (includes 115 part-time judges)
West Virginia	5	—	60	278 (includes 156 magistrates and 122 part-time judges)
Wisconsin	7	13	216	198
Wyoming	5	—	17	107 (includes 14 part-time justices of the peace and 75 part-time judges)
Total	356	858	9,502	18,289

— = The state does not have a court at the indicated level.

NOTE: This table identifies, in parentheses, all individuals who hear cases but are not titled judges/justices. Some states may have given the title "judge" to officials who are called magistrates, justices of the peace, etc., in other states.

Source: Data were gathered from the 1991 State Trial and Appellate Court statistical profiles.

FOOTNOTES*

Minnesota—General jurisdiction and limited jurisdiction courts were consolidated in 1987.

Nebraska—The Nebraska Court of Appeals was established September 6, 1991.

*North Dakota—Court of Appeals effective July 1, 1987, through January 1, 1990. A temporary court of appeals was established to exercise appellate and original jurisdiction as delegated by the supreme court.

FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1991

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/ collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
ALABAMA:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	No
District Court	L	New filing		No	No
ALASKA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	Reopened		No	No
ARIZONA:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	New filing		No	No
ARKANSAS:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Chancery and Probate Court	G	Reopened		No	No
CALIFORNIA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Retried cases	No	No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	NA
Justice Court	L	Reopened	Retried cases	No	NA
COLORADO:					
District Court	G	Reopened	Post activities	No	No
Water Court	G	Reopened	Post activities	No	No
County Court	L	Reopened	Post activities	No	No
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
CONNECTICUT:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	No if heard separately (rarely occurs)
DELAWARE:					
Court of Chancery	G	Reopened		No	No
Superior Court	G	New filing reopened	If remanded Case rehearing	No	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	New filing		No	Yes/No
Family Court	L	New filing is heard separately Reopened if rehearing of total case	If part of original proceeding	No	No
Court of Common Pleas	L	New filing reopened	If remanded rehearing	No	No
Alderman's Court	L	New filing reopened	If remanded rehearing	No	No
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
FLORIDA:					
County Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
GEORGIA:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		Yes	No
Civil Court	L	NC		NC	NC
State Court	L	New filing		Yes	No
Probate Court	L	New filing		NC	NC
Magistrate Court	L	New filing		Yes	No
Municipal Court	L	NC		NC	NC
HAWAII:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Supplemental proceedings	Yes/Yes Special proceedings	Yes/Yes Circuit Court: Special proceedings
Family Court	G	New filing	Redocketed		Yes/No
District Court	L	Reopened	Supplemental proceedings	No	Yes/No (included as new case filing)
IDAHO:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	No
ILLINOIS:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
INDIANA:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
County Court	L	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
Municipal Court of Marion County	L	Reopened	Redocketed	No	No
City Court	L	NA	NA	NA	N/Applicable
Small Claims Court of Marion County	L	NA	NA	NA	NA
IOWA:					
District Court	G	New filing		Yes/No	No
KANSAS:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
KENTUCKY:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
LOUISIANA:					
District Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Juvenile Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	Yes/Yes	No
Family Court	G	Reopened	As action on open case	No	No
City & Parish Courts	L	New filing	As action on open case	Yes/No	No
MAINE:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
Probate Court	L	NC		No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
MARYLAND:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	NA
District Court	L	NA		NA	Yes/No
MASSACHUSETTS:					
Trial Court of the Commonwealth:					
Superior Court Dept.	G	NC		NA	Yes/No
District Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Boston Municipal Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Housing Court Dept.	G	NC		Yes/Yes	NA
Land Court Dept.	G	NC		N/Applicable	NA
MICHIGAN:					
Court of Claims	G	Reopened		No	No
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
MINNESOTA:					
District Court	G	Identified separately	No	No	
MISSISSIPPI:					
Circuit Court	G	NA		NA	NA
Chancery Court	G	NA		NA	NA
County Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Family Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Justice Court	L	NA		NA	NA
MISSOURI:					
Circuit Court	G	New filings		Yes/No	Yes/No
MONTANA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	Yes/No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
City Court	L	NA		NA	NA
NEBRASKA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
NEVADA:					
District Court	G	Reopened	May not be reopened but refers back to original case	Varies/Varies	Varies
NEW HAMPSHIRE:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
Municipal Court	L	NC		No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
NEW JERSEY:					
Superior Court: Civil, Family, General Equity, and Criminal Divisions	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No (except for domestic violence)
NEW MEXICO:					
District Court	G	Reopened		Yes/Yes	No
Magistrate Court	L	Reopened		No	No
Metropolitan Court of Bernalillo County	L	Reopened		No	No
NEW YORK:					
Supreme Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
County Court	L	NC		No	No
Court of Claims	L	NC		No	No
Family Court	L	Reopened		Yes/No	No
District Court	L	NC		No	No
City Court	L	NC		No	No
Civil Court of the City of New York	L	NC		No	No
Town & Village Justice Court	L	NC		No	No
NORTH CAROLINA:					
Superior Court	G	NC		No	No
District Court	L	NC		Yes/No	No
NORTH DAKOTA:					
District Court	G	New filing		Yes/Yes (only counted if a hearing was held)	Yes/Yes
County Court	L	New filing		No	No
OHIO:					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		Yes/No (are counted separately in domestic relations cases)	Yes/No
Municipal Court	L	Reopened		Yes	Yes
County Court	L	Reopened		Yes	Yes
Court of Claims	L	NA		NA	NA
OKLAHOMA:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
OREGON:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened		Yes/No	Yes/No
Justice Court	L	NA		NA	NA
Municipal Court	L	NA		NA	NA
District Court	L	Reopened		NA	NA
PENNSYLVANIA:					
Court of Common Pleas	G	Reopened		No	No
District Justice Court	L	New filing		NA	NA
PUERTO RICO:					
Superior Court	G	New filing		Yes/No	No
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	No

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
RHODE ISLAND:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	Yes/No
District Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Family Court	L	Reopened		No	Yes/Yes
Probate Court	L	NA		NA	NA
SOUTH CAROLINA:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing		No	No (Permanent
Family Court	L	New filing		No	No injunctions
Magistrate Court	L	New filing		No	No are counted
Probate Court	L	New filing		No	No as a new filing)
SOUTH DAKOTA:					
Circuit Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
TENNESSEE:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	(varies based on local practice)		(varies based on local practice)
Chancery Court	G	Reopened	(varies based on local practice)		(varies based on local practice)
General Sessions Court	L	Reopened	(varies based on local practice)		(varies based on local practice)
TEXAS:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Constitutional County Court	L	Reopened		No	No
County Court at Law	L	Reopened		No	No
Justice Court	L	New filing		No	No
UTAH:					
District Court	G	NC		No	Yes/Yes
Circuit Court	L	NC		No	Yes/Yes
Justice Court	L	NC		No	Yes/Yes
VERMONT:					
Superior Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
District Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
Family Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
Probate Court	L	NC		No	N/Applicable
VIRGINIA:					
Circuit Court	G	Reopened	Reinstated cases		
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	No
WASHINGTON:					
Superior Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Municipal Court	L	New filing		NA	NA
District Court	L	New filing		Yes/No	NA
WEST VIRGINIA:					
Circuit Court	G	NC		No	Yes/No
Magistrate Court	L	NC		No	N/Applicable

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FIGURE H: Method of Counting Civil Cases in State Trial Courts, 1991. (continued)

State/Court name:	Jurisdiction	Are reopened cases counted as new filings, or identified separately as reopened cases?	Qualifications or Conditions	Are enforcement/collection proceedings counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?	Are temporary injunctions counted? If yes, are they counted separately from new case filings?
WISCONSIN:					
Circuit Court	G	New filing	Identified with R (reopened) suffix, but included in total count	No	Yes/Yes
WYOMING:					
District Court	G	Reopened		No	No
Justice of the Peace Court	L	Reopened		NA	NA
County Court	L	Reopened		NA	NA

JURISDICTION CODES:

G = General Jurisdiction Court

L = Limited Jurisdiction Court

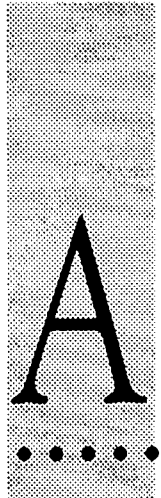
NA = Information is not available

NC = Information is not collected/counted

N/Applicable = Civil case types heard by this court are not applicable to this figure.

Source: The 1991 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide profiles, as updated and verified by state administrative offices of the courts.

APPENDIX



METHODOLOGY



Court Statistics Project: Goals and Organization

The Court Statistics Project of the National Center for State Courts compiles and reports comparable court caseload data from the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Project publications and technical assistance encourage greater uniformity in how individual state courts and state court administrative offices collect and publish caseload information. Progress toward these goals should result in more meaningful and useful caseload information for judges, court managers, and court administrators.

The *State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report* series is a cooperative effort of the Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). Responsibility for project management and staffing is assumed by the NCSC's Court Statistics Project. COSCA, through its Court Statistics Committee, provides policy guidance and review. The Court Statistics Committee includes members of COSCA and representatives of state court administrative office senior staff, the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks, the National Association for Court Management, and the academic community. Preparation of the 1991 caseload report was funded by an ongoing grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI-07X-0B-007-P92-1) to the NCSC.

In addition to preparing publications, the Court Statistics Project responds to about 600 requests for information and assistance each year. These requests come from a variety of sources, including state court administrative offices, local courts, individual judges, federal and state agencies, legislators, the media, academic researchers, students, and NCSC staff. Requests can be grouped into four main categories: caseload data, court jurisdictional information, information on data collection and reporting techniques, and statistical analyses of caseload data. The subject matter of these requests is taken into consideration when selecting topics for emphasis in the caseload statistics report series.

Evolution of the Court Statistics Project

During the Court Statistics Project's original data compilation efforts, the *State of the Art* and *State Court*

Caseload Statistics: 1975 Annual Report, classification problems arose from the multitude of categories and terms used by the states to report their caseloads. This suggested the need for a model annual report and a statistical dictionary of terms for court usage.

The *State Court Model Annual Report* outlines the basic management data that should, at minimum, be included in state court annual reports. The *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* provides common terminology, definitions, and usage for reporting appellate and trial court caseloads. Terms for reporting data on case disposition methods are provided in the *Dictionary* and in other project publications. The classification scheme and associated definitions serve as a model framework for developing comparable and useful data. A new edition of the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary* was published in 1989, consolidating and revising the original 1980 version and the 1984 *Supplement*.

The *Court Case Management Information Systems Manual*, which was produced jointly with the State Judicial Information Systems Project, is another vehicle through which the Court Statistics Project seeks to improve the quality and usefulness of court statistics. The manual outlines the steps that build a court information system that provides the data needed both for daily court operations and for long-term case management, resource allocation, and strategic planning.

Once a set of recommended terms was adopted, the project's focus shifted to assessing the comparability of caseload data reported by the courts to those terms. It became particularly important to detail the subject matter jurisdiction and methods of counting cases in each state court. This effort was undertaken in two stages. The first stage addressed problems related to categorizing and counting cases in the trial courts and resulted in the *1984 State Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting*. Information from the jurisdiction guide was incorporated into the caseload database for 1981 and is updated annually.

The second stage involved preparation of the *1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for Statistical Reporting*, which was used to compile the 1984 appellate court database. Key information from the guide is updated annually as part of the preparation for a new caseload *Report*. The introduction to the 1981 *Report* details the effect of the *Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide* on

the Court Statistics Project data collection and the introduction to the 1984 *Report* describes the effect of the *Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide*.

Much of the court jurisdictional information contained in the 1987 and subsequent *Reports* is the result of research for *State Court Organization 1987*, another project publication. *State Court Organization 1987* is a reference book that describes the organization and management of the state courts.

The first caseload *Report* contained 1975 caseload data for state appellate courts, trial courts of general jurisdiction, and for selected categories (juvenile, domestic relations, probate, and mental health) in limited jurisdiction courts. The second *Report* in the series (1976) again presented available data for appellate courts and courts of general jurisdiction, but also included all available caseload data for limited jurisdiction courts. The 1979 and 1980 *Reports* eliminated repetitiveness in the summary tables and reorganized the data presentation based on completeness and comparability. The 1981 *Report*, incorporating the reporting structure in the 1984 *Trial Court Jurisdiction Guide*, organized the caseload data by comparable jurisdictions. To make the series current with the publication of the 1984 *Report*, the Court Statistics Project did not publish caseload data for 1982 and 1983.

Sources of Data

Information for the national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data are typically official state court annual reports, which vary widely in form and detail. Although constituting the most reliable and valid data available at the state level, they arrive from statistical data filed monthly, quarterly, or annually by numerous local jurisdictions and, in most states, several trial and appellate court systems. Moreover, these caseload statistics are primarily collected to assist states in managing their own systems and are not prepared specifically for inclusion in the COSCA/NCSC caseload statistics report series.

Some states either do not publish an annual report or publish only limited caseload statistics for either trial or appellate courts. The Court Statistics Project receives unpublished data from those states in a wide range of forms, including internal management memos, computer-generated output, and the project's statistical and jurisdictional profiles, which are updated by state court administrative office staff.

Extensive telephone contact and follow-up correspondence are used to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and determine the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected concerning the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state population

(based on Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure. Appendix B lists the source of each state's 1991 caseload statistics.

Data Collection Procedures

The following outline summarizes the major tasks involved in compiling the 1991 caseload data reported in this volume:

A. The 1991 state reports were evaluated to note changes in the categories and terminology used for data reporting, changes in the range of available data, and changes in the state's court organization or jurisdiction. This entailed a direct comparison of the 1991 material with the contents of individual states' 1990 annual reports. Project staff used a copy of each state's 1990 trial and appellate court statistical spreadsheets, trial and appellate court jurisdiction guides, and the state court structure chart as worksheets for gathering the 1991 data. Use of the previous year's spreadsheets provides the data collector with a reference point to identify and replicate the logic used in the data collection and ensure consistency over time in the report series. The caseload data were entered onto the 1991 spreadsheets. Caseload terminology is defined by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989*. Prototypes of appellate and trial court statistical spreadsheets can be found in Appendix C.

B. Caseload numbers were screened for significant changes from the previous year. A record that documents and, where possible, explains such changes is maintained. This process serves as another reliability check by identifying statutory, organizational, or procedural changes that potentially had an effect on the size of the reported court caseload.

C. The data were then transferred from the handwritten copy to computer databases that are created as EXCEL spreadsheets. Mathematical formulas are embedded in each spreadsheet to compute the caseload totals. The reliability of the data collection and data entry process was verified through an independent review by another project staff member of all decisions made by the original data collector. Linked spreadsheets contain the information on the number of judges, court jurisdiction, and state population needed to generate caseload tables for the 1991 *Report*.

D. After the data were entered and checked for entry errors and internal consistency, individual spreadsheets were generated for the appellate and trial courts using EXCEL software. The spreadsheet relates the total for each model reporting category to the category or categories the state used to report its caseload numbers.

E. Trial court spreadsheets for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico were sent directly to the states' administrative offices of the courts for verification. This fairly recent step in the data collection process (which began with the 1989 *Report*) provided

further assurance of data accuracy and also yielded a bonus when 18 states either added caseload data that in previous years had not been reported or provided additional information which resulted in changes to the footnotes to the data. For the 1991 *Report*, the Court Statistics Project undertook several additional efforts to improve the completeness and comparability of the trial court data.

1. Tort, contract, and real property rights data became the focus of a data improvement effort. Each state that did not publish or routinely provide it was contacted concerning the availability of tort, contract, and real property rights data. Two states (Oregon and Wisconsin) and the District of Columbia were able to provide a breakdown of tort, contract, and real property rights data in conformance with the Court Statistics Project prototype.
2. Court Statistics Project staff for the first time made direct contact with probate courts that are not required to report data to the administrative office of the courts in their state. It was possible to obtain data directly from the probate courts of Maine and Tennessee, which are included in the 1991 *Report* for the first time.
3. Denver County Court does not report data to the administrative office of the courts. Court Statistics Project staff contacted the Denver County Court directly and obtained caseload statistics, which resulted in complete data for the Colorado County Courts for 1991.

F. Appellate court statistical spreadsheets were sent for review and verification to the appellate court clerks in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Five states—Arizona, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia—and the District of Columbia provided project staff with additional appellate court caseload data. Fifteen states responded to the project staff's letter asking for caseload statistics at the end of their reporting period. The letters were sent in January to those states that report data on a calendar year basis and in July to those states that report data on a fiscal year basis. (Note: The Court Statistics Project reported data for the Virginia Supreme Court that were provided by the clerk's office. These data do not correspond with data reported by the Virginia Administrative Office of the Courts, due to different reporting methods. The administrative office of the courts reported all cases that were disposed in 1991, including cases that were filed in previous years. The clerk's office of the Virginia Supreme Court reported only those cases that were filed and disposed in 1991.)

G. Finally, the caseload tables in Part III and the smaller tables supporting the text of Parts I and II were generated. The spreadsheet for each court system is directly linked to the tables, each itself created as an EXCEL spreadsheet, and once all of the 1991 data had been entered and verified, these links were automatically updated. This updating procedure allows all of the 1991 data to be placed on one large spreadsheet that is then

used to generate the tables for Part III of the report. Trend databases are maintained separately using SPSS PC and contain selected categories of appellate and trial court caseloads.

Variables

Four basic types of data elements are collected by the Court Statistics Project: (1) trial court caseload statistics, (2) trial court jurisdictional/organizational information, (3) appellate court caseload, and (4) appellate court jurisdictional/organizational information.

For trial courts, emphasis is placed on reporting the total number of civil, criminal, juvenile, and traffic/other violation cases according to the model reporting format. Each of these major case types can be reduced to more-specific caseload categories. For example, civil cases consist of tort, contract, real property rights, small claims, mental health, estate, domestic relations cases, trial court civil appeals, and appeals of administrative agency cases. In some instances, these case types can be further refined; for example, domestic relations cases can be divided into marriage dissolution, URESA, support/custody, adoption, and paternity cases.

Currently, only filing and disposition numbers are entered into the database for each case type. Data on pending cases were routinely collected by the project staff until serious comparability problems were identified when compiling the 1984 *Report*. Some courts include active cases only; others include active and inactive cases. The COSCA Court Statistics Committee recommended that the collection of pending caseloads be deferred until a study determines whether and how data can be made comparable across states.

The trial court jurisdictional profile collects an assortment of information relevant to the organization and jurisdiction of each trial court system. Before the use of EXCEL spreadsheets for reporting statistical data, the main purpose of the profile was to translate the terminology used by the states when reporting statistical information into generic terms recommended by the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Each court's spreadsheet captures the state's terminology, and the jurisdiction guide format has been streamlined. The jurisdictional profile collects information on number of courts, number of judges, methods of counting cases, availability of jury trials, dollar amount jurisdiction of the court, and time standards for case processing.

There are also statistical spreadsheets and jurisdiction guides for each state appellate court. Two major case types are used on the statistical spreadsheet: mandatory cases that the court must hear on the merits as appeals of right and discretionary petition cases that the court decides whether to accept and then reach a decision on the merits. The statistical spreadsheet also contains the number of petitions granted where it can be determined. Mandatory and discretionary petitions are further differentiated by whether the case is a review of a

final trial court judgment or some other matter, such as a request for interlocutory or postconviction relief. Where possible, the statistics are classified according to subject matter, chiefly civil, criminal, juvenile, disciplinary, or administrative agency.

The appellate court jurisdiction guide contains information about each court, including number of court locations, number of justices/judges, number of legal support personnel, point at which appeals are counted as cases, procedures used to review discretionary petitions, and use of panels.

Graphics as a Method of Displaying Caseload Data

The 1985 and 1986 *Reports* used maps to summarize the data contained in the main caseload tables. Subsequent *Reports* also use maps as a method for displaying information, but limit their role to summarizing court structure and jurisdiction and describing caseload comparability.

Instead of maps, the 1991 *Report* summarizes caseload data and trends on pie charts and bar graphs. In the charts and graphs displaying 1991 caseload data, states are usually arrayed by filing rate, from lowest to highest, so that the midpoint and the distribution of rates can be easily determined. A state is excluded from a graph only if the state's relevant data is less than 75 percent complete. Most of the text tables and bar graphs of trend data include only states that have reported statistics in comparable terms over the full seven-year period. There are several exceptions to this general rule, where an effort was made to show all data in a particular category that was reported to the project. While efforts are made to note in the graph why states are not included, it is incorrect to conclude that a state omitted from the graph did not report data to the project. The only definitive statement of data availability can be found in the detailed caseload tables of Part III.

Footnotes

Footnotes indicate the degree to which a court's statistics conform to the Court Statistics Project's reporting categories defined in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Footnoted caseload statistics are either overinclusive in that they contain case types other than those defined for the term in the *Dictionary*, or are underinclusive in that some case types defined for the term in the *Dictionary* are not included. It is possible for

a caseload statistic to contain inapplicable case types while also omitting those which are applicable, making the total or subtotal simultaneously overinclusive and underinclusive.

The 1991 *Report* uses a simplified system of footnotes. An "A" footnote indicates that the caseload statistic for a statewide court system does not include some of the recommended case types; a "B" footnote indicates that the statistic includes some extraneous case types; a "C" footnote indicates that the data are both incomplete and overinclusive. The text of the footnote explains for each court system how the caseload data differ from the reporting category recommended in the *State Court Model Statistical Dictionary*. Caseload statistics that are not qualified by a footnote conform to the *Dictionary's* definition.

Case filings and dispositions also are affected by the unit and method of count used by the states, differing subject matter and dollar amount jurisdiction, and different court system structures. Most of these differences are described in the figures found in Part V of this volume and summarized in the court structure chart for each state in Part IV. The most important differences are reported in summary form in the main caseload tables.

Variations in Reporting Periods

As indicated in Figure A (Part V), most states report data by fiscal year, others by calendar year, and a few appellate courts report data by court term. Therefore, the 12-month period covered in this report is not the same for all courts.

This report reflects court organization and jurisdiction in 1991. Since 1975, new courts have been created at both the appellate and trial level, additional courts report data to the Court Statistics Project, and courts may have merged and/or changed counting or reporting methods. The dollar amount limits of civil jurisdiction in many trial courts also vary. Care is therefore required when comparing 1991 data to previous years. The trend analysis used in this report offers a model for undertaking such comparisons.

Final Note

Comments, corrections, and suggestions are a vital part of the work of the Court Statistics Project. Users of the *Report* are encouraged to write to the Director, Court Statistics Project, National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, Virginia, 23187-8798.

APPENDIX

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SOURCES OF 1991 STATE COURT CASELOAD STATISTICS



State	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Alabama	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1991	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1991	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1991	Alabama Judicial System Annual Report, 1991
Alaska	Alaska Court System 1991 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1991 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1991 Annual Report	Alaska Court System 1991 Annual Report
Arizona	The Arizona Courts FY 1991 Data Report	The Arizona Courts FY 1991 Data Report	The Arizona Courts FY 1991 Data Report	The Arizona Courts FY 1991 Data Report
Arkansas	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1990-1991	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1990-1991	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1990-1991	Annual Report of the Judiciary of Arkansas FY 1990-1991
California	1991 Annual Report, Judicial Council of California	1991 Annual Report, Judicial Council of California. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrator of the Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrator of the Courts.
Colorado	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report FY 90-91-- Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report FY 90-91-- Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report FY 90-91— Statistical Supplement	Colorado Judicial Department Annual Report FY 90-91— Statistical Supplement
Connecticut	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator.
Delaware	1991 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary	-----	1991 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary	1991 Annual Report of the Delaware Judiciary
District of Columbia	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report, 1991	-----	District of Columbia Courts Annual Report, 1991. Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Officer.	-----
Florida	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator and the Department of Highways, Safety, and Motor Vehicles.
Georgia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Hawaii	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1991 and Statistical Supplement 1990-1991	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1991 and Statistical Supplement 1990-1991	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1991 and Statistical Supplement 1990-1991	The Judiciary State of Hawaii: Annual Report 1991 and Statistical Supplement 1990-1991

States	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Idaho	The Idaho Courts Annual Report for 1991; 1991 Appendix	The Idaho Courts Annual Report for 1991; 1991 Appendix	The Idaho Courts Annual Report for 1991; 1991 Appendix	-----
Illinois	Unpublished data were provided by the Admin. Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Admin. Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Admin. Director of Courts.	-----
Indiana	1991 Indiana Judicial Report	1991 Indiana Judicial Report	1991 Indiana Judicial Report	1991 Indiana Judicial Report
Iowa	1991 Annual Statistical Report. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1991 Annual Statistical Report. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1991 Annual Statistical Report	-----
Kansas	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1990-1991 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1990-1991 FY	Annual Report of the Courts of Kansas: 1990-1991 FY	Kansas Municipal Courts Caseload Report, FY 1991
Kentucky	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
Louisiana	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	1991 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana	1991 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.	1991 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. Unpublished data were provided by the Judicial Administrator.
Maine	State of Maine Judicial Department Annual Report, FY 91	-----	State of Maine Judicial Department Annual Report, FY 91	State of Maine Judicial Department Annual Report, FY 91
Maryland	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1990-1991	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1990-1991	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1990-1991. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Annual Report of the Maryland Judiciary 1990-1991
Massachusetts	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appeals Court.	Annual Report of the MA Trial Court, 1991. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrator of Courts.	-----
Michigan	1991 Annual Report of the State Court Administrator and Statistical Supplement	1991 Annual Report of the State Court Administrator and Statistical Supplement	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Minnesota	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	-----
Mississippi	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1991 Annual Report	-----	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1991 Annual Report	Supreme Court of Mississippi 1991 Annual Report
Missouri	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Report, Fiscal Year 1991	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Report, Fiscal Year 1991	Supplement to the Missouri Judicial Report, Fiscal Year 1991. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Data were not available.

States	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Montana	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Data were not available.
Nebraska	Nebraska Supreme Court 1991 Annual Report	-----	Nebraska Supreme Court 1991 Annual Report	Nebraska Supreme Court 1991 Annual Report
Nevada	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Adminis. Dir. of Courts.	Data were not available.
New Hampshire	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director, AOC.
New Jersey	Annual Report 90-91. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Annual Report 90-91. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	NJ Judiciary: Superior Court Caseload Reference Guide, 1986-1991. Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.
New Mexico	The New Mexico Courts, 1991 Annual Report	The New Mexico Courts, 1991 Annual Report	The New Mexico Courts, 1991 Annual Report	The New Mexico Courts, 1991 Annual Report
New York	1991 Annual Report of the Clerk of Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	1991 Annual Report of the Clerk of Court, Court of Appeals of the State of New York. Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Chief Administrator of Courts.
North Carolina	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the Adminis. Dir. of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Adminis. Dir. of Courts.
North Dakota	Annual Report of the North Dakota Judicial System, Calendar Year 1991	Annual Report of the North Dakota Judicial System, Calendar Year 1991	Annual Report of the ND Judicial System, CY 1991. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Annual Report of the ND Judicial System, CY 1991. Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
Ohio	Ohio Courts Summary, 1991	Ohio Courts Summary, 1991	Ohio Courts Summary, 1991	Ohio Courts Summary, 1991
Oklahoma	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 91	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 91	State of Oklahoma, The Judiciary: Annual Report FY 91 and Statistical Appendix	Data were not available.
Oregon	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Pennsylvania	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Puerto Rico	Not available.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Administrative Director of Courts.

States	Courts of Last Resort	Intermediate Appellate	General Jurisdiction	Limited Jurisdiction
Rhode Island	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
South Carolina	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1991	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1991	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1991. Additional unpublished data were provided.	SC Judicial Department Annual Report, 1991
South Dakota	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary and 1991 Annual Report of SD Unified Judicial System	-----	SD Courts, The State of the Judiciary and 1991 Annual Report of the SD Unified Judicial System	-----
Tennessee	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Secretary.	Unpublished data were provided by the Executive Secretary.	Tennessee Judicial Council Annual Report, 1990-91	Data were not available.
Texas	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1990-1991	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1990-1991	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1990-91	Texas Judicial System 62nd Annual Report, FY 1990-91
Utah	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Appellate Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.	Unpublished data were provided by the State Court Administrator.
Vermont	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1991.	-----	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1991.	Judicial Statistics, State of Vermont for Year Ending June 30, 1991.
Virginia	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1991	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1991	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1991	Virginia State of the Judiciary Report 1991
Washington	The 1991 Report of the Courts of Washington	The 1991 Report of the Courts of Washington	The 1991 Report of the Courts of Washington	1991 Caseloads of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction of Washington State
West Virginia	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.	Unpublished data were provided by the AOC.
Wisconsin	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Supreme Court.	Unpublished data were provided by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.	Unpublished data were provided by the Director of State Courts.
Wyoming	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.	-----	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.	Unpublished data were provided by the Court Coordinator.

APPENDIX

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Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet

State Name, Court Name
 Court of last resort or intermediate appellate court
 Number of divisions/departments, number of authorized justices/judges
 Total population

	<u>Beginning pending</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>End pending</u>
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:				
Appeals of final judgments:				
Civil				
Criminal:				
Capital criminal				
Other criminal				
Total criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other mandatory cases:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other mandatory				
Total mandatory cases				
				Filed Petitions Granted Disposed
	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Filed Petitions Granted</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u> </u>
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:				
Petitions of final judgment:				
Civil				
Criminal				
Juvenile				
Administrative agency				
Unclassified				
Total final judgments				
Other discretionary petitions:				
Disciplinary matters				
Original proceedings				
Interlocutory decisions				
Advisory opinions				
Total other discretionary				
Total discretionary cases				
GRAND TOTAL				
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:				
Rehearing/reconsideration requests				
Motions				
Other matters				
Number of supplemental judges/justices				
Number of independent appellate courts at this level				

MANNER OF DISPOSITION

	Predecision disposition (dismissed/ withdrawn/settled)	Opinions		Decision without opinion (memo/order)	Transferred	Other
		Signed opinion	Per curiam opinion			
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:						
Appeals of final judgment						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other mandatory cases:						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Interlocutory decisions						
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases						
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:						
Petitions of final judgments:						
Civil						
Criminal						
Juvenile						
Administrative agency						
Unclassified						
Other discretionary petitions						
Disciplinary matters						
Original proceedings						
Total discretionary cases						
GRAND TOTAL						

TYPE OF DECISION IN MANDATORY CASES/GRANTED PETITIONS OF FINAL JUDGMENT

	Civil	Criminal	Juvenile	Administrative agency	Other mandatory cases	Total
Opinions:						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						
Total decisions:						
Affirmed						
Modified						
Reversed						
Remanded						
Mixed						
Dismissed						
Other						

TYPE OF DECISION IN OTHER DISCRETIONARY PETITIONS

	Petition granted	Petition denied	Other
Other discretionary petitions:			
Disciplinary matters			
Original proceedings			
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases			

	TIME INTERVAL DATA (MONTH/DAYS)											
	Notice of appeal or ready for hearing			Ready for hearing or under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed)			Under advisement (submitted or oral argument completed) to decision			Notice of appeal to decision		
	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median	Number of cases	Mean	Median
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:												
Appeals of final judgment												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other mandatory cases												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases												
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:												
Petitions of final judgments												
Civil												
Criminal												
Juvenile												
Administrative agency												
Unclassified												
Other discretionary petitions												
Disciplinary matters												
Original proceedings												
Interlocutory decisions												
Advisory opinions												
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases												
GRAND TOTAL												

Prototype of State Appellate Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)

Not ready for hearing														Submitted or oral argument completed
Awaiting court reporter's transcript			Awaiting appellant's brief			Awaiting respondent's brief			Ready for hearing			Average age of pending caseload		
0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days	0-60 days	61-120 days	over 120 days			
MANDATORY JURISDICTION:														
Appeals of final judgment														
Civil														
Criminal														
Juvenile														
Administrative agency														
Unclassified														
Other mandatory cases														
Disciplinary matters														
Original proceedings														
Interlocutory decisions														
Total mandatory jurisdiction cases														
DISCRETIONARY JURISDICTION:														
Petitions of final judgments														
Civil														
Criminal														
Juvenile														
Administrative agency														
Unclassified														
Other discretionary petitions														
Disciplinary matters														
Original proceedings														
Interlocutory decisions														
Advisory opinions														
Total discretionary jurisdiction cases														
GRAND TOTAL														

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet

	State Name, Court Name Court of general jurisdiction or court of limited jurisdiction Number of circuits or districts, number of judges Total population			
	Beginning Pending	Filed	Disposed	End Pending
CIVIL:				
Tort:				
Auto tort				
Product liability				
Medical malpractice				
Unclassified tort				
Miscellaneous tort				
Total Tort				
Contract				
Real property rights				
Small claims				
Domestic relations:				
Marriage dissolution				
Support/custody				
URES				
Adoption				
Paternity				
Miscellaneous				
Unclassified				
Total domestic relations				
Estate:				
Probate/wills/intestate				
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship				
Miscellaneous estate				
Unclassified estate				
Total estate				
Mental health				
Appeal:				
Appeal of administrative agency case				
Appeal of trial court case				
Total civil appeals				
Miscellaneous civil				
Unclassified civil				
Total civil				
CRIMINAL:				
Felony				
Misdemeanor				
DWI/DUI				
Appeal				
Miscellaneous criminal				
Unclassified criminal				
Total Criminal				
TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:				
Moving traffic violation				
Ordinance violation				
Parking violation				
Miscellaneous traffic				
Unclassified traffic				
Total traffic/other violation				

Prototype of State Trial Court Statistical Spreadsheet (continued)

	<u>Beginning Pending</u>	<u>Filed</u>	<u>Disposed</u>	<u>End Pending</u>
JUVENILE:				
Criminal-type petition				
Status offense				
Child-victim petition				
Miscellaneous juvenile				
Unclassified juvenile				
Total juvenile				
GRAND TOTAL				
Drug cases				
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:				
Postconviction remedy				
Preliminary hearings				
Sentence review only				
Extraordinary writs				
Total other proceedings				

MANNER OF CIVIL DISPOSITIONS

	<u>Uncontested/ Default</u>	<u>Dismissed</u>	<u>Withdrawn</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Transferred</u>	<u>Arbitration</u>	<u>Total</u>
CIVIL:							
Tort:							
Auto tort							
Product liability							
Medical malpractice							
Unclassified tort							
Miscellaneous tort							
Total Tort							
Contract							
Real property rights							
Small claims							
Domestic relations:							
Marriage dissolution							
Support/custody							
URESAs							
Adoption							
Paternity							
Miscellaneous							
Unclassified							
Total domestic relations							
Estate:							
Probate/wills/intestate							
Guardianship/conservatorship							
/trusteeship							
Miscellaneous estate							
Unclassified estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeals							
Miscellaneous civil							
Unclassified civil							
Total civil							

MANNER OF CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS AND TYPE OF DECISION

	<u>Felony</u>	<u>Misdemeanor</u>	<u>DWI/DUI</u>	<u>Appeal</u>	<u>Miscellaneous criminal</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Nonjury trial:						
Conviction						
Guilty plea						
Acquittal						
Dismissed						
Dismissed/nolle prosequi						
Bail forfeiture						
Bound over						
Transferred						
Other						
Total dispositions						

MANNER OF TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION DISPOSITIONS AND TYPE OF DECISION

	<u>Moving traffic violation</u>	<u>Ordinance violation</u>	<u>Parking violation</u>	<u>Miscellaneous traffic violation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Jury trial:					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Nonjury trial					
Conviction					
Guilty plea					
Acquittal					
Dismissed					
Dismissed/nolle prosequi					
Bail forfeiture					
Parking fines					
Transferred					
Other					
Total dispositions					

MANNER OF DISPOSITION: TRIALS

	Trial				Trial		
	Jury	Nonjury	Total		Jury	Nonjury	Total
CIVIL:				CRIMINAL:			
Tort:				Felony			
Auto tort				Misdemeanor			
Product liability				DWI/DUI			
Medical malpractice				Appeal			
Unclassified tort				Miscellaneous criminal			
Miscellaneous tort				Unclassified criminal			
Total Tort				Total criminal			
Contract				TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:			
Real property rights				Moving traffic violation			
Small claims				Ordinance violation			
Domestic relations:				Parking violation			
Marriage dissolution				Miscellaneous traffic			
Support/custody				Unclassified traffic			
URESAs				Total traffic/other violation			
Adoption							
Paternity				JUVENILE:			
Miscellaneous				Criminal-type petition			
Unclassified				Status offense			
Unclassified				Child-victim petition			
Total domestic relations				Miscellaneous juvenile			
Estate:				Unclassified juvenile			
Probate/wills/intestate				Total juvenile			
Guardianship/conservatorship							
/trusteeship				GRAND TOTAL			
Miscellaneous estate							
Unclassified estate							
Total estate							
Mental health							
Appeal:							
Appeal of administrative agency case							
Appeal of trial court case							
Total civil appeals							
Miscellaneous civil							
Unclassified civil							
Total civil							

	AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)							Average age of pending cases
	<u>0-30 days</u>	<u>31-60 days</u>	<u>61-90 days</u>	<u>91-180 days</u>	<u>181-360 days</u>	<u>361-720 days</u>	<u>over 720 days</u>	
CIVIL:								
Tort:								
Auto tort								
Product liability								
Medical malpractice								
Unclassified tort								
Miscellaneous tort								
Total Tort								
Contract								
Real property rights								
Small claims								
Domestic relations:								
Marriage dissolution								
Support/custody								
URESAs								
Adoption								
Paternity								
Miscellaneous								
Unclassified								
Total domestic relations								
Estate:								
Probate/wills/intestate								
Guardianship/conservatorship/trusteeship								
Miscellaneous estate								
Unclassified estate								
Total estate								
Mental health								
Appeal:								
Appeal of administrative agency case								
Appeal of trial court case								
Total civil appeals								
Miscellaneous civil								
Unclassified civil								
Total civil								

	AGE OF PENDING CASELOAD (DAYS)							Average age of pending cases
	<u>0-30</u> <u>days</u>	<u>31-60</u> <u>days</u>	<u>61-90</u> <u>days</u>	<u>91-180</u> <u>days</u>	<u>181-360</u> <u>days</u>	<u>361-720</u> <u>days</u>	<u>over 720</u> <u>days</u>	
CRIMINAL:								
Felony								
Misdemeanor								
DWI/DUI								
Appeal								
Miscellaneous criminal								
Unclassified criminal								
Total criminal								
TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATION:								
Moving traffic violation								
Ordinance violation								
Parking violation								
Miscellaneous traffic								
Unclassified traffic								
Total traffic/other violation								
JUVENILE:								
Criminal-type petition								
Status offense								
Child-victim petition								
Miscellaneous juvenile								
Unclassified juvenile								
Total juvenile								
GRAND TOTAL								
Drug cases								
OTHER PROCEEDINGS:								
Postconviction remedy								
Preliminary hearings								
Sentence review only								
Extraordinary writs								
Total other proceedings								

APPENDIX

D

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STATE POPULATIONS



Resident Population, 1991

State or territory	Population (in thousands)		
	1991 Juvenile	1991 Adult	1991 Total
Alabama	1,071	3,018	4,089
Alaska	180	390	570
Arizona	1,010	2,740	3,750
Arkansas	626	1,746	2,372
California	8,163	22,217	30,380
Colorado	883	2,494	3,377
Connecticut	764	2,527	3,291
Delaware	168	512	680
District of Columbia	121	477	598
Florida	2,998	10,279	13,277
Georgia	1,775	4,848	6,623
Hawaii	288	847	1,135
Idaho	318	721	1,039
Illinois	2,998	8,545	11,543
Indiana	1,465	4,145	5,610
Iowa	725	2,070	2,795
Kansas	672	1,823	2,495
Kentucky	959	2,754	3,713
Louisiana	1,233	3,019	4,252
Maine	310	925	1,235
Maryland	1,201	3,659	4,860
Massachusetts	1,374	4,622	5,996
Michigan	2,484	6,884	9,368
Minnesota	1,189	3,243	4,432
Mississippi	751	1,841	2,592
Missouri	1,340	3,818	5,158
Montana	224	584	808
Nebraska	435	1,158	1,593
Nevada	321	963	1,284
New Hampshire	280	825	1,105
New Jersey	1,842	5,918	7,760
New Mexico	458	1,090	1,548
New York	4,366	13,692	18,058
North Carolina	1,643	5,094	6,737
North Dakota	173	462	635
Ohio	2,819	8,120	10,939
Oklahoma	845	2,330	3,175
Oregon	748	2,174	2,922
Pennsylvania	2,830	9,131	11,961
Puerto Rico	1,155	2,367	3,522
Rhode Island	230	774	1,004
South Carolina	938	2,622	3,560
South Dakota	200	503	703
Tennessee	1,230	3,723	4,953
Texas	4,969	12,380	17,349

(continued on next page)

State Populations (continued)

Resident Population, 1991

State or territory	Population (in thousands)		
	1991 Juvenile	1991 Adult	1991 Total
Utah	642	1,128	1,770
Vermont	145	422	567
Virginia	1,539	4,747	6,286
Washington	1,315	3,703	5,018
West Virginia	437	1,364	1,801
Wisconsin	1,311	3,644	4,955
Wyoming	136	324	460

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Press Release CB91-100, March 11, 1991.

Total State Population for Trend Tables, 1985-91

State or territory	Population (in thousands)						
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Alabama	4,021	4,053	4,083	4,103	4,119	4,041	4,089
Alaska	521	533	525	523	527	550	570
Arizona	3,187	3,319	3,386	3,489	3,557	3,665	3,750
Arkansas	2,359	2,372	2,388	2,394	2,407	2,351	2,372
California	26,365	26,981	27,663	28,315	29,064	29,760	30,380
Colorado	3,231	3,267	3,296	3,301	3,316	3,294	3,377
Connecticut	3,174	3,189	3,211	3,235	3,239	3,287	3,291
Delaware	622	633	644	660	672	666	680
District of Columbia	626	625	622	618	604	607	598
Florida	11,366	11,675	12,023	12,335	12,671	12,938	13,277
Georgia	5,976	6,104	6,222	6,342	6,436	6,478	6,623
Hawaii	1,054	1,063	1,083	1,099	1,112	1,108	1,135
Idaho	1,005	1,002	998	1,003	1,014	1,007	1,039
Illinois	11,535	11,551	11,582	11,612	11,658	11,431	11,543
Indiana	5,499	5,503	5,531	5,555	5,593	5,544	5,610
Iowa	2,884	2,850	2,834	2,834	2,838	2,777	2,795
Kansas	2,450	2,460	2,476	2,495	2,513	2,478	2,495
Kentucky	3,726	3,729	3,727	3,726	3,727	3,685	3,713
Louisiana	4,481	4,502	4,461	4,407	4,383	4,220	4,252
Maine	1,164	1,173	1,187	1,205	1,222	1,228	1,235
Maryland	4,392	4,463	4,535	4,624	4,694	4,781	4,860
Massachusetts	5,822	5,832	5,855	5,888	5,912	6,016	5,996
Michigan	9,088	9,144	9,200	9,239	9,274	9,295	9,368
Minnesota	4,193	4,214	4,246	4,307	4,352	4,375	4,432
Mississippi	2,613	2,625	2,625	2,620	2,621	2,573	2,592
Missouri	5,029	5,066	5,103	5,142	5,160	5,117	5,158
Montana	826	819	809	805	805	799	808
Nebraska	1,606	1,597	1,594	1,602	1,611	1,578	1,593
Nevada	936	964	1,007	1,054	1,109	1,202	1,284
New Hampshire	998	1,027	1,057	1,086	1,106	1,109	1,105
New Jersey	7,562	7,620	7,672	7,720	7,736	7,730	7,760
New Mexico	1,450	1,479	1,500	1,506	1,528	1,515	1,548
New York	17,783	17,772	17,825	17,910	17,950	17,990	18,058
North Carolina	6,255	6,334	6,413	6,490	6,570	6,629	6,737
North Dakota	685	679	672	667	661	639	635
Ohio	10,744	10,753	10,784	10,855	10,908	10,847	10,939
Oklahoma	3,301	3,305	3,272	3,241	3,223	3,146	3,175
Oregon	2,687	2,698	2,724	2,766	2,820	2,842	2,922
Pennsylvania	11,853	11,888	11,936	12,001	12,039	11,882	11,961
Puerto Rico	3,267	3,267	3,274	3,294	3,291	3,521	3,522
Rhode Island	968	975	986	993	996	1,003	1,004
South Carolina	3,347	3,376	3,425	3,471	3,512	3,487	3,560
South Dakota	708	708	709	713	716	696	703
Tennessee	4,762	4,803	4,855	4,896	4,939	4,877	4,953
Texas	16,370	16,685	16,789	16,840	16,991	16,987	17,349
Utah	1,645	1,665	1,680	1,688	1,707	1,723	1,770
Vermont	535	541	548	557	566	563	567
Virginia	5,706	5,787	5,904	6,016	6,097	6,187	6,286
Washington	4,409	4,463	4,538	4,648	4,760	4,867	5,018
West Virginia	1,936	1,919	1,897	1,876	1,857	1,793	1,801
Wisconsin	4,775	4,785	4,807	4,854	4,867	4,892	4,955
Wyoming	509	507	490	479	474	454	460

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1992.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS FROM THE COURT STATISTICS PROJECT



The following publications are available from the
National Center for State Courts, 300 Newport
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State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1984

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276 pages, 25 oz., paperback, \$6.25, plus shipping.

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278 pages, 24 oz., paperback, \$6.95, plus shipping.

State Court Caseload Statistics: Annual Report 1987

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266 pages, 21 oz., paperback, \$6.95, plus shipping.

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306 pages, 32 oz., paperback, \$6.95, plus shipping.

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292 pages, 32 oz., paperback, \$6.95, plus shipping.

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Available caseload information from all appellate and
trial courts are presented in this report. 1991, 316
pages, 34 oz., paperback, \$6.95, plus shipping.

***Court Case Management Information Systems
Manual***

This manual reviews local and statewide case
management information requirements and presents
sets of model data elements, data collection forms
and case management output reports for each level
of court. 1983, 342 pages, 29 oz., paperback,
\$15.00, plus shipping.

The Business of State Trial Courts

Defining courts business as cases filed, serious
cases, and contested cases, this monograph tests
six myths about courts, their work and decisions.
1983, 158 pages, 14 oz., paperback. Single copies
are available free of charge.

State Court Organization 1987

Updates the 1980 reference guide to the organiza-
tion and practices of all state appellate and trial
courts. 1988, 420 pages, 43 oz., paperback, \$9.95,
plus shipping.

State Court Model Annual Report

Suggested formats to be used in preparing state
court annual reports. Discusses topics to be consid-
ered for inclusion in court reports. 1980, 88 pages.
Single copies are available through the National
Center for State Courts library.

***1984 State Appellate Court Jurisdiction Guide for
Statistical Reporting***

Contains information on the organizations, jurisdic-
tion, and time standards in the state appellate courts.
1985, 117 pages. Single copies are available for
loan through the National Center for State Courts
library.

State Court Model Statistical Dictionary, 1989

Contains definitions of terms used to classify an
count court caseload. Gives the court statistical
usage for each term. Merges the 1980 edition and
1984 *Supplement*, defines new terms. 1989, 90
pages, 11 oz., paperback, \$4.50, plus shipping.