

INTRODUCTION

This report, The Arizona Courts: Data Report for FY 2003, Volume II, presents caseload, revenue, expenditure, and personnel information, both statewide summaries and detailed information on individual limited jurisdiction courts. It is intended to supplement the Report of the Arizona Judicial Department 2003 for persons and agencies who are interested in or involved with budgeting, planning, and administration of Arizona courts. The term "FY 2003" in this report refers to the period beginning July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2003. All tables reflect this fiscal year period.

The sections in this volume include a summary of the **Limited Jurisdiction Courts, Justice of the Peace Courts, and Municipal Courts**. If you are interested in obtaining The Arizona Courts: Data Report for FY 2003, Volume I, which covers **Appellate and Superior Court (including adult and juvenile probation)**, please contact the Court Programs Unit or visit www.supreme.state.az.us/stats. For easy reference, each section is identified by the appropriate heading located near the bottom of each divider page.

Caseload statistics are compiled from monthly statistical reports submitted to the Supreme Court by the individual Justice of the Peace and Municipal Courts. Incomplete or inconsistent information, where detected, is footnoted. **While the statistics are checked for mathematical accuracy, they are not audited by the Supreme Court.**

In Arizona, Municipal Courts are required by statute in incorporated cities and towns. They are also known as "city courts" or "magistrate courts". Municipal Courts have criminal jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes and petty offenses committed in their city or town. They also have shared jurisdiction with the Justice of the Peace Courts over violations of state law committed within their city or town limits. Municipal Court judges (magistrates) hear criminal and civil traffic cases and violations of city ordinances and codes, but they do not hear civil cases. They can also issue search warrants and handle domestic violence and harassment cases.

Justice of the Peace Court precincts have geographical boundaries established by the board of supervisors in each county, and follow voting precincts. Generally speaking, Justice of the Peace precincts are larger than city or town limits, and typically incorporate an entire city or town, and pieces of other communities as well, except in Phoenix and Tucson. Justice of the Peace Courts hear traffic cases and certain civil and criminal cases and can also issue search warrants and handle domestic violence and harassment cases. Their civil jurisdiction is limited to cases involving claims of \$10,000 or less and have concurrent jurisdiction with Superior Court for civil cases between \$5,000 and \$10,000.