

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

Narrative Summary

Justice Courts experienced an increase in total filings (including transfers in) in FY 2007, from 885,472 to 916,666. This is an increase of 3.5% total filings. Beginning in FY 1996, Justice Courts reported Non-Criminal Local Ordinances as a separate category. Many of these were reported as part of other categories in the previous years, but their numbers are not comparatively large.

Traffic filings (criminal and civil), which accounted for 61.2% of the workload in Justice Courts, went from 536,877 to 561,399, a 4.6% increase from FY 2006 to FY 2007. Non-Traffic criminal filings (misdemeanors and felonies) decreased 5.6%, from 155,334 last year to 146,650 in FY 2007. Civil filings increased from 191,223 in FY 2006 to 206,254 this year, an increase of 7.9%.

Petitions for orders of protection relating to domestic violence decreased this year by 4.9%, from 11,723 in FY 2006 to 11,152. In FY 2007, petitions for injunctions against harassment increased from 10,803 in FY 2006 to 10,943 in FY 2007. This is an increase of 1.3%.

Total dispositions (including transfers out) increased by 4.1%, from 871,255 last year to 906,697 in FY 2007. Criminal and civil traffic dispositions together increased by 5.8%, from 536,822 to 567,827. Criminal dispositions (misdemeanors and felonies) decreased by 14.0%, from 162,002 in FY 2006 to 139,242 in FY 2007. Civil dispositions increased by 16.2%, from 170,015 to 197,517.

Total end of year pending cases increased from 651,888 in FY 2006 to 673,748 in FY 2007, an increase of 3.4%. Most of the increase was in criminal misdemeanor cases, which increased from 256,632 in FY 2006 to 273,696 in FY 2007, an increase of 6.6%.