

Arizona Judicial Branch Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2014 Caseload and Financial Highlights

Statewide

- ❖ The Arizona Judicial Branch comprised 1.25% of the overall state budget.
- ❖ Arizona's courts handled an average of 8,477 new cases each business day.
- ❖ Arizona's courts handled an average of 45 Jury Trials and an average of 254 Non-Jury Trials each week.
- ❖ Arizona's courts reduced their pending caseload - cases awaiting a final disposition - by 129,915 cases compared to the 2013 fiscal year.
- ❖ Over 79,000 defendants report to Arizona's Adult Probation Departments.
- ❖ Statewide, there were 2,127,823 case filings in FY 2014 in the Arizona Courts (Appellate, Superior, Tax, Justice and Municipal Courts) resulting in 9,742 more filings compared to FY 2013, an increase of 0.5%. That equates to an average of 8,477 cases filed among the Arizona courts every working day.
- ❖ Statewide, case filings increased by 0.5%, while revenue decreased by 1.7%. The trend in decreasing revenue continues to be driven by the overall decline in both criminal and civil traffic in the limited jurisdiction courts.

Fiscal Year 2014 Caseload and Financial Highlights

General Jurisdiction

- ❖ Superior Court case filings increased by 0.6% statewide. In Maricopa county, filings increased by 1.8%, while Pima county and the rural counties reported a decreases of 3.2% and 0.7%, respectively. The statewide increase was driven by increased filings in the Criminal and Domestic Relations case type categories, while the remaining categories experienced a decreased filings.
- ❖ Superior Court mental health filings decreased by 2.8% from FY 2013 to FY 2014. During the same period, terminations of mental health cases increased by 29.3%.
- ❖ Within Superior Court, the case type categories with the most significant case filing increase include; Felony (8.8%), other domestic relations (7.7%), Tort-Motor Vehicle (9.6%), adoption (9.1%) and juvenile dependency (8.0%).
- ❖ Superior Court criminal jury trials increased by 14.2% in FY 2014 when compared with FY 2013
- ❖ In FY 2014, juvenile dependency filings increased by 8.0% compared to FY 2013 and 82.7% when compared to FY 2011. During the same period, juvenile delinquency filings decreased by 10.1% and 32.5%, respectively.

Limited Jurisdiction

- ❖ Statewide, civil traffic case filings account for 56.5% of all case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts. Civil traffic filings decreased by 3,990, or 0.4% from FY 2013 to FY 2014.
- ❖ There were 66,831 DUI charges filed in Justice and Municipal Courts. This represents a decrease of 4,507 case filings from FY 2013, or a 6.3% decrease. (Case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are primarily counted by charge, not by defendant).
- ❖ Justice Courts reduced the pending caseload by 5.4%.
- ❖ Over 859,000 criminal and civil traffic filings were filed into municipal courts across the state during the 2014 fiscal year. These filing types make up about three quarters of the municipal court cases.

Judiciary Organizational Chart

Supreme Court

5 Justices, 6-year terms
Chief Justice, Vice Chief Justice
3 Associate Justices

Court of Appeals

22 Judges, 6-year terms

Division I, Phoenix Chief Judge & 15 Associate Judges Counties: Apache, Coconino, La Paz, Maricopa, Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, Yuma	Division II, Tucson Chief Judge & 5 Associate Judges Counties: Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz
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Superior Court

180 Judges, 4-year terms
Presiding Judge in each county

Apache	1	Greenlee	1	Pima	30
Cochise	5	La Paz	1	Pinal	10
Coconino	5	Maricopa	98	Santa Cruz	2
Gila	2	Mohave	7	Yavapai	7
Graham	1	Navajo	4	Yuma	6

In addition to the judicial positions listed above, there are approximately 111 full-time and part-time judges pro tempore, commissioners and hearing officers in the Superior Court.

Justice of the Peace Courts

88 Judges, 88 Precincts, 4-year terms

Apache	4	Mohave	5
Cochise	6	Navajo	6
Coconino	4	Pima	10
Gila	2	Pinal	8
Graham	2	Santa Cruz	2
Greenlee	2	Yavapai	5
La Paz	3	Yuma	3
Maricopa	26		

Municipal Courts

154 Full- and Part-time Judges, varying terms

	Judges	Courts		Judges	Courts
Apache	3	3	Mohave	5	4
Cochise	5	5	Navajo	4	4
Coconino	5	4	Pima	17	5
Gila	7	6	Pinal	9	9
Graham	3	3	Santa Cruz	2	2
Greenlee	1	1	Yavapai	12	9
La Paz	2	2	Yuma	5	4
Maricopa	75	23			

FY 2014 Case Filings by Court Level

APPELLATE	
COURT LEVEL	CASE FILINGS
SUPREME COURT	1,037
DIVISION ONE	2,630
DIVISION TWO	782
TOTAL	4,449

TRENDS

- * Appellate Court case filings decreased by 256 (5.4%).
- * General Jurisdiction Court case filings increased by 892 (0.4%).
- * Limited Jurisdiction Court case filings increased by 9,106 (0.5%).

GENERAL JURISDICTION	
COUNTY	CASE FILINGS
APACHE	854
COCHISE	3,118
COCONINO	3,085
GILA	1,608
GRAHAM	1,306
GREENLEE	332
LA PAZ	640
MARICOPA	131,193
MOHAVE	6,638
NAVAJO	2,813
PIMA	27,309
PINAL	9,212
SANTA CRUZ	1,404
YAVAPAI	6,270
YUMA	5,388
TAX COURT	1,104
TOTAL	202,274

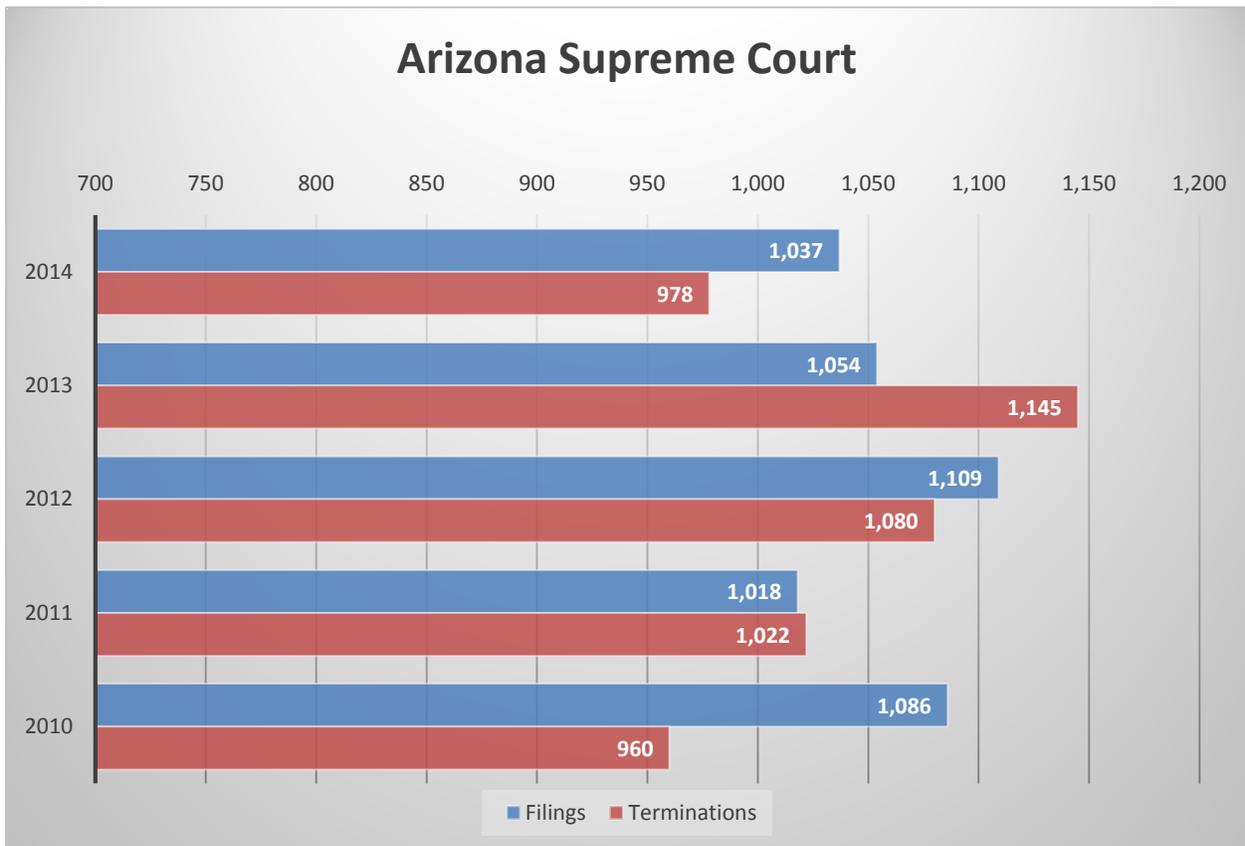
LIMITED JURISDICTION CASE FILINGS		
COUNTY	JUSTICE	MUNICIPAL
APACHE	7,737	1,413
COCHISE	40,354	4,100
COCONINO	23,446	19,768
GILA	10,048	21,031
GRAHAM	4,163	2,740
GREENLEE	3,589	645
LA PAZ	11,098	1,634
MARICOPA	315,070	743,807
MOHAVE	33,796	17,098
NAVAJO	29,847	11,040
PIMA	148,029	280,364
PINAL	46,061	25,441
SANTA CRUZ	9,737	9,080
YAVAPAI	32,864	29,808
YUMA	17,013	20,279
TOTAL	732,852	1,188,248

- Cases filed include original filings and transfers in.
- General Jurisdiction cases are counted by defendant.
- Limited Jurisdiction cases are counted by charge when filed by citation and by defendant when filed by long-form complaint.

ANNUAL CASE ACTIVITY SUMMARIES, FY 2013 – FY 2014

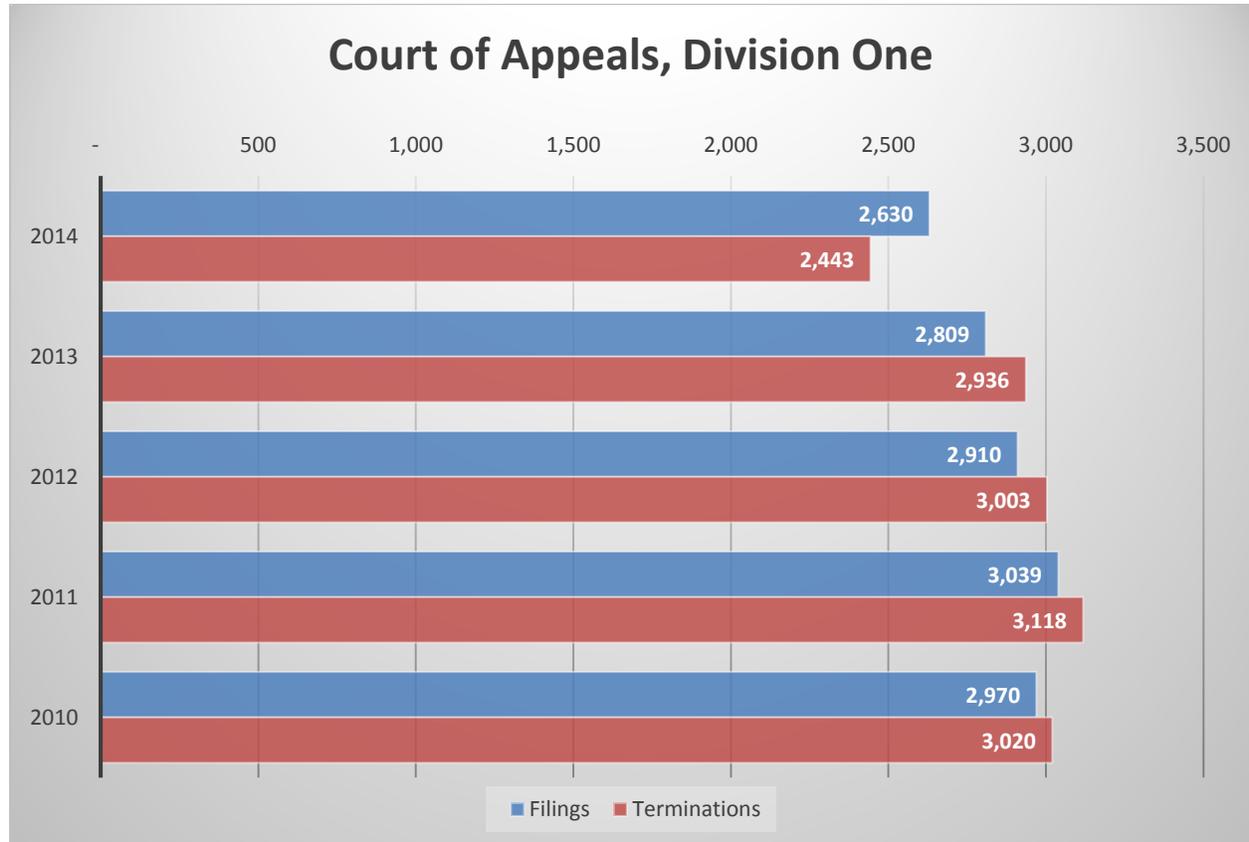
ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

- ❖ Supreme Court case filings decreased 1.6% from FY 2013 to FY 2014.
- ❖ Cases terminated by the court in FY 2014 decreased 14.6% over case terminations in FY 2013.
- ❖ The difference between filings and terminations resulted in a pending caseload increase of 18.6%. There were 334 pending cases on July 1, 2013, compared to 396 pending cases on June 30, 2014.



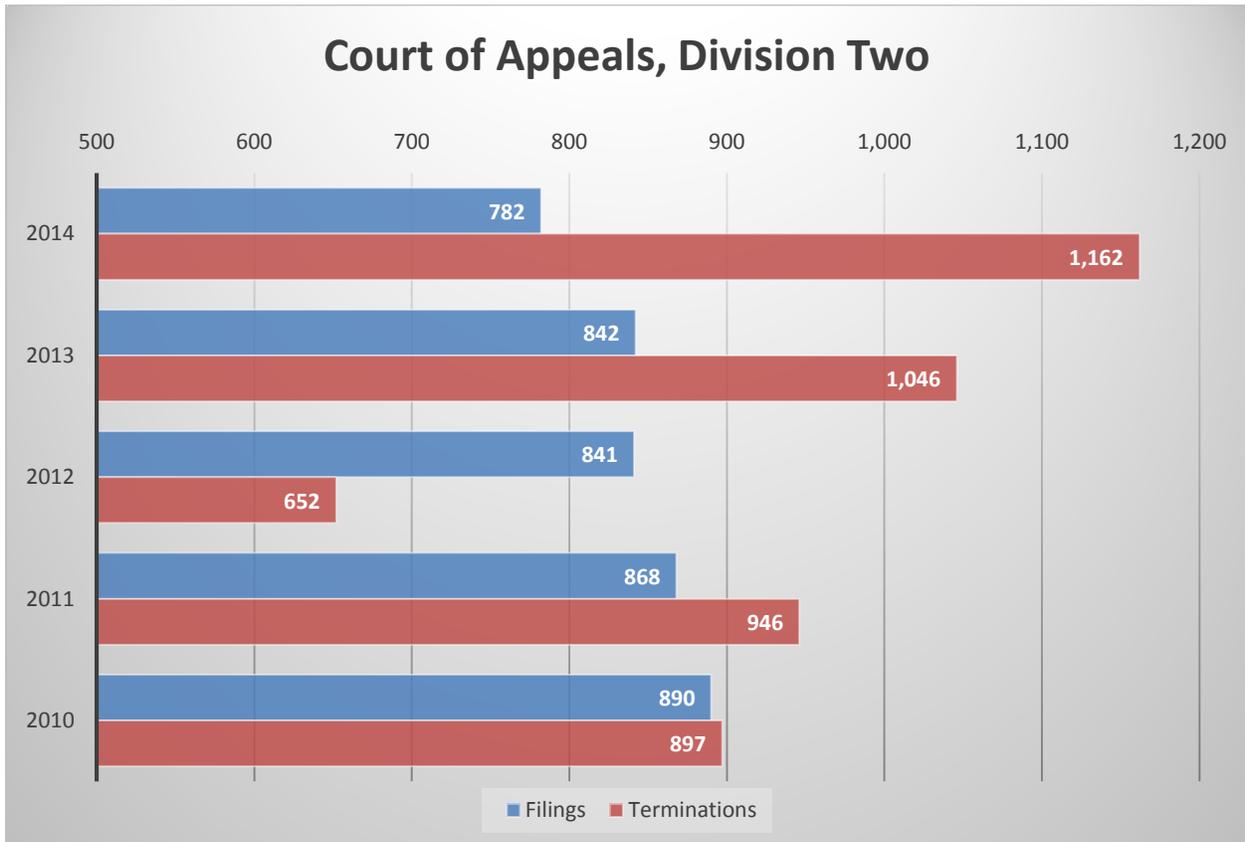
COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION ONE

- ❖ Total filings during FY 2014 represented a 6.4% decrease from FY 2013.
- ❖ Case terminations decreased by 16.8% in FY 2014.
- ❖ Pending caseload increased by 2.8%, from 2,051 on July 1, 2013 to 2,108 on June 30, 2014.



COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION TWO

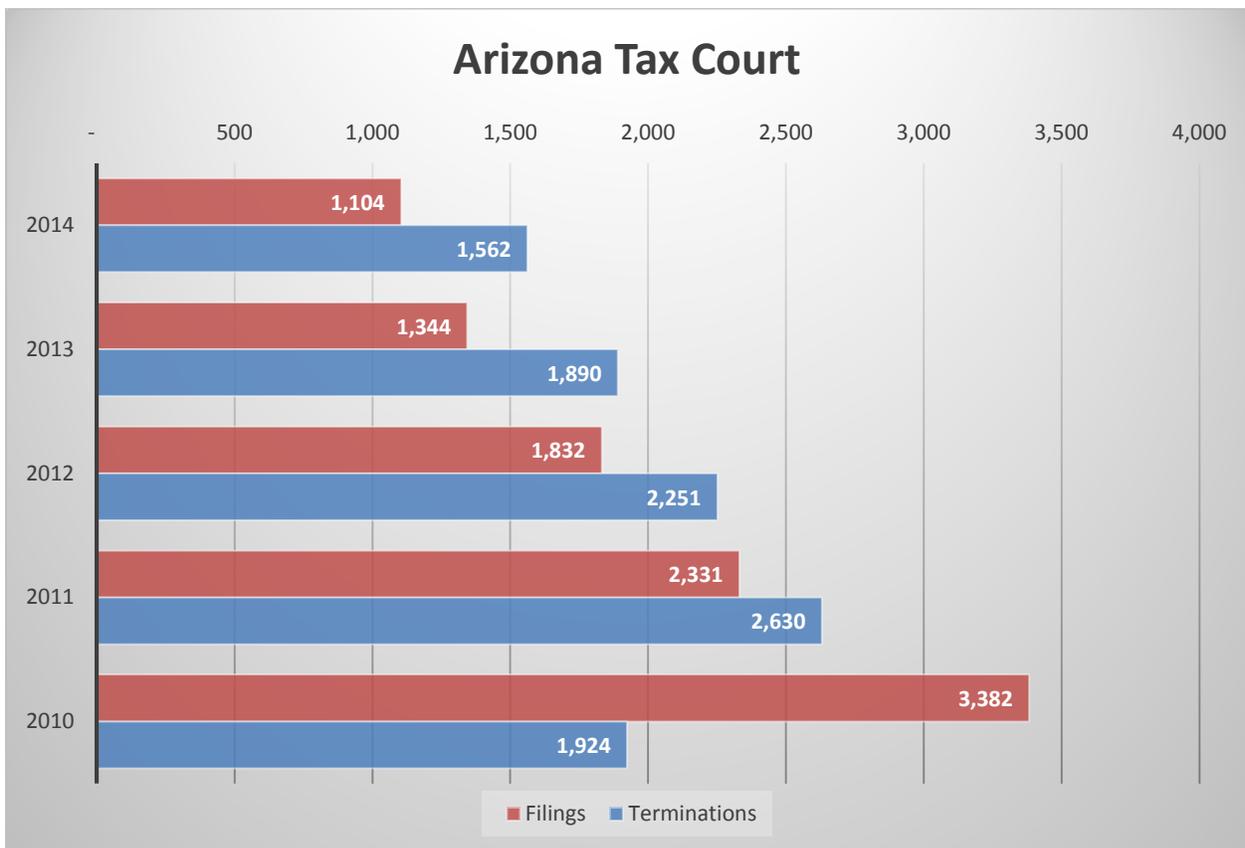
- ❖ Total filings decreased 7.1% from 842 in FY 2013 to 782 in FY 2014. Criminal filings, the largest category, comprising 30.7% of the filings decreased 4.0% from 250 in FY 2013 to 240 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Case terminations increased by 11.1% in FY 2014.
- ❖ Pending caseload decreased by 24.6%, from 870 on July 1, 2013 to 656 on June 30, 2014.



ARIZONA TAX COURT

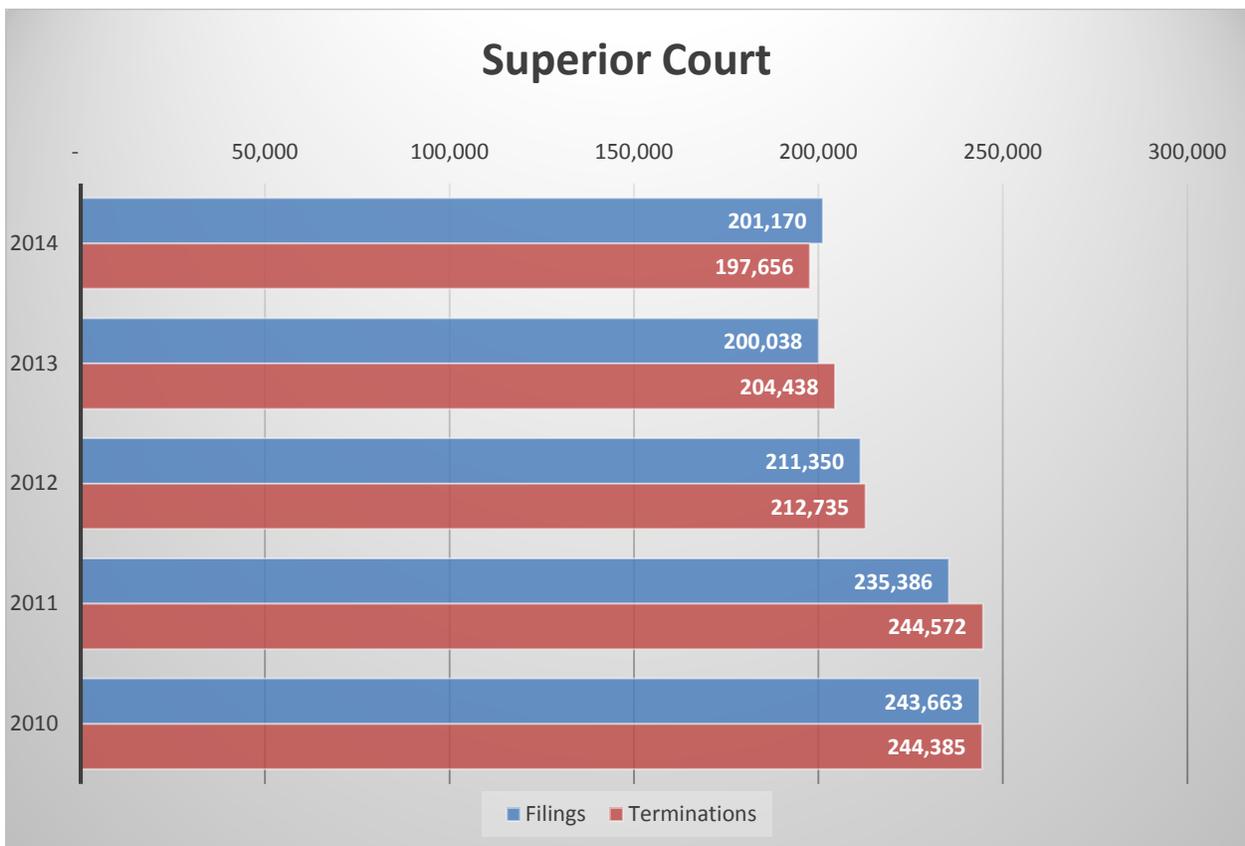
The Arizona Tax Court serves as the statewide venue for all civil actions involving a tax, impost or assessment.

- ❖ A total of 1,104 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2014, a decrease of 17.9% from the 1,344 cases filed in FY 2013.
- ❖ Of the 1,104 FY 2014 original cases filed, 922 were property tax actions, accounting for 83.5% of the total original filings.
- ❖ A total of 1,562 cases were terminated, 715 or 45.8% by judgment. Cases terminated by judgment decreased 16.1% from FY 2013.
- ❖ As of June 30, 2014, there were 786 cases pending in the tax court. Total cases pending decreased 34.2% from FY 2013.



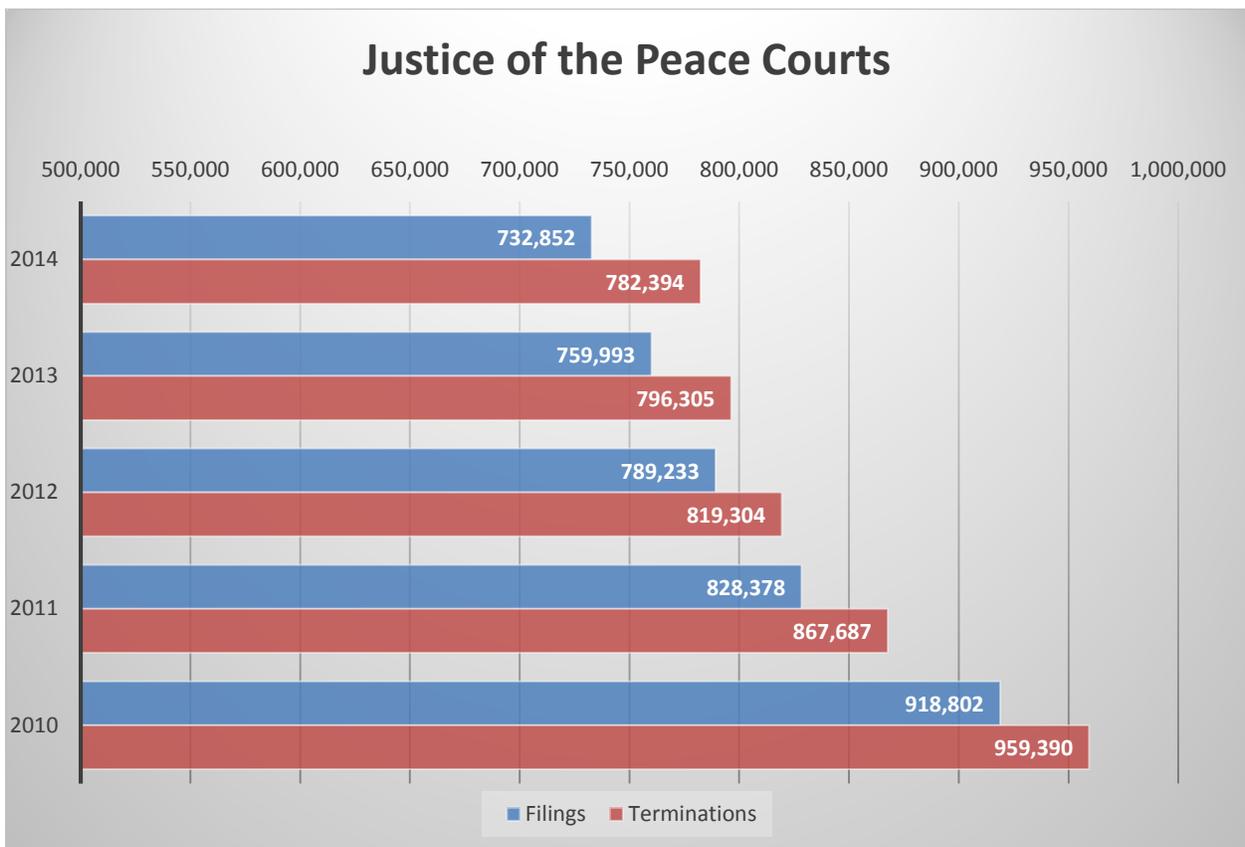
SUPERIOR COURT

- ❖ In FY 2014, total case filings increased by 0.6% from FY 2013.
- ❖ Total case terminations decreased by 3.3% during the same period.
- ❖ Criminal case filings increased 7.6% from 48,654 in FY 2013 to 52,363 in FY 2014. Criminal case terminations increased by 10.2% during the same period from 49,782 to 54,847.
- ❖ Domestic relations cases increased 3.0% from 49,860 in FY 2013 to 51,354 in FY 2014, and domestic relations case terminations increased 1.2% from 50,259 to 50,860. Domestic violence petition filings decreased 2.9% in Superior Court from 12,021 to 12,364 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Civil case filings decreased 5.6% from 62,770 in FY 2013 to 59,267 in FY 2014. During the same period, civil case terminations also decreased 11.8% from 65,148 to 57,431.
- ❖ There were 204,784 total cases pending on July 1, 2013, compared with 209,410 cases pending on June 30, 2014, an increase of 2.3%.
- ❖ Juvenile cases with direct filings to adult court decreased 22.2% from 257 in FY 2013 to 200 in FY 2014. Juvenile cases transferred to adult court decreased 14.3%, from 14 in FY 2013 to 12 in FY 2014. A total of 212 juvenile cases were either transferred or directly filed in adult court in FY 2014 compared to 271 in FY 2013, a decrease of 21.8%.



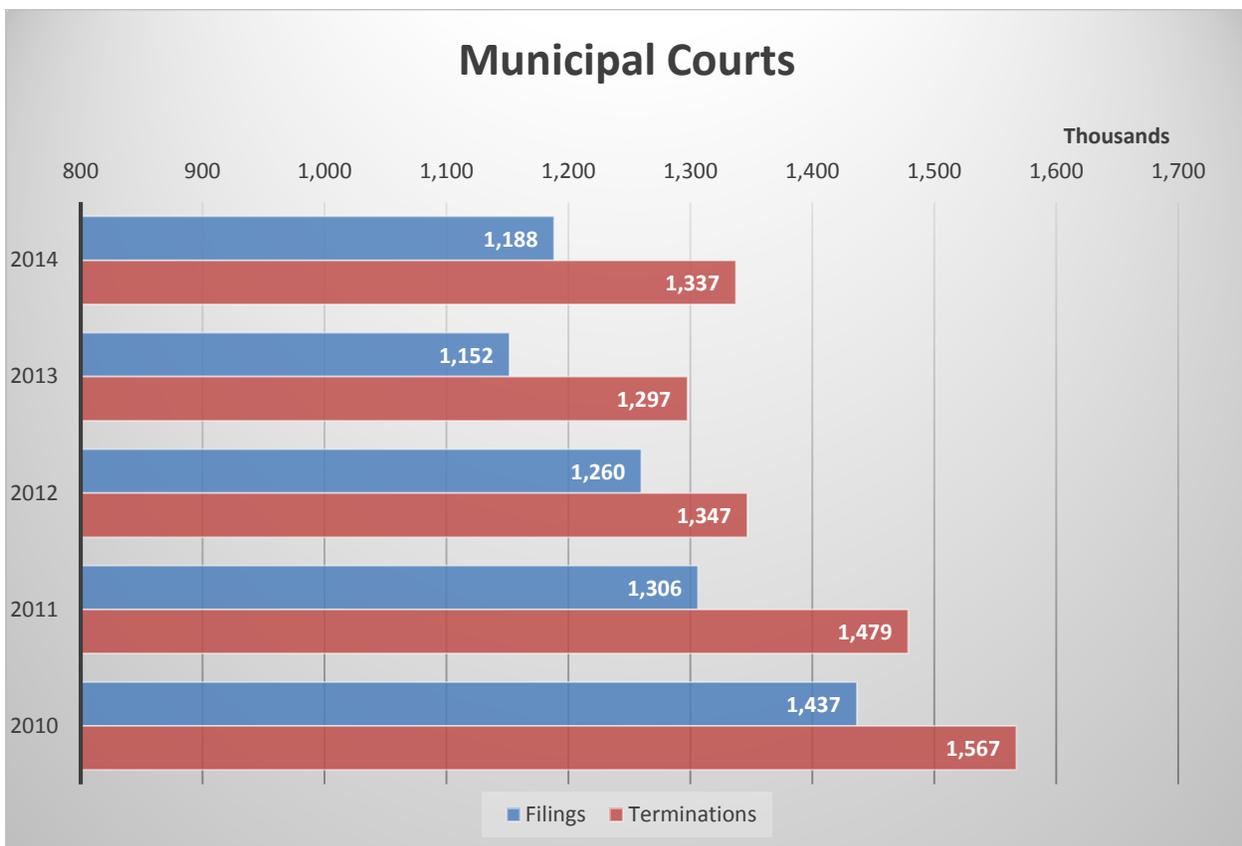
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

- ❖ Total filings in Justice Courts decreased from 759,993 in FY 2013 to 732,852 in FY 2014, a decrease of 3.6%.
- ❖ During the same period, case terminations decreased 1.7% from 796,305 in FY 2013 to 782,394 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Criminal and civil traffic filings, which comprise almost two-thirds of all justice court filings, decreased 5.2% from 450,455 in FY 2013 to 427,148 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings decreased 3.3% from 109,091 in FY 2013 to 105,543 in FY 2014. Criminal case terminations increased 1.4% from 115,627 in FY 2013 to 117,229 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Domestic Violence petition filings decreased 3.9% in justice courts, from 9,198 to 8,837. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment decreased 5.0% from 6,671 to 6,335.
- ❖ Total cases pending dropped by 5.4% from 615,281 on July 1, 2013 to 581,964 on June 30, 2014.



MUNICIPAL COURTS

- ❖ Case filings in FY 2014 increased 3.2% from FY 2013. Total case terminations increased 3.1% during the same period.
- ❖ Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise about three-fourths of all municipal court cases, increased 1.5%, from 846,377 in FY 2013 to 859,373 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Criminal misdemeanor case filings increased 7.9% from 211,174 in FY 2013 to 227,869 in FY 2014. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations increased 3.7% from 255,472 in FY 2013 to 264,874 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Domestic Violence petitions increased 2.5% from 12,927 in FY 2013 to 13,256 in FY 2014. Petitions for Injunctions against Harassment increased 1.6%, from 7,144 in FY 2013 to 7,256 in FY 2014.
- ❖ Total cases pending decreased 14.1%, from 713,520 on July 1, 2012 to 612,800 on June 30, 2014.



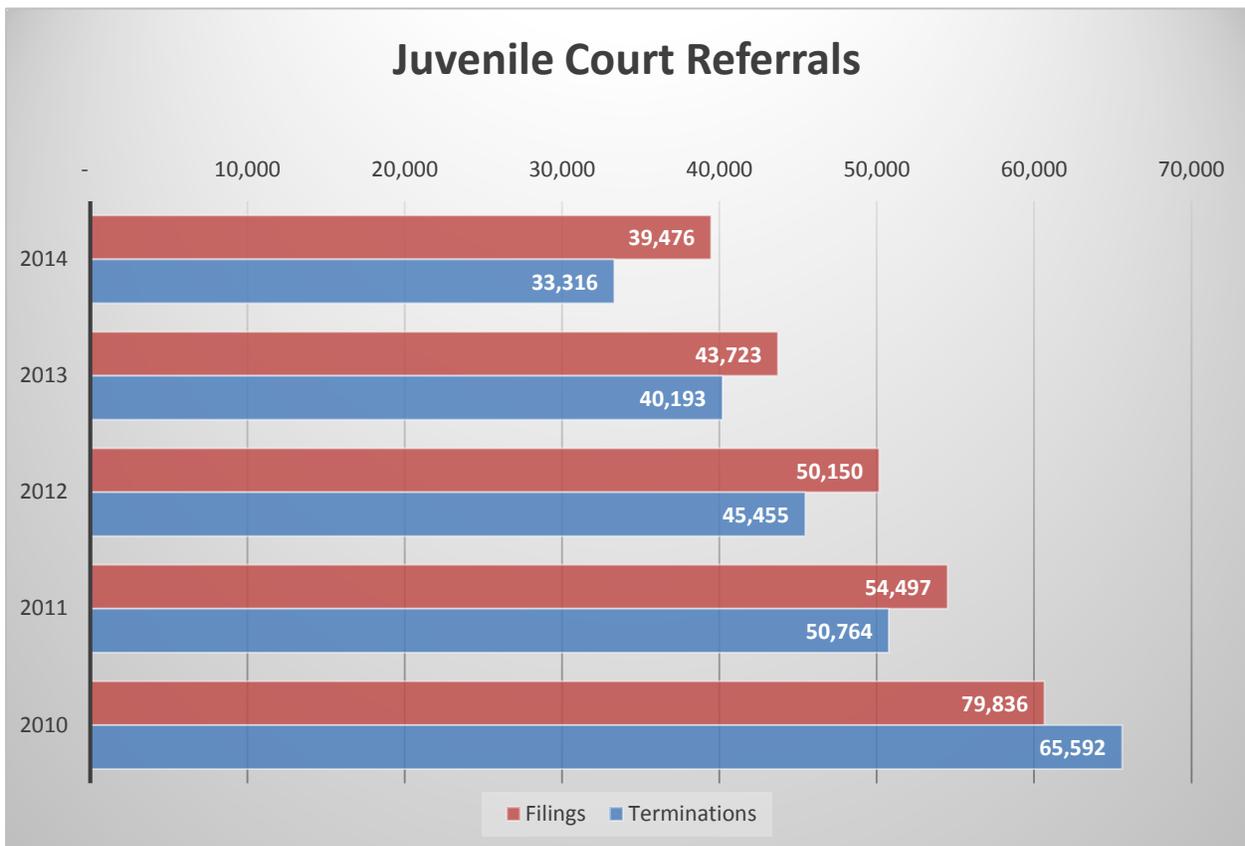
ADULT PROBATION

- ❖ The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2014 increased 0.9% from 78,499 on July 1, 2013 to 79,185 on June 30, 2014.
- ❖ Of the 79,185 individuals under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 41,614 were on standard probation (36,226 were under direct supervision in the state and 5,388 were under indirect supervision through interstate compact or long term residential treatment), 2,557 on intensive probation (2,373 were direct supervision and 184 were on indirect supervision), and 35,014 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc.).

JUVENILE COURT / PROBATION

JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS

- ❖ There were 39,476 referrals to juvenile court in FY 2014, a 9.7% decrease compared to 43,723 in the previous year.
- ❖ 33,316 referrals were terminated in FY 2014, a 17.1% decrease compared to the 40,193 referrals terminated in FY 2013.

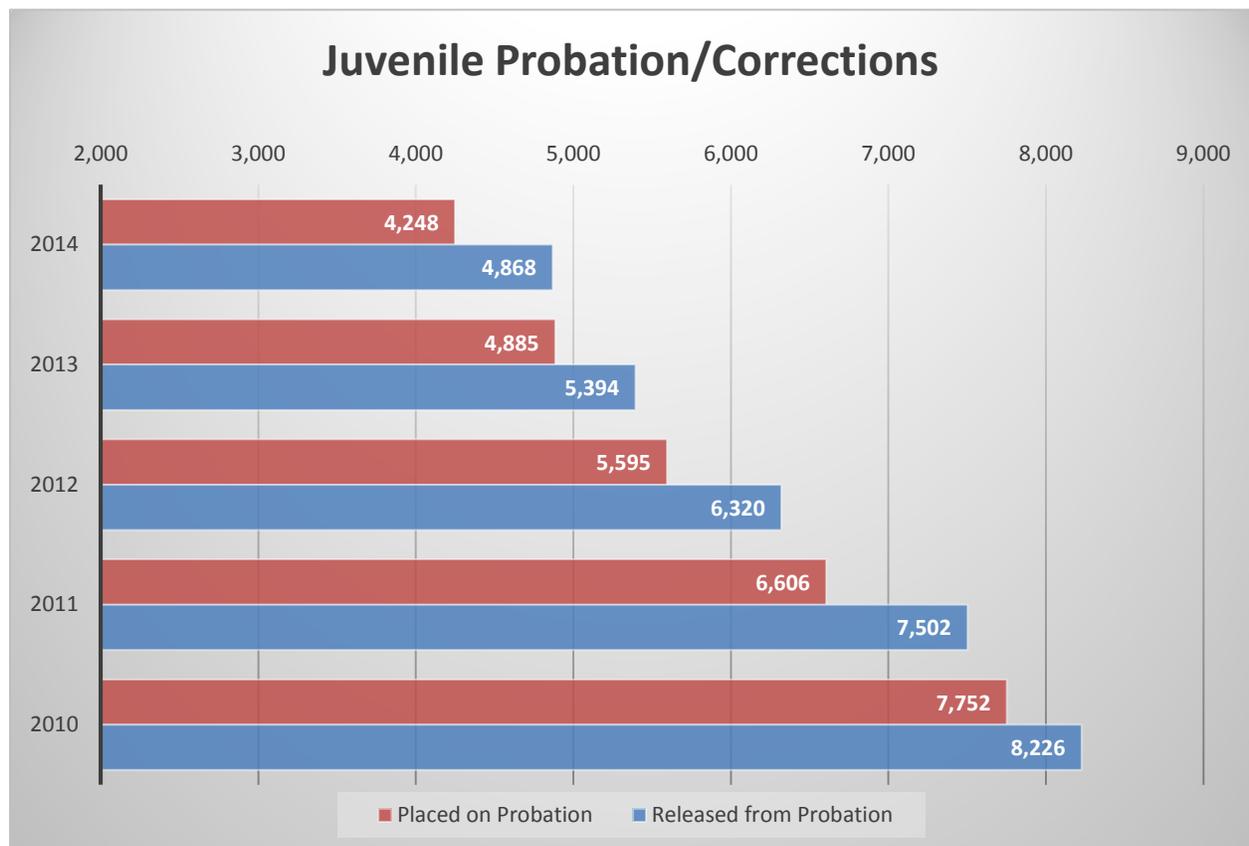


JUVENILE COURT PETITIONS

- ❖ A total of 14,953 petitions were filed in FY 2014, an 11.3% decrease from the 16,849 petitions filed in FY 2013.
- ❖ A total of 14,298 petitions were terminated in FY 2014, a 14.0% decrease from the 16,624 terminated in FY 2013.

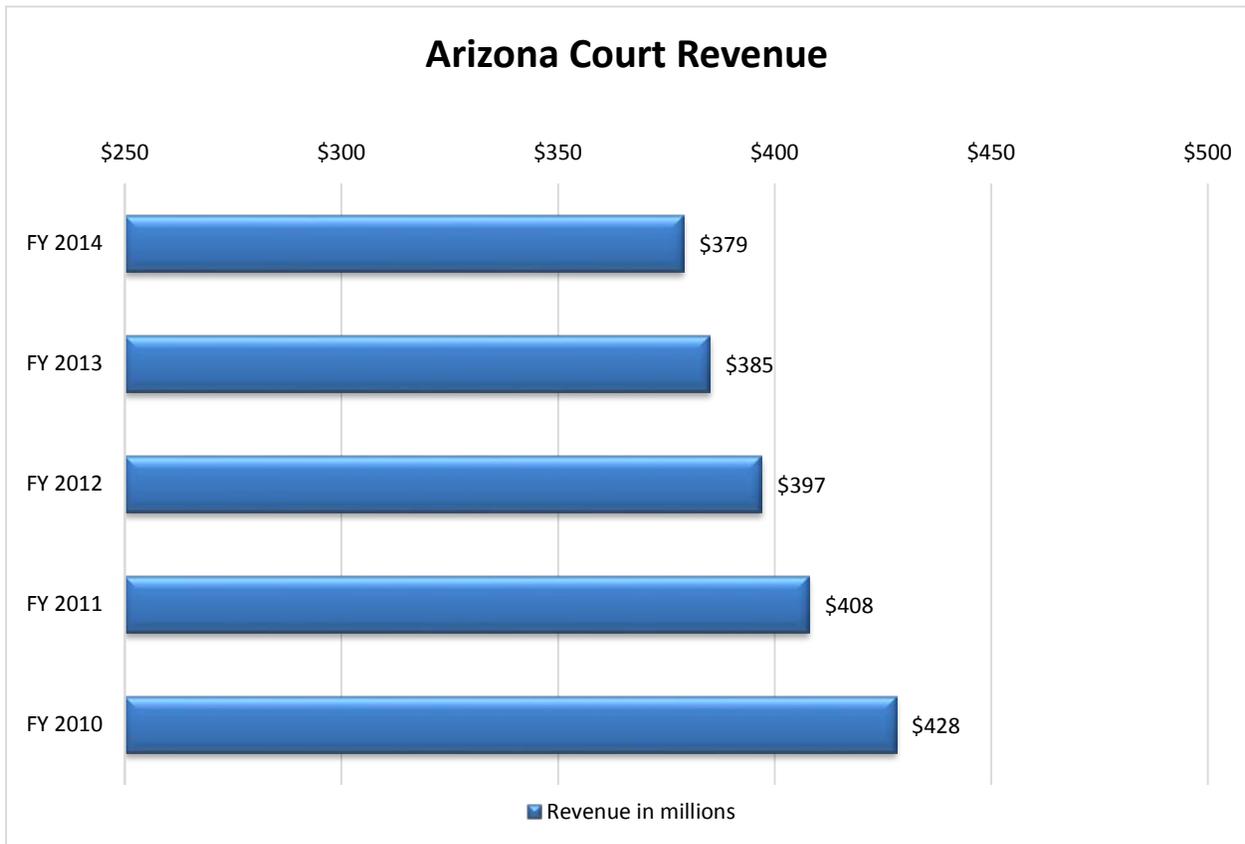
JUVENILE PROBATION/CORRECTIONS

- ❖ The number of juveniles on probation at the end of FY 2014 decreased 12.8% from 4,853 on July 1, 2013 to 4,233 on June 30, 2014.
- ❖ A total of 4,248 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2014, a 13.0% decrease from the 4,885 youths placed on probation in FY 2013.
- ❖ 4,868 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 9.8% from the 5,394 terminated last year.
- ❖ 470 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2014, a decrease of 0.6% from the 473 committed last year.

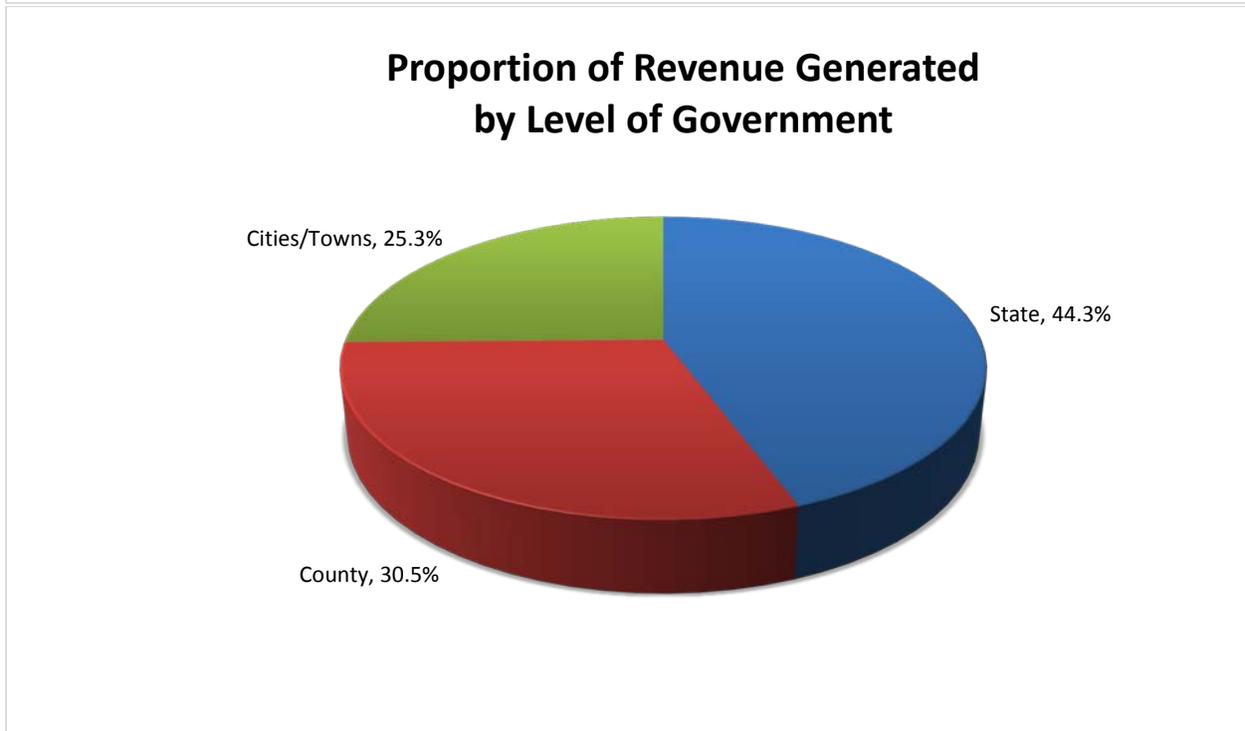
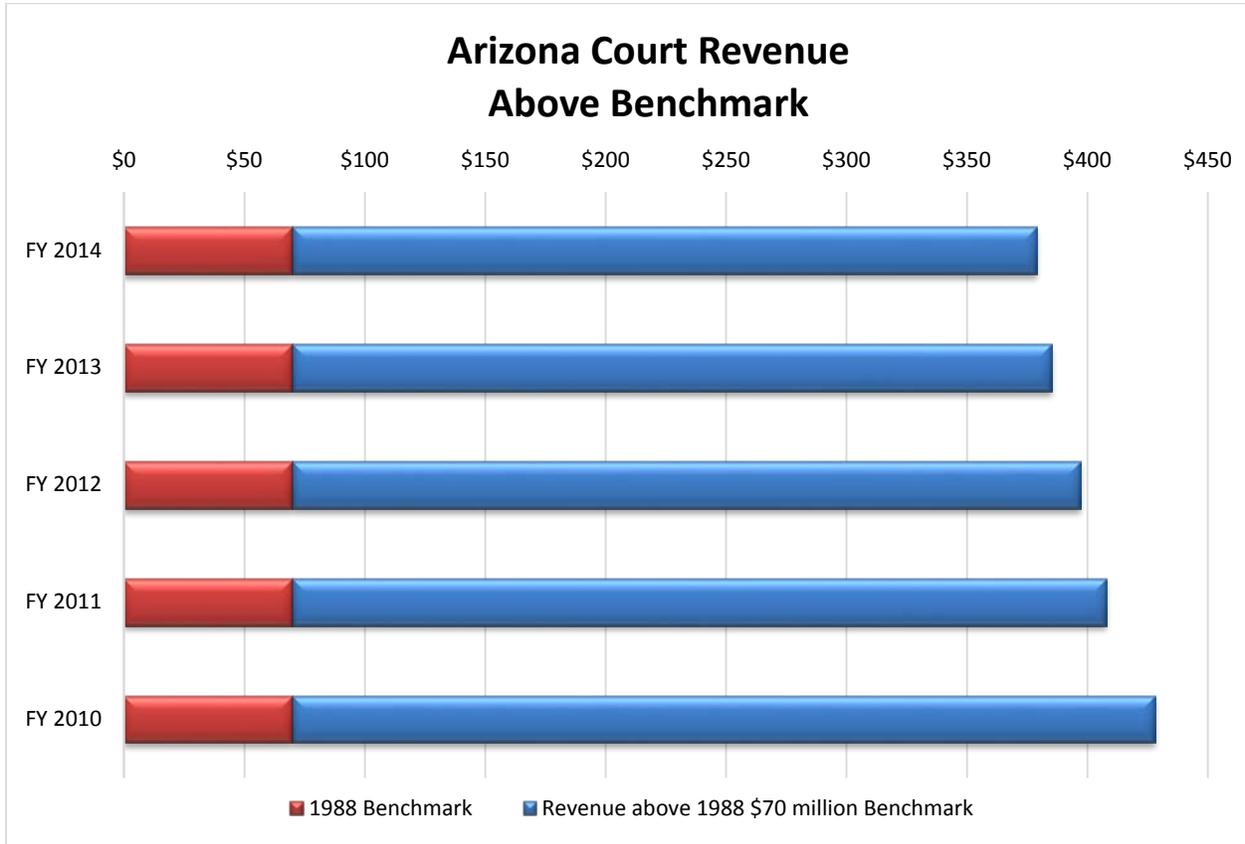


ANNUAL REVENUE SUMMARY

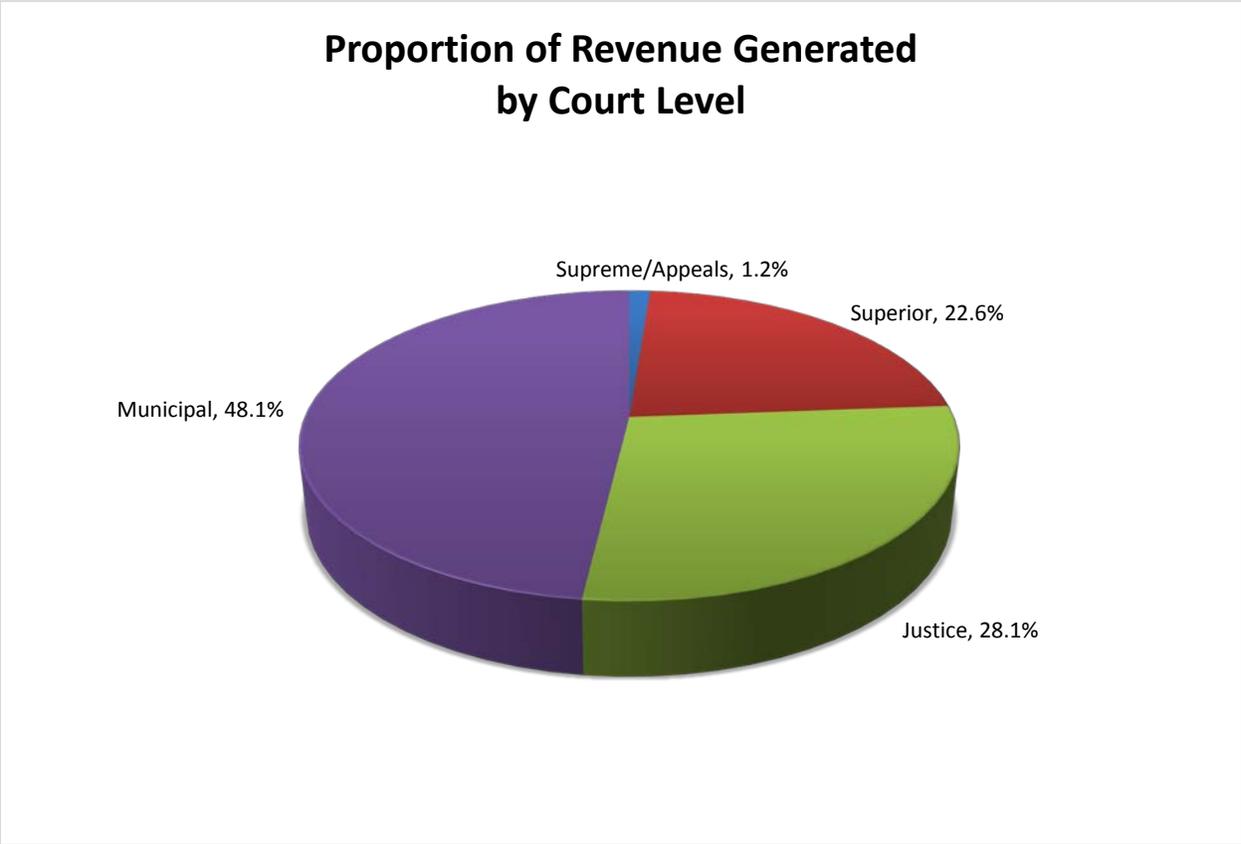
- ❖ Total statewide court revenue decreased 1.7% from \$385.4 million in FY 2013 to \$378.7 million in FY 2014. The decrease in revenue was driven by the overall decline in both criminal and civil traffic in the limited jurisdiction courts.



- ❖ The graph below represents the trend in increased court revenue above the \$70 million benchmark established in FY 1988. Since that time, courts have collected approximately \$4.437 billion in additional revenue.
- ❖ Of the total court system revenue, the state received 44.3 %, counties received 30.5% and cities and towns received 25.3%.

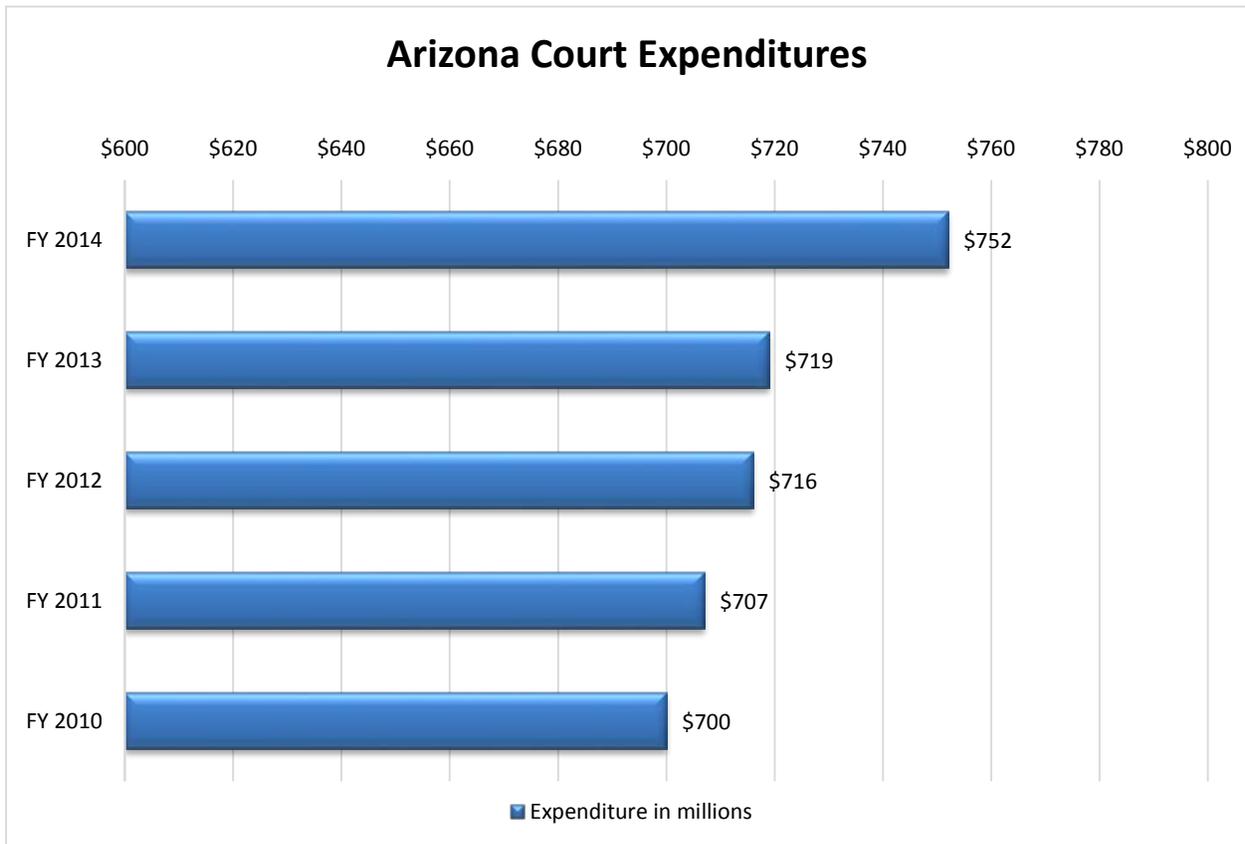


- ❖ 48.1% of total court revenue was generated by municipal courts, 28.1% by justice courts, 22.6% by Superior Court and 1.2% by appellate courts.
- ❖ Total restitution payments for victims collected increased by 9.5% from \$17.8 million in FY 2013 to \$19.5 million in FY 2014.



ANNUAL EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

- ❖ Total statewide court expenditures increased 4.6% from \$719.0 million in FY 2013 to \$752.4 million in FY 2014.



- ❖ 65.6% of the total funds spent by the court system were from the counties, 19.7% from the state, 13.3% from cities and towns, and 1.4% from federal and private sources.
- ❖ 69.1% of total court expenditures were in Superior Court (including probation), 13.3% in municipal courts, 10.6% at the appellate level and 7.0% in the justice courts.

