

## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS Narrative Summary

Justice Courts experienced an increase in total filings (including transfers in) in FY 2006, from 856,851 to 885,441. This is an increase of 3.3% 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 60.6% of the workload in Justice Courts, went from 525,815 to 536,874, a 2.1% increase from FY 2005 to FY 2006. Non-Traffic criminal filings (misdemeanors and felonies) increased 8.4%, from 143,299 last year to 155,306 in FY 2006. Civil filings increased from 185,160 in FY 2005 to 191,223 this year, an increase of 3.3%.

Petitions for orders of protection relating to domestic violence increased this year by 7.9%, from 10,866 in FY 2005 to 11,723. In FY 2006, petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased from 10,915 in FY 2005 to 10,803 in FY 2006. This is a decrease of 1.0%.

Total dispositions (including transfers out) increased by 12.1%, from 777,441 last year to 871,255 in FY 2006. Criminal and civil traffic dispositions together increased by 13.0%, from 474,995 to 536,822. Criminal dispositions (misdemeanors and felonies) increased by 19.4%, from 135,737 in FY 2005 to 162,002 in FY 2006. Civil dispositions increased by 3.6%, from 164,122 to 170,015.

Total end of year pending cases decreased from 665,613 in FY 2005 to 651,889 in FY 2006, a decrease of 2.1%. Most of the decrease was in criminal traffic cases, which decreased from 156,922 in FY 2005 to 137,744 in FY 2006, a decrease of 12.2%. However, civil cases showed an increase of 20.9%, from 74,988 in FY 2005 to 90,672 in FY 2006.