

# Arizona Judicial Branch

## Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009



# 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, LaPaz, Maricopa,  
 Mohave, Navajo, Yavapai, Yuma

### Division II, Tucson

Chief Judge & 5 Associate Judges  
 Counties: Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee,  
 Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz

## Superior Court

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

Apache	1	Greenlee	1	Pima	30
Cochise	5	LaPaz	1	Pinal	9
Coconino	4	Maricopa	95	Santa Cruz	2
Gila	2	Mohave	6	Yavapai	7
Graham	1	Navajo	4	Yuma	6

*In addition to the judicial positions listed above, there are approximately 97 full-time and part-time judges pro tempore, commissioners and hearing officers in the Superior Court.*

## Justice of the Peace Courts

87 Judges, 87 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
LaPaz	3	Yuma	3
Maricopa	25		

## Municipal Courts

154 Full- and Part-time Judges, varying terms

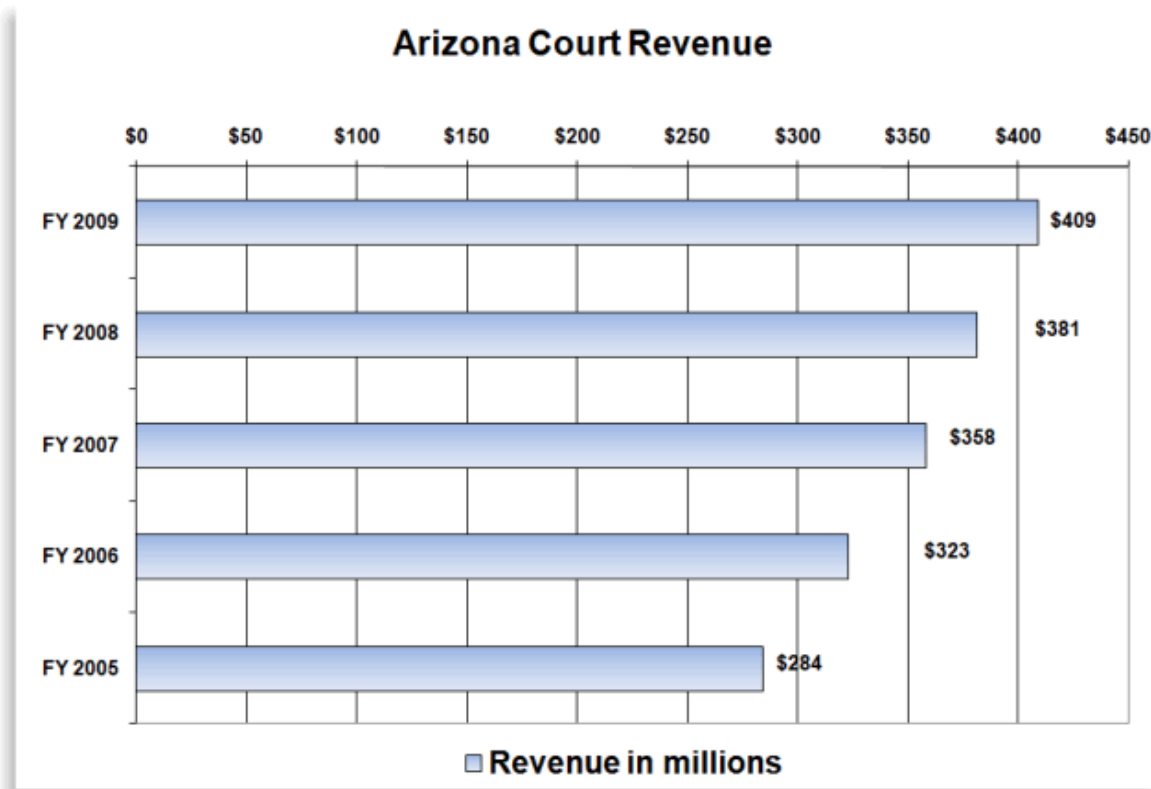
	Judges	Courts		Judges	Courts
Apache	3	3	Mohave	5	4
Cochise	4	4	Navajo	4	4
Coconino	5	4	Pima	17	5
Gila	7	6	Pinal	9	9
Graham	3	3	Santa Cruz	2	2
Greenlee	1	1	Yavapai	12	9
LaPaz	2	2	Yuma	5	4
Maricopa	75	23			

# Revenue & Expenditure Summary

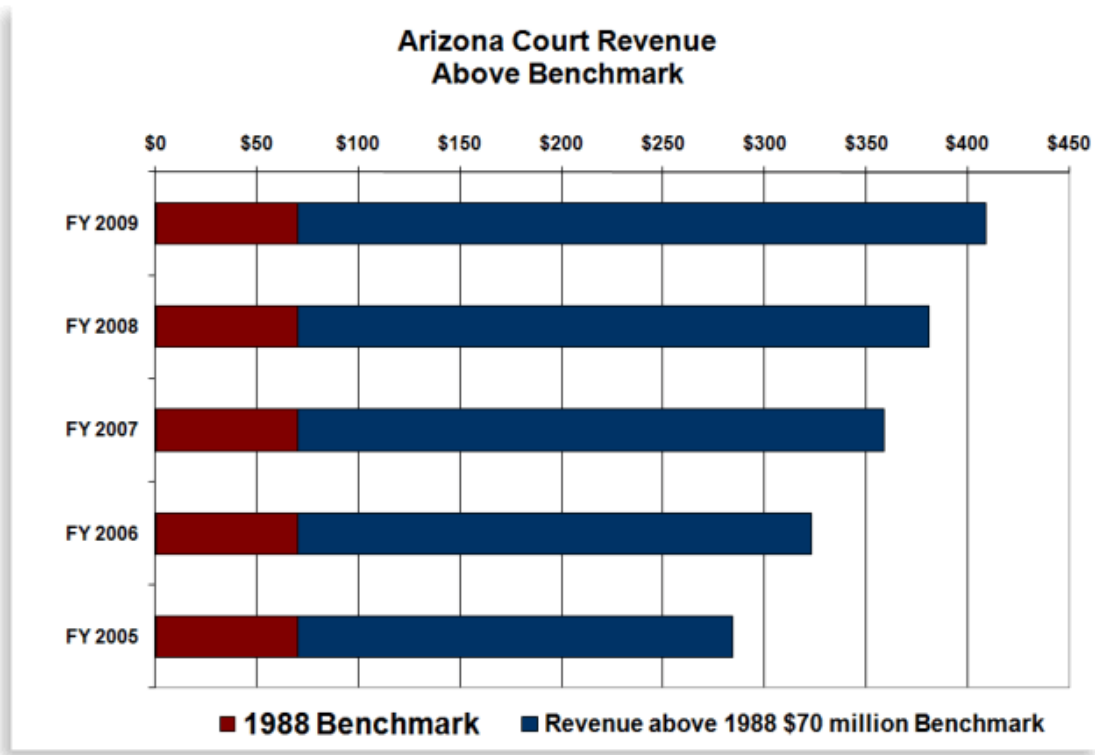
## Revenue

- Total statewide court revenue increased 7.4% from \$381.2 million in FY 2008 to \$409.3 million in FY 2009, reflecting the continuing efforts of the courts statewide to collect court-ordered fines, fees, and surcharges. *See Chart A.*
- Statewide revenue increased by 4.8% in FY2009 compared with FY2008 and 7.4% with State Photo Enforcement included.
- This graph represents the trend in increased court revenue above the \$70 million benchmark established in FY 1988. Since that time, courts have collected approximately \$2.790 billion in additional revenue. *See Chart B.*
- Of the total court system revenue, the state received 43.5%, counties received 30.4% and cities and towns 26.1%. *See Chart C.*
- 47.4% of total court revenue was generated by municipal courts, 28.6% by justice courts, 22.6% by Superior Court and 1.5% by appellate courts. *See Chart D.*
- Total restitution payments for victims collected by Courts increased 1.7% from \$18.2 million in FY 2008 to \$18.5 million in FY 2009.

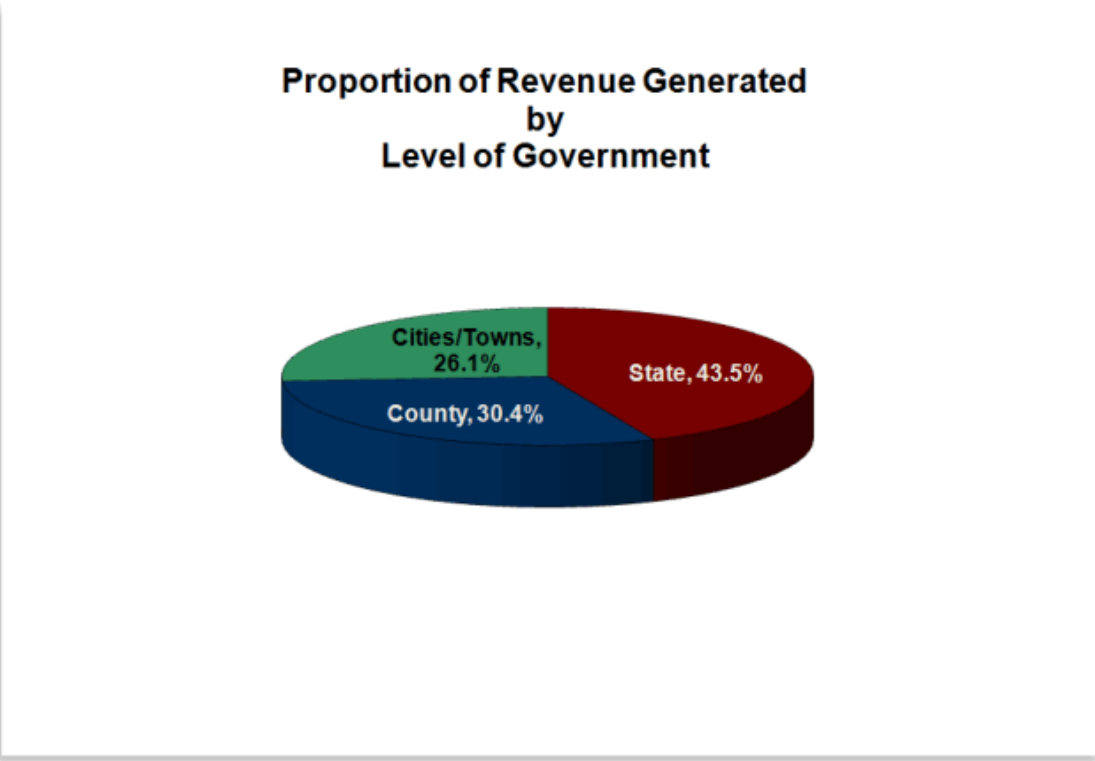
Graph A



Graph B

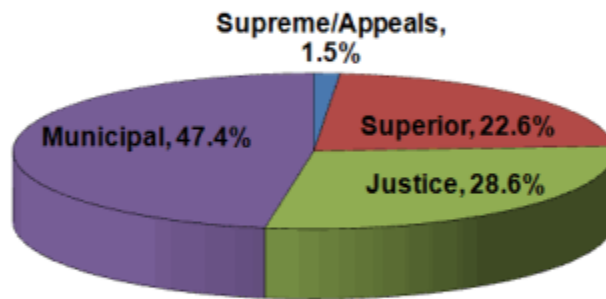


Graph C



Graph D

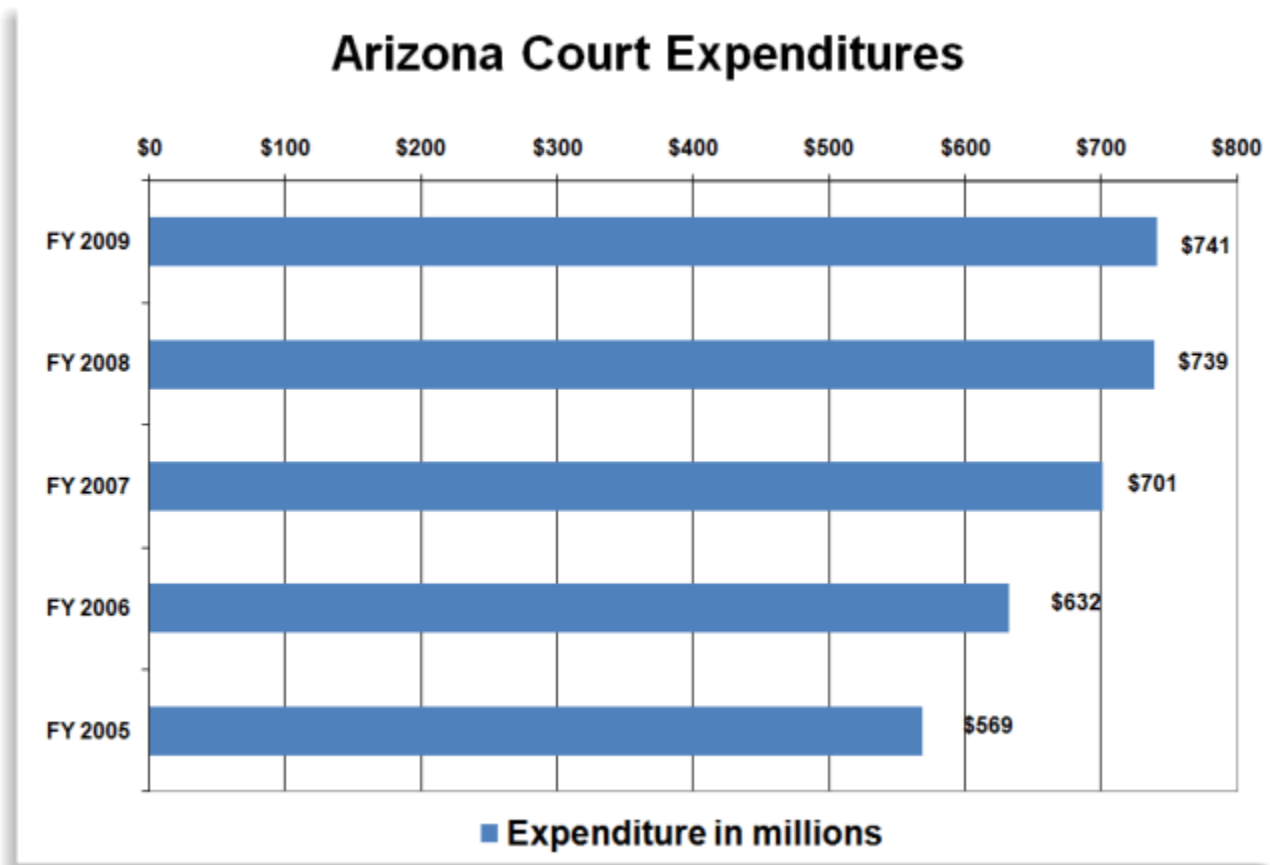
## Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level



## Expenditures

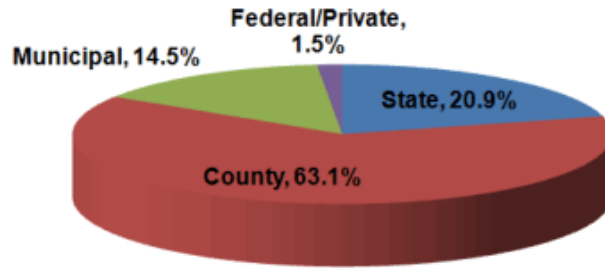
- Total statewide court expenditures increased 0.2% from \$739.4 million in FY 2008 to \$740.7 million in FY 2009. *See Graph A.*
- 63.1 % of the total funds spent by the court system were from the counties, 20.9% from the state, 14.5% from cities and towns, and 1.5% from federal and private sources. *See Graph B.*
- 69.0% of total court expenditures were in Superior Court (including probation), 14.5% in municipal courts, 10.1% at the appellate level (including statewide administration) and 6.4% in the justice courts. *See Graph C.*

Graph A



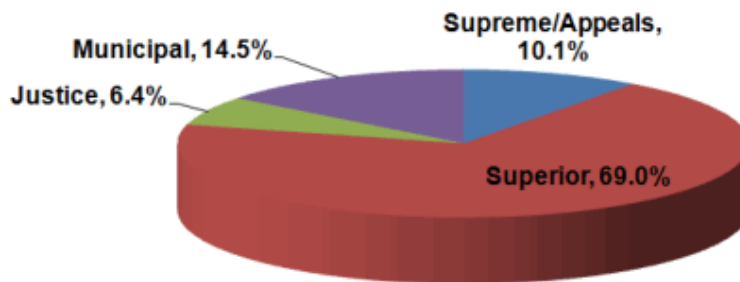
Graph B

## Proportion of Expenditures by Government



Graph C

## Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level



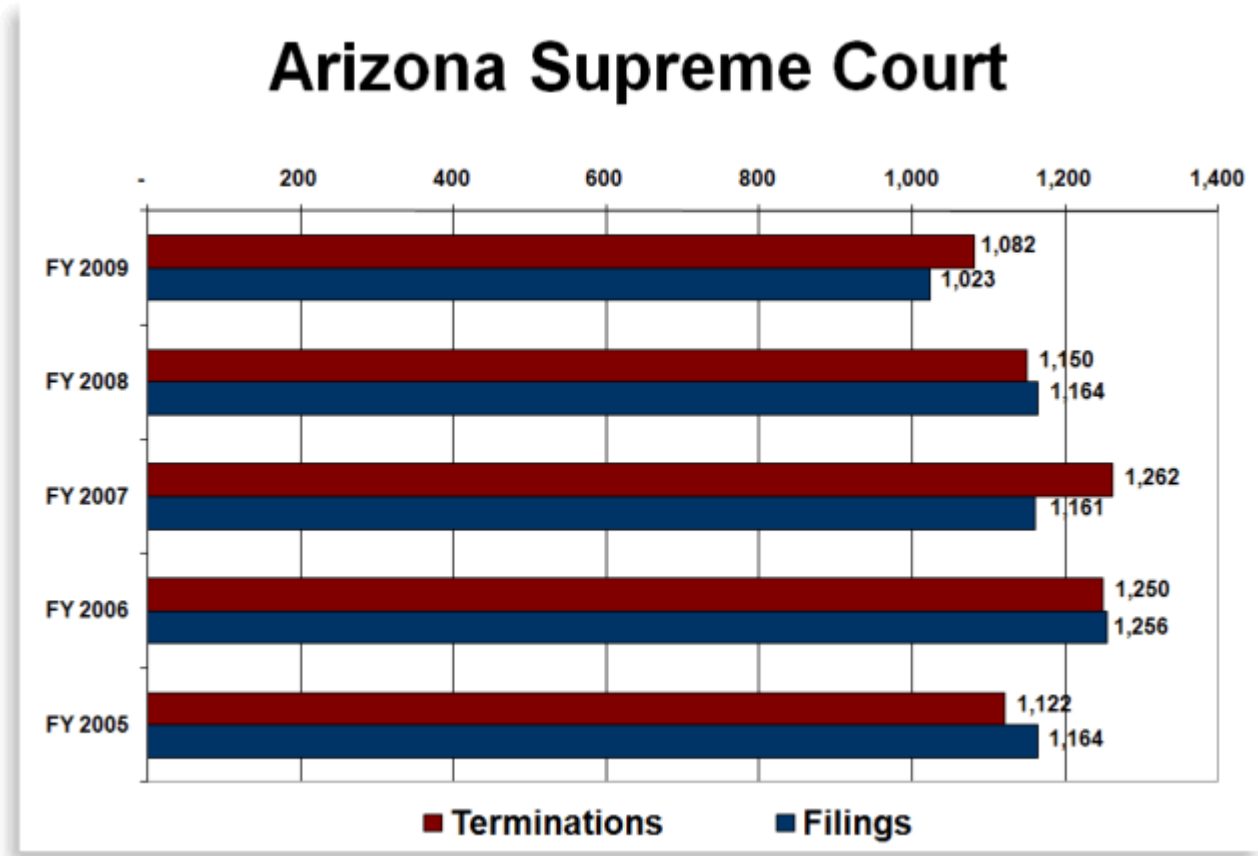
# Court Statistics

## Caseload and Financial Highlights

In FY2009 as compared with FY2008

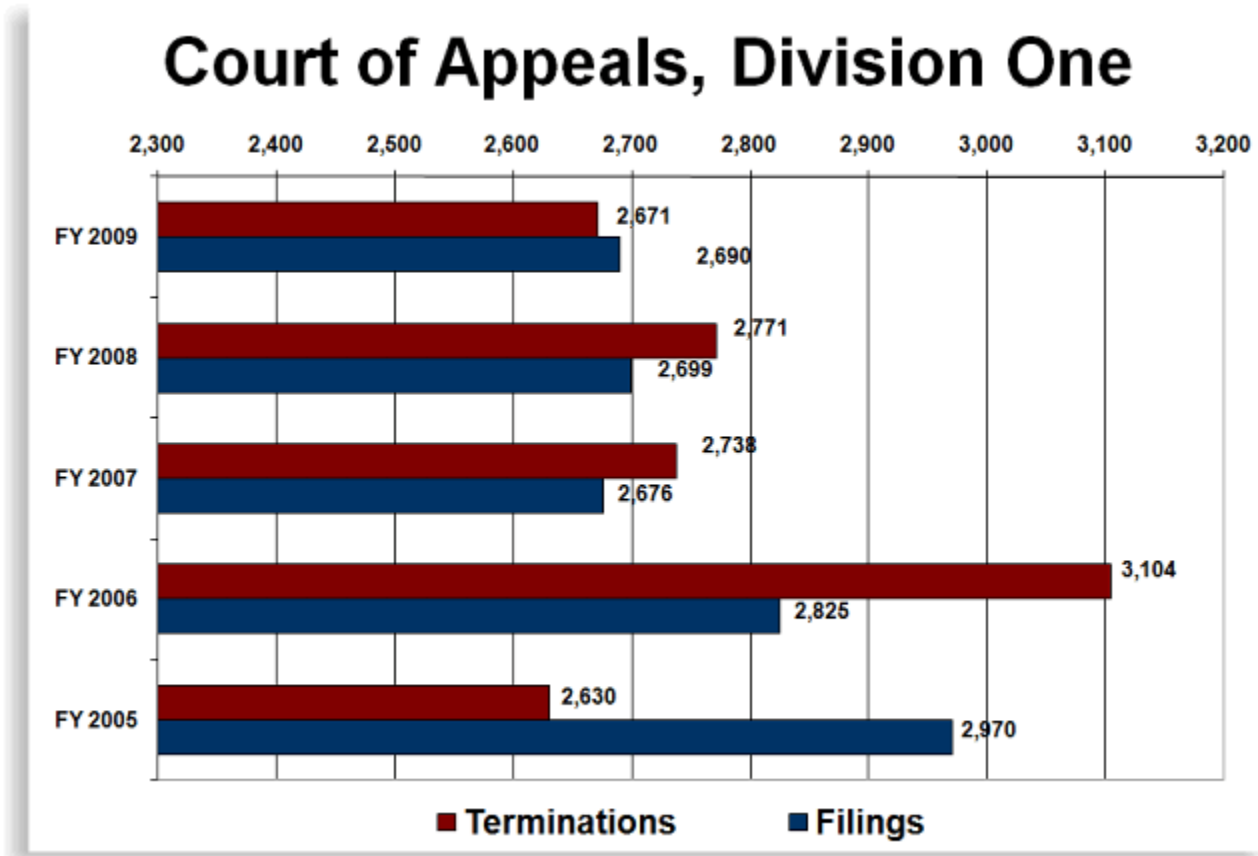
- There were 3,028,200 case filings in FY 2009 in the Arizona Courts (Appellate, Superior, Justice and Municipal Courts) resulting in 217,897 additional filings during 2009 fiscal year, an increase of 7.8%. That's an average of 11,647 cases filed among the courts every working day. These filings include 284,683 civil traffic state photo speed enforcement filings into the Justice Courts, which account for 9.4% of the total statewide filings.
- Tax Court case filings increased by 72.8% in FY2009 compared to FY2008. During the same period, property tax actions increased by 136.9%.
- Superior Court case filings increased by 9.0% statewide. In Maricopa County and Pima County, filings increased by 13.1% and 2.7%, respectively, while Rural Counties reported an increase of 1.5%. The statewide increase in total case filings was driven by a 29.0% increase in the civil case category.
- In Superior Court, Contract cases were up 45% in fiscal year 2009 and 132% over a five-year period. The Non-Classified civil case category which includes forfeitures, name changes and other cases types increased by 29% in FY2009 and 94% over a five-year period.
- In Superior Court, domestic relations are up in FY2009 by 4.1% compared with decreases in fiscal years 2008 and 2007.
- Justice Court case filings increased by 32.0% in FY 2009. Case filings in the Pima County justice courts decreased by 3.4% while Maricopa and Rural county case filings increased by 68.7% and 2.6% respectively.
- Statewide, 284,683 civil traffic cases for the state's photo speed enforcement program were filed in Justice Courts in fiscal year 2009.
- Statewide Justice Courts civil traffic cases, including state photo speed enforcement, were up 74% while general civil cases increased by 24% during the same period.
- Justice Court general civil cases, which include torts, contract and forfeiture cases, increased by 24% in FY2009 and 152% compared with five years ago.
- Statewide, civil traffic case filings account for 62.0% of all case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts. Civil traffic filings increased by 217,911, or 14.5% from FY 2008 to FY 2009.
- Municipal Court case filings decreased by 6.0% statewide, while the Municipal Courts in Maricopa County decreased by 9.8%, during the same period. Pima and the Rural Municipal Court's case filings increased by 3.1% and 1.9% respectively. The overall decrease in Maricopa County was driven by a 12.7% decrease in civil traffic case filings.
- There were 82,628 DUI charges were filed in Justice and Municipal Courts. This represents a decrease of 2,890 case filings from FY 2008, or a 3.4% decrease. (Case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are primarily counted by charge, not by defendants).
- Statewide, revenue trends in fiscal year 2009 are keeping pace with case filing trends. Case filings increased by 7.8%, while revenue increased by 7.4%.
- Without the state photo speed enforcement program, statewide revenue increased by 4.8% while total case filings decreased 2.4% in FY2009 compared with FY2008.
- Arizona courts have collected more than \$2.79 billion in additional revenue over the \$70 million benchmark established in FY 1988.

## Arizona Supreme Court Case Filings Chart



- Supreme Court FY 2009 case filings decreased 12.1% from cases filed in FY 2008.
- Cases terminated by the court in FY 2009 decreased 5.9% over case terminations in FY 2008.
- The difference between filings and terminations resulted in a pending caseload decrease of 18.2%. There were 329 pending cases on July 1, 2008, compared to 269 pending cases on June 30, 2009.

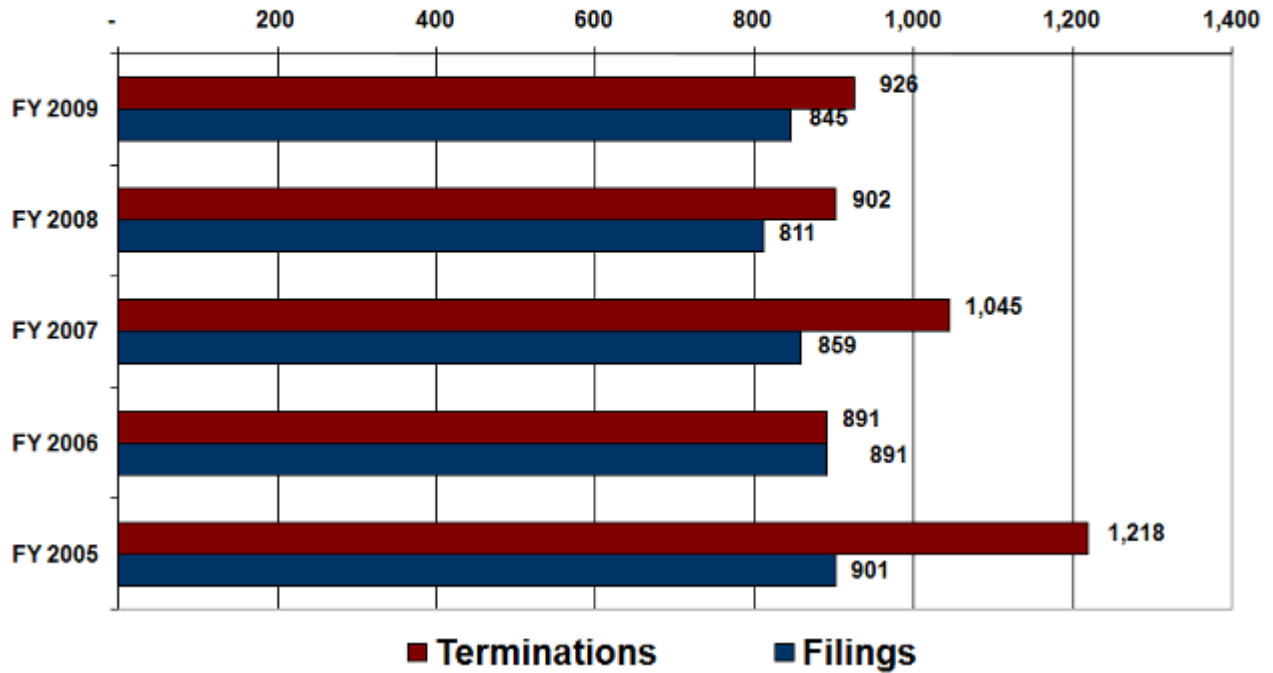
## Court of Appeals, Division One Case Filings Chart



- Filings in FY 2009 represented a 0.3% decrease from FY 2008. Total criminal filings (excluding transfer in cases), the largest category, comprising 39.3% of total caseload increased 0.9% from 1,047 in FY 2008 to 1,056 in FY 2009.
- Case terminations decreased by 3.6% in FY 2009.
- Pending caseload increased by 3.3%, from 2,362 on July 1, 2008 to 2,441 on June 30, 2009.

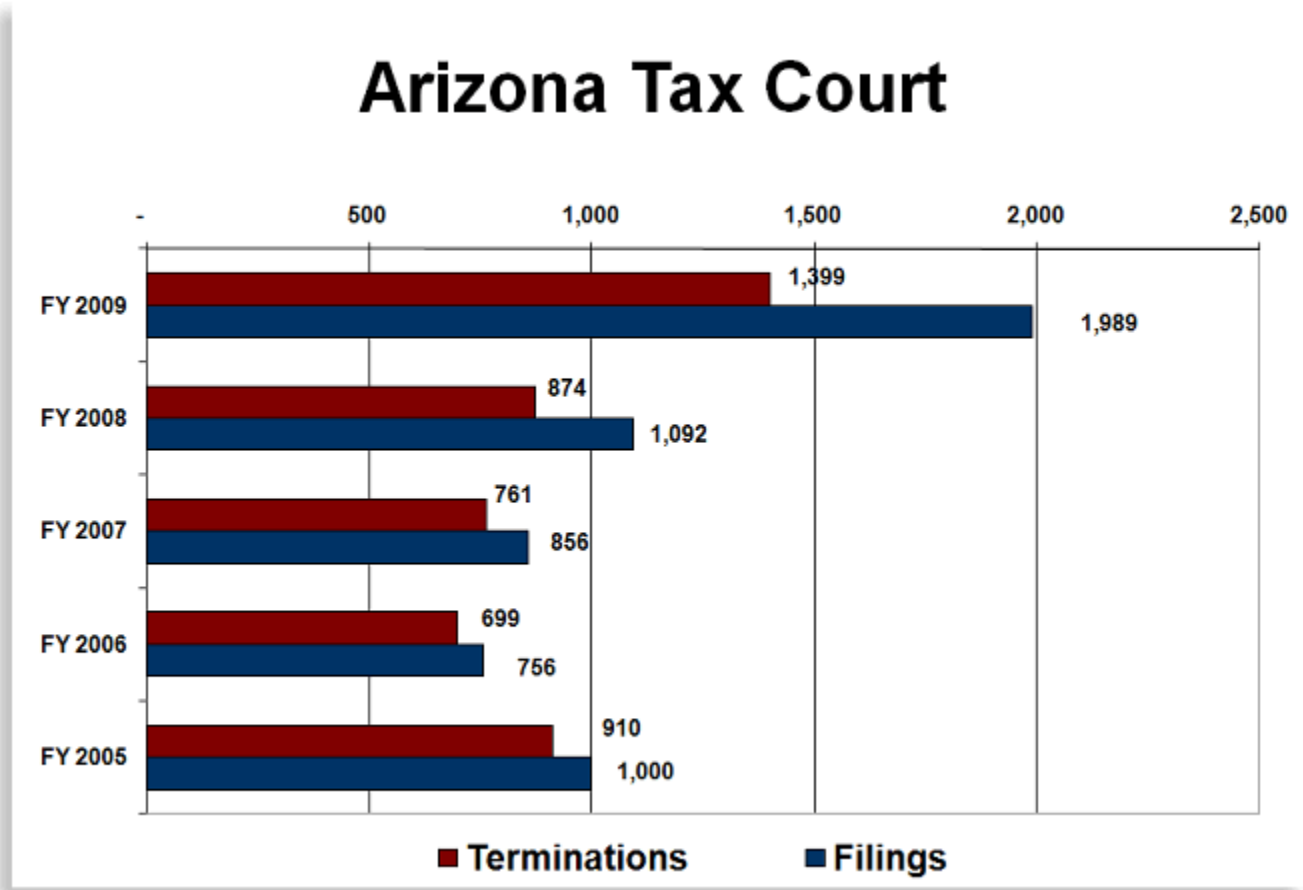
## Court of Appeals, Division Two Case Filings Chart

# Court of Appeals, Division Two



- Total filings in FY 2009 increased 4.2% from FY 2008. Total criminal filings (excluding transfer in cases), the largest category, comprising 49.5% of total caseload decreased 0.2% from 419 in FY 2008 to 418 in FY 2009.
- Case terminations increased by 2.7% in FY 2009.
- Pending caseload declined by 7.7%, from 771 on July 1, 2008 to 712 on June 30, 2009.

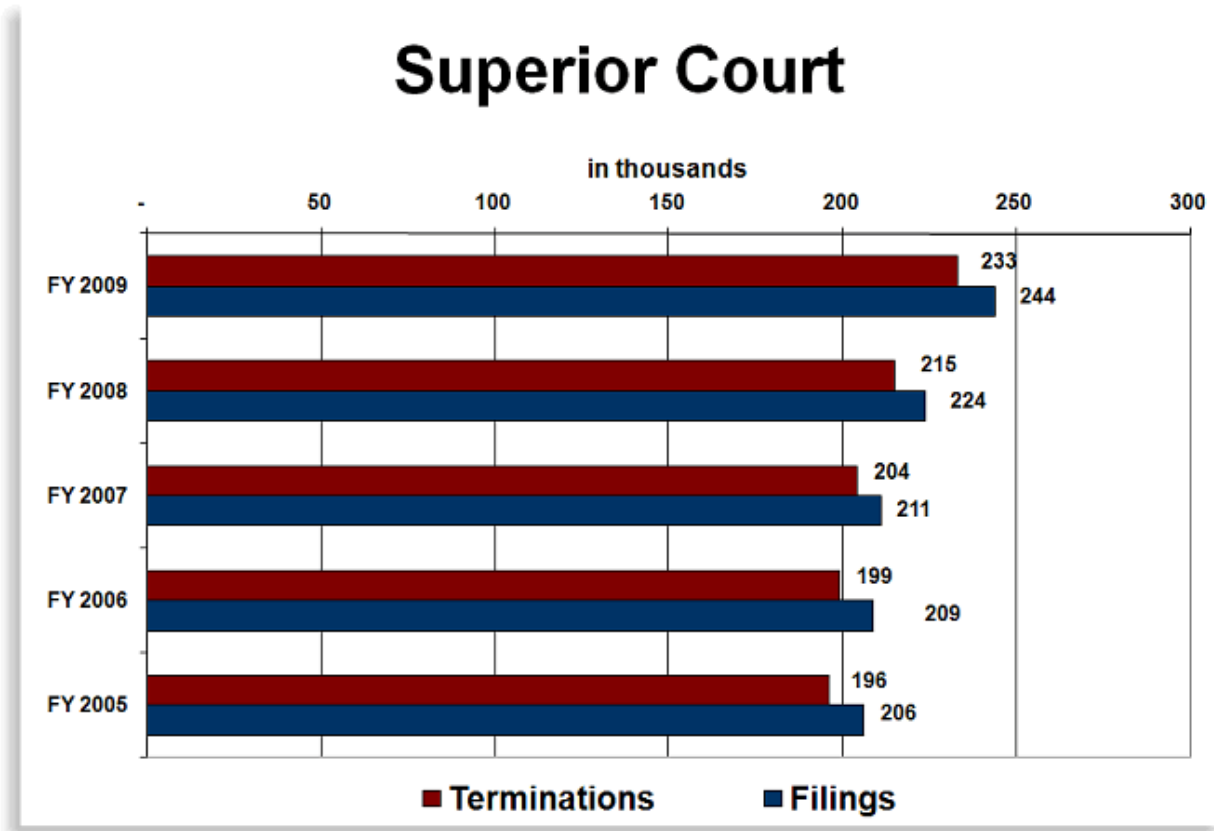
## Arizona Tax Court Case Filings Chart



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

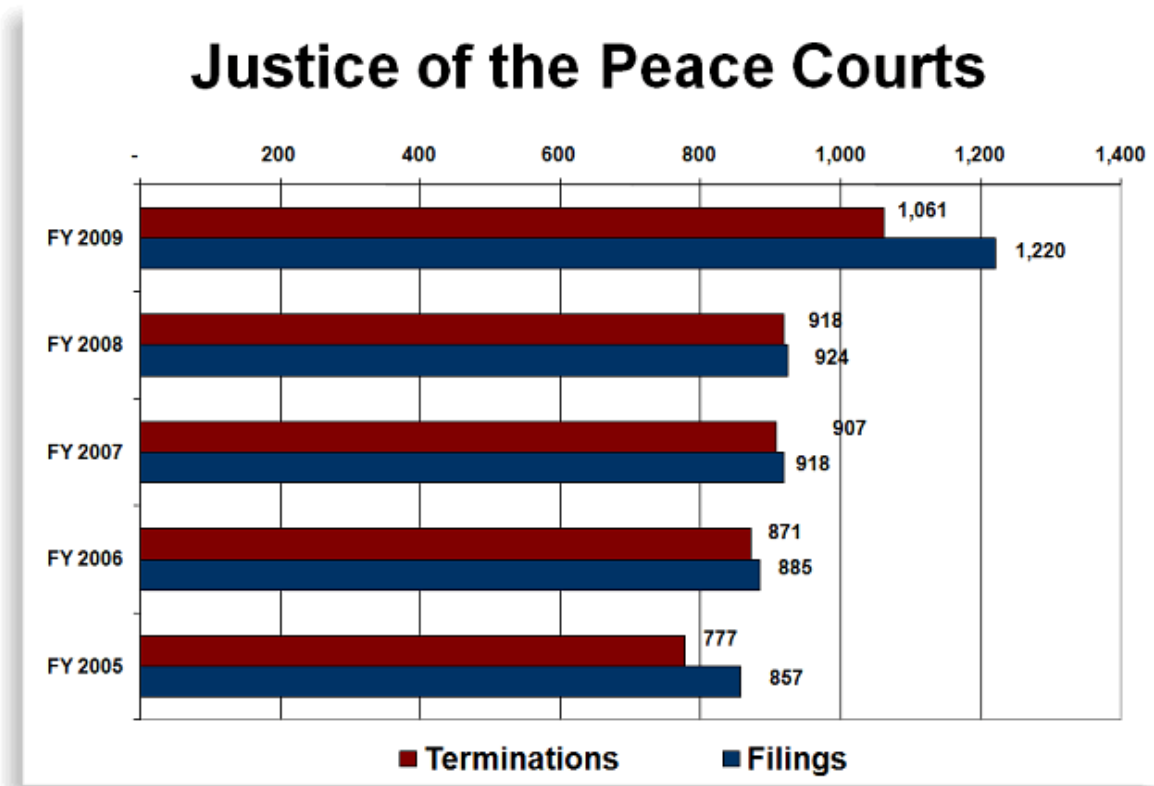
- A total of 1,951 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2009, an increase of 78.7% from the 1,092 cases filed in FY 2008.
- Of the FY 2009 cases filed, 1,654 were property tax actions, accounting for 84.8% of the total.
- A total of 1,399 cases were terminated, 388 or 27.7% by judgment.
- As of June 30, 2009, there were 1,427 cases pending in the tax court.

## Superior Court Case Filings Chart



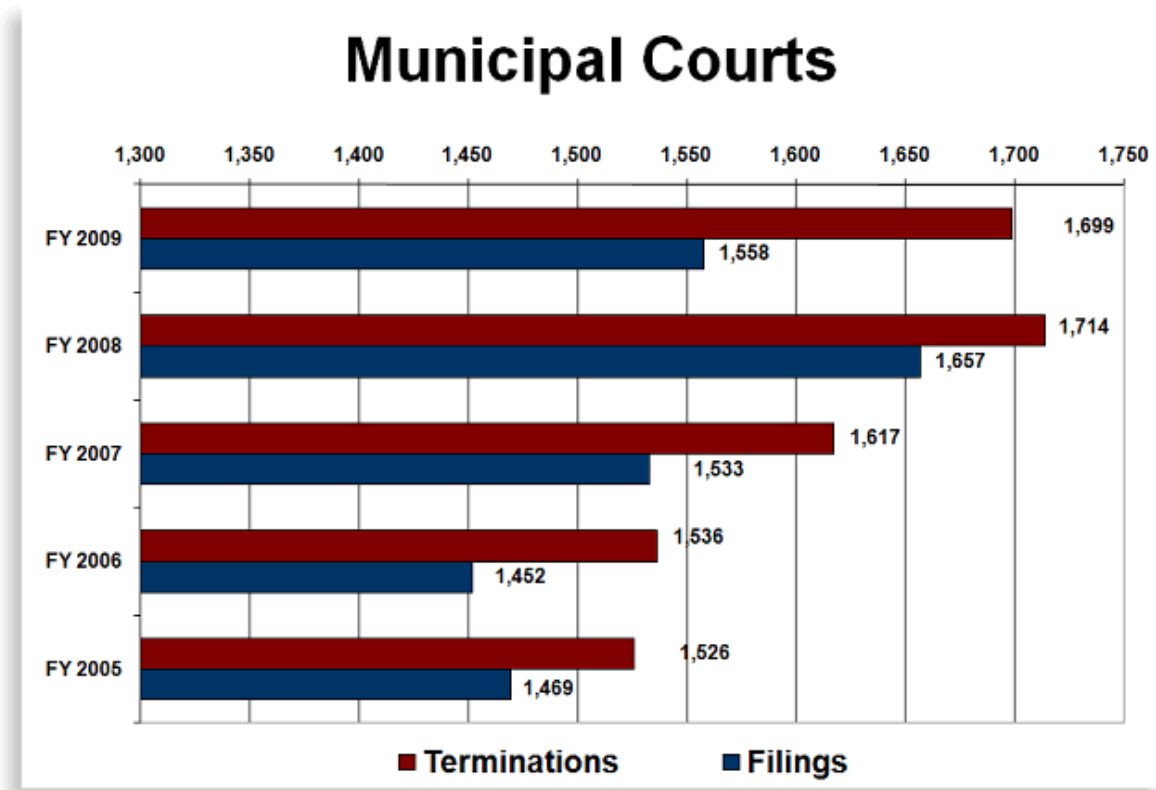
- Total case filings in FY 2009 increased by 9.0% from FY 2008.
- Total case terminations kept pace with case filings as they increased by 8.6% during the same period.
- Civil case filings increased 29.0% from 71,911 in FY 2008 to 92,800 in FY 2009. In the same period, civil case terminations were up 23.4% from 66,064 to 81,541.
- Criminal case filings decreased 6.3% from 61,322 in FY 2008 to 57,475 in FY 2009. Criminal case terminations increased by 3.1% during the same period from 58,390 to 60,229.
- Domestic relations cases increased 4.1% from 50,244 in FY 2008 to 52,308 in FY 2009, and domestic relations case terminations increased 1.5% from 51,488 to 52,266. Domestic violence petition filings increased 9.1% in Superior Court from 10,374 to 11,316 in FY 2009.
- There were 209,040 total cases pending on July 1, 2008, compared with 221,546 cases pending on June 30, 2009, an increase of 6.0%.
- Juveniles with direct filings to adult court increased 2.9%, from 550 in FY 2008 to 566 in FY 2009. Juvenile cases transferred to adult court decreased 7.0%, from 57 in FY 2008 to 53 in FY 2009. A total of 619 juvenile cases were either transferred or directly filed in adult court in FY 2009 compared to 607 in FY 2008, an increase of 2.0%.

## Justice of the Peace Courts Case Filings Chart



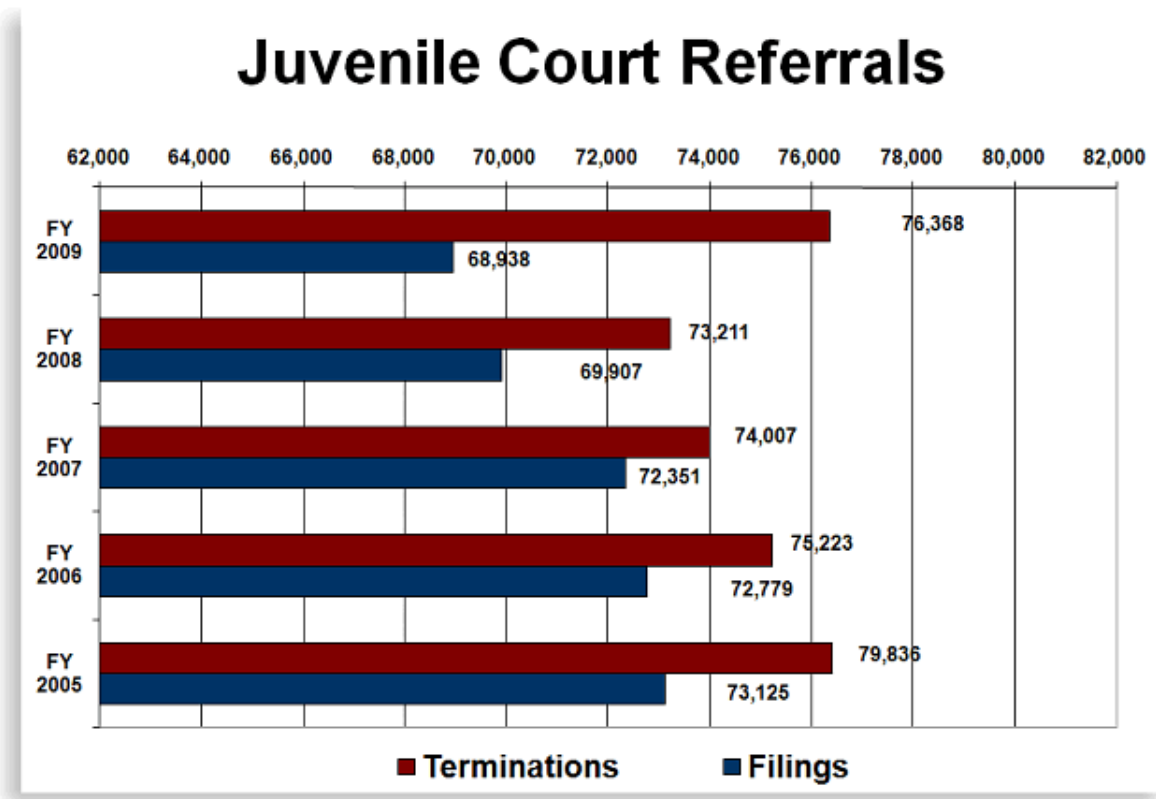
- Total filings in FY 2009 increased 1.2% from FY 2008 and 32.0% when State DPS photo enforcement civil traffic cases are included.
- Total case terminations increased 7.9% and 15.6% when State DPS photo enforcement civil traffic cases are included.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise almost two-thirds of all justice court filings, increased 1.8% from FY2008 and 76.3%, from 546,662 in FY 2008 to 841,430 in FY 2009 when State DPS photo enforcement civil traffic cases are included.
- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings decreased 8.2% from 140,608 in FY 2008 to 129,146 in FY 2009. Criminal case terminations increased 8.0% from 141,086 in FY 2008 to 152,437 in FY 2009.
- Domestic violence petition filings decreased 9.5% in justice courts, from 10,143 to 9,176. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment decreased 10.2% from 10,290 to 9,240.
- Total cases pending dropped by 4.4% from 693,954 on July 1, 2008 to 663,622 on June 30, 2009.

## Municipal Courts Case Filings Chart



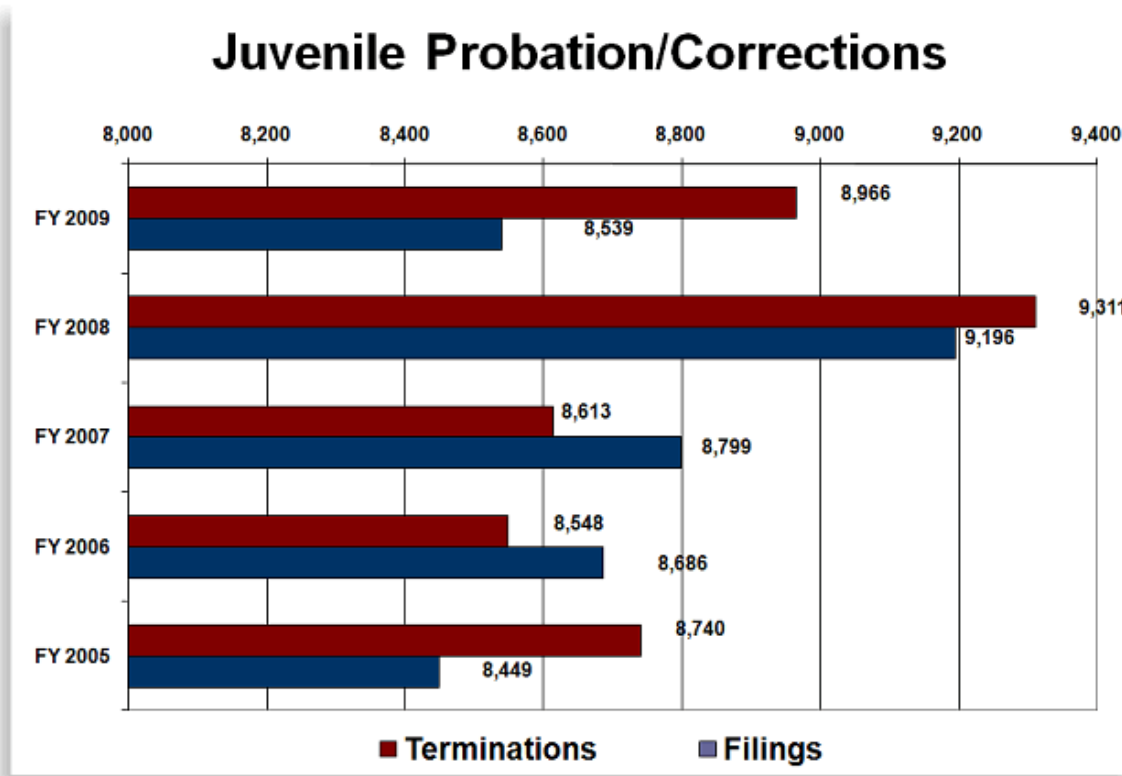
- Case filings in FY 2009 decreased 6.0% from FY 2008. Total case terminations decreased 0.9% in the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise about three-fourths of all municipal court cases, decreased 7.2%, from 1,276,197 in FY 2008 to 1,184,775 in FY 2009.
- Criminal misdemeanor case filings increased 1.0% from 242,617 in FY 2008 to 244,900 in FY 2009. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations increased 11.0% from 275,351 in FY 2008 to 305,719 in FY 2009.
- Domestic violence petitions increased 10.1% from 11,801 in FY 2008 to 12,997 in FY 2009. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment increased 5.5%, from 9,055 in FY 2008 to 9,550 in FY 2009.
- Total cases pending decreased 2.7%, from 929,700 on July 1, 2008 to 904,370 on June 30, 2009.

## Juvenile Court Referrals Chart



- There were 68,938 referrals to juvenile court in FY 2009, a 1.4% decrease compared to 69,907 in the previous year.
- 76,368 referrals were terminated in FY 2009, a 4.3% increase compared to the 73,211 referrals terminated in FY 2008.

## Juvenile Probation/Corrections Case Filings Chart



- The number of juveniles on probation at the end of FY 2009 decreased 8.0% from 8,598 on July 1, 2008 to 7,908 on June 30, 2009.
- A total of 8,539 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2009, a 7.1% decrease from the 9,196 youths placed on probation in FY 2008.
- 8,966 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 3.7% from the 9,311 terminated last year.
- 845 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2009, a decrease of 8.5% from the 924 committed last year.

## **Adult Probation**

- The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY2009 increased 1.9% from 83,505 on July 1, 2008 to 85,163 on June 30, 2009.
- Of the 85,163 under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 42,333 were on standard probation (36,090 were under direct supervision in the state and 6,243 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,441 on intensive probation (2,283 were direct supervision and 158 were on indirect supervision), and 40,389 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc).

## **Juvenile Court Petitions**

- A total of 27,195 petitions were filed in FY 2009, a 5.9% decrease from the 28,906 petitions filed in FY 2008.
- A total of 26,566 petitions were terminated in FY 2009, a 2.7% decrease from the 27,297 terminated in FY 2008.