

# Arizona Judicial Branch

## Annual Report Fiscal Year 2012



# 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

## Superior Court

177 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	95	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 98 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			

## **Court Statistics Caseload and Financial Highlights**

### **In FY2012 as compared with FY2011**

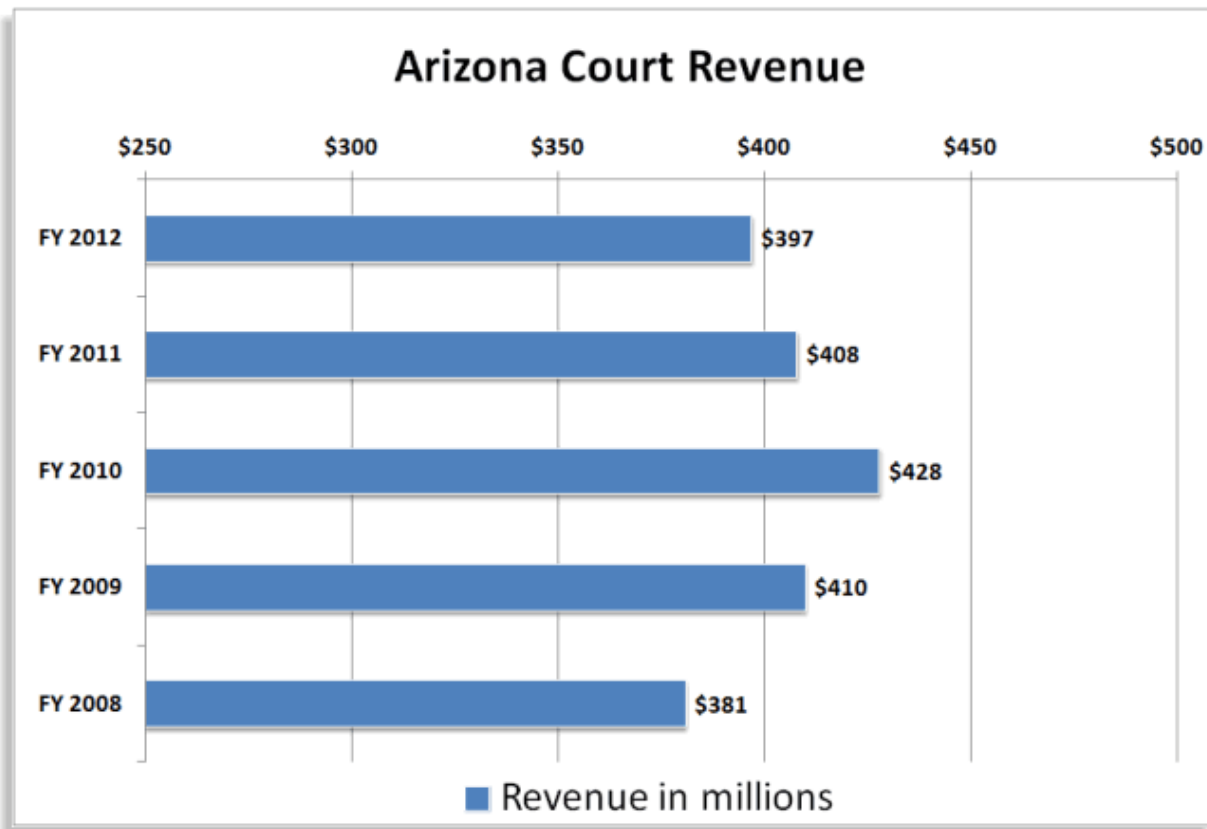
- There were 2,260,389 case filings in FY 2012 in the Arizona Courts (Appellate, Superior, Justice and Municipal Courts) resulting in 116,870 less filings compared to FY 2011, a decrease of 4.9%. That's an average of 9,005 cases filed among the courts every working day.
- Statewide, revenue trends in FY 2012 are following case filing trends. Case filings decreased by 4.9%, while revenue decreased by 2.7%.
- Arizona courts have collected more than \$3.8 billion in additional revenue over the \$70 million benchmark established in FY 1988.
- Statewide, civil traffic case filings account for 56.7% of all case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts. Civil traffic filings decreased by 28,203, or 2.3% from FY 2011 to FY 2012.
- There were 72,715 DUI charges filed in Justice and Municipal Courts. This represents a decrease of 4,765 case filings from FY 2011, or a 6.1% decrease. (Case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are primarily counted by charge, not by defendants).
- Superior Court case filings decreased by 10.2% statewide. In Maricopa county and rural counties, filings decreased by 13.1% and 7.0%, respectively, while Pima County reported a decrease of 0.6%. The statewide decrease in total case filings was driven by a 26.7% decrease in the civil case category.
- Superior Court mental health filings increased by 15.8% from FY 2011 to FY 2012. During the same period, terminations of Mental Health cases increased by 19.9%.
- Felony filings in Superior Court increased 2.6% from FY 2011 to FY 2012. Superior Court criminal jury trials also increased by 3.4% in FY 2012 when compared with FY 2011.
- Of the statewide general civil cases filed in Superior Court, tort – motor vehicle and medical malpractice case type categories both increased in filings from FY 2011 to FY 2012. Tort – motor vehicle filings increased 8.6% while medical malpractice filings were up 6.3%.
- Justice Court case filings decreased by 4.7% in FY 2012. Case filings in the Maricopa county justice courts decreased by 7.4% while Pima county and rural county case filings decreased by 2.9% and 2.4%, respectively.
- Statewide Justice Courts civil traffic case filings were down 2.9% while felony case filings increased 8.1%.
- Municipal Court case filings decreased by 4.1% statewide. Maricopa and Pima county case filings decreased by 2.6% and 13.5% respectively, while rural county cases filings increased 1.2%. The overall decrease was driven by a 2.1% decrease in civil traffic filings.

# Revenue & Expenditure Summary

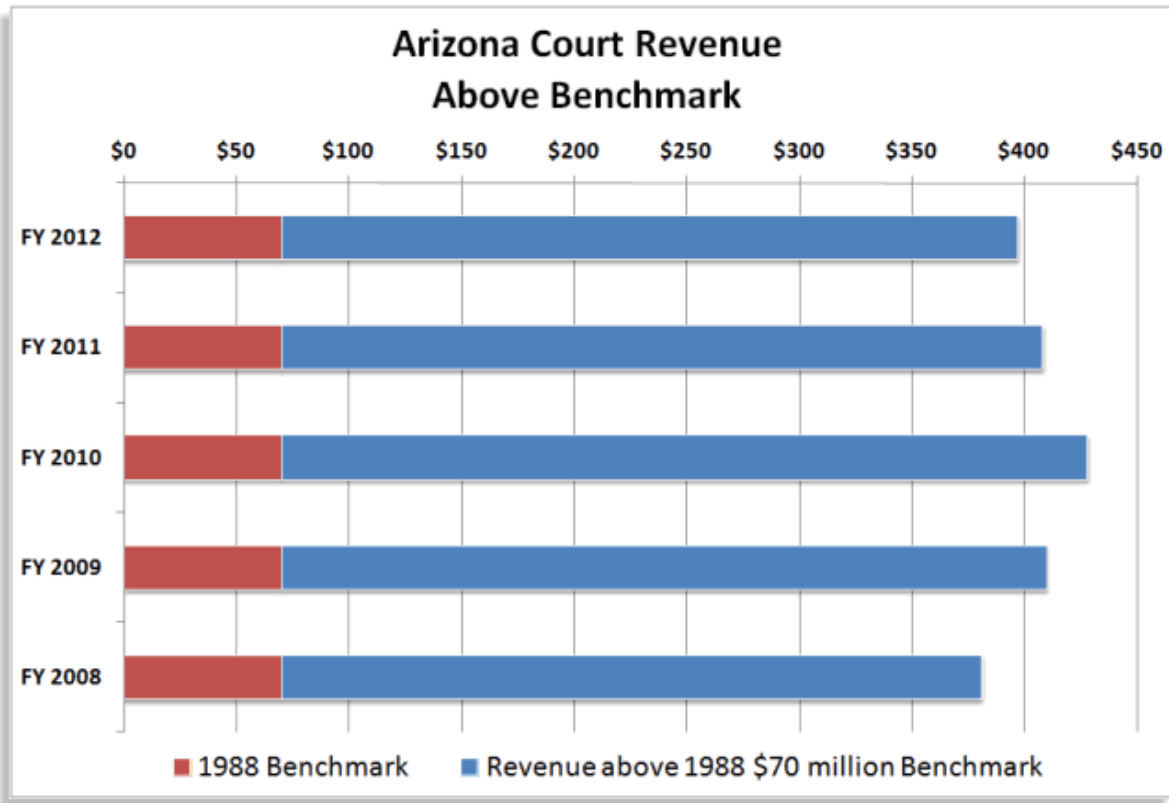
## Revenue

- Total statewide court revenue decreased 2.7% from \$408.1 million in FY 2011 to \$397.0 million in FY 2012. While revenue decreased by 2.7%, case filings decreased by 4.9% during the same period, reflecting the continuing efforts of the courts statewide to collect court-ordered fines, fees, and surcharges. *See Graph A.*
- 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 \$3.813 billion in additional revenue. *See Graph B.*
- Of the total court system revenue, the state received 43.1%, counties received 30.6% and cities and towns 26.2%. *See Graph C.*
- 48.3% of total court revenue was generated by municipal courts, 28.1% by justice courts, 22.3% by Superior Court and 1.2% by appellate courts. *See Graph D.*
- Total restitution payments for victims collected by Courts decreased by 6.5% from \$20.0 million in FY 2011 to \$18.7 million in FY 2012.

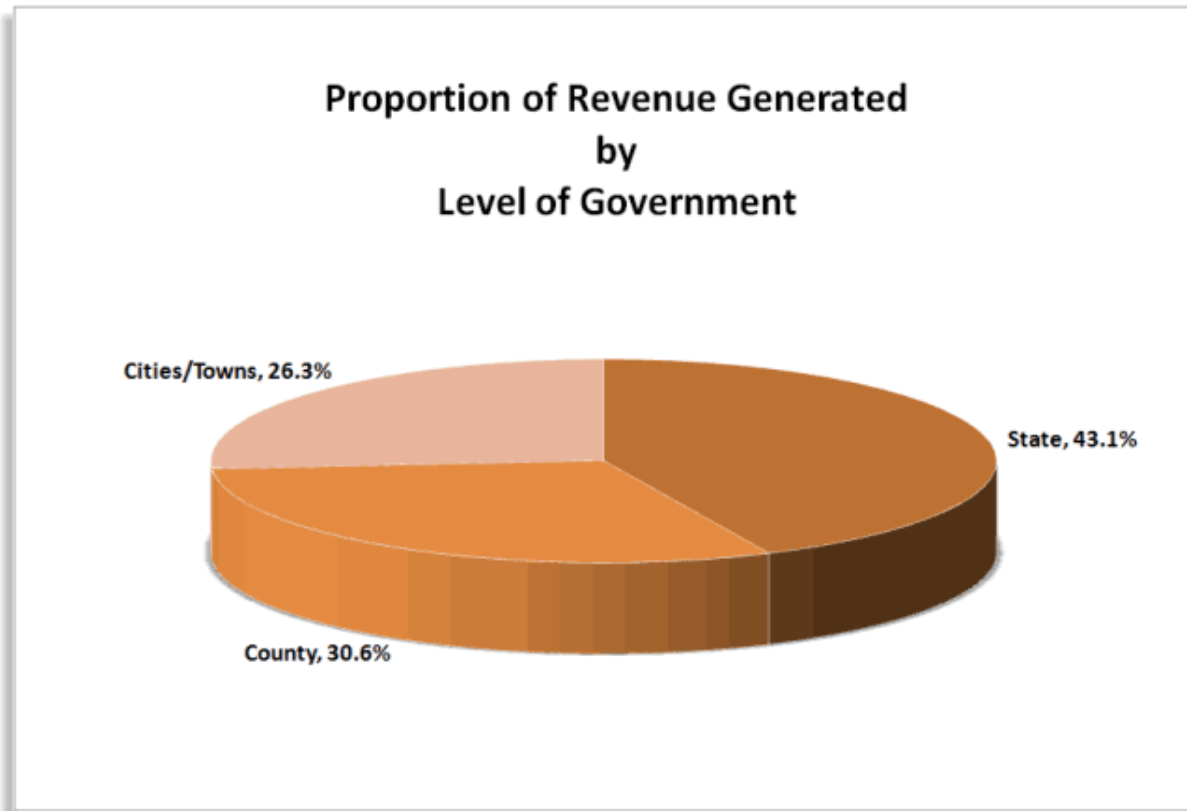
Graph A



Graph B

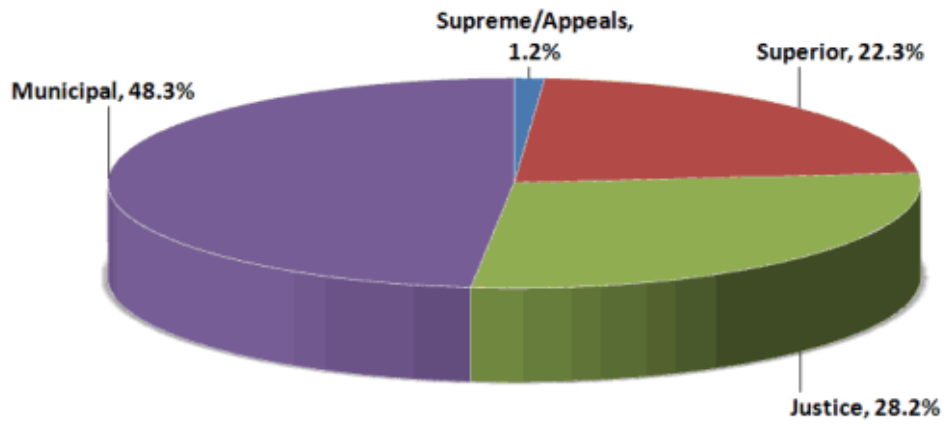


Graph C



Graph D

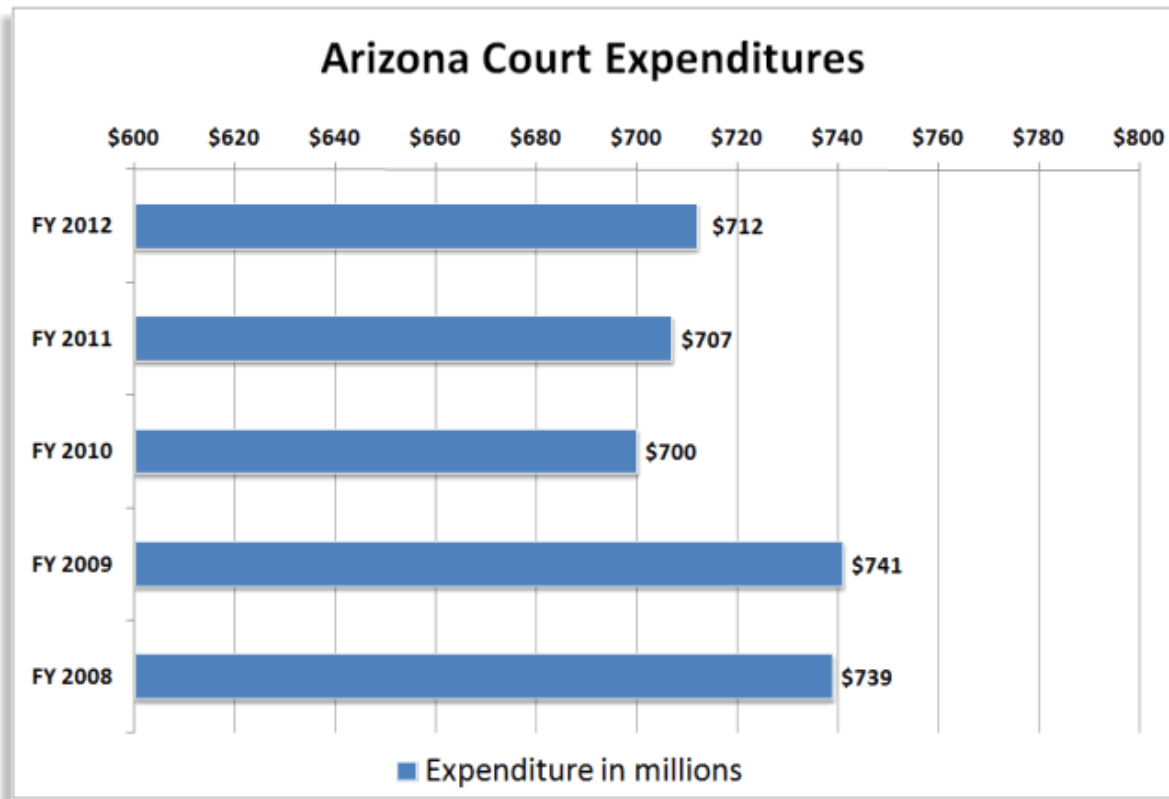
**Proportion of Revenue Generated  
by  
Court Level**



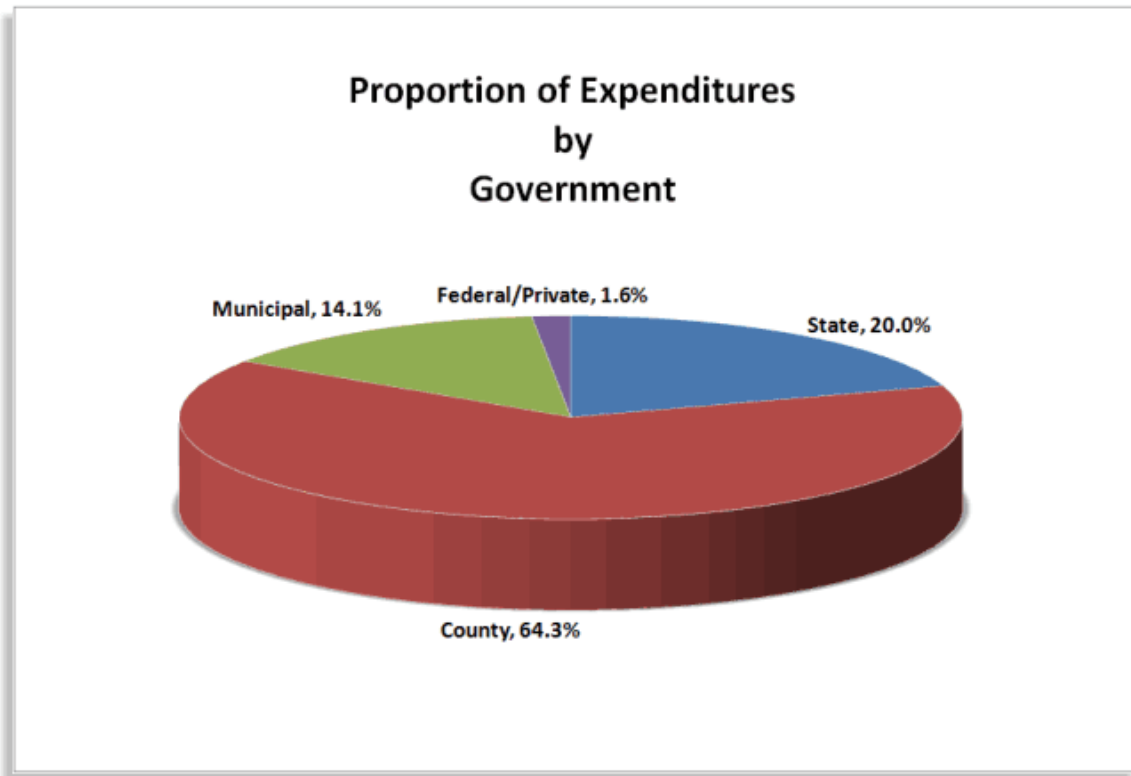
## Expenditures

- Total statewide court expenditures increased 0.6% from \$707.3 million in FY 2011 to \$711.8 million in FY 2012. *See Graph A.*
- 64.3 % of the total funds spent by the court system were from the counties, 20.0% from the state, 14.1% from cities and towns, and 1.6% from federal and private sources. *See Graph B.*
- 67.9% of total court expenditures were in Superior Court (including probation), 14.1% in municipal courts, 11.0% at the appellate level and 7.0% in the justice courts *See Graph C.*

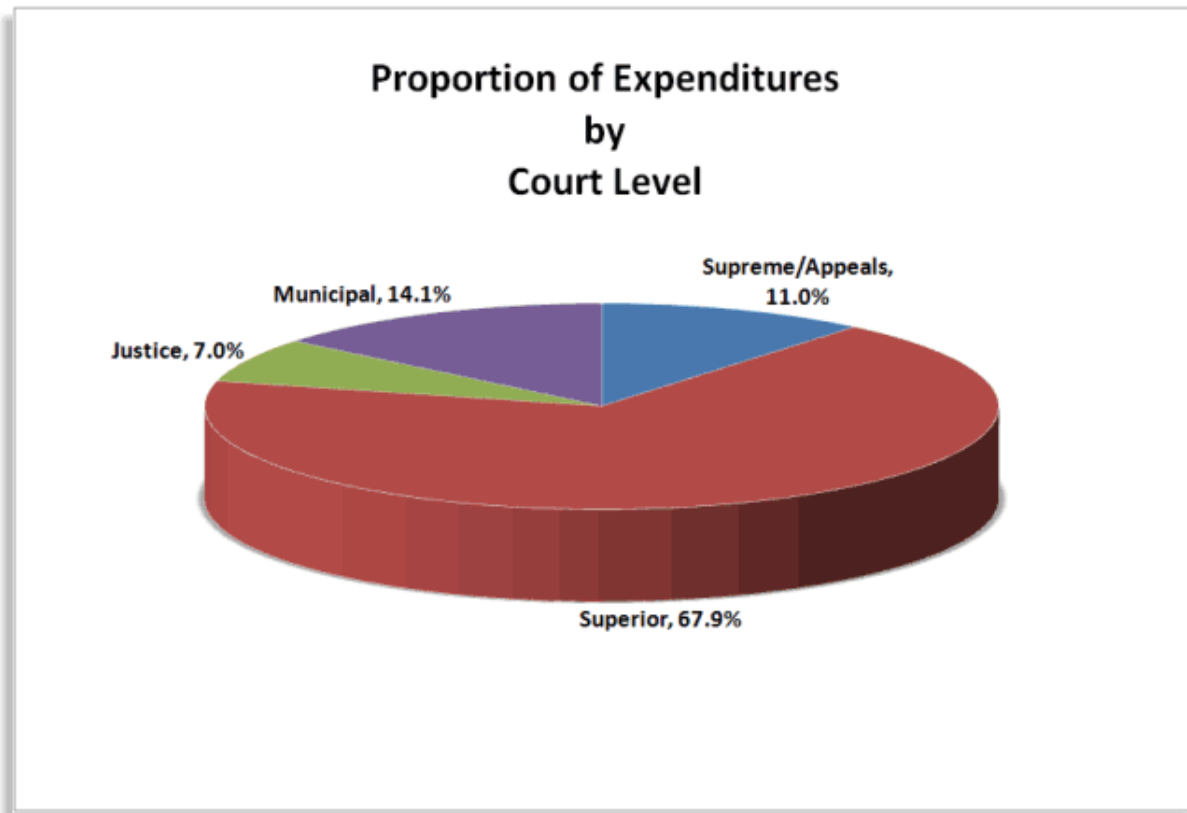
Graph A



Graph B



Graph C



## FY 2012 Case Filings by Court Level

APPELLATE	
COURT LEVEL	CASE FILINGS
SUPREME COURT	1,109
DIVISION ONE	2,910
DIVISION TWO	841
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,860</b>

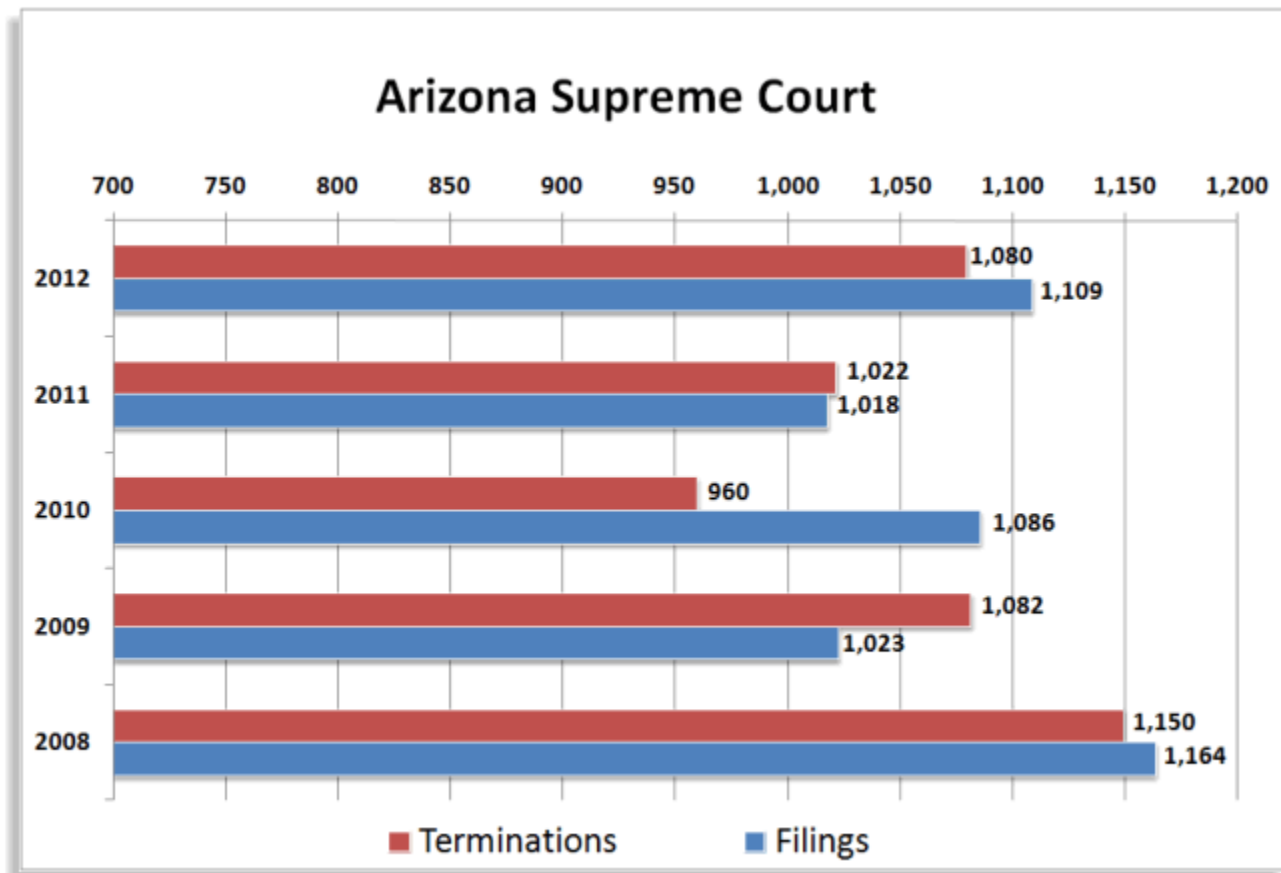
TRENDS
➤ Appellate Court case filings decreased by 65 (1.3%).
➤ General Jurisdiction Court case filings decreased by 24,535 (10.3%).
➤ Limited Jurisdiction Court case filings decreased by 92,270 (4.3%).

GENERAL JURISDICTION	
COUNTY	CASE FILINGS
APACHE	980
COCHISE	3,663
COCONINO	3,581
GILA	1,816
GRAHAM	1,271
GREENLEE	334
LA PAZ	596
MARICOPA	134,829
MOHAVE	6,576
NAVAJO	3,109
PIMA	29,154
PINAL	10,749
SANTA CRUZ	1,576
YAVAPAI	7,350
YUMA	5,766
TAX COURT	1,832
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213,182</b>

LIMITED JURISDICTION CASE FILINGS		
COUNTY	JUSTICE	MUNICIPAL
APACHE	10,338	1,225
COCHISE	38,403	5,578
COCONINO	26,368	21,865
GILA	10,953	36,128
GRAHAM	4,443	2,295
GREENLEE	1,493	461
LA PAZ	15,654	2,456
MARICOPA	346,570	825,751
MOHAVE	37,705	21,087
NAVAJO	29,037	12,247
PIMA	152,967	215,116
PINAL	49,493	26,382
SANTA CRUZ	9,286	7,713
YAVAPAI	35,510	49,319
YUMA	21,080	25,424
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>789,300</b>	<b>1,253,047</b>

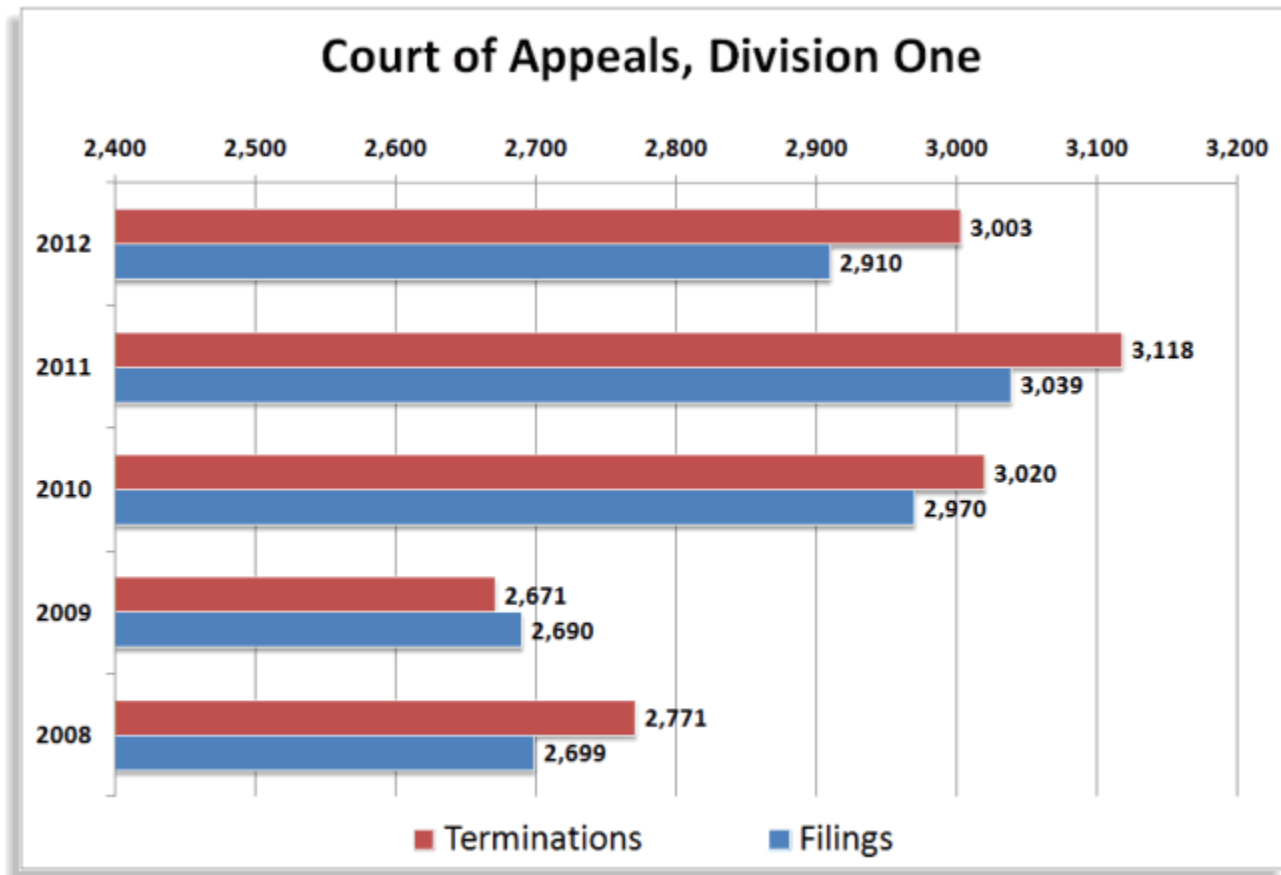
- Cases filed include original filings and transfers in.
- General Jurisdiction cases are counted by defendant.
- Limited Jurisdiction cases are counted by charge when filed by citation and by defendant when filed by long-form complaint.

## Arizona Supreme Court Case Filings Chart



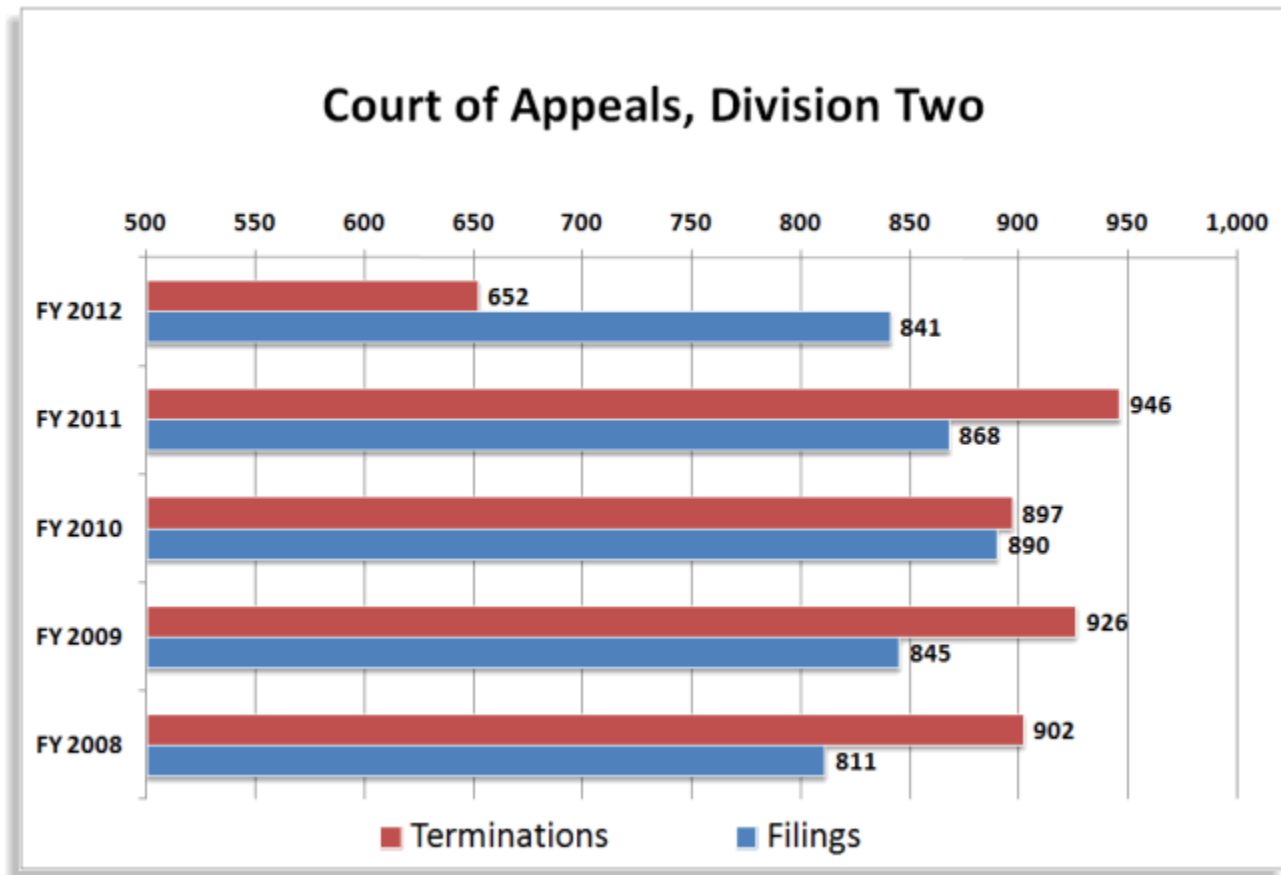
- Supreme Court FY 2012 case filings increased by 8.9% from cases filed in FY 2011.
- Cases terminated by the court in FY 2012 increased 5.7% over case terminations in FY 2011.
- The difference between filings and terminations resulted in a pending caseload increase of 7.9%. There were 390 pending cases on July 1, 2011, compared to 421 pending cases on June 30, 2012.

## Court of Appeals, Division One Case Filings Chart



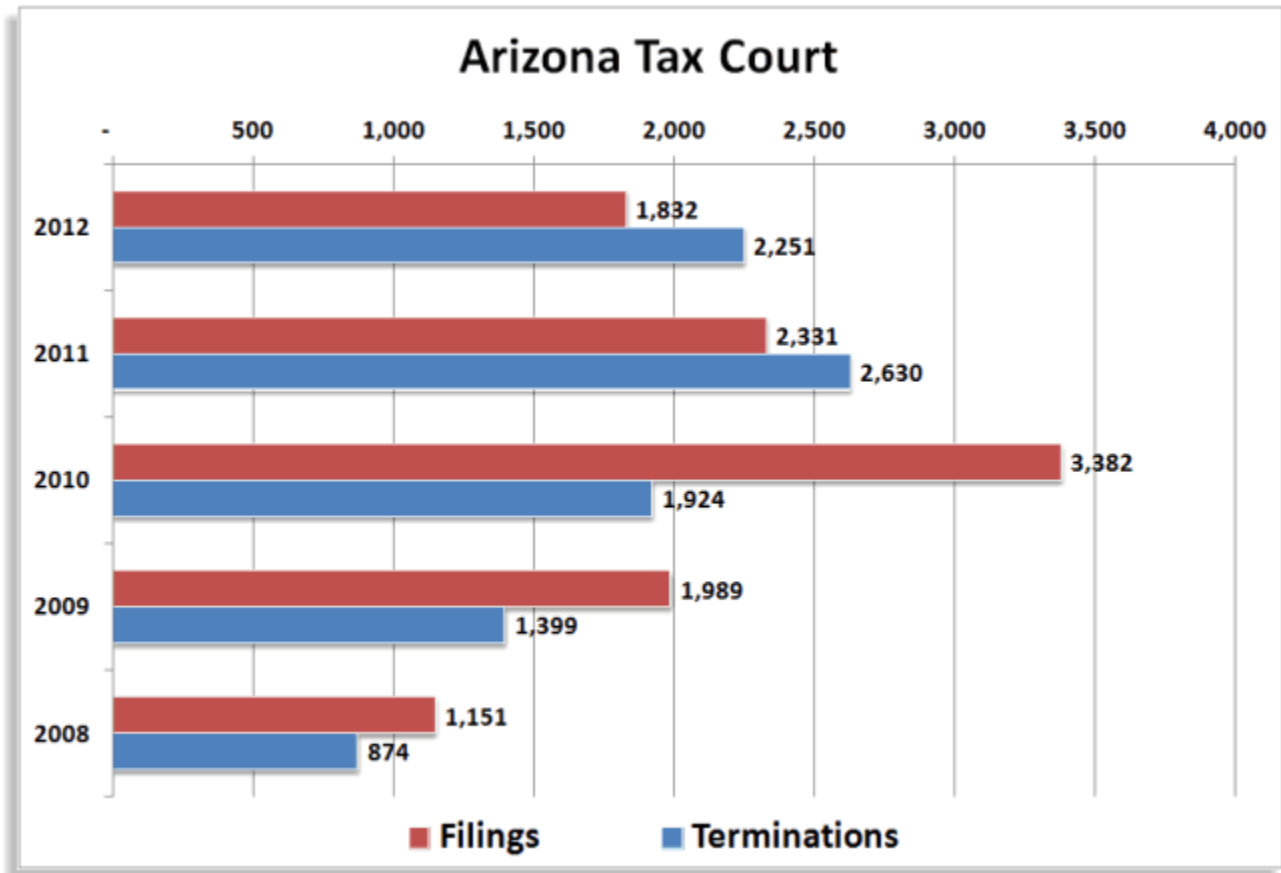
- Filings in FY2012 represented a 4.2% decrease from FY 2011.
- Case terminations decreased by 3.7% in FY 2012.
- Pending caseload decreased by 6.3%, from 2399 on July 1, 2011 to 2,248 on June 30, 2012.

## Court of Appeals, Division Two Case Filings Chart



- Total filings in FY2012 decreased 3.1% from FY2011. Total criminal filings (excluding transfer in cases), the largest category, comprising 48.5% of total caseload increased 5.2% from 388 in FY2011 to 408 in FY2012.
- Case terminations decreased by 31.1% in FY2012.
- Pending caseload increased by 34.8%, from 679 on July 1, 2011 to 915 on June 30, 2012.

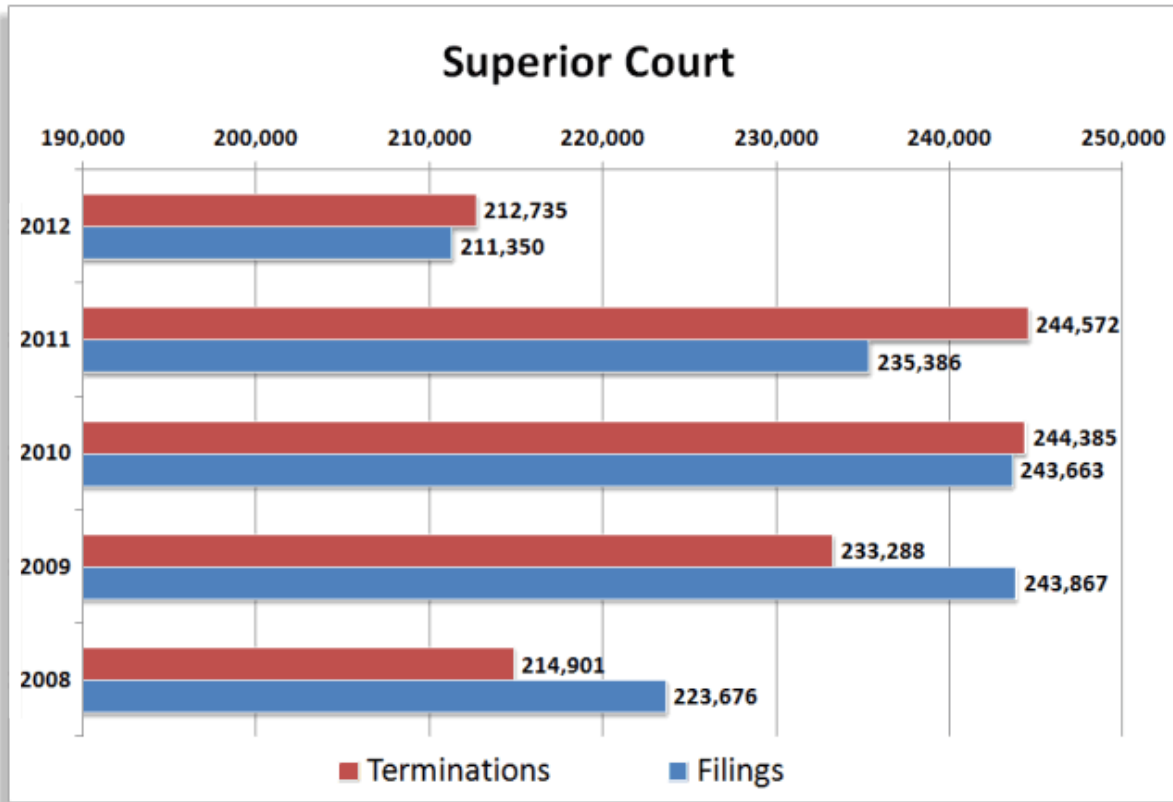
## Arizona Tax Court Case Filings Chart



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

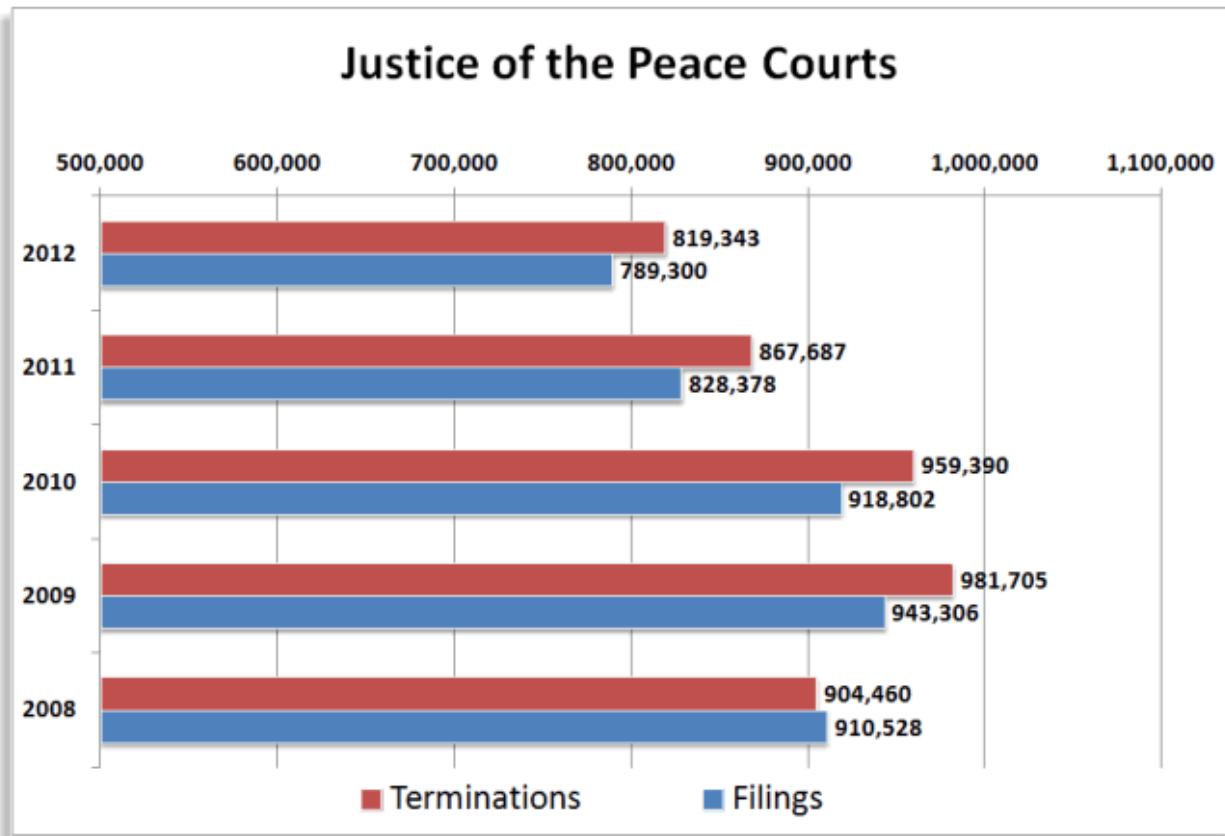
- A total of 1,825 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2012, a decrease of 19.9% from the 2,279 cases filed in FY 2011.
- Of the 1,825 FY 2012 original cases filed, 1,614 were property tax actions, accounting for 88.4% of the total.
- A total of 2,251 cases were terminated, 943 or 41.9% by judgment. Cases terminated by judgement increased 35.1% from FY 2011.
- As of June 30, 2012, there were 1,688 cases pending in the tax court. Total cases pending decreased 19.6% from FY 2011.

## Superior Court Case Filings Chart



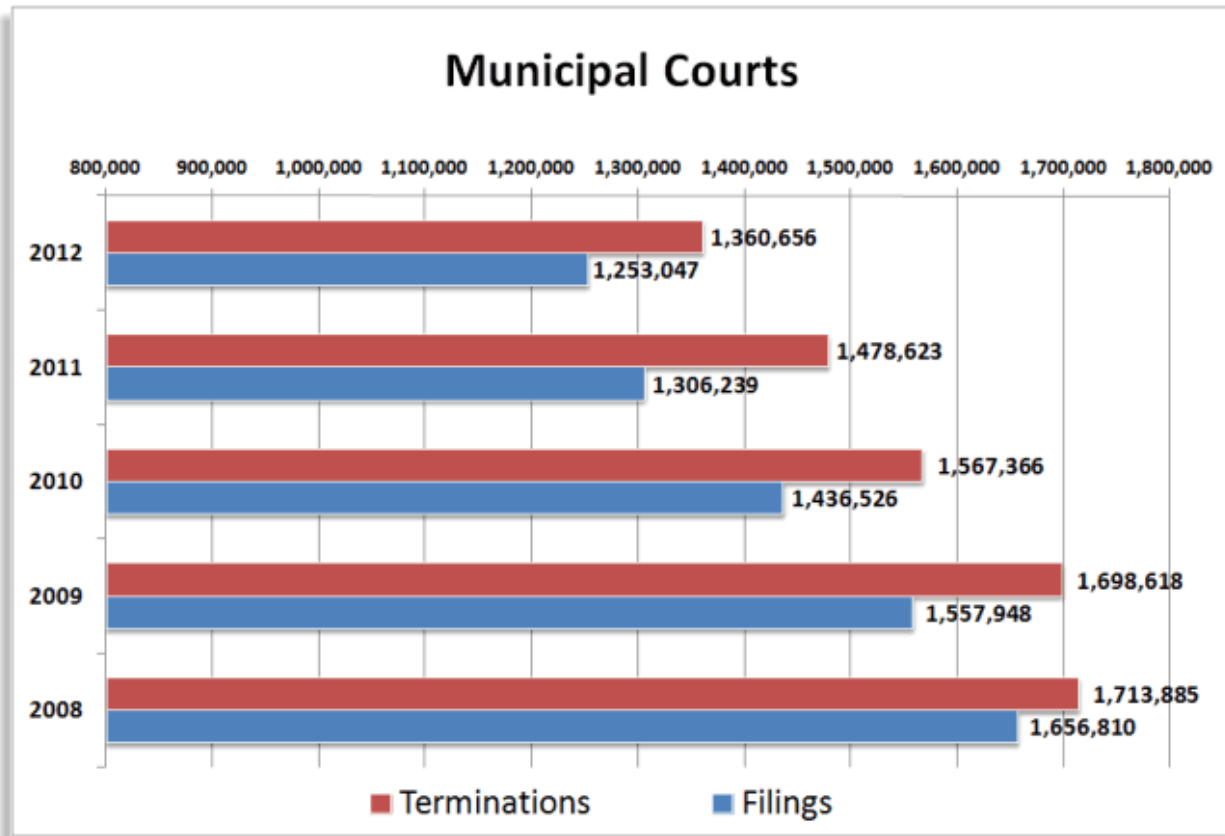
- In FY 2012, total case filings decreased by 10.2% from FY 2011.
- Total case terminations decreased by 13.0% during the same period.
- Civil case filings decreased 26.7% from 97,856 in FY 2011 to 71,722 in FY 2012. During the same period, civil case terminations also decreased 26.1% from 102,922 to 76,008.
- Criminal case filings increased 2.1% from 51,066 in FY 2011 to 52,159 in FY 2012. Criminal case terminations decreased by 4.3% during the same period from 54,372 to 52,018.
- Domestic relations cases decreased 1.8% from 49,493 in FY 2011 to 48,594 in FY 2012, while domestic relations case terminations decreased 4.1% from 49,768 to 47,733. Domestic violence petition filings increased 2.2% in Superior Court from 12,579 to 12,856 in FY 2012.
- There were 210,786 total cases pending on June 30, 2012, compared with 210,965 cases pending on July 1, 2011, a decrease of 0.1%.
- Juveniles with direct filings to adult court decreased 23.8%, from 340 in FY 2011 to 259 in FY 2012. Juvenile cases transferred to adult court decreased 25.0%, from 24 in FY 2011 to 18 in FY 2012. A total of 277 juvenile cases were either transferred or directly filed in adult court in FY 2012 compared to 364 in FY 2011, a decrease of 23.9%.

## Justice of the Peace Courts Case Filings Chart



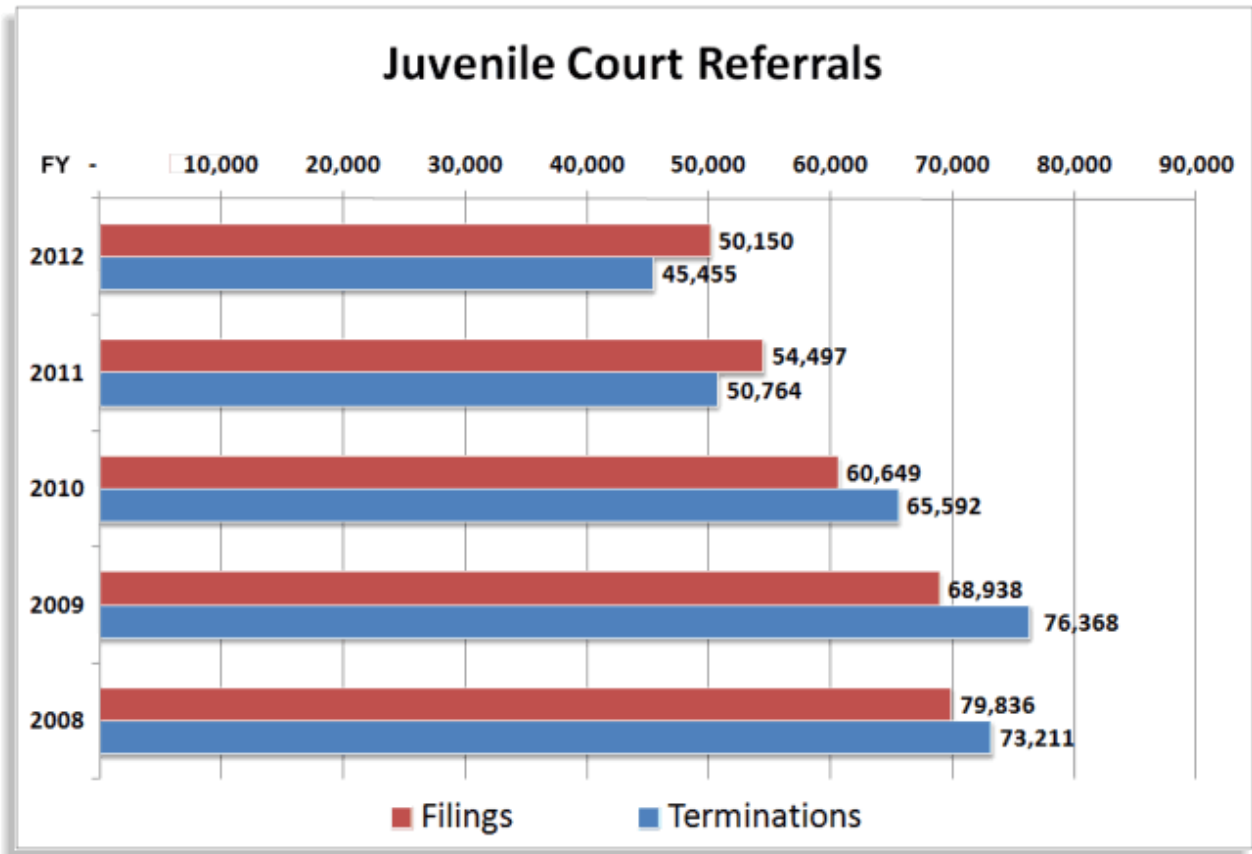
- Total filings in Justice Courts decreased from 828,378 in FY 2011 to 789,300 in FY 2012, a decrease of 4.7%.
- During the same period, case terminations decreased 5.6% from 867,687 in FY 2011 to 819,343 in FY 2012.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise almost two-thirds of all justice court filings, decreased 3.3% from 475,829 in FY2011 to 460,190 in FY 2012.
- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings decreased 3.7% from 115,014 in FY 2011 to 110,801 in FY 2012. Criminal case terminations decreased 2.3% from 122,240 in FY 2011 to 119,391 in FY 2012.
- Domestic Violence petition filings decreased 0.2% in justice courts, from 9,495 to 9,478. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment decreased 8.5% from 7,696 to 7,040.
- Total cases pending dropped by 0.5% from 629,753 on July 1, 2011 to 626,573 on June 30, 2012.

## Municipal Courts Case Filings Chart



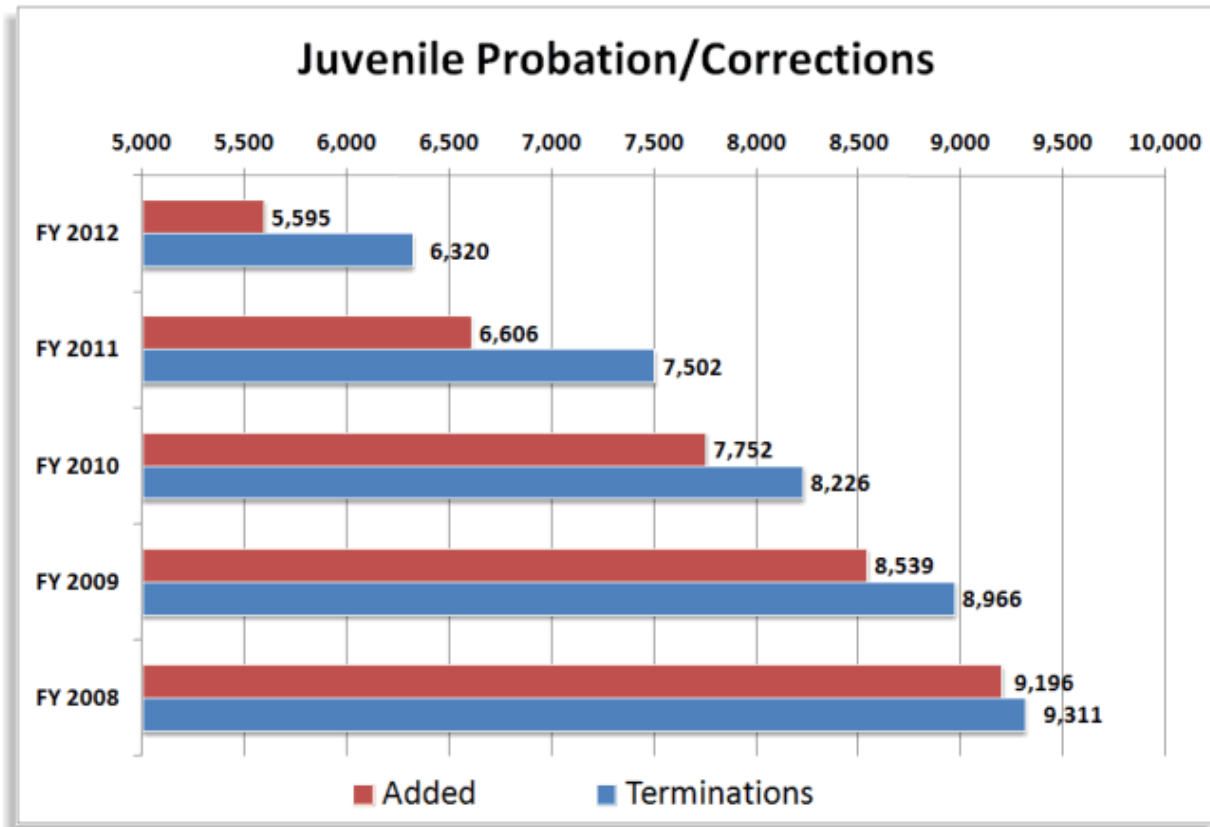
- Case filings decreased 4.1% from 1,306,239 in FY 2011 to 1,253,047 in FY 2012. Total case terminations decreased 8.0% during the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise about three-fourths of all municipal court cases, decreased 3.3%, from 971,088 in FY 2011 to 938,714 in FY 2012.
- Criminal misdemeanor case filings decreased 3.0% from 215,392 in FY 2011 to 208,879 in FY 2012. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations decreased 12.0% from 319,687 in FY 2011 to 381,476 in FY 2012.
- Domestic Violence petitions decreased 3.8% from 12,800 in FY 2011 to 13,288 in FY 2012. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment decreased 3.6%, from 7,924 in FY 2011 to 7,636 in FY 2012.
- Total cases pending increased 4.9%, from 855,253 on July 1, 2011 to 896,746 on June 30, 2012.

## Juvenile Court Referrals Chart



- There were 50,150 referrals to juvenile court in FY 2012, an 8.0% decrease compared to 54,497 in the previous year.
- 45,455 referrals were terminated in FY 2012, a 10.5% decrease compared to the 50,764 referrals terminated in FY 2011.

## Juvenile Probation/Corrections Case Filings Chart



- The number of juveniles on probation at the end of FY 2012 decreased 11.7% from 6,182 on July 1, 2011 to 5,457 on June 30, 2012.
- A total of 5,595 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2012, a 15.3% decrease from the 6,606 youths placed on probation in FY 2011.
- 6,320 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 15.8% from the 7,502 terminated last year.
- 583 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2012, a decrease of 16.7% from the 700 committed last year.

## **Adult Probation**

- The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY2012 decreased 4.2% from 83,792 on July 1, 2011 to 80,273 on June 30, 2012.
- Of the 80,273 under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 41,186 were on standard probation (35,666 were under direct supervision in the state and 5,520 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,307 on intensive probation (2,143 were direct supervision and 164 were on indirect supervision), and 36,780 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc.).

## **Juvenile Court Petitions**

- A total of 19,727 petitions were filed in FY 2012, a 11.3% decrease from the 22,243 petitions filed in FY 2011.
- A total of 19,000 petitions were terminated in FY 2012, a 10.7% decrease from the 21,287 terminated in FY 2011.