

# Arizona Judicial Branch

## Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015



## Judiciary Organizational Chart

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### Supreme Court

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

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### 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.

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### 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		

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### Municipal Courts

138 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	15	5
Gila	5	6	Pinal	8	9
Graham	3	3	Santa Cruz	2	2
Greenlee	1	1	Yavapai	9	9
La Paz	2	2	Yuma	5	4
Maricopa	67	22			

## **Fiscal Year 2015**

### **Caseload Highlights In FY 2015 as compared with FY 2014**

- Statewide, 2,000,643 case were filed in the Arizona Courts during FY 2015 (Appellate, Superior, Tax, Justice and Municipal Courts). That equates to an average of 7,665 cases filed among the Arizona courts every working day.
- Statewide, case filings decreased by 6.7%, while revenue decreased by 2.3%. The trend in decreasing revenue continues to be driven by the overall decline in both criminal and civil traffic filings in the limited jurisdiction courts.
- Appellate court filings increased by 3.6% from FY 2104 to FY 2015. Both divisions of the Court of Appeals saw increased filings, while the Supreme Court experienced a decrease of 23 filings, or 2.2%
- Superior Court case filings decreased by 5.3% statewide, from 201,299 in FY 2014 to 190,611 in FY 2015. The decrease in filings was primarily driven by the 17.7% decrease in regular civil filings. Probate, Juvenile, and Mental health categories saw increased filings during the same period. Criminal filings in Maricopa and Pima counties decreased by 5.6% and 6.7%, respectively, while the rural counties experienced an increase of 12.4%.
- Juvenile dependency filings increased by 9.8% compared to FY 2014 and 101.5% compared to FY 2011.
- Filings in the limited jurisdiction courts, which account for 90.2% of the total filings statewide, decreased by 6.8% or 132,104 filings. Criminal and civil traffic filings account for the majority of the filing decrease during FY 2015.
- Justice Court case filings decreased by 5.3% in FY 2015. Case filings in Maricopa and Pima counties decreased by 3.2% and 15.4%, respectively, while filings in the rural courts decreased by 2.3%.
- Municipal Court case filings decreased by 7.8% statewide. In Maricopa and the rural counties, case filings decreased by 6.3% and 4.7%, respectively, while Pima County case filings decreased 13.7%.
- Civil traffic filings account for 54.9% of all case filings in the Justice and Municipal Courts statewide. Civil traffic filings decreased by 92,735, or 8.6% from FY 2014 to FY 2015.
- 62,613 DUI charges were filed in Justice and Municipal Courts during FY 2015. This represents a decrease of 5,110 filings, or 7.5%. (Case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are primarily counted by charge, as opposed to defendant).

## FY 2015 Case Filings by Court Level

APPELLATE	
COURT LEVEL	CASE FILINGS
SUPREME COURT	1,014
DIVISION ONE	2,726
DIVISION TWO	868
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,608</b>

### TRENDS

- \* Appellate Court case filings increased by 159 (3.6%).
- \* General Jurisdiction Court case filings decreased by 10,759 (5.3%).
- \* Limited Jurisdiction Court case filings decreased by 132,104 (6.8%).

GENERAL JURISDICTION	
COUNTY	CASE FILINGS
APACHE	825
COCHISE	2,980
COCONINO	3,191
GILA	1,670
GRAHAM	1,179
GREENLEE	325
LA PAZ	593
MARICOPA	122,515
MOHAVE	5,791
NAVAJO	2,748
PIMA	26,229
PINAL	10,017
SANTA CRUZ	1,263
YAVAPAI	6,111
YUMA	5,174
TAX COURT	1,033
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>191,644</b>

LIMITED JURISDICTION CASE FILINGS		
COUNTY	JUSTICE	MUNICIPAL
APACHE	11,455	1,470
COCHISE	38,628	3,624
COCONINO	24,288	19,163
GILA	8,864	24,679
GRAHAM	4,899	2,685
GREENLEE	2,702	560
LA PAZ	12,151	1,240
MARICOPA	305,140	696,683
MOHAVE	33,854	19,237
NAVAJO	29,390	2,727
PIMA	125,451	241,970
PINAL	45,608	24,570
SANTA CRUZ	9,674	8,669
YAVAPAI	38,935	26,895
YUMA	18,253	20,927
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>709,292</b>	<b>1,095,099</b>

- Cases filed include original filings and transfers in.
- General Jurisdiction cases are counted by defendant. Total filings include tax court cases.
- Beginning in FY 2015, Limited Jurisdiction cases are counted by charge regardless of the filing type.

## **ARIZONA SUPREME COURT**

- Supreme Court FY 2015 case filings decreased 2.2% from cases filed in FY 2014.
- Cases terminated by the court in FY 2015 remained constant with 979 terminations compared to 978 in FY 2014.
- The pending caseload increased by 9.1% from FY 2014 to FY 2015. There were 396 pending cases on July 1, 2014, compared to 432 pending cases on June 30, 2015.

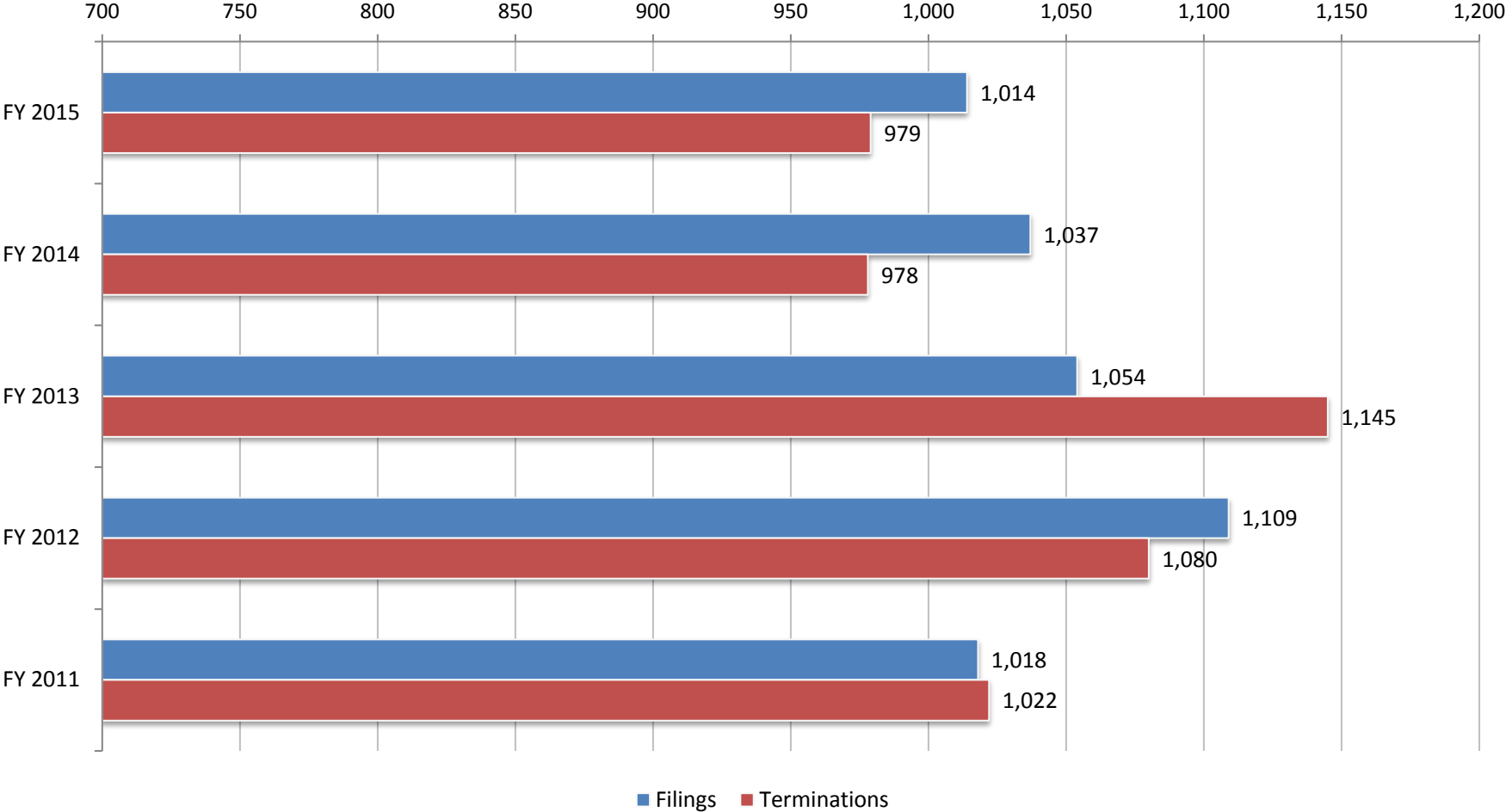
## **COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION ONE**

- Total filings increased 3.7% from 2,630 in FY 2014 to 2,726 in FY 2015.
- Case terminations were steady with 2,457 terminations in FY 2015 compared to 2,443 in FY 2014.
- An increase of 8.0% in the pending caseload, from 2,108 on July 1, 2014 to 2,276 on June 30, 2015.

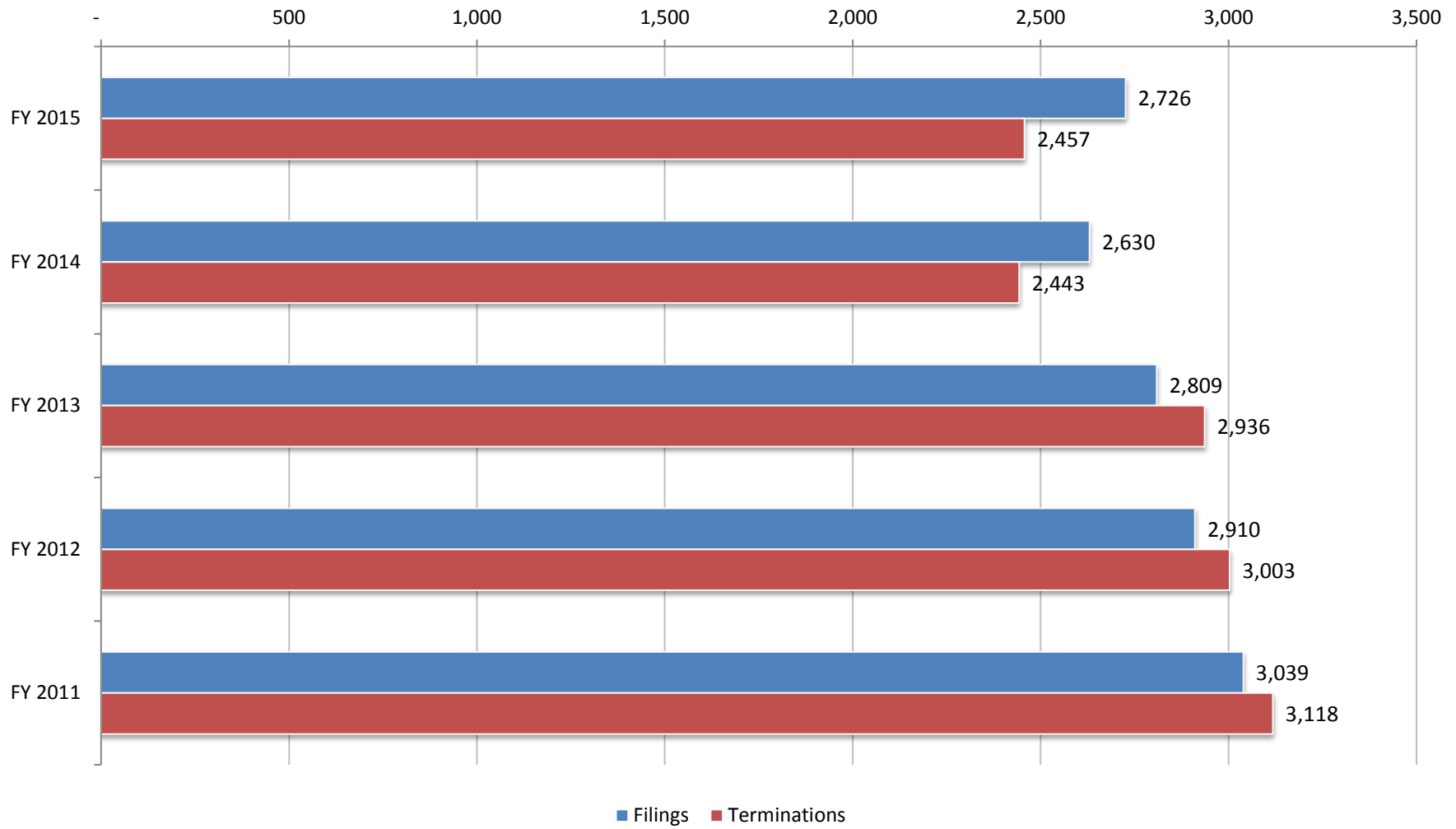
## **COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION TWO**

- Filings increased 11.0% from 782 in FY 2014 to 868 in FY 2015. Criminal and post-conviction relief filings decreased 9.1% from 386 in FY 2014 to 351 in FY 2015.
- Case terminations decreased by 17.3% in FY 2015.
- Pending caseload increased by 6.6%, from 656 on July 1, 2014 to 699 on June 30, 2015.

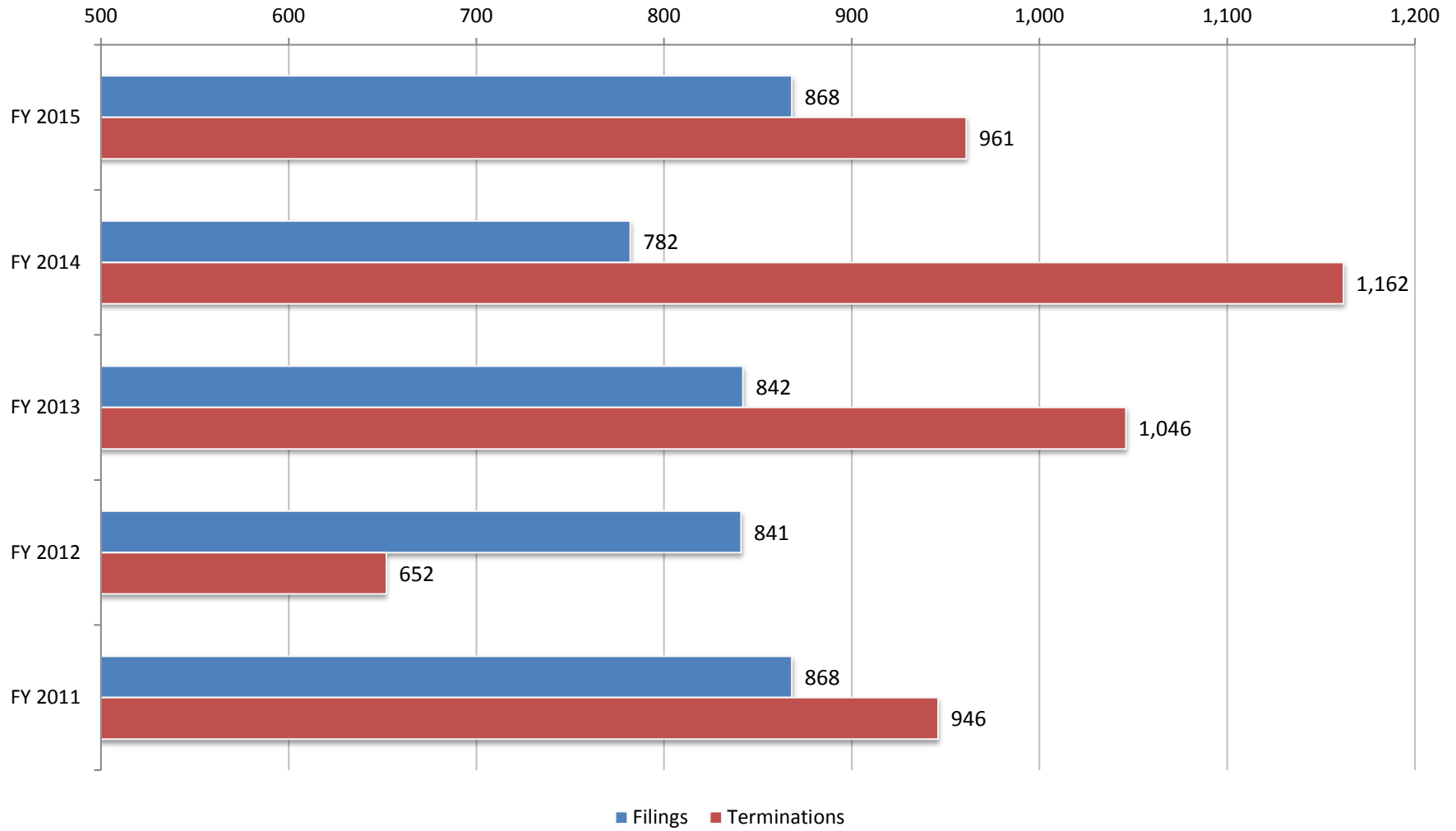
# Arizona Supreme Court



# Court of Appeals, Division One



## Court of Appeals, Division Two

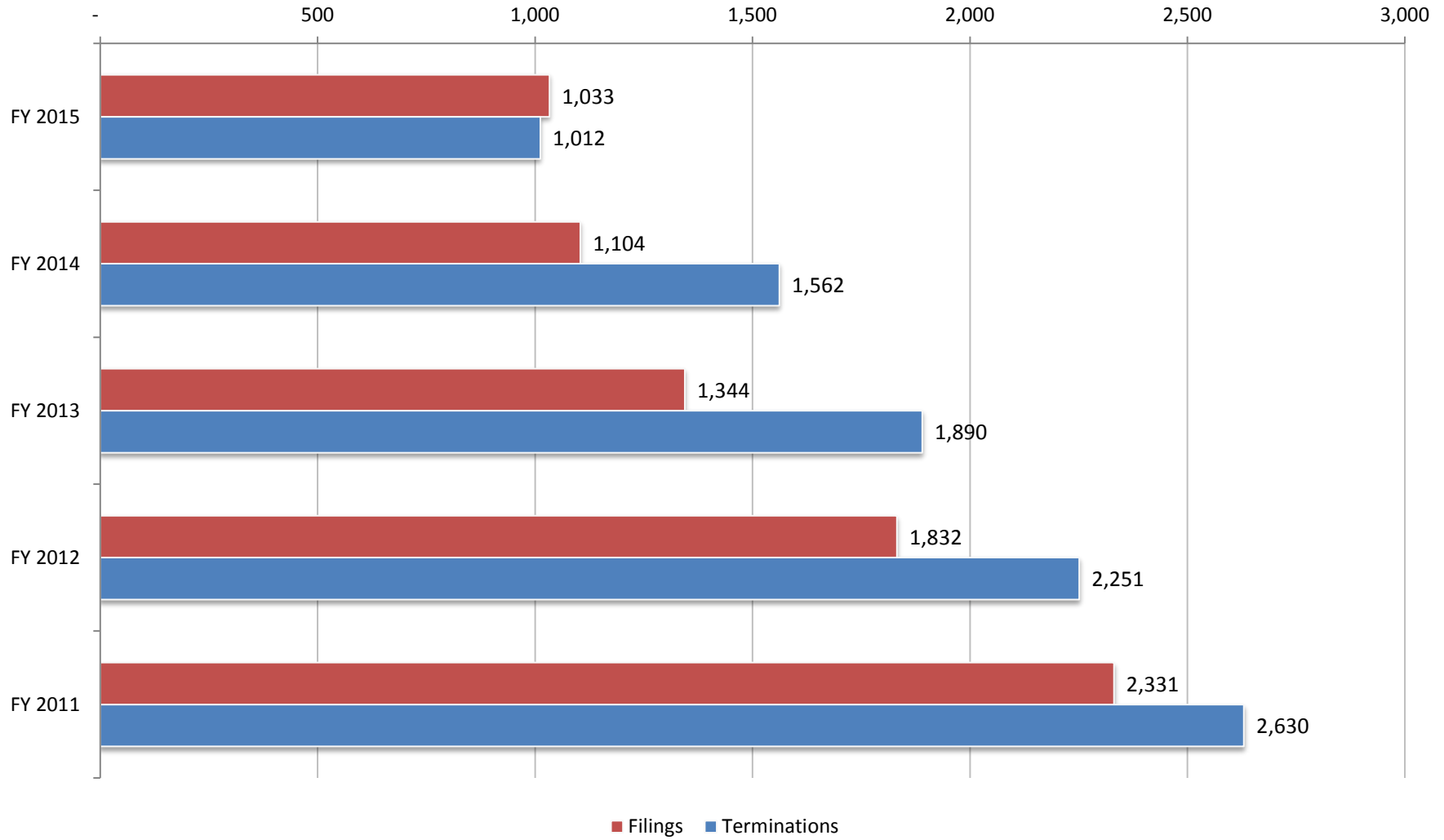


## ARIZONA TAX COURT

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

- A total of 1,033 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2015, a decrease of 6.4% from the 1,104 cases filed in FY 2014.
- Of the 1,033 FY 2015 original cases filed, 681 were property tax actions, accounting for 65.9% of the total original filings.
- A total of 1,012 cases were terminated, 521 or 51.5% by judgment. Total cases that were terminated by judgment decreased 27.1% from FY 2014.
- As of June 30, 2015, 782 cases were pending in the tax court. Total cases pending decreased 0.5% from FY 2014.

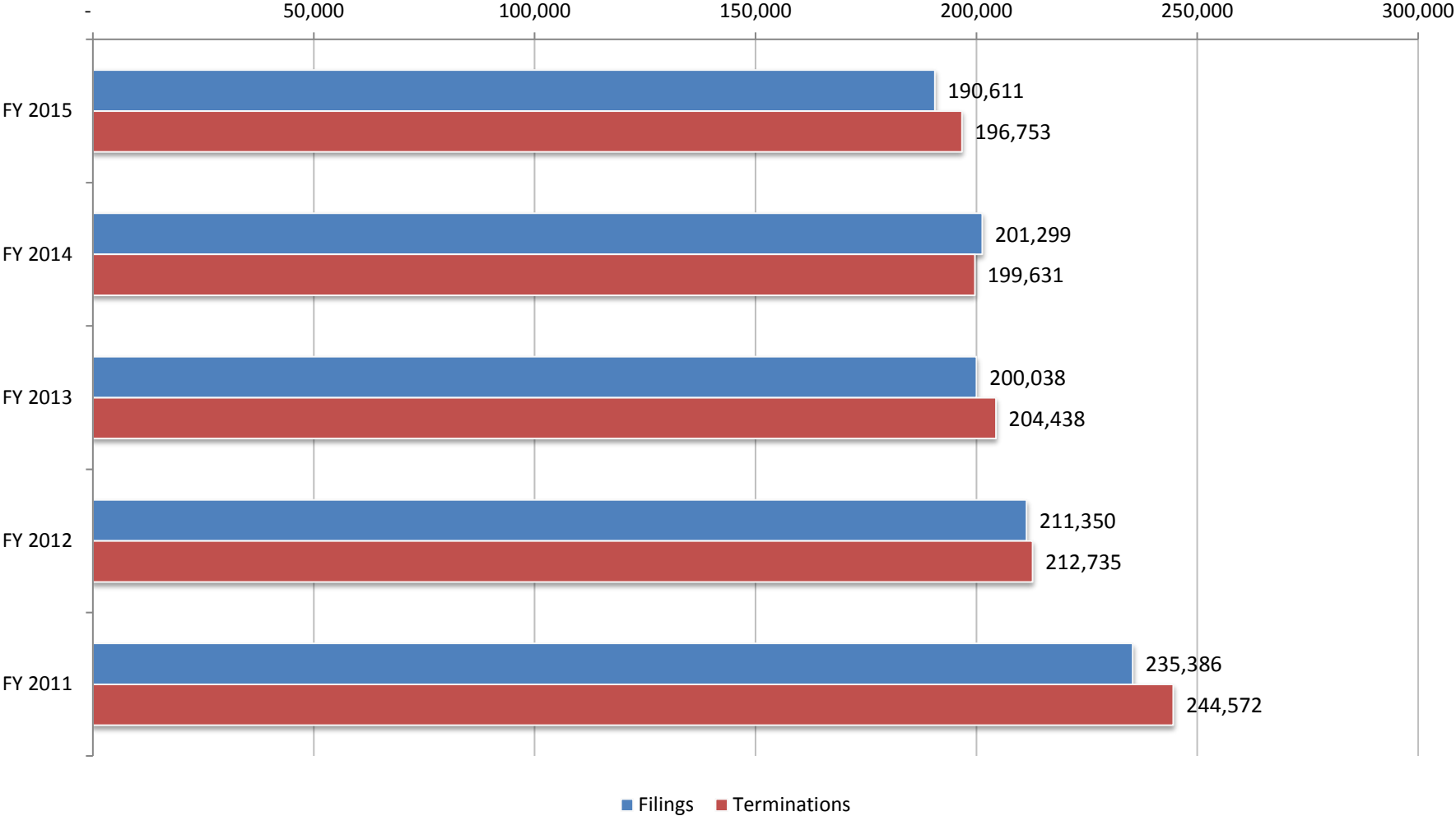
# Arizona Tax Court



## SUPERIOR COURT

- Statewide, case filings decreased by 5.3% from 201,299 in FY 2014 to 190,611 in FY 2015. Case terminations decreased by 1.4% during the same period.
- Civil case filings decreased 17.7% from 59,267 in FY 2014 to 48,807 in FY 2015. During the same period, civil case terminations decreased by 1.7% from 58,591 to 57,587.
- Criminal case filings decreased 1.6% from 52,402 in FY 2014 to 51,549 in FY 2015. Criminal case terminations decreased by 4.1% during the same period, from 54,872 to 52,629.
- Domestic relations case filings decreased 1.2% from 51,354 in FY 2014 to 50,739 in FY 2015. Domestic relations case terminations decreased 0.7% from 50,854 to 50,498. Petitions for orders of protection increased 4.9% in Superior Court, from 12,384 in FY 2014 to 12,991 in FY 2015.
- There were 205,554 total cases pending on July 1, 2014, compared with 206,693 cases pending on June 30, 2015, an increase of 0.6%.
- Juvenile cases with direct filings into adult court decreased 8.5% from 200 in FY 2014 to 183 in FY 2015. Juvenile cases transferred to adult court increased 83.3%, from 12 in FY 2014 to 22 in FY 2015. A total of 205 juvenile cases were either transferred or directly filed into adult court in FY 2015 compared to 212 in FY 2014, a decrease of 3.3%.

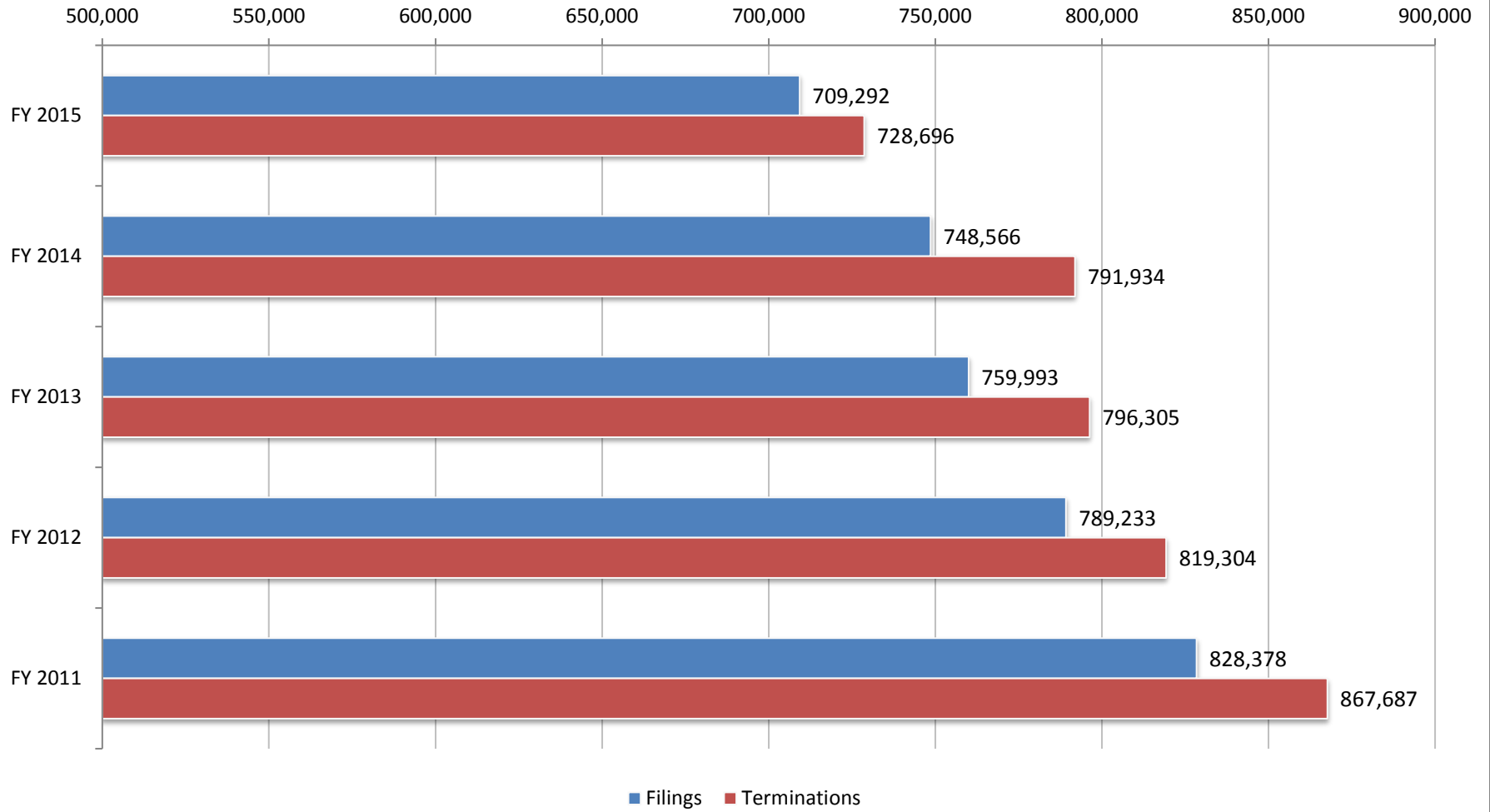
# Superior Court



## JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

- Total filings in Justice Courts decreased from 748,566 in FY 2014 to 709,292 in FY 2015, a decrease of 5.2%.
- During the same period, case terminations decreased 8.0% from 791,934 in FY 2014 to 728,696 in FY 2015.
- Criminal and civil traffic filings, which comprise more than half of all justice court filings, decreased by 42,561 filings or 9.9%.
- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings increased 7.1% from 119,796 in FY 2014 to 128,298 in FY 2015. Criminal case terminations increased 6.5% from 128,324 in FY 2014 to 136,603 in FY 2015.
- Domestic Violence petition filings decreased 1.2% in justice courts, from 8,838 to 8,734. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment decreased 1.0% from 6,341 to 6,277.
- Total cases pending decreased by 9,581 cases from 640,049 on July 1, 2014 to 630,468 on June 30, 2015.

# Justice of the Peace Courts



## **MUNICIPAL COURTS**

- Case filings decreased 7.8% from 1,187,929 in FY 2014 to 1,095,099 in FY 2015. Total case terminations decreased 9.5% during the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise about three-fourths of all municipal court cases, decreased 7.6%, from 859,082 in FY 2014 to 793,766 in FY 2015.
- Criminal misdemeanor case filings decreased 7.7% from 227,841 in FY 2014 to 210,221 in FY 2015. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations increased 1.2% from 264,840 in FY 2014 to 267,969 in FY 2015.
- Domestic Violence petitions increased 1.7% from 13,255 in FY 2014 to 13,484 in FY 2015. Petitions for Injunctions Against Harassment increased 2.4%, from 7,256 in FY 2014 to 7,427 in FY 2015.
- Total cases pending increased 3.7%, from 612,116 on July 1, 2014 to 634,792 on June 30, 2015.

# Municipal Courts

Thousands

800 900 1,000 1,100 1,200 1,300 1,400 1,500 1,600

FY 2015



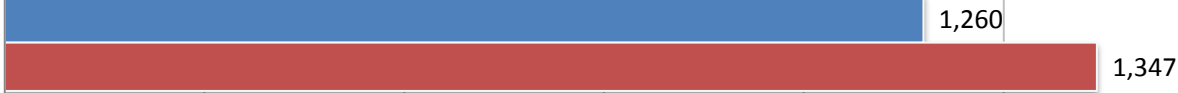
FY 2014



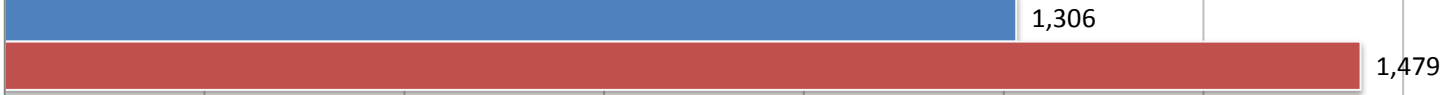
FY 2013



FY 2012



FY 2011



Filings Terminations

## **ADULT PROBATION**

- The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2015 increased 3.3% from 79,545 on July 1, 2014 to 82,204 on June 30, 2015.
- Of the 82,204 individuals under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 44,098 were on standard probation (38,663 were under direct supervision in the state and 5,435 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,542 were on intensive probation (2,360 were direct supervision and 182 were on indirect supervision), and 35,564 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc).

## **JUVENILE COURT / PROBATION**

### **JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS**

- 37,331 referrals were filed into juvenile court in FY 2015, a 5.4% decrease compared to 39,476 the previous year.
- 31,370 referrals were terminated in FY 2015, a 6.4% decrease compared to the 33,316 referrals terminated in FY 2014.

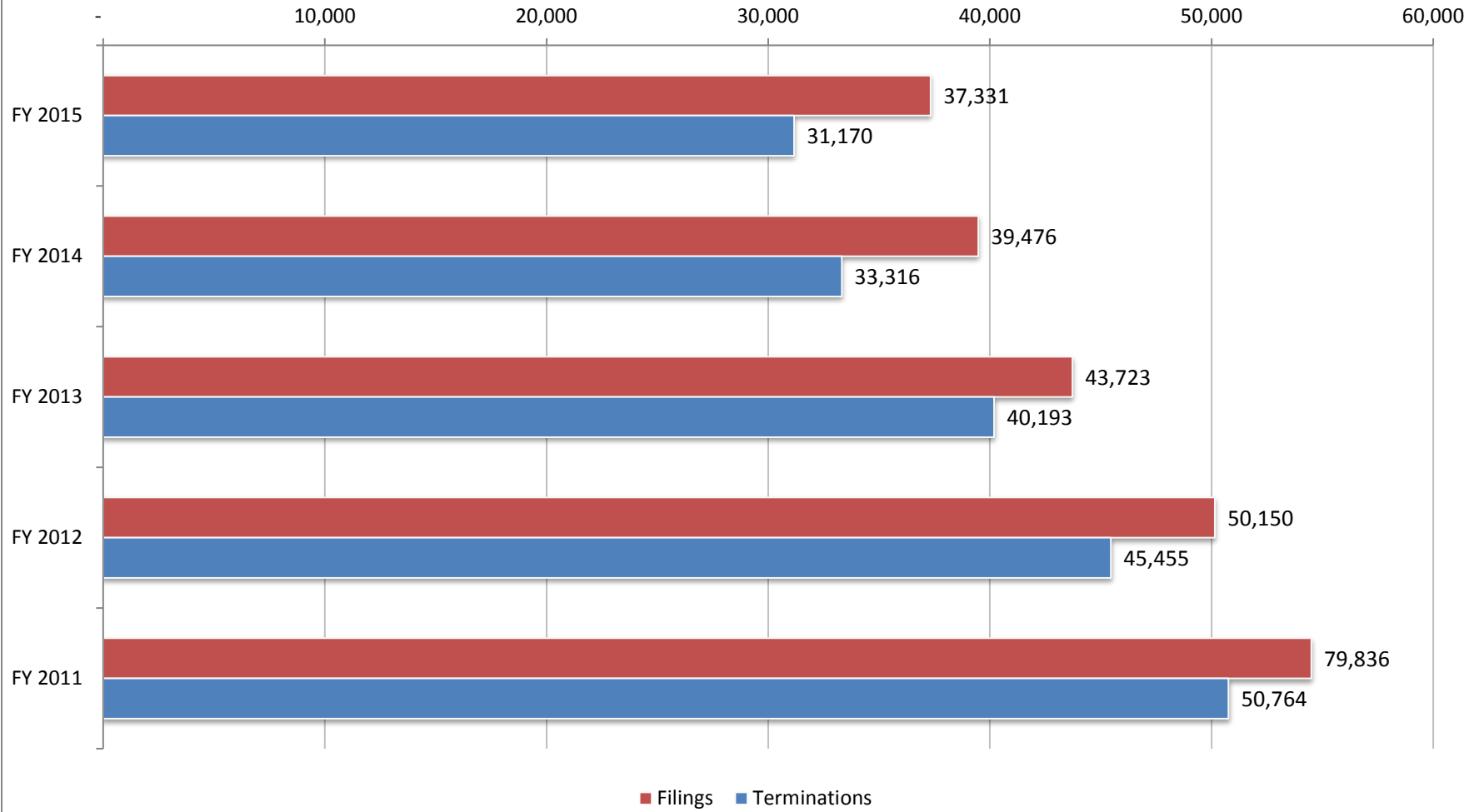
### **JUVENILE COURT PETITIONS**

- A total of 14,430 petitions were filed in FY 2015, a 3.5% decrease from the 14,953 petitions filed in FY 2014.
- A total of 14,306 petitions were terminated in FY 2015, a 0.1% increase from the 14,298 terminated in FY 2014.

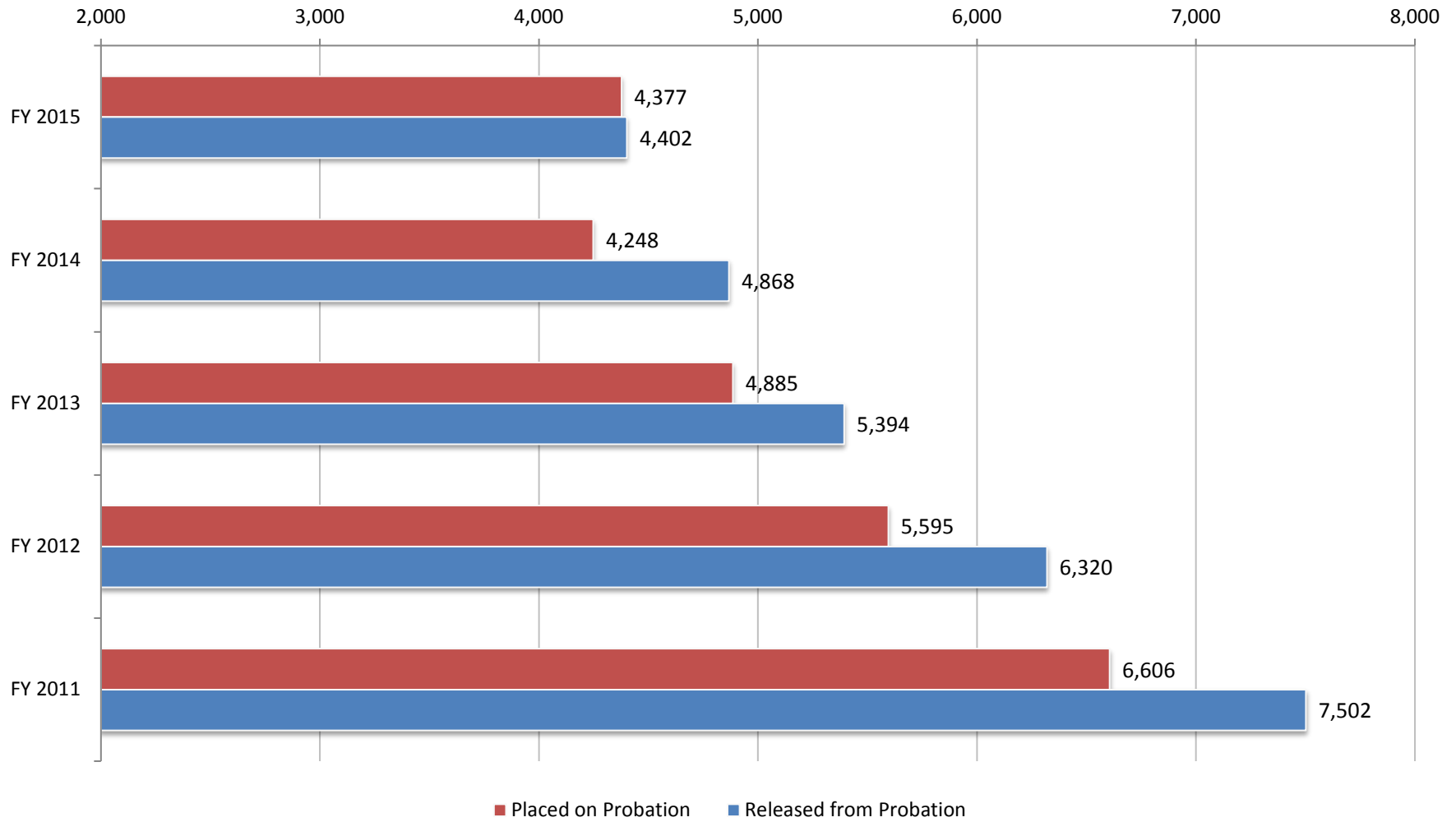
### **JUVENILE PROBATION/CORRECTIONS**

- The number of juveniles on probation at the end of FY 2014 decreased 4.0% from 4,233 on July 1, 2014 to 4,062 on June 30, 2015.
- A total of 4,377 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2015, a 3.0% increase from the 4,248 youths placed on probation in FY 2014.
- 4,402 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 9.6% from the 4,868 terminated last year.
- 362 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2015, a decrease of 23.0% from the 470 committed last fiscal year.

# Juvenile Court Referrals



## Juvenile Probation/Corrections



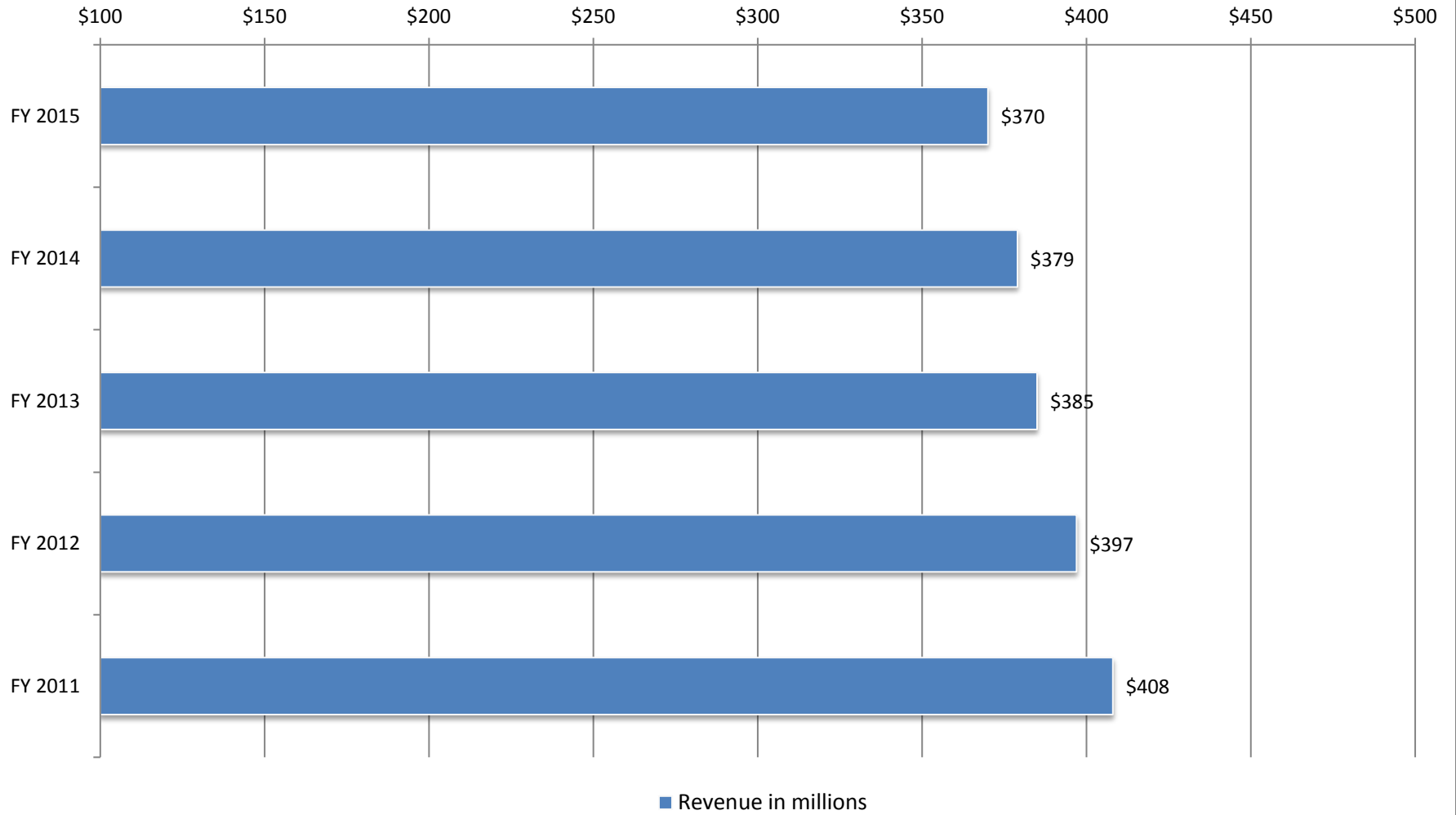
## **Revenue Summary**

- Total statewide court revenue decreased 2.3% from \$379.0 million in FY 2014 to \$370.2 million in FY 2015. While revenue decreased by 2.3%, case filings decreased by 6.7% during the same period, reflecting the continuing efforts of the courts statewide to collect court-ordered fines, fees, and surcharges.
- Of the total court revenue, the state received 43.9%, counties received 30.8% and cities and towns received 25.4%.
- 48.0% of total court revenue was generated by municipal courts, 27.7% by justice courts, 23.2% by Superior Court and 1.1% by appellate courts.
- Total victim restitution payments collected by courts decreased by 2.4% from \$19.5 million in FY 2014 to \$19.0 million in FY 2015.

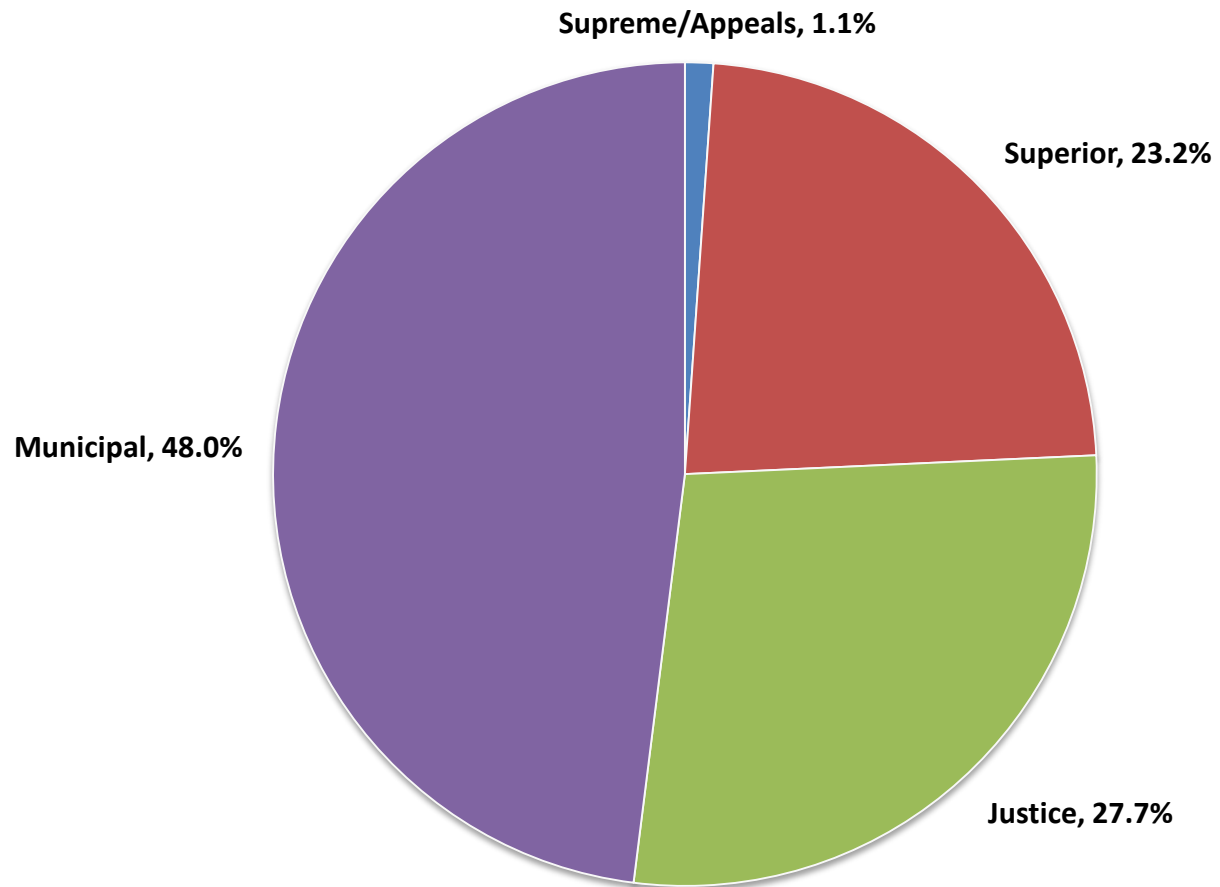
## **Expenditure Summary**

- Total statewide court expenditures increased 3.5% from \$752.4 million in FY 2014 to \$778.5 million in FY 2015.
- 66.3% of the total funds expended by the court system were from the counties, 19.4% from the state, 13.0% from cities and towns, and 1.4% from federal and private sources.
- 69.9% of total court expenditures were in Superior Court (including probation), 13.0% in municipal courts, 10.0% at the appellate level and 7.1% in the justice courts.

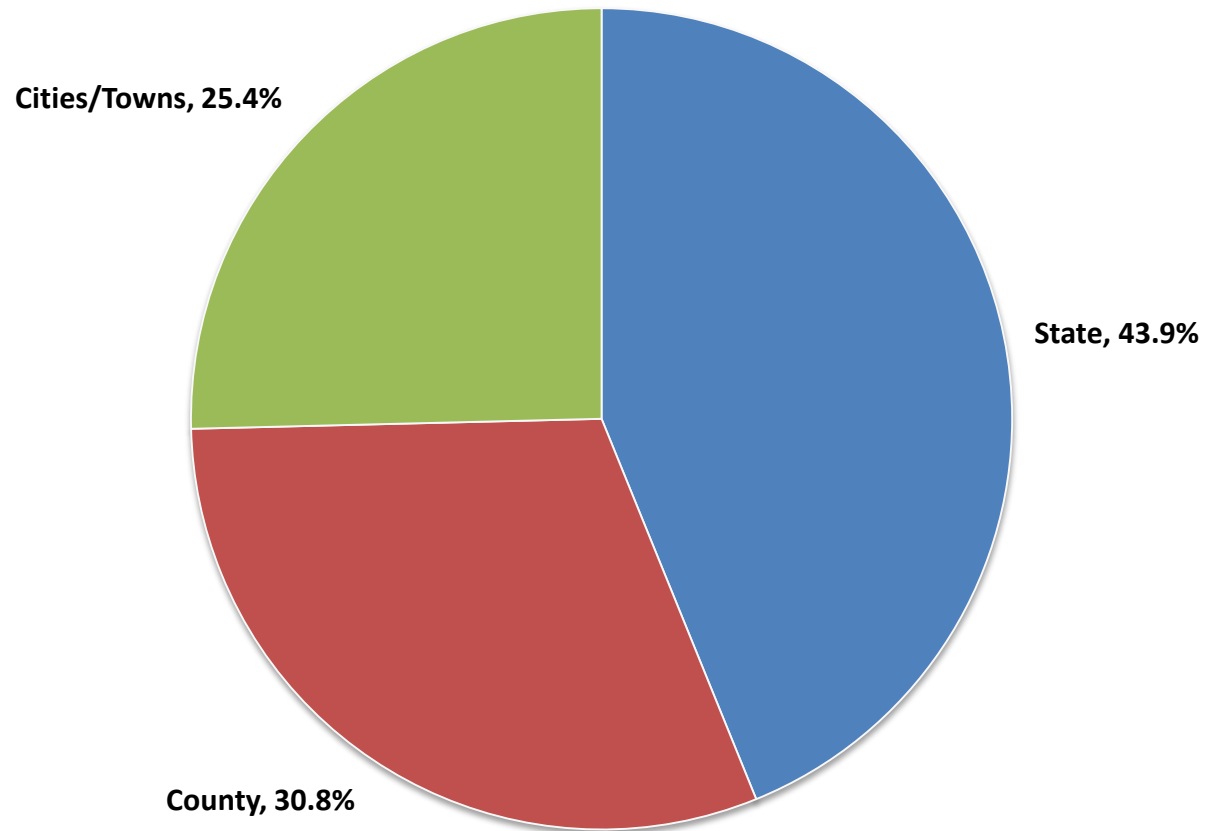
# Arizona Court Revenue



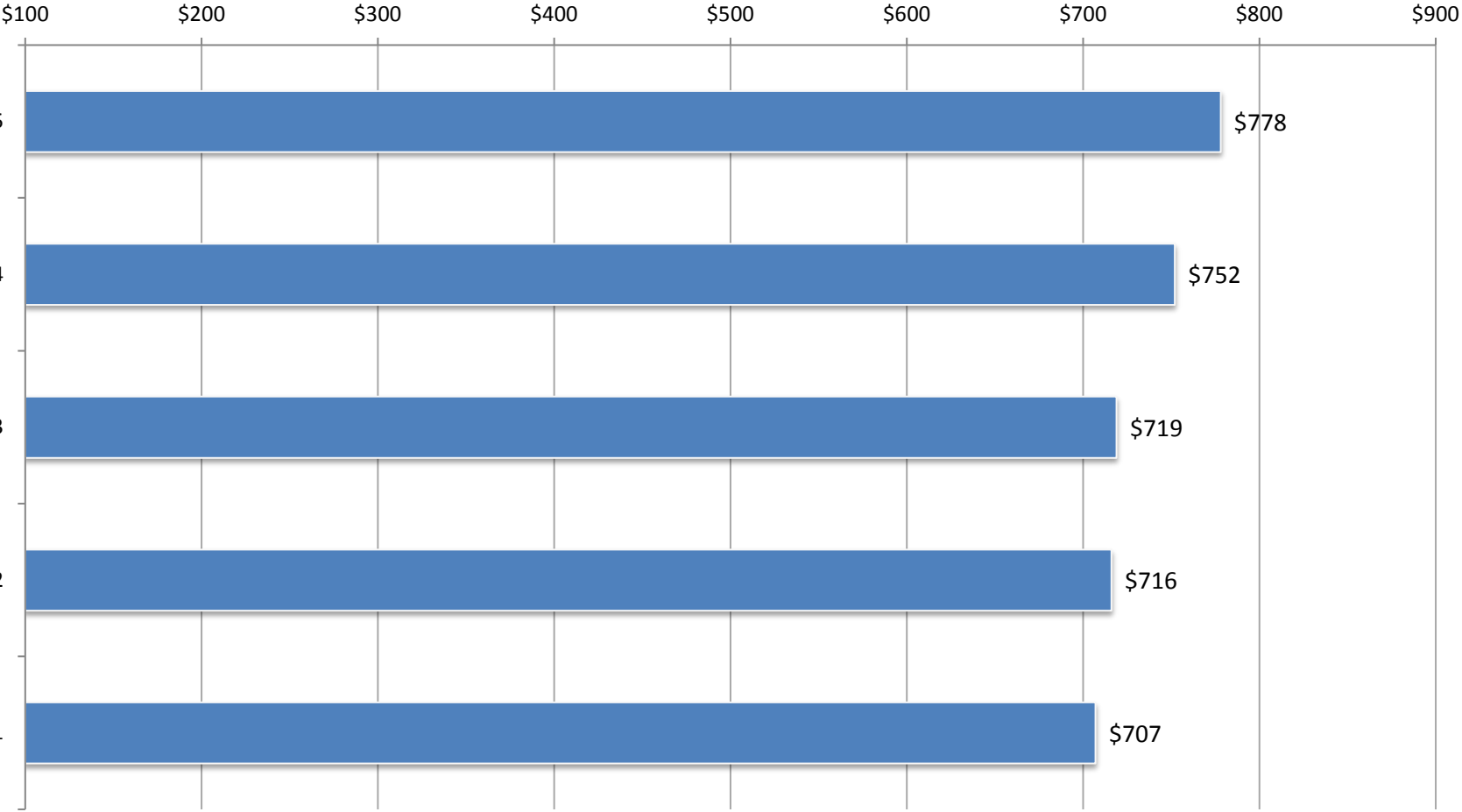
## Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level



**Proportion of Revenue Generated  
by  
Level of Government**

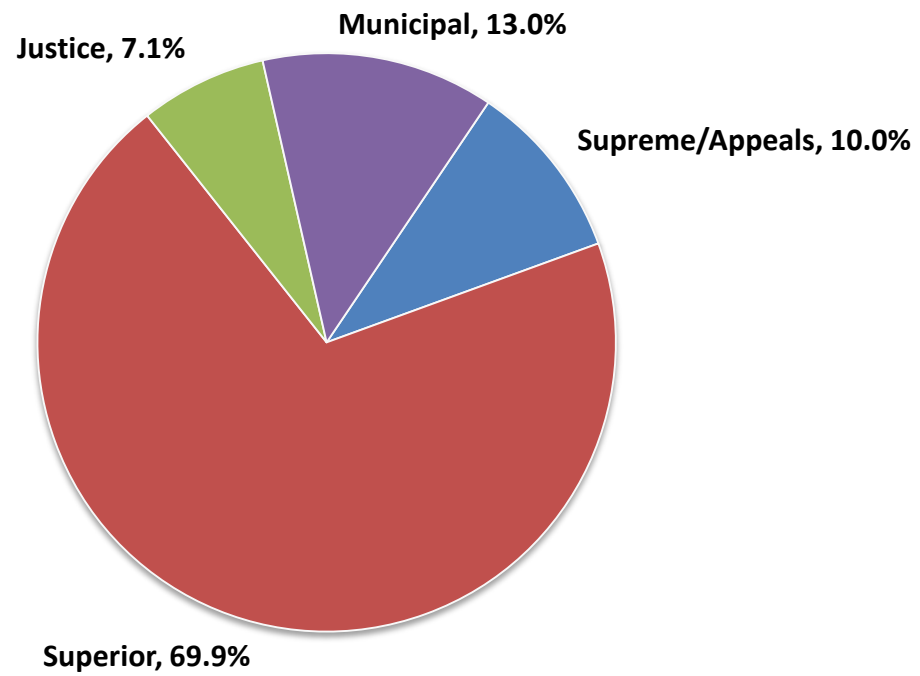


# Arizona Court Expenditures



■ Expenditure in millions

## Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level



# Proportion of Expenditures by Government

