

Arizona Judicial Branch

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2017



Judiciary Organizational Chart

Supreme Court

7 Justices, 6-year terms
Chief Justice, Vice Chief Justice
5 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

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

128 Full- and Part-time Judges, varying terms

	Judges	Courts		Judges	Courts
Apache	3	3	Mohave	5	4
Cochise	3	4	Navajo	4	4
Coconino	5	4	Pima	13	5
Gila	5	6	Pinal	9	9
Graham	3	3	Santa Cruz	2	2
Greenlee	1	1	Yavapai	9	9
La Paz	2	2	Yuma	5	4
Maricopa	59	22			

Fiscal Year 2017

Caseload Highlights In FY 2017 as compared with FY 2016

- Statewide, 1,861,628 cases were filed in the Arizona Courts during FY 2017 (Appellate, Superior, Tax, Justice and Municipal Courts). That equates to an average of 7,132 cases filed among the Arizona courts every working day.
- Case filings during FY 2017 decreased by 2.6% overall, while revenue decreased by 5.0%. 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.
- The Supreme Court experienced an increase of 13.4% in case filings from FY 2016 to FY 2017. Filings in the Court of Appeals also increased, up 16.0% compared to FY 2016.
- Filings in Superior Court increased from 188,720 to 190,158, an increase of just 1,438 filings over the year. There were significant increases in the mental health category, up 28.8%, as well as the civil contract category, up 16.7%. Within the civil category, non-classified civil cases decreased 14.3% (3,390 cases) due to procedural changes in how transcript of judgment cases are filed.
- Tax Court filings continue to decrease, down 14.7% from 855 in FY 2016 to 729 in FY 2017. Tax filings have decreased significantly in recent years, down 78.4% from a peak of 3,382 filings in FY 2010.
- Filings in the limited jurisdiction courts decreased 3.0%, from 1,717,025 in FY 2016 to 1,665,370 in FY 2017. The overall decline in filings was driven by a 5.5% decrease in criminal and civil traffic filings statewide.
- Justice Court filings increased 1.7%, from 714,778 in FY 2016 to 726,870 in FY 2017. Filings in the other civil category had the largest increase up 8.4% (8,039 cases) from FY 2016 to FY 2017. Felony filings also increased, up 7.0% during the same period.
- Filings were down across all categories in the Municipal Courts. A decrease of 54,341 civil traffic filings had the greatest impact on the overall decline in case filings in Municipal Courts.
- Civil traffic filings account for 63.1% of all case filings in the Justice and Municipal Courts statewide. Civil traffic filings decreased by 60,677, or 5.5%, from FY 2016 to FY 2017.
- 54,791 DUI charges were filed in Justice and Municipal Courts during FY 2017. This represents a decrease of 3,054 filings, or 5.3%, from last fiscal year. (Case filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are primarily counted by charge, as opposed to defendant).

FY 2017 Case Filings by Court Level

APPELLATE	
COURT LEVEL	CASE FILINGS
SUPREME COURT	1,177
DIVISION ONE	3,271
DIVISION TWO	923
TOTAL	5,371

GENERAL JURISDICTION	
COUNTY	CASE FILINGS
APACHE	935
COCHISE	2,963
COCONINO	2,977
GILA	1,615
GRAHAM	1,134
GREENLEE	274
LA PAZ	663
MARICOPA	122,074
MOHAVE	5,494
NAVAJO	2,471
PIMA	28,791
PINAL	8,853
SANTA CRUZ	1,188
YAVAPAI	6,007
YUMA	4,719
TAX COURT	729
TOTAL	190,887

TRENDS

- * Appellate Court case filings increased by 718 (15.4%).
- * General Jurisdiction Court case filings increased by 1,312 (0.7%).
- * Limited Jurisdiction Court case filings decreased by 51,655 (-3.0%).

LIMITED JURISDICTION CASE FILINGS		
COUNTY	JUSTICE	MUNICIPAL
APACHE	11,714	1,851
COCHISE	41,832	2,860
COCONINO	26,382	21,635
GILA	8,652	8,757
GRAHAM	5,344	2,112
GREENLEE	1,727	482
LA PAZ	12,895	1,591
MARICOPA	314,798	659,482
MOHAVE	36,015	21,604
NAVAJO	24,106	2,880
PIMA	128,832	138,359
PINAL	47,922	27,494
SANTA CRUZ	11,921	5,926
YAVAPAI	35,766	24,765
YUMA	18,964	18,702
TOTAL	726,870	938,500

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

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

- Supreme Court case filings increased by 13.4%, from 1,038 in FY 2016 to 1,177 in FY 2017.
- Cases terminated by the court increased by 4.9%, from 1,057 in FY 2016 to 1,109 in FY 2017.
- The pending caseload increased by 18.7% from FY 2016 to FY 2017. There were 418 pending cases on July 1, 2016, compared to 496 pending cases on June 30, 2017.

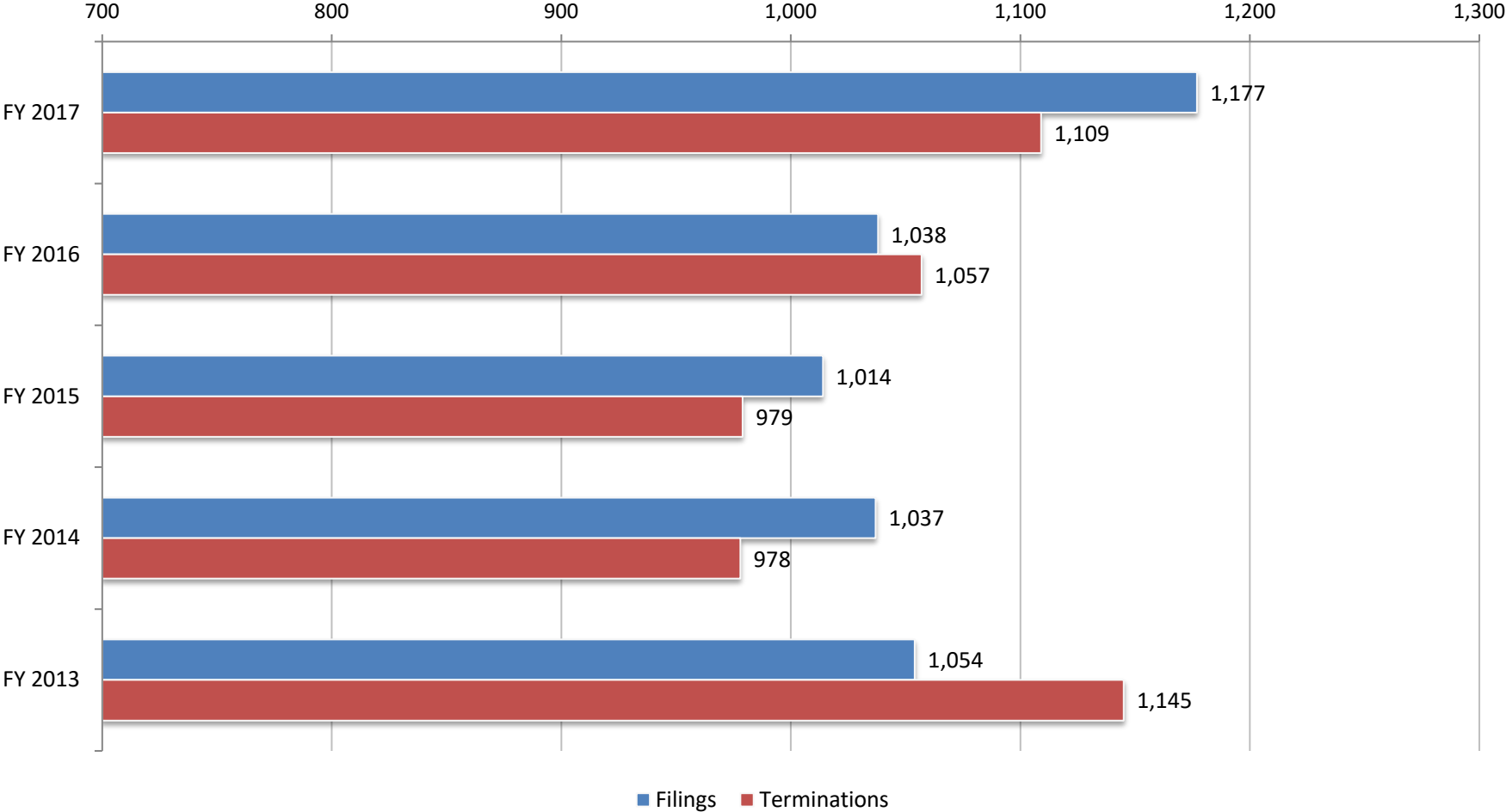
COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION ONE

- Total filings increased by 21.2%, from 2,698 in FY 2016 to 3,271 in FY 2017.
- Case terminations increased by 17.9%, from 2,553 during FY 2016 to 3,009 during FY 2017.
- Pending caseload increased by 11.6%, from 2,357 on July 1, 2016 to 2,630 on June 30, 2017.

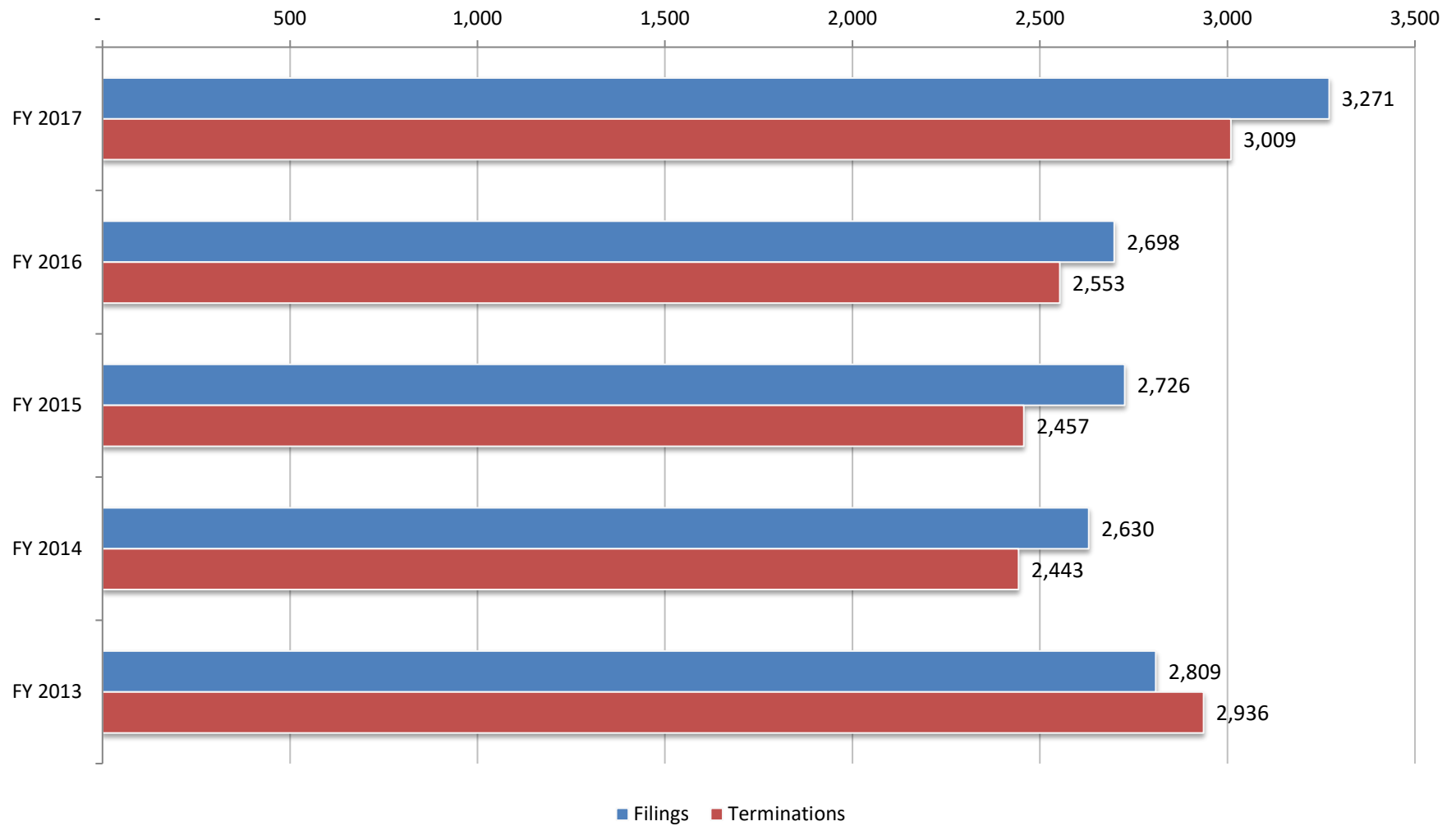
COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION TWO

- Filings increased from 917 in FY 2016 to 923 in FY 2017, an increase of 0.7%. Criminal and post-conviction relief filings decreased by 6.8% from 370 in FY 2016 to 345 in FY 2017.
- Case terminations decreased by 16.9%, from 1,064 in FY 2016 to 884 in FY 2017.
- Pending caseload increased by 13.6%, from 669 on July 1, 2016 to 760 on June 30, 2017.

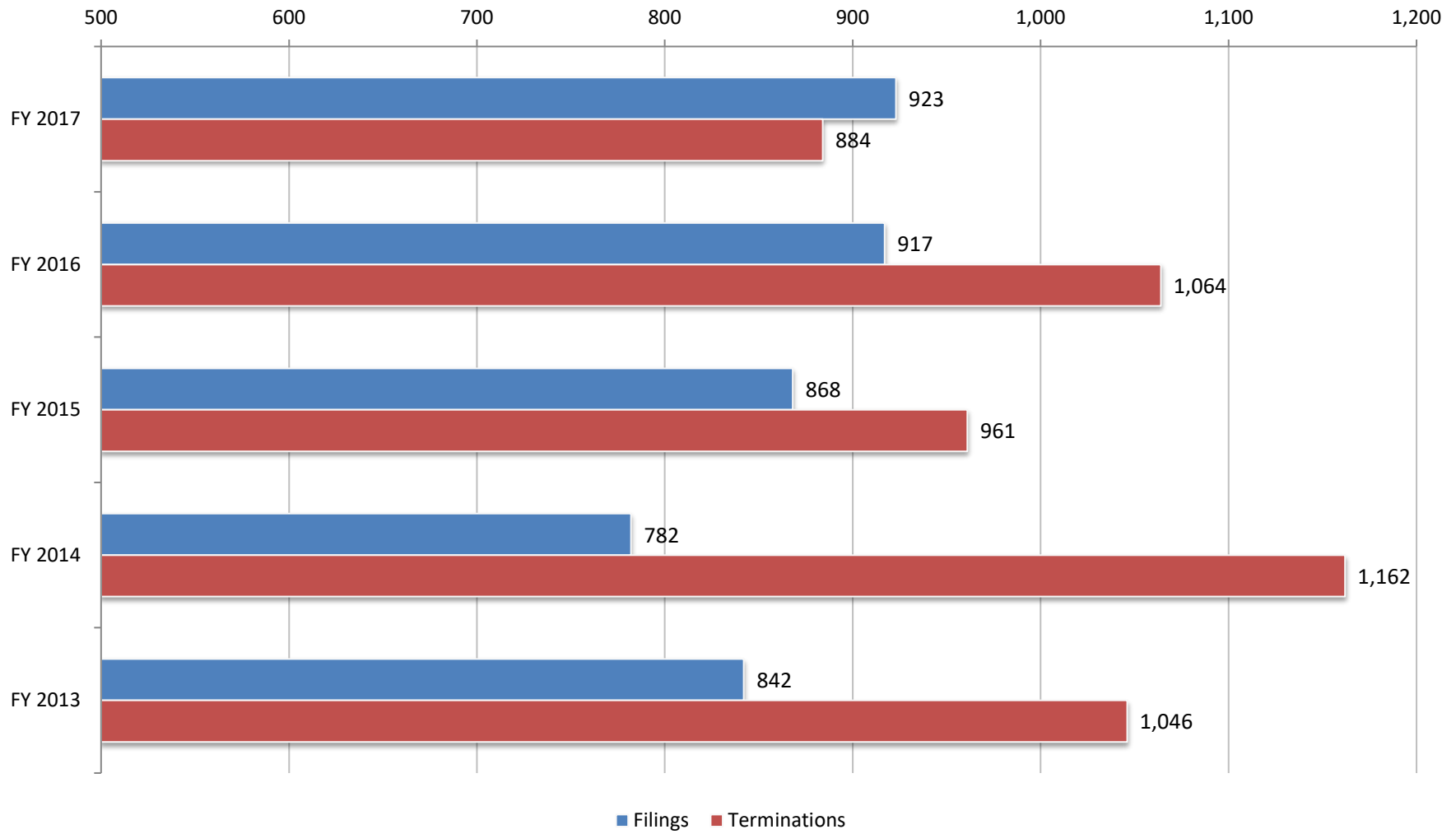
Arizona Supreme Court



Court of Appeals, Division One



Court of Appeals, Division Two

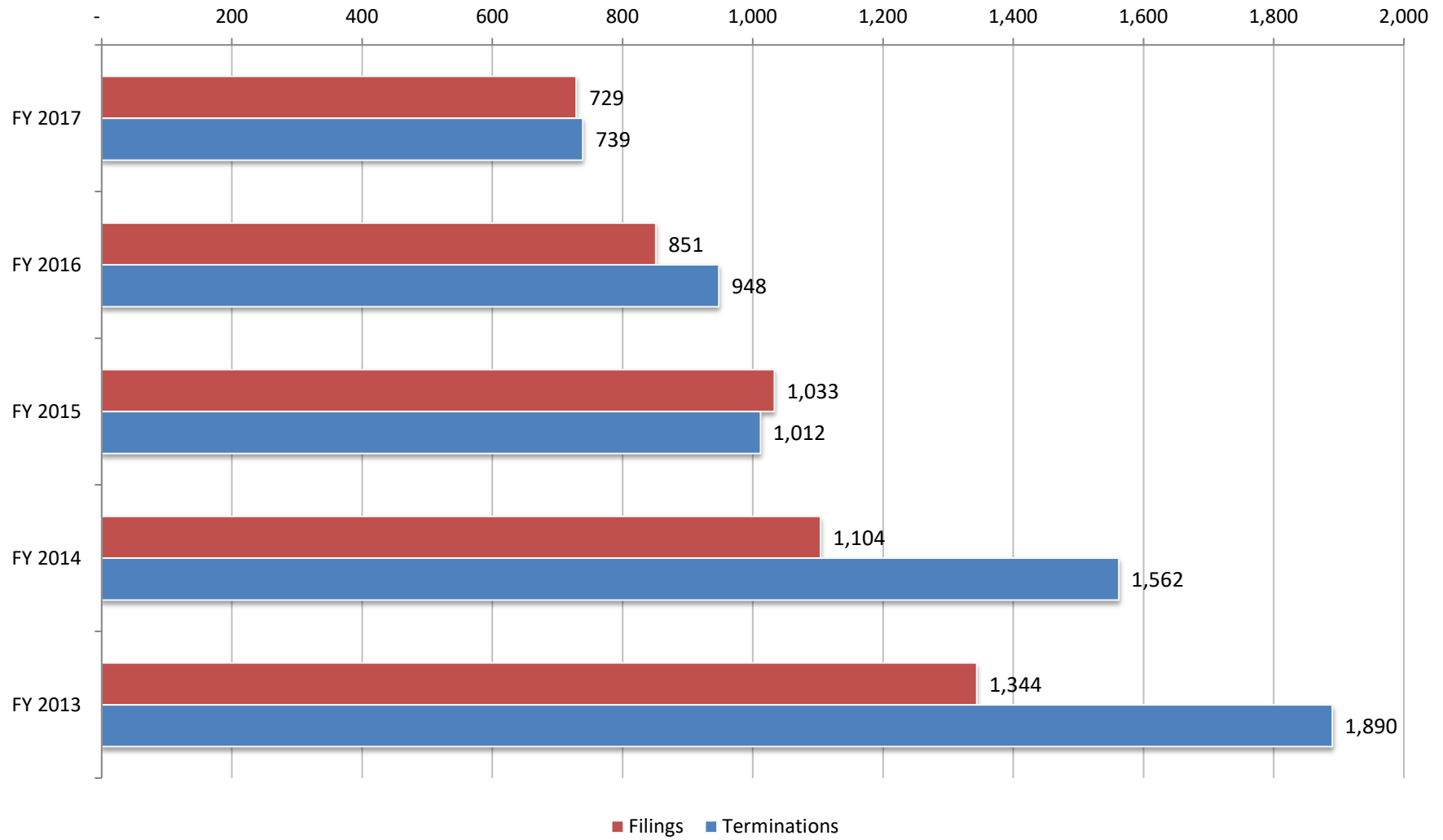


ARIZONA TAX COURT

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

- A total of 729 original cases were filed in the court during FY 2017, a decrease of 14.3% from the 851 cases filed in FY 2016.
- Of the 729 FY 2017 original cases filed, 371 were property tax actions, accounting for 50.9% of the total original filings.
- A total of 739 cases were terminated, 715 or 96.8% by judgment.
- As of June 30, 2017, 553 cases were pending in the tax court. Total cases pending decreased by 19.9% from FY 2016.

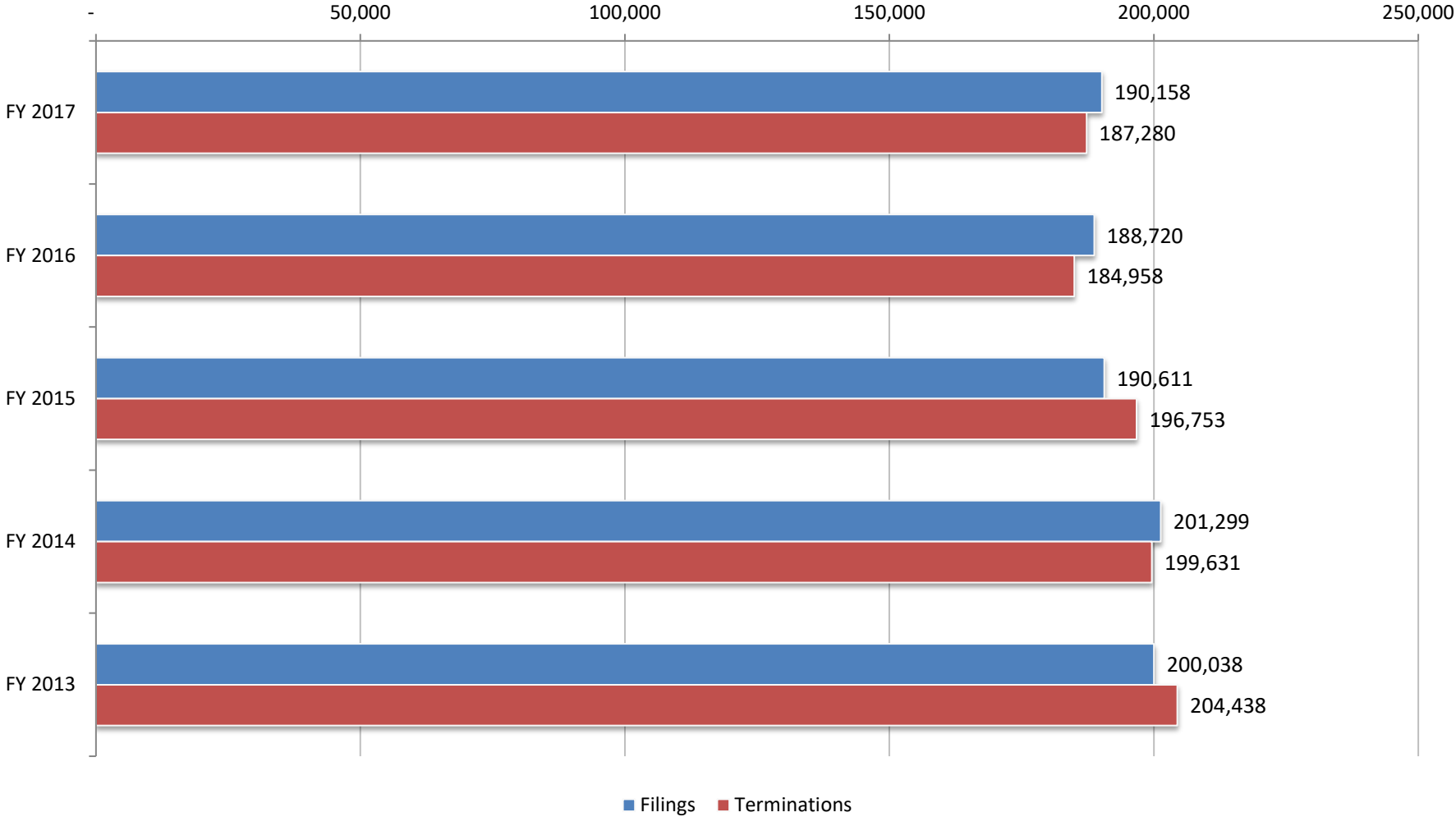
Arizona Tax Court



SUPERIOR COURT

- Statewide, case filings increased from 188,720 in FY 2016 to 190,158 in FY 2017. Case terminations increased by 1.3% during the same period.
- Civil case filings decreased by 1.2% from 45,766 in FY 2016 to 45,235 in FY 2017. During the same period, civil case terminations decreased by 12.8% from 45,677 to 39,846.
- Criminal filings decreased by 3.4%, from 51,599 during FY 2016, to 49,827 during FY 2017. Criminal case terminations increased by 2.7% during the same period, from 49,133 to 50,442.
- Domestic relations case filings increased by 1.8%, from 50,748 filings in FY 2016 compared to 51,649 in FY 2017. Domestic relations case terminations increased by 0.7% from 52,707 to 53,097. Petitions for orders of protection increased by 1.7% in Superior Court, from 12,569 in FY 2016 to 12,778 in FY 2017.
- Total pending caseload decreased by 10.6% from 214,534 on July 1, 2016 to 191,837 on June 30, 2017.
- Juvenile cases with direct filings into adult court decreased from 215 in FY 2016, to 176 in FY 2017. Juvenile cases transferred to adult court increased from 5 in FY 2016 to 9 in FY 2017. A total of 185 juvenile cases were either transferred or directly filed into adult court in FY 2017 compared to 220 in FY 2016, a decrease of 15.9%.
- A total of 6,928 juvenile dependency petitions were filed in FY 2017, a decrease of 9.6% from the 7,666 petitions filed in FY 2017.

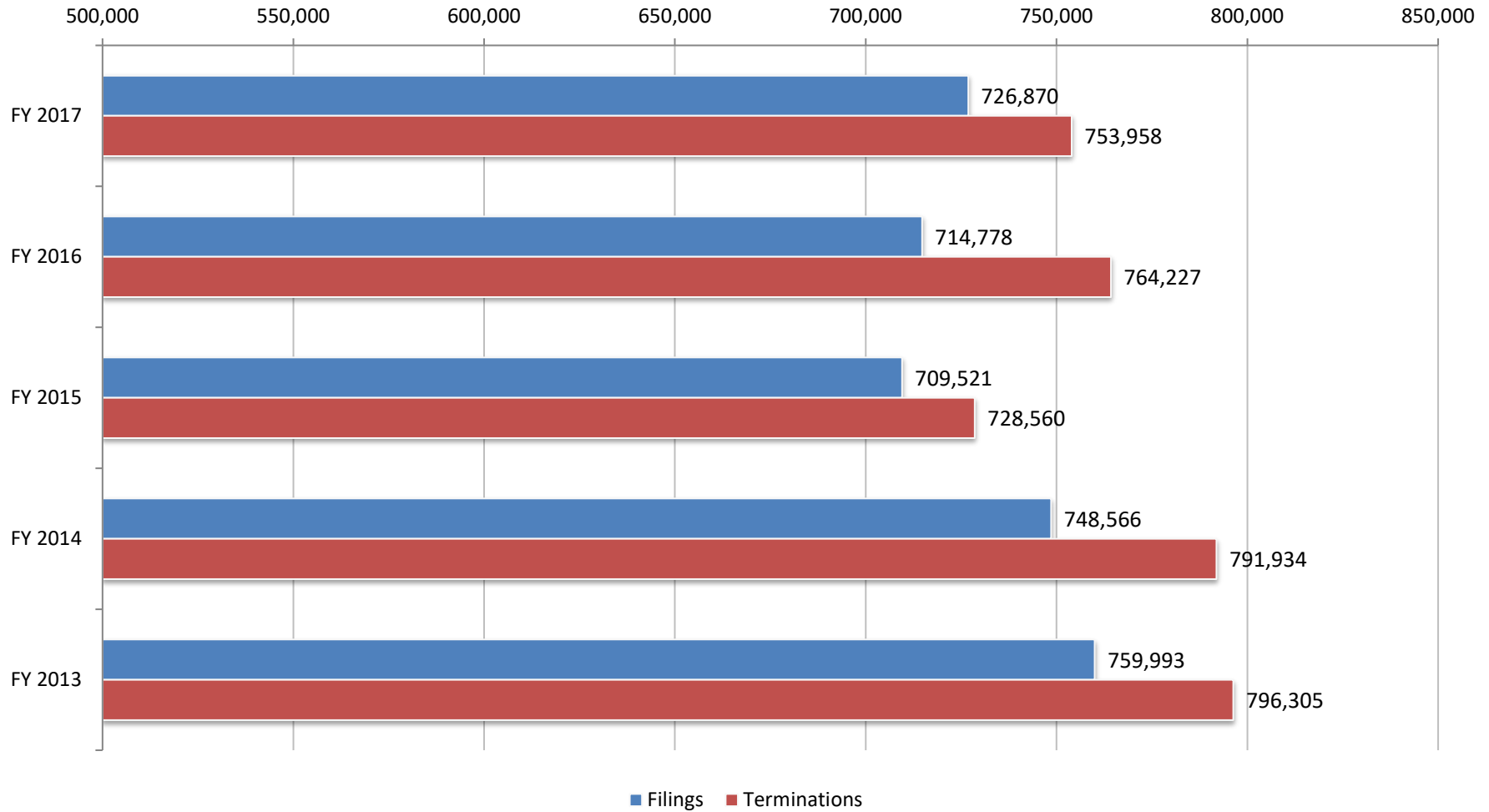
Superior Court



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

- Total filings in Justice Courts increased from 714,778 in FY 2016, to 726,870 in FY 2017, an increase of 1.7%.
- During the same period, case terminations decreased by 1.3% from 764,227 in FY 2016 to 753,958 in FY 2017.
- Criminal and civil traffic filings, which comprise more than half of all justice court filings, decreased by 661 filings or 0.2%.
- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings increased by 2.1% from 122,238 in FY 2016 to 124,859 in FY 2017. Criminal case terminations decreased by 3.4% from 148,526 in FY 2016 to 143,438 in FY 2017.
- Domestic violence petition filings decreased 1.4% in justice courts, from 9,102 to 8,973. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased by 3.0% from 6,254 filings in FY 2016 to 6,067 in FY 2017.
- Total cases pending increased by 7,716 cases from 616,828 on July 1, 2016 to 624,544 on June 30, 2017.

Justice of the Peace Courts

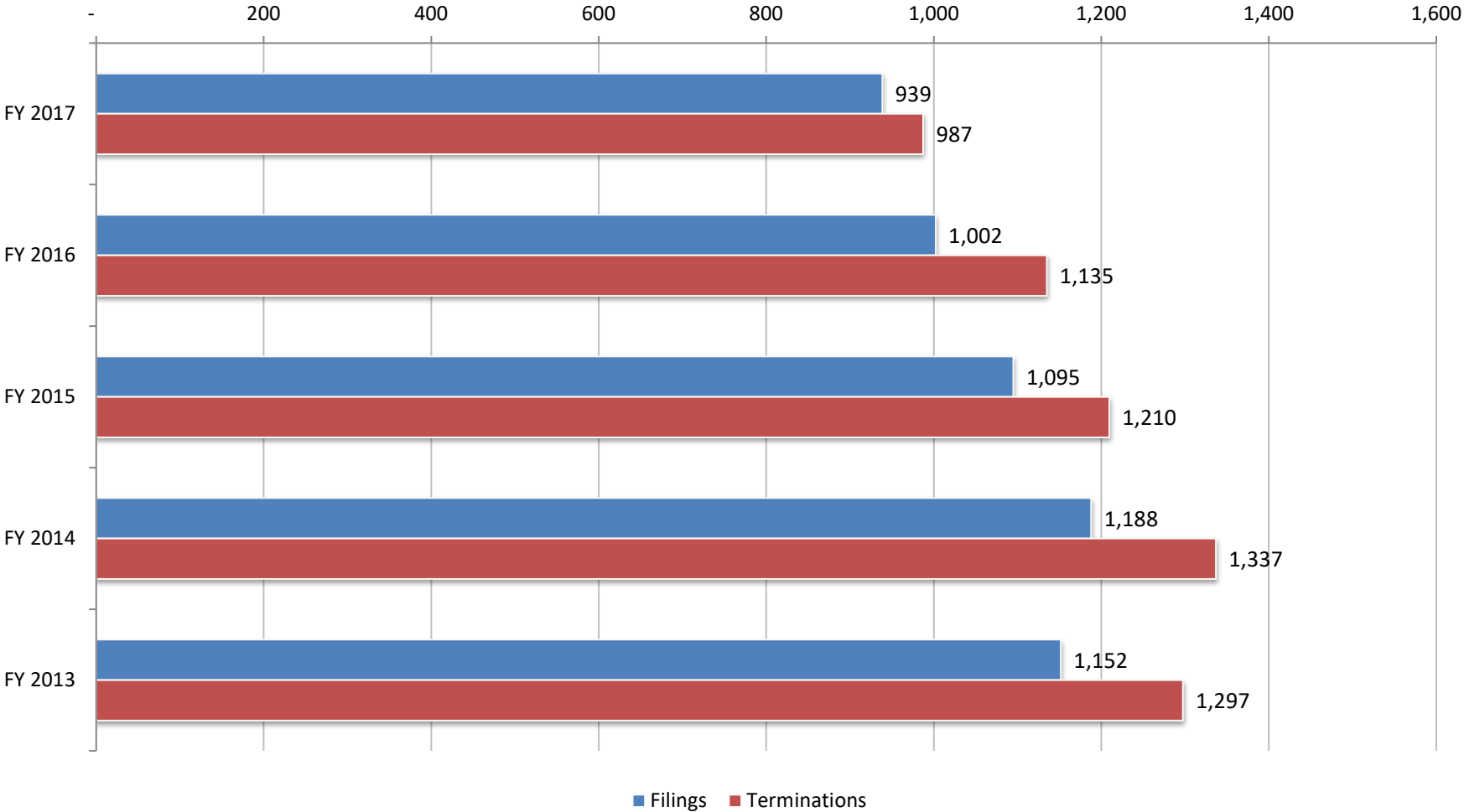


MUNICIPAL COURTS

- Case filings decreased 6.4% from 1,002,247 in FY 2016 to 938,500 in FY 2017. Total case terminations decreased by 13.0% during the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings, which comprise about three-fourths of all municipal court cases, decreased 8.4%, from 711,292 in FY 2016 to 651,276 in FY 2017.
- Criminal misdemeanor case filings decreased 0.6% from 195,600 in FY 2016 to 194,481 in FY 2017. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations decreased 12.0% from 243,330 in FY 2016 to 214,046 in FY 2017.
- Domestic violence petitions increased 3.5% from 13,238 in FY 2016 to 13,697 in FY 2017. Petitions for injunctions against harassment increased 2.9%, from 6,747 in FY 2016 to 6,946 in FY 2017.
- Total cases pending decreased 2.5%, from 561,881 on July 1, 2016 to 547,547 on June 30, 2017.

Municipal Courts

Thousands



ADULT PROBATION

- The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2017 increased by 2.2%, from 84,766 on July 1, 2016 to 86,524 on June 30, 2017.
- Of the 86,524 individuals under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 47,470 were on standard probation (41,496 were under direct supervision in the state and 5,794 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,806 were on intensive probation (2,634 were under direct supervision and 172 were on indirect supervision), and 36,248 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc).

JUVENILE COURT / PROBATION

JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS

- 33,621 referrals were filed into juvenile court in FY 2017, 3.0% decrease compared to 34,650 the previous year.
- 24,629 referrals were terminated in FY 2017, a 4.1% decrease compared to the 25,693 referrals terminated in FY 2016.

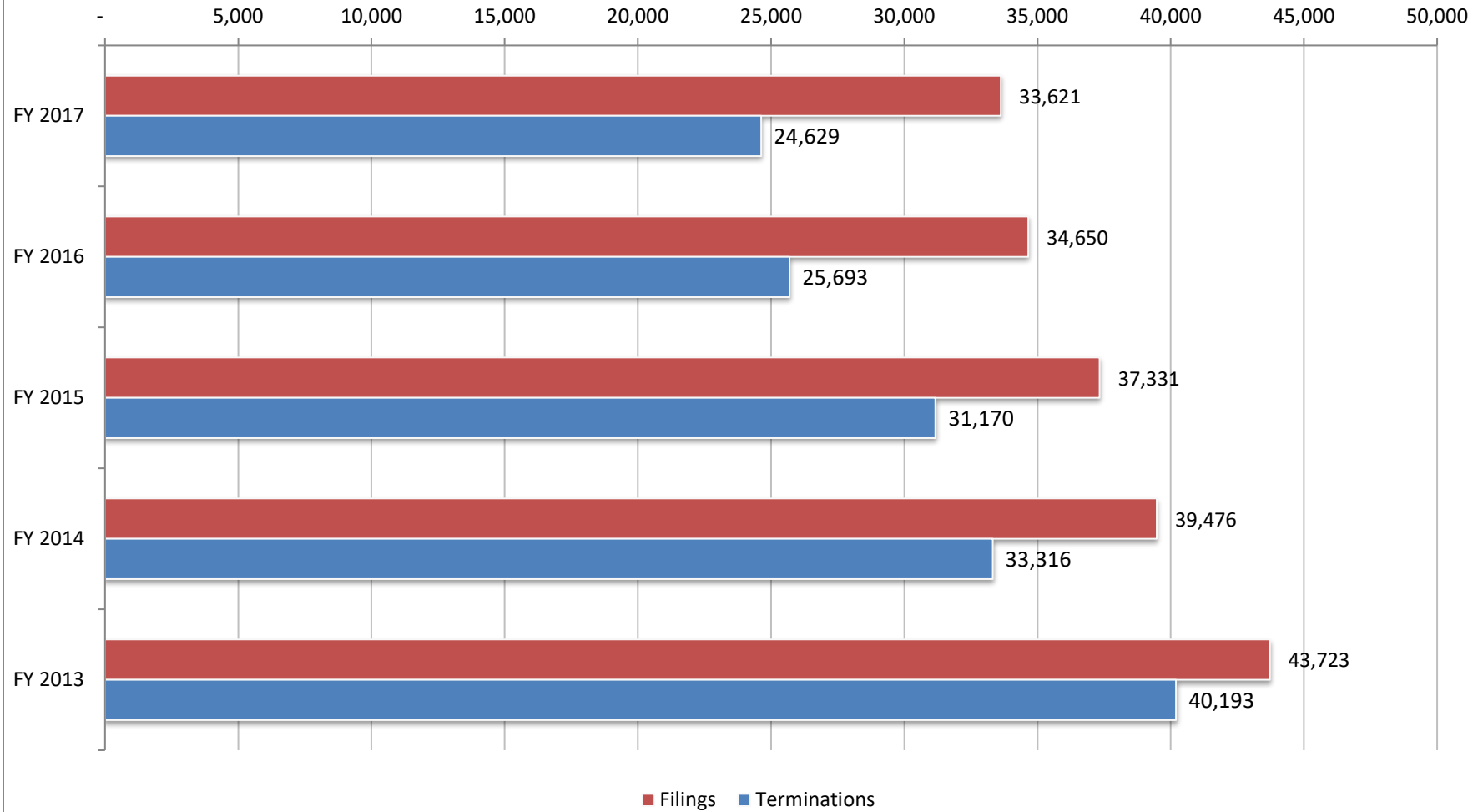
JUVENILE COURT PETITIONS

- A total of 13,501 petitions were filed in FY 2017, a 2.1% decrease from the 13,790 petitions filed in FY 2016.
- A total of 12,390 petitions were terminated in FY 2017, a 3.2% decrease from the 12,795 terminated in FY 2016.

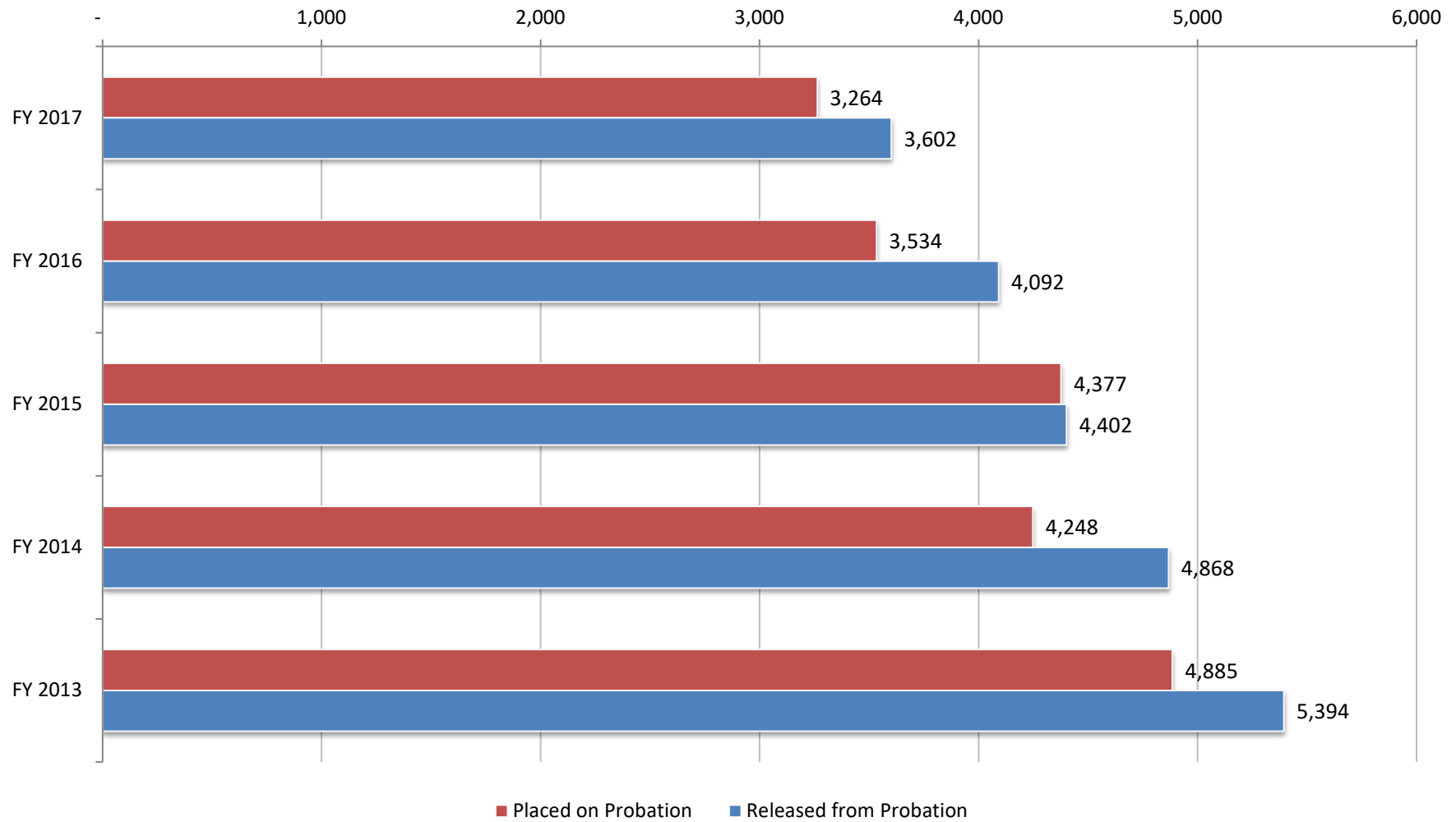
JUVENILE PROBATION/CORRECTIONS

- A total of 3,264 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2017, a 7.6% decrease from the 3,534 youths placed on probation in FY 2016.
- 3,602 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 12.0% from the 4,092 terminated from probation supervision last year.
- 209 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2017, a decrease of 17.4% from the 253 committed last fiscal year.

Juvenile Court Referrals



Juvenile Probation/Corrections



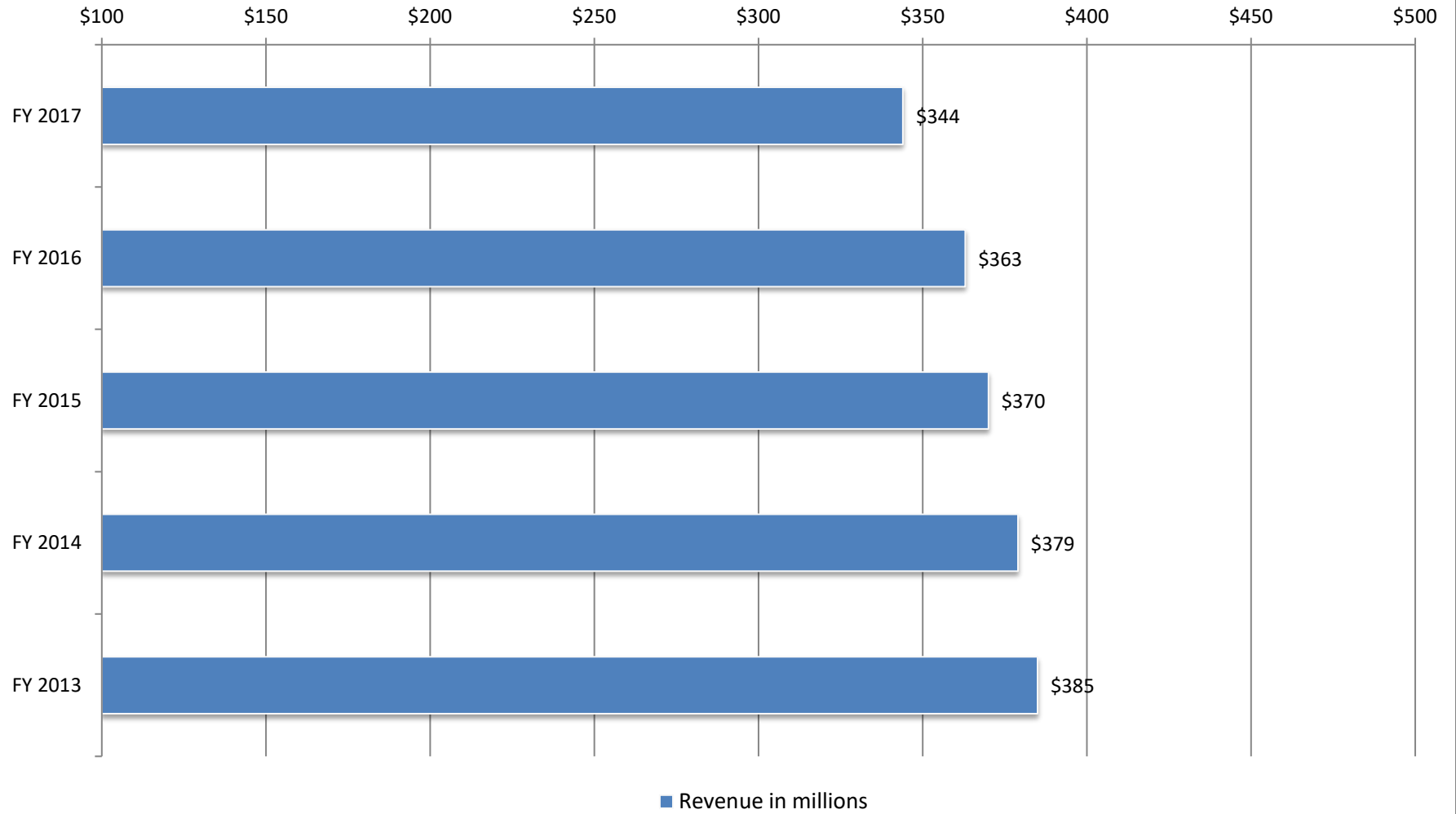
Revenue Summary

- Total statewide court revenue decreased from \$362.8 million in FY 2016 to \$344.5 million in FY 2017.
- Of the total court revenue, the state received 43.1%, counties received 34.1% and cities and towns received 22.8%.
- 42.4% of total court revenue was generated by municipal courts, 30.7% by justice courts, 25.5% by superior court and 1.4% by appellate courts.
- Total victim restitution payments collected by courts increased by 14.4% from \$18.2 million in FY 2016 to \$20.8 million in FY 2017.

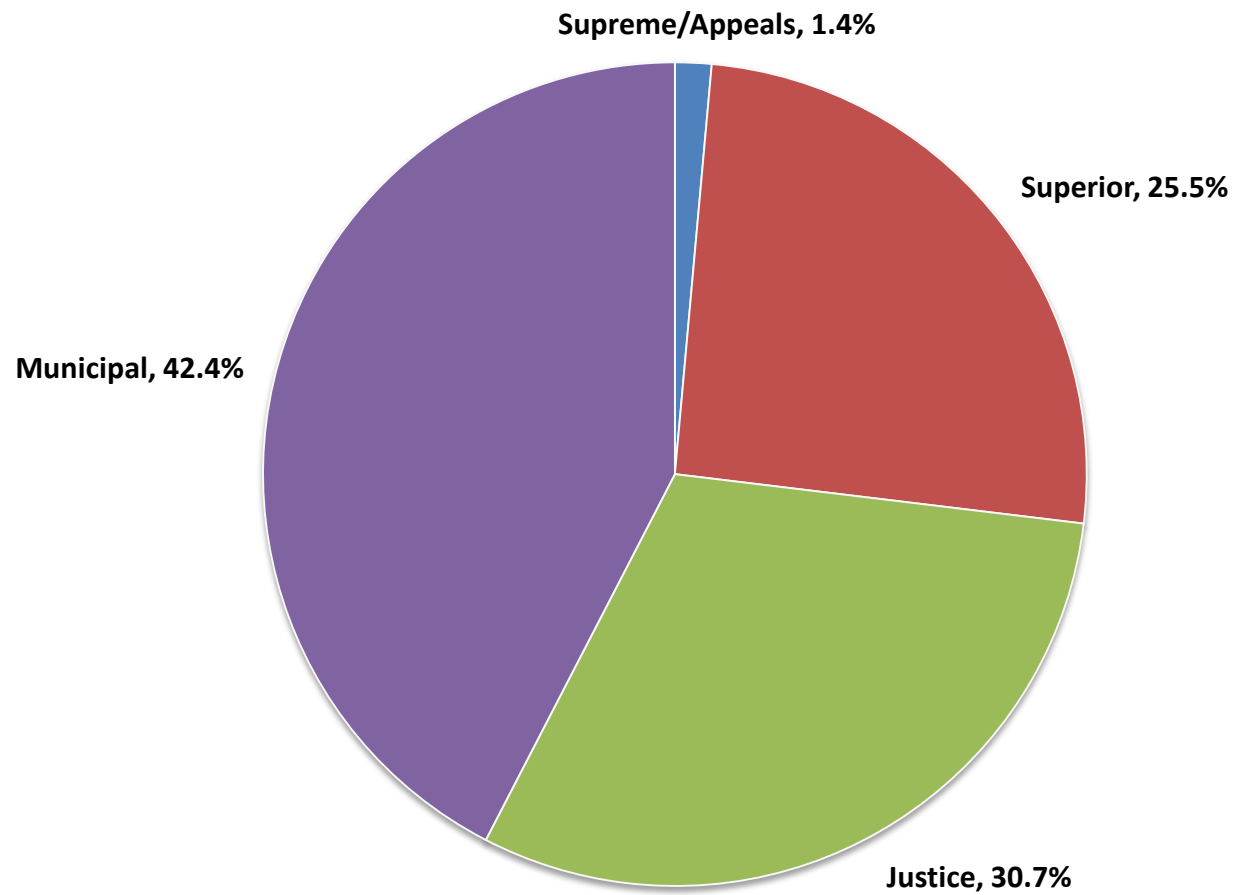
Expenditure Summary

- Total statewide court expenditures increased from \$776.2 million in FY 2016 to \$790.4 million in FY 2017.
- 66.1% of the total funds expended by the court system were from counties, 19.9% from the state, 13.3% from cities and towns, and 0.7% from federal and private sources.
- 70.5% of total court expenditures were in superior court (including probation), 13.3% in municipal courts, 9.6% at the appellate level and 6.6% in the justice courts.

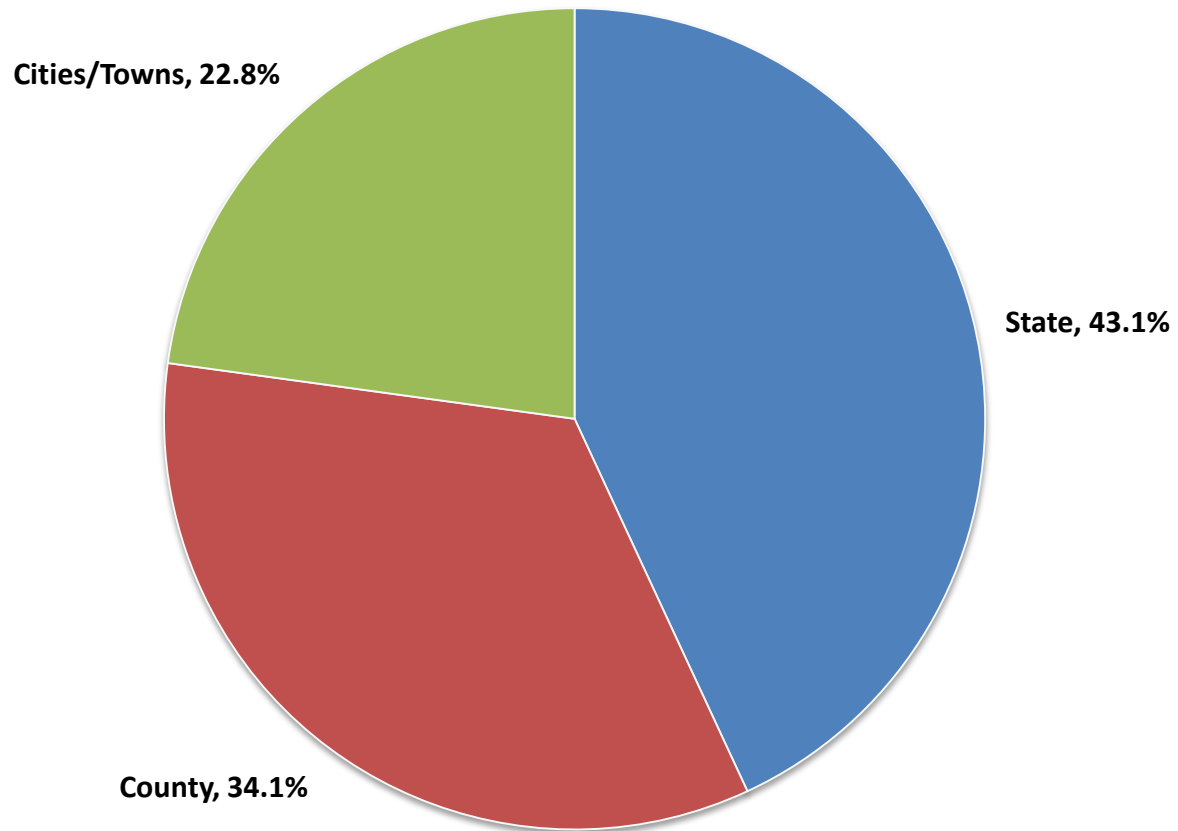
Arizona Court Revenue



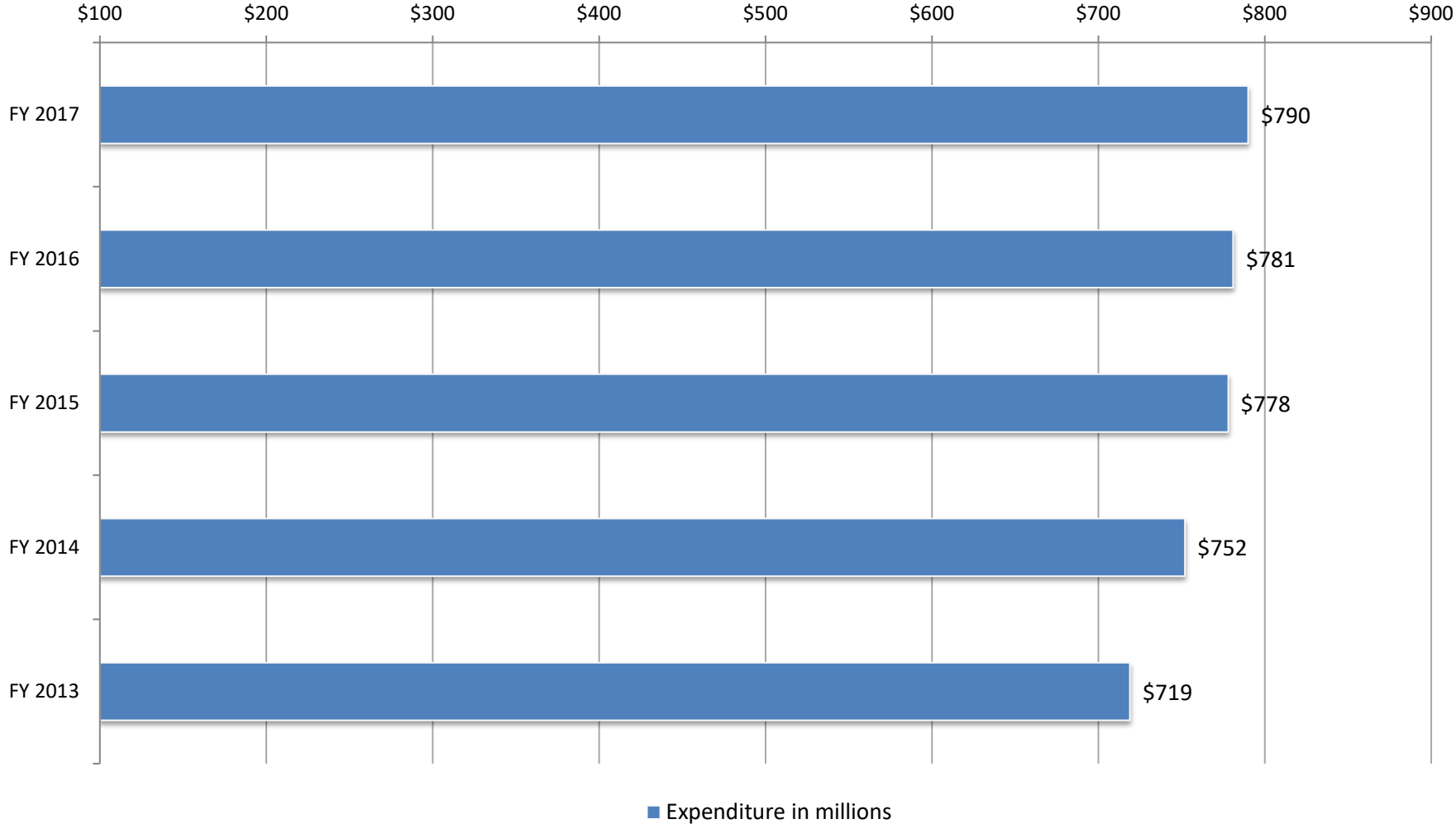
Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level



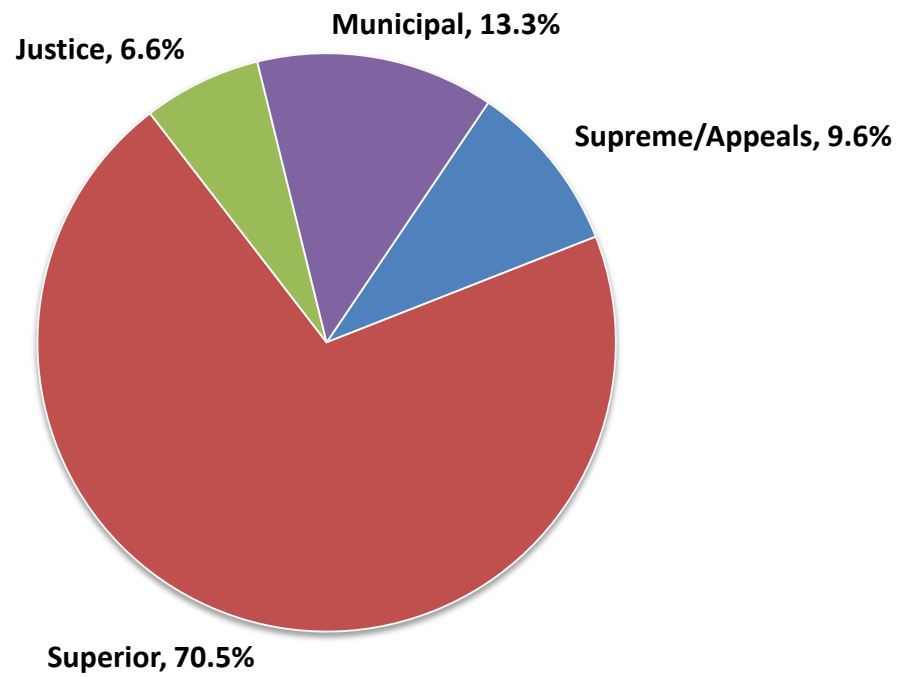
Distribution of Revenue by Level of Government



Arizona Court Expenditures



Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level



Proportion of Expenditures by Funding Source

