



Arizona Judiciary Annual  
Report  
Fiscal Year 2019



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## **Fiscal Year 2019 Caseload Highlights Compared with FY 2018**

- Statewide, 1,867,077 cases were filed in the Arizona Courts during FY 2019 (Appellate, Superior, Tax, Justice and Municipal Courts). That equates to an average of 7,472 cases filed in the Arizona courts every working day.
- Case filings during FY 2019 decreased by 1.9% overall, while revenue increased by 0.9%. Revenue collections has declined for the second year in a row.
- The Supreme Court experienced a decrease of 15.6% in case filings from FY 2018 to FY 2019. Filings in the Court of Appeals decreased 2.9% compared to FY 2018.
- Filings in Superior Court, increased from 206,099 to 210,083, up 3,984 filings over the year. There was a 8.3% increase in criminal filings from FY2018 to FY2019.
- Tax Court filings increase 4.9% from 804 in FY 2018 to 843 in FY 2019. Tax filings have decreased significantly in recent years, down 75.1% from a peak of 3,382 filings in FY 2010.
- Filings in the limited jurisdiction courts decreased 2.4%, from 1,708,087 in FY 2018 to 1,667,028 in FY 2019.
- Justice Court filings decreased 2.4%, from 771,592 in FY 2018 to 753,296 in FY 2019. Filings in the “criminal failure to appear” category had the largest decrease, 33.5% (6,841 cases) from FY 2018 to FY 2019.
- Municipal Courts filings decreased 2.5%, from 972,355 in FY 2018 to 948,214 in FY 2019.
- Misdemeanor DUI filings have increased 2.9% from 55,814 in FY 2018 to 57,454 in FY 2019.
- Justice Court civil case filings increased 1.2%, from 230,897 in FY 2018 to 233,600 in FY 2019. This increase was largely a result of a 3.6% increase in “eviction” category civil filings.

**Judiciary Organizational Chart\***

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**Supreme Court**

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

85 Judges, 85 Precincts, 4-year terms

Apache	4	Mohave	5
Cochise	6	Navajo	6
Coconino	4	Pima	10
Gila	2	Pinal	6
Graham	2	Santa Cruz	1
Greenlee	2	Yavapai	5
La Paz	3	Yuma	3
Maricopa	26		

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**Municipal Courts**

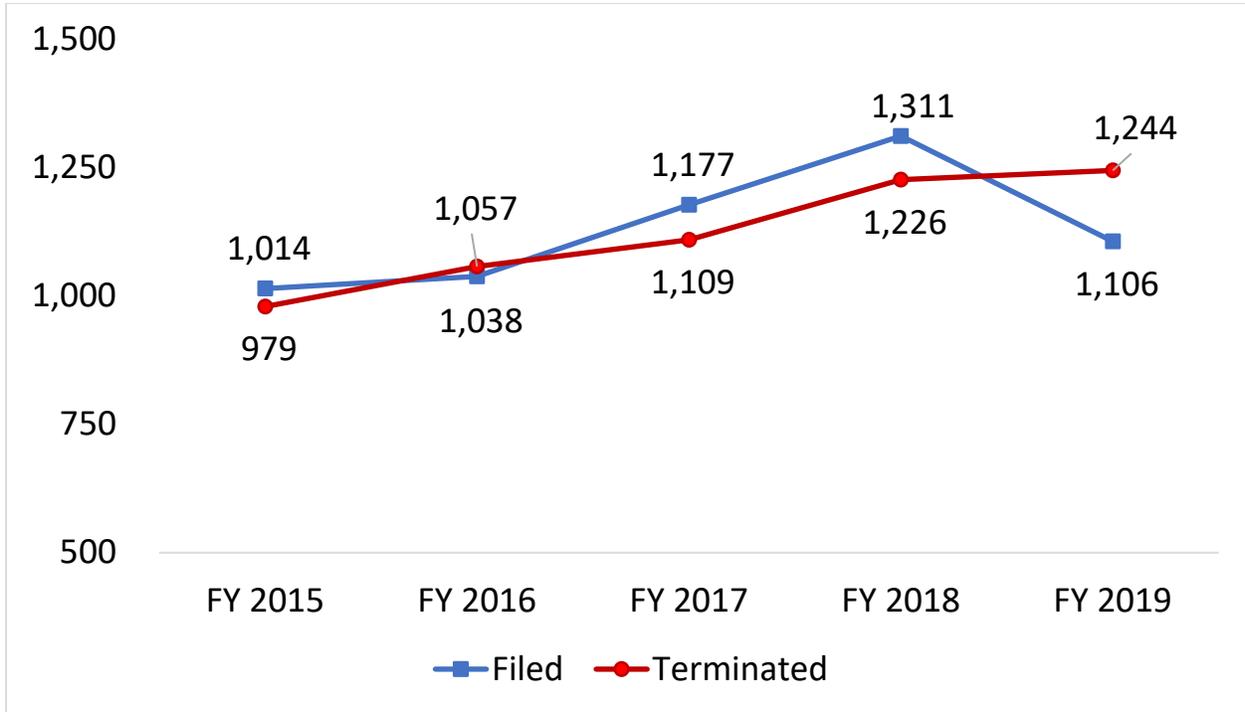
128 Full- and Part-time Judges, varying terms

	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			

*\*Judicial Organization chart updated May 30, 2020.*

## Appellate Courts Supreme Court

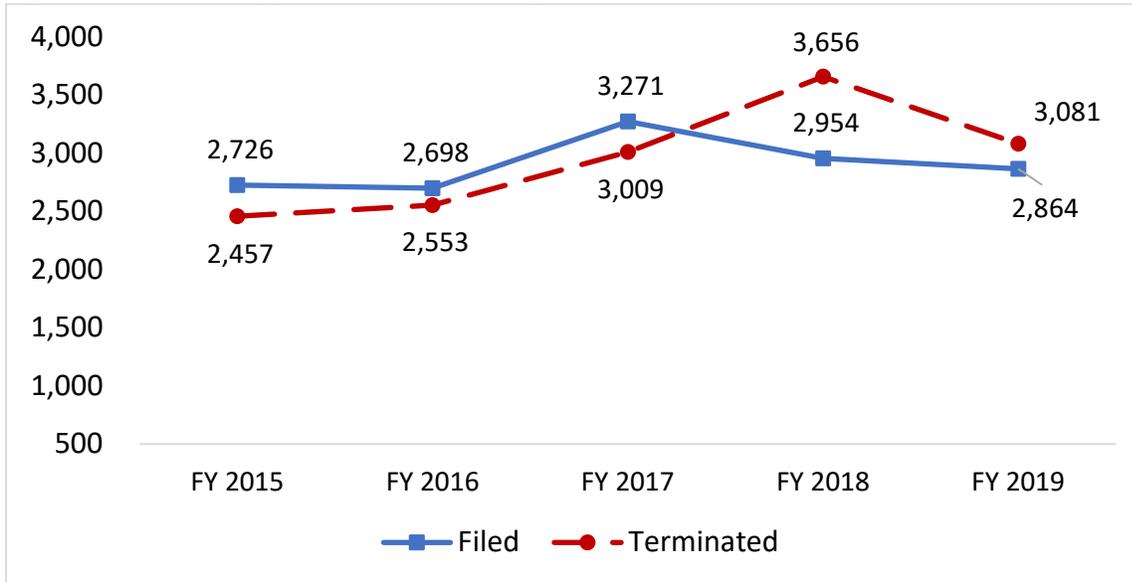
Figure 1. Supreme Court Filings and Terminations FY2015-FY2019



- Supreme Court case filings decreased by 15.6%, from 1,311 in FY 2018 to 1,106 in FY 2019.
- Case terminations increased by 1.5% from 1,226 in FY2018 to 1,244 in FY 2019.
- Pending caseloads decreased 23.1%, from 493 on July 1, 2018 to 456 on June 30, 2019.

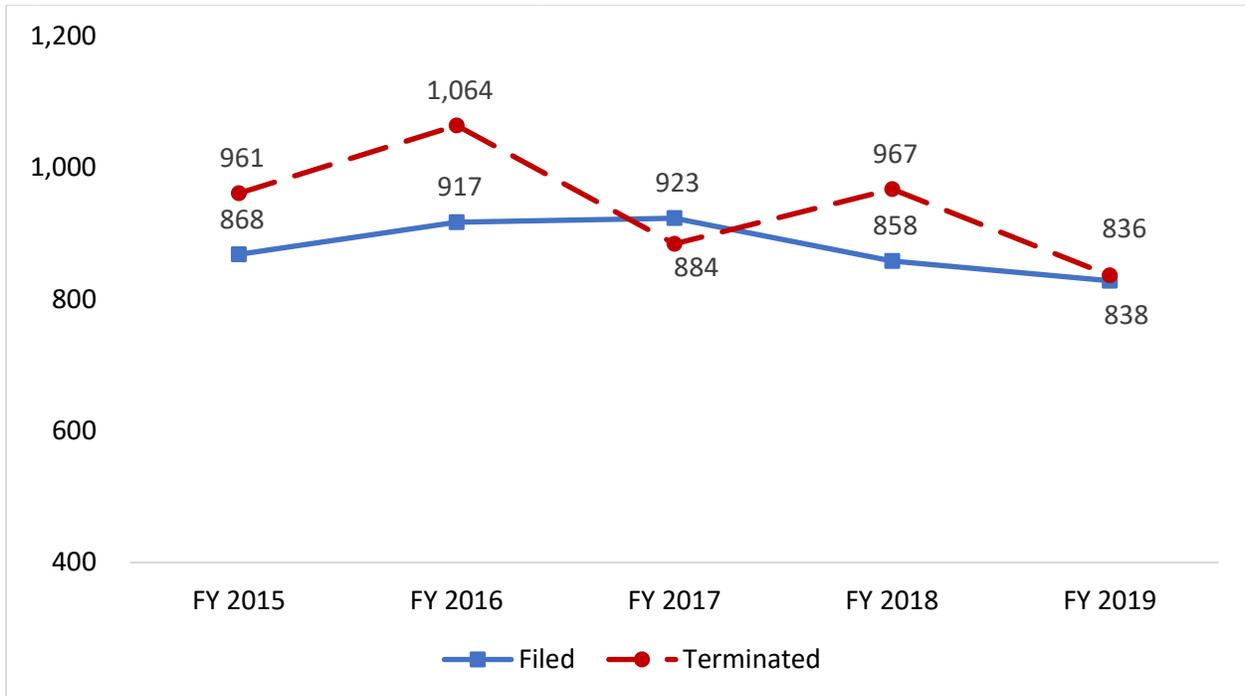
## Court of Appeals

Figure 2. Court of Appeals, Division I Filings and Terminations FY2015-FY2019



- Total case filings decreased by 3.0%, from 2,954 in FY 2018 to 2,864 in FY 2019. Criminal and post-conviction relief filings decreased 5.4% from 866 in FY 2018 to 819 in FY 2019.
- Case terminations decreased 15.7%, from 3,656 during FY 2018 to 3,081 in FY 2019.
- Pending caseloads decreased 9.19%, from 1,922 on July 1, 2018 to 1,748 on June 30, 2019.

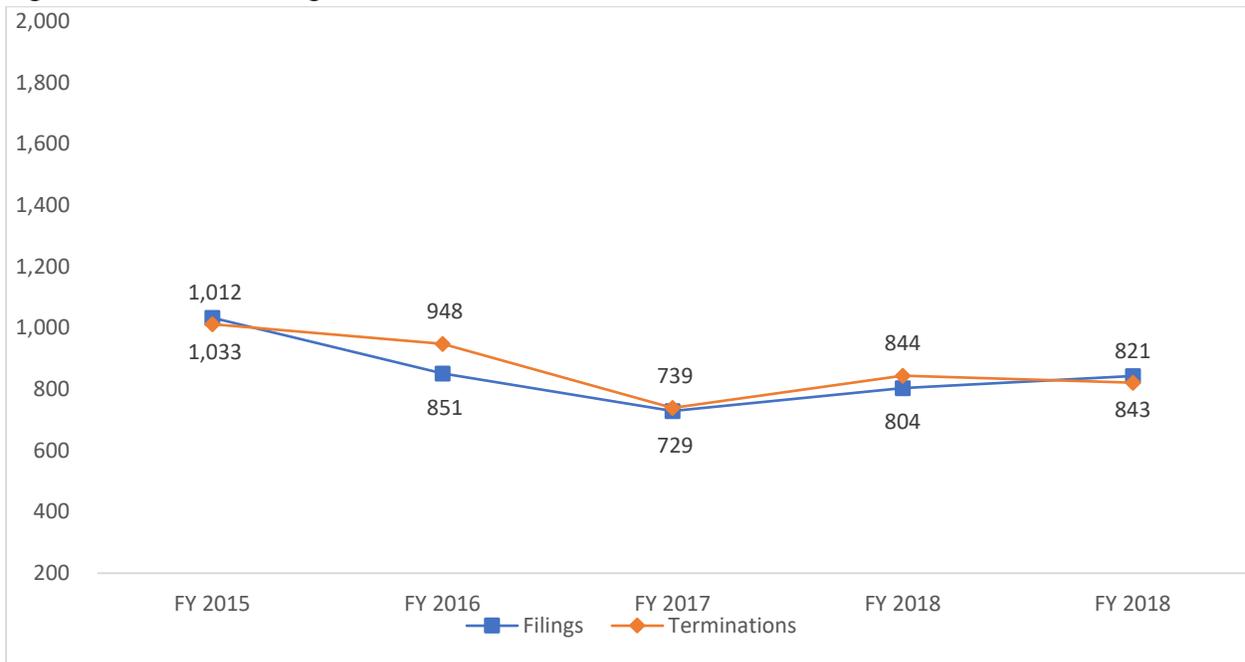
Figure 3. Court of Appeals, Division II Filings and Terminations FY2015-FY2019



- Total case filings decreased from 858 in FY 2018 to 838 in FY 2019, a decrease of 2.3%. Criminal and post-conviction relief filings increased 8.9% from 313 in FY 2018 to 343 in FY 2019.
- Case terminations decreased 13.5%, from 967 in FY 2018 to 836 in FY 2019.
- Pending caseloads increased 2.7%, from 738 on July 1, 2018 to 758 on June 30, 2019.

# Arizona Tax Court

Figure 4. Tax Court Filings and Terminations FY2015-FY2019

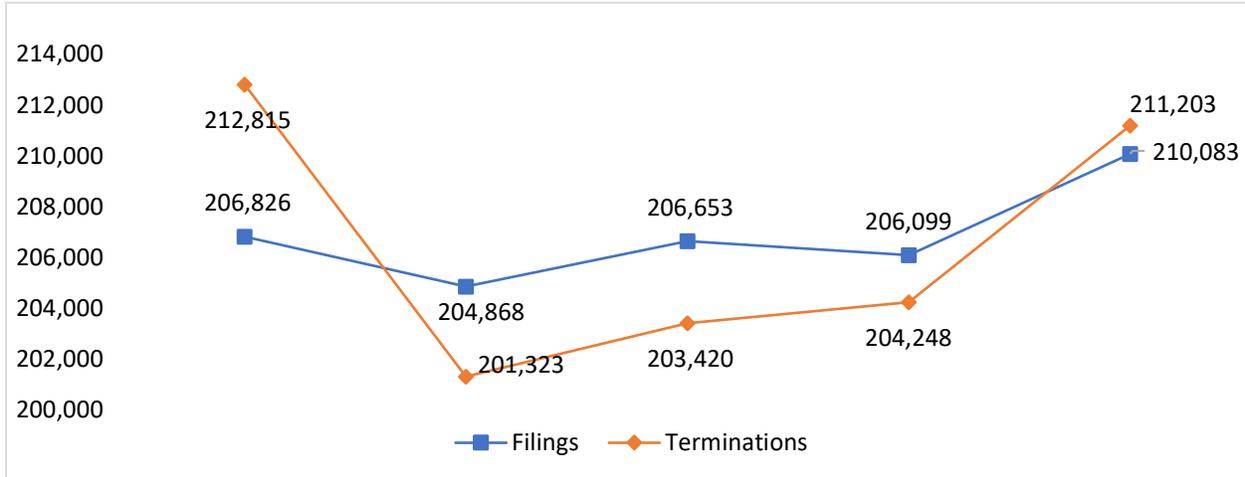


- A total of 843 original cases were filed in the Court during FY 2019, an increase of 4.9% from the 804 cases filed in FY 2018.
- Of the 843 FY 2019 original cases filed, 383 were property tax actions, accounting for 45.4% of the total original filings.
- A total of 843? terminated cases were judgments.
- As of June 30, 2019, 474 cases were pending in Tax Court. Total cases pending decreased by 1.7% from FY 2017.

## General Jurisdiction Courts

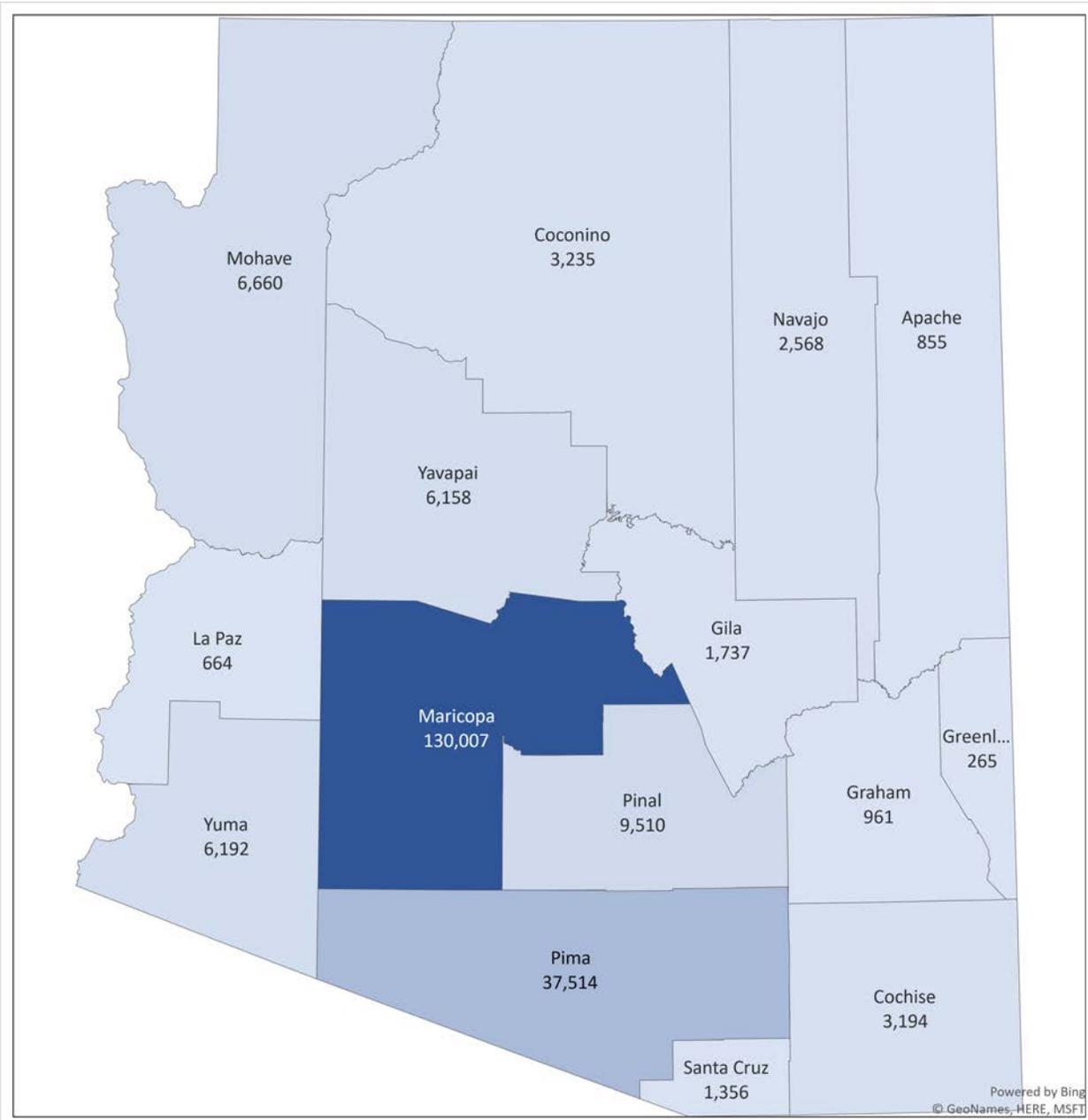
### Superior Court

Figure 5. Superior Court Filings and Terminations FY2015-FY2019



- Statewide, case filings increased 1.9% from 206,099 in FY 2018 to 210,083 in FY 2019. Case terminations increased 3.4% during the same period.
- Civil case filings decreased 4.2% from 41,533 in FY 2018 to 39,790 in FY 2019. During the same period, civil case terminations decreased 2.4% from 43,719 to 42,667.
- Criminal filings increased 8.3%, from 50,546 during FY 2018, to 54,765 during FY 2019. Criminal case terminations increased 5.6% during the same period, from 48,959 to 51,713.

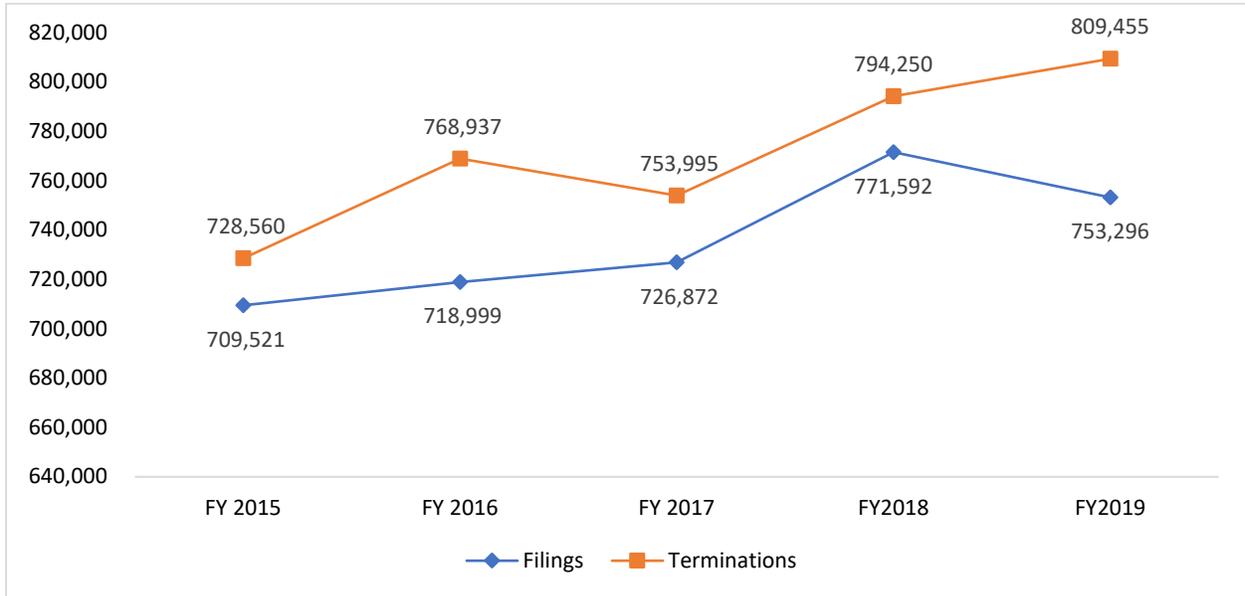
Figure 6. Superior Court Filings by County FY 2019



- Domestic relations case filings increased by 7.5%, from 49,440 filings in FY 2018 compared to 53,133 in FY 2019. Domestic relations case terminations increased by 6.8% from 49,710 to 53,091.
- Petitions for orders of protection, including emergency orders decreased by 6.4%, from 13,046 in FY 2018 to 12,214 in FY 2019
- Juvenile dependency petitions filed increased 5.4% from 5,423 in FY 2018 to 5718 in in FY 2019.
- Juvenile delinquency petitions decreased 5.8% from 7845 in FY 2018 to 7393 in FY 2019.

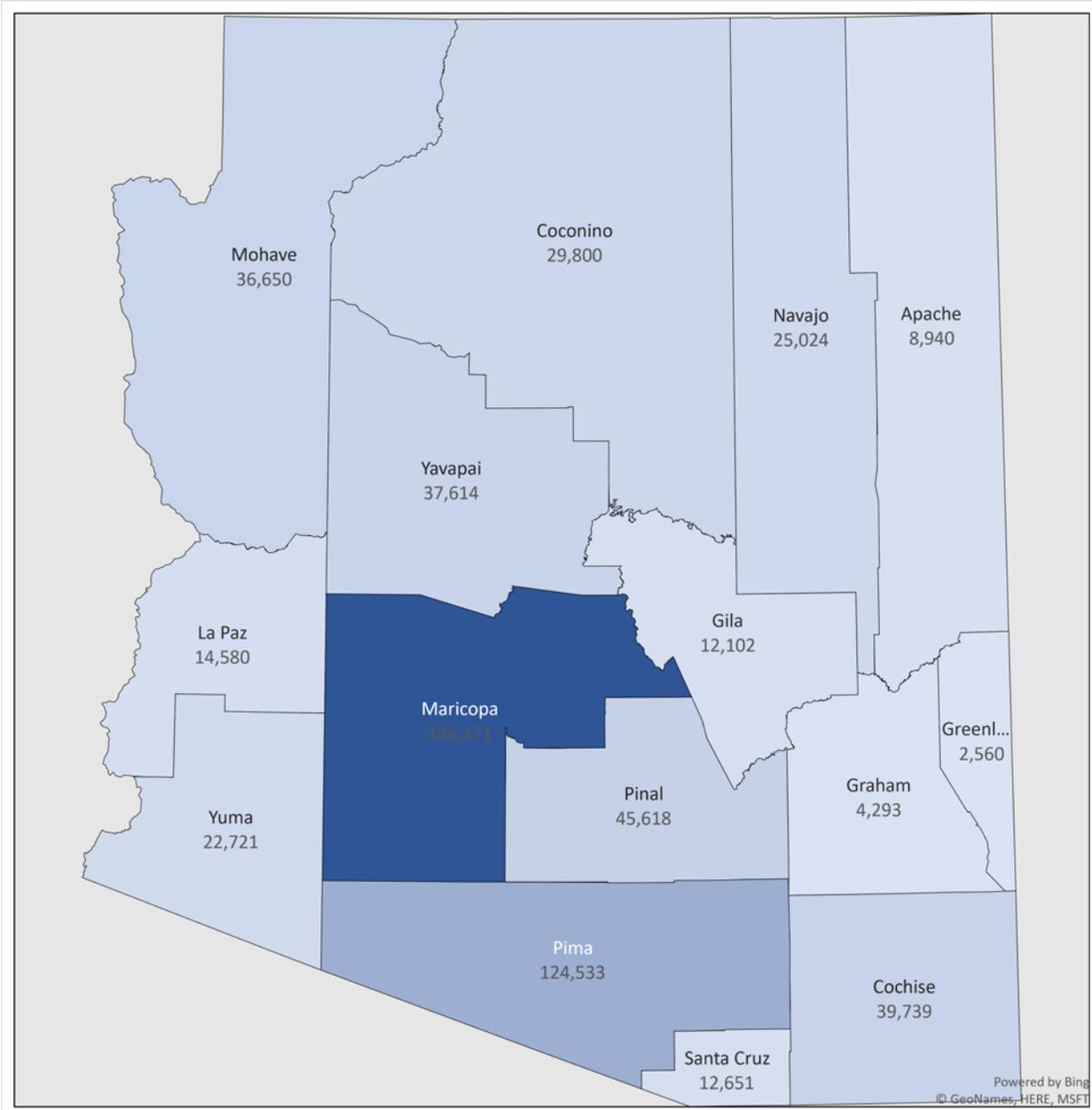
## Limited Jurisdiction Courts Justice Courts

Figure 7. Justice Court Filings and Terminations FY2015-FY2019  
-FY2018



- Total filings in Justice Courts decreased from 771,592 in FY 2018, to 753,296 in FY 2019, an increase of 2.4%.
- During the same period, case terminations hardly changed from 794,250 in FY 2018 to 809,455 in FY 2019.
- Criminal and civil traffic filings when combined comprise more than half of all justice Court filings, decreased by 10,501 (2.7%) filings.

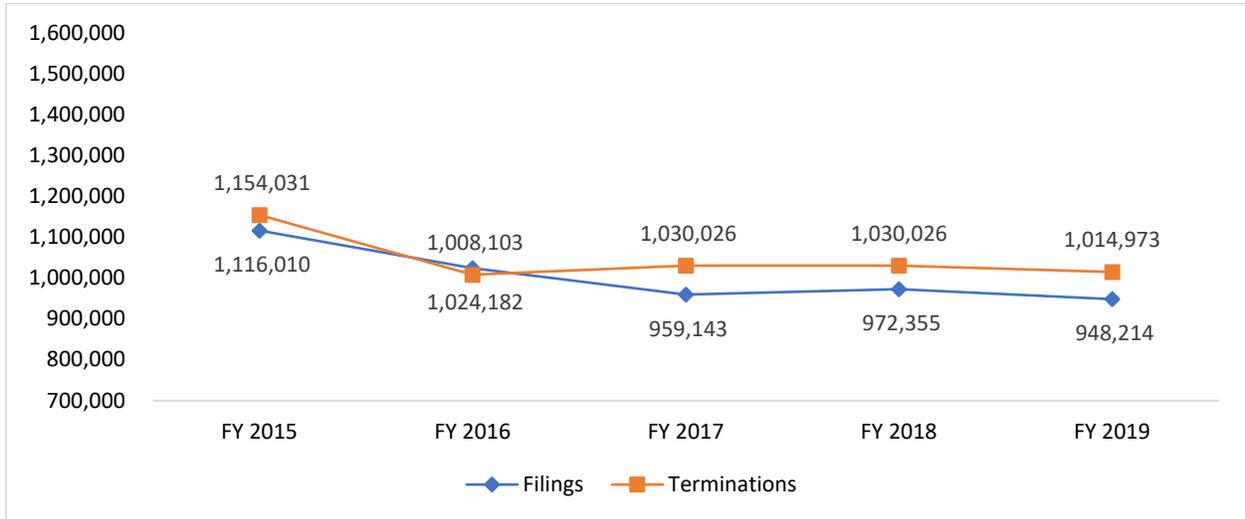
Figure 8. Justice Court Filings by County FY 2019



- Criminal (misdemeanor and felony) case filings decreased 7.6% from 132,012 in FY 2018 to 121,979 in FY 2019. Criminal case terminations decreased 3.3% from 133,956 in FY 2018 to 129,599 in FY 2019.
- Domestic violence petition filings decreased 4.0% in Justice Courts, from 9,028 in FY 2018 to 8,664 in FY 2019. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased 4.8% from 6,161 filings in FY 2018 to 5,867 in FY 2019.

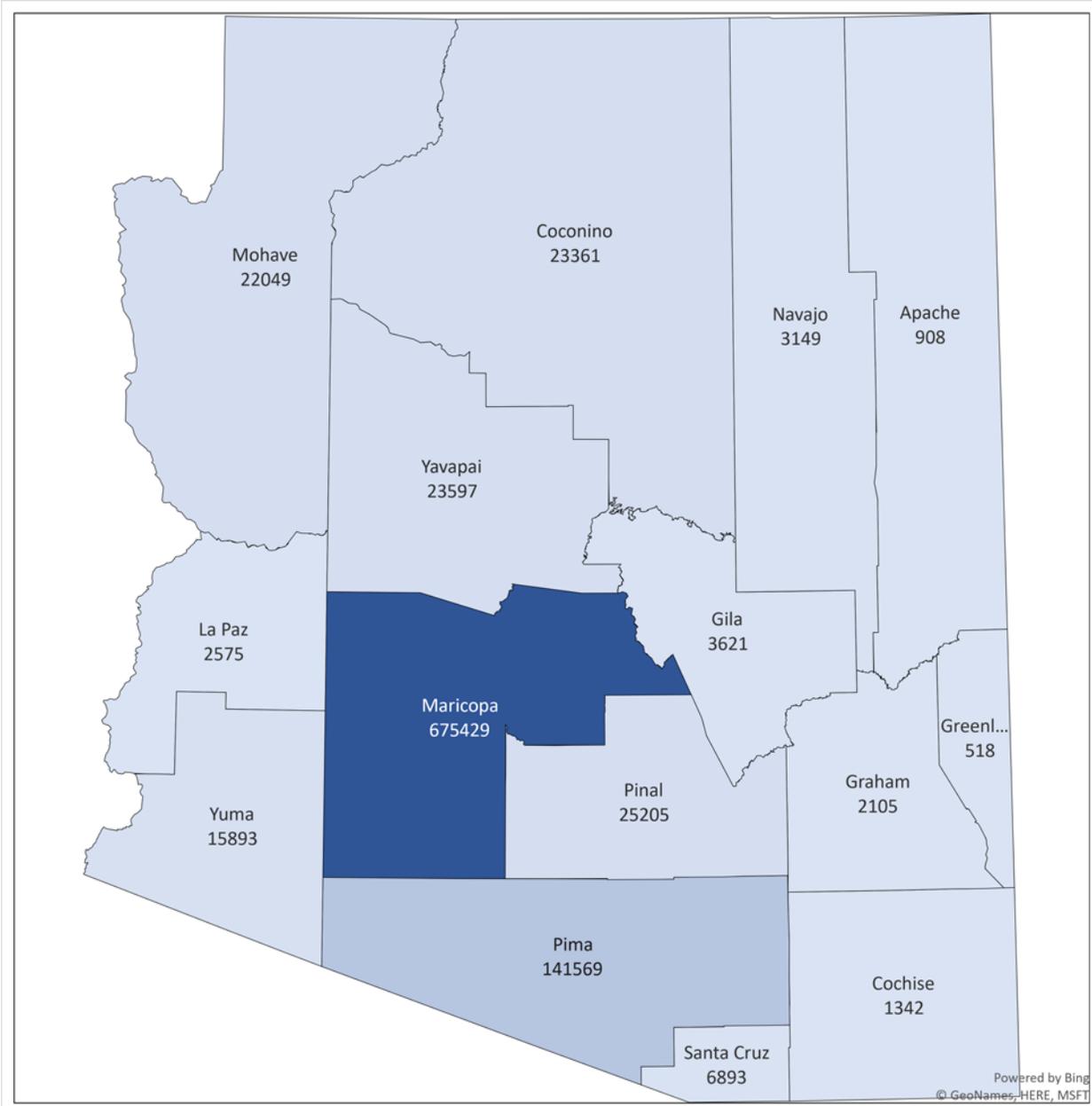
## Municipal Courts

Figure 9. Municipal Court Filings and Terminations FY2015-FY2019



- Total case filings decreased 2.5% from 972,355 in FY 2018 to 948,214 in FY 2019.
- Total case terminations decreased 1.5% during the same period.
- Civil and criminal traffic filings when combined comprise about 68% of all municipal Court cases, decreased 4.0%, from 669,659 in FY 2018 to 642,901 in FY 2019.

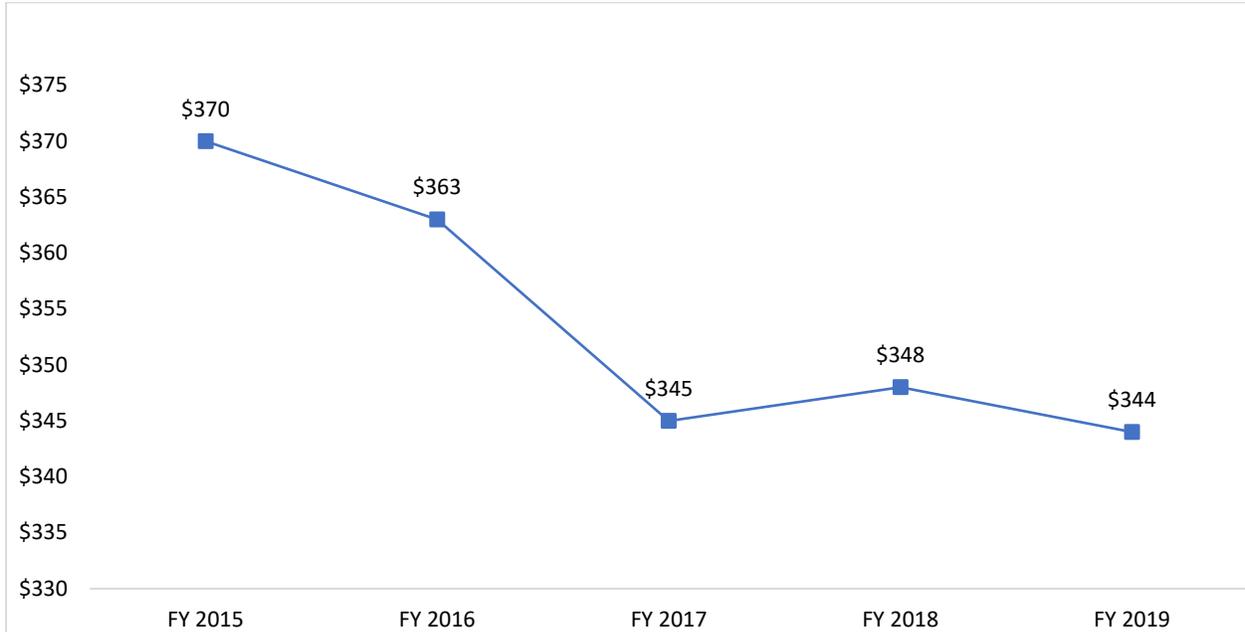
Figure 10. Municipal Court Filings by County FY 2019



- Criminal misdemeanor case filings decreased 0.3% from 195,852 in FY 2018 to 195,287 in FY 2019. Criminal misdemeanor case terminations decreased 8.5% from 215,974 in FY 2018 to 197,529 in FY 2019.
- Domestic violence petitions decreased 1.4% from 13,674 in FY 2018 to 13,479 in FY 2019. Petitions for injunctions against harassment decreased 7.5%, from 6,993 in FY 2018 to 6,472 in FY 2019.

# Arizona Court Revenues and Expenditures

Figure 11. Arizona Court Revenue FY2015-FY2019



- Total statewide court revenue decreased from \$347.6 million in FY 2018 to \$344.4 million in FY 2019.
- Total victim restitution payments collected by courts increased by 18.9% from \$18.0 million in FY 2018 to \$21.4 million in FY 2019.

Figure 12. Proportion of Revenue Generated by Court Level FY 2019

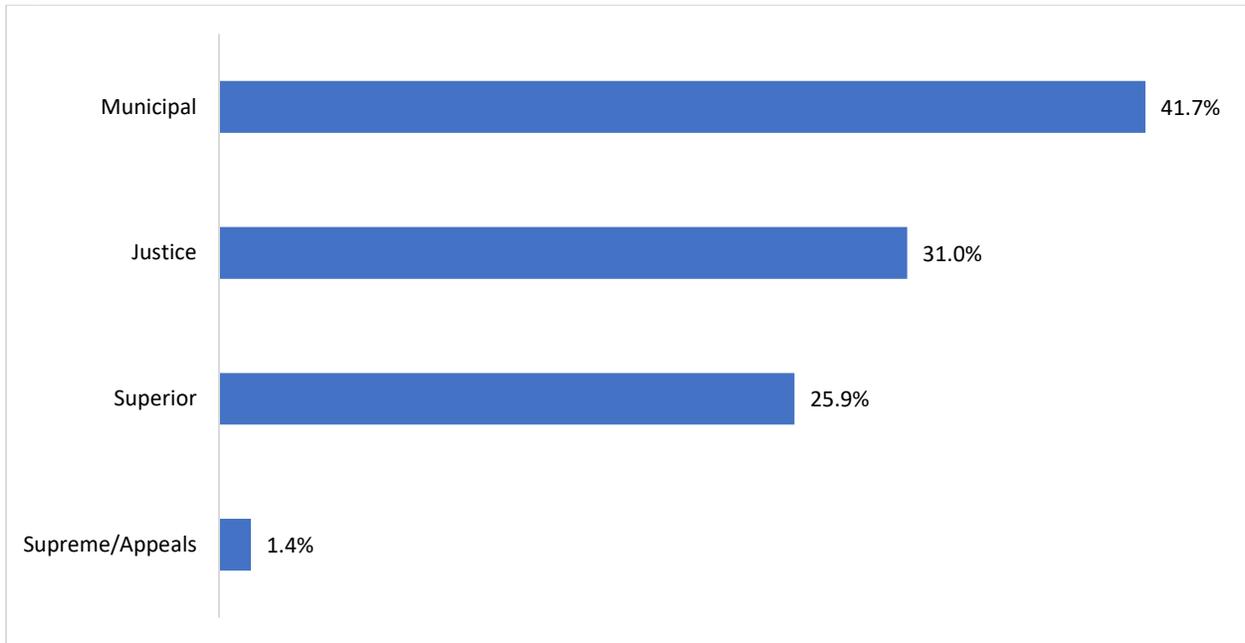
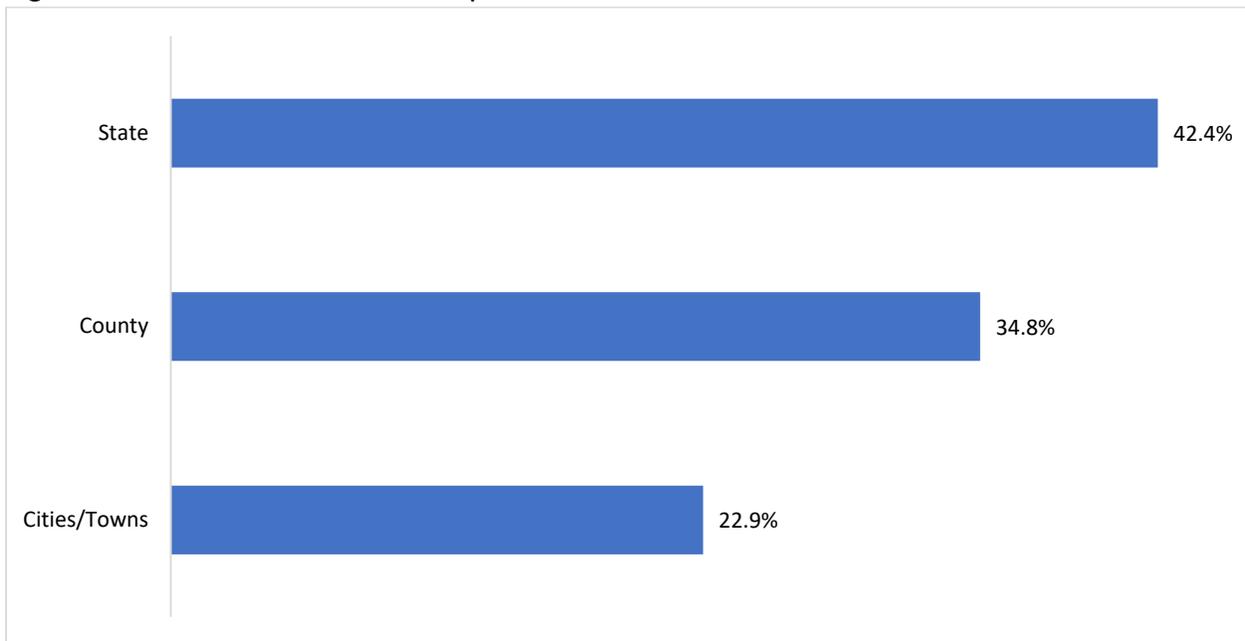
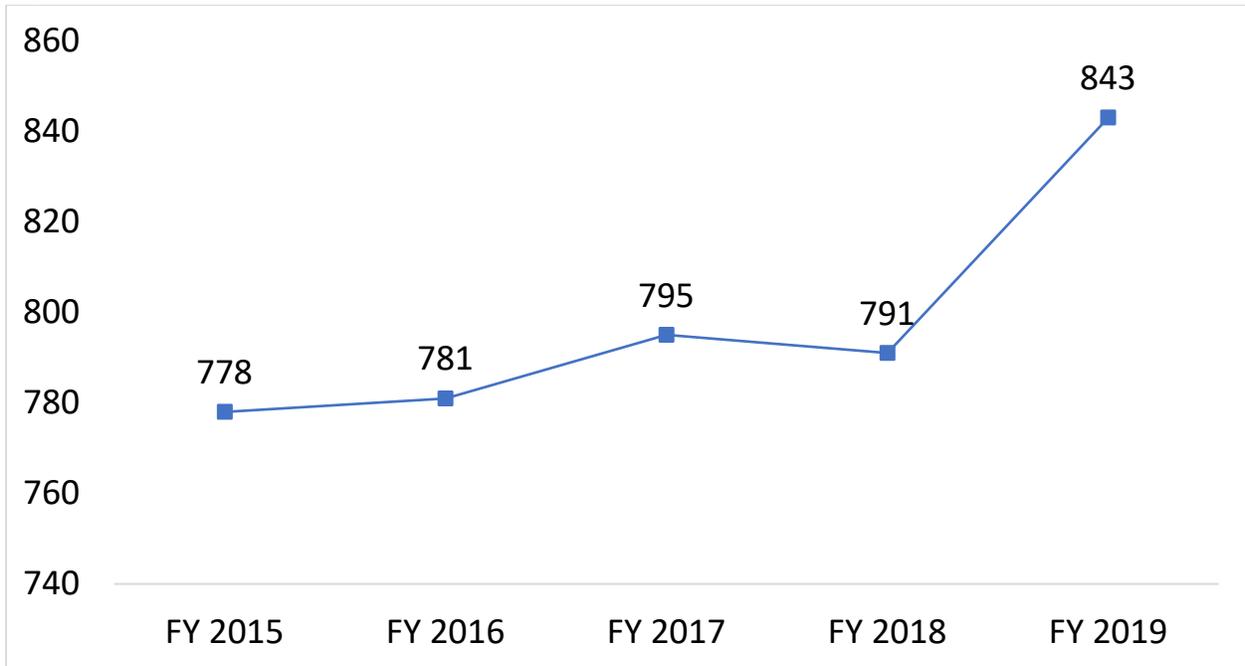


Figure 13. Distribution of Revenue by Level of Government FY 2019



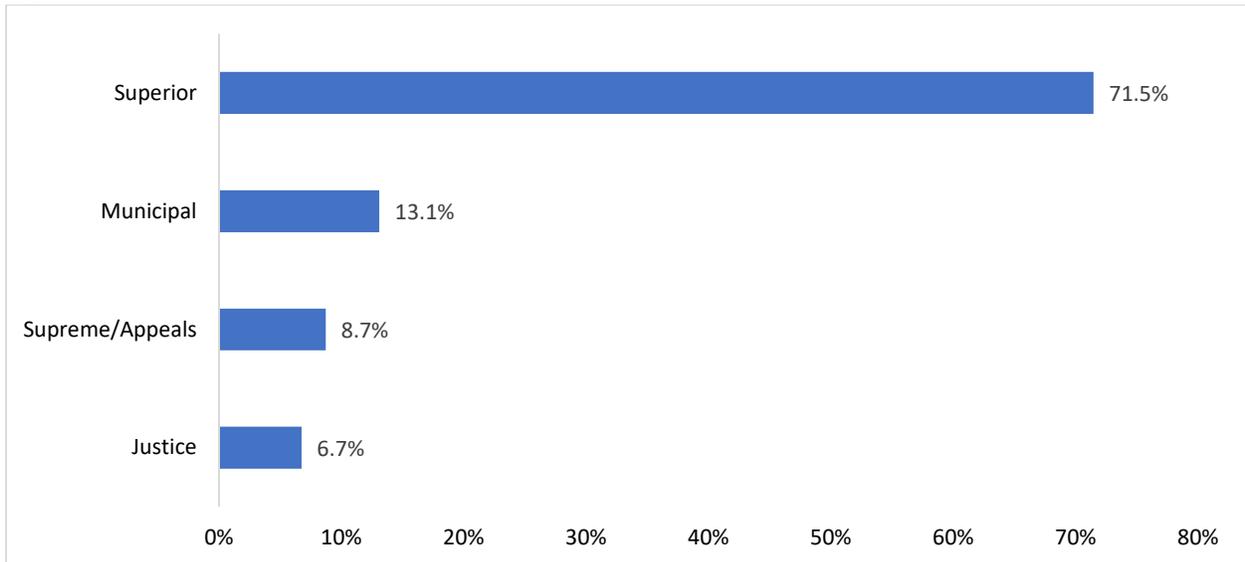
- 41.7% of total court revenue was generated by Municipal Courts, 31.0% by Justice courts, 25.9% by Superior Court and 1.4% by Appellate Courts.
- Of the total court revenue, the state received 42.4%, counties received 34.8% and cities and towns received 22.9%.

Figure 14. Arizona Court Expenditures FY2015-FY2019



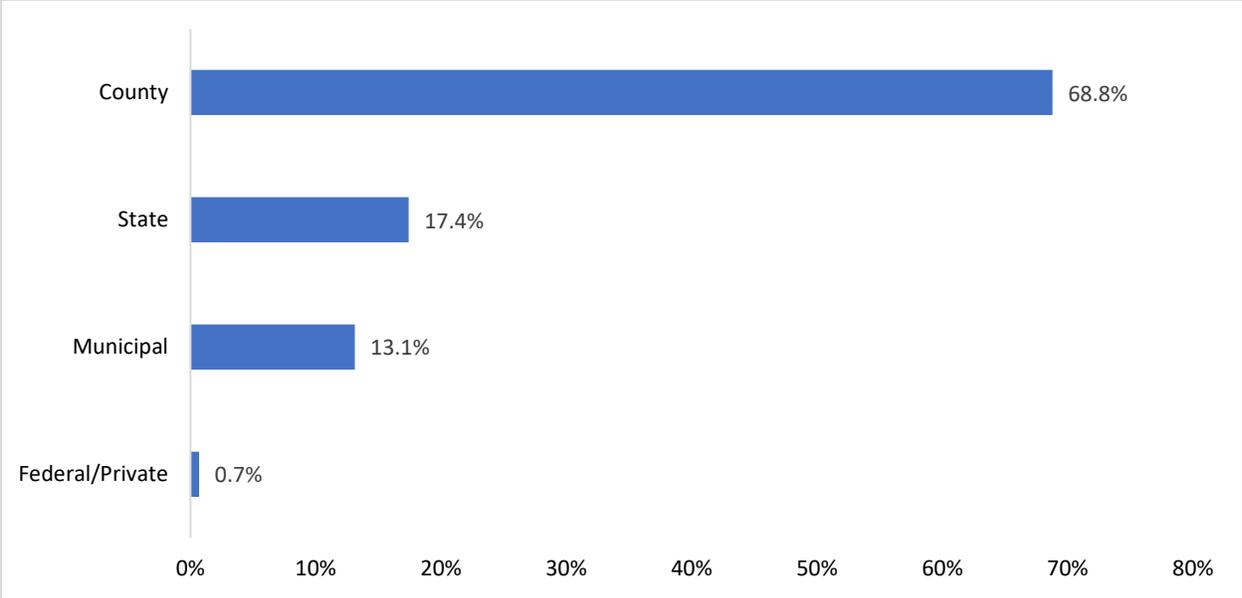
- Total statewide Court expenditures increased 6.7% from \$790.6 million in FY 2018 to \$843.5 million in FY 2019.

Figure 15. Proportion of Expenditures by Court Level FY 2019



- 71.5% of total court expenditures were in Superior Court (including probation), 13.1% in Municipal courts, 8.7% at the Appellate level and 6.7% in the Justice courts.

Figure 16. Proportion of Expenditures by Funding Source Level Fiscal Year 2019



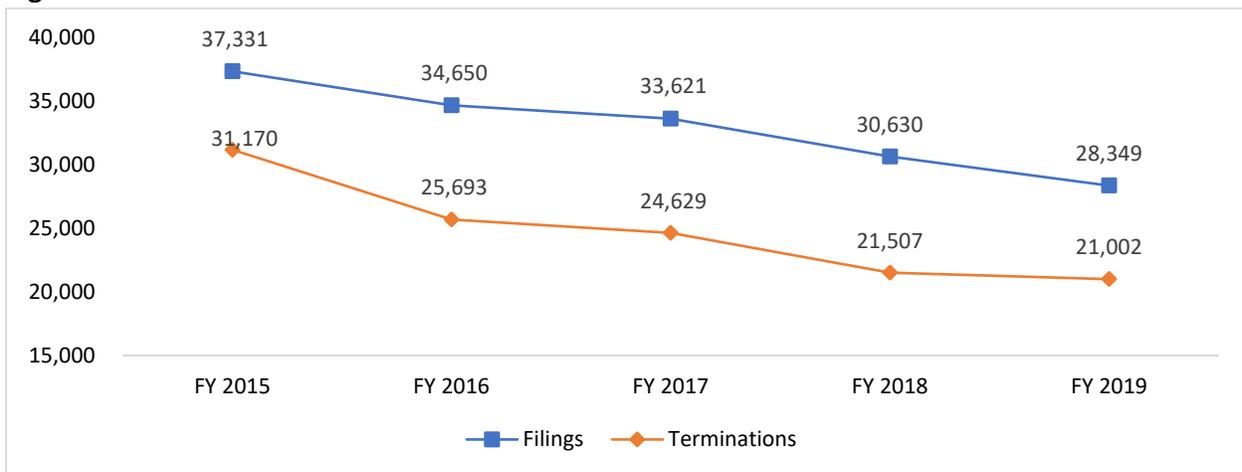
- 68.8% of the total funds expended by the court system were from counties, 17.4% from the state, 13.1% from cities and towns, and 0.7% from federal and private sources.

## Adult Probation Services

The number of individuals under the jurisdiction of Arizona adult probation departments at the end of FY 2019 decreased 0.64% from 85,879 on July 1, 2018 to 85,326 on June 30, 2019. Of the 85,326 under the jurisdiction of adult probation, 47,920 were on standard probation (41,336 were under direct supervision in the state and 6,584 were under indirect supervision as they were out going interstate compact or in long term residential treatment), 2,627 on intensive probation (2,418 were direct supervision and 209 were on indirect supervision), and 34,779 were on administrative supervision (unsupervised, report only, deported, etc.).

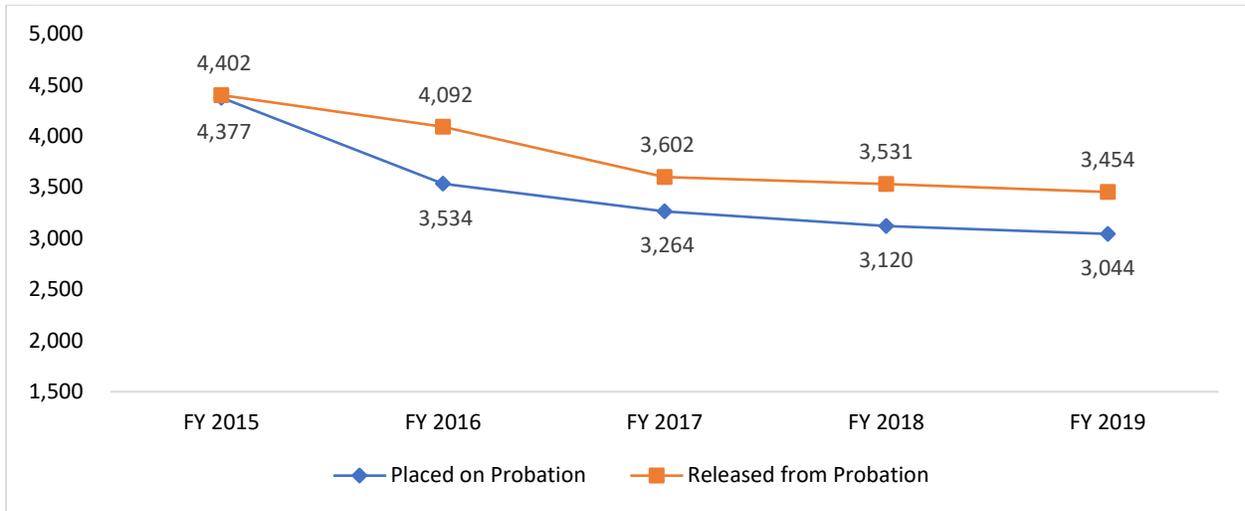
## Juvenile Justice

Figure 17. Juvenile Court Referrals FY2015-FY2019



- 28,349 referrals were filed into juvenile court in FY 2019, a 7.4% decrease compared to 30,630 in FY 2018.
- 21,002 referrals were terminated in FY 2019, a 2.3% decrease compared to the 21,507 referrals terminated in FY 2018.
- A total of 11,875 petitions were filed in FY 2019, a 7.3% decrease from the 12,810 petitions filed in FY 2018.
- A total of 11,100 petitions were terminated in FY 2019, a 6.1% decrease from the 11,826 terminated in FY 2018.

Figure 18. Juvenile Probation FY2015-FY2019



- A total of 3,044 adjudicated juveniles were placed on probation in FY 2019, a 2.4% decrease from the 3,120 youths placed on probation in FY 2018.
- 3,454 juveniles were released from probation, a decrease of 2.2% from the 3,531 terminated from probation supervision in FY 2018.
- 235 juveniles were committed to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections during FY 2019, an increase of 15.8% from the 203 committed in FY 2018.