

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

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SERVING NEVADA

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FISCAL YEAR 2006





JAMES W. HARDESTY

RONALD PARRAGUIRRE

MARK GIBBONS

MICHAEL L. DOUGLAS

NANCY A. BECKER

ROBERT E. ROSE  
CHIEF JUSTICE

A. WILLIAM MAUPIN

**SUPREME COURT JUSTICES 2006**



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The work of Nevada's Courts  
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

## **SERVING NEVADA**

Fiscal Year 2006



## JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

CHIEF JUSTICE

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ASSOCIATE JUSTICES

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## The Nevada Supreme Court Seal

A Nevada Supreme Court seal – to symbolize the many aspects of justice – was authorized after Nevada became a state on Oct. 31, 1864.

With the Civil War raging at the time, and liberty on the public’s mind, the seal’s designers chose to use the Goddess of Liberty instead of the Goddess of Justice to represent the Supreme Court. It was a logical choice because the politics of the war had led to Nevada’s statehood and the preservation of the Union.

On the seal, Liberty’s left hand holds a liberty pole topped with a Phrygian cap. Her right hand supports a shield and she is accompanied on the seal by an eagle. The liberty pole and Phrygian cap continue the theme of Liberty. Phrygia was an ancient Indo-European country captured by the Romans, who later freed their Phrygian slaves. Each former slave was given a soft, close-fitting conical cap to confirm his status as a free person. In the 1700s, French revolutionaries adopted the Phrygian cap as a symbol of their struggle for liberty.

On the upper part of the seal are the words ‘Supreme Court State of Nevada,’ preceded and followed by single stars. On the seal’s lower edge are the Latin words Fiat Justitia, the court’s motto. It means, ‘Let Justice be Done.’

## The Quotes

Throughout this year’s Annual Report are historic quotes about fairness, tolerance, and the law that have inspired both those who seek justice and those who judge. Many are favorites of Nevada judges and justices.

Nevada Supreme Court Justice Nancy Becker said that “quotes are a reminder that our system of justice has deep roots derived from many cultures dating back thousands of years. The common bond is that every justice system strives to provide elements of fairness and equity under the law of the land. The United States took these disparate elements from a variety of sources and merged them into our Constitution, which is enforced on a daily basis by our courts of law.

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## A Message From The Chief Justice



**As I end my third term** on the Nevada Supreme Court and my third stint as Chief Justice, I see that our judiciary has evolved into a modern, progressive, and effective court system that serves Nevada well.

That was not the case 18 years ago, when I first joined the Court, and it demonstrates what can be accomplished with dedication, hard work, and leadership by a Supreme Court that has committed its energies to improving the way the judiciary conducts business.

This Annual Report, and the data it carries, demonstrates how far the judiciary has come in meeting the needs of today's Nevada. This report chronicles how hard our judges and their staffs work for those who seek the courts assistance to resolve their disputes, whether at the busiest Las Vegas or Reno courts that process tens of thousands of cases a year, or at part-time courts in the most rural corners of the state.

During my tenure on the bench, the judiciary has matured from a collection of individual courts to a single judiciary with the same goals, processes, and procedures. Under the Supreme Court, the judiciary collects and reports its work so that we may show how we are handling the public's business and serving Nevada. The information we have gathered forms the basis for much of this report. A decade ago, many smaller courts counted their statistics by hand. Today, a majority of courts are computerized. The Administrative Office of the Courts has taken the lead to ensure even the smallest courts have the technology to meet their needs.

Both the Supreme Court and the District Courts have expanded to meet the ever increasing caseload. The Supreme Court was expanded from 5 to 7 members and now sits in 3-justice panels for most cases. For the first time, those panels presided over oral arguments at the William S. Boyd School of Law in Las Vegas and in Reno at the National Judicial College. The District Courts have added Business and Mental Health Courts to address the varied and increased caseload they receive. And, in the near future, both the District and Supreme Courts will begin to receive pleadings by electronic filing. This will be a real assistance to both the practitioner and the public.

As I prepare to end my tenure as an elected judge in Nevada, I am proud of the progress we have made and I will retire with confidence that Nevada's judiciary will continue its dramatic march forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Rose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Robert E. Rose  
Chief Justice



## Report from the Administrative Office of the Courts

**Our first Annual Report** was published in 2000 under the tutelage of Chief Justice Rose. As we publish our sixth report, our Chief Justice is again Justice Rose, who will be retiring at the end of 2006. We will miss his leadership. Noted briefly below are some of the changes in the judiciary over these last 6 years.

Our initial report contained 38 pages split almost evenly between general information about the judiciary and caseload statistics. Our 2006 report has almost doubled in size to more than 70 pages, still split almost evenly, because the achievements of the judiciary and statistics we collect have both increased.

Our initial data collection began with only filings and dispositions. We now have started expanding the data collection to include events in and the status of pending cases. This is due, in part, to our statistics being relied on by more entities and to allow better management of the judicial branch.

Legislators, reporters, our courts, and the public are all relying on our statistical data. We are receiving more data requests concerning the judiciary than ever before. Requests range from the number of adoptions or divorces to how legislation impacts case filings.

The judiciary as a whole has progressed considerably during the past 6 years. We now have:

- A Certified Court Interpreter Program.
- Computerized case management programs in a majority of Nevada's courts, with many provided and supported by the AOC.
- Court websites throughout the state to dispense vital public information.
- Increased education for judges, administrators, and especially court staff.
- The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada to assume an administrative role that has made the judiciary stronger and more effective.
- Specialty Courts that are now available for virtually every citizen in the state to help them address the drug or alcohol dependency, or mental health issues that brought them into the criminal justice system.
- Standardized statistics to provide an accurate picture of the work of the state's courts.

There are many more examples of the progress and accomplishments the Nevada judiciary has achieved in a remarkably short period of time.

The Nevada judiciary is committed to ensuring that all Nevadans, including our rural residents, have equal access to justice. It will be interesting to see where the judiciary is in 6 more years. What will remain unchanged, however, is our commitment to provide the most progressive and effective court system possible to serve Nevada now and in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Titus".

Ronald R. Titus  
State Court Administrator

# Chief Justice Robert E. Rose Retires

**For three terms – 18 years** – Chief Justice Robert E. Rose was the guiding force at the Nevada Supreme Court who led the judiciary into what is undisputedly its most progressive era. As Chief Justice three times, he gathered a disjointed judiciary together and helped mold it into a modern, cohesive, and united court system to serve Nevada.

He also proved himself to be a steady leader who guided the court through times of turmoil and controversy.

Chief Justice Rose will retire at the end of 2006, concluding a career of public service that began circuitously when he served as a law clerk at the Nevada Supreme Court in 1964-65. Chief Justice Rose has always talked about how that experience convinced him to one day serve on the high court himself. His career took a winding road, however, before his goal was achieved.

In 1970, after a few years in private practice in Reno, he was elected Washoe County District Attorney. Four years later, he was elected Nevada Lieutenant Governor. In 1979, he returned to private practice, although this time in Las Vegas.

Then in 1986, he was appointed as a district judge in Clark County by then-Gov. Richard Bryan. He served just 2 years before the opportunity he had coveted as a young law clerk presented itself. Chief Justice Rose was elected to the high court in 1988 and re-elected twice. He is serving for the third time as Chief Justice. Each time at the helm of the Court, he has embraced the opportunity to push for innovative and progressive reforms.

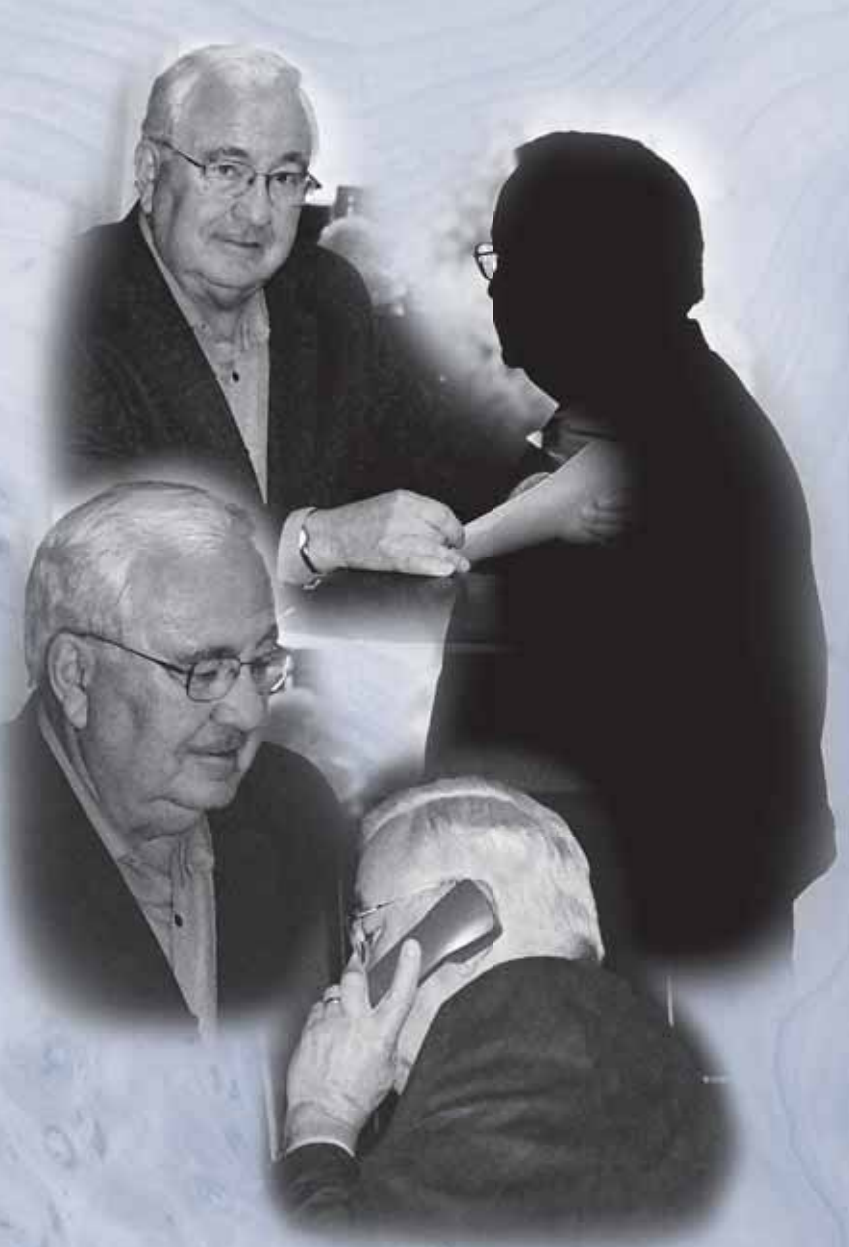
It was Chief Justice Rose who first exercised the Supreme Court's constitutional responsibility to supervise the trial courts. At the time, Nevada's courts had been described as a collection of individual fiefdoms, with each judge acting independently. Caseload statistics were inconsistently compiled, if at all, and courts in one area had little if any contact with other courts across the state.

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## Accomplishments:

### Fighting Domestic Violence

In 1993, Chief Justice Rose persuaded the Nevada Supreme Court to order that all Nevada court be closed for one full day so judges could be instructed how judges can best handle domestic violence cases. The mandatory training was not universally popular with judges who were accustomed to their independence, but the result was positive and the authority of the Supreme Court was established.



### Court Technology

Although the Nevada Judiciary is now one of the most technologically advanced in the nation, that was far from the case just a few years ago. From the time he joined the Court, Chief Justice Rose realized the key to improving efficiency in the judiciary lay in implementing new technological systems that would allow better case management. He promoted the creation of the Supreme Court Committee on Court Technology in 1992 and became its chairman.

### The Rose Commission

In 1993, the Nevada Supreme Court created the Urban Workload Assessment Commission at the urging of Chief Justice Rose to take a broad look at the judiciary and make recommendations for improvements. The Commission – which eventually became known as the Rose Commission – made such recommendations as a merit selection system for judges, consolidation of lower courts, the need for additional judges, strong chief judge systems in urban courts, and lowered penalties for possession of small amounts of marijuana. The Commission was resurrected in 1999, when Justice Rose began his second term as chief justice.



## Supreme Court Panel System

Chief Justice Rose championed expansion of the Supreme Court from five to seven members and the splitting of the Court into two 3-justice panels to hear most cases. The system allowed the court to reduce its backlog by 1,000 cases (from 2,500 to 1,500) and keep abreast of the ever-increasing caseload.

## Nevada Judicial Summit

Chief Justice Rose has been instrumental in helping to unite Nevada's courts through such steps as the Nevada Judicial Summit, which brought together every level of court in the state at one conference to address common problems and issues and share solutions.

## Supreme Court Pro Se Council

With more litigants representing themselves in courts, Chief Justice Rose promoted the creation of the Supreme Court Pro Se Council to address the growing issue and help those who cannot afford attorneys. With Chief Justice Rose as its chair, the Council developed numerous standardized forms that are presently available on line or at court self-help centers.

## Jury Improvement Commission

The Jury Improvement Commission headed by Chief Justice Rose and then-Justice Deborah Agosti studied Nevada's jury system for a year and made numerous recommendations in its 2002 report. Many recommendations, including increasing juror pay and allowing jurors to ask questions of witnesses during trials, were adopted by law or court rule.

## Uniform System For Judicial Records

Chief Justice Rose promoted a court order in 1999 that requires that every court in Nevada to keep and report uniform statistics about the cases they handle. The records allow the courts and governmental entities to better manage their resources and caseloads. The statistics also formed the basis for the Nevada Judiciary Annual Report.

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# Reflections on Chief Justice Robert E. Rose

"This court has been blessed over the years by the judicial service of great lawyers with unconditional commitments to excellence. Bob Rose epitomizes that tradition. His insight, legal skills, empathy for the people, and personal wisdom have been key factors in the evolution of the Nevada Supreme Court as a modern and effective branch of state government."

– Justice A. William Maupin

"The citizens of our State will long remember the dedicated service to and the leadership of the Nevada judicial system by Bob Rose. I have had the good fortune to witness his commitment, integrity, fairness, and hard work on behalf of the people of Nevada. I appreciate the wonderful examples he set and the lessons he taught as a Justice on the Nevada Supreme Court. The Court will miss his wisdom and intellect."

– Justice James W. Hardesty

"Justice Rose is one of the most competent, polite, and caring judges I have ever met. He will be greatly missed by all Nevada lawyers as well as all the citizens of our state."

– Justice Mark Gibbons

"More than any other person, Justice Rose has changed the face of Nevada's judiciary. His leadership, humor, scholarship and patience embody what is best in a judge and in our judicial system. He has been a mentor and friend, not just to me, but to many young judges and lawyers. He leaves a legacy of improvements, from case management and processing techniques to expanded access to the courts for the disadvantaged. Justice Bob Rose, truly a man for all seasons."

– Justice Nancy A. Becker

"For the past 18 years, the citizens of Nevada have been fortunate to have had Justice Bob Rose serve their interests on the Nevada Supreme Court. Bob's intellect, dedication, and compassion set a standard for the Court to which we all aspire. Although we will miss his presence here, his legacy will remain. I am proud to have served with Bob whom I consider to be one of Nevada's finest jurists."

– Justice Ronald Parraquillo

"Robert 'Bob' Rose IS and HAS BEEN a great member of the Nevada Supreme Court and the State Bar of Nevada. Bob gives life to our constitution by protecting all people's rights and liberties under the law. Bob also combines scholarly intellect with common sense when writing outstanding legal opinions.

On a personal level, Robert 'Bob' Rose is a caring gentleman who always makes you feel welcome. He has been a teacher, mentor and role model to me as a new Justice. I will miss the quiet gentleman who always does the right thing."

– Justice Michael L. Douglas

# Justices of the Supreme Court of Nevada



## Chief Justice Robert E. Rose

Chief Justice Robert E. (Bob) Rose is ending his third and final term as a Nevada Supreme Court Justice (see page 6). His path to the Supreme Court was inspired by his clerkship at the high court in 1964-65, although the journey would take 25 years and pass through other public service jobs. He practiced law in Reno before being elected Washoe County District Attorney in 1970. Four years later he was elected Nevada Lieutenant Governor. In 1979, he returned to the practice of law, although this time in Las Vegas. His career path turned back to the judiciary in 1986 when he was appointed to the Eighth Judicial District Court bench. He spent just 2 years there before a vacancy occurred at the Supreme Court that provided him with the opportunity to fulfill the dream that began nearly a quarter century before. He won the 1988 election and was re-elected in 1994 and 2000. He served three times as Chief Justice and built a reputation in the legal community and in the judiciary as a reformer. He created the Judicial Assessment Commission – the so-called “Rose Commission” – that took an in-depth look at the judiciary and recommended a variety of progressive reforms. He also created and co-chaired the Jury Improvement Commission. Chief Justice Rose’s term expires in January 2007.



## Justice A. William Maupin

By the time Justice A. William Maupin was appointed to the District Court bench in Clark County in 1993, his legal career had already spanned 22 years in both the public and private sectors. While he handled murder cases as a public defender, he eventually focused on major civil litigation as a partner in the law firm of Thorndal, Backus, Maupin and Armstrong. Justice Maupin has dedicated much of his professional life to improving the justice system. He was chair of the Nevada Supreme Court committee on Alternate Dispute Resolution, and is considered to have been a driving force behind the judicial system’s successful arbitration program. He served 4 years on the board of governors of the State Bar of Nevada and was chair of a Supreme Court study committee to review judicial elections. Justice Maupin was elected to the Supreme Court in 1996 and re-elected in 2002. His term ends in January 2009.



## Justice Mark Gibbons

Before Justice Mark Gibbons was elected to the Clark County District Court bench in 1996, he was a trial attorney specializing in real estate related matters. During his 6 years at the District Court, he served as Chief Judge and was a member of the Supreme Court Jury Improvement Commission. In 2002, he was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court. As a justice, he continued his commitment to improving the jury process by serving as chair of the Jury Improvement Implementation Committee, planning how to enact the recommendations of the Jury Improvement Commission. He was chair of the Specialty Court Funding Committee for half of FY06 and is chair of the Court’s Information Technology and Safety Committees. His term ends in January 2009.

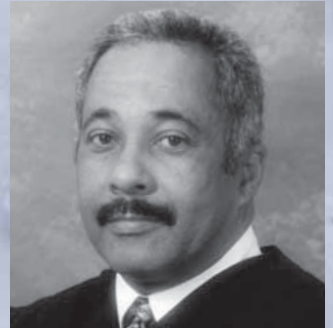
## Justice Nancy A. Becker

Justice Nancy A. Becker served as Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court during the first half of FY06, and then as Vice Chief Justice. She earned her law degree in 1979 while working for the late U.S. Senator Howard Cannon in Washington, D.C. She returned to her native Nevada in 1983 as a prosecutor with the Las Vegas City Attorney's Office. In 1985, she founded the Clark County Pro Bono Project to help economically disadvantaged individuals gain access to the justice system. She was elected a Las Vegas Municipal Court judge in 1987, becoming the first woman to preside at that court. There she developed a system for treating mentally ill misdemeanor offenders resulting in a significant drop in recidivism amongst the City's mentally ill homeless populations. In 1989, she became a District Court judge and served until being elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in 1998. She became Chief Justice in 2005. Her term of office expires in January 2007.



## Justice Michael L. Douglas

Justice Michael Douglas became the first African American justice on the Nevada Supreme Court when he was appointed in March 2004 to fill the vacancy that resulted from the death of Justice Myron E. Leavitt. Justice Douglas, a Los Angeles native, came to Nevada and took a job with Nevada Legal Services in 1982. After 2 years, he was hired by the Clark County District Attorney's Office and served in the Civil Division until 1996, when he was appointed to the Eighth Judicial District Court bench. At the District Court, he served as Business Court judge along with handling a variety of civil and criminal cases. He was elected Chief District Judge in October 2003. At the Supreme Court, Justice Douglas served as chair of the Specialty Court Funding Committee during half of FY06, co-chair of the Supreme Court Bench-Bar Committee, and chair of the Court Security Task Force. His term of office expires in January 2007.



## Justice James W. Hardesty

Justice James W. Hardesty is a Reno native who was elected to the high court in 2004 following a long and successful career as a private attorney specializing in real estate and media law, and 6 years on the District Court bench. For 14 years as an attorney he was listed in *Who's Who* in Real Estate Law and he is the author of several published articles on libel, privacy, and government access issues. Justice Hardesty began his judicial career in 1998 when he was elected to a seat on the Second Judicial District Court. He was twice elected Chief Judge and championed improvements in case management systems that increased the productivity of the courts in Washoe County. Justice Hardesty has served on the Nevada Supreme Court Funding Commission and the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada. At the Supreme Court, he is co-chair of the Bench Bar Committee. His term at the Supreme Court expires in January 2011.



## Justice Ronald Parraguirre

Justice Ron D. Parraguirre is a fourth generation Nevadan and second generation judge. His family emigrated from the Basque country to western Nevada in the 1870s to ranch the country south of Carson City, but law was in the family's blood. Justice Parraguirre's great aunt was a law school graduate. His father, Paul (who would go on to become a Fifth Judicial District Court judge), and his two uncles all became Nevada attorneys, as did two of the justice's cousins. After graduating from law school in 1985, Justice Parraguirre went to work in Washington, D.C., for then U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt as counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Justice Parraguirre returned to Nevada 2 years later. He was elected to a seat on the Las Vegas Municipal Court in 1991, where he served until being appointed to a seat at the Eighth Judicial District Court in 1999. Justice Parraguirre won his seat on the Nevada Supreme Court in 2004. He is the youngest member of the court. His term ends in January 2011.

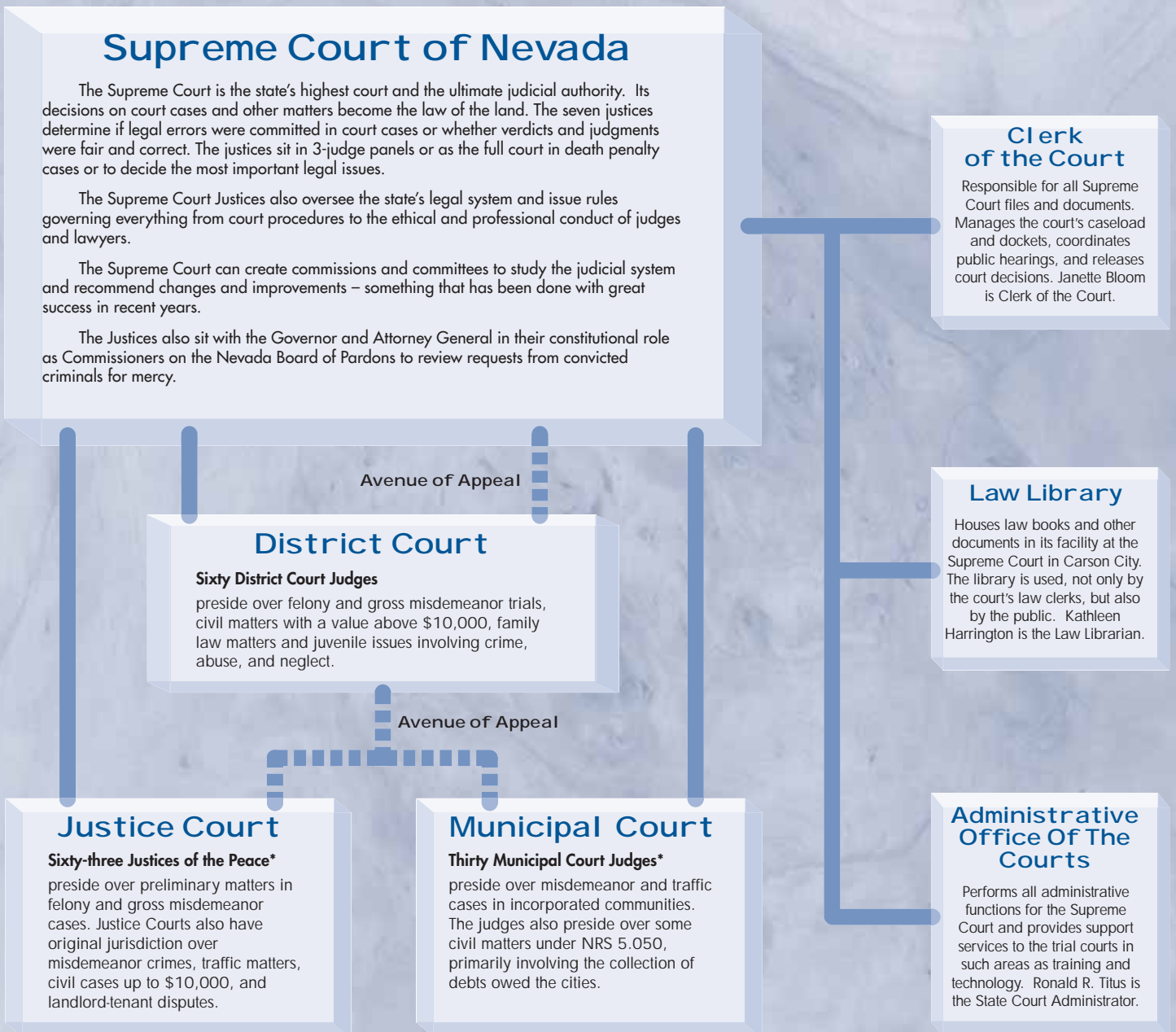




# The Nevada Judicial System Structure and Function

**Nevada's Judiciary** is one of the three co-equal and independent branches of government – along with the Executive and Legislative branches. Together, the three branches have served our citizens since Nevada became a state in 1864. The responsibility of the judiciary is to resolve legal disputes brought before it in an impartial, fair, and speedy manner.

In Nevada, the judiciary consists of one appellate court, the Supreme Court, and three levels of trial courts – state District Courts, county Justice Courts, and city Municipal Courts. The chart below explains Nevada's court structure, and provides information about the functions, in addition to the number of judges as of June 30, 2006.



\* Ten lower court judges serve their communities as both justice of the peace and municipal judge.

# Funding the Courts

The judicial system at the state level received \$34,058,461 for fiscal year 2006 from a variety of sources. While the total was a 25.4 percent increase from fiscal year 2004, the portion allocated from the state General Fund increased only 5.4 percent over the 2-year period. That meant the courts were required to fund more and more of their own operations through assessments and fees.

Overall, the cost to operate Nevada's entire judiciary is about \$200 million, although most of that is provided and administered by local governments.

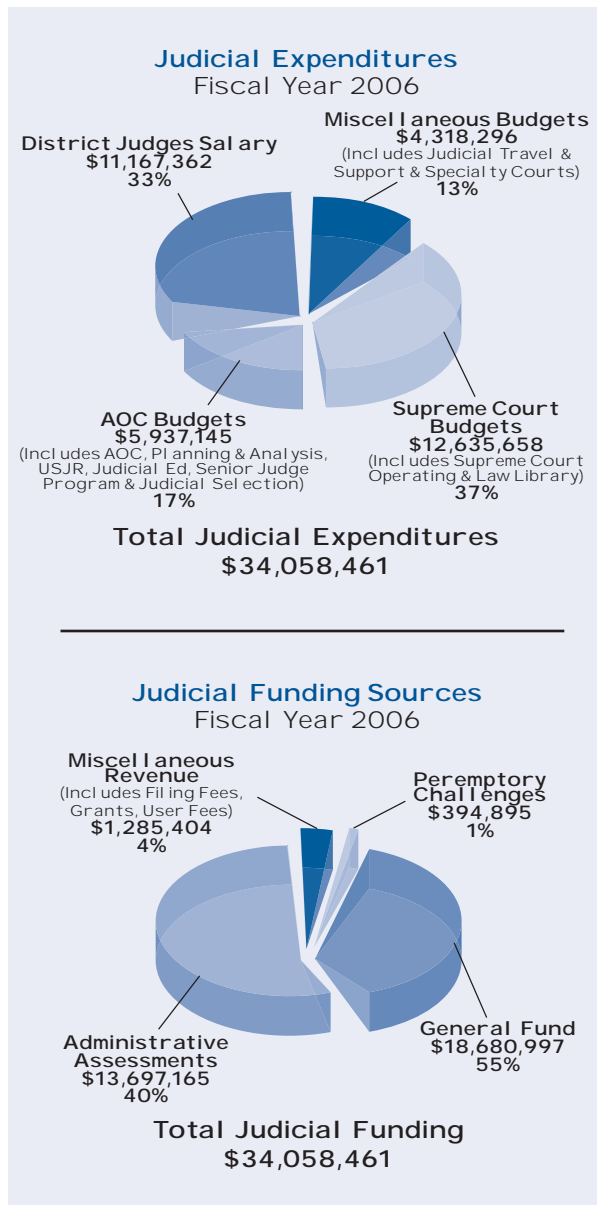
The percentage of the judicial branch share of the state General Fund actually dropped in fiscal year 2006, despite the necessary growth of the court system to meet the demands of a growing populace. The third branch of government received 0.79 percent of General Fund dollars during fiscal year 2006, and is projected to receive just 0.75 percent in fiscal year 2007. During fiscal years 2004 and 2005, the judiciary received 0.88 percent and 0.85 percent, respectively.

In addition to General Fund dollars, court funding comes from administrative assessments, peremptory challenge fees, filing fees, grants, and user fees. Administrative assessments are the fees charged to defendants in criminal and traffic cases. Peremptory challenge fees are paid by attorneys or litigants to exclude particular judges in civil cases. Non-General Fund dollars make up 45 percent of the state judiciary budget – or \$14,092,060. The availability of these funds, however, can be inconsistent. During fiscal year 2004, administrative assessments and fees accounted for 35 percent of the state court's budget.

General Fund allocations provided \$18,680,997, or about 55 percent, of the court budget for fiscal year 2006. During fiscal year 2004, about 65 percent of the Judiciary's funding came from the General Fund.

## Judicial Expenditures

Funding administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts pays for the operating expenses of the Nevada Supreme Court, limited support services for the court system statewide, and salaries and retirement for Supreme Court Justices and District Court Judges.



The majority of the costs for the District, Justice, and Municipal Courts are borne by the local governments where the courts operate. District Courts expenses, except for salaries and benefits of the judges, and limited support services, are funded by the county governments where the judges sit. County governments also fund the entire operations of the Justice Courts, including the salaries of the justices of the peace. City governments fund the Municipal Courts and their judges in incorporated municipalities.

Other State Government: \$2,773,519,360 or 99.21%

Judicial Branch: \$21,828,015 or 0.79%

General Fund Appropriations - fiscal Year 2006

### GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

General Fund Appropriations	FY 2006	% of Total	FY2007	% of Total	Total Biennium	% of Total
Judicial Branch *	\$ 21,828,015	0.79%	\$ 22,634,394	0.75%	\$ 44,462,409	0.77%
Other State Government **	\$2,751,691,345	99.21%	\$3,001,760,690	99.25%	\$5,753,452,036	99.23%
<b>Total General Fund Appropriations</b>	<b>\$2,773,519,360</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$3,024,395,084</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 5,797,914,445</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

\* Includes Appropriations to the Commission on Judicial Discipline and the Judicial Retirement System

\*\* Includes: Constitutional Agencies, Finance & Administration, Education, Human Services, Commerce & Industry, Public Safety, Infrastructure, and Special Purpose Agencies



# The Nevada Judicial System Structure and Function

## District Courts

**Nevada's District Courts** are courts of general jurisdiction and have the most authority of any trial court. This is where major trials are conducted and where citizens get their day in court before a jury of their peers. District Judges preside over felony and gross misdemeanor cases, civil matters above \$10,000, and family law issues, including juvenile matters. Much of the judges' work involves deciding a variety of complex legal disputes not requiring jury trials, including appeals of Justice and Municipal Court cases.

District Courts were created by the Nevada Constitution. The judges have jurisdiction throughout the state's 17 counties, although they are elected and serve primarily in one of the state's nine Judicial Districts. Five of those Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties in sparsely populated regions to best utilize the judges' time and taxpayer resources.

## Nevada's Judicial Districts and Judges (as of June 30, 2006)

### FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Carson City & Storey County  
 Judge Michael Griffin  
 Judge William Maddox

### SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Washoe County  
 Judge Brent Adams  
 Judge Janet Berry  
 Judge Frances Doherty  
 Judge Steve Elliott  
 Judge David Hardy  
 Judge Steven Kosach  
 Judge Bridget Robb Peck  
 Judge Robert Perry  
 Judge Jerome Polaha  
 Judge Deborah Schumacher  
 Judge Connie Steinheimer  
 Judge Chuck Weller

### THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Churchill & Lyon Counties  
 Judge Robert Estes  
 Judge David Huff  
 Judge Wayne Pederson

### FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Elko County  
 Judge Mike Memeo  
 Judge Andrew Puccinelli

### FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Esmeralda, Mineral, & Nye Counties  
 Judge John Davis  
 Judge Robert Lane

### SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Humboldt, Lander & Pershing Counties  
 Judge John Iroz  
 Judge Richard Wagner

### SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

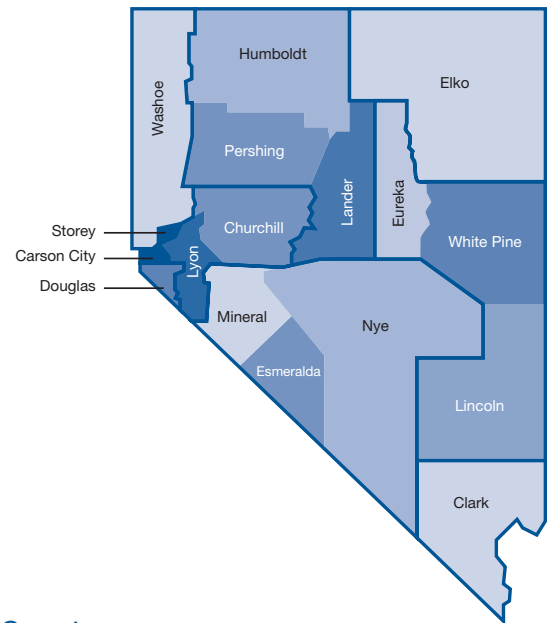
Eureka, Lincoln & White Pine Counties  
 Judge Steve Dobrescu  
 Judge Dan Papez

### EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Clark County  
 Judge Valerie Adair  
 Judge Stewart Bell  
 Judge Joseph Bonaventure  
 Judge Lisa Brown  
 Judge Michael Cherry  
 Judge Kenneth Cory  
 Judge Nicholas Del Vecchio  
 Judge Mark Denton  
 Judge Allan Earl  
 Judge Jennifer Elliott  
 Judge Lee Gates  
 Judge Jackie Glass  
 Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez  
 Judge Gerald Hardcastle  
 Judge Kathy Hardcastle  
 Judge Douglas Herndon  
 Judge Steven Jones  
 Judge Michelle Leavitt  
 Judge Sally Loehrer  
 Judge Stefany Miley  
 Judge Donald Mosley  
 Judge Cheryl Moss  
 Judge Sandra Pomrenze  
 Judge Arthur Ritchie  
 Judge Nancy Saitta  
 Judge Gloria Sanchez  
 Judge Dianne Steel  
 Judge Jennifer Togliatti  
 Judge Valorie Vega  
 Judge William Voy  
 Judge David Wall  
 Judge Jessie Walsh  
 Judge Timothy Williams

### NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Douglas County  
 Judge David Gamble  
 Judge Michael Gibbons



### District Courts

Judicial District	Judicial Positions	Population as of 7-1-05	Cases Filed	Avg. Cases Per Judge	Filings Per 10,000 Populations
<b>First</b>	2	61,116	2,343	1,172	383.4
<b>Second</b>	12	396,844	20,965	1,747	528.3
<b>Third</b>	3	75,445	3,113	1,044	415.3
<b>Fourth</b>	2	47,586	2,518	1,259	529.2
<b>Fifth</b>	2	47,206	2,994	1,497	634.2
<b>Sixth</b>	2	29,537	1,400	700	474.0
<b>Seventh</b>	2	14,646	602	301	411.0
<b>Eighth</b>	33	1,796,380	83,271	2,523	463.6
<b>Ninth</b>	2	50,108	1,389	695	277.2
<b>Totals</b>	60	2,410,768	118,615	1,977	457.3

# Justice Courts

The **Justice Courts** are county courts with responsibility for a variety of legal matters – from felony arraignments and preliminary hearings, to civil matters involving up to \$10,000, small claims, and landlord-tenant disputes.

Justices of the Peace are elected judges who have authority over misdemeanor cases and traffic matters in unincorporated townships. In rural Nevada, many Justices of the Peace serve only part time. Justices of the Peace and their townships are listed on page 14.

## Five Busiest Justice Courts

Justice Court	Population as of 7-1-05	Judicial Positions	Non-traffic cases filed	Cases filed per judge*	Traffic & Parking
Las Vegas	1,295,058	9	126,888	14,099	253,168
Reno	251,020	5	23,792	4,758	42,078
Sparks	131,876	2	7,633	3,817	9,077
Henderson	242,084	2	7,061	3,531	5,410
North Las Vegas	203,296	2	6,917	3,459	916

\* Traffic violations may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time. Therefore, they are not included in "cases filed per judge."

# Municipal Courts

**Municipal Courts** are city courts with jurisdiction only within the city limits of incorporated municipalities to handle traffic violations and misdemeanor offenses. They also have limited jurisdiction in civil cases under NRS 5.050, primarily involving the collection of debts owed the cities. Municipal Judges may be appointed or elected, depending on the provisions of the city charter. In smaller communities, many of the Municipal Judges work part time. Municipal Court judges and their cities are listed on page 15.

## Five Busiest Municipal Courts

Municipal Court	Population as of 7-1-05	Judicial Positions	Non-traffic cases filed	Cases filed per judge*	Traffic & Parking
Las Vegas	569,838	6	31,664	5,277	141,411
North Las Vegas	180,219	2	7,765	3,883	44,156
Reno	206,735	4	8,415	2,104	43,734
Henderson	241,134	3	5,742	1,914	26,901
Sparks	85,618	2	2,045	1,023	11,860

\* Traffic violations may be resolved by payment of fines and not require judicial time. Therefore, they are not included in "cases filed per judge."

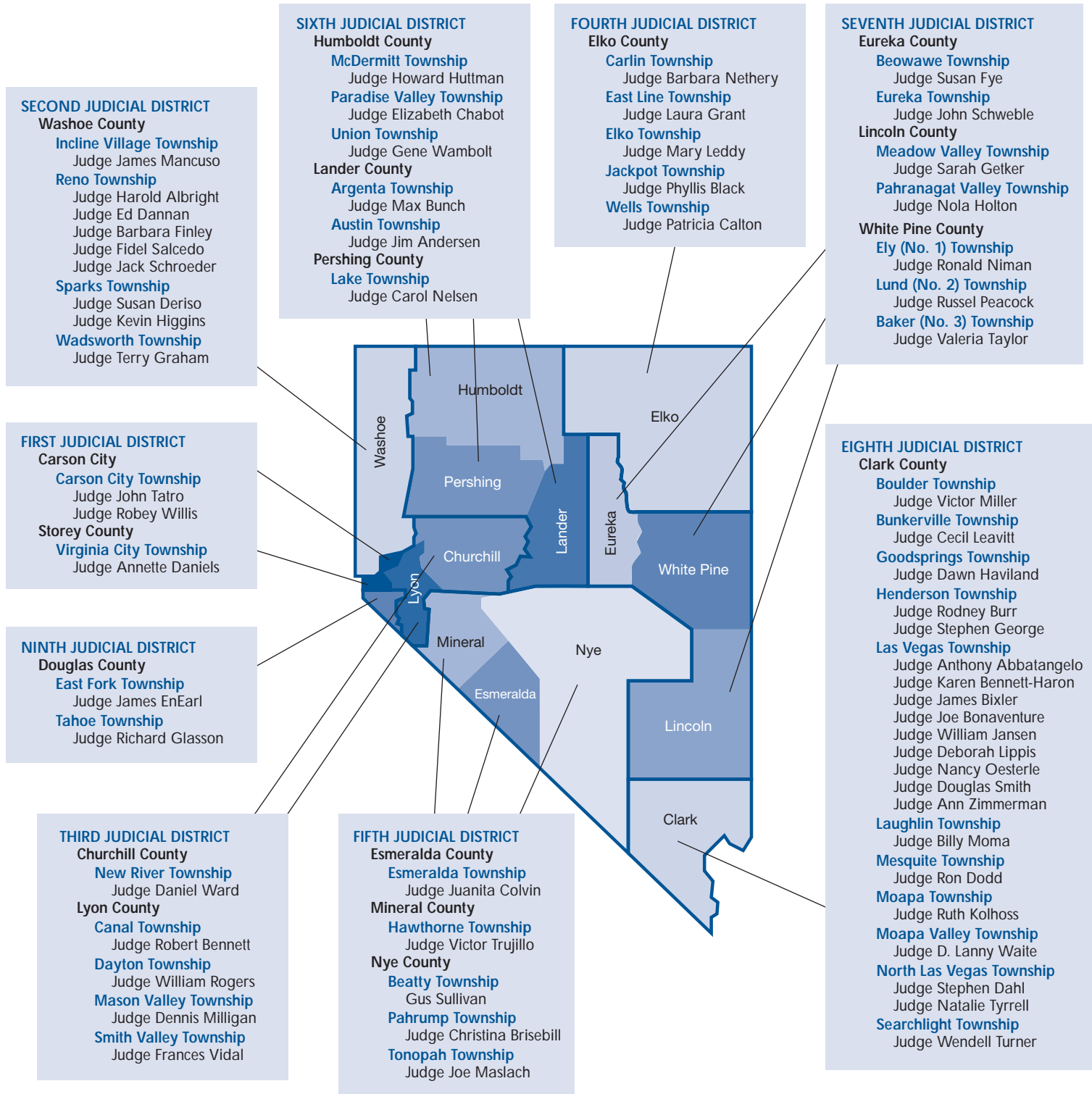
**"The moment you have protected an individual, you have protected society."**

Kenneth Kaunda  
(the first president of Zambia) 1924 A.D.



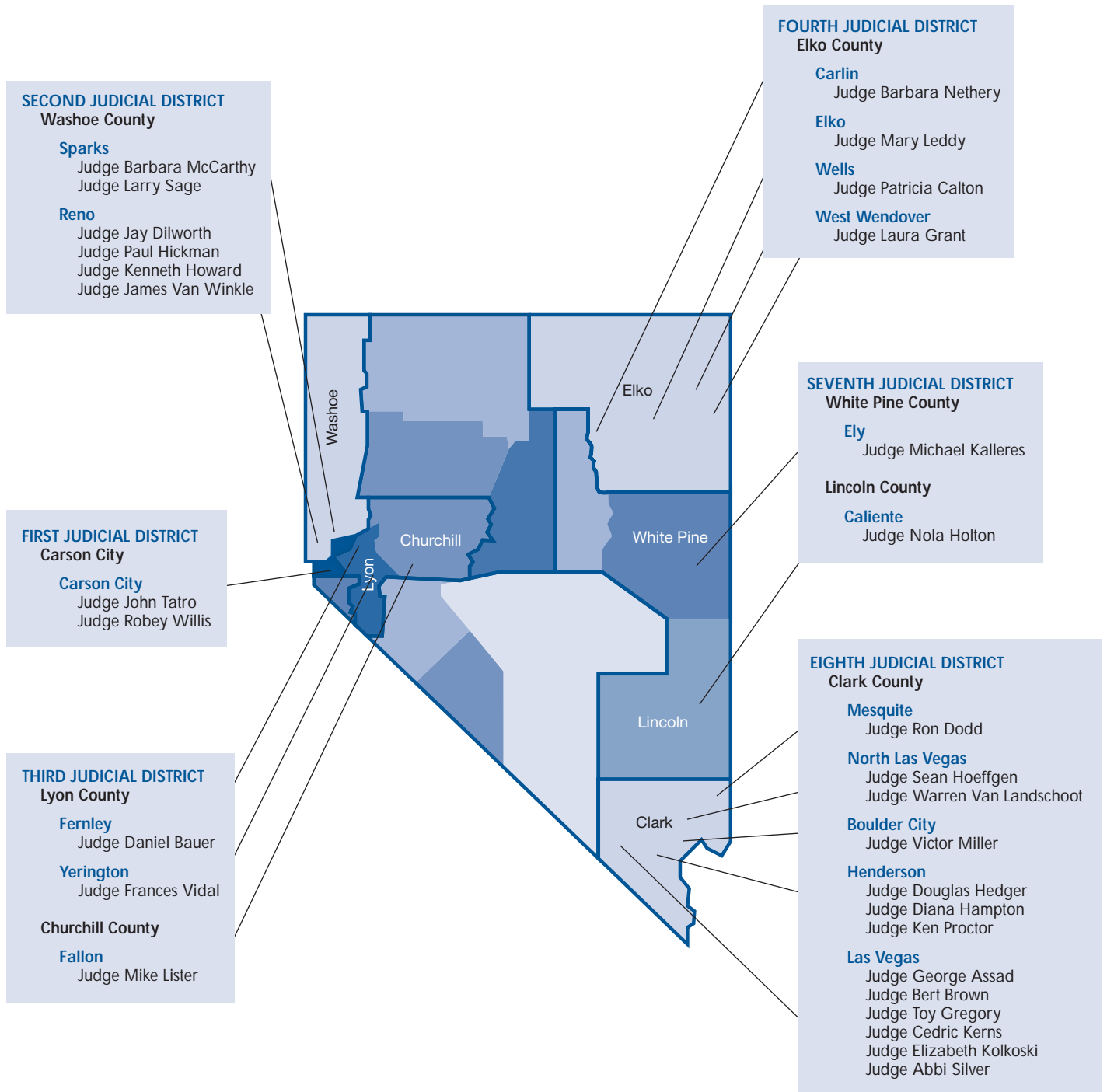
# The Nevada Judicial System Structure and Function

## Nevada's Justices of the Peace (as of June 30, 2006)





# Nevada's Municipal Court Judges (as of June 30, 2006)





# Judicial Council of the State of Nevada

## Judicial Council Members

**Chief Justice Robert E. Rose**, Chair  
Nevada Supreme Court

**Justice A. William Maupin**  
Nevada Supreme Court

**Judge Janet Berry**  
Second Judicial District Court

**Judge Pat Calton**  
Wells Justice/Municipal Court

**Judge Ed Dannan**  
Reno Justice Court

**Judge Jay D. Dilworth**  
Reno Municipal Court

**Judge Michael P. Gibbons**  
Ninth Judicial District Court

**Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez**  
Eighth Judicial District Court

**Judge Kathy Hardcastle**  
Eighth Judicial District Court

**Judge Nola A. Holton**  
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court

**Judge John Iroz**  
Sixth Judicial District Court

**Judge Cedric A. Kerns**  
Las Vegas Municipal Court

**Judge Nancy Oesterle**  
Las Vegas Justice Court

**Judge Dan L. Papez**  
Seventh Judicial District Court

**Judge William O. Voy**  
Eighth Judicial District Court

**Judge Robey B. Willis**  
Carson City Justice/Municipal Court

## Ex-Officio Members

**Judge Deborah Schumacher**  
President, Nevada District  
Judges Association

**Judge Jack Schroeder**  
President, Nevada Judges Association

**Ronald R. Titus**  
State Court Administrator

**Ron Longtin**  
Court Administrator, Second Judicial  
District Court

**Charles J. Short**  
Court Administrator, Eighth Judicial  
District Court

**“To unite and promote Nevada’s judiciary as an equal, independent and effective branch of government.”**

– Mission Statement, Judicial Council of the State of Nevada

**Throughout fiscal year 2006**, the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada continued to embrace its growing leadership role. The Judicial Council, which has operated with administrative authority bestowed upon it by the Nevada Supreme Court, has built a reputation as a progressive and effective arm of the judiciary.

The Judicial Council is comprised of 20 judges from across the state at every level plus three court administrators serving as ex-officio members. The Supreme Court Chief Justice is chairperson.

To facilitate meetings and address unique local issues, members from the various areas of the state meet independently in five Regional Judicial Councils that together form the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.

The Judicial Council has become instrumental in the continuing efforts to unite the state’s courts and judges into a judicial family that can provide equal justice for all Nevadans. The Judicial Council helps the Supreme Court fulfill its administrative duties and improve the court system statewide.

During past years, the Judicial Council established the Commission on Rural Courts to identify problems in Nevada’s smaller courts and recommend solutions, and developed a “Model Code of Conduct for Judicial Employees of the State of Nevada.”

A vital role of the Judicial Council is to approve disbursement of the money available to fund Nevada’s existing Specialty Courts – Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts – while allowing the establishment of additional Specialty Courts throughout Nevada.

During fiscal year 2006, the Judicial Council recognized its ongoing responsibilities in several areas by establishing three new standing committees – the Certified Court Interpreters Advisory Committee, the Specialty Court Funding Committee, and the Court Improvement Project Committee.

The Judicial Council took a step to ensure pro tem judges, hearing masters and senior judges all receive adequate training.

The Judicial Council also worked to have standardized harassment and stalking orders implemented throughout the state. The forms were approved by the Judicial Council and sent to courts across the state for voluntary use for six months. One goal of the Judicial Council was to ensure a recognizable cover sheet is the first page of protection orders so law enforcement officers can recognize protection orders across jurisdictions.

# TRANSITIONS

## PASSINGS

### Beatty Justice of the Peace Bill Sullivan

Beatty Justice of the Peace Bill Sullivan, who served the town for 26 years, died on July 10, 2005 following a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 71.

Two days after his death, the Nye County Commission renamed the Beatty Justice Center as the Bill Sullivan Justice Center.



Judge Sullivan also had served as Chief of the Beatty Volunteer Fire Department, a member of the Beatty Volunteer Ambulance Service, a member and president of the Beatty Health and Welfare Board, and a volunteer football coach. He was instrumental in the building of the justice center that now bears his name.

### Sr. Justice David Zenoff

Nevada Supreme Court Senior Justice David Zenoff, who served on the high court from 1965 to 1977, died on Oct. 3, 2005. He was 89.

Justice Zenoff also served as a District Court judge in Clark County from 1958 to 1965. During that time, he became a staunch advocate for reforming the juvenile system. His work resulted in construction of the juvenile detention center in Las Vegas that was named for him. Justice Zenoff also was the driving force behind the creation of the Spring Mountain Youth Camp to house and treat young offenders through counseling, rather than punishment.

In 1967, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Justice Zenoff drew international attention by presiding over the wedding of Elvis and Priscilla Anne Beaulieu in Las Vegas. It was not his only brush with celebrity. In 1959, he presided over the divorce of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher and attended the wedding of Mr. Fisher to Elizabeth Taylor.

### Former North Las Vegas Justice of the Peace James Kelly

James Kelly, who was a justice of the peace for 24 years in North Las Vegas, died in May 2006 from complications of a brain tumor. He was 72.

Judge Kelly also had served as a city council member, president of the North Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce and president of the Nevada Judges Association.

### Former Mason Valley Justice of the Peace Robert Ruprecht

Robert M. Ruprecht, Jr., who served as Mason Valley Township Justice of the Peace from 1975 to 1978, died on Feb. 7, 2006. Born Aug. 13, 1946, Mr. Ruprecht also was a mortician and funeral director in Mason Valley.

## COURT CLOSINGS

### Justice Courts Consolidated

Smith Valley and Mason Valley Justice Courts in Lyon County were combined at the end of FY06 into the Walker River Justice Court. Mason Valley Justice of the Peace Dennis Milligan presides over the combined court. Smith Valley Justice of the Peace Frances Vidal left her justice court position, although she remains Yerington Municipal Court judge.

### Justice Court Closed

Baker Justice Court on the Utah border was closed by White Pine County at the end of FY06, a day after Justice of the Peace Valeria Taylor resigned.

The Judicial Council also has responsibility to propose bills to the Nevada Legislature that further the Judicial Council's mission. Some bills considered during fiscal year 2006 include:

- State funding for a new White Pine County Courthouse to replace the current near century-old courthouse.
- Changing the campaign filing period for judges from two weeks in May to two weeks in January to keep judges from unnecessarily soliciting campaign contributions if they are not challenged for election.
- Adding new judges at the Second and Eighth Judicial District Courts.
- Increasing funding for youth camps across Nevada.
- Allowing jury commissioners to expand jury pools by using customer lists of utility companies.

The Judicial Council now has seven standing committees:

**Legislation and Rules** with a mission to promote and support a coordinated approach about legislation affecting the judiciary.

**Education** with a mission to promote the competency and professionalism of the Nevada judiciary and staff.

**Technology** with a mission to promote and facilitate the use of technology by the courts and promote the coordination, collaboration, and integration of technology efforts between the judiciary, and state and local governments.

**Court Administration** with a mission to promote excellence in court administration throughout the state by considering and addressing problems and recommending improvements to the Judicial Council.

**Certified Court Interpreters** with a mission to develop Certified Court Interpreter Program policies.

**Specialty Court Funding** with a mission to establish procedures for courts requesting of specialty court funds, develop funding criteria, develop reporting requirements for recipients who receive funds, and collect specialty court data and information to aid in funding, monitor courts on use of funding.

**Court Improvement Project** with a mission to improve the lives of children and families who enter the child welfare system through initiatives that improve efficiency, reduce the amount of time children spend in foster care, and place abused and neglected children into permanent homes as quickly as possible.



# The Work of the State Courts

## Supreme Court Creates a Bench-Bar Committee

**The Nevada Supreme Court** created a Bench-Bar Committee during fiscal year 2006, as a way to provide the justices with needed input about the operation of the justice system from attorneys who spend their days in the legal trenches.

The attorneys offer information about the problems they face professionally, their expectations for the judiciary, and fresh ideas on a variety of legal subjects. The Bench-Bar Committee also acts as a sounding board on changes that may be proposed to improve the courts. The Committee, with Justices Michael Douglas and James Hardesty as co-chairs, will benefit the public through improvements in the delivery of services and case processing.

Membership includes the 7 Supreme Court justices and 29 attorneys who were chosen because of their expertise in various areas of law and geographic diversity. The Committee also includes an ex-officio member each from the law faculty of the National Judicial College at the University of Nevada, Reno,

and the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Some Supreme Court issues to be addressed by the Committee include:

- Electronic filing of documents with the Supreme Court Clerk.
- Improvements in Supreme Court case management.
- Case management issues in the urban courts.
- Judicial education and whether judges should be restricted in handling certain cases until they receive specialized training.
- The use of senior judges and justices to facilitate the resolution of cases.
- Access to justice, particularly for pro se litigants.
- Fast tracking child custody cases.
- The potential creation of a Nevada Court of Appeals.

## Nevada Supreme Court Panel Sits At UNLV Boyd School of Law

**In an historic session**, the Southern Panel of the Nevada Supreme Court held oral arguments for the first time at Boyd Law School on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The session provided a rare opportunity for law school students to witness the high court panel in action and get a first hand look at how attorneys actually argue a variety of cases in the appellate venue.

*“Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but in finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong.”*

Theodore Roosevelt  
(1858 - 1919), 1916

Students and spectators crowded the classroom that served as a courtroom, sitting above the justices in the tiered facility rather than looking up at them, as is the norm in a courtroom. The court sessions replaced regular classes for many students and professors.

Following the arguments, Justices Bill Maupin, Mark Gibbons, and James Hardesty took the unique step of answering questions from the attending students. Questions addressed the process of decision making by judges, why oral arguments are important to justices, why justices ask certain questions of one attorney and not the other in a case, how much time justices and their staffs spend researching and deciding cases, and whether there is a need for a Nevada Court of Appeals.

The justices also were asked whether politics plays a role in the decision making process since judges must stand for election.

Some students invariably asked some questions about the cases they had witnessed, but the justices had to decline to answer because of the impropriety of commenting on ongoing cases. Students had to wait for their answers until written opinions were published.

The Law School arguments have become an annual event.

# Court Funding Commission

**Funding Nevada's courts** has been a challenge that has become more critical as rapid growth in the state's urban centers and limited resources in some rural areas has strained resources.

Nevada's courts have been funded in much the same way that they were when Nevada became a state in 1864.

During fiscal year 2004, the Nevada Supreme Court created the Commission on Court Funding to examine the judiciary's funding and expenditures and explore whether there is a better way to do business. This is the first time the judiciary has taken such an in-depth look at the critical issue of court funding. During fiscal year 2006, the Commission continued its work and aimed to release a report of its findings and recommendations in fiscal year 2007.

Throughout fiscal year 2006, the Commission focused on determining the level of resources necessary to ensure individuals have the timely and careful consideration of their cases. This includes not only the time involved in resolving a case, but the time it takes to perform functions leading to the ultimate resolution. These include the time it takes to perform such tasks as reviewing and deciding motions, taking pleas in criminal cases and sentencing those found guilty, and conducting settlement conferences in civil cases.

During recent years, the courts have worked to resolve cases more efficiently and cost effectively outside the traditional court processes. Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR), such as arbitration, helps conclude many cases quickly and economically. Specialty Courts, such as Drug Courts, help those whose addictions brought them into contact with the justice system resolve their problems and return to productivity under the watchful eyes of specially trained judges.

The Commission has been looking at the level of services and resources needed at all court levels, and how funding should be provided. On the funding issue, the Commission reviewed whether funds should be primarily the responsibility of local governments, state government, or a combination of both.

Currently, only the operations of the Supreme Court are funded by state dollars, although less than 0.8 percent of the State General Fund goes to the judiciary. Court-generated funds also play a large role at the Supreme Court, providing nearly half of the budget.

At the District Court level, the state pays for salaries, benefits, and limited support for the judges, while county governments have the responsibility to fund all facilities, staff, and other necessities. Counties also provide total funding for the Justice Courts, including the salaries of judges. Municipal Courts, likewise, are funded entirely by their incorporated municipalities.

A task for the Commission is determining what constitutes fair, equitable, and reasonable funding for each court system. This is particularly difficult in a state as diverse as Nevada. Courts in the population centers of Las Vegas and Reno must cope with urban problems that require expensive technological solutions. At the same time, some one-judge courts have geographic jurisdictions larger than any urban court and their own unique problems.

**"Equity before the law...  
do not distinguish  
between kin and  
strangers...make  
no difference between  
nobles and the  
common people; let  
them all be judged  
by the law..."**

Ssu-ma T'an  
(Chinese historian) circa 200 B.C.

**"I have always found that  
mercy bears richer fruits  
than strict justice."**

Abraham Lincoln  
(1809 - 1865), speech in Washington, D.C., 1865



# The Work of the State Courts

## Nevada's Courts Serving Nevada – Innovations

### VIDEO LINKS

**Long distances and limited budgets** prompted courts around Nevada to utilize video teleconferencing during FY06. Teleconferencing is not new technology and has been used in several limited jurisdiction courts to address preliminary matters for in-custody defendants. But the use during trials and hearings has been limited.

Even at the busy Eighth Judicial District Court, it was not until this year that a Boston woman bed-ridden with multiple sclerosis became the first person to testify in a Nevada District Court trial through a videoconference. A video link, using court cameras and the Internet, allowed the woman to provide testimony and watch other witnesses in a trial to determine whether she or her estranged husband would win primary custody of their son.

In Elko, law enforcement relies on the services of the Washoe County Crime Lab for its forensic work. But those locations are hundreds of miles away. To prevent technicians from having to travel to the northeast corner of Nevada, the Elko Justice and Municipal Courts now take testimony over a video link.

The three Nye County Justice Courts (Beatty, Pahrump, and Tonopah) implemented an integrated video conferencing system between the three courts that are located in the corners of the state's largest county. The system allows one justice of the peace to handle arraignments for another judge when that judge is out sick or otherwise unavailable. The system, which links the courtrooms and the jails, is also used in high risk cases and can also link to county training classes to save the costs of travel.

**“He that wil l not  
apply new remedies  
must expect  
new evil s; for time  
is the  
greatest  
innovator.”**

Francis Bacon

### E-JUROR

**The Eighth Judicial District Court** launched its eJuror jury management system that lets Clark County residents quickly confirm or reschedule their jury service by computer.

The Web-based system also allows summoned jurors to print out a jury service attendance letter to submit to their employer, and complete basic questionnaires to give lawyers and judges an idea of who will be reporting for jury duty.

A person-to-person call to a Jury Services department worker costs the county \$3 per minute. eJuror costs 3-cents per minute. The eJuror system cost about \$28,000 to install, with operating costs of about \$4,000 per year.

eJuror is the type of system recommended by the Nevada Supreme Court's Jury Improvement Commission in its 2002 report to make the justice system more user friendly for those summoned to jury duty.

### RURAL COURTS COORDINATOR

**The Administrative Office of the Courts** hired a Rural Courts Coordinator at the end of FY06. This position had been recommended by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada's Commission on the Rural Courts and authorized by the Nevada Legislature in 2005.

The Rural Courts Coordinator is working on a variety of projects to help the rural courts of Nevada provide more access to justice. These projects include improving court security, increasing the availability of counseling services to help residents more easily comply with mandatory sentences, and improving informational links between the Supreme Court and the rural courts. The Coordinator will also be involved in legislation affecting the rural courts, including a request for state funding for a new White Pine County Court House.

**“Juries are not l eaves  
swayed by every breath.”**

Learned Hand

(Supreme Court justice) 1923 A.D.

## REACHING OUT TO HELP CHILDREN

**The Second Judicial District Court** established a partnership with Starbucks in Reno to promote the Court Appointed Special Advocate program (CASA) in the community and attract new volunteers. As a result, 28 new CASA volunteers were recruited and trained to advocate for dependent and abused children in the justice system. The Washoe County CASA program also received a \$7,000 grant from National CASA for the recruiting and training of a more diverse group of volunteers.

The Second Judicial District Court presided over “Adoption Days” during which a total of 60 children previously in the care of Washoe County Department of Social Services were adopted. The court also held the second annual “Kids and Judges Day” so children in the foster care system could meet and talk with judges in an informal environment and learn more about the court system. The intent is to reduce anxiety because of the mysterious nature of the courtroom setting and the court process.

## STREAMLINING

**Las Vegas Municipal Court** streamlined its front counter operations at the Regional Justice Center during FY06. The average wait time at the front counter during FY06 was 5 minutes. During FY04 the wait time had been nearly 16 minutes. Las Vegas Municipal Court also expanded its credit card collections to include payments by phone, which has played a role in the improved efficiency and proven to be extremely popular.

Las Vegas Justice Court also updated its collections system in FY06 by installing a system that lets traffic violators pay their tickets by phone using an integrated voice response system. During the first few months of operation, more than \$1 million was collected.

The Eighth Judicial District Court began scheduling daylong status checks for more than 300 medical malpractice lawsuits pending in the court system. The goal is to reduce the number of medical malpractice cases by fast tracking cases for settlement or providing firm trial dates for cases that cannot be settled.

## UPGRADED RECORDING SYSTEM

**The Second Judicial District Court** upgraded the recording systems in all courtrooms to provide for electronic recording of all hearings. The new system provides assisted-listening devices for hearing-impaired litigants or witnesses.

## GRANT RENEWED FOR 10TH YEAR

**East Fork Justice Court** was able to continue supervising 450 probationers through its Alternative Sentencing Department because of federal funding provided through an unprecedented tenth Byrne Grant.

## CRIMINAL ARRAIGNMENT MASTER

**A newly created Criminal Arraignment Master** began hearing cases to relieve judges at the Eighth Judicial District Court of the time-intensive duty and allow them more time for trials and hearings.

## CONSOLIDATING ADMINISTRATION

**The Eighth Judicial District Court** and the Las Vegas Justice Court, both housed in the Regional Justice Center in Las Vegas, consolidated their administrative functions during FY06. This approach eliminates the duplication of services by sharing resources.

“Four things belong to a judge: to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially.”

Socrates  
(Greek philosopher) circa 400 B.C.



# The Work of the State Courts

## Court Improvement Project

**The mission of the Court Improvement Project (CIP)** is to improve the lives of children and families who enter the child welfare system by improving court and agency collaboration through initiatives that make the system more efficient, reducing the amount of time children spend in foster care, and placing abused and neglected children into permanent homes as quickly as possible.

To recognize the growing importance of CIP, the CIP Committee was brought under the Judicial Council in fiscal year 2006 as a permanent standing committee. The committee was renamed to reflect a broader scope of its mission to *Court Improvement for the Protection and Permanency for Dependent Children*.

The Court Improvement Project has been made possible through federal grant funds. The original CIP grant funds have been reauthorized and will be available through fiscal year 2011.

Additionally, two new programs were grant funded and will be available through fiscal year 2010. The State Court Improvement Training Program instructs judges, attorneys, and other legal personnel about handling child welfare cases. The State Court Improvement Data Sharing Program helps ensure the needs of children are met in a timely and complete manner through improved case tracking and analysis of child welfare cases.

**“It is the spirit  
and not the  
form of law  
that keeps  
justice  
alive.”**

Earl Warren  
(1891 - 1974)

In September 2005, the Conference of Chief Justices, the Conference of State Court Administrators, the National Center for State Courts, and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges sponsored the National Judicial Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children. Seven representatives from Nevada attended this Summit, where 4 priorities were developed to improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

The first priority was to establish leadership at the judicial level. This was accomplished when Chief Justice Rose agreed to chair the Committee and bring the Committee under the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada as a permanent standing committee.

The second priority was to improve statewide consistency in our courts. CIP members have been drafting a Bench Book and will provide specific training on the Bench Book once it is finalized.

The third priority was to ensure representation of all children in dependency cases by a guardian, guardian ad litem, or Court Appointment Special Advocate (CASA). There are five judicial districts in Nevada that do not have CASA programs affiliated with National CASA. Several CIP members have been working to establish CASA programs in every jurisdiction within this State. CIP has been instrumental in establishing Nevada CASA, Inc., to make this statewide project a reality.

The last priority was to increase the number of parents who have representation in dependency cases. Members are considering various strategies in an effort to obtain the desired goal. Funding is an obstacle, as is the lack of attorneys with an interest in this specialized arena to appoint or to hire in child abuse and neglect cases.

**“The sword of justice  
has no scabbard.”**

Antione De Riveral



# Court Interpreter Program

**During fiscal year 2006**, the number of certified court interpreters nearly tripled in Nevada.

The Court Interpreter Certification Program was begun by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) in fiscal year 2002 to help provide equal access to justice for those who do not speak English. Language barriers have been a problem for many courts in areas of Nevada that have burgeoning populations of non-English speaking individuals.

Qualified interpreters have been in short supply across the state, especially in rural areas where judges have had to rely on uncertified court employees or bilingual residents to interpret court proceedings. The concern always exists whether court sessions are properly interpreted.

The Court Interpreter Certification Program was begun to ensure that interpreters are measurably competent and certified to provide needed services in our courts.

During fiscal year 2006, the AOC renewed the certificates of 15 previously certified interpreters and certified an additional 27 interpreters. This provides a pool that courts can draw from when non-English speaking defendants or litigants must appear before Nevada's judges.

The certification is not easy to achieve. Nevada has joined the National Center for State Courts Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification, which provides standard testing instruments in 10 languages, interpreter rating services, and training for those who administer the certification program.

Workshops are conducted for those with ambition to serve as interpreters, followed by written and oral testing. The testing provides an objective assessment of language ability and interpretation skills. Certification is awarded once all requirements are met.

The AOC has also worked with educational institutions to develop workshops that help students already possessing bilingual skills to receive their court interpreter certifications.

In the future, the AOC will continue to provide education and training for those who can use their bilingual skills to help the courts better serve Nevada.

**“CONCEPTS SUCH AS TRUTH, JUSTICE,  
COMPASSION ARE OFTEN THE ONLY  
BULWARKS WHICH STAND AGAINST  
RUTHLESS POWER.”**

AUNG SAN SUU KYI  
1994 A.D.

**“Let justice be done,  
though the heavens fall.”**

Lord Mansfield  
(English Lord Chief Justice in the case of Rex v. Wilkes) 1770 A.D.



# The Work of the State Courts

## Specialty Courts

**Nevada, with its long history** as one of the nation's leaders in the Specialty Court field, continued to expand its Drug Courts, Mental Health Courts, and other therapeutic courts during FY06 in continuing efforts to seek more effective ways of dealing with criminal defendants.

Nevada now provides access to the benefits of Specialty Courts for every Nevada resident – even in the most rural corners of the state. That is a significant achievement considering the vast distances involved and limited counseling resources available.

During FY06, funding for 30 Specialty Courts was authorized by the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada on recommendations of the Specialty Court Funding Committee. That is an increase of five Specialty Courts over the 25 that were funded in FY05. Specialty Court funding comes through a \$7 assessment on misdemeanor and traffic convictions in Justice and Municipal Courts. Additional funding for individual Specialty Courts is provided by local counties or cities, or through bail forfeitures. In many communities, private funding also is available.

**“Recompense injury with justice, and recompense kindness with kindness.”**

Confucius  
(Chinese philosopher and educator, whose teachings formed the basis for Confucianism) circa 500 B.C.

**“Justice is the constant and perpetual will to allot to every man his due.”**

Domitius Ulpian  
(100 AD - 228 AD) Roman jurist

## Drug Courts

**The most prominent** and best known of the Specialty Courts are the Drug Courts, where defendants can address their drug dependencies under the watchful eyes of the Drug Court judges. A large majority of participants beat their addictions and again become contributing members of society. The benefit for citizens, of course, is that crime is reduced along with the associated costs for the justice system.

As an added benefit, Drug Courts have proven effective in helping pregnant women stay free from drugs during that critical time. At the end of FY06, 78 drug-free babies were born to Drug Court participants, reducing expensive neonatal care costs generally born by taxpayers and giving mothers and children a better chance for a good life.

Over the last decade, Nevada expanded its pioneering adult Drug Court programs to include juveniles, families, and even inmates with drug related convictions as they return to society from our prisons.

Nevada has Drug Courts at all three court levels, dealing with both misdemeanor and felony offenders. At the Justice and Municipal Court levels, Drug Courts are often combined with DUI Courts to address the wider range of dependency issues. Some larger courts, like Las Vegas Justice Court, have separate Drug and DUI Courts.

Successful graduates complete programs, which can take 6 months to a year or more. The history of Drug Courts across the United States have shown the recidivism rates for graduates is considerably less than the rates for those incarcerated or granted probation.

Nevada's first Drug Court was launched in Clark County in 1992 and was among the first in the nation. Its success quickly led to the creation of a Drug Court in Washoe County. But providing the benefits of Drug Court to rural communities was more challenging. Nevada initially solved that problem by creating a multi-county Drug Court in western Nevada, with the assigned judge driving from county to county to preside over proceedings. That multi-county model was eventually expanded to northern and eastern Nevada. Drug Courts now exist throughout the state at District, Justice, and Municipal Courts.

## Mental Health Courts

**Nevada's judiciary** has adapted the Drug Court model to serve those whose mental problems bring them into contact with the justice system. These courts identify the mentally ill who are repeatedly incarcerated and divert them into treatment programs instead. Large percentages of those in our nation's prisons, jails, and justice systems have mental health disorders. Nationally, the problem may be traced to the long-term effects of the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and limited community-based mental health care.

Mental Health Courts in the Second and Eighth Judicial District Courts are presided over primarily by Senior Judges. The Carson City Mental Health Court is presided over by a limited jurisdiction judge. The Judges instruct participants to maintain their medications and take the necessary steps to return to a productive and mainstream life. The courts work with mental health officials and those who provide treatment for the mentally ill.

### Nevada Began the Nation's First...

- Juvenile Drug Court (Clark County)
- Family Drug Court (Washoe County)
- Early Release Re-Entry Drug Courts (Clark & Washoe Counties)
- Child Support Drug Court (Clark County)
- Multi-County Rural Drug Court (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon and Storey Counties)

## H.O.P.E. Court

**In FY06**, Las Vegas Municipal Court completed the first full year of its innovative H.O.P.E. (Habitual Offender Prevention and Education) Court. The court is a partnership of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services Department, and the Transitional Living Center non-profit organization to provide care and case management for chronic inebriates who repeatedly commit minor crimes. Many of these defendants are homeless, suffer from mental illnesses, and often are drug addicted.

**"We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all civil and political rights that belong to the citizens of the United States be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever."**

**Susan B. Anthony**  
(American women's rights activist and reformer) 1876 A.D.

**"The Law...has always been my sword and my shield"**

**Benito Juarez**  
(Mexican hero and president) circa 1850 A.D.

**"...Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good."**

**Mahatma Gandhi**  
(spiritual leader of India) 1922 A.D.



# The Work of the State Courts

## Four New Court Facilities

**Fiscal year 2006** saw four new court facilities open across Nevada, including the state's largest ever court facility in Clark County.



### Regional Justice Center – Las Vegas

**The Regional Justice Center** in downtown Las Vegas houses the Nevada Supreme Court, the Eighth Judicial District Court, Las Vegas Justice Court, and Las Vegas Municipal Court in a 17-story tower that provides one-stop shopping for those who need to utilize the justice system.

People with a Las Vegas Justice Court case will no longer mistakenly show up in Las Vegas Municipal Court, only to find they are four blocks from where they need to be. They may still mistakenly show up at Municipal Court, but now they are just across the hall from Justice Court.

The contemporary facility actually consists of two buildings connected by a sandstone-lined, glass-covered lobby dubbed "The Canyon." Etched on its walls are quotes from jurists, patriots, scholars, and religious leaders.

Video screens display current court calendars in the lobby and outside each courtroom.

Because of its vertical nature and the necessity to use elevators, the busiest courts are on the lowest floors. The first three floors can be accessed by escalators, leaving the elevators to service the upper floors. The Nevada Supreme Court, which draws the fewest visits, is on the top floor.

A tunnel connects the Clark County Detention Center across the street with the courthouse. A secured elevator, unseen by jurors and visitors, transports inmates to their courtroom destinations.

The RJC was designed as a modern courthouse with the latest in technology. The building is served by a fiber optic backbone, has direct links to the county jail for video arraignments, and is able to accommodate state-of-the-art evidence tools.

About 10,000 people per day access the facility.

The move to the RJC was a logistical challenge for the courts and undoubtedly confusing for citizens. Efforts were made to limit the down time of the courts. The District Courts moved in two phases, allowing half of the courts to remain in operation while the other half set up shop in the new building. Those courts then began hearing calendars while the remaining courts moved.

Las Vegas Justice Court also moved in two stages.

The last to move in was Las Vegas Municipal Court, which utilized its website to provide information for citizens throughout the process. Detailed, up-to-the-minute information was provided for those who had traffic tickets or were involved in cases pending before the court. It should be noted that the Eighth Judicial District Court also offered extensive information on its website about their move to the Regional Justice Center.



### Mills Lane Justice Center – Reno

**The Mills Lane Justice Center** – named in honor of a former District Court judge who was also a world renowned boxing referee and television personality – opened in downtown Reno to house the Reno Municipal Court and Washoe County District Attorney's Office.

The Reno Municipal Court portion of the justice center features electronic display of courtroom calendars, a victim waiting room, a children's waiting room, and a specially designed media room in the ceremonial courtroom.

The building sits next to the Reno Justice Court and close to the Washoe County Courthouse that houses the District Court. A tunnel connects the Municipal Court holding cells to the Reno Justice Court's holding area to make it more convenient to move incarcerated defendants in and out of the courtrooms. The co-location of the Municipal and Justice Courts is important because of a study being conducted on the feasibility of consolidating the courts.

Future plans for the Justice Center call for the relocation of court-related County programs, such as the Alternative Sentencing Program and a satellite booking station, into available space on the third floor to allow for one stop service.

The grand opening of the Justice Center was attended by Judge Lane, who not only was an actual judge but also a judge on television in "The Judge Mills Lane Show."



### North Las Vegas Justice Center

**During fiscal year 2004**, North Las Vegas Municipal Court was the busiest Municipal Court in Nevada, with one judge conducting business in a cramped and aging facility. During fiscal year 2006, things changed in North Las Vegas with the opening of a new Justice Center that allowed the addition of a second judge to share the workload.

The new Justice Center is a 96,000-square-foot facility that cost \$30 million to build. Construction funds came from court fines and assessments and a portion of the approximately \$11 million that North Las Vegas is paid annually to house federal prisoners in its jail. A secure walkway connects that jail to the Justice Center. A video system is also in place to arraign many prisoners.

About 150 people work in the facility, which has a third courtroom in anticipation of an additional department when caseloads in the rapidly growing city warrant it.



### Goodsprings Justice Court

**The Regional Justice Center** and North Las Vegas Justice Center were not the only new court facilities to open in Clark County during fiscal year 2006. A new Goodsprings Township Justice Court and Metropolitan Police Department substation opened in Jean, where judges presided for years in a converted mobile home.

The 2,500-square-foot court facility near the Jean Airport previously housed a University Medical Center Quick Care clinic. It was reconfigured to operate as a 35-seat courtroom facility with two nearby holding cells. Goodsprings Township covers rural southwestern Clark County, but the judge adjudicates thousands of traffic violations annually that are handed out along Interstate 15 from the California border to the edge of Las Vegas.

The new facility includes a 2,000-square-foot addition for the police substation.

**"Those who deny  
freedom to others,  
deserve it not for  
themselves."**

Abraham Lincoln  
1856 A.D.



# The Work of the State Courts

## Court Technology

### Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System

**An inherent problem** in information technology has been that different computer systems with differing software could not communicate. Sharing information was difficult, if not impossible. Law enforcement computers could not talk to the courts' computers, and courts' computers could not talk to the computers of the prosecutors, public defenders, or the state criminal history repository and Department of Motor Vehicles. The result was that employees had to take the labor intensive step of manually re-keying necessary information.

The answer in Nevada has been the Multi-County Integrated Justice Information System (MC-IJIS), a project developed by the Administrative Office of the Courts to address the need to share information electronically. In short, it is an electronic data exchange system that lets different computers share vital information. At the same time, each participating entity maintains control of its information and decides what data to share and with whom. The result is improved efficiency, reduced mistakes from re-keying data, and, in the end, a savings of taxpayer dollars.

In Nevada, MC-IJIS already is operating in several courts, law enforcement agencies and district attorney offices, where it has established an enviable record as a reliable platform for exchanging electronic data.

During fiscal year 2006, the popularity and use of MC-IJIS continued to expand throughout the justice system, and more courts and agencies are waiting to be added.

MC-IJIS has also partnered with the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Motor Vehicles to offer participating courts the ability to electronically transfer disposition and DMV conviction records to meet state reporting standards.

In the future, MC-IJIS will continue its efforts to make data exchange a cost effective reality for all Nevada courts. MC-IJIS will remain at the forefront of state data exchange projects by adopting federal data model standards for justice agencies. This will allow for rapid integration of data at the local, state, and federal level.

*"Hear the  
Other side."*

AUGUSTINE  
400 A.D.

### Nevada Offense Code (NOC) Project

**Sharing information** within the justice community involves more than just transferring electronic files. The information must also be uniform, which has been an issue when it comes to sharing criminal offense data in Nevada.

The Nevada Offense Code (NOC), or criminal charge table, was designed to provide unique identifiers or codes for the almost 4,000 criminal offenses defined by Nevada statutes. But over the years, different agencies began using different codes to identify the same crimes. It reached the point where there were almost 14,000 codes to identify the same 4,000 crimes. The solution, obviously, was a standardized, uncomplicated, easy to maintain, up-to-date charge table.

During fiscal year 2006, a new NOC model was developed by 100 volunteers from the courts and various justice system agencies. The model uses 11 character (alpha/numeric) intelligent codes, which all criminal justice agencies have agreed to use without modification.

The project, however, is not finished. During the coming year, the task will be to determine how to incorporate the new NOC model into existing case management systems.

### Nevada Court System (NCS)

**With most of Nevada's trial courts** located in rural areas, it became evident several years ago that these courts cannot support the use of technology as efficiently as large courts that have their own technology staff. The rural courts usually consist of one or two judges with few staff, limited technical support options, and marginal financial resources. Often these courts are more than 100 miles from the next court. Yet these courts increasing need to interact electronically with other courts and share information with law enforcement and other criminal justice entities.

To fill the void, the AOC launched the Nevada Rural Court System (NRCS). A user-friendly case management system has been made available that is supported centrally by the AOC information technology professionals. The project began focusing on the limited jurisdiction courts due to the volume of cases at that court level. By the end of fiscal year 2006, 19 limited jurisdiction courts were participating in the NRCS project. But because some of those courts were in urban areas, the name of the project has been changed to the Nevada Court System (NCS).

With the limited jurisdiction needs now focusing on maintenance and enhancement, the NCS project will turn its attention to the general jurisdiction level, where 11 general jurisdiction courts have expressed a desire to participate.

The NCS project supports the courts through a help desk, annual user meetings, and trainings. The vendor of the case management software provides second level support, updates, and enhancement assistance through a well-defined and professional relationship with the AOC technology professionals.

### Supreme Court E-Filing

**The project to implement** an electronic filing system at the Supreme Court of Nevada continued to progress during fiscal year 2006. The electronic filing system is a web-based system that integrates the three most important applications a court owns: the case management system, the document management system, and the electronic filing system. The electronic filing system will be accessible through the Court's website and will allow for the submission of pleadings, documents, and the payment of filing fees.

### Second Judicial District Court Case Tracking and Self Help

**During fiscal year 2006**, the Second Judicial District Court developed case tracking and reporting technology to evaluate the effectiveness of the Family Court Mediation Services.

The court also reviewed, updated, and incorporated ten sets of Self-Help Center pleading packets onto the Second Judicial District Court website where they will be easily accessible by the public.

### Eighth Judicial District Court Case Management Changes

**The Eighth Judicial District Court** launched a \$12 million upgrade of its Case Management System with a goal of implementing a "virtual court" that would offer access and services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The system, scheduled to be completed in 2008, will allow the payment of fines and fees by telephone or over the Internet, give citizens the opportunity to respond to jury summons without appearing in court, and offer access to certain records from anywhere.

### Las Vegas Municipal Court Case Management Advances

**Las Vegas Municipal Court** implemented the first phase of its new state-of-the-art Case Management System during fiscal year 2006. The court will implement Phase II in the summer of 2007. Eventually, the system will facilitate online payments of fines and fees, and include a telephone Interactive Voice Recognition system.

## Websites

### Nevada Supreme Court

**Nevada was perhaps** the last state in the nation to have a Supreme Court website when a basic site was launched in early 2003. During fiscal year 2006, the Nevada Supreme Court introduced a redesigned website, providing better access to documents in a format that is easier to read and navigate. The Nevada Supreme Court website also offer users automatic updates sent to their personal computers of such information as Supreme Court opinions and news.

The redesigned site, at [www.nvsupremecourt.us](http://www.nvsupremecourt.us), also has new features like a searchable repository of 150 documents—primarily forms to help litigants who represent themselves in court proceedings. Of course, more user friendly features are available, like higher contrast backgrounds and font sizes that can be changed for easier viewing.

Instead of the long list of options on the old home page, the redesigned site has a short list of major categories that offers a more intuitive approach for most users. The new home page also offers "quick links" to provide easy access for visitors with specific needs, and a calendar of dates and locations for Supreme Court oral arguments 6 weeks into the future.

The Nevada Supreme Court, however, was not the only court in fiscal year 2006 to update its website.

### Las Vegas Municipal Court

**Websites not only** have become more common, but many courts are finding ways to use their websites as a tool to conduct business and better serve Nevada.

Las Vegas Municipal Court added an "Online Traffic School" through its website in FY06 in addition to providing more information on how to do business with the court.

The court also began the process of providing a Spanish language option for its entire website so those who do not speak English can learn how to resolve their cases.

In the future, enhanced website features will allow additional online services such as the payments of fines.

### East Fork Justice Court

**East Fork Justice Court** established a website during FY06, with plans to add Court forms and a section of frequently asked questions.



# The Work of the State Courts

## Educating Nevada's Judges

**The Judicial Education Division's mission** is to promote the competency and professionalism of Nevada's judges and court staff. This is achieved through a comprehensive system of continuing legal education and training, primarily at the conferences of the judges associations. Judges, however, also are encouraged, to obtain more specialized education throughout the year.

The Judicial Education Division is funded entirely through administrative assessments, fees charged to defendants in criminal and traffic cases.

### Judicial Seminars

**Educational programs** for judges at their annual or semi-annual seminars are provided by the Education Division after being developed in conjunction with the planning committees of the Nevada Judges Association (for limited jurisdiction judges) and the Nevada District Judges Association (for general jurisdiction judges). In addition, more attention was devoted to topic-specific education for judges. For example, the Family Jurisdiction Judges seminar, held annually in conjunction with the Family Law Conference of the State Bar of Nevada, focused heavily on child welfare and dependency issues. Also, seminars to review the changes in laws that resulted from the 2005 Nevada Legislature enabled judges to quickly integrate these changes into their cases. Limited jurisdiction judges were offered the opportunity to attend domestic violence education through the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Nearly 20 percent of all limited jurisdiction judges have attended these national seminars.

A significant number of judges sought and received Judicial Education Division funding to attend specialized court administration and technology-related courses. This training emphasized the need for judges to assume a greater role in the business of running their court systems. In addition, more funding was provided than ever before for education about drug addiction and mental health issues.

Ethics and professional conduct courses continued to be widely attended. Much more topic-specific education will be developed in the coming years on issues such as family violence, drugs, mental health, capital punishment, medical malpractice, and construction defect cases.

### Supreme Court Justices Get Appellate Training

**During fiscal year 2006**, Nevada's three newest Supreme Court justices were among nearly 50 recently appointed or elected appellate court judges to participate in an educational program designed to assist with the transition to their new roles. Justices Michael Douglas, James Hardesty, and Ronald Parraguirre spent a week at the Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA) at New York University School of Law. The New Appellate Judges Seminar is an intensive skills-based workshop for judges with less than 3 years on the appellate bench.

### Increasing The Scope Of Education

**The scope of the Education Division**, which in its early days had emphasized the education of judges, has now been expanded to include court staff because of the demands for increasingly skilled employees to support the work of Nevada's judges. Attention to the educational needs of Nevada's 1,500 court staff has been especially necessary because of the demands of growing caseloads and the requirements for records keeping and more complex case management.

**"Justice is the constant and perpetual wish to give every one his due."**

Justinian  
(Byzantine emperor and law giver) circa 500 B.C.



The Education Division offered a five-course program leading to the nationally recognized Court Management Professional (CMP) certification for court executives. The program was a partnership with the Institute for Court Management (ICM) – the educational and consulting arm of the National Center for State Courts. The courses addressed court performance standards, case flow management, information technology, financial and budget, and human resources.

CMP was supported by the Nevada Association of Court Executives (NACE), which not only encouraged its members and other trial court personnel to take advantage of these courses, but provided scholarships to its members. More than 70 trial court managers and supervisors from throughout the state attended these sessions. New demand for the CMP program has resulted in a second cycle of classes.

### Largest Court Staff Conference

**The recent emphasis** on education and training of non-judicial court employees also resulted in the largest annual education conference of court staff in Nevada's history. The biennial Court Staff Conference in Sparks in February-March 2006 drew 235 court staff. Courses included reviews of legislation, information that may be provided to those who represent themselves in court or have limited English proficiency, domestic violence protection orders, landlord-tenant and small claims matters, and handling change in the courts

### The Future: Educating Senior Judges And Quasi-judicial Officers

**Looking forward**, the challenge for the Division is to continue to expand its commitment to education for judges and court staff alike, although the changing nature of the judiciary heightens that challenge. For example, Nevada's senior judges, at both the general and limited jurisdiction levels, require education that keeps them up to date on recent court opinions and legislative changes.

Similar educational opportunities are being provided, as funds permit, for quasi-judicial officers such as court masters and referees, who have expanded involvement in the judicial processes.

### Balancing Nevada's Needs And Resources

**One major consideration** for the Education Division is how to best utilize the limited amount of time that judges and their staffs have for educational programs. Another challenge involves how to orchestrate educational seminars that are relevant to Nevada's growing number of veteran judges, while still offering fundamental judicial education for newer members of the judiciary. Specialized education also is needed for judges tasked with handling complex or unique cases.

On top of that is the need to provide all judges with critical "building block" education about court administration and technology, to ensure that courts can keep pace with growth in their caseloads.

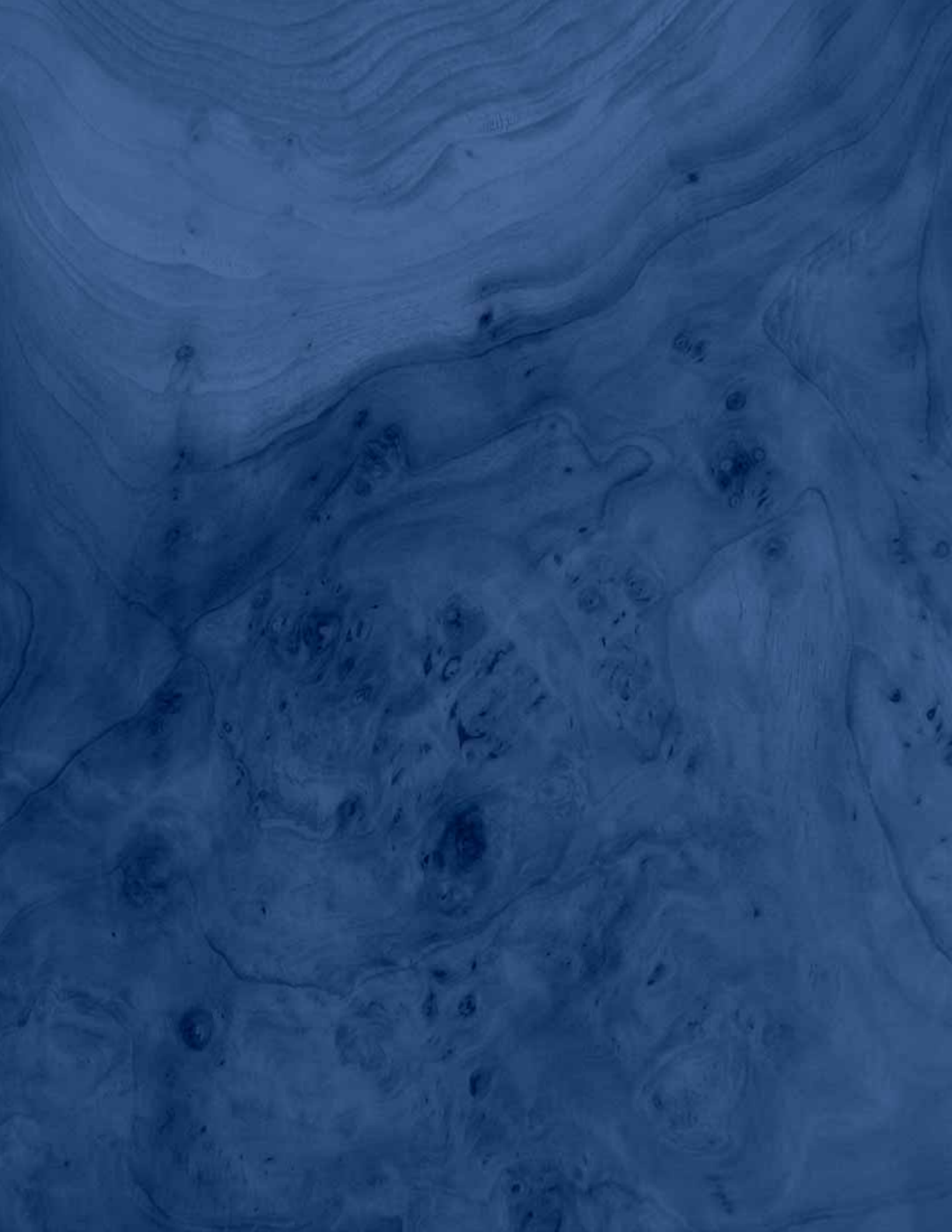
Throughout fiscal year 2006, the Education Division made significant strides to ensure that the judiciary can better serve Nevada.

**"IF WE CANNOT  
NOW END OUR  
DIFFERENCES,  
AT LEAST WE  
CAN HELP MAKE  
THE WORLD  
SAFE FOR  
DIVERSITY."**

JOHN F. KENNEDY  
1963 A.D.

**"OUR ACTIONS  
DETERMINE  
OUR DISPOSITIONS."**

ARISTOTLE  
300 B.C.



# The Nevada Judiciary Caseload Statistics Report



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

The Uniform System for Judicial Records (USJR) reporting requirements were established in June 1999 by Supreme Court order. The USJR requires trial courts to submit information defined in the Nevada Courts Statistical Reporting Dictionary<sup>1</sup> (Dictionary) to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) monthly. The information in the Dictionary is divided into four case categories: criminal, civil, family, and juvenile. In fiscal year 2006 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006), two types of statistics were collected in each of these categories. The two types are *cases filed* (the number and type of cases opened) and *dispositions* (the number and type of cases adjudicated or closed). The caseload and dispositions for each case category have been defined (see Glossary) and consistently categorized for all courts.

As technology and resources allow, future phases of USJR will be defined and data will be collected. The next phase will include events in court case processing and the status of pending cases.

This annual report provides caseload inventory (filing) and disposition statistics for the Supreme Court and all 81 trial courts in the state—17 District Courts, 47 Justice Courts, and 17 Municipal Courts. Where court information varies from the requirements or is incomplete, explanatory footnotes are provided.

## Statewide Summary

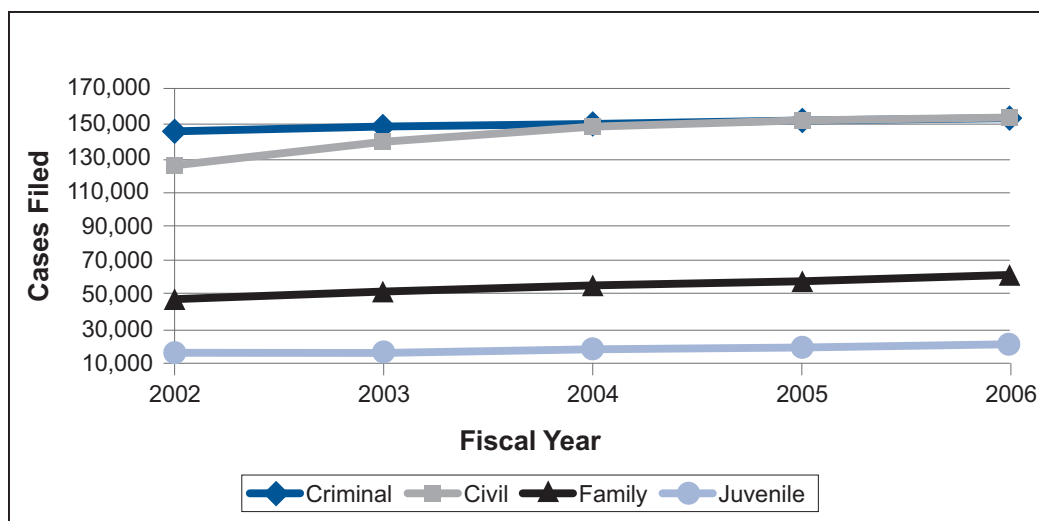
The Supreme Court caseload continued to increase with almost 2,100 cases filed while the Court disposed of more than 2,100 cases during the fiscal year.

Statewide, the total nontraffic caseload for trial courts was flat, although the amount of change varied among the three jurisdictions. One interesting fact is that overall civil caseload is increasing at a faster rate than most other case types and, for the first time since data collection began, civil case filings have exceeded criminal case filings. The civil caseload increased to 155,089 and the criminal caseload decreased to 153,478 cases filed. The trends in each case type, including civil, for the last 5 years can be seen in Figure 1.

For fiscal year 2006, the District Courts total nontraffic caseload increased in two of the four case types (Table 1). Criminal and family caseloads saw increases in District Court of about 6 and almost 3 percent, respectively. Civil and juvenile caseloads decreased slightly. Overall, the change in District Courts statewide was a slight increase.

For fiscal year 2006, the Justice Court total nontraffic caseload increased in civil only (2 percent) while criminal filings

Figure 1. Statewide Nontraffic Caseloads for Fiscal Years 2002 - 2006.



<sup>1</sup> The Nevada Statistical Reporting Model was superseded in 2001 by Revision 2.0, which also renamed it *Nevada Courts Statistical Reporting Dictionary*.

**table 1. Reported Total Nevada Statewide Trial Court Caseload**  
Fiscal Year 2006

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal <sup>1</sup>	Civil <sup>2</sup>	Family <sup>2</sup>	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic Caseload	Traffic and Parking <sup>3</sup>
<b>District</b>	2006	14,863	29,088	59,571	15,093	118,615	7,095
	2005	14,056	29,447	58,111	15,177 <sup>r</sup>	116,791	7,417
	2004	13,203	29,013 <sup>r</sup>	54,961 <sup>r</sup>	15,799 <sup>r</sup>	112,976 <sup>r</sup>	6,976
	2003	12,001	28,077	52,258	14,319 <sup>r</sup>	106,655	5,997
	2002	12,191	25,303 <sup>r</sup>	47,676	14,149 <sup>r</sup>	99,319 <sup>r</sup>	5,425
<b>Justice</b>	2006	80,407	125,994	NJ	NJ	206,401	465,823
	2005	80,996	123,716	NJ	NJ	204,712	410,153
	2004	77,748 <sup>r</sup>	116,551	NJ	NJ	194,299 <sup>r</sup>	395,978 <sup>r</sup>
	2003	76,078	106,593	NJ	NJ	182,671	416,505
<b>Municipal</b>	2002	76,928 <sup>r</sup>	101,204	NJ	NJ	178,132 <sup>r</sup>	398,679 <sup>r</sup>
	2006	58,208	7	NJ	NJ	58,215	281,064
	2005	58,521	0	NJ	NJ	58,521	241,529
	2004	58,235	20	NJ	NJ	58,255	236,126
	2003	59,074 <sup>r</sup>	3	NJ	NJ	59,077 <sup>r</sup>	240,554
2002	56,796 <sup>r</sup>	125	NJ	NJ	56,921 <sup>r</sup>	239,394	
<b>TOTAL</b>	2006	153,478	155,089	59,571	15,093	383,231	753,982
	2005	153,573	153,163	58,111	15,177 <sup>r</sup>	380,024 <sup>r</sup>	659,099
	2004	149,186 <sup>r</sup>	145,584 <sup>r</sup>	54,961 <sup>r</sup>	15,799 <sup>r</sup>	365,530 <sup>r</sup>	639,080 <sup>r</sup>
	2003	147,153 <sup>r</sup>	134,673	52,258	14,319 <sup>r</sup>	348,403 <sup>r</sup>	663,056 <sup>r</sup>
	2002	145,915 <sup>r</sup>	126,632 <sup>r</sup>	47,676	14,149 <sup>r</sup>	334,372 <sup>r</sup>	643,498 <sup>r</sup>

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

<sup>r</sup> Data totals revised from previous annual reports owing to improved data collection.

<sup>1</sup> Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, and nontraffic misdemeanor filings and are counted by defendant.

<sup>2</sup> Reopened cases (see glossary) are included in totals.

<sup>3</sup> Traffic and parking filings are counted by charges, not defendants. Not all courts process parking violations.

District Court numbers are juvenile traffic.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

were flat. Overall, nontraffic Justice Court cases saw only a minimal change this fiscal year having an almost 1,700-case increase statewide. Traffic and parking filings increased 13 percent.

For fiscal year 2006, the Municipal Court criminal nontraffic caseload decreased slightly. Seven civil filings were filed in Caliente Municipal Court. Civil filings are rare in Municipal Courts and are usually for the recovery of unpaid city utility bills. Traffic and parking filings increased more than 16 percent. Traffic filings are heavily dependent on the number of local law enforcement positions filled or vacant. The increase in filings this fiscal year has been largely attributable to an increase in the number of law enforcement officers in the larger municipalities.

**“Justice delayed,  
is justice denied.”**

William Gladstone  
(1809 - 1898)

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Supreme Court

The Nevada Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the only appellate court in the state. Nevada does not have an intermediate appellate court. The main constitutional function of the Supreme Court is to review appeals from the decisions of the District Courts. As the only appellate court, the Supreme Court does not have discretionary review and all cases filed must be considered. The Supreme Court does not conduct any fact-finding trials, but rather determines whether procedural or legal errors were made in the rendering of lower court decisions.

As can be seen in Table 2, the Supreme Court had 2,086 filings during the last fiscal year; a 3 percent increase from the

year before. The Justices disposed of 2,129 cases, an increase of nearly 8 percent over the year before. Figure 2 shows the distribution of the appeals by case type for the Supreme Court. The criminal appeals make up the majority of the court's caseload at 50 percent.

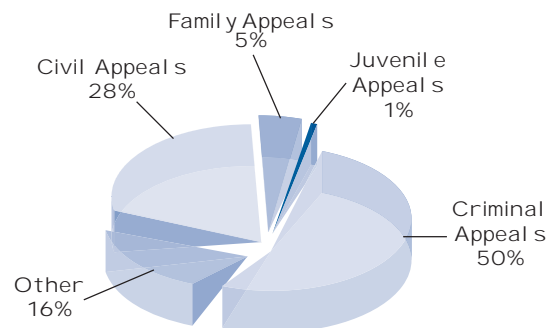
The breakdown of appeals from District Court cases by judicial district is provided in Table 3. As can be expected for the largest court, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) recorded the most appeals, increasing by 8 percent (87 cases) from last fiscal year. The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) recorded the second highest number of appeals, though their appeals decreased by 2 percent (8 cases) overall.

**Table 2. Nevada Supreme Court Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Years 2002 - 2006

	Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Fiscal Year 2004	Fiscal Year 2005	Fiscal Year 2006
<b>Cases Filed</b>					
Bar Matters	29	29	50	40	28
Appeals	1,478	1,519	1,541	1,646	1,735
Original Proceedings	226	282	248	317	305
Other	4	1	7	8	6
Reinstated	15	10	6	11	12
<b>Total Cases Filed</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>1,841</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>2,022</b>	<b>2,086</b>
<b>Cases Disposed</b>					
By Opinions	81	87	83	93	122
By Order	1,825	1,802	1,667	1,887	2,007
<b>Total Cases Disposed</b>	<b>1,906</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>1,980</b>	<b>2,129</b>
<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>1,474</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>1,528</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,464</b>
<b>Number of Opinions Written*</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>106</b>

\* Includes opinions that do not dispose of cases.  
Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

**Figure 2. Distribution of Case Types for Supreme Court Caseload<sup>1</sup>, Fiscal Year 2006.**



<sup>1</sup> Juvenile and family statistics are a subset of civil filings for the Supreme Court. They are detailed here for comparison with trial court statistics.

**Table 3. Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2002 - 2006**

Fiscal Year	Judicial Districts														Total <sup>1</sup>					
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth	Seventh	Eighth	Ninth											
<b>Civil Appeals Filed</b>																				
2006	24	3%	120	17%	8	1%	11	2%	9	1%	3	0%	17	2%	509	71%	16	2%	717	100%
2005	47	7%	139	19%	9	1%	5	1%	9	1%	7	1%	8	1%	475	66%	20	3%	719	100%
2004	47	6%	140	18%	12	2%	8	1%	13	2%	8	1%	19	2%	530	68%	8	1%	785	100%
2003	28	4%	150	21%	16	2%	9	1%	10	1%	4	1%	10	1%	480	66%	15	2%	722	100%
2002	43	6%	132	19%	11	2%	9	1%	10	1%	15	2%	5	1%	465	66%	11	2%	701	100%
<b>Criminal Appeals Filed</b>																				
2006	21	2%	251	25%	19	2%	20	2%	16	2%	14	1%	25	2%	644	63%	8	1%	1,018	100%
2005	11	1%	240	26%	16	2%	17	2%	20	2%	11	1%	17	2%	591	64%	4	<1%	927	100%
2004	14	2%	167	22%	12	2%	24	3%	10	1%	16	2%	22	3%	488	65%	3	<1%	756	100%
2003	13	2%	206	26%	18	2%	29	4%	17	2%	13	2%	17	2%	478	60%	6	<1%	797	100%
2002	28	4%	245	32%	18	2%	26	3%	21	3%	20	3%	15	2%	396	51%	8	<1%	777	100%
<b>Total Appeals Filed</b>																				
2006	45	3%	371	21%	27	2%	31	2%	25	1%	17	1%	42	2%	1,153	66%	24	1%	1,735	100%
2005	58	4%	379	23%	25	2%	22	1%	29	2%	18	1%	25	2%	1,066	65%	24	1%	1,646	100%
2004	61	4%	307	20%	24	2%	32	2%	23	1%	24	2%	41	3%	1,018	66%	11	1%	1,541	100%
2003	41	3%	356	23%	34	2%	38	3%	27	2%	17	1%	27	2%	958	63%	21	1%	1,519	100%
2002	71	5%	377	26%	29	2%	35	2%	31	2%	35	2%	20	1%	861	58%	19	1%	1,478	100%

<sup>1</sup> Total of percentages may not equal 100%, due to rounding.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office

## Appellate Court Comparisons

**According to data** compiled from available state courts' annual reports and statistics web pages, appellate courts have experienced an overall 4 percent increase during fiscal year 2005. In contrast, the caseload of the Nevada Supreme Court experienced a slight decrease during the same period. Over the previous decade, however, Nevada has experienced a 10 percent increase in caseload.

A comparison of caseload and related information for selected appellate courts with some similarities<sup>2</sup> to Nevada is provided in Table 4. Information about some states with intermediate appellate courts is included also. Nevada has more filings per justice (289) than most other appellate courts according to data compiled from individual state annual reports and statistics web pages. Compared with the two other states in Table 4 without intermediate appellate courts, Nevada has almost three times the filings per justice.

Among the 12 states (including the District of Columbia) without an intermediate appellate court, Nevada ranks eleventh

with 0.29 Justice per 100,000 persons<sup>3,4</sup>. The District of Columbia was first with 1.63 Justices per 100,000 persons, then Wyoming with 0.98, Vermont with 0.80, North Dakota with 0.79, and then Montana with 0.75. In filings per Justice, Nevada ranks second with 289. Only West Virginia, whose entire workload is discretionary, ranks higher with 597. The District of Columbia follows with 183, then New Hampshire with 180, and Delaware with 117.

Data on filings per 100,000 persons, gathered for fiscal year 2005 for all states without an intermediate appellate court, indicate that the Nevada Supreme Court was ranked fourth among these courts. The District of Columbia was first with 299 appeals per 100,000 persons, then West Virginia with 164, Vermont with 85, Nevada with 84, and Montana with 79. With the discretionary appeals removed from consideration and only appeals granted being counted, Nevada is ranked third at 84 appeals per 100,000 persons. The District of Columbia is first with 296 and West Virginia second with 87.

<sup>2</sup> The States were selected because of their population ranking (Maine, New Mexico, Arkansas), their regional location (Montana, Arizona, Oregon, New Mexico, Alaska) and/or they had five or seven justices in their Supreme Court (all) without regard to how many justices were in the Intermediate Appellate Court.

<sup>3</sup> Rottman, D.B., and Strickland, S.M., *State Court Organization, 2004*, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, D.C. USGPO, 2006.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program: December 2006 website address <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

**Table 4. Characteristics of Nevada and Other Selected Appellate Courts with and without Intermediate Appellate Courts.**

All data from respective states' most recent annual report or web page (FY or CY 2005).

	Nevada	Montana <sup>a</sup>	Maine <sup>a</sup>	Arizona <sup>a,b</sup>	Arkansas <sup>a</sup>	Alaska <sup>a,b</sup>	Utah <sup>a,b</sup>
<b>Population Rank<sup>c</sup></b>	35	44	40	17	36	48	34
	<b>Intermediate Appellate Court</b>						
<b>Justices</b>				22	12	3	7
<b>En Banc or Panels</b>				Panels	Both	Panels of 3	Panels of 3
<b>Cases Filed and Granted<sup>d</sup></b>				3,871 <sup>f</sup>	1,322 <sup>f</sup>	427 <sup>f</sup>	939 <sup>f</sup>
<b>Cases per Justice</b>				176	110	142	134
	<b>Supreme Court</b>						
<b>Justices</b>	7	7	7	5	7	5	5
<b>En Banc or Panels</b>	Both	Both	En Banc	Both	En Banc	En Banc	En Banc
<b>Cases Filed and Granted<sup>d</sup></b>	2,022	537	685 <sup>f</sup>	1,164 <sup>f</sup>	358 <sup>f</sup>	297	635 <sup>f</sup>
<b>Cases per Justice</b>	289	77	98	233	51	59	127

<sup>a</sup> Supreme Court has discretion in case review.

<sup>b</sup> Intermediate Appellate Court has discretion in case review.

<sup>c</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program: December 2006 website <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>

<sup>d</sup> Includes mandatory cases and discretionary petitions filed and granted, unless otherwise noted.

<sup>f</sup> Includes mandatory cases and total discretionary petitions filed. Number of filings granted for review not available.

## District Courts

The District Courts have general jurisdiction over all case types and actions prescribed by the Nevada Constitution and Nevada Revised Statutes. Criminal cases include felony and gross misdemeanor cases, and civil cases involve disputes exceeding \$10,000. They also have jurisdiction over all family and juvenile cases.

Nevada's 9 Judicial Districts encompass its 17 counties, each of which maintains a District Court and provides staff. The 9 Judicial Districts are served by 60 District Court Judges who are elected within the Judicial District they serve; however, they have statewide authority and may hear cases throughout the state. Some District Courts also may use Juvenile Masters who hear traffic and other juvenile cases. The sparse populations of rural Nevada have necessitated that five of the Judicial Districts encompass multiple counties (see p. 12). Judges in these rural Judicial Districts must travel within the multiple counties on a regular basis to hear cases.

### Statistical Summary

District Court case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 5. Summary disposition information is included in Table 6. Data collection for the courts began in July 1999.

The distribution of case types within the District Courts is shown in Figure 3. Family cases make up the largest percentage of the court caseload at 49 percent. Civil cases make up 25 percent while criminal and juvenile (nontraffic) were both 13 percent.

Statewide, the District Court criminal nontraffic filings for fiscal year 2006 increased about 6 percent from the previous year (see Table 5). Clark County District Court increased the most by 483 cases (5 percent); however, the District Courts in the less populated counties, such as Lyon and Storey, had the largest percentage increases at 46 (from 200 to 292 cases) and 125 percent (from 12 to 27 cases), respectively.

District Court civil filings decreased more than 1 percent statewide. Civil filings in Clark and Washoe Counties, the two most populated counties, decreased nearly 2 percent each. Less populated counties with large percentage increases in filings included Esmeralda County, with 40 percent (from 20 to 28 cases), and Eureka County, with 50 percent (from 14 to 21 cases). It is unknown how the statutory increase to a \$10,000 minimum in January 2005 for a District Court civil case may still be affecting these caseloads.

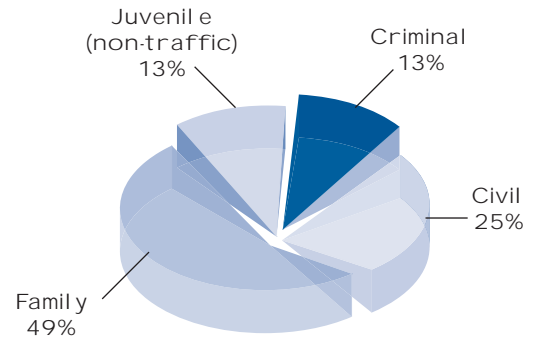
Family-related cases are handled only at the District Court level. Statewide, the total caseload for the fiscal year increased almost 3 percent over last year. Caseloads in urban and most



rural courts increased. Clark and Washoe Counties both saw increases of almost 2 percent. Several rural District Courts experienced double-digit percentage increases over their previous year filings. District Courts with large percentage increases included Esmeralda County, with 50 percent (from 6 to 9), Eureka County, with 71 percent (from 7 to 12), Storey County 64 percent (from 14 to 23). These significant increases occurred predominantly in the rural courts.

Juvenile case filings reported by District Courts for fiscal year 2006 decreased slightly. Clark County saw nearly an 8 percent decrease (largely owing to a change in procedures in the Clerk's Office) while Washoe County saw an increase of about 3 percent. The largest percentage increase was in Churchill County with 49 percent (from 363 to 541 cases).

**Figure 3. Distribution of Case Types for Statewide District Court Caseload.**



**Table 5. Summary of District Court Cases Filed, Fiscal Years 2005-06.** (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic)

	Criminal Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed		Family Cases Filed		Juvenile nontraffic Cases Filed		Total nontraffic Cases Filed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City District Court	329	274	633	672	781	677	508	430 <sup>r</sup>	2,251	2,053
Storey County District Court	27	12	34	30	23	14	8	7 <sup>r</sup>	92	63
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County District Court	3,150	3,025	3,956	4,028	11,139	10,957	2,720	2,628 <sup>r</sup>	20,965	20,638
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County District Court	184	192	153	132	539	456	541	363 <sup>r</sup>	1,417	1,143
Lyon County District Court	292	200	303	332	620	526	501	554 <sup>r</sup>	1,716	1,612
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County District Court	283	247	679	547	1,020	953	536	392 <sup>r</sup>	2,518	2,139
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County District Court	7	10	28	20	9	6	1	2 <sup>r</sup>	45	38
Mineral County District Court	40	68	58	39	72	66	100	64 <sup>r</sup>	270	237
Nye County District Court	283	262	436	415	1,429	1,162	531	512 <sup>r</sup>	2,679	2,351
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County District Court	179	170	106	120	339	311	340	106 <sup>r</sup>	964	707
Lander County District Court	33	23	33	40	48	53	52	44 <sup>r</sup>	166	160
Pershing County District Court	78	58	87	76	73	55	52	39 <sup>r</sup>	270	228
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County District Court	25	18	21	14	12	7	13	22 <sup>r</sup>	71	61
Lincoln County District Court	30	26	37	29	36	28	30	23 <sup>r</sup>	133	106
White Pine County District Court	74	126	87	131	133	152	104	122 <sup>r</sup>	398	531
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	9,681	9,198	22,057	22,402	42,606	41,881	8,927	9,676 <sup>r</sup>	83,271	83,157
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County District Court	168	147	380	420	692	807	149	193 <sup>r</sup>	1,389	1,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,863</b>	<b>14,056</b>	<b>29,088</b>	<b>29,447</b>	<b>59,571</b>	<b>58,111</b>	<b>15,093</b>	<b>15,177<sup>r</sup></b>	<b>118,615</b>	<b>116,791</b>

NR Not Reported

*italic* indicates number that are incomplete or estimated.

<sup>r</sup> Revised from previous publication.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

**Table 6. Summary of District Court Cases Disposed, Fiscal Years 2005-06. (See Table 14 for Juvenile Traffic)**

	Criminal Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Family Cases Disposed		Juvenile nontraffic Cases Disposed		Total nontraffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City District Court	302	253	303	348	639	502	378	300	1,622	1,403
Storey County District Court	6	8	19	9	14	12	3	8	42	37
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County District Court	2,974	2,864	2,644	2,831	9,226	9,565	4,306	4,080	19,150	19,340
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County District Court	144	126	57	93	370	359	562	527	1,133	1,105
Lyon County District Court	213	151	100	132	185	175	420	495	918	953
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County District Court	291	222	204	195	897	878	356	462	1,748	1,757
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County District Court	7	10	1	7	0	12	0	1	8	30
Mineral County District Court	80	59	33	31	93	159	61	44	267	293
Nye County District Court	235	228	263	254	1,152	956	466	547	2,116	1,985
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County District Court	190	82	46	47	232	212	263	19	731	360
Lander County District Court	30	21	16	27	53	61	104	72	203	181
Pershing County District Court	99	57	53	28	67	112	12	20	231	217
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County District Court	11	11	2	1	3	1	3	2	19	15
Lincoln County District Court	37	38	33	19	42	42	28	46	140	145
White Pine County District Court	54	77	24	12	72	130	26	262	176	481
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County District Court	11,149	11,768	22,228	20,623	37,671	38,756	6,509	1,980	77,557	73,123
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County District Court	141	129	442	408	659	773	160	192	1,402	1,502
<b>Total</b>	15,963	16,104	26,468	25,065	51,375	52,701	13,657	9,057	107,463	102,927

NR Not Reported

*Italic* indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Comparing the 2005 caseloads of general jurisdiction courts of Nevada to those of the surrounding seven western states highlights some interesting points (see Table 7). Nevada has the fewest number of Judges per 100,000 in population (2.5) among all western states. Nevada also ranks first in the categories of filings per Judge and fourth in filings per 100,000 population among these states.

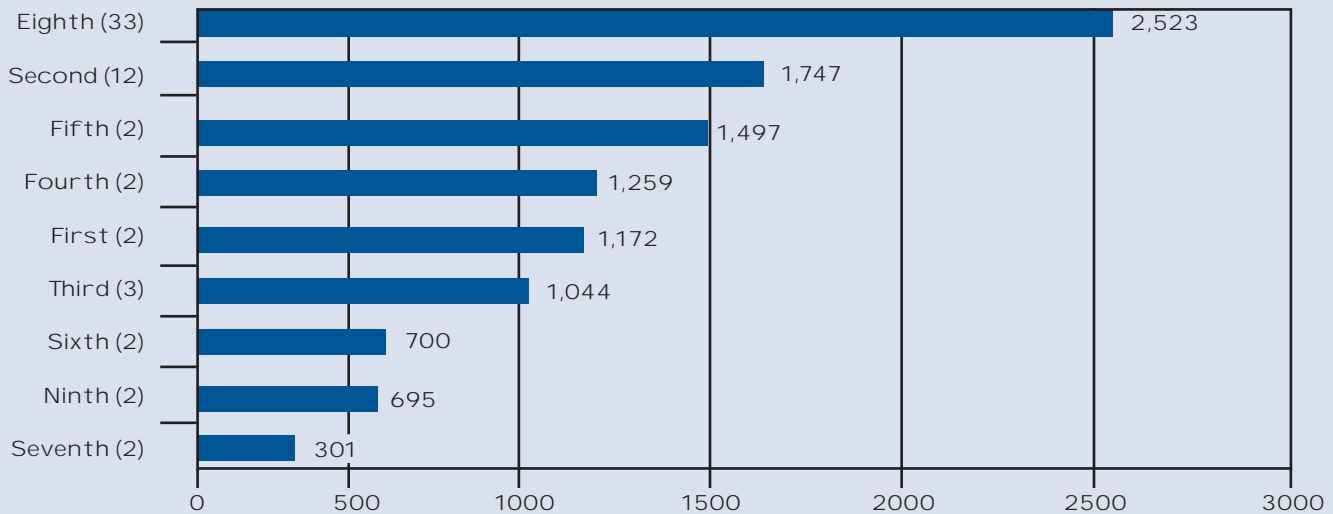
Disposition information for District Courts is provided in Table 6. This is the sixth year for the collecting and reporting of disposition information, which is a complex process for the courts. Most District Courts count data manually. Some courts were unable to provide accurate and complete information. In addition, some case management systems have become obsolete. For example, the Clark County case management system is being replaced – a process that can take several years to complete.

**Table 7. Comparison of Nevada District Courts with Other Western States general Jurisdiction Courts.**

All data from respective states' annual reports or web pages for fiscal year 2004 or 2005.

State	General Jurisdiction Court	Judges per 100,000 Population	Filings per Judge	Filings per 100,000 Population
Nevada	District	2.5	2,143	5,324
Alaska	Superior	5.1	587	3,008
Arizona	Superior	2.8	1,229	3,477
California	Superior	4.1	1,804	7,479
Hawaii	Circuit	2.6	335	867
Idaho	District	2.7	524	1,431
Oregon	Circuit	4.6	1,976	9,172
Washington	Superior	2.8	1,735	4,801

**Figure 4. Nontraffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Judicial District, Fiscal Year 2006**  
(Number of judicial positions in parentheses.)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,977.  
Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

Total increase in civil case dispositions was almost 6 percent, while criminal and family case dispositions decreased slightly.

Dividing the number of dispositions by the number of filings and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. This measure is a single number that can be compared within the courts for any and all case types. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

### Cases Per Judicial Position

The number of nontraffic cases filed per judicial position for each Judicial District in Nevada for fiscal year 2006 is shown in Figure 4. In the Judicial Districts that contain more than one county (First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh), the cases from those counties are averaged based on the number of Judges in the Judicial District.

To make the comparisons more consistent, juvenile traffic charges were removed from the totals before calculating the cases filed per judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of

cases filed per judicial position because these cases may be resolved by payment of fines, without judicial involvement. In District Court, Juvenile Traffic cases are handled predominantly by Juvenile Masters and occasionally by District Court Judges.

The statewide average of nontraffic cases filed per judicial position for District Courts is 1,977, an increase of 30 cases per Judge over last fiscal year (1,947)<sup>5</sup>.

As has been the case for the last few years, the Eighth Judicial District (Clark County) has the largest number of nontraffic cases per judicial position at 2,523, almost identical to last year (2,520). The Second Judicial District (Washoe County) was next with 1,747 cases per judicial position, a slight increase from the previous fiscal year (1,720). The Fifth Judicial District (Esmeralda, Mineral, and Nye Counties) follows with 1,497 cases per judicial position, an increase over last fiscal year (1,313).

District Court Judges with smaller caseloads may assist the busier District Courts through judicial assignments made by the Supreme Court. Also, in multi-county judicial districts, Judges are required to travel hundreds of miles each month among the counties within their districts to hear cases. A recent study<sup>6</sup> indicates these judges average 1 day a week on the road, which reduces their availability to hear cases.

<sup>5</sup> Cases filed per judicial position for fiscal year 2005 have been revised from last year's report to reflect the removal of juvenile hearings from the cases filed calculation for fiscal year 2006 and forward. The fiscal year 2005 revised details are shown in table 5.

<sup>6</sup> Sweet, R.L., and Dobbins, Robert, 2005, *Miles Driven by Rural District Court Judges in Nevada, Fiscal Years 2000-04*: Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts, Planning & Analysis Division Research Review, p 4.

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts in fiscal year 2001 began quantifying the judicial assistance provided to the courts by Special Masters and Senior Justices and Judges who help dispose of cases. These Special Master positions are termed quasi-judicial because they have limited authority and are accountable to an elected Judge. Individuals in these positions are appointed by the court to help with the adjudication process.

### Quasi-Judicial Assistance

The first step in quantifying this assistance was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent assistance provided during the year; a summary is provided in Table 8.

The quasi-judicial assistance provided during fiscal year 2006 was equivalent to about 25 full-time staff. In District Courts, most of the quasi-judicial officers are commissioners, referees, and masters for alternative dispute resolution, family, and juvenile cases. Additionally, in a few Judicial Districts, such as the Fifth and Seventh, Justices of the Peace serve as the Juvenile Masters for juvenile traffic cases. These positions are not included in the filings per judicial position chart.

**Table 8. Estimated Full-time Equivalent Quasi-Judicial Assistance Provided to Judicial Districts, Fiscal Year 2006.**

District & County	Quasi-Judicial Positions as FTE
<b>First Judicial District</b> Carson City, Storey	1.00
<b>Second Judicial District</b> Washoe	7.75
<b>Third Judicial District</b> Churchill, Lyon	0.58
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b> Elko	1.00
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b> Esmeralda, Mineral, Nye	0.90
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b> Humboldt, Lander, Pershing	0.61
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b> Eureka, Lincoln, White Pine	0.01
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b> Clark	13.05
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b> Douglas	0.60
<b>Total</b>	25.50

**Table 9. Senior Judge Assignments, Fiscal Year 2006.**

Requesting Judicial Districts	Senior Judge Assignments <sup>a</sup>	Total Days of Assignments Each Judicial District <sup>a</sup>	Approximate Full-Time Equivalent <sup>a</sup>	Number of Senior Judges who Served <sup>a</sup>
<b>First</b>	9	19.3	0.09	5
<b>Second</b>	93	334.8	1.59	10
<b>Third</b>	6	38.7	0.18	5
<b>Fourth</b>	13	40.9	0.19	3
<b>Fifth</b>	3	8.2	0.04	4
<b>Sixth</b>	1	14.0	0.07	4
<b>Seventh</b>	11	11.5	0.05	4
<b>Eighth</b>	168	759.6	3.62	14
<b>Ninth</b>	2	2.1	0.01	2
<b>WRDC<sup>b</sup></b>	3	19.2	0.09	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>1,243.3</b>	<b>5.90</b>	<b>54</b>

<sup>a</sup> Some orders signed in previous fiscal years may still have motions heard by the Senior Judge.

<sup>b</sup> Western Regional Drug Court (WRDC) includes the First, Third, Fifth, and Ninth Judicial Districts. Other specialty court assignments are included within the respective districts.

## Senior Justice and Judge Program

Alternative methods utilized to provide intermittent judicial assistance to courts include the Senior Justice and Judge Program and temporary assignment of District Court Judges. Supreme Court Rule 10 governs the Senior Justice and Judge Program. In brief, any former Supreme Court Justice or District Court Judge who qualifies for retirement and who was not removed or retired for cause or defeated for retention in an election may apply to become a Senior Justice or Judge. The Senior Justices and Judges are eligible for temporary assignment by Supreme Court order to any State trial court at the level of their previous service with a minimum of two years of service in that office.

Summary information on Senior Justice and Judge assignments during fiscal year 2006 is provided in Table 9. Each judicial assistance order is counted as one assignment. Judicial assistance orders may also provide for multiple days or cases, depending on the assistance requested. When a judicial vacancy occurs, such as when a Judge is absent (for example, due to catastrophic illness or attendance at mandatory judicial education classes), or otherwise recused or disqualified, a Senior Justice or Judge may be assigned for a period of time to hear all cases previously calendared. Senior Justices or Judges are occasionally requested and assigned to replace a disqualified Judge for a specific case only. A Senior Justice or Judge may continue to hear motions on a case assigned in a previous fiscal

year. Without this assistance, hearings would have to be vacated or reassigned, creating confusion and burdensome delays for litigants.

In January 2006, the Senior Justice and Judge assignments were expanded to include coverage of civil settlement conferences in the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts. During the 6 months from January to June 2006, the assigned Senior Justices and Judges resolved 70 percent of the matters set for settlement conferences.

Also, with the addition of three Senior Judges in January 2006, the Senior Justice and Judge Program has taken on additional Specialty Court assignments for Mental Health and Drug Court coverage in the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts and the Western Regional Drug Court (WRDC), which encompasses the First, Third, Fifth, and Ninth Judicial Districts.

During fiscal year 2006, the judiciary had 17 Senior Justices and Judges actively serving the District Courts. The combined efforts of these Judges provided assistance equivalent to almost 6 full-time Judges for the State, not including more than 75 days of travel time associated with these assignments.

## Alternative Dispute Resolution Program

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Programs began on July 1, 1992, after passage of Senate Bill 366 by the 1991 Legislature. The legislation required the Second and Eighth Judicial Districts (Washoe and Clark Counties) to implement ADR Programs. The First and Ninth Judicial Districts (Carson City,

Storey County, and Douglas County) subsequently adopted voluntary programs. Arbitration Commissioners administer the programs in each Judicial District.

Initially, the ADR Programs focused on certain civil cases with probable award value of less than \$25,000. A subsequent statutory revision increased the amount to \$40,000; and during the 2005 Legislative session, Assembly Bill 468 was passed, increasing the maximum amount to \$50,000 per plaintiff for mandatory programs. The Ninth Judicial District, in the program voluntarily, opted to keep the initial amount.

## Caseload and Settlement Rate

Fewer cases entered the arbitration program for fiscal year 2006 than the long-term average in three of the four participating District Courts. The respective long-term program caseload averages are the sum of annual caseloads for the last 10 years, divided by 10 for all but the First Judicial District Court, which only has 9 years of data. The caseload and settlement rates for the fiscal year and the long-term annual average for each participating District Court program are provided in Table 10.

The settlement rate can vary greatly from one year to another for each District Court and can be affected by the increase or decrease in the number of arbitrators, training sessions, and support staff. The settlement rate is the number of cases settled or dismissed through arbitration, compared with those cases requesting trials de novo (actual bench or jury trials).

**Table 10. Alternative Dispute Resolution Caseload and Settlement Rates, Fiscal Year 2006.**

	First Judicial District Court		Second Judicial District Court		Eighth Judicial District Court**		Ninth Judicial District Court	
	First Year 2006	Long-Term 9-year Average	First Year 2006	Long-Term 10-year Average	First Year 2006	Long-Term 10-year Average	First Year 2006	Long-Term 10-year Average
<b>Civil Caseload</b>	667		3,956		22,057		308	
<b>Cases Entered*</b>	218	274	378	560	3,782	3,889	132	128
<b>Cases Removed</b>	24	59	58	49	383	236	37	28
<b>Cases Settled or Dismissed</b>	148	168	311	432	909	1,456	26	38
<b>Settlement Rate</b>	97%	93%	83%	84%	75%	60%	93%	89%
<b>Trials De Novo requested</b>	5	12	63	63	304	953	2	5
<b>Trials De Novo request rate</b>	3%	7%	17%	17%	25%	40%	7%	11%

\* First, Second, and Eighth Judicial District Courts have a \$50,000 maximum for cases to be in the program; Ninth Judicial District Court has a \$25,000 maximum. Cases that qualify are automatically included in the program and parties have to request removal. The 2005 Legislature passed Assembly Bill 468 revising the maximum to \$50,000.

\*\* The case management system used by the Eighth Judicial District Court is not designed to track data within these statistical categories. As noted previously, Clark County is in the process of obtaining a new case management system that should better provide this information. Manual counting of this information is not cost effective. The actual settlement rate for the Eighth Judicial District Court may be slightly higher or lower.



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

The First, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial District Courts had settlement rates this fiscal year that were higher than their long-term program averages. The Second Judicial District Courts had a settlement rate this fiscal year that was slightly less than its long-term program average.

One specific type of alternative dispute resolution is the Short Trial Program. A Short Trial follows modified rules including only four jurors, with each party (plaintiffs and defendants) limited to 3 hours for their presentation. The verdict must be agreed upon by three of the four jurors.

The Second Judicial District Court began their Short Trial Program during fiscal year 2006. This fiscal year, 26 cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program in the Second Judicial District Court. Of the pending cases, 15 were dismissed or settled and no short trials were completed this fiscal year. Eight cases have been scheduled for trial.

For fiscal year 2006 in the Eighth Judicial District Court, 272 cases stipulated to the Short Trial Program. Of the total cases currently in the program, 94 cases were dismissed or settled, 33 completed the short trial, and 360 are scheduled for trial.

Each of these District Courts collects fees (\$5 per case filing, except Clark County which collects \$15 per case filing<sup>7</sup>) for the administration of their arbitration programs, including staff and technology expenses. All four District Courts have expenses that exceed the amount collected in filing fees. The Courts continue to find the programs to be successful alternatives to traditional trials. The programs are well-received by litigants, the public, and members of the bar, since cases in the programs are processed expeditiously at reduced expense.

**“It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered.”**

Aristotle  
(384 BC - 322 B.C.)

**“If a man who is a tenant is told to vacate the house before the end of days, the owner of the house shall lose the money the tenant paid to him.”**

Code of Hammurabi  
(Laws established by a Babylonian king) 1792 B.C.

<sup>7</sup> Effective October 1, 2005 the Board of County Commissioners may reset, by ordinance, the per-case filing fee to a maximum of \$15 as provided by the passage of Senate Bill 177 of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Legislative Session

## Justice Courts

**The Justice Courts** are limited jurisdiction courts, meaning their caseload is restricted to particular types of cases or actions prescribed by the Nevada Revised Statutes. Justice Courts determine whether felony and gross misdemeanor cases have enough evidence to be bound over to District Court for trial. They hear misdemeanor nontraffic cases as well as general civil cases (amounts up to \$10,000), small claims (up to \$5,000), summary eviction cases, and requests for temporary protective orders (domestic violence<sup>8</sup> or stalking and harassment).

The Justices of the Peace are elected within the townships they serve (see p. 14). In fiscal year 2006, the 47 Justice Courts were served by 63 Justices of the Peace. They may hear cases in other townships within their county or as visiting Justices of the Peace in neighboring counties under special circumstances. Those judges who retire or resign and have been commissioned as Senior Justices of the Peace by the Supreme Court may serve temporarily in any Justice Court in the state.

The Mason Valley and Smith Valley Justice Courts were combined at the end of fiscal year 2006 to form the Walker River Justice Court. Additionally, Baker Justice Court was closed effective June 30, 2006. These changes left 45 Justice Courts in Nevada to begin the 2007 fiscal year.

### Statistical Summary

**The Justice Court** case filing information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 11. Summary disposition information is included in Table 12. Data collection for the courts began in July 1999.

Statewide, the number of Justice Court nontraffic (criminal and civil) cases filed during fiscal year 2006 had only a minimal change, with an increase of more than 1,700 cases from fiscal year 2005.

In criminal case filings, some rural Justice Courts experienced large percentage increases (Smith Valley, Virginia City, and Beowawe Justice Courts) or decreases (Jackpot, Austin, and Pahrangat Justice Courts).

As can be expected for the most populated Justice Court Township, the Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest criminal caseload, with 59 percent of the Justice Court statewide total. Reno Justice Court was next with almost 9 percent of the criminal caseload.

Civil filings for fiscal year 2006 increased 2 percent statewide from last year. While a large percentage change was not seen, some courts this year indicated a shift within the civil case sub-types filed. Legislation (Assembly Bill 384) enacted in the 2005 legislative session modified the recovery costs in short-term (payday) loan cases, prompting more of these cases to be filed as general civil cases instead of small claims. This shift appears to have affected mostly urban, high-volume courts. General civil filings are more time-intensive cases for the courts to process. This shift from small claims to general civil filings may equate to an increase in the time to disposition.

Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest percentage of civil cases statewide (63 percent). Reno Justice Court was next with more than 13 percent.

Disposition information for Justice Courts is provided in Table 12. Overall, total nontraffic dispositions decreased slightly over last year. Criminal case dispositions increased slightly while civil case dispositions decreased slightly.

Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period according to the National Center for State Courts. Dividing the number of cases disposed by the number of cases filed (and reopened or reactivated) and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. This measure can then be compared within or across courts for any case type.

### Cases Per Judicial Position

**The comparison** of the Justice Court nontraffic cases per judicial position information requires some considerations unique to its jurisdiction. For instance, many of the rural Justices of the Peace are part-time employees. Cases in Justice Courts tend to be much simpler than cases in District Courts, thus a Justice Court can handle a larger number of cases per judicial position. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved by payment of fines without judicial involvement.

The combining of Mason Valley and Smith Valley Justice Courts at the end of the fiscal year will result in the eventual abolishment of one judicial position (at the end of the term in December 2006) while one judge serves in the new Walker River Justice Court.

<sup>8</sup> In some suburban areas, the Justice Court may not hear domestic violence protection orders because they are heard at the Family Division of District Court.

**Table 11. Summary of Justice Court Cases Filed**

Fiscal Years 2005-06. (See Table 15 for Traffic Data)

	Criminal Cases Filed		Civil Cases Filed		Non-Traffic Cases Filed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
<b>First Judicial District</b>						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court	2,074	2,028	4,834	4,861	6,908	6,889
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	198	120	76	86	274	206
<b>Second Judicial District</b>						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	722	590	216	248	938	838
Reno Justice Court	6,917	6,551	16,875	19,971	23,792	26,522
Sparks Justice Court	2,555	2,641	5,078	5,188	7,633	7,829
Wadsworth Justice Court	112	80	34	28	146	108
<b>Third Judicial District</b>						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	873	631	1,409	1,380	2,282	2,011
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	246	224	944	740	1,190	964
Dayton Justice Court	1,005	972	716	677	1,721	1,649
Mason Valley Justice Court	244	210	455	430	699	640
Smith Valley Justice Court	21	11	59	16	80	27
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>						
Elko County						
Carlisle Justice Court	389	305	153	135	542	440
East Line Justice Court	196	220	170	153	366	373
Elko Justice Court	1,377	1,165	1,524	1,712	2,901	2,877
Jackpot Justice Court	62	193	44	64	106	257
Wells Justice Court	129	95	69	57	198	152
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	33	30	27	22	60	52
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	892	725	228	238	1,120	963
Nye County						
Beatty Justice Court	122	170	35	45	157	215
Pahrump Justice Court	1,318	973	1,415	1,193	2,733	2,166
Tonopah Justice Court	339	220	202	134	541	354
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>						
Humboldt County						
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	2,205	2,885	709	856	2,914	3,741
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	291	215	411	410	702	625
Austin Justice Court	83	182	5	12	88	194
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	307	248	295	252	602	500
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	53	33	19	2	72	35
Eureka Justice Court	66	77	40	24	106	101
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	78	56	60	16	138	72
Pahrangat Valley Justice Court	67	109	45	11	112	120
White Pine County						
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	136	193	313	425	449	618
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	1	7	9	7	10
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	138	120	265	285	403	405
Bunkerville Justice Court	16	13	6	9	22	22
Goodsprings Justice Court	234	172	53	59	287	231
Henderson Justice Court	2,727	2,233	4,334	4,193	7,061	6,426
Las Vegas Justice Court	47,465	49,633	79,423	74,633	126,888	124,266
Laughlin Justice Court	1,252	1,428	356	376	1,608	1,804
Mesquite Justice Court	174	148	329	246	503	394
Moapa Justice Court	42	33	12	11	54	44
Moapa Valley Justice Court	95	127	75	55	170	182
North Las Vegas Justice Court	3,438	3,260	3,479	3,285	6,917	6,545
Searchlight Justice Court	46	74	7	11	53	85
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	982	992	1,017	955	1,999	1,947
Tahoe Justice Court	688	594	171	186	859	780
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,407</b>	<b>80,996</b>	<b>125,994</b>	<b>123,716</b>	<b>206,401</b>	<b>204,680</b>



**Table 12. Summary of Justice Court Cases Disposed**

Fiscal Years 2005 - 2006. (See Table 15 for Traffic Data)

	Criminal Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Disposed		Total Nontraffic Cases Disposed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
<b>First Judicial District</b>						
Carson City						
Carson City Justice Court	2,405	2,176	2,977	2,989	5,382	5,165
Storey County						
Virginia City Justice Court	124	118	61	110	185	228
<b>Second Judicial District</b>						
Washoe County						
Incline Village Justice Court	688	593	186	229	874	822
Reno Justice Court	5,714	6,042	9,699	10,996	15,413	17,038
Sparks Justice Court	2,237	2,405	3,501	2,998	5,738	5,403
Wadsworth Justice Court	68	60	12	12	80	72
<b>Third Judicial District</b>						
Churchill County						
New River Justice Court	884	967	860	1,112	1,744	2,079
Lyon County						
Canal Justice Court	205	198	742	489	947	687
Dayton Justice Court	1,111	1,154	620	723	1,731	1,877
Mason Valley Justice Court	186	358	350	374	536	732
Smith Valley Justice Court	21	14	14	7	35	21
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>						
Elko County						
Carlisle Justice Court	362	290	53	57	415	347
East Line Justice Court	108	189	87	96	195	285
Elko Justice Court	1,233	1,114	1,030	1,403	2,263	2,517
Jackpot Justice Court	41	32	118	51	159	83
Wells Justice Court	160	93	35	45	195	138
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>						
Esmeralda County						
Esmeralda Justice Court	1	14	17	21	18	35
Mineral County						
Hawthorne Justice Court	94	104	NR	NR	-	-
Nye County						
Beaty Justice Court	109	182	36	46	145	228
Pahrump Justice Court	929	876	1,151	1,055	2,080	1,931
Tonopah Justice Court	241	183	169	119	410	302
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>						
Humboldt County						
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	1,775	2,237	586	555	2,361	2,792
Lander County						
Argenta Justice Court	248	180	323	294	571	474
Austin Justice Court	4	13	2	7	6	20
Pershing County						
Lake Justice Court	261	214	152	105	413	319
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>						
Eureka County						
Beowawe Justice Court	37	20	14	3	51	23
Eureka Justice Court	52	60	21	11	73	71
Lincoln County						
Meadow Valley Justice Court	63	49	27	7	90	56
Pahranaगत Valley Justice Court	52	80	10	10	62	90
White Pine County						
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	121	175	250	373	371	548
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	0	8	2	8	2
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>						
Clark County						
Boulder Justice Court	111	111	208	259	319	370
Bunkerville Justice Court	30	12	5	7	35	19
Goodsprings Justice Court	154	155	29	33	183	188
Henderson Justice Court	1,534	605	2,825	3,093	4,359	3,698
Las Vegas Justice Court	NR	NR	57,702	57,971	-	-
Laughlin Justice Court	880	1,200	226	255	1,106	1,455
Mesquite Justice Court	132	107	281	178	413	285
Moapa Justice Court	26	20	6	5	32	25
Moapa Valley Justice Court	102	146	32	21	134	167
North Las Vegas Justice Court	1,158	981	2,830	2,190	3,988	3,171
Searchlight Justice Court	34	78	6	7	40	85
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>						
Douglas County						
East Fork Justice Court	1,361	1,355	881	535	2,242	1,890
Tahoe Justice Court	776	784	165	276	941	1,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,832</b>	<b>25,750</b>	<b>88,307</b>	<b>89,140</b>	<b>114,139</b>	<b>114,890</b>

NR Not reported.

Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

To simplify the presentation in Figure 5, only those Justice Courts with 1,000 nontraffic cases or more per judicial position are shown; the remaining courts are listed in a footnote<sup>9</sup>. The break at 1,000 was arbitrary. The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in Figure 5 and Tables 11-12 with Justice Courts.

In Figure 5, ten courts have more than 2,000 nontraffic cases filed per judicial position. Las Vegas Justice Court had the most at 14,099, a decrease from the previous year (14,620) following the addition of one judicial position. Next was Reno Justice Court with 4,758 cases filed per judicial position, down from last year (5,304). The statewide average of nontraffic cases filed per judicial position for Justice Courts is 3,277, an increase from last fiscal year (3,224).

## Judicial Assistance

The AOC and the courts have started the process of quantifying the judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. The first step was to identify and assign a measure to quasi-judicial positions. These are special master positions that help with the adjudication process, but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Las Vegas is the only Justice Court that reported quasi-judicial positions to help with their nontraffic caseload. They reported 0.35 FTE in other quasi-judicial positions that helped with small claims cases and 0.63 FTE in a Traffic Judge. The small claims referees make recommendations or judgments that are subject to review and confirmation by sitting Justices of the Peace; the traffic judges are pro tem judges whose decisions are final unless appealed.

**“THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE IS THE CHIEF LAW.”**

CICERO  
100 B.C.

**“The Constitution does not provide for first and second class citizens.”**

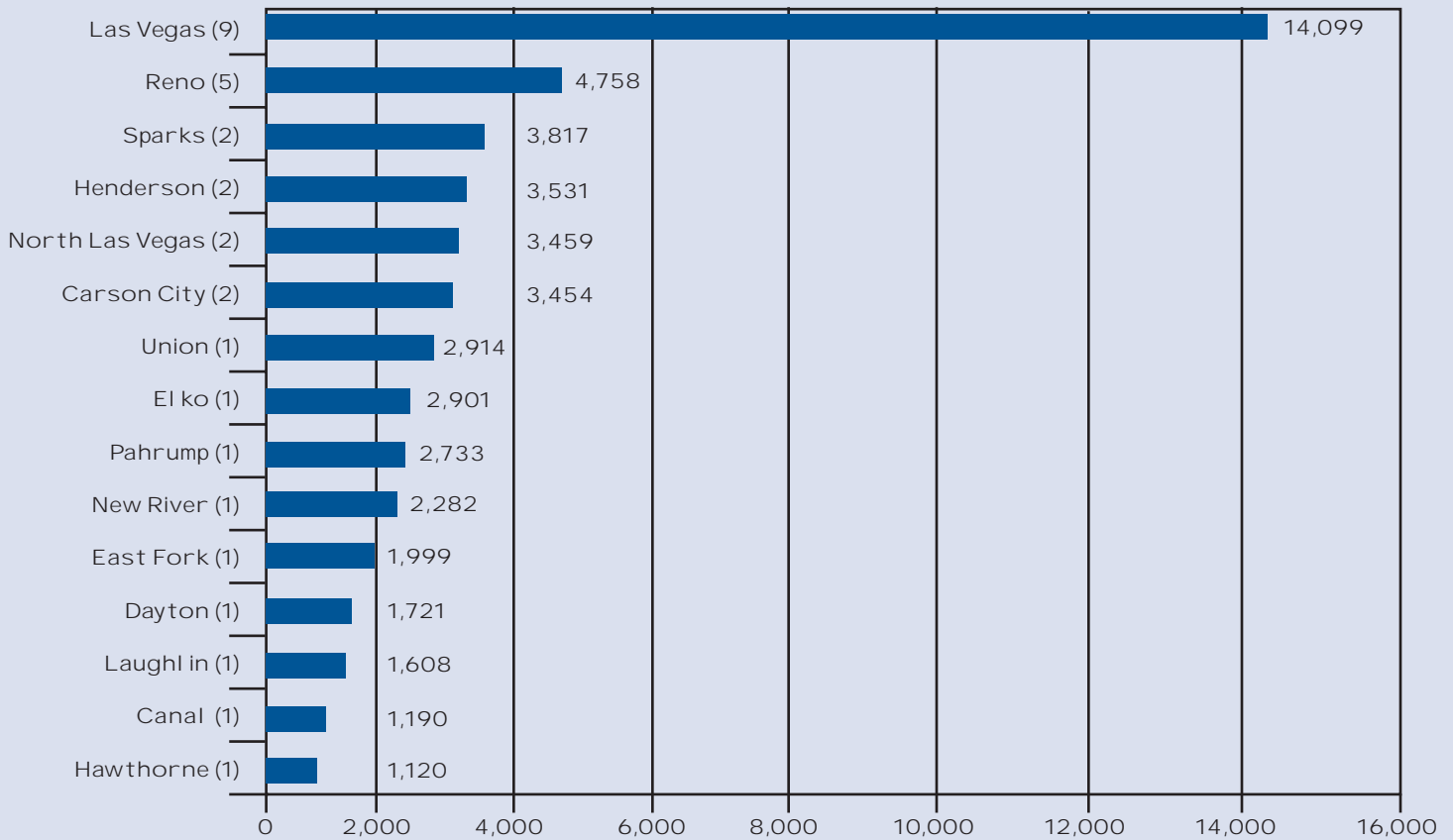
Wendell Willkie  
(American politician) 1946 A.D.

<sup>9</sup> Remaining Justice Courts and their nontraffic cases filed per judicial position (each court has one judicial position). Asterisk indicates judicial position is part-time.

Incline Village Justice Court*	938	Goodsprings Justice Court	287	Smith Valley Justice Court*	80
Tahoe Justice Court	859	Virginia Valley Justice Court	274	Beowawe Justice Court*	72
Argenta Justice Court	702	Wells Justice Court*	198	Moapa Justice Court*	54
Mason Valley Justice Court*	699	Mopa Valley Justice Court*	170	Searchlight Justice Court*	53
Lake Justice Court	602	Beatty Justice Court	157	Esmeralda Justice Court*	60
Carlton Justice Court*	542	Wadsworth Justice Court*	146	Bunkerville Justice Court*	22
Tonopah Justice Court	541	Meadow Valley Justice Court*	138	Lund Justice Court*	7
Mesquite Justice Court	503	Pahrangat V. Justice Court*	112	Baker Justice Court*	0
Ely (No.1) Justice Court	449	Eureka Justice Court*	106	Paradise V. Justice Court*	0
Boulder Justice Court*	403	Jackpot Justice Court*	106	McDermitt Justice Court*	0
East Line Justice Court	366	Austin Justice Court*	88		

**Figure 5. Nontraffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Justice Court, Fiscal Year 2006**

(Number of judicial positions in parentheses.)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for all Justice Courts is 3,276.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

## Municipal Courts

**Municipal Courts** are city courts and only handle cases that involve violation of city ordinances. Their jurisdiction includes nontraffic misdemeanors, traffic violations and, in some cities, parking. (See p. 52 for the traffic and parking section.) Although they generally do not handle civil cases, Nevada Revised Statute 5.050 provides limited jurisdiction to hear them.

Most Municipal Court Judges are elected within the municipality they serve (see p. 15); however, some are appointed by their city council or mayor. Those appointed by the city council or mayor are Caliente, Ely, Fallon, Fernley, Mesquite, and Yerington. In fiscal year 2006, the 17 Municipal Courts were served by 28 Municipal Court Judges.

## Statistical Summary

**The Municipal Court** nontraffic caseload information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 13. Data collection began in July 1999.

Statewide, Municipal Court criminal filings in fiscal year 2006 decreased slightly from the year before. Some Municipal Courts experienced large percentage increases (Elko and Wells) or decreases (Fallon and Fernley) in criminal case filings.

For only the fourth time since data collection began, a Municipal Court had civil filings. The Caliente Municipal Court had seven small claims filings. On occasion, municipalities may seek collection of unpaid utility bills through the courts. This is the type of limited jurisdiction civil case a Municipal Court may handle.

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

The disposition information for Municipal Courts is provided in Table 13. Nontraffic dispositions decreased almost 3 percent over last year. This is the sixth year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information.

Dividing the number of cases disposed by the number of cases filed (and reopened or reactivated) and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. This measure can then be compared within or across courts for any case type. Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according to the National Center for State Courts.

## Cases per Judicial Position

The number of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts in fiscal year 2006 is shown in Figure 6. In the Justice and Municipal Courts, traffic charges are not included in the determination of cases filed per judicial position because they may be resolved without judicial involvement, and the exclusion provides a more equal comparison across courts.

With the addition of one judge in North Las Vegas last fiscal year, the order of the top two courts has departed from the trend of the past five fiscal years. Henderson Municipal Court also added one judge at the end of the previous fiscal year. The two Municipal Courts with the largest nontraffic caseload per judicial position are Las Vegas (5,277) and then North Las Vegas (3,883). They are followed by Reno (2,104), Henderson (1,914), and Sparks (1,023). The statewide average of nontraffic cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 2,079, a decrease from the previous fiscal year (2,208) following the addition of two municipal court judges. The caseload information for Carson City Justice and Municipal Court, a consolidated municipality, is provided in Figure 5 and Table 11 with Justice Courts.

**Table 13. Summary of Municipal Court Cases Filed and Disposed, Fiscal Year 2005 - 2006**

	Nontraffic Misdemeanor Defendants Charged		Nontraffic Misdemeanor Cases Disposed		Civil Cases Filed <sup>a</sup>		Civil Cases Disposed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
Boulder Municipal Court	518	528	1,016	998	NR	NR	NR	NR
Caliente Municipal Court	16	23	16	13	7	0	0	0
Carlisle Municipal Court	72	74	60	56	0	0	0	0
Carson City Municipal Court	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>b</i>
Elko Municipal Court	470	346	356	278	NR	NR	NR	NR
Ely Municipal Court	79	122	143	209	NR	NR	NR	NR
Fallon Municipal Court	313	405	195	160	0	0	0	0
Fernley Municipal Court	205	268	436	430	NR	NR	NR	NR
Henderson Municipal Court	5,742	6,227	6,903	6,886	NR	NR	NR	NR
Las Vegas Municipal Court	31,664 <sup>c</sup>	31,261 <sup>c</sup>	28,605 <sup>c</sup>	30,004 <sup>c</sup>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>c</i>
Mesquite Municipal Court	507	527	596	700	NR	NR	NR	NR
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	7,765	8,509	7,479	7,849	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>
Reno Municipal Court	8,415	7,440	8,905 <sup>c</sup>	8,445 <sup>c</sup>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>d</i>
Sparks Municipal Court	2,045	2,354	2,562	2,578	NR	NR	NR	NR
Wells Municipal Court	48	34	37	13	NR	NR	NR	NR
West Wendover Municipal Court	248	316	81	227	NR	NR	NR	NR
Yerington Municipal Court	101	87	143	202	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Total</b>	58,208	58,521	57,534	59,048	7	0	0	0

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Courts have very limited civil jurisdiction.

<sup>b</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

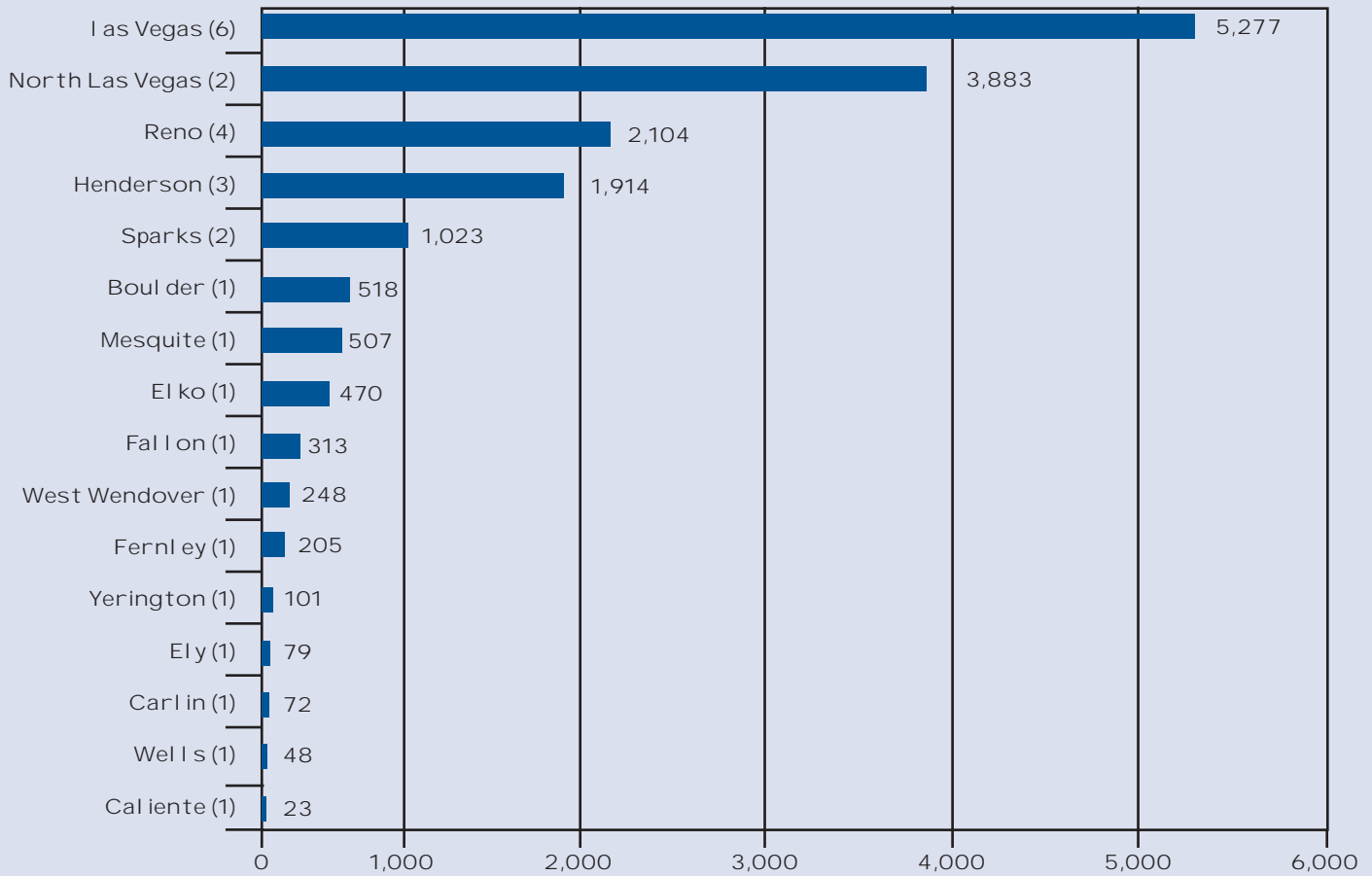
<sup>c</sup> Court reported nontraffic misdemeanor numbers by charges so total charges were divided by the statewide Municipal Court average of 1.5 charges or dispositions per defendant so more appropriate comparisons can be made.

<sup>d</sup> Cases are handled administratively by the city.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**Figure 6. Nontraffic Cases Filed per Judicial Position by Municipal Court, Fiscal Year 2006**

(Number of judicial positions in parentheses.)



Statewide average of cases filed per judicial position for Municipal Courts is 2,079.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

## Judicial Assistance

**Quasi-judicial assistance** may be used by Municipal Courts as well. The AOC and the courts, in 2001, began to quantify the judicial assistance provided to the courts to help dispose cases. These are positions that help with the adjudication process but are not elected judicial officials. The courts were asked to provide an estimate of the full-time equivalent (FTE) assistance provided during the year.

Municipal Court data submitted indicates no judicial assistance was received.

*“Where law ends,  
tyranny begins.”*

William Pitt  
(English statesman) 1770 A.D.

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Traffic and Parking Violations

**Traffic and parking violations** comprise a substantial portion of the judicial caseload. These violations are handled at all three jurisdictional levels (District, Justice, and Municipal) of the Nevada trial courts. Traffic and parking violations have been separated from nontraffic data this year to separate them from the nontraffic caseload comparisons and in anticipation of a change in counting procedure (from charges to defendants/cases) in a few years with the next phase of data collection. The detailed statistics for cases are included in the appendix (Tables A8-A10). Data collection began in July 1999.

In addition to their nontraffic caseloads, District Courts also hear Juvenile Traffic cases. Justice and Municipal Courts have jurisdiction over traffic and parking cases as misdemeanor

violations when the defendant is an adult. A few jurisdictions do not hear parking tickets as they are handled administratively by the local government. Current reporting requirements are to count traffic and parking cases by charge instead of defendant. When only defendants were reported, the number of defendants was used as the minimum number of charges as was done in previous years.

This is the sixth year for the collecting and reporting of the disposition information. Some courts had to count data manually, some courts began using new systems during the year, and some courts were unable to provide accurate information. As with many projects, the accuracy and completeness of this information will improve over time.

Courts should aspire to dispose of at least as many cases as have been filed, reopened, or reactivated in a period, according

**table 14. Summary of District Court Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed in District Court**  
Fiscal Year 2006

Court	Juvenile Traffic			
	Total Charges		Total Disposed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
<b>First Judicial District</b>				
Carson City District Court	1,171	1,125	1,158	1,131
Storey County District Court	12	20	12	20
<b>Second Judicial District</b>				
Washoe County District Court	NR	NR	NR	NR
<b>Third Judicial District</b>				
Churchill County District Court	311	407	304	456
Lyon County District Court	1,594	1,653	1,382	1,422
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>				
Elko County District Court	646	767	725	732
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>				
Esmeralda County District Court	15	10	4	9
Mineral County District Court	12	7	1	0
Nye County District Court	230	183	221	307
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>				
Humboldt County District Court	188	NR	179	NR
Lander County District Court	120	124	132	124
Pershing County District Court	0	0	0	0
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>				
Eureka County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
Lincoln County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
White Pine County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>				
Clark County District Court	2,277	2,652	NR	NR
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>				
Douglas County District Court	519	469	526	429
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,095</b>	<b>7,417</b>	<b>4,644</b>	<b>4,630</b>

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Juvenile traffic violations handled and reported by Justice Courts.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**Table 15. Summary of Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Years 2005-06

	Traffic and Parking			
	Total Charges		Violations Disposed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
<b>First Judicial District</b>				
Carson City				
Carson City Justice Court	20,885 <sup>a</sup>	18,190 <sup>a</sup>	19,900	16,931
Storey County				
Virginia City Justice Court	638	720	514	421
<b>Second Judicial District</b>				
Washoe County				
Incline Village Justice Court	2,362	2,145	2,172	2,004
Reno Justice Court	42,078	40,552	27,122	26,158
Sparks Justice Court	9,077	8,156	7,319	6,530
Wadsworth Justice Court	4,983	3,963	4,355	3,070
<b>Third Judicial District</b>				
Churchill County				
New River Justice Court	5,885	6,093	5,804	5,510
Lyon County				
Canal Justice Court	1,848	1,764	1,627	1,777
Dayton Justice Court	5,488	3,901	5,189	3,616
Mason Valley Justice Court	1,775	2,091	1,749	1,937
Smith Valley Justice Court	221	157	214	162
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>				
Elko County				
Carlisle Justice Court	404	425	326	291
East Line Justice Court	785	751	621	660
Elko Justice Court	8,158	7,579	5,084	4,958
Jackpot Justice Court	767	1,249	895	1,406
Wells Justice Court	5,690	3,784	5,900	3,118
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>				
Esmeralda County				
Esmeralda Justice Court	4,494	2,595	3,388	2,605
Mineral County				
Hawthorne Justice Court	7,167 <sup>b</sup>	4,217 <sup>b</sup>	5,822	3,435
Nye County				
Beatty Justice Court	3,193	2,172	2,963	2,430
Pahrump Justice Court	4,149	4,614	3,876	4,594
Tonopah Justice Court	2,417	2,670	2,277	2,261
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>				
Humboldt County				
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	8,036	4,200	6,756	3,886
Lander County				
Argenta Justice Court	4,070	3,758	3,890	3,234
Austin Justice Court	1,392	1,532	1,265	1,257
Pershing County				
Lake Justice Court	1,177 <sup>a</sup>	988 <sup>a</sup>	1,052	764
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>				
Eureka County				
Beowawe Justice Court	1,407	1,043	1,238	930
Eureka Justice Court	1,058	717	954	664
Lincoln County				
Meadow Valley Justice Court	1,459	893	1,060	646
Pahrangat Valley Justice Court	4,112	3,636	3,938	3,204
White Pine County				
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	16	8	16	8
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	2,765	3,015	2,331	2,470
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	84	166	90	155
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>				
Clark County				
Boulder Justice Court	943	682	675	597
Bunkerville Justice Court	976	1,295	945	1,278
Goodsprings Justice Court	13,333	8,203	5,726	6,854
Henderson Justice Court	5,410	6,606	5,376	5,872
Las Vegas Justice Court	253,168	222,688	219,525	172,066
Laughlin Justice Court	9,341	7,746	7,646	4,652
Mesquite Justice Court	NR	34	NR	1
Moapa Justice Court	3,720	3,994	3,762	3,746
Moapa Valley Justice Court	596	914	573	813
North Las Vegas Justice Court	916	910	948	901
Searchlight Justice Court	4,603	4,766 <sup>b</sup>	6,726	4,858
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>				
Douglas County				
East Fork Justice Court	9,976	7,617	7,642	5,478
Tahoe Justice Court	4,801	5,935	3,709	2,620
<b>Total</b>	<b>465,823</b>	<b>410,153</b>	<b>392,960</b>	<b>321,798</b>

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in totals

<sup>b</sup> Court reported traffic numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

to the National Center for State Courts. Dividing the number of cases disposed by the number of cases filed (and reopened or reactivated) and multiplying by 100 provides a clearance rate for the court. This measure can then be compared within or across courts for any case type.

## District Court Summary

**Juvenile traffic filings** decreased 4 percent from last fiscal year. The juvenile traffic charge and disposition information for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 14.

Some District Courts saw large percentage increases in their juvenile traffic charges (Esmeralda County and Nye County District Courts with 50 percent and 26 percent increases, respectively) or decreases (Churchill County and Storey County District Courts with 40 percent and 24 percent decreases, respectively). At the District Court level, Juvenile Masters or District Court Judges handle juvenile traffic cases, which may be counted at the District or Justice Court level depending on the processes within the judicial district. The cases are listed in the respective District or Justice Court tables.

As can be expected for the most populated area, the Clark County District Court had the most juvenile traffic charges with 32 percent of the statewide total. Lyon County District Court was next with 22 percent of the juvenile traffic charges. Carson City District Court followed with 16 percent.

District Court Juvenile Traffic Violation dispositions reported by District Courts increased slightly from fiscal years 2005 to 2006.

## Justice Court Summary

**In the Justice Courts**, the number of traffic and parking violations is more than double the total nontraffic filings. The traffic and parking violations filing and disposition information for Justice Courts for the last two fiscal years is summarized in Table 15.

Statewide, Justice Court traffic violations increased 14 percent. Some rural Justice Courts saw large percentage increases in their traffic violations (Esmeralda, Hawthorne, and Union) or decreases (Jackpot, Lund, and Moapa Valley). Some of the change in traffic and parking violations can be attributed to the increase or decrease of state or local law enforcement staffing.

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As can be expected for the court with the most populated township, the Las Vegas Justice Court had the highest traffic caseloads with 54 percent of the statewide total. Reno Justice Court was next with 9 percent of the traffic caseload. Carson City Justice and Municipal Court followed with more than 4 percent of the traffic caseload.

Justice Court Traffic Violation dispositions increased 22 percent; largely the result of improved reporting by some courts.

## Municipal Court Summary

**In the Municipal Courts**, the number of traffic and parking violations has historically been more than four times the total nontraffic filings and this fiscal year was no different.

Municipal Court traffic violations increased more than 16 percent from the previous fiscal year. Traffic filings are heavily

dependent on the number of local law enforcement positions filled or vacant. The increase in filings this fiscal year have been attributed to an increase in the number of traffic officers in the municipalities with the largest changes.

Some Municipal Courts saw large increases (Carlin, Reno, and Wells) or decreases (Caliente, Ely, and Mesquite) in traffic and parking violations. Some of the change in traffic and parking violations can be attributed to the increase or decrease of state or local law enforcement staffing or a crackdown on certain types of offenses by law enforcement.

The disposition information for Municipal Court traffic violations is provided in Table 16. The municipal traffic and parking violation dispositions increased more than 7 percent over last fiscal year.

**Table 16. Summary of Municipal Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Year 2006

Court	Traffic and Parking			
	Total Charges		Total Disposed	
	FY 2006	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2005
Boulder Municipal Court	4,129	4,208	3,889	3,957
Caliente Municipal Court	57	100	57	68
Carlin Municipal Court	210	119	166	112
Carson City Municipal Court	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>
Elko Municipal Court	1,558	1,699	1,151	1,356
Ely Municipal Court	332	435	399	471
Fallon Municipal Court	1,106	873	822	426
Fernley Municipal Court	2,471	2,405	2,615	2,234
Henderson Municipal Court	26,901	25,422	25,870	23,430
Las Vegas Municipal Court	141,411	122,577	123,294	125,049
Mesquite Municipal Court	2,141	2,741	2,021	2,493
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	44,156	44,218	39,507	38,489
Reno Municipal Court	43,734	24,611	40,366	26,085
Sparks Municipal Court	11,860	11,305	13,038	11,752
Wells Municipal Court	179	109	184	85
West Wendover Municipal Court	568	423	404	471
Yerington Municipal Court	251	284	212	247
<b>Total</b>	<b>281,064</b>	<b>241,529</b>	<b>253,995</b>	<b>236,725</b>

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City. Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.



## Specialty Court Programs

**Specialty Courts** use problem-solving processes designed to address the root causes of some criminal activity. Some of the most prominent types of Specialty Courts are Drug, Mental Health, and Prison Re-entry Courts. Specialty Courts are also categorized according to the needs of the adult, family, or juvenile directly affected by these issues.

In addition to the benefits provided to the defendants, Specialty Courts benefit the counties and taxpayers by reducing the prison population and decreasing recidivism rates. Without this intervention, many or all of the babies born to participants would have been born with drugs in their systems and suffered associated drug-related developmental problems, likely requiring taxpayer-funded treatment and services.

Although Nevada operates many types of Specialty Courts, the Drug Courts are the most established and widely known. Nevada is a pioneer in the development<sup>10</sup> of Drug Courts as an alternative way of helping criminal defendants and voluntary-entry participants to become productive members of society. Drug Courts are highly effective<sup>11</sup> in participant rehabilitation.

Nevada has several Drug Courts at all three trial court levels. The Adult Criminal Drug Court is the most common. Participants involved in the criminal justice system enroll in the program as part of their sentence and rehabilitation, or as a diversion from a serious criminal conviction. Prison Re-entry Drug Courts address prison inmate needs by combining drug treatment and early release to reduce recidivism. Family, Dependency, and Child Support Drug Courts all deal with domestic situations aggravated by the use of illicit drugs. Juvenile Drug Courts treat youthful offenders whose drug use led to juvenile delinquency charges. Some courts may offer treatment programs for alcohol use or abuse in addition to, or instead of, drugs.

The development of Mental Health Courts emerged as a result of the success of the Drug Court model. Large percentages of people in jail have mental health disorders. Nationally, the crisis in mental health care may be traced to the long-term effects of the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and the lack of a corresponding increase in community-based mental health care.

Mental Health Court is designed to identify the chronic, severely mentally ill who are being repeatedly incarcerated and to divert them into treatment instead of incarceration. Mental

Health Courts benefit from a significant, multi-agency effort that has created coordinated systems of care and the environment necessary for success. As with Drug Courts, treating the mental illness increases an offender's chances of successful rehabilitation.

During the 2003 Legislature, Assembly Bill 29 was passed, which added a \$7 assessment to misdemeanor convictions in Justice and Municipal Courts, to provide additional funding for Specialty Courts throughout the state. The statute (NRS 176.0613) specifies what types of courts may apply for funding. A separate report is prepared for the Legislature regarding the amount and distribution of that funding. Additionally, this fund receives 10 percent of felony bail forfeitures.

All Specialty Court data submitted by the courts are compiled in Table 17. The information provided is tracked separately by the Specialty Courts' staff. No data standards have been defined and applied statewide. For example, some courts provide the number of participants for the year and some provide the number of new admissions. As these have slightly different connotations, care should be taken in direct comparisons among the programs. The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada, Specialty Court Funding Committee, is developing statewide standards to resolve these issues.

In fiscal year 2006, the Specialty Court programs continued their effective supervision and rehabilitation of the program participants. The Specialty Court programs noted in Table 17 served more than 2,400 defendants, graduating more than 1,000 of them during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 78 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

### Western Region

**The Western Regional Drug Court** program began in fiscal year 2002, and encompasses courts of the First, Third, Fifth, and Ninth Judicial Districts. The adult only program includes cases from Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, and Storey Counties.

A unique element of each Regional Drug Court is that the presiding judge must travel to hear many of the cases in the other participating Judicial Districts. Many of the individual counties within the Western Regional Drug Court program may have some separate form of juvenile drug court.

The Carson City Mental Health Court handles misdemeanor cases as well as any felony cases transferred from the First

<sup>10</sup> U.S. General Accounting Office, 1997, *Drug Courts: Overview of Growth, Characteristics, and Results*: Washington, D.C., General Accounting Office Report, GAO/GGD-97-106, p. 129.

<sup>11</sup> Gonzales, A.R., Schofield, R.B., and Schmitt, G.R., 2006, *Drug Courts: The Second Decade*: Washington, D.C., U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, p.3.



# Uniform System for Judicial Records

Judicial District Court. The first Mental Health Court hearing was heard in March 2005.

The Western Region programs noted in Table 17 served slightly more than 200 defendants, graduating 97 of them during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 7 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## Washoe Region

**The Second** Judicial District Court Drug Court program has been in operation since 1994. Washoe County began a Mental Health Court in November 2001.

The Reno Justice Court has a Counseling Compliance program that includes the treatment of offenders for drug, alcohol, and domestic violence issues.

The Reno Municipal Court's Recovery from Addiction to Alcohol and Drugs (RAAD) program was started in 2002. The program is for defendants charged with a DUI, drug possession, or domestic violence co-occurring with drug or alcohol use.

The Sparks Municipal Court Alcohol and Other Drug Court began in 1999 and was Nevada's first limited jurisdiction Drug Court.

The Washoe Region programs noted in Table 17 served more than 1,000 defendants, graduating 308 of them during the fiscal year. Of those participants, 40 gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## Eastern Region

**The Eastern** Adult Drug Court program began April 2005. The adult only program includes cases from the Elko, Lincoln, and White Pine County District Courts (Eastern Region). Resources became available during this fiscal year that allowed Lincoln and White Pine Counties to also offer the program to defendants. Being in its early stages, the Adult Drug Court has graduated two participants. Many participants are still in the process of completing the program, which generally takes about a year.

As of September 2004, the Eastern Region also has a Juvenile Drug Court program. In fiscal year 2006, the juvenile program had 7 graduates of 17 participants.

The Eastern Region programs noted in Table 17 served slightly more than 60 defendants, graduating 9 of them during the fiscal year. Of those participants, six gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## Fifth Judicial District

**The Fifth** Judicial Adult Drug Court program in Nye County has been operating since April 2002. A Juvenile Drug Court began operating in conjunction with the adult program in February 2004.

The Fifth Judicial District programs noted in Table 17 served 35 defendants, while graduating 30 during the fiscal year.

## Central Region

**Drug court** programs in Humboldt, Lander, and Pershing Counties of the Sixth Judicial District have been operating since the start of fiscal year 2005.

The Central Region programs noted in Table 17 served 70 defendants, graduating 31 of them during the fiscal year. Of those participants, five gave birth to drug-free babies during the year.

## Clark Region

**The Eighth** Judicial District Court began the first Nevada Drug Court in 1992. In December 2000, Clark County implemented the nation's first Prison Re-entry (Early Release) Drug Court. Their Mental Health Court, which began in December 2003, has graduated 12 participants during the fiscal year.

The Las Vegas and Laughlin Justice Courts provide Drug Court programs. Las Vegas Justice Court also provides a DUI program, which began in December 2003. The purpose of this program is to identify high-risk DUI offenders who would benefit from long-term treatment and intensive supervision.

The Clark Region programs noted in Table 17 served more than 1,200 defendants, graduating 450 of them during the fiscal year. The several Specialty Court programs also had 18 drug free babies born during the year.

**table 17. Summary of Specialty Court Information**  
Fiscal Year 2006

Jurisdiction	Court Type	New Participants/ Admissions	Terminations <sup>1</sup>	Graduates	Active Cases at Years End	Drug Free Babies Born
<b>Western Region</b>						
Western Regional Drug Court						
Carson City & Storey County	Adult Drug	57	16	28	78	3
Churchill County	Adult Drug	34	15	17	43	2
Lyon County	Adult Drug	57	17	22	64	2
Mineral County	Adult Drug	0	4	8	0	0
Douglas County	Adult Drug	21	9	19	30	0
First Judicial District	Juvenile Drug	8	2	3	8	
Carson City Justice Court	Mental Health	33	8	1	26	NR
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Washoe Region</b>						
Second Judicial Specialty Court	Adult Drug	317	95	27	485	22
	Adult Diversion	175	92	68	211	10
	Family Drug	22	8	11	27	3
	Mental Health Court	148	44	81	177	3
	Juvenile Drug	16	15	6	13	1
	Prison Re-entry	8	7	1	12	0
Reno Justice	Counseling Compliance	109	11	80	136	1
Reno Municipal (RAAD)	Alcohol & Drug Court	60	22	29		
Sparks Municipal	Alcohol & Drug Court	NR	NR	5	11	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Eastern Region</b>						
Elko County	Adult Drug	30	5	2	36	5
Lincoln County	Adult Drug	2			2	
White Pine County	Adult Drug	16	2	0	14	1
Eastern Nevada	Juvenile Drug	17	6	7	8	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>						
Nye County	Adult Drug	26	9	26	23	2
	Family Drug	3	0	3	3	
	Juvenile Drug	6	3	1	7	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Central Region</b>						
Humboldt County	Adult Drug	28	4	7	30	1
Lander County	Adult Drug	7	2	3	12	1
Pershing County	Adult Drug	32	4	21	28	3
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Clark Region</b>						
Eighth Judicial District	Adult Drug	756	437	247	582	
	Child Support	15	5	5	11	
	Dependency	98	61	33	67	
	Juvenile Drug	96	40	31	41	
	Mental Health Court	59	21	12	73	
	Prison Re-entry	18	15	20	15	
Las Vegas Justice	Drug Court	84	14	34	164	
Las Vegas Justice	DUI Court	95	13	60	102	
Laughlin Justice	Drug Court	22	7	8	7	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>ALL SPECIALTY COURTS - GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>2,475</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,019</b>	<b>2,796</b>	<b>78</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes remands/removals, transfers to other specialty courts, and deceased participants.

NR Not reported.

Source: Individual specialty courts.

# Uniform System for Judicial Records

## Courts with Incomplete Data

**Courts** that did not provide all of their monthly data for fiscal year 2006 are listed in Table 18, as are the specific elements of the data missing during the year.

Other tables in this report have data in italics or a footnote (i) to indicate the data are incomplete and refers the reader here (Table 18) to determine what is missing. In a few instances, courts counted and submitted all they could, but acknowledge that there are issues with the numbers and are working to correct them. In those instances, the data will be in italics or flagged with footnote e, estimated, but the court may not appear in Table 18 if all monthly reports were filed.

Once again, all courts provided caseload information. However, some filing or disposition information for 9 courts is missing. Last fiscal year, four courts were unable to provide all of their caseload disposition information.

Disposition information is harder for court staff to collect than filing information. Many courts throughout Nevada do not have automated case management systems; court staff manually collect the information from each case or citation. Reporting


by the courts continues to improve and all the courts are to be commended for their efforts to meet the Uniform System for Judicial Records reporting requirements.

The Administrative Office of the Courts is working with many trial courts on technology projects that will bring case management systems to many of the rural courts and similar technology to some urban courts. This new system will improve court processes and procedures while also providing the courts with an automated mechanism to prepare their monthly statistics reports.

During fiscal year 2006, Beatty, New River (Fallon), Union (Winnemucca), and Virginia City Justice Courts along with Fallon Municipal Court began using the new system in its entirety. This brings the total number of courts using all or part of the case management system to 32. Several courts are scheduled to go to the new system during the next fiscal year.

**table 18. Courts with Incomplete Data**

Court	Missing Data
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	
Hawthorne Justice Court	Criminal Disposition Data Civil Disposition Data
	July 2005 - June 2006 July 2005 - June 2006
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	
Lincoln County District Court	Criminal Filing & Disposition Data Civil Filing & Disposition Data Family Filing & Disposition Data Juvenile Filing & Disposition Data
	June 2006 June 2006 June 2006 June 2006
White Pine County District Court	Criminal Filing & Disposition Data Civil Filing & Disposition Data Family Filing & Disposition Data Juvenile Filing & Disposition Data
	May 2006 May 2006 May 2006 May 2006
Baker Justice Court	Criminal Filing & Disposition Data Civil Filing & Disposition Data
	Sept 2005 - June 2006 Sept 2005 - June 2006
Ely Justice Court	Criminal Filing & Disposition Data Civil Filing & Disposition Data
	April 2006 - June 2006 April 2006 - June 2006
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	
Henderson Justice Court	Criminal Disposition Data
	July 2005 - June 2006
Las Vegas Justice Court	Criminal Disposition Data
	July 2006 - June 2006
Searchlight Justice Court	Criminal Filing & Disposition Data Civil Filing & Disposition Data
	May 2006 - June 2006 March 2006 - June 2006
Mesquite Municipal Court	Criminal Filing & Disposition Data Civil Filing & Disposition Data
	June 2006 June 2006

The background of the cover is a dark blue, monochromatic image of a stack of old, worn books. The books are arranged vertically, with their spines and covers visible. The wood-grain pattern of the background is a subtle, light blue tone that blends with the darker blue of the books. The text is white and positioned in the upper right quadrant of the cover.

Uniform Systems for  
Judicial Records  
Appendix Tables  
And  
Glossary of  
Case Types

**table A1. Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary  
Fiscal Year 2006**

Court	Population as of 7/1/05 <sup>a</sup>	Authorized Judicial Positions as of 6/30/06	Non-Traffic Cases				Traffic & Parking	
			Criminal Cases Filed <sup>b</sup>	Non-Criminal Cases Filed <sup>c</sup>	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Total Violations	Total Dispositions
<b>First Judicial District</b>	61,116	2	356	1,987	2,343	1,664	1,183	1,170
Carson City District Court	57,104		329	1,922	2,251	1,622	1,171	1,158
Storey County District Court	4,012		27	65	92	42	12	12
Carson City								
Carson City Justice/ Municipal Court <sup>d</sup>	57,104	2	2,074	4,834	6,908	5,382	20,885	19,900
Storey County								
Virginia City Justice Court	4,012	1	198	76	274	185	638	514
<b>Second Judicial District</b>	396,844	12	3,150	17,815	20,965	19,150	NR	NR
Washoe County District Court	396,844		3,150	17,815	20,965	19,150	NR	NR
Washoe County								
Incline Village Justice Court	11,223	1	722	216	938	874	2,362	2,172
Reno Justice Court	251,020	5	6,917	16,875	23,792	15,413	42,078	27,122
Sparks Justice Court	131,876	2	2,555	5,078	7,633	5,738	9,077	7,319
Wadsworth Justice Court	2,726	1	112	34	146	80	4,983	4,355
Reno Municipal Court	206,735	4	8,415	NJ	8,415	8,905	43,734	40,366
Sparks Municipal Court	85,618	2	2,045	0	2,045	2,562	11,860	13,038
<b>Third Judicial District</b>	75,445	3	476	2,657	3,133	2,051	1,905	1,686
Churchill County District Court	26,585		184	1,233	1,417	1,133	311	304
Lyon County District Court	48,860		292	1,424	1,716	918	1,594	1,382
Churchill County								
New River Justice Court	26,585	1	873	1,409	2,282	1,744	5,885	5,804
Fallon Municipal Court	8,339	1	313	0	313	195	1,106	822
Lyon County								
Canal Justice Court	16,357	1	246	944	1,190	947	1,848	1,627
Dayton Justice Court	21,054	1	1,005	716	1,721	1,731	5,488	5,189
Mason Valley Justice Court	9,460	1	244	455	699	536	1,775	1,749
Smith Valley Justice Court	1,989	1	21	59	80	35	221	214
Fernley Municipal Court	16,357	1	205	NR	205	436	2,471	2,615
Yerington Municipal Court	2,980	<sup>f</sup>	101	NR	101	143	251	212
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>	47,586	2	283	2,235	2,518	1,748	646	725
Elko County District Court	47,586		283	2,235	2,518	1,748	646	725
Elko County								
Carlton Justice Court	2,454	1	389	153	542	415	404	326
East Line Justice Court	4,848	1	196	170	366	195	785	621
Elko Justice Court	36,087	1	1,377	1,524	2,901	2,263	8,158	5,084
Jackpot Justice Court	1,198	1	62	44	106	159	767	895
Wells Justice Court	2,999	1	129	69	198	195	5,690	5,900
Carlton Municipal Court	2,261	<sup>g</sup>	72	0	72	60	210	166
Elko Municipal Court	17,850	<sup>h</sup>	470	NR	470	356	1,558	1,151
Wells Municipal Court	1,423	<sup>i</sup>	48	NR	48	37	179	184
West Wendover Municipal Court	4,848	<sup>j</sup>	248	NR	248	81	568	404
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>	47,206	2	330	2,664	2,994	2,391	257	226
Esmeralda County District Court	1,276		7	38	45	8	15	4
Mineral County District Court	4,629		40	230	270	267	12	1
Nye County District Court	41,301		283	2,396	2,679	2,116	230	221
Esmeralda County								
Esmeralda Justice Court	1,276	1	33	27	60	18	4,494	3,388
Mineral County								
Hawthorne Justice Court	4,629	1	892	228	1,120	--	7,167	5,822
Nye County								
Beaty Justice Court	2,188	1	122	35	157	145	3,193	2,963
Pahrump Justice Court	34,042	1	1,318	1,415	2,733	2,080	4,149	3,876
Tonopah Justice Court	5,071	1	339	202	541	410	2,417	2,277
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>	29,537	2	290	1,110	1,400	1,165	308	311
Humboldt County District Court	17,292		179	785	964	731	188	179
Lander County District Court	5,509		33	133	166	203	120	132
Pershing County District Court	6,736		78	192	270	231	0	0
Humboldt County								
McDermitt Justice Court	1,218	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	447	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	15,627	1	2,205	709	2,914	2,361	8,036	6,756
Lander County								
Argenta Justice Court	4,933	1	291	411	702	571	4,070	3,890
Austin Justice Court	576	1	83	5	88	6	1,392	1,265
Pershing County								
Lake Justice Court	6,736	1	307	295	602	413	1,177	1,052

**table A1. Summary of Population, Judicial Positions, and Cases Processed by Court for Nevada Judiciary (cont.)**  
Fiscal Year 2006

Court	Population as of 7/1/05 <sup>a</sup>	Authorized Judicial Positions as of 6/30/06	Non-Traffic Cases				Traffic & Parking	
			Criminal Cases Filed <sup>b</sup>	Non-Criminal Cases Filed <sup>c</sup>	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed	Total Violations	Total Dispositions
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>	14,646	2	129	473	602	335		
Eureka County District Court	1,485		25	46	71	19	k	k
Lincoln County District Court	3,886		30	103	133	140	k	k
White Pine County District Court	9,275		74	324	398	176	k	k
Eureka County								
Beowawe Justice Court	497	1	53	19	72	51	1,407	1,238
Eureka Justice Court	988	1	66	40	106	73	1,058	0
Lincoln County								
Meadow Valley Justice Court	2,798	1	78	60	138	90	1,459	1,060
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court	1,088	1	67	45	112	62	4,112	3,938
Caliente Municipal Court	1,015	1	16	7	23	16	0	57
White Pine County								
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	183	1	0	0	0	0	16	16
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	8,680	1	136	313	449	371	2,765	2,331
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	412	1	0	7	7	8	84	90
Ely Municipal Court	4,166	1	79	NR	79	143	332	399
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>	1,796,380	33	9,681	73,590	83,271	77,557	2,277	NR
Clark County District Court	1,796,380		9,681	73,590	83,271	77,557	2,277	NR
Clark County								
Boulder Justice Court	15,730	1	138	265	403	319	943	675
Bunkerville Justice Court	1,198	1	16	6	22	35	976	945
Goodsprings Justice Court	3,873	1	234	53	287	183	13,333	5,726
Henderson Justice Court	242,084	2	2,727	4,334	7,061	4,359	5,410	5,376
Las Vegas Justice Court	1,295,058	9	47,465	79,423	126,888	--	253,168	219,525
Laughlin Justice Court	8,265	1	1,252	356	1,608	1,106	9,341	7,646
Mesquite Justice Court	16,525	1	174	329	503	413	NR	NR
Moapa Justice Court	1,547	1	42	12	54	32	3,720	3,762
Moapa Valley Justice Court	7,014	1	95	75	170	134	596	573
North Las Vegas Justice Court	203,296	2	3,438	3,479	6,917	3,988	916	948
Searchlight Justice Court	1,790	1	46	7	53	40	4,603	6,726
Boulder Municipal Court	15,203	m	518	NR	518	1,016	4,129	3,889
Henderson Municipal Court	241,134	3	5,742	NR	5,742	6,903	26,901	25,870
Las Vegas Municipal Court	569,838	6	31,664	NJ	31,664	28,605	141,411	123,294
Mesquite Municipal Court	16,423	n	507	NR	507	596	2,141	2,021
North Las Vegas Municipal Court	180,219	2	7,765	NJ	7,765	7,479	44,156	39,507
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>	50,108	2	168	1,221	1,389	1,402	519	526
Douglas County District Court	50,108		168	1,221	1,389	1,402	519	526
Douglas County								
East Fork Justice Court	41,956	1	982	1,017	1,999	2,242	9,976	7,642
Tahoe Justice Court	8,152	1	688	171	859	941	4,801	3,709
<b>TOTALS</b>	2,518,869							
District Court Judges		60	14,863	103,752	118,615	107,463	7,095	4,644
Justice Court Judges		63	80,407	125,994	206,401	114,139	465,823	392,960
Municipal Court Judges		28	58,208	7	58,215	57,534	281,064	253,995

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

<sup>a</sup> Source: Nevada State Demographer. "Township boundaries may not correspond to incorporated cities, and are estimated using a different method than the city/town estimates. Because of this, they will differ from city estimates."

<sup>b</sup> Criminal cases include felony, gross misdemeanor, and non-traffic misdemeanor defendants. Traffic and parking violations are not included.

<sup>c</sup> Non-criminal cases include civil, family, and juvenile (non-traffic) cases for District Court and civil cases for Justice and Municipal Courts.

<sup>d</sup> Carson City is a consolidated municipality (county and city). Two judges serve in the combined Justice/Municipal Court.

<sup>f</sup> Smith Valley Justice Court judge also served as Yerington Municipal Court judge. Mason Valley and Smith Valley Justice Courts were combined into Walker River, effective July 1, 2006.

<sup>g</sup> Carlisle Justice Court judge also serves as Carlisle Municipal Court judge.

<sup>h</sup> Elko Justice Court judge also serves as Elko Municipal Court judge.

<sup>i</sup> Wells Justice Court judge also serves as Wells Municipal Court judge.

<sup>j</sup> East Line Justice Court judge also serves as West Wendover Municipal Court judge.

<sup>k</sup> Justices of the peace serve as juvenile masters for all juvenile traffic cases.

<sup>l</sup> Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court judge also serves as Caliente Municipal Court judge.

<sup>m</sup> Boulder Justice Court judge also serves as Boulder City Municipal Court judge.

<sup>n</sup> Mesquite Justice Court judge also serves as Mesquite Municipal Court judge.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**Table A2. Criminal Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada,  
Fiscal Year 2006.**

	Criminal Defendants		Appeals from Lower Court	Total Cases Filed	Total Cases Disposed
	Felony	Gross Misdemeanor			
<b>First Judicial District</b>					
Carson City District Court	271	50	8	329	302
Storey County District Court	26	1	0	27	6
<b>Second Judicial District</b>					
Washoe County District Court	2,149	941	60	3,150	2,974
<b>Third Judicial District</b>					
Churchill County District Court	149	35	0	184	144
Lyon County District Court	245	44	3	292	213
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>					
Elko County District Court	269	4	10	283	219
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>					
Esmeralda County District Court	3	4	0	7	7
Mineral County District Court	38 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	40 <sup>i</sup>	80 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	263	20	0	283	235
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>					
Humboldt County District Court	140	37	2	179	190
Lander County District Court	25	8	0	33	30
Pershing County District Court	76	2	0	78	99
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>					
Eureka County District Court	18	5	2	25	11
Lincoln County District Court	23 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>i</sup>	30 <sup>i</sup>	37 <sup>i</sup>
White Pine County District Court	64 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>	7 <sup>i</sup>	74 <sup>i</sup>	54 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>					
Clark County District Court	8,170 <sup>a</sup>	1,400 <sup>a</sup>	11	9,681	11,149 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>					
Douglas County District Court	160	6	2	168	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,089</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>14,863</b>	<b>15,963</b>

<sup>a</sup> Data are by case instead of defendants.

<sup>b</sup> Criminal dispositions are over reported as they include dispositions for reopened cases; however, reopened cases are not included in the total cases filed.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See table 18 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.



**Table A3. Civil Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada,  
Fiscal Year 2006.**

	Civil Cases Filed						Reopened Cases	Total Civil Cases	Total Cases Disposed
	Real Property	Construction Defect	Torts-Negligence	Torts	Probate	Other			
<b>First Judicial District</b>									
Carson City District Court	21	9	107	11	115	370	0	633	303
Storey County District Court	14	0	4	4	4	7	1	34	19
<b>Second Judicial District</b>									
Washoe County District Court	144	18	735	168	639	1,850	402	3,956	2,644
<b>Third Judicial District</b>									
Churchill County District Court	6	1	23	13	50	60	0	153	57
Lyon County District Court	32	1	18	1	107	144	0	303	100
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>									
Elko County District Court	20	1	53	13	125	124	343	679	204
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>									
Esmeralda County District Court	1	0	0	1	20	6	0	28	1
Mineral County District Court	5 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	4 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>	27 <sup>i</sup>	19 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	58 <sup>i</sup>	33 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	66	1	32	5	213	119	0	436	263
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>									
Humboldt County District Court	7	0	8	0	42	49	0	106	46
Lander County District Court	2	0	2	0	11	18	0	33	16
Pershing County District Court	10	0	5	13	26	32	1	87	53
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>									
Eureka County District Court	3	0	1	0	12	5	0	21	2
Lincoln County District Court	9 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	9 <sup>i</sup>	14 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	37 <sup>i</sup>	33 <sup>i</sup>
White Pine County District Court	4 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	16 <sup>i</sup>	20 <sup>i</sup>	45 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	87 <sup>i</sup>	24 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>									
Clark County District Court	997	81	5,445	565	2,676	10,856	1,437	22,057	22,228
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>									
Douglas County District Court	30	2	48	13	84	201	2	380	442
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>6,488</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>4,180</b>	<b>13,919</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>29,088</b>	<b>26,468</b>

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 18 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**table A4. Family Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada,  
Fiscal Year 2006.**

Family-Related Cases Filed													
	Marriage Dissolution	Support/ Custody	Uniform Interstate Family Support Act	Adop- tions	Pater- nity	Termin- ation of Parental Rights	Misc. Domestic Relations	Guard- ian- ship	Mental Health Cases	Request for Domestic Violence Protective Orders (TPOs)	Re- opened Cases	Total Family Cases	Total Cases Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>													
Carson City District Court	433	16	154	26	14	24	43	71	0	0	NR	781	639
Storey County District Court	14	0	0	1	0	1	2	4	0	0	1	23	14
<b>Second Judicial District</b>													
Washoe County District Court	2,755	303	1,613	177	51	204	256	493	429	1,890	2,968	11,139	9,226
<b>Third Judicial District</b>													
Churchill County District Court	316	17	138	15	0	19	12	22	0	0	0	539	370
Lyon County District Court	132	9	376	9	1	13	29	51	0	0	0	620	185
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>													
Elko County District Court	310	30	258	22	24	16	31	60	0	212	57	1,020	897
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>													
Esmeralda County District Court	0	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	9	0
Mineral County District Court	9 <sup>i</sup>	28 <sup>i</sup>	18 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>	12 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	72 <sup>i</sup>	93 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	801	10	455	5	7	6	39	38	0	24	44	1,429	1,152
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>													
Humboldt County District Court	117	9	168	9	1	12	5	12	0	0	6	339	232
Lander County District Court	29	0	0	3	2	2	0	4	0	0	8	48	53
Pershing County District Court	21	3	29	3	3	1	1	9	0	0	3	73	67
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>													
Eureka County District Court	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	3
Lincoln County District Court	11 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	14 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	8 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	36 <sup>i</sup>	42 <sup>i</sup>
White Pine County District Court	56 <sup>i</sup>	6 <sup>i</sup>	38 <sup>i</sup>	4 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	7 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	16 <sup>i</sup>	133 <sup>i</sup>	72 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>													
Clark County District Court	14,965	1,157	4,461	669	476	757	1,073	1,390	2,321	8,869	6,468	42,606	37,671 <sup>a</sup>
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>													
Douglas County District Court	510	14	62	29	15	14	9	38	0	0	1	692	659
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,489</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>7,785</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>2,218</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>10,996</b>	<b>9,572</b>	<b>59,571</b>	<b>51,375</b>

NR Not Reported

<sup>a</sup> An administrative closure of 13,074 old cases resulted in a disposition total this year of 50,745 cases. Because many of these dispositions are unrelated to the filings for the current fiscal year and in an effort to more accurately reflect actual dispositions of active cases, these administrative closures were not included in total dispositions but are provided in this footnote for general information.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See table 18 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**Table A5. Juvenile Caseload Processed by District Courts in Nevada,  
Fiscal Year 2006**

	Juvenile Cases Filed				Total Nontraffic Cases		Juvenile Hearings		
	Criminal-type Juvenile Petitions	Status Petitions	Child Abuse/Neglect Petitions	Misc. Petitions	Filed	Disposed	Informal Hearings	Detention/Extradition Hearings	Protective Custody Hearings
<b>First Judicial District</b>									
Carson City District Court	137	14	9	348	508	378	347	234	10
Storey County District Court	3	0	0	5	8	3	5	6	0
<b>Second Judicial District</b>									
Washoe County District Court	2,147	NR	565	8	2,720	4,306	721	NR	417
<b>Third Judicial District</b>									
Churchill County District Court	220	225	69	27	541	562	631	54	20
Lyon County District Court	438	52	11	0	501	420	287	117	27
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>									
Elko County District Court	526	0	10	0	536	356	375	215	76
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>									
Esmeralda County District Court	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Mineral County District Court	66 <sup>i</sup>	29 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	100 <sup>i</sup>	61 <sup>i</sup>	4 <sup>i</sup>	13 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County District Court	377	145	9	0	531	466	146	185	32
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>									
Humboldt County District Court	332	0	8	0	340	263	321	126	19
Lander County District Court	46	0	6	0	52	104	14	27	15
Pershing County District Court	20	0	10	2	32	12	4	0	9
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>									
Eureka County District Court	13	0	0	0	13	3	0	0	0
Lincoln County District Court	25 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>	2 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	30 <sup>i</sup>	28 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	12 <sup>i</sup>
White Pine County District Court	91 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	6 <sup>i</sup>	7 <sup>i</sup>	104 <sup>i</sup>	26 <sup>i</sup>	106 <sup>i</sup>	19 <sup>i</sup>	43 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>									
Clark County District Court	7,843	NR	1,050	34	8,927	6,509 <sup>a</sup>	0	3,653	2,990
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>									
Douglas County District Court	138	0	3	8	149	160	0	49	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,422</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>15,093</b>	<b>13,657</b>	<b>2,961</b>	<b>4,698</b>	<b>3,673</b>

NR Not reported

<sup>a</sup> An administrative closure of 17,957 old cases resulted in a disposition total this year of 24,466 cases. Because many of these dispositions are unrelated to the filings for the current fiscal year and in an effort to more accurately reflect actual dispositions of active cases, these administrative closures were not included in total dispositions but are provided in this footnote for general information.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 18 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**Table A6. Criminal Nontraffic Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada**  
Fiscal Years 2006

	Criminal Defendants Charges			Total Filed	Total Disposed
	Felony	Gross Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor, Nontraffic		
<b>First Judicial District</b>					
Carson City					
Carson City Justice Court	656	93	1,325 <sup>a</sup>	2,074	2,405
Storey County					
Virginia City Justice Court	62	6	130	198	124
<b>Second Judicial District</b>					
Washoe County					
Incline Village Justice Court	28	8	686	722	688
Reno Justice Court	2,332	365	4,220	6,917	5,714
Sparks Justice Court	934	207	1,414	2,555	2,237
Wadsworth Justice Court	0	0	112	112	68
<b>Third Judicial District</b>					
Churchill County					
New River Justice Court	350	91	432	873	884
Lyon County					
Canal Justice Court	135	16	95	246	205
Dayton Justice Court	187	37	781	1,005	1,111
Mason Valley Justice Court	105	11	128	244	186
Smith Valley Justice Court	10	0	11	21	21
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>					
Elko County					
Carlisle Justice Court	NR	0	389	389	362
East Line Justice Court	NR	NR	196	196	108
Elko Justice Court	405	7	965	1,377	1,233
Jackpot Justice Court	15	1	46	62	41
Wells Justice Court	35	0	94	129	160
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>					
Esmeralda County					
Esmeralda Justice Court	12	9	12	33	1
Mineral County					
Hawthorne Justice Court	208	16	668	892	94 <sup>i</sup>
Nye County					
Beaty Justice Court	31	6	85	122	109
Pahrump Justice Court	507	74	737	1,318	929
Tonopah Justice Court	167	3	169	339	241
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>					
Humboldt County					
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0
Union Justice Court	258	53	1,894	2,205	1,775
Lander County					
Argenta Justice Court	62	9	220	291	248
Austin Justice Court	0	0	83	83	4
Pershing County					
Lake Justice Court	99	10	198 <sup>a</sup>	307	261
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>					
Eureka County					
Beowawe Justice Court	11	2	40	53	37
Eureka Justice Court	19	4	43	66	52
Lincoln County					
Meadow Valley Justice Court	34	5	39	78	63
Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court	14	1	52	67	52
White Pine County					
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	62 <sup>i</sup>	8 <sup>i</sup>	66 <sup>i</sup>	136 <sup>i</sup>	121 <sup>i</sup>
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>					
Clark County					
Boulder Justice Court	74	19	45	138	111
Bunkerville Justice Court	6	1	9	16	30
Goodsprings Justice Court	97	23	114	234	154
Henderson Justice Court	1,686	165	876	2,727	1,534 <sup>i</sup>
Las Vegas Justice Court	19,080	1,339	27,046	47,465	NR
Laughlin Justice Court	374	30	848	1,252	880
Mesquite Justice Court	138	11	25	174	132
Moapa Justice Court	26	0	16	42	26
Moapa Valley Justice Court	22	23	50	95	102
North Las Vegas Justice Court	2,233	145	1,060	3,438	1,158
Searchlight Justice Court	27 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	18 <sup>i</sup>	46 <sup>i</sup>	34 <sup>i</sup>
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>					
Douglas County					
East Fork Justice Court	250	30	702	982	1,361
Tahoe Justice Court	266	16	406	688	776
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,017</b>	<b>2,845</b>	<b>46,545</b>	<b>80,407</b>	<b>25,832</b>

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in total s.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 18 for details.

**Table A7. Civil Caseload Processed by Justice Courts in Nevada,  
Fiscal Year 2006**

	Civil Cases Filed							Total Civil Cases	Total Cases Disposed
	General Civil	Small Claims	Landlord/Tenant (formerly Summary Evictions)	Requests for Domestic Violence Protection Orders (TPOs)	Request for Protection Orders (non-domestic violence)	Re-Opened Cases			
<b>First Judicial District</b>									
Carson City									
Carson City Justice Court	2,254	601	1,235	361	376	7	4,834	2,977	
Storey County									
Virginia City Justice Court	11	26	21	14	4	0	76	61	
<b>Second Judicial District</b>									
Washoe County									
Incline Village Justice Court	45	71	73	8	18	1	216	186	
Reno Justice Court	10,929	2,241	3,135	<sup>a</sup>	570	0	16,875	9,699	
Sparks Justice Court	1,894	1,103	1,900	<sup>a</sup>	181	0	5,078	3,501	
Wadsworth Justice Court	3	7	15	1	8	0	34	12	
<b>Third Judicial District</b>									
Churchill County									
New River Justice Court	304	452	303	185	161	4	1,409	860	
Lyon County									
Canal Justice Court	183	227	392	73	69	0	944	742	
Dayton Justice Court	121	158	306	53	66	12	716	620	
Mason Valley Justice Court	138	178	30	89	14	6	455	350	
Smith Valley Justice Court	24	10	5	13	7	0	59	14	
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>									
Elko County									
Carlisle Justice Court	18	129	5	<sup>a</sup>	1	0	153	53	
East Line Justice Court	54	106	3	6	1	NR	170	87	
Elko Justice Court	564	773	143	2	39	3	1,524	1,030	
Jackpot Justice Court	4	27	11	2	0	0	44	118	
Wells Justice Court	14	28	8	11	7	1	69	35	
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>									
Esmeralda County									
Esmeralda Justice Court	1	11	3	10	2	0	27	17	
Mineral County									
Hawthorne Justice Court	47	75	77	25	4	0	228	NR	
Nye County									
Beatty Justice Court	1	16	2	9	6	1	35	36	
Pahrump Justice Court	307	233	250	367	253	5	1,415	1,151	
Tonopah Justice Court	96	54	9	22	20	1	202	169	
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>									
Humboldt County									
McDermitt Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Paradise Valley Justice Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Union Justice Court	268	262	17	98	62	2	709	586	
Lander County									
Argenta Justice Court	70	324	0	11	3	3	411	323	
Austin Justice Court	0	0	0	1	4	0	5	2	
Pershing County									
Lake Justice Court	52	172	32	38	1	0	295	152	
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>									
Eureka County									
Beowawe Justice Court	8	8	0	2	1	0	19	14	
Eureka Justice Court	12	11	1	10	6	0	40	21	
Lincoln County									
Meadow Valley Justice Court	17	36	3	3	1	0	60	27	
Pahrangat Valley Justice Court	9	19	4	9	4	0	45	10	
White Pine County									
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	154 <sup>i</sup>	65 <sup>i</sup>	24 <sup>i</sup>	46 <sup>i</sup>	24 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	313 <sup>i</sup>	250 <sup>i</sup>	
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	0	7	0	0	0	0	7	8	
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>									
Clark County									
Boulder Justice Court	62	41	48	29	85	0	265	208	
Bunkerville Justice Court	0	0	2	1	2	1	6	5	
Goodsprings Justice Court	12	13	13	5	10	0	53	29	
Henderson Justice Court	608	680	2,541	7	370	128	4,334	2,825 <sup>i</sup>	
Las Vegas Justice Court	44,453	5,925	24,769	<sup>a</sup>	1,609	2,667	79,423	57,702	
Laughlin Justice Court	58	155	71	46	26	0	356	226	
Mesquite Justice Court	23	169	54	17	66	0	329	281	
Moapa Justice Court	0	2	2	5	3	0	12	6	
Moapa Valley Justice Court	9	11	6	14	35	0	75	32	
North Las Vegas Justice Court	270	665	2,397	<sup>a</sup>	143	4	3,479	2,830	
Searchlight Justice Court	0 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>	1 <sup>i</sup>	3 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	7 <sup>i</sup>	6 <sup>i</sup>	
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>									
Douglas County									
East Fork Justice Court	357	278	127	128	127	0	1,017	881	
Tahoe Justice Court	48	45	34	16	16	12	171	165	
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,502</b>	<b>15,417</b>	<b>38,072</b>	<b>1,740</b>	<b>4,405</b>	<b>2,858</b>	<b>125,994</b>	<b>88,307</b>	

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Temporary protective orders are processed and recorded at the District Court level.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 18 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**Table A8. District Court Juvenile Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed,**  
Fiscal Year 2006.

Juvenile Traffic

	Cases	Charges	Violations Disposed
<b>First Judicial District</b>			
Carson City District Court	850	1,171	1,158
Storey County District Court	12	12	12
<b>Second Judicial District</b>			
Washoe County District Court	NR	NR	NR
<b>Third Judicial District</b>			
Churchill County District Court	229	311	304
Lyon County District Court	1,209	1,594	1,382
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>			
Elko County District Court	NR	646	725
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>			
Esmeralda County District Court	14	15	4
Mineral County District Court	9	12	7
Nye County District Court	205	230	221
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>			
Humboldt County District Court	188	188	179
Lander County District Court	90	120	132
Pershing County District Court	0	0	0
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>			
Eureka County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
Lincoln County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
White Pine County District Court	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>a</i>
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>			
Clark County District Court	1,454	2,277	NR
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>			
Douglas County District Court	438	519	526
<b>Total</b>	4,698	7,095	4,644

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Juvenile traffic violations handled and reported by Justice Courts.

*Italic indicates numbers that are incomplete or estimated.*

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.

**Table A9. Justice Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed,**  
Fiscal Year 2006.

	Traffic and Parking Violations									
	Juvenile Traffic		Adult Traffic		Adult Parking		Total Filed		Total Disposed	
	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Charges	
<b>First Judicial District</b>										
Carson City										
Carson City Justice Court	NJ	NJ	14,916	20,768 <sup>a</sup>	93	117 <sup>a</sup>	15,009	20,885 <sup>a</sup>	19,900	
Storey County										
Virginia City Justice Court	NJ	NJ	368	622	16	16	384	638	514	
<b>Second Judicial District</b>										
Washoe County										
Incline Village Justice Court	56	82	NR	1,524	NR	756	56	2,362	2,172	
Reno Justice Court	NJ	NJ	NR	42,078	NJ	NJ	NR	42,078	27,122	
Sparks Justice Court	NJ	NJ	5,730	9,077	0	0	5,730	9,077	7,319	
Wadsworth Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,819	4,980	1	3	3,820	4,983	4,355	
<b>Third Judicial District</b>										
Churchill County										
New River Justice Court	NJ	NJ	4,598	5,883	2	2	4,600	5,885	5,804	
Lyon County										
Canal Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,309	1,848	0	0	1,309	1,848	1,627	
Dayton Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,960	5,488	0	0	3,960	5,488	5,189	
Mason Valley Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,453	1,775	0	0	1,453	1,775	1,749	
Smith Valley Justice Court	NJ	NJ	184	221	0	0	184	221	214	
<b>Fourth Judicial District</b>										
Elko County										
Carlton Justice Court	NJ	NJ	404	404	0	0	404	404	326	
East Line Justice Court	NJ	NJ	744	785	NR	NR	744	785	621	
Elko Justice Court	NJ	NJ	6,340	8,151	7	7	6,347	8,158	5,084	
Jackpot Justice Court	NJ	NJ	NR	767	NR	NR	NR	767	895	
Wells Justice Court	NJ	NJ	4,592	5,690	0	0	4,592	5,690	5,900	
<b>Fifth Judicial District</b>										
Esmeralda County										
Esmeralda Justice Court	NJ	NJ	4,070	4,494	0	0	4,070	4,494	3,388	
Mineral County										
Hawthorne Justice Court	NJ	NJ	7,167	7,167 <sup>b</sup>	NR	NR	7,167	7,167 <sup>b</sup>	5,822	
Nye County										
Beatty Justice Court	NJ	NJ	2,733	3,192	1	1	2,734	3,193	2,963	
Pahrump Justice Court	NJ	NJ	2,749	4,145	2	4	2,751	4,149	3,876	
Tonopah Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,924	2,412	0	5	1,924	2,417	2,277	
<b>Sixth Judicial District</b>										
Humboldt County										
McDermitt Justice Court	NJ	NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Paradise Valley Justice Court	NJ	NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Union Justice Court	NJ	NJ	6,661	8,011	21	25	6,682	8,036	6,756	
Lander County										
Argenta Justice Court	NJ	NJ	3,163	4,063	5	7	3,168	4,070	3,890	
Austin Justice Court	NJ	NJ	1,079	1,392	0	0	1,079	1,392	1,265	
Pershing County										
Lake Justice Court	NJ	NJ	894	1,173 <sup>a</sup>	4	4 <sup>a</sup>	898	1,177 <sup>a</sup>	1,052	
<b>Seventh Judicial District</b>										
Eureka County										
Beowawe Justice Court	8	13	1,160	1,394	0	0	1,168	1,407	1,238	
Eureka Justice Court	2	2	902	1,055	0	1	904	1,058	954	
Lincoln County										
Meadow Valley Justice Court	6	6	1,172	1,453	0	0	1,178	1,459	1,060	
Pahrnanagat Valley Justice Court	3	13	3,388	4,099	0	0	3,391	4,112	3,938	
White Pine County										
Baker (No. 3) Justice Court	NJ	NJ	NR	16 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	NR	16 <sup>i</sup>	16	
Ely (No. 1) Justice Court	85 <sup>i</sup>	101 <sup>i</sup>	2,235 <sup>i</sup>	2,664 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	0 <sup>i</sup>	2,320 <sup>i</sup>	2,765 <sup>i</sup>	2,331	
Lund (No. 2) Justice Court	NJ	NJ	74	84	0	0	74	84	90	
<b>Eighth Judicial District</b>										
Clark County										
Boulder Justice Court	2	2	838	941	0	0	840	943	675	
Bunkerville Justice Court	4	25	298	947	4	4	306	976	945	
Goodsprings Justice Court	NJ	NJ	12,521	13,330	3	3	12,524	13,333	5,726	
Henderson Justice Court	85	180	2,121	5,192	8	38	2,214	5,410	5,376	
Las Vegas Justice Court	5,254	5,254	238,619	242,778	5,136	5,136	249,009	253,168	219,525	
Laughlin Justice Court	9	67	7,869	8,278	NR	996	7,878	9,341	7,646	
Mesquite Justice Court	NJ	NJ	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	
Moapa Justice Court	48	53	3,166	3,665	2	2	3,216	3,720	3,762	
Moapa Valley Justice Court	NR	NR	417	563	11	33	428	596	573	
North Las Vegas Justice Court	8	20	351	890	3	6	362	916	948	
Searchlight Justice Court	16 <sup>i</sup>	17 <sup>i</sup>	4,581 <sup>i</sup>	4,581 <sup>b,i</sup>	5 <sup>i</sup>	5 <sup>b</sup>	4,602 <sup>i</sup>	4,603 <sup>i</sup>	6,726	
<b>Ninth Judicial District</b>										
Douglas County										
East Fork Justice Court	NJ	NJ	NR	9,964	NR	12	NR	9,976	7,642	
Tahoe Justice Court	NJ	NJ	NR	4,517	NR	284	NR	4,801	3,709	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,586</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>358,569</b>	<b>452,521</b>	<b>5,324</b>	<b>7,467</b>	<b>369,479</b>	<b>465,823</b>	<b>392,960</b>	

NR Not Reported

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data included in totals.

<sup>b</sup> Court reported traffic numbers by defendants; could not report by charges.

<sup>i</sup> Data are incomplete. See Table 18 for details.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division

**table A10. Municipal Court Traffic Cases Filed and Disposed**  
Fiscal Year 2006

Court	Traffic and Parking Violations								
	Juvenile		Adult		Parking		Total Filed		Total Disposed
	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Cases	Charges	Charges
<b>Boulder Municipal Court</b>	95	140	2,689	3,937	45	52	2,829	4,129	3,889
<b>Caliente Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	NR	57	0	0	NR	57	57
<b>Carlisle Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	113	113	96	97	209	210	166
<b>Carson City Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>
<b>Elko Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	1,316	1,509	48	49	1,364	1,558	1,151
<b>Ely Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	254	324	8	8	262	332	399
<b>Fallon Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	761	1,094	10	12	771	1,106	822
<b>Fernley Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	1,771	2,471	0	0	1,771	2,471	2,615
<b>Henderson Municipal Court</b>	709	991	16,414	25,224	636	686	17,759	26,901	25,870
<b>Las Vegas Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	NR	141,411	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	NR	141,411	123,294
<b>Mesquite Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	1,550	2,122	19	19	1,569	2,141	2,021
<b>North Las Vegas Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	24,485	40,731	2,667	3,425	27,152	44,156	39,507
<b>Reno Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	32,578	43,734	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	32,578	43,734	40,366
<b>Sparks Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	7,022	11,571	245	289	7,267	11,860	13,038
<b>Wells Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	138	179	0	0	138	179	184
<b>West Wendover Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	219	568	NR	0	219	568	404
<b>Yerington Municipal Court</b>	NJ	NJ	197	243	8	8	205	251	212
<b>Total</b>	804	1,131	89,507	275,288	3,782	4,645	94,093	281,064	253,995

NJ Not within court's jurisdiction.

NR Not reported.

<sup>a</sup> Municipal Court data combined with Justice Court data (Table A6) for the consolidated municipality of Carson City.

<sup>b</sup> Parking violations or civil cases are handled administratively by the city.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Planning & Analysis Division.



# Glossary of Case Types

## Appellate Case Types

**Original Proceeding** – A case brought before an appellate court under its exclusive, original jurisdiction.

**Bar Matters** – A subcategory of original proceeding cases concerning a dispute over the discipline of an individual admitted to practice law, disputes over an individual's application for admission to practice law, and other various issues.

**Judicial Discipline** – A subcategory of original proceeding cases concerning a dispute over alleged improprieties by a judge. The Supreme Court has sole jurisdiction in hearing the appeal of a decision made by the Judicial Discipline Commission.

**Other Original Proceeding** – A subcategory of original proceeding cases involving an issue of unknown specificity or an original proceedings case not attributable to one of the previously defined categories, such as petitions concerning tax review and election disputes.

## Criminal Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted by defendants in District Court when the court receives notification of a bind over from a lower court or receives the formal charging document from the District Attorney's Office. Felony and gross misdemeanor filings in Justice Court are counted by defendants when the court receives the formal charging document, generally a complaint or citation from the District Attorney's Office or law enforcement agency. Misdemeanor and traffic filings in Justice and Municipal Courts are counted when the court receives the citation or complaint. Misdemeanors are counted by defendants and traffic violations are counted by charges.

**Felony** – Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of a state law that is punishable by death or imprisonment in the state prison.

**Gross Misdemeanor** – Cases heard at District Court with preliminary hearings at Justice Court for defendants charged with a violation of state law that involves an offense that does not fit within the definitions of felony, misdemeanor, or traffic case.

**Misdemeanor, Non-Traffic** – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for defendants charged with the violation of a state law or local ordinance that involves an offense punishable by fine or incarceration or both for no more than \$1,000 or 6 months, respectively.

**Misdemeanor, Traffic** – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for moving and non-moving violations of traffic law or ordinance that do not pertain to parking of a motor vehicle. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

**Parking Violations** – Cases heard at Justice and Municipal Courts for parking of a motor vehicle in violation of a traffic law or ordinance. (Counted by charges, not defendants.)

**Appeal from Lower Court** – Cases heard at District Court in which the court reviews the judgment of a Justice or Municipal Court for a criminal case.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A criminal case is considered disposed when final adjudication for that case occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as date of sentencing, date of adjudication, or date charges are disposed, whichever occurs last.

**Criminal Cases Disposed** – For District Court, cases are disposed when transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion or before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, jury trial, and other manner of disposition. For Justice and Municipal Courts, cases are dismissed before or during preliminary hearing, guilty plea before or during preliminary hearing, waiver of preliminary hearing, bound over to District Court, bail forfeiture, transferred before or during trial, dismissed after diversion, dismissed before trial, guilty plea before trial, bench trial, and jury trial.

## Civil Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when a petition or complaint is filed with the court or the court receives a motion and a court case number is assigned.

**Real Property** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with ownership or rights in real property excluding construction defect or negligence; includes landlord and tenant disputes, title to property, condemnation, eminent domain, and other real property cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Construction Defect** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with alleged defects in construction.

**Negligence Torts** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with an alleged omission to perform an act or use care to perform an act that causes personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death; includes auto, medical/dental, premises liability, and other negligence tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Torts** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with an alleged injury or wrong committed either against a person or person's property by a party who either did or did not do something they were not or were supposed to do; includes product liability, intentional misconduct, employment, and other tort cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Probate** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with the probate of a will or estate of a deceased person; includes summary administration, general administration, special administration, set asides, probate trusts, and other probate cases that do not fit in one of the above categories.

**Other Civil** – Cases heard at District Court that include breach of contract, civil petition for judicial review, appeals from lower courts, civil writs, and all other civil matters that do not fit in one of the above categories or case types.

**General Civil** – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money or damages where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$10,000.



# Glossary of Case Types

**Small Claims** – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with recovery of money where the amount does not exceed the limit of \$5,000.

**Summary Eviction** – Cases heard at Justice Court that deal with the exclusion of tenant for default of rent or specific categories of unlawful detainer.

**Temporary Protective Orders** – Cases heard at Justice Court for temporary order for protection. TPOs are counted as either domestic violence protective orders or stalking and harassment protective orders.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A civil case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs. For statistical purposes, final adjudication is defined as the date judgment is entered.

**Civil Cases Disposed** – For all trial courts, civil cases are disposed by voluntary dismissal, transfer before or during trial, involuntary dismissal, judgment on arbitration award, stipulated dismissal, stipulated judgment, default judgment, and adjudication on the merits by motion to dismiss, summary judgment, bench trial, and jury trial. Additionally, in Justice Courts, temporary protective orders are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transferred before or during trial, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial or hearing, decision with hearing, and decision with trial.

## Family Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when the court receives an originating petition, request, or complaint.

**Marriage Dissolution** – Cases heard at District Court that involve either divorce or annulment.

**Support/Custody** – Cases heard at District Court that request maintenance of a spouse or child or a determination with regard to control, care, or maintenance of a child. Both parties must reside in Nevada.

**Uniform Interstate Family Support Act** – Cases heard at District Court that require maintenance of a spouse or child when one party resides in another state.

**Adoptions** – Cases heard at District Court that involve a request for the establishment of a new, permanent relationship of parent and child between persons not having that relationship naturally.

**Paternity** – Cases heard at District Court that involve paternity issues as defined by Nevada statute.

**Termination of Parental Rights** – Cases heard at District Court that involve termination of parental rights.

**Miscellaneous Domestic Relations Case** – Cases heard at District Court that involve a domestic relations issue that does not fit in one of the other family case types. Examples include name change or permission to marry.

**Guardianship** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with guardianship issues involving adults, minors, or trusts.

**Mental Health Cases** – Cases heard at District Court that deal with legal determination as to whether an individual is mentally ill or incompetent and should be placed or remain under care, custody, or treatment.

**Domestic Violence Protective Orders** – Cases heard at District Court for temporary order for protection when sufficient evidence exists that there has been domestic violence or the threat exists.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A family case is considered disposed when the decision is handed down and (or) the final order is filed, whichever occurs first.

**Family Cases Disposed** – For District Courts, family cases are disposed by involuntary dismissal, transfer, voluntary dismissal, decision without trial, decision with hearing, and decision with trial. Additionally, guardianship cases can be disposed for a person by death, reaching the age of majority, or restoration of competency; and for property by an order terminating guardianship or final accounting.

## Juvenile Case Types

**When to Count Filings:** Cases are counted when the court receives the petition or citation.

**Criminal-Type Juvenile Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court that include a behavior that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

**Status Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court that includes petitions involving a juvenile in need of supervision. The juvenile may require guidance, treatment, or rehabilitation because of habitual truancy, habitual disobedience, being ungovernable, or behavior that is injurious or dangerous to others.

**Child Abuse/Neglect Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court where the behavior of someone other than the juvenile causes the court to concern itself with the well being of the juvenile. Adults charged with abuse or neglect are counted in the appropriate criminal category.

**Miscellaneous Petitions** – Cases heard at District Court that involve juvenile cases that do not fit in one of the other juvenile categories. An example is Petition for Emancipation.

**Informal Hearing** – Any hearing by a judicial officer in which no formal charge has been filed with the court.

**Detention/Extradition Hearing** – Any hearing requesting a juvenile to be held in detention, or continued to be held in detention, pending further court action within the same or another jurisdiction.

**Protective Custody Hearing** – Any hearing held to determine if the risk to a child is great enough to warrant removal, or continued removal, from their custodian.

**When to Count Dispositions:** A juvenile case is considered disposed when adjudication of the matter occurs.

**Juvenile Cases Disposed** – For District Courts, juvenile cases are disposed by transfer, certification to adult, dismissal, plea or admission, statutory termination, wardship termination, judgment satisfied, and bench trial.