

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
NEVADA JUDICIARY

FISCAL YEAR 2022



FIAT JUSTITIA

Let Justice Be Done



Supreme Court of Nevada

Left to Right: Justice Lidia S. Stiglich, Justice Abbi Silver, Justice Kristina Pickering, Chief Justice Ron D. Parraguirre, Justice Douglas Herndon, Associate Chief Justice James W. Hardesty, and Justice Elissa Cadish



Court of Appeals

Left to Right: Judge Bonnie Bulla, Judge Jerome T. Tao, and Chief Judge Michael P. Gibbons

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Detailed Data Appendix Tables

Available on the Supreme Court Website

WWW.NVCOURTS.GOV, then select “ABOUT THE JUDICIARY.”



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Front Cover: Lexington Arch - Great Basin National Park (© Mindful Images)

Back Cover: Lake Tahoe - Night Sky (© Mckenzie Woodcock)



NEVADA: “THE SILVER STATE”

Between the years 1859 and 1900, several different mining districts were established throughout the state, with silver becoming the primary precious metal mined. Starting with the Comstock Lode in Virginia City, the richest silver deposit in American history, and later with discoveries in Tonopah, Eureka, and Pioche, helped Nevada become known as “The Silver State.”

Nevada still ranks among the highest producers of precious metals, including silver. Each year millions of ounces of minerals are mined throughout the State. These minerals include gold, silver, gypsum, lithium, and copper. They are then used in modern electronics, solar energy production, and even water purification.

A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE



The courts have always been a place where society's issues have been addressed. However, the number of issues seem to be ever-increasing, and the time within which to respond to these issues is shortening. Still, the Judiciary strives to be a place where the public can be confident that their issues will be heard and steadily decided, with the appropriate application of justice and mercy, consistent with the Constitution and Nevada Law. For instance, the courts have dealt for years with addictions and substance abuse, through the implementation of specialty courts to help address the underlying issues associated with addictions. Now, the heroin and fentanyl epidemics have required the Judiciary to be more agile and diverse in their Specialty Court programs to address these emerging issues.

These past few years have presented challenges for the Nevada Judiciary unlike any seen in recent history. As Chief Justice, I have had the privilege of working alongside the extraordinary judges, administrators, court clerks, and technology professionals who have helped the Judiciary emerge from the pandemic with an increasing sense of duty and responsibility to help those who visit our courts, whether remotely or in-person, and find resolution to the issues that have impacted them. We are only now beginning to discover the extent of the issues associated with the pandemic and how they are impacting Nevadans, such as the loss of employment, the ending of government assistance programs, and increases in domestic matters. In turn, those affected are relying on the courts to address these hardships in the form of eviction and divorce proceedings, abuse and neglect filings, or applications for protective orders. In an effort to meet these unprecedented challenges, the Nevada Judiciary continues to create ways to ensure access to justice through e-filing and remote appearances in hearings by video.

With the number of issues ever increasing and the time to address them decreasing, the Judiciary needs consistency in its ability to respond. Much of the Judiciary's challenge has been the limitations in its fiscal structure. The Nevada Judiciary is heavily reliant on the assessment of fees from traffic and criminal matters, which fluctuate significantly and make the agility required to address continually emerging issues difficult to accomplish. We are forced to be reactive to these challenges, though we prefer to be proactive, even with respect to foreseeable issues, such as the eviction crisis we face today. In an attempt to address these fiscal challenges, the Nevada Judiciary is proposing a Judicial Branch Budget Reform Act.

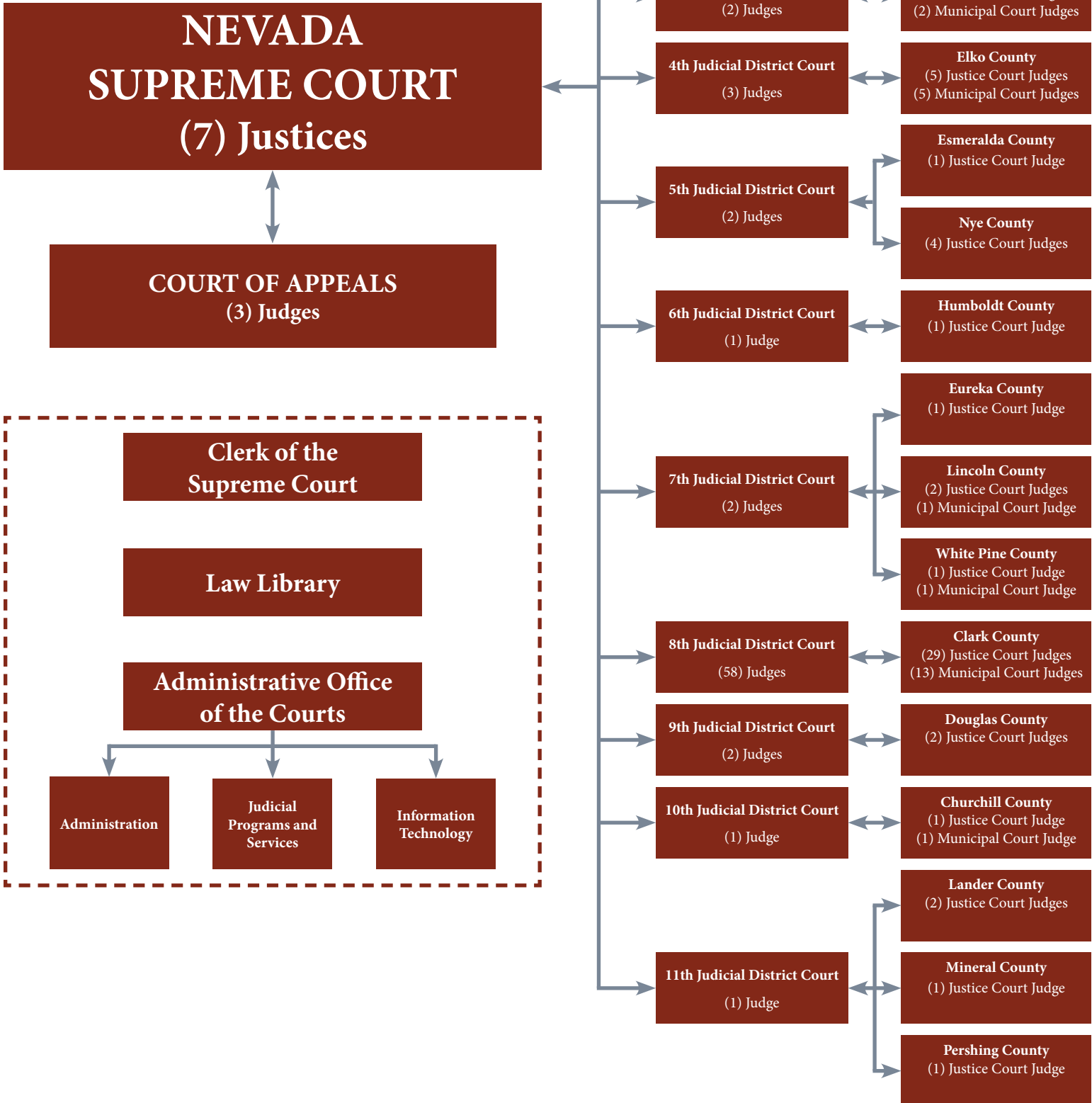
The Judicial Branch Budget Reform Act will allow the Judiciary to have consistent funding, which in turn will provide the flexibility necessary to allocate resources when and where needed. Coupled with the Nevada Judiciary's Strategic Plan, a stable funding source will also allow us to address the future challenges in a proactive way, before they become emergent. Simply put, the Judicial Branch Budget Reform Act is critical to the future of the Nevada Judiciary and the implementation of its Strategic Plan.

Even with the inconsistent funding and the number of issues that have arisen in such a short time, the Nevada Judiciary has proven to be resourceful and resilient. I recognize that the successes over the course of the last year, and documented in this Annual Report, would not have been realized without the ingenuity and dedication displayed by the extraordinary judges, administrators, clerks, technology professionals, and countless other professionals working within the Nevada Judiciary. I also offer my appreciation to the citizens of this great State for the trust and responsibility you place in us. Thank you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Parraguirre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ron D. Parraguirre
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Nevada

NEVADA COURT SYSTEM STRUCTURE





ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE JAMES HARDESTY **AN INNOVATIVE PURVEYOR OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE**

Following years of dedication, leadership, and administering justice in the Nevada Supreme Court, Associate Chief Justice James W. Hardesty will be leaving his seat in January 2023. A native Nevadan – born and raised in Reno – Justice Hardesty throughout his tenure has established himself as a respected leader, and his past endeavors reflect this.

“During Justice Hardesty’s tenure on the Nevada Supreme Court, he spearheaded the effort to amend the Nevada Constitution to create a Court of Appeals, which had been needed for decades in order to reduce the Court’s backlog and render justice to litigants in a timely fashion. He oversaw the complicated negotiations to fund and construct a new courthouse in Las Vegas to accommodate the newly established Court of Appeals,” said Governor Steve Sisolak. “All Nevadans have benefitted from Justice Hardesty’s keen judicial intellect, work ethic, and dedication to access to justice. I will miss serving on the Board of Pardons with him – I learned so much from him each meeting,” continued Sisolak.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting in 1970 from the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). As an undergraduate, he was elected President of the student body, foreshadowing his life and career to come.

Following his UNR collegiate education, Justice Hardesty graduated from the University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law in 1975 and immediately returned to Reno/Sparks to enter private practice. From 1975 to 1998, Justice Hardesty remained in private practice and received the highest rating of AV by Martindale-Hubbell, a nationally recognized publication of lawyer ratings.

“Nevada is undoubtedly a better place because of Justice Hardesty’s decades of service,” said Assemblyman Steve Yeager.

In the fall of 1998, Justice Hardesty was elected District Court Judge for the Second Judicial District in Washoe County, Nevada, and 3 years later in 2001 was elected by his fellow judges to serve as Chief Judge, a position to which he was re-elected in November 2003. Justice Hardesty also served as President of the Nevada District Judges Association in 2003.

In November 2004, his reputation as a litigator and leader became known across the Silver State when he was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court, where he was re-elected without opposition in 2010 and again in 2016.

“In addition to his impressive judicial accomplishments, I enjoyed working with him on major criminal justice reform legislation – he brought a unique combination of tremendous intelligence, unyielding hard work, and refreshing common sense and practicality to the effort,” Yeager continued.

Justice Hardesty went on to serve as Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court in 2009, 2015, and 2021, before announcing his retirement.

Justice Hardesty’s Chamber Administrator Michele Shull stated, “I have had the pleasure of working for Justice Hardesty for almost 20 years. While it is true that his dedication to the legal profession is unwavering, he is one of the most sincere, compassionate, and inspirational people I know. I feel tremendously lucky to have worked for Justice Hardesty, and I know each of the law clerks who spent time in our chamber benefited from his guidance, mentorship, and support.”

Justice Hardesty has always recognized the importance of continued education and has been invited as a guest lecturer to speak with students and practicing lawyers at the National Judicial College, State Bar of Nevada, Professional Education Systems, Inc., the Association of Defense Counsel, and the Nevada Justice Association. In addition, he has presented annual lectures to the media law students at the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism, UNR.

Highly esteemed and respected for his strong leadership, Justice Hardesty was unanimously nominated by his colleagues on the Supreme Court for the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence in 2013, a nomination that was also supported by the Chief Judges of the Second and Eighth Judicial District Courts.

“Jim and I have served together on this Court for nearly two decades. Not only is he a treasured friend and colleague, he is one of the most dedicated, enthusiastic, and driven members this Court has known. Justice Hardesty’s efforts toward access to justice are widely recognized and much appreciated, and I anticipate he will remain actively involved beyond his retirement. I know his family will enjoy having a little more of his time,” shared Chief Justice Ron D. Parraguirre.



A portrait of Justice Abbi Silver, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a black judicial robe. She is smiling and standing in front of a dark wood panel wall. To her left is a portion of the American flag. The text "CELEBRATED JUSTICE ABBI SILVER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom of the image.

CELEBRATED JUSTICE ABBI SILVER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Justice Abbi Silver has paved roads, broken ground, and set standards for the many who follow in her footsteps. More than five years ago, Justice Silver was sworn in as the first female Chief Judge of the Nevada Court of Appeals – a culmination years in the making. In addition, she is the only judge in the history of Nevada to be elected to every court level in Nevada’s court system, having been elected to the bench six times by the citizens of Nevada.

“Justice Abbi Silver has made a tremendous impact on our state in her decades of service. Justice Silver served Nevadans as the Presiding Justice on the first all-female panel of the Nevada Supreme Court, and in her almost 4 years on this court, she authored approximately 60 opinions,” said Governor Steve Sisolak. “Justice Silver’s entrenched sense of justice is evident throughout her opinions. Her time in the trenches as a fierce and ethical prosecutor provided a unique and valuable perspective to her tenure on the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. I enjoyed serving with her on the Board of Pardons – her patience and expertise were extremely helpful for me,” Sisolak continued.

Raised in Boulder City, Nevada, and a 1986 University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate, Justice Silver earned her Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles in 1989.

After passing both Nevada and California state bars exams and working as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Earle White, Jr., an Eighth Judicial District Court Judge, she joined the Clark County District Attorney's Office and was ultimately assigned as the Chief Deputy District Attorney of the Special Victims Unit.

During her almost 14-year tenure at the District Attorney's office, Justice Silver tried more than one hundred jury trials, specializing in capital murder, sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, and stalking cases. She professionally prosecuted and secured convictions on behalf of entertainers, casino moguls, and state politicians.

She was elected to the Las Vegas Municipal Court in 2003, the Las Vegas Justice Court in 2006, and the Eighth Judicial District Court in 2008, and then again in 2014. On the heels of enormous judicial accomplishments, former Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval appointed Justice Silver as one of three judges to the inaugural Court of Appeals of Nevada in December of 2014, where she became a Chief Judge 3 years later.

In early 2017, the Nevada Supreme Court appointed Judge Silver to the Nevada Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics. Justice Abbi Silver was elected to the Nevada Supreme Court in November 2018. Then in January of 2022, Justice Silver became the Presiding Justice for the Northern Nevada Panel of the Supreme Court of Nevada before her announced retirement.

"Justice Silver has been a trailblazer – one of the first women team chiefs in the Clark County District Attorney's office, the first female Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and as the first jurist to serve on every court level in our State. But that doesn't capture her legacy – it is a legacy of genuineness, strength, accomplishment, commitment, and excellence. We will miss Justice Silver on the bench, but we are grateful for all she has done for our courts and our justice system," said Barbara E. Buckley, former Speaker of the Nevada Assembly and current Executive Director of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada.

Justice Silver has earned several prestigious awards throughout her career as a judge, including: 2021 Judicial Award of Excellence from the Clark County Bar Association; 2020 Women of Distinction Award-Glass Ceiling from the National Association of Women Business Owners Southern Nevada Chapter; 2020 Women of Impact Award from Nevada Women's Lobby; 2020 Southwestern University School of Law Alumni Award; 2018 Society of Advocates Trailblazer Award from UNLV Boyd School of Law for Excellence in Leadership and Mentorship; and 2016 Legacy of Justice Award from UNLV Boyd School of Law Student Bar Association.

"Justice Silver has enjoyed a long and distinguished legal career. The fact that she has been elected and appointed to every level of court in the Nevada Judiciary is a testament to her legal talent and judicial acumen. Abbi has been a wonderful colleague and I look forward to hearing of her adventures as she embarks on this new chapter of her life," Chief Justice Ron D. Parraguirre said of Justice Silver's career.



L to R: Justice Abbi Silver, Justice Kristina Pickering, Justice Lidia S. Stiglich, and Justice Elissa Cadish

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY

STRATEGIES AND KEY OBJECTIVES

1. SIMPLIFY AND IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO NEVADA COURTS WHILE CONTINUING TO ENSURE THAT ALL PARTIES ARE TREATED FAIRLY.

Key Objectives

- Develop and maintain guided interviews and common forms that are compatible with the statewide e-filing platform and are accepted by all trial courts in Nevada.
- Improve access to the courts for all users in the state by:
 1. Broadening and streamlining the availability of self-help resources through a single statewide portal.
 2. Improving accessibility to the courts for self-represented litigants.
 3. Creating educational content in electronic and hard copy formats for court users.
- Implement a sustainable outreach plan to engage and educate the public about the purposes and responsibilities of the courts.
- Increase uniformity across the state in local court rules.

2. SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AND USER-FOCUSED INNOVATIONS TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF COURT SERVICES.

Key Objectives

- Provide statewide availability of a modern and automated case management system. Implement a no-fee, publicly accessible, online tool to view statewide case information.
- Provide uniform access to information and reliable data for statistical analysis through the creation of a data repository.
- Implement a statewide e-filing system.
- Move from performance measurement to performance management statewide where performance data becomes integrated with court management practices.
- Develop and produce informative and meaningful performance management reports for use by the Judiciary as a whole.
- Conduct a feasibility study for the AOC to provide responsive and effective technical assistance to trial courts.

3. DEVELOP METHODS FOR NEVADA COURTS TO BE SUPPORTED BY SUSTAINABLE FUNDING AND APPROPRIATE JUDICIAL RESOURCES.

Key Objectives

- Consider and develop alternatives aimed at reducing or eliminating reliance on fees and administrative assessments. This will include studying possible paths to ensuring greater equity in court funding, possibly through increased or full funding by the State.
- Conduct a sustainability study and propose amendments to the current compensation and classification structure for the Appellate Courts.
- Conduct a feasibility study for the AOC to offer responsive and effective assistance to trial courts through:
 1. Centralized assistance in recruitment and staffing standards.
 2. Staff Development/Leadership Training.
 3. Training for new court administrators.
- Obtain additional, sustainable funding for specialty courts.
- Assess the sufficiency of staffing of judicial officers and court employees.

MISSION STATEMENT:

THE NEVADA JUDICIARY, AS AN INDEPENDENT BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT, PROVIDES FAIR, EFFICIENT, AND TIMELY JUSTICE FOR ALL.

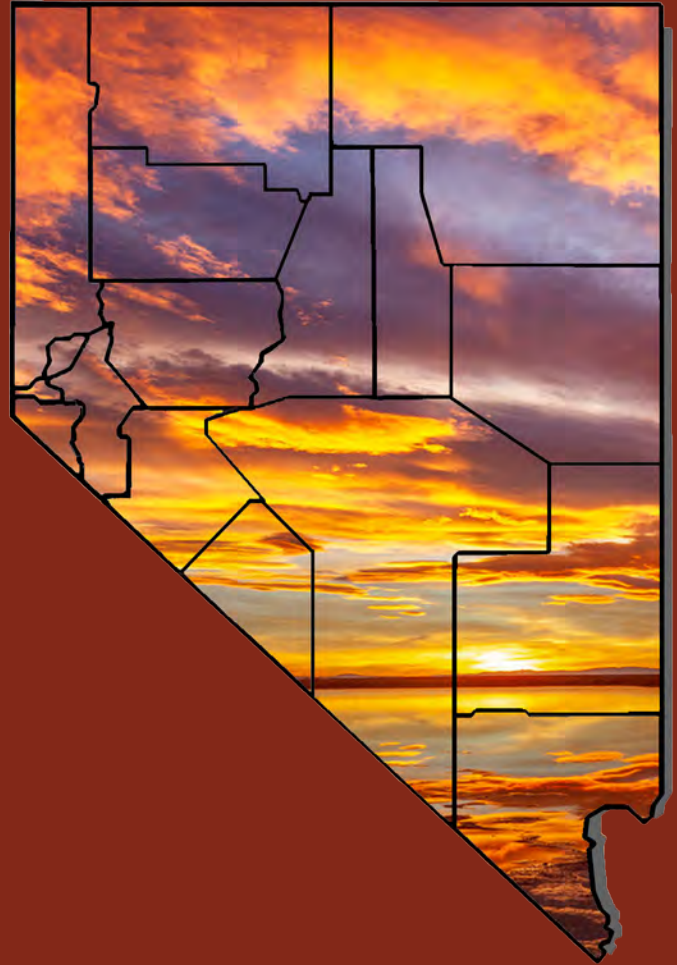
THE JUDICIARY IMPLEMENTS SUSTAINABLE AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE.

The Strategic Campaign for the Nevada Judiciary is a 3-year campaign for long-term change. This campaign builds on existing achievements at both the state and local levels and initiates additional strategic change. As the third branch of state government, the Nevada Judiciary is dedicated to a culture of constant improvement of the critical services it provides to those who depend on the courts. The key objectives in this campaign are guided by three primary strategies that were identified by Nevada’s court leaders through a combination of surveys, individual interviews, and focus groups.

Numerous courts throughout Nevada have developed mission statements to guide their work. Common themes include user focus; prompt, fair, accessible, and impartial justice; judicial independence and integrity; innovation; collaboration with court users; and preservation of public trust and confidence. The new mission statement for the Nevada Judiciary builds upon these local statements.

These three strategies focus on achieving an overarching goal: the pursuit of a culture of constant improvement of the Nevada Judiciary through the adoption of user-focused practices. Within each strategy, several key objectives have been identified.

The Nevada Judiciary has incorporated many national innovations with respect to case management, performance measures,¹ and court administration.² The approach is a flexible, open-ended way to engage judges and staff around the issues faced by the Branch and permits loosely coupled systems to focus on substantial and sustained planning.



1 See the National Center for State Court’s Courtools at Courtools.org

2 See the National Center for State Courts Principles for Judicial Administration at nsc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ctadmin/id/1891/

JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDG

FACILITATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE NEVADA JUDICIARY TH

FOSTERING A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE THREE BRANCHES OF NEVADA G

REDUCE THE JUDICIARY'S RELIANCE ON EXISTING STATE SERVICES & TECHNOLOGY BY IMPLEMENTING COURT-MANAGED CENTRAL SERVICES

- MODEL LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU'S OPERATIONS BY MOVING TO INTERNAL CENTRAL SERVICES, INCLUDING FINANCE AND PAYROLL
- IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS THROUGH AN AOC SUPPORTED WEBSITE

SECURE APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR PERSONNEL, SUPPORTING ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS OF THE JUDICIARY AS A SEPARATE & CO-EQUAL BRANCH

- REAFFIRM THE JUDICIARY'S CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY TO MANAGE ITS OWN BUDGET
- SUBMIT BUDGETS WITH APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY PERSONNEL FUNDING
- UTILIZE APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION SCHEDULES
- SECURE NEW FULL-TIME POSITIONS FOR NECESSARY STAFFING LEVELS IN FISCAL YEAR 2024



BUDGET REFORM ACT OF 2023

ROUGH PREDICTABLE FUNDING, EVEN IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

GOVERNMENT WHILE MAINTAINING FOCUS ON CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF POWERS

ESTABLISH THE JUDICIAL FUND TO ENSURE THE COURT MAINTAINS APPROPRIATE RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT ITS CORE CONSTITUTIONAL FUNCTIONS

- EXPAND ON PRECEDENT SET DURING THE 2020 SPECIAL AND 81ST SESSIONS, PROVIDING NON-REVERSION TO THE JUDICIARY TO STABILIZE FUNDING UNCERTAINTIES
- STABILIZE THE JUDICIAL BUDGET BY AMENDING NRS TO MODEL THE LEGISLATURE'S BUDGETING AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN RESERVES
- SUSTAIN THE COURTS BY AMENDING NRS TO MAKE HOLDING AND EMERGENCY ACCOUNTS
- PROVIDE CERTAINTY AND PREDICTABILITY IN MANAGING THE JUDICIARY'S BUDGET BY REDUCING RELIANCE ON ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT REVENUE FROM TRAFFIC CITATIONS



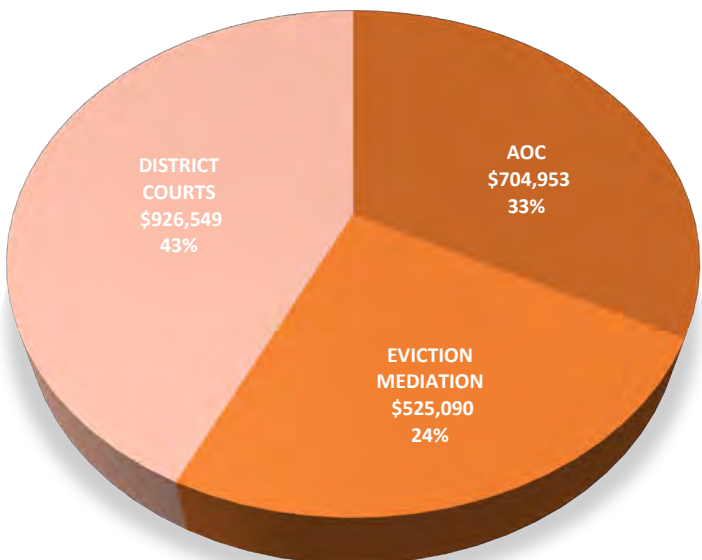


Photo: Las Vegas Strip in Clark County (© McKenzie Woodcock)

COURT INNOVATIONS THROUGH FEDERAL FUNDING

THE JUDICIARY CONTINUALLY STRIVES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF AVAILABLE FUNDING RESOURCES

NEVADA JUDICIARY COVID RECOVERY FUNDED PROPOSALS



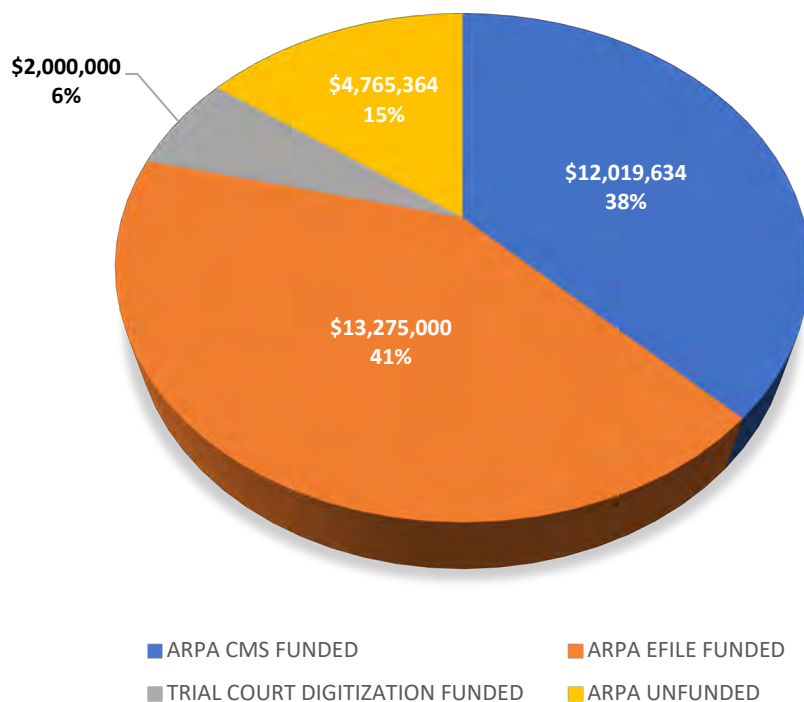
The Nevada Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), presented funding proposals for projects that qualified for federal funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Coronavirus Recovery Fund (CRF). The funding proposals were sent to Nevada’s Governor for approval. The proposals approved included local court needs related to upgrades for infrastructure, COVID-19 testing, and filtration systems, as well as for video conferencing systems and software. Similarly, proposals approved for the AOC included COVID testing, video conference systems and software, Senior Judge coverage, and upgrades to infrastructure. Additional funding proposals that were approved included funding for eviction mediation assistance programs to help resolve the extensive backlog of eviction matters created by the economic downturn associated with the pandemic and the resultant eviction moratorium.

FEDERAL ARPA FUNDING

During March 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law. In addition, ARPA included a Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF), which is a funding source for local government agencies to support recovery efforts associated with the pandemic. The Nevada Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), presented funding proposals for projects that qualified for funding under ARPA and requested additional funding on behalf of local courts under SLFRF. The proposals were submitted to the Governor for approval. The Governor approved funding for a statewide AOC-sponsored case management system, including a data repository and jury automation. Funding was also approved for a statewide e-filing solution for trial courts; this project also included a statewide case management solution for civil traffic matters (promulgated by Assembly Bill 116 of the 2021 Legislative Session) and a centralized public information platform for self-represented litigants. Additionally, SLFRF funding proposals were made on behalf of local trial courts for digital record conversion and document scanning, as well as law library and courtroom modernization.

While most of the proposals submitted by the Supreme Court were approved and funded, several significant project proposals presented to the Governor were not approved for funding. These proposals included an AOC-managed hybrid training facility, audit software for Judicial Branch Auditors, and replacement of the Supreme Court's case management system. The training facility proposal includes emergency operations and education video production rooms, configurable training space, and computer training lab. The space will allow for in-person, remote, and hybrid training of judicial officers and employees. It will also be available to the public as a free community resource. The auditing software proposal will replace an end-of-life audit system and improve our auditor's ability to perform judicial branch audits across the Judiciary. The Supreme Court case management system proposal allows for the replacement of an antiquated system that does not have many of the features and electronic capabilities of modern systems utilized by appellate courts across the nation.

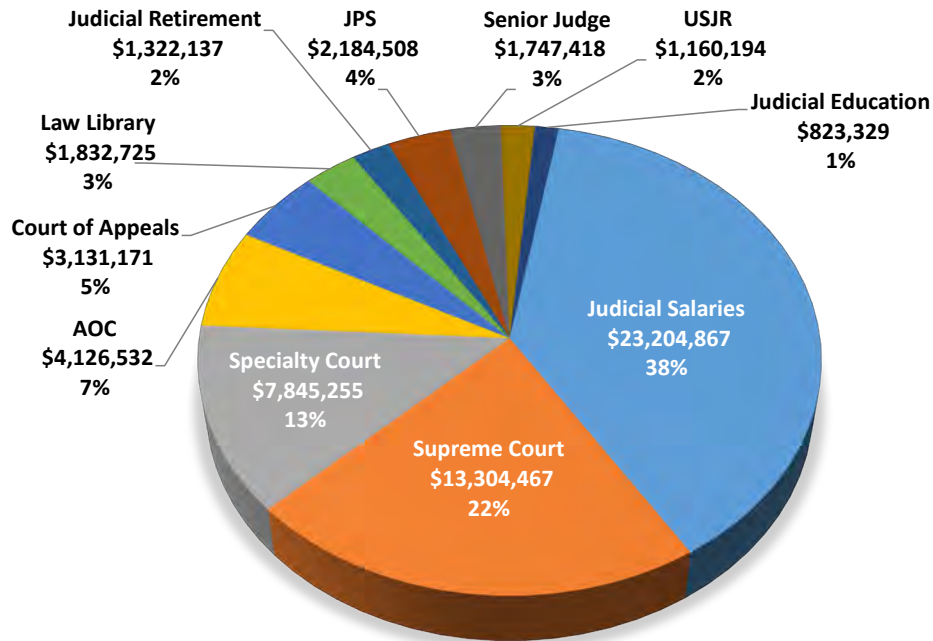
FUNDED AND UNFUNDED AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT PROPOSALS



FISCAL YEAR 2022 STATE FUNDED JUDICIAL EXPENSES

- APPELLATE COURTS' BUDGETS ARE LESS THAN 1% OF STATE GENERAL FUND
- TOTAL APPELLATE COURT EXPENSES \$60.7 MILLION
 - GENERAL FUND \$43.7 MILLION
 - ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENTS \$9.9 MILLION
 - FEDERAL GRANT \$665,204
 - OTHER \$3.1 MILLION
 - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SPENT \$1.1 MILLION
 - CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDS (CRF) SPENT \$2.1 MILLION
 - ▶ CRF SPENT ON EVICTION MEDIATIONS \$525,090
 - ▶ CRF SPENT ON LOCAL PROJECTS \$926,549

FISCAL YEAR 2022 COURT EXPENSE BY PROGRAM



FISCAL YEAR 2022 COURT EXPENSES BY FUND SOURCE

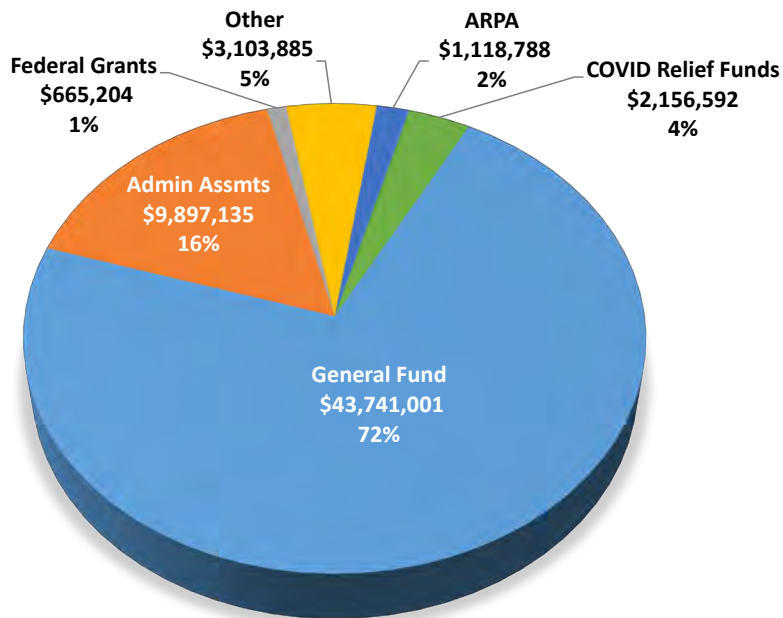




Photo: Lamoille Canyon in Elko County (© Mindful Images)

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

THE SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA UTILIZES COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS IN NEVADA'S JUDICIAL SYSTEM

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada is comprised of representatives from all levels of courts from across the state and assists the Supreme Court in developing policies for the improvement of the court system.

During fiscal year 2022, the Council approved revisions to its governing bylaws, which modernized the language, revised state and regional council duties, filled gaps in election and attendance procedures, and modified committee make-up and duties.

The Council also approved revisions to the Specialty Court Funding Guidelines and Bylaws to ensure the continued guidance for new and existing Specialty Court programs.

In addition, revisions were approved to the Uniform System of Judicial Records (USJR) dictionary and worksheets to incorporate changes from Assembly Bill 116, approved during the 2021 Legislative Session. The changes made will assist courts in collecting statistics to accurately measure the workload of Nevada courts.

The Judicial Council continues to meet and provide support for the Nevada courts in the pursuit of constant improvement during these ever-changing times.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE ADJUDICATION OF WATER LAW CASES

The Nevada Supreme Court convened the Commission to Study the Adjudication of Water Law Cases on March 9, 2021. Under the Chairmanship of Associate Chief Justice James Hardesty, and with the help of subject-matter experts across the State, the Commission is implementing ways to improve education, specialization, timeliness, and efficiency of Nevada’s district courts in handling water law cases.

COMMITTEE TO STUDY RULES GOVERNING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND NEVADA SHORT TRIALS

The Committee to Study the Rules Governing Alternative Dispute Resolution and Nevada Short Trials convened on March 24, 2022, to consider and make comprehensive amendments to the Rules. Under the chairmanship of Associate Chief Justice James Hardesty, the Committee reviewed and revised the Nevada Arbitration Rules, the Nevada Mediation Rules, and the Nevada Short Trials Rules with the objective of simplifying processes and improving access to these proceedings. The Committee made final recommendations and proposed rule changes to the Nevada Supreme Court on September 22, 2022.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE STATUTES AND RULES GOVERNING THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Commission to Study the Statutes and Rules Governing the Commission on Judicial Discipline and Update the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct arose from Assembly Bill 43 during the 2021 Legislative Session.

Tasked with studying and making recommendations regarding the applicable statutes and rules, the Commission is chaired by Chief Justice Ron Parraguirre and vice-chaired by Associate Chief Justice James Hardesty. In alignment with the goals of the Nevada Judiciary, the Commission strives to maintain public trust and confidence by ensuring transparency and accountability in its efforts as it works to complete its mission of presenting its report and recommendations to the Nevada Legislature during the 2023 Legislative Session.

COMMISSION TO STUDY BEST PRACTICES FOR VIRTUAL ADVOCACY

The Commission to Study Best Practices for Virtual Advocacy in Nevada’s Courts was convened under Administrative Docket (ADKT) 0581 in response to a request from Nevada’s Judiciary and the State Bar of Nevada. The request asked for the continued use of remote/virtual options to conduct court business in the post-pandemic world. Under the chairmanship of Associate Chief Justice James Hardesty and Justice Douglas Herndon, the Commission is charged with developing rules to govern the unified use of remote technology in Nevada’s courts. As the Commission continues its work in preparation of making its recommendations to the Nevada Supreme Court, its focus remains on ensuring access, fairness, and efficiency for court users.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION

Unbundling to Promote Pro Bono

The Access to Justice Commission recognized a need to engage pro bono attorneys in complex family law cases in areas of Nevada outside of Clark County. The goal is to allow limited scope representation so cases are shorter in duration and commitment. The Commission named an Unbundling Committee to address this need. As the Committee began to draft a rule for unbundling, it became apparent that there were some difficulties with unbundling, particularly in attorney/client matters. In response, the Commission developed ADKT 0597 to help meet the need, while also addressing areas for improvement. Justice Elissa Cadish and Justice Kristina Pickering submitted the ADKT on behalf of the Commission and the court held a public hearing on August 2, 2022. The petition proceeded, and the court filed an order on August 16, 2022, allowing for a pilot program for unbundled cases that is set to expire November 1, 2024, if not extended sooner.

Legal Kiosks in Libraries Grant

The Commission assisted Nevada Legal Services in hiring a project manager for the Legal Kiosks in Libraries Program Grant. Susan Myers was formerly with Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and is knowledgeable about the opportunities and challenges faced by self-represented litigants in gaining access to the courts. All of Nevada's legal aid providers helped to develop the \$479,875 grant, which was funded by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division, and supported by the Commission. The initiative's initial focus is to design a self-help system with seniors in mind, and it will leverage the Legal Services Corporation Public Library Initiative, which has a curriculum for how librarians can guide patrons to legal self-help resources.

Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts

Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) is a critical component of funding legal aid in Nevada. Of the \$35 million that funds Nevada legal aid, nearly \$5 million comes from IOLTA.

Making a Customary Practice Official

At the request of the Commission, the court filed ADKT 0479 on May 23, 2022. It proposed a change to Supreme Court Rule 216 regarding client interest bearing trust accounts. For some time, it has been customary for the Nevada Bar Foundation to allocate 96 percent of IOLTA funds after reasonable expenses to Nevada legal aid providers approved by the Commission. ADKT 0479 formalizes this practice and memorializes the intention formerly described as "substantially all." A public hearing was held June 7, 2022, and the order was filed June 22, 2022.

Thanking IOLTA Banks

After COVID affected outreach to Nevada IOLTA financial institutions, the Commission renewed its Thank You Plan. The first phase took place in Reno, where Nevada Bar Foundation trustees and Commission staff met with bank representatives and invited some to attend the Northern Nevada Legal Aid (NNLA, formerly Washoe Legal Services) luncheon to see the good IOLTA does in Nevada communities. NNLA honored Associate Chief Justice James Hardesty at the luncheon for his years of service for access to justice and dedication to the IOLTA program. He used part of his speaking time to thank IOLTA banks. First Independent Bank and Meadows Bank were both sponsors of the NNLA lunch, further investing in legal help for those in need.

One successful outcome of the Reno Thank You Trip: Heritage Bank became a Leadership Institution, increasing their IOLTA interest rate. Heritage Bank is a top ten IOLTA financial institution. This change will increase IOLTA grants, and continues a trend of local, state, and regionally based banks committing to the Nevada IOLTA program with premium interest rates. IOLTA bank outreach will continue later in 2022 in Las Vegas with a hybrid of in-person visits and invitations to legal aid offices and events.

Supporting IOLTA Banks

A key concern for the Nevada Bankers Association (NBA) with IOLTA in Nevada is that bank regulators have not allowed Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) credit for IOLTA, which has been awarded in some other regions. CRA is part of how banks demonstrate they are investing in low-to-moderate income communities. As a member of the National Association of IOLTA Programs (NAIP), the Nevada Bar Foundation has joined other signatories in support of making IOLTA eligible for CRA credit. During the current bank regulator proposed rulemaking comment period, the Nevada Bar Foundation again submitted a letter of support. Commission Co-Chair Associate Chief Justice James Hardesty has been instrumental in leading the effort to gain IOLTA eligibility for CRA credit.



Photo: International Car Forest in Esmeralda County (© McKenzie Woodcock)

JUDICIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) is part of a federal initiative to support the handling of child abuse and neglect cases. CIP helps stabilize children’s lives by getting them into safe, stable, and permanent homes in a timely manner consistent with the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA) of 1997. Timely permanency is a continuous goal and challenge for the State of Nevada, as well as many other states across the country. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada has experienced a significant backlog of cases regarding Termination of Parental Rights (TPR). Nevada’s rural jurisdictions have been severely impacted due to the existing TPR Backlog relating to the COVID-19 restrictions, limited resources, and staff turnover. Although this issue is heightened in the rural judicial districts, Nevada’s larger judicial districts are also working to overcome the backlog created during the pandemic.

Over the past year, multiple court stakeholders have met and engaged in meaningful discussions regarding these backlogs. To enrich this discussion, and to reach a broad audience from around the state with perspectives on TPR timeliness barriers and solutions, CIP implemented a focus group and survey with key stakeholders.

The TPR focus group and surveys found that additional help is needed. Accordingly, CIP is awarding funds to the rural and urban judicial districts through Timely Permanency and TPR Grants. In each judicial district, the Community Improvement Council (CIC) is encouraged to collaborate and strategize how these funds could be used to help improve timely permanency in their jurisdiction. Upon application approval, funds will be released to the respective courts.

It is CIP’s priority to provide support to all judicial district courts in order to improve caseflow and reach timelier permanency. In the interim of working towards establishing permanent solutions, we can help provide relief to our dependency community and, most importantly, children and families.

THE SUPREME COURT LAW LIBRARY

The Supreme Court Law Library continues to develop services and collections, recognizing the court’s goal to facilitate prompt and accessible legal research assistance to all Nevadans. The library’s collection now includes a substantial number of eBooks and most reference questions (69 percent) come through phone, email, and chat reference services. To further facilitate remote access, there are nearly 50 legal research guides, or LibGuides, designed to assist patrons with common legal research queries, available on the law library’s website at <https://nvcourts.gov/lawlibrary>.

In addition to providing legal reference support, the Nevada Supreme Court Law Library was awarded a \$20,000 American Rescue Plan grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to translate forms into Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. These forms will be available through the State of Nevada Self-Help Center website at <https://selfhelp.nvcourts.gov>.

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM

The Certified Court Interpreter Program oversees the credentialing of court interpreters, supports the Certified Court Interpreter Advisory Committee, and works to expand access to justice for individuals with limited English language proficiency (LEP).

The Certified Court Interpreters Advisory Committee revised the State Court Administrator’s Guidelines and set the minimum interpreter compensation rate to \$49 an hour, which was previously \$25. Also, continuing education requirements were modified from 36 to 26 credits every 3 years. The Committee also addressed the need to update the Nevada Judiciary’s Language Access Plan.

Due to financial constraints, the Program canceled the Spring 2022 in-person workshop. This has been a reoccurring issue, so the Program entered a contract to provide the State with an online virtual workshop at no cost to the Program. This will help get new candidates into the Program without having to wait on greater participation. The Program is requesting budget enhancements in the next legislative session to provide funding to create continuing education and skill building opportunities for interpreters at a nominal fee, thereby allowing the Program to build towards being more sustainable in the years to come. Funding was also requested to avoid raising the oral exam fee and maintain a reasonable cost for prospective interpreters throughout all of Nevada. The Program requests funding from the State to assist with training new personnel on language access and testing of bilingual staff to provide direct language assistance to LEP persons.

THE AOC GRANT PROGRAM

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Grant Program offers funding for Nevada trial courts of up to \$50,000. The Uniform System of Judicial Records (USJR) grant stream funds projects designed to improve a court’s ability to provide accurate data while the Trial Court Improvement (TCI) grant funds projects for court technology, security, and language access needs. During the fiscal year 2022 grant cycle, the Nevada Supreme Court’s Executive Committee approved grant funding for the following projects.

SUMMARY OF AOC GRANT REVIEW BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL

COURT REQUESTS	PROJECT SUMMARY	REQUESTED	AWARDED
TCI Funding Stream (\$107,445 available)			
Pahrump Justice Court Dept. A	Upgrading of recording equipment and evidence cart.	\$44,320	\$34,610
Pahrump Justice Court Dept. B	Upgrading of recording equipment and evidence cart.	\$50,627	\$40,830
Tenth Judicial District Court	Upgrading of audio and visual recording equipment.	\$34,767	\$32,005
USJR Funding Stream (\$50,000 available)			
Beatty Justice Court	Upgrading of audio and visual recording equipment.	\$50,000	\$40,585

NEVADA

APPELLATE COURTS SUMMARY



Nevada Demographics

Population: 3,158,539 ^a
 Geographic Size: 109,781 sq. mi. ^b
 Population Density: 29/sq. mi.
 Most Populous County: Clark
^a Source: Nevada State Demographer
^b Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Nevada Appellate Courts Caseload Filings and Dispositions Fiscal Year 2022

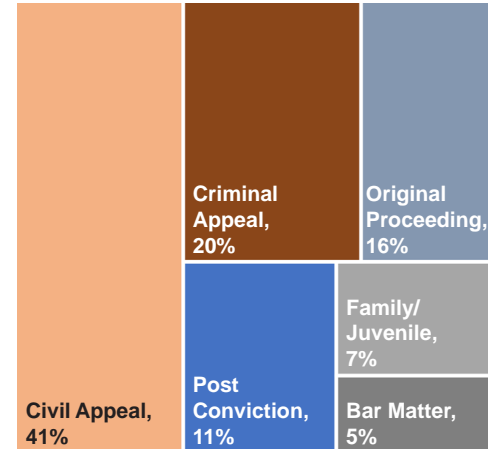
Court	Incoming Cases ^a	Disposed Cases					Pending Cases
		By Opinion ^b	By Order	Other	Total	Rate	
Supreme Court ^c	1,921	111	1,204	1	1,316	101%	1,036
Court of Appeals	619	6	649	8	663	107%	86

^a Court of Appeals cases are assigned from original filings to the Supreme Court.
^b May include single and consolidated cases disposed per curiam or by authored opinion.
^c Disposed Cases and Rate do not include Court of Appeals assigned cases.
 Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

QUICK FACTS:

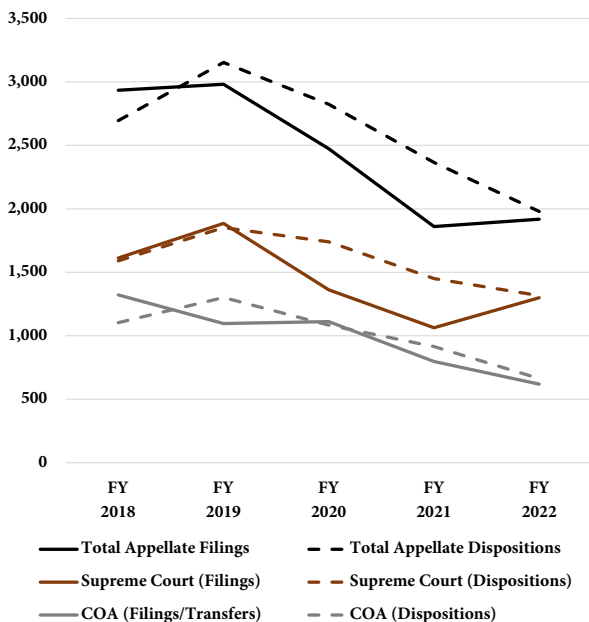
- 7** SUPREME COURT JUSTICES
- 3** COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES
- 2** SUPREME COURT PANELS

Supreme Court Case Distribution

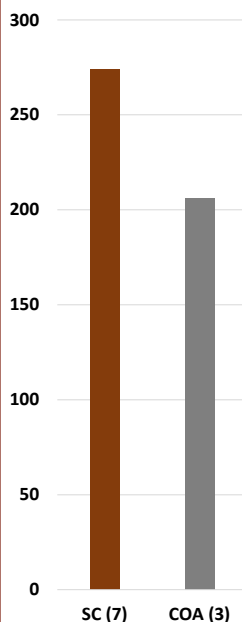


Juvenile and family statistics are a subset of civil filings for the Supreme Court. They are detailed here for comparison with the trial court statistics.

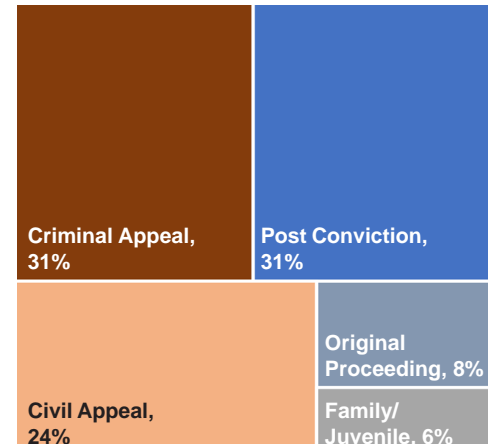
Nevada Appellate Courts Filings and Dispositions Fiscal Years 2018-22



Incoming Cases per Judicial Position



Court of Appeals Case Distribution





Nevada Supreme Court Appeals Filed by Judicial District, Fiscal Years 2018-22

Civil Appeals Filed ^a

District	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
First	41	34	32	43	26
Second	117	115	100	81	66
Third	8	9	10	6	9
Fourth	3	4	2	10	3
Fifth	7	17	4	11	3
Sixth	3	6	3	5	3
Seventh	11	12	13	4	9
Eighth	860	993	766	590	744
Ninth	10	14	11	11	9
Tenth	4	1	2	1	0
Eleventh	13	11	4	9	9
Total ^b	1,077	1,216	947	771	881

Criminal Appeals Filed

District	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
First	123	54	28	22	17
Second	156	188	157	95	91
Third	12	15	10	9	8
Fourth	24	21	18	17	25
Fifth	48	50	39	15	12
Sixth	6	15	6	7	16
Seventh	17	36	14	10	4
Eighth	813	694	658	387	364
Ninth	4	11	11	7	23
Tenth	5	5	1	6	5
Eleventh	18	34	13	12	4
Total ^b	1,226	1,123	955	587	569

Total Appeals Filed

District	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
First	164	88	60	65	43
Second	273	303	257	176	157
Third	20	24	20	15	17
Fourth	27	25	20	27	28
Fifth	55	67	43	26	15
Sixth	9	21	9	12	19
Seventh	28	48	27	14	13
Eighth	1,673	1,687	1,424	977	1,108
Ninth	14	25	22	18	32
Tenth	9	6	3	7	5
Eleventh	31	45	17	21	13
Total ^b	2,303	2,339	1,902	1,358	1,450

^a Family and juvenile cases are included in civil appeals.

^b Total may not equal appeals in Table 2 due to appeals filed that are not associated with specific judicial districts.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.

Nevada Appellate Courts Cases Filed and Disposed Fiscal Years 2018-22 ^a

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Supreme Court Cases Filed					
Bar Matters	83	97	78	85	84
Appeals	2,312	2,345	1,904	1,361	1,452
Original Proceedings	445	404	351	271	287
Other	4	0	0	6	1
Reinstated	12	20	28	25	18
(COA) Petition for Review Filed	79	116	113	112	79
Total Cases Filed	2,935	2,982	2,474	1,860	1,921

Cases Filed With Supreme Court & Assigned to Court of Appeals

Cases Assigned to COA	1,322	1,093 ^b	1,111 ^b	796 ^b	619 ^b
Cases Reinstated	0	3	1	1	0
Total Cases Filed With COA	1,322	1,096	1,112	797	619

Appellate Courts Cases Disposed

Supreme Court Cases Disposed					
By Opinions ^c	104	68	78	90	111
By Order	1,413	1,730	1,559	1,253	1,122
Other	0	0	0	3	1
Petition for Review Denied	74	54	103	105	82

Court of Appeals Cases Disposed

By Opinions ^c	8	13	4	4	6
By Order	1,086	1,266	1,077	906	649
Other	10	22	3	5	8
Total Cases Disposed	2,695	3,153	2,824	2,366	1,979

Pending Cases

Supreme Court Pending ^a	1,776	1,822	1,440	1,046	1,036
Court of Appeals Pending ^a	425	220	248	130	86
Total Appeal Cases Pending ^a	2,201	2,042	1,688	1,176	1,122

Authored Opinions

SC Authored Opinions	104	65	78	90	111
COA Authored Opinions	8	10	4	3	6
Total Authored Opinions	112	75	82	93	117

^a Pending cases vary year to year due in part to case reclassification, limited transfers to the Court of Appeals, and reinstated cases.

^b Includes limited transfers to the Court of Appeals.

^c May include single and consolidated cases disposed per curiam or by authored opinion.

Source: Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Office.



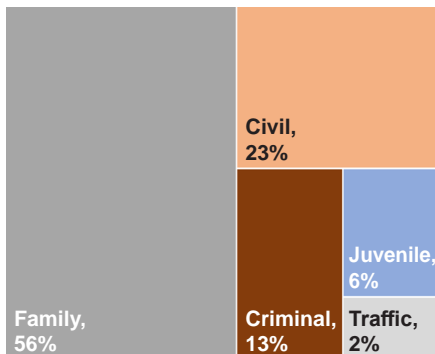
NEVADA TRIAL COURT OVERVIEW

NEVADA JUDICIARY OVERVIEW

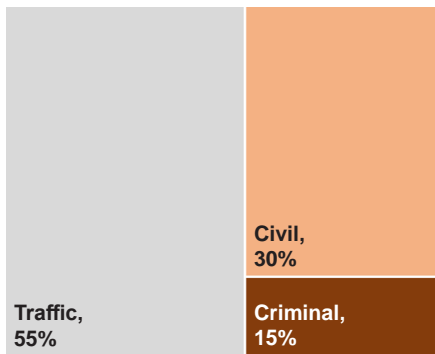
Significant effort is made to ensure the accurate and consistent reporting of cases across Nevada; however, local jurisdictional rules, processes, and prosecutorial filing practices affect some courts' ability to consistently report data similar to other courts. These differences affect comparisons between jurisdictions. For instance, in some justice courts, district attorneys will file two complaints for a single incident: one for misdemeanors and another for the felony and gross misdemeanor charges to potentially be bound over to district court. In other jurisdictions, all charges may be filed in a single complaint. Accordingly, comparing criminal caseloads across jurisdictions should be done carefully, taking local rules and practices into consideration. Where known, the data presented is footnoted to identify differences in consistent reporting of information. Detailed statistics and data that inform these summary tables can be found on the Nevada Supreme Court website at www.nvcourts.gov, then select "About the Judiciary."

Trial Court Case Distributions, Fiscal Year 2022

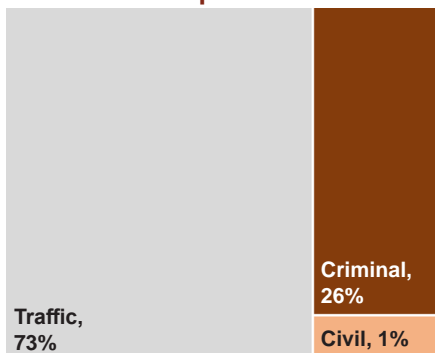
District Courts



Justice Courts



Municipal Courts



Reported Statewide Trial Court Totals, Fiscal Years 2020-22

Caseload Filings ^a

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^b	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic	Traffic and Parking ^c
District	2022	17,392	30,565	72,743	7,777	128,477	2,093
	2021	16,157	32,118	68,104 ^r	5,856	122,235 ^r	2,059
	2020	14,977	30,501	70,037 ^r	9,412	124,927 ^r	2,099
Justice	2022	65,905	129,974	NJ	NJ	195,879	236,027
	2021	71,745	98,471	NJ	NJ	170,216	253,266
	2020	85,280	100,322	NJ	NJ	185,602	282,322
Municipal	2022	36,924	1,164	NJ	NJ	38,088	104,762
	2021	41,981	1,041	NJ	NJ	43,022	101,530
	2020	45,900	960	NJ	NJ	46,860	118,428
Total	2022	120,221	161,703	72,743	7,777	362,444	342,882
	2021	129,883	131,630	68,104 ^r	5,856	335,473 ^r	356,855
	2020	146,157	131,783	70,037 ^r	9,412	357,389 ^r	402,849

Dispositions ^a

Court	Fiscal Year	Criminal ^b	Civil	Family	Juvenile	Total Non-Traffic	Traffic and Parking ^c
District	2022	16,200	31,732	68,874	13,277	130,083	1,949
	2021	15,220	29,375	61,418 ^r	9,908	115,921 ^r	2,058
	2020	14,692	28,519	73,886 ^r	9,213	126,310 ^r	1,754
Justice	2022	68,520	122,845	NJ	NJ	191,365	142,178 ⁱ
	2021	70,010	92,736	NJ	NJ	162,746	202,802
	2020	74,118	105,281	NJ	NJ	179,399	278,573
Municipal	2022	39,573	1,213	NJ	NJ	40,786	98,931
	2021	36,684	1,057	NJ	NJ	37,741	97,559
	2020	41,741	929	NJ	NJ	42,670	110,939
Total	2022	124,293	155,790	68,874	13,277	362,234	243,058 ⁱ
	2021	121,914	123,168	61,418 ^r	9,908	316,408 ^r	302,419
	2020	130,551	134,729	73,886 ^r	9,213	348,379 ^r	391,266

NJ Not within court jurisdiction.

^a Reopened cases are included in totals.

^b Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, non-traffic misdemeanor, and criminal appeals (District Court only) filings and are counted by defendant.

^c Traffic and Parking includes juvenile traffic statistics.

ⁱ Justice Court traffic dispositions incomplete. See appendix table A5 for further information.

^r Data totals revised from previous annual reports due to updated or improved data collection.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Nevada Trial Court Caseload Filings and Dispositions Fiscal Year 2022

Court	Criminal Filings ^a	Civil Filings	Family Filings ^b	Juvenile Filings ^b	Reopened Cases	Total Cases	Total Disposed	Disp. Rate	Traffic and Parking ^c		
									Cases	Disposed	Disp. Rate
District Courts	11,887	27,800	54,045	7,003	27,742	128,477	130,083	101%	2,093	1,949	93%
Justice Courts	60,599	117,680	-	-	17,600	195,879	191,365	98%	236,027	142,178 ⁱ	60%
Municipal Courts	34,212	946	-	-	2,930	38,088	40,786	107%	104,762	98,931	94%
TOTAL	106,698	146,426	54,045	7,003	48,272	362,444	362,234	100%	342,882	243,058ⁱ	71%

^a Criminal includes felony, gross misdemeanor, non-traffic misdemeanor, and criminal appeal (District Court only) filings.

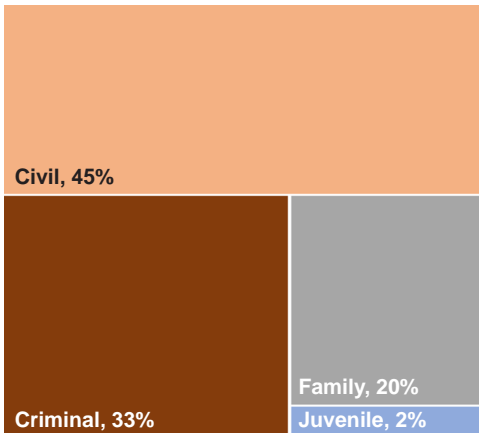
^b Family and juvenile case types only heard in District Courts.

^c Traffic and Parking includes juvenile traffic statistics.

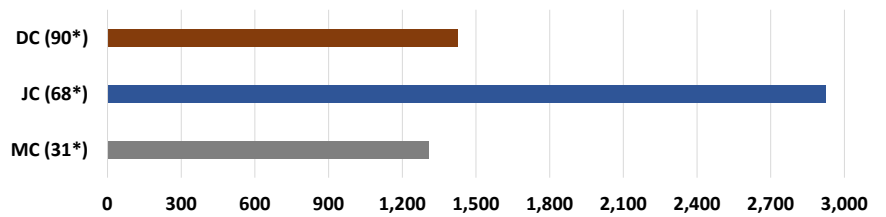
ⁱ Justice Court traffic dispositions incomplete. See appendix table A5 for further information.

Source: Uniform System for Judicial Records, Nevada AOC, Research and Statistics Unit.

Non-Traffic Case Distribution

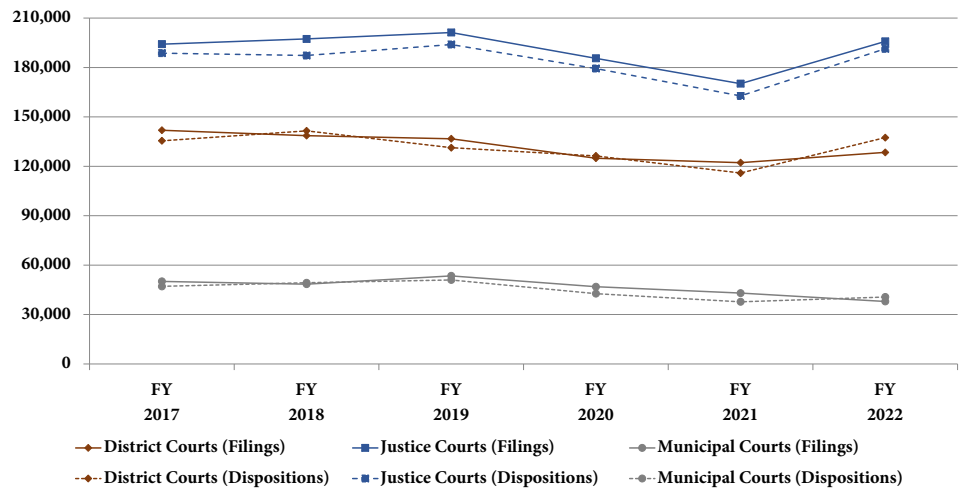


Non-Traffic Total Cases Per Judge



*Authorized positions as of June 30, 2022. Actual filed positions were used to calculate reported magnitudes. For greater detail see footnotes on Table 1 in the Annual Report Appendix file at nvcourts.gov.

Nevada Trial Court Non-Traffic Filings and Dispositions Fiscal Years 2017-22



Nevada Demographics

Population: 3,158,539^a
 Geographic Size: 109,781 sq. mi.^b
 Population Density: 29/sq. mi.
 Most Populous Township: Las Vegas

^a Source: Nevada State Demographer

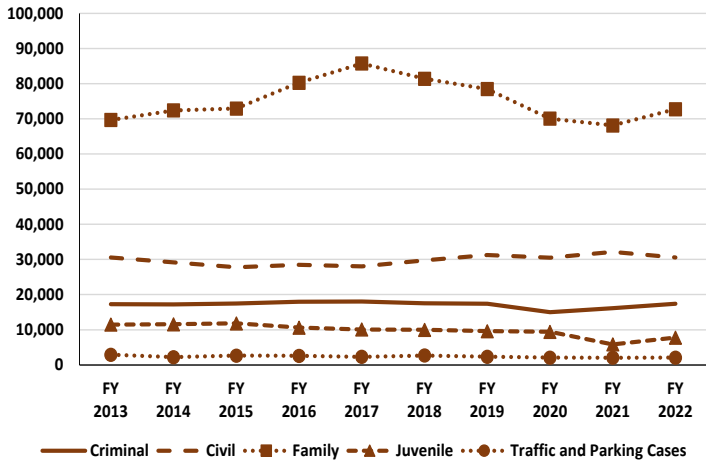
^b Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**QUICK
FACTS**

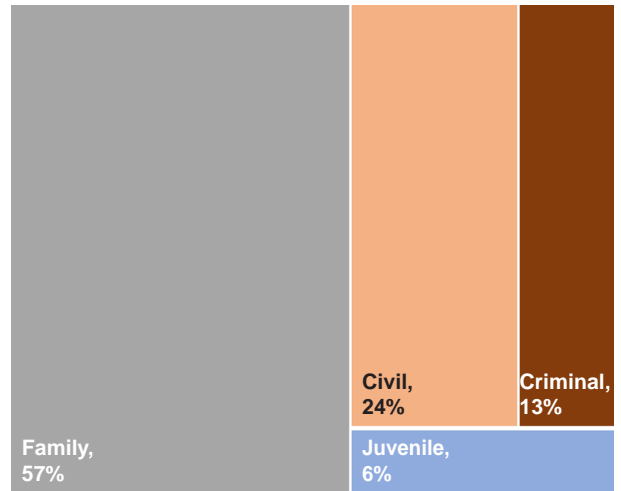
- 11** JUDICIAL DISTRICTS
- 17** COUNTIES AND DISTRICT COURTS
- 40** TOWNSHIPS AND JUSTICE COURTS
- 17** MUNICIPAL COURTS

NEVADA TRIAL COURT TRENDS

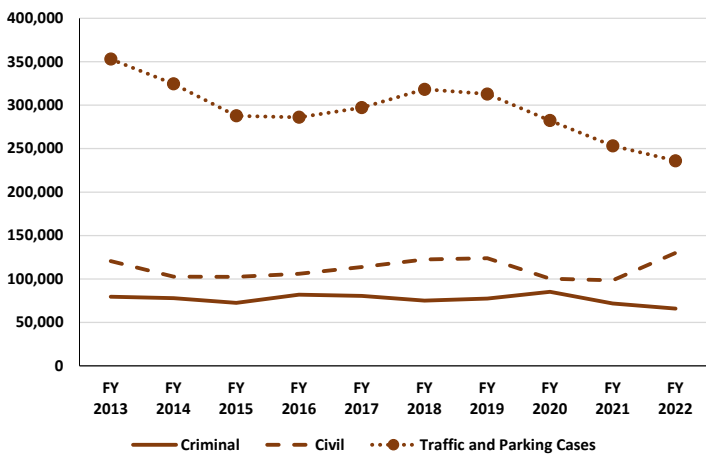
District Court Filings, by Case Type, Fiscal Years 2013-22.



FY 2022 District Court Non-Traffic Distribution



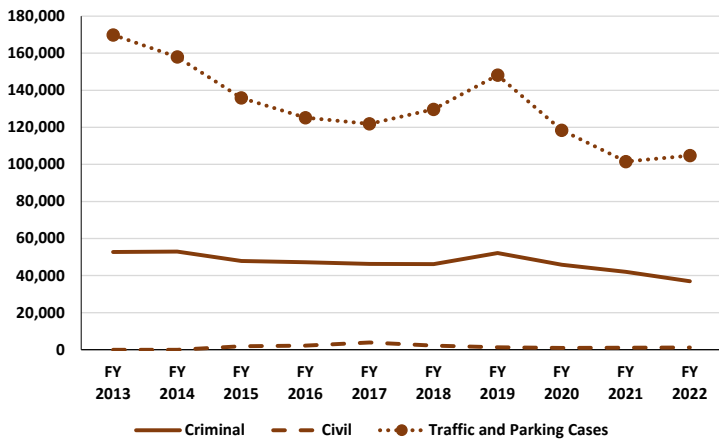
Justice Court Filings, by Case Type, Fiscal Years 2013-22.



FY 2022 Justice Court Non-Traffic Distribution



Municipal Court Filings, by Case Type, Fiscal Years 2013-22.



FY 2022 Municipal Court Non-Traffic Distribution



SPECIALTY COURT PROGRAMS

Achievements for Fiscal Year 2022 & Future Initiatives

A recidivism study for specialty courts was conducted in fiscal year 2022 for the second year in a row. Statistics studied included all successful and unsuccessful discharged cases from every specialty court throughout the state. Discharged cases in the Nevada Specialty Court Case Management System (DCCM) for calendar year 2018 were cross-referenced with the state's Central Repository records. The Central Repository records were matched with the discharged cases following their 2018 discharge date through December 2021. This captured 3 years of post-discharge information for all cases being reviewed. National best practice standards recommend cases be tracked for recidivism up to 3 years post-discharge.

The Nevada study was accomplished as a result of a partnership between the Supreme Court of Nevada, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Biostatistician Division. DHHS was granted access to the DCCM records. DHHS also had a memorandum of understanding executed with the Nevada Department of Public Safety, which allowed them to access the state's Central Repository records.

The results from this study were outstanding, with 92 percent of all successful discharges in 2018 having no subsequent conviction through December 2021. Additionally, 81 percent of all unsuccessful discharges in 2018 had no subsequent conviction. This proves that some treatment-court involvement, even without successful completion, yields better long-term results when compared to incarceration as the alternative.

Peer Review

The AOC, with approval of the Specialty Court Funding and Policy Committee (SCFPC), contracted with Northwest Professional Consortium (NPC Research) for peer review assistance. Juliette Mackin, Co-President and Director of Quality and Training for NPC Research, presented a training on the peer review procedure to the SCFPC and answered questions from the Committee. She also administered a more comprehensive training to two rural district courts who volunteered to be the first specialty courts to conduct peer reviews. These courts plan to complete their reviews fall of 2022.

The 1-3 year plan for peer reviews will consist of every specialty court having an opportunity to participate in a peer review. Due to a limited budget, the AOC will coordinate peer reviews between two courts within the same region.

Statewide Drug Testing

During Spring 2022, the AOC released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for statewide drug screening. The services resulting from this RFP will allow the specialty courts throughout Nevada the option to enter into a service agreement with an authorized diagnostics distributor, or a manufacturer offering a reagent lease option with one or more of the industry leaders, in the drugs of abuse testing market. The goal is to streamline the drug screening procedures for specialty court participants across the state and better allow for these programs to screen for drugs of abuse at least twice weekly through the duration of their program, according to national best practice standards.

Program Certification

One of the future initiatives planned for the Specialty Courts is to introduce Program Certification to the specialty courts. Program Certification will involve AOC staff visiting specialty court programs to observe and audit them to determine if they are following national best practices. These will be programmatic audits, while financial audits will continue to be conducted at other times by the AOC's Audit Division.

Summary of Specialty Court Revenue and Allocations, FY 2022	
Revenue:	
Balance Forward from Previous Fiscal Year	\$2,463,172
Administrative Assessments NRS 176.0613	\$1,966,196
Bail Forfeitures NRS 178.518	\$81,059
Court Assessment NRS 176.059	\$1,158,013
DUI Fee NRS 484C.515 ¹	\$279,926
Appropriation from State General Fund	\$4,384,251
General Fund Reversion	(\$217,606)
Demerit Waiver Fees	\$97,256
Transfer from CARES Act	\$171
Total Revenue	\$10,212,439
Expenses:	
Total Specialty Court Program	\$7,536,371
Drug Court Case Management System	\$137,500
Team Training	\$2,515
Specialty Court Conference	\$3,000
Program Operating Costs	\$165,869
Total Expenses	\$7,845,255
Balance Forward to the Next Fiscal Year	\$2,367,184

¹ The DUI Fees expired on June 30, 2019, due to legislative action in the 2019 Legislative Session. Funds continue to come in on offenses that occurred prior to that date.

IN MEMORIAM



Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Bob Rose died on February 14, 2022. During his tenure on the Supreme Court bench, Justice Rose built a reputation in the legal community and the judiciary as a reformer. He championed numerous initiatives to improve the State’s court system, including the Judicial Assessment Commission that took an in-depth look at the judiciary and recommended a variety of progressive reforms. Justice Rose created and co-chaired the Jury Improvement Commission that studied Nevada’s jury system and made numerous recommendations, including increasing juror pay and allowing jurors to ask questions of witnesses during trials. The Commission’s recommendations were later adopted by law or court rule. He was instrumental in expanding the Supreme Court from five to seven members and creating two three-justice panels to hear cases and help reduce the Court’s backlog. He played a vital role in creating business court to resolve business disputes efficiently and predictably, making Nevada more attractive to businesses. Following his retirement from the Supreme Court in 2006, Justice Rose was commissioned as a Senior Justice, a role he held until his resignation in 2020.

In 2009, the Supreme Court presented Justice Rose the first Legacy of Justice Award, an award given to a person in the judiciary whose contributions, innovations, and achievements resulted in significant improvements to the justice system. Justice Rose was also presented the Unity Award from the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence for his efforts on behalf of battered women and their families.

The Supreme Court Justices express their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for Justice Rose’s unparalleled dedication to the Court and the citizens of the State of Nevada. He leaves as his legacy uncompromising integrity and compassion for people.

IN MEMORIAM

Judge Kent Jasperson passed away on August 10, 2022. Judge Jasperson was elected as a Justice of the Peace at the Pahrump Justice Court in 2007.

Judge Jasperson was known for getting to the heart of issues brought before him, and he worked tirelessly to ensure the Pahrump Justice Court had the appropriate resources to serve the community. He loved meeting members of his community who had gone through the judicial system and had turned their lives around.

Prior to being elected to the bench, Judge Jasperson served as a deputy in the Nye County Sheriff's Office, in total serving Nye County for more than 40 years. Judge Jasperson loved the outdoors and spending time with friends and family. He was a well respected Justice of the Peace and member of the Nevada Judiciary.



East Fork Justice of the Peace Cassandra Jones passed away in July 2022. Judge Jones was elected to the bench in January 2019 as the first female judge in Douglas County. Prior to her election, Judge Jones served the communities of Douglas County in various capacities.

Judge Jones attended Arizona State University, where she graduated summa cum laude, and then attended the Arizona State University's College of Law, graduating in the top 10 percent of her class in just two and a half years. She began her career as a litigation attorney where she engaged in criminal, family, and civil litigation. She later served as the Staff Attorney for the Douglas County District Court, helping to establish the Special Advocates for the Elderly Program. She then started her own firm where she received several awards for her pro bono services before becoming a judge. Judge Jones was a dedicated public servant, but was even more devoted to her family. Her passing was a great loss to the Nevada Judiciary.

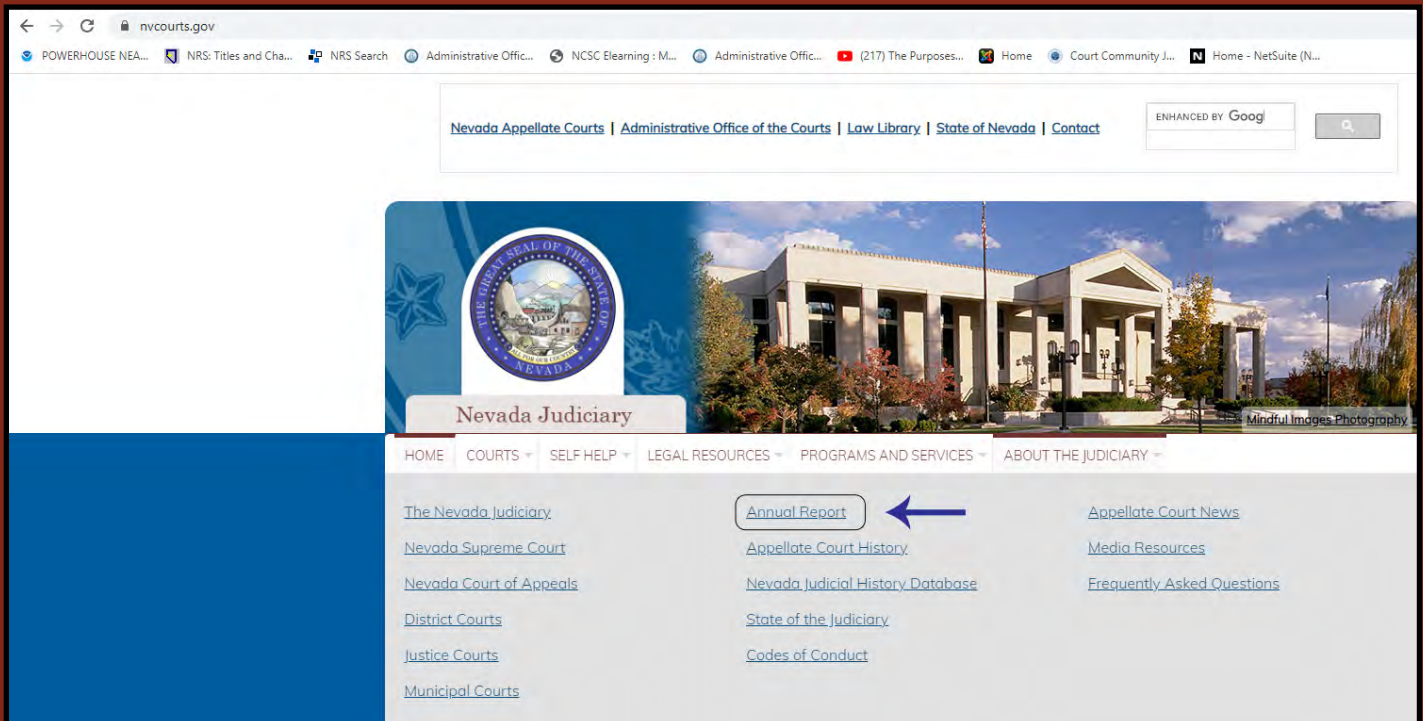


Retired Justice of the Peace Juanita Colvin passed away on June 20, 2022. Juanita was born on May 9, 1945, in San Jose, California. Judge Colvin was raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, and graduated from Rancho High School in 1963. In the mid-70's, after battling cancer, she moved her family to Goldfield, Nevada to be closer to her parents. In 1978, Juanita married Ben Colvin and raised six children. Juanita enjoyed bottle-digging, collecting antiques, and all things "Goldfield."

Juanita Colvin began working at the Esmeralda County Courthouse as the Clerk for Judge Joe Drew in 1982. In 1991, she was appointed as Justice of the Peace where she served for 27 years, retiring in October of 2017. Judge Colvin was known to be a tough and fair judge, and in 2016 she was given the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work as a Justice of the Peace. Judge Juanita Colvin dedicated her life to serving others. She was a great friend to many and worked tirelessly to help better the community. She was an amazing person, and she will be greatly missed.



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