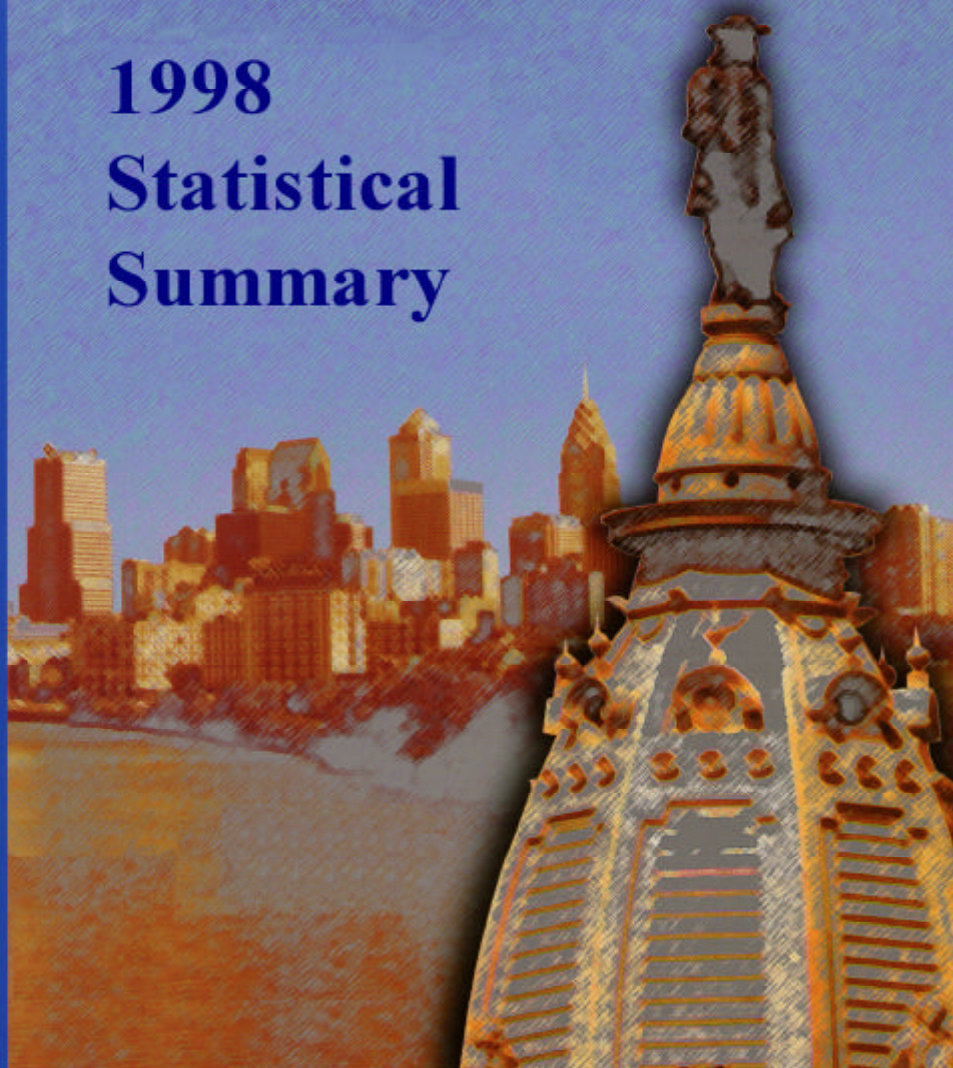


The First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

1998 Statistical Summary





1998 Statistical Summary

First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

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First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

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Summary

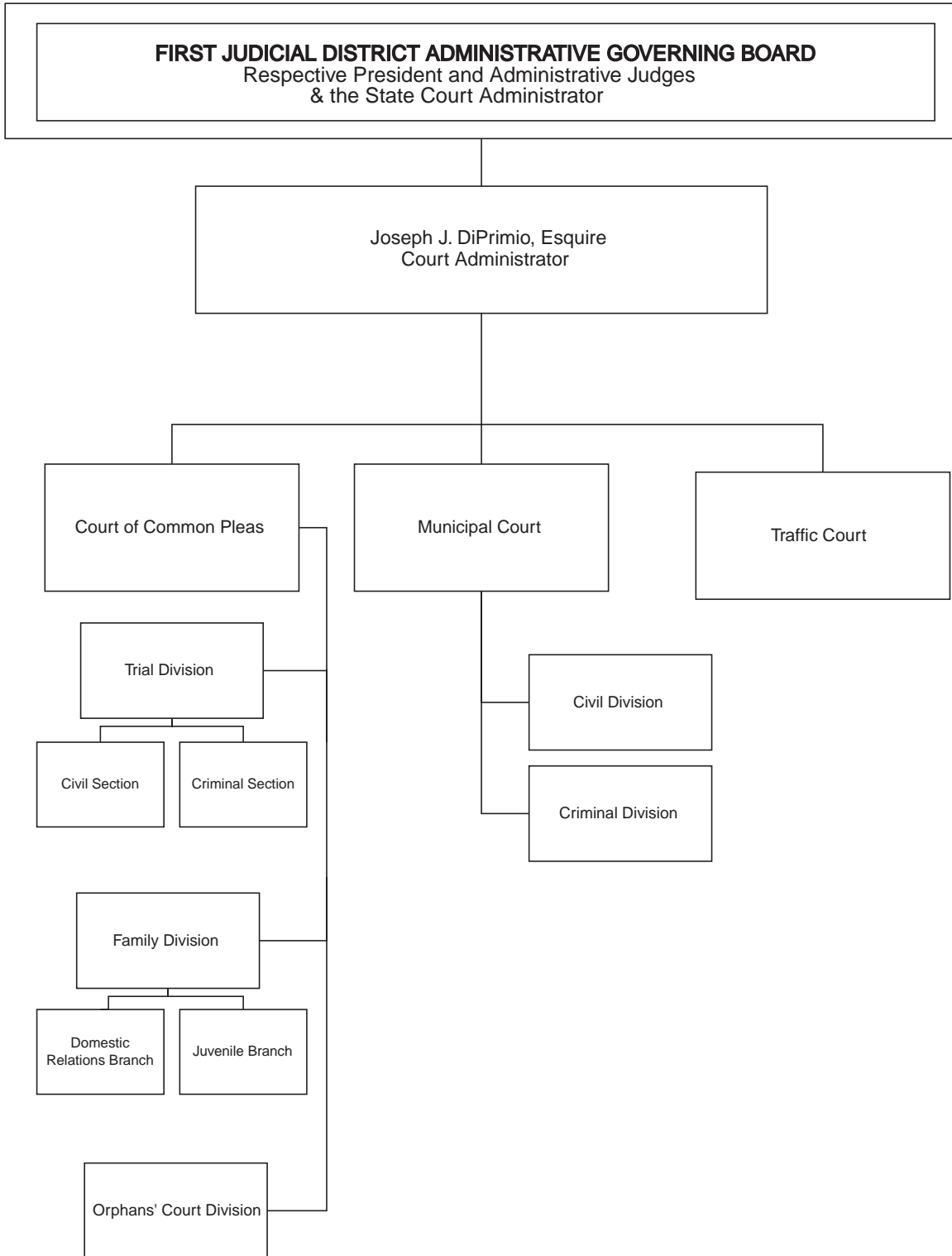
Publication of the landmark First Judicial District (FJD) Special 1996-1997 Biennial Report marked the beginning of a schedule that calls for the continued release of comprehensive Court-wide reports on a biennial basis, with statistical updates to be distributed during the interim years. This, the first of the intervening reports, is intended to present brief, summarized statistical accounts of the activities of the constituent FJD Courts and Divisions during 1998. The report shows broad, snapshot pictures of three basic measures: 1) filings; 2) dispositions; and 3) their effect on inventories. More detailed analyses incorporating this and other data will be included in the 1999-2000 First Judicial District Biennial Report.

Information is presented within the organizational structure of the District. The figures provided reflect activities categorized according to the organization chart that follows.

The District's leadership, the Administrative Governing Board (AGB), is made up of the FJD President and Administrative Judges along with the State Court Administrator. Led by the AGB Chair, Common Pleas Court President Judge Alex Bonavitacola, the AGB members and their respective positions are as follows: Municipal Court President Judge Louis J. Prezenta; Traffic Court President Judge Frank Little; Trial Division Administrative Judge John W. Herron; Family Division Administrative Judge Paul P. Panepinto; Orphans' Court Administrative Judge Petrese B. Tucker; Municipal Court Administrative Judge Robert S. Blasi; and Traffic Court Administrative Judge Bernice A. DeAngelis. State Court Administrator Nancy M. Sobolevitch completes the membership of the AGB — the highest level of First Judicial District leaders. They are assisted in their deliberations by Joseph J. DiPrimio, Esq., the First Judicial District Court Administrator.

This report should enable the reader to better understand the sometimes daunting tasks of judicial administration in a large urban Court system, while highlighting significant achievements in 1998. Informative charts display the data for graphic representations of the numbers.

First Judicial District of Pennsylvania



High Points

Internet

Beginning in 1998, information about Common Pleas Court civil cases; docketing, judgments, parties, and scheduling, was made available over the Internet.

Customer Service Center

The Court of Common Pleas Family Division Domestic Relations Branch renovated existing space to provide a new, more efficient customer service center. Clients are now afforded faster service in more comfortable surroundings.

Quality Assurance Unit

Through a collaborative effort, the Office of the Prothonotary — under the direction of President Judge Alex Bonavitacola — partnered with Civil Administration, guided by Administrative Judge John W. Herron, to create the Quality Assurance Unit. The QAU is charged with training employees to ensure that data concerning lawsuits is accurate. This is part of a larger initiative to build in total quality performance in all aspects of Civil Section operations.

One-Step Jury Automation

With the aid of members of the Court Administrator's staff, a new system for calling jurors was designed, developed, and tested. A process that had required several mail communications is now accomplished in one step. Less delay and a better rate of response are expected.

Juvenile Office Automation & Case Management

About 160 new PCs were purchased and installed as part of a project to enhance judicial administration in the Juvenile Branch. Tracking along with this office automation drive, a system is under development to institute modern case management principles in the Juvenile Branch with linkages to the Domestic Relations customer caseload.

Municipal Court Automation

Arising from automation successes in Common Pleas Trial Division Civil

INTERIM STATISTICAL REPORTS

This, the first of the intervening statistical reports, is intended to present brief statistical accounts of the activities of the constituent FJD Courts and Divisions during calendar year 1998.

case management programs, Municipal Court began laying out a plan for automating civil case management in that Court's Civil Division. By the end of 1998, the functional requirements and hardware configuration specifications had been completed. To support the effort, 77 PCs were configured, including 55 that were newly installed.

Courthouse Renovations

Many renovation projects were completed to better accommodate events in the Trial Division complementing civil case management programs.

Policy Development

A 14 month project to comprehensively reorganize FJD policies sparked improvements relative to conditions of

employment and streamlined management. The Human Resources Department is sponsoring the training concerning FDJ policies and procedures that are compliant with Federal statutes and local laws. Clearly articulated regulations should serve to promote better understanding among members of the FJD workforce.

Adult Probation/Parole Automation Gains

In a major technological initiative, the Probation Department purchased 285 computers to equip probation officers to better access criminal justice information and conduct business more efficiently. Future plans call for the development of automated caseload management programs.

Traffic Court Efficiency Prompts Increases in Revenues

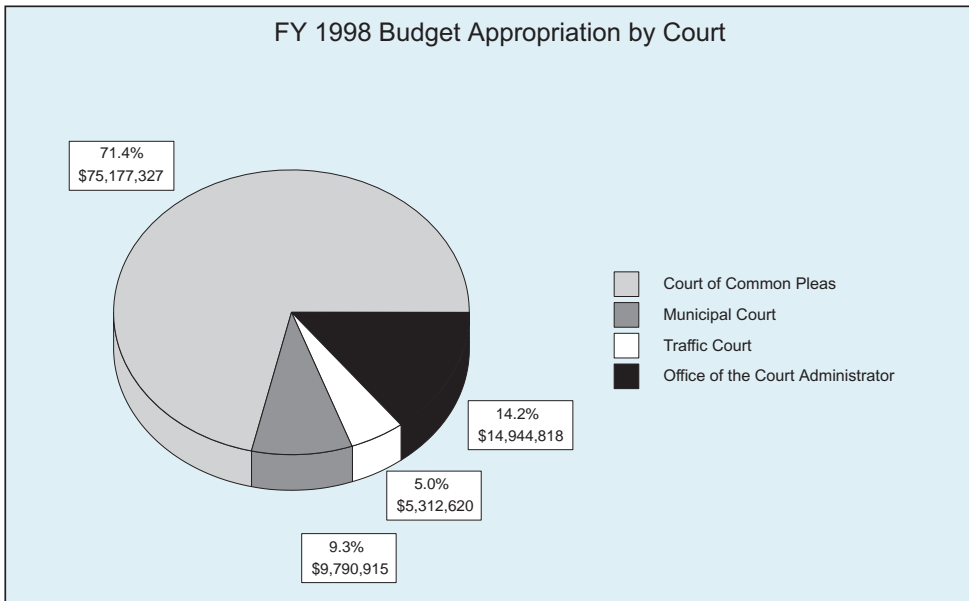
Led by Traffic Court Administrative Judge Bernice A. DeAngelis, that Court's collections again rose to new record levels.

Train the Trainer Program Continues to Progress

The FJD Train the Trainer (TTT) initiative identifies employee automation trainers in each of the FJD Court buildings. The project has worked remarkably well in providing computer instruction to more than 1,000 FJD employees. The program begun in the Domestic Relations Branch, a legacy of Court Administrator Joseph J. DiPrimio, Esq., provides locally available and tailored training, and eases strains on the Human Resources Department. But for the introduction of TTT in DR, an additional 500 employees would have required training through Human Resources.

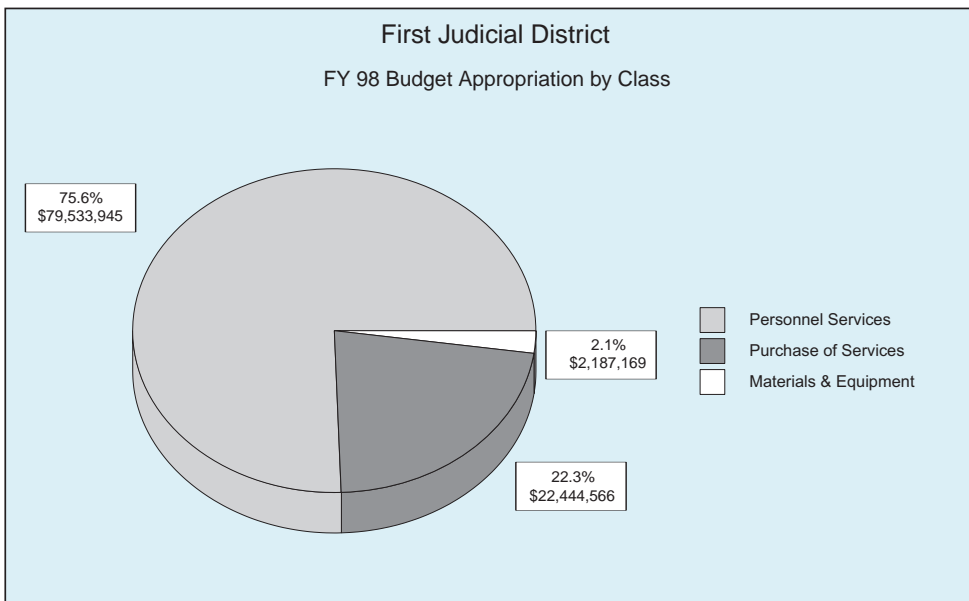
First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Office of the Court Administrator



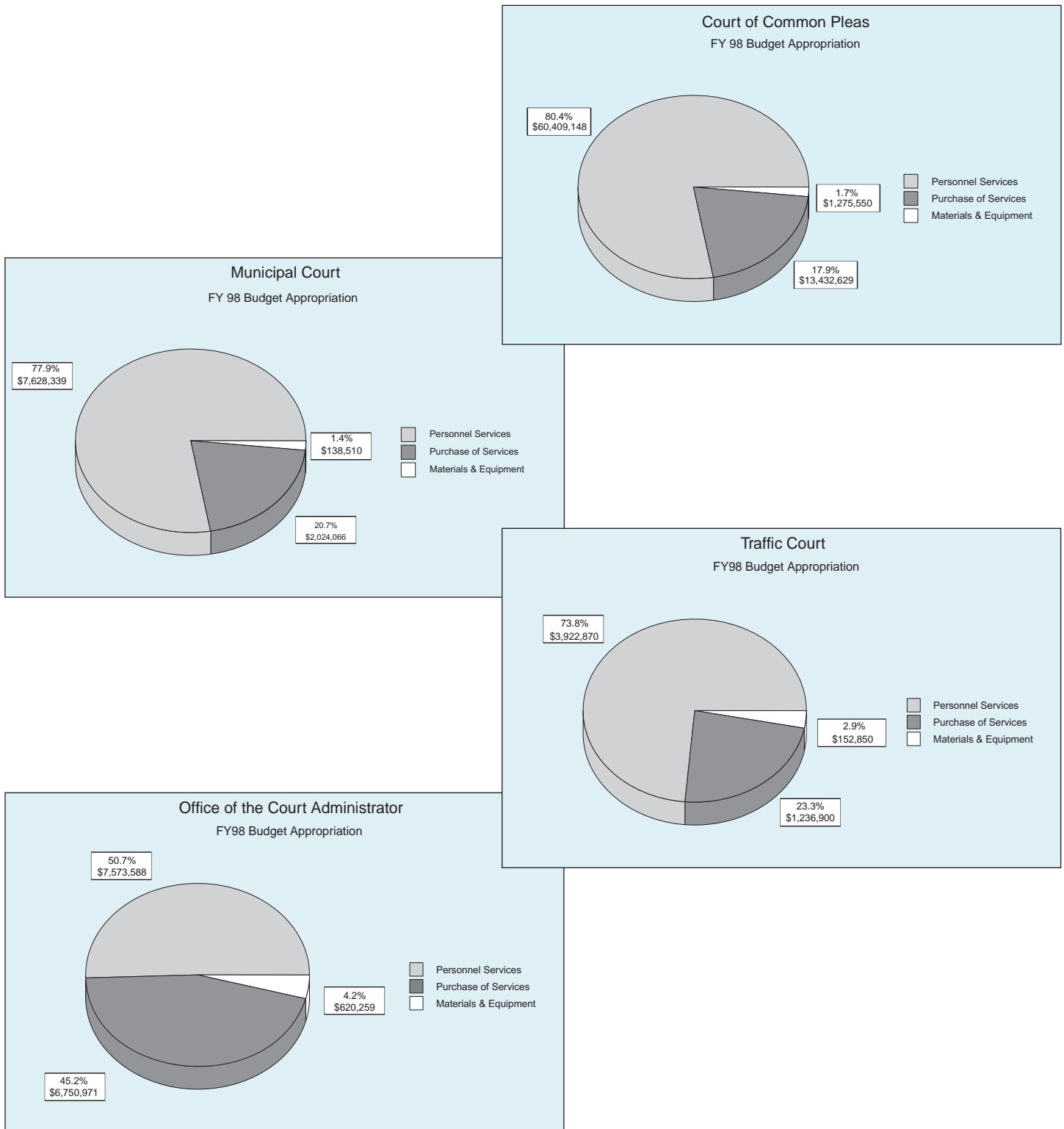
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Joseph J. DiPrimio, Esq., is the Court Administrator of the First Judicial District. Activities of the Office, including budget preparation, affect all the Courts of the First Judicial District. The departments under the aegis of the Court Administrator include Data Processing, Administrative Services, Human Resources, Building and Facilities, Budget and Fiscal, and Management Analysis - Program Evaluation.



First Judicial District of Pennsylvania

Office of the Court Administrator

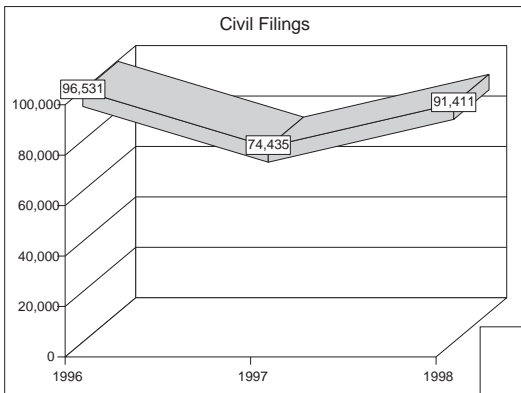
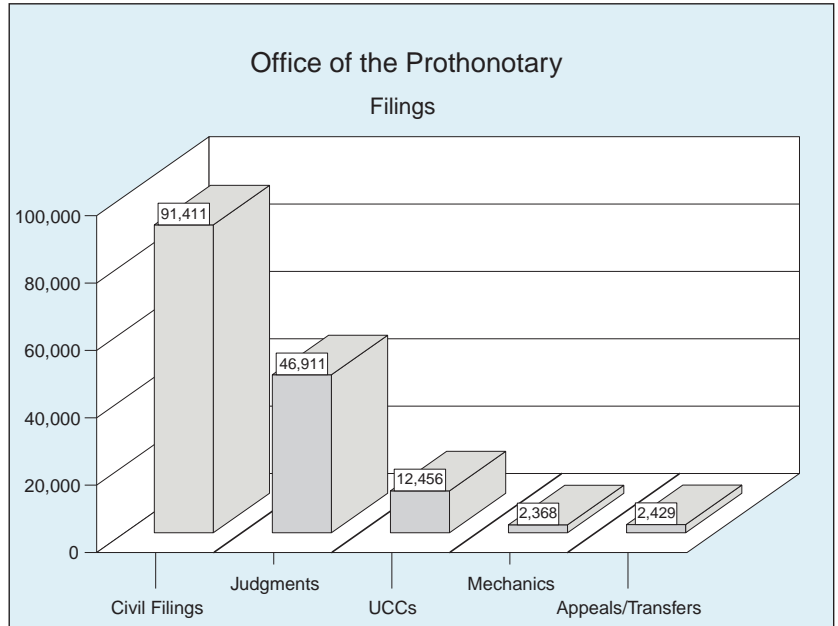


Court of Common Pleas

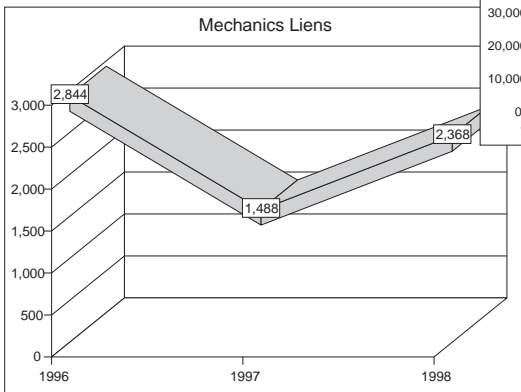
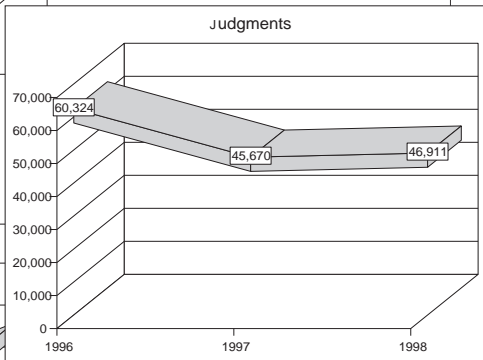
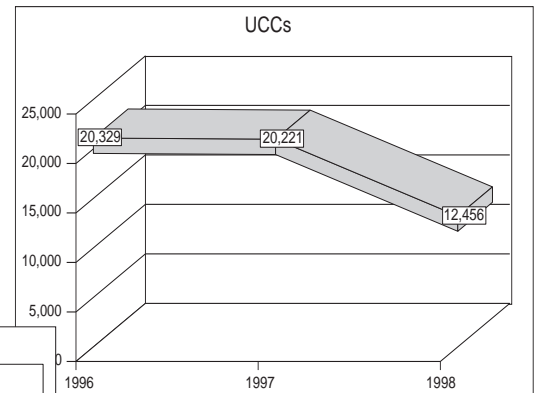
Office of the President Judge

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT JUDGE

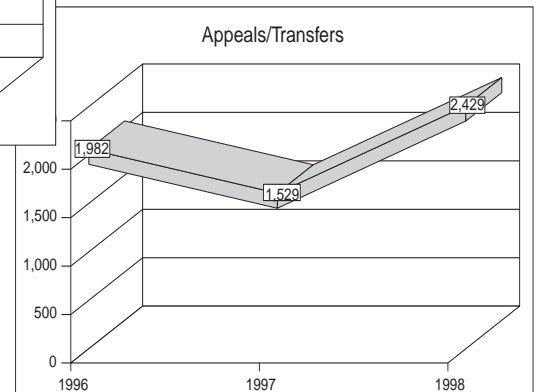
Among the many service centers under the auspices of President Judge Alex Bonavita, the Office of the Prothonotary — meaning “First Scribe” — is the site of the initiation of all Civil Court actions in the Trial Division. As evidenced by the accompanying data, the Prothonotary is responsible for an incredible volume of work. Following a general 21% downturn in the number of filings — almost 39,000 fewer from 1996 to 1997 — the Prothonotary reports an overall increase in 1998 of 12,232, or 8.5%. The Prothonotary processed 155,575 filings in 1998.



← **CIVIL FILINGS**
 After a 23% decrease in 1997, civil filings rebounded in 1998 by almost 17,000 to within 6% of 1996 levels.



← **MECHANICS LIENS & APPEALS/TRANSFERS** →
 Each increased by about 60% in 1998.



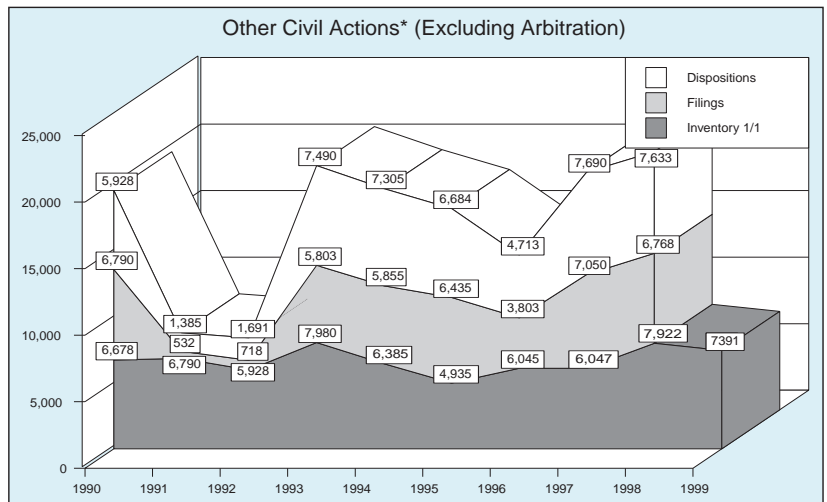
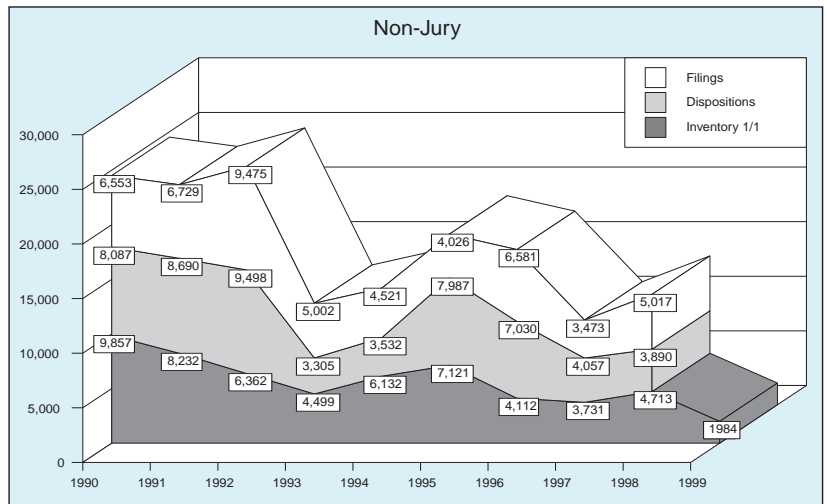
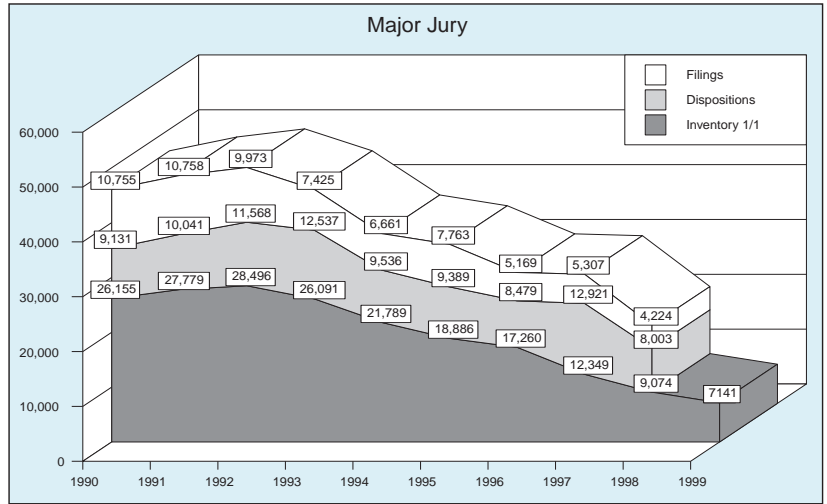
Court of Common Pleas

Trial Division - Civil

Trial Division Civil Section

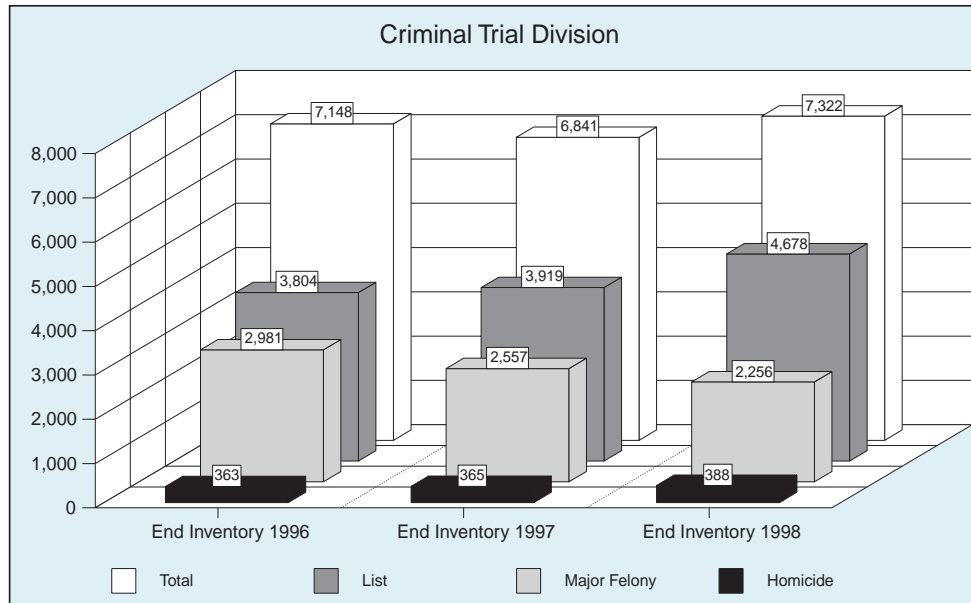
As the venue for all Civil actions in the FJD involving claims in excess of \$10,000, the unlimited jurisdiction Courts of the Trial Division Civil Section continue to set the pace for trial Courts across the nation. Administrative Judge John W. Herron directs the system with an eye toward quality and efficiency. With advanced case inventory reduction strategies, supported by state of the art automation, the Section's judges, managers, and employees are justifiably proud of their enormous accomplishments in disposing of large numbers of cases swiftly and fairly.

For the programs charted at right, the 1998 inventory reductions in Major Jury (21%), Non-Jury (57.9%), and Other Civil Actions (6.7%) combined for an overall inventory decrease of more than 5,000 cases, or 24%. These cap a nine-year decrease of over 26,174 cases — a 61% cutback in inventories for these three court types.



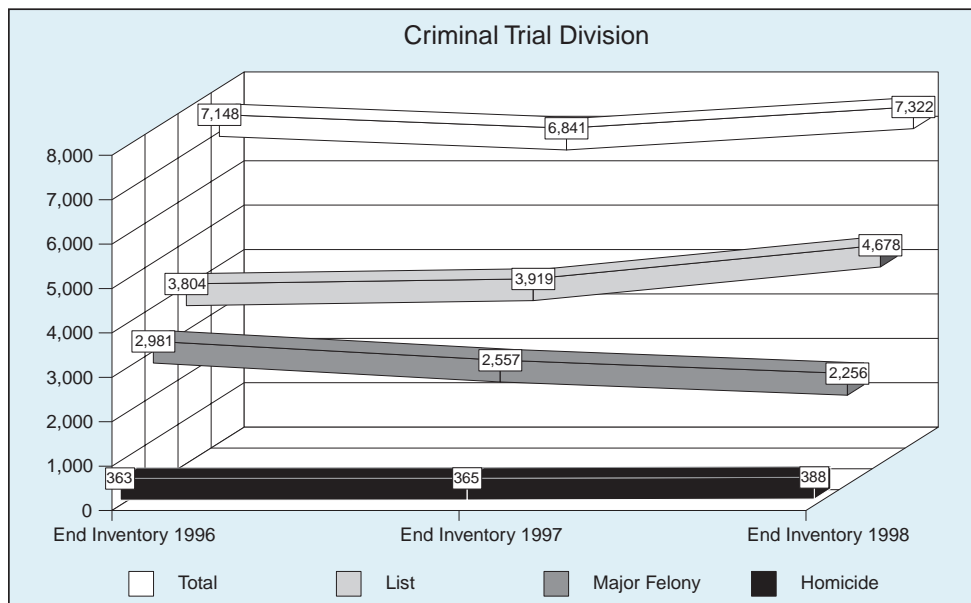
Court of Common Pleas

Trial Division - Criminal



Trial Division Criminal Section

With jurisdiction over all felony criminal cases in the FJD, the Trial Division Criminal Section, also led by Administrative Judge John W. Herron, employs more than 30 judges and hundreds of employees to amass the numbers of successfully adjudicated cases shown here. A relatively small rise of 7% in the total criminal case inventory was held in check by a significant reduction of the most complex Major Felony inventory. The overall climb was due to a 19.4% increase in the number of List, or less complicated case types, reportedly due to a burgeoning number of arrests as part of the "Operation Sunrise" police initiative.



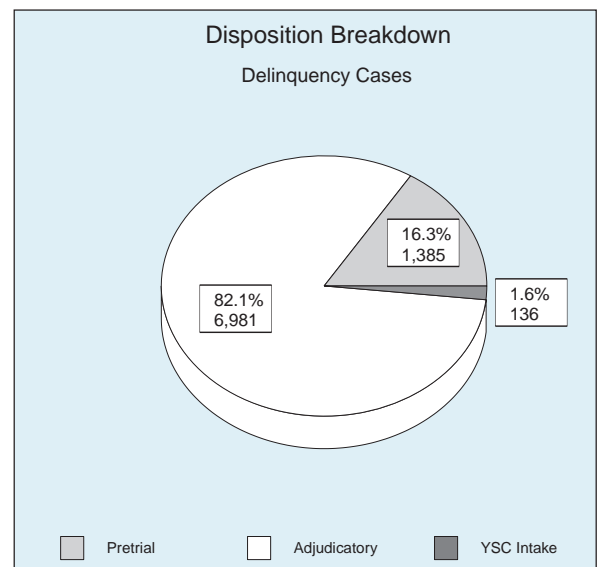
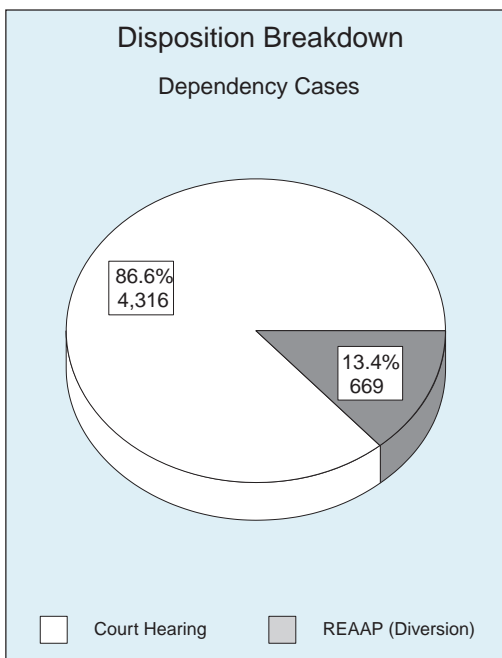
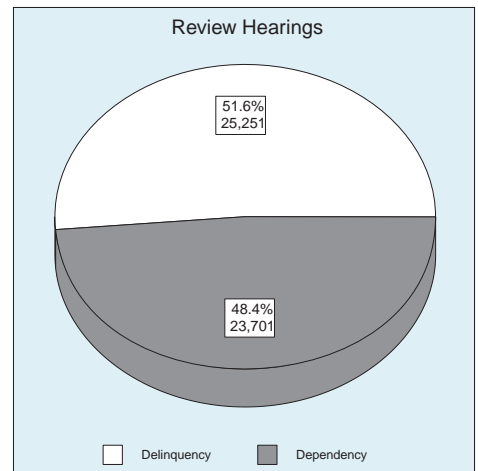
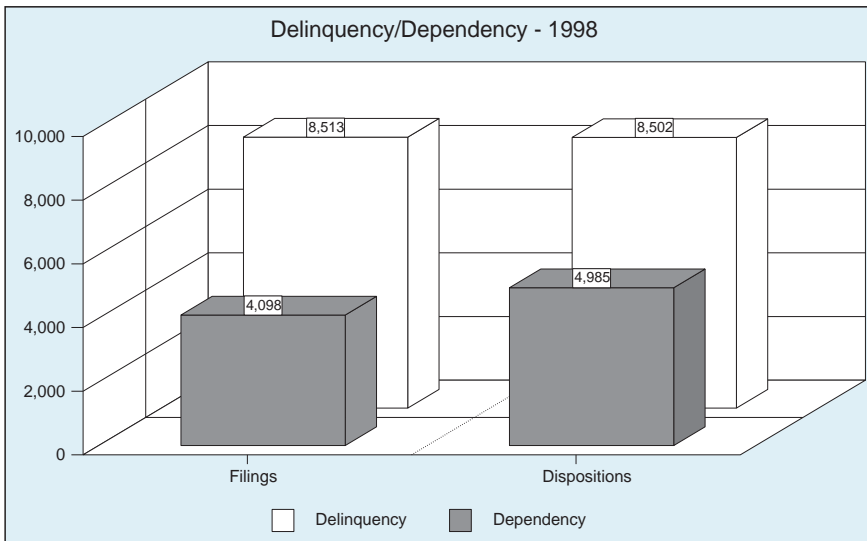
Court of Common Pleas

Family Division - Juvenile

Family Division Juvenile Branch

The Juvenile Court is an important sociological and legal institution where decisions are likely to affect children, their families, and the quality of life in Philadelphia's neighborhoods. The far-reaching effects of the outcomes of Juvenile Branch cases are often felt for years.

For better perspective as to Juvenile Court tasks, in 1998 alone more than 13,400 cases were disposed, and almost 50,000 review hearings were conducted to monitor compliance with the Court's orders and guard the welfare of children, families, and their communities.

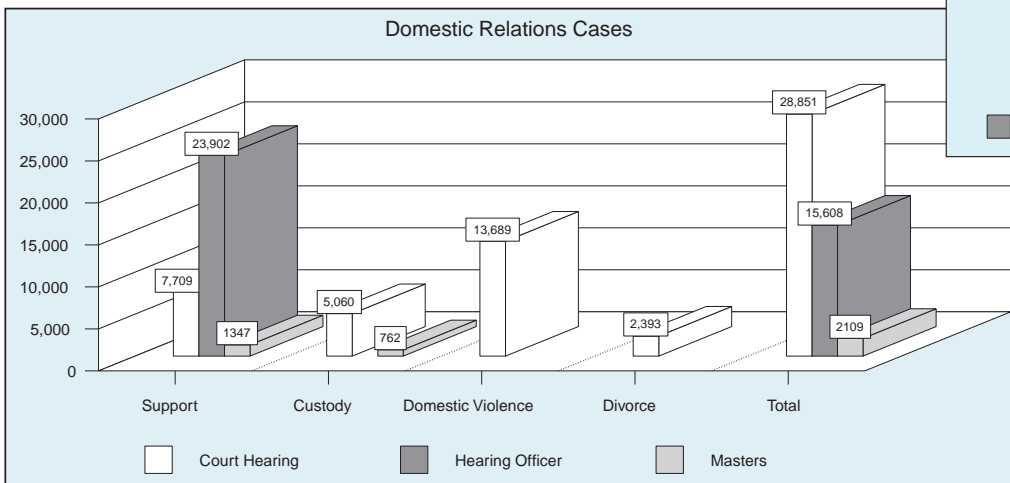
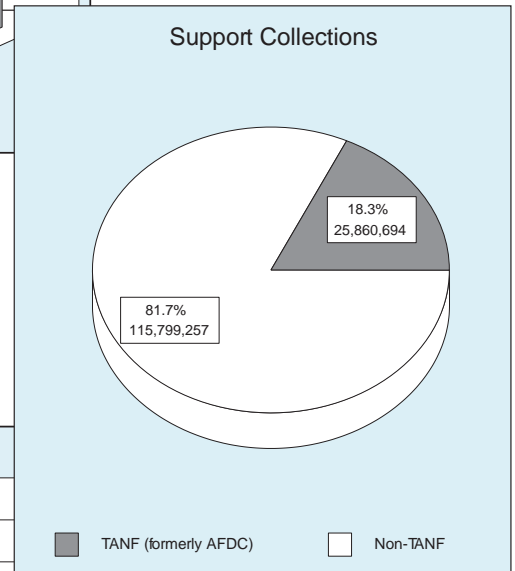
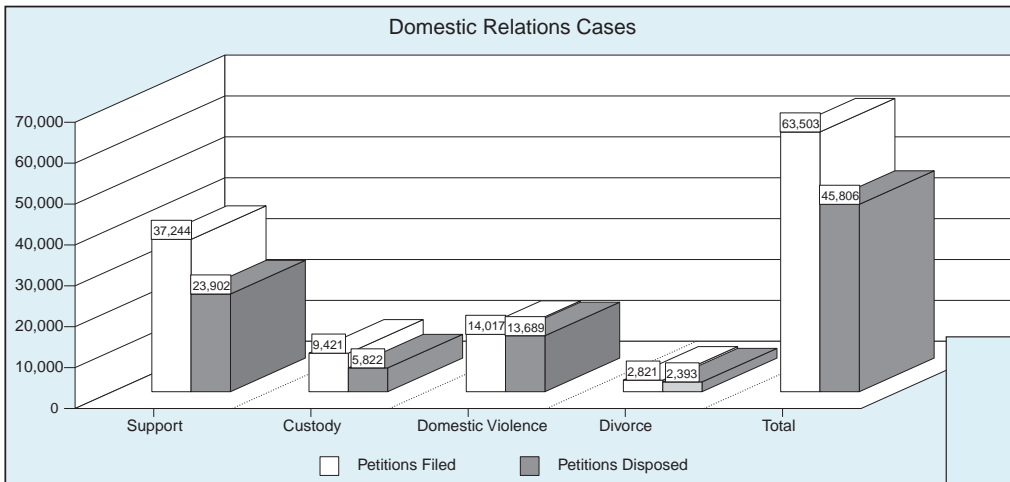


Court of Common Pleas

Family Division - Domestic Relations

Family Division Domestic Relations Branch

Administrative Judge Paul P. Panepinto leads both branches that comprise the Family Court Division: the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branches. The Domestic Relations Branch is nationally recognized as a leader in helping to gain support for children. For 1998, support collections continued to rise - to \$141,659,951. This is a jump of more than \$3.6 million over 1997 numbers, and exceeds 1996 collections by close to \$18 million. With jurisdiction over cases involving Divorce, Paternity, Custody, Support, and Domestic Violence, the busy Domestic Relations branch serves an integral role in the lives of individuals and their communities in Philadelphia.

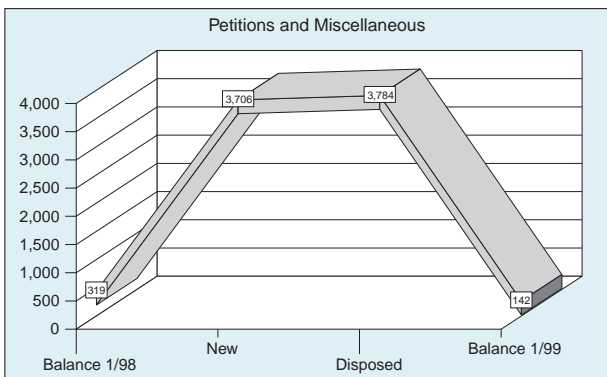
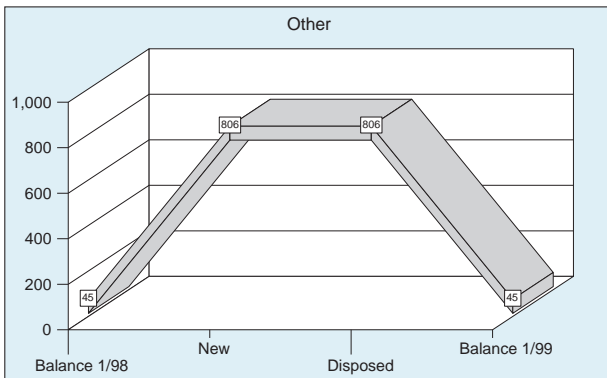
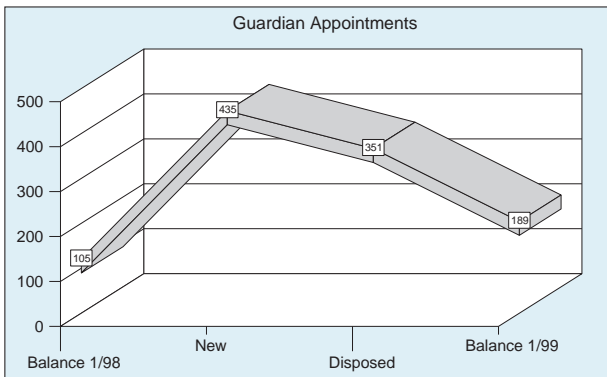
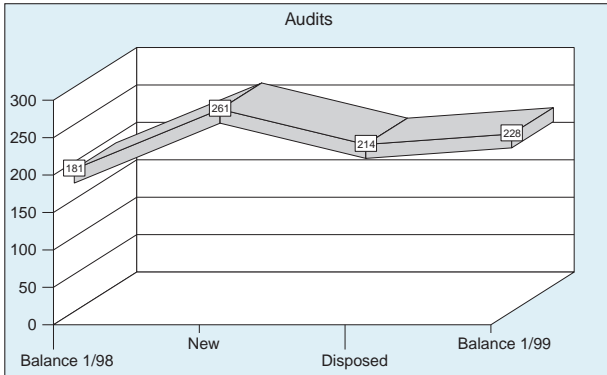


Court of Common Pleas

Orphans' Court

Orphans' Court

The very specialized Orphans' Court oversees the administration of cases involving decedents, their heirs, minors, and incapacitated persons whose interests are further guaranteed through the protections afforded by the Court. In doing so, a wide range of services is provided for individuals who arguably are most in need. The actions heard here include the appointment of guardians, inheritance taxes, and sales of real property — monitoring assets through an extensive array of proceedings.

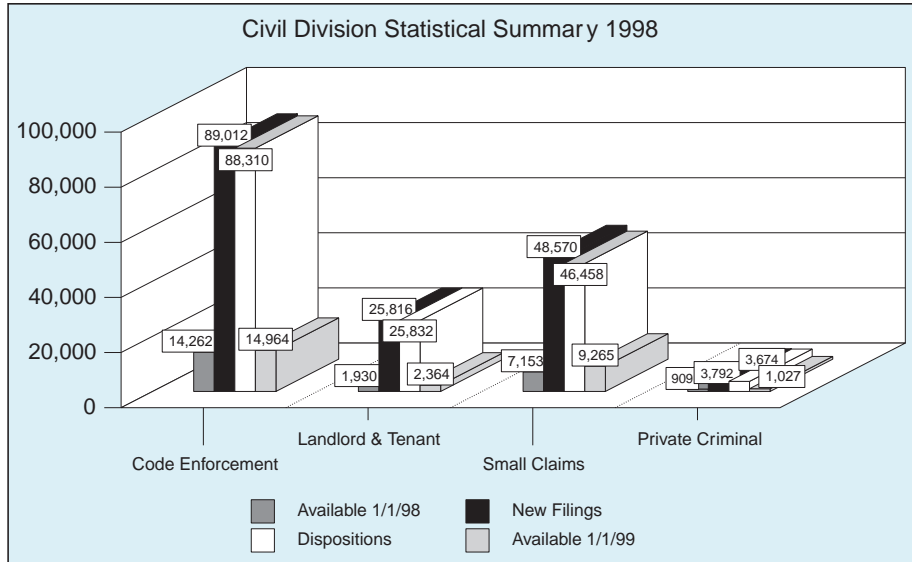


Statistical Summary 1998

	OPENING BALANCE 1/5/98	NEW	DIS- POSED	CLOSING BALANCE 1/4/99
Audits	181	261	214	228
Guardian Appointments	105	335	351	89
Opinions Filed	2	13	10	5
Appeals	33	26	30	29
Contested	6	53	49	10
Inheritance Tax	6	0	0	6
Citations	16	398	403	11
Sales of Real Property	5	73	70	8
Allowances	31	284	264	51
Schedules	0	59	56	3
Civil Matters	90	1795	1816	69
Miscellaneous	177	1097	1175	99
Disp. of Marriage	0	37	37	0
Reports of Exam	0	322	322	0
Rep. of Cemetery	0	200	200	2
Total	652	4,953	4,997	608

Municipal Court

Civil and Criminal Divisions

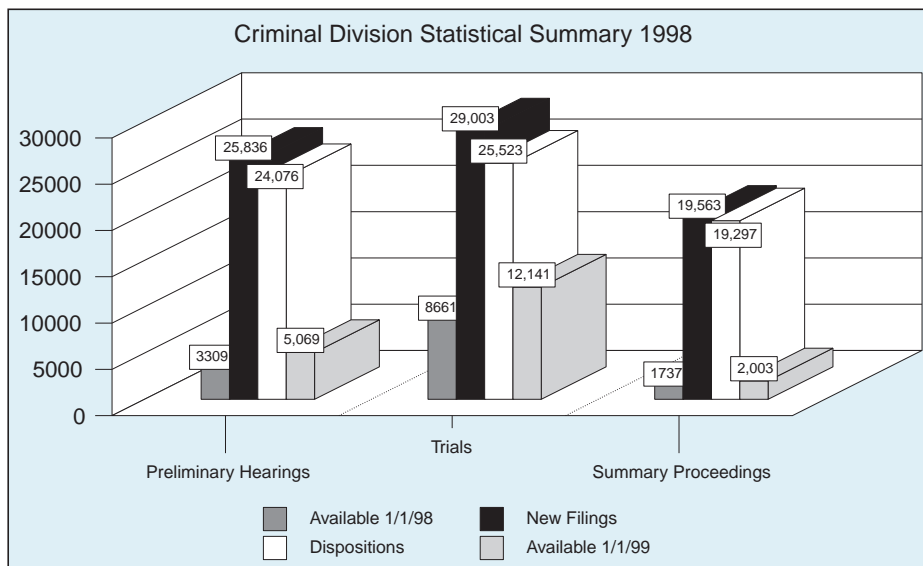


Municipal Court Civil Division

With the higher \$10,000 jurisdictional limit, more than 167,000 civil filings were received in Municipal Court in 1998, and 166,364 were disposed.

Municipal Court Criminal Division

Following from the dramatic increase in arrests resulting from improved, coordinated policing and city services connected with "Operation Sunrise", the number of criminal filings in Municipal Court grew in 1998 by almost 8,000 cases — an 11.3% rise over 1997 filings.



Traffic Court

Traffic Court

Traffic Court personnel have been at the forefront of leaner, more effective judicial administration. In doing more with less, collections mushroomed from the previous year's record-setting performance. FY 1998 disbursements surpassed those for FY 1997 by more than \$2,053,000 — a 25% increase.

