# **MAINE JUDICIAL BRANCH**



## **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

**MISSION:** To administer justice by providing a safe, accessible, efficient and impartial system of dispute resolution that serves the public interest, protects individual rights, and instills respect for the law.

### MAINE STATE COURTS: AT A GLANCE

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POPULATION OF MAINE	1,330,089
GEOGRAPHIC AREA	30,843 sq. mi.
COURT LOCATIONS	36

#### **FYI5 EXPENDITURES:**

Judicial Branch Operations	\$50,116,371
Personal Services	\$37,502,245
All Other Operation Expenses	\$12,614,126
Guardians ad Litem and Psychological Exa	ams\$3,500,915
Debt Service	\$10,267,986

TOTAL: \$63,885,272 % of State General Fund......2.0%

#### **FY15 REVENUE:**

Deposited to Maine's General Fund	\$28,907,084
Deposited to State Dedicated Revenue Accounts	\$7,838,541

**TOTAL:** \$36,745,625



JUDGES (Total)		60
Supreme Judicial Court Justices		
Superior Court Justices	17	
District Court Judges	36	
FAMILY LAW MAGISTRATES		8
STAFF (clerks, security, and administration)		.425
Clerks' Offices	258.5	
Marshals	63	
Administration (Tech, HR, Finance, Facilities, etc.).	103.5	

.....217,117

493

TOTAL:



TOTAL FYI5 CASES FILED	217
Supreme Judicial Court	625
Superior Court	
Unified Criminal Docket	27,644
District Court	78,700
Violations Bureau	97.031

#### THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Domestic violence interpreter grant-funded training with presentations by: Faye Luppi, Director, Violence Intervention Partnership; Fatuma Hussein, Executive Director, United Somali Women of Maine; and Dolgormaa Hersom, Founding Director, House of Languages.



Chris Oberg, 2015 Judicial Branch Employee of the Year, with Deputy Chief Judge Moskowitz, Chief Justice Cole, and Chief Judge LaVerdiere.



The Washington County Courthouse in Machias renovations and new addition, including the clerks' office, two new courtrooms, judicial chambers, a large conference room, and attorney-client conference rooms, were completed in July 2015.



In 2015, Maine lawyers donated 14,793 hours of free civil legal assistance. These donated legal services have an estimated market value of more than \$2,000,000, but, more importantly, these hours are of great value to low-income, elderly, and needy Maine people. This fall, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court recognized 152 lawyers and three law students as Katahdin Counsel for their voluntary contributions statewide.

# THE COURTS OF MAINE

# SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT



Front Row: Justice Donald G. Alexander, Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, Justice Andrew M. Mead Back Row: Justice Jeffrey L. Hjelm, Justice Ellen A. Gorman, Justice Joseph M. Jabar, Justice Thomas E. Humphrey

#### CHIFFS



From Left to Right: Leigh I. Saufley, Chief Justice, Supreme Judicial Court; Roland A. Cole, Chief Justice, Superior Court; Charles C. LaVerdiere, Chief Judge, District Court; Jeffrey Moskowitz, Deputy Chief Judge, District Court

# JUDICIAL OFFICERS



Maine Judicial Branch judicial officers gathered at the Capital Judicial Center, March 2015

# STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR



**Ted Glessner,** State Court Administrator, (*right*) congratulates Bob Weigelt, the 2015 Roy Rice Award recipient.

#### **TOTAL FY15 COURT CASE FILINGS: 217,117**

CRIMINAL FILINGS: 53,93	35
District Court Criminal	20,977
District Court Probation Revocations	269
Superior Court Criminal	7,451
Superior Court Probation Revocations	2,397
Unified Criminal Docket (UCD)	21,680
UCD Probation Revocations	1,161

The Unified Criminal Docket (UCD) transformed the two-tiered trial court system into a single more efficient process for criminal and some civil violation cases by eliminating duplicative case processing and the need to file once in the District Court and once in Superior Court. The increased efficiency gained by eliminating the duplicative clerical workload allows court staff to focus on the needs of the public and reduces the number of court appearances in individual cases.

#### **FAMILY DIVISION: 22,781**

Divorce	5,672
Family Post-Judgment	6,028
Protection from Abuse	5,558
Child Protective	1,034
Juvenile	2,128
Other Family Matters	

### **CIVIL FILINGS: 28,616**

	SUPERIOR	DISTRICT
Contract	485	3,403
Foreclosure	695	980
Tort	826	94
Other Civil	1,263	860
Small Claims		11,260
Money Judgments		2,573
FEDs (Eviction)		6,177
TOTAL(S):	3,269	25,347

#### OTHER ACTIONS: 14,129

Mental Health (District Court)	897
Protection from Harassment (District Court)	2,524
Civil Violations (District Court & UCD)I	0,708

### **SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT: 625**

Su	preme j	Judicial	Court6	52	.5	
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#### **VIOLATIONS BUREAU: 97,031**

Traffic Infractions97,0	3	1
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### **SERVICE CENTER UPDATE**

The Judicial Branch Service Center was first established as a pilot project in 2012 to streamline and improve public service by allowing staff to focus on assisting people and processing cases. The Service Center's primary objective was to promptly answer calls to participating courthouses so callers could obtain accurate information quickly. Today the Service Center is taking calls for more courts, performs records searches, and sends information to jurors providing public service in all trial courts.

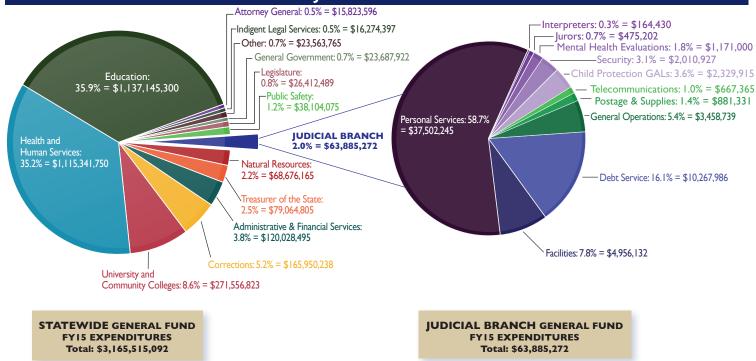
Public Calls Answered: 86,919



Records Search Requests: 78,530

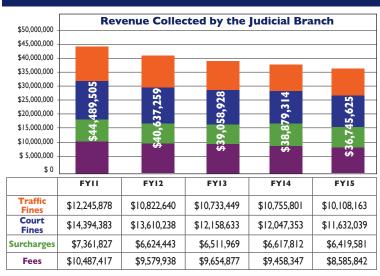
34% Within 2-5 Days Within I Day

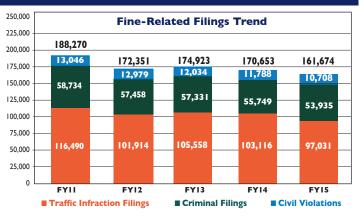
# GENERAL FUND AND JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPENDITURES



In FY15, General Funds received by the Judicial Branch were 2% of the State total. Personal Services accounted for more than half (58.7%) of Judicial Branch expenditures.

## **FYI5 REVENUE**



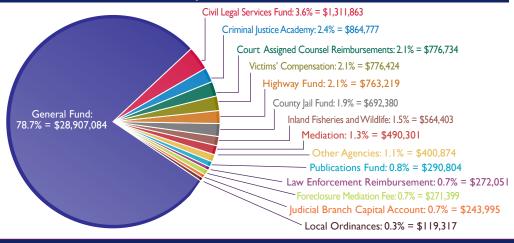


Fine and related surcharge revenue has decreased in recent years. A primary cause for the reduction is the decline in the number of criminal cases, civil violations, and traffic infractions filed in the courts, as illustrated by the chart above.

# REVENUE DISTRIBUTED BY THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

# FY15 Revenue Distribution Total: \$36,745,625

All revenue collected by the Judicial Branch is deposited in the State's General Fund and in other State dedicated accounts as required by Maine Statutes. Sources of revenue include fees, fines, and surcharges.



# COURT REGIONS AND CASES FILED

#### **REGION 5 REGION 8** CASE TOTAL ..... 15.955 REGIONAL POPULATION......170.440 COURT LOCATIONS......5 **PENOBSCOT** 3,397 sq. miles/pop. 153,414 Fort Kent Bangor Superior.....322 Penobscot UCD......6,873 Caribou 🛨 Bangor District......4,602 Presque Isle Lincoln/Millinocket District... I,226 PISCATAQUIS 3,961 sq. miles/pop. 17,026 **REGION 7** Dover-Foxcroft Superior......43 Piscataquis UCD.....719 Dover-Foxcroft District.....608 COURT LOCATIONS......3 Houlton 🖠 **REGION 4** CASE TOTAL ..... 17,437 REGIONAL POPULATION......172,275 COURT LOCATIONS......4 **SOMERSET** 3,924 sq. miles/pop. 51,163 Millinocket Skowhegan Superior......175 Somerset UCD......2,241 Lincoln Skowhegan District.....2,424 Dover-Foxcroft **KENNEBEC** 868 sq. miles/pop. 121,112 \* Augusta Superior......I,664 Kennebec UCD......1,594 Augusta District......5,498 Machias Waterville District.....3,841 Skowhegan **REGION 3** CASE TOTAL ...... 19,096 **REGION 6** Waterville • REGIONAL POPULATION...... 194,974 COURT LOCATIONS.....7 Augusta FRANKLIN 1,697 sq. miles/pop. 30,296 Farmington Superior......75 Rockland **OXFORD** 2,077 sq. miles/pop. 57,238 Bath South Paris Superior.....774 West Bath **KNOX** 365 sq. miles/pop. 39,676 Rumford District......1,501 ANDROSCOGGIN 468 sq. miles/pop. 107,440 Auburn Superior.....2,153 Lewiston District.....9,996 CASE TOTAL ..... 20,620 REGIONAL POPULATION......287,797 KEY SAGADAHOC 254 sq. miles/pop. 35,045 District Court **CUMBERLAND** 835 sq. miles/pop. 287,797 -Counties grouped together Superior Court Portland Superior.....816 by color are part of a single District and Superior Cumberland UCD ......10,107 court **REGION**, where in the same city/town Portland District......7,229 resources and scheduling are District and Superior Court coordinated. Bridgton District.....2,468 occupy the same building REGION I CASE TOTAL ..... 19,509 FOR MORE INFORMATION: REGIONAL POPULATION.....200,710 Visit the website: courts.maine.gov COURT LOCATIONS......4 For more information about the Courts or scan the QR code **YORK** 991 sq. miles/pop. 200,710

CASE TOTAL ..... 6,317 REGIONAL POPULATION.......69,447 COURT LOCATIONS......5

**AROOSTOOK** 6,671 sq. miles/pop. 69,447 Caribou/Houlton Superior..... 1,109

Presque Isle District ...... 1,835

Fort Kent/Madawaska District......927

CASE TOTAL ..... 6.753 REGIONAL POPULATION......86,504

**HANCOCK** 1,587 sq. miles/pop. 54,696

Ellsworth Superior...... 186 Hancock UCD......2,215 

**WASHINGTON** 2,563 sq. miles/pop. 31,808 Machias Superior.....280

Çalais District......I,048

CASE TOTAL ..... 13,774 REGIONAL POPULATION......147,942 COURT LOCATIONS......6

**WALDO** 730 sq. miles/pop. 39,051

Belfast Superior.....321 Waldo UCD......334 Belfast District ......2,332

Rockland Superior	522
Knox UCD	422
Rockland District	2,635

### **LINCOLN** 456 sq. miles/pop. 34,170

Wiscasset Superior	490
Lincoln UCD	312
Wiscasset District	1.914

Bath Superior	112
Sagadahoc UCD	1,329
West Bath District	3,05 I

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS**

PO Box 4820 Portland, ME 04112-4820 (207) 822-0792 711 (Maine Relay)





\* Square mileage and population data source: US Census Bureau 2014 Estimates

Alfred Superior.....4,075

Biddeford District ......7,614

Springvale District......4,814

York District......3,006