

Justices of the West Virginia Supreme Court

Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis was born in Boone County, West Virginia, on April 6, 1956. She is married to Scott Segal and has a son, Oliver. She received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1978, and her master's degree and law degree from West Virginia University in 1982. She was engaged in the private practice of law from 1982 until 1996. Before her election to the Supreme Court of Appeals, she practiced law at the six-person law firm of Segal and Davis, L.C. She concentrated in the field of employee benefits and domestic relations. In 1993, she became the first lawyer in West Virginia to be inducted into the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. In 1991, the Supreme Court of Appeals appointed her to the seven-person West Virginia Board of Law Examiners, on which she served until 1996. In 1996, she was elected to the Supreme Court of Appeals to an unexpired term. She was re-elected in November 2000 to a full twelve-year term. Justice Davis served as Chief Justice in 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2007. As Chief Justice, she accomplished a number of initiatives. These initiatives include the Workers' Compensation Mediation Program; the expansion of parent education programs; Rules on Mass Litigation; the expansion of technology for the "Courtroom of the Future," including the video initial appearance pilot project; and the creation of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules. As Chief Justice, she also expanded the Supreme Court's outreach efforts by taking the Court for the first time in recent years to Wheeling and Charles Town, and leading the Court in the establishment of the LAWS program and the Robes to Schools program. In 2000, Justice Davis received the Distinguished West Virginian Award from then-Governor Cecil H. Underwood. Justice Davis is the author of several *West Virginia Law Review* articles, including "A Tribute to Franklin D. Cleckley: A Compendium of Essential Legal Principles from his Opinions

as a Justice on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals"; "A Tribute to Thomas E. McHugh: An Encyclopedia of Legal Principles from his Opinions as a Justice on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals"; and "An Analysis of the Development of Admitting Expert Testimony in Federal Courts and the Impact of that Development on West Virginia Jurisprudence"; and is the co-author with Louis J. Palmer, Jr., of "Workers' Compensation Litigation in West Virginia: Assessing the Impact of the Rule of Liberality and the Need for Fiscal Reform." She is the co-author with former Justice Cleckley and Mr. Palmer of the *Litigation Handbook on West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure*. Justice Davis is the most senior member of the Supreme Court of Appeals.



Justice Larry V. Starcher was born at home in Roane County, West Virginia, on September 25, 1942. He is married to the former Rebecca Wiles and has three children,



Mollianne, Victor, and Amy. Mollie is a graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law, Victor the West Virginia University School of Medicine, and Amy the West Virginia University Masters of Public Administration program. Justice Starcher earned his bachelor's degree in 1964 and his law degree in 1967 from West Virginia University. Prior to being elected Circuit Judge of Monongalia County in 1976, he served as an Assistant to the Vice-President for Off-Campus

Education at West Virginia University, as Director of the North Central West Virginia Legal Aid Society, and as a private practice lawyer. He served as circuit judge for twenty years, eighteen as chief judge, in Monongalia County. While sitting as a circuit judge, Justice Starcher served as a special judge in 23 of West Virginia's 55 counties. He presided over the trial of twenty thousand asbestos injury cases and a six-month state buildings

asbestos trial. He held all offices in the West Virginia Judicial Association, including President in 1992-93. As a trial judge, he was active in the area of juvenile justice, including establishing alternative learning centers for youths at risk and a youth shelter. He also pioneered the use of work-release and community service as punishment for nonviolent offenders. He has been a regular instructor at judicial conferences, and has been honored by many civic and community groups, including the NAACP, Jaycees, Trial Lawyers, and Probation Officers. In 1978, he was a Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities at Harvard University. Justice Starcher also has served as an Adjunct Lecturer at the West Virginia University College of Law from 1992 to the present. In November 1996 he was elected to a full twelve-year term on the Supreme Court of Appeals. He served as Chief Justice in 1999 and 2003, and he promoted action in several areas of judicial administration, specifically Court Facilities Committee, Public Trust and Confidence in the Judiciary, Mental Hygiene Commission, Court Technology Summit, Self-Represented Litigants Task Force, State Law Library improvements, and he reactivated the Gender Fairness Task Force. In 2004, in partnership with the Mountain State Bar, West Virginia's historic minority bar association, Justice Starcher and his senior law clerk, Thomas Rodd, initiated the J.R. Clifford Project, a series of statewide community programs and publications based on the life and work of J.R. Clifford (1848-1933), West Virginia's first African-American lawyer.

Justice Elliott E. Maynard was born in Williamson in Mingo County, West Virginia. He graduated from Belfry High School in 1960. He earned his bachelor's



degree from Florida Southern College in 1967 and his law degree from West Virginia University in 1974. He joined the United States Air Force in 1961, and he was attached to a reconnaissance group during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Thereafter, he was assigned to the 306th Bomb Wing in the Strategic Air Command and was honorably discharged in 1966. From 1968 to 1970 he was Managing Director of the Tug Valley Chamber of Commerce. He was engaged in the private practice of law

in Williamson from 1974 to 1981. In 1976, he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Mingo County and was re-elected in 1980. In 1981 then-Governor John D. Rockefeller, IV, appointed him Judge of the Thirtieth Judicial Circuit. He was subsequently elected and re-elected judge of that circuit until he was elected to the Supreme Court of Appeals in November 1996. He has been involved for more than thirty years with the Boy Scouts of America and was District Chairman of the Mingo-Pike District and District Chairman of the Chief Cornstalk District. He has served on the Board of the Buckskin Council and received the Silver Beaver Award, the highest volunteer award in scouting. Justice Maynard is a member of the American Judges Association, the American Bar Association, the American Judicature Society, the West Virginia Bar Association and is a former Member of the National District Attorneys Association. He is a member of the Charleston Rotary Club and other fraternal organizations. He served as Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in 2000 and 2004.

Justice Joseph P. Albright was elected to the Supreme Court of Appeals in 2000 for a full twelve-year term. He was born in Wood County, West Virginia,



on November 8, 1938. He married the late Patricia Ann Deem in 1958. They had four children, Terri Albright Cavi, Dr. Lettie Albright Muckley, Joseph P. Albright, Jr., and the late John Patrick Albright. In 1995, Justice Albright married the former Nancie Gensert Divvens. Mrs. Albright has three children, Susan Divvens Bowman, Sandy Divvens Fox, and Debbie Divvens Rake. Justice Albright earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, *cum laude*, from the

University of Notre Dame and his law degree from the Notre Dame Law School. At Notre Dame Law School, he won the Webber Prize for Appellate Advocacy and was a member

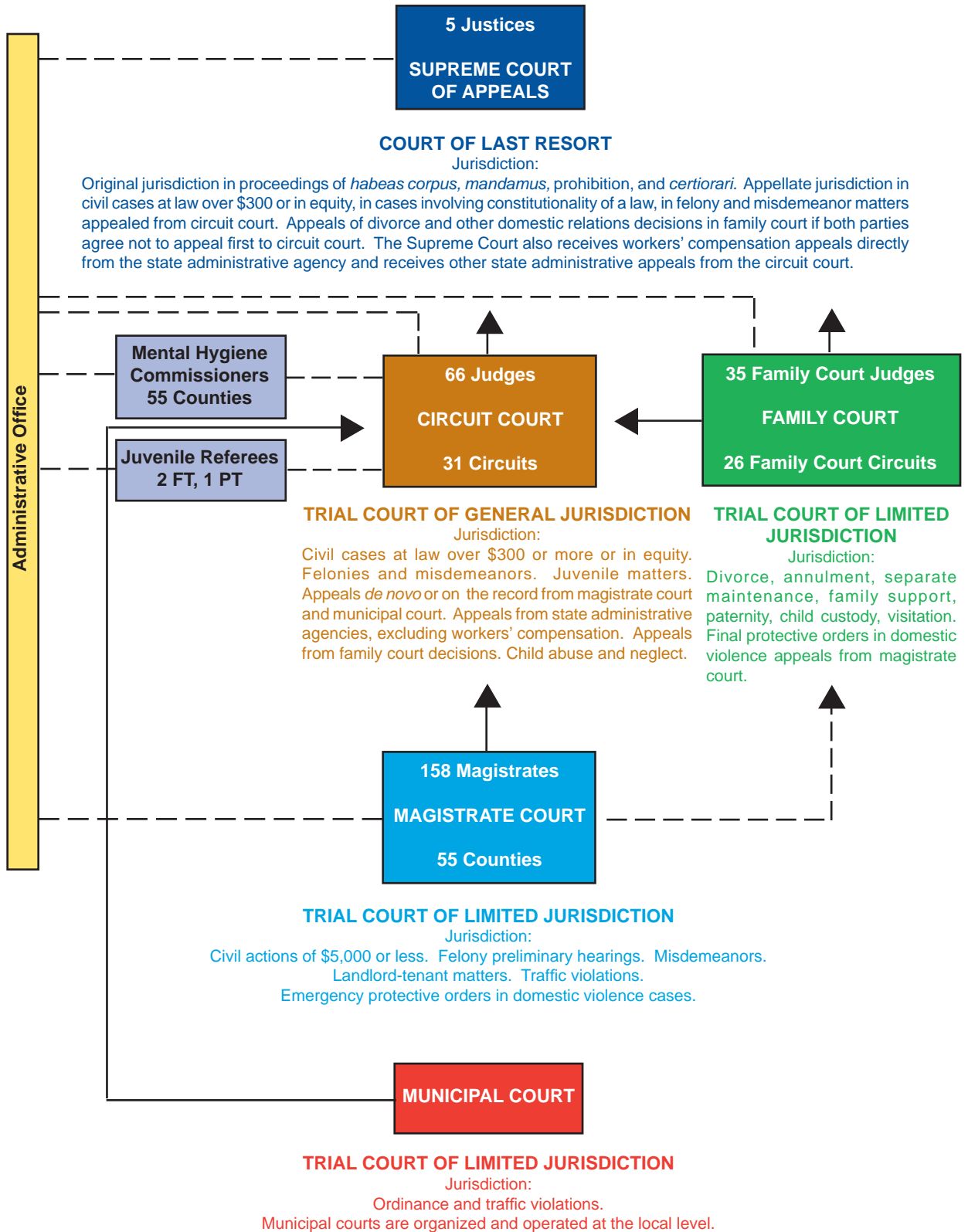
of the Notre Dame Law Review. Justice Albright practiced law in Parkersburg and surrounding counties from 1962 until September 1995. In September 1995, then-Governor Gaston Caperton appointed him to an unexpired term on the Supreme Court of Appeals. He served through December 1996. After his former service on the Court, he resumed his practice in Parkersburg and Charleston. Since 1959, he has been an officer and director of Albright's of Belpre, Inc., a family corporation which owns and operates Belpre Furniture, a retail furniture business with locations in Belpre, Ohio, and Parkersburg. A former assistant prosecuting attorney of Wood County and former city attorney for the City of Parkersburg, Justice Albright was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1970 and to six more terms commencing in 1974. He served as Chairman of the House Education Committee (1977-78), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee (1979-84), and as 52nd Speaker of the House of Delegates in 1985 and 1986. He has served on a number of public and quasi-public boards and commissions, including the Parkersburg Charter Board from 1969-1970, when Parkersburg adopted a new city charter. He is a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Parkersburg. He served as Chief Justice in 2005.

Justice Brent D. Benjamin was elected to a full twelve-year term on the Supreme Court of Appeals in November 2004. He is a native of Marietta, Ohio. After graduation from law school in 1984, he settled in Charleston, West Virginia. He is married to the former Janice Taylor. They have five children, Paul, Mary, Laura, Amanda, and Evan. Justice Benjamin is a graduate of The Ohio State University, from which he holds both a B.A. and a J.D. Before his election, he was a principal attorney with Robinson and McElwee, PLLC, in Charleston. His twenty-year practice at that firm involved general civil litigation in state and federal courts, including toxic torts and complex litigation. His civil rights practice focused on protecting children from physical and sexual abuse. He has practiced in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia, the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky Supreme Court. Since his election, Justice

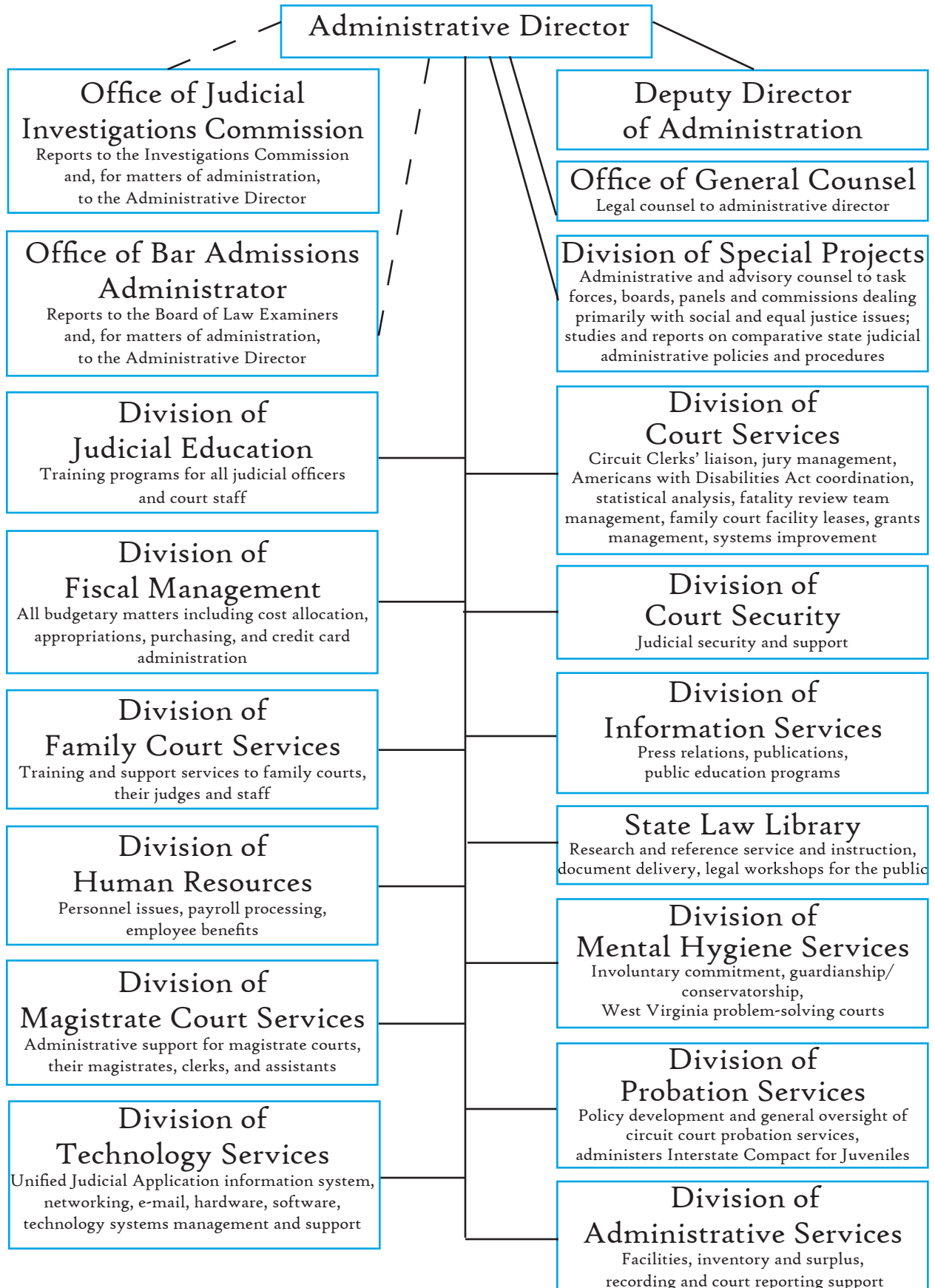
Benjamin has been a regular presenter and instructor in a variety of public forums and legal conferences, including his recent speech on judicial elections at the National Press Club, in Washington, D.C. He is a 1999 graduate of Leadership West Virginia. Away from his judicial duties, he is also a current member of the Hocking College Archaeological Mission, and he has participated in archaeological excavations in the United States and Egypt. Justice Benjamin attends Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston.



WV Judicial System



The Administrative Office of the Courts provides support to the Supreme Court of Appeals and the entire state court system. The director, as provided in the Constitution, is appointed by the Supreme Court and oversees the Administrative Office of the Courts.



Year of the Child, Too

By Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis

The Supreme Court of Appeals faced a record number of filings in 2007, yet we kept our docket current while keeping our focus on administering the West Virginia court system for the benefit of all citizens. The youngest West Virginians have been a special focus during my most recent terms as Chief Justice, in 2006 and 2007, which I called, respectively, the “Year of the Child,” and “The Year of the Child, Too.”

The Court is interested in helping children who may never come in contact with the court system learn more about the judicial branch of government. For that reason, in January 2007 I initiated the *Robes to Schools* program that encourages judges and magistrates to read to school children and talk to them about their jobs.

My special interest, however, has been improving court management of child abuse and neglect cases. In March 2006, the Supreme Court adopted the “Overlap Rules,” which were sixteen changes to the procedural rules governing family court, domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect proceedings. The rule changes solidified the process by which family courts report reasonable suspicions of child abuse and/or neglect to Child Protective Services. They also improved a procedure by which Child Protective Services is accountable for timely response to both family courts and circuit courts regarding the acceptance and outcome of referrals. The rule changes have been dubbed “Overlap Rules” because they acknowledge that families may be involved in more than one court case, in more than one court. All of the courts – circuit, family, and magistrate – are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect and must coordinate their work to ensure safety of the children with whom they come in contact.

To aid in the improvement of child abuse and neglect proceedings, the Supreme Court applies for and receives three Court Improvement Program (CIP) grants from the federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) each year. The two newest CIP grants, which became available in 2006, focus on training and data collection and analysis. With the help of the West Virginia Court Improvement Program Oversight Board, the chairman of which is 28th Judicial Circuit Judge Gary L. Johnson of Nicholas County, the Supreme Court has collaborated with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) and other agencies to improve the plight of children in the child welfare system.

In 2007, the Court conducted a number of activities through our three Court Improvement Program grants. We commissioned a statewide study of multi-disciplinary treatment teams; held annual cross-disciplinary training in the summer in Morgantown, Elkins, and Clay; included more performance measurements in the Child Abuse and Neglect Database; developed uniform child and family case plans; supported the annual Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) training; continued training on Juvenile Abuse and Neglect Information System (JANIS) and Juvenile Delinquency Information System (JUDI) software for completion of orders in child abuse and neglect and juvenile justice cases,

respectively; and launched a Web site on which JANIS and JUDI software, the child abuse and neglect bench book, and a calendar of events are available: www.wvcip.com.

The Court’s newly improved child abuse and neglect database tracks 26 performance measures in child abuse and neglect cases, including time to preliminary hearing, time to adjudicatory hearing, time to dispositional hearing, dates of permanency review hearings, time to achievement of permanency, the number of placements for each child, date of filing of the initial case plan, and several others. Previously, information on child abuse and neglect cases was collected on paper forms and mailed to a third-party agency for data entry. The new system has decreased the time and staff needed for data entry and reduced errors. More than 3,500 records were entered into the database during 2006. Nearly 3,500 additional records were entered during 2007, totaling nearly seven thousand records by the end of the first eighteen months of data collection. The information includes the time it takes to handle cases, placement and permanency, so it is obvious how important it is to get it right, and get it fast.

I have been committed to collaboration between the Court, DHHR, and other agencies essential to improving the safety, timely permanency, and well-being for children in the child welfare system. United by a resolve to protect children from abuse and neglect, leaders from 41 states attended a summit in New York City in March 2007. I led the team from West Virginia, which included Judge Johnson and others. The summit was a sequel to the 2005 National Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children sponsored by 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.

West Virginia will undergo a Child and Family Services Review by ACF in 2008, which will result in a program improvement plan for DHHR. While the Court and DHHR are continuing to strengthen our collaboration through the Court Improvement Program, the mission to ensure that children have the safety, permanency and well-being they deserve is far from completed.

As different disciplines collaborate more around the state, it has become apparent that child abuse, status offenses, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, animal cruelty, and drug abuse often co-exist. In addition to its projects on child abuse and neglect and youth services issues, the Supreme Court is trying to address two correlating issues: domestic violence and drug abuse.

In 2007 the Supreme Court received an \$815,000 federal grant that allowed our Administrative Office to work with other state agencies and private organizations to improve the communication from the courts to law enforcement on domestic violence protective orders, to develop processes and forms, and to collaborate on protective order firearms prohibition issues.

The Court in 2007 also continued to expand the network of problem-solving courts throughout West Virginia. The West Central Drug Court Diversion Program





Sgt. John Handley, left, who has served tours of duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and Southeast Asia, and Staff Sgt. Corey Williamson, who has served in Kuwait, pick up toys donated by Supreme Court justices and Court employees. The Marines are with Alpha Company, Fourth Combat Engineer Battalion, based in Cross Lanes. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*

opened in June to serve Wood and Wirt Counties. It was the third drug court for adults in our state. The others serve the Northern Panhandle and Mercer County. West Virginia's first two juvenile drug court programs also opened in 2007. The Cabell County program re-opened as a post-adjudicatory drug court in August and the Wayne County program opened in September. The hope is that if we can reach juveniles whose crimes are related to drug problems and give them the help they need, they won't turn into adult drug addicts or adult criminals.

Also in 2007, the court system made children involved in family court matters a priority. Prolonged uncertainty can have lasting negative effects on children at the heart of family court cases, which can include divorce, paternity, changes in custodial responsibility and decision-making authority, child support, grandparent visitation, sibling visitation, infant guardianship, and domestic violence protective order proceedings.

In July 2007 the Supreme Court adopted amendments to the Rules of Practice and Procedure for Family Court to improve efficiency in Family Court cases. The amendments are available on the Supreme Court's Web site at <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsc/rules/2007FCAmendments.htm>. The Supreme Court also approved an expansion of "high-conflict" parent education classes and made plans to launch a program in September 2008 for children whose parents are divorcing. The Court also hosted a conference in Charleston on September 14 and 15, 2007, for those who will be teaching the new "advanced child-focused" parent education classes and those who currently teach and coordinate basic parent education classes.

The lives of people who file civil actions in Family Court are often in turmoil. They face mixed emotions and significant life changes. The West Virginia Supreme Court will continue to explore ways to transform the experience of those families from adversarial to amicable.

The Supreme Court also takes our budgetary responsibility seriously and, appropriately, we spend our money judiciously. With 1,200 employees throughout the state, the judicial branch of government uses only about three percent of the general revenue money of West Virginia. It remains the third-lowest budget of any state court system, according to the Center for State Courts' data released in 2007. Yet the West Virginia Supreme Court is the busiest court of its type in the nation, again according to the National Center for State Courts. There were 2,983 petitions filed here in 2005, the most recent year for which comparative information is available.



The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia ended its fall 2007 term of court by donating toys to the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. The donation was part of Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis' "Year of the Child, Too" initiative. Marines picked up the toys during the Court's *sine die* ceremony on November 21, 2007. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*



When Supreme Court employees arrived for the fall 2007 *sine die* ceremony, they were greeted by Elmo lounging on the attorneys' presentation podium. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*

The next closest state was Nevada, where 1,896 petitions were filed.

Recently, it has become popular to talk about government doing more with less. West Virginia courts have been doing more with less for years. That's also apparent in the National Center's review of the work of family courts and circuit judges. The center, using national standards, found that the state needs twelve additional circuit judges and 22 additional family court judges.

The Supreme Court, mindful of the separation of powers, did not ask the Legislature for more judges. We simply made the National Center for State Courts' research and study available to lawmakers prior to the 2007 legislative session. We wanted lawmakers to have a full, objective, understanding of the issues involved in providing an adequate number of judges to manage and resolve court business effectively and fairly. The Legislature rearranged family court boundaries and added ten family court judges, giving relief to a total of sixteen circuits. Lawmakers also decided to add six circuit judges within existing circuit boundaries. Governor Joe Manchin III signed the family court bill but vetoed the circuit court bill.

The new family court judges will take office, and the new boundaries will go into effect, on January 1, 2009, after the 2008 elections.

My fellow justices and I hope this annual report provides an informative and useful picture of West Virginia's court system. We strive to make the judicial branch of government accountable and transparent, and providing information on the work of every level of our court system is an important part of that goal.

Child Abuse and Neglect Database

The West Virginia Court Improvement Program Board (CIP) directed transfer of the child abuse and neglect database project to an online database during 2006. The database, made possible by Federal CIP grant funding, was created to collect detailed records of all active child abuse and neglect cases in West Virginia. Data collection began in July 2006 including, but not limited to, information on timeliness of case handling, placement and permanency. Judicial secretaries, through their diligent efforts in putting active cases in the database, have been instrumental in the success of this project.

Database Participation



More than 3,500 records were entered into the database during 2006. Nearly 3,500 additional records were entered during 2007, totaling nearly 7,000 records populating the database at the end of the first eighteen months of data collection. After reviewing the data, more than 5,800 records were sufficiently complete and accurate to be included in analysis. Entries have been made for 63 circuit judges and two senior status judges. Cases recorded in the database ranged from one to 283 per judge, with an average of 89.2 cases per judge.

Evaluation

A fundamental purpose of the database is to determine how child abuse and neglect proceedings are handled within West Virginia's judicial system. Therefore, evaluation methods have been developed for the project.

Evaluation components have been adapted from Court Improvement Program Guidelines and the Child Abuse and Neglect Benchmark Timelines. Selection of such evaluation



Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis was honored at the conclusion of her back-to-back terms as Chief Justice for her work on behalf of abused and neglected children. During a surprise ceremony in the Supreme Court Chamber, she was presented with a framed, enlarged copy of her own thumbprint (for which no public money was expended). As he made the presentation, Supreme Court Administrator Steve Canterbury said, "Justice Davis has put her beautiful thumb print on the justice system." From left, Nicholas County Circuit Judge Gary L. Johnson, Chairman of the West Virginia Court Improvement Board; Rocco Fucillo, the Deputy Secretary and General Counsel of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources; Chief Justice Davis; DHHR Secretary Martha Walker; and Jason Najmulski, Commissioner of the Bureau for Children and Families. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*

measures was approved by West Virginia's Court Improvement Program Board during March 2007. Twenty-seven measures were approved, with data available to use 21 measures initially. The calculation of two more performance measures is provided by the Department of Health and Human Resources. Following the addition of new fields within the database during April 2007, three more measures were available for analysis. At the end of 2007, 26 performance measures are available for reporting. Planned revisions to the database will allow for the measurement of the last approved performance measure. These performance measures have been studied by the Court Improvement Program Board during quarterly reviews throughout 2007.

This project continues to evolve, and a full redesign of the database will be completed by June 2008. This redesign is in response to feedback from judicial secretaries and law clerks.

Administrative Orders

During 2007, a second section of the database became available to track the progress of administrative orders. While the circuit clerks provide a monthly count of administrative orders and mandamus orders, this section of the database was designed to provide detail on progress of the order by recording actions taken by Child Protective Services and the Court. It includes information on petitions filed, dismissals, and mandamus orders issued. This section, too, is maintained by judicial secretaries and law clerks.

During 2007, 272 administrative order records were entered into the database with order dates of 2007 and earlier. Of those, 190 were for referrals during 2007.

Data recorded during this time period were difficult to analyze due to conflicting information or incomplete records. This highlighted the need for further training and

more detailed user resources. A user guide was developed and released during the last quarter of 2007. Classroom style, computer-based training is being developed and will be scheduled during 2008.



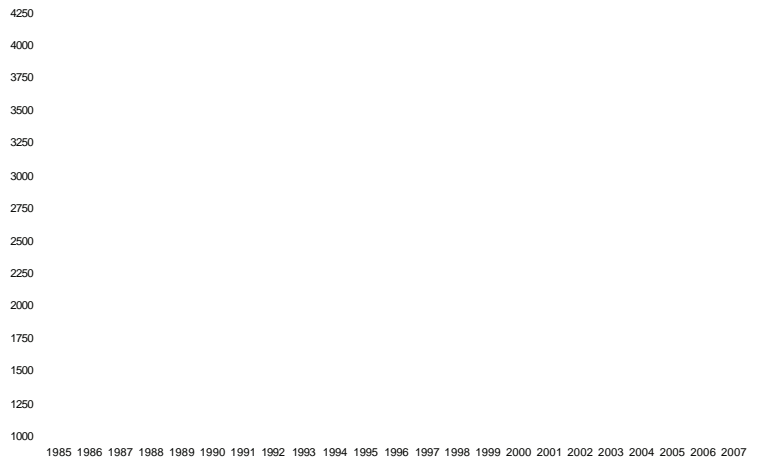
Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia

2007 Statistical Report

Total Filings 1985 - 2007

Case Filings

The number of filings in 2007 was the highest in the history of the court. The total number of new petitions filed in 2007 increased by **410** from the previous year to **3,954**. Filing rates continue to remain high when compared to the historical perspective. As the chart to the right illustrates, the number of petitions filed in 2007 was more than twice the number of petitions filed as recently as 1990.



The increase in the number of petitions filed in 2007 is almost entirely attributable to the 2,894 workers' compensation petitions filed, which is an all-time high and an increase of 421 filings from 2006. This increase may signal the near-completion of administrative transition in the decision-

making body at the agency level, as the Office of Judges and the Board of Review became part of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Table 1

	Certified	Certiorari	Civil	Criminal	Domestic	Ethics	Habeas	Mandamus	Pet. Bail	Prohibition	Workers' Comp.	TOTAL
1983	18	9	293	180	—	0	321	132	10	80	116	1159
1984	20	27	306	183	—	1	317	166	20	80	162	1282
1985	12	10	332	157	—	10	367	181	24	81	198	1372
1986	17	6	376	182	—	16	240	196	30	101	421	1585
1987	23	4	422	176	—	20	200	214	52	85	841	2037
1988	21	2	394	182	—	13	195	183	47	96	488	1621
1989	28	7	419	168	—	12	186	141	39	116	528	1644
1990	29	5	426	183	—	17	171	149	40	122	481	1623
1991	35	4	524	181	—	23	149	179	20	118	1947	3180
1992	43	2	538	168	—	25	192	184	12	118	1075	2357
1993	34	2	536	165	—	27	319	187	21	118	708	2117
1994	46	7	575	178	—	69	239	173	30	159	966	2442
1995	27	8	642	209	—	43	218	172	39	114	1220	2692
1996	30	4	646	234	—	33	265	180	30	146	1534	3102
1997	27	5	571	203	—	27	253	164	24	132	1708	3114
1998	15	3	556	207	—	24	230	162	20	131	2067	3415
1999	19	5	519	232	—	27	118	177	16	120	2306	3539
2000	7	3	578	203	—	18	100	199	19	86	1816	3029
2001	15	3	606	189	—	19	96	245	13	84	1380	2650
2002	14	2	605	173	—	17	102	210	18	118	1394	2653
2003	17	3	423	186	136	16	170	236	12	94	1572	2865
2004	30	4	402	174	127	24	108	202	16	83	1279	2449
2005	19	0	388	175	151	21	82	190	11	86	1860	2983
2006	18	0	381	169	179	24	78	104	13	105	2473	3544
2007	8	0	386	175	180	26	74	105	8	98	2894	3954

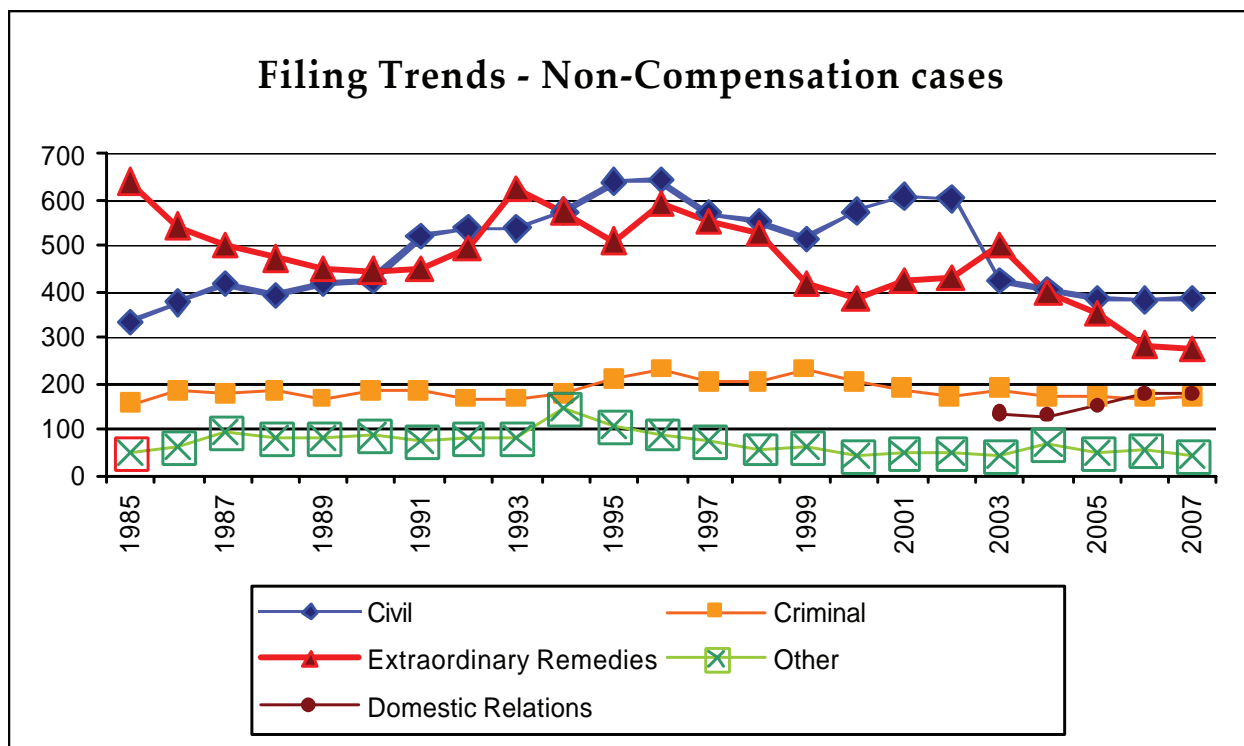
Apart from workers' compensation cases, filings in 2007 remained steady or dropped slightly (see Table 1¹).

In 2003, appeals from family court orders and appeals in abuse and neglect cases began to be counted as part of the "Domestic" category. These cases were previously counted as part of the general "Civil" category, thus explaining the apparent dip in civil filings in 2003. After taking this adjustment into account, general civil appeals have remained relatively steady in recent years, showing only a slight decline since 2003.

Filing Trends

The number of *habeas corpus* petitions filed in 2007 was the lowest number since 1983. The number of certified questions filed also continued a declining trend since 2004.

Filing Trends - Non-Compensation cases

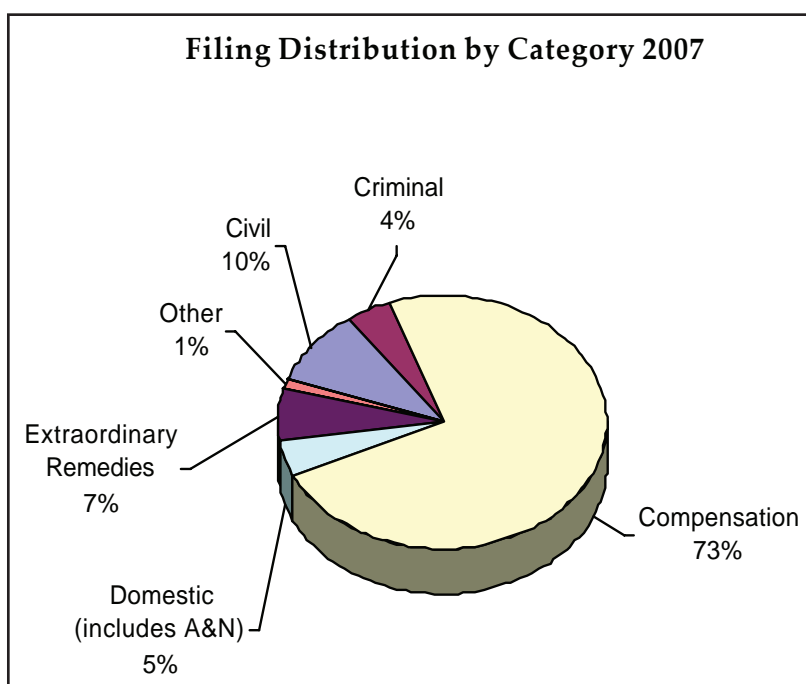


In non-compensation cases, filing levels have been steady in certain areas, while fluctuating in other areas, as seen in the chart above. Criminal filings have remained largely steady since 1985, while requests for extraordinary remedies have declined in recent years.

The general trend in civil filings is upward for the entire period, although civil filings have fallen slightly. The number of extraordinary remedies sought (including *mandamus*, prohibition, *habeas corpus*, and *certiorari*) changes from year to year, sometimes according to issues such as prison conditions. The category “Other” includes ethics cases, certified questions, and petitions for bail. This category has been largely steady since 1985, apart from a spike in ethics filings in 1994, and a spike in certified questions in 2004.

The overall composition of cases filed in 2007, as shown in the chart below, continues to reflect the increasing numbers of workers’ compensation cases, which made up nearly three-quarters of all new filings in 2007. This upward trend is expected to taper off in 2008. Filing levels throughout the first six months of 2008 confirm this expectation, with workers’ compensation filings on the decline by more than seven hundred through mid-June.

Filing Distribution by Category 2007



Case Disposition

The Court can dispose of cases by a variety of methods, resulting in opinions and orders. Because all petitions are discretionary, some cases are disposed by entry of a refusal order.² Other cases are granted and set for argument, but later withdrawn, dismissed, or otherwise disposed by order. After being granted, most non-compensation cases are disposed by written opinion. Most compensation appeals are disposed by memorandum order.

In a typical year, the number of case dispositions exceeds or closely matches the number of filings. In recent years, however, two main factors have combined to cause the clearance rate to fall below typical levels. First, dispositions in workers' compensation cases were held in abeyance for about a year beginning in late October 2003, while the Court considered consolidated cases involving the impact of the adoption of Senate Bill 2013, and to what extent the statutory changes could constitutionally be applied retroactively to cases filed before July 1, 2003. *See Wampler Foods, Inc., v. Workers' Compensation Div.*, 216 W.Va. 129, 602 S.E. 2d 805 (July 1, 2004). The clearance rate was only 78 percent in 2003. In 2004, as the Court began to clear pending cases after the *Wampler* decision was issued, the clearance rate rose to 95 percent. The second factor occurred over the next three years, when the extraordinary increase in workers' compensation petitions made it increasingly difficult to keep pace with new filings. Despite the fact that the Court in 2007 reviewed

more than double the number of compensation petitions than it reviewed as recently as 2005, the overall clearance rate fell to 64 percent last year. If workers' compensation cases are excluded, however, the clearance rate was 91 percent for 2007. As of January 2008, the average number of days to dispositions for non-compensation cases was 165. Both of these figures are evidence that the Court has not allowed the overload in compensation cases to affect the progress of other cases adversely. The overall breakdown of the number of cases by disposition method is shown below.

In addition to disposing of cases filed, the Court considered 210 pre-petition matters, which is up from last year's total of 170, and is more comparable to the total of 222 pre-petition matters considered in 2005. Pre-petition matters often involve emergent questions for litigants, such as whether a stay should be granted pending appeal.

The number of petitions for rehearing remained steady in 2007. In 2000, 31 petitions for rehearing were filed. In 2001, that number more than doubled to 63. In 2002, that number increased again to 87, nearly three times the number filed in 2000. In 2003, 43 petitions for rehearing were filed. In 2004, that number fell again to 36 petitions for rehearing filed. In 2005 the number rose slightly to 45. In 2006, the number fell by almost half to 23. That figure held steady in 2007, with 24 petitions for rehearing filed.

Table 2

Disposition Method	Number Disposed in 2007
Signed Opinion	47
Per Curiam Opinion	73
Petition Refused	2,193
Memorandum Order	70
Dismissed	58
Withdrawn	48
Moot	0
Disposed by Order	43
TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	2,532

Discretionary Petition Disposition

By narrowing the focus to the disposition of discretionary petitions, rather than the broader area of case disposition, it is possible to determine the percentage of petitions for appeal in several categories that were granted by the Court in 2007. The petition grant rate is based upon the total number of petitions of a given type *actually considered* by the Court in a given year (which will differ from the number of petitions *filed* in a given year). The Case Type³ chart below sets forth the total number of discretionary petitions considered over the past nine years in each category, along with a percentage of the petitions that were granted for full briefing and argument.

Notable is an increase in the number of workers' compensation petitions considered. In addition, the percentage of petitions granted rose in nearly every case category, yielding an overall seventeen percent of petitions granted in 2007. The percentage of workers' compensation cases granted remains lower than prior years, which may be attributed to a number of factors, including a statutory change in the standard of review. (For a graphical representation of this data, see Page 14 Table 6: "Percentage of Discretionary Petitions Granted - Major Case types

- 1999-2007.") As recognized by the National Center for State Courts, "Most discretionary petitions filed in both intermediate appellate courts and courts of last resort are denied."⁴

Caseload Comparison with Comparable Courts

The steady increase of filings in West Virginia is consistent with the increase of filings nationally over the second half of the twentieth century. In response to the steady increase in filings, the number of states with intermediate appellate courts ("IAC") has tripled in the same time period; thirteen states had IACs in 1950, compared with 39 states in 2001. In the past decade, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Utah have created IACs, despite having caseloads smaller than that of West Virginia.

No other comparable appellate court in the country handles as many cases as West Virginia's court of last resort. The most recent (2005) data from the National Center for State Courts confirms West Virginia's position as the busiest appellate court of its type in the country. In 2005, West Virginia's caseload exceeded by more than a thousand that of the next busiest state, Nevada,

Table 3

	Certified Questions		Certiorari		Civil		Abuse & Neglect		Criminal		Domestic		Habeas Corpus		Mandamus		Petition for Bail		Prohibition		Workers' Comp.		Totals	
	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %	Reviewed	Granted %
1999	17	35%	6	67%	456	30%	96	11%	234	18%	x	x	108	>1%	132	30%	16	0	113	27%	1874	51%	3052	41%
2000	10	60%	4	50%	431	29%	120	>1%	194	21%	x	x	91	>1%	142	39%	17	6%	85	26%	2298	65%	3392	52%
2001	16	69%	0	0	378	39%	135	4%	187	18%	x	x	62	3%	165	15%	14	0	69	26%	2211	51%	3237	42%
2002	14	43%	2	50%	370	35%	118	11%	144	22%	x	x	102	10%	131	21%	16	0	109	28%	1162	42%	2168	34%
2003	14	86%	2	50%	479	32%	84	8%	195	17%	37	27%	132	7%	146	27%	13	0	83	37%	1011	34%	2196	29%
2004	26	69%	5	40%	405	30%	113	5%	182	10%	34	35%	126	6%	109	20%	14	7%	79	20%	1496	40%	2589	32%
2005	20	60%	1	100%	393	30%	90	1%	167	14%	51	22%	82	9%	107	23%	9	22%	77	32%	844	27%	1841	24%
2006	19	42%	0	0	384	21%	130	5%	190	14%	50	14%	87	9%	240	14%	12	0	110	15%	1367	8%	2589	11%
2007	8	38%	0	0	319	27%	136	3%	147	17%	41	37%	69	1%	92	27%	10	0	84	18%	1751	17%	2657	17%

and was more than the states of Delaware, Maine, North Dakota and Rhode Island combined. Table 4 below illustrates the comparable case load figures for 2005 across jurisdictions without a permanent intermediate appellate court.⁵ Other measures appearing in the chart, such as the number of cases filed per 100,000 population, are used to compare judicial workloads across diverse jurisdictions.

Compared to all appellate courts nationwide, in 2005, West Virginia ranked third in the nation in the number of appeals filed per 100,000 population, behind the District of Columbia at 299 and Louisiana at 231. Florida was fourth at 153 and Puerto Rico fifth at 146.

National court data obtained from R. Schauffler, R. LaFountain, N. Kauder, & S. Strickland, *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2006: A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project* at 74 (National Center for State Courts, 2007).*

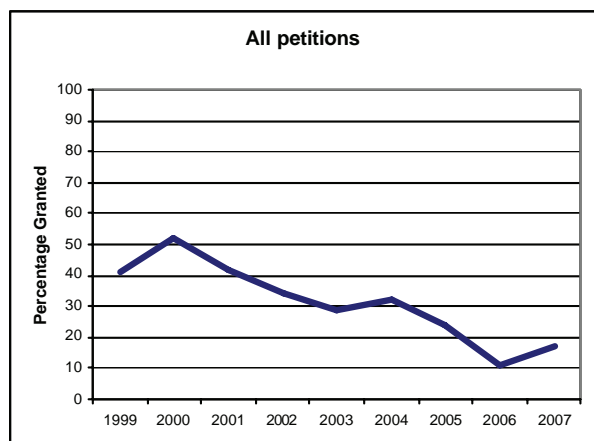
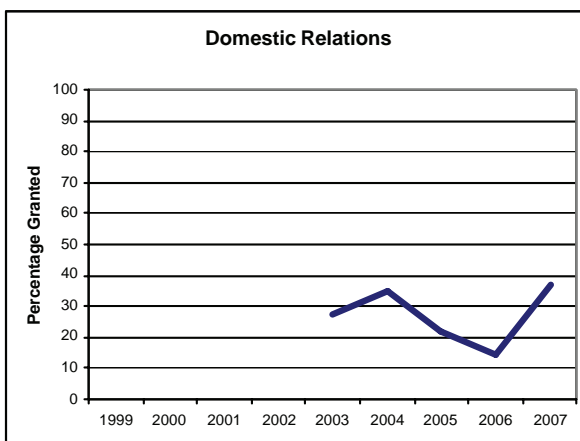
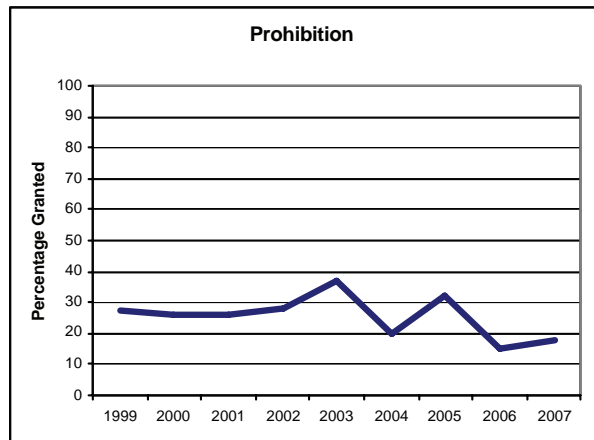
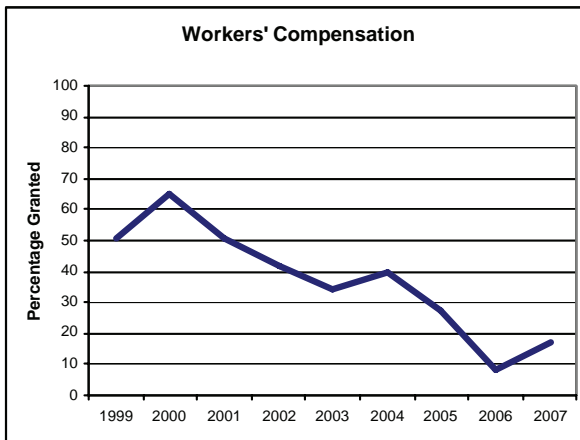
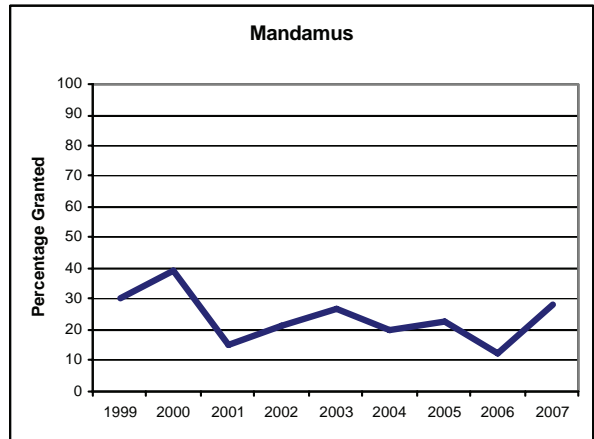
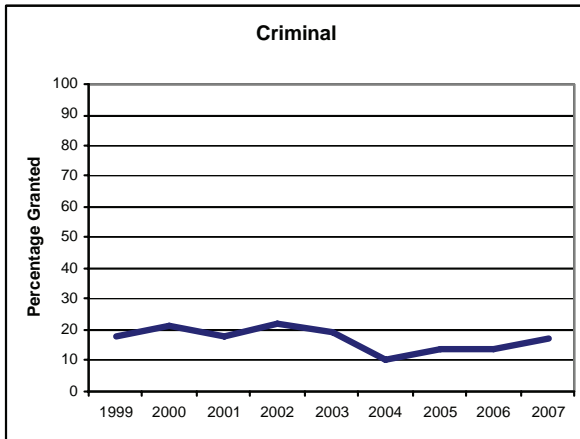
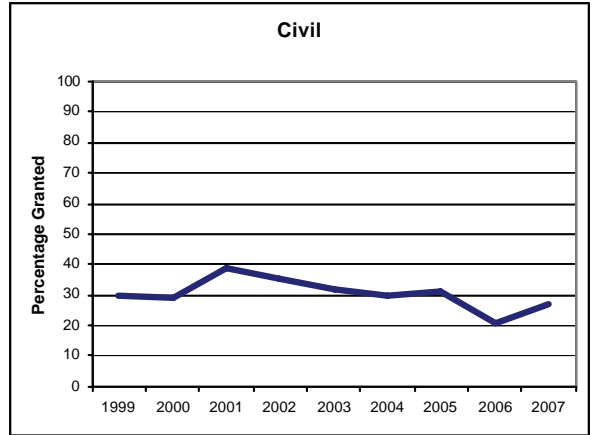
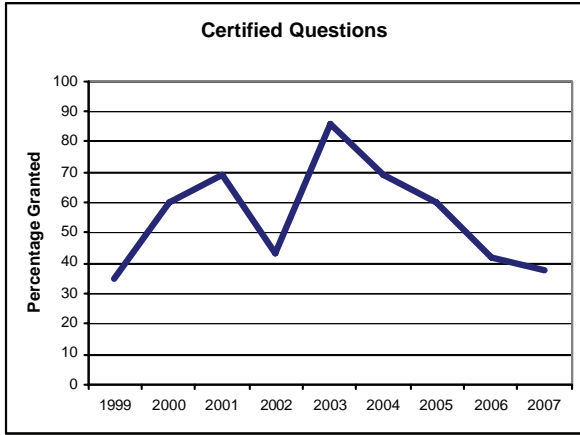
Table 4

Jurisdictions Without Intermediate Appellate Courts	Appeals per 100,000 population	Total Filings	Percent Mandatory	Percent Discretionary
Delaware	69	583	100	-
District of Columbia	299	1,648	99	1
Maine	48	629	79	21
Montana	79	738	77	23
Nevada	85	2,058	100	-
New Hampshire	72	939	-	100
North Dakota	74	470	100	-
Rhode Island	32	345	70	30
South Dakota	48	369	84	16
Vermont	85	532	96	4
West Virginia	166	2,983	-	100
Wyoming	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

* The Web site of the Court Statistics Project – a joint effort by the Conference of State Court Administrators, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Center for State Courts – contains a wealth of resources and publications related to court statistics: http://www.ncsconline.org/d_research/csp/CSP_Main_Page.html

Percentage of Discretionary Petitions Granted - Major Case Types - 1999-2007

Table 6



End Notes for Statistical Report

¹ The figures in Table 1 for the “Civil” category have been adjusted for the years 2003 and 2006 in order to correct a computation error. The total civil filings for 2003 were previously reported as 457, when the correct total is 423. The total civil filings for 2006 were previously reported as 468, when the correct total is 381. The computation error was caused when abuse and neglect cases were incorrectly included in the civil totals.

² See W.Va. Const. Art. VIII, sec. 4 (An “appeal shall be allowed . . . only upon a petition assigning error . . . and then only after the court . . . shall have examined and considered the record and is satisfied that there is probably error in the record, or that it presents a point proper for the consideration of the court.”)

³ In Table 3, separate columns are provided for abuse and neglect cases as well as domestic relations appeals. A domestic relations case arises originally from a family court order, which is then typically appealed to a circuit court. The column for civil cases includes general civil appeals, cases other than workers’ compensation that arise from administrative agencies, such as tax appeals and appeals from the Public Service Commission. Data for the “Domestic Relations” category were not collected prior to 2003. Computation errors in the totals for the years 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2006 have also been corrected. These errors did not affect the percentages.

⁴ R. LaFountain, R. Schauffler, S. Strickland, W. Raftery, & C. Bromage, *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2006: A National Perspective from the Court Statistics Project* at 74 (National Center for State Courts, 2007). Among twenty state courts of last resort, West Virginia had the fifth-highest percentage of petitions granted in 2005. This ranking would be higher if the National Center’s percentage was calculated based upon the number of cases *actually considered* versus the number *filed* in a given year. The Web site of the Court Statistics Project, a joint effort by the Conference of State Court Administrators, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and the National Center for State Courts, contains a wealth of resources and publications related to court statistics.

http://www.ncsconline.org/d_research/csp/CSP_Main_Page.html

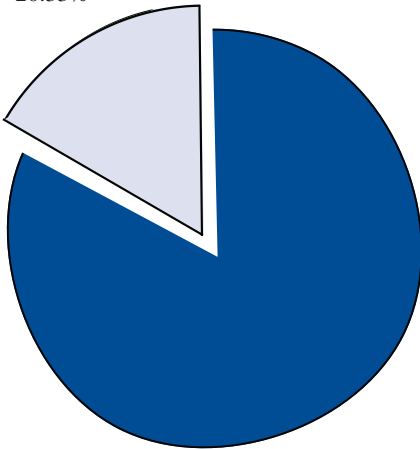
⁵ North Dakota has a temporary intermediate appellate court that can be called up from time to time by the North Dakota Supreme Court to handle overload matters. Because its IAC is temporary and not usually activated, North Dakota is counted as a jurisdiction without an intermediate appellate court. The data reported by the National Center for West Virginia in 2005 reflect 3,031 filings rather than 2,983. The correct values have been used in Table 5 on page 13. Wyoming did not report data for 2005. See *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2006, Id.* at 68.

Court System Budget

Fiscal Year 2008

July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008

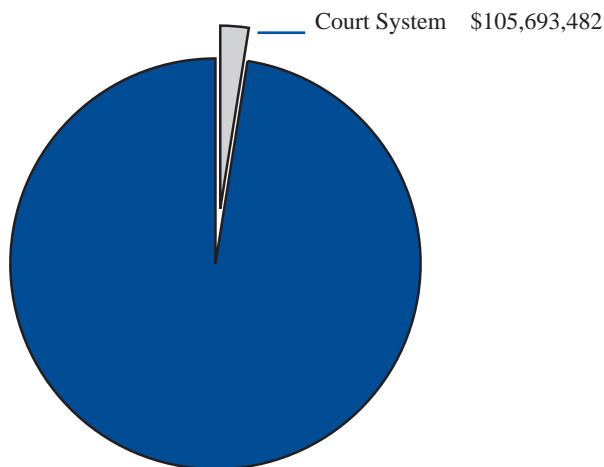
Operating Expenses
20.33%



Personal Services &
Fringe Benefits
79.67%

Personal Services & Fringe Benefits	\$ 81,461,090
Operating Expenses	<u>20,792,597</u>
Total Fiscal Year 2008 Expenditures	\$102,253,687

State of West Virginia Fiscal Year 2008 Budget



The Court System's Budget comprised 2.79% of West Virginia's General Revenue Budget of \$3,776,000,000.

Supreme Court of Appeals Money Returned to Counties in 2007

County	Circuit Court	Family Court	Magistrate Court	Total
Barbour	\$62,181	\$277,282	\$255,670	\$595,133
Berkeley	\$3,182,670	\$857,590	\$441,799	\$4,482,059
Boone	\$984,818	\$357,909	\$249,199	\$1,591,926
Braxton	\$1,049,011	\$267,793	\$256,406	\$1,573,210
Brooke	\$1,314,768	\$331,874	\$15,880	\$1,662,522
Cabell	\$4,331,504	\$1,049,466	\$519,703	\$5,900,673
Calhoun	\$136,868	\$273,846	\$24,890	\$435,604
Clay	\$172,054	\$266,133	\$11,923	\$450,110
Doddridge	\$635,149	\$287,125	\$4,853	\$927,127
Fayette	\$1,752,769	\$677,815	\$331,213	\$2,761,797
Gilmer	\$40,894	\$223,636	\$4,550	\$269,080
Grant	\$522,893	\$262,796	\$1,333	\$787,022
Greenbrier	\$1,746,940	\$594,882	\$244,746	\$2,586,568
Hampshire	\$826,073	\$278,094	\$228,474	\$1,332,641
Hancock	\$909,067	\$455,203	\$42,162	\$1,406,432
Hardy	\$426,011	\$273,187	\$21,020	\$720,218
Harrison	\$2,931,506	\$755,809	\$257,143	\$3,944,458
Jackson	\$884,897	\$352,603	\$27,254	\$1,264,754
Jefferson	\$502,511	\$502,275	\$226,888	\$1,231,674
Kanawha	\$8,272,170	\$1,790,978	\$1,194,992	\$11,258,140
Lewis	\$470,125	\$321,732	\$43,942	\$835,799
Lincoln	\$1,099,162	\$300,268	\$27,192	\$1,426,622
Logan	\$2,110,987	\$631,903	\$300,031	\$3,042,921
Marion	\$1,865,026	\$685,353	\$231,724	\$2,782,103
Marshall	\$1,689,683	\$511,128	\$71,427	\$2,272,238
Mason	\$928,201	\$331,420	\$255,286	\$1,514,907
McDowell	\$1,485,450	\$488,299	\$71,650	\$2,045,399
Mercer	\$2,615,268	\$803,968	\$551,792	\$3,971,028
Mineral	\$935,235	\$318,664	\$4,125	\$1,258,024
Mingo	\$1,069,101	\$551,230	\$241,944	\$1,862,275
Monongalia	\$1,654,993	\$692,674	\$239,843	\$2,587,510
Monroe	\$560,688	\$260,455	\$28,855	\$849,998
Morgan	\$389,641	\$303,681	\$14,885	\$708,207
Nicholas	\$1,000,608	\$474,732	\$239,987	\$1,715,327
Ohio	\$1,769,978	\$719,608	\$553,959	\$3,043,545
Pendleton	\$111,602	\$307,166	\$2,097	\$420,865
Pleasants	\$197,244	\$263,707	\$4,571	\$465,522
Pocahontas	\$53,094	\$300,492	\$244,622	\$598,208
Preston	\$1,035,839	\$524,501	\$36,179	\$1,596,519
Putnam	\$1,704,792	\$503,954	\$230,742	\$2,439,488
Raleigh	\$2,844,557	\$888,585	\$469,374	\$4,202,516
Randolph	\$955,444	\$450,847	\$239,942	\$1,646,233
Ritchie	\$232,478	\$279,319	\$4,417	\$516,214
Roane	\$254,360	\$289,527	\$236,421	\$780,308
Summers	\$387,261	\$255,850	\$38,296	\$681,407
Taylor	\$1,028,742	\$278,217	\$15,277	\$1,322,236
Tucker	\$358,564	\$280,042	\$850	\$639,456
Tyler	\$21,523	\$266,680	\$2,391	\$290,594
Upshur	\$1,010,770	\$374,523	\$7,995	\$1,393,288
Wayne	\$1,235,704	\$454,846	\$268,119	\$1,958,669
Webster	\$725,216	\$304,618	\$11,343	\$1,041,177
Wetzel	\$351,633	\$315,956	\$0	\$667,589
Wirt	\$24,994	\$272,443	\$1,783	\$299,220
Wood	\$3,387,110	\$796,013	\$650,416	\$4,833,539
Wyoming	\$831,615	\$500,253	\$31,723	\$1,363,591

Special Judicial Programs

Contributing Toward Judicial Education

The Division of Special Projects of the Supreme Court Administrative Office gave presentations on managing diversity in the workplace at the Magistrate Staff Conferences held in Charleston on April 19 and 26, 2007. The division also created presentations for both the Spring Circuit Judges' Education Conference held in Martinsburg from May 1 to 4, 2007, and the Probation Officers' Conference held in Morgantown from October 23 to 26, 2007. For circuit judges, the division prepared courtroom protocol for jurors and witnesses. For probation officers, the division contributed to an ethics and procedure presentation.

Concentrating on Behavioral Health Care

The Director of the Division of Special Projects served with Administrative Director Steve Canterbury on the West Virginia Behavioral Health Care (BHC) Commission's Regulatory and Image Working Group. Working with the Court's Division of Mental Hygiene Services, the division produced a summary of West Virginia's behavioral health care laws and regulations, which inspired the working group to organize a priority matrix of those laws and regulations, with each member focusing on the specific areas of his or her own expertise. The group made problem-solving recommendations to the Commission, and the division continues to provide administrative counsel to the judiciary's BHC commissioners.

Comparing National Practices

The National Center for State Courts adapted and published the research performed by West Virginia's Division of Special Projects Director Jennifer Singletary detailing national practices of state courts regarding distribution of appellate filing fee funding and of juror compensation.

Revisiting Access to Justice

More than a decade ago, a subcommittee of the original Commission on the Future of the West Virginia Judiciary was formed to examine Access to Justice for all West Virginians. Over the years, the subcommittee took different forms, including the West Virginia Legal Services for the Poor Symposium and a special Task Force on Self-Represented Litigants. In 2004, the West

Virginia Supreme Court voted unanimously to create a permanent Access to Justice Commission. The issues originally identified for examination by the Access to Justice Commission included the following: uniformity of court policies, procedure and forms; accessibility to those with limited incomes; accessibility and efficiency of the appellate process; adequacy of *pro se* representation; safety and security for the public; assertable victims' rights; and accessibility to the courts for the disabled.

In 2007, the Division of Special Projects sent a delegate to the annual Equal Justice Conference to study national Access to Justice trends; and now, under the leadership of Supreme Court Justice Brent A. Benjamin, the division is working with Legal Aid of West Virginia to empanel the commission and address its action plan.

Racial Disparity, Equality and Diversity

The Division of Special Projects remains the coordinating body for the Task Force to Study Perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System and the Committee on Equality in the West Virginia Judiciary. The Task Force completed its Interim Report to the Court in October, 2007, and will undertake all recommendations approved for action by the Court.

The Director of the Division of Special Projects participated in the Managing Diversity Leadership Conference held on Martin Luther King Day, 2007, and traveled to the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts in May, 2007. It is the vision of the Special Projects Division that West Virginia courts adopt a working definition for, understand, and embrace diversity as it is relevant in the 21st Century.

Coordinating Web Redesign

The division director served on the Supreme Court's Internet Committee as coordinator of the committee's undertaking of a complete redesign of the state court system's Web site and a reconception of the Court's Internet presence.

Providing Court Publications

In 2007, the Division of Special Projects remained the central clearinghouse for court-published materials throughout the state. Court publication availability was reviewed and revised at the beginning of the year, and orders were filled throughout the year.

Court Technology

Unified Judicial Application

The Supreme Court of Appeals in 2007 continued implementation of the West Virginia court system's case management system. The Supreme Court signed a contract with ACS Government Systems of Lexington, Kentucky, on July 1, 2006, after reviewing proposals from three companies. That contract is now in the second year with emphasis on maintaining the project plan.

The Unified Judicial Application information system, or UJA, will standardize the processes and computer programs used in magistrate courts, family courts, and circuit courts throughout the state and link them with the Supreme Court of Appeals. The system will have a centralized database and will allow greater access to court information and statistics.

The Supreme Court is committed to improving the court system's accountability. The UJA will provide more accurate crime statistics to the public and the Legislature, which then will have better information on which to base public policy. The system also will be able to supply privacy-secured electronic information to the Division of Motor Vehicles, State Police, Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, and the Division of Corrections.

Under the UJA, all counties will have the same computer system and they will be linked, so a person's complete court and criminal record will be quickly available at every courthouse. The UJA also will allow more efficient record-keeping of court costs and fines that are collected, and more effective auditing to ensure those collections are distributed to programs which they fund. The money is an important budget backbone for regional jails, community corrections, and the state Crime Victims Compensation Fund, among others.

Furthermore, the new system also will reduce redundant data entry across the court system and improve efficiency by streamlining processes and eliminating manual tasks. The system will encompass docketing, scheduling, calendars, sentencing, event management, integrated accounting, form generation, management reporting, evidence tracking, file tracking, on-line documentation, and public Web access. The system will be integrated with existing state information systems. And, of course, it will have a comprehensive security system.

The Greenbrier County Magistrate Clerk's Office agreed to be the beta test site for the first part of the conversion to the UJA. Staff in the Magistrate Clerk's Office worked diligently with Supreme Court Administrative Office staff to work through the inevitable issues that come up in any pilot project. As a

result of their efforts, the office completed a successful conversion of all available data from its previous system into the UJA in 2007. In Greenbrier County, the UJA is now in full use as the active case data system, with the previous (legacy) system used as a read-only supplement for research and inquiry in case-data related issues, in addition to financial processing. The financial data portion of the Greenbrier legacy data will be converted into the UJA in 2008. Emphasis will be placed on license revocation and Division of Motor Vehicles data exchange.

As an enhancement to the UJA, the Supreme Court of Appeals has purchased and will implement a new technology domain name and directory structure known as courts.wv.gov to replace the current courts.wv.org. This allows computer users to identify this new domain as a government entity. All users, services and related systems will be moved to the new courts.wv.gov domain, which will provide more efficient and timely delivery of courts-related technology activity.

Microsoft Office Applications training, taught by a Certified Microsoft Office Master Instructor, has been developed and will be incorporated into the UJA training curriculum. This training is necessary for all Magistrate Court users since the terminals currently in use will be replaced with desktops that contain the Microsoft Office Suite. The Microsoft training will precede UJA training. Additional Microsoft Office and UJA training will be offered on a continuing basis.

Demonstrations of the UJA development were presented in Charleston and Morgantown in 2007 and included in-depth reviews of the system in the Greenbrier County Magistrate Clerk's Office. Magistrate court officials from across the state were invited to both meetings. The purpose of the presentations was to allow magistrate courts' staff to provide feedback to the Technology Division on processes and approaches being defined and implemented for the statewide magistrate courts' UJA system.

The UJA is the next logical way to use technology to improve the efficiency and fairness of the judicial system.

Also in 2007, the Technology Division began developing plans for a centralized depot for technology equipment, including a centralized ordering and storage system in order to ease purchasing and disbursement. Emphasis will be placed on the standardization of hardware and system peripherals. This will significantly reduce the cost of equipment and reduce the downtime to install new equipment and to replace used equipment.

Law Library

The State Law Library is dedicated to providing access to legal information for all citizens of West Virginia. Under the direction of State Law Librarian Kaye Maerz, the library supports the research and legal information needs of judges, court personnel, attorneys, inmates, and the general public. The library's collection is comprised of 150,000 volumes or volume equivalents, including print, microfiche, CD-ROM and electronic resources. Included are an assortment of federal and state materials, case reporters, statutes, regulations, legislative materials, periodicals, and government documents. Professional librarians and support staff provide research and reference assistance, interlibrary loans for court personnel, and a fee-based document delivery service. Requests for legal information may be made by phone, FAX, and e-mail.

In addition to the State Law Library, the West Virginia court library system consists of 37 judicial circuit libraries, including six regional law libraries. Each regional library is staffed with a full-time Local Law Librarian to assist patrons. Regional law libraries have excellent collections of primary sources, with emphasis on West Virginia codes and regulations. Free computer access to the Internet is also available at these locations.

The State Law Library's Web site (<http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/library/menu.htm>) has links to court-related resources such as West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals' slip opinions, oral argument calendars, jury instructions, and general court system information. The Web site also has links to West Virginia legal resources, including the West Virginia Code and Code of State Rules, as well as other state, federal, and international legal resources. The Library's catalog is available online and is searchable on-site or remotely by subject, author, title, keyword, or phrase.

In addition to resources available at the State Law Library, the West Virginia Supreme Court partners with other state entities to provide free access to legal information in locations across the state. In 2004, the Court collaborated with the state Library Commission to establish ten Legal Research Centers (LRCs). These LRCs help meet the needs of self-represented litigants for access to legal information by providing print books as well as free computer access to the Internet. The Legal Research Centers of West Virginia Web site (<http://www.wvlrc.org>) contains information to help self-represented litigants navigate the court system, research legal topics and file court documents. LRCs are located in court libraries in Charleston, Parkersburg, Huntington, and Wheeling and public libraries in Beckley, Welch, Marlinton, Clarksburg, Romney, and Martinsburg.

In 2007, the State Law Library, in cooperation with several state agencies, began offering free informational workshops to the public. These sessions covered a variety of law-related topics, such as basic legal research, consumer credit repair, preventing identity theft, and income tax basics like assistance with tax return preparation for low-income citizens. Other sessions covered advanced medical directives, including living wills, medical powers of attorney, and health care proxies. All workshops were held in the State Law Library, Building 1, Room E-404, in the East Wing of the State Capitol Complex. Sessions were free to the public and registration was not required. The sessions will continue in 2008 and 2009, and there are plans to offer similar workshops at the LRCs. For information about future workshops, call the State Law Library at (304) 558-2607 or visit our Web site: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/library/workshops.htm>

Appointments

Tom Tinder moves from State Bar to State Bar Foundation; Anita Casey takes over at State Bar

On December 31, 2007, Thomas Tinder, Esq., moved from Executive Director of The West Virginia State Bar to Executive Director of the West Virginia Bar Foundation. Tinder had been director of the Bar for nineteen years and became the first full-time employee of the Bar Foundation, which had been staffed by the State Bar.

The Foundation is the philanthropic organization for West Virginia's legal profession and justice system.

Tinder was replaced at the Bar by Anita Casey, Esq. Casey came to the Bar from a statewide practice at MacCorkle Lavender Casey & Sweeney, PLLC, where she had experience in law office management, mediation, and litigation. She also has been a leader in the Charleston chapter of the American Inns of Court.

Green named Bar Admissions Administrator

On June 28, the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals voted to name Nancy Green the Bar Admissions Administrator, replacing Sue Rubenstein, who took a job at the West Virginia Board of Professional Engineers. Green was the unanimous choice of the Board of Law Examiners.

Green had been the Deputy Administrator at the Board of Law Examiners since April 1989. She previously worked in the Kanawha County Circuit Clerk's Office from 1984 to 1989.

The Board of Law Examiners is in charge of administering the Bar exam to prospective lawyers twice a year. The Bar Admissions Administrator and Deputy Administrator also oversee the Board's daily operations and bi-annual meetings; provide records maintenance and monitoring throughout the Bar application process; coordinate prospective lawyer character and fitness investigations by the National Conference of Bar Examiners, the District Character Committees and the Board of Law Examiners; provide certification of the eligibility of individual applicants to the Supreme Court Clerk; and coordinate swearing-in ceremonies before the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Canterbury Appointed to Justice Center Board

Supreme Court Administrator Steve Canterbury was appointed to serve on the prestigious Council of State Governments' Justice Center Board of Directors, the Center announced on June 22, 2007. He was chosen to serve on the 25-member board for a period of two years.

Canterbury joined a bipartisan group of legislative leaders, state court and law enforcement officials, and members of several governors' cabinets from corrections and health and human services agencies to serve on the board. Together the Board guides projects the Justice Center administers, including the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Consensus Project and the Re-Entry Policy Council. Additional issue areas that the Justice Center is exploring are youth violence and the frequent use of emergency services by people with acute substance abuse disorders.

State officials across the country have used the findings and technical assistance provided through Justice Center projects to develop successful legislative initiatives. Congress also has worked closely with leaders of the board to develop national policies.

Highlights of the 2007 Juror Qualification Report

Circuit clerks provide an annual report of juror questionnaires to the Supreme Court of Appeals' Administrative Office. The Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center enters information from the questionnaires and generates an annual report, which is given to the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate.

In 2007, all of West Virginia's 55 counties submitted annual reports on juror qualification. A total of 50,736 jurors throughout the state completed questionnaires. The number of jurors completing the questionnaire ranged from a low of 138 in Gilmer County to a high of 6,410 in Kanawha County. Ohio County reported the highest number of questionnaires in 2006 and 2005.

Of those who completed questionnaires, 99.3 percent of the jurors identified their gender. Of those, 52.4 percent were female and 47.6 percent were male.

Also, of the 50,736 total questionnaires, 78.3 percent of jurors reported they were white; 1.8 percent were black; and 1.3 percent identified they were of other races. The remaining 18.6 percent did not report their race.

More jurors reported their age as "over seventy" (11.5 percent) than any other reported age category. All other age categories spanned only five years. Other age categories accounting for more than ten percent of jurors included the 46-50, 51-55, and 56-60 age groups.

In 2007, 41 counties used the jury wheel to select jurors, seven used a jury box, four counties used computer technology, and three used a combination of methods.

Rebels, Radicals, and Red Men

Supreme Court Clerk Rory L. Perry II and his 2007 intern, history major Joshua A. Lynn, presented a ninety-minute lecture on May 31 on three sets of Supreme Court cases involving fascinating periods in West Virginia history.

The lecture by Perry and Lynn, a Marshall University Yeager Scholar, was presented in the Supreme Court Chamber and was Webcast live. The lecture was archived and is available for viewing on the Clerk's Office section of the Supreme Court Web site at <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca/clerk.htm>. It has been approved for 1.8 MCLE credit.

The seminar, "Rebels, Radicals and Red Men: Legal and Historical Perspectives on Enemies and the Rule of Law in West Virginia, 1863-1913," focused on government responses to enemies within and without. Perry and Lynn discussed groups of cases involving Reconstruction restrictions upon former Confederates; martial law, military tribunals and suppression of dissent during the coal mine wars; and efforts to criminalize secret societies.

Perry hopes to make the historical seminar a regular event and to use material from the seminars in a written history of the West Virginia Supreme Court.



Loutellus M. Stout, center, retired at the end of 2007 after working in the Supreme Court Clerk's Office for twenty years. Stout was born in January 1924 and raised in the community of Porto Rico in Doddridge County. He was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Doddridge County, from 1957 to 1960. He then became a lobbyist for the Farm Bureau as well as Independent Oil and Gas Association until he came to work at the Supreme Court in August 1987. He is married and has two children and five grandchildren. He is pictured here with Order Books 97-157, which he indexed, and fellow Clerk's Office employees Lynn Gray, Redonna Thompson, Wanda McDuffie, Angie Wilkinson, Claudia Townsend, Preston Samson, Clerk Rory Perry II, Richard Gush, Megan Berry, Angie Smith, Cassie Harkey, Sue O'Dell, and Deputy Clerk Eydie Nash. Photo by Jeff Gentner

Supreme Court launches *Robes to Schools*

The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals launched a new education outreach program called *Robes to Schools* on January 17, 2007.

The program was part of Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis' 2007 initiative as Chief Justice, "Year of the Child, Too," and has become a permanent program of the Court.

The goal of *Robes to Schools* is to have active and retired justices, circuit judges, family court judges, and magistrates make regular appearances in West Virginia schools. Judicial officers volunteer to participate in Read Aloud programs in elementary schools, and can join a new speaker's bureau to talk to elementary, middle and high school classes about the judicial system.

To launch the program, all five West Virginia Supreme Court justices read to elementary school classes in January 2007.

After reading a Sherlock Holmes short story, Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard was invited to return to Kanawha City Elementary School to conduct a mock trial for fifth grade students.

All the justices continued to read to students throughout the year, as did numerous circuit judges, family court judges, and magistrates. By the end of the year, Kanawha County Magistrate Kim Aaron alone had read to almost one thousand children in Kanawha County. Statewide, judicial officers visited more than one hundred classes during the year.

Justice Davis was a popular reader in her native Boone County. When Justice Joseph Albright was invited to read,

Continued on next page



Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis reads to third-graders at Montrose Elementary School on January 17, 2007. Photo by Kenny Kemp, The Charleston Gazette



Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard conducts a mock trial for fifth-graders at Kanawha City Elementary School on February 12, 2007. The student playing the judge is engulfed in Justice Maynard's robe. Photo by Chris Dickerson, The West Virginia Record



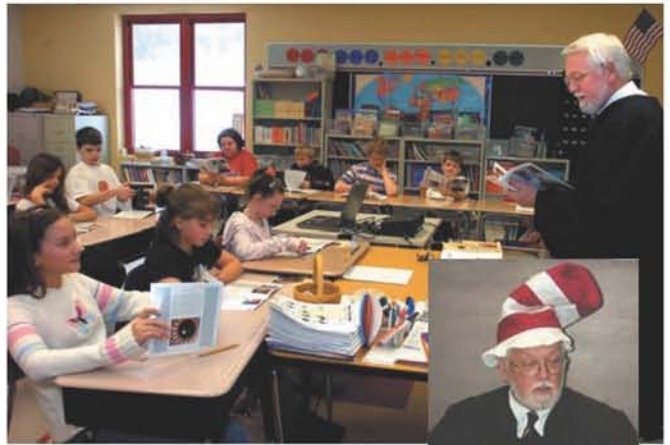
Kanawha County Circuit Judge Tod Kaufman reads *Wild Fox* to a group of fourth- and fifth-graders at Glenwood Elementary School in Charleston in January 2007. The book is a true story by Cherie Mason about a fox, crippled by a trap, that came into her yard one winter. Judge Kaufman says the book was a favorite of his children, now ages nineteen, fifteen, and twelve, and one that he had read to their elementary school classes. "It is nice to get out of the office and read for a change," Judge Kaufman told The *West Virginia Record*. "It's nice to be doing this again. I love that the Supreme Court is encouraging this with the *Robes to Schools* program." Photo by Chris Dickerson, The West Virginia Record



Tenth Judicial Circuit Judge John A. Hutchison reads to children at Crab Orchard Elementary School in Raleigh County on Read to Me Day, November 15, 2007. Photo courtesy of the school



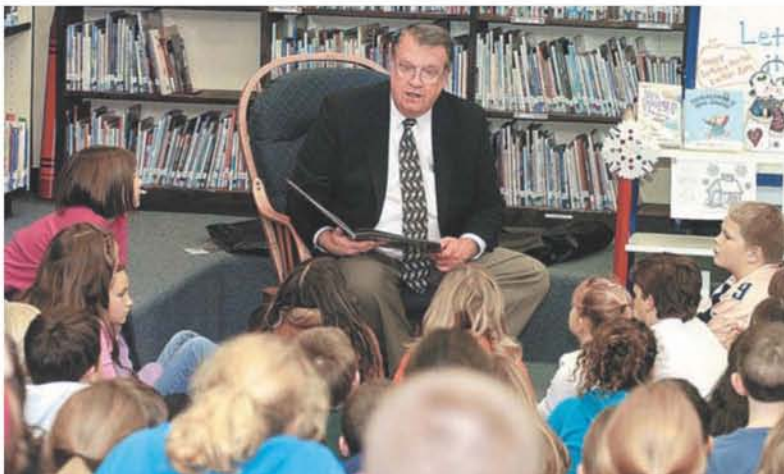
Justice Brent Benjamin reads to students at North Jefferson Elementary School on March 2, Read Across America Day. Photo by Ron Agnir, The [Martinsburg] Journal



Justice Larry Starcher reads to fifth-grade students at Mylan Park Elementary School in Monongalia County on January 29, 2007. Photo by Ron Rittenhouse, courtesy of The [Morgantown] Dominion Post



Tenth Judicial Circuit Judge H.L. Kirkpatrick III reads to children at Crab Orchard Elementary School in Raleigh County on Read to Me Day, November 15, 2007. Photo courtesy of the school



Justice Joseph Albright reads to fourth-grade students at Mineral Wells Elementary School on January 17, 2007. Photo by Brett Dunlap, [Parkersburg] News & Sentinel

he chose books appropriate for the grade level with the help of his daughter, Dr. Lettie Albright, a reading specialist at Texas Women's University, and then donated the books to the school. Dr. Albright also allowed the Court to post Read Aloud Guidelines she designed on the *Robes to Schools* Web page.

Among their numerous reading assignments, Justices Brent Benjamin and Larry Starcher participated in Read Across America Day, honoring the March 2 birthday of the late Theodor Seuss Geisel, by reading to students in Kanawha County and Jefferson County and delivering the "Reader's Oath," written by a Missouri teacher.

Robes to Schools supports the goal of the West Virginia Department of Education's Partnership for 21st Century Skills to improve civic literacy, and was endorsed by the West Virginia Board of Education. It also is part of Chief Justice Davis' efforts to improve the lives of all West Virginia children, not just those who end up in the court system.

As a mother of a grade school student, Chief Justice Davis knows how precious class instructional time is and how many demands are put on teachers. *Robes to Schools* does not reduce instructional time; it enhances existing curriculum.

The Court hopes the program teaches children how important the justice system is to American democracy and that judges are real people who are worthy of respect. If children know and respect judges, they will grow up to respect the judicial system, which is vital to the very preservation of democracy. *Robes to Schools* may even spark an interest in some to become lawyers or judges.

The Read Aloud program and speaker's bureau are coordinated by the Supreme Court's Division of Children's Services. Anyone who wants to invite a judge to read to a class or speak to a class can contact Education Coordinator Kandi Greter at (304) 340-2306.



From left, Justice Joseph P. Albright, Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis, Justice Elliott “Spike” Maynard, and 22nd Judicial Circuit Judge Donald H. Cookman listen to attorney Jason Huber’s argument. Judge Cookman was appointed to hear a case in which Justice Brent Benjamin was recused. Photo by Raymond Burner

LAWS

Students from Hampshire, Hardy, Pendleton Counties see Supreme Court in action

About three hundred high school and college students from the 22nd Judicial Circuit of Hampshire, Hardy, and Pendleton Counties attended Supreme Court arguments on April 17, 2007, at the Hampshire County Courthouse in Romney, site of the Supreme Court’s 2007 LAWS program.

LAWS, an acronym for Legal Advancement for West Virginia Students, is a partnership between the court system, schools, local Bars, and the community. LAWS teaches high school and college students about the legal system. With the assistance of local attorneys, circuit judges, and Supreme Court staff, teachers help students in each class study an individual case, and then students attend oral arguments in that case.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis founded the LAWS program when she was Chief Justice in 1999. Since then, more than 2,400 high school and college students in fourteen counties have participated.

While the session in Romney was for the benefit and education of high school and college students, scores of citizens attended.

Students from Moorefield High School heard arguments in *Jerome E. Burch, et al. v. Nedpower Mount Storm, et al.* Students from Potomac State College heard arguments in *State of W.Va. v. Denver A. Youngblood, Jr.*

Students from East Hardy High School and Pendleton County High School heard arguments in *Hartley Hill Hunt Club, et al. v. County Commission of Ritchie County, et al.*

Students from Hampshire County High School, the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College heard arguments in *State of W.Va. v. Brian Daniel Murray.*

Following each case, students met with the attorneys who argued that case. Attorneys and students from all the schools also ate an informal box lunch with the Supreme Court justices and 22nd Circuit Court Judge Donald H. Cookman.

Justice Larry Starcher was not able to attend the argument docket in Romney because he was recovering from eye surgery.



Students listen to arguments in the Hampshire County Courthouse in Romney. Photo by Raymond Burner



Justice Brent Benjamin posits a question as Sharon Loar, a school counselor at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, interprets for students from the West Virginia School for the Deaf. Photo by Raymond Burner



Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard talks to students during lunch in Romney. *Photo by Raymond Burner*



Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis talks to students during the lunch break. *Photo by Raymond Burner*



Justice Brent Benjamin jokes with students during lunch. *Photo by Raymond Burner*



Justice Joseph P. Albright talks to a student before lunch. *Photo by Raymond Burner*



Attorney Byron Craig Manford and Morgan County Prosecutor Debra M.H. McLaughlin answer questions from students after the last argument of the day is over and the justices have left the courtroom. Supreme Court Clerk Rory Perry II is at the far right. *Photo by Raymond Burner*

Supreme Court Outreach

The Supreme Court of Appeals is committed to improving access to the courts and improving knowledge about the court system. The Chief Justice writes a column in the State Bar's *West Virginia Lawyer* magazine, and the Court makes its rules, opinions, and other documents available on its continually expanding Web site.

The Court in 2007 held three sessions outside of Charleston. On March 13 it heard oral arguments in several cases at West Virginia University's College of Law in Morgantown and judged the law school's annual Baker Cup Moot Court appellate advocacy competition. On April 17 more than three hundred high school and college students from the 22nd Judicial Circuit of Hampshire, Hardy, and Pendleton counties attended Supreme Court arguments at the Hampshire County Courthouse in Romney for the LAWS program. LAWS is an acronym for Legal Advancement for West Virginia Students. The program, which Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis began in 1999 when she earlier served as Chief Justice, is a partnership between the Bar, the Court, and the community. It teaches high school students about the legal system and the Supreme Court. On September 18 the Supreme Court heard arguments in four cases on the campus of Marshall University, part of that university's celebration of Constitution Week.

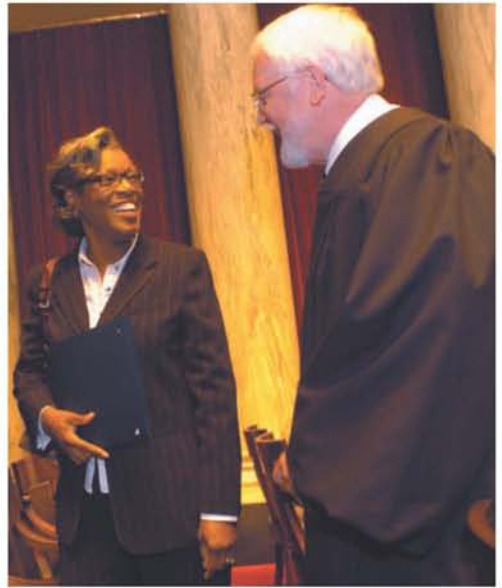
The justices also speak at events around the state. Chief Justice Davis, Justice Brent Benjamin, and Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard spoke briefly and then answered questions on May 16 at an event at Wheeling Park sponsored by the Wheeling Area Chamber of Commerce.

Justice Joseph P. Albright discussed the value of volunteer service, community leadership, and the West Virginia court system in a speech on May 1 at the graduation dinner of the 2007 Leadership Development Series sponsored by the Mid-Ohio Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Justice Brent Benjamin was a featured participant in a panel discussion at the National Press Club on May 23. The discussion focused on the impact of the media and advertising in recent judicial elections in the United States and trends that may affect judicial elections in 2008. The panel was organized by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania and FactCheck.org.

Justice Larry Starcher was in Wheeling in June to conduct a mock Supreme Court argument at Rhododendron Girls State. Justice Starcher also delivered the Inaugural Address to Girls State. On May 12, Justice Starcher gave the commencement address at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia, and on October 10 he was the keynote speaker at West Virginia University-Parkersburg's Fifth Annual Appalachian Heritage Day.

On September 12, Justice Starcher presented a proclamation from Governor Joe Manchin declaring September 13 "J.R. Clifford Day" in honor of Clifford's birthday. The proclamation was given to officers of the West Virginia NAACP, the Mountain State Bar, and the J.R. Clifford Project. Clifford was West Virginia's first African-American attorney and a civil rights pioneer. Justice Starcher's senior law clerk, Tom Rodd, has written a play based on one of Clifford's most important cases, and the play was performed October 16 at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on the campus of Marshall University in Huntington. The play previously had been performed at several other locations around the state.



Charleston attorney Katherine L. Dooley and Justice Larry Starcher chat in the Supreme Court Chamber after Justice Starcher presented a proclamation from Governor Joe Manchin declaring September 13, 2007, to be "J.R. Clifford Day" in honor of the anniversary of the birth of West Virginia's first African-American attorney. *Photo by Kenny Kemp, The Charleston Gazette*



From left, Justice Brent Benjamin, Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis, Baker Cup runner-up Jenifer Matko, Baker Cup winner Stephen Conifer, Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard, and Justice Joseph Albright pose for a photo at the conclusion of the 2007 Baker Cup Moot Court appellate advocacy competition at West Virginia University's College of Law. *Photo courtesy of West Virginia University*



The West Virginia Supreme Court sits at Marshall University's Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. From left, Justice Joseph Albright, Justice Larry Starcher, Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis, Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard, and Justice Brent Benjamin. *Photo courtesy of Marshall University*



West Virginia Supreme Court Justice Brent Benjamin, left, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas share a laugh on September 10, 2007. Justice Thomas was invited to speak at Marshall University by Dolly Rozzi, president of the local AARP. She worked with Justice Thomas when he was Chairman of the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. *Photo by Randy Snyder for The Associated Press*

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas speaks at Marshall University

Clarence Thomas became the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice to visit Marshall University, named for the nation's fourth Chief Justice, when he spoke at the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center on September 10, 2007.

Justice Thomas was a guest of the Huntington Chapter of the AARP. Chapter President Dolly Rozzi worked with Justice Thomas when he was Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the 1980s.

Justice Thomas talked about life at the U.S. Supreme Court and the role of the Court in the American judicial system.

"One of the surprises of the Court is how civil it is," Justice Thomas said, according to an Associated Press account of his speech. Fellow Justices Antonin Scalia and Ruth Bader Ginsberg, who often differ in written opinions, are close friends who share a love of opera, he said. And all the justices eat lunch together when the Court is in session.

The workplace is quiet and conducive to deep thought. "The real hard part of our work is behind closed doors," Justice Thomas said. "We don't have a PR machine. We don't have town hall meetings. We're referees and none of us thinks a referee can make up rules as they go along."

Justice Thomas said critics of the Supreme Court are poorly informed and their criticism is superficial.

"All you need to be an expert on the Supreme Court is a couple of drinks and a mouth," he said.

Justice Thomas said the late Chief Justice John Marshall, the namesake of the University, laid a solid foundation for modern courts. Justice Marshall served from 1801 to 1835. His court's most famous case, *Marbury v. Madison*, defined the role the judicial system plays in the American Constitutional form of government.

"I tell my law clerks all the time, the structure is what was meant to run the country, not the amendments," Justice Thomas said, according to a story in *The [Huntington] Herald-Dispatch*.

He encouraged the audience to read U.S. Supreme Court opinions on the Court's Web site: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/opinions.html>



Clarence Thomas, left, receives a gavel made in West Virginia from Cabell County Circuit Court Judge Alfred E. Ferguson. *Photo by Lori Wolfe, The [Huntington] Herald-Dispatch*

"My effort in writing opinions is to make the Court accessible," he said. "It's your Constitution. It's not for me to play around. It's for you to know."

Although the Internet has made information more accessible, technology also has made crime more complex, and that will lead to more difficult cases for future courts to consider.

Justice Thomas, 59, is a graduate of Holy Cross College and Yale Law School. Before former President George H.W. Bush appointed him to the Supreme Court in 1991, he was an Assistant Attorney General of Missouri; an attorney for the Monsanto Company; a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. John Danforth, R-Missouri; Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education; and Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1990 he became a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.



Supreme Court Administrator Steve Canterbury passes out robes to the new judges in preparation for a group photo. From left, the judges are William Stewart Thompson; Gina Marie Groh; Paul M. Blake, Jr.; J.D. Beane; William J. Sadler; Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr.; and Family Court Judge Mary Ellen Griffith. *Photo by Lawrence Pierce, The Charleston Gazette*

Chief Justice Davis hosts mass robing ceremony

Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis hosted a public swearing-in ceremony on February 21 for all new judges appointed by Governor Joe Manchin. Governor Manchin spoke at the ceremony in the Supreme Court Chamber and then had a private reception for the judges and their guests at the Governor's Mansion. In his speech, the governor noted that he had appointed one-tenth of the members of the circuit court bench in West Virginia.

Judges participating in the ceremony included

- Circuit Judge J.D. Beane, who was sworn in December 29, 2006, to serve the Fourth Circuit of Wood and Wirt counties;
- Circuit Judge Paul M. Blake, Jr., who was sworn in September 6, 2005, to serve the Twelfth Circuit of Fayette County;
- Circuit Judge Gina Marie Groh, who was sworn in December 22, 2006, to serve the 23rd Circuit that includes Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties;
- Circuit Judge Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr., who was sworn in February 15, 2007, to serve the Eleventh Circuit of Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties.
- Circuit Judge William J. Sadler, who was sworn in December 28, 2006, to serve the Ninth Circuit of Mercer County;
- Circuit Judge William Stewart Thompson, whom Governor Manchin appointed February 6, 2007, to serve the 25th Judicial Circuit of Boone and Lincoln counties;
- Family Court Judge Mary Ellen Griffith, who was sworn in August 21, 2006, to serve the Twelfth Circuit of Mercer and McDowell Counties.

All five justices and Governor Manchin welcomed the judges to the judiciary and each new judge made brief remarks.

Chief Justice Davis noted that of the six new circuit judges, two – Judges Blake and Sadler – are former prosecutors and one – Judge Groh – is a former assistant



Governor Joe Manchin speaks to the Supreme Court, judges, their guests, and others who attended the ceremony in the Supreme Court Chamber as Chief Justice Davis presides. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*



Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis delivers the oath of office to Fourth Judicial Circuit Judge J.D. Beane. Looking on, from left, are the judge's girlfriend, Brenda Bailey; his mother, Elaine Beane; and his brothers, Dr. Michael Beane and Dr. David Beane. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*



Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis delivers the oath of office to Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judge Paul M. Blake, Jr., as his wife, Ruth Ann Blake, holds the Bible. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*



Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis delivers the oath of office to 23rd Judicial Circuit Judge Gina Marie Groh. Her son, Stephen, Jr., holds the Bible as her husband, Steve Groh, and their youngest son, Michael, look on. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*



Eleventh Judicial Circuit Judge Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr., takes the oath of office as his wife, Betty, holds a Bible and his daughter, Nichole, looks on. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*



Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge William J. Sadler takes the oath of office as his wife, Barbara, looks on. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*

prosecutor. Judge Pomponio is the first family court judge to become a circuit judge. Judge Beane is a long time legislative leader who brings experience writing laws to applying them in cases before him. Judge Thompson, as the youngest serving circuit judge, brings youth to the bench.

And Judge Mary Ellen Griffith has a wealth of family law experience and dedication.

“No matter how a case ends, there will always be someone who is not happy. You will not always be popular. You may be misquoted and criticized by your local media. You may even be threatened. Yet you have agreed to serve your state. For that, we thank you,” Chief Justice Davis said.



Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit Judge William Stewart Thompson speaks after taking the oath of office. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*



Family Court Judge Mary Ellen Griffith takes the oath of office in the Supreme Court Chamber. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*

Judicial Transitions



Judge Thompson and Judge Schlaegel

Governor Joe Manchin appointed Madison attorney **William Stewart Thompson** to fill the vacancy in the 25th Judicial Circuit of Boone and Lincoln Counties created by the retirement of Judge E. Lee Schlaegel, Jr., on December 31.

Judge Thompson was appointed on February 6, 2007, and took the oath of office on February 14.

"I've known him and his family for a long time," said Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis, a Boone County native. "He's a man of honesty and integrity. I look forward to working with him."

Judge Thompson is a lifelong resident of Boone County, a graduate of West Virginia University and West Virginia University College of Law. He was admitted to the Bar in 1995 and had been a Boone County mental hygiene commissioner since 2002. He became West Virginia's youngest circuit judge.

Judge Thompson said he was looking forward to having the opportunity to serve the people of Boone and Lincoln Counties. "It's the fulfillment of a longtime dream."



On February 13, 2007, Governor Manchin appointed **William Cour** Judge **Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr.**, to the circuit court bench in the Eleventh Circuit serving Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties.

Judge Pomponio, who lives in Lewisburg, was serving as the sole family court judge in the Fifteenth Family Court Circuit of Greenbrier and Monroe counties. On the circuit bench he replaces Judge Frank E. Jolliffe, who retired October 31, 2006. Judge

Jolliffe had served since July 1, 1976.

"I want to thank the governor and thank him for his confidence in me. I will do my best to continue to serve the people of the State of West Virginia," Judge Pomponio said.

Judge Pomponio had been family law master and then family court judge in Greenbrier and Monroe counties since 1994. He was admitted to the West Virginia Bar in 1988 and was a child advocate attorney in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties from 1992 to 1994.

Judge Pomponio is a graduate of South Broward High School in Hollywood, Florida; Miami-Dade Junior College; Florida Atlantic University; and Nova University School of Law in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1977 and practiced law in Florida from 1978 to 1991. He also was a captain with Eastern Airlines, flying B-727 and DC-9 airplanes out of Miami International Airport, from 1968 to 1991.

He served in the U.S. Army Tenth Special Forces from 1961 to 1964.

Judge Pomponio was sworn in by Chief Justice Davis at a swearing-in ceremony for all judges appointed by Governor Manchin on February 21 in the Supreme Court of Appeals Chamber.

Lewisburg attorney **David M. Sander** appointed to the Family Court bench serving Greenbrier and Monroe counties on May 8, 2007. Governor Manchin appointed Judge Sanders to the Fifteenth Family Court Circuit vacancy left in February when he appointed then-Family Court Judge Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr., to a seat in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit serving Greenbrier and Pocahontas Counties. Judge Pomponio had been covering the family



court docket in addition to his circuit court duties.

Judge Sanders, 59, is a native of Ashland, Kentucky. Before his appointment, he had been a supervising attorney at Legal Aid of West Virginia in Lewisburg, which provides legal services to people who cannot afford to hire lawyers. About sixty percent of his work was representing victims of domestic violence.

Judge Sanders served in the U.S. Navy from 1968 to 1972, where he played wind instruments in the U.S. Navy Band. He then worked as a crane operator at Armco Steel Corp. in Ashland, Kentucky.

Judge Sanders obtained a bachelor's degree in special education, with a focus on helping children with mental retardation and autism, from Marshall University in 1978, and a master's degree in industrial safety from Marshall University in 1980.

He obtained a law degree from West Virginia University in 1986. He worked at the West Virginia Legal Services Plan in Parkersburg for two years, then was in private practice for two years at the Parkersburg firm Jacobs & Chandler before joining Legal Aid in 1990.

Judge Sanders was sworn in on May 17 in Lewisburg. Judge Pomponio delivered the oath of office.

"I thank the governor for giving me the opportunity to continue to provide services to the people of Greenbrier and Monroe Counties," Judge Sanders said.

In Memoriam

Retired Circuit Judge **John Lawrence Waters** died October 24, 2007, at Ruby Memorial Hospital, after a two-year battle with colon cancer. He was 74.

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Alan D. Moats said of Judge Waters, "He was my colleague. He was a good judge, a good person, and a good friend."

Supreme Court Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis said, "Judge John Waters will be missed by everyone who knew him. The entire West Virginia court system mourns his death."

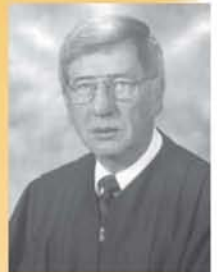
Supreme Court Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard said, "Judge Waters was a really good man and a really great judge."

"I was privileged to work with John Waters when I was a lawyer and he a prosecutor, then later when we were both jurists," said Supreme Court Justice Larry Starcher. "Judge Waters was always a kind, caring public servant, regardless of his role or with whomever he was working."

Judge Waters was born January 30, 1933, in Grafton, Taylor County, and graduated from St. Augustine High School in Grafton in 1950. He received his undergraduate degree from West Virginia University in 1954, served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1957 and graduated from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1960. He served in the Army Reserves for sixteen years as company commander.

He opened his first law practice in Grafton in 1960. He was elected prosecutor of Taylor County in 1964 and was re-elected to that post until 1984. He was a partner in the law firm Waters and Moats from 1977 to 1984, when he was elected circuit judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, which includes Taylor and Barbour Counties. He served through 1996, when he retired and became a senior status judge, a position he retained until he became ill.

Judge Waters is survived by his brother, James Kirk Waters, and his wife, June, of Martinsburg, a large extended family, and many close friends.



Problem-Solving Court programs expand

West Virginia's third adult Drug Court program and two juvenile treatment court programs opened in 2007.

The West Central Drug Court Diversion Program opened in July 2007 to serve adults in Wood and Wirt Counties. Fourth Judicial Circuit Judge Jeffrey B. Reed is the Administering Drug Court Judge. The program also is a cooperative effort of the Wood County Prosecutor's Office, the Wood County Day Report Center, Concord University, the Parkersburg Police Department, and the Wood County Adult Probation Office.

It joins the Southern Regional Drug Court, which opened in 2006 in Mercer County, and the Northern Panhandle Treatment Court to serve adults in West Virginia.

The Northern Panhandle program has both a mental health court and a drug court, and it operates in Brooke, Hancock, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties. The Mental Health Court has been operational since 2003 and the Drug Court began operating in 2005. Both were started with grant funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Mental Health Court now operates solely on state funds, volunteer time of judicial and probation officers, and through community partnerships with Healthways mental health facility, the Lee Day Report Center, the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation, and other agencies.

The Southern Regional Drug Court now operates in Mercer County only, but during the next year it will be expanded to neighboring counties to create a truly regional program. It is a collaborative effort of the circuit and magistrate courts of Mercer County and the Mercer County Day Report Center, local and State Police, the Mercer County Sheriff's Department, probation officers, prosecutors, public defender services, and other local agencies and professionals.

The Mercer County drug court team was trained in 2005 by the National Drug Court Institute under a locally obtained, one-year adult Drug Court Planning Initiative from the U.S. Department of Justice.

There are now more than eighteen hundred drug courts in the United States with at least one in every state.

The U.S. Department of Justice reported at the end of 2003 that 55 percent of federal prisoners were drug offenders and twenty percent of adults in state prisons were drug law violators. A June 2003 survey of West Virginia's regional jails indicated that 41 percent of inmates said they had abused substances.

Statewide, 8.8 percent of all delinquency offenses in 2005 were for drug-related charges.

The Cabell County Juvenile Drug Court Diversion Program reopened in August 2007. It began as a pre-adjudicatory program in 1999. In July 2004 the West Virginia Supreme Court began funding a probation officer and drug testing for the program. Cabell County Juvenile Drug Court graduates had a recidivism rate of less than five percent. Personnel changes led to the program's closure in November 2006.

Supreme Court staff provided technical assistance to restart the program and move it from a pre-adjudicatory juvenile drug court to a post-adjudicatory juvenile drug court. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities provided a \$31,000 grant to restart the program and the Supreme Court again agreed to pay for a probation officer and

drug testing. The DHHR also provided a \$26,500 grant to train juvenile drug court officials in both Cabell and Wayne Counties.

The Wayne County Juvenile Drug Court Diversion Program opened in September 2007. A pre-adjudicatory program, it serves Wayne County youths ages ten to seventeen who have substance abuse or alcohol abuse problems and who are charged with non-violent misdemeanor or felony offenses or alcohol-related status offenses. Prosecutors do not file juvenile petitions against youths who agree to participate. If they successfully complete the program, no further action is taken against them. If they do not, juvenile petitions are filed and the judge proceeds with adjudication and disposition. The program includes regular drug testing, court appearances, individual and family counseling, and six months of aftercare services.

In November 2007, treatment court planning teams from eight counties met in Mercer County for the first part of a two-part training session with the goal of further expanding problem-solving courts throughout West Virginia. The teams were from Kanawha, Monongalia, Greenbrier, Preston, Boone, Lincoln, Logan, and Cabell Counties. Every county team hopes to set up drug treatment courts in their areas.

The teams include judges, magistrates, state and local police officers, prosecuting attorneys, public defenders, deputy sheriffs, county commission members, evaluators, probation officers, day report center employees, court administrators, psychiatrists, psychologists, and other community treatment personnel.

The training is funded by a grant received from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

Drug courts can operate as either pre-trial diversion or post-plea programs, or both. In post-plea programs, adults who have either pleaded guilty or been found guilty of non-violent misdemeanors and felonies are eligible to volunteer to participate if they were motivated to commit crimes due to substance abuse. If they volunteer and complete the requirements of the drug court, they can avoid jail and prison sentences, if a judge so orders.

Prosecutors have final approval of all participants, and all participants must be evaluated as a low to moderate risk to be released back into the community. People who have been charged with sex crimes or any crime in which a child was the victim are not eligible.

Participants undergo substance abuse treatment and are heavily supervised by probation officers, law enforcement, and the sentencing court. If needed, they may also undergo treatment for mental illnesses. Participants may be forced to repeat certain phases of the process if they have positive drug screens or if they refuse to cooperate. The judge may

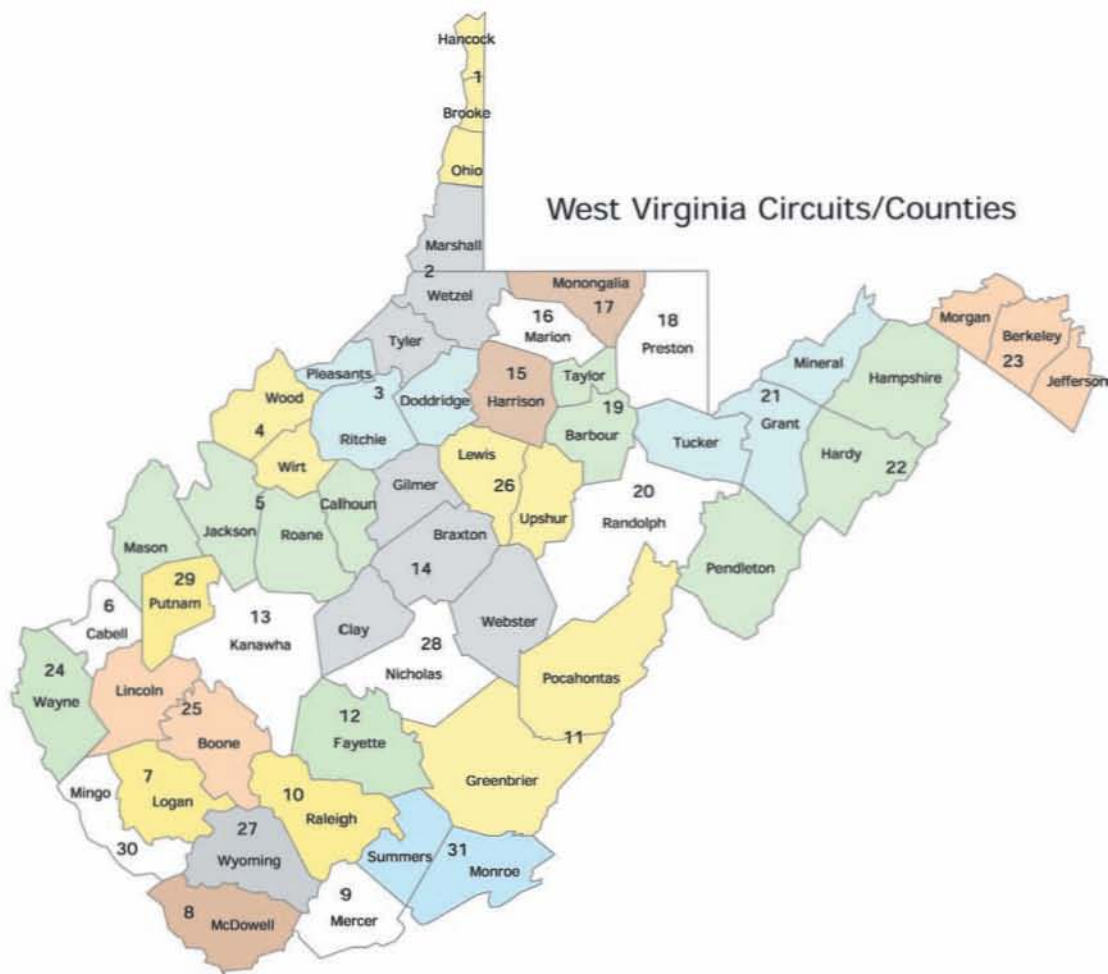
impose jail time if he or she feels it is necessary to make a participant follow the protocol. Each person remains in the program for at least a year. Defendants with felony charges may be supervised up to the potential maximum sentence for their crimes.

Drug Court programs can save lives and reduce crime by addressing the underlying problem of substance abuse. Rather than only punish drug offenders, Drug Court programs try to help them overcome the problems that led them to commit crimes. The hope is that they will lead better, happier lives as productive, contributing citizens and commit no more crimes.



Fourth Judicial Circuit Judge Jeffrey B. Reed speaks during the opening ceremony of the West Central Drug Court. Photo by Jeffrey Saulton of The [Parkersburg] News & Sentinel

Roster of Circuit Court Judges



1st Judicial Circuit

Martin J. Gaughan
James P. Mazzone
Arthur M. Recht
Ronald E. Wilson

2nd Judicial Circuit

Mark A. Karl
John T. Madden

3rd Judicial Circuit

Robert L. Holland, Jr.

4th Judicial Circuit

J. D. Beane
Jeffrey B. Reed
Robert A. Waters

5th Judicial Circuit

Thomas C. Evans, III
David W. Nibert

6th Judicial Circuit

John L. Cummings
Alfred E. Ferguson
Dan P. O'Hanlon
David M. Pancake

7th Judicial Circuit

Eric H. O'Briant
Roger L. Perry

8th Judicial Circuit

Rudolph J. Murensky, II
Booker T. Stephens

9th Judicial Circuit

William J. Sadler
Derek C. Swope

10th Judicial Circuit

Robert A. Burnside, Jr.
John A. Hutchison
H. L. Kirkpatrick III

11th Judicial Circuit

Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr. (Took Bench Feb. 15, 2007)
James J. Rowe

12th Judicial Circuit

John W. Hatcher, Jr.
Paul M. Blake Jr.

13th Judicial Circuit

Irene C. Berger
Louis H. "Duke" Bloom
Tod J. Kaufman
Charles E. King
James C. Stucky
Jennifer Bailey Walker
Paul Zakaib Jr.

14th Judicial Circuit

Jack Alsop
Richard A. Facemire

15th Judicial Circuit

Thomas A. Bedell
J. Lewis Marks, Jr.
James A. Matish

16th Judicial Circuit

Fred L. Fox, II
David R. Janes

17th Judicial Circuit

Russell M. Clawges, Jr.
Robert B. Stone

18th Judicial Circuit

Lawrance S. Miller, Jr.

19th Judicial Circuit

Alan D. Moats

20th Judicial Circuit

John L. Henning

21st Judicial Circuit

Andrew N. Frye, Jr.
Philip B. Jordan

22nd Judicial Circuit

Donald H. Cookman

23rd Judicial Circuit

Gina M. Groh
David H. Sanders
Gray Silver, III
Thomas W. Steptoe Jr.
Christopher C. Wilkes

24th Judicial Circuit

Darrell Pratt

25th Judicial Circuit

Jay M. Hoke
William S. Thompson
(Took bench Feb. 14, 2007)

26th Judicial Circuit

Thomas H. Keadle

27th Judicial Circuit

John S. Hrko

28th Judicial Circuit

Gary L. Johnson

29th Judicial Circuit

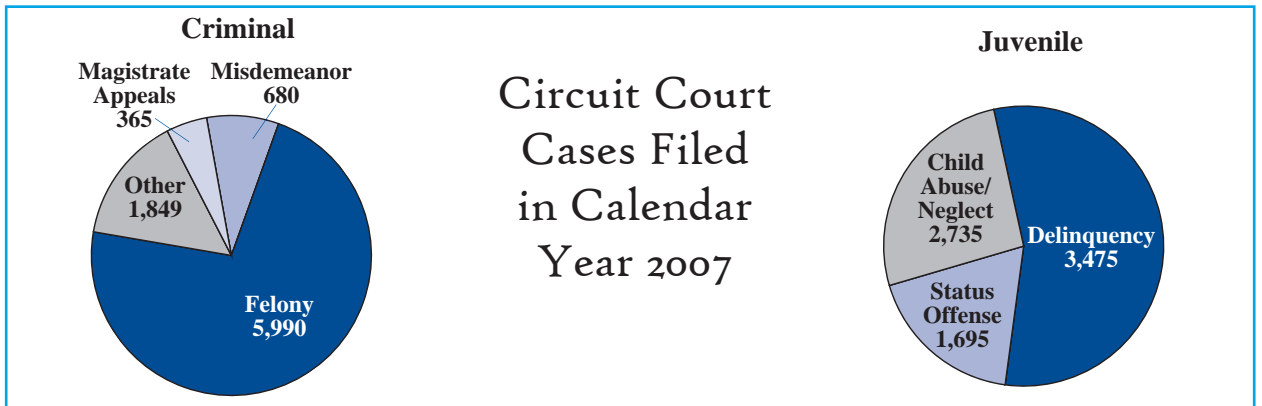
N. Edward Eagloski, II
O. C. Spaulding

30th Judicial Circuit

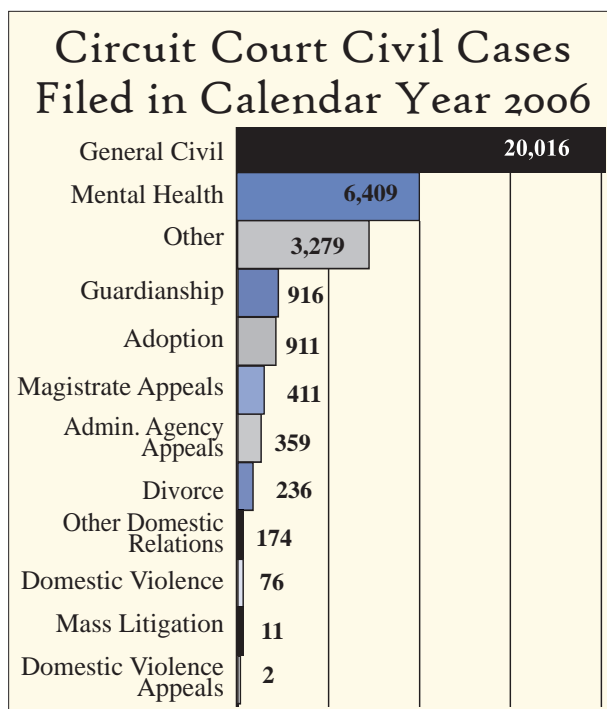
Michael Thornsberry

31st Judicial Circuit

Robert A. Irons



Circuit Courts



West Virginia's 55 counties are divided into 31 circuits with 66 judges. The circuits vary in size; one has seven judges while eleven have one judge each. While every county has a courthouse where a judge presides, a single circuit can be comprised of up to four counties.

Each judge has a law clerk, a secretary, and a court reporter.

The circuit courts are trial courts of record. They have jurisdiction over all civil cases in which more than \$300 is at issue; all cases in equity; proceedings in *habeas corpus*, *mandamus*, *quo warranto*, *prohibition* and *certiorari*; and all felonies and misdemeanors.

Circuit courts receive appeals from magistrate courts, municipal courts, and all administrative agencies except from the Division of Workers' Compensation. Workers' compensation appeals go directly to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Circuit courts also can hear appeals of family court rulings, but both parties can agree to appeal domestic relations decisions directly to the Supreme Court. Additionally, circuit judges receive recommended orders from judicial officers who hear mental health hygiene and juvenile matters.

In 2007, a total of 49,589 cases were filed in West Virginia's circuit courts. Of that, 32,800 filings were in civil cases, 8,884 were criminal cases, and 7,905 were juvenile matters.

Child Abuse and Neglect Overlap Cases

Family courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. Family courts specialize in civil cases involving families such as divorce, child custody, grandparent and sibling visitation, infant guardianship, child support, establishment of paternity, and domestic violence protective orders.

Circuit courts, however, have sole jurisdiction over adoption and child abuse and neglect cases.

In some cases before family court judges, parties make allegations involving abuse and neglect, or they may already be parties in child abuse and neglect cases pending in circuit

court. Therefore, there is some "overlap" of cases between the two courts.

Although family court judges are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect, there were sometimes gaps in communication between family courts, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' Child Protective Services, and circuit courts about family courts' reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. To coordinate the process so there is increased protection of children, the Supreme Court of Appeals adopted the "Overlap Rules" – Rules 48 and 48a of the Rules of Practice and Procedure for Child Abuse and Neglect – in April 2006.

Under the "Overlap Rules," a family court judge who suspects child abuse and/or neglect in a pending case issues a written referral to the local Child Protective Services Office, with a copy to the circuit court and the local prosecuting attorney. The circuit court issues a Juvenile Administrative Order (JAA) directing Child Protective Services to assess the referral and make a written investigation report to circuit court, with a copy to family court, within 45 days. If Child Protective Services fails to issue a written report within 45 days, or indicates in its written report that filing a child abuse and neglect petition is not necessary and the circuit judge disagrees, then the circuit judge may treat the family court written referral as a petition for a writ of mandamus (Juvenile Administrative Order where Mandamus was issued, or JAM), requiring Child Protective Services to come before the circuit judge to explain the delay or the failure to file a petition to terminate parental rights. Even though the family court judge issued the written referral, the family court retains jurisdiction of the case on all issues until a petition to terminate parental rights is filed.

Under another scenario, a third party other than the parents may request to be the guardian of a child. This action can originate in family court (Family Infant Guardianship, or FIG) or circuit court (Circuit Court Infant Guardianship, or CIG). If the case originates in family court and the family court judge suspects there has been child abuse and neglect, the family court judge submits a written referral to Child Protective Services, and the guardian case is removed to circuit court (Circuit Court Infant Guardianship Removed, or CIGR). This type of removed case stays in circuit court until completed and does not return to family court.

The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals began collecting data on abuse and neglect overlap cases in June 2006. Statistics were simply compiled on the number of petitions filed. However, the project was expanded during 2007 with a new Administrative Order component within the Child Abuse and Neglect Database. Data within that section of the database provide more detail on juvenile administrative orders and juvenile administrative orders where a mandamus is issued. For more information on this project, please see the Child Abuse and Neglect Database section of this report.

For the calendar year 2007, the following petitions were filed:

Juvenile Administrative Order (JAA)	642
Juvenile Administrative Order where Mandamus was issued (JAM)	6
Family Infant Guardianship (FIG)	651
Circuit Court Infant Guardianship (CIG)	332
Circuit Court Infant Guardianship Removed (CIGR)	62

Circuit Court County Filings

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Barbour	306	308	202	213	209	251	410	361	370
Berkeley	2,715	2,526	2,514	2,112	1,927	1,725	2,676	1,930	2,267
Boone	824	750	531	656	731	551	1,261	1,083	1,079
Braxton	321	326	342	279	279	253	462	404	387
Brooke	600	751	597	606	983	575	1,520	1,676	1,554
Cabell	3,897	3,859	3,915	3,867	3,803	3,628	5,229	5,067	4,739
Calhoun	136	128	139	130	109	96	220	202	240
Clay	242	182	296	263	226	209	369	361	580
Doddridge	137	132	146	151	121	114	182	204	173
Fayette	947	915	878	848	775	815	1,349	1,252	1,317
Gilmer	147	131	142	83	111	56	135	139	127
Grant	224	265	200	222	243	140	315	244	246
Greenbrier	881	903	964	948	917	751	1,319	1,203	1,090
Hampshire	471	464	477	369	344	334	572	572	492
Hancock	680	683	688	684	713	710	947	856	924
Hardy	292	286	286	321	243	229	390	406	327
Harrison	1,816	1,614	1,602	1,623	1,545	1,757	2,379	1,466	2,294
Jackson	469	437	393	397	395	337	726	535	633
Jefferson	972	936	884	926	925	834	1,315	1,252	1,103
Kanawha	5,358	4,806	4,586	5,634	6,448	6,687	9,460	8,595	7,926
Lewis	815	729	777	693	670	657	916	959	907
Lincoln	669	636	685	694	630	625	613	*	591
Logan	1,260	1,389	1,402	1,415	1,312	1,274	2,119	1,700	1,721
Marion	1,487	1,432	1,451	1,431	1,276	1,431	1,740	1,694	2,023
Marshall	1,025	972	880	874	946	905	1,227	1,081	1,155
Mason	632	605	671	663	2,408	342	1,034	672	870
McDowell	712	705	746	641	719	735	1,242	1,106	1,098
Mercer	2,441	2,662	2,413	2,305	2,201	2,040	2,918	2,408	2,453
Mineral	673	535	294	404	544	327	711	519	736
Mingo	1,008	1,048	1,060	850	831	603	1,522	1,558	1,507
Monongalia	1,828	1,896	1,726	1,672	1,837	1,737	2,307	2,174	2,114
Monroe	277	212	186	225	163	150	372	670	462
Morgan	424	356	346	319	407	280	498	464	434
Nicholas	773	713	721	644	620	658	1,043	1,009	910
Ohio	1,443	1,371	1,577	1,358	1,343	1,029	1,498	2,573	1,529
Pendleton	89	116	121	116	133	132	172	170	130
Pleasants	151	275	244	228	259	279	187	181	190
Pocahontas	238	221	232	257	237	235	348	327	300
Preston	714	663	650	608	481	565	848	828	800
Putnam	1,096	1,062	1,196	1,205	1,057	1,113	1,941	1,537	1,369
Raleigh	2,389	2,583	2,496	2,621	1,632	2,244	3,255	2,750	2,781
Randolph	822	775	748	747	705	729	1,085	1,005	936
Ritchie	239	185	232	184	177	149	275	268	233
Roane	327	373	328	256	263	240	414	413	393
Summers	341	257	320	292	301	289	459	368	377
Taylor	490	511	503	429	486	393	536	540	520
Tucker	200	125	177	141	115	141	215	219	240
Tyler	191	178	152	182	160	140	243	226	215
Upshur	481	466	429	461	455	423	761	573	624
Wayne	1,358	1,117	1,112	985	1,036	1,033	1,554	1,284	1,274
Webster	216	183	192	226	171	148	294	174	330
Wetzel	454	392	1,793	380	387	345	515	463	508
Wirt	106	92	67	157	107	104	144	157	123
Wood	2,230	2,133	2,186	2,263	2,038	2,036	2,916	2,611	2,569
Wyoming	555	628	640	632	618	587	919	898	1,021
TOTAL	49,589	47,998	48,535	46,890	47,772	44,170	68,077	61,387	61,311

***Lincoln County did not report Circuit Court filings for 2000.**

The decrease in total filings in 2002 is attributed to the creation of new Family Courts in January 2002. Before 2002, the family law master system caseload appeared on the Circuit Court caseload. Please refer to Page 42 for the Family Court caseload.

In 2003, the total Circuit Court caseload included Family Court appeals.

Mass Litigation Panel

The Mass Litigation Panel, established by the Supreme Court in 1998, is a unique way to deal with certain types of civil litigation, and was the first panel of its type in the United States. The panel develops and implements case management and trial methods for mass litigation, and fairly and expeditiously disposes of civil litigation referred to it by the Chief Justice. It also makes recommendations to the Chief Justice on the transfer of actions from one circuit to another in order to facilitate case management and trial methods developed by the panel.

The panel is made up of six active or senior status circuit judges who are appointed by the Chief Justice with the approval of the Supreme Court. They serve staggered terms of three years each, and may be reappointed. Two terms expire each year. The Chief Justice designates one of the members to be the chairman.

Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis appointed two new circuit court judges to the Mass Litigation Panel and named a new chairman in July 2007. The Supreme Court also charged the panel with drafting mass litigation rules.

The panel's new chairman is Judge Alan D. Moats of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Barbour and Taylor Counties. Other members of the panel are

- Judge John A. Hutchison of the Tenth Judicial Circuit of Raleigh County;
- Judge Jay Hoke of the 25th Judicial Circuit of Boone and Lincoln Counties;
- Judge James P. Mazzone of the First Judicial Circuit of Brooke, Hancock, and Ohio Counties;

- Judge Derek Swope of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Mercer County;
- Judge Booker T. Stephens of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of McDowell County.

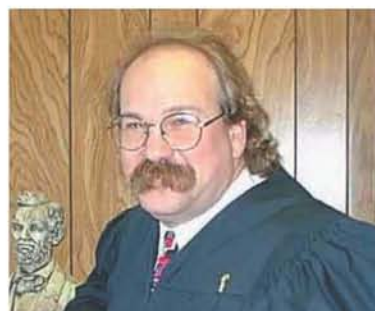
According to West Virginia Trial Court Rule 26, mass litigation is defined as two or more civil actions pending in one or more circuit courts (a) involving common questions of law or fact in mass accidents or single catastrophic events in which a number of people are injured; or (b) involving common questions of law or fact in “personal injury mass torts” allegedly incurred upon numerous claimants in connection with widely available or mass-marketed products and their manufacture, design, use, implantation, ingestion, or exposure; or (c) involving common questions of law or fact in “property damage mass torts” allegedly incurred upon numerous claimants in connection with claims for replacement or repair of allegedly defective products, including those in which claimants seek compensation for the failure of the product to perform as intended with resulting damage to the product itself or other property, with or without personal injury overtones; or (d) involving common questions of law or fact in “economic loss” cases incurred by numerous claimants asserting defect claims similar to those in property damage circumstances which are in the nature of consumer fraud or warranty actions on a grand scale including allegations of the existence of a defect without actual product failure or injury.



Judge Moats



Judge Hutchison



Judge Hoke



Judge Mazzone



Judge Swope



Judge Stephens

Other Judicial Officers

Circuit Judges are assisted by judicial officers called mental hygiene commissioners and juvenile referees. Most decisions of these judicial officers are subject to circuit court approval.

Mental Hygiene System

Mental hygiene commissioners are lawyers who preside over hearings on involuntary hospitalization, guardianship, and conservatorship. There is at least one mental hygiene commissioner in each of West Virginia's 31 circuits. In 2007, 6,549 mental hygiene petitions were filed in West Virginia's circuit courts and magistrate courts. That compares to 8,877 in 2006. There were 7,773 petitions filed in 2005; 7,878 in 2004; 7,950 in 2003; 7,026 in 2002; 6,141 in 2001; and 5,553 in 2000.

Juvenile System

Among other duties, juvenile referees hold detention hearings when children are arrested or taken into custody. West Virginia has one part-time and two full-time juvenile referees serving Wayne, Kanawha, and Cabell Counties. In most counties, magistrates act as juvenile referees. In 2007, there were 9,460 filings in circuit and magistrate court involving juvenile matters. That compares to 9,110 in 2006; 8,786 in 2005; 8,259 in 2004; 7,950 in 2003; 8,547 in 2002; 8,609 in 2001; and 8,856 in 2000.

Division of Probation Services

Probation officers provide many services to circuit courts, such as conducting investigations and drug screening, preparing pre-sentence reports, recommending sentences for criminal offenders, and monitoring offenders sentenced to probation. Officers also work closely with community agencies such as schools, substance abuse facilities, local community health centers, community service work providers, the Department of Health and Human Resources, and other state agencies in order to link services for persons under supervision.



The West Virginia court system at the end of 2007 had 43 adult, 87 adult-juvenile and 49 juvenile probation officers. However, there were a total of 182 allocated probation positions. Probation officers supervised 14,070 adult and juvenile offenders in 2007, with an average caseload of 78 and an annual cost of \$1,018 per offender.

In 2007, probation officers operated Juvenile Drug Courts in Cabell and Wayne Counties. These programs offered intensive intervention, supervision, and treatment to juvenile drug court participants. A total of three Adult

Drug Courts operate in Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Wetzel, Wood, Wirt, and Mercer Counties. It is anticipated that an additional six adult drug courts will begin operation in 2008 as funding is made available. In addition, a Mental Health Court serves the Northern Panhandle. Teen Courts, in which youths are prosecuted, defended, and sentenced by a jury of their peers for status offenses and minor misdemeanors, operate in Marion, Mercer, and Monongalia Counties. Currently, there are efforts to increase the number of teen courts throughout the state.

Other initiatives include the Peace Program in Wood County, which provides sessions on anger management and judicial processes for juveniles and their parents; the anti-shoplifting diversion program for juveniles in Kanawha County; and the P.I.E.C.E.S. (Prevention Is Everyone's Concern Especially Schools) anti-drug program in Logan County. Adult programs include victim services' coordinators in Boone and Lincoln Counties.

At the end of 2007 there are eighteen day report community corrections programs covering 36 counties. Probation officers participate in and/or make referrals to all those programs, which provide intensive offender supervision and personal accountability, individual treatment plans, job training, education, restitution, counseling, and community service programs.

The Division of Probation Services also contains the office for the West Virginia Interstate Compact for Juveniles. In August 2007, West Virginia Director of Probation Services Mike Lacy completed two consecutive terms as President of the National Association of Juvenile Compact Administrators and currently serves on the Executive Board. Randall Wagner serves as the Administrative Coordinator of Probation Services and the Interstate Compact.

The Compact regulates the movement and supervision between states of juveniles under community supervision. It is designed to ensure public safety and create an effective and efficient means of transferring, tracking, and supervising juveniles between states. Juvenile probation officers provide courtesy supervision of juveniles transferred to West Virginia through the Interstate Compact. The Probation Division's Compact Office managed an average of 136 active cases in 2007 and handled the return of forty juvenile runaways, absconders, and escapees.

The West Virginia Association of Probation Officers honored Gladys Pratt, Chief Probation Officer in the 24th Judicial Circuit, as the 2007 Probation Officer of the Year at the October 2007 Probation Education Conference at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown. She has since retired and was honored with a lunch reception where she received a Certificate of Recognition from Mike Lacy and Supreme Court Administrator Steve Canterbury in addition to a gold retirement badge.

Law Day 2007

Judicial officers celebrate Law Day around West Virginia

Eighth Judicial Circuit Judge Booker T. Stephens hosted the Eleventh Annual McDowell County Law Day Celebration in Welch with the theme “Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy.”

Supreme Court Justice Larry Starcher was the guest speaker. Area circuit court judges, family court judges, magistrates, bar association members, and local and state educators as well as school children from across the county attended. Judge Stephens presented awards to three students from each school in several different categories that related to the Law Day theme, including the best rap song, according to a story in the *Bluefield Daily Telegraph*.

In Mason County, Magistrate Cheryl Ross hosted about two hundred eighth- and tenth-grade students at the Mason County Courthouse in Point Pleasant for the fifth year of a mock trial program she initiated.

Before the mock trial day, she and local attorneys previously held a one-day “law school” for the twelve students who portrayed lawyers in the mock trial scenario she wrote. The attorneys also attended the mock trials to guide the student lawyers.

In three separate sessions, students from three schools conducted the trial and acted as lawyers, defendants, prosecutors, judges, jurors, clerks, media, bailiffs, witnesses, and spectators. Throughout each case, Magistrate Ross asked the students questions about the court process and rewarded winners with candy bars.

Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Judge Lewis Marks, Jr., hosted about 890 middle school students for the Harrison County Law Day project at the courthouse in Clarksburg. Judge Marks talked to the students about how the law applies to them, specifically about the administration of trust funds, adoptions, abuse and neglect cases, juvenile delinquency cases, and how juveniles can be tried as adults, according to a story in *The [Clarksburg] Exponent-Telegram*.

The judge gave forty-minute talks to five groups of students from seven schools.

“I probably have as many kids in court as I do adults,” he told one group.

“It’s enjoyable for me to have these kids in here for something positive,” Judge Marks told the newspaper. “It’s opposite of what we have in here every day for negative reasons.”

In Charleston, some Kanawha County high school students participated in a mock trial in front of Kanawha County Circuit Judge James Stucky as part of Steptoe and Johnson’s Legal Explorer’s Club Mock Trial. Legal Explorers is a program of the Boy Scouts of America.

With the help of attorneys from the law firm, students spent several months studying the trial process and a first-degree murder case, then were divided into prosecution and defense teams. Witnesses were volunteers, attorneys, and paralegals. Family and friends of the students made up the jury and the audience.



Fifteenth Circuit Judge Lewis Marks, Jr., talks to students from Salem and Gore Middle Schools during the Law Day Project at the Harrison County Courthouse. Photo by Bob Shaw, *The [Clarksburg] Exponent-Telegram*



Kanawha County high school students conduct a mock trial before Circuit Judge James Stucky as part of Steptoe and Johnson’s Legal Explorer’s Club Mock Trial. Photo courtesy of *The West Virginia Record*



Mason County Magistrate Cheryl Ross talks to students during Law Day mock trial proceedings at the Mason County Courthouse. Photo by Jeff Gentner

The students also met with West Virginia University College of Law Assistant Dean Janet Armistead to learn about the requirements for enrolling in law school, and they toured the South Central Regional Jail.

Law Day was founded in 1958 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to celebrate the American Legal System. It is celebrated on or around May 1 each year.



Judge Christopher C. Wilkes, left, a friend and neighbor of the late Judge Broadwater, accepts the Liberty Bell Award on behalf of Judge Broadwater's family from Judge Gary Johnson, right. Judge Wilkes serves in the 23rd Judicial Circuit of Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan Counties. Judge Johnson is president of the West Virginia Judicial Association and serves in the 28th Judicial Circuit of Nicholas County. *Photo by Ron Agnir, The [Martinsburg] Journal*

Liberty Bell Award given posthumously to U.S. District Court Judge W. Craig Broadwater

The Supreme Court's 2007 Liberty Bell Award was given posthumously to U.S. District Court Judge W. Craig Broadwater during a ceremony on May 2 in Martinsburg. Four West Virginia Supreme Court Justices and several circuit judges spoke at the event, which was held during the spring conference of the West Virginia Judicial Association.

The Liberty Bell Award honors a person who promotes better understanding of the rule of law, encourages a greater respect for law and the courts, stimulates a sense of civic responsibility, and contributes to good government in the community.

Judge Broadwater was born in Doddridge County in 1950, raised in Wetzel County, and graduated from West Virginia University in 1972. He accepted a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and, after serving for two years, returned to WVU, where he attended law school. He joined the West Virginia Army National Guard in 1976 and rose to the level of brigadier general. At the time of his death on December 18, 2006, he was serving as assistant adjutant general for installations, activities, and homeland security. He served as a special prosecutor in Ohio County from 1978 to 1979 and from 1982 to 1983. He was a hearing examiner for the West Virginia Workers' Compensation Fund from 1978 to 1981. Former Governor Jay Rockefeller appointed him to the First Circuit bench in 1983 and he was elected the following year. He served until he was appointed to the federal bench in 1996.

He lived in Wheeling during the time he served as the judge for the circuit that includes Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock counties. He was chairman of the West Virginia Judicial Investigation Commission from 1986 to 1987, served as co-chairman of the Family Law Masters Rules of Practice and Procedures Committee, and was chairman of the Committee to Develop Child Abuse and Neglect Rules, popularly called the "Broadwater Committee." He then became the first chairman of that group's successor, the Court Improvement Board, a position he held until he assumed the federal bench in Martinsburg.

He was 56 when he died of cancer. He was survived by his wife, Chong H. Kang, and three children.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis, Justice Joseph P. Albright, Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard, and Justice Brent D. Benjamin spoke at the award ceremony. Justice Larry V. Starcher was recovering from eye surgery and could not attend.

2007 Judicial Association Officers

- President: Gary L. Johnson, 28th Judicial Circuit of Nicholas County
- Vice President: Alan D. Moats, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Barbour and Taylor Counties
- Secretary: O.C. Spaulding, 29th Judicial Circuit of Putnam County
- Treasurer: Jack Alsop, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit of Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties

2007 Family Court Association Officers



Family Court Judge Jaymie Godwin Wilfong

- President: Jaymie Godwin Wilfong, 22nd Family Court Circuit of Grant, Randolph, and Tucker Counties
- President-Elect: Ronald E. Anderson, Sixth Family Court Circuit of Cabell County
- Secretary: Charles E. Parsons, 23rd Family Court Circuit of Hampshire, Mineral, and Morgan Counties
- Treasurer: Annette Fantasia, Third Family Court Circuit of Pleasants, Ritchie, Wood, and Wirt Counties

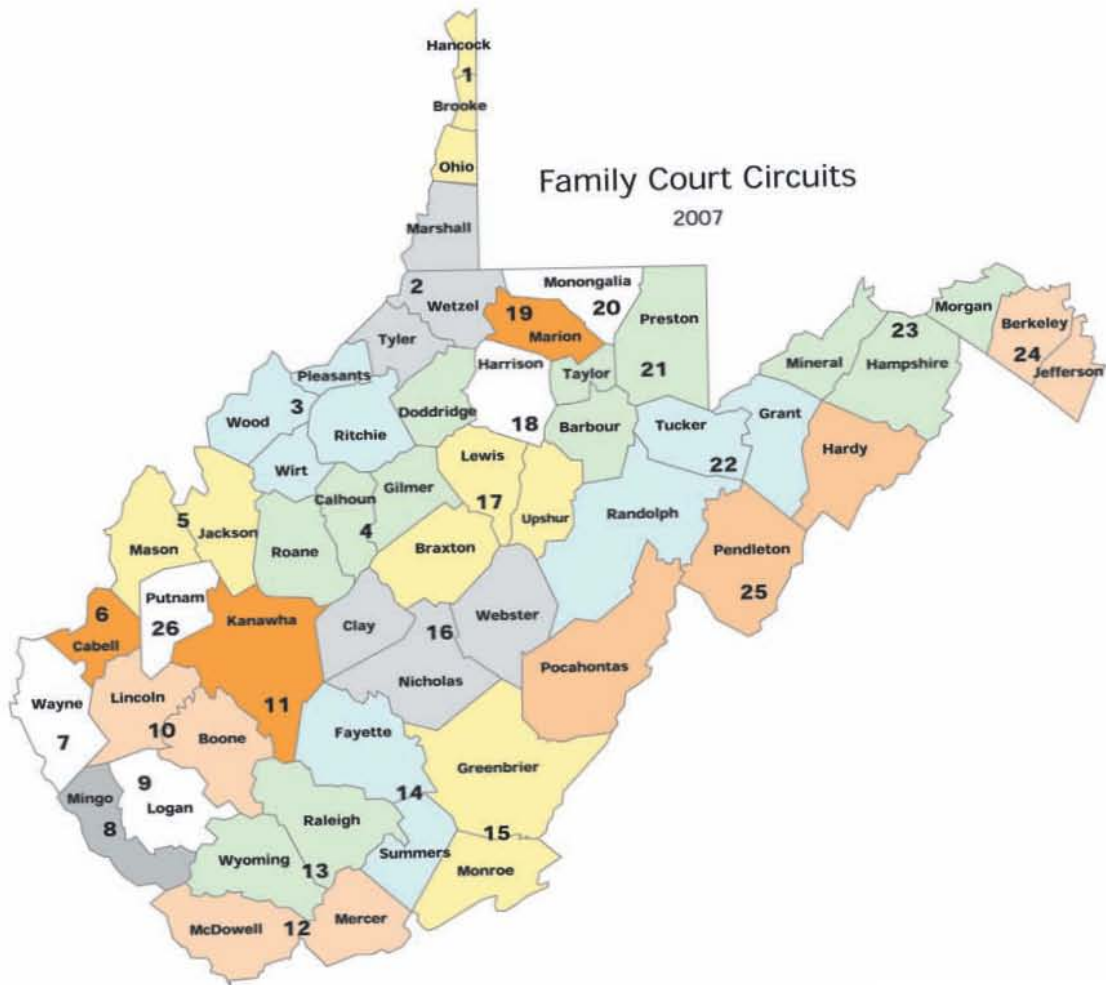
2007 West Virginia Magistrate Association Officers

- President: Tammy Marple, Harrison County
- Secretary: Carol Wolfe, Gilmer County
- Treasurer: Janice Snider, Preston County
- Vice President 1st District: Cathy Reed-Vanata, Marion County
- Vice President 2nd District: Gail Boober, Jefferson County
- Vice President 3rd District: Mike Parsons, Fayette County
- District Representatives
 - First District: Mike Allman, Brooke County; Jennifer Wilson, Monongalia County; and Patty Murphy, Ohio County
 - Second District: Julie Yeager, Kanawha County; Tom Reynolds, Jackson County; and Dave Roberts, Wirt County
 - Third District: Bill Jefferies, Summers County; John Morton, Nicholas County; and Kevin Miller, Monroe County



Magistrate Tammy Marple

Roster of Family Court Judges



1st Circuit

Joyce Dumbaugh Chernenko
William F. Sinclair

2nd Circuit

Robert C. Hicks

3rd Circuit

Annette L. Fantasia
C. Darren Tallman

4th Circuit

Larry S. Whited

5th Circuit

Deloris J. Nibert

6th Circuit

Ronald E. Anderson
Patricia Keller

7th Circuit

R. Stephen Lewis

8th Circuit

Robert D. Calfee

9th Circuit

Kelly Gilmore Codisposti

10th Circuit

Cynthia J. Jarrell

11th Circuit

Mike Kelly
Robert M. Montgomery
Jane Charnock Smallridge
D. Mark Snyder

12th Circuit

Mary Ellen Griffith
Edwin B. Wiley

13th Circuit

H. Suzanne McGraw
Louise G. Staton

14th Circuit

Janet Frye Steele

15th Circuit

Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr.
(Resigned February 14, 2007)
David M. Sanders
(Took Bench June 28, 2007)

16th Circuit

Timothy R. Ruckman

17th Circuit

Robert Reed Sowa

18th Circuit

M. Drew Crislip

19th Circuit

David P. Born

20th Circuit

James Jeffrey Culpepper

21st Circuit

Beth Longo

22nd Circuit

Jaymie Godwin Wilfong

23rd Circuit

Charles E. Parsons

24th Circuit

Sally G. Jackson
William T. Wertman Jr.

25th Circuit

Roy David Arrington

26th Circuit

William M. Watkins, III

Court Realignment, additions

The Supreme Court of Appeals hired the National Center for State Courts to conduct two separate weighted caseload studies of the work of circuit judges and family court judges in 2006 in preparation for the 2007 legislative session.

The study of circuit judges found that each judge in twenty of the 31 circuits was doing the work of more than one full-time judge. Those in the eleven remaining circuits averaged the equivalent of more than nine-tenths of a full judge day. Most of those judges preside in the most rural parts of West Virginia where their drives between courthouses can be tortuous, full-day's work in themselves.

The work of the Mass Litigation Panel was not included in the work study, nor were the myriad other extracurricular tasks that are required of judges in West Virginia. When those are taken into account, it is clear that circuit judges in West Virginia routinely work ten-, eleven-, even twelve-hour days.

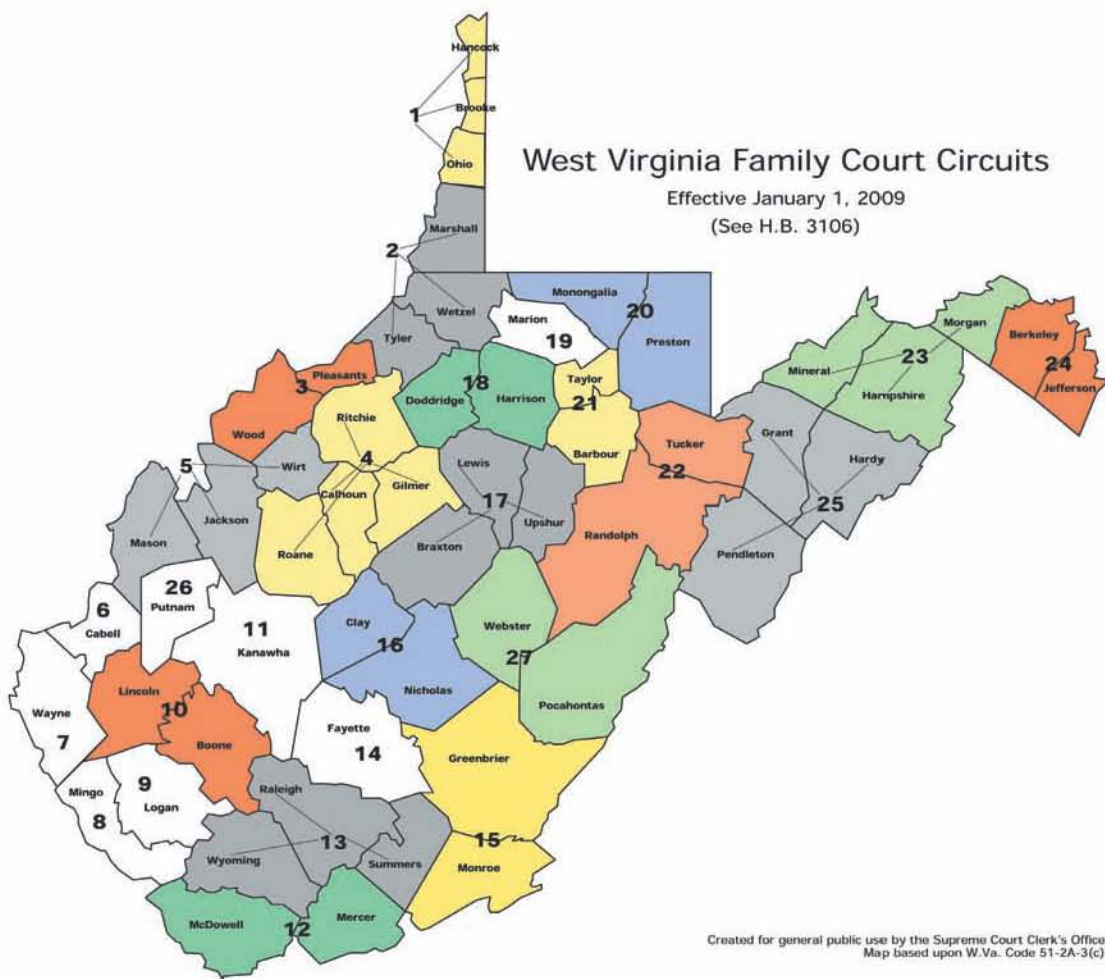
The West Virginia Judicial Association reviewed the National Center's report and recommended adding ten circuit judges within existing circuit boundaries. The Supreme Court approved that recommendation and

sent it, along with the National Center's report, to the Legislature in December 2006. The Legislature in early 2007 approved a bill adding six circuit judges within existing circuit boundaries, and sent the bill to Governor Joe Manchin, who vetoed it.

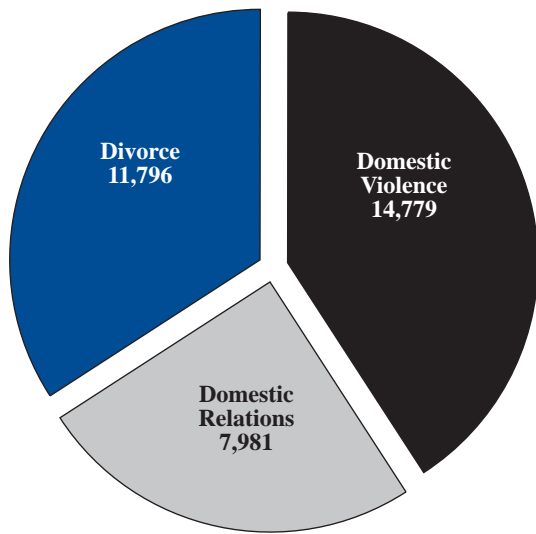
The National Center for State Courts' study of family court judge workloads showed that all of the family court judges are working over the normal full judge-day workload. The Center's study indicated West Virginia needs an additional 22 family court judges to work with the existing 35.

Through the work of Administrative Director Steve Canterbury, Legislative Analyst Tina Sevy, and Administrative Counsel Kirk Brandfass, the Legislature in 2007 rearranged family court circuit boundaries, created a new family court circuit, and added ten family court judges, giving relief to a total of sixteen circuits. Governor Manchin signed that bill.

The new family court judges will take office and the new boundaries will go into effect on January 1, 2009, after the 2008 elections. The new family court circuits are reflected in the map below.



Family Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



West Virginians Served by Supreme Court-Supported Family Visitation Centers in 2007

Category	Number
Total Parents Served**	651
Fathers	291
Mothers	327
Grandparent/Legal Guardian	33
Children Involved	549
Parent Education	43
Supervised Visitation	473
Neutral Drop-off	160
Counseling/Parent Plans	239

** Total number of parents served = fathers + mothers + grandparents + legal guardians

Family Courts

Before 2001, West Virginia had 33 family law masters who served 24 family court circuits. Family law masters were special commissioners the governor appointed to hear family court cases and to issue recommended orders to circuit courts. A constitutional amendment approved by voters in November 2000 elevated family courts to a separate court system with 35 judges in 26 circuits.

The governor appointed the first family court judges to one-year terms. They then stood for election in partisan races in 2002 and took

Family Court Case Filings

County	Year	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Barbour	244	247	184	138	141	244	
Berkeley	1,728	1,814	1,803	1,722	1,603	1,569	
Boone	645	621	605	663	610	608	
Braxton	208	235	220	233	243	282	
Brooke	318	304	344	332	308	323	
Cabell	2,475	2,454	2,388	2,328	2,440	2,341	
Calhoun	113	119	142	174	158	130	
Clay	258	325	326	282	243	288	
Doddridge	121	124	142	133	125	126	
Fayette	933	1,030	946	990	897	981	
Gilmer	86	126	66	50	58	123	
Grant	186	180	250	127	191	121	
Greenbrier	593	640	685	713	736	630	
Hampshire	308	282	279	333	254	276	
Hancock	519	595	443	388	516	505	
Hardy	264	276	289	257	247	218	
Harrison	1,263	1,354	1,268	1,187	1,181	1,092	
Jackson	560	456	487	457	419	472	
Jefferson	768	752	775	826	783	677	
Kanawha	4,153	4,302	4,741	4,270	4,418	4,375	
Lewis	265	276	233	285	241	283	
Lincoln	474	528	549	511	631	550	
Logan	1,052	1,185	1,283	1,210	1,192	1,225	
Marion	858	843	849	836	901	842	
Marshall	513	448	526	465	547	461	
Mason	529	562	474	524	461	480	
McDowell	684	781	3,220	817	804	788	
Mercer	684	1,894	1,943	1,830	1,644	1,691	
Mineral	507	403	362	380	407	426	
Mingo	1,025	1,061	1,125	1,119	1,097	1,157	
Monongalia	1,208	1,171	1,183	1,228	1,150	1,110	
Monroe	329	295	289	298	233	222	
Morgan	186	223	218	274	226	249	
Nicholas	507	518	471	495	457	460	
Ohio	620	731	717	1,386	659	674	
Pendleton	78	95	87	56	58	60	
Pleasants	131	156	129	108	109	136	
Pocahontas	172	214	221	211	184	183	
Preston	554	523	514	559	521	499	
Putnam	957	904	946	923	890	871	
Raleigh	1,594	1,669	1,617	1,529	1,319	1,637	
Randolph	552	511	505	428	500	502	
Ritchie	148	156	185	145	189	228	
Roane	300	362	305	329	278	319	
Summers	270	305	284	246	445	221	
Taylor	241	221	214	169	199	178	
Tucker	77	81	99	92	98	124	
Tyler	151	136	132	145	147	154	
Upshur	347	343	312	339	357	397	
Wayne	776	780	821	840	909	800	
Webster	243	237	193	238	206	179	
Wetzel	279	230	248	222	290	273	
Wirt	106	131	103	114	117	131	
Wood	1,633	1,607	1,647	1,524	1,420	1,506	
Wyoming	763	663	793	746	661	768	
TOTAL	34,556	36,479	39,180	36,224	35,118	35,165	

office for initial six-year terms in January 2003. Subsequent terms beginning January 1, 2009, will be for eight years, the same as terms of circuit judges. During the 2007 legislative session, the Legislature added ten additional family court judges, one additional circuit, and restructured nine circuits to balance caseloads statewide. The new judges will be elected in 2008 and begin their eight-year terms on January 1, 2009.

Family court judges have authority to make final decisions in family court cases. Circuit courts hear appeals of family court decisions unless both parties agree to appeal divorce and other domestic relations decisions directly to the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Family courts have jurisdiction over divorce, annulment, separate maintenance, paternity, grandparent visitation, name change, infant guardianship and child custody and family support proceedings, except those incidental to child abuse and neglect. Family court judges also hold final hearings in civil domestic violence protective order proceedings and may perform marriages.

In 2007, there were 34,556 new cases filed in family courts in West Virginia. Of those, 14,779 were domestic violence, 11,796 were divorces, and 7,981 were other domestic relations. There also were 15,539 modification and contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 44.9 percent of the family court judges' statewide workload.

Family Court Services

Family court judges can refer parents to mediation and parent education, and refer children for guardian *ad litem* services. The Supreme Court does not charge families who cannot afford to pay for these services.

In West Virginia, guardians *ad litem* must be attorneys and they conduct investigations to help family court judges make decisions in the best interest of the people the guardians represent. Family court judges can appoint guardians *ad litem* on behalf of children, incarcerated persons, and people confined to mental health facilities who are involved in family court disputes.

Family court judges require all parents to attend mediation sessions if they cannot otherwise resolve parenting issues or agree to a parenting plan. Parents first go to individual pre-mediation screening sessions with a trained family case coordinator to determine if they are candidates for mediation. About twenty percent of parents are not candidates for mediation for various reasons.

If parents go to mediation, they must attend a mediation session with a Supreme Court-approved family court mediator who helps them draft a parenting plan to present to a family court judge.

Along with mediation, family court judges order parents to attend parent education classes. Every West Virginia county offers parent education classes in which parents learn about preparing a parenting plan, mediation, and the effects of family dissolution and domestic violence on children.

In 2007 the Supreme Court approved an expansion of "high-conflict" parent education classes and made plans to launch a program in September 2008 for children whose parents are divorcing. The high-conflict parent education classes have proved to be a success in a pilot program in Family Court Circuit Five, which includes Mason and Jackson counties. The classes are designed for parents who continue to have disputes after attending a mandatory one-time parent education class required of all divorcing couples who have children. Family courts refer select couples to the series of six, two-hour classes. Beginning in the fall of 2007, the "high-conflict" program was renamed the "Advanced Child-Focused Parent Education Program," and the classes were expanded from one region to ten regions. Within the next year, each region will conduct three sessions of six-week classes with ten pairs of parents per session.

The Supreme Court also hosted a conference in Charleston on September 14 and 15, 2007, for those who will be teaching the new "advanced child-focused" parent education classes and those who currently teach and coordinate basic parent education classes. The

mandatory, one-time basic parent education class teaches parents how to minimize the negative effects on children of divorce and family dissolution. They also learn about mediation, the negative effects on children of domestic violence, resources available for dealing with domestic violence, and how to prepare a parenting plan. The advanced child-focused parent education classes educate parents regarding the impact of conflict on their child's development; help parents identify their contribution to conflict while increasing impulse control; teach parents anger management, communication, and conflict resolution skills; and educate parents about children's issues in divorce.

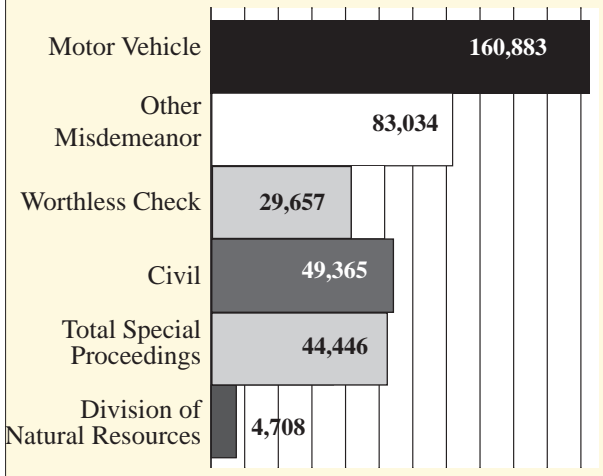
Family Court Modifications and Contempts in 2007

	Modifications	Contempts	New Filings	Reopened Cases as a % of Total Caseload
Barbour	64	61	244	34%
Berkeley	291	204	1,728	22%
Boone	130	96	645	26%
Braxton	28	37	208	24%
Brooke	73	57	318	29%
Cabell	497	561	2,475	30%
Calhoun	44	39	113	42%
Clay	74	66	258	35%
Doddridge	21	25	121	28%
Fayette	231	159	933	29%
Gilmer	35	28	86	42%
Grant*	50	46	186	34%
Greenbrier	115	187	593	34%
Hampshire	75	30	308	25%
Hancock	71	47	519	19%
Hardy	62	36	264	27%
Harrison	129	106	1,263	16%
Jackson	135	106	560	30%
Jefferson	126	80	768	21%
Kanawha	1,201	1,113	4,153	36%
Lewis	87	56	265	35%
Lincoln	147	118	474	36%
Logan	327	188	1,052	33%
Marion	209	76	858	25%
Marshall	145	107	513	33%
Mason	126	115	529	31%
McDowell	173	108	684	29%
Mercer	235	145	684	36%
Mineral	131	49	507	26%
Mingo	392	130	1,025	34%
Monongalia	182	172	1,208	23%
Monroe	51	58	329	25%
Morgan	44	45	186	32%
Nicholas	121	71	507	27%
Ohio	101	176	620	31%
Pendleton	23	23	78	37%
Pleasants	30	21	131	28%
Pocahontas	54	72	172	42%
Preston	123	179	554	35%
Putnam	146	237	957	29%
Raleigh	537	375	1,594	36%
Randolph*	148	137	552	34%
Ritchie	50	47	148	40%
Roane	107	75	300	38%
Summers	48	31	270	23%
Taylor	83	61	241	37%
Tucker*	21	19	77	34%
Tyler	32	15	151	24%
Upshur	143	74	347	38%
Wayne	256	205	776	37%
Webster	58	50	243	31%
Wetzel	82	51	279	32%
Wirt	20	14	106	24%
Wood	387	384	1,633	32%
Wyoming	295	205	763	40%
Grand Total	8,566	6,973	34,556	31%

* Modification and Contempt totals for Grant, Randolph, and Tucker Counties were reported as a sum of all three counties. An estimate of individual county totals was calculated based on their total new filings ratio.

Magistrate Courts

Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There are 158 magistrates in West Virginia. There are at least two magistrates in every county and ten in the largest county, Kanawha County. Magistrates issue arrest and search warrants, hear misdemeanor cases, conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, and hear civil cases with \$5,000 or less in dispute. Magistrates also issue emergency protective orders in cases involving domestic violence. Circuit courts hear appeals of magistrate court cases.

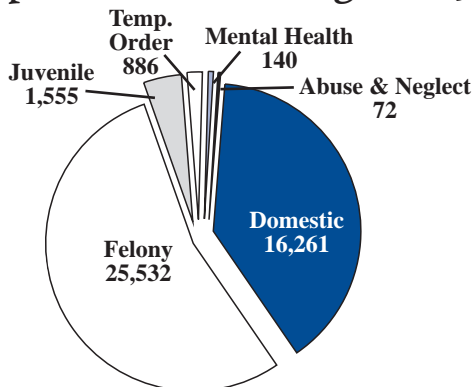
Magistrates run for four-year terms in partisan elections. They do not have to be lawyers.

Circuit judges appoint magistrates to fill vacancies. An appointee who wishes to remain in office must run in the next election.

A county-by-county list of magistrates in West Virginia, along with their office telephone numbers and FAX numbers, is available on the Supreme Court Web site at: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsc/magistrate.htm>

That Web site page also has a list of blank magistrate court forms that can be downloaded and printed for the public's use, rules governing media coverage of magistrate court proceedings, a copy of the "West Virginia Benchbook for Domestic Violence Proceedings," and a domestic violence brochure, among other information.

Magistrate Court Special Proceedings 2007



Magistrate Court Changes

Helen J. Echard was appointed to serve as a magistrate in Upshur County, effective March 28. She filled a vacancy left by the resignation of **Clarence "Charlie" McCourt, Jr.** Echard previously had served as a magistrate assistant in Upshur County for about thirty years.

McCourt resigned March 27, 2007, but he had been suspended without pay since April 11, 2006. McCourt was charged with first-degree sexual abuse, bribery in official and political matters, and battery. His March 2007 trial ended in a mistrial. He later pleaded no contest to misdemeanor battery and is required to register as a sex offender for ten years.

* * *

Kanawha County Magistrate **Janie Moore** announced her retirement, effective June 30, after serving as a magistrate for 24 years. She was Kanawha County's chief magistrate for fourteen years, including in 1998 when West Virginia began installing a closed-circuit video arraignment system. Magistrate Moore was the first magistrate to use it. She helped set up the system in other counties and trained others to use it, all on her own time. Magistrate Moore served on several law enforcement committees and the education committee for the state Supreme Court.

Former Kanawha County Magistrate **Traci Carper-Strickland** was appointed to fill Moore's unexpired term. Carper was sworn in on June 29. Carper previously was appointed to the post and then elected in 2000. She chose not to run for re-election in 2004.

* * *

Kanawha County Magistrate **Warren G. "McGoo" McGinnis** resigned August 9 because of illness. McGinnis had a series of surgeries and complications that left him largely unable to work since late 2006. Senior Status Magistrates Sharon Stone Riggelman and Jack Pauley filled in for him during his absence. McGinnis was elected in 2004. He is a former Charleston police officer and served in the United States Marine Corps.

Jack Pauley was appointed August 10 to fill the vacancy. Pauley was elected magistrate in 1992 and re-elected twice. He ran unsuccessfully for sheriff in 1988 and 2004.

* * *

Cabell County Magistrate **Brenda Chapman** retired on October 16. Chapman, a Democrat, had been a magistrate in Cabell County for 23 years.

John H. McCallister was appointed to fill Magistrate Chapman's place on the bench beginning October 17. McCallister, a Democrat, had previously filed precandidacy papers to seek the office in 2008. He unsuccessfully ran for the office in 2004, after serving as a magistrate from February 1986 to December 1992, and from December 2000 to December 2004.

Magistrate Court Case Filings

County	Criminal & Civil	Special Proceedings	Total	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Barbour	1,839	267	2,106	2,207	2,100	2,517	2,988	2,119	2,213	2,453	2,550
Berkeley	17,566	2,898	20,464	17,820	17,284	19,480	18,768	18,983	20,515	21,667	15,869
Boone	5,193	710	5,903	5,723	6,142	6,394	5,515	5,061	5,227	4,949	5,395
Braxton	3,334	377	3,711	3,894	3,944	4,072	3,901	5,004	4,579	4,469	4,287
Brooke	2,699	437	3,136	3,925	3,992	4,111	3,217	3,158	4,628	4,037	3,914
Cabell	17,457	2,898	20,355	20,169	21,333	23,391	21,150	19,624	19,164	21,481	22,795
Calhoun	677	88	765	773	958	926	839	1,079	933	1,085	869
Clay	2,299	235	2,534	2,526	2,352	2,500	2,027	1,951	2,628	2,817	3,158
Doddridge	1,875	98	1,973	1,276	1,097	1,376	1,346	1,198	1,479	1,801	1,603
Fayette	6,218	973	7,191	7,744	7,851	8,949	7,970	8,476	10,026	11,306	12,095
Gilmer	850	179	1,029	1,102	999	699	938	900	1,211	1,165	1,005
Grant	2,106	373	2,479	2,454	2,743	1,969	1,865	2,501	3,146	3,013	2,382
Greenbrier	4,546	507	5,053	6,699	6,085	6,715	6,055	6,542	6,560	6,867	7,411
Hampshire	5,277	501	5,778	6,079	5,808	5,233	4,598	3,807	3,573	3,959	3,254
Hancock	3,541	499	4,040	3,889	3,801	3,972	4,207	4,672	4,543	4,780	4,226
Hardy	2,996	238	3,234	4,038	4,364	4,473	3,668	3,730	4,319	4,248	2,943
Harrison	11,198	1,527	12,725	12,621	12,020	13,322	15,719	14,508	17,911	19,915	19,337
Jackson	3,878	605	4,483	4,528	4,754	5,118	4,116	3,585	3,890	4,740	5,803
Jefferson	9,088	1,443	10,531	15,734	10,962	10,578	9,545	8,227	10,985	9,498	10,189
Kanawha	44,099	6,378	50,477	39,710	41,920	40,458	34,955	39,289	43,690	50,598	46,573
Lewis	5,233	166	5,399	5,177	4,729	5,611	6,417	5,232	5,314	8,250	8,674
Lincoln	3,537	634	4,171	3,666	3,314	3,542	3,232	2,773	3,602	3,074	3,465
Logan	10,291	1,704	11,995	12,133	11,526	11,653	8,768	8,584	9,811	9,740	2,101
Marion	7,012	1,023	8,035	7,870	7,259	7,716	7,396	8,750	9,533	11,168	11,084
Marshall	4,528	625	5,153	5,052	4,972	4,751	4,691	6,854	5,915	6,537	6,351
Mason	4,989	429	5,418	4,530	4,194	5,222	4,005	4,853	5,795	5,729	4,541
McDowell	4,484	1,412	5,896	5,064	5,732	5,358	5,156	4,373	4,607	4,902	4,713
Mercer	14,429	2,513	16,942	18,628	20,545	18,802	17,442	21,585	18,232	19,466	18,863
Mineral	4,100	474	4,574	4,860	4,896	4,824	3,992	3,160	3,437	4,005	3,808
Mingo	5,979	1,225	7,204	6,061	6,561	5,384	4,363	5,529	5,229	5,598	4,626
Monongalia	12,446	1,443	13,889	12,970	11,919	13,048	12,298	12,660	14,244	14,800	13,799
Monroe	995	345	1,340	1,334	1,263	1,362	1,499	1,425	1,572	1,736	1,307
Morgan	3,063	173	3,236	3,221	4,141	3,946	3,670	3,731	3,897	3,008	3,400
Nicholas	5,852	923	6,775	7,657	7,665	7,112	6,409	7,618	8,022	8,683	8,448
Ohio	7,010	732	7,742	8,862	8,596	10,376	9,861	9,024	9,469	10,715	13,571
Pendleton	667	60	727	1,082	1,200	1,279	1,347	1,607	1,921	1,714	1,659
Pleasants	1,267	140	1,407	1,340	1,195	1,369	1,523	1,438	1,366	1,395	1,147
Pocahontas	1,792	158	1,950	2,592	1,444	2,159	1,849	1,929	2,445	2,321	2,186
Preston	4,971	421	5,392	5,909	5,788	5,288	5,481	6,605	5,699	6,409	5,833
Putnam	7,851	845	8,696	9,641	9,428	10,545	9,557	9,121	9,254	9,544	9,467
Raleigh	16,310	2,370	18,680	19,937	19,490	21,827	20,676	24,312	24,923	25,121	27,721
Randolph	6,113	478	6,591	5,845	6,877	7,069	7,592	6,943	8,139	8,390	7,742
Ritchie	3,652	198	3,850	3,665	3,477	3,287	2,548	2,731	3,386	2,917	2,041
Roane	3,048	459	3,507	3,518	3,310	3,393	2,683	2,940	3,939	4,340	4,679
Summers	1,815	238	2,053	1,904	1,780	1,786	1,606	2,140	2,365	2,332	1,798
Taylor	2,104	274	2,378	2,173	1,866	1,852	1,955	2,243	2,235	2,616	2,753
Tucker	1,071	67	1,138	1,141	1,395	1,469	1,275	1,311	1,549	1,601	1,419
Tyler	936	88	1,024	1,138	1,034	1,148	1,003	1,186	1,035	1,135	1,082
Upshur	4,902	257	5,159	5,235	5,771	6,087	6,758	5,705	5,752	7,381	6,320
Wayne	4,567	697	5,264	5,894	6,983	9,298	7,956	5,815	5,623	6,398	5,362
Webster	1,352	207	1,559	1,533	1,297	1,666	1,589	1,222	1,363	1,477	1,106
Wetzel	1,405	171	1,576	1,861	1,884	1,434	1,601	1,684	1,620	1,476	1,734
Wirt	897	62	959	1,176	917	1,021	998	805	1,108	1,278	1,128
Wood	19,553	1,320	20,873	17,835	16,001	14,068	12,622	13,338	12,671	11,843	12,504
Wyoming	2,690	884	3,574	3,667	3,987	3,917	3,889	4,362	4,616	3,832	3,769
TOTAL	327,647	44,446	372,093	367,082	362,945	374,922	347,094	358,002	380,908	405,779	385,859



The 2007 Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia. From left, Justice Joseph P. Albright, Justice Larry V. Starcher, Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis, Justice Elliott E. Maynard, Justice Brent D. Benjamin. *Photo by Jeff Gentner*

Court Conferences

The Supreme Court sponsored the following conferences in 2007:

February 8, 2007	New Leave Record-Keeper Training Teleconference
February 9, 2007	Experienced Leave Record-Keeper Training Teleconference
February 19-21, 2007	New Circuit Judges' Conference – Charleston
March 14-16, 2007	Supreme Court Forms Retreat – Roanoke *
April 18-20, 2007	Magistrate Staff Conference I – Charleston
April 25-27, 2007	Magistrate Staff Conference II – Charleston
May 1-4, 2007	Spring Circuit Judges' Education Conference – Martinsburg
May 10-11, 2007	Spring Family Court Conference – Charleston
May 17-18, 2007	Experienced Circuit Court and Supreme Court Law Clerks' Training – Charleston
June 6-8, 2007	Mental Hygiene Commissioners' Conference – Cacapon State Park
August 8-10, 2007	Circuit Clerks' Conference – Martinsburg
August 23-24, 2007	New Circuit Court Law Clerks' Conference – Charleston
August 29-31, 2007	Magistrate Conference I – Morgantown
September 5-7, 2007	Magistrate Conference II – Morgantown
September 14, 2007	Parent Education Conference – Charleston
September 15, 2007	High Conflict Parent Education Training – Charleston
September 25-28, 2007	Crisis Intervention Team Planning – Canaan Valley*
October 3-5, 2007	Family Court Conference – Morgantown
October 16-19, 2007	Fall Circuit Judges' Education Conference – Charleston
October 16-19, 2007	Bailiffs' Conference – Huntington*
October 22-23, 2007	New Probation Officers' Conference – Morgantown
October 23-26, 2007	Probation Officers' Conference – Morgantown
October 29-31, 2007	Drug Court Planning Initiative – Canaan Valley*
November 5-6, 2007	Family Court Staff Training – Charleston
November 5-9, 2007	West Virginia Unified Judicial Application Workshop I – Charleston
November 26-30, 2007	West Virginia Unified Judicial Application Workshop II – Morgantown

Individualized training was provided, as needed, for all newly appointed magistrates.

* Grant funded

Circuit Judges discuss community corrections

Circuit judges attending the spring meeting of the West Virginia Judicial Association had the opportunity to learn about community corrections from some of the founding fathers.

The day before the spring conference began, First Circuit Chief Judge Martin J. Gaughan and Jim Lee, Chairman of the West Virginia Community Corrections Committee, talked about the Northern Panhandle's successful community corrections program in a meeting intended to spark interest in community corrections in the Eastern Panhandle. They were joined by Fred McDonald, Director of the Lee Day Report Center in the First Judicial Circuit and formerly the state's Director of Probation Services.

Judge Gaughan, Jim Lee and Supreme Court Administrator Steve Canterbury, when he served as Director of the Regional Jail Authority, are generally credited with founding West Virginia's community corrections program. Following the establishment of West Virginia's first community corrections program and day report center in the First Judicial Circuit, Judge Gaughan, Lee, and Canterbury helped draft the 2001 legislation enabling community corrections programs to spread throughout the state.

Because of increasing criminal caseloads and the resulting increased costs, there is a great need for alternative sentencing options. Community-based corrections programs such as teen courts, drug courts, mental health courts, day



Judge David H. Sanders of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, left, talks with First Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Martin J. Gaughan about community corrections at a meeting the day before the start of the spring conference of the West Virginia Judicial Association in Martinsburg. Photo by Ron Agnir, The [Martinsburg] Journal

report centers, creative community service, domestic violence prevention, sex offender containment, transitional housing, pre-adjudication juvenile intervention, and home confinement have produced significant cost savings and led to measurable improvement in the lives of participants while enhancing public safety.

Community corrections does not involve creating costly new government programs. It does involve extensive collaboration among existing government agencies, the criminal justice system and non-profit social service providers to develop and deliver programs and services that can help meet specific needs of specific individuals.

Court Security

Every time a defendant pays court costs on criminal violations in West Virginia, a portion goes to a Court Security Fund, managed by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and the West Virginia Division of Criminal Justice Services through the Court Security Board. The Board, by statute, is chaired by the Supreme Court's Administrative Director. For violations in magistrate court, the amount of court costs destined for the fund is \$5. A substantial amount of money is thereby created which pays for crucial security needs in county after county.

In 2007, \$841,735 in grants was given to 22 county commissions for the purpose of enhancing the security of county court facilities. Grant funds vary each year, according to how much money is in the fund. Money from the fund also is used for annual training of court bailiffs.

Awards were made to the following counties in 2007:

Berkeley County Commission	\$ 10,900
Boone County Commission	26,249
Brooke County Commission	145,502
Calhoun County Commission	12,650
Greenbrier County Commission	14,759
Hancock County Commission	79,125
Harrison County Commission	34,497
Jackson County Commission	18,800
Kanawha County Commission	81,380
Logan County Commission	22,442
Marion County Commission	11,466
Mason County Commission	29,324
Mingo County Commission	15,898
Monongalia County Commission	41,000
Morgan County Commission	9,475
Ohio County Commission	53,949
Pendleton County Commission	20,873
Ritchie County Commission	27,495
Roane County Commission	4,295
Webster County Commission	53,855
Wood County Commission	10,750
West Virginia Supreme Court	117,051
Total	\$841,735



Circuit Judge Donald Cookman, right, talks to students and adults from the West Virginia School for the Deaf about the court system and jury service. *Photo courtesy of The Hampshire Review.*

Judge Cookman encourages deaf students to vote, serve on juries

The campus of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind is a short walk from the Hampshire County Courthouse in Romney, and 22nd Judicial Circuit Judge Donald Cookman uses that to his advantage to encourage students to vote and serve on juries.

“We make sure to the best of our ability to make it possible for any potential juror to serve, even if he or she is hearing impaired,” Judge Cookman told a group of about sixty students and adults from the School for the Deaf when they visited his courtroom in October. “It’s a freedom we have to select our leaders and to judge our peers in the interest of justice.”

Jurors are selected at random, and the selection process does not eliminate the deaf or hard-of-hearing, Judge Cookman noted.

“There are a number of ways the deaf and hard-of-hearing can be heard. Just because they can’t hear doesn’t mean they can’t speak out,” the judge said, according to a story in *The Hampshire Review*.

If a deaf or hard-of-hearing person is a participant in a case or on a jury, the Court will employ a sign language interpreter.

Also, a court reporter who works with a stenograph machine can type up to three hundred words per minute in phonic shorthand. That can be simultaneously translated by computer into full English and displayed on a large screen in the courtroom. Although the Hampshire County Courthouse does not have such a system on-hand, one can be brought in if needed. The new Hampshire County Judicial Center, scheduled to open in the fall of 2008, will have the state’s first complete multi-media cart, video conference station and assistive listening device. The new equipment will allow a profoundly deaf person to read everything occurring in a court proceeding as it happens. People with some hearing can use the assistive listening devices that will take signals from the courtroom amplification system and broadcast impulses through an infrared emitter to headset receivers worn by individuals.

School for the Deaf Instructor Marty Blakely said he was happy to see students get excited about the idea of jury service, and he was grateful to Judge Cookman for the opportunity to show students how important they are to their community.

“It was interesting to see so many students from our school ask so many questions,” Blakely said.

Kanawha County Circuit Clerk taking credit cards

Kanawha County Circuit Clerk Cathy Gatson’s office began accepting credit card and debit card payments on January 11, 2007, becoming the first circuit clerk’s office in the state to do so. In June 2006 all magistrate courts in West Virginia began accepting VISA, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards and debit cards for payment of fines, court costs, and fees. Gatson’s office also accepts credit card and debit card payments for all transactions in her office except posting criminal bonds.

The Legislature in 1988 authorized magistrate courts to accept credit cards, but the law did not make any provision for how to pay the service fees credit card companies charge on each transaction. Magistrate courts did not have the money in their budgets, and the fees could not be deducted from fines or court costs. In 2002, the Supreme Court agreed to pay the fees. The Court also is paying the fees for transactions handled by Gatson’s office.

“It is a convenience to the public, and the court felt it was worth the minimal cost,” said Supreme Court Chief Justice Robin Jean Davis.

Gatson said her office is the pilot for circuit clerks.

“It’s a huge crowd pleaser. The public loves it; the attorneys love it,” Gatson said. “It’s a great convenience for *pro se* litigants. It’s very nice to be able to say that we take credit cards just like other businesses.”

The credit card acceptance program was piloted in Monongalia County Magistrate Court beginning in August 2003 and in Kanawha County Magistrate Court the following month. Between September 2003 and November 2004, the Supreme Court’s staff trained magistrate clerks in 51 other counties. Implementation of the program was delayed in Hampshire County Magistrate Court and Calhoun County Magistrate Court due to staff changes there. Hampshire County Magistrate Court began accepting credit card payments in April 2005 and Calhoun County Magistrate Court began accepting them in June 2006.

The number of credit card transactions in magistrate court varies by county. The Supreme Court paid \$41,902 in bank service fees in 2007, which equals 2.15 percent of all transactions, so the entire court system collected approximately \$1.95 million in credit card payments in that calendar year.

The program cuts down on magistrate court paperwork to process monthly payments. Many people cannot afford to pay fines and costs in a lump sum. For example, court costs for most citations and misdemeanor convictions total \$160.50. Fines are in addition to the court costs.

Gatson said she expected the convenience of paying by credit card would increase revenues in her office, which is the third-largest revenue producer in Kanawha County behind the sheriff’s tax office and the county clerk’s office. In 2006 Gatson’s office forwarded \$300,000 to the county. After beginning the credit card program, collections remitted to the county went up to \$343,686 in 2007.

Total credit card collections in Gatson’s office in 2007 were \$83,438. The Supreme Court paid \$1,777 in service fees on those collections.

At the end of 2007 Gatson’s office remained the only circuit clerk’s office collecting credit card and debit card payments.

The WVCourthouse Facilities Improvement Authority

The Legislature established the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority in 2001. The Authority gives financial assistance to county governments for projects that modify or build courthouses and related facilities. Counties must pay at least twenty percent of any project that the Authority funds.

In 2003, as required by law, the Authority submitted a study on the condition of West Virginia courthouses. The study, conducted by the West Virginia Institute of Technology, estimated \$277 million in improvements would be needed over the next twenty years. To fund such needs and to pay for Authority operational costs, the Authority receives revenue from fees on certain services provided by the offices of every elected county official.

To receive a grant, a county must submit a detailed application to the Authority board, which reviews grant applications based on urgency and severity of need. Between 2004 and 2007, the Authority granted more than \$7 million. Grants were used for a wide variety of improvements including structural integrity restoration; new roofs; fire safety system installation; work safety enhancements; window replacement; masonry repair; heating, ventilation, air conditioning and electrical maintenance; space additions; security upgrades; and Americans with Disabilities Act adaptations.

The Authority board is made up of twelve voting members and eight advisory members. Voting members make final funding decisions.

The twelve voting members are two assessors, two circuit clerks, two county clerks, two commissioners, two sheriffs, and two prosecuting attorneys.

The eight nonvoting advisory members are two circuit judges, two magistrates, one state senator, and one member of the state House of Delegates. The President of each state officials' association also is on the board. That president appoints the second member from his/her association. Authority board members elect a chairman from the group and serve for four years.

The current chairman is Senior Status Judge L.D. Egnor of Cabell County.

"The Authority is extremely grateful that the West Virginia Legislature had the great foresight in 2001 to provide a means for the upkeep and preservation of local county courthouses when it created the CFIA. Without this funding mechanism, many of our beautiful historical courthouses might be lost to neglect and damage," Judge Egnor said in an Authority document.

The Authority's Web site, <http://www.wvcfia.com>, says its mission is to "assist in the repair of these historic structures. Most counties require assistance with ADA compliance, document storage, space and security concerns. County commissions often cannot afford to make these improvements, many of which are required by law, without help. The majority of the courthouses are listed on the National Historic Registry. They attract tourists to our state and generate revenue. These buildings are an important part of our history and our heritage. Together we can restore these grand old buildings and renew the respect which they deserve."

Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority Fourth Cycle Funding Awards

County	Improvement	Project Cost	Award Amount
Boone	Installation of Fire Safety System	\$60,000	\$48,000
Cabell	Repair Exterior Masonry	\$120,000	\$80,000
Fayette	Roof Repair	\$56,000	\$44,800
Gilmer	Replacement of Step & Sidewalk	\$29,500	\$23,600
Hardy	HVAC Project	\$84,437	\$67,550
Jackson	Install Elevator	\$275,000	\$80,000
Kanawha	Renovate Grand Jury & Visiting Judge Room	\$270,000	\$80,000
Lewis	Replace Fire Alarm System	\$38,000	\$30,400
Marion	Continuation of Structural/Roof Project	\$100,000	\$80,000
Mason	Family Court Repair and Relocation	\$328,000	\$80,000
Mercer	Window Replacement-Phase 2	\$184,404	\$80,000
Mineral	Installation of Fire Alarm System	\$33,000	\$26,400
Mingo	ADA Compliant Elevator	\$162,500	\$80,000
Monroe	Install Chair Lift	\$50,000	\$40,000
Morgan	Demolition of burned courthouse	\$1,400,000	\$500,000
Ohio	Roof Repair	\$129,000	\$80,000
Pocahontas	Installation of Auto Smoke Detector	\$45,000	\$36,000
Preston	HVAC Project	\$101,500	\$80,000
Randolph	Renovation of Courtroom	\$100,300	\$80,000
Ritchie	Window Replacement-Phase 2	\$100,000	\$80,000
Tyler	ADA Upgrades	\$81,000	\$64,800
Upshur	Repairs to Columns & Portico	\$322,777	\$80,000
Webster	Renovation of Courtroom	\$100,000	\$80,000
Wetzel	ADA Upgrade	\$100,000	\$80,000
Wood	New Roof for Annex	\$90,000	\$72,000
Wyoming	Install Elevator	\$237,574	\$80,000
Project Total:		\$4,597,992	
Amount Awarded:		\$2,153,550	



The proposed new Morgan County Courthouse in Berkeley Springs. *Rendering courtesy of Silling Associates-Architects*

Morgan County Courthouse to be reminiscent of predecessor

The new Morgan County Courthouse to be built on the site of the historic structure that was destroyed by a fire on August 8, 2006, will be reminiscent of the previous building but will be larger and contain up-to-date technology and security features.

Silling Associates of Charleston, the oldest architecture firm in West Virginia, won the contract to design and engineer the 47,000-square-foot facility on the corner of Washington and Fairfax Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs. The plan calls for the three-story building to have a stone and brick exterior and proportions consistent with other downtown Berkeley Springs buildings, including the Magistrate Building and the historic bath structures of the Berkeley Springs State Park located diagonally to the site. The building will feature a lighted clock tower over the main entry that will dominate the downtown and the park.

The first floor will house the county commission, the sheriff's tax office, the assessor, and county clerk. The magistrate courts, family courts, and probation offices will be on the second floor. The circuit court, circuit clerk, and prosecutor's office will be on the third floor. Judges' chambers will be adjacent to the respective courts on each floor.

Courtroom technology will include modern evidence presentation and court recording. The building's security features will include an entry checkpoint featuring metal detection and x-ray examination. Strategic points will be monitored by closed-circuit television. The building's design will keep the public and courthouse staff separate from detainees from the regional jail. These inmates will be isolated and contained in holding areas.

The building will have a geothermal energy source for economic heating and cooling.

The design will cost about \$12 million to execute. Groundbreaking is expected in the fall of 2008, and the building is expected to be completed in 2010.

Morgan County received \$4 million in an insurance payment and a \$9 million loan from the state Infrastructure Bond Fund in

the West Virginia Development Office. The state loan comes with a one percent interest rate for five years. At the end of that time, the county can draw from a \$7 million loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Division to pay off the state loan. The county will have 35 years to repay that loan at an interest rate of slightly over four percent.

In addition, the county received \$500,000 from the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority to assist in razing the burned structure. That agency also has committed another \$600,000 toward building the new facility.

Since the fire, 23rd Judicial Circuit Judge Gina Groh has been holding court in the multi-purpose room of the former North Berkeley Grade School, which the Berkeley County Board of Education now uses as its office building. A wall at the back of the room blocks off the kitchen and counter where children once collected their lunches.

The room also is used for Board of Education meetings and so can accommodate up to one hundred potential jurors. County officials brought in a metal detector and bought extra chairs. The Supreme Court supplied a sound and video system for use during trials.

The room's large and noisy air conditioning unit has to be turned off during trials so jurors can hear the proceedings, Judge Groh told *The Morgan Messenger*. "When we need to do a sidebar, A.C. (Bohrer, the bailiff) flips on the air conditioner. After a while, the jurors learn that and take over doing it."

On evenings when the School Board holds its semi-monthly meetings, school board and circuit court staff work together late into the evening to rearrange chairs and tables to transform the meeting room back into a courtroom.

The location has worked well, Judge Groh told the newspaper. "I'm thankful to the Board. We're there out of their generosity."

Marion County Courthouse renovations proceed thanks to county, grant funding

When pieces of the Marion County Courthouse began falling off the 107-year-old building, county officials knew it was time for renovations!

A grant from the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office allowed the county development office to hire an architectural firm to study the building and come up with a plan.

Work began in 2003 on the exterior, beginning with the side facing Jefferson Street, which presented the greatest safety hazard, then moving to the front entrance, said Richard Walton, the county's planning and development director. Marion has received three grants totaling about \$110,000 from the Historic Preservation Office for the exterior work, which the county more than matched with its own funds, Walton told *The [Fairmont] Times West Virginian*.

The county also has completed about \$400,000 in interior renovations with the help of grants from the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority that provided eighty percent of that amount. Much of that work was to shore up the dome. Among other things, construction crews welded

corrugated metal along the ceiling to keep the attic's terra cotta tiles in place.

The Marion County Commission also has paid \$1.3 million out of its own funds to repair cast iron gutters that ran from the roof, down the interior of the walls, and under the building. The gutters had eroded and were leaking into the walls and under the courthouse. The walls also were repaired, electrical wiring was upgraded throughout the building, and terrazzo flooring was repaved on the first floor.

The county has used its own funds to restore three third-floor murals that were painted by a local artist when the courthouse was built in 1901. The paintings had become dulled by dust from a coal furnace and cigarette smoke.

Repairs to the courthouse roof will continue at least through 2009, and then the county can begin to restore the stained glass in the courtroom dome and in the hallway windows.

Courthouse repairs were long neglected because it was not a popular way to spend taxpayer money, Walton said.

"It's sins of the past that the current commission is having to pay for," Walton said.

Randolph County Courthouse renovations completed

The courthouse restoration project that began in 2002 in honor of the Randolph County Courthouse's Centennial was completed in the fall of 2007.

The courtroom was remodeled in 2002. The Circuit Clerk's Office and Circuit Judge John Henning's chambers, conference room, secretary's office, and the courthouse library now also have been renovated. A spectacular stained-glass rotunda above the courtroom that had been hidden by acoustic tiles is now uncovered, Judge John Henning told *The Inter-Mountain* of Elkins.

"This was a restoration project," Judge Henning said.

The courthouse was built between 1902 and 1906. The courtroom was last remodeled in the 1960s, when dark, low-quality paneling was put on the walls and the ceilings were lowered in the judge's chambers and library.

The paneling was removed and the ceilings were raised from nine feet to a little more than 12 feet during the recent work. The new ceiling tile resembles the type of tin ceiling used in the era the building was built.

Jail inmates stripped dark paint off chairs in the courtroom, library and chambers to make the rooms brighter.

New light fixtures, new flooring and new plumbing in the restroom also were installed.

The work was paid for by a \$100,000 grant from the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority,



Grace Obana works to restore the stained glass dome in the Randolph County courthouse. She and partner Joe Brown rebuilt the centerpiece of the dome in 2002 and 2003. The Obana-Brown Stained Glass Company in Belington also helped restore the Barbour County courthouse in Philippi. "Most of the people in Randolph County wouldn't even believe there was a dome," Obana told *Goldenseal* magazine for a story in its Spring 2003 issue. "We climbed up to check, and there it was - an inverted bowl, eighteen feet across and four and a half feet deep. From what little we could tell, it had been built in eight sections with about two hundred pieces of glass in each section. Joe later figured it out. There were, altogether, precisely 1,446 pieces." Overall restoration contractor Ed Devine built a temporary workshop in the upper reaches of the courthouse. A custom-made ladder gave access from the second floor into the attic, and new pine stairs led onto platforms where the actual restoration took place. The dome itself was surrounded by a narrow catwalk. Devine also constructed a movable "pick board" to access the top of the dome. *Photo by Michael Keller, courtesy of Goldenseal*

\$20,000 from the Randolph County Commission, and state budget digest money.

Kanawha County renovates one courtroom, adds another

In 2007 Kanawha County renovated a courtroom in its historic courthouse that had not been functional in decades and took over the court administrator's office suite in the Judicial Building to add a courtroom for a visiting judge.

The circa-1926 courtroom on the second floor of the main courthouse, known as Courtroom Number Four, is cavernous and stately; but it stopped being used for trials in 1983 because of bad acoustics. Since then it has been used to conduct press conferences, to hold memorial services for attorneys, and to dispense flu shots to county employees.

"It's a beautiful, splendid courtroom worth protecting. We just have to balance between being functional and protecting the aesthetics of the original design," County Commission President Kent Carper told *The West Virginia Record*.

In 1987, a drop ceiling was taken out and former Kanawha County Commissioner Doug Stump and county jail inmates painted the walls and the exposed 45-foot plaster ceiling, including adding touches of gold leaf. They also stripped paint off woodwork, repaired moisture damage, and recreated ornate arches behind the judge's bench. The room has eight chandeliers and a wall of windows facing west.

"Since then, we've spent significant money trying to make it more usable; but frankly, it's hard to hear in there," Carper said.

"It was built in the days of the big orator, when people had big booming voices. But things aren't like that anymore," County Manager Brent Pauley told the *Charleston Daily Mail*. "There's a lot of echo and a lot of bounce in that room. We just have to find a way to absorb it."

The Kanawha County Commission in 2007 spent \$13,500 on acoustical draperies and \$14,500 on fabric seat cushions to help absorb sound. Carpet was also installed to assist with the acoustics in the room at a cost of \$17,524. The County also added a new sound system, which cost \$4,991. The County applied for grant funding in 2007 to add security cameras, metal detectors and security passes and plans to install that equipment in 2008. There also are plans to install a fire suppression system.

The upgrades worked so well that the room was the site of a high-profile, three-week trial of a Monongalia County woman charged with killing her husband and setting their home on fire.



The courtroom in the historic Kanawha County Courthouse, known as Courtroom Number Four, also has been known for its poor acoustics. The Kanawha County Commission spent much time and money during 2007 to improve the room so it could be used more regularly. Photo courtesy of *The West Virginia Record*

Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Judge Robert Stone moved the trial of Michelle Michael to Kanawha County because of pre-trial publicity in Monongalia County.

Kanawha County in 2007 also renovated the former office suite of County Court Administrator Steve Hanley on the fifth floor of the Judicial Building for use as another courtroom for visiting judges and grand juries. But the initial renovation plan made the courtroom too small. When the dimensions of the furniture were painted onto the floor, there wasn't room for everything and the jury box was so close to the judge's bench the jurors could have shaken hands with the judge without getting up.

The county had to spend an extra \$50,000 to move a wall in an adjoining petit jury room to enlarge the courtroom. The jury room is not for deliberations; it is a large room where jurors gather as they wait to find out if they will be called for a trial. Renovations to the Judicial Building cost \$411,583. Of that, \$160,000 was provided by a grant from the West Virginia Courthouse Facilities Improvement Authority.

Hanley's Office was moved to the first floor of the Judicial Building. Renovations of the Judicial Building are now complete, although the county plans to add additional security.



Kanawha County Court Administrator Steve Hanley looks over blueprints for a new court room at the Judicial Annex. Outlines for the judge's bench (right) and jury box (left) are spray-painted on the floor. Photo by Kenny Kemp, *The Charleston Gazette*

Circuit judges review courtroom technology

Supreme Court Administrator Steve Canterbury appointed a committee in the fall of 2006 to review the need for multi-media presentation equipment in circuit courts.

Circuit judges attending the spring conference of the West Virginia Judicial Association in Martinsburg reviewed presentations of courtroom multi-media equipment by three vendors who demonstrated their products on April 30 at the Berkeley County Judicial Facility.

The vendors used three separate courtrooms in the new Berkeley County facility so each could demonstrate products equally. The three vendors who presented demonstrations of their multi-media presentation stations were Nomad Technologies, of Eden Prairie, Minnesota; Jefferson Audio Video, of Louisville, Kentucky; and BIS Digital of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

“Increasingly, multi-media presentations have become vital in courtrooms,” Canterbury said. “Throughout the nation trial courts are being outfitted with the kind of equipment we judged in Martinsburg.”

The vendors showed how attorneys could incorporate technology like DVD clips, PowerPoint presentations, video conferencing, and special projectors with increased zoom capabilities into court proceedings. The all-in-one

systems could also offer the ability to display documents on large screens, the ability to “write” on the computer screen, and to circle information and then print it out in the courtroom.

Some of the equipment has touchscreen, wireless controls that could allow judges to override the main systems and turn off the audio, video, and projector if they need to do so.

The review committee consisted of Berkeley County Circuit Judge Christopher Wilkes; Supreme Court Clerk Rory Perry II; Deputy Administrative Director Kathleen Gross; Mike Proops, Director of Financial Management of the Courts; Fletch Adkins, Director of Support Services in the Supreme Court Administrative Office; Tara Harper, Associate Director of Computer Support in the Administrative Office; and Kanawha County Court Case Manager Jimmy Thaxton.

After reviewing the demonstrations, the committee made a purchasing recommendation to Canterbury. Meanwhile, judges in the new judicial center in Berkeley County will test the equipment and report back to Canterbury.

In 2008, a vendor will be chosen and installation will begin with several counties per year until all courts are fully covered.



Site preparation began in 2007 for a new Judicial Center in Hampshire County. The center, to be located less than a block from the historic Hampshire County Courthouse in Romney, will be a 34,000-square-foot, two-story building. It will house the county’s Circuit Court, Circuit Clerk, Family Court, Magistrate Court, Magistrate Clerk, Prosecuting Attorney, Probation Department, and Court Security.

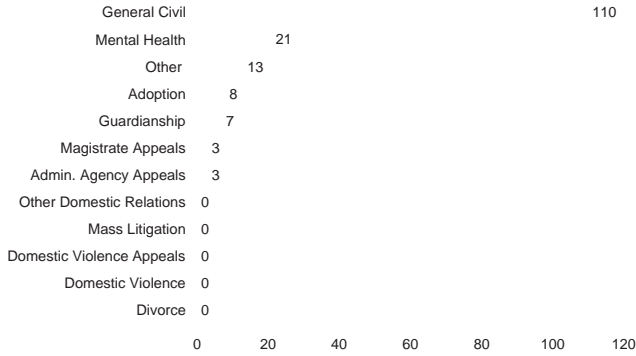
The county will start repaying a loan that is being used to construct the nearly \$7 million building in 2010, at a rate of \$43,000 per month. A second phase of the project will include renovation of the historic courthouse and adjacent county buildings to improve and expand the county’s administrative departments. There will be renovations; mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems upgrades; data/telecommunications improvements; and the modernization of records storage capabilities.

Concept drawing of the Hampshire County Judicial Center courtesy of Silling Associates, architects for the project

Barbour County



Barbour County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

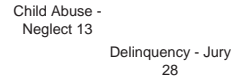


There were 306 filings in Barbour County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 53.92 percent were civil cases, 29.41 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 16.67 percent were criminal cases. Court filings have remained steady when compared to those of 2006 but have increased 46 percent when compared to data from five years ago. Barbour County is part of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Taylor County.

Barbour County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

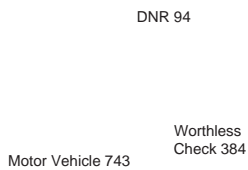


Barbour County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

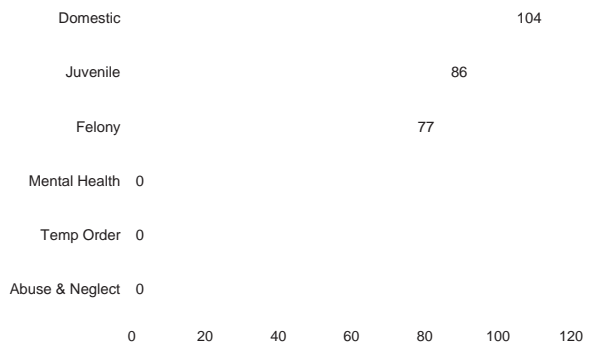


In 2007, there were 2,106 total cases filed in Barbour County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 4.58 percent from 2006 and 29.52 percent from 2003. Criminal cases made up 75.97 percent of filings in 2007. Another 12.68 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 11.35 percent were civil cases.

Barbour County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Barbour County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Barbour County Courthouse in Philippi was built in 1903 of hand-cut Hummelstown stone and adorned with stained glass.

**Barbour County Family Court Caseload During
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
105

Domestic
Relations 45

Circuit Judge

Alan D. Moats, Chief Judge

Family Court Judge

Beth Longo

Magistrates

Kathi S. McBee

Tina M. Mouser

Circuit Clerk

Jerry Lantz

Magistrate Clerk

Sandra K. Skidmore

Chief Probation Officer

Susan Christian

During 2007, 244 new cases were filed in Barbour County Family Court, which was similar to 2006. However, filings increased 73.05 percent when compared to data from 2003. There also were 64 modification and 61 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 33.88 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Barbour County is part of the 21st Family Court Circuit, which also includes Taylor and Preston Counties.

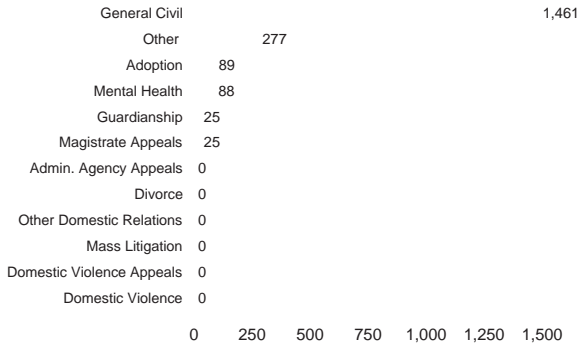
**Court system expenditures for
Barbour County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 62,181
FAMILY COURT	255,670
MAGISTRATE COURT	277,282
TOTAL	\$595,133

Berkeley County

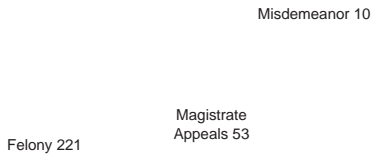


Berkeley County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

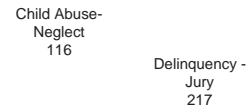


There were 2,715 filings in Berkeley County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 7.48 percent over 2006. Of those filings, 72.38 percent were civil cases, 17.16 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 10.46 percent were criminal cases. Berkeley County is part of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, which also includes Morgan and Jefferson Counties.

Berkeley County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

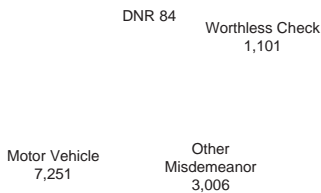


Berkeley County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

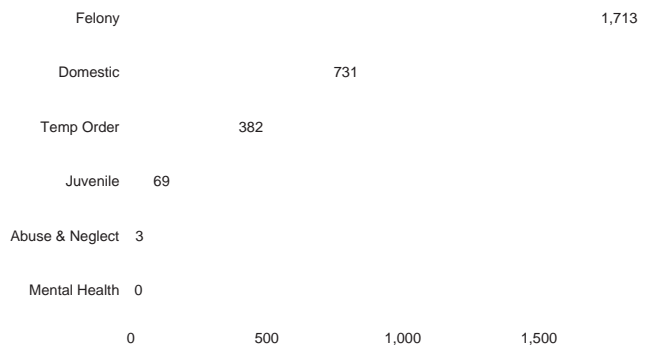


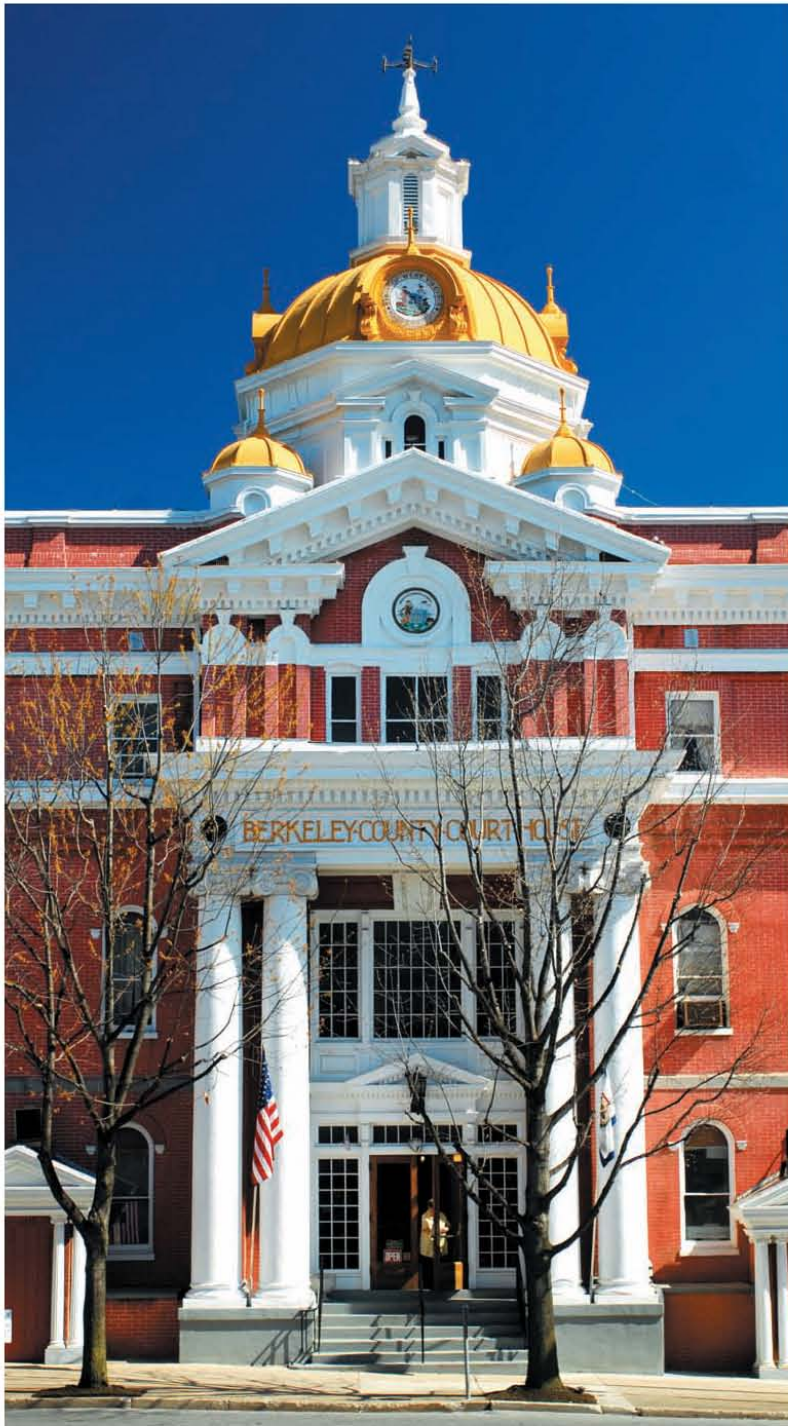
In 2007, there were 20,464 cases filed in Berkeley County Magistrate Court, an increase of 14.84 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 55.91 percent of filings. Another 29.93 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 14.16 percent were special proceedings.

Berkeley County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Berkeley County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Berkeley County added a dome in 1908 to the Martinsburg courthouse, built in the 1850s of brick and limestone. A separate Berkeley County Judicial Center opened in 2006.

Court system expenditures for Berkeley County in 2007

CIRCUIT COURT	\$3,182,670
FAMILY COURT	441,799
MAGISTRATE COURT	857,590
TOTAL	\$4,482,059
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 10,900

Circuit Judges

Thomas W. Steptoe, Jr.,
 Chief Judge
 Gina M. Groh
 David H. Sanders
 Gray Silver, III
 Christopher C. Wilkes

Family Court Judges

Sally G. Jackson
 William T. Wertman Jr.

Magistrates

Joan V. Bragg
 James A. Humphrey
 Sandra L. "Sandy" Miller
 JoAnn B. Overington
 Harry L. Snow

Circuit Clerk

Virginia Sine

Magistrate Clerk

Ruby Kay Hawkins

Chief Probation Officer

Mark Hofe

Berkeley County Family Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Domestic Violence
 785

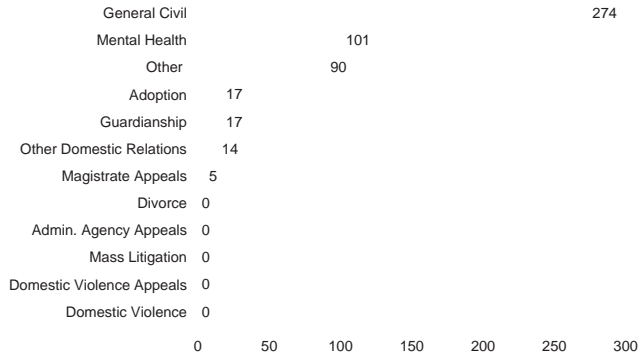
Domestic
 Relations 389

During 2007, 1,728 new cases were filed in Berkeley County Family Court, a 4.74 percent decrease from 2006. However, filings increased 7.8 percent when compared to data from 2003. There also were 291 modification and 204 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 22.27 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Berkeley County is part of the 24th Family Court Circuit, which also includes Jefferson County.

Boone County

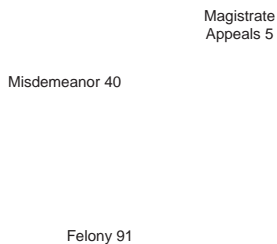


Boone County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

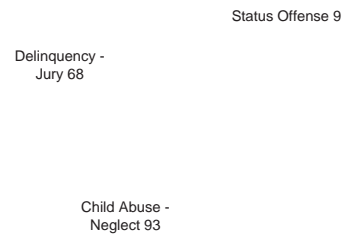


There were 824 case filings in Boone County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 9.87 percent over 2006. Of those, 62.86 percent were civil cases, 20.63 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 16.5 percent were criminal cases. Boone County is part of the 25th Judicial Circuit, which also includes Lincoln County.

Boone County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

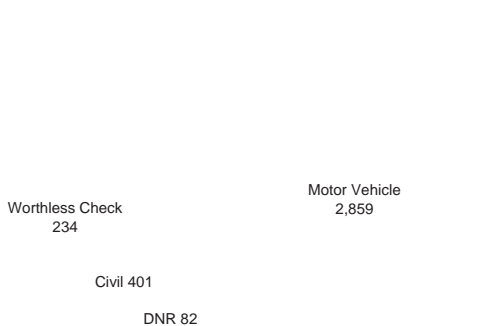


Boone County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

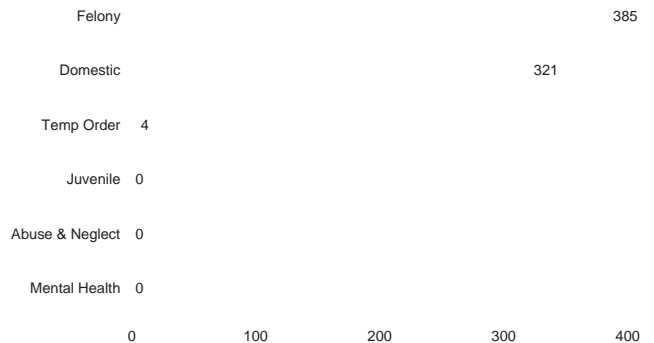


In 2007, there were 5,903 cases filed in Boone County Magistrate Court, an increase of 3.15 percent when compared to 2006. Criminal cases made up 81.18 percent of 2007 filings. Another 12.03 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 6.79 percent were civil cases.

Boone County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Boone County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Boone County Courthouse in Madison was built between 1914 and 1921 of Indiana limestone.

**Boone County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
279

Domestic
Relations 156

During 2007, 645 new cases were filed in Boone County Family Court, an increase of 3.86 percent over 2006. There also were 130 modification and 96 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 25.95 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Boone County is part of the Tenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Lincoln County.

Circuit Judges

Jay M. Hoke, Chief Judge
William S. Thompson (Took bench February 14, 2007)

Family Court Judge

Cynthia J. Jarrell

Magistrates

Charles M. Byrnside
Clarence "Porter" Snodgrass

Magistrate Clerk

Janet E. Dent

Chief Probation Officer

Jerry Swanson

Circuit Clerk

Sue Ann Zickefoose

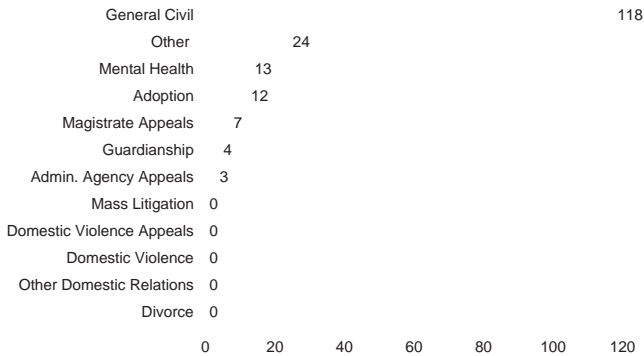
**Court system expenditures for
Boone County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 984,818
FAMILY COURT	249,199
MAGISTRATE COURT	357,909
TOTAL	\$1,591,926
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 26,249
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (To help install fire safety system)	\$ 48,000

Braxton County

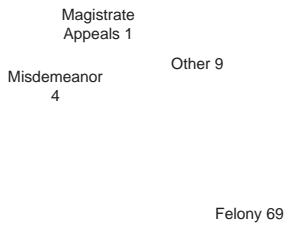


Braxton County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 321 filings in Braxton County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 56.39 percent were civil cases, 25.86 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 17.76 percent were juvenile cases. Filing levels remained steady with those of 2006; however, the court has experienced a 15.05 percent growth when compared to data from 2003. Braxton County is part of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties.

Braxton County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

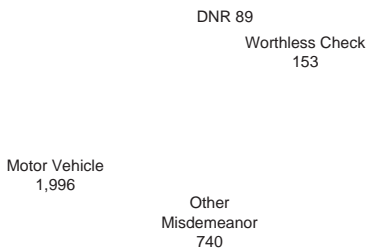


Braxton County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

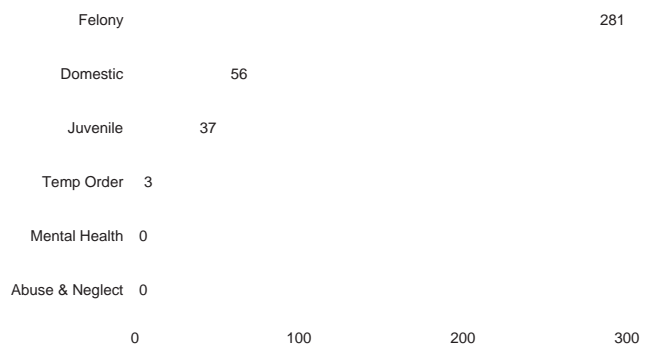


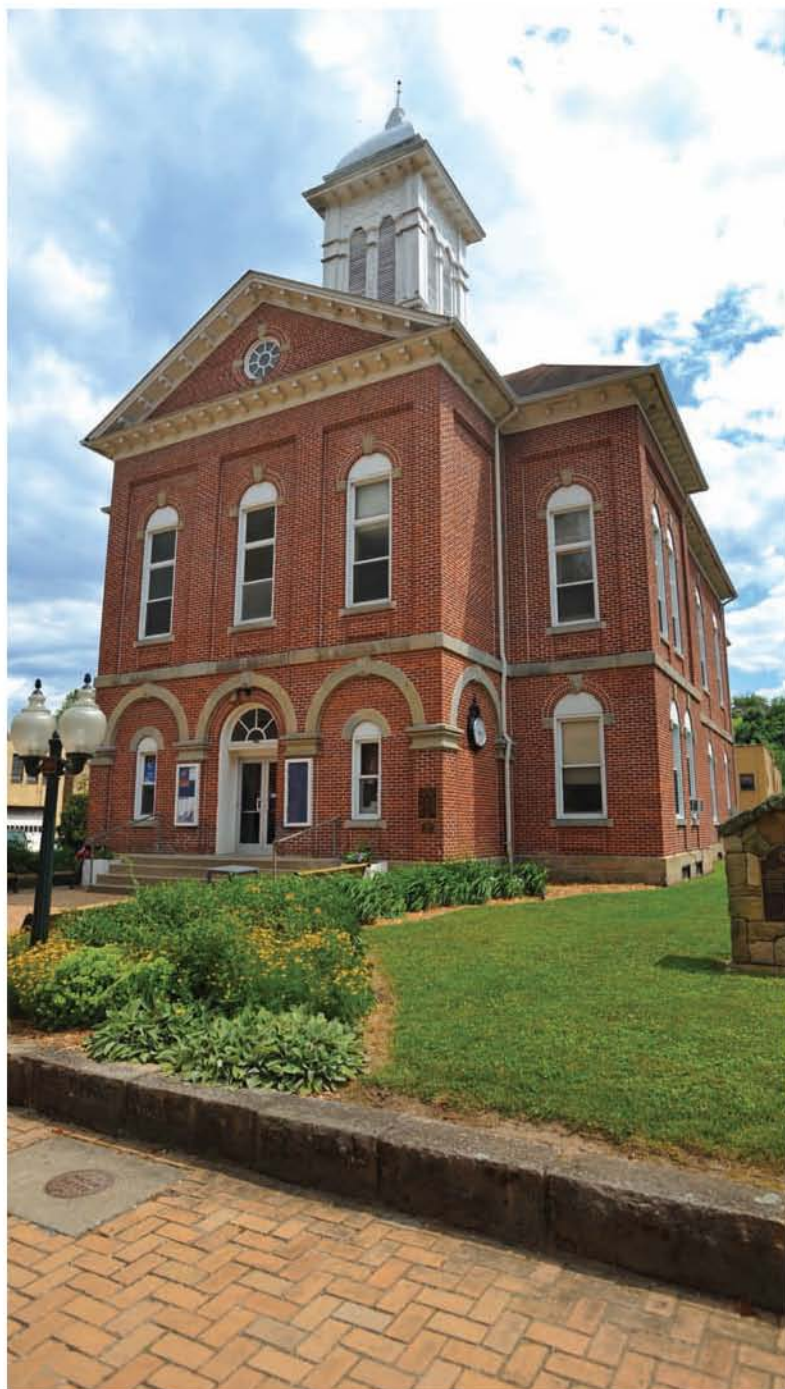
In 2007, there were 3,711 cases filed in Braxton County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 80.25 percent of case filings. Another 10.16 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 9.59 percent were civil cases. In 2007, case filing levels fell 4.7 percent from 2006 and were down 4.87 percent when compared to 2003.

Braxton County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Braxton County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Braxton County Courthouse in Sutton, built of clay bricks, was finished in 1882. Additions were made in 1938. Its predecessor building was burned by Confederate troops during the Civil War.

Circuit Judges

Richard A. Facemire,
Chief Judge
Jack Alsop

Family Court Judge

Robert Reed Sowa

Magistrates

Carolyn D. Cruickshanks
Mary Beth Smith

Circuit Clerk

J.W. Morris

Magistrate Clerk

Carol J. Swiger

Chief Probation Officer

Lucy Cruickshanks

**Braxton County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 54

Domestic
Relations 65

**Court system expenditures for
Braxton County in 2007**

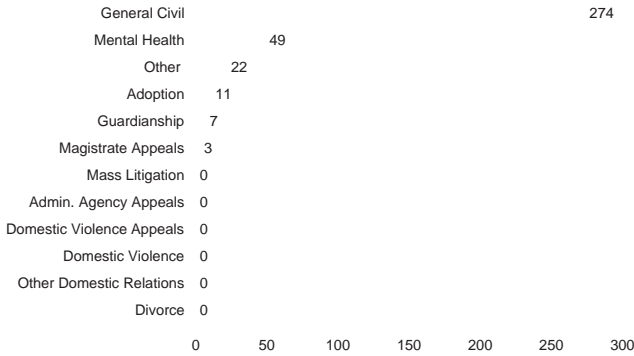
CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,049,011
FAMILY COURT	256,406
MAGISTRATE COURT	267,793
TOTAL	\$1,573,210

During 2007, 208 new cases were filed in Braxton County Family Court, a decrease of 11.49 percent from 2006. There also were 28 modification and 37 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 23.81 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Braxton County is part of the Seventeenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Lewis and Upshur Counties.

Brooke County

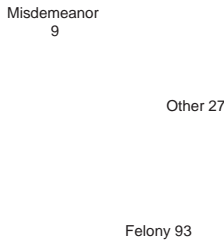


Brooke County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were six hundred filings in Brooke County Circuit Court during 2007, a decrease of 20.11 percent compared to 2006. Of those, 61 percent were civil cases, 21.5 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 17.5 percent were juvenile cases. Brooke County is part of the First Judicial Circuit, which also includes Hancock and Ohio Counties.

Brooke County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

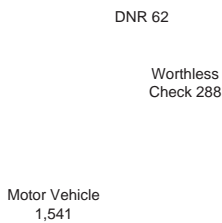


Brooke County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

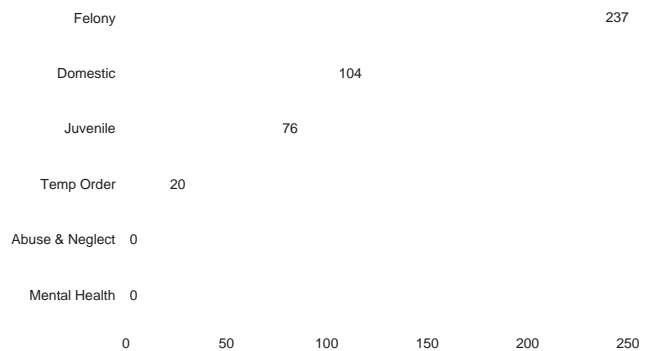


In 2007, there were 3,136 cases filed in Brooke County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 76.82 percent of case filings. Another 13.93 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 9.25 percent were civil cases. In 2007 case filings decreased by 20.1 percent from 2006, but filings reflect a nominal 2.52 percent decrease compared to 2003 filings.

Brooke County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Brooke County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Brooke County's red brick courthouse with octagonal cupola was built in Wellsburg in 1849. It is the county's second courthouse, and the bell from the first was moved to the new building. There have been two additions.

**Brooke County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 89

Domestic
Relations 118

During 2007, 318 new cases were filed in Brooke County Family Court. Filings have remained relatively constant when compared with data from 2006 and 2003. There also were 73 modification and 57 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during 2007, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 29.02 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Brooke County is part of the First Family Court Circuit, which also includes Hancock and Ohio Counties.

Circuit Judges

Martin J. Gaughan,
Chief Judge
James P. Mazzone
Arthur M. Recht
Ronald E. Wilson

Family Court Judges

Joyce Dumbaugh Chernenko
William F. Sinclair

Magistrates

Michael H. Allman
Deborrah K. Lunsford

Circuit Clerk

Glenda Brooks

Magistrate Clerk

Valerie S. Hood

Chief Probation Officer

Jim Lee

**Court system expenditures for
Brooke County in 2007**

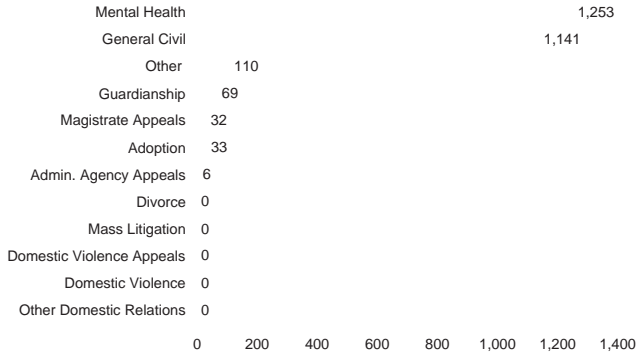
CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,314,768
FAMILY COURT	15,880
MAGISTRATE COURT	331,874
TOTAL	\$1,662,522

COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT \$ 145,502

Cabell County



Cabell County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 3,897 filings in Cabell County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 67.85 percent were civil cases, 17.55 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 14.6 percent were criminal cases. The court has experienced minimal change in case filings over the last few years, with a 2.47 percent increase since 2003 and a 0.98 percent increase since 2006. Cabell County comprises the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Cabell County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

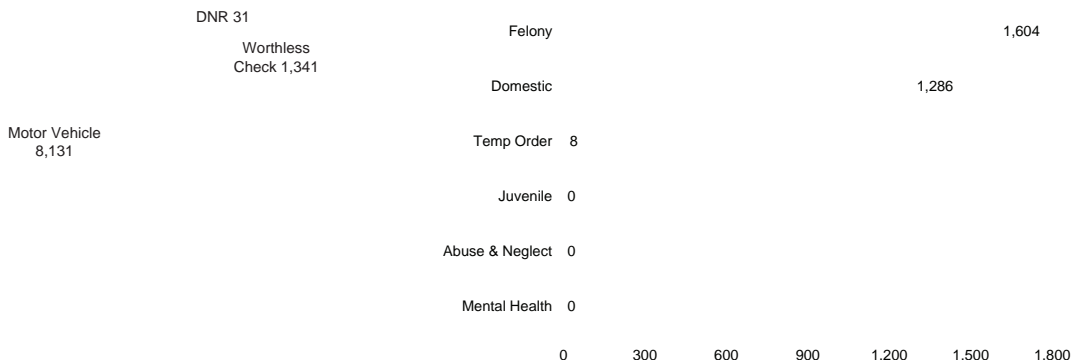
Cabell County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



In 2007, there were 20,355 cases filed in Cabell County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 68.82 percent of case filings. Another 16.94 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 14.24 percent were special proceedings. Case filings decreased 3.76 percent between 2003 and 2007 but have increased 0.92 percent since 2006.

Cabell County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Cabell County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Construction on the Cabell County Courthouse in Huntington, built of Berea sandstone and topped with copper, was completed in 1901. Wings were added in 1924 and 1946.

**Cabell County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
1,287

Domestic
Relations 520

In 2007, 2,475 new cases were filed in Cabell County Family Court. Case filings increased 0.86 percent over 2006 and were up 1.43 percent compared to 2003. There also were 497 modification and 561 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during 2007, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 29.95 percent of the family court caseload during the year. Cabell County makes up the Sixth Family Court Circuit.

Circuit Judges

Dan P. O’Hanlon,
Chief Judge
John L. Cummings
Alfred E. Ferguson
David M. Pancake

Family Court Judges

Ronald E. Anderson
Patricia Keller

Circuit Clerk

Adell Chandler

Magistrate Clerk

Hope E. Romine

Magistrates

Darrell G. Black
Brenda C. Chapman
(Retired October 16, 2007)
John H. McCallister
(Took bench October 17, 2007)
Alvie E. Qualls
John R. Rice
Patty Verbage-Spence
Mike J. Woelfel
Betty J. Wolford

Chief Probation Officer

Jonny Winkler

**Court system expenditures for
Cabell County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$4,331,504
FAMILY COURT	519,703
MAGISTRATE COURT	1,049,466
TOTAL	\$5,900,673

**COURTHOUSE FACILITIES
IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

(To help repair exterior masonry) \$ 80,000

Calhoun County

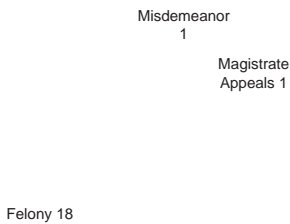


Calhoun County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

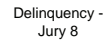


There were 136 filings in Calhoun County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 6.25 percent over 2006. Of those, 66.91 percent were civil cases, 18.38 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 14.71 percent were criminal cases. Calhoun County is part of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties.

Calhoun County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

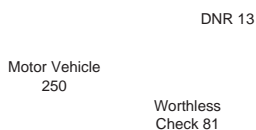


Calhoun County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

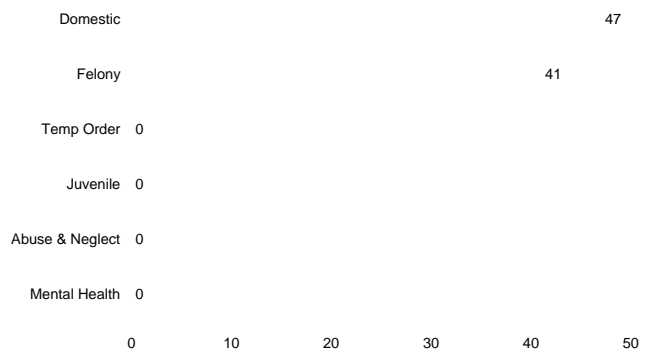


In 2007, there were 765 cases filed in Calhoun County Magistrate Court. Of those, 68.1 percent were criminal cases, 20.39 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 11.5 percent were special proceedings. In 2007, case filing levels were similar to those in 2006.

Calhoun County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Calhoun County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Calhoun County's cut-stone courthouse was completed in Grantsville in 1940. It is the county's fourth courthouse. The first burned before it was occupied.

**Calhoun County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
46

Domestic
Relations 30

Circuit Judges

David W. Nibert,
Chief Judge
Thomas C. Evans, III

Family Court Judge

Larry S. Whited

Magistrates

Richard G. Postalwait
Teresa D. Robinson

Circuit Clerk

Sheila Garretson

Magistrate Clerk

Shari L. Johnson

Chief Probation Officer

Patsy McCartney

**Court system expenditures for
Calhoun County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$136,868
FAMILY COURT	24,890
MAGISTRATE COURT	273,846
TOTAL	\$435,604

COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT \$ 12,502

During 2007, 113 new cases were filed in Calhoun County Family Court. Filings were similar to those in 2006, when there were 119 new cases filed. There also were 44 modification and 39 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 42.35 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Calhoun County is part of the Fourth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Doddridge, Gilmer, and Roane Counties.

Clay County

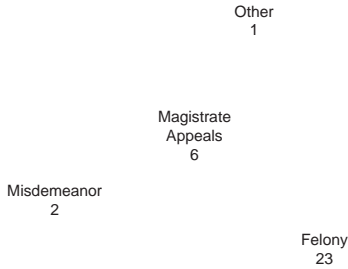


Clay County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

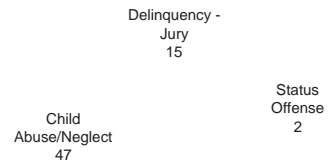


There were 242 filings in Clay County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 32.97 percent over 2006. Of those, 60.33 percent were civil cases, 26.45 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 13.22 percent were criminal cases. Clay County is part of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Braxton, Gilmer, and Webster Counties.

Clay County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

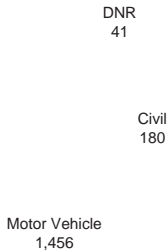


Clay County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

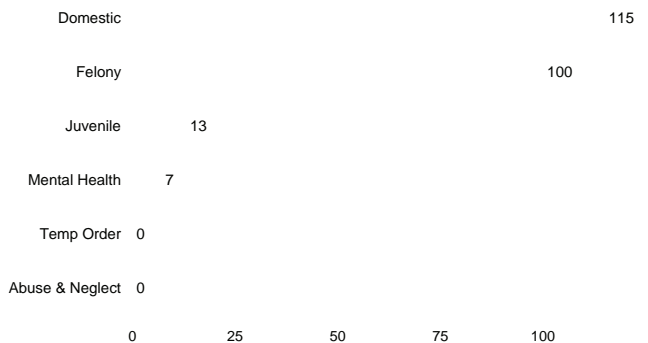


In 2007, there were 2,534 cases filed in Clay County Magistrate Court, an increase of 0.32 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 83.62 percent of case filings. Another 9.27 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 7.1 percent were civil cases.

Clay County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Clay County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Clay County Courthouse is the county's third. The red brick structure was completed in the town of Clay in 1978 and is the state's newest courthouse.

**Clay County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
115

Domestic
Relations
63

Circuit Judges

Richard A. Facemire,
Chief Judge
Jack Alsop

Family Court Judge

Timothy R. Ruckman

Magistrates

Jeffrey W. Boggs
Mitchel H. King

Circuit Clerk

Mike Asbury

Magistrate Clerk

Sandra S. Whiteley

Chief Probation Officer

Lucy Cruickshanks

During 2007, 258 new cases were filed in Clay County Family Court. Case filings have increased 6.17 percent when compared to 2003 data. There also were 74 modification and 66 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 35.18 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Clay County is part of the Sixteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Nicholas and Webster Counties.

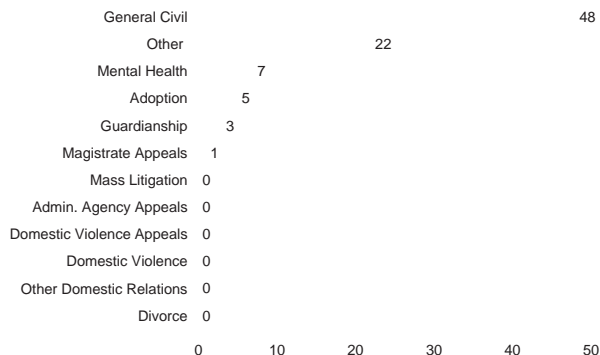
**Court system expenditures for
Clay County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$172,054
FAMILY COURT	11,923
MAGISTRATE COURT	266,133
TOTAL	\$450,110

Doddridge County



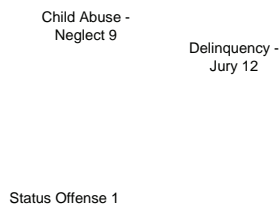
Doddridge County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 137 case filings in Doddridge County Circuit Court during 2007, a 3.79 percent increase over 2006 filings. Of those, 62.77 percent were civil cases, 21.17 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 16.06 percent were juvenile cases. Doddridge County is part of the Third Judicial Circuit, which also includes Pleasants and Ritchie Counties.

Doddridge County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

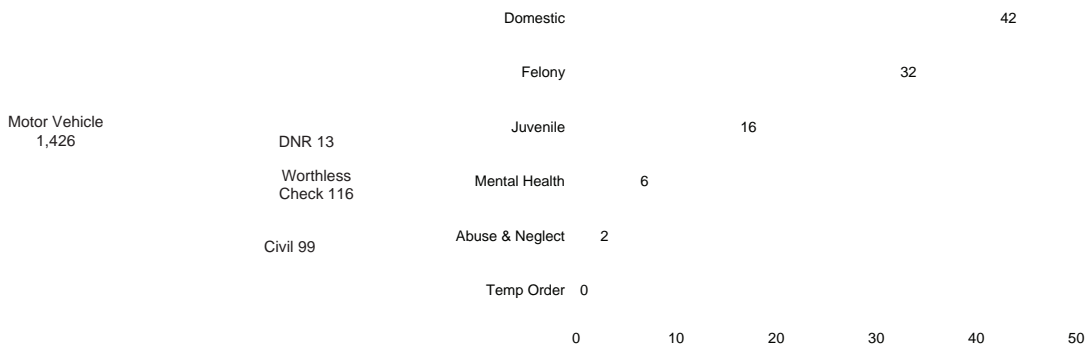
Doddridge County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



In 2007, there were 1,973 cases filed in Doddridge County Magistrate Court, a 54.62 percent increase over 2006. Civil cases made up 90.02 percent of those. Another 5.02 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 4.97 percent were special proceedings.

Doddridge County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Doddridge County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Doddridge County Courthouse, built in West Union, was completed in 1904 of red brick and cut stone. It is the county's third courthouse; the first two were destroyed by fire.

Circuit Court Judge
Robert L. Holland, Jr.,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
Larry S. Whited

Magistrates
D. Frances Davis
Jamie Lou Moran

Circuit Clerk
Dwight Moore

Magistrate Clerk
Candi E. Rollins

No Chief Probation Officer

**Doddridge County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 36

Domestic
Relations 31

**Court system expenditures for
Doddridge County in 2007**

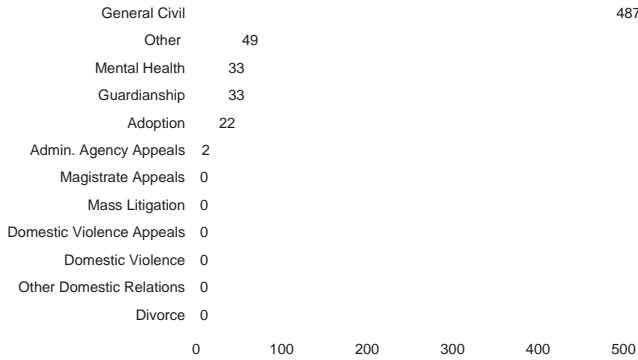
CIRCUIT COURT	\$635,149
FAMILY COURT	4,853
MAGISTRATE COURT	287,125
TOTAL	\$927,127

During 2007, 121 new cases were filed in Doddridge County Family Court, a decrease of 2.42 percent from 2006 and a decrease of 3.2 percent compared to 2003. There also were 21 modification and 25 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 27.54 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Doddridge County is part of the Fourth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Calhoun, Gilmer, and Roane Counties.

Fayette County

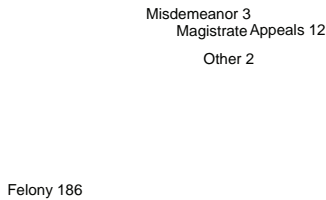


Fayette County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 947 filings in Fayette County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 66.1 percent were civil cases, 21.44 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 12.46 percent were juvenile cases. Although filing levels were similar to those of 2006, the court has experienced a growth in case filings over the last few years, with a 22.19 percent increase over 2003 values. Fayette County comprises the Twelfth Judicial Circuit.

Fayette County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

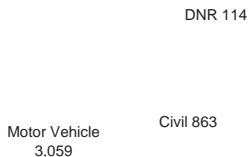


Fayette County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

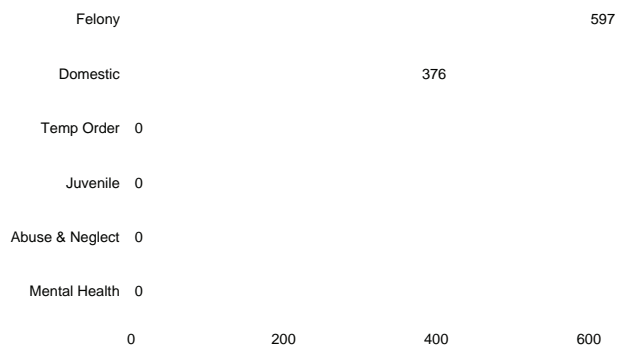


In 2007, there were 7,191 cases filed in Fayette County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 74.47 percent of case filings. Another 13.53 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining twelve percent were civil cases. Case filings have decreased when compared to 2006 and 2003 totals, down 7.14 and 9.77 percent, respectively.

Fayette County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Fayette County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Fayette County's fourth courthouse was designed by the famed Wheeling architect Edward B. Franzheim. Completed in 1895 of Washington brick and cut stone at a cost of \$58,297, the Fayetteville landmark was expanded in 1948, 1958, and 1976. A detached annex was constructed in 1987 and houses one of the county's two circuit judges, magistrate court, the assessor's office, and the sheriff's tax office.

**Fayette County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
374

Domestic
Relations 205

Circuit Judges

John W. Hatcher, Jr.,
Chief Judge
Paul M. Blake Jr.

Magistrates

Charles L. Garvin, III
Sharon R. McGraw
Michael D. Parsons
Danita G. Young

Family Court Judge

Janet Frye Steele

Circuit Clerk

Daniel Wright

Magistrate Clerk

Beverly J. Hundley

Chief Probation Officer

Janette Woodrum

During 2007, 933 new cases were filed in Fayette County Family Court, a 9.42 percent decrease from 2006. There also were 231 modification and 159 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 29.48 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Fayette County is part of the Fourteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Summers County.

**Court system expenditures for
Fayette County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,752,769
FAMILY COURT	331,213
MAGISTRATE COURT	677,815
TOTAL	\$2,761,797

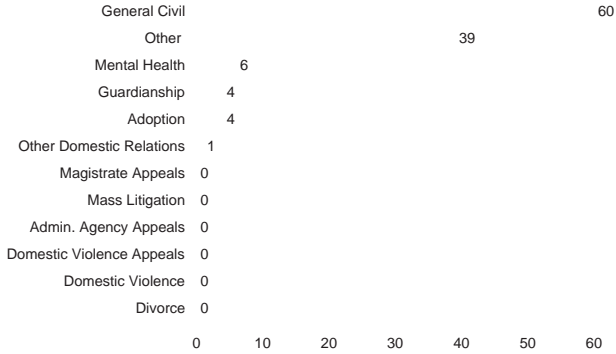
**COURTHOUSE FACILITIES
IMPROVEMENT GRANT
(For roof repair)**

\$ 44,800

Gilmer County

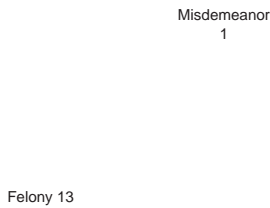


Gilmer County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 147 filings in Gilmer County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 12.21 percent over last year. Of those, 77.55 percent were civil cases, 12.93 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 9.52 percent were criminal cases. Gilmer County is part of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Braxton, Clay, and Webster Counties.

Gilmer County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

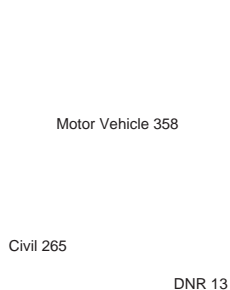


Gilmer County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

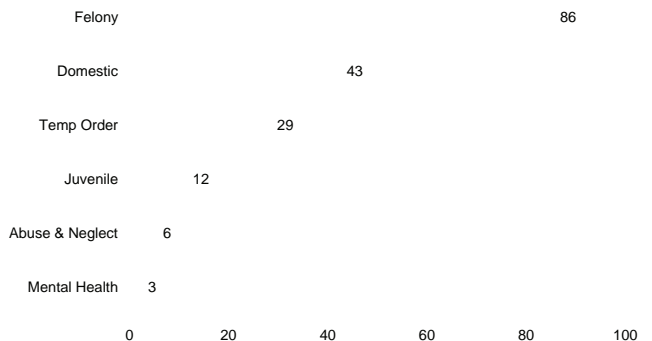


In 2007, there were 1,029 cases filed in Gilmer County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 56.85 percent of case filings. Another 25.75 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 17.4 percent were special proceedings. In 2007, case filings decreased 6.62 percent from 2006 but were 9.7 percent higher than 2003 filings.

Gilmer County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Gilmer County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Gilmer County's courthouse was completed in 1923 in Glenville. The county's third, it has been enlarged and an annex added.

**Gilmer County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 24

Domestic
Relations 26

Circuit Judges

Richard A. Facemire,
Chief Judge
Jack Alsop

Family Court Judge

Larry S. Whited

Magistrates

Robert W. Minigh
Carol Wolfe

Circuit Clerk

David Lane Smith

Magistrate Clerk

Dixie L. Moyers

Chief Probation Officer

Lucy Cruickshanks

During 2007, 86 new cases were filed in Gilmer County Family Court, a 31.75 percent decrease from 2006. However, 2007 filings reflect a 48.28 percent increase over 2003 filing levels. There also were 35 modification and 28 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during 2007, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 42.28 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Gilmer County is part of the Fourth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Calhoun, Doddridge, and Roane Counties.

**Court system expenditures for
Gilmer County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 40,894
FAMILY COURT	4,550
MAGISTRATE COURT	223,636
TOTAL	\$269,080

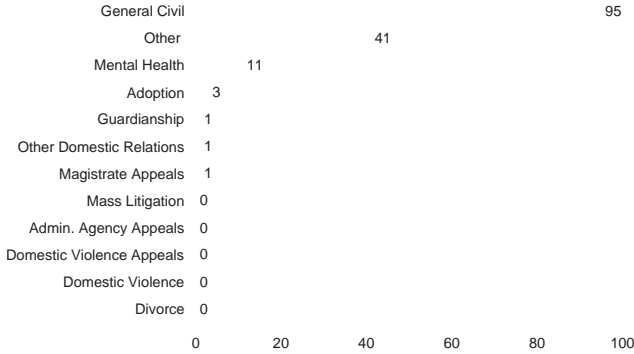
**COURTHOUSE FACILITIES
IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

(To help replace step and sidewalk) \$ 23,600

Grant County

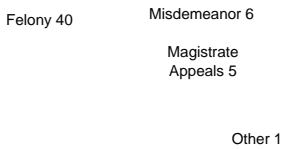


Grant County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

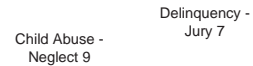


There were 224 filings in Grant County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 68.3 percent were civil cases, 23.21 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 8.48 percent were juvenile cases. Filings have decreased 7.82 percent when compared to 2003. Grant County is part of the 21st Judicial Circuit, which also includes Mineral and Tucker Counties.

Grant County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

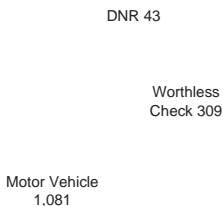


Grant County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

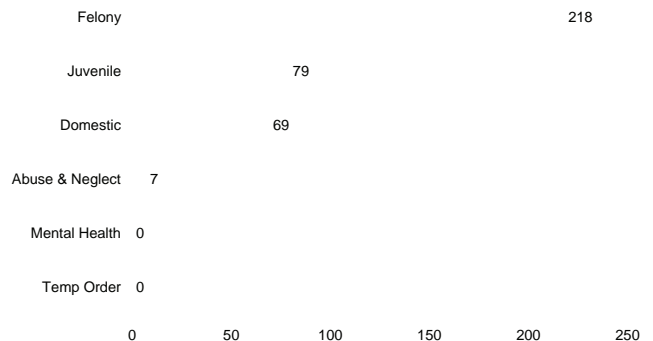


In 2007, there were 2,479 cases filed in Grant County Magistrate Court, an increase of 1.02 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 73.22 percent of case filings. Another 15.05 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 11.74 percent were civil cases.

Grant County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Grant County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Grant County Courthouse in Petersburg was completed in 1976 to replace the county's first courthouse, built in 1879, a structure that still stands several blocks away.

**Grant County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
64

Domestic
Relations 47

Circuit Judges

Andrew N. Frye, Jr.,
Chief Judge
Philip B. Jordan

Family Court Judge

Jaymie Godwin Wilfong

Magistrates

Willard L. Earle, II
Larry W. Ours

Circuit Clerk

Betty Moomau

Magistrate Clerk

Janet S. Frye

Chief Probation Officer

Jerome DiBacco

During 2007, 186 new cases were filed in Grant County Family Court. That total was 3.33 percent higher than 2006 filings but 2.62 percent lower than 2003 data. There also were fifty modification and 46 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 34.04 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Grant County is part of the 22nd Family Court Circuit, which also includes Tucker and Randolph Counties.

Modifications and contempts for Grant County were derived from the entire circuit's totals based on a ratio of case filings within the circuit.

**Court system expenditures for
Grant County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$522,893
FAMILY COURT	1,333
MAGISTRATE COURT	262,796
TOTAL	\$787,022

Greenbrier County

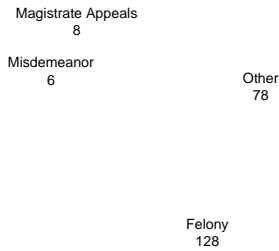


Greenbrier County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

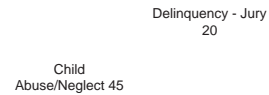


There were 881 filings in Greenbrier County Circuit Court during 2007, a decrease of 2.44 percent from 2006. Of those, 64.59 percent were civil cases, 24.97 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 10.44 percent were juvenile cases. Greenbrier County is part of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, which also includes Pocahontas County.

Greenbrier County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

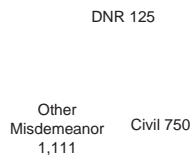


Greenbrier County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

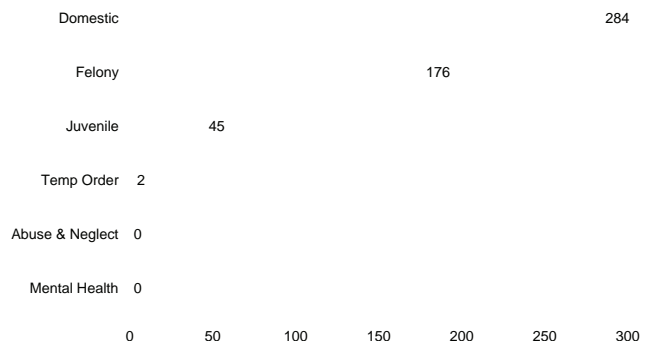


In 2007, there were 5,053 cases filed in Greenbrier County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 75.12 percent of those. Another 14.84 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 10.03 percent were special proceedings.

Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Greenbrier County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Greenbrier County Courthouse in Lewisburg was built in 1837, while the county was still part of Virginia. Wings were added in 1937 and 1963. The red brick colonial building is the oldest functioning courthouse in West Virginia.

**Greenbrier County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
263

Domestic
Relations
115

Circuit Court Judges

James J. Rowe, Chief Judge

Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr.

(Took bench February 15, 2007)

Family Court Judge

Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr.

(Resigned February 14, 2007)

David M. Sanders

(Took bench May 29, 2007)

Magistrates

Charles D. "Doug" Beard

Brenda L. Campbell

Brenda J. Smith

Circuit Clerk

Louvonne Arbuckle

Magistrate Clerk

Teresa E. King

Chief Probation Officer

Fred Taylor

During 2007, 593 new cases were filed in Greenbrier County Family Court, a 7.34 percent decrease from 2006. There also were 115 modification and 187 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 33.74 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Greenbrier County is part of the Fifteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Monroe County.

**Court system expenditures for
Greenbrier County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,746,940
FAMILY COURT	244,746
MAGISTRATE COURT	594,882
TOTAL	\$2,586,568

COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT \$ 14,759

Hampshire County



Hampshire County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

General Civil	238
Other	18
Mental Health	11
Adoption	11
Guardianship	7
Admin. Agency Appeals	6
Magistrate Appeals	4
Mass Litigation	0
Domestic Violence Appeals	0
Domestic Violence	0
Other Domestic Relations	0
Divorce	0

There were 471 filings in Hampshire County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 1.51 percent over 2006. Of those, 62.63 percent were civil cases, 26.33 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 11.04 percent were juvenile cases. Hampshire County is part of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, which also includes Hardy and Pendleton Counties.

Hampshire County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Magistrate Appeals	3
Felony	51
Other	70

Hampshire County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Delinquency - Jury	23
Child Abuse - Neglect	27
Status Offense	2

In 2007, there were 5,778 cases filed in Hampshire County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 75.67 percent of case filings. Another 15.66 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 8.67 percent were special proceedings. Filings decreased 4.95 percent compared to 2006 but have increased 25.66 percent when compared to 2003 totals.

Hampshire County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

DNR	90
Worthless Check	653
Motor Vehicle	2,774

Hampshire County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007

Felony	425
Domestic	76
Temp Order	0
Juvenile	0
Abuse & Neglect	0
Mental Health	0



The cream-colored brick Hampshire County Courthouse is in Romney, which was founded in 1762 and is the oldest county seat in West Virginia. The present courthouse was built in 1922. A new Hampshire County Judicial Center is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.

**Hampshire County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 76

Domestic
Relations 112

Circuit Court Judge
Donald H. Cookman,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
Charles E. Parsons

Magistrates
Eugene T. Billmeyer
Shirley A. Timbrook

Circuit Clerk
Sonja Embrey

Magistrate Clerk
Wanda L. Billmeyer

Chief Probation Officer
John Rohrbaugh

During 2007, 308 new cases were filed in Hampshire County Family Court, 9.22 percent more than in 2006. There also were 75 modification and thirty contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 25.42 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Hampshire County is part of the 23rd Family Court Circuit, which also includes Mineral and Morgan Counties.

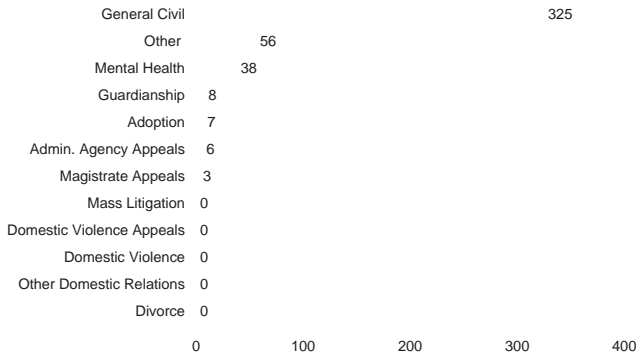
**Court system expenditures for
Hampshire County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 826,073
FAMILY COURT	228,474
MAGISTRATE COURT	278,094
TOTAL	\$1,332,641

Hancock County



Hancock County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

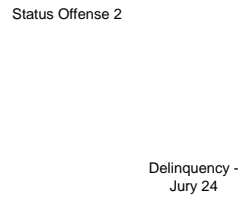


There were 680 filings in Hancock County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 65.15 percent were civil cases, 27.06 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 7.79 percent were juvenile cases. The court has experienced minimal change in case filings over the years, with a 4.63 percent decrease since 2003 and a 0.44 percent reduction from 2006 totals. Hancock County is part of the First Judicial Circuit, which also includes Brooke and Ohio Counties.

Hancock County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

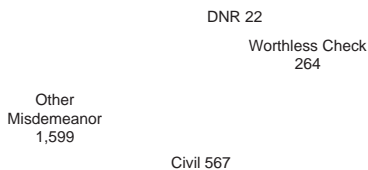


Hancock County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

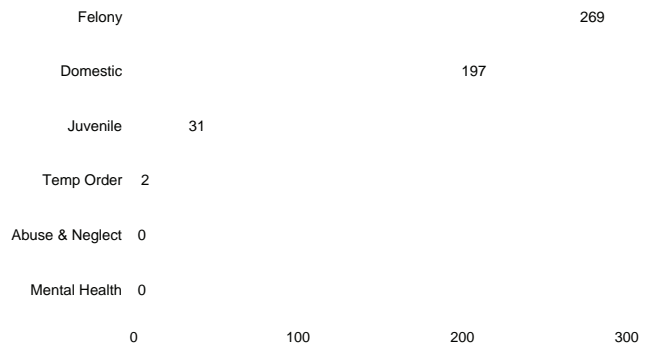


In 2007, there were 4,040 cases filed in Hancock County Magistrate Court, an increase of 3.88 percent compared to 2006. Criminal cases made up 73.61 percent of case filings. Another 14.03 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 12.35 percent were special proceedings.

Hancock County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Hancock County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Hancock County's stone-faced courthouse was built in New Cumberland in the 1920s. It replaced the first courthouse, which burned. An annex has been added.

**Hancock County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
190

Domestic
Relations 166

During 2007, 519 new cases were filed in Hancock County Family Court. That represents a 12.77 percent decrease from 2006 but a 0.58 percent increase over 2003 filings. There also were 71 modification and 47 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 18.52 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Hancock County is part of the First Family Court Circuit, which also includes Brooke and Ohio Counties.

Circuit Judges

Martin J. Gaughan,
Chief Judge
James P. Mazzone
Arthur M. Recht
Ronald E. Wilson

Family Court Judges

Joyce Dumbaugh Chernenko
William F. Sinclair

Magistrates

Betty J. Bauer
William S. Hicks
Michael Powell

Circuit Clerk

Brenda Jackson

Magistrate Clerk

Mary E. Loucas

Chief Probation Officer

Jim Lee

**Court system expenditures for
Hancock County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 909,067
FAMILY COURT	42,162
MAGISTRATE COURT	455,203
TOTAL	\$1,406,432

COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT \$ 79,125

Hardy County



Hardy County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

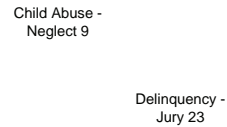


There were 292 filings in Hardy County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 2.1 percent compared to 2006. Of those filings, 57.91 percent were civil cases, 30.48 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 12.33 percent were juvenile cases. Hardy County is part of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, which also includes Hampshire and Pendleton Counties.

Hardy County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Hardy County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

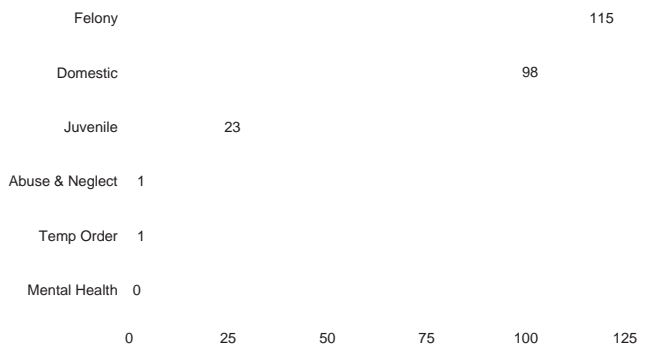


In 2007, there were 3,234 cases filed in Hardy County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 11.83 percent from 2003. Criminal cases made up 78.94 percent of case filings. Another 13.7 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 7.36 percent were special proceedings.

Hardy County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Hardy County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Hardy County Courthouse in Moorefield, the county's third, was built in 1914 of red brick. The two earlier courthouses still stand.

**Hardy County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 100

Domestic
Relations 62

Circuit Court Judge
Donald H. Cookman,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
Roy David Arrington

Magistrates
Craig A. Hose
Daniel M. Poling

Circuit Clerk
Janet Ferrell

Magistrate Clerk
Helen H. Martin

Chief Probation Officer
John Rohrbaugh

**Court system expenditures for
Hardy County in 2007**

During 2007, 264 new cases were filed in Hardy County Family Court. Filings were down 4.35 percent from 2006 but were up 6.88 percent compared to data from 2003. There also were 62 modification and 36 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 27.07 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Hardy County is part of the 25th Family Court Circuit, which also includes Pendleton and Pocahontas Counties.

CIRCUIT COURT	\$426,011
FAMILY COURT	21,020
MAGISTRATE COURT	273,187
TOTAL	\$720,218

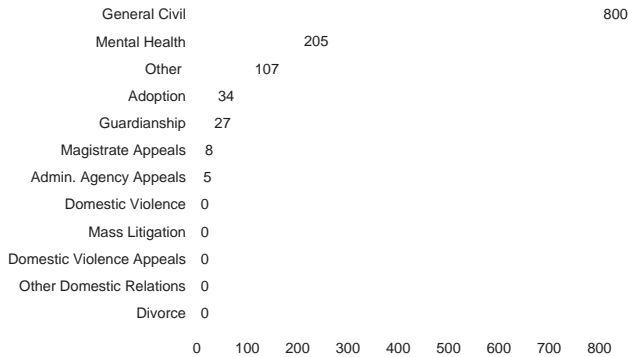
**COURTHOUSE FACILITIES
IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

(For heating, ventilation, air conditioning project)
\$ 67,550

Harrison County



Harrison County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

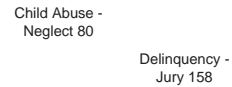


There were 1,816 filings in Harrison County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 65.31 percent were civil cases, 19.11 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 15.58 percent were criminal cases. The court has experienced a consistent increase in case filings, with a 12.52 percent increase over 2006 and a 17.54 percent overall increase since 2003. Harrison County comprises the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

Harrison County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Harrison County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

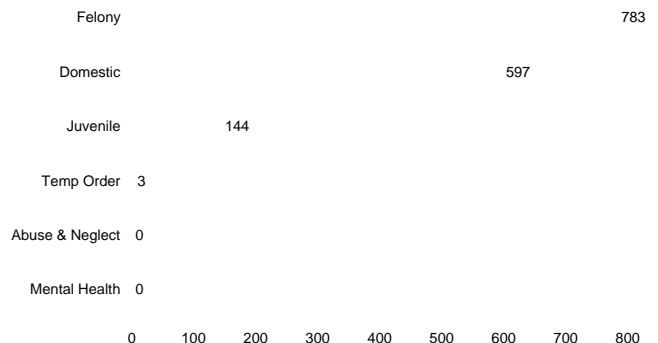


In 2007, there were 12,725 cases filed in Harrison County Magistrate Court, an increase of 0.82 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 71.53 percent of those filings. Another 16.47 percent were civil cases, and the remaining twelve percent were special proceedings.

Harrison County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Harrison County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Harrison County’s courthouse in Clarksburg was dedicated in 1932. It is the county’s fourth courthouse, a superb example of art deco architecture.

**Harrison County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence 701	Domestic Relations 216
--------------------------	---------------------------

During 2007, 1,263 new cases were filed in Harrison County Family Court. That represents a 6.72 percent decrease from 2006 but a 6.94 percent increase when compared to 2003 data. There also were 129 modification and 106 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 15.69 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Harrison County makes up the Eighteenth Family Court Circuit.

Circuit Judges

James A. Matish,
Chief Judge
Thomas A. Bedell
J. Lewis Marks, Jr.

Family Court Judge

M. Drew Crislip

Circuit Clerk

Donald Kopp, II

Magistrates

Warren E. Davis
Frank DeMarco
Mark A. Gorby
Keith W. Marple
Tammy F. Marple

Magistrate Clerk

Mary R. Walker

Chief Probation Officer

Dave Ross

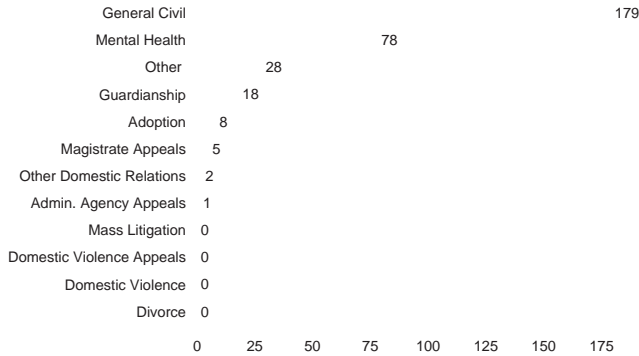
**Court system expenditures for
Harrison County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$2,931,506
FAMILY COURT	257,143
MAGISTRATE COURT	755,809
TOTAL	\$3,944,458
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 34,497

Jackson County

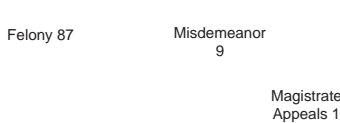


Jackson County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 469 filings in Jackson County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 68.02 percent were civil cases, 20.68 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 11.3 percent were juvenile cases. The court has experienced consistent growth in case filings, with an 18.73 percent increase over 2003 filings and a 7.32 percent increase since 2006. Jackson County is part of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Calhoun, Mason, and Roane Counties.

Jackson County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Jackson County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

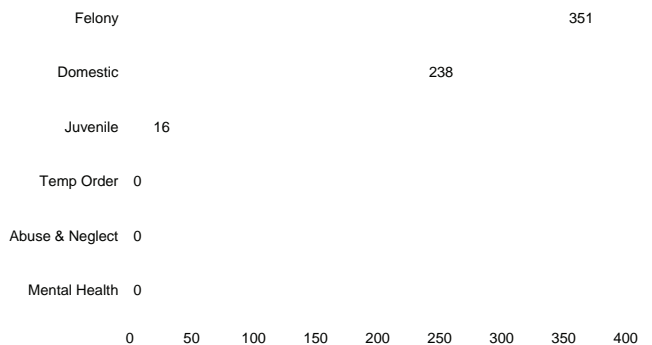


In 2007, there were 4,483 cases filed in Jackson County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 76.82 percent of case filings. Another 13.5 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 9.68 percent were civil cases. Filings decreased 0.99 percent from 2006 but have increased 8.92 percent since 2003.

Jackson County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Jackson County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Jackson County Courthouse in Ripley was completed in 1920 and is the site of one of West Virginia’s largest annual Fourth of July gatherings. The courthouse is the county’s third, and was remodeled and expanded in 1961.

**Jackson County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 216

Domestic
Relations 115

Circuit Judges

David W. Nibert,
Chief Judge

Thomas C. Evans, III

Family Court Judge

Deloris J. Nibert

Magistrates

Jacqueline R. “Jackie Bell” Casto

William Thomas Reynolds

Circuit Clerk

Keith Brotherton

Magistrate Clerk

Amy S. Barnhart

Chief Probation Officer

Patsy McCartney

**Court system expenditures for
Jackson County in 2007**

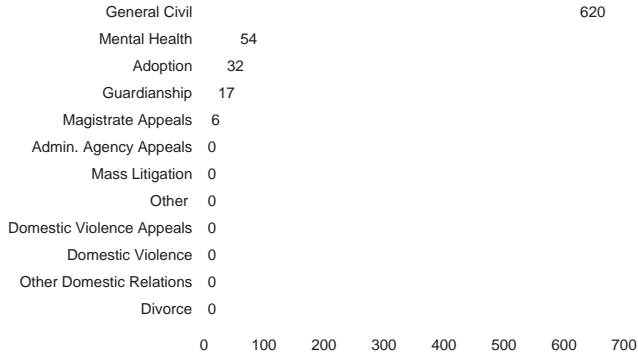
During 2007, 560 new cases were filed in Jackson County Family Court, an increase of 22.81 percent over 2006. There also were 135 modification and 106 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 30.09 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Jackson County is part of the Fifth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Mason County.

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 884,897
FAMILY COURT	27,254
MAGISTRATE COURT	352,603
TOTAL	\$1,264,754
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 18,800
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For elevator installation)	\$ 80,000

Jefferson County

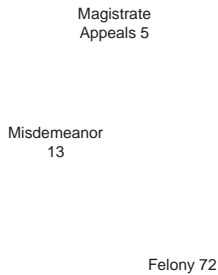


Jefferson County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

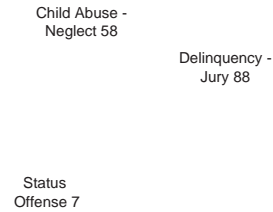


There were 972 filings in Jefferson County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 3.85 percent over 2006. Of those filings, 75 percent were civil cases, 15.74 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 9.26 percent were criminal cases. Jefferson County is part of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, which also includes Berkeley and Morgan Counties.

Jefferson County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

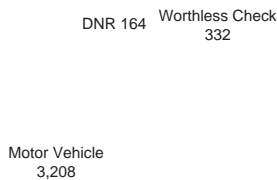


Jefferson County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

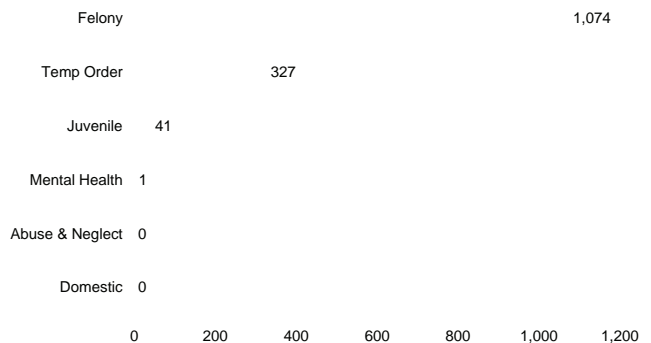


In 2007, there were 10,531 cases filed in Jefferson County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 71.28 percent of the filings. Another 15.02 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 13.7 percent were special proceedings. Case filings in 2007 were down 33.07 percent from 2006, but filings have increased 10.33 percent since 2003.

Jefferson County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Jefferson County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Jefferson County Courthouse in Charles Town, built in 1836 and rebuilt in the 1870s, was the site of the 1859 treason trial of abolitionist John Brown. An annex was added in 1910.

Circuit Judges

Thomas W. Steptoe Jr.,
Chief Judge

Gina M. Groh
David H. Sanders
Gray Silver, III
Christopher C. Wilkes

Family Court Judges

Sally G. Jackson
William T. Wertman Jr.

Magistrates

Gail C. Boober
Mary P. Rissler
William E. Senseney

Circuit Clerk

Patricia Noland

Magistrate Clerk

Bonnie L. Seal

Chief Probation Officer

Mark Hofe

Jefferson County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007

Domestic
Violence 299

Domestic
Relations 180

**Court system expenditures for
Jefferson County in 2007**

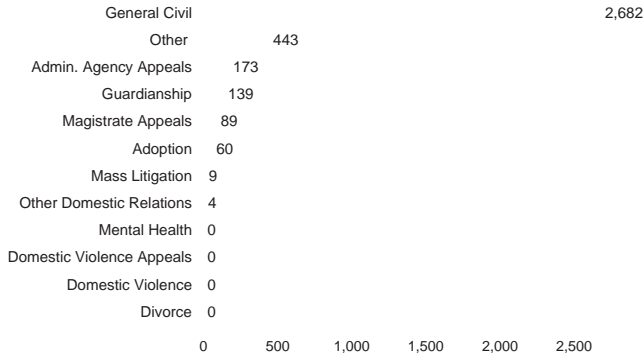
CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 502,511
FAMILY COURT	226,888
MAGISTRATE COURT	502,275
TOTAL	\$1,231,674

During 2007, 768 new cases were filed in Jefferson County Family Court. Filing levels have remained consistent with last year, when 752 cases were filed. There also were 126 modification and eighty contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 21.15 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Jefferson County is part of the 24th Family Court Circuit, which also includes Berkeley County.

Kanawha County



Kanawha County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

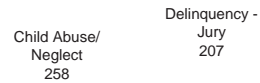


There were 5,358 filings in Kanawha County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 67.17 percent were civil cases, 22.96 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 9.87 percent were juvenile cases. Filings were 11.49 percent higher than in 2006 but have decreased 16.9 percent since 2003. Kanawha County comprises the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

Kanawha County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Kanawha County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

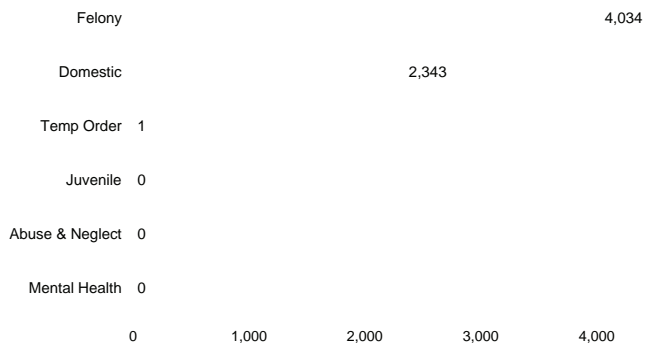


In 2007, there were 50,477 cases filed in Kanawha County Magistrate Court, an increase of 27.11 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 78.56 percent of the filings. Another 12.64 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 8.8 percent were civil cases.

Kanawha County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Kanawha County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Kanawha County Courthouse in Charleston was built in 1892 of locally quarried stone, with additions in 1917 and 1926. A separate Judicial Building was completed in 1982, renovated in 2005, and now houses all of the county's judicial officers.

Circuit Judges

Charles E. King,
 Chief Judge
 Irene C. Berger
 Louis H. Bloom
 Tod Kaufman
 James C. Stucky
 Jennifer Bailey Walker
 Paul Zakaib Jr.

Family Court Judges

Mike Kelly
 Robert M. Montgomery
 Jane Charnock Smallridge
 D. Mark Snyder

Magistrates

Josanna Kim Aaron
 Traci Carper-Strickland
 (Took bench June 29, 2007)
 Marva C. Crouch
 Carol A. Fouty
 Timothy C. Halloran
 Ward Harshbarger, III
 Pete C. Lopez
 Warren G. McGinnis
 (Resigned August 9, 2007)
 Janie L. Moore
 (Retired June 30, 2007)
 Jack Pauley
 (Took bench on August 10, 2007)
 Joseph L. Shelton
 Julie M. Yeager

Circuit Clerk

Cathy Gatson

Magistrate Clerk

Agnes D. Riffel

Chief Adult Probation Officer

Judy Jones

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Jim Kane

**Kanawha County Family Court Cases Filed in
 Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
 Violence
 2,034

Domestic
 Relations
 816

During 2007, 4,153 new cases were filed in Kanawha County Family Court, a 3.46 percent decrease from 2006. There also were 1,201 modification and 1,113 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 35.78 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Kanawha County is the only county in the Eleventh Family Court Circuit.

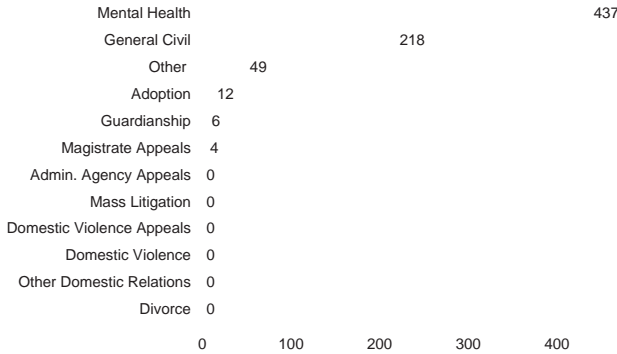
**Court system expenditures for
 Kanawha County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 8,272,170
FAMILY COURT	1,194,992
MAGISTRATE COURT	1,790,978
TOTAL	\$11,258,140
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 81,380
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For renovations to grand jury room and visiting judge courtroom)	\$ 80,000

Lewis County

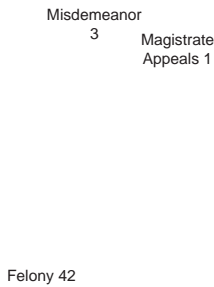


Lewis County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 815 filings in Lewis County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 11.8 over 2006. Of those, 89.08 percent were civil cases, 5.64 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 5.28 percent were juvenile cases. Lewis County is part of the 26th Judicial Circuit, which also includes Upshur County.

Lewis County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

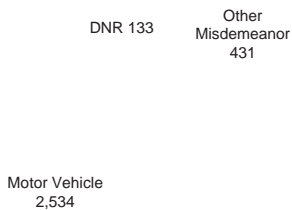


Lewis County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

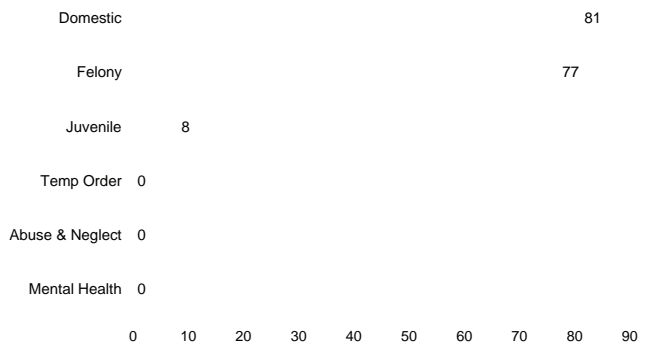


In 2007, there were 5,399 cases filed in Lewis County Magistrate Court, an increase of 4.29 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 70.38 percent of the filings. Another 26.54 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 3.07 percent were special proceedings.

Lewis County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Lewis County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Lewis County Courthouse in Weston was built in 1887 of grey stone and brick. It is the county's third. Although fire destroyed the second courthouse in 1886, all records were saved.

**Lewis County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 79

Domestic
Relations 71

Circuit Judge

Thomas H. Keadle,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge

Robert Reed Sowa

Magistrates

Sharon A. Hull
James D. Moody

Circuit Clerk

John Hinzman

Magistrate Clerk

Carolyn S. Williams

Chief Probation Officer

Serena Peterson

During 2007, 265 new cases were filed in Lewis County Family Court. That represents a decrease of 3.99 percent from 2006 but an increase of 9.96 percent when compared to data from 2003. There also were 87 modification and 56 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 35.05 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Lewis County is part of the Seventeenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Braxton and Upshur Counties.

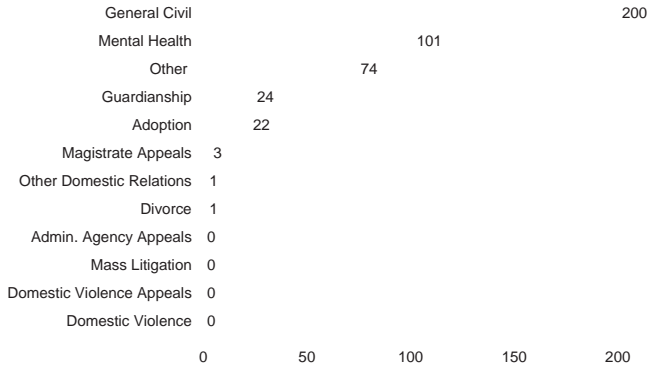
**Court system expenditures for
Lewis County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$470,125
FAMILY COURT	43,942
MAGISTRATE COURT	321,732
TOTAL	\$835,799
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For fire alarm system replacement)	\$ 30,400

Lincoln County

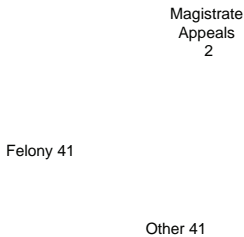


Lincoln County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

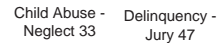


There were 669 filings in Lincoln County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 5.19 percent over 2006. Of those, 63.68 percent were civil cases, 23.77 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 12.56 percent were criminal cases. Lincoln County is part of the 25th Judicial Circuit, which also includes Boone County.

Lincoln County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

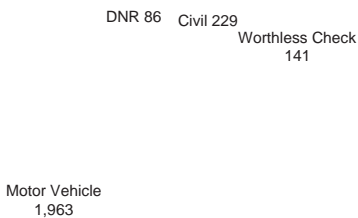


Lincoln County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

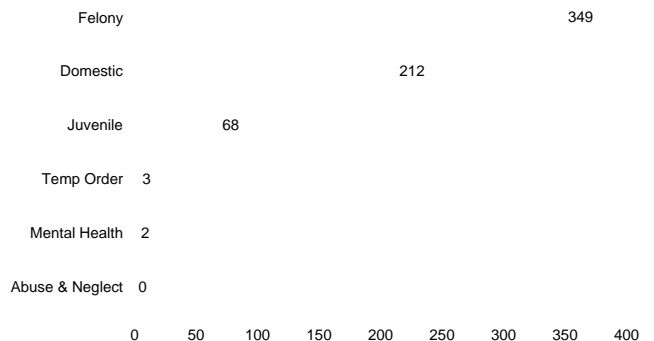


In 2007, there were 4,171 cases filed in Lincoln County Magistrate Court, an increase of 13.78 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 79.31 percent of the filings. Another 15.2 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 5.49 percent were civil cases.

Lincoln County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Lincoln County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Lincoln County Courthouse in Hamlin was completed in 1964. It is at least the third to serve the county. An earlier courthouse burned in 1909, along with all county land records to that time.

**Lincoln County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 195

Domestic
Relations 115

Circuit Judges

Jay M. Hoke, Chief Judge
William S. Thompson
(Took bench February 14, 2007)

Family Court Judge

Cynthia J. Jarrell

Magistrates

Helen F. McCormick
Mona Dell Snodgrass

Circuit Clerk

Charlie Brumfield

Magistrate Clerk

Darlana Kay Adkins

**Chief Probation
Officer**

Jerry Swanson

During 2007, 474 new cases were filed in Lincoln County Family Court, a 10.23 percent decrease from 2006. There also were 147 modification and 118 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 35.86 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Lincoln County is part of the Tenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Boone County.

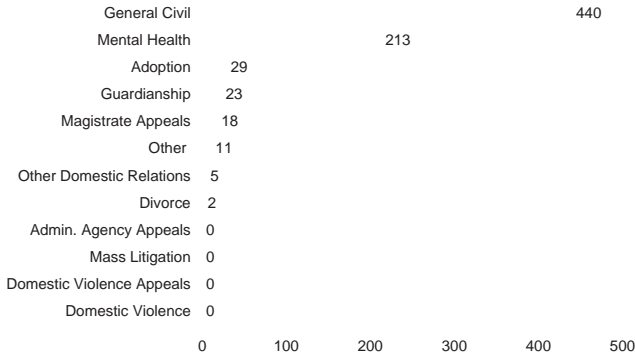
**Court system expenditures for
Lincoln County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,099,162
FAMILY COURT	27,192
MAGISTRATE COURT	300,268
TOTAL	\$1,426,622

Logan County

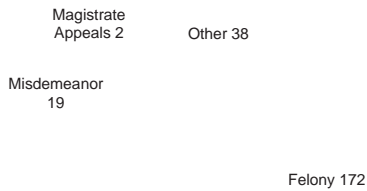


Logan County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

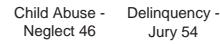


There were 1,260 filings in Logan County Circuit Court during 2007, a decrease of 9.29 percent from 2006. Of those, 58.81 percent were civil cases, 22.86 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 18.33 percent were criminal cases. Logan County comprises the Seventh Judicial Circuit.

Logan County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

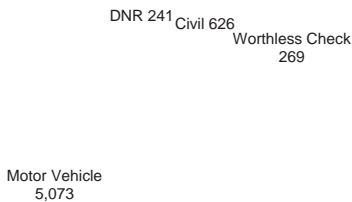


Logan County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

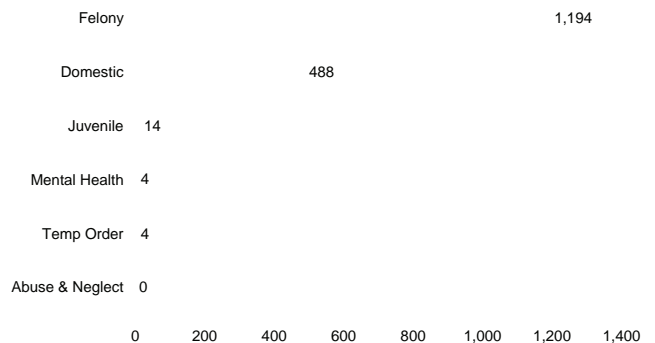


In 2007, there were 11,955 cases filed in Logan County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 80.58 percent of the filings. Another 14.21 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 5.22 percent were civil cases. The filing level was down 1.14 percent from 2006 but 36.8 percent higher than that of 2003.

Logan County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Logan County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Logan County Courthouse in the town of Logan was built in 1965, the fourth since the Civil War. An earlier structure was burned by Union troops, along with all records.

**Logan County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 447

Domestic
Relations 261

During 2007, 1,052 new cases were filed in Logan County Family Court, a decrease of 11.22 percent from 2006. There also were 327 modification and 188 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 32.87 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Logan County is the only county in the Ninth Family Court Circuit.

Circuit Judges

Roger L. Perry,
Chief Judge
Eric H. O'Briant

Family Court Judge

Kelly Gilmore Codispoti

Magistrates

Leonard Codispoti
Jeffrey S. Lane
Dwight A. Williamson

Circuit Clerk

Alvis Porter

Magistrate Clerk

Deanna J. Briggs

Chief Probation Officer

Charles Brown

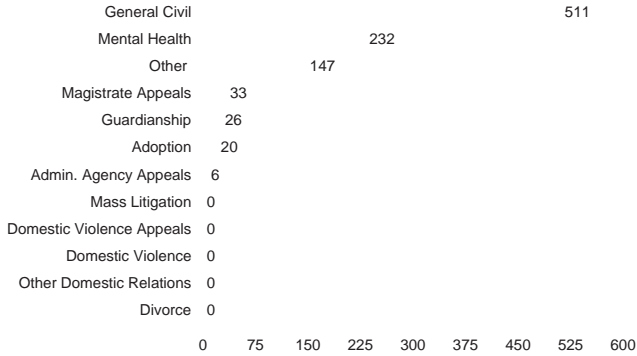
**Court system expenditures for
Logan County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$2,110,987
FAMILY COURT	300,031
MAGISTRATE COURT	631,903
TOTAL	\$3,042,921
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 22,442

Marion County

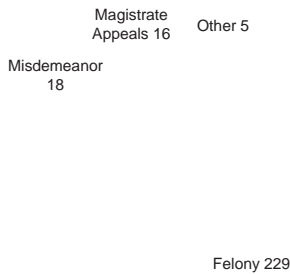


Marion County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 1,487 filings in Marion County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 3.84 percent over 2006. Of those filings, 65.57 percent were civil cases, 18.02 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 16.41 percent were juvenile cases. Marion County comprises the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit.

Marion County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

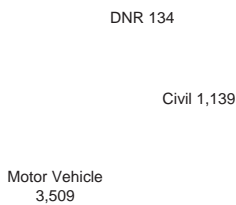


Marion County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

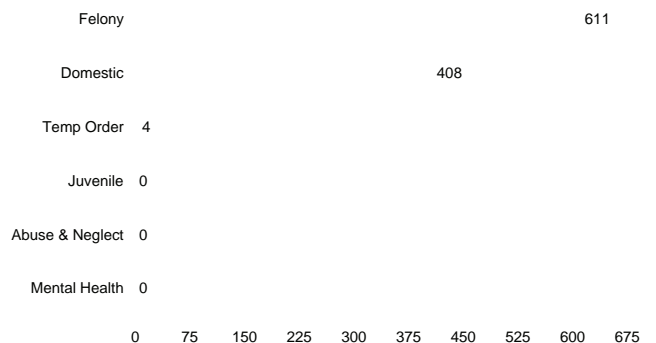


In 2007, there were 8,035 cases filed in Marion County Magistrate Court. That represents an increase of 2.1 percent over 2006 and an increase of 8.64 percent over 2003. Criminal cases made up 73.09 percent of the filings. Another 12.73 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 14.18 percent were civil cases.

Marion County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Marion County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Marion County's courthouse was built in Fairmont between 1897 and 1900 of Cleveland sandstone. The county's second courthouse, it features a stained-glass dome in the third-floor courtroom.

**Marion County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 338

Domestic
Relations 206

During 2007, 858 new cases were filed in Marion County Family Court. Filings have remained steady when compared with 2006, but have decreased 4.77 percent when compared to 2003. In 2007, there also were 209 modification and 76 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 24.93 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Marion County is the only county in the Nineteenth Family Court Circuit.

Circuit Judges

Fred L. Fox, II,
Chief Judge
David R. Janes

Circuit Clerk

Barbara Core

Magistrate Clerk

Cathy L. Gower

Magistrates

Melissa R. Linger
Hank E. Middlemas
Cathy L. Reed-Vanata
Muriel L. "Peggy" Twyman

Family Court Judge

David P. Born

Chief Probation Officer

Tom Carpenter

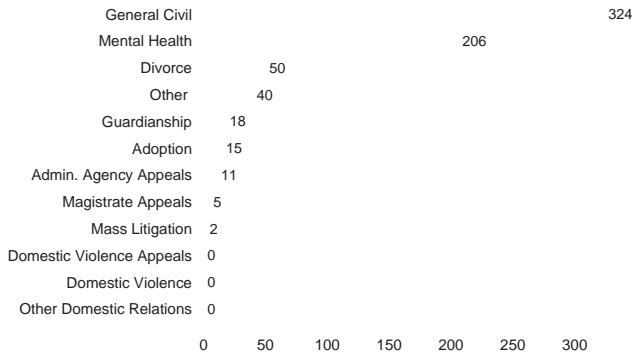
**Court system expenditures for
Marion County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,865,026
FAMILY COURT	231,724
MAGISTRATE COURT	685,353
TOTAL	\$2,782,103
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 11,466
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT	
(For continuation of structural/roof project)	
	\$ 80,000

Marshall County

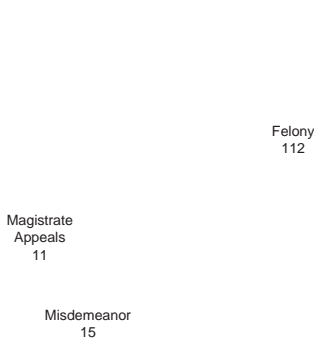


Marshall County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

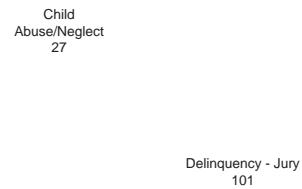


There were 1,025 filings in Marshall County Circuit Court in 2007, an increase of 5.45 percent over 2006. Of those, 65.46 percent were civil cases, 21.07 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 13.46 percent were criminal cases. Marshall County is in the Second Judicial Circuit, which includes Tyler and Wetzel Counties as well.

Marshall County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

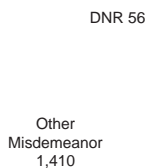


Marshall County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



In 2007, there were 5,153 cases filed in Marshall County Magistrate Court, two percent more than in 2006. Criminal cases made up 72.68 percent of the filings. Another 15.2 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 12.13 percent were special proceedings.

Marshall County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Marshall County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Marshall County's courthouse in Moundsville, the county's second, was built in the mid-1870s. A matching red brick addition was built in 1974.

**Marshall County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence
218

Domestic Relations
150

During 2007, 513 new cases were filed in Marshall County Family Court, a 14.51 percent increase over 2006. There also were 145 modification and 107 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 32.94 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Marshall County is in the Second Family Court Circuit, which also includes Tyler and Wetzel Counties.

Circuit Judges

Mark A. Karl,
Chief Judge
John T. Madden

Family Court Judge

Robert C. Hicks

Magistrates

William D. Anderson
David M. Buzzard
Mark A. Kerwood

Circuit Clerk

David Ealy

Magistrate Clerk

Angela Bee

Chief Probation Officer

Robert Joltes

**Court system expenditures for
Marshall County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,689,683
FAMILY COURT	71,427
MAGISTRATE COURT	511,128
TOTAL	\$2,272,238

Mason County



Mason County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

General Civil	192
Mental Health	114
Other	82
Guardianship	13
Adoption	11
Other Domestic Relations	1
Mass Litigation	0
Magistrate Appeals	0
Admin. Agency Appeals	0
Domestic Violence Appeals	0
Domestic Violence	0
Divorce	0

There were 632 filings in Mason County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 4.46 percent over 2006. Of those filings, 65.35 percent were civil cases, 17.88 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 16.77 percent were criminal cases. Mason County is part of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Calhoun, Jackson and Roane Counties.

Mason County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Misdemeanor	4
-------------	---

Mason County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Delinquency - Jury	59
Status Offense	14
Felony	102

In 2007, there were 5,418 cases filed in Mason County Magistrate Court, an increase of 19.6 over 2006. Criminal cases made up 85.14 percent of the filings. Another 7.92 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 6.94 percent were civil cases.

Mason County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Other Misdemeanor	1,552
Domestic Relations	148
Domestic Violence	182
Divorce	199

Mason County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007

Domestic	218
Felony	210
Juvenile	1
Temp Order	0
Abuse & Neglect	0
Mental Health	0



The Mason County Courthouse, completed in Point Pleasant in 1956, is the county's second. There is an impression cut into the side of the sandstone building depicting an image of the first courthouse, which was on the same site.

**Mason County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Divorce
199

Domestic
Relations
148

Circuit Judges

David W. Nibert,
Chief Judge
Thomas C. Evans, III

Family Court Judge

Deloris J. Nibert

Magistrates

Cheryl M. Ross
Gail L. Roush

Circuit Clerk

Bill Withers

Magistrate Clerk

Barbara A. Dowell

Chief Probation Officer

Patsy McCartney

**Court system expenditures for
Mason County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 928,201
FAMILY COURT	255,286
MAGISTRATE COURT	331,420
TOTAL	\$1,514,907

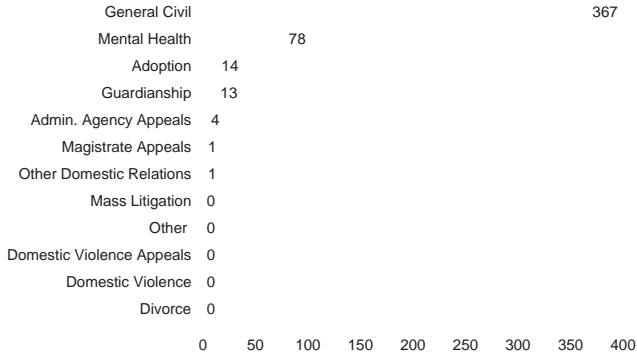
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 29,324
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (Family Court repair and relocation)	\$ 80,000

During 2007, 529 new cases were filed in Mason County Family Court. That represents a 5.87 percent decrease from 2006 filings but a 14.75 percent increase when compared with 2003. There also were 126 modification and 115 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 31.3 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Mason County is part of the Fifth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Jackson County.

McDowell County

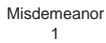


McDowell County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 712 filings in McDowell County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 0.99 percent over 2006. Of those filings, 67.13 percent were civil cases, 16.71 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 16.15 percent were juvenile cases. McDowell County is the only county in the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

McDowell County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

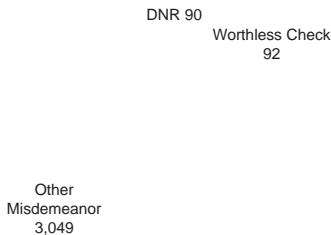


McDowell County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

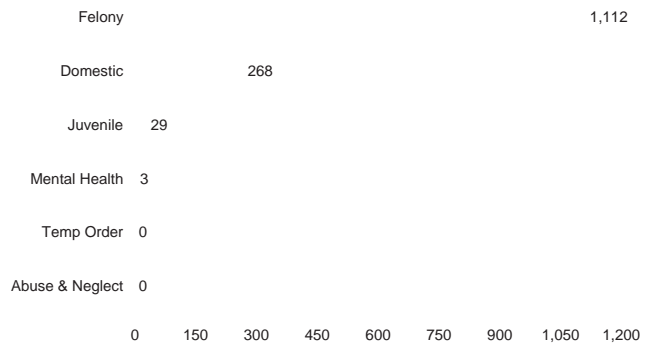


In 2007, there were 5,896 cases filed in McDowell County Magistrate Court, an increase of 16.43 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 70.62 percent of the filings. Another 23.95 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 5.43 percent were civil cases.

McDowell County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



McDowell County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The McDowell County Courthouse in Welch was built in 1894 of Berea stone and is still used by one of the county's two circuit judges. An annex was added in 1908 and a wing was added in 1961. The county purchased a former post office in the early 1980s and that building, called the Courthouse Annex, now houses the second circuit judge and the prosecutor's office. The county also has a separate Magistrate Court/Family Court Building.

**McDowell County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 248

Domestic
Relations 226

Circuit Judges

Rudolph, J. Murensky, II,
Chief Judge
Booker T. Stephens

Family Court Judges

Mary Ellen Griffith
Edwin B. Wiley

Magistrates

Pete J. Beavers, Jr.
Steve Cox
Martin B. West

Circuit Clerk

Michael Brooks

Magistrate Clerk

Janet L. England

Chief Probation Officer

Jerome Powell

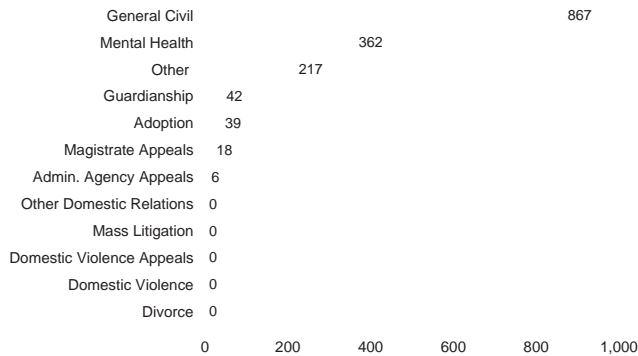
During 2007, 684 new cases were filed in McDowell County Family Court, a decrease of 12.42 percent from 2006. There also were 173 modification and 108 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 29.12 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. McDowell County is in the Twelfth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Mercer County.

**Court system expenditures for
McDowell County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,485,450
FAMILY COURT	71,650
MAGISTRATE COURT	488,299
TOTAL	\$2,045,399

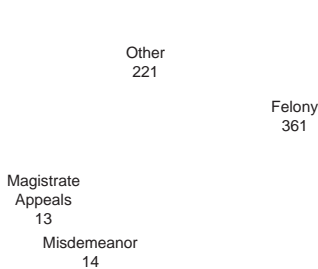
Mercer County

Mercer County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

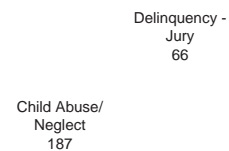


There were 2,441 filings in Mercer County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 63.54 percent were civil cases, 24.95 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 11.51 percent were juvenile cases. There was an 8.3 percent decrease in filings compared with 2006, but filings have increased 10.9 percent when compared with data from 2003. Mercer County comprises the Ninth Judicial Circuit.

Mercer County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

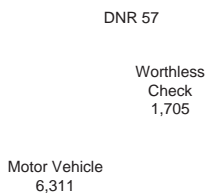


Mercer County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

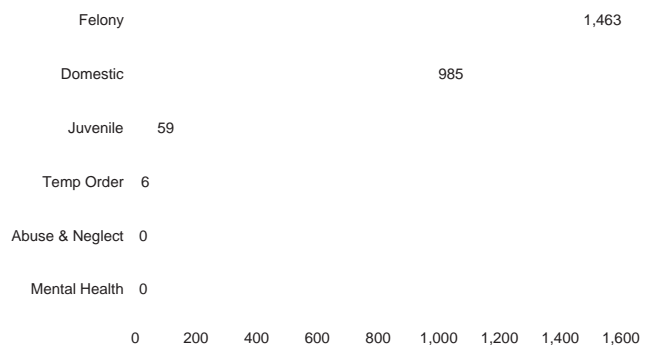


In 2007, there were 16,942 cases filed in Mercer County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 63.48 percent of the filings. Another 21.69 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 14.83 percent were special proceedings. Case filings fell 9.05 percent between 2006 and 2007, but 2007 filing levels were only 2.87 percent lower than 2003 levels.

Mercer County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Mercer County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Mercer County Courthouse was built in Princeton in 1931. The county's fifth courthouse is made of sandstone. Two earlier courthouses burned, one ignited by Confederate troops

**Mercer County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence
943

Domestic
Relations
438

Circuit Judges

Derek C. Swope,
Chief Judge
William J. Sadler

Family Court Judges

Mary Ellen Griffith
Edwin B. Wiley

Magistrates

Harold L. Buckner
Jerry L. Flanagan
Michael D. Flanagan
Richard D. Fowler
Ralph D. "Danny" Fulknier

Circuit Clerk

Brenda Davis

Magistrate Clerk

Donna J. Arnold

Chief Adult

Probation Officer

Joe Allen

Chief Juvenile

Probation Officer

Mary Porterfield

During 2007, 1,835 new cases were filed in Mercer County Family Court. There also were 235 modification and 145 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 17.16 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Mercer County is part of the Twelfth Family Court Circuit, which also includes McDowell County.

**Court system expenditures for
Mercer County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$2,615,268
FAMILY COURT	551,792
MAGISTRATE COURT	803,968
TOTAL	\$3,971,028

COURTHOUSE FACILITIES

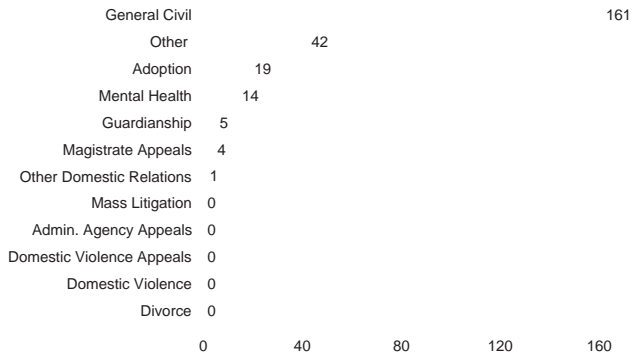
IMPROVEMENT GRANT

(Second phase of window replacement) \$ 80,000

Mineral County

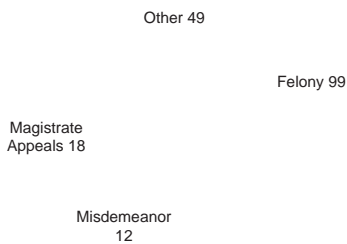


Mineral County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

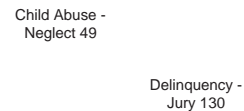


There were 673 filings in Mineral County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 25.79 percent over 2006. Of those, 37 percent were juvenile cases, 36.55 percent were civil cases and the remaining 26.45 percent were criminal cases. Mineral County is part of the 21st Judicial Circuit, which also includes Grant and Tucker Counties.

Mineral County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

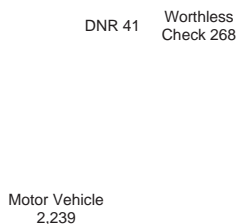


Mineral County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

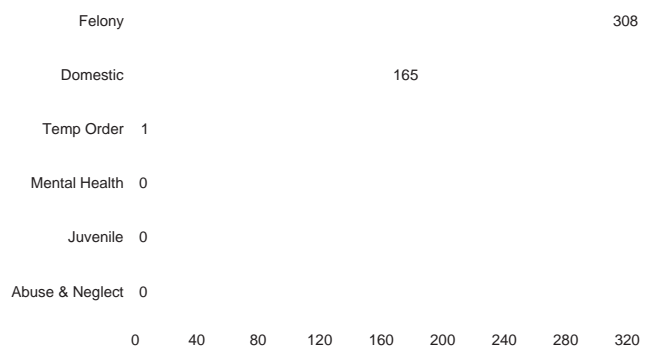


In 2007, there were 4,574 cases filed in Mineral County Magistrate Court. Of those, 79.25 percent were criminal cases, 10.38 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 10.36 percent were special proceedings. Case filings in 2007 were 5.88 percent lower than in 2006 but 14.58 percent higher than in 2003.

Mineral County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Mineral County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Mineral County Courthouse in Keyser is the county's original courthouse and was built around 1868 of brick and stone.

Circuit Court Judges

Andrew W. Frye, Jr.,
Chief Judge
Philip B. Jordan

Family Court Judge

Charles Parsons

Magistrate

David C. Harman
Carolyn S. Roby

Circuit Clerk

Mary Margaret Rhinehart

Magistrate Clerk

Billie L. Simpson

Chief Probation Officer

Jerome DiBacco

**Mineral County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 150

Domestic
Relations 183

**Court system expenditures for
Mineral County in 2007**

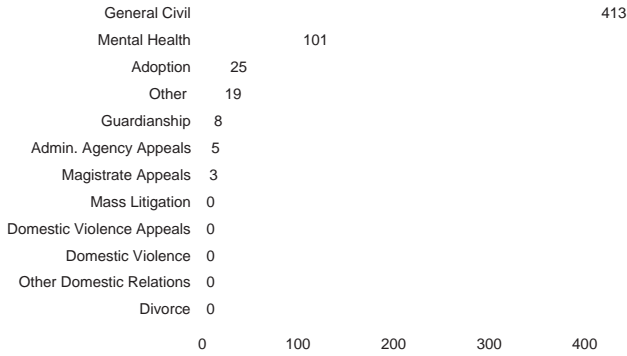
CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 935,235
FAMILY COURT	4,125
MAGISTRATE COURT	318,664
TOTAL	\$1,258,024
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (Fire alarm system installation)	\$ 26,400

During 2007, 507 new cases were filed in Mineral County Family Court, a 25.81 percent increase over 2006 filings. There also were 131 modification and 49 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 26.2 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Mineral County is part of the 23rd Family Court Circuit, which also includes Hampshire and Morgan Counties.

Mingo County

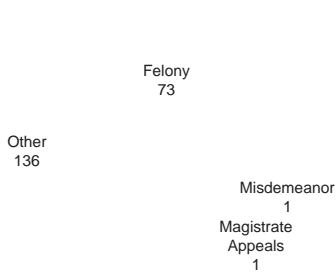


Mingo County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

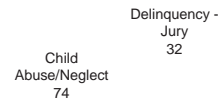


There were 1,008 filings in Mingo County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 56.94 percent were civil cases, 22.12 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 20.93 percent were criminal cases. The number of cases filed was down 3.82 percent from 2006; however, there has been a 21.3 percent increase in filings since 2003. Mingo County comprises the Thirtieth Judicial Circuit.

Mingo County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

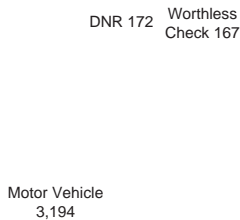


Mingo County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

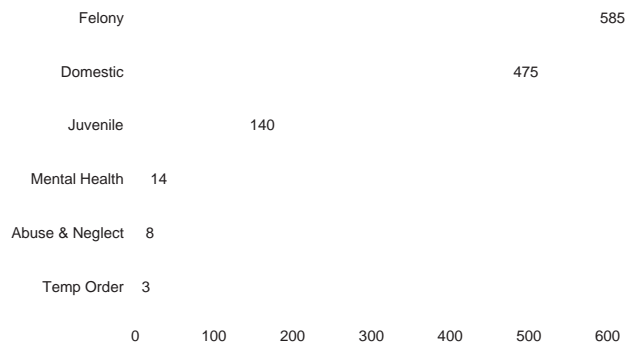


In 2007, there were 7,204 cases filed in Mingo County Magistrate Court, an increase of 18.86 percent over 2006. Of those, 77.1 percent were criminal cases, seventeen percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 5.9 percent were civil cases.

Mingo County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Mingo County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Mingo County Courthouse in Williamson, finished in 1966, has a black granite base and sandstone top. It is the county's second courthouse.

**Mingo County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence
476

Domestic
Relations
203

During 2007, 1,025 new cases were filed in Mingo County Family Court, a decrease of 3.39 percent from 2006. There also were 392 modification and 130 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 33.74 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Mingo County is the only county in the Eighth Family Court Circuit.

Circuit Court Judge
Michael Thornsbury,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
Robert D. Calfee

Magistrates
Walter Eugene Crum
Pamela S. Newsome
Deloris D. "Dee" Sidebottom

Circuit Clerk
Grant Preece

Magistrate Clerk
William T. Sanders

**No Chief Probation
Officer**

**Court system expenditures for
Mingo County in 2007**

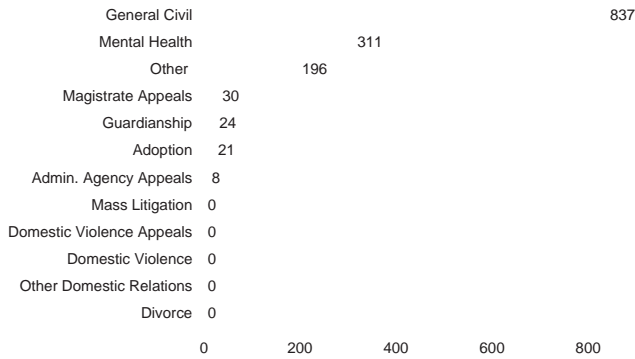
CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,069,101
FAMILY COURT	241,944
MAGISTRATE COURT	551,230
TOTAL	\$1,862,275

COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 15,898
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For ADA compliant elevator)	\$ 80,000

Monongalia County

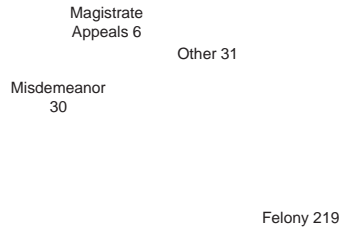


Monongalia County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 1,828 filings in Monongalia County Circuit Court during 2007, 3.59 percent lower than in 2006. Of those, 78.06 percent were civil cases, 15.65 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 6.29 percent were juvenile cases. Monongalia County is the only county in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit.

Monongalia County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Monongalia County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

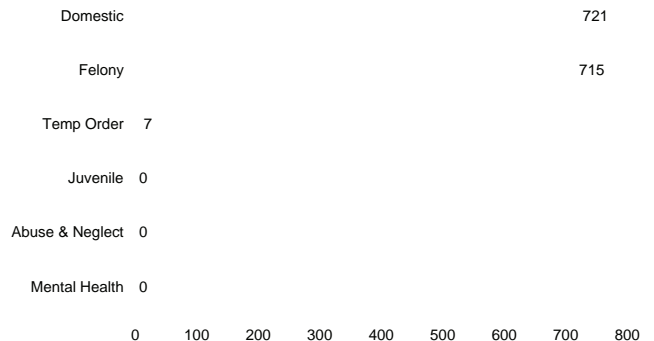


In 2007, there were 12,446 cases filed in Monongalia County Magistrate Court. Of those, 77.46 percent were criminal cases, 12.15 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 10.39 percent were special proceedings. Case filings grew 7.09 percent between 2006 and 2007, and 2007 filings were 12.94 percent higher than 2003 filings.

Monongalia County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Monongalia County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The red brick Monongalia County Courthouse in Morgantown, the county's fifth courthouse, was built in 1891. It was renovated and a large annex was added in 1976.

**Monongalia County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 604

Domestic
Relations 240

During 2007, 1,208 new cases were filed in Monongalia County Family Court, an increase of 3.16 percent over 2006. There also were 182 modification and 172 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 22.66 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Monongalia County comprises the Twentieth Family Court Circuit.

Circuit Judges

Russell M. Clawges, Jr.,
Chief Judge
Robert B. Stone

Family Court Judge

James Jeffrey Culpepper

Magistrates

James E. Nabors
Hershel R. Mullins
Darris J. Summers
Jennifer R. Wilson

Circuit Clerk

Jean Friend

County Clerk

Caroline A. Stoker

Chief Probation Officer

Phyllis Stewart

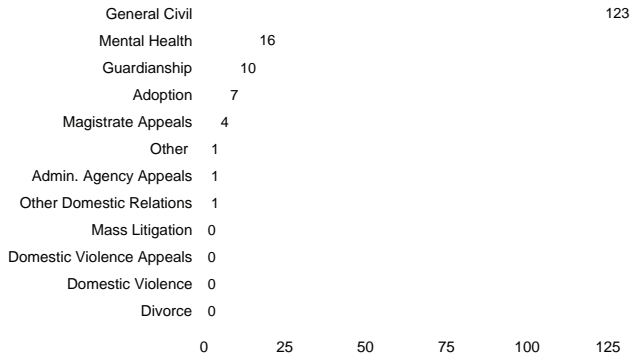
**Court system expenditures for
Monongalia County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,654,993
FAMILY COURT	239,843
MAGISTRATE COURT	692,674
TOTAL	\$2,587,510
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 41,000

Monroe County



Monroe County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 277 filings in Monroe County Circuit Court during 2007, a 30.66 increase over 2006. Of those, 58.84 percent were civil cases, 25.63 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 15.52 percent were criminal cases. Monroe County is part of the 31st Judicial Circuit, which also includes Summers County.

Monroe County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Misdemeanor
6

Felony
37

Monroe County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Delinquency - Jury
25

Child Abuse/Neglect
34

In 2007, there were 1,340 cases filed in Monroe County Magistrate Court, a 0.45 percent increase over 2006. Of those filings, 60.45 percent were criminal cases, 25.75 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 13.81 percent were civil cases.

Monroe County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

DNR 46

Worthless Check
64

Motor Vehicle
390

Monroe County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007

Domestic
205

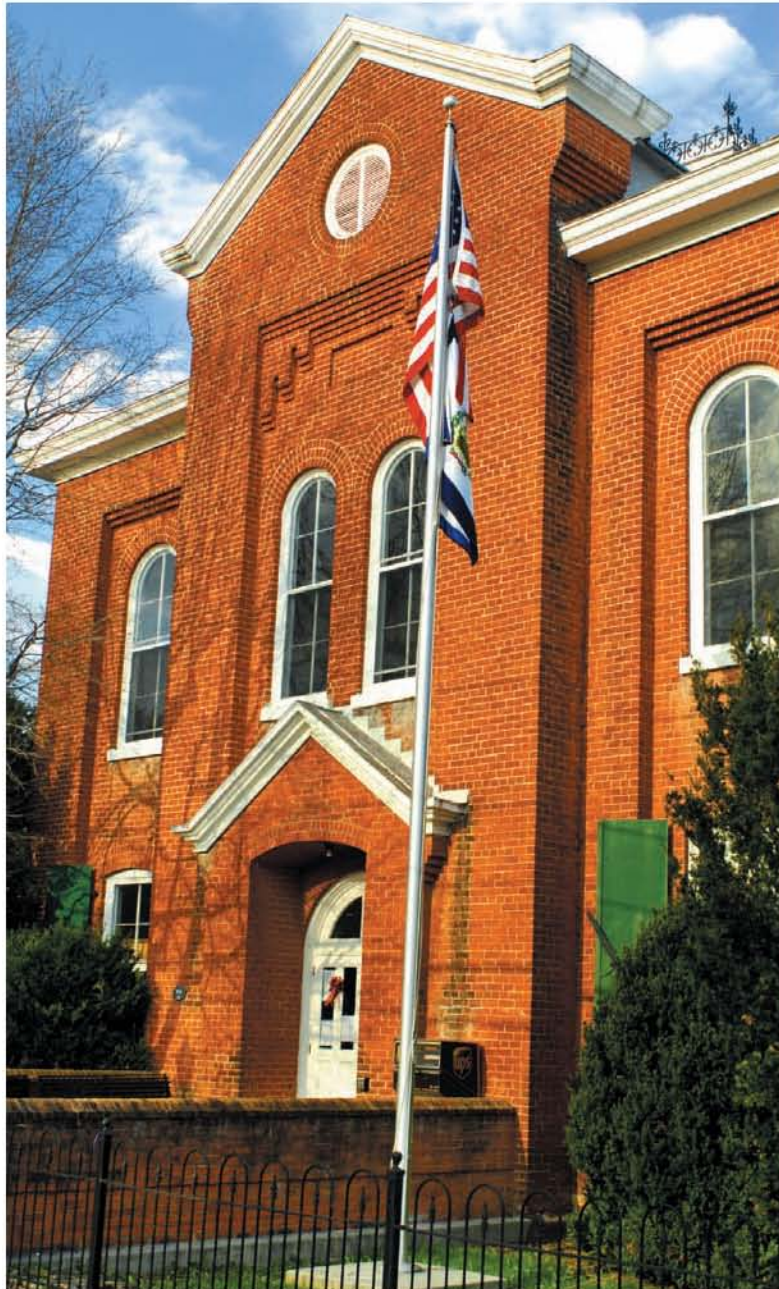
Felony
134

Juvenile
4

Abuse & Neglect
2

Temp Order
0

Mental Health
0



Monroe County's courthouse in Union is the county's third courthouse. It is constructed of locally manufactured bricks on the same site as the earlier courthouses and was completed in 1881.

Circuit Judge
Robert A. Irons, Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr.
(Resigned February 14, 2007)
David M. Sanders
(Took bench May 29, 2007)

Magistrates
Nancy P. Crews
Kevin L. Miller

Circuit Clerk
Julia Light

Magistrate Clerk
Elizabeth D. Kountz

Chief Probation Officer
Judson Childs

**Monroe County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic Violence 201	Domestic Relations 52
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**Court system expenditures for
Monroe County in 2007**

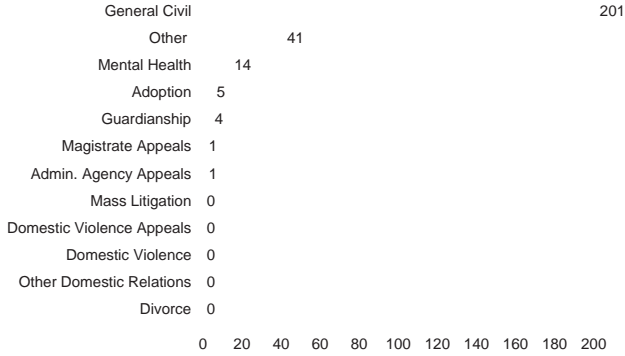
CIRCUIT COURT	\$560,688
FAMILY COURT	28,855
MAGISTRATE COURT	260,455
TOTAL	\$849,998
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For chair lift installation)	\$ 40,000

During 2007, 329 new cases were filed in Monroe County Family Court, an 11.53 percent increase over 2006 data. There also were 51 modification and 58 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 24.89 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Monroe County is part of the Fifteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Greenbrier County.

Morgan County

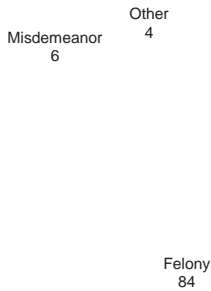


Morgan County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

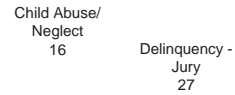


There were 424 filings in Morgan County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 19.1 percent over 2006. Of those filings, 62.97 percent were civil cases, 22.17 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 14.86 percent were juvenile cases. Morgan County is part of the 23rd Judicial Circuit, which also includes Berkeley and Jefferson Counties.

Morgan County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

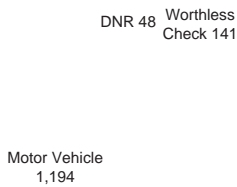


Morgan County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

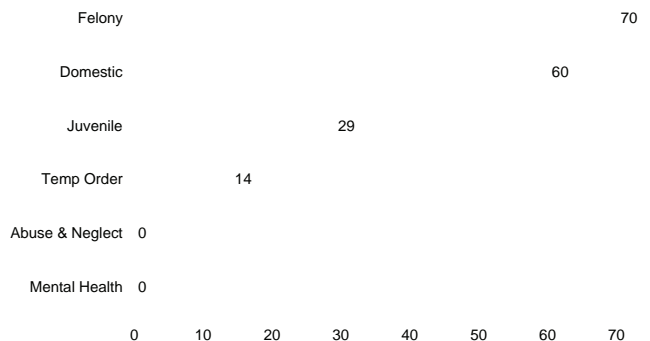


In 2007, there were 3,236 cases filed in Morgan County Magistrate Court, an increase of 0.47 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 70.7 percent of the filings. Another 23.95 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 5.35 percent were special proceedings.

Morgan County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Morgan County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Morgan County’s courthouse, which was destroyed by a fire on August 8, 2006, was the county’s third. The first courthouse also burned. The recent fire destroyed a county annex as well as the courthouse. A three-story, 40,000-square-foot courthouse replacement is planned. Rendering courtesy of Silling Associates-Architects.

**Morgan County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence
64

Domestic
Relations
41

Circuit Court Judges

Thomas W. Steptoe, Jr.,
Chief Judge
Gina M. Groh
David H. Sanders
Gray Silver, III
Christopher C. Wilkes

Family Court Judge

Charles E. Parsons

Magistrates

Kermit M. Ambrose
Greg L. Miller

Circuit Clerk

Kimberly J. Jackson

Magistrate Clerk

Frances A. Lutman

Chief Probation Officer

Mark Hofe

During 2007, 186 new cases were filed in Morgan County Family Court, a 16.59 percent decrease from 2006 filings. There also were 44 modification and 45 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 32.36 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Morgan County is part of the 23rd Family Court Circuit, which also includes Hampshire and Mineral Counties.

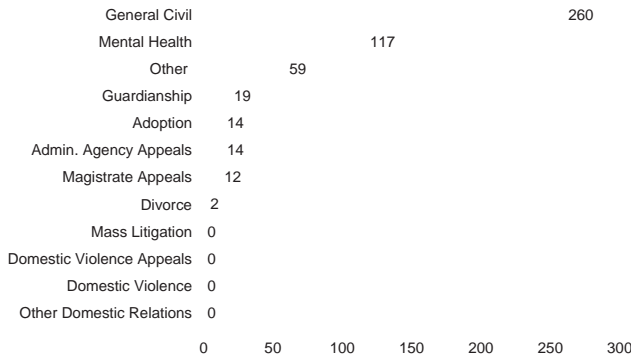
**Court system expenditures for
Morgan County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$389,641
FAMILY COURT	14,885
MAGISTRATE COURT	303,681
TOTAL	\$708,207
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 9,475
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (Demolition of burned courthouse)	\$500,000

Nicholas County

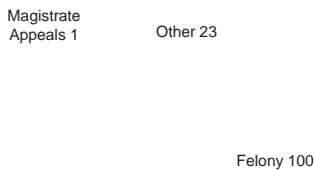


Nicholas County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 773 filings in Nicholas County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 8.42 percent over 2006. Of those, 64.29 percent were civil cases, 19.66 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 16.04 percent were criminal cases. Nicholas County comprises the 28th Judicial Circuit.

Nicholas County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

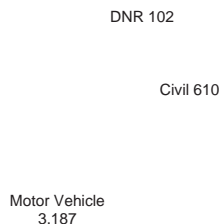


Nicholas County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

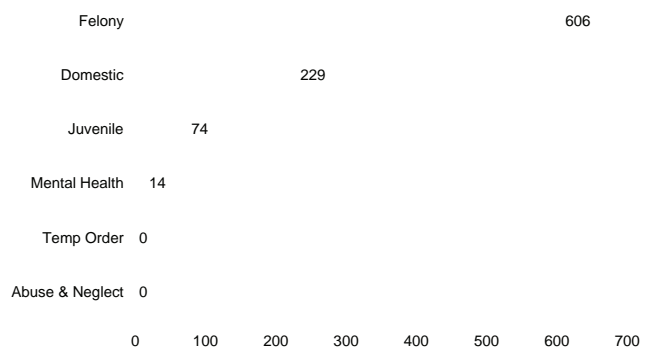


In 2007, there were 6,775 cases filed in Nicholas County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 77.37 percent of the filings. Another 13.62 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining nine percent were civil cases. Filings dropped 11.52 percent between 2006 and 2007 but have increased 5.71 since 2003.

Nicholas County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Nicholas County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Nicholas County Courthouse in Summersville was completed in 1898. The stone structure, the county's second courthouse, has a large bell in its cupola. The courtroom was completely renovated in 1998.

**Nicholas County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 211

Domestic
Relations 91

Circuit Judge

Gary L. Johnson,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge

Timothy R. Ruckman

Magistrates

Michael E Cooper
Robert L. Gordon
John D. Morton, Jr.

Circuit Clerk

Gary Jarrell

Magistrate Clerk

Loriene L. Green

Chief Probation Officer

Roger Beverage

During 2007, 507 new cases were filed in Nicholas County Family Court, a decrease of 2.12 percent from 2006. There also were 121 modification and 71 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 27.47 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Nicholas County is part of the Sixteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Clay and Webster Counties.

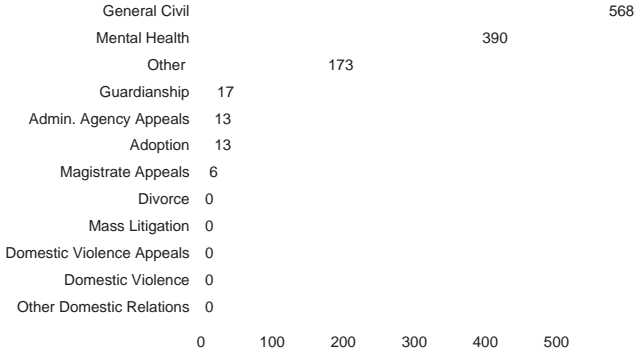
**Court system expenditures for
Nicholas County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,000,608
FAMILY COURT	239,897
MAGISTRATE COURT	474,732
TOTAL	\$1,715,327

Ohio County

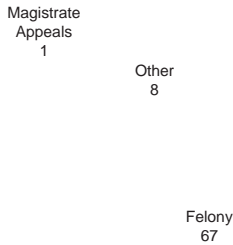


Ohio County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 1,443 filings in Ohio County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 5.25 percent over 2006. Of those, 81.77 percent were civil cases, 12.96 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 5.27 percent were criminal cases. Ohio County is part of the First Judicial Circuit, which also includes Brooke and Hancock Counties.

Ohio County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

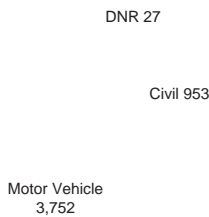


Ohio County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

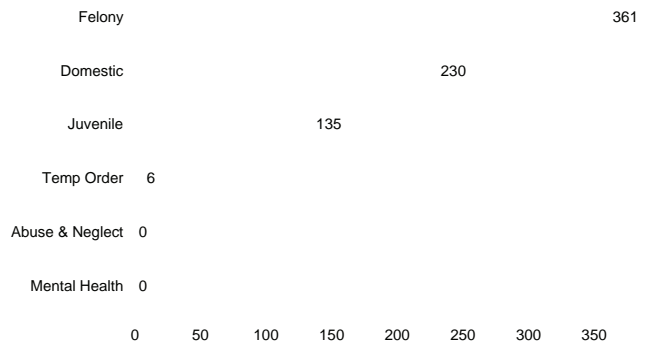


In 2007, there were 7,742 cases filed in Ohio County Magistrate Court, a 12.64 percent decrease from 2006. Of those, 78.24 percent were criminal cases, 12.31 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 9.45 percent were special proceedings.

Ohio County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Ohio County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The City-County Building in Wheeling is the only combined municipal government and county judicial facility in West Virginia. It was completed in 1960 and encompasses a city block. It is the fourth building to be used as a courthouse in Wheeling.

**Ohio County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence
222

Domestic
Relations
202

During 2007, 620 new cases were filed in Ohio County Family Court, a decrease of 15.18 percent from 2006. There also were 101 modification and 176 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 30.88 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Ohio County is part of the First Family Court Circuit, which also includes Brooke and Hancock Counties.

Circuit Judges

Martin J. Gaughan,
Chief Judge
Arthur M. Recht
James P. Mazzone
Ronald E. Wilson

Circuit Clerk

Brenda Miller

Family Court Judges

Joyce Dumbaugh Chernenko
William F. Sinclair

Magistrates

Rose M. Humway
Charles W. Murphy
Patricia L. Murphy
Harry A. Radcliffe

Magistrate Clerk

Barbara J. Sinclair

Chief Probation

Officer
Jim Lee

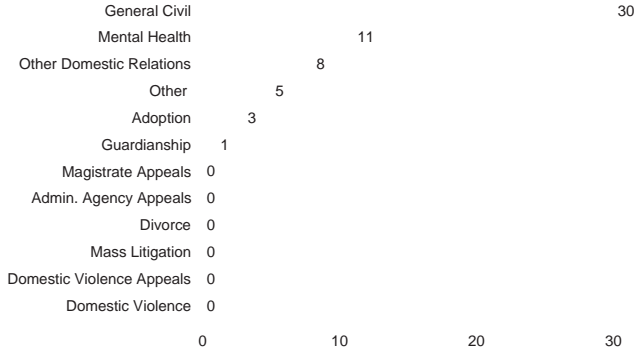
**Court system expenditures for
Ohio County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,769,978
FAMILY COURT	553,959
MAGISTRATE COURT	719,608
TOTAL	\$3,043,545
COURT SECURITY FUND	\$ 53,949
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For roof repairs)	\$ 80,000

Pendleton County



Pendleton County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 89 filings in Pendleton County Circuit Court during 2007, a decrease of 23.28 percent from 2006. Of those filings, 65.17 percent were civil cases, 19.1 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 15.73 percent were juvenile cases. Pendleton County is part of the 22nd Judicial Circuit, which also includes Hampshire and Hardy Counties.

Pendleton County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Magistrate Appeals 2

Felony 15

Pendleton County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Child Abuse - Neglect 3

Delinquency - Jury 9

In 2007, there were 727 cases filed in Pendleton County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 32.81 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 76.62 percent of the filings. Another 15.13 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 8.25 percent were special proceedings.

Pendleton County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Other Misdemeanor 92
 Motor Vehicle 263
 DNR 73

Pendleton County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007

Felony 28
 Domestic 25
 Juvenile 6
 Mental Health 1
 Abuse & Neglect 0
 Temp Order 0



Pendleton County's courthouse in Franklin was completed in 1926. The red brick structure fronted by six large columns with Ionic capitals is the county's third courthouse. The second burned.

**Pendleton County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 25

Domestic
Relations 19

Hardy

Pocahontas

During 2007, 78 new cases were filed in Pendleton County Family Court. The total represents a 17.89 percent decrease in filings since 2006, but a 34.48 percent increase when compared with 2003 data. There also were 23 modification and 23 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not included among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 37.1 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Pendleton County is part of the 25th Family Court Circuit, which also includes Hardy and Pocahontas Counties.

Circuit Court Judge
Donald H. Cookman,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
Roy David Arrington

Magistrates
Gene H. Boggs
Leland E. Propst

Circuit Clerk
Shalee Dunkle-Wilburn

Magistrate Clerk
Judy L. Grimm

Chief Probation Officer
John Rohrbaugh

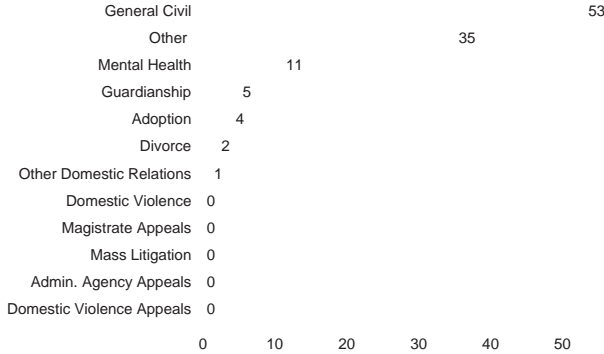
**Court system expenditures for
Pendleton County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$111,602
FAMILY COURT	2,097
MAGISTRATE COURT	307,166
TOTAL	\$420,865
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 20,873

Pleasants County



Pleasants County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

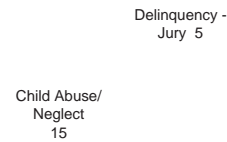


There were 151 filings in Pleasants County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 73.51 percent were civil cases, 14.57 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 11.92 percent were criminal cases. Pleasants County is part of the Third Judicial Circuit, which includes Doddridge and Ritchie Counties as well.

Pleasants County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

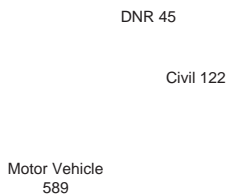


Pleasants County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

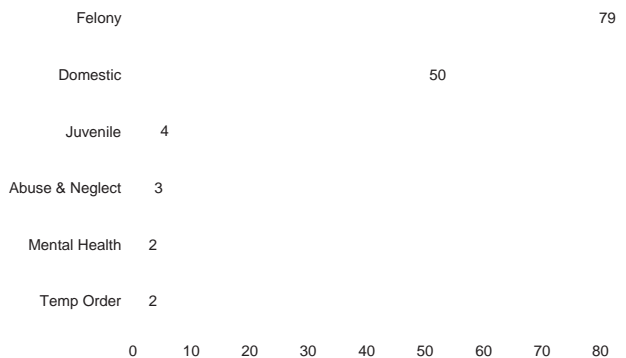


In 2007, there were 1,407 cases filed in Pleasants County Magistrate Court, an increase of five percent from 2006. Of those, 81.38 percent were criminal cases, 9.95 percent were special proceedings and the remaining 8.67 percent were civil cases.

Pleasants County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Pleasants County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Pleasants County Courthouse was built in St. Marys in 1925 after the first courthouse had to be torn down due to damage from a lighting strike in 1923.

**Pleasants County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence
49

Domestic
Relations
26

Circuit Judge

Robert L. Holland, Jr.,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judges

Annette L. Fantasia
C. Darren Tallman

Magistrates

Kathy M. Elder
Dotte L. White

Circuit Clerk

Millie Farnsworth

Magistrate Clerk

Lisa R. Taylor

**No Chief Probation
Officer**

During 2007, 131 new cases were filed in Pleasants County Family Court, a decrease of 16.03 percent when compared with 2006 but a 20.18 percent increase over data from 2003. There also were thirty modification and 21 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among the new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 28.02 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Pleasants County is part of the Third Family Court Circuit, which also includes Ritchie, Wirt, and Wood Counties.

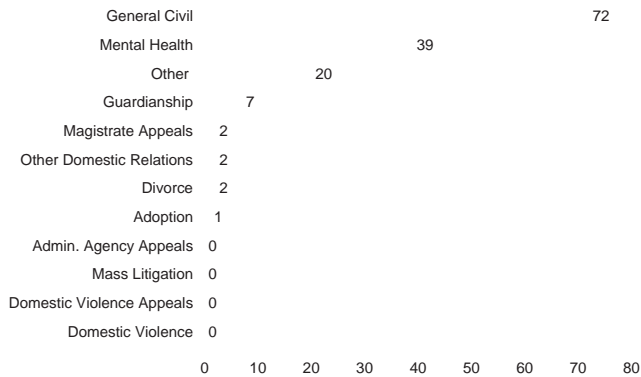
**Court system expenditures for
Pleasants County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$197,244
FAMILY COURT	4,571
MAGISTRATE COURT	263,707
TOTAL	\$465,522

Pocahontas County

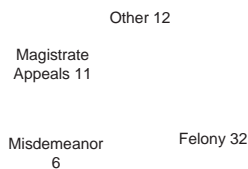


Pocahontas County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

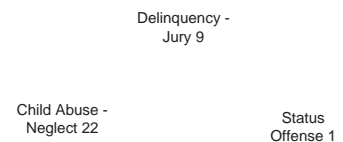


There were 238 filings in Pocahontas County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 7.69 percent over 2006. Of those, 60.92 percent were civil cases, 25.63 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 13.45 percent were juvenile cases. Pocahontas County is part of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, which also includes Greenbrier County.

Pocahontas County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

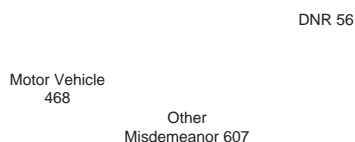


Pocahontas County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

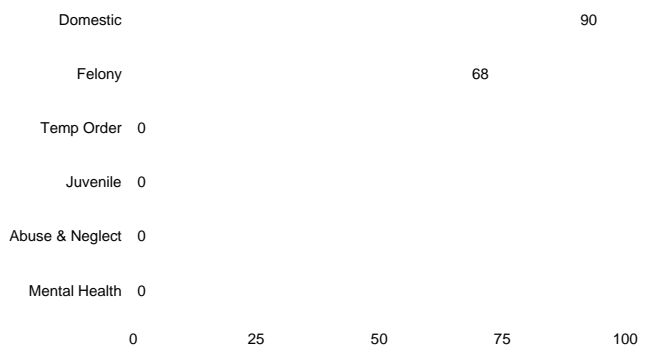


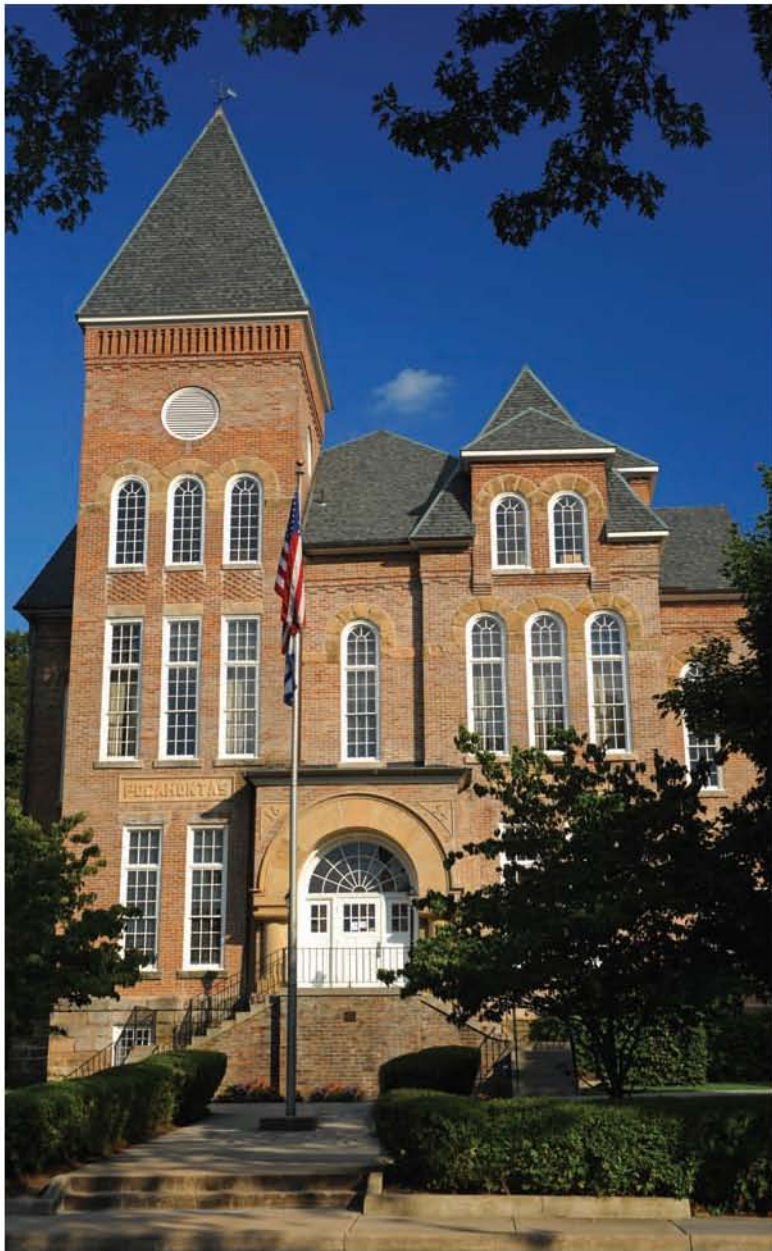
In 2007, there were 1,950 cases filed in Pocahontas County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 75.38 percent of the filings. Another 16.51 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 8.1 percent were special proceedings. Filings in 2007 decreased 24.77 percent from 2006 but have increased 5.46 percent since 2003.

Pocahontas County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Pocahontas County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Circuit Court Judges

James J. Rowe, Chief Judge
 Joseph C. Pomponio, Jr.
 (Took Bench February 15, 2007)

Family Court Judge

Roy David Arrington

Magistrates

Kathy L. Beverage
 Doshia Webb
 (Resigned December 21, 2007)

Circuit Clerk

Earl Mitchell

Magistrate Clerk

Rebecca M. Clendenen

Chief Probation Officer

Fred Taylor

**Pocahontas County Family Court Cases Filed in
 Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
 Violence 91

Domestic
 Relations 35

Hardy

Pendleton

Pocahontas County's courthouse was built in Marlinton in 1895. The hand-made clay structure with a bell tower was renovated in 1972 and an addition was added. It is the county's second courthouse, but the first in Marlinton. The original courthouse was in Huntersville.

**Court system Expenditures for
 Pocahontas County in 2007**

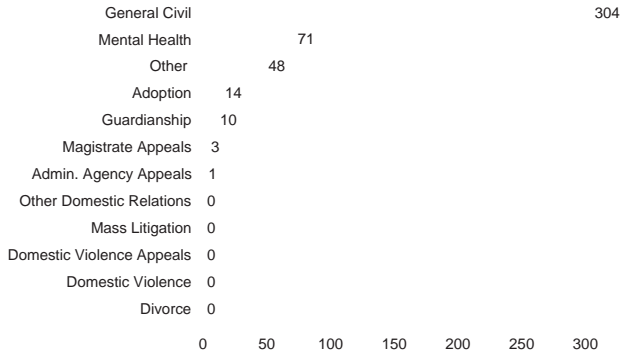
CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 53,094
FAMILY COURT	244,622
MAGISTRATE COURT	300,492
TOTAL	\$598,208
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For automatic smoke detectors)	\$ 36,000

During 2007, 172 new cases were filed in Pocahontas County Family Court. That represents a 19.63 percent decrease from 2006 filings and a 6.52 percent decrease when compared to 2003. There also were 54 modification and 72 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 42.28 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Pocahontas County is part of the 25th Family Court Circuit, which also includes Hardy and Pendleton Counties.

Preston County



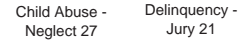
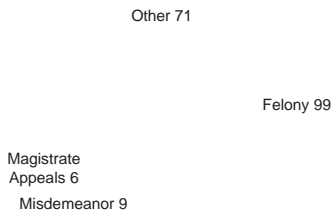
Preston County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 714 case filings in Preston County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 63.17 percent were civil cases, 25.91 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 10.92 percent were juvenile cases. Case filings have increased 7.69 percent since last year and 48.44 percent since 2003. Preston County comprises the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit.

Preston County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

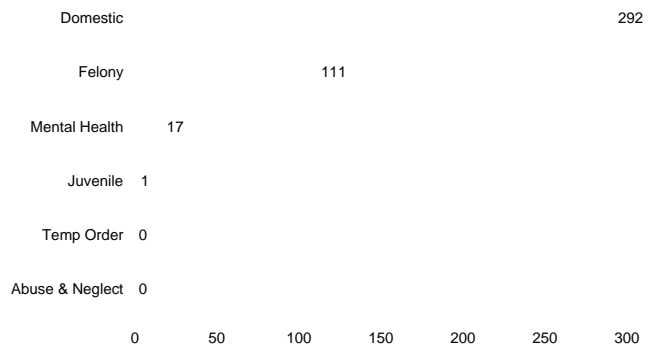
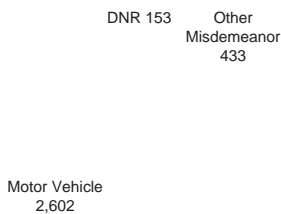
Preston County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



In 2007, there were 5,392 cases filed in Preston County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 8.75 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 79.49 percent of the filings. Another 12.7 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 7.81 percent were special proceedings.

Preston County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Preston County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Preston County Courthouse, constructed of buff-colored Indiana limestone, was dedicated in August 1934 on the same site as its predecessor. It is the county's fifth courthouse. In 2008, all courts are scheduled to move into the courthouse and other county offices are to move into an annex.

**Preston County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 281

Domestic
Relations 111

Circuit Judge

Lawrance S. Miller, Jr.,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge

Beth Longo

Magistrates

Lewis F. Ault
Janice K. Snider
Marsha Diane Thomas

Circuit Clerk

Betsy Castle

Magistrate Clerk

Donna J. Metheny

**Chief Probation
Officer**

Crystal Thomas

During 2007, 554 new cases were filed in Preston County Family Court, a 5.93 percent increase over 2006. There also were 123 modifications and 179 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 35.28 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Preston County is part of the 21st Family Court Circuit, which also includes Barbour and Taylor Counties.

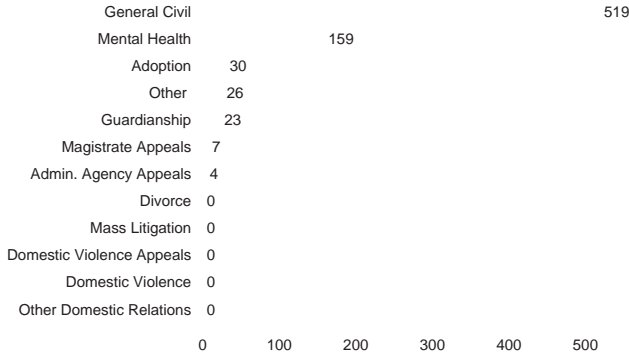
**Court system expenditures for
Preston County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,035,839
FAMILY COURT	36,179
MAGISTRATE COURT	524,501
TOTAL	\$1,596,519
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For HVAC Project)	\$ 80,000

Putnam County



Putnam County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

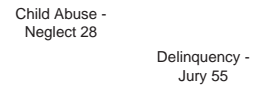


There were 1,096 filings in Putnam County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 3.2 percent over 2006. Of those, 70.07 percent were civil cases, 18.7 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 11.22 percent were juvenile cases. Putnam County is the only county in the 29th Judicial Circuit.

Putnam County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

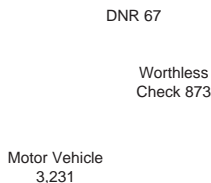


Putnam County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

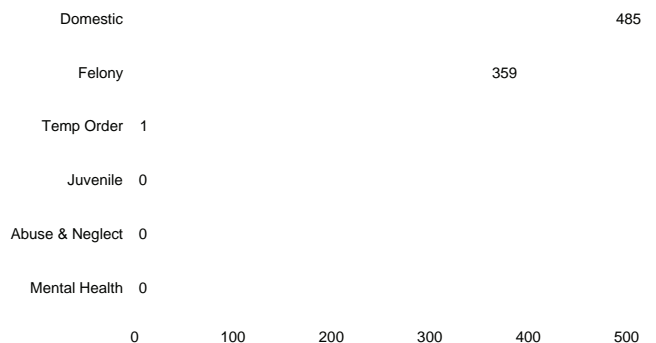


In 2007, there were 8,696 cases filed in Putnam County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 9.8 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 77.77 percent of the filings. Another 12.51 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 9.72 percent were special proceedings.

Putnam County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Putnam County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The red brick Putnam County Courthouse in Winfield was built in 1900 with an octagon-shaped tower. The building is the county's second courthouse. A separate Judicial Building that now houses all of the court system offices was built in 1997.

**Putnam County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 357

Domestic
Relations 197

During 2007, 957 cases were filed in Putnam County Family Court. Filings have increased 5.86 percent since last year. There also were 146 modification and 237 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among the new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 28.58 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Putnam County is the only county in the 26th Family Court Circuit.

Circuit Judges

N. Edward Eagloski, II,
Chief Judge
O.C. Spaulding

Family Court Judge

William M. Watkins, III

Magistrates

Kim M. Blair
Elizabeth Kylene Brown
Linda J. Hunt

Circuit Clerk

Nina L. Wright

Magistrate Clerk

Louise W. Gunnoe

Chief Probation Officer

Caren Bills

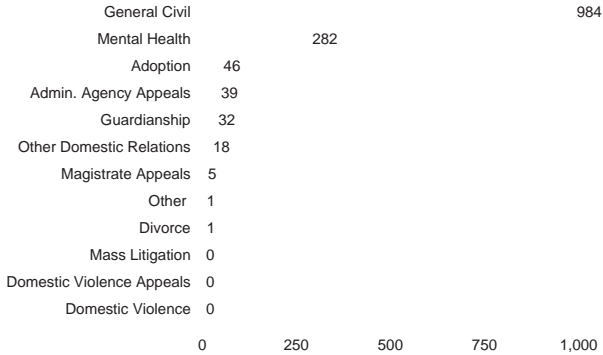
**Court system expenditures for
Putnam County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,704,792
FAMILY COURT	230,742
MAGISTRATE COURT	503,954
TOTAL	\$2,439,488

Raleigh County

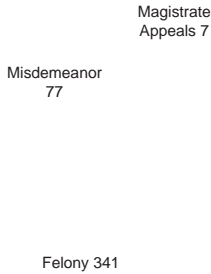


Raleigh County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

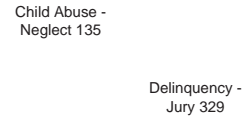


There were a total of 2,389 filings in Raleigh County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 58.94 percent were civil cases, 23.27 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 17.79 percent were criminal cases. Filing levels decreased by 7.51 percent from 2006, but have increased by 46.38 percent when compared to data from 2003. Raleigh County comprises the Tenth Judicial Circuit.

Raleigh County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

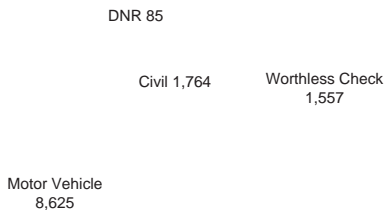


Raleigh County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

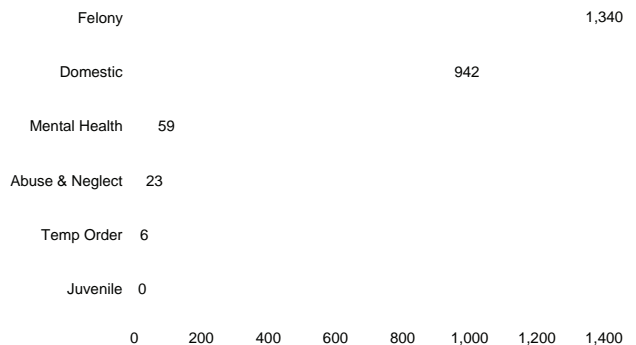


In 2007, there were 18,680 cases filed in Raleigh County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 6.3 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 77.87 percent of the filings. Another 12.69 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 9.44 percent were civil cases.

Raleigh County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Raleigh County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Raleigh County Courthouse in Beckley, the third building to serve as a courthouse, was completed in 1937. It was built around the previous courthouse structure, which had been built in 1893.

**Raleigh County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 775

Domestic
Relations 230

Circuit Judges

H.L. Kirkpatrick III,
Chief Judge
Robert A. Burnside, Jr.
John A. Hutchison

Family Court Judges

H. Suzanne McGraw
Louise G. Staton

Magistrates

Charles R. Humphrey
Mary H. Jennings
Richard D. Jones
Stephen D. Massie
John E. Tanner

Circuit Clerk

Janice Davis

Magistrate Clerk

Rebecca J. Black

**Chief Adult
Probation Officer**

Fletcher Bowden

**Chief Juvenile
Probation Officer**

Doug Dyer

During 2007, 1,594 new cases were filed in Raleigh County Family Court. This represents a 4.49 percent decrease from 2006 filings but a 20.85 percent increase over 2003 data. There also were 537 modification and 375 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings account for 36.39 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Raleigh County is in the Thirteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Wyoming County.

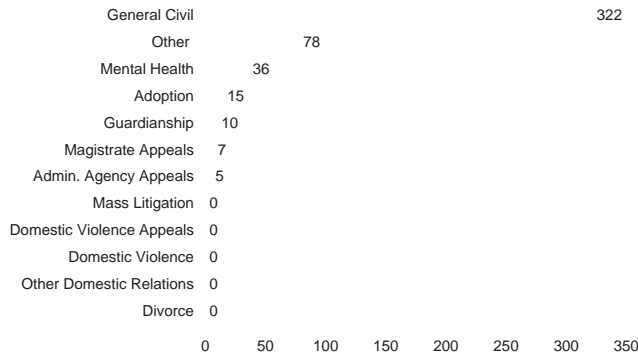
**Court system expenditures for
Raleigh County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$2,844,557
FAMILY COURT	469,374
MAGISTRATE COURT	888,585
TOTAL	\$4,202,516

Randolph County

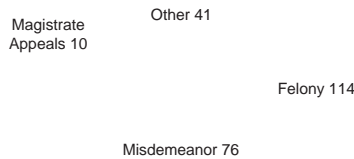


Randolph County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 822 filings in Randolph County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 6.06 percent over 2006. Of those, 57.54 percent were civil cases, 29.32 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 13.14 percent were juvenile cases. Randolph County is the only county in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit.

Randolph County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

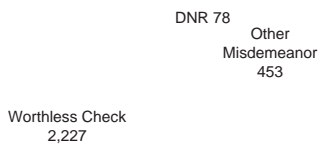


Randolph County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

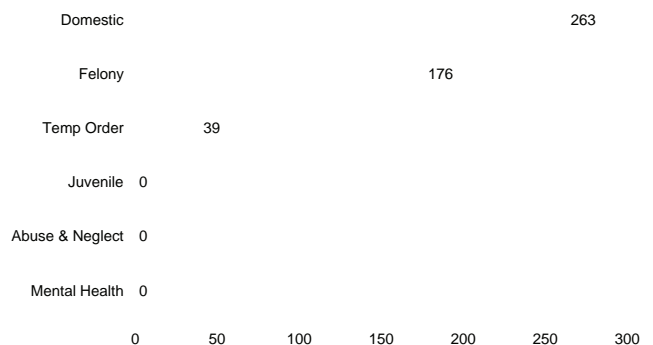


In 2007, there were 6,591 cases filed in Randolph County Magistrate Court, an increase of 12.76 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 72.27 percent of the filings. Another 20.48 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 7.25 percent were special proceedings.

Randolph County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Randolph County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Randolph County's courthouse in Elkins was built between 1902 and 1906. It is made of hand-cut stone and decorated by stained glass. The building is the second in Elkins to serve as a courthouse. Three others in Beverly were previously used for court sessions.

**Randolph County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 222

Domestic
Relations 141

Circuit Judge

John L. Henning, Jr.,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge

Jaymie Godwin Wilfong

Magistrates

Rick L. George
Michele W. Good
George M. "Mike" Riggleman

Circuit Clerk

Phil Riggleman

Magistrate Clerk

Phyllis A. Phares

Chief Probation Officer

Charles Scott

During 2007, 552 new cases were filed in Randolph County Family Court, an increase of 8.02 percent over 2006. There also were 148 modification and 137 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 34.05 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Randolph County is in the 22nd Family Court Circuit, which also includes Grant and Tucker Counties. *Modifications and contempts for Randolph County were derived from the entire circuit's totals based on a ratio of case filings within the circuit.*

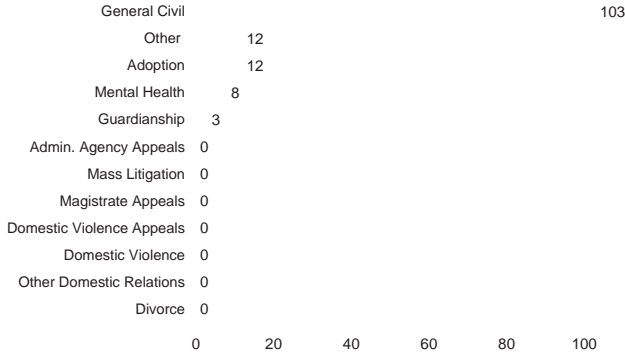
**Court system expenditures for
Randolph County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 955,444
FAMILY COURT	239,942
MAGISTRATE COURT	450,847
TOTAL	\$1,646,233
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For courtroom renovation)	\$ 80,000

Ritchie County



Ritchie County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

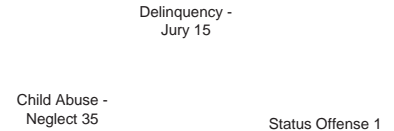


There were 239 filings in Ritchie County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 57.74 percent were civil cases, 21.34 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 20.92 percent were criminal cases. The number of cases filed in 2007 was 29.19 percent higher than in 2006 and 35.03 percent higher than in 2003. Ritchie County is in the Third Judicial Circuit, which also includes Doddridge and Pleasants Counties.

Ritchie County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

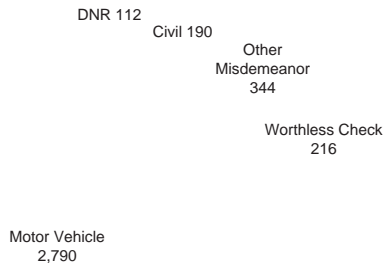


Ritchie County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

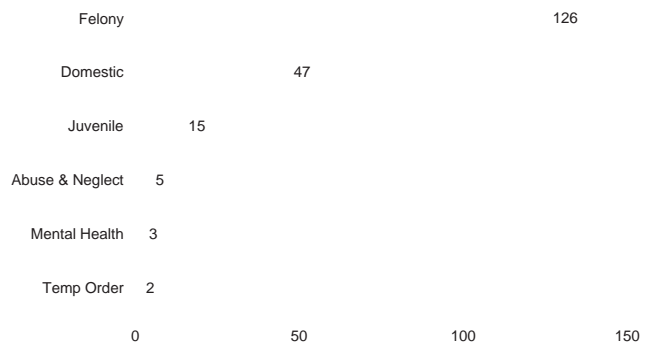


In 2007, there were 3,850 cases filed in Ritchie County Magistrate Court, a 5.05 percent increase over 2006. Criminal cases made up 89.92 percent of the filings. Another 5.14 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 4.94 percent were civil cases.

Ritchie County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Ritchie County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Ritchie County Courthouse built in Harrisville in 1922 is the county's third courthouse. The portico and tower were added in 1923, the clock in 1924. It has been remodeled several times and an annex has been incorporated into the original structure.

**Ritchie County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 48

Domestic
Relations 33

During 2007, 148 cases were filed in Ritchie County Family Court, a 5.13 percent decrease from 2006. There also were fifty modification and 47 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 39.59 percent of the family court caseload for 2007. Ritchie County is in the Third Family Court Circuit, which also includes Ritchie, Wirt, and Wood Counties.

Circuit Judge

Robert L. Holland, Jr.,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judges

Annette L. Fantasia
C. Darren Tallman

Magistrates

Teresa C. Harper
David W. Haugh

Circuit Clerk

Rose Ellen Cox

Magistrate Clerk

Janis L. Mahaney

**No Chief Probation
Officer**

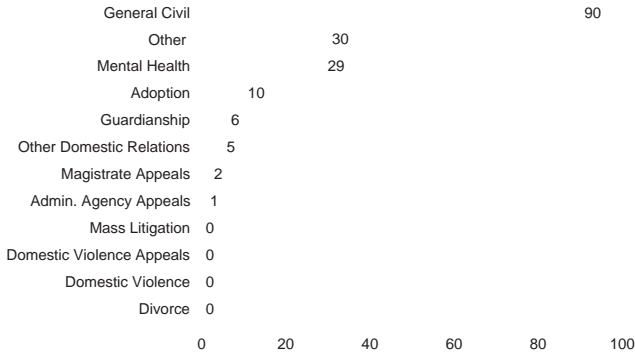
**Court system expenditures for
Ritchie County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$232,478
FAMILY COURT	4,417
MAGISTRATE COURT	279,319
TOTAL	\$516,214
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 27,495
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT	
(Second phase of window replacement)	\$ 80,000

Roane County



Roane County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

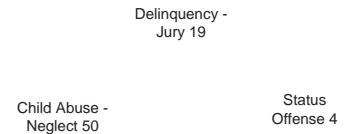


There were 327 filings in Roane County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 52.91 percent were civil cases, 24.77 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 22.32 percent were juvenile cases. Filings decreased 12.33 percent between 2006 and 2007; however, filings have increased 24.33 percent when compared to 2003 data. Roane County is part of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Calhoun, Jackson, and Mason Counties.

Roane County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

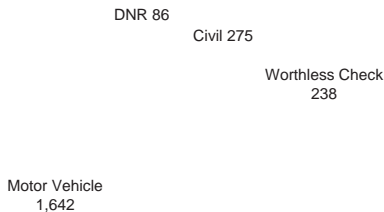


Roane County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

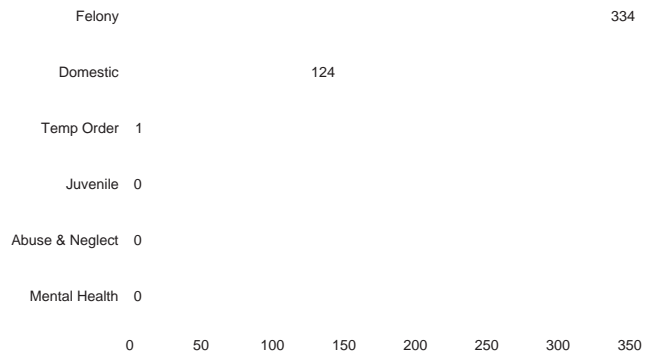


In 2007, there were 3,507 cases filed in Roane County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 0.31 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 79.07 percent of the filings. Another 13.09 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 7.84 percent were civil cases.

Roane County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Roane County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Roane County has had three courthouses in Spencer, all on the same site, built in 1856, 1887 and 1965. The first two courthouses burned and all records were destroyed.

**Roane County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 110

Domestic
Relations 42

Circuit Judges

David W. Nibert, Chief Judge
Thomas C. Evans, III

Family Court Judge

Larry S. Whited

Magistrates

Denver R. Gandee, Jr.
Russell W. Goodwin

Circuit Clerk

Beverly Greathouse

Magistrate Clerk

Brenda M. White

**Chief Probation
Officer**

Patsy McCartney

During 2007, three hundred cases were filed in Roane County Family Court. That represents a 17.13 percent decrease from 2006 filings but a 7.91 percent increase over 2003 data. There also were 107 modification and 75 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 37.76 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Roane County is part of the Fourth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Calhoun, Doddridge, and Gilmer Counties.

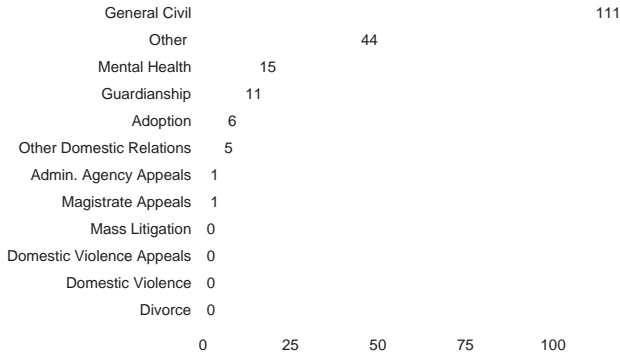
**Court system expenditures for
Roane County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$254,360
FAMILY COURT	236,421
MAGISTRATE COURT	289,527
TOTAL	\$780,308
COURT SECURITY FUND	\$ 4,295

Summers County

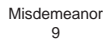


Summers County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 341 filings in Summers County Circuit Court during 2007, a 32.68 percent increase over 2006. Of those, 56.89 percent were civil cases, 31.09 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 12.02 percent were juvenile cases. Summers County is part of the 31st Judicial Circuit, which also includes Monroe County.

Summers County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



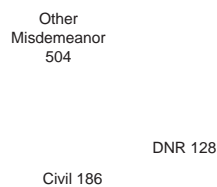
Summers County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



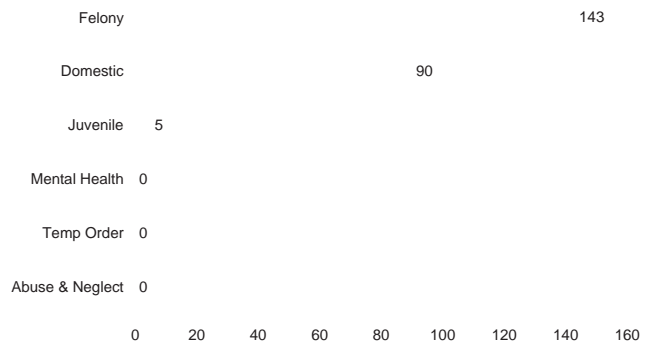
Felony 97

In 2007, there were 2,053 cases filed in Summers County Magistrate Court, an increase of 7.83 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 79.35 percent of the filings. Another 11.59 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 9.06 percent were civil cases.

Summers County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Summers County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Summers County Courthouse in Hinton was built in 1874 from red bricks fired on the grounds. The original building is still in use, as is a large annex built in 1939.

**Summers County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 91

Domestic
Relations 77

Circuit Judge
Robert A. Irons,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
Janet Frye Steele

Magistrates
Jack K. Hellems
J. William Jeffries, Jr.

Circuit Clerk
Linda Brumit

Magistrate Clerk
Vicki S. Jones

Chief Probation Officer
Judson Childs

During 2007, 270 new cases were filed in Summers County Family Court, an 11.48 percent decrease from 2006. There also were 48 modification and 31 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among the new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 22.64 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Summers County is part of the Fourteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Fayette County.

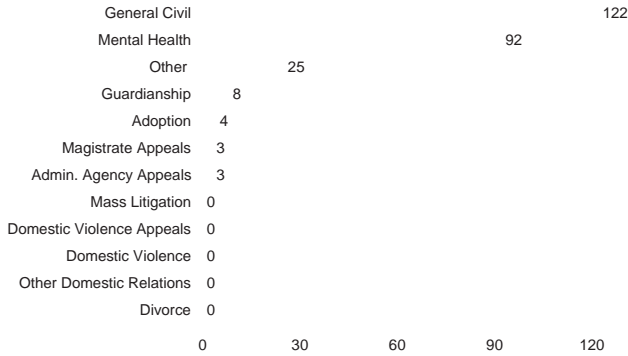
**Court system expenditures for
Summers County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$387,261
FAMILY COURT	38,296
MAGISTRATE COURT	255,850
TOTAL	\$681,407

Taylor County

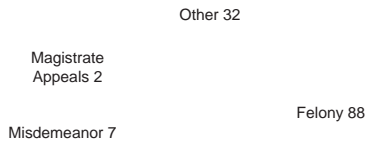


Taylor County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

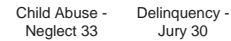


There were 490 filings in Taylor County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 52.45 percent were civil cases, 26.33 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 21.22 percent were juvenile cases. Filing levels decreased 4.11 percent between 2006 and 2007; however, filings have increased 0.82 percent since 2003. Taylor County is part of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Barbour County.

Taylor County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

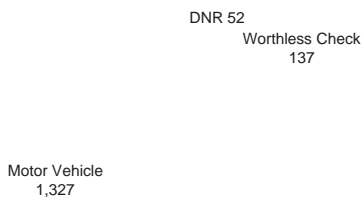


Taylor County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

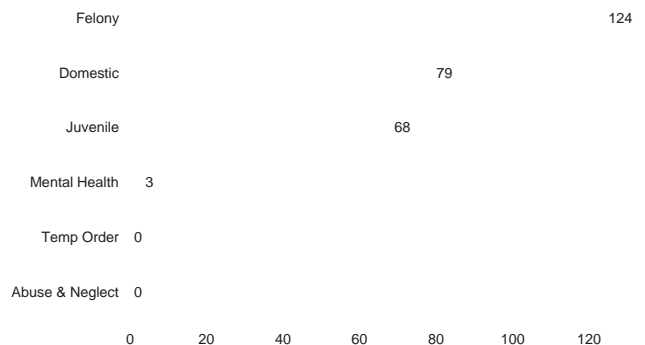


In 2007, there were 2,378 cases filed in Taylor County Magistrate Court, an increase of 9.43 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 76.83 percent of the filings. Another 11.65 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 11.52 percent were special proceedings.

Taylor County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Taylor County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Taylor County's courthouse in Grafton was built in 1880 of brown brick. Many of the original Victorian details have now been removed from the building, which is the county's second courthouse. An annex was added in 1975.

**Taylor County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 83

Domestic
Relations 55

Circuit Judge

Alan D. Moats, Chief Judge

Family Court Judge

Beth Longo

Magistrates

James Leonard Lucas

Ricky R. Reese

Circuit Clerk

Vonda Reneman

Magistrate Clerk

Brenda L. Vance

**Chief Probation
Officer**

Susan Christian

During 2007, 241 new cases were filed in Taylor County Family Court, a 9.05 percent increase over 2006 filings. There also were 83 modification and 61 contempt proceedings, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 37.4 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Taylor County is part of the 21st Family Court Circuit, which also includes Barbour and Preston Counties.

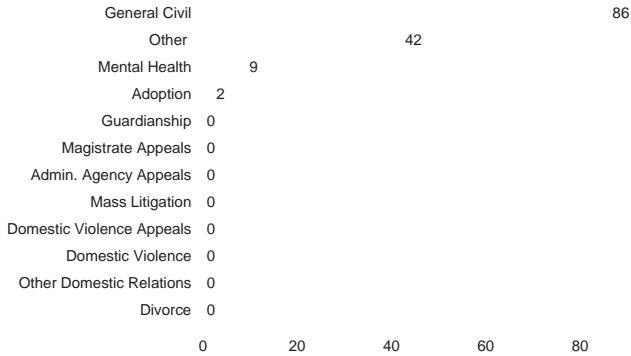
**Court system expenditures for
Taylor County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,028,742
FAMILY COURT	15,277
MAGISTRATE COURT	278,217
TOTAL	\$1,322,236

Tucker County

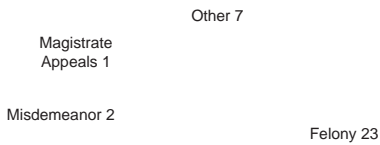


Tucker County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

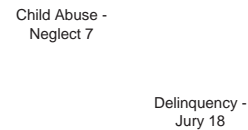


There were two hundred filings in Tucker County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 69.5 percent were civil cases, 16.5 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining fourteen percent were juvenile cases. Although relatively low in number, filings have significantly increased when compared to data from 2006 and 2003 (sixty percent and 73.91 percent, respectively). Tucker County is in the 21st Judicial Circuit, which also includes Grant and Mineral Counties.

Tucker County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

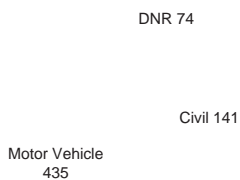


Tucker County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

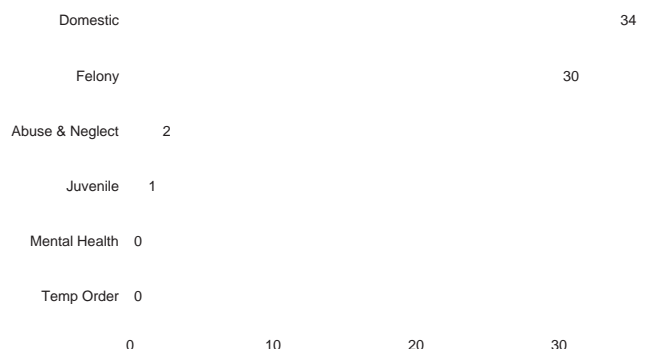


In 2007, there were 1,138 cases filed in Tucker County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 0.26 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 80.76 percent of the filings. Another 13.36 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 5.89 percent were special proceedings.

Tucker County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Tucker County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The red brick Tucker County Courthouse in Parsons was built in 1898, after years of dispute over the location of the Tucker County seat. Court previously was held in Saint George, for several years under an oak tree in the middle of the road, until a brick courthouse was built in that town.

Circuit Judges

Andrew N. Frye, Jr.,
Chief Judge
Philip B. Jordan

Family Court Judge

Jaymie Godwin Wilfong

Magistrates

Riley H. Barb
Carol D. Irons

Circuit Clerk

Donna Jean Bava

Magistrate Clerk

Paula J. McDonald

Chief Probation Officer

Jerome DiBacco

**Tucker County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 33

Domestic
Relations 10

**Court system expenditures for
Tucker County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$358,564
FAMILY COURT	850
MAGISTRATE COURT	280,042
TOTAL	\$639,465

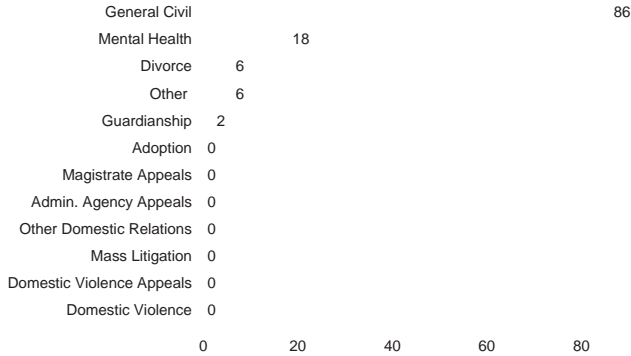
During 2007, 77 cases were filed in Tucker County Family Court, a 4.94 percent decrease from 2006. There also were 21 modification and nineteen contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted among new case filings. Those proceedings accounted for 34.19 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Tucker County is in the 22nd Family Court Circuit, which also includes Grant and Randolph Counties.

Modifications and contempts for Tucker County were derived from the entire circuit's totals based on a ratio of case filings within the circuit.

Tyler County



Tyler County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

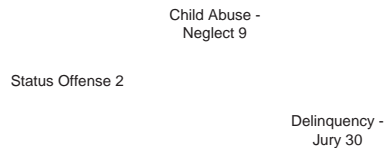


There were 191 filings in Tyler County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 61.78 percent were civil cases, 21.47 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 16.75 percent were criminal cases. The court has experienced a growth in case filings, with a 7.3 percent increase over 2006 and a 19.38 percent increase since 2003. Tyler County is in the Second Judicial Circuit, which also includes Marshall and Wetzel Counties.

Tyler County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

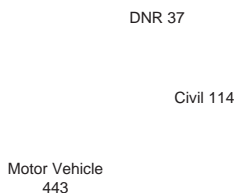


Tyler County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

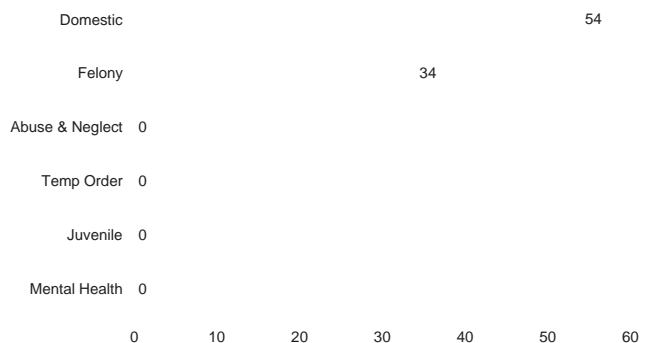


In 2007, there were 1,024 cases filed in Tyler County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 80.27 percent of the filings. Another 11.13 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 8.59 percent were special proceedings. Case filings in 2007 declined 10.02 percent from 2006 but were 2.09 percent higher than in 2003.

Tyler County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Tyler County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Tyler County's courthouse in Middlebourne was built in 1852 as the county's first permanent courthouse. It was expanded in 1922, when the original section and the new wing were both faced with identical brick.

**Tyler County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 54

Domestic
Relations 43

During 2007, 151 new cases were filed in Tyler County Family Court, an 11.03 percent increase over 2006. There also were 32 modification and fifteen contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 23.74 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Tyler County is in the Second Family Court Circuit, which also includes Marshall and Wetzel Counties.

Circuit Judges

Mark A. Karl,
Chief Judge
John T. Madden

Family Court Judge

Robert C. Hicks

Magistrates

Michael K. Griffin
John E. Roberts

Circuit Clerk

Cany Warner

Magistrate Clerk

Jean Hayes

Chief Probation Officer

Robert Joltes

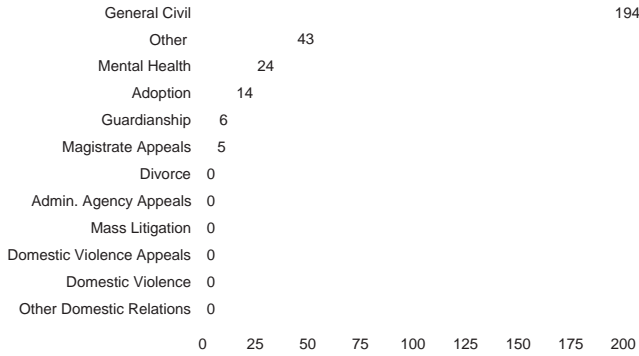
**Court system expenditures for
Tyler County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 21,523
FAMILY COURT	2,391
MAGISTRATE COURT	266,680
TOTAL	\$290,594
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For ADA upgrade)	\$ 64,800

Upshur County



Upshur County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 481 filings in Upshur County Circuit Court during 2007. Of those, 59.46 percent were civil cases, 27.03 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 13.51 percent were juvenile cases. Filings increased 3.22 percent over 2006 numbers and 5.71 percent over 2003 figures. Upshur County is in the 26th Judicial Circuit, which also includes Lewis County.

Upshur County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

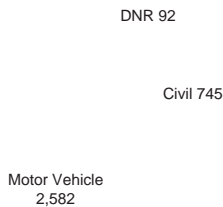


Upshur County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

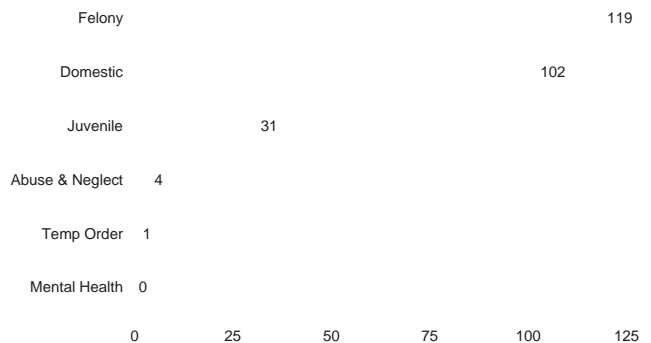


In 2007, there were 5,159 cases filed in Upshur County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 1.45 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 80.58 percent of the filings. Another 14.44 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 4.98 percent were special proceedings.

Upshur County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Upshur County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The red brick Upshur County Courthouse in Buckhannon was completed in 1901. The interior was remodeled between 1972 and 1975. It is the county's second courthouse. The J. Dowell Jennings annex was completed in 1995.

**Upshur County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 88

Domestic
Relations 100

Circuit Court Judge

Thomas H. Keadle,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judge

Robert Reed Sowa

Magistrates

Juanita E. Adams
Clarence McCourt, Jr.
(Resigned March 27, 2007)
Helen J. Echard
(Took bench March 28, 2007)

Circuit Clerk

Terry Beer

Magistrate Clerk

Angela J. Fassett

**Chief Probation
Officer**

Serena Peterson

During 2007, 347 new cases were filed in Upshur County Family Court, an increase of 1.17 percent from 2006. There also were 143 modification and 74 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 38.48 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Upshur County is in the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Braxton and Lewis Counties.

**Court system expenditures for
Upshur County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,010,770
FAMILY COURT	7,995
MAGISTRATE COURT	374,523
TOTAL	\$1,393,288

COURTHOUSE FACILITIES

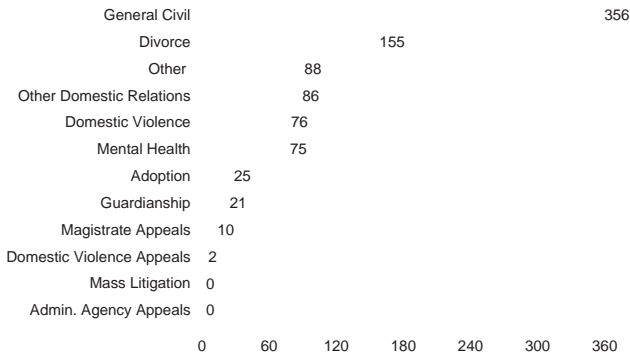
IMPROVEMENT GRANT

(For repairs to columns and portico) \$ 80,000

Wayne County



Wayne County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

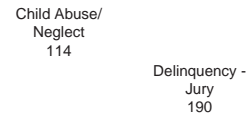


There were 1,358 filings in Wayne County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 21.58 percent over 2006. Of those filings, 65.83 percent were civil cases, 22.39 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 11.78 percent were criminal cases. Wayne County comprises the 24th Judicial Circuit.

Wayne County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

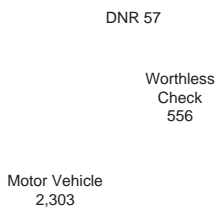


Wayne County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

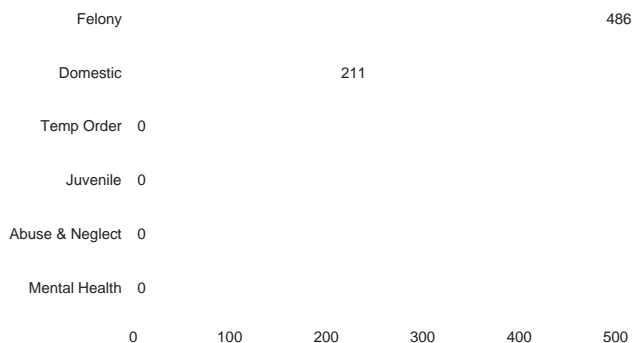


In 2007, there were 5,264 cases filed in Wayne County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 10.69 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 75.42 percent of the filings. Another 13.24 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 11.34 percent were civil cases.

Wayne County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Wayne County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Wayne County Courthouse in the town of Wayne opened in 1924 and was remodeled extensively in 1976. The structure is the fourth to be built for use as a courthouse. Its immediate predecessor burned in 1921, but records were preserved in a fireproof vault.

Circuit Judge
Darrell Pratt, Chief Judge

Family Court Judge
R. Stephen Lewis

Magistrates
David Ferguson
Alfred T. Lynch
Teddy E. Mays

Circuit Clerk
Jamie Ferguson

Magistrate Clerk
Patricia A. Smith

Chief Probation Officer
Ruby Gail Fry

**Wayne County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 206

Domestic
Relations 206

**Court system expenditures for
Wayne County in 2007**

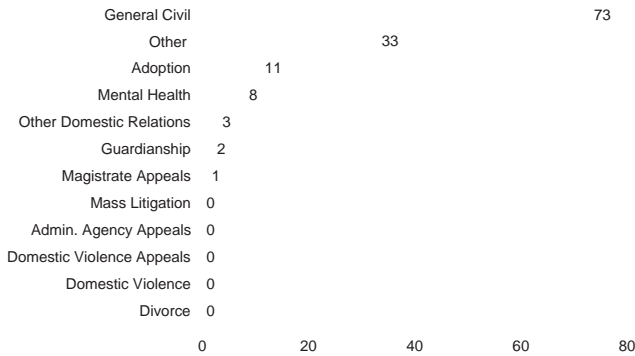
CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,235,704
FAMILY COURT	268,119
MAGISTRATE COURT	454,846
TOTAL	\$1,958,669

During 2007, 776 new cases were filed in Wayne County Family Court, a decrease of 0.51 percent from 2006. There also were 256 modification and 205 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 37.27 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Wayne County is the only county in the Seventh Family Court Circuit.

Webster County



Webster County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 216 filings in Webster County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 18.03 percent over 2006. Of those, 60.65 percent were civil cases, 30.09 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 9.26 percent were criminal cases. Webster County is in the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Braxton, Clay, and Gilmer Counties.

Webster County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Misdemeanor 2

Webster County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Delinquency -
July 15

Child Abuse -
Neglect 50

Felony 18

In 2007, there were 1,559 cases filed in Webster County Magistrate Court, a 1.7 percent increase over 2006. Criminal cases made up 75.69 percent of the filings. Another 13.28 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 11.03 percent were civil cases.

Webster County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

DNR 68

Civil 172

Motor Vehicle
545

Webster County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007

Domestic 102

Felony 96

Juvenile 9

Temp Order 0

Abuse & Neglect 0

Mental Health 0



Webster County's Courthouse in Webster Springs was constructed after the county's first courthouse burned in 1888. An addition was completed in the late 1930s.

Circuit Judges

Richard A. Facemire,
Chief Judge
Jack Alsop

Family Court Judge

Timothy R. Ruckman

Magistrates

Danny L. Markle
Gary A. Payne

Circuit Clerk

Jeanine Moore

Magistrate Clerk

Sheila E. Cogar

Chief Probation Officer

Lucy Cruickshanks

Webster County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007

Domestic
Violence 104

Domestic
Relations 36

**Court system expenditures for
Webster County in 2007**

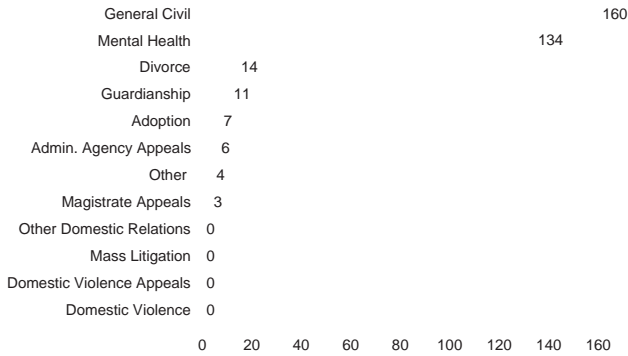
CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 725,216
FAMILY COURT	11,343
MAGISTRATE COURT	304,618
TOTAL	\$1,041,177
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 53,855
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For courtroom renovation)	\$ 80,000

During 2007, 243 new cases were filed in Webster County Family Court, a 2.53 percent increase over 2006 filings. There also were 58 modification and fifty contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 30.77 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Webster County is in the Sixteenth Family Court Circuit, which also includes Clay and Nicholas Counties.

Wetzel County

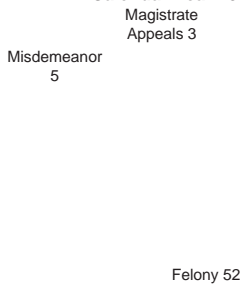


Wetzel County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

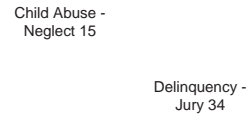


There were 454 filings in Wetzel County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 15.82 percent over 2006. Of those, 74.67 percent were civil cases, 13.22 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining 12.11 percent were juvenile cases. Wetzel County is in the Second Judicial Circuit, which also includes Marshall and Tyler Counties.

Wetzel County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

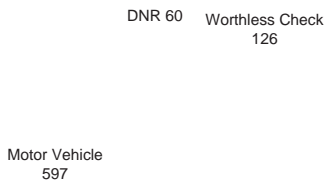


Wetzel County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

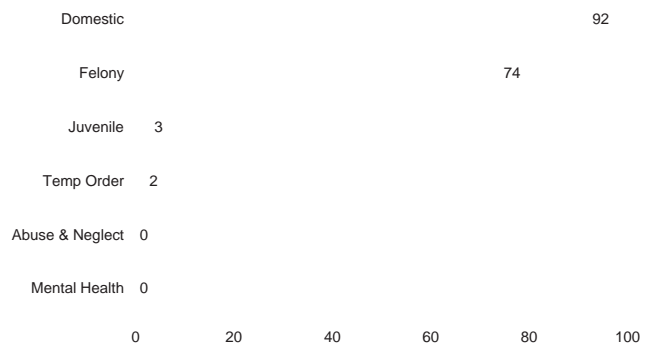


In 2007, there were 1,576 cases filed in Wetzel County Magistrate Court. Criminal cases made up 74.05 percent of the filings. Another 15.1 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 10.85 percent were special proceedings. Filings decreased 15.31 percent compared to 2006; however, this year's filings are down only 1.56 percent from those in 2003.

Wetzel County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Wetzel County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Wetzel County Courthouse was built in New Martinsville in 1901. It is the county's second courthouse and is made of cut stone.

**Wetzel County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 94

Domestic
Relations 78

During 2007, 279 new cases were filed in Wetzel County Family Court, an increase of 21.3 percent over 2006. There also were 82 modification and 51 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 32.28 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Wetzel County is in the Second Family Court Circuit, which also includes Marshall and Tyler Counties.

Circuit Judges

Mark A. Karl,
Chief Judge
John T. Madden

Family Court Judge

Robert C. Hicks

Magistrates

Judith P. Goontz
Thomas J. Shepherd

Circuit Clerk

Sharon Dulaney

Magistrate Clerk

Sharon A. Manion

Chief Probation Officer

Robert Joltes

**Court system expenditures for
Wetzel County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$351,633
FAMILY COURT	0
MAGISTRATE COURT	315,956
TOTAL	\$667,589

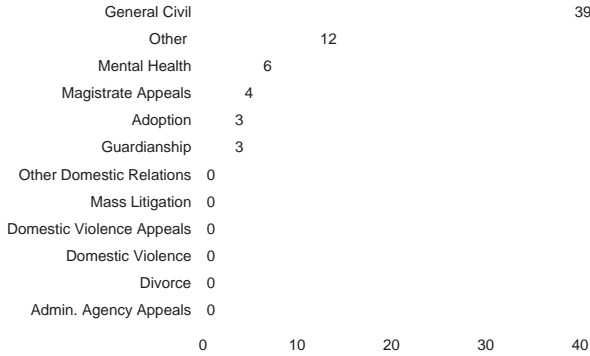
**COURTHOUSE FACILITIES
IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
(For ADA upgrade)**

\$ 80,000

Wirt County



Wirt County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 106 filings in Wirt County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 15.22 percent over 2006. Of those, 63.21 percent were civil cases, 21.7 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 15.09 percent were criminal cases. Wirt County is in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Wood County.

Wirt County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Magistrate Appeals 2

Felony 14

Wirt County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

Child Abuse - Neglect 7

Delinquency - Jury 12

In 2007, there were 959 cases filed in Wirt County Magistrate Court, an 18.45 percent decline from 2006. Criminal cases made up 81.96 percent of the filings. Another 11.57 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 6.47 percent were special proceedings.

Wirt County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

DNR 47

Civil 111

Motor Vehicle 470

Wirt County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007

Domestic		38
Felony	24	
Temp Order	0	
Juvenile	0	
Abuse & Neglect	0	
Mental Health	0	



The Wirt County Courthouse in Elizabeth, a yellow brick structure, was completed in 1911 after the county's first courthouse burned in 1910. The courthouse is built on the site of the first.

**Wirt County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 38

Domestic
Relations 22

Circuit Judges

Robert A. Waters,
Chief Judge
J.D. Beane
Jeffrey B. Reed

Family Court Judges

Annette L. Fantasia
C. Darren Tallman

Magistrates

Charles David Roberts
Janey I. Wigal

Circuit Clerk

Teresa Rollins

Magistrate Clerk

Misty L. Campbell

**Adult Chief
Probation Officer**

Jeffrey Nuckolls

**Juvenile Chief
Probation Officer**

Larry Johnson

During 2007, 106 new cases were filed in Wirt County Family Court, a decrease of 19.08 percent from 2006. There also were twenty modification and fourteen contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 24.29 percent of the Family Court caseload during 2007. Wirt County is in the Third Family Court Circuit, which includes Pleasants, Ritchie, and Wood Counties as well.

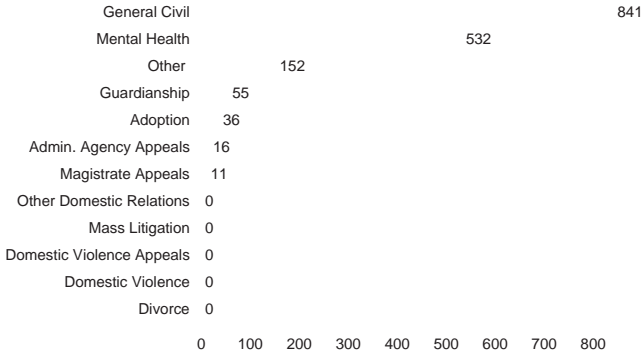
**Court system expenditures for
Wirt County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 24,994
FAMILY COURT	1,783
MAGISTRATE COURT	272,443
TOTAL	\$299,220

Wood County

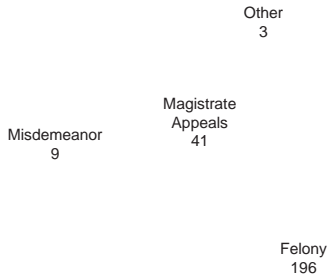


Wood County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

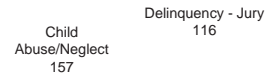


There were 2,230 filings in Wood County Circuit Court during 2007, an increase of 4.55 percent over 2006. Of those, 73.68 percent were civil cases, 15.16 percent were juvenile cases, and the remaining 11.17 percent were criminal cases. Wood County is in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Wirt County.

Wood County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

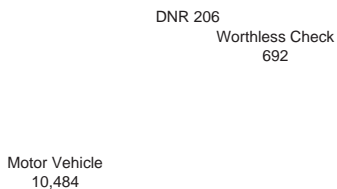


Wood County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

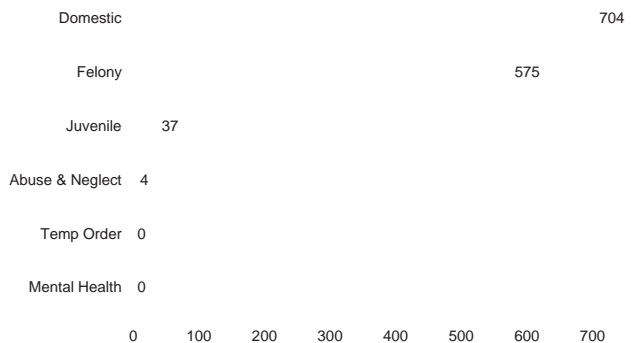


During 2007, there were 20,873 cases filed in Wood County Magistrate Court, an increase of 17.03 percent over 2006. Criminal cases made up 80.11 percent of the filings. Another 13.57 percent were civil cases, and the remaining 6.32 percent were special proceedings.

Wood County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Wood County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





Wood County’s courthouse in Parkersburg is the county’s fifth. The modified Romanesque stone building with ornate turrets, balconies, and symbolic carvings was completed in 1899. However, the building no longer is used as a courthouse. Circuit Courts are now housed in the Holmes R. Shaver Wood County Judicial Building; the Family Courts are in the Judge Donald F. Black Courthouse Annex; and the Magistrate Court is in a third building.

Circuit Judges

Robert A. Waters, Chief Judge
 J.D. Beane
 Jeffrey B. Reed

Family Court Judges

Annette L. Fantasia
 C. Darren Tallman

Magistrates

Emily J. Bradley
 Donna Jackson
 Brenda K. Marshall
 Joyce S. Purkey

Circuit Clerk

Carole Jones

Magistrate Clerk

Paulina M. Yearego

Adult Chief

Probation Officer

Jeffrey Nuckolls

Juvenile Chief

Probation Officer

Larry Johnson

**Wood County Family Court Cases Filed in
 Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
 Violence
 675

Domestic
 Relations
 423

**Court system expenditures for
 Wood County in 2007**

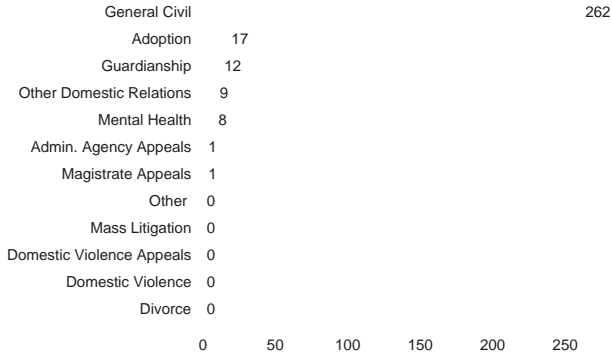
CIRCUIT COURT	\$3,387,110
FAMILY COURT	650,416
MAGISTRATE COURT	796,013
TOTAL	\$4,833,539
COURT SECURITY FUND GRANT	\$ 10,750
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT	
(For new annex roof)	\$ 72,000

During 2007, 1,633 new cases were filed in Wood County Family Court, an increase of 1.62 percent from 2006. There also were 387 modification and 384 contempt proceedings in cases that were reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 32.07 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Wood County is in the Third Family Court Circuit, which also includes Pleasants, Ritchie, and Wirt Counties.

Wyoming County

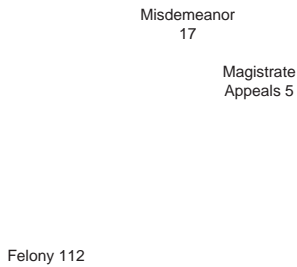


Wyoming County Circuit Court Civil Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



There were 555 filings in Wyoming County Circuit Court during 2007, a decrease of 11.62 from 2006. Of those, 55.86 percent were civil cases, 24.14 percent were criminal cases, and the remaining twenty percent were juvenile cases. Wyoming County comprises the 27th Judicial Circuit.

Wyoming County Circuit Court Criminal Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

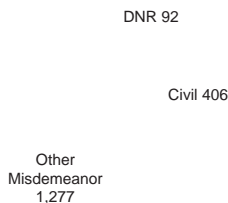


Wyoming County Circuit Court Juvenile Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007

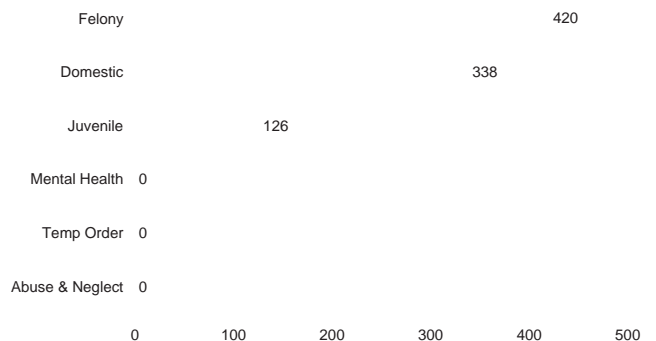


In 2007, there were 3,574 cases filed in Wyoming County Magistrate Court, a decrease of 2.54 percent from 2006. Criminal cases made up 68.86 percent of the filings. Another 24.73 percent were special proceedings, and the remaining 6.41 percent were civil cases.

Wyoming County Magistrate Court Cases Filed in Calendar Year 2007



Wyoming County Magistrate Court Special Proceedings in Calendar Year 2007





The Wyoming County Courthouse in Pineville was built between 1916 and 1918 of native stone. The county's original courthouse is still in use, as is an annex added in 1958.

**Wyoming County Family Court Cases Filed in
Calendar Year 2007**

Domestic
Violence 335

Domestic
Relations 205

Circuit Judge

John S. Hrko,
Chief Judge

Family Court Judges

H. Suzanne McGraw
Louise G. Staton

Magistrates

Wilburn W. Bolt
(Resigned December 31, 2007)
James R. Boles
John L. Daniels

Circuit Clerk

David Stover

Magistrate Clerk

Carol D. Garrett

**Chief Probation
Officer**

Deborah Wiles

During 2007, 763 new cases were filed in Wyoming County Family Court, an increase of 15.08 percent from 2006. There also were 295 modification and 205 contempt proceedings in cases reopened during the year, which were not counted as new cases filed. Those proceedings accounted for 39.59 percent of the family court caseload during 2007. Wyoming County is in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, which also includes Raleigh County.

**Court system expenditures for
Wyoming County in 2007**

CIRCUIT COURT	\$ 831,615
FAMILY COURT	31,723
MAGISTRATE COURT	500,253
TOTAL	\$1,363,591
COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT GRANT (For elevator installation)	\$ 80,000