

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

CHIEF MAGISTRATE ALAN G. DAVIS



The Justice of the Peace Court serves the citizens of Delaware with efficient and accessible justice. The court strives to provide experiences where all who enter are treated with integrity, fairness, and respect to build trust with those we serve. Due to the hard work of staff, the court returned to full operations at all locations and, despite staffing shortages caused by high turnover rates, has significantly reduced the backlogs from the pandemic and is reducing scheduling times for new cases.

Statistical Overview

In Fiscal Year 2023, the court processed 355,334 filings. Criminal cases accounted for 324,919 of those filings, with the remaining 30,415 coming through civil matters. Although there was a 2.67% overall increase over Fiscal Year 2022 filings, the increase in civil filings (10.83%) was significantly higher than the increase in criminal filings (1.97%). Our civil locations, even with staffing challenges, increased dispositions by 25% over Fiscal Year 2022.

Investing in the Future

The year 2023 was one of investment in facilities, operations, and staff pay to both offer improved access and technology for operational efficiency for members of the public as well as improve personnel recruitment and retention for court staff statewide.

To improve accessibility and technology, Justice of the Peace Court 2 moved from Hudson Way, Rehoboth to 16283 Willow Creek Road, Lewes. Justice of the Peace Court 2 had been located on Hudson Way since 1998 and needed to acquire a larger space for court staff as well as additional



The new Justice of the Peace Court 2 at 16283 Willow Creek Road, Building 5 in Lewes.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

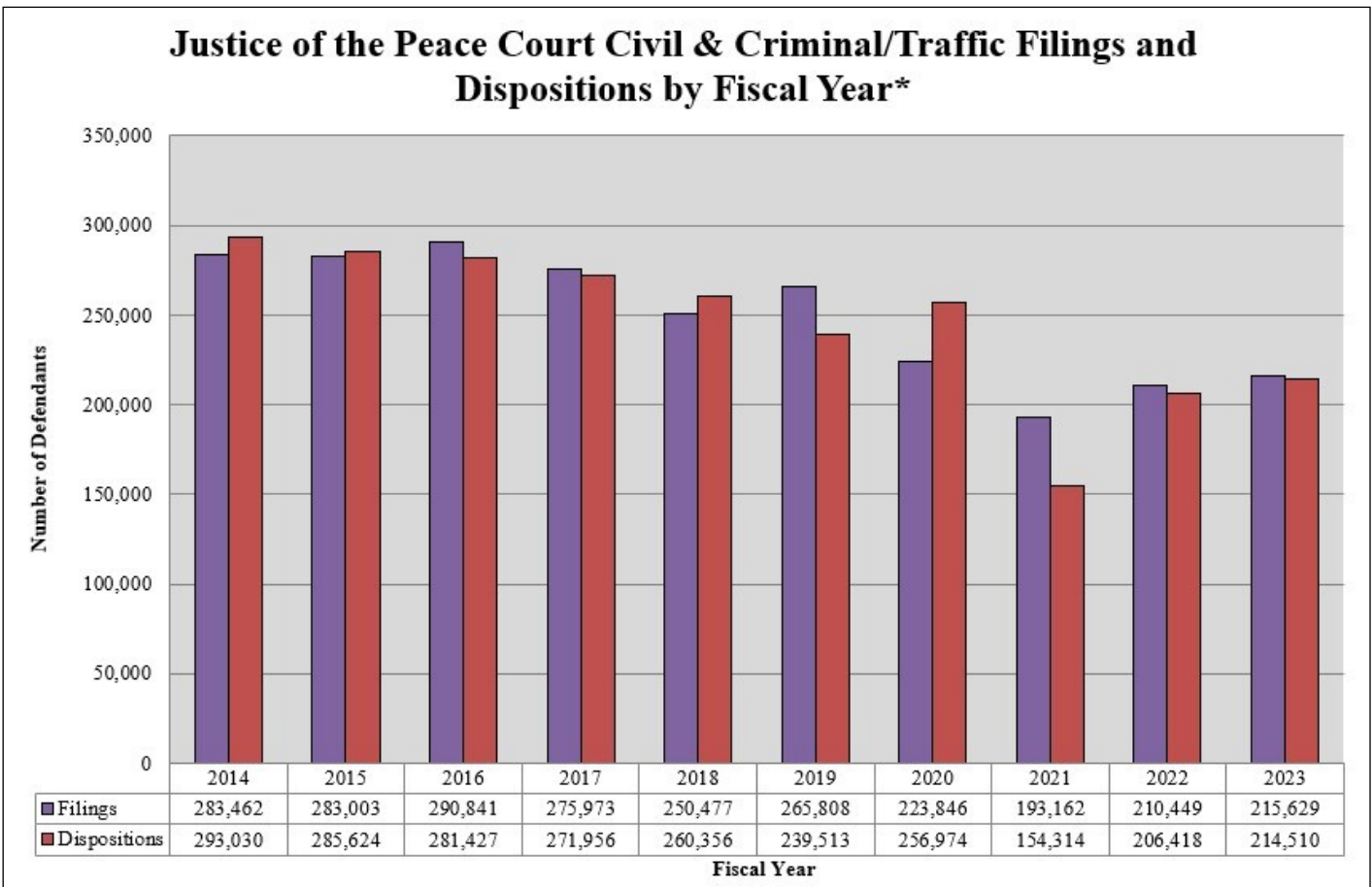
parking for the public. This new location, five miles north of the previous site, is easily accessible from Route 1. The new construction allowed for installation of a more modern security system and provided an additional 1,000 square feet of workspace for court staff.

To improve operational efficiency, the individual bail accounts at each criminal court location were consolidated into a new central bail account for the court. This eliminated the need to manually write checks to transfer bail between locations, and it strengthened internal controls. Reconciliations are performed by the accounting department instead of by each location. This change allows the court to take advantage of online reports provided by the case management system to track all bail transactions through a shared online bail log. Additional-

ly, the court is pursuing an option to electronically transfer bail to other courts with a pilot program with Family Court in New Castle County in development for 2024.

Conclusion

As we move past the effects of the pandemic, the Justice of the Peace Court is poised to continue its mission of serving the public of this state efficiently, effectively and fairly. With better facilities, improved processes and dedicated staff we will meet and overcome our future challenges as a highly capable member of Delaware’s Judicial Branch. ♦

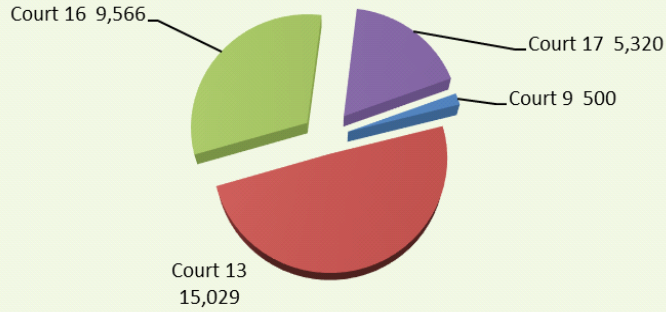


*Criminal filings and disposition information is by defendant

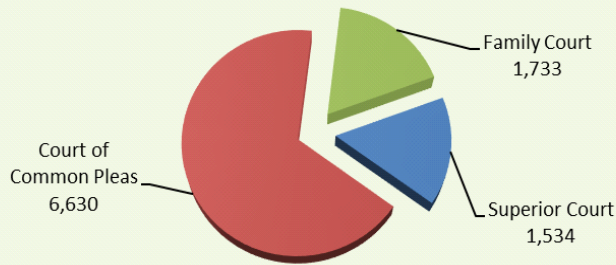
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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

TOTAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE CIVIL CASES FILED BY COURT FISCAL YEAR 2023



CAPIASES CLEARED BY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT FOR OTHER COURTS FISCAL YEAR 2023



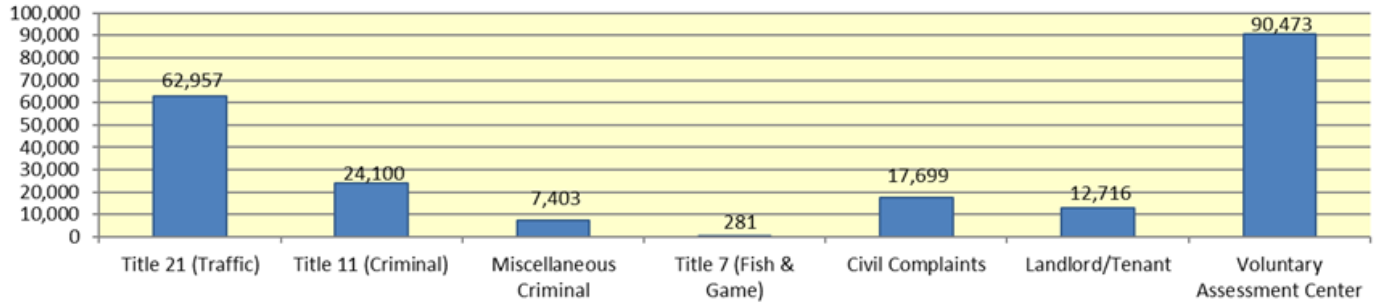
ABOVE: Justice of the Peace Court Deputy Chief of Security Richard Fanta at the University of Delaware Spring 2023 Career Fair.

AT LEFT: Justice of the Peace Court staff at a welcome/information table outside the Kent County Courthouse during the Nov. 2, 2023 Safe Surrender event.



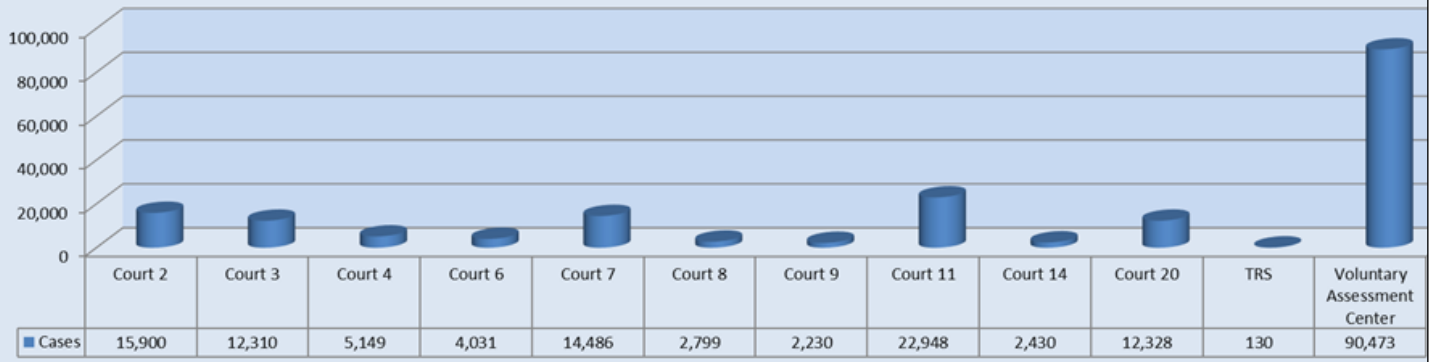
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

**NUMBER OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT FILINGS* BY TYPE
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

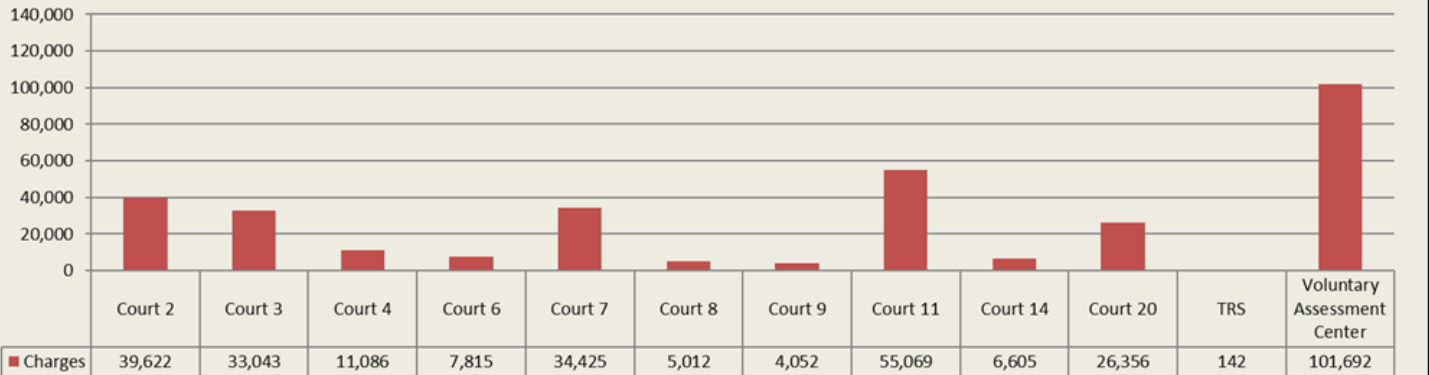


*Criminal filings are by defendant.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC CASES BY DEFENDANT BY COURT FISCAL YEAR 2023



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC CHARGES BY COURT FISCAL YEAR 2023



JP Court 10 has been closed (merging with Court 20) prior to this Fiscal Year. As a result it has been removed from any charts.

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

NEW CASTLE COUNTY JUDGES



Back Row (left to right): Shameka Booker, Peter Burcat, John Potts, Gerald Ross, III, Earl MacFarlane, James Hanby, Sr., Michelle Michini-Adam, Christopher Portante, Alex Peterson, III, Rodney Vodery, Nicholas Brock, Bobby Hoof, Walter Newton

Front Row (left to right): Amanda Moyer, Susan Ufberg, Marie Page, Katharine B. Ross, Deputy Chief Magistrate Sean McCormick, Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis, Mary Ellen Naugle, Nina Bawa, Cheryl McCabe-Stroman

Not Pictured: Bracy Dixon, Jr., Shanaya Eyong, Beatrice Freel, Thomas M. Kenney, Kerry Kowal, Shelley Losito, Maria Perez-Chambers, and David R. Skelley

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

KENT COUNTY JUDGES



Back Row (left to right): Michael Green, Alexander Montano, James A. Murray, D. Kenneth Cox

Front Row (left to right): Deputy Chief Magistrate Kevin Wilson, Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis, Judy Smith, Nicole Alston-Jackson

Not Pictured: . Dwight D. Dillard, W. G. Edmanson, II, Jamie Hicks, Michael P. Sherlock, and Dana Tracy

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

SUSSEX COUNTY JUDGES



Back Row (left to right): Scott Willey, Christopher A. Bradley, Richard D. Comly, John R. Hudson, Candace Whitelock, Kristine Kellenbenz, William Patrick Wood, Brett Graves, Matthew Tingle

Front Row (left to right): Terri Davis, Maria Castro, Deputy Chief Magistrate Deborah Keenan, Chief Magistrate Alan G. Davis, Catherine Hester, Leah Chandler, Stephani Adams

Not Pictured: John Adams, Mirta Collazo, Bethany Crowley, Jennifer Sammons.