

A photograph of the Plymouth Trial Court building, a modern structure with a mix of brick and light-colored stone or concrete panels. Large glass windows are visible on the left side. The building is set against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and a paved area with several cylindrical concrete planters. The text "PLYMOUTH TRIAL COURT" is mounted on the stone facade of the building.

PLYMOUTH  
TRIAL  
COURT

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE **STATE OF THE**  
**MASSACHUSETTS COURT SYSTEM**  
**FY2013**



SUPREME JUDICIAL COURT  
JOHN ADAMS COURTHOUSE

RODERICK L. IRELAND  
CHIEF JUSTICE

March 29, 2014

His Excellency Deval L. Patrick  
Governor of the Commonwealth

Honorable Therese Murray  
President of the Massachusetts Senate

Honorable Robert A. DeLeo  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Governor Patrick, President Murray, and Speaker DeLeo:

Pursuant to G. L. c. 211B, § 9, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report on the State of the Massachusetts Court System for Fiscal Year 2013, which presents a wide array of accomplishments. Across the state, judges, clerks, probation staff, and other court employees demonstrate their genuine commitment to delivering justice.

Through the collaboration and support of the Executive and Legislative Branches, the Judiciary has identified new opportunities to expand access to justice and enhance operations. In 2013, the Supreme Judicial Court approved a Trial Court strategic plan developed with input from court staff and external stakeholders. The plan, *One Mission: Justice with Dignity and Speed*, sets forth a challenging blueprint for the next several years that includes a commitment to expand specialty courts, resource centers, and technology, such as videoconferencing and e-filing.

Your leadership and the improving economy enabled the courts to stabilize operations in fiscal year 2013 and to focus on the delivery of justice. I am quite proud of the great work accomplished by my colleagues across the court system as highlighted in this report, which is posted on our new and improved website at [www.mass.gov/courts](http://www.mass.gov/courts).

I greatly value our partnership and look forward to a continued collaboration that will enhance justice across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roderick L. Ireland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roderick" being the most prominent.

Roderick L. Ireland





**The Massachusetts Court System  
Fiscal Year 2013**

**Supreme Judicial Court**

Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland

**Appeals Court**

Chief Justice Phillip Rapoza

**Trial Court**

Chief Justice Robert A. Mulligan (Retired 7/2013)

Chief Justice Paula M. Carey (Effective 7/2013)

Court Administrator Harry Spence

**Boston Municipal Court**

Chief Justice Charles R. Johnson (3/2003 to 1/2014)

Chief Justice Roberto Ronquillo, Jr. (Effective 1/2014)

**District Court**

Chief Justice Lynda M. Connolly (Retired 3/2013)

Chief Justice Paul F. LoConto (3/2013 to 9/2013)

Chief Justice Paul C. Dawley (Effective 9/2013)

**Housing Court**

Chief Justice Steven D. Pierce

**Juvenile Court**

Chief Justice Michael F. Edgerton

**Land Court**

Chief Justice Karyn F. Scheier (2/2003 to 1/2014)

Chief Justice Judith C. Cutler (Effective 1/2014)

**Probate & Family Court**

Chief Justice Paula M. Carey (9/2007 to 7/2013)

Chief Justice Angela M. Ordoñez (Effective 7/2013)

**Superior Court**

Chief Justice Barbara J. Rouse

**Office of the Commissioner of Probation**

Ronald P. Corbett, Jr., Acting Commissioner (Retired 1/2013)

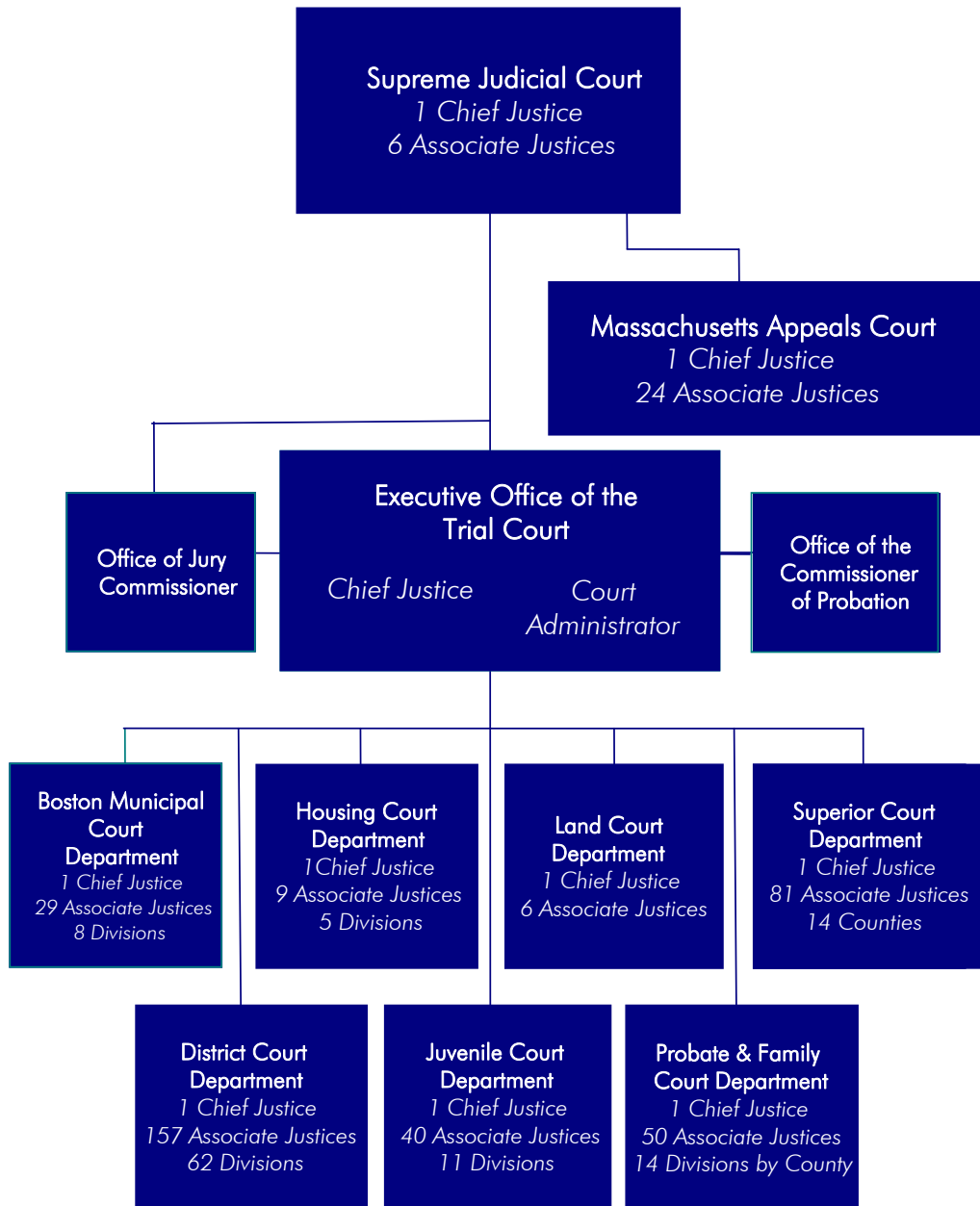
Ellen G. Slaney, Acting Commissioner

Edward J. Dolan, Commissioner (Appointed 6/2013)

**Office of Jury Commissioner**

Pamela J. Wood, Esq., Commissioner

# The Massachusetts Court System



The number of justices for all courts is the total authorized by law.



ANNUAL REPORT ON THE  
**STATE OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS COURT SYSTEM  
FY2013**

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# Supreme Judicial Court

[www.mass.gov/courts/sjc](http://www.mass.gov/courts/sjc)

**T**he Supreme Judicial Court (SJC), originally called the Superior Court of Judicature, was established in 1692 and is the oldest appellate court in continuous existence in the Western Hemisphere. It serves as the leader of the Massachusetts court system, holding final appellate authority regarding the decisions of all lower courts and exercising general superintendence over the administration of the lower courts.

The full Court hears appeals on a broad range of criminal and civil cases from September through May. Single justice sessions are held each week throughout the year for certain motions, bail reviews, bar discipline proceedings, petitions for admission to the bar, and a variety of other statutory proceedings.

The full bench renders approximately 200 written decisions each year; the single justices decide a total of approximately 600 cases annually.

The SJC also has oversight responsibility in varying degrees, according to statutes, with several affiliated agencies of the judicial branch, including the Board of Bar Overseers, Board of Bar Examiners, Clients' Security Board, Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, Massachusetts Mental Health Legal Advisors' Committee, and Correctional Legal Services, Inc.

## Supreme Judicial Court for Suffolk County (Single Justice Session)

The SJC for Suffolk County is known as the single justice session of the Supreme Judicial Court. An associate justice essentially acts as a trial judge, as was the function of the first justices, or as an administrator of the Court's supervisory

power under G.L. c. 211, § 3. The county court, as it is often referred to, has original, concurrent, interlocutory and appellate jurisdiction on a statewide basis. In addition to the single justice caseload, the justice sits on bar docket matters.

## Supreme Judicial Court: Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

### Annual Address to the Legal Community

In his annual address to the legal community at the Massachusetts Bar Association's Bench-Bar Symposium in October 2013, Chief Justice Roderick L. Ireland summarized his main priorities, and noted the progress the judicial branch has made towards its numerous initiatives. He noted that the court's ongoing efforts to build bridges with the communities it serves, increasing access to justice with specialty courts and other innovations, and new educational outreach programs and services for court users exemplify how the court system continues its focus on achieving excellence.

## Court Management Advisory Board Members 2013

**Glenn Mangurian, Chair**

Consultant, Frontier Works LLC

**Edward R. Bedrosian, Jr., Esq.**

First Assistant Attorney General,  
Ex-Officio Designee of the Attorney General

**Hon. John J. Curran, Jr.**

Retired First Justice, Leominster District Court

**Gail Garinger**

The Child Advocate, Office of The Child Advocate, and  
former First Justice of the Middlesex County Juvenile Court

**Lisa C. Goodheart, Esq.**

Partner, Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak & Cohen, PC

**John A. Grossman, Esq.**

Partner and General Counsel, Third Sector Capital Partners

**Scott Harshbarger, Esq.**

Senior Counsel, Proskauer, and former Attorney General

**Allen B. Kachalia, MD, JD**

Associate Chief Quality Officer, Brigham & Women's Hospital,  
Boston

**Gerard T. Leone, Jr., Esq.**

Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP, and former District Attorney for  
Middlesex County

**Liam Lowney**

Executive Director, Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance,  
Ex-Officio

**Denise Squillante, Esq.**

Denise Squillante PC

## Court Management Advisory Board

Following the recommendation of the Visiting Committee on Management in the Courts (Monan Committee), the Massachusetts Legislature in 2003 created the Court Management Advisory Board (CMAB) to advise and assist the Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Chief Justice of the Trial Court, and the Court Administrator on matters pertaining to judicial administration and management and all matters of judicial reform. In fiscal year 2013, the CMAB met regularly to support the Trial Court in its pursuit of continuous quality improvement, strategic innovation and managerial excellence.

## Court Improvement Program

During fiscal year 2013, the Supreme Judicial Court received Court Improvement Program (CIP) grants from the federal government totaling more than \$600,000. These federal funds enable state court systems to improve court processes and functioning related to child welfare cases. CIP-supported initiatives include funding for recall judges in the Juvenile Court; the National Adoption Day celebration in Massachusetts; a website with resources for child welfare professionals; and training programs for lawyers who represent children or parents.

## Pro Bono Legal Services

The SJC's Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Services works to promote volunteer legal work to help people of limited means who are in need of legal representation, in accordance with SJC Rule 6.1, Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service. In recognition of outstanding commitment to providing volunteer legal services for the poor and disadvantaged, the Standing Committee presented the 12th annual Adams Pro Bono Publico Awards in October 2012 to two Massachusetts attorneys – **Susan Corcoran**

and **Dorothy Varon**; a Massachusetts law firm – **DLA Piper LLC**; and a recent law school graduate – **Steven Dzubak**. The committee acknowledged those participating in the Court's Pro Bono Honor Roll, a recognition program for those who have met the program criteria by providing significant pro bono legal services. The Pro Bono Committee also visited Suffolk University Law School and Boston University Law School in fiscal year 2013 as part of its ongoing commitment to pay regular visits to the Massachusetts law schools to learn about and promote the pro bono activities of the law students.

### Access to Justice Commission

The Commission's goal is to achieve equal justice for all persons in the Commonwealth by providing leadership and vision to, and coordination with, the many organizations and interested persons involved in providing and improving access to justice for those unable to afford counsel. Action groups are working on this mission in the following focus areas: Delivery of Legal Services, Technology and Website, and Administrative Justice, along with Trial Court Practice Groups for the Boston Municipal Court, District Court, Housing Court and the Probate and Family Court.

### SJC Rule 1:19 Governing Electronic Access to Courts

In March 2012, the Supreme Judicial Court approved amendments to Rule 1:19 governing cameras in the courtroom, effective September 2012. Among the changes, the amended rule allows registered news media with permission of the judge to use electronic devices in the courtroom. It defines news media to include members of the media who are not employed by a news organization, but who are regularly engaged in the reporting and publishing of news



or information about matters of public interest. The rule requires all news media to register with the Public Information Office. As of the end of December 2013, 106 news organizations and 34 news media individuals not employed by a news media organization have registered.

### Massachusetts Guide to Evidence

Each year, the Executive Committee of the Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee on Massachusetts Evidence Law monitors developments in the law of evidence and prepares a new edition of the *Massachusetts Guide to Evidence* that incorporates significant legal developments. In fiscal year 2013, the Executive Committee prepared the 2013 edition, which was released in February 2013. The 2013 edition is the fifth annual edition.



## **SJC Standing Advisory Committee on Professionalism**

The SJC Standing Advisory Committee on Professionalism was established in fiscal year 2013 to oversee the implementation of new SJC Rule 3:16 on Practicing with Professionalism, which requires a mandatory course on professionalism for new lawyers admitted to the Massachusetts bar on or after September 1, 2013. The Committee's duties and responsibilities include: designating approved course providers; making recommendations to the Court regarding the fees to be charged for the course and any circumstances under which the fees may be waived; evaluating the course providers; reporting to the Court on at least an annual basis on the implementation of the course and an assessment of whether the program is accomplishing its intended goals and outcomes; and overseeing the administration of all aspects of SJC Rule 3:16. In January 2013, the Committee issued a Request for Response seeking proposals from organizations that wished to be considered as an approved provider of a Practicing with Professionalism Course. After a lengthy evaluation process, the Committee in June 2013 selected four approved providers for the course -- the Boston Bar Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association, the Greater Lynn Bar Association and Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Inc.

## **Judicial Evaluation**

The judicial evaluation program has facilitated the collection and processing of approximately 140,000 judicial evaluations from attorneys since its introduction in 2001. The program provides narrative comments and aggregated statistical assessments to judges concerning their professional, on-bench performance in an effort to enhance the performance of individual judges and the judiciary as a whole.

In fiscal year 2013, three rounds of judicial evaluation were conducted. In the first round, 46 Middlesex County judges in the District, Housing, Juvenile, and Probate and Family Courts were evaluated, yielding 4,394 attorney evaluations, 742 employee evaluations and 751 juror evaluations. In the second round, 48 Worcester County judges in the Superior, District, Housing, Juvenile, and Probate and Family Courts were evaluated, yielding 3,201 attorney evaluations, 1,020 employee evaluations and 925 juror evaluations. In the third round, 43 Essex County judges in the Superior, District, Housing, Juvenile, and Probate and Family Courts were evaluated, yielding 2,928 attorney responses, 678 employee responses and 540 juror responses. Overall, on average in fiscal year 2013, each of the 137 judges evaluated received feedback from 77 attorneys and 18 court employees and 67 judges received an average of 33 juror evaluations.

## **Judicial Mentoring**

The J2J Program is a collaborative, judge-to-judge peer mentor coaching program that is one of the Judiciary's most significant resources for judges. It is designed to build and grow individual capacity along the entire spectrum of judicial service. Among its features, the mentoring program assists in transitioning newly-appointed judges to the bench and integrating them into the judicial system, acts as a resource to address performance issues, and is an ongoing network of care and support for judges throughout their careers. The program has over sixty trained mentor coaches from all seven trial court departments. During fiscal year 2013, mentor coaches attended two learning labs and Trial Court Chief Justices attended two administrative meetings. In addition, approximately forty-three judges attended a two-day foundation training to become qualified to serve as mentor coaches, growing the program significantly.

## Committee to Study the Code of Judicial Conduct

In September 2012, the Justices appointed a 16-member Committee to Study the Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct. The committee was the result of a recommendation of both the American Bar Association and a committee appointed by the Justices in 2011 to propose amendments to the Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct regarding judges' ability to speak to the public on matters relating to the administration of justice. In 2007, the American Bar Association adopted a new Model Code of Judicial Conduct which wholly reorganized the 1990 Model Code and also made a number of significant substantive changes. The Committee to Study the Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct will recommend both organizational and substantive revisions to the existing Massachusetts Code of Judicial Conduct.

## Community Outreach

In keeping with John Adams' passion for justice, community, and learning, the Supreme Judicial Court uses the John Adams Courthouse to provide free educational opportunities for students, educators, and the public. In fiscal year 2013, these opportunities included: student group visits to the courthouse to attend oral arguments, meet with a justice or watch a dramatic performance of an historical event;

teacher training sessions; and the Court's annual celebrations of Student Government Day and Law Day. The Supreme Judicial Court also entered its eighth year of successful partnership with Theatre Espresso to perform educational dramas at the John Adams Courthouse for school children. The Supreme Judicial Court's website continues to provide easy access and updated information for litigants, lawyers, educators and the general public. Webcasts of the Court's oral arguments continue to be available on the website through collaboration with Suffolk University Law School.

## Judicial Youth Corps

The Supreme Judicial Court conducted the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the Judicial Youth Corps, a legal education and internship program for Boston, Worcester and Springfield public high school students. In 2013, the Springfield program was added with the first group of Springfield students beginning in 2014. With the volunteer assistance of judges, lawyers, court employees, bar associations and other supporters, the 14-week program teaches students about the rule of law and the role of the judicial branch. The program has two components: educational sessions in May and June, and summer internships in court offices in July and August. The Public Information Office administers the program, which is funded by foundations and grants.

## Supreme Judicial Court Statistics

<b>Caseload</b>	<b>FY2012</b>	<b>FY2013</b>
Direct Entries	120	89
Direct Appellate Review - Applications Allowed	36	45
Direct Appellate Review - Applications Considered	78	94
Further Appellate Review - Applications Allowed	29	37
Further Appellate Review - Applications Considered	814	826
Transferred by SJC on its Motion from Review of Entire Appeals Court caseload	46	54
Gross Entries	231	225
Dismissals	14	29
Net Entries	217	196
<b>Dispositions</b>	<b>FY2012</b>	<b>FY2013</b>
Full Opinions	155	164
Rescripts	40	44
Total Opinions	195	208
Total Appeals Decided <sup>1</sup>	200	211

<sup>1</sup> Indicates the total number of appeals resolved by the Court's opinions.

## Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justices and Officials

As of June 30, 2013

### Chief Justice

Roderick L. Ireland

### Justices

Francis X. Spina

Robert J. Cordy

Margot G. Botsford

Ralph D. Gants

Fernande R.V. Duffly

Barbara A. Lenk

### Executive Director

Thomas G. Ambrosino

### Clerk for the Commonwealth

Francis V. Kenneally (Effective 11/2013)

Jane Kenworthy Lewis (Acting, 8/2013 to 11/2013)

Susan Mellen (Retired 7/2013)

### Clerk for The County of Suffolk

Maura S. Doyle





# Massachusetts Appeals Court

[www.mass.gov/courts/appealscourt](http://www.mass.gov/courts/appealscourt)

**T**he Appeals Court was established in 1972 to serve as the Commonwealth's intermediate appellate court. It is a court of general jurisdiction that hears criminal, civil and administrative matters. All appeals from the Trial Court (with the exception of first degree murder cases) are thus initially entered in the Appeals Court. Similarly, the court receives all appeals from the Appellate Tax Board, the Industrial Accident Review Board and the Employee Relations Board.

Although the Appeals Court is responsible for deciding all such appeals, every year a small number are taken up by the Supreme Judicial Court for direct appellate review. During fiscal year 2013, the Supreme Judicial Court reviewed 99 cases out of 1,993 appeals filed. The remaining cases must be decided or otherwise resolved (e.g. by settlement or dismissal) at the Appeals Court.

After a case is decided by the Appeals Court, the parties may request further review by the Supreme Judicial Court, but such relief is granted in very few cases. The Appeals Court is thus the court of last resort for the overwhelming majority of Massachusetts litigants seeking appellate relief.

By statute, the Appeals Court has a chief justice and 24 associate justices. The court also currently has one retired justice serving on recall status, as provided by law. The justices of the court sit in panels of three, with the composition of judicial panels changing each month.

In addition to its panel jurisdiction, the Appeals Court also runs a continuous single justice session, with a separate docket. The single justice may review interlocutory orders and orders for injunctive relief issued by certain Trial Court departments, as well as requests for review of summary process appeal bonds, certain attorney's fee awards, motions for stays of civil proceedings

or criminal sentences pending appeal, and motions to review impoundment orders.

The Appeals Court again met the appellate court guideline for the scheduling of cases. All cases briefed by February 1, had been argued or submitted to panels for decision without argument by June 2013.

## Massachusetts Appeals Court: Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

### Appellate Caseload

The Appeals Court caseload for fiscal year 2013 decreased 4% but still came close to 2,000 cases; the prior four fiscal years have all exceeded 2,000 cases, filings have continued at a high level for the last five years. The decrease was in criminal filings, while civil filings actually increased slightly. The court decided 1,351 cases, which almost equaled the number of net entries.

### Technology Enhancement

In September, the Clerk's Office was able to take advantage of improvements in digital technology, to begin emailing counsel regarding their availability for oral argument during upcoming sessions. Employing the responses, the court now

constructs the oral argument list on the basis of counsel's availability. This practice has been embraced with enthusiasm by the bar and has virtually ended the practice of filing motions to continue oral argument.

### Judicial Evaluation

The court recently completed a multi-year process of judicial evaluation. Each Appeals Court Justice submitted multiple opinions that were read and commented upon by judges of the trial court department in which the case originated. A Supreme Judicial Court Justice further scrutinized some opinions. The written feedback supplied by each evaluator was employed by the Appeals Court Justices to further enhance their opinion writing skills.

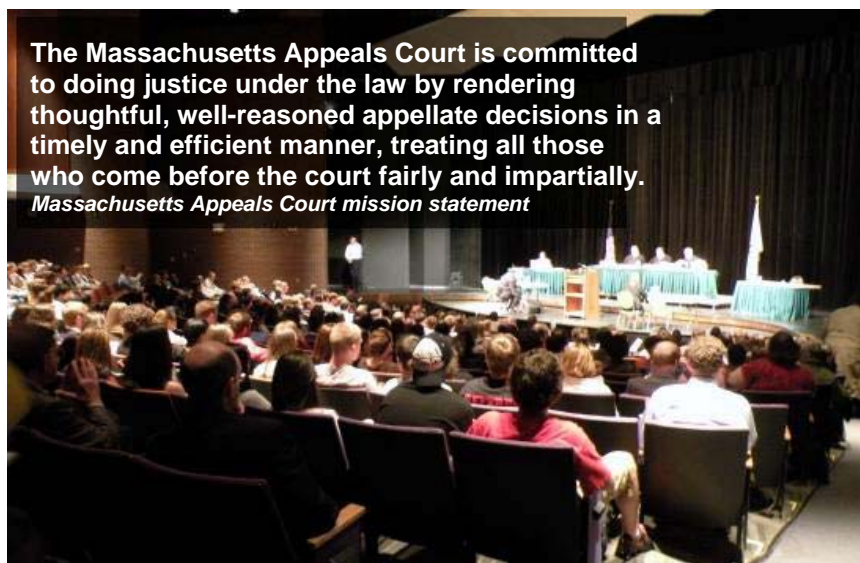
### Sessions in Other Locations

The Court conducted six sessions at locations other than the John Adams Courthouse in Boston. Sittings were held at four of the Commonwealth's law schools – Western New England, University of Massachusetts School of Law, New England Law School and

Massachusetts School of Law. In addition, a three-judge panel sat at the Trial Court facility in Worcester, where a special law day session was held. Groups of local high school, college and law school students were also able to attend these sessions. After the sessions the justices met with the students, explaining the Court's operating procedures and answering questions about the appellate process.

### Personnel Transitions

Judicial vacancies created last year by the retirement of Justices James McHugh and David Mills were filled in the spring of this sitting year by Justices Geraldine Hines and Diana Maldonado, respectively.



## Appeals Court Statistics FY2013

Sources/Types of Appeals	Civil	Criminal	Total
Superior Court	638	494	1,132
BMC/District Court	55	446	501
Probate & Family Court	128		128
Juvenile Court	78	18	96
Land Court	51		51
Housing Court	41		41
Appeals Court Single Justice	0	1	1
Industrial Accident Review Board	28		28
Appellate Tax Board	13	0	13
Employment Relations Board	2	0	2
<b>Total Fiscal Year 2013</b>	<b>1,034</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>1,993</b>
<i>Total Fiscal Year 2012</i>	<i>1,030</i>	<i>1,041</i>	<i>2,071</i>
Dispositions			Total
<b>Total Panel Entries</b>			<b>1,993</b>
Transferred to Supreme Judicial Court			99
Dismissed/settled/withdrawn/consolidated			526
<b>Net Annual Entries</b>			<b>1,368</b>
	Civil	Criminal	Total
<b>Total Decisions</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>1,351</b>
Decision of lower court affirmed	530	550	1,080
Decision of lower court reversed	178	89	167
Other result reached	65	39	104
Published Opinions	104	69	173
Summary Dispositions	569	609	1,178



## Massachusetts Appeals Court Justices and Officials

As of June 30, 2013

### Chief Justice

Philip Rapoza

### Justices

Peter W. Agnes, Jr.	Scott L. Kafker
Janis M. Berry	R. Marc Kantrowitz
Frederick L. Brown (recall)	Gary S. Katzmman
Judd J. Carhart	Diana Maldonado
Cynthia J. Cohen	William J. Meade
Elsbeth B. Cypher	James R. Milkey
Francis R. Fecteau	Peter J. Rubin
R. Malcolm Graham	Mitchell J. Sikora, Jr.
Andrew R. Grainger	Mary T. Sullivan
Joseph A. Grasso, Jr.	Joseph A. Trainor
Mark V. Green	Ariane D. Vuono
Sydney Hanlon	Gabrielle R. Wolohojian
Geraldine S. Hines	

### Court Administrator

Gilbert P. Lima, Jr.

### Clerk

Joseph F. Stanton

# Massachusetts Trial Court

[www.mass.gov/courts/trialcourt](http://www.mass.gov/courts/trialcourt)

In fiscal year 2013, the Massachusetts Trial Court completed a strategic planning initiative, implemented structural reforms, managed a high volume of drug lab cases through extensive use of video-conferencing, and moved to stabilize operations by lifting the hiring freeze, as the state's budget challenges were eased by an improving economy. The Legislature approved a fiscal year 2013 appropriation of \$561 million and for fiscal year 2014 increased it to \$585.5 million to expand Project MORR (Massachusetts Offender Recidivism Reduction) and the use of videoconferencing, as well as to fund collective bargaining agreements, judicial salary adjustments, and additional critical staff positions.

In fiscal year 2013, the Trial Court adopted recommended revisions to personnel policies and resumed hiring to address staffing shortages. Thirty court divisions with public hours of operation restricted for managing case backlogs began to resume full schedules and all locations returned to full public hours by September 2013. Staffing by the end of the fiscal year reached 6,300 to remain level with the prior year, after five years of decline. Efforts to enhance access to justice included a pilot program to extend hours of operation at the Brooke Courthouse and the identification of courts to pilot Court Service Centers.

A new Commissioner of Probation was selected by a committee that included external community leaders. The Probation Service now operates as a data-driven, results-oriented organization, committed to using evidence-based practices to ensure public safety through effective supervision, support and services.

An e-filing working group developed interim rules and selected a vendor to provide software and service to work with the Trial Court's MassCourts web-based case management platform. Public access to MassCourts case information was expanded and a

major upgrade of the Judiciary's public website was initiated in partnership with mass.gov.

The Chief Justices and Deputy Court Administrators of the Boston Municipal, District, Housing, Juvenile, Land, Probate and Family, and Superior Court departments, the Probation Commissioner, the Jury Commissioner, and the Directors of the Office of Court Management met operational challenges and ensured the performance of their individual departments as they oversaw court operations statewide. The professional commitment and dedication of the state's judges, clerks, probation and other court staff ensured the Trial Court's ability to manage close to one million cases filed.

In accordance with G.L. Chapter 211B § 9A, this report presents the Trial Court's Recommendations and Plans, along with the State of the Court System. The Highlights of fiscal year 2013 include a range of significant accomplishments across all departments.

## Trial Court Recommendations and Plans for Fiscal Year 2014

### Strategic Plan Issued – *One Mission: Justice with Dignity and Speed*

In June 2013, the Supreme Judicial Court approved the strategic plan developed by the Trial Court with significant input from court staff and external stakeholders. An inclusive and collaborative process enabled the Trial Court to develop a comprehensive, challenging plan to achieve *One Mission: Justice with Dignity and Speed*. The plan represents dynamic change across the Trial Court on many fronts. It includes operational and policy strategies with detailed tactics in six areas to move the organization forward over the next three years. The six tactic areas are: Governance & Communications, Facilities Improvement, Workforce Development, Technology Enhancements, Process Improvements, and Innovative Practices.

An interdepartmental Process Steering Committee guided data collection activities and the development of preliminary recommendations that were discussed and ultimately approved by court leaders. Input was



sought from all court staff and external stakeholders including the Executive and Legislative branches, lawyers, prosecutors, and self-represented litigants.

For this report, the Trial Court's plans and accomplishments are organized as follows:

- **Broaden Access to Justice:** Improve coordination of resources
- **Enhance Public Safety:** Use evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism
- **Increase Efficiency:** Use technology and process measurement to improve operational effectiveness
- **Invest in Community:** Ensure functional, well-utilized courthouses, and ensure engaged communities



The Trial Court is committed to fair and impartial administration of justice; protection of constitutional and statutory rights and liberties; equal access to justice for all in a safe and dignified environment; efficient, effective and accountable resolution of disputes; prompt and courteous service to the public by committed and dedicated professionals utilizing best practices in a manner that inspires public trust and confidence.  
*Trial Court Mission Statement*

## Strategic Planning Process Steering Committee (PSC)

### **Hon. Michael Bolden**

First Justice, South Boston Municipal Court

### **J. David Bowie**

Acting Clerk-Magistrate, Barnstable Juvenile Court

### **Craig Burlingame**

Chief Information Officer, Trial Court Information Services

### **John Cavanaugh**

Deputy Jury Commissioner, Office of Jury Commissioner

### **Hon. Terry Craven**

First Justice, Suffolk Juvenile Court

### **Emilio Cruz**

Probation Officer, Worcester Superior Court

### **Michael Doherty**

Asst. Chief Housing Specialist, Springfield Housing Court

### **Hon. Judith Fabricant**

Associate Justice, Suffolk Superior Court

### **John Gay**

Clerk-Magistrate, Springfield District Court

### **Meg Hayden**

Electronic Resources Librarian, Trial Court Law Libraries

### **Lee Kavanagh**

Research Analyst, Sentencing Commission

### **Michelle Latimer**

Head Administrative Asst., Berkshire Juvenile Court

### **Victoria Lewis**

Lead Program Manager, Judicial Institute

### **Patrick Malone**

Clerk-Magistrate, Fitchburg District Court

### **Francis Marinaro**

Register, Berkshire Probate & Family Court

### **Daphne Moore**

Assistant Clerk-Magistrate, Hampden Superior Court

### **Jennifer O'Donnell**

Case Coordinator, Worcester Probate & Family

### **Richard O'Neil**

Regional Supervisor, Probation

### **Patrick Rigol**

Court Officer II, Peabody District Court

### **Linda Rowe**

HR Specialist, Human Resources Dept.

### **Linda Serino**

Operations Manager, Capital Projects and Facilities Mgmt.

### **Michelle Yee**

Asst. Judicial Case Manager, Norfolk Probate & Family Court

### **Jill Ziter**

Deputy Court Administrator, Land Court

## Plans for Fiscal Year 2014 (continued)

### **Broaden Access to Justice:**

#### **Improve coordination of resources**

The focused Access to Justice Initiative in the Trial Court will continue to guide and coordinate resources to broaden access to civil justice for all litigants, including self represented litigants, individuals of modest means, those of limited or no English proficiency, and individuals with mental or physical disabilities. Areas of involvement include expanding availability and awareness of Limited Assistance Representation (LAR), guiding the implementation of Court Service Centers to assist self-represented litigants, and promoting the consistency and clarity of court forms and self-help materials. Implementation of a technical assistance grant received from the State Justice Institute (SJI) will help to establish a model language access courthouse at the Worcester Trial Court.

### **Enhance Public Safety:**

#### **Use evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism**

Expansion of specialty courts and other evidence-based programs will reduce recidivism and improve public safety. Using a strategic plan developed in partnership with appropriate agencies, the Trial Court will facilitate assessment and improved coordination of services to probationers with substance abuse and mental health issues. Standards for specialty courts are being established along with a regular certification process to ensure fidelity to evidence-based practices. A special veterans' treatment session will be launched in Boston and other special sessions will be created for sites with the most acute needs.

The Legislature-funded expansion of the HOPE/MORR recidivism reduction project will occur in Worcester in 2014. In addition, the initial



HOPE/MORR pilot project in Salem will continue with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. A new initiative to improve coordination of pre-trial services will facilitate the delivery of justice and enable more effective utilization of detention facilities. Efforts are also underway to expand the Changing Lives Through Literature program, which has shown positive outcomes in reducing recidivism.

### **Increase Efficiency:**

#### **Use technology and process measurement to improve operational effectiveness**

The Trial Court will complete implementation of MassCourts, the Trial Court's web-based, multi-department data and case management platform in 2014 with the conversion of the last of its seven court departments. MassCourts enables real-time data collection and information sharing, eliminates redundant data entry, reduces costs and increases information access.

In 2014, the Trial Court will pilot e-filing and the electronic filing of a criminal complaint. In addition, plans are underway to further expand public internet access to case and schedule information, and launch a redesigned website to provide a more effective resource to the public and court staff. Trial Court Departments will expand the use of data collection to inform decision making on issues ranging from caseload management to indigency assessment.

### **Invest in Community:**

#### **Ensure functional, well-utilized courthouses & engaged communities**

Major courthouse construction projects continue in Greenfield, Lowell and Salem. These significant capital projects represent the Commonwealth's commitment to upgrade the functionality and operating environment of the state's courthouses. The use of regional justice centers with multiple court departments better leverages capital and

operational funding. Design of these sites also provides an opportunity to implement new practices to enable the more effective use of resources.

Plans to enhance signage and security systems in new and existing courthouses will provide safe, secure and accessible environments for use by the public and court staff. In addition, the Trial Court's interdepartmental Green Team continues to improve energy efficiency in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and the Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance (DCAMM).

The Trial Court will continue to collaborate with state and local community partners to develop programs that enhance public safety, healthy communities, and the delivery of justice in cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Key partners include state and local bar associations, community non-profit agencies, advocacy and membership groups that interact regularly with the courts. Programs in schools and communities enhance public understanding of the role of the judiciary, the rule of law, and the importance of the jury system in a democratic society.

## Highlights of Fiscal Year 2013

### Broaden Access to Justice:

#### Improve coordination of resources

##### *Access to Justice Initiative*

In fiscal year 2013, the Trial Court's Access to Justice Initiative advanced language access and the use of online information services to enhance access for the public and court staff. Through funding from the State Justice Institute, the Boston Municipal, District and Housing Courts introduced small claims forms translated into the seven most widely-used languages. In addition, a self-help video project was launched to create a complementary small claims video in seven languages to be issued in 2014.

An interdepartmental committee worked with Trial Court Information Services on redesign of the public website and introduction of e-filing, as well as a partnership with Cyberlaw Clinic of Harvard Law School's Berkman Center for Internet and Society to assess how the Trial Court can best use technology to broaden access to justice.

The Trial Court also worked with the SJC's Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission on issues of broad concern to the justice community.

##### *Hinton State Laboratory*

In response to allegations that thousands of cases may have been affected by misconduct at the Hinton Drug Laboratory, the Superior Court, in September of 2012, designated judges to address the liberty interests of incarcerated defendants.

By the end of fiscal year 2013, the Superior Court had held 2,465 hearings involving 862 defendants in the affected counties. Due to the cooperation of stakeholders, an organized approach, and the use of videoconferencing, the Superior Court was able to mitigate the impact of the increased caseload on the court's business.

## Trial Court Goals

### *Strategic Plan, 2013*

**Preserve** and enhance the quality of judicial decision-making.

**Deliver** justice with effectiveness, efficiency, and consistency in court operations and services.

**Ensure** fair access to the court system.

**Respect** the dignity of the judicial process and all participants and provide a safe environment.

**Support** a high-performance organization with a well-trained, engaged, collaborative, and diverse workforce.

**Increase** the transparency and accountability of court operations.

**Strengthen** relations with the Legislative and Executive branches.

**Explore** and expand collaborative and innovative approaches to delivering justice.

**Enhance** public trust and confidence in the judicial branch.

Dedicated sessions were also established in the District Court and the Boston Municipal Court to address the immediate and serious liberty interests of incarcerated defendants serving time in connection with a Hinton drug conviction in those courts.

## Strategic Leadership Team (SLT)

Formed in June 2013 to implement strategic plan

### **Hon. Paula Carey**

Chief Justice of the Trial Court

### **Harry Spence**

Court Administrator

### **Paul Burke**

Deputy Court Administrator, Housing Court

### **Craig Burlingame**

Chief Information Officer

### **Hon. Terry Craven**

First Justice, Suffolk County Juvenile Court

### **Mark Conlon**

Director of Human Resources

### **Edward Dolan**

Commissioner of Probation

### **Hon. Michael Edgerton**

Chief Justice of the Juvenile Court

### **Hon. Judith Fabricant**

Associate Justice, Superior Court

### **Hon. Dina Fein**

First Justice, Western Division of the Housing Court

### **Christopher Fox**

Associate Court Administrator

### **John Gay**

Clerk-Magistrate, Springfield District Court

### **Daniel Hogan**

Clerk-Magistrate, BMC Central Division

### **Tara DeCristofaro Melo**

Register, Middlesex County

### **Richard O'Neil**

Regional Supervisor, Probation, Probate and Family Court

### **Mary Rafferty**

Senior Assistant for Administration & Communications

### **Cynthia Robinson Markey**

Legal Counsel, BMC

### **Michael Sullivan**

Superior Court Clerk of Courts, Middlesex County

### **Hon. Maureen Walsh**

First Justice, Holyoke District Court

### **Kim Wright**

Senior Assistant for Judicial Policy

### **Jill Ziter**

Deputy Court Administrator, Land Court

## Highlights of Fiscal Year 2013

(continued)

### ***Child Welfare***

The Juvenile Court and the Probate and Family Court received federal Court Improvement Program funding to continue supporting new information sharing projects and multi-disciplinary research studies. In addition to hiring a Child Welfare Data Analyst, the program provided professional development opportunities to court personnel; created specific child welfare performance measures for reporting to judges and administrative staff; and increased opportunities for cross-disciplinary training to improve the quality of child welfare proceedings.

### ***National Adoption Day***

More than 130 adoptions of children and youth in foster care were finalized in Massachusetts in concert with the National Adoption Day in November. Over 100 families participated in National Adoption Day which is a collaboration of the Juvenile and Probate and Family Court departments, with the Department of Children and Families and other family advocacy organizations.

### ***Business Litigation Sessions***

High quality service to the bar and to the business community continued as the hallmark of the Superior Court's Business Litigation Sessions (BLS). The sessions provide effective case management, early intervention and continuity in complex business disputes.

### ***Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)***

ADR was used to resolve a substantial number of cases and disputes saving numerous hours of litigation time. In the Boston Municipal Court 550 cases were referred to mediation services and more than 300 cases were resolved successfully. Housing Court Specialists facilitated the settlement of 78 percent of the 21,798 cases statewide referred for mediation and intervention. In the Probate and

Family Court, probation officers reached full or partial agreements on 69% of the 30,020 cases referred to dispute intervention in fiscal year 2013.

### ***Case Processing***

A program in the Worcester and Springfield District Courts permits counsel in civil cases to agree to bypass the required case management conference and proceed directly to a pretrial conference on an agreed date. In Worcester one judge is assigned to preside over the civil session for a four month rotation, maintaining scheduling control of all cases scheduled for trial. The court also uses a modified form of individual calendaring for a small number of civil and criminal cases that, for different reasons, would benefit from being assigned to a single judge for the lifetime of the case.

### ***Volunteer Lawyer Initiatives***

Where appropriate, the departments of the Trial Court collaborated with local bar associations to provide *pro bono* legal services. The Volunteer Lawyer Project and Lawyer for the Day programs provided legal support to self represented civil litigants in the Boston Municipal, District, Housing, and Probate and Family Court departments.

### ***Office of Jury Commissioner***

The Office of Jury Commissioner (OJC) continued to expand and improve juror access to the Trial Court in fiscal year 2013 in concert with the Jury Management Advisory Committee. One of the most noteworthy accomplishments of fiscal year 2013 was the launch of a pilot program to enable deaf jurors to perform jury service. Other highlights include operational improvements such as court-wide standardization initiatives, an improved payment and certificate solution, a jury management web application, a document management system and expanded scanning and linking of juror records. A newly revised Trial Juror Handbook addresses social media and internet research concerns.

## ***Access to Justice Initiatives Overseen by the Office of Court Management:***

### **Judicial Response System**

This response system provides judicial intervention in emergency situations when the courts are closed. Judges participate through an on-call process coordinated in eight regions with public safety officials. In fiscal year 2013, judges handled 6,120 emergency evening or weekend calls, for an average of 118 calls per week.

### **Interpreter Services**

In fiscal year 2013, 84,465 court events received interpretation services, which were provided in 80 languages, with Spanish accounting for 72% of the translated events.

### **Law Libraries**

In fiscal year 2013, the Trial Court's 17 law libraries welcomed 254,755 patrons on-site, recorded 2.7 million visitors to the Law Library website, and responded to 79,079 legal reference questions.

## ***Enhance Public Safety: Use evidence-based practices to reduce recidivism***

### ***Drug Courts***

The Boston Municipal Court, District Court, and Juvenile Court departments now conduct 19 drug court sessions. Ongoing collaboration with the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, and Department of Mental Health will support targeted expansion of effective drug courts. Research shows that these specialized sessions reduce crime and substance abuse, enhance public safety and strengthen families. Key elements of this structured approach include intensive probation supervision and therapeutic programming, frequent testing and careful monitoring by the supervising judge.



### ***Project MORR***

#### ***Massachusetts Offender Recidivism Reduction***

In Essex County, the Superior Court, District Court, Probation, and local criminal justice partners including the District Attorney, Committee for Public Counsel Services, Sheriff, Salem Police Department and others implemented this national pilot project. The Trial Court was one of four recipients of a federal grant to launch a recidivism reduction program modeled after the HOPE project in Hawaii. The guiding principle of MORR is to reduce recidivism rates by taking swift, certain, and measured action for probation violations of any kind.

### ***Mental Health Sessions***

A voluntary Mental Health Diversion Initiative (MHDI) has been conducted by the Central Division of the Boston Municipal Court since 2007 in collaboration with Probation, the District Attorney, the defense bar, court clinicians and Boston Medical Center, for defendants charged with misdemeanors or non-violent felonies. The District Court operates mental health courts in Springfield and Plymouth.

### ***Veterans Session & Services***

The first veterans' treatment court in New England was established in Norfolk County at the Dedham District Court. Utilizing the principles of drug courts, the veterans' treatment court addresses the special needs of veterans, particularly the issues of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

The Brockton, Worcester and Lawrence District Courts, in collaboration with Mission Direct Vet, continued to offer a specialized court-based alternative to incarceration for persons with a history of military service, trauma, and co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems. Unlike other specialty court sessions, these programs do not involve regular contact with a judge in a court setting, but rather provide a focused alternative to

incarceration that pairs probation with specialized, wrap-around treatment services.

### ***Homeless Court***

The Boston Municipal Court expanded the operation of the Homeless Court session initiated in early 2011. The Homeless Court allows homeless individuals to address outstanding warrants and permits minor misdemeanor or non-violent cases to be heard without unnecessary hardship.

### ***Firearms Sessions***

The Central Division of the Boston Municipal Court conducts firearms sessions for all of that department's court divisions to expedite adjudication of firearm-related criminal offenses. These courts established special timelines for the scheduling of pretrial hearings and disposition of these cases. A similar firearms session is conducted in Lynn District Court.

### ***Ohio Risk Assessment System (ORAS)***

In fiscal year 2013, Probation continued training probation officers on the department's new risk assessment instrument, ORAS. This tool is based on the highly successful Ohio Risk Assessment System, which is used to determine the rehabilitative needs of probationers, as well as their risk to the community.

### ***Community Corrections Centers***

In fiscal year 2013, the Office of Community Corrections (OCC) received 2,985 community corrections referrals. Of the referrals, 90% were level III and ten percent were level IV. A total of 91 participants received their GED, 876 participants were placed in a job, and 691 participants received aftercare or referrals to community-based agencies for the support services necessary to help them maintain success at a lower level of supervision.

### ***Community Service Programs***

The Office of Community Corrections received 18,310 referrals to the community service program in fiscal year 2013. Probationers sentenced to

community service contributed half a million hours to assist local communities, state agencies, and non-profit organizations. Projects included cleaning parks, removing snow, helping food pantries, moving furniture and doing demolition and construction.

### ***Electronic Monitoring***

The Probation Electronic Monitoring Center in Clinton tracks close to 3,200 probationers using real-time GPS systems. Through a very successful crime correlation program, the ELMO unit assists law enforcement in solving crimes. National research indicates a significant impact on recidivism and public safety by electronic monitoring.

## **Increase Efficiency: Use technology and process measurement to improve operational effectiveness**

### ***Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint***

Work progressed on implementation of an Electronic Application for Criminal Complaint to allow police departments to submit criminal complaint applications to the Trial Court via the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services (DCJIS) network. Once piloted in the Boston Municipal Court in early 2014, it will reduce data entry burdens and enhance the accuracy of data submitted by law enforcement to the courts for processing. This new interface will further enhance the courts efforts to establish fingerprint-supported records by ensuring that police and court records are accurately linked together upon initial submission.

### ***MassCourts***

The multi-year introduction of MassCourts, enables data collection and information sharing needed to track case progress and timeliness, and ultimately will replace 14 different systems with a uniform, integrated system. Successful implementation involves months of planning and training for each court department.

In fiscal year 2013, the multi-year implementation of MassCourts, the Trial Court's comprehensive, web-based case management and data system, included completion of the Juvenile Court conversion and planning to convert the Superior Court, which will complete the system-wide effort by the end of 2014. As of June 30, 2013, MassCourts contained information on 13.8 million cases, 33.6 million case calendar events, and 10.9 million scanned documents.

### ***Videoconferencing***

Expanded use of videoconferencing promotes efficiency and addresses security concerns through the cooperation of stakeholders including the Department of Correction, Sheriffs' departments, District Attorneys' offices, the Committee for Public Counsel Services and bar advocates.

During fiscal year 2013, both the Superior and Juvenile Court Departments significantly increased the number of meetings and hearings conducted via videoconference. It was used for many of the hearings for the Hinton Drug Lab cases.

### ***E-Access***

Land Court and Housing Court dockets, as well as estate cases in the Probate & Family Court may be viewed at [www.masscourts.org](http://www.masscourts.org). Thousands of court users retrieved and viewed case information via the internet.

### ***E-Filing***

The Electronic Filing Working Group continued its preparatory work for an e-filing pilot in the Boston Municipal, District, and Probate and Family Court departments. An RFP process was conducted to select a vendor to provide e-file software/services.

### ***Staffing Model***

Planning for the development of Staffing Model 2.0 began in 2013. The Trial Court's staffing model lays out quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a point of reference and standards that identify

comparative staff needs among courts. Regular updates of caseload data are used to determine a court division's level of staffing as compared to the optimal level developed in accordance with an objective, national model. The Staffing Model 2.0 initiative will completely update the baseline data, using current case processing practices. The revised staffing model will improve the Trial Court's ability to equitably allocate and share staff resources.

### ***Indigency Verification***

The Office of the Commissioner of Probation (OCP) continued to work on improving the indigency verification process, resulting in a more streamlined and effective approach to detecting and alleviating fraudulent requests for court-appointed attorneys by offenders who are not financially qualified. Department of Transitional Assistance records are now cross-checked and pilots in four court sites have helped to improve the process. OCP, in collaboration with the Department of Revenue and Department of Transitional Assistance, performs 10,000 indigency checks each month.

### ***Court Metrics***

Performance measurement continued to provide the foundation for court management efforts, increasing effectiveness and accountability. The Trial Court uses CourTools, a set of performance measures promulgated by the National Center for State Courts, to inform decision making. Four of the ten NCSC metrics are used to set standards and goals that promote timely and expeditious case management – clearance rate, disposition of cases within time standards, age of pending cases, and trial date certainty. Successful implementation of this performance-based approach reflects extraordinary commitment by all members of the court community – judges, clerks, other Trial Court staff, and members of the bar. Trial Court departments continued to reevaluate scheduling, streamline processes and cross-train staff to ensure the delivery of justice. Metrics data can be found in the Statistical Appendix of this report.

### ***Juror Utilization***

In fiscal year 2013, a juror utilization rate of 45.7% included a particularly strong performance in the last five months of the fiscal year, which averaged 47.6%. This represents a significant savings and an improved overall experience to those summoned to jury service.

Multi-department courthouses, which typically receive the highest number of jurors, improved their utilization rate significantly in fiscal year 2013.

### ***Professional Development***

The Judicial Institute worked with Trial Court departments in developing and planning conferences and training sessions held across the state.

The Judicial Institute presented or collaborated in presenting educational programs attended by approximately 2,560 Trial Court personnel. Hundreds more received or viewed resource and reference materials available online or through traditional delivery methods. The Judicial Institute also provided funding for 28 judges and court personnel to attend a variety of educational programs conducted by external organizations.

## **Invest in Community: Ensure functional, well-utilized courthouses**

### ***Capital Construction Projects***

A total of \$24 million was invested in new construction, renovations, and repairs at state-owned courthouses in fiscal year 2013.

In fiscal year 2013, the Facilities Management Department engaged in numerous deferred maintenance projects across the state to continue addressing aging facilities.

The Court Capital Projects Department continued construction planning for the new Franklin County

Courthouse in Greenfield, as temporary space was secured for the court departments that occupy the current building. The move to temporary space will take place in early 2014 and construction will move forward.

Planning also moved forward on construction of a comprehensive justice center in Lowell and the total renovation and expansion of the Salem Probate and Family Court building.

### ***Capital Master Plan***

Court Capital Projects reached agreement with the state Division of Capital Assets Management and Maintenance to begin a Capital Master Plan in fiscal year 2014. The Capital Master Plan Project shall result in a comprehensive report that sets the framework for all court facility capital improvements over the next 10 years and identifies future funding needs to achieve those improvements.

### ***Security***

The Trial Court Security Department focused on improving the training and equipment provided to court officer staff which serves 100 court locations across the state. Court Officers managed close to 264,000 custodies statewide in fiscal year 2013 and responded to a range of incidents including assaults, attempted suicides, medical emergencies and bomb threats. The Security Department continues to replace outdated security systems equipment with upgraded state-of-the-art technology.

### ***Separate and Secure Waiting Areas***

As of December 2013, the Trial Court had designated separate and secure waiting areas (SSWA) in 77 of the 91 court locations statewide that conduct criminal business. A Task Force established by the Legislature (Chapter 131 of the Acts of 2010) oversees the implementation of designated waiting areas for victims and witnesses.

The Separate and Secure Waiting Area Task Force is comprised of professionals whose status as key

stakeholders qualifies them to assess current needs, available resources, and the operational impact of recommendations.

### ***Sight and Sound Separation Project***

This project has been undertaken to bring the Commonwealth into compliance with federal regulations requiring that juvenile detainees be separated from sight and sound contact with adult detainees in court holding facilities. An initial survey has been completed of the 58 applicable facilities. It has been determined that considerable design and construction work would be needed to meet this goal. Proposals for solutions that satisfy the requirements are being developed. This project will extend throughout 2014.

## **Invest in Community: Ensure engaged communities**

### ***Juvenile Court Clinics***

The Juvenile Court, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health, continued operation of Juvenile Court Clinics that have emerged as a national model for referrals and treatment, with 2,532 evaluations of children, youth, and parents in fiscal year 2013.

### ***Juvenile-Focused Partnerships***

All divisions of the Juvenile Court partnered with local Probation and Office of Community Corrections staff, community leaders and non-profits in the planning and implementation of a wide variety of community-based programs, including Operation Night Light, Mothers Helping Mothers, Truancy Watch, Stop Watch, Trial Court Academy, the Teen Prostitution Project, Shakespeare in the Court, Bridging the Gap, and the Juvenile Resource Center.

***Partnerships with Schools, Non-Profits, and Law Enforcement***

Judges, clerks, probation staff and others in all Trial Court departments partnered extensively with leaders in their local communities developing programs that are responsive to the needs of the communities served. School-based efforts shared information about the court's role in the community through opportunities such as mock trials and internships. Outreach included ongoing interaction with many focused advocacy and membership groups that regularly interact with the courts.

Courts worked closely with local law enforcement to provide guidance on a range of issues, including search and seizure law, new statutes and rules amendments, and law enforcement matters for new police cadets. Probation staff worked continuously with local police, non-profits, and other entities to design programs that combat violence and reduce crime.

***Jury Outreach and Education***

The Office of Jury Commissioner (OJC) continued its community outreach program of presentations to schools and community groups, court personnel and others. In fiscal year 2013, 7,844 people attended 186 OJC Public Outreach presentations.

The OJC continued outreach efforts to urban and minority communities to help ensure appropriately diverse and representative juries statewide. The pilot project to provide American Sign Language interpreters to deaf citizens summoned for jury service was the most notable achievement of this initiative in fiscal year 2013.

***Online child support self-help program***

A partnership of the Probate and Family Court and Massachusetts Legal Services, this program guides the user through a series of questions about their situation, and then prints out the completed forms needed to file the case in court. The program has interactive links which answer questions and explain legal concepts and terminology. It is available online at [www.MassLegalHelp.org/legal-forms](http://www.MassLegalHelp.org/legal-forms).



# Boston Municipal Court Department

## Mission Statement:

Given our unique responsibility to advance the fair administration of justice, the Boston Municipal Court Department is devoted to the rule of law through the conscientious and expeditious resolution of disputes, with a commitment to restoring the human spirit through correction, education, respect and compassion.

## Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

### ***Court Operations Report***

The Court Operations and Policy Implementation Committee issued a report in November of 2012 which included detailed findings from a department-wide employee survey and in-depth interviews with court leaders.

### ***Brooke Courthouse Information Desk***

The Boston Municipal Court Department assumed leadership for the Brooke Courthouse Information Desk established for the benefit of *pro se* litigants appearing at the court. Staff from this department assisted nearly 3,500 court users.

### ***Extended Hours Pilot***

The Central Division of the Boston Municipal Court Department participated in a three-department extended-hours pilot program at the Brooke Courthouse to assess the usefulness of extended court hours as a convenience for certain segments of the public.

### ***Specialized Court Sessions***

The Boston Municipal Court Department expanded the operation of the Homeless Court session to provide homeless individuals with the opportunity to address outstanding warrants and permit minor misdemeanor or non-violent cases to be heard without unnecessary hardship. The Boston Municipal Court Department continues to operate the Mental Health Diversion Initiative (MHDI) in the Central Division which offers criminal defendants the opportunity to seek mental health treatment as part of a pre-trial diversion or post-conviction probationary process. Also in operation throughout the department are special sessions designed to address the alcohol and/or substance issues underlying many criminal cases.



Edward W. Brooke Courthouse, Boston

Judges: 30

Divisions: 8

FY2013 Case Filings: **103,343**

### ***Jurisdiction:***

Civil jurisdiction includes cases in which the likely recovery does not exceed \$25,000; small claims cases; summary process cases; and mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse commitments; domestic violence restraining orders and harassment prevention orders. Criminal jurisdiction extends to enumerated felonies punishable by a sentence of up to five years and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; misdemeanors, including violations of domestic violence restraining orders; and violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws. The Court has jurisdiction over evictions and some related matters, and provides judicial review of some governmental agency actions.

## District Court Department

### Mission Statement:

As the gateway to justice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the District Court is dedicated to the administration of justice in a fair, impartial and timely manner in accordance with the rule of law. In fulfilling this role, the District Court shall provide the communities it serves with an environment that is safe, accessible and respectful to all. The District Court shall conduct its business with integrity, competence and a commitment to excellence in order to promote public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

### Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

#### Norfolk County Veterans Treatment Court

The first veterans treatment court in Massachusetts was established in Norfolk County, sited in the Dedham District Court. The Court's mission is to support veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among the veterans services delivery system, community-based providers of the court, thereby improving public safety while leaving no veteran behind.

#### Recidivism Reduction Initiative

The Salem District Court participated in a national demonstration project, HOPE/MORR (Massachusetts Offender Recidivism Reduction), in Essex County. The goal of the project is to promote successful probation outcomes through the use of swift, certain, and consistent sanctions for every probation violation. Eligible probationers were selected to participate in the program by random assignment. Comparison in recidivism rates between HOPE/MORR probationers and those in the control group will be used to measure the success of the program.

#### Alternative dispute resolution

Malden District Court became the second District Court, in addition to Quincy, to pilot the mediation of harassment prevention cases brought pursuant to G.L. c. 258E. These cases can become quite prolonged and contentious, and mediation can help to resolve the situation in a manner that will eliminate the need for the parties to keep returning to court.



Fall River Judicial Center

Judges: **158**

Divisions: **62**

FY2013 Case Filings: **625,160**

#### Jurisdiction:

Civil jurisdiction includes cases in which the likely recovery does not exceed \$25,000; small claims cases; summary process cases; and mental health, and alcohol and drug abuse commitments; domestic violence restraining orders and harassment prevention orders. Criminal jurisdiction extends to felonies punishable by a sentence of up to five years and many other specific felonies with greater potential penalties; misdemeanors, including violations of domestic violence restraining orders; and violations of city and town ordinances and by-laws. The Court has jurisdiction over evictions and some related matters, and provides judicial review of some governmental agency actions.

# Housing Court Department

## Mission Statement:

The Housing Court's mission is to adjudicate all matters presented by litigants within its jurisdiction regarding housing in a fair, efficient, and timely manner according to the rule of law and the facts presented. In accordance with this mission, the Housing Court, through its operating philosophy and business practices, strives to present a citizen oriented process to maximize access to justice for all such litigants. All members of the Housing Court are committed to this mission and process to fulfill our role within the judicial branch.

## Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

### Extended Court Hours Pilot Project

The Boston Division of the Housing Court participated in planning and implementing a pilot program extending the hours of court sessions at the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse. Beginning in February 2013, evening court sessions at the Brooke Courthouse were held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

### Housing Court Practice Working Group of the Access to Justice Commission

The Housing Court Practice Working Group of the Access to Justice Commission, upon the completion of its work in Fiscal Year 2013, filed a final report that included a set of recommendations that were accepted by the Access to Justice Commission. The Housing Court then held a meeting for its divisional leaders to review the Court's practices, discuss the recommendations, plan further discussions for the Court's Spring 2013 conference, and begin the planning process for the potential statewide expansion of the Housing Court.

### Public Internet Access to Case Information

In April 2013, the Housing Court became the third Trial Court department to provide internet access to its case information. Members of the public are now able to view publicly available Housing Court summary process, civil, small claims, and supplementary process cases via the Trial Court's eAccess internet site. The site allows users to conduct searches by case type, case number, or case name.



Taunton Trial Court

Judges: **10**

Divisions: **5**

FY2013 Case Filings: **42,357**

### Jurisdiction:

The Housing Court has jurisdiction in law and equity over all civil and criminal matters involving the use of residential property and the activities conducted thereon as well as the use of any other real property and the activities conducted thereon as such affect the health, safety, or welfare of any resident, owner, or user of residential property. The Housing Court hears summary process (eviction), small claims, and civil actions involving personal injury, property damage, breach of contract, discrimination, and other claims. The Housing Court also adjudicates code enforcement actions and appeals of local zoning board decisions affecting residential property.

## Juvenile Court Department

### Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the Juvenile Court to protect children from abuse and neglect and promote opportunities for children to reside in safe, stable, permanent family environments whenever possible, to strengthen families when their children are in need of services, to rehabilitate juveniles, to protect the public from delinquent and criminal activity while holding offenders accountable and addressing the harm suffered by the community and the victim, and to decide all cases fairly and impartially with dedication, integrity and professionalism.

### Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

#### **Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Pilot**

The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) pilot was expanded to a site in Suffolk County in March 2013. Youth placed on bail have entered this facility as an alternative to locked detention after being screened by the Department. This program and the overall concepts of JDAI have also been introduced to Essex County, Middlesex County, Hampden County and Bristol County.

#### **JDAI/Crossover Youth Pilot Program**

Hampden County Juvenile Court, the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and Department of Children and Families (DCF) in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the MacArthur Foundation developed a program to provide improved and more coordinated services to youth who are simultaneously receiving services from both DHS and DCF.

#### **Raising Age of Adult Criminal Responsibility**

The Administrative Office of the Juvenile Court formed a committee to consider the impact of several bills filed to increase the age of adult criminal jurisdiction from 17 to 18. This legislation did pass in September 2013.



Worcester Trial Court

Judges: **41**

Divisions: **11**

FY2013 Case Filings: **27,676**

#### **Jurisdiction:**

The Juvenile Court Department has general jurisdiction over delinquency, children requiring assistance (CRA), care and protection petitions, adult contributing to a delinquency of a minor, adoption, guardianship, termination of parental rights proceedings, and youthful offender cases.

## Land Court Department

### Mission Statement:

The Land Court's mission is to provide an accessible forum where specialized expertise is applied to resolve disputes involving the ownership, development, and use of real property throughout the Commonwealth. The judges and staff are committed to serving the public and the real estate and trial bars in a respectful, efficient manner by issuing decisions that are equitable and legally well-reasoned, and by providing readily available, reliable guidance to property owners and registries of deeds regarding registered land transactions.

### Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

#### Limited Assistance Representation (LAR)

Land Court Standing Order 1-12 became effective January 2, 2013 allowing LAR to be used in the Land Court. New court forms were created to administer and track limited appearances in MassCourts. In addition, all-staff training was provided to help court staff understand how the LAR unbundling of legal services operates and can assist parties who otherwise would remain without representation.

#### Registration Plans

The Survey Division of the court implemented a streamlined process of drafting registration plans which continues to contribute to an increased rate of plan completion, resulting in a plan through-put rate of 295%, up from last year's 162%.

#### Hours of Operation

The Recorder's Office was restored to full public hours on May 1, 2013. The office had been opening one and one half hour late each day since September 2011, due to staffing shortages and the need for uninterrupted time to work on backlogged case processing.



Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston

Judges: 7

Case Filings in FY2013: **16,170**

#### Jurisdiction:

The Land Court Department of the Trial Court has statewide jurisdiction. The court has exclusive, original jurisdiction over the registration of title to real property and over all matters and disputes concerning such title subsequent to registration. The court also exercises exclusive original jurisdiction over the foreclosure and redemption of real estate tax liens. The court shares jurisdiction over other property matters. The court has concurrent jurisdiction over specific performance of contracts relating to real estate and over petitions for partitions of real estate. The court shares jurisdiction over matters arising out of decisions by local planning boards and zoning boards of appeal. Both the Land Court and the Superior Court Department have jurisdiction over the processing of mortgage foreclosure cases, determining the military status of the mortgagor. Additionally, the court has superintendency authority over the registered land office in each registry of deeds.



## Probate & Family Court Department

### Mission Statement:

To deliver timely justice to the public by providing equal access to a fair, equitable and efficient forum to resolve family and probate legal matters and to assist and protect all individuals, families and children in an impartial and respectful manner.

### Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

#### Attorneys Representing Children

Programs were established in the Barnstable, Bristol, Hampden, Hampshire, Norfolk, Middlesex, and Plymouth divisions to provide attorney representation for children in high conflict family law cases.

#### SERV

The Settlement Early Resolution Volunteer (SERV) program provides pro bono conciliators to assist litigants in the Suffolk Division in the resolution of their family law cases. The project was expanded to the Middlesex division.

#### Only One Childhood Program

The Hampshire division created an “advanced” parent education program which focuses on assisting mid-level conflict parents to improve their ability to work together in parenting their children.

#### Limited Issues Settlement Conference (LISC) Program

The Limited Issues Settlement Conference (LISC) program was created to bring parties and counsel together, by agreement, to settle any kind of Probate and Family Court matter, with the involvement and expertise of an active or retired judge of the Probate and Family Court. Potential cases range from divorce settlements, child custody and support issues, and contested wills among others.

#### Child Support Modification Project

After a successful pilot in the Bristol division this project was expanded to all divisions of the Probate and Family Court. This project provides litigants with access to a more streamlined process for modifying child support orders.



Franklin County Courthouse, Greenfield  
(under construction)

Judges: **51**

Divisions: **14**

Case Filings in FY2013: **159,686**

#### Jurisdiction:

The Probate and Family Court of Massachusetts has jurisdiction over family matters such as divorce, paternity, child support, custody, visitation, adoption, termination of parental rights, and abuse prevention. Probate matters include wills, administrations, guardianships, conservatorships and change of name. The Court also has general equity jurisdiction.

## Superior Court Department

### Mission Statement:

The Superior Court, the primary trial court for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is committed to delivering high quality justice in a timely and fair manner in accordance with the rule of law.

### Fiscal Year 2013 Highlights

#### Recidivism Reduction Initiative

A federally-funded pilot program, HOPE/MORR (Massachusetts Offender Recidivism Reduction), in Essex County involved the leadership and collaboration of the Superior Court, District Court, Probation, and external partners. The goal of the project is to promote successful probation outcomes through the use of swift, certain, and consistent sanctions for every probation violation. Among HOPE/MORR participants are individuals sentenced to a term of probation to be served following a period of incarceration.

#### Videoconferencing

The Superior Court significantly increased the number of hearings conducted via videoconference. In fiscal year 2013, there were 4,400 petitions held for review of bail, which represents an increase of 1,000 videoconferencing hearings over fiscal year 2012. This translated into 4,400 fewer detainees being transported and processed in Superior Court which vastly improved efficiency and security.

#### Judicial Education

The Superior Court held several judicial education programs for judges in fiscal year 2013. In addition to Spring and Fall Conferences, three educational seminars on criminal law topics were held. Judges also received training on using the “Dragon Naturally Speaking” dictation software.

#### Judicial Mentoring and Peer Observation

Thirteen new judges joined the Superior Court in fiscal year 2013. They received training, observed a wide variety of civil and criminal proceedings, met with senior judges to discuss techniques for handling judicial duties, and received demonstrations and training on several computer applications. A trained mentor judge was also assigned to work with each new judge during his/her first year.



J. Michael Ruane Judicial Center, Salem

Judges: **82**

Counties: **14**

Case Filings in FY2013: **27,126**

#### Jurisdiction:

The Superior Court has original jurisdiction in civil actions over \$25,000, and in matters where equitable relief is sought. It also has original jurisdiction in actions involving labor disputes where injunctive relief is sought, and has exclusive authority to convene medical malpractice tribunals.

The Court has exclusive original jurisdiction in first degree murder cases and original jurisdiction for all other crimes. It has jurisdiction over all felony matters, although it shares jurisdiction over crimes where other Trial Court Departments have concurrent jurisdiction. Finally, the Superior Court has appellate jurisdiction over certain administrative proceedings.

## 2012 Excellence Award Recipients

### **Tornado Survival & Response by the Springfield Court Departments**

Hampden Housing, Juvenile, Probate & Family, and  
Superior Court Departments  
Springfield District Court  
Security, Court Facilities, Office of Community Corrections

### **Probation Training Team for ORAS Risk/Need Assessment Tool**

Carole L. Bambrick, Assistant Chief Probation Officer,  
Jennifer M. Brady, Probation Officer, Stoughton  
Michelle L. Carter-Donahue, Probation Officer, Newburyport  
Henry E. Culver, Chief Probation Officer, Gardner  
Justin D. Fasano, Probation Officer, Marlborough  
Carmen Z. Gomez, Probation Officer, Suffolk Superior  
Jeffrey J. Jarasitis, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Dedham  
Michael J. Leahy, Probation Officer, Fall River  
Diane M. Massouh, Assistant Chief Probation Officer,  
Paula J. Nimkar, Probation Officer, Lynn  
Andrew E. Peck, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Worcester  
Andrew P. Theberge, Probation Officer, Chicopee

### **MassCourts Implementation:**

#### **District Court “Grand Super Users”**

Donna Allen, Criminal Operations Supervisor, Lynn  
Donna Bahrawy, Operations Supervisor, Falmouth/Barnstable  
Robin Balicki, Office Manager, Eastern Hampshire  
Andrea Belanger, Case Coordinator, Peabody  
Dolores Bowman, Office Manager, Orleans  
Ann Cocci, Assistant Clerk-Magistrate, Salem  
Michelle Kelley, Assistant Clerk-Magistrate, Wrentham  
Carol Matthias, Operations Supervisor, Northampton  
Debra Mickle, Office Manager, Ayer  
Elizabeth O’Loughlin, Account Clerk, Marlborough  
Michael Prosser, Assistant Clerk-Magistrate, Worcester  
Virginia Richardson, Operations Supervisor, Attleboro  
Cara Ring, Operations Supervisor, Ipswich/Newburyport  
Rachael Valiton, Case Coordinator, Fitchburg

### **Metrics Support: Sentencing Commission Staff**

Linda Holt, Research Director  
Lee Kavanagh, Research Analyst  
Elizabeth Marini, Executive Assistant

### **Green Team Award: E-Waste Project Implementation**

Community Service:  
Christopher Cannata, Assistant Supervisor  
Timothy Callahan, Assistant Supervisor  
Dominico Cirelli, Court Services Coordinator  
Michael LeCours, Assistant Supervisor  
Paula Therrien, Court Services Coordinator  
Capital Projects: Estela Cardoso Administrative Assistant

## 2013 Excellence Award Recipients

### **HOPE / MORR Pilot Project to Reduce Recidivism**

Jeffrey L. Akers, Regional Supervisor, Probation  
Quiana Hobson, HOPE/ MORR Project Coordinator  
Salem District Court:  
Jason Barber, Assistant Chief Probation Officer  
Hon. Robert A. Brennan, First Justice  
Richard Ferrino, Assistant Chief Probation Officer  
Patrick Goff, Probation Officer  
Dolores R. Gormley, Chief Probation Officer  
Pamela King, Office Manager  
JoAnn Y. Lam, Probation Officer  
MaryAnn Tricomi, Administrative Assistant  
Sean Whalen, Probation Officer  
Ellen Winschel, Probation Officer  
Essex Superior Court:  
Sonia Archer, Probation Officer  
Lisa Gomes, Judicial Secretary  
Jeffrey January, Probation Officer  
Hon. John T. Lu, Regional Administrative Justice  
Nadine Murkison, Assistant Chief Probation Officer  
Lisa V. Partelow, Operations Supervisor I  
Danette L. Schrader, Assistant Clerk  
Michelle L. Stevens, Case Specialist II  
Martin L. Wallace, Chief Probation Officer

### **Housing Court Specialists Collaborated Across Divisions to Assist Worcester Division during Staffing Shortage**

Joe Lepore, Boston Housing Court  
Martha Buckley, Northeast Housing Court  
Jeffrey Hernandez, Northeast Housing Court  
Cynthia Kappotis, Northeast Housing Court  
William McDermet, Northeast Housing Court  
Jonathan Paleologos, Northeast Housing Court  
Mary Chapman, Southeast Housing Court  
Christopher Churchill, Southeast Housing Court  
Lisa Teixeira, Southeast Housing Court  
Keith Viveiros, Southeast Housing Court  
James Burdell, Western Housing Court  
Arlene Correa, Western Housing Court  
Michael Doherty, Western Housing Court  
Donna Zundell, Western Housing Court

### **Facilities Management & TCIS Staff Developed New Work Request Process to Enhance Responsiveness**

Suzete Costa, Administrative Assistant, Facilities Management  
Fred Tufo, Facilities Service Supervisor, Facilities Management  
Susan Lawlor, Administrative Assistant, Facilities Management  
Ray Simmons, Fiscal Specialist, Facilities Management  
William Letendre, Team Lead-Operational Support, TCIS  
Geeta Singh, Systems Analyst, Trial Court Information Services

## 2013 Employee Excellence Award Recipients, continued

### **Probation Team of Trainers Certified on “Evidence-based Community Supervision Practices” Promotes Skill Development**

Jennifer Brady, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Stoughton District Court  
 Michael Candito, Probation Officer, Worcester Juvenile Court  
 Erie Contreras, Probation Officer, New Bedford District Court  
 Danielle Murray, Probation Officer, Lawrence District Court  
 Kristy Paciorek, Probation Officer, Eastern Hampshire District Court  
 Jane Pendergast, Chief Probation Officer, Northampton District Court  
 Rebecca Ramirez, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Leominster District Court  
 Regina Sanderson, Probation Officer, Eastern Hampshire District Court  
 Edward Sullivan, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Westborough District  
 Edwin Welch, Probation Officer, Middlesex Probate & Family Court  
 Lisa Wong, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Worcester Probate & Family

### **Security Defensive Tactics Training Team of “Red Shirts” Improves Public Safety**

David Besse, Court Officer, Barnstable Juvenile Court  
 Edward Fitzgerald, Court Officer, Attleboro District Court  
 Anthony John, Court Officer, Boston Municipal Court / W. Roxbury  
 Leonard M. Johnson, Chief Court Officer, Holyoke Complex  
 Ellen Mary Kelly, Court Officer, North Adams District Court  
 Luke Lagorce, Court Officer, Worcester Superior Court  
 Steve Malloy, Court Officer, Boston Municipal Court / Dorchester  
 Bryant Mauer, Court Officer, Berkshire Juvenile Court  
 Wayne McDaniel, Chief Court Officer, Middlesex Complex  
 Patrick McEvilly, Court Officer, Worcester District Court  
 Edward Moriarty, Court Officer, Holyoke Juvenile Court  
 Charles Morse, Court Officer, Barnstable District Court  
 Brian Nichols, Assistant Chief Court Officer, Chelsea District Court  
 Mark Pacheco, Court Officer, Peabody District Court  
 James Shea, Court Officer, Greenfield Juvenile Court

### **Personnel Policy Committee & HR Staff Revised & Incorporated Best Practices into Trial Court Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual**

Chief Justice Michael F. Edgerton, Juvenile Court (chair)  
 Harriet Beasely, Probation  
 Hon. Robert A. Brennan, Salem District Court  
 Christine Burak, Supreme Judicial Court  
 Paul J. Burke, Housing Court  
 Craig D. Burlingame, Trial Court Information Services  
 Mark T. Conlon, Human Resources  
 Thomas J. Connolly, Security  
 William J. Marchant, Fiscal Department  
 Robert E. McCarthy, Plymouth Probate and Family Court  
 Sophia C. O'Brien, Probation (retired)  
 Ellen M. O'Connor, Judicial Institute  
 Anthony S. Owens, Dorchester Division/Boston Municipal Court

Continued ...

Hon. Janet Sanders, Superior Court  
 Cheryl Sibley, Boston Municipal Court  
 Ellen G. Slaney, Probation (retired)  
 Jane Strickland, Juvenile Court (retired)  
 Michael A. Sullivan, Middlesex Superior Court  
 Wendy Wilton, Ayer District Court  
 Lisa A. Yee, Boston Municipal Court  
 Jill K. Ziter, Land Court

### **Process Steering Committee Guided Development of Trial Court Strategic Plan**

Hon. Michael Bolden, Boston Municipal Court/South Boston  
 J. David Bowie, Barnstable Juvenile Court  
 Craig Burlingame, Trial Court Information Services  
 John Cavanaugh, Office of Jury Commissioner  
 Hon. Terry Craven, Suffolk County Juvenile Court  
 Emilio Cruz, Worcester Superior Court Probation  
 Michael Doherty, Springfield Housing Court  
 Hon. Judith Fabricant, Suffolk Superior Court  
 John Gay, Springfield District Court  
 Meg Hayden, Law Libraries  
 Lee Kavanagh, Sentencing Commission  
 Michelle Latimer, Berkshire Juvenile Court  
 Victoria Lewis, Judicial Institute  
 Patrick Malone, Fitchburg District Court  
 Francis Marinaro, Berkshire Probate & Family Court  
 Daphne Moore, Hampden County Superior Court  
 Jennifer O'Donnell, Probation  
 Richard O'Neil, Probation  
 Patrick Rigol, Peabody District Court Security  
 Linda Rowe, Human Resources  
 Linda Serino, Facilities Management  
 Michelle Yee, Norfolk Probate & Family Court  
 Jill Ziter, Land Court





# Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2013

Subsequent Leadership Appointments Noted

## Chief Justice of the Trial Court

Paula M. Carey  
(Effective 7/2013)

Robert A. Mulligan  
(10/2003 - 7/2013)

## Court Administrator

Harry Spence

## Boston Municipal Court

### Chief Justice

Roberto Ronquillo Jr.  
(Effective 1/2014)

Charles R. Johnson  
(3/2003-1/2014)

### Justices

Patricia E. Bernstein  
Michael C. Bolden  
Catherine K. Byrne  
James W. Coffey  
Kathleen Coffey  
Michael J. Coyne  
Pamela M. Dashiell  
David T. Donnelly  
Raymond G. Dougan  
Mary Ann Driscoll\*\*  
Kenneth J. Fiandaca  
Annette Forde  
Franco J. GoBourne II  
Thomas C. Horgan  
Sally A. Kelly  
Tracy L. Lyons  
Lawrence E. McCormick\*\*  
John E. McDonald Jr.  
Robert J. McKenna Jr.  
Rosalind H. Miller  
David B. Poole  
Ernest L. Sarason Jr.  
Debra Shopteese  
Eleanor C. Sinnott  
Mark H. Summerville  
Robert Tochka  
Jonathan R. Tynes  
David Weingarten

## Clerk Magistrates

Margaret F. Albertson  
Joseph R. Faretra  
Ann Heffernan\*  
Daniel J. Hogan  
Michael W. Neighbors  
Anthony Owens  
James B. Roche  
John E. Whelan

## District Court

### Chief Justice

Paul C. Dawley  
(Effective 9/2013)

Paul F. LoConto  
(3/2013 - 9/2013)

Lynda M. Connolly  
(6/2004 - 3/2013)

### Justices

Stephen Abany  
Michael G. Allard-Madaus  
Mary L. Amrhein  
Benjamin C. Barnes  
Thomas S. Barrett  
James D. Barretto  
Philip A. Beattie  
Julie J. Bernard  
Timothy M. Bibaud  
William J. Boyle  
Heather Bradley  
Robert Brennan  
Michael J. Brooks  
Robert B. Calagione  
Cathleen Campbell  
John A. Canavan III  
Beverly J. Cannone  
Don L. Carpenter  
Martine Carroll  
Ellen M. Caulo  
Albert S. Conlon  
Jacklyn M. Connly  
Philip A. Contant  
Mark Coven  
Daniel C. Crane

Michael C. Creedon  
J. Elizabeth Cremens  
David W. Cunis  
Kevan J. Cunningham  
Patricia G. Curtin  
Andrew M. D'Angelo  
David P. Despotopoulos  
Patricia A. Dowling  
Peter F. Doyle  
Deborah A. Dunn  
Michael Fabbri  
Kevin J. Finnerty  
Ellen Flatley  
Maurice R. Flynn III  
Gregory Flynn  
Stacey Fortes  
Kevin J. Gaffney  
Timothy H. Gailey  
Robert W. Gardner Jr.  
Brian F. Gilligan  
Jennifer L. Ginsburg  
W. Michael Goggins  
Robert A. Gordon  
Robert V. Greco  
Charles W. Groce III  
Margaret R. Guzman  
William P. Hadley  
Arthur F. Haley III  
Kathryn Hand  
Robert G. Harbour  
Tobin N. Harvey  
Mary E. Heffernan  
Marianne C. Hinkle  
Michele B. Hogan  
Mary E. Hurley  
Joseph W. Jennings III  
Emogene Johnson  
Lee G. Johnson  
John M. Julian  
Emily A. Karstetter  
Peter J. Kilmartin  
James T. Kirkman  
Dyanne J. Klein  
Rita S. Koenigs  
James L. Lamothe  
Michael C. Lauranzano  
Antoinette Leoney  
David D. Livingston

\* Acting Capacity

\*\* Recall

# Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2013

Subsequent Leadership Appointments Noted

## District Court

### Justices, continued

David B. Locke  
Paul A. Losapio  
Joan E. Lynch  
Matthew Machera  
Laurie MacLeod  
Andrew L. Mandell  
Francis L. Marini  
Mark D. Mason  
William Mazanec III  
Mary F. McCabe  
Paul J. McCallum  
Maura K. McCarthy  
Paul L. McGill  
James J. McGovern  
Janet J. McGuiggan  
James H. McGuinness  
Brian R. Merrick  
Rosemary B. Minehan  
Toby S. Mooney  
Richard A. Mori  
Diane E. Moriarty  
Ronald F. Moynahan  
Michael E. Mulcahy  
Robert S. Murphy Jr.  
Gilbert J. Nadeau Jr.  
Matthew J. Nestor  
Mark E. Noonan  
Kevin J. O'Dea  
W. James O'Neill  
Mary Anne Orfanello  
Daniel J. O'Shea  
Stephen S. Ostrach  
Dominic J. Paratore  
John M. Payne Jr.  
Barbara S. Pearson  
Robert J. Pellegrini  
Gregory L. Phillips  
Patricia Poehler  
Michael J. Pomarole  
Michael Ripps  
Lynn C. Rooney  
David S. Ross  
Fredric D. Rutberg  
Bernadette L. Sabra  
Richard D. Savignano  
Sarah B. Singer  
Sabita Singh

Severlin B. Singleton III  
Roanne Sragow  
Douglas W. Stoddart  
James M. Sullivan  
Mary H. Sullivan  
Mark A. Sullivan  
Allen G. Swan  
Steven E. Thomas  
Michael A. Uhlarik  
Bethzaida S. Vega  
Vito A. Virzi  
Paul M. Vrabell  
Neil J. Walker  
Maureen E. Walsh  
Christopher D. Welch  
Robert A. Welsh III  
James H. Wexler  
Mary D. White  
H. Gregory Williams  
Therese M. Wright  
Paul M. Yee  
Robert P. Ziemian\*\*

### Clerk Magistrates

Claudia M. Abreau  
Darren Alston  
Charles Ardito\*  
Thomas F. Bartini  
Marybeth Brady  
Marion E. Broidrick  
Whitney J. Brown  
Kenneth F. Candito  
Thomas C. Carrigan  
Carol K. Casartello  
Kenneth H. Chaffee  
Ann T. Colicchio  
Margaret Daly Crateau\*  
Kevin P. Creedon  
John A. Deluca  
Edward J. Doherty  
Laurie N. Dornig  
Kathryn M. Early  
Kevin Finnegan  
John S. Gay  
Donald Hart  
Brian J. Kearney  
Paul M. Kozikowski  
Brian K. Lawlor  
Gerald A. Lemire  
Joseph A. Ligotti

William A. Lisano  
Paul F. Malloy  
Patrick J. Malone  
Daryl G. Manchester  
Elizabeth Maunsell  
Keith E. McDonough  
Kathleen M. McKeon  
Philip McCue\*  
Timothy J. Morey  
Robert L. Moscow  
Manuel A. Moutinho  
Kevin G. Murphy  
William P. Nagle Jr.  
Thomas J. Noonan  
John C. O'Neil  
Philip B. O'Toole  
Salvatore Paterna  
Stephen Poittrast\*  
Maryann Pozzessere  
Edward Savage\*  
Henry H. Shultz  
Christopher N. Speranzo  
Brian M. St. Onge  
Doris A. Stanziani  
Mary Jane B. Stirgwolt  
Mark E. Sturdy  
Edward B. Teague  
Peter J. Thomas  
Arthur H. Tobin  
Leonard F. Tomaiolo  
Robert A. Tomasone  
Robin E. Vaughan  
Liza H. Williamson  
Wendy A. Wilton

## Housing Court

### Chief Justice

Steven D. Pierce

### Justices

Anne K. Chaplin  
Wilbur P. Edwards Jr.  
Dina E. Fein  
Robert G. Fields  
Diana H. Horan  
David D. Kerman  
MaryLou Muirhead  
Timothy F. Sullivan  
Jeffrey M. Winik

\* Acting Capacity

\*\* Recall

# Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2013  
Subsequent Leadership Appointments Noted

## Housing Court, continued

### Clerk Magistrates

Mark R. Jeffries  
Robert L. Lewis  
Peter Q. Montori  
Michael O'Mara\*  
Susan Trippi\*

## Juvenile Court

### Chief Justice

Michael F. Edgerton

### Justices

Charles S. Belsky  
Jay D. Blitzman  
Bettina Borders  
Deborah A. Capuano  
James G. Collins  
John P. Corbett  
Peter Coyne  
Terry M. Craven  
Leslie A. Donahue  
Patricia M. Dunbar  
Lois M. Eaton  
Carol A. Erskine  
Patricia A. Flynn  
Marjory A. German  
Dana M. Gershengorn  
Patricia A. Flynn  
Marjory A. German  
Dana M. Gershengorn  
Leslie E. Harris  
Joseph F. Johnston  
Mary Beth Keating  
Kenneth J. King  
George F. Leary  
Stephen M. Limon  
Judith A. Locke  
Anthony J. Marotta  
Mary M. McCallum  
Garrett J. McManus  
Joan M. McMenemy  
Lawrence Moniz  
Robert F. Murray  
Amy Nechtem  
Mark Newman

Mary O'Sullivan Smith  
Sally F. Padden  
Judith J. Phillips  
Jose Sanchez  
John S. Spinale  
Daniel J. Swords  
Gloria Tan  
James J. Torney  
Gwendolyn R. Tyre  
Kathryn A. White

### Clerk Magistrates

Ronald C. Arruda  
J. David Bowie\*  
Judith M. Brennan  
Donna M. Ciampoli  
Paul J. Hartnett  
Christopher D. Reavey  
George P. Roper  
Laura Rueli  
Robert L. Ryan Jr.  
Craig D. Smith  
Donald P. Whitney

## Land Court

### Chief Justice

Judith C. Cutler  
(Effective 1/2014)

Karyn F. Scheier  
(2/2003 – 1/2014)

### Justices

Robert B. Foster  
Harry M. Grossman  
Keith C. Long  
Gordon H. Piper  
Alexander H. Sands III

### Recorder

Deborah Patterson

## Probate and Family Court

### Chief Justice

Angela M. Ordoñez  
(Effective 7/2013)

Paula M. Carey  
(9/2007 to 7/2013)

### Justices

Jeffrey A. Abber  
Joan P. Armstrong  
Theresa A. Bisenius  
Amy L. Blake  
Edward G. Boyle III  
John D. Casey  
Megan H. Christopher  
Kevin R. Connelly  
Beth A. Crawford  
Peter C. DiGangi  
Lucille A. DiLeo  
Edward F. Donnelly Jr.  
Linda S. Fidnick  
Katherine A. Field  
David M. Fuller  
Anne M. Geoffrion  
Dorothy M. Gibson  
Patricia A. Gorman  
Barbara M. Hyland  
Spencer M. Kagan  
Randy J. Kaplan  
Leilah A. Keamy  
Ronald W. King  
Joseph Lian\*\*  
Richard J. McMahon  
William F. McSweeney  
Denise L. Meagher  
James V. Menno  
Maureen H. Monks  
Elaine M. Moriarty  
Anthony R. Nesi  
George F. Phelan  
Stephen M. Rainaud  
Susan D. Ricci  
Gregory V. Roach  
Lisa A. Roberts  
Arthur C. Ryley  
Catherine P. Sabaitis

\* Acting Capacity

\*\* Recall

# Massachusetts Trial Court Judges and Officials

Judicial Assignments as of June 30, 2013

Subsequent Leadership Appointments Noted

## Probate and Family Court

### Justices, continued

David G. Sacks  
Mary Anne Sahagian  
Robert A. Scandurra  
Richard A. Simons  
Jeremy A. Stahlin  
Patrick W. Stanton  
Jennifer M. R., Ulwick  
Virginia M. Ward  
Geoffrey A. Wilson

### Registers

Stephen G. Abraham  
Susan D. Beamish  
Patricia M. Campatelli  
Michael J. Carey  
Gina L. DeRossi  
Elizabeth J. Herrmann  
Francis B. Marinaro  
Robert McCarthy  
Patrick W. McDermott  
Tara E. Melo  
John F. Merrigan  
Pamela Casey O'Brien  
Anastasia Welsh Perrino  
Suzanne T. Seguin\*

## Superior Court

### Chief Justice

Barbara J. Rouse

### Justices

John A. Agostini  
Mary K. Ames  
Carol S. Ball  
Thomas P. Billings  
Patrick F. Brady  
Raymond J. Brassard  
Heidi E. Brieger  
Kimberly S. Budd  
Richard J. Carey  
Richard J. Chin  
Thomas A. Connors

Robert A. Cornetta  
Robert C. Cosgrove  
Dennis J. Curran  
Brian A. Davis  
Kenneth V. Desmond Jr.  
Renee P. Dupuis  
Judith Fabricant  
Elizabeth M. Fahey  
Timothy Q. Feeley  
Superior Court  
John S. Ferrara  
Kenneth J. Fishman  
Daniel A. Ford  
Shannon Frison  
E. Susan Garsh  
Frank M. Gaziano  
Linda E. Giles  
Robert A. Gordon  
S. Jane Haggerty  
Sandra L. Hamlin  
Charles J. Hely  
Bruce R. Henry  
Maureen B. Hogan  
Merita A. Hopkins  
Garry Inge  
Bertha D. Josephson  
Robert J. Kane  
Mitchell H. Kaplan  
Angel Kelley Brown  
Janet Kenton-Walker  
C. Jeffrey Kinder  
Maynard M. Kirpalani  
Diane M. Kottmyer  
Peter B. Krupp  
James F. Lang  
Peter M. Lauriat  
Edward P. Leibensperger  
James R. Lemire  
Jeffrey A. Locke  
David A. Lowy  
John T. Lu  
D. Lloyd MacDonald  
Bonnie H. MacLeod-Mancuso  
John S. McCann\*\*  
Edward J. McDonough Jr.  
Christine M. McEvoy  
Thomas F. McGuire Jr.

Frances A. McIntyre  
Cornelius J. Moriarty II  
Richard T. Moses  
Thomas Murtagh  
Christopher J. Muse  
Gary A. Nickerson  
Tina S. Page  
Laurence D. Pierce  
David Ricciardone  
Christine Roach  
Robert C. Rufo  
Mary Lou Rup  
Kenneth W. Salinger  
Janet L. Sanders  
Constance M. Sweeney  
Paul Troy  
Richard T. Tucker  
Kathe M. Tuttman  
Robert L. Ullmann  
Raymond P. Veary Jr.  
Joseph M. Walker III  
Richard E. Welch III  
Howard J. Whitehead  
Douglas H. Wilkins  
Paul D. Wilson  
Daniel M. Wrenn

### Clerks of Court

Mary Elizabeth Adams\*  
Deborah S. Capeless  
Robert S. Creedon Jr.  
Michael J. Donovan  
Thomas H. Driscoll  
Susan K. Emond  
Laura S. Gentile  
Maura A. Hennigan  
H. J. Jekanowski Jr.  
Dennis P. McManus  
Scott Nickerson  
Marc J. Santos  
Joseph E. Sollitto Jr.  
Michael A. Sullivan  
Walter F. Timilty

\* Acting Capacity

\*\* Recall

## **Statistical Appendix**

Fiscal Data

Arraignments by Offense Type

Case Filings by Type

Case Filings by Department

Case Flow Metrics

Clearance Rate

Time to Disposition

Pending Cases Beyond Time Standards

Trial Date Certainty

Court Facility Inventory



## Trial Court Fiscal Data FY2013

Breakdown of Trial Court Funding	Dollar Amount	Percent of Total
Trial Court Operating Appropriations	\$560,976,112	97.8%
Capital / Bond Funds	\$9,342,325	1.6%
Automation Bond Funds	\$435,403	0.1%
Grants, Trusts & Intergovernmental Funds	\$2,799,651	0.5%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$573,553,491</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Trial Court Expenditures from Operating Accounts	Dollar Amount	Percent of Total
Judicial Salaries	\$46,834,818	8.4%
Court/Admin. Employee Salaries	\$360,563,355	64.9%
Employee Related Expenses	\$17,912,825	3.2%
Case Driven Expenses	\$14,198,097	2.6%
Law Library Expenses	\$7,377,906	1.3%
Office and Court Operations	\$46,827,596	8.4%
Facility Rental, Maintenance and Operation	\$61,586,280	11.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$555,300,877</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Interdepartmental and Reserve Transfers	Total Amount Transferred Between Accounts Within Department
Central Accounts	-\$4,939,790
Superior Court department	-\$50,000
District Court department	-\$2,000,000
Probate and Family Court department	-\$205,000
Land Court department	\$197,000
Boston Municipal Court	\$2,379,000
Housing Court department	\$121,132
Juvenile Court department	\$288,500
Probation Accounts	\$3,879,000
Jury Commissioner	\$330,158

## Trial Court Arraignments\* by Offense and Offense Type, CY2008 to CY2012

Offense	CY2008	CY2009	CY2010	CY2011	CY2012
Total Arraignments	421,148	379,495	373,932	359,510	366,608
Person	92,119	90,275	92,156	88,834	88,129
Murder/Manslaughter	976	983	1,171	1,119	1,025
Assaults	59,618	58,756	59,021	56,741	55,701
Rape/Sex Assault	7,081	6,334	6,541	6,128	6,495
Robbery	2,835	3,006	2,981	2,961	2,899
Threat/Intimidation	12,702	12,224	12,309	11,877	11,894
Restraining/Harassment Order Violations	7,084	6,983	7,592	7,666	7,828
Other Violent Offense	1,823	1,989	2,541	2,342	2,287
Property	92,119	90,275	92,156	88,834	88,129
Larceny/Fraud	40,972	40,439	39,697	39,384	41,444
Burglary/B&E	12,533	11,533	11,946	12,254	11,499
Destruction of Prop	13,413	12,159	11,573	12,607	11,591
Receiving/Possession Stolen Property	7,911	7,870	8,343	7,819	8,445
Forgery/Uttering	9,243	9,699	8,133	8,198	7,614
Arson/Burn	383	290	385	275	337
Trespass	6,678	5,612	5,458	5,900	6,013
Other Property Offense	2,088	1,869	1,969	1,929	1,799
Drug	56,970	39,991	41,058	38,382	42,657
Class A	5,773	5,568	5,169	5,587	7,945
Class B	13,642	11,905	12,161	11,313	12,080
Class C	1,497	1,371	1,733	1,600	1,879
Class D	18,526	5,423	5,155	4,492	4,902
Class E	2,578	2,411	2,726	2,827	3,227
Conspiracy to Violate Drug Laws	4,149	3,337	3,734	3,490	4,022
Possession Hypodermic Needle	49	2	4	5	3
School/Park Violation	6,722	6,240	6,312	5,485	5,017
Other Drug Offense	4,034	3,734	4,064	3,583	3,582

## Trial Court Arraignments\* by Offense and Offense Type, CY2008 to CY2012

Offense	CY2008	CY2009	CY2010	CY2011	CY2012
<b>Motor Vehicle</b>	119,438	106,616	101,422	94,533	98,437
M.V Homicide	102	143	96	124	106
Driving Under Influence	19,381	17,310	16,200	14,994	16,503
Other Major Motor Vehicle Offense	99,955	89,163	85,126	79,415	81,828
<b>Public Order</b>	59,400	53,142	51,792	49,395	48,643
Disturbing/Disorderly	17,970	16,379	15,331	14,265	14,273
Firearm Offense	9,396	9,293	9,933	9,273	8,616
Prostitution	1,584	1,095	1,288	1,199	1,198
Liquor Law Violation	5,738	4,932	3,983	3,871	3,236
Other Public Order Offense	24,712	21,443	21,257	20,787	21,320

\*Source: Office of Commissioner of Probation.

## Five-Year Summary of Trial Court Case Filings by Type, FY2009 to FY2013

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
<b>All Case Types</b>	1,308,033	1,195,691	1,132,002	1,035,558	999,063
<b>Criminal Matters</b>					
Criminal	264,843	243,188	235,874	236,217	233,614
Criminal Show Cause Hearings	102,704	93,561	102,625	84,670	78,940
Criminal Warrants	5,658	5,639	5,834	6,572	6,828
Sub-Total	373,205	342,388	344,333	327,459	319,382
<b>Civil - Regular</b>	162,743	157,449	123,447	104,379	90,511
<b>Civil - Specialized Matters</b>					
Small Claims	137,763	101,385	94,858	101,975	99,726
Supplementary Proceedings	46,279	43,318	37,777	28,387	20,987
Summary Process	38,685	37,051	39,056	41,559	40,871
Restraining Orders	31,628	38,365	46,931	46,141	44,153
Harassment Orders			1,304	1,888	1,441
Mental Health	9,328	11,623	10,692	12,717	12,534
CMVI Appeals	23,676	15,466	12,208	9,763	12,960
Administrative Warrants	6,647	9,637	10,857	15,729	15,916
Other Specialized Civil	2,102	1,984	1,028	2,115	2,716
Sub-Total	296,108	258,829	254,711	260,274	251,304
<b>CMVI Hearings</b>	245,846	218,940	197,443	151,073	148,264
<b>Other Hearings</b>					
Show Cause Hearings (Applications)	12,672	11,238	9,643	7,135	9,347
Non-MV Infraction Civil Hearings	16,088	18,123	17,425	4,529	5,475
Sub-Total	28,760	29,361	27,068	11,664	14,822
<b>Juvenile Matters</b>					
Juvenile Delinquency	26,147	22,640	20,194	17,612	7,800
Youthful Offender	334	323	274	333	84
CRA/CHINS Applications	8,088	7,905	7,266	6,973	5,624
Care & Protection Petitions	3,357	2,799	2,636	2,470	2,669
Sub-Total	37,926	33,667	30,370	27,388	16,177

## Five-Year Summary of Trial Court Case Filings by Type, FY2009 to FY2013, *continued*

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
All Case Types	1,308,033	1,195,691	1,132,002	1,035,558	999,063
Probate	48,427	48,818	47,946	40,076	47,006
Guardianship	5,430	4,595	4,699	10,897	11,920
Child Welfare and Adoption	2647	2289	2293	2157	2194
Domestic Relations					
Paternity	24,144	19,919	20,164	20,459	19,101
Divorce	23,115	26,177	26,165	26,313	26,736
Modification/Contempt	55,886	50,708	51,052	51,661	50,191
Other Domestic Relations	2,430	1,003	1,280	759	442
Sub-Total	105,575	97,807	98,661	99,192	96,470
Appeals	1,366	1,548	1,031	999	1,013

**Juvenile:** Due to the conversion from Juris to Masscourts, FY2012 figures for Essex and Norfolk Counties were not reported for *CHINS Petitions*, *Permanency Hearings*, *Show Cause Hearings*, and jury cases. In FY2013, the reporting unit for *Juvenile Delinquency* and *Youthful Offender* cases was changed from charges to cases.

**Probate & Family:** From 2005 to FY2011, Probate included *Guardianship-Incapacitated* case types. Beginning in FY2012, Guardianship includes all guardianship case types. Prior to FY2012, Guardianship included *guardianship-minor* case types, only.

Child Welfare and Adoption includes: *Child Welfare* cases in the **Probate and Family** Court and *Adoption* cases in the **Juvenile** Court.

Only the **Boston Municipal** and **Juvenile** Court Departments separately report *Harassment and Restraining Orders*.



## Trial Court Case Filings by Department and Type, FY2013

	BMC	District	Housing	Juvenile	Land	Probate & Family	Superior	Total
<b>All Case Types</b>	100,888	625,160	42,357	27,676	16,170	159,686	27,126	999,063
<b>Criminal Matters</b>								
Criminal	29,080	198,289	1,301	253			4,691	233,614
Criminal Show Cause Hearings	14,021	62,021	2,898					78,940
Criminal Warrants	1,310	5,518						6,828
Sub-Total	44,411	265,828	4,199	253			4,691	319,382
<b>Civil - Regular</b>	5,908	44,312	4,413		14,231		21,647	90,511
<b>Civil - Specialized Matters</b>								
Small Claims	9,739	87,996	1,991					99,726
Supplementary Proceedings	2,012	18,880	95					20,987
Summary Process	892	12,599	27,380					40,871
Restraining Orders	3,551	36,809				3,793		44,153
Harassment Orders	1090			351				1,441
Mental Health	1,289	11,245						12,534
CMVI Appeals	2,938	10,022						12,960
Administrative Warrants	4,934	9,071	1,911					15,916
Other Specialized Civil	0	730		47	1,939			2,716
Sub-Total	26,445	187,352	31,377	398	1,939	3,793		251,304
<b>CMVI Hearings</b>	24,067	124,197						148,264
<b>Other Hearings</b>								
Show Cause Hearings (Applications)				9,347				9,347
Non-MV Infraction Civil Hearings		3,107	2,368					5,475
Sub-Total		3,107	2,368	9,347				14,822
<b>Juvenile Matters</b>								
Juvenile Delinquency		130		7,670				7,800
Youthful Offender				84				84
CRA/CHINS Applications		52		5,572				5,624
Care & Protection Petitions		14		2,655				2,669
Sub-Total		196		15,981				16,177

## Trial Court Case Filings by Department and Type, FY2013, *continued*

	BMC	District	Housing	Juvenile	Land	Probate & Family	Superior	Total
All Case Types	100,888	625,160	42,357	27,676	16,170	159,686	27,126	999,063
Probate						47,006		47,006
Guardianship				563		11,357		11,920
Child Welfare and Adoption				815		1,379		2,194
Domestic Relations								
Paternity				319		18,782		19,101
Divorce						26,736		26,736
Modification/Contempt						50,191		50,191
Other Domestic Relations						442		442
Sub-Total				319		96,151		96,470
Appeals	57	168					788	1013

**Juvenile:** Due to the conversion from Juris to Masscourts, FY2012 figures for Essex and Norfolk Counties were not reported for *CHINS Petitions, Permanency Hearings, Show Cause Hearings*, and jury cases. In FY2013, the reporting unit for *Juvenile Delinquency* and *Youthful Offender* cases was changed from charges to cases.

**Probate & Family:** Probate cases include, *Probate Estates, Equity*, and *Change of Name*.

Child Welfare and Adoption includes: *Child Welfare* cases in the **Probate and Family Court** and *Adoption* cases in the **Juvenile Court**.

Only the **Boston Municipal** and **Juvenile Court** Departments separately report *Harassment and Restraining Orders*.

## Case Flow Metrics

### Clearance Rate

The number of outgoing cases as a percentage of the number of incoming cases.

### Purpose

Clearance rate measures whether the court is keeping up with its incoming caseload. If cases are not disposed of in a timely manner, a backlog of cases awaiting disposition will grow. This performance measure is a single number that can be compared within the court for any and all case types, on a monthly or yearly basis, or between one court and another. Knowledge of clearance rates by case type can help a court pinpoint emerging problems and indicate where improvements can be made.

### Time to Disposition

The percentage of cases disposed or resolved within established time frames.

### Purpose

This measure, used in conjunction with Clearance Rates and Age of Active Pending Caseload, is a fundamental management tool that assesses the length of time it takes a court to process cases. It measures a court's ability to meet prescribed time standards.

### Age of Pending Cases

The number of pending cases that are beyond the disposition date set by the time standards.

### Purpose

Knowing the age of the active cases pending before the court is most useful for addressing three related questions: Does a backlog exist? Which cases are a problem? Given past and present performance, what is expected in the future?

### Trial Date Certainty

The number of times cases disposed by trial are scheduled for trial.

### Purpose

A court's ability to hold trials on the first date they are scheduled to be heard (trial date certainty) is closely associated with timely case disposition. This measure provides a tool to evaluate the effectiveness of calendaring and continuance practices. For this measure, "trials" includes jury trials, bench trials (also known as nonjury trials), and adjudicatory hearings in juvenile cases.

## Clearance Rate by Trial Court Department, FY2009 to FY2013

Trial Court Department	FY2009			FY2010			FY2011			FY2012			FY2013		
	New Cases	Disposed Cases	Rate	New Cases	Disposed Cases	Rate	New Cases	Disposed Cases	Rate	New Cases	Disposed Cases	Rate	New Cases	Disposed Cases	Rate
<b>Boston Municipal Court</b>	102,411	100,017	97.7%	87,715	93,559	106.7%	72,858	75,403	103.5%	62,170	63,376	101.9%	63,097	60,471	95.8%
Civil	64,530	60,301	93.4%	53,528	57,802	108.0%	42,465	45,397	106.9%	34,800	36,423	104.7%	36,269	35,038	96.6%
Criminal	37,881	39,716	104.8%	34,187	35,757	104.6%	30,393	30,006	98.7%	27,370	26,953	98.5%	26,828	25,433	94.8%
<b>District Court</b>	335,507	335,274	99.9%	319,403	317,731	99.5%	293,032	286,223	97.7%	283,202	264,653	93.5%	290,973	274,594	94.4%
Civil	116,353	115,644	99.4%	121,806	124,737	102.4%	109,301	109,806	100.5%	98,975	93,018	94.0%	92,610	86,176	93.1%
Criminal	219,154	219,630	100.2%	197,597	192,994	97.7%	183,731	176,417	96.0%	184,227	171,635	93.2%	198,363	188,418	95.0%
<b>Housing Court</b>	43,372	43,642	100.6%	41,284	41,204	99.8%	42,281	41,799	98.9%	42,782	41,381	96.7%	42,374	42,665	100.7%
<b>Juvenile Court*</b>	42,436	39,911	94.0%	37,400	35,059	93.7%	33,901	32,359	95.5%	29,893	27,601	92.3%			
Civil	15,540	15,382	99.0%	14,040	14,338	102.1%	13,161	12,907	98.1%	12,225	12,092	98.9%			
Criminal	26,896	24,529	91.2%	23,360	20,721	88.7%	20,740	19,452	93.8%	17,668	15,509	87.8%			
<b>Land Court</b>	26,307	21,280	80.9%	30,562	28,347	92.8%	19,268	16,446	85.4%	20,293	17,852	88.0%	14,231	16,612	116.7%
<b>Probate &amp; Family Court</b>	62,918	55,646	88.4%	66,847	55,238	82.6%	68,307	55,869	81.8%	66,497	58,033	87.3%	64,947	56,075	86.3%
<b>Superior Court**</b>	29,540	30,675	103.8%	30,253	30,570	101.0%	27,915	29,612	106.1%	27,630	27,804	100.6%	26,146	26,970	103.2%
Civil	24,243	25,122	103.6%	24,879	25,561	102.7%	22,533	24,207	107.4%	22,366	22,861	102.2%	21,458	22,215	103.5%
Criminal	5,297	5,553	104.8%	5,374	5,009	93.2%	5,382	5,405	100.4%	5,264	4,943	93.9%	4,688	4,755	101.4%
<b>All Departments</b>	642,491	626,445	97.5%	613,464	601,708	98.1%	557,562	537,711	96.4%	532,467	500,700	94.0%	506,448	481,990	95.2%

\* FY2013 data was not available for the Juvenile Court Department due to on-going MassCourts conversion.

\*\* Figures for the Superior Court do not include *Appeals*.

## Time to Disposition by Trial Court Department, FY2009 to FY2013

Trial Court Department	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013 Disposed Cases			
	% Disposed Within Time Standards				Within Time Standard	After Time Standard	Total	% Within Time Standard
<b>Boston Municipal Court</b>	95.3%	96.8%	95.8%	95.3%	56,744	3,727	60,471	93.8%
Civil	96.6%	98.7%	97.5%	97.0%	34,043	995	35,038	97.2%
Criminal	93.3%	93.9%	93.2%	93.0%	22,701	2,732	25,433	89.3%
<b>District Court</b>	94.9%	94.8%	93.8%	93.0%	241,091	23,209	264,300	91.2%
Civil	98.2%	98.1%	97.7%	97.2%	82,773	3,433	86,206	96.0%
Criminal	92.8%	92.7%	91.6%	90.6%	158,318	19,776	178,094	88.9%
<b>Housing Court</b>	82.6%	88.3%	90.8%	89.9%	38,133	4,532	42,665	89.4%
<b>Juvenile Court*</b>	77.6%	75.7%	72.4%	73.4%				
Civil	79.3%	79.3%	77.8%	79.0%				
Criminal	76.6%	73.3%	68.8%	69.0%				
<b>Land Court</b>	60.8%	59.9%	58.8%	59.9%	1,239	689	1,928	64.3%
<b>Probate &amp; Family Court</b>	81.3%	83.2%	83.3%	83.0%	46,059	10,727	56,786	81.1%
<b>Superior Court**</b>	68.7%	69.1%	67.3%	67.8%	17,643	8,854	26,497	66.6%
Civil	74.7%	75.9%	74.1%	74.3%	16,224	5,821	22,045	73.6%
Criminal	43.6%	33.4%	35.9%	35.6%	1,419	3,033	4,452	31.9%
<b>All Departments</b>	89.3%	90.6%	89.7%	89.1%	404,081	53,169	457,250	88.4%

\* FY2013 data was not available for the Juvenile Court Department due to on-going MassCourts conversion.

\*\* Figures for the Superior Court do not include *Appeals*.



## Number of Pending Cases Beyond the Time Standards by Trial Court Department FY2009 to FY2013

Trial Court Department	FY2009 Year-End	FY2010*** Year-End	FY2011 Year-End	FY2012 Year-End	FY2013 Year-End	FY2012 to FY2013 Difference
<b>Boston Municipal Court</b>	949	583	672	825	1,186	43.8%
Civil	292	194	232	188	245	30.3%
Criminal	657	389	440	637	941	47.7%
<b>District Court</b>	4,265	4,436	9,213	16,772	23,950	42.8%
Civil	222	264	3,478	9,603	15,372	60.1%
Criminal	4,043	4,172	5,735	7,169	8,578	19.7%
<b>Housing Court</b>	2,775	1,127	1,688	2,434	2,647	8.8%
<b>Juvenile Court*</b>	9,712	10,455	9,809	7,557		
Civil	3,316	4,151	4,501	3,863		
Criminal	6,396	6,304	5,308	3,694		
<b>Land Court</b>	10,813	10,309	10,218	10,397	10,314	-0.8%
<b>Probate &amp; Family Court</b>	41,952	54,153	18,025	21,652	28,876	33.4%
<b>Superior Court**</b>	8,462	8,188	8,068	8,234	7,840	-4.8%
Civil	6,161	5,979	5,858	5,753	5,186	-9.9%
Criminal	2,301	2,209	2,210	2,481	2,654	7.0%
<b>All Departments</b>	78,928	89,251	57,693	67,871	74,813	10.2%

\* FY2013 data was not available for the Juvenile Court Department due to on-going MassCourts conversion.

\*\*Figures for the Superior Court do not include *Appeals*.

\*\*\*The number of cases pending beyond the time standards at the end of 2010 was adjusted to reflect the increase in the number of District Court civil cases captured for analysis due to improved reporting of case status due to expanded Trial Court automation, and to reflect the disposal of a large number of Probate and Family Court cases that had gone without activity for at least 24 months.

## Trial Date Certainty by Trial Court Department, FY2009 to FY2013

Trial Court Department	% Trials Disposed By Second Trial Date				
	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013
<b>Boston Municipal Court</b>	86.6%	80.4%	82.2%	83.7%	83.4%
Civil	92.1%	78.2%	83.4%	78.7%	82.4%
Criminal	83.6%	81.0%	81.8%	84.9%	83.7%
<b>District Court</b>	73.6%	72.0%	70.9%	65.1%	68.3%
Civil	75.4%	76.8%	79.8%	73.6%	68.1%
Criminal	73.5%	71.6%	70.5%	64.5%	68.3%
<b>Housing Court</b>	84.8%	86.2%	84.1%	82.8%	81.4%
<b>Juvenile Court*</b>	81.4%	81.1%	83.6%	81.1%	
Civil	82.3%	81.5%	82.5%	81.5%	79.5%
Criminal	79.9%	80.3%	87.8%	78.7%	69.6%
<b>Land Court</b>	98.3%	97.9%	89.1%	93.9%	93.8%
<b>Probate &amp; Family Court</b>	92.9%	89.8%	96.2%	97.4%	98.0%
<b>Superior Court**</b>	62.0%	63.6%	63.6%	63.1%	66.1%
Civil	61.8%	65.5%	65.3%	63.6%	70.2%
Criminal	62.2%	61.8%	61.7%	62.6%	61.5%
<b>All Departments</b>	76.6%	74.9%	75.8%	73.2%	74.1%

\* FY2013 data was not available for the Juvenile Court Department due to on-going MassCourts conversion.

\*\* Figures for the Superior Court do not include *Appeals*.

## COURT FACILITY INVENTORY

### As of June 2013

#### FACILITIES WITH COURTROOMS

City	Address	Department	Owner	Year Built	GSF	Courtrooms
<b>BARNSTABLE COUNTY</b>						
Barnstable	3195 Main Street	PFC	Barnstable County	1956	28,819	2
Barnstable	3195 Main Street	Superior Court	Barnstable County	1832	32,034	2
Barnstable	Main Street	DC/JC	Barnstable County	1970	43,530	4
Falmouth	161 Jones Road	DC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1995	12,000	1
Orleans	237 Rock Harbor Rd.	DC/JC	Barnstable County	1971	21,024	3
<b>BERKSHIRE COUNTY</b>						
Great Barrington	9 Gilmore Avenue	DC/JC	Town of Great Barrington		10,456	2
North Adams	37 Main Street	Juvenile Court	North Adams Futures, Inc.		12,076	1
North Adams	111 Holden Street	District Court	Museum of Contemp. Art	1974	23,283	2
Pittsfield	76 East Street	HC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1871	24,619	2
Pittsfield	44 Bank Row	PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1876	25,228	2
Pittsfield	24 Wendell Avenue	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1927	20,523	3
Pittsfield	190 North Street	Juvenile Court	Passardi Realty		15,651	1
<b>BRISTOL COUNTY</b>						
Attleboro	88 North Street	DC/JC	Bristol County	1910	21,880	3
Fall River	289 Rock Street	HC/JC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1886	80,122	5
Fall River	186 S. Main Street	DC/SC/Law Library	Comm. of Massachusetts	2010	154,150	9
New Bedford	505 Pleasant Street	PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1909	16,186	3
New Bedford	139 Hathaway Road	Housing Court	S.B. Realty Ltd.		10,546	1
New Bedford	441 County Street	Superior Court	Bristol County	1830	21,725	2
New Bedford	75 North 6th Street	DC/JC	Bristol County	1984	47,250	4
Taunton	40 Broadway	DC/HC/JC/PFC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	2011	147,114	8
Taunton	9 Court Street	Superior Court	Bristol County	1890	39,002	1
<b>DUKES COUNTY</b>						
Edgartown	81 Main Street	DC/JC/PFC/SC	Dukes County	1858	8,618	1
<b>ESSEX COUNTY</b>						
Gloucester	197 Main Street	District Court	City of Gloucester	1973	6,586	1
Haverhill	45 James Ginty Blvd.	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1968	19,021	3
Lawrence	43 Appleton Way	Superior Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1859	30,374	4
Lawrence	2 Appleton Way	DC/HC/JC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1998	156,181	10
Lynn	580 Essex Street	DC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1972	40,875	6
Lynn	139 Central Street	HC/JC	Jack Arnold Realty Trust		20,297	2
Newburyport	High Street	Superior Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1805	8,617	1
Newburyport	188 State Street	DC/JC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1991	56,437	4
Peabody	1 Lowell Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1978	40,247	3
Salem	56 Federal Street	DC/HC/JC/PFC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	2011	201,000	11
Salem	32 Federal Street	PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1895	49,309	4

## FACILITIES WITH COURTROOMS

City	Address	Department	Owner	Year Built	GSF	Courtrooms
<b>FRANKLIN COUNTY</b>						
Greenfield	425 Main Street	DC/PFC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1931	50,056	4
Greenfield	106 Main Street	HC/JC	Dyer Investments, LLC		14,704	1
Orange	1 Court Square	DC/JC	Orange Court, LLC		21,705	2
<b>HAMPDEN COUNTY</b>						
Chicopee	30 Church Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1985	20,250	2
Holyoke	20 Court Plaza	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1980	31,924	4
Holyoke	121 Elm Street	Juvenile Court	Gretna Green Dvlpmnt.		14,063	1
Palmer	235 Sykes Street	DC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1991	21,200	2
Springfield	37 Elm Street	HC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1874	47,821	4
Springfield	50 State Street	DC/SC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1976	226,863	20
Westfield	224 Elm Street	District Court	Westfield Court Assoc.		25,399	3
<b>HAMPSHIRE COUNTY</b>						
Belchertown	205 State Street	DC/JC	Town Line Development	2007	29,469	2
Hadley	166 Russell Street	Juvenile Court	Roam Development	2002	18,835	2
Northampton	33 King Street	PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1931	20,029	1
Northampton	15 Gothic Street	DC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1930	57,643	4
Northampton	99 Main Street	HC/SC	Hampshire Cncl. of Gov.	1886	6,212	1
<b>MIDDLESEX COUNTY</b>						
Ayer	25 East Main Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1970	32,085	2
Cambridge	208 Cambridge St.	PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1900	75,580	5
Cambridge	121 Third Street	JC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1933	27,773	6
Concord	305 Walden Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1972	27,837	3
Framingham	600 Concord Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1952	27,641	4
Framingham	110 Mt. Wayte Ave.	Juvenile Court	Baron Properties, Inc.		16,335	1
Lowell	360 Gorham Street	HC/PFC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1850	58,309	3
Lowell	41 Hurd Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1925	48,989	5
Lowell	89 Appleton Street	Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court, LLC		24,542	2
Malden	89 Summer Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1922	26,469	3
Marlborough	45 Williams Street	DC/HC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1969	29,917	4
Medford	4040 Mystic Vly. Pwy.	Cambridge DC	CC Industries Realty		65,073	3
Newton	1309 Washington St.	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1930	15,172	2
Somerville	175 Fellsway	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1968	31,060	3
Waltham	38 Linden Street	DC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1941	27,212	3
Woburn	30 Pleasant Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1967	24,020	3
Woburn	100 Sylvan Road	Superior Court	Cummings Properties	2008	157,150	15
<b>NANTUCKET COUNTY</b>						
Nantucket	16 Broad Street	DC/JC/PFC/SC	Town of Nantucket	1965	13,091	1
<b>NORFOLK COUNTY</b>						
Brookline	360 Washington Street	DC	Norfolk County	1941	15,687	2
Canton	35 Shawmut Avenue	PFC	Campanelli TriGate LLC		49,043	5
Dedham	55 Allied Drive	Juvenile Court	Campanelli TriGate LLC		15,575	1
Dedham	631 High Street	District Court	Norfolk County	1938	25,857	6
Dedham	650 High Street	Superior Court	Norfolk County	1831	35,185	6

## FACILITIES WITH COURTROOMS

City	Address	Department	Owner	Year Built	GSF	Courtrooms
Quincy	1 Dennis Ryan Pwy.	DC/JC	Norfolk County	1972	36,204	5
Stoughton	1288 Central Street	DC/JC	Norfolk County	1962	16,542	3
Wrentham	60 East Street	District Court	Norfolk County	1955	19,405	3
<b>PLYMOUTH COUNTY</b>						
Brockton	215 Main Street	DC/JC/HC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1999	175,000	13
Brockton	72 Belmont Street	Superior Court	Plymouth County	1891	41,440	7
Hingham	28 Geo. Wash. Blvd.	DC/JC	Plymouth County	1930	29,450	4
Plymouth	52 Obery Street	DC/HC/JC/PFC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	2007	189,154	10
Wareham	2200 Cranberry Hwy.	DC/JC	Plymouth County	1975	25,006	4
<b>SUFFOLK COUNTY</b>						
Boston	Pemberton Square	SJC/AC/SLL	Comm. of Massachusetts	1894	244,825	4
Boston	Pemberton Square	LC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1937	395,280	26
Boston	24 New Chardon Street	BMC/JC/HC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1999	425,300	25
Brighton	52 Academy Hill Road	BMC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1925	23,675	2
Charlestown	3 City Square	BMC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1915	24,691	1
Chelsea	120 Broadway	DC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1999	79,500	5
Dorchester	510 Washington Street	BMC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1925	77,000	6
East Boston	37 Meridian Street	BMC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1931	21,497	3
Roxbury	85 Warren Street	BMC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1971	70,658	6
South Boston	535 East Broadway	BMC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1913	25,035	2
West Roxbury	445 Arborway	BMC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1925	54,124	4
<b>WORCESTER COUNTY</b>						
Clinton	300 Boylston Street	District Court	Comm. of Massachusetts	1972	18,466	2
Dudley	West Main Street	DC/HC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1972	16,775	2
East Brookfield	544 East Main Street	DC/HC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1995	44,225	2
Fitchburg	84 Elm Street	SC/HC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1884	15,092	2
Fitchburg	100 Elm Street	DC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1902	32,183	3
Gardner	108 Matthews Street	DC/HC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1975	16,777	2
Leominster	25 Church Street	DC/JC/PFC	City of Leominster		16,751	2
Milford	161 West Street	DC/JC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1975	16,259	2
Uxbridge	261 South Main Street	DC/HC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1970	17,302	2
Westborough	175 Milk Street	DC/PFC	Comm. of Massachusetts	1971	17,180	3
Worcester	225 Main Street	DC/HC/JC/PFC/SC	Comm. of Massachusetts	2007	427,000	26