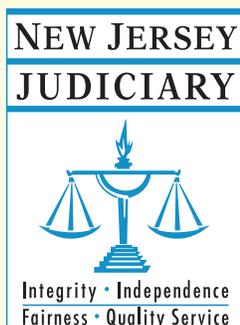


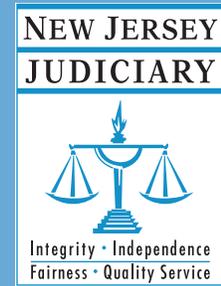
# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW JERSEY JUDICIARY 2001-2002



Access  
Economy  
Participation  
Fairness  
Equality  
Timeliness

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*A Message from*  
**Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz**



We live in a time of great challenge—a time that tests the strength of our collective will, our common purpose and our shared values. For those of us who serve the public, it is a time to demonstrate the strength of our institutions and the democratic process. During the past year, the judges, professional and clerical staff, administrators, and volunteers who comprise New Jersey’s Judiciary have rededicated themselves to that task.

This year’s Annual Report reflects the Judiciary’s understanding of its responsibilities in a changing world. Meeting our constitutional obligation to fairly and peacefully resolve disputes and protect the rights and liberties of our citizens is essential for a free and just society. It is an obligation that continually asks that we give nothing less than our best in all that we do.

The efforts of the Judiciary to carry out its responsibilities are described in this Report. We are proud of our achievements during the 2001–2002 court year. I invite you to share in that sense of accomplishment as you read about our work to improve the quality of justice throughout New Jersey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah T. Poritz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz  
New Jersey Supreme Court

## *A Message from* **Judge Richard J. Williams**

During the past year, the New Jersey Supreme Court and the appellate and trial divisions of our Superior Court resolved more than one million disputes. In addition, New Jersey's Municipal Courts resolved over six million disputes. Those disputes included conflicts between neighbors, disputes within families, differences between persons engaged in commerce, conflicts involving complete strangers and disputes between citizens and their government. Resolution of those disputes by our courts provides for social stability and lies at the heart of a just and democratic society. We in the Judiciary appreciate the importance of our responsibilities and value the trust and confidence reposed in us by those we serve. It is a trust and confidence that we strive every day to earn.

In seeking to earn that trust and confidence, we acknowledge and accept a basic reality of our contemporary world. In today's rapidly changing environment, what is good about the quality of our work today may not be good enough to meet the needs and expectations of tomorrow. We understand that if we are truly concerned about the quality of justice, then we must necessarily be continuously concerned about how to improve the quality of justice.

We believe that quality is determined by values such as consistency, fairness, accessibility, economy, convenience, timeliness and effectiveness. Those are the values that influence our work and that underscore our commitment to continuously improve the quality of justice in New Jersey. This report outlines the work of our courts during the past year and highlights particular accomplishments in which we have worked to improve the quality of justice. It reflects the dedication and hard work of all of our judges, administrators, professional and clerical staff and volunteers. We are proud to share our sense of achievement with you.



Richard J. Williams, J.A.D.

Administrative Director of the Courts



# Improving the Quality of Justice

## MAKING JUSTICE MORE CONSISTENT: *Implementing Best Practice Standards*

A critical measure of the quality of justice is the degree of fairness and consistency with which it is administered. Ensuring greater fairness and consistency is at the heart of the Judiciary's "best practice" initiatives. The goal is to ensure that citizens and their attorneys have access to the same programs, encounter the same practices and procedures, and receive the same high quality of justice in every courthouse in the state.

Over the past several years, judges and court executives have come together, sharing ideas and experiences, to identify successful programs

and procedures for statewide implementation.

Following review and comment by the bar and other interested groups, those programs and procedures have been designated as "best practices" and submitted to the Supreme Court for adoption as statewide standards.

Experience during the past year has shown that best practice standards are producing beneficial results by establishing statewide consistency in programs and procedures, promoting economy and efficiency in practices, creating expectations for timely resolution of cases, and significantly reducing the age of cases pending in New Jersey's courts.

Operation under best practice standards began in the Civil Division in September 2000. During the past year, the Division has emphasized monitoring the effectiveness of implementation. Committees of experienced judges and court executives have traveled throughout the state to monitor implementation progress in each county and to offer advice. To date, Civil Division best practices have resulted in more consistent procedures statewide, fewer pretrial motions, greater trial date certainty, and a dramatic reduction in backlogged cases.

The court year also saw the development of best practice standards in the General Equity Division and the Special Civil Part of the Civil Division. In the Special Civil Part, particular emphasis is being placed on enabling litigants to resolve their cases with a single trip to the courthouse. If a case is not resolved through conferencing or mediation, the standards call for a trial to be held that same day. In the General Equity Division, because of the unique nature of each case, the standards



call for individualized case management at an early stage and establishment of customized time goals for resolution of each case.

The Family Division, which previously developed best practice standards for five different case types, focused its efforts during the past year on developing best practice standards for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs. The CASA programs, which now operate in nine counties, provide child advocacy services through either court-operated programs or court-authorized non-profit programs. CASA volunteers supplement and enhance the work of law guardians and Division of Youth and Family Services case managers to ensure that children in foster care receive appropriate services. The best practice standards clarify the relationship between CASA and the court by identifying core services to be provided by CASA programs statewide. The goal is more consistent and effective service for the 1,300 children and families served by those programs.

The Probation Division, which previously developed result-based standards for supervision of offenders, began work this year on developing best practice standards to improve child support enforcement. Included in their initiatives will be an operations manual to ensure consistent enforcement practices in all counties, and a series of best practice recommendations in the area of customer service. Children and families across the state will benefit from the results: effective enforcement of child support orders, timely distribution of child support payments, and responsive service for parents and guardians seeking information or assistance from the courts.

## **MAKING JUSTICE MORE EFFECTIVE:** *Establishing Drug Courts Statewide*

**Drug Courts** are an example of a successful program identified by the Criminal Division as a best practice. They have proven to be a cost-effective way to break the cycle of drug addiction and crime and offer enormous social benefits. The retention rate of New Jersey's drug court program is 67 percent, which is significantly higher than the retention rates for traditional criminal justice programs. The cost of incarceration for a prison-bound drug offender is 57 percent higher than the cost of treating that offender through drug court. Each baby born drug-free saves between \$750,000 and \$1,500,000 in medical costs, and successful drug court participants are more likely to care for their own children and make regular child support payments, thereby strengthening families and reducing the burden on public funds. Moreover, drug courts address important concerns about racial disparity in our prison population. Currently, 87 percent of New Jersey drug court participants are minorities receiving treatment, individuals who otherwise would be sentenced to prison.



The coordination of intensive treatment, close supervision and immediate sanctions has given 114 drug court graduates in New Jersey a chance to rebuild their lives. Another 1,490 people currently are participating in drug court programs.

Equal justice requires access to treatment for all who qualify for drug court, regardless of the county where a case may be filed. In past years, drug courts operated only in the Camden, Essex, Mercer, Passaic and Union Vicinages. During court year 2001–02 the program was expanded to the Bergen, Cumberland/Gloucester/Salem, Monmouth, Morris/Sussex and Ocean Vicinages. The Judiciary is on target to meet its goal of establishing drug courts in every vicinage during 2003.

## **MAKING JUSTICE MORE TIMELY:** *Meeting Case Resolution Time Goals*

In today's fast-paced world, citizens' perceptions of the quality of service often are directly dependent on the timeliness of that service. With respect to the work of the Judiciary in resolving disputes, that relationship between quality and timeliness is most important. Lengthy delays increase costs for litigants and lawyers, prolong upheaval in the lives or businesses of those seeking justice before the courts, and jeopardize the accuracy of testimony in the search for truth. For these reasons, the Judiciary

has established time goals for the expected resolution of each of the types of cases it handles. Most cases are resolved within those time frames. Cases that are not resolved within their expected time goals are referred to as "backlogged."

During court year 2001–02, 1,001,227 cases were filed in New Jersey's Superior Courts and 1,009,369 cases were resolved. In spite of a 3 percent increase in filings during the year, the backlog was reduced by 9,263 cases, a 22 percent decrease from the prior year. At the end of the court year, 85 percent of pending cases were within established time goals.

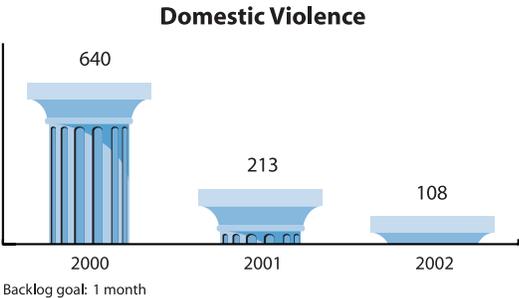
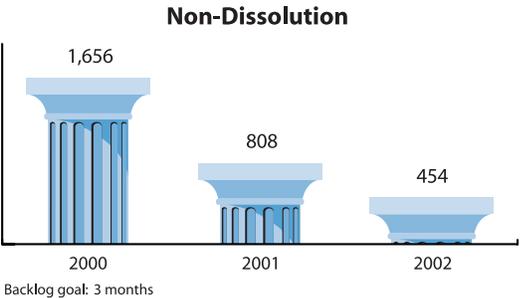
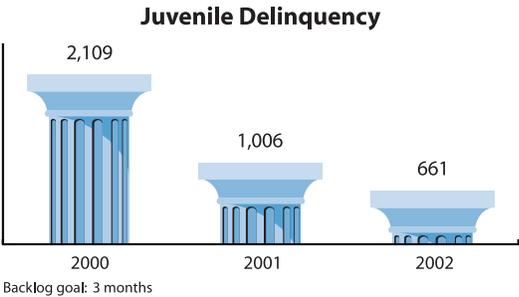
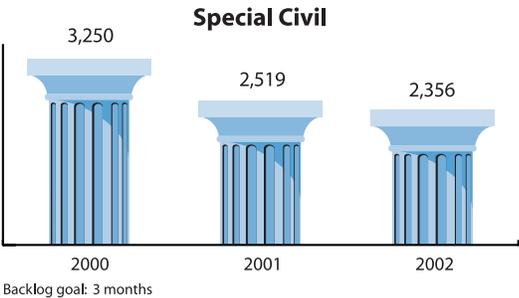
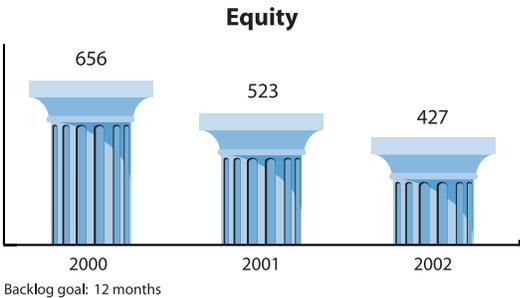
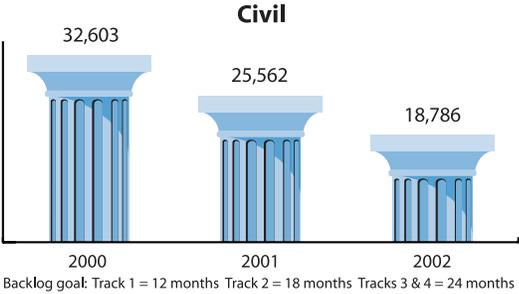
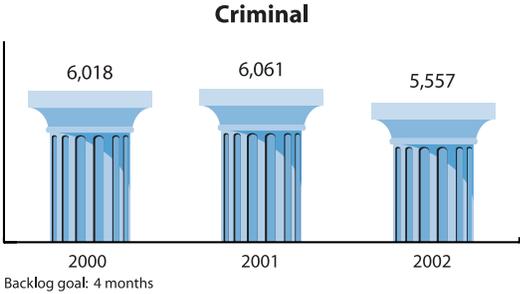
Dramatic reductions in backlog occurred in almost every case type. The backlog of domestic violence cases, which was reduced by 67 percent in court year 2000–01, fell another 49 percent in court year 2001–02. As of June 30, 2002, 93 percent of all domestic violence cases were within resolution time goals.

Large strides also were made in juvenile delinquency cases, where backlog was reduced by 34 percent, with 90 percent of all pending cases within resolution time goals. A 32 percent reduction in backlog for all dissolution (divorce) cases has resulted in 90 percent of those cases being within goal as well. The backlog of civil cases was reduced 27 percent, with the result that 82 percent of all civil cases were within resolution time goals. A 6 percent decline in backlog for Special Civil Part cases has resulted in 92 percent of those cases falling within time goals. In General Equity, backlog was reduced by 18 percent, and 82 percent of those cases are now within resolution time goals. The backlog of criminal cases was reduced by 8 percent, resulting in the lowest number of criminal cases in backlog in 20 years. As of June 30, 2002, 64 percent of criminal cases were within resolution time goals.

**“Lengthy delays increase costs for litigants and lawyers, prolong upheaval in the lives or businesses of those seeking justice before the courts, and jeopardize the accuracy of testimony in the search for truth. For these reasons, the Judiciary has established time goals for the expected resolution of each of the types of cases it handles.”**

# BACKLOG REDUCTION

## June 2000–June 2002



## **MAKING JUSTICE MORE CONVENIENT:**

### *Introducing E-Payment for Traffic and Parking Tickets*

Quality of service also can be measured by its convenience. During the past year, drivers in New Jersey were provided for the first time with a convenient alternative for paying traffic and parking tickets.

Rather than personally going to court or mailing in the payment, drivers now can use a credit card to pay their fines by e-payment over the Internet. [New Jersey Municipal Courts Direct \(NJMC Direct\)](#), a



ticket payment service accessible through the Judiciary Web site at [www.njcourtsonline.com](http://www.njcourtsonline.com), is a major step toward improving the convenience of the services provided to New Jersey residents by the Judiciary. The service was implemented this past year in 533 municipalities statewide, and when completed in three more municipalities it will be the first statewide service of its kind in the country.

Motorists receiving a summons will find the e-payment Web address listed on the ticket. Once at the Web site, they can find the penalty

amount, the court date, the points assessed for the violation, and they can be advised whether the fine is payable online. Paying a fine online through [NJMC Direct](#) updates the municipal court's records immediately without further work by court staff and the payment information is shared instantly with the Division of Motor Vehicles.

People choosing to pay their tickets electronically via the Judiciary's Web site are charged a small convenience fee, based on the amount of the fine, that covers the cost of maintaining the program. As a result, the program is being instituted statewide at no cost to the participating municipalities, and thousands of people each month are making use of this convenient payment method.

## **MAKING JUSTICE MORE RESPONSIVE:**

### *Expanding Complementary Dispute Resolution Options with Presumptive Mediation*

The quality of justice is enhanced by offering citizens a full range of [dispute resolution options](#) in order to respond to the particular needs and circumstances of each case. For this reason the New Jersey courts have offered a variety of complementary dispute resolution programs for the past two decades. Those programs, involving arbitration and mediation, have shown that they save litigants both time and money. Furthermore, in the case of mediation litigants can fashion outcomes to suit the unique nature of their dispute, rather than being limited solely to monetary damages as a remedy. Because of

those benefits, the Judiciary continuously seeks to refine and expand the complementary dispute resolution options available to those we serve.

This year, the Judiciary completed its evaluation of one such approach—its Civil Presumptive Mediation Pilot Program. The program automatically refers selected categories of civil cases to early mediation. The initial three hours of mediation are free for the litigants and provide them an opportunity to work toward resolution. After the first three hours working with a court-assigned mediator, the parties may opt to remain in mediation or proceed to resolution by trial.

Results of the Civil Presumptive Mediation program indicate that judicially required mediation has the potential to resolve a wide variety of disputes efficiently and affordably. Since the program's inception, 55 percent of the cases in which mediation was completed were reported as resolved. In addition, even when the whole case was not resolved, a large majority of participants reported that mediation had a positive impact either by resolving part of the case, moving the case significantly toward settlement, or clarifying positions through the mediation process. Most litigants and lawyers who participated in the program said that they would consider mediation for future matters.

The program was initiated in Union, Hudson, Mercer and Gloucester Counties. Cumberland and Salem Counties joined the pilot in June 2001. It will be expanded to additional counties in the coming court year.

## **MAKING JUSTICE MORE ECONOMICAL:**

### ***Expanding the Videoconferencing Network***

Improving the quality of justice means offering more efficient and affordable ways to do business with the courts. The use of [videoconferencing](#) improves both the efficiency and affordability of participating in the court system. Whether used for meetings, for oral arguments, or for taking testimony from remote locations, videoconferencing can reduce expenses and save time in every case type. In 2002, the New Jersey Judiciary's videoconferencing network was cited by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University as "one of the largest videoconferencing networks for court systems in the country."

To date, every Superior Court courthouse and more than 70 municipal courts have installed videoconferencing technology, with 25 more municipal courts in the planning stage. Building on the success and experience of the Superior Court's videoconferencing technology, municipal courts have embraced this technology as a means of reducing expenses and improving security. One of the primary uses of those systems is to afford criminal defendants a "first appearance"—when they may enter a plea and where bail may be set—without being transported from jail to the courthouse. Videoconferencing offers additional benefits to local governments beyond cost savings. Courtrooms become safer environments for citizens when inmates are no longer brought to court. Local towns do not have to reassign police officers from

***“Whether used for meetings, for oral arguments, or for taking testimony from remote locations, videoconferencing can reduce expenses and save time in every case type.”***

patrolling neighborhoods to shuttling inmates between the jail and the court. Municipal courts using this technology also can connect to other facilities for conferences, meetings and training events.

## MAKING JUSTICE MORE PARTICIPATORY:

### *Allowing Questions by Jurors*

Public trust and confidence in the Judiciary can be improved by greater citizen participation in the judicial process. Nowhere is the participation of citizens more vital than through their service as jurors.

**“...jurors who were permitted to ask questions had a greater appreciation for the importance of their role, took their responsibility more seriously, and were more attentive...”**

That role now has been enhanced in civil trials by allowing jurors to ask questions during the proceedings. First begun as a pilot program with twelve civil division judges, questions from civil jurors are now permitted in trials statewide, at the discretion of the judge in each case. Once written questions are submitted, the judge, in consultation with the attorneys, determines which questions are relevant and appropriate to ask of the witness. Attorneys then have the opportunity to ask follow-up questions of witnesses after they have responded to juror questions.

A survey conducted during the pilot period indicated that jurors who were permitted to ask questions had a greater appreciation for the importance of their role, took their responsibility more seriously, and were more attentive, all of which increases the likelihood of a reasoned deliberative process and a just outcome. In addition, jurors who were permitted to ask questions reported their jury experience to be more personally satisfying.

## MAKING JUSTICE MORE ACCESSIBLE:

### *Enhancing the Judiciary Web Site*

The [New Jersey Judiciary Web site](#) was selected as the top New Jersey state government Web site by the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Receiving the only grade of “A” that the Eagleton

Institute awarded, the Web site was praised for its “extensive content[,] interactive applications intended to improve efficiency [,and] wide-ranging list of links.” The report also praised [NJMC Direct](#), the Judiciary’s online ticket payment service, as “one of the most innovative services on the State government Web.”

New on the Web site in court year 2001–02 is a searchable online version of the [New Jersey Rules of Court](#), an indispensable research



tool for lawyers, litigants, law clerks and judges. Also new are a [series of pro se forms with instructions](#) that can be downloaded for use by those who wish to represent themselves in matters such as name changes, municipal court appeals, small claims, and post-judgment motions in family court. The Web site can be accessed at [www.njcourtsonline.com](http://www.njcourtsonline.com). Updated daily, the New Jersey Judiciary Web site allows quick and convenient 24-hour access to a wealth of information about the Judiciary and its work.

## **MAKING JUSTICE MORE COLLABORATIVE:** *Maintaining the Domestic Violence Central Registry*

Information housed in the Judiciary's information systems is vital not only to the Judiciary, but to the work of other agencies as well. A prime illustration is the [Domestic Violence Central Registry](#). The registry, a statewide database of domestic violence restraining orders, has been recognized by the National Center for Digital Government as an excellent example of how technology can make critical information available to multiple agencies that need it. The registry was selected this year as one of eleven "Best of Breed" technology applications among more than 1,500 projects across the nation.

Law enforcement officials can use the registry to immediately retrieve information about outstanding restraining orders. Also accessible is information on criminal history and firearm permit applications. The ability to obtain this information quickly through the Judiciary's information systems can help law enforcement to respond appropriately when handling matters of domestic violence, minimizing risks to both domestic violence victims and police.

**“The registry, a statewide database of domestic violence restraining orders, has been recognized by the National Center for Digital Government as an excellent example of how technology can make critical information available to multiple agencies that need it.”**

# Justice at Work



The New Jersey Supreme Court. Seated (left to right): Justice James H. Coleman Jr., Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz, Justice Virginia A. Long. Standing (left to right): Justice James R. Zazzali, Justice Peter G. Verniero, Justice Jaynee LaVecchia, Justice Barry T. Albin.

## The Supreme Court

The seven members of the [Supreme Court](#) are appointed by the governor for a seven-year term, after which they may be reappointed to serve until they reach the age of 70. [Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz](#) was appointed in 1996. Justice Gary S. Stein was first appointed in 1985 and [Justice James H. Coleman Jr.](#) joined the court in 1994. [Justices Virginia A. Long](#) and [Peter G. Verniero](#) were appointed in 1999. [Justices Jaynee LaVecchia](#) and

[James R. Zazzali](#) were appointed in 2000. The year began with the reappointment of Justice James H. Coleman and ended with the retirement of Justice Gary S. Stein. On July 10, Governor James E. McGreevey nominated [Barry T. Albin](#) to succeed Justice Stein.

## Reappointment of Justice James H. Coleman Jr.

[Justice Coleman](#) was reappointed to the Supreme Court by Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco in November 2001. The first African American to serve on the New Jersey

Supreme Court, Justice Coleman began his judicial career in the Executive Branch in 1964 as a judge of the Division of Workers' Compensation. In 1973, Governor William T. Cahill appointed him as a judge in the Union County Court. He was appointed to the Superior Court in 1978, and was elevated to the Appellate Division in 1981. He was named a presiding judge of the Appellate Division in 1987, and served in that capacity until his appointment to the Supreme Court by Governor Christine Todd Whitman in 1994. The reappointment enables Justice Coleman to serve on the Supreme Court until May 2003, when he will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70.

## Retirement of Justice Gary S. Stein

The Supreme Court's senior associate justice, Gary S. Stein, announced his retirement effective on September 1, 2002. Appointed by Governor Thomas H. Kean, Justice Stein took the oath of office on January 11, 1985.

He was reappointed by Governor James M. Florio in 1992. Justice Stein served more than seventeen-and-a-half years on the Court, one of the longest tenures in its history.

Justice Stein wrote more than 365 published opinions during his service on the Court, including more than 220 majority opinions. Through that extensive body of work, Justice Stein had a significant impact on virtually every area of the law, including education, family, criminal, zoning and land use law, as well as civil and criminal procedure and attorney discipline.

## Appointment of Justice Barry T. Albin

Admitted to the bar in 1976, [Justice Barry T. Albin](#) holds a B.A. from Rutgers College and a J.D. from Cornell Law School. He served as a deputy attorney general in the Appellate Section of the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice and as an assistant prosecutor in Passaic and Middlesex Counties before engaging in private practice. Specializing in criminal and civil rights cases, Justice Albin also served as president of the New Jersey Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and as a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Criminal Practice Committee and the Middlesex County Criminal Practice Committee. He was sworn in on September 18, 2002, as the 31st associate justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court since the current system was created by the State Constitution of 1947.

## The Work of the Court

In dealing with the cases that come before it, the Supreme Court may be required to interpret the State or Federal Constitutions, statutes enacted by the New Jersey Legislature or regulations adopted by administrative agencies as well as established common law. The chief justice and the associate justices also have exclusive constitutional responsibility for the attorney and judicial ethics systems, which include the Disciplinary Oversight Committee, the Disciplinary Review Board, the [Office of Attorney Ethics](#), and the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct.

Certain appeals come to the Supreme Court as a matter of right. Those include cases in which there was a dissent in the Appellate Division and those that raise substantial constitutional issues that have not been decided previously in the Appellate Division or by the Supreme Court. The New Jersey Constitution also gives the Supreme Court the responsibility to review all death penalty cases. Part of that responsibility includes a proportionality review to determine whether the sentence of death fits the crime in comparison with other capital cases.

The majority of cases that come before the Court are filed as petitions for certification. In those cases, the Court engages in a discretionary review to determine whether to hear the matter. Certification is granted in a limited number of cases, such as those that are of general public importance and those involving issues that have resulted in conflicting decisions in the Appellate Division. Of the 1,425 petitions for certification filed with the Court during the 2001–02 court year, 101, or 7 percent, were granted.

The Supreme Court received a total of 3,477 filings during court year 2001–02, and resolved 3,545, for a clearance rate of 102 percent. Filings included 196 appeals, 1,431 petitions for certification, 1,518 motions and 332 disciplinary actions. The Court resolved 205 appeals, 1,447 petitions for certification, 1,562 motions and 331 disciplinary actions. It also issued 101 written opinions.

The Supreme Court adopts and modifies the Rules of Court in consultation with various practice committees charged with reporting biannually on proposed rule changes. In addition, two ad hoc committees were appointed during the 2000–2001 court year: the Supreme Court’s Commission on the Rules of Professional Conduct and the Ad Hoc Committee on Bar Admissions. The Commission on the Rules of Professional Conduct has been considering the American Bar Association’s proposed revisions to the Model Rules of Professional Conduct and other recent ethics issues. The Commission released its preliminary report in March 2002. In its final report, the Commission recommends eliminating the “appearance-of-impropriety” rule, which requires lawyers to avoid any seeming conflicts of interest, and relying instead on the rules covering actual conflicts of interest. It also recommends that lawyers working in the same law firm with a municipal prosecutor be allowed to perform defense work in unrelated cases; that law firms be permitted to “screen” lawyers from colleagues if the colleague is working on a case that may pose a conflict of interest to others in the firm; and that lawyers receiving documents in error be required to notify the sender and return the document. The report offers suggestions for allowing certain elements in attorney advertising, such as music or animation, while upholding existing restrictions on false or misleading communication. It also recommends allowing attorneys to share fees with not-for-profit corporations in litigation.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Bar Admissions has been reviewing questions such as whether to allow foreign-educated attorneys to take the New Jersey bar examination, whether to regulate “in-house” counsel, and whether to admit attorneys from other jurisdictions by motion. The multi-jurisdictional practice and “bona fide office” issues that were assessed by the ethics commission also have been considered by the committee. Final action on both reports is expected in 2003.

## **The Appellate Division of the Superior Court**

The [Appellate Division of the Superior Court](#) is New Jersey’s intermediate appellate court. The Court consists of 34 judges grouped into six parts of four judges and two parts of five judges. Each part is administered by a presiding judge who presides over the sessions, makes opinion assignments and oversees the part’s work flow. The presiding judge for administration of the Appellate Division is Judge Sylvia B. Pressler.

The Appellate Division considers appeals from the final judgments of the trial divisions of Superior Court, as well as appeals from the decisions of state administrative agencies. Appellate Courts may also, at their discretion, review interlocutory (interim) orders from the trial courts and the administrative agencies. A [Web-based filing system](#), implemented in court year 2000–01, allows appellants to file appeals electronically 24 hours a day using standard Internet software.

Appeals considered most likely to be settled are processed through the Civil Appeals Settlement Program (CASP). Established in 1981, the program is designed to help litigants in civil appeals reach resolution more quickly than they might through the standard appeals process. The program also reduces the time to disposition in very complex cases by giving litigants the opportunity to clarify the issues under appeal through pre-argument conferencing. In court year 2001–02, more than 500 cases were resolved through CASP.

Some of the most urgent appeals considered by the Appellate Division include those involving contested custody cases, parental rights termination cases, and child abuse and neglect cases. In order to reduce the trauma and strain those cases pose for those involved, the Appellate Division maintains a protocol for processing those cases in an expedited manner. A single judge oversees compliance with rigorous guidelines to ensure that all such cases are processed as quickly as possible. The Division has succeeded in reducing the average time to disposition of appeal in those cases to less than six months.

Sentencing appeals that do not require full briefing also are processed on an accelerated calendar. Initiated in 1982 as the Excessive Sentence Program, the program has been expanded to include additional types of sentencing appeals. More than 700 appeals were resolved through this program in court year 2001–02.

During the 2001–02 court year, 6,922 appeals were filed with the Appellate Division. For the same period, 7,374 appeals were resolved, for a clearance rate of 107 percent. Those figures represent a decrease in the number of appeals added and an increase in the number of dispositions. The Appellate Division had 5,664 cases pending as of June 30, 2002.

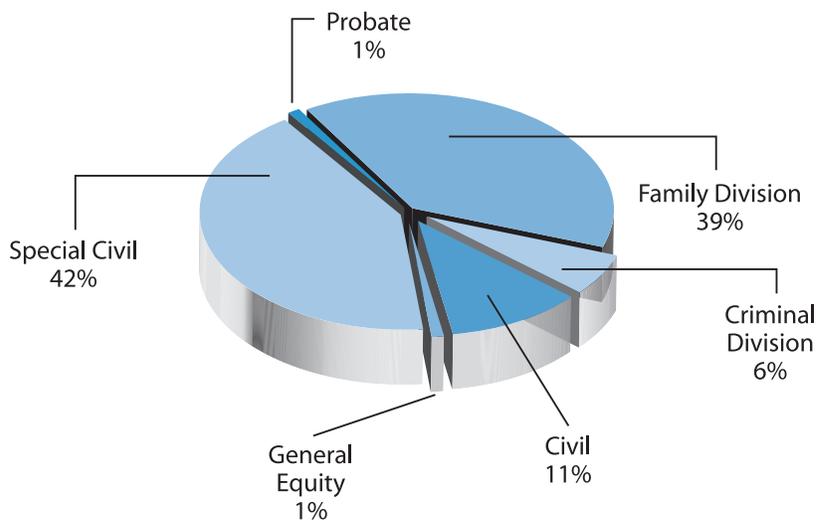
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## The Trial Courts

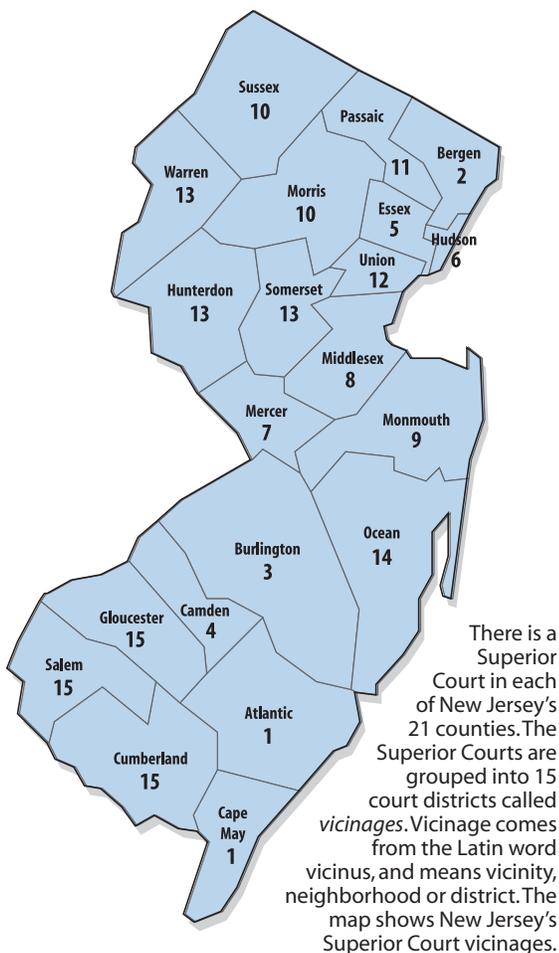
At the trial court level, New Jersey’s Judiciary is organized into 15 vicinages (districts), where cases involving civil, criminal and family matters are heard. Each vicinage is led by an assignment judge, who is assisted by a trial court administrator in managing day-to-day business. The trial courts in each vicinage are organized into the Civil, Criminal, Family and General Equity Divisions of the Superior Court. Each trial division is led by a presiding judge and a division manager.

Filings for the trial divisions totaled 1,001,227 cases during court year

**Superior Court Filings**  
July 2001–June 2002 • 1,001,227 Cases



2001–02, an increase of 3 percent from the prior year. Dispositions increased by 2 percent, to 1,009,369 cases. As of June 30, cases pending resolution in the trial courts numbered 212,180. Of those cases, 180,211 were on track for resolution within their established time goal. Cases exceeding time goals were reduced from 41,800 to 31,969, a reduction of 22% from the prior year.



## Civil Division

The **Civil Division** continued its emphasis on implementation of best practice standards designed to promote consistency in case management statewide. To ensure that consistency, a team of presiding judges, division managers and AOC staff was created to visit each of the state's courthouses. The team monitors civil division operations and meets with local judges, court staff and bar members to ensure statewide consistency in best practices implementation.

An important part of civil best practice standards is the practice of screening each case and assigning it to one of four case tracks, depending on its complexity. Each track has a different timeline for expected resolution of cases assigned to it. The predictability of this tracking system has created more certain trial dates, with fewer postponements and adjournments. As a result, the Civil Division has significantly reduced its backlog of old cases.

During the year, 111,444 civil cases were filed. This figure represents a 6 percent increase over court year 2000–01.

During the same period, 114,435 civil cases were resolved.

As of June 30, 2002, the division had 107,307 civil cases pending. Of those, 88,521 or 82 percent, were within established time goals for resolution. The backlog continued to decrease by 27 percent from the prior year.

The Civil Division also continued to expand its services through the Judiciary's Web site. The site now contains the expected dates to complete discovery in every civil case pending in the state as well as complete motion calendars for each civil judge in the state. The site also provides information concerning scheduling of oral arguments and the results of motion decisions for every civil judge. In addition, rule changes are immediately updated on the Web, as is the latest information on best practices procedures.

Probate filings numbered 10,886, and 10,944 probate cases were resolved. At year's end, 1,364 probate cases were pending, with 1,223, or 90 percent, within resolution time goals.

## Special Civil Part

Cases handled in the [Special Civil Part of the Civil Division](#) include claims for under \$15,000 as well as landlord/tenant and small claims matters. Before September 1, 2002, the limit for monetary matters in the Special Civil Part was \$10,000. During court year 2001–02, the Special Civil Part had 429,930 cases filed and resolved 431,329 cases. As of June 30, 2002, there were 30,281 cases pending in the Special Civil Part. Of those, 27,925, or 92 percent, were within established time goals for resolution.

Efforts to implement best practice standards in the Special Civil Part have resulted in several court rule changes that were approved in 2002 by the Supreme Court. The most dramatic addition is a new set of standards that will enable litigants to resolve their cases in a single trip to court. Other changes include statewide standards for service of summonses, a uniform policy regarding adjournments, and new complementary dispute resolution programs designed to speed the resolution of cases.

**“The most dramatic addition is a new set of standards that will enable litigants to resolve their cases in a single trip to court.”**

## General Equity Division

In court year 2001–02, there were 5,186 cases filed in the General Equity Division, a 5 percent increase from the previous year, with 5,166 cases resolved. As of June 30, 2002, 82 percent of pending general equity cases were within established time goals for resolution. Backlog was reduced by 18 percent from the previous year.

The Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges completed its report on best practices in June 2002. The report makes several recommendations, including a standard for early review to ensure that each case has been filed with the appropriate court and that each case is assigned a resolution time goal appropriate for that case. Other recommendations for standardized case management in this division include greater use of pre-trial conferences and telephone conferencing, and programs to promote alternative dispute resolution. The Supreme Court is expected to act on the report and recommendations in 2003.



## Family Division

The [Family Division](#) handles several case types, including divorce, domestic violence, adoption, child support, juvenile delinquency, termination of parental rights, foster placements, child abuse and child neglect.

Timeliness of case resolution has been a top priority for New Jersey's family courts, where the impact of delay can be especially traumatic on family members. Continual improvements in Family Division operations have resulted in significant backlog reduction across all case types. The backlog of domestic violence cases was reduced by 49 percent; dissolution (divorce) case backlog by 32 percent and



non-dissolution case backlog by 44 percent. Other case types with large reductions in backlog include delinquency (34 percent), juvenile/family crisis (46 percent), abuse/neglect (38 percent), and termination of parental rights (25 percent). Overall, 388,569 cases were filed in the Family Division, and 391,301 cases were resolved. At year's end, 92 percent of all Family Division cases were on target for resolution within their expected time goals.

A mandatory education program for Family Division judges was instituted to provide new judges in the division with an intensive two-week introduction to the many case types they will be handling. The program, which improves statewide consistency of case handling, includes observation of experienced judges, discussion about managing the courtroom, and substantive and procedural instruction provided by experienced judges and judicial staff covering each Family Division case type.

The successful child support hearing officer program was expanded to additional types of child support cases, including those involving divorce or domestic violence. The hearing officers' role in child support cases helps streamline court operations and provides more timely justice to families seeking assistance from the courts.

## Criminal Division

Ongoing efforts to ensure statewide compliance with criminal best practice standards include regular visits to each county by a team of judges and managers in order to assess operations and provide feedback to vicinage personnel. These consultations also provide opportunities to share information among vicinages on new programs and policies that may contribute to better calendar management and a more current caseload.

[Criminal Division](#) filings numbered 55,212 during the year, a 3 percent increase from the previous year. This figure includes 1,395 municipal court appeals and 522 petitions for post-conviction relief. The Criminal Division achieved an 8 percent reduction in backlog during court year 2001–02.

## The Tax Court

The [Tax Court of New Jersey](#) was established in 1979 to provide taxpayers with prompt and impartial resolution of their disputes with local and state government taxing agencies. The Tax Court reviews the determinations of assessors, county boards of taxation, and state officials with regard to local and state taxes. Tax Court judges also may hear Superior Court cases involving complex tax issues. The Presiding Judge of the Tax Court is Joseph C. Small.

In court year 2001–02 there were 5,940 cases filed in New Jersey's Tax Court, and 5,819 cases were resolved. As of June 30, 2002, there were 8,053 cases pending.

## The Municipal Courts

Many citizens' first experience with the courts is in one of New Jersey's 536 [municipal courts](#).

Municipal courts hear a great variety of cases, among which are minor criminal matters, local ordinance violations, and motor vehicle driving and parking offenses. During the 2001–02 court year, 6,324,195 cases were filed in the municipal courts and 6,293,700 cases were resolved.

Because of the large number of municipal courts, the goal of ensuring consistent justice through the state is both important and challenging. To help meet this goal Chief Justice Poritz has designated a presiding judge of municipal courts in each vicinage. The presiding judge, assisted by a division manager, is responsible for the administrative oversight of each municipal court in the vicinage. As part of that oversight, an enhanced program for annual court review has been implemented, providing for an analysis of each municipal court's operation in 45 areas, such as the court's record keeping, bail and financial practices, the court's handling of municipal court appeals, the physical plant, assistance for the disabled, the adequacy of security and equipment, and the efficiency of each court's case management practices.

**“Because of the large number of municipal courts, the goal of ensuring consistent justice through the state is both important and challenging. To help meet this goal Chief Justice Poritz has designated a presiding judge of municipal courts in each vicinage.”**

## Probation—Supervision of Offenders

A sentence of [probation](#) allows adult and juvenile offenders the opportunity to remain in the community under the supervision of probation officers. Probationers must comply with rules and conditions imposed by the sentencing court, such as maintaining employment, attending school, remaining drug free, paying appropriate fines and fees, and avoiding additional unlawful behavior.

The Intensive Supervision Program (ISP), a specialized probation program, supervises carefully selected state-sentenced inmates in the community. Since 1983, more than 10,000 non-violent inmates have been released from state prison into the program, freeing scarce prison space for more serious offenders. Participants are required to perform community service, maintain employment, pay court-ordered fines, and abide by curfews, among other restrictions. In court year 2001–02, collections through ISP totaled \$1,434,326. In addition, ISP participants collectively served 175,472 hours of community service.

**“The fees collected through the program are paid out to victims and to the Victims of Crimes Compensation Board, the Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund, and the Safe Neighborhoods Fund, among others.”**

The Comprehensive Enforcement Program (CEP), is charged with the responsibility of collecting fees assessed to convicted offenders. The fees collected through the program are paid out to victims and to the Victims of Crimes Compensation Board, the Law Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund, and the Safe Neighborhoods Fund, among others. Total probation collections statewide for court year 2001–02 came to \$33,538,174, exceeding the goal of \$32,500,000 by 3 percent. Of that total, CEP was responsible for \$12,454,516, or 37 percent, of the money collected.

## Probation—Child Support Enforcement

The Probation Division also oversees the [enforcement of child support orders](#). In court year 2001–02, New Jersey’s Child Support program collected and distributed \$900,906,449 to families. This figure represents an 8 percent increase over the prior year. This program consistently has increased collections each year as a result of the implementation of new enforcement techniques and improved technologies. For example, in cooperation with county sheriffs and the state’s Department of Human Services, the Judiciary participated in the first statewide child support warrant amnesty program. For a one-week period in October 2001, non-custodial parents who were so delinquent in their support as to have an arrest warrant issued were able to come into a courthouse or probation office to negotiate payments without fear of arrest. Nearly \$1 million was collected through this effort alone.



The Financial Institution Data Match program, which identifies the financial accounts of people who owe child support, also resulted in significant collections. During court year 2001–02, a total of \$3,825,163 was collected through this program and distributed to 5,167 child support recipients. Following on this success, the Judiciary has begun participating in the Child Support Lien Network. This network is an interstate cooperative with the insurance industry and uses automation to identify and place liens on insurance settlements that are

to be paid to parents who are delinquent in their support payments. Through initiatives such as these, collections become possible in some of the more difficult cases, including those where the obligor lives out of state.

## Trial Court Filings, Terminations, and Backlog By Division

	Filings			Terminations			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2000 to June 2001	July 2001 to June 2002	percent change	July 2000 to June 2001	July 2001 to June 2002	percent change	June 2001	June 2002	percent change	June 2001	June 2002	percent change
<b>Criminal Division</b>												
Indictable Cases	51,225	53,295	4%	50,384	54,271	8%	9,555	10,013	5%	6,061	5,557	-8%
Municipal Appeals	1,599	1,395	-13%	1,682	1,479	-12%	367	293	-20%	249	239	-4%
Post-Conviction Relief	568	522	-8%	605	444	-27%	254	297	17%	254	297	17%
<b>General Equity</b>	4,954	5,186	5%	5,343	5,166	-3%	1,803	1,904	6%	523	427	-18%
<b>Civil Division</b>												
Civil	105,510	111,444	6%	122,702	114,435	-7%	84,108	88,521	5%	25,562	18,786	-27%
Special Civil	413,912	429,930	4%	416,143	431,329	4%	27,502	27,925	2%	2,519	2,356	-6%
Probate	11,430	10,886	-5%	11,638	10,944	-6%	1,272	1,223	-4%	183	141	-23%
<b>Family Division</b>												
Dissolution	60,943	64,184	5%	61,811	65,138	5%	18,427	18,405	0%	2,946	1,995	-32%
Delinquency	82,627	80,089	-3%	84,116	80,860	-4%	6,406	5,997	-6%	1,006	661	-34%
Non-Dissolution	151,365	155,413	3%	151,725	156,565	3%	9,394	8,667	-8%	808	454	-44%
Domestic Violence	61,025	62,586	3%	61,604	62,971	2%	1,546	1,341	-13%	213	108	-49%
Abuse/Neglect	2,767	2,932	6%	2,781	2,861	3%	2,737	2,949	8%	374	232	-38%
Adoption	2,425	2,620	8%	2,384	2,603	9%	615	626	2%			
Child Placement Review	5,071	5,642	11%	4,364	4,793	10%	10,458	10,952	5%		394	
Juvenile/Family Crisis	1,403	1,366	-3%	1,442	1,395	-3%	48	32	-33%	26	14	-46%
Term of Parental Rights	1,206	1,031	-15%	1,125	1,235	10%	491	373	-24%	346	260	-25%
Criminal/Quasi-Criminal	12,614	12,706	1%	12,868	12,880	0%	916	861	-6%	162	48	-70%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>970,644</b>	<b>1,001,227</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>992,717</b>	<b>1,009,369</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>164,826</b>	<b>180,379</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>41,232</b>	<b>31,969</b>	<b>-22%</b>

## Trial Court Filings, Terminations, and Backlog By County

	Filings			Terminations			Inventory (Active Cases Pending Within Time Goals)			Backlog (Active Cases Pending Over Time Goals)		
	July 2000 to June 2001	July 2001 to June 2002	percent change	July 2000 to June 2001	July 2001 to June 2002	percent change	June 2001	June 2002	percent change	June 2001	June 2002	percent change
Atlantic	42,395	46,302	9%	42,833	45,303	6%	6,946	7,838	13%	922	912	-1%
Bergen	71,969	74,087	3%	73,914	75,931	3%	14,014	13,974	0%	4,070	2,510	-38%
Burlington	43,052	45,788	6%	44,725	45,676	2%	7,696	8,120	6%	1,826	1,471	-19%
Camden	70,729	72,726	3%	72,093	73,177	2%	12,851	13,305	4%	2,350	1,963	-16%
Cape May	14,101	14,980	6%	14,204	14,863	5%	1,989	2,056	3%	163	200	23%
Cumberland	26,748	27,596	3%	27,144	27,512	1%	3,766	4,011	7%	613	466	-24%
Essex	146,670	149,118	2%	146,935	152,521	4%	26,935	25,637	-5%	5,247	4,239	-19%
Gloucester	28,844	30,186	5%	29,089	30,633	5%	4,603	4,460	-3%	1,103	868	-21%
Hudson	86,129	85,547	-1%	88,342	85,887	-3%	14,302	14,763	3%	2,309	1,845	-20%
Hunterdon	6,492	7,056	9%	6,536	6,824	4%	1,198	1,388	16%	187	248	33%
Mercer	42,579	43,351	2%	43,485	43,575	0%	8,060	8,617	7%	2,579	1,774	-31%
Middlesex	69,324	73,166	6%	73,345	73,078	0%	17,545	18,856	7%	5,418	4,182	-23%
Monmouth	61,454	63,207	3%	63,036	64,369	2%	12,043	11,937	-1%	4,476	3,762	-16%
Morris	31,179	31,957	2%	31,421	32,053	2%	5,774	6,039	5%	1,651	1,383	-16%
Ocean	46,667	47,511	2%	47,029	48,427	3%	8,286	8,020	-3%	1,499	1,028	-31%
Passaic	65,177	70,759	9%	68,072	71,414	5%	10,380	11,035	6%	2,922	1,843	-37%
Salem	11,820	11,354	-4%	11,661	11,642	0%	1,506	1,239	-18%	143	159	11%
Somerset	18,886	20,351	8%	19,500	20,247	4%	3,375	3,681	9%	816	682	-16%
Sussex	11,518	12,313	7%	11,812	11,841	0%	1,536	1,954	27%	269	366	36%
Union	65,620	64,143	-2%	68,127	64,604	-5%	11,629	11,906	2%	2,370	1,852	-22%
Warren	9,291	9,729	5%	9,414	9,792	4%	1,297	1,375	6%	299	216	-28%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>970,644</b>	<b>1,001,227</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>992,717</b>	<b>1,009,369</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>175,731</b>	<b>180,211</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>41,232</b>	<b>31,969</b>	<b>-22%</b>

## The following judges served in the New Jersey courts during the 2001–2002 court year:

### Supreme Court

Deborah T. Poritz,  
*Chief Justice*  
Gary S. Stein\*  
James H. Coleman Jr.  
Virginia A. Long  
Peter G. Verniero  
Jaynee LaVecchia  
James R. Zazzali

### Superior Court

Salem Vincent Ahto  
Roberto Alcazar  
Christine Allen-Jackson  
Edwin R. Alley\*\*  
John A. Almeida  
Carmen H. Alvarez  
Frances Lawrence Antonin  
Ross R. Anzaldi  
Paul W. Armstrong  
Valerie H. Armstrong  
Victor Ashrafi  
Eugene H. Austin  
Mark A. Baber  
David S. Baime  
Max A. Baker  
Marc M. Baldwin  
Walter R. Barisonek  
Ann Reynolds Bartlett  
Raymond A. Batten  
Linda G. Baxter  
Edward W. Beglin Jr.  
Marie White Bell  
Edmund R. Bernhard  
Stephen J. Bernstein  
Maryann K. Bielamowicz  
Audrey Peyton Blackburn  
Peter F. Boggia  
Ronald E. Bookbinder  
Salvatore Bovino  
G. Thomas Bowen  
B. Theodore Bozonelis  
Dennis J. Braithwaite\*\*  
Kathryn A. Brock  
Thomas F. Brogan  
Thomas A. Brown Jr.  
Thomas C. Brown  
Frank A. Buczynski Jr.  
Kevin G. Callahan  
John F. Callinan\*  
Richard C. Camp  
Donald F. Campbell  
Jane B. Cantor  
Ernest M. Caposela  
Philip S. Carrhman\*\*  
Harry G. Carroll  
Michael R. Casale  
Karen M. Cassidy  
Joseph C. Cassini III  
Thomas W. Cavanagh Jr.  
Paul F. Chalet  
Amy Piro Chambers

Lisa F. Chrystal  
James J. Ciancia\*\*  
Yolanda Ciccone  
Alfonse J. Cifelli  
James N. Citta  
Marilyn C. Clark  
Patricia Del Bueno Cleary  
James D. Clyne  
Donald S. Coburn\*\*  
Eugene J. Codey Jr.  
Diane B. Cohen  
R. Benjamin Cohen  
Mary Eva Colalillo  
Claude M. Coleman  
Edward M. Coleman  
Rudy B. Coleman  
Donald G. Collester Jr.\*\*  
N. Peter Conforti  
Erminie L. Conley\*\*  
Kyran Connor  
Michael R. Connor  
John A. Conte  
Joseph S. Conte  
Robert P. Contillo  
James B. Convery  
Robert A. Coogan  
William J. Cook  
Marina Corodemus  
Patricia K. Costello  
Gerald J. Council  
James P. Courtney Jr.  
Cynthia E. Covie  
John J. Coyle Jr.  
David S. Cramp  
Thomas J. Critchley  
Martin Cronin  
Mary Catherine Cuff\*\*  
Philip B. Cummis  
Georgia M. Curio  
Barbara A. Curran  
Roger W. Daley  
John D'Amico Jr.\*  
John B. Dangler  
Wendel E. Daniels  
Rachel N. Davidson  
Elaine L. Davis  
Theodore Z. Davis  
Lawrence P. DeBello  
Donald W. deCordova  
Edward J. DeFazio  
Michael J. Degnan\*  
Miguel M. de la Carrera  
Estela M. De La Cruz  
Charles A. Delehey  
Ralph L. DeLuccia Jr.  
Paul M. DePascale  
Harriet E. Derman  
Hector E. DeSoto  
Francis P. DeStefano  
Frederick P. DeVesa  
Michael K. Diamond  
Thomas H. Dilts  
Arthur N. D'Italia

Louise D. Donaldson  
Frank M. Donato  
Michael A. Donio  
Joseph P. Donohue  
Richard J. Donohue  
Peter E. Doyne  
Raymond F. Drozdowski  
W. Hunt Dumont  
Katherine R. Dupuis  
Naomi G. Eichen\*\*  
Mark B. Epstein  
Gerald C. Escala  
Joseph A. Falcone  
Robert A. Fall\*\*  
James A. Farber  
Timothy G. Farrell  
Michael D. Farren  
Mahlon L. Fast  
Linda R. Feinberg  
Robert Feldman  
Bradley J. Ferencz  
Carol A. Ferentz  
Robert P. Figarotta  
Michael Brooke Fisher  
Clarkson S. Fisher Jr.  
Patrick F. X. Fitzpatrick  
Sallyanne Floria  
Terence P. Flynn  
Marlene Lynch Ford  
William L. Forester  
F. Lee Forrester  
Robert E. Francis  
Travis L. Francis  
Sheldon R. Franklin  
John A. Fratto  
Ronald J. Freeman  
Jose L. Fuentes  
Harold W. Fullilove  
Bruce A. Gaeta  
Sebastian Gaeta Jr.  
Maurice J. Gallipoli  
Edward V. Gannon  
Albert J. Garofolo  
Bryan D. Garruto  
Francis W. Gasiorowski  
Melvin L. Gelade  
F. Michael Giles  
William P. Gilroy  
Peter J. Giovine  
Donald S. Goldman  
Myron H. Gottlieb\*  
Jane Grall  
Glenn A. Grant  
Vincent J. Grasso  
Ronald B. Graves  
Anthony J. Graziano  
Martin L. Greenberg\*  
Robert R. Guida  
Nestor F. Guzman  
Douglas T. Hague  
Gerald B. Hanifan\*  
Stephan C. Hansbury  
Jamie D. Happs

John J. Harper  
Craig Randall Harris  
Jonathan N. Harris  
James M. Havey\*\*  
Rudolph N. Hawkins Jr.  
James C. Heimlich  
Martin A. Herman  
Marilyn Rhyne Herr  
Carol E. Higbee  
John G. Himmelberger Jr.  
Helen E. Hoens  
Barnett E. Hoffman  
Ronald E. Hoffman  
Michael J. Hogan  
Michelle Hollar-Gregory  
Harold C. Hollenbeck  
John S. Holston Jr.  
Jared D. Honigfeld  
Louis F. Hornstine  
Mac D. Hunter  
James P. Hurley  
Eugene A. Iadanza  
Paul Innes  
Joseph V. Isabella  
James L. Jackson  
Mary C. Jacobson  
Joseph E. Kane  
Paul A. Kapalko  
Michael Kassel  
Thomas P. Kelly  
James A. Kennedy  
Camille M. Kenny  
Howard H. Kestin\*\*  
Fred Kieser Jr.  
Michael P. King\*\*  
Edmond M. Kirby  
Jack B. Kirsten\*  
Harriet Farber Klein  
Ellen L. Koblitz  
Paul T. Koenig Jr.  
Melvin S. Kracov  
Ira E. Kreizman  
Fred H. Kumpf  
Catherine M. Langlois  
Frank M. Lario Jr.  
Lee B. Laskin  
Lawrence M. Lawson  
Vincent LeBlon  
Patricia Richmond LeBon  
Steven L. Lefelt\*\*  
Alexander D. Lehrer  
Arthur J. Lesemann\*  
Betty J. Lester  
Kenneth S. Levy  
Laura Lewinn  
Jose L. Linares  
Jack L. Lintner\*\*  
Lois Lipton  
Joseph F. Lisa\*\*  
Severiano Lisboa III  
Charles A. Little  
Louis F. Locascio  
Sebastian P. Lombardi

Robert A. Longhi  
Thomas N. Lyons  
Kenneth C. MacKenzie  
Roger F. Mahon  
John F. Malone  
John B. Mariano  
Ronald G. Marmo  
Walter L. Marshall Jr.  
Brian R. Martinotti  
Bill H. Mathesius  
Susan F. Maven  
Thomas M. McCormack  
Ann Graf McCormick  
Anne McDonnell  
James McGann  
John A. McLaughlin  
F. Patrick McManimon  
Jean B. McMaster  
John T. McNeill III  
Margaret Mary McVeigh  
Daniel P. Mecca  
William C. Meehan  
Anthony J. Mellaci Jr.  
Louis R. Meloni  
Donald W. Merkelbach  
Carmen Messano  
Joseph C. Messina  
E. Benn Micheletti  
Charles Middlesworth Jr.  
E. David Millard  
Robert G. Millenky  
Elijah L. Miller Jr.  
Christine L. Miniman  
Stephen E. Mochary  
David W. Morgan  
Sybil R. Moses  
Scott J. Moynihan  
Joyce E. Mukacsi\*  
James F. Mulvihill  
Joseph M. Nardi Jr.\*  
Samuel D. Natal  
Mark J. Nelson  
Michael J. Nelson  
Richard Newman\*\*  
Thomas E. O'Brien  
Amy O'Connor  
Edward T. O'Connor Jr.  
Robert W. O'Hagan  
John A. O'Shaughnessy  
Edward M. Oles  
Thomas P. Olivieri  
Francis J. Orlando Jr.  
Robert W. Page  
Phillip Lewis Paley  
Lorraine C. Parker\*\*  
Anthony J. Parrillo\*\*  
George W. Parsons Jr.  
Robert J. Passero  
Edith K. Payne  
Norman J. Peer  
Stuart L. Peim  
Darlene J. Pereksta  
Joseph P. Perfilio  
Jamie S. Perri  
Steven P. Perskie  
John A. Peterson Jr.  
James J. Petrella\*\*  
Michael A. Petrolle

John Pisansky  
Francis P. Piscal  
Richard F. Plechner  
Alan J. Pogarsky  
Sylvia B. Pressler\*\*  
Charles R. Previti  
Lorraine Pullen  
John H. Pursel  
Joseph P. Quinn  
James E. Rafferty  
Charles M. Rand  
David B. Rand  
Michael L. Ravin  
Donald R. Reenstra  
Ronald L. Reisner  
Susan L. Reisner  
John F. Richardson  
Joseph J. Riva  
Alan A. Rockoff  
Ariel A. Rodriguez\*\*  
Mathias E. Rodriguez  
George F. Rohde Jr.  
Patrick J. Roma  
Joseph R. Rosa  
David A. Rosenberg  
Graham T. Ross  
James S. Rothschild  
Garry S. Rothstadt  
Stephen B. Rubin  
Karen D. Russell  
Mark M. Russello  
Edward J. Ryan  
Peter V. Ryan  
Jack M. Sabatino  
George E. Sabbath  
Paulette Sapp-Peterson  
Joseph F. Scancarella  
Stephen J. Schaeffer  
Marvin E. Schlosser  
Francine A. Schott  
Francis B. Schultz  
Edward R. Schwartz  
Thomas A. Scully  
Vincent D. Segal  
John E. Selser  
George L. Seltzer  
Eugene D. Serpentelli  
Harry K. Seybolt  
Neil H. Shuster  
Marguerite T. Simon  
Marie P. Simonelli  
Nancy Sivilli  
Stephen Skillman\*\*  
Lawrence D. Smith  
Donald A. Smith Jr.  
Stephen F. Smith Jr.  
Thomas S. Smith Jr.  
Andrew J. Smithson  
Irvin J. Snyder  
Maureen P. Sogluizzo  
Ronald B. Sokalski  
Miriam N. Span  
Jo-Anne B. Spatola  
George H. Stanger Jr.  
Reginald Stanton  
Isabel B. Stark  
Isaiah Steinberg  
Edwin H. Stern\*\*

Nicholas J. Stroumtsos Jr.  
Randolph M. Subryan  
Cornelius P. Sullivan  
Mark A. Sullivan Jr.  
John A. Sweeney  
Maria Marinari Sypek  
Patricia M. Talbert  
Joseph P. Testa  
Stephen W. Thompson  
William C. Todd III  
Daryl F. Todd Sr.  
Shirley A. Tolentino  
John Tomasello  
Edward V. Torack  
John S. Triarsi  
James G. Troiano  
Edward J. Turnbach  
Bette E. Uhrmacher  
Peter J. Vazquez  
Hector R. Velazquez  
Thomas R. Vena  
Deborah J. Venezia  
Donald R. Venezia  
Paul J. Vichness  
Barbara Ann Villano  
Joseph C. Visalli  
M. Allan Vogelsson  
Donald J. Volkert Jr.  
David Waks  
John E. Wallace Jr.\*\*  
Charles J. Walsh  
John M. Waters Jr.  
Alexander P. Waugh Jr.  
Barbara Byrd Wecker\*\*  
Renee Jones Weeks  
Dorothea O'C. Wefing\*\*  
Lawrence Weiss  
Harvey Weissbard\*\*  
Craig L. Wellerson  
Harold B. Wells III\*\*  
Glenn R. Wenzel  
William LE. Wertheimer  
Melvin S. Whitken  
Richard J. Williams\*\*  
Rosemarie Ruggiero  
Williams  
Deanne M. Wilson  
Robert C. Wilson  
Theodore A. Winard  
Michael Winkelstein\*\*  
Douglas K. Wolfson  
Stephen H. Womack  
Joseph L. Yannotti  
Thomas P. Zampino  
Barbara Zucker-Zarett

### Tax Court

Francine I. Axelrad\*\*  
Vito L. Bianco  
Angelo J. DiCamillo  
Joseph L. Foster  
Raymond A. Hayser  
James E. Isman  
David J. Issenman  
Roger M. Kahn  
Harold A. Kuskin  
Marie E. Lihotz

Peter D. Pizzuto  
Joseph C. Small

### The following retired judges served on recall during the 2001–2002 court year:

Melvin P. Antell  
Lawrence Bilder  
John M. Boyle  
John J. Callahan  
Michael Caruso  
Frances M. Cocchia  
Peter Cooper  
Rosalie B. Cooper  
Thomas DeMartin  
Joseph N. Donatelli  
Neil G. Duffy  
David G. Eynon  
Philip M. Freedman  
Herbert S. Friend  
Robert E. Gaynor  
Herbert S. Glickman  
Manuel H. Greenberg  
Martin L. Greenberg  
Joseph F. Greene  
Charles J. Harrington Jr.  
Burrell Ives Humphreys  
Anthony J. Iuliani  
Bernard A. Kannen  
Irwin I. Kimmelman  
Paul R. Kramer  
David Landau  
B. Thomas Leahy  
Samuel D. Lenox Jr.  
Lawrence Lerner  
Paul G. Levy  
John J. Lindsay  
Thomas B. Mannion  
Seymour Margulies  
John A. Marzulli  
Patrick J. McGann Jr.  
A. Donald McKenzie  
Arthur Minuskin  
Joseph M. Nardi, Jr.  
Robert Neustadter  
George J. Nicola  
J. Wilson Noden  
Thomas S. O'Brien  
Kevin M. O'Halloran  
Serena Perretti  
Florence R. Peskoe  
Kenneth R. Stein  
June Strelecki  
C. John Stroumtsos  
Timothy J. Sullivan  
Samuel L. Supnick  
Birger M. Sween  
Norman Telsey  
Charles E. Villanueva  
James J. Walsh  
Frederic G. Weber

\*retired during 2001–2002 court year \*\*Appellate Division judges

## In Memoriam

John Geronimo  
R. Edward Klaisz  
Paul R. Kramer  
Theodore J. Labrecque, Jr.  
William J. Marchese  
Harry A. Margolis  
Stephen E. Mochary  
Paul T. Murphy  
James T. O'Halloran  
Albert J. Scarduzio  
Stephen J. Schaeffer  
Baruch S. Seidman  
Mark A. Sullivan

## Vicinages Assignment Judges and Trial Court Administrators Court year 2001–2002

### **Vicinage 1**

Atlantic County  
Cape May County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Valerie H. Armstrong  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Charles E. McCaffery

### **Vicinage 2**

Bergen County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Sybil R. Moses  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Jon Goodman

### **Vicinage 3**

Burlington County

#### **Assignment Judge**

John A. Sweeney  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
R. Richard Callanan

### **Vicinage 4**

Camden County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Francis J. Orlando, Jr.  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Yvonne LaMons

### **Vicinage 5**

Essex County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Joseph A. Falcone  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Collins E. Ijoma

### **Vicinage 6**

Hudson County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Arthur N. D'Italia  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Joseph F. Davis

### **Vicinage 7**

Mercer County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Linda R. Feinberg  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Jude Del Preore

### **Vicinage 8**

Middlesex County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Robert A. Longhi  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Gregory Edwards

### **Vicinage 9**

Monmouth County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Lawrence M. Lawson  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
William W. Carpenter

### **Vicinage 10**

Morris County

Sussex County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Reginald Stanton  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Michael J. Arnold

### **Vicinage 11**

Passaic County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Robert J. Passero  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Richard M. Centanni

### **Vicinage 12**

Union County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Edward W. Beglin, Jr.  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
John N. Miri

### **Vicinage 13**

Hunterdon County  
Somerset County  
Warren County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Graham T. Ross  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Eugene T. Farkas

### **Vicinage 14**

Ocean County

#### **Assignment Judge**

Eugene D. Serpentelli  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
Richard D. Prifold

### **Vicinage 15**

Cumberland County  
Gloucester County  
Salem County

#### **Assignment Judge**

George H. Stanger, Jr.  
**Trial Court Administrator**  
James R. Castagnoli



## Members of the Judicial Council, the Executive Managing Body

*Seated (left to right):* Assignment Judge Eugene D. Serpentelli; Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson; Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz; Administrative Director Judge Richard J. Williams; Assignment Judge Edward W. Beglin, Jr.

*Standing (left to right):* Assignment Judge Francis J. Orlando, Jr; Deputy Administrative Director Theodore J. Fetter; Assignment Judge Reginald Stanton; Assignment Judge Valerie H. Armstrong; Assignment Judge Arthur N. D'Italia; Assignment Judge Robert J. Passero; Assignment Judge Robert A. Longhi; Assignment Judge Sybil R. Moses; Judge James D. Clyne (Chair, Conference of General Equity Presiding Judges); Judge Elaine L. Davis (Chair, Conference of Criminal Presiding Judges); Assignment Judge George H. Stanger, Jr.; Assignment Judge Joseph A. Falcone; Judge Donald J. Volkert, Jr. (Chair, Conference of Family Presiding Judges); Assignment Judge Linda R. Feinberg; Judge Maurice J. Gallipoli (Chair, Conference of Civil Presiding Judges); Assignment Judge Graham T. Ross; Assignment Judge John A. Sweeney

**NEW JERSEY  
JUDICIARY**



**Integrity · Independence  
Fairness · Quality Service**