

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Fiscal Year 2013 represented another extremely busy year for the Justice of the Peace Court. While total statewide filings of 479,835 were a little higher than the previous year, they continued to be lower than the all-time high experienced in FY 08, which was 524,375. That statistic represents every criminal charge and civil case that the Justice of the Peace Court handled, and is almost three times as many as the combined filings of all the other courts in the state. Whether it was transferred to another court for further proceedings or eventually resolved in this court, each of those cases represents judicial work that has to be done – from an initial bail hearing to a full trial – and all of the administrative processing necessary to keep the cases moving along.

Because of the volume of our casework, the Justice of the Peace Court has traditionally not only relied upon its outstanding judicial officers and staff to work hard, but we have continually embraced technologies and practices that allow for the most efficient and effective handling of our matters while ensuring just and equitable consideration of each and every matter brought before the court. Here are just a few ways that we have sought to modify our practices to meet demand over the years: establishment of a Voluntary Assessment Center for mail-in traffic tickets; early implementation of both civil and criminal automated case processing systems; consolidation of court facilities; and development of a police prosecution process that provides for earlier disposal of challenged traffic violations.

These and countless other similar efforts, large and small, have contributed to our success in always being able to handle the caseload demands placed upon us. However,



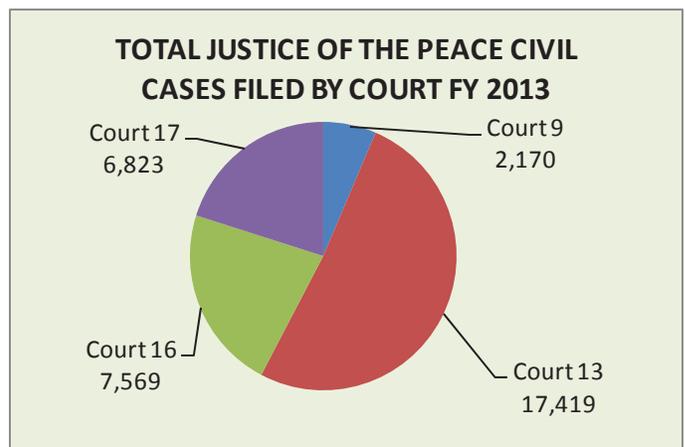
*Chief Magistrate
Alan G. Davis*

programs and initiatives to improve are only as good as the human elements of attitude and aptitude that underlie them. A willingness to be flexible, seek out opportunities and embrace the change that comes with them has been a hallmark of this organization. Our judicial, clerical, administrative and uniformed staffs all adapt like no other, and our ability to handle cases shows that.

Though efficiency and justice have been our watchwords for decades and will continue to be necessary to our success, a new initiative that the Justice of the Peace Court has embarked upon tends to turn the focus in a new direction. In conjunction with the proposed consolidation of

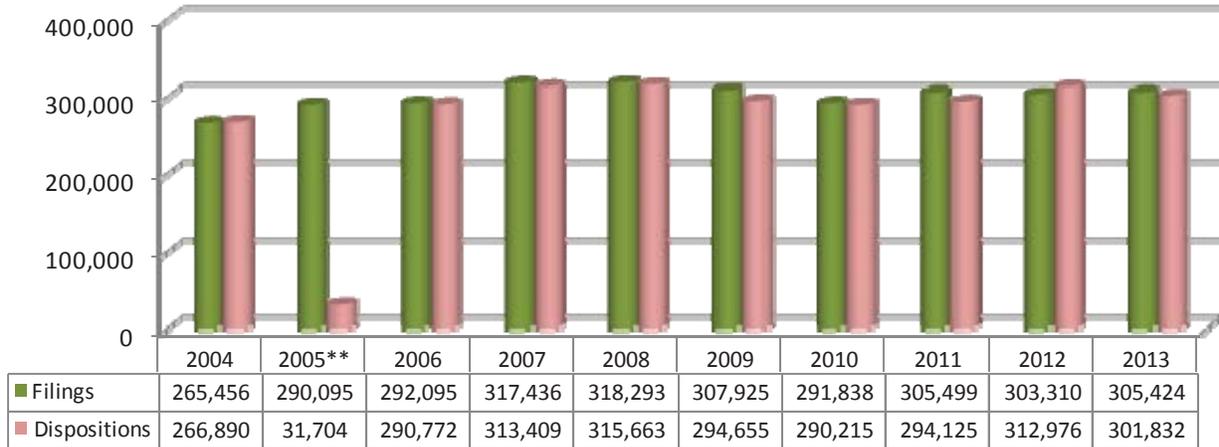
Justice of the Peace Courts #10 and #20 in New Castle County, the Court spent much of FY 13 developing plans for the establishment of a Community Justice Center in Wilmington.

The centerpiece of this Community Justice Center is a “community court” that will take into account the community needs in its manner of dispensing justice. This is a



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT CIVIL & CRIMINAL/TRAFFIC FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS
BY FISCAL YEAR***



*Criminal filings & dispositions are by defendant.

**Criminal/Traffic dispositions are not available for FY 2005.

new concept for Delaware, though it has been successful in many other places where it has been tried. Because every community is different, every community court is different as well, but below are some of the ways that we hope this community court will change our approach to criminal matters before us:

- Deliver new and creative responses to low level offending that support individual needs while improving accountability;
- Position the court to be a player in helping solving neighborhood problems;
- Provide meaningful sanctions to defendants that will break the cycle of crime;
- Establish a mechanism for communities to have a role in court processes;
- Lessen any fear that the public currently has for the court;
- Provide for visible justice with offenders making meaningful contributions to the communities where they offended;
- Provide equity for defendants with limited English proficiency;
- Create opportunities for defendants to get assistance for real life problems above and beyond their court case; and
- Establish collaboration with service providers and other Justice system partners.

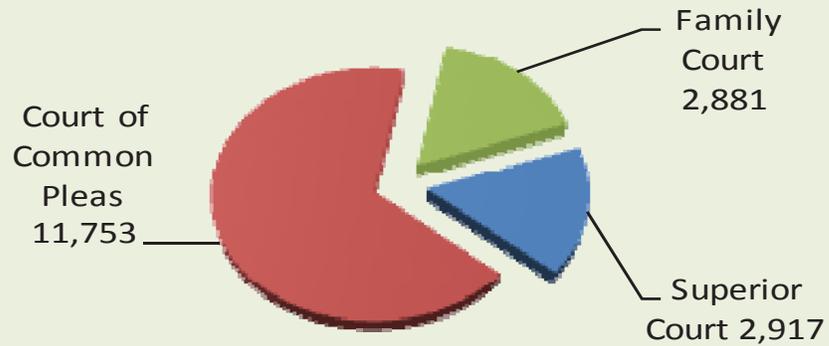
The Community Justice Center will include a Resource Center within the Court, to connect individuals with outside groups and stakeholders such as residents, merchants, churches and schools that can provide assistance to them in an effort to address the root causes of criminal activity. The goal of this approach is to resolve court cases with more meaningful outcomes for defendants and to increase the community's confidence in the criminal justice system to reduce "quality of life" offenses. Research has shown that community courts are effective in increasing the feeling of safety within communities. Additionally, community courts are proven to decrease quality-of-life crimes and increase community engagement.

This is an exciting opportunity for the Court and we look forward to moving forward with the planning and community outreach that has taken place in the past fiscal year. Even though it is a departure from our traditional focus on efficiency, we believe that improved outcomes and meaningful justice for both individual defendants and the community we serve are worth slowing things down a bit. With a little luck and a lot of hard work, next year in this space I will have the opportunity to detail the successes of this new endeavor.

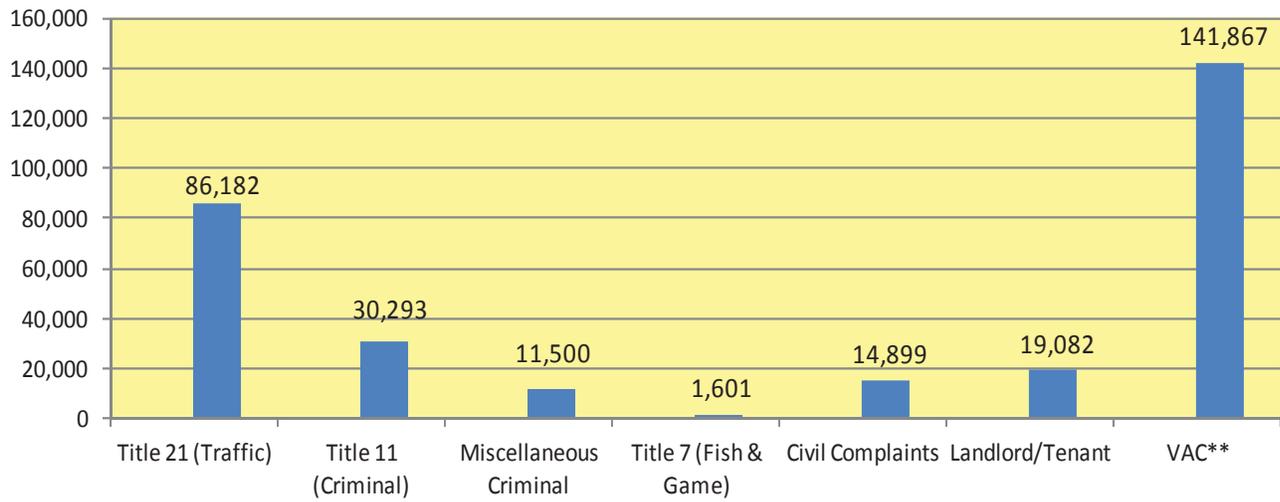
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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

**CAPIASES CLEARED BY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT FOR OTHER COURTS
FY 2013**



**NUMBER OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT FILINGS*
BY TYPE FY 2013**

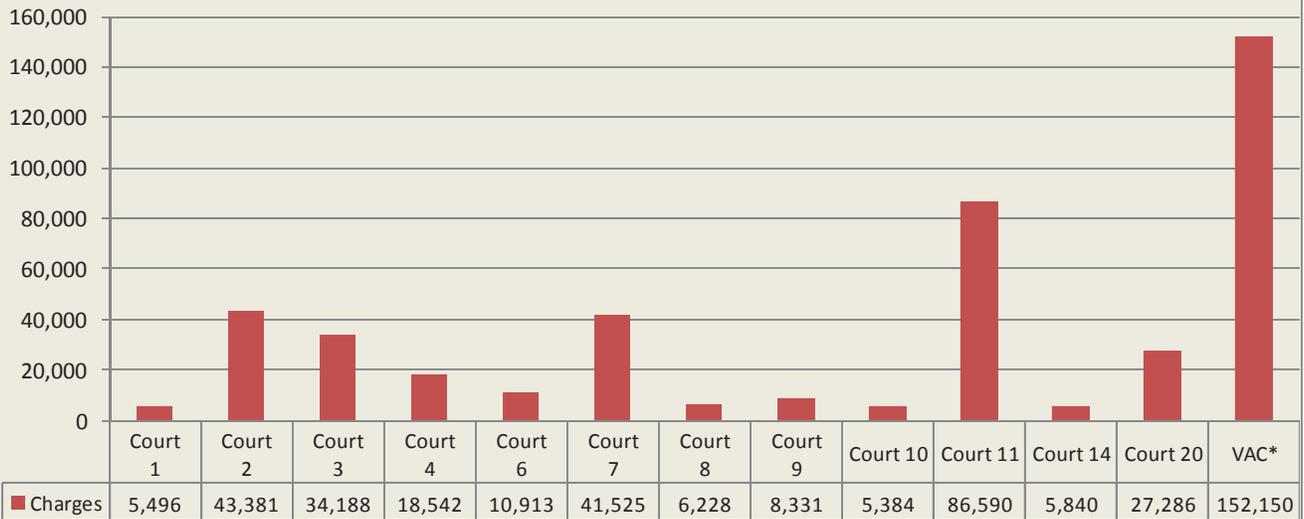


*Criminal filings are by defendant.

**Voluntary Assessment Center.

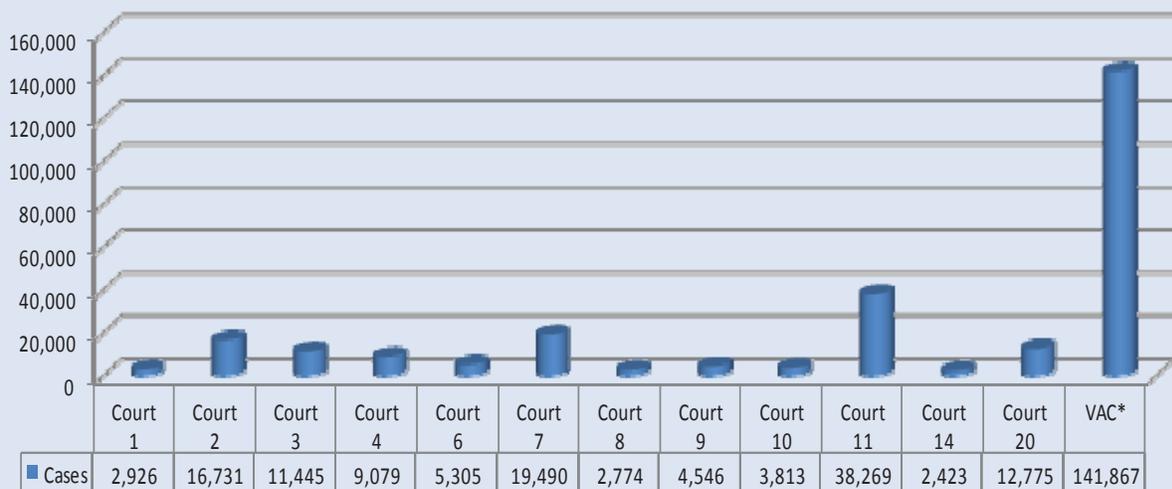
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC CHARGES BY COURT FY 2013



*Voluntary Assessment Center.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE CRIMINAL & TRAFFIC CASES BY DEFENDANT BY COURT FY 2013



*Voluntary Assessment Center.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

NEW CASTLE COUNTY JUDGES



Bottom row (left to right)

Deputy Chief Magistrate Bonita Lee
Marie Page
Kathleen Lucas
Beatrice Freel
Rosalie Rutkowski
Nancy Roberts

Second row (left to right)

Deborah McNesby
Kathy Gravell
Chief Magistrate Alan Davis
Cheryl McCabe-Stroman
Cheryl Stallmann

Third row (left to right)

Susan Cline
Katherine Ross
Marilyn Letts
Susan Ufberg

Fourth row (left to right)

Vernon Taylor
William Moser
Roberto Lopez
James Hanby, Sr.
Sean McCormick

Fifth row (left to right)

William S. Young, III
Christopher Portante
James Tull

Sixth row (left to right)

Paul Smith
Vincent Kowal
Thomas Brown
Donald Callender, Jr.

Not Pictured: Nina Bawa, Thomas Kenney, David Skelley, Terry Smith

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

KENT COUNTY JUDGES



Bottom row (left to right)

Pamela Darling
Debora Foor
Cathleen Hutchison

Middle row (left to right)

Chief Magistrate Alan Davis
Dwight Dillard
D. Ken Cox

Back row (left to right)

Robert Wall, Jr.
William J. Sweet

Not Pictured:

R. Hayes Grapperhaus
Michael Sherlock
James Murray
Deputy Chief Magistrate Ernst Arndt

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

SUSSEX COUNTY JUDGES



First row (left to right)

Deborah Keenan
Deputy Chief Magistrate Sheila Blakely
Rochelle Knapp
Michelle Jewell
Jana Mollohan

Second row (left to right)

John Martin
John McKenzie
John Hudson
Chief Magistrate Alan Davis
Jeni Coffelt

Third row (left to right)

Christopher Bradley
John J. Adams
William Boddy, III
Richard Comly

Fourth row (left to right)

Herman Hagan
James Horn
Larry Sipple

Not Pictured: Stephani Adams, William P. Wood