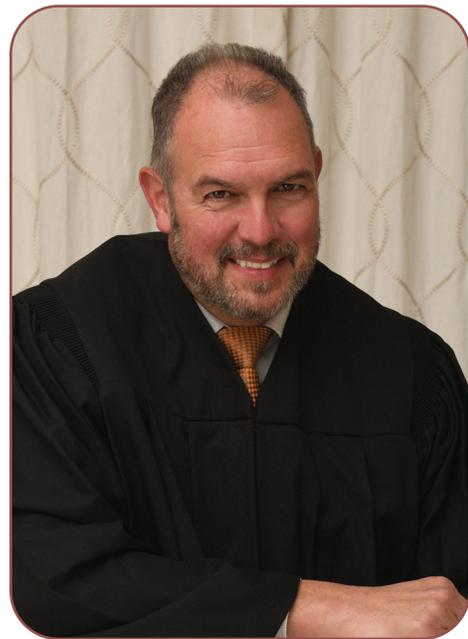


# *Justice of the Peace Court*

The Justice of the Peace Court has jurisdiction over civil cases involving debt, trespass and replevin in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000.

The Justice of the Peace Court has jurisdiction over all landlord/tenant summary possession proceedings. Justice of the Peace Court is authorized to hear certain misdemeanors and most motor vehicle cases (excluding felonies) and may act as committing magistrates for all crimes. The Justice of the Peace Court handles more than 90 percent of initial presentments/arraignments and warrants statewide.



**Chief Magistrate**  
*Alan G. Davis*

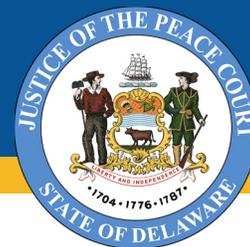
## *By the Numbers*



### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

- Judicial Officers - 62
- Court Staff - 230

TOTAL: 292



## Kent County Judges

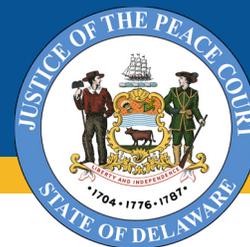
Seated, Front Row (Left to Right)  
Alexander Montano • Dana Tracy • Jamie Hicks • Nicole Alston-Jackson

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Standing, Back Row (Left to Right)  
D. Kenneth Cox • Michael Sherlock • James Murray

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Not Pictured  
Michael Green • Deputy Chief Magistrate Kevin Wilson  
W.G. Edmanson, II • Dwight Dillard



## Sussex County Judges

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right)  
Bethany Crowley • Leah Chandler • Maria Castro  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Deborah Keenan • Jennifer Sammons • Terri Davis

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Standing, Back Row (Left to Right)  
William Patrick Wood • John Hudson • John Adams • Kristine Kellenbenz  
Matthew Tingle • Scott Willey • Christopher Bradley • Brett Graves

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Not Pictured  
Amber Welch • Mirta Collazo • Stephani Adams



## New Castle County Judges

Seated, Front Row (Left to Right)

Maria Perez-Chambers • Maria Page • Mary Ellen Naugle  
Deputy Chief Magistrate Sean McCormick • Susan Goldsman • Kerry Kowal • Lisa Emerson

Standing, Back Row (Left to Right)

Peter Burcat • Joesph Spagnolo • Rodney Vodery • James Hanby, Sr.  
John Potts • Amanda Moyer • Earl MacFarlane • Gerald Ross, III  
Beatrice Freel • Michelle Michini-Adam • Walter Newton

Not Pictured

Shelley Losito • Nina Bawa • Shameka Booker  
Cheryl McCabe-Stroman • Bobby Hoof  
Alex Peterson, III • Shanaya Eyong  
Bracy Dizon, Jr. • Christopher Portante  
Katharine Ross

## 2025 Highlights

- In February 2025, the State of Delaware Judicial Pension was implemented for Justice of the Peace Court Magistrates. The plan was previously in place for the Justice of the Peace Court Chief Magistrate and all judges in the higher courts and this move brings equity for all judicial officers in the Delaware courts and will improve the hiring and retention of judges at the Justice of the Peace Court.
- The Civil Mediation Unit moved into its new leased location at 113 Neurology Way, Milford, Kent County. The unit was created by legislation in 2023 that required the Justice of the Peace Court to establish and administer a residential eviction diversion program to facilitate dispute resolution between landlords and tenants. The facility provides administrative office space for the unit and may be used by the public for scheduled mediation meetings.
- Civil case filings increased an additional 17% in Fiscal Year 2025 over FY 2024. To manage the growing number of cases, the court has created a statewide Civil Intake Unit to more efficiently review and accept cases filed electronically. Initially the unit is handling civil debt cases with plans to expand to handle all types of civil cases filed in the court.
- Court 13 in New Castle, the highest volume civil court location for the Justice of the Peace Court in the state, has been challenged by a backlog of Landlord Tenant filings since COVID. To address the backlog, the court used resources from civil locations throughout the state, including dedicating a senior judge to the project; reviewed and revised processes, such as the use of virtual or in-person hearings; and focused staff efforts to optimize efficiencies and reduced the backlog.
- Court 20 will be moving from the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center to make room for Delaware Chancery Court expansion. The new location at 824 North Market Street is scheduled to be fully renovated for move in by early 2026.

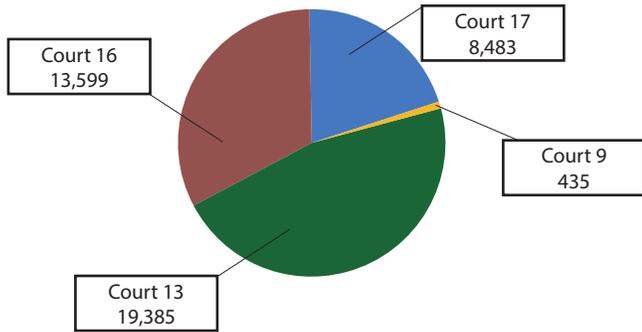


- The Justice of the Peace Court is celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the court joining the Delaware State Court system. The legislation creating the modern Justice of the Peace Court was signed into law on March 31, 1965, by Governor Charles L. Terry and commemorated on March 31, 2025, with a special proclamation signed by Governor Matt Meyer.

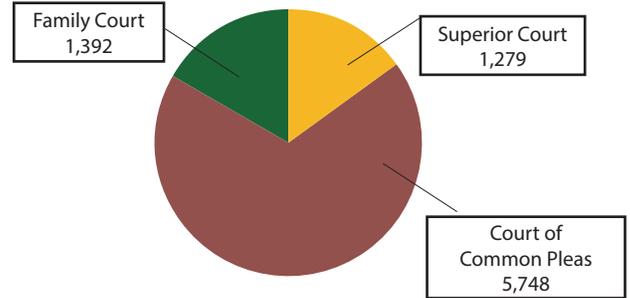
# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



**Total Justice of the Peace Court Civil Cases Filed by the Court Fiscal Year 2025**



**Capiases Cleared by Justice of the Peace Court for Other Courts Fiscal Year 2025**



**Number of Justice of the Peace Court Filings by Type Fiscal Year 2025\***

92,348 Voluntary Assessment Center	63,189 Title 21 (Traffic)	30,129 Civil Complaints	25,583 Title 11 (Criminal)	11,773 Landlord/Tenant	6,486 Miscellaneous Criminal	268 Title 7 (Fish & Game)
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\*Criminal filings are by defendant

**Justice of the Peace Court Civil and Criminal/Traffic Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year\***



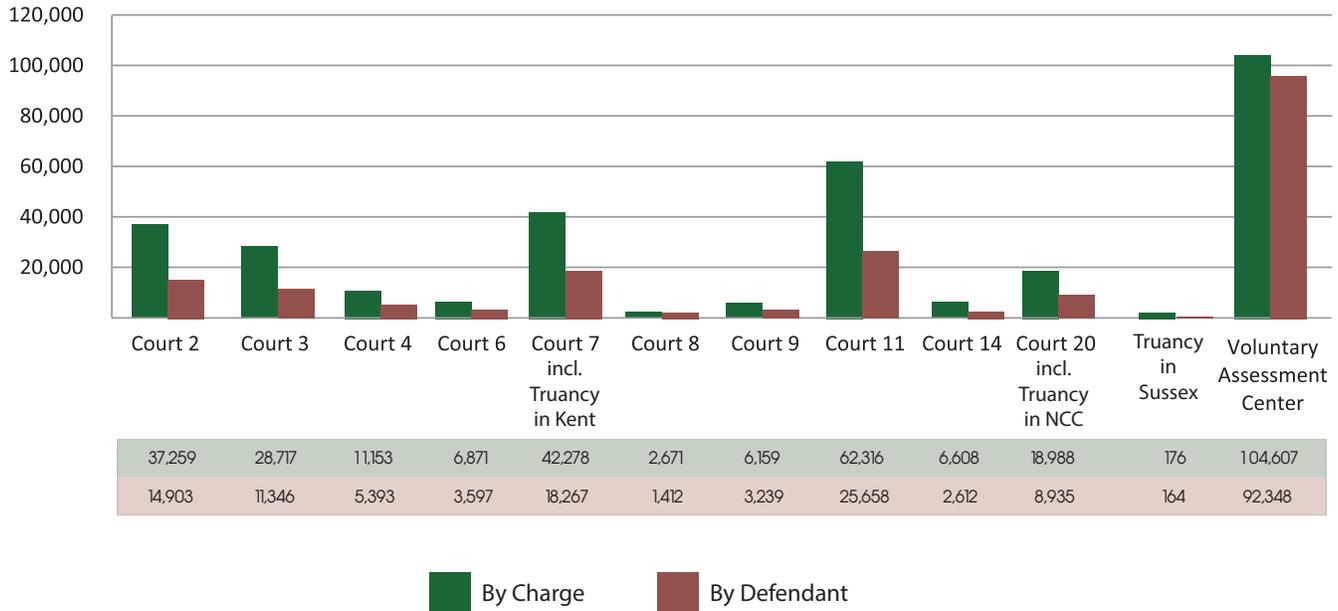
\*Criminal filings and disposition information is by defendant.

Filings Dispositions

# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



## Justice of the Peace Court Criminal and Traffic Charges Fiscal Year 2025



## Justice of the Peace Court - 10 Year Civil Caseload Trend

