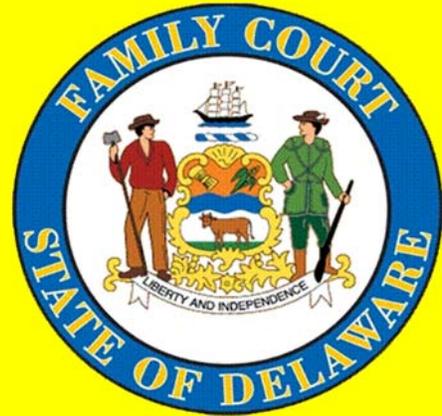


FAMILY COURT



Family Court remains committed to its goal of providing equal access to justice for the families and children under its jurisdiction in a manner that is fair and efficient and that maintains the public's trust and confidence in an independent and accountable judiciary.

In Fiscal Year 2014, Family Court received more than 35,000 civil filings, more than 5,100 juvenile delinquency filings, and over 3,900 criminal filings. During this same period, the Court disposed of more than 36,000 civil matters, more than 5,200 juvenile delinquency cases, and over 3,600 criminal matters.



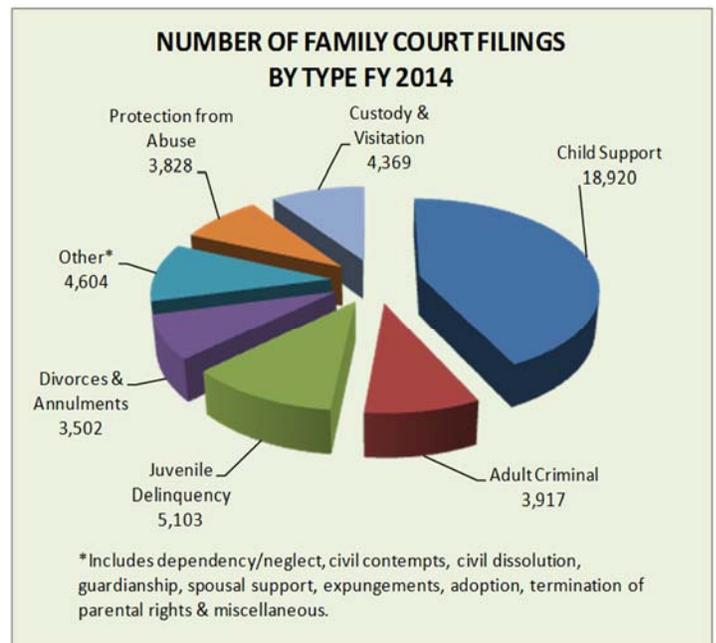
**Chief Judge
Chandlee Johnson Kuhn**

Approximately one third of Family Court's civil cases were scheduled for mediation hearings facilitated by court employed mediators. The mediation process recognizes the importance of empowering individuals to make decisions regarding their families in a non-adversarial setting. In FY14, 12,522 matters were scheduled for mediation statewide and a majority of those cases were resolved without the need for a hearing with a judge or commissioner.

In the delinquency area, Family Court offers arbitration for eligible first time juvenile offenders. Arbitration allows eligible juveniles that accept responsibility for their conduct and who comply with specific conditions to have their charges dismissed. Family Court continues to preside over several specialty courts designed to meet the special needs of the populations they serve. These specialty courts include Gun Court, Juvenile Drug Court, and Mental Health Diversion Court.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate program continued its efforts in FY14 to recruit, train, and assign volunteers to represent the best interests of children in the child welfare system. In partnership with the Office of the Child Advocate, all children in the Delaware child welfare system have either an attorney guardian *ad litem* or a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) representing his or her best interests during the pendency of Family Court's case.

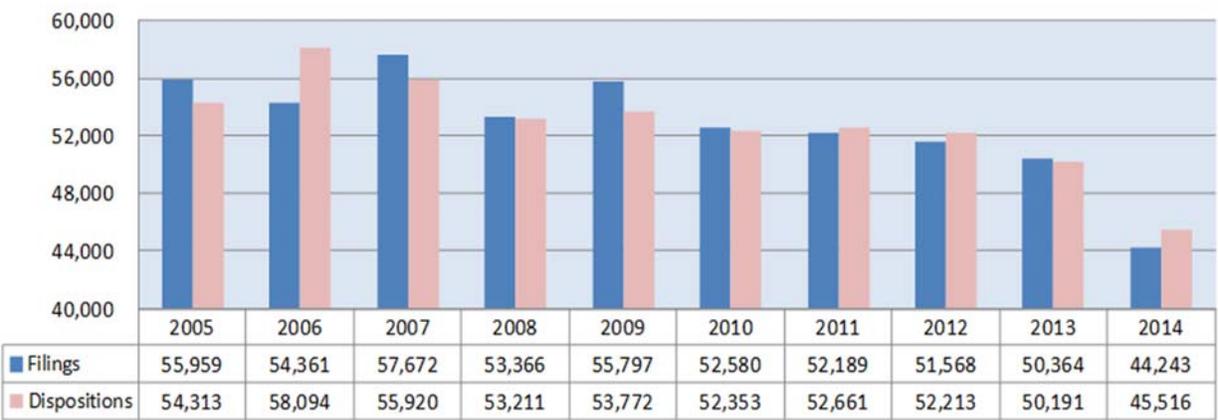
In a continuing effort to promote efficiency while maintaining public trust in an independent and accountable Family Court bench and staff, Family Court pursued and was awarded sev-



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FAMILY COURT

FAMILY COURT CIVIL & CRIMINAL FILINGS & DISPOSITIONS BY FISCAL YEAR



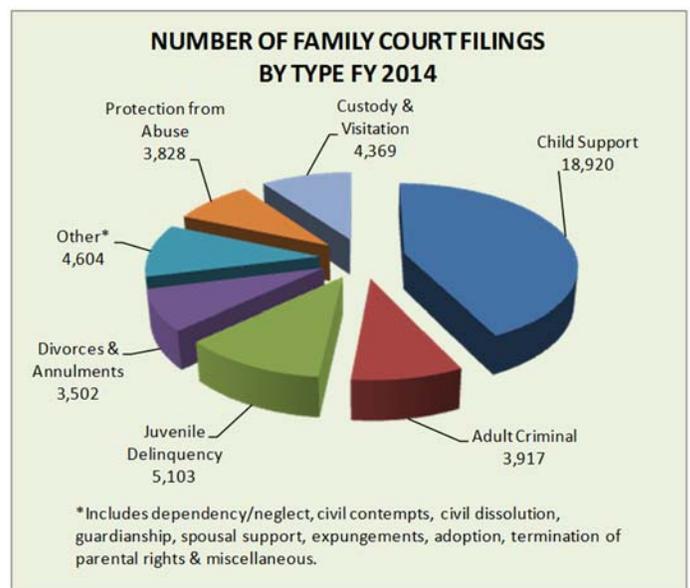
eral grant opportunities in FY14 aimed to improve its response and handling of the complicated matters within its jurisdiction.

In November 2013, the Family Court of the State of Delaware was one of 16 sites selected for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) project “School Pathways to the Juvenile Justice System.” NCJFCJ is providing training and technical assistance to help Family Court judges and commissioners develop efforts with our partners to reduce referrals of youth to juvenile courts for school-based misbehaviors.

The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women, in collaboration with NCJFCJ, selected the Family Court as one of only four sites to participate in the Family Court Enhancement Project. The goal of the Enhancement Project is to improve custody and visitation decision-making for families that have experienced domestic violence. The Project launched in April 2014 with a collaborative meeting of stakeholders and partners to evaluate the Family Court’s current laws, rules, and procedures related to child custody decisions and domestic violence. During the two year project, with the assistance of national domestic violence and court improvement experts, Family Court’s multi-disciplinary team will identify best practices and recommend and implement improvements designed to keep victims and children safe.

The quadrennial Ad Hoc Committee for Child Support Formula Review convened in FY14. The Committee’s charge is to review and, where appropriate, revise the State’s child support formula guidelines to ensure that application of the formula results in the determination of appropriate child support amounts. Chaired by the Honorable Michael K. Newell, the Committee’s report and recommendations will be voted on by the Family Court Judges for implementation on January 1, 2015.

Fiscal Year 2014 brought several new faces to Family Court’s bench and administration.

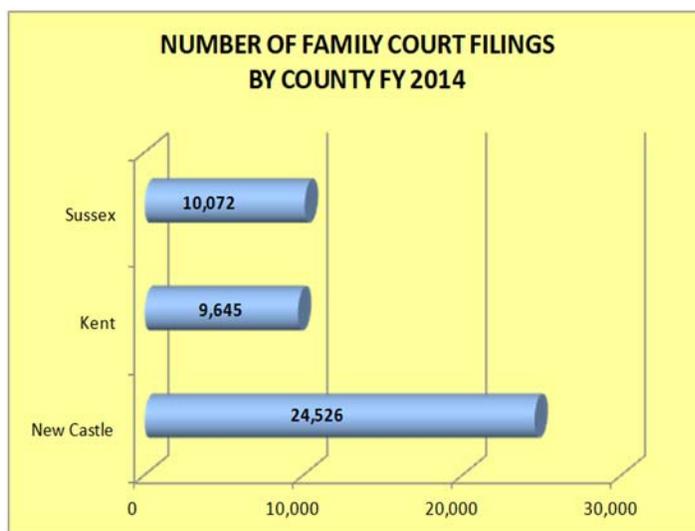


FAMILY COURT

In April 2014, Family Court welcomed two new Commissioners to its bench, following the retirement of the Honorable Lester Blades and the resignation of the Honorable Dawn M. Williams. Commissioner Angela M. Fowler was appointed as a Commissioner serving in Kent County, having served as a hearing officer for the Industrial Accident Board, a Deputy Child Advocate for the Office of Child Advocate and a Deputy Attorney General for the Delaware Department of Justice. Commissioner Para K. Wolcott was appointed as a Commissioner serving in New Castle County, having served as a Deputy Attorney General for the Delaware Department of Justice. Both Commissioner Fowler and Commissioner Wolcott previously served as law clerks in the Family Court at the beginning of their legal careers.

In addition, Family Court welcomed two new members to its Administrative Team - Addie Asay, Esquire, as the Director of Legal Affairs and Eric Stephenson as Family Court's new Director of Training. Five additional law clerks were added to the Court's complement of law clerks in FY14. The addition of these clerks brings the Court closer to meeting the recommendations of the 1999 report issued by the

Special Committee on Family Court Internal Operating Procedures that each judge be assigned a full time law clerk in order "to ensure that all matters within the Family Court jurisdiction are resolved as expeditiously as possible commensurate with the obligation of the Courts of this state to provide its citizens with the highest quality of justice feasible."



COMMISSIONERS:

Front row (standing left to right)

Para Wolcott
 Sonja Wilson
 Mary Ann Herlihy
 Chief Judge Kuhn
 John Carrow
 Mary Much

Second row (standing left to right)

Loretta Young
 Janell Ostroski
 Susan Tussey
 Louann Vari
 Angela Fowler

Third row (standing left to right)

James Maxwell
 Pamela Holloway
 Andrew Southmayd
 Jennifer Mayo
 M. DeSales Haley

Not pictured: David W. Jones

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FAMILY COURT



FAMILY COURT JUDGES

Front row (standing left to right)

Judge Aida Wasserstein
Judge Arlene Minus Coppadge
Judge Kenneth M. Millman
Chief Judge Chandlee Johnson Kuhn
Judge William M. Nicholas
Judge Barbara D. Crowell

Second row (standing left to right)

Judge Mardi F. Pyott
Judge Mark D. Buckworth
Judge William J. Walls, Jr.
Judge Peter B. Jones
Judge Paula Ryan

Third row (standing left to right)

Judge Joelle P. Hitch
Judge Alan N. Cooper
Judge Robert B. Coonin
Judge Michael K. Newell

Not pictured: Judge William Chapman
Judge Jay H. Conner