

# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



## CHIEF MAGISTRATE ALAN G. DAVIS



# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

Throughout the years, the Justice of the Peace Court has worked hard to provide quality service to our court users and make improvements to their overall experience. In FY 2017 we continued to work toward better levels of service by reviewing what we could do to improve things for the end user and ended up focusing on efforts to provide better support for our staff through enhanced training opportunities, targeted pay enhancements and streamlining the Court's physical footprint. We took this route under the theory that a more content staff leads to improved experiences for our court users.

Efficient and exceptional service can only be provided by judicial officers and staff who are well trained and knowledgeable in our business.

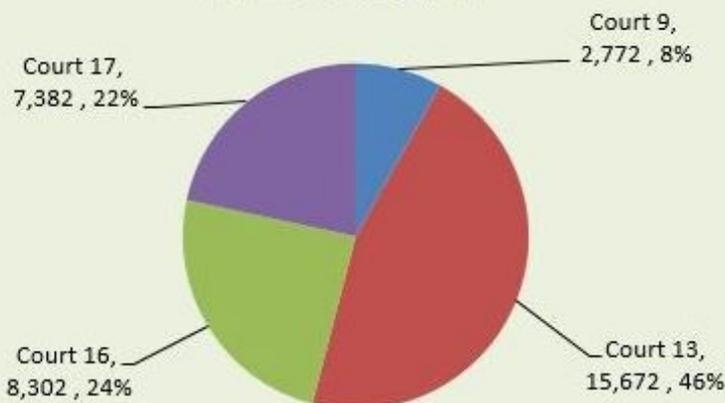
Our judicial education program was put into place over twenty years ago. New judges have a rigorous basic legal education training course before taking the bench, and two educational conferences occur each year, keeping all judges current on new or upcoming changes in the judicial system. Over the course of the last year we undertook a significant overhaul of our judicial training philosophy and developed the application of proven adult learning techniques to better prepare our new judges for their experience on the bench. Also, after years of success of the Basic Legal Education program for judges, we created a new basic education program for our clerical staff and security officers. Newly hired staff work closely with peers, trainers and managers to learn the basics of the Court. Due to

the implementation of these programs, we not only have a more professional organization but also an ever-growing avenue for court improvement.

Since our Court environment poses unique work scenarios for staff, another focus of the Court was on supporting our staff in the form

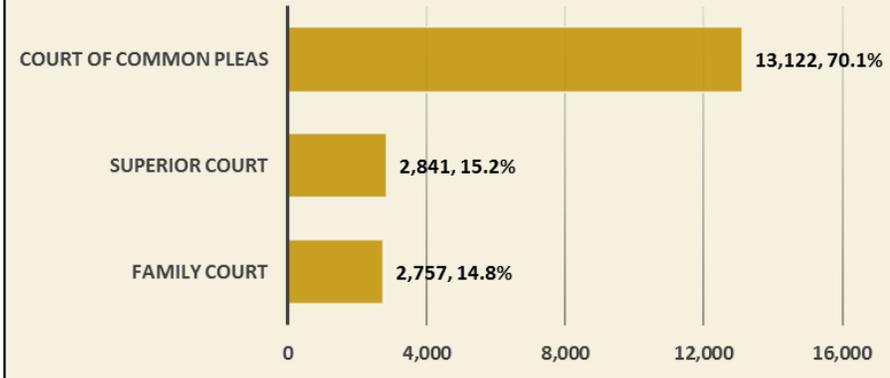
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**TOTAL JUSTICE OF THE PEACE CIVIL CASES FILED  
BY COURT FY 2017**



# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

**Capiases Cleared by Justice of the Peace Court for Other Courts FY 2017**



salary matrix to other 24 hour operations as well as to our after-hours security staff.

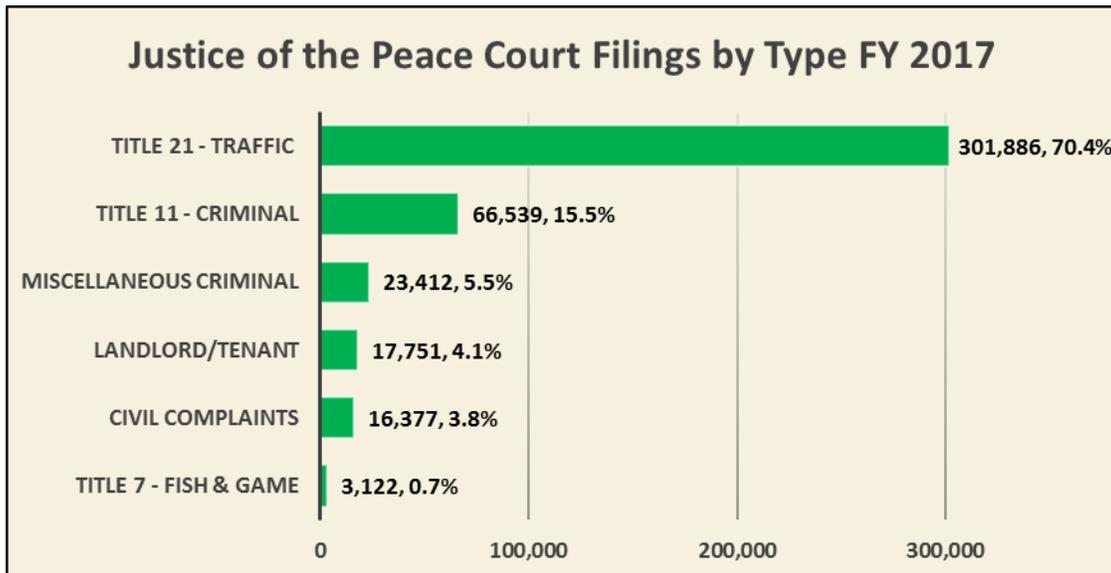
In order to continue our efforts to remain efficient and retain staff, we also spent time analyzing the current locations of the Justice of the Peace Court to determine if we could consolidate locations and streamline operations. This fiscal year saw the closing of Court 1 in Frankfort, shifting their workload to other locations in Sussex County. By doing this, it enabled us to better utilize our resources and decrease the burden of supporting numerous locations. We

of targeted pay enhancements. Three of our 14 court locations operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year, requiring our judicial officers, clerical staff and security to work during holidays and weather emergencies. Due to this, our turnover rates on the staff side have been exceedingly high, and a considerable amount of time and energy has been spent on analyzing potential solutions to address our staffing needs. In FY 2017, we were able to put into place a salary matrix to begin to address this issue. The implementation of this pilot program allowed the Court to provide an increased salary for our clerical staff in our most critically affected location, Court 11. In the future we hope to expand the

have also begun analyzing our 24/7 operations to determine if there are any work processes that could be modified, relieving pressure during our evening and weekend hours. The undertaking of this project will be a significant focus for 2018.

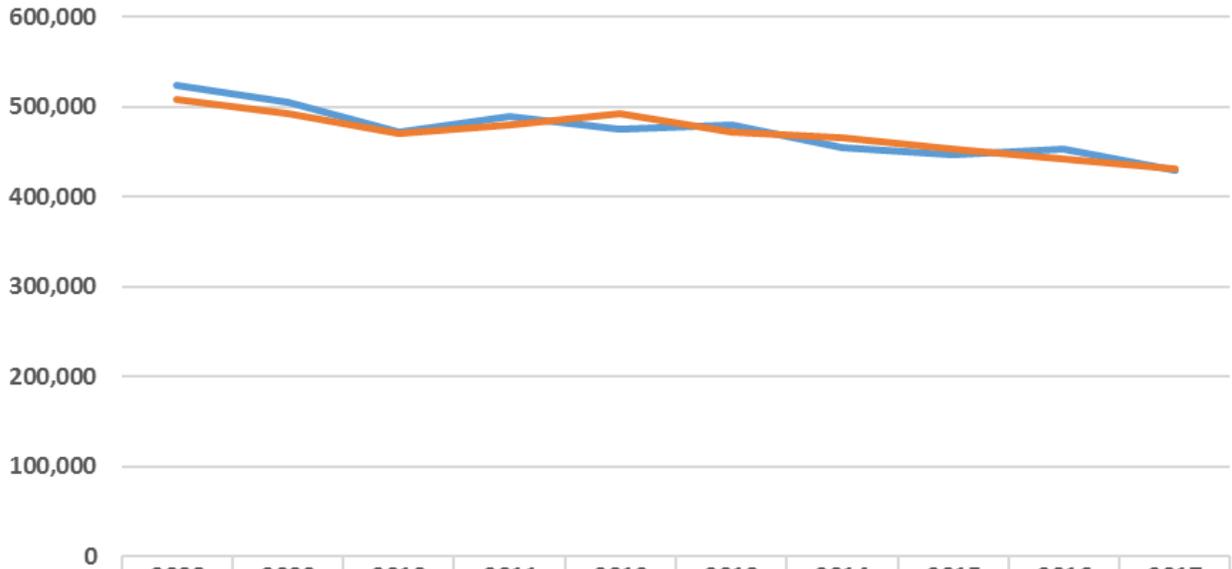
Better trained judges and staff, with improved working conditions, lead to an enhanced experience for the people we serve. By focusing on these areas over the last fiscal year, we have attempted to give our staff the opportunity to improve themselves and their conditions, as well as the Court as a whole. ♦

**Justice of the Peace Court Filings by Type FY 2017**



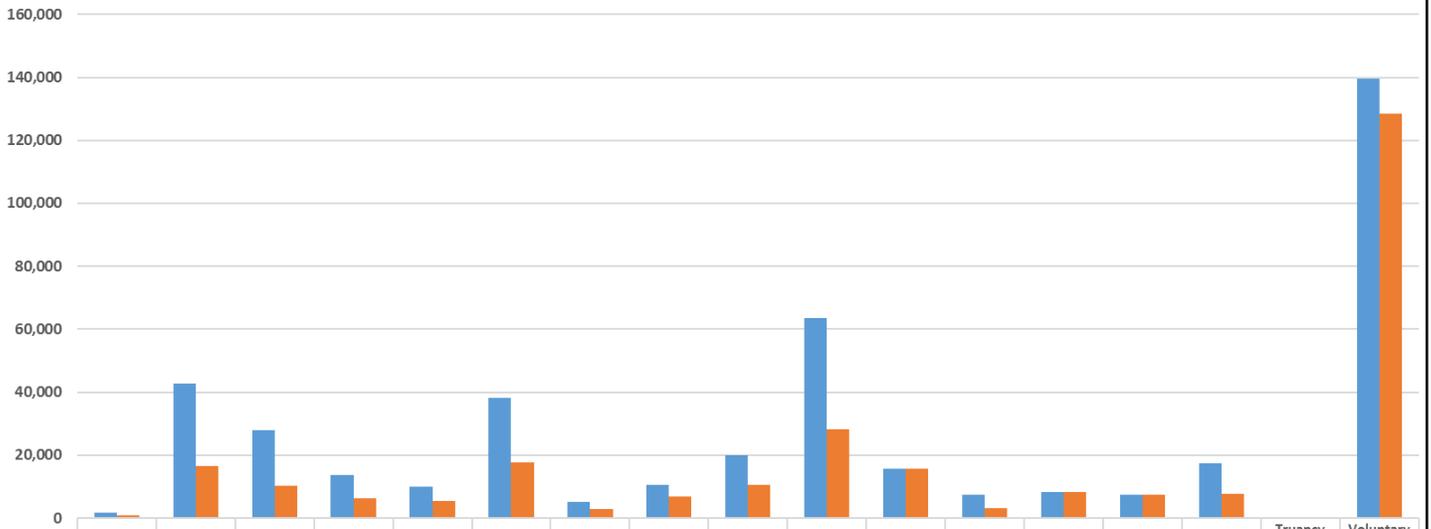
# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT

## Justice of the Peace Court Filings and Dispositions by Fiscal Year



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Filings	524,375	505,815	471,912	489,169	475,583	479,835	454,217	446,392	453,358	429,087
Dispositions	508,278	492,695	470,061	480,261	491,740	472,692	465,973	453,589	442,617	431,143

## Justice of the Peace Court Criminal & Traffic Charges & Cases by Defendant by Court FY 2017



	Court 1	Court 2	Court 3	Court 4	Court 6	Court 7	Court 8	Court 9	Court 10	Court 11	Court 13	Court 14	Court 16	Court 17	Court 20	Truancy Court-Sussex	Voluntary Assessment Center
Charges	1,602	42,647	27,993	13,530	9,993	38,251	5,180	10,547	19,938	63,533	15,672	7,345	8,302	7,382	17,275	232	139,665
Defendants	810	16,413	10,188	6,402	5,314	17,607	2,798	6,936	10,465	28,122	15,672	3,230	8,302	7,382	7,766	219	128,347

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# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



## NEW CASTLE COUNTY JUDGES

***Sitting, front row (left to right):***

Cheryl Stallmann, Katharine Ross, Senior Judge Rosalie Rutkowski, Kerry Taylor, Marie Page, Shelley Losito, Nina Bawa, Cheryl McCabe-Stroman.

***Standing, middle row (left to right):***

Susan Cine, Beatrice Freel, Amanda Moyer, Thomas Kenney, Roberto Lopez, Sean McCormick, Christopher Portante, Carmen Jordan-Cox.

***Standing, back row (left to right):***

Senior Judge William Moser, Gerald Ross, James Tull, David Skelley, James Hanby Sr., John Potts, Peter Burcat, William Young III.

***Not pictured:***

Thomas Brown, Bracy Dixon Jr., Emily Ferrell, Vincent Kowal, Deputy Chief Magistrate Bonita Lee, Susan Ufberg.

# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



## KENT COUNTY JUDGES

***Sitting, front row (left to right):***

Nicole Alston-Jackson, Cathleen Hutchison, Dana Tracy.

***Standing, back row (left to right):***

Alexander Montano, Senior Judge Robert Wall, D. Ken Cox, Kevin Wilson, James Murray.

***Not pictured:***

Deputy Chief Magistrate Ernst Arndt, Pamela Darling, Dwight Dillard, W.G. Edmanson II, Michael Sherlock.

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# JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURT



## SUSSEX COUNTY JUDGES

***Sitting, front row (left to right):***

Nicholas Mirro, Michelle Jewel, Deputy Chief Magistrate Sheila Blakely, Jana Mollohan, Stephani Adams, Deborah Keenan, John McKenzie.

***Standing, (left to right):***

William Wood, Richard Comly, John Hudson, John Martin, James Horn, Chief Magistrate Alan Davis, Scott Willey, Christopher Bradley, Larry Sipple.

***Not pictured:***

John Adams, William Boddy III, Jennifer Sammons.