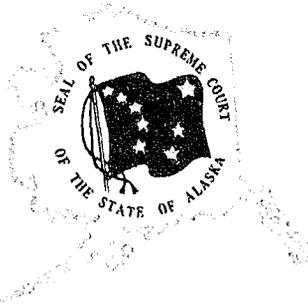


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March 31, 1977

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ACQUISITIONS

TO: THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE
AND JUSTICES OF THE ALASKA SUPREME COURT

It is my pleasure to transmit herewith the 1976 Annual Report for the Alaska Court System. This report covers the operations of the Supreme Court and the trial courts of Alaska. In addition, the report contains a description of major developments during the year and a section dealing with bush justice. New to the report this year is a statistical supplement with standardized chart formats that will be used in all subsequent reports.

I wish to take this opportunity to again express my appreciation to the various judicial officers and clerks of the trial courts for their cooperation in reporting judicial statistics to this office.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur H. Snowden, II
Administrative Director

P R E F A C E

"We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is, and the judiciary is the safeguard of our liberty and of our property under the Constitution."

- Charles Evans Hughes
1907

"Where laws end, tyranny begins."

- William Pitt
1779

"But as judges, we are neither Jew nor Gentile, neither Catholic nor agnostic."

- Felix Frankfurter
1943

It is important that the Legislative and Executive Branches of Government, the Bar, and the general public be aware of what is happening in the courts. This report is prepared toward that end--to describe how the Alaska Court System operates and what its results are.

The report begins with a description of the major events occurring during 1976. There is a special chapter dealing with the services of rural, or "bush" communities. In addition, there are separate chapters describing the activities of the Supreme, Superior, and District Courts of Alaska.

The report contains three appendices dealing with the organization of the Alaska Court System, supplemental statistics for all types of cases for each court location, and a Glossary of Terms.

We wish to thank Mr. Robert L. Stern for his design of the cover and chapter tabs. In addition, we would like to extend our appreciation to Mr. Robert Page of the San Francisco office of the National Center for State Courts. Mr. Page provided valuable consultation and logistics in the design of the statistical supplement.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

1976 was an extremely active year for the Alaska Court System. In terms of caseload and improvement projects initiated and completed, it was the busiest year in our history. This section will describe in detail exactly what took place during 1976.

There were seven judicial appointments in 1976; four for the Superior Courts, and three for the District Courts. In the area of administration, there were many changes in our fiscal and capital funding programs, in our law library, and in the application of technology to the courts. In addition, there were several procedural changes that improved the operation of the trial courts.

A summary of 1976 caseload shows over 100,000 cases filed--the largest number since statehood. Finally, we will discuss future programs and priorities--what we intend to accomplish in the next few years.

JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

During 1976, seven persons were appointed to the Alaska Bench, four to Superior Court judgeships and three to District Court judgeships. Three of the Superior Court positions were new ones established by the Legislature in Sitka, Fairbanks, and Bethel. The establishment of the new positions in Sitka and Bethel was in keeping with the Court System's policy of extending a broader range of services from a resident court of general trial jurisdiction in areas where warranted by present and anticipated caseloads. The new position in Fairbanks brought the number of Superior Court positions there to four in order to meet demands created in part by the increase in caseloads resulting from pipeline construction impact.

Similarly, two of the District Court judgeships, one in Valdez and the other in Homer, were transformed from acting to permanent positions in accordance with a demonstrated need for full-time resident judges in the two cities. Of the remaining positions, a new Superior Court judge was appointed for Juneau and a new District Court judge was appointed for Wrangell-Petersburg to fill vacated positions.

Allen T. Compton, 38, was appointed to the Superior Court in Juneau, filling the vacancy created when Judge Victor Carlson was shifted to the Third Judicial District in Anchorage. Compton, who received his law degree from the

University of Colorado in 1963, came to Alaska in 1971 to serve as supervising attorney with Alaska Legal Services' Juneau office. He was in private practice in Juneau from 1973 until his appointment to the Bench in February.

The new Superior Court judgeship in Sitka was filled by former District Court Judge Duane Craske who, at the time of his appointment, was serving in Wrangell. A graduate of the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College, Judge Craske was installed in November. Prior to his appointment to the District Court in 1975, Craske served as U.S. Attorney in Guam for five years, and before that had a private practice in Sitka in the late 50's and early 60's.

Jay Hodges, 39, was installed as the fourth Superior Court judge in Fairbanks on December 3. Judge Hodges, a 1964 graduate of the University of Colorado Law School, came to Alaska the same year as a Supreme Court law clerk. Subsequently, he served as an assistant District Attorney in Anchorage from 1965 to 1966 and then went to Fairbanks as District Attorney in 1967. He served in that position until 1968 when he entered private practice.

Christopher Cooke, 33, was sworn in as the new Superior Court judge in Bethel on December 16. Judge Cooke is a graduate of Yale University and the University of Michigan Law School (1968). He came to Alaska as a VISTA lawyer in 1968 and worked for the Alaska Legal Services Corporation in Kotzebue. From 1971 to 1973 he was supervising attorney for Alaska Legal Services in Bethel and then entered private practice there.

John Bosshard III, 30, was appointed District Court judge in Valdez in July. Judge Bosshard came to Alaska as a VISTA attorney following his graduation from the University of Denver Law School in 1972. He later worked as a staff attorney for Alaska Legal Services in Ketchikan and Sitka.

James C. Hornaday, 37, a 1964 graduate of the University of Iowa College of Law, was appointed permanent District Court judge in Homer in November, following several months' service as acting District Court judge. Prior to his appointment, Hornaday was in private practice in Kenai since his arrival there in 1966.

Robin Taylor, 33, was appointed District Court judge in Wrangell in December. Judge Taylor graduated from Willamette University College of Law in 1969 and was in private practice in Ketchikan from 1970 until the time of his appointment.

Bethel District Court Judge Nora Guinn was the only member of the Alaska Bench to retire during 1976. Judge Guinn left the Bench on August 31 after

nine years of service. Prior to her appointment as District judge in 1967, Judge Guinn served the Bethel Area for many years as a magistrate subsequent to statehood and as a U.S. Commissioner before then. She was the only Alaska Native to serve on the Alaska Bench.

FISCAL AFFAIRS

The Legislature annually appropriates all funds for the operation of the Alaska Court System from the State general fund in response to requests centrally prepared by the Court's Administrative Office. Revenues generated by the Court are turned over to the State, except for those generated by cases involving municipal ordinances, which are returned to the respective municipalities.

The judicial budget has grown at a steady rate for the past three years. The increases have been due primarily to rising caseloads resulting from the direct and indirect impact of construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline and from inflation, particularly as the latter has affected personnel costs. The heavy demands on the System related to pipeline construction are slowing, due to the completion of the project. However, current projections indicate that caseoads will not actually decrease, but will only level off temporarily.

This annual report covers the period January 1 to December 31, 1976. Since the State of Alaska is on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year, this report covers half of Fiscal Year 1976 and half of Fiscal Year 1977. In the remainder of this section, all budgetary references will be to Fiscal Year 1977.

Currently, the Court System operating budget accounts for approximately 2.7 percent of the total State general fund expenditures (Figure 1-1). The actual expenditures incurred by the System during Fiscal Year 1976 were \$16,189,600. The total appropriation for Fiscal Year 1977 amounted to \$18,051,300.

Each year, the budget request for the Alaska Court System is prepared centrally by the staff of the Administrative Office and submitted to the Legislature. Following legislative review and appropriation, the budget is then allocated to each of the four judicial districts, the Supreme Court, and the Administrative Office. The appropriation covers all costs of the Judicial Branch in the State of Alaska, including judges' salaries, facility maintenance, clerks' offices, and administrative support.

Figure 1-1 illustrates the manner in which the Alaska budget is divided between the various program categories, including the administration of justice. The number of positions for each budget component is shown in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1
 Statewide Budget for Alaska
 Court System - FY-77

Budget Element	FY-77 Budget - (thousands)	Positions		
		Judges/Justices	Magistrates	Support Personnel
Supreme Court	1308	5		25
Trial Courts:				
1st District	2400	7	10	30
2nd District	550	2	14	5
3rd District	7749	13	12	142
4th District	2932	3	8	55
Bethel Service Area	466	1	7	3
Barrow Service Area	111		3	1
Administration	2541			75
Total	18057	42	54	336

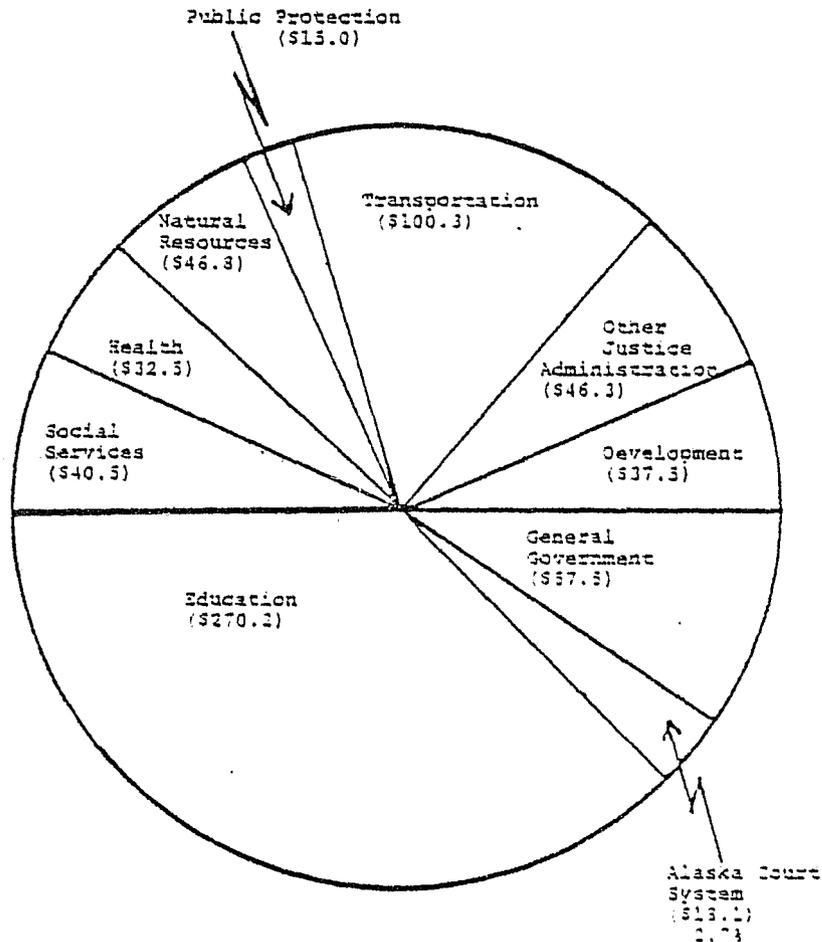


Figure 1-1
 State of Alaska Fiscal
 Year 1977 Operating Budget
 (General Fund Only)

The major expense is personnel costs which, at the level of \$10,500,000, represents approximately 60 percent of the total operating budget. The other major expense item for the Court System is rent, maintenance, and insurance on the facilities housing the Court in 63 locations across the State. Jury fees are budgeted at \$500,000 and attorney fees at \$400,000 (attorneys are contracted to serve as guardians ad litem in children's cases and to represent indigent defendants in cases where a conflict of interest exists within the Public Defender Agency). Due to the remote nature of many court locations and the large distances separating various courts, approximately \$300,000 is budgeted for travel expenses. Other operational expenses of the court, including commodities, phone, postage, and equipment rental, make up approximately \$2,500,000 of the annual expense of the Court.

While the rate of growth of new case filings declined in the past year, the complexity of litigation and the number of cases progressing to trial increased. Due to the elimination of plea bargaining, the increase in prepaid legal services, and the advent of the point system in traffic cases, the number of jury trials was nearly double the level of previous years. The fiscal impact of this trend toward a greater number of trials touched many areas of the budget: jury fees, attorney fees (for attorneys appointed when a conflict of interest exists in the Public Defender Agency), and clerical costs resulting from the increase in paperwork for each case that went to trial.

Also, another direct effect of the increased number of cases going to trial was a 66 percent increase in appeals filed with the Supreme Court. This rapid growth in appeals not only has created additional expense for the Supreme Court, but also has added a heavy burden and expense to the trial courts' component in the preparation of transcripts and records on appeal.

IMPROVEMENTS IN TRIAL COURT OPERATIONS

Most of the clerical activity that takes place in the Alaska Court System is in support of trial court operations and is handled primarily through the Superior and District Court clerks' offices. Also, it is here that most of the public contact with the Court System occurs. There has been a tremendous increase in the caseload over the past five years, with a concurrent increase in public inquiries. Keeping up with the volume has been a challenge for the clerks' offices and for the trial courts' administration. At each level, there is a continuing effort to improve the clerical and support systems in order to provide the best service possible to the public.

Some changes initiated in Anchorage during 1976 include:

1. Improvements in Small Claims Procedures. The volume of cases filed in small claims court increased 25 percent over the past three years. The small claims process is intended as a "non-lawyer" general public dispute resolution mechanism. Because filing of small claims cases was being handled in the same office as District Court and Superior Court matters, the public was occasionally confused as to how to proceed or to obtain necessary information, and also was subjected to delays. Also, the small claims process, unlike the normal civil process, requires greater advisory participation on behalf of the parties by the Court's clerical staff.

In order to overcome these difficulties, small claims matters are now handled by a separate office responsible for all small claims functions. New forms and instructions were derived, a color-coded small claims folder was put in use, and a newly designed face sheet which allows for instant determination of the status of the action was implemented.

2. Microfilming Project. Progress continued during 1976 on a project which will eventually result in most case files being recorded on microfilm. Existing closed case files were placed on microfilm and the original files destroyed. Open files are now microfilmed as they close and the original case files are destroyed after two years. As a result, there is a greater security for the files, and losses due to normal wear and tear in misplacement are minimized. Additionally, because the microfilmed records require considerably less storage space, increased areas of floor space have been made available to the Clerk's Office at a time it is facing increased volumes of filings and service demands to the public.

3. Exhibit Handling. Over the years, exhibits in storage increased to the point where the method of inventory and access was complicated and often inaccurate. The frequency of misplaced exhibits and inability to retrieve them when needed was far too great. Consequently, an ongoing exhibit control project was started. This program requires notices to be sent to parties (pursuant to Civil Rule 74(g)(2)) depositing these items with the court. These are sent by each department that concludes the action. The exhibits are to be picked up (and a receipt obtained within 30 days or the exhibits are destroyed). Since implementation, the incidence of misplaced exhibits has been greatly reduced.

4. Lapsed Cases. The Court has found that frequently civil cases are filed but no action is taken by the plaintiff to pursue the case. Sometimes this is because the case is settled and the court is not notified; sometimes because the plaintiff decides not to pursue diligently. This created a burden on the Clerk's office of maintaining these case files. Therefore, the Clerk has instituted an ongoing dismissal project which consists of a periodic review and the sending of letters to the attorneys pursuant to Civil Rule 41(e). 1/ After 33 days, if the action is not brought current, the material is dismissed by the presiding judge.

5. New Filings System Designed. To further simplify the case file processing and better utilize space, a new system for file folders and filing equipment was instituted. A newly designed folder face sheet acts as an index and history source for the pleadings in the case file (or stored elsewhere). This system will be implemented and operational in early 1977, after delivery of the file folders.

6. New Subpoena Procedures. In the past, when persons were under subpoena by attorneys, it was necessary for the attorney to go to the Clerk's office to obtain and issue a subpoena. To do so required forms to be filled out and clerks to issue them, and resulted in increasing congestion and confusion in the Clerk's public office area. The Clerk's office now issues blank subpoenas. This allows the attorneys to prepare and serve the subpoenas without coming to the Clerk's office each time it is necessary to issue a summons. This also reduces the congestion and number of people awaiting service at the front counter.

7. Training. The court recognizes that trained staff are an essential ingredient to maintaining an effective operation, as well as to generate new ideas for better programs and procedures. To this end, several supervisors have attended the Supervisor Management Course conducted by the State. In-service training continues in the traffic violations office. The office is set up so that new clerks will work with new incoming traffic tickets and proceed to more responsible tasks as soon as they become more knowledgeable on procedure. An effort is made to move each employee into a new set of duties after having learned an assignment. Working in each of the assignments leads to a better understanding by all personnel of the entire office.

Pretrial Services which handles the screening of potential Public Defender appointment, has prepared a training manual for new employees which covers all procedures that are conducted by Pretrial. There were five new employees hired during the past year, and the training manual has proved to be the best tool that Pretrial has in teaching the employees Pretrial functions. The training manual has been written to include steps of the court hearing of defendants, terminology used within the Court System, and thorough explanations of what is happening and what will happen to the defendants after initial arrest is made. It has considerably reduced the supervisor's training period for new employees.

8. Warrant Checks. In the past few months, arrangements have been made with both the City and the State Warrants Office to run a monthly check to compare our warrant files. Any discrepancies, such as marked for recall but not yet actually withdrawn in either office, are checked to eliminate errors.

9. Billing Procedures. In 1976, Pretrial Services introduced new billing and follow-up procedures to collect debts owed by persons represented by the Public Defender. As a result, over \$4,000 was collected from persons who had agreed to reimburse the court for partial or full costs for services rendered by the Public Defender Agency.

The Fairbanks District and Superior Courts have consolidated their individual clerks' offices into a single trial court clerk's office. This consolidation allows for better resource allocation.

COURT CASELOADS

There were 104,781 cases filed in the trial courts of the Alaska Court System during 1976. This represents almost a ten percent increase over 1975 and a 162 percent increase since 1970. From 1970 through 1976, the population of the State increased only a little more than 40 percent.

The rate of filings in 1970 was one for every seven and one-half citizens in the State. Today, that rate is one filing for every four citizens. So, not only has the rise in population had an important effect upon the Alaska Court System, but the rate of individual citizen involvement with the Court System has almost doubled in six years.

Over 90,000, or 87 percent, of these 1976 cases were filed in the District Courts of Alaska. This represents a nine percent increase over 1975. Superior Court filings increased 15 percent. While the increase in total caseload continued to be a modest ten percent, there were some surprising trends in the types and location of cases filed. For example:

1. Superior Court case filings in Fairbanks increased 20 percent and in Kodiak 29 percent over 1975. At the same time, Superior Court filings in Ketchikan dropped 15 percent. There was also a decrease in Nome of six percent.
2. Disposition of cases filed in the Superior Court increased 27 percent over 1975. The largest increase in dispositions, 42 percent, was in Anchorage.
3. Felony filings totaled only 782, an eleven percent decrease from 1975 and a 40 percent decrease from 1973. The largest decreases in felony filings from 1973 were in Juneau and Anchorage (59%), and Ketchikan (55%). These large decreases have statistically outweighed sizeable increases in felony filings from 1973 to 1976 of 24 percent for Fairbanks and 122 percent for Kodiak.
4. Probate filings increased eight percent over 1975 and increased 32 percent since 1973. The Fairbanks Superior Court had the largest increase over 1975 (21%). Yet Anchorage's increase of 45 percent since 1973 surpasses all other statewide Superior Courts.
5. Filings for civil matters; largely, divorce actions, increased 17 percent over 1975. These cases have increased 61 percent since 1973, while the State population has increased less than 25 percent during the same period. Fairbanks' rate of civil filings increased 102 percent since 1973.
6. Formal filings of children's matters increased only nine percent over 1975, and has increased only three percent since 1973. Only Juneau and Sitka courts reflected a significant increase in these cases over 1975. Anchorage, Juneau, and Nome reflect sizeable decreases since 1973.
7. The overall increase of filings in the District Courts of Alaska hardly represents any one location. Sizeable increases in filings occurred at Seward (45%), Valdez (55%), Kenai (88%), Homer (55%), Palmer (151%), and

Fairbanks (25%). Sizeable decreases in filing rates occurred at Delta Jct. (-33%), Tok (-48%), Barrow (-21%), Haines (-19%), and Wrangell (-35%). Anchorage, Juneau, and Nome remained at 1975 levels of District Court filings.

8. Felony filings in the District Courts decreased 16 percent over 1975. The locations with the greatest rate of filing decreases were Anchorage (-27%), Juneau (-38%), Ketchikan (-33%), Kodiak (-23%), and Sitka (-50%).
9. Misdemeanor filings finally leveled off after a 35 percent increase since 1973. The increase of 1976 filings over those of 1975 was only five percent. Only Haines, Kenai, Kodiak, Palmer, Valdez, and Wrangell showed significant increases in misdemeanor filings over 1975.
10. Traffic cases filed in the Alaska Court System increased ten percent over 1975. Large increases were experienced in Fairbanks (40%), Homer (74%), Kenai (121%), Palmer (201%), Seward (59%), and Valdez (21%). Sizeable decreases were experienced in Delta Junction (-33%), Kodiak (-58%), Tok (-43%), and Wrangell (-57%).

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Any facility constructed or used by the Court System must meet minimal structural and size requirements dependent upon its function. Courtrooms for District Court and Superior Court will vary in size from 900 square feet to 1,500 square feet, but in each instance must include a judge's bench, witness box, in-court clerk's operating area, jury box, attorneys' tables and chairs, railing, and spectator seating. The courtroom, jury deliberation room, prisoner holding area, and magistrate and judge's chambers must be soundproofed, with walls built from the floor to the underside of the roof to ensure the privacy essential to the judicial process. Under court administrative rule, electronic recording equipment is installed in all courts and electronic recordings constitute the official court record. Therefore, special equipment, placement and use of microphones and mixers, along with sound reinforcement and acoustical design considerations are necessary. Security and safety needs in the holding and movement of prisoners to the courtroom require special design for maximum public safety.

Court facilities must include rooms for the Public Defender and District Attorney to confer with their clients, rooms for witnesses waiting to testify, a room for jury deliberation, and (for larger courts) a jury assembly room. There are a number of additional offices and public areas necessary for the functioning of the court. The judge must have private chambers for consulta-

tion with attorneys and for review of cases. The clerical and support functions of the clerk's office including filing, recording, and reception, require considerable space. A public law library must be provided in each court location. Grand jury proceedings and various family court or probate hearings require a specialized area. The minimum amount of space needed for these court-related rooms is 2,500 to 3,500 square feet. The minimum figures apply only to smaller court locations typically served by one full-time District Court judge or magistrate with only occasional visits by a Superior Court judge.

First Judicial District. Keeping pace with the needs of a growing state, the Court saw the dedication of the new court and office building in Juneau in the early part of 1976. A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts will provide a sculpture for the plaza which is scheduled for completion in 1977.

The new Sitka Court and Office Building was occupied in April 1976. This building provides an additional 25,000 square feet of needed space and houses city offices and State agencies along with the Court System. Although funded primarily by the State of Alaska, the City of Sitka contributed the land and site preparation costs. A grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts provided a sculpture from Alaska Indian Arts, Inc., in Haines, which is installed in the lobby.

Second Judicial District. There were no capital improvements in this district during 1976.

Third Judicial District. The older building of the Anchorage Court complex was remodeled on the exterior to make it more compatible with the new court building. The remodeling included painting, brickwork, and the replacing of design tile.

Since the older building is nearly 15 years old, a modernization of the interior was needed. Tiled floors were carpeted and the interior was given a general and complete overhauling. The District Attorney's office gained space as a result of the relocation of the Alaska Bar Association's offices and the Court System was able to allow two additional offices to the Public Defender Agency.

In the new building of the Anchorage Court complex, remodeling of the clerk's office began in 1976 and will be completed early in 1977. Planning and layout work for a new jury room on the second floor was completed in 1976 and the room is scheduled for use in early 1977.

In October 1976, work began on a court facility in Homer. The building is designed to house a District or Superior courtroom and related offices for a

judge, secretary, and clerk. Additional space is allotted to a law library, conference room, holding cells, and jury deliberation area. The building was completed near mid-February 1977, and the Court System is leasing approximately 4,000 square feet of space built to its specifications. Previously, court functions were allocated only 650 square feet of space. When Superior Court trials were held, other space had to be rented, thereby increasing the costs of trial.

In Glennallen in September 1976, the court moved personnel and equipment into a new trailer adjacent to the building already in use. Before this relocation, the building served not only as a courtroom but as an office space for three employees. Since the relocation, the building has been remodeled to provide for courtroom use only. The trailer provides 1,100 square feet of space. This is the first time Glennallen has had separate courtroom facilities.

Improvements and remodeling at the Kenai Court and Office Building included installation of a chiller system essential to control heat or ventilation in any portion of the building, where temperatures ranged as high as 94 degrees. To insure proper spatial relationships between judge, jury, and witness, the courtroom dias was remodeled. Planning to correct deficiencies at the clerk and judge stations is complete. Correction in courtroom acoustics will also be provided; reverberations were creating an overbearing echo which was distracting to the legal process and made it difficult to tape record proceedings. The correction will be achieved by reshaping the concave reflective surfaces so that sound will be reflected to the rear of the courtroom rather than to the center of the counsel area. Planning and bid specifications were completed for placement of the law library in the basement area. Completion of construction is expected by May 1977.

The Kodiak Court and Office Building is being remodeled to provide adequate space for full Superior Court and grand jury processes. Other State agencies occupying space on the second floor were moved to the first floor, thus freeing that entire floor for court use. Planning has been completed to provide additional library space, a new conference hearing room, improved jury deliberation area, and carpeting.

Fourth Judicial District. Because of space deficiencies, the Fairbanks Court Building required major remodeling. The District Court clerk's office was overcrowded and no public counter or reception area was provided. The District courtrooms were inadequate in size and functional design. Facilities for secretaries and law clerks were not available. Jury assembly space and grand

jury facilities were insufficient. Essential witness and conference rooms did not exist. Security precautions were inadequate. Use of the law library was restricted because of its location on the third floor. The library is typically used outside normal working hours and should be easily accessible to legitimate users at night and during weekends.

Remodeling of the first three floors was accomplished during 1976. Remodeling of the fourth floor will be completed during 1977. The description of the remodeling is as follows:

First Floor: The land recording office and law library were moved from the third floor. An arraignment court and traffic offices were established. Improvements occurred in the following areas: State Troopers Judicial Services Section, Division of Corrections, Probation and Parole, Division of Buildings (maintenance and operational space), Transcript Division, and legislative offices.

Second Floor: An additional Superior courtroom and a new jury assembly area were built, along with a grand jury area, jury deliberation area, and offices for a judge, secretary, and clerk. Improvements affect the following: District Attorney's office, Attorney General's office, Trial Court administrative offices, duplication and microfilming areas, and exhibit and equipment storage rooms.

Third Floor: A new courtroom was constructed that can be used as a District or Superior courtroom. Two jury deliberation rooms and a conference room were also constructed. In the space formerly used as the law library, a combined District and Superior Court clerk's area was established. A new office area for a judge, secretary, and clerk was provided. Also, a Probate Court area was created.

Fourth Floor: Planning for remodeling was completed in 1976 with work scheduled to proceed in early 1977. The present area provided for the Supreme Court will be transferred to the vacated Superior Court Clerk's area. Improved Supreme Court library and law clerk offices will be incorporated within this space. New areas will be provided for the intake office that will include a holding cell.

COURT LIBRARIES

Prior to statehood, there existed in Alaska a small network of law libraries supported by the federal government for the use of the Territorial Federal District Courts. Varying portions of the federal libraries were selected for

transfer to the new State when it came into existence in 1959. The last vestiges of the federal origin of the Court libraries are found in the Nome and Ketchikan law libraries where some materials are State-owned, some federally-owned, and several sets of books are still federally-maintained.

During the first decade of the Court library system, the Alaska Supreme Court made an effort to organize, establish procedures, and build the book collection; however, a chronic lack of funds resulted in a stunted development. As late as 1972, in fact, the largest law library in the State of Alaska, the Court library in Anchorage, was not as well stocked as several private law firm libraries and contained many materials which had not been updated since the federal government donated them to the State.

During the period of July 1, 1971, through June 30, 1975, \$660,000 was spent to establish and upgrade law collections throughout the State for use by the courts, practicing attorneys, and the general public. These monies were distributed among law library branches from Nome to Ketchikan.

By some historical accident, but fortunately for our expansive State, the organization sometimes followed in many other states has not been imposed here, in that there is no law collection within the State library. To establish such a collection would not be advisable because of the great expense and unnecessary duplication of books already in the law library system. Also, whereas the State library has only one physical location, the Court System has branches spanning the State, and can accordingly make legal materials immediately available to researchers in many locales. Further, the State of Alaska is unique in that it is the only one contained in the current Directory of the American Association of Law Libraries having only one listing, the Court law libraries; there are no county, law school, or private bar association law libraries in this State; therefore, the entire focus of legal research is on the Court libraries.

Despite the large amount of monies committed to law library improvement in recent years, and the improvements in our collections, access to legal materials in Alaska remains inadequate. As yet, there are no national standards for State or Supreme Court libraries, but an interesting comparison can be drawn between our situation and the requirements for the accreditation of a law school by the Association of American Law Schools. Current standards require, among other things, that a law school library contain a total of at least 60,000 carefully selected volumes, providing entree to all aspects of United States law.

The holdings of all the Alaska Court libraries combined total slightly over 93,000 volumes, of which probably 30 percent constitute duplicate sets of

treatises and reporter volumes containing federal and State Court decisions. There are entire subject areas and historical questions that cannot be researched in the State of Alaska, because lack of funds has prevented purchase of not only extraordinary research books, but also certain basic law books. The best example of such a subject area is that of federal public land laws passed long ago, prior to Alaska statehood, but which have great current impact because of petroleum development. Thus, there is no one single law library in the State of Alaska having a complete collection of legal research materials, and the resources of all Court libraries together do not equal one accreditable law school library.

Despite these problems, the Court library system continues to make improvements to better serve the users of the system.

An estimated volume count of the law library branches open to the public around the State follows:

Anchorage	24,129	
Bethel	2,013	
Fairbanks	12,349	
Juneau	10,881	
Kenai	6,200	
Ketchikan	10,469	
Kodiak	5,900	
Nome	8,000	
Palmer	1,027	
Sitka	6,790	
Valdez	2,765	
Wrangell	<u>3,247</u>	
	93,770	New Total

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

In the beginning of 1976, goals and timetables were established which would allow us to overcome any disparities between the ratio of Court System employees and the racial makeup of the populations from which these employees were hired. Turnover was more than sufficient to achieve the goals during 1976, yet those goals were not met. While more minority employees were hired, their number falls short of the goals in most cases.

The Alaska Court System filled 149 permanent vacancies during 1976. Of these, 129 were filled by Caucasians, and only 20 by minorities. Of the 149 permanent positions filled, 111 were filled by new hires and 38 were filled by promotion. Of the 38 promoted, 35 were White and three were minorities.

Breaking traditional hiring patterns is a difficult task. While our Affirmative Action Plan is not a complete failure, progress has been slow and difficult. With the notable exception of Blacks in the Anchorage courts, no other minority group in any location has made a perceptible breakthrough.

Court locations other than Anchorage need to increase their target recruitment efforts for all minority groups. Recruitment of minorities has suffered statewide because when minorities do apply and non-minorities are hired, the credibility of our Affirmative Action Plan among minorities suffers. Attracting and retaining Alaska Natives was a major problem during 1976.

PERSONNEL

The year 1976 was the second full year during which some 350 classified Court System employees worked under a set of merit system Personnel Rules first adopted by the Supreme Court at the end of 1974. Getting accustomed to the Rules caused disappointment for some when they found that there was less "flexibility" in personnel actions. Now all employees are treated equally in such areas as promotion, eligibility for salary increases, and use of leave. Personnel Rules openly state procedures and rights which were formerly inconsistent and vague. The Personnel Rules provide employees with a right to file grievances and clearly lay out the grievance procedure, which includes provision for an employee to be heard by an appeal board consisting of non-Court System employees. Promotional opportunities are now published and all employees must meet stated minimum qualifications before they can be promoted. Equal pay for equal work is now a generally accepted principle of employees and administration.

New employees must meet published minimum qualifications and are hired after competing with others. The Personnel Office processed some 10,000 applications during 1976 in order to establish lists of eligible candidates. During the past year, 149 permanent positions were filled; 38 were filled by promoting Court System employees, but 111 were filled by hiring new employees.

During 1976, a classification maintenance plan was established to provide periodic review of all positions in the classified service. Position descriptions

are updated and sent to the Personnel Office where they are carefully reviewed to ensure correct classification. This review is a key factor in support of our announced merit system principle of equal pay for equal work. Review of a position description for correct classification is accomplished by comparing a position with class specifications. These class specifications define each group of positions, or classes, and are published in an effort to make the comparison of individual positions as objective as possible.

Maintenance of personnel records has been improved; employees are now sent copies of every personnel action prepared which affects them. Employees have a right to information in their own personnel file and are protected from co-workers having easy access to that information. Some personnel records have been computerized and most Court System employees now have an accurate and up-to-date record of leave printed on each paycheck stub. It is anticipated that more efficient use of computerized records will occur in 1977 with the adoption of a new State Information System.

The designation of several employees as "personnel clerks" in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and other locations has brought personnel rules and procedures, as well as information on health insurance and other fringe benefits, closer to employees. The larger courts now have a personnel expert in their location to answer employee's questions.

TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Throughout 1976, the Alaska Court System continued its efforts to apply technological innovations in order to gain more efficiency, accuracy, and control over court processes. Innovative procedures and systems ranging from new computer applications through new record keeping and information control methodologies were expanded during the year. Specific applications include:

Alaska Justice Information System (AJIS). AJIS is an automated, statewide criminal justice system used by the Court System, law enforcement agencies, corrections, and prosecuting agencies. It includes the capability to track a criminal defendant through each stage of the criminal justice system. During 1976, the law enforcement portion was implemented. In addition, design was completed for the courts and prosecutors' portion of AJIS. Implementation of these "modules" is expected in mid-1977.

The courts' portion of AJIS includes an immediately accessible, statewide history of criminal activity. In addition, courts will be able to update case events and determine case status immediately. A series of comprehensive

suspense and management reports will be produced to aid in the improvement of judicial processes.

Automated Traffic Processing System (ATPS). This is a statewide system completed in late 1974. All traffic tickets processed through the Alaska Court System are transmitted to this automated system at the three central locations of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. Entry is by cathode-ray-tube (CRT) terminal to an IBM 360/40 computer located in Anchorage using telephone line and satellite transmission. ATPS provides the courts with the following capabilities:

1. Elimination of manual traffic index files in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau;
2. Immediate inquiry from anywhere in Alaska as to the current driver's history record of anyone in the State having been issued a traffic citation. This driver's history record is current as of the last court action;
3. Update of the traffic point system operated by the Department of Public Safety;
4. Daily listing of all Anchorage traffic defendants who will appear at arraignment that day. This listing includes the current driver's history record for each person appearing;
5. Statistical reporting of traffic processing, to include workload by court and issuing agency, processing times, conviction and fine data, and types of offenses by age and sex.

Judicial Information System. Implemented in late 1974, this system includes information on all criminal, civil, and probate cases processed throughout the State. Whenever a case is opened or closed, a case history sheet is sent to Anchorage where data from the case is entered by CRT terminal to the computer. This statistical system provides the Alaska Court System and other members of the criminal justice community with the following report:

1. A listing of all cases in which the Speedy Trial Rule 2/ is about to expire;
2. An alphabetical index of all criminal cases in the State;
3. A listing of all old civil, criminal, and probate cases not yet closed;

4. Workload/backlog statistics for all courts;
5. Case processing times;
6. Detailed statistical data dealing with conviction rates, sentencing patterns, fine and judgment amounts, bail patterns, case disposition stages, and use of the Public Defender.

This system will be replaced by AJIS for the larger volume courts. For the lower volume courts, the Judicial Information System will operate as a counterpart to AJIS for statistical purposes.

Jury Selection and Management Systems. Automated jury selection has been in effect in Alaska since early 1971. A master jury file is produced by combining State voters' registration, fish and game, and income tax files. The master list is screened for duplicates and all found are eliminated. The subsequent file is used to produce the annual venire list. Alaska is one of the few states to use multiple files to produce a list of prospective jurors.

Upon request from any court in the State, prospective jurors from that location are randomly selected. This portion of the system provides a listing of selected jurors, labels for mailing of summonses, and ready-to-mail juror questionnaires.

The automated jury management system has been in operation since early 1974. It produces jury checks and accounting data in jury costs. The conceptual and detailed designs for AJIS include the following improvements in the jury selection and management system:

1. Addresses from source files will be matched against the AJIS file which is more current due to its update by the Automated Traffic Processing System (ATPS) and the driver's license system. This will reduce the current number of excusals due to not being able to locate jurors in a timely fashion;
2. The computer will keep track of those jurors excused to a later date and will automatically select these jurors on that date;
3. Summonses will be produced automatically in ready-to-mail envelopes just as juror questionnaires are mailed;
4. Juror service date will be directly entered to the computer via CRT terminal and juror checks will be automatically produced in ready-to-mail envelopes;

5. The voluminous list of statewide eligible jurors will be produced on Computer Output Microfilm (COM) rather than on paper;
6. Jury management statistics will be available to allow more accurate budget and workload projection.

It is estimated that the new jury system will become operational in the late spring of 1977.

Other Computer Applications. Other automated applications that were developed or improved during 1976 include:

1. Land Recording Index. This system has been in effect since 1972. It produces monthly and year-to-date indexes in grantee, grantor, location, and Native corporation sequence. These indexes are now produced on Computer Output Microfilm (COM) to decrease paper costs and to facilitate use of the indexes. The Land Recording Index system was transferred to the State Department of Administration on January 1, 1977, along with the entire State land recording function;
2. Child Support Payments. This system was implemented in early 1970. It accepts payment data and automatically produces checks to persons to receive payment. It also produces delinquent notices in ready-to-mail envelopes. Until this year, the system was operating only in Anchorage. During 1976, its use was extended to all State locations. This system was transferred to the State Department of Health and Social Services along with the entire State child support function;
3. Personnel System. Using data from the State payroll system, we have automated the personnel table, statistics in the quarterly Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) reports, and review of employees on their employment anniversary dates;
4. Other. Special applications have been developed for assignment of civil cases in Fairbanks, criminal fines due in Anchorage, and personnel budget requirements.

Children's Matters Information System. An LEAA grant has been submitted to automate the processing of children's matters in the Alaska Court System. The grant is under review and a decision upon it is expected in early 1977.

Microfilm. The Alaska Court System uses microfilm in the following applications:

1. Land Recording. All documents handled by the State Recorder are microfilmed and placed on an aperture card. Public inspection of these documents is accomplished through the use of microfilm viewers. As stated earlier, computer recording indexes are produced on Computer Output Microfilm (COM) to facilitate public inspection of these indexes;
2. Closed Cases. Microfilming of closed case files was begun in Juneau in 1974, and in Anchorage and Fairbanks in late 1975. The project is almost complete. Documents for cases deemed to have archival value will be retained for public display. All other documents will be destroyed, thus saving considerable amount of space. Destruction of filmed cases in Anchorage has already taken place. The type of microfilm used allows for rapid retrieval and copying of the documents that have been filmed;
3. Microfilm Processing. A microfilm processing center was established in Anchorage within Technical Operations. This center has the capability of processing and duplicating microfilm originating throughout the Alaska Court System. Implementation of this center has resulted in considerable cost savings and a more rapid turnaround of microfilmed documents;
4. Active Cases. A concept dealing with microfilming of active cases has been prepared and is under review. This concept, when implemented in mid-1977, will call for microfilming of Anchorage cases-related documents as they enter the clerk's office. The filmed documents will then be stuffed into individual case microfilm jackets. These jackets will serve as the official case docket. They can be readily reviewed and duplicated, and should serve to decrease current workload associated with finding, pulling, and reviewing the actual case file.

Electronic Recording. Since 1960, the Alaska Court System has been unique among court systems throughout the United States, in that all court proceedings are recorded exclusively on magnetic sound tape which constitutes the official court record. In addition to the innovative use of audio recordings, the Administrative Rules of Court also authorize the videotaping of any proceeding to supplement the sound recording. To test the feasibility of videotape proceedings, several pilot experiments were undertaken with the assistance of LEAA funding. The first of these experimental projects started in 1972, involved the taping of select Superior Court cases filed in the Anchorage

Trial Courts. With the success of this initial project, similar experiments were conducted in both the Fairbanks and Juneau District Courts. The focus of these follow-up experiments centered on the courtroom playback of videotapes taken by law-enforcement officials at the time of arrest of drunken drivers. As a result of both projects, the Court System obtained a variety of videotape recorders, monitors, and playback equipment which is currently being used.

While videotaping of proceedings has been limited to the larger metropolitan trial courts, electronic sound recording of proceedings is now accomplished in all Superior, District, and Magistrate Courts. Until mid-year 1974, however, many of the smaller magistrate posts were not equipped to record court proceedings. Other magistrates had to depend on older, less-sophisticated audio recording units. During 1974, all of the 57 magistrate posts were supplied with up-to-date Sony recorders utilized in conjunction with cassettes to record all proceedings. This electronic recording capability has a significant impact on administrative court operations by providing a reliable taped record on cassette which is readily and immediately available to the trial courts. Prior to the installation of recording equipment in some of the bush areas, the clerk's notes served as the official record.

In the larger areas where there is a permanent, secure court building, the mainstay of audio recording is the AKAI 6X280D-55, of which the Court System owns 110 units. This equipment, which provides high-quality reproduction, is utilized in conjunction with the Lafayette LA 2525 and several microphones to record the proceedings. This same combination is also used with a footpedal for transcribing the tapes.

Advances in recording equipment technology have also permitted improvements in the transcription process. A Telex 300 tape copier is currently used to produce "tape transcripts" in contrast to the traditional "hardcopy" whereby the master tapes are duplicated as cassettes. The advantages are cost and speed; it requires only 75 minutes to reproduce three hours of proceedings, and persons requesting cassettes can receive "same day" copies. There are presently five copy-orders in service throughout the System.

Accompanying the technological improvements in recording equipment has been the installation of sound reinforcement systems in the courtrooms in Anchorage and Fairbanks to alleviate the outside interference. The Court System is also experimenting with wireless microphones in an effort to decrease the indiscernibles on the taped record which cause delays in the transcription process. Both efforts have improved communications in the courtrooms as well as the quality of permanent court record.

Statistical Analysis. Using data generated from computer systems described above and from special data collection projects, the Administrative Office produced several statistical reports, including the following:

1. Appellate Delay. Data was gathered from all Supreme Court appeals cases from 1974 and 1975 to determine why it took so long to process such appeals. Major causes of delay were discovered in the Superior Court preparation of the appellate record and in the granting of extensions for the preparation of case briefs. Several changes were implemented to reduce the time for records preparation and to reduce the number of brief extensions. A significant reduction in appellate processing time has been noted;
2. Transcription Delay. One of the major problems of delay identified in the appellate study was in transcribing case records from electronically recorded tapes to paper copies. Transcription data was gathered for the first eight months of 1976 to determine causes for delay. The causes were found to be from excessive proofreading, and a large increase in cases and pages requested from the Public Defender Agency. These increases were related to the abolition of plea bargaining in criminal cases which resulted in more trials and more appeals. Proofreading requirements were relaxed and the Public Defender implemented closer screening of transcript requests. In addition, more jobs were directed to commercial transcription firms. As a result, transcription backlog decreased from 10,000 to 2,000 pages;
3. Magistrate Salaries. A quantitative model was developed to evaluate salaries of magistrates throughout the State. The model used caseload population to determine equitable salary levels. Recommendations by the Personnel Director based upon this model were implemented by a Supreme Court subcommittee on magistrate problems;
4. Non-Judicial Position Requirements. A model using case weighting and regression analysis was developed to compare non-judicial staffing of the trial court. The model identified apparently overstaffed and understaffed courts. It is currently under review;
5. Parole in Alaska. An extensive review was given to the impact of parole in Alaska. It was found that less than one-third of the prisoners applying for parole were released, and these prisoners served one-half of their sentence before release. The results of the study showed that the parole decision accounted for an average of only eight percent of the imposed sentence not being served.

FUTURE PROGRAMS AND PRIORITIES

The previous sections traced some of the recent developments and improvements initiated within the Alaska Court System during 1976. The overall priority has been the continued improvement in the level and quality of judicial services provided to both urban and rural courts in the State. During the coming year, there will be continued emphasis directed toward further improvements in all areas of judicial administration, including rural justice programs, use of technology, statewide court planning, personnel and fiscal operations, capital improvements, trial court operations, and public information.

Major projects include:

Rural Justice. Of high priority, is the efficient delivery of judicial services in rural Alaska. As part of the effort to develop rural justice alternatives, the Supreme Court appointed a Magistrate Advisory Committee in 1976 to investigate rural needs and to make recommendations to meet those needs. It is anticipated the committee will issue recommendations and develop policies concerning such programs as the village conciliation board concept; the expansion of the interpreter project; criteria for the creation of new magistrate posts; and the feasibility of circuits within the State which could be serviced by "circuit-riding" District Court judges.

The Magistrate System Coordinator will supervise the evaluation of the experimental village conciliation board programs in six villages--Kwethluk, Kivalina, Napakiak, Shishmaref, Emmonak, and Quinhagak. The evaluation strategy will be completed by April 1977.

The court interpreter program will be expanded during 1977. Initiated in 1975 with federal funds, this pilot Court System program developed a curriculum of basic legal education to prepare trainees to serve as bilingual interpreters.

Two individuals were trained at the Kuskokwim Community College in English and Yupik Eskimo. Once fluent, these trainees assisted in many court proceedings, including arraignments, and are now used to provide bilingual interpreting in the Bethel court. During 1977, efforts will be undertaken to translate basic arraignment proceedings into the other major Native languages, thereby helping to minimize language and cultural differences.

The Court System will continue its comprehensive training program for magistrates. Specific priorities for 1977 include:

1. Initial orientation and training for all newly appointed magistrates, including acting magistrates;

2. Continuation of regional week-long training conferences held for all magistrates, with six sessions planned for 1977;
3. Increased administrative office training in accounting and fiscal procedures;
4. Increased on-the-job training for magistrates in administrative operations and calendaring procedures to be carried out by the training judges in each judicial district;
5. Increased capability for magistrates to attend out-of-state training courses sponsored by the American Academy of Judicial Education and the National College of the State Judiciary.

In addition to the priorities listed, other innovative training projects will be developed. Of particular importance, will be the Magistrate Handbook. First developed in 1972, this handbook is a summary compilation of legal concepts, court procedures, and Alaska statutes relevant to magistrate functions and duties. The Magistrate Handbook serves not only as an important legal reference source but also as a training manual for the newer magistrates unfamiliar with legal practice.

Because of its importance, the handbook will be divided into two volumes for easier reference. The first volume will be a desk book containing all materials and instructions pertinent to office procedures. The second volume will be a bench book containing all necessary reference materials for courtroom proceedings. The office book will contain new chapters on specific administrative subjects, such as personnel regulations, case reporting forms, supply procedures, and basic accounting procedures for the magistrate posts.

Still another development will be in the area of training media. In December 1976 a grant proposal was submitted, requesting five-month funding for a training development specialist position. If approved, this specialist will begin developing audio-visual training aids to be used whenever possible at the regional magistrate training conferences. A second part of this project will be to develop a curriculum for correspondence courses to be used as an adjunct to the existing training program.

Use of Technology. Of continuing importance to court operations, is the use of available technology to provide data for short and long-range planning and to improve basic record-keeping systems. During 1977 there are several primary priorities in this area. The first of these is to coordinate the final development stages for the automated Alaska Justice Information System (AJIS). The conceptual and detail design phases have been completed, and actual system

programming is scheduled to begin in early 1977. It is anticipated final programming will be completed no later than June 30, with program testing, personnel training, and implementation in a pilot court location scheduled for the last six months of this year. Once the court module is operational, the Court System will have immediate access to all criminal and civil case histories.

A second priority is the development of an automated juvenile justice system. A grant proposal to fund the development of the system and purchase of the computer hardware for this fully dedicated system has been prepared and is awaiting LEAA endorsement. If finally approved, the processing of all children's matters in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Nome, Ketchikan, and Sitka will be automated. As proposed, data will be collected from these courts, transferred on secure, machine-(but not human) readable discs, and batch processed on a small mini-computer in Anchorage. Systems design and implementation is scheduled for 1978, assuming grant approval.

A third priority is a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of jury management techniques currently in use. Such issues as optimum panel size, length of jury service, methods of selecting jurors, and proposed legislative changes will be examined. The first step in this project will be the collection of all relevant national literature, including similar studies done in other jurisdictions. Subsequently, a survey of jurors will be taken, using questionnaire forms devised by the Manager of Technical Operations. Analysis of survey results and development of recommended alternatives are scheduled for completion by June.

Additional efforts will focus on updating the procedures for computer and non-computer processing of traffic citations, on the microfilming of case records as they are filed, and on the automation of fiscal procedures.

Court Planning. In response to the crucial need for additional staff to carry out statewide Court System planning on a day-to-day basis, a grant request for LEAA funds was submitted and subsequently approved. With two additional planning staff positions, it has been possible to enhance the statistical and analytic capabilities of the Administrative Director's Office. Of equal importance, is the increased capability to conduct special research projects aimed at improving trial court operations.

Two comprehensive trial court studies have been initiated and will be completed during 1977: (1) the Fairbanks Calendaring Study--a review of existing procedures from which will be made recommendations for more efficient processing of cases; and (2) the Anchorage Calendaring and Clerk's Office

Study, which will recommend changes not only in calendaring operations but also in the Clerk's Office organization, procedures, and paperflow.

A discretionary grant proposal requesting second-year funding for the planning staff positions also was submitted to LEAA. If approved, there will be sufficient staff to accomplish the following planning priorities:

1. Development of a comprehensive Court System five-year plan;
2. Preparation of Alaska Judges Sentencing Manual;
3. Project to identify Court improvement objectives;
4. Development of a personnel training plan;
5. Legal Process Development Project;
6. Third and Fourth Judicial District Clerks' Office Study (with the assistance of the National Center for State Courts).

Trial Court Improvements. There are several other programs that are anticipated during 1977. Of particular importance is the comprehensive Forms Standardization Project, which the Court System is undertaking in conjunction with the National Center for State Courts. As mentioned earlier, progress has been made during 1976 toward the final revision and development of small claims forms. During 1977, work will continue on the criminal and other civil forms and corresponding court procedures.

Other continuing priorities at the trial court level include specialized workflow studies in Anchorage, and surveys of District and Superior bench time which are used to assess the need for additional judicial positions.

Capital Improvements and Facilities. There are a number of priorities for 1977 in the area of capital improvements. Much of the effort will be focused on needed renovations and remodeling of court buildings in the Third and Fourth Judicial Districts. Within the First Judicial District, the final site improvements for the Sitka Court and Office Building will be completed early in the year. In the Second District, preliminary contingency plans are being formulated for a Nome Court Building in the event that the federal space, which the Court currently leases, becomes unavailable during 1977. Within the Third Judicial District, remodeling work will continue on the Anchorage, Kenai, and Kodiak Court Buildings. In addition, renovations to the Fairbanks Court Building will continue through June 1977.

As described earlier, remodeling efforts were undertaken to improve and increase the overall building space allotted to the grand jury and petit jury rooms, courtrooms, and holding cells within the juvenile intake office. During 1977, an additional courtroom will be constructed and renovations on the fourth floor will continue. All work should be completed by the end of 1977.

In the Bethel Service Area, the City of Bethel built a new court building to the Court's specifications and is leasing the space to the Court System. The Court System moved into the new facility in January 1977.

In Barrow, where court space is desperately needed, the Court System will be submitting proposals requesting lease/rental space to accommodate this area's court needs. Assuming approval of the supplemental budget request prepared for legislative review, the City of Barrow could conceivably have adequate court and office space by the end of this year.

Personnel Operations. With the development in 1974 and 1975 of class specifications, an affirmative action program, and formalized personnel rules, the basic framework for the Court System personnel system was established. The major focus during the coming year will be on improvement and refinement. Specifically, under a newly developed classification maintenance program, every classified position in the Court System will be reviewed every two years. This will be done on a staggered basis during 1977. During this same time frame, a joint salary survey will be undertaken in conjunction with the Executive Branch and the Anchorage Municipality to collect data from both public and private employees. Recommendations based on the salary survey will be made in 1977.

Fiscal Operations. The major priorities in the area of fiscal operations center on improvements in statewide accounting procedures. Efforts are now being undertaken to develop a one-year and five-year overall plan for operating and capital expenditures for the Court System. As part of the accounting control effort, a general expenditure and budget control system will be developed in order to accurately identify all available fund balances. In the larger courts, monthly expenditure analyses will be prepared and distributed to area court administrators for use in the day-to-day management of resources.

Because of the difficulty in traveling to remote posts, it has been difficult for Court personnel to visit all court locations during any one year. However, in the upcoming year, central administration accounting personnel will audit all court locations at periodic intervals. At the same time, general office operations and record-keeping procedures will also be examined to insure that uniformity is maintained throughout the State.

Public Information. During 1977, a new public information program will be developed to more fully explain the justice system and the role and operation of the courts within that system. The program will include a new jury handbook for statewide use by petit jurors; revisions in the Small Claims Handbook; and other educational pamphlets for primary use in the schools and service clubs. It is anticipated that several pamphlets will be translated into some of the major Native languages for use in rural Alaska.

LEGISLATION

During the 1976 Legislative session, the Administrative Office prepared legislation covering a number of subjects. Much of this legislation was enacted.

A recurrent theme in the Court System's legislative program has been to transfer to the Executive Branch many essentially Executive functions that are now, because of historical precedents, lodged with the Judiciary. During 1975, for example, the Court System successfully sponsored legislation to remove from District Court judges the responsibility of issuing absentee ballots in the urban areas of the State.

During 1976, the Court System prepared legislation to transfer the functions both of vital statistics recording and of land recording to appropriate Executive agencies. Although the vital statistics legislation did not pass, the Legislature did enact the bill transferring land recording functions to the Executive's Department of Administration.

A bill to abolish the existing coroner system, which is now lodged in the Judiciary, was also introduced but failed to pass the Legislature during 1976. This bill would have established within the Executive Branch a statewide medical examiner's office, headed by a certified forensic pathologist. Both the vital statistics bill and an improved version of the medical examiner legislation are being prepared for introduction during the 1977 session.

Legislation was also introduced in 1976 at the request of the Judiciary to increase the number of Superior Court judges. Bethel and Sitka each had been served previously with a single resident District Court judge. When these judgeships became vacant during 1976, the Judiciary requested the Legislature to provide for Superior Court judges in these communities. The District Court judgeships in these communities were abolished, and each is now served by a Superior Court judge who handles both Superior and District Court matters. In Fairbanks, the number of Superior Court judges was increased from three to four.

The Legislature also acted favorably upon a bill to provide the magistrates residing in the outlying areas of the State the same cost-of-living salary adjustment that State employees working in those areas receive. In addition, a provision was enacted to allow service credit under judicial retirement for a District Court judge with previous judicial service as a deputy magistrate. Finally, the Legislature enacted a bill to delete the requirement that municipalities reimburse the State for judicial services provided in connection with the prosecution of municipal ordinance violations.

1/ Civil Rule 41(e) provides for the dismissal of a case should no action occur for one year from the latest proceeding; unless good cause is shown why it should not be dismissed.

2/ Rule 45 of the Rules of Court for the State of Alaska states that "a defendant charged with either a felony or a misdemeanor shall be tried within 120 days...from the date the defendant is arrested, initially arraigned, or from the date the charge.

BUSH JUSTICE

During 1976, the Alaska Court System engaged in a number of activities directed at the problems of providing justice services to the more remote areas of the State. This chapter provides a brief description of these activities, as well as a description of Alaska's magistrate program and its current status.

VILLAGE CONCILIATION BOARD PROJECT

In mid-1975, the Alaska Court System obtained a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) to establish conciliation boards in six western Alaska villages.

The boards, consisting of from five to seven local citizens, hear disputes between the citizens of their village. The disputes either do not involve criminal conduct or involve only minor criminal conduct. The boards attempt to mediate the disputes, thus diverting them from the criminal justice system. It is hoped that the boards will be able to identify potentially dangerous situations and, by giving formal recognition to them and offering an alternative to retaliation, prevent some minor incidents from escalating to major violence. The boards do not have the power of courts. Appearance before them is entirely voluntary, and they may not fine or jail. They are each supervised and assisted by either a magistrate or a judge.

Of the six villages originally selected for the project, three were Yupik Eskimo: Napakiak and Kwethluk on the Lower Kuskokwim and Emmonak on the Lower Yukon; and three were Inupiat Eskimo: Shishmareff (Seward Peninsula on the coast of the Chukchi Sea), Noatak, and Kivalina (northwest of Kotzebue). Each of the six villages was visited in late January to March 1975 by the Magistrate System Coordinator and a judge or magistrate. The conciliation board project was described to available members of the village councils. These members were asked to discuss the project and then contact either their nearest judge or magistrate or the Magistrate System Coordinator if they were interested in participating.

Over the next few months, five of the six villages indicated interest. The American Arbitration Association was contacted by the Court System's Staff Counsel and agreed to prepare a one-week training program in mediation techniques. Various information about the villages and board members was collected by the Court System and conveyed to the Arbitration Association for

their use in creating its training material. The training session was held at Big Lake during September 1975. Due in part to communication and transportation difficulties, the boards from only three villages attended this session: Napakiak, Kwethluk, and Kivalina. These three boards began functioning when the members returned to their villages in September 1975.

Of the remaining three villages, Emmonak's board began operating in March 1976, the board at Shishmareff was organized in April 1976, and the village of Noatak continued to indicate no interest in the project. In May 1976, Noatak was replaced as the sixth village by the Yupik speaking village of Quinhagak located 100 miles south of Bethel on Kuskokwim Bay.

Evaluation of the project began in late July 1976. The evaluation is being done by an Anchorage attorney and an anthropologist. After an evaluation plan was designed, the two evaluators traveled to the village of Emmonak in late October 1976. They visited the villages of Kwethluk and Napakiak in early December. It is hoped that they will be able to travel to at least one and perhaps two more of the villages participating in the project. Their evaluation report is expected in the Spring of 1977.

The project was originally scheduled to terminate on October 1, 1976, one year after it began. An application to extend the grant was accepted and now the project is scheduled to end on June 30, 1977. By then, enough information should be available from the evaluation of the project to enable the Supreme Court to decide whether the boards should be continued and possibly offered to other communities in Alaska. Overall supervision of the project is the responsibility of the Magistrate System Coordinator.

COURT INTERPRETER PROJECT

There are 20 Alaska Native languages. The language family with the largest number of speakers is Eskimo-Aleut. It has two branches: Aleutian Aleut and Eskimo. Within the Eskimo branch there are four languages, three of them Yupik (Sugpiag Aleut, Central Yupik, and Siberian Yupik) and the other Inupiaq. Of the Yupik branch, that with the largest number of speakers is Central Yupik, which is spoken in the Bethel Service Area and in the Bristol Bay region of the Third Judicial District.

Another major language family is Athabaskan-Eyak. It also has two branches: Eyak (nearly extinct) and Athabaskan. There are 11 Athabaskan languages in Alaska, differing from each other to varying degrees (Ahtna, Tanaina, Ingalik, Holikachuk, Koyukon, Upper Kuskokwim, Tanana,

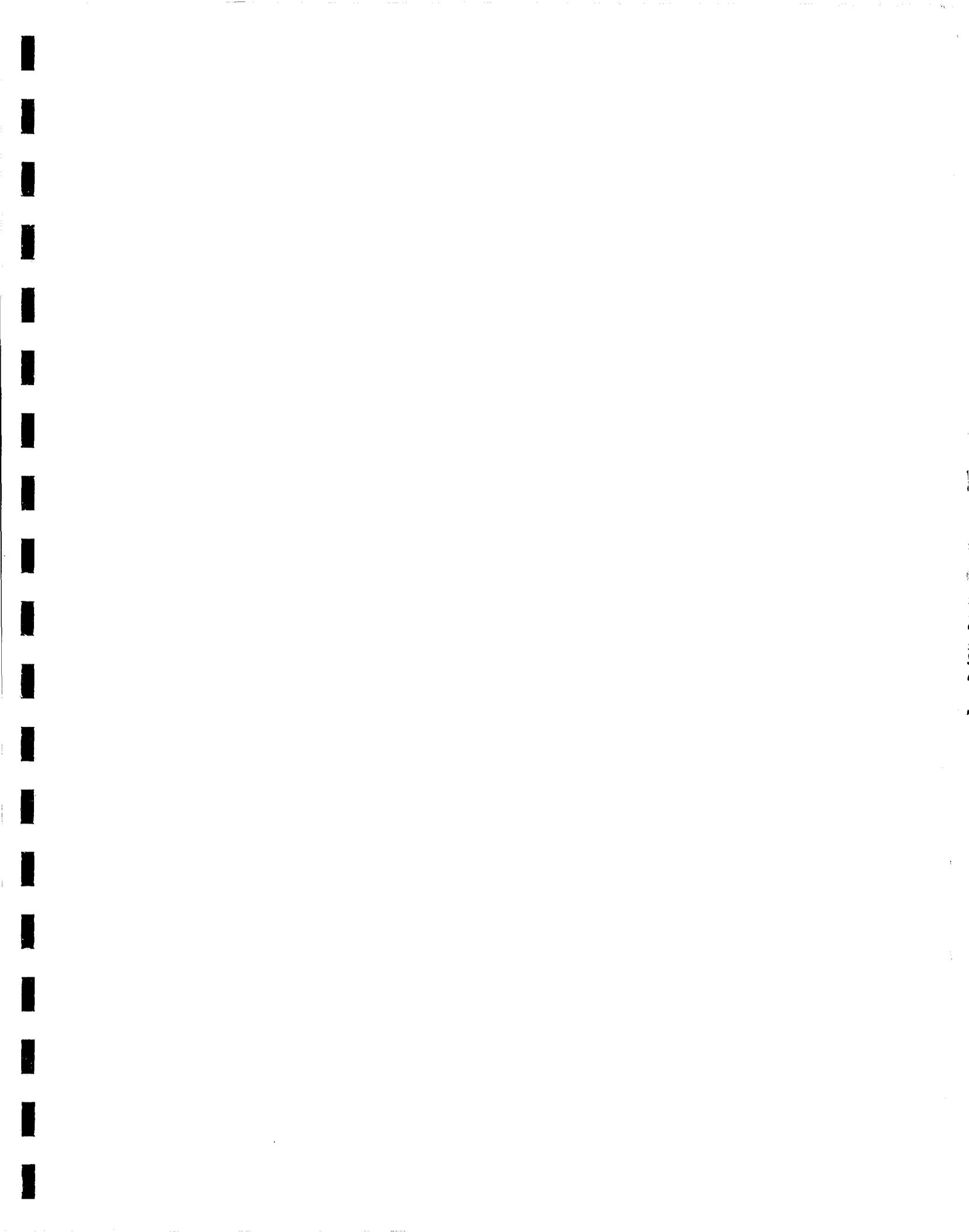
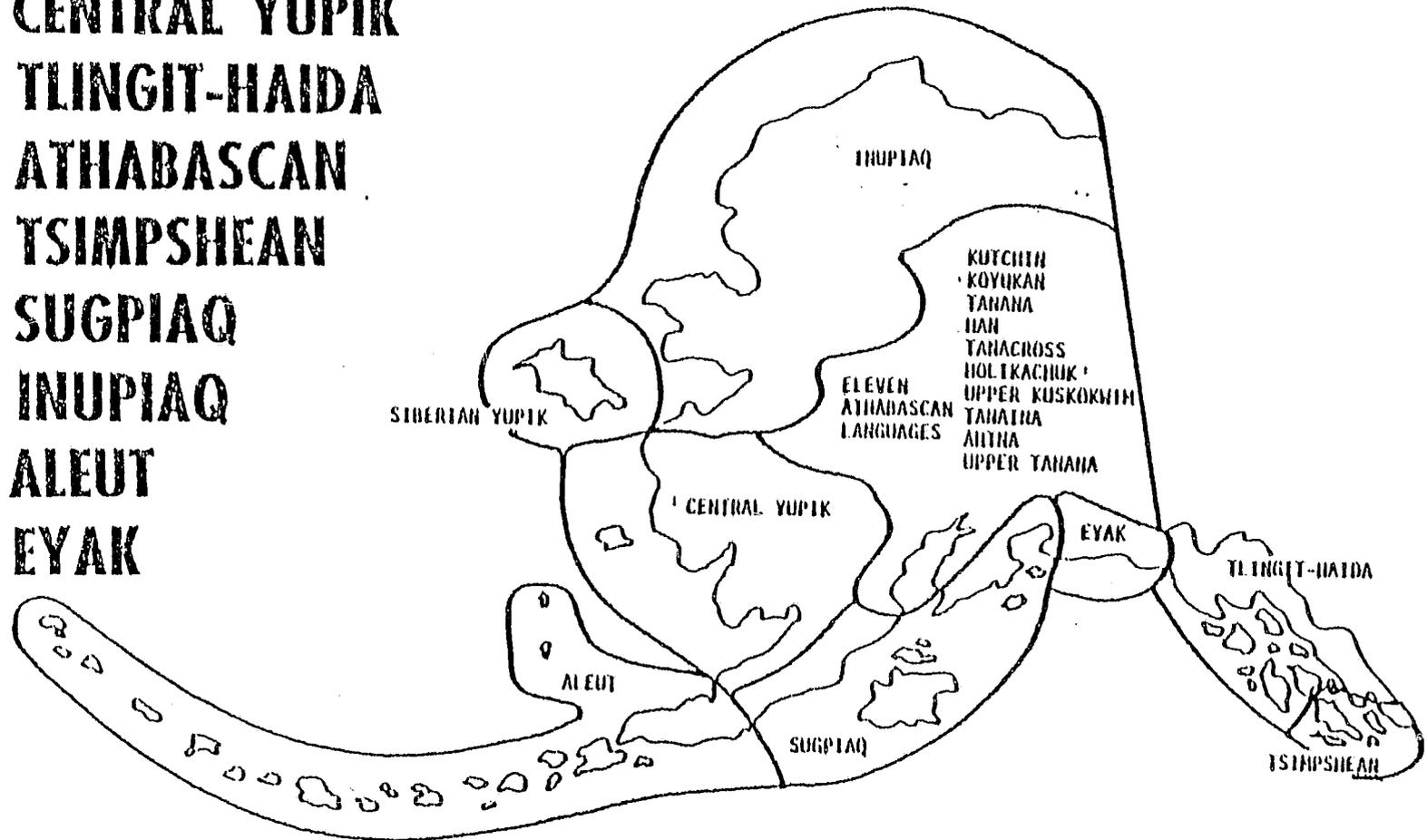


FIGURE 2-1

NATIVE LANGUAGE BREAKDOWN

SIBERIAN YUPIK
CENTRAL YUPIK
TLINGIT-HAIDA
ATHABASCAN
TSIMPSHEAN
SUGPIAQ
INUPIAQ
ALEUT
EYAK



Tanacross, Upper Tanana, Han, and Kutchin). Another language family, Tlingit, is in some ways distantly related to Athabaskan and Eyak. Haida, a fourth language family, is a completely different language. Tsimshian is also a completely different language, spoken mostly in Canada.

None of the Alaska Native languages were written before the coming of the Russians. The first written Alaska language was Aleut, using a Slavonic alphabet. The first Aleut books were printed in 1834. By now, good writing systems have been developed for all Alaska Native languages, and books have been printed in most of them.

The recent history of these languages is an unfortunate one. From about 1900 until the 1960's, Native languages were severely suppressed. Children were punished for speaking their Native language in school. They were forced to abandon their language in order to speak only English. In 1972, the Alaska State Legislature passed the Bilingual Education bill, giving children the right to use and cultivate their Native language in school. The Legislature also established the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Many important developments are taking place now to maintain for future generations of Alaskans the precious heritage of their Native languages and cultures.

One of these developments was the court interpreter program begun by the Alaska Court System in 1974. The original program was financed by an LEAA grant. Since Central Yupik is one of the largest of the Native languages, with approximately 15,000 speakers in the villages along Alaska's southwestern coast, it was chosen as the language for the first interpreter training project.

Actual training of the interpreters took place from January or February 1975 through January 1976. Although the program had been designed for three interpreters, only two actually finished the course. The training took place at the Eskimo Language Workshop in Bethel under the supervision of an Eskimo language specialist and with the assistance of a local Bethel attorney. The training was directed both toward developing language interpretation skills in all three of the Central Yupik dialects and toward understanding of criminal justice concepts in Anglo-American law.

Since the training ended, the two interpreters have been used on an irregular basis to translate materials for the Court System. They have actually done very little in-court interpreting. The Court System is presently investigating the reasons for the apparent underutilization of the interpreters. The Court System is also investigating the possibility of developing interpreter training programs in other Alaska Native languages.

The interpreter project is being supervised by the Court System's Staff Counsel and Assistant Planner.

ALASKA'S MAGISTRATE PROGRAM

Magistrates are judicial officers of the District Court. Their jurisdiction is nearly the same as that of the District Court judges, the two principle differences being that (1) magistrate civil jurisdiction is limited to \$1,000, while District judge civil jurisdiction is \$10,000, and (2) magistrates may hear State misdemeanor trials only if the defendant files a written waiver of District Court judge. There are approximately 70 magistrates, including over a dozen clerks of court who act as magistrates when their resident judge or regular magistrate is out of town or otherwise unavailable. Only three of the magistrates have law degrees. The rest are laymen. Most magistrates are the only judge in their community, and many live in areas quite isolated from the rest of the State. Thus their access to more experienced fellow judges for help or advice is quite limited. A training judge (either Superior or District Court judge) from a central urban location has been designated to provide the magistrates in the surrounding area with assistance in this area.

In addition to their judicial responsibilities, magistrates also act as coroners and vital statistics registrars and frequently are the only notary publics in their communities. They also process absentee ballots in State elections, maintain copies of local land records (not in every location), perform marriages, and engage in informal counseling in family matters and informal mediation of civil disputes. All magistrates are authorized to take emergency action in children's matters. Almost half of the magistrates have also been appointed masters of the Superior Court for children's matters, and a few have been appointed masters for divorce proceedings.

MAGISTRATE TRAINING

Magistrate training, as it is presently administered by the Magistrate System Coordinator, is not limited to training in the responsibilities listed above. It also includes the development of improved office procedures and increased administrative support for magistrates. This involves coordinating the approach of more than 50 different courts in four separate judicial districts toward records keeping, case reporting, supply ordering, and the flow of paper work through the courts.

REGIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCES

For the third year in a row, one-week training conferences were held in four separate regions of the State. The six conferences of the 1976-77 training series were as follows:

<u>Magistrates Attending</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place</u>
Acting Magistrates	September 13-17, 1976	Anchorage
Large-court Magistrates	October 11-15, 1976	Anchorage
First District Magistrates	October 25-29, 1976	Wrangell
Third and Fourth District Magistrates	November 15-19, 1976	Anchorage
Bethel Service Area Magistrates	January 31-February 4, 1977	Bethel
Second District Magistrates	February 14-18, 1977	Nome

The conferences were funded partially by LEAA and partially by the Alaska Court System. One of the primary differences between the 1976 conferences and those held in 1975 was the use of magistrates themselves as instructors. This method was particularly successful in the First District training conference where each magistrate participated as a discussion leader in at least one subject. No training judges at all were involved in either the acting magistrate conference or the large court magistrate conference having been replaced at the former conference by two of the State's most experienced magistrates.

In the past, funding for magistrate attendance at training conferences outside Alaska was quite limited. In 1976, however, an increase in funding enabled a larger-than-usual number of magistrates to attend outside training courses. Funds were obtained from both LEAA and the Alaska Court System.

Three magistrates attended a new two-week basic course for non-lawyer judges at the National College of the State Judiciary in Reno, Nevada, and two magistrates attended an American Bar Association Traffic Court Seminar in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Two magistrates attended the American Bar Association Traffic Court Seminar in Denver, Colorado, and five magistrates attended the American Academy of Judicial Education's two-week basic course in Boulder, Colorado.

One magistrate attended a one-week search-and-seizure seminar at the National College of the State Judiciary in Reno, Nevada.

Ten magistrates, along with about ten District Court judges, attended a weekend judicial seminar on alcohol safety sponsored by the Department of Public Safety.

TRAINING JUDGES

In order to increase services to magistrates, five District Court judges were appointed as "training judges" in early 1975. ^{1/} The training judges were to be responsible for the judicial training of the magistrates in their areas. They were also to be available to answer the legal and procedural questions of their magistrates. Their work was to be coordinated by the Magistrate System Coordinator.

At the first organizational meeting of the training judges in March 1975, the training judges were asked by the Administrative Director to visit the court of every magistrate in their areas before September 1, 1975. During these visits, the training judges were to evaluate each magistrate's level of ability, legal knowledge, experience, and principle training needs. They were, of course, also to engage in whatever training was possible during the time available. In early April 1975, the Chief Justice wrote to the training judges to request that their trips to the magistrate locations be completed by June 30 rather than September 1, 1975. By the end of 1975, the training judges had not yet visited all their magistrates.

Only one training judges' meeting was held in 1976. The primary subject of this meeting was the fall regional training conferences. The competing demands of the trial court calendars made it very difficult to schedule any other meetings. By the end of 1976, the training judges had still not visited all the magistrate courts in their areas.

STANDARD FORMS AND PROCEDURES

Perhaps the primary magistrate training project of 1976 was the attempt to standardize various District Court forms and office procedures for magistrate locations. The largest of the projects was the standardization of the criminal forms used by magistrates. The Magistrate System Coordinator's office began work on the criminal forms in October 1975. A package of 38 criminal forms was completed and ready for printing in April 1976. Printing and distribution took two months. The forms were all printed on NCR paper. A supply of each form was mailed to almost all of the magistrates.

A standard set of small claims forms was distributed to all courts in May 1976, shortly after the new small claims rules were adopted by the Supreme Court. The forms were originally designed by the small claims committee, but were heavily revised and redesigned by the Manager of Fiscal Operations and the Court Improvement Task Force. The Small Claims Handbook, which was to accompany the new rules and new forms, was rewritten several times during 1976, but at the end of the year had still not been distributed to the trial courts.

During the summer, the Magistrate System Coordinator's office produced a 60-page Coroner Handbook for all magistrates, District judges and coroner-public administrators. It is planned that the material in the Coroner Handbook will be included in the new Magistrate's Handbook when that volume is reprinted. The Coroner Handbook includes discussions of procedures for investigating deaths, ordering autopsies, preserving the property of deceased persons, and holding inquests and presumptive death hearings. A set of standard coroner forms was also distributed to all courts. A set of instructions for the use of each form and the distribution of various copies of the forms were sent to each court along with the supply of new forms.

A set of four new supply requisition forms was distributed to all magistrates in November 1976. It is intended that these forms will replace all previous filed office requisitions and the Court System supply catalog. The requisition forms were designed in conjunction with the development of the new set of standard forms and list all of the current standard forms (criminal, small claims, coroner, vital statistics, administrative, and emergency children's forms) and the most commonly ordered office supplies. The requisition forms are intended to replace the supply catalog in most magistrate courts. In the past, it proved almost impossible to keep the supply catalog current. Also, most items in the old supply catalog were not needed in magistrate courts. Another revision in the magistrate supply system in 1976 was the regionalization of supply distribution. Rather than ordering all their supplies from the Anchorage Administrative office as they had in the past, magistrates now order their supplies from the area court administrator in their judicial district. Most forms, however, will continue to be supplied from Anchorage, where the forms are printed.

There were also some developments during 1976 in the forms used by magistrates to report their judicial activity. The original Magistrate Reporting Form had been designed to collect data on all magistrate activities, both formal

civil and criminal matters as well as juvenile, coroner, recording, and various informal counseling and mediation efforts. However, during 1975, the magistrates were asked to report their "informal activities" (anything to which a formal case number was not assigned) on a separate reporting form. Also during 1975, several magistrates in the larger courts began using criminal and civil case history reporting forms rather than the magistrate reporting forms. The result of these two events was that after October 1975, when the informal reporting forms were discontinued, no information was being collected about the amount of work magistrates were doing in areas other than their formal civil, criminal, and traffic cases.

In mid-1976, the Magistrate System Coordinator and the Court System Field Auditor drafted a supplemental statistical report for District Courts in order to preserve data on District Court activity in such areas as children's matters, marriage counseling, search warrants issued, and coroner matters. Efforts have also been made to revise the reporting form used by magistrates and District Court judges to report their formal civil and criminal cases. The Magistrate System Coordinator drafted a new form based on a combination of several order forms and various suggestions from both magistrates and District Court judges. The principal difference between the new form and the present criminal case history reporting form is that the new form attempts to set out the case events in a more clearly chronological order and also attempts to eliminate references to Superior Court procedures.

It is hoped that this will make it easier to use the reporting form as a docket sheet as well as a means for gathering Court System caseload statistics. The Manager of Technical Operations has distributed a draft of the new form to the magistrates and District Court judges for their consideration. If approved, the form will probably be printed sometime in 1977.

In an effort to develop consistent policies in the area of administrative support to magistrates, the Magistrate System Coordinator held two meetings of the area court administrators in 1976. At both the August and September meetings, a lengthy checklist of administrative matters was discussed. The matters discussed included: the new supply system, inventories of office equipment, inventories of magistrate libraries, a survey of magistrate office supply needs, a training program for court clerks, storage and labeling of recording tapes, disposition of log sheets, color coding of forms and case files, accounting procedures, the financial disclosure statement required of magistrates, the "Sources of Information" memorandum which all magistrates are

to be provided with, and the various kinds of forms presently in use and in the process of being developed for reporting magistrate activity. This group has attempted to develop standard Statewide procedures in the areas of docketing, case numbering, indexing, the contents of case files, and the treatment of various kinds of confidential documents in court offices. It was hoped that many of the new procedures could be introduced in the trial courts effective January 1, 1977. That group will continue meeting in 1977, and hopefully will be able to reach agreement on several more procedural questions and implement standard office practices across the State. If these agreements can be reached, it will be possible to produce an office procedures manual for all magistrates by the end of 1977.

SUPREME COURT MAGISTRATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On June 25 1975, at the request of the Administrative Director, the Court System Staff Counsel and Magistrate System Coordinator prepared a brief statement of problems relating to the delivery of justice in rural Alaska. The Administrative Director submitted this problem statement to the Supreme Court. At its January 1976 conference, the Supreme Court created its second Magistrate Advisory Committee to address these problems. Justice Jay A. Rabinowitz was appointed chairman of the committee. The other members of the committee selected by Justice Rabinowitz are Judge Gerald J. VanHoomissen (Fairbanks), Judge Alexander O. Bryner (Anchorage), Christopher Cooke (Bethel)(subsequently appointed Superior Court judge for Bethel), Jon Larson (Nome), and William Timmie (Fairbanks). The reporters for the committee are R. Eldridge Hicks, former executive Director of the Alaska Judicial Council, and Mike Rubinstein, current Executive Director of the Alaska Judicial Council.

The specific subjects referred to the committee by the Supreme Court were: (1) magistrate salary levels, (2) methods of assuring greater accountability of magistrates and of providing greater exposure of magistrates to their presiding judges and training judges, and (3) the adoption and publication of a "Comprehensive Plan on the Future of the Magistrate System and the Quality of Justice in Rural Alaska."

The committee met four times in 1976. At their first meeting in March, the committee asked for statements by the Administrative Director, the Magistrate System Coordinator, the President of the Magistrates' Association, and the Director of the Bush Justice Representation Committee.

On the first day of their second meeting in May, the committee questioned four magistrates about their jobs. The committee also heard testimony from Superior Court Judge Victor Carlson, Anchorage District Attorney Joe Balfe, Assistant District Attorneys David Walsh and Don Johnson, and Alaska State Trooper Captain James Vaden. The committee also heard a description of the conciliation board project from the Magistrate System Coordinator and heard testimony from the Personnel Director and the Manager of Technical Operations concerning the magistrate salary study, which had been conducted by the Personnel Director during the latter half of 1975.

The committee's third meeting was held in June. At that meeting, the committee heard testimony from Justice Madison of Whitehorse, Canada--the circuit-riding judge of the Northwest Territories, and Judge Roy Madsen--the Kodiak Superior Court judge who covers Kodiak Island, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, and the 1400-mile-long Aleutian Chain. They also heard testimony from William Nix, former Magistrate Supervisor for the Alaska Court System; Judge Thomas Stewart, Presiding Superior Court judge of the First Judicial District; Judge William Sanders, Presiding Superior Court judge of the Second Judicial District; and Judge Nora Guinn, District Court judge at Bethel.

At the June meeting, the committee also considered the recommendations of its subcommittee on magistrate salaries. The committee adopted the subcommittee's proposal which was to submit to the Supreme Court an interim salary schedule for magistrates to become effective in July 1976 and to recommend that the whole question of magistrate salaries be the subject of a much more extensive study, with emphasis on consideration of salary increases, based on experience, legal education, and types of work performed.

The committee's fourth meeting was held in November in Fairbanks. At this meeting, the committee heard testimony from Joan Hamilton, a paralegal in the Bethel Public Defender office, David Case, Alaska Federation of Natives Bush Justice Implementation Committee Director (concerning the final recommendations of the October Kenai Bush Justice Conference), and Dr. Arthur Hippler, the anthropologist at the University of Alaska who, along with Steven Conn, started the original conciliation board at Emmonak prior to suggesting that the Court System establish its own present conciliation board project. At this meeting, the committee divided itself into several subcommittees to study and report on the justice system problems of various geographic regions of the State.

The committee will continue its efforts into 1977 to address bush justice problems,as they relate to the magistrate program.

1/ Since that time, two Superior Court judges have replaced District Court judges as the training judges in Bethel and Kodiak, respectively.

THE SUPREME COURT

SUPREME COURT OPERATING PROCEDURES

The Supreme Court hears appellate matters from every location in the State. Its judicial work is not directly affected by judicial district boundaries. At the present time, three justices reside in Anchorage, one justice resides in Fairbanks, and the justice now serving as Chief Justice resides in Juneau.

An appeal may be taken to the Supreme Court from a final judgment entered by a Superior Court in any action or proceeding. Appeal from a final judgment is a matter of right to all parties, except that the State may appeal in criminal cases only when an indictment has been dismissed and its sufficiency is in question or on the grounds that a sentence is too lenient. The authority of the Supreme Court to review sentences was set out in statute by the Legislature in 1969.

An aggrieved party may also petition for review of any order or decision of the Superior Court not otherwise appealable. This includes certain interlocutory orders, orders affecting substantial rights which effectively terminate the proceedings, orders to discontinue an action or grant a new trial, or where postponement of review until a normal appeal may be taken will cause injustice. The Supreme Court has discretion to grant or deny a petition for review, and such review will be granted only in cases justifying deviation from the normal appellate procedure and those requiring the immediate attention of the Supreme Court.

In order to provide a greater understanding of Supreme Court activity, the internal operating procedures are summarized on the following pages.

APPEALS

Initiation of Appeal. Appeals comprise the bulk of the caseload of the Supreme Court. An appeal is commenced by the filing of a notice of appeal and statement of points on appeal with the Superior Court from which the appeal is taken. The transmission of the notice of appeal by the Clerk of the Superior Court to the Clerk of the Supreme Court activates the appellate procedures.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court assigns a file number to the appeal and obtains entries of appearance of counsel.

Record on Appeal. The designation of record is filed at the same time the notice of appeal is filed. When the designation is filed, the Superior Court clerk prepares and certifies the record. Notice of the certification of the record is sent to the Clerk of the Supreme Court who notifies counsel that the record has been filed and that appellant's opening brief is due 30 days from the day the certification was mailed by the Superior Court clerk. When the appellant's brief is ready to file, counsel submits it to one of the three Supreme Court offices: Juneau, Anchorage, or Fairbanks.

Assignment of Appeals. At the time the appellant's brief is filed, the Clerk of the Supreme Court assigns the case to one of the justices. Assignments are made on a rotational basis with an equal number of cases assigned to each justice, except the Chief Justice, who receives a reduced caseload out of consideration for his duties as administrative head of the Alaska Court System. To insure the justices share equally in criminal and civil appeals, regular rotational assignments are made from separate lists of these two broad categories of cases.

Preparation for Oral Argument. Before the final briefs are filed, the justice to whom the case had been assigned directs one of his law clerks to prepare a bench memorandum. Using the briefs, the record, and additional research if considered necessary, the clerk's bench memorandum outlines the facts, issues presented, and the legal arguments of the parties. The clerk's bench memorandum is duplicated and distributed to all participating justices at least ten days prior to the day on which oral argument is scheduled. In preparation for oral argument, each justice independently studies the briefs, applicable portions of the record when considered necessary, and the clerk's bench memorandum.

Scheduling of Oral Argument. If a request for oral argument is filed, the case is set for the first round of oral argument to be held at least four weeks after the last brief is received in the office of the justice to whom it has been assigned. Normally the Court hears four arguments a day. At oral argument each side is given 30 minutes.

Post-Argument Conference. Following the oral arguments, the justices confer on the argued cases. The justice to whom the case is assigned is expected to lead the discussion. Normally he presents his issue-by-issue analysis of the appeal and recommended disposition. Then, proceeding in reverse order of seniority, each justice is given the opportunity to express his views and his tentative vote on the appeal. If at the conclusion of the

conference discussion and vote the justice to whom the appeal was initially assigned is in the majority, he then has the task of drafting an opinion; if the assigned justice is in the minority, the case is reassigned by the Chief Justice to a member of the majority, who then has the task of drafting the Court's opinion. If the Chief Justice is in the minority, the assignment of a justice to draft the majority opinion is made by the senior justice in the majority.

Cases Assigned on Briefs. If an appeal is submitted to the Court on the briefs, without oral argument, the justice to whom it is assigned indicates whether or not he wishes it placed on the next conference agenda. This recommendation is to be made within ten days of the time when the Clerk notifies the justice that the appeal is ready for decision without oral argument. If the justice determines that a conference is warranted because of the complexity of the issues, his law clerk will then prepare a bench memorandum prior to the next conference of the Court.

Draft Opinions. The justice to whom an appeal is assigned is required to circulate a draft opinion within 90 days of the date of oral argument, or the date on which the last brief was submitted if oral argument was not heard on appeal. The other justices are required to vote and make any suggestions as to modifications of the draft within 30 days of receipt. If no vote is received from a participating justice within this 30-day period, he is deemed to have adhered to the draft and his name will appear on the published opinion as a participant. In the event a participating justice is on vacation for over three weeks and does not vote, he is deemed to be in agreement with the draft if it is in accord with his conference vote.

Once comments are received from the justices, the author of the circulating draft opinion may change the draft in accord with the comments of his colleagues. If the changes are substantive or significant, a revised draft opinion will be circulated and expedited final votes requested; if the changes are not significant or are technical, the justices are not required to vote again. If the author of the proposed majority opinion declines to adopt a suggestion or position of another justice, that justice may circulate a proposed concurrence or dissent; the other justices may respond to the dissent or concurrence.

In order to expedite the decision process and to further insure compliance with the Court's agreed-upon internal deadlines, it has been the practice of the Court to confer at least twice monthly on all circulating draft opinions. At these conferences efforts are made to reach final agreement.

Publication. After all final votes are cast the opinion is prepared and sent to the Clerk of Court's office in Juneau for publication. Publication by this office is in the form of unofficial advance sheets which are furnished to counsel of record before a general mailing to all subscribers is undertaken.

Petitions for Rehearing. If a petition for rehearing is filed, the Clerk of Court assigns it to the justice who authored the majority opinion. That justice then circulates a memorandum suggesting a recommended disposition and, if appropriate, a draft opinion relating to the petition for rehearing is also circulated. The recommended disposition is to be made 15 days from receipt of the assignment. The other justices then have 15 days to vote on the recommendation. After votes and suggested revisions are recorded, an order or opinion is issued.

Reports on Appeals. The Clerk of Court issues weekly status reports giving the date each appeal was orally argued or submitted without oral argument; those cases pending decision for over 90 days with no draft circulated by the justice to whom assigned; those cases where a draft is circulating including the votes of the respective justices; those cases in which a draft has been circulating for over 30 days; and those cases in which no draft has been circulated by the justice to whom it was assigned within six months from the date of oral argument or submission on the briefs. In addition to the foregoing, the Clerk of Court issues a monthly status report of all matters pending in the Supreme Court of Alaska. This status report shows the stage in the appellate process of any given matter (that is; record preparation, briefing, awaiting argument, awaiting decision, petition for rehearing pending, or awaiting mandate). These reports, part of the internal monitoring procedures of the Supreme Court, are kept confidential in order to preserve the free-working opinion-writing process of the Court.

PETITIONS FOR REVIEW

Internal procedures governing petitions for review differ somewhat from the Court's procedures for handling appeals, because of the greater need for more expeditious decisions.

Assignment of Petitions. Upon receipt of a petition for review, the Clerk of Court assigns the case to a justice. The assignments are made on a rotational basis, with the Chief Justice taking a slightly reduced workload.

Recommendation and Voting. After the respondent files his response, the assigned justice must circulate a memorandum within ten days. In this

memorandum the justice normally will briefly analyze the issues and recommend whether review should be granted or denied. The other participating justices have ten days within which to vote on the assigned justice's recommendation. If a majority votes to deny the petition, an order is issued to that effect. If a majority decides to grant review, an order is entered advising the parties that review has been granted.

Procedure When Review Granted. When review is granted, one of two courses is followed: (1) either the assigned justice drafts an opinion which is then circulated and voted on following internal procedures which parallel those governing draft opinions in appeal cases; or (2) the order granting review calls for additional briefing on particular issues considered necessary to resolution of the petition. The writing and voting on proposed draft opinions concerning petitions for review is usually given precedence over the processing of appeal opinions. There is no right to oral argument on petitions for review; the Court will occasionally order oral argument, however, when such argument will be of substantial assistance in resolving the issues.

Reports on Petitions for Review. All pending petitions for review are subject to the same monitoring that the Clerk accords to regular appeals. Thus, the Clerk issues a weekly status report which discloses the date the matter was assigned to a particular justice; whether or not the justice has made his recommended disposition within ten days after the matter is referred for recommendation; and which justices have voted within the 10-day period subsequent to the assigned justice's recommendation. In the event a draft opinion is circulated, then the time constraints applicable to circulation of draft appeal opinions are imposed and reported weekly by the Clerk of Court. These monitoring reports are confidential for the reasons noted in the discussion of reports on appeals.

Conferences on Petitions. All pending petitions for review are placed on the Court's semi-monthly conference agenda. Frequently, at these conferences the assigned justice will suggest his recommended disposition of the petition and the participating justice will then vote while at conference.^{1/}

SENTENCE APPEALS

Internal procedures governing sentence appeals differ somewhat from the Court's procedures for handling regular appeals. Normally, sentence appeals are given preferential treatment in order that early decisions can be rendered.

Assignment of Sentence Appeals. A sentence appeal is assigned by the Clerk of Court at the time appellant's memorandum is filed. The sentence appeals are assigned on a rotational basis from a separate assignment list.

Procedure After Briefing. After the appellee's memorandum is filed, the justice to whom the case is assigned prepares a draft opinion which is circulated and voted on following the internal procedures governing draft opinions on appeals. Sentence appeals are monitored by the Clerk of Court in the same manner as regular appeals.

There is no right to oral argument. However, the Court will occasionally order oral argument if helpful in resolving the issues. Bench memoranda are not usually prepared on sentence appeals.

MOTIONS

Routine Motions. Routine motions such as applications to extend time for filing petitions, records, briefs, and memoranda, and applications to shorten time for notice of motion, may be presented to and determined either by a justice without reference to the full Court or may be presented to and determined by the Clerk without reference to the Court. Any application submitted to an individual justice may be referred by him to the Court for determination. If the Clerk denies a routine motion, the motion may be resubmitted for the consideration of a single justice or for the consideration of the full Court.

Other Motions. Motions, other than routine motions, are assigned to the justices on a rotational basis by the Clerk of Court, or deputy clerk, for review and recommended disposition to the full Court.

SUPREME COURT CASE ACTIVITY

Civil and criminal appeals are the major business of the Supreme Court. During 1976, 80 percent of all cases filed with the Supreme Court were appeals.^{2/} Petitions for review accounted for 18 percent of the cases filed, and original applications accounted for two percent.

The caseloads in all areas of Supreme Court activity increased sharply during 1976. The following table shows the number and types of cases filed with the Court for 1974, 1975, and 1976. Table 3-1 indicates, that for all types of cases, the increase in case filings from 1975 to 1976 was 70 percent.

In the face of such an increase in filings, the Supreme Court in 1976 increased its total dispositions by 12 percent over the dispositions in 1975. The

Table 3-1
SUPREME COURT
1976 CASE FILINGS

Type Case	Cases Filed Calendar Year			Percent Increase 1975 to 1976
	1974	1975	1976	
Appeals:	209	241	366	52%
Petitions for Review	33	33	36	11
Original Applications	16	6	14	-167%
Total	278	350	468	42%

Table 3-2
SUPREME COURT
1976 CASE DISPOSITIONS

Type Case	Number Cases Disposed of By		
	Opinion and Mandate	Dismissal or Other	Total
Appeals:	123	118	241
Petitions for Review	12	60	82
Original Applications	3	9	12
Total	148	187	335
Percentage of Total	44%	56%	100%

Table 3-3
SUPREME COURT
1976 CASES PENDING

Type Case	Cases Pending December 31		Percent Increase 1975 to 1976
	1974	1975	
Appeals:	193	241	+24%
Petitions for Review	20	16	-25%
Original Applications	3	1	-100%
Total	216	258	+24%

Table 3-4
SUPREME COURT
STATUS OF PENDING 1975 CASES

Type Case	Number of Pending Cases						Total
	Waiting						
	Argument	Briefs	Records	Decision	Mandate	Stayed	
Appeals:	20	133	102	91	16	4	366
Petitions for Review	0	1	0	16	2	1	20
Original Applications	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
Total	20	134	102	112	18	5	391
Percentage of Total	5%	34%	26%	29%	5%	1%	100%

Court disposed of a total of 335 cases during 1976, compared to a total of 299 for 1975. Table 3-2 indicates the number of cases disposed of either by opinion or dismissal.

The increase in the number of dispositions was not, however, great enough to offset the rise in the number of cases filed. Thus, the backlog of cases pending at the end of 1976 was higher than at the end of 1975. Table 3-3 shows a steady increase in the year-end backlog of pending cases over the past three years.

Of the total number of cases pending, however, only 29 percent had reached the stage in the appellate process where a decision by the Court was pending. In five percent of the pending cases a decision had been published and only required the issuance of a mandate. The vast majority of the pending cases awaited completion of the record, completion of briefs, or oral argument. Table 3-4 sets out in detail the status of the cases pending at the end of 1976.

In addition to reviewing briefs, hearing arguments, and rendering decisions in the appellate matters discussed above, the Supreme Court also heard and decided motions ancillary to the appellate matters and applications for stays of proceedings in the trial courts.^{3/}

RULE-MAKING ACTIVITY

Article IV, Section 15, of the Alaska Constitution provides that:

The Supreme Court shall make and promulgate rules governing the administration of all courts. It shall make and promulgate rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases in all courts. These rules may be changed by the Legislature by two-thirds vote of the members elected to each house.

Standing Advisory Committees. In order to assist the Supreme Court in fulfilling its constitutional rule-making mandate, the Court has, in recent years, appointed standing advisory committees. These committees have been composed of justices, trial judges, members of the private and public bar, and in some instances non-attorneys.^{4/} It has been the policy of the Supreme Court to circulate proposed rule changes, advanced either by any of its standing committees or by individuals, to the membership of the Alaska Bar Association for comments and suggestions prior to final action by the Supreme Court. After comments have been received, and upon receipt of a final proposed draft rule change, the justices meet to deliberate upon the proposal.

proposed draft rule change, the justices meet to deliberate upon the proposal. The Clerk of the Supreme Court then circulates copies of the orders adopting rule changes to all judicial officers and attorneys in the State. Four times each year, supplements to the Alaska Rules of Court reflecting previous rule amendments are prepared by the publisher and distributed to all subscribers of that publication.

During 1976, the Supreme Court promulgated a number of rule amendments. Among these were a number of technical amendments to the Rules of Civil Procedure. The Court also amended the civil rule governing motion practice to reduce delay in those procedures.

A major revision of the Appellate Rules was also adopted during 1976. This was the first such major review of these rules since 1973. In the area of Administrative Rules, the Court adopted a rule governing records retention and providing for the destruction of records that have been preserved on microfilm.

1/ Procedures similar to those governing petitions for review are employed with original applications for relief. Within ten days of the time the parties have completed their filings, the justice to whom the case is assigned circulates a memorandum analyzing the issues and proposing a course of action; the other justices must respond within ten additional days. When the application involves particularly complex issues and time is not of the essence, the Court may require additional briefing or may itself study the matter for longer periods.

2/ This includes sentence appeals in criminal cases and appeals in children's matters.

3/ As with motions, an application for a stay of trial proceedings may be decided by an individual justice, and if denied by that justice, may be referred to the full Court.

4/ The following standing advisory committees have been appointed: Advisory Committee for Criminal Rules; Advisory Committee for Civil Rules; Advisory Committee for Appellate Rules; Advisory Committee for Children's Rules; Advisory Committee for Small Claims Rules; and an Advisory Committee for Probate Rules.

SUPERIOR COURTS

There were eight courts in Alaska in 1976 where a Superior Court judge was permanently assigned. In addition, the service areas of Barrow and Bethel were visited on a regular basis by an assigned Superior Court judge near Fairbanks and Anchorage, respectively. Other locations were also visited by Superior Court judges on an as-needed basis.

The jurisdiction of the Superior Courts of Alaska is described in some detail in Appendix 1, Organization of the Alaska Court System. A full range of workload data is included in the Statistical Supplement (Appendix 2).

In this chapter, we shall highlight 1976 activities of our Superior Courts with emphasis upon the three major population and political centers of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

The courts are considered, rarely invited, to be charter members of the criminal justice community. Yet, few recognize that only four percent of the cases filed in the Alaska Superior Courts are criminal in nature (Figure 4-1).

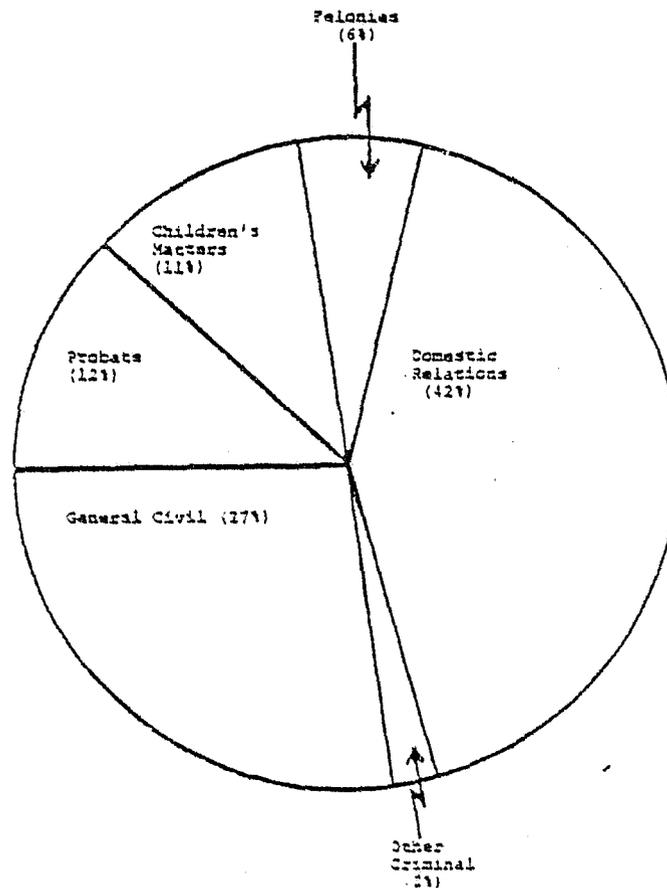


Figure 4-1
Superior Courts
Composition of 1976 Filings

Even if children's matters be considered criminal in nature, still 81 percent of 1976 cases filed in our Superior Courts were civil in nature.

The types of cases we will discuss include felonies, the triplet of Superior Court civil matters: (1) domestic relations; (2) probate; (3) general civil matters and children's matters.

FELONIES

A felony is a criminal offense for which a conviction can result in a penalty of one or more years' imprisonment. Felonies enter the Alaska Court System either at the District Court level (normally when there has been an arrest preceding the filing of the complaint) or at the Superior Court level. Figure 4-2 displays how felony filings are distributed statewide according to crime categories.

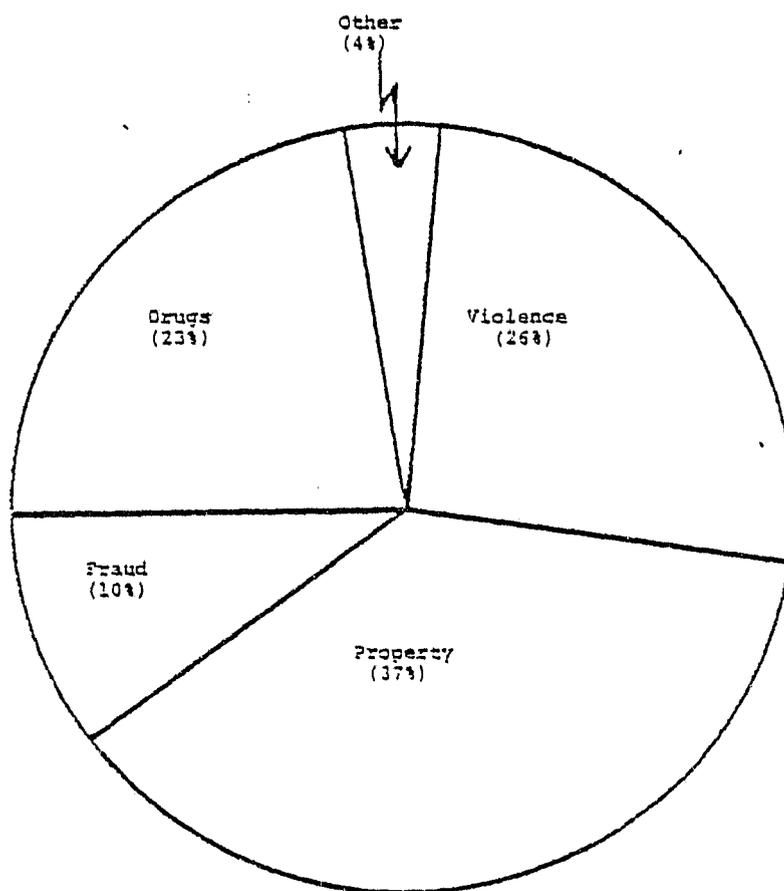


Figure 4-2
Superior Courts
Composition of 1976 Felony Filings

The specific offenses included under each crime category are explained in the glossary (Appendix 3).

Nearly one-half of all felony filings are in the Anchorage Court and nearly one-third in Fairbanks (Table 4-1).

Table 4-1
Superior Courts
Types of 1976 Felonies Filed

Type Felony	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Violence	81	51	9	56	207
Property	113	98	7	59	287
Fraud	51	16	3	9	79
Drugs	110	51	4	13	178
Other	11	11	0	9	31
Total	366	227	23	156	782
% of Total	47%	29%	3%	21%	100%

The smaller cities (rest of State) have a greater proportion of violent felonies than do the larger cities.

Table 4-2 compares felony filings to population.

Table 4-2
Superior Courts
Rate of 1976 Felony Filings
Per 1000 Residents

Type Felony	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Violence	.43	.38	.47	.40	.48
Property	.50	1.69	.37	.42	.67
Fraud	.27	.29	.16	.06	.13
Drugs	.39	.38	.21	.38	.42
Other	.06	.19	-	.06	.07
Total	1.95	3.92	1.21	1.32	1.92

The Fairbanks rate of felony filings is more than twice that of Anchorage; particularly noteworthy is the Fairbanks rate for property crimes.

Most felonies are settled (disposed of) between arraignment and trial (Table 4-3).

Table 4-3
Superior Courts
1976 Felony Disposition Stages

Stage at Which Case Was Disposed	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Before First Appearance	22	3	1	9	35	4
Arraignment	11	9	3	21	46	5
Pretrial	375	126	23	116	640	71
Trial	71	48	2	32	153	17
Other*	13	6	2	3	24	3
Total	492	192	33	191	898	100%

*(e.g., Change of Venue)

However, the rate of trial dispositions doubled over 1975, particularly in Fairbanks where the rate of felony cases disposed of at trial was 25 percent. The reader is cautioned that we are talking about cases disposed of in 1976 where the case was settled as a result of trial, not 1976 trials. If the trial occurred in 1975, but sentencing took place in 1976, that case is included in our statistics. If the trial occurred in 1976, but the case was still not settled as of January 1, 1977, that case is not included in our statistics.

Thirty-five percent of cases disposed of between arraignment and trial were dismissed (Table 4-4).

Table 4-4
Superior Courts
1976 Felony Pretrial Dispositions

Pretrial Disposition Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Case Dismissed	137	34	4	31	166	35
Change of Plea to Guilty	193	72	19	58	342	53
Felony Misdemeanor	25	20	0	27	72	12
Total	375	126	23	116	640	100%

The dismissal rate at this stage was significantly higher in Anchorage as compared to all other Superior Courts. Anchorage had the lowest rate of "reduced to misdemeanor" results at this stage (7%), while Juneau's convictions for felonies at this stage is a remarkable 93 percent.

Two-thirds of the trials in cases disposed of in 1976 were before a jury (Table 4-5).

Table 4-5
Superior Courts
1976 Rate of Jury Trials

Trial By	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Jury	34	43	1	27	105	69
Court	17	5	1	5	48	31
Total	71	48	2	32	153	100%

The rate of convictions at trial was 70 percent (Table 4-6).

Table 4-6
Superior Courts
1976 Felony Trial Results

Trial Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Guilty:						
Felony Charge	43	31	1	22	97	63
Misdemeanor	4	4	0	2	10	7
Acquitted	24	12	1	8	45	29
Miscrrial	0	1	0	0	1	1
Total	71	48	2	32	153	100%

There were no significant differences in trial results among the different courts. Yet there was a significant difference in the rate of convictions between court and jury trials (Figure 4-3).

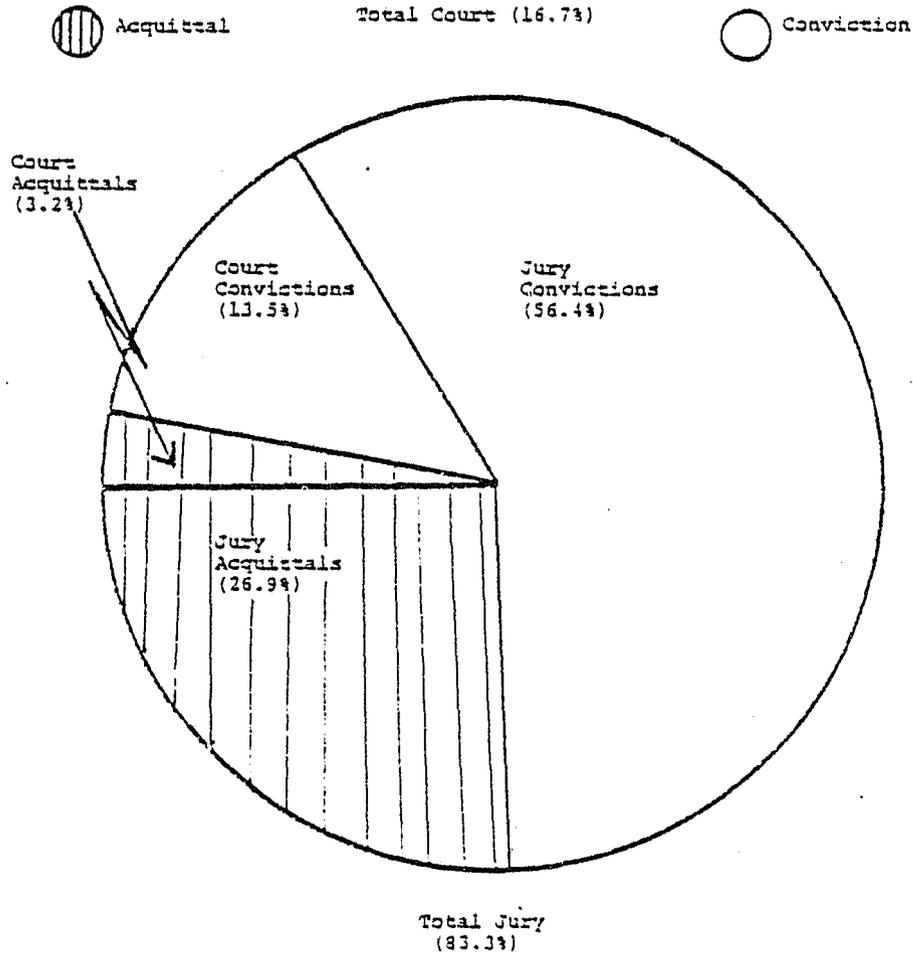


Figure 4-3
Superior Courts
Results of 1976 Felony Trials

The statewide conviction rate for felonies was 63 percent (Table 4-7).

Table 4-7
Superior Courts
1976 Felony Conviction Rates

Percent Defendants Guilty at	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Arraignment	1	4	9	12	4
Pretrial	47	49	59	49	48
Total	5	13	3	14	10
Total	543	713	724	754	434

The conviction rate varied significantly from a low of 54 percent in Anchorage to a high of 75 percent in the less populous locations.

It took an average of 155 days in 1976 between the initiation of a felony action in the Superior Court and the final disposition of the matter (Table 4-8).

Table 4-
Superior Courts
Age of Felonies at 1976 Disposition

Age in Days	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average Age	221	117	76	78	155
Median Age	136	103	59	73	102
% of Cases Over					
6 Months Old	33	16	10	6	19
One Year Old	16	1	-	2	7
Two Years Old	5	-	-	-	2

The average time for disposition decreased 16 percent from 1975.

Figure 4-4 summarizes 1976 felony disposition stages and the results of each stage.

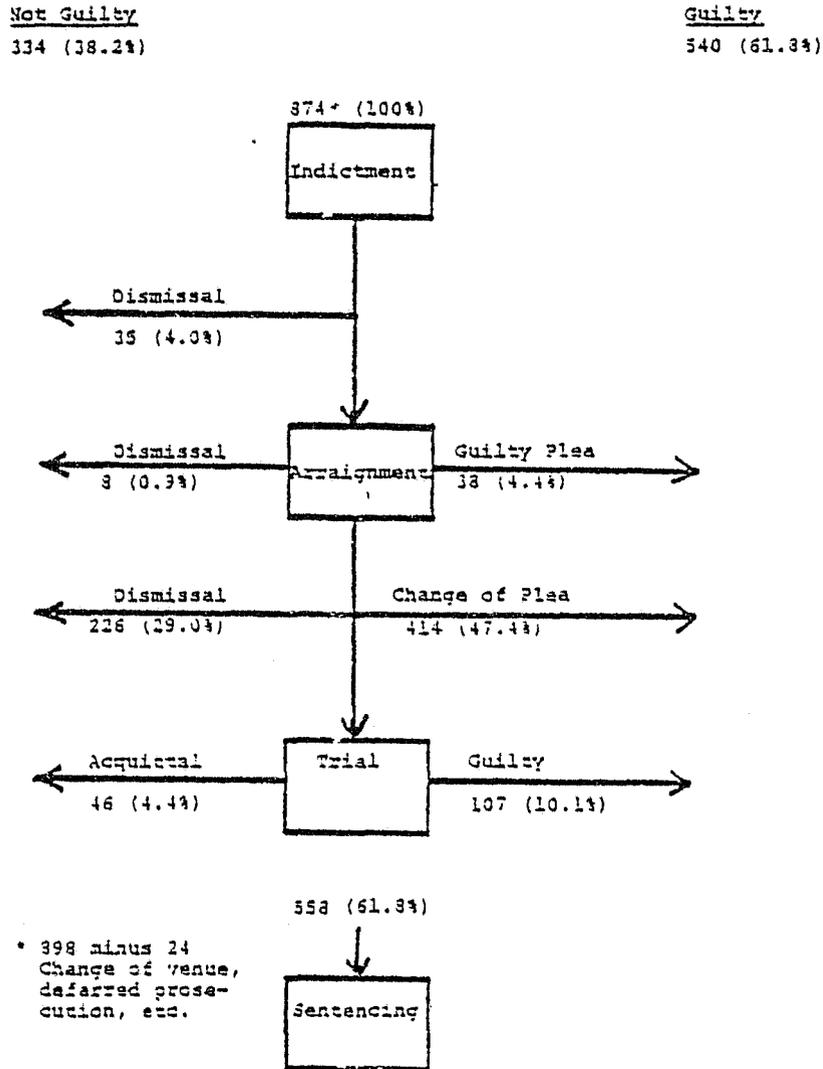


Figure 4-4
Superior Courts
1976 Felony Disposition Stages

Detailed statistics for felonies for all Superior Court locations is contained in the Statistical Supplement (Appendix 2).

CIVIL MATTERS

The Superior Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction. It has concurrent jurisdiction with the District Court, as well as exclusive jurisdiction in all domestic relations cases, children's matters, and probate. As shown in Table 4-9, over half of the civil cases filed statewide during 1976 were in the domestic relations area.

Table 4-9
Superior Courts
Composition of 1976 Civil Filings

Type of Civil Matter	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Domestic Relations	3201	1231	309	795	5536	52
Probate	979	258	108	279	1624	15
General Civil Matters	2256	325	169	339	3589	33
Total	6436	2314	586	1413	10749	100%
% of State-wide Total	60%	22%	5%	13%	100%	

The procedures followed in the domestic relations cases are essentially the same as for other civil actions (complaint, answer, trial, judgment). However, unlike most other civil cases, only a relatively small portion of the divorce actions are settled by default judgment prior to answer. Most divorce cases, as shown in Table 4-10, proceed to the hearing stage.

Table 4-10
Superior Courts
1976 Domestic Relations Termination Stages

Termination Stages	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Before Answer	922	337	200	263	1722	35
Between Answer and Trial	201	49	24	34	308	7
Hearing Uncontested	1659	674	77	287	2697	55
Divorce Trial	74	27	7	21	129	3
Total	2856	1087	308	605	4856	100%
Total Rate	34	23	23	34	34	

These are uncontested hearings in which the parties appeal before a judge who essentially approves an agreement already reached.

Because such a large number of divorce actions are uncontested or mutually worked out by the two parties, the Legislature established during 1976 a procedure for dissolution of marriage. The new process is for couples who have decided to end their marriages because of an incompatibility of temperaments yet are able to reach agreement upon the terms of the divorce or dissolution settlement.

Under the new dissolution of marriage statute, a couple wishing to dissolve the marriage first obtains a forms and instruction packet from the Court System or from offices of the Department of Health and Social Services. (The forms and instructions were jointly developed by the Department of Law and the Alaska Court System and were first made available in December 1976.) Because the forms and instructions provided to the parties are relatively simple and complete, it is generally unnecessary for a couple to engage the services of an attorney to initiate the dissolution action. Thus, it is possible for a couple to have their marriage dissolved for little more expense than the \$50 filing fee.

The procedures also permit a husband or wife living in Alaska who is unable to locate or contact his or her spouse to file for dissolution. While the dissolution decree in these instances is very limited (i.e., no property settlement, child custody, or child support issues are resolved), this type of action does permit an individual to dissolve a marriage and to remarry in the event that his or her spouse has disappeared.

Since the dissolution forms were not available until the end of 1976, the court has had very little experience to date with this type of case. However, judging from the heavy demand for the forms at the time they were first made available, it is evident that dissolution of marriage will replace uncontested divorces in a substantial number of cases.

Because domestic relations cases generally are less complicated than most other Superior Court civil cases, the disposition times are relatively short (Table 4-11).

Table 4-11
Superior Courts
Age of Domestic Relations Cases Closed in 1976

Days From Filing to Disposition	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average	247	162	89	124	202
Percent of Cases More Than:					
6 Months Old	29	34	12	21	26
One Year Old	15	14	3	5	13
Two Years Old	7	1	-	-	4

The average time for filing to disposition in these cases varies from three months in Juneau to eight months in Anchorage, with an average statewide disposition time of under seven months.

Probate cases are unique in the Superior Court, in that they do not follow the typical pattern of complaint, answer, and trial. In addition to the probating of wills and the settling of estates, adoptions, sanity determinations, several other related case types come under the probate heading (Table 4-12).

Table 4-12
Superior Courts
Composition of 1976 Probate Filings

Type of Case	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Adoption	328	125	29	140	622	38
Estates	290	100	60	97	547	34
Sanity	158	16	8	21	203	13
Protective	100	16	2	7	125	8
Probate Waiver	90	0	0	0	90	5
Guardianship	7	0	4	7	18	1
Other	5	1	5	7	19	1
Total	979	253	108	279	1624	100%

Probate cases generally require a longer time for disposition than do many other types of civil cases. As Table 4-13 depicts, there is a wide variation in the average disposition times among the four jurisdictions, but the statewide average is about one year.

Table 4-13
Superior Courts
Age of Probate Cases Closed in 1976

Days From Filing to Disposition	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average	334	557	37	193	361
Percent of Cases More Than:					
6 Months Old	29	45	14	10	32
One Year Old	22	38	5	15	23
Two Years Old	15	31	2	6	15

Other, or general, civil matters include lawsuits arising from contracts, from personal injury or property damage, from debts, and from other areas of conflict between parties in the private or business world, as well as interactions with the government (e.g., condemnations). Cases of this nature comprise approximately one-third of the civil caseload of the Superior Court. However, because of their adversarial nature and the complexity which often arises in their resolution, these cases account for a much higher percentage of total attorney time and court time expended on civil actions. Table 4-14 depicts cases of this type filed in the major court locations.

Table 4-14
Superior Courts
Composition of 1976 General Civil Filings

Type of Case	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Contracts/ Debts	795	291	36	78	1190	33
Civil Damage	509	236	24	101	870	24
Housing/Real Estate	102	81	21	46	450	13
Other	560	217	38	114	1079	30
Total	2256	825	169	339	3589	100%

The procedures in general civil cases are basically identical to those followed in simpler District Court matters. The primary distinguishing characteristic is the extensive, complex, and often timely pretrial discovery practices involved in many of these cases. Also, in the larger cases, there are complex procedural issues upon which the court must rule prior to trial. The "motion practice" of many attorneys in the general civil area consumes a great deal of an attorney's time and of the court's resources. Therefore, even though only seven percent of these civil matters ever reach the trial stage (Table 4-15), the pretrial activities in the remaining 93 percent of the cases consume an inordinant amount of judicial time.

Table 4-15
Superior Courts
1976 Termination Stages for General Civil Matters

Termination Stages	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Before Answer	313	300	97	108	1323	54
Between Answer and Trial	551	141	35	57	794	32
Trial	115	39	4	14	172	7
Other	101	12	9	29	170	7
Total	1580	512	145	207	2449	100%

Trial Rate	7%	3%	3%	3%	7%
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As a result, general civil matters require the longest time for disposition of any cases filed with the Superior Court. As shown in Table 4-16, the average time for disposition of these cases is nearly a year and one-half.

Table 4-16
Superior Courts
Age of General Civil Matters Closed in 1976

Days From Filing to Disposition	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average	550	400	150	315	474
Percent of Cases More Than:					
6 Months Old	61	62	28	50	59
One Year Old	44	47	5	29	42
Two Years Old	24	20	0	3	21

This length of time for disposition is due primarily to the complexity of the cases and the procedural and discovery issues to be resolved prior to trial.

The average amount of judgment awarded in general civil matters for 1976 was \$3,400. This relatively low average judgment is due in part to the practice of many attorneys to file claims for less than \$10,000 in the Superior Court rather than in District Court.

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Those readers outside the State of Alaska may be surprised that the word "juvenile" is missing from this portion of our report. This is because legislation in this State insists the word "juvenile" be replaced with the word "children,"

This change reflects a unique and forward method of dealing with those persons under 19 years of age whose problems are brought before the State. This unique approach has molded the Judiciary's role in such problems to a more responsible and concerned one than in most states. For example, our courts handle not only formal children's matters placed before them, but also the responsibility for "intake." This intake function, in many other states the responsibility of law enforcement agencies, determines whether or not the "child" involved should be brought before the formal jurisdiction of the Superior Court of Alaska.

Because of the unique nature of responsibilities of the Alaska Court System in this ever-so-important and visible area of public concern, we have expanded upon the summary information displayed in other types of cases and have

included in the body of this report detailed information dealing with children's matters. As far as we know this is the only Alaskan report containing such detailed data.

Children's matters are initiated when the child allegedly engages in conduct within the purview of AS 47.10.010 (e.g., when a child violates State laws or local ordinances, is uncontrollable by his parents, or is habitually truant) or when, by reason of the conduct of his parents, guardian, custodian, or other persons, requires the attention and protection of the court.

A child brought before the court is considered to be in a status either of delinquency or dependency, or is a Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS).

A child is considered to be delinquent when he commits an act that would be a crime were he an adult. A dependent child is one who is abandoned; lacks proper parental care; associates with vagrant, vicious, or criminal people; engages in an occupation or in a situation dangerous to life or limb or is injurious to the health, morals, or welfare of the child or others; is an orphan who has no relatives willing and able to assume custody or care; or has been released by his parents or guardian for adoptive purposes; or is in need of special care or training not otherwise provided.

A child who meets the definition of Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS) is one who is habitually truant from school or home; habitually conducts himself so as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others; or is habitually wayward or disobedient and thus is uncontrollable by his parent, guardian, or custodian.

Children's matters brought to the attention of the Superior Courts are processed through three stages. The first is that of preliminary investigation, where the court assigns to an intake officer the responsibility to determine whether the facts are sufficient to require further action. After the investigation, the intake officer recommends to the court whether the matter should be handled formally or informally. If the matter is deemed by the intake officer to be a nature so severe that it should be handled formally, he files a petition to bring the child within the formal jurisdiction of the court.

The second stage is that of adjudication, and applies to children within the formal jurisdiction of the court. This phase is to determine formally whether the child is of delinquency or dependent status, or both, and whether he is in need of court supervision.

The third and final stage, the disposition phase, consists of the measures taken and the orders issued by the court with respect to the child or his

parent, guardian, or custodian, and is designed to correct any undesirable situation determined during the adjudication phase.

There were 4,141 referrals to intake officers in 1976 (Table 4-17).

Table 4-17
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
Referrals 1975 and 1976

Intake Location	Calendar Year		% of 1975 State-wide	% of Increase 1975 - 1976
	1975	1976		
Anchorage	2351	2237	54%	- 5%
Fairbanks	1347	1360	33%	-12%
Juneau	129	167	4%	+29%
Ketchikan	189	142	3%	-25%
Nome	210	166	4%	-21%
Sitka	42	69	2%	+64%
Total	4468	4141	100%	- 7%

Together, Fairbanks and Anchorage accounted for 87 percent of 1976 statewide referrals to the Court System intake officers.

Sixty-nine percent of the referrals were male (Table 4-18).

Table 4-18
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
1976 Referrals by Sex

Intake Location	Sex		Total
	Female	Male	
Anchorage	659	1578	2237
Fairbanks	472	888	1360
Juneau	33	129	167
Ketchikan	36	106	142
Nome	58	98	156
Sitka	20	49	69
Total	1293	2848	4141
% of Total	31%	69%	100%

The percentage of males to total referrals ranged from 59 percent in Nome to 77 percent in Juneau.

Caucasians represented 75 percent of the male referrals (Tables 4-19 and 4-20), but only 64 percent of the female referrals.

Table 4-19
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
1976 Female Referrals by Race

Intake Location	Race				Total
	Alaskan Native	Black	Caucasian	Other	
Anchorage	128	27	478	26	659
Fairbanks	146	19	298	9	472
Juneau	23	0	14	1	38
Ketchikan	9	0	25	1	36
Nome	66	0	2	0	68
Sitka	12	0	3	0	20
Total	384	46	826	37	1293
% of Total	30%	4%	64%	3%	100%

Table 4-20
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
1976 Male Referrals by Race

Intake Location	Race				Total
	Alaskan Native	Black	Caucasian	Other	
Anchorage	135	90	1283	20	1578
Fairbanks	175	13	575	25	838
Juneau	43	0	86	0	129
Ketchikan	49	1	54	2	106
Nome	89	0	9	0	98
Sitka	29	0	20	0	49
Total	570	104	2127	47	2848
% of Total	20%	4%	75%	2%	100%

The percent of referrals who were Alaska Native was 30 percent for females as compared with only 20 percent for males. In Nome, the percentage of total referrals, regardless of sex, that were Alaska Native was 73 percent. We might expect this, given the ethnic composition of Nome. It is interesting, however, that the percent of total referrals who were Alaska Native in the

southeastern cities of Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka, was 44 percent as compared with a combined 17 percent for Anchorage and Fairbanks.

For both females (Table 4-21) and males, (Table 4-22) the bulk of referrals were for children over 14 years of age.

Table 4-21
Superior Courts
1976 Children's Matters
Female Referrals By Age

Intake Location	Age						Total
	12 and Under	13	14	15	16	17	
Anchorage	93	96	149	140	112	79	659
Fairbanks	52	44	33	115	101	77	472
Juneau	6	1	7	10	7	7	38
Ketchikan	7	4	12	5	4	4	36
Nome	8	2	7	11	2	9	58
Sitka	4	0	6	5	2	3	20
Total	170	137	264	286	247	189	1293
% of Total	13%	11%	20%	22%	19%	15%	100%

Table 4-22
Superior Courts
Children's Matters
1976 Male Referrals By Age

Intake Location	Age						Total
	12 and Under	13	14	15	16	17	
Anchorage	139	152	225	306	340	366	1578
Fairbanks	99	93	147	146	179	194	988
Juneau	8	7	13	31	25	45	129
Ketchikan	14	4	13	31	15	22	106
Nome	12	0	3	11	22	50	98
Sitka	5	7	7	14	4	12	49
Total	327	270	408	569	585	689	2848
% of Total	11%	9%	14%	20%	21%	24%	100%

The concentration of females was in the 14 to 15-year age group, while that for males was in the 16 to 17-age group.

The percentage of males or females in differing levels of school attendance (Tables 4-23 and 4-24) do not differ considerably.

Table 4-23
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
1976 Female Referrals By
School Attendance

Intake Location	School Attendance					Total
	Grade School	Junior High	High School	Unknown	Not Attending	
Anchorage	53	174	260	0	172	659
Fairbanks	14	118	320	0	0	472
Juneau	-	-	-	38	-	38
Ketchikan	3	7	7	19	0	36
Nome	2	3	39	9	15	68
Sitka	0	5	9	2	3	20
Total	92	308	635	68	190	1293
% of Total	7%	24%	49%	5%	15%	100%

Table 4-24
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
1976 Male Referrals By
School Attendance

Intake Location	School Attendance					Total
	Grade School	Junior High	High School	Unknown	Not Attending	
Anchorage	135	331	780	2	330	1578
Fairbanks	73	217	595	0	3	888
Juneau	-	-	-	119	-	119
Ketchikan	7	25	40	23	5	100
Nome	4	0	79	2	13	98
Sitka	1	8	19	3	13	49
Total	220	581	1513	169	365	2948
% of Total	3%	20%	53%	6%	13%	100%

As we might expect, the major educational source of children's matters are the high schools, particularly in Fairbanks where 68 percent of female and 67 percent of male referrals were attending high school. In Anchorage, a significantly higher 26 percent of females and 21 percent of males were not attending school at all.

Fifty-three percent of statewide referrals came from local police (Table 4-25), although the relative percentage varied from a low zero percent for Juneau to a high 69 percent for Nome.

Table 4-25
 Superior Courts
 Childrens' Matters
 1976 Source of Referrals

Intake Location	Agency Referring			Total
	City Police	State Troopers	Other *	
Anchorage	1316	567	354	2237
Fairbanks	723	480	157	1360
Juneau	-	2	165	167
Ketchikan	18	16	108	142
Nome	115	-	51	166
Sitka	11	-	58	69
Total	2133	1065	993	4191
% of Total	51%	25%	22%	100%

* (Military Police or State Agency)

There is a consistent relationship in adult criminal matters that, the larger the city, the larger the relative filings by local police. This relationship does not seem to follow children's matters.

Twenty-eight percent of female referrals were in the category of Child in Need of Supervision (CHINS)(Table 4-26) as compared with only eight percent for males (Table 4-27).

Table 4-26
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
1976 Female Referrals By Type

Intake Location	Referral Type			*Total
	Delinquency	Dependency	Child In Need Of Supervision	
Anchorage	594	50	97	741
Fairbanks	255	8	209	472
Juneau	13	10	15	38
Ketchikan	10	8	18	36
Nome	33	12	23	68
Sitka	0	0	20	20
Total	905	88	382	1375
% of Total	56%	6%	28%	100%

* Child can be charged with more than one offense

Table 4-27
Superior Courts
Childrens' Matters
1976 Male Referrals By Type

Intake Location	Referral Type			*Total
	Delinquency	Dependency	Child In Need Of Supervision	
Anchorage	1707	123	37	1867
Fairbanks	741	9	138	888
Juneau	104	0	27	131
Ketchikan	117	0	8	125
Nome	58	13	25	96
Sitka	32	1	16	49
Total	2759	146	251	3156
% of Total	87%	5%	8%	100%

* Child can be charged with more than one offense

This disproportionate CHINS percentage is largely attributed to the female runaway, who represented 16 percent of all female referrals, as compared with a like male percentage of only three percent.

We've stressed that not all children appearing before the Superior Courts in Alaska are delinquent (only 81 percent are so). But this is the category most in the minds of the public, and the most likely to be subject to editorial comment.

An interesting trend is occurring in delinquency matters placed before the Superior Courts in Alaska (Tables 4-28 and 4-29).

Table 4-28
Superior Courts
Children's Matters Female Delinquency Referrals
1974 to 1976

Intake Location	Calendar Year			Percent Increase 1975 to 1976
	1974	1975	1976	
Anchorage	412	432	594	+38%
Fairbanks	298	296	255	-11%
Juneau	N/A	17	13	-23%
Ketchikan	N/A	22	10	-54%
Nome	N/A	52	33	-36%
Sitka	N/A	7	0	-100%
Total	700	816	905	+10%

Table 4-29
Superior Courts
Children's Matters Male Delinquency Referrals
1974 to 1976

Intake Location	Calendar Year			Percent Increase 1975 to 1976
	1974	1975	1976	
Anchorage	1664	1934	1707	-2%
Fairbanks	390	1054	741	-30%
Juneau	N/A	58	104	+79%
Ketchikan	N/A	113	117	-1%
Nome	N/A	92	58	-37%
Sitka	N/A	29	12	-10%
Total	2554	3085	2759	-11%

The number of delinquency matters for females is decreasing in Anchorage. Anchorage delinquent matters for male children showed only a moderate increase from 1974 to 1975, but decreased two percent from 1975 to 1976. These

decreases have occurred while the State population has increased an estimated 34 percent during the 1970 to 1976 period.

The type of delinquency matters before the courts also provides an interesting insight (Tables 4-30 and 4-31).

Table 4-30
Superior Courts
1976 Children's Matters
Female Referrals by Delinquency Type

Intake Location	Delinquency Type					Total
	Violent	Vice	Theft (Property)	Misconduct	Other	
Anchorage	38	88	156	33	79	594
Fairbanks	10	37	132	3	18	255
Juneau	0	5	2	0	6	13
Ketchikan	2	2	6	0	0	10
Nome	0	29	1	1	2	33
Sitka	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	50	211	497	42	105	905
% of Total	6%	23%	55%	5%	12%	100%

Table 4-31
Superior Courts
1976 Children's Matters
Male Referrals by Delinquency Type

Intake Location	Delinquency Type					Total
	Violent	Vice	Theft (Property)	Misconduct	Other	
Anchorage	99	238	312	37	371	1707
Fairbanks	38	154	472	24	33	741
Juneau	1	11	76	0	15	104
Ketchikan	7	7	34	0	9	127
Nome	1	54	3	0	0	58
Sitka	3	4	20	0	3	32
Total	150	468	1577	111	453	2759
% of Total	5%	17%	57%	4%	16%	100%

Only six percent of female matters and five percent of male matters are of a violent nature. The preponderance of numbers in the vice category are for drug violations. Unfortunately, we do not possess nationwide figures with

which to relatively compare these figures. It is clear that Alaska data is now available to make such a comparison, and it appears to us that it is needed.

Seventy percent of the children (Tables 4-32 and 4-33) do not require formal action.

Table 4-32
Superior Courts
Disposition of 1976 Children's Matters Referrals

Intake Location	Informal Action						Total	Filed Outside Agency	Formal Petition Filed	Total
	Letter To Parents	Warning Conference	Informal Probation	Referred To Probation Officer	Referred To Probation Agencies	Total				
Anchorage	27	1398	176	158	94	1853	172	384	2410	
Fairbanks	95	734	0	269	10	1104	151	256	1522	
Juneau	0	0	2	4	--	6		161	167	
Ketchikan	1	1	2	6	5	30		112	142	
Nome	3	65	36	1	9	115		51	166	
Sitka	0	3	4	5	5	17		52	69	
Total	115	2202	220	439	123	3125	325	1016	4474	
% of Total	3%	49%	5%	10%	3%	70%	7%	23%	100%	

Table 4-33
Superior Courts
Children's Matters Type Disposition of
Female Formal Petitions - 1976

Intake Location	Type Disposition				Total
	Probation	Institutionalized	Dismissed	Other	
Anchorage	44	9	0	50	103
Fairbanks	69	--	--	--	69
Juneau	3	3	2	15	23
Ketchikan	1	1	1	8	9
Nome	1	1	1	17	18
Sitka	1	4	3	3	10
Total	115	18	5	93	232
% of Total	50%	8%	2%	40%	100%

The type of informal action varies from a favoring of warning for Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Nome to the use of a probation officer in Ketchikan. The percentage of formal actions varies from 23 percent in Anchorage to 96 percent

in Juneau. This difference reflects differing attitude problems of children in the different, variant locations of Alaska.

For those formally brought under the jurisdiction of the Superior Courts in Alaska, the resulting disposition (Tables 4-33 and 4-34) varies between locations. This we might expect, based upon available children's detention facilities. Alaska's pride for such facilities is the McLaughlin Youth Center in Anchorage. Yet, surprisingly, the rate of institutionalization for Anchorage was nine percent, while that for Juneau was 11 percent.

Table 4-34
 Superior Courts
 Children's Matters Type Disposition of
 Male Formal Petitions - 1976

Intake Location	Type Disposition				Total
	Probation	Institutionalized	Dismissed	Other	
Anchorage	224	37	2	124	387
Fairbanks	137	—	—	—	137
Juneau	54	10	1	23	88
Ketchikan	5	1	1	8	15
Nome	5	2	—	25	32
Sitka	2	9	3	9	29
Total	477	59	12	139	737
% of Total	64%	8%	2%	26%	100%

DISTRICT COURTS

There are 60 District Courts throughout the State of Alaska. Twenty of these courts have at least one full-time judicial officer. We refer to these as higher volume courts. The remaining "low volume" District Courts have a part-time judicial officer. The jurisdictions of these courts are explained in Appendix 1, "Organization of the Court System." A full range of workload data is included in the Statistical Supplement (Appendix 2).

We shall in this chapter highlight 1976 activities of the higher volume District Courts, particularly in the three major population and political centers of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau.

Although the courts are considered to be a major element in the Criminal Justice community, less than a quarter of the cases filed in the District Courts of Alaska are for criminal matters (Figure 5-1).

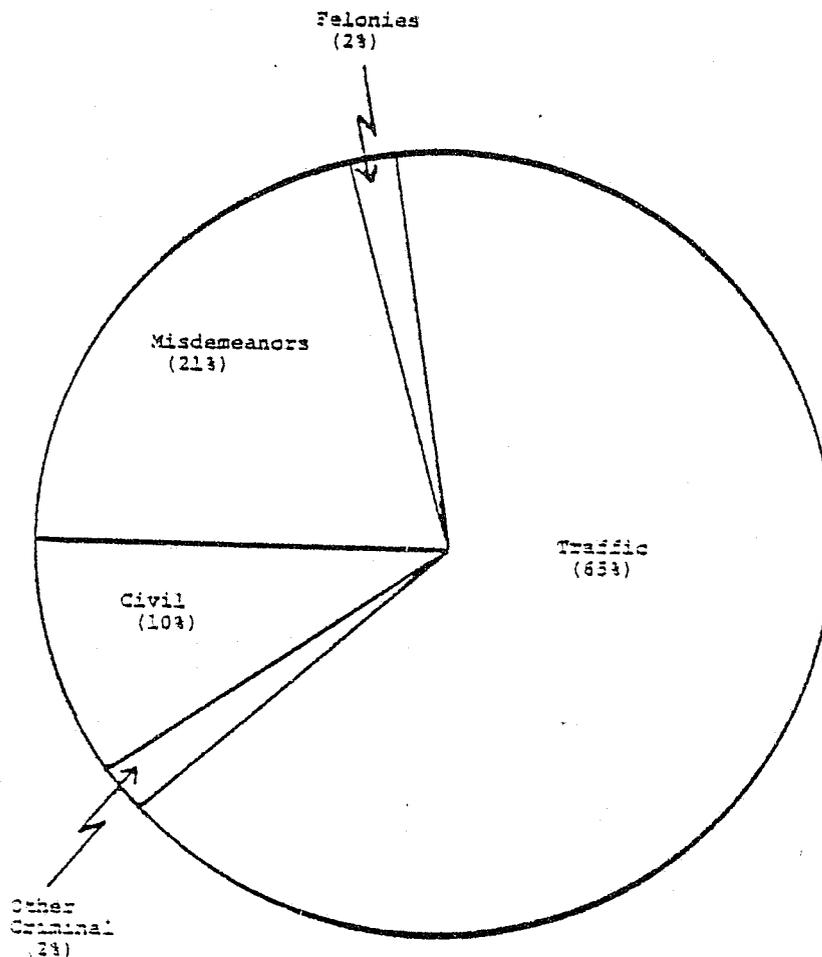


Figure 5-1
District Courts
Composition of 1976 Statewide Filings

To be sure, 65 percent of the matters placed before the courts are traffic matters, but these matters have become de facto decriminalized and soon the statutes will reflect that. The more serious traffic offenses, such as reckless driving or operating a motor vehicle while under the influence, are included in our misdemeanor rather than our traffic category.

The four types of cases handled by our District Courts include (1) felonies, (2) misdemeanors, (3) traffic, and (4) civil matters.

FELONIES

Crimes of violence comprised 30 percent of 1976 felonies filed in the District Courts of Alaska (Figure 5-2).

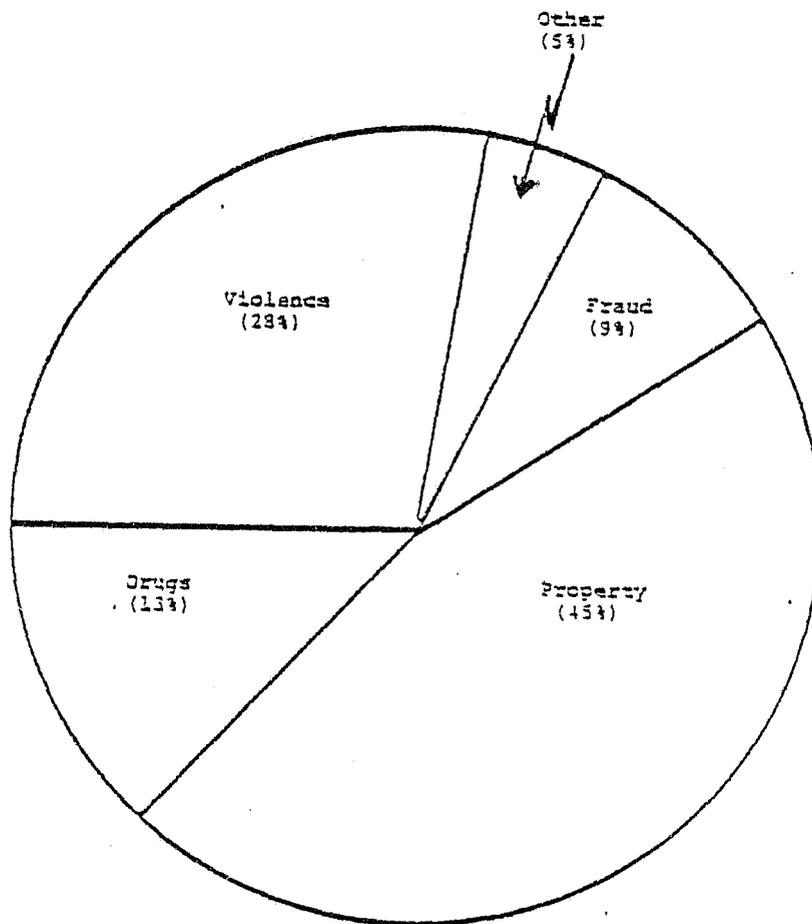


Figure 5-2
District Courts
Composition of 1976 Felony Filings

Note that the drugs category represents only 13 percent of District Court felonies, while accounting for 22 percent of Superior Court felonies (Figure 5-2). This reflects the fact that a large number of drug cases are brought before the grand jury prior to arrest--they never are filed in the District Court.

Table 5-1 shows 1976 felony filings by location and type felony.

Table 5-1
District Courts
1976 Felony Filings

Type Felony	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Violence	126	95	15	172	408
Property	213	153	19	260	645
Fraud	46	27	7	41	121
Drugs	75	31	10	73	194
Other	27	13	5	36	76
Total	477	324	56	587	1444
% of Total	33%	22%	4%	41%	100%

The Anchorage and Fairbanks courts handled 55 percent of statewide felony filings. There were no major differences in types of filings for the courts.

Comparing felony filings in the District Courts to population, we see that Fairbanks has more than twice the relative filings as does Anchorage (Table 5-2).

Table 5-2
District Courts
Rate of Felony Filings
Per 1000 Residents

Type Felony	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Violence	.57	1.64	.79	1.06	.95
Property	1.13	2.64	1.00	1.59	1.51
Fraud	.24	.47	.37	.24	.28
Drugs	.39	.53	.53	.48	.45
Other	.39	.31	.25	.22	.13
Total	2.54	5.59	2.95	3.60	3.17

The disparity between Fairbanks and Anchorage is rather striking in every felony category but drugs. Even Juneau's rate is higher than Anchorage.

Only 27 percent of felonies in the District Courts were settled at the preliminary hearing (Table 5-3).

Table 5-3
District Courts
1976 Felony Disposition Stages

Stage at Which Case Was Disposed	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Before First Arraignment	37	12	0	12	61	5
Arraignment	9	7	2	20	38	3
Preliminary Hearing	61	179	15	112	367	27
Before Prelim. Hearing	344	118	38	384	884	65
Settled in Dist. Court	232	81	28	237	579	43
Superseded by Indictment	112	37	10	147	306	23
Total	451	316	55	528	1350	100%

The preliminary hearing is often called the "probable cause" hearing, in that it is there that the District Court judge determines if there is a probable cause that the defendant committed the alleged crime. If so, the defendant is "held to answer" and bound over to the Superior Court.

The use of the preliminary hearing is discretionary on the part of the District Attorney. Note that only 14 percent of Anchorage District Court felonies are settled at preliminary hearing, as compared with 57 percent for Fairbanks and 27 percent for Juneau. The role of the preliminary hearing is currently under study by the entire criminal justice community.

The disparity in results of preliminary hearing is even more striking among the District Court locations of Alaska (Table 5-4).

Table 5-4
District Courts
1976 Preliminary Hearing Results

Disposition Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Dismissed	39	22	1	35	76	21
Held to Answer	10	145	14	68	237	65
Reduced to Misdemeanor	23	12	-	19	54	14
Total	61	179	15	112	367	100%

Eighty-four percent of the preliminary hearings in Anchorage resulted in either a dismissal or a reduction of charge to a misdemeanor. This is compared to a like percentage of 26 percent for all other locations.

It must be stressed that almost all of the Anchorage dismissals at the preliminary hearing are as a result of the District Attorney's motion for such dismissal.

For those cases settled in the District Court before the preliminary hearing, 83 percent were dismissed while the rest of the cases were reduced to a misdemeanor (Table 5-5).

Table 5-5
District Courts
1976 Results of Dispositions Before Preliminary Hearing
Settled in District Court

Disposition Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Dismissed	207	57	22	192	478	83
Reduced to Misdemeanor	25	24	6	45	100	17
Total	232	81	28	237	578	100%

The Anchorage rate of dismissals is overstated. An unknown but relatively small percent of cases were dismissed at this stage, but indicted (brought before the grand jury) under a different case number up to a month after an apparent dismissal in the District Court. The District Attorney's office in Anchorage instituted procedures in late 1976 to better trace those felonies dismissed in the District Court but still filed in the Superior Court. During 1977, we shall be better able to count such occurrences.

Given this disparity, our records show that only 40 percent of felonies filed in the District Courts of Alaska reach the Superior Court (Table 5-6).

Table 5-6
District Courts
1976 Felony Cases
Moved to Superior Court

Disposition Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Dismissed	281	98	25	249	653	48
Reduced to Misdemeanor	48	26	6	64	144	11
Moved to Superior Court	122	132	24	215	543	40
Total	451	356	55	538	1390	100%

This rate is affected by the low Anchorage figure of 27 percent. The rate in Alaska minus Anchorage is 47 percent. It must again be stressed that the high dismissal rate in Anchorage is a function of prosecutor practice rather than court decision. When a District Attorney moves for dismissal of a felony case without statements of ensuing intent, the District Court judge involved cannot determine whether that dismissal is a true dismissal of the crime involved or but a decision to move that case to the Superior Court without a preliminary hearing.

It took an average of 47 days for felonies to proceed through the District Courts of Alaska (Table 5-7).

Table 5-7
District Courts
Age of Felonies at Disposition

Age in days	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average Age	57	25	33	52	47
Median Age	11	13	19	19	13
# of Cases Over					
- 6 months old	10	3	4	5	7
- One year old	5	*	2	2	2
- Two years old	1	*	-	-	1

* Less than one-half of one percent

Figure 5-3 summarizes 1976 felony disposition stages in the District Courts and the results of each stage.

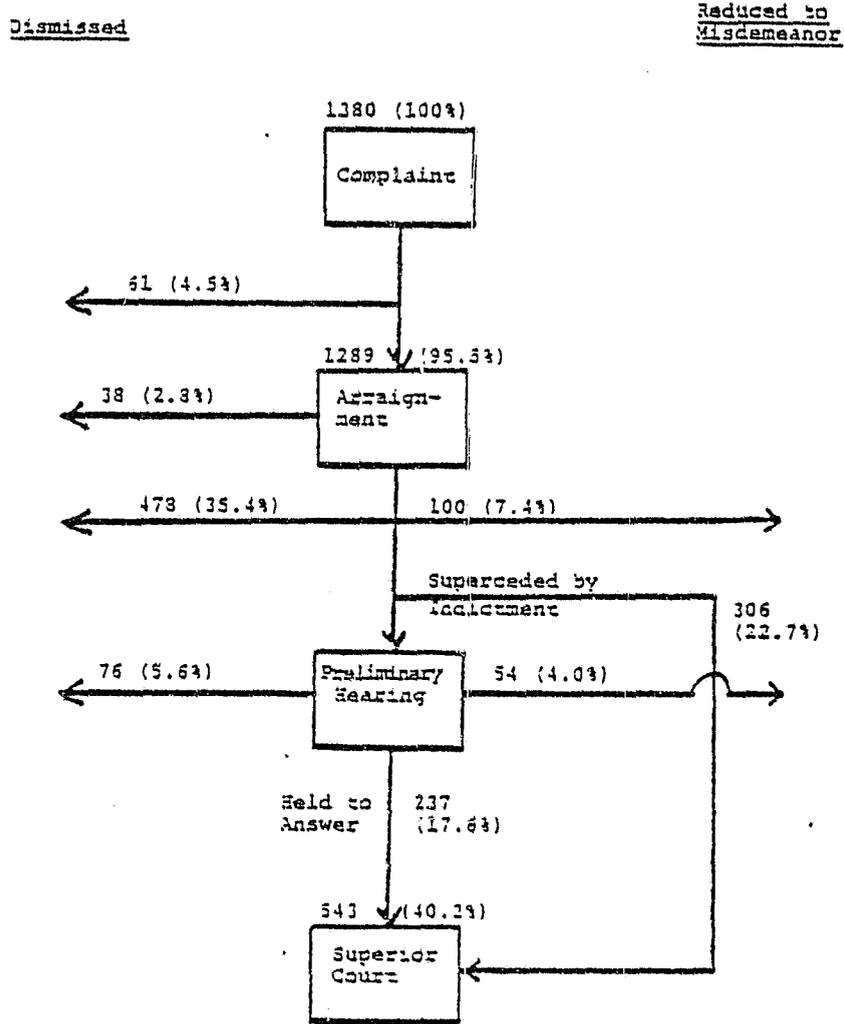
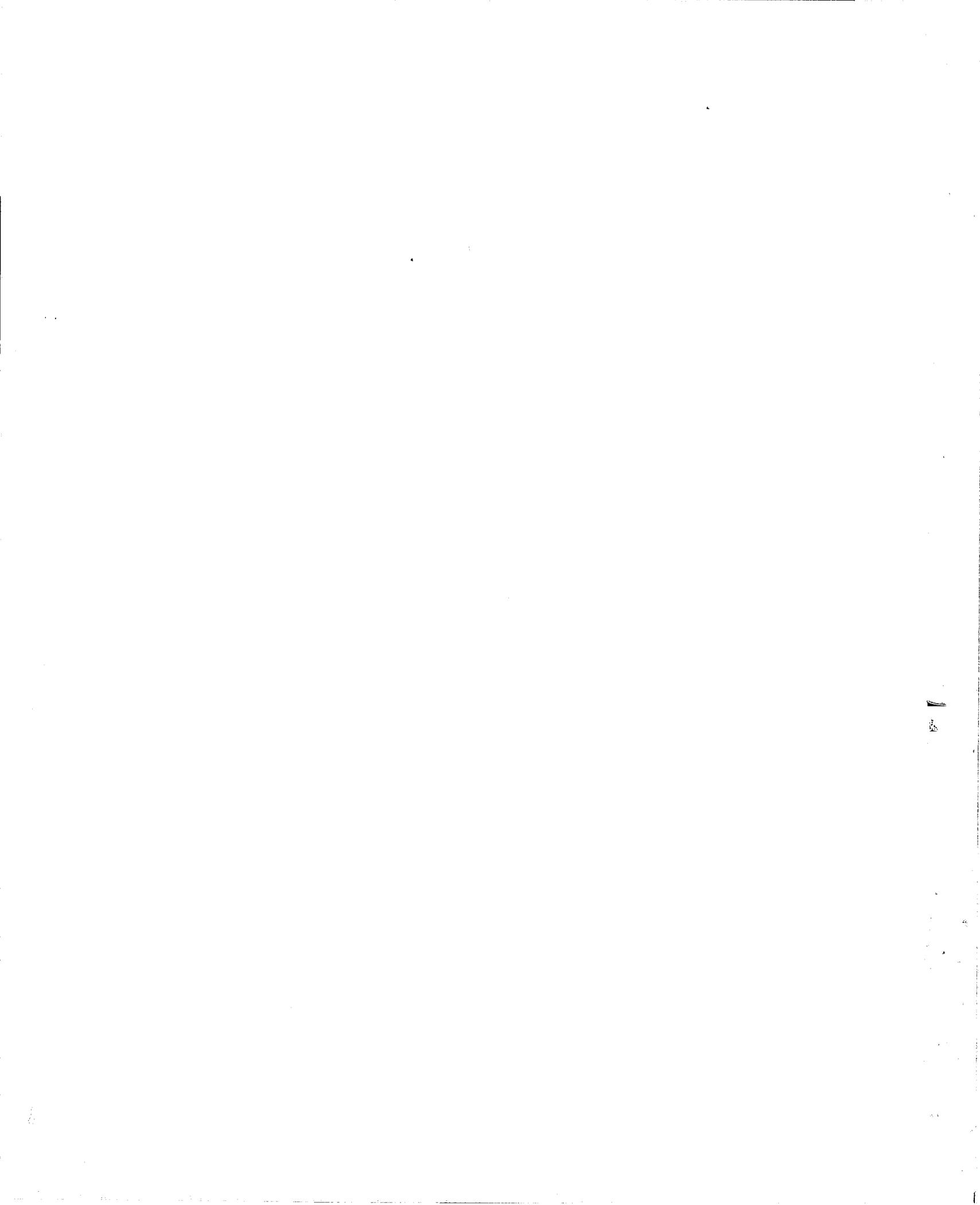


Figure 5-1
District Courts
Disposition of 1976 Felonies

Again, more detailed felony statistics are presented by location in the Statistical Supplement (Appendix 2).

MISDEMEANORS

A misdemeanor is a violation of criminal law for which the maximum jail



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1 OF 4

sentence that can be levied is one year. The largest category of 1976 misdemeanor filings was traffic-related (Figure 5-4).

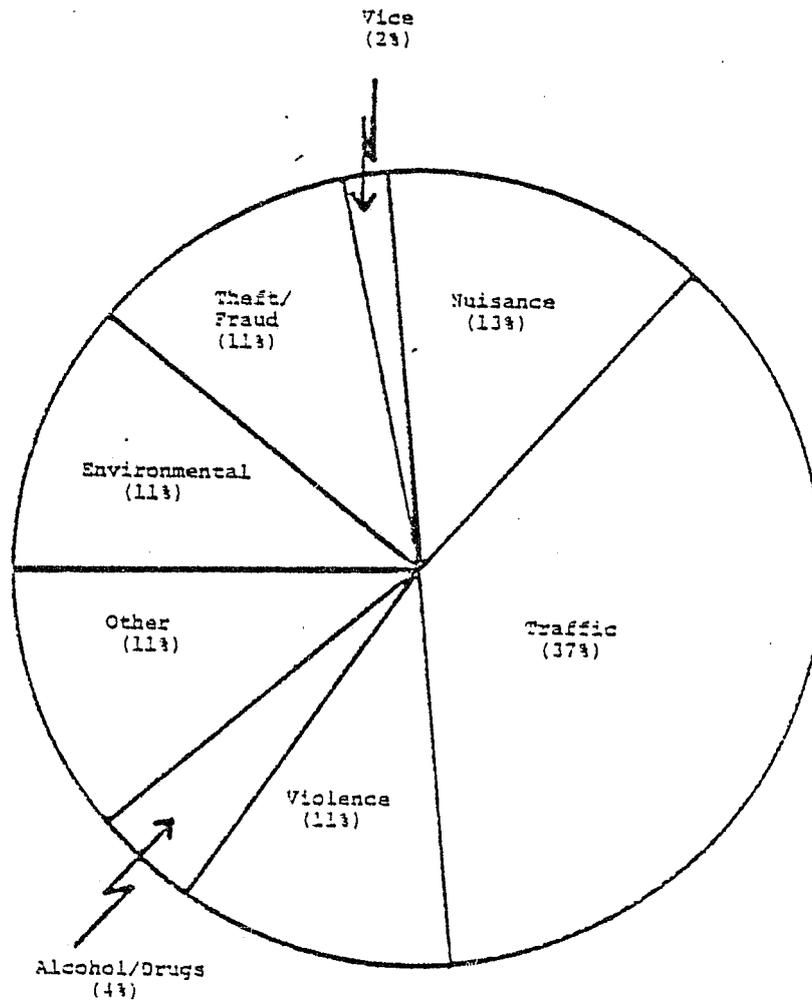


Figure 5-4
District Courts
Composition of 1976 Misdemeanor Filings

The specific offenses included in each of the misdemeanor categories is shown in the Glossary (Appendix 3). Note that vice misdemeanors comprised only two

percent of total filings; violence-related misdemeanors comprised only 11 percent.

There were 13,294 1976 misdemeanor filings in the Alaska Court System (Table 5-8).

Table 5-8
District Courts
1976 Misdemeanor Filings by Category

Type Misdemeanor	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Violence	784	272	95	737	1938
Theft/Fraud	966	536	56	497	2055
Environmental	538	240	127	1169	2074
Nuisance	1087	504	39	774	2454
Alcohol/Drugs	374	171	40	234	819
Vice	271	37	5	47	360
Resisting the Law	170	40	31	45	286
Traffic	3294	1060	361	2009	6724
Other	387	235	161	755	1588
Total	7871	3145	965	6313	13294
% of Total	43%	17%	5%	35%	100%

Forty-three percent of the filings were in Anchorage. Fairbanks, with roughly one-seventh of the State's population, had one-sixth of the misdemeanor filings. The rate of filings per population is shown in Table 5-9.

Table 5-9
District Courts
Rate of 1976 Misdemeanor Filings
Per 1000 Residents

Type Misdemeanor	Location				% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Violence	4.17	4.69	5.00	4.33	4.53
Theft/Fraud	5.14	9.24	2.95	3.05	4.30
Environmental	2.36	4.14	5.63	7.17	4.35
Nuisance	5.73	3.69	4.63	4.75	5.73
Alcohol, Drugs	1.99	2.35	2.11	1.44	1.91
Vice	1.44	.64	.26	.29	.34
Resisting the Law	.90	.69	1.53	.23	.67
Traffic	17.52	13.28	19.30	12.30	15.73
Other	2.26	4.31	3.47	4.61	3.77
Total	41.86	54.22	53.79	33.73	42.74

As might be expected, the rate of misdemeanors filed per population is much lower in the smaller cities (rest of State). It is also not surprising that the Fairbanks rate is higher than that of Anchorage. However, the relatively high Juneau rate is somewhat unexpected. Note, however, the relatively small differences in violence rates. The Fairbanks ratio for theft/fraud is significantly high.

Most misdemeanors were disposed of at arraignment (Table 5-10).

Table 5-10
District Courts
1976 Misdemeanor Disposition Stages

Stage at Which Cases Were Disposed	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Before Arraignment	375	116	97	273	366	5
Arraignment	3373	1371	434	3245	7923	46
Pretrial	3160	1390	365	2146	7061	42
Trial	417	143	22	336	938	5
Other	25	20	1	54	100	1
Total	6855	1060	919	6059	16893	100%

The trial rate represents a 50 percent increase from 1975. This increase is a result of the abolition of plea bargaining and the prepaid legal services condition of Teamster contracts. We have not yet been able to determine which has had the greater impact in trial increases. Note the relatively low rate of trial dispositions in Fairbanks.

The rate of dispositions at arraignment in Anchorage decreased from 52 percent in 1975 to 42 percent in 1976. We cannot see how the abolition of plea bargaining would cause this decrease; we suspect prepaid legal services has played a major part in this phenomenon. But at this point, we do not have the facts to substantiate our suspicions.

Ninety-five percent of the cases disposed of at arraignment were pleas of guilty or no contest (Table 5-11).

Table 5-11
District Courts
1976 Misdemeanor Cases Disposed of at Arraignment

Arraignment Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Dismissed	133	55	16	162	366	5
Plea of Guilty	3225	1316	418	3083	7923	95
Total	3358	1371	434	3245	7923	100%

There were no significant differences in arraignment results among the three major court locations and the rest of the State. There were major differences, however, in the results of misdemeanors disposed of between arraignment and trial (Table 5-12).

Table 5-12
District Courts
1976 Misdemeanor Cases Disposed of
Between Arraignment and Trial

Pretrial Disposition Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Dismissed	1376	616	133	1051	3176	45
Plea of Guilty	1784	774	232	1095	3885	55
Total	3160	1390	365	2146	7061	100%

The dismissal rate for the rest of the State was quite a bit higher than for the three major courts, particularly higher than the rate for Juneau.

The rate of jury trials is also lower for Juneau and Fairbanks than for Anchorage and the rest of the State (Table 5-13).

Table 5-13
District Courts
Type of 1976 Misdemeanor Trials

Type Trial	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Jury Court	238	65	7	137	447	48
	179	98	15	199	491	52
Total	417	163	22	336	938	100%

There seems to be some relationship between the rate of dismissals at the pretrial stage and the rate of jury trials. Those locations with a low pretrial dismissal rate have a low rate of jury trials. We wonder why.

Sixty-nine percent of misdemeanor trials resulted in convictions (Table 5-14).

Table 5-14
 District Courts
 Results of 1976 Misdemeanor Trials
 (Jury and Non-Jury)

Trial Result	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Acquitted	130	59	8	98	295	30
Found Guilty	293	104	14	247	648	69
Mistrial	4	0	0	1	5	1
Total	417	163	22	336	938	100%

That conviction rate was amazingly consistent between locations. However, it varied significantly depending upon whether a jury was present or not. The conviction rate for jury trials was only 55 percent while it was 72 percent for non-jury (court) trials. The relationship of conviction rates by type of trial is portrayed in Figure 5-5.

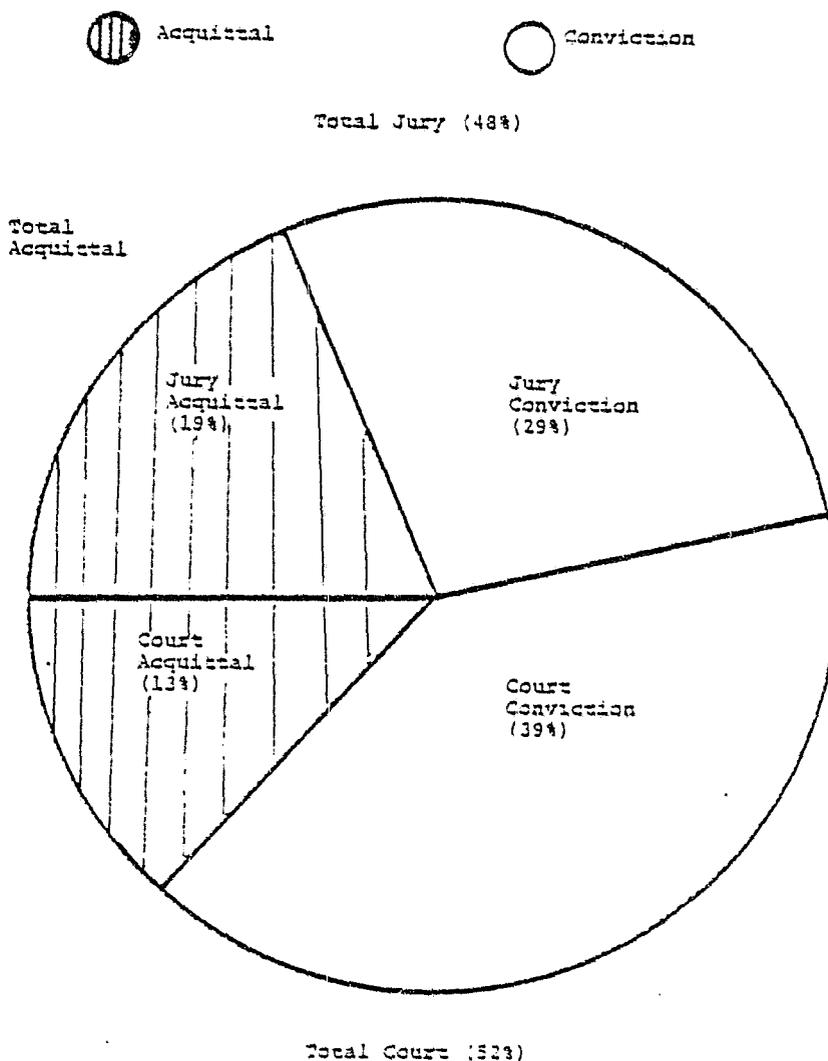


Figure 5-5
District Courts
Results of Misdemeanor Trials

Only 41 percent of misdemeanor trial convictions are the result of jury trials.
 The overall conviction rate for misdemeanors was 76 percent (Table 5-15).

Table 5-15
 District Courts
 1976 Misdemeanor Conviction Rates

Percent Defendants Guilty At	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Arraignment	42	46	51	54	48
Pretrial	28	26	28	19	24
Trial	4	3	2	4	4
Total	74%	75%	81%	77%	75%

This rate was slightly lower in Anchorage than elsewhere in the State. The major contribution to the conviction rate was the arraignment, where 47 percent of total dispositions resulted in convictions. This varied from a low of 42 percent in Anchorage to a high of 54 percent for "Rest of State." Only four percent of all misdemeanors closed in 1976 were the result of a conviction by trial. Even with the abolition of plea bargaining in Alaska, the impact of the criminal trial upon conviction is surprisingly small.

Ten percent of misdemeanors disposed of in 1976 were over four months old at closing (Table 5-16).

Table 5-16
 District Courts
 Age of 1976 Misdemeanors at Closing

Age in Days	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average Age	51	45	43	45	48
Median Age	33	3	13	13	17
% of Cases Over					
- 4 Months old	12	10	3	7	10
- 1 yr. old	3	1	1	1	2
- 2 yrs. old	*	*	*	*	*

* Less than one-half of one percent

This age is measured from filing of the formal complaint to final disposition. This year's statistics on misdemeanor age are almost impossible to compare to previous years, in that the District Attorney's offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks dismissed a great number of old cases--primarily cases in which a warrant was still outstanding and the defendant had never appeared before the courts.

Figure 5-6 summarizes the misdemeanor process in the Alaska Court System for 1976. It shows where the cases were disposed of and what the results were at each disposition stage.

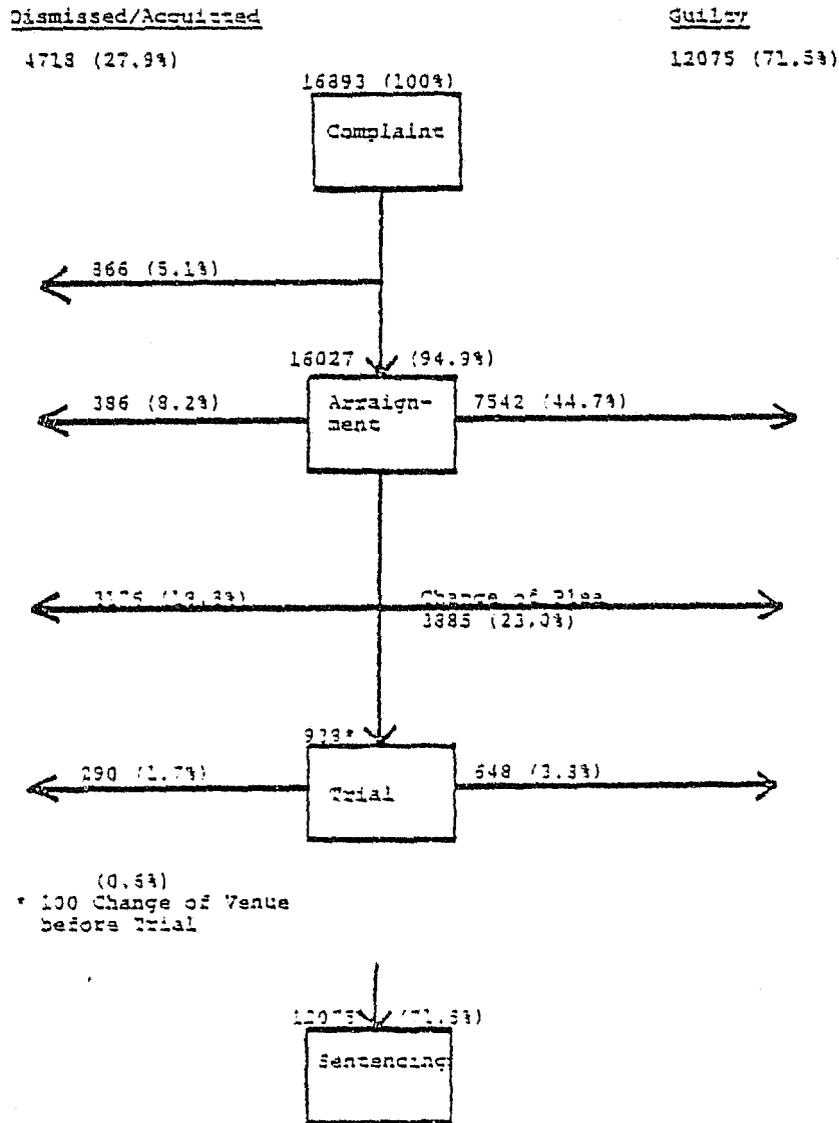


Figure 5-6
District Courts
Disposition of 1976 Misdemeanors

Those readers who are familiar with our annual reports of the past two years may be momentarily disappointed that we seem to stop here without talking of such subjects as fines and jail sentences. These statistics are displayed by location in the Statistical Supplement (Appendix 2). We invite your attention to this portion of our report.

TRAFFIC

Almost 60,000 traffic citations were processed by the Alaska Court System in 1976 (Table 5-17).

Table 5-17
 District Courts
 Traffic Filings by Year
 1973 - 1976

Year	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
1973	30253	11169	1213	7427	50062
1974	29352	11173	1108	10003	51836
1975	32864	9568	3229	9965	55626
1976	31784	11990	3413	12813	59000
% of 1976 Total	54	20	4	22	100

This is a ten percent increase from 1976 and almost a 20 percent increase since 1973. The Anchorage District Court handles over half of the State's citations. However, their share has dropped from 61 percent in 1973 to 54 percent in 1976. Courts other than Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau (Rest of State) have almost doubled their volume of traffic cases in the past four years.

The decrease in traffic cases filed in Fairbanks from 1974 to 1975 reflects a shortage of local law enforcement officers in 1975. A correction of that problem in 1976 brought Fairbanks filings back up to their expected level. Figure 5-7 shows the growth trend in traffic citation filings during this four-year period.

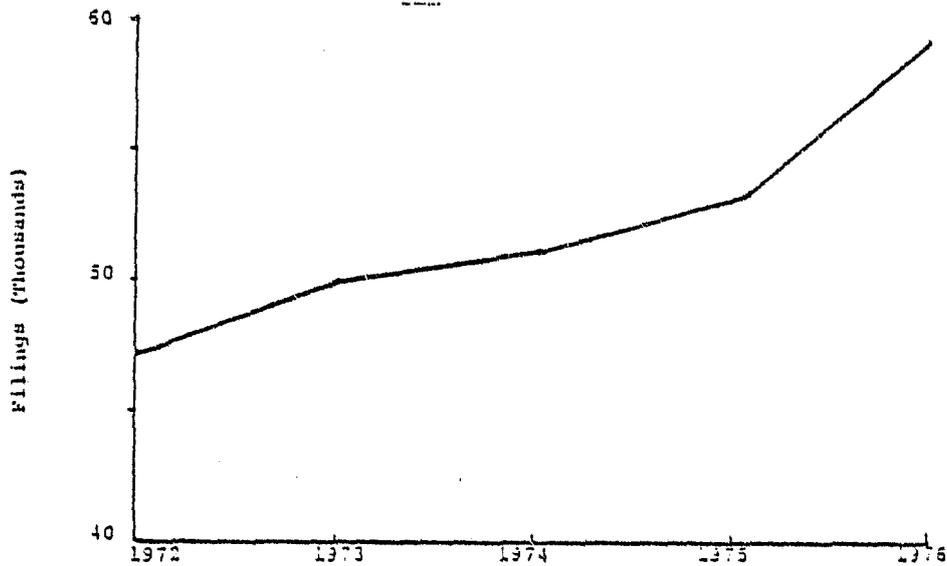


Figure 5-7
District Courts
Trend in Traffic Citation Filings

We expect this growth to slow a bit during 1977.

Most citations were issued for speeding violations (Table 5-18).

Table 5-18
District Courts
Type of 1976 Traffic Violation

Type Violation	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Equipment	4483	2149	390	3938	10110	17
Speeding	3157	2988	752	3383	10290	31
Other Moving	2834	522	92	454	3902	13
License	4275	1220	360	1698	7553	13
Signal, Control Device	5070	1346	327	371	7114	16
Other	4955	3253	324	1513	10045	16
Total	31784	11390	2425	10913	59002	100

Speeding and other moving violations comprise over half the citations filed with the courts. The largest category of speeding was 11 to 19 miles per hour (Table 5-19).

Table 5-19
District Courts
Type of 1976 Speeding Violation

Type Speeding Violation	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Basic Speed Less than 10 m.p.h.	2219	730	127	490	3566	19
11 to 19 mph	215	96	31	103	445	2
20 to 29 mph	5252	1703	520	4297	11772	55
Over 29 mph	1244	355	63	416	2078	12
Total	227	104	11	77	429	2
Total	2167	2988	752	3383	13290	100

Speeding less than ten miles per hour represented only two percent of speeding citations issued.

Municipal police issued 60 percent of the citations processed by the courts (Table 5-20).

Table 5-20
District Courts
Agency Issuing 1976 Citations

Issuing Agency	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Local Police	11327	3477	1246	7237	33487	60
State Troopers*	10257	3511	1113	5575	19056	40
Total	21584	6988	2359	12812	55543	100

* Includes small number of citations issued by other state agencies e.g., weights and measures.

However, in Fairbanks, the State Troopers issued more tickets than did the Fairbanks Police Department. Only seven percent of the drivers cited had an out-of-State license (Table 5-21).

Table 5-21
District Courts
Residency of Drivers Issued
1976 Citations

Type Driver	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
In State	29597	10998	2403	11378	54976	93
Out of State*	2137	992	12	335	4026	7
Total	31784	11990	2415	12813	59002	100

* Includes military assigned in state but with out-of-state drivers license.

Over half the citations were issued to drivers under 26 years of age (Table 5-22).

Table 5-22
District Courts
Age of Driver Issued
1976 Traffic Citations

Age of Driver	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Less than 21	9313	2770	739	3088	15910	27
21 to 25	8549	3105	531	3101	15286	26
26 to 30	5181	2110	413	2372	10076	17
31 to 40	4736	2104	421	2409	9670	16
Over 40	4005	1901	311	1343	3060	5
Total	31784	11990	2415	12813	59002	100
Average	28	29	27	30	28	

The average age of drivers cited for Juneau and Anchorage was slightly lower than for other courts. Males outnumbered female defendants by more than four to one (Table 5-23).

Table 5-23
District Courts
Sex of 1976 Traffic Defendants

Sex	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Male	25328	10261	1974	11345	48878	82
Female	6339	1729	441	1468	11077	18
Total	31784	11990	2415	12813	59002	100

The conviction rates for speeding and other moving violations was well over 90 percent (Table 5-24).

Table 5-24
District Courts
1976 Traffic Conviction Rates by Type Violation

Type Violation	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Equipment	55.7	54.5	52.4	53.5	55
Speeding	94.5	96.0	95.1	96.7	95
Other Moving	90.5	93.0	93.8	92.2	91
License	57.3	60.0	73.7	76.0	64
Other	68.1	61.0	77.6	54.3	65
Total	73.7	75.3	79.5	79.9	73

The low rates for equipment and license violations is a function of the large number of "dismissable" offenses in this category. A dismissable offense is one for which the citation may be dismissed if the cause for the citation (e.g., headlight out) is corrected before the court appearance date. These violations can be dismissed by the issuing agency and probably should never have been forwarded to the courts at all. Most of the dismissals take place in the courts outside the courtroom (they are handled by clerks over the counter).

Conviction rates were slightly higher for citations issued by local police than those issued by the State Troopers (Table 5-25).

Table 5-25
District Courts
1976 Traffic Conviction Rates by
Agency Issuing Citation

Issuing Agency	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Local Police	30.0	73.5	91.6	33.3	30.2
State Troopers	76.7	76.3	66.6	74.3	75.3
Total	79.7	75.2	79.5	79.9	73.3

In Fairbanks, however, this pattern is reversed. The conviction rate for Juneau Police Department tickets is 25 percent higher than for State Trooper tickets issued in Juneau.

When offenders are convicted of a traffic infraction, they are generally

fined. Rarely are they assessed time in jail. The sentencing judge has the option to, and often does, suspend a portion of the fine assessed on the condition of no similar violations for a specified period of time. The amount of fine to be paid is then the fine assessed minus that amount suspended. The average amount of the fine to be paid varies depending on the type of violation (Table 5-26).

Table 5-26
District Courts
1976 Average Fine Paid by
Type Traffic Violation

Type Violation	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Equipment	41	75	13	50	52
Speeding	31	17	13	19	28
Other Moving	15	17	19	15	16
License	26	25	25	32	26
Other	24	24	15	3	22
Total	25	26	18	11	26

Equipment violations have the highest average.

Table 5-27 is interesting in that it shows approximate revenue generated by traffic convictions.

Table 5-27
District Courts
1976 Average Fine Paid by
Agency Issuing Traffic Citations

Issuing Agency	Location				Total	Approximate Total Revenue
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Local Police	27	14	13	23	23	538844
State Troopers	23	33	15	35	30	628273
Other State Agencies	Part of Troopers Figures					
Total	25	26	18	11	26	1157117

This revenue does not include that from non-contested parking tickets in Anchorage. Such tickets never reach the Anchorage District Court. Overall, 44 percent of the revenue generated was for citations issued by local police.

Implementation of the mail-in bail system in Alaska in early 1975 evoked great expectations for decreasing court workload in processing of traffic cases. In 1976, these expectations were shattered (Table 5-28).

Table 5-28
District Courts
1976 Traffic Disposition Stages

How Citation Was Disposed	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Can't Locate Defendant	1511	138	2	45	1896	3
Mail in Bail Handled at Counter	4879	251	862	1398	7390	13
Court Appearance(s)	11942	7110	242	4350	13644	42
	11861	3244	1048	7336	23489	42
Total	30133	10943	2154	11129	56419	100

Only thirteen percent of the citations were resolved by the use of the mail-in option. Only Juneau's percentage of 40 percent is significant. Another 41 percent of the citations were settled at the traffic counter by the clerks. The conviction rate for the counter cases was 78 percent. Except for dismissable offenses (the 22 percent non-conviction rate), all the convictions at the counter could have been settled by the mail-in option, but were not. Why? The reason is that, when a fine is mailed in, the offender does not have the opportunity to complain about the citation, fine, or points assessed.

But the low rate of mail-in bail may be a blessing in that we have found that there is considerable paperwork associated with that option. The requirement for a receipt, the errors entered on the citation by law enforcement officers, and the wrong amounts sent through the mail have led to extensive processing procedures and personnel time. The amounts of revenue generated through mail-in bail has (Table 5-29), in our opinion, been exceeded by the additional resources required for processing.

Table 5-29
District Courts
1976 Traffic Revenue by Disposition Stage
(in thousands of dollars)

How Citation Was Disposed	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Can't Locate Defendant	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mail in Bail Handled at Counter	134.9	6.1	13.5	44.1	198.6	17
Court Appearance(s)	222.8	143.9	0.3	106.2	473.2	41
	224.8	59.9	15.2	174.9	474.8	42
Total	582.5	209.9	19.0	325.2	1146.6	100

Looking at the traffic system from the judicial resources side, we see that whatever the merits of mail-in bail, only 40 percent of the citations issued result in judge time being expended. This figure would be less if it were not for the point system's pressure for contending citations that might otherwise be forfeited either at the counter or by mail.

Further traffic data is included in the Statistical Supplement (Appendix 2).

CIVIL MATTERS

Jurisdiction of the District Court in civil matters includes cases for the recovery of money or damages not exceeding \$10,000 and for recovery of specific personal property, the value of which does not exceed \$10,000. In motor vehicle cases, however, District Court jurisdiction is \$15,000. Cases which involve claims in excess of those amounts must be filed in Superior Court.

A major portion, 58 percent, of the District Court civil caseload consists of small claims matters, while 42 percent concerns other matters (Table 5-30).

Table 5-30
District Courts
Composition of 1976 Civil Filings

Type of Civil Matter	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Small Claims	2288	532	514	1651	4985	58
Other Civil Matters	2205	655	327	480	3667	42
Total	4493	1187	841	2131	8652	100
% of Statewide Total	52%	14%	10%	24%	100%	-

Small claims procedures may be used only in those cases where the amount of judgment requested is less than \$1,000. Simplified small claims procedures were adopted in 1976 and have been readily accepted by the public. As the public becomes more aware of the availability of the new procedures for small claims, it is expected the percentage of such cases probably will increase. As noted, small claims matters already constitute the most common form of District Court civil cases.

SMALL CLAIMS

The new small claims rules, which call for increased assistance to the parties by the Court System, are simple enough that an attorney generally is not required. As a result, it is possible for a plaintiff to process a small claims case for filing to judgment for less than \$10.00.

The informality of the system, plus the assistance of the Court, generally allows the parties to pursue their civil disputes without incurring the expense of legal counsel. However, attorneys may represent any party to a small claims action and, in fact, are required to represent collection agencies and other third parties attempting to collect another's debt.

Although informal, small claims cases follow the pattern which applies similarly to all civil cases, regardless of size or complexity. A plaintiff files a complaint, which identifies the event or action by a defendant for which the plaintiff requests compensation. Once filed, a copy of the complaint is served by certified mail or by process server on the defendant, along with a summons advising the defendant of the necessity to answer.

The defendant has 20 days to answer the complaint, or else he can be found in default and the court may enter a judgment against him. In his answer, a defendant may admit the claim against him is valid and proper, may deny the claim, or, in addition, may file a counterclaim for damages arising from the same event or action.

If the defendant admits the claim against him is proper, the court issues a judgment to that effect. If the defendant denies the claim, the case is set for trial.

Small claims trials are, as are the rest of the small claims procedures, informal. Each party speaks on his own behalf and may question the opposing party. The judge may enter the discussion, asking questions of either party or of any witnesses present.

Following the trial, the judge awards a judgment to the prevailing party, or, if no claim has been proven, awards nothing to either party. The award may be the amount claimed by the plaintiff (or the amount counterclaimed by the defendant) or some other amount, depending upon the facts presented during the trial. The judge may also award to the prevailing party reimbursement of the costs incurred in litigating the action.

Once judgment is entered, a copy is sent to each party. The prevailing party is responsible for collecting the amount ordered from the opposing party.

If the party owing money refuses to make payment voluntarily, the prevailing party must ask the court for a writ of execution.

The execution writ directs a peace officer or process server to seize assets (e.g., bank accounts) or to garnish wages in an amount sufficient to pay off the judgment. If assets cannot be

located, the prevailing party may ask the court to conduct a judgment debtor examination during which the party in debt is required to answer questions concerning the existence and location of any assets.

During 1976, a majority of all small claims cases were terminated prior to answer (Table 5-31).

Table 5-31
District Courts
1976 Small Claims Termination Stages

Termination Stages	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Before Answer	1105	212	351	785	2453	65
Between Answer and Trial	183	97	26	203	709	19
Trial	345	67	41	132	585	16
Total	1833	376	418	1120	3747	100

Trial Rate	19%	18%	10%	13%	16%
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In most cases, the disposition was by default judgment awarded to the plaintiff. Of all cases disposed of during 1976, only 16 percent went to trial. The average judgment awarded in 1976 small claims cases was \$442

Table 5-32
District Courts
Small Claims Age of Cases Closed in 1976

Days from Filing to Disposition	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average	131	174	15	117	196

Percent of Cases More Than:

6 Months Old	36	31	5	20	27
One Year Old	30	17	4	10	30
Two Years Old	13	2	0	1	10

Disposition of small claims cases generally takes a relatively short time, in part because of the simplicity of the new procedures. The average length of time statewide from filing to disposition was approximately seven months, and varied from an average of ten months in Anchorage to two months in Juneau.

OTHER DISTRICT COURT CIVIL MATTERS

On a statewide basis, 42 percent of District Court civil cases are matters other than small claims. The types of cases filed in District Court are numerous. Table 5-33 lists the major case types and number of filings for each type. The majority of these District Court cases originate from contracts or debts.

Table 5-33
District Courts
Other Civil Matters
Composition of 1976 Filings

Type of Case	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Contracts/ Debts	1626	458	115	206	2406	66
Civil Damage	266	107	13	75	461	13
Housing/ Real Estate	13	18	9	13	53	1
Other	300	72	192	186	747	20
Total	2305	655	327	480	3667	100

Other District Court civil cases follow the same basic steps as the small claim's process, with the exception that formal Rules of Civil Procedure apply. It is the responsibility of each party to send notices to the opposing party and to serve certain papers upon the opposing party as prescribed by the rules. During the period between the filing of an answer and trial, each party may prepare for the trial through various discovery techniques, including interrogatories served on opposing party and depositions of witnesses.

Trial proceedings under the formal rules are much more structured than in small claims. For example, in a small claims trial, any evidence presented by the parties would be admissible, whereas the rules of evidence for a trial under the rules restricts the types of evidence which is admissible during the trial.

The percentage of cases disposed of prior to answer was extremely high in 1976 (76 percent statewide). In the majority of these cases, a default judgment

was awarded to the plaintiff. Only seven percent of the other District Court civil cases went to trial (Table 5-34).

Table 5-34
District Courts
1976 Termination Stages for Other Civil Matters

Termination Stages	Location				Total	% of Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State		
Before Answer	1453	536	136	137	2312	75
Between Answer and Trial	317	93	25	73	508	17
Trial	113	47	5	52	217	7
Total	1983	676	166	312	3037	100
Trial Rate	6%	7%	3%	17%	7%	

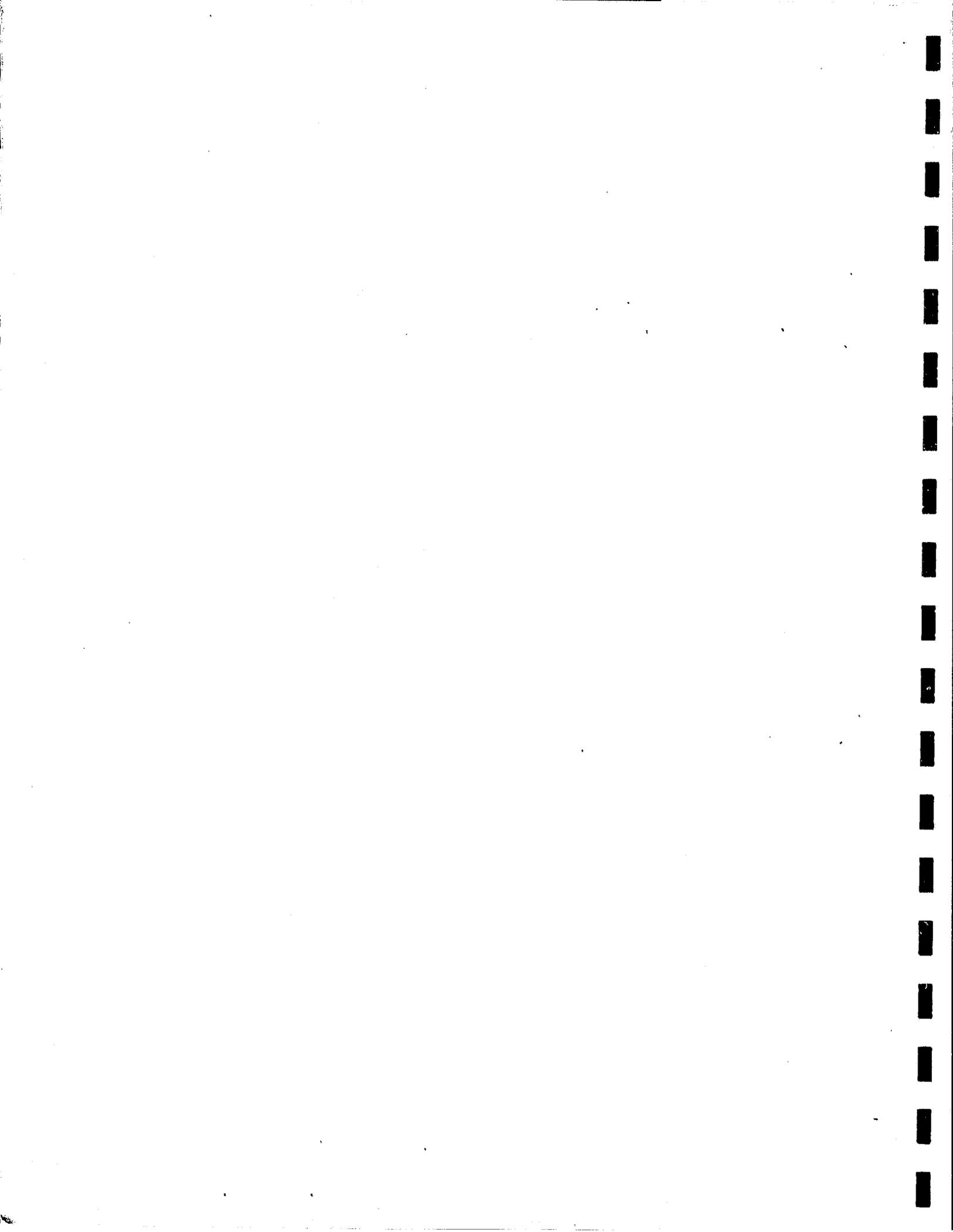
The average judgment awarded in other civil cases was \$1,493.

Because District Court civil cases are more complex when handled in a formal manner, the time for disposition of these cases is greater than that for small claims. The average disposition times during 1976 varied widely across the State, but the statewide average was nearly ten months (Table 5-35).

Table 5-35
District Courts
Age of Other Civil Matters Cases
Closed in 1976

Days From Filing to Diso.	Location				Total
	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Rest of State	
Average	333	281	190	145	282
Percent of Cases More Than:					
6 Months Old	46	49	30	27	44
One year Old	35	34	24	11	32
Two Years Old	20	3	5	1	14

We invite your attention to the additional data on District Court civil matters which is contained in the Statistical Supplement (Appendix 2).



APPENDIX 1. ORGANIZATION OF THE ALASKA COURT SYSTEM

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The history of the law of Alaska covers a relatively short period of time and does not commence immediately upon the acquisition of the Territory from Russia. Although the Treaty of Cession was ratified in 1867, it was not until July of 1868 that the Congress enacted laws concerning the government of the Territory. The Act of 1868, however, was extremely limited, and merely extended to the Territory the laws of the United States relating to customs, commerce, and navigation. It further provided that all violations of the laws so extended could be prosecuted in the District Courts of the United States in California, Oregon, and Washington.

The Organic Act of 1884 established the first semblance of Territorial government in Alaska. This Act established Alaska as an organized Territory and created a U. S. District Court in Alaska, with provision for the appointment of one District Court judge. From 1884 to 1912, the Territory had no legislative powers. Limited legislative powers were given to the Territory by Congress in the Organic Act of 1912.

Between 1884 and 1909, Congress increased the number of U. S. District Court judges from one to four. The Territory was divided into four judicial divisions, with headquarters in Valdez, Juneau, Nome, and Fairbanks. Practice and procedure in these courts was governed by the Federal Rules of Procedure, and the courts exercised both federal and Territorial jurisdiction. During the same period, Congress adopted criminal and civil codes for the Territory patterned after the Oregon codes.

When Alaska became a state in 1959, the Congressional Statehood Act provided that the United States District Court for the Territory of Alaska should remain an "interim" court with jurisdiction in State matters for not more than three years or until the State's constitutional courts were organized. The first State Legislature had provided initially that the transition from federal to State courts would take place in 1962. Because of confusion in the language of the Statehood Act, however, the Legislature was forced to provide for immediate organization of the State courts. The first justices of the Alaska Supreme Court were appointed and took over their constitutional responsibilities on

October 5, 1959. The Superior Court and Magistrate Court (now District Court) were in operation by February 20, 1960.

Because of the long delays in establishing a Territorial government in Alaska, and because of the limitations placed by Congress on the exercise of local governmental powers, the U. S. District Court was for many years the major governmental presence in the Territory. As a result, many executive governmental functions were lodged in the courts. This historical practice continued into statehood, with the Alaska Court System responsible for such tasks as land recording, issuance of absentee ballots, and recording of vital statistics.

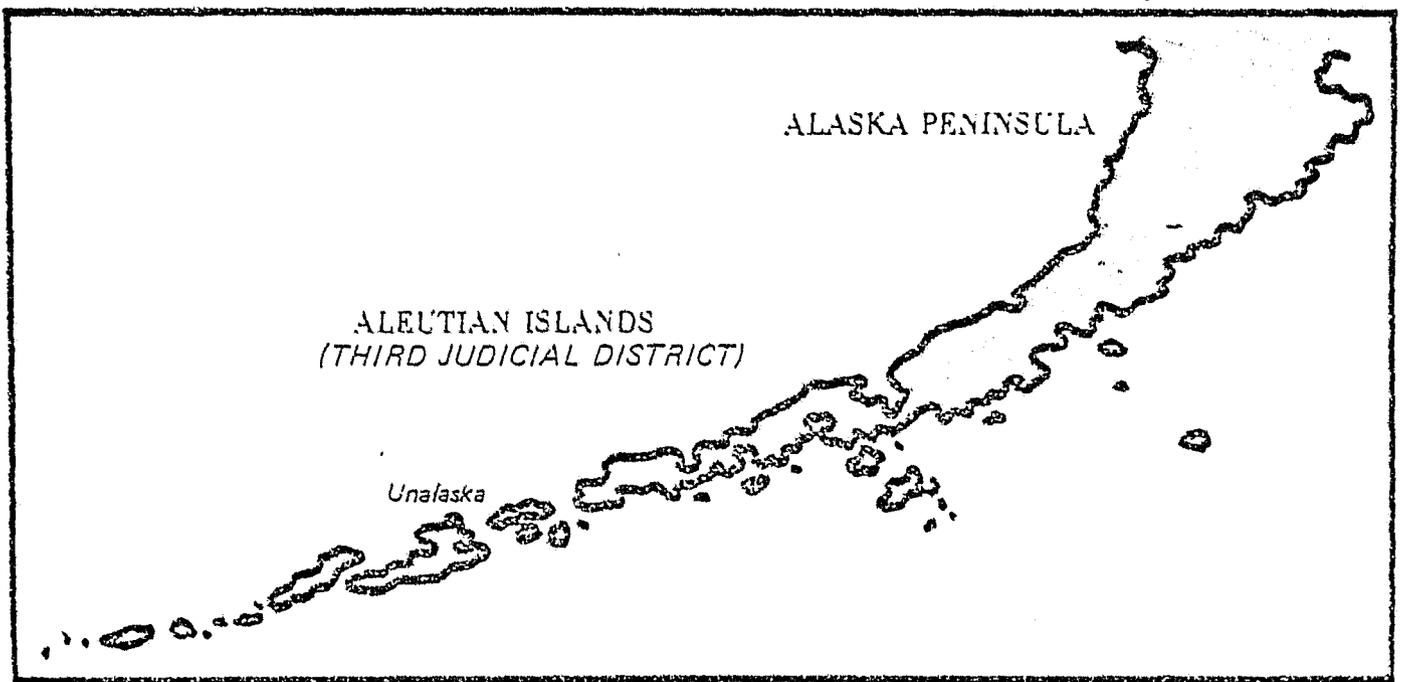
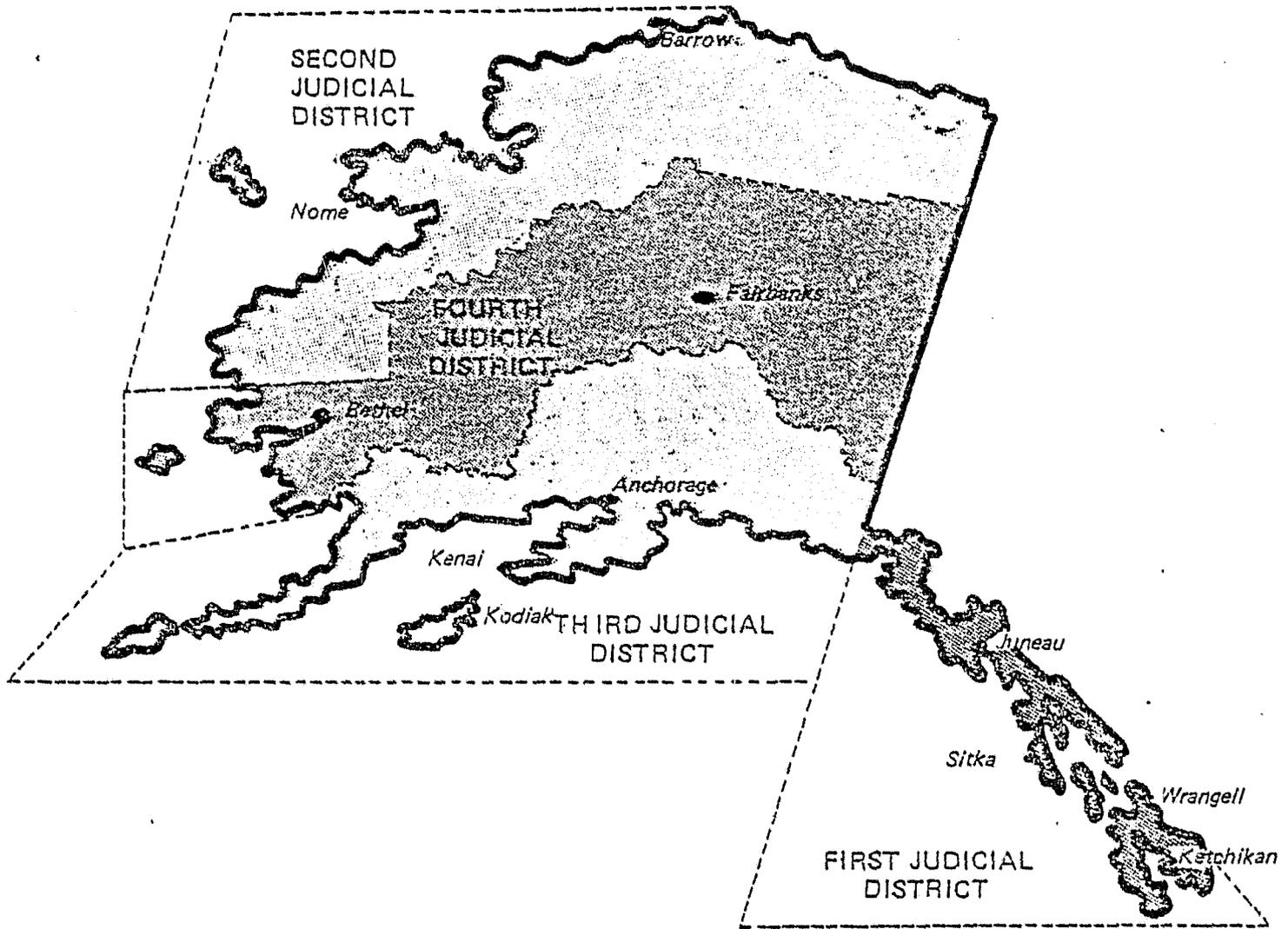
ORGANIZATION

The Alaska Court System is the Judicial Branch of the State government, separate and distinct from the Executive and Legislative Branches. It is one of the first and perhaps the most completely unified state court system in the United States. Many experts on the administration of justice consider the structure of the Alaska Court System to be ideal. Under this system the judicial power of the State is vested in the Supreme Court, with the Chief Justice serving as the administrative head of the Court System. An Administrative Director is appointed by the Chief Justice with the concurrence of the Supreme Court and assists the Chief Justice in supervising the administration of all courts in the State.

There are three levels of court in the Alaska Court System: Supreme, Superior, and District. The Supreme Court and Superior Court are established in the Constitution. The District Court is a legislative court, established by statute. Jurisdiction and other areas of judicial responsibility for each level of court are set out in Title 22 of the Alaska Statutes. Rules governing the administration of all courts, as well as rules of practice and procedure for civil and criminal cases, are promulgated by the Supreme Court.

JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

The Alaska Constitution provides that judicial districts shall be established by the Legislature. Judicial districts serve as regional units for administration and define boundaries for purposes of venue and for judicial retention elections. The four judicial districts that existed in Territorial days have continued during statehood. Section 22.10.010, Alaska Statutes, define each judicial district in detail.



First Judicial District. This district covers the "Panhandle" area in southeastern Alaska and includes the communities of Craig, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, Kake, Ketchikan, Pelican, Petersburg, Sitka, Skagway, Wrangell, and Yakutat. All of these communities have magistrate posts. There is one District Court judge in Juneau, one in Ketchikan, and a third in Wrangell-Petersburg. Two Superior Court judges reside in Juneau, one in Ketchikan, and a fourth in Sitka.

Second Judicial District. Northwest Alaska and the North Slope region are included in the Second Judicial District. Magistrate locations in the district are in Barrow, Buckland, Emmonak, Gambell, Hooper Bay, Kiana, Kotzebue, Mt. Village, Nome, Noorvik, Point Hope, Savoonga, Selawik, St. Marys, Teller, Unalakleet, Wainwright, and Wales. A District Court judge and a Superior Court judge reside in Nome. The Superior Court judge is the presiding judge of the district. A branch Superior Court in Barrow is served by a Superior court judge from Fairbanks.

Third Judicial District. This district includes the Aleutian Chain, the Bristol Bay region, the Greater Anchorage area, the Matanuska Valley, the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, and the Prince William Sound-Copper River region. Within the Third District there are seven District Court judges in Anchorage, one in Valdez, and another in Homer. Magistrates are located at Cold Bay, Cordova, Dillingham, Glennallen, Homer, Kenai, Kodiak, Naknek, Palmer, Sand Point, Seldovia, Seward, St. Paul Island, Unalaska, and Valdez. The Superior Court has eight resident judges in Anchorage, one resident judge in Kenai, and one in Kodiak. Valdez has a branch Superior Court, served on a part-time basis by Anchorage judges. The presiding judge of this district resides in Anchorage.

Fourth Judicial District. This district includes Interior Alaska. Four District Court judges reside in Fairbanks, the population center of the district. Magistrates serve in Aniak, Bethel, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Galena, Healy, Kasigluk, Mekoryuk, Nenana, Rampart, Tanana, Tok, and Tununak. There are four Superior Court judges in Fairbanks, one of whom is presiding judge of the district, and a fifth Superior Court judge in Bethel.

THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is comprised of the Chief Justice and four associate justices. To be eligible for appointment to the Supreme Court, a person must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Alaska for three years prior

to appointment. A justice must be licensed to practice law in the State at the time of appointment and have engaged in the active practice of law for eight years. All appointments are made by the Governor within 45 days of receipt of nominations from the Alaska Judicial Council. Each justice is subject to approval or rejection by a majority of the voters of the State on a non-partisan ballot at the first general election held more than three years after appointment, and every tenth year thereafter. If rejected by the voters, a justice may not be appointed to fill any vacancy on the Supreme Court or Superior Court for four years. The Chief Justice is selected from among the justices by a majority vote. He holds office for three years and may not serve consecutive terms.

The Supreme Court hears appellate matters from every location in the State and its judicial work is not directly affected by judicial district boundaries. Three justices reside in Anchorage, one justice resides in Fairbanks, and the justice now serving as Chief Justice resides in Juneau.

An appeal may be taken to the Supreme Court from a final judgment entered by the Superior Court in any action or proceeding. Appeal from a final judgment is a matter of right to all parties, except that the State may appeal in criminal cases only to test the sufficiency of an indictment or on the ground that a sentence is too lenient. The authority of the Supreme Court to review sentences was set out in statute by the Legislature in 1969. All appeals brought to the Supreme Court must be heard, decisions must be reached, and opinions written.

An aggrieved party may also petition for review of any order or decision of the Superior Court not otherwise appealable. Review of non-final orders, however, is discretionary, and will be granted only if certain strict criteria are met that justify a deviation from normal appellate procedure.

The Constitution grants the Supreme Court power to establish and promulgate rules governing the administration of all courts in the State, and rules governing practice and procedure in civil and criminal cases. The Supreme Court has also adopted rules governing the practice of law in the State of Alaska, rules governing practice and procedure in children's matters, rules of probate procedure, and rules of appellate procedure. The Legislature may change rules governing practice and procedure by an Act expressing its intent to do so and passed by a two-thirds majority of both houses.

The Supreme Court meets approximately monthly to hear arguments and to confer on pending judicial and administrative matters. Arguments are heard en banc throughout the year in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Ketchikan. As

far as possible, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in the city where the case was heard in the trial court. Approximately 60 percent of the cases heard originate in Anchorage and 20 percent in Fairbanks. Following argument or submission on briefs without argument, the Supreme Court will decide the case, write an opinion, and initiate its publication in the Pacific Reporter, the official publication of the Alaska Supreme Court.

Routine motions and applications may be presented to and determined by an individual justice. These matters include applications for extensions of time, for shortening time for notice of motion, and for other routine relaxations of the rules of appellate procedure. An individual justice may also grant applications for stays of proceedings, issue orders to show cause, and issue writs of habeas corpus. Any application submitted to an individual justice may be referred by him to the entire Court for determination.

The central office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court is in Juneau. The Clerk is required to be an attorney, preferably with some appellate experience. Responsibilities of the Clerk include monitoring the caseload through the court and making recommendations for improvements in appellate procedure. The Clerk is also responsible for all case filing and calendaring, publishing opinions, and related tasks. The Clerk's office provides, for a fee, a printing service for appellate briefs. Deputy clerks are located in Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks.

THE SUPERIOR COURT

The Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction with original jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters. The Superior Court has concurrent jurisdiction in all other judicial matters with the District Court. The Superior Court may issue injunctions and writs of habeas corpus, review, and mandamus, and serves as an appellate court for appeals from the District Court. Appeals to the Superior Court from final judgments of the District Court are a matter of right.

The Superior Court has exclusive jurisdiction in all domestic relations matters, children's proceedings, probate, guardianship, and civil commitments.

The Chief Justice designates a presiding judge in each judicial district to serve a term of one year. The presiding judge, in addition to his regular judicial duties, is responsible for the administration of the trial courts within his district, including the assignment of cases, the supervision of court personnel, the efficient handling of court business, and the appointment of the

magistrates. A Superior Court judge may be temporarily assigned anywhere in the State by the Chief Justice up to 90 days per year. He may be assigned for longer periods with the judge's acquiescence.

The qualifications of a judge of the Superior Court are the same as for a Supreme Court justice, except that only five years' active practice is necessary. Each Superior Court judge is subject to approval or rejection by the voters of his judicial district at the first general election held more than three years after his appointment. Thereafter, he is subject to approval or rejection every sixth year. He is subject to retirement for incapacity, and may retire voluntarily at any time. Retired judges may render further service on the bench under a special assignment pro tempore. The Chief Justice may appoint a voluntarily retired judge to serve as judge or justice pro tempore for specified periods of time.

DISTRICT COURT

District Court Judges. The Alaska Constitution provides that the Legislature shall establish such lower or inferior courts as may be necessary. The Legislature has created a District Court for each judicial district, and has granted to the Supreme Court the power to increase or decrease the number of District Court judges within each judicial district.

In criminal matters, the District Court judge has jurisdiction over all State misdemeanor violations and violations of ordinances of political subdivisions. He may issue warrants as prescribed by law, and acts as examining magistrate in arraignments in criminal proceedings, which must occur within 24 hours after arrest. The District Court judge may also perform such non-judicial related tasks as issuing absentee ballots and recording vital statistics. He may also serve as coroner, hold inquests, and act as the conservator of property of deceased persons.

In civil matters, the District Court judge may hear cases for recovery of money or damages not exceeding \$10,000 and for recovery of specific personal property when the value claimed for damages does not exceed \$10,000. In motor vehicle tort cases, the civil jurisdiction in District Court is \$15,000. A District Court judge may handle small claims actions up to \$1,000, give judgment without action upon the confession of the defendant, foreclose liens where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$10,000, and temporarily detain minors in emergencies. The criminal and civil jurisdiction of the District Court extends over the whole of the State.

A District Court judge must be 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the State for at least one year, and licensed to practice law in Alaska. Vacancies are filled by appointment of the Governor through nomination by the Judicial Council. The presiding judge may appoint one or more acting District Court judges as needed. An acting District Court judge need not be licensed to practice law.

District Court judges may be temporarily assigned to different places within the judicial district by the presiding judge or to another judicial district by the Chief Justice. A District Court judge, like other judges and justices, may not practice law or engage in any other profession or business for profit, nor may he hold office in a political party or unit of government involving compensation. If he files for elective office, he forfeits his judicial position.

Magistrates. In the smaller, generally rural areas of the State, where the services of a full-time District Court judge are not required, magistrate posts have been created. They have been created in metropolitan areas as well to handle routine matters and ease the workload of the District Court.

The magistrate is a judicial officer of the District Court, whose authority is more limited than the District Court judge. In civil cases, the magistrate may award damages up to \$1,000; issue summonses, writs of habeas corpus, and marriage licenses; enforce orders and judgments of the Superior Court; perform the duties of coroner (including inquests) and notary public; record vital statistics such as births, deaths, and marriages; and issue absentee ballots. He also has emergency authority in children's matters.

In criminal matters, he may give judgment of conviction upon a plea of guilty to any State misdemeanor. He may hear, try, and enter judgment in State misdemeanors if the defendant agrees in writing to be tried by the magistrate. He may also hear municipal ordinance violations without consent of the accused and impose sentence. In felony preliminary examinations, the magistrate may set, receive, and forfeit bail, and bind persons over to the Superior Court in the same manner as a District judge. Finally, he may issue warrants of arrest, summonses, and search warrants.

The qualifications of a magistrate are that the individual be 21 years old, a United States citizen, and a resident of Alaska for six months prior to appointment, which is made for an indefinite period by the presiding judge of the judicial district in which he will serve. The magistrate serves at the pleasure of the presiding judge.

Coroner-Public Administrator. In all four judicial districts, a separate coroner-public administrator position has been created. The coroner-public administrator operates within the District Court in his capacity as a coroner. In his administrative function relating to the probate of small estates, he operates within the Superior Court.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COURT SYSTEM

In addition to his judicial responsibilities, the Chief Justice is also charged with the responsibility of administering the Alaska Court System. To assist him in administrative matters, the Chief Justice, with concurrence of the Supreme Court, appoints the Administrative Director of Courts.

The Administrative Director is generally responsible for the smooth running of the Court System. His responsibilities are numerous and broad in scope. He establishes and supervises the administrative operation of the System. He examines the dockets to determine the need for assistance in any court, and makes recommendations to the Chief Justice relating to the temporary assignments of judges. He also collects and compiles statistical data, and prepares and submits the budget to the Legislature. He draws all requisitions for payment of expenses incurred for the maintenance and operation of the Court System. He acts as advisor to the Chief Justice, and also obtains data from the clerks of court concerning judicial business that has been delayed beyond the period of time specified by law.

To carry out these and other responsibilities, he has employed a staff of functional specialists. His senior staff members include the Manager of Fiscal Operations, Manager of Technical Operations, Personnel Director, Staff Counsel, Manager of Materiel Operations, Grants Planner, Magistrate Training Coordinator, Librarian, Special Projects Coordinator, and an Administrative Associate.

ALASKA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

The Alaska Judicial Council, which operates independently of the Court System, has been created by the State Constitution to perform two primary functions: (1) to solicit, screen, and nominate applicants for gubernatorial appointment of vacant judgeship positions, and (2) to conduct studies for improvements in the administration of justice and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Supreme Court. The council is comprised of the Chief Justice who serves as chairman and ex officio member; three attorney members

appointed by the Board of Governors of the Alaska Bar Association; and three non-attorney lay members appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the Legislature in joint session. These six members serve for six-year terms.

The Judicial Council, which must report to the Legislature and the Supreme Court at least once every two years, is assisted by a full-time Executive Director and his support staff. The Executive Director is then responsible for programs to encourage the most qualified applicants for judicial positions, and for undertaking research projects concerning the interaction or coordination of more than one component of the justice system.

APPENDIX TWO

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM
1976 ANNUAL REPORT
STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT

- A. SUPREME COURT
- B. STATEWIDE TRIAL COURT
- C. SUPERIOR COURTS
- D. DISTRICT COURTS (HIGHER VOLUME)
- E. DISTRICT COURTS (LOW VOLUME)



FOREWARD

This supplement is designed primarily for research applications. The tables and figures have been standardized to provide a common basis for comparison in succeeding years. We anticipate few changes to the format of this supplement, with the one exception that we plan to add a sixth section next year on Jury Utilization and Management.

For those charts requiring some narrative explanation, we have referred the reader to a specific note number. All notes are included in the last few pages of this supplement.

Finally, our determination of whether a District Court is a higher or a low volume court is based upon a rather simple test. If the court has at least one full-time judicial officer, we classify it as a higher volume court. We collect more detailed case processing data from the higher volume courts than we do from the low volume courts.

The sole exception to this classification is for Kotzebue, which we have included as a low volume court, even though it has a full-time magistrate. Detailed data applicable to the higher volume courts was not available in 1976 for Kotzebue. Thus, for this year only, we classified this court as low volume.

Any reader with questions, comments, or suggestions to offer on this statistical supplement, is encouraged to contact the:

Manager of Technical Operations
Office of the Administrative Director
ALASKA COURT SYSTEM
303 K Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone: (907) 274-8611



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A. SUPREME COURT



A-1
**SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF FILINGS
1974-1976**

TYPE OF CASE	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE 1975 TO 1976
Appeals:				
Civil	148	145	214	+ 48
Criminal	46	68	113	+ 66
Childrens	11	5	7	+ 40
Sentence	4	23	32	+ 39
Petitions for Review	53	83	86	4
Original Applications	16	6	16	+167
TOTAL	278	334	468	+ 40

A-2
**SUPREME COURT
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS
1974-1976**

TYPE OF CASE	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE 1975 TO 1976
Appeals:	187			
Civil		193	141	+ 8
Criminal			58	
Childrens			9	
Sentence		12	33	+175
Petitions for Review	54	84	82	- 2
Original Applications	21	10	12	+ 20
TOTAL	262	299	335	+ 12

A-3
SUPREME COURT
DISPOSITIONS BY TYPE OF DISPOSITION
1976

TYPE OF CASE	DISPOSITION BY				TOTAL
	OPINION AND MANDATE		DISMISSAL OR OTHER		
Appeals:					
Civil		71		70	141
Criminal		27		31	58
Childrens		6		3	9
Sentence		19		14	33
Petitions for Review		22		60	82
Original Applications		3		9	12
TOTAL		148		187	335
% OF TOTAL		44		56	100

A-4
SUPREME COURT
CASES PENDING AS OF DECEMBER 31

TYPE OF CASE	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE 1975 TO 1976
Appeals:	193			
Civil		148	218	47
Criminal		70	127	81
Childrens		6	5	- 17
Sentence		17	16	- 6
Petitions for Review	20	16	20	25
Original Applications	3	1	5	400
TOTAL	216	258	391	52

A-5
SUPREME COURT
REASON FOR CASES PENDING
1976

TYPE OF CASE	CASE AWAITING					STAYED	TOTAL
	RECORDS	BRIEFS	ARGU- MENT	DECISION	MANDATE		
Appeals:							
Civil	63	69	12	62	12	0	218
Criminal	33	59	7	22	3	3	127
Childrens	0	3	1	1	0	0	5
Sentence	6	2	0	6	1	1	16
Petitions for Review	0	1	0	16	2	1	20
Original Applications	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
TOTAL	102	134	20	112	18	5	391
% OF TOTAL	26	34	5	29	5	1	100



B. STATEWIDE TRIAL COURT



ALASKA POPULATION

(See Note 1)

LOCATION	POPULATION			% INCREASE 1970 TO 1975	% OF 1975 STATE- WIDE TOTAL
	1970 CENSUS	1975 ESTIMATE	INCREASE		
Anchorage	126333	177817	51484	41	45
Barrow	3451	6454	3003	87	2
Bethel	7244	8053	809	10	2
Delta Junction	3343	4715	1372	41	1
Fairbanks	45864	55517	9653	21	14
Glenallen	774	2410	1636	211	1
Haines	1504	2069	565	38	1
Horner	1083	1187	104	10	.3
Juneau	13556	17714	4158	31	4
Kenai	12730	13954	1224	10	3
Ketchikan	11717	13075	1358	12	3
Kotzebue	2389	2684	295	12	1
Kodiak	9409	8801	- 608	- 6	2
Nome	4228	4898	670	16	1
Palmer	6509	12462	5953	91	3
Seward	2336	3149	813	35	1
Sitka	6109	6595	486	8	2
Tok	836	1179	343	41	.3
Valdez	2324	7229	4905	211	2
Wrangell	2423	2599	176	7	1
Other (Low Volume)	38199	52073	13874	36	13
TOTAL	302361	404634	102273	34	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	42563	50438	7873	19	12
Second	9797	11208	1411	14	3
Third	190471	257920	67449	35	64
Fourth	59528	85068	25540	43	21

ALASKA COURTS
 AUTHORIZED JUDICIAL POSITIONS
 DEC. 31, 1976

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	MAGI-STRATES	MASTERS	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
Anchorage	8	7	0	2	17	18
Barrow	0	0	1	0	1	1
Bethel	0	1	0	0	1	1
Delta Junction	0	0	1	0	1	1
Fairbanks	4	4	0	0	8	9
Gienallen	0	0	1	0	1	1
Haines	0	0	1	0	1	1
Homer	0	1	0	0	1	1
Juneau	2	1	0	0	3	3
Kenai	1	0	1	0	2	2
Ketchikan	1	1	0	0	2	2
Kotzebue	0	0	1	0	1	1
Kodiak	1	0	0	0	1	1
Nome	1	1	0	0	2	2
Palmer	0	0	1	0	1	1
Seward	0	0	1	0	1	1
Sitka	1	0	1	0	2	2
Tok	0	0	1	0	1	1
Vaidez	0	1	0	0	1	1
Wrangell	0	1	0	0	1	1
Otner (Low Volume)	0	0	44	0	44	47
TOTAL	19	18	54	2	93	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4	3	10	0	17	18
Second	1	1	10	0	12	13
Third	10	10	20	2	42	45
Fourth	4	4	14	0	22	24

ALASKA COURTS
 AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL POSITIONS
 AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

LOCATION	POSITIONS BY RANGE					% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL
	BELOW 10	10 THROUGH 12	13 THROUGH 16	OVER 16	TOTAL	
Anchorage	32	77	19	7	135	50.0
Barrow	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Bethel	2	2	0	0	4	1.0
Delta Junction	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Fairbanks	14	38	6	5	63	23.0
Glenallen	2	1	0	0	3	1.0
Haines	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Homer	1	1	0	0	2	1.0
Juneau	4	8	3	2	17	6.0
Kenai	1	2	2	0	5	2.0
Ketchikan	1	6	2	1	10	4.0
Kotzebue	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Kodiak	0	3	1	0	4	5.0
Nome	0	4	1	1	6	2.0
Palmer	2	0	0	0	2	1.0
Seward	1	1	0	0	2	1.0
Sitka	2	2	0	0	4	1.0
Tok	0	1	0	0	1	0.4
Valdez	2	1	0	0	3	1.0
Wrangell	1	1	0	0	2	1.0
Other (Low Volume)	2	1	0	0	3	1.0
TOTAL	67	153	34	16	270	100.0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	8	19	5	3	35	13.0
Second	0	5	1	1	7	3.0
Third	45	38	22	7	152	50.0
Fourth	14	41	6	5	66	24.0

ALAKSA COURTS
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) JUDGES

(See Note 2)

LOCATION	NUMBER OF JUDGE DAYS					FULL TIME EQUIVA- LENT JUDGES	% OF STATE- WIDE TOTAL
	AS- SIGNED	ADJUSTMENTS			NET		
		TO OTHER COURTS	FROM OTHER COURTS	TRAVEL			
Anchorage	4250.0	-145	+130.5	- 2	4233.5	16.93	21
Barrow	250.0	0	+ 10.0	0	260	1.04	1
Bethel	250.0	0	+ 79.0	0	329	1.32	2
Delta Junction	250.0	0	+ 8.5	0	258.5	1.03	1
Fairbanks	1750.0	- 43	+ 75.0	0	1782	7.13	9
Glenallen	250.0	- 20	+ 2.0	0	251	1.00	1
Haines	250.0	0	+ 9.5	0	259.5	1.04	1
Homer	250.0	- 95	+ 10.0	0	165	.66	1
Juneau	750.0	- 91	+ 97.0	- 2	754	3.02	4
Kenai	500.0	- 77	+ 63.0	0	486	1.94	2
Ketchikan	500.0	-121	+ 18.0	- 7.5	389.5	1.56	
Kotzebue	250.0	0	+ 18.0	0	268	1.07	
Kodiak	250.0	- 36	+ 13.0	0	227	.91	
Nome	500.0	- 49	+ 1.0	- 1	451	1.80	
Palmer	250.0	0	+ 16.0	0	266	1.06	1
Seward	250.0	0	+ 19.5	0	269.5	1.08	1
Sitka	437.5	- 22	+ 90.0	- 2	503.5	2.01	2
Tok	250.0	0	+ 3.5	0	253.5	1.01	1
Valdez	250.0	- 24	+ 31.0	0	257	1.03	1
Wrangell	250.0	-109	+ 8.0	- 2	147	.59	
Other (Low Volume)	8250.0	0	+110.5	0	8360.5	33.44	41
TOTAL	20187.5	-832	+932.0	-16.5	20171	80.68	100

250 Days
1976 Vacancies taken into consideration

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS .

First	3687.5	-343	+255.0	-13.5	3586	14.34	10
Second	2000.0	- 49	+ 20.0	- 1	1970	7.88	10
Third	10250.0	-397	+444.0	- 2	10295	41.18	
Fourth	4250.0	- 43	+113.0	0	4320	17.28	

ALASKA COURTS
1976 OPERATING COSTS
(THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

LOCATION	PERSONNEL	OTHER	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DOLLAR COST PER 1976 CASE FILED	
					ALL FILINGS	LESS TRAFFIC FILINGS
Anchorage	3251.1	3109.4	6360.5	48.0	121	304
Barrow	51.9	74.3	126.3	1.0	479	616
Bethel	124.5	181.5	306.1	2.0	378	378
*Delta Junction	Not Available					
Fairbanks	1520.3	945.9	2466.1	19.0	123	307
*Gienallen	Not Available					
*Haines	Not Available					
*Homer	Not Available					
Juneau	434.1	1098.8	1532.9	11.5	300	570
Kenai	177.8	44.4	222.1	2.0	46	133
Ketchikan	394.3	23.5	417.8	3.0	126	232
Kotzebue	46.0	8.6	54.6	0.4	202	207
Kodiak	97.4	42.8	140.1	1.0	72	84
Nome	238.9	96.6	335.6	2.5	400	426
Palmer	48.8	16.7	65.6	0.4	24	70
Seward	55.3	12.1	67.4	0.5	35	156
Sitka	119.6	27.5	147.1	1.0	109	168
*Tok	Not Available					
Valdez	62.3	27.8	90.1	0.6	48	103
Wrangell	81.6	10.0	91.6	0.6	175	344
*Other (Low Volume)	632.3	211.4	843.7	6.0	164	468
TOTAL	7336.3	5931.6	13267.9	100.0	127	294

* All smaller courts in magistrate pool not broken down separately.

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1137.3	1138.1	2325.9	17.0	209	380
Second	393.4	232.7	626.1	5.0	528	560
Third	3931.6	3338.3	7270.4	55.0	103	251
Fourth	1873.6	1171.9	3045.5	23.0	139	345

ALASKA COURTS
1976 FILINGS

(See Note 3)

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	FILINGS PER FTE JUDGE
Anchorage	7509	45219	52728	50.0	3114
Barrow	18	246	264	0.3	264
Bethel	193	616	809	1.0	809
Delta Junction	0	678	678	1.0	678
Fairbanks	2977	17040	20017	19.0	2819
Glenallen	0	1212	1212	1.0	251
Haines	0	269	269	0.3	269
Homer	0	1406	1406	1.0	1406
Juneau	774	4328	5102	5.0	1701
Kenai	440	4381	4821	5.0	2411
Ketchikan	551	2775	3326	3.0	1663
Kotzebue	0	270	270	0.3	270
Kodiak	322	1612	1934	2.0	1934
Nome	249	590	839	1.0	420
Palmer	0	2764	2764	3.0	2764
Seward	0	1921	1921	2.0	1921
Sitka	217	1138	1355	1.0	678
Tok	0	386	386	0.4	386
Valdez	0	1884	1884	2.0	1884
Wrangell	0	524	524	1.0	524
Other (Low Volume)	0	2272	2272	2.0	69
TOTAL	13250	91531	104781	100.0	1294

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1542	9570	11112	11.0	777
Second	249	936	1185	1.0	246
Third	8464	62162	70626	67.0	1723
Fourth	2995	18863	21858	21.0	1296

ALASKA COURTS
1976 DISPOSITIONS

(See Note 3)

LOCATION	SUPERIOR COURT	DISTRICT COURT	TOTAL	% OF STATEWIDE TOTAL	DISPOSITIONS PER FTE JUDGE
Anchorage	6346	31784	38130	53.0	2243
Barrow	13	59	72	0.1	72
Bethel	177	28	205	0.3	205
Delta Junction	0	500	500	1.0	500
Fairbanks	2110	11990	14100	19.0	2014
Glenallen	0	836	836	1.0	836
Haines	0	50	50	0.07	50
Homer	0	1060	1060	1.0	1060
Juneau	661	2415	3076	4.0	1025
Kenai	347	3155	3502	5.0	1751
Ketchikan	371	1525	1896	3.0	948
Kotzebue	0	203	203	0.3	203
Kodiak	251	274	525	1.0	525
Nome	214	51	265	0.4	133
Palmer	0	1825	1825	2.0	1825
Seward	0	1489	1489	2.0	1489
Sitka	179	480	659	1.0	330
Tok	0	210	210	0.3	210
Valdez	0	1013	1013	1.0	1013
Wrangell	0	258	258	0.4	258
Other (Low Volume)	0	2144	2144	3.0	65
TOTAL	10669	61349	72019	100.0	889

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1211	5198	6409	9.0	458
Second	214	326	540	1.0	68
Third	7121	42572	49693	69.0	1212
Fourth	2123	13253	15376	21.0	904

ALASKA COURTS
1976 DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, COSTS AND JUDGES

LOCATION	PERCENTAGE OF STATEWIDE				
	1975 POPULATION	1976 OPERATING COSTS	1976 FTE JUDGES	1976 CASE FILINGS	1976 CASE DISPOSITION
Anchorage	45.0	48.0	21	50.0	53.0
Barrow	2.0	1.0	1	0.3	0.1
Bethel	2.0	2.0	2	1.0	0.3
Delta Junction	1.0	0	1	1.0	1.0
Fairbanks	14.0	19.0	9	19.0	19.0
Glenallen	1.0	0	1	1.0	1.0
Haines	1.0	0	1	0.3	0.07
Homer	0.3	0	1	1.0	1.0
Juneau	4.0	11.5	4	5.0	4.0
Kenai	3.0	2.0	2	5.0	5.0
Ketchikan	3.0	3.0	2	3.0	3.0
Kotzebue	1.0	0.4	1	0.3	0.3
Kodiak	2.0	1.0	1	2.0	1.0
Nome	1.0	2.5	2	1.0	0.4
Palmer	3.0	0.4	1	3.0	2.0
Seward	1.0	0.5	1	2.0	2.0
Sitka	2.0	1.0	2	1.0	1.0
Tok	0.3	0	1	0.4	0.3
Valdez	2.0	0.6	1	2.0	1.0
Wrangell	1.0	0.6	1	1.0	0.4
Other (Low Volume)	13.0	6.0	41	2.0	3.0
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100	100.0	100.0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	12	17	18	11	9
Second	3	5	10	1	1
Third	64	55	51	67	69
Fourth	21	23	21	21	21

C. SUPERIOR COURT



**SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF FILINGS BY COURT
1973 - 1976**

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	5841	6003	6646	7509	+ 29	+13
Barrow	0	0	0	18	0	-0
Bethel	0	124	119	193	0	+62
Fairbanks	1631	1937	2471	2977	+ 83	+20
Juneau	763	869	677	774	+ 1	+14
Kenai	219	188	454	440	+101	- 3
Ketchikan	568	681	649	551	- 3	-15
Kodiak	186	280	250	322	+ 73	+29
Nome	273	280	266	249	- 9	- 6
Sitka	188	206	212	217	+ 15	+ 2
TOTAL	9669	10568	11744	13250	+ 37	+13

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1519	1756	1538	1542	+ 2	0
Second	273	280	266	249	- 9	- 6
Third	6246	6595	7469	8464	+ 36	+13
Fourth	1631	1937	2471	2995	+ 84	+21

**SUPERIOR COURTS
COMPOSITION OF 1976 FILINGS**

COURT	CRIMINAL		CIVIL			CHIL- DREN'S MATTERS	TOTAL
	FELONY	OTHER	PROBATE	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	OTHER		
Anchorage	366	150	979	3201	2256	557	7509
Barrow	3	1	5	1	0	8	18
Bethel	22	6	46	51	36	32	193
Fairbanks	227	18	258	1231	825	418	2977
Juneau	23	4	108	309	169	161	774
Kenai	26	6	32	187	109	80	440
Ketchikan	29	4	77	249	80	112	551
Kodiak	51	7	34	154	37	39	322
Nome	23	11	53	63	48	51	249
Sitka	12	2	32	90	29	52	217
TOTAL	782	209	1624	5536	3589	1510	13250
% OF TOTAL	6	2	12	42	27	11	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	64	10	217	648	278	325	1542
Second	23	11	53	63	48	51	249
Third	465	169	1091	3593	2438	708	8464
Fourth	230	19	263	1232	825	426	2995

SUPERIOR COURTS
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITIONS
1973 - 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	5033	4196	4482	6346	+ 26	+42
Barrow	0	0	0	13	0	0
Bethel	0	96	94	177	0	+88
Fairbanks	1477	1591	1806	2110	+ 43	+17
Juneau	684	919	572	661	- 3	+16
Kenai	173	162	263	347	+101	+32
Ketchikan	545	607	547	321	-32	-32
Kodiak	176	218	218	251	+43	+15
Nome	239	294	228	214	-10	- 6
Sitka	178	193	193	179	+ 1	- 7
TOTAL	8505	8276	8403	10669	+25	+27

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1407	1719	1312	1211	-14	- 8
Second	239	294	228	214	-10	- 6
Third	5382	4672	5057	7121	+32	+41
Fourth	1477	1591	1806	2123	+44	+18

**SUPERIOR COURTS
RATIO OF DISPOSITIONS TO FILINGS
1976**

(See Note 4)

COURT	FILINGS	DISPOSITIONS	RATIO OF DISPOSITIONS TO FILINGS
Anchorage	7509	6346	85
Barrow	18	13	72
Bethel	193	177	92
Fairbanks	2977	2110	71
Juneau	774	661	85
Kenai	440	347	79
Ketchikan	551	371	67
Kodiak	322	251	78
Nome	249	214	86
Sitka	217	179	82
TOTAL	13250	10669	81

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1542	1211	79
Second	249	214	86
Third	8464	7121	84
Fourth	2995	2123	71

**SUPERIOR COURTS
DISPOSITIONS PER FULL TIME EQUIVALENT JUDGE
1976**

(See Note 3)

COURT	DISPOSITIONS	FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) JUDGES	DISPOSITIONS PER FTE JUDGE
Anchorage	6346	9.96	637
Barrow	13	.04	13
Bethel	177	.23	177
Fairbanks	2110	3.16	668
Juneau	661	1.78	371
Kenai	347	.71	347
Ketchikan	371	.71	371
Kodiak	251	.45	251
Nome	214	.89	214
Sitka	179	.42	179
TOTAL	10669	18.35	581

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1211	2.91	418
Second	214	.89	214
Third	7121	11.35	627
Fourth	2123	3.20	663

**SUPERIOR COURTS
BACKLOG MONTHS
AS OF DEC. 31, 1976**

(See Note 5)

COURT	(1) CASES PENDING	(2) AVERAGE DISPOSITIONS PER MONTH IN 1976	BACKLOG MONTHS (1) ÷ (2)
Anchorage	6666	528.8	12.6
Barrow	8	1.08	7.4
Bethel	62	14.8	4.2
Fairbanks	1888	175.8	10.7
Juneau	349	55.1	6.3
Kenai	306	28.9	10.6
Ketchikan	315	30.9	10.2
Kodiak	230	20.9	11.0
Nome	173	17.8	9.7
Sitka	112	14.9	7.5
TOTAL	10109	889.1	11.4

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	776	100.9	7.7
Second	173	17.8	9.7
Third	7264	593.4	12.2
Fourth	1896	176.9	10.7

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	900	710	476	366	- 59	-23
Barrow	0	0	0	3	0	0
Bethel	0	49	19	22	0	+16
Fairbanks	183	208	203	227	+ 24	+12
Juneau	56	59	43	23	- 59	-47
Kenai	31	6	31	26	- 16	-16
Ketchikan	65	75	21	29	- 55	+38
Kodiak	23	51	32	51	+122	+59
Nome	29	47	33	23	- 21	-30
Sitka	6	15	17	12	+100	-29
TOTAL	1293	1220	875	782	- 40	-11

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	127	149	81	64	- 50	-21
Second	29	47	33	23	- 21	-30
Third	954	816	558	465	- 51	-17
Fourth	183	208	203	230	+ 26	+13

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

(See Note 6)

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	
Anchorage	81	113	51	110	11	366
Barrow	1	2	0	0	0	3
Bethel	13	9	0	0	0	22
Fairbanks	51	98	16	51	11	227
Juneau	9	7	3	4	0	23
Kenai	5	12	0	7	2	26
Ketchikan	12	8	4	3	2	29
Kodiak	21	22	2	3	3	51
Nome	10	9	3	0	1	23
Sitka	4	7	0	0	1	12
TOTAL	207	287	79	178	31	782
% OF TOTAL	26	37	10	23	4	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	25	22	7	7	3	64
Second	10	9	3	0	1	23
Third	120	156	53	120	16	465
Fourth	52	100	16	51	11	230

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
RATIO OF DEFENDANTS TO FILINGS
1976

(See Note 7)

COURT	CASES FILED	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS	RATIO OF DEFENDANTS	OTHER INFORMATION	
				NUMBER OF OFFENSES CHARGED	NUMBER OF COUNTS CHARGED
Anchorage	366	397	1.08	427	487
Barrow	3	3	1	3	3
Bethel	22	22	1	27	33
Fairbanks	227	244	1.07	286	348
Juneau	23	24	1.04	26	29
Kenai	26	26	1	30	33
Ketchikan	29	30	1.03	33	35
Kodiak	51	58	1.14	62	67
Nome	23	24	1.04	25	33
Sitka	12	12	1	15	15
TOTAL	782	840	1.07	934	1083

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	64	66	1.03	74	79
Second	23	24	1.04	25	33
Third	465	503	1.08	546	620
Fourth	230	247	1.07	289	351

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	734	616	413	492	-33	+19
Barrow	0	0	0	3	0	0
Bethel	0	21	30	35	0	+17
Fairbanks	176	169	159	192	+ 9	+21
Juneau	56	49	34	33	-41	- 3
Kenai	23	1	29	21	- 9	-28
Ketchikan	75	57	36	35	-53	- 3
Kodiak	31	33	35	50	+61	+43
Nome	30	38	27	26	-13	- 4
Sitka	10	9	18	11	+10	-39
TOTAL	1135	993	781	898	-21	+15

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	141	115	88	79	-44	-10
Second	30	38	27	26	-13	- 4
Third	781	671	507	598	-23	+18
Fourth	176	169	159	195	-11	+23

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
BAIL RESULTS
1976

(See Note 8)

COURT	BAIL RESULTS REPORTED	TYPE OF BAIL				AVERAGE AMOUNT OF INITIAL BAIL
		CASH	SECURED SURETY	NON-SECURED SURETY	ON OWN RECOGNIZANCE	
Anchorage	75	27	33	0	15	\$ 3,899
Barrow	1	0	0	0	1	0
Bethel	7	5	0	0	2	3,575
Fairbanks	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juneau	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kenai	2	1	1	0	0	2,550
Ketchikan	4	1	0	0	3	200,000
Kodiak	5	1	0	0	4	1,000
Nome	1	0	0	0	1	0
Sitka	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	95	35	34	0	26	\$ 5,729
% OF TOTAL	100	37	36	-	27	0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4	1	0	0	3	\$200,000
Second	1	0	0	0	1	0
Third	89	34	34	0	21	3,517
Fourth	1	0	0	0	1	0

**SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
STAGE OF DISPOSITION
1976**

COURT	BEFORE FIRST APPEAR- ANCE	AT ARRAIGN- MENT	BETWEEN ARRAIGN- MENT AND TRIAL	TRIAL			CHANGE OF VENUE	OTHER *	TOTAL
				COURT	JURY	TOTAL			
Anchorage	22	11	392	7	47	54	2	11	492
Barrow	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bethel	0	0	32	0	3	3	0	0	35
Fairbanks	3	9	126	5	43	48	2	4	192
Juneau	1	5	23	1	1	2	0	2	33
Kenai	1	7	10	0	3	3	0	0	21
Ketchikan	2	8	17	2	5	7	0	1	35
Kodiak	4	2	29	0	14	14	0	1	50
Nome	1	1	18	3	2	5	0	1	26
Sitka	1	2	8	0	0	0	0	0	11
TOTAL	35	46	657	18	118	136	4	20	898
% OF TOTAL	4	5	73	2	13	15	.4	2	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4	15	48	3	6	9	0	3	79
Second	1	1	18	3	2	5	0	1	26
Third	27	20	463	7	67	74	2	12	598
Fourth	3	10	128	5	43	48	2	4	195

* e.g., deferred prosecution.

**SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS BETWEEN ARRAIGNMENT AND TRIAL (PRETRIAL)
1976**

COURT	CASES DISPOSED OF BETWEEN ARRAIGNMENT AND TRIAL	PERCENT OF TOTAL FELONY CASES	PRE-TRIAL RESULTS		
			DISMISSED	CHANGE OF PLEA TO GUILTY	
				ORIGINAL CHARGE	LESSER INCLUDED CHARGE
Anchorage	392	79	165	201	26
Barrow	2	67	0	0	2
Bethel	32	91	6	13	13
Fairbanks	126	67	34	72	20
Juneau	23	70	4	19	0
Kenai	10	48	1	9	0
Ketchikan	17	49	7	10	0
Kodiak	29	58	14	13	2
Nome	18	69	3	10	5
Sitka	8	73	0	3	5
TOTAL	657	73	234	350	73
% OF TOTAL			36	53	11

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	48	61	11	32	5
Second	18	69	3	10	5
Third	463	77	186	236	41
Fourth	128	66	34	72	22

**SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
RESULTS OF COURT TRIALS
1976**

COURT	COURT TRIALS	% OF TOTAL FELONY TRIALS	TRIAL RESULTS				
			ACQUITTAL	MISTRIAL WITH SUBSEQUENT DISMISSAL	CHANGE OF PLEA TO GUILTY	GUILTY	
						ORIGINAL CHARGE	LESSER INCLUDED CHARGE
Anchorage	7	13	1	0	0	5	1
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	5	10	0	0	0	5	0
Juneau	1	50	1	0	0	0	0
Kenai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ketchikan	2	29	0	0	0	2	0
Kodiak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nome	3	60	0	0	0	3	0
Sitka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	18	13	2	0	0	15	1
% OF TOTAL			11	0	0	83	6

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	3	33	1	0	0	2	0
Second	3	60	0	0	0	3	0
Third	7	9	1	0	0	5	1
Fourth	5	10	0	0	0	5	0

**SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
RESULTS OF JURY TRIALS
1976**

COURT	JURY TRIALS	% OF TOTAL FELONY TRIALS	TRIAL RESULTS				
			ACQUITTAL	MISTRIAL WITH SUB-SEQUENT DISMISSAL	CHANGE OF PLEA TO GUILTY	GUILTY	
						ORIGINAL CHARGE	LESSER INCLUDED CHARGE
Anchorage	47	87	9	2	0	34	2
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	3	100	0	0	0	3	0
Fairbanks	43	90	12	1	2	24	4
Juneau	1	50	0	0	0	1	0
Kenai	3	100	0	0	0	2	1
Ketchikan	5	71	0	0	0	5	0
Kodiak	14	100	8	0	0	6	0
Nome	2	40	0	0	0	1	1
Sitka	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	118	87	29	3	2	76	8
% OF TOTAL			25	2	2	64	7

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	6	67	0	0	0	6	0
Second	2	40	0	0	0	1	1
Third	67	91	17	2	0	45	3
Fourth	43	90	12	1	2	24	4

**SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
CONVICTION RATES
1976**

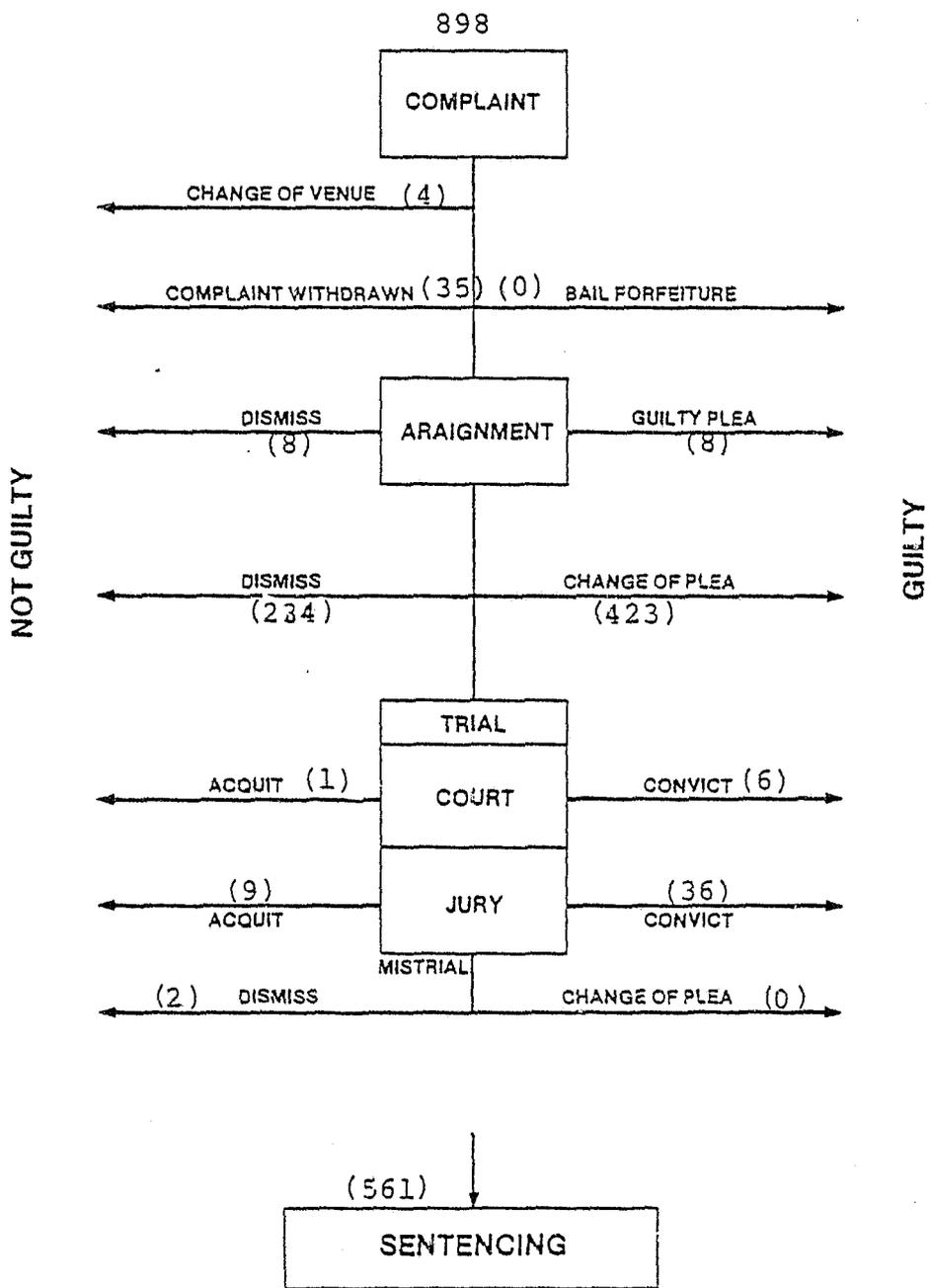
(See Note 9)

COURT	DISPOSI- TIONS	LESS		NET DISPOSI- TIONS	GUILTY AT				CONVIC- TION RATE
		CHANGE OF VENUE	NO APPEAR- ANCE		ARRAIGN- MENT	PRE- TRIAL	TRIAL	TOTAL	
Anchorage	492	2	22	468	6	227	42	275	59
Barrow	3	0	0	3	1	2	0	3	100
Bethel	35	0	0	35	0	26	3	29	83
Fairbanks	192	2	3	187	8	92	33	133	71
Juneau	33	0	1	32	3	19	1	23	72
Kenai	21	0	1	20	6	9	3	18	90
Ketchikan	35	0	2	33	8	10	7	25	76
Kodiak	50	0	4	46	3	15	6	24	52
Nome	26	0	1	25	1	15	5	21	84
Sitka	11	0	1	10	2	8	0	10	100
TOTAL	898	4	35	859	38	423	100	561	65
% OF TOTAL				100	4	49	12	65	

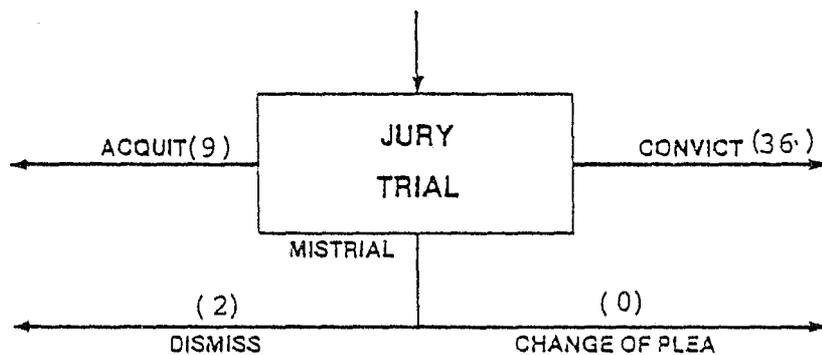
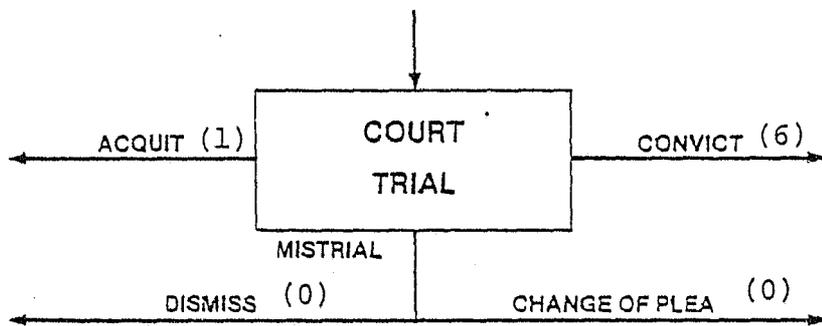
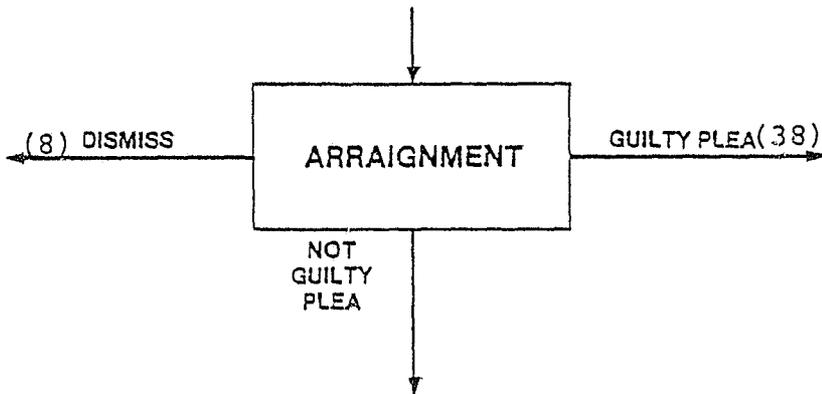
BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	79	0	4	75	13	37	8	58	77
Second	26	0	1	25	1	15	5	21	84
Third	598	2	27	569	15	277	54	346	61
Fourth	195	2	3	190	9	94	33	136	72

SUPERIOR COURTS DISPOSITION OF FELONIES 1976



SUPERIOR COURTS
DISPOSITION OF FELONIES BY STAGES
1976



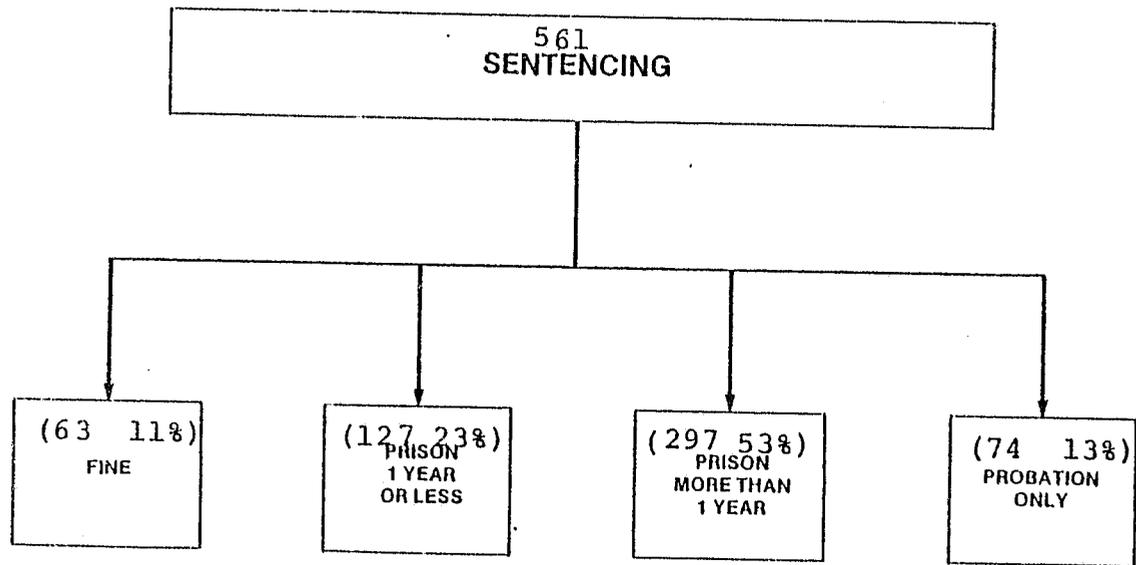
SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
SENTENCING PATTERNS
1976

COURT	CONVIC- TIONS	SENTENCE IMPOSED LESS SUSPENDED						FINE ONLY
		0	LESS THAN ONE YEARS	ONE TO THREE YEARS	FOUR TO SIX YEARS	SEVEN TO TEN YEARS	OVER TEN YEARS	
Anchorage	275	30	61	69	45	14	16	40
Barrow	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	29	3	13	10	1	0	1	1
Fairbanks	133	14	20	49	25	7	10	8
Juneau	23	5	10	4	1	0	1	2
Kenai	18	1	6	8	1	0	0	2
Ketchikan	25	4	5	9	1	1	2	3
Kodiak	24	4	5	5	5	0	2	3
Nome	21	9	4	6	0	1	1	0
Sitka	10	2	2	2	0	0	0	4
TOTAL	561	74	127	162	79	23	33	63
% OF TOTAL	100	13	23	29	14	4	6	11

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	58	11	17	15	2	1	3	9
Second	21	9	4	6	0	1	1	0
Third	346	38	85	92	52	14	19	46
Fourth	136	16	21	49	25	7	10	8

FELONY SENTENCING 1976





SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
USE OF OMNIBUS HEARINGS
1976

(See Note 10)

COURT	CASES PROCEEDING BEYOND ARRAIGNMENT	NUMBER OF OMNIBUS HEARINGS	PERCENT OF CASES HAVING OMNIBUS HEARINGS
Anchorage	457	340	74
Barrow	2	0	0
Bethel	35	8	23
Fairbanks	178	75	42
Juneau	27	5	19
Kenai	13	2	15
Ketchikan	25	8	32
Kodiak	44	23	52
Nome	24	10	42
Sitka	8	1	13
TOTAL	813	472	58

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	160	14	9
Second	24	10	42
Third	549	373	68
Fourth	180	75	42

SUPERIOR COURTS
 FELONY CASES
 AGE OF CASES AT DISPOSITION ^{1/}
 1976

COURT	1976 DISPOSITIONS	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	492	221	106	45
Barrow	3	43	30	0
Bethel	35	119	64	37
Fairbanks	192	117	103	36
Juneau	33	76	59	17
Kenai	21	76	53	16
Ketchikan	35	117	71	23
Kodiak	50	105	81	28
Nome	26	134	102	40
Sitka	11	54	53	0
TOTAL	898	155	102	46

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	79	91	63	17
Second	26	134	102	40
Third	598	183	100	42
Fourth	195	116	102	20

^{1/} Measured from first appearance to dismissal, acquittal or sentencing.

SUPERIOR COURT FELONY
CASES PENDING AS OF DEC. 31
1973 - 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	186	280	343	217	+ 17	-37
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	0	28	17	4	0	-76
Fairbanks	7	46	83	118	+1586	+42
Juneau	0	10	19	9	0	-53
Kenai	8	13	15	20	+ 150	+33
Ketchikan	13	31	16	10	- 23	-37
Kodiak	1	19	16	17	+1600	+ 6
Nome	2	11	17	14	+ 600	-18
Sitka	0	6	5	6	0	+20
TOTAL	217	444	531	415	+ 91	-22

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	13	47	40	25	+ 92	-37
Second	2	11	17	14	+ 600	-18
Third	195	340	391	258	+ 32	-34
Fourth	7	46	83	118	+1586	+42

SUPERIOR COURTS
FELONY CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES
AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	217	406	217	72
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	4	60	61	0
Fairbanks	118	183	100	39
Juneau	9	340	396	80
Kenai	20	300	386	60
Ketchikan	10	306	273	70
Kodiak	17	108	86	29
Nome	14	403	438	79
Sitka	6	52	59	0
TOTAL	415	313	195	59

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	25	257	266	57
Second	14	403	438	79
Third	253	373	219	57
Fourth	119	183	100	39

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	0	0	117	150	0	+28
Barrow	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bethel	0	0	11	6	0	-45
Fairbanks	11	21	20	18	+ 64	-10
Juneau	5	0	17	4	- 20	-76
Kenai	0	0	8	6	0	-25
Ketchikan	0	0	9	4	0	-56
Kodiak	0	0	7	7	0	0
Nome	0	0	9	11	0	+22
Sitka	0	0	2	2	0	0
TOTAL	16	21	200	209	+1206	+ 5

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	5	0	28	10	100	-64
Second	0	0	9	11	0	+22
Third	0	0	143	169	0	+18
Fourth	11	21	20	19	+ 73	- 5

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL FILINGS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

(See Note 6)

COURT	MISDE- MEANOR	PROBATION REVOCA- TION	APPEALS		OTHER	TOTAL
			FROM DISTRICT COURT	TO SUPREME COURT ^{1/}		
Anchorage	8	51	47	21	23	150
Barrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Bethel	1	2	3	0	0	6
Fairbanks	9	0	0	7	2	18
Juneau	1	0	0	1	2	4
Kenai	5	0	0	1	0	6
Ketchikan	2	0	0	2	0	4
Kodiak	3	1	0	1	1	7
Nome	2	3	0	1	0	11
Sitka	1	0	0	1	0	2
TOTAL	33	57	50	35	34	209
% OF TOTAL	16	27	24	17	16	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4	0	0	3	2	10
Second	2	3	0	1	5	11
Third	17	54	50	23	25	169
Fourth	10	0	0	7	0	19

^{1/} In Anchorage, appeals record preparation is the responsibility of the Supreme Court

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	0	0	101	118	0	+ 18
Barrow	0	0	0	1	0	0
Bethel	0	0	9	8	0	- 11
Fairbanks	16	14	21	19	+ 19	- 10
Juneau	3	0	14	7	+ 17	- 50
Kenai	0	0	8	6	0	- 25
Ketchikan	0	0	9	4	0	- 56
Kodiak	0	0	3	9	0	+200
Nome	0	0	8	5	0	- 37
Sitka	0	0	1	2	0	100
TOTAL	22	14	174	179	+714	+ 3

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	6	0	24	13	+117	- 46
Second	0	0	8	5	0	- 38
Third	0	0	121	141	0	+ 17
Fourth	16	14	21	20	+ 25	- 5

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
AGE OF CASES AT DISPOSITION
1976

COURT	1976 DISPOSITION	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS .)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	118	189	72	40
Barrow	1	0	0	0
Bethel	8	61	76	0
Fairbanks	19	218	143	67
Juneau	7	117	15	33
Kenai	6	28	15	0
Ketchikan	4	27	12	0
Kodiak	9	85	60	25
Nome	5	86	30	25
Sitka	2	40	40	0
TOTAL	179	163	72	37

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	13	77	18	18
Second	5	86	30	25
Third	141	168	69	35
Fourth	20	207	136	64

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
CASES PENDING AS OF DEC. 31
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	0	0	16	48	0	+200
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	0	7	8	7	0	- 12
Juneau	0	0	3	0	0	0
Kenai	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ketchikan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kodiak	0	0	4	2	0	- 50
Nome	0	0	1	7	0	+600
Sitka	0	0	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	0	7	33	65	0	+ 97

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	0	0	4	1	0	- 75
Second	0	0	1	7	0	+600
Third	0	0	20	50	0	+150
Fourth	0	7	8	7	0	- 12

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	148	410	398	92
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	9	319	193	56
Juneau	0	0	0	0
Kenai	0	0	0	0
Ketchikan	0	0	0	0
Kodiak	2	167	120	50
Nome	7	192	76	43
Sitka	1	137	137	100
TOTAL	65	365	329	81

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1	137	137	100
Second	7	192	76	43
Third	50	400	387	90
Fourth	7	319	193	56

SUPERIOR COURTS
 PROBATE CASES
 FILINGS
 1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	673	686	896	979	+45	+ 9
Barrow	0	0	0	5	0	0
Bethel	0	0	47	46	0	- 2
Fairbanks	237	227	214	258	+ 9	+21
Juneau	99	92	100	108	+ 9	+ 8
Kenai	21	16	37	32	+52	-14
Ketchikan	81	69	84	77	- 5	- 8
Kodiak	36	56	40	34	- 6	-15
Nome	58	68	56	53	- 9	- 5
Sitka	28	28	31	32	+14	+13
TOTAL	1233	1242	1505	1624	+32	+ 8

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	208	189	215	217	+ 4	+ 1
Second	58	68	56	53	- 9	- 5
Third	730	758	1020	1091	+49	+ 7
Fourth	237	227	214	263	+11	+23

SUPERIOR COURTS
 PROBATE CASES
 COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
 1976

COURT	CASE TYPE							TOTAL
	ADOP- TION	ESTATES	SANITY	GUARD- IANSHIP	PROBATE WAIVER	PROTEC- TIVE	OTHER	
Anchorage	328	290	158	7	90	100	6	979
Barrow	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Bethel	35	10	0	1	0	0	0	46
Fairbanks	125	100	16	0	0	16	1	258
Juneau	29	60	8	4	0	2	5	108
Kenai	14	15	1	2	0	0	0	32
Ketchikan	30	31	7	1	0	4	4	77
Kodiak	15	14	5	0	0	0	0	34
Nome	27	15	8	1	0	2	0	53
Sitka	16	10	0	2	0	1	3	32
TOTAL	622	547	203	18	90	125	19	1624
% OF TOTAL	38	34	13	1	6	8	1	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	75	101	15	7	0	7	12	217
Second	27	15	8	1	0	2	0	53
Third	392	329	164	10	90	100	6	1091
Fourth	123	102	16	0	0	16	1	263

SUPERIOR COURTS
 PROBATE CASES
 DISPOSITIONS
 1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	691	423	461	805	+17	+75
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	0	0	34	36	0	+ 6
Fairbanks	177	182	140	199	+12	+42
Juneau	89	88	97	57	-36	-41
Kenai	17	13	20	27	+59	+35
Ketchikan	58	64	63	52	-10	-17
Kodiak	19	42	42	18	- 5	-57
Nome	38	77	30	48	+26	+60
Sitka	13	22	33	17	+31	-48
TOTAL	1102	911	920	1259	+14	+37

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	160	174	193	126	-21	-35
Second	38	77	30	48	+26	+60
Third	727	478	557	886	+22	+59
Fourth	177	182	140	199	+12	+42

SUPERIOR COURTS
 PROBATE CASES
 AGE OF CASES AT DISPOSITION
 1976

COURT	1976 DISPOSITION	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS .)		% OVER ONE YEAR
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	805	334	59	22
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	36	123	66	9
Fairbanks	199	657	113	30
Juneau	57	82	38	4
Kenai	27	213	165	32
Ketchikan	52	207	80	14
Kodiak	18	95	65	0
Nome	48	242	67	21
Sitka	17	226	113	12
TOTAL	1259	361	71	21

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	126	153	65	9
Second	48	242	67	21
Third	886	317	63	21
Fourth	199	657	113	30

SUPERIOR COURTS
 PROBATE CASES
 CASES PENDING AS OF DEC. 31

(See Note 11)

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	666	929	1364	1538	+131	+ 13
Barrow	0	0	0	5	0	0
Bethel	0	0	13	23	0	+ 77
Fairbanks	60	105	179	238	+297	+ 33
Juneau	10	14	17	68	+580	+300
Kenai	4	7	24	29	+625	+ 21
Ketchikan	23	28	49	74	+222	+ 51
Kodiak	17	31	29	45	+165	+ 55
Nome	25	16	42	47	+ 88	+ 12
Sitka	15	21	19	34	+127	+ 79
TOTAL	820	1151	1736	2101	+156	+ 21

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	48	63	85	176	+267	+107
Second	25	16	42	47	+ 88	+ 12
Third	687	967	1430	1635	+138	+ 14
Fourth	60	105	179	243	+305	+ 36

SUPERIOR COURTS
 PROBATE CASES
 AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

(See Note 11)

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	1538	1024	675	71
Barrow	5	279	273	0
Bethel	23	267	256	26
Fairbanks	238	296	269	36
Juneau	68	237	173	10
Kenai	29	301	290	34
Ketchikan	74	367	304	36
Kodiak	45	384	352	46
Nome	47	351	334	47
Sitka	34	375	332	44
TOTAL	2101	834	568	61

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	176	318	259	28
Second	47	351	334	47
Third	1635	983	653	69
Fourth	243	296	269	35

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

(See Note 12)

COURT	* 1973	* 1974	* 1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage				3201		
Barrow	Not Available			1	Not Available	
Bethel				51		
Fairbanks				1231		
Juneau				309		
Kenai				187		
Ketchikan				249		
Kodiak				154		
Nome				63		
Sitka				90		
TOTAL				5536		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	Not Available			648	Not Available	
Second				63		
Third				3593		
Fourth				1232		

* Part of Other Civil



CONTINUED

2 OF 4

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

COURT	CASE TYPE			TOTAL
	DIVORCE	RECIPROCAL SUPPORT	OTHER	
Anchorage	2472	615	114	3201
Barrow	1	0	0	1
Bethel	41	1	9	51
Fairbanks	887	263	81	1231
Juneau	221	50	38	309
Kenai	138	38	11	187
Ketchikan	176	57	16	249
Kodiak	125	20	9	154
Nome	51	10	2	63
Sitka	78	4	8	90
TOTAL	4190	1058	288	5536
% OF TOTAL	76	19	5	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	475	111	62	648
Second	51	10	2	63
Third	2776	674	143	3593
Fourth	333	263	81	1232

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

(See Note 12)

COURT	*1973	*1974	*1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage				2856		
Barrow				1		
Bethel	Not Available			51	Not Available	
Fairbanks				1077		
Juneau				308		
Kenai				133		
Ketchikan				216		
Kodiak				113		
Nome				61		
Sitka				80		
TOTAL				4896		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First				604		
Second	Not Available			61	Not Available	
Third				3153		
Fourth				1078		

* Part of other Civil

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
STAGE OF DISPOSITION
1976

COURT	BEFORE THE ANSWER	BETWEEN ANSWER AND HEARING/TRIAL	HEARING (UNCONTESTED DIVORCE)	TRIAL	TOTAL
Anchorage	922	201	1659	74	2856
Barrow	1	0	0	0	1
Bethel	35	13	3	0	51
Fairbanks	337	49	674	17	1077
Juneau	200	24	77	7	308
Kenai	39	10	78	6	133
Ketchikan	97	14	97	8	216
Kodiak	5	12	92	4	113
Nome	32	10	17	2	61
Sitka	54	25	0	1	80
TOTAL	1722	358	2697	119	4896
% OF TOTAL	35	7	55	2	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	351	63	174	16	604
Second	32	10	17	2	61
Third	1001	236	1832	84	3153
Fourth	338	49	674	17	1078

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATION CASES
AGE OF CASES AT DISPOSITION
1976

COURT	1976 DISPOSITION	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS)		% OVER ONE YEAR
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	2856	247	84	15
Barrow	1	585	585	100
Bethel	51	167	85	15
Fairbanks	1077	162	80	15
Juneau	308	89	56	3
Kenai	133	126	87	8
Ketchikan	216	106	56	5
Kodiak	113	110	55	6
Nome	61	127	88	7
Sitka	80	169	80	19
TOTAL	4896	202	80	13

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	604	106	59	6
Second	61	127	88	7
Third	3153	236	83	14
Fourth	1078	162	81	15

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
CASES PENDING AS OF DEC. 31

(See Note 12)

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage				2041		
Barrow				2		
Bethel	Not Available			22	Not Available	
Fairbanks				573		
Juneau				109		
Kenai				120		
Ketchikan				119		
Kodiak				107		
Nome				38		
Sitka				44		
TOTAL				3175		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First				272		
Second	Not Available			38	Not Available	
Third				2290		
Fourth				575		

SUPERIOR COURTS
DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	2041	284	227	32
Barrow	2	543	365	50
Bethel	22	205	180	18
Fairbanks	573	185	149	13
Juneau	109	166	124	10
Kenai	120	226	203	20
Ketchikan	119	212	161	22
Kodiak	107	298	267	35
Nome	38	341	315	42
Sitka	44	196	180	14
TOTAL	3175	257	207	27

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	272	191	149	16
Second	38	341	315	42
Third	2290	281	227	31
Fourth	575	186	150	13

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

(See Note 12)

COURT	* 1973	* 1974	* 1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	3476	3861	4644	2256		
Barrow	0	0	0	0		
Bethel	0	75	42	36		
Fairbanks	1015	1228	1614	825	Not Applicable	
Juneau	400	458	427	169		
Kenai	126	112	290	109		
Ketchikan	306	337	370	80		
Kodiak	127	173	171	37		
Nome	98	81	93	48		
Sitka	119	129	127	29		
TOTAL	5667	6454	7778	3589		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	825	924	924	278		
Second	98	81	93	48		
Third	3729	4221	5147	2438	Not Applicable	
Fourth	1015	1228	1614	825		

* Includes Domestic Relations
1976 figures not comparable

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

COURT	CASE TYPE					TOTAL
	CIVIL DAMAGE	ADMINI-STRATIVE REVIEW	DEBTS, CONTRACTS, AND NOTES	HOUSING, REAL ESTATE	OTHER	
Anchorage	509	60	785	302	600	2256
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	2	0	3	1	30	36
Fairbanks	236	16	291	81	201	825
Juneau	24	11	36	21	77	169
Kenai	36	1	28	23	21	109
Ketchikan	18	5	17	8	32	80
Kodiak	10	2	10	2	13	37
Nome	32	0	3	8	5	48
Sitka	3	1	17	4	4	29
TOTAL	870	96	1190	450	983	3589
% OF TOTAL	24	3	33	13	27	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	45	17	70	33	113	278
Second	32	0	3	8	5	48
Third	557	63	826	328	664	2438
Fourth	236	16	291	81	201	825

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

(See Note 12)

COURT	* 1973	* 1974	* 1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	2704	2722	3167	1585		
Barrow	0	0	0	0		
Bethel	0	75	21	27		
Fairbanks	954	1061	1156	512	Not Applicable	
Juneau	386	460	317	145		
Kenai	108	107	161	57		
Ketchikan	314	308	271	40		
Kodiak	126	143	138	28		
Nome	85	106	58	24		
Sitka	111	134	118	31		
TOTAL	4788	5116	5407	2449		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	811	902	706	216		
Second	85	106	58	24		
Third	2938	3407	3487	1697		
Fourth	954	1061	1156	512		

* Includes Domestic Relations . . .
1976 figures not comparable

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
STAGE OF DISPOSITION
1976

COURT	BEFORE THE ANSWER	BETWEEN ANSWER AND TRIAL.	TRIAL			OTHER	TOTAL
			COURT	JURY	TOTAL		
Anchorage	818	551	95	20	115	101	1585
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	11	10	0	0	0	6	27
Fairbanks	300	141	18	21	39	32	512
Juneau	97	35	2	2	4	9	145
Kenai	31	9	6	0	6	11	57
Ketchikan	19	6	3	0	3	2	40
Kodiak	9	15	0	2	2	2	28
Nome	10	6	0	3	3	5	24
Sitka	18	11	0	0	0	2	31
TOTAL	1323	784	124	48	172	170	2449
% OF TOTAL	54	32	5	2	7	7	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	144	52	5	2	7	13	216
Second	10	6	0	3	3	5	24
Third	869	585	101	22	123	120	1697
Fourth	300	141	18	21	39	32	512

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITION RESULTS
1976

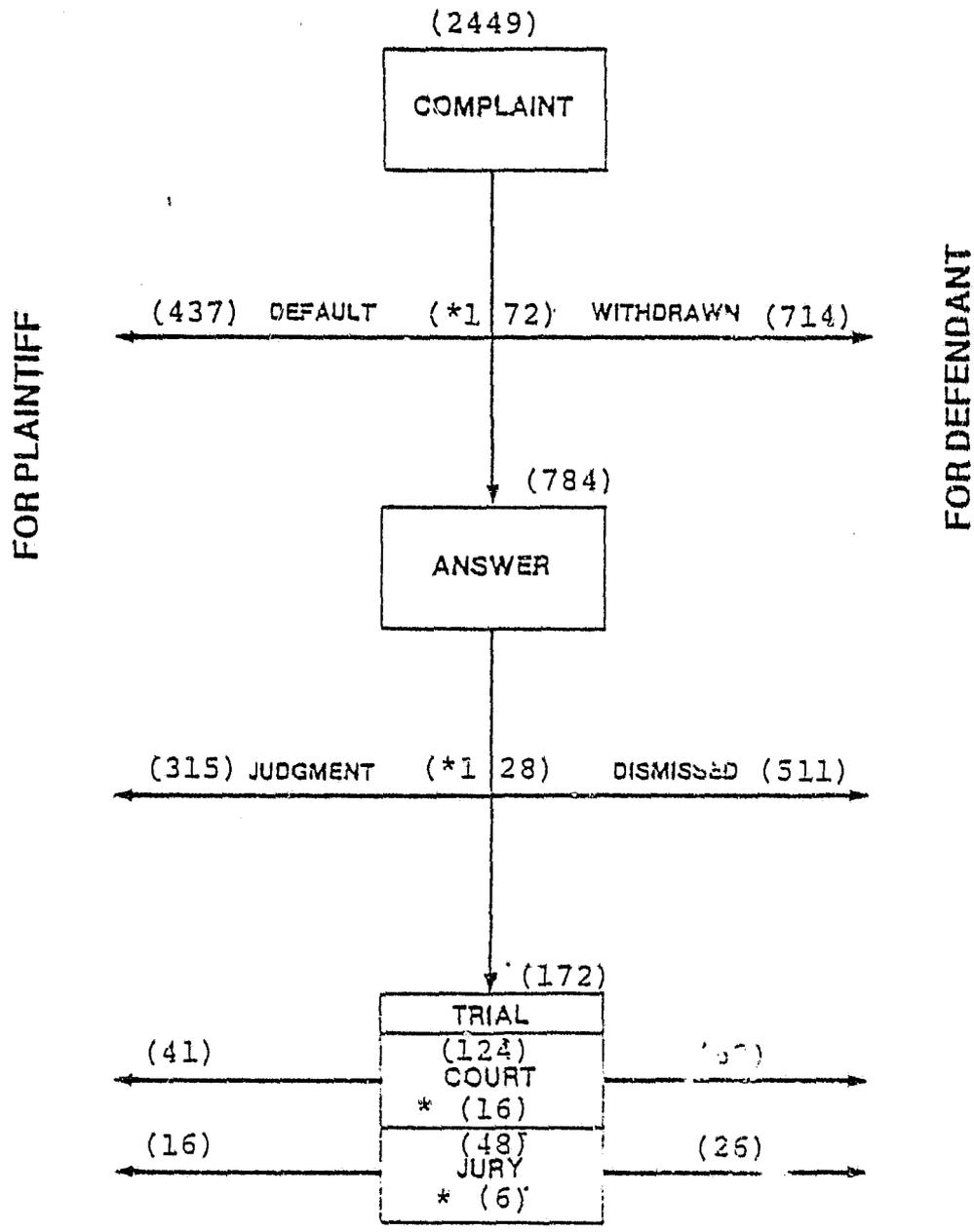
COURT	DISPOSITIONS	RESULT FOR		AVERAGE JUDGMENT
		PLAINTIFF *322	DEFENDANT * 322	
Anchorage	1585	428	975	3567
Barrow	0	0	(1)	0
Bethel	27	0	22	1861
Fairbanks	512	273	157	3367
Juneau	145	52	71	0
Kenai	57	18	27	3948
Ketchikan	40	13	22	284
Kodiak	28	5	20	1095
Nome	24	8	10	590
Sitka	31	7	19	2225
TOTAL	2449	804	1323	710
% OF TOTAL	100	46	67	3176

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	216	72	112	380
Second	24	8	10	590
Third	1697	451	1044	3511
Fourth	512	273	157	3367

* 13½ for both Plaintiff and Defendant

**SUPERIOR COURTS
DISPOSITION OF CIVIL CASES
(EXCLUDING DOMESTIC RELATIONS AND PROBATE)
1976**



FOR PLAINTIFF

FOR DEFENDANT

* 322 for both Defendant and Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
AGE OF CASES AT DISPOSITIONS
1976

COURT	1976 DISPOSITION	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS)		% OVER FIFTEEN MONTHS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	1585	550	289	43
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	27	72	25	12
Fairbanks	512	400	304	45
Junesau	145	150	94	9
Kenai	57	196	142	17
Ketchikan	40	287	158	27
Kodiak	28	543	411	54
Nome	24	546	418	55
Sitka	31	363	328	46
TOTAL	2449	474	275	41

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	216	206	139	18
Second	24	546	418	55
Third	1697	530	282	42
Fourth	512	400	304	45

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
CASES PENDING AS OF DEC. 31

(See Note 12)

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage				2722		
Barrow				1		
Bethel				13		
Fairbanks	Not Available			950	Not Available	
Juneau				163		
Kenai				137		
Ketchikan				112		
Kodiak				59		
Nome				67		
Sitka				27		
TOTAL				4251		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First				302		
Second	Not Available			67	Not Available	
Third				2931		
Fourth				951		

SUPERIOR COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	2722	336	287	39
Barrow	1	430	430	100
Bethel	13	213	216	0
Fairbanks	950	319	278	36
Juneau	163	279	250	33
Kenai	137	339	306	41
Ketchikan	112	328	317	44
Kodiak	59	345	309	41
Nome	67	360	308	40
Sitka	27	320	273	30
TOTAL	4251	358	285	38

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	302	301	277	37.
Second	67	360	308	40
Third	2931	376	288	39
Fourth	951	320	278	36

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	792	746	513	557	- 30	+ 9
Barrow	0	0	0	8	0	0
Bethel	0	0	0	32	0	0
Fairbanks	185	253	420	418	+126	0
Juneau	203	260	90	161	- 21	+79
Kenai	41	54	88	80	+ 95	- 9
Ketchikan	116	200	165	112	- 3	-32
Kodiak	-	-	-	39	0	0
Nome	88	84	75	51	- 42	-32
Sitka	35	34	35	52	+ 49	+49
TOTAL	1460	1631	1386	1510	+ 3	+ 9

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	354	494	290	325	- 8	+12
Second	88	84	75	51	- 42	-32
Third	833	800	601	708	- 15	+18
Fourth	185	253	420	426	+130	+ 1

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

(See Note 13)

% OF FORMAL PETITIONS BY CATEGORY							
COURT	DELINQUENCY				DEPEN- DENCY	CHILD IN NEED OF SUPER- VISION	TOTAL
	VIOLENCE	DRUGS/ ALCOHOL	OTHER	TOTAL			
Anchorage	6	13	69	88	7	5	100
Barrow	UNKNOWN						
Bethel	UNKNOWN						
Fairbanks	3	19	52	74	0	26	100
Juneau	1	9	59	69	6	25	100
Kenai	UNKNOWN						
Ketchikan	6	6	67	79	5	16	100
Kodiak	UNKNOWN						
Nome	1	51	4	56	15	29	100
Sitka	4	6	36	46	1	53	100
TOTAL	5	15	61	81	5	14	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4	7	58	69	5	26	100
Second	1	51	4	56	15	29	100
Third	6	13	69	88	7	5	100
Fourth	3	19	52	74	0	26	100

SUPERIOR COURTS
CHILDREN'S MATTERS
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	904	435	340	490	- 46	+ 31
Barrow	0	0	0	8	0	0
Bethel	0	0	0	20	0	0
Fairbanks	154	165	330	256	+ 66	- 22
Juneau	147	322	110	111	- 24	0
Kenai	25	41	45	103	+312	+129
Ketchikan	98	178	168	24	- 76	- 36
Kodiak	0	0	0	33	0	0
Nome	86	73	105	50	- 42	- 52
Sitka	44	28	23	38	- 14	+ 65
TOTAL	1458	1242	1121	1133	- 22	+ 1

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	289	528	301	173	- 40	- 43
Second	86	73	105	50	- 42	- 52
Third	929	476	385	646	- 30	+ 68
Fourth	154	165	330	264	+ 71	- 20



D. DISTRICT COURT
(Higher Volume)



DISTRICT COURTS
FILINGS
1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	42079	40743	45590	45219	+ 7	- 1
Barrow	368	471	313	246	- 33	- 21
Bethel	959	646	663	616	- 36	- 7
Delta Junction	254	514	1005	678	+167	- 33
Fairbanks	13769	14785	13682	17040	+ 24	+ 25
Gienallen	304	678	1157	1212	+299	+ 5
Haines	215	597	332	269	+ 25	- 19
Homer	355	883	906	1406	+296	+ 55
Juneau	2573	2793	4159	4328	+ 68	+ 4
Kanai	1522	1987	2421	4381	+188	+ 81
Ketchikan	4296	3373	2788	2775	- 35	0
Kodiak	1396	1538	1615	1612	+ 15	0
Nome	409	561	634	590	+ 44	- 7
Palmer	1169	2042	1103	2764	+136	+151
Seward	874	1064	1342	1921	+120	+ 43
Sitka	942	1109	1136	1138	+ 21	0
Tok	235	533	746	386	+ 64	- 48
Valdez	202	554	1216	1884	+333	+ 55
Wrangell	763	1084	805	524	- 31	- 35
TOTAL	72684	75955	81613	88989	+ 22	+ 9

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	8789	8956	9220	9034	+ 3	- 2
Second	409	561	634	590	+ 44	- 7
Third	48860	50135	56013	61015	+ 25	+ 9
Fourth	14626	16303	15746	18350	- 25	+ 17

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

COURT	CRIMINAL				CIVIL		TOTAL
	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	OTHER CRIMINAL	TRAFFIC	SMALL CLAIMS	OTHER CIVIL	
Anchorage	477	7871	594	31784	2288	2205	45219
Barrow	38	149	0	59	0	0	246
Bethel	56	458	7	28	37	30	616
Delta Junction	17	152	6	500	3	0	678
Fairbanks	324	3145	394	11990	532	655	17040
Glenallen	71	241	1	936	60	3	1212
Haines	5	158	16	50	40	0	269
Homer	14	208	6	1060	94	24	1406
Juneau	56	965	51	2415	574	327	4328
Kenai	45	867	4	3155	239	71	4381
Ketchikan	68	817	81	1525	217	67	2775
Kodiak	67	939	15	274	250	67	1612
Nome	37	303	3	51	184	12	590
Palmer	50	610	90	1825	167	22	2764
Seward	25	339	14	1489	47	7	1921
Sitka	20	445	103	480	65	25	1138
Tok	13	143	10	210	10	0	386
Valdez	57	450	35	1013	183	146	1984
Wrangell	9	192	4	258	55	6	524
TOTAL	1449	18452	1434	59002	4985	3667	88989
% OF TOTAL	2	21	2	66	6	4	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	158	2577	255	4728	891	425	9034
Second	37	303	3	51	184	12	590
Third	862	11933	756	41464	3365	2575	61015
Fourth	392	3589	420	12759	545	655	18350

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	41790	37695	36335	41701	0	+ 15
Barrow	373	427	311	253	- 32	- 19
Bethel	926	616	520	653	- 29	+ 26
Delta Junction	239	441	885	785	+228	- 11
Fairbanks	14182	14636	10764	15678	+ 11	+ 46
Glenallen	279	611	646	1215	+335	+ 88
Haines	220	598	309	269	+ 22	- 13
Homer	353	616	850	1393	+295	+ 64
Juneau	2357	2601	2559	3772	+ 60	+ 47
Kenai	1412	1773	2063	4119	+192	+100
Ketchikan	4267	3338	2675	2777	- 35	+ 4
Kodiak	1355	1331	1476	1402	+ 3	- 5
Nome	379	470	426	531	+ 25	+ 40
Palmer	1116	2042	914	2679	+140	+193
Seward	849	1087	970	1894	+123	+ 95
Sitka	959	1083	1034	1093	+ 14	+ 6
Tok	226	462	562	426	+ 88	- 24
Valdez	207	495	1115	1772	+756	+ 59
Wrangell	773	1088	726	504	- 35	- 31
TOTAL	72262	71410	65140	82916	+ 15	+ 27

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	9576	9708	7303	8415	- 2	+ 15
Second	379	400	426	531	+ 40	+ 25
Third	48287	46336	44889	56828	+ 13	+ 27
Fourth	15020	15966	12522	17142	+ 14	+ 37

DISTRICT COURTS
RATIO OF DISPOSITIONS TO FILINGS
1976

(See Note 7)

COURT	FILINGS	DISPOSITIONS	RATIO OF DISPOSITIONS TO FILINGS
Anchorage	45219	41701	92
Barrow	246	253	103
Bethel	616	653	106
Delta Junction	678	785	116
Fairbanks	17040	15678	92
Glenallen	1212	1215	100
Haines	269	269	100
Homer	1406	1393	99
Juneau	4328	3772	87
Kenai	4381	4119	94
Ketchikan	2775	2777	100
Kodiak	1612	1402	87
Nome	590	531	90
Palmer	2764	2679	97
Seward	1921	1894	99
Sitka	1138	1093	96
Tok	386	426	110
Valdez	1884	1772	94
Wrangell	524	504	96
TOTAL	88989	82916	93

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	9034	8415	93
Second	590	531	90
Third	61015	56833	93
Fourth	19350	17142	93

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITIONS PER FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT JUDGES
1976

(See Note 3)

COURT	DISPOSITIONS	FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT JUDGES	DISPOSITIONS PER FTE JUDGE
Anchorage	41701	6.97	5983
Barrow	253	1.00	253
Bethel	653	1.09	653
Delta Junction	785	1.03	785
Fairbanks	15678	3.97	3949
Glenallen	1215	1.00	1215
Haines	269	1.04	269
Homer	1393	.66	1393
Juneau	3772	1.24	3772
Kanai	419	1.24	419
Ketchikan	277	.84	277
Kodiak	142	.46	1402
Nome	51	.91	531
Palmer	2679	1.06	2679
Seward	1894	1.08	1894
Sitka	1093	1.59	547
Tok	426	1.01	426
Valdez	1772	1.03	1772
Wrangell	504	.59	504
TOTAL	82916	27.81	2982

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	8415	5.30	1588
Second	531	.91	531
Third	4000	14.59	3895
Fourth	2000	7.01	2449

DISTRICT COURTS
BACKLOG MONTHS
AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

(See Note 5)

COURT	(1) CASES PENDING	(2) AVERAGE NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS PER MONTH IN 1976	(1) ÷ (2) BACKLOG MONTHS
Anchorage	17316	3475	5
Barrow	34	21	2
Bethel	167	54	3
Delta Junction	111	65	2
Fairbanks	5357	1307	4
Glenallen	154	101	2
Haines	0	0	0
Homer	326	116	3
Juneau	2545	314	8
Kanai	868	343	3
Ketchikan	249	231	1
Kodiak	613	117	5
Nome	487	44	11
Palmer	302	223	1
Seward	402	158	3
Sitka	182	91	2
Tok	206	36	6
Valdez	337	148	3
Wrangell	64	42	2
TOTAL	30270	6910	4

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	3040	701	4
Second	487	44	11
Third	21035	4736	4
Fourth	5708	1429	4

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	517	581	656	477	- 8	- 27
Barrow	27	31	30	38	+ 41	+ 27
Bethel	78	72	76	56	- 28	- 26
Delta Junction	14	12	19	17	+ 21	- 11
Fairbanks	266	264	307	324	+ 22	+ 6
Glanallen	19	43	62	71	+274	+ 15
Haines	21	6	-16	5	- 76	- 69
Homer	3	22	15	14	+367	- 7
Juneau	86	51	90	56	- 35	- 38
Kanai	25	35	75	45	+ 80	- 40
Katchikan	108	135	102	68	- 37	- 33
Kodiak	53	66	87	67	+ 26	- 23
Nome	43	48	35	37	- 14	+ 6
Palmer	30	32	23	50	+ 67	+117
Seward	37	34	17	25	- 32	+ 47
Sitka	13	30	40	20	+ 54	- 50
Tok	9	7	15	13	+ 44	- 13
Valdez	6	6	46	57	+850	+ 24
Wrangell	15	49	12	9	- 40	- 25
TOTAL	1370	1524	1723	1449	+ 6	- 16

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	243	271	260	158	- 35	- 39
Second	43	43	35	37	- 14	+ 6
Third	758	891	1061	862	- 12	- 19
Fourth	316	314	371	392	+ 24	+ 6

DISTRICT COURTS
COMPOSITION OF FELONY FILINGS
1976

(See Note 6)

COURT	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	FRAUD/ FORGERY	DRUGS	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	126	213	46	75	17	477
Barrow	16	19	0	0	3	38
Bethel	26	18	5	6	1	56
Delta Junction	8	8	0	1	0	17
Fairbanks	95	153	27	31	18	324
Glenallen	17	30	2	19	3	71
Haines	Not Available					
Homer	3	8	1	2	0	14
Juneau	15	19	7	10	5	56
Kenai	11	23	6	0	5	45
Ketchikan	18	19	7	18	6	68
Kodiak	25	31	1	8	2	67
Nome	13	18	5	1	0	37
Palmer	10	20	9	7	4	50
Seward	8	12	0	0	5	25
Sitka	4	12	0	2	2	20
Tok	3	7	1	2	0	13
Valdez	8	29	4	11	5	57
Wrangell	2	6	0	1	0	9
TOTAL	408	645	121	194	76	1444
% OF TOTAL	28	45	8	13	5	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	39	56	14	31	13	153
Second	13	18	5	1	0	37
Third	234	384	74	128	42	862
Fourth	122	187	28	34	21	392

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
RATIO OF DEFENDANTS TO FILINGS
1976

(See Note 4)

COURT	CASES FILED	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS	RATIO OF DEFENDANTS TO CASES	OTHER INFORMATION	
				OFFENSES CHARGED	COUNTS CHARGED
Anchorage	477	503	1.05	490	502
Barrow	38	38	1.00	40	40
Bethel	56	58	1.04	58	67
Delta Junction	17	17	1.00	17	17
Fairbanks	324	357	1.10	376	389
Glenallen	71	71	1.00	71	71
Haines	Not Available				
Homer	14	14	1.00	14	14
Juneau	56	58	1.04	60	62
Kenai	45	45	1.00	45	46
Ketchikan	68	68	1.00	71	72
Kodiak	67	68	1.01	68	68
Nome	37	37	1.00	37	37
Palmer	50	50	1.00	50	50
Seward	25	25	1.00	26	26
Sitka	20	20	1.00	24	24
Tok	13	13	1.00	14	14
Valdez	57	57	1.00	57	57
Wrangell	9	9	1.00	9	9
TOTAL	1444	1508	1.04	1527	1565

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	153	155	1.01	164	167
Second	37	37	1.00	37	37
Third	862	891	1.03	979	901
Fourth	392	425	1.08	447	460

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	519	606	523	451	- 13	- 14
Barrow	27	31	23	34	+ 26	+ 48
Bethel	78	57	66	57	- 27	- 14
Delta Junction	14	12	16	9	- 36	- 44
Fairbanks	237	294	318	316	+ 33	- 1
Glenallen	16	38	56	61	+ 281	+ 9
Haines	20	7	13	9	- 55	- 31
Homer	3	11	12	13	+ 333	+ 8
Juneau	74	35	74	55	- 26	- 26
Kenai	27	30	68	35	+ 30	- 49
Ketchikan	101	137	76	67	- 34	- 12
Kodiak	51	68	87	56	+ 10	- 36
Nome	42	39	23	25	- 40	+ 9
Palmer	24	32	14	49	+ 104	+250
Seward	35	38	12	24	- 31	+100
Sitka	12	28	39	21	+ 75	- 46
Tok	8	5	11	12	+ 50	+ 9
Valdez	5	7	40	58	+1060	+ 45
Wrangell	18	48	12	7	- 61	- 42
TOTAL	1311	1523	1483	1359	+ 4	- 8

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	225	255	214	159	- 29	- 26
Second	42	39	23	25	- 40	+ 9
Third	758	887	878	804	+ 6	- 8
Fourth	286	342	368	371	+ 30	+ 1

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
BAIL RESULTS
1976

(See Note 8)

COURT	BAIL RESULTS REPORTED	TYPE OF BAIL				AVERAGE AMOUNT OF INITIAL BAIL
		CASH	SECURED SURETY	NON-SECURED SURETY	ON OWN RECOGNIZANCE	
Anchorage	118	27	70	2	19	\$ 9,828
Barrow	10	4	0	0	6	18,994
Bethel	21	15	0	0	6	2,066
Delta Junction	2	1	1	0	0	15,000
Fairbanks	60	19	23	2	16	11,359
Glenallen	18	10	5	2	1	1,988
Haines	Not Available					
Homer	1	0	1	0	0	5,000
Juneau	1	1	0	0	0	1,000
Kenai	4	0	0	0	4	0
Katchikan	4	1	0	0	3	500
Kodiak	23	7	0	0	16	1,171
Nome	2	1	0	0	1	500
Palmer	12	8	1	0	3	30,153
Seward	1	1	0	0	0	250
Sitka	4	2	0	0	2	500
Tok	1	0	0	0	1	0
Valdez	7	4	1	0	2	21,365
Wrangell	4	2	1	0	1	10,000
TOTAL	293	103	103	6	81	\$ 9,478
% OF TOTAL	100	35	35	2	28	

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	13	6	1	0	6	\$ 4,915
Second	2	1	0	0	1	500
Third	205	72	78	4	51	9,355
Fourth	73	24	24	2	23	\$12,115

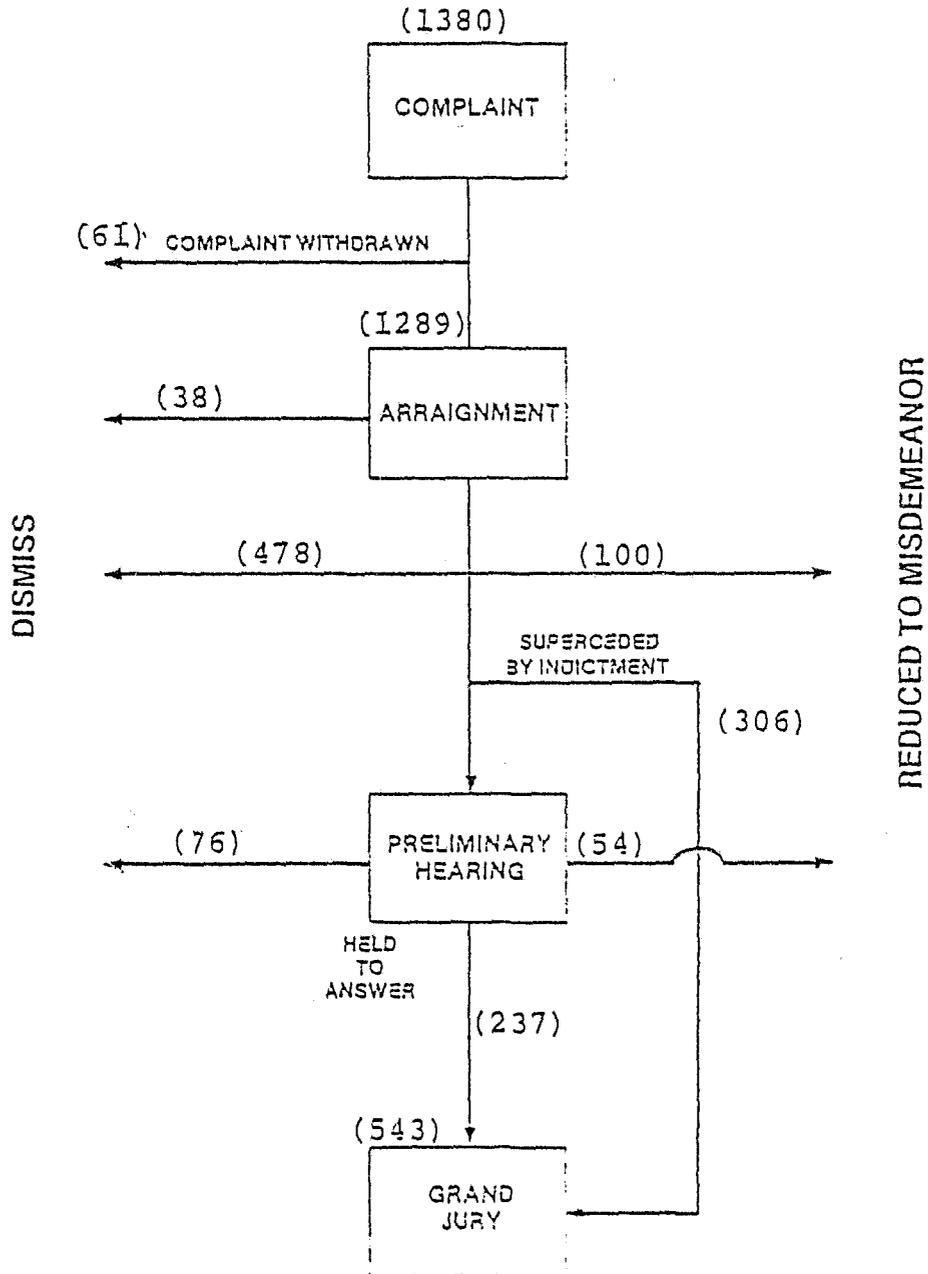
DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
STAGE OF DISPOSITION
1976

COURT	BEFORE FIRST APPEAR- ANCE	AT ARRAIGN- MENT	BETWEEN ARRAIGN- MENT AND PRELIMI- NARY HEARINGS	AT PRELIMI- NARY HEARING	TOTAL	MOVED TO SUPERIOR COURT
Anchorage	37	9	344	61	451	122
Barrow	0	2	14	17	34	9
Bethel	0	3	50	4	57	20
Delta Junction	2	0	3	4	9	2
Fairbanks	12	7	118	179	316	182
Gienallen	3	5	47	6	61	25
Haines	Not Available					
Homer	0	1	9	3	13	3
Juneau	0	2	38	15	55	24
Kenai	1	2	24	8	35	22
Ketchikan	0	3	43	21	67	30
Kodiak	0	0	44	12	56	30
Nome	0	1	21	3	25	9
Palmer	0	0	46	3	49	18
Seward	0	0	17	7	24	16
Sitka	1	0	13	7	21	6
Tok	1	2	4	5	12	6
Valdez	4	1	46	8	58	13
Wrangell	0	0	3	4	7	6
TOTAL	61	38	884	367	1350	543
% OF TOTAL	5	3	65	27	100	40

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1	5	97	47	150	66
Second	0	1	21	3	25	9
Third	45	21	627	112	805	269
Fourth	15	11	139	205	370	199

DISTRICT COURTS DISPOSITION OF FELONIES 1976



DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY HEARING
1976

COURT	PRELIMINARY HEARINGS HELD	% OF TOTAL FELONY CASES	PRELIMINARY HEARING RESULTS		
			DISMISSED	LESSER INCLUDED CHARGE	HELD TO ANSWER
Anchorage	61	15	28	23	10
Barrow	17	50	3	6	8
Bethel	4	9	2	0	2
Delta Junction	4	44	1	1	2
Fairbanks	179	58	22	12	145
Glenallen	6	12	2	4	0
Haines	Not Available				
Homer	3	30	0	0	3
Juneau	15	32	0	1	14
Kenai	8	30	1	2	5
Ketchikan	21	40	1	3	17
Kodiak	12	22	6	1	5
Nome	3	12	1	0	2
Palmer	3	6	3	0	0
Seward	7	29	0	0	7
Sitka	7	41	1	0	6
Tok	5	42	0	0	5
Valdez	8	17	5	1	2
Wrangell	4	67	0	0	4
TOTAL	367	27	76	54	237
% OF TOTAL			21	14	65

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	47	31	2	4	41
Second	3	12	1	0	2
Third	112	14	47	31	34
Fourth	205	55	26	19	160

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
AGE OF 1976 DISPOSITIONS*

COURT	CASES	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	451	57	11	10
Barrow	34	57	27	10
Bethel	57	71	46	19
Delta Junction	9	50	13	0
Fairbanks	316	25	10	4
Glenallen	61	33	23	6
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	13	132	131	57
Juneau	55	53	29	7
Kenai	35	21	11	6
Ketchikan	67	69	39	9
Kodiak	56	27	12	4
Nome	25	59	27	16
Palmer	49	46	24	14
Seward	24	30	11	11
Sitka	21	13	10	0
Tok	12	20	11	0
Valdez	58	66	22	21
Wrangell	7	16	20	0
TOTAL	1350	47	19	7

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	150	53	31	4
Second	25	59	27	16
Third	904	53	20	10
Fourth	371	33	11	4

* Measured from first appearance to dismissal, acquittal or sentencing

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
PENDING
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	62	37	170	196	+ 216	+ 15
Barrow	0	0	7	11	0	+ 57
Betnel	0	15	25	24	0	- 4
Delta Junction	0	0	3	11	0	+267
Fairbanks	101	71	60	68	- 33	+ 13
Glenallen	13	18	24	34	+ 183	+ 42
Haines	Not Available					
Homer	3	11	14	17	+ 467	+ 21
Juneau	12	28	44	45	+ 275	+ 2
Kenai	0	5	12	22	0	+ 83
Ketchikan	16	14	40	41	+ 156	+ 3
Kodiak	13	11	11	22	+ 69	+100
Nome	3	12	24	36	+1100	+ 50
Palmer	6	6	15	16	+ 167	+ 7
Seward	4	0	5	6	50	+ 20
Sitka	2	4	5	4	+ 100	- 20
Tok	1	3	7	8	+ 700	+ 14
Valdez	3	2	8	8	+ 167	0
Wrangell	1	2	2	4	+ 300	100
TOTAL	240	239	476	573	+ 139	+ 20

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	31	48	91	94	+ 203	+ 1
Second	3	12	24	36	+1100	+ 50
Third	104	105	284	345	+ 232	+ 21
Fourth	102	74	77	98	- 4	+ 27

DISTRICT COURTS
FELONY CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

(See Note 14)

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	196	181	213	66
Barrow	11	263	212	64
Bethel	24	159	145	58
Delta Junction	11	156	165	87
Fairbanks	68	487	138	53
Glenallen	34	83	120	25
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	17	138	146	86
Juneau	45	216	196	65
Kenai	22	135	111	45
Ketchikan	41	194	143	54
Kodiak	22	219	120	50
Nome	36	341	286	78
Palmer	16	118	120	50
Seward	6	76	61	0
Sitka	4	81	113	25
Tok	8	89	120	50
Valdez	8	71	70	13
Wrangell	4	212	120	50
TOTAL	573	182	166	59

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	94	201	166	53
Second	36	341	286	78
Third	345	160	173	57
Fourth	98	192	146	57

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	7019	6958	7559	7871	+ 12	+ 4
Barrow	268	333	144	149	- 44	+ 3
Bethel	474	298	431	458	- 3	+ 6
Delta Junction	120	119	229	152	+ 27	- 34
Fairbanks	1304	2132	3418	3145	+141	- 8
Gienallen	114	179	308	241	+111	- 22
Haines	60	171	72	158	+163	+119
Homer	76	146	197	208	+174	+ 6
Juneau	573	821	954	965	+ 68	+ 1
Kenai	397	631	623	867	+118	+ 39
Ketchikan	1214	962	748	817	- 33	+ 9
Kodiak	552	679	685	939	+ 70	+ 37
Nome	230	443	415	303	+ 32	- 27
Palmer	314	338	279	610	+ 94	+119
Seward	320	267	342	339	+ 6	- 1
Sitka	255	315	384	445	+ 75	+ 16
Tok	178	240	329	143	- 20	- 57
Valdez	49	83	323	450	+818	+ 39
Wrangell	160	143	88	192	+ 20	+118
TOTAL	13677	15258	17528	18452	+ 35	+ 5

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2262	2412	2246	2577	+ 14	+ 15
Second	230	443	415	303	+ 32	- 27
Third	9315	9579	10747	11983	+ 29	+ 12
Fourth	1970	2824	4120	3599	+ 92	- 13

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
COMPOSITION OF 1976 FILINGS

(See Note 5)

COURT	VIO-LENCE	THEFT/FRAUD	EN-VIRON-MEN-TAL	NUI-SANCE	AL-COHOL/DRUGS	RE-SIST-ING THE LAW	VICE	TRAF-FIC	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	784	966	538	1087	374	170	271	3294	387	7871
Barrow	57	22	0	27	1	2	0	19	21	149
Bethel	105	26	52	51	25	2	0	85	112	458
Delta Junction	11	17	16	8	8	0	0	85	7	152
Fairbanks	272	536	240	504	171	37	40	1060	285	3145
Glenallen	35	20	36	21	6	1	6	98	18	241
Haines	Not Available									
Homer	12	15	55	5	4	0	0	95	22	208
Juneau	95	56	127	89	40	31	5	361	161	965
Kenai	51	74	385	35	10	7	3	260	42	867
Ketchikan	75	53	21	156	10	6	0	410	86	817
Kodiak	109	70	228	168	81	14	1	170	98	939
Nome	76	34	6	75	2	0	0	49	61	303
Palmer	33	51	111	38	13	0	0	295	69	610
Seward	32	28	71	30	22	2	0	88	66	339
Sitka	88	33	33	74	5	7	0	145	60	445
Tok	20	16	10	17	36	0	0	40	4	143
Vaidez	63	29	48	58	7	7	34	130	74	450
Wrangell	20	9	97	11	4	0	0	36	15	192
TOTAL	1938	2055	2074	2454	819	296	360	6720	1388	18294
% OF TOTAL	11	11	11	13	4	2	2	37	9	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	278	151	178	330	59	44	5	952	322	2419
Second	76	34	6	75	2	0	0	49	61	303
Third	1224	1179	124	1493	542	203	315	4515	388	11983
Fourth	360	59	176	556	215	39	40	1204	317	3589

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
RATIO OF DEFENDANTS TO CASE FILINGS
1976

(See Note 7)

COURT	NUMBER 1976 CASES FILED	NUMBER DEFENDANTS	RATIO OF DEFENDANTS TO CASES	NUMBER OFFENSES CHARGED	NUMBER COUNTS CHARGED
Anchorage	7871	7896	1.003	7916	7964
Barrow	149	149	1.000	152	154
Bethel	458	467	1.02	468	478
Delta Junction	152	153	1.006	156	160
Fairbanks	3145	3221	1.02	3390	3426
Glenallen	241	241	1.00	241	243
Haines	Not Available				
Homer	208	208	1.00	208	208
Juneau	965	965	1.00	973	977
Kenai	867	867	1.00	867	867
Ketchikan	817	817	1.00	823	823
Kodiak	939	939	1.00	945	950
Nome	303	303	1.00	303	313
Palmer	610	613	1.005	625	626
Seward	339	339	1.00	339	339
Sitka	445	445	1.00	571	527
Tok	143	143	1.00	145	145
Valdez	450	464	1.03	478	478
Wrangell	192	192	1.00	192	192
TOTAL	18294	18422	1.007	18792	18870

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2419	2419	1.00	2559	2519
Second	303	303	1.00	303	313
Third	11983	12034	1.004	12087	12153
Fourth	3589	3666	1.02	3843	3885

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	7068	6611	6398	6855	- 3	+ 7
Barrow	269	311	145	149	- 45	+ 3
Bethel	437	284	365	467	+ 7	+ 28
Delta Junction	112	104	175	156	+ 39	- 11
Fairbanks	1316	2092	3192	3060	+133	- 4
Glenallen	112	164	279	194	+ 73	- 30
Haines	61	167	70	148	+143	+111
Homer	84	91	192	126	+133	+ 2
Juneau	552	559	858	919	+ 66	+ 7
Kenai	351	578	590	791	+125	+ 34
Ketchikan	1191	968	754	788	- 34	+ 5
Kodiak	539	671	703	863	+ 60	+ 23
Nome	227	297	277	360	+ 59	+ 30
Palmer	271	338	231	568	+110	+146
Seward	301	276	253	320	+ 6	+ 26
Sitka	240	328	359	400	+ 67	+ 11
Tok	171	202	285	157	- 8	- 45
Valdez	61	71	212	458	+651	+116
Wrangell	156	167	56	192	+ 23	+191
TOTAL	13519	14279	15394	17041	+ 26	+ 11

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2200	2189	2107	2447	+ 11	+ 16
Second	227	297	277	360	+ 59	+ 30
Third	9224	9084	9223	10712	+ 16	+ 16
Fourth	1368	2709	3787	3522	+ 89	- 7

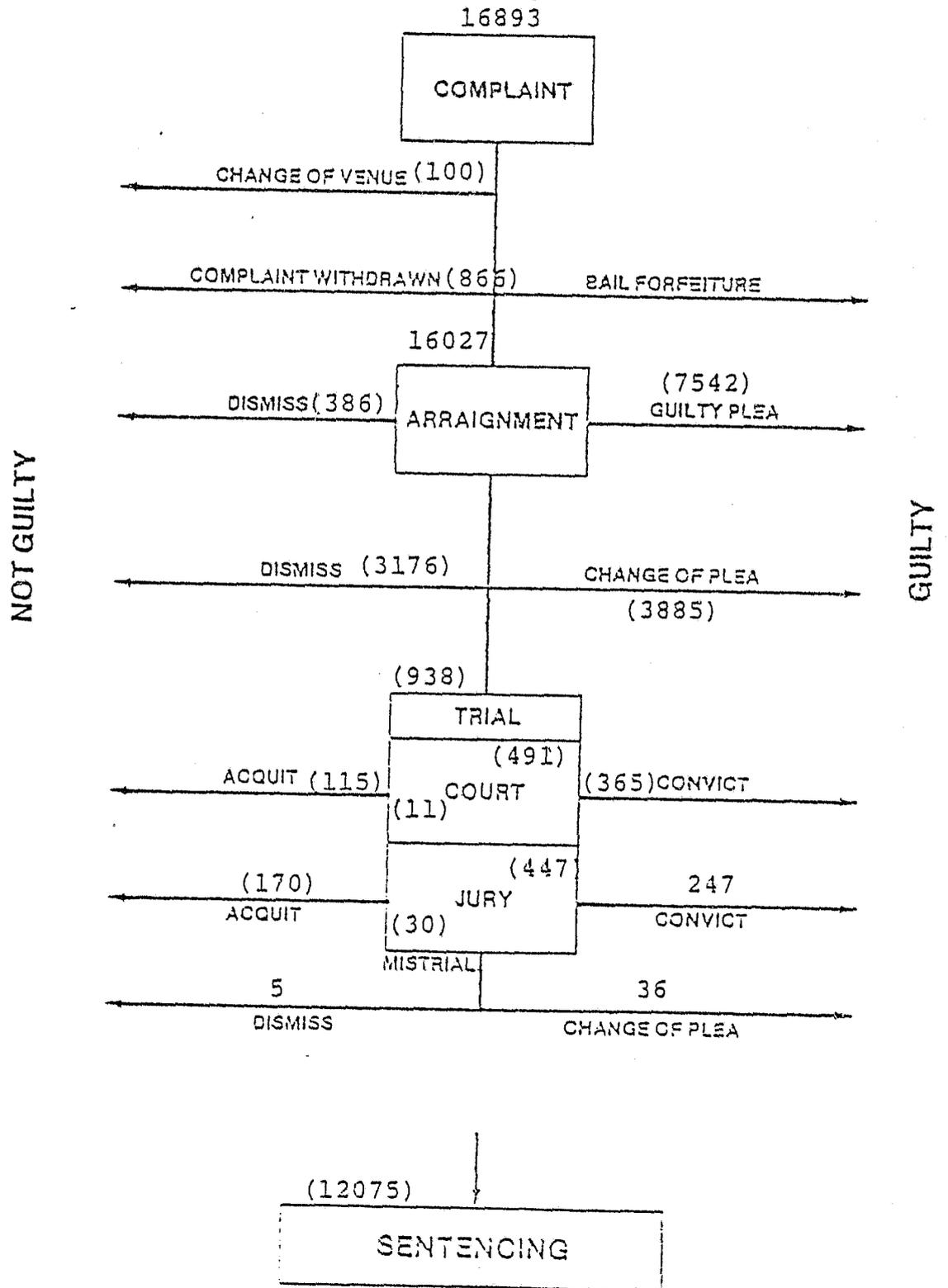
DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES
1976

COURT	BEFORE FIRST APPEAR- ANCE	AT AR- RAIGN- MENT	BE- TWEEN AR- RAIGN- MENT	TRIAL			OTHER (E.G. CHANGE OF VENUE)	TOTAL
				COURT	JURY	TOTAL		
Anchorage	375	2878	3160	179	238	417	25	6855
Barrow	4	67	71	3	3	6	1	149
Bethel	10	150	291	4	12	16	0	467
Delta Junction	9	78	54	6	6	12	3	156
Fairbanks	116	1371	1390	98	65	163	20	3060
Glenallen	10	97	70	3	1	4	13	194
Haines	Not	Available						
Homer	12	87	74	10	7	17	6	196
Juneau	97	434	365	15	7	22	1	919
Kenai	34	472	234	16	28	44	7	791
Ketchikan	32	497	224	17	15	32	3	788
Kodiak	35	559	218	22	28	50	1	863
Nome	37	110	205	4	3	7	1	360
Palmer	13	358	134	55	2	57	6	568
Seward	14	193	80	18	12	30	3	320
Sitka	18	208	163	6	5	11	0	400
Tok	13	88	45	5	1	6	5	157
Valdez	35	148	236	23	11	34	5	458
Wrangell	2	133	47	7	3	10	0	192
TOTAL	866	7928	7061	491	447	938	100	16893
% OF TOTAL	5	47	42	3	3	6	1	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	149	1272	799	45	30	75	4	2299
Second	37	110	205	4	3	7	1	360
Third	538	4942	4497	330	339	669	66	10712
Fourth	142	1604	1560	112	75	187	29	3522

DISTRICT COURTS DISPOSITION OF MISDEMEANORS 1976



NOT GUILTY

GUILTY

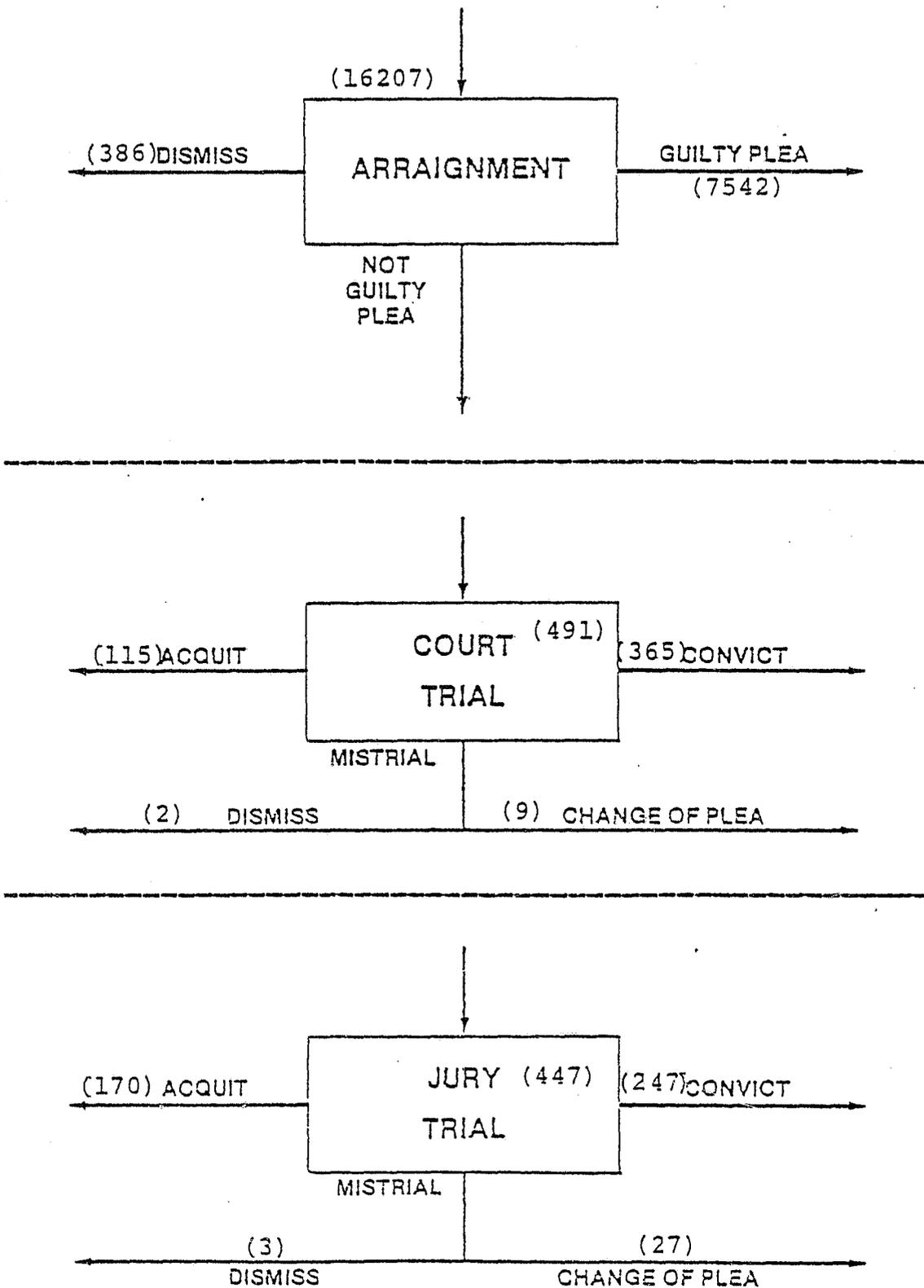
(491)
ACQUIT (115) (365) CONVICT

(11)

(170) (447)
ACQUIT JURY 247
(30) CONVICT

5 36
DISMISS CHANGE OF PLEA

DISTRICT COURTS DISPOSITION OF MISDEMEANORS BY STAGES 1976



DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
ARRAIGNMENT RESULTS
1976

COURT	DISPOSITIONS AT ARRAIGN- MENT	% OF TOTAL MISDEMEAN- OR CASES	ARRAIGNMENT RESULTS		
			DISMISSED	GUILTY PLEA	NO CONTEST PLEA
Anchorage	2878	42	153	2231	494
Barrow	67	45	10	55	2
Bethel	150	32	7	115	28
Delta Junction	78	50	1	58	19
Fairbanks	1371	45	55	969	347
Glenallen	97	50	7	67	23
Haines	Not Available				
Homer	87	44	2	67	18
Juneau	434	47	16	390	28
Kenai	472	60	9	389	74
Ketchikan	497	63	17	448	32
Kodiak	559	65	40	347	172
Nome	110	31	23	77	10
Palmer	358	63	21	233	104
Seward	193	60	4	158	31
Sitka	208	52	5	168	35
Tok	98	56	8	62	18
Valdez	148	32	2	117	29
Wrangell	133	69	6	103	24
TOTAL	7928	47	386	6054	1488
% OF TOTAL			5	76	19

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1272	55	44	1109	119
Second	110	31	23	77	10
Third	4942	46	245	3724	973
Fourth	1604	46	74	1144	386

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
DISPOSITIONS BETWEEN
ARRAIGNMENT AND TRIAL (PRETRIAL)
1976

COURT	DISPOSITIONS BETWEEN ARRAIGNMENT AND TRIAL	% OF TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CASES	PRETRIAL RESULTS	
			DISMISSED	CHANGE OF PLEA TO GUILTY
Anchorage	3160	46	1376	1784
Barrow	71	48	41	30
Bethel	291	62	193	98
Delta Junction	54	35	29	25
Fairbanks	1390	45	616	774
Glenallen	70	36	20	50
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	74	38	28	46
Juneau	365	40	133	232
Kenai	234	30	69	165
Ketchikan	224	28	76	148
Kodiak	218	25	139	79
Nome	205	57	179	26
Palmer	134	24	48	86
Seward	80	25	32	48
Sitka	163	41	45	118
Tok	45	29	12	33
Valdez	236	52	120	116
Wrangell	47	24	20	27
TOTAL	7061	42	3176	3885
% OF TOTAL			45	55

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	779	35	274	525
Second	205	57	179	26
Third	4497	42	2025	2472
Fourth	1560	44	698	862

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
RESULTS OF COURT TRIALS
1976

COURT	COURT TRIALS	% OF TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CASES	ACQUIT-TAL	MISTRIAL WITH SUBSEQUENT DISMISSAL	CHANGE OF PLEA TO GUILTY	GUILTY	
						ORIGINAL CHARGE	LESSER INCLUDED CHARGE
Anchorage	179	3	53	1.0	4	119	2
Barrow	3	2	0	0	0	3	0
Sethel	4	1	2	0	0	2	0
Delta Junction	6	4	2	0	0	3	1
Fairbanks	98	3	30	0	1	66	1
Gienallen	3	2	0	0	0	3	0
Haines	Not Available						
Homer	10	5	2	0	0	8	0
Juneau	15	2	4	0	0	10	1
Kenai	16	2	4	0	0	12	0
Ketchikan	17	2	2	0	0	15	0
Kodiak	22	3	8	0	0	13	1
Nome	4	1	0	0	0	4	0
Palmer	55	10	2	1.0	2	49	1
Seward	18	6	1	0	1	15	1
Sitka	6	2	1	0	0	4	1
Tok	5	3	0	0	0	5	0
Valdez	23	5	3	0	1	18	1
Wrangell	7	4	1	0	0	6	0
TOTAL	491	3	115	2.0	9	355	10
% OF TOTAL			23	0.4	2	72	2

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	45	2	8	0	0	35	2
Second	4	1	0	0	0	4	0
Third	330	3	75	2.0	3	239	6
Fourth	112	3	32	0	1	77	2

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
RESULTS OF JURY TRIALS
1976

COURT	JURY TRIALS	% OF TOTAL MISDEMEANOR CASES	ACQUIT-TAL	MISTRIAL WITH SUBSE-QUENT DIS-MISSAL	CHANGE OF PLEA TO GUILTY	GUILTY	
						ORIGINAL CHARGE	LESSER INCLUDED CHARGE
Anchorage	238	3.0	77	3	21	135	2
Barrow	3	2.0	1	0	0	2	0
Bethel	12	3.0	6	0	2	4	0
Delta Junction	6	4.0	1	0	0	5	0
Fairbanks	65	2.0	29	0	2	34	0
Glenallen	1	1.0	0	0	0	1	0
Haines	Not Available						
Homer	7	4.0	3	0	0	4	0
Juneau	7	1.0	4	0	0	3	0
Kenai	28	4.0	10	0	1	17	0
Ketchikan	15	2.0	8	0	0	7	0
Kodiak	28	3.0	12	0	0	16	0
Nome	3	1.0	2	0	1	0	0
Palmer	2	0.4	0	0	0	2	0
Seward	12	4.0	7	0	0	4	1
Sitka	5	1.0	3	0	0	2	0
Tok	1	1.0	0	0	0	1	0
Valdez	11	2.0	5	0	0	6	0
Wrangell	3	2.0	2	0	0	1	0
TOTAL	447	3.0	170	3	27	244	3
% OF TOTAL			38	1	6	55	1

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	30	2	17	0	0	13	0
Second	3	1	2	0	1	0	0
Third	339	3	120	3	24	189	3
Fourth	75	2	31	0	2	42	0

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
CONVICTION RATES
1976

(See Note 9)

COURT	DISPO- SITIONS	LESS		NET DISPO- SITIONS	GUILTY AT				CONVIC- TION RATE
		CHANGE OF VENUE	NO APPEAR- ANCE		AR- RAIGN- MENT	PRE- TRIAL	TRIAL	TOTAL	
Anchorage	6855	25	375	6455	2725	1784	258	4767	74
Barrow	149	1	4	144	57	30	5	92	64
Bethel	467	0	10	457	143	98	6	247	54
Delta Junction	156	3	9	144	77	25	9	111	77
Fairbanks	3060	20	116	2924	1316	774	101	2191	75
Glenallen	194	13	10	171	90	50	4	144	84
Haines	Not Available								
Homer	196	6	12	178	85	46	12	143	80
Juneau	919	1	97	821	418	232	14	664	81
Kenai	791	7	34	750	463	165	29	657	88
Ketchikan	788	3	32	753	480	148	22	650	86
Kodiak	863	1	35	827	519	79	30	628	76
Nome	360	1	37	322	87	26	4	117	35
Palmer	568	6	13	549	337	86	52	475	87
Seward	320	3	14	303	189	48	21	258	83
Sitka	400	0	18	382	203	118	7	328	86
Tok	157	5	13	139	80	33	6	119	86
Valdez	458	5	35	418	146	116	25	287	69
Wrangell	192	0	2	190	127	27	7	151	85
TOTAL	16893	100	866	15927	7542	3885	612	12039	75
% OF TOTAL				100	47	24	4	76	

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2299	4	149	2146	1228	525	50	1303	84
Second	360	1	37	322	87	26	4	117	36
Third	10712	66	338	10108	4697	2472	437	7606	75
Fourth	3522	29	142	3351	1530	362	121	2513	75

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
SENTENCE/FINES IMPOSED
1976

COURT	CONVIC- TIONS	SENTENCE SERVED AND/OR FINE PAID			NO SENTENCE SERVED OR FINE PAID	
		SENTENCE ONLY	FINE ONLY	FINE AND SENTENCE	SUSPENDED IMPOSI- TION OF SENTENCE	SENTENCE OR FINE SUSPENDED
Anchorage	4708	889	1541	1783	495	815
Barrow	92	56	20	10	6	54
Bethel	238	89	41	43	65	83
Delta Junction	100	11	31	45	13	22
Fairbanks	2146	554	775	536	281	499
Glenallen	125	4	57	46	18	29
Haines	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homer	135	16	58	61	0	10
Juneau	654	22	315	248	69	74
Kenai	608	45	369	183	11	27
Ketchikan	649	64	445	91	49	116
Kodiak	626	119	155	157	195	178
Nome	114	40	29	12	33	53
Palmer	438	74	169	158	37	116
Seward	252	39	162	49	2	37
Sitka	328	10	184	95	39	50
Tok	102	11	13	32	46	36
Valdez	266	18	121	99	28	44
Wrangell	160	10	101	30	19	11
TOTAL	11741	2071	4586	3678	1406	2254
% OF TOTAL	100	18	39	31	12	19

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1791	106	1045	464	176	251
Second	114	40	29	12	33	53
Third	7396	1293	2673	2579	851	1339
Fourth	2440	632	939	623	346	611

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
SENTENCE/FINES IMPOSED
1976

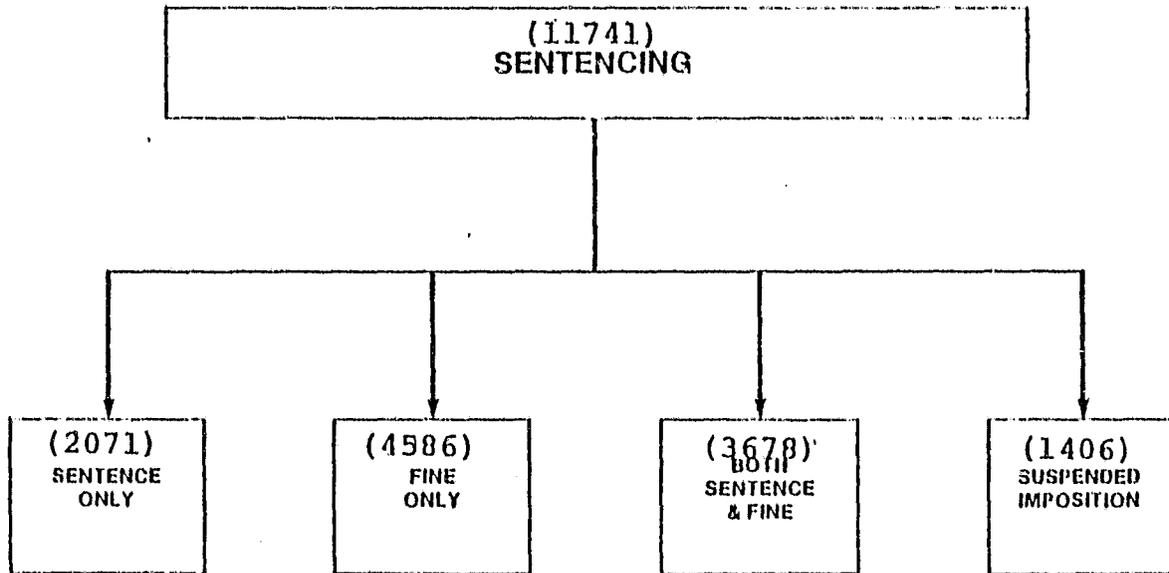
(See Note 15)

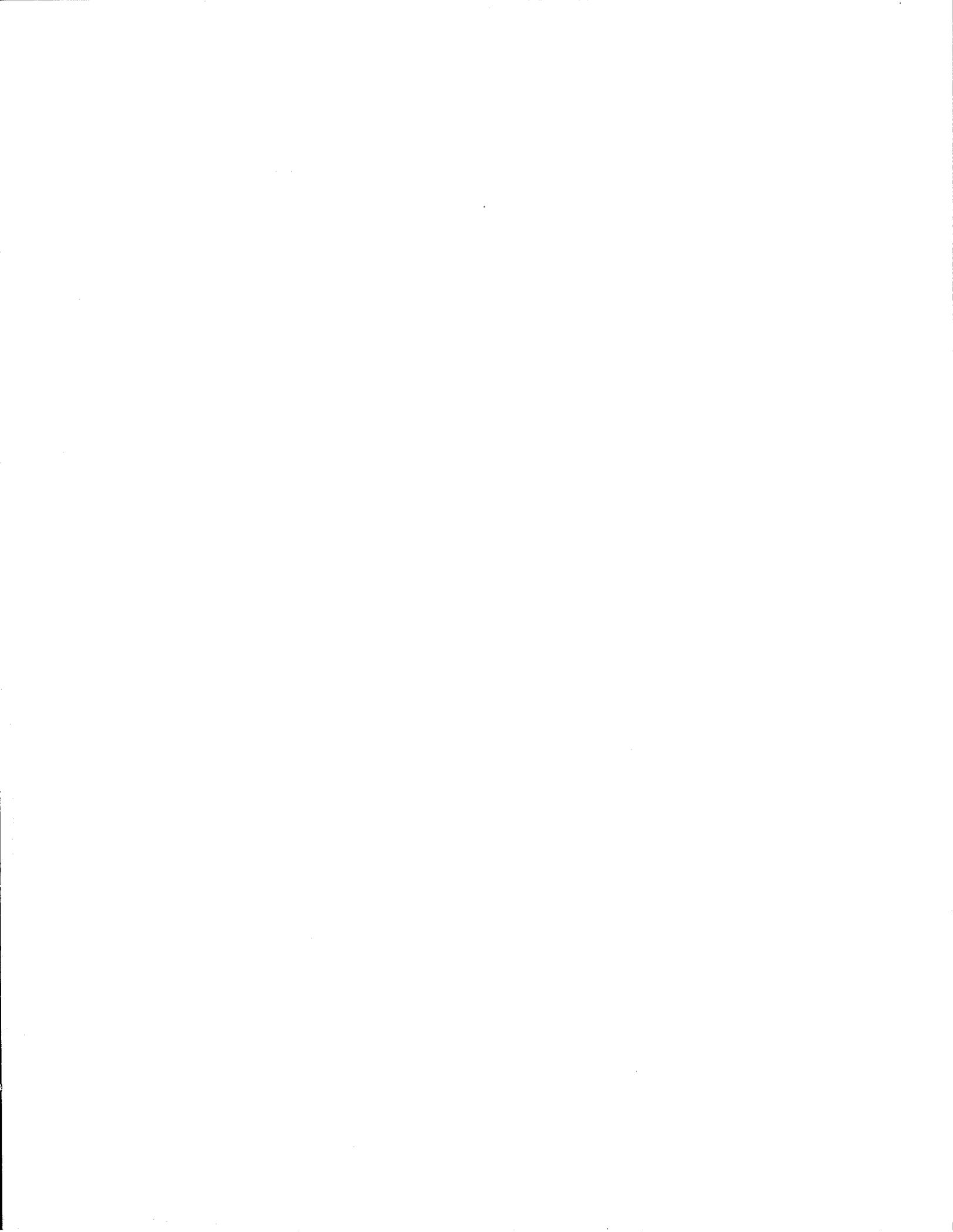
COURT	SENTENCES		FINES		REVENUE GENERATED (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)		
	NUMBER	AVERAGE AMOUNT	NUMBER	AVERAGE AMOUNT	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL
Anchorage	2672	7	3324	172			\$ 571728
Barrow	66	9	30	96			2880
Bethel	132	23	84	120			10080
Delta Junction	56	1	76	171			12996
Fairbanks	1090	10	1311	814			1067154
Glenallen	50	3	103	167			17201
Haines	Not Available						
Homer	76	14	119	181			21539
Juneau	270	5	563	107			60241
Kenai	228	5	552	152			83904
Ketchikan	155	12	536	114			61104
Kodiak	276	4	312	255			79560
Nome	52	0	41	78			3198
Palmer	232	8	327	139			45453
Seward	88	7	211	95			20045
Sitka	105	5	279	133			37107
Tot	43	2	45	141			6345
Valdez	117	2	220	196			43120
Wrangell	40	10	131	376			114756
TOTAL	5748	7	8264	273			\$2258421

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	570	7	1509	133			\$ 273208
Second	52	0	41	78			3198
Third	3871	7	5252	170			392630
Fourth	1255	9	1462	747			1089375

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR SENTENCING
1976





DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
AGE OF 1976 CASE DISPOSITIONS*

COURT	CASES	AGE AT CLOSING (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	6855	61	23	12
Barrow	149	26	8	3
Bethel	467	58	49	13
Delta Junction	156	57	12	14
Fairbanks	3060	45	8	10
Glenallen	194	48	19	11
Haines	0	0	0	0
Homer	196	46	18	10
Juneau	919	43	13	9
Kenai	791	31	0	5
Ketchikan	788	23	4	4
Kodiak	863	27	0	4
Nome	360	93	66	29
Palmer	568	26	10	3
Seward	320	22	6	4
Sitka	400	22	6	1
Tok	137	26	3	3
Valdez	458	50	29	3
Wrangell	192	51	10	3
TOTAL	18893	48	17	10

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2299	33	8	5
Second	360	93	66	29
Third	1372	68	19	10
Fourth	350	44	3	10

* Measured from first appearance to final adjournment or sentencing

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
PENDING
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	836	1183	2344	3390	+ 305	+ 45
Barrow	0	22	21	21	0	0
Bethel	37	51	117	108	+ 192	- 8
Delta Junction	8	23	77	73	+ 812	- 5
Fairbanks	320	360	596	681	+ 113	+ 14
Glenallen	0	15	44	91	0	+107
Haines	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homer	0	55	60	72	0	+ 20
Juneau	21	283	379	425	+1923	+12
Kenai	46	99	132	208	+ 352	+ 58
Ketchikan	54	48	42	71	+ 31	+ 69
Kodiak	63	71	53	139	+ 121	+152
Nome	3	149	284	227	+7467	- 21
Palmer	43	43	91	133	+ 209	+ 46
Seward	19	10	99	118	+ 521	+ 19
Sitka	15	2	27	72	+ 380	+167
Tok	7	45	89	75	+ 971	- 16
Valdez	0	12	123	115	0	- 6
Wrangell	29	5	27	27	- 7	0
TOTAL	1501	2476	4605	6046	+ 302	+ 31

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	119	338	475	595	+ 400	+ 25
Second	3	149	284	227	+7467	- 21
Third	1044	1539	3063	4374	+ 319	+ 43
Fourth	335	450	783	850	+ 154	+ 9

DISTRICT COURTS
MISDEMEANOR CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	3390	272	120	62
Barrow	21	475	591	76
Bethel	108	124	66	7
Delta Junction	73	159	145	58
Fairbanks	681	116	96	37
Glenallen	91	113	120	37
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	72	185	186	63
Juneau	425	150	115	47
Kanai	208	135	111	45
Katchikan	71	116	120	34
Kodiak	139	129	109	45
Nome	227	350	342	77
Palmer	133	90	76	20
Seward	118	77	73	17
Sitka	72	102	87	30
Tok	75	60	61	0
Valdez	115	81	79	23
Wrangell	27	141	96	37
TOTAL	6046	232	119	51

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	595	140	111	43
Second	227	350	342	77
Third	4374	236	113	56
Fourth	350	122	107	36

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
FILINGS
1973 -- 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	0	0	444	594	0	+ 34
Barrow	23	38	14	0	0	0
Bethel	40	42	4	7	- 82	+ 75
Delta Junction	6	1	3	6	0	+100
Fairbanks	0	0	389	394	0	+ 2
Genallen	4	21	0	1	- 75	0
Haines	0	1	13	16	0	+ 23
Homer	0	0	0	6	0	0
Juneau	0	0	34	51	0	+ 50
Kenai	0	0	20	4	0	- 80
Ketchikan	0	0	59	81	0	+ 37
Kodiak	0	0	9	15	0	+ 67
Nome	0	0	8	3	0	- 62
Palmer	0	0	59	90	0	+ 53
Seward	38	45	15	14	- 63	- 7
Sitka	56	30	78	103	+ 84	+ 32
Tok	0	2	7	10	0	+ 43
Valdez	2	6	42	35	+1650	- 17
Wrangell	18	28	24	4	- 78	- 83
TOTAL	187	214	1222	1434	+ 667	+ 17

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	74	59	208	255	+ 245	+ 23
Second	0	0	8	3	0	- 62
Third	84	114	593	766	+ 812	+ 29
Fourth	29	41	413	410	+1314	- 1

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

COURT	FAILURE TO SATISFY	PROBATION REVOCATION	TRAFFIC ON FORMAL COMPLAINT	TRANSFER CASE*	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	77	11	210	216	80	594
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bethel	1	0	1	1	4	7
Delta Junction	2	0	2	0	2	6
Fairbanks	44	1	307	8	34	394
Gienallen	0	0	0	0	1	1
Haines	Not Available					
Homer	0	0	6	0	0	6
Juneau	3	0	9	2	37	51
Kenai	0	0	2	2	0	4
Ketchikan	6	0	38	2	35	81
Kodiak	2	1	6	5	1	15
Nome	0	0	2	0	1	3
Palmer	5	0	61	0	24	90
Seward	3	0	9	0	2	14
Sitka	0	0	81	0	22	103
Tok	5	0	1	3	1	10
Valdez	0	0	26	1	8	35
Wrangell	0	0	4	0	0	4
TOTAL	148	13	765	240	252	1418
% OF TOTAL	10	1	54	17	18	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	9	0	132	4	94	139
Second	0	0	2	0	1	3
Third	88	12	321	225	120	766
Fourth	51	1	310	11	37	410

* A case where a formal Change of Venue is not filed but one or more hearings are conducted for a case belonging to another court.

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	0	0	314	486	0	+ 55
Barrow	23	22	30	0	0	0
Bethel	37	57	3	8	- 78	+ 167
Delta Junction	6	1	1	13	+ 117	+1200
Fairbanks	0	0	382	307	0	- 20
Glenallen	2	22	0	2	0	0
Haines	0	1	13	16	0	+ 23
Homer	0	0	0	6	0	0
Juneau	0	0	24	60	0	+ 150
Kenai	0	0	13	5	0	- 62
Ketchikan	0	0	48	85	0	+ 77
Kodiak	0	0	9	12	0	+ 33
Nome	0	0	8	1	0	- 87
Palmer	0	0	35	107	0	+ 206
Seward	36	47	13	15	- 58	+ 15
Sitka	51	25	66	101	+ 98	+ 53
Tok	0	1	0	12	0	0
Vaidez	2	6	41	30	+1400	- 27
Wrangell	18	21	27	0	0	0
TOTAL	175	203	1027	1266	+ 623	+ 23

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	69	47	178	262	+ 280	+ 47
Second	0	0	8	1	0	- 87
Third	77	132	428	671	+ 771	+ 57
Fourth	29	24	413	332	+1045	- 20

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
AGE OF 1976 CASE DISPOSITIONS

COURT	NUMBER OF 1976 CASES	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	486	52	11	13.0
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	8	113	30	50.0
Delta Junction	13	86	46	0.4
Fairbanks	307	107	49	25.0
Glenallen	2	128	120	50.0
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	6	55	0	0
Juneau	60	26	7	11.0
Kenai	5	305	15	20.0
Ketchikan	85	26	11	5.0
Kodiak	12	3	5	0
Nome	1	1	1	0
Palmer	107	31	12	4.0
Seward	15	50	25	0
Sitka	101	26	17	3.0
Tok	12	91	0	17.0
Valdez	30	47	42	8.0
Wrangell	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	1250	69	22	14.0

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	246	69	13	6.0
Second	1	1	1	0
Third	671	50	13	11.0
Fourth	332	105	47	24.0

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
PENDING
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	0	0	130	238	0	+ 83
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Betnel	16	1	2	1	- 50	- 94
Delta Junction	12	12	14	7	- 42	- 50
Fairbanks	0	0	7	94	0	+1243
Gienallen	2	2	0	0	0	0
Haines	Not Available					
Homer	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juneau	0	0	10	1	0	- 90
Kenai	0	0	7	6	0	- 14
Ketchikan	0	0	11	7	0	- 36
Kodiak	0	0	0	3	0	0
Nome	0	0	0	2	0	0
Palmer	0	0	24	7	0	- 71
Seward	2	0	2	1	- 50	- 50
Sitka	5	10	22	24	+ 380	+ 9
Tok	0	1	8	6	0	- 25
Valdez	0	0	30	6	0	- 80
Wrangell	0	7	4	8	0	+ 100
TOTAL	37	33	271	411	+1011	+ 52

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	5	17	47	40	+ 700	- 15
Second	0	0	0	2	0	0
Third	20	3	195	262	+1210	+ 34
Fourth	12	13	29	107	+ 792	+ 269

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CRIMINAL CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	238	373	362	91
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	1	198	198	100
Delta Junction	7	404	441	100
Fairbanks	94	191	186	66
Gienallen	0	0	0	0
Haines	0	0	0	0
Homer	0	0	0	0
Juneau	1	180	180	100
Kenai	6	644	627	100
Ketchikan	7	143	120	43
Kodiak	3	91	91	33
Nome	2	427	365	100
Palmer	7	212	236	100
Seward	1	57	57	0
Sitka	24	117	100	39
Tok	6	60	61	0
Valdez	6	299	293	92
Wrangell	8	264	273	100
TOTAL	411	291	293	78

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	40	53	136	54
Second	2	427	365	100
Third	262	365	356	90
Fourth	107	200	198	53

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

(See Note 16)

COURT	* 1973	* 1974	* 1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Ancorage	Not Available			2288	Not Available	
Barrow				0		
Betnel				37		
Delta Junction				3		
Fairbanks				532		
Gienallen				60		
Haines				40		
Homer				94		
Juneau				514		
Kanai				239		
Katchikan				217		
Kodiak				250		
Nome				184		
Palmer				167		
Seward				47		
Sitka				65		
Tok				10		
Vaidez				183		
Wrangell				55		
TOTAL				4985		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	Not Available		891	Not Available
Second			184	
Third			3365	
Fourth			545	

* Not available part of Other Civil in these years

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

(See Note 16)

COURT	* 1973	* 1974	* 1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	Not Available			1833	Not Available	
Barrow				0		
Bethel				61		
Delta Junction				0		
Fairbanks				376		
Glenallen				43		
Haines				47		
Homer				68		
Juneau				418		
Kenai				170		
Ketchikan				237		
Kodiak				126		
Nome				76		
Palmer				102		
Seward				25		
Sitka				67		
Tok				12		
Valdez				95		
Wrangell				38		
TOTAL				3794		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	Not Available	307	Not Available
Second		76	
Third		2523	
Fourth		332	

* Not available part of Other Civil

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES
1976

COURT	BEFORE THE ANSWER	BETWEEN THE ANSWER AND TRIAL	AT TRIAL	TOTAL
Anchorage	1105	383	345	1833
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	56	5	0	61
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	212	97	67	376
Glenallen	33	9	1	43
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	48	10	10	68
Juneau	351	26	41	418
Kanai	118	36	16	170
Ketchikan	190	29	18	237
Kodiak	55	34	37	126
Nome	60	16	0	76
Palmer	68	21	13	102
Seward	19	6	0	25
Sitka	55	9	3	67
Tok	5	2	5	12
Valdez	57	17	21	95
Wrangell	21	9	8	38
TOTAL	2453	709	585	3747
% OF TOTAL	65	19	16	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	617	73	70	760
Second	60	16	0	76
Third	1559	521	443	2523
Fourth	217	99	72	388

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
DISPOSITION RESULTS
1976

COURT	DISPOSITIONS	RESULT FOR		AVERAGE JUDGMENT AMOUNT
		PLAINTIFF *179	DEFENDANT *179	
Anchorage	1833	840	876	511
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	61	8	51	628
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	376	156	220	488
Glenallen	43	27	5	0
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	68	39	27	495
Juneau	418	213	192	310
Kenai	170	61	107	373
Ketchikan	237	156	78	335
Kodiak	126	68	46	335
Nome	76	32	44	198
Palmer	102	67	35	294
Seward	25	13	10	422
Sitka	67	27	31	196
Tok	12	7	4	340
Valdez	95	31	61	519
Wrangell	38	23	13	274
TOTAL	3747	1768	1800	434
% OF TOTAL	100	52	53	

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	760	419	314	306
Second	76	32	44	198
Third	2523	1154	1213	477
Fourth	383	163	224	488

* 53 for both Plaintiff and Defendant.

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS
AGE OF 1976 CASE DISPOSITIONS

COURT	NUMBER OF 1976 CASES	AGE AT CLOSING (IN MONTHS)		% OVER ONE YEAR
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	1833	281	99	29
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	61	150	90	17
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	376	174	110	18
Glenallen	43	58	46	0
Haines	Not Available			
Homer	68	139	110	8
Juneau	418	56	35	4
Kenai	170	238	84	34
Katchikan	237	94	42	7
Kodiak	126	52	42	2
Nome	76	128	101	3
Palmer	102	136	106	5
Seward	25	63	51	0
Sitka	67	151	41	14
Tok	12	50	64	0
Valdez	95	59	40	0
Wrangell	38	47	27	3
TOTAL	3747	196	83	19

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	760	76	37	6
Second	76	128	101	3
Third	2523	241	93	24
Fourth	383	172	110	18

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS CASES
PENDING
1973 — 1976

(See Note 16)

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	Not Available			2163	Not Available	
Barrow				1		
Bethel				22		
Delta Junction				3		
Fairbanks				331		
Glenallen				17		
Haines				0		
Homer				70		
Juneau				225		
Kanai				194		
Ketchikan				77		
Kodiak				150		
Nome				162		
Palmer				106		
Seward				30		
Sitka				29		
Tok				4		
Valdez				121		
Wrangell				23		
TOTAL				3728		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	Not Available	354	Not Available
Second		162	
Third		3873	
Fourth		339	

DISTRICT COURTS
SMALL CLAIMS
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER ONE YEAR
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	2163	346	333	46
Barrow	1	771	771	100
Bethel	22	196	209	0
Delta Junction	3	51	46	0
Fairbanks	331	162	145	2
Gleanallen	17	154	153	0
Haines	0	0	0	0
Homer	70	230	210	27
Juneau	225	273	260	27
Kanai	194	286	261	28
Ketchikan	77	210	224	5
Kodiak	150	154	110	11
Nome	162	284	266	52
Palmer	106	192	177	3
Seward	30	226	227	10
Sitka	29	254	259	10
Tok	4	159	90	0
Valdez	121	165	87	12
Wrangell	23	146	106	0
TOTAL	3728	289	272	33

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	354	250	243	19
Second	162	284	266	52
Third	2873	312	294	38
Fourth	339	161	143	2

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

(See Note 16)

COURT	* 1973	* 1974	* 1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1973 to 1978
Anchorage	4290	3852	4067	2205	Not Applicable	
Barrow	6	13	21	0		
Bethel	474	298	431	30		
Delta Junction	5	6	3	0		
Fairbanks	1030	1016	1000	655		
Glenallen	15	49	29	3		
Haines	54	39	66	0		
Homer	32	62	86	24		
Juneau	701	813	853	327		
Kenai	221	291	278	71		
Ketchikan	271	305	428	67		
Kodiak	266	196	179	67		
Nome	31	5	75	12		
Palmer	117	117	136	22		
Seward	43	36	33	7		
Sitka	118	122	119	25		
Tok	2	7	27	0		
Valdez	38	43	71	146		
Wrangell	69	72	75	6		
TOTAL	7783	10342	7977	3667		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1213	1351	1541	425		
Second	31	5	75	12		
Third	5496	4944	5310	2575		
Fourth	1043	1042	1051	655		

* Small Claims were included in this category in these years
 . 1976 figures are not comparable to the previous years.

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1976

COURT	CIVIL DAMAGE	DEBTS, CONTRACTS AND NOTES	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	266	1626	313	2205
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	3	5	22	30
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	107	458	90	655
Glenallen	1	1	1	3
Haines	0	0	0	0
Homer	10	11	3	24
Juneau	13	116	198	327
Kenai	6	61	4	71
Ketchikan	6	43	18	67
Kodiak	10	30	27	67
Nome	3	4	5	12
Palmer	1	19	2	22
Seward	3	1	3	7
Sitka	1	13	11	25
Tok	0	0	0	0
Vaidez	30	16	100	146
Wrangell	1	2	3	6
TOTAL	461	2406	800	3667
% OF TOTAL	12	66	22	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	21	174	230	425
Second	3	4	5	12
Third	330	1770	475	2575
Fourth	107	458	90	655

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 - 1976

(See Note 16)

COURT	* 1973	* 1974	* 1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	4094	2537	2874	1883	Not applicable	
Barrow	10	7	32	0		
Bethel	56	60	26	20		
Delta Junction	5	4	3	0		
Fairbanks	1077	1044	782	676		
Glenallen	9	42	21	4		
Haines	56	36	53	0		
Homer	34	33	29	22		
Juneau	600	881	604	166		
Kenai	174	166	227	43		
Ketchikan	288	261	323	51		
Kodiak	237	146	204	38		
Nome	7	2	30	8		
Palmer	106	117	65	20		
Seward	42	49	12	4		
Sitka	156	97	83	25		
Tok	4	5	3	0		
Valdez	38	46	25	71		
Wrangell	70	67	57	6		
TOTAL	7063	5600	5453	3037		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	1170	1342	1120	248	Not applicable
Second	7	2	30	8	
Third	4790	3196	3483	2105	
Fourth	1096	1060	820	676	

* Includes Small Claims for these years . . .
1976 figures are not comparable to the previous years.

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES
1976

COURT	BEFORE THE ANSWER	BETWEEN THE ANSWER AND TRIAL	AT TRIAL			TOTAL
			COURT	JURY	TOTAL	
Anchorage	1453	317	105	8	113	1883
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Betnel	16	3	1	0	1	20
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	536	93	42	5	47	676
Grenallen	3	1	0	0	0	4
Haines	Not Available					
Homer	13	8	1	0	1	22
Juneau	136	25	5	0	5	166
Kenai	29	9	5	0	5	43
Katchikan	38	10	2	1	3	51
Kodiak	18	15	4	1	5	38
Nome	6	2	0	0	0	8
Palmer	15	4	1	0	1	20
Seward	0	0	4	0	4	4
Sitka	19	6	0	0	0	25
Tok	0	0	0	0	0	0
Valdez	30	11	30	0	30	71
Wrangell	0	4	2	0	2	6
TOTAL	2312	508	202	15	217	3037
% OF TOTAL	76	17	7	.4	7	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	193	45	9	1	10	248
Second	6	2	0	0	0	8
Third	1577	368	151	9	160	2105
Fourth	536	93	42	5	47	676

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
DISPOSITION RESULTS
1976

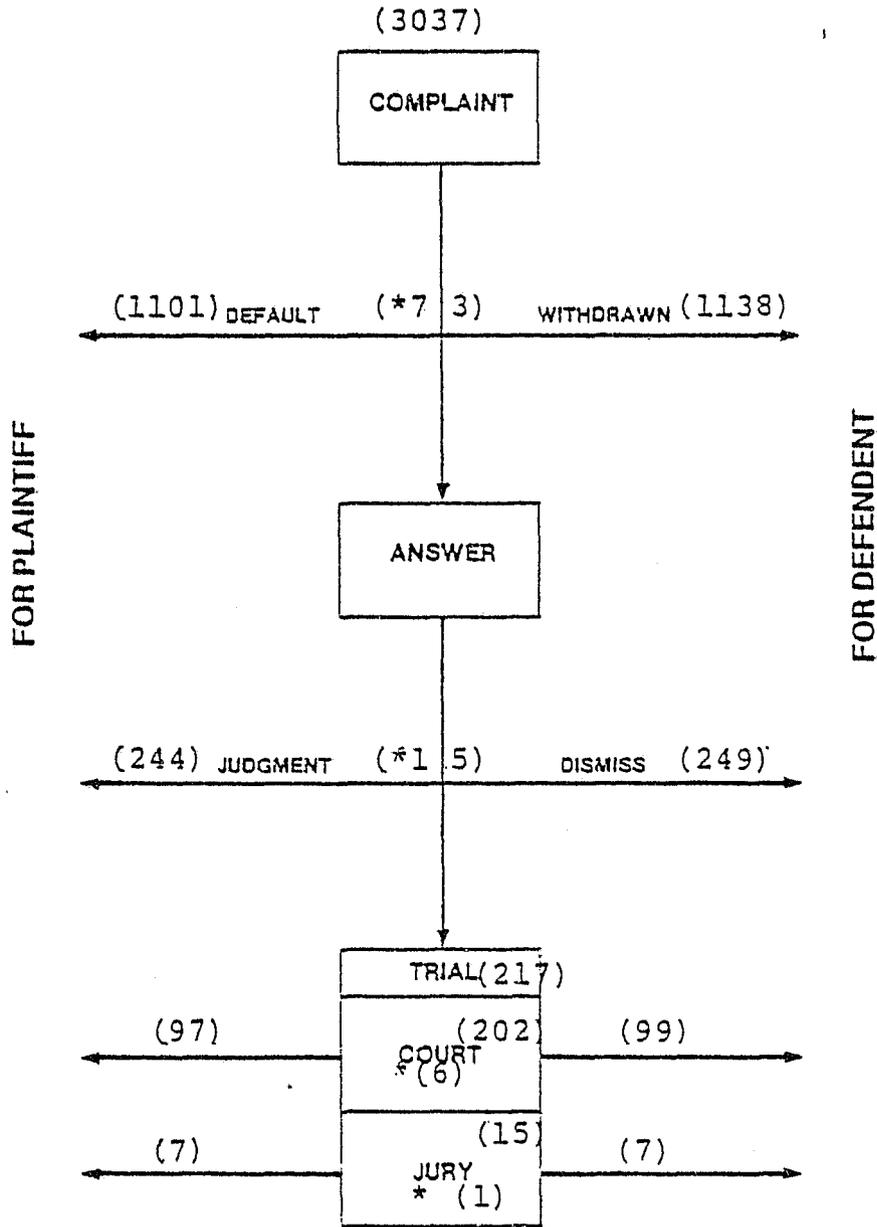
COURT	DISPOSITIONS	RESULT FOR		AVERAGE JUDGMENT AMOUNT
		PLAINTIFF * 95	DEFENDANT * 95	
Anchorage	1883	939	905	1762
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	20	4	15	1447
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	676	291	365	1485
Glenallen	4	3	0	0
Haines	0	0	0	0
Homer	22	11	10	2269
Juneau	166	61	103	1330
Kenai	43	22	21	1116
Ketchikan	51	22	26	643
Kodiak	38	15	6	1563
Nome	8	1	6	509
Palmer	20	13	7	812
Seward	4	3	1	340
Sitka	25	11	14	809
Tok	0	0	0	0
Valdez	71	50	13	2011
Wrangell	6	3	1	756
TOTAL	3037	1449	1493	1573
% OF TOTAL	100	51	52	

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	248	97	144	1122
Second	8	1	6	509
Third	2105	1060	978	1659
Fourth	676	291	365	1485

* 33 for both Plaintiff and Defendant

DISTRICT COURTS
DISPOSITION OF CIVIL CASES
(EXCLUDING SMALL CLAIMS)
1976



FOR PLAINTIFF

FOR DEFENDENT

* 95 for both

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
AGE OF 1976 DISPOSITIONS

(See note 7)

COURT	1976 CASES	AGE AT DISPOSITION (IN DAYS)		% OVER ONE YEAR
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	1883	333	145	34
Barrow	0	0	0	0
Bethel	20	31	12	0
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	676	281	221	39
Glenallen	4	66	60	0
Haines	0	0	0	0
Homer	22	238	216	16
Juneau	166	190	49	23
Kenai	43	163	72	15
Ketchikan	51	191	141	20
Kodiak	38	132	68	8
Nome	8	178	120	13
Palmer	20	156	113	12
Seward	4	55	30	0
Sitka	25	190	55	26
Tok	0	0	0	0
Valdez	71	75	55	0
Wrangell	6	112	71	17
TOTAL	3037	282	151	32

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	248	69	69	23
Second	8	178	120	13
Third	2105	308	138	31
Fourth	676	281	221	39

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

(See Note 16)

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	Not Available			2045	Not Available	
Barrow				1		
Bethel				12		
Delta Junction				0		
Fairbanks				501		
Gienallen				0		
Haines				0		
Homer				20		
Juneau				335		
Kenai				68		
Ketchikan				53		
Kodiak				49		
Nome				9		
Palmar				11		
Seward				3		
Sitka				17		
Tok				0		
Valdez				90		
Wrangell				2		
TOTAL				3216		

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	Not Available		407	Not Available
Second			9	
Third			2298	
Fourth			502	

DISTRICT COURTS
OTHER CIVIL CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER ONE YEAR
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	2045	306	277	37
Barrow	1	633	633	100
Bethel	12	144	121	0
Delta Junction	0	0	0	0
Fairbanks	501	203	235	15
Glenallen	0	0	0	0
Haines	0	0	0	0
Homer	20	241	242	10
Juneau	335	319	294	31
Kenai	68	298	283	38
Katchikan	53	164	86	13
Kodiak	49	195	136	20
Nome	9	314	299	22
Palmer	11	161	113	9
Seward	3	212	184	0
Sitka	17	243	253	18
Tok	0	0	0	0
Valdez	90	181	161	2
Wrangell	2	364	364	50
TOTAL	3216	281	263	31

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	407	296	266	28
Second	9	314	299	22
Third	1298	296	268	35
Fourth	502	204	236	15

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
FILINGS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	30253	29352	32864	31784	+ 5	- 3
Barrow	44	56	104	59	+ 34	- 43
Bethel	304	154	60	28	- 91	- 53
Delta Junction	109	376	751	500	+ 359	- 33
Fairbanks	11169	11373	8568	11990	+ 7	+ 40
Glenallen	152	386	758	836	+ 450	+ 10
Haines	80	380	165	50	- 37	- 70
Homer	244	653	608	1060	+ 334	+ 74
Juneau	1213	1108	2229	2415	+ 99	+ 8
Kanai	879	1030	1425	3155	+ 259	+ 121
Ketchikan	2687	1972	1474	1525	- 43	+ 3
Kodiak	525	597	655	274	- 48	- 58
Nome	105	65	101	51	- 51	- 50
Palmer	708	1555	606	1825	+ 158	+ 201
Seward	436	682	935	1489	+ 242	+ 59
Sitka	500	612	515	480	- 4	- 7
Tok	46	277	368	210	+ 357	- 43
Valdez	107	416	834	1013	+ 847	+ 21
Wrangell	501	792	606	258	- 49	- 57
TOTAL	50062	51836	53625	59002	+ 18	+ 10

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4981	4864	4988	4728	- 5	- 5
Second	105	65	101	51	- 51	- 50
Third	33608	34825	38745	41464	+ 23	+ 7
Fourth	11368	12082	9791	12759	+ 30	+ 12

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
COMPOSITION OF FILINGS
1978

COURT	EQUIP- MENT	SPEED- ING	SIGNS/ CON- TROL DE- VICES	OTHER MOVING	LICENSE RESTRICT- TION	REGIS- TRA- TION/ TITLE	OTHER	TOTAL
Anchorage	4483	9167	6070	2834	4275	1094	3861	31784
Barrow	10	7	17	0	23	0	2	59
Bethel	2	6	5	2	4	0	9	28
Delta Junction	97	236	17	24	54	25	47	500
Fairbanks	2149	2988	1846	522	1220	499	2766	11990
Glenallen	208	425	23	28	81	49	22	836
Haines	5	15	12	2	11	3	2	50
Homer	83	729	17	21	107	52	51	1060
Juneau	590	752	327	92	360	230	64	2415
Kenai	1107	1266	196	70	297	158	61	3155
Ketchikan	148	779	89	58	243	146	62	1525
Kodiak	7	82	24	13	91	39	18	274
Nome	8	6	9	5	14	4	5	51
Palmer	425	596	211	117	229	135	112	1825
Seward	358	658	55	61	193	100	64	1489
Sitka	95	131	37	23	102	41	51	480
Tok	60	44	8	3	31	20	44	210
Valdez	269	290	118	21	168	62	85	1013
Wrangell	6	113	33	6	50	24	26	258
TOTAL	10110	18290	9114	3902	7553	2681	7352	59002
% OF TOTAL	17	31	15	7	13	5	9	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	844	1790	498	181	766	444	205	4728
Second	8	6	9	5	14	4	5	51
Third	6942	13219	6719	3167	5445	1689	4283	41464
Fourth	2316	3275	1888	549	1328	544	2859	12739

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
DISPOSITIONS
1973 — 1976

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	30109	27941	26226	30193	0	+ 15
Barrow	44	56	81	70	+ 59	- 14
Bethel	318	158	60	40	- 87	- 33
Delta Junction	102	320	690	607	+ 495	- 12
Fairbanks	11552	11206	6100	10943	- 5	+ 79
Gienallen	140	345	290	911	+ 551	+ 214
Haines	83	387	160	49	- 41	- 69
Homer	232	481	617	1088	+ 369	+ 76
Juneau	1131	1126	1039	2154	+ 90	+ 107
Kenai	860	1019	1165	3075	+ 258	+ 164
Ketchikan	2687	1972	1474	1549	- 42	+ 5
Kodiak	528	496	473	307	- 42	- 35
Nome	103	62	88	61	- 41	- 31
Palmer	715	1555	569	1833	+ 156	+ 222
Seward	435	677	680	1506	+ 246	+ 121
Sitka	500	605	487	479	- 4	- 2
Tok	43	249	263	233	+ 442	- 11
Valdez	101	365	797	1060	+ 950	+ 33
Wrangell	511	785	564	261	- 49	- 54
TOTAL	50194	49805	41823	56419	+ 12	+ 35

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4912	4875	3724	4492	- 9	+ 21
Second	103	62	88	61	- 41	- 31
Third	33438	33037	30877	40013	+ 20	+ 30
Fourth	11741	11231	7134	11853	+ 1	+ 66

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
DISPOSITION STAGES
1976

COURT	WITHOUT COURT APPEARANCE			WITH COURT APPEARANCE			TOTAL
	CLOSED STATISTICALLY	MAIL IN BAIL	WAIVER AT COUNTER	AT ARRAIGNMENT	BETWEEN ARRAIGNMENT AND TRIAL	TRIAL	
Anchorage	1511	4879	11942	6941	4550	370	30193
Barrow	0	4	8	30	28	0	70
Bethel	0	0	1	8	21	10	40
Delta Junction	14	16	201	76	241	59	607
Fairbanks	338	251	7110	1171	1983	90	10943
Glenallen	1	285	135	251	229	10	911
Haines	0	18	5	15	5	6	49
Homer	0	4	529	169	339	47	1088
Juneau	2	862	242	580	353	115	2154
Kenai	0	61	1231	659	969	155	3075
Ketchikan	0	627	85	523	179	135	1549
Kodiak	0	20	76	85	86	40	307
Nome	0	0	5	23	28	5	61
Palmer	3	12	647	317	632	222	1833
Seward	0	38	846	175	392	65	1506
Sitka	0	169	12	134	27	137	479
Tok	16	1	99	31	85	1	233
Valdez	11	12	454	162	401	20	1060
Wrangell	0	131	16	91	16	7	261
TOTAL	1896	7390	23644	11441	10554	1494	56419
% OF TOTAL	3	13	42	20	18	3	100

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	2	1807	360	1343	580	400	4492
Second	0	0	5	23	28	5	61
Third	1526	5311	15861	8767	7609	939	40013
Fourth	368	272	7419	1308	2337	150	11853

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
CONVICTION RATES
1976

(See Note 9)

COURT	DIS- POSI- TIONS	LESS NO SHOWS	NET DISPOSI- TIONS	GUILTY AT					CON- VIC- TION RATE
				BAIL FORFEIT OR COUNTER- WAIVER	AR- RAIGN- MENT	PRE- TRIAL	TRIAL	TOTAL	
Anchorage	30193	1511	28682	9326	6060	3070	111	18567	82
Barrow	70	0	70	9	9	2	0	20	29
Betnel	40	0	40	1	8	9	10	28	70
Delta Junction	607	14	593	181	58	154	58	451	76
Fairbanks	10943	338	10605	6642	728	697	32	8099	76
Glanallen	911	1	910	380	217	149	7	753	83
Haines	49	0	49	21	12	5	6	44	90
Homer	1088	0	1088	468	146	251	45	910	84
Juneau	2154	2	2152	903	451	219	98	1671	78
Kenai	3075	0	3075	853	387	822	126	2188	71
Ketchikan	1549	0	1549	677	497	119	119	1412	91
Kodiak	307	0	307	82	72	47	35	236	77
Nome	61	0	61	4	21	10	4	39	64
Palmer	1833	3	1830	470	212	407	219	1308	71
Seward	1506	0	1506	691	101	212	63	1067	71
Sitka	479	0	479	176	122	21	136	455	95
Tok	233	16	217	66	23	53	1	143	66
Valdez	1060	11	1049	402	133	334	19	888	85
Wrangell	261	0	261	140	86	13	6	245	94
TOTAL	56419	1896	54523	21492	9343	6594	1095	38524	71
% OF TOTAL			100	39	17	12	2	71	

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4492	2	4490	1917	1168	377	365	3827	85
Second	61	0	61	4	21	10	4	39	64
Third	40013	1526	38487	12673	7336	5301	635	25945	67
Fourth	11853	368	11485	6898	818	906	91	8713	76

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
AGE OF 1976 CASE DISPOSITIONS

COURT	CASES	AGE AT CLOSING (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	30193	196	177	65
Barrow	70	165	102	37
Bethel	40	237	212	71
Delta Junction	607	200	156	64
Fairbanks	10943	183	168	64
Glenallen	911	168	128	52
Haines	49	325	164	72
Homer	1088	184	166	72
Juneau	2154	180	170	64
Kenai	3075	168	160	73
Ketchikan	1549	140	138	57
Kodiak	307	192	182	62
Nome	61	216	199	74
Palmer	1833	182	169	67
Seward	1506	169	167	70
Sitka	479	157	157	60
Tok	233	215	189	74
Valdez	1060	190	173	69
Wrangell	261	144	145	58
TOTAL	56419	189	172	66

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	4492	163	156	61
Second	61	216	199	74
Third	40013	193	175	67
Fourth	11853	134	167	64

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
FINE AMOUNTS
1976

COURT	TOTAL FINES	AVERAGE FINE	REVENUE GENERATED		
			STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL
Anchorage	23722	25.00	260171	332879	593050
Barrow	20	9.00	176	4	180
Bethel	29	12.00	297	51	348
Delta Junction	452	38.00	17176	0	17176
Fairbanks	8103	26.00	132811	77867	210678
Glenallen	756	64.00	48384	0	48384
Haines	44	18.00	752	40	792
Homer	910	26.00	8832	14828	23660
Juneau	1677	18.00	2774	27412	30186
Kenai	2191	36.00	62464	15616	78080
Ketchikan	1413	22.00	16043	15043	31086
Kodiak	238	20.00	702	4096	4798
Nome	45	11.00	20	488	508
Palmer	1310	20.00	19820	5797	25617
Seward	1417	17.00	11123	12573	23696
Sitka	455	25.00	570	10826	11396
Tok	143	68.00	9715	0	9715
Valdez	995	53.00	36445	15941	52386
Wrangell	245	22.00	0	5383	5383
TOTAL	44165	26.43	623275	538944	1167119

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	3834	20.56	20139	58704	78843
Second	45	11.29	20	488	508
Third	31568	26.93	448238	401781	850019
Fourth	8718	27.27	159878	77871	237749

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
PENDING
1973 — 1976

(See Note 18)

COURT	1973	1974	1975	1976	% INCREASE	
					1973 to 1976	1975 to 1976
Anchorage	Not Available		8193	9784	Not Available	19
Barrow			23	12		- 48
Bethel			0	0		0
Delta Junction			124	17		- 86
Fairbanks			2635	3682		+ 40
Glenallen			531	446		- 14
Haines			5	6		+ 20
Homer			175	147		- 16
Juneau			1253	1514		+ 21
Kenai			290	370		+ 28
Ketchikan			24	0		0
Kodiak			283	250		- 12
Noma			18	51		+183
Palmer			37	29		- 22
Seward			261	244		- 7
Sitka			35	36		+ 3
Tok			136	113		- 17
Valdez			94	47		- 50
Wrangell			49	46		- 6
TOTAL			14156	16794		+ 19

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First	Not Available	1366	1602	Not Available	+ 17
Second		18	51		+183
Third		9854	11317		+ 15
Fourth		2918	3824		+ 31

DISTRICT COURTS
TRAFFIC CASES
AGE OF PENDING CASES AS OF DEC. 31, 1976

COURT	CASES	CURRENT AGE (IN DAYS)		% OVER 120 DAYS
		AVERAGE	MEDIAN	
Anchorage	Not Available			
Barrow		Not Available		
Bethel			Not Available	
Delta Junction				Not Available
Fairbanks				
Glenallen				
Haines				
Homer				
Juneau				
Kenai				
Ketchikan				
Kodiak				
Nome				
Palmer				
Seward				
Sitka				
Tok				
Vaidez				
Wrangell				
TOTAL				

BY JUDICIAL DISTRICT INCLUDING SERVICE AREAS

First				
Second				
Third				
Fourth				

E. DISTRICT COURT
(Lower Volume)



LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
1976 FILINGS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INCL. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	12	208	274	42	536
Second	24	292	21	9	346
Third	37	795	130	185	1147
Fourth	26	166	255	66	513
TOTAL	99	1461	680	302	2542
% OF TOTAL	4	57	27	12	100

LOW VOLUME DISTRICT COURTS
1976 DISPOSITIONS

JUDICIAL DISTRICT (INCL. SERVICE AREAS)	FELONY	MISDE-MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
First	9	180	258	23	470
Second	11	246	17	1	275
Third	24	765	156	163	1108
Fourth	23	181	284	6	494
TOTAL	67	1372	715	193	2347
% OF TOTAL	3	58	30	9	100

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Angoon Craig	0 4	1 14	0 20	1 0	2 38
Hoonah	0	0	0	0	0
Kake	0	0	1	0	1
Pelican	0	6	0	0	6
Petersburg	7	141	89	30	267
Skagway	1	46	142	11	200
Yakutat	0	0	22	0	22
TOTAL	12	208	274	42	536
% OF TOTAL	2	39	51	8	100

DISTRICT COURTS
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Angoon Craig	0 2	1 4	0 18	1 0	2 24
Hoonah	0	0	0	0	0
Kake	0	0	1	0	1
Pelican	0	6	0	0	6
Petersburg	7	121	90	9	227
Skagway	0	47	148	13	208
Yakutat	0	1	1	0	2
TOTAL	9	180	258	23	470

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Buckland	0	0	0	0	0
Gambell	0	10	0	0	10
Kiana	0	7	0	0	7
Kotzebue	21	234	6	9	270
Noorvick	0	2	0	0	2
Saroonga	0	0	0	0	0
Selawik	0	20	0	0	20
Teller	0	0	0	0	0
Unalakleet	3	18	15	0	36
Wales	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	24	292	21	9	346
% OF TOTAL	7	84	6	3	100

DISTRICT COURTS
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	total
Buckland	0	0	0	0	0
Gambell	0	10	0	0	10
Kiana	0	7	0	0	7
Kotzebue	10	188	4	1	203
Noorvick	0	2	0	0	2
Saroonga	0	0	0	0	0
Selawik	0	19	0	0	19
Teller	0	0	0	0	0
Unalakleet	1	19	13	0	33
Wales	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	11	246	17	1	275
% OF TOTAL	4	89	6	1	100

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay	0	11	5	13	29
Cordova	15	166	54	10	245
Dillingham	10	262	28	35	335
Naknek	3	239	8	126	376
Sand Point	0	0	0	0	0
Seldovia	2	15	33	1	51
St. Paul Island	2	23	1	0	26
Unalaska	4	12	0	0	16
TOTAL	36	728	129	185	1078
% OF TOTAL	3	67	12	17	100

DISTRICT COURTS
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Cold Bay	0	10	5	6	21
Cordova	11	149	85	9	254
Dillingham	3	255	24	30	312
Naknek	2	241	13	118	374
Sand Point	0	0	1	0	1
Seldovia	2	19	26	0	47
St. Paul Island	1	21	1	0	23
Unalaska	2	12	0	0	14
TOTAL	21	707	155	163	1046

BETHEL SERVICE AREA
1976 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	1	31	0	0	32
Emmonak	0	0	0	0	0
Hooper Bay	0	6	0	0	6
Kasigluk	0	0	0	0	0
(Nunapitchuk)					
Mekoryuk	0	8	0	0	8
Mt. Village	0	1	1	0	2
St. Marys	0	19	0	0	19
Tununak	0	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	1	67	1	0	69
% OF TOTAL	1.5	97	1.5	0	100

BETHEL SERVICE AREA
1976 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Aniak	1	30	0	0	31
Emmonak	0	0	0	0	0
Hooper Bay	0	5	0	0	5
Kasigluk	0	0	0	0	0
(Nunapitchuk)					
Mekoryuk	0	7	0	0	7
Mt. Village	0	1	1	0	2
St. Marys	2	14	0	0	16
Tununak	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	3	58	1	0	62



CONTINUED

3 OF 4

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	22	76	0	0	98
Galena	0	11	0	58	69
Healy	0	21	76	0	97
Nenana	1	18	177	0	196
Rampart	0	1	0	0	1
Tanana	3	39	2	8	52
TOTAL	26	166	255	66	513
% OF TOTAL	5	32	50	13	100

DISTRICT COURTS
FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
1976 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Ft. Yukon	20	76	0	0	96
Galena	0	4	0	3	7
Healy	0	46	104	1	151
Nenana	0	15	174	0	189
Rampart	0	0	0	0	0
Tanana	3	40	6	2	51
TOTAL	23	181	284	6	494

DISTRICT COURTS
BARROW SERVICE AREA
1976 FILINGS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Pt. Hope	0	3	0	0	3
Wainwright	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	3	0	0	3
% OF TOTAL	0	100	0	0	100

DISTRICT COURTS
BARROW SERVICE AREA
1976 DISPOSITIONS

COURT	FELONY	MISDE- MEANOR	TRAFFIC	CIVIL	TOTAL
Pt. Hope	0	3	0	0	3
Wainwright	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	3	0	0	3



NOTES

1. The basis for our 1975 estimates of population was "Current Population Estimates By Census Divisions," State of Alaska, Department of Labor (July 1, 1975).
2. There are 250 workdays in a year. We used this as the basis for computing full-time equivalent (FTE) judges. The number of FTE judges available is computed as follows.

$$\text{FTE Judges} = \frac{\text{Number of Judge Days Available}}{250}$$

3. Refer to Note 2 above and Table B-4.
4. The ratio of dispositions to filings is a common production control statistic to measure the efficiency of a process. If there is continually more input to than output from the system (the ratio is less than 100%), then the system becomes clogged up and its internal processes swell up. The formula for computing this statistic is as follows.

$$\text{Ratio of Dispositions to Filings} = \frac{\text{Number of Dispositions}}{\text{Number of Filings}}$$

5. This is a gross measure of how long it would take to clear up current case backlog in a court. The measure assumes that the court would dispose of cases at the same rate as in the past. The formula for computing this statistic is as follows.

$$\text{Backlog Months} = \frac{\text{Number of Cases Pending (Backlog)}}{\text{Average Cases Disposed of Per Month}}$$

We computed average cases disposed of per month by dividing 1976 disposition by 12.

6. The classification of types of filings is included in the Glossary of Terms (Appendix 3).
7. The ratio of defendants to filings is important in comparing relative workload between courts. If two courts have an equivalent number of filings, but the first court has a separate case for each defendant while the second court experiences multiple defendants per case, then the second court's workload is greater. The formula for computing this statistic is as follows.

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Ratio of} \\ \text{Defendants} \\ \text{to Filings} \end{array} = \frac{\text{Number of Defendants}}{\text{Number of Filings}}$$

8. Please note that this table includes the number of bail conditions reported, not the number actually experienced. Our data source is the court docket sheet and some of our courts have been remiss in completing the bail portion of the docket sheet.
9. In computing conviction rates, we include only those dispositions in which the courts played a judicial role. Cases dismissed by the prosecutor before a first appearance before the court are false starts and are deducted from the total number of dispositions. Changes of venue are more a function of the new court receiving the case than of the court where the matter was first filed. These are deducted from total disposition. Our formula for computing conviction rate is thus as follows:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Conviction} \\ \text{Rate} \end{array} = \frac{\text{Number of Cases Resulting in a} \\ \text{Guilty Plea or Verdict}}{\text{Judicial Dispositions}}$$

Where judicial disposition is computed as follows.

$$\text{Judicial Dispositions} = \text{Total Dispositions} - \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{Cases Dismissed} \\ \text{Before First} \\ \text{Appearance} \end{array} + \begin{array}{l} \text{Cases Removed} \\ \text{Due to Change} \\ \text{in Venue} \end{array} \right)$$

10. An omnibus hearing is defined as one in which two or more independent matters are heard. Its objective is to consolidate as many motions as possible into one hearing rather than schedule separate hearings for each motion.
11. The large number of pending cases, particularly in Anchorage and Fairbanks, is more a reflection of definition than of backlog. There are many probate cases that require annual accountings or other periodic reviews, and as such are never really closed, even though judicial action may have been terminated. A large number of pending probate cases fall in this category. As we sharpen our definition of pending and closed cases in the years to come, this number will reduce significantly. Please refer to our definition of "case" in the Glossary (Appendix 3) to see where we are heading on this definitional problem.
12. Prior to 1976, we included Domestic Relations under the broad heading of "Civil Cases." We now have separated these cases from other, or general, civil matters. Because of this classification change, however, comparison to prior years is complicated.
13. The classification of types of children's matters is included in the Glossary (Appendix 3) and in the chapter on Superior Courts.
14. One of the reasons for the increase in misdemeanor dispositions in Anchorage and Fairbanks was prosecutor dismissal of a large number of old cases with warrants outstanding.

15. Our computations for sentence served and fine paid are as follows.

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Sentence Served} & = & \frac{\text{Total Sentence Days Imposed} - \text{Total Sentence Days Suspended}}{\text{Number of Sentences Imposed}} \\ \\ \text{Fine Paid} & = & \frac{\text{Total Fine Dollars Imposed} - \text{Total Fine Dollars Suspended}}{\text{Number of Fines Imposed}} \end{array}$$

16. Prior to 1976, we included small claims under the broad heading of "Civil Cases." We now have separated these cases from other, or general, civil matters. Because of this classification change, however, comparison to prior years is complicated.
17. One of the reasons for the increase in civil disposition in Anchorage was a massive court dismissal of old, inactive cases. This was a one-time action in Anchorage as compared with Fairbanks, for example, where such a cleanup is done annually.
18. If you compare pending traffic cases from this report to previous reports, you will note some discrepancy in figures. Pending traffic statistics were inaccurate prior to 1975 when we implemented the Automated Traffic Processing System (ATPS).

ACTION: Judicial proceeding in which one party prosecutes another for the delaration, enforcement, or protection of a right; the redress or prevention of a wrong; the punishment of a public offense; or a proceeding brought under the Rules of Children's Procedure. Actions are categorized into the following types.

	<u>Type Action Code</u>
<u>Civil</u>	
Administrative Review	A
Civil Damage	C
Domestic Affairs	D
General Civil Matters	G
Small Claims	S
Other (e.g., Unlawful Detainer)	O
<u>Criminal</u>	
Felony	F
Misdemeanor	M
Other (e.g., Failure to Satisfy)	O
<u>Other</u>	
Traffic	T
Probate	P
Children's Matters	J

ARRAIGNMENT: First appearance before a court in which the defendant is informed of the charges against him, is appointed counsel, if necessary, and may be permitted to plead to the charges.

ASSIGNMENT: Designating a department or a judge to preside over one or all phases of a case.

CALENDAR: Schedule of cases awaiting hearing, conference, or trial.

CALENDAR AUDIT: Review of status of all cases on active lists. The audit might result in the removal of cases from the calendar and identification of cases which have been delayed excessively.

CALENDAR SYSTEM: System used for assigning and scheduling of court appearances. The system can be of the following types:

1. Individual: A system in which each case is assigned upon filing to a judge who is responsible for all phases of the case through final disposition.
2. Master (Central): A system of central assignment of cases during all phases of proceedings. As each successive phase of the case is ready for a hearing, conference, or trial, the case is assigned at that point to the next available judge.
3. Special: A system whereby judges are assigned to preside over cases in specific areas of legal practice (e.g., children's matters) or specific phases of the judicial process (e.g., motions for continuance).
4. Hybrid: A system which combines features of various calendar systems. One such system may employ a special calendar for children's matters and motions for continuance while using a master calendar for all other cases.

CALENDARING: Assigning and scheduling of court appearances.

CASE: Any action or special proceeding initiated through the filing of a complaint, petition, indictment, or information.

Cases are classified according to their status as follows:

1. Open: Any case in which final disposition has not taken place. Open cases include those cases which are:
 - a. Active: There has not been an unreasonable time since the last phase of the case has been completed and the next phase of the case is subject to calendaring.
 - b. Inactive: There is some reason which prevents the next phase of the case to be scheduled. The most common reason is failure to serve a warrant or summons.
2. Closed: Any case in which final disposition has taken place. This includes those inactive cases (e.g., warrant not served) which are closed due to prolonged inactivity, but subject to subsequent court action (e.g., probation revocation, failure to satisfy).
3. Reopened: Any case previously closed that is reinstated as an active case. This type of case includes appeals, probation revocations, failures to satisfy judgments, and cases closed due to prolonged inactivity (e.g., warrant unserved) but newly subject to active court processing (e.g., warrant finally served).

CASE BACKLOG: Total inventory of active cases.

CASE NUMBER: A ten-position, unique number given to each action filed. The number is comprised of the following information:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Contains</u>	
1	Type Court Code	(e.g., 'D')
2-3	Location Code	(e.g., 'AN')
4-5	Calendar Year	(e.g., '75')
6-9	Case Sequential Number <u>1/</u>	(e.g., '0375')
10	Type Action Code	(e.g., 'F')

CASE NUMBERING: A separate set of case sequence numbers will be established for at least the following minimum categories for each court.

CRIMINAL

CIVIL (including probate)

CHILDREN'S MATTERS

Additional sequences of numbers may be established depending on the needs of the courts. For example, probate matters may be numbered separately from civil matters if this is deemed to be of benefit to a particular court.

Actions filed within each category will be assigned the next sequential number available beginning with 0001 for the first action of that category filed in a calendar year.

1/ The one exception is for traffic actions for which Uniform Traffic Citation (UTC) is filed in lieu of a formal complaint. For these matters, the UTC number will be used as the case number.

CASE PROCESSING SYSTEM: System employed by a court to move cases from filing to disposition.

A well-managed case processing system would include the following elements:

1. A calendar system (e.g., master, individual, etc.);
2. Consistently applied policies governing the processing of cases, especially a policy on continuances and court participation in encouraging settlement prior to trial;
3. Clearly defined responsibilities for judicial, clerical, and administrative personnel of the court;
- 4. System performance and time standards for processing cases;
5. Monitoring and evaluating procedures.

CHILDREN'S PROCEEDINGS: Proceedings brought pursuant to AS 47.10 and the Rules of Children's Procedure. Such proceedings include:

1. Detention Inquiry: In-court proceeding to determine whether a child should be detained or placed in a foster home or shelter pending further proceedings. May resemble a contested hearing to review bail in adult criminal case.
2. Adjudication Hearing: In-court proceeding to determine the issue of delinquency, dependency, or need of supervision. May involve an admission by the party, in which case the hearing will resemble an arraignment and taking of guilty plea in adult criminal matters, or may be contested, in which it will resemble a trial.
3. Disposition Hearing: In-court proceeding to determine the placement of a child found to be delinquent, dependent, or in need of supervision. Resembles contested sentencing hearing in adult criminal cases.

4. Waiver Hearing: In-court proceeding to determine whether there is probable cause to believe a child committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would be a crime and whether the child is amenable to treatment. If order is entered waiving children's procedure, the children's case is closed and the child may be prosecuted as an adult.

CHILDREN'S MATTER ISSUE: The nature of the action placed before the court. Issues are defined as:

1. Delinquency: A child is determined delinquent who commits an act that would be a crime were he or she an adult.
2. Dependency: A child is dependent upon the State if he or she is--
 - a. Abandoned;
 - b. Lacks proper parental care;
 - c. Associates with vagrant, vicious, or criminal people;
 - d. Engages in an occupation or in a situation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to health, morals, or welfare of himself or others;
 - e. Is an orphan who has no relatives willing and able to assume custody or care;
 - f. Has been released by his parents or guardian for adoptive purposes;
 - g. Is in need of special care or training not otherwise provided.
3. Child in Need of Supervision: This is a child who--
 - a. Is habitually truant from school or home;
 - b. Habitually so conducts himself as to injure or endanger the morals or health of himself or others;

- c. By reason of being wayward or habitually disobedient is uncontrollable by his parent, guardian, or custodian.

COMPLAINT: In civil practice, the complaint is the first pleading on the part of the plaintiff in a civil action. In criminal law, a charge that a person has committed a specified offense, with an offer to prove the fact, to the end that a prosecution may be instituted.

COURT TYPE: A code used to identify the type of court in which an action is filed and, in the case of misdemeanors, the jurisdiction of the statute alleged to have been committed. The code is defined as follows:

<u>Type Court</u>	<u>Type Court Code</u>
Supreme	P
Superior	S
District (Borough Statutes)	B
District (Municipal Statutes)	M
District (Other)	D

DEFERRED PROSECUTION: Referral of a defendant for education, rehabilitation, or treatment during which the criminal proceedings are suspended.

DISPOSITION: Determination of a case, whether by dismissal, settlement, verdict, or finding.

DISPOSITIONS PER JUDGE DAY: The average number of case dispositions for each day a judge is sitting on the bench.

DOCKET: Listing in some form (e.g., ledger, cards, or microfilm) of all actions taken and all documents filed in a particular case. The purposes of the docket are:

1. To provide a chronological synopsis of each case in order to minimize reference to the official case file;
2. To provide an inventory of all documents that should be contained in the official case file.

FELONY: A criminal offense for which the minimum penalty upon conviction may be one year's imprisonment. For summarization, felonies are grouped into the following categories:

1. Violent crimes against persons
2. Property crimes
3. Drug crimes
4. Check forgery
5. Fraud crimes
6. "Other" Crimes

Robbery is considered a special category of its own, for it contains elements of both "violence" and "property" crimes, and has unique conviction and sentencing patterns. 2/ Each category contains the following individual crimes:

2/ Adapted from Appendix II, Sentencing in Alaska, Judicial Council, (1975).

Violent

1. All Homicides (murders, manslaughter, and negligent homicide);
2. All Assaults (shooting with intent to kill; assault with a dangerous weapon; assault and battery; assaults with intent to rob, rape, etc.);
3. All "Weapons" charges (felon in possession, careless use of firearms, carrying weapon during commission of a felony);
4. Rape, and other sex-related crimes that are "violent" (lewd and lascivious acts, statutory rape, sodomy, and incest);
5. Kidnapping and child-stealing.

Property

1. Burglary in a dwelling, burglary not in a dwelling, attempted burglaries;
2. Grand larceny, larceny in a building, larceny from a person, larceny of money or property, attempted larcenies;
3. Receiving and concealing, retention of lost property;
4. All arsons, burning to defraud insurer, malicious destruction of property (not included under "violent" because not against persons).

Fraud and Forgery or Check and Fraud

1. Check forgeries, attempts, and passing forged checks; altering checks and passing altered checks;
2. Issuing checks without sufficient funds;
3. Obtaining property or money under false pretenses;
4. All forms of embezzlement;
5. All other forgeries, false statements, and fraudulent use of credit card.

Drugs

1. All "soft" drug charges (hallucinogenic, stimulant or depressant drugs, chiefly marijuana, hashish, LSD, etc.)--possession, possession for sale, and sale;
2. All "hard" drug charges (heroin, cocaine, etc.)--possession, possession for sale, and sale;
3. Manufacture of hard drug;
4. Attempted sales, and sales to minors.

Other

1. Escape
2. Perjuries
3. Concealment of evidence
4. Inciting commission of a felony
5. Tax evasion, and false tax returns
6. Attempting to procure female for prostitution
7. Failure to render assistance, leaving scene of accident.

HEARING (Uncontested): An in-court proceeding having the primary purpose of placing undisputed factual or legal matters on the record as may be required by rule or as a prerequisite to entry of judgment. Examples include waivers of speedy trial in a

criminal case; taking of guilty plea and sentencing other than at arraignment where the sentence is the product of an out-of-court agreement between prosecution and defense; hearing on application for default judgment or decree.

HEARING (Contested): An in-court proceeding other than a trial requiring judicial determination of one or more contested factual or legal matters. Examples include hearing on motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, for new trial, to compel discovery, to suppress evidence, etc., in civil and criminal cases and contested bail review and sentencing hearings in criminal cases. Contested hearings are considered as part of the trial of a case if heard during, immediately preceding, or immediately following the trial.

INDICTMENT: Formal accusation presented by a grand jury which charges a person with a felony.

INFORMATION: Formal accusation presented by a District Attorney which charges a person with a felony after waiver of grand jury and after a finding that a felony has been committed and that there is probable cause to believe that it was committed by the person charged.

JUDGMENT: Final decree or any final order from which an appeal lies.

JUDGE DAY: For planning purposes, a judge day is assumed to comprise five hours of bench time with the remainder of time spent in chambers or elsewhere. 3/

JUDGE DAYS AVAILABLE: For planning purposes, an average of so many judge days a year are assumed to be available based upon the following computation:

Available week days per year less

- Vacation
- Sick Leave
- Conferences/outside travel
- Reduction for calendar control and administrative functions
- Reduction for intradistrict travel on judicial matters

JUDICIAL TIME:

1. Case related. Judge time (covering judges, judges pro tem, magistrates, or standing masters) spent on activities directly related to specific case disposition. These activities include bench and chamber activities, time spent on case, preparation and review, or any other activities which can be directly related to a specific case number.
2. Non-case related. Judge time (covering judges, judges pro tem, magistrates, or standing masters) spent on activities indirectly related to case dispositions. These are activities which cannot be directly assessed to a specific case number.

3/ Reference "Administrative Analysis of the King County District Courts," Western Region of the National Center for State Courts, 8/28/75 (pp 144 and 145).

COURT LOCATION: A two-position code reflecting court locations.

This code is as follows:

Amchitka -	AM	Mountain Village	MV
Anchorage	AN	Naknek	NA
Angoon	AG	or King Salmon	
Aniak	AK	Nenana	NE
Barrow	BA	Nome	NO
Bethel	BE	North Pole	NP
Buckland	BU	Noorvik	NR
Cantwell	CA	Nulato	NU
or Healy		Nunapitchuk	NN
Cold Bay	CB	or Kasigluk	
Cordova	CO	Palmer	PA
Craig	CR	Pelican	PL
Dillingham	DI	Petersburg	PE
Delta Junction	DJ	Point Hope	PH
Emmonak	EM	Rampart	RA
Fairbanks	FA	Selawik	SE
Fort Yukon	FY	Seldovia	SL
Galena	GA	Seward	SW
Gambell	GB	Sitka	SI
Glennallen	GL	Skagway	SK
Haines	HA	St. Marys	SM
Hooper Bay	HB	Sand Point	SP
Hoonah	HN	Savoonga	SA
Homer	HO	St. Paul Island	ST
Juneau	JU	Tanana	TA
Kake	KA	Teller	TE
Kenai	KN	Tok	TO
Ketchikan	KE	Tununak	TU
Kiana	KI	Unalaska	UN
Kodiak	KO	Unalakleet	UT
Kotzebue	KB	Valdez	VA
Manley Hot Springs	MA	Wainwright	WA
McGrath	MC	Wales	WL
Mekoryuk	ME	Wrangell	WR
		Yakutat	YA

MISDEMEANORS: Violations of criminal law for which the maximum sentence that can be levied is one year. For summarization, we have grouped many misdemeanors into nine categories:

1. Violence-Related. Those misdemeanors in which some physical violence is alleged to have occurred or the potential for violence is alleged to have been demonstrated. Included in this category are assault and battery, assault, carrying a concealed weapon, and malicious destruction of property.
2. Theft/Fraud. Those misdemeanors associated with theft or fraud. This category includes concealment of merchandise or shoplifting, concealing stolen property, defrauding an inkeeper (e.g., refusing to pay a legitimate bill), false statements and reports, fraudulent use of a credit card, petty larceny, taking a watercraft, joyriding, and worthless checks.
3. Environmental. Those misdemeanors where it is alleged that some part of the environment has been damaged. This category includes dog and animal-related offenses, fish and game violations, littering and junk-related offenses, and pollution.
4. Nuisance-Related. Those misdemeanors constituting minor nuisance to the public. This category includes disorderly conduct, indecent exposure, loitering, and trespassing.
5. Alcohol/Drugs. Those misdemeanors involving excessive use of alcohol and drugs, other than traffic-related offenses.
6. Vice. Those misdemeanors in which the offense is related to morals. This category includes gambling, prostitution, solicitation, and other misdemeanor crimes dealing with sex.
7. Resisting the Law. Those misdemeanors where it is alleged that the defendant thwarted the activities of a law enforcement official. This category includes aiding escape, escape, destroying evidence, fugitive from justice, and resisting arrest.
8. Traffic-Related. Those misdemeanors involving driving. This category includes operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (OMVI), leaving the scene of an accident, other accident violations (e.g., failure to report), operator's license violations, reckless driving, and negligent driving.

9. Other. All misdemeanors not belonging to one of the above categories.

PHASE: Particular stage or point in the judicial process requiring judicial or administrative action. The following are possible phases in civil and criminal actions:

Civil

1. Filing of complaint or petition
2. Filing answer
3. Filing memorandum to set
4. Motions
5. Conferences: pretrial, settlement, trial setting
6. Trial
7. Post trial: motions, appeals

Misdemeanor

1. Filing of Complaint
2. Arraignment
3. Plea and appointment of counsel
4. Pretrial Conference
5. Pretrial Disposition
6. Trial
7. Post trial: motions, probation report, sentencing, appeals

Felony

1. Filing of complaint
2. District Court Arraignment
3. District Court Pre-hearing Disposition

4. District Court Preliminary Examination
5. Grand Jury
6. Filing of information or indictment
7. Superior Court Arraignment
8. Plea
9. Motions
10. Conferences: trial setting, pretrial
11. Pretrial Disposition
12. Trial
13. Post Trial: motions, probation report, sentencing, appeals

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION: Hearing conducted in a lower court to determine whether a felony has been committed and whether sufficient cause exists to believe the defendant guilty. The results of the preliminary examination include:

1. Dismissal
2. Reduction of charge to a misdemeanor
3. Held to Answer (bound over to the Superior Court)
4. Discharge (no formal complaint filed)

PRETRIAL CONFERENCE: A conference before a judge, reciting stipulations and admissions, amendments allowed to pleadings, and any other action which may control the subsequent course of action of the case. The conference may result in a pretrial conference order.

PROCEEDING: Any hearing or court appearance related to the adjudication of a case.

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE: Conference with a judge or judicial personnel at which the parties discuss the possibility of disposing of the case without a trial.

SHORT CAUSE CASE: Case with an estimated trial time of one day or less, as estimated by the parties.

SUSPENDED IMPOSITION OF SENTENCE (SIS): A condition whereby, if a convicted misdemeanant passes a specified period of time (e.g., one year) without another conviction, the conviction on this case may be set aside.

TRIAL: An in-court proceeding of a contested case (the matter is in dispute) at which evidence is presented and a final judgment on all matters in dispute is expected. The trial may be by jury or by court (without jury). The trial is separated into the following phases:

1. Voir Dire. (Jury trial only) The oral examination of potential jurors for selection and elimination of jurors from a jury panel;
2. Proceedings. Opening statements by counsel, the presentation of testimony and other evidence by the parties, motions during the trial and arguments of counsel;
3. Deliberation. (Jury trial only) The time required of a jury to weigh the evidence in order to arrive at a verdict;
4. Verdict. (Jury trial only) Announcement in open court of jury verdict and polling of jury, if requested;
5. Decision/Finding. (Non-jury trial) Announcement in open court of court's decision on the merits immediately following proceedings.

Considered an uncontested hearing if case taken under advisement and decision is announced in open court at a later time;

6. Pretrial/Post-trial Hearing: Hearings on motions occurring immediately before jury selection or plaintiff's opening statement, or immediately after proceedings, verdict, or decision.

TRIAL BACKLOG: Total inventory of cases at issue. A civil case is at issue upon the filing of an answer by any defendant. A criminal case is at issue when the defendant is arraigned before a court having jurisdiction to try the case.

TRIAL SETTING CONFERENCE: Conference held in lieu of pretrial conference at which it is determined whether a case is ready. If so, a trial date is set. At this conference, procedural details only are determined and no restatement of the issues is made.

WORKLOAD INDICATORS: These indicators reflect relative workload, backlog, and resources expended per court.

1. Workload

- a. Dispositions Per Judge: The average amount of dispositions filed per full-time judge assigned. This indicator can either be computed on a gross basis or the number of judges assigned can be altered to reflect travel, vacation, or assignment of judges to other locations.

Dispositions Per Judge = $\frac{\text{Number Cases Disposed of}}{\text{Number of Judges Assigned}}$

- b. Dispositions To Filings: The rates by which cases disposed of follow cases filed. A figure of 100% is optimal. A figure below 100% indicates an increase in backlog. A figure above 100% indicates a decrease in backlog.

Dispositions = $\frac{\text{Number of Cases Dipped of}}{\text{Number of Cases Filed}}$
To Filings

2. Backlog

a. Backlog Months: A gross measure of how long it would take to dispose of current backlog if cases were disposed of at the same rate as in the immediate past.

Backlog = $\frac{\text{Number Cases Pending}}{\text{Cases Disposed of Per Month}}$
Months

b. Delayed Case Ratio: The percent of cases pending after an established period of time. For criminal cases, this period of time is four months, for all other cases it is one year.

Delayed = $\frac{\text{Number Cases Pending Beyond Period}}{\text{Number Cases Pending}}$
Case Ratio

3. Resources Expended (efficiency)

a. Personnel Ratio: The number of full-time, permanent employees at any location compared to case activity at that location.

Personnel = $\frac{\text{Number Full-Time Permanent Employees*}}{\text{Number Cases Disposed Of}}$
Ratio

*Including Judicial Personnel

b. Budget Ratio: The amount of non-personnel, non-capital dollars expended per case activity.

Budget = $\frac{\text{Non-Personnel, Non-Capital \$ Expended}}{\text{Number Cases Disposed Of}}$
Ratio

END