



**New Mexico Judiciary
Annual Report
2004**

Annual Message

As Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court, it is my pleasure to present the Annual Report which highlights the New Mexico Judiciary's accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2004. These accomplishments would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of judges and staff working at all levels of the Judiciary. I am amazed and gratified by what the Judiciary is able to do in spite of limited funding. As my term as Chief Justice comes to an end, I look back with satisfaction on all that we have been able to achieve.

When I addressed the Legislature at the beginning of my term as Chief Justice, I described four special initiatives that I would be pursuing during my term as Chief Justice. Contained in the body of this report is an accounting of the progress of each initiative. Again, I am so grateful to the individuals who work for the Judiciary and the private citizens who helped move those initiatives forward.

In addition to the four initiatives, I am pleased to announce that the New Mexico Commission on Access to Justice was established by Supreme Court Order in July 2004. The Commission will explore ways to ensure that all New Mexico citizens have meaningful access to the civil legal system regardless of income. The Supreme Court also established the Criminal Justice Task Force to address inadequate staff, funding and other issues which hamper the timely resolution of criminal cases. The impetus for the Criminal Justice Task Force was the belief that unless all parts of the system receive adequate funding, justice is hampered, like a car traveling down the road with a flat tire. I am pleased to report that the task force has already recommended a number of measures to alleviate delays in the processing of cases.

I also had the pleasure of meeting with legislators from all parts of the state including Roswell, Las Cruces, Gallup, Albuquerque, Grants, Bernalillo and Santa Fe to discuss the needs of the Judiciary. My travels throughout the state bring back fond memories of when I was campaigning for a place on the Supreme Court. I have been reminded over and over why New Mexico is called the Land of Enchantment.

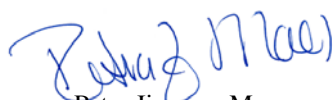
I am also very proud of the Judiciary's Unified Budget. The courts initiated the Unified Budget process in 1998. Since that time, individual courts, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Law Library and other judicial entities prepare their budgets in accordance with a consistent overall philosophy. Individual budgets are presented to the Chief Judges Council Budget Committee for discussion and approval. Once the budget as a whole has been approved by the Budget Committee, it is presented to the full Chief Judges Council for approval. The Supreme Court approves the Unified Budget before it is presented to the Legislature.

The Judiciary only receives 2.4% of the entire state budget. While the courts have received modest increases from the Legislature, we did not receive funding for all our priority needs such as additional judgeships and salary increases for our lowest paid employees. While we remain mindful of budget shortfalls, the Judiciary cannot maintain justice without adequate funding.

In addition to our base budget request, the Judiciary also actively pursued capital outlay money to ensure adequate court facilities and information technology (IT) money to ensure the Judiciary remains on the cutting edge of technology. Seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) was allocated last legislative session, which allowed some replacement of basic hardware needs. The goal is to receive a consistent amount of IT funds each year so that the Judiciary can adequately meet its IT needs. Our capital outlay and IT requests go through the same level of scrutiny as base budget and expansion requests and are also contained in the Unified Budget.

As I reflect upon the past two years, I am proud of what the Judiciary has been able to accomplish. I am so grateful to the judges and staff of the individual courts for their hard work and dedication. As Chief Justice Bosson leads the courts into the new year, I look back with pride at what we have accomplished and look forward to future successes.

Sincerely,



Petra Jimenez Maes

Chief Justice



Chief Justice's Initiatives

Domestic Relations

The Domestic Relations Task Force, established in 1998, was reconstituted to improve court procedures in domestic relations matters. Judge Anne Kass ably chairs the Task Force. The Task Force focused on the creation of a rule mandating a duty to disclose as opposed to a duty to discover in domestic relations cases.

In June, the Task Force unanimously approved a mandatory disclosure rule. The purpose of the rule is to decrease acrimony and mistrust between and among parties involved in domestic relations disputes; to lessen legal fees and costs of domestic relations disputes; to foster the fiduciary duty between spouses and others who have cohabited in an intimate relationship and who are presently involved in a domestic relations dispute; to assist lawyers to assure that clients make full and honest disclosure of the existence and value of assets, debts and income; and to encourage families to restructure their relationships inexpensively, efficiently and respectfully. The rule has been submitted to the Civil Rules Committee for its review.

Jury Improvement Standing Committee

Supreme Court Justice Edward L. Chavez and Second Judicial District Judge Ted Baca serve as co-chairs of the Jury Improvement Standing Committee to continue the process of reviewing and improving jury service for the citizens of New Mexico. In May 2004, the Committee released its first report and recommendations.

In all, the Supreme Court adopted 35 Committee recommendations concerning all elements of jury service from the initial summons to jury payment. The work of the Committee is ongoing and additional recommendations are expected within the next year.

Children's Court Judges

The Court Improvement Task Force began to work toward establishing a Children's/Family Court in every judicial district in the state. A designated/permanent children's court judge in each district enables that judge to use his or her expertise and dedication to better serve the needs of New Mexico's children.

The Task Force first identified the districts which requested new judgeships. Chief Justice Maestas approached the chief judges of those districts and asked them to use any new judgeship position to create a Children's/Family Court division.

As a result of this effort, the Thirteenth Judicial District created a new Family Court Division for two of the three counties in its district. As judges retire, districts are also being encouraged to designate the replacement judge as a children's court judge.

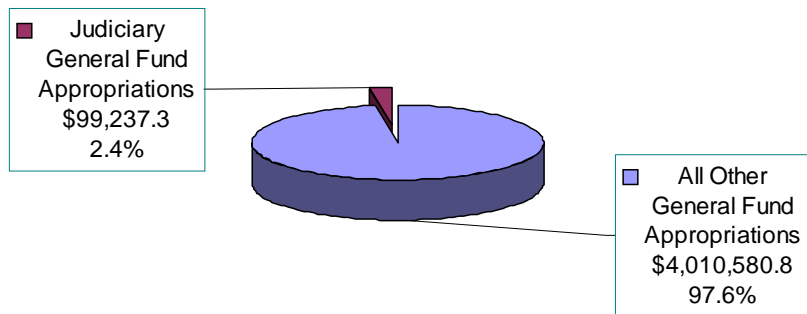
Security

The Statewide Court Security Committee, chaired by AOC Director Gina Maestas, was formed to address the safety of court personnel and the public. The Supreme Court approved the revised Security Incident and Telephone Threat Report forms and mandated the use of the forms in each court. The forms will allow the Judiciary to gather statistics on security incidents, which will enable the Judiciary to better assess security needs in each court. The magistrate courts received training on how to use the reports at their annual training in September.

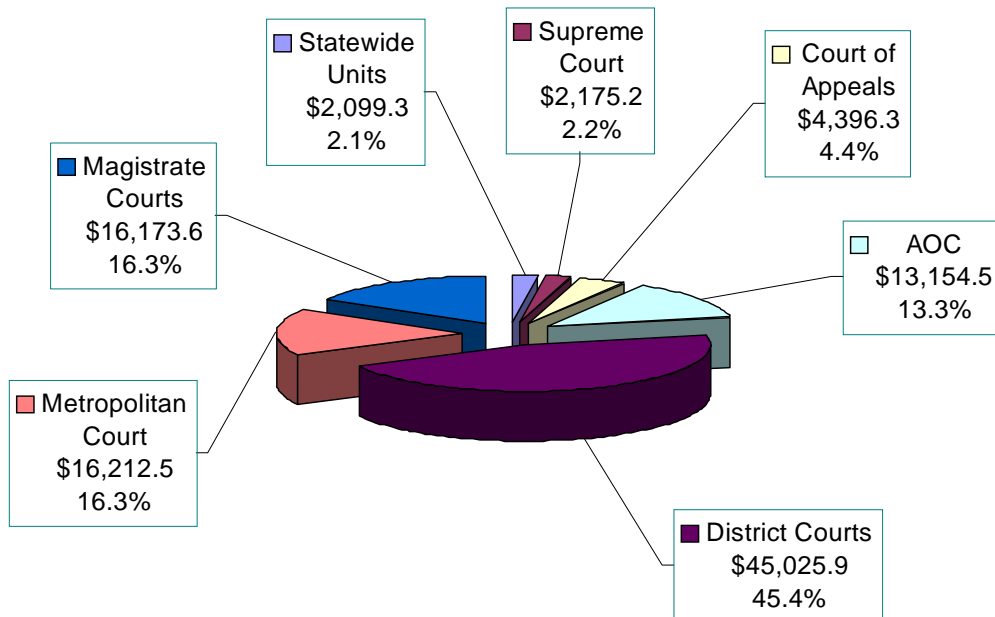
The Committee has also categorized areas of security and is in the process of finalizing recommendations to the Supreme Court on security measures which can be implemented in every state court, despite the differences in size and location of courts. Finally, Committee members have attended security conferences and have met with the U.S. Marshal's office to gather information to ensure that the state courts are adequately protected.

The Budget of the New Mexico Judiciary

FY 2004 General Fund Recurring Appropriation (in thousands)



FY 2004 Judiciary General Fund Budget (in thousands)



Special Programs

The **New Mexico Court Improvement Project** (CIP) continues to focus on initiatives to improve outcomes for abuse and neglected children:

- *Improving the Timeliness of Court Events:* At the request of Chief Justice Maes, the Court Improvement Project initiated efforts to establish a Children's Court in every judicial district. This endeavor, which will be implemented in phases, ensures the prioritization of these cases on the docket and thus improves the timeliness of court events in child abuse/neglect cases. The new judgeship created in the Thirteenth Judicial District was assigned to a new Family Court Division for two of the three counties in the District. This effort adds to the previously established Children's Court Divisions in the First, Second and Third Judicial Districts.

CIP continued conversations with the Court of Appeals regarding expediting appeals in abuse/neglect cases and worked with the Judicial Information Division to improve the FACTS™ case management application to better capture data on child abuse/neglect cases.
- *Exploring and Implementing Various Case Processing Options and Other Innovations:* The CIP Task Force Guardianship Subcommittee developed forms for *pro se* litigants and secured approval from the Supreme Court for their provisional use in seeking appointment as kinship guardians under New Mexico's new Kinship Guardianship Act. The Subcommittee also collaborated with the Department of Aging and Long Term Services, the Grandparent and Kinship Coalition, the AARP, the Incarcerated Parents Task Force, and others, to develop a model Kinship Guardianship program and published a new Court Improvement Project booklet, *Ensuring the Well-Being of Children in Foster Care – What's Needed and What You Can Do About It*.
- *Training and Technical Assistance:* The Court Improvement Project co-sponsored and helped plan the 2004 Annual Children's Law Institute. This statewide conference provides new information and skills for attorneys, judges, social workers, juvenile probation/parole officers, citizen review board (CRB) members,

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs), foster parents, service providers and others involved with children and families.

- *Quality of Advocacy:* The CIP Task Force Quality of Advocacy Subcommittee developed performance standards for court-appointed attorneys and secured the approval of those standards from the Supreme Court. The Subcommittee also sponsored a two-day summit on representing children in abuse/neglect cases, in collaboration with the University of New Mexico School of Law. The Quality of Advocacy Subcommittee developed a new two-attorney model for children's attorneys that envisions an attorney/GAL for children under age 14 and a client-directed attorney for children 14 years old or older.
- *Co-Occurring Substance Abuse:* The CIP Statewide Family Drug Court Advisory Committee helped establish Family Drug Courts (FDCs) in three judicial districts. The Committee, in conjunction with the family drug courts, also published a guide entitled *Creating a Family Drug Court in Your Judicial District: A Step-by-Step Guide* and developed an FDC database. The Committee also helped secure TANF funding for substance abuse treatment for FDC clients and participated in developing FDC standards.

Originally a Court Improvement Project initiative, the **Tribal-State Judicial Consortium** published a new booklet in FY 04, *Preserving Native American Families in New Mexico - The Indian Child Welfare Act and The Adoption & Safe Families Act*. This booklet provides an overview of the terms of Indian Child Welfare Act, the relationship of that Act to the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and other information about serving Indian children in New Mexico.

The Tribal-State Judicial Consortium also co-hosted its annual conference, The **Fifth Annual Cross Court Cultural Exchange**, in Ruidoso and Mescalero, New Mexico.

The **Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission** (JPEC) evaluates judges standing for retention who have served on the bench for at least two years. The Commission does not evaluate judges

running in first-time partisan elections. The JPEC released its recommendation to the voters at least 45 days before the November 2, 2004, General Election on the performance of Court of Appeals Judge Roderick Kennedy and information on Supreme Court Justice Richard Bosson.

The JPEC shared the results of its interim evaluations with eleven Bernalillo Metropolitan Court Judges. The Commission does not share interim evaluation results with the public since the primary objective of the interim evaluation is self-improvement. A final evaluation of the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Judges is planned for 2006.

The AOC, in partnership with the Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD), has offered mediation in abuse and neglect cases since March 2000 through the **Children's Court Mediation Project**. The project now includes twelve counties in six judicial districts. Cases are mediated at the pre-legal (before a child is removed from the home) and legal stages of a case including at the 10-day custody hearing, the pre-adjudicatory hearing, pre-permanency, and termination hearings. Long-range plans to expand the project were curtailed due to funding cuts, and the program focused on maintaining the status quo while alternative funding sources were explored.

Besides interpreting for persons who are parties or witnesses in a case, New Mexico also provides **interpreters** for non-English speaking jurors. Pursuant to its Constitution, New Mexico is the only state in the country that allows non-English speakers to serve as jurors. For about one in four New Mexicans, English is not that person's first language.

In 2004, the AOC conducted **court interpreter training workshops and certification testing** for the first time in four years. Over 240 prospective interpreters attended five orientation workshops to learn about court interpreting. One hundred people attended the two-day skills building workshop to improve their interpreting skills. Ninety people took the screening exam for court interpreter certification. Of these, fourteen people passed the screening exam and moved on to the second phase of certification testing.

On September 30, 2004, Justice Edward L. Chavez, along with the judges of the Third Judicial

District, swore in eight newly certified court interpreters. New Mexico's passing rate for the certification exam, just under 10 percent, is consistent with the other member states of the Consortium.

The **Second Judicial District** participated in National Adoption Day in November 2003, with 29 cases.

The **Magistrate Court Warrant Enforcement Program** collects outstanding fines and fees for the magistrate courts. In FY 04, the program collected \$3,411,020 in outstanding fines and fees and collected \$1.9 million in bench warrant fees, for a total of \$5,311,020.

The **Second Judicial District** tracked and reported results to the Bernalillo County Warrants Workgroup in an effort to reduce the number of warrants.

The Department of Finance and Administration awarded its **Responsibility for the Accounting Function Awards** to state agencies who met part or all of the six financial standards established as a result of the passage of House Bill 219 in the 2003 Legislative Session. Each judicial unit met part of these financial standards. The Second Judicial District received special recognition for meeting all six standards. The Tenth Judicial District received special recognition for meeting five of the six standards. Out of the 106 agencies statewide, only six met all six standards and only nine met five standards.

The **Water Rights Adjudication fund** pays for judges pro tempore, law clerks, court reporters, judicial specialists, mediation, imaging, travel and other expenses incurred by the courts in water litigation and stream adjudication cases, as well as training of water court division judges. The fund also pays the costs of the Judiciary's adjudication team – a special master, data manager, data entry personnel and other personnel working with the special master on the state stream adjudications. The adjudication team has begun a complex case management project in State v. Lewis, the purpose of which is to implement creative techniques and procedures for managing complex litigation in a stream adjudication. Procedures that prove to be effective will be incorporated in all stream adjudications.

Specialized Courts

Drug Courts

- Approximately 200 drug court professionals from around the state attended the Sixth Annual New Mexico Association of Drug Court Professionals (NMADCP) Conference, which was held on November 4-5, in Albuquerque.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court approved the New Mexico Judiciary Drug Court Standards.
- The New Mexico Supreme Court issued a Proclamation of May as “New Mexico Drug Court Month.”
- The Legislature appropriated funding for computer and electronic monitoring equipment for the state’s drug court programs. With that funding, drug court computers and databases were upgraded; existing drug court databases were retrofitted with a minimum data set; and a standard database was created for new drug courts as they come online.
- The Statewide Drug Court Coordinator worked with JID and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to gain access for the drug courts to the New Mexico Criminal Justice Information System database, to ensure consistency in calculating recidivism of drug court participants.
- New Mexico Drug Courts received a grant from the Office of Justice Programs which will benefit seven drug court programs in the Second, Third, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Judicial Districts.
- The Statewide Drug Court Coordinator represented the AOC and drug court programs on the newly formed Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative and Design Work Group.

The **First Judicial District** drug court programs served 102 adult clients and 66 juvenile clients. Sixteen adult drug court clients and 16 juvenile drug court clients graduated from the drug court program in FY 04. Additionally, a grant from the New Mexico Department of Health will allow the drug court programs in Rio Arriba County to accommodate twice the clients it now serves.

The **Second Judicial District** instituted a family dependency drug court in June 2004. Policies

and procedures were developed to address abuse and neglect cases.

The **Third Judicial District** implemented a family dependency drug court while continuing to provide juvenile and adult drug court services.

The **Fourth Judicial District** implemented a new juvenile drug court program.

The **Fifth Judicial District**, in cooperation with CYFD, implemented a new family drug court in Lea County, to provide drug and alcohol treatment, counseling and services to families in abuse and neglect cases.

The **Sixth Judicial District** juvenile drug court has served 48 participants since its inception in July of 2000. Ten participants have graduated from high school or received their GED. Three drug-free babies have been born to former drug court participants.

The **Ninth Judicial District** began plans for an adult drug court.

The **Twelfth Judicial District** used grant funds to expand its juvenile drug court program to Lincoln County.

The **Thirteenth Judicial District** initiated its third juvenile drug court. While the drug court continues to add clients, it is also moving toward a total family model, which makes the juvenile offender’s entire family subject to the same sanctions and incentives as the juvenile.

The **Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court** created an Urban Native American Drug Court to provide culturally appropriate services and approaches to treatment. A Co-Occurring Disorders Drug Court was created to serve defendants with both substance abuse and mental health disorders.

The **Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court** also expanded its Homeless Court, Mental Health Court, the Domestic Violence Early Intervention Program and the civil pro se office.

The **Second Judicial District:**

- Began the Program for the Empowerment of Girls (PEG) – an intensive juvenile probation program serving girls with a history of violence, either as victim, witness or offender. The program is administered through a team

approach consisting of members from children's court, probation, the Public Defender Department and the Office of the District Attorney.

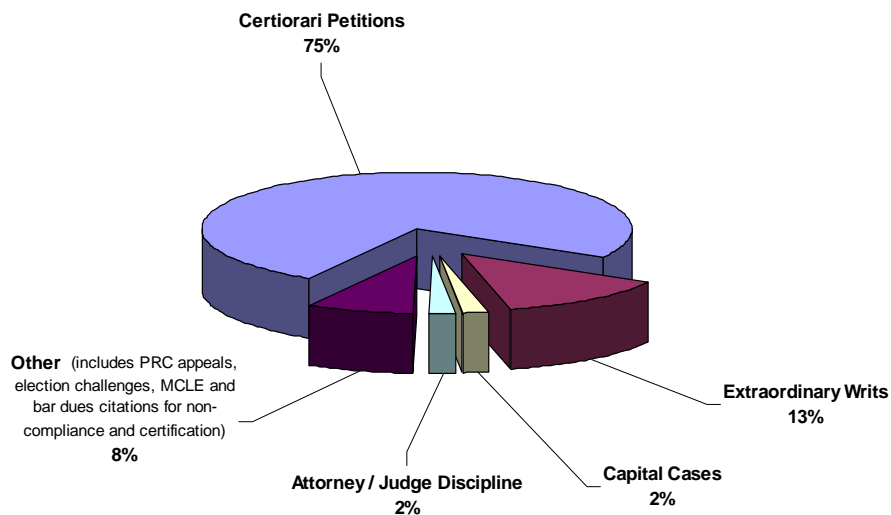
- Received national recognition for its Pretrial Office Jail Diversion and Mental Health Court programs through the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.
- Acquired a Truancy Court hearing officer for its Truancy Court through grant funding from

the U.S. Department of Justice. The Truancy Court adds a judicial component to the existing community collaborative Truancy Prevention Program.

- Created a Mental Health Court, a voluntary program designed to respond to the needs of the mentally ill offender by supervising mandated treatment and providing a structure to track compliance.

Supreme Court New Filings - FY 2004

Please note that filings do not represent the entire workload of the Supreme Court



Goal 1: Improve case flow management to provide timely and fair proceedings

The Court of Appeals:

- Used its case management calendaring system to average less than six months from notice of appeal to decision in approximately 58 percent of its caseload.
- Continued its transcription program to produce transcripts of audiotaped proceedings for indigent criminal appeals and cases involving the termination of parental rights.
- Referred most civil cases not decided on its summary calendar to mandatory mediation. The Mediation Office processed 122 cases, yielding a settlement rate of 28 percent.
- Produced forms packets for self-represented litigants. Interactive CD-ROM versions of the forms are available on the Court's website: <http://coa.nmcourts.com>.
- Solicited feedback on its opinions by sending survey forms to attorneys and litigants with each opinion. The return rate is almost 20 percent, and the responses consistently show that litigants are satisfied with the Court's work as a whole.
- Continued to work with CYFD, the Court Improvement Project, and counsel appointed for parents to expedite decisions that may affect children in foster care.

Mediation/Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):

- Two hundred seven attorneys volunteer their time as settlement facilitators in the **First Judicial District**. The ADR program provides a judicially-supported structure for civil litigants to resolve disputes without recourse to trial, which conserves the resources of the courts and the parties.
- The **Third Judicial District** provides mediation, parenting education and supervised visitation services for children and families in divorce proceedings. CASA volunteers provided services in abuse and neglect cases. The Court hired a full-time contract Domestic Violence special commissioner.

- The **Fifth Judicial District** provides mediation services in Lea County. Supervised exchange and visitation services are offered in Chaves and in Eddy Counties.
- The **Sixth Judicial District** uses a mediator in abuse and neglect cases.
- The **Seventh Judicial District** expanded its neglect and abuse services to the entire district by designating a court employee to oversee and maintain statistics on the program. The CASA program operates in northern Catron, Socorro, Sierra and Torrance counties. The Domestic Relations Mediation Program was initiated in August 2003, and a child support hearing officer was hired to deal with child support cases.
- The **Twelfth Judicial District** offers ADR through mediation, arbitration and settlement facilitation programs. The court continues to support CASA programs to provide services in abuse and neglect cases and to provide education programs for divorcing parents with children.

The **Magistrate Courts** improved accounting procedures for outstanding bonds.

The Second Judicial District:

- Provided forms and court materials in languages other than English. The juror information sheet and several domestic violence forms were translated into Spanish. A Spanish version of the dialogue for the jury orientation video is available for Spanish speaking jurors. Other forms were translated into Vietnamese.
- The On-Record Appeals office disposed of 125 appeals with no reversals from higher courts.
- The Second Judicial District initiated the Early Plea Program, a pilot project for speedy resolution of select criminal cases. The program is designed to quickly move felony cases through the criminal justice system in order to minimize costs in processing the cases, while at the same time resolving them quickly in order to move defendants, when appropriate, into probationary programs, jail or prison.

The **Third Judicial District** monitored its daily docketing currency to identify areas where case flow can be improved. Reports were generated on a monthly basis to allow judges the ability to monitor case activity. The Domestic Violence division staff created an information brochure to enhance the public's understanding of the domestic violence program.

The **Fourth Judicial District** monitored reports and statistical data to improve case flow management.

The **Fifth Judicial District**, in cooperation with the AOC and the State Engineer, appointed a judge pro tem and a special master to hear State v. Lewis, a Pecos River adjudication case filed in 1956. The case contains over 10,000 sub-files and covers 11 counties and 4 judicial districts.

The **Sixth Judicial District** worked with the District Attorney's office and the Adult Probation Office to track the collection of fines and fees. A staff attorney provides information to self-represented litigants. Two special masters contribute to the smooth operation of the court in abuse and neglect cases and in child support and visitation cases.

The **Eighth Judicial District** implemented the district court data standards.

The **Ninth Judicial District** monitored cases and assessed and collected fees in criminal and juvenile cases. Court staff provides information to self-represented litigants.

The **Twelfth Judicial District** revised its juror handbook, continued to explore programs to assist

juvenile delinquents, and used differentiated case management procedures to expedite the flow of criminal and civil cases. Forms and information are provided to self-represented litigants in domestic relations matters, name change and driver's license restoration procedures.

The **Thirteenth Judicial District** reorganized the court so that the domestic relations hearing officer and the domestic violence special commissioner are part of the family court division. Additionally, the family court division has adopted mediation in abuse and neglect cases to improve results for children.

The Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court:

- Reorganized operations to better address the needs of the court, including creating a Customer Service Division.
- Restructured the administrative chains of command to reflect a more systematic approach to the management of court divisions, based on job function relationships.
- Reviewed and revised all of the court's operational policies, procedures and practices to ensure the smooth operation of the court.
- Rotated weekday misdemeanor arraignments and felony first appearances between all 16 of its judges.
- Began hearing Sunday arraignments and first appearances in May 2004.
- Processed bonds 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Goal 2: Provide training to enhance the skills of judges and court staff

The **Rozier E. Sanchez Judicial Education Center** (JEC) produced or significantly supported 28 educational programs, including annual conferences for every group of judges and clerks, as well as domestic violence commissioners and court supervisors. Additionally, JEC:

- Added a new emphasis in FY 04 to provide specialized seminars targeting priority issues.
- Offered regional seminars for judges and court staff in domestic violence, court security,

intercultural communications, performance measurement and ethics, among other topics.

- Produced special statewide seminars in DWI, addictive behaviors, sexual assault and law and literature.
- Conducted the biannual orientation program for new municipal judges and co-sponsored a number of conferences with other organizations.

- Supported an unprecedented level of attendance at national seminars, with 71 judges and court personnel traveling to the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and other locations.
- Updated and distributed its general benchbooks for municipal judges and magistrate/metropolitan court judges, and its special topics benchbooks on judicial ethics, traffic citations and child welfare law (with the Children's Law Center).
- Continued to add new resources to its growing website, including a domestic violence virtual trial and a comprehensive website on DWI materials sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- Added to its website all of the opinions issued by the Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Conduct since the adoption of the current Code.
- Worked closely with JID to adapt technology for educational uses, including conferencing over the Internet and videoconferencing.

The **Court of Appeals** continues a cross-training program in the clerk's office. The Court also provides an Exchange Program in which employees observe employees in other divisions of the Court, in District Courts, and the Worker's Compensation Administration. Judges, staff attorneys and other court personnel participate annually in training new law clerks hired each fall.

The **Third Judicial District** utilized specialized panel members to serve on new employee selection panels. Staff were cross-trained in different

docketing areas and attended training in effective communications, public speaking, grant writing and computer skills. Training was also provided for domestic violence special commissioners. Financial staff received training in budget preparation, fiscal closing procedures, grant writing and procurement code compliance. Several employees are continuing their education at local colleges.

The **Fourth Judicial District** provided in-house training on case management procedures and data standards. Office staff received cross training to ensure the smooth operation of the court.

A **Seventh Judicial District** employee served as chairperson of the Southwest Regional Employees Conference planning committee.

The **Eighth Judicial District** attended training in domestic violence issues, drug courts and supervisors training.

The **Tenth Judicial District** cross trains employees to ensure the smooth operation of the court. Employees attend training sessions and seminars, and two employees are pursuing a judicial studies courses through TVI in Albuquerque.

The **Twelfth Judicial District's** domestic violence hearing officer attended the annual training on domestic violence issues. Several employees are taking college courses, and one employee earned the TVI Judicial Studies Fundamentals Certificate.

The **Magistrate Court and Human Resources Divisions** of the Administrative Office of the Courts developed and provided supervisor training to all magistrate court supervisors.

Goal 3: Provide reasonable and affordable access to justice in safe and adequate facilities

The **Supreme Court Building Commission** worked with the State's Property Control Division in the construction project that replaced all of the historic Supreme Court building's 70-year-old water pipes, upgraded the electrical system, and converted the heating system from steam to hot water.

The **Supreme Court Law Library** secured funding from the Legislature to restore night and weekend hours.

Space in the **Third Judicial District's** main facility was renovated to house the grand jury and drug courts. Construction began on the expansion of the courthouse to provide space and security for domestic relations cases.

The **Fourth Judicial District** developed and implemented procedures to address health and safety issues to ensure the safety and well-being of court users and staff. Plans to construct a new courthouse are underway, with construction scheduled for FY06.

The **Fifth Judicial District** is in the final stages of restoring and expanding the historic Chaves County Courthouse, which is being financed entirely by Chaves County.

The Legislature appropriated funds to the **Sixth Judicial District** for construction of a new judge's chambers, a hearing room and a new jury room.

The **Eighth Judicial District** continued to plan safe and adequate court facilities.

The **Ninth Judicial District** installed security equipment in its courthouses and continued to improve security for court staff and users.

The **Tenth Judicial District** installed security equipment in its courthouse.

The **Eleventh Judicial District** moved into a new juvenile justice complex in Farmington. The building houses the juvenile detention center,

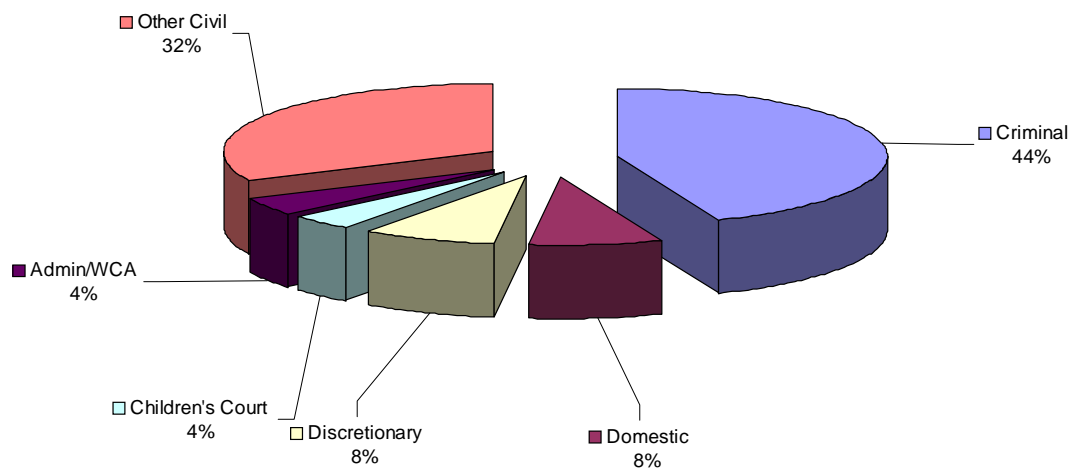
juvenile probation and a residential treatment center. In June 2004, all judges and staff in Gallup moved into a state-of-the-art addition of the historic courthouse, which is currently being remodeled to provide ample space for future growth.

A referendum to build a new courthouse in the **Thirteenth Judicial District** in Valencia County was passed by the voters in September 2003. Construction of the new courthouse in Sandoval County is scheduled for completion in March 2005.

The **Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court** moved into its new facility in January 2004. The move was accomplished in one weekend.

A new **Magistrate Court** facility in Grants, New Mexico, replaced cramped and outdated quarters.

Court of Appeals - New Filings - FY 04



Goal 4: Obtain adequate funding and resources for court operations

New Judgeships were added in the Third, Sixth and Thirteenth Judicial Districts.

Over 80 percent of court staff statewide participated in a **Staff Study** to produce a more accurate measure of the need for staff at a particular court, based on the numbers and types of cases filed with that court.

The **Supreme Court Law Library**, a 152-year-old institution, experienced a 12 and one-half percent increase in public use of its website since FY 03. The Law Library obtained funding from the Legislature to:

- Hire security personnel to cover extended hours of operation

- Add an Associate Librarian for Administration to assist with administrative matters
- Bring 80 percent of its library collection up to date
- The **Second Judicial District** simplified prisoner transport by transmitting the next day's docket to jail personnel each day.

The **Third Judicial District** maintained adequate funding for the drug court program through the Legislature and federal sources and obtained new funding from the Office of Justice Programs and CYFD for the family dependency drug court.

Goal 5: Obtain and use technology to collect, process and share information needed to process cases and manage resources

The **Court of Appeals** uses an appellate version of the statewide automated docketing system. Closed files are imaged on CD-ROMs, which are available for viewing in the Supreme Court Law Library.

The **Second Judicial District** upgraded its jury management software to track juror ethnicity and developed automatic mileage calculations by zip code to expedite juror payments.

The **Third Judicial District** continues to update and upgrade its website, which now provides forms for both potential litigants and employees. The jury management software was enhanced to initiate and generate reports on juror usage. The Financial division enhanced the automation of litigant trust funds, enabling the Court to calculate interest easily. Two computers were installed to provide the public with access to the statewide case lookup system. The Court provides internet access for legal research to attorneys. The Third Judicial District participated in statewide committees, and drug court staff served on state and national drug court committees.

The **Seventh Judicial District** provides public access computers in all four counties in its district. The district continues to serve on the Judicial Information Systems Council, the Case Management Application Users Group and the Judges User Group.

The **Eighth Judicial District Court**, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, developed and implemented procedures for input of information on tracking numbers for criminal cases.

The **Tenth Judicial District** implemented document imaging to provide quick access to files.

The **Twelfth Judicial District** is working with Lincoln and Otero counties to implement video arraignment capabilities at both courthouse locations.

The **Judicial Information Division** of the Administrative Office of the Courts:

- Continued to roll out jury software and provided training on the new software for district and magistrate courts.
- Continued to work on a secure electronic method to collect confidential drug court information from individual drug courts

statewide and aggregate the information in a central analytic database for reporting purposes.

The **Judicial Information Division** also sponsored the Statewide Traffic Records Executive Oversight Committee (STREOC) and the Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC). These efforts produced:

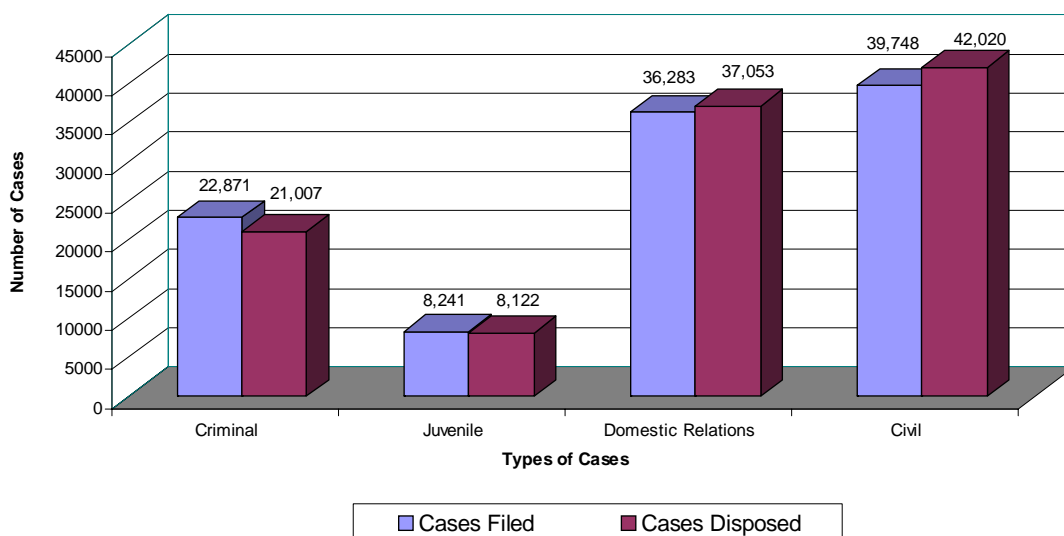
- The *TraCS Software Pilot Project* to allow pilot agencies to replace paper citations with electronic citations for the purpose of reducing redundant data entry and enable electronic reporting to the courts and other agencies.
- The *Electronic Abstract Project* to automate the reporting of traffic-related court disposition information to the Motor Vehicle Division.
- The *DWI Correction Application* for all magistrate courts to allow the courts to monitor data entry, accuracy and integrity.
- *DWI Offender History* to allow courts, executive justice agencies and individuals to obtain DWI offender records via the Internet at www.nmcourts.com. The DWI Offender History was awarded the “Best Practices” award by the Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals and a

“Certification of Accommodation” from the National Governor’s Highway Safety Association.

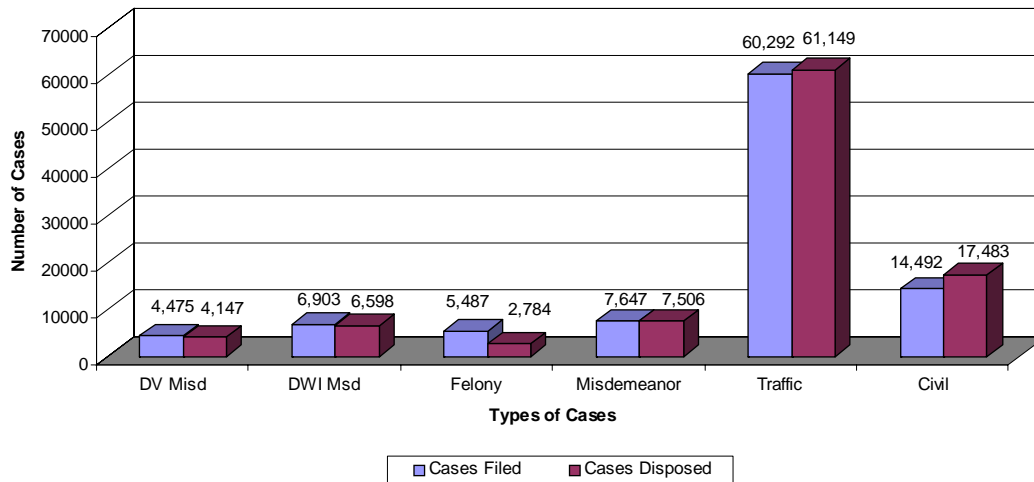
- The *Ignition Interlock Database* to capture ignition interlock data and provide cleansed and formatted ignition interlock information to state agencies, government entities and other authorized users.
- *Enterprise-wide information technology architectures* to promote electronic information sharing by the Traffic Records initiative and the Criminal Justice Information Management Team.
- Case tracking systems and creation of traffic safety systems.
- Project planning and strategic planning efforts to leverage resources by ensuring that waste and risk are minimized.

The **AOC Human Resources Division** trained over 600 judicial employees statewide on the use of the newly developed automated time sheet system. The rollout of the time sheet system is scheduled for completion in 2005. The Human Resources Division continues to review stored human resources documents to secure appropriate storage and destruction of documents.

District Court Total Filings and Dispositions - FY 2004



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Total Filings and Dispositions - FY 2004



Magistrate Court Total Filings and Dispositions - FY 2004

