



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH OVERVIEW

1

Agenda

- Overview of the Judicial Branch Structure
- Highlights of Recent Reengineering Efforts; and
- Efforts to Support Unique Court Customers

2

Judicial Branch Mission

To provide justice through a system that assures equal access for the fair and timely resolution of cases and controversies.

3

A CORE GOVERNMENT FUNCTION

Minnesota Constitution

Article I, Bill of Rights

Section 8. Redress of Injuries or Wrongs

Every person is entitled to a certain remedy in the laws for all injuries or wrongs...to his person, property or character, and **to obtain justice** freely and without purchase, completely and without denial, **promptly and without delay**, conformable to the laws.

4

THE MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH

- 319 Judges
- 2,500 Employees
- 1.3 Million Cases a year
- 106 Locations
- \$692 Million Biennial Budget*

* Does not include Civil Legal Services budget

5

Organizational Structure

Supreme Court

Court of Appeals

District Court

6

Supreme Court

Appeals from:

7 Justices

- Court of Appeals
- Tax Court
- Workers Compensation Court of Appeals

Original Actions:

- First Degree Murder convictions
- Legislative Election Contests
- Judicial and Attorney Discipline

2017 Filings: 635 Petitions for Further Review; 108 Direct Appeals

7

Regulation of the Practice of Law

Lawyers Professional Responsibility Board

Client Security Fund

Board of Law Examiners

Board of Continuing Legal Education

Board of Legal Certification

8

Court of Appeals

Appeals from:

19 Judges

- Trial Court decisions
- DEED Commissioner
- Administrative agency decisions

Original Actions:

- Writs of mandamus or prohibition which order a judge or public figure to perform a specific act.

2017 Filings: 1,973

9

Trial Court

Original Actions:

- Civil Actions
- Criminal Actions
- Family
- Juvenile
- Probate
- Violations of city ordinances
- Appeals from conciliation court

293 Judges

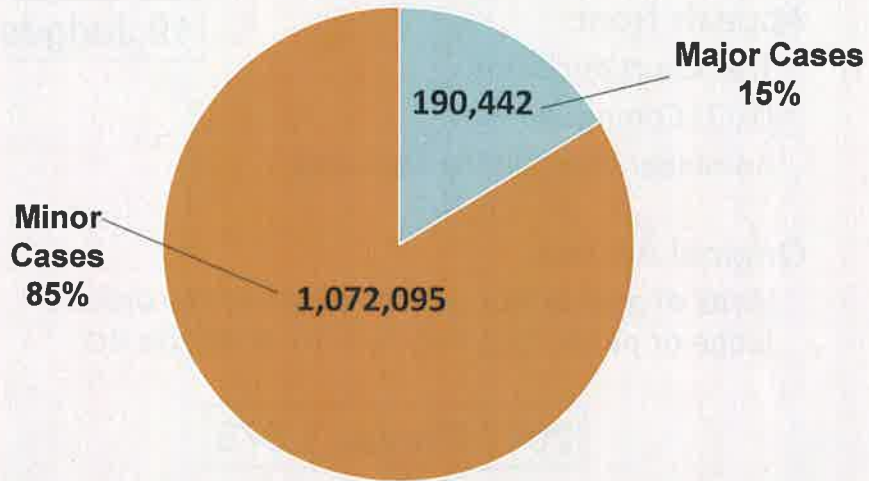
Conciliation Court Division:

- Civil disputes up to \$15,000

10

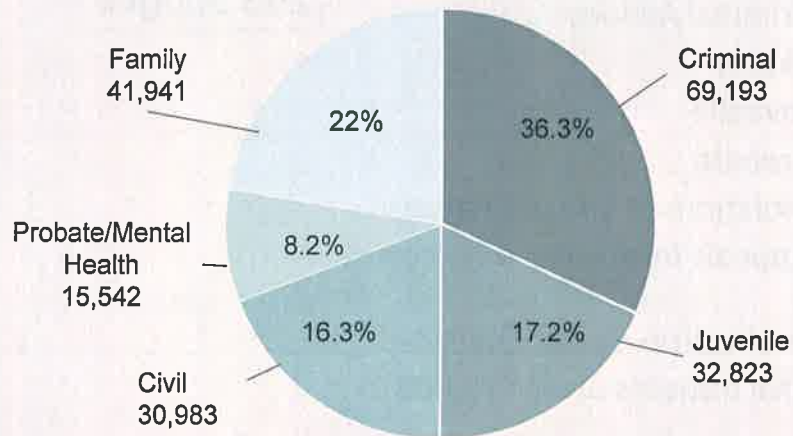
District Courts - Filings

FY18 Filings: 1,262,537



11

District Courts Major Case Filings FY18



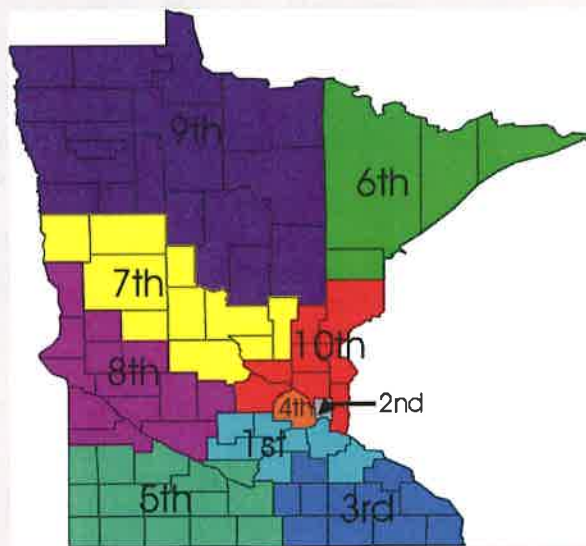
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District Court Case Filings Increases FY14 - 18

- ↑ Child Protection - 42%
- ↑ Permanency - 69%
- ↑ Felony and Gross Misdemeanor Drug Possession - 36%
- ↑ Felony Domestic Assault - 24%
- ↑ Gross Misdemeanor DWI - 23%

13

Judicial Districts



- ✓ Administration
- ✓ Election

14

Justices and Judges

Selection, Term

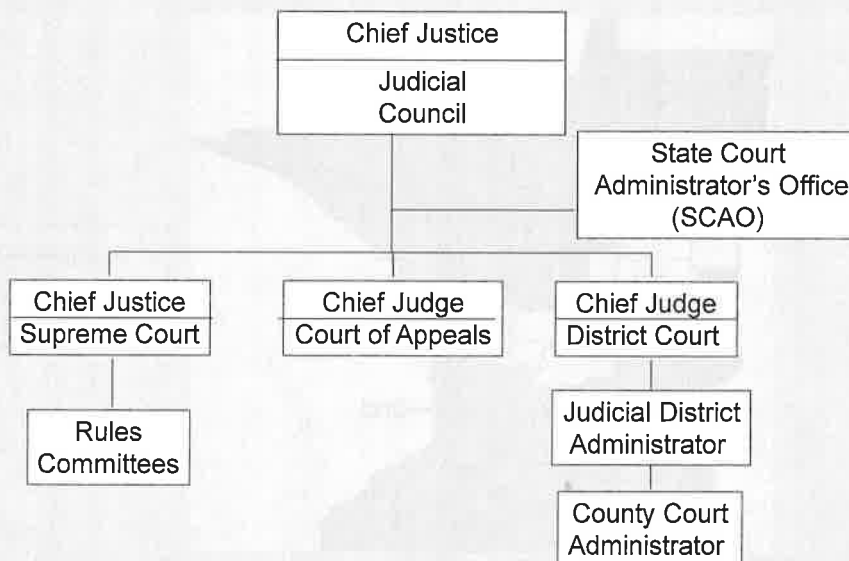
- Supreme Court and Court of Appeals – elected **statewide** to six year terms
- District Court – elected **district-wide** to six year terms
- Mid-term vacancies are filled by Governor; Judicial Selection Commission

Discipline and Removal

- Complaints handled by Board on Judicial Standards (10 members appointed by the Governor)
- Board can issue private or public reprimand or recommend action to be taken by the Supreme Court, including reprimand or removal.

15

Administrative Structure



16

Judicial Council

Single statewide policy-making body

25 members representing all levels

- 19 judge voting members
- 6 court administrators

Chief Justice serves as Chair

17

Judicial Council Primary Responsibilities

- Statewide administrative policy-making
- Strategic planning
- Legislative agenda
- Budget and resource allocation
- Court performance and accountability

18

Accountability

6 Core Judicial Branch Goals:

- Access to Justice
- Timeliness
- Integrity and Accountability
- Excellence
- Fairness and Equity
- Quality Court Workplace Environment

19

Measuring Accountability

- Annual Performance Measures Compliance Report
 - Access and Fairness Surveys
 - Quality Court Workplace Survey
 - Timing Statistics
- Annual Report to the Community



20

eCourtMN

- 24/7 filing of court documents
- Expanded access to records for the public
- Justice partners can instantly access court documents and records
- New electronic tools for judges and staff

21

Reengineering Successes

- Created Consolidated Jury Unit, a “one-stop shop” for jurors, jury staff
- Centralized processing of expedited child support orders, reducing processing times by 20%
- Centralized Appeals Unit

22

Reengineering Successes

- Launched Conservator Account Review Program, better protecting seniors and vulnerable adults from financial abuse
- Appointed specialized staff to process administrative judgments.
- Adopted mandatory court administration case processing policy, increasing statewide consistency

23



Protecting the Elderly and Vulnerable

Conservator Account Auditing Program

- Electronic Submission of Annual Conservator Reports
- Automatic review of accounts with “red flag” alerts

Conservator Account Review Program

- Professional review of annual Account Report
- Hearing preparation document presented to judge

24

Self Represented Litigant Services



- Statewide Self Help Center
 - 28,000 Minnesotans assisted via email and phone in 2018
- Self-help workstations in courthouse locations
- Walk-In Self Help Centers – District Court
- Self-Help Clinic – State Law Library
- Extensive Forms Library

25

Court Payment Center



- Centralized, Virtual Payment Center
- Processed 920,264 payable citations - 2017
- 24/7 On-line and over phone payment
- Automates process from citation to case disposition

26

Limited English Proficiency Services

27,000 events each year that require an interpreter

99 different languages

5 Most Common Languages

Spanish

Somali

Hmong

Karen s'gaw

American Sign Language

- Implementation of remote interpreting
- Implementation of a central scheduling unit
- More sharing of staff interpreters

27

Treatment Courts

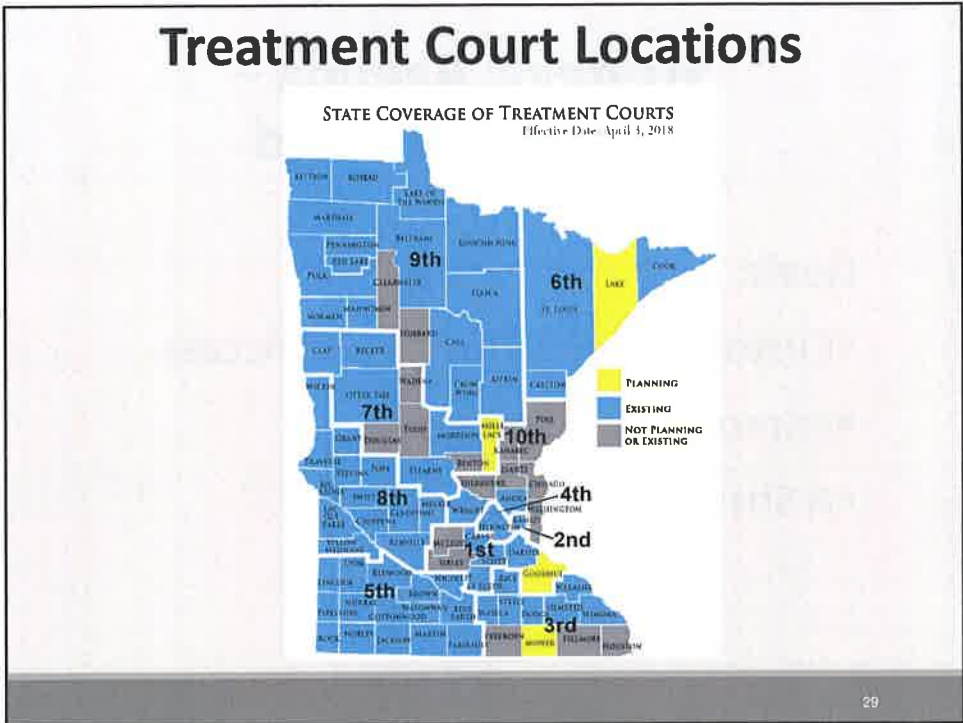


Represent a shift in the way courts are handling certain offenders and working with key stakeholders in the justice system:

- Collaboration between courts and justice partners
- Develop and implement joint strategy to help an offender complete a treatment program and abstain from repeating the behaviors that brought them to court.

28

Treatment Court Locations



Treatment Courts

Drug - 24

DWI - 14

61 Courts

Hybrid - 7

Mental Health - 3

Family Dependency - 3

Veterans – 7

Juvenile Drug - 1

Tribal – 2

Strategic Agenda – Looking Forward

Goals:

- Customer Convenience and Access
- Improved Efficiencies
- A Stronger Justice System