



# Gwinnett Judicial Circuit Engage Gwinnett Presentation

Superior Court  
State Court  
Magistrate Court

# MANDATED SERVICES

The Georgia Constitution established the Courts of the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit to enforce and administer the laws of this State and of the United States. As a separate and distinct branch of government, the Courts are under a constitutional mandate to resolve disputes and enforce laws in a fair and impartial manner.

This is the sole mission of the Courts.

Ga. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 2

PARAGRAPH XI. Right to trial by jury; number of jurors; selection and compensation of jurors  
(a) The right to trial by jury shall remain inviolate... In criminal cases, the defendant shall have a public and speedy trial by an impartial jury; and the jury shall be the judges of the law and the facts.

Ga. Const. Art. I, § I, Para. XI (2009)

# CORE SERVICES

- **CRIMINAL** - Ensuring all criminal defendants have a public and speedy trial by an impartial jury and providing a forum for victims of crime to be heard.
- **DOMESTIC** - Resolving all divorce, custody and child support disputes brought before the court for the betterment of families and children.
- **CIVIL** – Adjudicating all civil and equitable disputes brought before the court.

# SUPERIOR COURT

Superior Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction. The court has exclusive, constitutional authority over felony cases and cases regarding title to land, equity, declaratory judgments, habeas corpus, mandamus, quo warranto, prohibition, adoptions, and divorce.

This court is authorized to correct errors made by lower courts by issuing certiorari and for some lower courts and State Tribunals, the right to direct review by this court applies

# STATE COURT

State Court is a trial court with limited jurisdiction covering misdemeanor and traffic violations, prosecuted by the Solicitor's Office, and all civil actions, regardless of the amount, unless the Superior Court has exclusive jurisdiction.

# MAGISTRATE COURT

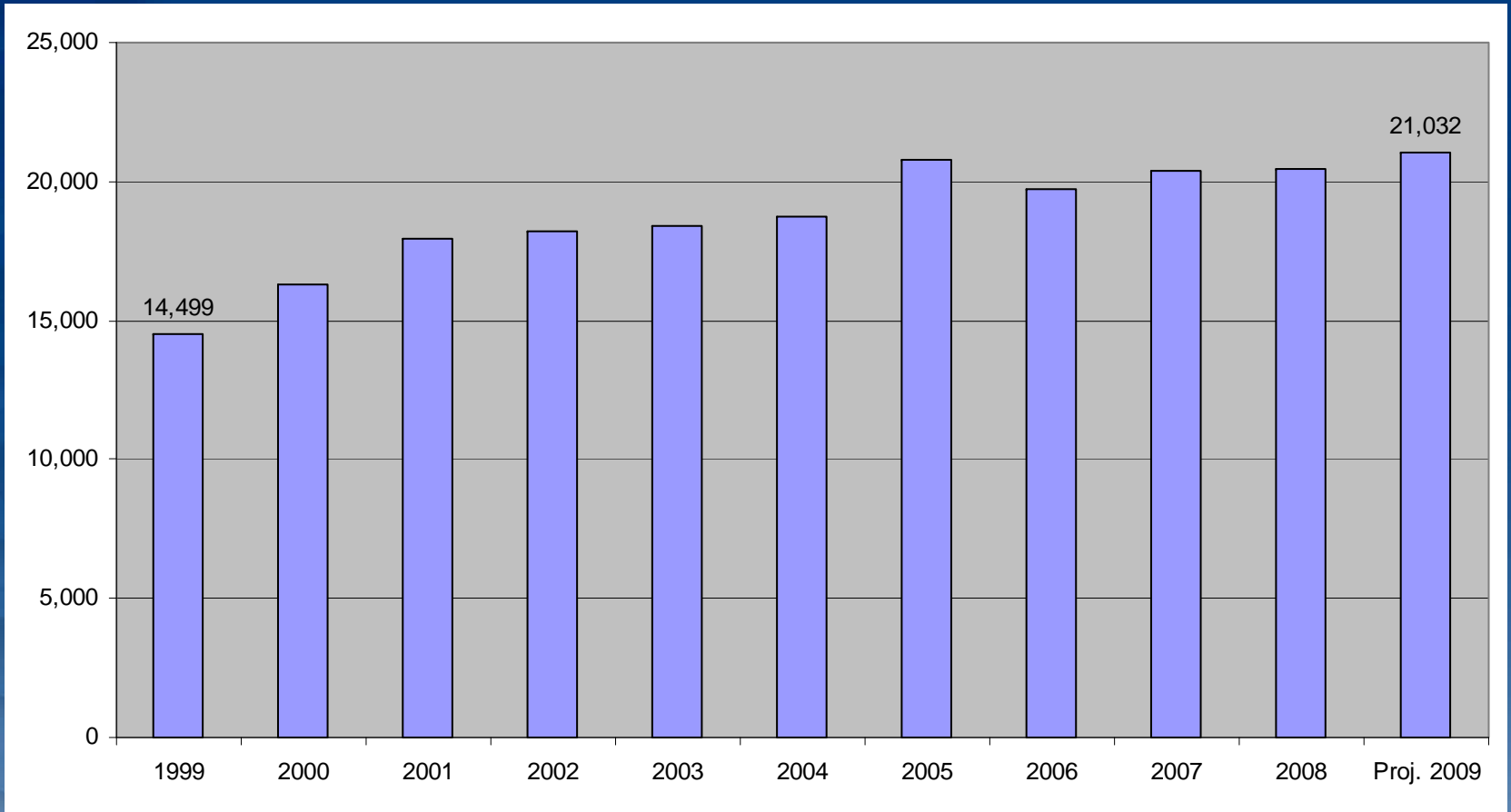
Magistrate Court operates 24 hour a day, 7 days a week including holidays, evenings, and weekends. Magistrates issue arrest and search warrants, conduct preliminary criminal hearings, bond hearings and warrant application hearings. The Court's civil jurisdiction encompasses claims of \$15,000 or less, dispossessory and distress warrant actions, garnishments and abandoned motor vehicles. This court is considered the "people's court". The judges of the Court also sit by designation when requested to assist other Courts.

# SERVICE LEVELS

- **Basic Services:** Constitutional and Statutory Mandates (each court's jurisdiction)
- **Additional Services:** Designed to augment and assist in the timely or more effective provision of the basic services (ex.: treatment courts, mediation services, county law library)



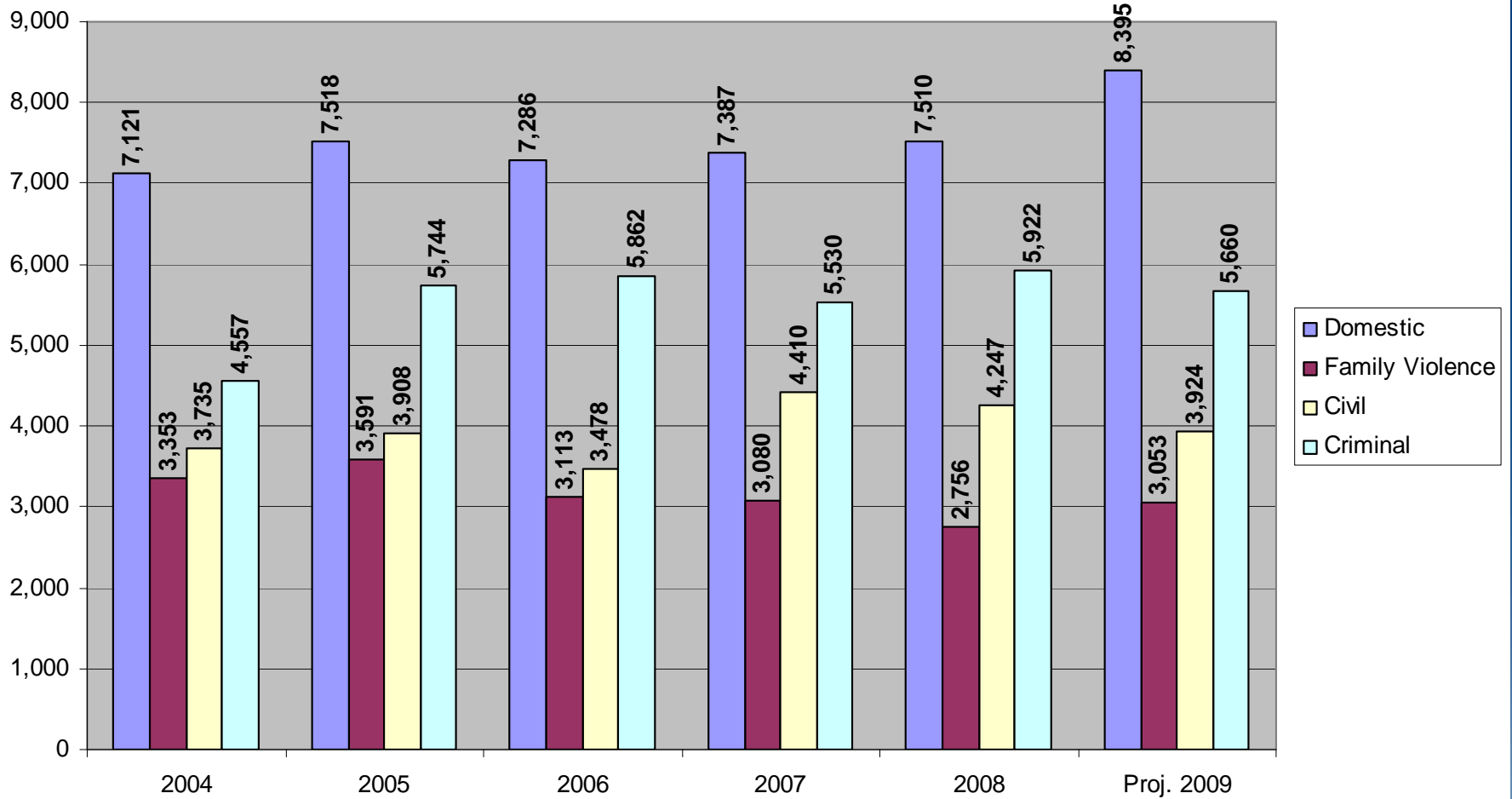
# Superior Court Filings



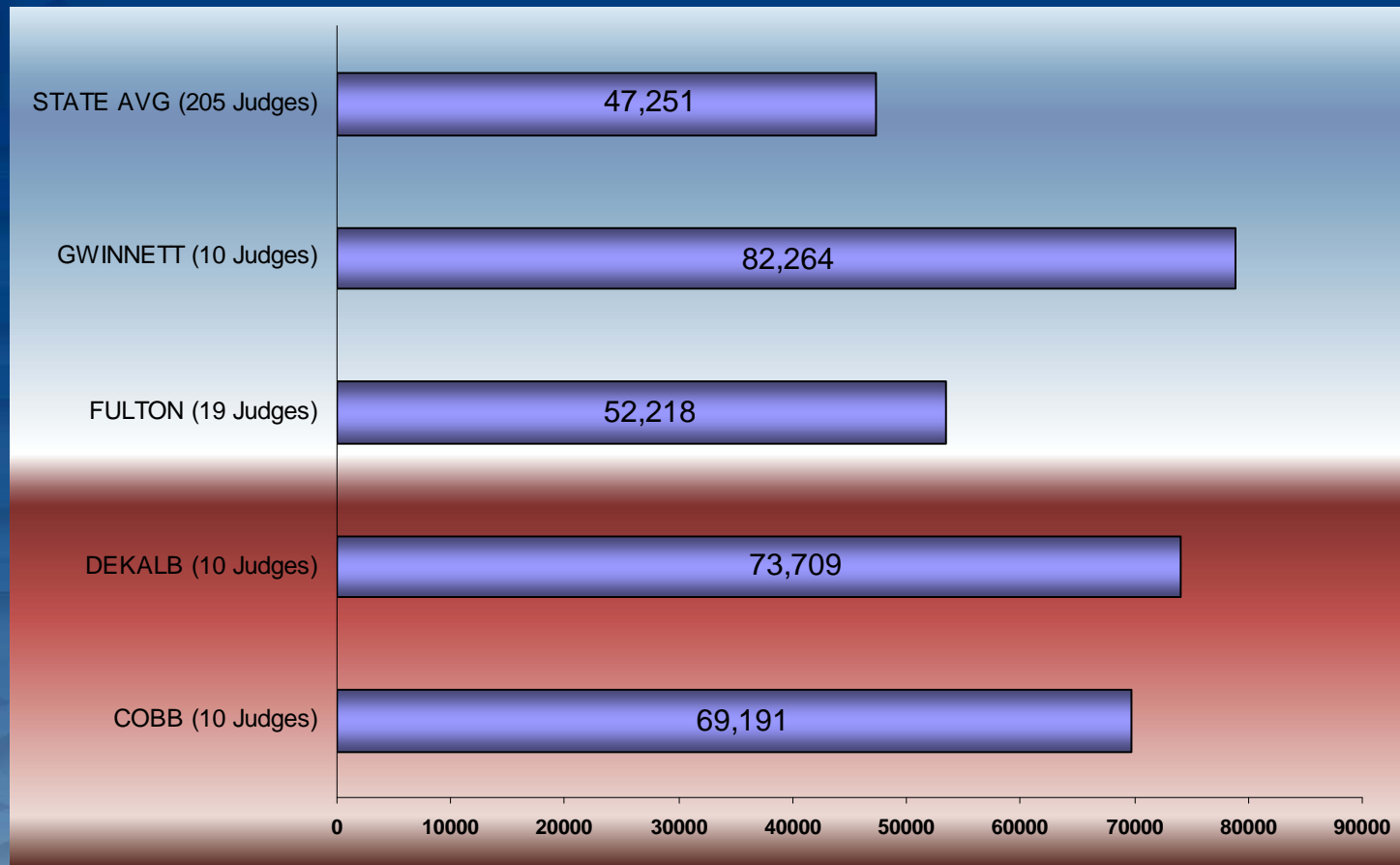
44% increase in cases filed since 1999

2009 Projected		
Total cases filed	Cases per day	Cases per week
21,032	81	404

# Superior Court Filings

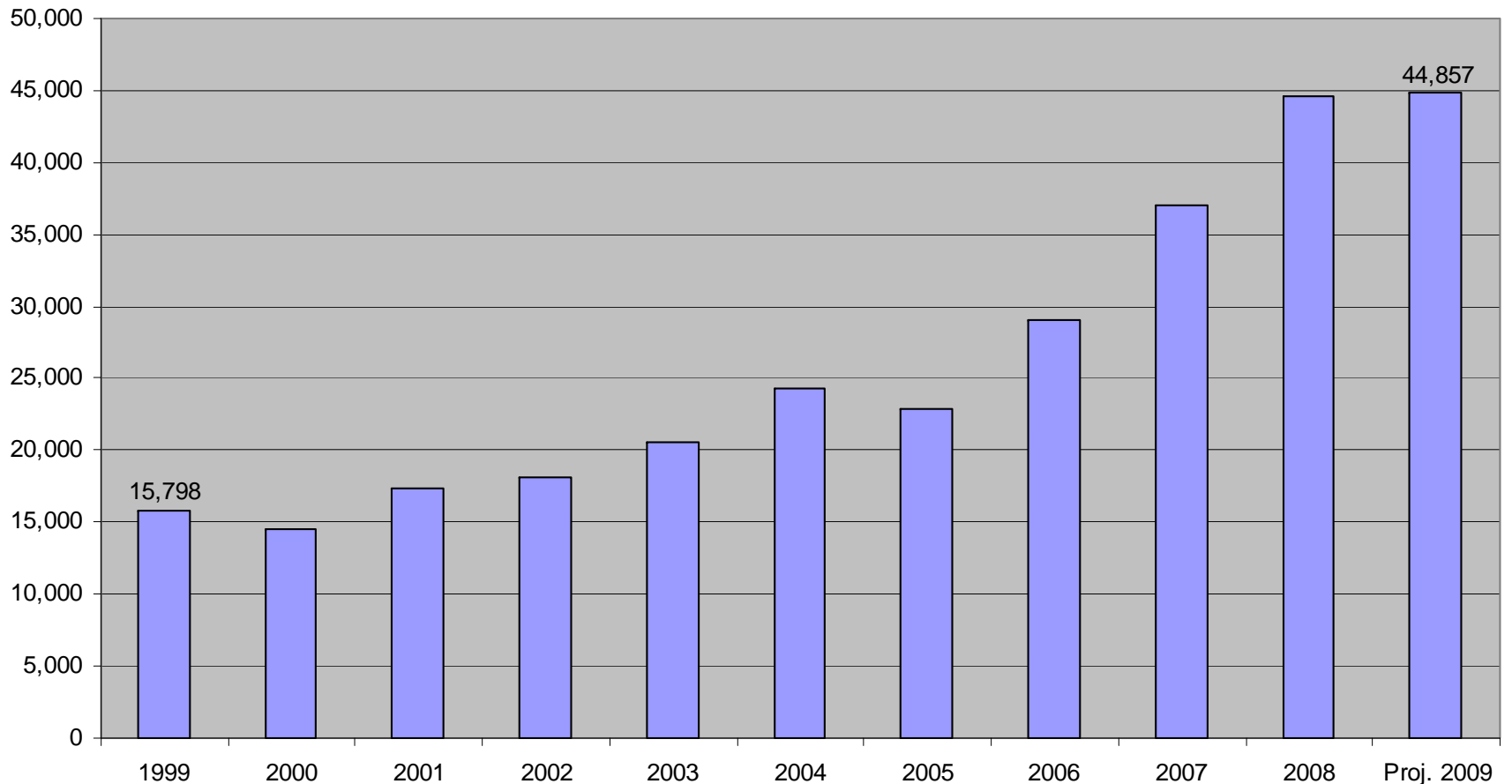


# Superior Court Citizens Served per Judge



\*2008 Population (U.S. Census) / 2009 Judgeships

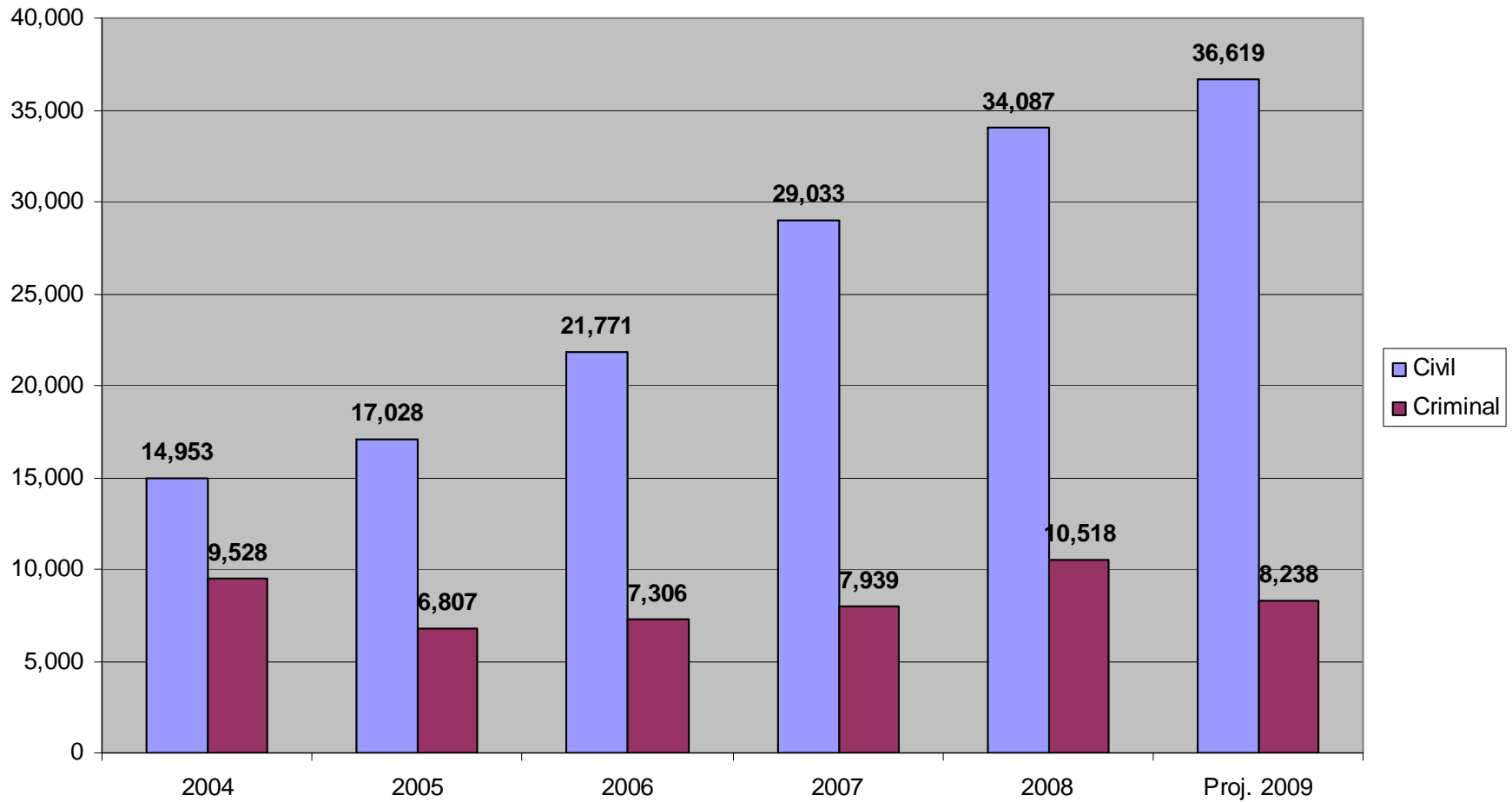
# State Court Filings



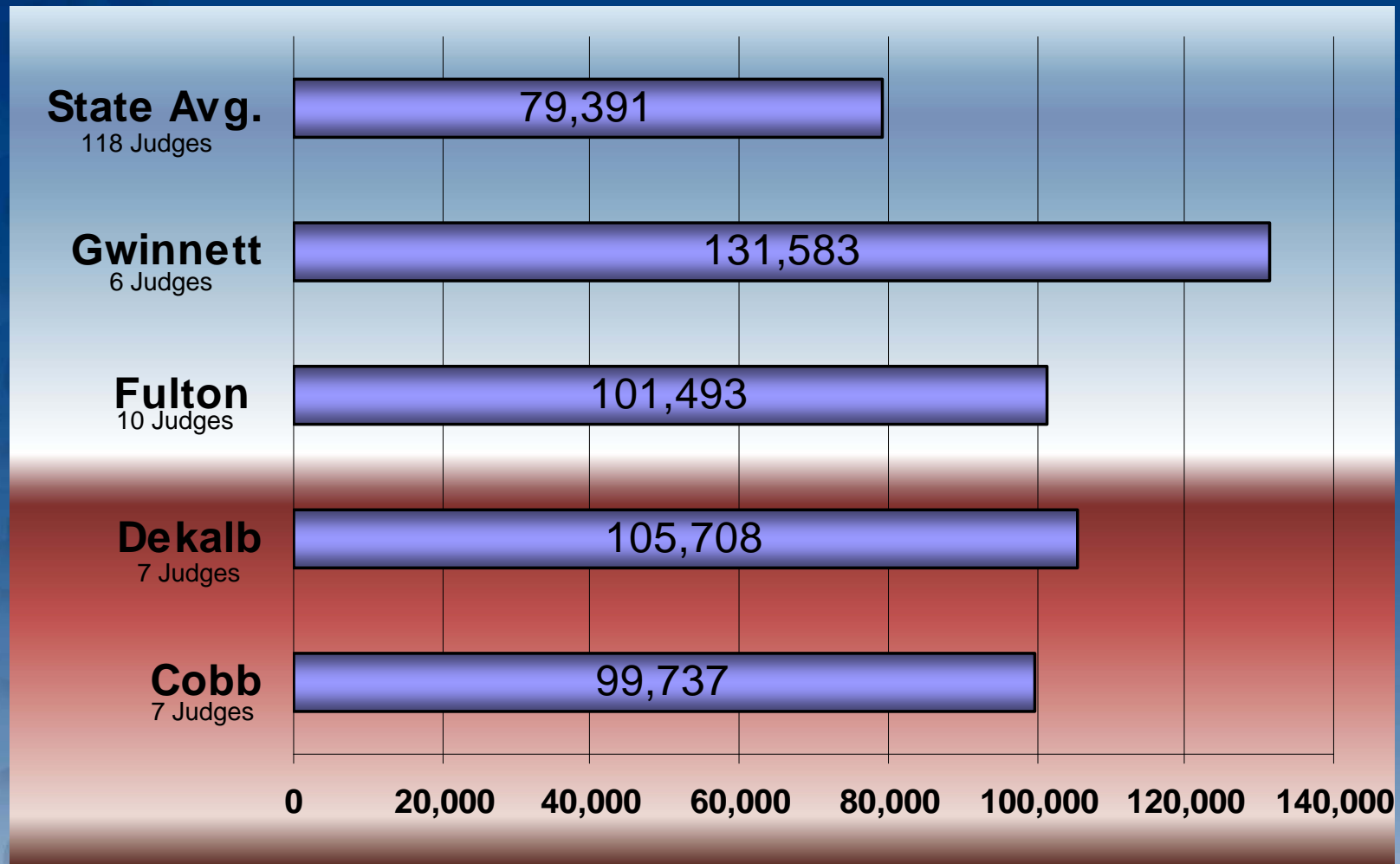
184% increase in cases filed since 1999

2009 Projected		
Total cases filed	Cases per day	Cases per week
44,857	173	863

# State Court Filings

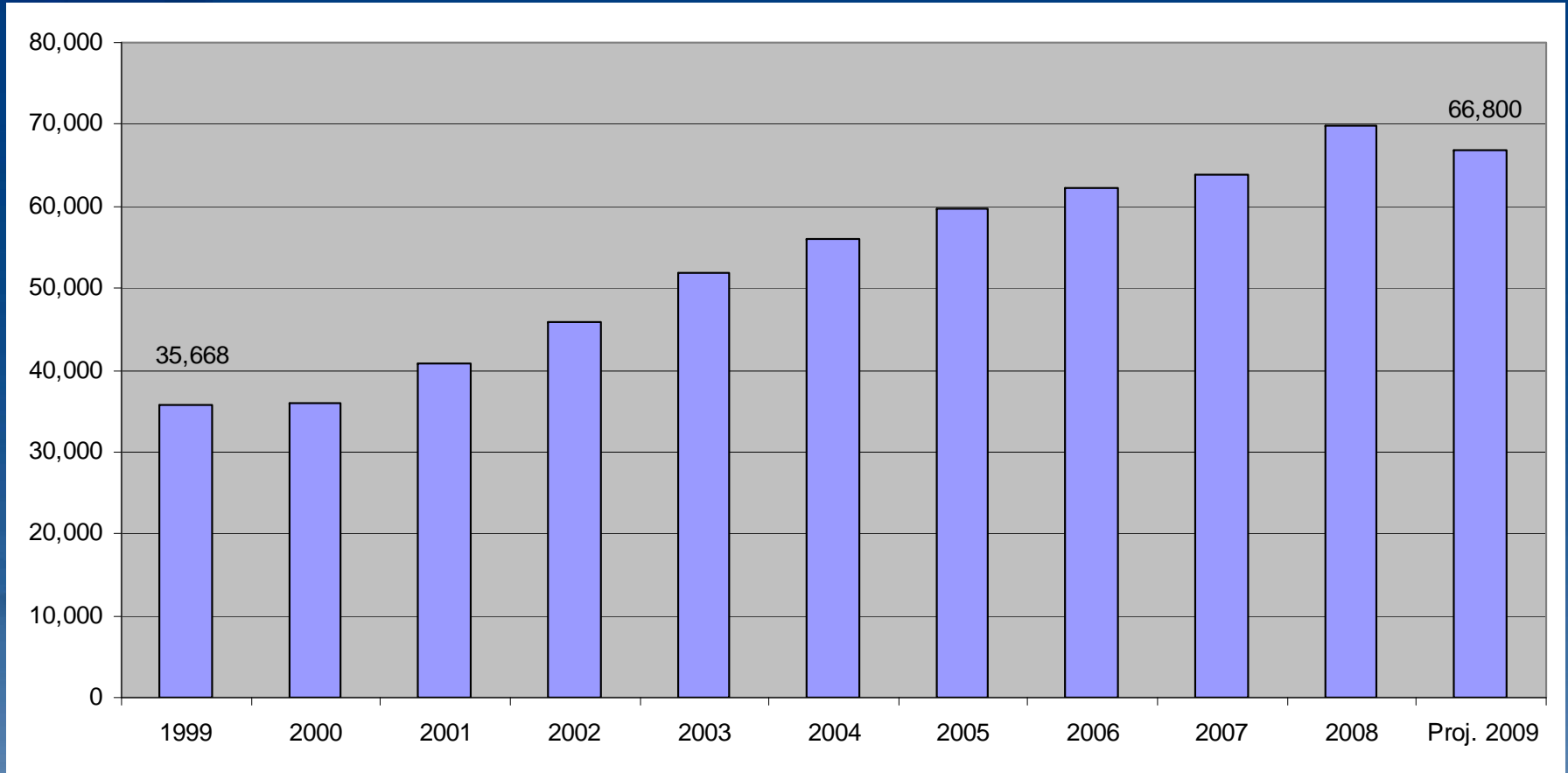


# State Court Citizens Served per Judge



\*2008 Population (U.S. Census) / 2009 Judgeships

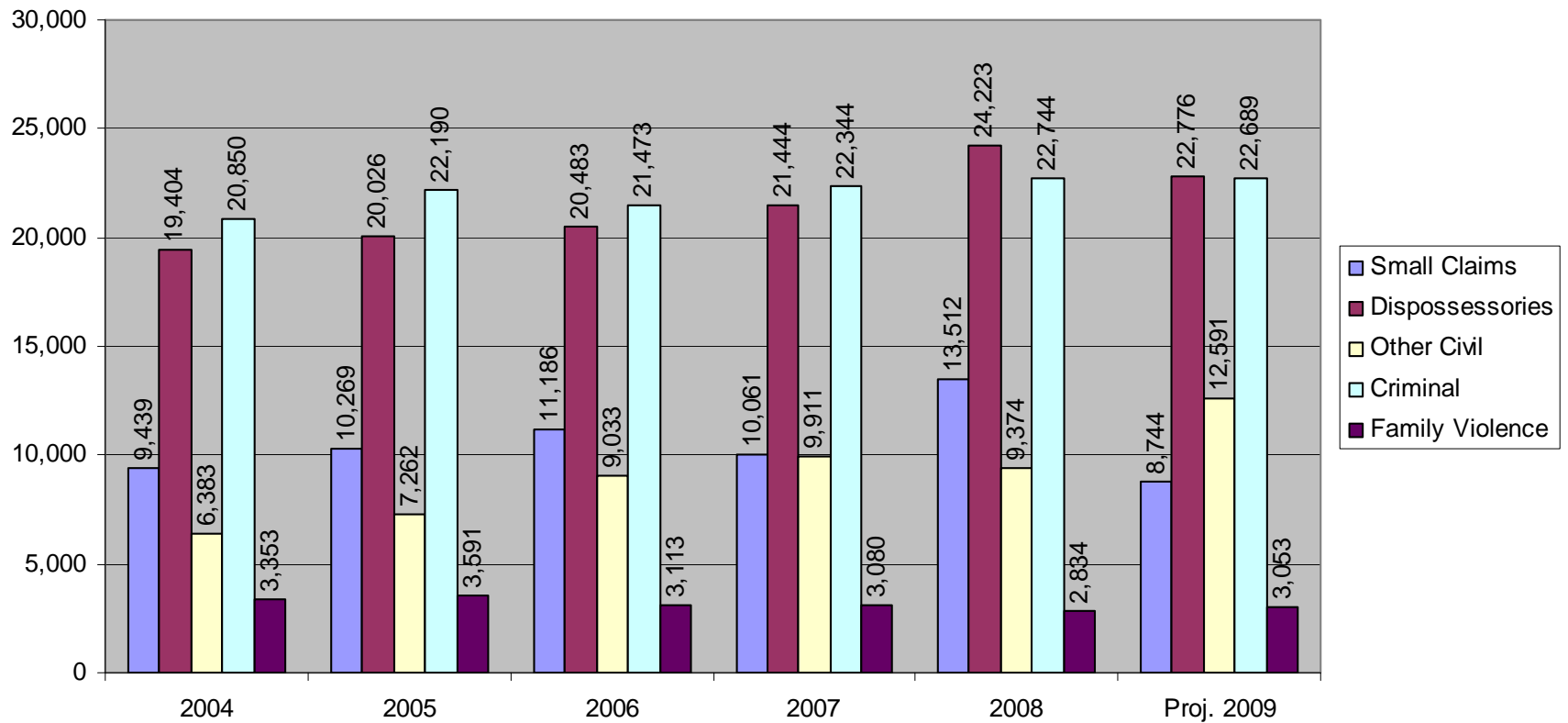
# Magistrate Court Filings



87% increase in cases filed since 1999

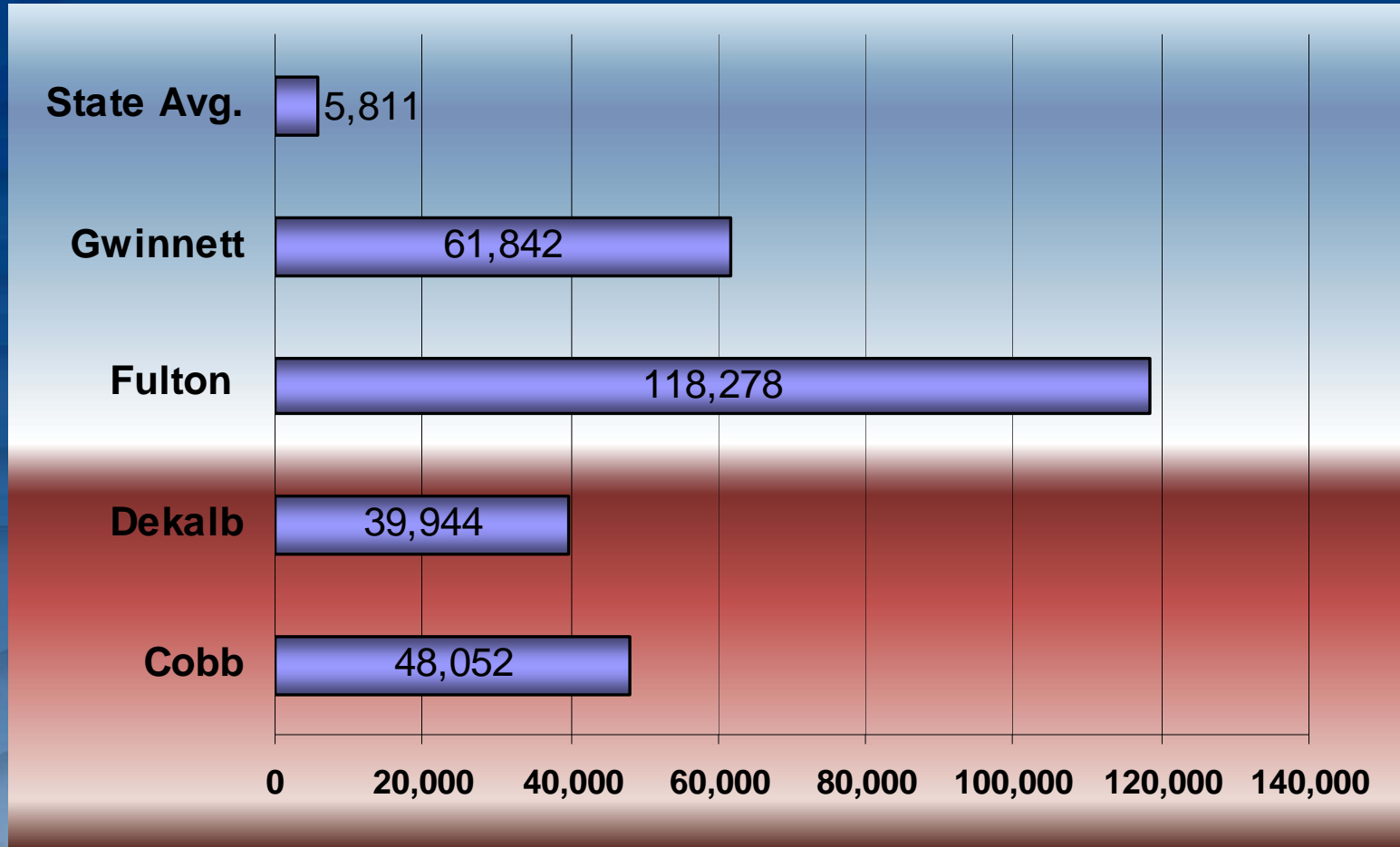
2009 Projected		
Total cases filed	Cases per day	Cases per week
66,800	257	1285

# Magistrate Court Filings



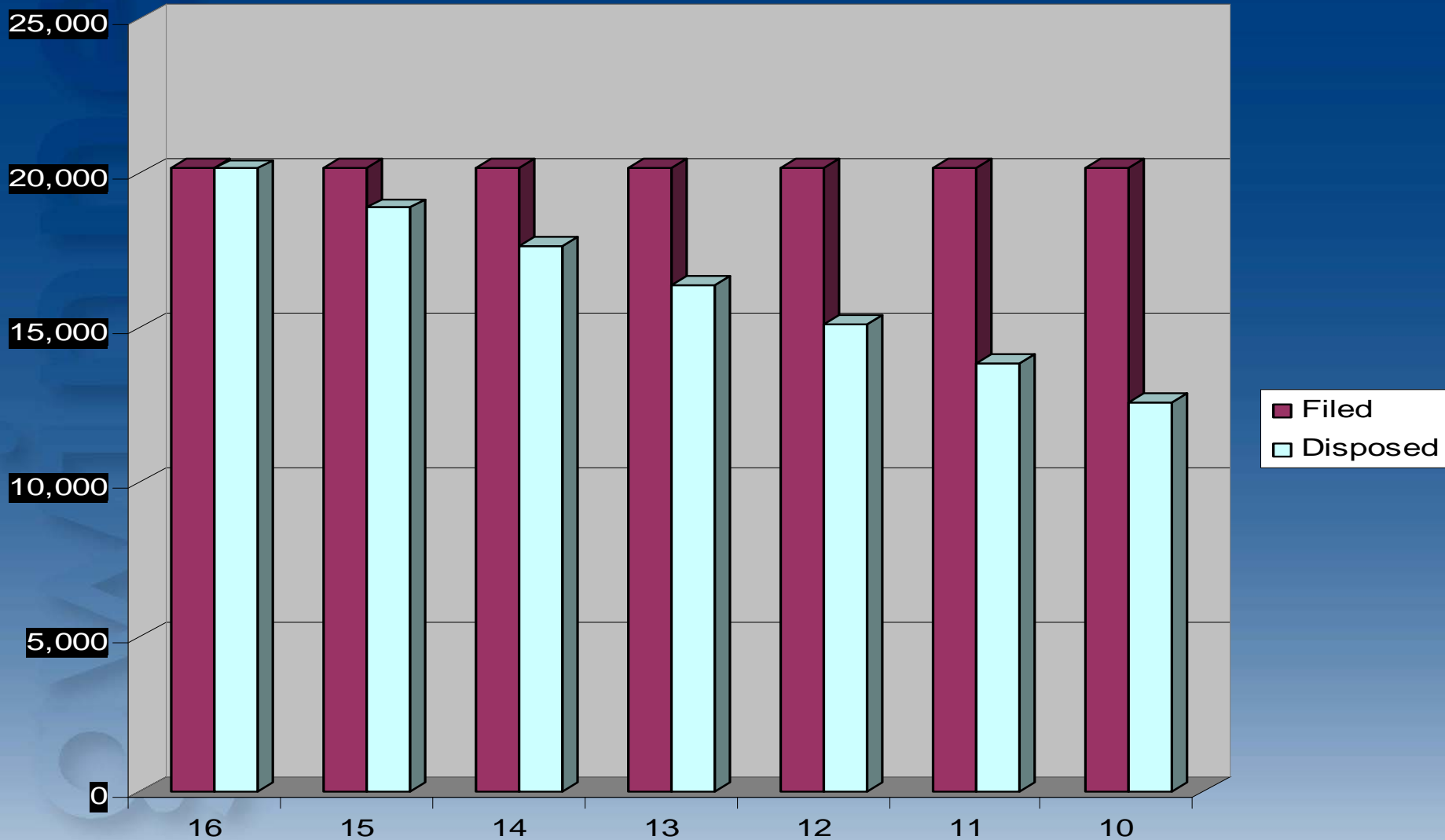


# Magistrate Court Case Filings (2007)

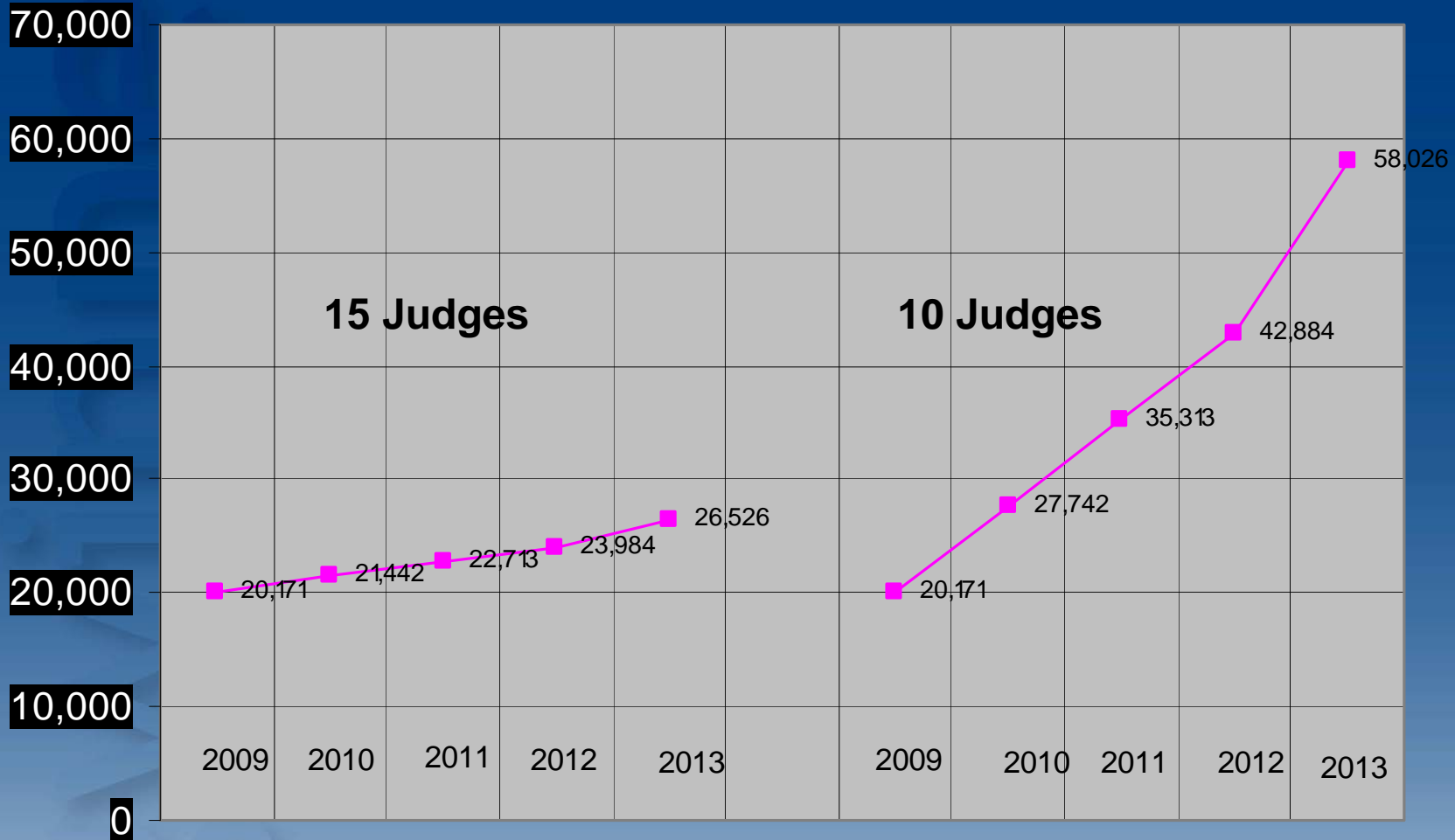


# Superior Court Disposition Rate by # of Available Judges

100% 94% 87% 81% 75% 69% 62%

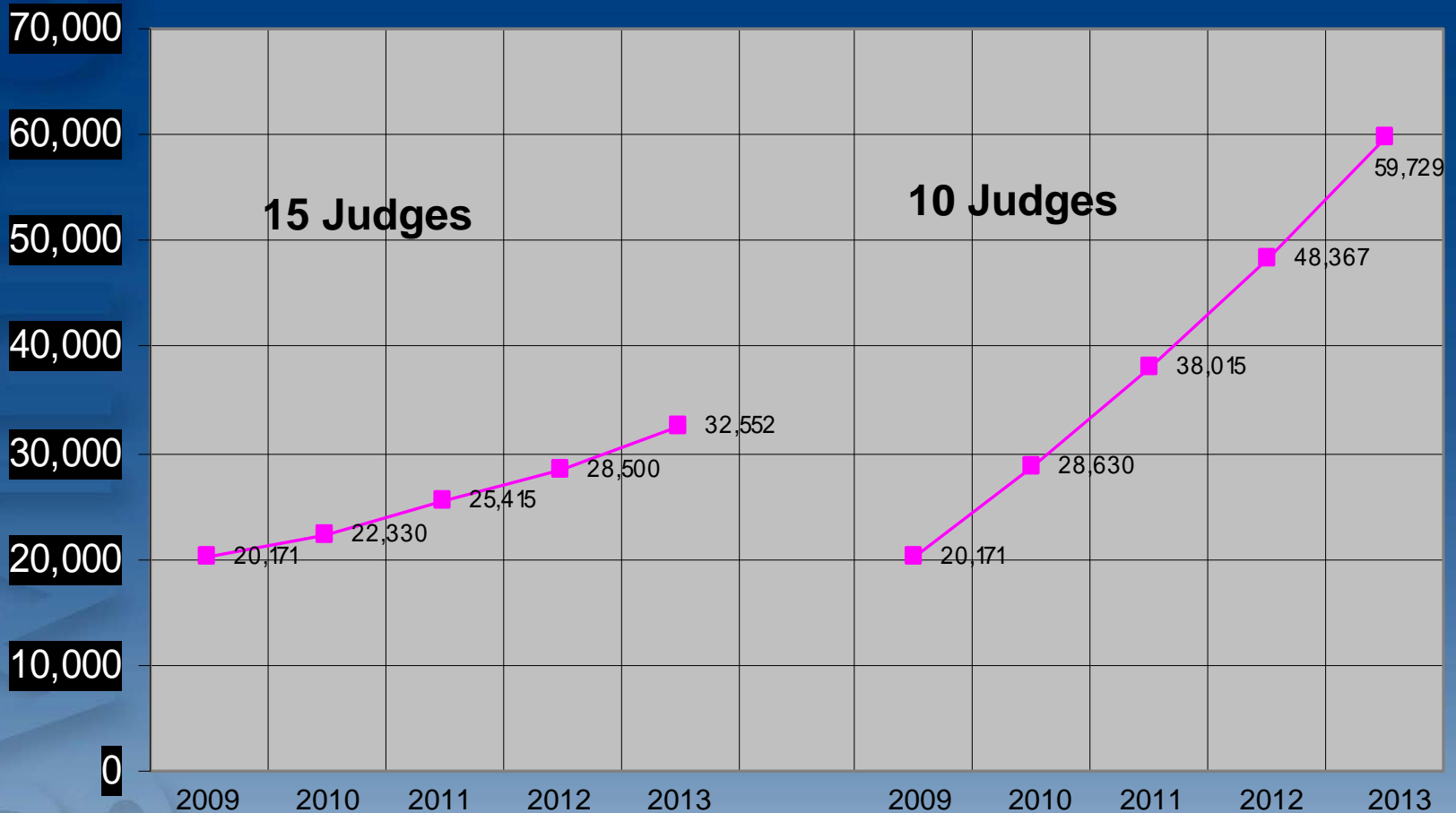


# Case Backlog by # of Available Judges



# Case Backlog by # of Available Judges

4.4% increase in filings per year

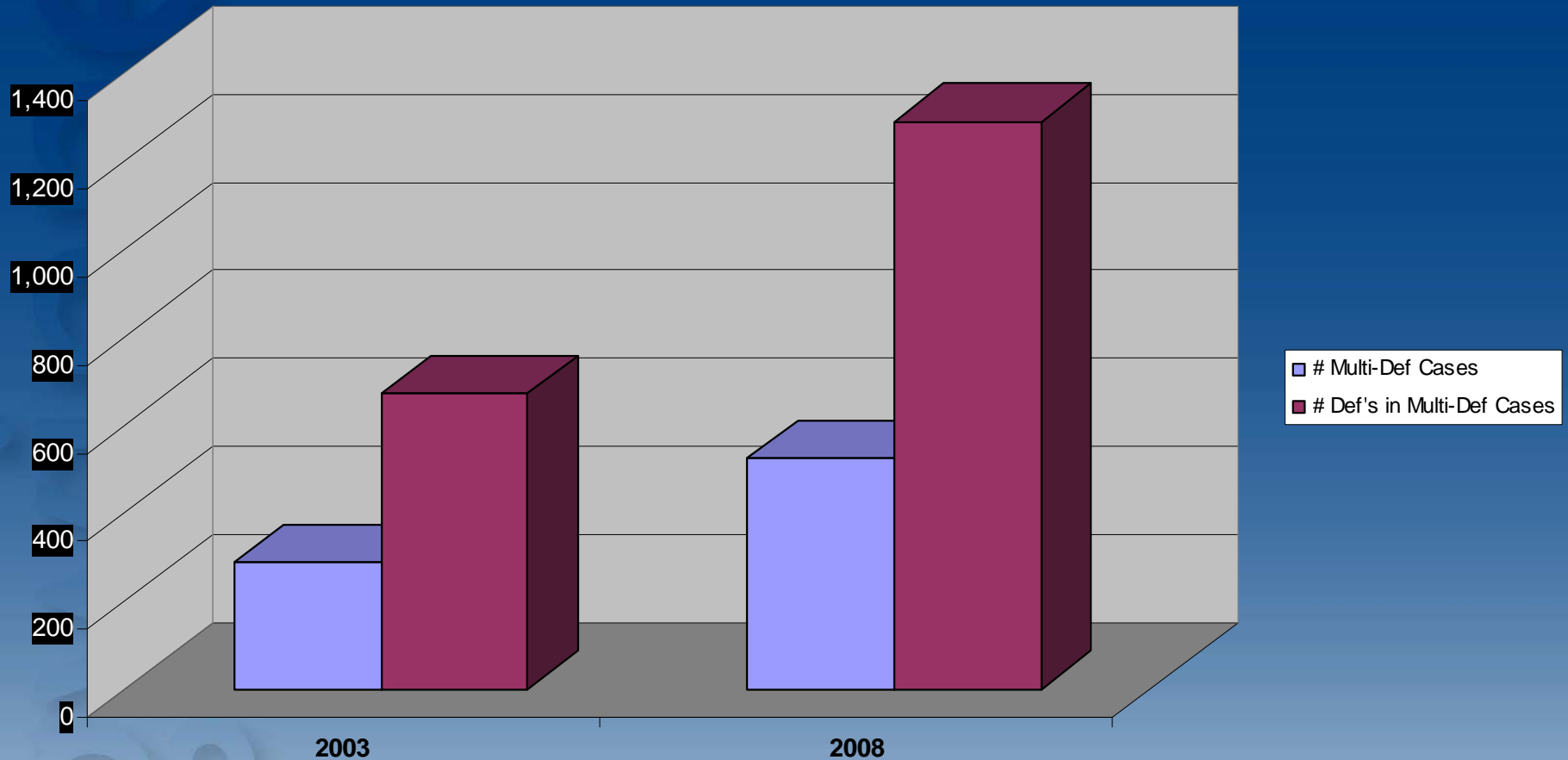


§ 17-7-170. Demand for speedy trial; service; discharge and acquittal for lack of prosecution; expiration; reversal on direct appeal; mistrial and retrial

(a) Any defendant against whom a true bill of indictment or an accusation is filed with the clerk for an offense not affecting the defendant's life may enter a demand for speedy trial at the court term at which the indictment or accusation is filed or at the next succeeding regular court term thereafter...

(b) If the defendant is not tried when the demand for speedy trial is made or at the next succeeding regular court term thereafter..., the defendant shall be absolutely discharged and acquitted of the offense charged in the indictment or accusation...

# MULTIPLE DEFENDANT CASES

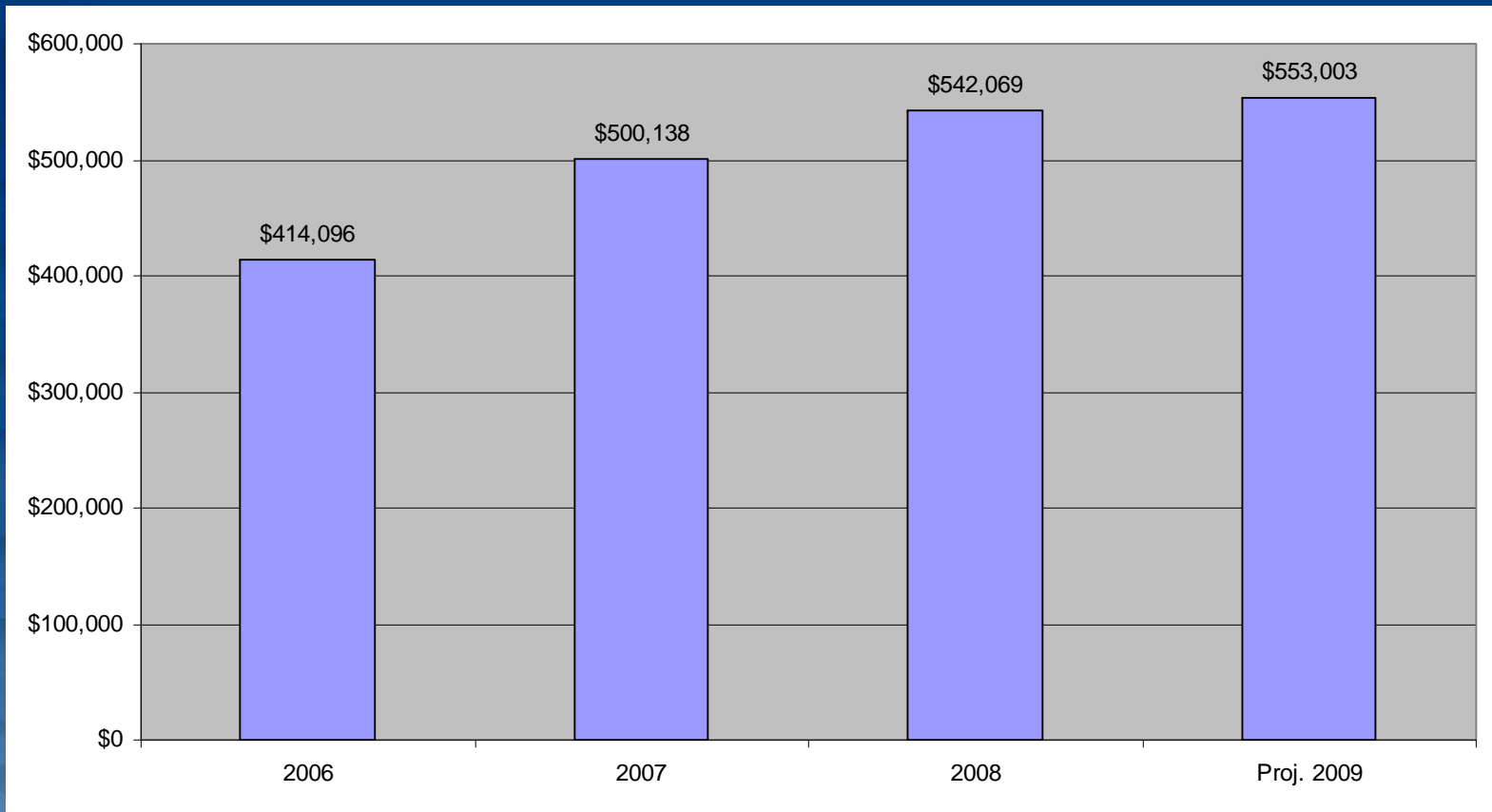


# Interpreters

- 42 Languages

Arbanian	Czech	Khmer	Russian	Urdu
Amharic	Farsi	Korean	Serbian	Vietnamese
Arabic	French	Laotian	Shanghai	
Bengali	German	Lithuanian	Slovak	
Bosnian	Gwari	Malvi	Somali	
Bulgarian	Gujari	Mandarin	Spanish	
Cambodian	Hindi	Polish	Swahili	
Cantonese	Hmong	Portugese	Tagalog	
Creole	Japanese	Punjabi	Thai	
Croatian	Kirundi	Romanian	Tigrinyav	

# Interpreter Cost

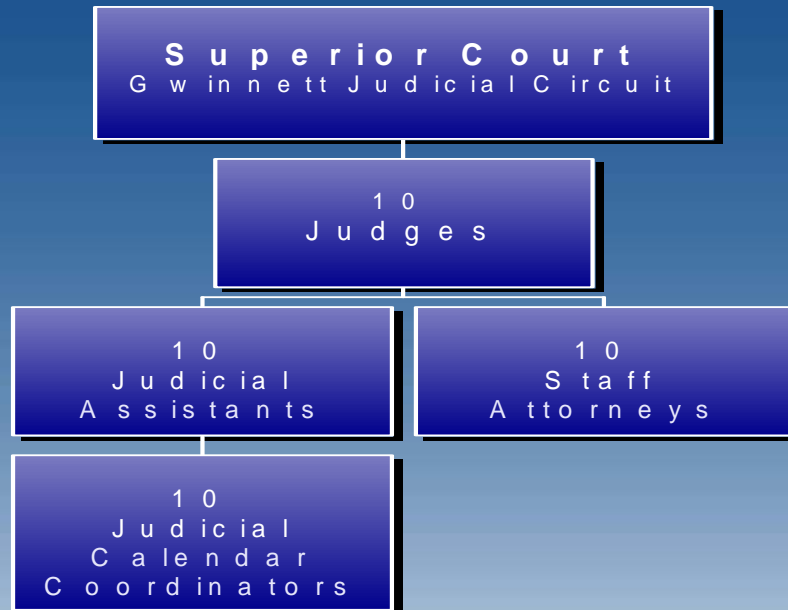




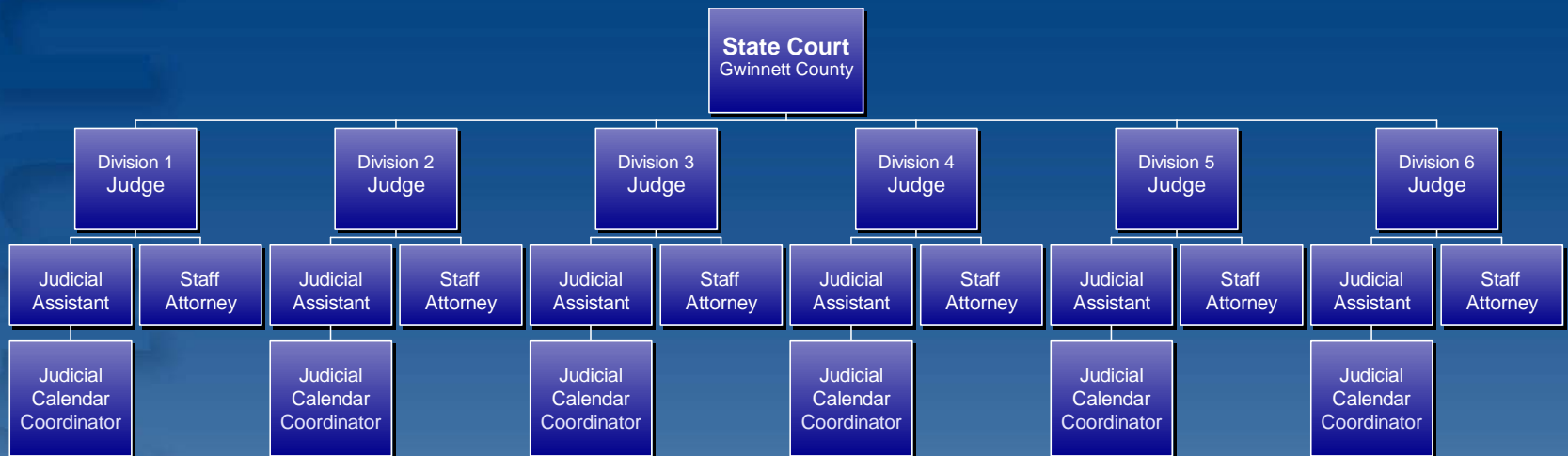
# EMPLOYEE FUNCTIONS

- Superior Court – 40 Total
  - 10 Elected Judges
    - 10 Judicial Assistants
    - 10 Calendar Coordinators
    - 10 Staff Attorneys
- State Court – 24 Total
  - 6 Elected Judges
    - 6 Judicial Assistants
    - 6 Calendar Coordinators
    - 6 Staff Attorneys
- Magistrate Court – 10 Full-Time, 19 Part-Time
  - 1 Elected Chief Magistrate
    - 5 Full-Time Appointed Magistrates
    - 19 Part-Time Appointed Magistrates
    - 1 Court Services Supervisor
    - 3 Calendar Coordinators
- Court Administration – 15 Full-Time, 9 Contract Employees
  - Provides support services for the Superior, State and Magistrate Courts to include budget, personnel, facilities, pre-trial and trial services such as treatment court, alternative dispute resolution, indigent defense, interpreters, and IT management.
- Contract and Per-Diem Employees (as needed)– Court Reporters, Bailiffs, Interpreters and Indigent Criminal Defense

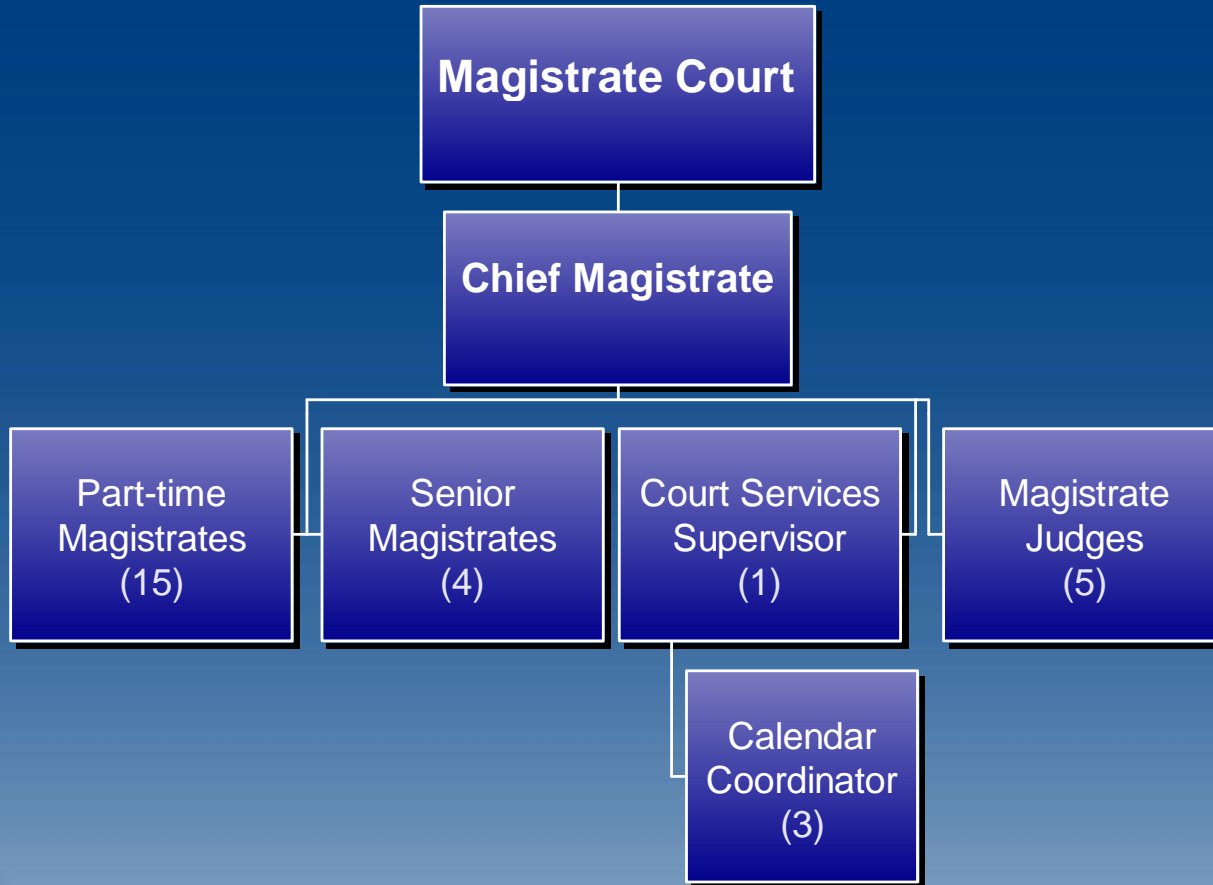
# SUPERIOR COURT ORG CHART



# STATE COURT ORG CHART



# MAGISTRATE COURT ORG CHART



# Fiscal Year 2006

Fund	Expense	Charges for Service / Direct Revenue	Taxes / Non-Direct Revenue
001 Judiciary	\$16,532,657	\$1,342,043*	\$0.00
		*Does not include fines	

# Fiscal Year 2007

Fund	Expense	Charges for Service / Direct Revenue	Taxes / Non-Direct Revenue
001 Judiciary	\$17,458,370	\$1,252,253*	\$0.00
		*Does not include fines	

# Fiscal Year 2008

Fund	Expense	Charges for Service / Direct Revenue	Taxes / Non-Direct Revenue
001 Judiciary	\$18,969,788	\$1,762,220	\$0.00
		**Does not include fines	

# Fiscal Year 2009

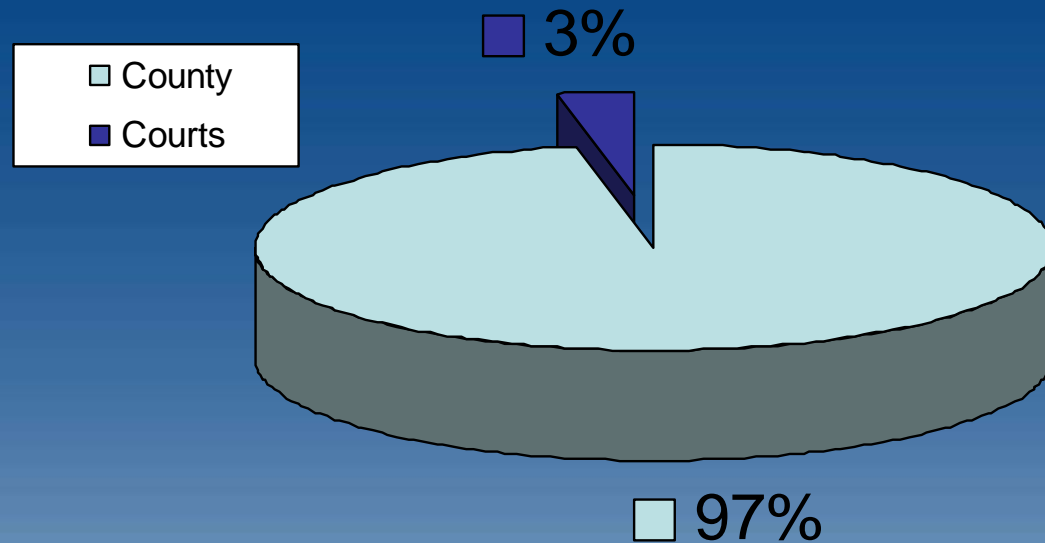
Fund	Expense	Charges for Service / Direct Revenue (est.)	Taxes / Non-Direct Revenue
001 Judiciary	\$19,278,500 (budgeted)	\$1,799,000*	\$0.00
	Less \$402,000 cost reductions	*Does not include fines	
	\$18,876,500		



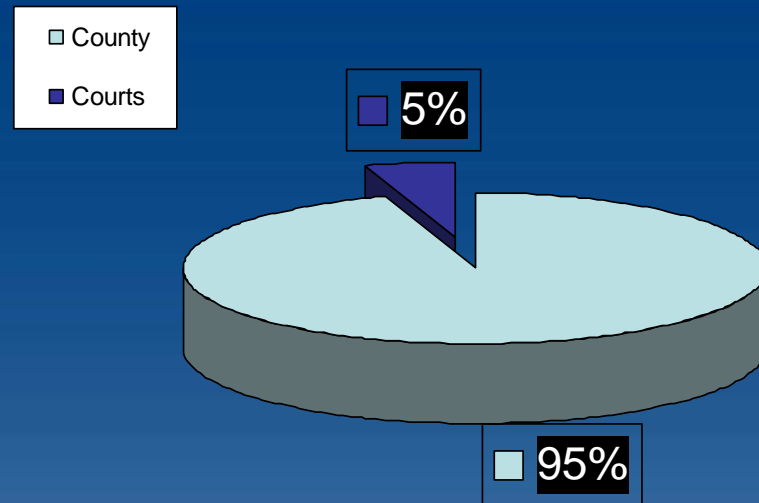
# Fiscal Year 2010

Fund	Expense	Charges for Service / Direct Revenue (est.)	Taxes / Non-Direct Revenue
001 Judiciary	\$13,791,733 [\$4.8 mil]*	\$1,299,000**	\$0.00
	\$18,691,733	**Does not include fines	
	*Indigent Defense Cost Center		

# % of County-wide Operating Funds Utilized by Superior, State & Magistrate Courts



# % of County-wide Operating Funds Utilized by Superior, State & Magistrate Courts



3% Superior, State, & Magistrate Court

1.4% Juvenile Court

.3% Recorder's Court

.4% Probate Court

# The Justice System

