

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014



Prepared by the Office of the Clerk

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

DISTRICT JUDGES

Patti B. Saris, Chief Judge

William G. Young	George A. O’Toole, Jr.	Timothy S. Hillman
Douglas P. Woodlock	F. Dennis Saylor, IV	Indira Talwani
Nathaniel M. Gorton	Denise J. Casper	Mark G. Mastroianni
Richard G. Stearns		Leo T. Sorokin

SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGES

Joseph L. Tauro	Mark L. Wolf
Rya W. Zobel	Edward F. Harrington
Michael A. Ponsor	

MAGISTRATE JUDGES

Jennifer C. Boal, Chief Magistrate Judge

Robert B. Collings	Kenneth P. Neiman	David H. Hennessy
Marianne B. Bowler	Judith G. Dein	Page Kelley
Jerome J. Niedermeier (recalled)		

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Robert M. Farrell, Clerk of Court
Michelle Rynne, Chief Deputy Clerk
Stuart Barer, Information Technology Manager
Christine L. Karjel, Financial Manager
Craig Nicewicz, Operations Manager
Susan J. Mohr, Human Resources Director
Bethaney A. Healy, Western Division (Springfield) Manager
Robert C. Alba, Central Division (Worcester) Manager

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The judges in this district work every day to administer justice in civil and criminal disputes. On the criminal side, we have had two of the most high profile cases in the country, *United States v. Bulger*, and *United States v. Tsarnaev*. We also preside over multi-district litigation involving pharmaceuticals and medical devices, as well as patent cases and other complex litigation. We have dedicated ourselves to the Rule of Law not just in this courthouse but throughout the country. Many of us serve on national Judicial Conference committees like Defender Services, Judicial Resources, and the Administration of the Magistrate Judge System. Two of our judges have served on the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISA), and another as Chair of the Sentencing Commission. Several judges travel all over the world to teach their counterparts in other countries about our system of justice.

We host a program, Discovering Justice, for inner city children to help them learn about their civil rights, put a meaning behind the Bill of Rights, and participate in mock trials so they can understand the significance of our jury system. We mentor Boston area students in the Nelson and Lindsay fellows programs to help them get into college, and seek a legal education. And we have hosted programs on issues of civil rights, such as programs on the South African constitution with famed Constitutional Court Judge Albert “Albie” Sachs, the murder of Emmett Tills and the plight of Jewish lawyers under the Nazis.

The high point of the past two years has been the addition of new judges and magistrate judges to our bench: Judge Indira Talwani received her commission on May 12, 2014, Judge Mark G. Mastroianni received his commission on June 5, 2014, and Judge Leo T. Sorokin received his commission on June 10, 2014. Allison Burroughs has been nominated to fill the seat vacated by Judge Zobel’s move to senior status, and was awaiting confirmation at the end of this reporting period. Two new magistrate judges were appointed during this reporting period: David Hennessy and Page Kelley. The court is looking forward to the appointment of two additional magistrate judges, Katherine Robertson and Donald Cabell, who should be assuming their positions in early 2015. Since our last annual report, three judges have taken senior status: former Chief Judge Mark L. Wolf, former Chief Judge Joseph L. Tauro and Judge Rya W. Zobel.

It has also been a time of transition in the Clerk’s Office. Following the retirement of Sarah Thornton, the court voted to appoint Chief Deputy Clerk Robert M. Farrell as the 19th Clerk for the District of Massachusetts. Michelle Rynne was then appointed as Chief Deputy Clerk. Under their leadership, we have many new staff members, including courtroom deputy clerks, docket clerks and court reporters. A number of employees have retired, and we were sad to lose one after a battle with cancer.

We also are leaders in spearheading reentry courts, particularly under the leadership of Judge Sorokin. Our Probation Office is at the cutting edge of providing cognitive behavioral therapy which has cut down the recidivism of our high risk defender population. Probation Officers employ evidence based practices, such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, to reduce the recidivism of our high risk offender population. Our revocation rate of 28% mirrored the national

average. Considering the high risk level of our population, our CBT programs such as Moral Reconciliation Therapy, are making a difference. The district's Chief Probation Officer, Christopher Maloney, is the current Chair of the nationwide Chief Probation and Pretrial Services Officers Advisory Council which advises the judiciary's Criminal Law Committee. He also launched a well attended program on the opiate epidemic, where Boston Mayor Marty Walsh spoke.

Not everything has been rosy. During 2013, my first year as Chief Judge, we experienced difficult financial times as a result of the fiscal cliff and sequester, not to mention never ending snow storms and the challenges created by the aftermath of the Marathon Bombings. However, the judges and court staff united together with collegiality, energy and commitment to the administration of justice even in the worst of times.

JUDICIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chief Judge Patti B. Saris continues to serve as the Chair of the United States Sentencing Commission. On January 1, 2013, Judge Saris became Chief Judge of the District of Massachusetts.

Judge William G. Young continues to serve as a visiting judge in various districts. See the article later in this report on “Courts Helping Courts.”

Judge Douglas P. Woodlock was reappointed by Chief Justice Roberts to serve as a member of the Judicial Resources Committee of the United States Judicial Conference. He has been assigned by the United States Judicial Panel for Multidistrict Litigation to preside over a multi-district civil matter comprised of 2500 cases involving wrongful death product liability claims from 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Judge Woodlock contributed a chapter regarding John Dos Passos to a book published by Oxford University Press and edited by University of Chicago Law School professors Saul Levmore and Martha Nussbaum entitled "American Guy: Masculinity in American Law and Literature" (2014). His article "Chief Justice Burger Writes a Certiorari Opinion on Palimpsest" appeared in 17 Green Bag 2d 37.

Judge Denise J. Casper, in her role as Education Liaison, spearheaded the Annual Young Lawyers’ Roundtables in both 2013 and 2014, and in October, 2013 a panel on Confronting Subconscious Bias led by Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree.

The Young Lawyers’ Roundtables involved discussion between more junior members of the bar and district, magistrate and bankruptcy judges in this District and covered a number of topics including candor to the court, discovery practices and dealing with difficult attorneys.

At the request of Chief Judge Saris, Judge Casper headed a Criminal Working Group consisting of the Chief Judge, Judges Stearns, Saylor, Sorokin and Chief Magistrate Judge Boal, and leadership of the Federal Defender Office, United States Attorney’s Office, the Criminal Justice Act Board and the Clerk’s Office. As result of these discussions, the Court adopted a set of Best Practices in the Scheduling of Criminal Cases in September, 2014.

In April 2014, Judge Casper received the Trailblazer Award from the Massachusetts Black Lawyers’ Association.

Judge Timothy S. Hillman was appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts in 2013 to be a member of the Committee on Federal and State Jurisdiction. Judge Hillman and members of the Worcester Probation Office, led by the US Probation Office, have begun a reentry program for ex-offenders who have recently been released from prison.

In 2014, he was appointed as a member of the Project Steering Group for the Next Generation of CM/ECF, which is the court’s electronic case management and filing system. In 2014 he was also appointed to the Electronic Public Access Working Group by the Administrative Office in

Washington, DC. The EPA Group is a forum for the exchange of information and ideas on public access to electronic court records and provides advice to the Administrative Office on issues concerning public access to electronic court records.

Judge Joseph L. Tauro advised the President on August 14, 2013 of his intention to retire from regular service and become a senior judge, effective September 26, 2013. Having served as a judge in active service for over forty years, Judge Tauro this year became the judge serving the longest in active service on the court since the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts was created by the First Congress in 1789.

Judge Tauro has served as a Judge of the United States District Court since 1972. He was elevated to the position of Chief Judge in January 1992 and served in that capacity until January 1999. His public service prior to being appointed to the bench included that as United States Attorney for Massachusetts, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor of Massachusetts, and two years in the Army as a Nike Guided Missile Officer.

Judge Rya W. Zobel advised President Obama that on April 1, 2014, she intended to retire from regular active service as a United States District Court Judge. She also advised the President that she intends to continue to serve as a senior judge.

When Judge Zobel was appointed in 1979, she became the first female judge of the District Court in Massachusetts, and remained the only female judge for fifteen years until 1994. A graduate of Radcliffe College and Harvard Law School, she served as a law clerk to Chief Judge George C. Sweeney before practicing law for a number of years with Hill & Barlow. In 1976, she became a partner at Goodwin, Procter & Hoar, specializing in matrimonial law.

Judge Edward F. Harrington announced on October 1, 2013 that he would assume inactive senior status as of December 31, 2013.

Judge Harrington served as a United States District Judge for over 25 years and, before his judicial appointment, as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. and in Boston in various positions for over 15 years. Those positions include United States Attorney and Chief of the Organized Crime Strike Force. He was a member of a select group of attorneys sent by Attorney General Robert Kennedy to Mississippi during the “long hot summer of 1964” to protect the rights of college students who were conducting voter registrations in schools there.

He is one of only 7 individuals who have served as both United States District Judge and United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts since the District was established in 1789.

Judge Harrington was appointed as United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts by President Reagan on February 22, 1988 and assumed Senior District Judge status on March 1, 2001.

Judge Michael A. Ponsor stepped down as chair of the Judicial Conference Committee on Space and Facilities in 2013, after four years of service. In December, 2013, Judge Ponsor's first novel, The Hanging Judge was published by Open Road Media.

Magistrate Judge Jennifer C. Boal became Chief Magistrate Judge upon Judge Sorokin's appointment as a District Court Judge. Chief Magistrate Judge Boal's term as chief began on June 16, 2014.

Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler continues her work as part of the Judicial Conference Committee on International Relations. In 2013, Magistrate Judge Bowler addressed the students and faculty at the National Law School of India University in Bangalore, and in 2014 traveled to Dhaka, Bangladesh. During both trips, she spoke on the topic of "Mediation as a Means to Reducing Clogged Court Dockets."



Magistrate Judge Bowler was reappointed on May 6, 2014 to another eight year term as a Magistrate Judge upon the recommendation of a Merit Selection Panel appointed pursuant to the Order dated August 15, 2013.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to the achievements noted above, the following Judges of this court serve on various Committees of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV	Committee on Defender Services First Circuit Judicial Conference
Judge Timothy S. Hillman	Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction
Judge Rya W. Zobel	Committee on Financial Disclosure
Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton	Committee on Intercircuit Assignments
Judge Richard G. Stearns	Committee on International Judicial Relations
Judge Douglas P. Woodlock	Committee on Judicial Resources
Judge George A. O'Toole, Jr.	Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System
Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler	First Circuit Judicial Conference (Observer)

LOCAL COMMITTEE AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

Chief Judge Patti B. Saris	The Office of the Clerk of Court Chair, Budget Committee
Judge William G. Young	Jury
Judge Douglas P. Woodlock	GSA - Space and Facilities Statistics Senior Judges Resources, Benefits and Policies Member, Attorney Admissions Fund Committee Member, Budget Committee Member, Committee on Court Security Chair, Committee on Court History
Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton	Probation/Pretrial Discovering Justice Chair, Attorney Admissions Fund Committee Member, Budget Committee
Judge Richard G. Stearns	Office of the United States Attorney Office of the United States Marshal Chair, Committee on Court Security Member, Information Technology Committee Member, Nelson and Lindsay Fellows Committee
Judge George A. O'Toole	Media Magistrate Judges
Judge F. Dennis Saylor, IV	The Federal Public Defender The Criminal Justice Act Panel Chair, Committee on Rules and Practice Member, Budget Committee
Judge Denise J. Casper	Education/Outreach to Bar Associations Member, Nelson and Lindsay Fellows Committee Member, Budget Committee Member, Committee on Court History Chair, Ad Hoc Criminal Working Group

Judge Timothy S. Hillman	Happy Observances Bankruptcy Member, Committee on Reentry Programs, Diversion and Alternates to Incarceration Chair, Information Technology Committee Member, Committee on Court Security Member, Committee on Nelson and Lindsay Fellows
Judge Indira Talwani	Court Reporters Civil Pro Bono and Pro Se Office Member, Committee on Rules and Practice Member, Attorney Admissions Fund Ad Hoc Committee on Bench Bar Conference
Judge Mark Mastroianni	Reporter to the Court Member, Committee on Reentry Programs, Diversion and Alternates to Incarceration Ad Hoc Committee on Bench Bar Conference
Judge Leo T. Sorokin	Member, Information Technology Committee Chair, Committee on Reentry Programs, Diversion and Alternates to Incarceration Ad Hoc Committee on Bench Bar Conference
Judge Joseph L. Tauro	Counselor
Judge Mark L. Wolf	International Relations and Events Member, Budget Committee Member, Committee on Court History
Judge Rya W. Zobel	Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services
Judge Michael A. Ponsor	The Western Division (Springfield) Member, Committee on Reentry Programs, Diversions and Alternates to Incarceration
Chief Magistrate Judge Jennifer C. Boal	Member, Attorney Admissions Fund Member, Budget Committee Member, Committee on Rules and Practices
Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler	Alternative Dispute Resolution
Magistrate Judge Kenneth P. Neiman	Member, Committee on Rules and Practices

Magistrate Judge Judith G. Dein

Chair, Nelson and Lindsay Fellows Committee
Member, Committee on Rules and Practice

Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy

Member, Committee on Reentry Programs, Diversion
and Alternates to Incarceration
Ad Hoc Committee Bench Bar Conference

Magistrate Judge Page Kelley

Member, Committee on Reentry Programs, Diversion
and Alternates to Incarceration

COURTS HELPING COURTS

Like many judges, Judge William G. Young serves as a visiting judge with various district courts. Only Judge Young doesn't actually "visit." Instead, he prepares civil cases for trial, hears motions and jury waived trials via the court's videoconferencing capabilities, and sends jury trials back to the host court after a final pre-trial conference.

This additional workload (604 cases at the end of 2014) involves everyone in Judge Young's session and our IT staff as well. Judge Young expresses his profound appreciation and admiration for everyone involved in these projects.

These cases from other courts are folded into the Session's own caseload and are scheduled and adjudicated just as would a D. Mass case. The heaviest burden falls on Jennifer Gaudet, the Courtroom Deputy Clerk, and Elizabeth Sonnenberg, the judge's Judicial Assistant. Jennifer does all the scheduling and communications with attorneys and pro se parties from many different districts as well as preparing court notes to the specifications of the host district. Where the host district permits us to docket directly (and most do), Jennifer or Elizabeth do the docketing backed up by Matt Paine, the Docket Clerk for the Session who also shoulders the many aspects of our Court's Appeals Clerk. Richard Romanow, the Court Reporter in this Session, handles most conferences and all motion hearings, promptly providing transcript to counsel across the country. The Session's Law Clerks provide legal support, a special challenge as the governing law is that of another circuit, not the First Circuit. Whenever Judge Young holds a conference or a hearing "in" another district, our IT team sets up our video conferencing equipment and reaches out to their counterparts in the host court so that the hearing may be held.

During 2014, this professional team effort enabled the Session to handle 25 cases from the Western District of Tennessee, 25 cases from the District of Connecticut (6 remain pending), 12 cases from the Northern District of New York (6 remain pending), and a small continuing (16-18 cases) docket of asbestosis product liability cases from the Central District of California. The most extensive undertaking (begun August 1, 2013) is to work up for trial 1,360 tobacco product liability cases in the Middle District of Florida. This project - as it presently involves more than 30 District and 2 Circuit judges - has engendered the closet cooperation between our two districts: our clerks Rob Farrell and Sheryl Loesch, Middle Florida's superb Chief of Operations Elizabeth Warren (who finds the courtrooms in five separate locations for the judges who actually travel to Florida), a dedicated "tobacco" clerk employed in Middle Florida, as well as Judge Young's entire Session. What started out as 1,360 cases on August 1, 2015 now, after seventeen months, stands at 399 remaining cases. The project is scheduled to last through 2016.

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

The Office of the Clerk has seen unprecedented public interest in a number of high profile civil and criminal cases during this reporting period. This increased interest has brought challenges to every department in the office, especially Operations, Finance, Jury, Information Technology and Media Management, and the clerk's office has risen to the challenge. The Information Technology Department provided streaming video and audio to overflow courtrooms for the public and the media. Other sections of the office have provided valuable and necessary coverage to the overflow courtrooms to ensure that the proper decorum is maintained. The Clerk's Office has maintained a proactive engagement with the media, keeping them informed through emails and meetings regarding logistics in upcoming cases.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Alternative Dispute Resolution program (ADR) continues to play an integral role in the adjudication of civil actions filed in this district. A total of 310 cases were referred to the ADR program in 2013, and 358 in 2014.

The Magistrate Judges of this Court serve as the mediators. The steady number of cases referred to Alternative Dispute Resolution proves the success of the program in this District.

BUDGET

The District of Massachusetts has an active Budget Committee consisting of Chief District Judge Patti B. Saris, Judge Douglas P. Woodlock, Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton, Judge F. Dennis Saylor, IV, Judge Denise J. Casper, Judge Mark L. Wolf, Bankruptcy Judge Frank Bailey and Chief Magistrate Judge Jennifer C. Boal. The committee reviews and approves a spending plan prepared by the unit executives.

Both years in this reporting period were challenging for the budget committee and budget personnel. The court was not fully funded for FY 2013 until March 8, 2013, and not until February 14, 2014 for FY 2014. Prior to these dates, the court operated under a continuing resolution (CR) based on the prior year's funding levels. Each court unit exercised restraint in spending decisions until the full-year appropriation was received.

In the spirit of cooperation, the District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and Probation Offices and the budget committee met regularly to review the status of their individual budgets and frequently shared resources as needed. This joint effort by all units of the District of Massachusetts to put the overall mission of the Court ahead of individual priorities greatly assisted the ability to meet increasing demands despite budget reductions.

Judicious spending, employee buyouts, reprogramming of funds, and shared services agreements among the agencies helped stave off furloughs and layoffs in fiscal year 2013 and set us up favorably to weather the beginning of fiscal year 2014.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT

In 2013, Judge F. Dennis Saylor, IV continued as the court's liaison judge responsible for matters related to the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) in this district. Attorney John Salsberg replaced Peter Krupp as the Chair of the CJA Board. The following attorneys remained active as board members: Victoria M. Bonilla-Argudo, Roberto M. Braceras, J.W. Carney, Jr., Patricia Garin, Edward P. Ryan, Jr., A. Hugh Scott, Kathy B. Weinman, William M. White, Jr., and Federal Defender Miriam Conrad, ex officio. In 2014, John Pucci, who represented the western division since 1997, withdrew from his position on the CJA Board. Non-CJA attorney Vincent A. Bongiorni filled that vacancy.

The CJA Board coordinated several training programs for criminal defense attorneys, along with the Federal Defender Office and other members of the criminal bar.

There are four CJA panels: Boston, Springfield, Worcester, and Habeas Corpus. The Boston panel members serve for staggered, three year terms. The Springfield, Worcester, and Habeas panels do not have terms. The Springfield, Worcester, and Habeas panels are evaluated periodically and new attorneys are solicited or the entire panel reconstituted as needed. In both 2013 and 2014 the CJA Board accepted applications (Boston in 2013, 2014; Worcester in 2013 and Springfield in 2014). The Board recommended and the District Court approved 23 reappointments and 8 new members for the Boston panel, and 3 new members for the Worcester panel in 2013, and in 2014, 24 reappointments and 4 new members for the Boston panel and 4 new members for the Springfield panel.

The CJA Plan was revised and approved by the Judicial Council of the First Circuit effective November 14, 2013. Additionally, the District Court adopted Guidelines for Claims Submitted for Reimbursement under the Criminal Justice Act.

The District of Massachusetts adopted CJA eVoucher (originally developed by Nevada District Court) to seek reimbursement under the Criminal Justice Act. CJA eVoucher was implemented in this district on September 1, 2014. The CJA eVoucher System is a web-based solution for submission, monitoring and management of all Criminal Justice Act (CJA) functions. The entire process, from requesting funds to voucher submissions to the court, is done electronically. On-line preparation of the voucher will simplify the billing process and expedite claim submissions and review. The Court offered several training sessions for attorneys and billing staff with an opportunity to attend in person or via webinar.

In 2013, there were 1,168 vouchers submitted by attorneys, experts, and court reporters totaling \$6,999,858. The average voucher payment was \$5,993.

In 2014, there were 1,182 vouchers submitted by attorneys, experts, and court reporters totalling \$7,994,570.89. The Court processed 243 documents in eVoucher from September 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014.

Year	Number of Payments	Voucher Totals	Average Voucher
2014	1182	\$7,994,571	\$6,784
2013	1168	\$6,999,858	\$5,993
2012	1218	\$7,353,957	\$6,038
2011	1172	\$7,124,097	\$6,079
2010	963	\$5,660,339	\$5,878

DIVISIONAL OFFICES

Central Division (Worcester)

On May 6, 2013 Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy was sworn in as a magistrate judge, taking the seat vacated by Judge Timothy S. Hillman upon his appointment as a District Judge.

During both years of this reporting period, the Judges of the central division conducted naturalization ceremonies at sites throughout Worcester County, including the historic Mechanics Hall, and Magistrate Judge Robert B. Collings of the eastern division conducted a naturalization ceremony at Mount Wachusett Community College.

In 2013, Judge Timothy S. Hillman and Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy presided over mock trials sponsored by Discovering Justice. Students from the University Park Campus School, the Goddard School and Claremont Academy participated.

Judge Hillman, Magistrate Judge Hennessy and retired Magistrate Judge Charles B. Swartwood III took part in several roundtable luncheons with members of the Federal Bar Association.

The Judges each hosted tours of the Donahue Federal Building and Courthouse for members of the Federal Bar Association and Worcester County Bar Association. Participants toured the District Court's Clerk's Office, US Probation and Pretrial Services Office, the US Attorney's Office and the US Marshal's Office. A reception followed each tour where the participants were able to mingle with the Judges and court staff.

Attorneys and their support staff attended the annual "IT in the Courtroom" seminars. Each year's session was well attended.

Roundtable discussions were held for local attorneys: Judge Hillman held a session with local members of the Federal Bar Association on "Criminal Law in the Federal Courts" and another on "Intellectual Property Issues in the Employment Law Context" and Magistrate Judge Hennessy presided over a presentation on "Anatomy of a Civil Case" for the Worcester County Bar Association.

Staff from the Boston office traveled to Worcester to conduct training sessions for CJA panel members on the new "E-Voucher" program.

In November, 2014, Judge Hennessy held an event for the Young Lawyers Division of the Worcester County Bar Association. The event provided the young lawyers with an opportunity to meet local CJA counsel and discuss federal practice.

Western Division (Springfield)

Judges from the Eastern Division traveled to the Western Division to preside over cases reassigned to them in light of Judge Ponsor's transition to senior status. The Judges and staff of the Western Division, local bar and litigants appreciate the efforts made by the Boston judges to accommodate them by traveling to Springfield for the hearings.

On April 22, 2013, the Springfield Courthouse hosted an open house for the local bar associations, offering bar members the opportunity to meet Chief Judge Patti B. Saris. Judge Michael A. Ponsor, Judge Denise J. Casper and Magistrate Judge Kenneth P. Neiman attended the event.

Like the other divisions in this district, the Western Division conducted a number of naturalization ceremonies at sites such as the grounds of the Hampshire County Courthouse, the Springfield Armory, the Western New England University School of Law and at our own courthouse in Springfield.

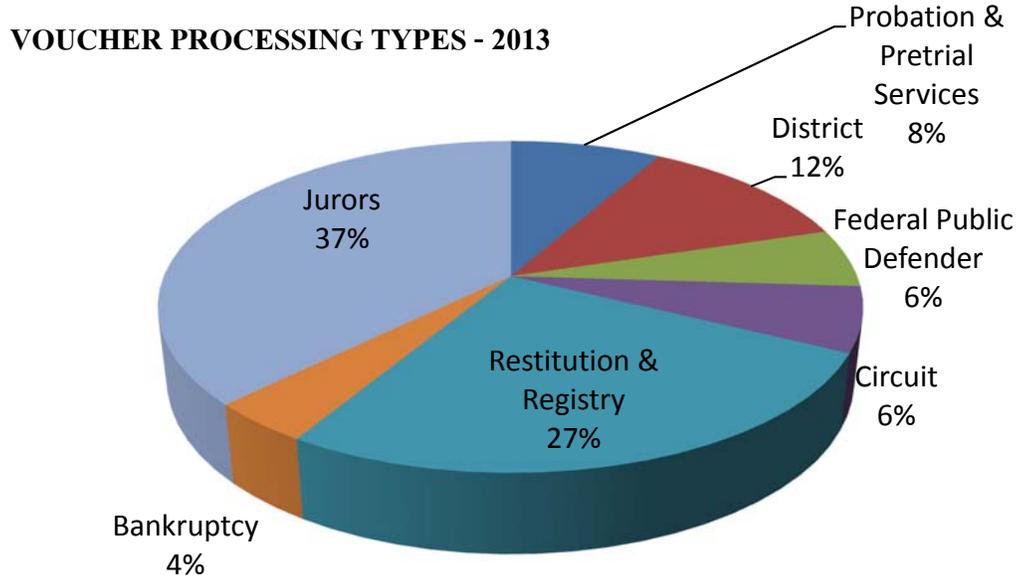
Throughout this reporting period, the Western Division hosted and participated in educational programs for attorneys, their support staff and local high school students. Through the generosity of our judicial officers' time, the following groups and programs were held:

- The annual "IT in the Courtroom" seminar.
- The MCLE sponsored a program on Federal Practice and Procedure. Judge Ponsor, Magistrate Judge Neiman and the Division Manager of the Western Division addressed the attorneys and court personnel on topics including practice in the Springfield Division, use of the court's ADR program, and the affect of the budget on the court system.
- A local insurance company's "Careers in the Court" program was held on January 8, 2013 and on January 8, 2014. Many students from Springfield high schools participated in this day-long event which highlighted the varied careers available in the judiciary. Students participated in a question and answer session with Magistrate Judge Neiman, and members of the Clerk's Office, Probation Department, United States Attorney's Office, the Marshals Service, and defense bar.
- Magistrate Judge Neiman hosted West Springfield High School on April 22, 2013 for the "Open Doors to the Federal Courts." Judge Neiman has hosted this program for more than 10 years.
- On May 10, 2013 Magistrate Judge Neiman invited students from the Hilltown Cooperative Charter School, located in Leeds, Massachusetts, to participate in a mock naturalization ceremony. In preparation for the ceremony, students were provided with the citizenship test. This program was valuable in teaching the students about the effort and time invested by those seeking United States citizenship.

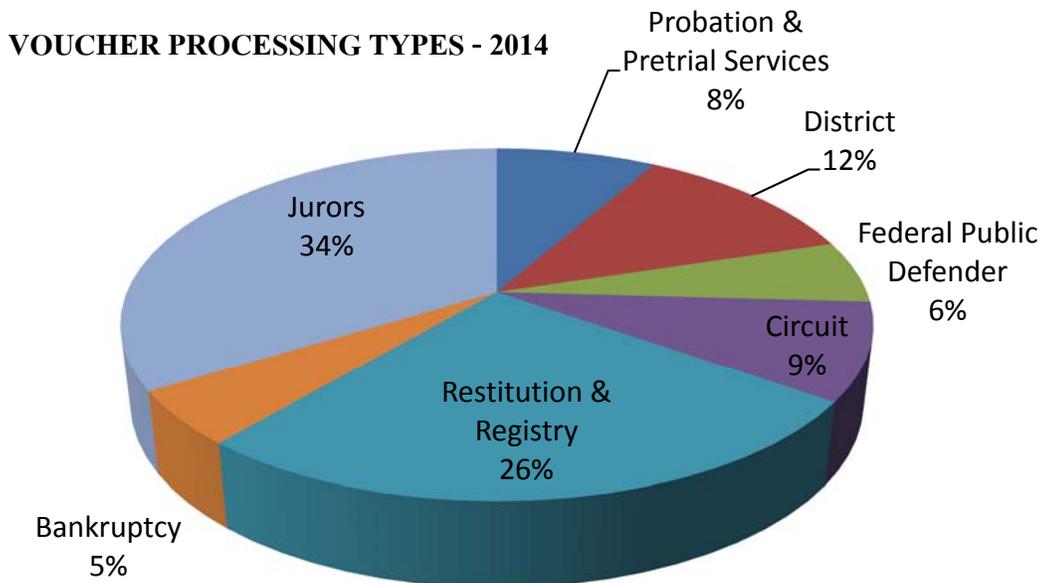
- The court hosted the “Just the Beginnings- Mass Mutual Summer Legal Institute” on July 10, 2013. The Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee from the Eastern District of Virginia presided over the mock trial and participated in a question and answer session with the students.
- The Zanetti Montessori School visited the courthouse on July 18, 2013 for a tour and meeting with Division Manager, who discussed the role of the federal courts as well as the careers available in the judiciary.
- On May 21, 2014, the Springfield Courthouse hosted a mock trial and educational forum for the Lander Grinspoon Academy. The third and fourth grade classes at the Academy have participated in a year-long study of the federal courts, culminating in the presentation of a mock trial which takes place in 1851 in the town of Florence, Massachusetts. The case involved the prosecution of a local shop owner for her alleged violation of the Fugitive Slave Act.
- On July 9, 2014, the Springfield Courthouse hosted the “Just the Beginnings- Mass Mutual Summer Legal Institute.” For the second year, we were delighted to have the Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee, Eastern District of Virginia, preside over the mock trial. Participants engaged in a mock trial, and a question and answer session with the Judge Lee.
- During 2014 Discovering Justice expanded its program into the Springfield area in partnership with a local middle school, John J. Duggan Middle School and the Western New England University School of Law.
- On October 15, 2014, the Springfield Courthouse hosted ninety-five fifth grades students from the Rebecca M. Johnson School in Springfield. These fifth graders were selected to participate in a program entitled “Your Future. Your Decision.,” which is organized by the United States Attorney’s Office. The program exposes students to different career opportunities within the courts and the judicial system.

FINANCE

In 2013, the finance office received \$398,751.68 in special assessment and fine payments and \$2,945,453.36 in restitution payments. The financial staff issued 23,791 payments. Over 6,000 of those checks were restitution payments payable to victims.



In 2014, the finance office received \$527,716.53 in special assessment and fine payments and \$4,547,509.80 in restitution payments. The financial staff issued 23,895 payments. Over 6,000 of the checks were restitution payments payable to victims.



HUMAN RESOURCES

In February, 2013, HR staff attended a career fairs at Boston University and Northeastern University as part of a judiciary-wide effort to establish a diversity recruitment and outreach program geared toward undergraduate and law schools. Attendance at such career fairs nationwide was geared toward highlighting the judiciary as a competitive employer. Later in the year, the HR team was invited by Harvard University's Career Services Office to attend the "Student-Government Employer Meet Up," which was another great opportunity to educate future graduates about the exciting career opportunities available to them at the federal court.

The First Circuit approved the district's amended Employment Dispute Resolution (EDR) Plan.

The court implemented telework as an important tool in maintaining continuity of operations during emergency situations and inclement weather events. Designated first responders now work a minimum of one day per quarter from their telework locations, testing connectivity to the office and determining how to best accomplish essential work from an alternate location. Several inclement weather days this winter, including days when the court was closed for the day or part of the day, saw telework-ready staff able to productively continue their normal work duties while other staff were otherwise excused from work. The results of implementing telework in the office this year will serve as the basis for determining whether expanded telework arrangements could prove beneficial in the future.

Three student interns joined the staff of the Clerk's Office for the summer of 2013, providing much needed assistance with coverage during a busy summer vacation season that also included the coordination of a high profile trial in Boston. Helping to monitor the video feeds into overflow courtrooms, the students were essential to insuring public access to the trial. The interns also provided assistance in the busy front office in both Boston and Springfield, and assisted with projects in other areas of the office, as needed.

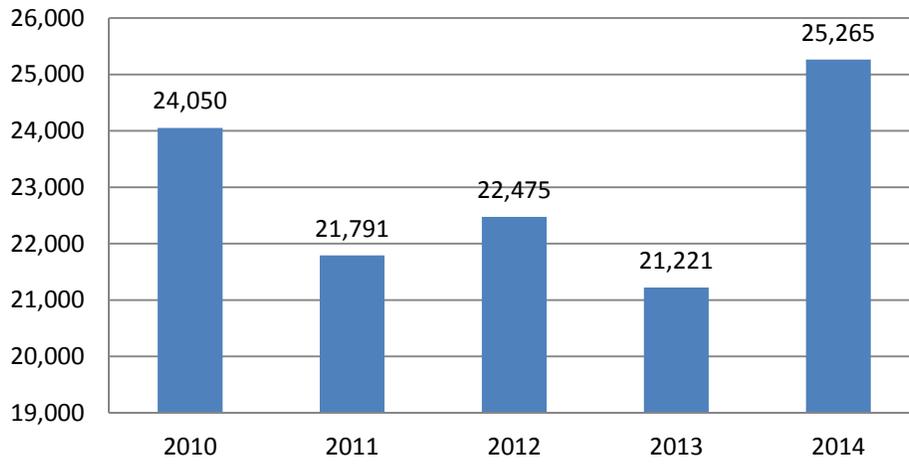
In 2013, an employee survey was distributed to Clerk's Office staff as a way of obtaining important confidential feedback regarding job satisfaction, working conditions, personal opportunities, cooperation, communication and management/supervision. Employees' aggregate responses were summarized and provided to the Judges and management for review and to determine what actions might be appropriate for future implementation. Although results were mostly viewed as positive, areas for change and improvement were also identified. As a direct result of the feedback, review teams have been implemented as a way of allowing additional input from staff in establishing new policies and revising existing policies.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

During Fiscal Year 2013, 21,221 new citizens were naturalized at 56 ceremonies conducted by judges of the District and Bankruptcy Courts. Fiscal Year 2014 saw 25,265 new citizens naturalized at 67 ceremonies.

Many historic sites across the district were the venues for these ceremonies: Faneuil Hall, the John F. Kennedy Library, African American Museum, House of Seven Gables, the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse Harbor Park and the USS Constitution to name a few.

NATURALIZED CITIZENS



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Courtroom Technology

New evidence presentation systems, with integrated video conferencing, digital streaming and recording capability were installed in Courtrooms 13 and 17 in the Boston courthouse. Proceedings for two high profile cases were frequently streamed to these courtrooms and to the Jury Assembly room and Courtroom 6, which was designated for use by the media.

Installation of integrated videoconferencing, streaming, and recording services in Courtroom 2 was completed in Worcester. Construction of the new Franklin Courtroom was completed in Springfield with the evidence presentation and video systems, similar to the other courtrooms, installed in November.

National IP Telephony Project (IPT3) – Divisional Offices

The entire structured cabling system, including the fiber backbone and horizontal end user connections was completely replaced in the Worcester courthouse. This project was funded by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO) due to the general age and poor condition of the existing equipment, and was necessary to support the new IP Telephone system. The completion of this work marked the first time that we have been able to support a unified telephone system in all three of our locations.

NVTCS - National Video Teleconferencing Service

All of our videoconference units have been migrated to the National Video Teleconference Gateway. This allowed us to eliminate all of our local ISDN lines used for video conferencing at a significant savings for the court. We can now conduct videoconferences to multiple endpoints using the most common telecom protocols, to sites both inside and outside the judiciary.

Attorney Admissions/Pay.gov

The court's new attorney admissions application went live in 2013. Credit cards payments are now accepted online to eliminate significant payment processing for court staff.

INTERNATIONAL JUDGES AND VISITING SCHOLARS

The District Court continues to be a highlight of their trip for visiting international judges and legal scholars. The court hosted many groups, including a group of Egyptian judges through the Open World Leadership Center. While in Boston the judges were hosted by Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler and Bankruptcy Judge Joan Feeney.

Korean judges in the LLM/Visiting Scholarship Program at Harvard Law School and Chinese students from the Boston University LLM Program visited the courthouse during this reporting period. Both groups met with the judges of this court and had an opportunity to view court proceedings.

Chief Judge Saris and Judge Stearns hosted a luncheon for a delegation of judges from Uzbekistan in November, 2013. The Judges were accompanied by Justice Robert Cordy of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Following the luncheon the Judges observed a criminal proceeding in Judge Young's courtroom. Judge Young later invited the visiting Judges to tour his chambers.

A group of visiting Judges from South Korea came to the courthouse in November, 2013. The Judges enjoyed a tour of the courthouse, and then observed a criminal hearing before Chief Judge Saris. Court staff and Judge Sorokin made a presentation on the court's CM/ECF program, including how judicial officers use an iPad to expedite court business.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

In addition to performing continuous monitoring of the District Court's financial information system, the Internal Controls Analyst (the analyst) provided consulting services to other court units on matters related to financial system security reporting, internal control analysis and separation of duties requirements. District Court internal control procedures were revised to incorporate a more comprehensive risk assessment program into the reviews of all court functions. Monthly judicial statistical reporting data was compiled and provided to the Operations Department, and fiscal year budgetary allotments were mathematically verified.

The analyst assembled and delivered financial documentation requested by the outside audit firm of KPMG as part of the court-wide Salaries and Expenses audit. All information was delivered in a timely manner and fully satisfied auditor inquiries.

To further professional development, the analyst completed courses from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants in governmental accounting, budgeting, and methodologies for detecting internal fraud.

In 2014, the Court was issued a clean audit report for the change of clerk/cyclical audit conducted over the period January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013.

INTERPRETER SERVICES

In FY 2013, interpreter services were needed for court proceedings by 350 litigants, and 351 litigants in FY 2014.

Of those, 265 (or 76%) were for the Spanish language in FY 2013, and 273 (or 77%) in FY 2014. The remaining 85 (or 24%) required interpreters for 12 other languages. A total of \$ \$125,187.40 was spent on interpreting services in FY 2013, an increase from FY 2012 when \$112,842 was expended on interpreting services.

Language	Interpreter Services	
	FY 2013 In-Court Events	FY 2014 In-Court Events
Albanian	0	3
Cantonese	13	5
CART	2	0
Creole (Cape Verde)	1	0
Greek	0	16
Hungarian	2	0
Khmer (Cambodian)	0	5
Mandarin	11	1
Portuguese	30	14
Romanian	4	0
Russian	1	17
Sign (American)	1	0
Somali	8	1
Spanish (Certified)	264	254
Spanish (Non-Certified)	1	19
Vietnamese	8	16
Visayan	4	0
TOTAL PER FISCAL YEAR	350	351

JURY

The court's jury staff has been exceptionally busy throughout this reporting period. In June, 2013, 858 jurors were summonsed to appear, over three days, as part of the voir dire of a high profile criminal case. In 2014, jurors were again summonsed for a number of other high profile cases. Thanks to the dedicated work of the staff in that office, the voir dire and impanelment in each case went very smoothly.

At the close of 2014, the jury staff was preparing to process a large jury pool for another high profile case scheduled to begin in January, 2015.

The national average of jurors not selected, serving or challenged (NSSC) on the first day of jury service is 37.7 percent for the year ended December 31, 2013. That figure is not available for 2014 at the time this report was prepared. The District of Massachusetts finished 2013 ranked at 39.7%, just below the national average of 37.7%, and at 39.2% at the end of 2014. The change in our ranking is due mostly to the number of jurors summonsed for the previously mentioned high profile cases.

The Interactive Voice Response system used to keep jurors updated on reporting times has been upgraded. The new system runs on a virtual server and uses the national IPT phone system. This will improve management and performance since it no longer relies on older servers and external telephone equipment.

MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

Nine district judges of this court have a total of twelve Multidistrict Litigation (MDL) matters pending at the time of this report. Included in those MDL cases are approximately 3,500 individual civil cases either filed in this district directly filed here or transferred from other courts. These cases have had a significant impact on our civil caseload numbers.

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS

As indicated in the table below, the in-court hours during 2013 increased from those in 2012 by 9.5%, and remained steady in 2014. The total number of original transcript pages produced during this reporting period remained almost steady from those produced in 2012. On average, reporters spent 305 hours in court and produced 6,752 original transcript pages.

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In-Court Hours	5,373	5,203	4,576	4,825	4,821
Original Transcript Pages produced	126,911	136,078	101,288	101,325	102,041

OPERATIONS

Best Practices in the Scheduling of Criminal Cases

The “Best Practices” were adopted on September 2, 2014 by the Court’s Criminal Working Group (“CWG”). CWG was comprised of judges, representatives from the Criminal Justice Act panel, the United States Attorney’s Office, the Federal Defender’s Office, the United States Probation Office and the Clerk’s Office. The goal of these “best practices” is to reduce the time from initial appearance to disposition without sacrificing the standard of high-quality representation that is the hallmark of representation in this district. The Court intends to revisit these recommendations periodically, as it is a working document.

Cameras in the Courtroom

At the close of 2014, seven judges have identified 224 hearings as eligible for video recording. Thirty seven hearings have been recorded and twenty five of those have been recorded and are posted to the United States Courts website at <http://www.uscourts.gov/multimedia/cameras.aspx>. The pilot project is scheduled to conclude in July 2015.

Publishing Opinions

In September 2014, this Court changed the manner in which opinions and other judicial orders are made publicly available. Effective September 15, 2014, opinions and orders are now available via two RSS feeds.

The first RSS feed (https://ecf.mad.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/rss_outside_pub.pl) is dedicated to opinions and orders designated by the Court for official publication. This replaces the “Recent Opinions” page. The second RSS feed (https://ecf.mad.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/rss_outside.pl) contains all opinions and orders entered whether or not designated for official publications. In addition to the two feeds, our Opinions Search page has been replaced by the United States Government Printing Office's FDsys system which provides free, full-text searching of many government publications, including United States District Court Opinions. Anyone can access FDsys at: <http://www.fdsys.gov>.

REENTRY PROGRAMS

The district’s two re-entry programs, CARE (Court Assisted Recovery Effort) and RESTART (Reentry: Empowering Successful Today's and Responsible Tomorrow's) continue to make a difference in the lives of the defendants enrolled in these programs.

In 2013, the re-entry programs expanded to the Central Division in Worcester, under the supervision of Judge Timothy S. Hillman.

The CARE Program helps defendants with substance abuse issues maintain sober, employed and law abiding lives. RESTART is a voluntary program for high risk ex-offenders presently on supervised release. Both programs involve closer supervision of a defendant and higher expectations than regular supervision, but also offer defendants greater assistance, opportunity and reward. The Court, the Probation Office, the United States Attorney and the Federal Defender Office all participate in these programs in an effort to help each defendant succeed.

Successful completion of either program results in a one year reduction a participant's term of supervised release. In order to graduate from either program, a participant must have fifty-two weeks of compliance.

The RESTART and CARE teams continue to develop relationships with traditional and nontraditional probationary resources. The following agencies have enthusiastically offered support services to our program participants: Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission; Massachusetts Department of Revenue; Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles; Future

Works/Career Point; ADCARE; Center for Human Development; and Behavioral Health Network.

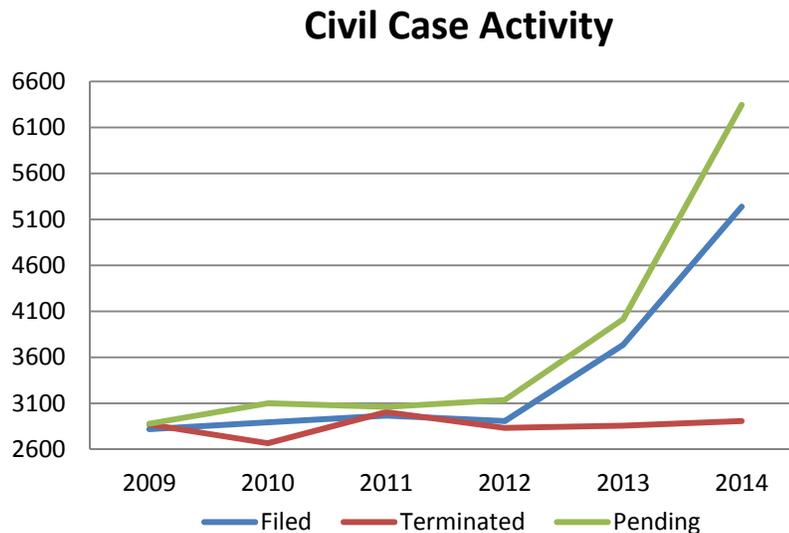
On average 10 to 12 individuals take part in the program each year. In 2014, three participants completed the program and graduated.

STATISTICS

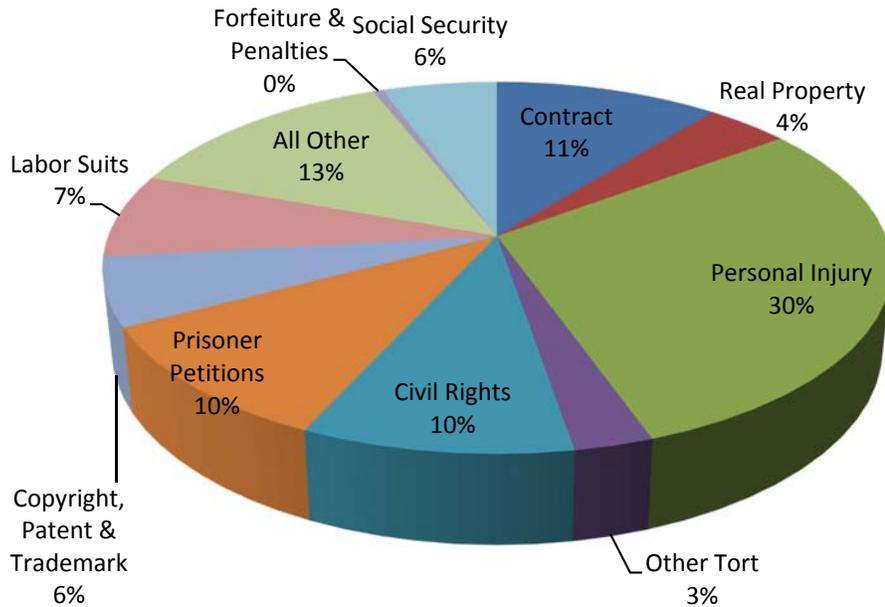
Civil Caseload

Civil filings increased 29% from 2,906 in 2012 to 3,737 in 2013. In 2014, the number of civil filings totaled 5,238, another 29% increase from 2013. The number of civil case filings has almost doubled since 2012, due in large part to the cases filed as part of two large multi district litigation actions in this court: *In re: Ameridose* (MDL 2419) and *In re: Fresenius Medical Care Holdings* (MDL 2428).

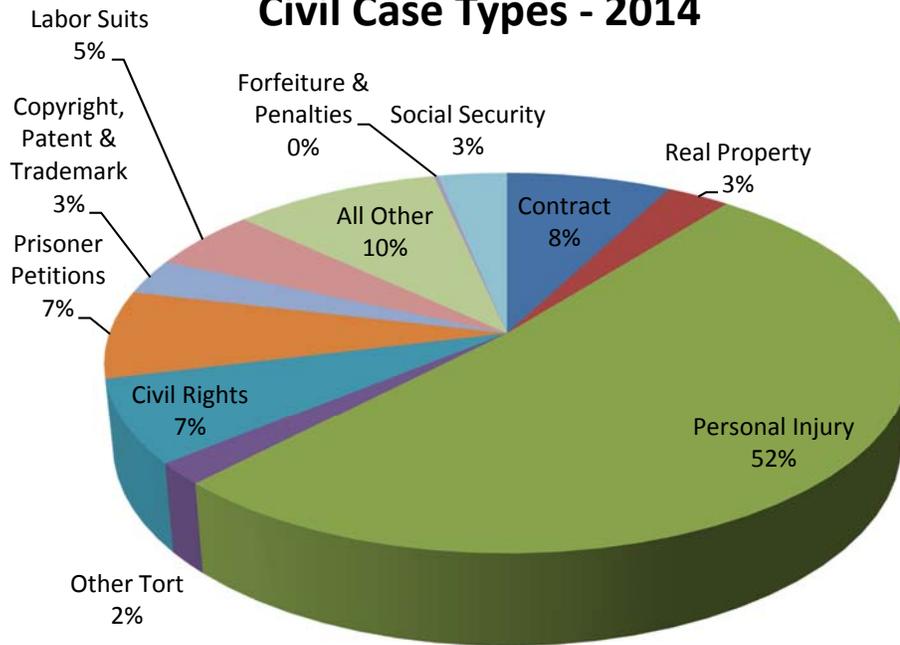
The number of civil case terminations remained somewhat consistent with past years: 2,855 civil cases were terminated in 2013, with 4,015 civil cases pending at the end of that calendar year, and 2,905 civil cases terminated in 2014. At the end of 2014, 6,346 cases were pending.



Civil Case Types - 2013



Civil Case Types - 2014

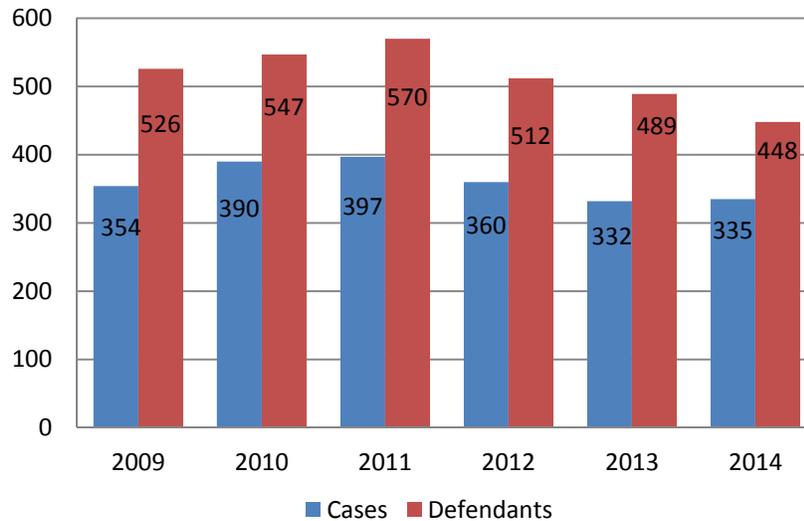


Criminal Caseload

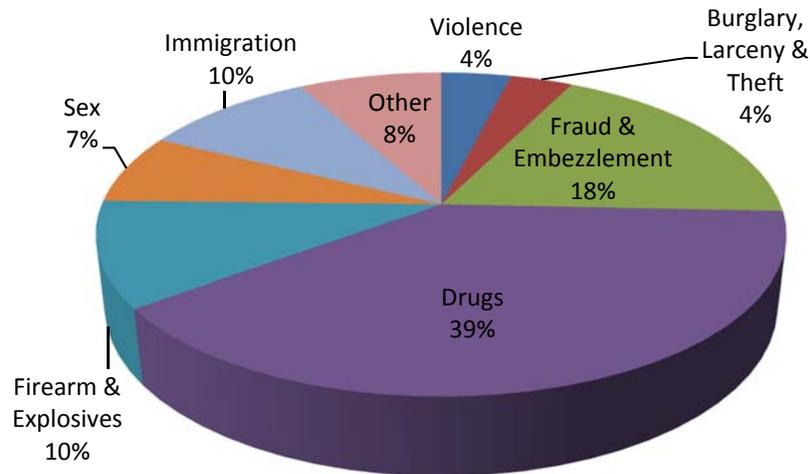
The District of Massachusetts opened 332 criminal cases in 2013, involving 489 defendants, and 335 cases in 2014 with 448 defendants. A total of 395 criminal cases and 537 criminal defendants were closed in 2013; 363 cases and 497 defendants were terminated in 2014.

Criminal cases filings decreased 7.8% from 360 in 2012 to 332 in 2013; that number remained consistent with 335 cases filed in 2014.

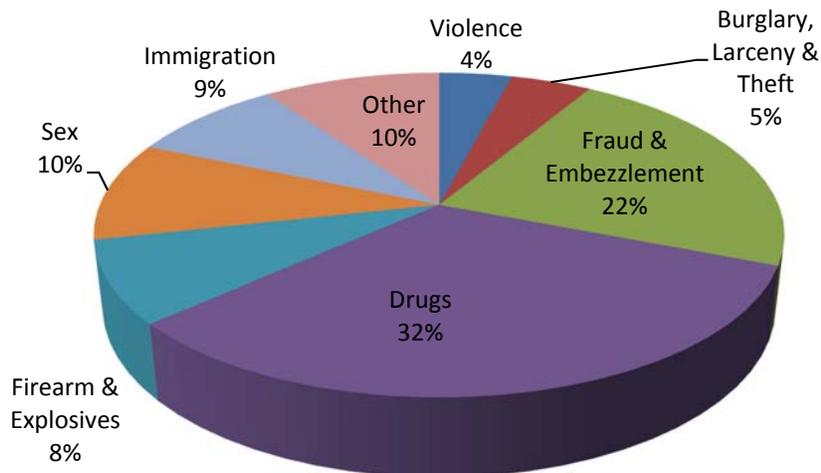
Criminal Cases & Defendants



Criminal Offense Types - 2013



Criminal Offense Types - 2014

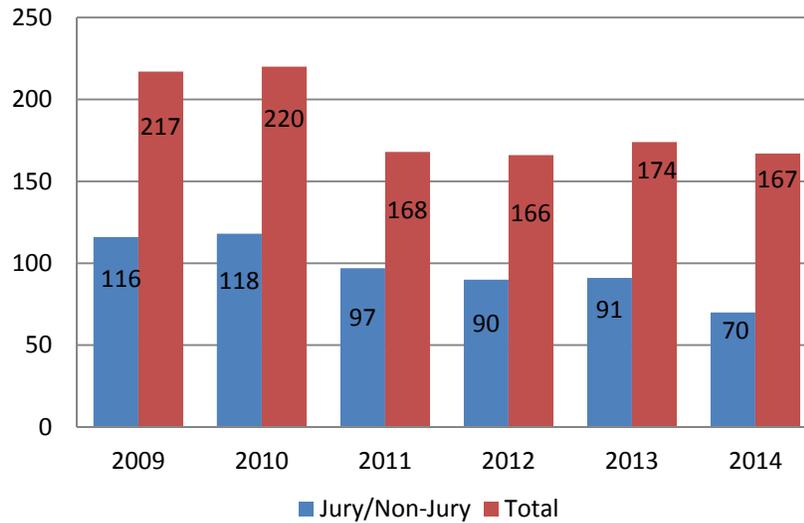


Trials and Hours In-Court Activity

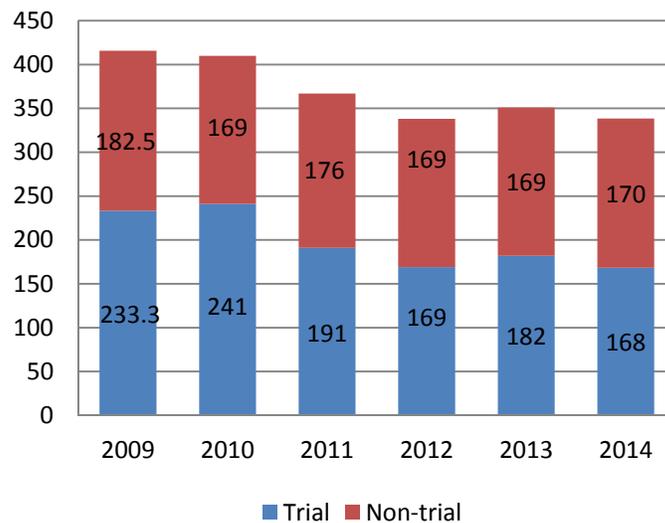
The total in-court hours for District Judges decreased slightly from 4,401 in 2012 to 4,389 in 2013, but increased to 4400 in 2014. Hours on trial increased 8% from 2,199 in 2012 to 2,367 in 2013 and decreased to 2,188 in 2014. The total amount of in-court hours spent on matters other than trials decreased from 2,203 in 2012 to 2,023 in 2013. The average trial hours reported by active judges in this District for 2013 was 182 hours per judgeship compared to the national average of 196 hours per judgeship. In 2014, the average trial hours per judge in this District decreased to 168, which is on par with the decrease in the national average to 178.

The total number of trials (hearings involving the presentation of evidence) conducted by the District Judges of this court increased 5% from 166 in 2012 to 174 in 2013, but returned to the level of 2012 with 167 trials per judge. The total number of jury and nonjury trials started during this period increased by 1 trial from 90 in 2012 to 91 in 2013, but dropped to 70 in 2014.

Trials Held



Hours in Court per Judgeship



TRAINING

The clerk's office once again offered "IT in the Courtroom" seminars in Boston, Worcester and Springfield in 2013. Approximately 300 attorneys and/or their support staff attended the program in Boston. Judge O'Toole and Judge Woodlock contributed to the discussions in their respective courtrooms. The sessions in Worcester and Springfield were also well attended. Judge Hennessy participated in the Worcester program, and Judge Ponsor participated in the Springfield program. We've received many positive comments on the seminars and there are plans to repeat the program annually.

Eight employees expressed interest in a courtroom clerk training program. The program began in the fall of 2013 and extended well into 2014, with classes held every two weeks, laying the groundwork for the students' work in the courtroom. The students took advantage of training offered through the Judiciary On-line University, taking classes on topics that included Business Grammar, Punctuation and Proofreading.

Court staff continued to offer CM/ECF training to attorneys and/or their support staff through 2013. Due to a marked drop in attendance, the clerk's office created on-line learning modules on many of the functions in CM/ECF: everything from opening a civil case to filing a notice of appeal. These e-learning modules are available on the court's website.

The Training and Outreach Coordinator attended a week-long workshop sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center on "Moving to New Organizational Models." Those participating in the workshop were trained to travel to courts to assist in working through plans to consolidate services.

Clerk's office staff attended a session to review the new policy on the "Acceptable Use of the DCN and Social Media."

A demonstration and Q&A session on the use of the court's Virtual Press Box was held for members of the press covering a high profile case. Fifteen members of the press corps attended.

Training was held in 2014 for CJA attorneys and their support staff on the new "EVoucher" software. Multiple sessions were scheduled in all three offices of the district. This training was also made available to attorneys through the Internet allowing them to participate remotely.

By the end of 2013, 145 employees had taken part in 180 courses for a total of 783 hours of training. In 2014, 149 employees had taken part in 275 courses for a total of 1,085 hours of training.

HAPPY OCCASIONS

Chief Judge Patti B. Saris

In recognition of the start of Judge Saris' term as Chief Judge, "Meet the Chief Judge" receptions were held in each of the court's three divisions during the first part of 2013. Court staff and members of the local bar attended each reception.

Chief Judge Saris' portrait was presented to the court on June 6, 2014. Speaking in support of the presentation of the portrait were Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, William F. Lee, Esq., Judge Saris' children Marisa, Edward, Celia and Michael Segel, former law clerks Sarah Cooleybeck, Esq., Joseph J. Mueller, Esq., Justin P. O'Brien, Esq. and the artist, Daniel Greene.



Portrait of Chief Judge Patti B. Saris

Judge Indira Talwani

Judge Talwani was nominated by President Obama on September 24, 2013, to a seat vacated by Judge Mark L. Wolf. She was confirmed by the United States Senate on May 8, 2014 and received her commission on May 12, 2014. A formal ceremony for the administration of the oath of office was held at the John Joseph Moakley on June 27, 2014. United States Senator Elizabeth Warren, former United States District Judge Nancy Gertner and Donald J. Siegel, Esq. spoke at the ceremony.



Judge Indira Talwani (center), husband Tod Cochran (left), Senator Elizabeth Warren (right)

Judge Mark G. Mastroianni

Judge Mastroianni joined the bench after being nominated by President Obama on September 24, 2013, to a seat vacated by Judge Michael A. Ponsor. He was confirmed by the United States Senate on June 4, 2014 and received his commission on June 5, 2014. A formal ceremony for the taking of his oath was held on August 1, 2014 at the Springfield Museum. Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward J. Markey, Judge Michael A. Ponsor and Judge Mastroianni's daughters, Christine, Jennifer and Lauren, all spoke at the ceremony.



Chief Judge Saris and Judge Mastroianni (courtesy of David Roback of The Republican)

Judge Leo T. Sorokin



Judge Leo T. Sorokin, taking oath of office

The Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts reappointed Leo T. Sorokin for another eight year term in January 2013 after review of the recommendation made to the Court by the Panel of Citizens, appointed pursuant to the Order dated July 16, 2012. That term was short-lived, after President Barack Obama nominated Judge Sorokin to fill the seat vacated by Judge Joseph L. Tauro. The US Senate confirmed his appointment in June, 2014. A formal ceremony for the taking of the oath was held at the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse on September 26, 2014. Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Edward J. Markey, Judge Rya W. Zobel (for whom Judge Sorokin clerked) and Magistrate Judge Kenneth P. Neiman spoke at the ceremony.

Magistrate Judge Kenneth P. Neiman

Magistrate Judge Neiman's portrait was presented to the court at a ceremony held October 20, 2014 at the United States Courthouse in Springfield. Family and friends were present to enjoy the ceremony. Judge Michael Ponsor, Lyn Rucker, who served as the Court Monitor for Judge Neiman in *Rolland v. Patrick*, Nathan Olin, Esq., Judge Neiman's former law clerk, Bernadette Wyman, his longtime judicial assistant and the artist, Paul Leveille, all spoke at the ceremony.



Portrait of Magistrate Judge Kenneth P. Neiman

Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy



Chief Judge Patti B. Saris with Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy

David H. Hennessy was selected by the Judges of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts to be a Magistrate Judge. Magistrate Judge Hennessy sits in Worcester, filling the vacancy created by the appointment of former Magistrate Judge Timothy S. Hillman as a United States District Judge.

The court family gathered on June 20, 2013 at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester to observe the induction ceremony of Magistrate Judge Hennessy. Many of Judge Hennessy's family and friends also attended. Remarks from Judge Hennessy's friend Matthew Friedrich, Esq., Judge Timothy S. Hillman and Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV marked the occasion.

Magistrate Judge Page Kelley

Page Kelley was appointed to the court on June 16, 2014. A formal ceremony for the taking of the oath of office was held on October 31, 2014 at the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse in Boston. Superior Court Associate Justice Heidi E. Brieger, Miriam Conrad, Federal Defender for the District of Massachusetts, Charles Rankin, Esq., and Magistrate Judge Kelley's daughter Esther Mobley all spoke at the ceremony.



Magistrate Judge Page Kelley (right) and Chief Judge Patti Saris

Clerk of Court Robert M. Farrell

An induction ceremony was held in Boston in October, 2013 for Clerk of Court Robert M. Farrell, where family and friends witnessed his taking the oath of office. A reception followed in the atrium of the Moakley courthouse.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In 2013 and 2014, the district court enjoyed many opportunities to reach out to the community.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

The 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was recognized at the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse with a presentation sponsored by the Federal Bar Association and other local bar associations. Speakers included the Honorable Gustavo A. Gelpi, Jr. (United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico), Judge Gordon A. Martin, Jr. (retired state court District Judge) and Joshua M. Davis, Jr., Esq.

THE ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE



Brendan Garvin taking the challenge

Brendan Garvin, Magistrate Judge Bowler's courtroom deputy clerk, took part in the "Ice Bucket Challenge" to raise money for ALS research. Deputy US Marshals Kevin Roche and Bob Lima were happy to do the dousing in the Harbor Park of the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse.

TAKE YOUR KIDS TO WORK DAY

On April 25, 2014 the U.S. Attorney's Office working with the clerk's office and other federal agencies located in the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse sponsored a "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day." The court family played host to approximately 200 children who were relatives and friends of employees. The day began with breakfast for the young guests in the atrium outside the jury lounge and included a number of varied events such as a mock trial, wildlife presentations and demonstrations by deputy US Marshals. The event was well attended and enjoyed by both children and adults.

BLOOD DRIVES

The clerk's office, on behalf of the Federal Court Clerk's Association, continues to sponsor blood drives. During this reporting period, roughly 250 pints were donated by court staff and those participating from the neighborhood.

JUDGE DAVID S. NELSON FELLOWSHIP

The Nelson Fellowship continues its successful tradition. In both 2013 and 2014 students from the Boston, Worcester and Brockton public schools graduated the fellowship program. The fellows spend six weeks at the John Joseph Moakley courthouse in Boston where they work alongside the Judges and staff.

The program includes classes on writing, public speaking and civil rights.

As part of their curriculum, the students perform public service at local service agencies such as the Boston Food Bank.



2013 Nelson Fellows at the Boston Food Bank

The Fellows met with a variety of community leaders, including Governor Deval Patrick, United States Attorney Carmen Ortiz and Superintendent-in-Chief of the Boston Police Department William Gross.



2014 Nelson Fellows Graduation Ceremony

The Nelson Fellowship's term ended each year as it always does, with a mock trial competition against the state court's Judicial Youth Corp and a graduation ceremony attended by family and friends of the fellows.

JUDGE REGINALD C. LINDSAY FELLOWSHIP

The Lindsay Fellowship graduated two impressive groups of students, with six fellows graduating in 2013, and five fellows graduating in 2014.

As in the past, the Lindsay Fellows spent their first month taking part in an intense class on “Legal Research and Writing,” working in the chambers of their assigned judge, and visiting influential people in the legal community such as United States Court of Appeals Judge Jeffrey Howard, Justice Margot Botsford of the Massachusetts Supreme Court and Judge Joan Feeney of the United States Bankruptcy Court. During the second month of the program, they were assigned to the United States Attorney’s Office or the Federal Defender Office where they worked alongside other interns. The Fellows returned to the court in August to compete in a moot court competition.



2014 Lindsay Fellows with Judge Joan Feeney (far right) at the United States Bankruptcy Court



Judge Denise Casper and Judge William Young with 2014 Lindsay Fellows Ian Reece (far left) and Joe Rowell (far right)

IN MEMORIAM



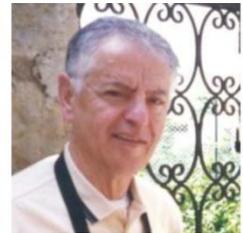
In April, 2014 Financial Specialist Barbara LeBoff lost her long battle with cancer. As her death notice said: “She enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, music, live theater, cooking and swimming. She'll be remembered for her kind spirit, perseverance and sense of humor.”

Barbara always had a jigsaw puzzle in progress on her side desk, to work on during her breaks. In her honor, clerk's office staff completed that puzzle, and it will be hung in a place of honor in the Boston office.

Barbara's mother, Marlene LeBoff, sent a note to the clerk's office. She closed that note by saying “Barbara was a battler and had as strong a spirit as anyone I know. May you all carry a part of that spirit in your own lives.”

Barbara is and will be missed.

In October, 2014 former Chief Deputy Peter A. Skarmeeas passed away at 82. Mr. Skarmeeas was hired by the District Court in 1956. He served the court as a Clerical Assistant, Naturalization Clerk, Courtroom Deputy to Judge Anthony Julian and Chief Judge Andrew A. Caffrey. He was promoted to Chief Deputy Clerk and held that position until he retired in October, 1987



Throughout his career, Peter received many letters from Judges, attorneys and pro se litigants speaking of his many courtesies given, his sensitivity, and his kindnesses during his nearly 32 years of work in the Clerk's Office.

The Boston Bar Foundation and the Austin W. Jones Memorial Fund named Peter the first recipient of the Outstanding Clerk Award. The Outstanding Clerk award honored the memory of his predecessor, former Chief Deputy Austin W. Jones, who died in 1981. At the reception held at the Boston Bar Association, Peter was recognized as the first recipient of this award and the bronze plaque of Austin Jones, by sculptor Kahlil Gibran, which is located in the reception area of the present Clerk's Office, was unveiled.