

HONORED TO SERVE
Indiana Judicial Service Report

2011

INDIANA COURTS IN BRIEF



INDIANA JUDICIAL SERVICE REPORT

Courts are institutions of precedent and tradition. Yet, they must be nimble enough to meet today's challenges and strike the right balance between the traditional role of a "blindfolded lady justice" and staying relevant in an age of instant communications and access to information. Chief Justice Randall Shepard's January 11, 2012 State of the Judiciary Address to the Indiana General Assembly was titled "On the Way to Something Better" and summarized the transitions that are taking place in Indiana's court system.

“The yesterday of Indiana's courts lasted largely unchanged over decades. As in many other states, our courts were a collection of silos that rarely connected. There were few agreed ways of conducting business, or assigning the disputes people brought, or managing those disputes to a speedy finish. For much of our history, rules and practices varied so much from one courtroom to the next that even lawyers, and certainly citizens, could rightly think they were crossing the state line when they simply went over to the county next door. That began to change about a generation ago, and over time Indiana's courts have become less like a collection of Lone Rangers and more like a group of colleagues with a common purpose.”

During 2011, Indiana courts continued to meet the daily challenges presented by the more than 1.68 million new cases filed that year. In addition, the men and women who hear these cases have endeavored to look beyond the day-to-day duties in their courtrooms and envision the sort of service the courts should provide in the future. As Chief Justice Shepard aptly stated in his 2012 State of the Judiciary report: "You could call this growing commitment to joint effort 'court reform' or 'tax dollar-efficiency,' but it makes a difference in the lives of people." This report highlights two efforts of paramount importance with system-wide impact today and in the future: a strategic plan for the future of Indiana's judicial system and accomplishments in court automation.

RANDALL SHEPARD

COURTROOM



Strategic Planning: Building a Blueprint for the Future of Indiana Courts

While it didn't have the same historical significance as the time Hoosiers drafted Indiana's first constitution under an elm tree in Corydon, leaders of Indiana's judiciary met in the summer of 2008 to change the face of the court system.

For two days, the trial judges and others on the Indiana Judicial Conference Board of Directors mapped out a new way forward for the state's decentralized and sometimes confusing court system.

That meeting sparked a number of changes. Unrelated but consistent updates to modernize the court system have also occurred. Themes of efficiency, consistency, and uniformity, —when it made sense—emerged. And while the face of the judiciary may not have completely changed, it definitely got a shave.

Judicial education requirements were increased, the Board of Governors was enlarged, trial courts have the same jurisdiction, and there is a de-

liberate movement toward more local governance based on smaller, more responsive judicial districts. Meanwhile, a move to consolidate multiple Probation Departments was realized, more consistent training of local court staff began, three more Indiana counties unified their courts systems, and progress toward a unified case management system continued.

At that summer meeting in 2008 the Board of the Judicial Conference was asked, essentially: What changes to our sprawling system of circuit courts, superior courts, city and town courts and small claims courts that are populated by a dizzying array of judges, magistrates, special judges, senior judges, commissioners, judges pro tem, and referees, funded by several different pots of cash would you like to see?

The answers were often thoughtful and heartfelt, occasionally caustic. Most displayed a deep commitment to justice and the independence of the judiciary. Many issues are quite familiar: the system is too complicated; there is never enough money to do the court's

work; too many demands are pushed down from Indianapolis; there are simply too many methods, seven in fact, of selecting judges. Some were more subtle, however. Judges expressed a deep concern over their ability to control court records.

The judges led by an experienced facilitator with a broad knowledge of judicial culture, hammered out a list of prioritized action items.

1. Enhanced training and education for judges and court staff
2. A more simplified structure of trial courts
3. A plan to make it more clear that courts are ultimately responsible for trial court records while emphasizing that Circuit Clerks continue to be responsible for many other important non-court duties.

Two other topics were also discussed. A move to more uniform method of selecting judges was tabled, but a plan to fund the courts with state money instead of the current mix of funding emerged as an important priority. But for the time being, it is a long-range goal.

To fashion the wide-ranging priorities developed in 2008 into workable objectives, a team of nine judges was dubbed, "the Strategic Planning Committee." Three members were tapped by former Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard, and six were selected by their peers.

...Indiana's court system is a patchwork of hundreds of different and largely disconnected courts working "in silos" by themselves.

Quickly, the Committee set about its work and used a mission statement developed at the 2008 meeting:

To improve our system of justice by assisting with the resolution of disputes under the rule of law while protecting individual rights and liberties in a fair, impartial, equally accessible, prompt, professional, and efficient manner.

The Committee refined the priorities into a workable plan and ultimately produced its detailed “white paper,” *A New Way Forward*. The Committee focused on one of the first priorities: enhancing the professionalism of the judiciary. It successfully proposed increasing the three-year continuing legal educational requirements for judges from 18 to 56 hours.

Included in the concept of educational enhancement was the belief that all of Indiana’s city and town court judges handling misdemeanor cases receive the same legal training as Indiana’s trial judges. The Committee pursued legislation to make that requirement effective statewide. Unfortunately, the measure did not fare well in the legislature, despite broad support. Another attempt will be made in 2013.

In tandem with this educational enhancement for judges, Supreme Court staff had also been investing time and energy to enhance the training opportunities for local court staff. Since 2008, a series of statewide training sessions have been held that focused on jury management, ethics, workplace issues, and the “big picture” of what it means to be a court employee. Along with the face-to-face training, staff created a professionally produced online tutorial focused on customer ser-

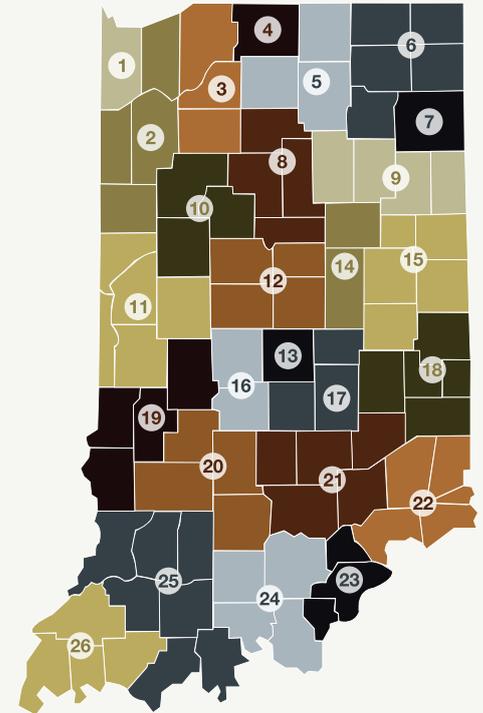
vice and the role of the courts. While neither project was prompted by the Committee, these efforts complement the Committee’s support for a highly-trained workforce.

Also apparent was a belief that Indiana’s court system is a patchwork of hundreds of different and largely disconnected courts working “in silos” by themselves. For decades, Indiana has been divided into 14 Judicial Administrative Districts to encourage regional governance of the courts. However, the concept of District-wide governance never gained much traction. In an effort to encourage more local cooperation, the larger districts were broken up and now include 26 districts, each with just a handful of counties.

Meanwhile, several counties were exploring more unified governance structures on their own as judges and local elected officials saw the benefits of merging disparate courts into a more cohesive system. Monroe County was the first to unify its disconnected court structure into a single circuit court with a number of divisions. Delaware County followed suit. In recent years, Clark, Madison and Henry counties also unified. Two other counties, Warren and Fountain, began exploring ways to share resources by creating a special joint “Accountability Court.” While occurring independently of the strategic planning process, these efforts at unification and collaboration are clearly in tune with the larger goals of simpler, more efficient operations.

Again, unrelated to the work of the Strategic Planning Committee, but clearly in line with its goals, committees of the Indiana Judicial Conference successfully advocated for the unification of all probation departments within a county.

One change suggested by the Strategic Planning Committee and implemented by the Indiana Supreme Court was the expansion from 14 to 26 judicial districts, more evenly dividing the number of judges in each district.



Legislative action backed by the Committee was required to further simplify the work of the courts. As new courts were added, legislation creating the court was often inconsistent about what types of cases a new court would hear. Fortunately, the legislature acted in 2011 and gave all Indiana courts of record the ability to hear the same kinds of cases.

Meanwhile, the Indiana Supreme Court continued to develop a more efficient method of transmitting information from courts to the government agencies and users that need court data. In addition, the Supreme Court is deploying a unified 21st century trial court case management system with the ultimate goal of replacing the current polyglot collection of 22 systems. By the end of 2011, the Odyssey case



management system was in 13 courts in 38 counties, handling 35 percent of the state's new case filings.

Further movement toward a more streamlined system occurred in 2011 with an amended rule passed by the Supreme Court requiring the new 26 districts to develop district-wide governance plans. During 2012, trial judges will be asked to consider how these plans would operate. Moving toward a district-wide plan has not been fully embraced by some judges who feel they should only devote their energy to the county in which they were elected. But the Committee believes the benefits of more coordination in the district plan will become apparent over time.

Along with more coordination across county lines, the Strategic Plan also envisions giving trial court judges greater accountability for court records. Typically, court records are maintained by the elected Circuit Clerk. But practices, dictated by custom, personal preference, and even the physical layout of a courthouse, have created a mishmash of procedures. Access to the court records is further complicated because the level of access often depends on the quality of the personal relationship between the courts and the Circuit Clerk's office. To address what has been a long-standing desire by many

trial court judges to have more accountability for the court records they are responsible for, the Strategic Planning Committee initiated a pilot project. In cooperation with several Circuit Clerks, the Committee is looking for ways to find a more manageable way of handling court records that gives judges the control they need while preserving the independence of the Circuit Clerks to focus on the many non-court related but vital tasks they perform.

Related to the possibility of a more robust district governance structure, is the possibility of a change to the court's basic financial structure. In recent years, interest in revising the current funding structure has surfaced both among the bench and by county officials who fund a large share of the state's court system.

Indiana's decentralized legal system has annual expenses of about \$392 million and is funded by an equally decentralized system of finances that includes an amalgam of state funds, local county property taxes, and fees and fines collected from court users. In a landmark study that examined the breadth of state government, the *Kernan-Shepard Report* in 2007 included a host of recommendations to reform state government, including a transfer of the entire cost of the state judicial system from local

budgets to the state budget. "State-funding" as it is called, is the norm in many states. State funding would enable a single body, like the Board of Directors of the Indiana Judicial Conference, to place resources where they are needed most to insure that all Hoosiers have access to justice. It would also give judges more control over the court system's finances. Former Chief Justice Shepard has long advocated state-funding. In 2010, he urged the State Budget Committee to consider transferring the entire cost of both probation services and indigent defense from the counties to the state. In 2011, the Association of Indiana Counties also proposed shifting the cost of probation services to the state. Both concepts are consistent with a more unified system that tracks the goals of the strategic plan. These and similar ideas are likely to be pursued in future legislative sessions.

By now, it should be evident that reworking over 200 years of history, tradition, and custom in our courthouses will not be easy. It should be equally as obvious that substantial progress at increasing efficiency, consistency and uniformity when it is appropriate has been made. However, it is also clear that the system can be further improved so that it better serves all of our citizens.

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Moving into the Information Age with Court Automation

The year 2011 was a banner year for advancements in court automation and court information sharing in Indiana. The Indiana court system officially entered the information age in 1999 when the Supreme Court created the Judicial Technology and Information Committee (JTAC) and asked it to develop a long-range strategy for technology and automation of Indiana's judicial system. Prior to JTAC's formation, individual courts and the Division of State Court Administration had explored different technologies, but there had been no statewide concerted effort to automate the courts. Judges, clerks, law enforcement agencies, the bar, and other stakeholders persuaded the Supreme Court that it must take a leadership role if modern court automation would ever become a reality in Indiana.

In May 2002, the Court published the "Indiana Supreme Court Policy Statement on Trial Court Case Management Systems" and spelled out its vision for a statewide computerized case management system (CMS) that connects courts across county lines and connects courts with local and state enti-

ties that need and use court information. Not surprisingly, JTAC's primary mission is to equip all Indiana clerks and courts with a uniform statewide 21st century case management system and provide access to court data to law enforcement, state agencies and others who need and use court information.

At the conclusion of a formal, open and competitive bidding process—and with participation of trial judges, clerks, lawyers and information technology experts—the Division purchased the Odyssey case management system from Tyler Technologies in June of 2007. Since we first deployed Odyssey in the nine courts of the Monroe Circuit Court system in December 2007, we have achieved an unprecedented level of court information sharing through Odyssey, but also through a host of other applications that enable thousands of registered users in the state to access and share court information.

These milestones have been achieved through collaboration with Governor Daniels' administration, whose agencies have been eager partners in the

information-sharing projects, and with the Indiana General Assembly, which enacted a specific automated record keeping fee.

Because the Division purchased a statewide license for Odyssey, there are no licensing or maintenance costs to a county to implement Odyssey. The Supreme Court provides the training and data conversion of legacy data at no cost to the county. By the end of 2011, Odyssey was operating in 113 courts in 38 counties, and was managing more than 35 percent of the state's caseload, and the list of courts seeking installation remains long.

In addition to a robust case management (CMS) program named *Case Manager*, Odyssey has two other distinct product centers (parts): *Financial Manager* and *Probation Supervision*. The implementation of a single case management system has helped standardize the processing of cases and helped courts comply with state statutes and Supreme Court rules, assuring similarly situated litigants are treated uniformly throughout Indiana. The *Financial Manager* in Odyssey ensures that the financial transactions entrusted-

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—Tammy White, State Board of Accounts

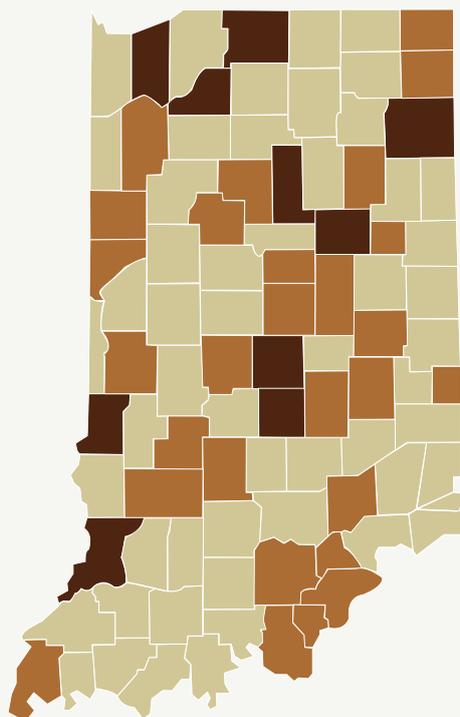


ed to Indiana clerks will be accounted for uniformly from county to county in accordance with Indiana statutes and State Board of Accounts regulations. Tammy White, State Board of Accounts Supervisor, agrees that Odyssey benefits courts, clerks and the public: "The thing that is really fantastic about it (Odyssey) is that it guides the clerks to doing a complete and accurate reconciliation. All the documentation that we need for an audit of that reconciliation is there and retained."

Because Odyssey is a person-based system, users know if there is an outstanding warrant for an individual in another county or if an individual has related cases pending or decided in other courts that use Odyssey. Information about non-confidential cases in the Odyssey system is available on the Internet for free.

The Odyssey Probation Supervision product center is designed for use by probation departments and other supervision programs, such as drug, reentry, veteran and mental health courts. This product enables users to manage their caseloads, is linked to *Case Manager* and *Financial Manager* and uses the same database. This means that data is entered only once and used again and again where needed. Although case specific information in Supervision is classified as confidential, information pertaining to a party in a case is stored and accessible by not only the courts and clerks who use Odyssey, but also other users of Odyssey Supervision throughout the state. Other key features include the ability to track compliance with terms of supervision, program attendance, compliance with intervention services and storing drug test results.

At the end of 2011, Odyssey was operating in 113 courts across 38 counties and handling more than 35 percent of the state's caseload.



- Odyssey deployed in Circuit and Superior Courts, may also be deployed in City or Town Courts.
- Odyssey deployed in some courts (e.g., City or Town) and/or to handle specific case types (e.g. Traffic, Criminal, Small Claims).

Information Sharing through INcite

In conjunction with the deployment of Odyssey, the Supreme Court, through JTAC, developed the Indiana Court Information Technology Extranet, known as INcite. It is a secure website which the Supreme Court provides to all clerks, courts and thousands of other approved users who need to share court information. By the conclusion of 2011, 13 different INcite applications were being used to exchange information by more than 20,000 registered users from every clerk's office and every court, probation officers, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), the Department of Revenue (DOR), the Department of Child Services (DCS), the Indiana State

Police (ISP), and 280 local law enforcement agencies.

JTAC first developed INcite in 2005 to exchange critical data between courts and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Over 34 million in federal highway dollars were in jeopardy if Indiana did not begin to transmit conviction and suspension information to the BMV within 10 days of conviction. Since then, JTAC has developed and deployed additional INcite applications at the request of clerks, judges, law enforcement, probation officers, and state agencies.

BMV

This application ensures the timely transmission of traffic convictions to the BMV so Indiana can comply with federal time requirements and maintain federal highway funds. Over 15,000 transmissions are sent through INcite to the BMV each week.

Protection Order Registry (POR)

The POR provides immediate, accurate information to Indiana State Police and all law enforcement agencies about the issuance of a protection order or no-contact order. The POR interfaces with the State Police's Indiana Data and Communications System (IDACS) so that the protection orders are uploaded electronically and in real time.

Electronic Citation and Warning System (eCWS)

This e-ticketing software has been deployed to over 280 law enforcement agencies with more than 7,000 law enforcement officers using this system to issue and track traffic tickets. JTAC shares the ticket data with multiple case management systems including ProsLink (to CSI), Keystone, CourtView and Odyssey.

Mental Health Adjudication Reporting

In 2009, the legislature passed a law requiring courts to report and transmit data about mental health adjudications to the FBI to use for weapons checks. This application enables clerks and courts to report the necessary information.

Data Warehouse

JTAC developed a repository which allows court information that cannot be converted into Odyssey (because of poor quality, free text and inaccuracies) to be available and searchable through INCite.

Marriage License

At the request of the Clerks, JTAC developed an online marriage license application in INCite. Not only are Clerks no longer required to send paper copies to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), they can now comply with statutes that require them to send information to ISDH necessary for child support collection. JTAC worked with ISDH, the Department of Child Services (DCS) and prosecutors to develop this important data sharing application.

Tax Warrants

At the request of the Clerks, JTAC worked with the Department of Revenue (DOR) to develop a system for transmitting tax warrant information to the Clerk through INCite. JTAC developed an electronic Judgment Docket, automating what was previously manual data entry for the Clerk staff. Clerks receive \$3 for every tax warrant processed.

Risk Assessment Tools

At the request of the Indiana Judicial Conference and probation officers, JTAC automated the comprehensive risk assessment tools recently adopted for Indiana. The tools are used at every stage of the juvenile and adult criminal processes by multiple offices (probation, court, DOC, community correction, parole, detention center, etc.). The INCite application enables users to collect, compile and score information from offender interviews, and makes the information for each assessment available statewide.

Presentence Investigation Report (PSI)

This INCite application builds on the Risk Assessment application by using much of the same information already entered in the database for a person. The PSI application enables probation officers to complete an automated PSI and share historical information about the offender with other probation departments and with every approved user completing future presentence investigations.

Jury Management and Jury List

JTAC developed and provides a jury management system to any court interested in it. In conjunction with the jury system, each year the Division works with data from the BMV and the DOR to compile a comprehensive list of Indiana residents. JTAC then “scrubs” the information for duplicates and invalid addresses and provides it to courts to use as their pool of prospective jurors. This process assures a diverse, up-to-date and comprehensive list of prospective jurors.

Auditor’s Report of Collection

JTAC worked with the State Auditor to enable court clerks to automate fee reporting. Clerks are required to collect and transmit certain fees to the state and are required by the Auditor to use a specific form to do so. Through INCite, clerks now report these fees and the Auditor tracks them, providing greater efficiency and accuracy.

Indiana Courts Online Reports (ICOR)

The ICOR application enables courts and clerks to complete and transmit through INCite all caseload, probation, revenue, expenditure and other statistical reports required by statutes and rules.

DCS system (MaGIK)

JTAC built an interface for probation officers to enter data into MaGIK, the DCS computer system. This INCite application provides a single entry point for all probation officers to the DCS system and is used to provide approved services to delinquent children.

Even though much has already been achieved, much remains to be done. The Indiana Supreme Court, its Division of State Court Administration, and its Judicial Technology and Automation Committee remain committed to equipping Indiana’s courts with 21st-Century technologies that enable courts to share information with each other and with those who need and use court information and deliver justice to the millions of litigants who use the courts each year.



Fiscal Information

*I*ndiana's judicial system is funded by a combination of state, county, and local revenues. The Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Tax Court are funded through appropriations from the state general fund.

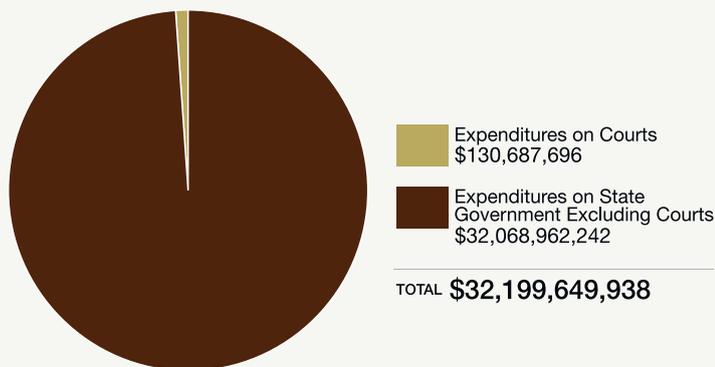
In addition, state funds pay for the salaries and benefits of judges and magistrates of the circuit, superior and probate courts, and special and senior judge expenses. State funds also help defray the cost of criminal indigent defense services through a voluntary reimbursement program, as well as most of the cost of providing Guardian ad Litem/Court Appointed Special Advocate (GAL/CASA) services for abused and neglected children.

As a result of a specifically designated filing fee, the Supreme Court is able to provide to all trial courts extensive technology advancements, the most important of which is a state-of-the-art case management system capable of sharing court information with multiple federal, state, and county entities.

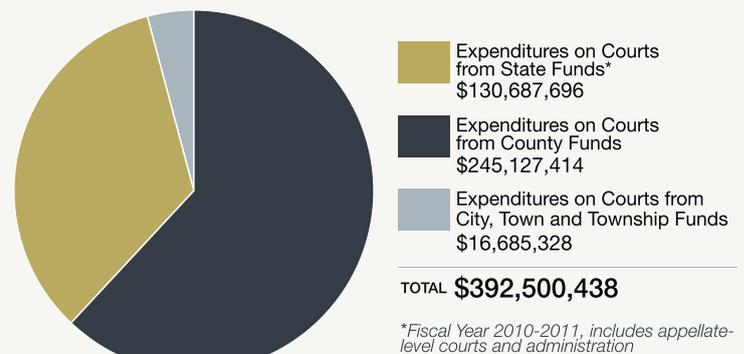
In addition, the Supreme Court has several other more modest grant programs through which trial courts receive state funds for foreign language interpreter services, problem-solving courts, and other court reform projects. However, all major operating costs of the trial courts are borne by local taxpayers, be they county, city, town or township.

Expenditures on Courts

State Funds Spent on Courts
Fiscal Year 2010-2011



All Funding Sources for Court Expenses
Calendar Year 2011

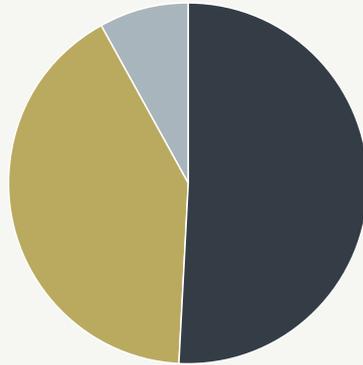


Revenues Generated Through the Operation of the Courts

Trial courts generate revenues through filing fees and costs, fines and other fees assessed to litigants who have been found guilty of crimes or in violation of infractions or local ordinances. Those fees are handled by an independently elected clerk of the circuit court or a city, town or township court clerk at the local level.

During 2011, there were 50 different fees that could be assessed and charged by the clerk of court, depending on the type of case and court where the case is being tried. With the exception of basic court costs, which must be deposited in the general fund, the vast majority of the fees collected through the operation of the courts are designated for specific funds that must be used for specific purposes.

2011 Judicial System Revenues:
For State, County & Local Funds



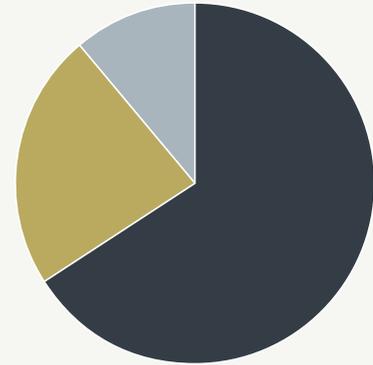
Revenue to State Funds
\$108,232,733

Revenues to County Funds
\$86,693,318

Revenues to Local Funds
\$16,925,474

TOTAL \$211,851,565

2011 Judicial System Revenues:
For General, Special, and Court Related Services Funds



Revenues to General Funds
\$140,032,948

Revenues to Special Funds
\$49,454,857

Revenues to Court Related Services Funds
\$22,363,760

TOTAL \$211,851,565

Caseload Information

The judicial power of the State of Indiana is vested in a Supreme Court, a Court of Appeals, circuit courts and such other courts as the Indiana legislature may from time to time establish. At the end of 2011, Indiana had a Supreme Court with five justices, an intermediate appellate court with 15 judges, an appellate level special Tax Court with one judge, 315 trial courts, 83 city, town, and small claims courts, and 160 other judicial officers. In addition, the trial courts were served by 105 senior judges.

Caseflow





Indiana Supreme Court

The Indiana Supreme Court has exclusive original jurisdiction over admission to the practice of law, unauthorized practice of law, discipline of lawyers and judges, issuance of writs necessary in aid of its jurisdiction, appeals from judgments imposing a sentence of death or life without parole, or a denial of post-conviction relief in which the sentence is death, and appealable cases where state or federal statutes have been declared unconstitutional. The court may take up other appeals on petition, when the case involves significant questions of law, great public importance or an emergency. The Supreme Court has the power to review all questions of law and review and revise sentences imposed by lower courts.

The justices of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Governor from a panel of three applicants nominated by a Judicial Nominating Commission, which is created by the Indiana Constitution. After an initial term of two years, a justice must run on a non-partisan “yes – no” retention ballot. If successful, the next term is 10 years.



Indiana Supreme Court Justices
 Top Row (left to right): Hon. Frank Sullivan, Jr.; Hon. Brent E. Dickson (Chief Justice); Hon. Robert D. Rucker. Bottom Row (left to right): Hon. Mark S. Massa; Hon. Steven H. David.

	Cases Pending as of 7/1/10	Cases Transmitted in Fiscal 2011	Cases Disposed of in Fiscal 2011	Cases Pending as of 6/30/11
Civil Direct Appeals	0	2	2	0
Civil Transfers	113	339	310	142
Tax Court Petitions for Review	4*	5	7	2
Criminal Direct Non-Capital	1	2	1	2
Capital Cases	2	0	2	0
Criminal Transfers	102	546	539	109
Original Actions	2	52	54	0
Certified Questions	0	4	2	2
Mandate of Funds	0	0	0	0
Attorney Discipline	72	119	99	92
Board of Law Examiners	1	0	1	0
Judicial Discipline	0	3	2	1
Rehearings	2	21	18	5
Other**	1*	2	0	3
Total	300	1095	1037	358

* Pending cases as of 7/1/10 adjusted from FY 2010 Annual Report
 ** Unauthorized Practice of Law

Justice Randall T. Shepard (pictured at right) was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court by Governor Robert Orr in 1986, became Chief Justice in 1987, and retired from the Indiana Supreme Court on March 19, 2012.

Justice Mark S. Massa (pictured above) took office on April 2, 2012. He had previously served as Director of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and Chief Counsel to Governor Mitch Daniels.





Court of Appeals of Indiana

The Indiana Court of Appeals hears all appeals that do not go to the Indiana Supreme Court, except appeals from city and town courts. The latter appeals are tried *de novo* in circuit or superior courts. The judges of the Court of Appeals are selected in the same manner and serve the same terms as the justices of the Supreme Court.

	Criminal	Post-Conviction	Civil	Expedite	Other	Total
Cases Pending 12/31/10	155	12	101	9	23	300
Cases Fully-Briefed Rec'd	1,278	130	668	66	270	2,412
Geographic District One	335	28	220	0	76	659
Geographic District Two	628	65	264	66	116	1,139
Geographic District Three	315	37	184	0	78	614
Cases Disposed	1,285	125	662	68	268	2,408
By Majority Opinion	1,283	125	654	68	267	2,397
By Order	2	0	8	0	1	11
Net Increase/Decrease	-7	5	6	-2	2	4
Cases Pending 12/31/ 10	148	17	107	7	25	304
Cases Affirmed	1103	109	423	46	227	1908
Cases Affirmed Percent	86.0%	87.2%	64.7%	67.6%	85.0%	79.6%
Cases Reversed	171	15	223	21	38	468
Cases Reversed Percent	13.3%	12.0%	34.1%	30.9%	14.2%	19.5%
Cases Remanded	9	1	8	1	2	21
Cases Remanded Percent	0.7%	0.8%	1.2%	1.5%	0.7%	0.9%
Oral Arguments Heard	24	3	56	1	4	88

Average age of cases pending (in months): 12/31/10 = 1.1 | 12/31/11 = 1.2

Motions, Petitions for Time, Miscellaneous Motions Received: 7,202
 Motions, Petitions for Time, Miscellaneous Orders Issued: 7,048



Indiana Tax Court

The Indiana Tax Court is unique in that it has appellate and original jurisdiction of certain tax matters. Its judge is selected in the same manner and serves the same term as judges of the Court of Appeals and justices of the Supreme Court.

Status of Cases Pending	
Settled-Dismissals Pending	2
Proceedings Stayed Pending Outcome in Related Cases	18
Preliminary or Pleading Stage	45
Under Advisement	22
Status Report Due	20
Remanded	0
Mediation	0
Briefs Due	1
Set for Trial or Oral Argument	31
Rehearing	1
Total	140

Case Movement and Dispositions	
Total Cases Pending 12/31/10	91
Total Cases Filed in 2011	96
Total Cases Reinstated	1
Total Cases Settled or Dismissed	37
Total Cases Decided on Merits	8
Total Cases Involuntarily Dismissed	3
Total Cases Pending 12/31/11	140

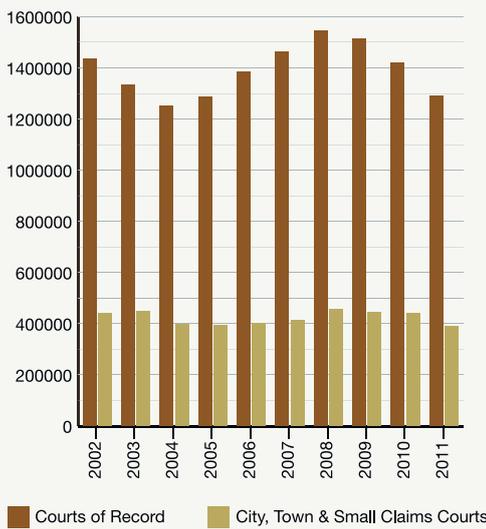


Indiana Trial Courts

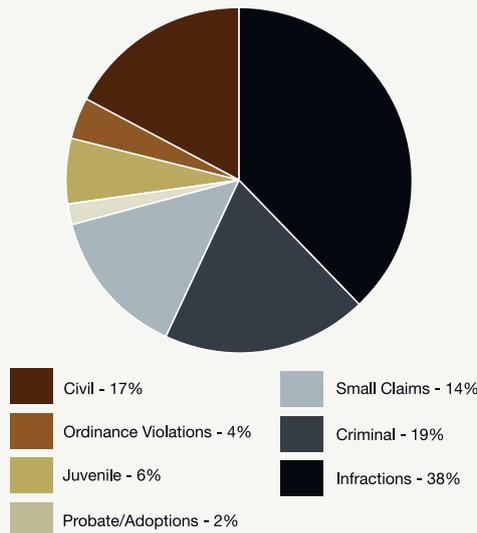
Indiana's trial court system is comprised of circuit and superior courts and one probate/juvenile court. These courts are called courts of record because appeals from them are taken directly to the appellate courts based on errors which must be supported by the record at trial. These courts are organized on county lines. With few exceptions, circuit and superior courts have concurrent, original jurisdiction of all cases. Indiana law also allows cities and towns to create city and town courts periodically. Those courts are also created one at a time and have very limited jurisdiction. In all but the most populous county, Marion, small claims cases are handled within a division of the circuit or superior court, or both. Marion County is the only county with separate small claims courts, based on township lines.

In all but four of the counties, all judges are elected in partisan elections. In some larger counties, the judges of the courts of record are selected by several non-partisan methods ranging from merit selection to non-partisan election.

Cases Filed

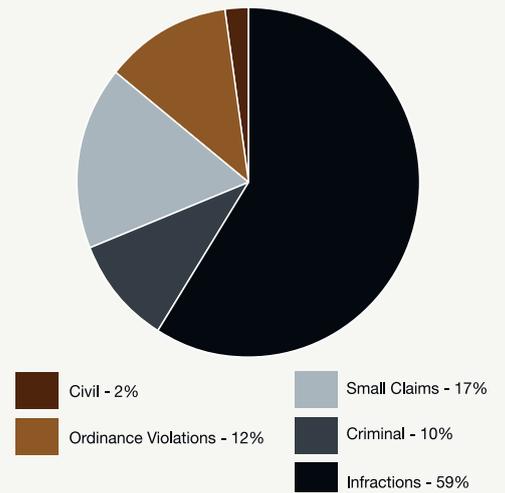


Case Filing: Courts of Record

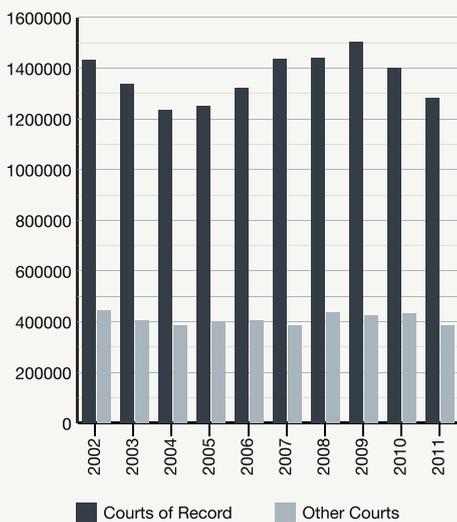


Case Filing: City, Town and Small Claims Courts

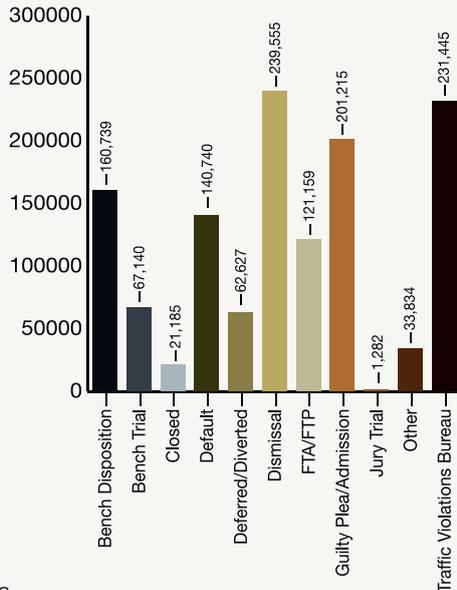
Courts of Record



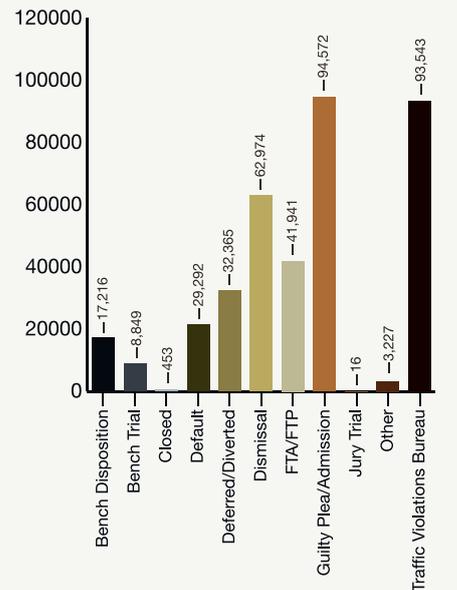
Cases Disposed



Methods of Disposition: Courts of Record



Methods of Disposition: City, Town and Small Claims Courts

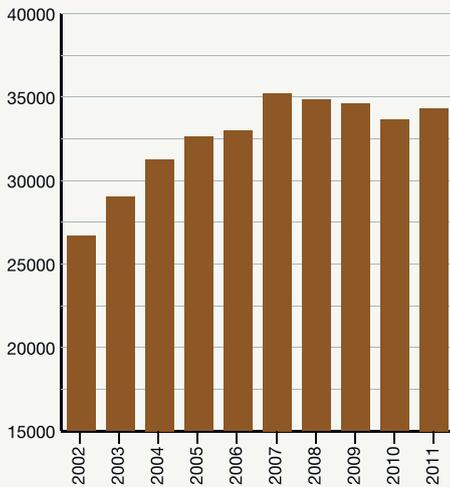


See page 15 for a table of trial court caseload data.

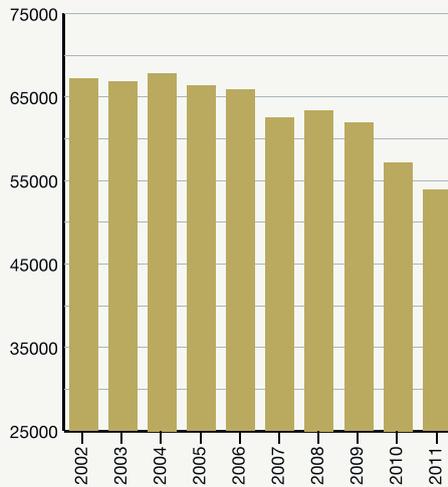
Probation Services

Probation services in Indiana fall within the authority of the judiciary so that a probationer remains under the jurisdiction of the sentencing court until the term of probation is complete. Probation officers work for the judges and are subject to the appointment and supervisory power of the courts that employ them. As with other trial court operations, local county revenues, derived primarily through property taxes, fund probation services but are also augmented by collection of probation user fees paid by probationers as part of their conditions of probation. Probation officers and staffs constitute the largest segment of trial court personnel expenditures.

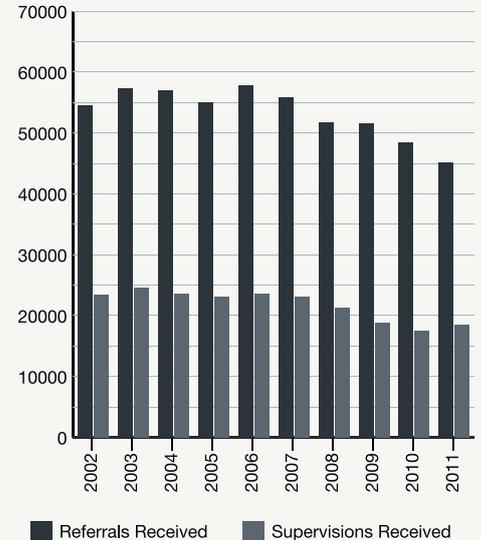
Adult Felony Probation: Supervisions Received



Adult Misdemeanor Probation: Supervisions Received



Juvenile Probation: Referrals & Supervisions Received



Guardian Ad Litem / Court Appointed Special Advocates (GAL/CASA)

In child abuse and neglect cases, the needs of the child-victims are often overlooked while the attorneys and the court focus on addressing the parents' problems. Guardian Ad Litem / Court Appointed Special Advocates serve as representatives of abused and neglected children in Child in Need of Services, or "CHINS," cases so that their interests are protected and their voices are heard. In 72 of the 92 Indiana counties, the GAL/CASA roles are served by volunteers who undergo special training.

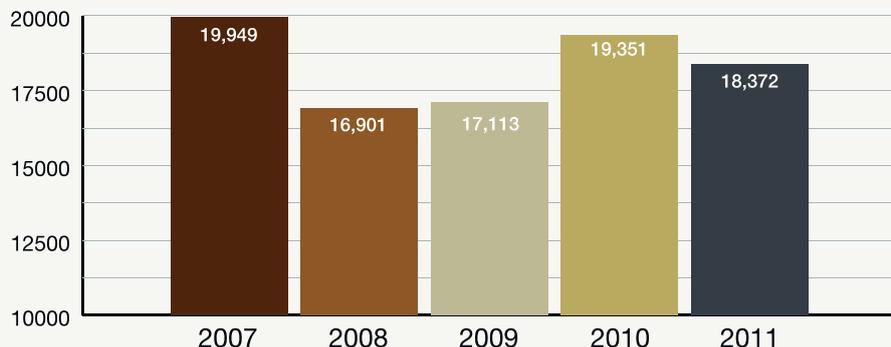
2011 Summary

Active Volunteers
3,300

Volunteer Hours
414,262

Children Served
18,372

Number of Children Served by GAL/CASA Volunteers by Year



Trial Court Caseload Information

County	Judges	Other Jud. Officers	Limited Jur. Courts	New Filings	Dispositions	Population
Adams	2	0	0	4,617	4,858	34,370
Allen	10	13	1	98,598	100,929	358,327
Bartholomew	3	3	0	17,179	18,973	77,870
Benton	1	0	0	1,135	5,218	8,853
Blackford	2	0	0	2,219	2,484	12,594
Boone	3	2	5	14,316	13,838	57,481
Brown	1	1	0	2,311	2,596	15,099
Carroll	2	0	2	4,319	4,360	20,031
Cass	3	0	0	7,796	9,107	38,828
Clark	4	2	4	40,829	49,929	111,570
Clay	2	0	0	5,352	4,709	26,894
Clinton	2	0	1	6,528	6,219	33,104
Crawford	1	1	0	2,719	4,205	10,658
Daviess	2	0	0	5,097	5,125	31,978
Dearborn	3	0	2	11,979	11,951	50,113
Decatur	2	0	0	5,143	5,254	25,944
Dekalb	3	0	1	10,846	11,295	42,462
Delaware	5	3	2	27,705	29,420	117,660
Dubois	2	0	0	7,769	8,450	42,199
Elkhart	7	4	3	57,570	62,267	198,941
Fayette	2	0	0	5,600	5,349	24,285
Floyd	4	1	0	22,511	23,853	74,989
Fountain	1	1	1	3,099	3,207	17,213
Franklin	2	0	0	3,020	2,803	23,041
Fulton	2	0	0	5,184	5,571	20,872
Gibson	2	0	0	8,812	8,564	33,505
Grant	4	3	2	19,954	17,937	69,793
Greene	2	0	0	7,418	7,932	32,895
Hamilton	7	3	2	52,400	52,386	282,810
Hancock	3	1	0	14,580	13,821	70,529
Harrison	2	1	0	5,568	6,714	39,336
Hendricks	6	0	3	27,232	26,573	147,979
Henry	3	2	2	10,431	9,965	49,264
Howard	5	1	0	15,968	17,564	82,800
Huntington	2	1	1	8,997	8,902	37,211
Jackson	3	1	0	13,161	14,873	42,966
Jasper	2	0	1	5,565	6,387	33,416
Jay	2	0	2	3,623	3,373	21,310
Jefferson	2	0	0	5,672	5,769	32,249
Jennings	2	0	0	4,655	4,734	28,196
Johnson	4	2	2	29,098	30,704	141,656
Knox	3	0	1	13,688	13,107	38,500
Kosciusko	4	0	0	13,508	13,707	77,336
Lagrange	2	0	0	7,836	8,727	37,382
Lake	17	25	10	188,199	179,605	495,558
Laporte	5	3	0	31,622	31,582	111,374

County	Judges	Other Jud. Officers	Limited Jur. Courts	New Filings	Disp.	Pop.
Lawrence	3	1	0	8,732	8,396	46,195
Madison	6	5	5	39,829	36,705	131,235
Marion	37	47	10	300,387	263,581	911,296
Marshall	3	0	0	10,288	10,436	47,050
Martin	1	0	0	2,214	2,000	10,332
Miami	3	0	2	12,057	11,312	36,611
Monroe	9	1	0	28,154	29,582	139,799
Montgomery	3	0	0	7,062	7,078	38,441
Morgan	4	1	2	13,093	14,299	69,464
Newton	2	0	0	4,521	4,305	14,161
Noble	3	0	0	8,975	9,484	47,553
Ohio	1	1	0	857	867	6,065
Orange	2	0	0	3,064	3,354	19,969
Owen	1	1	0	4,489	4,283	21,499
Parke	1	0	0	2,969	3,335	17,237
Perry	1	1	0	4,936	4,710	19,354
Pike	1	1	0	3,124	3,388	12,728
Porter	6	3	0	37,475	38,838	165,537
Posey	2	0	0	3,963	4,149	25,720
Pulaski	2	0	0	2,057	2,271	13,363
Putnam	2	0	0	6,663	6,669	37,917
Randolph	2	0	2	4,884	4,676	26,105
Ripley	2	0	2	5,238	5,153	28,759
Rush	2	0	0	5,351	5,442	17,287
St. Joseph	10	7	1	61,077	59,730	266,700
Scott	2	1	0	4,541	5,525	23,987
Shelby	3	0	0	10,531	11,058	44,337
Spencer	1	0	0	4,244	3,877	20,961
Starke	1	1	1	4,300	4,597	23,199
Steuben	2	1	1	18,928	21,155	34,028
Sullivan	2	1	0	5,549	5,646	21,356
Switzerland	1	0	0	1,472	1,616	10,569
Tippecanoe	7	2	1	33,950	25,697	174,724
Tipton	1	1	2	4,460	4,012	15,788
Union	1	0	0	2,123	2,110	7,513
Vanderburgh	8	6	0	54,393	55,293	180,305
Vermillion	1	0	1	5,038	4,955	16,231
Vigo	6	2	1	33,011	32,942	108,182
Wabash	2	0	2	6,260	6,622	32,608
Warren	1	0	0	1,686	1,654	8,431
Warrick	3	0	0	11,681	12,106	60,275
Washington	2	0	0	3,795	4,208	28,147
Wayne	4	2	1	16,354	16,795	68,643
Wells	2	0	1	3,713	3,669	27,734
White	2	0	0	5,290	4,934	24,694
Whitley	2	0	0	6,206	7,959	33,392
TOTAL	315	160	83	1,680,412	1,665,369	6,516,922

NOTE: In some printed copies of the Courts in Brief brochure the information for Scott, Shelby, Spencer and St. Joseph counties has been misaligned and is incorrect. The above chart reflects the correct data.



INDIANA SUPREME COURT



DIVISION OF STATE COURT ADMINISTRATION

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COURTS.IN.GOV



ABOVE. Referred to as the "Old Courthouse," the Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse is a 19th century German Beaux-Arts masterpiece sitting in the heart of downtown Evansville, Indiana. It was designed by Henry W. Wolters of Louisville, Kentucky and cost only \$379,450 to build in 1890; today the estimated cost would be at least \$40 million. Construction of the Old Courthouse took place from 1888-1890.

ON THE COVER. In April of 2011, the Evansville Bar members contributed \$300,000 to renovate the Superior Courtroom at the Old Courthouse. It was refurbished and then dedicated and named in honor of the former Chief Justice of Indiana, Randall T. Shepard. The Superior Courtroom is said to represent law and justice rendered and is a fitting tribute to the legacy of Chief Justice Shepard who calls Evansville home.