

Kentucky Court of Justice

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 1998

July 1, 1997-June 30, 1998



SUPREME COURT OF KENTUCKY

Joseph E. Lambert, *Chief Justice*

William Cooper, *Justice*

J. William Graves, *Justice*

Martin Johnstone, *Justice*

James E. Keller, *Justice*

Janet Stumbo, *Justice*

Donald C. Wintersheimer, *Justice*

Cicely Jaracz Lambert, *Director*

Administrative Office of the Courts

100 Millcreek Park

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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For additional copies contact:

Jennifer Chandler, AOC

(502) 573-2350

On the cover: Jefferson County Judicial Center

Visit the Kentucky Court of Justice on the Internet: <http://www.aoc.state.ky.us>

The modern Kentucky Court of Justice was organized under the Judicial Article of 1976. Since that time, the Court of Justice has undergone extensive development. As Chief Justice of Kentucky, I look forward to continued growth and improvement in the Court of Justice.

I am grateful to my predecessor, Robert F. Stephens, who served as chief justice from 1982 until 1998. With the help of Kentucky judges and court personnel, and with strong backing from the General Assembly and our governors, Chief Justice Stephens moved aggressively to create many new programs, establish an efficient administrative organization, and streamline the operation of the court system. Under his guidance, Kentucky's court system and many of its programs have won national acclaim as leaders in the administration of justice.

Now we have the opportunity to build on that foundation. As we approach the next century, our courts are faced with an ever increasing caseload. Over the past five years Kentucky has experienced significant increases in new case filings in our trial courts. Nevertheless, the time it takes to close cases has declined. This is evidence of the progress we have made in judicial performance, but many improvements in our court system are still needed.

Scott Reed, Chief Justice, 1976-1997
John S. Palmore, Chief Justice, 1977-1982
Robert F. Stephens, Chief Justice, 1982-1998
Joseph E. Lambert, Chief Justice, 1998-present

Kentucky's trial courts are on the front lines of our endeavor to deliver justice, and they must have adequate tools with which to work. The courthouse has long been held as a symbol of the public meeting place. Funding for maintenance of existing court facilities and construction of new facilities must be a priority if our

courts are to continue to function safely and efficiently. We must also continue to work towards making our facilities accessible to citizens with disabilities.

As we approach the year 2000, our courts must utilize better technologies. Case management, court security, criminal records, and tracking systems are just a few of the areas that require constant innovations and upgrading. We must also strive to create better ways to share information with other agencies and with the public we serve.

Kentucky is leading the nation in the development of specialized courts. Drug courts are now operating successfully in six regions of the state and plans are underway for additional drug courts to be introduced during the upcoming year. And Kentucky's family courts will continue to expand over the next biennium.

We must have quality, trained personnel to do the work of the courts. The Court of Justice must attract and retain employees of the highest ability and integrity to work as public servants in the Kentucky court system.

I have been given the opportunity to lead the Kentucky Court of Justice for the next four years. I have willingly accepted this responsibility and enthusiastically undertake this challenge.

Joseph E. Lambert



"The citizens of this nation recognize the importance of due process of law and equal protection of the law. We all believe in notice, opportunity to be heard, and absence of bias We must never fail to honor our belief in these fundamental values upon which our system of justice is based."

Chief Justice Joseph Lambert
Supreme Court of Kentucky
Investiture ceremony
October 5, 1998

Administrative Office of the Courts, Strategic Planning

During the past year, the AOC began a strategic planning initiative. With the assistance of the Governmental Services Center, efforts to craft a long-range action plan began to take shape during Spring 1997. A formal mission statement was later adopted by the Strategic Planning Committee. By examining strengths and weaknesses that have existed within the agency, and by identifying opportunities for improvement, the AOC is working to develop a strategic plan for the future. As this effort continues, specific goals will be identified and steps towards realizing those goals will be established.

MISSION STATEMENT

"Under the authority of the Chief Justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court, we provide a coordinated network of services and support to Court of Justice personnel in order to promote uniform, consistent, and equal access to justice for all people."

Administrative Office of the Courts

Oral Arguments "On the Road"

For more than a decade the Supreme Court has occasionally traveled outside of Frankfort for oral arguments. The most recent of these oral arguments "on the road" was in 1997 in Somerset and Bowling Green.

Plans are now in progress for the Supreme Court to go to Louisville in October 1999 for oral arguments in the new Judicial Center and on the campus of the University of Louisville.

The court is committed to building public trust and confidence in the Kentucky judiciary and believes that one important way to accomplish this is to invite the public to attend and observe the Supreme Court in action. Many teachers have also found this to be useful in teaching government and the judicial system.

Office of General Counsel

This office provides a full array of legal services. A primary focus for the OGC is personnel law. The legal staff advises judges, circuit court clerks, the Chief Justice, the Director of the AOC, and other central office staff on a wide variety of matters including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, employee grievances, employee discipline, and employee dismissals. The OGC also approves all personal service contracts, memoranda of agreement, memoranda of understanding, grant applications, and requests for proposals (RFP) involving the AOC. All state financing agreements and leases pertaining to the AOC are approved by the OGC.

Special OGC projects during FY98 included:

- development of the AOC Code of Conduct
- administration of RFP on the Unified Criminal Justice Information System
- revision of the Court of Justice personnel policies
- review and summarization of all 1998 legislation pertaining to the courts
- creation of court procedures for implementing laws enacted by the General Assembly
- creation and revision of AOC forms in accordance with new laws
- training of circuit judges, district judges, circuit clerks and deputies
- service on the Governor's Council on Domestic Violence Civil Remedies Committee

- revised the Electronic Circuit Court Clerks Manual and instructed clerks on procedural changes
- assisted in the development of local Domestic Violence Joint Jurisdiction Protocols (see section on Domestic Violence below).

Division of Personnel/Payroll

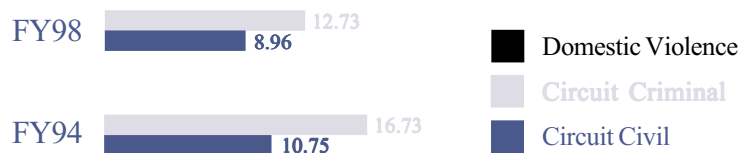
Pay equity was the primary focus of the Personnel/Payroll Division during FY98. An earlier study had suggested that longevity increases be granted to Court of Justice employees whose annual salary was in the \$18,000 to \$20,000 range, and who had six, eight, or ten years tenure. Following these guidelines, during August and September 1997, longevity increases were given to 192 employees. This was in addition to the standard five percent annual increment.

Notable Numbers

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a problem that plagues almost every area of the United States, and Kentucky is no different. Domestic violence case filings rose in the Commonwealth by more than 23% from FY94 to FY98. Last year, the AOC Office of General Counsel chaired the Domestic Violence Joint Jurisdiction Committee. The group consisted of circuit and district judges, court clerks, and staff from the state Attorney General’s office and from the Governor’s Office of Domestic Violence and Child Sexual Abuse. As a result of this combined effort, local domestic violence joint jurisdiction protocols and 24-hour policies are now in place in all circuit and district courts in Kentucky. Local protocols can be viewed at the Court of Justice Web site, <http://www.aoc.state.ky.us>.

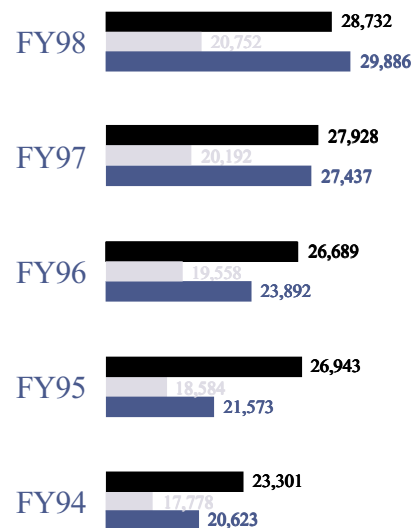
Case Age in Months, Filing to Closing



Circuit Criminal

In FY98, circuit judges closed *more* criminal cases in *less* time. From FY94 to FY98, the number of circuit criminal case filings increased by nearly 17%, while case closings increased by 12.5%. During the same time period, the average case age (the time elapsed between the filing of a case to its closing) decreased by an average of two months per case.

Case Filings by Case Type



Circuit Civil

From FY94 to FY98, the single largest increase in case filings occurred in civil suits filed in Kentucky’s circuit courts. Cases involving personal injury, property damage, contract disputes, and property rights disputes increased over 44%.

The number of civil suits disposed of increased by more than 24%. In FY94, the average circuit civil case age was 16.73 months. In FY98, these cases were being closed approximately four months faster.

Budget and Program Review

The biennial budget for the judicial branch is prepared and monitored by the AOC's Division of Budget and Program Review. Staff members analyze legislation for fiscal or programmatic impact and the division closely monitors legislative committee meetings during sessions of the General Assembly.

JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET SUMMARY

	Budgeted FY 1997-98	FY 1998-99	FY 1999-00
Court Operations & Administration			
Supreme Court	\$ 2,808,000	\$ 2,945,000	\$ 3,090,000
Court of Appeals	5,316,500	5,578,000	5,851,000
Circuit Court	19,284,000	21,753,900	25,689,600
District Court	14,937,500	15,845,200	16,689,000
Circuit Clerks	52,673,500	56,137,500	59,250,000
AOC	5,963,500	5,893,500	6,183,500
Boards & Commissions	74,000	77,000	80,500
Pretrial	6,542,000	6,880,000	7,237,500
State Law Library	963,000	1,001,500	1,045,000
Juvenile Services	5,575,500	5,846,000	5,963,000
Capital Outlay	521,500	537,000	553,000
Salary Improvement	0	1,115,500	1,404,500
Total	\$114,659,000	\$123,610,100	\$133,036,600
Local Facilities Fund	23,258,500	27,091,500	32,934,100
Judicial Retirement	5,645,500	6,407,500	6,418,000
Capital Projects		1,700,000	2,122,500
TOTAL BUDGET	\$143,563,000	\$158,809,100	\$174,511,200

In FY98, the division's primary focus was the preparation of the 1998-2000 Judicial Branch Biennial Budget Request. The budget enacted by the 1998 General Assembly represents a 20% increase in general fund support. The budget provided for the continuation of current services, including a 5% annual salary increment in each upcoming fiscal year for all court personnel. Additional funding was provided for salary improvement for certain classifications of nonelected employees. Funding was also provided for 40 additional deputy court clerk positions, 2 additional district judges, and 3 additional circuit judges. Other notable items in the 1998-2000 budget include an increase in funding for court facilities, funding of a new case management system for the Court Designated Worker Program, and funding for 9 family court pilot projects.

Facilities

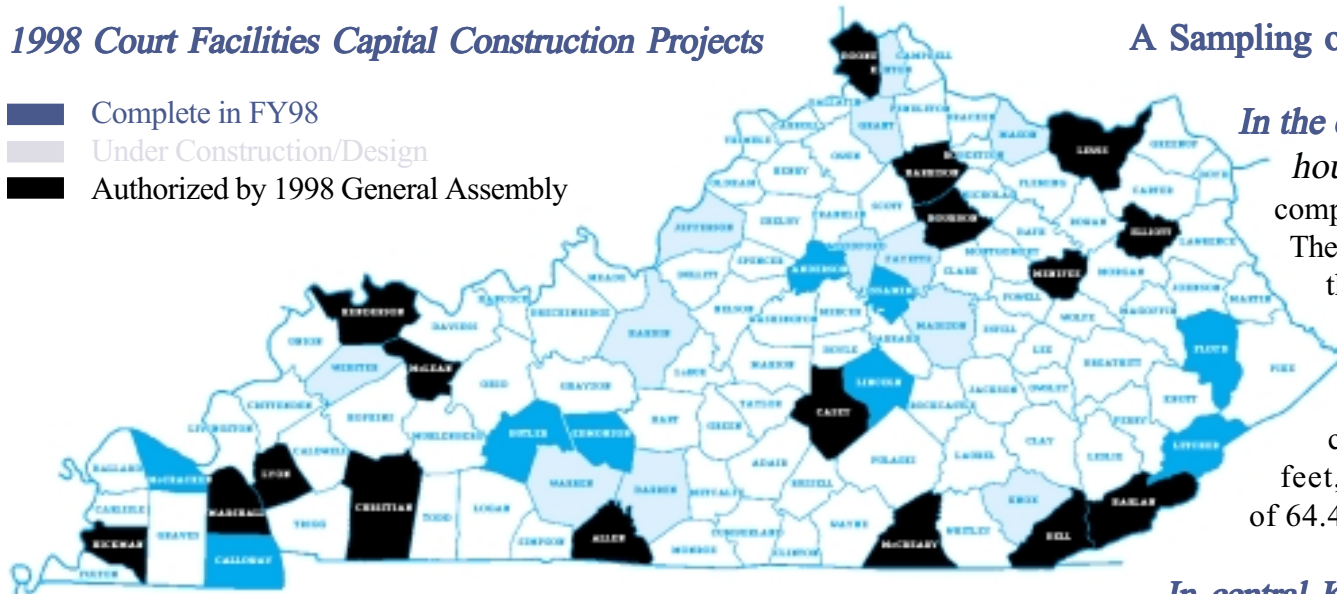
Court facilities require expansion, renovation, and maintenance in order to keep up with the continued growth of the court system. Recognizing this need, the 1994 and 1996 Kentucky General Assemblies authorized new and renovated projects totaling \$215 million. An additional \$95 million was authorized by the 1998 General Assembly. Maps on page 5 identify the various projects

completed, under construction, or authorized during FY98. All new construction and major renovations must comply with guidelines and standards established by the National Center for State Courts. Security must also be provided in our courts. These efforts are coordinated through the AOC Facilities Unit.

1998 Court Facilities Capital Construction Projects

A Sampling of Projects Across the State . . .

- Complete in FY98
- Under Construction/Design
- Authorized by 1998 General Assembly



In the east ... the Letcher County Courthouse and Jail project consisted of a complete interior and exterior renovation. The facility houses circuit and district court, the circuit clerk, Pretrial Services, the Court Designated Worker (CDW), the jail, and county offices. Excluding the jail, the facility contains 9,400 net usable square feet, with a courts occupancy ratio of 64.4%.

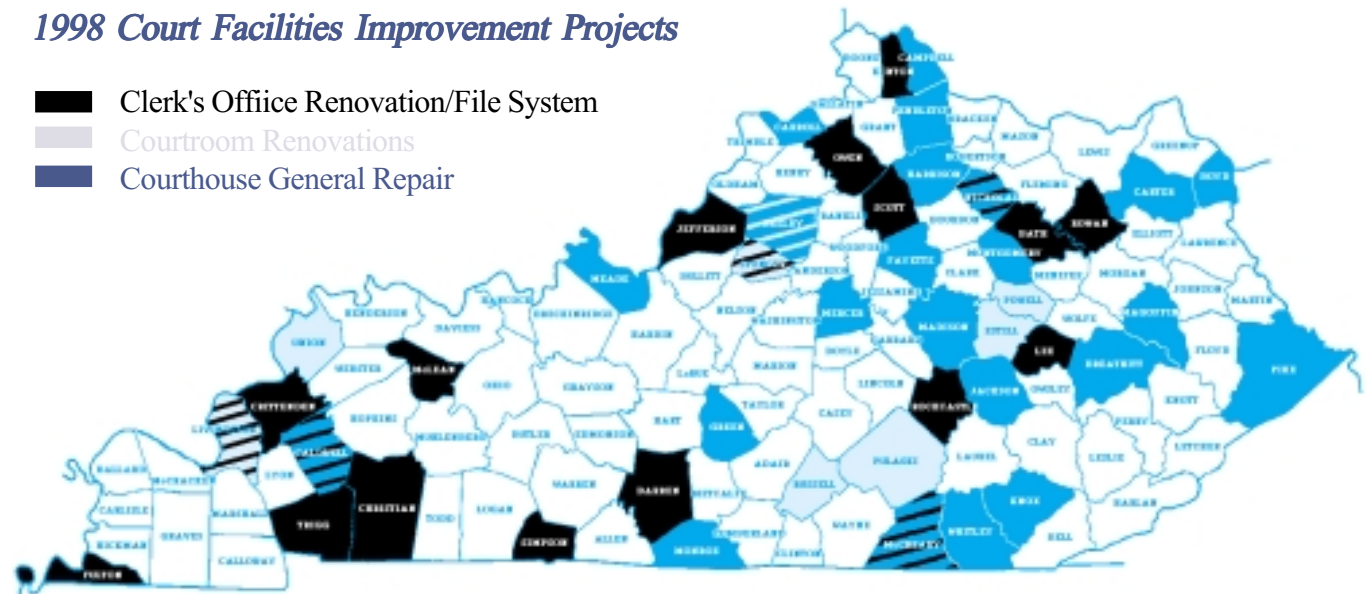
story brick structure housing persons in custody. The facility contains 11,600 net usable square feet, with a courts occupancy ratio of 95.1%.

In the west... the Calloway County Judicial Building is a newly constructed two-story brick structure accommodating circuit and district court, the circuit clerk, Pretrial Services, the CDW, and Probation and Parole. The facility contains 19,600 net usable square feet, with a courts occupancy ratio of 93.1%.

In central Kentucky... the Woodford County Courthouse Annex is a newly constructed two-story brick structure housing district court, the circuit clerk, the CDW, and a vehicle sallyport and holding facilities for secure movement of

1998 Court Facilities Improvement Projects

- Clerk's Office Renovation/File System
- Courtroom Renovations
- Courthouse General Repair



Video Arraignment via ISDN Telephone Lines

Video arraignment was first introduced in Kentucky courts nearly a decade ago. Since that time, the technology has undergone numerous changes. Twenty-six (26) counties are now equipped with video arraignment technology. Utilizing multiple television monitors and fixed, voice-activated cameras in the courtroom, and a monitor and camera in the jail, defendants can interact with the judge during arraignment without leaving the holding facility. This reduces the security risk factors and the costs associated with transporting prisoners.



Photo courtesy of **The State Journal** / Susan Riddell

Franklin District Judge Guy Hart conducts an arraignment from the county jail with the help of cameras and monitors. (September 1997)

The latest development in video arraignment technology is the use of Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) telephone lines. ISDN technology allows the transmission of voice, data, and video services over a single, locally provided telephone line. This is considered to be extremely cost effective since it does not require the installation of dedicated cable lines or fiber optics. Ten Kentucky counties are now conducting video arraignments via ISDN telephone lines.

Kentucky is recognized as a national leader in the use of video technology in courtrooms. Recently international attention was focused on Kentucky's accomplishments. When Franklin County's courthouse and jail began conducting video arraignments in September 1997, SKY News, the United Kingdom's equivalent to CNN, was on hand to film the system in use. SKY News aired the segment on a weekly program which highlights advancements in technology.

State Police Crime Lab, Remote Video Conferencing

The Administrative Office of the Courts and the Kentucky State Police have joined forces in a pilot project involving the use of video conferencing technology. Two of the six state police crime laboratories are now equipped with video technology. This enables expert witness testimony to be presented directly from the crime lab to the courtroom. The goal of this pilot project is to speed up the handling of drug and alcohol cases, and other cases which require scientific analysis of evidence. The time required for laboratory chemists to travel to remote courtrooms, and the waiting time associated with providing trial testimony is virtually eliminated through the use of remote video conferencing. The pilot project is funded through a federal grant.

Information Systems, Technology for the Future

Preparing the courts for the year 2000 has been a major focus of the Information Systems (IS) staff effort during FY98. Applications which suffer from the "Y2K" problem are being replaced with new client server based systems. Problems associated with equipment limitations are being addressed through the replacement of older PCs. Extensive equipment replacement occurred during FY98; however, approximately 1,000 machines remain to be replaced. This will be completed soon.

The IS Division oversaw several other projects during FY98. Modernizing the information technology infrastructure was a priority in the state's largest judicial circuit, Jefferson County. All judges, secretaries, law clerks, clerical supervisors, and court administrators received Pentium units and current software to replace their older PCs. The data network in the Jefferson Hall of Justice was also modernized. E-mail and electronic legal research tools are now available throughout the complex, and Jefferson courts can now connect to the Court of Justice wide area network (WAN) and the Internet through a newly installed T-1 line. The WAN was also extended to 11 other counties with mid- to high-volume caseloads. In addition to on-line e-mail and Internet access, this infrastructure allows near real-time polling of the SUSTAIN data base in each county. And finally, during FY98, IS staff completed the implementation of a new windows based Appellate Information Management System (AIMS) in the Court of Appeals. This system replaced a mainframe based system. AIMS is feature rich and user friendly, using a relational database which can be Web enabled.

In order to address the special needs of the high volume courts in the Commonwealth, and to accommodate the need for a universal case management system, the IS Division has undertaken a complete redesign of the SUSTAIN court case management system. The new system, KyCOURTS, is windows based and features bar coding, touch screening, and imaging technology. KyCOURTS is nearing completion and will soon be introduced in the court clerks' offices, beginning in Jefferson County during FY2000, with all other counties to follow eventually. Thorough training in the use of KyCOURTS will be provided to all court employees. Much time and effort is also being invested in the technical training of IS staff involved in the development of KyCOURTS, AIMS, and other new applications, in order to have the needed skills and expertise in-house to provide support to court personnel statewide. Training in state of the art tools such as Visual Basic, NT/SQL, and HTML will remain a high priority of the IS Division.

Kentucky Court of Justice Case Filings and Closings, FY98

Appellate Courts

SUPREME COURT

Filed 1,188
Closed 1,225

COURT OF APPEALS

Filed 3,559
Closed 3,512

Trial Courts

CIRCUIT COURT

Filed 94,753
Closed 86,193

DISTRICT COURT

Filed 865,917
Closed 822,274 *

* Includes estimated provided by
Jefferson District Court

More than 5.5 million new cases are expected to be filed in Kentucky's trial courts over the next five fiscal years.

	Projected Filings				
	<u>FY1999</u>	<u>FY2000</u>	<u>FY2001</u>	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>
District Court	907,487	951,052	996,708	1,044,557	1,094,702
Circuit Court	98,163	101,696	105,356	109,147	113,075

The percentage of increase in case filings recorded in each of the previous five years was figured and the average was applied to FY98 actual case filings to arrive at the projected figures shown above.

Pretrial Services

The AOC is now able to provide current data on a defendant rearrested while a trial is pending elsewhere, in most Kentucky jurisdictions. Information on the type of pretrial release, conditions, and future court dates is generally available to a judge prior to the defendant being re-released. Previously, only cases which were closed could be accessed for criminal records checks.

Through Courtnet, the AOC has enhanced its ability to track fugitives who failed to appear for court. The service of outstanding warrants across county lines has also been improved through the use of the Courtnet database.

Diversion

Pretrial diversion services are offered in three jurisdictions. Defendants who are diverted can have their charges dismissed if they successfully complete their diversion programs. Over 1,300 defendants were granted pretrial diversion during FY98. Of these defendants, 600 were referred for GED's (General Equivalency Diploma) or substance abuse education/treatment; more than 15,000 hours of community service work was performed; and over \$16,000 in restitution was paid by defendants who received pretrial diversion.

Mediation

Mediation services are provided in five jurisdictions. In FY98, more than 37,000 people were interviewed by Pretrial's intake officers. Those individuals were given a choice between proceeding with their complaint in formal court or attempting to resolve their dispute through mediation. Approximately 13,000 complainants chose informal mediation hearings. Of the hearings conducted, 79% were resolved to the satisfaction of both parties involved, eliminating the need for formal court intervention.

Pretrial Release

In Kentucky, defendants are interviewed within 12 hours after arrest by pretrial officers employed by the AOC. Information about family ties, employment, education, criminal history, etc., is gathered, recorded, and verified by pretrial officers. This information is then provided to the court in order to aid judges in determining whether or not defendants are a flight risk. Defendants who are released are tracked through the court system by pretrial officers to verify attendance at all scheduled court appearances and to ensure compliance with all pretrial release conditions.

During FY98, pretrial officers interviewed 163,134 defendants who were under consideration for pretrial release. Of those defendants who qualified for nonfinancial, conditional release, more than 52,000 were released under program supervision. Of those who were granted pretrial release, only 8% failed to appear for their trials. This means that nearly 98% of those arrested in Kentucky in FY98 appeared in court for trial as scheduled. This figure has remained steady for the past three fiscal years.

Records Operation

The Courtnet criminal records tracking system contains records of all felony cases since 1978, and all misdemeanor and traffic cases for at least five years. Domestic violence cases date back to the introduction of SUSTAIN in each county. Pretrial officers access this statewide database and provide judges with accurate criminal history information prior to the granting of bail. Courtnet is also utilized in the carrying concealed deadly weapons licensing process and in running criminal records checks on potential youth leaders, including all individuals applying for jobs working with children. In FY98, the AOC central office staff processed 187,048 records requests, nearly tripling the number of requests processed just two years earlier. The AOC records operation is fully funded through the collection of fees associated with its function.

Education Services, Keeping the Courts Informed

During FY98, the Division of Education Services provided 168 hours of continuing education to members of the Court of Justice. Twenty-five separate and distinct programs were conducted, ranging from a joint judicial college for district and circuit judges, to legislative reviews designed to inform all court personnel of the new laws enacted by the 1998 General Assembly. Continuing education programs were also conducted for circuit court clerks and their deputies, Court of Appeals judges, trial commissioners, domestic relations commissioners, staff attorneys, and court administrators. During the joint judicial college, over 300 current and former judges, court officials, and guests gathered to commemorate the **20th anniversary of the creation of district courts** in Kentucky. Of the original 113 district judges who were elected in 1977, forty-five were in attendance at a celebration banquet. Former Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice John S. Palmore, and William E. Davis, past Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, addressed the audience, noting the significance of the creation of the district level of trial courts, and highlighting the accomplishments of the district courts over the past 20 years.

Court Services, In the Field

The Division of Court Services provides support services for all 120 circuit court clerks in the day-to-day operations of their offices, and helps to safeguard monies received by the courts. Through routine field visits, special projects, and telephone support, court clerks receive guidance in the filing and maintenance of court records. Field audits and periodic reviews of financial reports help to ensure the proper handling of monies collected by the courts (*see table at right*). During FY98, a new, fully-automated reporting system for tracking prepayable citations was activated statewide. Division staff were responsible for training nearly 1,600 court clerks and deputy court clerks in the proper use of this system. During the regional legislative review programs, staff worked closely with Education Services to provide court clerks with detailed instruction on the implementation of new laws recently enacted. Assistance is provided on an on-going basis to the Office of General Counsel to update the electronic Circuit Court Clerks' Manual as needed, and Court Services continues to work with the Division of Information Systems to develop an updated automated bookkeeping system, expected to be implemented statewide by July 2000. Court Services is also assisting in the development of KyCOURTS, a windows version of the current case management system, SUSTAIN.

Research and Statistics, On the Web

One of the primary responsibilities of this division is the dissemination of statistical reports within the Court of Justice and to the public. With recent improvements in technology and staffing, reports can usually be processed the same day they are requested. Reporting accuracy remains a high priority. Quality assurance programs run three times monthly to insure the accuracy of court data. A new Website was introduced to provide easier access to statistical information. Visit us at www.aoc.state.ky.us/statistics/frameset.htm.

Monies Collected by Circuit Court Clerks, FY98

Driver Licenses	\$ 10,959,440.64
Charges for Services	2,214,265.61
Expungement Fees	10,751.00
Bond Filing Fees	531,660.07
Bond 10% Fees	530,315.49
Bond Forfeitures	757,395.53
Fish and Game Fines	213,299.42
Highway Work Zone Safety Fines	25,594.00
Alcohol Intoxication Fines	565,413.41
Energy Recovery Road Fines	17,504.00
Alternative to Detention Fines	280.00
Criminal/Traffic Fines & Costs	39,960,480.27
Juvenile Fines & Costs	76,417.81
State Jail Fund	5,171,528.47
Crime Victims Fund	1,035,945.21
D.U.I. Service Fees	4,483,610.35
Brady Bill Fees	368,874.43
Spinal Chord & Head Injury Research Fees	2,948,799.95
Civil Filing Fees	7,350,209.50
Access to Justice Fees	1,230,243.15
Public Advocate Recoupment Fees	996,737.85
Public Advocate Administration Fees	692,193.42
Interest Income	1,074,694.06
Over (Short)	(5,778.27)
Total State Monies	81,209,875.37
Jury Fund	3,743,180.17
Witness Fund	106,837.95
Bail Bonds Held	48,783,934.27
Alimony and Support	4,665,031.21
Restitution and Garnishment	5,591,100.43
Condemnation	11,368,106.35
County Jail Fees	2,584,170.77
Money Collected for Others	21,589,043.33
Library Fees	929,749.51
Sheriff's Security Services	2,609,118.63
Total Savings Balance	183,180,147.99
Special Escrow Funds	7,899,260.67
Total All Funds	\$ 191,079,408.66

Progressive Courts in Action

DRUG COURT STATISTICS, FY98

County, Start-up date	Served to Date	Terminated/ Absconded	Graduated	On-Going
Jefferson, 7/93	302	37	55	210
Fayette, 7/96	203	37	42	124
Warren, 2/97	132	56	6	70
Fulton/Hickman, 11/97	16	8	0	8
Kenton, 4/98	9	1	0	8
TOTAL	662	139	103	420

FAMILY COURT FEASIBILITY TASK FORCE (circa 1988)

Finding: 50% of Kentucky's court case load consists of matters relating to children and families.

Recommendation: Unite all cases which significantly and directly impact the family unit under one jurisdiction.

Kentucky family court jurisdiction includes:

- dissolution of marriage
- custody and visitation
- support and equitable distribution
- adoption and termination of parental rights
 - paternity (UIFSA)
- noncriminal juvenile, status offenses
 - dependency, neglect, and abuse
 - domestic violence

Drug Court

During FY98, the AOC's Division of Drug Courts secured planning and implementation grants totaling more than 1.6 million dollars to fund several new or expanding drug courts. A pilot program was established in Fulton and Hickman counties, and the newest drug court became operational in Kenton county. Fayette County was named an NADCP/COPS Mentor Drug Court (National Association of Drug Court Professionals/Community Oriented Policing Services), recognizing the Fayette Drug Court's work with local law enforcement. Jefferson County started a juvenile drug court program, and was named an NADCP mentor court for a second term. Warren Drug Court, new in FY97, held its first graduation ceremony.

Drug courts use intensive supervision, drug testing, sanctions, incentives, and treatment as intervention to stop a drug-offender's drug usage and criminality.

Family Court

One of the most exciting developments in Kentucky's courts has been the addition of family courts. Since 1991, a family court pilot project has operated in Jefferson County. Building on the successes of this project, the governor's office, the legislature, and the Court of Justice have worked together to extend family court pilot projects into nine additional locations across the state.

Three of these projects became operational in the Fall of 1998. The newest family courts are now serving the citizens of Pike County, Warren County, and the shared jurisdiction of Boone and Gallatin counties. Six additional family court projects serving eleven counties are slated to become a reality in 1999. These courts will operate in McCracken, Christian, and Franklin counties, and in the combined locations of Madison/Clark, Lincoln/Rockcastle/Pulaski, and Floyd/Knott/Magoffin counties. Each site will be located, if possible, in the existing courthouse in the county. Courtrooms, waiting areas, and office space utilized by family courts will be redesigned to be "family friendly." Family court staff includes a judge, court administrator, law clerk, social worker, judicial secretary, bench clerk, and deputy clerks as needed. A statewide family court coordinator and support staff have been employed at the AOC's newly created Department of Family Courts. This staff will implement, assist, and evaluate the family court pilot projects on an on-going basis.

Juvenile Matters, Juveniles Matter

The Division of Youth, Families, and Community Services

During the spring of 1998, three of the AOC's departments united to become the Division of Youth, Families, and Community Services. The Department of Family Court, the Department of Court-Community Relations (previously known as the Department of Law-Related Education), and the Department of Juvenile Services were joined in order to provide a continuum of court services designed to meet the needs of Kentucky's families. The primary goals of the division are community outreach, law related education, delinquency prevention, oversight of juvenile diversion, and the extension of family court services.

A major focus of this division is delinquency diversion and prevention. In 1986, the Juvenile Code established the **Court Designated Worker Program (CDW)**, which involves a pre-court process for first- and second-time, nonviolent juvenile offenders. By statute, CDW intervention occurs prior to arraignment in juvenile court. CDWs, under the guidance of the AOC, utilize a wide variety of diversion programs designed to teach juveniles to interact in positive ways within their communities. Juveniles who qualify for the program enter into diversion agreements with CDWs. These agreements include such components as community service, law related education, and restitution. Juveniles are given the opportunity to make amends for their errors, and avoid the stigma of having a court record. Juveniles who fail to meet the terms of their agreements are referred to juvenile court for further action.

During FY98, CDWs handled 45,757 cases filed against juveniles. Of those cases, 53% were diverted from juvenile court. Of the juveniles who were diverted, 85% successfully completed their diversion agreements.

The Division of Citizen Foster Care Review Boards

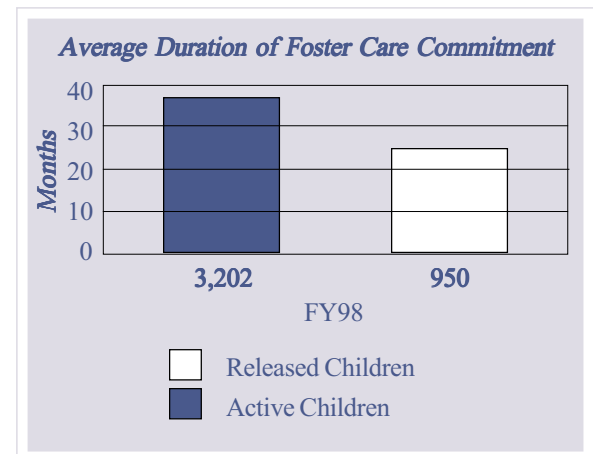
Children who have been placed in foster care must be given safe, permanent homes in as timely a manner as possible. Working to ensure this goal are more than 850 citizen volunteers who make up the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards. These boards work closely with the Cabinet for Families and Children and with their local district courts to make certain the needs of Kentucky's foster children are being met. Oversight of these review boards is through the AOC.

By statute, the Citizen Foster Care Review Boards may review cases of children who have been committed to the Cabinet or have been in temporary custody for longer than 45 days. During FY98, the review boards conducted 16,912 case reviews for 6,522 children. On average, the case of each child was reviewed 2.6 times during the year.

Programs offered by the Division of Youth, Families, and Community Services include:

Street Law
Teens, Crime, and the Community
Under 18, Under the Law
Project Citizen
High School Mock Trial
We the People...Constitutional Studies
We Can Work It Out! Mediation Training
Foundations of Democracy
Bobby & the Court Designated Worker,
A Shoplifting Prevention Program
Teen Court
Theater in Diversion
Parent Divorce Education Clinics
Racial and Gender Bias Studies
Town Hall Meetings
Various Juvenile Diversion Programs

For program details, contact the Division at 502-573-2350.





Supreme Court of Kentucky

Pictured left to right, seated: Justice Janet Stumbo, Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert, and Justice J. William Graves.

Pictured left to right, standing: Justice William Cooper, Justice Martin Johnstone, Justice James E. Keller, and Justice Donald C. Wintersheimer.

Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert is elected from the 3rd Supreme Court District - Adair, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, Marion, McCreary, Monroe, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne, and Whitley Counties.

Justice William Cooper is elected from the 2nd Supreme Court District - Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, LaRue, Logan, Meade, Metcalfe, Nelson, Ohio, Simpson, Todd, and Warren Counties.

Justice J. William Graves is elected from the 1st Supreme Court District - Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Trigg, Union, and Webster Counties.

Justice Martin Johnstone is elected from the 4th Supreme Court District - Jefferson County.

Justice James E. Keller is appointed from the 5th Supreme Court District - Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Jessamine, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Owsley, Scott, and Woodford Counties.

Justice Janet Stumbo is elected from the 7th Supreme Court District - Bath, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pike, Powell, Rowan, and Wolfe Counties.

Justice Donald C. Wintersheimer is elected from the 6th Supreme Court District - Anderson, Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Fleming, Gallatin, Grant, Harrison, Henry, Kenton, Mason, Nicholas, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson, Shelby, Spencer, and Trimble Counties.

Honorable Susan Stokley Clary, Clerk of Court.
Honorable James L. Deckard, Counsel.

The following publications are available free of charge through the Administrative Office of the Courts:

Annual Report, FY98
Biennial Report, FYs96-97
Annual Report, FY95
Bobby and the Court Designated Worker (coloring book)
CDW, Court Designated Worker -- A Look at Kentucky's Court of Justice Diversion Program
Commonwealth Clerks . . . Making the Court System Work
Domestic Violence . . . Putting the Pieces Back Together
The Family Circus Visits the Courts
Foster Care Review Boards: Working for Kentucky's Future . . . Our Children
Getting the Word Out: Working with the Media
Judicial Conduct Commission: Complaints About Judicial Conduct
Justice in our Commonwealth: A Citizen's Guide to Kentucky's Courts
Kentucky's Pretrial Services . . . Releasing the Possibilities
Mediation . . . Weighing the Alternatives
Runaways in the Commonwealth: How to Cope with Missing Children
Small Claims Court: General Information & Post-Judgment Collections
You, the Jury: Kentucky Juror Handbook
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Videos available for loan include:

Kentucky Court of Justice; You Have a Friend in the Courthouse; and You, the Jury

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**Administrative Office of the Courts
100 Millcreek Park
Frankfort, KY 40601**

**(502) 573-2350
FAX: (502) 695-1759**

Kentucky Court of Justice

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100 Millcreek Park

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601