

United States Courts for the First Circuit



2023 Annual Report

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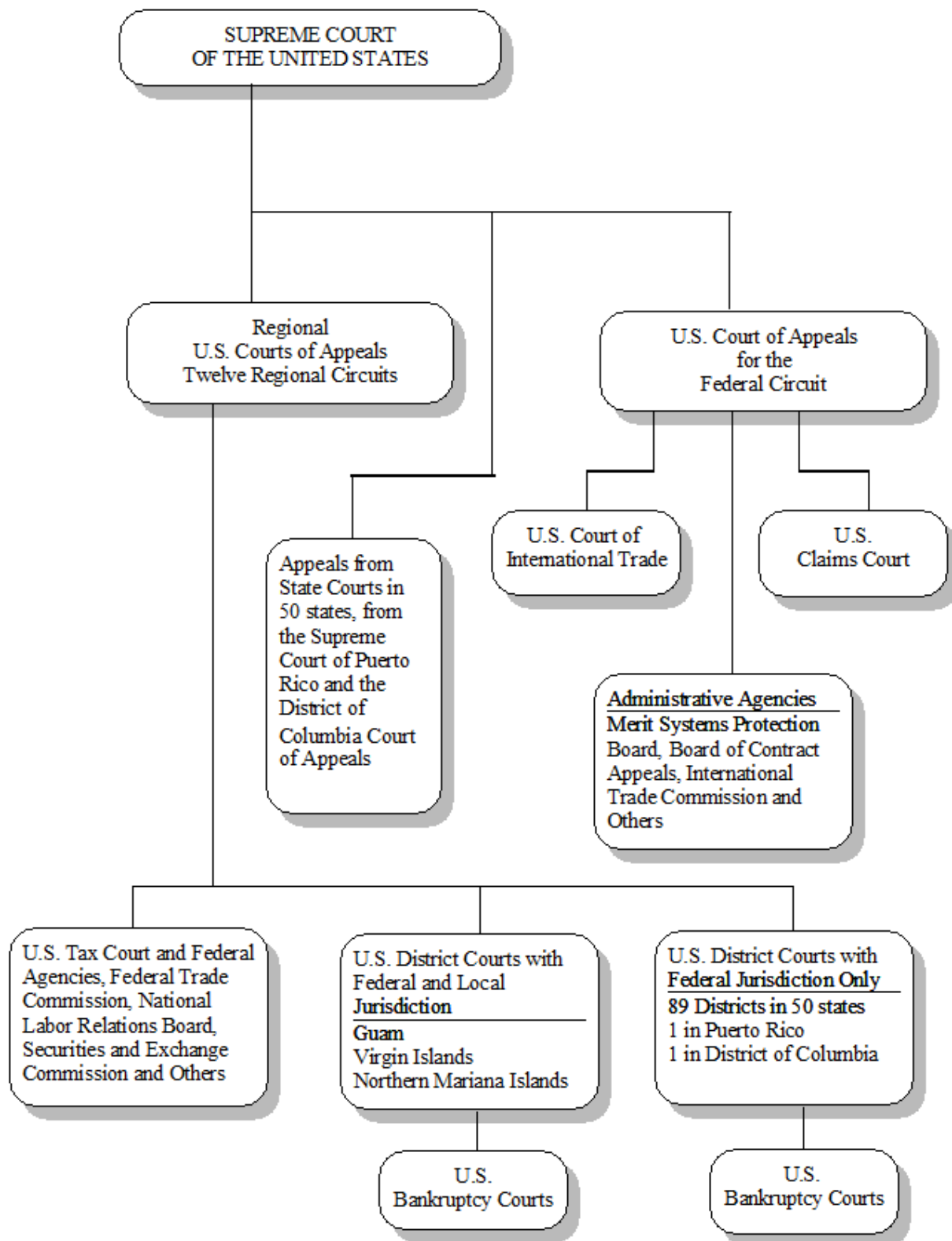
Foreword

Susan J. Goldberg
Circuit Executive

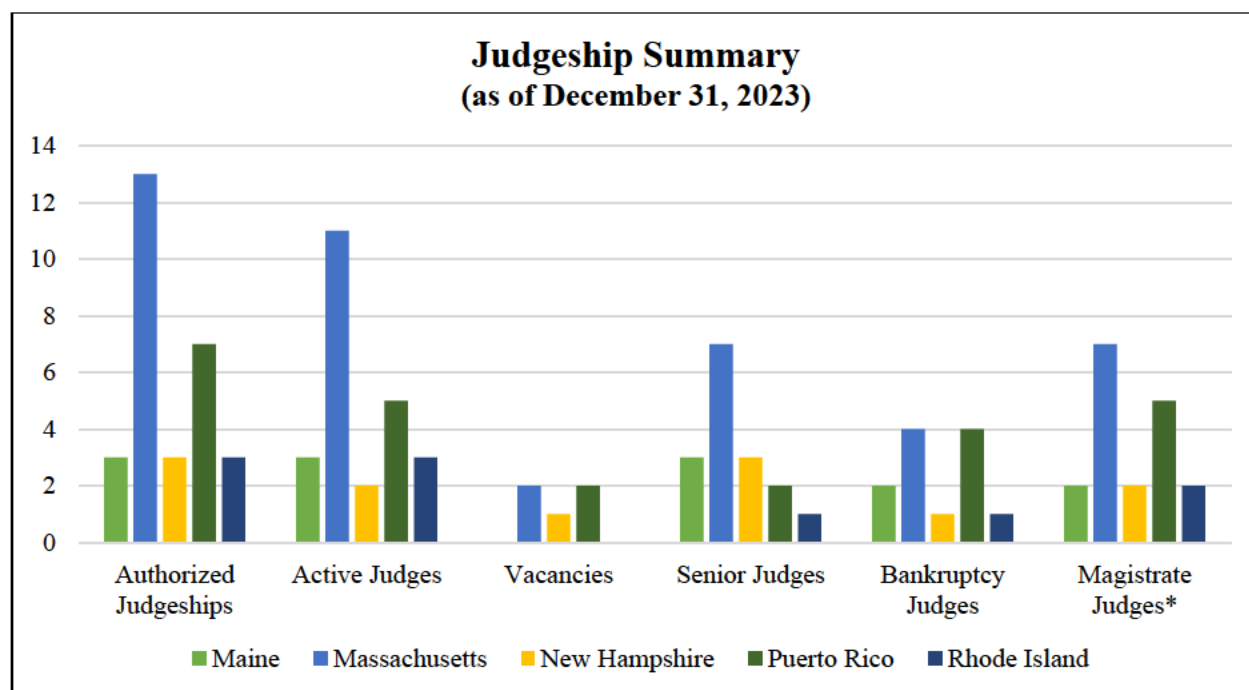
The 2023 Annual Report of the Courts of the First Circuit is intended to provide a succinct summary of the work of the many judges and staff here who tirelessly and meticulously perform the work of the Third Branch. It would be too great a challenge to delineate the scope and breadth of all of the accomplishments of the judiciary in the circuit; however, this Report provides an opportunity to identify and highlight the most notable. I can comfortably attest to the fact that every judge and court employee who worked in the circuit in 2023 contributed to the work identified herein, and I wish to thank them all. I also wish to recognize, in particular, those who prepared the information and compiled the material in this Report, including the unit executives circuit-wide and staff of the Office of the Circuit Executive: Amy Campbell, Sierra Dennison, Jessica Pace, Florence Pagano, Gina Riccio, and Kristen Vogl.

I would like also to acknowledge the passing in 2023 of former Circuit Executive Vincent Flanagan, who served here from 1988 to 2001. Mr. Flanagan devoted his career to the judiciary and was highly respected by those with whom he worked. He was fully dedicated to the mission of the federal courts and to the courts' obligations to people of all backgrounds and lifestyles. His memory serves as an example to us all.

Thank you for your interest in the First Circuit.

Structure of the Federal Judiciary

Judges and Judicial Milestones



Judgeship Summary (as of December 31, 2023)						
Districts	Authorized Judgeships	Active Judges	Vacancies	Senior Judges	Bankruptcy Judges	Magistrate Judges*
Maine	3	3	0	2	2	2
Massachusetts	13	13	0	7	3	7
New Hampshire	3	3	0	2	1	2
Puerto Rico	7	7	0	3	4	5
Rhode Island	3	3	0	0	1	2
Total Dist. Ct.	29	29	0	14	11	18
Total Court of Appeals	6	5	1	5	-	-
Total 1st Cir.	35	34	1	19	11	18

* Does not include recalled judges.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT

Honorable David J. Barron, Chief

Honorable Bruce M. Selya
Honorable Sandra L. Lynch
Honorable Kermit V. Lipez
Honorable Jeffrey R. Howard
Honorable O. Rogerie Thompson

Honorable William J. Kayatta, Jr.
Honorable Gustavo A. Gelpí
Honorable Lara E. Montecalvo
Honorable Julie Rikelman

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Honorable Jon D. Levy, Chief
Honorable Nancy Torresen
Honorable Lance E. Walker

Honorable George Z. Singal
Honorable John A. Woodcock, Jr.

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE

Honorable Peter G. Cary, Chief
Honorable Michael A. Fagone

**MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MAINE**

Honorable John C. Nivison
Honorable Karen Frink Wolf
Honorable David M. Cohen (recalled)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Honorable F. Dennis Saylor, IV, Chief	Honorable Margaret R. Guzman
Honorable Nathaniel M. Gorton	Honorable Myong J. Joun
Honorable Patti B. Saris	Honorable Julia E. Kobick
Honorable Richard G. Stearns	Honorable Rya W. Zobel
Honorable Denise J. Casper	Honorable Mark L. Wolf
Honorable Indira Talwani	Honorable William G. Young
Honorable Mark G. Mastroianni	Honorable Douglas P. Woodlock
Honorable Leo T. Sorokin	Honorable Michael A. Ponsor
Honorable Allison D. Burroughs	Honorable George A. O'Toole, Jr.
Honorable Angel Kelley	Honorable Timothy S. Hillman

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Honorable Elizabeth D. Katz, Chief	Honorable Janet Bostwick
Honorable Christopher J. Panos	

**MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**

Honorable Donald L. Cabell, Chief	Honorable Paul G. Levenson
Honorable Judith G. Dein	Honorable Robert B. Collings (recalled)
Honorable Jennifer C. Boal	Honorable Marianne B. Bowler (recalled)
Honorable David H. Hennessy	Honorable Kenneth P. Neiman (recalled)
Honorable M. Page Kelley	Honorable Jerome J. Niedermeier (recalled)
Honorable Katherine Robertson	

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Honorable Landya B. McCafferty, Chief	Honorable Paul J. Barbadoro
Honorable Joseph N. Laplante	Honorable Steven J. McAuliffe
Honorable Samantha D. Elliott	

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Honorable Bruce A. Harwood, Chief

**MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Honorable Andrea K. Johnstone
Honorable Talesha L. Saint-Marc

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Honorable Raúl Arias-Marxuach, Chief	Honorable Camille L. Vélez-Rivé
Honorable Aida M. Delgado-Colón	Honorable Gina R. Méndez-Miró
Honorable Pedro A. Delgado Hernández	Honorable Daniel R. Domínguez
Honorable Silvia Carreño-Coll	Honorable Jay A. García-Gregory
Honorable Maria Antongiorgi-Jordán	Honorable Francisco A. Besosa

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Honorable Mildred Cabán, Chief	Honorable Edward A. Godoy
Honorable Enrique S. Lamoutte	Honorable María de los A. González

**MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO**

Honorable Bruce J. McGiverin	Honorable Giselle López-Soler
Honorable Marcos E. López	Honorable Héctor L. Ramos-Vega
Honorable Marshal D. Morgan	

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Honorable John J. McConnell, Jr., Chief
Honorable William E. Smith
Honorable Mary McElroy

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Honorable Diane Finkle

**MAGISTRATE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND**

Honorable Lincoln D. Almond
Honorable Patricia A. Sullivan

Judicial Milestones and Other Highlights

Court of Appeals

Judge Norman H. Stahl passed away on April 7, 2023, after more than thirty years of federal service. Judge Stahl was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 1931. He graduated from Tufts College magna cum laude in 1952 and received his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1955. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice John V. Spalding. In 1956, he joined the firm now known as Devine Millimet, in Manchester, New Hampshire, and remained with the firm until his appointment as a district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire in 1990. Judge Stahl was appointed to the First Circuit Court of Appeals in June 1992 and assumed senior status in April 2001. Judge Stahl served the city of Manchester and the state of New Hampshire in various positions, including as Acting Manchester City Solicitor (1975), member and chairman of the New Hampshire Board of Bar Examiners, and member and chairman of the State Judicial Council.

On June 23, 2023, Judge Rikelman was sworn in as a circuit judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

In 2023, the City of Providence, Rhode Island, renamed Fulton Street, adjacent to the U.S. Courthouse, "Judge Selya Way," in honor of Providence native and U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit Judge Selya.

In 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, in partnership with the General Services Administration (GSA), renamed the Court of Appeals Courtroom in the José V. Toledo United States Courthouse in San Juan,

Puerto Rico, the "Honorable Juan R. Torruella U.S. Court of Appeals Courtroom" in honor of Judge Torruella, who served as a district judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and as the first Puerto Rican on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

In September 2023, Vincent Flanagan, who was the Circuit Executive for the First Circuit from 1988 through 2001, passed away.

Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

In March 2023, Judge María de los Ángeles González was appointed to the First Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP).

On May 17, 2023, Judge Diane Finkle became the Chief Judge of the BAP, following the completion of Judge Edward A. Godoy's term in that role.

District of Maine

Chief Judge Levy continued to administer and oversee the District's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and served on the First Circuit Judicial Council Civics Education and Outreach Committee, where he assisted with preparing and organizing the District's Civil Discourse Programs and Law Day Activities; the Maine State/Federal Judicial Council, where he continued to train new judges and attend meetings; and the Maine State Bar Association Attorney Wellness Task Force. He also engaged with the District of Maine's Local Rules Advisory Committee.

Judge Torresen chaired the District of Maine Court Security Committee and the First Circuit Judicial Council Pattern Jury Instructions Committee.

Judge Walker chaired the District's Criminal Law Committee and was a member of the First Circuit Judicial Council, the First Circuit Judicial Council Alternative Sentencing Committee, the First Circuit Judge's 2024 Workshop Planning Committee, the Judicial Conference Committee on Financial Disclosure, and the Employment Dispute Resolution (EDR) Appeals Panel. He was also the Chair of the 2024 Morton A. Brody Distinguished Judicial Service Award.

Judge Singal served on the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Committee and was a member of the Maine State/Federal Judicial Council.

Judge Woodcock served as an instructive judge at the National Advocacy Center's Basic Criminal Trial Advocacy seminar and was a member of the Maine State/Federal Judicial Council (Executive Committee), the Judiciary Budget Committee, the First Circuit Judicial Council Post-Pandemic Operations Committee, and the John Waldo Ballou Inn of Court. He was also a visiting judge for the District of Puerto Rico, a presiding judge in an EDR matter in the circuit, and a member of the Planning Committee for the First Circuit Judicial Conference scheduled for 2025.

Magistrate Judge Nivison served on the District's Criminal Law Committee, ad hoc committee to develop a District of Maine pilot magistrate judge consent plan, and the State/Federal Judicial Council. He also presented at a bench-bar conference in Maine in May 2023.

Magistrate Judge Frink Wolf was the Vice-Chair of the Maine Justice Action Group and the Chair of its Pro Bono Committee and was a member of the First Circuit Judicial Council Access to Justice Committee and its Mediation Working Group. She served as the judicial liaison to the Court's Local Rules

Advisory Committee, coordinated the Court's POWER Act programs and the Court's Civil Discourse programs for high school students, and chaired the 2024 District Conference planning group.

Magistrate Judge Cohen was recalled for an additional year.

District of Massachusetts

In 2023, Judge Gorton served on the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation.

Judge Casper served on the Judicial Conference of the United States (JCUS) Committee on Defender Services and the Judiciary Bureau of Prisons Working Group.

Judge Mastroianni served on the JCUS Committee on the Administration of the Magistrate Judges System and represented the District of Massachusetts on the First Circuit Judicial Council IT Committee.

Judge Sorokin served on the JCUS Committee on Court Administration and Case Management.

Judge Burroughs served on the JCUS Committee on Information Technology (IT) and the First Circuit Judicial Council IT Committee.

Judge Guzman was sworn in as a district judge for the District of Massachusetts on March 3, 2023.

On July 14, 2023, Judge Joun was sworn in as a district judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Judge Kobick was sworn in as a district judge for the District of Massachusetts on November 13, 2023. She was recognized by

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly as one of the Massachusetts "Top Women of Law."

Judge Zobel received the Sandra Day O'Connor Award from the National College in Washington, D.C., on November 2, 2023.

On September 16, 2023, Judge Harrington retired from judicial service.

In 2023, Judge O'Toole served on the JCUS Committee on Judicial Security.

Magistrate Judge Cabell became Chief Magistrate Judge on June 16, 2023 and served on the JCUS Committee on Judicial Security in 2023.

Magistrate Judge Dein was recognized by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* as one of Massachusetts "Top Women of Law."

Magistrate Judge Boal served on the Civil Rules Advisory Committee.

District of New Hampshire

In 2023, Chief Judge McCafferty served as a member of the First Circuit Judicial Council Workplace Conduct Committee, the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) Education Advisory Committee, the First Circuit Judicial Council Civil Outreach and Education Committee, and the New Hampshire Bar Law Related Education Committee, and as the Chair of the Federal Court Advisory Committee and the Facility Security Committee. She also continued to oversee the District's educational outreach program, visit high schools in the state remotely and in person, and preside over off-site naturalization ceremonies. Chief Judge McCafferty received the 2023 Civil Justice Award from the New Hampshire Association for Justice for her creative, thoughtful, and science-based response to the challenges presented by the pandemic.

Judge Laplante served on the JCUS Committee on Criminal Law, the First Circuit Judicial Council and its IT and Alternative Sentencing Committees, the New Hampshire Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, and the New Hampshire Bar Association's Committee on Cooperation with the Courts. In 2023, he also chaired the First Circuit Judicial Council Access to Justice Committee; taught statutory interpretation at Boston College Law School, Georgetown Law School, and University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law; and served on the board of the Federal Judges Association.

Judge Elliott chaired the Civil and Bankruptcy Subcommittee of the First Circuit Judicial Council Post-Pandemic Operations Committee. She also was a member of the First Circuit Judicial Council Access to Justice Committee and the Daniel Webster-Batchelder Inn of Court.

Judge Barbadoro served on the JCUS Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Magistrate Judge Johnstone continued to serve as a member of the New Hampshire Bar Association's Committee on Cooperation with the Courts and the Daniel Webster-Batchelder Inn of Court. In 2023, she completed her second year of a three-year term with the Magistrate Judges Advisory Group.

Magistrate Judge Saint-Marc was appointed to the District of New Hampshire on June 26, 2023, and her formal investiture was held in June 2023. In 2023, she served on the Administrative Office of the United States Courts' (AO) Human Resources Advisory Council and was a member of the Diversity Committee and the Civics Education and Outreach Committee for the Federal Magistrate Judge Association.

With the appointment of Magistrate Judge Saint-Marc, Clerk of Court Lynch's role as a magistrate judge lapsed in June 2023. In 2023, Clerk Lynch served on the Criminal Subcommittee of the First Circuit Judicial Council Post-Pandemic Operations Committee, the New Hampshire Committee on the Judiciary and the Media, and the New Hampshire Bar Association's Committee on Cooperation with the Courts.

District of Puerto Rico

On March 1, 2023, Judge Méndez-Miró was sworn in as a district judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

On October 20, 2023, Magistrate Judge Ramos-Vega was sworn in as a magistrate judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

District of Rhode Island

In 2023, Chief Judge McConnell continued to serve on the JCUS Codes of Conduct Committee and the First Circuit Workplace Conduct Committee. He also co-chaired the First Circuit Judicial Council Post-Pandemic Operations Committee.

Judge Smith continued to serve on the JCUS Judicial Resources Committee and as a faculty member and mentor for new judges and other programs for the FJC. He taught at Roger Williams University School of Law and chaired its Board of Directors. Judge Smith served as Co-Chair of the First Circuit Judicial Council Alternative Sentencing Committee.

Judge McElroy continued to serve on the Judicial Council of the First Circuit.

Magistrate Judge Sullivan served on the JCUS Court Administration and Case Management Committee and the First Circuit Judicial Council Workplace Conduct Committee and

Access to Justice Committee, and was an observer member of the First Circuit Judicial Council. She also was the Treasurer and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Roger Williams University School of Law.

Honorable Ronald R. Lagueux, who served with the Court for thirty years, passed away on May 3, 2023.

Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine

In 2023, Chief Judge Cary served as the Chair to the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Academic Recognition Committee, and as the Treasurer of the State-Federal Judicial Council and as a member of its Executive Committee. He also served on the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Elections Committee, the First Circuit Judicial Council Workplace Conduct Committee, and the First Circuit Access to Justice Committee and on its Bankruptcy Court Subcommittee, and as an observer member of the First Circuit Judicial Council. Additionally, Chief Judge Cary served as an instructor for the FJC Chief Judges Leadership Training and presented at various educational seminars, including, but not limited to, those hosted by the FJC, the First Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine, the American Bankruptcy Institute, and the Maine State Bar Association.

In 2023, Judge Fagone served as Secretary on the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. Judge Fagone also served on the following committees: JCUS Committee on Federal State Jurisdiction; the First Circuit Judicial Council IT Committee; the American Bankruptcy Institute's Executive Committee; and the John Waldo Ballou Inn of Court Planning Committee.

***Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Massachusetts***

In 2023, Chief Judge Katz served as Chair for the Court's Diversity Initiative Task Force, Chair of the Building Security Committee at the Springfield Courthouse, Co-Chair for the Court's Local Rules Advisory Committee, and as a member of the Court's Technology Committee. Chief Judge Katz also served as Co-Chair to the Western Massachusetts Bankruptcy Conference, a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and its Public Outreach Committee, and as a fellow for the Massachusetts Bar Foundation.

In 2023, Judge Christopher J. Panos served as Co-Chair of the Court's Local Rules Advisory Committee and of the Diversity Initiative Task Force, Chair of the First Circuit Access to Justice Committee's Bankruptcy Subcommittee, and Judicial Chair of the M. Ellen Carpenter Financial Literacy Program, a collaboration between the Boston Bar Association and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts. Judge Panos was also a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association Complex Commercial Litigation Section Council and the Bankruptcy Court's Technology Committee. He also served as a member of the JCUS Committee on Administration of the Bankruptcy System and the American Bankruptcy Institute Northeast Conference Planning Committee, and as a Liaison for the JCUS Committee on Court Administration and Case Management's Broadcasting Subcommittee. In 2023, Judge Panos was a member of the District of Massachusetts' Central Division Courthouse Security Committee.

Judge Janet E. Bostwick served as Co-Chair of the Court's Pro Bono Committee and as Director of the American College of Bankruptcy. Further, Judge Bostwick served as the American Bar Association Co-Chair for

the Business Bankruptcy Committee's Subcommittee on Administration and Courts and as Boston City Co-Chair for the Roadways to the Bench April 2023 Event for the JCUS Committees on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and the Magistrate Judges System. In 2023, Judge Bostwick was also a member of the following committees: First Circuit Post-Pandemic Operations Committee (Civil & Bankruptcy and Access to Justice Subcommittees); the Court's Technology Committee; American College of Bankruptcy's Pro Bono, Nominating, and Judicial Nominating Committees; and the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' Next Gen, New Member, Member Services, Public Outreach, and Engaging Young Professionals Committees.

***Bankruptcy Court
for the District of New Hampshire***

On August 11, 2023, Chief Judge Harwood announced that he would retire from the bench in August 2024. In 2023, Chief Judge Harwood continued serving on the American Bankruptcy Institute's Board of Directors and on its Executive Committee and as the Vice President of its Communications and Technology Committee. He also spoke on several panels at the American Bankruptcy Institute's Annual Spring Meeting in April, its Northeast Conference in July, and its Winter Leadership Conference in December, and at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges' annual meeting in October. Chief Judge Harwood served as a member of the Bankruptcy Court Subcommittee on the First Circuit's Access to Justice Committee and joined the AO's Bankruptcy Judges Advisory Group.

***Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Puerto Rico***

In 2023, Chief Judge Mildred Cabán continued to serve on the Board of the FJC and its Education Committee for Bankruptcy Judges. She served on the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Board of Governors, as a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Public Outreach Committee, and as the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges liaison for the Hispanic National Bar Association. She served as the Co-Chair for the federal judiciary's 2023 Roadways to the Bench program. During 2023, Chief Judge Cabán also served as a volunteer coordinator and member of the Advisory Board for C.A.R.E. (Credit Abuse Resistance Education). Additionally, she served on the Committee on the Federal Bar Examination for the District of Puerto Rico and on the First Circuit Judicial Council Civics Outreach and Education Committee. In 2023, Chief Judge Cabán helped plan and moderated the FJC National Bankruptcy Judges Workshops, was faculty for FJC and American Bankruptcy Institute programs, and attended various conferences.

In 2023, Judge Lamoutte continued to serve on the Federal Bar Examination Committee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico. Judge Lamoutte participated in a panel at the Ninth Bankruptcy Symposium and at the Northeast Bankruptcy Conference & Consumer Forum of the American Bankruptcy Institute. Further, Judge Lamoutte participated in the 2023 Roadways to the Bench program and attended various workshops and conferences. He also served as a member on the Caribbean Insolvency Committee and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for the American Bankruptcy Institute.

In 2023, Judge Godoy served as Co-Chair of

the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Schwartz Roundtable Committee and as a member of the First Circuit Judicial Council IT Committee and of the Bankruptcy Subcommittee to the First Circuit Judicial Council Access to Justice Committee. In October 2023, Judge Godoy participated in a panel at the XIX Congress of the Ibero-American Institute of Bankruptcy. In April 2023, Judge Godoy participated in 2023 Roadways to the Bench program.

In 2023, Judge María de los Angeles González served as a member of the Planning Committee for the 2024 American Bankruptcy Institute Caribbean Insolvency Symposium, and as a member of the Planning Committee for the 2024 First Circuit Judicial Conference. Judge González also served as a panelist at the Ninth Bankruptcy Symposium and participated in the 2023 Roadways to the Bench program. In the summer of 2023, Judge González gave an in-person presentation at the Old San Juan Courthouse to a group of summer interns from local law firms. Judge González also attended various conferences and workshops during 2023.

***Bankruptcy Court
for the District of Rhode Island***

In 2023, Judge Finkle served as a member of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges and as the Chair of its Ethics Advisory Committee. Judge Finkle also served on the First Circuit Judicial Council Access to Justice Committee. In April 2023, Judge Finkle attended the FJC Annual Bankruptcy Judges Workshop.

Work of the Courts

Court of Appeals

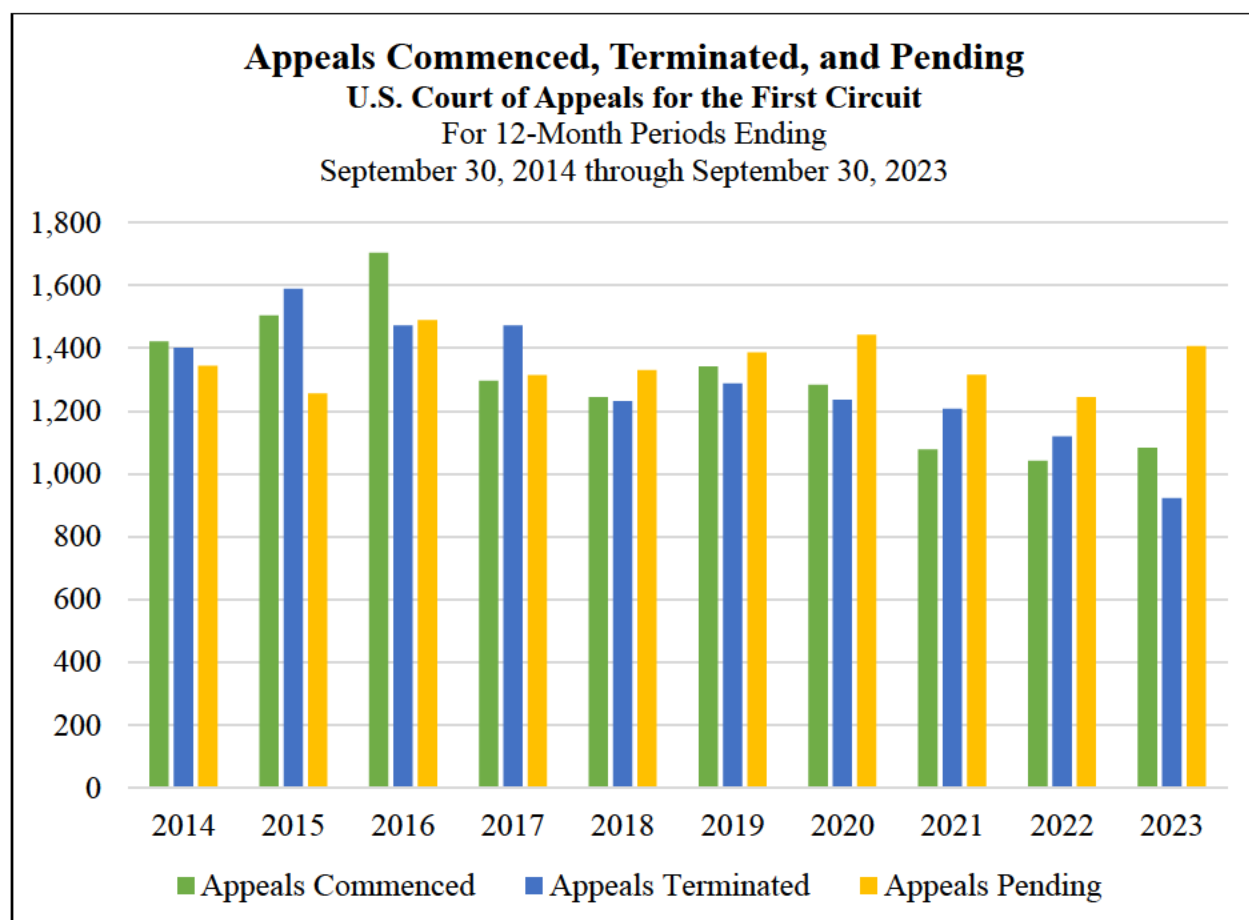
Statistical Report

Courts of Appeals Caseload Summary Appeals Commenced, Terminated, and Pending, by Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2023									
Circuit	<u>Commenced</u>			<u>Terminated</u>			<u>Pending*</u>		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
Total	41,839	39,987	-4.4%	44,902	40,636	-9.5%	32,512	32,039	-1.5%
D.C.	995	1,050	5.5%	947	768	-18.9%	1,150	1,433	24.6%
First	1,042	1,083	3.9%	1,119	923	-17.5%	1,245	1,407	13.0%
Second	3,816	3,573	-6.4%	4,031	3,501	-13.1%	3,598	3,729	3.6%
Third	2,487	2,513	1.0%	2,576	2,540	-1.4%	1,946	1,920	-1.3%
Fourth	3,930	3,671	-6.6%	4,064	3,865	-4.9%	3,042	2,848	-6.4%
Fifth	5,905	5,568	-5.7%	6,732	5,864	-12.9%	3,724	3,429	-7.9%
Sixth	3,602	3,366	-6.6%	3,695	3,307	-10.5%	2,459	2,519	2.4%
Seventh	2,426	2,555	5.3%	2,386	2,501	4.8%	1,738	1,792	3.1%
Eighth	2,822	2,843	0.7%	2,572	2,788	8.4%	1,608	1,736	8.0%
Ninth	8,559	7,784	-9.1%	10,492	8,581	-18.2%	7,847	7,053	-10.1%
Tenth	1,593	1,742	9.4%	1,601	1,726	7.8%	1,088	1,103	1.4%
Eleventh	4,662	4,239	-9.1%	4,687	4,272	-8.9%	3,067	3,070	0.1%

* Pending caseloads for 2022 as revised by the AO.

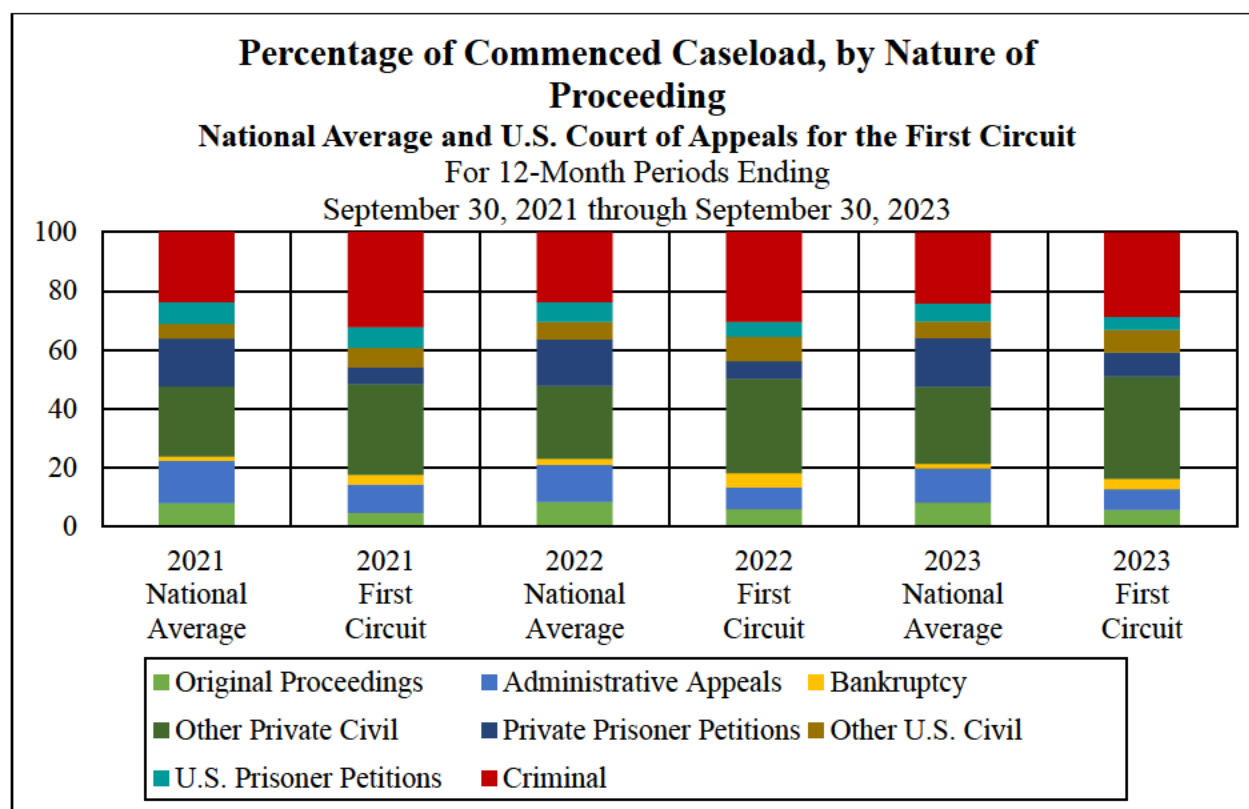
Source of Appeals and Original Proceedings U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2016 through September 30, 2023								
Source	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
First Circuit Totals*	1,704	1,296	1,245	1,342	1,284	1,077	1,042	1,083
Maine	117	116	102	103	97	113	78	87
Massachusetts	499	377	464	486	448	341	359	404
New Hampshire	86	90	82	78	67	61	71	67
Puerto Rico	461	372	284	376	329	295	269	263
Rhode Island	45	87	71	66	65	78	76	85
Bankruptcy	28	33	39	40	45	34	51	39
U.S. Tax Court	4	2	3	0	1	0	3	2
National Labor Relations Board	8	6	3	3	8	5	2	1
Board of Immigration Appeals	83	68	84	76	106	93	65	73
Administrative Agencies (Total)	105	88	100	88	122	104	77	76
Original Proceedings	363	133	103	105	111	51	61	62

**Totals include reopened, remanded, and reinstated appeals, as well as original appeals.*

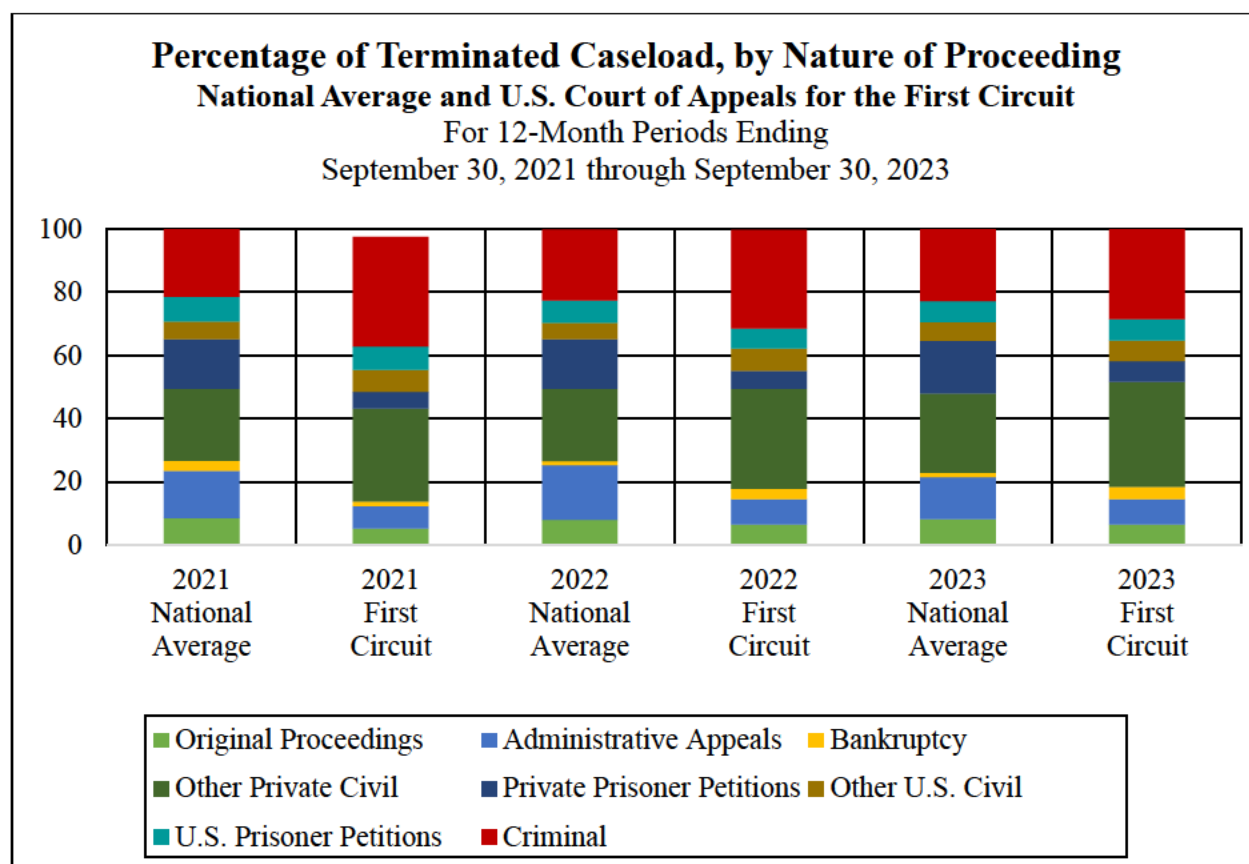


Appeals Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2014 through September 30, 2023										
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Appeals Commenced	1,421	1,504	1,704	1,296	1,245	1,342	1,284	1,077	1,042	1,083
Appeals Terminated	1,401	1,589	1,472	1,472	1,232	1,288	1,236	1,207	1,119	923
Appeals Pending*	1,343	1,256	1,490	1,317	1,330	1,387	1,443	1,315	1,245	1,407

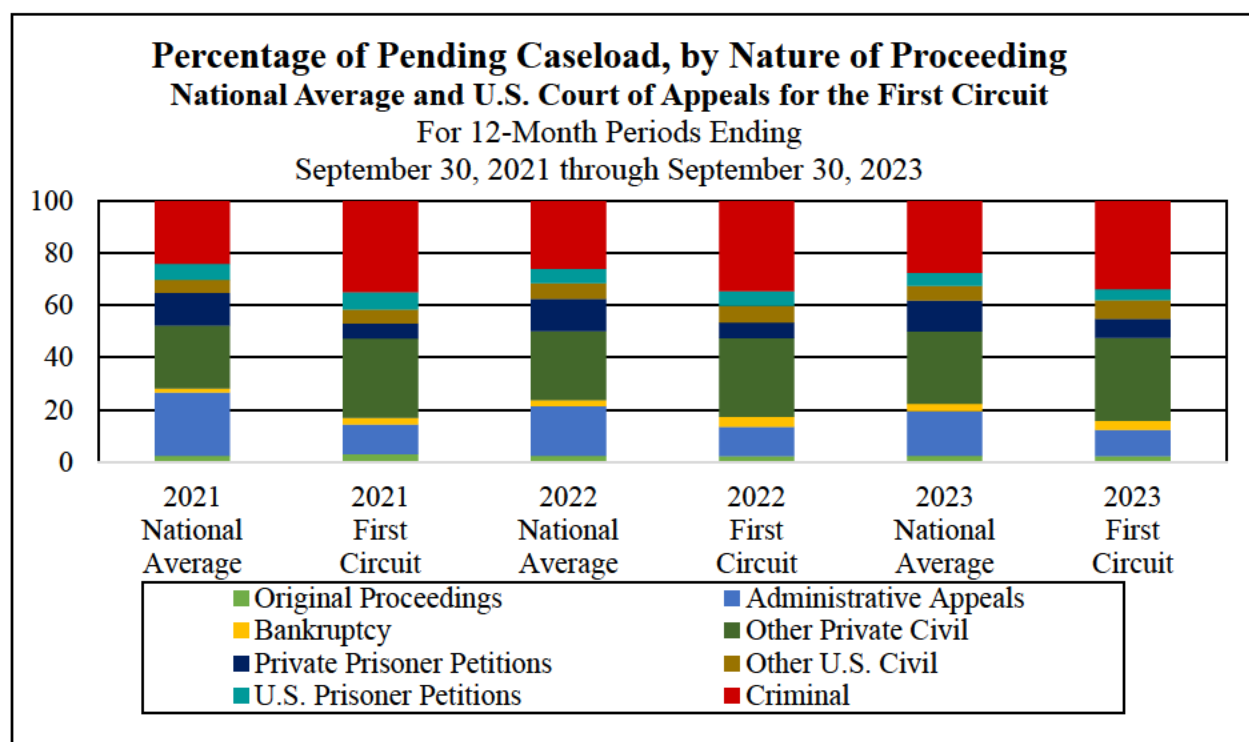
*Pending caseloads for 2014 - 2022 as revised by the AO.



Percentage of Commenced Caseload, by Nature of Proceeding National Average and U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through September 30, 2023						
	2021		2022		2023	
	National Average	First Circuit	National Average	First Circuit	National Average	First Circuit
Criminal	23.9	32.3	23.8	30.7	24.1	28.6
U.S. Prisoner Petitions	7.3	7.1	6.7	5.0	6.2	4.5
Other U.S. Civil	5.0	6.6	5.9	8.3	5.6	7.6
Private Prisoner Petitions	16.3	5.7	15.8	6.0	16.5	8.2
Other Private Civil	23.7	30.8	24.7	32.0	26.1	34.7
Bankruptcy	1.6	3.2	2.0	4.9	1.6	3.6
Administrative Appeals	14.3	9.7	12.6	7.4	11.6	7.0
Original Proceedings and Miscellaneous Applications	8.0	4.7	8.5	5.9	8.2	5.7



Percentage of Terminated Caseload, by Nature of Proceeding National Average and U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through September 30, 2023						
	2021		2022		2023	
	National Average	First Circuit	National Average	First Circuit	National Average	First Circuit
Criminal	23.2	34.8	22.5	31.2	22.8	28.5
U.S. Prisoner Petitions	7.9	7.4	7.1	6.4	6.7	6.7
Other U.S. Civil	5.5	6.9	5.1	7.1	5.9	6.6
Private Prisoner Petitions	15.8	5.3	15.8	5.7	16.7	6.6
Other Private Civil	22.8	29.5	22.9	31.6	25.1	33.2
Bankruptcy	1.4	3.8	1.3	3.3	1.4	3.9
Administrative Appeals	15.0	7.1	17.2	8.0	13.2	8.0
Original Proceedings and Miscellaneous Applications	8.5	5.2	8.0	6.5	8.2	6.5



Percentage of Pending Caseload,* by Nature of Proceeding National Average and U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through September 30, 2023						
	2021		2022		2023	
	National Average	First Circuit	National Average	First Circuit	National Average	First Circuit
Criminal	24.0	34.8	25.9	34.5	27.5	33.8
U.S. Prisoner Petitions	6.2	6.7	5.6	5.6	5.0	4.1
Other U.S. Civil	5.0	5.3	6.0	6.4	5.6	7.2
Private Prisoner Petitions	12.5	5.8	12.3	6.0	11.9	7.3
Other Private Civil	24.1	30.3	26.4	30.1	27.6	31.7
Bankruptcy	1.5	2.6	2.4	3.9	2.9	3.6
Administrative Appeals	24.3	11.4	19.0	11.2	17.1	10.0
Original Proceedings and Miscellaneous Applications	2.4	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.3

*Pending caseloads for 2021 and 2022 as revised by the AO.

U.S. Courts of Appeals Median Time Intervals in Months, by Circuit, For Cases Terminated After Hearing or Submission For 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2023 (From Filing of Notice of Appeal to Final Disposition)		
Circuit	No. of Cases	Interval
National Average	24,534	9.8
D.C.	395	10.9
First	637	13.7
Second	1,869	13.9
Third	1,620	8.2
Fourth	2,717	8.9
Fifth	3,454	8.3
Sixth	2,043	8.7
Seventh	1,206	9.2
Eighth	2,004	4.5
Ninth	5,205	13.7
Tenth	1,059	9.7
Eleventh	2,325	9.4

Percentage of Terminations on the Merits National Average and U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023						
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
After Oral Hearing	1st Cir.	20.3	22.4	30.0	29.2	29.4
	Nat'l	18.9	17.7	20.1	19.6	20.1
After Submission	1st Cir.	74.0	72.2	61.2	63.5	65.2
	Nat'l	73.8	74.0	73.0	73.5	72.6
By Consolidation	1st Cir.	5.7	5.4	8.8	7.3	5.3
	Nat'l	7.3	8.3	6.9	6.9	7.0

Clerk's Office

Federal and Local Rules Amendments

In December 2023, the Local Rules were amended in accordance with the updated Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Conferences/Outreach

On March 15, 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit hosted a presentation by Margaret D. McGaughey, former Appellate Chief of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maine, entitled "First Circuit Insights," in which she provided advice for effective oral argument based on her interviews of state and federal appellate jurists and her experience in arguing hundreds of appeals in the First Circuit.

Statistics

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, the Court of Appeals reported 1,083 filings, compared with 1,042 filings in FY 2022, a 3.9% increase in filings. Case terminations decreased by 17.5%, from 1,119 in FY 2022 to 923 in FY 2023. During the same period, pending cases decreased by 13.0%, from 1,245 in FY 2022 to 1,407 in FY 2023. See supra p. 14.

For this time period, the largest sources of appeals were the Districts of Massachusetts (404) and Puerto Rico (263). The number of appeals from the Districts of Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire were 87, 85, and 67, respectively. There were 76 appeals from administrative agencies, most of which were from the Board of Immigration Appeals (73). The remaining cases were original proceedings and miscellaneous applications (62) and bankruptcy appeals (39). See supra p. 15.

In FY 2023, civil cases (including prisoner petitions) represented 55.0% of the appeals commenced in the First Circuit, and criminal appeals represented 28.6% of appeals commenced. The remaining 16.4% consisted of agency appeals, bankruptcy appeals, original proceedings, and miscellaneous applications. See supra p. 17.

Office of the Staff Attorneys

The Office of the Staff Attorneys (Staff Attorneys' Office) performs research for the judges of the Court of Appeals. During calendar year 2023, the office consisted of one senior staff attorney, one supervisory staff attorney, approximately 17 staff attorneys, and one support staff.

The following numbers of matters were referred by the Clerk's Office to the Staff Attorneys' Office for processing in 2023 (31 more matters than in 2022):

January	170
February	152
March	160
April	148
May	172
June	165
July	156
August	188
September	184
October	223
November	177
December	206
Total	2,101

In addition, there were 99 pro se or social security submitted cases (24 fewer than in 2022) and 58 sua sponte summary dispositions assigned in counseled, briefed cases (21 more than in 2022).

Types of matters referred to the Staff Attorneys' Office included: applications for

certificate of appealability; applications for leave to file second or successive habeas petitions; motions for summary affirmance or dismissal; mandamus petitions; Anders briefs; motions for stay or bail; section 1292(b) petitions; applications to file an interlocutory appeal under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(f); and other miscellaneous matters.

Civil Appeals Management Program

The First Circuit's Civil Appeals Management Program is governed by Local Rule 33.0. After a notice of appeal is filed in the Clerk's Office, the Court notifies the appellant of the program. The Clerk also notifies settlement counsel of all civil appeals considered eligible for the program.

Pursuant to the Local Rule, settlement counsel may direct counsel to attend a conference to consider settlement, the simplification of issues, and any other matters that may facilitate disposition of the proceeding. The Local Rule applies to civil appeals, except habeas corpus, prisoner petitions, pro se cases, National Labor Relations Board appeals, enforcement petitions, and original proceedings. Generally, settlement counsel requires pre-argument conferences in eligible cases, unless settlement counsel determines that there is no reasonable likelihood of settlement.

Appellants are required to submit electronically copies of the orders, memoranda, or opinions from which the appeal has been taken. If the parties choose, they may also file a confidential memorandum containing, inter alia, the history of any settlement negotiations, the major points of error on appeal, factors which may affect a party's chances of prevailing upon appeal, and the terms and conditions upon which the case may reasonably be settled. The attorneys are

also informed that their clients are required to attend the conference unless excused.

Conferences can last from a few hours to a full day or more. If a case does not settle during the initial conference, settlement counsel will follow-up with counsel by telephone. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, most conferences were conducted in-person; however, most conferences are now conducted via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

When the process is complete, a report is filed with the Clerk's Office indicating whether the case settled. The substance of any conference discussions or other information is confidential.

In December 2023, after 17 years as the First Circuit's settlement counsel mediating cases appealed from the District of Puerto Rico, Honorable Charles A. Cordero (ret.) retired. Upon Judge Cordero's retirement, Honorable Patrick J. King (ret.), who previously mediated cases appealed from the Districts of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, and, began also mediating appeals arising from the District of Puerto Rico.

In FY 2023, of the 320 cases that were opened, one or more conferences were held in 119 cases, which produced 52 settlements (approximately 44% of mediated cases).

Library

Overview

The First Circuit U.S. Court Library system provides services to the judges and court staff of the First Circuit Court of Appeals, and the District and Bankruptcy Courts in the Circuit. There are four libraries in the system: the headquarters Library, located in the Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston, Massachusetts;

and satellite libraries in the District courthouses in Concord, New Hampshire; Hato Rey, Puerto Rico; and Providence, Rhode Island. There is no satellite library in Maine. The Satellite Librarian in Concord, New Hampshire, provides services to the Maine District and Bankruptcy Courts located in Portland and Bangor.

Personnel

On-board staff at the end of FY 2023 was distributed among the libraries as follows: five full-time in Boston (including the Circuit Librarian), two full-time staff in Hato Rey, one full-time staff in Concord, and one full-time staff working between Providence and Boston. The Boston library has a larger staff due to the centralized budget and financial responsibilities, a larger collection, and the need to provide services to the public. The Boston library is open to the public three days a week.

Legal Research Resources

The Library's FY 2023 legal research resources allotment increased by 2.8% from FY 2022, while prices for both print and electronic resources continued to rise. The percentage increase varied among the legal resource vendors, ranging from 5% to 15%. Spending in electronic resources was approximately 16.1% of the legal resources budget, an increase from the previous year (11.7%). The Library continued to work with chambers in reducing print subscriptions.

Space and Facilities

The Boston library is working with the Office of the Circuit Executive and other stakeholders to transform part of the library space into the Justice Stephen G. Breyer Community Learning Center on Courts and

the Constitution, which is anticipated to open in late 2024.

The library in Hato Rey is being moved to the Old San Juan Courthouse next year, which requires staff to minimize the collection to fit into the smaller space but aligns with the Library's strategic plan of streamlining the print collection.

Bankruptcy Appellate Panel

Overview

The BAP, which employs a clerk, a law clerk, and a part-time case manager, is located at the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse. In 2023, the BAP continued to conduct oral arguments virtually, a practice established in July 2020.

Conferences/Outreach

In April 2023, the BAP hosted an open house for the judges to view the new Clerk's Office location at the Moakley Courthouse.

Clerk of Court Leslie Storm contributed to community legal education in March 2023 by joining then-BAP Chief Judge Godoy and the Hon. Joan N. Feeney, of the District of Massachusetts (ret.), in a Boston Bar Association webinar entitled "Bankruptcy Appeals Best Practices." In September 2023, Clerk Storm joined Chief Judge Katz, of the District of Massachusetts, and others in a presentation for the District Court's law clerks regarding bankruptcy basics. Additionally, Clerk Storm participated in the First Circuit Judicial Council's Access to Justice Committee Bankruptcy Subcommittee, focusing on forms simplification, and the Committee's District Court Subcommittee. The BAP implemented the goals of the Subcommittees by expanding the filing

methods available to unrepresented litigants and revising certain available forms.

Statistics

The BAP's caseload totaled 33 in 2023. The majority of cases received by the BAP in 2023 came from the District of Massachusetts' bankruptcy courts (67%), followed by the bankruptcy courts of the Districts of Puerto Rico (22%), Maine (7%), New Hampshire (4%), and Rhode Island (0%). Pro se litigants continued to file appeals in the BAP regularly, accounting for 52% of the total cases filed during this reporting period.

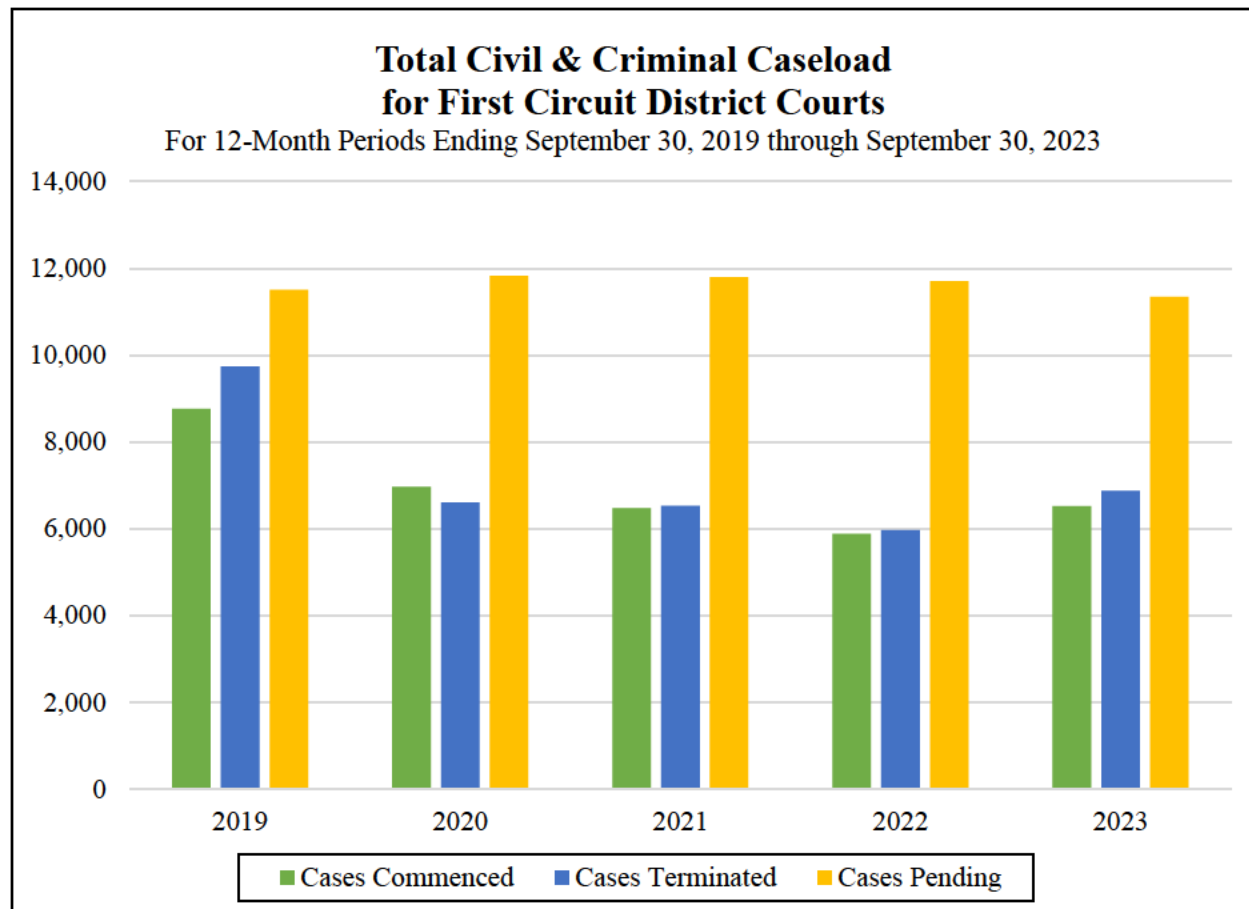
COOP

In 2023, the BAP's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) practices were updated.

U.S. Bankruptcy Appellate Panels Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending, by Circuit For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2022 and September 30, 2023									
<u>Circuit</u>	<u>Filed</u>			<u>Terminated</u>			<u>Pending*</u>		
	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change	2022	2023	% Change
First	43	35	-18.6	40	39	-2.5	18	14	-22.2
Sixth	25	27	8.0	35	29	-17.1	22	21	-4.5
Eighth	14	11	-21.4	15	13	-13.3	4	2	-50.0
Ninth	273	217	-20.5	265	241	-9.1	110	86	-21.8
Tenth	22	30	36.4	23	29	26.1	13	14	7.7
Total	377	320	-15.1	378	351	-7.1	167	137	-18.0

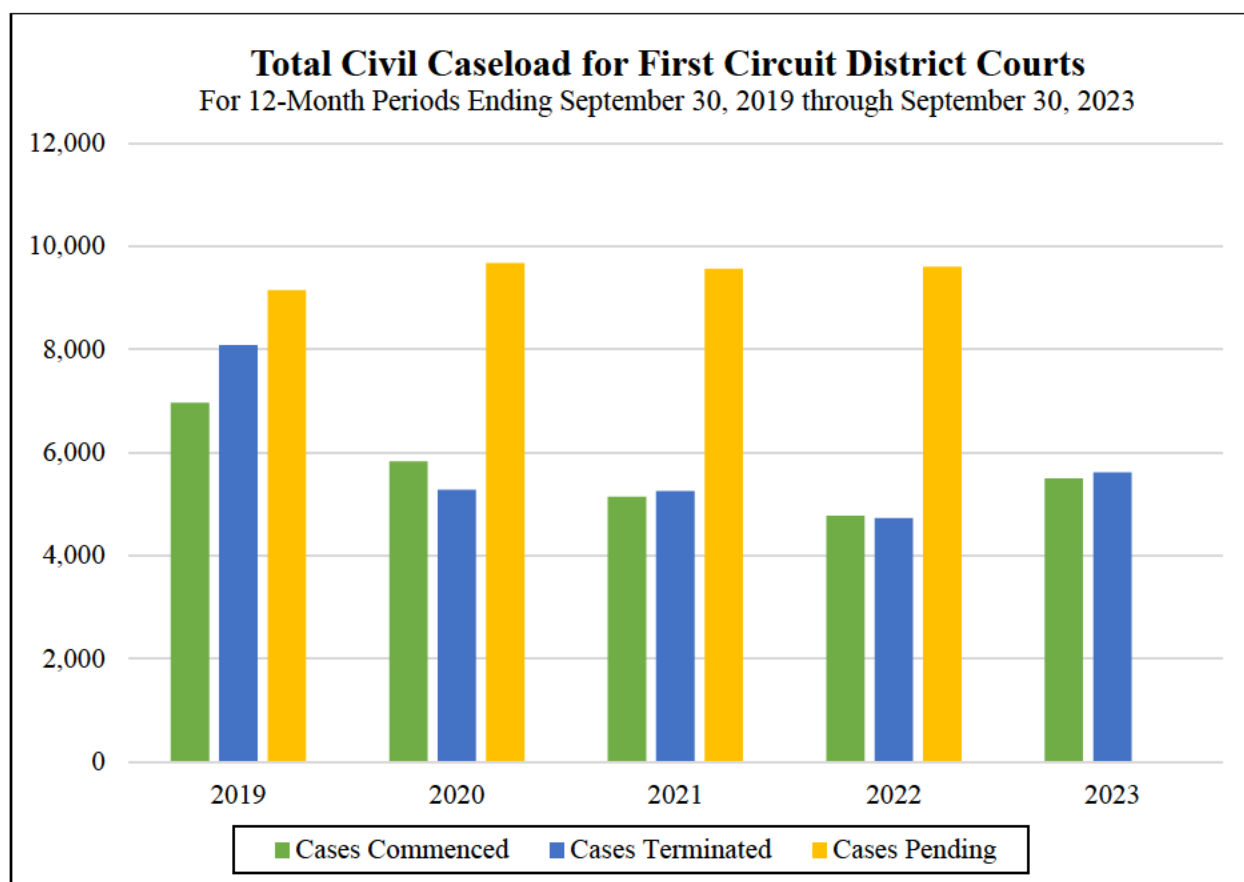
* Pending caseloads for 2022 as revised by the AO.

Statistical Report for District Courts in the First Circuit



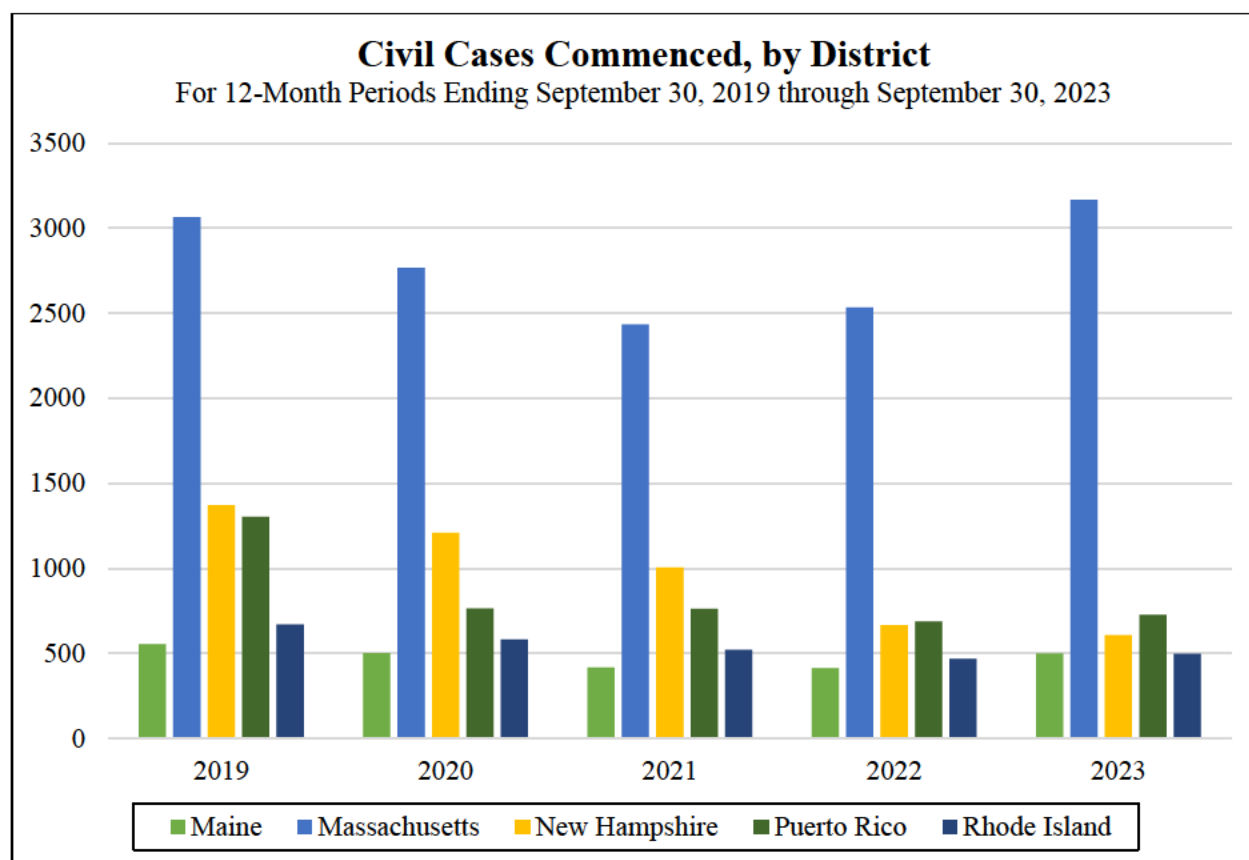
Total Civil & Criminal Caseload for First Circuit District Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	8,766	6,968	6,476	5,884	6,519
Cases Terminated	9,737	6,601	6,525	5,967	6,877
Cases Pending*	11,509	11,832	11,794	11,705	11,348

* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

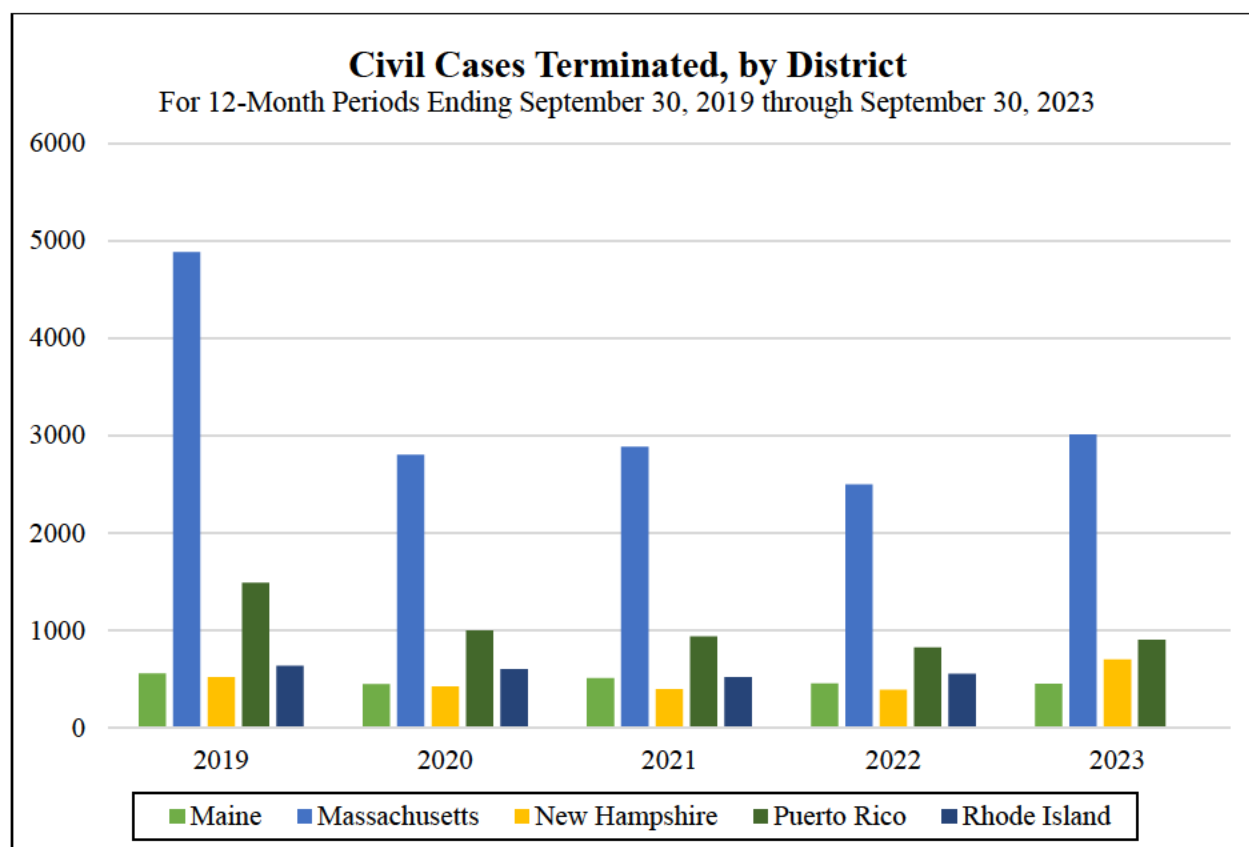


Total Civil Caseload for First Circuit District Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	6,960	5,824	5,139	4,769	5,493
Cases Terminated	8,083	5,274	5,247	4,724	5,612
Cases Pending*	9,113	9,669	9,561	9,599	9,475

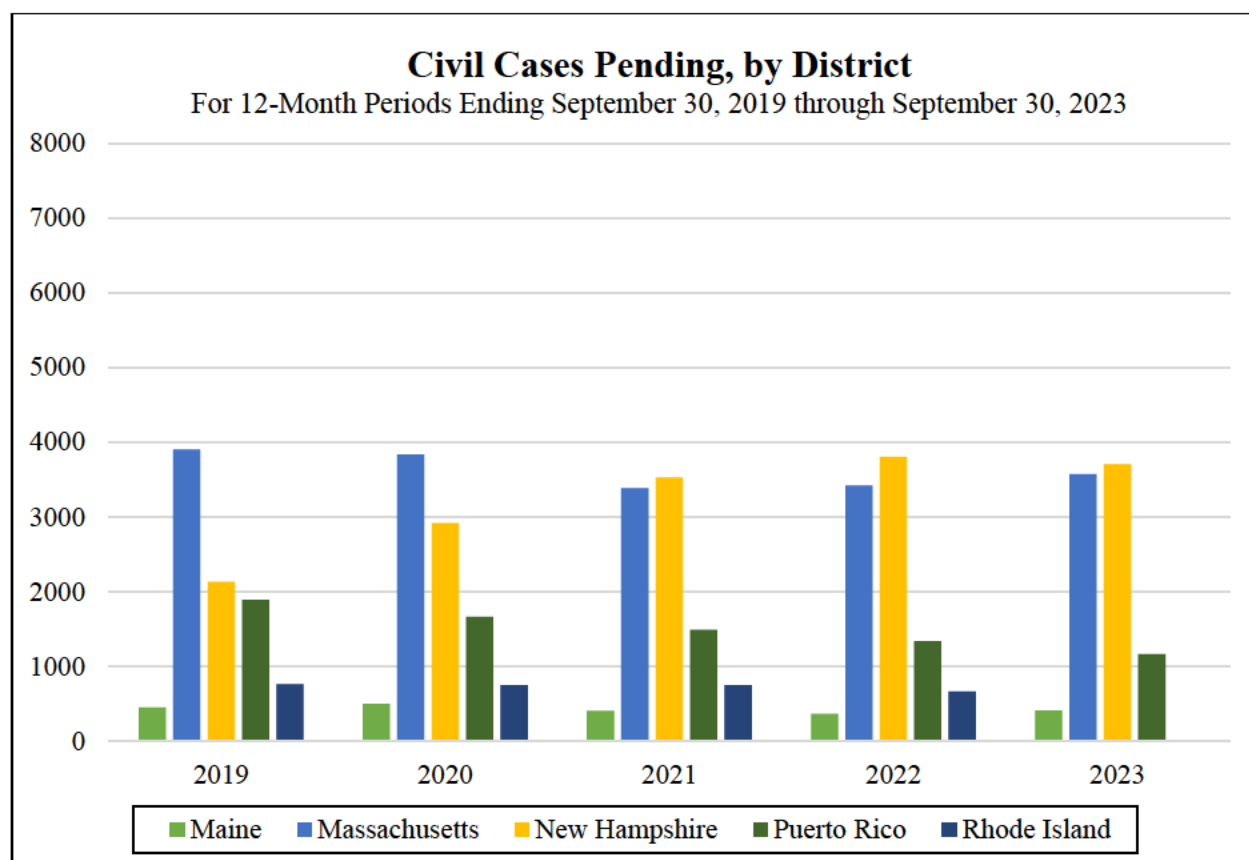
* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.



Civil Cases Commenced, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	554	502	417	414	499
Massachusetts	3,063	2,767	2,434	2,534	3,166
New Hampshire	1,370	1,209	1,004	667	606
Puerto Rico	1,303	764	763	686	726
Rhode Island	670	582	521	468	496

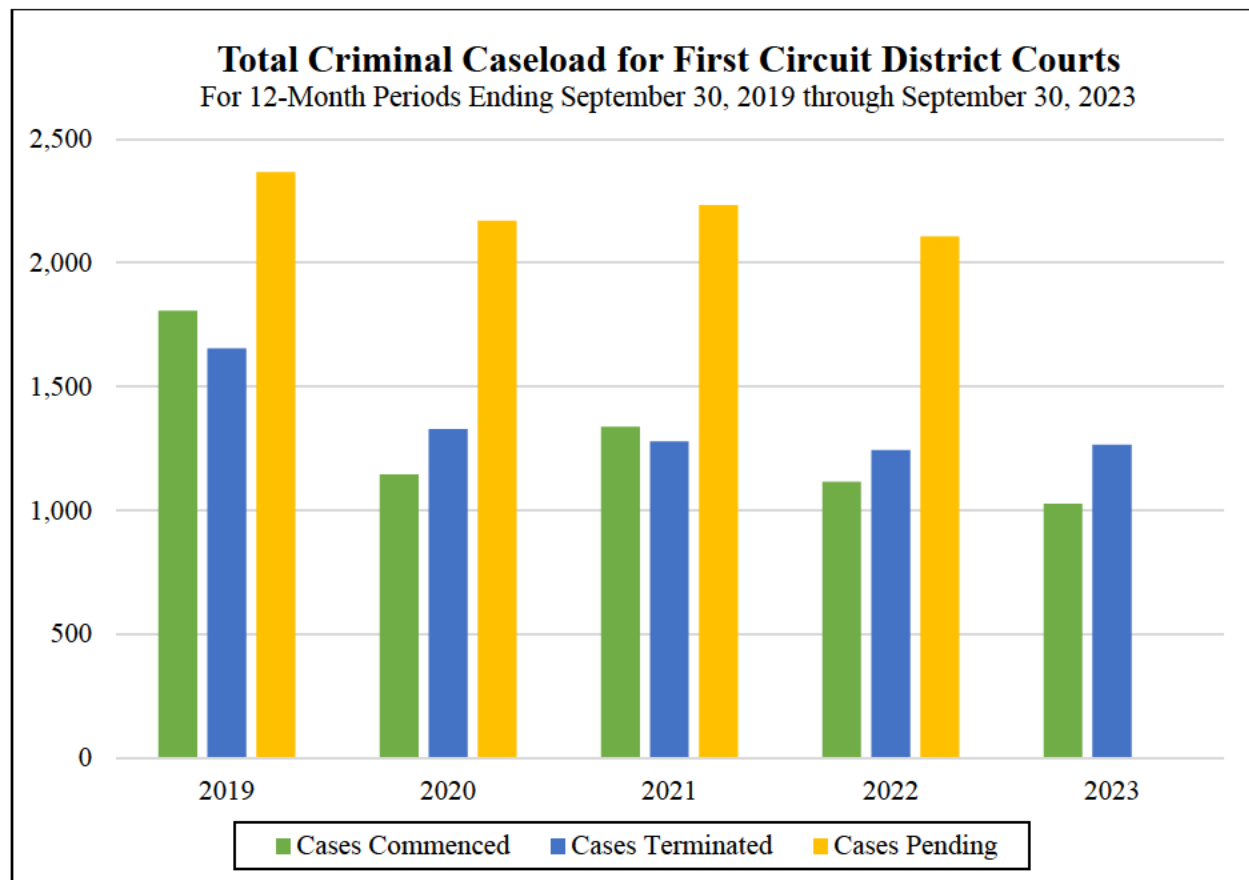


Civil Cases Terminated, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	558	450	511	456	452
Massachusetts	4,882	2,800	2,882	2,498	3,011
New Hampshire	519	424	398	389	702
Puerto Rico	1,487	998	938	826	902
Rhode Island	637	602	518	555	545

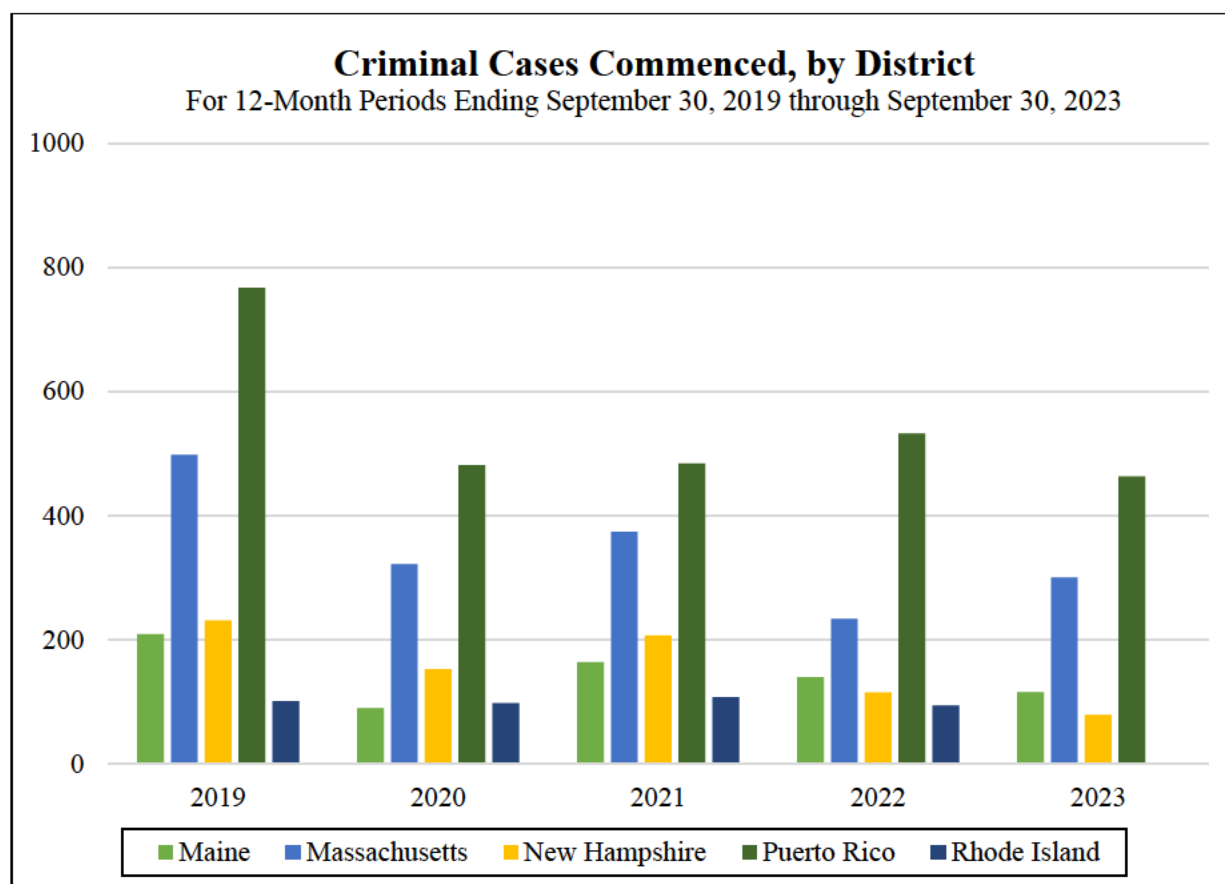


Civil Cases Pending,* by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	450	501	407	367	411
Massachusetts	3,870	3,834	3,386	3,419	3,752
New Hampshire	2,133	2,919	3,525	3,804	3,708
Puerto Rico	1,892	1,664	1,489	1,341	1,163
Rhode Island	768	751	754	668	621

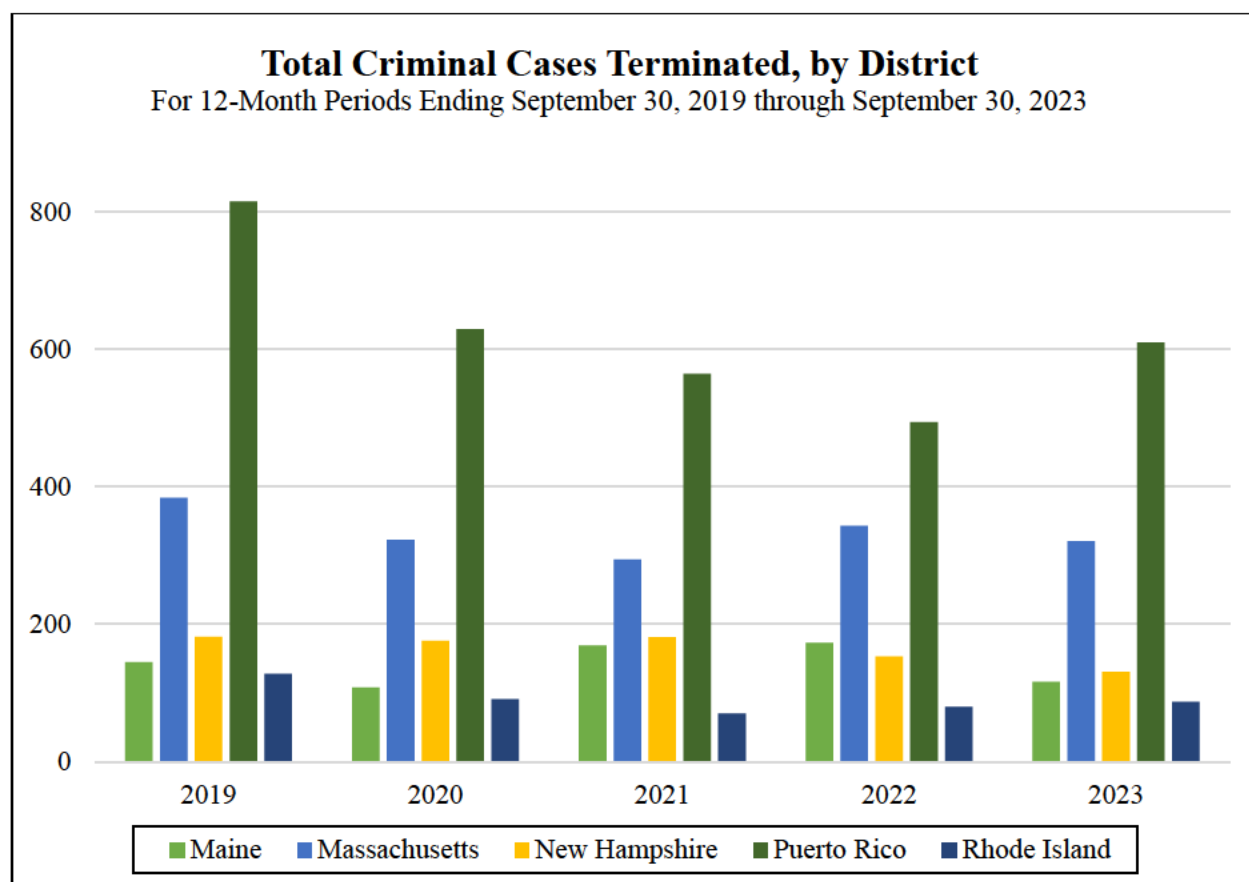
* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.



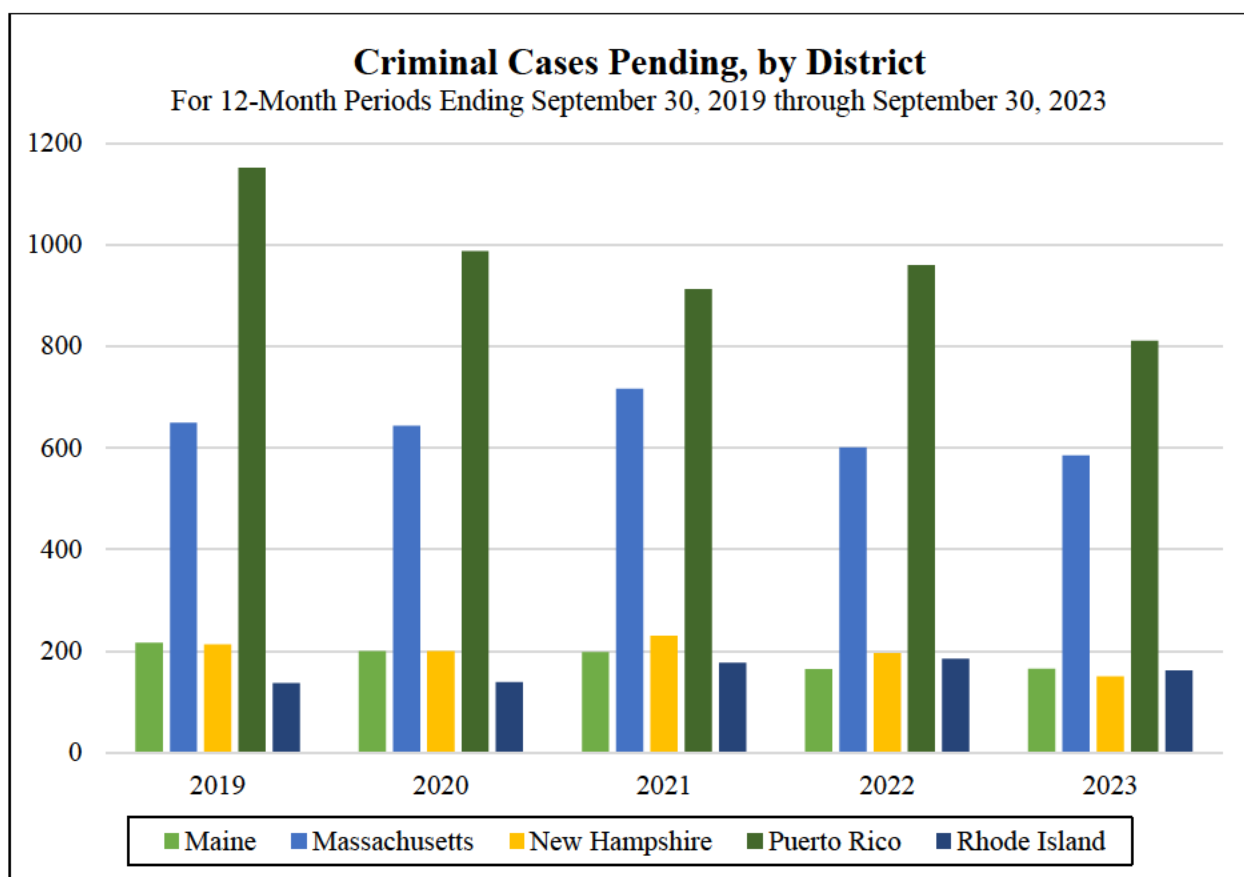
Total Criminal Caseload for First Circuit District Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	1,806	1,144	1,337	1,115	1,026
Cases Terminated	1,654	1,327	1,278	1,243	1,265
Cases Pending	2,366	2,169	2,233	2,106	1,873



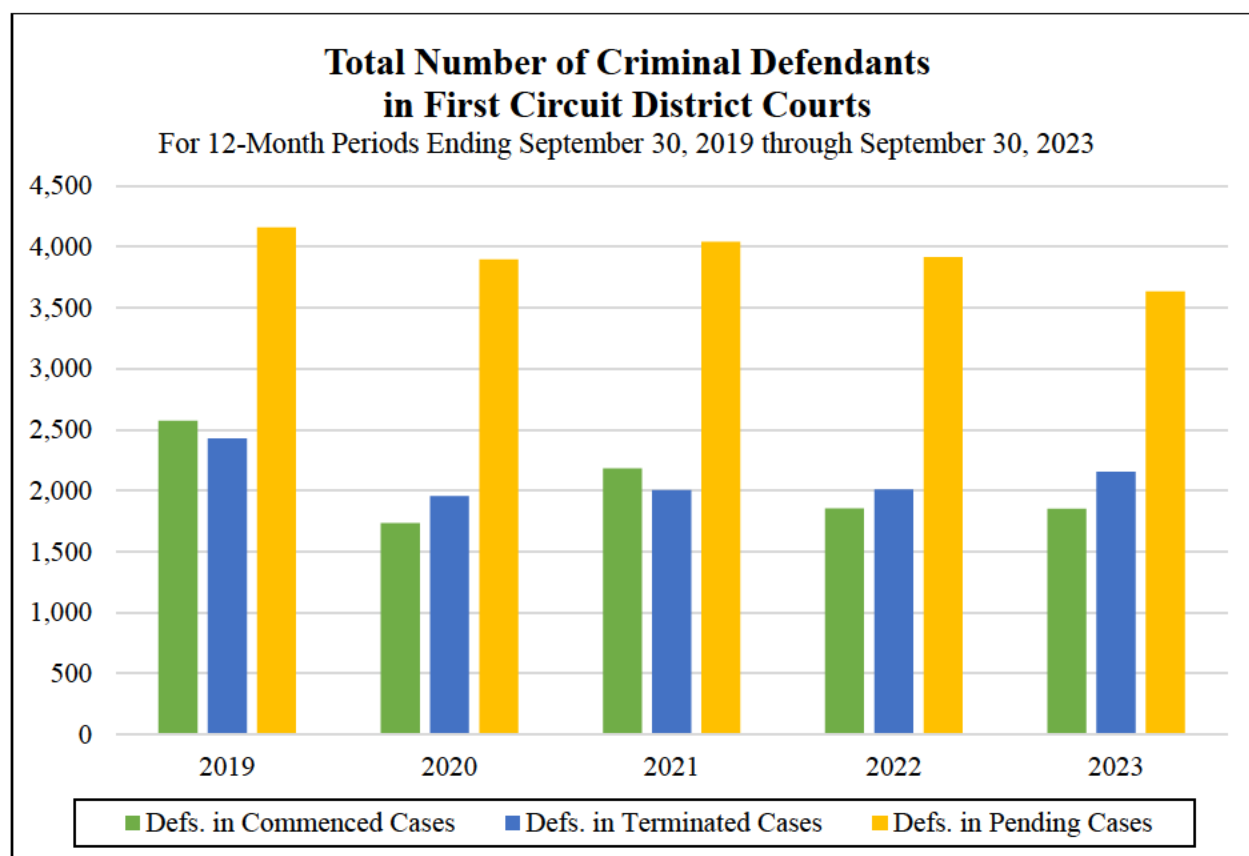
Criminal Cases Commenced, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	209	90	164	140	116
Massachusetts	498	322	374	234	300
New Hampshire	231	153	207	115	79
Puerto Rico	767	481	484	532	463
Rhode Island	101	98	108	94	68



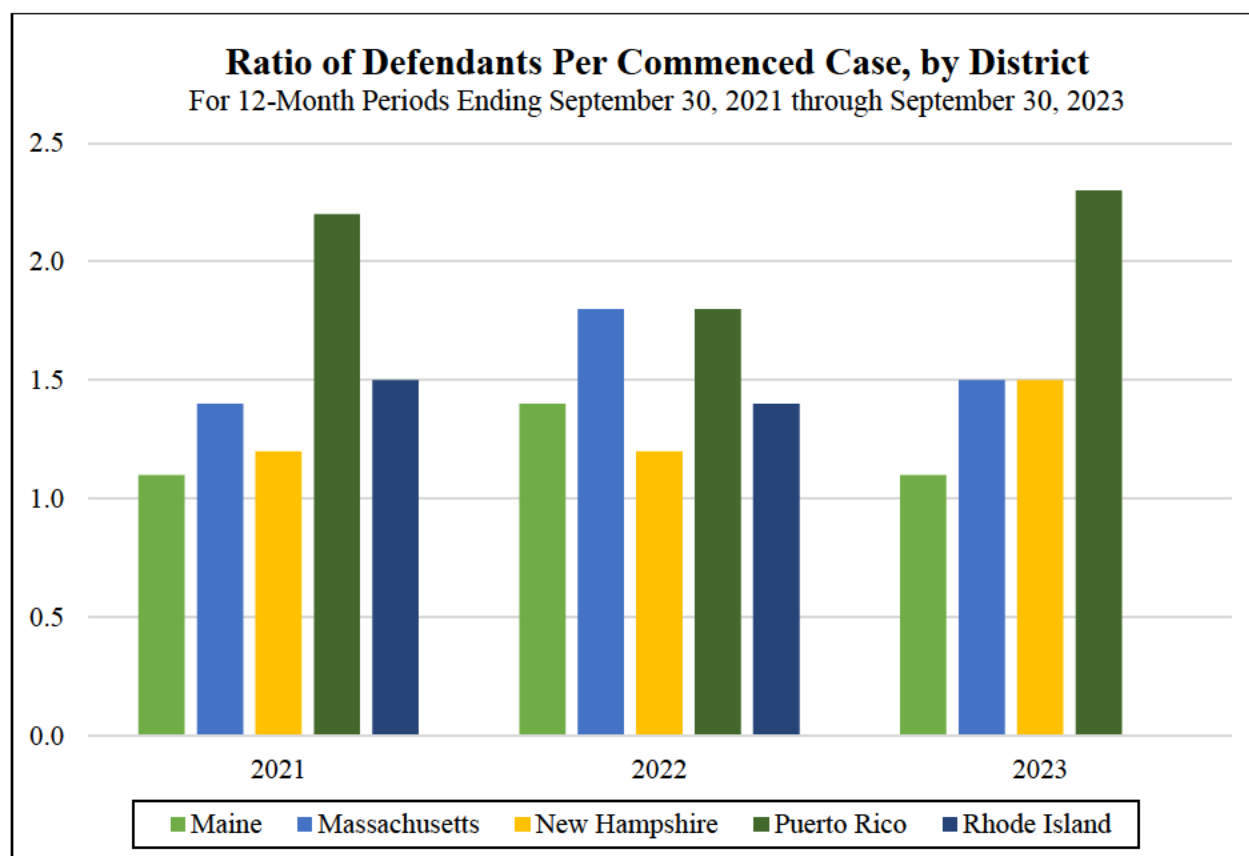
Criminal Cases Terminated, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	145	108	169	173	116
Massachusetts	384	323	294	343	321
New Hampshire	182	176	181	153	131
Puerto Rico	815	629	564	494	610
Rhode Island	128	91	70	80	87



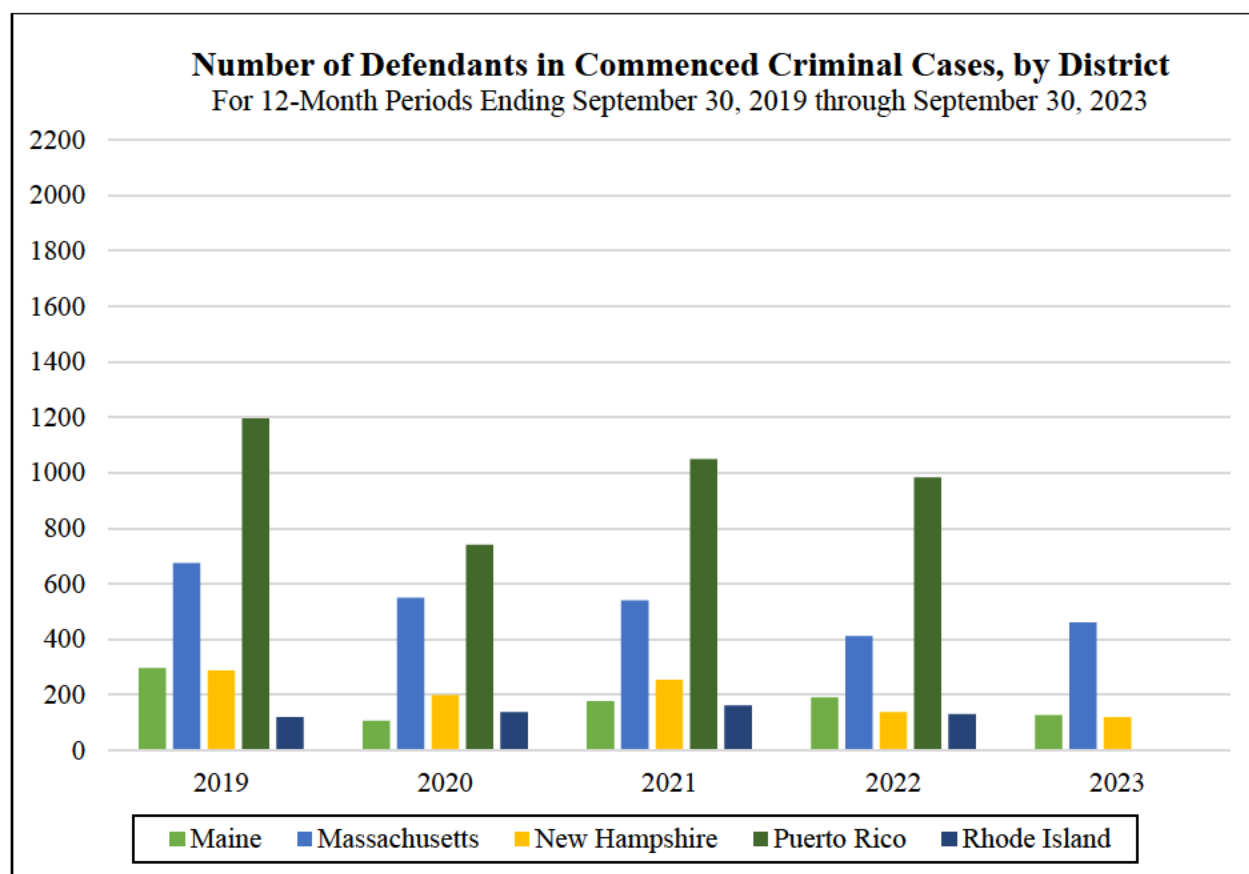
Criminal Cases Pending, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	216	200	198	164	165
Massachusetts	649	643	716	601	585
New Hampshire	213	200	230	196	150
Puerto Rico	1,151	987	912	960	811
Rhode Island	137	139	177	185	162



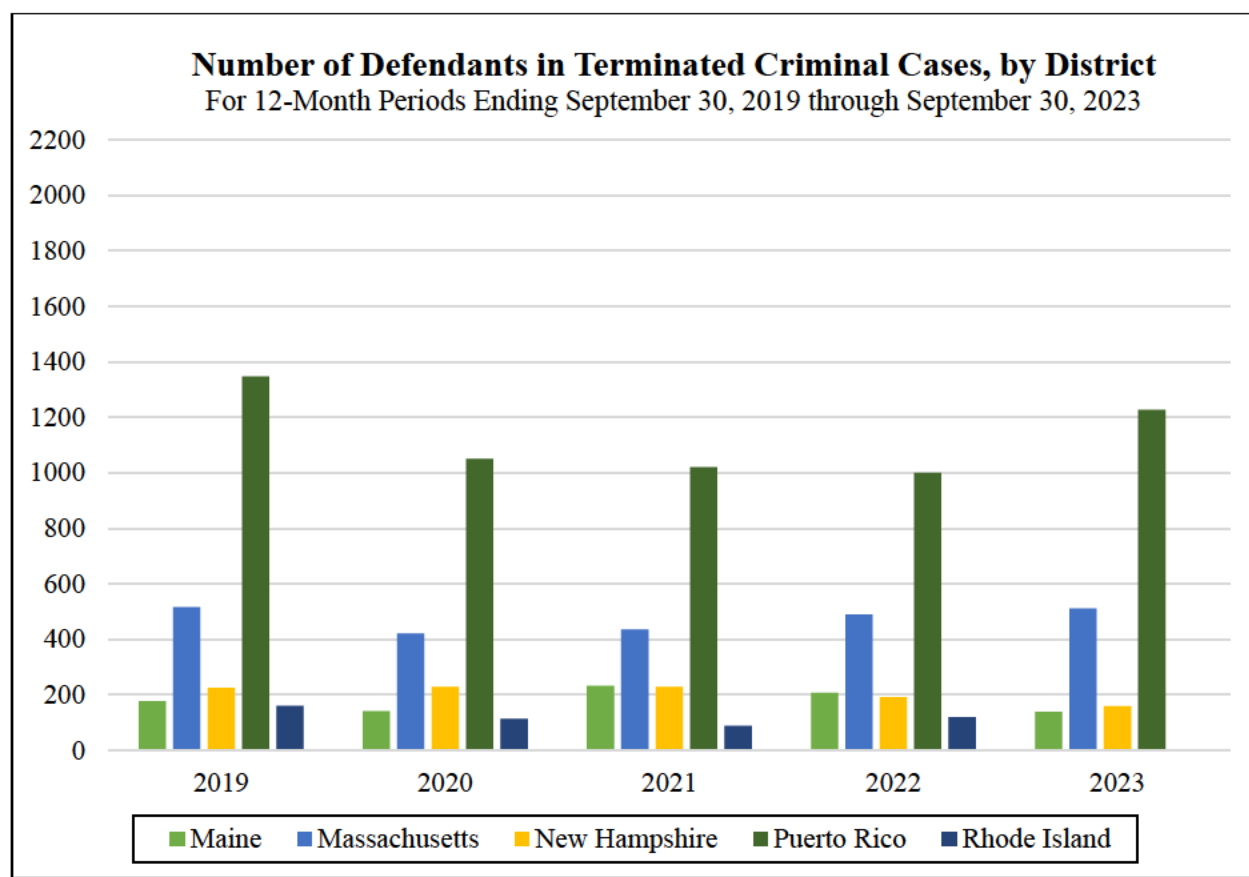
Total Number of Criminal Defendants in First Circuit District Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. of Defendants Commenced Criminal Cases	2,575	1,735	2,183	1,855	1,853
No. of Defendants Terminated Criminal Cases	2,427	1,956	2,005	2,010	2,156
No. of Defendants Pending Criminal Cases	4,160	3,896	4,042	3,917	3,633



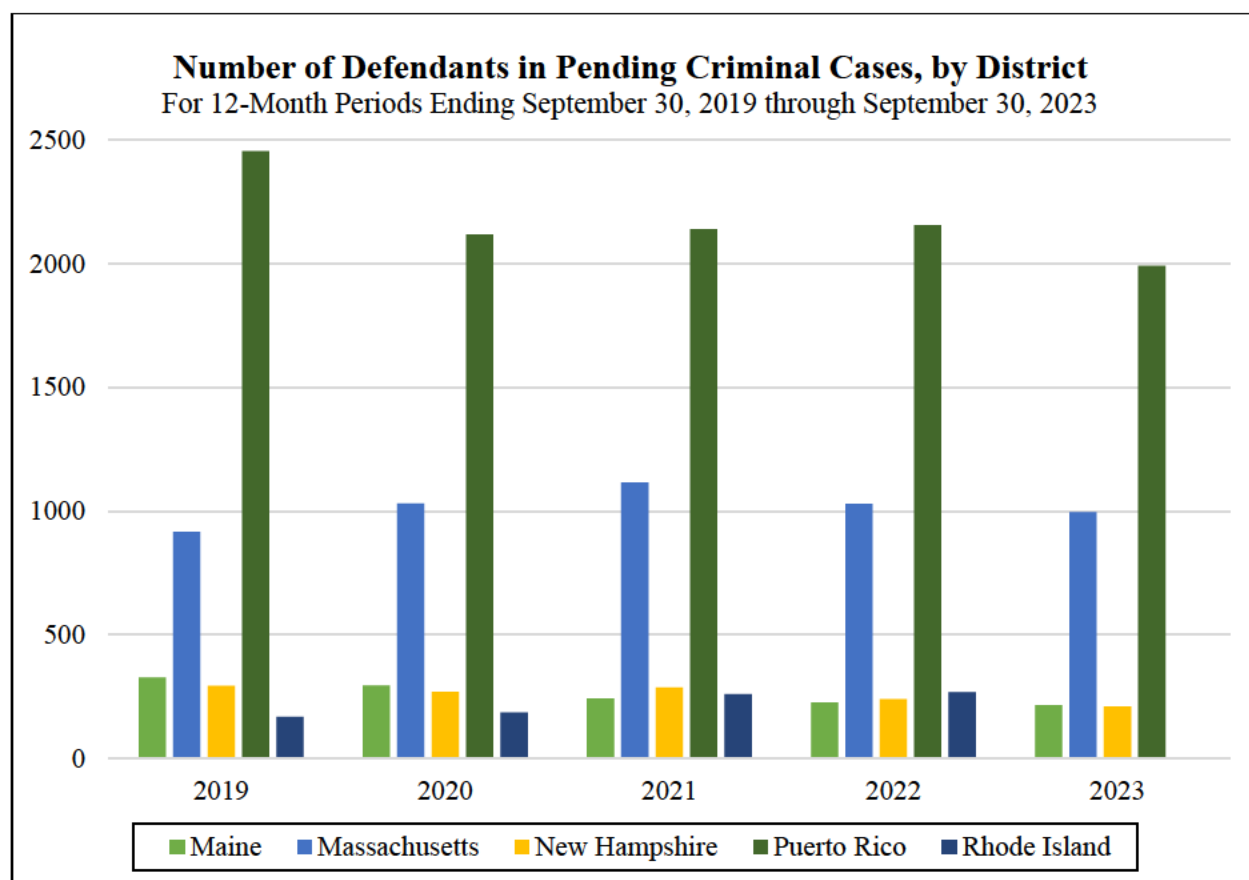
Number of Commenced Criminal Cases and Defendants and Ratio of Defendants Per Commenced Case, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2021 through September 30, 2023									
District	<u>2021</u>		Avg. No. of Def./ Case	<u>2022</u>		Avg. No. of Def./ Case	<u>2023</u>		Avg. No. of Def./ Case
	Cases	Def.		Cases	Def.		Cases	Def.	
Maine	164	177	1.1	140	191	1.4	116	127	1.1
Massachusetts	374	540	1.4	234	412	1.8	300	461	1.5
New Hampshire	207	254	1.2	115	138	1.2	79	120	1.5
Puerto Rico	484	1,050	2.2	532	983	1.8	463	1,068	2.3
Rhode Island	108	162	1.5	94	131	1.4	68	77	1.1



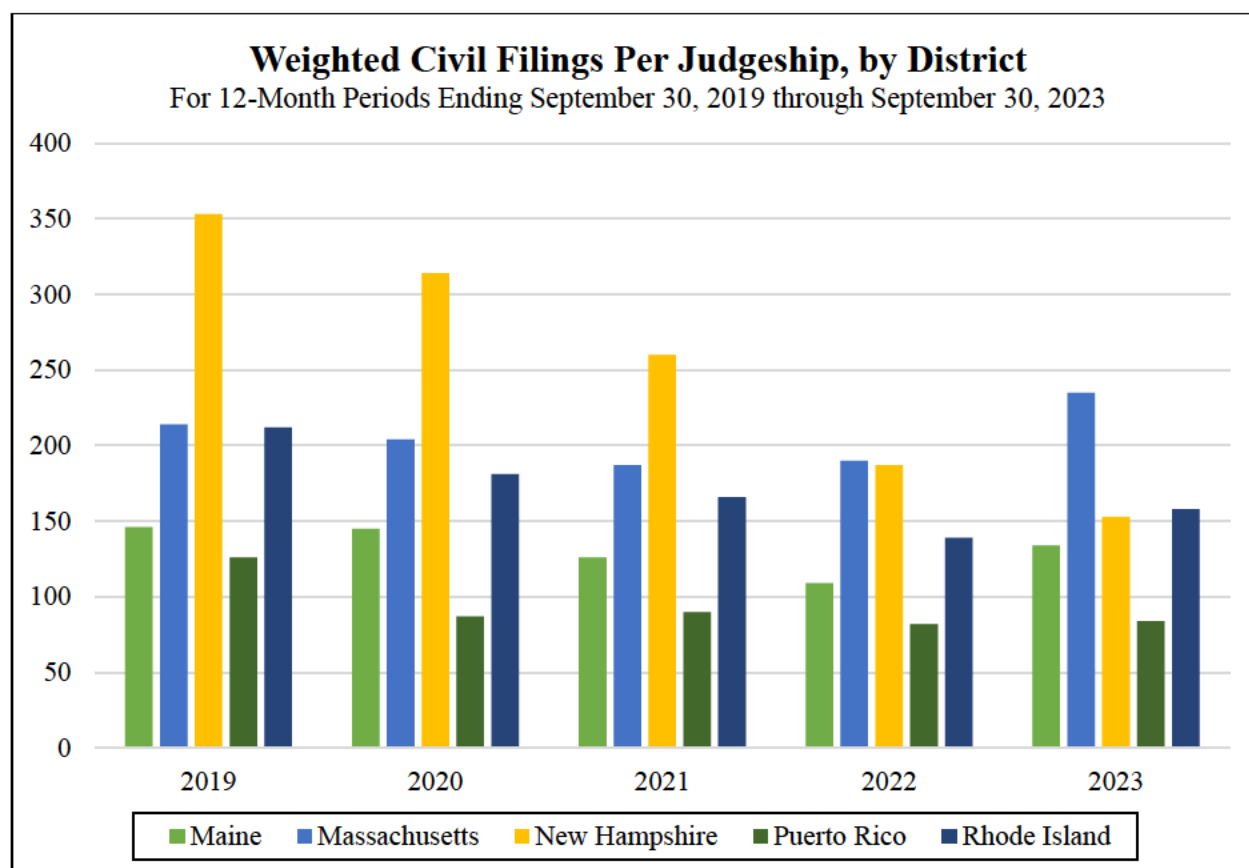
Number of Defendants in Commenced Criminal Cases, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	296	107	177	191	127
Massachusetts	675	550	540	412	461
New Hampshire	288	199	254	138	120
Puerto Rico	1,196	741	1,050	983	1,068
Rhode Island	120	138	162	131	77



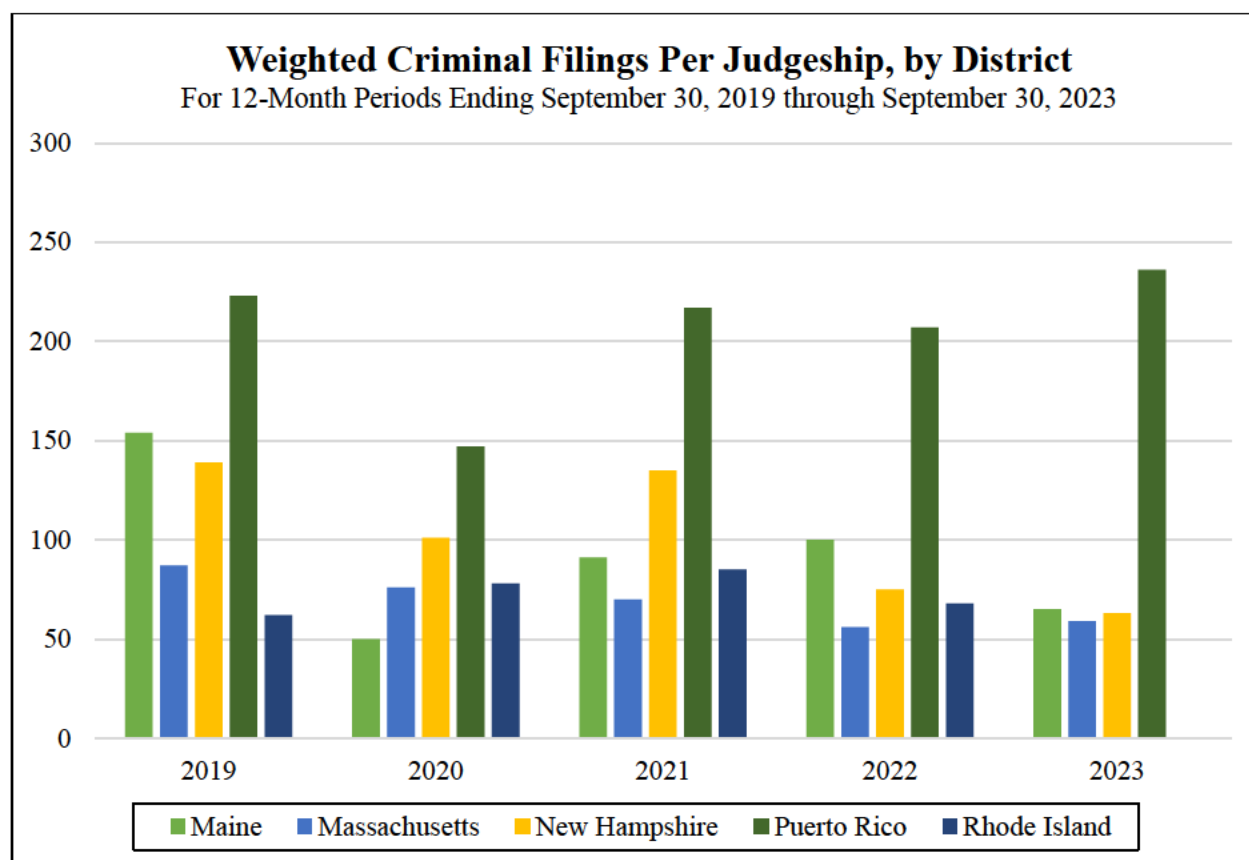
Number of Defendants in Terminated Criminal Cases, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	177	141	232	208	139
Massachusetts	516	421	435	490	512
New Hampshire	226	229	229	192	159
Puerto Rico	1,348	1,051	1,021	1,001	1,227
Rhode Island	160	114	88	119	119



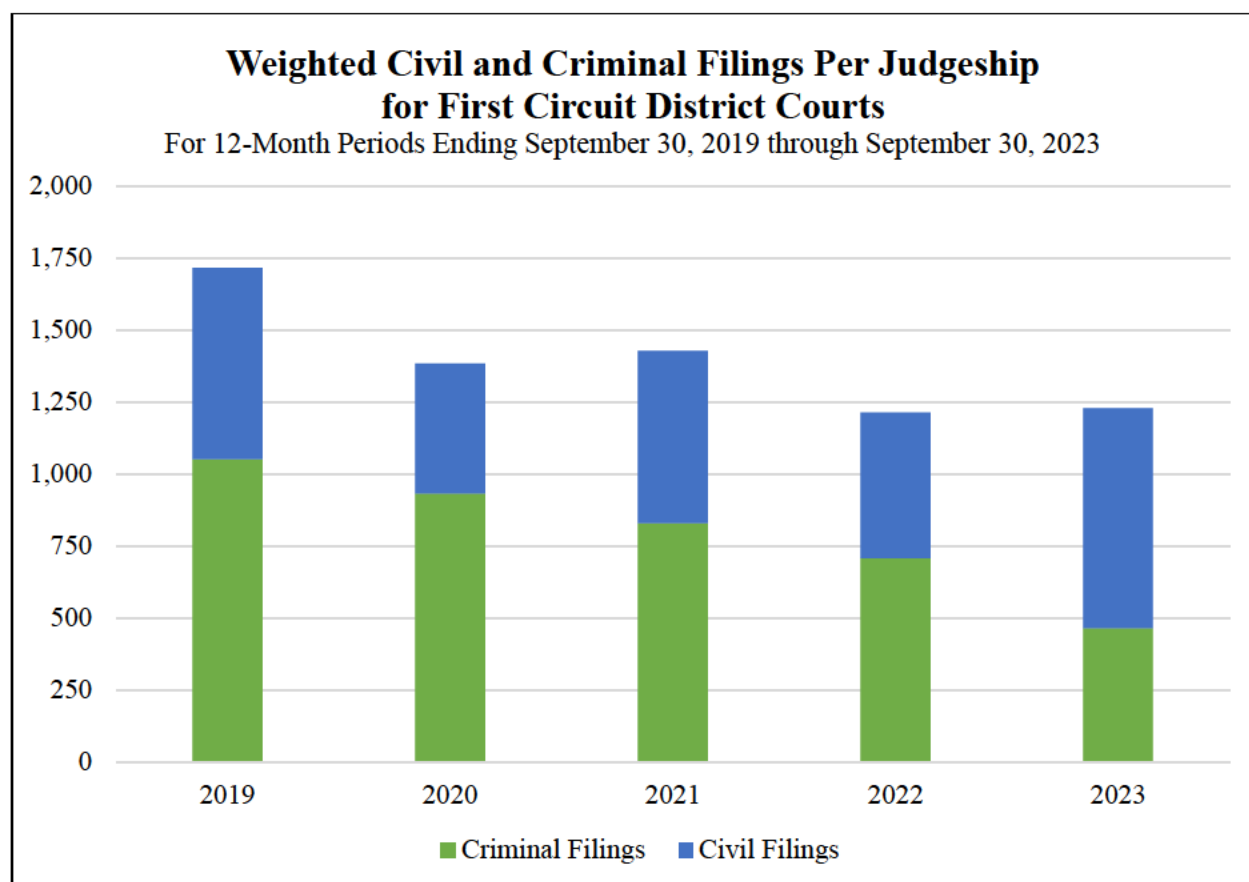
Number of Defendants in Pending Criminal Cases, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	327	294	242	226	215
Massachusetts	916	1,030	1,115	1,029	996
New Hampshire	293	269	287	239	210
Puerto Rico	2,455	2,117	2,139	2,155	1,991
Rhode Island	169	186	259	268	221



Weighted Civil Filings Per Judgeship, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023						
District	Judgeships	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	3	146	145	126	109	134
Massachusetts	13	214	204	187	190	235
New Hampshire	3	353	314	260	187	153
Puerto Rico	7	126	87	90	82	84
Rhode Island	3	212	181	166	139	158

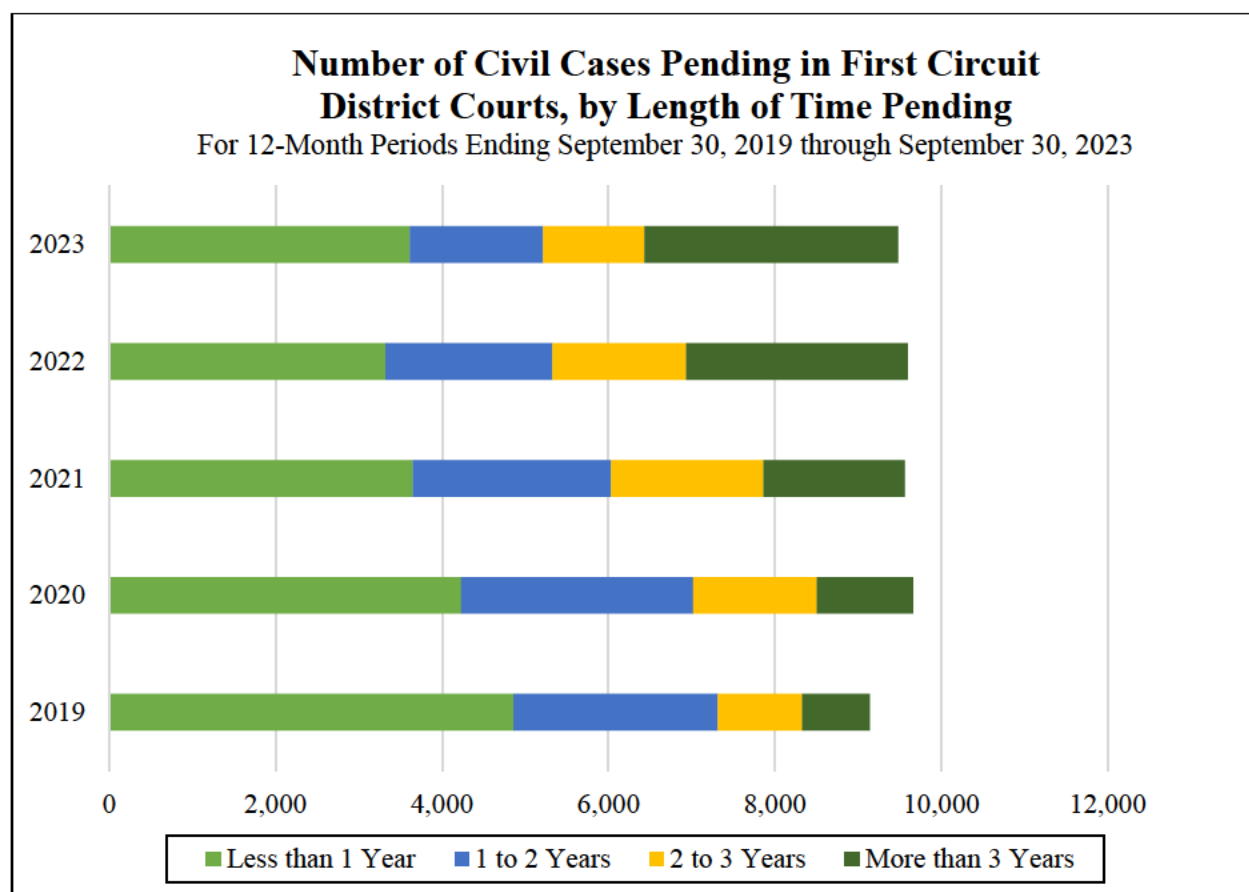


Weighted Criminal Filings Per Judgeship, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023						
District	Judgeships	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	3	154	50	91	100	65
Massachusetts	13	87	76	70	56	59
New Hampshire	3	139	101	135	75	63
Puerto Rico	7	223	147	217	207	236
Rhode Island	3	62	78	85	68	41



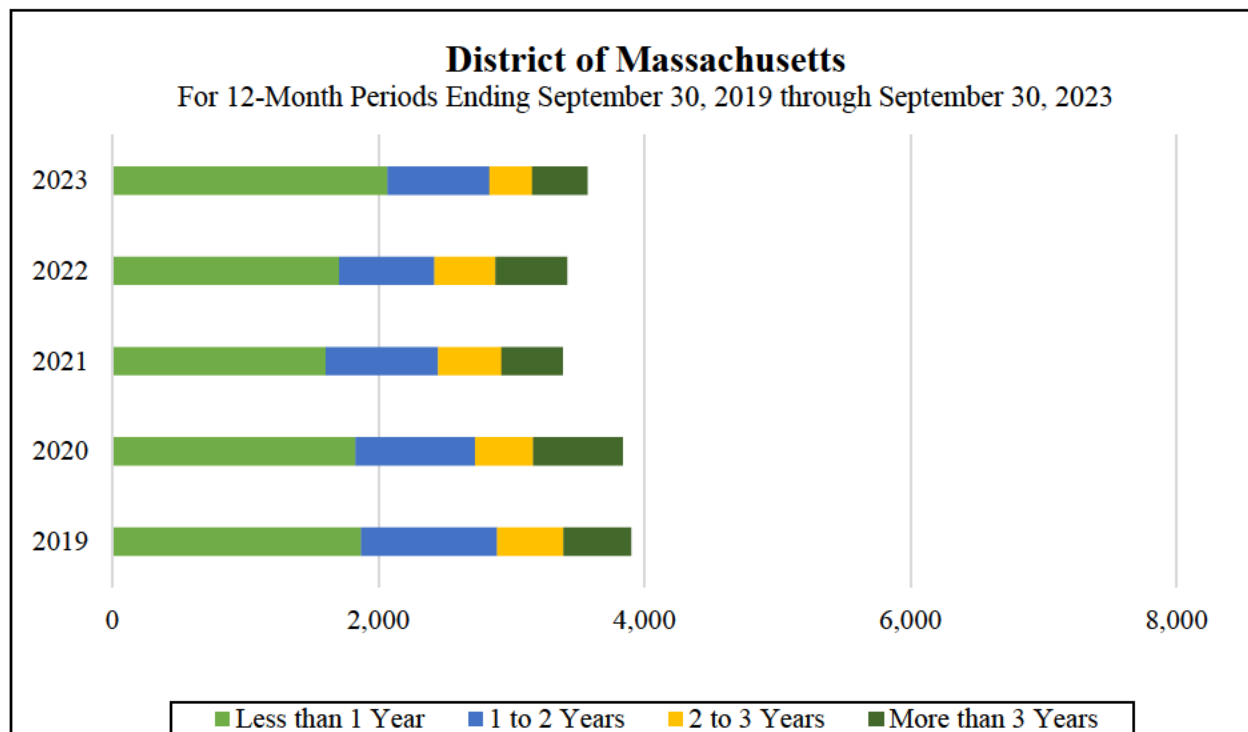
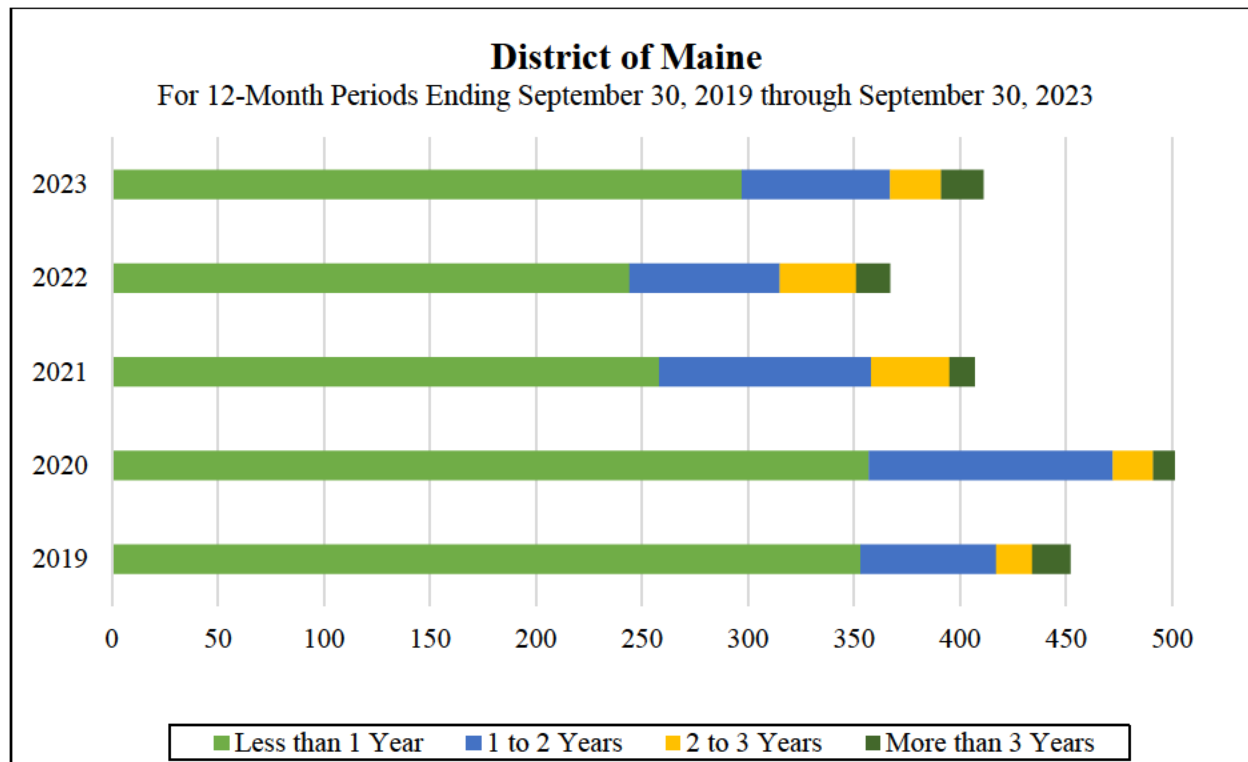
Weighted Civil and Criminal Filings Per Judgeship For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Civil Filings	1,051	931	829	707	764
Criminal Filings	665	452	598	506	464
Total Combined Filings	1,716	1,383	1,427	1,213	1,228

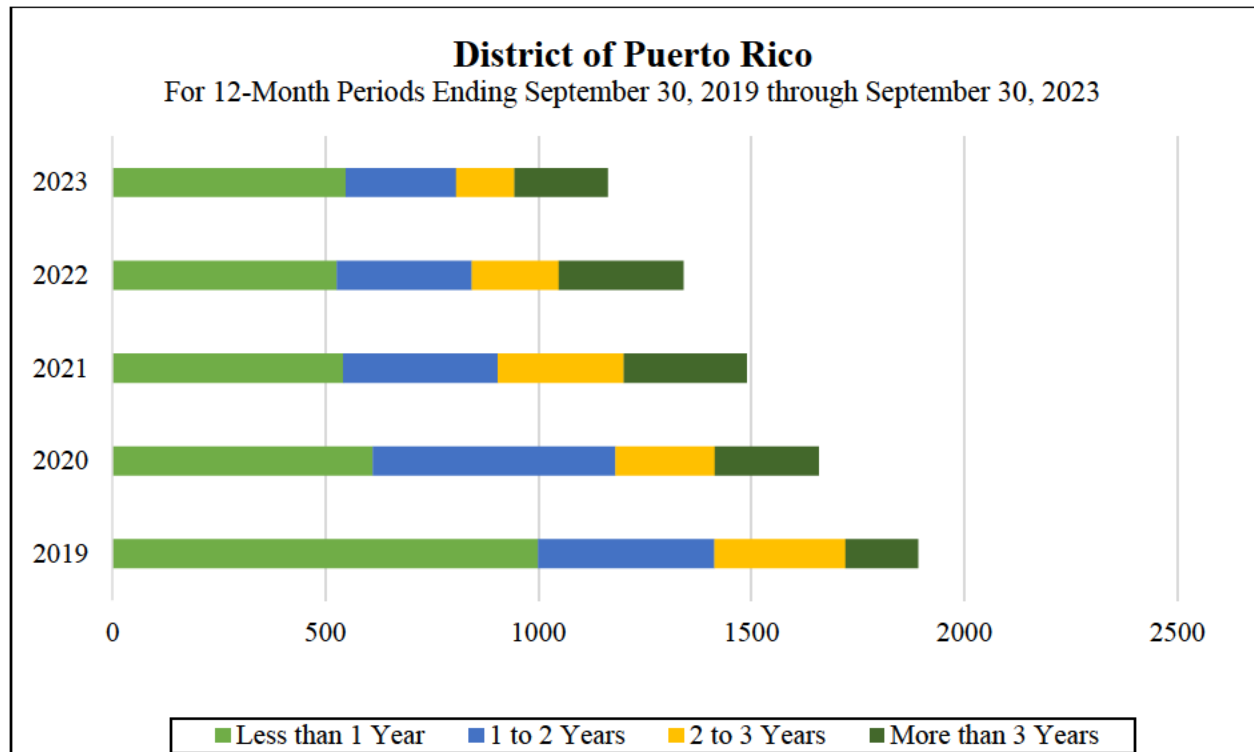
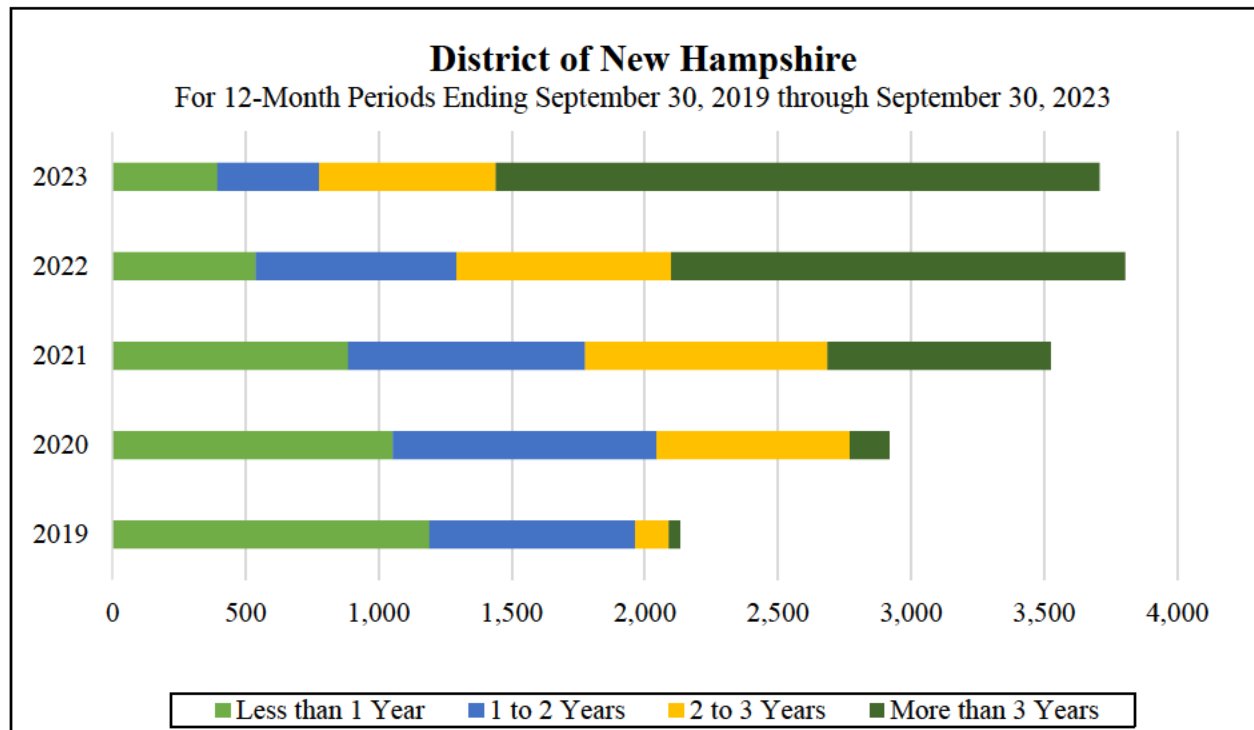
Number of Civil Cases Pending and Length of Time Pending, by District For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
MAINE					
Less than 1 Year	353	357	258	244	297
1 to 2 Years	64	115	100	71	70
2 to 3 Years	17	19	37	36	24
More than 3 Years	18	11	12	16	20
MASSACHUSETTS					
Less than 1 Year	1,871	1,828	1,604	1,704	2,070
1 to 2 Years	1,022	900	845	717	766
2 to 3 Years	500	435	476	461	321
More than 3 Years	509	674	461	537	415
NEW HAMPSHIRE					
Less than 1 Year	1,191	1,053	885	539	395
1 to 2 Years	772	991	890	753	381
2 to 3 Years	127	725	911	806	664
More than 3 Years	43	149	839	1,706	2,268
PUERTO RICO					
Less than 1 Year	999	611	542	527	548
1 to 2 Years	414	570	363	317	259
2 to 3 Years	308	233	296	204	137
More than 3 Years	170	244	288	293	219
RHODE ISLAND					
Less than 1 Year	447	381	361	306	305
1 to 2 Years	183	212	186	152	125
2 to 3 Years	59	76	107	95	72
More than 3 Years	76	79	100	115	119

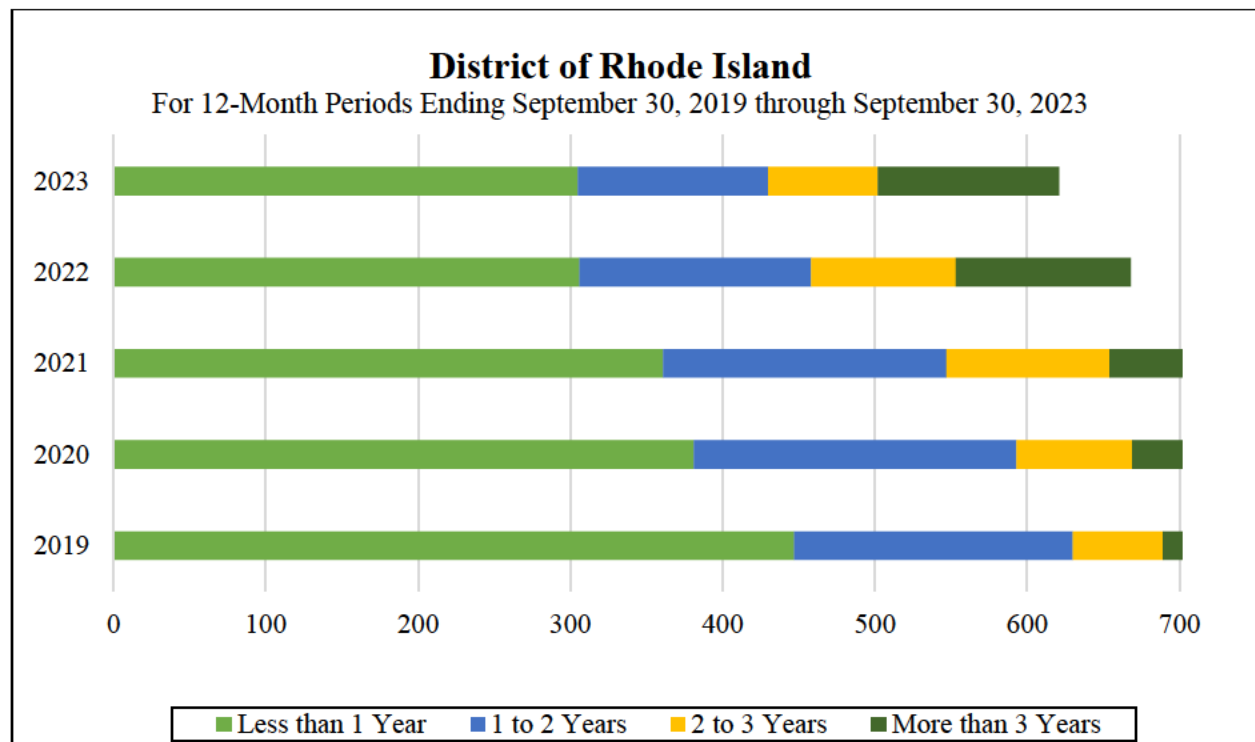


Number of Civil Cases Pending for First Circuit District Courts, by Length of Time Pending (and % Total) For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Less than 1 Year	4,861 (53.2%)	4,230 (43.8%)	3,650 (38.2%)	3,320 (34.6%)	3,615 (38.6%)
1 to 2 Years	2,455 (26.9%)	2,788 (28.9%)	2,384 (25.0%)	2,010 (20.9%)	1,601 (16.9%)
2 to 3 Years	1,011 (11.1%)	1,488 (15.4%)	1,827 (19.1%)	1,602 (16.7%)	1,218 (12.9%)
More than 3 Years	816 (8.9%)	1,157 (12.0%)	1,700 (17.8%)	2,667 (27.8%)	3,041 (32.1%)

**Number of Civil Cases Pending in First Circuit District Courts,
by Length of Time**







Report for the District of Maine

Court Profile

In 2023, the District had three district judges, two senior district judges, and two magistrate judges. The Clerk's Office had 28 employees.

In 2023, the District's civil caseload increased by 6.9%, in comparison to the national increase of 35.8%, while the Court's criminal caseload declined by 23%, in comparison to the national decline of 4.8%. The top three types of civil filings were civil rights (22.7%), foreclosure (18%), and Social Security appeals (16.9%). The prevailing offenses charged in 2023 (totaling 60.1% of criminal cases filed) included other drugs, firearms, and sex offenses.

Clerk's Office

The Clerk's Office participated in a cyclical audit, which yielded no material findings; was involved in the AO Work Measurement Study on Financial Translations; participated in the AO Work Measurement Study for District Courts; and upgraded the eVoucher system.

In 2023, Clerk Lynch served on the Criminal Subcommittee of the First Circuit Judicial Council Post-Pandemic Operations Committee, the New Hampshire Committee on the Judiciary and the Media, and the New Hampshire Bar Association's Committee on Cooperation with the Courts.

In 2023, Clerk of Court Christa Berry chaired the AO District Clerks' Offices Work Measurement Steering Group.

Community Outreach

In 2023, the Court held two bench/bar meetings in Bangor and Portland, focused on criminal and civil practice areas, respectively.

Magistrate Judge Frink Wolf also organized a POWER Act presentation.

In May 2023, the Court hosted a Courtroom as Classroom event and Law Day, an educational program for high school students.

In August 2023, the Court hosted nearly 60 students, who were mid-grade naval officers from over 40 countries from the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island as part of their Field Studies Program, which is focused on learning about U.S. culture, politics, and institutions.

The Court hosted several groups of high school students at the courthouse to discuss civics and legal career paths and held six citizenship ceremonies (three in Portland, one on Constitution Day at the University of Southern Maine, and two in Bangor).

Information Technology

In 2023, the IT Department continued to modernize its courtroom technology and adopted nationally-hosted technology. The IT staff designed and installed new AV systems in two courtrooms, deployed new desktop hardware to all employees, and migrated to new security measures.

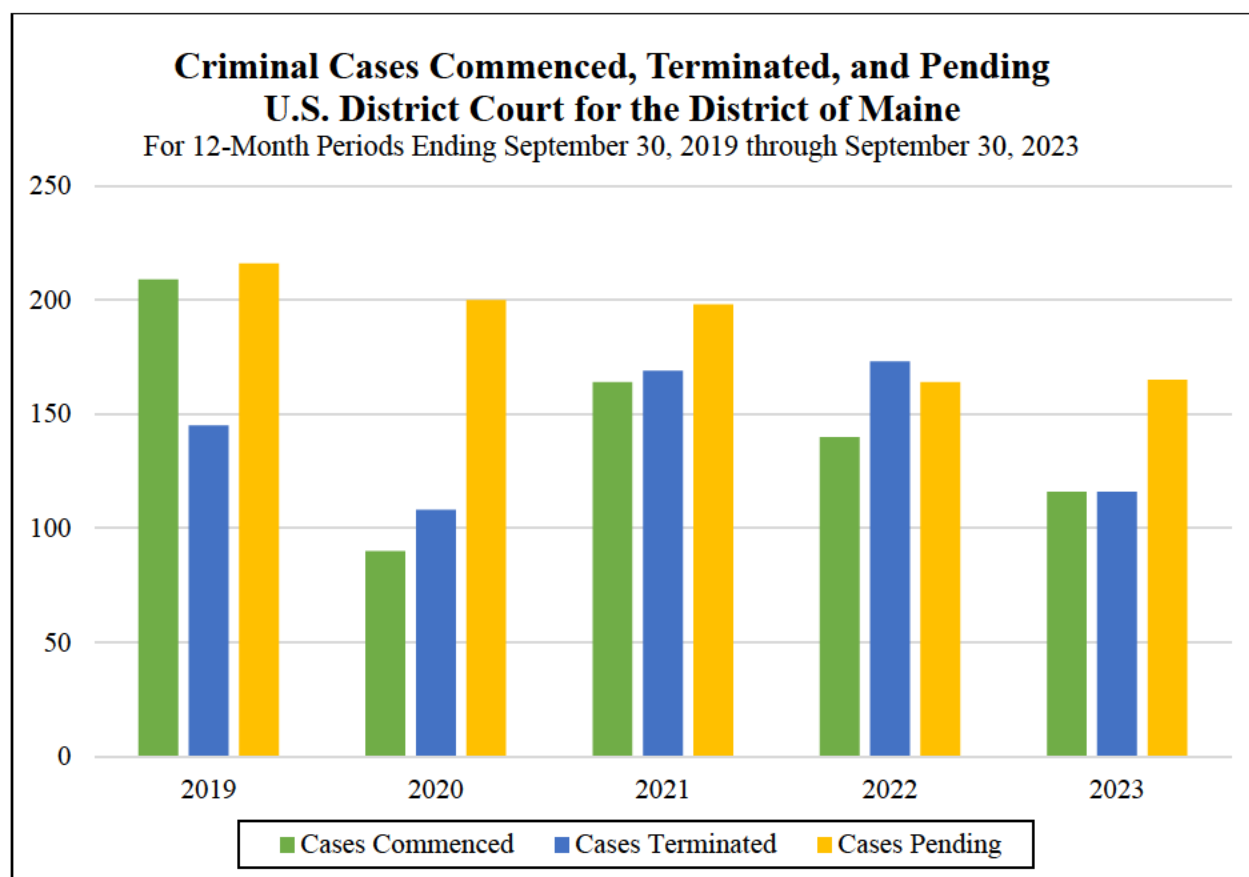
Human Resources/Staff Training

The District Court, Bankruptcy Court, and the Probation & Pretrial Services Office (PPSO) continued to share administrative services, including a financial administrator, budget administrator, and human resources specialist.

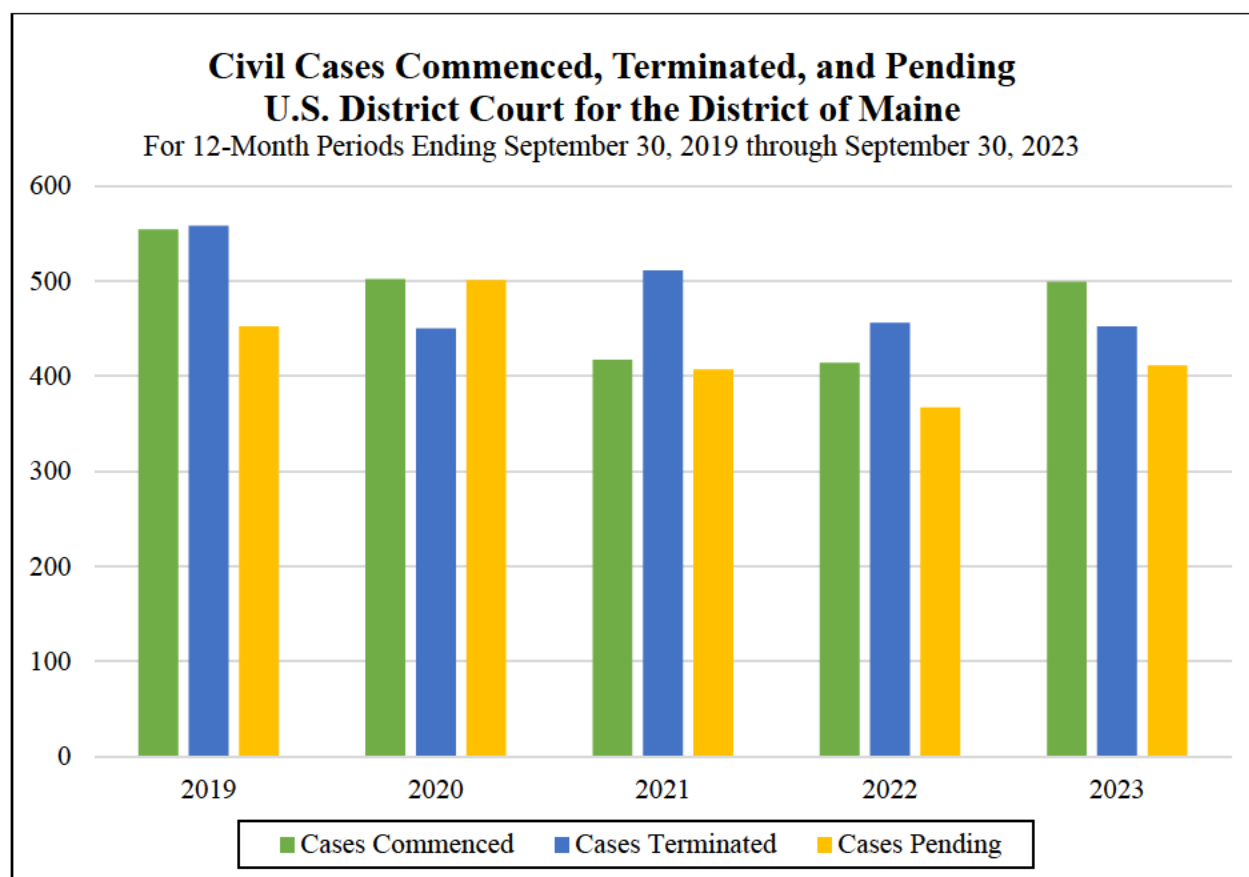
Space, Facilities, and Security

The Court Security Committee met regularly to address security issues and established a

subcommittee focused on relevant court unit facilities in the Portland area. Additionally, the Court Security Committee worked with GSA to finalize the Gignoux HVAC and fire alarm replacement project, which is expected to begin construction in 2024 and be completed in 2027.



Criminal Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Maine For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	209	90	164	140	116
Cases Terminated	145	108	169	173	116
Cases Pending	216	200	198	164	165



Civil Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Maine For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	554	502	417	414	499
Cases Terminated	558	450	511	456	452
Cases Pending*	450	501	407	367	411

* Pending cases for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

Probation & Pretrial Services Office District of Maine

National Workgroups

Probation and Pretrial Services staff continued service at the national level. Specifically, Chief U.S. Probation Officer (USPO) Kimberly Rieger completed her term as a member of the AO's Chiefs Probation and Pretrial Services Advisory Group; Deputy Chief Michael Penders continued his service as a member of the PPSO's National Information Standards Working Group; Supervisor Scott Hastings served as faculty for the FJC's New Supervisor program; USPO Jennifer Metcalfe was appointed to the FJC Probation and Pretrial Education Committee and served on the National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies Federal-Track Planning Committee; and the District joined the A.I.D.E. Peer Mentorship Program with Specialist USPOs Michael Barker and Autumn Murtagh serving as district representative and mentor, respectively.

Outreach

The office has maintained their employee driven wellness committee, the PoWER Squad (Promoting Wellness, Empowerment and Resilience) which sponsors a variety of employee engagement and community outreach activities such as fitness challenges, meal preparation for the Ronald McDonald Houses in Bangor and Portland, career fair participation at local universities, and participation in Mary's Walk (a local cancer treatment fundraising event).

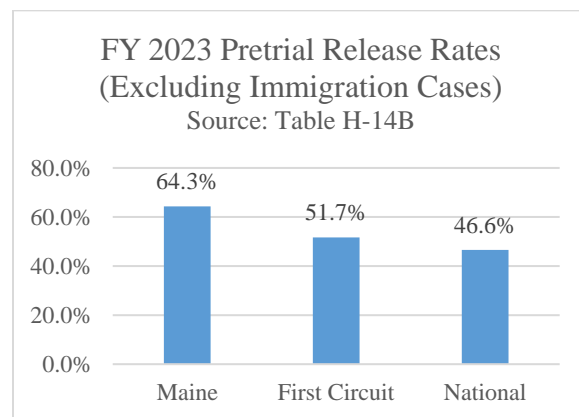
Personnel

In 2023, Specialist USPO Laura Tait retired after 23 years of service, and USPO Melissa Elworthy retired after 20 years of service. USPO Specialist Sharon Reinheimer continued to serve a temporary duty

assignment with the AO. As part of Sharon's work with the AO, she continues to facilitate national outreach via "Fireside Chats" that provide monthly training and discussion focused on pretrial services. Chief USPO Kimberly Rieger announced her retirement, effective at the end of 2023, and the Court selected Deputy Chief Michael Penders as the next Chief USPO, effective January 1, 2024.

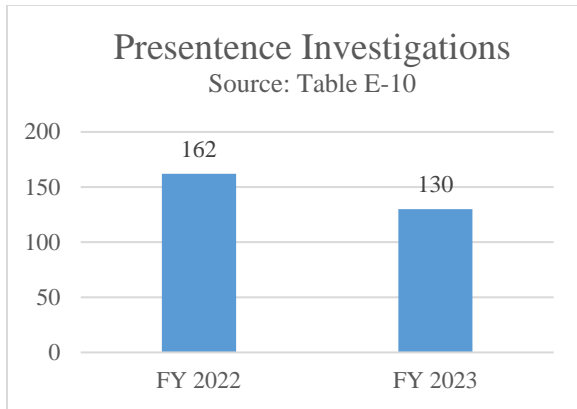
Pretrial Services

For the fifth consecutive year, the District had release rates exceeding the national average. The office supervised approximately 135 pretrial services cases during this reporting period.



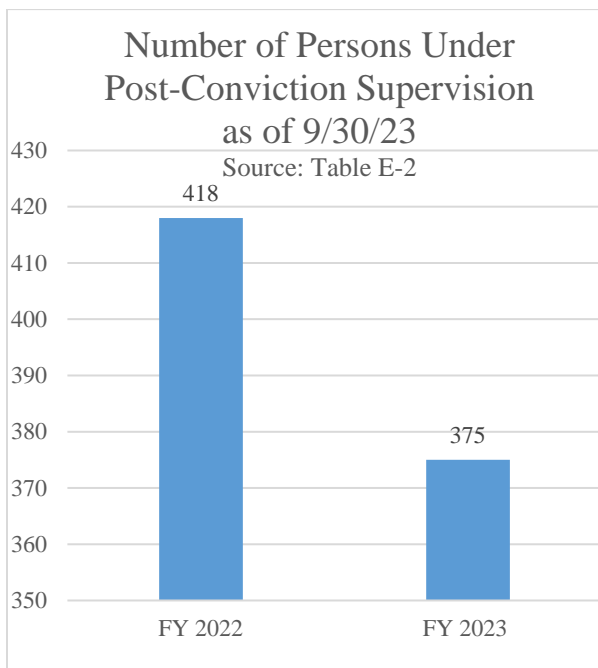
Presentence Investigations

The PPSO experienced a decrease in presentence investigation assignments during the fiscal year.



Post-Conviction Supervision

The District had a decrease in the number of post-conviction supervision cases. Despite this decrease, the District continues to have an increase in expenditures for resources allowed under the Second Chance Act, as well as for services related to substance abuse, mental health, sex offender treatment and monitoring, and location monitoring services.



Report for the District of Massachusetts

Court Profile

At the end of 2023, the District had 13 district judges, seven senior district judges, seven magistrate judges, and four recalled magistrate judges.

Community Outreach

The District continued to support Discovering Justice's work with youth civics education.

The Nelson Fellowship: Eleven public school students participated in the 27th year of the Nelson Fellowship, a summer program encouraging civic engagement and higher education, and named for the late Judge David S. Nelson, the first African American federal judge appointed to the District of Massachusetts. The Fellows, who were assigned to a federal judge, met with area legal and civil leaders, took courses on civil rights and public speaking, visited local colleges, met with organizations that facilitate the college application process, and participated in a mock trial before a federal judge.

The Lindsay Fellowship: Eight college students participated in the 13th year of the Lindsay Fellowship, named for the late Judge Reginald C. Lindsay. Fellows were assigned to a judge and either the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO), the Federal Defender Program, or the PPSO. The Fellows attended an intensive research and writing program and competed in a moot court program.

The District hosted the following civics engagement activities:

- **Backpack Drive**: The Court received over 70 backpacks for students in need at Homes for Little Wanderers and invited students to the courthouse for a

tour and a speaker series with a judge from the District.

- **Constitution/Citizenship Day**: A school group participated in a naturalization ceremony followed by a speaker series with a district judge.
- **Bill of Rights Student Essay Contest**: The Court encouraged students statewide to write an essay on a change they would make to the Bill of Rights and invited students and their families to the Moakley Courthouse for a ceremony on Bill of Rights Day.
- **Black History Month Judicial Panel**: A panel of judges spoke about the importance of Black history.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month Judicial Panel**: A panel of judges spoke about Hispanic heritage and culture.
- **Native American Heritage Month**: The Court celebrated Native American Heritage Month with the Choctaw Code Talkers documentary.
- **Law Day**: School groups participated in a mock jury empanelment and participated in a judges' speaker series.

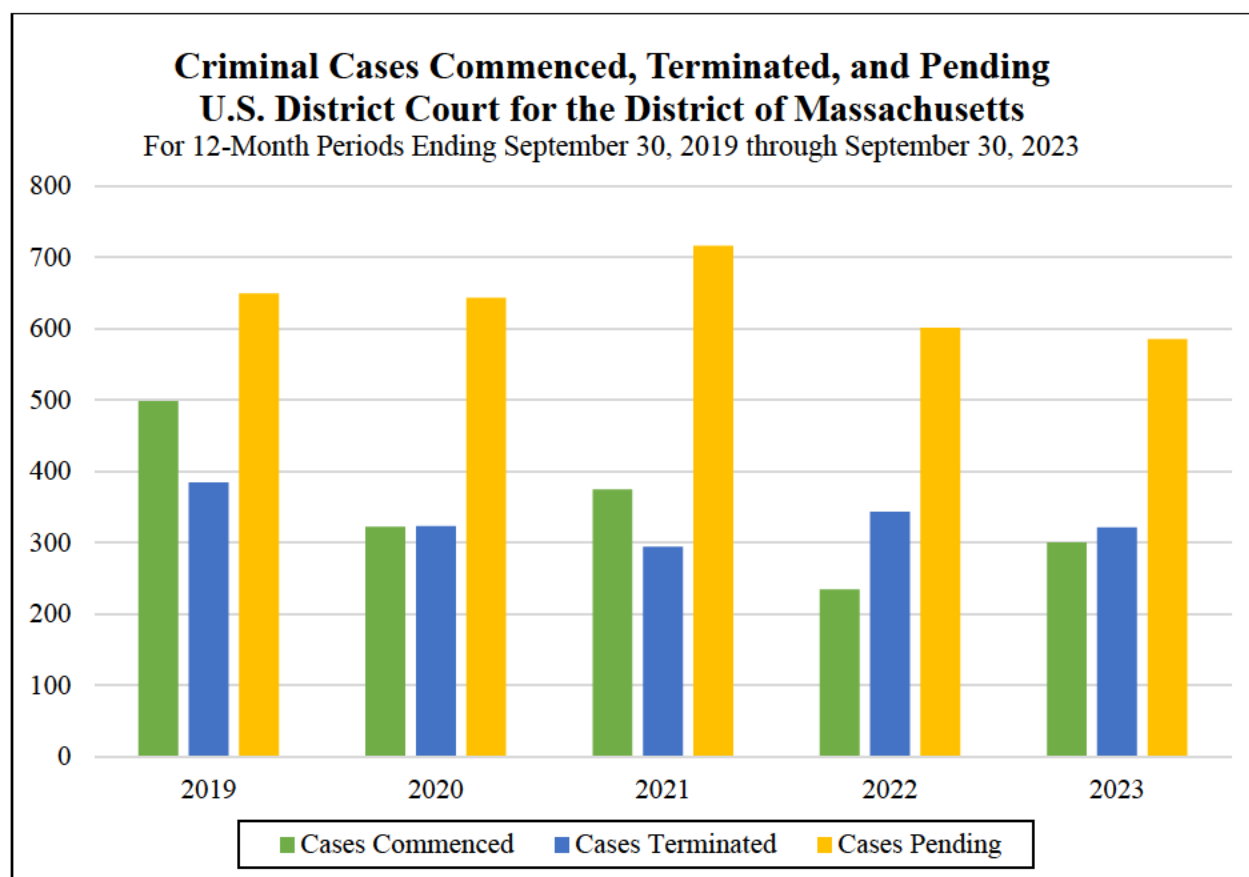
Operations

Civil filings increased by 38.3%, from 2,601 cases in calendar year 2022 to 3,596 cases in calendar year 2023. The number of criminal defendants charged in calendar year 2023 decreased by 11.9% to 398 from 452 in 2022.

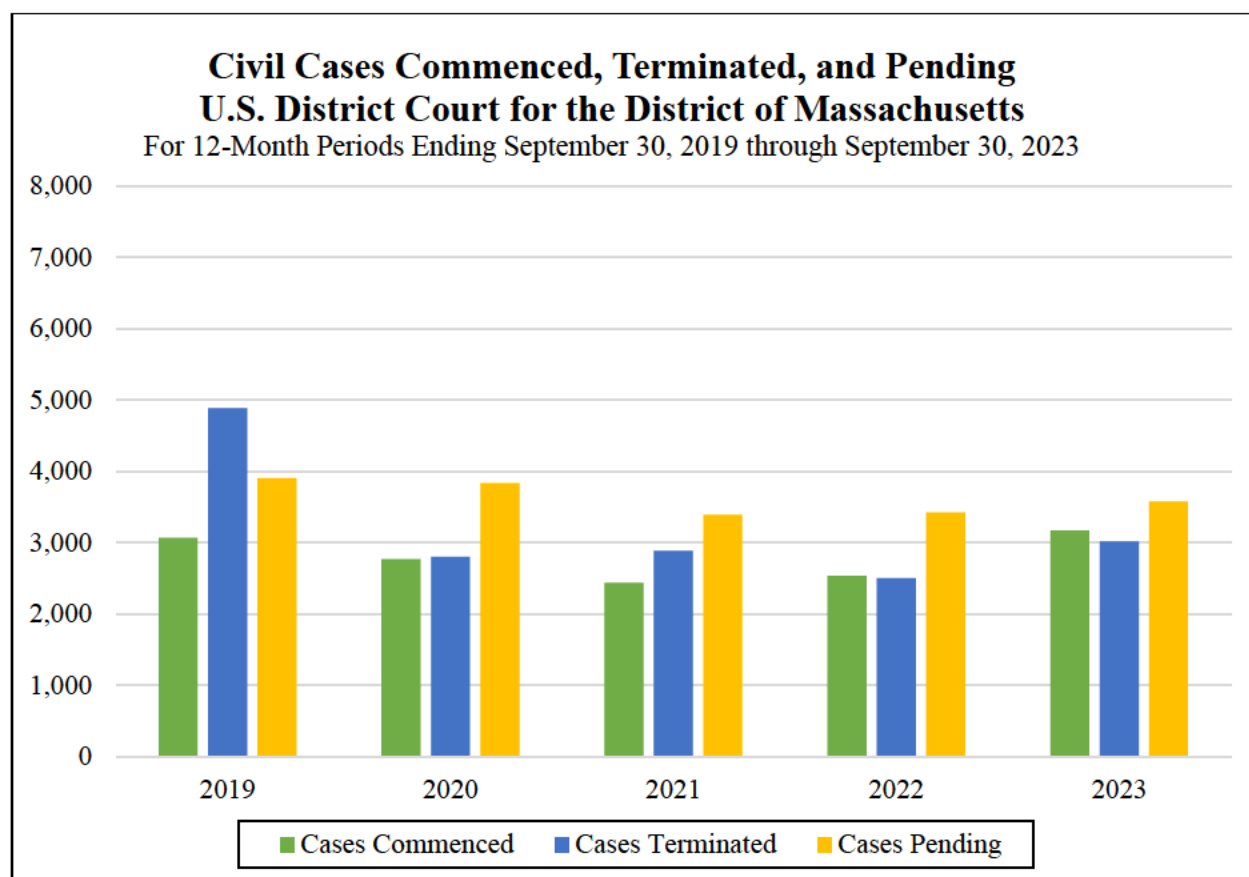
In 2023, the District closed one multi-district litigation (MDL) matter and was assigned an additional MDL matter. At the close of 2023, there were five pending MDLs, with 1,406 pending member cases.

In 2023, the District conducted 115 trials (55 civil and 60 criminal). Judges spent 2,069

hours conducting trials and 2,063 hours
conducting other proceedings.



Criminal Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	498	322	374	234	300
Cases Terminated	384	323	294	343	321
Cases Pending	649	643	716	601	585



Civil Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	3,063	2,767	2,434	2,534	3,166
Cases Terminated	4,882	2,800	2,882	2,498	3,011
Cases Pending*	3,870	3,834	3,386	3,419	3,572

* Pending cases for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

**Probation & Pretrial Services Office
District of Massachusetts**

Personnel

In 2023, the office hired: Officers Stephanie Chin, Camila Cordoba, Truc Decoste, Jessica Gomes, Samantha Jackson, and Sydney Mendonca; Network Administrators Andrew Breau and Charles Waelde; and Executive Assistant Mary Allen-Sharpp. Additionally, two officers, Justin Albergaria and Domenica Soto; and administrative staff, Ginger Reeves and Derek Rossi, transferred from other districts. Two student contractors, Colin Graham and Christine Rubeiz, also joined the team.

Assistant Deputy Chief Aaron McGrath left the office after his appointment as the Chief Probation Officer in Alaska. Senior Probation Officer Kelly Foster retired. Officer Benjamin Miller transferred to Rhode Island, and five other staff members left to pursue other opportunities.

Investigations and Supervision:

Pretrial Investigations: In FY 2023, the PPSO activated 496 cases.

Year	Cases Activated	Release/ Detention Rate	Interview Rate
2021	562	54%/46%	67%
2022	443	55%/45%	58%
2023	496	49%/51%	52%

During this reporting period, the PPSO recommended release in 57.3% of cases, which was higher than the District's release rate of 49%.

Pretrial Supervision: In FY 2023, 494 defendants were under supervision. Of the total number of pretrial defendants who were supervised during 2023, eight failed to appear as scheduled, ten were rearrested, and 61 committed technical violations.

Presentence Investigations:

Year	Cases Assigned	Cases Sentenced w/o PSR
2021	500	7
2022	407	6
2023	439	7

Offense types covered by presentence investigations and reports included drugs, financial, immigration, robbery, sex, obstruction, tax, and under the influence offenses. Officers continued to prescreen defendants for placement in the Bureau of Prisons Residential Drug and Alcohol Program (RDAP), handle resentencings, and recommend individuals for participation in the C.A.R.E., Re-Start, and Repair, Invest, Succeed, Emerge (RISE) programs. Investigations officers handled First Step cases and other resentencings.

Post-Conviction Supervision: In FY 2023, 1,860 post-conviction clients were under supervision, 79.8% of whom were considered moderate or high risk. In FY 2023, 78.5% of cases successfully completed supervision and 110 cases were revoked for new crimes or technical violations.

The Probation Office facilitated treatment services for approximately 720 individuals during FY 2023.

Space Initiatives

In FY 2023, the District continued to work with the Circuit Executive's Office to plan a

more efficient workspace for U.S. Probation staff in Boston, due to space constraints. The lack of space impeded the office's ability to hire the needed staff to balance workload. As a short-term solution, some officers were moved from Boston to the Worcester Courthouse. The AO Space and Facilities Division approved a Design Study for the Boston office, and management worked with the Circuit Executive's Office and an architectural and engineering firm on a design plan that included restacking the probation office to provide additional workspaces while staying within the existing footprint.

District Resources and Initiatives

In FY 2023, the office continued its efforts to provide full service to the Court and community through its initiatives, including the RENEW (Release-Engage-Network-Employ-Win), RISE, CARE, Restorative Justice, Re-Start West (in Springfield), and Nurturing Fathers programs. Nurturing Fathers had 15 graduates in 2023. The RENEW program assisted seven formerly incarcerated people with job training and employment.

Training, Professional Development, & National Workgroups

In FY 2023, staff learned and sharpened skills through multiple learning initiatives, including, but not limited to, safety and firearms programming, location monitoring training, and U.S. Sentencing Commission Guidelines training.

Report for the District of New Hampshire

Conferences/Educational Programs

The Federal Court Advisory Committee met twice in 2023 to discuss planning for the 2023 Federal Practice Institute, amendments to the Court's Local Rules, and the on-boarding of a new magistrate judge (Magistrate Judge Saint-Marc).

The Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel Annual Meeting and Training was held in March 2023.

On April 13, 2023, the Court hosted the New Hampshire Bar Association New Lawyers' "Coffee with the Judges" event, which included a presentation by 603 Legal Aid on pro bono services.

The Federal Practice Institute, a full day of programming for federal practitioners, returned to the District on September 29, 2023. The program included a morning session with Attorney John F. Weaver on the evolving legal challenges presented by artificial intelligence, including invasion and protection of privacy interests; an afternoon session with Attorney Kelly McNamara Corley and Attorney Stephanie A. Scharf, who shared data on women serving in leadership roles at law firms and as lead trial counsel; and a one-hour ethics presentation with Attorney Sara Greene, Disciplinary Counsel for the New Hampshire Supreme Court Attorney Discipline Office, and Attorney David Rothstein, former Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee.

Information Technology

In 2023, the Court's IT staff, which is shared with the District's U.S. Bankruptcy Court and PPSO, implemented additional automation solutions and refinements, upgraded all court cell phones in the District, implemented speech-to-text

technology in additional courtrooms, completed various courtroom audio upgrades, refined and streamlined the District's patch and asset management practice, deployed additional security features, completed court network and public internet access bandwidth upgrades, and completed an upgrade to widely used court software.

Local Rules/Procedure

In December 2023, the District amended its Local Rules governing dispositive motions, disclosure requirements for unincorporated entities, and remand of removal cases; codified several standing orders; and introduced a new rule governing the process for using a pseudonym for a party's name.

In September 2023, the District's staff participated in a site visit by the AO Common Support Work Measurement Steering Committee and provided feedback regarding a new work measurement procedure.

In 2023, the Court conducted its own self-audit for FY 2023, and a third party vendor performed the Court's cyclical audit in December.

Case Management

Civil filings decreased slightly from 558 cases in 2022 to 544 cases in 2023, while criminal filings increased from 124 defendants charged in 2022 to 153 in 2023.

Human Resources/Staff Training

In 2023, Case Manager Brier Duhamel returned to the Court.

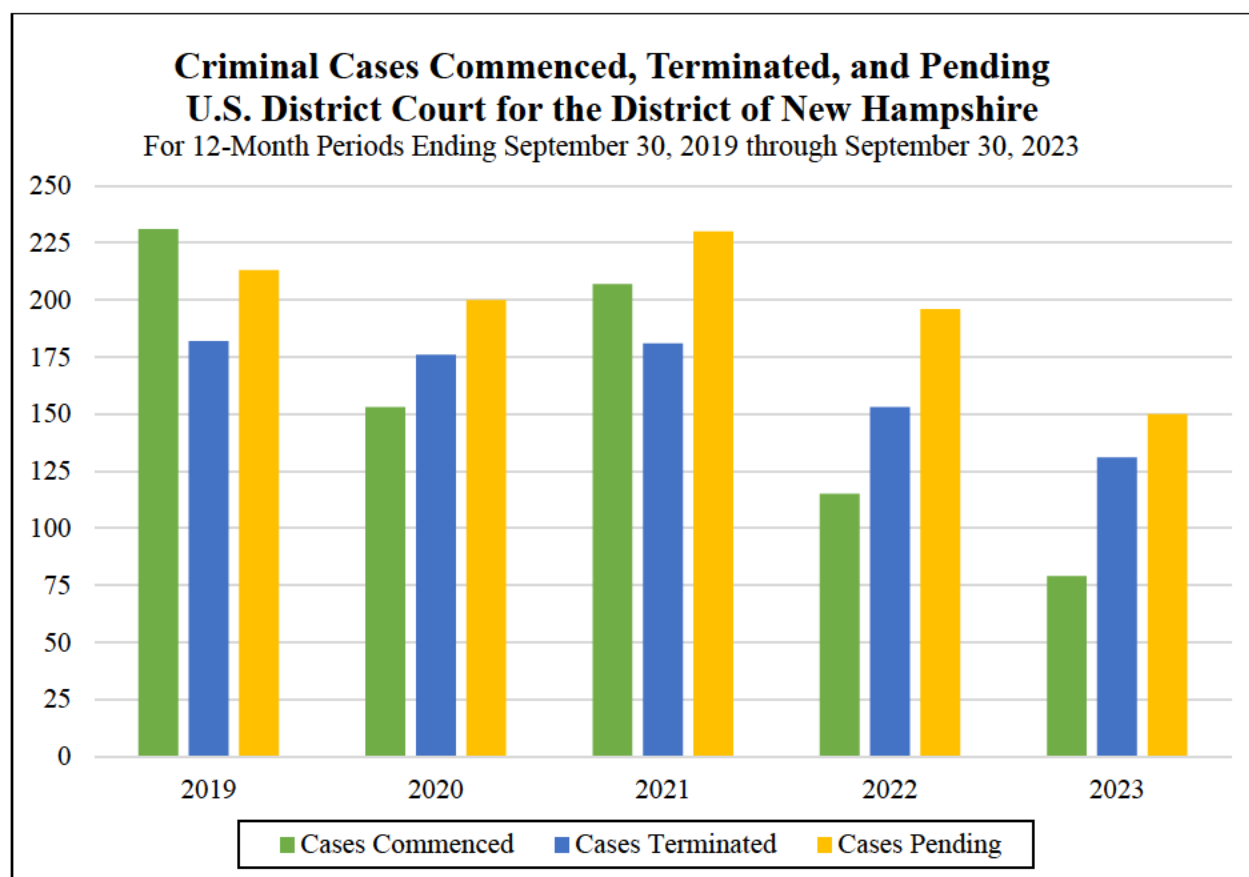
In 2023, the Court's IT department provided staff with monthly IT security tips.

In May 2023, Noelle Barrist Stern, First Circuit Director of Workplace Relations, presented "Ten Principles of an Exemplary Workplace" to the District's staff, fulfilling the annual EDR training requirement. Court staff also participated in several workplace violence trainings and security drills.

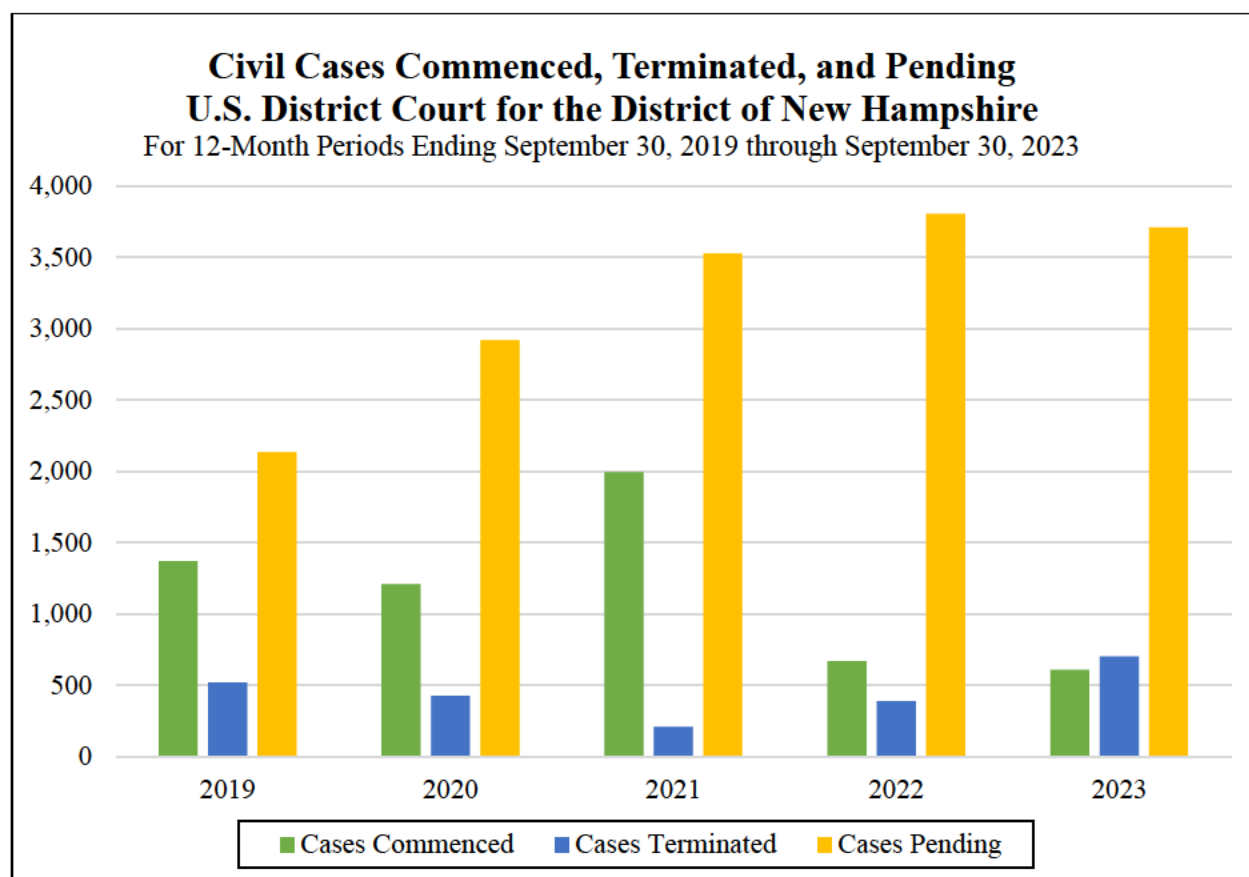
Space & Facilities

Construction/Consolidation

In 2023, the Court continued to work on several projects, including upgrading the courthouse security system, repairing the HVAC infrastructure, converting the library annex into a new judges' chambers, and upgrading the fire alarm systems. The Court additionally began renovations to Judge Elliott's chambers.



Criminal Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	231	153	207	115	79
Cases Terminated	182	176	181	153	131
Cases Pending	213	200	230	196	150



Civil Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	1,370	1,209	1,994	667	606
Cases Terminated	519	424	208	389	702
Cases Pending*	2,133	2,919	3,525	3,804	3,708

* Pending cases for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

**Probation & Pretrial Services Office
District of New Hampshire**

Personnel

In 2023, Maggie Gildea and JoAnna Peters were promoted to USPOs; Scott Davidson and Steve Seero were promoted to Supervisory USPOs; and Matthew Farwell was promoted to Location Monitoring Specialist.

Further, Emma Paciulli was hired as a USPO; Paul Jacques and Meghan Montgomery were hired as Probation Support Technicians; Bailey Allard was hired as a Probation Support Technician; Kate Nightingale was hired as an Administrative Specialist; and John Bendzunas was hired as Assistant Deputy Chief USPO.

Steven Killelea resigned from his position as USPO, and Louise Tyler retired from her Administrative Officer position.

Pretrial Services

In FY 2023, the office activated 149 new cases, a slight increase from FY 2022 (147 activations). Drugs comprised the largest proportion of charged offenses (50%). Officers conducted 108 pretrial interviews in FY 2023, and recommended release 63.4% of the time (excluding immigration cases). The District received 72 new cases for pretrial supervision in FY 2023. In FY 2023, there were 27 pretrial service violations across 26 defendants.

Presentence Investigations

The office completed 178 presentence investigations in FY 2023, a 16% decrease from FY 2022. Further, the office completed three compassionate release investigations.

The rate of on-time submission of presentence investigation reports increased substantially, from 90% in FY 2022 to 99% in FY 2023.

Post-Conviction Supervision

In FY 2023, the Supervision Unit continued to experience a rising workload, with a total of 436 cases on active post-conviction supervision, a slight increase from FY 2022 (3%). Of these cases, 91% were on supervised release, and 51% were for drug offense convictions. Cases deemed intense or elevated risk accounted for 32% of post-conviction supervision, compared to 27% nationally.

In FY 2023, the office closed 181 cases from active supervision, 51 (28%) of which were closed due to revocation. Of those revoked, 40 (78%) were considered technical violations, seven (14%) were major violations, and four (8%) were minor violations. Total cases revoked remained consistent with the 50 cases in FY 2022 and 51 cases in FY 2023.

In FY 2023, the office terminated 22 cases early from supervision, a 50% increase from FY 2022, resulting in a total savings of \$160,104.00.

Treatment Services

The costs associated with treatment services decreased by 20% between FY 2022 (\$530,709) and FY 2023 (\$422,706). Costs decreased in the following areas in FY 2023: location monitoring costs by 32%; substance abuse testing by 48%; and substance abuse treatment by 27%.

LASER Docket Program

Since 2010, the District has operated the Law-Abiding, Sober, Employed, and Responsible

(LASER) Docket, a cooperative effort between the Court, the USAO, the PPSO, the Federal Public Defender's Office (FPDO), and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS). The LASER Docket offers treatment and sanction alternatives to address defendant/offender behavior, promote rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and ensure community safety. During FY 2023, 17 pretrial defendants entered the program, bringing the total number of participants who participated at some point during the fiscal year to 35. Notably, eight participants graduated from LASER in FY 2023.

Information Technology

The office continued to share IT services with the District and Bankruptcy Courts. In 2023, the District achieved the following goals, in addition to others: implementing additional automation solutions and refinements using SharePoint and other applications; replacing all cell phones district-wide; refining and streamlining the District's patch and asset management practices; and completing network access bandwidth upgrades.

Officer Safety

In FY 2023, Officer Response Tactics (ORT) training remained stagnant, as Officer Safety Instructor (OSI) Eric Gray transitioned to a different agency.

Senior USPO Scott Davidson provided new USPO with certain safety trainings. In early 2023, USPO William Carroll attended the Initial Firearms Instructor Course at the Federal Probation and Pretrial Academy.

From April through October 2023, the firearms team held monthly live fire sessions. Four of those sessions were qualification

ranges, while three were training days. Attendance at one of each was mandatory for all staff who carry firearms, in accordance with the Firearms & Safety Procedures Manual.

Training and Professional Development

In FY 2023, staff participated in several national, regional, and local trainings, including, but not limited to: EDR; Wellness and Workload Management; Federal Court Clerks Association's Financial Thinking; Post Conviction Risk Assessment 2.0 Refresher; and quarterly IT Trainings.

Recognition

During FY 2023, on the recommendation of the year's peer-based employee recognition program, the following staff were cited for outstanding work and/or character:

- Matt Farwell and Chris Pingree received the District Award for Sustained Superior Performance;
- Tammy Greenwood received the District Award for Exceeding Expectations;
- Theresa Duncan received the Dan Gildea Award; and
- Scott Christensen received the Character Award.

Report for the District of Puerto Rico

Court Profile

The District had seven district judges, three senior district judges, and five magistrate judges at the conclusion of 2023. Chambers staff totaled 41, including one full-time pro se law clerk. Clerk's Office staff totaled 72, including seven court reporters and six court interpreters. On March 17, 2023, Ada I. García-Rivera, Esq., CPA, was appointed as Clerk of Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

Conferences/Educational Programs

The District sponsored a two-day Continuing Legal Education program in December 2023 that covered various topics, including, but not limited to, intellectual property in the music and entertainment industry, ethics, social media, and a U.S. Supreme Court term review.

Local Rules/Procedure

The Court adopted amendments to Local Civil Rule 9 after public notice and comment.

Interpreters

In 2023, staff interpreters completed 5,897 Spanish language interpreting events, and contract interpreters completed 2,423 Spanish language events.

District Bar Examination

In April and November 2023, 221 individuals took the District bar exam with 61 obtaining a passing grade. A total of 64 attorneys were admitted to practice in the District during 2023, including those who passed the test in previous years.

Civil Pro Bono Program

In 2023, 400 attorneys were selected to serve on the Civil Pro Bono Panel, and 148 pro bono appointments were made.

Naturalization Ceremonies

The Court held seven naturalization ceremonies, during which 197 persons were sworn in as citizens.

Information Technology

The IT Department continued to provide active IT support to all District and U.S. Probation Office staff to ease the transition to in-person operations. IT staff dedicated significant time toward complying with security directives and ensuring the continuity of IT operations during the evacuation of the Degetau Federal Building in August 2023. See infra p. 67.

Community Outreach

Student and Youth Visits: In April and October 2023, Chief Judge Arias-Marxuach and Magistrate Judge López-Soler led two sessions of the Civil Discourse and Difficult Decisions program, engaging high school students to promote civility and foster effective communication skills in daily interactions and within the courtroom.

Chief Judge Arias-Marxuach and Judge Antongiorgi-Jordán hosted visits from 55 high school students from the University of Puerto Rico Law School's Legal Summer Camp in June and July 2023, and discussed ethics, civility, and court employee roles with the students.

In July 2023, Judge Vélez-Rivé hosted a group of 48 summer interns from local law firms and provided them with an introduction and overview of federal civil and criminal proceedings. In the same month, Judge Carreño-Coll presided over a moot court exercise with 15 high school and college students from the probation office's summer program.

In August 2023, Judge Besosa participated in a middle school graduation ceremony in Cidra, Puerto Rico.

RESCATE (Reentry Supervised Released Court Alternative): On September 21, eight participants graduated from the RESCATE program, which is a joint initiative between the USAO, FPDO, and USPO with goals of reducing re-arrest rates, promoting community safety by means of intensive supervision, and providing work and other opportunities to participants.

Hosting: In April 2023, the Court served as one of the host cities for the Roadways to the Bench program, a national diversity initiative aimed at encouraging a broader pool of applicants to pursue federal bankruptcy and magistrate judge positions.

Throughout 2023, the District frequently welcomed Latin American judges from the Judicial Studies Institute to the Clemente Ruiz Nazario and José V. Toledo U.S. Courthouses. During these visits, the visiting judges observed criminal proceedings led by district and magistrate judges, offering them valuable insights into the U.S. judicial process.

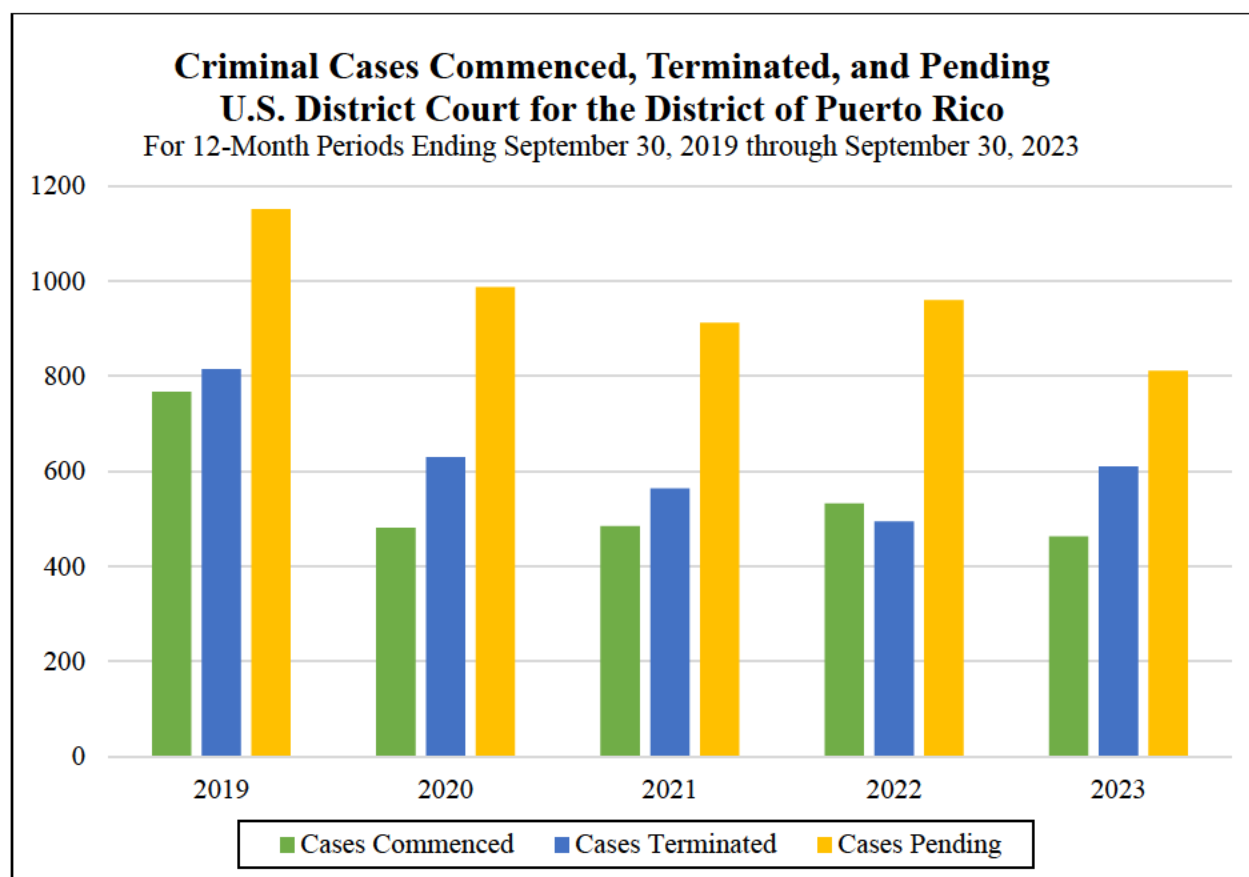
Space and Facilities

In late August 2023, the Clerk's Office, magistrate judges chambers, and courtrooms

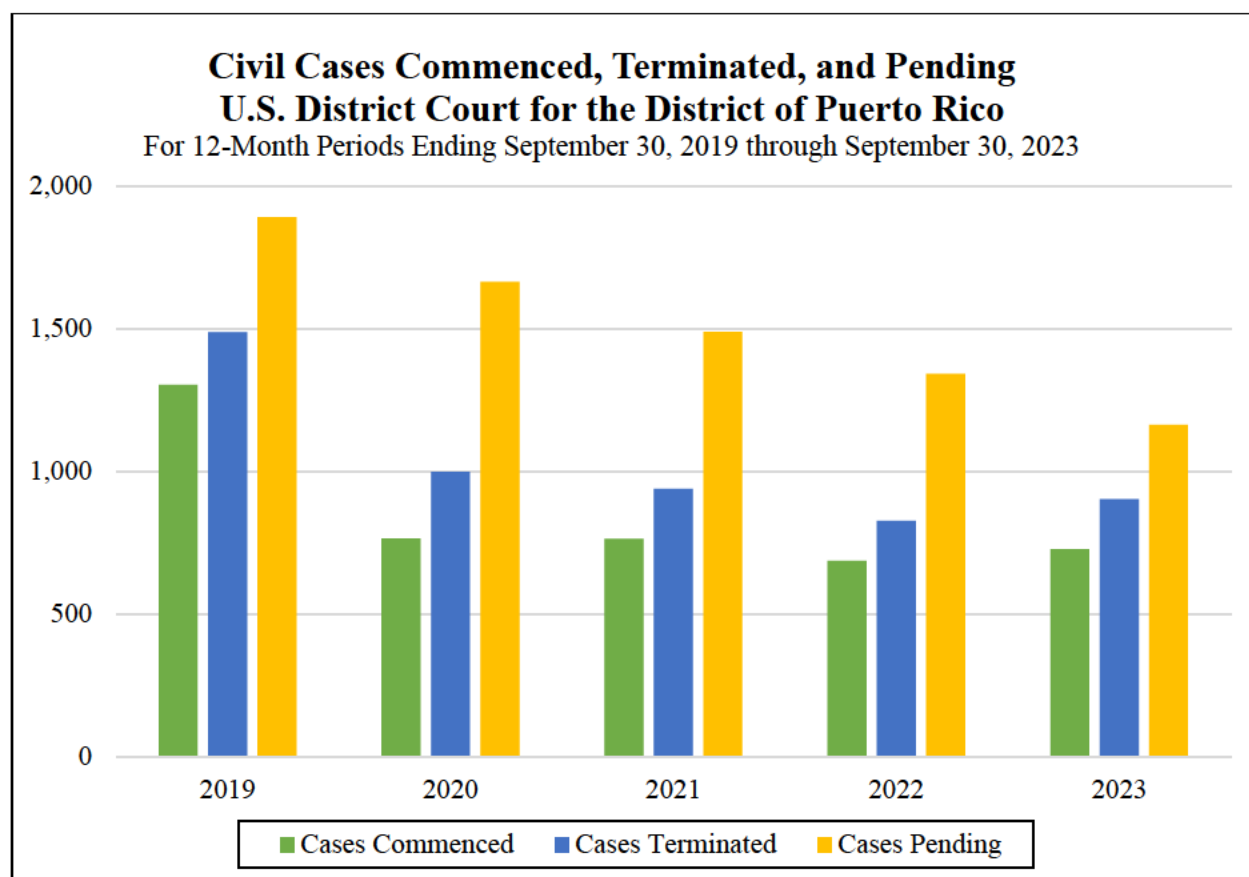
were evacuated from the Degetau Federal Building and relocated due to seismic risks. This determination was made following studies commissioned by GSA, which revealed that, while the building can support typical occupancy loads at full capacity, it does not meet relevant seismic criteria.

Due to courtroom space limitations, the Court initiated and reviewed monthly a Courtroom Sharing Plan to ensure that judges had an equitable distribution of courtroom assignments and to guarantee dedicated space for grand jury proceedings and the magistrate judge on duty.

The Courthouse Annex for the Hato Rey campus is currently in the design phase.



Criminal Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	767	481	484	532	463
Cases Terminated	815	629	564	494	610
Cases Pending	1,151	987	912	960	811



Civil Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	1,303	764	763	686	726
Cases Terminated	1,487	998	938	826	902
Cases Pending*	1,892	1,664	1,489	1,341	1,163

* Pending cases for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

**Probation & Pretrial Services Office
District of Puerto Rico**

Personnel

During FY 2023, the office hired six USPOs, two of which transferred from other districts; two Probation Officer Assistants; one Human Resources Administrator; and one Human Resources Clerk, who transferred from another judiciary office. Also in FY 2023, two USPO Specialists were promoted to Supervisory USPOs; six USPOs were promoted to USPO Specialists; three Assistant USPOs were promoted to USPOs; and one Probation Services Technician was promoted to an Assistant USPO. Four staff members separated due to retirement.

Investigations and Supervision

Court Services: During FY 2023, the Court Services Division opened 1,056 new bail investigations and completed 981 presentence reports. Division managers continued to meet regularly to develop strategies aimed at improving release rates, the overall quality of work, and efficiency. The division conducted quarterly training sessions for officers focusing on Sentencing Guideline applications, case law, and intervention skills.

Pretrial Services Investigations Division: During FY 2023, the office opened 1,056 cases. Controlled substances remained the most common offense type, followed by firearms and violent crimes. The release rate during the period was 43.6%, which is above the national rate and an increase of 4.9% as compared with the previous fiscal year.

Pretrial Supervision Division: The division focused on effective management of the electronic monitoring caseloads as well as managing cases in accordance with the risk and needs principles.

Post-Conviction Supervision Division: In FY 2023, 2,763 post-conviction cases were activated, and 307 were closed by revocation. The FY 2023 revocation rate (27%) was a decrease from FY 2022 (31.4%). The division continued to provide reentry services, including collaborative agreements with other community resources for Graduate Equivalency Diplomas, workforce development workshops, and driver's licenses. The reentry team provided several virtual and in-person activities for individuals under supervision. The division continued to have one of the highest investments nationwide in Second Chance Funds for Offender-Defendant Reentry Services.

	<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>FY 2023</i>
<i>Cases Revoked and Closed</i>		
Total Cases Closed	1048	1048
Cases Closed by Early Termination	119	156
Revocations	321	307
Revocation Rate	31%	27%
<i>Persons under Supervision (Pretrial Services and Diversion)</i>	<i>FY 2022</i>	<i>FY 2023</i>
	796	825

District Initiatives

During FY 2023, the office continued its community outreach program. The office conducted 24 events/trainings on topics such as cyberbullying, dangers of social media and cybercrimes, and drugs, and presented an overview of the U.S. Probation Office to a number of schools and community programs. Approximately 2,486 students were impacted, as well as teachers, counselors, social workers, psychologists, school administrators, and parents.

Training and Professional Development

Office personnel participated in 117 training events held locally and nationally on topics including, but not limited to, sentencing and drug-testing lab procedures.

Space Initiatives

In FY 2023, the office procured and coordinated its biannual carpet cleaning throughout the office space. Pursuant to its Wellness Program, and in coordination with other agencies located at the Federico Degetau Federal Building, the USPO continued to use a joint-office gym space for federal employees. In August 2024, the office was relocated because of structural concerns for the building in which the office is located, and the effect of this move included a significant adjustment to day-to-day operations, as well as constraints to the services provided.

Report for the District of Rhode Island

Committee Membership

Clerk of Court Hanorah Tyler-Witek served as Chair of the District Clerk's Advisory Group and the Federal Court Clerks Association Clerk's Advisory Panel.

Chief Deputy Clerk Frank Perry continued to serve as faculty for the FJC's New Deputy Court Unit Executive (CUE) program and Experienced Deputy CUE program, and the AO's Criminal Operations Advisory Council. He was also a unified search alpha user representative for PACER.

IT Director Heather Restifo was the IT representative to the AO's IT Security Task Force, where she was appointed as Chair of the Subgroup on Resources; the subgroup's work resulted in the addition of IT security positions in each circuit. She was also a member of the interview panel for the AO's Chief Operating Officer of the Department of Technology Services.

Programmer/Systems Administrator Patrick McGourty served on the AO's Jury Working Group.

Court Operations Manager Michael Simoncelli served on the Restitution Expert Panel Working Group.

Case Manager Nisshy Urizandi continued to serve on the First Circuit Clerk's Office Advisory Committee.

Case Administrator Kayla DaCruz served on the CMM User Representative Workflow for the District Group.

Operations

The Court had 540 civil filings, 549 civil terminations, 75 criminal filings, and 89 criminal terminations.

The Court adopted an emergency rule in June 2023 that formalized pandemic-era rules regarding remote electronic access to court proceedings by the public and the holding of civil proceedings via remote videoconference.

The District revamped its criminal calendar call/Speedy Trial Act procedures to hold less frequent, but more meaningful, calendar calls.

Human Resources/Staffing

In February 2023, Network Administrator Anthony Italiano joined the IT team from the District of Ohio.

Educational Programs/Community Outreach

Educational Programs: The Court held a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn series for the summer interns, wherein members of the FPDO, USMS, USAO, and PPSO spoke about their respective roles in the judicial system.

The Court also held several Continuing Legal Education Programs, including a Restorative Justice Program with Judge McElroy and Judge Sorokin of the District of Massachusetts and a probation officer and attorneys from the District of Massachusetts; a Bureau of Prisons' First Step Act Training - Video Replay; a CJA Panel Update and Important Practice Notes; and a training on the Amendments to the Sentencing Guidelines.

In November 2023, the Court hosted the 2023 Litigation Academy on Direct and Cross Examination.

Civic Education Programs: Several groups, including, but not limited to, Senator Whitehouse's interns, Roger Williams University School of Law Summer Leadership, Equity, Achievement, and Diversity (L.E.A.D.) Program students, and participants from the Stem Community Program from Pawtucket, visited the Court.

The Clerk's Office had a high school student intern and had two students from the Boys and Girls Club Summer Youth Employment Program shadow the office and meet with Judge Smith for a question and answer session.

The Court hosted: a high school aged group, known as Princes to Kings, for mock arguments in July and August 2023; the Federal/State Judicial Committee Luncheon; the reception for the FJC New and Intermediate Judge's Course with judges from across the country in September 2023; and the annual meeting of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Rights in October 2023.

Naturalization Ceremonies: The Court naturalized 135 new citizens.

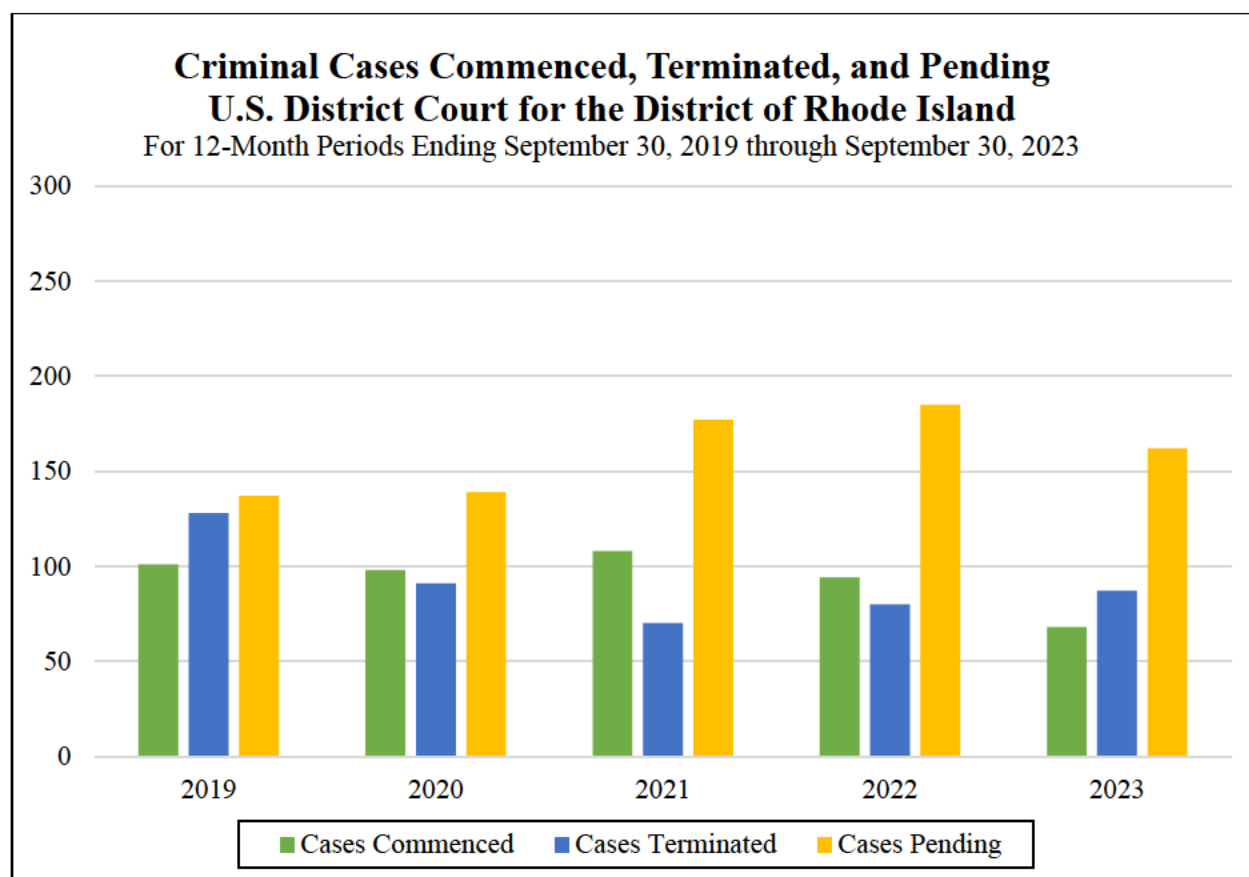
Space and Facilities

For FY 2023, the Court funded tenant alteration electrical work to install new battery backup units in the demarcation room. The Court also upgraded the electrical system in the Judicial Conference Room. Cyclical maintenance projects included carpet replacement and window covering maintenance in several second-floor offices. The Court, with GSA, began the first phase of a courthouse building envelope project that is designed to address masonry and exterior window casings and began the process of a complete heat loop piping replacement project.

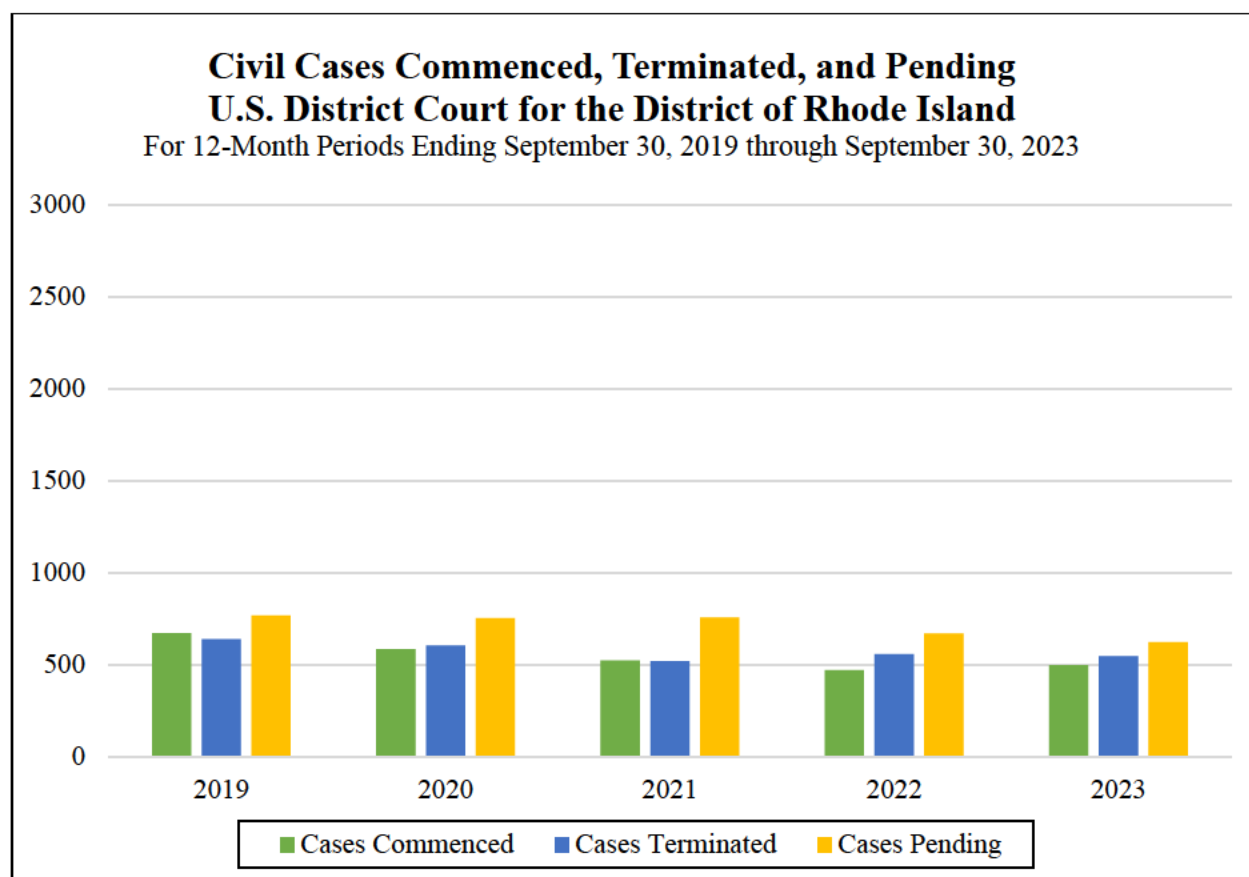
Information Technology

The IT Department, with the Operations staff, developed a program to revolutionize the approach to local court electronic case filing statistics, which improves both data quality and efficiency. The Court plans to expand the use of this system for other operational efficiencies, including chambers workflows. The Court implemented a motions solution for chambers.

The IT Department also developed a dashboard to check internal IT day-to-day housekeeping tasks, which reduced manual processes and permitted staff to concentrate on more proactive, creative, operationally focused IT solutions. The Department installed two new courtrooms with the latest technology, collapsed the U.S. Probation Office into the AO's active directory, and implemented inventory systems for the District and Probation Office with the Administration Team.



Criminal Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	101	98	108	94	68
Cases Terminated	128	91	70	80	87
Cases Pending	137	139	177	185	162



Civil Cases Commenced, Terminated, and Pending U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	670	582	521	468	496
Cases Terminated	637	602	518	555	545
Cases Pending*	768	751	754	668	621

* Pending cases for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

**Probation & Pretrial Services Office
District of Rhode Island**

Personnel

USPO Mandy Colman was promoted to Employment Specialist. USPO Ben Miller transferred to the office from the District of Massachusetts. Andy Montan and Humphrey Swift were hired as USPOs. One USPO transferred to the District of Massachusetts, one transferred to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and one chose to leave the judiciary for an outside role.

Pretrial Services

In 2023, the office activated 109 new cases, an 8% decrease from 2022. The District's FY 2023 pretrial release rate, excluding immigration cases, was 56.3%, compared to the national average of 41.6%. Pretrial release supervision cases increased by 9.7% from 2022. On average, the office supervised 140 pretrial defendants each month.

Presentence Investigations

The office completed 119 presentence investigations, a 6% increase over 2022. With the retroactive application of Amendment 821 of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, nine retroactive guideline reports were also submitted to the District Court.

Post-Conviction Supervision

In 2023, the office supervised an average of 310 offenders per month, an 8% decrease from 2022. At the end of 2023, 322 individuals were on supervision, with a majority on supervised release (91.2% of defendants). The District's revocation rate for FY 2023 was 26.4%, a 15.3% increase over FY 2022, but below the national average of 33.4%. The District utilized a total of \$9,538

in Second Chance funds to assist those on supervision with emergency and transitional needs such as housing, transportation, and educational programs.

Treatment Services

In FY 2023, spending for substance use, mental health, and sex offender treatment remained steady from the past year and totaled \$316,571.

District Initiatives

In 2023, the Deferred Sentencing Program (DSP) continued to provide qualifying participants with the opportunity to engage in this alternative to incarceration program. DSP had 11 participants during 2023, two of which completed the program.

The HOPE Court, which supports high risk offenders with intensive supervision strategies and targeted services, enrolled 11 new admittees, after having 22 observers to the program. Dr. Robert Kinscherff, who had previously consulted with the DSP program, was contracted to provide expert, clinical assistance with HOPE Court participants who struggle with addiction, mental health disorders, cognitive limitations, interpersonal relationships, and employment.

In July 2023, with the creation and hiring of an Employment Specialist, the office began a partnership with Lifespan Health System's Pathway to Employment program, which is a 16-week paid work program that is designed to provide an opportunity for individuals to learn and work in the medical field. Participants are trained at Rhode Island Hospital and receive a weekly life skills class and services to address barriers to employment. Program graduates are guaranteed a permanent position within Lifespan Health System.

Professional Development and Training

Chief USPO John Marshall continued to serve on the FJC's Executive Education Advisory Committee, while also serving as a faculty member of the FJC's New CUE Leadership Seminar. Chief Marshall also continued to serve as the Co-Chair of the PPSO's Post-Conviction Procedures Working Group, which is working to create efficient procedures and practices for post-conviction supervision.

Supervising USPO Amie Blanchette continued to serve as a faculty member on the FJC's Supervising Officers in an Evidence Based Environment (SOEBE) program. Chief Marshall and Deputy Chief USPO Kristin Mattias continued to participate in quarterly Chief/Deputy SOEBE calls.

Supervising USPO Heather Maloney continued her role as a member of the Reentry Working Group.

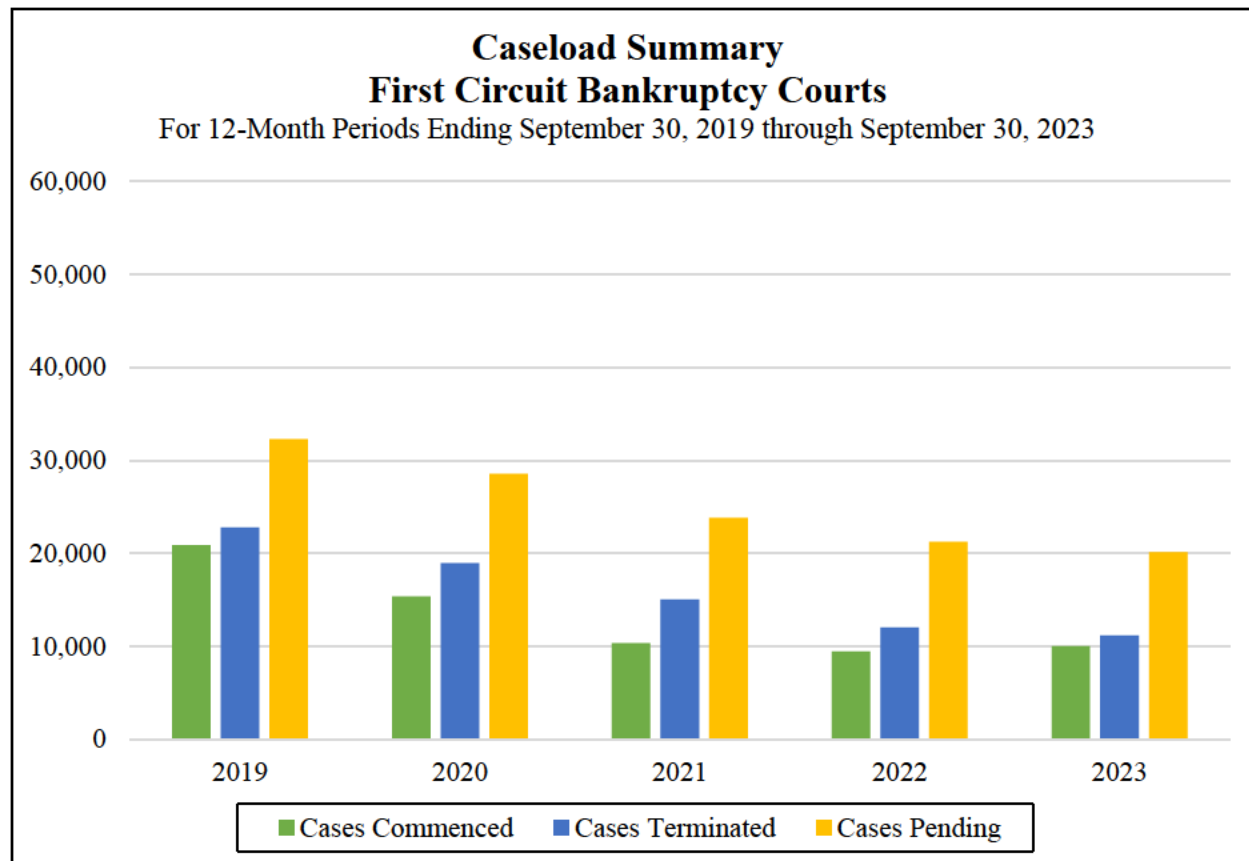
Supervising USPO Heather McLoughlin volunteered to be part of the national Location Monitoring Emergency Response Team and remained available to assist other districts in case of a natural disaster or other emergency matters. She also continued to work with the AO's Location Monitoring Focus Group.

Data Quality Analyst Alice Silveira, Probation Services Technician Jessica Phillips, and USPO Elvis Guillen participated in User Acceptance Testing to assist in the development of PACTS 360, while the District of Rhode Island remained engaged in PACTS 360 training and began serving as a pilot district. USPO Elvis Guillen also continued to serve on the First Circuit Probation and Pretrial Services Subcommittee on Workplace Conduct.

Staff participated virtually and in person as attendees in several national, regional, and

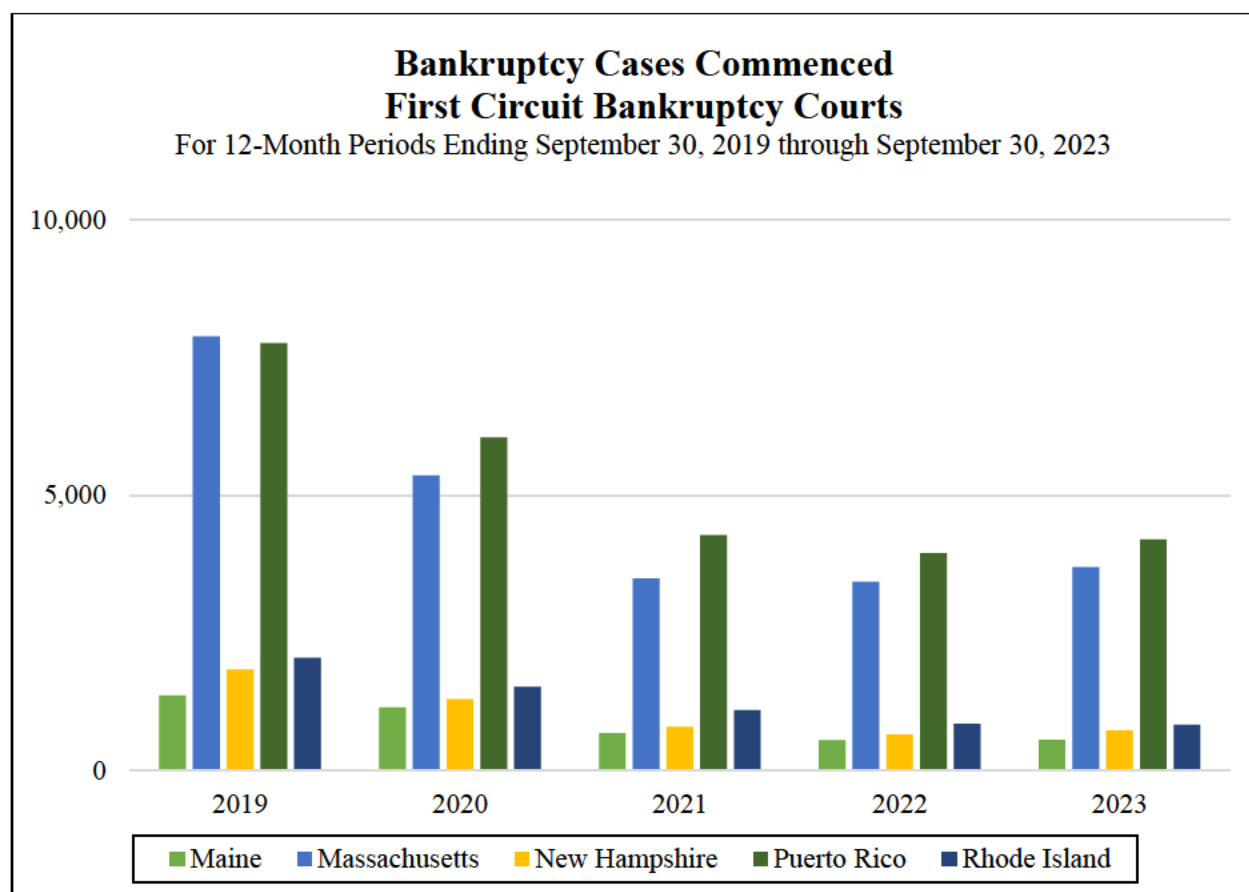
local training seminars on topics and programs such as Critical Incident Stress Management, PACTS 360, Management Development Program, EDR training, FJC Science Informed Decision-Making, U.S. Sentencing Guidelines training, and New and Emerging Leaders Program. Staff also participated in the following conferences: Crimes Against Children conference; National Association of Drug Court Professionals conference; and National Association of Pretrial Services Agencies conference.

Statistical Report for the Bankruptcy Courts in the First Circuit

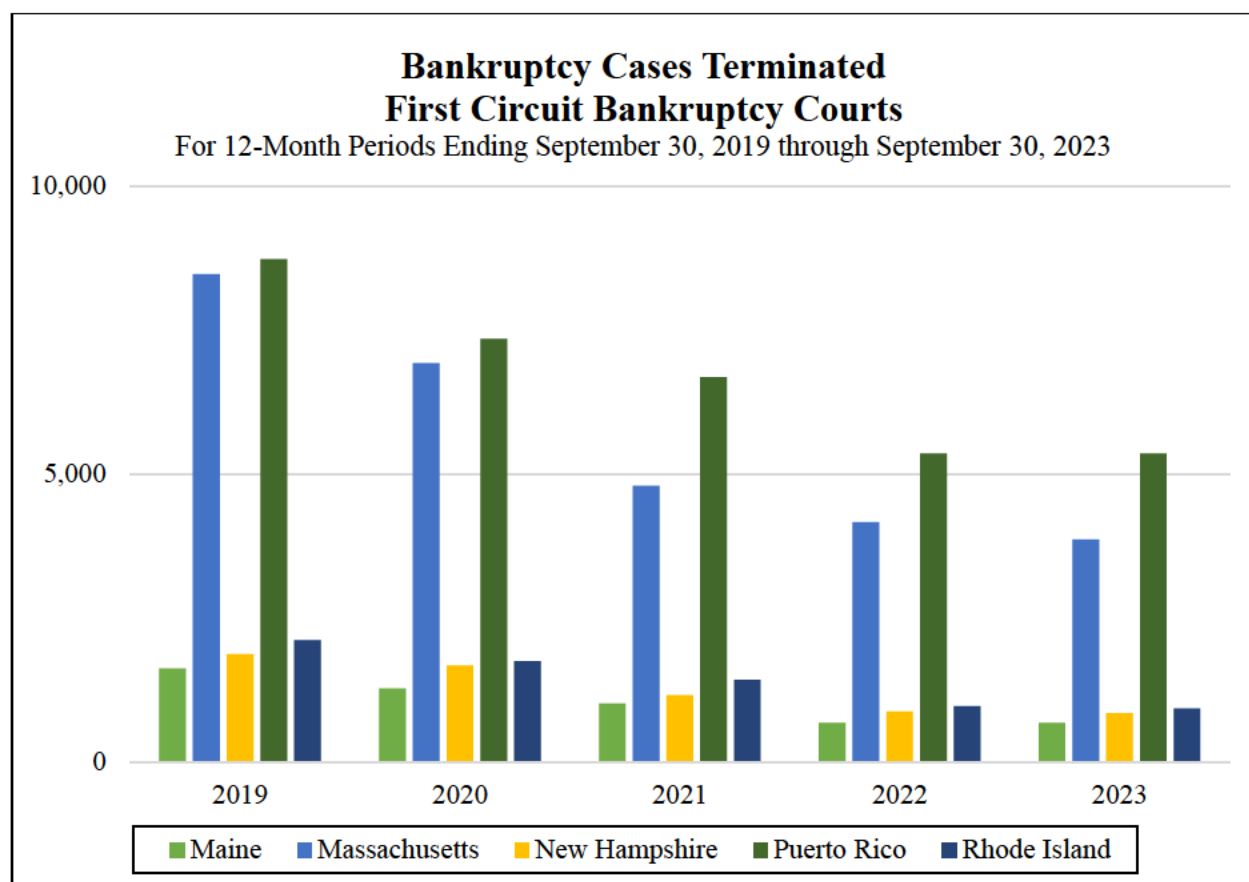


Caseload Summary First Circuit Bankruptcy Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	20,884	15,367	10,334	9,439	10,013
Cases Terminated	22,793	18,962	15,059	12,030	11,160
Cases Pending*	32,310	28,565	23,841	21,249	20,125

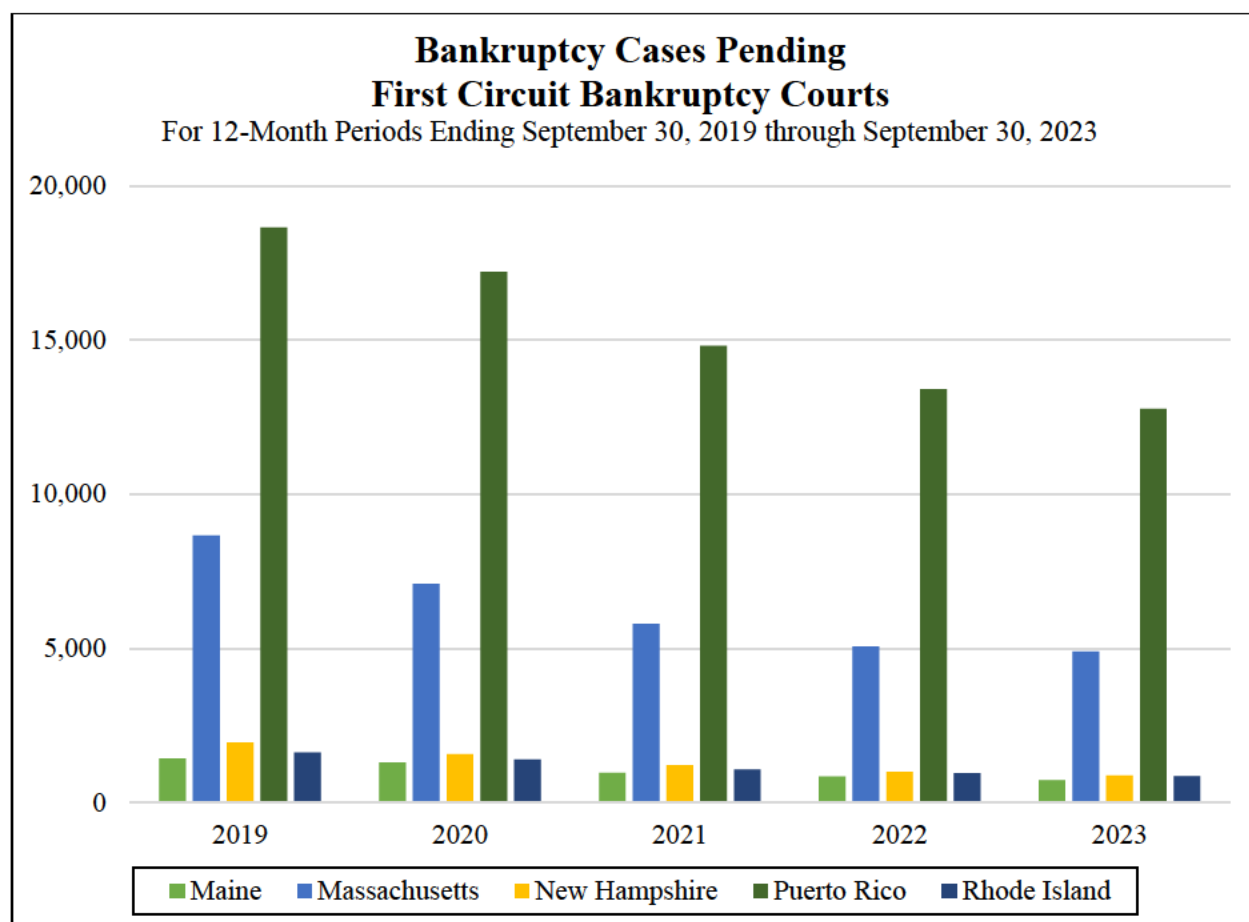
* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.



Bankruptcy Cases Commenced First Circuit Bankruptcy Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	1,362	1,148	677	554	561
Massachusetts	7,883	5,357	3,489	3,429	3,695
New Hampshire	1,836	1,297	798	658	728
Puerto Rico	7,756	6,046	4,273	3,948	4,196
Rhode Island	2,047	1,519	1,097	850	833



Bankruptcy Cases Terminated First Circuit Bankruptcy Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	1,618	1,275	1,010	674	676
Massachusetts	8,465	6,923	4,790	4,161	3,860
New Hampshire	1,868	1,671	1,155	874	842
Puerto Rico	8,728	7,343	6,680	5,354	4,856
Rhode Island	2,114	1,750	1,424	967	926



Bankruptcy Cases Pending* First Circuit Bankruptcy Courts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
District	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Maine	1,423	1,294	961	841	726
Massachusetts	8,665	7,094	5,793	5,059	4,895
New Hampshire	1,939	1,565	1,208	992	878
Puerto Rico	18,659	17,219	14,813	13,408	12,770
Rhode Island	1,624	1,393	1,066	949	856

* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

Business Bankruptcy Filings, by chapter First Circuit Bankruptcy Courts For 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2023				
District	chapter 7	chapter 11	chapter 12	chapter 13
Maine	24	12	2	9
Massachusetts	162	66	6	26
New Hampshire	22	9	0	9
Puerto Rico	30	56	6	21
Rhode Island	21	4	0	1

Nonbusiness Bankruptcy Filings, by chapter First Circuit Bankruptcy Courts For 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2023			
District	chapter 7	chapter 11	chapter 13
Maine	409	1	104
Massachusetts	2,213	6	1,216
New Hampshire	449	0	239
Puerto Rico	1,301	19	2,763
Rhode Island	603	0	204

Report for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine

Committee Membership

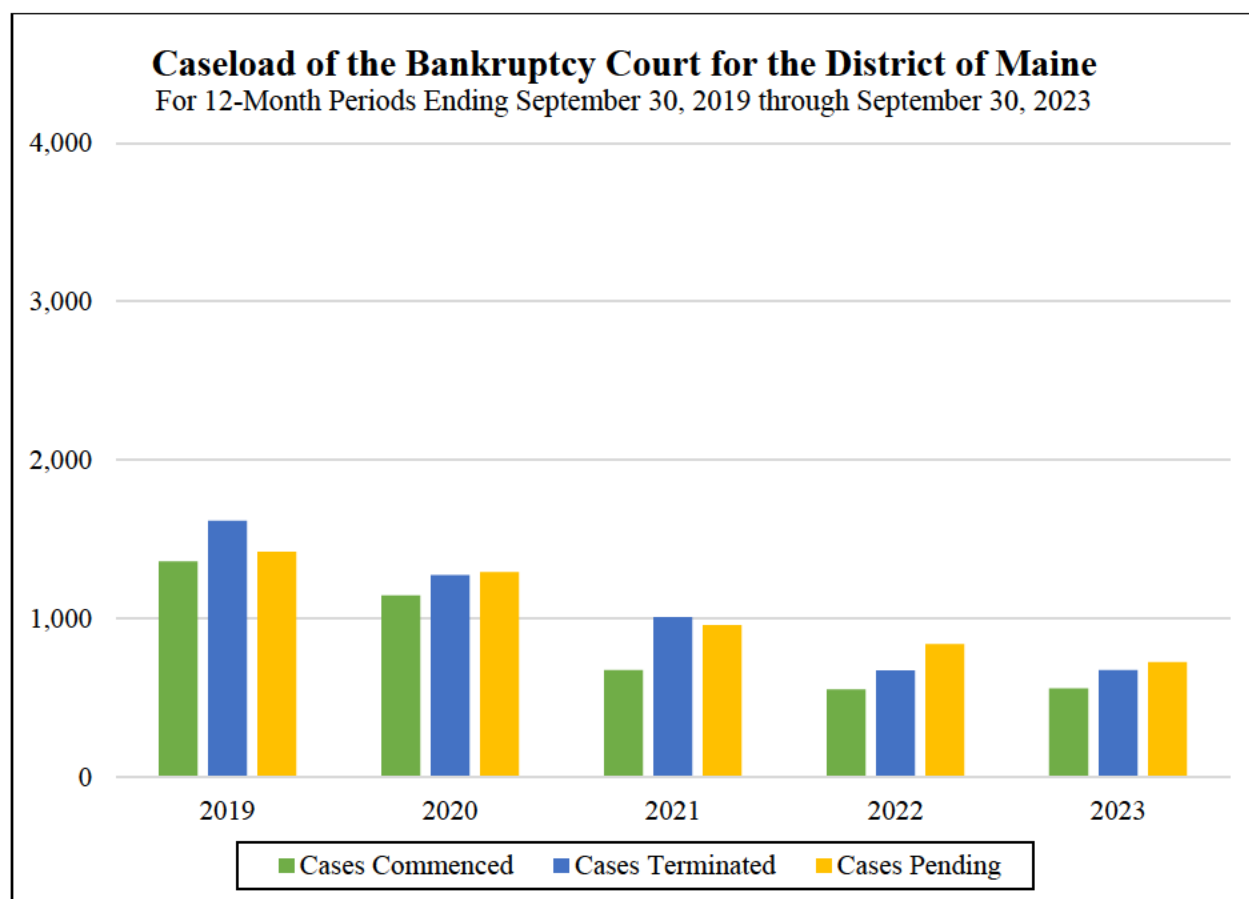
Kristen Ford, Deputy-in-Charge in Bangor, served on the Advisory Committee to the First Circuit Workplace Conduct Committee and the National Conference on Bankruptcy Clerks Education Committee and Mentorship Committee.

Court Trainings

In June and November, the Court hosted multiple virtual Bankruptcy Power Hour trainings for attorneys and support staff covering best practices for filing in CM/ECF, procedural information, responses to commonly asked questions, and comprehensive changes to the Court's Local Rules. The objective for these Power Hours was to increase understanding of filing procedures, review rule requirements and Clerk's Office expectations, reduce the need for amended or corrective filings, and improve communication between the Clerk's Office and practitioners.

Conferences/Educational Programs

In 2023, Chief Judge Cary hosted several public outreach programs, including hosting a group of high school students from the Greenheart International Exchange Program, and a Zoom Q&A on government and law with students from a fifth-grade class at Village Elementary School in Gorham, Maine. Judge Fagone delivered a Credit Abuse Resistance Education (CARE) presentation at a high school in Brewer, Maine, and spoke on two panels at a Maine State Bar Association Continuing Legal Education event. In addition, Judge Fagone published an article, titled "Back to Basics: Interpreting the Bankruptcy Code," in the *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal*.



Caseload for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	1,362	1,148	677	554	561
Cases Terminated	1,618	1,275	1,010	674	676
Cases Pending*	1,423	1,294	961	841	726

* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

Report for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts

Human Resources/Staffing

In 2023, the Court continued to participate in a variety of short and long-term sharing agreements with other bankruptcy courts and the AO.

Space and Facilities

In Boston, the Court started to plan to move its IT department from the tenth floor to the 11th floor of the courthouse.

Statistics

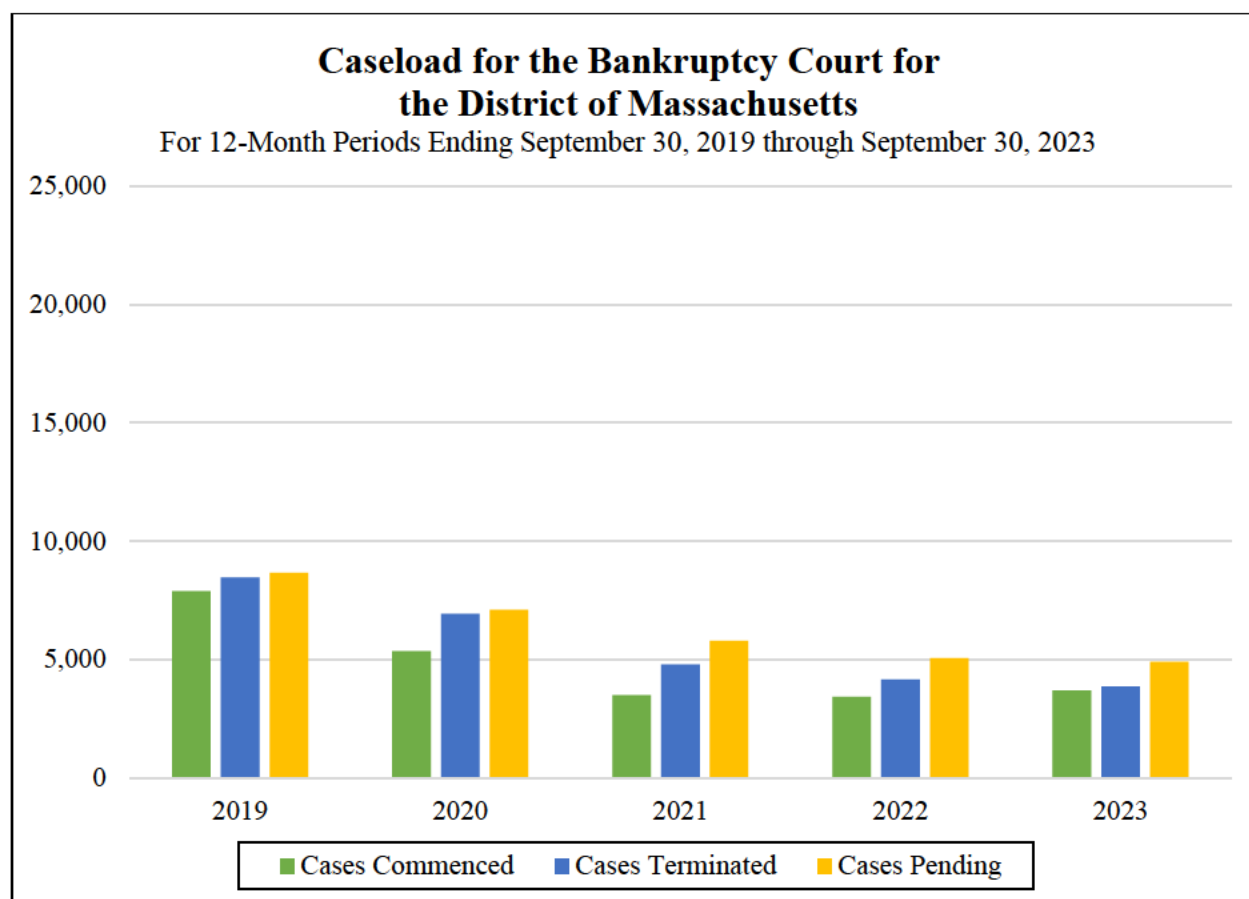
Between calendar years 2022 and 2023, the total number of petitions filed increased by 14.3% and the number of adversary proceedings increased by 5.0%.

Community Outreach

The bankruptcy judges participated in the Roadways to the Bench program and served as panelists on local, regional, and national programs presented by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, the Boston Bar Association, the Practising Law Institute, the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges, the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, the American Bankruptcy Institute, the Hamden County Bar Association, area law schools, and the American Bar Association. The Court hosted a reception for the JCUS Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System during its annual spring meeting. The Court's Pro Bono Committee, chaired by Judge Bostwick and Clerk of Court Molly Sharon, continued its efforts to increase the number of attorneys available to accept pro bono cases, and in October 2023, the Committee held its Tenth Annual Pro Bono and Public Service Awards Ceremony.

Local Rules

The Local Rules Advisory Committee continued to meet regularly to work on updates to the Local Rules.



Caseload for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Massachusetts For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	7,883	5,357	3,489	3,429	3,695
Cases Terminated	8,465	6,923	4,790	4,161	3,860
Cases Pending*	8,665	7,094	5,793	5,059	4,895

* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

Report for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire

Human Resources/Staffing

Upon the retirement of Clerk Bonnie L. McAlary, Kristie Trimarco assumed the role of Clerk of Court on January 2, 2023. Kevin Davis assumed the role of Chief Deputy Clerk on January 16, 2023. In 2023, The Bankruptcy and District Courts continued to share IT and procurement services.

Information Technology

The Bankruptcy Court, District Court, and PPSO continue to share IT services and staff. Throughout the year, IT staff continued to play an integral role in maintaining the Court's ability to provide access to justice through remote hearings, to the extent allowed by applicable rules and policies. On June 12, 2023, the Court implemented the AO's new web-based cash register application called Automated Collections Register.

Staff Training

In 2023, Clerk Trimarco and Chief Deputy Davis attended New Clerk/Chief Deputy Training in Washington, D.C., and four staff members attended the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks in Boston, Massachusetts. Multiple staff members attended additional in-person and online training on many topics including, but not limited to, finance, human resources, operations management, procurement, and property management. The Court required employees to attend trainings on the EDR Plan and workplace violence.

IT staff attended CM/ECF Dictionary training and the AO's IT Conference and offered IT security training to all employees. Operations staff and supervisors attended multiple trainings on the CM/ECF Application, a calendaring application (CHAP), the FJC

Workshop for New Court Trainers, and the FJC's Introduction to Coaching for Supervisors.

Space and Facilities

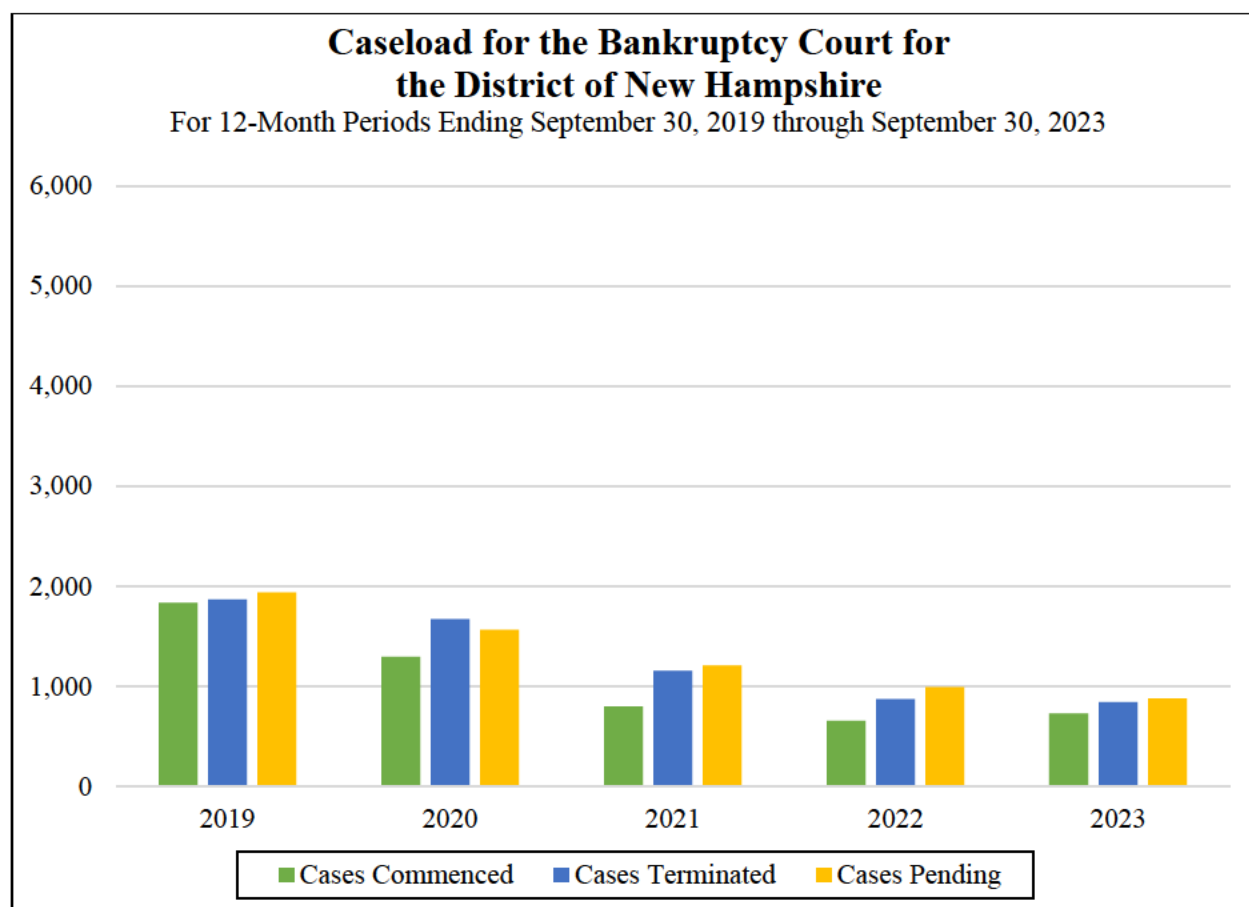
The Rudman/Cleveland complex's fire alarm project continued in 2023. GSA completed its work on replacing the Rudman Courthouse's cooling towers and chillers.

Case Management

The Court focused on the continued training of operations staff on complex topics related to case management. The Clerk's Office continued to train more operations staff on the courtroom roles of Duty Recorder and Emergency Backup Courtroom Deputy, with the goal of all operations staff being proficient in performing courtroom-related duties to allow staff more flexibility.

Community Outreach

Due to planning and activities related to the retirement of Chief Judge Harwood, community outreach initiatives remained suspended in 2023.



Caseload for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	1,836	1,297	798	658	728
Cases Terminated	1,868	1,671	1,155	874	842
Cases Pending*	1,939	1,565	1,208	992	878

* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

Report for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico

Staffing

Alvin Centeno continued his temporary duty assignment at the AO working with the Next Gen National Support Help Desk Team. Lizette Torres retired from her position as Operations Manager, and William Reyes replaced her as Operations Supervisor. A generalist clerk was appointed to support the court services team in the Ponce divisional office.

Local Rules/Procedures

The judges participated in the review of the Local Rules for U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico. Judge Lamoutte also participated on the revision of the Local Rules for the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico and the BAP.

Information Technology

In 2023, the Court upgraded its video conference equipment in Ponce, Puerto Rico, and its DCN wireless access points. In the summer of 2023, the Court adopted the Automated Collections Register program in its intake department. Further, the Court focused on IT security in advance of the IT Security Assessment scheduled for 2024. The Court continued to provide technical support to the District with respect to PROMESA cases.

Staff Training

The Court's annual training plan and retreat focused on fostering a growth mindset, based on the book *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* by Carol S. Dweck. The Court provided to staff human resources videos regarding benefits, leave, and taxes. Required training programs for all staff included

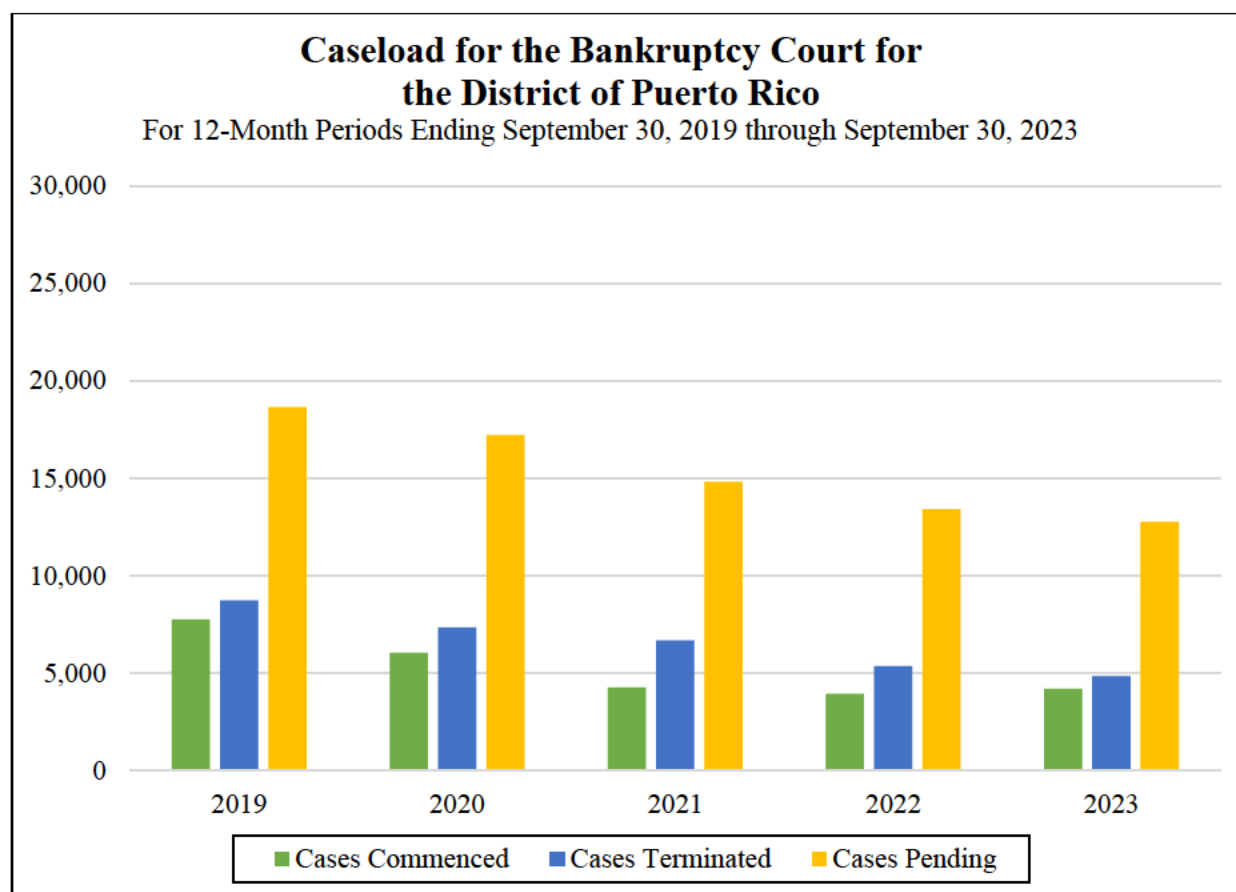
information security awareness, EDR, and ethics. The Court also shared the FJC's *In Session Podcast: Leading the Judiciary* with management staff and supervisors and made webinars and other wellness resources available to all staff.

Statistics

In 2023, there were 4,435 new bankruptcy filings: 3,004 chapter 13 cases; 1,361 chapter 7 cases; 66 chapter 11 cases; and four chapter 12 cases.

Community Outreach

The Court held three "Bankruptcy Brunch" presentations, regarding bankruptcy and/or legal topics, to the local bar.



Caseload for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Puerto Rico For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	7,756	6,046	4,273	3,948	4,196
Cases Terminated	8,728	7,343	6,680	5,354	4,856
Cases Pending*	18,659	17,219	14,813	13,408	12,770

* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

Report for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island

Human Resources/Staffing

Susan Thurston retired as Clerk of Court on March 31, 2023, Chief Deputy Clerk Kristen Batty served as Acting Clerk of Court from April 1, 2023 to June 4, 2023, and Jonathan Pincince was appointed Clerk of Court, effective June 5, 2023. Natalie Medved was appointed Career Law Clerk to Judge Finkle, effective September 25, 2023. The Bankruptcy Court continued to share administrative services in procurement and contracting with the District Court, in addition to sharing a district-wide IT Security Officer, and continued to partner with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Hampshire to perform annual internal controls reviews.

Staff Training

Court staff attended various conferences and remote trainings offered by the FJC, AO, the First Circuit, and other organizations, on topics including, but not limited to, EDR, courtroom deputy responsibilities, electronic court recording, case management, human resources, and IT security. In May 2023, one Clerk's Office staff member and one chambers staff member attended the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks in Anaheim, California. In June 2023, three Clerk's Office staff members attended the Federal Court Clerk Association sponsored Financial Management Training in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Committee Membership

Clerk of Court Jonathan Pincince served on the planning committee for the FJC's 2024 National Leadership Conference for Circuit and Court Unit Executives. Operations

Supervisor Amy Geraghty served on the First Circuit Judicial Council Access to Justice Committee. PC Systems Administrator Stephen Stricklett and Law Clerk Jacqueline Dagle served as members of the First Circuit Director of Workplace Relations' Clerk's Office and Law Clerk Advisory Committees, respectively.

Information Technology

The Court implemented JSP Form Manager, which streamlines template creation and management by providing a secure process for uploading and downloading templates for updates and modifications without the need for special user accounts. The Court trained for and deployed Automated Collections Register, a web-based collection register application.

Case Management

The Court implemented new events and procedures to transition hundreds of cases from the retiring standing chapter 13 trustee to the successor trustee. In anticipation of the 2024 federal bankruptcy rules restyle, and to track the location of citations and references for future amendments, the Court reviewed all resources such as online manuals, websites, local forms, rules, and CM/ECF events and charted the locations where each local and federal rule and form was cited.

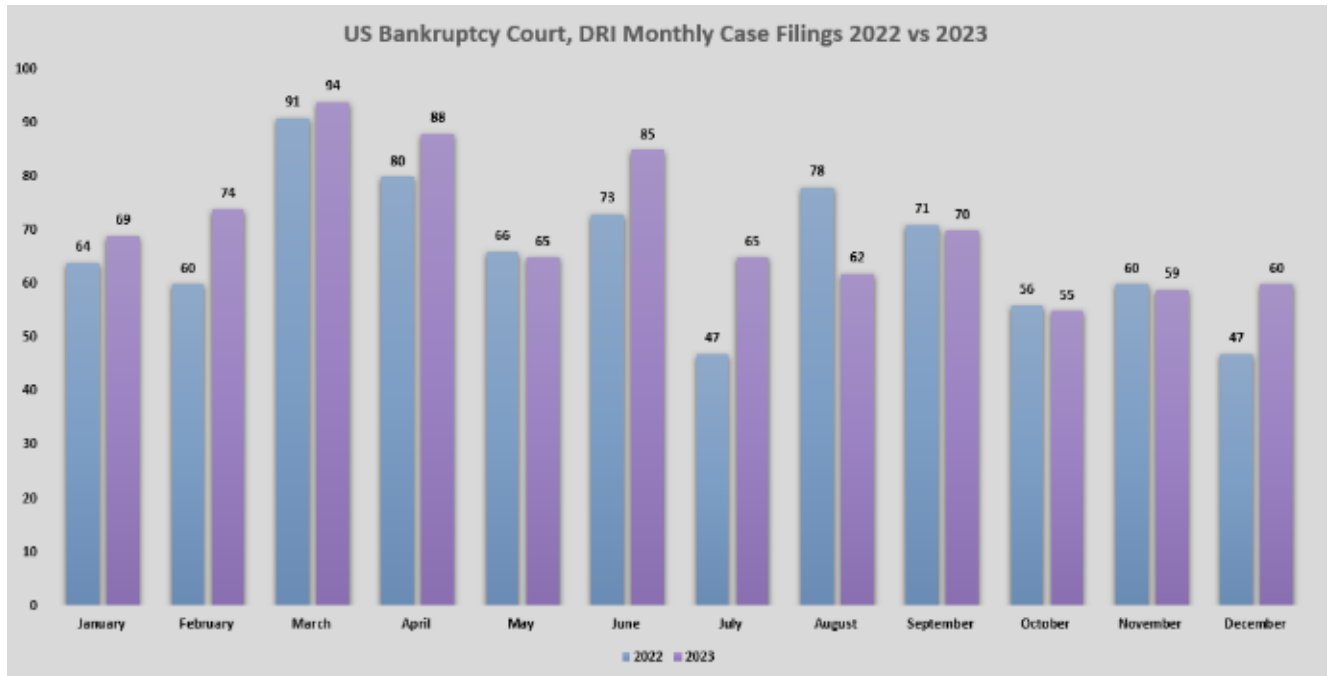
Community Outreach

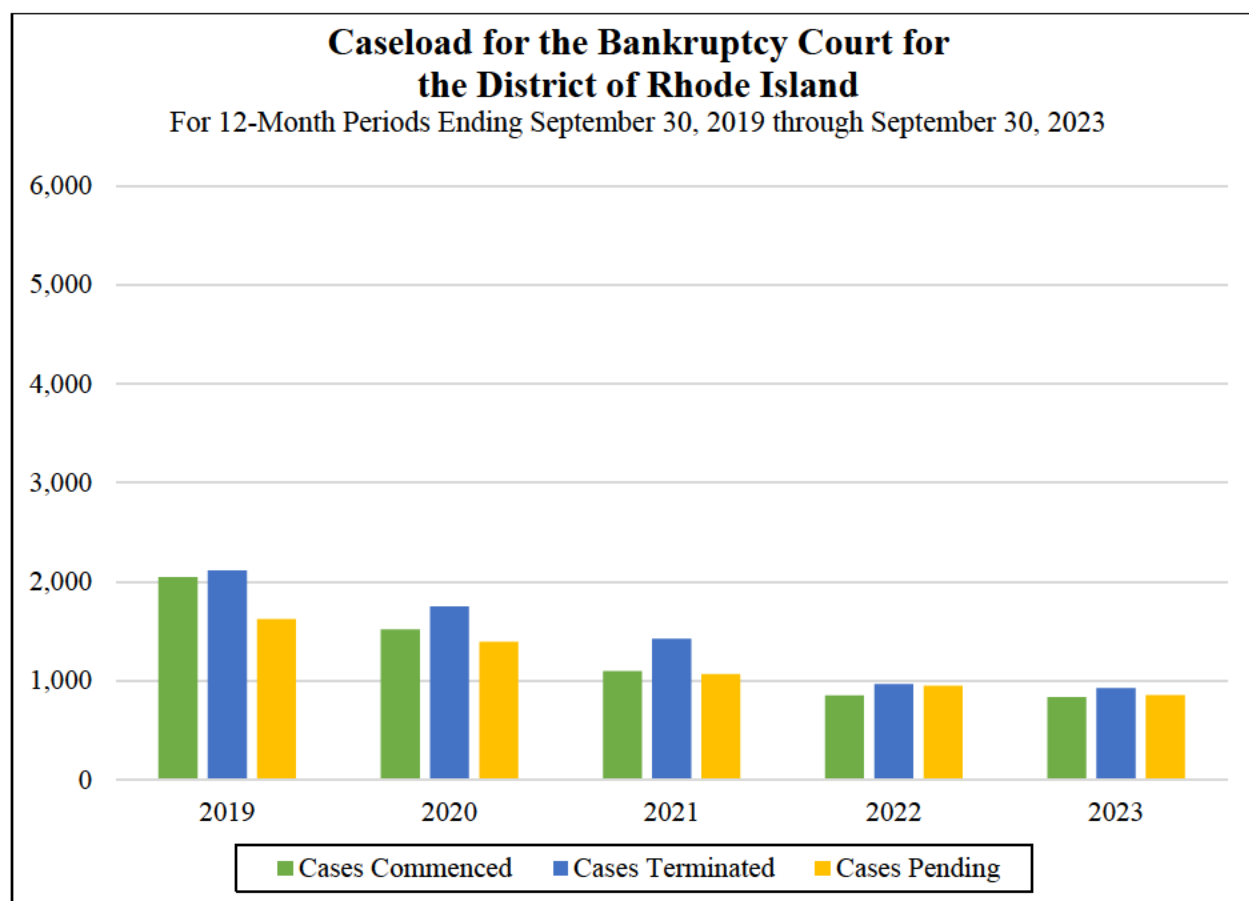
The Court continued the operation of its free Bankruptcy Legal Clinic, through which volunteer attorneys meet with debtors and potential debtors about the bankruptcy

process. The Court continued to permit pro se filers to file documents electronically.

Statistics

In 2023, there were 846 new bankruptcy filings: 646 chapter 7 cases; five chapter 11 cases; and 195 chapter 13 cases.





Caseload for the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island For 12-Month Periods Ending September 30, 2019 through September 30, 2023					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cases Commenced	2,047	1,519	1,097	850	833
Cases Terminated	2,114	1,750	1,424	967	926
Cases Pending*	1,624	1,393	1,066	949	856

* Pending caseloads for 2019 - 2022 as revised by the AO.

Judicial Administration

The Judicial Conference of the United States

The present administrative structure of the federal court system is approximately 100 years old. Originally, the individual judges were the de facto administrators of the court system. In the 1870s, the Office of the Attorney General of the United States was given a large degree of administrative responsibility for running the court system. This designation of authority was the earliest attempt at providing centralized management for the courts. The Office of the Attorney General maintained a centralized bookkeeping system and attempted to ensure that the courts worked expeditiously and efficiently.

In 1922, the Judicial Conference of the United States was formally created. It was intended that the Judicial Conference would assume a major share of administrative responsibility for the running of the federal courts.

The Judicial Conference is statutorily required: to make a comprehensive survey of the conditions of business in the courts of the United States; to prepare plans for the assignment of judges to or from courts of appeals or district courts, where necessary; to submit suggestions to the various courts to promote uniformity of management procedures and the expeditious conduct of court business; to exercise authority provided in chapter 16 of Title 28 of the United States Code for the review of circuit council conduct and disability orders filed under that chapter; and to carry on a continuous study of the operation and effect of the general rules of practice and procedure in use within the federal courts, as prescribed by the Supreme Court pursuant to law. See 28 U.S.C. § 331.

The Judicial Conference meets twice a year, in March and September. The Judicial Conference's members are the Chief Justice of the United States presiding, the chief judges of each of the circuit courts of appeal, the Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade, and one elected district judge from each of the 12 regional circuits. The Conference works mostly through its committees and is staffed by employees from the AO.

At the March 2023 and September 2023 Judicial Conferences, AO Director Roslynn R. Mauskopf reported on judicial business and AO matters and FJC Director John S. Cooke spoke about FJC programs. Additionally, Judge Carlton W. Reeves, Chair of the of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and Laura E. Mate, Vice Chair of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, each reported at one of the Judicial Conferences about U.S. Sentencing Commission activities.

**First Circuit Judges Serving on the Judicial Conference,
Judicial Conference Committees, Special Courts, and Boards**
[Generally, terms begin and expire on October 1 of the year.]

MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
David J. Barron	CJ	First Circuit	2022	2029

COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE BANKRUPTCY SYSTEM

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Raúl M. Arias-Marxuach	DJ	Puerto Rico	2023	2026
Christopher J. Panos	BJ	Massachusetts	2022	2025

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
John A. Woodcock, Jr.	DJ	Maine	2023	Open

COMMITTEE ON CODES OF CONDUCT

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Jeffrey Howard	CJ	First Circuit	2023	2026

COMMITTEE ON COURT ADMINISTRATION AND CASE MANAGEMENT

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Leo Sorokin	DJ	Massachusetts	2018	2024

COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL LAW

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Joseph Laplante	DJ	New Hampshire	2022	2025

COMMITTEE ON DEFENDER SERVICES

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Denise J. Casper	DJ	Massachusetts	2022	2025

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-STATE JURISDICTION

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Michael A. Fagone	BJ	Maine	2021	2024

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Lance E. Walker	DJ	Maine	2021	2026

COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Alison Dale Burroughs	DJ	Massachusetts	2021	2026

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL RESOURCES

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
William E. Smith	DJ	Rhode Island	2018	2024

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL SECURITY

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
George A. O'Toole, Jr.	DJ	Massachusetts	2021	2026
Donald L. Cabell	MJ	Massachusetts	2021	2027

COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGES SYSTEM

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Gustavo A. Gelpí	CJ	First Circuit	2023	2026

COMMITTEE ON RULES OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
William J. Kayatta, Jr.	CJ	First Circuit	2018	2024
Paul Barbadoro	DJ	New Hampshire	2023	2025

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CIVIL RULES

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Jennifer C. Boal	MJ	Massachusetts	2018	2024

COMMITTEE ON SPACE AND FACILITIES

			<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Silvia L. Carreño-Coll	DJ	Puerto Rico	2023	2026

First Circuit Judicial Conferences

Circuit judicial conferences are periodic circuit-wide meetings convened pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 333. A modification to this statute, which formerly mandated an annual conference, permits the circuit judicial conference to be held in alternate years. A 1996 modification of § 333 made attendance optional; formerly, active circuit and district judges were required to attend unless excused.

In the First Circuit, circuit judicial conferences are generally conducted in two different formats. One type of conference, a "workshop," is designed primarily for judicial officers. In addition to the judges, others who attend include the Circuit Executive, senior court personnel, and representatives of the AO and the FJC. These conferences are organized by a committee of judges, appointed by the Chief Circuit Judge, with the assistance of the Circuit Executive and staff.

The other meeting format is the full-scale conference. Attendees at these conferences include those who attend the workshops and, pursuant to First Circuit Court of Appeals Local Rule 47.1, representatives from the districts, such as presidents of the state and commonwealth bar associations, deans of accredited law schools, state court chief justices, the public defenders, and the U.S. Attorneys. Public officials from the city and state in which the conference is being held are also invited, as are a substantial number of lawyers who are members of the federal bar.

In planning the full-scale conference, the Judicial Council selects the approximate dates of the conference and assigns one of the districts in the Circuit to act as a host district. The Chief Circuit Judge appoints a Planning Committee to organize and conduct the conference. This planning is usually done one-

and-a-half to two years prior to the conference.

The selection of the attorney invitees to a full-scale conference is handled in the following manner. After the Planning Committee has selected a site and received the approval of the Chief Circuit Judge, the number of invitees that the site can accommodate is determined, and a number of invites is assigned to each district (roughly based on the proportion of the number of judges in a given district to the total number of judges in the First Circuit, plus an allotment for the Court of Appeals). The district court chief judges, in consultation with their respective judges, supply lists of nominees to receive invitations. Based on these lists, invitations are then extended by the Chief Circuit Judge.

The Office of the Circuit Executive assists the Planning Committee in all aspects of its work. The Circuit Executive also provides the point of contact for continuity purposes, is the custodian of the Judicial Conference Fund, and serves as Secretary of the conference.

A full-scale conference was held on April 19-21, 2023, at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Business of the First Circuit Judicial Council

Circuit judicial councils were created by Congress in 1939, along with the AO and circuit judicial conferences, to assist in the management of the courts. The Chief Circuit Judge presides over the Council, and its membership consists (in this Circuit) of all the active judges of the Court of Appeals and one district judge from each of the five districts in the Circuit. Each judicial council has administrative responsibility for all courts in its circuit. It is authorized to "make all necessary and appropriate orders for the effective and expeditious administration of justice within its circuit" 28 U.S.C. § 332(d).

Council meetings in the First Circuit are generally held twice a year. In 2023, there were two Judicial Council meetings. The spring Council meeting, held on April 21, took place at the Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. The fall session, held on October 3, took place at the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse. Many matters were decided by email vote between meetings.

One task of the Judicial Council involves the consideration of complaints of judicial disability or misconduct. An explanation of the Council's role in these matters and a summary of final actions taken by the Council during 2023 are provided at pages 105-106.

Another primary task of the Judicial Council is to review caseload statistics of individual courts and judges. The Council undertakes this task, in part, with a view towards providing additional help where assistance is required.

Other Judicial Council actions taken during 2023 included: review of the federal judiciary's budget; review of courthouse construction projects and expenditures; review of juror utilization, trials, and other court activity statistics; review of judicial vacancies; review of court security measures; review of privacy rules; and approval of bankruptcy judge assignments.

Members of the Judicial Council of the First Circuit
as of December 31, 2023

Honorable David J. Barron, Chief Judge	Court of Appeals
Honorable William J. Kayatta, Jr.	Court of Appeals
Honorable Gustavo A. Gelpí	Court of Appeals
Honorable Lara E. Montecalvo	Court of Appeals
Honorable Julie Rikelman	Court of Appeals
Honorable Lance E. Walker	District of Maine
Honorable Leo T. Sorokin	District of Massachusetts
Honorable Joseph N. Laplante	District of New Hampshire
Honorable Raúl M. Arias-Marxuach	District of Puerto Rico
Honorable Mary S. McElroy	District of Rhode Island

Observing Members

Honorable Patricia A. Sullivan	District of Rhode Island Magistrate Judge
Honorable Peter G. Cary	District of Maine Bankruptcy Judge

Court Unit Executives
as of December 31, 2023

- FIRST CIRCUIT CLERKS OF COURT -

Maria Hamilton
Court of Appeals

Christa K. Berry
District of Maine

Robert Farrell
District of Massachusetts

Daniel Lynch
District of New Hampshire

Ada I. García-Rivera
District of Puerto Rico

Hanorah E. Tyer-Witek
District of Rhode Island

- FIRST CIRCUIT BANKRUPTCY CLERKS OF COURT -

Monica Bigley
District of Maine

Mary P. Sharon
District of Massachusetts

Kristie Trimarco
District of New Hampshire

Wilma Jaime
District of Puerto Rico

Jonathan Pincince
District of Rhode Island

- FIRST CIRCUIT CHIEFS OF PROBATION AND PRETRIAL SERVICES -
as of December 31, 2023

Michael Penders
District of Maine

Ricardo R. Carter
District of Massachusetts

Jonathan E. Hurtig
District of New Hampshire

Luis O. Encarnacion Canales
District of Puerto Rico

John Marshall
District of Rhode Island

- FIRST CIRCUIT FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDERS -

David Beneman
District of Maine

Oscar Cruz, Jr.
Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island

Rachel Brill
District of Puerto Rico

Space and Facilities

Court of Appeals

In 2023, the National No Net New funding provided \$2,100,456.68 to the Circuit to modify the San Juan visiting judges' space, and the design for the project was completed. This project will renovate the existing chambers to accommodate additional judges and staff during Court sitting weeks. Further, funding was provided to design and construct a multi-purpose training/learning center, the Stephen G. Breyer Community Learning Center on Courts and the Constitution, in the ninth floor Circuit Library at the Moakley Courthouse. The Court of Appeals Courtroom in San Juan, Puerto Rico, was renamed in honor of Judge Juan R. Torruella in November 2023. A project to divide one resident chambers at the Moakley Courthouse into two non-resident chambers was completed in 2023. Further, the Court of Appeals Clerk's Office finance space on the second floor of the Moakley Courthouse was reassigned to IT staff to accommodate additional workspace, which was recarpeted and painted prior to occupancy. Additionally, Boston Chambers 7730 and 8612 were recarpeted and painted in 2023.

District of Maine

In 2020, GSA received \$23 million to replace the aging HVAC systems and to upgrade the fire alarm system at the Gignoux Courthouse in Portland, Maine. The design process continued throughout 2023. An additional \$15 million was allocated to the project utilizing the Inflation Reduction Act and Pandemic Emergency funds. Also in 2023, enhanced lobby screening measures were installed at the Gignoux Courthouse in Portland. The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Maine began the process of pursuing a new

lease location in Portland, Maine, and a five-year lease extension was completed.

A project to convert an existing interview room in the Portland Probation Office into an additional office was funded in 2023.

District of Massachusetts

In 2023, \$10.3 million was allocated to design critical building modernizations, including climate resiliency, critical elevator replacements, full fire alarm system upgrades, climate change mitigation efforts, HVAC upgrades, and other critical building infrastructure needs for the Moakley Courthouse. GSA issued a request for proposal to National Indefinite Quantity Contractors.

Also in 2023, \$2.8 million dollars was provided to GSA to modernize the four public elevators at the Moakley Courthouse under the National Elevator Program; the elevator project was substantially completed by December of 2023. Further, an additional \$2 million dollars was provided to GSA to modernize the two judges' elevators at the Moakley Courthouse, and the design process began.

The first phase of climate resiliency measures at the Moakley Courthouse began in 2023. Installation of watertight garage entry/exit roll-up doors and the watertight barrier at each of the dock entries were designed and construction was awarded, and the project is expected to conclude in the summer of 2024. The Moakley Courthouse was prioritized for the National Courthouse Hardening Program in 2023. A scope of work to design mitigation measures to prevent pedestrian infiltration into the building was developed and awarded to an infrastructure consulting firm.

The courtroom lighting control panels at the Donohue Courthouse in Worcester, Massachusetts, were funded and upgraded in 2023. Further, the cooling tower and one chiller at the Donohue Courthouse were replaced this fall.

The copper beech tree in front of the Springfield Courthouse was removed in July 2023. GSA contracted with a firm to design the replacement landscaping. A project to reconfigure the judges' signage at the Springfield Courthouse was initiated in 2023, as the existing signage does not allow for the addition of new judges' names due to space constraints.

District of New Hampshire

At the Rudman Courthouse in Concord, New Hampshire, GSA funded an emergency project to replace the existing chilled water system, which included the cooling towers, pumps, and chillers, as the system has reached the end of its useful life. GSA completed the emergency cooling tower replacement in June 2023, along with the replacement of one of two chillers. The second chiller was delayed due to supply chain issues and is expected to be installed in early 2024. Also at the Rudman Courthouse, the conversion of the library annex into a new magistrate judge's chambers was completed in December 2023.

GSA funded a comprehensive fire alarm upgrade at the Rudman Courthouse and Cleveland Federal Building and construction began. The new system will include a building-wide annunciator system.

A project to expand the footprint of the Probation Office in Manchester was initiated, as the office's staff growth required additional space. Funding is expected to be approved in 2024.

District of Puerto Rico

As the Federico Degetau Federal Building is located in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which is an area of high seismic activity, GSA commissioned studies to evaluate the building's performance under customary seismic events. Reports indicated that, although the building can support typical live load occupancy at full capacity, it does not meet the relevant seismic criteria.

Accordingly, the judiciary vacated the Degetau building and all personnel for the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office and U.S. Probation Office for the District of Puerto Rico, and staff began working from alternate locations on September 5, 2023. GSA continued its assessment of the building throughout the end of the year.

In 2018, approximately \$20 million in Capital Security Funding was allocated for security enhancements at the Nazario Courthouse in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. The scope of work includes the construction of a prisoner sally port, an associated elevator, and holding cells in the Nazario Courthouse and will create a secure prisoner corridor in the basement. The design was amended to incorporate the plans for the future annex. Construction began in 2023 and is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2024.

Also in 2023, 4,800 square feet of modular unit space to be located on the Hato Rey campus was procured to house essential Clerk's Office staff. Additionally, a lease request for 26,000 square feet of space for the U.S. Probation Office began.

In September of 2020, the JCUS designated the courthouse annex project in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, as a judicial space emergency, prioritizing it as the branch's top project beginning in FY 2022 until full funding is received. The FY 2022 budget included \$22.4

million for the design of the annex. Firms were awarded the design contract, and design concepts were completed in 2023. The full design process was ongoing in 2023 and is expected to last through 2025.

District of Rhode Island

Replacement of the windows in the Courthouse and Pastore Building began in 2023 and is expected to continue into 2024. A project to replace several heat pipes is underway at the Courthouse. Replacement of the fifth-floor pipes was completed. USMS developed a project to upgrade all card readers, cameras, and duress alarms at the Providence Courthouse and Pastore Building, and the work is expected to begin in 2024.

Judicial Misconduct and Disability

The Judicial Misconduct and Disability Act, codified as 28 U.S.C. § 351, et seq., authorizes "any person" to file a complaint alleging that a judge has engaged in "conduct prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts, or alleging that such judge is unable to discharge all the duties of office by reason of mental or physical disability" 28 U.S.C. § 351(a). See also Judicial Improvements Act of 2002, P.L. 107-273. After staff of the Circuit Executive's Office receives a complaint, the Chief Circuit Judge reviews the complaint, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 352. The Chief Judge may then dismiss the complaint, conclude the proceeding for corrective action taken or intervening events, or, where necessary, appoint a special committee to further investigate the charges of judicial impropriety. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 352 and 353.

Both the complainant and the subject judge have the right to file a petition for Judicial Council review of a final order entered by the Chief Circuit Judge. See 28 U.S.C. § 352(c). Except where a special committee has been appointed, and in other limited circumstances, see 28 U.S.C. § 354, the orders issued by the Judicial Council are "final and conclusive." 28 U.S.C. § 357(c).

In March 2008, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 331 and 358, the JCUS adopted the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings (Rules of Judicial-Conduct).

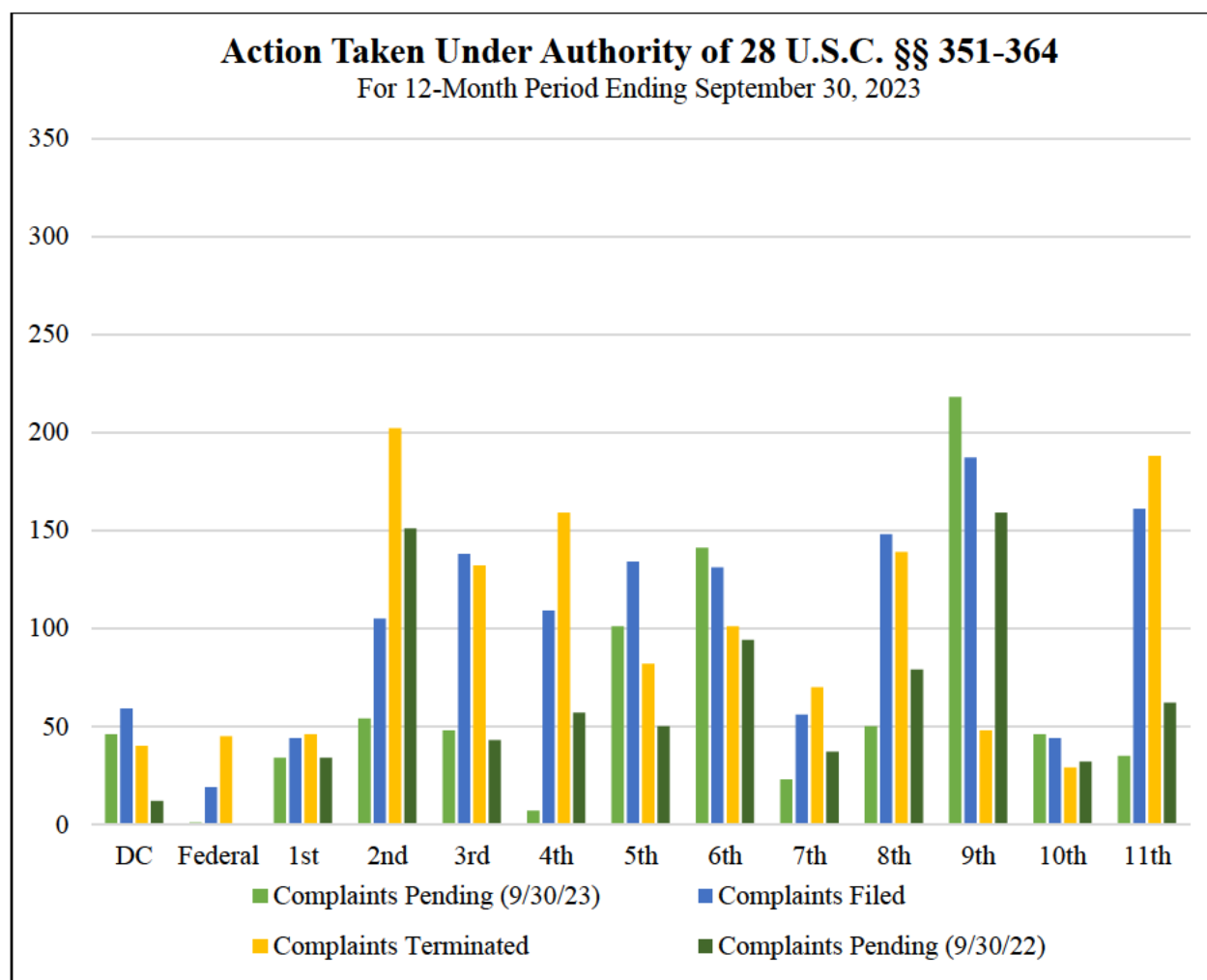
The adoption of uniform mandatory rules was intended to provide national standards and procedures for handling judicial misconduct and disability proceedings. The Rules of Judicial-Conduct were also intended to effectuate many of the recommendations included in the *Breyer Committee Report*, 239 F.R.D. 116 (Sept. 2006), which was issued in 2006 after a study, commissioned by Chief Justice Roberts, on the implementation of the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980. The JCUS amended the Rules of Judicial-Conduct in September 2015.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 352(d) and the Rules of Judicial-Conduct, the Chief Circuit Judge annually designates two review panels to act for the Judicial Council on petitions for review. This amendment was adopted in response to a provision of the Judicial Improvements Act of 2002 that explicitly authorized the referral of petitions for review to "a panel of no fewer than 5 members of the council, at least 2 of whom shall be district judges." 28 U.S.C. § 352(d). Any member of the review panel may vote to refer the petition to the full Judicial Council. While judicial misconduct proceedings are confidential, final written orders issued by the Chief Circuit Judge and Judicial Council are publicly available and are published on the First Circuit's website. See 28 U.S.C. § 360.

Summary of First Circuit Complaints of Judicial Misconduct or Disability, 2023*	
Complaints Filed in 2023 (Calendar Year)	42
Orders of Dismissal Issued by Chief Judge	31
Petitions for Review Filed with Judicial Council	8
Orders of Dismissal Affirmed by Judicial Council	8
Show Cause Orders Issued	2
Preclusion Orders Issued	4
Total Number of Complainants in 2023 (Calendar Year)	20**

* *This table includes actions taken on matters filed in 2022.*

** *Five complainants filed complaints against more than one judicial officer.*



Action Taken Under Authority of 28 U.S.C. §§ 351-364 For 12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2023													
Summary of Activity	Circuit												
	DC	Fed.	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
Complaints Pending (09/30/22)	27	27	34	151	43	57	50	94	37	79	159	32	62
Complaints Filed	59	19	44	105	138	109	134	131	56	148	187	44	161
Complaints Terminated	40	45	46	202	132	159	82	101	70	139	48	29	188
Complaints Pending (9/30/23)	46	1	34	54	48	7	101	141	23	50	218	46	35

* Pending caseloads for 2022 as revised by the AO.

Attorney Discipline

During 2023, the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit opened 36 attorney disciplinary cases under the Rules of Attorney Disciplinary Enforcement for the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement), including 34 matters that arose out of the reciprocity provisions of Rule II of the Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement and two matters that were initiated by the Court of Appeals.

Also, during 2023, 27 reciprocal attorney disciplinary cases were terminated under the Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement, including eight attorney disciplinary cases that resulted in disbarment and 19 that resulted in suspensions.

Work of the Federal Public Defender

Report for the Federal Public Defender for the District of Maine

The District of Maine's FPDO remained one of the smallest federal defender offices in the country, with four lawyers and five support professionals divided between the Portland and Bangor offices. The FDO continued to operate at or below budget in all areas of its operation.

Human Resources

Administrative Officer Devon Richards assisted the FDO for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island as Acting Administrative Officer from April to December 2023 while the office was in a period of transition.

In September 2023, the FDO welcomed Caleigh Milton, a new Assistant Federal Public Defender (AFPD) and a former member of the District of Maine's CJA panel, who replaced Daphne Hallett Donahue after she resigned from the office to pursue other goals.

In late 2023, FPD David Beneman announced that he would step back from his role as Federal Public Defender, a role he has served in since 2006, but would remain as a part-time AFPD in 2024.

Statistics

In 2023, the FDO opened 136 new cases and closed 142 cases, increasing from the previous year (110 and 118, respectively). Additionally, the FDO handled 95% of the retroactive Guideline Amendment sentence reductions for the District with a 100% success rate for qualified defendants.

Committee Membership

FPD David Beneman continued his service on the District's CJA, Criminal Law, Local Rules, Conference Planning, and Court Security Committees, and on the First Circuit CJA Screening Committee and CJA Education Committee, and attended the District Administrative Meetings.

Training/Educational Programs

FPD David Beneman hosted the first three parts of a ten-part formal CJA new attorney training program in November and December 2023.

The FDO hosted three interns from the University of Maine School of Law. FDO employees attended the excellent trainings provided by the Defender Services Office Training Branch.

CJA Panel

The District's CJA Committee continued to diversify the CJA panel by increasing representation of women and younger attorneys as panel openings became available. The size of the CJA panel remained consistent with approximately 40 members in Portland and 16 members in Bangor (a 20% vacancy rate due to the challenge in locating sufficient panel members in that location).

Report for the Federal Public Defender for the Districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island

	Cases Opened				Cases Closed
	Total	Prosecutions	Appeals	Other	
FY 2017	507	222	39	246	527
FY 2018	552	279	9	264	651
FY 2019	608	325	58	225	442
FY 2020	487	238	19	230	401
FY 2021	440	223	19	198	512
FY 2022	425	194	19	212	485
FY 2023	388	174	28	186	409

	Cases Opened				Cases Closed
	Total	Prosecutions	Appeals	Other	
FY 2017	232	137	19	76	283
FY 2018	198	127	7	64	199
FY 2019	247	164	11	72	198
FY 2020	207	103	8	48	227
FY 2021	214	130	10	74	248
FY 2022	188	102	1	85	187
FY 2023	156	56	1	99	186

	Cases Opened				Cases Closed
	Total	Prosecutions	Appeals	Other	
FY 2017	167	61	17	89	252
FY 2018	121	61	1	59	127
FY 2019	147	71	0	76	148
FY 2020	126	78	0	48	107
FY 2021	124	70	0	54	121
FY 2022	94	53	0	41	100
FY 2023	119	52	0	67	119

Statistics

The number of opened cases declined in two out of the three districts (Massachusetts and New Hampshire) between FY 2022 and FY 2023.

District Trainings/Outreach

In 2023, the Boston office hosted in-house and virtual trainings for CJA panel attorneys,

addressing proposed new guideline amendments, sentencing guidelines in relation to fraud charges, and challenging drug predicates. The office's summer internship program organized programming and events for the interns and provided interns with mentors in the office.

The New Hampshire office held an in-person CJA training in the spring, addressing *Bruen* and its impact on gun laws, and federal

criminal practice for the experienced state court practitioner.

Attorneys and support staff from all three offices attended trainings and conferences presented by the Defender Services Office and the courts.

Diversity Committee

In 2023, the FPDO's Diversity Committee was comprised of 11 members representing two of the District's three offices and included trial, appellate, and research and writing attorneys, investigators, a paralegal, and a computer systems administrator. The Committee met with the new management team, held office-wide meetings to assess current issues, and welcomed four new members. As in past years, members participating in the office's hiring panels helped implement the Committee's recommendations on recruiting for diversity and following fair hiring practices intended to lessen the influence of unconscious bias on hiring. In addition, the Committee made recommendations concerning: (1) an annual office-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion training; (2) a team-building exercise using restorative justice principles; (3) the creation of a more formal onboarding system for newly hired staff; and (4) the hiring of a Personnel Administrator, which was later established.

Notable Matters

The Boston office had three jury trials — a conspiracy/sex trafficking of a minor case, an attempted sex trafficking of a minor/coercion and enticement case, and a healthcare fraud case.

The trial lawyers in the Rhode Island and New Hampshire offices collectively had three jury trials. Rhode Island attorneys represented a client in a complicated real estate fraud case,

and New Hampshire attorneys tackled two cases focusing on conspiracy to commit money laundering and relaying threatening communications across state lines. The New Hampshire office also continued its important work representing clients at the federal drug court.

The Boston office coordinated work across the three districts to identify clients who were potentially eligible for relief under the retroactive guidelines amendments, including cases originally assigned to CJA attorneys; staff members screened over 600 cases. The office worked with the District Court, the CJA Panel, the U.S. Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that clients with viable claims were heard on motions to reduce their sentences.

Human Resources

In July 2023, AFD Oscar Cruz, Jr., assumed the role of Interim FPD.

The Boston office added an administrative assistant and two paralegals, the Providence office welcomed a new investigator, and the Concord office hired a new AFD.

Information Technology

During FY 2023, the IT team, led by Computer Systems Administrator (CSA) LaTiquia Braxton-Duce and Assistant CSA Jovenson Don, accomplished notable milestones and enhancements across all four office locations. Custodial tasks included disposing outdated IT equipment and ensuring cleanliness and operational efficiency. Ongoing maintenance of IT documentation involved extensive updates to the office manual concerning policies and procedures for IT equipment, automation, COOP, security,

and staff onboarding and offboarding processes.

In 2023, the IT team achieved significant milestones aimed at enhancing operational efficiency and technological infrastructure, including, but not limited to:

- A successful launch of the Springfield FDO, including oversight of vendor collaboration, and installation of IT equipment;
- Installation of video conference displays with rolling carts in all offices and integration of virtual communication platforms;
- Deployment of audit software for comprehensive system logging and security monitoring;
- Establishment of new systems for robust site backup and replication;
- Deployment of new printers, restoration of virtual communication channels, and facilitation of the onboarding of new staff;
- Equipment upgrades;
- Completion of various trainings, including vendor requirements and relevant security, intelligence, and software requirements; and
- Upgraded firewalls and replacement power supply batteries across all office locations.

In December 2023, CSA Braxton-Duce completed the Judiciary Scorecard, showcasing full compliance with all mandatory judicial recommendations.

Report for the Federal Public Defender for the District of Puerto Rico

Statistics

In 2023, the District of Puerto Rico FPDO opened 1,306 new cases and closed 1,380 cases, both of which were increases over 2022 (1,298 and 1,253 cases, respectively). FY 2023 concluded with 737 open cases.

Human Resources

During 2023, First Assistant Hector L. Ramos-Vega was appointed as Interim Federal Public Defender, and former Chief Defender Eric A. Vos was temporarily assigned to the Defender Services Office as an Attorney Advisor in the Legal & Policy Division. Later in the year, Mr. Ramos was appointed as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the District of Puerto Rico and, effective September 18, 2023, Rachel Brill was sworn in as the Chief Defender. Also in 2023, AFPD Cherrelle T. Herbert was detailed to the Sentencing Resource Counsel for the Arizona FPDO. Over the course of FY 2023, the FPDO welcomed AFPD Stephanie Torres, and continued to host Defender Services Diversity Fellow Maria Carolina Gomez.

Community Outreach

The FPDO participated in a variety of community outreach programs, including: RESCATE, the District's reentry program; several office-sponsored reentry courses; and Project LEAD, a mock trial program for elementary school students.

Educational Programs

FPDO staff participated in and/or served as faculty for training sessions for the First Circuit and for the Puerto Rico Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (PRACDL). Additionally, staff participated in dozens of

webinars, and numerous in-person trainings offered by various local and national organizations. Training topics ranged from Supreme Court and First Circuit reviews, creative uses of technology, and other specialized trial and sentencing matters.

Assistance to the CJA Panel

The FPDO sponsored monthly training sessions for the District's CJA Panel and provided panel members access to two video-conferencing rooms and a conference room. The FPDO remained committed to assisting panel attorneys in their preparation for hearings and trials, as well as oral arguments before the Court of Appeals.

Information Technology

The IT Department continued to handle a large volume of digital discovery in addition to providing user support to all office staff. The IT department continued to provide IT assistance to the U.S. District Court for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Committee Membership and Community Involvement

During 2023, FPDO attorneys were members of the District's Local Rules and CJA Committees and the First Circuit Screening CJA Committee. In 2023, the FPD served as a member of the Board of Directors of PRACDL, and two FPDO attorneys were elected to serve on the Board of PRACDL.