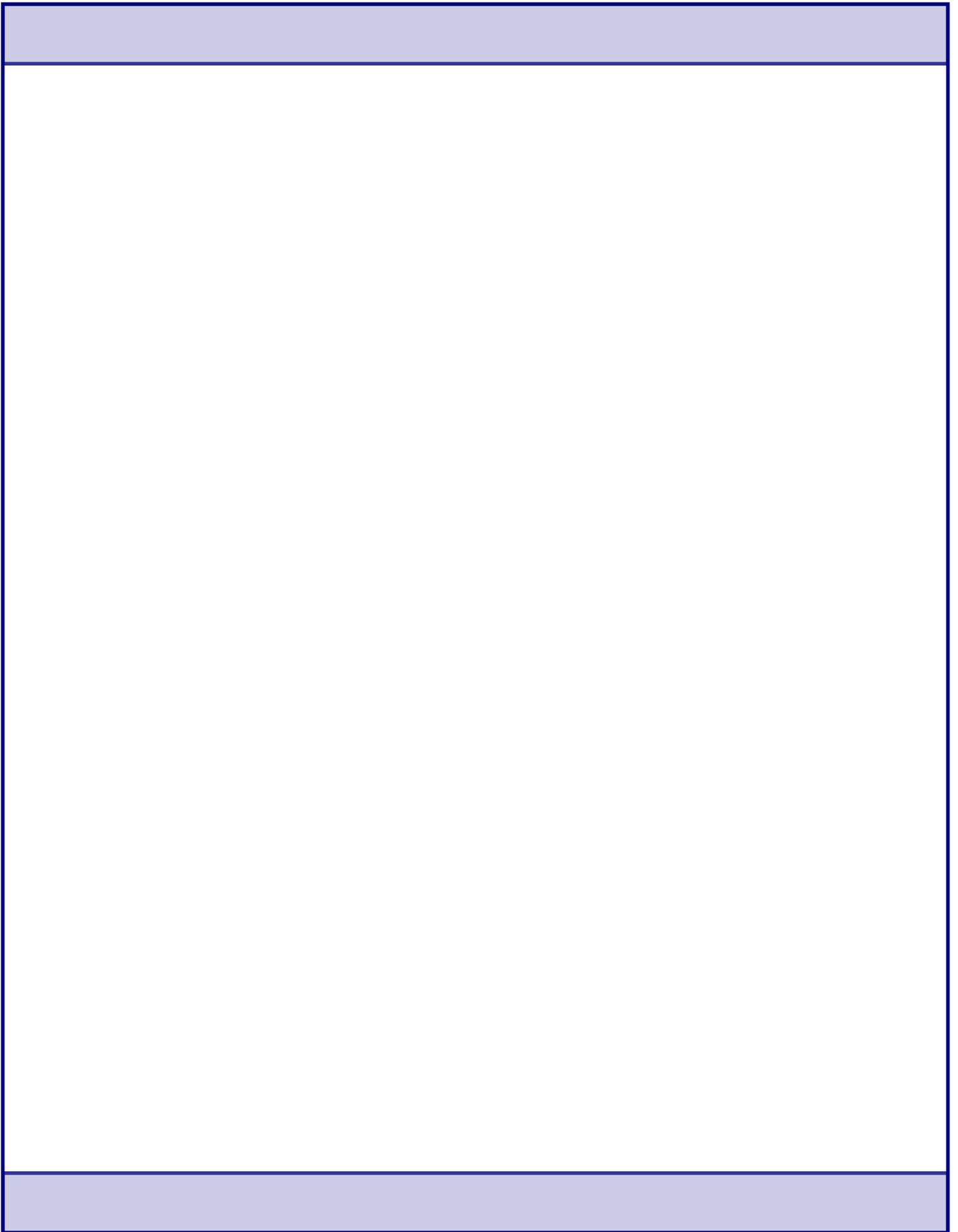


**NEW YORK CITY
FAMILY COURT**

**2010
Annual Report**



JUSTICE, RESPECT, DUE PROCESS



THE NEW YORK CITY FAMILY COURT VISION — MISSION — CORE VALUES

OUR VISION is

that of a strong, vibrant, independent, professionally run, due-process-driven court, where there is respect for each and every individual appearing in and served by our court, as well as respect for each and every jurist and non judicial court worker who serves in our busy courts. It is our expectation that all cases will be addressed fairly and expeditiously.

OUR MISSION is

- to provide the highest standard of justice
- to decide cases as quickly as practicable
- to treat court users with courtesy and professionalism
- to offer information and assistance
- to provide service that is responsive and helpful
- to protect the rights of all litigants appearing in our court, including those who cannot afford legal representation

OUR CORE VALUES include

- respect for all persons with whom we interact
- pride in our work
- commitment to quality service
- willingness to help others
- fairness in our interactions with others
- respect for and cooperation with our co-workers
- integrity in our dealings with others



Report for
January 1, 2010
through
December 31, 2010

New York City Family Court

Report of the Administrative Judge

Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson

Chief Clerk

Peter Passidomo, Esq.

First Deputy Chief Clerk

George Cafasso

Supervising Judges

Hon. Monica Drinane, Bronx County

Hon. Paula J. Hepner, Kings County

Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman, New York County

Hon. Carol A. Stokinger, Queens County

Hon. Helene D. Sacco, Richmond County

Clerks of Court

Mike Williams, Bronx County

Robert Ratanski, Kings County

Evelyn Hasanoeddin, New York County

Vaunda Harris-Strachan, Queens County

William Quirk, Richmond County

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Access to Justice	1
Family Court Advisory Council	2
New Legislation	3
The Year in Review	4
Policy Initiatives	4
Operational Advancements	7
Community Outreach	9
County Demographics—Communities served by Family Court	13
Family Court Structure	15
Organizational Structure	15
Clerk Directory	18
Court Jurisdiction	19
Types of Jurists	21
Mediation.....	21
Community and Problem Solving Courts	23
Family Court Statistics	25
Court Activity	25
Children and Families Served.....	26
Filings and Dispositions	27
Trends by Specialty	33
Local Initiatives	37
Bronx County	37
Kings County	42
New York County	46
Queens County	50
Richmond County	54
New York City Family Court Speakers Bureau	57

THE NEW YORK CITY FAMILY COURT

Grateful Acknowledgment

With much appreciation for their support of our endeavors in the New York City Family Court during 2010, we thank:

Hon. Jonathan Lippman

Chief Judge of the State of New York

Hon. Ann Pfau

Chief Administrative Judge of the State of New York

Hon. Fern A. Fisher

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Within New York City

Hon. Michael V. Coccoma

Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Courts Outside New York City

Hon. Judy H. Kluger

Chief of Policy and Planning for New York State Courts

Hon. Sharon S. Townsend

Vice Dean of the New York State Judicial Institute

Hon. Lawrence K. Marks

Administrative Director of the Office of Court Administration

Ronald Yonkins

Chief of Operations

Daniel M. Weitz, Esq.

Deputy Director of the Division of Court Operations of the Unified Court System

Frank Woods

Coordinator of the New York State Child Welfare Court Improvement Project



Message from the Administrative Judge

We are pleased to present this Annual Report of the New York City Family Court. In it, you will find information—news, reviews, facts and figures—about our Court and its efforts to serve the cause of justice in matters that so deeply affect the lives of families and children.

The year 2010 was an eventful one in the history of New York’s Family Court. Early on, we saw the finalization of the New York City Child Protective Plan, a year-and-a-half-long effort to improve the processing of child protective cases. In the four largest boroughs, we established conveniently situated Help Centers, where unrepresented litigants learn what to expect in the courtroom, receive assistance with form selection and filing, secure referrals for services, and solicit legal advice from knowledgeable professionals through our Volunteer Attorney Program. We initiated an auspicious data-sharing project linking our case management system with those of the Administration for Children’s Services and the Office of Children and Family Services. Nicknamed LUC, (an acronym created from the names of each agency’s computer systems) the electronic interface has streamlined all phases of the filing-to-hearing process, boosting efficiency and accuracy in the high-stakes arena of child safety and welfare. On other fronts, we launched an important initiative to examine disproportionate minority representation in Family Court and expanded our Volunteer Attorney Program to Queens County.

These hard-won accomplishments exemplify the strengths of our superb jurists and exemplary staff members. Their dedication to New York City Family Court is a source of pride, and I lead the applause for their efforts and spirit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'RUC' with a stylized flourish.

Introduction

The year 2010 was a momentous one for New York City Family Court. Administrative appointments in 2009 brought change throughout our network, at all levels of operation; the Child Protective Initiative, a major undertaking, became a formal plan; New York State passed important child welfare legislation; managers and decision-makers simultaneously dealt with the constraints of tightened budgets and a workforce diminished by the departure of senior staffers taking advantage of retirement incentives, while concentrating on the needs of the litigants.

Access to Justice

New York City Family Court, under the auspices of the Unified Court System’s “Access to Justice” program led by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fern Fisher, has opened Help Centers in New York, Kings, Bronx, and Queens County courthouses with plans underway for a fifth on Staten Island.

At the Help Centers, court staff and LIFT personnel and volunteers are always available to assist the public. Self-represented litigants can file their own Do-It-Yourself (DIY) petitions for Paternity and Modification of Child Support, obtain copies of petitions and orders, and schedule free 30-minute Family Law consultations with volunteer attorneys. The DIY program soon will expand to include other types of petitions, such as Custody/Visitation and Family Offense.

LIFT personnel assigned to the Help Centers provide legal information on a wide range of topics, referrals to resource programs, and general information about court policies and procedures.

The NYC Family Court is committed to successfully expanding the mission of the Help Centers in each county. Already, we’re seeing that expedited service and vital information provided at the Help Centers are having far-reaching positive effects for both court users and personnel.

LIFT

The 15-year-old organization Legal Information for Families Today, or LIFT, provides legal information to families who appear in each of the five borough courthouses. LIFT offers litigants the following:

- An information table where staff and volunteers answer questions about court, assist in completing court documents, explain court orders, and offer practical legal information
- Helpful material such as Multilingual Legal Resource Guides, activity booklets for children and courthouse maps
- Information on social and legal services in their neighborhoods
- One-on-one consultations and strategy sessions with LIFT’s expert staff

Volunteer Attorney Program

The New York City Family Court Volunteer Attorney Program provides unrepresented litigants an opportunity to consult with an attorney about how to proceed in Family Court. Legal advice on issues of child support, paternity, custody, visitation, guardianship and orders of protection is offered so that the litigants may more effectively represent themselves. By the end of 2010, the program had served 7,210 people in its first four years of existence. Operating at first only in Manhattan, it expanded to Kings County in November of 2006, to Bronx County in 2009 and to Queens County in 2010. Over 250 attorneys from some of New York City's largest law firms participate, as well as some 30 solo practitioners, each volunteering his or her time one or two days per month. Consultations are scheduled and overseen in each county by a Family Court Court Attorney who provides operational

Family Court Advisory Council

In February 2010, to assist the NYC Family Court Administration in addressing the myriad issues that arise when processing the cases of families in crisis, the newly reconfigured NYC Family Court Advisory Council was convened citywide with the participation of practitioners, agencies, advocates and court personnel.

The Council, comprising several committees, each focused on a different topic, serves in an advisory capacity to the Administrative Judge and provides a forum in which those who work in the court every day, or whose work is court-related or court-directed, have an opportunity to address issues in a meaningful and constructive way. The committees meet to identify to the Administrative Judge key issues on which to make recommendations for changes in practice and procedure. The Standing Advisory Committees are:

- Child Protection
- Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption
- Custody, Visitation and Family Offense
- Paternity and Support
- Juvenile Justice
- Crossover Youth
- LGBTQ Issues
- Operations

The committees meet and report back to the Administrative Judge on a regular basis. There are over 150 active committee members citywide from all areas of practice, both government and private, and representing every discipline.

New Legislation

The New York State Legislature in 2010 passed a number of laws addressing child welfare, juvenile justice, domestic violence, and child support issues.

Under the new legislation, Family Court may now accept petitions to reinstate parental rights to parents whose rights were previously terminated, extend trial discharges of youth in foster care, and allow youth to petition to return to foster care.

Family Court also now has authority to place a juvenile delinquent accused of, or found to be involved in, sex trafficking with the department of social services in a long-term safe house.

In the domestic violence arena, the crime of strangulation has been added to the list of family offenses for which Criminal and Family Courts exercise concurrent jurisdiction. Family Court may no longer decline to issue an order of protection solely because the incidents alleged were not “relatively contemporaneous” with the filing of the petition, and may extend a final order of protection for a reasonable period upon a showing of good cause. Both the Family Court and the NYPD worked diligently together to effectuate the new law, providing for expedited service upon litigants through electronic or fax transmission of orders of protection and related documents to the police department.

Finally, there were many substantive changes in laws regarding child support, including grounds for modification of orders, participation in work programs, and calculation of maintenance awards.

Applications for “U” Visa Certification

During the past year, the New York City Family Court received a number of requests for the Court to sign certifications for “U” Visas. Certification by the Court is part of the process by which an undocumented resident may apply for a “U” visa from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (“USCIS”), based on the applicant’s assistance in prosecuting a crime. Applications are typically filed by victims of domestic violence, and confidentiality is a primary concern.

After input from jurists and consultation with the Supervising Judges, the Court developed protocols for receipt of “U” Visa applications, including forms, docketing, necessary information, and method of presentation to jurists. The Family Court also met with those in the community affected by the process, including representatives of victims of domestic violence, the Appellate Division - First and Second Departments, and advocates for children. Finally, education and training sessions were held for clerical personnel to ensure that applications are processed efficiently and expeditiously, and disposed within 60 days of receipt.

The Year in Review

Policy Initiatives

The Child Protective Plan

In 2008, at the direction of then Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, the New York City Family Court embarked upon an important new initiative known as the “Child Protective Initiative.” Its purpose was to assess the process by which child protective cases were handled, and its goal was to reform that process, as necessary, to reduce the time it takes to achieve appropriate permanent placement for children.

The New York City Child Protective Plan (CPP), as it has come to be known, was developed by a citywide committee consisting of representatives of the Family Court and all the entities involved in child protective proceedings, including the Administration for Children’s Services, attorneys representing both children and respondents, foster care agencies, and others. A set of “shared goals and action steps” was developed to guide the work of the committee. The goals included earlier permanency for children, consistently meaningful court appearances, fewer and shorter adjournments, punctual appearances by prepared participants, continuous trials, and expanded participation of children and youth in their own permanency hearings.

The CPP has been a major undertaking on the part of every single child protective part in each of the five boroughs. In order to accomplish the aforementioned goals, the plan requires that a number of actions be taken. To promote efficiencies in case processing, the plan calls for greater use of time-certain beginning and ending scheduling (in all NYC Family Court parts), and increased use of pre-trial conferences. It also calls for the dedication of attorneys to judge/court attorney/referee parts. In order to increase trial readiness, the plan also calls for notifying parties in advance of the availability of reports and witnesses, securing the timely submission of reports, and creating cross-disciplinary workgroups in each county.

The bulk of the work was done by the members of three main sub-committees: one established to review case management procedures, one to address compliance issues, and the third to develop techniques for the evaluation of the Plan through data metrics.

In the spring of 2010, the Case Management subcommittee led by Hon. Douglas Hoffman and Hon. Carol Stokinger completed its work with the finalization of the *Foreword to the Preliminary Conference Protocol*, the *Preliminary Conference Protocol*, the *Preliminary Conference Consent Order*, the *Compliance and Pre-Settlement Conference Protocol*, the *Final Settlement Conference Protocol*, and an expert witness order.

These final protocols and forms, although standardized throughout the city, were designed to provide flexibility to meet the style and needs of individual judges, as well as the needs of the attorneys and litigants, in all types of Article 10 cases. The final protocols call for three conferences—a *preliminary conference*, a *compliance and pre-settlement conference*, and a *final settlement conference*—yet acknowledge that some cases may require fewer than

three conferences and some more. Within general guidelines, flexibility is provided in a number of other areas such as the time frame for the scheduling of conferences, the amount of time allotted to each conference, the scheduling of fact-finding dates, and the issuance of preliminary orders.

In the summer of 2010, the finalized protocols and forms were distributed to all Family Court Judges, personnel and agencies. In support of the goals of the Child Protective Plan, case conferencing and the conferencing protocols are now being utilized in all child protective parts in New York City Family Court.

The Compliance subcommittee, co-chaired by Supervising Judges Monica Drinane and Helene Sacco, developed recommendations to guide the court in the effective use of its general powers to sanction and/or hold in contempt attorneys who engage in frivolous conduct, or who, without good cause, appear late or fail to appear at scheduled times for hearings or conferences, and to impose appropriate penalties against the Administration for Children's Services and foster care agencies if they fail to comply with court orders. The committee had citywide representation. Special acknowledgment, however, must go to Judge Carol Sherman, her court attorney Mary Jane Cotter, and Bronx County practitioners for taking leadership on this issue in the field. The subcommittee distributed a well-researched memorandum that laid out the options available to jurists to encourage compliance and a thorough review of supporting case law.

The Court Metrics subcommittee, chaired by Supervising Judge Paula Hepner, was formed to research and recommend the best ways to measure the effectiveness of the Child Protective Plan (CPP). Since the CPP calls for both an increase in the use of time-certain beginning and time-certain ending scheduling of cases, and a decrease in the number of adjournments, these two critical areas were chosen for scrutiny. The study drew from many perspectives and was not limited to child protective cases. It included all case types, and it surveyed judges, referees, court attorneys, petitioning and respondent attorneys, attorneys for children and caseworkers, asking that they answer the following questions for each case: What was the purpose for the appearance? Was the goal accomplished? At what time did the case start and end?

Every organization participated, and over 6000 responses were received and collated by the Office of Court Administration's Office of Court Research. There were several major findings, but perhaps the most significant finding is the clear picture the study revealed of the critical interdependence of the Family Court and those who practice and appear there every day.

The report noted a factor that runs through the work of all three committees and which cannot be overstated: *that in addition to the Family Court's pursuit of better case-processing procedures, all institutions, agencies and individual practitioners involved in child protective cases must work toward making improvements in their own independent operations if we are to achieve our common goal of creating real and lasting systemic improvement.*

In April of 2011, the Family Court was fortunate to receive some assistance to facilitate the Child Protective Plan from the OCA Office of Court Improvement. Four liaisons from its office were hired to assist New York City Family Court in its court improvement efforts. They are Heather O'Hayre in Bronx County, Sheila McCarthy in Queens County, Melissa Wade in New York and Richmond Counties, and David Kow in Kings County.

For 2011, the goal is to continue to monitor the changes put into effect, to consider the recommendations that were made, and to determine the training needs, not only of the court, but of all who practice in Family Court.

Disproportionate Minority Representation

When are the children coming home? This question is now being asked with increasing frequency in Bronx Family Court in child protective cases where children have been removed from their families. The driving force addressing this issue is the Bronx County Family Court Disproportionate Minority Representation Committee, or DMR.

The Committee has followed the national agenda for court-based reform as outlined by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) in its publication, *Resource Guidelines: Improving Court Practices in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases*. Chaired by Bronx Family Court Judge Gayle P. Roberts, the DMR committee includes other child protective judges. It includes representatives from the Casey Family Programs, the New York State Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, the local department of social services, attorneys for parents and children, and other court-based and local community service providers. The primary goal of the Committee is to reduce the numbers of minority children in the child welfare system through the Courts Catalyzing Change (CCC) program.

National statistics clearly indicate a preponderance of minority children in the child welfare system at every stage in the process, as measured against the numbers of Caucasian children. Children of minority race and ethnicity are more likely to be the subject of initial child abuse and neglect reports. After investigations are conducted on these reports, minority children are more likely to be found to have been the subject of abuse or neglect. Minority children also enter foster care and stay in foster care for longer time periods than Caucasian children. Statistics for New York City from 2009 are staggering. Caucasian children represent 26.9% of the overall child population but only 7.1% of the children subject to child abuse reports, 5.9% of children in indicated reports, 3.7% of children entering foster care, and 4.1% of children residing in foster care. Black children represent 28.3% of the overall child population but constitute 52.6% of children entering care and 56.2% of children residing in foster care. Disproportionate representation can also be seen for Hispanic children and children of other minority races and ethnicities.

While acknowledging that poverty and related factors contribute to disproportionality rates, the focus of the DMR Committee is taking concrete steps to effect change. The Committee's slogan is, "When Are The Children Coming Home?" (or WATCCH). The message the Committee hopes to spread through its use is that the question of when children in foster care may be returned home is primary and should be addressed at each and every court appearance.

In September, the DMR Committee hosted a workshop to introduce WATCCH and to educate the child welfare community on the various issues of disproportionality. Dr. Toni Lang from the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children and Khatib Waheed, Senior Fellow at the Center for Study of Social Policy, discussed the overwhelming national statistics and helped attendees navigate the difficult conversation of race and inequity. In response to the positive feedback received after this presentation, a follow up workshop was held in November.

Mr. Waheed returned to facilitate a "Courageous Conversation" seminar which included a screening and discussion of the video *Race: The Power of Illusion*.

In October of 2010, three Bronx Family Court Judges began utilizing CCC’s Judicial benchcard, a tool for judges that sets forth the essential elements of properly conducted removal hearings. The benchcard focuses on “best practices” in judicial decision-making and strives to ensure that an objective inquiry is made into each family’s unique situation. The benchcard encourages personal reflection regarding race-neutral decision-making before a decision is made about removing a child.

A major initiative currently underway in conjunction with the use of the benchcard is a data collection effort to determine how best to capture the effects of the benchcard on families involved in neglect and abuse cases. One of the ways families may opt for direct involvement in this initiative is by completing a form where they may, in their discretion, choose to report their race and ethnicity.

A series of educational presentations were also held, including a panel discussion on New York’s legal standard for the removal of children into foster care. Panelists included experts from the legal and social work fields who discussed the complexities of this crucial decision-making point in child welfare cases. There was also a presentation by Sauti Yetu, an agency that provides culturally and linguistically appropriate services to African women in the Bronx.

The child welfare community has welcomed these initiatives. In an environment where there is rarely consensus and everyone involved is overloaded with responsibilities, it is rare to see such positive consensus emerging around a single initiative.

Operational Advancements

The Universal Case Management System—Family

The Universal Case Management System (UCMS) is a statewide computer case management system used in each of the 62 Family Courts as well as the 55 Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) Courts. The system, implemented in New York City between May and September 2003, initially was used only by clerks but now is an indispensable tool of judges, referees and support magistrates as they manage their daily calendars.

UCMS Family provides Family Court the capability to create a case, indicate the jurist assigned to the case, track case activity through disposition, and produce virtually all court calendars, petitions, summonses, notices and orders. In addition, UCMS tracks each child who is under the jurisdiction of the court and who has been removed from his/her home, until permanency is achieved. In addition, the system was recently updated to include a specially designed 3-checks-in-1 functionality to streamline the records checking process for custody and visitation cases.

Data Share

In an effort to reduce paper flow and redundancy among government systems, as well as to increase accuracy and productivity, UCMS currently has three data-share arrangements with presentment agencies or their agents:

- An interface with the **Office of Child Support Enforcement** permits the electronic transfer of filing and disposition data between the court and that agency.
- An interface with the **Administration for Children's Services** permits a similar transfer of filing, disposition, and scheduling data, as well as permanency planning reports between the court and ACS.
- Interfaces with the **Juvenile Justice** community for filing and outcome information on Delinquency and Designated Felony cases.
- The Department of Technology is currently developing an interface between UCMS and Do-It-Yourself computers.

An interface with the New York Police Department to exchange warrant details is anticipated in the near future.

UCMS Builds

Throughout the year, suggestions on improvements to UCMS and reports of bugs are collected and evaluated, and "builds" are developed to move major changes into production. In 2010 there were two major builds: 1) to prepare UCMS for the introduction of Criminal Court case processing and 2) to address changes necessitated by new Standards and Goals compliance measures and other user interface changes needed to address case-processing requirements.

In addition to these major builds, as of November 8, 2010, there were a number of other changes that improved how information is handled and displayed in the electronic case file.

Documents - The default resolution for documents scanned into UCMS was increased from 200 to 240 dpi, for a sharper appearance. The new default significantly improves the clarity and resolution of scanned documents.

Roles - UCMS tracks the various parties connected to a case by their various roles. Thus, it is able to track the resolution of cases with respect to respondents. An enhancement to UCMS now allows clerks to drop a respondent's role if the court finds the party is no longer a respondent in the case. This specifically applies to Termination of Parental Rights cases where it is deemed that no notice is required for a given party, thus ending his/her role as a respondent.

Reliefs - With respect to adoption cases, applications regarding registration of a foreign adoption are now identified as such, and outcomes associated with this application have been added.

Build Date: March 15, 2010

As part of the preparation to incorporate Criminal Court into the UCMS Family, the application has been given a new "look and feel." The following applications were added or upgraded:

- Users were given the ability to customize the screen display properties of the system to allow for individualized color schemes and font sizes.
- The ability to change the sort order of most data tables was added.
- "Display only" fields are now indicated with a picture of a "lock" in the bottom left corner.
- The ability to assign various security permissions is now controlled through a separate security application.

Build Date: August 2, 2010

On April 27, 2010, Chief Administrative Judge Ann Pfau issued a revision to the Family Court Standards and Goals (S&G) guidelines. These guidelines are used by the Office of Court Administration to measure compliance with case-processing standards. Build changes addressed these new requirements as well as other electronic elements of case management, including:

- Adding a validation to ensure that issue joined is not applied to pre-petitions
- Adding a routine to make it easier to process pre-petitions that do not result in a filing
- Replacing the term “Law Guardian” with “Attorney for the Child”
- Tightening Inquiry access to confidential Social Security Number information
- Updating the E-Justice task to reflect the address of the new portal site where the Sex Offender Registry now resides
- Renaming the E-Filing task button “E-Share” to more accurately reflect the exchange of data between the courts and outside agencies
- Updating the support calculation module regarding calculating the Self-Employment tax

Revisions to promulgated forms continue to be updated in UCMS

Community Outreach

Supervised Exchange Program

In cooperation with the office of Hon. Judy H. Kluger, Chief of Policy and Planning for the NYS Courts, NYC Family Court, the New York City Interfaith Council, and St. Luke AME Church developed a program utilizing community volunteers to supervise the exchange of children between custodial and non-custodial parents/guardians in safe and comfortable settings.

The project is staffed by trained volunteers working under the supervision of St. Luke AME Church in upper Manhattan, and referrals are open, initially, to all Custody and Visitation cases in the county.

Although the program was originally scheduled to operate from 4 to 8 p.m. two nights a week, and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., volunteers graciously offered to allow litigants the choice of more flexible days and hours as needed, and referrals are made for parties on a Custody or Visitation petition prior to the issuance of a final order. A record of attendance is provided to the court on the adjourned date. Project planning took place in 2010, and the program began operating in January 2011.

Teen Days

Teen Day is an annual event that began in New York County Family Court in 2005 and expanded to the Bronx, Queens and Kings Family Courts in following years.

The goal of Teen Day is twofold: to encourage adolescents in foster care to participate in the court process and to educate the court system and the youth about the services that are available to them. Teen Day provides youths in care with a fun,

non-confrontational introduction to Family Court. Motivational speakers—frequently young people who have made a successful transition out of foster care—address the youths, and there are resource tables that provide important information about housing, education, healthcare, the Department of Motor Vehicles, libraries, social services and vocational options such as the FDNY and NYPD, among others. This year, there were approximately 60 organizations that sent representatives to staff resource tables for the teens, with many sending representatives to the events in each county.

Five Teen Day events were held in 2010. Queens County held Spring and Fall events, while the Bronx, New York and Kings Counties held events in October and November 2010. Citywide, over 300 youth participated in Teen Day last year.

Credit for all the work that goes into making the Teen Days successful in each county goes to a dedicated group of volunteers, both court and non-court employees, who give of their own time and, frequently, their own funds, to make this event special for this most vulnerable and deserving population.

Parents and Children Together (PACT) Program

The PACT Program, initiated in the Bronx, New York and Kings Counties in 2000, The program, run as a monthly 3-hour evening session, was certified by the NYS Parent Education Advisory Board. Under the direction of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator, presentations were given by volunteer mental health practitioners and attorneys or judges.

The focus of the program is on the enormous impact that parents' disputes have on their children's well-being and how parents, through their own awareness and behavior, can minimize the pain and damage children suffer when parents are in conflict. Since many parties in Family Court are unrepresented, the program also was designed to provide an overview of the court experience and relevant law. The importance of safety is an underlying theme throughout the program, and specific approaches to parenting are described for families where domestic violence might be an issue. There is a brief presentation on the scope of domestic violence and on the heightened risks associated with attempts to separate or end these relationships.

Referrals come from judges and referees hearing custody/visitation cases as well as support magistrates and from other courts; some people come on their own.. The Kings County program generally had about 50 participants at each session and the other two counties between 15 and 20 each. To ensure privacy, it is not permitted for two parents to attend the same session; neither is attendance permissible for parents involved in cases where there is an open or pending Order of Protection.. *Note: This program has been suspended until further notice due to budget cuts in 2011.*

Health Day in Bronx County Family Court

An Information Fair was held in Bronx Family Court on April 28, 2010, promoting "Healthy, Happy and Safe Families," in celebration of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Numerous local organizations participated by providing members of the Bronx community with information about raising healthy children, preventive services, hospital resources, domestic violence prevention, good nutrition, and Bronx family activities. The event included craft tables for children and free books for families. The following agencies participated in the fair: South Bronx Healthy Families, Visiting Nurse Services Nurse-Family Partnership, Visiting Nurse Services Fatherhood Program, Bridge Builders Community Partnership,

STEPS to End Family Violence, Early Childhood Center, Department of Education, Montefiore Medical Center, Sauti Yetu, New York City Children's Services, Jewish Child Care Association, Graham Windham, New York Public Library, Bronx Botanical Gardens, and The Bronx Zoo. Following the information fair, the Bronx Borough President's Office proclaimed the month of April 2010 to be Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month and presented the official proclamation to Barbara Stock, chair of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month committee, and Hon. Monica Drinane, Supervising Judge of Bronx Family Court.

Juvenile Delinquency (JD) Resource Coordinators

In January of 2010, under a contract with the City of New York, five JD Resource Coordinators were hired to serve as liaisons in each county between the Court and the various agencies in the Juvenile Justice community. They coordinate the exchange of information exchange between the agencies and assist court staff with daily calendaring, adjournments, and case flow. In addition, the coordinators assist with entering information from the risk assessment instrument, a tool used by Department of Probation to determine whether detention of the youth may be indicated, into a common database.

The Support Through Employment Program (STEP)

STEP, an acronym for "Support Through Employment Program," is designed to find employment opportunities for unemployed litigants who have pending child support cases in Family Court in New York City. First established in New York County in 2002 to handle only public assistance cases, STEP now has offices in the Family Courts in all five boroughs, handling both public assistance and private child support cases. The program is run through the coordinated efforts of the New York State Office of Child Support Enforcement and the New York City Human Resources Administration.

STEP deals only with non-custodial parents who have verifiable social security numbers, who live in New York City, and who themselves are not receiving public cash assistance.

A person becomes involved with STEP through referral by a Family Court Support Magistrate during a pending child support case. STEP does not take walk-ins. (Other programs, accessible through the 311 phone line, exist throughout the city to help job seekers who are not involved in child support litigation.)

After the referral, an initial meeting is held in the STEP office, and the litigant is interviewed to assess skills, abilities, education and experience. Based on this interview, a person may be referred to one of 14 employment programs, called "vendors," who work in conjunction with STEP. The vendors are located at various locations outside courthouses in all counties except Richmond. While STEP does have an office in Staten Island, it refers the litigants to vendors elsewhere, often in Brooklyn or Manhattan.

Some of the vendors specialize in particular areas, such as finding employment for persons with criminal records, on parole or probation, having substance abuse issues or language barriers. For each person referred, the vendor will prepare an evaluation form reporting the litigant's level of participation in the program and whether the litigant is keeping appointments and generally cooperating with efforts to secure employment. The vendor delivers that form to the STEP staff who then forward it to the Court. The Court can utilize this evaluation in determining if the litigant is showing diligence and a good-faith effort to find work. The court's authority to refer a party to a work program such as STEP derives from FCA 437-a and FCA 454(3)(b).

Invitational Roundtable

In the Fall of 2010, members of the greater community of those organizations, schools, churches and agencies who have an interest in Family Court proceedings were drawn together by invitation to learn more about the vision for Family Court under a new administration and to discuss ways in which their organizations can work with Family Court to realize that vision. Eight law schools, five schools of social work, seven not-for-profit organizations, and representatives from four other organizations, including the Interfaith Council, joined the Administrative Judge in a free-wheeling discussion of some of the pressing issues and concerns facing the court today.

Ideas discussed during that meeting were pursued, and work with some participants is underway on ways to improve the court experience.

Interfaith Council Roundtable

Under the auspices of the Unified Court System's "Access to Justice" program led by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fern Fisher, and the Interfaith Center of New York, NYC Family Court has hosted numerous Roundtable Meetings for Community and Religious Leaders and participated in many Public Educational Seminars. The Community Roundtable Meetings have been held in several courthouses and have accommodated up to thirty Community Leaders at a time in discussion of vital current issues.

Several Public Educational Seminars have been held in Family Courts throughout the City. The seminars are held in courthouse public waiting areas and are often video cast to other court sites. A wide range of topics is addressed by guest speakers who are experts in their fields. Some of the subjects addressed in the past are Consumer Credit Debt and Identity Theft, Parents Going Through Separation or Divorce, and Domestic Violence in the Immigrant Community.

Intern Program

NYC Family Court Internship Program

The New York City Family Court Internship Program for Law Students is a year-round program accepting students at the beginning of September, February, and June. Although no financial compensation is offered, legal internships provide valuable experience for students interested in pursuing a career of service to children and families. The program provides experience in both the substantive and procedural areas of Family Court practice, including child abuse and neglect, child support, paternity, custody, guardianship, visitation, and family offense. Students are assigned to Judges, Referees, and/or Support Magistrates.

NYC Family Court Access to Justice Help Center Internship Program

The New York City Family Court Access to Justice Help Center Internship Program for Law Students and Undergraduate Students is a year-round program accepting students in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters. The unpaid positions provide a unique and invaluable experience for those chosen to participate. Students in the program assist parties with the filing of computerized petitions and also assist the Volunteer Attorney Program. Students are exposed to the petition process through work with litigants who are filing cases in the areas of child support, paternity, custody, guardianship, visitation, and family offense. Through this exposure, students gain a practical understanding of public service to children, families, and the unrepresented litigant..

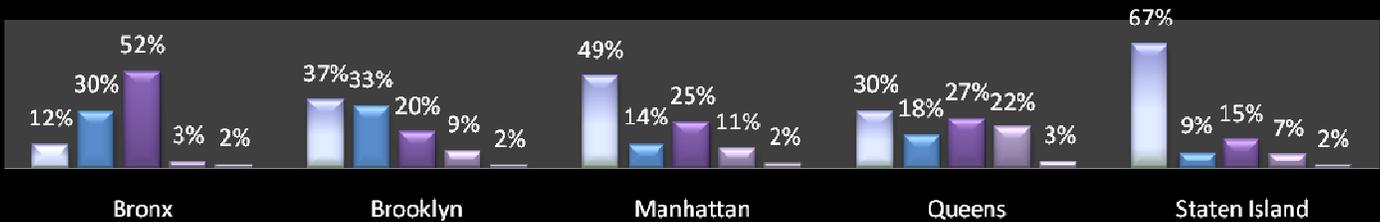
New York City Family Court

County Demographics

The following charts, which give a broad overview of the families and children of New York City, are based on data published by the Citizens' Committee for the Children of New York Inc., in their publication "Keeping Track of New York City's Children 2010."

New York City Population by race/ethnicity - 2008

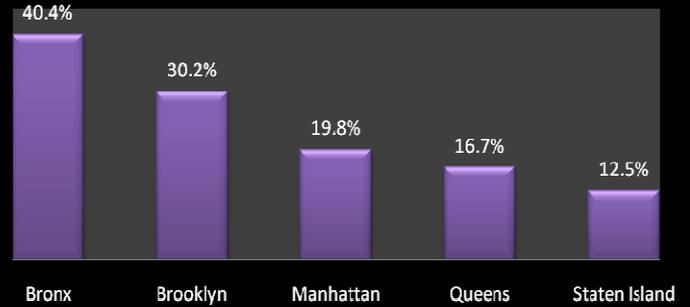
■ % White ■ % Black ■ % Latino ■ % Asian ■ % Others



Population by County 2008



% Children under 18 living below the poverty level (2008)



Entries into Foster Care per 1,000 children (2008)



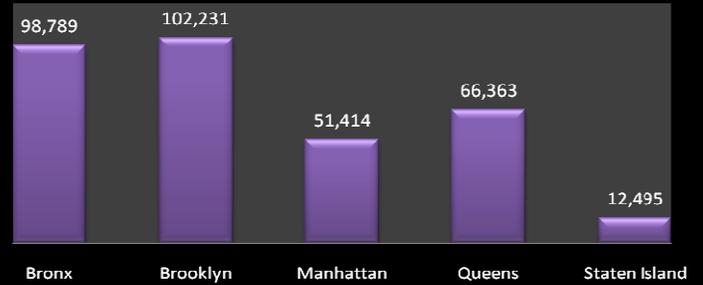
Number of Children in Foster Care 2009



Teen Birth Rates (15-19) per thousand



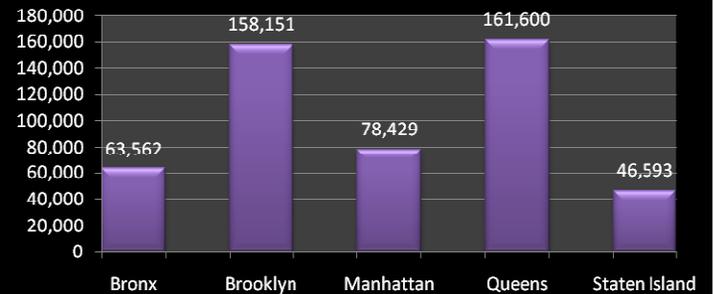
Single Mother with own children under 18 2008



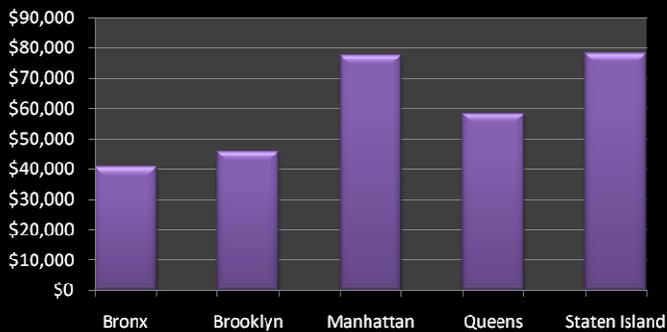
Families Entering Homeless Shelters (2009)



Married Couple Family with Own Child Under 18 Years (2008)



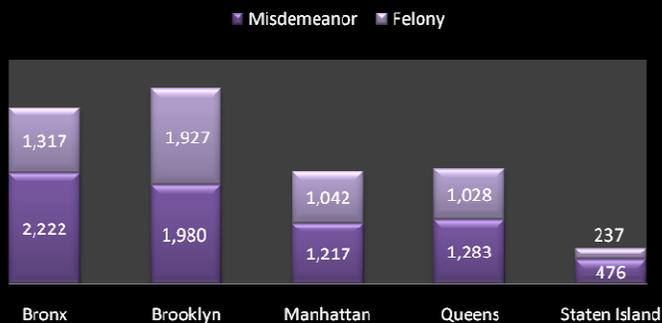
Median Household Income (2008)



Graduated Class of 2008



Juvenile (under 16) Arrests 2008



Adult Unemployment Rate 2009



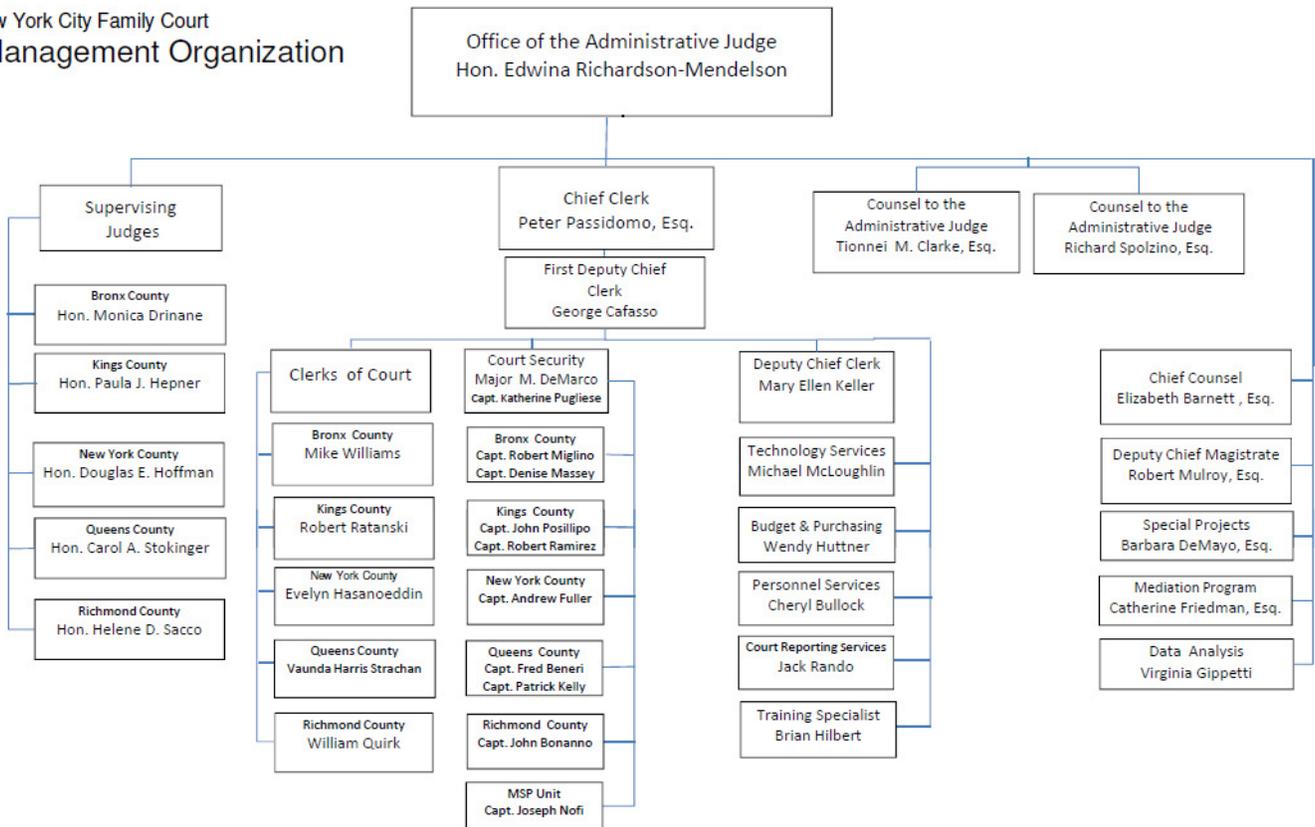
New York City Family Court Structure

Organizational Structure of the New York City Family Court

The New York City Family Court comprises five separate courts, one in each county within the City of New York. A supervising judge oversees each of the five county Family Courts. They report to the administrative judge. A clerk of court manages all non-judicial employees in each county, working closely with the supervising judge and carrying out that judge's administrative program. The Clerk of Court reports directly to the First Deputy Chief Clerk for New York City Family Courts. The First Deputy Chief Clerk reports to the Chief Clerk, who is responsible for managing the approximately 1100 non-judicial employees within the five counties.

Administrative Leadership

New York City Family Court
Management Organization



Supervising Judges



Hon. Monica Drinane, Bronx County



Hon. Paula J. Hepner, Kings County



Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman, New York County



Hon. Carol A. Stokinger, Queens County



Hon. Helene D. Sacco, Richmond County

Administrative Judge



Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson

Chief Clerk



Peter Passidomo, Esq.

First Deputy Chief Clerk



George Cafasso

Clerks of Court



Mike Williams, Bronx County



Robert Ratanski, Kings County



Evelyn Hasanoeddin, New York County



Vaunda Harris-Strachan, Queens County



William Quirk, Richmond County

County Leadership of New York City Family Court

Under the direction of the Administrative Judge, the Supervising Judge in each county, in cooperation with the Clerk of Court and with the assistance of the Supervising Court Attorney, bears responsibility for the proper functioning of the county Family Court.

The Supervising Judge, in cooperation with the Clerk of Court, serves as the local leader and is responsible for the local administration, operation and improvement of the Family Court of the county to which he or she is appointed. The Supervising Judge assists the Administrative Judge in the local implementation of citywide policies and directives.

Divisional Leadership

Clerical Operations in each county are organized into a divisional system with the Clerk of Court and Deputy Clerk of Court being assisted by Division Supervisors.

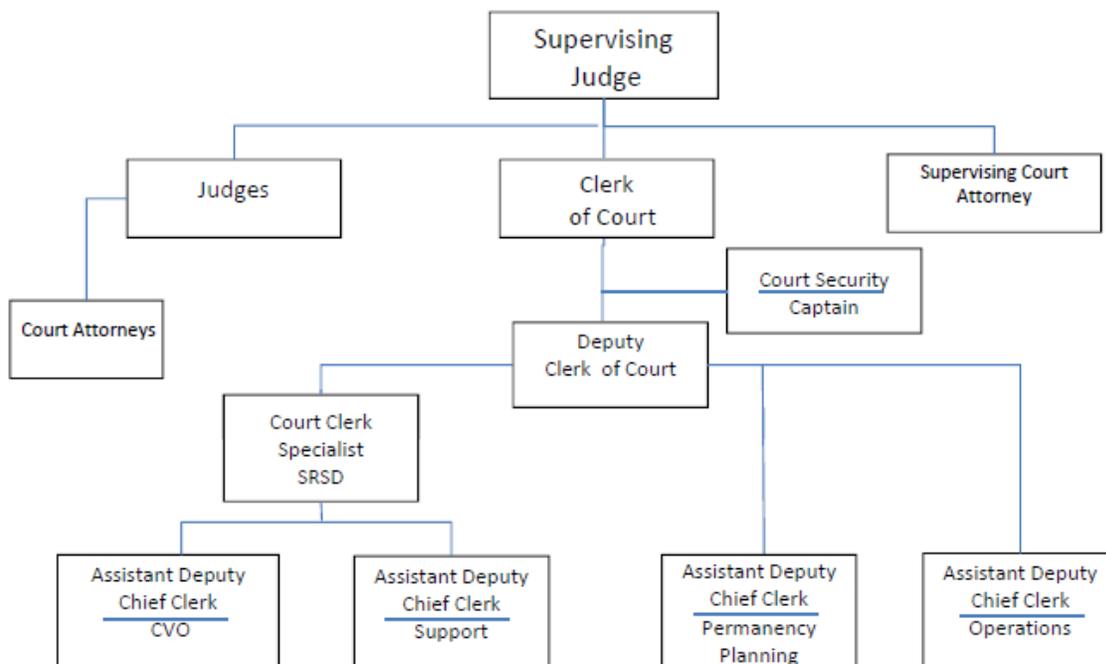
The Self-Represented Services Division is headed by a Court Clerk Specialist who is assisted by an Assistant Deputy Chief Clerk in charge of CVO matters and an Assistant Deputy Chief Clerk in charge of Support matters, including petition filing, court part operations and records management.

The Permanency Planning Division is supervised by an Assistant Deputy Chief Clerk who is in charge of Child Protective and Juvenile Delinquency matters, including petition filing, court part operations and record management.

Additionally, an Assistant Deputy Chief Clerk is assigned to countywide operations and special projects.

The Captain(s) in each county provides leadership for all Court Security issues.

New York City Family Court
County Management Organization



Clerk Directory

BRONX COUNTY FAMILY COURT

900 Sheridan Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451

Michael Williams	Clerk of Court	(718) 618-2098
Nicholas Rapallo	Deputy Clerk of Court	(718) 618-2110
Noel Carroll	Court Clerk Specialist - Self-Represented Litigant Services	(718) 618-2098
Gilbert Rodriquez	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - CVO Division	(718) 618-2108
Anita Bryant	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Support/Paternity Division	(718) 618-2098
Alphonso Douglass	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Permanency Planning Division	(718) 618-2105
Morris Johnson	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Permanency Planning Division	(718) 618-2109

KINGS COUNTY FAMILY COURT

330 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Robert Ratanski	Clerk of Court	(347) 401-9610
John Coakley	Deputy Clerk of Court	(347) 401-9610
James O'Connor	Court Clerk Specialist - Self-Represented Litigant Services	(347) 401-9790
James Dolinger	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - CVO Division	(347) 401-9690
Paul Pyzowski	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Support/Paternity Division	(347) 401-9690
Steve Byrnes	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Permanency Planning Division	(347) 401-9820

NY COUNTY FAMILY COURT

60 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013

Evelyn Hasanoeddin	Clerk of Court	(646) 386-5206
Joseph Radice	Deputy Clerk of Court	(646) 386-5200
Diane Goulding	Court Clerk Specialist - Self-Represented Litigant Services	(646) 386-5245
Veronica Bullard	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - CVO Division	(646) 386-5231
Calvin Boone	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Support/Paternity Division	(646) 386-5312
Alexander McKoy	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Public Assistance Support Intake Operations	(646) 386-5218
Joseph Comisi	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Permanency Planning Division	(646) 386-5304

QUEENS COUNTY FAMILY COURT

151-20 Jamaica Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432

Vaunda Harris	Clerk of Court	(718) 298-0197/8/9
Elizabeth Songen	Deputy Clerk of Court	(718) 298-0197/8/9
VACANT	Court Clerk Specialist - Self-Represented Litigant Services	(718) 298-0266
Aileen Kelly	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - CVO Division	(718) 298-0137/8
VACANT	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Support/Paternity Division	(718) 298-0131
Judy LaRose	Asst. Deputy Clerk of Court - HELP CENTER/Automation	(718) 298-0321
Elizabeth Horowitz	Asst. Deputy Chief Clerk - Permanency Planning Division	(718) 298-0132

RICHMOND COUNTY FAMILY COURT

100 Richmond Terrace
Staten Island, NY 10301

William J. Quirk	Clerk of Court	(718) 675-8890
James P. Veloce	Deputy Clerk of Court	(718) 675-8890

Rev. Apr 2011

New York City Family Court Structure

Court Jurisdiction

Family court has jurisdiction over many types of proceedings, which may be divided into four general categories or specialties. These include:

JD/PINS Specialty

Juvenile Delinquency - Proceedings involving a person over 7 years of age and under 16 years of age who commits an act, which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a crime. Delinquency proceedings may be commenced in Family Court or as a removal from Criminal Court, depending upon the seriousness of the alleged crime. In these proceedings, the Family Court must focus on the needs and best interests of the youth as well as the need for the protection of the community.

PINS - “Persons in Need of Supervision,” defined as a person under the age of 18 years who does not attend school, is incorrigible, ungovernable or habitually disobedient and beyond the lawful control of a parent or other person legally responsible for the youth’s care. Diversion services and mediation services are provided prior to filing, since the focus of the law is remediation and provision of services to the youth.

Custody/Visitation/Guardianship & Domestic Violence Specialty

Custody/Visitation - Custody proceedings may be commenced by any person having an interest in the welfare of the child. Although typically brought by parents, many custody petitions are filed by grandparents and, in lesser numbers, by siblings or other relatives, often within families suffering issues stemming from poverty, abuse and addiction. An Order of Custody grants the authority to make decisions regarding a child’s health, education, and religious upbringing and determines where/with whom a child resides. Visitation issues are frequently addressed within custody proceedings. However, only parents, grandparents and siblings may petition for visitation.

Domestic Violence - Petitions alleging domestic violence (“Family Offense Proceedings”) include allegations of acts/conduct which constitute disorderly conduct, harassment, aggravated harassment, sexual abuse, stalking, criminal mischief, menacing, reckless endangerment, assault and attempted assault. Petitions may be filed by persons related by consanguinity or affinity; persons legally married to one another; persons formerly married to one another; persons who have a child in common; and persons who have been in an intimate relationship regardless of whether they lived together at any time.

Domestic violence proceedings may be heard separately, or, if other petitions have been filed regarding the same family, will be joined and heard by one/same jurist. If the court determines that a person has committed the crimes alleged, the court may issue an Order of Protection for a period of months to 5 years.

Guardianship - Family Court has jurisdiction over the guardianship of a minor or infant/person up to the age of 21 years. If the person is 14 years of age or older, his/her consent is required. Any person may petition for guardianship and, if granted, shall have the right and responsibility to make decisions regarding the child's health, education and welfare.

Child Protective Specialty

Child Protection - Child protective proceedings are commenced by the Administration for Children's Services against a parent(s) or other person legally responsible for a child, who has neglected or abused the child, either directly or by allowing another to do so. As a result, the child's physical, mental and/or emotional health is injured or impaired or is at risk of injury or impairment. Subject children may or may not be removed from their home. Various social services may be provided during the pendency of the case on the consent of the parties, or may be court-ordered after a finding of abuse or neglect, until a permanency goal is achieved, *e.g.*, return to home, kinship guardianship, adoption.

Termination of Parental Rights - When a child has been placed in foster care, the parent's rights to the child may be terminated due to abandonment, permanent neglect, inability to provide proper care due to the parent's mental illness or mental retardation, or the severe or repeated abuse of the child.

Voluntary Surrenders - A parent(s) may also voluntarily surrender a child to an authorized agency, thereby freeing the child for adoption. The surrender must be approved by the Family Court.

Adoptions - Any adult, whether married, separated or unmarried, may adopt a child. If the child is over the age of 14 years, his/her consent to the adoption is required. Unless the parents are deceased, or parental rights have previously been terminated by the Court, the consent of the parents is also required. There are two types of adoptions: (i) agency adoptions, where the child is in foster care, and (ii) private-placement adoptions, where the child is placed directly from the parent(s). Adoptions confer upon the adoptive parent(s) the same rights and responsibilities for the child as were previously held by the biological parents.

Support Specialty

Support - The Family Court has jurisdiction to order the support of a child, generally under the age of 21 years, by either or both parents. Petitions may be filed by either parent or by the local Department of Social Services if a parent or child is receiving public assistance. Family court also has jurisdiction to entertain petitions for spousal support.

Paternity - The Family Court has jurisdiction over proceedings to determine a person's legal father. The subject child may be born out-of-wedlock or to a married couple. If the child is born to a married couple, there is a presumption of legitimacy, which is subject to rebuttal.

Types of Jurists

Judges - By statute, there are 47 Judges appointed to the New York City Family Court. There are also additional Judges assigned to Family Court from the Criminal and Civil Courts on an as-needed basis. The Judges hear all proceedings over which Family Court has jurisdiction, with the exception of support proceedings, which initially are heard by Support Magistrates. However, if a litigant disagrees with the Support Magistrate's decision and order, the litigant may file an objection ("appeal") which is determined by a Judge. The Judge's decisions are directly appealable to the Appellate Division.

Referees/Judicial Hearing Officers ("JHOs") - As of December 31st, 2010, there were 43 Referees and 16 JHOs (retired Judges) who preside over many types of Family Court proceedings, including child custody/visitation matters, family offense, permanency hearings that are held as part of a child protective matter, and adoptions. The consent of the parties and counsel (obtained in more than 95% of the cases) is necessary in order for a Referee/JHO to hear and determine a case. The decision of the Referee/JHO is directly appealable to the Appellate Division. In cases where there is no consent given, the Referee/JHO may hear, report and recommend a disposition to a Family Court Judge, who makes the final decision.
Note: due to budget cuts in 2011, the number of JHOs serving Family Court was cut to 6 from 16.

Support Magistrates - All issues of child support, spousal support and paternity other than equitable estoppel are determined by the 38 Support Magistrates presiding in the NYC Family Court. These filings comprise more than 50% of the Family Court caseload. If a party disagrees with the decision issued by a Support Magistrate, an "objection" is filed, and the matter is determined by a Family Court Judge. The Judge's decision then may be appealed to the Appellate Division.

Mediation

Mediation is a flexible tool which can be used as an adjunct to the court process to advance and improve the resolution of cases in ways other than "getting a settlement." The case development process itself can be helpful as the mediators, in confidential conversation with each party and attorneys, help them to clarify, articulate, and prioritize their own needs and concerns. These discussions generate movement in a case, improving and expediting communication between the participants during mediation sessions, in subsequent court proceedings, and throughout the life of the case. This also saves hearing and conference time for the Court. Mediation is a non-adversarial process, without the time pressure of court hearings or conferences, where everyone relevant to a case (parties, attorneys and non-parties) can exchange information and focus on identifying and resolving problems that are delaying permanency. Mediation provides an opportunity for everyone involved in a case to gain a deeper understanding of the issues preventing it from moving forward.

Custody/Visitation Mediation

The New York City Family Court Custody/Visitation Mediation Program is a court-based program administered by the Family Court. It provides free mediation services to people with custody or visitation cases pending in court. Cases are mediated by a roster of specially trained and experienced mediators under the supervision of the Family Court ADR Coordinator. Mediations are held in the court house; parties generally meet two or three times for 2-hour sessions between their court dates.

Mediation is a voluntary dispute resolution process in which an impartial third party helps disputing parties to negotiate. Mediation provides people with an opportunity to identify their underlying concerns and talk about their conflicts constructively in an informal, confidential and non-adversarial setting.

A core value of mediation is self-determination by the parties. The mediator is not a judge or an advocate and neither makes decisions nor offers opinions regarding the case. Rather, a mediator helps people express their differing

viewpoints, listen to each other, and explore alternative options to reach solutions that will address their family's particular needs. If parties choose to make an agreement, it is submitted to the referring Court where, if the judge or referee approves, it may become a court order.

Confidentiality: Discussions during a mediation (with certain safety exceptions) are not admissible in court proceedings unless confidentiality is specifically waived by all parties or if they reach a signed agreement. Before people mediate, they sign a consent form acknowledging their choice to mediate and their understanding and agreement to maintain confidentiality.

Attorneys: Although parties speak for themselves in mediation, if they wish they may be accompanied by, and consult with, their attorney at any time. Parties may always review with their attorney any agreement they reach before signing it. The attorney for the child may always participate in the mediation, and may review any agreement before it is submitted to the Court.

Referrals: Cases are referred to the mediation program by the judge or referee hearing the case; parties or attorneys may request a referral at any point in the proceeding, even after a trial has commenced. When cases are referred to the program, each party is scheduled for a confidential intake session to determine whether the case is appropriate for mediation.

Suitable Cases: Both parties must agree to participate in mediation. Cases are screened out when domestic violence is revealed or where family dynamics indicate, for any reason, that productive, good faith negotiation between the parties is unlikely to occur. Cases with open or pending Family Offense matters are not accepted. Because the intake process, as well as the mediation, is confidential, when cases are screened out, the Court is notified only that the case is not appropriate for mediation; the matter then may proceed in court without prejudice.

Child Permanency Mediation Program

The New York City Family Court Child Permanency Mediation Program is a court-based program handling child protective and termination of parental rights cases pending in the Family Courts of Kings, New York, Queens and Bronx counties. The program, operated by the court in collaboration with the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NYSPCC), was staffed by experienced, full-time mediators with specialized training in permanency mediation and family law, and graduate degrees in law, social work or related fields.

With the support of legislation authorizing the Court to refer cases to mediation at any point in a child protective proceeding, the mediation program routinely addressed a wide range of issues, from pre-fact-finding cases where all parties want to avoid trial, to problems with services for parents or children, breakdowns in communication between any of the people involved in the case, and sorting out who would be the best resource to give a child a permanent home. Parties entered mediation under court order, by a Judges or referee, or, through referral by the Court, upon their own request through their attorneys.

In the past year, the Child Permanency Mediation program received referrals of cases concerning over 800 children from 44 child protective parts city-wide. Seventy-five percent of cases referred participated in mediation, and, of those, approximately 54% reached a formal agreement.

Even where mediation does not result in a full mediated settlement, the process itself narrows the contested issues for the court.

Special Note: In April of 2011, the Child Permanency Mediation program was suspended due to the budget cuts required by the state. The Family Court hopes to resume this important program as soon as the budget allows.

Community and Problem-Solving Courts

Harlem Justice Community Court

begun in 2000, The Harlem Community Justice Center is a community court and resource center that works to address juvenile delinquency, housing and prisoner reentry in Upper Manhattan. The Justice Center's Family Court includes the Juvenile Intervention Court (JIC), an early intervention project that works to address the complex factors that often contribute to a juvenile's involvement with crime, drugs and alcohol. Juvenile Intervention Court case managers work closely with an onsite probation officer, Judge and court staff to assess needs, develop service plans, make referrals to local services, and provide on-going support and monitoring. During 2010, JIC worked with 28 juveniles; the C/V/O part received 36 petitions. The Justice Center also includes a Custody and Visitation/Family Offense (C/V/O) part that seeks to reduce family conflict while promoting victim safety, responsible parenthood, and the best interest of the child.

Hon. Ruben A. Martino is the Justice Center's Presiding Judge. Court Attorney Brian Buckley serves as the Referee for custody and visitation cases.

Red Hook Community Court

A recent report published by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice calls for a paradigm shift in the treatment of court-involved youth—one that draws from a positive youth development framework to envision youth as potential resources for their families and communities. Their suggested shift in the focus of intervention away from a deficit-based emphasis on control toward a strength-based emphasis on attachment is an ideal companion to the Red Hook Community Justice Center's problem-solving orientation. The Justice Center, through collaboration with the Vera Institute of Justice's Family Justice Program, worked to adapt Family Justice's strength-based, evidence-informed, and family-focused assessment and case management model for use in problem-solving courts, specifically with family courts and ATDs.

The Justice Center began using the following protocol with all family court cases in November, 2010: When a client is referred to the Justice Center's clinic, either by the court or probation, s/he and the parent or guardian meet with the family court social worker for an initial evaluation using the DIS Predictive Scales (DPS). The DPS is a validated, computerized tool that screens for 35 mental health disorders, including anxiety, mood, behavior, and substance use. The social worker meets with each young person following the assessment and reviews answers, providing any follow-up assessments as needed. In the initial meeting with his/her case manager, the client and case manager work collaboratively to complete Vera's strength-based, family-focused tools: the ecomap, genogram, and gang assessment form. The case manager, social worker, and program director then meet to discuss recommendations and to devise a clear and succinct 120-day contract listing all social service and educational recommendations. This list is reread aloud during each court appearance; all updates focus directly on the list of mandates.

During the life of cases, clients meet weekly with case managers. Sessions revolve around goal-setting, family engagement, and strengthening clients' ties to their families and communities.

While the Justice Center is eager to explore ways to more effectively engage youth and families, its Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (JOIN) has for the last four years been focused on these goals. The recidivism rate for youth engaged in JOIN programming one-year post-program completion is 15% and 49% three years post-program completion. JOIN programming focuses on family engagement (91% of JOIN participants had a parent or guardian attend a hearing), educational advocacy (73% of chronically disengaged JOIN participants during the 2009-2010 program year were successfully reengaged in school), internships and employment services (100% of JOIN participants during the 2009-2010 program year met with an employment specialist), and clinical services (100% of JOIN participants during the 2009-2010 program year were assessed and, as appropriate, referred to mental health or drug treatment programs.)

Integrated Domestic Violence Courts

Integrated domestic violence (IDV) courts are so called because they use a one-family/one-judge model to bring before a single judge the multiple criminal, family, and matrimonial disputes for families where domestic violence is an underlying issue. Prior to the creation of IDV courts in New York State, these case types were heard in separate courts before multiple judges. These courts each had their own information technology systems and often were in separate buildings and in different parts of a county. As a result, families affected by domestic violence were left to navigate a complicated court structure. Having their cases handled separately cost them time and money, led to confusion, and jeopardized their safety.

By bundling these cases, the IDV program helps ensure consistency and provides consolidated access to justice and services to victims and families. IDV courts are staffed with judges trained in multiple areas of law and the dynamics of domestic violence. They incorporate on-going judicial monitoring of offenders. Through coordination with victim advocates and a network of services and outside agencies, IDV courts can see to it that victims and families receive better information and support, thus increasing their confidence in the system.

IDV court cases are heard in supreme court. To be eligible for IDV court, a family must have a criminal domestic violence case as well as a family court case, a matrimonial case, or both, where at least one of the defendants and complaining witnesses to the criminal case is also a party to the family court or matrimonial case.

Night Court and Weekend Arraignments

In an effort to provide parties with emergency relief during evening hours, New York City Family Court introduced Night Court. Beginning with Kings County, which opened in 1998, and expanding over the course of the next several years to the other counties, Night Court was available in all five counties by 2007.

Night Court was open 1-3 nights per week depending upon the county. It provided an opportunity for petitioners to file family offense, child support, paternity, custody, visitation and guardianship applications at hours accommodating people who work during the day.

(Note: Due to budget cuts in 2011, Night Court Operations have been suspended.)

In 2008, the Family Court instituted weekend arraignments of juvenile delinquency cases. If a youth under the age of 16 is arrested over the weekend in any of the boroughs, the case is centrally heard either Saturday or Sunday in Criminal Court at 100 Centre Street in Manhattan.

At the hearing, a judge will hear the case presented by Corporation Counsel. The youth is represented by either an 18-b attorney or the Legal Aid Society. The weekend arraignment allows a youth to be released, if appropriate, rather than being unnecessarily detained for the weekend.

Family Treatment Court

Family Treatment Courts address neglect petitions where substance abuse is a component of the allegations against either a parent or a respondent. Respondents who successfully complete their drug treatment program are reunited with their children in the great majority of the cases. Additionally, successful participants in the Family Treatment programs often receive liberal contact with their children prior to graduation. Family Treatment Courts operate in the following counties: New York, Kings, Queens, and the Bronx. As of December 2009, FTC has successfully graduated 287 respondents.

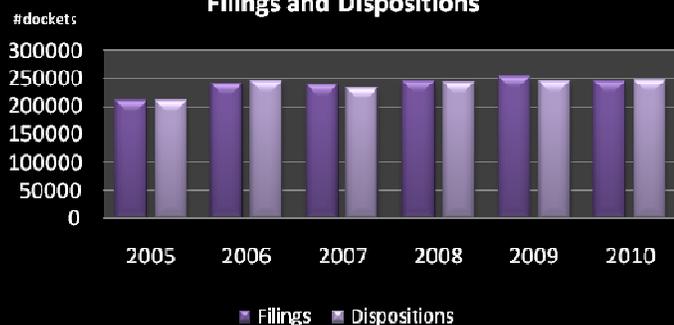
New York City Family Court Statistics

Court Activity

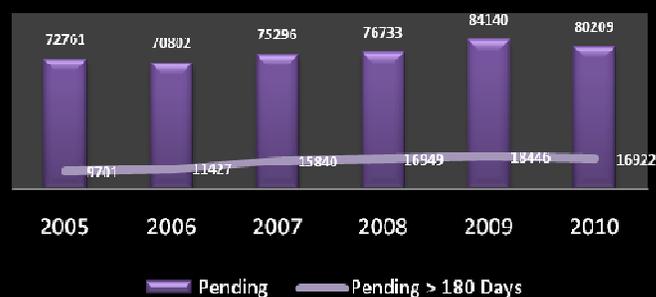
The following pages contain a series of tables and charts which illustrate the filing trends in New York City Family Court over the past six years. Unless otherwise indicated, the source for this data is the New York State Office of Court Research based on data from the Case Activity Reporting System (CARS.)

An overview of filings, dispositions, pending cases (dockets) and court calendar numbers is presented first, followed by statistical charts and trends by each of the Specialties: Child Protective, Juvenile Delinquency/PINS, Custody/Visitation/Family Offense and Child Support.

New York City Family Court Filings and Dispositions

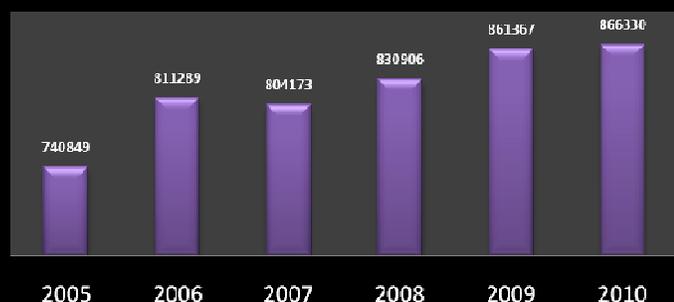


Dockets pending and Pending more than 180 Days



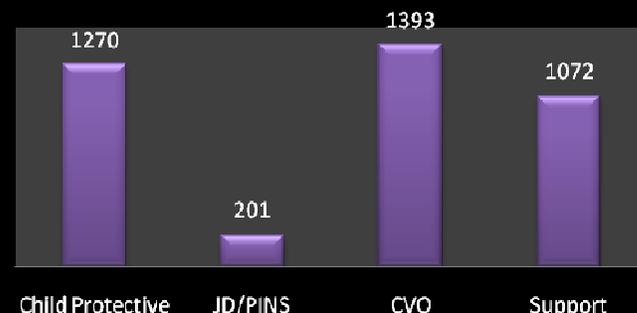
Calendars

dockets

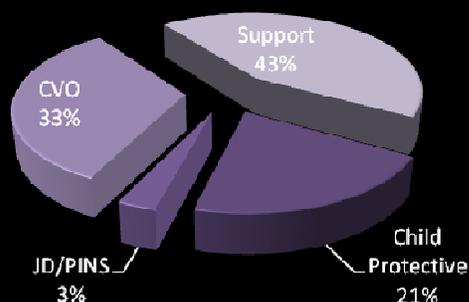


Daily Cases on Calendar

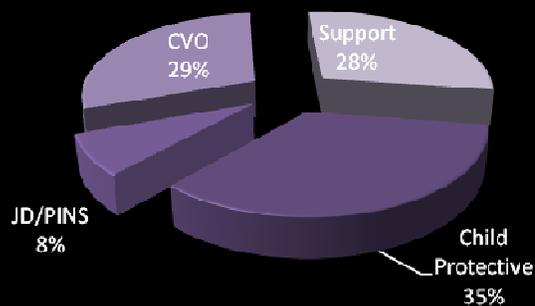
dockets



2010 Filings by Specialty



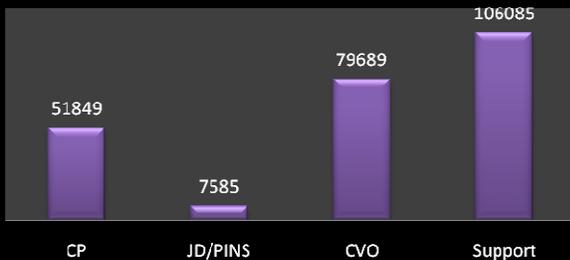
2010 Judicial Resources by Specialty



Children and Families Served by New York City Family Court

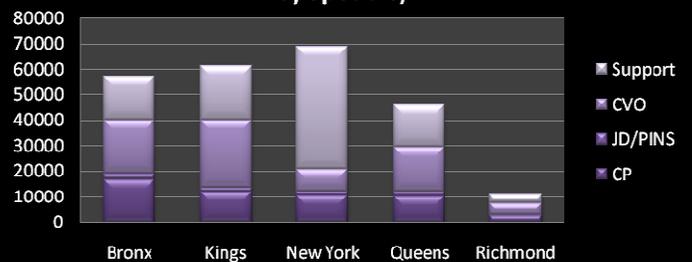
The charts below, which refer to numbers of children and families, is based on the Future Calendared Appearances data collected in UCMS. A snapshot of cases on calendar as of 11/26/2010 shows there were over 57,000 families being served by the New York City Family Court, including 84,000 children. The largest number of families, about 30,000, were being seen for Support matters. About 15,000 families are before the Court on Child Protective proceedings, with a slightly higher number involved in Custody, Visitation or Domestic Violence proceedings. In addition, some 2500 youth had appearances pending in the JD/PINS Specialty.

2010 Annual Filings by Specialty



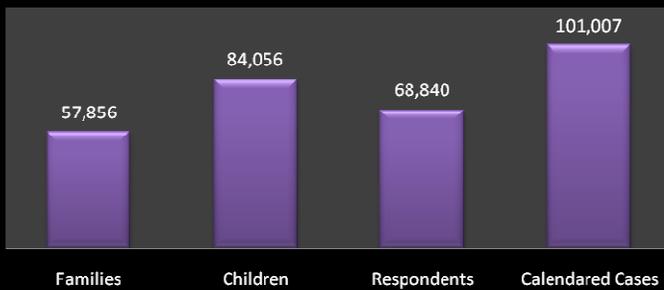
Note: Includes Permanency Hearings Held; Does not include IDV/Community Court filings

2010 Annual County Filings by Specialty

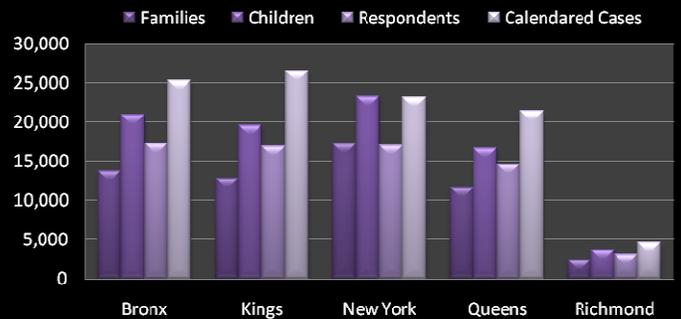


Note: Includes Permanency Hearings Held; Does not include IDV/Community Court filings

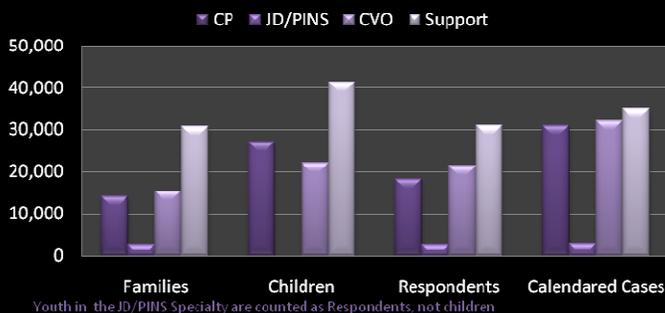
New York City Family Court Cases with a future appearance as of 11/26/10



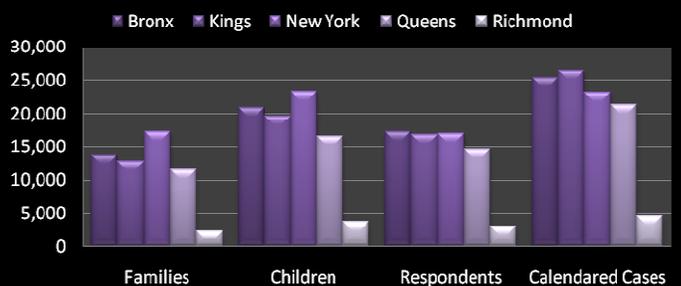
Families and Children with a Future Appearance by County as of 11/26/2010



Families and Children with a Future Appearance by Specialty as of 11/26/2010



Families and Children with a Future Appearance as of 11/26/2010



New York City Family Court: Filing and Dispositions by Case Type

Case Type	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		
	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	
TOTAL New York City Family Court Filings and Dispositions													
Termination of Parental Rights	Original	1,693	2,128	1,563	1,639	1,703	1,404	1,539	1,556	1,622	1,486	1,406	1,479
	Supp	6,649	7,121	96	1,339	53	79	56	57	41	49	24	29
	Total	8,342	9,249	1,659	2,978	1,756	1,483	1,595	1,613	1,663	1,535	1,430	1,508
Neglect	Original	4,270	4,507	11,249	5,575	11,136	9,313	10,112	9,799	10,419	10,195	9,086	11,788
	Supp	9,511	10,189	1,249	3,301	1,261	1,320	1,559	1,431	1,472	1,449	1,114	1,270
	Total	13,781	14,696	12,498	8,876	12,397	10,633	11,671	11,230	11,891	11,644	10,200	13,058
Abuse	Original	789	831	1,223	715	1,302	914	1,218	1,106	1,066	1,117	1,156	1,216
	Supp	1,510	1,561	175	508	98	138	129	138	119	103	73	93
	Total	2,299	2,392	1,398	1,223	1,400	1,052	1,347	1,244	1,185	1,220	1,229	1,309
Juvenile Delinquency	Original	6,865	6,521	6,477	7,184	5,661	5,869	6,118	5,877	6,209	6,207	5,656	5,679
	Supp	2,139	2,042	2,245	2,360	1,954	1,993	1,992	1,945	2,156	2,137	1,564	1,716
	Total	9,004	8,563	8,722	9,544	7,615	7,862	8,110	7,822	8,365	8,344	7,220	7,395
Designated Felony	Original	320	169	257	178	178	103	191	93	218	93	135	81
	Supp	46	49	59	58	41	39	32	32	29	30	13	15
	Total	366	218	316	236	219	142	223	125	247	123	148	96
PINS	Original	1,196	1,234	1,206	1,165	1,312	1,306	1,424	1,406	1,261	1,373	956	1,100
	Supp	387	409	215	272	206	207	223	208	278	264	259	266
	Total	1,583	1,643	1,421	1,437	1,518	1,513	1,647	1,614	1,539	1,637	1,215	1,366
Adoption	Total	2,324	2,386	1,869	1,971	1,869	1,979	1,577	1,685	1,594	1,623	1,573	1,540
	Original	126	101	130	139	130	136	125	124	94	110	96	97
	Supp	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
Surrender Child	Original	723	752	607	564	541	520	672	622	707	730	701	675
	Supp	1,360	1,422	15	295	23	18	14	25	23	15	18	26
	Total	2,083	2,174	622	859	564	538	686	647	730	745	719	701
Guardianship	Original	1,995	2,132	2,044	1,995	1,938	1,889	2,070	2,009	2,509	2,456	2,616	2,525
	Supp	262	258	239	244	246	230	235	225	263	249	263	228
	Total	2,257	2,390	2,283	2,239	2,184	2,119	2,305	2,234	2,772	2,705	2,879	2,753
Voluntary Foster Care Placement	Original	554	570	435	425	485	382	511	473	444	411	538	460
	Supp	79	75	3	15	2	2	0	0	1	1	5	4
	Total	633	645	438	440	487	384	511	473	445	412	543	464
Foster Care Review	Original	360	367	0	51	6	2	1	4	0	3	0	0
	Supp	967	964	7	134	14	2	3	3	0	0	0	0
	Total	1,327	1,331	7	185	20	4	4	7	0	3	0	0
Family Offense	Original	20,258	19,685	20,449	20,376	19,404	19,191	21,578	20,808	25,310	24,889	25,497	25,540
	Supp	1,412	1,333	1,483	1,402	1,436	1,446	1,576	1,566	1,646	1,589	1,495	1,459
	Total	21,670	21,018	21,932	21,778	20,840	20,637	23,154	22,374	26,956	26,478	26,992	26,999
Custody/Visitation	Original	29,660	28,193	30,797	29,495	31,129	29,862	32,805	31,970	34,015	33,289	36,318	35,057
	Supp	13,659	12,327	14,665	13,914	14,805	13,596	16,280	15,690	16,974	16,349	17,218	16,665
	Total	43,319	40,520	45,462	43,409	45,934	43,458	49,085	47,660	50,989	49,638	53,536	51,722
Support IV-D	Original	27,686	28,935	28,750	30,746	29,343	28,825	29,546	30,054	34,667	30,788	33,919	34,972
	Supp	43,968	43,023	55,320	56,694	53,649	53,505	55,620	54,273	46,413	47,806	43,225	42,512
	Total	71,654	71,958	84,070	87,440	82,992	82,330	85,166	84,327	81,080	78,594	77,144	77,484
Support Non IV-D	Original	1,065	1,209	1,117	1,175	932	946	1,022	974	1,074	1,083	841	659
	Supp	2,794	2,803	3,046	3,253	1,611	1,683	1,732	1,675	1,921	1,902	1,724	1,356
	Total	3,859	4,012	4,163	4,428	2,543	2,629	2,754	2,649	2,995	2,985	2,565	2,015
Paternity IV-D	Original	16,252	17,078	16,366	17,948	16,888	16,668	15,694	16,671	19,621	16,875	17,562	19,135
	Supp	40	132	41	58	21	33	24	36	24	46	22	140
	Total	16,292	17,210	16,407	18,006	16,909	16,701	15,718	16,707	19,645	16,921	17,584	19,275
Paternity Non IV-D	Original	4,126	3,922	4,309	4,655	4,145	4,111	4,121	4,105	4,260	4,152	4,163	4,133
	Supp	14	19	9	11	3	5	5	7	5	3	9	36
	Total	4,140	3,941	4,318	4,666	4,148	4,116	4,126	4,112	4,265	4,155	4,172	4,169
USDL IV-D	Original	3,337	3,706	3,174	3,530	2,912	3,065	3,081	3,034	2,821	3,000	2,283	2,599
	Supp	2,330	2,291	2,796	2,816	2,802	2,798	3,279	3,068	3,141	3,242	2,871	2,845
	Total	5,667	5,997	5,970	6,346	5,714	5,863	6,360	6,102	5,962	6,242	5,154	5,444
USDL Non IV-D	Original	3	22	3	4	4	3	6	4	9	8	3	3
	Supp	107	112	85	103	19	30	31	29	28	26	26	21
	Total	110	134	88	107	23	33	37	33	37	34	29	24
Other	Original	91	91	84	86	53	53	64	56	65	67	58	53
	Supp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	2
	Total	91	91	84	86	53	53	64	56	67	69	60	55
Permanency Hearings Held	Total			28,423	28,423	30,219	30,219	30,482	30,482	30,900	30,900	31,094	31,094
	Original	123,693	124,539	132,109	129,616	131,071	126,541	133,475	132,430	147,985	139,955	144,563	148,701
	Supp	87,234	86,131	110,171	115,200	108,463	107,343	113,275	110,893	105,436	106,162	101,019	99,777
Total	Total	210,927	210,670	242,280	244,816	239,534	233,884	246,750	243,323	253,421	246,117	245,582	248,478

Court Activity Reporting Statistics provided by the OCA Office of Court Research.

Bronx County Family Court: Filing and Dispositions by Case Type

Case Type	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		
	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	
BRONX Family Court Filings and Dispositions													
Termination	Original	540	706	531	566	672	426	517	542	575	554	485	522
	Supp	1,528	1,636	36	426	17	23	30	24	8	17	2	5
	Total	2,068	2,342	567	992	689	449	547	566	583	571	487	527
Parental Rights	Original	1,372	1,599	3,533	1,883	3,345	2,982	3,111	3,075	3,666	3,228	3,015	3,733
	Supp	2,859	3,281	190	1,083	248	262	400	383	352	300	313	319
	Total	4,231	4,880	3,723	2,966	3,593	3,244	3,511	3,458	4,018	3,528	3,328	4,052
Neglect	Original	203	260	293	172	346	248	223	278	225	186	317	260
	Supp	291	327	17	123	14	13	10	13	19	13	22	20
	Total	494	587	310	295	360	261	233	291	244	199	339	280
Abuse	Original	1,660	1,538	1,520	1,669	1,382	1,352	1,494	1,472	1,606	1,725	1,616	1,523
	Supp	571	554	600	588	476	494	443	447	446	439	355	356
	Total	2,231	2,092	2,120	2,257	1,858	1,846	1,937	1,919	2,052	2,164	1,971	1,879
Juvenile Delinquency	Original	73	27	74	42	55	19	36	27	50	19	43	19
	Supp	11	11	13	13	12	11	4	4	4	4	2	3
	Total	84	38	87	55	67	30	40	31	54	23	45	22
Designated Felony	Original	381	389	394	339	479	481	579	547	571	578	369	452
	Supp	70	80	33	46	25	26	28	27	38	33	55	55
	Total	451	469	427	385	504	507	607	574	609	611	424	507
PINS	Original	766	740	589	626	533	570	417	417	504	495	450	458
	Supp	5	5	6	7	6	4	9	10	2	3	14	9
	Total	771	745	595	633	539	574	426	427	506	498	464	467
Adoption Certification	Original	248	270	199	163	174	176	281	237	260	299	237	230
	Supp	341	342	0	86	7	3	3	7	5	2	8	7
	Total	589	612	199	249	181	179	284	244	265	301	245	237
Surrender	Original	516	610	632	573	738	657	634	684	749	732	717	690
	Supp	51	54	39	39	50	38	56	47	66	67	78	61
	Total	567	664	671	612	788	695	690	731	815	799	795	751
Guardianship	Original	83	76	62	70	69	64	104	93	109	97	146	137
	Supp	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
	Total	83	76	62	70	69	64	105	94	109	97	146	137
Voluntary Foster Care	Original	38	37	0	7	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	2
	Supp	18	13	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	56	50	1	12	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	2
Foster Care Review	Original	5,535	5,418	5,592	5,594	5,387	5,188	5,726	5,306	6,687	6,771	7,075	7,394
	Supp	311	298	315	290	283	285	299	302	391	350	417	394
	Total	5,846	5,716	5,907	5,884	5,670	5,473	6,025	5,608	7,078	7,121	7,492	7,788
Family Offense	Original	8,071	7,749	7,636	7,594	7,441	7,484	7,632	7,162	8,359	8,230	9,819	9,591
	Supp	2,546	2,452	2,713	2,744	2,888	2,673	3,056	2,823	3,634	3,516	4,584	4,327
	Total	10,617	10,201	10,349	10,338	10,329	10,157	10,688	9,985	11,993	11,746	14,403	13,918
Custody	Original	3,577	3,659	3,990	4,222	3,969	4,073	4,310	4,157	4,417	4,243	4,334	4,224
	Supp	6,131	5,497	7,632	7,832	8,161	8,027	8,785	8,045	8,205	8,229	7,861	7,536
	Total	9,708	9,156	11,622	12,054	12,130	12,100	13,095	12,202	12,622	12,472	12,195	11,760
Support IV-D	Original	153	199	187	207	159	164	205	194	151	158	197	150
	Supp	563	571	558	668	296	294	320	309	336	335	347	293
	Total	716	770	745	875	455	458	525	503	487	493	544	443
Support Non IV-D	Original	1,539	1,608	1,572	1,707	1,529	1,532	1,504	1,526	1,669	1,583	1,542	1,584
	Supp	1	22	2	5	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	2
	Total	1,540	1,630	1,574	1,712	1,529	1,533	1,504	1,527	1,669	1,585	1,546	1,586
Paternity IV-D	Original	994	902	1,011	1,140	974	992	1,004	964	1,111	998	1,262	1,240
	Supp	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	27
	Total	995	903	1,011	1,141	974	992	1,004	964	1,111	998	1,265	1,267
Paternity Non IV-D	Original	975	1,049	990	1,020	869	1,007	971	858	891	945	796	792
	Supp	606	553	710	713	773	774	794	741	812	821	895	809
	Total	1,581	1,602	1,700	1,733	1,642	1,781	1,765	1,599	1,703	1,766	1,691	1,601
USDL IV-D	Original	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2
	Supp	39	39	29	42	6	6	6	5	12	9	7	11
	Total	39	39	30	43	6	6	6	5	14	10	7	13
USDL Non IV-D	Original	10	10	31	31	2	2	11	11	4	4	5	4
	Supp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	10	10	31	31	2	2	11	11	4	4	5	4
Other	Original	26,739	26,851	28,843	27,633	28,129	27,423	28,768	27,563	31,608	30,851	32,439	33,014
	Supp	15,938	15,731	12,888	14,704	22,921	22,595	24,383	23,327	24,604	24,413	25,505	24,777
	Total	42,677	42,582	41,731	42,337	51,050	50,018	53,151	50,890	56,212	55,264	57,944	57,791

Kings County Family Court: Filing and Dispositions by Case Type

Case Type	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		
	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	
KINGS Family Court Filings and Dispositions													
Termination	Original	456	575	344	419	339	330	367	324	373	305	319	319
	Supp	1,973	2,180	3	356	0	7	0	4	3	0	1	1
Parental Rights	Total	2,429	2,755	347	775	339	337	367	328	376	305	320	319
	Original	865	898	2,948	1,211	2,837	2,292	2,687	2,356	3,014	2,850	2,826	3,437
	Supp	2,404	2,632	181	755	146	170	255	202	270	293	202	234
Neglect	Total	3,269	3,530	3,129	1,966	2,983	2,462	2,942	2,558	3,284	3,143	3,028	3,671
	Original	265	219	443	231	500	320	519	391	395	512	464	437
	Supp	513	518	44	161	19	34	30	36	41	31	13	28
Abuse	Total	778	737	487	392	519	354	549	427	436	543	477	465
	Original	2,046	1,911	2,063	2,294	1,715	1,909	1,700	1,736	1,676	1,683	1,421	1,567
Juvenile	Supp	542	501	639	709	603	634	561	546	541	568	315	369
Delinquency	Total	2,588	2,412	2,702	3,003	2,318	2,543	2,261	2,282	2,217	2,251	1,736	1,936
	Original	128	83	113	91	71	45	93	36	107	51	52	28
	Supp	18	21	25	25	19	17	17	17	11	11	9	9
Designated Felony	Total	146	104	138	116	90	62	110	53	118	62	61	37
	Original	340	338	372	374	355	366	331	342	341	357	305	347
	Supp	126	129	48	70	49	57	55	41	85	83	87	88
PINS	Total	466	467	420	444	404	423	386	383	426	440	392	435
Adoption	Total	762	789	586	645	545	582	431	499	374	421	415	419
Adoption Certification	Total	32	23	30	19	35	41	25	32	28	29	28	29
	Original	220	217	188	195	108	108	145	148	151	133	152	138
	Supp	385	417	8	93	10	12	4	9	13	6	2	9
Surrender	Total	605	634	196	288	118	120	149	157	164	139	154	147
	Original	884	870	842	855	742	744	920	810	1,177	1,168	1,288	1,285
	Supp	159	163	124	123	142	137	110	117	114	107	117	106
Guardianship	Total	1,043	1,033	966	978	884	881	1,030	927	1,291	1,275	1,405	1,391
Voluntary Foster Care	Total	49	55	37	38	34	21	48	33	36	27	65	42
	Original	38	48	0	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foster Care Review	Supp	27	18	3	11	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	65	66	3	20	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Original	6,534	6,296	6,429	6,544	5,968	6,301	6,762	6,680	7,672	7,702	7,456	7,434
	Supp	515	470	406	400	363	445	392	393	424	421	282	302
Family Offense	Total	7,049	6,766	6,835	6,944	6,331	6,746	7,154	7,073	8,096	8,123	7,738	7,736
	Original	10,757	10,163	11,260	10,730	11,575	10,876	12,137	12,417	12,323	12,285	12,161	12,140
	Supp	4,922	4,168	5,005	4,625	4,762	4,547	5,707	5,637	6,167	5,679	5,822	5,709
Custody	Total	15,679	14,331	16,265	15,355	16,337	15,423	17,844	18,054	18,490	17,964	17,983	17,849
	Original	5,609	6,026	5,665	5,744	5,455	5,374	5,387	5,339	5,564	5,621	5,542	5,751
	Supp	10,414	10,361	12,586	12,489	12,539	12,674	13,016	12,758	11,487	11,978	10,525	10,506
Support IV-D	Total	16,023	16,387	18,251	18,233	17,994	18,048	18,403	18,097	17,051	17,599	16,067	16,257
	Original	181	220	145	165	189	188	223	208	301	292	231	204
	Supp	453	460	656	622	381	420	335	335	365	378	343	249
Support Non IV-D	Total	634	680	801	787	570	608	558	543	666	670	574	453
	Original	2,916	3,014	2,603	2,784	2,468	2,475	2,332	2,326	1,935	2,088	1,971	2,478
	Supp	1	38	12	9	4	11	5	7	5	26	5	116
Paternity IV-D	Total	2,917	3,052	2,615	2,793	2,472	2,486	2,337	2,333	1,940	2,114	1,976	2,594
	Original	1,609	1,531	1,642	1,752	1,539	1,529	1,517	1,497	1,500	1,537	1,341	1,453
	Supp	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	4
Paternity Non IV-D	Total	1,610	1,533	1,644	1,753	1,540	1,531	1,518	1,499	1,501	1,538	1,341	1,457
	Original	1,086	1,221	1,035	1,189	947	1,031	1,051	1,007	914	999	547	773
	Supp	699	695	883	903	777	842	1,098	917	1,014	1,112	788	852
USDL IV-D	Total	1,785	1,916	1,918	2,092	1,724	1,873	2,149	1,924	1,928	2,111	1,335	1,625
	Original	1	7	0	0	2	1	2	1	2	3	1	1
	Supp	11	16	22	21	4	8	11	11	5	5	3	1
USDL Non IV-D	Total	12	23	22	21	6	9	13	12	7	8	4	1
	Original	9	9	12	12	6	6	11	9	2	4	9	5
	Supp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2
Other	Total	9	9	12	12	6	6	11	9	3	5	11	7
Permanency Hearings Held	Total			6,547	6,547	6,165	6,165	6,020	6,020	6,224	6,224	6,368	6,368
	Original	34,787	34,513	36,757	35,301	35,432	34,539	36,688	36,191	37,885	38,067	36,594	38,286
	Supp	23,163	22,789	20,647	21,373	25,988	26,183	27,617	27,052	26,771	26,924	24,884	24,952
Total	Total	57,950	57,302	57,404	56,674	61,420	60,722	64,305	63,243	64,656	64,991	61,478	63,238

New York County Family Court: Filing and Dispositions by Case Type

Case Type	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		
	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	
NEW YORK COUNTY Family Court Filings and Dispositions													
Termination	Original	396	508	390	390	360	360	325	363	330	310	278	307
	Supp	2,007	2,073	14	310	1	13	0	0	16	13	2	4
Parental Rights	Total	2,403	2,581	404	700	361	373	325	363	346	323	280	311
	Original	906	1,092	1,963	1,141	1,610	1,721	1,076	1,437	1,116	1,124	1,105	1,152
	Supp	1,908	1,887	237	516	208	205	242	257	230	220	127	140
Neglect	Total	2,814	2,979	2,200	1,657	1,818	1,926	1,318	1,694	1,346	1,344	1,232	1,292
	Original	137	150	181	116	184	113	151	143	142	152	89	114
	Supp	293	285	21	73	21	32	17	19	17	12	5	9
Abuse	Total	430	435	202	189	205	145	168	162	159	164	94	123
	Original	1,173	1,205	1,004	1,066	992	982	1,427	1,164	1,471	1,268	1,154	1,070
	Supp	494	458	429	485	278	280	299	282	383	368	307	347
Juvenile Delinquency	Total	1,667	1,663	1,433	1,551	1,270	1,262	1,726	1,446	1,854	1,636	1,461	1,417
	Original	25	8	12	8	10	10	10	9	16	2	10	11
	Supp	8	9	4	4	5	3	2	3	6	7	1	1
Designated Felony	Total	33	17	16	12	15	13	12	12	22	9	11	12
	Original	143	167	87	95	105	108	109	110	64	77	90	85
	Supp	15	16	8	13	6	7	9	7	10	10	11	13
PINS	Total	158	183	95	108	111	115	118	117	74	87	101	98
Adoption	Total	369	370	314	320	437	435	377	401	389	383	348	351
Adoption Certification	Total	33	33	34	45	30	26	26	24	22	27	14	21
	Original	135	143	128	124	106	91	134	131	151	160	141	144
	Supp	349	358	1	61	3	2	0	2	0	0	4	4
Surrender	Total	484	501	129	185	109	93	134	133	151	160	145	148
	Original	178	172	174	170	116	121	140	135	152	138	156	162
	Supp	9	10	10	10	12	9	9	10	14	12	7	9
Guardianship	Total	187	182	184	180	128	130	149	145	166	150	163	171
Voluntary Foster Care	Total	468	471	312	311	342	270	322	310	263	258	283	239
	Original	267	269	0	29	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Supp	909	920	2	117	10	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Foster Care Review	Total	1,176	1,189	2	146	14	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
	Original	2,608	2,581	2,598	2,469	2,416	2,470	2,813	2,637	3,228	3,106	3,194	3,116
	Supp	210	205	208	198	205	188	218	210	210	207	175	161
Family Offense	Total	2,818	2,786	2,806	2,667	2,621	2,658	2,993	2,847	3,438	3,313	3,369	3,277
	Original	3,913	3,666	4,285	3,998	4,044	4,207	4,287	4,079	4,224	4,003	4,513	4,206
	Supp	2,017	1,824	2,083	2,062	2,177	2,020	2,287	2,318	2,181	2,123	2,000	1,909
Custody	Total	5,930	5,490	6,368	6,060	6,221	6,227	6,574	6,397	6,405	6,126	6,513	6,115
	Original	14,533	15,162	14,723	16,201	15,198	14,879	14,858	15,682	19,704	16,095	18,818	20,044
	Supp	19,671	19,478	25,141	26,826	22,052	22,247	22,309	22,470	16,124	17,026	15,069	15,292
Support IV-D	Total	34,204	34,640	39,864	43,027	37,250	37,126	37,167	38,152	35,828	33,121	33,887	35,336
	Original	149	142	156	153	182	172	227	198	258	262	153	99
	Supp	612	502	644	744	223	203	270	277	337	333	287	209
Support Non IV-D	Total	761	644	800	899	405	375	497	475	595	595	440	308
	Original	10,352	11,029	10,672	11,784	11,337	11,088	10,272	11,203	14,639	11,810	12,685	13,740
	Supp	26	47	21	36	10	11	9	17	8	7	4	9
Paternity IV-D	Total	10,378	11,076	10,693	11,820	11,347	11,099	10,281	11,220	14,647	11,817	12,689	13,749
	Original	539	523	531	523	624	595	628	647	660	650	580	569
	Supp	5	7	2	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Paternity Non IV-D	Total	544	530	533	526	624	596	629	648	661	651	581	571
	Original	519	548	515	589	437	368	408	496	348	356	367	354
	Supp	394	388	427	411	449	389	501	547	431	449	470	480
USDL IV-D	Total	913	936	942	1,000	886	757	909	1,043	779	805	837	834
	Original	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Supp	10	8	6	6	5	7	5	4	8	9	8	3
USDL Non IV-D	Total	10	9	6	6	5	7	5	4	9	10	8	3
Other	Total	67	67	39	40	32	32	27	24	43	45	37	36
Permanency Hearings Held	Total			8,205	8,205	8,070	8,070	7,306	7,306	7,258	7,258	6,979	6,979
	Original	36,834	38,233	38,118	39,564	38,566	38,048	37,618	39,193	47,221	40,227	44,015	45,820
	Supp	29,103	28,639	29,258	31,904	33,735	33,688	33,485	33,731	27,234	28,055	25,457	25,571
Total	Total	65,937	66,872	67,376	71,468	72,301	71,736	71,103	72,924	74,455	68,282	69,472	71,391

New York County restated to include filings and dispositions previously recorded separately under the Foster Care Review and CSET Terms.

Queens County Family Court: Filing and Dispositions by Case Type

Case Type	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		
	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	
QUEENS Family Court Filings and Dispositions													
Termination	Original	235	280	205	195	239	210	237	242	294	259	277	275
	Supp	852	956	11	180	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	
	Total	1,087	1,236	216	375	239	212	237	242	294	259	278	275
Parental Rights	Original	898	720	2,178	1,013	2,589	1,753	2,320	2,300	2,146	2,306	1,541	2,844
	Supp	1,717	1,781	267	564	266	288	379	304	466	464	391	459
	Total	2,615	2,501	2,445	1,577	2,855	2,041	2,699	2,604	2,612	2,770	1,932	3,303
Neglect	Original	182	193	277	185	230	218	301	263	274	245	264	384
	Supp	383	402	73	132	35	43	58	59	22	24	32	36
	Total	565	595	350	317	265	261	359	322	296	269	296	420
Abuse	Original	1,650	1,567	1,579	1,831	1,264	1,335	1,167	1,199	1,138	1,197	1,126	1,178
	Supp	399	400	429	432	418	407	497	475	506	510	371	408
	Total	2,049	1,967	2,008	2,263	1,682	1,742	1,664	1,674	1,644	1,707	1,497	1,586
Delinquency	Original	86	49	56	35	36	25	45	17	45	20	25	23
	Supp	7	6	11	11	3	5	6	5	3	4		1
	Total	93	55	67	46	39	30	51	22	48	24	25	24
Designated Felony	Original	271	263	272	285	312	295	279	306	198	248	116	140
	Supp	93	99	58	66	81	74	70	70	79	75	61	63
	Total	364	362	330	351	393	369	349	376	277	323	177	203
Adoption	Total	372	433	327	326	269	326	262	267	281	276	280	260
Adoption Certification	Total	46	37	48	59	42	45	58	53	37	45	35	34
	Original	84	87	67	60	114	105	85	80	105	108	134	126
	Supp	211	233	6	44	2	1	3	2	3	5	3	5
	Total	295	320	73	104	116	106	88	82	108	113	137	131
Surrender	Original	398	462	389	392	337	360	365	369	363	360	355	305
	Supp	43	31	65	71	37	41	53	44	66	61	59	49
	Total	441	493	454	463	374	401	418	413	429	421	414	354
Guardianship	Original	26	37	17	10	34	21	34	35	24	23	39	36
	Supp	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	Total	27	38	17	10	34	21	34	35	24	23	40	36
Voluntary Foster Care	Original	15	11	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	1		
	Supp	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Total	18	14	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	1		
Foster Care Review	Original	4,427	4,374	4,483	4,511	4,433	4,040	4,822	4,877	6,091	5,727	6,185	5,925
	Supp	281	276	400	367	413	358	494	495	453	447	510	485
	Total	4,708	4,650	4,883	4,878	4,846	4,398	5,316	5,372	6,544	6,174	6,695	6,410
Family Offense	Original	5,536	5,364	6,215	5,848	6,590	6,039	6,931	6,723	7,501	7,069	8,188	7,630
	Supp	2,931	2,715	3,491	3,283	3,881	3,305	4,228	3,960	4,002	3,930	3,959	3,806
	Total	8,467	8,079	9,706	9,131	10,471	9,344	11,159	10,683	11,503	10,999	12,147	11,436
Custody	Original	3,577	3,654	4,009	4,234	4,100	3,976	4,265	4,156	4,291	4,125	4,464	4,215
	Supp	6,470	6,325	8,281	8,001	9,039	8,745	9,511	9,144	8,722	8,544	8,057	7,516
	Total	10,047	9,979	12,290	12,235	13,139	12,721	13,776	13,300	13,013	12,669	12,521	11,731
Support IV-D	Original	211	253	219	226	250	229	231	252	193	192	162	136
	Supp	587	704	562	580	460	454	547	494	589	574	516	386
	Total	798	957	781	806	710	683	778	746	782	766	678	522
Support Non IV-D	Original	1,331	1,278	1,412	1,567	1,376	1,410	1,326	1,374	1,159	1,175	1,194	1,132
	Supp	8	23	4	4	6	8	9	10	3	6	7	7
	Total	1,339	1,301	1,416	1,571	1,382	1,418	1,335	1,384	1,162	1,181	1,201	1,139
Paternity IV-D	Original	753	739	774	866	850	818	823	846	830	810	818	719
	Supp	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	0	2	2
	Total	756	742	776	869	852	820	824	848	831	810	820	721
Paternity Non IV-D	Original	644	758	592	689	560	575	565	578	561	585	462	550
	Supp	571	573	673	699	714	697	769	753	736	730	607	576
	Total	1,215	1,331	1,265	1,388	1,274	1,272	1,334	1,331	1,297	1,315	1,069	1,126
USDL IV-D	Original	2	14	2	3	2	2	4	3	4	3	2	1
	Supp	25	35	11	12	2	2	7	7	2	2	4	3
	Total	27	49	13	15	4	4	11	10	6	5	6	4
USDL Non IV-D	Total	5	4	2	3	12	12	9	6	8	6	5	8
Other	Total												
Permanency Hearings Held	Total			4,367	4,367	5,054	5,054	5,404	5,404	5,584	5,584	5,586	5,586
	Original	20,749	20,577	23,123	22,343	23,639	21,794	24,129	23,947	25,543	24,780	25,672	25,921
	Supp	14,585	14,566	14,344	14,449	20,413	19,486	22,036	21,228	21,237	20,960	20,167	19,388
	Total	35,334	35,143	37,467	36,792	44,052	41,280	46,165	45,175	46,780	45,740	45,839	45,309

Richmond County Family Court: Filing and Dispositions by Case Type

Case Type	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009		2010		
	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	Filings	Dispos	
RICHMOND Family Court Filings and Dispositions													
Termination	Original	66	59	93	69	93	78	93	85	50	58	47	56
	Supp	199	186	32	48	35	34	26	29	14	19	18	20
	Total	265	245	125	117	128	112	119	114	64	77	65	76
Parental Rights	Original	229	198	627	327	755	565	918	631	477	687	599	622
	Supp	623	608	374	383	393	395	283	285	154	172	81	118
	Total	852	806	1,001	710	1,148	960	1,201	916	631	859	680	740
Neglect	Original	2	9	29	11	42	15	24	31	30	22	22	21
	Supp	30	29	20	19	9	16	14	11	20	23	1	
	Total	32	38	49	30	51	31	38	42	50	45	23	21
Abuse	Original	336	300	311	324	308	291	330	306	318	334	339	341
	Supp	133	129	148	146	179	178	192	195	280	252	216	236
	Total	469	429	459	470	487	469	522	501	598	586	555	577
Juvenile	Original	8	2	2	2	6	4	7	4	0	1	5	
	Supp	2	2	6	5	2	3	3	3	5	4	1	1
	Total	10	4	8	7	8	7	10	7	5	5	6	1
Designated Felony	Original	61	77	81	72	61	56	126	101	87	113	76	76
	Supp	83	85	68	77	45	43	61	63	66	63	45	47
	Total	144	162	149	149	106	99	187	164	153	176	121	123
Adoption	Original	55	54	53	54	85	66	90	101	46	48	80	52
	Supp	10	3	12	9	17	20	7	5	5	6	5	4
	Total	65	57	65	63	102	86	97	106	51	54	85	56
Adoption Certification	Original	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
	Supp	10	4	12	9	17	20	9	7	5	6	5	4
	Total	10	4	12	9	17	20	9	7	5	6	5	4
Surrender	Original	36	35	25	22	39	40	27	26	40	30	37	37
	Supp	74	72	0	11	1	0	4	5	2	2	1	1
	Total	110	107	25	33	40	40	31	31	42	32	38	38
Guardianship	Original	19	18	7	5	5	7	11	11	68	58	100	83
	Supp	0	0	1	1	5	5	7	7	3	2	2	3
	Total	19	18	8	6	10	12	18	18	71	60	102	86
Voluntary Foster Care	Original	4	5	7	6	6	6	3	2	12	6	5	6
	Supp	2	0	3	5	2	2	0	0	1	1	4	4
	Total	6	5	10	11	8	8	3	2	13	7	9	10
Foster Care Review	Original	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Supp	10	10	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0		
	Total	12	12	1	2	0	0	2	2	0	0		
Family Offense	Original	1,154	1,016	1,347	1,258	1,200	1,192	1,455	1,308	1,632	1,583	1,587	1,581
	Supp	95	84	154	147	172	170	173	166	168	164	111	117
	Total	1,249	1,100	1,501	1,405	1,372	1,362	1,628	1,474	1,800	1,747	1,698	1,698
Custody	Original	1,383	1,251	1,401	1,325	1,479	1,256	1,818	1,589	1,608	1,702	1,637	1,490
	Supp	1,243	1,168	1,373	1,200	1,097	1,051	1,002	952	990	1,101	854	914
	Total	2,626	2,419	2,774	2,525	2,576	2,307	2,820	2,541	2,598	2,803	2,491	2,404
Support IV-D	Original	390	434	363	345	621	523	726	720	691	704	761	738
	Supp	1,282	1,362	1,680	1,546	1,858	1,812	1,999	1,856	1,875	2,029	1,713	1,662
	Total	1,672	1,796	2,043	1,891	2,479	2,335	2,725	2,576	2,566	2,733	2,474	2,400
Support Non IV-D	Original	371	395	410	422	152	193	136	122	171	179	98	70
	Supp	579	566	626	639	251	312	260	260	294	282	231	219
	Total	950	961	1,036	1,061	403	505	396	382	465	461	329	289
Paternity IV-D	Original	114	149	107	106	178	163	260	242	219	219	170	201
	Supp	4	2	2	4	1	2	1	1	8	5	2	6
	Total	118	151	109	110	179	165	261	243	227	224	172	207
Paternity Non IV-D	Original	231	227	270	293	127	141	126	122	157	155	160	152
	Supp	4	6	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	3	1
	Total	235	233	271	295	127	141	128	124	158	156	163	153
USDL IV-D	Original	113	130	123	124	130	120	109	124	109	117	113	130
	Supp	60	82	105	91	89	96	117	110	149	130	111	128
	Total	173	212	228	215	219	216	226	234	258	247	224	258
USDL Non IV-D	Original	0	1	0	0	1	1	6	6	8	8	6	5
	Supp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	Total	0	1	0	0	1	1	6	6	9	9	6	5
Other	Original	0	1	0	0	1	1	6	6	9	9	6	5
	Supp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		
	Total	0	1	0	0	1	1	6	6	9	9	6	5
Permanency Hearings Held	Original			873	873	1,265	1,265	1,604	1,604	1,558	1,558	1,604	1,604
	Supp	4,584	4,365	5,268	4,775	5,305	4,737	6,272	5,536	5,728	6,030	5,847	5,665
	Total	4,445	4,406	4,611	4,347	5,406	5,391	5,754	5,555	5,590	5,810	5,002	5,084
Total	Original	9,029	8,771	9,879	9,122	10,711	10,128	12,026	11,091	11,318	11,840	10,849	10,749
	Supp												
	Total												

New York City Family Court

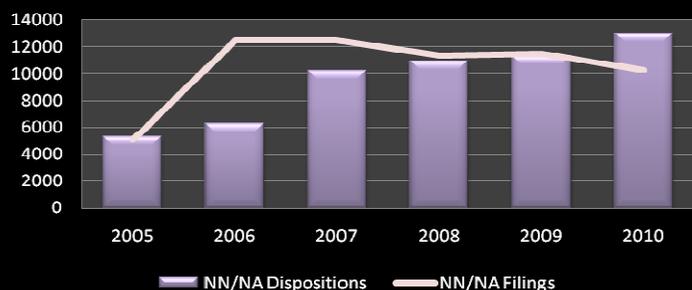
Filing and Disposition Trends by Specialty

Child Protection

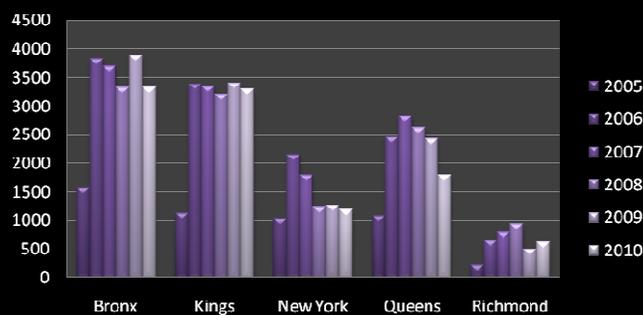
More original neglect and abuse petitions were filed in 2006 than in 2004 and 2005 combined. This resulted in a backlog of cases. In 2010, dispositions began to exceed filings.

Neglect and Abuse

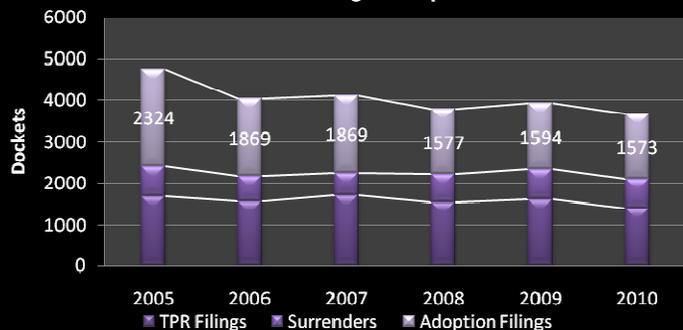
Original filings and dispositions



Neglect and Abuse Filings by County

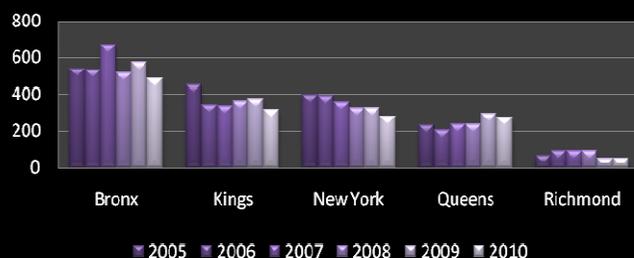


Child Protective Filings - Adoption Process

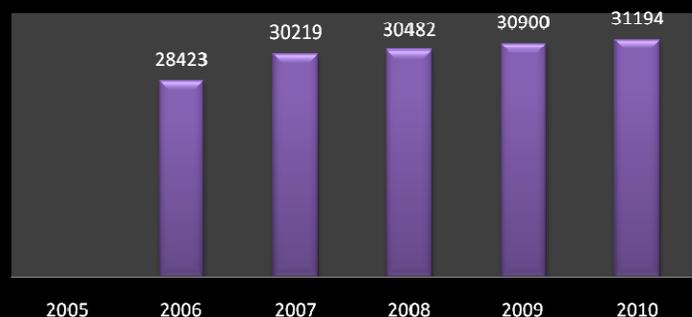


TPR Filings by County

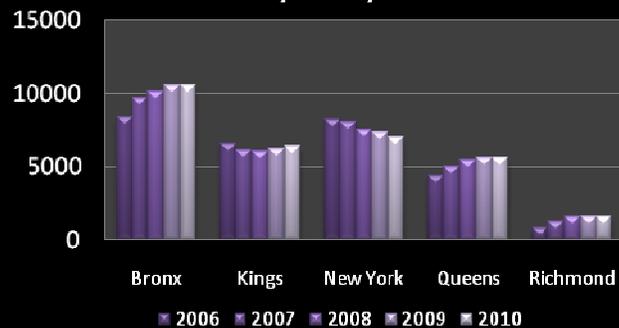
(originals)



New York City Family Court Permanency Hearings Held



Permanency Hearings Held by County



N.Y. County includes Foster Care

JD/PINS Specialty

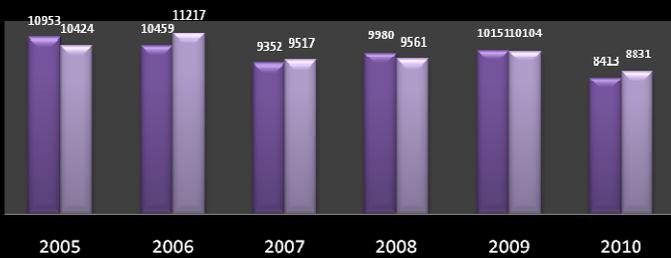
Overall, filings of Delinquency (“D”) petitions have been trending downward citywide since 2005, with an average decline of about 4.6%. Dispositions of D cases also seem to be trending downward, but at a slower pace of about 2%, leading to an improved number of pending cases as a percent of filings.

By county, there are clear downward filing trends of D and E (Designated Felony) cases in Kings and Queens Counties. Richmond appears to be slightly trending upward, while in the Bronx and New York Counties there is no clear trend. Disposition trends by county parallel filing trends, for the most part, with minor variations.

JD/PINS Specialty

Originals & Supplementals

■ JD/PINS Filings ■ JD/PINS Dispositions



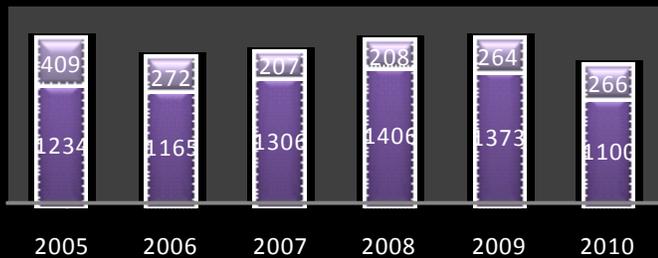
JD/PINS Filings by County

Originals and Supplementals



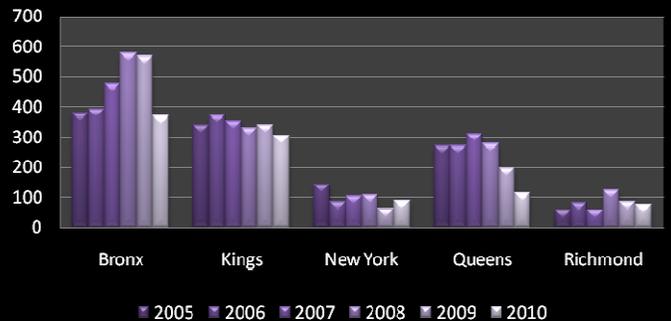
PINS Filings

■ NYC PINS Originals ■ NYC PINS Supplementals

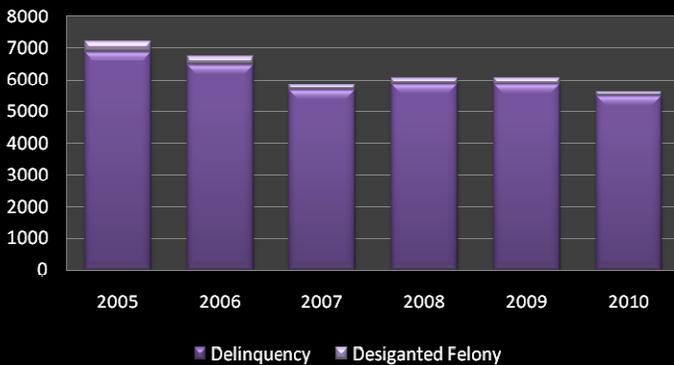


PINS Filings by County

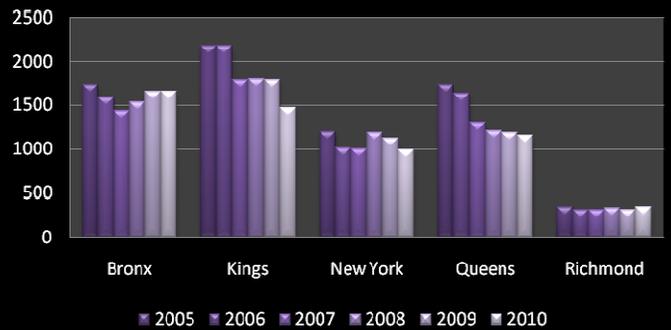
Originals



Delinquency and Designated Felony Filings (original)



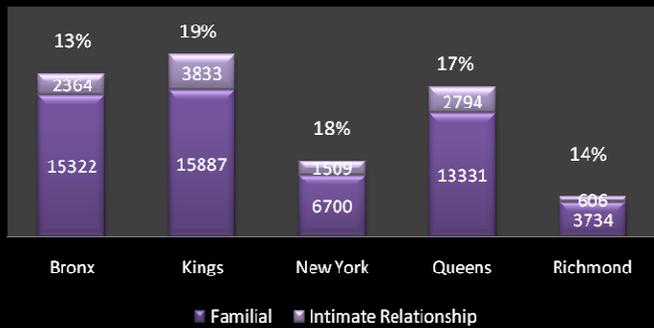
Delinquency and Designated Felony Filings (original) by County



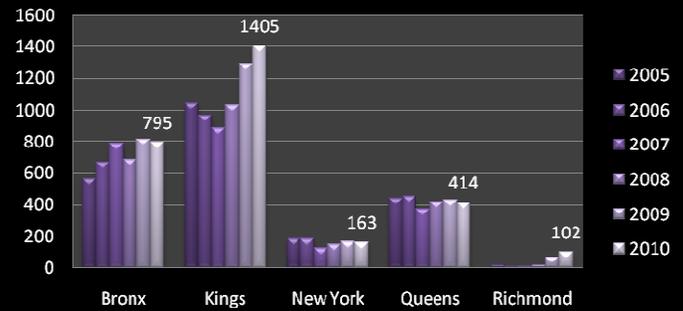
Custody/Visitation/Domestic Violence and Guardianship Specialty

Since passage of the Fair Access Legislation in 2008, reports show that 17% of New York City family offense petitions are being filed by litigants in intimate relationships. With respect to original filings, since 2005 family offense filings have risen by 26%, and Custody/Visitation filings by 22%. Guardianship filings, which account for about 3% (2879) of the filings in this specialty, also rose by about 31% since 2005.

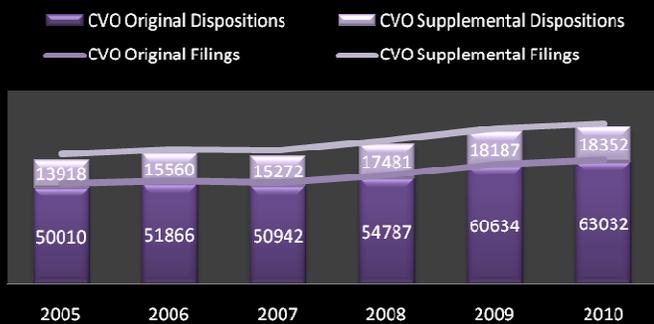
**Familial and Intimate O Docket filings
7/23/08 to 1/15/11**



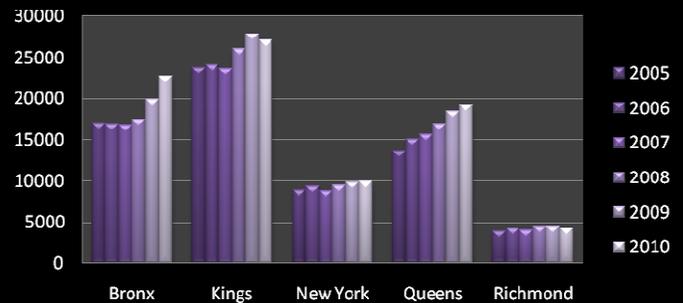
**Guardianship Filings
Original and supplementals**



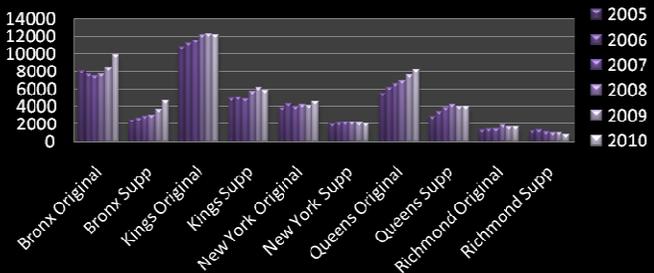
CVO Filings & Dispositions



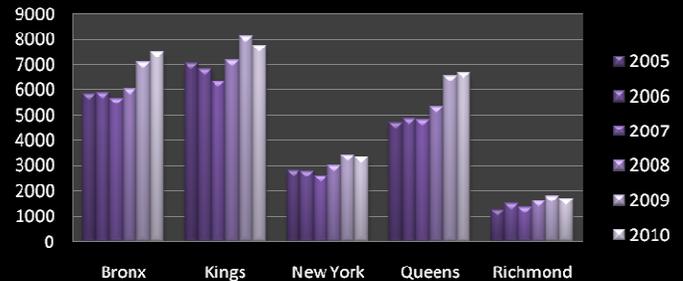
**CVO Filings by County
Original and Supplemental**



**Custody/Visitation Filings by County
Originals/Supplementals**



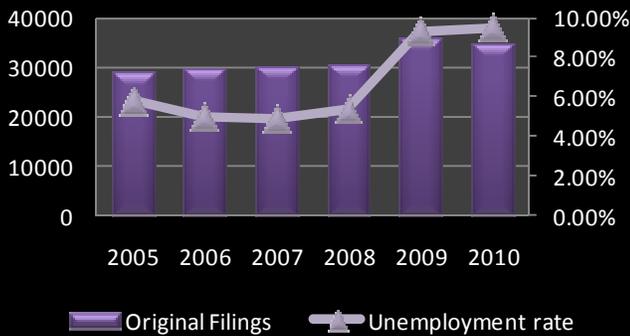
**Family Offense Filings
Original and Supplementals 2005 -2010**



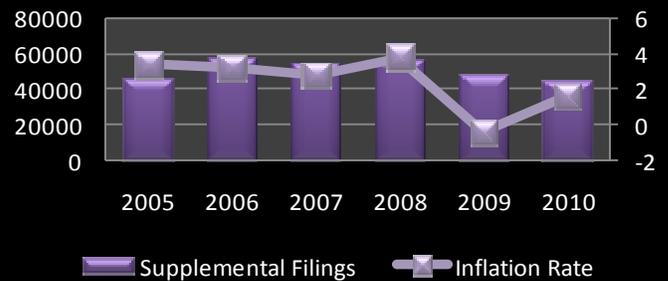
Support Specialty

Original Support filings increased in 2009 by 17% and remained at that level for 2010, while supplemental filings have fallen a total of 21% over the same period. This may be due in large part to the unemployment situation in New York City which rose to 9.5% in 2010. The spike in filings in cases brought by the Office of Child Support Enforcement has led the increase in original filings, as can be seen from the spike in filings in 2009 and 2010 in New York County where these cases are heard. Unemployment and inflation statistics are from the New York State Department of Labor.

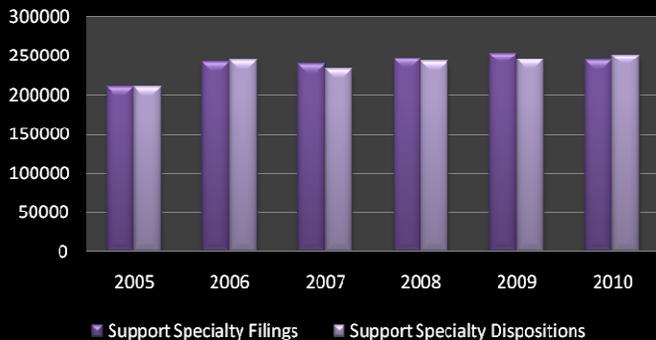
Support Filings - Original



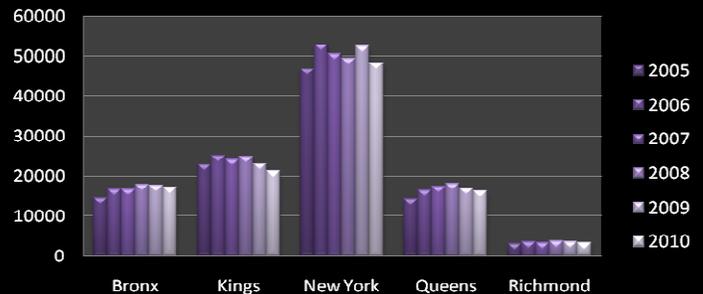
Support Filings - Supplementals



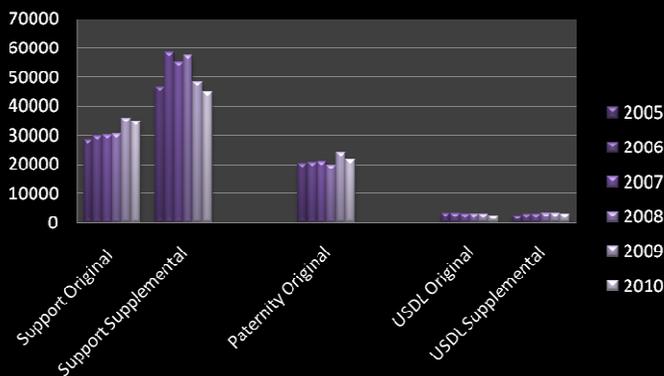
Support Specialty Filings and Dispositions



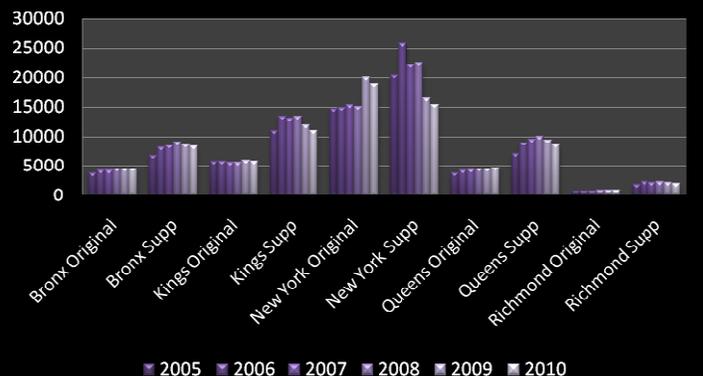
Support Specialty Filings by County Original and Supplemental



Support Specialty Filing Types



Support "F" Filings by County by Type



Local Initiatives 2010

What follows is a description by each county Family Court regarding the various programs presented earlier in this report, how they have been implemented locally, and other initiatives undertaken.

Bronx County Family Court Supervising Judge: Hon. Monica Drinane Clerk of Court: Mike Williams

Under the collaborative leadership of Supervising Judge Monica Drinane and Clerk of Court Mike Williams, there has been significant transformation in policy, protocols, and personnel, as we respond to the legal and social services needs of families in the Bronx. Herewith is a report on activity in our courthouse and on the status of current initiatives, as well as those in the works.

Implementation of the NYC Child Protective Plan

The Child Protective Plan has been fully implemented, requiring Preliminary, Compliance and Settlement conferences for all new neglect and abuse cases. Additionally, time-certain start and end times now are routine in both judge and referee parts, and compliance motions are being filed for discovery not provided in a timely manner. Currently, the Court is conducting an extensive survey of case processing, scheduling, and outcomes for all case conferences, fact findings, and dispositional and permanency hearings.

Merger of the Permanency Planning Unit (PPU) and Family Treatment Court (FTC)

Effective August 2010, the Permanency Planning Unit (PPU) merged with the Family Treatment Court (FTC). This has not altered the function or accountability of either unit but, rather, has improved the overall efficiency of the child protective case filing practice, while meeting the operational needs of the Court. Further initiatives (detailed below) are being explored to expand the overall resources of the Family Treatment Court to all child protective proceedings.

Petitions now are electronically submitted through UCMS, allowing PPU/FTC staff to complete all necessary checks and deliver petitions to the Child Protective part within 15 minutes of the information being received, and permitting Child Protective intake to commence in the late morning. These strategies have significantly reduced overtime costs. We are also in discussion with the Administration for Children's Services regarding their intake protocol, in order to further expedite petition filings.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Protocol

A new TPR protocol has been implemented to expedite filing and case processing, helping to ensure that cases have the necessary accompanying documents prior to being filed and markedly streamlining mental illness cases. Additionally, all TPR cases are referred to the referee parts for pretrial matters, and attorneys on the underlying neglect and abuse cases are notified when a TPR is filed.

Juvenile Delinquency (JD) Resource Coordinator

The Juvenile Delinquency (JD) Resource Coordinator, a position established in February 2010, works under the direct supervision of the Deputy Clerk for Permanency Planning. The coordinator serves as a liaison between the Court and local Alternatives to Detention programs, the Mental Health Services clinic, Probation, and the Office of Children and

Family Services, providing daily assistance to the Delinquency Judges. The coordinator also tracks population demographics and statistics for “crossover” youth and provides the judges with information on pending and prior court cases.

Child Welfare Court Improvement Project (CWCIP) Liaison

Beginning in April 2010, the NYS Court Improvement Project provided a CWCIP Liaison as an additional resource to the Child Protective Judges. With a focus on new federal, state, and local initiatives, the goal of the Liaison’s work is to improve the outcomes for children and families in the Court’s child protective practice. While continuing the task of assessing practice gains made through the Citywide CP Plan, the Liaison also works with the Court to address issues affecting the operations and the timely resolution of all case types. Currently, she works with Judge Gayle P. Roberts on the implementation of the Disproportionate Minority Representation Project (see page 6.)

Collaboration with Fordham and Lehman Colleges

A collaboration has been established with Fordham University and Lehman College, whereby the Court is provided bachelors and masters level social work interns to lend expertise in the areas of 1027/1028 hearings, treatment services, and matters of Custody, Visitation and Orders of Protection.

Infant-Parent Court-Affiliated Intervention Project

The Infant-Parent Court-Affiliated Intervention Project, established in 2009, is an auspicious collaboration between the Bronx County Family Court and the Early Childhood Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Under the direction of Dr. Susan Chinitz (Director of the college’s Early Childhood Center), the program is modeled after a similar, evidence-based intervention model in Miami Dade County Dependency Court. The goal of the program is to promote positive parenting for parents of children from birth to age three, who have been removed or at risk of removal. Psychologists specializing in infant mental health work with the parents and child for at least 26 sessions, helping parents engage in nurturing and positive interactions, in order to repair or establish secure parent-child relationships. Detailed reports provided to the court describe strengths and difficulties and list recommendations for each family. Dr. Chinitz and the clinical team routinely meet with Judge Drinane, Mike Williams, and the CWCIP Liaison to assess the program.

Adoption Day

Adoption Day is an annual event hosted by the Court to celebrate the adoption of children and to provide them and their adoptive families with information and resources. Judges, court personnel, and ancillary agencies came together in November for a memorable finalization celebration of 18 adoptions. A total of 468 adoptions were recorded for the calendar year.

Teen Day

Teen Day, another annual event at Bronx Family, is a joint project of the Court and ancillary agencies and community service providers. Adolescents and families with cases before the court are invited to attend and are provided with information regarding education, employment, health services, and other information concerning the adolescents’ transition to adulthood and emancipation. In some instances, cases are calendared that day, in order to encourage the adolescents’ participation in their own court proceedings. Last year’s event featured a lunchtime lecture featuring Darryl McDaniels, a member of the famous music group Run DMC, who himself was in foster care as a child. With approximately 100 youngsters and agency case workers participating, the 2010 event was the most well attended Teen Day yet for the Court.

Healthy Families Bronx Information Fair

The first annual Bronx Information Fair was staged by the Court last Spring, in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The event was hosted in collaboration with local organizations and community members to promote health and safety within families. Information was disseminated on the rearing of sound, physically fit children, preventive services, hospital resources, domestic violence prevention, nutrition, and family related activities. An arts and crafts table, free books and other collateral resources were made available, and a lunchtime speaker provided Court personnel and other professionals with information on dealing with stress. A Proclamation commemorating the inaugural Healthy Families Bronx Information Fair was issued by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

Help Center

Bronx Family opened its Help Center last Spring, as part of Administrative Judge Edwina Richardson-Mendelson and Chief Clerk Peter Passidomo's strategic "Plan for the Future of the New York City Family Court."

The Help Center functions as an office within the courthouse, to provide free legal information services and technology-based legal document processing to the Court's unrepresented litigants.

The Help Center functions in league with Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT), the Volunteer Lawyer Project, volunteer law student interns, and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) computer terminals.

The primary purpose of the Help Center is to provide, and improve upon, access to justice for unrepresented people throughout the NYC Family Court, by providing consistently high-quality legal information services in a cost-effective and efficient manner. In addition, the Center serves as a data laboratory, aiding the Court in identifying and assessing the diverse unmet information needs—legal and procedural—of the unrepresented.

DIY

In response to the imperatives of Deputy Chief Judge Fern Fisher's Access to Justice initiative, the Court developed a DIY program to assist unrepresented and low-income users. By means of web-based document assembly, litigants negotiate the preliminaries of petition filing, basic pleadings and forms preparation, and customized information gathering. The easily comprehensible software guides users through a series of questions by means of a simple interface which determines initial eligibility; answers questions about unknown terms and the legal process, with the help of audio and visual aids; and produces customized legal forms and information sheets. Presently, Child Support Modification and Paternity petitions are accessible, and, soon, other petition types will be made available.

Volunteer Lawyer Project

The Volunteer Law Pilot Project functions as part the Court's Help Center, offering a unique opportunity for large-firm associates, in-house counsel, and small-firm/solo family law practitioners to contribute legal assistance in family law matters to litigants in need.

The office is staffed by a Court Attorney, who is at the service of the attorneys who agree to donate their services. The volunteer attorneys provide brief consultations—45 minutes on average—to litigants seeking relief in the areas of guardianship, child support and paternity.

Prior to working with litigants, the volunteer attorneys, their law firm supervisors, and mentors participate in court-sponsored training sessions in the relevant areas of the law. This formal training is supplemented by on-the-job training which involves observing courtroom proceedings and "shadowing" an experienced court attorney in case conferences.

LIFT

Legal Information for Families Today provides onsite legal information for families navigating the complexities of the family court. LIFT's multilingual legal resource guides provide court users with walk-through information on family law and Court operations. Presently, LIFT maintains three service tables throughout the Court where litigants may access these resource guides. LIFT also assists Court personnel in addressing the needs of litigants served by our Help Center.

Disproportionate Minority Representation in Child Welfare

The Court's Disproportionate Minority Representation (DMR) Committee, chaired by Hon. Gayle P. Roberts, is a collaborative effort of the Court and various child welfare practitioners. The primary goal of the committee is the reduction in the disproportionate representation of minority children in the child welfare system through The Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care Initiative (CCC). The committee also plans future initiatives concerning imminent risk, fatherhood involvement, mental health services, and culturally competent resources.

The Court and the DMR committee hosted a Fall event for over 200 people for a discussion on race and disproportionality in the child welfare system. Speakers with a national platform presented an overview of leading research and statistics. From October through January, the committee gathered race and ethnicity data on the families for which new neglect cases were filed in the Court. This data will be analyzed and used to measure the effectiveness of the CCC initiative and the DMR committee's numerous initiatives.

Outreach measures have included statewide training on CCC and DMR initiatives for the staff and volunteers of Court Appointed Special Advocates, and a DMR Committee-sponsored educational summit at New York Law School.

Bronx County Child Protective Task Force

Judge Jeanette Ruiz spearheaded our CP Task Force Committee, which comprises judges, referees, attorneys, other court personnel, and outside agency heads working collectively to achieve the overall goals of the CP Plan. These include: more continuous trials; fewer and shorter adjournments; making every appearance meaningful; ensuring all parties appear on time and prepared; designating attorneys to parts when practicable; time-certain calendaring; pre- and post-dispositional conferencing to promote communication; problem-solving and settlement; and expanded participation of children and youth in permanency hearings. The group aims to promote the safety, permanence and well-being of abused and neglected children. Presently, the CWCIP Liaison and the JD Resource Coordinator, with the assistance of social work interns, are creating an extensive resource manual of services available to Bronx families experiencing issues of neglect, abuse, delinquency, custody/visitation and domestic violence. The committee also intends to explore issues related to children appearing in court on child protective proceedings. With Judge Ruiz having made the transition into the Delinquency specialty, Judge Anne-Marie Jolly will become Chair of the committee.

Early Engagement Workgroup

The Early Engagement Workgroup is a continuing initiative with a mission to "foster practices which support early engagement of parents in services, avert unnecessary removals, and hasten reunification, where family separation has already occurred." The workgroup is at work on a guide to revisit the practice concerning after-born children, as outlined in the Administration for Children's Services Child Safety Alert #14.

Access for Elder and Mobility Challenged Victims of Domestic Violence

A subcommittee of the citywide CVO Committee has proposed that the Family Court establish uniform procedures for the implementation of a citywide Elder and Mobility Challenged Domestic Violence Project. The proposal seeks to alleviate some of the unique challenges faced during court appearances, emphasizing expediency, safety, and accessibility for aged and/or severely disabled victims of domestic violence.

The primary goal is to ease procedures, thereby providing equal access to resources and services to a growing demographic whose physical capabilities may hinder their ability to effectively navigate the family court system.

Training and Continuing Education for the Court and Community Practitioners

A newly enhanced and coordinated training process gives the Court access to leading experts in various topic areas in commemorating national awareness months and improving the overall efficiency of training exercises. While some training will be provided in the Bronx, sessions conducted in another of the counties will be available to our Court through video conferencing and Webinar sessions. Training topics thus far include disproportionality and child welfare, working with African immigrants, the rights of non-respondent parents, and changes in child welfare legislation. Future training will focus on the legal standard of imminent risk, developmental surveillance, and accessing early intervention services.

Expansion of Case Management Services

Currently, case management services are available to families with substance abuse issues through the Family Treatment Court (FTC). Trained case managers assist parents with service referrals, drug testing, and securing additional resources, the overall goal being to help parents resolve their abuse/neglect cases more expeditiously. While FTC has made a tremendous impact in the lives of participating families, the eligibility criteria for services excludes many others in need of such services. Under the leadership of Judge Drinane, the Court is in the process of expanding the FTC unit to include cases with all types of allegations, and where the children have been removed, to expedite reunification of families and resolution of cases.

In a pilot program, four child protective judges have been assigned FTC resource coordinators to bolster case management. Within the program, eligibility requirements have been expanded to include mental illness cases and cases with two respondents where only one has a substance abuse issue. The collaboration established with Fordham University and Lehman College (mentioned above) is a tremendous resource to the court and allows for further social work services to be made available to judges, attorneys, and court users.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

As part of the Court's efforts to identify systemic obstacles and to provide better services and resources to litigants, the following initiatives are in development:

Mentorship Program with Religious Leaders

The Court is exploring further collaboration with the Interfaith Center of New York for a mentorship program. While still in the early stages of planning, the program is to provide mentorship opportunities for local religious leaders from many different faiths.

Children's Art in the Waiting Areas

The goal of the Court's art initiative is twofold: to embellish the institutional setting of the waiting areas with displays of work by local youth and to provide a forum for Bronx community art programs.

Zero to Three Team

Zero to Three is a national nonprofit organization that provides education and support to professionals working to improve the lives of infants and toddlers. In collaboration with Dr. Susan Chinitz and the Early Childhood Center at Albert Einstein, the Court seeks to become one of the city's first courts certified as a Zero to Three Team. Through this multi-disciplinary approach, evidence-based research, education, and services will be made available to our Judges, attorneys, and litigants.

Fatherhood Engagement

As a hybrid of the Bronx County Child Protective Task Force and the Disproportionate Minority Representation committee, a subcommittee is being formed to explore best practices in the area of engaging fathers. By researching practices and initiatives in other jurisdictions, as well as gathering best practice models, the subcommittee hopes to propose recommendations to expand the role fathers play in family court cases involving their children.

Review of Permanency Practices for Children in Care Over Three Years

UCMS data was obtained for Bronx County cases involving children currently in care and having resided in care for over 36 months. After reviewing individual cases for accuracy and clerical errors, those involving children no longer in care were updated in UCMS and removed from the list. Now being directed to each referee part are cases with a permanency goal of return to parent and no pending termination or adoption proceedings. Following the completion of full-file review, further assessments will be made regarding training and the provision of additional permanency resources to judges and referees. One proposal recommends creation of a case review forum, enabling judges and referees to discuss and review their most difficult cases with one another, as a sort of brainstorming effort to benefit from differing points of view.

Proposal for Collaborative Mental Health and Parenting Evaluations

Often, the Court requests evaluations on cases where the children are removed or at risk of removal and there are concerns about the parents' mental health or intellectual functioning. A pilot has been developed that will provide the Court with collaborative evaluations from our Mental Health Services (MHS) team and the Early Childhood Center at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Currently, MHS provides evaluations of parents, and the Early Childhood Center provides evaluations of children. It is the goal of the collaboration to provide dyadic evaluations of each party in relation to their interactions with each other. MHS and the Early Childhood Center will work together to provide the maximum amount of information to the Court with a specific focus on the parents' strengths and vulnerabilities.

The Vera Institute of Justice Child Welfare Case Processing Review

Following a similar review in Queens County, the Vera Institute of Justice performed a full operational review of the Court's child protective cases in the Bronx. The Vera team will conduct data analysis, interviews, and observations of courtroom proceedings in order to make informed recommendations to the Court and to child welfare ancillary agencies on accelerating case processing and permanency.

QUEST Futures in the Bronx

A grant provided by the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program has been allocated to begin a QUEST Futures program for children who are respondents on delinquency cases. The Court is engaged with other key participants in a two-year planning and implementation process to design mental health and other needed support services.

Kings County Family Court

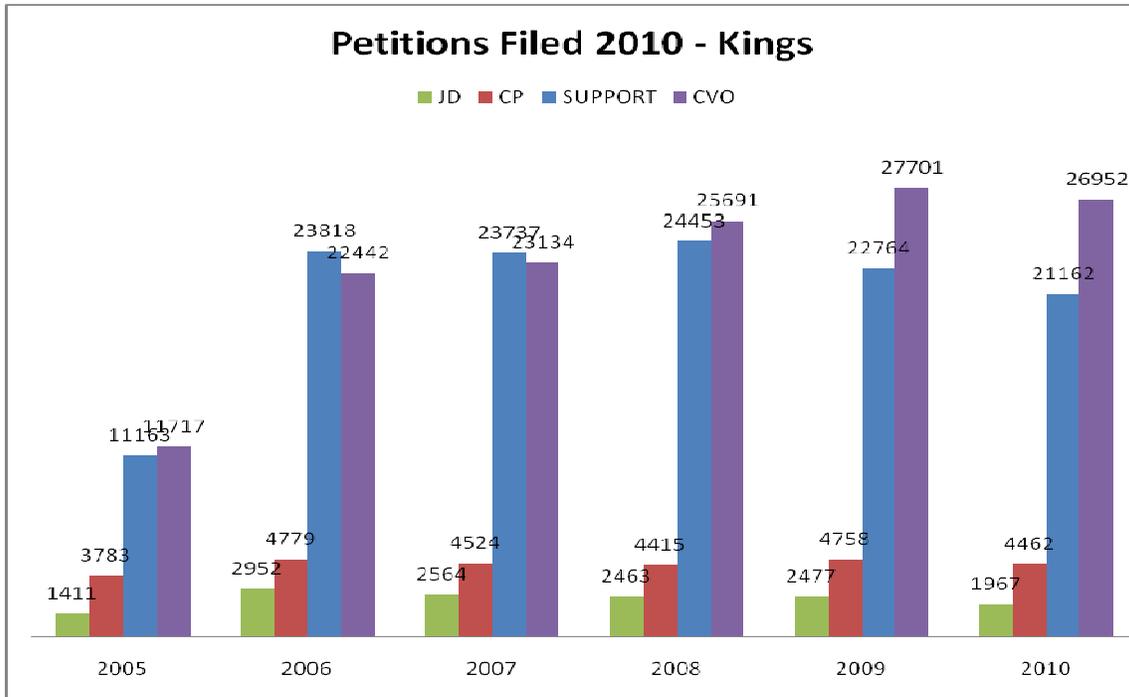
Supervising Judge: Hon. Paula J. Hepner

Clerk of Court: Robert Ratanski

For the first time in four years, Kings County experienced a decrease in every type of petition filed in the Family Court. New child protective filings dropped by 300 from 2009, rolling back the number of new abuse and neglect cases to where they were in 2008.

New filings in juvenile delinquency dropped by 500 cases to a number not seen since prior to 2006. Child support filings, having increased every year from 2005 to 2008 at the same pace as CVO cases, saw a significant decrease of new filings in 2010 despite expectations attributed to the current condition of the economy. For everyone, from the operations staff to the adjudicators, this is a welcome respite from what was beginning to feel like an inexhaustible supply of incoming petitions.

(See Chart next page.)



SPECIAL EVENTS

Adoption Day — In recognition of Adoption Day in November, Kings County Family Court commenced each adoption finalization with an individualized ceremony in which the commitment of the adoptive families to provide safe, permanent and loving homes for their adopted children was acknowledged. Each child received a Certificate of Recognition signed by the Supervising Judge and Clerk of Court, a donated children's book, and a Lifebook to record their personal milestones. Twenty-five adoptions were finalized that day.

Teen Day — The Teen Day event in November showcased 17 community-based organizations and service-providers, along with vocational programs and local colleges, offering information and advice to youth who may be at risk of entering foster care, or were currently in or aging out of the system. This third annual event brought together more than 40 teenagers, aged 14 or older, from across the borough of Brooklyn, who have active Family Court cases in Child Protective Parts and Juvenile Delinquency Parts. This year's event featured inspirational speeches by author and community activist Kevin Powell and former foster child Shamise Harvin, who delivered stirring words of encouragement to the teenaged guests. Administrative Judge Richardson-Mendelson offered a welcome address to officially open the event, which began with a fraternity step dance performance. The Child Welfare Court Improvement Project provided a catered lunch for all who attended.

LIFT Judge for a Day — In July, several Kings County judges, support magistrates, and referees were hosts to several senior executives who are fellows at the David Rockefeller Fellowship Program. This annual program is designed to enable a new generation of private sector leaders to deepen their understanding of the public needs of New York City and to take an active role in shaping its future. They spent the morning observing various proceedings and, during a luncheon provided by LIFT, were invited to share observations with, and ask policy questions of, the jurists whose courtrooms they visited.

Law Day — The Kings County Judiciary commemorated Law Day 2010 with the theme “Law in the 21st Century—Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges.” The judges sponsored their annual essay contest for students in the 10th and 7th grades at the Secondary School for Research, 237 7th Avenue, in Brooklyn. Students were asked to write essays on one of the ABA's associated topics: reforming American Government in the 21st century, music distribution and copyright, or

pirates and the law. The sophomores submitted 24 essays of which 13 were devoted to technology issues (Facebook, My Space and text-messaging), 6 involved environmental issues (concern for the planet in various forms), 4 addressed the topic of teenagers' privacy as related to school/student or parent/student, and one on the topic of immigration. The seventh graders submitted 10 essays on similarly diverse topics. The students' English teachers attended, along with several of each winner's classmates. In keeping with tradition, savings bonds were given to the winners. Special guest speaker was Kings County District Attorney Charles "Joe" Hynes, who spoke about the many community-based programs serving litigants of the Family and Criminal Courts in the county, for which his office has secured funding. A special certificate of accomplishment was presented to one of our Family Treatment Court graduates. It was a moving occasion as the recipient's three children were present to observe their mother being recognized for her success.

Do It Yourself — In February, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fern Fisher and Administrative Judge Edwina Richardson-Mendelson presented the first "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) Star Award to Court Clerk Specialist Mike Williams and the staff of the Petition Room for implementing the automated programs that allow litigants to prepare and submit for filing their own support modification petitions. In June, the Court was awarded the services of a volunteer intern to assist litigants in operating the DIY computers.

REORGANIZATION OF THE SPECIALTIES

Child Protective Reorganization

The Emergency Hearing Part — Because we were provided with an additional judge-on-loan from the Civil Court, we were able to preserve the 1027-1028 emergency hearing part after Judge Hamill's retirement in July. This enabled a veteran judge from the Juvenile Delinquency/PINS specialty to transfer to Child Protective and operate the emergency hearing part for a six-month period, during which the other CP judges organized their calendars in preparation for their future rotation through the emergency hearing part at two-month intervals beginning after the new year.

Distribution of New Filings — Simultaneously, the Child Protective judges instituted a system of wheeling out cases according to an established rotation. With this change, the assignment of new cases to each Child Protective judge was equalized, and prior practices contributing to disproportionate caseloads were eliminated.

Project Part 2 — In anticipation of Judge Grosvenor's retirement, a small task force was created (consisting of his referee, court attorney, and case expediter, and the deputy clerk in charge of the Permanency Planning Division) to bring to conclusion as many pending hearings as possible. To this task force was added a second Child Protective judge and court attorney, who were to assume the Part 2 caseload after his retirement, to cover his intake days, and to conference his pending cases so that the judge could complete his in-progress hearings and those he could start and complete before his retirement. As a result, it was not necessary to declare any mistrials, and the judge was able to complete all pending trials before his last day on the bench.

Field Office Visits — In the spring of last year 2010, the majority of our Child Protective judges, court attorneys and referees spent the morning session of one court day at one of the Brooklyn Field Offices where they met with the Borough Director, deputies and Child Protective Managers to discuss operational issues and learn about the process by which cases are received from the state central registry and assigned to caseworkers. The exchange of issues and concerns in an informal setting was credited with increasing the judges' and the agency administrators' and managers' understanding of each other's roles.

Juvenile Delinquency/PINS (JD/PINS) Reorganization

It was necessary to return the processing of the intimate relationship and "only O" cases to the Custody/Visitation Family Offense (CVO) judges and JHOs, as a consequence of reducing the JD/PINS bench by one judge in July.

The Juvenile Delinquency workgroup had a number of meetings with the District Attorney's office to explore how the court might coordinate efforts with their Track programs to assist us in attempts to curtail truancy for PINS and Juvenile Delinquency cases. The Track Centers have on-site Probation officers, representatives from the Department of Educa-

tion, members of the Police Athletic League, and social work services from community-based organizations.

In the Fall, in anticipation of developing a proposal for creating an up-front part in the JD specialty, which would handle all delinquency cases pre-trial, the JD bench did a joint study with Corporation Counsel to learn how many cases calendared for trial actually commenced as planned. The purpose of the study was to see what the actual volume of trials would be, whether two judges would be able to handle the litigated cases, and whether one judge would be able to handle the conferencing and settlement of the cases.

Support

The 2010 quarterly meetings between the Support Magistrates and the Supervising Judge were expanded to include the Borough Chief of Corporation Counsel and the Deputy Chief in charge of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) cases, so that a dialogue focusing on our mutual operating problems could begin. This collaboration has been instrumental in expediting the processing of DNA testing and the completion of support orders.

Plans were made in 2010 to discontinue a discrete expedited support part in January 2011. In exchange, each support magistrate would have a regular intake assignment, an ES calendar of new filings which would be done according to the protocol for the expedited part. Because of the retirement of one support magistrate in November, the transition to this model was timed to begin with the arrival of her replacement, whose assignment was canceled due to budget cuts.

SPECIAL COURT-SPONSORED PROJECTS

Kings County is piloting a special problem-solving court originated by the National Child Support Enforcement Association. The court is designed to help those with true barriers to making child support payments in the dictated amount on a consistent basis. The program is designed for those who are serious in their desire to comply with the court's orders. To gain admission to the program, litigants must show efforts and attempts to comply with court orders and some track record of making payments consistent with one's ability.

Kings County Local Child Protective Plan (CPP) Implementation Committee — After the Court Improvement Project's "Ready, Set, Go" conference in March, where the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) announced its "One Year Home Campaign," the participating agency heads from Brooklyn agreed that we should work collectively to reduce the pending inventory of Child Protective cases. Around 800 cases on the court's pending child protective caseloads were analyzed, and in some small number of them, the attorneys for the parties were able to accelerate negotiations and obtain settlements. Never having undertaken such a massive project before, we had many false starts and were hindered by our own inefficiencies. Although the project was not successful in achieving its intended goals, what was learned from this process resulted in the creation of a sub-committee, within our local Kings County CPP implementation group, to address "settlement" practices. A second sub-committee was created to address "trial issues" so that the time to trial readiness might be improved and the stumbling blocks in the preparation of cases for trial might be eliminated. A third sub-committee was created to address "intake" issues which have come to the forefront of our collective awareness as a consequence of the changes the Court and ACS have made to the intake process.

Child Welfare Court Improvement Project Liaison — In 2010, David Kow joined the Court from the New York State Office of Court Administration's Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, as Liaison to the Supervising Judge. In this role, Mr. Kow assists with projects, helps coordinate the work of committees, plans court-wide events, and facilitates collaboration between the judicial and operational court staff and the agencies representing the adults and children involved with the Court. In 2010, he assisted with the planning the Third Annual Teen Day event, coordinating trial observations for a community leadership course, arranging permanency planning hearing reviews by the Office of Children and Family Services, performing caseload data analysis measuring productivity and other case management indicators, and conducting a local study of delay in a sampling of Kings County adoption cases.

OUTSIDE PROGRAMS

In July, the Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS), along with its funding agency, The Brooklyn Foundation, began holding bimonthly meetings with a group of local stakeholders who were asked to participate in the implementation of

its “Brooklyn Initiative,” which is an effort on the part of OCFS to create a continuum of residential and non-residential services to serve Brooklyn youth who are placed in the custody of OCFS by the Court. These programs will allow OCFS to place Brooklyn youth in Brooklyn, rather than at facilities many hours away from their families. Under the Initiative, OCFS will convert City Challenge—currently an OCFS aftercare program in Bedford-Stuyvesant—into a non-residential day placement program with the capacity to serve 25 youngsters. OCFS also plans to revamp the existing Brooklyn Residential Center in Crown Heights to become a 20-bed, limited secure facility serving male youth. Because so many of the young men in OCFS custody are from Brooklyn, and because so many are African American and Latino, the prospect of being better able to provide proximate services within their communities is exciting. Part of the Brooklyn Initiative also involves connecting this population with Medgar Evers’s African American Initiative.

ONGOING EFFORTS

Programs begun in previous years and now firmly established include: the “Babies Can’t Wait” court-initiated referrals to early childhood intervention, the Family Treatment Court, the Help Center, the Volunteer Lawyer’s *pro bono* program, the Elder Abuse program for seniors seeking protective orders from the court, and the Children in the Courts Committee.

New York County Family Court

Supervising Judge: Hon. Douglas E. Hoffman

Clerk of Court: Evelyn Hasanoeddin

Child Support Intake System

The Court implemented a new intake system for the adjudication of child support cases filed by the Department of Social Services, also known as our “public assistance” cases. The County hears all such cases for the City of New York.

Non-custodial parents, appearing for the first time in Family Court, are met by court assistants who review the process and the parents’ financial documents with them. In cases where the parent has not brought the necessary documents, the parent is given an adjournment date to gather the appropriate information. Once the parent has all the necessary documents and the case is deemed trial-ready, the case is referred to one of two Intake Support Magistrates who then distribute the trial-ready cases to a team of Support Magistrates for hearing. The Intake Support Magistrates also issue temporary support orders until the case is ready to be sent for hearing and final resolution. The effect of this new streamlined process has been a reduction of cases to appropriate and manageable levels for each child support part, dramatically reducing waiting time for the parties.

Foster Care Review Part/Model Transition Planning Court

In New York City, when a parent/guardian voluntarily places a child into foster care, the cases are reviewed in New York County Family Court. In many cases, the children are teenagers who soon will turn to an independent living arrangement after aging out of foster care. In a collaborative effort begun in 2010, the Court, Lawyers for Children, Administration for Children’s Services, and Legal Aid Society developed a comprehensive model part to identify these youths, so that, prior to aging out, a comprehensive service plan can be developed through benchmark hearings. Through the diligent efforts of all, the Model Transition Planning Court launched in mid-May of 2011.

Think Tank

This group, comprising leaders of child protective partners and chaired by Supervising Judge Douglas E. Hoffman, was formed at the Ready, Set, Go Conference in March, 2010. The mission of this group is to devise a system that attains just outcomes for children and families, protects the rights of all people who come before the Court, treats people with respect and fairness, and works to ensure permanent homes for children without undue delay. This group has worked hard in the past year to identify and resolve the dilatory issues that impede permanency in child protective cases.

To better understand and appreciate the root causes of delays, the Think Tank agreed to undertake an intense analysis of 20 closed cases, where disposition was not reached for at least 14 months, to ascertain the circumstances that hindered

timely disposition. Currently, the cases, which are to be randomly chosen, are being identified, and the parameters of the study are being defined.

Additionally, recognizing the importance of continuing education for practitioners and for Court personnel, the Think Tank, in collaboration with Melissa Wade, New York County Child Welfare CIP liaison, has organized monthly CLE sessions, open to all who practice in the Court. Recent topics have included: Project Family Connect (assisting foster children in maintaining contact with their incarcerated parents), and Understanding the ICPC.

Education Subcommittee

A new initiative, under the direction and leadership of Judge Hoffman, was launched in the summer of 2010 to address the educational challenges faced by New York City children in placement, whether foster care or detention. Initially, educators, including NYC DOE representatives, education advocates, and agency education specialists, gathered to share information on current programs and initiatives. The multi-disciplinary group was formally organized as the New York County Family Court Education Subcommittee, charged with identifying educational obstacles for the targeted population and developing practical and creative ways to resolve issues.

A focal point of the committee since its inception has been the effort to implement a tutoring/mentoring program for children in foster care. The goal of this program is to assist a child academically, with the expectation that the adult matched with the child will also become the child's mentor. The Committee, through the efforts of our CIP liaison, has researched various tutoring programs to find the most appropriate model for our Court. Ms. Wade also has approached the UFT and local teaching college programs to pool tutors.

Child Protective Plan

In New York County Family Court, attaining the goals of the Child Protective Plan has been a multi-faceted effort. The Child Protective Plan has been fully implemented. Conferencing child protective cases and identifying relevant issues regarding needs and services have resulted in quicker dispositions, to the benefit of all parties. Consequently, the rate of dispositions has shown noticeable increase in the county.

Recognizing that the success of the Child Protective Plan requires the continuing participation and cooperation of all the child protective partners, the Child Protective Workgroup meets every two months to discuss progress, provide updates, and identify issues. This forum, attended by representatives from all CP partners in Manhattan, as well as Judges, Referees, and Court Attorneys, has been an effective and productive tool in the resolution of issues and in keeping all apprised of changes affecting these cases.

Further, a Special Trial Part has been designated to shorten the time to trial for certain child protective cases. Those cases, which cannot be resolved by settlement and have been identified from inception as requiring an immediate trial, can be sent to the Special Trial Part for accelerated trial dates.

Finally, in a "think outside the box" approach to the more efficient use of trial time, two child protective parts in the county have begun to explore the use of prepared direct examination by affidavit, in lieu of live testimony. A protocol has been drafted for proposed citywide utilization.

Completion of Construction

After nearly a decade of continuous construction, inside and out, the courthouse stands completed. The formerly black facade has been reclad in pale grey granite, giving the building a more stately and welcoming feel.

Many of the floors were redesigned to create more space for courtrooms and conference rooms. Four new courtrooms were created, as well as numerous conference rooms. A number of those rooms, equipped with computers and telephones, have been designated for Court Attorney use in child protective conferencing.

DIY Service

Introduced in the Fall, on the first floor of the courthouse, DIY services were established in conjunction with the efforts of LIFT, in child support and paternity matters. Unrepresented litigants, with the assistance of clerks, may fill out and file

their own petitions to modify a child support order and to establish paternity.

Efforts are also underway to provide similar service in custody and visitation cases.

Missing Files Committee

This group, comprising court attorneys and department heads, was organized in the summer to examine the causes of missing case files and to propose practical solutions. Clerks were interviewed, surveys taken, and files tracked to better understand the scope of the issue. After six months of study, a protocol outlining the handling of files in New York County was issued in December.

The Committee is discussing future plans and efforts to aid in the processing of court files, including a pilot project to study the use of scanners to track files.

Resource Coordinator/Family Treatment Court Staff

In New York County Family Court, the Juvenile Delinquency Resource Coordinator acts as a liaison between the Judge and service providers. The JD coordinator searches for placements in ATD programs, follows up on court-ordered investigations and evaluations, and researches ways to improve the processing of juvenile delinquency matters.

Recently, a Family Treatment Court (FTC) social worker has been redeployed as a resource provider in CP and CVO parts. Currently under training, the social worker will allocate her time equally between the two specialties and provide resources to the Judges and Referees.

Further, the services of FTC staff have been expanded to facilitate a more efficient Child Protective intake process. Now, in addition to monitoring the FTC cases, the FTC staff assists in the filing of Child Protective cases, resulting in a more streamlined process.

Child Welfare Court Innovation Project Liaison

The CIP Liaison is charged with implementing programs to assist and support the judiciary in child protective cases. Through the efforts of the CIP Liaison, Judges and court personnel can undertake collateral projects to expedite the litigation process. The Liaison also schedules educational programs on behalf of the Judges and child protective part staff.

St. Luke's Supervised Exchange Program Initiative

In certain visitation cases, the transfer of a child from one parent to another requires monitoring. Through a recently implemented program—a collaborative effort of the Court and St. Luke's Episcopal Church—Manhattan residents now are afforded the opportunity to have a parent-to-parent child transfer conducted in a safe and hospitable environment, rather than in a police precinct.

Family Justice Center

The New York City Family Justice Center is a program spearheaded by the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and the District Attorney's Office to provide comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and their children. In New York County, plans are underway to locate the most appropriate site and to design a program that is exclusive to the residents of Manhattan. [Note: Due to the current budget situation, discussions between the Court and the Manhattan DA's office to create a partnership for the sharing of programs are currently on hold.]

ANNUAL AND CONTINUING PROGRAMS

Teen Day

This annual event, which in 2010 attracted a citywide record high of 97 young people, is organized in NY County by Court Attorney-Referee Susan Doherty. The goal of Teen Day is to engage teens placed in foster care as active participants in their own cases and to provide them with valuable information in preparation for life outside the foster care system. Much like a job exposition, representatives from various service providers are on hand for consultation. This year,

representatives from job training programs, career planning, housing, the Department of Health, DMV, NYPD/NYFD, and other organizations were present, as well.

The theme of Teen Day 2010 was employment, with a special focus on teenage parents. Guest speakers at this year's function featured a foster "child" attending her fourth year of college while rearing a young child of her own, and a NYC firefighter who grew up in the foster care system. Marking the event as a true success, virtually all the adolescents in attendance reported that they would be more likely to attend their next court date after participating in Teen Day. They also said that they would encourage their peers in care to attend in the future.

Connie's Closet, organized by a staff member of New York County's Legal Aid Society, collects gently-used business attire for Teen Day, when the youngsters are given an opportunity to select clothes appropriate for job interviews and employment. Connie now travels to the other boroughs of New York City to make her "closet" available during each county's Teen Day. In 2010 in NY County, Connie's Closet was expanded to include clothes and items for babies and young children, consistent with Teen Day's focus on teenage parents. Pregnant teens and new parents were able to collect onesies, baby clothing, and other essentials at the Baby Boutique.

Adoption Day

This annual event, which celebrates the importance of permanency for children in foster care, was scheduled during National Family Week. With the support of the dedicated Adoption Unit staff, many adoptions were finalized on this significant day.

Family Treatment Court

In New York City, this statewide program was launched in New York County (3/1998, under the leadership of Hon. Gloria Sosa-Linter). In FTC cases, wherein the allegations of child neglect derive from alcohol and/or substance abuse, parents are quickly identified for program eligibility during the intake appearance. Once a respondent decides to participate in the program, he/she is closely monitored by the Court and its case management unit, which supports the parent in his or her efforts to achieve "clean time," thus expediting the reunification of the family, as appropriate.

Volunteer Attorney Program

Under the supervision of a designated court attorney, volunteer attorneys provide free legal consultation to self-represented litigants in Family Court. The volunteers, attorneys from participating law firms, as well as solo practitioners within the community, are available to litigants for consultation regarding child support, custody, visitation, and family offense matters.

Court Children's Center

A parent with a proceeding in Family Court may feel secure in leaving an accompanying child in the safe environment of the county's Children's Center. The parent thus is freed to focus on, and actively participate in, the court proceedings.

Safe Horizon

In a family offense case, it can be uncomfortable—or worse—for a victim of domestic violence to sit in the same waiting area as the aggressor. Here, the litigant is encouraged to await proceedings in the Safe Horizon office, which is situated on a floor separate from courtroom locations.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates)

In New York County Family Court, CASA representatives generally are assigned to child protective proceedings. CASA monitors and addresses problem situations that are likely to be impediments to the progression of the case. If, for example, an ICPC application is mired in Albany, CASA will make the necessary phone calls and follow up on the case to ensure that an application is processed.

LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today)

Currently, LIFT provides approximately 35 separate pamphlets on various pertinent subjects, in a number of languages, including Spanish, French, and Korean. In Manhattan, LIFT maintains an information table, attended by a representative, strategically located in the lobby near the building's elevator bank.

Queens County Family Court

Supervising Judge: Hon. Carol Ann Stokinger

Clerk of Court: Vaunda Harris-Strachan

Queens County Family Court Judicial Assignments

In 2010, Queens County Family Court had three judges assigned to preside in Delinquency and PINS parts; five judges assigned to preside in Child Protective parts; and two judges assigned to preside in Custody, Visitation and Family Offense parts. A single judge was assigned to preside in both the Family Treatment Court and in the Expedited Trial Part. Six court attorney-referees were assigned to rotate through the Intake part handling Family Offense, Custody, Guardianship and Visitation petitions. Those referees also hear Custody and Visitation matters. One of those court attorney-referees was assigned to Night Court three nights per week. Two full-time and two part-time court attorney-referees were assigned to hear Permanency Hearings in Child Protective cases. Three judicial hearing officers heard Custody and Guardianship matters and presided over Adoptions. Five full-time and two part-time support magistrates were assigned to hear Support petitions. The capacity of the Court to hear Support petitions has been increased for 2011, with one full-time magistrate replacing a part-time magistrate.

JD/PINS Specialty

Attorney Assignments to Court Parts

The judges assigned to handle Delinquency and PINS cases have a designated intake day per week. Emergency filings are heard by the judges on Mondays and Fridays, on a rotating basis. Corporation Counsel and the Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division have dedicated specific attorneys to each court part.

Resource Coordinator

A Resource Coordinator has been assigned to assist the Delinquency judges with Alternatives to Detention (ATD) matters, to obtain and distribute ordered reports, and to keep statistics. The Resource Coordinator created a Resource Guide which provides a listing of programs and services for court-involved youth in Queens.

Alternatives to Detention and Placement Programs

Currently, judges have available four alternatives to detention programs in Queens: QUEST Tier I and Tier II, QUEST Futures, and ICM (Intensive Case Management), administered through Probation. Boys Town is scheduled to initiate a new ATD program in 2011.

The judges have two alternatives to placement (ATP) programs: Esperanza and JJI (Juvenile Justice Initiative). Within JJI, JJI/MST-Psych provides services to youth with mental health needs. In addition, QUEST will initiate a new ATP program to deal with youth who have violated probation.

Custody/Visitation Guardianship and Domestic Violence Specialty

CVO Intake

In 2010, CVO intake was restructured; CVO intake was rotated among all of the court attorney referees handling CVO matters, rather than being handled by a single court attorney-referee. Because CVO court attorney-referee caseloads had

become extremely high, two court attorney-referees were moved into the CVO specialty. Caseloads have become more manageable for all.

Custody/Visitation Mediation

Mediation services are available to judges and to court attorney-referees, to help resolve issues in Custody, Guardianship and Visitation cases. [Note: due to budget cuts in 2011, mediation services have been suspended.]

Resource Coordinator for Compliance

In December of 2010, Queens Family Court welcomed a Resource Coordinator to assist the CVO judges and referees. The Coordinator, a MSW, works with the CVO judges and court attorney-referees and screens Family Offense cases in intake, makes referrals to services, and monitors post-disposition compliance with services.

Child Protective Specialty

Conferencing and Attorneys Assigned to Parts

The New York City Child Protective Plan has been fully implemented in Queens County. All judges who handle Child Protective matters now utilize conferencing. In 2010, additional space was allocated to ensure that each court attorney working for a Child Protective judge had a dedicated conference room. Each Child Protective judge has a designated day per week to handle intake matters. Queens continues to have dedicated attorneys from the Administration for Children's Services and the Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Division serving in the Child Protective parts.

Child Protective Plan Workgroup

The local Child Protective Plan Work Group, chaired by Supervising Judge Carol Stokinger, meets regularly. Identified goals are (1) more meaningful and efficient court appearances, with the goal of reducing the time children spend in foster care; (2) expanding the participation of children and youth in their own permanency planning hearings; and, (3) addressing and reducing the disproportionate representation of minority youth and families in the child welfare system.

Expedited Trial Part

In early 2010, plans were begun to transition one Child Protective judge to an Expedited Trial Part to try cases in which at least one child had been removed from his or her home. This newly created Trial Part, presided over by Judge Barbara Salinitro, formally began to accept cases in July, 2010. At the outset, it took an average of ten months before a fact-finding hearing could be held in Child Protective cases in Queens. Now, at the conclusion of a settlement conference, if a case is unresolved, but is actually trial ready, the case may be referred to the Trial Part for a fact-finding hearing. Currently, the Court has the capacity to try any trial ready case in which a child has been removed within sixty days of intake. Once commenced, these cases are tried with few or no adjournments.

Family Treatment Court Consolidation

The Family Treatment Court continues to operate in Queens Family Court, although, as of 2010, the caseload, which had been distributed among three judges, was consolidated and is managed by one judge. In addition, post-dispositional monitoring of the cases is handled by two court attorney-referees.

Child Welfare Court Improvement Liaison

In April of 2010, the New York State Court Child Welfare Improvement Project (CWCIP) funded a CWCIP Liaison to work with the Supervising Judge in implementing Child Protective reforms, as well as ministering to the overall goals of the CP Plan. The CWCIP Liaison has worked to solve operational issues and has helped the Court make effective use of data in guiding improvement efforts. Our Liaison also has developed and coordinated training programs for the Child Protective adjudicators and staff, as well as for the Court's community at large.

Vera Child Protective Case Flow Processing Study

The Vera Institute of Justice has partnered with the Administration for Children’s Services, the Office of Court Administration, the New York City Family Court and Casey Family Programs to conduct an operational review of the abuse and neglect case process flow in the Queens and the Bronx Family Courts.

The study was begun in Queens Family Court and is well under way. Members of the study team have met with court personnel and ACS staff to map the processes. After Vera completes its study and data gathering in both boroughs, it will publish a report of its conclusions and its recommendations for improving the processing of child protective cases through the system.

Institutional Representation for Parents

At the end of 2010, the Center for Family Representation (CFR) was awarded the contract to provide representation for respondents in Child Protective cases, beginning in 2011. Heretofore, Queens did not have an institutional provider to represent such respondents.

Support Specialty

In 2010, the Court eliminated separate Support intake parts. Currently, each Support magistrate handles the intake of his or her own cases. This practice has reduced the number of appearances litigants must make.

The Help Center at Queens Family Court

In August of 2010, The Help Center was established to provide legal information and assistance to unrepresented litigants.

The Center comprises the LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today) program, the Volunteer Attorney Program, and the DIY (Do It Yourself) area. Unrepresented litigants may access petitions and orders at the Center.

LIFT has staff available to assist unrepresented litigants with questions dealing with the Family Court process. LIFT provides pamphlets, information sheets, and resources for attorney referrals.

The Volunteer Attorney Program provides free consultations with volunteer attorneys to unrepresented litigants. Although the attorneys do not represent the litigants, they are available to explain the court process and the litigant’s legal options.

The DIY area houses computer terminals made available to unrepresented litigants for preparation of Support and Paternity petitions, with assistance from clerical staff. In the future, un-represented litigants will be able to prepare Family Offense petitions, as well as Custody and Visitation petitions.

Our Help Center Staff were selected by the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program to receive the DIY Star Award for 2010. Court Assistant Nicole Coleman received her second Star Award for commendable service and promotion of the programs.

The Volunteer Attorney Program provides unrepresented litigants with a free consultation with volunteer attorneys. Although the attorneys do not represent the litigants, they are available to explain the court process as well as the litigant’s legal options. The volunteer attorneys are supervised by a Court Attorney.

The DIY area houses computer terminals for unrepresented litigants to prepare Support and Paternity petitions with assistance from clerical staff. In the future un-represented litigants will be able to prepare Family Offense petitions as well as Custody and Visitation petitions.

The Queens Family Court Help Center Staff have been selected by the New York State Courts Access to Justice Program to receive the DIY Star Award this year. Court Assistant Nicole Coleman has been selected to receive a second Star Award for her commendable service and promotion of the programs.

QUEENS FAMILY COURT EVENTS

Quality Service Award

This award is made annually to a member of the clerical staff who exhibits a high level of dedication to their job and service to the public. Michelle Durant, Court Assistant in the Self-Represented Division, received this award.

African American/Women's History Celebration

Queens Family Court celebrated African American and Women's History Months with a combined program. Keynote speakers were Dean Michelle Anderson from CUNY Law School and Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson.

Take Your Child to Work Day

Queens Family Court sponsored Take Your Child to Work Day in the Courthouse.

Law Day

Queens Family celebrated Law Day with speeches by Judges Richter and Arias.

QUEST

New York City Family Court and QUEST hosted a celebration in Queens Family Court attended by Hon. Jonathan Lippman, Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, Commissioner of NYS Office of Children and Family Services Gladys Carrion and Commissioner of NYC Department of Probation Vincent Schiraldi.

Teen Day

Queens Family Court continues to actively support twice yearly Teen Day for teens in foster care. Teen Day is planned and implemented by the Queens County Teen Day Working Committee. In addition to court staff, the Committee includes representatives from CASA, the Legal Aid Society, the Administration for Children's Services, the Assigned Counsel Plan and the Board of Education. This year full afternoon programs were offered in the Spring and in the Fall. "Connie's Closet", run by a Legal Aid social worker, provided new and gently used clothing. Summer employment and internship opportunities were the focal point of the Spring Teen Day. In addition, IgNyte, a service organization that helps teens with a variety of issues, organized a prom clothing concession at the Spring 2010 Teen Day so that teens with scheduled proms could "shop" for gently-used prom dresses, shoes, and handbags in preparation for attending their proms. Brand new cosmetics were supplied by Latina magazine, as well. A limited amount of prom-appropriate prom clothing for the young men was also available. The Fall Teen Day focused on helping the teens learn about how to access college and other higher education facilities. School supplies that had been donated to C.A.S.A. were made available to the teens.

9-11 Ceremony

The annual ceremony commemorating 9-11 was held with speeches by the Supervising Judge, Clerk of Court and Lt. Frank Graniero.

Adoption Day

This year on Adoption Day, Queens Family Court invited adoptive families to attend a ceremony and breakfast. Children were provided age appropriate books as well as a Lifebook (a large scrapbook to help preserve childhood memories), and a certificate of recognition.

Community Outreach

QFC has been the host for various community outreach programs, including the Interfaith Leaders Conference, a group that meets on a regular basis to discuss access to courts, schools and other public institutions. Queens Family Court has also hosted citizen observations days sponsored by organizations including Citizens Committee for Children and LIFT, Student observation days were sponsored by local law schools, including CUNY Law School and St. John's University School of Law.

ADDITIONAL QUEENS FAMILY COURT PROGRAMS

Agency Heads Meeting

The Supervising Judge meets monthly with the local heads of the agencies who appear in Queens Family Court, to help improve Court process and operations. Representatives from the Administration for Children's Services, the Legal Aid Society, the Children's Law Center, Mental Health Services, and Law Guardian and Assigned Counsel panels attend these meetings.

Community Educational Seminars

In 2010 Queens Family Court initiated a program of monthly community training seminars for lawyers who practice in Queens Family Court. The program has included lectures on Mood Disorders in Adolescents, the Use and Effect of Psychotropic Medications in Adolescents, the Interstate Compact, and Supervised Visitation. CLE credit is available.

St. John's University School of Law's Clinical Program

In 2010, Queens Family Court welcomed St. John's University of Law's newly established clinical program. St. John's law students, supervised by a member of the faculty, represent children in child protective cases.

Pediatric Resident Rotation: Pediatric Residents from Cohen Children's Medical Center (formerly Schneider Children's Hospital) attend Family Court to observe neglect and abuse proceedings as part of their pediatric residency rotation.

Richmond County Family Court

Supervising Judge: Hon. Helene D. Sacco

Clerk of Court: William Quirk

2010 was a year that brought many changes to Richmond County, including the creation of a Supervising Judge position and the appointment of Judge Helene D. Sacco to that post. Currently, the Court staff includes one judge in the CP specialty, one judge in the JD/PINS/CVO specialty, a full-time CAR in the CVO specialty, a part-time CAR for PPHs, and a full-time and a part-time Support Magistrate. There are two Court Attorneys assigned to the judges, and a part-time Court Attorney assigned for assistance with Support Objections.

Expansion of the Richmond Family Court — Operations were expanded when the Court assumed additional off-site space, at 25 Hyatt Street, where all matters before the two sitting Support Magistrates are heard. Adoptions also have been relocated to that venue. This has involved reallocation of existing staff to ensure that the space is ade-

quately secured and that there are enough clerks and other staff to assist in the hearing and processing of all support matters. The move was completed without major issue, and the court staff has easily adjusted to the challenges presented in serving dual locales. In 2011, additional space was added through installation of modular buildings.

Expansion of the Richmond Family Court — Operations were expanded when the Court assumed additional off-site space, at 25 Hyatt Street, where all matters before the two sitting Support Magistrates are heard. Adoptions also have been relocated to that venue. This has involved reallocation of existing staff to ensure that the space is adequately secured and that there are enough clerks and other staff to assist in the hearing and processing of all support matters. The move was completed without major issue, and the court staff has easily adjusted to the challenges presented in serving dual locales. The Court is expecting additional space to be added by way of modular buildings currently under construction.

Introduction of the STEP program — The introduction of the STEP program affords assistance to Support Magistrates in making referrals on behalf of litigants in need of employment assistance. STEP, a program run by the Human Resources Administration, assists parties involved in child support proceedings connect to job-search and job-training groups.

Project READY — On the juvenile delinquency front, the Court was introduced to an innovative program run by Project READY, the County's alternative-to-detention (ATD) provider. Project READY Respite, a partnership between the Center for Court Innovation and NY Foundling, provides an ATD for family court-involved youths whose parents or guardians are unable or unwilling to house them. In Respite, each youth is paroled by the court to the care of trained and supported respite parent(s) for up to 21 days. The youths also receive ATD services at Project READY. Respite staff provide on-site clinical services to youths while they are engaged in ATD activities. They also provide ongoing case management and support services, to promote engagement and participation and to reduce barriers to compliance. All the skills training and behavioral modification techniques introduced by the Respite parents and family therapist are reinforced during a youth's tenure at READY ATD. Staff provide individual and crisis counseling, facilitate group counseling sessions, run skill-building workshops, coordinate case conferences, and make referrals to a broad array of community-based service partners.

JD Resource Coordinators— The County is now utilizing the services of a part time juvenile delinquency coordinator to assist the judge and coordinate information between the various agencies and the Court.

Adoption Day — On Adoption Day, celebrated citywide, participating Judge Karen Wolff and JHO Stella Schindler finalized several adoptions. Children involved in the proceedings were treated to books donated especially for the event, and the families were invited to partake of snacks and food.

9/11 Ceremony — The Court commemorated the ninth anniversary of 9/11 with a ceremony in recognition of those affected by the events of that terrible day. Administrative Judge Edwina Richardson-Mendelson, along with Judges Wolff and Sacco and Chief Clerk of Court William Quirk, spoke during the observance.

Training Events — The County hosted several lunchtime training seminars, some of which were presented for CLE credit. To introduce the Project READY Respite program, members of the Center for Court Innovation, NY Foundling

and Melissa Gelber, project director of the Staten Island Youth Justice Center, presented a short seminar detailing its attributes.

Additionally, as part of the citywide Child Welfare Court Improvement Project (CWCIP) effort to provide resources to Family Court, and in collaboration with our Judges, monthly educational forums for CLE credit were introduced in the County, facilitated by CWCIP liaison Melissa Wade. The first such program was a presentation by New York City CASA representatives Jennifer Weaver, Esq., and Jennifer Goldstein, LMSW. The next, addressing the subject of Education Stability in regard to the Fostering Connections and McKinney-Vento Acts, was presented by Regina Schaefer from ACS, Cara Chambers from the Legal Aid Society, and Erika Planer from Advocates for Children.

Specialty meetings are convened for both the juvenile delinquency and child protective practice areas, to assist the Court in assessing and addressing the unique issues occurring in each specialty. These meetings offer an opportunity for all agencies and stakeholders to participate in the Court process and foster the exchange of ideas.

Waiting Area Artwork — There is an ongoing project to improve the appearance of the waiting area and the Courthouse in general. To that end, Melissa Gelber of the Staten Island Youth Justice Center has agreed to assist in providing visual arts projects, including artwork, poems and other projects that court-involved youngsters have created, for display in the Courthouse. Additionally, the Court is working on teaming up with a group of photographers to create a photo exhibit of Staten Island landmarks, sites and activities.

New York City Family Court

2010 Annual Report

Published October, 2011

**This report was published by the
Office of the Administrative Judge
of the New York City Family Court.**

NEW YORK CITY FAMILY COURT SPEAKERS BUREAU

The New York City Family Court Speakers Bureau was created to increase public information about the Family Court system throughout New York City. The bureau offers speakers to schools and community and governmental agencies. The bureau comprises both non-judicial personnel and judges who represent their areas of expertise in the New York City Family Court system.

Our speakers are bound by ethical prohibitions and therefore are unable to give legal advice or provide information on specific cases. Speakers can provide general information. All speakers provide this service voluntarily and without charge.

REQUESTING A SPEAKER

The New York City Family Court Speakers Bureau can provide a judge or court official to speak at your meeting or event. Please call, write, email or fax your request, along with the following information, to the NYC Family Court Administrative Office:

- Your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address
- Name, date, time, location, and brief description of the event or meeting
- Name, address, phone number, website, and brief description of the organization
- Audience profile and size of audience expected
- Will there be any political, commercial, or fundraising purpose or presentation?
- Specific request for topic, length, or speaker

Requests may be submitted to:

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New York City Family Court
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IN GRATITUDE

The New York City Family Court wishes to express its thanks to the following people and organizations (listed alphabetically) who generously provided assistance to the court during 2010.

Brooklyn Law School
Casey Family Programs
The Center for Court Innovation
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
Hunter College School of Social Work
Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT)
The National Center for State Courts
The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
The New York City Police Department
New York Law School
The New York State Child Welfare Court Improvement Project
The New York State Judicial Institute
The PACT Volunteers
Safe Horizon
The attorneys who staffed the Volunteer Attorney Program

We also thank the following law firms and corporations who provided volunteer attorneys to staff the Volunteer Attorney Program:

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