

Judicial Branch Budget Presentation

Justice System
Appropriations Subcommittee

February 14, 2013
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State Court Administrator

www.iowacourts.gov





Judicial Branch Mission

Our courts have a vital constitutional mission:

“The Iowa Judicial Branch dedicates itself to providing independent and accessible forums for the fair and prompt resolution of disputes, administering justice under law equally to all persons.”

To accomplish our mission, we rely on judges, judicial magistrates, and court employees who work in unison to handle hundreds of thousands of court cases and to provide a broad range of court-related services.



2013 State of the Judiciary

“On behalf of the judicial branch staff, we promise to work as hard as we can to make people’s lives better and to enhance our state’s economic vitality, so that all Iowans feel a sense of pride in the way their government operates and serves them.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2013 State of the Judiciary





Judicial Branch People

- **Judges and Magistrates** use their legal expertise and knowledge to impartially interpret and apply laws to serve the public.
- **Clerks of Court** and their employees manage and maintain all court records; collect and process fines, fees and restitution; transmit court orders and information to litigants and government agencies; process child support payments; and manage the process of calling lowans to jury duty.
- **Juvenile Court Officers** and their staff work directly with troubled youths. Among other things, they monitor a young person's compliance with restitution and community service and arrange for services needed by young people.
- **Court Reporters** keep a record of trials and hearings and provide clerical support to judges.



Judicial Branch People

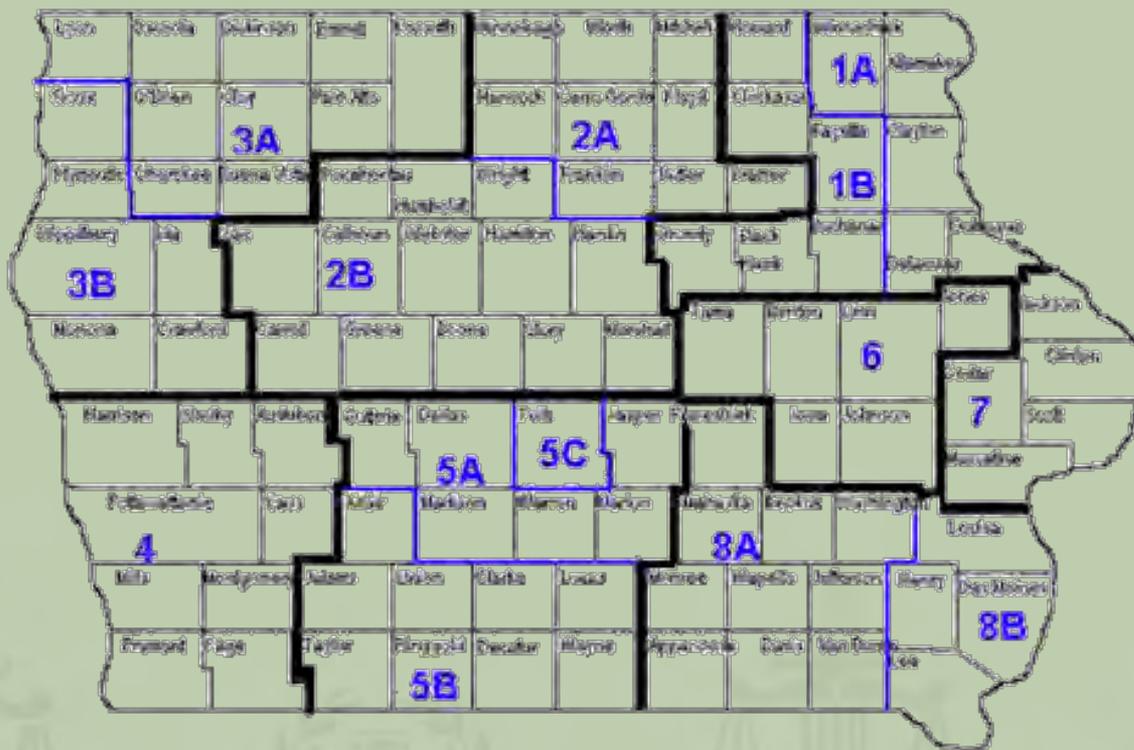
- **Court Attendants** assist with jury management, provide clerical and reception support to judges, and assist clerk of court offices.
- **Information Technology** staff manage and maintain all judicial branch technology including computer equipment, ICIS, and EDMS; manage data centers servers, network equipment, and software; develop custom computer programs; and provide training.
- **Law Clerks** assist judges by conducting legal research and analysis, drafting routine court orders, and performing other law-related duties.

In addition, many other court employees work to serve the public and to fulfill the mission of the courts.



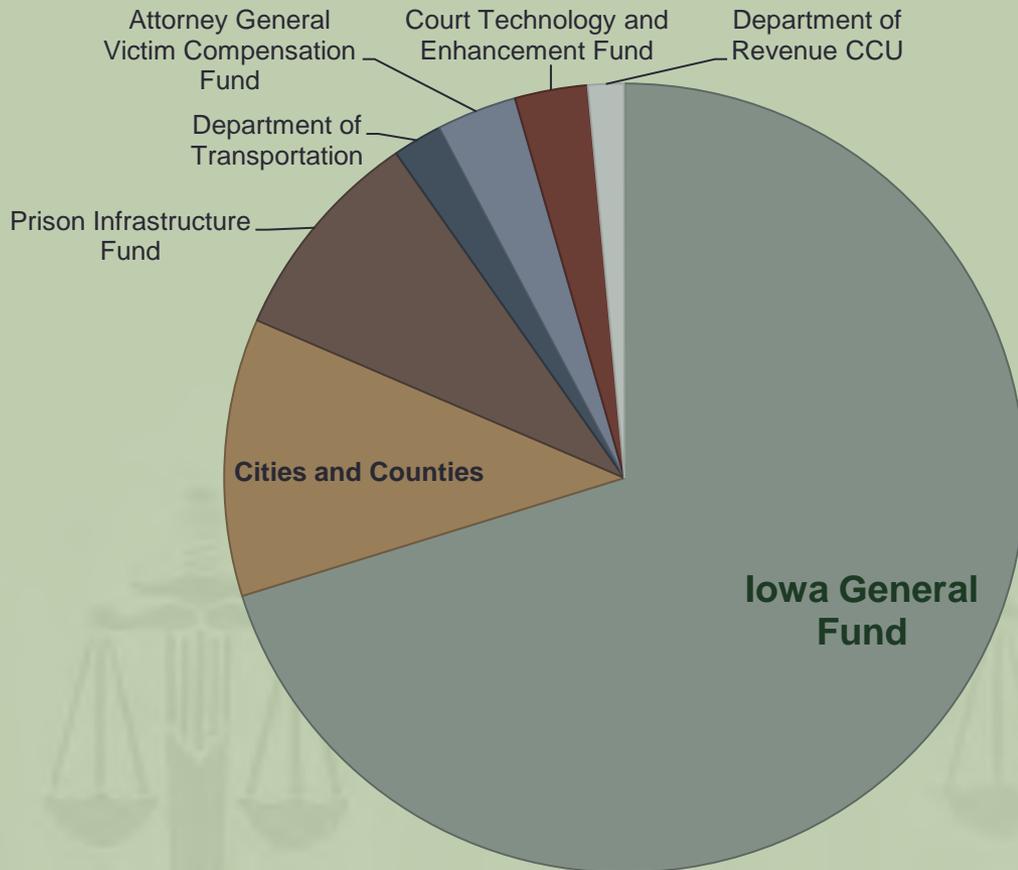


Judicial Branch Districts





In 2012 Iowa Courts Generated **\$170 Million in Revenue**



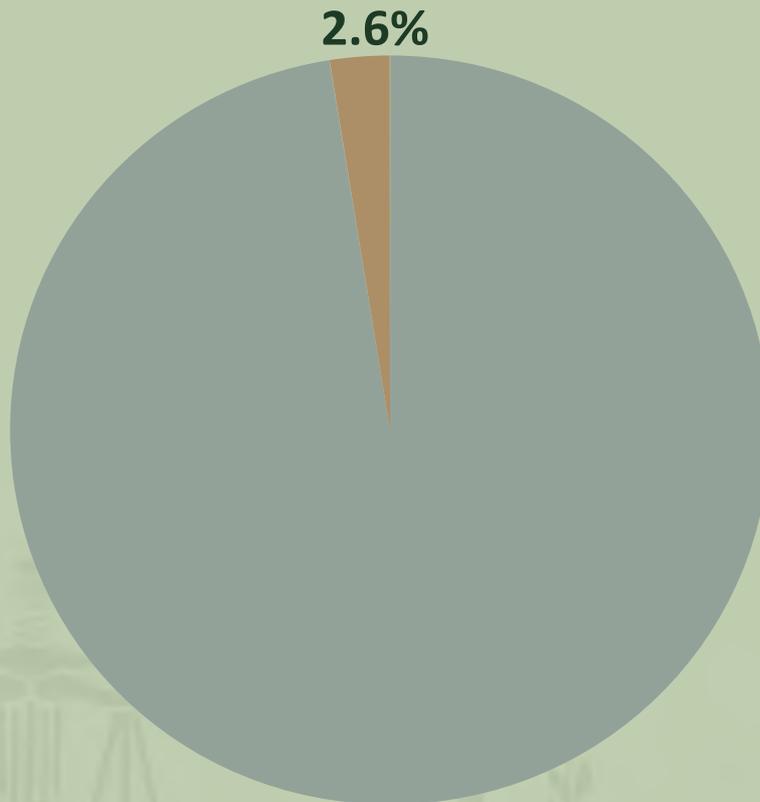
Each year, with the aid of several state and local government entities, Iowa courts collect millions of dollars in fines and fees that directly benefit state and local government. In FY 2012, the \$170 million generated by Iowa's courts was distributed as follows:

- \$119.3 million—Iowa General Fund**
- \$19.3 million—Cities and Counties**
- \$15.0 million—Prison Infrastructure Fund**
- \$5.5 million—Attorney General Victim Compensation Fund**
- \$5.0 million—Court Technology and Enhancement Fund**
- \$3.4 million—Department of Transportation**
- \$2.5 million—CCU Collection Fee**



Court Resources in Perspective

Iowa General Fund Appropriations (FY 2013)



FY 13 Iowa Judicial Branch Appropriations = \$162 million*, or 2.6% of all General Fund Appropriations.

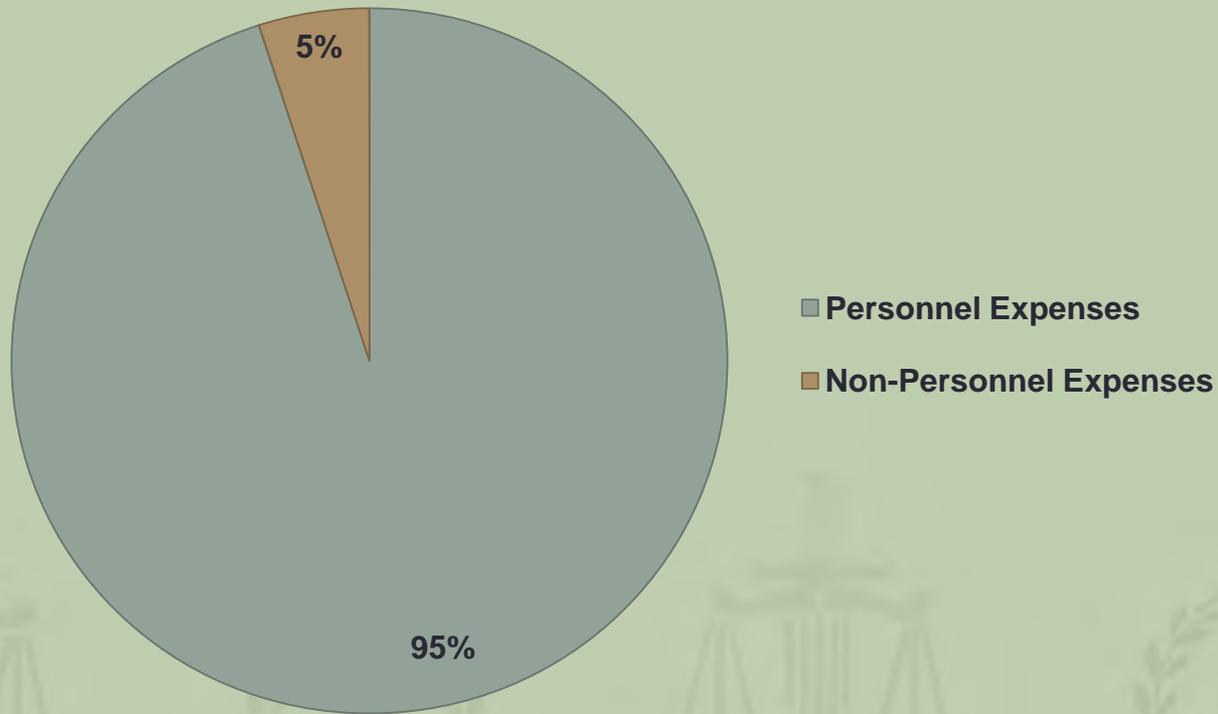
***\$158.9 million for operations and \$3.1 million for the Jury and Witness Revolving Fund**

FY 13 All State General Fund Appropriations = \$6.2 billion



Court Resources in Perspective

Judicial Branch Expenses





2013 State of the Judiciary

“Iowans expect and deserve to have full-time access to justice. Whether it’s children in need, or you, your business, or your friends and neighbors who must at some time count on access to court services, it is clear that Iowans expect their government to operate a full-time, full-service, and efficient court system.”

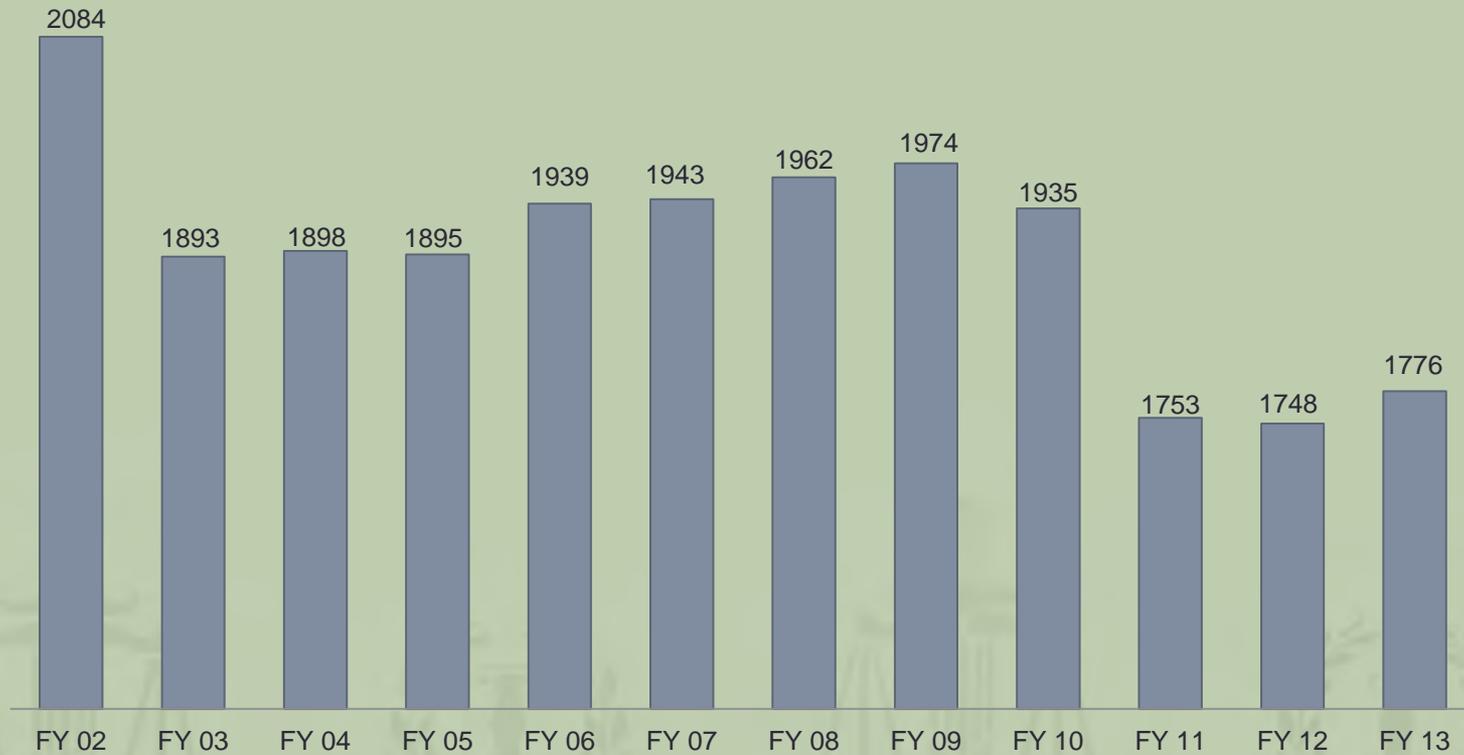
Chief Justice Mark Cady
2013 State of the Judiciary





Court Resources in Perspective

Staffing Levels 2002 - 2013





2013 State of the Judiciary

“...everyone of us in the Iowa Judicial Branch is poised to make the Iowa court system the best, most advanced, and the most responsive court system in the nation.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2013 State of the Judiciary





Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Protect Iowa's children

- Timely processing of child support payments
- Timely notice to law enforcement of protective orders
- Timeliness in hearing cases, including contempt actions to enforce orders
- Timeliness in setting temporary and permanent support and custody/visitation orders

In 2012, Iowa's courts handled:

- 16,704 dissolutions and modifications, 61% of which involved children
- 5,651 administrative child support cases (DHS)
- 6,819 civil domestic abuse actions
- 8,599 no-contact orders in criminal cases
- 7,643 civil protective orders in civil domestic abuse cases



Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Protect Iowa's children— who are abused and neglected

Our courts play a life-altering role in the lives of abused and neglected children. They decide whether to:

- Remove a child from a parent
- Place a child in foster care
- Reunite a child and parent or terminate parental rights
- Allow adoption of a child

In 2012, Iowa's courts presided over:

- 5,152 Child in Need of Assistance cases
- 1,843 Termination of Parental Rights





Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Protect Iowa's children— who are troubled

- Enable Juvenile Court Officers to schedule face-to-face meetings with all juvenile clients
- Finding safe and secure shelter placement
- Responding to inquiries from school officials, law enforcement and families
- Processing juvenile restitution
- Continued support of state and federal funds to help troubled children

In 2012, Juvenile Court Services responded to nearly **20,000 complaints**, ranging from shoplifting or underage drinking to assaults, burglary, car theft, and murder, involving more than **15,000 Iowa youth** resulting in **5,453 delinquency cases**.



Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Provide full-time access to justice

All clerk of court offices are closed to the public on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm** to allow staff time to facilitate case processing.

21 Counties with part-time clerk offices

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|
| × Adair | × Greene | × Mitchell |
| × Adams | × Guthrie | × Pocahontas |
| × Audubon | × Hancock | × Ringgold |
| × Butler | × Humboldt | × Taylor |
| × Calhoun | × Iowa | × Wayne |
| × Decatur | × Jones | × Winnebago |
| × Floyd | × Lucas | × Worth |



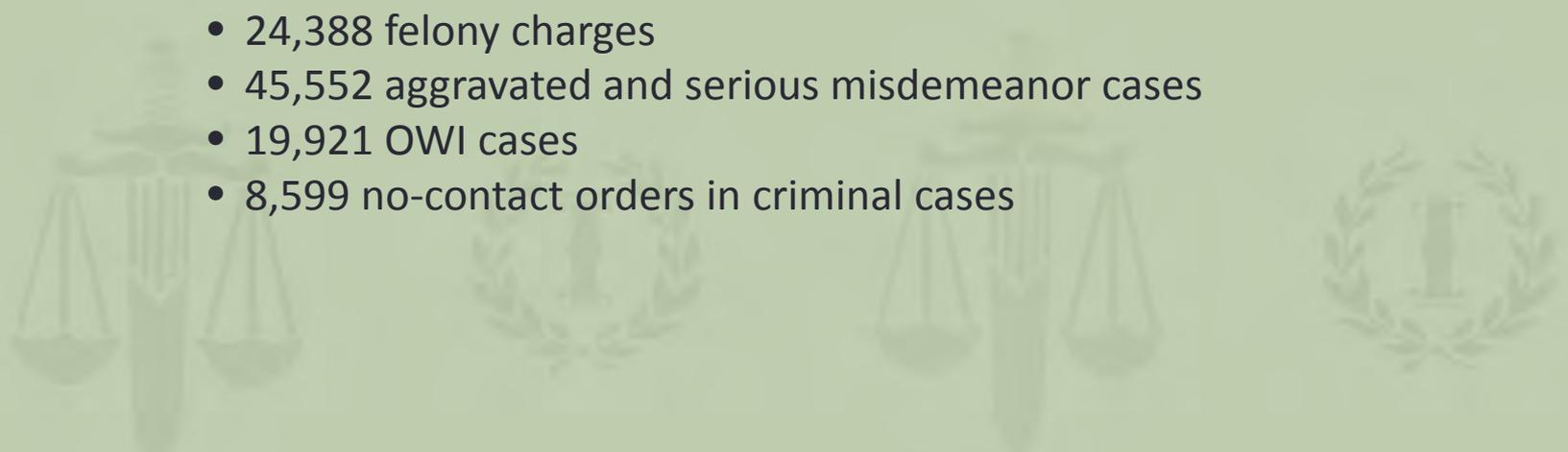
Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Operate an efficient, full-service court system— in criminal cases

- Criminal hearings
- Probation revocation hearings
- Warrant updates
- Processing scheduled violations
- Entering no-contact orders

In 2012, Iowa's courts disposed of:

- 24,388 felony charges
- 45,552 aggravated and serious misdemeanor cases
- 19,921 OWI cases
- 8,599 no-contact orders in criminal cases





Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Operate an efficient, full-service court system— working with cities and counties

- Promptly processing mental health and substance abuse commitments so respondents do not stay longer in local hospitals
- Shorten the time prisoners sit in jail, and thus, decrease county jail costs
- An increase in fine collection activities will increase county and city revenue
- Expedite judicial review of condemnation cases and civil infractions

In 2012, Iowa's courts disposed of:

- 10,935 adult mental health/substance abuse commitment cases
- 19,921 OWI cases
- 610,8931 simple misdemeanors and scheduled violations



Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Operate an efficient, full-service court system— quickly transferring data to criminal justice agencies

- Criminal case history to Department of Public Safety
- Traffic conviction information to Department of Transportation
- Criminal and juvenile case data to Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
- Domestic abuse protection orders to Department of Public Safety





Iowans Expect Their Courts to

Provide faster and less costly resolution of legal disputes

- Quickly enter judgment information needed by abstractors
- Quickly process garnishments
- Faster resolution of civil cases

In 2012, Iowa's courts handled:

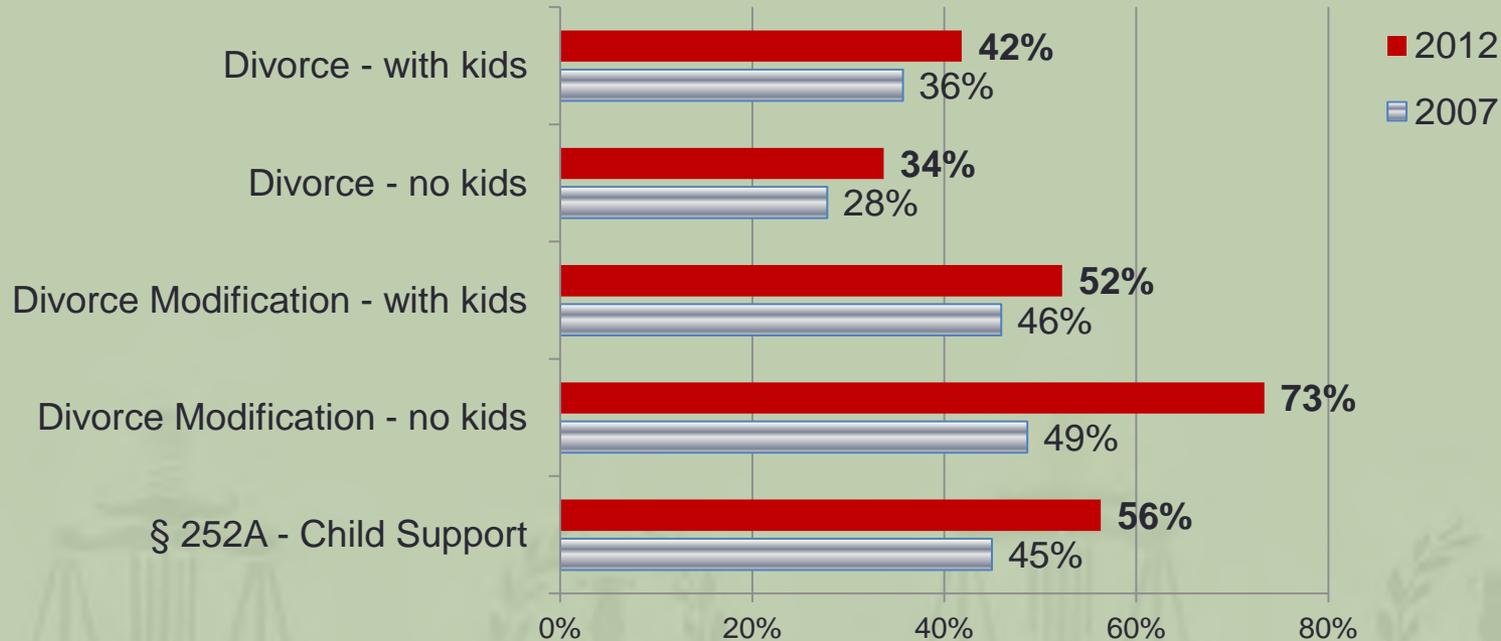
- 10,667 mortgage foreclosure cases
- 13,545 landlord/tenant cases
- 8,500 debt collection cases
- 67,699 small claims/civil infraction cases
- 5,196 other law and equity actions
- 3,061 torts/personal injury & product liability cases
- 163 medical/dental malpractice cases
- 1,860 reviews of agency action



One Delay is One Too Many

Delays in domestic relations cases in district court have increased since 2007

Percentage of Pending Domestic Cases Over 8 Months Old:
2007 vs. 2012

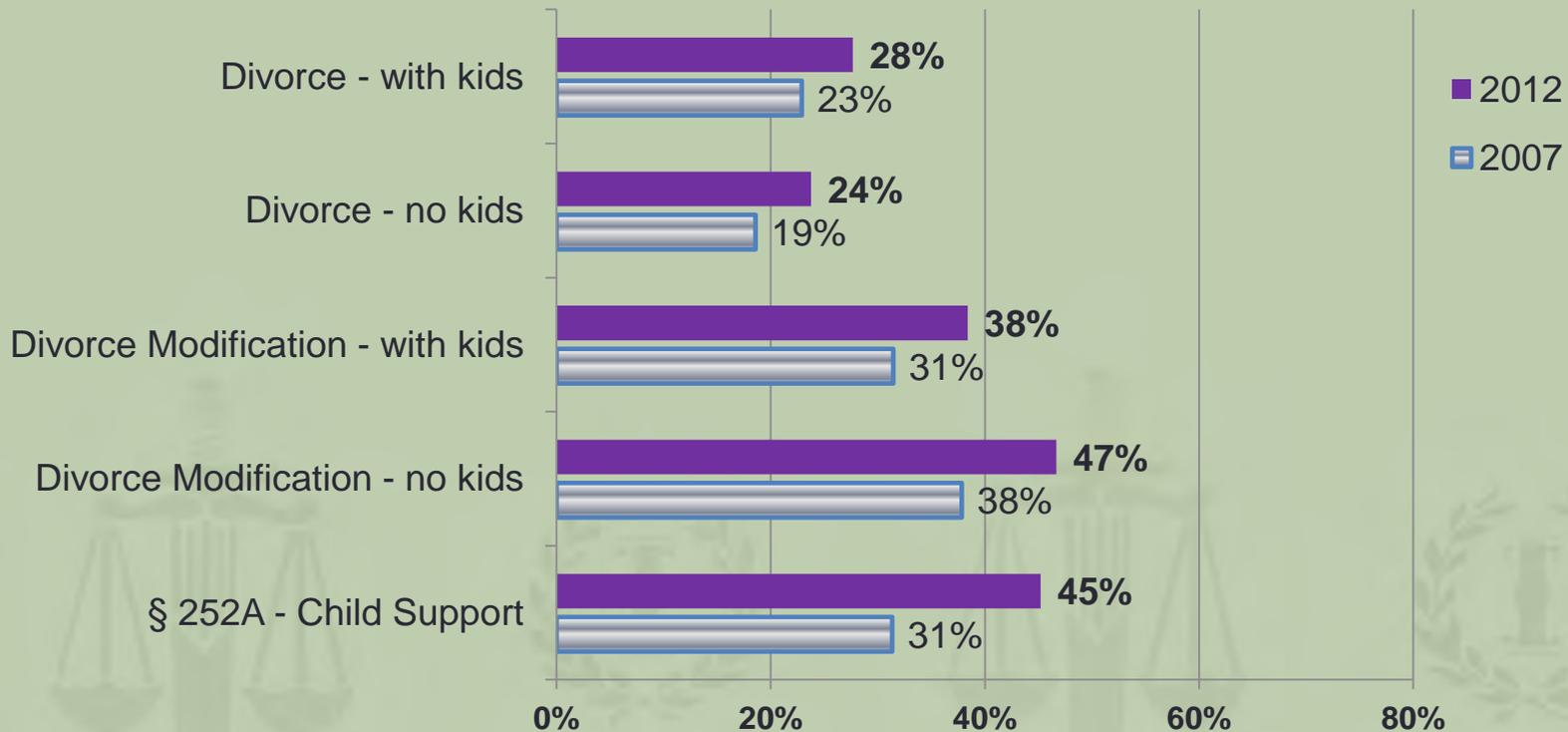




One Delay is One Too Many

Delays in domestic relations cases in district court have increased since 2007

Percentage of Pending Domestic Cases Over 12 Months Old:
2007 vs. 2012

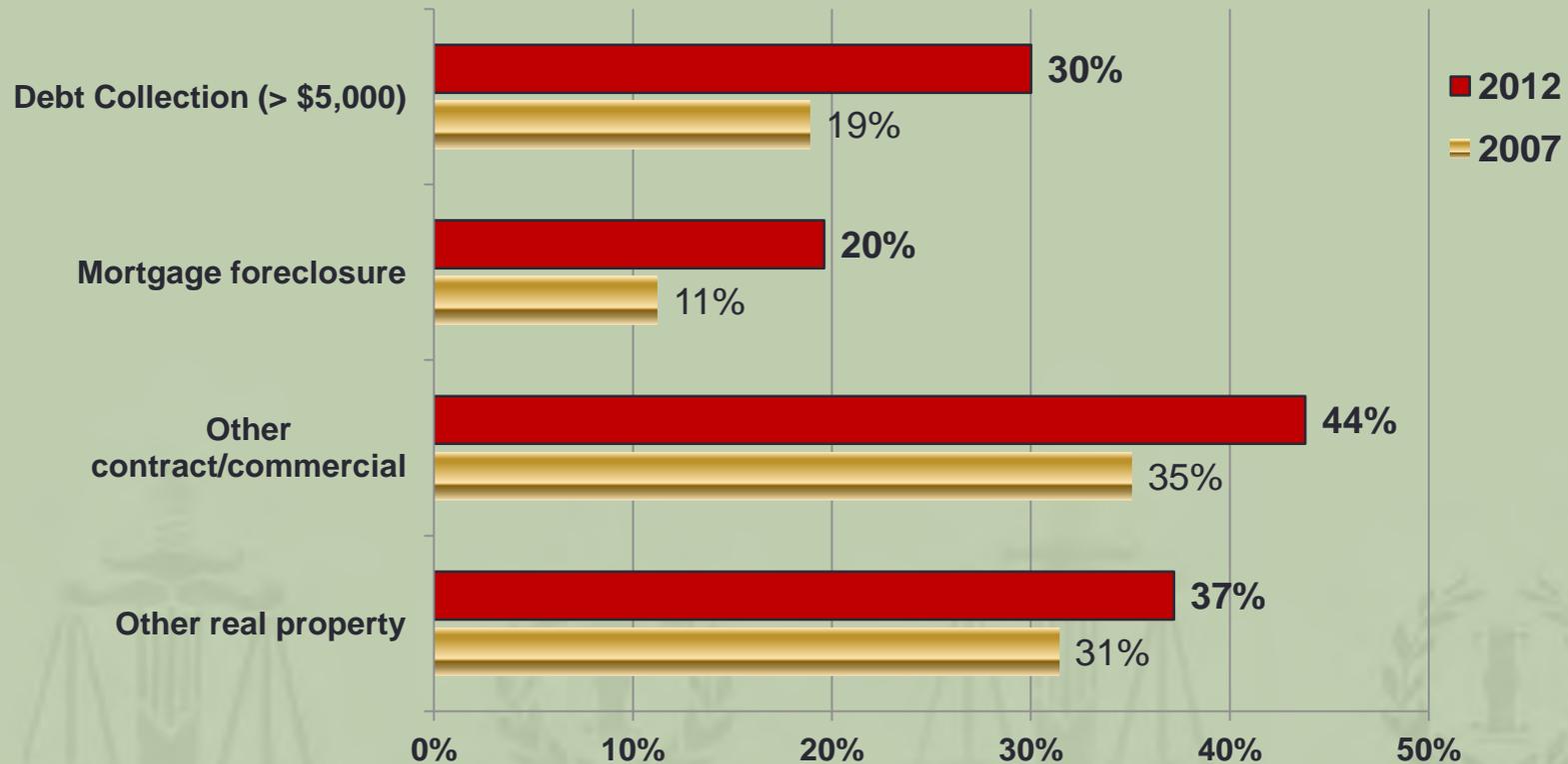




One Delay is One Too Many

Delays in civil cases in district court have increased since 2007

Percentage of Pending Contract and Real Property Cases Over 12 Months Old:
2007 vs. 2012

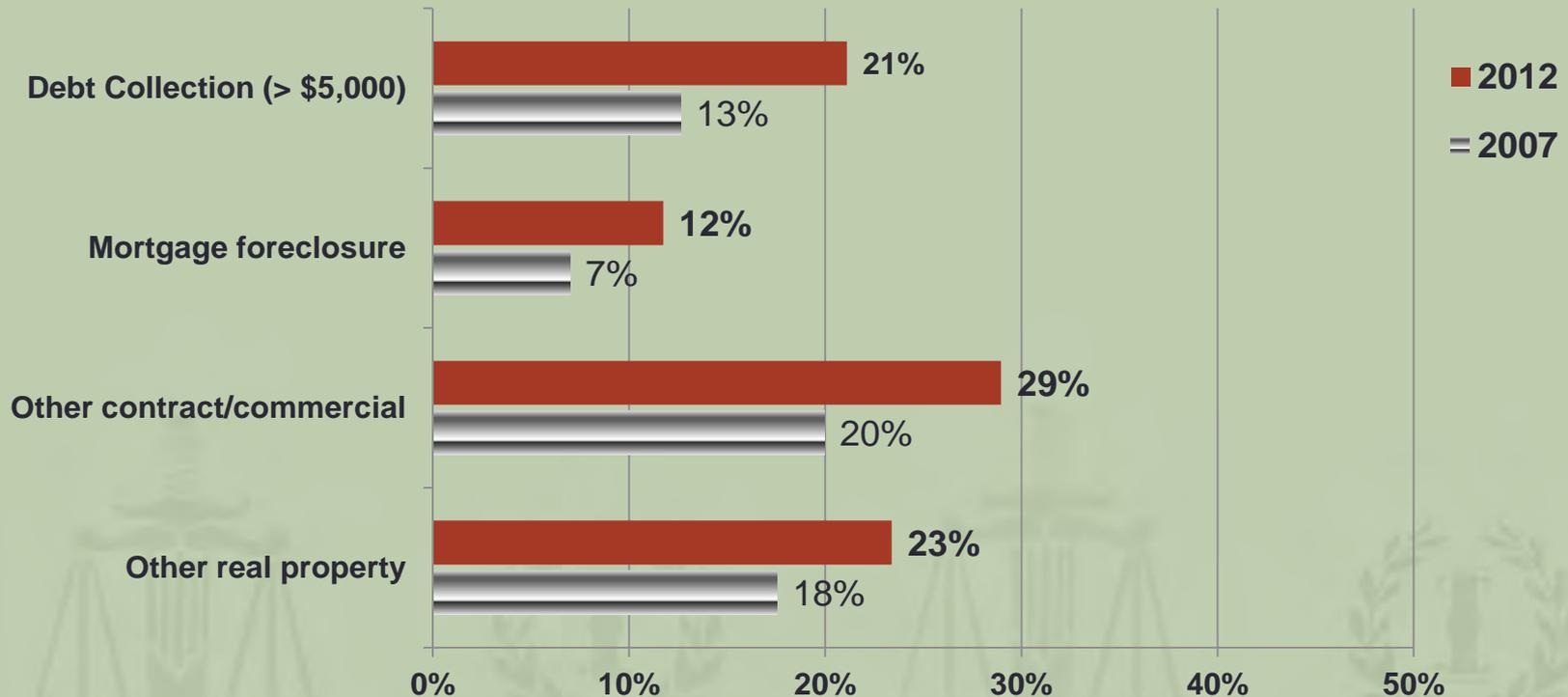




One Delay is One Too Many

Delays in civil cases in district court have increased since 2007

**% of Pending Contract & Real Property Cases Over 18 Months Old:
2007 vs. 2012**





Paperless Courts

Electronic Document Management System (EDMS)

- First court document successfully filed electronically in the Plymouth County Clerk of Court Office in January, 2010
- By the end of 2013, it is anticipated that nearly 40 percent of all documents filed in Iowa courts will be filed electronically
- EDMS is designed to receive and store all court documents electronically.
- EDMS sends automatic notices of electronic filings to parties
- EDMS integrates with the Iowa Courts Information System (ICIS) to enable access by lawyers, using the Internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Parties can file documents, and view the court docket and court documents for their case from an office or home computer



Paperless Courts

EDMS usage as of January 3, 2013:

- 189,031 cases have been filed electronically statewide
- 975,049 documents are stored in EDMS
- 15% of yearly filings are now done online
- 13,772 registered users (not including 537 court employees)





Paperless Courts

EDMS Implementation Schedule

Completed

2010
 Plymouth
 Story (Civil)

2011
 Story (Criminal)
 Sioux
 Woodbury (Civil)

2012
 Woodbury (Criminal)
 Ida
 Monona
 Crawford
 Boone
 Hamilton
 Hardin
 Marshall
 Webster
 Wright
 Humboldt
 Pocahontas

Completed Total:

15 Counties

15% of all statewide filings

2013 Scheduled

Carroll	Lyon
Greene	Osceola
Sac	O'Brien
Calhoun	Emmet
Polk	Palo Alto
Guthrie	Kossuth
Dallas	Pottawattamie
Madison	Harrison
Warren	Shelby
Marion	Audubon
Jasper	Cass
Cherokee	Mills
Buena Vista	Montgomery
Clay	Fremont
Dickinson	Page

2013 Total:

30 Counties

35% of all statewide filings

2014 Planned

Winnebago	Iowa
Hancock	Jones
Worth	Adair
Cerro Gordo	Adams
Mitchell	Taylor
Floyd	Union
Franklin	Ringgold
Butler	Clarke
Bremer	Decatur
Black Hawk	Lucas
Grundy	Wayne
Buchanan	Scott
Linn	Clinton
Johnson	Jackson
Tama	Muscatine
Benton	Cedar

2014 Total:

32 Counties

36% of all statewide filings



2013 State of the Judiciary

“While EDMS will help, our court system is still plagued with costly, frustrating, and unnecessary delays. Technology can only do so much for a justice system. We have learned that potential efficiencies in our court system quickly fall out of reach without sufficient personnel. Too many times, a case must be rescheduled because a judge is without some essential staff to allow the case to proceed.”

Chief Justice Mark Cady
2013 State of the Judiciary



FY 14 and FY 15 Budget Request

	FY 14	FY 15
Decision Package #1	\$2,389,929	\$2,389,929

Full-time access to clerk of court offices

- 53 FTE for clerk of district court offices each year





FY 14 and FY 15 Budget Request

	FY 14	FY 15
Decision Package #2	\$2,741,968	\$2,476,843

Judicial Support—Personnel

- Juvenile Court Services
- Court Reporters
- District Court Support: Law Clerks, Court Attendants, Case Schedulers
- Court of Appeals
- Clerk of Appellate Courts
- State Court Administration
- 42 FTE each year





FY 14 and FY 15 Budget Request

	FY 14	FY 15
Decision Package #3	\$555,648	\$277,824

Continued implementation of paperless courts

- IT support staff for EDMS (8 FTE in FY 14; 4 FTE in FY15)





FY 14 and FY 15 Budget Request

Total Decision Packages for operating budget:

FY 14	FY 15
\$5,687,545	\$5,144,596

Total Request for Operating Budget:

FY 14	FY 15
\$167,699,367	\$172,843,963

Percent Increase:

FY 14	FY 15
3.5%	3.1%