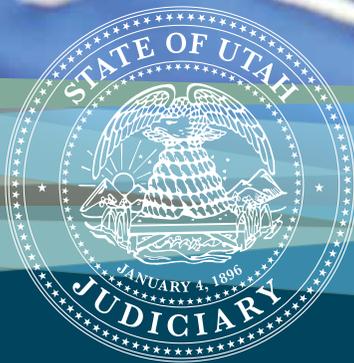
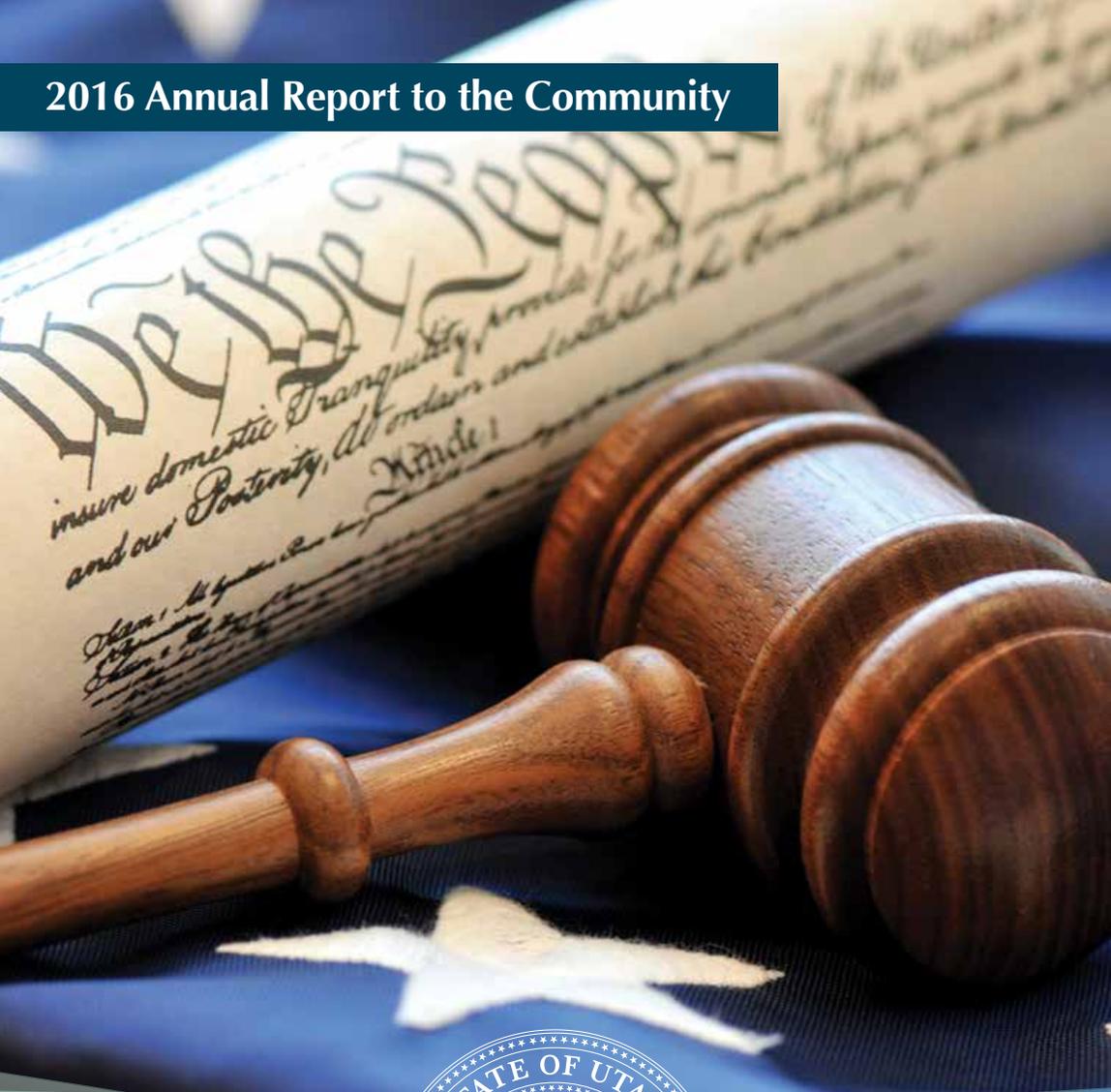


2016 Annual Report to the Community



Courts Taking a Leadership
Role in Reform Efforts



The mission of the Utah State Courts is to provide an open, fair, efficient, and independent system for the advancement of justice under the law.



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Introduction



The Utah courts periodically convene groups of interested parties to study issues that pertain to the larger justice system. Three such groups wrapped up their work at the end of 2015. Two of the studies—indigent representation and pretrial release—were products of Utah Judicial Council committees. A third, the Task Force to Examine Limited Legal Licensing, was convened by the Utah Supreme Court.

All three studies involved important systemic issues and required the participation and perspectives of a wide range of public and private groups and individuals. The indigent representation study, for example, could only be done effectively with the participation of county and municipal officials, who bear much of the responsibility for funding indigent representation in Utah. The pretrial release study,

which considered the application of evidenced-based practices applied to pretrial release decisions, needed the perspective of the insurance commission and the bail bond industry. The limited legal licensing study, which considered the issue of whether qualified non-lawyers should be able to practice law on a limited basis, needed the participation of several different perspectives from within the legal community.

The quality products produced by all three groups dramatically improved our understanding of the issues and problems that required attention, and all three presented comprehensive and thoughtful proposed solutions. The court is indebted to all who gave their time and expertise in order to advance the administration of justice in Utah. The reports are available for review on the courts' website.

We'd also like to draw attention to the article titled *Court Users Report High Level of Satisfaction*. The results of the 2015 court biennial survey of courthouse patrons statewide found that 92 percent agreed with the statement: "I am satisfied with my experience at the court today." The positive assessment, which is consistent with prior surveys, is a reflection of the dedication and hard work performed by our judges and staff every day.

We would like to express appreciation to Governor Gary Herbert and members of the Legislature for their continued support of Utah's courts.

Honorable Matthew B. Durrant
Chief Justice, Utah Supreme Court

Daniel J. Becker
Utah State Court Administrator

Systemic Solutions

Judicial Leadership and Reform Efforts

Improving Pretrial Release Practices in Utah

In the criminal justice system, a person is considered innocent until proven guilty. This presumption of innocence is a right guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and protects individuals from being wrongly accused.

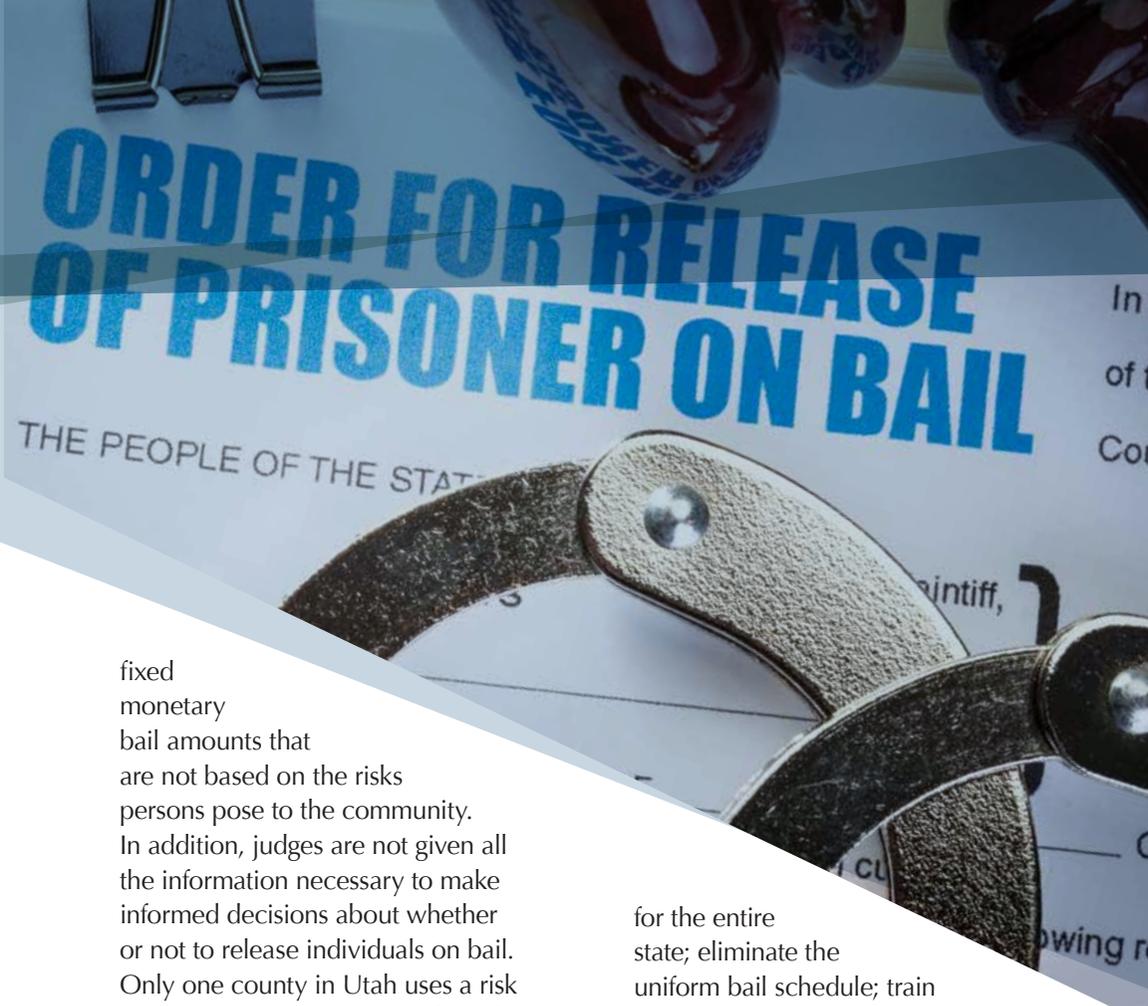
In Utah, a person also has a right to have a judge determine whether or not to release the person on bail while awaiting his or her trial date. In deciding whether a defendant should be released on bail, the judge must consider whether or not the accused will commit another crime while out on bail and whether or not they are a flight risk or are likely to appear at future court dates.

Bail plays a significant role in the pretrial release process. Bail secures a person's release and can be monetary or based on other conditions. Bail is typically set by the judge based on the offense the defendant is charged with, rather than on the defendant's individual characteristics. Its purpose is to guarantee the defendant's appearance in court.

However, bail does not always prevent a defendant from reoffending while out on pretrial release or guarantee he or she will show up for court appearances. For the past few years, there has been a movement nationwide to rely less on bail when determining whether or not a defendant should be released before trial and more on evidence-based practices.

In fall 2014, the Utah Judicial Council formed a Pretrial Release Committee, which was charged with conducting a thorough assessment of Utah's existing pretrial release practices and determining if alternative practices should be considered. Throughout 2015, the committee met and heard from local and national experts on pretrial release issues. In November, the committee completed a comprehensive report that identifies a number of areas in need of improvement.

For example, Utah law discourages judges from making individualized decisions regarding pretrial release. Instead, judges are encouraged to follow



fixed monetary bail amounts that are not based on the risks persons pose to the community. In addition, judges are not given all the information necessary to make informed decisions about whether or not to release individuals on bail. Only one county in Utah uses a risk assessment tool to measure the risks associated with pretrial release.

As a result of the study, the committee developed 12 recommendations to address needed improvements. They are as follows: create a statutory presumption in favor of pretrial release without financial conditions; refrain from holding people in custody for minor offenses; adopt process recommendations of the Board of District Court Judges; administer a pretrial risk assessment to all persons at the time of booking and make the results available to judges; develop pretrial services personnel or agencies

for the entire state; eliminate the uniform bail schedule; train prosecutors and defense counsel to provide additional and better information at pretrial release or bail hearings; update and improve the laws and practices governing monetary bail forfeiture; create a standing committee on pretrial release and supervision; improve data and IT systems; improve judicial training; and educate the public on these issues.

Once these recommendations are implemented, Utah's courts will be better prepared to make decisions regarding pretrial release. To read the report, please visit the court's website at www.utcourts.gov/resources/reports.

Licensed Paralegal Practitioner: A New Approach to Legal Assistance

After several months of careful examination, the Utah Supreme Court has approved a recommendation that would allow qualified non-lawyers to practice law on a limited basis.

In May 2015, the Utah Supreme Court appointed the Limited Legal Licensing Task Force to study the Supreme Court rules governing the practice of law and consider whether to permit qualified non-lawyers to perform limited law-related services. The task force began by looking at several areas in District Court where a large number of cases are being handled by self-represented litigants, such as debt collection, eviction and family law cases. The task force then looked at the steps needed to resolve disputes in these practice areas and whether or not a qualified paraprofessional could provide the legal services necessary to complete these steps.

In November 2015, the task force recommended that the Utah Supreme Court create a subset of legal services that a licensed paralegal practitioner can provide in debt collection, eviction and family law cases. Within these practice areas, a paralegal practitioner will be able to do the following: establish a contractual relationship with a client who is not represented by a lawyer; conduct client interviews; complete

court-approved forms; advise which form to use and how to complete the form; sign, file and serve the form; obtain, explain and file any necessary supporting documents; represent a client in mediated negotiations; prepare a written settlement agreement in conformity with the mediated agreement; and advise how a court order affects the client's rights and obligations.

The minimum education recommended for a paralegal practitioner is an associate's degree with a paralegal or legal assistance certificate from a program approved by the American Bar Association. In addition, the practitioner would need to complete paralegal certification through the National Association of Legal Assistants Certified Paralegal/Legal Assistant exam; complete a course of instruction for a practice area; and acquire practical experience working as a paralegal under the supervision of a lawyer or through internships, clinics or other means.

The task force has recommended that licensing and regulation of paralegal practitioners be administered by the Utah State Bar. This new approach to legal assistance will provide self-represented parties the legal services desired at a reasonable price.



Indigent Representation Study

In 2011, the Utah Judicial Council commissioned a task force to study Utah's indigent criminal defense system. Members of the task force included public and private defense attorneys, prosecutors and representatives of the Utah Association of Counties, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, district and appellate judges, legislators and other stakeholders from around the state.

The study took four years to complete, primarily due to the complexity of the issue and because of the need for outside assistance. Early in the process a grant request was submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance to help gather and organize information about

the practices in Utah to procure and provide indigent defense services. The grant request highlighted a need for comprehensive data. No two Utah counties use exactly the same method to fulfill their obligation to provide lawyers for indigent defendants, and the cities and towns are equally disparate.

The committee and a technical assistance provider identified 10 representative Utah counties in which to conduct site visits, review contracts and interview stakeholders. The data, collected for more than a year, confirmed many assumptions and served as a basis from which conclusions could be drawn and recommendations made.

The task force was mindful of the great diversity of resources and needs in the state, and the recommendations reflect that sensitivity. Nonetheless there were common findings across the state, in rural and urban counties and municipalities. These findings led to a short list of important recommendations for change.

Perhaps the most important finding was that there is no common way of selecting, appointing, paying for or overseeing defense counsel. This, coupled with the lack of data, led to the task force recommendation that a statewide commission be created to set data collection standards, to compile the data, to monitor the appointment of counsel and to monitor counsel's performance. This legislatively-created commission would also spur future adjustments in the appointment and monitoring processes.

Many of the structural problems found were tied to the contracting process used by local government, so a recommendation was made to reform and standardize the terms of these contracts. These contracts will define the relationship not only between defense attorneys and the government, but also between the attorney and their client.

Similarly, in misdemeanor cases particularly, disincentives exist that inhibit the ability of a judge to appoint

counsel, and even if appointed, the lawyer's performance is often influenced by the financial considerations and the contractual relationship. Another confounding factor in misdemeanor cases is the mismatch between the Sixth Amendment right to counsel and the interest of defendants to complete simple matters quickly. This mismatch is largely the result of Utah's offense categorization. For example, a simple speeding ticket, by virtue of the fact that jail is a possibility, triggers many of the representation shortfalls found by the task force.

As officers of the court, all judges, prosecutors, and defense counsel need to be reminded of the law relative to defendant's Sixth Amendment rights. The judicial component of that training was implemented in 2015.

Utah's judiciary is not afraid to tackle difficult topics and the Council seeks issues of systemic, if not constitutional dimensions, to study. Judges don't decide policy, but they can and should convene partners to develop consensus about issues that would not otherwise be studied in a collaborative way. Our justice system—in its broadest sense—is better for these initiatives, and the consensus that emerges.



Justice Reinvestment Initiative

When legislators began holding hearings about plans to move the state prison in 2013, a larger issue began to emerge about the offenders who inhabit the prison cells. Legislators started to look at the number and type of inmates that comprise the prison population and to ask whether incarceration was the best option for all of them.

The questions led to a grant application to the Pew Charitable Trust to study the choices made by Utah's criminal justice system. The result was a nine-month study of Utah's criminal statutes, prosecution, the courts and probation and parole systems.

The study—known as the Justice Reinvestment Initiative or JRI— included representatives of those involved in these areas as well as defense counsel, treatment providers, various advocacy groups and others. In the end, a consensus emerged about how to proceed and House Bill 348 was introduced during the 2015 legislative session.

The consensus was threefold. The first recommendation was to pay attention to the research regarding what works, what doesn't and, perhaps more importantly, what makes things worse, for example increases crime. What the research revealed is that judges and

others need to sentence, supervise and treat the offender, not the offense. Offenders need to be assessed with validated assessment tools in order to find out how to treat, supervise and sentence them. Only then can an offender's needs be addressed in a more targeted and effective way.

The second recommendation was to modify some of the criminal penalties and sentencing and supervision strategies. For example, basic behavior modification theory dictates that how an offender is rewarded for complying with supervision conditions and punished for non-compliance makes a substantial difference in the effectiveness of the supervision.

The Utah Sentencing Commission has developed a comprehensive matrix of positive and negative responses to different types of compliant and non-compliant behavior. That matrix provides guidance to judges and probation officers about how to respond to a probationer's behavior.

The final recommendation addresses individuals who need behavioral health treatment for substance abuse

or mental health issues. This treatment also should be based on what research indicates works, doesn't work or does harm. The Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health is developing certification standards and a process for certifying programs and providers to ensure that behavioral health treatment is effective. Judges will have a list of certified programs to which they can refer defendants and have confidence that the providers are competent and the programs effective.

These recommendations and resultant changes are significant. The first step in implementing the recommendations is training, which is underway. Built into the JRI process is data collection and an evaluation mechanism with the hope that in time will show proof of the program's success.

The changes are broad and deep and every aspect of the criminal justice system must adapt in order to reduce crime and save public resources. The courts have played and will continue to play a central role in these changes.



Court Users Report High Level of Satisfaction

Utahns reported a high level of satisfaction with access and fairness in the state's courts, according to results from a survey conducted during the summer of 2015.

The Access and Fairness Survey measured court users' views in 20 areas, including business hours, time needed to finish court business, treatment by court staff, disability accommodations, language barriers, courthouse safety, the courtroom experience and ease of parking.

Survey results have been consistently positive each of the six times the survey has been conducted since 2006. Ninety percent or more of survey participants

rank Utah's courts adequate or better in all but one category. The category that fell below 90 percent was whether both sides at the hearing were treated the same. Eighty-nine percent of those surveyed responded positively to that question.

The Access and Fairness Survey is conducted biennially in each of the state's 38 district and juvenile courthouses for one full court day. People are asked to take the survey as they leave the courthouse, including attorneys, jurors, law enforcement, litigants and their families and friends, paralegals, social service agency staff, victims and witnesses.

Survey results for all years are available on the Utah State Courts' website at www.utcourts.gov.



eFiling Arrives in Juvenile Court

The Utah State Courts have added a new eFiling component to the mix. As of Dec. 1, 2015, Utah's juvenile courts began eFiling documents in existing cases. Utah district courts began to implement eFiling in civil cases in 2011, and completed eFiling for all case types Dec. 31, 2014.

eFiling in Juvenile Court is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 began September 2015 and involved programming the Court, Agency, Record Exchange—known as C.A.R.E.—to test eFiling documents in existing cases. After a successful run, mandatory eFiling in existing cases was launched on Dec. 1, 2015. The second phase addresses C.A.R.E. programming to test eFiling documents in new cases, which begins June 2016 and becomes

mandatory Aug. 1, 2016. The final phase will be eFiling for self-represented litigants.

The advantages to eFiling include added convenience and efficiency. When attorneys or parties eFile documents, the process is quick and provides less chance for error. In addition, eFiling gives attorneys access to view all documents filed in their case via C.A.R.E. Unlike District Court eFiling, which utilizes private electronic filing service providers, Juvenile Court eFiling is programmed into C.A.R.E.

Utah's court system has been implementing e-business solutions for the past six years. The court's "e" portfolio also includes e-warrants and e-payments.

Navigating the Court System

Utah Supreme Court

Five Justices: 10-year terms

The Supreme Court is the “court of last resort” in Utah. It hears appeals from capital and first-degree felony cases and all District Court civil cases other than domestic relations cases. The Supreme Court also has jurisdiction over judgments of the Court of Appeals, proceedings of the Judicial Conduct Commission, lawyer discipline and constitutional and election questions.

Court of Appeals

Seven Judges: 6-year terms

The Court of Appeals hears all appeals from the juvenile courts and those from the district courts involving domestic relations and criminal matters of less than a first-degree felony. It also may hear any cases transferred to it by the Supreme Court.

Juvenile Court

Thirty Judges: 6-years terms. 1.5 Court Commissioners

Juvenile Court is the state court with jurisdiction over youth under 18 years of age who violate a state or municipal law. The Juvenile Court also has jurisdiction in all cases involving a child who is abused, neglected or dependent.

District Court

Seventy-one Judges: 6-years terms. 10.5 Court Commissioners

District Court is the state trial court of general jurisdiction. Among the cases it hears are: civil cases, domestic relations cases, probate cases, criminal cases, small claims cases and appeals from justice courts.

Justice Court

Ninety-eight Judges: 4-year terms

Located throughout Utah, justice courts are locally-funded and operated courts. Justice Court cases include misdemeanor criminal cases, traffic and parking infractions and small claims cases.



Court Governance and Administration

Utah Judicial Council

The Utah Judicial Council is established in the Utah Constitution and directs the activities of all Utah courts. The Judicial Council is responsible for adopting uniform rules for the administration of all courts in the state, setting standards for judicial performance, and overseeing court facilities, support services, and judicial and nonjudicial personnel. The Judicial Council holds monthly meetings, typically at the Scott M. Matheson Courthouse in Salt Lake City. These meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations of Judicial Council meetings are available at www.utcourts.gov/admin/judcncl/sched.htm.

Utah Judicial Council

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, chair, Utah Supreme Court
Judge Randall N. Skanchy, vice chair, Third District Court
Judge Marvin D. Bagley, Seventh District Court
Judge Ann Boyden, Third District Court
Judge Mark R. DeCaria, Second District Court
Judge Paul Farr, Sandy City Justice Court
Judge Thomas M. Higbee, Fifth District Court
Justice Thomas R. Lee, Utah Supreme Court
Judge David C. Marx, Logan and Hyde Park Justice Courts
Judge David N. Mortensen, Fourth District Court
Judge Mary T. Noonan, Fourth District Juvenile Court
Judge Reed S. Parkin, Orem City Justice Court
Judge Kate A. Toomey, Court of Appeals
John Lund, Esq., Utah State Bar
Daniel J. Becker, secretariat, State Court Administrator

Utah State Courts Boards of Judges

The Utah State Courts has four boards of judges representing each court level that meet monthly. The boards propose court rules, serve as liaison between local courts and the Judicial Council, and plan budget and legislative priorities.

Board of Appellate Court Judges

Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant, chair, Utah Supreme Court
Judge Michele M. Christiansen, Utah Court of Appeals
Justice Christine M. Durham, Utah Supreme Court
Justice Deno Himonas, Utah Supreme Court
Justice Thomas R. Lee, Utah Supreme Court
Judge Gregory K. Orme, Utah Court of Appeals
Judge John A. Pearce, Utah Court of Appeals
Judge Stephen L. Roth, Utah Court of Appeals
Judge Kate Toomey, Utah Court of Appeals
Judge J. Frederic Voros, Jr., Utah Court of Appeals
Tim Shea, board staff, Appellate Court Administrator

Board of District Court Judges

Judge Noel S. Hyde, chair, Second District Court
Judge Kevin K. Allen, First District Court
Judge Lyle R. Anderson, Seventh District Court
Judge Robert J. Dale, Second District Court
Judge Mark S. Kouris, Third District Court
Judge Bruce C. Lubeck, Third District Court
Judge Eric Ludlow, Fifth District Court
Judge Derek Pullan, Fourth District Court
Judge Andrew H. Stone, Third District Court
Judge James R. Taylor, Fourth District Court
Debra Moore, board staff, District Court Administrator

Board of Juvenile Court Judges

Judge Paul D. Lyman, chair, Sixth District Court
Judge Michelle E. Heward, Second District Juvenile Court
Judge Scott N. Johansen, Seventh District Juvenile Court
Judge Elizabeth A. Lindsley, Third District Juvenile Court
Judge Mark W. May, Third District Juvenile Court
Judge Sharon S. Sipes, Second District Juvenile Court
Judge Rick Smith, Fourth District Court
Dawn Marie Rubio, board staff, Juvenile Court Administrator

Board of Justice Court Judges

Judge Reuben J. Renstrom, chair, Harrisville City, Riverdale City,
South Ogden City, South Weber City, and Woods Cross City Justice Courts
Judge Brent Bullock, Lindon and Pleasant Grove Justice Courts
Judge Paul Farr, Herriman, Lehi, and Sandy City Justice Courts
Judge Augustus Chin, Holladay Justice Court
Judge David Marx, Logan and Hyde Park Justice Courts, Judicial
Council Representative
Judge Brendan P. McCullagh, West Valley City Justice Court
Judge Douglas Nielson, Lehi Justice Court
Judge Reed S. Parkin, Orem City Justice Court, Judicial Council Representative
Judge Catherine E. Roberts, Salt Lake City Justice Court
Judge Vernon F. Romney, Provo Justice Court
Richard Schwermer, board staff, Assistant State Court Administrator

Presiding Judges

The presiding judge is elected by a majority vote of judges from the district and is responsible for effective court operation. The presiding judge implements and enforces rules, policies, and directives of the Judicial Council and often schedules calendars and case assignments. The presiding judge works as part of a management team in the district, which includes the trial court executive and clerk of court.

Presiding Judges

Utah Supreme Court-Chief Justice Matthew B. Durrant
Court of Appeals-Judge J. Frederic Voros, Jr.
First District Court-Judge Thomas L. Willmore
First District Juvenile Court-Jeffrey “R” Burbank
Second District Court-Judge John R. Morris
Second District Juvenile Court-Judge Jeffrey Noland
Third District Court-Judge Randall Skanchy
Third District Juvenile Court-Judge Mark May
Fourth District Court-Judge David N. Mortensen
Fourth District Juvenile Court-Judge Suchada P. Bazzelle
Fifth District Court-Judge John Walton
Fifth District Juvenile Court-Judge Thomas M. Higbee
Sixth District Court-Judge Wallace A. Lee
Sixth District Juvenile Court-Judge Paul D. Lyman
Seventh District Court-Judge George Harmond
Seventh District Juvenile Court-Judge Mary L. Manley
Eighth District Court-Judge Edwin T. Peterson
Eighth District Juvenile Court-Judge Ryan Evershed

Court Executives

The Utah State Court's trial court executives are responsible for day-to-day supervision of non-judicial administration of the courts. Duties include hiring and supervising staff, developing and managing a budget, managing facilities, managing court calendars, and developing and managing court security plans.

Appellate Courts-Tim Shea
First District and Juvenile Courts-Corrie Keller
Second District Court-Sylvester Daniels
Second District Juvenile Court-Travis Erickson
Third District Court-Peyton Smith
Third District Juvenile Court-Neira Siaperas
Fourth District Court-Shane Bahr
Fourth District Juvenile Court-James Peters
Fifth District and Juvenile Courts-Rick Davis
Sixth District and Juvenile Courts-Wendell Roberts
Seventh District and Juvenile Courts-Terri Yelonek
Eighth District and Juvenile Courts-Russell Pearson

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts is responsible for organizing and administering all of the non-judicial offices of the Utah State Courts. Activities include implementing the standards, policies and rules established by the Utah Judicial Council. The Court Administrator Act provides for the appointment of a State Court Administrator with duties and responsibilities outlined in the Utah Code. Appellate, district, juvenile, and justice court administrators and local court executives assist State Court Administrator Daniel J. Becker in performing these duties and responsibilities. Also assisting the state court administrator are personnel in finance, human resources, internal audit, judicial education, law, planning, public information, rules, and technology. Mediators, Office of the Guardian ad Litem, a District Court capital case staff attorney, and two Juvenile Court law clerks are also based in the Administrative Office of the Courts.

For more information on Utah's State Court System, go to www.utcourts.gov.



Awards and Honors

Honorable Lyle R. Anderson,

Seventh District Court, 2015
Judicial Excellence Award, Utah
State Bar

David Cooley, Judicial Assistant, First
District Court, 2015 *Meritorious
Service Award*, Utah Judicial
Council

Spencer W. Cottle, Deputy Probation
Supervisor, Fourth District Court,
2015 *Meritorious Service Award*,
Utah Judicial Council

Honorable James Z. Davis, Court of
Appeals, *Lifetime Service Award*,
Utah State Bar

Le Davis, Judicial Case Manager,
Fourth District Juvenile Court, 2015
Meritorious Service Award, Utah
Judicial Council

Honorable Glen R. Dawson, Second
District Court, 2015 *Judicial
Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Honorable Christine Decker (ret.),

Third District Juvenile Court,
Woman Lawyer of the Year Award,
Women Lawyers of Utah and the
Scott M. Matheson Award, from
the Troubled Youth Conference
Nominating Committee

Brett Folkman, Supervisor, First
District Juvenile Court, 2015
Meritorious Service Award, Utah
Judicial Council

Ron Gordon, Executive Director,
Commission on Criminal & Juvenile
Justice, 2015 *Amicus Curiae Award*,
Utah Judicial Council

Janell Hall, Probation Officer III,
Eighth District Juvenile Court, 2015
Meritorious Service Award, Utah
Judicial Council

Honorable Royal I. Hansen, Third
District Court, 2015 *Judicial
Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar



Wendy Jones, Accounting Manager,
Third District Court, *2015
Meritorious Service Award*, Utah
Judicial Council

Honorable Thomas L. Kay, Second
District Court, *2015 Judicial
Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Corrie Keller, First Judicial District
Trial Court Executive, *2015 Judicial
Administration Award*, Utah
Judicial Council

Honorable Claudia Laycock, Fourth
District Court, *2015 Judge of the
Year Award*, Utah State Bar

Honorable Andrea W. Lockwood,
Ogden City Justice Court, *2015
Quality of Justice Award*, Utah
Judicial Council; *2015 Justice Court
Service Award*, Justice Court Board

Honorable David Mortensen, Fourth
District Court, *2015 Judicial
Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Michele Mattsson, Chief Appellate
Mediator, Utah Court of Appeals,
2015 Peacekeeper Award, Utah
Council on Conflict Resolution

Ellen Peterson, Case Manager, Third
District Court, *2015 Meritorious
Service Award*, Utah Judicial
Council

Provo City Justice Court, *2015 Justice
Court of the Year Award*, Justice
Court Board

Honorable Derek P. Pullan, Fourth
District Court, *2015 Judicial
Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Honorable Tupakk Renteria, Third
District Juvenile Court, *Outstanding
Mentor Award*, Utah State Bar

Nini Rich, ADR Director,
Administrative Office of the Courts,
2015 Peacekeeper Award, Utah
Council on Conflict Resolution

Julie Rigby, Team Manager, Third District Court, *2015 Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable John Sandberg, Clinton and Clearfield Justice Courts, *Lifetime Achievement Award*, Justice Court Board

Honorable Todd M. Shaughnessy, Third District Court, *2015 Judicial Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Kapiolani Smith, Judicial Services Manager, Third District Court, *2015 Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Charles A. Stormont, J.D. Lyons, and the Debt Collection Calendar Pro Bono Team, *2015 Service to the Courts Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Third District Nominating

Commission, Jill Brown, Jim Gowans, Andrea Martinez Griffin, David Hall, Peter Stirba, Peggy Stone and Deirdre Straight, *2015 Service to the Courts Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Libby Wadley, Online Training Program Specialist, Administrative Office of the Courts, *2015 Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Mary Westby, Central Staff Attorney, Utah Court of Appeals, *2015 Meritorious Service Award*, Utah Judicial Council

Honorable G. Michael Westfall, Fourth District Court, *2015 Judicial Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Honorable Thomas L. Willmore, First District Court, *2015 Judicial Excellence Award*, Utah State Bar

Judges Who Retired From the Bench in 2015

Judge James Z. Davis,
Utah Court of Appeals

Honorable Christine Decker, 3rd
District Juvenile Court

Honorable Ronald E. Nehring,
Utah Supreme Court

In Memoriam

Honorable Karla Stahlei, retired,
Fifth District Juvenile Court

Honorable Garry Sampson, retired,
Lehi Justice Court

Commissioner Michael Evans, retired,
Third District Court

Craig Ludwig, Clerk of Court,
Third Judicial District

Court Assistance is a Call, Email or Text Away

The Self-Help Center is a free service of the Utah State Courts that helps people understand their legal rights and responsibilities and helps them resolve legal problems on their own if they cannot afford a lawyer or choose not to hire one.

The Self-Help Center is a virtual center that provides services through a toll-free telephone helpline, email, text and the court's website. The center's staff speaks English and Spanish and is able to access court interpreters if someone speaks another language. The center helps people with cases at all court levels—justice, juvenile, district and appellate—and responds to questions about all legal issues. In FY2015, the center responded to more than 18,000 inquiries.

Self-Help Center staff attorneys provide the following services:

- Information about the law and court process
- Court forms and instructions and assistance completing forms
- Information about an individual court case
- Information about mediation services, legal advice and representation through pro bono and low cost legal services, legal aid programs and lawyer referral services
- Information about resources provided by law libraries and government agencies
- Presentations to the public and court staff on court self-help resources and how to navigate the justice system

**For more information, go to www.utcourts.gov
and click the link for Self-Help Center.**

Court Facility Update

Utah operates 41 courthouses throughout the state from Brigham City to Monticello. Ensuring that these facilities meet the needs of an ever-changing population is paramount to providing Utah citizens access to justice.

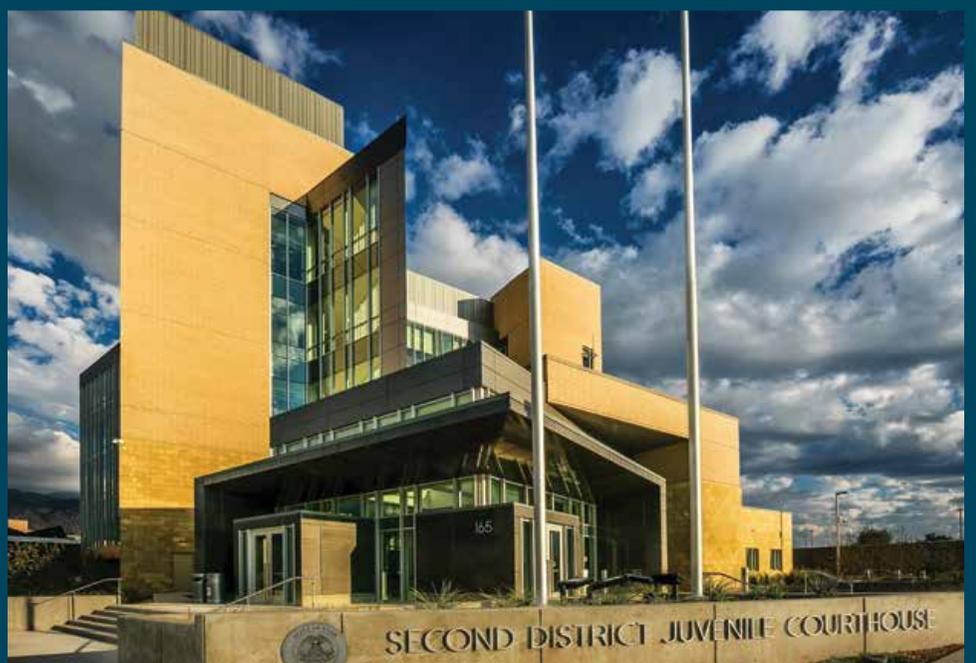
Plans to construct a new 4th District Provo Courthouse are underway to replace three facilities that are outdated and no longer provide adequate security or meet ADA guidelines. In 2015, the Legislature funded the design and construction of a new courthouse with groundbreaking anticipated spring of 2016.

The new 210,000 sq. ft. facility will have 16 courtrooms, secure prisoner holding and transport areas, Guardian Ad Litem offices, Juvenile Probation offices, secure

employee and judicial work areas, mediation conference rooms and a secure public entrance and waiting areas. The \$80,000,000 facility will consolidate the Orem and Provo juvenile courthouses as well as the Provo District Courthouse.

The building is scheduled to open summer of 2018. Patrons of the new courthouses can rest easy knowing their safety and security are well protected.

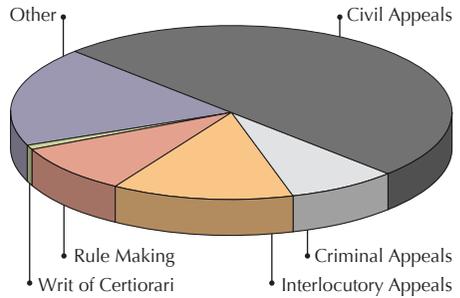




2015 Court Caseload

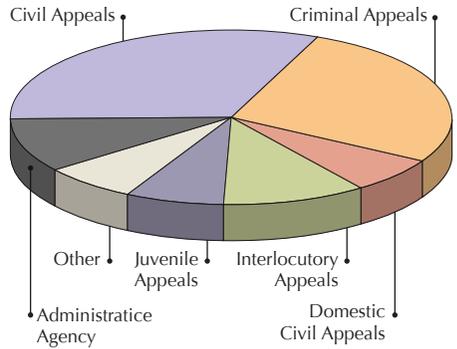
FY 2015 Supreme Court Filings

Civil Appeals	304
Criminal Appeals	50
Interlocutory Appeals	81
Other	56
Rule Making	5
Writ of Certiorari	112
Total Filings	608
- Transferred to Court of Appeals	484
- Retained for decision.	124
Total FY 15 Dispositions.	231



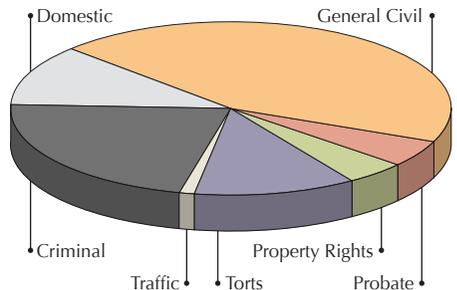
FY 2015 Court of Appeals Filings (Including Transfers from Supreme Court)

Administrative Agency	103
Civil Appeals	323
Criminal Appeals	274
Domestic Civil Appeals	69
Interlocutory Appeals	108
Juvenile Appeals	74
Other	69
Total Filings	1,020
Total FY 15 Dispositions.	889



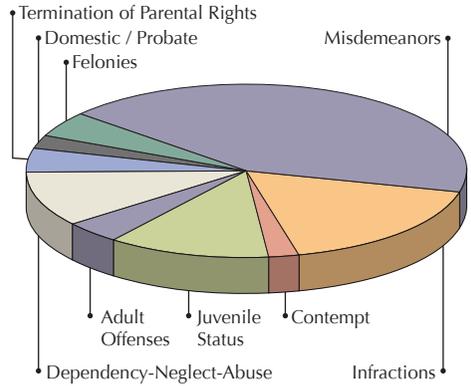
FY 2015 District Court Filings and Dispositions

	Filings	Dispositions
Criminal	39,639	38,102
Domestic	20,701	20,377
General Civil	79,604	84,068
Probate	9,208	9,303
Property Rights	8,200	7,930
Torts	21,225	21,768
Traffic	1,973	1,935
Total Filings	180,550	183,483



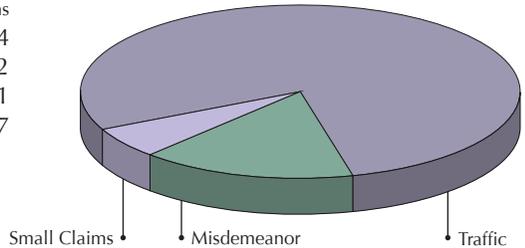
FY 2015 Juvenile Court Referrals

	Referrals
Felonies	1,662
Misdemeanors	14,908
Contempt	6,026
Infractions	791
Juvenile Status	4,197
Adult Offenses	1,399
Dependency-Neglect-Abuse	3,602
Termination of Parental Rights	1,599
Domestic / Probate	823
Total	35,007
Total FY15 Disposition Clearance Rate . 96%	



FY 2015 Justice Court Filings and Dispositions

	Filings	Dispositions
Misdemeanor	72,835	78,074
Small Claims	27,400	37,022
Traffic	359,387	384,401
Total	459,622	499,497



FY 2016 Annual Judicial Budget as Part of State of Utah Budget

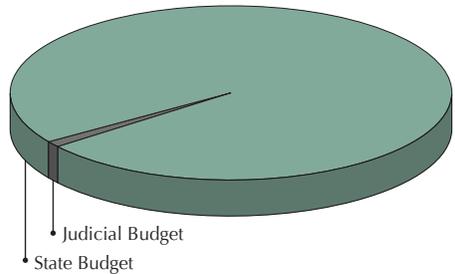
All Funds

Including General Funds & Federal Funds

Judicial Budget \$151,433,000
appropriated FY 2016 budget

State Budget \$16,457,859,000
appropriated FY 2016 budget

Total State Budget \$16,609,292,000

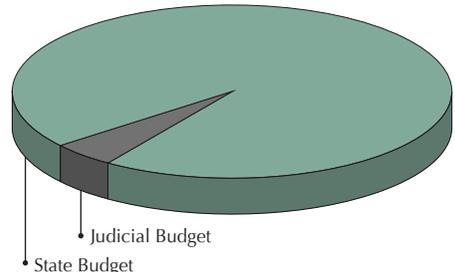


General Funds Only

Judicial Budget \$123,648,000
appropriated FY 2016 budget

State Budget \$2,361,535,000
appropriated FY 2016 budget

Total State General Funds \$2,485,183,000



Source: Budget of the State of Utah, FY 2015-2016; Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

450 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114