

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

P.O. BOX 315

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62705

TELEPHONE (217) 492-4020



JOHN M. WATERS
CLERK OF COURT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 20, 1995

TO: Abel Mattos, AO
Donna Stienstra, FJC
Honorable Richard Posner
Chief Judge 7th Circuit

FROM: John M. Waters, Clerk
Central District of Illinois

RE: CJRA Annual Assessment

Enclosed is the Annual Report of the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory
Committee for the Central District of Illinois dated December 1, 1995.

ADMINISTRATIVE
DIVISION
OF THE CLERK
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS
62705

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**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM ACT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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#15

Box #6

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
DECEMBER 1, 1995**

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I. INTRODUCTION

In December of 1993, the judges of the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois implemented a Plan for the Reduction of Expenses and Delay in Civil Litigation as directed by the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. Section 471, et. seq. The Act further requires the court to assess annually the condition of the court's docket with a view to determining further remedial action to reduce cost and delay in civil litigation. To facilitate this annual assessment, our District's Plan directs this District's Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Committee to annually review the docket and the Plan itself and report to the court by December 1 of each year. This annual report of 1995 is submitted by the Advisory Committee in accordance with the directives of the Act and this District's Plan.

It is significant that this report is submitted by a newly comprised Advisory Committee. The Committee recognizes that its predecessors on the initial Advisory Committee undertook two years of study and effort which culminated in the submission of an extensive report in September of 1993 and which ultimately led to the court's Plan of 1993. The present Committee felt no need to undertake such an in-depth study of the current status of the District's case docket. It was generally believed that such an effort at this time was unnecessary due to the recent extensive work by our predecessors and because of the even more recent implementation of the court's Plan. However, the present Committee has carefully considered and applied the results of the work of our predecessors without the need to duplicate their efforts.

In formulating this annual report; the newly constituted Advisory Committee met as a whole on several occasions and exchanged information with reference to the issues addressed in this report. In addition, the Committee divided into subcommittees to address specific issues and these subcommittees met on additional occasions. The subcommittees included consideration of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, the application of the new federal discovery rules in our District, subjective information gained from the judges in the District as well as lawyers practicing in the federal courts, and statistical analysis and general review of issues with reference to cases pending in our court.

Finally, the Committee recognizes that this annual report is an interim report. In accordance with the Act and this court's Plan, similar analyses and reports will be submitted for the next two years. The Committee members look forward to continuing service on the Committee and undertaking such review and openly solicit comments of any kind from interested parties.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE COURT

A. Statistical Analysis

The Advisory Committee has thoroughly reviewed the statistics with reference to the cases pending in the Central District of Illinois. This analysis included consideration of the status of these cases in September of 1993 when the original Advisory Committee report was submitted and changes in the status of these cases since that time. The Committee considered information provided by

our Clerk's Office and the 1995 Statistical Supplement for CJRA Advisory Groups dated October 25, 1995 from the Federal Judicial Center. Charts and graphs reflecting the exact status of civil cases during the time since the last Committee's report are included with this report as Appendix I. It is noted that in Appendix I, the summary sheet from the Clerk's Office reflects the numerical standing of our District relative to the other districts in the United States and the other districts within our Circuit on the criteria presented.

As the charts and graphs detail, our District has consistently had a substantial number of civil cases filed each year. The largest number of cases filed each year are prisoner petitions, followed by tort and civil rights cases.

The statistics for statistical years 1993, 1994 and 1995 (through 6/5/95) indicate that 50% of the civil cases filed were disposed of within the first six months of filing and another 14% were closed within 12 months of filing. Thus, approximately two-thirds of the cases filed are disposed of within the first year. This finding is almost identical to the disposition of cases found in 1993.

The Committee is not unduly concerned about those cases which remain pending for longer than one year. Obviously, many of these cases are complex cases which are not subject to resolution on a more expedited basis. The Committee does not believe that there is any inherent problem with the Court or its personnel or procedures which is causing undue delays in these cases. In fact, the Committee specifically notes that the statistics as of September 30, 1995 show that there are 121 cases which have been pending for three or more years, which

amount to approximately 10% of the pending cases. However, 51 of these cases are administratively consolidated prisoner civil rights cases resulting from a single incident at the Pontiac Correctional Center in 1991. These cases have been stayed pending a decision in a lead case which is likely to be resolved in the upcoming year. These cases demonstrate that even the statistics may not accurately depict the true status of pending cases.

The Committee also notes that civil motions are being resolved in an expedited manner. The vast majority of such motions are resolved within 60 days of being at issue in accordance with the goal established in the court's Plan. There has been a substantial reduction in the number of motions pending for over six months since the implementation of the court's Plan.

B. Court Status

In analyzing the current status of the docket in the Central District of Illinois, the Committee has specifically considered the availability of judges and magistrate judges. First, the Advisory Committee report of 1993 and the Court's Plan both recognized the need for an additional magistrate judge to serve the Danville/Urbana Division of the District. Judge David Bernthal assumed this position in May of 1995. From all reports, he is focusing on pre-trial aspects of cases pending in the Division and is continuing to facilitate disposition or trial of these cases. However, the impact of this new magistrate judge on the cases pending in that Division is not yet known because the statistical analysis which was undertaken was done relatively

shortly after Judge Bernthal took office. From all reports, however, the Committee is advised that Judge Bernthal will be an integral part of the civil justice process as anticipated by the report of the Advisory Committee and Court's Plan.

The Advisory Committee also specifically recognizes that Judge Harold Baker has continued to work diligently on cases pending in the Danville/Urbana Division notwithstanding the fact that he has now taken Senior Status. Only through Judge Baker's continued efforts has the Court been able to continue to resolve both civil and criminal cases in the Danville/Urbana Division. Had Judge Baker played a less active role, clearly there would have been additional delays and problems in resolving cases in that Division. The Committee recognizes that the new judge for this vacancy has been nominated by the White House and the name has been submitted to Congress. As indicated in the 1993 report of the Advisory Committee and the Plan of the Court, it is again reiterated and requested that Congress fill this judicial vacancy as quickly as possible. Only through the filling of this vacancy as soon as possible will the Court be able to continue to resolve the pending cases in the Danville/Champaign Division in a timely manner.

It is also noted that the success in controlling the pending cases in this District is attributable to the work of the judges and magistrate judges. For example, we recognize that there are now two United States district judges and a United States magistrate judge to handle cases in the Peoria and Rock Island Divisions. The appointment of Magistrate Judge Bernthal in Danville/Urbana has allowed Magistrate Judge Robert Kauffman to attend to cases in Peoria and Rock

Island exclusively. The continued efforts of Chief Judge Michael Mihm and Judge Joe B. McDade are needed to control the Peoria and Rock Island Division dockets. Similarly, United States District Judge Richard Mills and Magistrate Judge Charles Evans in the Springfield Division have worked diligently to retain control of the Springfield Division docket.

In sum, the Advisory Committee specifically believes that in order for our District to continue to successfully address the needs of the civil justice system in our District, it is important that we have the full complement of judges and magistrate judges available.

C. Impact of Criminal Docket

In evaluating the current status of civil cases in our District, the Advisory Committee has also specifically noted a substantial increase in the criminal defendant filings over the last year. The Committee expects this trend of increased criminal filings will continue into the future. The obvious question is what impact these criminal filings will have upon the civil docket in light of the fact that, under the Speedy Trial Act, criminal trials take precedence over civil trials.

First, it must be noted that while the number of criminal filings has increased over the last year, the number of criminal trials and the number of criminal trials as a percentage of the total trials have continued to decline, although at a lesser rate than previously. Thus, the number of criminal filings has not manifested itself in a similar number of criminal trials. However, the Advisory Committee anticipates that,

in light of the increased and expected continued increase of criminal filings, there will be more demands on the Court's time for criminal trials. If this prediction proves true, there will obviously be a negative impact on the Court's ability to resolve civil cases.

The Advisory Committee will continue to monitor the impact of the criminal docket on the resolution of civil cases in our District. This is, as stated above, another reason why we must insure that all steps possible are taken to insure that we have the full complement of judges and magistrate judges available to us to address both civil and criminal cases in our District.

D. Pre-Trial Scheduling and Motions

Pursuant to the recommendations of the 1993 report of the Advisory Committee which were adopted in this Court's Plan in 1993, there were several changes made in the Court's local rules governing matters to be addressed at the initial pre-trial scheduling conference and the procedure for motions involving discovery. Specifically, at the initial pre-trial scheduling conference, the magistrate judges now discuss with the parties deadlines relating to the amendment of pleadings, the joining of additional parties, the disclosure of expert witnesses, the completion of discovery, and the filing of dispositive motions. In addition, the local rules were changed to include the provision that emergency oral motions involving discovery could be entertained by telephone conference at the discretion of the presiding judge.

These changes in the local rules took effect on January 31, 1995. The comments received by the committee members from the judiciary and attorneys indicate that there has been no problem with the implementation of these changes. The attorneys and judges are confident that these specific changes have increased the efficiency in the pre-trial proceedings and motion process, but it is too early to reach any overall conclusions about the effectiveness of these changes.

II. RULE 26 DISCOVERY/DISCLOSURE

The Central District of Illinois has adopted the provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 to control the initial stages of discovery/disclosure in all cases filed on or after January 1, 1994. The parties may not agree to opt out of the provisions of Rule 26. Our local rules also specifically provide that the attorneys shall comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f) before the date set for the initial scheduling conference and shall file a proposed discovery plan in accordance with that rule.

The attorneys and judges have advised the Committee that generally lawyers are making a good faith effort to comply with the provisions of Rule 26. For example, the magistrate judges report that the attorneys have conferred and complied with the provisions of Rule 26 prior to the first scheduling conference in a majority of cases. Generally, it is noted that the in-district attorneys are aware of the applicability of this rule, due in part to educational efforts at the time of implementation of the rule, and have complied with the rule. In many cases where

the parties have not complied by the time of the first scheduling conference, one or more of the attorneys are from out of the district and are not aware of the applicability of the rule. In this instance, the magistrate judges advise the attorneys of the applicability of Rule 26 and suggest that they meet to comply with the rule and reschedule the first scheduling conference.

Some of the attorneys contacted expressed anecdotal concern about the Rule 26 requirements of disclosing information and documents so early in the litigation. For example, some defense counsel specifically stated that in many instances, they were not aware of the facts and intricacies of their cases at such an early state and, therefore, could not identify relevant documents, information and witnesses in the early stages of the litigation as required by Rule 26. In other cases where the information was available, the attorneys felt like they were doing the work of the other attorneys by voluntarily disclosing the information. In still other cases, the requirements of Rule 26 were thought to be burdensome and it was anecdotally reported that in a limited number of cases, the requirements of this rule may actually have discouraged filing in federal court or removal of an action to federal court by the attorneys involved. It is noted, however, that the differences between the federal discovery rules and the Illinois discovery rules will be substantially diminished when the Illinois rules change effective January 1, 1996. At that time, any advantages or disadvantages as seen by the attorneys due to disparities in the discovery rules will be substantially reduced.

The Committee specifically notes that the local rules provide that certain cases may be exempted from the provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 by the presiding judge on a case-by-case basis. The judges in our district have specifically indicated that they remain flexible with reference to the application of Rule 26 and if there are instances where the rule should not be applied, they would consider exempting such cases from the applicability of the rule. Further, the judges have specifically indicated that they are willing to continue to review the application of Rule 26 to cases in our district and if there are certain provisions of the rule which do not work, those provisions could be changed or deleted pursuant to the local rules. However, the judges have indicated that the rule was adopted in totality partly in an effort to promote uniformity of the federal rules throughout the United States.

Notwithstanding the anecdotal evidence related to the Committee, the Advisory Committee believes that additional time is needed to evaluate the implementation and applicability of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 in this district. It is too early to tell whether or not the early discovery/disclosure requirements of this rule have reduced expense and delay in civil litigation and otherwise facilitated resolution of cases. The Advisory Committee will continue to monitor the impact of the implementation of Rule 26.

III. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In its 1993 report, the original Advisory Committee recommended that the Court implement an alternative dispute resolution program offering litigants several mediation and arbitration options. In the Plan adopted by the Court, the judges specifically found that the need for the ADR program in the District and an additional position in the Clerk's Office to coordinate these alternative dispute resolution programs had not been established. The Plan specifically directed the Advisory Committee to study the matter further and report back to the Court.

The current Advisory Committee has specifically evaluated the desirability of institutionalized alternative dispute resolution programs in our District. We find that there are a variety of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms readily available through private sources which are currently being utilized by litigants in appropriate cases. The use of such programs is encouraged by the Courts in cases where it is deemed appropriate. However, we find that our District is not suited for formal alternative dispute resolution techniques formulated or facilitated through the auspices of the Court or Clerk. The Committee does not believe that the cost in implementing any such system would be justified by any resultant reduction in cost and delay in civil litigation. The Committee does not believe that it is necessary to institutionalize those types of programs which are already available in the private market to assist litigants in resolving their cases.

In addition, it is specifically noted that magistrate judges are oftentimes involved in meaningful settlement conferences with litigants prior to the time of trial.

In many instances, the magistrate judges have proven effective in facilitating settlement between the parties during the pre-trial stages of litigation.

The Advisory Committee also notes, as indicated earlier in this report, that the cases are generally being handled expeditiously in our District. There is no need to implement an additional layer of administration to facilitate some formal alternative dispute resolution programs in order to avoid undue delays in the system. In fact, in some instances, the application of an alternative dispute resolution program may delay litigation.

Finally, it is noted that the judges and magistrate judges in our District remain willing to pursue summary jury trials in those cases where such trials may assist the litigants in resolving the dispute. However, there has not been a general willingness among litigants in this District to pursue these matters and, again, the imposition of summary jury trials upon litigants may actually result in additional costs and delays rather than reducing the costs and delay of civil litigation.

For these reasons, the Advisory Committee does not believe that alternative dispute resolution programs should be institutionalized in our District. The Committee does not believe that alternative dispute resolution programs would assist the Court or litigants in resolving their cases nor would it result in reduced costs and delays in resolving civil litigation. The Advisory Committee recommends that the current system of utilizing private alternative dispute resolution programs where they are deemed appropriate and of specifically involving magistrate judges

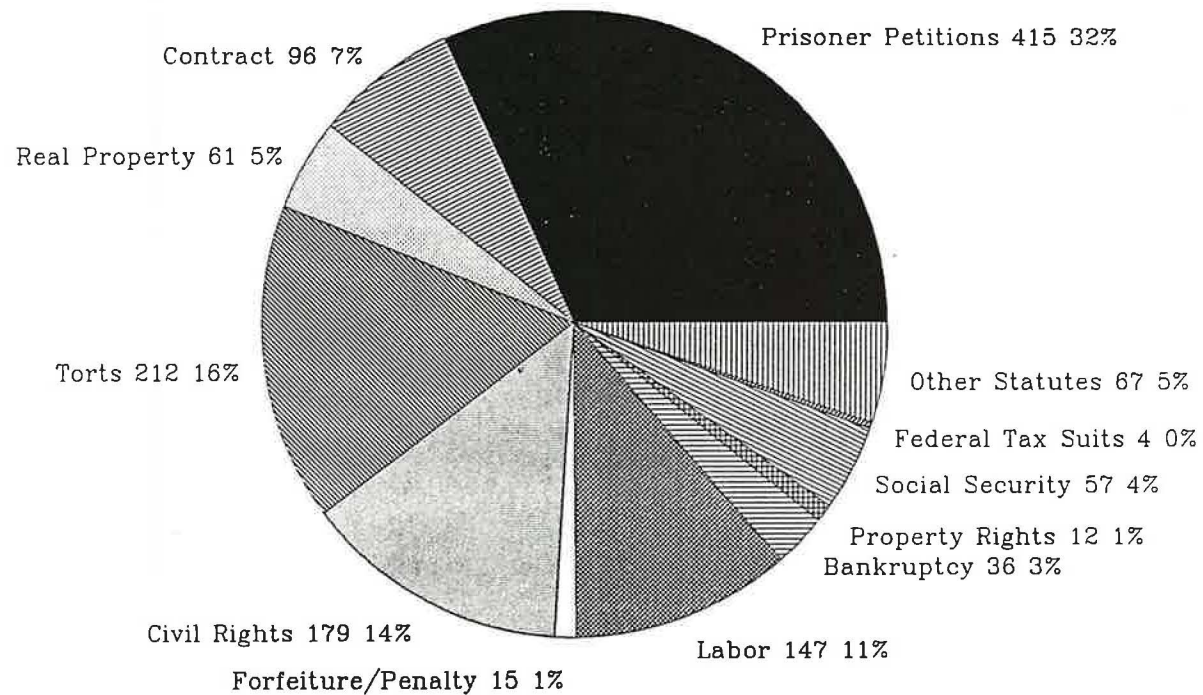
in evaluating settlement prospects and facilitating settlement negotiations continue to be utilized.

IV. SUMMARY

The Advisory Committee is pleased to report that an evaluation of the Court's docket in the Central District of Illinois does not demonstrate any problems with reference to the disposition of civil cases. While a substantial number of civil cases continues to be filed each year, the judges, magistrate judges and litigants are successfully resolving those cases in a timely fashion within the framework currently established in our district. The Committee believes that all of the judges and magistrate judges in the district are busy and are needed to continue to control the docket of pending cases. Further, the Committee specifically believes that the current judicial vacancy in the Danville/Urbana Division should be filled as soon as possible to insure that the docket remains under control.

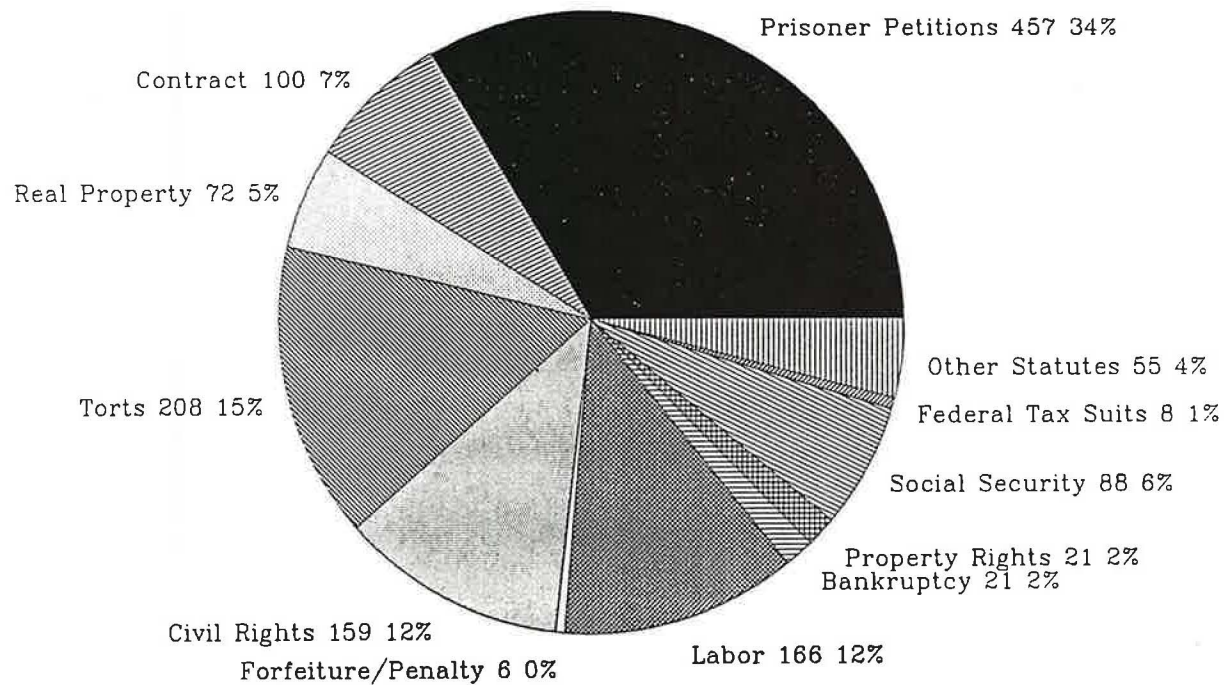
The Committee will continue to watch the impact of the discovery/disclosure requirements of Rule 26 and of other changes in 'the local rules' concerning pre-trial scheduling and motions to determine the impact of such changes on pending litigation. The Committee does not recommend implementation of a mandatory alternative dispute resolution mechanism within the Court system at this time.

Civil Cases Filed During SY93
District Totals by Natures of Suit
Total of 1301 Cases Filed



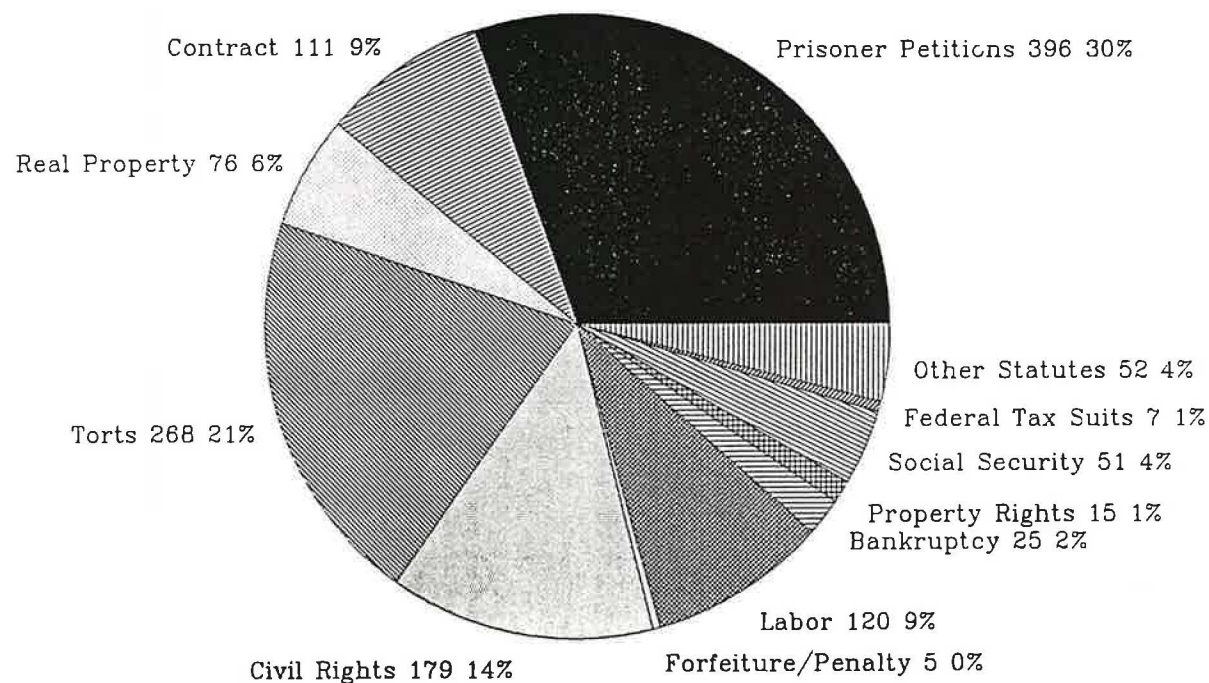
SY93 Began 7-1-92, Ended 6-30-93.
File: CVNOS93.CHT

Civil Cases Filed During SY94
District Totals by Natures of Suit
Total of 1361 Cases Filed



SY94 Began 7-1-93, Ended 6-30-94.
File: CVNOS94.CHT

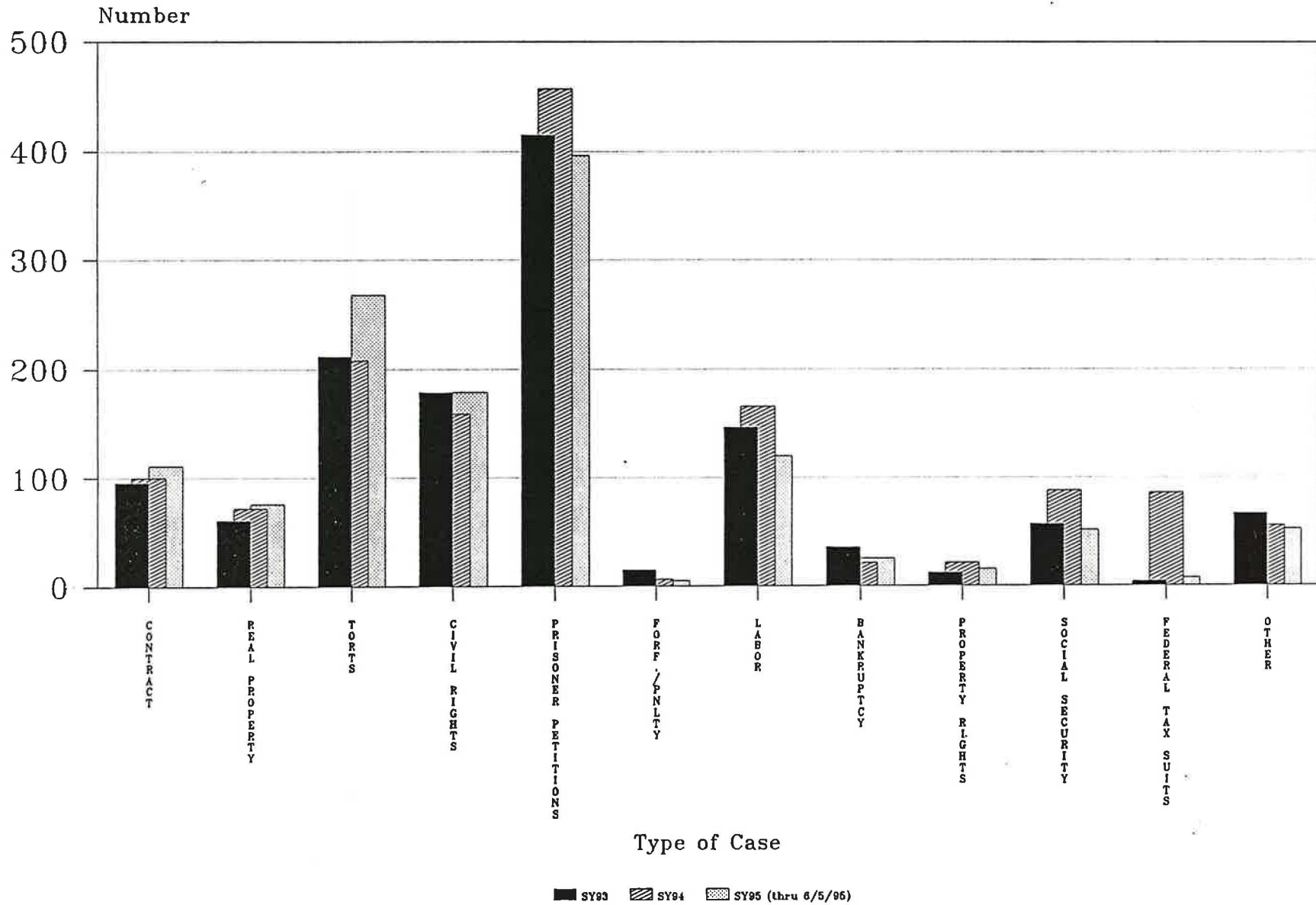
Civil Cases Filed During SY95 (thru 6/5)
District Totals by Natures of Suit
Total of 1305 Cases Filed



SY95 Began 7-1-94, Will End 6-30-95.
File: CVNOS95.CHT

Numbers of Cases by Type

All Divisions

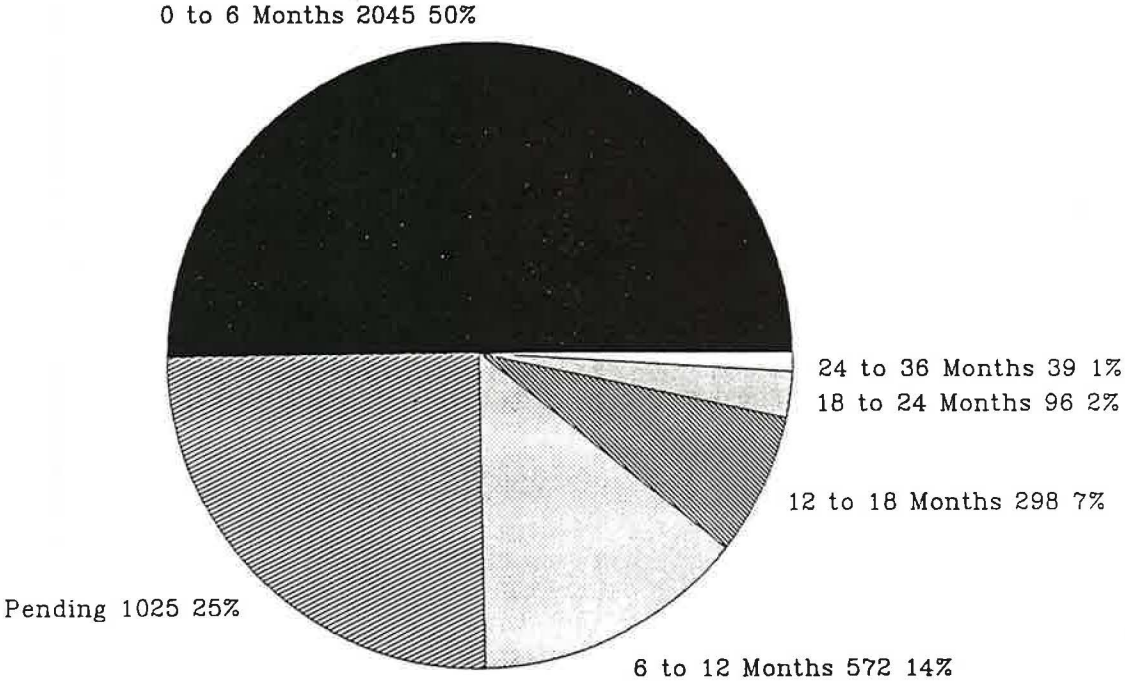


Numbers of Cases Filed by Nature of Suit			
	SY93 7/1/92 - 6/30/93	SY94 7/1/93 - 6/30/94	SY95 7/1/94 - 6/5/95
Contract	96	100	111
Real Property	61	72	76
Torts	212	208	268
Civil Rights	179	159	179
Prisoner Petitions	415	457	396
Forfeiture/Penalty	15	6	5
Labor	147	166	120
Bankruptcy	36	21	25
Property Rights	12	21	15
Social Security	57	88	51
Tax Suits	4	8	7
Other	67	55	52
TOTAL	1301	1361	1305

SY95 stops at 6/5/95 because that is when the data were collected.

This list contains new filings only; no re-opened cases are included.

Length of Time to Termination
Civil Cases Filed SY93 - SY95 (thru 6/5)
4075 Cases Total



30 to 36 Months: 5 Cases (0.12%)
Data Include Re-Opened Cases
File: CSAGE.CHT

CIVIL CASES PENDING THREE OR MORE YEARS		
As of	Number of Cases	Percent of Total
September 30, 1993	46	4.1%
March 31, 1994	56	4.9%
September 30, 1994	74	6.0%
March 31, 1995	92	7.7%
September 30, 1995	121 ¹	10.4%

CIVIL MOTIONS PENDING SIX OR MORE MONTHS		
As of	Number of Motions	Percent of Total
September 30, 1993	172	Unknown
March 31, 1994	40	Unknown
September 30, 1994	77	Unknown
March 31, 1995	55	7.8%
September 30, 1995	17	2.3%

¹ Of these 121 cases, 51 are administratively consolidated prisoner civil rights cases resulting from a 1991 fire at the Pontiac Correctional Center; these cases are stayed pending a decision in the lead case.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT -- JUDICIAL CASELOAD PROFILE

ILLINOIS CENTRAL

TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30

OVERALL CASELOAD STATISTICS

	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
Filings*	1,483	1,585	1,634	1,484	1,340	1,344
Terminations	1,515	1,549	1,595	1,303	1,281	1,484
Pending	1,281	1,312	1,572	1,534	1,390	1,382
Percent Change In Total Filings Current Year	Over Last Year... -6.4					
	Over Earlier Years... -9.3			- .1	10.7	10.3

NUMERICAL STANDING WITHIN U.S. CIRCUIT

[79]	[7]
[27]	[3]

Number of Judgeships	4	4	4	4	3	3
Vacant Judgeship Months**	.0	.0	4.9	10.0	.0	.0

ACTIONS PER JUDGESHIP

		1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
FILINGS	Total	371	396	409	371	447	448
	Civil	341	327	345	310	375	365
	Criminal Felony	30	69	64	61	72	83
Pending Cases		320	328	393	384	463	461
Weighted Filings**		299	357	331	332	404	423
95% Confidence	Upper	318	384	352	351	429	449
	Lower	279	331	310	313	379	396
Terminations		379	387	399	326	427	495
Trials Completed		29	32	38	41	38	37

[62]	[7]
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[50]	[6]
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[79]	[6]
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[65]	[6]
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[81]	[7]
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[51]	[4]
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[42]	[3]
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MEDIAN TIMES (MONTHS)

		1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989
From Filing to Disposition	Criminal Felony	7.1	6.9	6.1	6.9	6.9	6.3
	Civil**	6	6	8	9	11	10
From Filing to Trial** (Civil Only)		28	20	19	13	23	15

[63]	[4]
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[6]	[3]
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[84]	[7]
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OTHER

Number (and %) of Civil Cases Over 3 Years Old		86 7.3	68 6.1	90 6.5	95 7.1	74 6.0	73 5.9
Average Number of Felony Defendants Filed per Case		1.4	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4
Jurors	Avg. Present for Jury Selection**	31.59	35.56	31.87	31.55	26.43	34.91
	Percent Not Selected or Challenged**	38.3	29.1	33.1	32.3	30.5	35.4

[51]	[4]
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[45]	[4]
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[78]	[7]
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FOR NATIONAL PROFILE AND NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE CLASSIFICATIONS SHOWN BELOW -- OPEN FOLDOUT AT BACK COVER

1994 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL FELONY FILINGS BY NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE

Type of	TOTAL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Civil	1365	80	11	472	17	60	158	95	211	14	170	3	74
Criminal*	117	3	4	18	-	8	15	26	2	25	-	13	3

* Filings in the "Overall Workload Statistics" section include criminal transfers, while filings "by nature of offense" do not.
 ** See Page 167.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT -- JUDICIAL CASELOAD PROFILE

ALL DISTRICT COURTS		TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30						NUMERICAL STANDING WITHIN U.S. CIRCUIT		
		1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989			
OVERALL CASELOAD STATISTICS	Filings*	267,799	264,038	265,612	244,790	251,166	257,259			
	Terminations	258,712	259,238	263,034	250,615	245,014	255,473			
	Pending	257,183	252,697	262,805	260,095	273,301	267,440			
	Percent Change In Total Filings Current Year	Over Last Year	1.4						-	-
	Over Earlier Years8	9.4	6.6	4.1		-	-	
	Number of Judgeships	649	649	649	649	575	575			
	Vacant Judgeship Months**	1104.3	1199.9	1313.4	1227.6	540.1	374.1			
ACTIONS PER JUDGESHIP	FILINGS	Total	413	407	409	377	437	447	-	-
		Civil	364	354	355	325	381	393	-	-
		Criminal Felony	49	53	54	52	56	54	-	-
		Pending Cases	396	389	405	401	475	465	-	-
		Weighted Filings**	419	419	412	386	427	439	-	-
	95% Confidence	Upper	445	444	436	408	453	466	-	-
		Lower	393	393	387	363	401	412	-	-
		Terminations	399	399	405	386	426	444	-	-
	Trials Completed	27	30	32	31	35	35	-	-	
MEDIAN TIMES (MONTHS)	From Filing to Disposition	Criminal Felony	6.5	6.3	5.9	5.8	5.4	5.2	-	-
		Civil**	8	8	9	10	9	9	-	-
		From Filing to Trial** (Civil Only)	18	16	15	15	14	13	-	-
OTHER	Number (and %) of Civil Cases Over 3 Years Old		14,086 6.2	18,451 8.3	17,249 7.7	21,252 9.4	25,672 10.6	23,137 9.7	-	-
	Average Number of Felony Defendants Fited per Case		1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.5	-	-
	Jurors	Avg. Present for Jury Selection**	36.38	38.33	37.64	37.43	35.60	36.07	-	-
		Percent Not Selected or Challenged**	33.6	34.0	34.1	34.3	33.9	35.4	-	-

FOR NATIONAL PROFILE AND NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE CLASSIFICATIONS SHOWN BELOW -- OPEN FOLDOUT AT BACK COVER

1994 CIVIL AND CRIMINAL FELONY FILINGS BY NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE													
Type of	TOTAL	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
Civil	236391	10927	2330	57940	5472	7585	15662	28924	47664	6902	32622	686	19677
Criminal*	30667	2156	1169	2952	641	1579	4844	5049	977	6139	632	1519	3010

* Filings in the "Overall Workload Statistics" section include criminal transfers, while filings "by nature of offense" do not.
 ** See Page 157.

**EXPLANATION OF PROFILES FOR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS**

**OVERALL
WORKLOAD
STATISTICS***

Filings	TOTAL NUMBER OF DISTRICT COURT CASES WHICH WERE (Exclusive of all misdemeanor criminal cases)		Filed during the year, including transfers
Terminations			Closed during the year
Pending			Pending at the end of the year
Percent Change in Total Filings - Current Year	Over Last Year	Percentage change in total filings - current year over previous year	
	Over Earlier Years	Percentage change in total filings - current year over two, three, four and five years ago	
Number of Judgeships	Authorized judgeships (Does not include senior judges)		
Vacant Judgeship Months	Number of months during year that an authorized judgeship was not filled		

**ACTIONS
PER
JUDGESHIP**

<table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="3">FILINGS</td> <td>Total</td> <td rowspan="7"> FIGURES IN THIS SECTION ARE OBTAINED BY DIVIDING THE OVERALL WORKLOAD STATISTICS FOR THE COURT BY THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED JUDGESHIPS Excludes all misdemeanor criminal cases </td> <td>Total civil and criminal felony cases filed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civil</td> <td>Includes all civil cases filed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Criminal Felony</td> <td>Includes all criminal felony cases filed whether by indictment, information, or transfer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pending Cases</td> <td>Total civil and felony cases pending at the end of the year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Weighted Filings*</td> <td>This figure is a mathematical adjustment of filings which gives heavier count to cases known to be of a more difficult and time consuming nature</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Terminations</td> <td>Includes all terminated cases, civil & criminal felony, tried and not tried, disposed of during the year</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trials Completed</td> <td>Trials completed by judges, including evidentiary trials, hearings on temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions</td> </tr> </table>	FILINGS	Total	FIGURES IN THIS SECTION ARE OBTAINED BY DIVIDING THE OVERALL WORKLOAD STATISTICS FOR THE COURT BY THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED JUDGESHIPS Excludes all misdemeanor criminal cases	Total civil and criminal felony cases filed	Civil	Includes all civil cases filed	Criminal Felony	Includes all criminal felony cases filed whether by indictment, information, or transfer	Pending Cases	Total civil and felony cases pending at the end of the year	Weighted Filings*	This figure is a mathematical adjustment of filings which gives heavier count to cases known to be of a more difficult and time consuming nature	Terminations	Includes all terminated cases, civil & criminal felony, tried and not tried, disposed of during the year	Trials Completed	Trials completed by judges, including evidentiary trials, hearings on temporary restraining orders and preliminary injunctions			
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**MEDIAN
TIMES
(MONTHS)**

From Filing to Disposition	Criminal Felony	For all criminal felony defendants and all civil cases except land condemnation, prisoner petitions, recovery of overpayments, enforcement of judgments, and deportation reviews terminated during the year whether by trial or other disposition. For all criminal felony defendants, time is computed from the filing date to either the sentencing date or the dismissal/acquittal date including excludable delays reported under the Speedy Trial Act. When the District had less than 10 terminations the median was not computed.
	Civil*	
From Issue to Trial (Civil Only)		For civil cases, except land condemnation, going to trial, this figure shows the time interval in months for the middle (median) case. Time is computed from the date the answer or response is filed to the date trial begins.

OTHER

Number (and%) of Civil Cases Over 3 Years Old	Total number of civil cases pending three years or more as of the end of the year and the percentage these same cases represent of the pending civil caseload	
Average Number of Felony Defendants Filed per Case	The average number of defendants in each felony case filed (excludes transfers)	
Jurors	Average Present for Jury Selection	Average number of petit jurors reporting to court for jury selection
	Percent Not Selected, or Challenged	Percent of petit jurors not selected serving or challenged on jury selection days

NATURE OF SUIT AND OFFENSE CATEGORIES

CIVIL	A - Social Security B - Recovery of Overpayments & Enforcement of Judgments C - Prisoner Petitions D - Forfeitures and Penalties and Tax Suits	E - Real Property F - Labor Suits G - Contracts H - Torts	I - Copyright, Patent, and Trademark J - Civil Rights K - Antitrust	L - All Other Civil Cases
CRIMINAL FELONY (Excludes transfers)	A - Immigration B - Embezzlement C - Weapons and Firearms D - Escape	E - Burglary and Larceny F - Marijuana, Controlled Substances, and Other G - Narcotics H - Forgery and Counterfeiting	I - Fraud J - Homicide and Assault K - Robbery	L - All Other Criminal Felony Cases

**WHAT THE DISTRICT'S
NUMERICAL
STANDINGS
MEAN**

This shows where an individual district court stands in relation to other district courts in the circuit and in the country. All "workload" statistics are ranked in descending order (highest value/highest workload receives rank of 1 - e.g., civil filings per judgeship) and all other statistics are ranked in ascending order (lowest value/fastest termination rate or smallest backlog is ranked first - e.g., median time). In some categories fewer than 94 courts are ranked because the information was not available for all districts.

**VERTICAL
ROW OF
NUMBER
IN RIGHT
MARGIN**

*See Page 167.