

# **KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **2020**



## Message from the Presiding Judge and Chief Administrative Officer

For King County Superior Court, as for the nation, the year 2020 was both terrible and transformative. The first reported coronavirus death in the state of Washington occurred here in King County, on February 29th. On March 5th, the Executive Committee first began planning for the pandemic. Shortly thereafter, Governor Inslee declared a State of Emergency. By March 18th the Washington Supreme Court issued an order suspending all trials, and we had to throw out our emergency plans and start over. Our mission is to provide justice to all who seek it and yet the pandemic largely closed the courts. Faced with solving this crisis, and through the chaos and the fear of the moment, employees showed themselves to be innovative and dedicated.

The search for a solution to access forced an unprecedented rate of change upon the court; new technology, new ways of holding voir dire, new ways of holding trials. The change was driven by the decision by our leadership to open up as soon as allowed by the Supreme Court Emergency Order and the change occurred because of the remarkable efforts and innovations of our employees, judicial officers and staff.

Our Public Health Committee consulted with experts from the University of Washington School of Public Health, who helped us create a plan to safely reopen. We required facial coverings, marked spaces for social distancing, changed the usage of stairways and elevators, upgraded air filtration and ventilation to the highest standards, and reconfigured courtrooms, removing furniture, putting up Plexiglas, and marking floors for six-foot increments.

No longer able to bring as many people to our courthouses, we had to figure out how to bring courthouses to people. We held meetings and hearings via phone and video. We created emergency calendars and devised new procedures for all cases. We held video trainings for attorneys, paralegals, and people representing themselves, and drew up step-by-step instructions, translating them into multiple languages and posting them online. We began remote jury selection via Zoom, then heard jury trials completely virtually. Together, we all learned —and re-learned —how to unmute.

We never closed the doors to King County's courthouses; miraculously, we created new ones. In June we opened a pop-up courthouse in Bellevue's Meydenbauer Center, where we held dozens of physically distanced civil trials before changes in public health indicators forced us again to put them on pause.

We opened up in-person jury trials when it was safe and shut down in-person jury trials when it was not safe, but never stopped holding virtual bench and jury trials. At year's end, King County Superior Court had completed more trials than any other court in the nation, earning a national reputation as a leader in using technology to maintain access to justice amid the pandemic.

The Year of 2020 was also a year of a reckoning with racial injustice. A week after the murder of George Floyd, our bench was moved to publish an open letter to the legal community. In it, our Court acknowledged that our bench has, at times, upheld racial injustice. We said, "We acknowledge that, as elected judges . . . [t]he way we affect racial justice is demonstrated through the way we treat and listen to individuals who come before us, in the way we craft and explain our decisions, and, most of all, through our decisions... We acknowledge that in our work, we must vigilantly maintain open minds and continuously address the implicit biases that we all hold to prevent these individual biases from influence on our work on behalf of the justice system. Perhaps the most insidious risk posed by the judiciary is not the action of a rogue judge, but the risk of collective harm caused by individual biases that we all have."

We would like to acknowledge judges who retired from our bench in 2020; Judge Roger Rogoff and Judge Theresa Doyle. We welcome the judges who joined Superior Court during these unprecedented times, Judge Nelson Lee, Judge Cindi Port, Judge Hillary Madsen, and Judge Andrea Robertson.

We remember all those who lost their lives working in our Court and those who lost loved ones and colleagues.

For their great assistance, we thank the King County Bar Association and members of the Washington Association for Justice and Washington Defense Trial Lawyers Association, as well as all bar members who served on the Task Force to restart jury trials. They helped us to devise, plan, and test new video procedures, and hold trainings. We are also grateful for the commitment of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Department of Public Defense, and Department of Juvenile and Adult Detention.

Finally, we would like to commend the professionalism of all Superior Court and Department of Judicial Administration employees, whose flexibility and dedication enabled this court to stay open to all, and provide justice for all.

*James E. (Jim) Rogers*  
Presiding Judge

*Paul L. Sherfey*  
Chief Administrative Officer



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## FAMILY COURT

Family Court handles all family law matters, including divorce, legal separation, parenting, paternity, adoption, child and/or spousal support, and domestic violence. Many of these cases include minor children whose parents must negotiate a parenting plan to determine residential arrangements, decision-making and dispute resolution options.

### Family Court Services

Family Court Services (FCS) has committed extensive time and effort to the development of new services under the Uniform Guardianship Act (UGA). FCS staff now serve as Court Visitors to provide support in UGA cases and engage youth and families for purposes of confirming consent and identifying the location of parents/parties prior to the court finalizing minor guardianships. Additionally, all mediation and evaluation services have occurred remotely during the pandemic with no reduction in services to family law litigants.



### Family Law Orientation

The Family Law Orientation is for *pro se* parties (anyone who does not have an attorney). It is a roadmap from the beginning of a case to finalization. The instructions are case specific for different types of family law cases: Dissolution, legal separation, establishing a parenting plan, modifying a parenting plan, among others.

In 2020, the FLO was taken by 2,753 *pro se* parties in 102 seminars. Over 350 participants received the FLO free of charge based on income qualifications. The program generated \$54,780 in revenue for 2020.

Prior to the pandemic, the seminars were in-person in the Kent and Seattle courthouses. Starting in March of 2020, the seminars changed to all parties being mailed hard copies of materials. By April 1, 2020, and through today, the seminars transitioned to email, meaning PDF documents are emailed to parties with links to all the documents they may need to complete their cases. Not a single class was canceled due to the pandemic.

Transitioning to the future, the FLO is looking to find new technologies to interact with *pro se* parties.

### Early Resolution Case Manager Program

Early Resolution Case Managers (ERCMs) are attorneys with family law experience who help self-represented people navigate the court process and resolve their cases as soon as possible.

There is a part-time ERCM available to assist parties with open dependency cases who need parenting plans in a family law case before the dependency case will be dismissed. In 2020, the Dependency ERCM assisted parties with completing 42 family law cases, which in turn allowed 55 dependency cases to be dismissed.

There are four ERCMs available to help all self-represented family law litigants. In 2020, ERCMs assisted 1,810 parties with getting their cases into compliance at Status Conference and Noncompliance hearings.

ERCMs also taught the Family Law Orientation, a one-hour overview of family court procedures, to 2,753 litigants. Additionally, ERCMs assist self-represented parties by conducting mediations and preparing final orders, including through the Simple Divorce Program.

In 2020, ERCMs completed 354 mediations and assisted 269 cases finalized by agreement. An additional 44 cases were finalized by default. Through the Simple Divorce Program, an additional 62 cases were finalized.

**Family Treatment Court** is an alternative to regular dependency designed primarily for parents dealing with a substance use issue that resulted in loss of custody of their children. Over half of FTC families enter the program homeless and in 2020 at the start of the pandemic 27 parents identified as without housing. By the end of September 2020, FTC was able to house 26 of those 27 parents with a majority of those parents receiving permanent housing vouchers. Even though the FTC courtrooms were closed for three months from end of March to early June, FTC families were able to make progress on their cases with all eligible parents receiving access to inpatient treatment as well as parents maintaining connections to outpatient providers virtually. This resulted in 17 more children in FTC being able to be returned home to their parents when court opened their doors again, helping us to maintain similar outcomes to the year prior.

**Dependency** cases, also known as child welfare, are filed when there is a safety issue for the child, such as abandonment, abuse or neglect. The goal of the court and stakeholders is to connect parents with services that help remedy the issue that brought them to the court's attention, such as substance abuse, untreated mental health or domestic violence in the home. During this time, the court may place the child temporarily with a relative, foster family or other suitable adult. When the parent(s) demonstrate that they child can be placed safely back in their care, the family is reunified and the case is dismissed.

The pandemic had a significant impact on cases in King County. There were 452 filings, a 45% drop from the yearly average. The number of dismissals increased by 14%, including a 35% increase in reunifications. From 2017 to 2019, there were about 3,000 youth involved in a dependency action. In 2020, that number dropped to 2,825 cases.

If a parent has been unable to make changes necessary to get their child back, a termination or a guardianship action may be filed, and an alternative permanent home may be found for the child. In 2020, there were 289 termination filings with 253 dependent youth that were adopted and 17 guardianships completed.

There are two daily dependency calendars, one for Seattle and one for Kent. These are assigned according to the office filing the dependency (does not follow the usual I-90 divide). The two daily calendar judges average about 625 hearings per month. Dependency averages about 140 cases each year that are set for trial. Approximately half of those cases reach resolution prior to being assigned to a trial judge. Due to the pandemic, there is a large backlog of cases on the trial board. In 2021, a judge was assigned to the CFJC to assist with dependency trials and other coverage needs.

In addition, pretrial calendars are held in each location, which adds another 235 monthly hearings. Due to the pandemic, only emergent hearings were held between late March and early June in 2020. For one very challenging month, both court locations heard the usual daily calendar (now conducted by conference call) as well as all of the hearings that were on backlog.

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**Dependency Mediation** - Since the pandemic, Dependency Mediators have been active in ensuring continued support to the Court with virtual mediation sessions through the development of electronic agreements to mediate, fillable Orders on Dependency, and use of video conferencing systems. Additionally, the Dependency Mediators have pivoted to providing alternative dispute resolution in At Risk Youth and Child In Need of Services cases, resulting in reduced dockets at the CFJC and MRJC.

**Dependency CASA** - Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are appointed by the court to advocate for the best interest of over 1,800 children in the dependency system. The program recruits and trains CASAs to advocate both in and out of court to ensure the child's needs are being met and are a consistent presence in a child's life during the life of the case.

The pandemic required fundamental changes to nearly all CASA business. Despite this, the CASA program's staff and volunteers served over 1,100 children and continued to focus on recruiting and training new CASAs. Shifting training to a virtual format, enabled the training of 60 new volunteers during the period. Program staff also redoubled efforts to address Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) issues that result from systemic racism and disproportionately impact the children served by CASAs.

## **Parent Seminars Moved to Mail During the Pandemic**

The Parent Seminar “What About the Children?” is a King County Superior Court required class for parents with children who are affected by separation, divorce, or on-going parental conflicts. The seminar topics include:

- How to develop a parenting plan that best meets the children's needs
- Information about family court process and procedures
- Effects of parental conflict on the family, especially the children
- What hurts and what helps children during family transitions
- Communicating better with the other parent

In 2020, 4,311 parties attended the Parent Seminars with 100 classes offered at the Seattle and Kent courthouses and the Mercer Island Recreation Center for live classes through the beginning of March 2020 and then via the U.S. Postal Service and email once COVID stopped in-person, large meetings. Nearly 600 people attended free of charge based on income qualifications in 2020.

## **Beyond ‘Becca’: Maintaining support and services to families in crisis amid the pandemic**

The Becca Bill, which passed in 1995, requires children between the ages of 8 and 18 to attend school regularly.

To provide court services under the law, King County Superior Court operates and manages the At-Risk Youth (ARY), Child in Need of Services (CHINS), and Truancy programs.

The programs have continuously adjusted their approach with youth over the years to align with the most current research and understanding of adolescent brain development and trauma’s impact on development.

The ARY and CHINS court only entertains a parent’s warrant request for these matters when the parent demonstrates to the court there are imminent safety concerns for their child. Though parents infrequently request warrants for their children who have run away, there are times when concerns for their child's safety supersedes a parent’s instinct to avoid such a request.

King County Superior Court is often a parent’s last hope in their efforts to save their child’s life by slowing down and disrupting behaviors through court intervention, and using the court process to increase a youth’s engagement in community supports and treatment services. Children on the ARY and CHINS calendars are in many instances victims of sexual exploitation, have severe mental health issues, come with trauma history, and are abusing substances; it is not uncommon for these young people to have overlapping issues.

New At Risk Youth and Child In Need of Services matters were suspended for approximately six months due to the pandemic, but the ARY/CHINS case managers were supporting families through consultation and referrals to services during this time. In a collaboration with King County Behavioral Health, families are able to access evidence-based services through the ARY/CHINS programs and have received an average of thirty-five (35) hours of in-home services to stabilize families in crisis.

## Celebrating National Adoption Day

During the pandemic, the Adoption Paralegal worked with Ex Parte to transition processes for Adoption hearings to telephonic and supplied fillable forms to the clients. Adoption appointments for petition/document reviews were accomplished via telephone or Zoom.

The annual National Adoption Day (NAD) celebration was held for 25 newly adopted and 18 previously adopted children via Zoom.

Things looked a bit different, but were as heartfelt as ever. Some adoptive families got together to decorate for the special occasion. Our special guests included King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert, Caspar Babypants (Chris Ballew) and the Seattle Mariners Moose.



*Even via Zoom, the Stroup family made National Adoption Day extra festive.*



Every year we highlight one family to talk about their adoption journey, and this year it was the Krispin family, (in a drawing, left) which is comprised of Dad, Karl; Mom, Christy, and a sibling group of 5 children: Ana, age 17; Isaiah, age 12; Nicholas, age 7; Mena, age 7, and Eli, age 5. The celebration marked the Krispin family's fifth adoption, and commemorated the two adoptions that occurred in March and April.

The Krispin family shared that one of the most important things that they learned is that every child deserves love, grace, and patience. Healing takes time.

King County celebrates National Adoption Day with such fanfare because it is an opportunity to encourage families like the Krispins to create a forever home for children in need. In King County, we have thousands of foster children without a family. This event highlights the need and the joy that comes from adopting children.



## Juvenile Court Services

*We* are all better off when youth in our county are healthy, thriving, supported by family and community, and have no need for contact with the criminal legal system. King County Juvenile Court has for decades collaborated with our justice system partners and diverse, non-governmental stakeholders to improve outcomes for youth and families. Juvenile Court is committed to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities and addressing gaps in services meant to support rehabilitation and accountability. In 2020, Juvenile Court stayed focused achieving these goals, even during the challenges produced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To better understand the impacts of the pandemic on justice-involved youth, the Annie E. Casey Foundation launched a national survey of juvenile justice partners, to which King County Juvenile Court (in partnership with DAJD) contributed data. The findings from the survey were that a nationwide rapid and dramatic drop in admissions to juvenile detention occurred; but, releases from detention stalled.

This was true in King County, too; the average length of stay for youth held on juvenile matters in juvenile detention increased compared to 2019, potentially because youth remaining in detention were those facing the most serious charges. However, the average daily population and number of admissions decreased to the lowest numbers ever in recorded King County history, to 500 detention admissions and an average of 20 youth per day under juvenile court jurisdiction. Importantly, the reductions had big impacts for Black and Latinx youth, who are disproportionately represented in the juvenile legal system. Of all racial groups, Black youth experienced the biggest drop in admissions, with 55% fewer admissions to detention in 2020 than in 2019. Latinx youth had 49% fewer admissions to detention in 2020 compared to 2019.

This was achieved by:

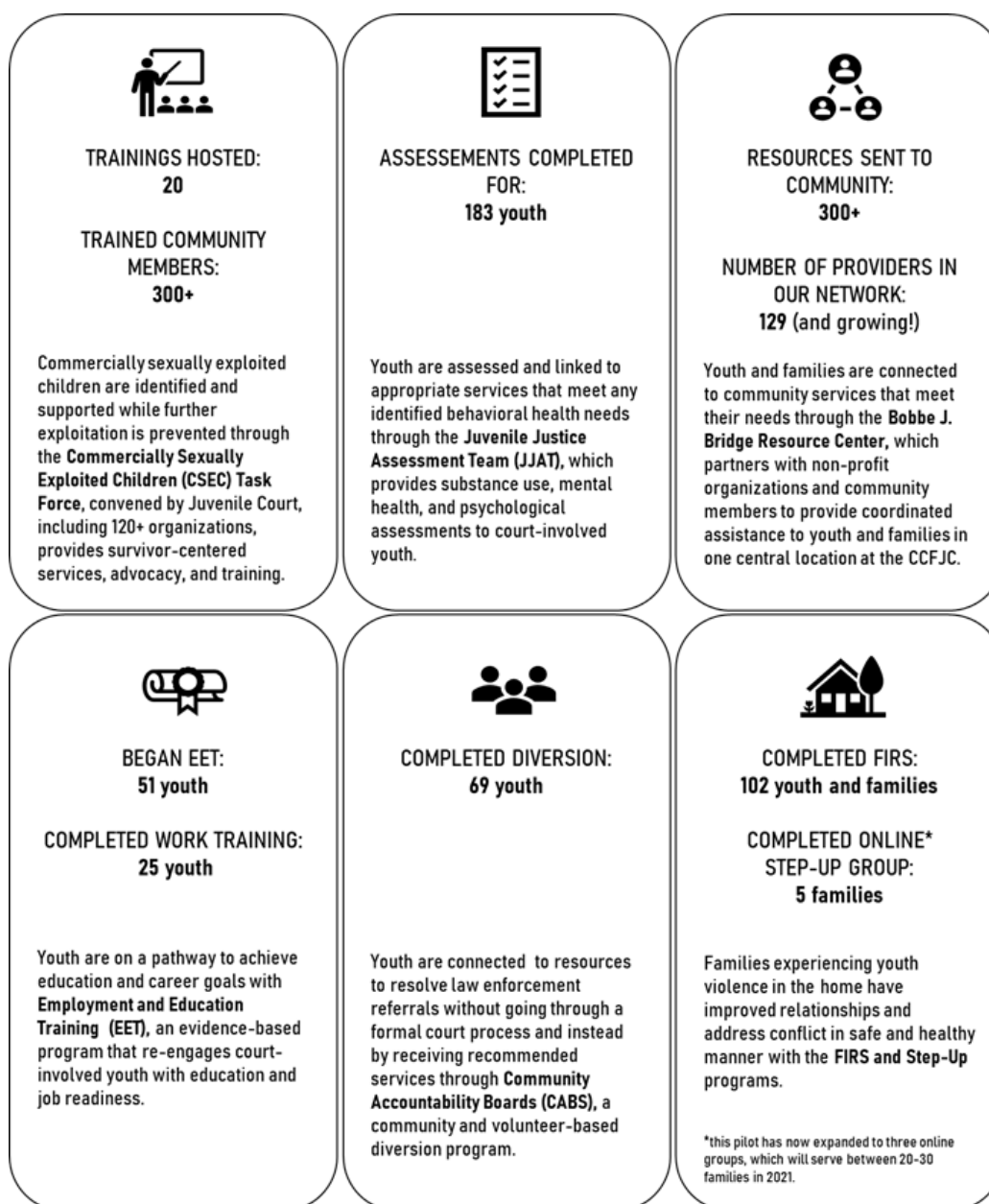
- **Expanding alternatives to secure detention:** All misdemeanors and many low-level felonies were removed from eligibility for booking into juvenile detention. The Court also reviewed and expanded the Screen & Release criteria, making more alleged offenses eligible for immediate release. All outstanding warrants were reviewed and many quashed. The Court also created an alternative to warrants: its Failure to Appear (FTA) process, where defense counsel and Juvenile Probation Counselors partnered to attempt to locate youth prior to issuing warrants. The Court worked with DAJD to revise many of its surveillance and remand procedures to ensure that remands into custody were occurring only when truly necessary and then appearance before a judge could occur within 48 hours.
- **Expanding access via technology:** Court hearings shifted to telephonic and virtual format, which permitted more convenient access for many youth and families. Similarly, the Court's programs and services were also offered online and virtually.

Although the pandemic required some shifts, new programs were launched:

- **New Resource App for Youth:** To increase virtual access and minimize barriers, Juvenile Court created and launched the Youth Support Resources app, which provides information about youth and family resources in King County filterable by type of service, age, and desired travel distance.



- **Supports for Community Providers:** Juvenile Court collaborated with the Executive's office and the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) in the creation and awarding of a \$600,000 grant for community providers to serve youth and their families while the youth are on Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM).
- **Undoing Racism:** To address the need for ongoing education and immersion in undoing systemic racism, Juvenile Court received funding support to partner with Ubuntu Research and Evaluation, who offered their 12-hour Radical Accountability for Creating Equity through Dignity (R.A.C.E) Academy for all Juvenile Court staff.



Juvenile Court also progressed on major strategic and operational initiatives put in place prior to the onset of COVID-19:

### Launching Juvenile Therapeutic Response & Accountability Court (JTRAC)

JTRAC is a framework for serving all youth who are engaged with Juvenile Court. In the JTRAC model youth and their family are assessed early for their needs and connected to community-based services whenever and as soon as possible. When youth do need to stay within the supervision of the Court, a positive youth justice framework, where positive change is rewarded and incentivized, is emphasized. Late in 2020, Juvenile Court started offering the Behavioral Health Response model for youth with behavioral health needs, which replaces Juvenile Drug Court. Also launched in early 2020, Incentive-based Supervision, where youth on probation earn incentives as they achieve milestones toward their goals.

### Reforming probation

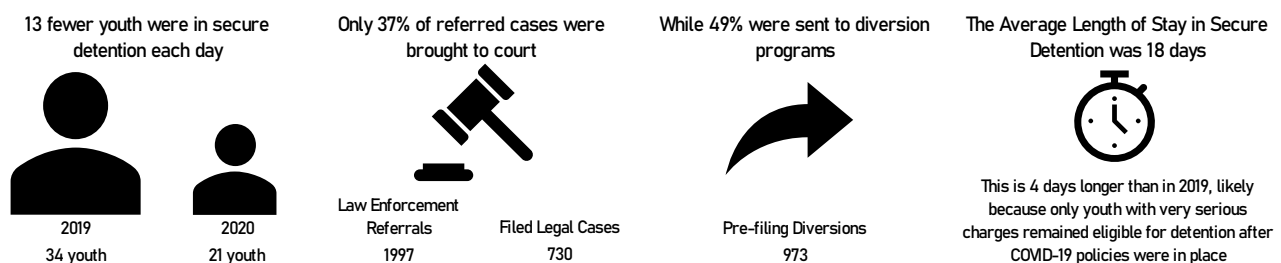
King County Juvenile Court is one of six national sites currently receiving technical assistance from the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice to advance probation system reform. 2020 was the inaugural year for this two-year project, which brings national juvenile justice expertise to our data-driven decision making, trauma-informed practices, and implementation of new ways of serving youth.

### Institutionalizing alternatives to secure detention

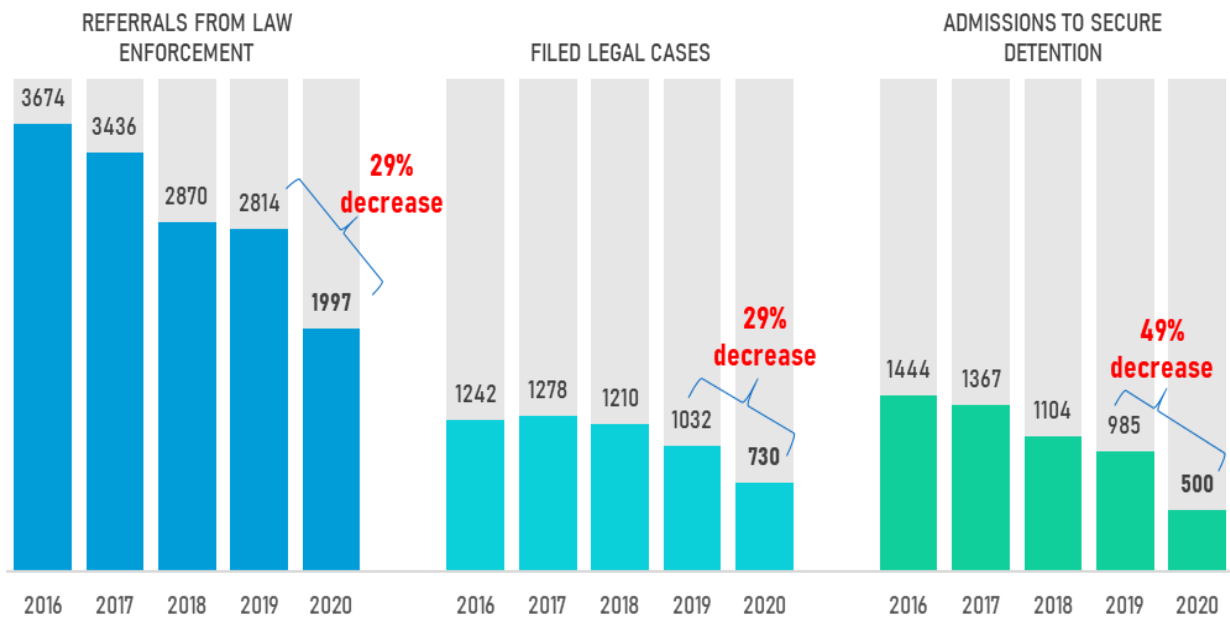
Prior to the pandemic, admissions to Juvenile Detention were the lowest they had ever been. Several practices ensure that detention is used only when necessary, including: establishing intake criteria that limit detention eligibility; having judges on call every night to “screen and release” youth who are eligible for intake but have a safe way to be released even before first appearance; and increased support for youth who are on electronic home monitoring.

Although 2020 presented many unique challenges, Juvenile Court is proud that we continued to keep families, youth, and our community safe while sustaining our commitment and work to innovate, reform, and improve our justice system.

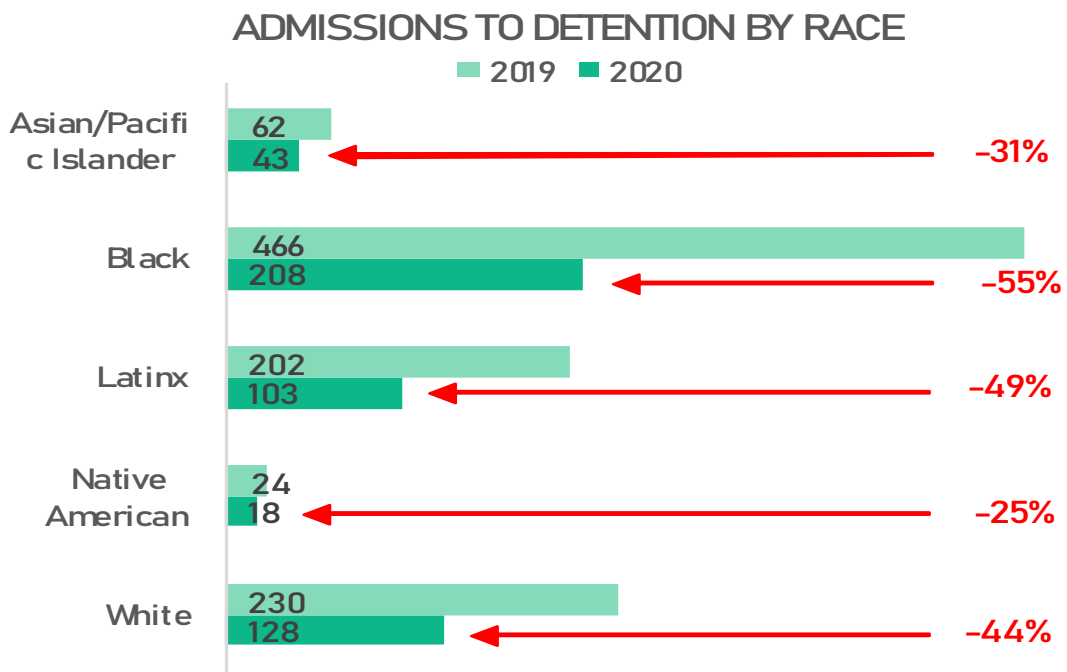
### In 2020:



Referrals, Filed Legal Cases, and Admissions to Secure Detention all reached historic lows:



Youth who are Black and Latinx had the biggest reduction in admissions to detention:



## Court Operations

In response to the start of the global pandemic in March 2020, Court Operations, like all other areas of the court, began the complex task of modifying onsite operations to address rapidly emerging safety concerns while continuing to provide essential court services. The modifications to court processes in the various Court Operations departments evolved over time, with the input of all. This approach allowed for adaptation to technology not previously utilized, while enhancing the safety of customers and staff. Our acclimation to these technological changes has revealed opportunities to improve efficiency and customer service today, and beyond the current pandemic. Examples of some of our operational changes by department include:

### Jury Department

The ability to conduct jury trials during the COVID-19 pandemic was one of the biggest challenges faced by Superior Court. As with many of our operational modifications, the solution was found through the use of technology. The prior practice of assembling large numbers of summonsed jurors, who were then assigned to various courts once on site, was no longer a safe practice due to the pandemic. By adapting our summoning practices and assigning groups of jurors to individual judges, who would then schedule them in batches to appear remotely, jury selection was able to go forward. Once a jury was impaneled, those 12-16 jurors would report in-person to courtrooms equipped for social distancing and subjected to enhanced cleaning. Despite the court's inability to conduct jury trials from March through July, and the periods of suspension due to increases in COVID-19 cases, the court was able to successfully, and safely, hold 82 jury trials since the start of the pandemic in March of

### Civil and Court Reporters

The Civil Department utilized video and telephone to conduct all civil motions and court hearings. In order to keep court customers informed of the process changes and various methods to connect to the court for particular hearings, staff reviewed instructions and made weekly updates to the court's website. Some Local Rule changes to notice requirements were also necessary due to restrictions resulting from the pandemic.

In an effort to create sufficient space at the King County Courthouse and the Maleng Regional Justice Center for criminal trials to proceed, a temporary, "pop-up" court facility was established specifically to handle civil jury trials. In August, Superior Court began holding civil trials at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. This conference facility space was ideal for social distancing and each courtroom was equipped with technology to facilitate virtual jury selection and witness appearances.

Court reporters were essential in the realization of the Meydenbauer location as this facility was not equipped with the customary recording system, which is in all of our primary court facilities to take the official record. In addition, the court reporters also adopted new technology which allowed them to appear virtually to take the record and stream their record to the judge in real-time.

### Ex Parte and Arbitration

Typically one of the highest volume areas of the court, the Department was uniquely challenged in meeting the operational changes resulting from the pandemic. The Ex Parte Commissioners handle a wide variety of matters, such as agreed and default family law orders, probate matters, guardianship cases, initial protection order cases and other types of emergent or short notice hearings. Although typically Ex Parte Department would see numerous walk-in customers each day, due to the pandemic, all hearings were moved to telephone in response to public and court staff safety needs. Static conference lines were established for each Ex Parte Courtroom and a process for scheduling hearing times was implemented. These telephone hearings, although more complicated, allowed Ex Parte operations to continue.

The Ex Parte Department worked closely with the Department of Judicial Administration and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Advocates in developing a fully electronic submission system for protection orders. The changes to the department were designed to address accessibility, safety and, as with other areas of the court, allowed for ongoing adjustments to processes in furtherance of those objectives.



## Involuntary Treatment Act Court

In Washington, individuals may be civilly committed to hospital or treatment settings if a Superior Court judicial officer (judge or commissioner) finds that they pose a threat to themselves or others due to exhibited symptoms of mental illness.

Involuntary Treatment Court (ITA) addresses civil matters related to the involuntary hospitalization of individuals experiencing behavioral health issues. These individuals may be detained involuntarily based on presenting as a risk to themselves or others. Initial detentions can be up to 120-hours, if the individual agrees to involuntary hospitalization or if the judge hears the evidence and decides that the legal criteria have been met for involuntarily committing the individual, the judge will order that the individual receives treatment in hospital for a period of not more than 14 days, including weekends and holidays.

If the hospital determines further treatment of the individual is necessary, a subsequent petition may be filed in court requesting an additional period of treatment., either 90 days or 180 days. At any time during the individual's stay, the treatment team may discharge the individual from the involuntary hold if the individual no longer meets the legal criteria for inpatient care.

Involuntary commitment cases continued to grow in 2020, reaching the highest number of annual filings so far. A number of operational changes took place at the ITA Court to address the conditions created by the pandemic. Pre-pandemic, ITA had utilized video to conduct hearing with defense attorneys and their clients appearing from the hospital while the judge and prosecutor attended from separate spaces at ITA Court. In-person hearings took place when a patient who requested a hearing was located at a community hospital without a video courtroom; the patient would be transported by ambulance to ITA Court.

Starting in March, ITA hearings moved to having all participants appear by video from different locations. Prosecutors and defense attorneys began working from home and would appear on video from those locations. Although the judge and rotating court staff worked from ITA Court, all other participants appeared by video or by phone, depending on the available technology.

Other changes include a move to all orders being submitted electronically, electronic hospital records and the suspension of all gurney transports.

Community hospitals without the benefit of an existing video courtroom began using laptops for patients to appear virtually. These operational adaptations, although time-consuming, allowed ITA Court to continue addressing the growing number of involuntary commitment cases without interruption.

Unfortunately, people who are released from civil commitment end up back in the system. More than half of all ITA court cases involve people who have been involuntarily committed before, according to a King County audit.

By providing ITA patients support and services following hospitalization, the Recovery Pilot Project (RPP) is designed to disrupt the cycle of de-compensation and re-commitment, improving outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

RPP provides respondents recently discharged from the hospital with additional resources and oversight to support them in adhering to the treatment plan contained in their Less Restrictive Order. RPP was slated to begin in early 2020, after extensive planning throughout 2019.

Although the start of the pandemic did delay the start of RPP, the structure of the program was modified to proceed through the use of video. The first program participants were accepted in October and the number of participants steadily



## King County Superior Court Creates “Pop-up” Courthouse in Bellevue

Coronavirus changed everything, including how courts must operate. But one thing that didn't change was the Constitutional right each person has to a trial by a jury by their peers.

Jurors must be able to deliberate together, in person. With public health guidance requiring that people stay at least six feet apart, we could no longer safely gather people in our jury rooms to await selection for a trial. Nor could we have them sit together in a typical jury box in the courtroom.

Consulting with our public health experts, it became clear: To get juries together in person again, we need a lot more space.



*“Pop-up” courthouse located in Bellevue*

We found it in Meydenbauer Center, an event and convention center with capacious, flexible meeting rooms. These allowed us to create courtrooms big enough for the physical distancing necessary to safely hold jury trials. We created six courtrooms in the space, with tables and chairs instead of benches, set apart from each other.

Importantly, the addition of Meydenbauer made our other courthouses safer. The extra space enabled us to space out trials at the courthouses in Kent and Seattle, so that only every other courtroom is used, with the unused courtrooms reserved for jury deliberations.

Civil trials were held at Meydenbauer, with criminal trials held at the King County Courthouse in downtown Seattle and the Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent. Jury selection was done remotely, via Zoom, eliminating the need for people who received jury summons to show up at a physical courthouse.

“We needed to think outside the box,” said Chief Civil Judge Regina Cahan, “and this was our solution.”

We called Meydenbauer our “pop-up” courthouse, and it came together in a matter of weeks. Superior Court contracted with AV Factory (the inhouse audio/visual vendor for Meydenbauer Center) to provide onsite audio visual, and Zoom technical support.

This enabled us to use state-of-the-art trial presentation technology. For example, a KCSC-owned laptop was provided for attorneys to use to display evidence to jurors. (Jurors can view the evidence if they are either at Meydenbauer Center or viewing remotely via Zoom).

Meydenbauer was part of a larger strategy of using technology to create hybrid trial combinations, including remote jury selection (voir dire), remote witness testimony, remote jury trials with or without attorneys in the courtroom, “all virtual” court proceedings (bench trials, jury trials, hearings) as well as options for having the judge in person, but the bailiff, clerk, court reporter, jurors, attorneys and witnesses appearing virtually.

Public Wi-Fi is available at Meydenbauer, and it's the same Wi-Fi provided for court customers in all of our other courthouses. Free parking on-site for court jurors and staff was provided, and jurors were provided with \$5 vouchers to use at the food and coffee cart daily.

Meydenbauer Center was the venue for about 30 trials in 2020. The jurors, attorneys, and judges who participated in them were enthusiastic and appreciative.

## In Shift to Virtual Proceedings and Physically-Distanced Courtrooms, Technology Played a Pivotal Role

In September 2020, the King County Superior Court was recognized nationally as a leader for having conducted remote jury trials while most of the nation's 30,000 or so trial courts remained shuttered. Many wondered how we did so much, so fast.

While no one could have anticipated the sweeping changes to necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic, the fact that King County Superior Court was already planning a courtroom technology upgrade at the onset of the crisis enabled us to respond more quickly to the urgent need to conduct business remotely.

From December 2019 to February 2020, King County Superior Court's Technology Committee performed an assessment of courtroom technology that revealed a need for video conferencing cameras and the ability for litigants to bring their own device to display evidence, as well as an integrated controller, display monitors and evidence cameras to support this function.

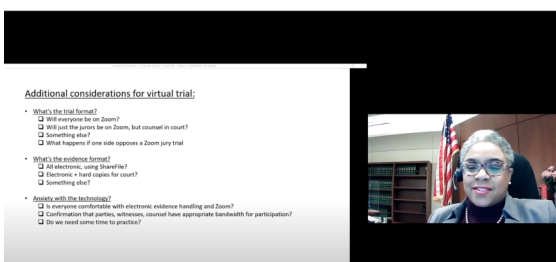
King County Superior received two rounds of CARES Act funding to support these enhancements. The first, in May 2020, was \$1.3 million for one video conferencing system per courtroom. The second, in June 2020, was \$3 million for bring your own device technology, plus monitors and integrated controllers.



*A transformed conference room to courtroom at Meydenbauer Center*

It was a race to get the equipment up and running. A three-person team from Superior Court's IT team installed the equipment on an expedited schedule, arriving at courtrooms early in the morning and leaving late at night. In less than three months they installed the technology to outfit 48 courtrooms.

"This was a very complex project with many entities contributing to the project's success," said IT Director Andy Hill. "There were numerous delays due to supply chain problems, shipping issues, and most parties working remotely. Everyone on the project team faced the adversity with professionalism and strong work ethic. The rest of Superior Court IT also stepped up and filled the void while their three team members were focused on the project."



*Judge Phelps conducting a virtual trial*

But purchasing and installing the equipment was only the start. Judicial officers and staff also had to learn how to use it. Beginning February 16, Superior Court held a series of 90-minute Zoom trainings over the lunch hour. While the training was recorded, participants were strongly encouraged to show up from their courtrooms to gain experience and ask questions in real time. They were cautioned not to use the equipment without first being trained on it.

This adoption of technology was key to nearly all of the essential justice services provided by KCSC in 2020, including remote hearings, bench trials, Zoom jury selection, virtual jury trials, and physically-distanced trials held at Meydenbauer Center.

And while all matters before the court are of utmost importance, it's jury trials that established Superior Court as a leader in maintaining access to justice amid the pandemic. In November, the website Law.com noted that King County Superior Court had held more jury trials than any other court in the nation—70 since August.

## Department of Judicial Administration

The Department of Judicial Administration, also known as the King County Superior Court Clerk's Office has done an extraordinary amount of work by expanding, promoting, and enhancing services through the pandemic.

The Clerk's Office's most significant organizational value is to provide excellent services to the people we serve; therefore, the Clerk's Office has remained open to safely serve in-person customers through the pandemic, in addition to adding services to serve remote customers.

The year 2020 has been a year of challenges, and the Clerk's Office has been fully dedicated to maintaining the customer as our primary focus. In the year 2020, the Clerk put a live chat system to help customers remotely, and 7,084 customers were served through this service. Protection order customers were also allowed to submit their petitions via email, which then transitioned into a Virtual Protection Order Office. The Clerk served more than 10,000 customers at our onsite and virtual protection order offices during the year.

As a service to law enforcement agencies and by keeping the customer in mind, the Clerk put in place an e-filing system for law enforcement agencies to submit petitions of Extreme Risk Protection Orders. This service helps expedite the process for both law enforcement agencies and the customers.

Due to the pandemic, the Clerk's Office saw an increase of almost 40 percent of electronic records requests, jumping from 9,139 requests in 2019 to 15,126 in 2020. Customer service and electronic services emails increased from 15,800 in 2019 to 20,585 in 2020. The Clerk's Office answered 40,197 customer calls from our customer service line throughout 2020.

Innovations and expanding services are crucial objectives the Clerk's Office. The Clerk increased services through 2020 and also translated many instructions into different languages for our customers. The public website was also updated for better usability and accessibility. The Clerk's Office coordinated with the King County Law Library to provide a free webinar to customers related to the complex process of protection orders. The Clerk implemented an electronic tool at the public website for calendar capping for Family Law Motions hearings and Ex Parte calendar hearings. This was also an enhancement of our services to assist our diverse customers.

The Clerk's Office is proud to be dedicated to serving customers and keep innovating to ensure customer satisfaction is met. We strive daily, to serve everyone with respect, equity, and by being socially just.



*A customer receiving assistance at the Clerk's Office information window.*



## Superior Court Budget

2020 Expenditures by Program Area		
Civil & Criminal Operations	Includes judges, bailiffs, court reporters, interpreters, arbitration, jury, Ex Parte and Adult Drug Court. (40.3%)	\$24,876,000
Juvenile Court	Includes judges, operations, diversion, probation, interpreters, assessments and FIRS. (22%)	\$13,546,000
Administration	Includes executive staff, human resources, technology services, finance, facilities, and clerical services. (16.7% )	\$10,290,000
Family Court Operations	Includes commissioners, court coordinators, Unified Family Court, Family Court Services, Family Law Facilitators, Family Treatment Court, Juvenile Dependency, Dependency CASA, Truancy and At-Risk Youth, and Early Resolution Case Management programs. (21%)	\$12,973,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>61,685,000</b>

2020 Funding by Source	Funding	% of Total
County	\$55,337,000	89.7%
Grants (Federal, State, & Local)	\$4,059,000	6.6%
MIDD	\$2,202,090	3.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,685,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Department of Judicial Administration Budget

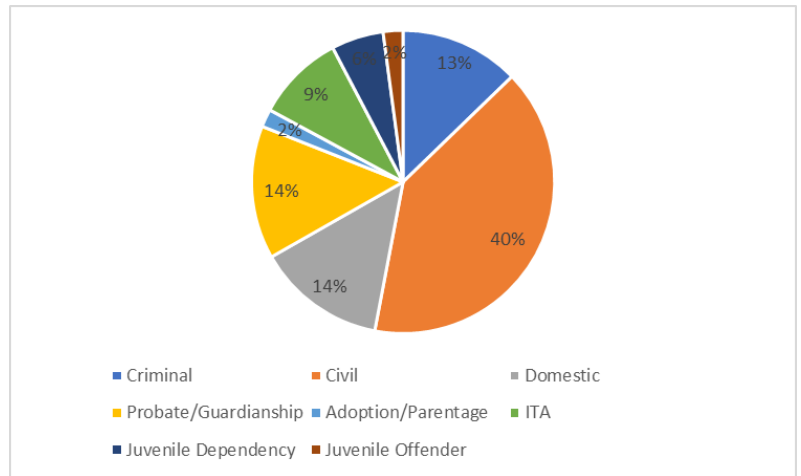
2020 Expenditures by Program Area		
Caseflow	Includes case processing, document processing both paper and electronic filings, and sealed document coordination. (17%)	\$4,759,942
Court Services	Includes coordination of court coverage, records access, FTR program management and appellate processing (10%)	\$2,829,116
MRJC/Customer Services	Includes customer service, e-working copies, domestic violence and protection orders, correspondence processing, and providing general information over the phone, via email and chat and in-person. (13%)	\$3,482,347
Financial Services	Includes cashiers, judgments, case auditing, disbursements, accounting, LFO collections, and witness payments. (17%)	\$4,633,483
Juvenile	Includes case processing, electronic document processing, customer service, records access, dependency publication costs at Juvenile. (4%)	\$1,208,524
Drug Court	Includes case management, treatment expense, transitional housing expenses, support services, and program management for the adult drug court program. (10%)	\$2,875,816
Administration	Includes administration staff, human resources, technology services, payroll, procurement, accounts payable, clerical services, statistical analysis, office equipment costs, intragovernmental services and COVID related expenses. (29%)	8,000,309
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$26,307,432</b>

## Superior Court Caseload & Performance

### Case Filings

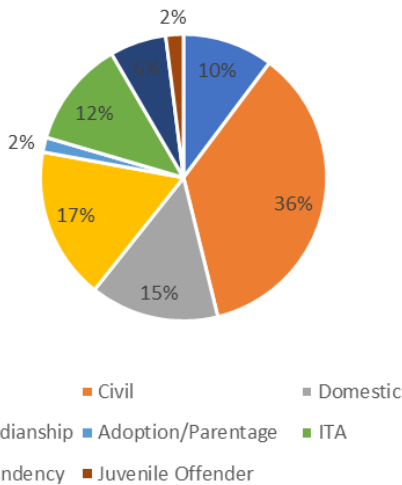
In 2020, a total of 43,103 cases were filed in King County Superior Court, down 19% from 2019. Civil, domestic, and juvenile offender and dependency cases fell, while the number of ITA cases rose.

Case Type	2020	Change from 2019
Criminal	5,940	-12%
Civil	15,405	-28%
Domestic	6,163	-15%
Probate & Guardianship	7,491	0%
Adoption & Paternity	771	-24%
ITA	5,131	3%
Juvenile Dependency	1,141	-52%
Juvenile Offender	788	-30%
<b>Annual Filings Total</b>	<b>43,103</b>	<b>-19%</b>



### Case Resolutions

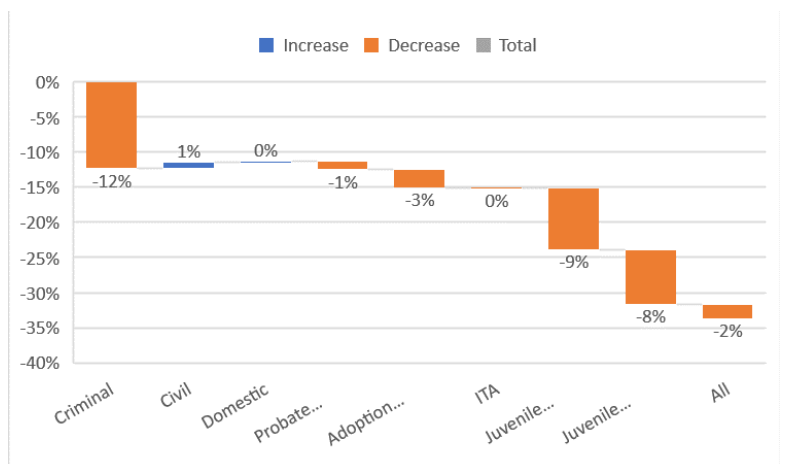
In 2020, the Court resolved a total of 41,262 cases. Total case resolutions were down 20% from 2019.



Case Type	2020	Change from 2019
Criminal	4,221	-29%
Civil	14,825	-31%
Domestic	5,998	-18%
Probate & Guardianship	7,085	-5%
Adoption & Paternity	687	-30%
ITA	4,986	0%
Non-offender Juvenile	2,629	-2%
Juvenile Offender	831	-20%
<b>Total Resolutions</b>	<b>41,262</b>	<b>-20%</b>

### Clearance Rate

Clearance rate describes the relationship between case filings and case resolutions. A positive rate means more cases were resolved in a particular category than were filed. Ideally, the number of cases resolved would equal the number of cases filed; however, fluctuations in filing rates cause annual variations.

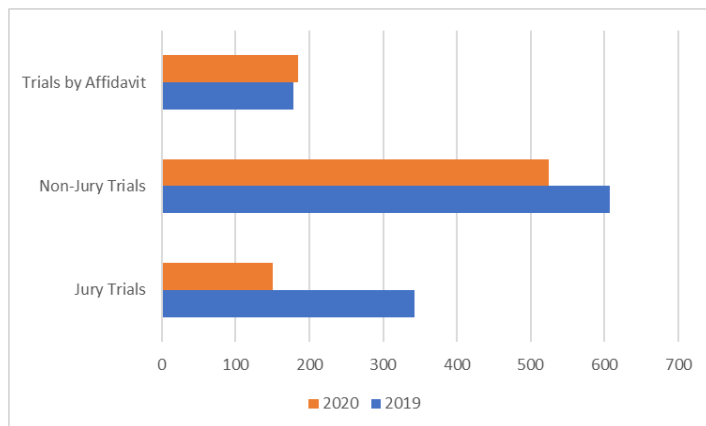


## Superior Court Caseload & Performance (cont.)

### Trial Activity

A total of 861 trials were conducted in 2020.

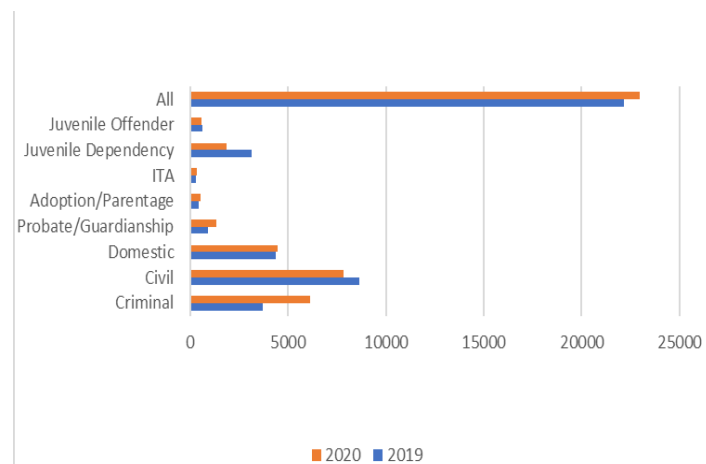
Trial Category	2020	Change from 2019
Jury Trials	151	-56%
Non-Jury Trials	525	-14%
Trials by Affidavit	185	3%



### Pending Caseload

A case is considered pending if it is unresolved and active.

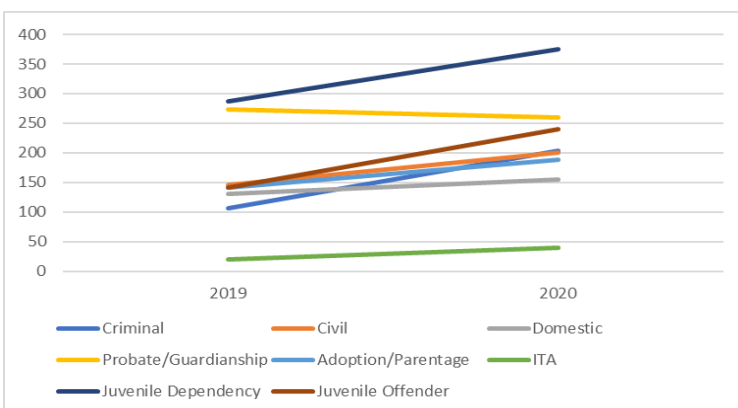
Case Type	2020	Change from 2019
Criminal	6,149	66%
Civil	7,821	-9%
Domestic	4,445	1%
Probate & Guardianship	1,313	42%
Adoption & Paternity	506	16%
ITA	321	11%
Non-offender Juvenile	1,850	-41%
Juvenile Offender	570	12%
<b>Year-End Total Pending Caseload</b>	<b>22,975</b>	<b>4%</b>



### Age of Pending Caseload

The age of a pending caseload is measured as the median age (in days) at the end of 2020. The median age for pending cases in 2020 was 201.5 days.

Case Type	2020	Change from 2019
Criminal	203	92%
Civil	200	37%
Domestic	155	18%
Probate & Guardianship	260	-5%
Adoption & Paternity	189	34%
ITA	39	95%
Juvenile Dependency	375	31%
Juvenile Offender	240	69%



## Judges of the King County Superior Court in 2020

<b>LeRoy McCullough</b> <i>Appointed, 1989</i>	<b>Suzanne R. Parisien</b> <i>Elected, 2013</i>	<b>Matthew W. Williams</b> <i>Elected, 2017</i>	<b>Aimee M. Sutton</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>
<b>Dean S. Lum</b> <i>Appointed, 1998</i>	<b>Sean P. O'Donnell</b> <i>Elected, 2013</i>	<b>Catherine L. Moore</b> <i>Elected, 2017</i>	<b>Josephine Wiggs-Martin</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>
<b>Julie A. Spector</b> <i>Appointed, 1999</i>	<b>Ken Schubert</b> <i>Elected, 2013</i>	<b>Steve G. Rosen</b> <i>Elected, 2017</i>	<b>David A. Steiner</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>
<b>Douglass A. North</b> <i>Elected, 2000</i>	<b>Susan H. Amini</b> <i>Appointed, 2013</i>	<b>David S. Keenan</b> <i>Elected, 2017</i>	<b>Ketu Shah</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>
<b>Catherine D. Shaffer</b> <i>Elected, 2000</i>	<b>Julia L. Garratt</b> <i>Appointed, 2013</i>	<b>Nicole A. Phelps</b> <i>Elected, 2017</i>	<b>Brian McDonald</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>
<b>John P. Erlick</b> <i>Elected, 2001</i>	<b>Roger S. Rogoff</b> <i>Appointed, 2014</i>	<b>J. Michael Diaz</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	<b>David Whedbee</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>
<b>Mary E. Roberts</b> <i>Appointed, 2003</i>	<b>John Ruhl</b> <i>Appointed, 2014</i>	<b>Karen Donohue</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	<b>Michael K. Ryan</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>
<b>Andrea A. Darvas</b> <i>Elected, 2005</i>	<b>Tanya Thorp</b> <i>Appointed, 2014</i>	<b>Sandra Widlan</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	<b>Nelson K.H. Lee</b> <i>Appointed, 2020</i>
<b>Theresa B. Doyle</b> <i>Elected, 2005</i>	<b>A. Chad Allred</b> <i>Appointed, 2014</i>	<b>Michael R. Scott</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	<b>Cindi Port</b> <i>Appointed, 2020</i>
<b>Jim Rogers</b> <i>Elected, 2005</i>	<b>Samuel S. Chung</b> <i>Appointed, 2014</i>	<b>Mafé Rajul</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	
<b>Susan J. Craighead</b> <i>Appointed, 2007</i>	<b>Veronica Alicea-Galvan</b> <i>Appointed, 2015</i>	<b>Marshall Ferguson</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	
<b>Regina S. Cahan</b> <i>Elected/Appointed, 2009</i>	<b>Janet M. Helson</b> <i>Appointed, 2015</i>	<b>Maureen McKee</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	
<b>Patrick H. Oishi</b> <i>Appointed, 2011</i>	<b>Johanna Bender</b> <i>Appointed, 2015</i>	<b>Averil Rothrock</b> <i>Appointed, 2018</i>	
<b>Judith H. Ramseyer</b> <i>Elected/Appointed, 2012</i>	<b>John F. McHale</b> <i>Elected, 2017</i>	<b>Melinda J. Young</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>	
<b>Elizabeth J. Berns</b> <i>Elected, 2013</i>	<b>Kristin V. Richardson</b> <i>Elected, 2017</i>	<b>Annette Messitt</b> <i>Appointed, 2019</i>	

## Commissioners of the King County Superior Court in 2020

**Hollis Holman, 1996**  
**Leonid Ponomarchuk, 1998**  
  
**Mark Hillman, 2007**  
**Jennie Laird, 2013**

**Melinda Johnson-Taylor, 2014**  
**Henry Judson, 2014**  
  
**Camille Schaefer, 2018**  
**Nicole Wagner, 2018**

**Jonathon Lack, 2019**  
**Bradford Moore 2019**



**A special thank you to all our court employees who make Superior Court a great place to work!**

#### **COURT ADMINISTRATION**

*Chief Administrative Officer* Paul Sherfey  
*Deputy Chief Administrative Officer* Linda Ridge  
*Communications Manager* Amy Roe  
*Project/Program Manager* Beth Taylor  
*Facilities and Security Manager* Paul Manolopoulos  
*Facilities Specialist* Kirby Pierce  
*Facilities Technician* Rodrigo Jacinto  
*Executive Specialist* Angelina Jimeno  
*Administrative Support* Karissa Zeno  
Malinda You  
Lulu Miles

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

*Director* Steve Davis  
*Business & Finance Officer* Rob Bradstreet  
*Project/Program Manager* Pat Ford-Campbell  
*Purchasing Fiscal Specialist* Gary Cutler  
*Business & Finance Specialist* Irving Sanchez Gaona  
*Finance Technician* Regina Jacobs  
*Payroll & Accounts Payable Tech.* Jose Ramos  
*Mail Service Assistant* Kristan Johnson

#### **JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION**

*Director* Barbara Miner

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

*Director* Minerva Villarreal  
*Senior Human Resources Consultant* Kathryn Schipper  
*Human Resources Analyst* Gertrude Fuentes  
*Human Resources Technician* Cynthia Williams

#### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

*Director* Andy Hill  
*IT Applications Supervisor* Hugh Kim  
*Senior Database Administrator* Rita Napitupulu  
*Web/Application Developer* Doug Buckmeier  
*Senior Application Developer* Rebecca Sanders  
Diana Panagiotopoulos  
*Business Analyst* Sathia Vann  
*Senior Systems Engineers* Chair-Li Chang  
Kevin Daggett  
*Senior Systems Specialist* Ted Shaw  
*IT Systems Specialists* Jerry Ito  
Michael Kim  
*Senior Desktop Support Technicians* Michelle Croy  
Kawai Tang

#### **JUVENILE COURT SERVICES**

*Director* Lea Ennis  
*Managers* Paul Daniels  
Robert Gant  
Aaron Parker  
*Assistant to the Director* Kimberley Rosenstock  
*Project/Program Manager* Jovi Catena

#### **COURT OPERATIONS**

*Supervisor* Jacqui Arrington  
Loretta George  
Natasha Jackson

#### **ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT UNIT**

*Supervisor* Joanne Moore-Miller  
*Administrative Specialists* Betty Jimerson  
Chris Hong  
Julie Allen

#### **JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSESMENT TEAM**

*Supervisor* Anna Doolittle  
*Program Coordinator* Tammy Wehmeyer  
*Clinical Psychologist* Chalon Irvin  
*Chemical Dependency Prof* Ashley Updike  
*Mental Health Technician* Milana Davydova  
Christian Quintanar-Aragon  
*SUD Specialist* Elizabeth Franzo

#### **RESTORATIVE PROGRAMS**

*Supervisor* Jeremy Crowe  
*FIRS Juvenile Probation Counselors* Cecilia Camino  
Dede Gartrell  
Jason Canfield  
*Step-Up Social Worker Lead* Lily Anderson  
*Social Workers* Fahmia Ali  
Francesca Peila-Phariss

## JUVENILE COURT SERVICES (CONT.)

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

<i>Supervisor</i>	Diane Korf
<i>Education/Employment Specialists</i>	Dawn Nannini
	Guy McWhorter
	John Leers
	Justin Cox
<i>Administrative Specialist</i>	Dorcas Olegario
<i>Diversion PYJ Program Specialist</i>	David Elliott
<i>Resource Center Admin Specialist</i>	Paula Moses
<i>CSEC Program Manager</i>	Kelly Mangiaracina

### SCREENING UNIT

<i>Supervisor</i>	Dan Baxter
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselors</i>	Lisaa Lewis-Lucas
	Ronald Tarnow
	Lee Lim
	Lisa Higgins
	Christy Cochran
<i>On Call JPCs</i>	Deshanna Brown
	Claudia Scipio
	Eddie Pompey
	Harriet Slye
	Katie Forbes
	Michael West
	Sharon Miller
<i>WACIC Data Coordinator</i>	Dominick Beck

### INTAKE SERVICES

<i>Supervisor</i>	Todd Foster
<i>JPC Lead</i>	Karla Powelson
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselors</i>	Leonor Soliz
	Gabrielle Pagano
	Michael Bowles
	Yoko Maeshiro

### INTAKE SERVICES II

<i>Supervisor</i>	Josalyn Conley
<i>JPC Lead</i>	Lisa Gistarb
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselors</i>	Yvette Gaston
	Kendra Morgan
	Kiersten Knutson
	Williette Venkataya
	Kris Bennett

### CITY UNIT

<i>Supervisor</i>	Tracy Dixon
<i>JPC Lead</i>	Diane Rayburn
<i>JPCs</i>	Bill Bodick
	Daryl Cerdinio
	Demetrius Devers
	Bruce Gorley
	Diana Quall

### NORTHEAST UNIT—BELLEVUE

<i>Supervisor</i>	Melissa Sprague
<i>JPC Lead</i>	Gwen Spears
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselors</i>	Norm Charouhas
	Dawn Closs
	Dan Higgins
	Randy Kok
<i>Administrative Specialist</i>	Wendy Johnson

### SOUTH I UNIT—RENTON

<i>Supervisor</i>	JoeAnne Taylor
<i>JPC Lead</i>	Nikki Burr
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselors</i>	Darlin Johnson
	Fred Aulava
	Mai Tran
	Michelle Mihail
	Yvonne Clement-Smith
<i>Administrative Specialist</i>	Lameania Bridges

### SOUTH II UNIT—FEDERAL WAY

<i>Supervisor</i>	Kelli Lauritzen
<i>JPC Lead</i>	Kris McKinney
<i>Juvenile Probation Counselors</i>	Brandon Lyons
	Michelle Higa
	Rachael Hubert
	Francisca Madera
	Kelli Sullivan
<i>Administrative Specialist</i>	Danielle Kidd

## FAMILY COURT OPERATIONS

*Director* Jorene Reiber

### FAMILY LAW/UFC OPERATIONS

*Manager* Jamie Perry

*Supervisors* Victoria Jacobson

Korey Knuth

*Early Resolution Case Managers* Najja Bullock

Christina Luera

Heather Muwero

Gretchen Neale

*Family Law Facilitators* Jeanna Bento

Kristen Gabel

Allison Lee

*Parent Seminar Coordinator* Mary Ann Pennington

*Civil Case Specialist* Caroline Leung

*Family Court Operations Lead* Wolfey Gerhardt

*Dependency Coordinators* Sheila Rogers

Brandon Soltero

*Family Law Coordinators* Joanna Antrim

Chad Berlin

Alexandra Hueter

Michelle Lorraine

Elyse Sparks

### FAMILY COURT SERVICES

*Manager* Connor Lenz

*Assistant Program Manager* Julie McDonald

*Supervisor* Tracey White

*Social Workers* Tracie Barnett

Angela Battisti

Alisa Benitez

Jennifer Bercot

Holly Bernard

Nicole Bynum

Desiree Canter

Meagan Cordova

Alissa Luis Yates

Kristi McQueen

Sarah Zubair

*Dependency Mediators* Joshua Henderson

Kendy Rossi

*Becca Program Specialists* Melody Edmiston

Jennifer Tibbitts

*Becca Case Managers* Amy Andree

Karen Chapman

*Adoption Paralegal* Gina Reyes

*FCS Case Coordinators* Brooklyn Adams

Taryn McCormack

*Customer Service Specialists* Darien Riffe

Vanessa Snelson

### DEPENDENCY CASA

*Manager* Michael Griesedieck

*Assistant Program Manager* Wai-Ping Li Landis

*Supervisor* Kathy McCormack

*Program Attorneys* Elizabeth Berris

Jennie Cowan

Demetri Heliotis

Lori Irwin

Kathleen Martin

April Rivera

*Staff GAL Specialists* Pauline Duke

Virginia Whalen

*CASA Specialists* Rashida Ballard

Carolyn Frimpter

Janet Horton

Megan Notter

Fred Pfistner

Rie Takeuchi

Reyana Ugas

Deanna Watson

*Paralegals* Laura Chunyk

Vickey Wilson

*Customer Service Specialists* Diane Fields

Stephanie Richardson

Toni Rodriguez

### DEPENDENCY OPERATIONS

*FJCIP Specialist* Stacy Keen

### FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

*Supervisor* Jill Murphy

*Parents for Parents Coordinator* Shawn Powell

*Family Treatment Specialists* Cathy Lehmann

Linda Townsend-Whitham

April Wilson

*Court Program Specialists* Kandice Trenary

Dajani Winzer

*FRS Specialists* Teresa Anderson-Harper

Mansiha Jackson

*Administrative Support* Kari Forbes

Ashley Mares

## COURT OPERATIONS

*Director* Rachael DelVillar  
*Court Operations Managers* John Salamony  
 Sandra Ogilvie  
*Court Operations Supervisor* Nikki Riley  
*Judicial Technicians* Regine Tugublimas  
 Yen Phung  
 Julie Espinoza

### ARBITRATION & EX PARTE DEPARTMENT

*Manager* Nadia Simpson  
*Judicial Technicians* Catherine Kuvac  
 Patricia Pizzuto  
*Guardian Ad Litem* Keith Thomson

### CIVIL DEPARTMENT

*Supervisors* Heiti Milnor-Lewis  
*Civil Case Scheduling Technicians* Alice Gilliam  
 Joy Stransky  
 Joseph Mansor

### CRIMINAL DEPARTMENT

*Supervisor* Erica Conway  
 Jonathan Bussey  
 Carla Gaber  
 Tress Heckler  
 Geena Hunji  
 Jackie Snodgrass

### INTERPRETER SERVICES

*Manager* Chris Kunej  
*Supervisor* Irene Anulacion  
*Interpreter Services Technicians* Dara Chiem  
 Hakim Lakhali  
 Charlotte Taylor

### ITA COURT

*Manager* Margo Burnison  
*Coordinator* April Ramirez-Chavez

### JURY DEPARTMENT

*Supervisor* Greg Wheeler  
*Lead* Christina Ly  
*Jury Services Technicians* Sasha Mohnani (split OIS)  
 Katherine Glenn  
 Irene Szczerba

### COURT REPORTERS

Marci Chatelain Bridget O'Donnell  
 Kimberly Girgus Michael Townsend Jr.  
 Kevin Moll Miranda Seitz

### BAILIFFS

Mary Ballanger Jennifer McBeth  
 Ann Brockenbrough Craig Morrison  
 Chase Craig Shaylynn Nelson  
 Lati Culverson Linda Nguyen  
 Katheryne Davis Kelli Northrop  
 Maria Diga Erin O'Connor  
 Nhu Dinh Marci Parducci  
 Laura Dorris Tikecha Pearson  
 Kathryn Evans Jim Petersen  
 Michael Getman-Gerbec Shannon Raymond  
 Jill Gerontis Ricki Reese  
 Monica Gillum Nadia Rizk  
 Kristin Grant Pam Roark  
 Kellie Griffin Christine Robinson  
 Phillip Hennings Ayako Sato  
 Rebecca Hibbs Brenda Smith  
 Salina Hill Janie Smoter  
 Matthew Hodgman Linda Tran  
 Greg Howard Lisa Tran  
 Sarah Hudson Wendy Vickery  
 Susan Hunsinger Jacqueline Ware  
 Nicole Huppert Laurie Watson  
 Gabby Jacobson Kiese Wilburn  
 Renee Janes Helen Woodke  
 Manny LaGuardia Peggy Wu  
 Lisa MacMillan Lisa Zimnisky  
 Beatrice Marquez

The mission of King County Superior Court is to serve the public by ensuring justice through accessible and effective forums for the fair, just, understandable, and timely resolution of legal matters.

### CORE VALUES

- ⇒ Fair, Understandable, and Timely
- ⇒ Leadership
- ⇒ Respect
- ⇒ Accessible
- ⇒ Safe
- ⇒ Service to the Public
- ⇒ Innovation

### STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS 2019-2023

- Access, Services, and Programs that Ensure Justice
- Case Management and Timely Resolution
- Funding for Core Responsibilities and Court Innovations
- Facilities, Security, and Technology Expansion/Improvement
- Judicial Officer/Staff Development and Workforce Engagement

King County Courthouse | 516 Third Avenue | Seattle WA 98104  
Clark Children and Family Justice Center | 1211 East Alder | Seattle WA 98122  
Maleng Regional Justice Center | 401 Fourth Avenue North | Kent WA 98032  
Ninth & Jefferson Building | ITA Court | 908 Jefferson Street | Seattle WA 98104