

State of the  
J U D I C I A R Y  
Caseload Statistics

2008  
*State of Nebraska*  
*Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican*

# Nebraska Court Structure

## Nebraska Supreme Court

Chief Justice and 6 Justices

### Highest Appellate Court:

- discretionary appeals from the Court of Appeals
- mandatory appeals in
  - +capital cases
  - +cases concerning constitutionality of statutes
- may hear cases removed from or that have bypassed the Court of Appeals by a petition of further review

Original Jurisdiction: specified cases

## Court of Appeals

6 Judges

Panels of 3 judges hear appeals throughout state

### Intermediate Appellate Court

-trial court appeals except those heard by Supreme Court pursuant to:

- +mandatory jurisdiction
- +direct appeal status
- +removal procedures
- +bypass procedures

## District Courts

55 Judges

Serving 12 districts

### Trial court of general jurisdiction:

- felony cases
- domestic relation cases
- civil cases over \$51,000

### When serving as an appellate court:

- some county court appeals
- administrative agency appeals

## Workers' Compensation Courts

7 Judges

Judges hear cases throughout the state

Jurisdiction: occupation injury and illness cause

## Separate Juvenile Courts

11 Judges

Serving 3 counties

(Douglas, Sarpy & Lancaster)

Jurisdiction: County court juvenile and domestic jurisdiction

## Administrative Tribunal

Each board, commission, department, officer, division, or other administrative Office or unit of the state government authorized by law to make rules and regulations.

*(not a part of the state court structure)*

## County Courts

58 Judges

Serving 12 districts

### Jurisdiction:

- misdemeanor cases, including traffic, and municipal ordinance violations
- preliminary hearing in felony cases
- civil cases involving less than \$51,000
- small claims involving less than \$2,700
- probate, guardianship, conservatorship, adoption, and eminent domain
- function as juvenile courts except in Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster counties

# Nebraska Supreme Court

## Nebraska Supreme Court Justices

Chief Justice Michael G. Heavican

Honorable John F. Wright  
Honorable William Connolly  
Honorable John Gerrard

Honorable Kenneth Stephan  
Honorable Michael McCormack  
Honorable Lindsey Miller-Lerman

Supreme Court Caseload		
	2006	2007
New Cases Docketed	57	63
Petitions to Bypass Filed	64	40
Petitions to Bypass Granted	31	19
Petitions to Bypass Denied	26	24
Cases Transferred from Court of Appeals	123	137
Petitions for Further Review Filed	284	301
Petitions for Further Review Granted	18	12
Petitions for Further Review Denied	266	288
Cases Disposed by Opinion	200	198
Cases Disposed Without Opinion	52	54
Total Cases Disposed	252	252

# Nebraska Court of Appeals

## Nebraska Court of Appeals Judges

Chief Judge Everett Inbody

Honorable Richard Sievers  
Honorable John Irwin  
Honorable Theodore Carlson

Honorable Frankie Moore  
Honorable William Cassel

Appeals Court Caseload		
	2006	2007
New Cases Docketed	1,410	1,311
Transferred to Supreme Court	123	137
Petitions to Bypass Granted	31	19
Cases Disposed by Opinion	436	522
Total Cases Disposed	1,217	1,313

# Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court

## Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court Judges

Presiding Judge Laureen Van Norman

Honorable Michael P. Cavel  
Honorable Ronald L. Brown  
Honorable J. Michael Fitzgerald

Honorable James R. Coe  
Honorable Michael K. High  
Honorable John R. Hoffert

Compensation Court Review Hearing Caseload		
	2006	2007
New Cases Docketed	137	120
Cases Disposed by Decision	113	89
Settlements and Other Dispositions	34	40
Total Cases Disposed	147	129

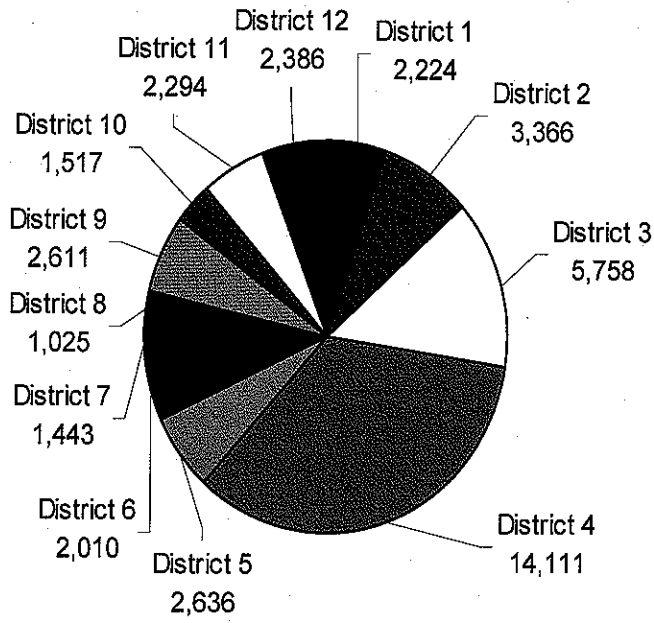
## Compensation Court Original Hearing Caseload

### Total Filings by Year

1998	1,109
1999	1,194
2000	1,195
2001	1,375
2002	1,391
2003	1,424
2004	1,384
2005	1,309
2006	1,317
2007	1,235

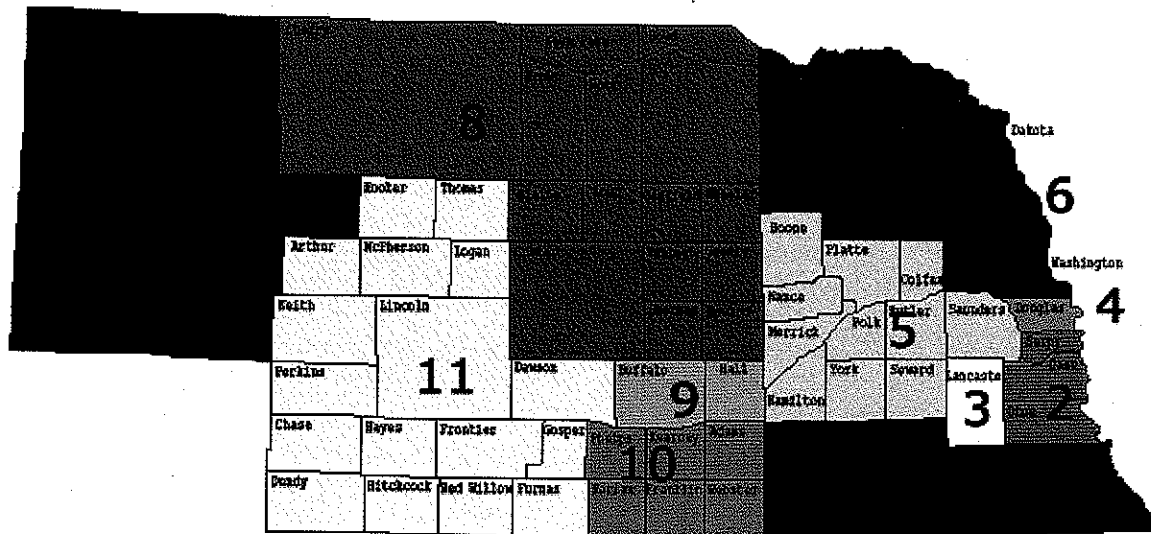
# District Court Statewide Totals

## 2007 Filings by District

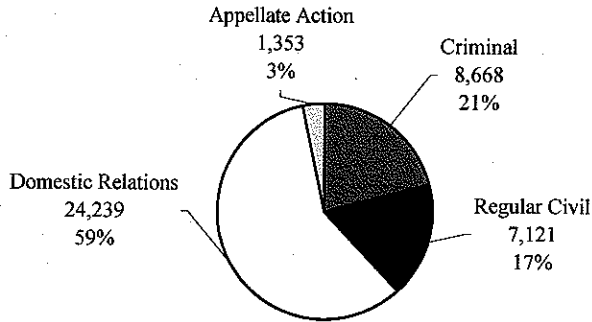


### Total Filings By Year

Year	Total Filings
1998	38,330
1999	37,915
2000	39,201
2001	39,435
2002	40,796
2003	41,038
2004	42,605
2005	43,051
2006	41,361
2007	41,381



## District Court Statewide Totals By Case Type

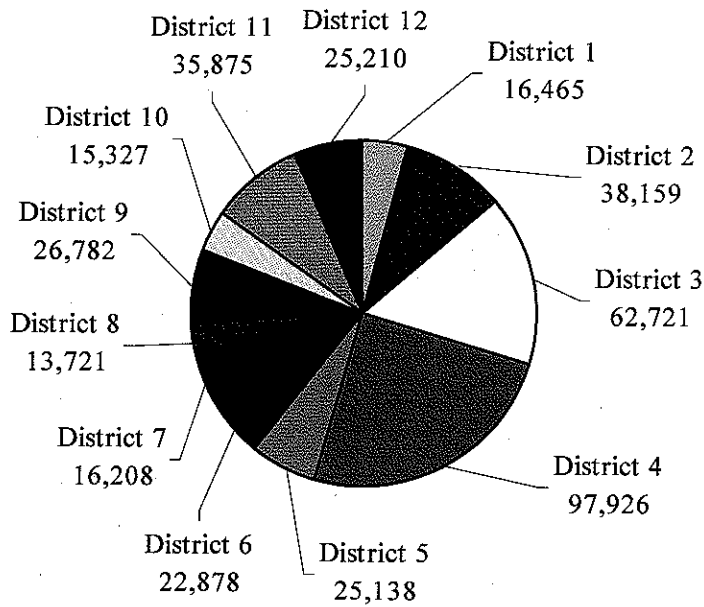


2007 Cases Filed By Category

Judicial District	Criminal	Regular Civil	Domestic Relations	Appellate Action	Totals
1	333	542	1,276	73	2,224
2	815	557	1,900	94	3,366
3	1,137	981	3,413	227	5,758
4	3,349	2,120	8,262	380	14,111
5	548	408	1,598	82	2,636
6	380	338	1,233	59	2,010
7	304	204	884	51	1,443
8	136	302	540	47	1,025
9	655	338	1,505	113	2,611
10	130	444	835	108	1,517
11	456	484	1,310	44	2,294
12	425	403	1,483	75	2,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,668</b>	<b>7,121</b>	<b>24,239</b>	<b>1,353</b>	<b>41,381</b>

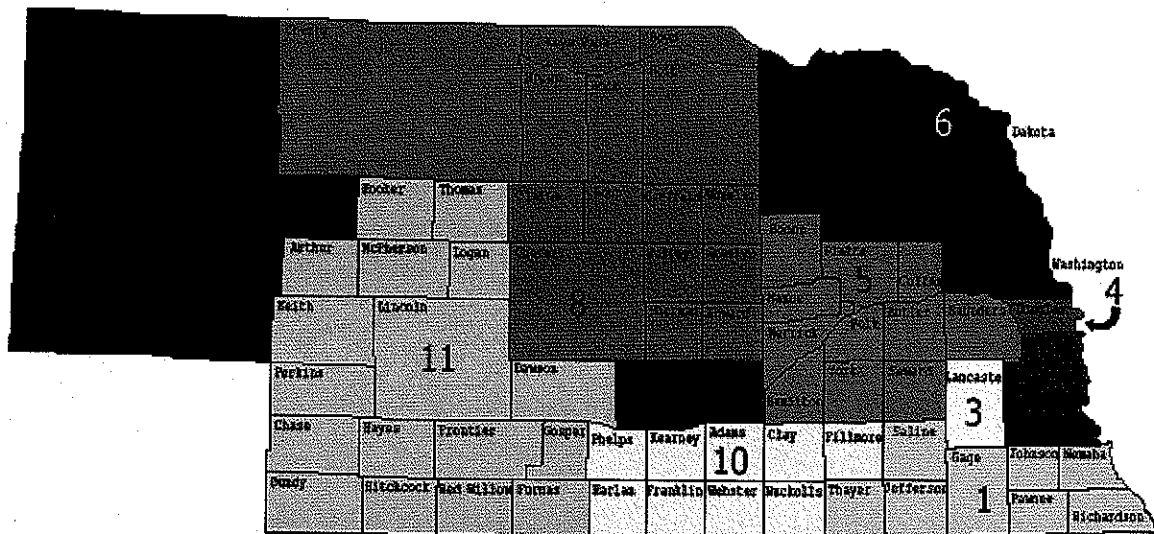
1,334 domestic relations cases were referred to county judges

# County Court Statewide Totals 2007 Filings by District



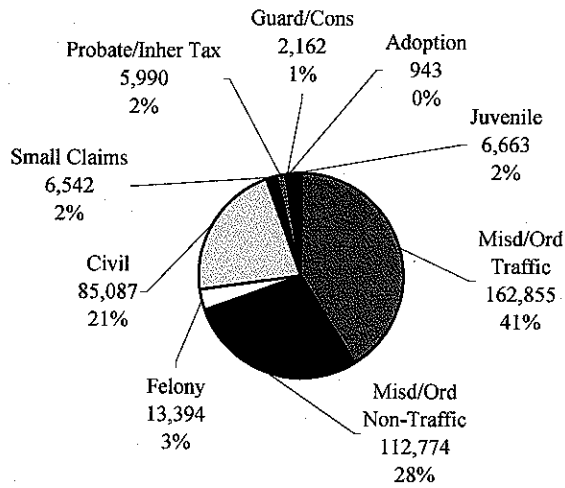
## Total Filings By Year

1998	376,285
1999	383,930
2000	390,654
2001	385,995
2002	412,651
2003	408,829
2004	398,636
2005	395,741
2006	393,551
2007	396,410





## County Court Statewide Totals By Case Type



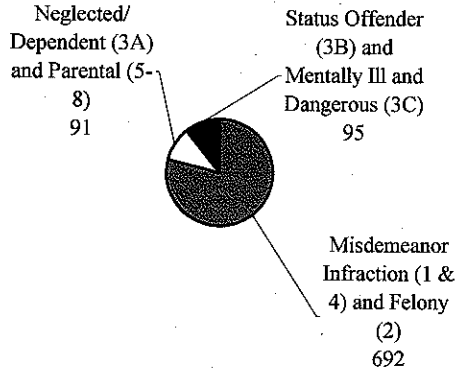
### 2007 Cases Filed By Category By District

Judicial District	Misd/Ord Traffic	Misd/Ord Non-Traf	Felony	Civil	Small Claims	Probate/Inher Tax	Guard Cons	Adoption	Juvenile	Totals
1	8,485	3,544	490	2,750	324	384	81	36	371	16,465
2	18,772	10,927	1,199	5,971	361	371	144	94	320	38,159
3	25,931	18,813	1,974	14,156	729	664	298	156	0	62,721
4	29,978	33,969	4,279	25,971	1,515	1,244	687	283	0	97,926
5	10,266	6,299	781	5,341	487	631	117	81	1,135	25,138
6	10,303	6,245	722	3,943	370	412	128	39	716	22,878
7	7,393	4,214	383	2,993	336	354	101	33	401	16,208
8	7,001	3,259	277	2,196	340	322	75	30	221	13,721
9	8,562	7,177	1,207	8,163	473	307	130	47	716	26,782
10	6,144	3,486	325	3,831	313	385	122	39	682	15,327
11	18,591	8,056	945	5,773	731	513	117	63	1,086	35,875
12	11,429	6,785	812	3,999	563	403	162	42	1,015	25,210
Total	162,855	112,774	13,394	85,087	6,542	5,990	2,162	943	6,663	396,410

1,334 domestic relations cases were referred to county judges

# Sarpy County Separate Juvenile Court

## Filings By Year



### JUDGES

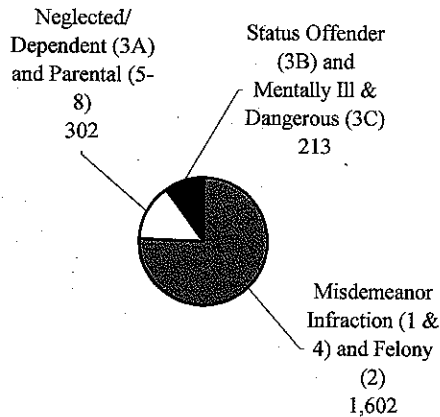
Honorable Lawrence Gendler

Honorable Robert O'Neal

	Misdemeanor/Infraction (1 & 4) and Felony (2)	Neglected/Dependent (3A) and Parental (5 - 8)	Status Offender (3B) and Mentally Ill & Dangerous (3C)	Totals
Sarpy	692	91	95	878

# Lancaster County Separate Juvenile Court

## Filings by year



### Judges

Honorable Toni Thorson

Honorable Linda Porter

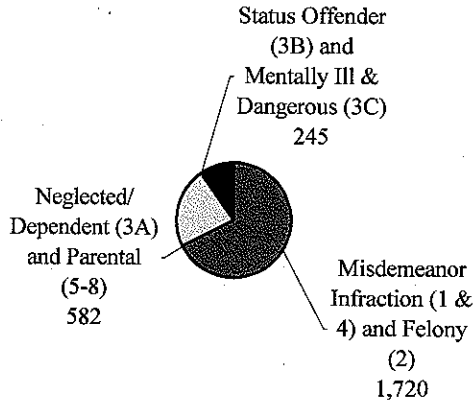
Honorable Roger Heideman

Honorable Reggie Ryder

	Misdemeanor/Infraction (1 & 4) and Felony (2)	Neglected/Dependent (3A) and Parental (5 - 8)	Status Offender (3B) and Mentally Ill & Dangerous (3C)	Totals
Lancaster	1,602	302	213	2,117

# Douglas County Separate Juvenile Court

## Filings By Year



## JUDGES

Honorable Elizabeth Crnkovich  
 Honorable Douglas Johnson  
 Honorable Wadie Thomas, Jr.  
 Honorable Christopher Kelly  
 Honorable Vernon Daniels

	Misdemeanor/Infraction (1 & 4) and Felony (2)	Neglected/Dependent (3A) and Parental (5 - 8)	Status Offender (3B) and Mentally Ill & Dangerous (3C)	Totals
Douglas	1,720	582	245	2,547

## Separate Juvenile Courts - 10 Year Filings

County	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sarpy	975	842	772	831	760	717	733	764	759	878
Lancaster	2,052	2,016	1,762	1,731	1,752	1,729	2,101	1,935	1,935	2,117
Douglas	1,965	1,933	1,713	1,949	2,059	2,026	2,037	2,098	2,163	2,547
Total	4,992	4,791	4,247	4,511	4,571	4,472	4,871	4,797	4,857	5,542

Juvenile Court jurisdiction is defined in Nebraska Statute §43-247

- (1) misdemeanor
- (2) felony
- (3a) abuse, neglect or dependency
- (3b) truancy or ungovernable
- (4) traffic infraction
- (5) parental jurisdiction
- (6) and (7) termination of parental rights
- (8) child relinquished to DHHSS



State of the Judiciary 2008  
2007 Caseload Statistics  
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Cover Photo: District Court Judge Kris Cecava assists student 'judge' swear in a witness for a 2007 5<sup>th</sup> grade job-shadow trial in Oshkosh.

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NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT



*Public Information*

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