



ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE: PROGRESSING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

2024–2025 REPORT



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COURT OF JUSTICE:**
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For the past two years, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice has been steadily progressing in the public interest. By continuing to modernize operations, implement new technology, enhance access and promote transparency, the Court has strengthened its capacity to uphold the rule of law and serve the people of Ontario.





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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE

I am pleased to present this report of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice for the years 2024–2025.

As outlined in the Court's last report, *Modernizing the Justice System*, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the Court's adoption of new technologies, practices and rules to deliver justice during unprecedented and uncertain circumstances. Almost overnight, remote hearings, electronic filing and virtual document sharing became the new normal. Long overdue, that transformation propelled the Court into the 21st century. But responding to immediate pressures only took the Court so far.

For the past two years, the Court has been building on that modernization, steadily progressing in the public interest. It has identified and undertaken an array of changes transforming the way it serves the people of Ontario. As importantly, it has also continued to enhance its transparency and accountability to strengthen public trust in the administration of justice.

The Court charted this course of sustained improvement through its strategic plan for 2025–2030, *Leading the Justice System into the Future*, which is available on the Court's website. I encourage you to read it. As you will see, the plan targets those areas where the Court can make the greatest difference for the public and, more importantly, provides a clear framework for action. In doing so, the plan is not simply a statement of intent, but rather a practical roadmap for driving institutional growth in the public interest.

The plan is based on five pillars: the Court will continue to modernize how it operates, improve its ability to deliver timely justice, streamline its processes to improve access to justice, enhance the public's understanding of and trust in the justice system, and strengthen safety at its courthouses across the province. The initiatives described in this report reflect early but meaningful progress on these priorities. Across multiple domains, the Court has moved beyond a piecemeal approach to improvement toward a coordinated transformation aligning accessibility, efficiency and accountability.

Technological modernization continues to be a crucial element of our reforms. The most significant development in this area has been the launch of the Courts Digital Transformation in Toronto for all family and civil matters, which required a monumental collaborative effort. This is an end-to-end digital solution replacing the Court's previous disconnected technologies with one integrated platform across all areas of law. This transformation will be expanded to Toronto's Criminal matters in 2027, after which it will be rolled out region-by-region across the rest of the province. Ontario is now one of the largest jurisdictions in the world to pursue the digitization of an entire justice system.

Alongside this initiative, the Court has continued to enhance other courtroom technologies. For example, we have refined the Court's use of in-person, hybrid and virtual hearings, drawing on experience gained during the pandemic. By making more effective and principled use of all hearing formats, the Court is better able to ensure that its procedures are best tailored to the needs of each case, promoting efficiency without compromising fairness.

Of course, technological advancement means little without its ability to facilitate the delivery of timely justice. In the civil sphere, the Civil Rules Review represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for systemic improvement. As detailed in our last report, Attorney General Doug Downey and I assembled a talented team to make recommendations for the first complete revision of the *Rules of Civil Procedure* in 40 years. After conducting multiple and extensive public consultations, the Civil Rules Review Working Group delivered its final report in October 2025. Attorney General Downey and I continue to discuss the Working Group's recommendations, which promise to put greater control over these matters into the Court's hands and, ultimately, expedite their resolution.

Improving access to justice and public confidence are also pillars of our strategic plan. The launch of the Court's redesigned website was an important step in this direction, providing user-friendly information for the public and justice system participants. This includes our revised and consolidated province-wide practice directions, which provide plain-language guidance on how to navigate the court system. More broadly, enhancing the public's confidence and trust in what we do also requires collaboration with one of the Court's most important stakeholders—the journalists who cover our hearings and, in so doing, act as the public's eyes and ears. Last year, my office established a media relations committee, composed of judges, journalists, and representatives from the Ministry of the Attorney General. In addition to creating an open channel of communication between the Court and media, this committee is an important forum to, among other things, identify the media's challenges related to covering the Court and identifying solutions to those challenges.

In criminal matters, the Court has also advanced initiatives designed to improve scheduling and make more effective use of court resources. Pilot projects addressing in-custody appearances and Legal Aid support for unrepresented parties have demonstrated how targeted operational changes improve both efficiency and fairness. Likewise, in the sphere of family law, several reforms have improved access to justice. Amendments to the *Family Law Rules* have now formally implemented binding judicial dispute resolution, expanded the jurisdiction of associate judges to hear certain family disputes, and now allow specially trained paralegals called Family Law Service Providers to assist litigants with specific matters. These changes will help Ontario families resolve their disputes more effectively.

More broadly, there is a growing understanding that continuing judicial education is a vital institutional responsibility directly linked to the quality of justice delivered to the public. Recognizing this reality, we established a new Support Unit for Judicial Resources and Education. The Court has crafted enhanced onboarding manuals, created ongoing educational programming and improved our internal knowledge management. These court-wide resources join its practice-specific programs, such as the domestic violence and intimate partner violence education given to our judges presiding over family cases. I take pride in the work the judiciary has done to maintain a culture of education and excellence.

Public confidence depends not only on outcomes but also on transparency. To that end, the Court has begun publishing more meaningful data about its operations. This has provided greater public insight into how cases move through the Court, including information on the volume and types of new proceedings, as well as the number of proceedings disposed and actively pending across jurisdictions.

In an era where public confidence in institutions is increasingly fragile, protecting the independence and impartiality of the Court is more vital than ever. Judicial independence is a sacred trust conferred by the constitution upon the Court's judges—not to protect themselves, but to ensure that the rights of all Canadians are safeguarded by law. The measures outlined in this biennial report reflect that commitment. By modernizing its operations, improving timeliness, enhancing access and supporting the judiciary, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice is actively strengthening its capacity to uphold the rule of law and serve the people of Ontario.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey B. Morawetz, Chief Justice



The Hon. Geoffrey B. Morawetz
Chief Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE

I am pleased to join Chief Justice Morawetz in presenting this biennial report for 2024–2025. The report is an opportunity to outline important developments at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice over the past two years.

As Associate Chief Justice, I am a member of the Court’s Executive Council and oversee the Divisional Court and Small Claims Court. I also co-chair the Court’s exciting new Community Engagement Advisory Group. This group, comprising members of the judiciary from across the province, provides advice to the Chief Justice and the Court’s Executive Council on community outreach, education and engagement initiatives focusing on the Court’s role in serving the public.

As the appellate branch of the Superior Court of Justice, the Divisional Court hears judicial reviews, statutory appeals from administrative tribunals, and appeals in some civil and family matters. It ranks among the busiest appellate courts in the country. Over the past two years, the Divisional Court has made significant strides toward greater efficiency. One improvement has been the increased use of early case management, which triages urgent matters, identifies flawed proceedings and guides litigants on how to expedite their case.

I am grateful to the Administrative Judges of the Divisional Court and each region’s lead judge for their efforts in ensuring the Divisional Court’s smooth functioning.

With respect to the Small Claims Court, several changes have taken place in 2024-2025. Known as “the people’s court” for civil disputes, the Small Claims Court’s mandate is simple: speedy justice. Its processes are meant to ensure judicial determination of cases on their merits in the most expeditious and least expensive way possible. In October 2025, the Court’s monetary jurisdiction increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000, meaning that more Ontarians can now resolve their civil disputes through this summary process. In June 2025, amendments were made to the *Rules of the Small Claims Court* to further modernize the Court’s procedures. For example, the Rules now provide for trial management conferences where Small Claims Court deputy judges meet with parties to ensure that complex cases are trial-ready. These short conferences, held virtually, will help to avoid last-minute trial adjournments, which are costly to litigants and waste precious court time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Judges Council, which oversees annual education programs for the Small Claims Court’s deputy judges and a mentorship program for new appointees. To the members of the Committee of Administrative Judges for the Small Claims Court, thank you for your advice and your leadership in each of the Court’s regions.

Finally, I am grateful to all the staff in the Office of the Chief Justice, as well as court staff in the Ministry of the Attorney General. Your hard work is essential and very much appreciated!

Yours truly,

Faye McWatt, Associate Chief Justice



The Hon. Faye McWatt
Associate Chief Justice

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR FAMILY JUDGE

I am honoured to contribute to this biennial report of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice to provide an update on the Court's family law and child protection work. It gives me the opportunity to reflect on the theme of this report, progressing in the public interest, and what that means for Ontario families.

As the Superior Court of Justice modernizes and integrates new technologies, we remain mindful that progress must be accessible to all. Over the past two years, the Court has worked closely with the Ministry of the Attorney General to support self-represented family law parties pending the province-wide rollout of the new end-to-end filing system. Court staff now upload documents to the Court's document-sharing platform, Case Center, on behalf of self-represented parties, allowing valuable court time to be focused on hearing and resolving family matters. Through engagement with Legal Aid Ontario, in addition to our Family Court sites, family law duty counsel services have now been expanded to high-volume, generalist Superior Court of Justice locations. The Court also continues to appreciate the essential contributions of subsidized court-connected mediation services and Dispute Resolution Officers, and the importance of Family Court Expansion. Initiatives such as these contribute to a modernized court system that strives to better serve all Ontarians and make the court process easier to navigate.

Progress in the public interest is advanced by listening to the many individuals whose efforts support the effective administration of justice. Since last spring, I have travelled virtually and in person across the province to attend Family Court Community Liaison and Resource Committees (CLRCs). I have also met with family law counsel and practitioners. I have been struck by the high level of engagement by the family justice community and its shared commitment to serving families through practical initiatives that responsibly steward court resources while improving public service. These consultations help ensure that progress within the justice system is informed by, and responsive to, the needs of the public and the diversity of our communities.

The Court's education initiatives focus on providing the judiciary with the tools needed to address the complex and evolving issues before the court. Family and child protection law is where some of the most pressing social issues find expression in the lives of everyday Ontarians, including the increasing number of matters involving family violence, mental health struggles and addiction. As family law issues grow increasingly complex, the Court provides regular, focused judicial education on a variety of topics, including issues in family violence.

I am grateful to family law counsel for their hard work and dedication. In particular, I would like to recognize those who serve as Dispute Resolution Officers or who take clients supported by Legal Aid Ontario. I also extend my sincere thanks to my judicial colleagues, along with the mediators, parenting coordinators, arbitrators and other family law professionals who do the difficult work of helping families navigate conflict and uncertainty and move toward more stable outcomes. I would be remiss not to highlight the tremendously challenging work carried out by court staff to ensure that daily court operations run smoothly. Collectively, your commitment to helping families through a uniquely challenging time in their lives makes a real difference.

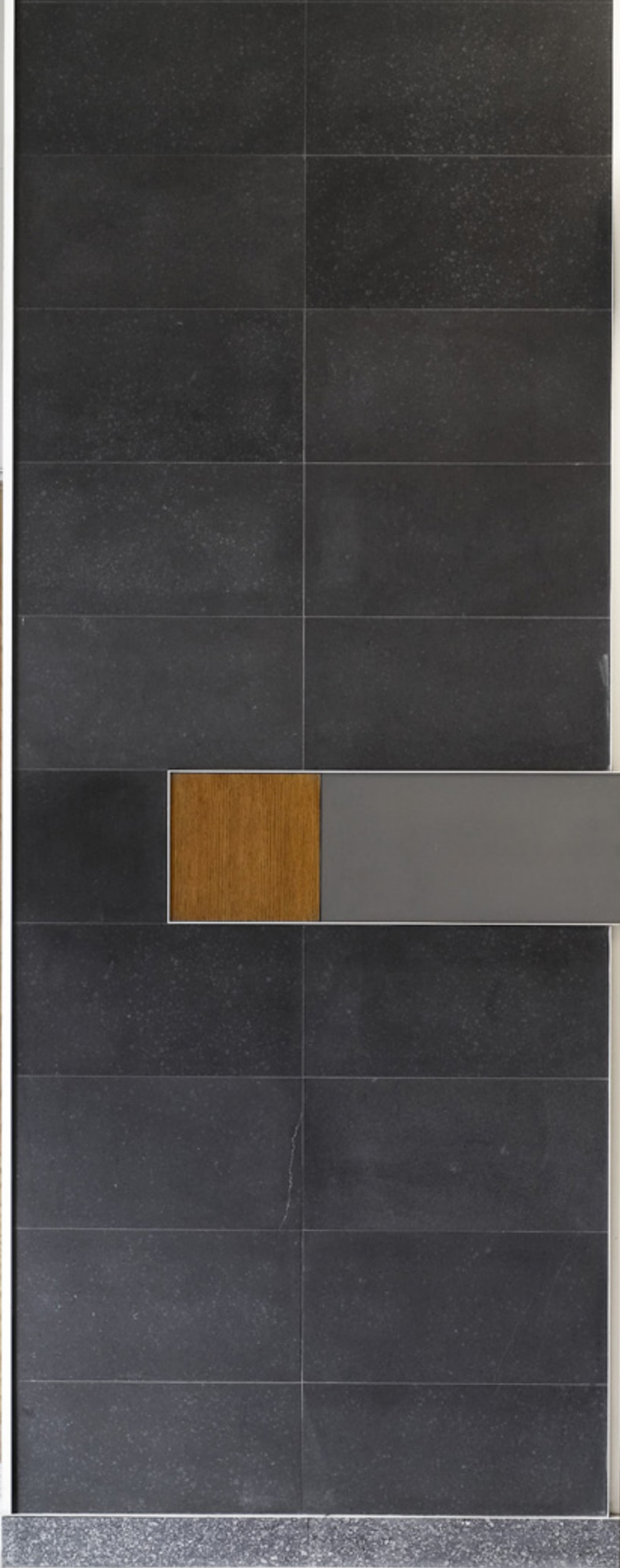
Serving the public interest is never static. It depends on the continued willingness of each of us—bench, bar, court administration and professionals alike—to innovate, collaborate and remain attentive to the evolving needs of the families we serve. That collective commitment is what ensures a family justice system worthy of public trust.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Stevenson, Senior Family Judge



*The Hon. Suzanne Stevenson
Senior Family Judge*



SECTION 1
**ABOUT THE ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE**



ABOUT THE ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

OVERVIEW OF THE COURT

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice is unique among the province's courts. It is a court of inherent jurisdiction, meaning that, unlike the province's other courts, it does not derive its existence or ultimate authority from legislation. The Court's jurisdiction is rooted in the Canadian constitutional order, with its origin stretching back to the formation of the common law courts in Norman England.

The Court has jurisdiction over matters in five main areas:

1. CRIMINAL: The Court has the power to try any indictable offence under the *Criminal Code* and other federal statutes, such as the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. The Court generally tries only the most serious offences, including murder, manslaughter, serious violent offences such as aggravated assault and sexual assault, firearm-related offences, robberies, home invasions, criminal organization offences and drug trafficking. An individual accused of any of these offences is tried by a judge of the Court sitting either with or without a jury.

2. CIVIL: The Court hears all civil proceedings in Ontario including cases involving personal injury, contract disputes, bankruptcy and insolvency, litigation involving wills and estates, and employment matters. The Court also has some appellate jurisdiction in some civil matters under various statutes.

3. FAMILY: The Court has sole jurisdiction over cases involving divorce, family property and the matrimonial home, while child protection and adoption cases must be heard in the Ontario Court of Justice. Both courts hear cases involving parenting, financial support for spouses and children, and urgent safety issues. In 25 locations across Ontario, this split jurisdiction has been consolidated into a single court known as the Family Court. This specialized court, created by the *Courts of Justice Act*, is a branch of the Superior Court of Justice.

4. DIVISIONAL COURT: The Divisional Court is a branch of the Court and is one of the busiest appellate courts in Canada. It functions as the primary forum for judicial review of government action in Ontario and hears statutory appeals from decisions of administrative tribunals, such as the Landlord and Tenant Board and Social Benefits Tribunal. The Divisional Court also hears some family and civil appeals.

5. SMALL CLAIMS: The Small Claims Court provides an efficient and cost-effective forum for Ontarians to bring or defend civil claims seeking damages or the return of personal property up to \$50,000.

The Superior Court of Justice sits in 50 locations across Ontario. As of December 31, 2025, it had a complement of 339 federally appointed judges, 24 provincially appointed associate judges, 250 deputy judges of the Small Claims Court and a Small Claims Court Administrative Judge. The Court's judicial officials and staff work to provide Ontarians with effective and timely justice. Their dedication and integrity make the Superior Court of Justice one of the most respected courts in Canada.

The Court is divided into eight administrative regions: Central East, Central South, Central West, East, Northeast, Northwest, Southwest and Toronto. More information on each of these regions, along with a map outlining the areas they cover, can be found in Section 4.

COURT'S EXECUTIVE

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice is led by the Chief Justice, who oversees its governance and administration. The Chief Justice has numerous responsibilities, including those outlined in the *Courts of Justice Act*. These include directing the Court's sittings as well as assigning cases and other judicial duties to individual judges.

Each of the Court's eight regions is headed by a regional senior judge who exercises the powers of the Chief Justice in their region. This allows each regional senior judge to manage the judicial sittings and assignment of cases in their region. The Associate Chief Justice supports the Chief Justice in leading the Court. The Senior Judge of the Family Court has several duties as set out in the *Courts of Justice Act*, including advising the Chief Justice with respect to practice and procedure in the Family Court.

The executive of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice includes the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice, the eight regional senior judges and the Senior Judge of the Family Court. These 11 judges make up the Regional Senior Judges' Council, which advises the Chief Justice on policy and governance issues affecting the administration of the Court.

JUDICIARY

JUDGES OF THE ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

Judges of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice have the authority to hear and determine any matter within the Court's jurisdiction. Because the Court is one of inherent jurisdiction, its judges can hear and determine any matter unless legislation assigns it to another level of court. This jurisdiction includes all civil, criminal and family matters not assigned to another level of court; judicial review of government action in Ontario; and statutory appeals from certain provincial administrative tribunals.

Superior Court of Justice judges are appointed pursuant to section 96 of the *Constitution Act, 1867*. These appointments are made by the Governor General, who acts on advice from the federal Cabinet and recommendations from the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. The Minister makes recommendations after receiving advice from an independent Judicial Advisory Committee that has assessed the qualifications of the candidates who apply.

Judicial candidates are required to have practiced law or have held a full-time position of a judicial nature for 10 years or more. Candidates are assessed for their knowledge, skills, experience and personal characteristics relevant to the judicial function.

Judges are expected to uphold the Canadian Judicial Council's Ethical Principles for Judges. Those principles are judicial independence, integrity, respect, diligence, competence, equality and impartiality.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Associate judges of the Superior Court of Justice preside over certain matters in civil and family cases. Associate judges also serve as Registrars in Bankruptcy under the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act*.

The title of associate judge was created on September 1, 2021, to replace the former titles of master and case management master. Associate judges are appointed under section 86.1 of the *Courts of Justice Act* by the provincial Cabinet upon recommendation of the Attorney General of Ontario.

Candidates for an appointment as an associate judge must have been a member of a Canadian provincial or territorial bar for a minimum of 10 years and have practiced law or have been a judge in Canada for at least 10 years.

As with judges, associate judges are expected to uphold the Canadian Judicial Council's Ethical Principles for Judges.

DEPUTY JUDGES & SMALL CLAIMS COURT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE

Deputy judges preside over Small Claims Court proceedings. They may also serve as referees in lien actions under the *Construction Act*.

Deputy judges are appointed by a regional senior judge with approval of the Attorney General of Ontario. To qualify as a deputy judge, candidates must be a lawyer with a minimum of 10 years' experience in legal practice. A deputy judge serves a term of three years, which can be renewed for further three-year terms until they reach 65 years of age.

Deputy judges are subject to the Ethical Principles for Deputy Judges, which are standards of conduct established by the Chief Justice.

The work of the Small Claims Court and its deputy judges is also informed by the Small Claims Court Administrative Judge. In addition to presiding in Small Claims Court, the Small Claims Court Administrative Judge advises the Court's Executive on Small Claims Court scheduling, assignment, policy and administration issues. This position was created in March 2017 through amendments to the *Courts of Justice Act* and is appointed by the provincial Cabinet for a five-year term, which can be renewed for another five-year term on the recommendation of the Chief Justice.

JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

WHY JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE MATTERS

The rule of law lies at the root of the Canadian constitutional order. Although its precise definition can be elusive, the rule of law has several recognizable core elements. Among them is the guarantee that there is "one law for all"—that all people and institutions, including government, are subject to the same impartial legal system. The rule of law also requires that the exercise of public power find its source in law, providing a shield for individuals from arbitrary state action. The law is supreme over the state and private persons.

The rule of law is indispensable to Canadian democracy and helps create a society that is stable, well-ordered and predictable. It ensures that people are treated fairly and equally, and that their individual rights and freedoms are protected. However, the rule of law does not do all of that on its own. It operates within a constitutional framework based on the separation of powers.

Our constitutional democracy is composed of three branches of government. Each is an equal partner within our system of government:

- *The legislative branch.* The legislative branch makes policy choices, enacts laws and controls public spending.
- *The executive branch.* The executive branch implements and administers the legislature’s policy choices and laws. It also manages the day-to-day affairs of the province or country with the assistance of a professional and non-partisan public service.
- *The judiciary.* The judiciary maintains the rule of law by interpreting and applying laws through the independent and impartial adjudication of disputes. This includes supervising the legality of executive and legislative action, along with protecting the public’s fundamental liberties and freedoms guaranteed under the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

All three branches must exercise their power and authority in accordance with the Constitution, our country’s supreme law. As Chief Justice Richard Wagner has remarked, “[t]he equilibrium of all three branches is what gives us our vibrant democracy, strong rule of law and robust protections for people’s rights and freedoms.”

To perform its role, the judiciary must be, and must be seen to be, independent. This independence assures the public that a court’s decisions are made free from any outside interest or influence, in particular from the executive branch of government. When people believe that the justice system works—when they see that decisions are made fairly, based on the relevant facts and law—they are more likely to trust the courts and Canadian society more broadly.

For these reasons, judicial independence, both in fact and appearance, is a cornerstone of our democracy and essential to a society governed by the rule of law. As former Chief Justice Brian Dickson described it, judicial independence is the “lifeblood of constitutionalism in democratic societies.” It secures the judiciary’s place as the protector of the Constitution and the values embodied within it, including equality, fundamental justice and the rule of law.

The principle of judicial independence is particularly important given that the provincial Attorney General is responsible for the Court’s administration. This includes providing the Court with courthouses, staff and technology. Ontario’s *Courts of Justice Act* recognizes that the Attorney General’s responsibility to support the Court must be fulfilled in a way that maintains judicial independence. Among other things, this requires that all aspects of administration relating to the judicial function, including the direction and supervision of the Court’s sittings and the assignment of judicial duties, remain solely under the judiciary’s control.

This relationship is the subject of a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) executed in 2008 between the Chief Justice and the Attorney General of Ontario.

Available online, this MOU provides the framework within which the Chief Justice and Attorney General work collaboratively to address areas of mutual concern while preserving judicial independence.

THE ELEMENTS OF JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE

The principle of judicial independence has two dimensions. The first applies to individual judges and embodies the fundamental principle that a judge be, and be seen to be, free to decide each case on its merits without interference or influence from any source. The second applies to the Court as an institution. It requires the Court to be, and to be seen to be, independent of the other branches of government. Together, both dimensions safeguard the judicial decision-making process.

In its decision in *Valente v. The Queen*, [1985] 2 SCR 673, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized three essential constitutional protections that ensure judicial independence:

- security of tenure, which prevents the arbitrary removal of judges;
- financial security, which ensures that judges’ salaries and benefits are established by law and cannot be arbitrarily changed by the executive branch; and
- administrative independence, which gives the Court control over the administrative decisions bearing on the exercise of the judicial function.

While these protections apply to judges, they are for the public’s benefit. They allow courts to apply the rule of law that Canadians, through the democratic process, have decided should govern them.

JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Judicial independence does not mean that the Court’s judges are unaccountable. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice is governed by the open court principle, a constitutional rule which requires that court proceedings be open and accessible to the public and media. This transparency ensures that the legal process and judicial decisions are subject to public scrutiny, thereby holding judges accountable for their decisions.

Litigants may also test the correctness of the Court’s decisions by appealing or seeking leave to appeal. An appellate court—primarily the Court of Appeal for Ontario—is empowered to remedy any significant legal error in the Court’s decisions.

Lastly, the judiciary may be held accountable through a complaints process:

- The judges of the Superior Court of Justice are accountable to the Canadian Judicial Council, which is directed by the federal *Judges Act* to investigate and respond to allegations of misconduct.
- Complaints about the conduct of an associate judge or the Small Claims Court Administrative Judge are addressed by the Chief Justice, in accordance with the *Courts of Justice Act*: see sections 86.2(1) and 87.3(1).
- Complaints about the conduct of deputy judges are addressed by the Superior Court judge assigned by the regional senior judge to oversee the region in which the deputy judge sits, in accordance with the *Courts of Justice Act*: see section 33.1(1).

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

The Office of the Chief Justice supports the Chief Justice and the Court's executive in fulfilling their duties. The office is led by the Executive Legal Officer, who provides policy and legal advice to the Chief Justice and the Court's executive, and is the primary liaison between the judiciary and the executive branch of government, both provincial and federal. The Deputy Executive Legal Officer assists the Executive Legal Officer and manages the counsel in the Office of the Chief Justice. The Office is also supported by the Executive Administrative Officer, who oversees and coordinates the Office's operational, administrative, and executive services and personnel, including the Court's regional managers and trial coordinators.

The Office of the Chief Justice also includes:

- Legal counsel who furnish the Chief Justice and the Court's executive with legal and policy advice related to the Court's operations. Counsel also liaise with government, the Bar, the public and other justice sector stakeholders on the Chief Justice's behalf;
- A team dedicated to implementing the Court's Digital Transformation initiative and enhancing technology in the courtroom;
- Judicial education support, including a team that develops judicial resources and supports the Court's education initiatives; and
- A Legal Research Facility, composed of judicial law clerks and their supervising counsel. Judicial law clerks are articling students who conduct legal research for the judiciary.

COURT COMMITTEES

The Court's committees and working groups are established by the Chief Justice and staffed primarily by members of the judiciary.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORKING GROUP

The Artificial Intelligence Working Group advises the Chief Justice on the current and potential uses of generative AI by the judiciary. The Working Group's purpose is to explore the benefits and risks associated with AI, ensuring that any integration occurs cautiously and respects established legal standards, ethical norms and public trust in the judicial process.

ASSOCIATE JUDGES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Associate Judges Education Committee maintains orientation materials for newly appointed associate judges. It also hosts an annual seminar to support associate judges with continuing education.

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE

The Clerkship Committee advises the Chief Justice on issues relating to the judicial law clerk and summer law student programs. These issues include recruitment, assignment of judicial mentors, educational programming for the clerks, and outreach to Canadian law schools regarding the clerkship and summer law student programs.

COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES FOR THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT

The Committee of Administrative Judges for the Small Claims Court discusses matters relating to the Small Claims Court, including the scheduling of deputy

judges and the monitoring of reserved judgments for timely release. Each regional senior judge delegates responsibility for overseeing the Small Claims Court in their region to a judge of the Court. The appointed judge is known as the region's Administrative Judge for the Small Claims Court. Together, the Administrative Judges in each region compose this Committee, along with the Small Claims Court Administrative Judge, who is an *ad hoc* member.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

The Community Engagement Advisory Group provides advice and recommendations to the Chief Justice on community outreach, education and engagement initiatives. The Group develops strategies to promote public education and engagement on issues related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, with an emphasis on the Court's role in serving the public.

CRIMINAL WORKING GROUP

The Criminal Working Group is responsible for formulating criminal proceedings rules and court forms. The Court has jurisdiction under s. 482(1) of the *Criminal Code* to make its own criminal proceedings rules provided they are consistent with the *Criminal Code* and other federal laws. The working group also provides advice to the Chief Justice on criminal law initiatives.

DEPUTY JUDGES COUNCIL

The Deputy Judges Council is established under section 33 of the *Courts of Justice Act*. It reviews and approves standards of conduct for deputy judges, reviews and approves a plan for the continuing education of deputy judges, and makes recommendations to the Chief Justice on matters affecting deputy judges. The composition of Council is set out in section 33(2) of the Act and includes both members of the judiciary and lay members.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICER PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Dispute Resolution Officer Program Committee ensures the smooth operation of the Dispute Resolution Officer program, which helps litigants solve family law problems early in the court process. The program is a joint initiative between the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Superior Court of Justice. The Committee shares best practices with respect to the Program, assists in gathering statistics about key performance indicators and organizes a training program for new dispute resolution officers.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee organizes continuing education programs. The programs keep judges abreast of current developments in substantive law, enhance judicial skills and provide opportunities to learn about the social context and ethical issues relating to the Court's work. The Committee collaborates with the National Judicial Institute (an independent and judge-led organization supporting judicial education) to arrange two educational conferences, which are held each year.

HEIDI POLOWIN CHILD PROTECTION SEMINAR, PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee organizes the day-long Heidi Polowin Child Protection Seminar which provides education to judges on topics in child protection law. This seminar takes place each November and coincides with the annual meeting of the family court, mandated under section 52(2) of the *Courts of Justice Act*.

JUDICIAL WELLNESS STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The newly established Judicial Wellness Strategic Plan Consultation Committee is now consulting with the judiciary on a strategy to support them in achieving excellence while recognizing that efficiency, resilience, professional development, leadership and engagement are fundamental to sustaining judicial wellness.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The Library Committee advises the Chief Justice with respect to judicial libraries across the province. The Committee consults with the Manager of Judicial Library Services on the Court's needs, including the diverse needs of regional courthouses and bilingual judges. The Judicial Library Services supports the research, learning, and information needs of the Superior Court of Justice, Court of Appeal for Ontario and Ontario Court of Justice.

REGIONAL POINT PERSONS FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE ISSUES

The regional point persons for French language issues are judges appointed from each region to identify barriers to access to justice in French. The point persons also promote French language resources and training for judges. They also provide advice to their regional senior judge on best practices and policies to improve access to justice in French.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

The Security Committee oversees all security matters affecting the Court. Its priorities are to promote security best practices, collaborate with security partners, assist the judiciary and evaluate security measures at court locations. The Committee also provides input on protocols for preventing or responding to security incidents.

SENIOR FAMILY JUDGE'S CHILD PROTECTION CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The Senior Family Judge's Child Protection Consultation Committee advises the Senior Judge of the Family Court on child protection initiatives. Issues are sent to the Consultation Committee for input at the request of the Senior Family Judge. The Senior Family Judge also shares family law information with members of the Consultation Committee for wider distribution.

SENIOR FAMILY JUDGE'S CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

The Senior Family Judge's Consultation Committee advises the Senior Judge of the Family Court on family law initiatives. Each region of the Court is represented, and Committee members also consult with the judiciary at large. Issues are sent to the Consultation Committee for input at the request of the Senior Family Judge. The Senior Family Judge also shares family law information with members of the Consultation Committee for wider distribution.

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

At the direction of the Chief Justice, the judges of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice also sit on committees with other justice stakeholders. The following are the Courts external committees:

AD HOC INDIGENOUS CHILD PROTECTION LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Ad Hoc Indigenous Child Protection Law Advisory Committee advises the Senior Judge of the Family Court on court-based initiatives to address the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in the area of child protection.

BENCH-BAR LIAISON COMMITTEES

Bench-bar liaison committees come in a variety of forms; some like the Commercial List User's Committee are specific to a particular court location, while other committees have province-wide application. Examples of provincial bench-bar liaison committees are the Divisional Court Users' Group, the Ontario Estates Bench-Bar Liaison Committee and the Class Actions Bench-Bar Liaison Committee. These committees provide a forum for the judiciary and members of the legal profession to work together to address issues of concern.

FAMILY COURT JOINT COMMUNITY LIAISON AND RESOURCE COMMITTEES

Pursuant to the *Courts of Justice Act*, every Family Court location has a Joint Community Liaison and Resource Committee to consider matters affecting the Court's general operations. The Committees also develop links between the Court and social services, identifies needed resources and develops strategies for putting them in place. The Committees are composed of judges, lawyers, members of social services agencies, court administration employees and community members. They report annually to the Office of the Chief Justice.

MEDIA RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Media Relations Committee serves as a forum for the judiciary, the Ministry of Attorney General and members of Ontario's major media outlets to discuss issues of mutual concern. The Committee helps educate members of the news media and public about the Court's administration, as well as helps the Ministry and the Court explore how to address the media's challenges and concerns in covering the Court.

ONTARIO COURTS ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

The Ontario Courts Accessibility Committee provides advice to the courts on accessibility-related matters, including the recommendations outlined in the Report of the Committee on Accessibility to the Justice System for Persons with Disabilities, in support of a fully accessible, barrier-free court system in Ontario. Membership includes judges from the Superior Court of Justice, the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and the Ontario Court of Justice, as well as representatives from government, legal organizations, and community organizations supporting persons with disabilities.

RULES COMMITTEES

The Civil Rules Committee and the Family Rules Committee are statutory committees established under the *Courts of Justice Act* to formulate rules of court and court forms. The Committees includes members of the Court's executive, judges of the Court, representatives from the legal profession and the Ministry of the Attorney General.

TRI-COURT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

The Tri-Court Artificial Intelligence Committee examines the use of artificial intelligence by the judiciary and litigants. Judges from the Superior Court of Justice, the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Ontario Court of Justice sit on the Committee. The Committee meets with a view to developing guidance that might be issued jointly by all three courts.

TRI-COURT EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The Tri-Court EDI Committee shares and reviews court policies, educational presentations and outreach events with regards to equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives. The Committee includes members of the judiciary from the Superior Court of Justice, the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Ontario Court of Justice.

JUDICIAL EDUCATION

Continuing judicial education is a key priority of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. It is imperative that judges have and maintain knowledge of the law and the people it serves. This includes staying apprised of current developments in substantive and procedural law, along with the social context in which the Court administers justice. Thus, the Court's judicial education covers the history, heritage and laws related to Indigenous peoples, as well as matters of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, differing mental or physical abilities, age and socioeconomic background. Over the last several years, this social context education has included:

- sexual assault law, which is mandatory for all new judges who are also assigned a mentor (and is available to all judges);
- education on intimate partner violence, including, among other topics, training on coercive control in intimate partner and family relationships and the impacts of this violence on children;
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report and its Calls to Action;
- First Nations, Inuit and Métis issues in the context of child protection cases; and
- Cultural competence and unconscious bias education.

The Court has enhanced its internal support for judicial learning through dedicated counsel and a Support Unit for Judicial Resources and Education, which help identify learning needs and modernize judicial education resources. The Court's judicial education efforts are further supported by the National Judicial Institute. Judicial education ensures that the judiciary remains independent and forward-looking as it adapts to legal, societal and technological change. Collectively, these initiatives reinforce a judiciary that remains responsive to the evolving needs of the public.



SECTION 2 **WORK OF THE COURT**



WORK OF THE COURT

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice is a superior court of criminal jurisdiction and has the power to try any indictable offence under the Criminal Code and other federal statutes, such as the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*. The Court generally tries only the most serious criminal offences, including murder, manslaughter, serious violent offences such as aggravated assault and sexual assault, firearm-related offences, robberies, home invasions, criminal organization offences, and drug trafficking or conspiracy to commit one of these offences.

The Court's criminal jurisdiction includes:

- indictable offences listed under section 469 of the *Criminal Code*, for example murder and treason;
- any indictable offences in respect of which the accused has elected to be tried by a Superior Court of Justice judge with or without a jury;
- appeals from summary conviction offences;
- bail reviews, including 90-day detention reviews; and
- prerogative relief such as *habeas corpus*, *mandamus* and *certiorari*.

For most indictable offences, the accused can elect to be tried by a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice without a jury, by a judge of the Superior Court of Justice without a jury, or by a judge of the Superior Court of Justice with a jury. However, there are some offences, such as those listed in s. 469 of the *Criminal Code*, for which the trial must be heard in the Superior Court of Justice.

The Criminal Working Group, composed of experienced criminal judges, is responsible for making the rules of the Court for criminal matters and for providing advice on criminal initiatives to the Chief Justice and the Regional Senior Judges' Council. Recently, the Working Group recommended the implementation of changes to the *Criminal Proceedings Rules* and the Consolidated Provincial Practice Direction for Criminal Proceedings to address the use of AI in the courts, to highlight the importance of citing and relying on authentic cases and to expand the use of Case Center. Moreover, the Working Group has developed and improved resources for litigants, such as the judicial pre-trial form and the Guide for Self-Represented Accused. The Working Group continues to develop resources to support the judges of the Court by outlining best practices in criminal matters.

The Chief Justice and the Deputy Attorney General co-chaired the recently created Criminal Roundtable. In this forum, representatives from the Court, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Office of the Solicitor General, the Indigenous Justice Division, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, the Criminal Lawyers' Association and Legal Aid Ontario meet regularly to identify challenges and suggest opportunities for improvements in the administration and practice of criminal law in the Superior Court of Justice.

Finally, the Court continues to work with Court Services Division and Legal Aid Ontario to respond to legislative changes and to improve access to justice for self-represented litigants.

CIVIL JURISDICTION

The Ontario Superior Court of Justice hears and decides all civil proceedings in Ontario. This includes cases involving personal injury, contracts, corporate and commercial disputes, bankruptcy and insolvency, employment matters, and litigation involving wills and estates, in addition to a limited number of appellate matters.

Moreover, the Court has a dedicated team of judges experienced in managing complex commercial litigation. Established in 1991, this Commercial List was created to hear certain actions, applications and motions in the Toronto region involving issues of commercial law and bankruptcy and insolvency matters, given the importance of such matters to the province's economy. The Commercial List's special procedures expedite these matters' hearing and determination.

The Court's civil proceedings are governed by the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, which are made and revised by the Civil Rules Committee, subject to the approval of the Attorney General of Ontario. Over the past two years, several Rules were amended to improve the efficiency of civil proceedings, including:

- Rule 2.2 was introduced to provide a comprehensive process for addressing vexatious litigants within the meaning of s. 140 of the *Court of Justice Act*. This new process allows judges to act on their own initiative as well as to manage such litigants through a written process, rather than doing so through more complex and resource-intensive motions.
- Rule 6.1 was amended to allow a judge to bifurcate a proceeding by ordering separate hearings on different issues with or without the parties' consent where it is in the interests of justice. This amendment allows a judge to potentially simplify a proceeding by determining an important or key issue early.
- Rule 49 was amended to define what constitutes a "partial settlement agreement," as well as to require prompt disclosure of such agreements to other parties.
- Rule 7.08 was amended to enhance the procedural safeguards associated with motions to approve a settlement agreement involving a party under a disability, as well as to align that process with the procedures used in other motions.
- Rule 4.06.1(2.1) was added to require that every factum filed with the Court must include a statement signed by the party's lawyer, or on the lawyer's behalf by someone the lawyer has specifically authorized, certifying that the person signing the statement is satisfied as to the authenticity of every authority cited in the factum. Similar amendments were made to Rules 61.11, 61.12 and 68.04 governing factums on appeal and applications for judicial review, as well as to Rule 53 governing expert reports and their Acknowledgement of Expert Duty.
- Rule 13.1 was amended to discourage forum shopping by requiring proceedings to be commenced where they have a "rational connection" with the parties or subject matter, as well as to increase judicial authority to transfer proceedings to other court locations.

More broadly, the civil justice system continues to modernize and enhance its efficiency. As outlined in Section 3 of this report, this modernization includes the October 2025 launch of the Courts Digital Transformation in Toronto for all civil matters. It also includes the work of the Civil Rules Review Working Group, which recently submitted its Final Policy Report in response to Attorney General Doug Downey and the Chief Justice’s call for a complete overhaul of Ontario civil justice system in Ontario.

Along with these major transformational initiatives, the Court continues to adapt its processes to explore greater efficiencies and respond to the bar’s needs. For example:

- The Court expanded the use of the online scheduling tool Calendly to allow counsel and parties to see court availability and directly book court dates without the need to contact the court. More specifically, Calendly expanded to include scheduling for all regular motions and civil pre-trial conferences in the Central West region, as well as for civil pre-trial conferences in the Northeast region. Additionally, the Northwest and Southwest regions also now use this tool to schedule civil pre-trial conferences as part of their civil blitzes. As a result, Calendly is now being used in almost every region to schedule civil matters.
- To reduce delay and improve efficiency in civil scheduling, several judicial regions established triage courts to facilitate the quick resolution of scheduling and timetable disputes.
- In May 2024, administrative dismissals for delay were resumed after having been paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby disposing many stale or abandoned proceedings. In the year following resumption, over 50,000 civil and 70,000 small claims matters were dismissed for delay. This has been instrumental in providing the court with more accurate statistics, and in facilitating digital transformation. The resumption of administrative dismissals reflects the Court’s ongoing emphasis on the quick resolution of civil claims.
- In response to the growing use of artificial intelligence by litigants and the bar, the Court issued new practice directions governing the responsible use of AI in civil proceedings.
- To clear backlogs on civil trial lists, the Court conducted multiple trial blitzes. As part of these initiatives, several of the Court’s judges spent multiple weeks conducting pre-trial conferences and presiding over non-jury civil trials. These blitzes were held over November and December 2024 in the Northwest and Southwest regions, in January 2025 in the Central East region and in February 2026 in the Northeast region.

FAMILY JURISDICTION

Family law accounts for a significant portion of the work of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and has a profound impact on the lives of many Ontarians. Family and child protection litigation addresses issues such as divorce; parenting time and contact with children; decision-making responsibility for children; children’s safety in the home; adoption; financial and property disputes; and urgent safety concerns.

In approximately half of the province, jurisdiction over family law matters is shared between the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Justice. Certain issues—such as divorce and property division—are reserved for the Superior Court of Justice, while the Ontario Court of Justice has exclusive jurisdiction over others, including child protection, adoption and routine support enforcement.

In the remaining half of the province, family law matters are heard by the Family Court Branch of the Superior Court of Justice, also known as the Unified Family Court (UFC). In these locations, all family law cases may be heard in one court. By consolidating family matters within a unified court, litigants benefit from a justice system that is simpler to navigate, as well as enhanced case management by a dedicated group of specialized family judges. In 2019, the Family Court was expanded for the first time in twenty years to include eight additional sites. Work is currently underway to expand yet again, to achieve province-wide expansion. The Family Law Rules govern the process for all family law cases, including child protection proceedings. The Rules aim to bring fairness, efficiency and proportionality to family litigation. The Family Rules Committee, established under the *Courts of Justice Act*, is responsible for amendments to the Rules, subject to the approval of the Attorney General. Members of the committee include representatives from the Superior Court of Justice, the Ontario Court of Justice, the Ministry of the Attorney General and the family law bar. The Committee's work has led to several important amendments to the Family Law Rules over the past two years, described in Section 3.

Throughout 2024–2025, the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario, in consultation with the Superior Court of Justice and the Ontario Court of Justice, completed a province-wide initiative to dismiss the backlog of the inactive cases. At the onset of the project there were almost 25,000 family law cases eligible for dismissal in the Superior Court of Justice. This work was completed in March 2025, and has been instrumental in providing the court with more accurate statistics; in facilitating the Courts Digital Transformation; and, most importantly, in bringing certainty to family litigants.

Ontario courts hear the highest number of international and interjurisdictional child abduction cases in Canada. In 2025, the Senior Judge of the Family Court, Justice Suzanne Stevenson, was named as a vice chair of the Judicial Committee on Inter-Jurisdictional Child Protection (JCICP). A committee of the Canadian Judicial Council, JCICP promotes cooperation and best practices among provinces and territories when there are cross-border child abduction allegations. The Senior Family Judge was also named one of three Canadian delegates to the International Hague Network of judges, which monitors the implementation of the 1980 *Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction* and promotes international co-operation in the area of child abduction.

JURISDICTION OF THE DIVISIONAL COURT

The Divisional Court is the appellate branch of the Superior Court and acts as the primary forum for judicial review of government action in Ontario. The Divisional Court also hears statutory appeals from decisions of administrative tribunals and has appellate jurisdiction in some family and civil proceedings.

The Divisional Court is led by the Associate Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, with each region having a designated local administrative judge. It sits year-round in Toronto and has scheduled sittings in other court locations across Ontario.

Over the past two years, the Divisional Court has continued its successful use of early case management for appeals and applications for judicial review. This practice allows the Court to quickly address flawed proceedings, such as those brought without jurisdiction, to identify cases requiring scheduling priority, as well as to help

the parties schedule the remaining steps in their proceedings, thereby making the process more efficient.

During this same period, the Divisional Court also implemented a new scheduling system allowing it to use vacated hearing dates more effectively and expanded its use of in-person panel hearings across the province.

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

The Small Claims Court hears civil claims valued up to \$50,000. This limit was increased from \$35,000 on October 1, 2025. Over 62,000 new proceedings were commenced in the Small Claims Court in each of 2024 and 2025. This represents approximately 45% of all civil actions commenced in the province.

Proceedings in the Small Claims Court are governed by the *Rules of the Small Claims Court*. The streamlined procedure under these rules allows litigants to obtain a judicial determination of their case quicker and at less expense than in the Superior Court of Justice. Small Claims Court cases are presided over by deputy judges and sometimes the Small Claims Court Administrative Judge.

The Small Claims Court remains focused on promoting access and efficiency. In October 2025, the Ministry launched the new Ontario Courts Public Portal for electronic filing and issuance of court documents (in Toronto only). This is part of the Court's Digital Transformation project. Over the next several years, all Small Claims Court locations will switch to the Ontario Courts Public Portal.

In 2025, amendments were made to the *Rules of the Small Claims Court* to further modernize its procedures. The Rules now set out the primary objective to enable the court to secure the just, most expeditious and least expensive determination of every proceeding on its merits. As well, clear steps for requesting a different attendance method, either in-person or virtual, have been added to give litigants greater flexibility. The amendments also provide for trial management conferences to help ensure that more complex cases are trial-ready and avoid time-wasting adjournments. Finally, the maximum compensation payable to a self-represented party for inconvenience and expense has been increased from \$500 to \$1,500.

The Small Claims Court is also now using the online scheduling tool Calendly to allow counsel and parties to see court availability and directly book court dates for all motions in Toronto, thereby making it easier to access justice for the public.

The image shows a grand, ornate interior space, likely a library or a hall. The ceiling is a large, domed structure with intricate, repeating geometric and floral patterns. The walls are also highly decorated with classical architectural elements, including large, fluted columns and a prominent archway. In the center, a framed portrait of a seated figure hangs above a decorative pedestal with a clock and two candelabras. To the right, a balcony with a wooden railing is visible, and bookshelves filled with books are seen in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and intellectual pursuit.

SECTION 3
**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
& INITIATIVES**

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & INITIATIVES

As detailed in its last report, *Modernizing the Justice System*, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice has recently undergone some of the most significant reforms in its history. These changes were largely sparked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, to ensure that it continues to evolve to best serve the public, the Court took a bold step: in 2025, it published its first strategic plan, available online. This plan, *Leading the Justice System into the Future*, outlines five key objectives to take the Court to 2030. As detailed below, significant work is already underway to advance these initiatives.

OBJECTIVE 1: CONTINUED MODERNIZATION

The Court's continued modernization is essential to its ability to serve the public. Importantly, however, under the *Courts of Justice Act*, it is Ontario's Attorney General who is responsible for the Court's administration, including providing the Court with courthouses, staff and technology. For this reason, the Court has continued to advocate for the provincial government's investment in the justice system's technological resources. The Chief Justice is committed to working collaboratively with the Ministry of the Attorney General to modernize the delivery of justice. Through the government's continued support and collaboration, the Court is pleased to report the following achievements.

THE COURTS DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

In October 2025, the Courts Digital Transformation (CDT) went live in Toronto for all family and civil proceedings, including all bankruptcy, commercial, contested estates, Small Claims Court and Divisional Court matters. This project is now fundamentally reshaping the way that the Superior Court of Justice, the Ontario Court of Justice and the province's legal profession operates.

CDT involves replacing the Court's currently disconnected technologies with one seamless, end-to-end digital solution supporting all areas of the Court's responsibility. Procured from Thomson Reuters, this \$166 million dollar investment in modernizing the province's justice system entails three main components:

- replacing Justice Services Online with the new Ontario Courts Public Portal for public e-filing and access to case information;
- replacing the Court's legacy case management system FRANK with a new, user-friendly and web-based case management and scheduling system, C-Track; and
- integrating the Ontario Courts Public Portal and C-Track with the Court's hearing management platform Case Center, thereby allowing information and documents to flow freely between them.

CDT's implementation will result in many benefits for both the public and the Court, including:

- making it easier for counsel and the public to file court documents, see future hearing events and search for court matters and their file contents;
- providing the Court's staff and judiciary with centralized access to all files, their contents and all hearing-related information and documents;
- allowing the Court to easily create and distribute orders and endorsements through this system; and
- allowing the Court to capture more accurate and reliable data about its operations, which it can then report publicly and use to further improve its processes.

CDT's launch was overseen by a dedicated partnership between the Office of the Chief Justice, the Ministry of the Attorney General's Courts Digital Transformation and Court Services Divisions, the Ontario Court of Justice, Justice Technology Services and Thomson Reuters. As a result of this team's work, CDT's introduction in Toronto resulted in no interruptions to public service during court hours and no lost court time.

Before CDT's launch, the project team consulted widely with legal and bar organizations. Based on the feedback it received, the project team conducted usability testing in May 2025, during which lawyers, paralegals and legal staff attended in-person and virtual workshops to test the new public portal's features. Through this exercise, some of the portal's content was adjusted to make its use more intuitive. In addition to providing more training to the legal community, the project team also produced six publications and six videos in both English and French to guide users on how to use the new portal. Those who received this training helped confirm the system's readiness for public launch.

Since CDT's launch, a further 28 virtual training sessions have been provided in both English and French to the legal community. The training team continues to explore educational opportunities with different organizations and remains committed to working with the legal community to enhance the new portal.

CDT's next phase will involve its extension to Toronto criminal matters in 2027, after which it will be expanded on a region-by-region basis to the rest of the Court.

ELECTRONIC FILING AND DOCUMENT SHARING

ISFS

To facilitate CDT's introduction and expansion across the province, the Court worked with the Ministry of the Attorney General's Court Services Division to launch what it called an Interim Solution for File Storage (ISFS). This initiative is primarily aimed at ensuring that a complete record of all active cases is uploaded into the Court's legacy case management system FRANK. In addition to providing Court staff and the judiciary with centralized access to a complete digital record of every active matter, this work facilitates the data migration necessary for the Court to implement CDT and, in particular, its transition from using FRANK to its new case management system C-Track.

ISFS began in May 2024 in three family court sites. As part of this initiative, the Ministry committed to uploading into FRANK and Case Center all materials filed by self-represented litigants, including scanning all materials filed in hard copy. The Office of the Chief Justice worked with the National Self-Represented Litigants Project to ensure that the Court's messaging about this project was clear and informative. Over the following year, the initiative was expanded to family and civil matters in almost all the Court's regions. ISFS has now been successfully adopted in all regions awaiting CDT.

The OCPP and JSO

As part of the CDT's introduction in the Court's Toronto region, the Ministry of the Attorney General launched the Ontario Courts Public Portal (OCPP), the Court's new digital platform for public e-filing and access to case information. Accordingly, the OCPP now applies to all family and civil proceedings in Toronto, including all bankruptcy, commercial, contested estates, Small Claims Court and Divisional Court matters.

In replacing Justices Services Online (JSO), which was introduced in August 2020, the OCPP provides the public with a comprehensive digital access point for court services: filing documents, paying fees, searching court matters and accessing hearing information can now all be done through this platform. It provides the public with more complete case information by combining content from JSO and the Courts Daily List site, along with enhanced search capabilities. The Ministry of the Attorney General has committed to continuously improving the OCPP based on user feedback.

Since its launch in October 2025, the OCPP already has over 20,000 new registered users and has received over 100,000 submissions for filing.

In regions where CDT has not been implemented, the public continues to use JSO, which the Ministry has also improved. For example, the Ministry expanded JSO to allow users to file just over 900 court documents and has made it easier to file materials in family law and Small Claims Court matters.

Case Center

The Superior Court of Justice has also worked with Thomson Reuters to improve Case Center, formerly known as Caselines, which will remain the Court's hearing management platform for the foreseeable future. As a result of the Court's advocacy, Thomson Reuters has now improved its pagination and uploading functions. Other enhancements, such as accommodating sealed materials and ensuring that court staff can properly mark exhibits, are now in testing. The Office of the Chief Justice has also continued to support the bench and bar's competency with Case Center. For example:

- Together with the Law Society of Ontario, the Office of the Chief Justice presented a program in March 2025 on Case Center, which included practical tips, demonstrations and particulars on how judges use Case Center and what they expect from counsel.
- Based on feedback from that program, the Ministry of the Attorney General launched a pilot program to provide counsel and legal support staff temporary access to training cases in Case Center. This has provided the bar hands-on experience working with Case Center, enhancing their familiarity with the platform in a practice environment.

- Similarly, the Office of the Chief Justice worked with Ontario’s Crown Law Office — Criminal, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada and the Criminal Lawyers’ Association to develop a Case Center training program specific for the criminal bar. The program launched in February 2026.

TECHNOLOGY IN COURTROOMS

The Superior Court of Justice has continued to work with the Ministry of the Attorney General to advance the government’s Virtual Hybrid Hearings (VHH) initiative. A vital and significant investment in the justice system’s modernization, the VHH initiative involves installing standard, commercial-grade equipment in courtrooms across the province to ensure they can seamlessly support all modes of hearing, whether in-person, virtual or hybrid. More specifically, this initiative includes ensuring that courtrooms have the following:

- A dedicated network connection (i.e., one that does not rely on the courthouse’s bandwidth or Wi-Fi to accommodate a remote witness or require in-person participants to connect to Zoom to share evidence);
- Commercial-grade cameras that can be controlled by the registrar, along with monitors on the judicial dais, witness stand, counsel tables and jury boxes to allow all courtroom participants to view remote participants and evidence; and
- Integrated commercial-grade audio to capture a clear recording of the proceeding, support all participants’ ability to hear the proceeding, and support simultaneous interpretation and connection to assisted listening devices.

The Ministry of the Attorney General has committed to ensuring that, by the spring of 2026, 50% of courtrooms will be outfitted with this standard suite detailed above. Further, the Ministry and Court are currently discussing similar upgrades for even more courtrooms.

The Court also continues to advocate for improved courthouse Wi-Fi and bandwidth to ensure that litigants, counsel, media and the public can reliably access the internet and all the Court’s digital platforms, such as Justice Services Online and Case Center, when attending a courthouse or hearing. The Ministry expects to improve all courthouse Wi-Fi by the fall of 2026, as well as to complete a network upgrade providing all courthouses with increased bandwidth and a backup network by mid-2027.

Lastly, the Court also continues to advocate for the Ministry to provide court registrars and reporters dedicated, technologically equipped space so that they can facilitate virtual hearings without occupying physical courtrooms. In response, the Ministry completed capital projects in 2025 to create two new virtual courtrooms, and has another 14 such projects underway, to facilitate virtual hearings while allowing the Court to use its physical courtrooms to accommodate more in-person and hybrid hearings.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVING TIMELY JUSTICE

The timely administration of justice is essential to maintaining public confidence in the justice system. The Court understands that its ability to deliver timely justice is not merely an operational concern, but a core institutional and constitutional responsibility. As is often said, justice delayed is justice denied. For these reasons, the Court has identified several means to strengthen its capacity to ensure that justice is delivered promptly. As outlined below, important progress has been made on several of these initiatives.

ADVOCATING FOR SUFFICIENT JUDICIAL RESOURCES

Over 2024 and 2025, 32 judges were appointed to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. These appointments, and the efforts made to fill the Court's judicial vacancies, are greatly appreciated. However, as outlined in its strategic plan, the Court requires additional judicial resources to deliver timely justice. Simply put, there are not enough judges to meet the public's current demands of the justice system. Thus, the Court continues to advocate for additional appointments.

In 2024, the Chief Justice asked the Attorney General to increase the number of associate judges appointed to the Court. With more associate judges to preside over motions and conferences, judges will be freed to sit on trials and other matters over which they have exclusive jurisdiction. The Attorney General agreed and, over the past two years, increased the Court's complement of associate judges from 16 to 25. Associate judges are now located in nine court locations: Brampton, Hamilton, London, Milton, Newmarket, Ottawa, Sudbury, Toronto and Windsor.

Associate judges may preside on civil motions and pre-trials, family conferences and motions, references and Construction Act matters. Some associate judges also sit as the Registrar in Bankruptcy and hear *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* matters.

EXPANDED COURTHOUSE FACILITIES

In January 2024, the provincial government completed a \$117 million expansion of the A. Grenville and William Davis courthouse in Brampton. This included providing the Court with five new courtrooms, 25 new judicial chambers and upgraded security features.

In September 2025, Attorney General Doug Downey also announced that the government will build a new courthouse in Oakville to serve all of Halton Region.

EXAMINING THE COURT'S PROCEDURAL RULES

Civil

In September 2023, Attorney General Doug Downey and the Chief Justice announced the launch of the Civil Rules Review, a wholesale review of the *Rules of Civil Procedure* intended to develop proposals for making the civil court processes more efficient, affordable and accessible for Ontarians. In January 2024, they assembled a team dedicated to this work. Co-chaired by Justice Cary Boswell and Allison Speigel, the Civil Rules Review Working Group is composed of practicing members of the private and public civil bar, the judiciary and university faculty: John Adair, Tamara Barclay, Justice Jennifer Bezaire, Professor Suzanne Chiodo, Chantelle Cseh, Jacob Damstra, Trevor Guy, Rebecca Jones, Justice Sunil Mathai, Zain Naqi, Jeremy Opolsky and Darcy Romaine. The project was also overseen by Jennifer Hall and later, Yashoda Ranganathan, both of whom served as Project Coordinator and Senior Counsel in the Deputy Attorney General's office.

In May 2024, the Civil Rules Review Working Group released its Phase 1 Report and solicited input based on its proposed reforms. After considering this feedback and conducting further studies, the Working Group released its Phase 2 Consultation Report in April 2025. The Working Group received further feedback totalling over 2,000 pages from a broad range of over 200 justice system stakeholders. In response, the Working Group delivered its Final Policy Report to Attorney General Doug Downey and the Chief Justice in October 2025. While the Working Group's Final Policy Report totals almost 300 pages and recommends an extensive suite of revisions, its core vision proposes amending the Rules to adopt the following:

- A three-track system consisting of an Application Track for proceedings currently required or authorized to proceed by way of application, a Summary Hearing Track for claims over \$50,000 and up to \$500,000, and a conventional Trial Track for claims over \$500,000;
- A requirement that cases on the Application and Summary Hearing Tracks be presumptively disposed on a written record with the option for judges to hear from witnesses;
- A requirement that cases on the Trial Track be presumptively disposed at a conventional trial, and that they be the only cases involving oral examinations for discovery;
- A requirement that cases on the Summary Hearing and Trial Tracks be based on an “up-front evidence model” which requires parties to, in essence, exchange their case-in-chief after the close of pleadings, along with the limitation of focused oral examinations for discovery to only Trial Track Cases;
- A requirement that interlocutory disputes be addressed through a Directions Conference, during which the presiding judge will resolve the dispute with brief reasons or, where necessary, schedule a formal motion; and
- A requirement that parties be expected to work towards a fixed hearing date set early in the litigation process.

Attorney General Downey and Chief Justice Morawetz are currently reviewing the Working Group's Final Policy Report to determine how much of the Working Group's recommendations should be implemented.

Family

Over 2024 and 2025, the *Family Law Rules* were amended in several ways to enhance the Court's ability to deliver timely justice. This includes the following:

- An amendment to Rule 42 now permits associate judges to hear motions, make specific orders, and to conduct case, settlement and trial management conferences.
- An amendment to Rule 4, along with a corresponding amendment to the Law Society's By-Laws, now allows specially trained paralegals called Family Legal Service Providers to represent clients on a limited list of straightforward matters. This includes completing simple or uncontested joint divorce applications, filing domestic contracts for the purposes of support enforcement, assisting with certain child support variation claims, assisting with support default proceedings and preparing change of name applications.
- Rule 43 codifies the Court's use of Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution (Binding JDR), which provides parties with a voluntary, summary process for resolving certain family law disputes without a trial. This process allows parties to ask the same judge to assist them to settle their issues on consent and to make final

orders about any unresolved issues in a single hearing. Once a small pilot project in 2021, Binding JDR has proven itself a valuable tool and, as a result, has now been expanded to almost all the Court's regions. Rule 43 replaces the Court's practice advisory that formerly governed this practice.

- Amendments to Rules 18 and 24 now confirm the summary nature of the process relating to costs in family law cases and clarifies the broad discretion of judges to determine costs. These amendments also require parties to confer in advance of costs determinations and set standards for page and time limits for submissions.

Criminal

In May 2024, the *Criminal Proceedings Rules* were revised to provide clearer procedural directions in criminal matters, as well as to reflect various ways in which the Court's procedure has now modernized. In January 2026, the Rules were further amended, both structurally and stylistically, to make them even clearer and more user-friendly.

Small Claims

In January 2026, Regional Senior Judges' Council decided that, in the same vein as the Civil Rules Review, a committee should be formed to conduct a comprehensive review of the *Small Claims Court Rules*. This initiative will involve a working group that will recommend changes to the Rules to assist in ameliorating delay and making the proceedings more accessible, efficient and effective.

EXAMINING THE COURT'S CASE MANAGEMENT & SCHEDULING PRACTICES

Civil

As outlined in its Final Policy Report, the Civil Rules Review Working Group envisions a new model for civil litigation in which judges play a dramatically increased role in case conferencing. Based on these proposals, judges will become involved in setting a timetable governing the conduct of civil proceedings and, in many cases, preside over "Directions Conferences" to address interlocutory disputes. To eliminate the Court's current "motions culture" and the resulting procedural delays, Directions Conferences would, in essence, allow judges to determine an interlocutory dispute in a summary manner or, alternatively, set the parameters of a formal motion within which to do so. This proposal is akin to the current practice on Toronto's Commercial List and in other regions where judges more actively case manage interlocutory disputes.

Family

In 2025, the Senior Judge of the Family Court met with the Family Court Joint Standing Community Liaison and Resources Committees around the province to hear about local practices and to explore ways in which the administration of family law proceedings can be improved. Based on that feedback, in 2026, she will meet with the Court's Lead Family Judges and other senior members of the judiciary to explore solutions for greater efficiency to resolve family disputes earlier, including through the potential expansion and enhancement of single judge case management.

Additionally, the Court and Ministry of the Attorney General have agreed to expand the Dispute Resolution Officer (DRO) program. Administered by the Ministry, this program involves senior family counsel conducting the first case conference for any motion to change. While they cannot make court orders, DROs give the parties a neutral evaluation of their case and thereby facilitate settlement, help the parties

to think through their disclosure obligations, and help ensure the matter is ready to proceed before a judge. Where the location has capacity, DROs may also conduct the first case conference on an application or conduct settlement discussions before trial or during trial blitzes. The Ministry has approved Ottawa as a new location for the program, making it the 13th such centre, and recently agreed to an increased rate for the 155 DROs who participate in this program.

Criminal

In 2025, the Chief Justice and Deputy Attorney General David Corbett began to co-chair the newly created Criminal Roundtable. This Roundtable is now an important forum for dialogue between the Court, the Ministry of the Attorney General, and various criminal justice stakeholders, including the Office of the Solicitor General, the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Legal Aid Ontario, the Criminal Lawyers' Association, and the Ministry's Court Services, Criminal Law and Indigenous Justice Divisions. More specifically, this Roundtable, which aims to meet quarterly, will play a key role in exploring how the Court can improve its case management and scheduling practices.

At the same time, the Court continues to explore several initiatives aimed at improving its administration of criminal matters. For example, the Court ran a three-month pilot project focused on improving the scheduling of in-custody video appearances from the Toronto East Detention Centre.

Small Claims

Effective June 1, 2025, the *Small Claims Court Rules* introduced Rule 16.1, providing that, at a time after a party requests a trial date, the court may direct a trial management conference to be held. Trial management conferences are an important opportunity for the Court to encourage settlement or narrow the issues in the dispute. The trial management conference promotes trial readiness and allows actions to be tried more efficiently.

OBJECTIVE 3: ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Court exists to serve the public. It is committed to ensuring that the public has clear, accessible and consistent information about its procedures. This commitment is particularly important for self-represented litigants, who, because they do not have a lawyer, may rely more heavily on the Court's guidance. For these reasons, the Court has taken the following measures to enhance the public's access to justice.

EXAMINING EXISTING PROCESSES

In August 2025, the Court launched its new website, which was designed to ensure that parties, counsel, the media and the public have more readily accessible information about the Court, making the legal process easier to navigate.

In late 2025, the Court undertook a comprehensive review of its consolidated provincial practice directions for civil, family, and Divisional Court matters to improve their consistency, economy and readability. Changes were made to those practice directions to enhance their clarity, promote plain language, eliminate verbiage, use terms consistently and avoid passive language.

SUPPORT FOR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS

The Court continues to advocate for Legal Aid assistance and explore increased access to duty counsel and other services for self-represented litigants. In the interim, the Court is pleased to report the following developments:

- In March 2025, Legal Aid Ontario expanded its financial eligibility threshold for family and duty counsel services. As a result, more people will now be able to secure representation in family law disputes.
- Moreover, while Legal Aid Ontario has long offered family duty counsel at Unified Family Court sites, it resumed offering the same services at select generalist locations, a service that paused during the pandemic. Duty counsel are now available three days a week in Toronto, two days a week in Windsor and one day a week in Brampton.
- In 2025, the Court launched a pilot project in Toronto, which was later expanded to the East region, that provides Legal Aid Ontario support for self-represented accused persons in detention review scheduling and hearings. The Court aspires to extend this pilot to other regions in 2026.
- In 2025, the Court launched pilot projects in Windsor and London that saw Legal Aid Ontario provide support to self-represented accused persons in assignment court. The Court hopes to expand this project to other regions in 2026.

The Court also continues to develop user-friendly guides to assist self-represented litigants. In 2025, the Court published a Guide for Self-Represented Accused in Criminal Cases and a Guide for Self-Represented Persons in Civil Cases on its website.

ADVOCATING FOR THE EXPANSION OF UNIFIED FAMILY COURT

The Court has consistently advocated for the expansion of the Family Court Branch, also known as Unified Family Court (UFC), across Ontario. Family law litigants should be able to access specialized family judges and have their issues resolved in a single location. This is a significant step in improving access to justice for families and children. The Court was pleased to see the federal government's intent, expressed in Budget 2025, to amend the *Judges Act* to add eight new Unified Family Court judicial positions.

ENHANCING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS

The Court of Justice also remains mindful of its ongoing commitment to truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. For that reason, the Court is currently working with a Hamilton-based Indigenous Collaborative to develop a pilot project focused on better serving Indigenous families involved in the child welfare system by creating a more culturally adapted process.

OBJECTIVE 4: ENHANCING PUBLIC TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING

Public confidence in the justice system is strengthened when court processes are not only sound but comprehensible to those they serve. Further to the Court's commitment to the open court principle, the Court has undertaken the following initiatives to educate the media, the public and the Court's own judges about emerging issues.

IMPROVING MEDIA RELATIONS AND ACCESS

The Court recognizes that most members of the public depend on the news media to inform them about what occurs in the justice system. Thus, in 2024, the Court established a Chief Communications Officer position in the Office of the Chief Justice to facilitate media inquires and requests for file-related information. It also established a Media Relations Committee to create a regular, open and broad channel of communication between the Court and members of the news media. This Committee is composed of members from media outlets across the province, the Court's judiciary and the Ministry of the Attorney General. The Committee now meets to discuss and address challenges related to the media's coverage of the Court; to help members of the judiciary and the Ministry improve their understanding of the media's role; and to help members of the news media and public improve their understanding of the Court. Given the public importance of this initiative, the Chief Justice hosted meetings with the media to launch the Committee and mark its one-year anniversary.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

In November 2024, the Court established its first Community Engagement Advisory Group. Chaired by the Associate Chief Justice, the Senior Judge of the Family Court and Regional Senior Judge Patrick Boucher, the Group's primary purpose is to provide recommendations to the Regional Senior Judges' Council on community outreach, education and engagement initiatives.

In 2025, the Advisory Group produced a webinar for the Court's judiciary to commemorate the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Featuring a talk from Marie Wilson, one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's three commissioners, this webinar was a response to the Commission's Call to Action to ensure that the judiciary receive appropriate cultural competency training.

In addition to developing guidance to assist judges with their speaking engagements, the Group is also currently developing opportunities for judges to lead educational sessions in their communities, as well as developing a policy on the use of land acknowledgements.

IMPROVING INSIGHT INTO THE COURT'S WORK

In 2025, and for the first time in its history, the Court published extensive operational data on its website. Covering the 2024 calendar year, this data offers the public greater transparency into how civil, criminal, family and Small Claims Court matters

travel through the legal system. In addition to particularizing the types of proceedings the Court receives, this data also outlines the number of proceedings that were scheduled for trial, as well as those that were tried, disposed and those that remained actively pending. The Court is committed to publishing this data annually and adding to the insight it can provide the public. In particular, the Court is working with the Ministry of the Attorney General within the context of the Courts Digital Transformation initiative to ensure that its new case management system C-Track captures more accurate and reliable data, which the Court intends to publish.

EXAMINING THE USE OF AI

Artificial intelligence has prompted courts to confront new questions about how this technology should be used within the judicial process. In early 2024, the Superior Court of Justice, the Court of Appeal for Ontario and the Ontario Court of Justice established an AI Tri-Court Committee. Chaired by Justice Peter Lauwers, this is an important forum through which Ontario's courts now discuss appropriate standards, safeguards and guidelines governing AI's use by litigants and judges. To facilitate this initiative, the Court established its own judicial AI Working Group, chaired by Regional Senior Judge Ria Tzimas, to provide the Chief Justice and the Regional Senior Judges' Council with recommendations. Based on this Working Group's advice, the Court recently issued practice directions on the responsible use of AI in civil, family and criminal proceedings.

SUPPORTING JUDICIAL EDUCATION

In 2025, the Office of the Chief Justice established a Support Unit for Judicial Resources and Education. This Unit, which is staffed by two senior lawyers in the Office of the Chief Justice, is now focusing on developing and delivering educational programming and resources to support the judiciary and complement the programming offered by the National Judicial Institute.

OBJECTIVE 5: IMPROVING COURTHOUSE SAFETY

As a public institution that upholds the rule of law, the Court must necessarily be a place of safety and security. Everyone who enters a courthouse—judges, staff, litigants, lawyers, and members of the public—should feel and, in fact, be safe. No one who attends court should ever fear that coming to a courthouse could expose them to threats, intimidation or harm.

The Court continues to work with the government to ensure that essential security measures are implemented consistently across its locations and that local law enforcement complies with these standards.

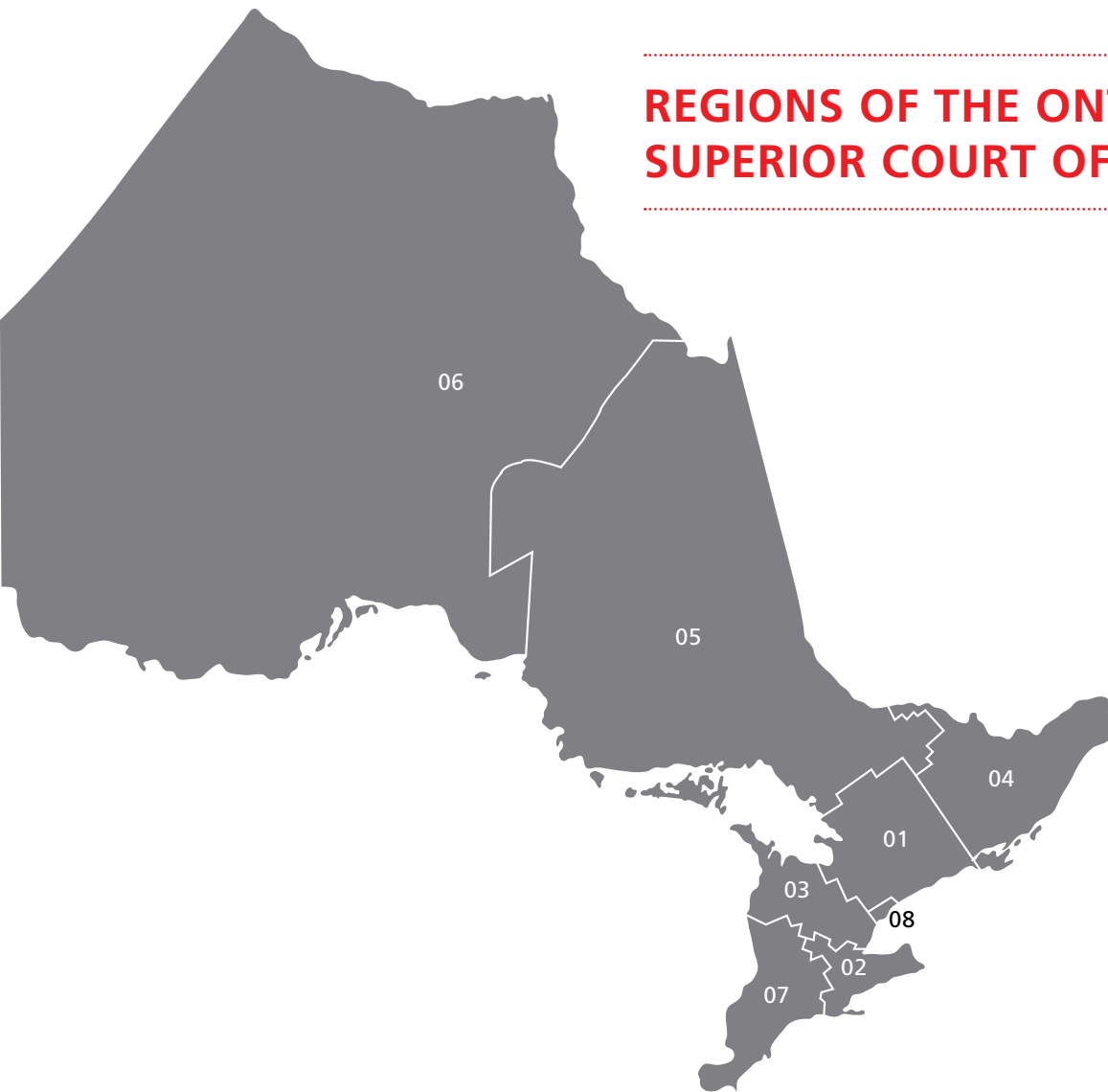
SECTION 4 JUDICIARY & JUDICIAL REGIONS



Judges
of the
Superior Courts
of the
Province of Upper Canada
and of the
Province of Ontario

28

REGIONS OF THE ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE



01 CENTRAL EAST

Newmarket
Barrie
Bracebridge
Cobourg
Durham
Lindsay
Peterborough

02 CENTRAL SOUTH

Hamilton
Brantford
Cayuga
Hamilton Family Court
Kitchener
St. Catharines
Simcoe
Welland

03 CENTRAL WEST

Brampton
Guelph
Milton
Orangeville
Owen Sound
Walkerton

04 EAST

Ottawa
Belleville
Brockville
Cornwall
Kingston
Kingston Family Court
L'Orignal
Napanee
Pembroke
Perth
Picton

05 NORTHEAST

Sudbury
Cochrane
Gore Bay
Haileybury
North Bay
Parry Sound
Sault Ste. Marie
Timmins

06 NORTHWEST

Thunder Bay
Fort Frances
Kenora

07 SOUTHWEST

London
Chatham
Goderich
Sarnia
St. Thomas
Stratford
Windsor
Woodstock

08 TORONTO

01 CENTRAL EAST REGION

The Honourable Mark L. Edwards is the regional senior judge of the Central East region. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had 41 full-time judges and 9 supernumerary judges.



The Honourable Mark L. Edwards
Regional Senior Judge
February 2021 – Present

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. L. A. Bird, *Newmarket*
- The Hon. M. Fuerst, *Criminal Lead Judge*
- The Hon. R. Charney, *Divisional Court Lead Judge*
- The Hon. A. Casullo, *Bracebridge*
- The Hon. L. Fryer, *Oshawa, Lead Family Judge*
- The Hon. S. Jain, *Barrie / Bracebridge, Lead Family Judge*
- The Hon. H. Leibovich, *Oshawa*
- The Hon. G. MacPherson, *Newmarket, Lead Family Judge*
- The Hon. J. R. McCarthy, *Barrie*
- The Hon. S. McLeod, *Peterborough / Cobourg / Lindsay*
- The Hon. P. Sutherland, *Newmarket, Civil Lead Judge*

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

- The Hon. K. D. M. Leef, *Oshawa, Lead Family Judge*

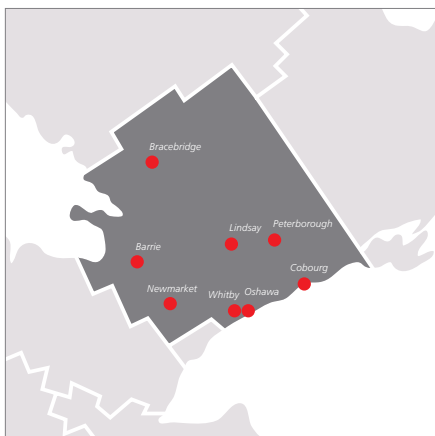
JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. S. Bale
- The Hon. P. L. Bateman (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. R. T. Bennett (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. B. K. Bhangu
- The Hon. L. A. Bird
- The Hon. J. Bruhn (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. J. C. Cameron
- The Hon. A. Casullo
- The Hon. R. Charney
- The Hon. V. V. Christie
- The Hon. J. C. Corkery
- The Hon. A. M. Daurio (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. C. De Sa
- The Hon. J. Di Luca
- The Hon. P. A. Douglas (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. Y. D. Fiamengo (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. J. A. Finlayson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. S. Fraser
- The Hon. L. E. Fryer (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. K. Fuerst
- The Hon. D. S. Gunsolus
- The Hon. S. E. Healey
- The Hon. M. Henschel
- The Hon. A. Himel (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. S. Jain (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. R. S. Jain (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. D. A. Jarvis (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. R. P. Kaufman (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. G. Kay (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. D. K. Kellway

- The Hon. P. M. Krause (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. S. Lavine
- The Hon. K. D. M. Leef (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. H. Leibovich
- The Hon. G. MacPherson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. S. S. Mathai
- The Hon. J. R. McCarthy
- The Hon. J. P. L. McDermot (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. K. McKelvey
- The Hon. J. McLeod (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. P. W. Nicholson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. A. R. Rowsell (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. J. M. Shaw (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. C. Smith
- The Hon. J. Speyer
- The Hon. P. W. Sutherland
- The Hon. M. E. Vallee
- The Hon. C. Verner
- The Hon. L. A. Wannamaker
- The Hon. S. J. Woodley

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

- Associate Justice Candace Mak



REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The Central East region includes the following judicial centres: Newmarket, Barrie, Bracebridge, Cobourg, Oshawa (Durham), Lindsay and Peterborough. It also has satellite court locations in Collingwood, Midland and Orillia. Each location hosts a dedicated Family Court Branch site.

Of the Court's eight regions, the Central East region represents one of the largest in geography with a growing population currently numbering approximately 3,000,000 residents. It reaches from the eastern border of the City of Toronto to the western border of the County of Hastings, extending north to encompass the District of Muskoka.

The regional senior judge has designated a local administrative judge to assign and schedule cases in each regional centre to ensure the public's efficient access to justice. In addition, the regional senior judge has assigned a lead family judge in each regional centre to assist in the orderly processing of all family law matters. The regional senior judge has also assigned a lead criminal and a lead civil judge who assist in the overall regionwide processing of all criminal and civil matters.

Central East is the Court's first region to include a Unified Family Court in every court location beginning with the first site in 1994. The Family Court plays a crucial role in serving one of the largest municipalities in Ontario, namely the Regional Municipality of York, or York Region, which the Government of Ontario estimates will surpass 1.5 million people by 2031.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

The ever-increasing population of Central East has required the Court to pivot to keep pace with the demands of the public. The Court has instituted a more efficient system to address the demands of those who come before the court charged with a criminal offence.

On the civil side, the Central East has returned to a sittings system where trials are scheduled on a regular basis every January (3 weeks) and every September (5 weeks). This system has proven extremely successful in accommodating the need for civil trials.

Finally, the 19 Family Patent judges in the Central East work tirelessly to keep up with the demands of family law litigants. With more resources, Central East would be in a much better position to help its population in all lines of work.

02 CENTRAL SOUTH REGION

The Honourable Paul R. Sweeny is the regional senior judge of the Central South region. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had 33 full-time judges and 9 supernumerary judges.



The Honourable Paul R. Sweeny
Regional Senior Judge
October 2020 – Present

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. M. Bordin, *Hamilton*
- The Hon. J. D. Walters, *Hamilton, Family*
- The Hon. M. R. Gibson, *Kitchener*
- The Hon. K. P. M. Bingham, *St. Catharines*
- The Hon. J.A. Ramsay, *Welland*
- The Hon. L. Bale, *Brantford*
- The Hon. R.J. Nightingale, *Simcoe and Cayuga*

- The Hon. A. J. Spurgeon
- The Hon. L. E. Standryk
- The Hon. J. L. Swan (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. A. Tweedie (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. J. Valente
- The Hon. J. D. Walters (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. F. M. Wood (*Family Court Branch*)

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

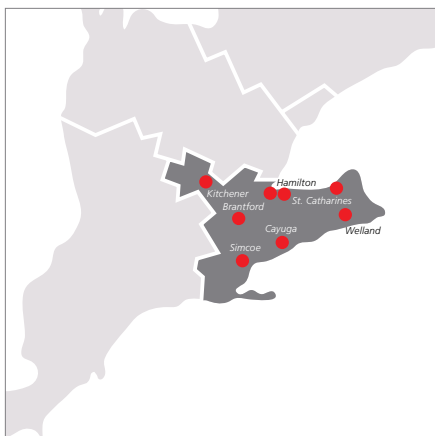
- Associate Justice Jeffrey A.L. Kriwetz

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

- The Hon. A.J. Goodman, *Hamilton*
- The Hon. D.C. Chappel, *Hamilton, Family*
- The Hon. L. Madsen, *Kitchener*
- The Hon. M.J. Donohue, *St. Catharines*
- The Hon. D.A. Broad, *Brantford*

JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. S. Antoniani
- The Hon. L. Bale
- The Hon. K. P. M. Bingham (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. Bordin
- The Hon. C. D. Braid
- The Hon. J. Breithaupt Smith (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. C. E. Brown (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. J. Donohue
- The Hon. D. L. Edwards
- The Hon. G. Gambacorta
- The Hon. M. R. Gibson
- The Hon. A. J. Goodman
- The Hon. N. Gregson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. J. R. Henderson
- The Hon. A. D. Hilliard
- The Hon. J. Krawchenko
- The Hon. M. Kril (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. S. N. Latimer
- The Hon. T. W. Law (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. R. MacLeod (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. B. MacNeil
- The Hon. W. L. MacPherson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. T. Maddalena (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. D. McArthur
- The Hon. L. A. McKenzie (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. R. Misheal (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. S. Mountford (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. R. J. Nightingale
- The Hon. A. J. Ohler
- The Hon. A. Pazaratz (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. D. Piccoli (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. J. A. Ramsay
- The Hon. R. B. Reid
- The Hon. A. Skarica
- The Hon. I. R. Smith



REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The Central South region includes the regional judicial centre at the John Sopinka Courthouse in Hamilton, as well as seven other court locations in Brantford, Cayuga, Hamilton Family Court, Kitchener, St. Catharines, Simcoe and Welland.

Central South includes shorelines along two Great Lakes with a combination of urban and rural residents. It extends from Elmira to Welland, and covers the Counties of Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk, and the Regions of Niagara and Waterloo.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

In most family court sites, the Central South is using a combination of Axis mediation and Dispute Resolution Officers to assist in a blitz pretrial court in advance of trial sittings. This has been very successful in resolving cases before trial, enabling the Court to reach all the cases on the trial lists.

In civil cases and some family court sites, the Central South has designated motions days with uncapped lists. This allows parties access to the Court on a timely basis. While on some occasions, all cases may not be disposed of, it ensures that time-sensitive matters can be heard promptly.

The Central South is introducing a pilot project of in-person appearances for short motions in some sites. It is hoped that this will result in more settlements.

The region has civil trial sittings at each courthouse throughout the year and are successful in disposing of most cases during the trial sittings.

With the implementation of a region-wide electronic filing system, the Court can now assign divorces and basket motions more efficiently, promptly and in a more strategic manner.

The Central South region continues with the system of having long trial matters heard twice per year. These lists are reserved for trials that require 21 days or more to complete. The region's commitment to providing judges for the set trial date, employing diligent case management under Rule 37.15, and implementing extended pre-trials has consistently provided timely resolutions of cases either by settlement or trial.

In criminal cases, the Court schedules all homicides regionally; other criminal cases are scheduled locally. Because of the close proximity of the region's courthouses, judges of the Central South can travel to assist as needed.

The judges have regular meetings of the Community Liaison Committee and Bench and Bar gatherings. These forums allow the Court to exchange information, as well as to receive feedback and advice from the region's bar and stakeholders, all with the intention of improving access to justice.

03 CENTRAL WEST REGION

The Honourable E. R. Tzimas is the regional senior judge of the Central West region. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had 32 full-time judges and 6 supernumerary judges.



The Honourable E. R. Tzimas
Regional Senior Judge
July 2023 – Present

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. L. Shaw, *Brampton*
- The Hon. K. Coats, *Milton*
- The Hon. W. M. Lemay, *Orangeville*
- The Hon. C. Petersen, *Guelph*
- The Hon. R. Chown, *Owen Sound and Walkerton*
- The Hon. J. K. Trimble, *Divisional Court*
- The Hon. J. A. Fowler Byrne, *Small Claims Court*

- The Hon. M. C. Wilkinson
- The Hon. J. Woollcombe
- The Hon. C. Yamashita

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

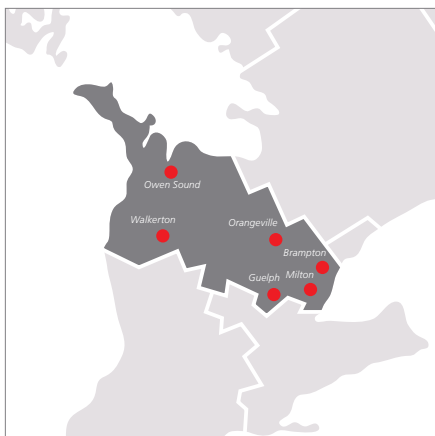
- Associate Justice Jeremy Glick
- Associate Justice Blair Nitchke

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

- The Hon. R. Tzimas, *Brampton*
- The Hon. G. Miller, *Orangeville*
- The Hon. J. Sproat, *Owen Sound and Walkerton*
- The Hon. M. Emery, *Divisional Court*
- The Hon. L. Shaw, *Small Claims Court*

JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. R. K. Agarwal
- The Hon. I. W. André
- The Hon. K. N. Barnes
- The Hon. C. C. Chang
- The Hon. R. Chown
- The Hon. E. Chozik
- The Hon. K. D. Coats
- The Hon. C. Conlan
- The Hon. J. S. Cowan
- The Hon. G. J. Cudjoe
- The Hon. N. L. Dennison
- The Hon. M. P. D. Derstine
- The Hon. M. T. Doi
- The Hon. M. G. Emery
- The Hon. J. A. Fowler Byrne
- The Hon. J. M. Fragomeni
- The Hon. D. E. Harris
- The Hon. R. Juginovic
- The Hon. M. S. Kumaranayake
- The Hon. M. Kurz
- The Hon. W. M. Lemay
- The Hon. G. D. Lemon
- The Hon. R. J. Mandhane
- The Hon. H. A. McGee
- The Hon. L. K. McSweeney
- The Hon. G. M. Miller
- The Hon. J. E. Mills
- The Hon. F. Mirza
- The Hon. C. Petersen
- The Hon. L. Ricchetti
- The Hon. M. L. Shaw
- The Hon. J. R. Sproat
- The Hon. L. B. Stewart
- The Hon. J. Stribopoulos
- The Hon. J. K. Trimble



REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The Central West region of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice has courthouses in Brampton, Milton, Orangeville, Guelph, Walkerton and Owen Sound. The region serves the Regional Municipality of Peel, Halton Region, and the counties of Dufferin, Wellington, and Bruce and Grey.

The region includes some of the most rapidly growing areas in Ontario. Brampton and Milton are expected to have the largest population percentage growth in the province in the next few years with projections exceeding 3.1 million people by 2030, only 300,000 less than the anticipated 3.4 million residents in Toronto by 2030.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

The pressures, especially in Brampton, Milton and Owen Sound, are significant. Some measures the Court has taken to respond to them include the introduction of Triage Court for civil and family long motions, management of criminal matters by six Criminal Case Management judges to move cases along in a timely manner, the enhanced collaboration with Dispute Resolution Officers (DROs) for family case conferences, and the deliberate scheduling of an “exit pre-trial” on the eve of trial to maximize the prospects for resolution.

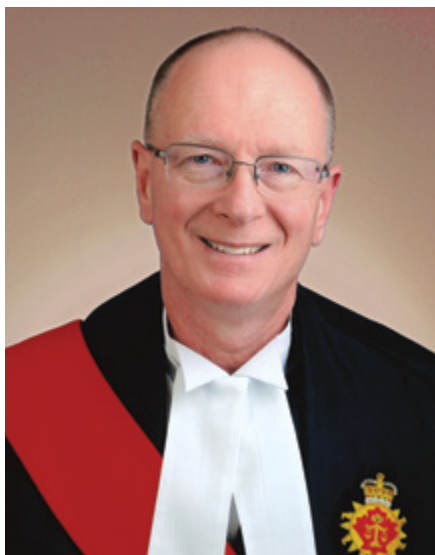
For Owen Sound, a full-time judge was added to the existing complement of judges to assist with the heavy dockets there. This addition has permitted the center to increase the scheduling of hearings across criminal, family and civil cases.

The persistent population growth in Halton Region continues to result in significant day-to-day pressures on court services. The Ontario government, the judiciary and stakeholders have been collaborating on the proposal to have a new courthouse built in Oakville. The proposed project is in its approval phase.

The digital transformation has been underway for the past few years. The judiciary has embraced the use of Case Center and the temporary ISFS system. The technological upgrades to many of the courtrooms have enhanced the ability to conduct hybrid trials and allow for the attendance of individuals who might otherwise not be able to attend. It is hoped that as these technological upgrades extend to all the courtrooms in the Central West region, efficiencies will be enhanced and the public’s access to justice will continue to grow.

04 EAST REGION

The Honourable Calum U. C. MacLeod is the regional senior judge of the East region. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had 38 full-time judges and 11 supernumerary judges.



The Honourable Calum U. C. MacLeod
Regional Senior Judge
March 2020 – Present

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. P. Hurley, *Belleville/Picton, Criminal and Civil*
- The Hon. N. Tellier, *Belleville/Picton, Family*
- The Hon. B. W. Abrams, *Brockville, Criminal, Civil and Family*
- The Hon. B. W. Abrams, *Perth, Criminal, Civil and Family*
- The Hon. B. C. J. Holowka, *L'Orignal, Criminal, Civil and Family*
- The Hon. N. Champagne, *Cornwall, Criminal and Civil*
- The Hon. H. Desormeau, *Cornwall, Criminal and Family*
- The Hon. M. Fraser, *Pembroke, Family*
- The Hon. J. Hooper, *Pembroke, Criminal and Civil*
- The Hon. G. Mew, *Kingston/Napanee, Criminal and Civil*
- The Hon. T. L. Waters, *Kingston/Napanee, Family*
- The Hon. A. D. Kaufman, *Ottawa, Civil*
- The Hon. K. Jensen, *Ottawa, Divisional Court*
- The Hon. M. Labrosse, *Ottawa, Divisional Court*
- The Hon. M. Smith, *Ottawa, Small Claims Court*
- The Hon. J. Audet, *Ottawa, Family*
- The Hon. T. Engelking, *Ottawa, CYFSA*
- The Hon. K. B. Phillips, *Ottawa, Criminal*
- Associate Justice Marie Theresa Fortier, *Local Administrative judge for AJ's*

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

- The Hon. J. Johnston, *Brockville, Criminal, Civil and Family*
- The Hon. H. Desormeau, *L'Orignal, Criminal, Civil and Family*
- The Hon. J. Lafrance-Cardinal, *Cornwall, Criminal and Civil*
- The Hon. M. Fraser, *Pembroke, Criminal and Civil*
- The Hon. T. Minnema, *Kingston/Napanee, Family*
- The Hon. R. Ryan-Bell, *Ottawa, Civil*
- The Hon. A. London-Weinstein, *Ottawa, Criminal*
- The Hon. J. Parfett, *Ottawa, Criminal*
- Associate Justice Karen Perron, *Local Administrative judge for AJ's*

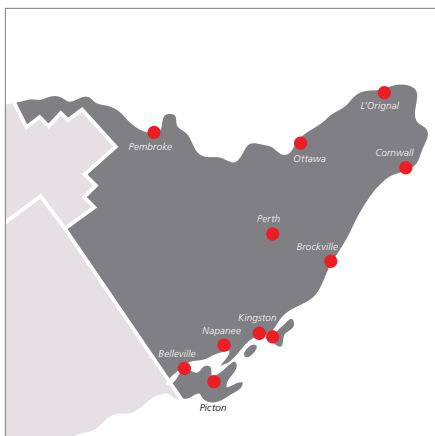
JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. B. W. Abrams
- The Hon. J. Audet (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. J. Bergeron
- The Hon. L. M. Bramwell
- The Hon. T. J. P. Carey
- The Hon. I. M. Carter
- The Hon. N. Champagne

- The Hon. S. Corthorn
- The Hon. H. C. Desormeau (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. A. Doyle
- The Hon. N. J. Edmundson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. T. Engelking (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. M. Flaherty
- The Hon. M. A. Fraser (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. C. T. Hackland
- The Hon. B. C. J. Holowka
- The Hon. J. Hooper
- The Hon. P. Hurley
- The Hon. K. A. Jensen
- The Hon. J. M. Johnston
- The Hon. A. D. Kaufman
- The Hon. S. J. Kershman
- The Hon. M. R. Labrosse
- The Hon. A. E. London-Weinstein
- The Hon. P. MacEachern (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. R. L. Maranger
- The Hon. E. McCarty (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. K. L. McVey
- The Hon. G. Mew
- The Hon. T. Minnema (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. K. Muszynski
- The Hon. V. Naik (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. J. A. Parfett
- The Hon. R. Pelletier
- The Hon. K. B. Phillips
- The Hon. O. Rees
- The Hon. C. Robertson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. P. Roger
- The Hon. R. M. Ryan Bell
- The Hon. M. N. Sirivar
- The Hon. M. N. Smith
- The Hon. R. J. Smith
- The Hon. N. Somji
- The Hon. D. A. Swartz (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. N. J. Tellier (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. G. W. Tranmer
- The Hon. A. C. Trousdale (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. T. L. Waters (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. H. J. Williams

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

- Associate Justice Marie Theresa Fortier
- Associate Justice Imran E. Kamal
- Associate Justice Karen Perron



REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The East region encompasses a vast and diverse geographical area running along the Eastern third of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to the Quebec border and North along the Ottawa River to Deux Rivieres, just east of Mattawa. This includes the counties of Hastings, Prince Edward, Frontenac, Lanark and Renfrew; the United Counties of Lennox & Addington, Leeds & Grenville, Prescott & Russell, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry; and the City of Ottawa. Besides the regional judicial centre of Ottawa, the Superior Court of Justice operates out of 9 other judicial centres in Belleville, Picton, Napanee, Kingston, Perth, Brockville, Cornwall, L'Orignal and Pembroke. All of these are unified family court sites.

The region has a population of approximately 2.3 million people with over half residing in Ottawa. The City of Ottawa adjoins the City of Gatineau in Quebec with a population of over 300,000. Many people reside in one province but work, and perhaps litigate, in the other.

The judges of the East region frequently travel between courthouses to preside over family, civil or criminal proceedings. Many proceedings in Ottawa, Cornwall, and L'Orignal are heard in French, which supports and reflects Canada's bilingual culture. Fortunately, the East region has a substantial number of bilingual judges.

Several courthouses in the region date from the 19th century and contain treasures from Canada's early legal history. The two oldest courthouses, in Picton and L'Orignal, were both built in the 1820s and are used today in much the same way as they were then. Although outfitted with modern technology, several of these court houses are urgently in need of modernization and expansion.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

Over the past two years, the region emerged from pandemic restrictions and adjusted to the widespread use of videoconferences and electronic documents. Preparations are well advanced for the full implementation of the court's end-to-end digital technology. In the past two years, the region has received many technological upgrades as courtrooms have been retrofitted with new technology. Virtual and hybrid hearings are used extensively but in-person hearings are the norm for longer substantive matters.

In May 2021, the Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution pilot project for family cases was introduced to the region in Cornwall. That program has now expanded throughout the region. It allows those who consent to participate in the program to arrive at a final resolution of their case without the need for a trial. The region is also in the process of expanding the use of Dispute Resolution Officers. The region continues to grapple with a civil, criminal and family backlog and a vast array of in-writing matters. Various initiatives are underway including several novel ones.

Due to demographic factors within the judiciary, the East region experienced a complete turnover of the judicial complement in just over a decade. This also provided the region with the benefit of a cadre of dedicated supernumerary judges but in recent years most of those judges have reached the end of their terms or have chosen to retire. This is a significant loss. The region has benefited from two additions to the judicial complement and an increase in the number of associate judges from two to three. The region is optimistic that current and future judicial vacancies will be filled in a timely manner.

The region is frequently host to international judicial delegations, in conjunction with the Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs, court-to-court initiatives, and various international and Commonwealth organizations.

05 NORTHEAST REGION

The Honourable Patrick Boucher is the regional senior judge of the Northeast region. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had 11 full-time judges and 7 supernumerary judges.



The Honourable Patrick Boucher
Regional Senior Judge
January 2024 – Present

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. R. Y. Tremblay, *Cochrane*
- The Hon. A. D. Kurke, *Gore Bay and Divisoinal Court*
- The Hon. J. A. Richard, *North Bay, Haileybury, and Small Claims Court*
- The Hon. R. A. Bellows, *Parry Sound*
- The Hon. M. N. Varpio, *Sault Ste. Marie*
- The Hon. P. J. Boucher, *Sudbury*
- The Hon. C. A. MacDonald, *Timmins*

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

- The Hon. M. G. Ellies, *North Bay*
- The Hon. S. K. Stothart, *Parry Sound*

JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. R. A. Bellows
- The Hon. V. R. Chiappetta
- The Hon. R. D. Cornell
- The Hon. K. E. Cullin
- The Hon. M. G. Ellies
- The Hon. E. E. Gareau
- The Hon. R. D. Gordon
- The Hon. P. C. Hennessy
- The Hon. A. Kurke
- The Hon. C. A. M. MacDonald
- The Hon. D. J. Nadeau
- The Hon. A. S. Rasaiah
- The Hon. J. Richard
- The Hon. S. Stothart
- The Hon. R. Y. Tremblay
- The Hon. S. Tysick
- The Hon. M. N. Varpio
- The Hon. J. A. S. Wilcox

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

- Associate Justice Carly M. Stringer



REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The Northeast region is geographically vast, larger than the United Kingdom. It extends south from Hudson's Bay to Parry Sound, and east from Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa to Mattawa and the Quebec border. When at full complement, 15 full-time judges and an associate judge preside over all areas of the Court's jurisdiction.

The region's total population is almost 600,000. Indigenous people make up about 12 percent of the population, or three-times the provincial average. Francophones represent 21 percent of the population, almost five times the provincial average.

After an initial decline between 2011–2016, the region's population has consistently increased due in large part to intra-provincial and international relocation. The region's major industries are forestry and mining, the latter of which has been experiencing a sustained boom, though manufacturing, transportation, public service, education and tourism are also significant.

The region includes the territorial districts of Algoma, Cochrane, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Temiskaming, each of which has a district courthouse. Timmins, which is in the Cochrane district, also has a Superior Court of Justice courthouse.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

The Northeast region was uniquely positioned for the shift to virtual hearings; for over a decade it had been using videoconferencing to offset geographical challenges for attendance in court. The increased use of hybrid hearings during the pandemic had a considerable impact in the region. The Court is now, when necessary, able to undertake almost every aspect of its work remotely. Given the region's vastness, this has resulted in judges and parties saving considerable time and expense while achieving access to justice. In particular, remote hearings have also facilitated scheduling bilingual and French language matters, reducing wait times for litigants.

Nevertheless, despite its expanse, the region recognized the irreplaceable advantages of being together in a courtroom. After considerable consultation with members of the bar, the Northeast region decided to continue to require in-person appearances as the default in long motions and applications.

A significant Indigenous population inspires our judges to strengthen their understanding of Indigenous culture and to foster their relationship with them. Over the past several years, the judiciary developed and implemented learning opportunities to increase cultural competence regarding Indigenous people.

Criminal cases, in particular jury trials, have increased significantly since the pandemic. The 2025 appointment of the first associate judge in Sudbury, the first in Northern Ontario, has facilitated the scheduling of judges in criminal matters, while ensuring family and civil cases continue to be carefully case managed toward trial or resolution. In addition, the local administrative judges in each of the courthouses have implemented scheduling practices to enhance timely access to justice in all areas of the Court's jurisdiction.

The region's judiciary maintained their support of continuing professional development for local lawyers and paralegals through their participation in the annual Colloquium, which gathers lawyers from the region in Sudbury for several days of education. The judiciary also led and organized an annual moot court with high school students.

Finally, the region's judiciary achieved gender parity on the bench. The goal is to maintain that balance in the years to come.

06 NORTHWEST REGION

The Honourable W. Danial Newton is the regional senior judge of the Northwest region. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had five full-time judges and one supernumerary judge.



The Honourable W. Danial Newton
Regional Senior Judge
October 2023 – Present

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. J. Fregeau, *Kenora and Fort Frances*
- The Hon. C. M. Brochu, *Thunder Bay, Criminal*
- The Hon. S. J. Wojciechowski, *Thunder Bay, Civil*
- The Hon. R. A. Lepere, *Divisional, Small Claims and Thunder Bay, Civil*
- The Hon. T. J. Nieckarz, *Thunder Bay, Family*
- The Hon. F. B. Fitzpatrick, *Bankruptcy*

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

- The Hon. W. D. Newton, *Divisional Court and Thunder Bay, Criminal*
- The Hon. F. B. Fitzpatrick, *Small Claims and Thunder Bay, Civil*
- The Hon. H. M. Pierce, *Thunder Bay, Estates*

JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. C. M. Brochu
- The Hon. F. B. Fitzpatrick
- The Hon. J. S. Fregeau
- The Hon. R. A. Lepere
- The Hon. T. Nieckarz
- The Hon. S. J. Wojciechowski



REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The Northwest region includes the districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River (Fort Frances) and Kenora.

The Northwest region comprises almost 50 percent of Ontario's land mass, making it the largest of the province's judicial regions by geographic area. It is bracketed by Lake Superior to the south, Lake of the Woods and the Manitoba border to the west, and Hudson Bay to the north. The region spans two time zones, with Thunder Bay operating on Eastern Standard Time and Kenora and Fort Frances on Central Standard Time.

The Northwest region is home to many First Nation communities who are signatories to the Robinson-Superior Treaty of 1850, Treaty No. 3 (1873) and Treaty No. 9 (1905, and 1929–30). First Nations people represent roughly 15 percent of the population of the District of Thunder Bay, 30 percent of the District of Rainy River and 50 percent of the District of Kenora. The region is also home to many Métis people.

The distances between the principal centres of the Northwest region and the rest of the province are substantial. Thunder Bay is approximately 1,400 kilometres from Toronto, a distance comparable to travelling from Toronto to Fredericton, New Brunswick. Within the region, the judicial centres are also far apart: Thunder Bay is 335 kilometres from Fort Frances and 490 kilometres from Kenora.

While Kenora has one full-time judge, there is no resident judge in Fort Frances. Both centres are served by judges circuiting from Thunder Bay or by video conferencing. Continued investment in virtual court infrastructure, scheduling optimization and regional support services directly support the ability to maintain timely access to justice in remote and underserved communities.

The City of Thunder Bay serves as the regional hub. It is home to major government offices, a regional hospital, Lakehead University, the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law and Confederation College. Residents from across the region rely on the city for specialized healthcare, post-secondary education and regional administration, making it a central anchor for the Northwest.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

The Northwest region advanced several initiatives aimed at improving the administration of justice across its vast and diverse geography. In 2024, a targeted civil blitz addressed the volume of civil matters awaiting hearing and promoted earlier resolution. Of the 130 cases reviewed, 42 were designated for focused management. The results were notable: roughly one third resolved before pretrial, and nearly another third settled following pretrial conferences. This initiative significantly reduced backlog pressures and enhanced the efficiency of civil case management in the region.

At the same time, the region continued to manage a growing and increasingly serious criminal caseload. Thunder Bay now has the second highest violent crime rate among Canadian cities, placing substantial demands on the justice system and its partners. To support access to justice across remote communities, the Northwest has expanded its use of virtual operations. Weekly motions transitioned to a regional Zoom model following the pandemic, reducing travel burdens and improving consistency and accessibility for litigants, counsel and justice partners.

A major highlight of 2025 was the visit from four Justices of the Supreme Court of Canada as part of the Court's 150th anniversary celebrations. Chief Justice Wagner and Justices Rowe, Côté, and O'Bonsawin met with members of the judiciary, First Nation leaders and elders, students, lawyers and the public to learn about the unique social and legal challenges facing the Northwest. Their two-day visit included media engagement, school outreach, discussions on access to justice and judicial independence, and meetings with the Kinna awaya Legal Clinic and the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law. Their visit fostered dialogue, strengthened relationships and highlighted the ongoing efforts within the Northwest region to promote meaningful access to justice for all.

07 SOUTHWEST REGION

The Honourable Renee M. Pomerance served as regional senior judge of the Southwest region until July 2024. The Honourable Bruce Thomas served from July 2024 to October 2024. The Honourable Paul Howard is the current regional senior judge. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had 26 full-time judges and 9 supernumerary judges.



The Honourable Paul Howard
Regional Senior Judge
October 2024–Present



The Honourable Bruce Thomas
Regional Senior Judge
July 2024 – October 2024



The Honourable Renee M. Pomerance
Regional Senior Judge
October 2023 – July 2024

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. A. Mitchell, *London*
- The Hon. B. M. Tobin, *London Family Court*
- The Hon. B. D. Dubé, *Chatham*
- The Hon. R. Raikes, *Sarnia*
- The Hon. J. Peretto, *St. Thomas*
- The Hon. S. K. Campbell, *St. Thomas Family Court*
- The Hon. M. A. Garson, *Stratford and Goderich*
- The Hon. P. Hebner, *Windsor*
- The Hon. P. J. Moore, *Woodstock*
- The Hon. K. C. Tranquilli, *Divisional Court*
- The Hon. J. R. MacFarlane, *Small Claims Court*

- The Hon. S. E. Hassan (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. P. Hebner
- The Hon. T. A. Heeney
- The Hon. J. A. Horvat
- The Hon. J. P. Howie
- The Hon. J. Kalajdzic
- The Hon. G. King
- The Hon. D. M. Korpan (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. I. F. Leach
- The Hon. L. C. Leitch
- The Hon. B. A. MacFarlane
- The Hon. J. R. MacFarlane
- The Hon. A. K. Mitchell
- The Hon. V. Mitrow (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. P. J. Moore
- The Hon. J. M. Moser
- The Hon. S. Nicholson
- The Hon. J. Peretto
- The Hon. T. G. Price (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. H. A. Rady
- The Hon. R. Raikes
- The Hon. E. M. Ten Cate
- The Hon. B. G. Thomas
- The Hon. B. M. Tobin (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. K. C. Tranquilli
- The Hon. L. M. Walters (*Family Court Branch*)

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

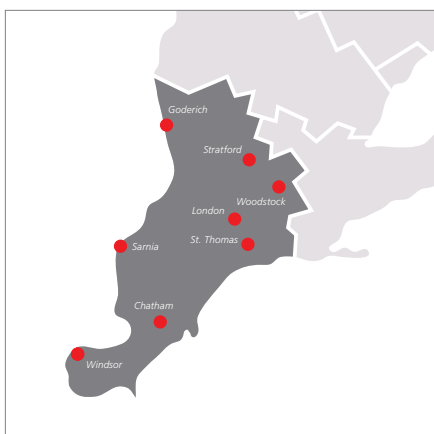
- The Hon. K. Sah, *London Family Court*
- The Hon. P. J. Howard, *Windsor*

JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. J. E. Bezaire
- The Hon. A. J. Bignucolo (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. S. K. Campbell
- The Hon. M. B. J. Carnegie
- The Hon. M. V. Carroccia
- The Hon. M. A. Cook
- The Hon. B. D. Dubé
- The Hon. M. A. Garson
- The Hon. K. Gorman

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

- Associate Justice Sherry Kettle
- Associate Justice Kaitlyn D. McCabe



REGIONAL BACKGROUND

The Southwest region stretches from Windsor to Woodstock and includes the counties of Elgin, Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford and Perth. It includes the regional judicial centre of London, as well as court centres in Chatham, Goderich, Sarnia, St. Thomas, Stratford, Windsor and Woodstock. London and Windsor are the region's busiest court locations. London and St. Thomas are the only sites with a Family Court.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

The strength of the Southwest region emanates from the collegiality amongst its judges and those who serve the administration of justice. Since January 2024, the Southwest region has seen eight new judicial appointments, representing over 20% of the total complement. The quality of the appointments has been consistently excellent.

In 2025, the complement was augmented by the provincial appointment of two new associate judges, representing the first time that an associate judge has ever been appointed to the Southwest region. In June 2025, an associate judge was appointed to London, to assist primarily with bankruptcy work, following the retirement of the region's former per diem registrar in bankruptcy. In August 2025, a second associate judge was appointed to Windsor, to assist with family and civil matters.

With the renowned collegiality of the Southwest, and through the cooperation and diligent efforts of the region's judges, administrators, trial coordinators, court staff and bar, the Southwest region continues to develop practical solutions to address the backlogs and challenges posed in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During and since the pandemic, the region has conducted multiple high-profile criminal trials using the Zoom platform to ensure broad public access. During one such in-person homicide trial, a webinar link was shared with stakeholders and certain media organizations. This step facilitated the open court principle while ensuring the integrity and security of the proceedings. The Trial Coordination office in Windsor spearheaded this approach, which, notably, set a template for complex cases attracting a strong public interest.

On the civil side, the Southwest has moved to a Regional Long Trial Sittings (RLTS) model to address the backlog of trials that first accumulated during the pandemic. Under the RLTS model, all civil trials in the Southwest estimated to require trial time in excess of 15 days are scheduled for trial during a regional five-week long trial sittings. These sittings are held in the spring and fall of each year with a dedicated team of judges. All civil matters listed for trial at one of the RLTS are first referred to half-day pretrial conferences and are subject to extensive trial management. The Southwest's commitment to the RLTS model has already seen encouraging returns. In the spring of 2025, only three of more than 100 matters proceeded to trial; in the Fall RLTS, only one of 96 matters did so. Most matters resolved, significantly improving access to justice.

The judges of the Southwest region remain committed to community engagement and participate in a wide range of educational activities. Many teach at regional law schools, speak at professional development programs and serve on local Ontario Justice Education Network (OJEN) committees. In January 2025, two Southwest judges hosted "The Honourable Steve Rogin Annual Lecture in Criminal Law". The lecture featured remarks from the Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario, a keynote by Mr. Brian Greenspan and a closing from the Chief Justice Michael Tulloch.

08 TORONTO REGION

The Honourable Stephen E. Firestone is the regional senior judge of the Toronto region. As of December 31st, 2025, the region had 69 full-time judges and 21 supernumerary judges.



The Honourable Stephen E. Firestone
Regional Senior Judge
February 2020 – Present

CURRENT LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES (AS OF DECEMBER 31ST 2025)

- The Hon. M. Koehnen, *Civil*
- The Hon. L. P. Merritt, *Civil*
- The Hon. B. T. Glustein, *Class Actions*
- The Hon. E. L. Nakonechny, *Family*
- The Hon. M. Kraft, *Family*
- The Hon. R. Goldstein, *Criminal*
- The Hon. J. E. Kelly, *Criminal*
- The Hon. J. Kimmel, *Commercial*
- The Hon. S. O'Brien, *Divisional Court*
- The Hon. S. Shore, *Divisional Court*
- The Hon. B. Dietrich, *Estates*
- The Hon. M. Sharma, *Small Claims Court*

FORMER LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES

- The Hon. D. Wilson, *Civil*
- The Hon. F. Myers, *Civil*
- The Hon. W. Chalmers, *Civil*
- The Hon. S. Shore, *Family*
- The Hon. J. F. Diamond, *Family*
- The Hon. M. Forestell, *Criminal*
- The Hon. B. A. Conway, *Commercial*
- The Hon. M. A. Penny, *Commercial*
- The Hon. P. J. Osborne, *Commercial*
- The Hon. W. Matheson, *Divisional Court*
- The Hon. S. O'Brien, *Small Claims Court*

JUDGES OF THE REGION

- The Hon. R. L. Akazaki
- The Hon. J. T. Akbarali
- The Hon. S. Akhtar
- The Hon. N. L. Backhouse
- The Hon. J. M. Barrett
- The Hon. P. Bawden
- The Hon. W. D. Black
- The Hon. R. C. Boswell
- The Hon. S. Boucher
- The Hon. M. F. Brown
- The Hon. L. Brownstone
- The Hon. K. P. Byrne
- The Hon. J. E. Callaghan
- The Hon. K. L. Campbell
- The Hon. R. P. Campbell
- The Hon. P. J. Cavanagh
- The Hon. R. Centa
- The Hon. W. Chalmers
- The Hon. B. A. Conway
- The Hon. D. L. Corbett
- The Hon. K. B. Corrick
- The Hon. B. L. Croll
- The Hon. B. Davies
- The Hon. N. Des Rosiers

- The Hon. J. F. Diamond
- The Hon. B. Dietrich
- The Hon. J. O. Dietrich
- The Hon. M. N. Dineen
- The Hon. G. R. Dow
- The Hon. T. Ducharme
- The Hon. S. F. Dunphy
- The Hon. M. D. Faieta
- The Hon. M. D. Forestell
- The Hon. C. A. Gilmore
- The Hon. B. T. Glustein
- The Hon. R. F. Goldstein
- The Hon. K. G. Hood
- The Hon. C. Horkins
- The Hon. E. Iacobucci
- The Hon. J. E. Kelly
- The Hon. J. Kimmel
- The Hon. M. Koehnen
- The Hon. M. Kraft
- The Hon. C. Leach
- The Hon. J. Leiper
- The Hon. R. A. Lococo
- The Hon. C. Mainville
- The Hon. C. Mathen
- The Hon. W. M. Matheson
- The Hon. R. Maxwell
- The Hon. H. McArthur
- The Hon. J. B. McMahon
- The Hon. F. E. McWatt
- The Hon. L. P. Merritt
- The Hon. A. M. Molloy
- The Hon. G. B. Morawetz
- The Hon. E. M. Morgan
- The Hon. F. Myers
- The Hon. S. S. Nakatsuru
- The Hon. E. L. Nakonechny
- The Hon. A. C. Newton-Smith
- The Hon. S. Y. Nishikawa
- The Hon. S. O'Brien
- The Hon. A. J. C. O'Marra
- The Hon. E. Papageorgiou
- The Hon. I. G. Parghi
- The Hon. J. K. Penman
- The Hon. A. Pinto
- The Hon. A. M. Pollak
- The Hon. J. R. Presser
- The Hon. A. P. C. Ramsay
- The Hon. C. H. Rhinelandier
- The Hon. G. E. Roberts
- The Hon. H. E. Sachs
- The Hon. K. Sah
- The Hon. M. Sanderson
- The Hon. A. Sanfilippo
- The Hon. P. B. Schabas
- The Hon. P. A. Schreck
- The Hon. M. Sharma
- The Hon. L. A. Shin



- The Hon. J. Shin Doi
- The Hon. S. Shore
- The Hon. N. J. Spies
- The Hon. J. Steele
- The Hon. S. M. Stevenson (*Family Court Branch*)
- The Hon. C. P. Stevenson
- The Hon. D. G. Stinson
- The Hon. P. T. Sugunasiri
- The Hon. S. Vella
- The Hon. M. Vermette
- The Hon. B. Wassenaar
- The Hon. C. Weiler

ASSOCIATE JUDGES

- Associate Justice Linda Abrams
- Associate Justice Paul J. Barnes
- Associate Justice Ronna Brott
- Associate Justice D. Michael Brown
- Associate Justice Gillian Eckler
- Associate Justice Robert Frank
- Associate Justice Alexander Ilchenko
- Associate Justice Karen Elaine Jolley
- Associate Justice Jay Josefo
- Associate Justice Lisa LaHorey
- Associate Justice Barbara McAfee
- Associate Justice Michael Phillip McGraw
- Associate Justice Sam Rappos
- Associate Justice Todd Robinson
- Associate Justice Charles G.T. Wiebe

REGIONAL BACKGROUND

Toronto is the Superior Court’s busiest region by volume of cases. The region divides its judicial complement into teams, each of which is supervised by at least one team leader designated by the regional senior judge. In addition, Toronto’s associate judges hear various civil matters including motions, case conferences, construction lien trials, and mortgage and general references.

DEVELOPMENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

The Toronto region’s judges and associate judges are proactively working to better serve the public.

Among other recent innovations, the family team initiated a weekly To Be Spoken court to address urgent matters, trial adjournments and procedural directions. The team also implemented Binding Judicial Dispute Resolution intended to resolve single-issue matters. Given the success of Toronto’s concentrated case conference weeks, the team started holding monthly blitz weeks during which the entire team hears case conferences.

With the implementation of Calendly online scheduling in the region, civil matters before judges and associate judges are moving toward computerized scheduling. The triage process for short motions requests before a judge has also been streamlined. Specifically, the civil team introduced a new procedure whereby certain short motions before a judge must proceed to a case conference before a hearing date is scheduled. These case conferences have helped the parties to settle disputes and reduced the number of short motions.

Trial scheduling court is held virtually on a weekly basis. The expectation is that counsel are ready to book the first available date. Additionally, counsel are now required to file a timetable for the delivery of expert reports at the time trial dates are confirmed. To ensure that trials proceed as scheduled, the Court also convenes case conferences to address trial management and scheduling issues, thereby avoiding the need for formal motions.

The Toronto bench and bar have worked closely together to enhance access to the Court for class proceedings through a centralized process for case management.

The criminal team continues to work efficiently and effectively to manage the significant number of serious criminal matters that occur in the Toronto region.

The Commercial List team continues to be dedicated to hearing insolvency and complex commercial matters in the Toronto region. The Court has undertaken several initiatives to ensure urgent cases can be adjudicated on their merits quickly. The Commercial List Practice Direction was updated in June 2025 to codify more efficient procedures. Informal case management, initiated by both the parties and the bench, is the norm. The team has regular and productive meetings with representatives of the bar through the Commercial List Users Committee.

The Toronto Estates list team hears an increasing high volume of cases. Active case management, judicial mediation and pre-trial conferences have led to fewer trials and multi-day proceedings, as well as allowing for urgent matters to be heard promptly. These practices are also proving successful in guiding parties to resolutions and avoiding unnecessary interlocutory motions.

RETIRED JUDGES

CENTRAL EAST REGION

The Hon. Hugh K. O’Connell (2009–2024)
The Hon. Margaret A. C. Scott (1999–2024)
The Hon. Alexander Sosna (2006–2024)
The Hon. Jayne E. Hughes (2008–2025)
The Hon. Myrna L. Lack (1998–2025)

CENTRAL SOUTH REGION

The Hon. David A. Broad (2012–2024)
The Hon. Donald J. Gordon (2001–2024)
The Hon. Linda M. Walters (1995–2024)
The Hon. Harrison S. Arrell (2006–2025)
The Hon. Kim A. Carpenter-Gunn (2008–2025)
The Hon. Deborah L. Chappel (2011–2025)
The Hon. Cheryl Lafreniere (2004–2025)
The Hon. M. Dale Parayeski (2009–2025)
The Hon. Elizabeth (Liza) Sheard (2015–2025)
The Hon. Gerald E. Taylor (2005–2025)

CENTRAL WEST REGION

The Hon. Thomas A. Bielby (2008–2024)
The Hon. Peter A. Daley (2007–2024)
The Hon. Fletcher Dawson (2003–2024)
The Hon. Deena F. Baltman (2005–2025)
The Hon. Ivan S. Bloom (2014–2025)

EAST REGION

The Hon. Jennifer A. Blishen (1999–2024)
The Hon. Rick T. Leroy (2009–2024)
The Hon. Darlene L. Summers (2017–2024)
The Hon. Laurie Lacelle (2015–2025)
The Hon. Johanne Lafrance-Cardinal (1999–2025)
The Hon. Hugh R. Mclean (1993–2025)
The Hon. Mark P. Shelston (2015–2025)

NORTHWEST REGION

The Hon. Bonnie R. Warkentin (2008–2024)
The Hon. Helen M. Pierce (2001–2025)

SOUTHWEST REGION

The Hon. Kirk W. Munroe (2015–2024)
The Hon. Christopher M. Bondy (2011–2025)
The Hon. Paul J. Henderson (2010–2025)

TORONTO REGION

The Hon. Beth Anna Allen (2007–2024)
The Hon. George Czutrin (1993–2024)
The Hon. Jane E. Ferguson (2004–2024)
The Hon. Nola E. Garton (1991–2024)
The Hon. Wailan Low (1998–2024)
The Hon. Paul M. Perell (2005–2024)
The Hon. Michael G. Quigley (2005–2024)
The Hon. Gertrude F. Spiegel (1990–2024)
The Hon. Elizabeth M. Stewart (2003–2024)
The Hon. Herman J. Wilton Siegel (2002–2024)
The Hon. Carole J. Brown (2011–2025)
The Hon. Michael Code (2009–2025)
The Hon. Susan G. Himel (1997–2025)
The Hon. Freya Kristjanson (2016–2025)
The Hon. Brian P. O’Marra (2011–2025)
The Hon. Michael A. Penny (2009–2025)

IN MEMORIAM

The Hon. Emile Rosario Millette
(1935–2019)

The Hon. Robert Paul Boissonneault
(1942–2021)

The Hon. John Robert Rogers Jennings
(1937–2022)

The Hon. Ernest Patrick Hartt
(1926–2022)

The Hon. Thomas Arthur Beckett
(1925–2023)

The Hon. Gerald Francis Day
(1933–2023)

The Hon. Gordon Patrick Killeen
(1932–2023)

The Hon. Randolph Mazza
(1946–2023)

The Hon. Alan W. Bryant
(1943–2023)

The Hon. John Conway Kennedy
(1944–2023)

The Hon. Robert Stanley Montgomery
(1925–2023)

The Hon. George William Dandie
(1931–2024)

The Hon. Wifred Roland Dupont
(1926–2024)

The Hon. Harry Joseph Keenan
(1932–2024)

The Hon. Lawrence Cyril Kozak
(1930–2024)

The Hon. William Joseph Lloyd Brennan
(1939–2024)

The Hon. Anthony Etalo Cusinato
(1936–2024)

The Hon. Henry Vogelsang
(1944–2024)

The Hon. John Dawson Ground
(1932–2024)

The Hon. Ray Stortini
(1929–2024)

The Hon. Thomas Joseph Lally
(1932–2024)

The Hon. Kevin W. Whitaker
(1957–2025)

The Hon. Michael Quigley
(1943–2025)

The Hon. Joseph Charles McGuigan James
(1946–2025)

The Hon. Richard Jean Huneault
(1935–2025)

The Hon. James M. Spence
(1940–2025)

The Hon. David Laurence McWilliam
(1933–2025)

The Hon. Chester Carl Misener
(1930–2025)

The Hon. John F. McCartney
(1939–2025)

The Hon. Hugh Michael O'Connell
(1933–2025)

A photograph of a building's exterior corner. The wall is clad in large, rectangular stone blocks of varying shades of beige and grey. A dark, recessed door is set into the wall on the left. In the foreground, a set of wide, grey stone steps leads up to the building. The word "COURT" is inscribed in a simple, black, sans-serif font on the wall to the right of the door. A small, ornate metal crest is visible on the wall above the word. The lighting is bright, casting shadows on the steps and the wall.

COURT

The background image shows a classical building facade with a series of tall, light-colored columns. The building is constructed from large, rectangular stone blocks. In the foreground, there are several wide, grey stone steps leading up to the building. A red horizontal band is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image, containing the text 'SECTION 5 COURT STATISTICS'.

SECTION 5
COURT STATISTICS

HOUSE

COURT HOUSE

COURT STATISTICS

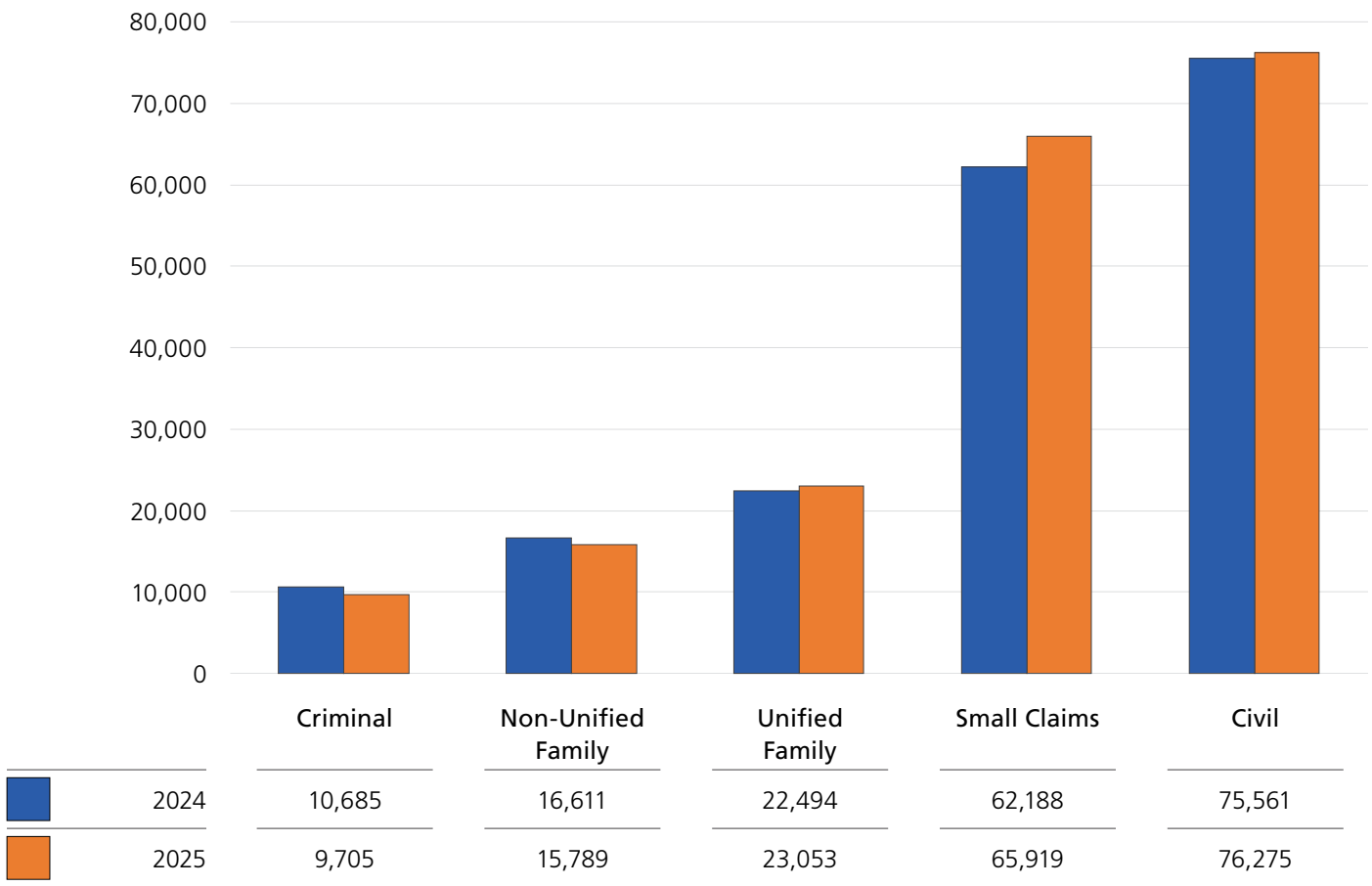
In 2025, the Court began publishing operational data on its website. This section includes a sample of what the Court has now made available online. For further data about the Court's operations, please visit the "Reports and Court Data" tab on the Court's website.

As you read this section, it is important to bear in mind the following concepts and caveats:

- Proceedings are counted as "disposed" when, regardless of when the proceeding was commenced, there is a final order or judgment involving all parties. Importantly, a final order or judgment is one that has been entered as such into FRANK. While some types of orders may resolve the parties' dispute or practically end a proceeding, the proceeding may not be considered "disposed" since there is no final order or judgment involving all parties that has been entered as such into FRANK. Additionally, the 2024 data regarding family, small claims, and civil matters is informed by the fact that, in 2024, the Court resumed issuing administrative dismissals for delay, a practice that was suspended during the pandemic.
- Proceedings are counted as "active pending" if they have a future court date and/or have had activity in the last 18 months.
- Some of the data in this section describes the total number of "events" or appearances before the Court by the mode indicated. Each appearance on a file before the Court is entered by staff into FRANK, and is included in this section's charts, as a single event, the definition of which may be found on the Court's website. Where matters are heard over multiple days, each day's attendance is counted as a distinct event. The available FRANK data cannot be reliably used to reduce the number of appearances by mode to the number of files involved.
- While the data in this section illustrates the most frequently occurring, or most "key", Court events, it does not include Mandatory Information Program or First Appearance Court events in Family Court, or Request for a Clerk's Order events in Small Claims Court.
- The data included in this section was collected by the Ministry of the Attorney General on behalf of the Superior Court of Justice. This data is being provided as Ministry staff entered it into the Court's case management system FRANK. Therefore, the accuracy and reliability of this data is dependent upon staff's data entry practices. Moreover, on October 14, 2025, certain of the Court's locations successfully transitioned their case management system to a new platform, C-Track, as part of the Court's digital transformation. This transition applies only to civil, family, and Small Claims Court matters in Toronto. Given that data from C-Track is not yet available, the data in this report may be under-represented insofar as it concerns such matters.

OVERVIEW

NEW SCJ PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED



New criminal proceedings include all new indictments, appeals, bail reviews, and detention reviews for both adult and youth matters. It does not include applications for, among other things, certiorari or mandamus. New bail and detention reviews include all bail review applications under sections 520, 521, 525 and 816 of the Criminal Code. It does not include applications for bail under s. 522 (for offences under s. 469) of the Criminal Code. Each of these is counted as one new proceeding, regardless of the number of accused involved. This contrasts with the practice in the Ontario Court of Justice, which counts each new case based on the number of accused involved.

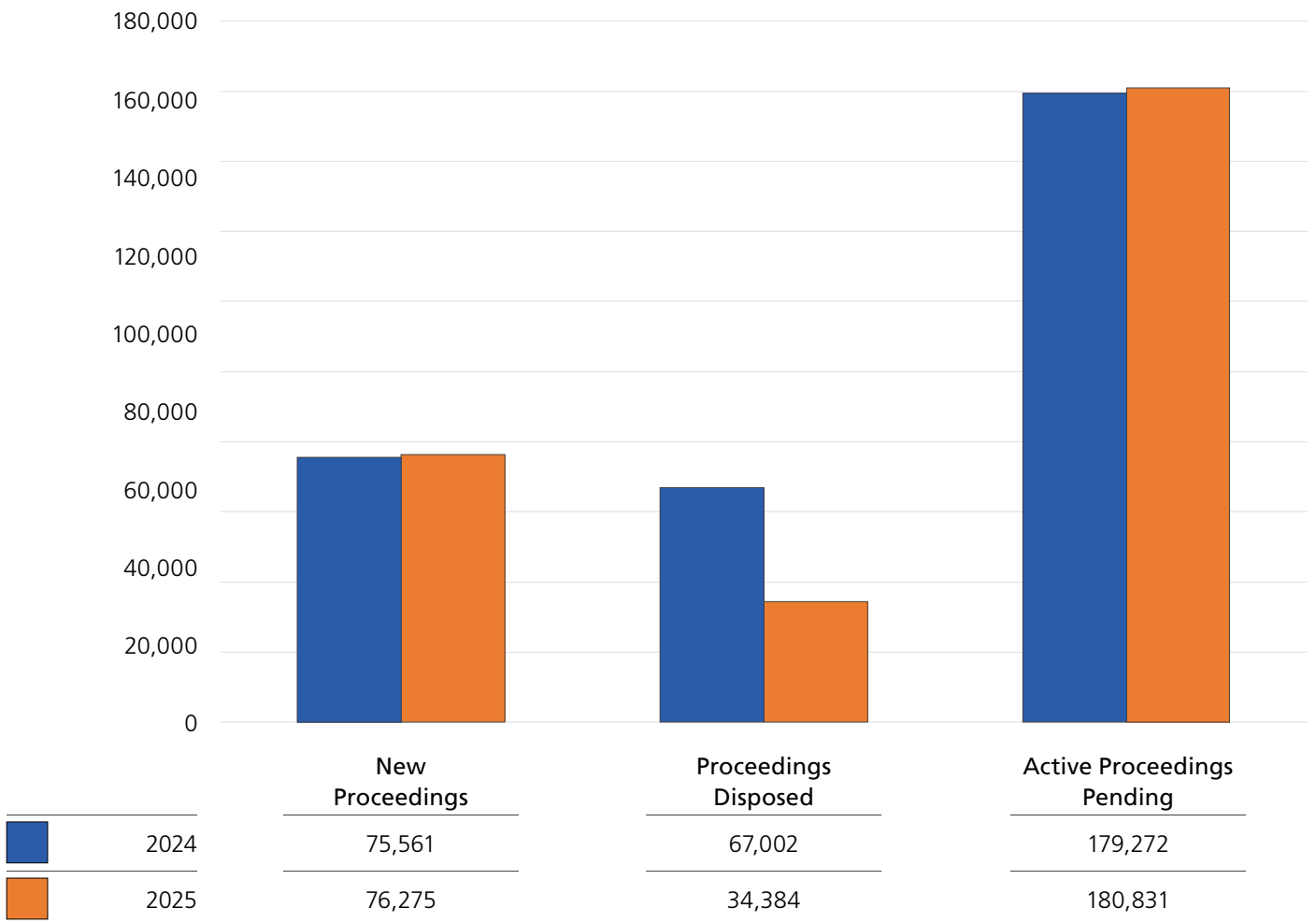
New family proceedings include all new applications, motions to change a final order, and requests for extra-provincial tribunals to provide evidence in custody or access cases filed with the Court, except for any enforcement proceedings and requests for fee waiver.

New small claims proceedings include all new files opened except for enforcement proceedings or fee waiver requests.

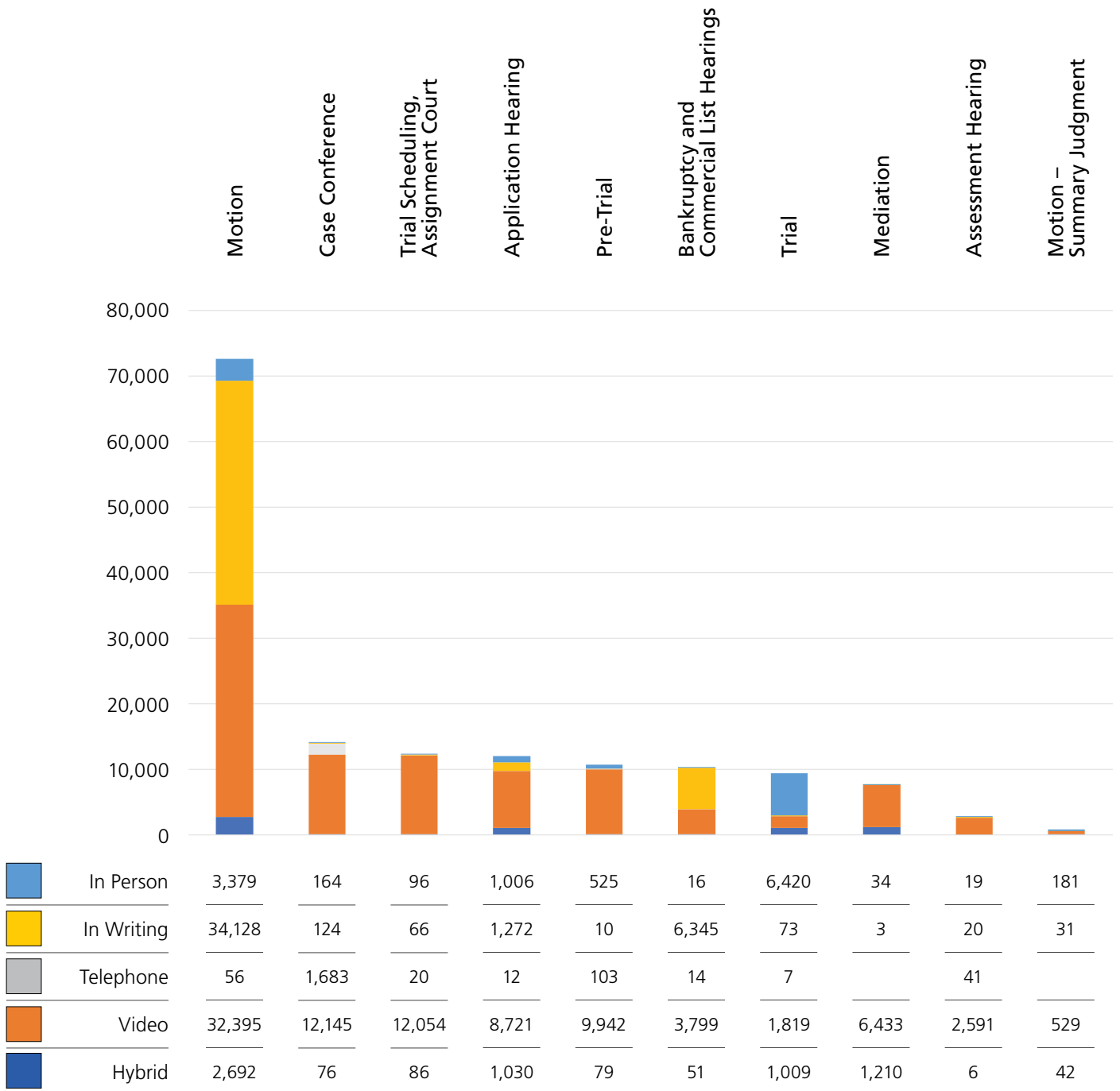
New civil proceedings include all new files opened except for Divisional Court and uncontested estate matters, solicitor and client assessments, fee waiver requests, or restitution orders.

CIVIL

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS STATISTICS

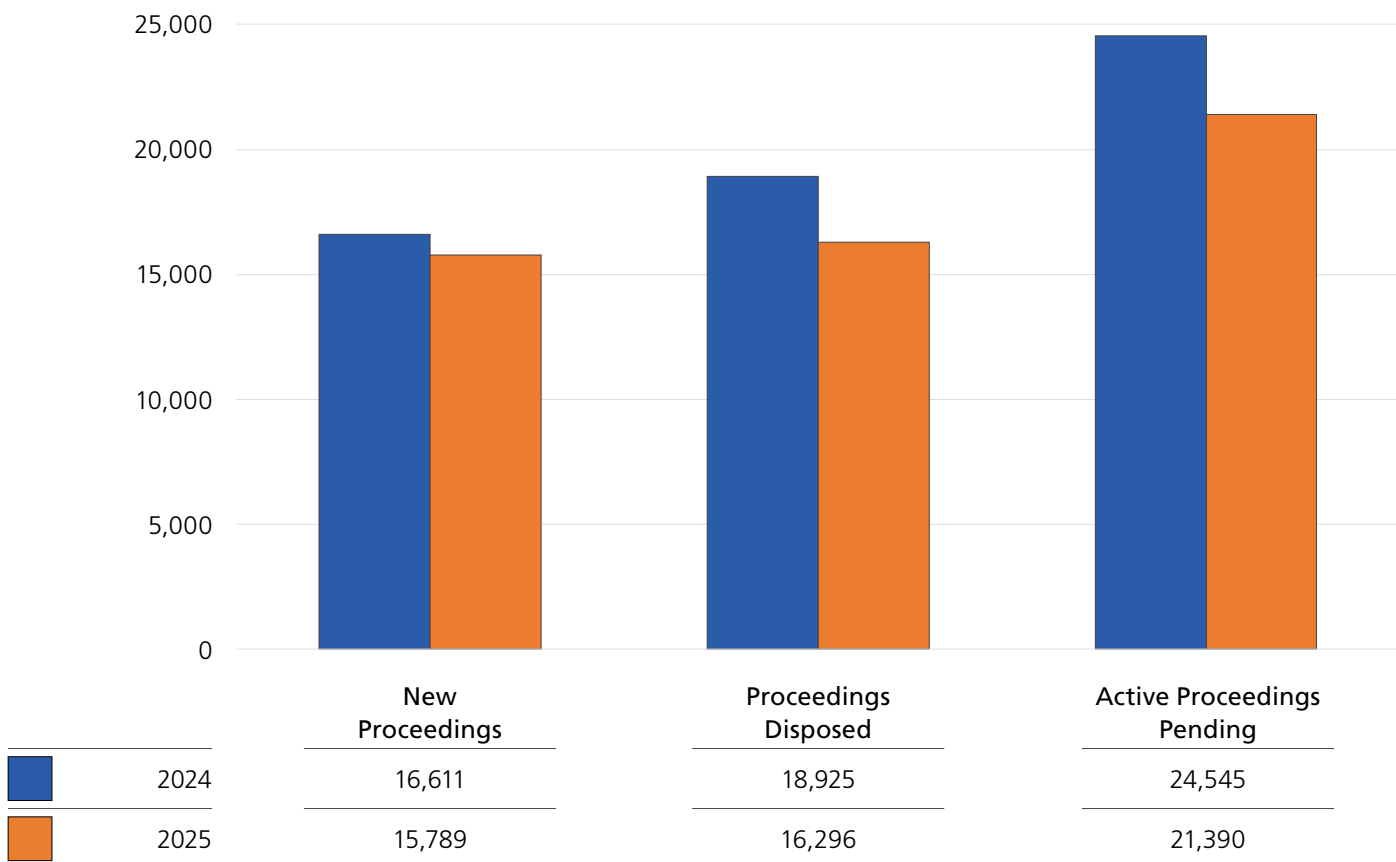


KEY CIVIL EVENTS HEARD BY MODE 2024–2025

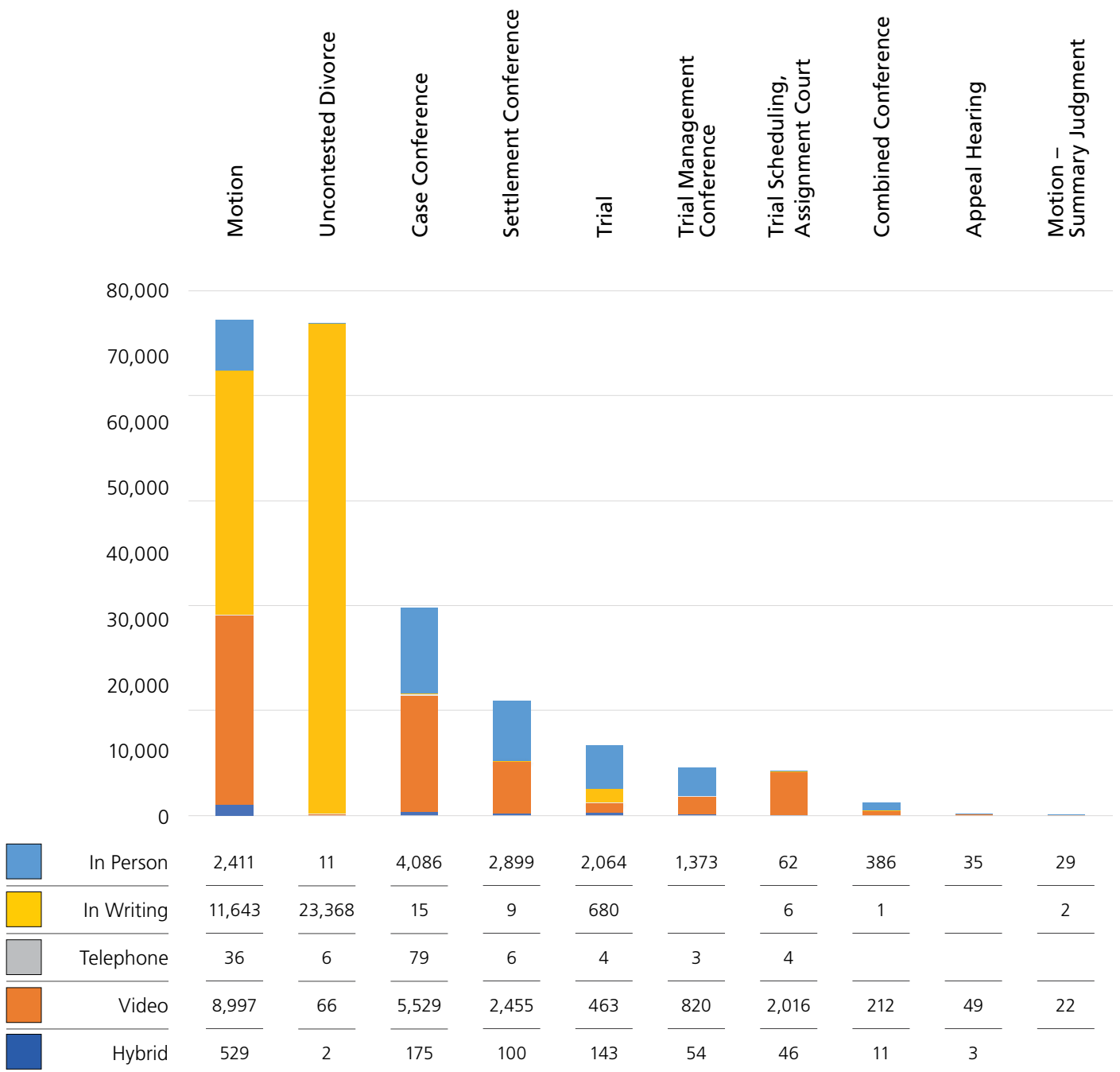


FAMILY

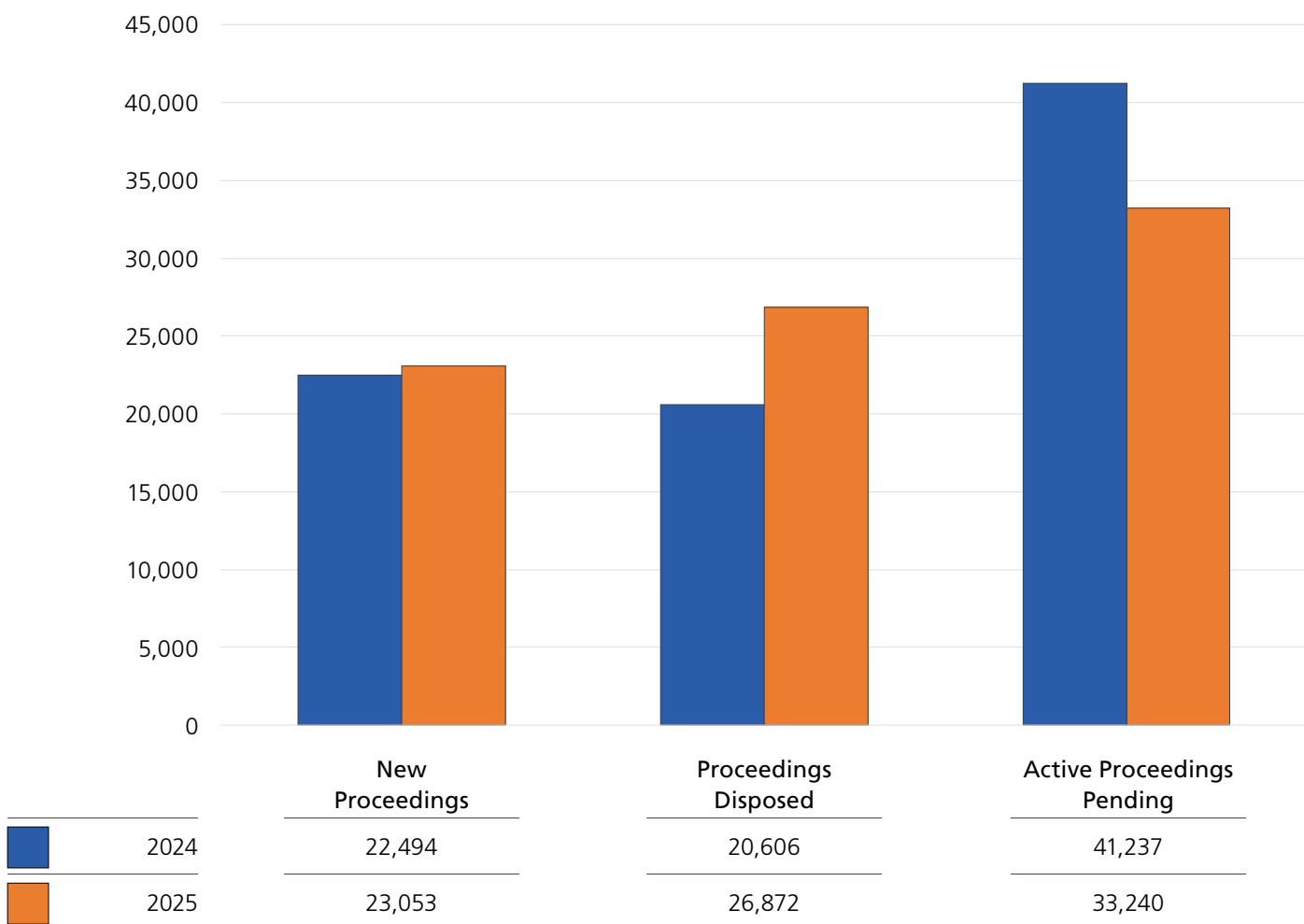
NON-UNIFIED FAMILY PROCEEDING STATISTICS



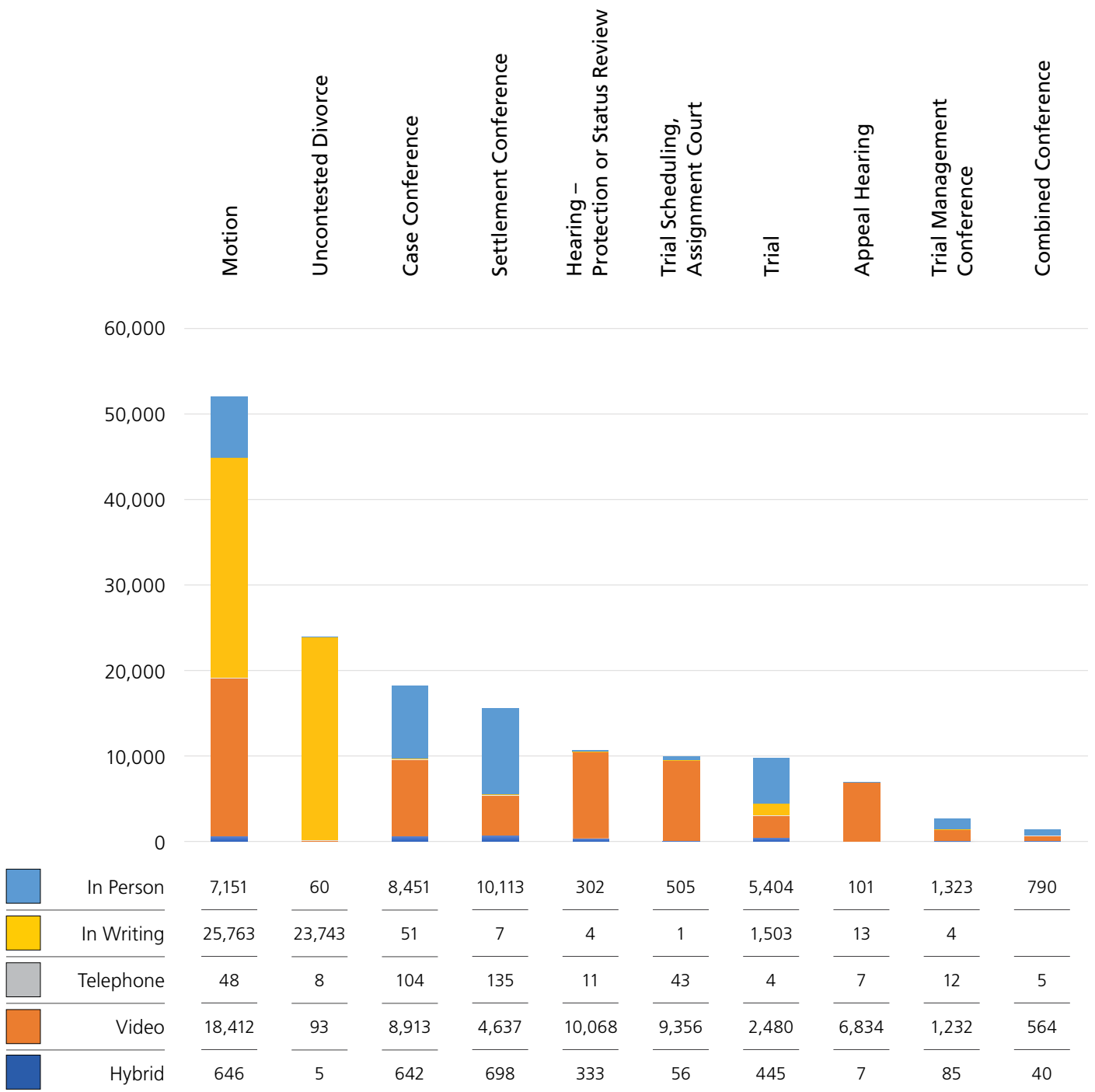
KEY NON-UNIFIED FAMILY EVENTS HEARD BY MODE 2024–2025



UNIFIED FAMILY PROCEEDING STATISTICS

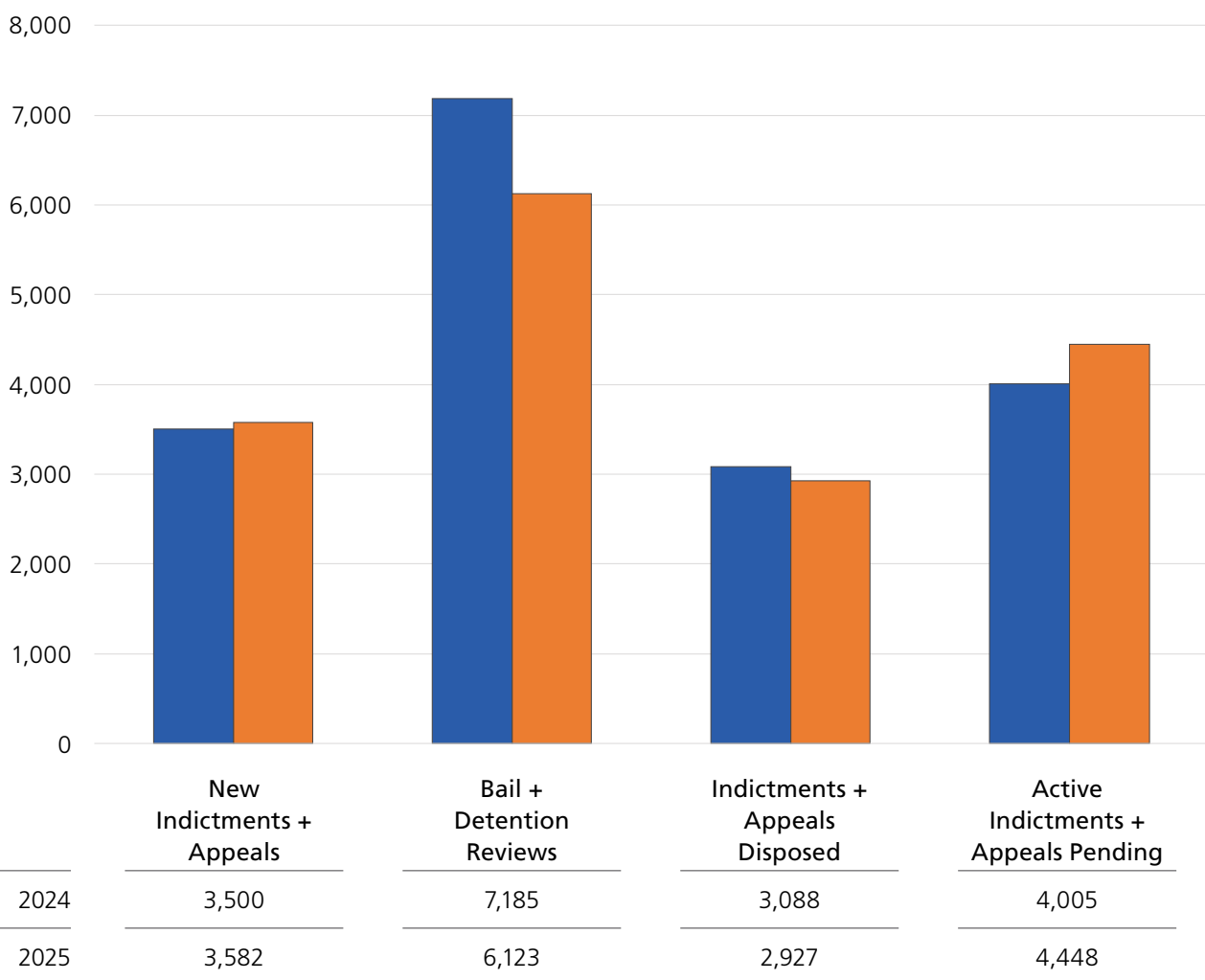


KEY UNIFIED FAMILY EVENTS HEARD BY MODE 2024–2025

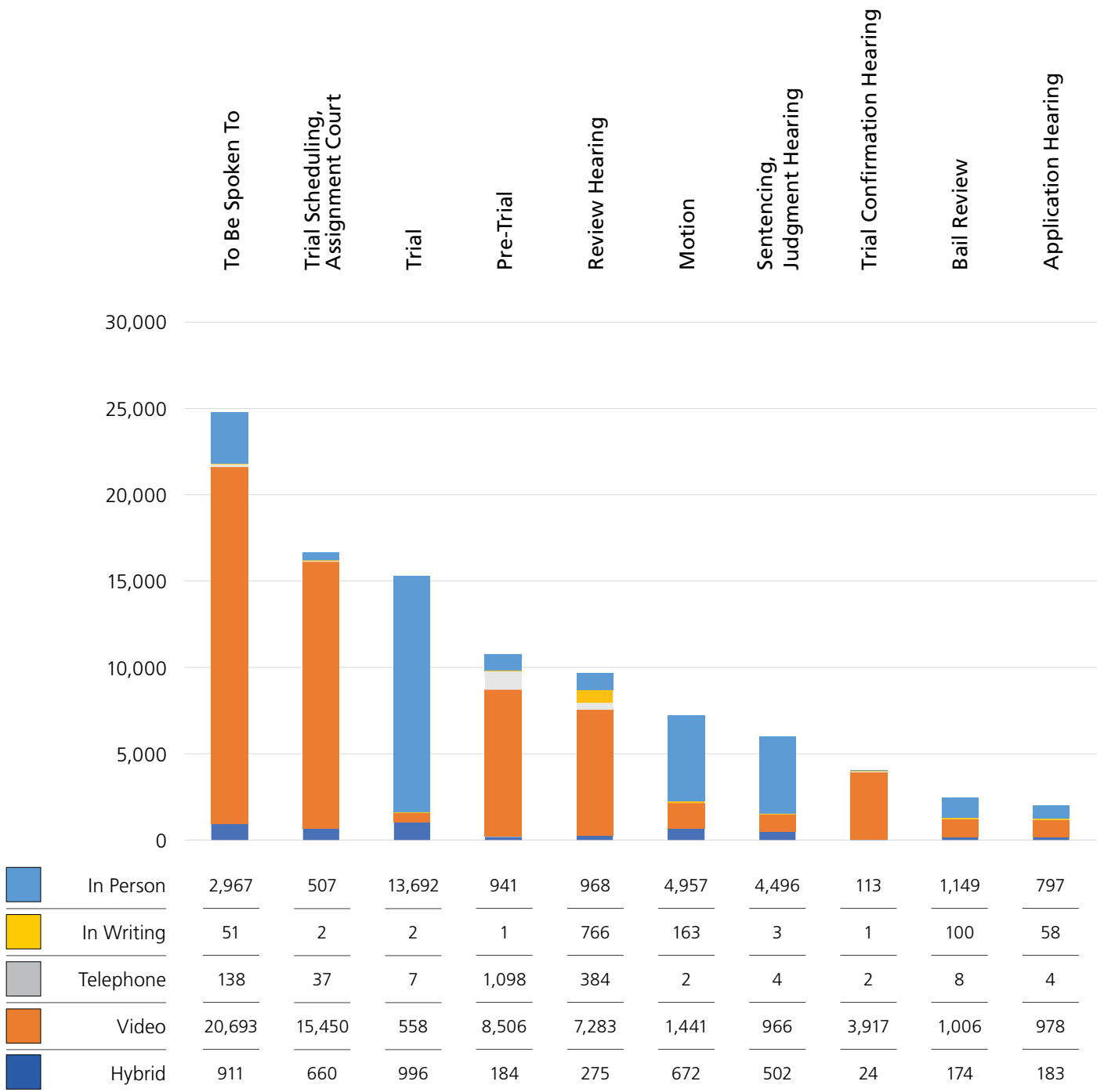


CRIMINAL

CRIMINAL PROCEEDING STATISTICS

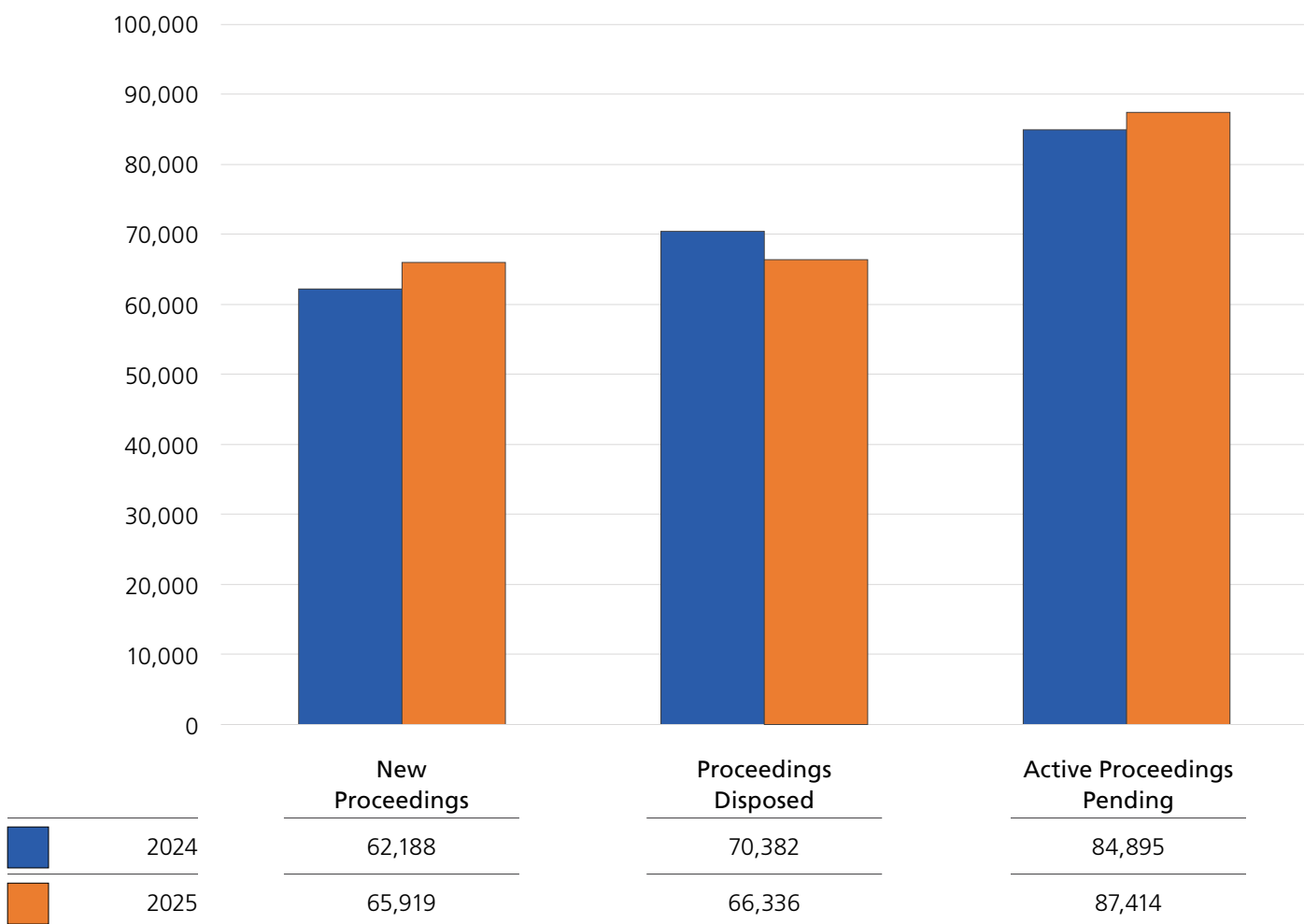


CRIMINAL EVENTS HEARD BY MODE 2024–2025

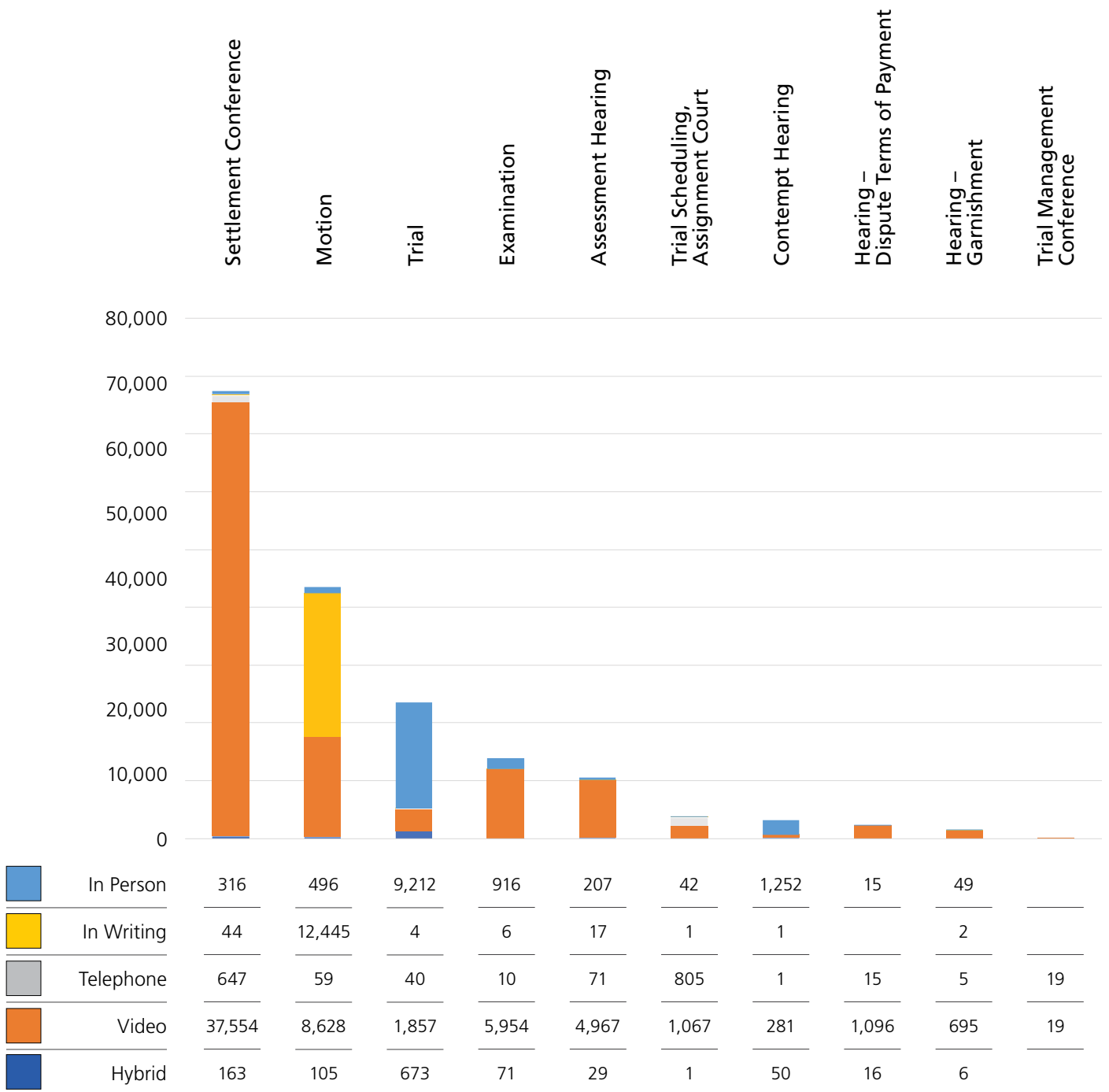


SMALL CLAIMS

SMALL CLAIMS PROCEEDING STATISTICS

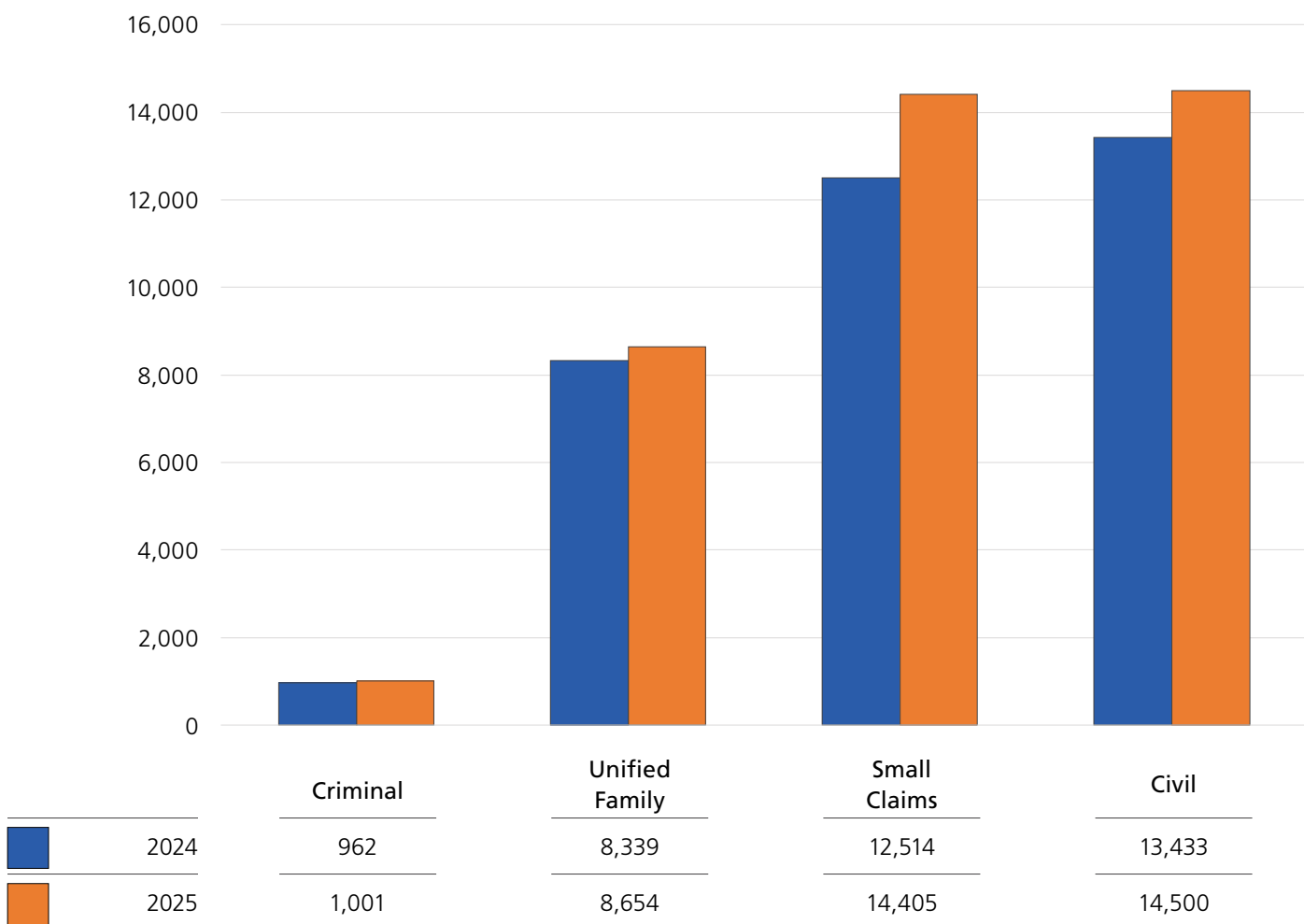


SMALL CLAIMS EVENTS HEARD BY MODE 2024–2025

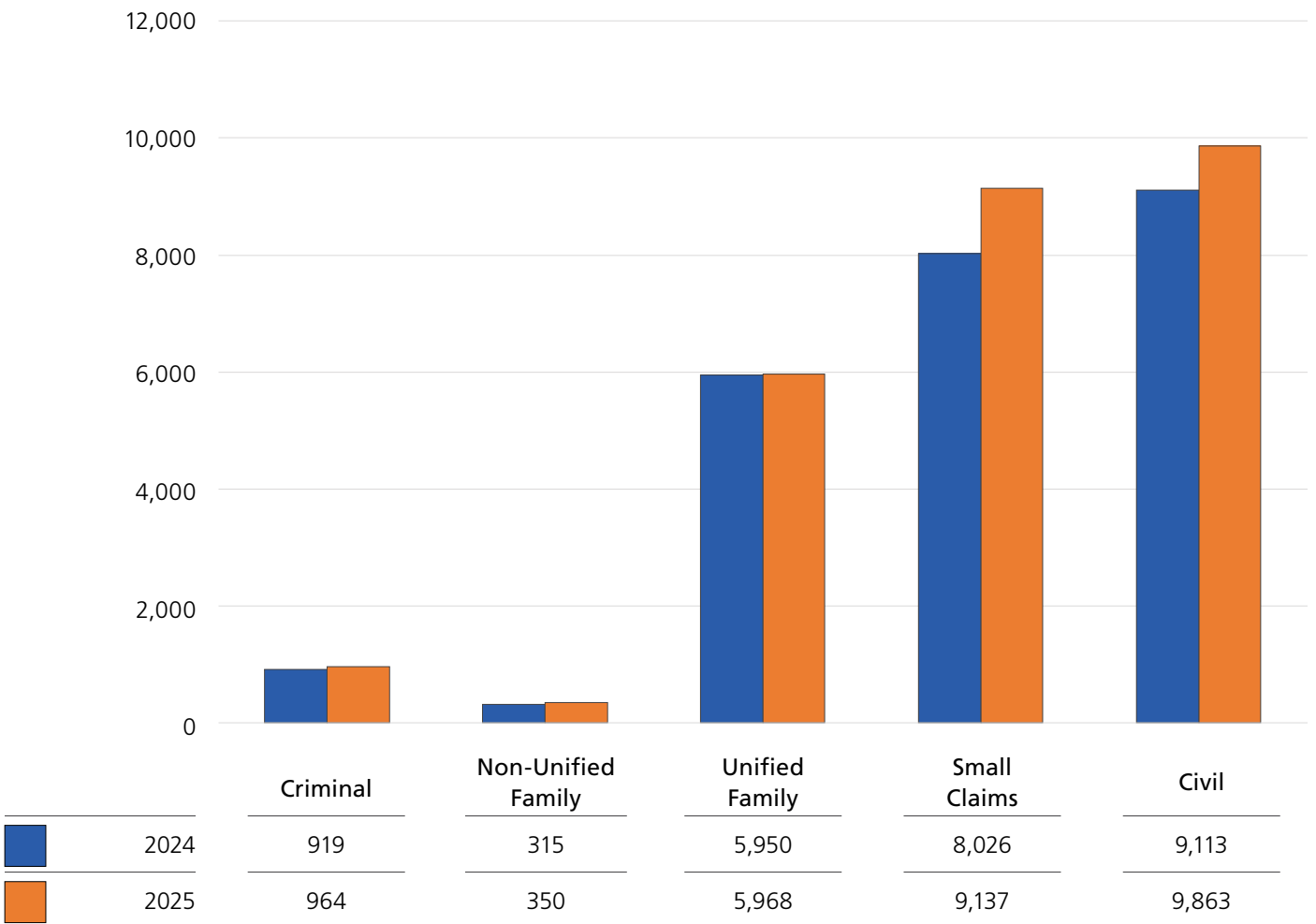


REGIONAL STATISTICS

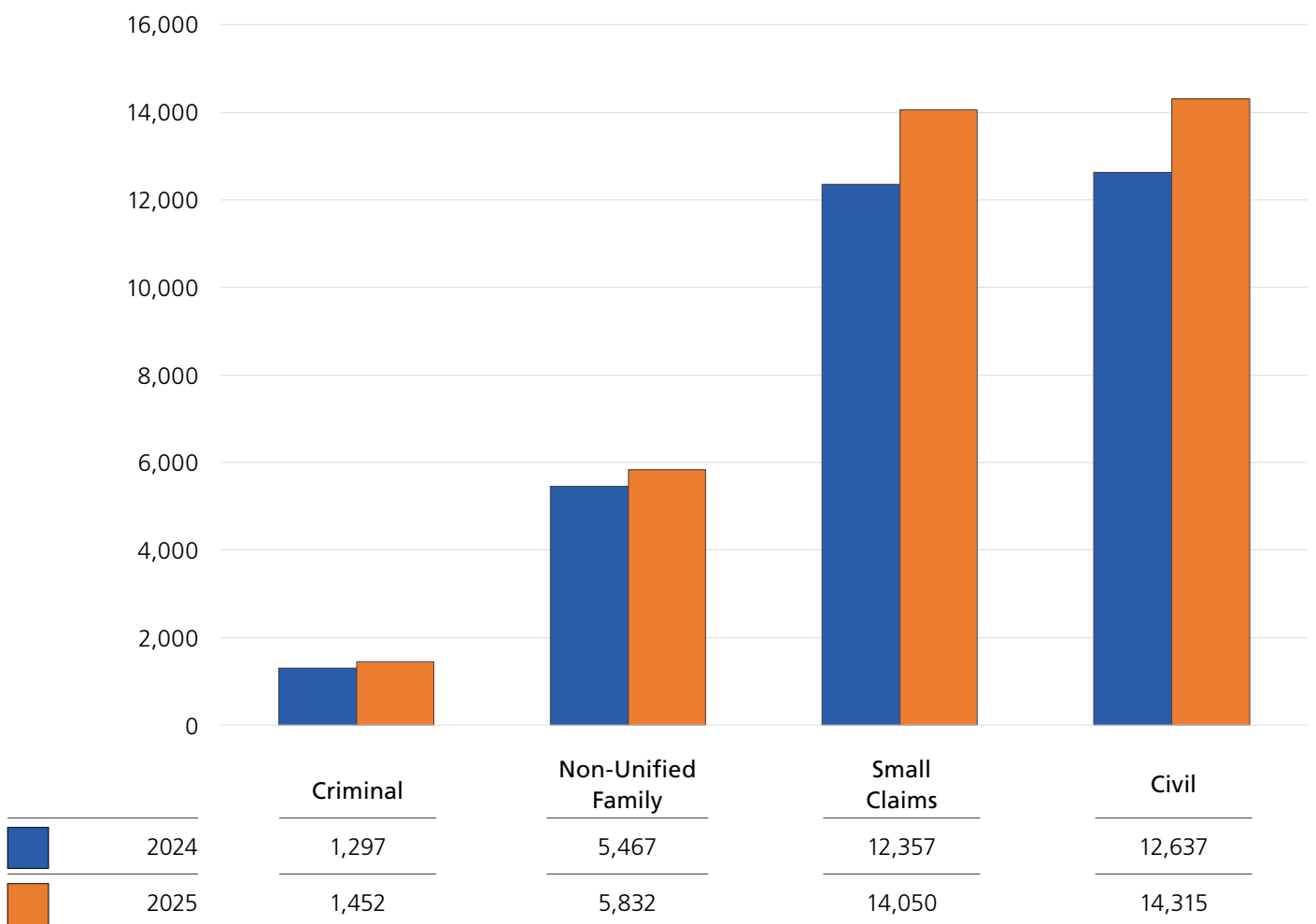
NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: CENTRAL EAST REGION



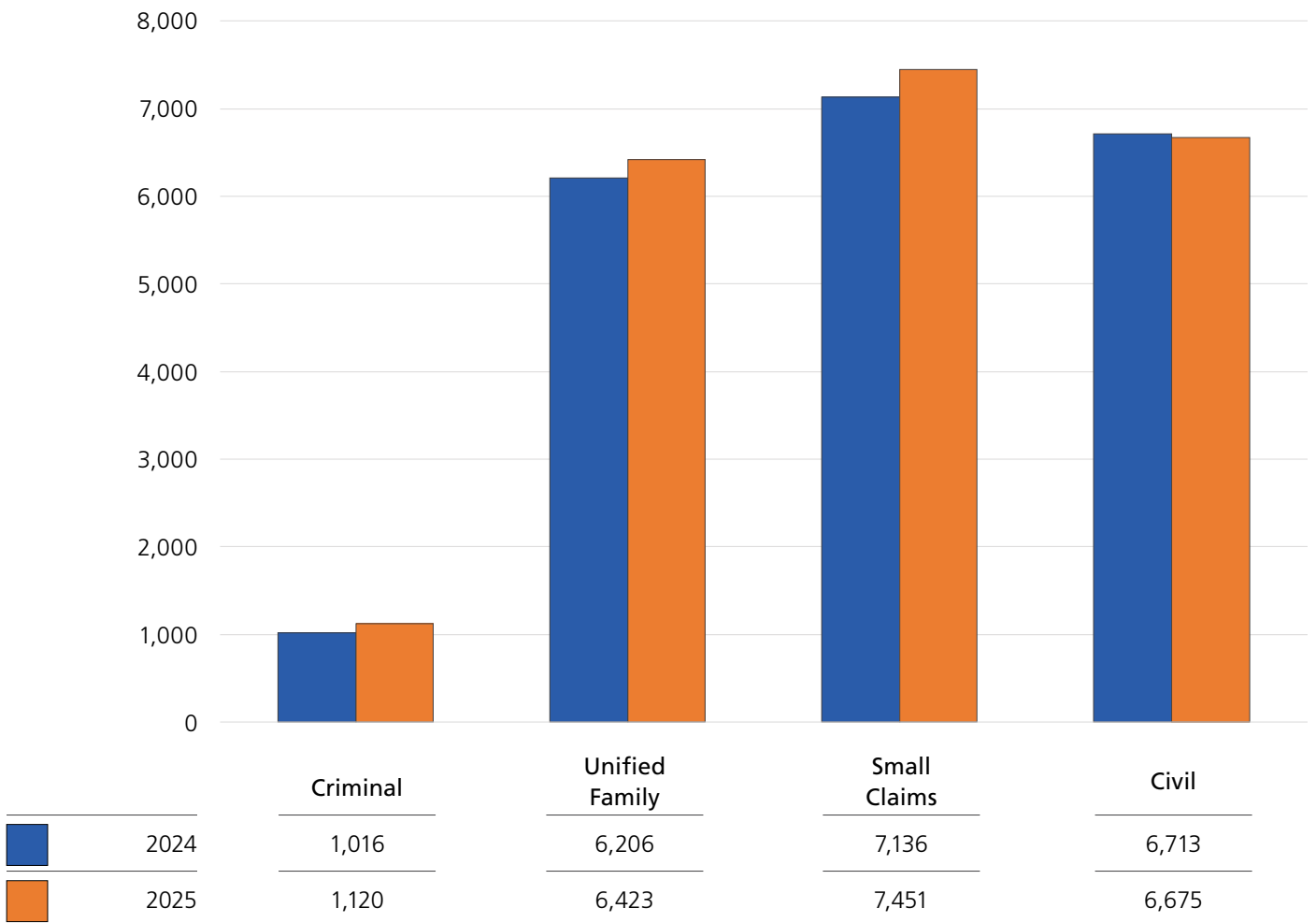
NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: CENTRAL SOUTH REGION



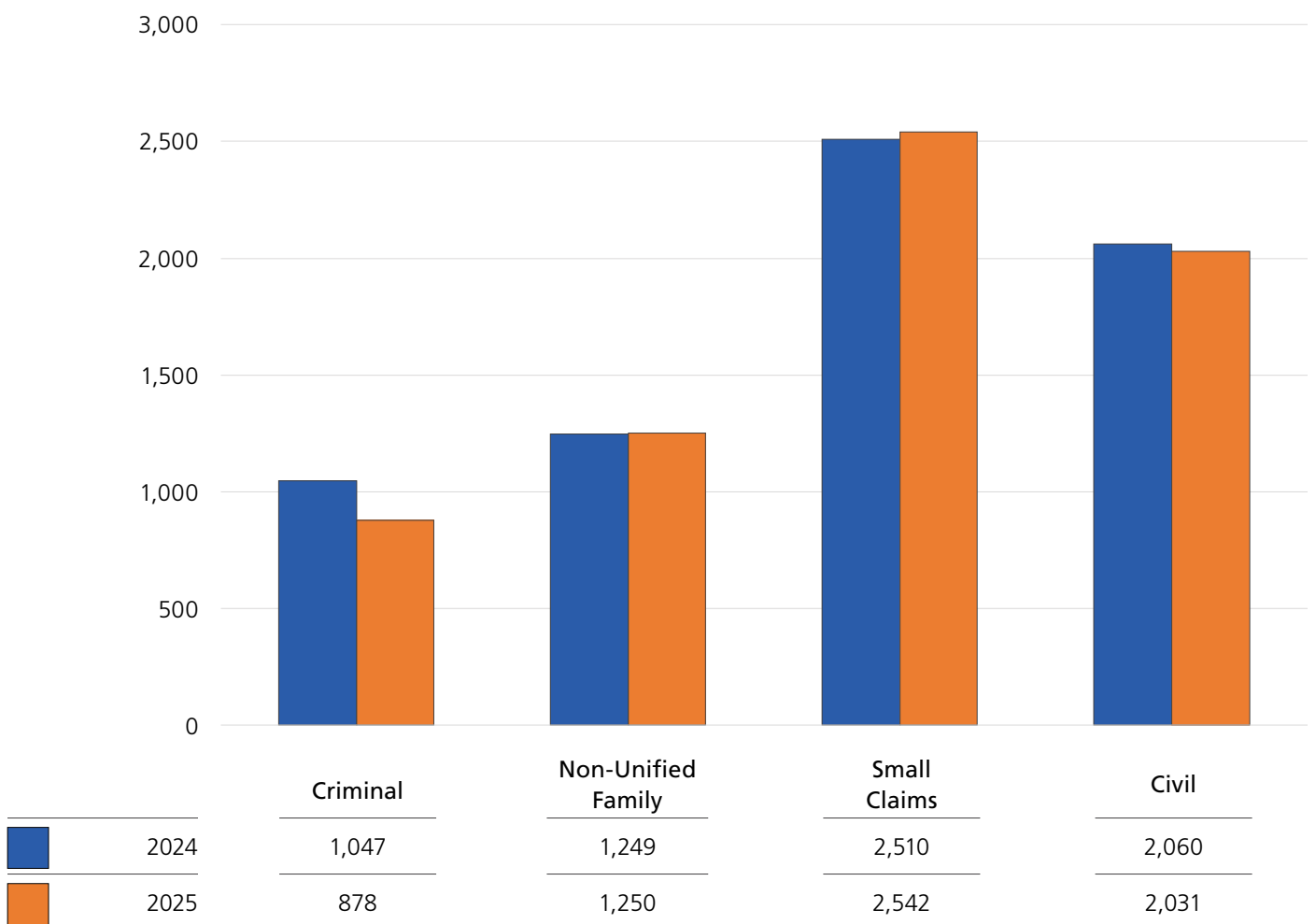
NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: CENTRAL WEST REGION



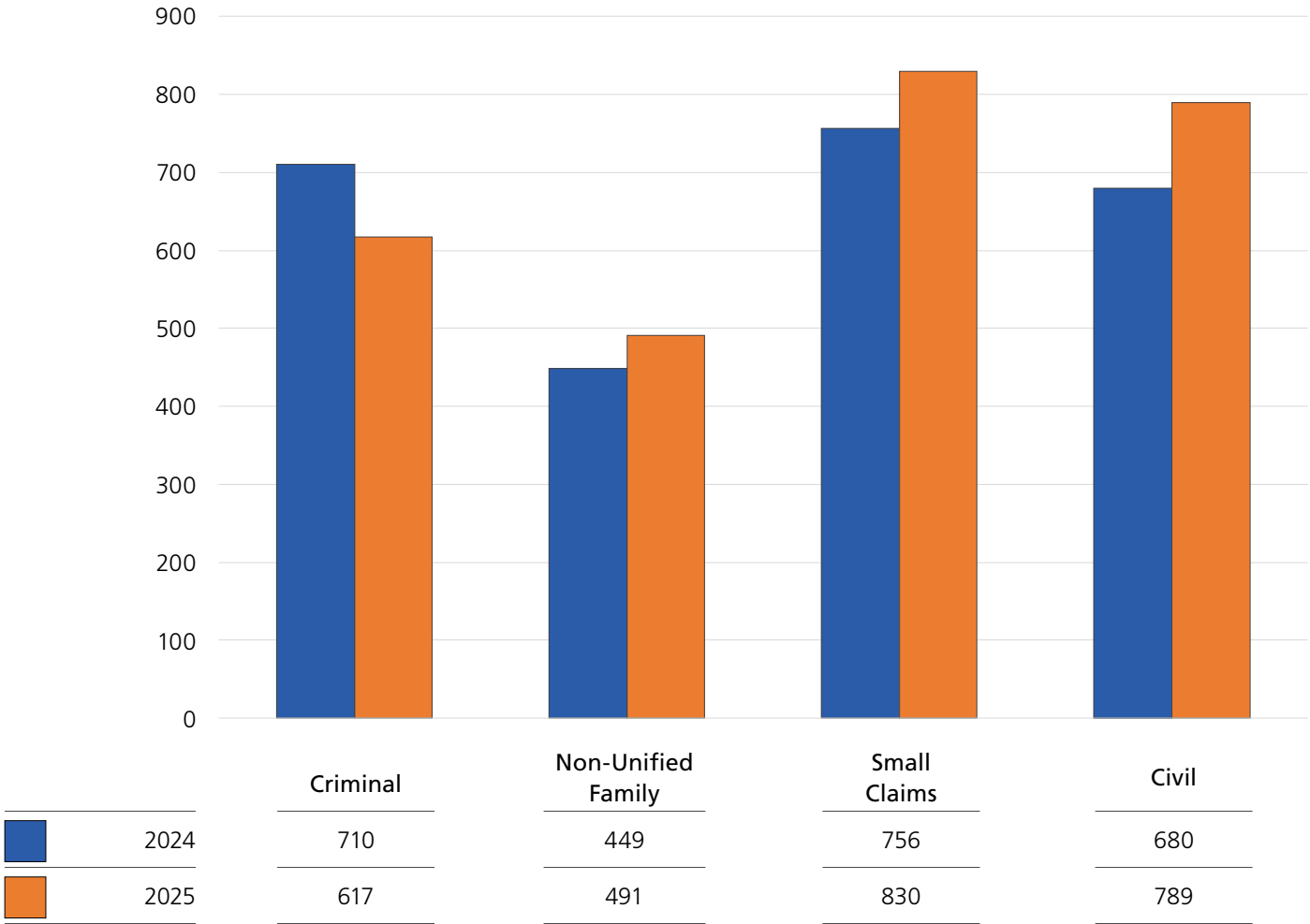
NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: EAST REGION



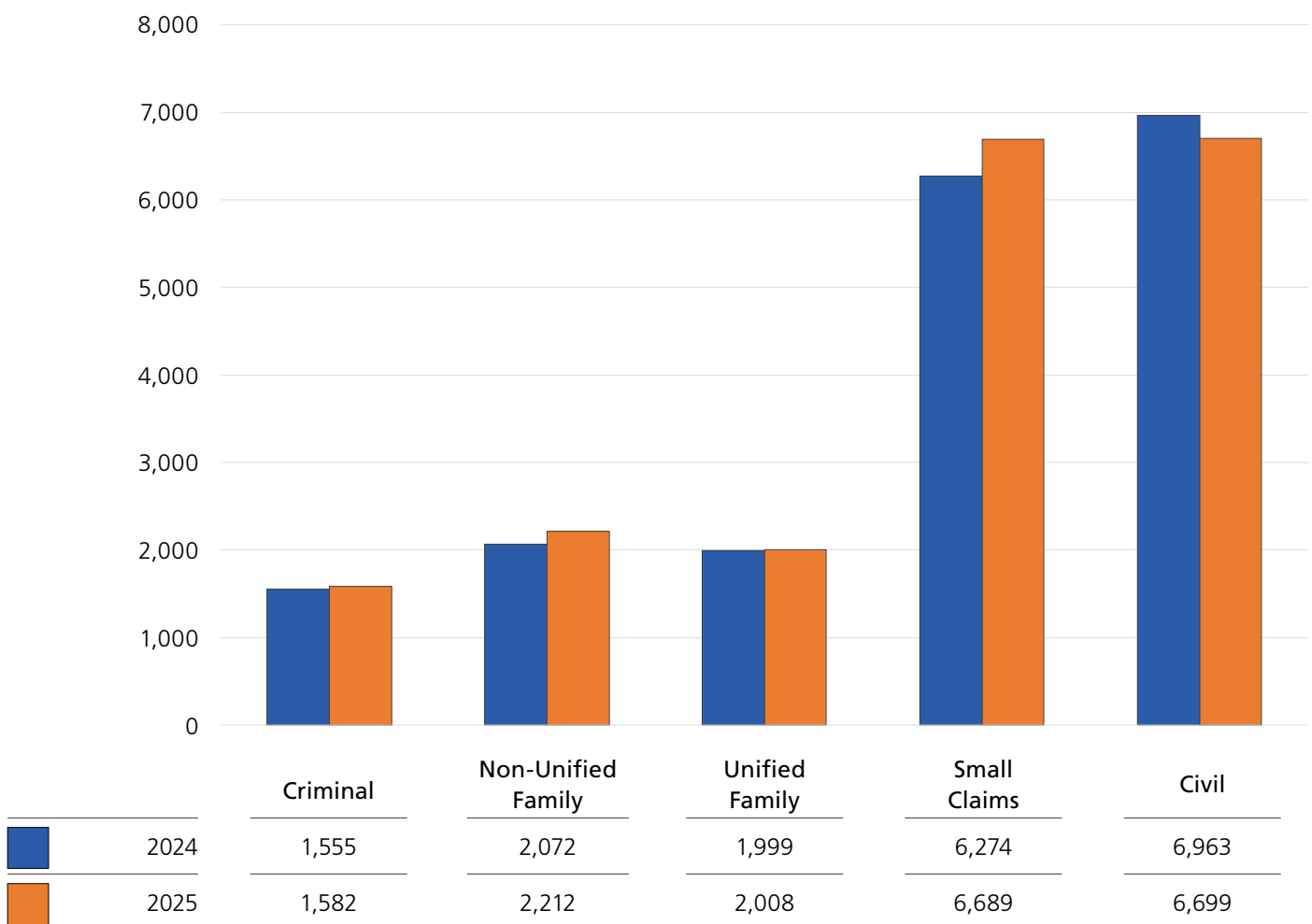
NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: NORTHEAST REGION



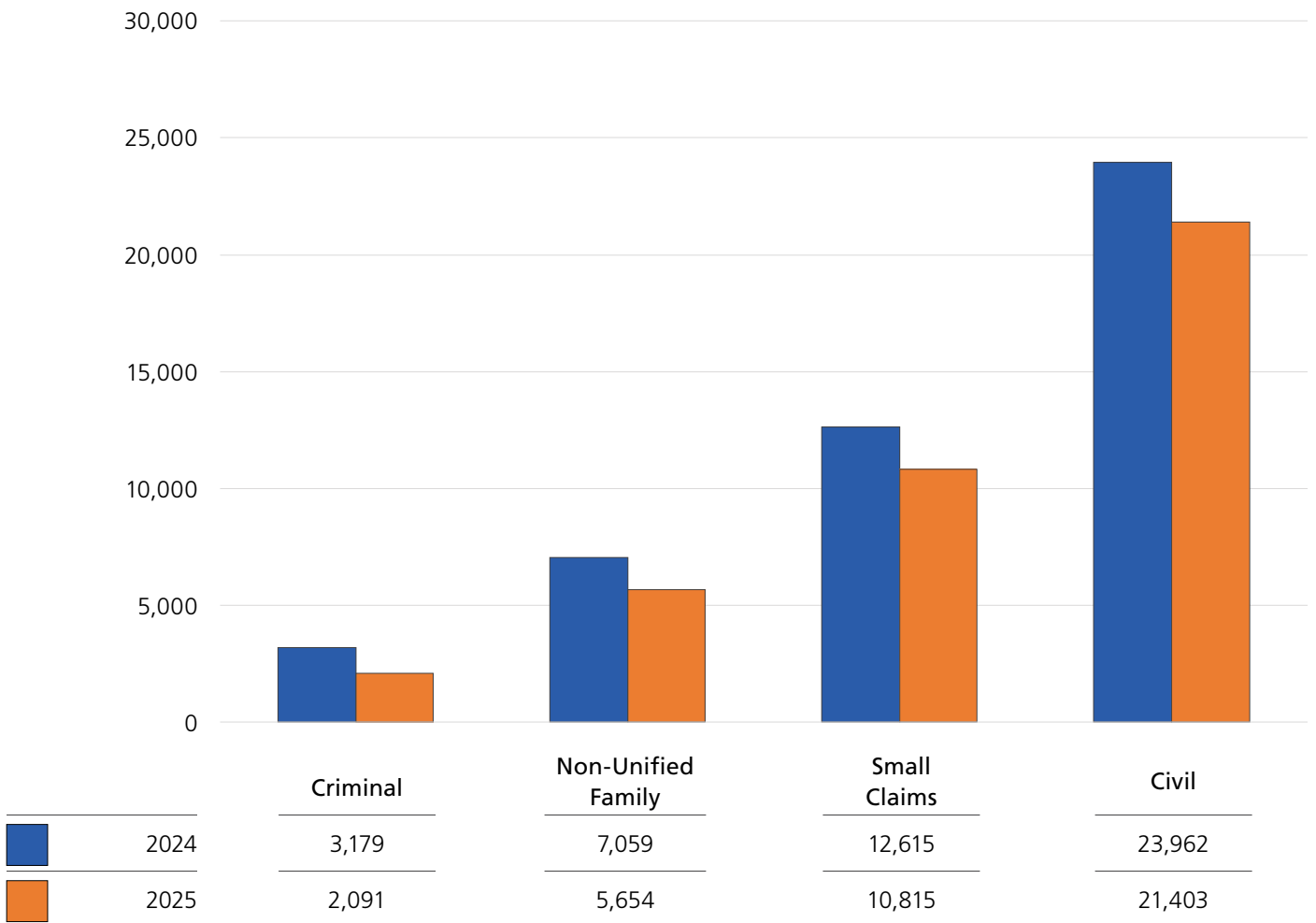
NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: NORTHWEST REGION



NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: SOUTH WEST REGION



NEW PROCEEDINGS RECEIVED: TORONTO REGION



ENDNOTES & PHOTO DESCRIPTORS

PREVIOUS REPORTS

2019–2023: Ontario Superior Court of Justice: Modernizing the Justice System

2017–2018: The Superior Court of Justice: Enhancing Public Trust

2015–2016: The Superior Court of Justice: Realizing Our Vision

2013–2014: The Superior Court of Justice: Seizing the Initiative Towards Excellence

2010–2012: The Superior Court of Justice: Mapping the Way Forward

2008–2010: The Superior Court of Justice: 20th Anniversary Edition

2007–2008: The Superior Court of Justice: A Profile

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Photography by the Office of the Chief Justice:

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