

District Court Judges' Summer Conference
NCAOC Update
June 18, 2024

Director Ryan S. Boyce



What Is Our Mission?

Judicial Branch Mission

- The mission of the North Carolina Judicial Branch is to protect and preserve the rights and liberties of all the people, as guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States and North Carolina, by providing a fair, independent, and accessible forum for the just, timely, and economical resolution of their legal affairs.

Administrative Office of the Courts Mission

- The mission of the Administrative Office of the Courts is to assist and equip the General Court of Justice to fulfill its constitutional mandate timely dispensing equal justice under the law.



State of the Dockets: Current v. 3/31/2021

- Pending District Court Criminal + Infractions down 28.6%
- Pending DWIs down 28.9%
- Pending Felonies down 26.1%
- Pending Superior Court Civil cases up 5.3%
- Pending District Court Civil down 0.4%
- All cases down 26.2%



State of the Dockets: Current v. 1/31/2023

- Pending District Court Criminal + Infractions down 0.3%
- Pending DWIs down 14.5%
- Pending Felonies down 12.8%
- Pending Superior Court Civil cases up 4.9%
- Pending District Court Civil up 11.3%
- All cases down 1.3%

Data as of 5/31/2024



Civil District Filings

CVD Filings by Fiscal Year and Case Type

	URES/UFSA	IV-D Child Support	Dom Rel No IV-D CS	Dom Rel No CS	General Civil	Summary Ejectments	Collect on Account	Money Owed
2019	136	27,901	2,695	91,943	57,528	3,298	39,278	17,283
2020	203	30,513	2,956	94,684	61,828	2,700	37,315	15,671
2021	126	22,652	2,639	100,761	60,441	3,022	41,312	15,787
2022	164	24,839	2,201	97,643	54,229	6,131	36,117	16,417
2023	298	21,049	2,283	94,917	57,466	8,727	34,834	17,706
2024*	237	20,444	2,320	92,540	77,219	5,954	45,743	19,472
% Change FY19 - FY24	74.26%	-26.73%	-13.91%	0.65%	34.23%	80.53%	16.46%	12.67%



Civil Magistrate Filings

CVM Filings by Fiscal Year and Case Type			
	Summary Ejectments	Money Owed	Possession of Personal Property
2019	172,510	130,838	8,659
2020	138,216	105,238	7,754
2021	74,142	59,746	6,843
2022	118,094	87,472	8,283
2023	164,823	114,632	9,885
2024*	193,643	115,838	9,716
% Change 19 - 24	12.25%	-11.46%	12.21%

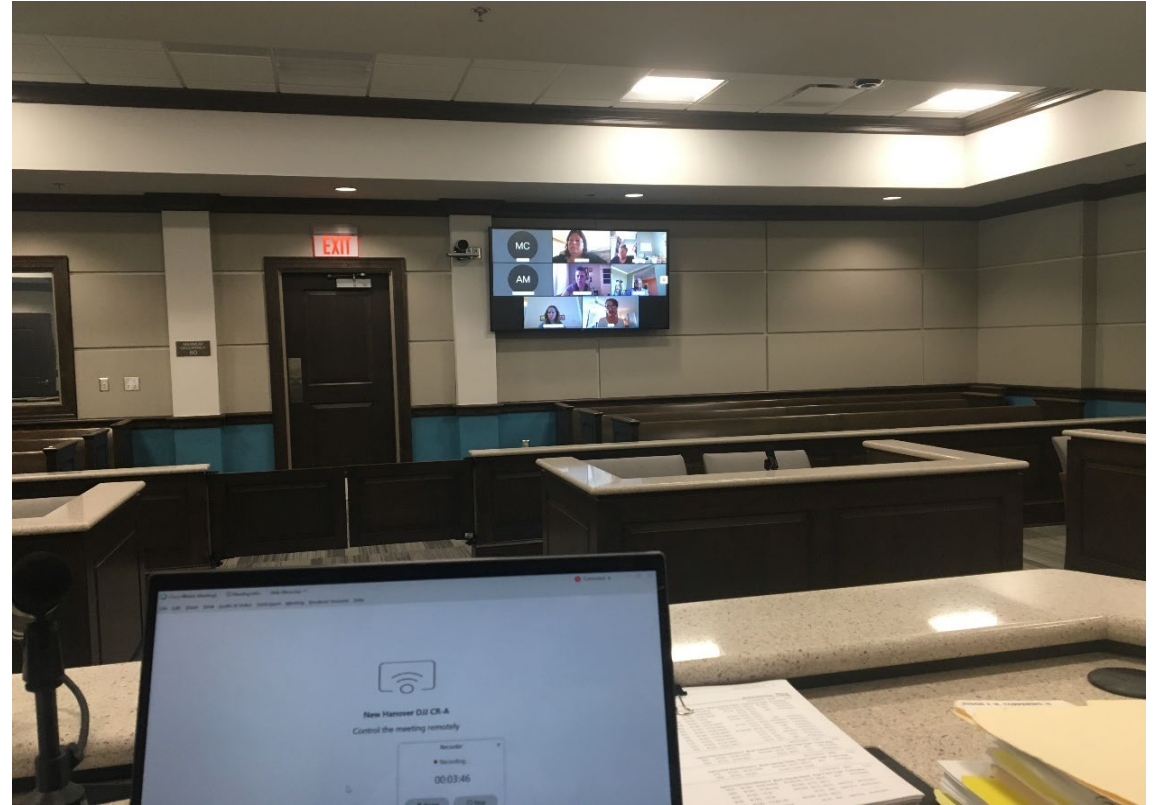




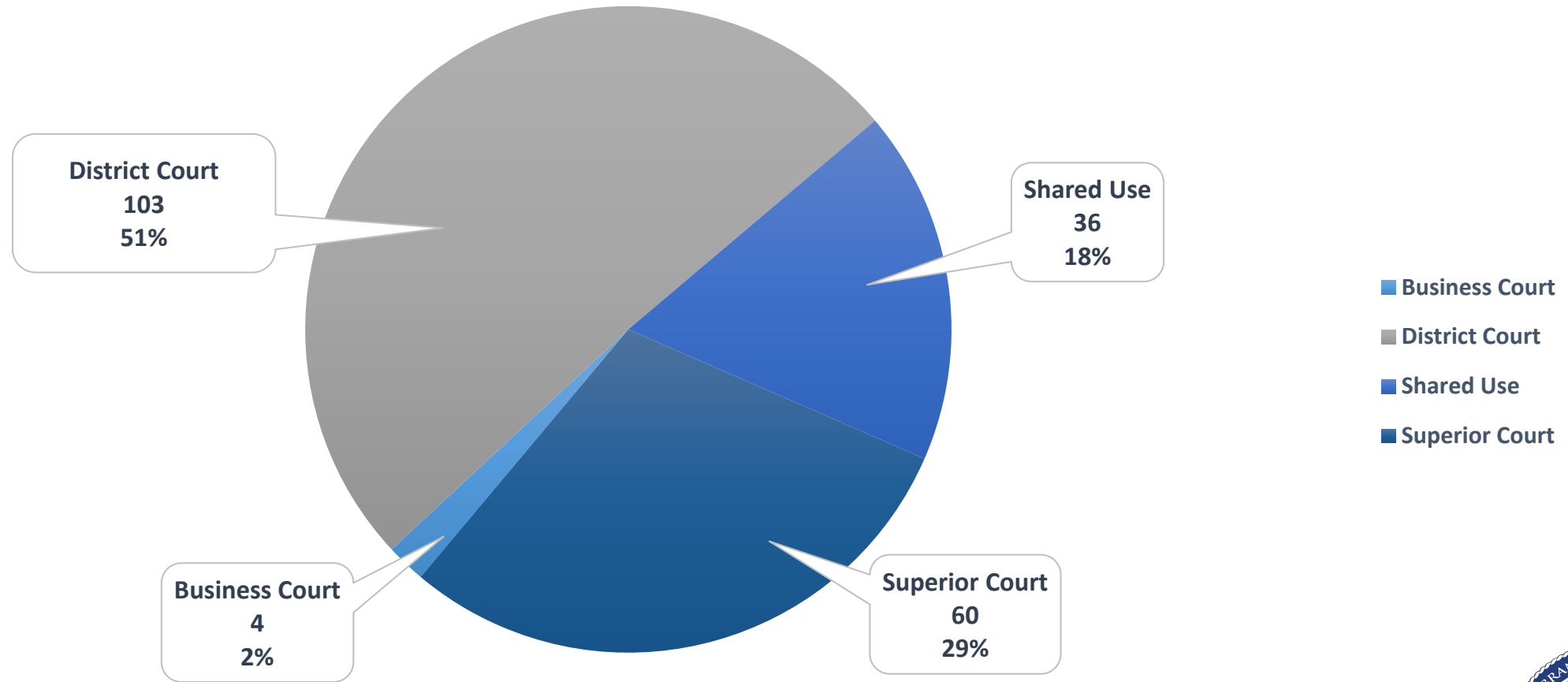
Technology Update

CRAVE Status

- All Courtrooms (218) have been surveyed
 - 2 Configurations per Courthouse
- 96 Counties have a CRAVE system available
 - 204 of 218 Courtrooms
 - 93.6% Completed
- 3 Counties (7 Courtrooms) scheduled
 - Carteret (2)
 - Week of June 17th
 - Cleveland (2)
 - Week of June 17th
 - Johnston (3)
 - Weeks of June 10th & 24th
- Implementation status can be found at <https://www.nccourts.gov/ecourts/crave-courtroom-audio-visual-experience-project>



Systems Deployed By Courtroom Type

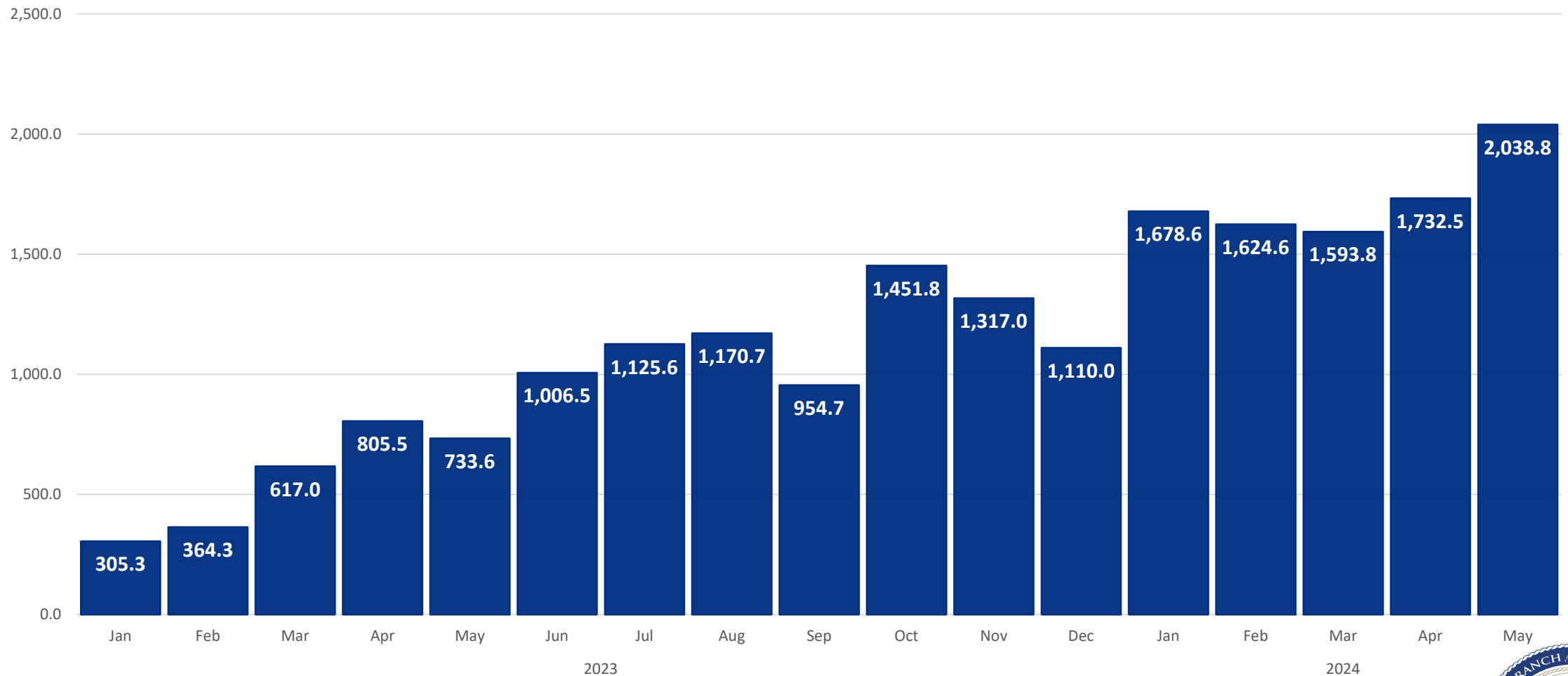


May 2024 Usage

- Using the built-in analytics of the CRAVE Systems, 154 of the 204 CRAVE Courtrooms reported usage.
 - Those active Courtrooms reported 2,038 hours & 48 minutes of use.
 - 306-hour increase in total usage from April (1,732 hours)
 - Represents a 17.6% increase
 - 92.7 hours of total use per business day (22)
 - 27 minutes of usage per business day/device
 - 9 hours and 58 minutes of usage per active Courtroom
 - The remaining 50 deployed systems reported no activity.



Total Monthly Usage (Hours)



CJ's Remote Proceedings Task Force

- Created in 2021 and co-chaired by Judge Marty McGee and NCSA VP Eddie Caldwell
- Deliverables
 - Remote Hearing Model Administrative Order
 - Motion/Objection and other model forms
 - Webex Scheduler to coordinate DAC inmate appearance times
 - Coordination with sheriffs' offices to provide connectivity within jails
 - Developed procedures with State Crime Lab for remote analyst testimony



Public Access Kiosks

- Earlier this month, AOC deployed 20 devices to Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Mecklenburg, and Wake counties.
- Kiosk users can:
 - Search court dates/events
 - File documents
 - Conduct Guide & File interviews
 - Make payments
 - Scan and print documents





Legislative Update

2023 Legislative Session Recap

- **Appropriations Act 2023**
 - 20% salary increase for district court judges over the biennium
 - Four new district court judgeships in 2025
- Permits CDCJ to delegate jury excusals to the clerk with clerk's consent.
- Provides clerks with additional authority to redact PII from court documents.



2024 Legislative Session

- **2024 Legislative Requests**
 - Continued funding for BAPM implementation team
 - Create seventh step to retain experienced magistrates
 - Provide step increase for chief magistrates
 - Expand magistrate qualifications to include LEO experience
 - Fund Branch workload needs





Other Updates

Travel Reimbursements

- New financial management system implemented by OSC in October 2023 takes more time to enter reimbursement forms.
- AOC Actions:
 - Assigned additional staff to process travel forms
 - Revamped internal workflow to maximize efficiency and turnaround time
 - Streamlined auditing thresholds and processes
 - Engaged vendor to create web-based reimbursement form; piloting this summer
 - Working with OSC to develop batch upload process

Performance standard is to process every reimbursement form within thirty days of receipt.



Language Access

- Interpreter Resources
 - Eight staff interpreters throughout the state
 - ~75 contract interpreters
 - Telephonic interpreting
- Remote interpreting
- Recruitment efforts



JMARC Strategic Plan

- Official kickoff on March 6.
- Led by research team from UNCW with national drug court experience.
- Phase One (now – September 1): Developing statewide strategic plan.
- Phase Two (October 1 – February 1, 2024): Broader outcome and cost-benefit analysis.



Thank You

