

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
Annual Report of Caseload Statistics

Fiscal Year 2018



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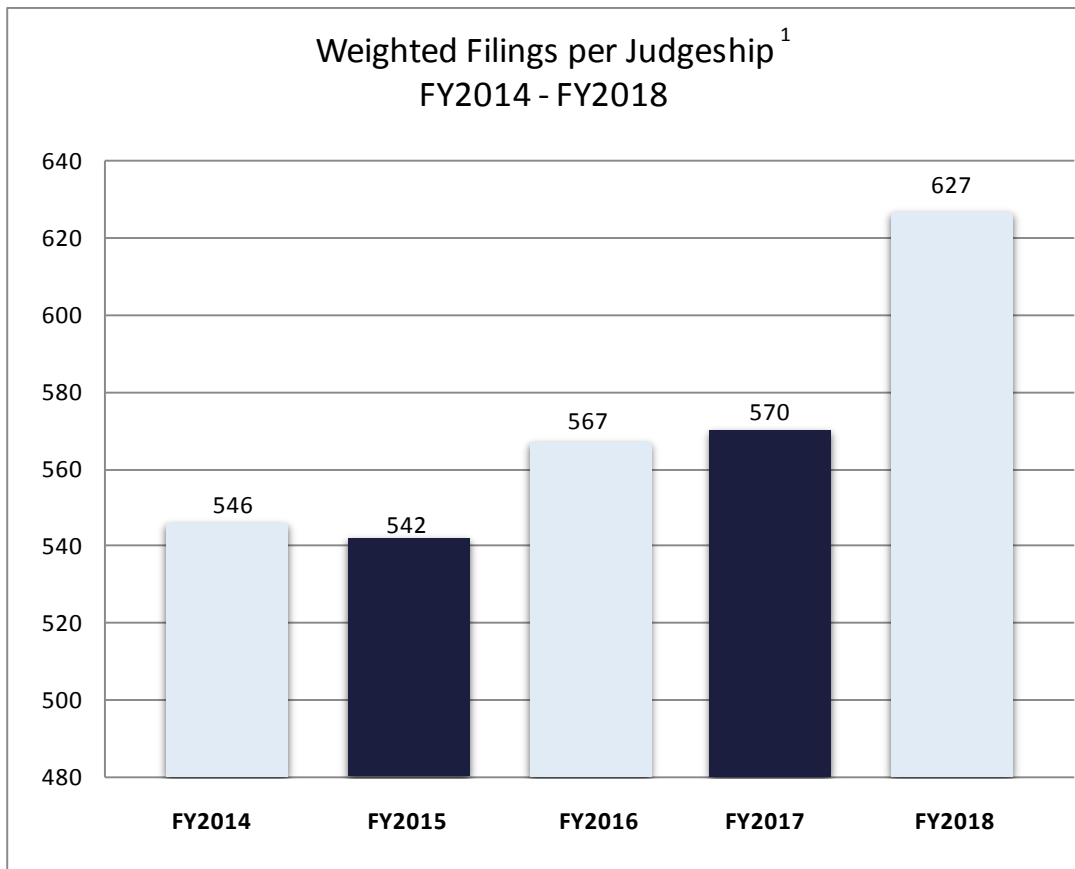
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## Weighted Filings per Judgeship



The number of weighted filings per judgeship for the Central District of California rose significantly to 627 for fiscal year<sup>2</sup> (“FY”) 2018, an increase of 10 percent from 570 a year ago. The national average was 513 weighted filings per judgeship. The Central District of California ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Ninth Circuit for weighted filings in FY2018.

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<sup>1</sup> Case weights are based on the district court case weighting system approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States at its March 2016 session.

<sup>2</sup> The fiscal year is the 12-month period ending September 30.

## Judicial Vacancies

Vacant Judgeship Months				
FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
6.3	12	31.1	55	72

Number of Judicial Vacancies				
FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
1	1	3	5	6

The Central District of California has 28 authorized Article III judgeships. At the end of FY2018 the Central District had six vacancies, double from FY2016. The oldest vacancy is from August 1, 2014. In 2015, the Court experienced its second. In 2016 through 2018, two additional vacancies arose each year. At the end of FY2018 the number of vacant judgeship months was the highest it has been in the Court's history. Vacant judgeship months are the total number of months that vacancies occurred in any judgeship position in a circuit or district.

## District Caseload Measures

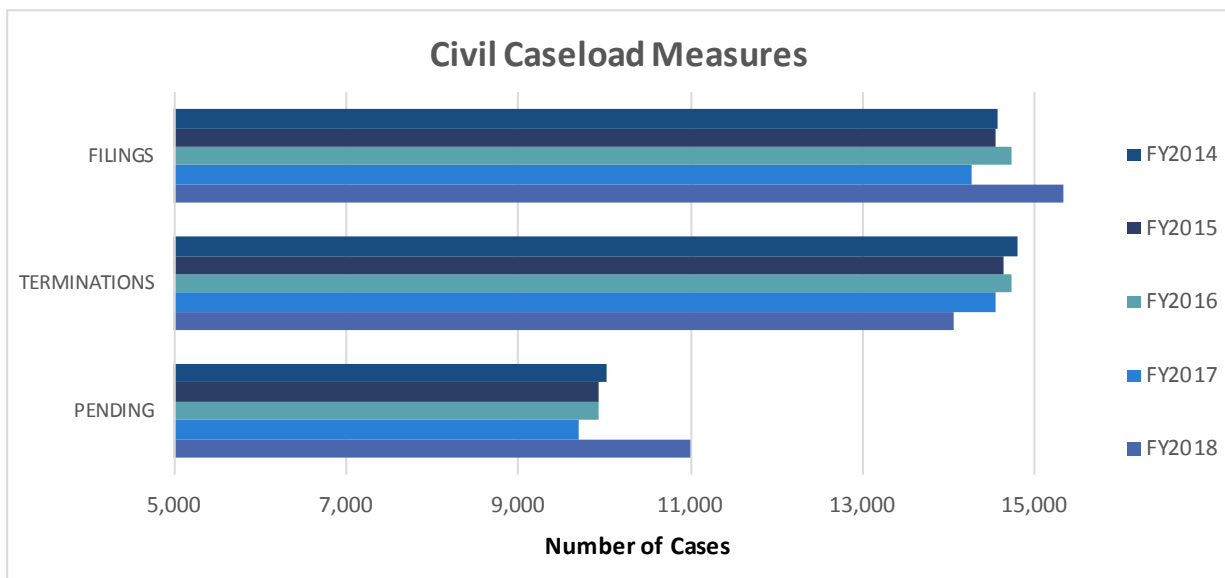
District Caseload Measures							
	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	% Change (FY18/17)	% Change (FY18/14)
<b>FILINGS</b>							
Civil	14,567	14,549	14,731	14,275	15,335	7.4%	5.3%
Criminal Cases	823	692	860	927	1,170	26.2%	42.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,390</b>	<b>15,241</b>	<b>15,591</b>	<b>15,202</b>	<b>16,505</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>							
Civil	14,799	14,641	14,741	14,549	14,057	-3.4%	-5.0%
Criminal Cases	896	726	688	843	966	14.6%	7.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,695</b>	<b>15,367</b>	<b>15,429</b>	<b>15,392</b>	<b>15,023</b>	<b>-2.4%</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
<b>PENDING</b>							
Civil	10,024	9,932	9,941	9,692	11,001	13.5%	9.7%
Criminal Cases	1,935	1,858	2,020	2,088	2,322	11.2%	20.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,959</b>	<b>11,790</b>	<b>11,961</b>	<b>11,780</b>	<b>13,323</b>	<b>13.1%</b>	<b>11.4%</b>

In FY2018, the Central District of California saw an 8.6 percent increase in combined civil and criminal case filings from FY2017. Total case terminations decreased 2.4 percent and total pending cases increased 13.1 percent from FY2017. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2018, total civil and criminal case filings increased by 7.2 percent; total terminations declined by 4.3 percent; and total pending cases rose 11.4 percent.

## Civil Caseload Measures

Civil Caseload Measures							
	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	% Change (FY18/17)	% Change (FY18/14)
FILINGS	14,567	14,549	14,731	14,275	15,335	7.4%	5.3%
TERMINATIONS	14,799	14,641	14,741	14,549	14,057	-3.4%	-5.0%
PENDING	10,024	9,932	9,941	9,692	11,001	13.5%	9.7%

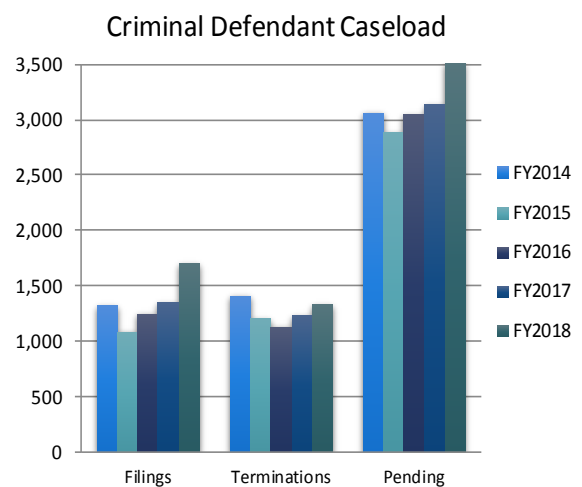
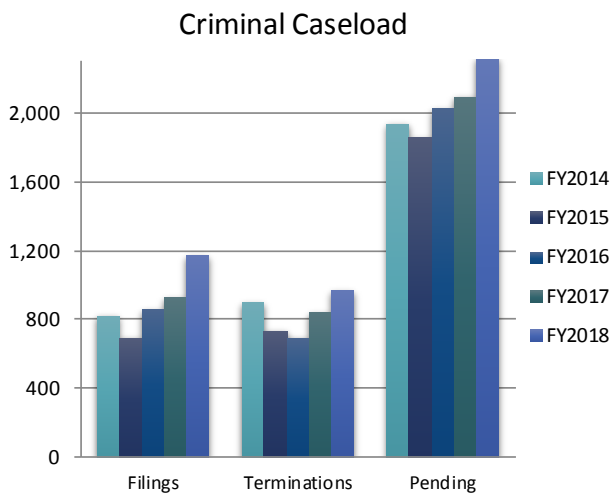
A total of 15,335 civil cases were filed in FY2018, an increase of 7.4 percent from 14,275 in FY2017. Terminations dropped 3.4 percent and pending civil cases increased 13.5 percent from FY2017. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2018, civil case filings increased 5.3 percent, representing a five-year high; terminations dropped 5 percent; and pending civil cases rose 9.7 percent to 11,001.



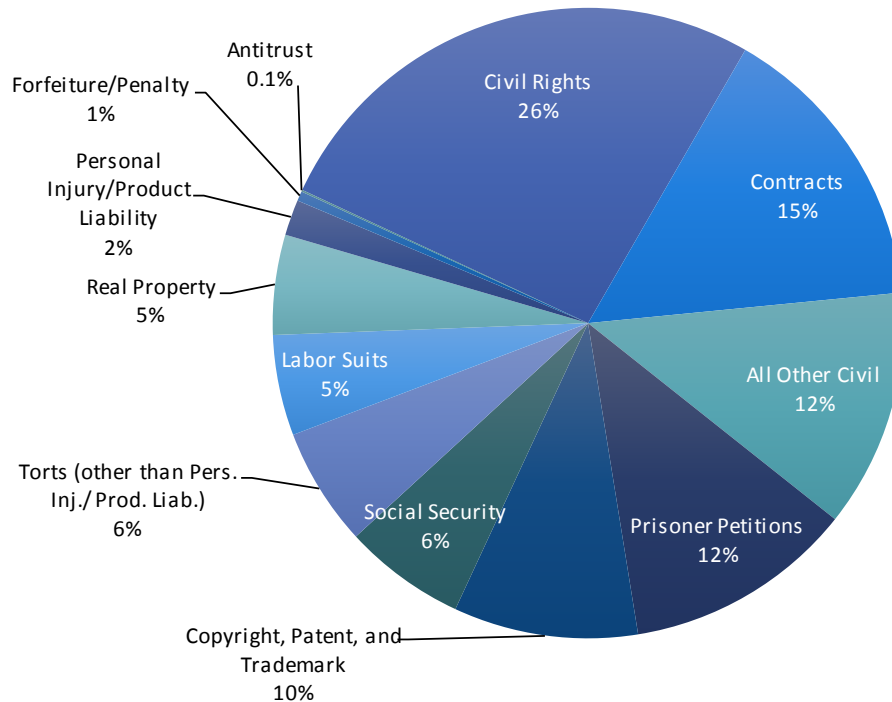
## Criminal Caseload Measures

Criminal Caseload Measures							% Change	% Change
	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	(FY18/17)	(FY18/14)	
<b>FILINGS</b>								
Cases	823	692	860	927	1,170	26.2%	42.2%	
Defendants	1,324	1,087	1,248	1,346	1,707	26.8%	28.9%	
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>								
Cases	896	726	688	843	966	14.6%	7.8%	
Defendants	1,404	1,196	1,130	1,239	1,339	8.1%	-4.6%	
<b>PENDING</b>								
Cases	1,935	1,858	2,020	2,088	2,322	11.2%	20.0%	
Defendants	3,067	2,883	3,038	3,133	3,518	12.3%	14.7%	

Between FY2014 and FY2018, the total number of criminal case filings surged 42.2 percent and criminal defendant filings rose 28.9 percent, a five-year high. In FY2018, criminal case filings in the District increased 26.2 percent and filings for criminal defendants increased 26.8 percent from FY2017. In FY2018, criminal case terminations in the Central District of California increased 14.6 percent; terminations for criminal defendants increased 8.1 percent; pending criminal cases increased 11.2 percent; and pending criminal defendants increased 12.3 percent from FY2017.



## Civil Case Filings

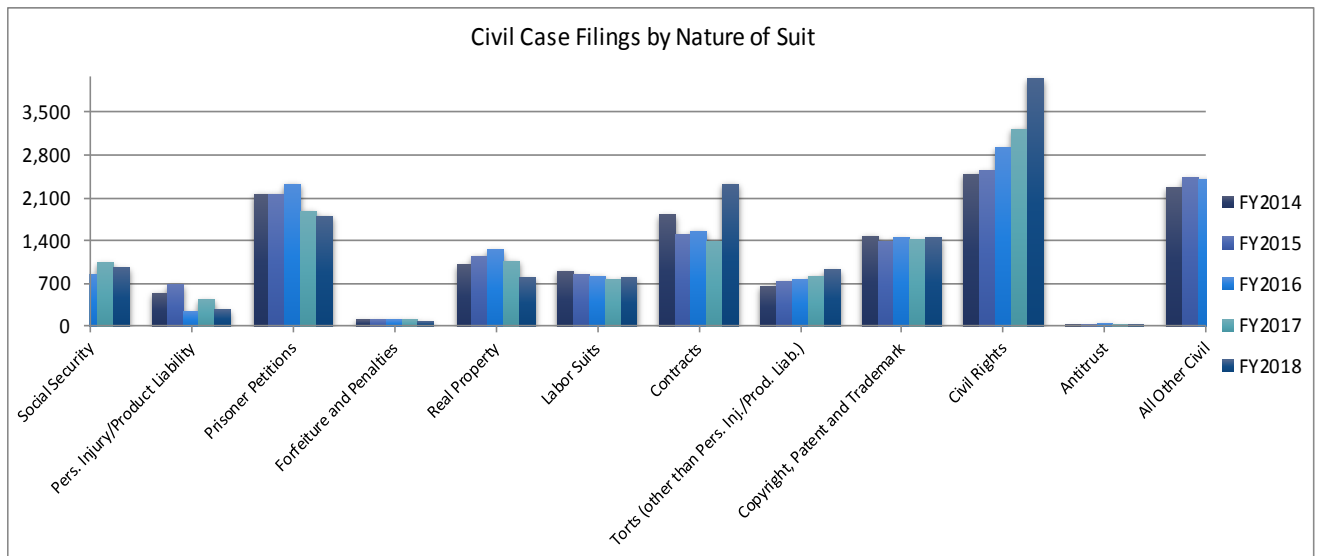


Civil rights case filings constituted the highest percentage of all civil case filing categories at 26 percent in FY2018. There were more contract, tort, (other than personal injury/product liability) and civil rights cases filed in FY2018; however, there were fewer all other civil, real property, personal injury/product liability, and social security cases filed compared to FY2017. In FY2018, contract case filings increased 68.1 percent.

Civil Case Filings	
Civil Rights	4,043
Contracts	2,322
All Other Civil	1,876
Prisoner Petitions	1,806
Copyright, Patent, and Trademark	1,449
Social Security	959
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./ Prod. Liab.)	931
Labor Suits	792
Real Property	786
Personal Injury/Product Liability	281
Forfeiture/Penalty	76
Antitrust	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,335</b>

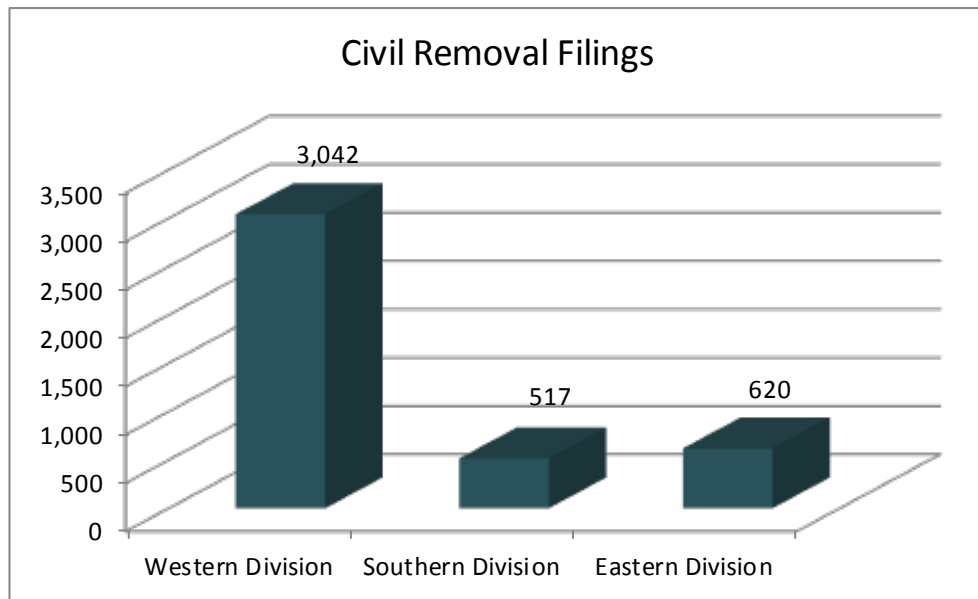


## Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit

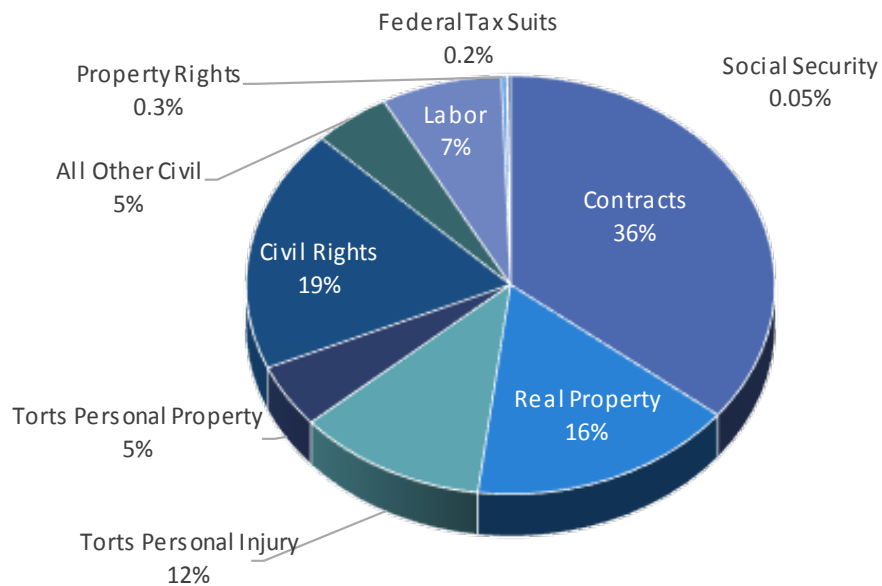


Civil Case Categories	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY18/17	% Change FY18/14
Social Security	1,112	995	844	1,041	959	-7.9%	-13.8%
Pers. Injury/Product Liability	534	684	247	428	281	-34.3%	-47.4%
Prisoner Petitions	2,171	2,147	2,310	1,885	1,806	-4.2%	-16.8%
Forfeiture and Penalties	95	119	102	105	76	-27.6%	-20.0%
Real Property	1,004	1,134	1,242	1,065	786	-26.2%	-21.7%
Labor Suits	899	848	808	762	792	3.9%	-11.9%
Contracts	1,830	1,513	1,569	1,381	2,322	68.1%	26.9%
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	665	725	768	820	931	13.5%	40.0%
Copyright, Patent and Trademark	1,484	1,392	1,457	1,416	1,449	2.3%	-2.4%
Civil Rights	2,486	2,539	2,931	3,215	4,043	25.8%	62.6%
Antitrust	15	28	39	15	14	-6.7%	-6.7%
All Other Civil	2,272	2,425	2,414	2,142	1,876	-12.4%	-17.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,567</b>	<b>14,549</b>	<b>14,731</b>	<b>14,275</b>	<b>15,335</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>

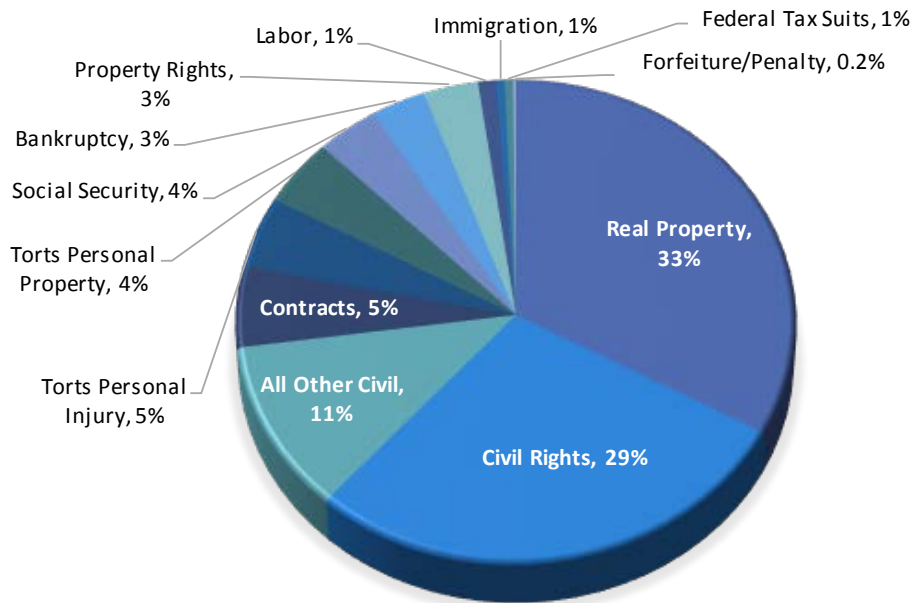
## Civil Removal Filings



A total of 4,179 civil removal cases were filed in FY2018, an increase of 20 percent from FY2017. Civil removal filings represented 27.3 percent of the total filings in the Central District of California: 73 percent of the removals were filed in the Western Division; 12 percent were filed in the Southern Division; and 15 percent were filed in the Eastern Division. The largest percentage of civil removal filings were contract (36 percent) and civil rights (19 percent) cases.



## Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings

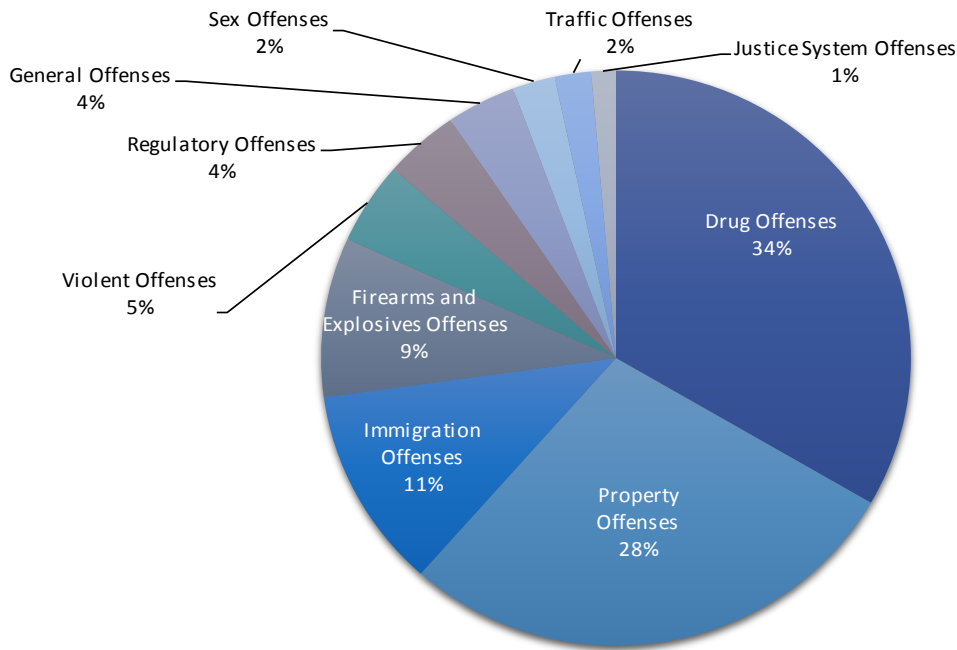


12 percent of the 15,335 total civil cases filed in FY2018 were non-prisoner cases with at least one pro se party.<sup>3</sup> Of these, 62 percent were real property and civil rights cases.

Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings	
Real Property	587
Civil Rights	508
All Other Civil	201
Contracts	96
Torts Personal Injury	85
Torts Personal Property	80
Social Security	66
Bankruptcy	58
Property Rights	58
Labor	19
Immigration	9
Federal Tax Suits	9
Forfeiture/Penalty	3
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>1,779</b>

<sup>3</sup> The number of non-prisoner pro se filings is based on data in the Central District of California's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System and reflects non-prisoner cases filed in FY2018 that had at least one party with a pro se status entered as of February 15, 2019.

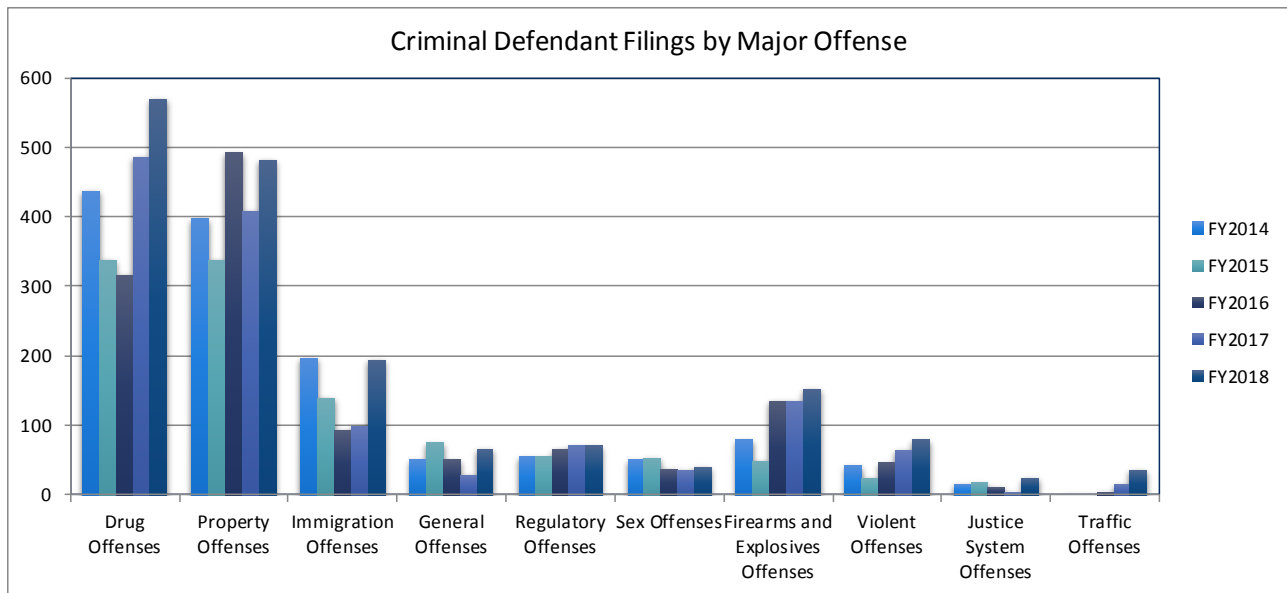
## Criminal Defendant Filings



In FY2018, criminal defendant filings increased 26.8 percent from FY2017. The top three major offense categories for criminal defendant filings in FY2018 were drug offenses (33 percent), property offenses (28 percent), and immigration offenses (11 percent). The number of defendants charged with drug offenses increased by 17.5 percent, the number of defendants charged with property offenses increased by 17.4 percent, and the number of defendants charged with immigration offenses increased by 94.9 percent from FY2017.

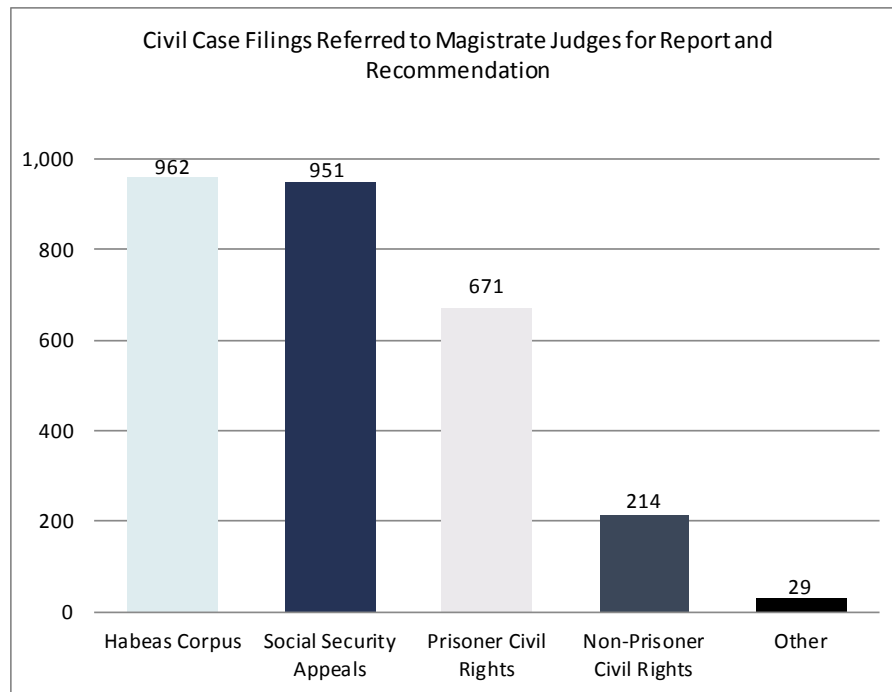
Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense	
Major Offense Category	Criminal Defendants
Drug Offenses	570
Property Offenses	480
Immigration Offenses	193
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	153
Violent Offenses	79
Regulatory Offenses	70
General Offenses	65
Sex Offenses	40
Traffic Offenses	34
Justice System Offenses	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,707</b>

## Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense

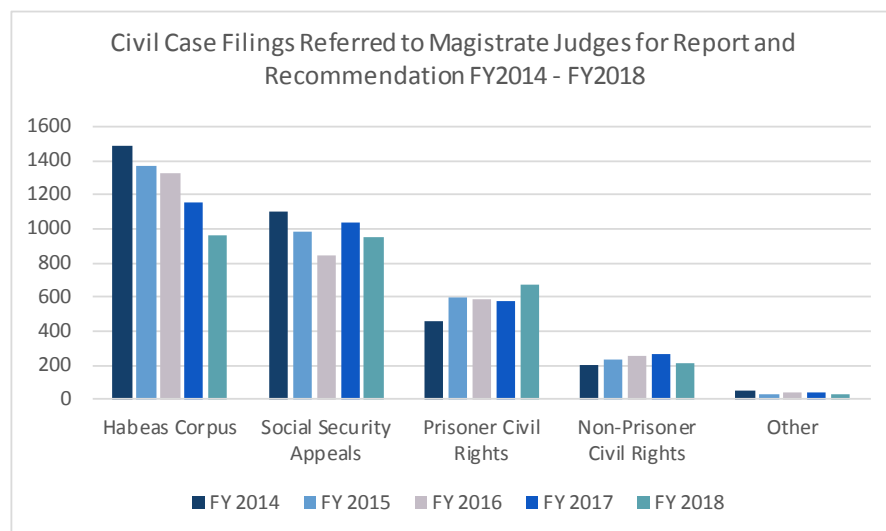


Major Offense Category	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	% Change 18/17	% Change 18/14
Drug Offenses	437	337	316	485	570	17.5%	30.4%
Property Offenses	398	337	491	409	480	17.4%	20.6%
Immigration Offenses	197	139	92	99	193	94.9%	-2.0%
General Offenses	50	74	51	29	65	124.1%	30.0%
Regulatory Offenses	55	56	67	70	70	0.0%	27.3%
Sex Offenses	50	53	37	35	40	14.3%	-20.0%
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	79	49	134	134	153	14.2%	93.7%
Violent Offenses	42	25	45	64	79	23.4%	88.1%
Justice System Offenses	16	17	11	5	23	360.0%	43.8%
Traffic Offenses	0	0	4	16	34	112.5%	100.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>26.8%</b>	<b>28.9%</b>

## Civil Case Filings Referred to Magistrate Judges for Report and Recommendation

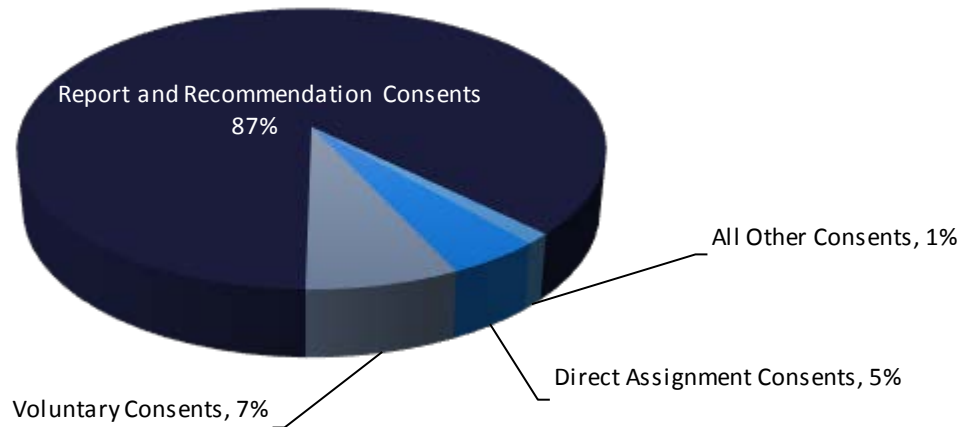


In FY2018, 18.4 percent of the total civil filings were referred to Magistrate Judges for report and recommendations. Of the cases referred for report and recommendations, 34 percent were habeas corpus petitions, 34 percent were Social Security appeal cases, 24 percent were prisoner civil rights cases, 8 percent were non-prisoner pro se civil rights cases, and 1 percent were other cases referred for report and recommendations.

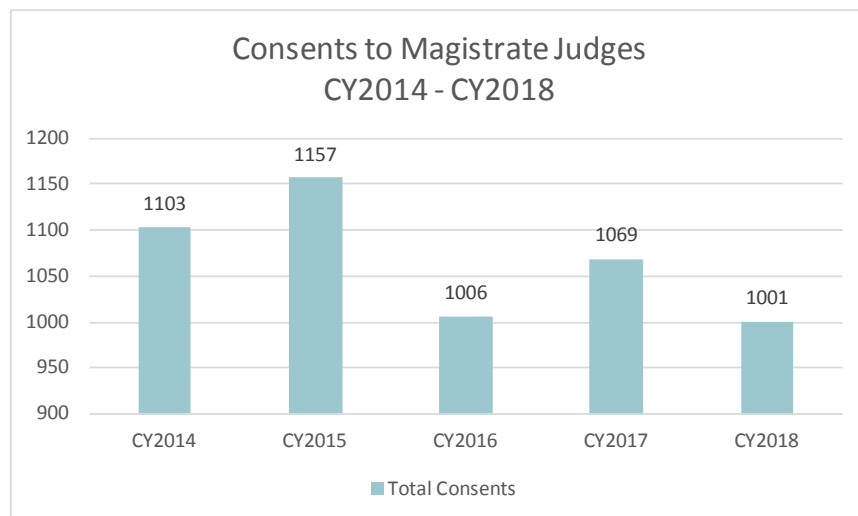


## Consents to Magistrate Judges

### 2018 Consents to Magistrate Judges 12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2018



Parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in a total of 1001 cases in calendar year 2018, a 6.4 percent decrease from 2017. Of this total, all parties consented in 871 cases that were referred to a Magistrate Judge for a report and recommendation; all parties consented in 45 cases assigned to Magistrate Judges through the Direct Assignment of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges Program; and all parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in 73 cases through the Voluntary Consent List of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges Program.



## Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics

2018 Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics	
Number of cases with settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	321
Number of settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	363
Number of cases settled	141
Percent of cases settled	44%

In calendar year 2018, Magistrate Judges held 363 settlement conferences in 321 cases. Of these, the Magistrate Judges settled 141 cases, for a 44 percent settlement rate. The Magistrate Judges spent a total of 2120.15 hours, equivalent to 265 days, working on settling these cases.



## Patent Pilot Program

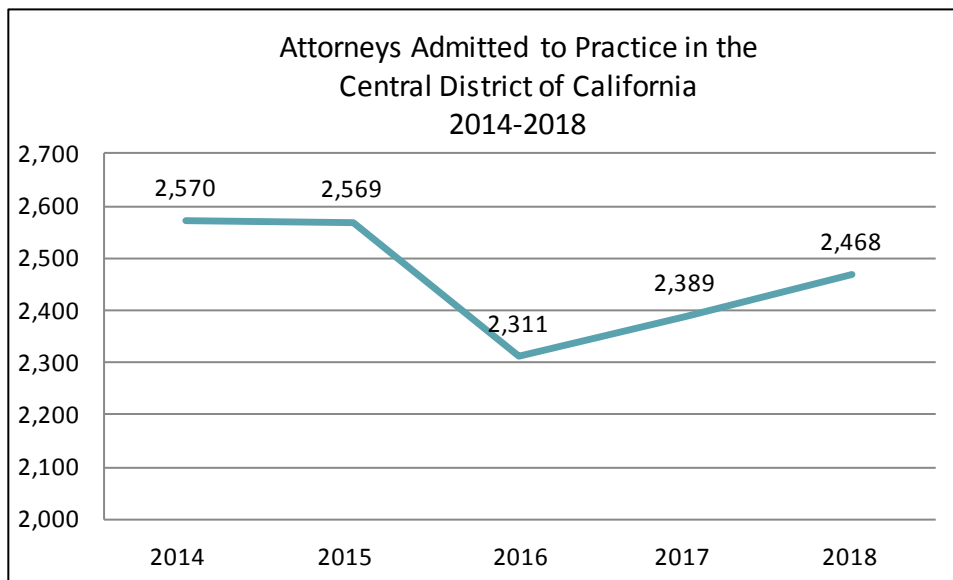
Patent Pilot Program 9/19/2011 - 12/31/2018										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total	% Change 18/17
Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	110	519	417	298	268	273	296	286	2,467	-3%
Patent Cases Initially Assigned to Patent Program Judges	18	55	44	47	45	47	70	65	391	-7%
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Pilot Program by Non-Participating Judges	5	52	81	76	74	64	68	60	480	-12%
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Pilot Program Judges as a Result of Related Case Transfer, Self-Recusal, Return by Senior Judge, etc.	7	140	115	109	67	61	63	49	611	-22%
Total Number of Patent Cases Initially Assigned or Transferred to Patent Pilot Program	30	247	240	232	186	172	201	174	1,482	-13%
Patent Cases Transferred Out of the Patent Pilot Program	1	14	10	5	11	1	10	7	59	-30%
Percentage of Patent Cases Assigned or Transferred to Patent Pilot Program Judges out of the Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	27%	48%	58%	78%	69%	63%	68%	61%	60%	-10%

In calendar year 2018, six District Judges participated in the Patent Pilot Program in the Central District of California. In 2018, the Judges designated to receive patent cases under the Patent Pilot Program received 174 patent cases, of which 65 were initially assigned to them, 60 cases were transferred to the program from non-participating Judges, and 49 cases were transferred to the program as a result of related case transfers or other reasons. The number of patent cases filed in calendar year 2018 decreased by 3 percent and the number of cases transferred to the program by non-participating Judges decreased by 12 percent from 2017. In 2018, the percentage of patent cases filed that were assigned or transferred to Judges participating in the Patent Pilot Program was 61 percent. Since the program started in September of 2011, a total of 1,482 patent cases have been included in the program.

## Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California

Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California 2014-2018							
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	%Change (18/17)	% Change (18/14)
Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California	2,570	2,569	2,311	2,389	2,468	3.3%	-4.0%

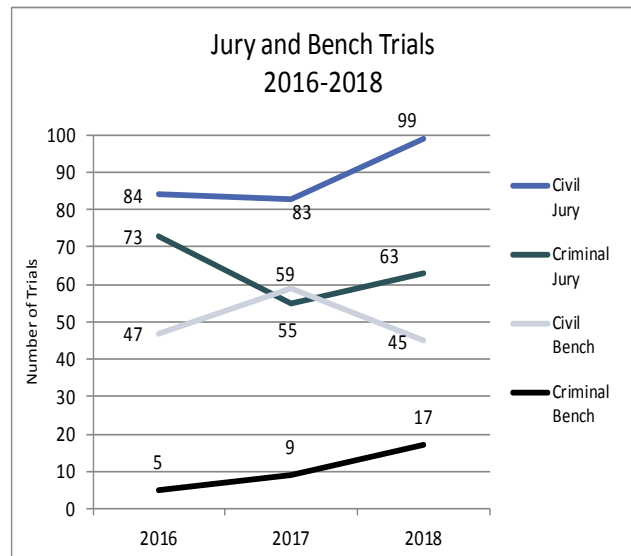
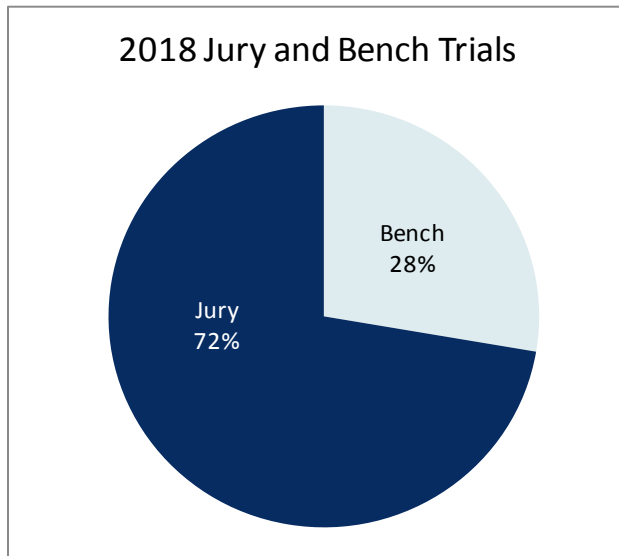
In calendar year 2018, the Central District of California saw a 3.3 percent increase in attorneys admitted to the bar of the Court. During the five-year period ending December 31, 2018, the number of attorneys admitted to practice in the Central District of California was at its highest in 2014 at 2,570.



## Trials

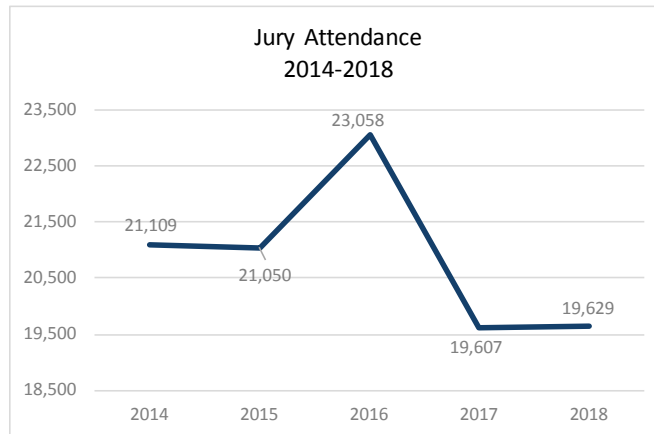
JURY AND BENCH TRIALS					
2016-2018					
	2016	2017	2018	% Change 18/17	% Change 18/16
Civil Jury	84	83	99	19%	18%
Criminal Jury	73	55	63	15%	-14%
Civil Bench	47	59	45	-24%	-4%
Criminal Bench	5	9	17	89%	240%
Total	209	206	224	9%	7%

In calendar year 2018, there were a total of 224 trials held before all Judges in the Central District of California, a 9 percent increase from 2017. In 2018 of the 224 trials held, 72 percent were jury trials and 28 percent were bench trials. From 2017 to 2018, civil jury trials increased 19 percent; civil bench trials dropped 24 percent; criminal jury trials increased 15 percent and criminal bench trials rose 89 percent. During the three-year period ending December 31, 2018, trials increased 7 percent overall.



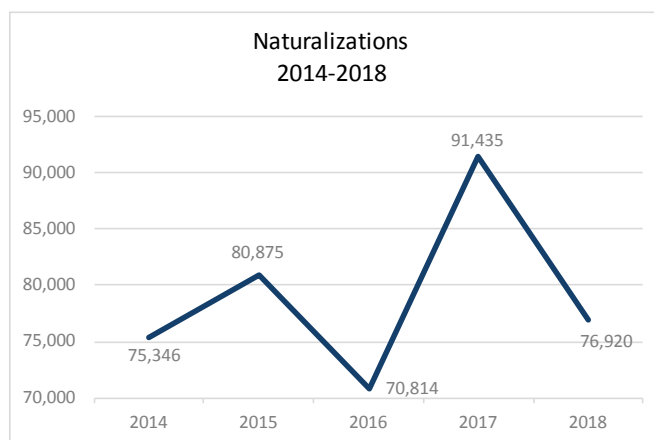
## Jury and Naturalization

Jury Attendance 2014-2018						
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 18/17	% Change 18/14
21,109	21,050	23,058	19,607	19,629	0.1%	-7%



In calendar year 2018, there were a total of 19,629 jurors in attendance for the Central District of California, a 0.1 percent increase from 2017. Over the five-year period ending December 31, 2018, the number of jurors in attendance decreased 7 percent from 21,109 in 2014.

Naturalizations 2014-2018						
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	% Change 18/17	% Change 18/14
75,346	80,875	70,814	91,435	76,920	-16%	2%



In calendar year 2018, the Central District of California naturalized 76,920 citizens, a 16 percent decrease from 91,435 in 2017. Over the five-year period ending December 31, 2018, the Central District of California naturalized just under 400,000 citizens.