

# Central District of California Annual Report of Caseload Statistics Fiscal Year 2014

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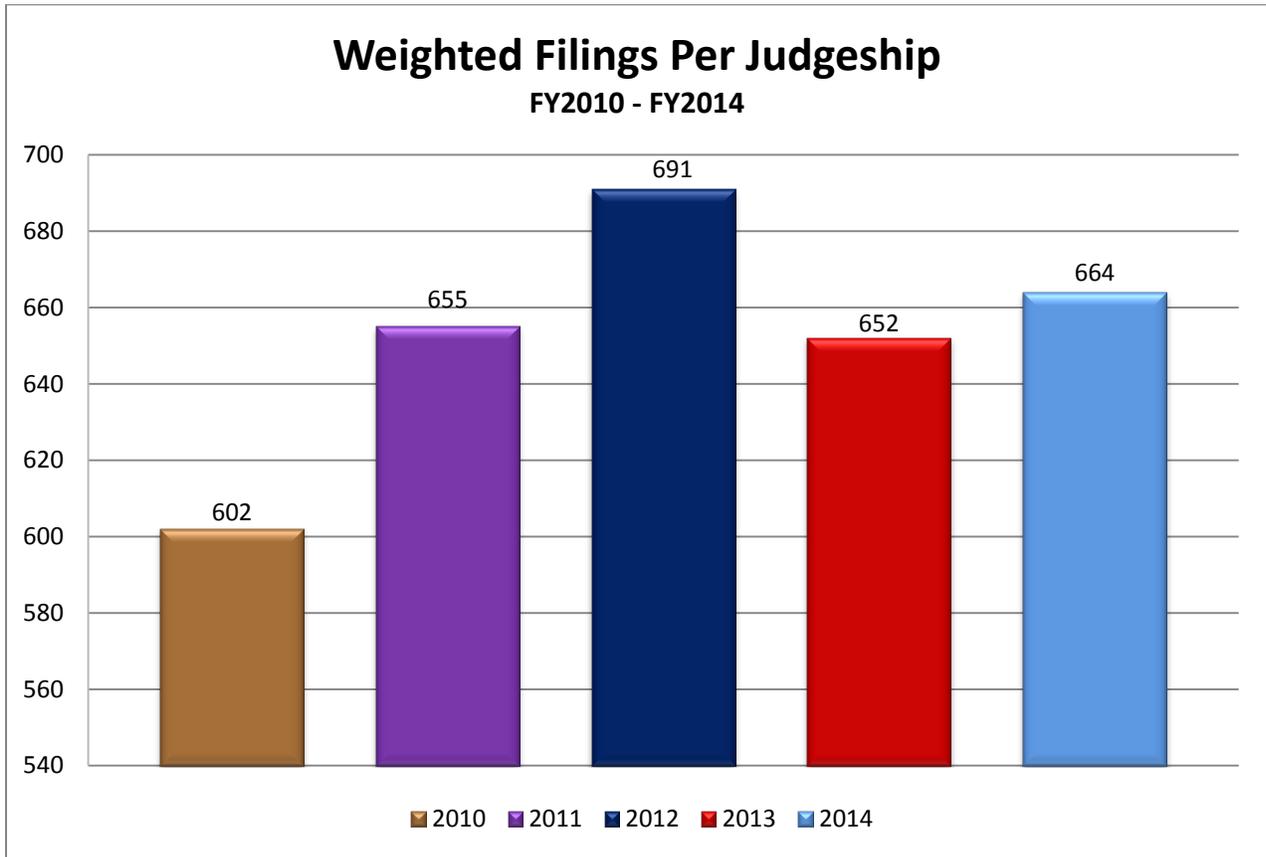


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## Weighted Filings per Judgeship



The number of weighted filings per judgeship for California Central was 664 for FY2014, up two percent from 652 a year ago. The national average was 533 weighted filings per judgeship. The Central District of California ranked 11th in the nation and third in the Ninth Circuit in weighted filings.

## District Caseload Measures

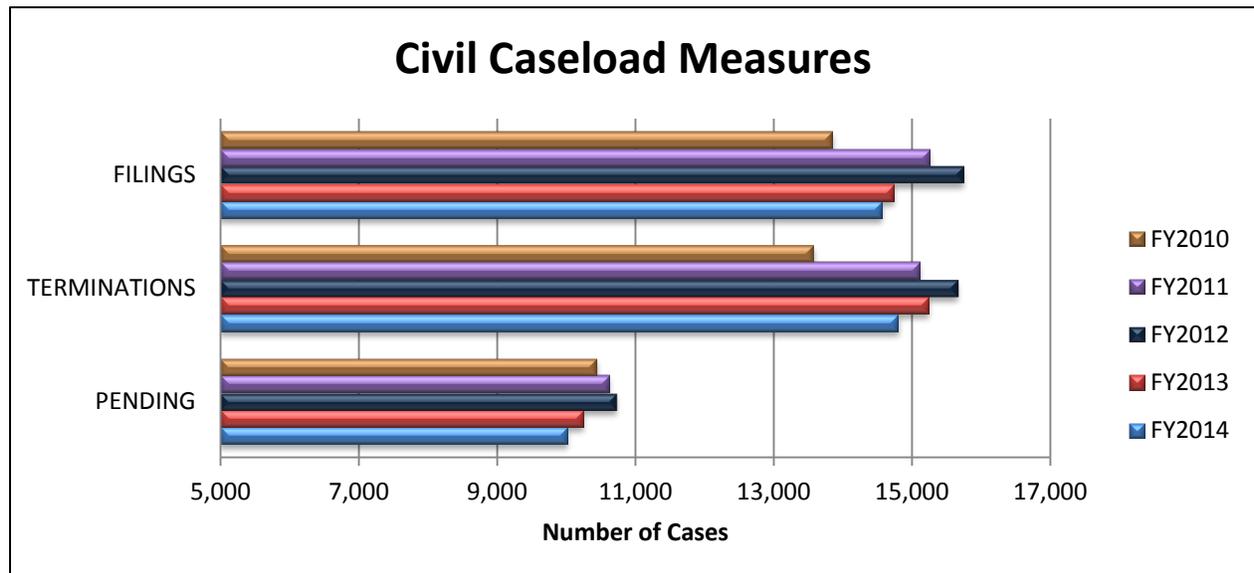
District Caseload Measures							
12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2014							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change (FY14/13)	% Change (FY14/10)
<b>FILINGS</b>							
Civil	13,850	15,257	15,739	14,733	14,567	-1.1%	5.2%
Criminal Cases	1,429	1,314	1,347	1,065	823	-22.7%	-42.4%
Total	15,279	16,571	17,086	15,798	15,390	-2.6%	0.7%
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>							
Civil	13,575	15,106	15,653	15,232	14,799	-2.8%	9.0%
Criminal Cases	1,668	1,417	1,333	1,161	896	-22.8%	-46.3%
Total	15,243	16,523	16,986	16,393	15,695	-4.3%	3.0%
<b>PENDING</b>							
Civil	10,447	10,619	10,728	10,240	10,017	-2.2%	-4.1%
Criminal Cases	2,184	2,081	2,128	2,028	1,935	-4.6%	-11.4%
Total	12,631	12,700	12,856	12,268	11,952	-2.6%	-5.4%

In fiscal year 2014, the Central District of California saw a 2.6 percent decrease in combined civil and criminal case filings, from 15,798 in 2013 to 15,390 in 2014. Total case terminations numbered 15,695, a decline of 4.3 percent from 16,393 in 2013. Pending cases totaled 11,952, a decrease of 2.6 percent from 12,268 in 2013. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2014, total civil and criminal case filings increased slightly by .7 percent from 15,279 to 15,390; total terminations increased by 3 percent from 15,243 to 15,695; and total pending cases dropped by 5.4 percent from 12,631 to 11,952.

## Civil Caseload Measures

Civil Caseload Measures							
12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2014							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change (FY14/13)	% Change (FY14/10)
<b>FILINGS</b>	13,850	15,257	15,739	14,733	14,567	-1.1%	5.2%
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>	13,575	15,106	15,653	15,232	14,799	-2.8%	9.0%
<b>PENDING</b>	10,447	10,619	10,728	10,240	10,017	-2.2%	-4.1%

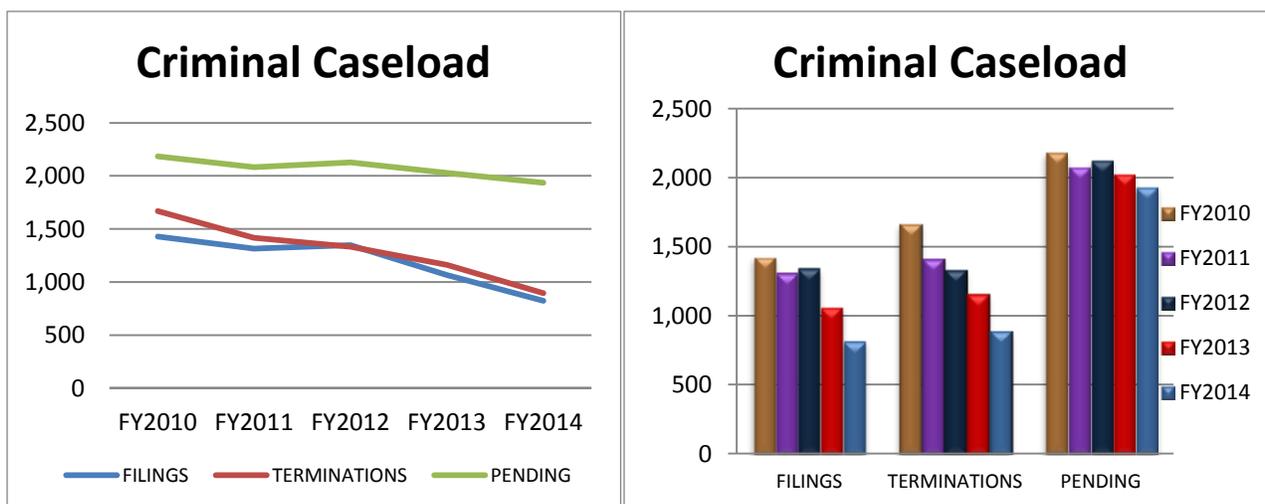
A total of 14,567 civil cases were filed in fiscal year 2014, a slight decrease of 1.1 percent from the 14,733 filings in fiscal year 2013. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2014, civil case filings, terminations, and pending civil cases were at their highest in 2012. From 2010 to 2014, civil filings increased overall by 5.2 percent from 13,850 to 14,567; civil terminations increased by 9 percent from 13,575 to 14,799; and pending civil cases decreased by 4.1 percent from 10,447 to 10,017.



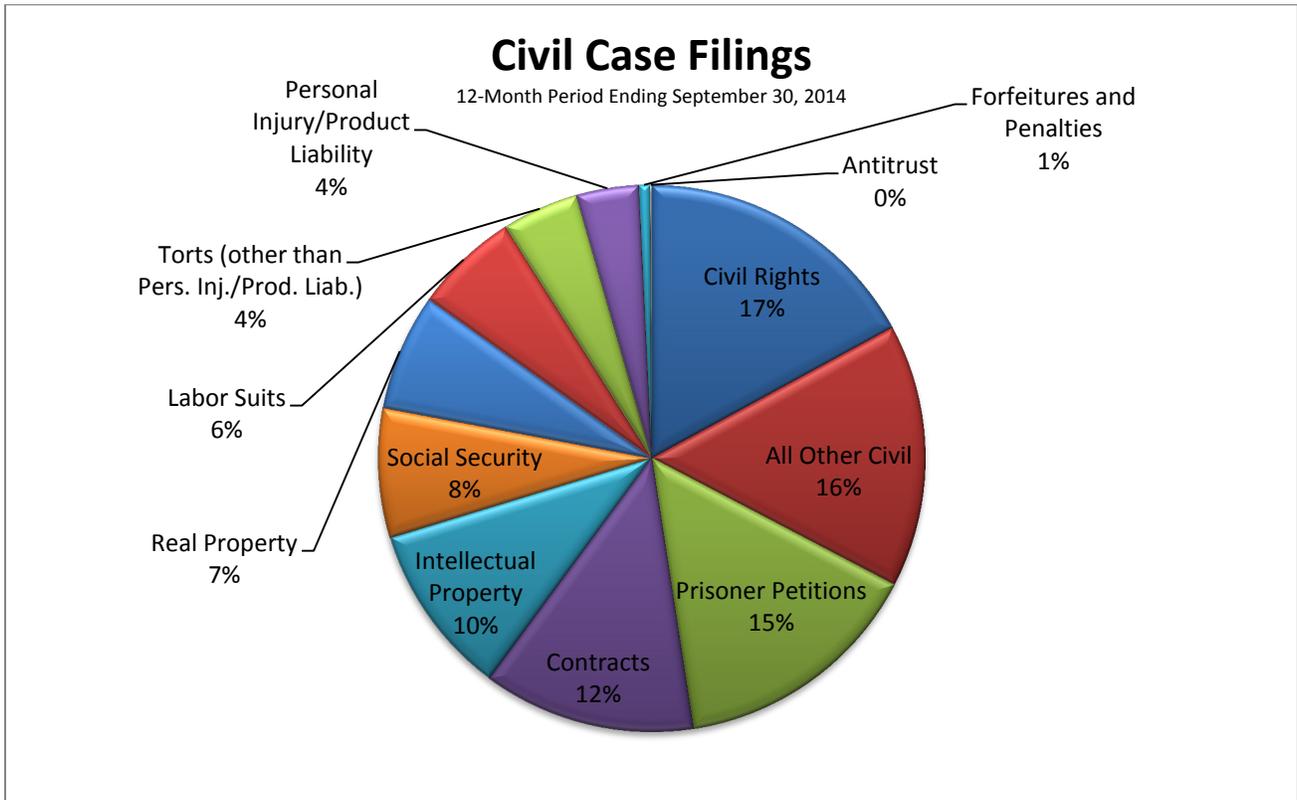
## Criminal Caseload Measures

Criminal Caseload Measures							
12-Month Period Ending September 30, 2014							
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	% Change (FY14/13)	% Change (FY14/10)
<b>FILINGS</b>							
Cases	1,429	1,314	1,347	1,065	823	-22.7%	-42.4%
Defendants	2,093	2,068	2,023	1,652	1,324	-19.9%	-36.7%
<b>TERMINATIONS</b>							
Cases	1,668	1,417	1,333	1,161	896	-22.8%	-46.3%
Defendants	2,434	2,128	2,032	1,881	1,404	-25.4%	-42.3%
<b>PENDING</b>							
Cases	2,184	2,081	2,128	2,028	1,935	-4.6%	-11.4%
Defendants	3,510	3,491	3,527	3,231	3,067	-5.1%	-12.6%

In fiscal year 2014, criminal case filings in the district declined 22.7 percent from 1,065 to 823; filings for criminal defendants dropped 19.9 percent from 1,652 to 1,324. One reason for the decline in criminal filings in the Central District of California was due to fewer referrals of cases for criminal prosecution. Overall, filings for criminal defendants (including transfers) in the U.S. district courts declined 6 percent.



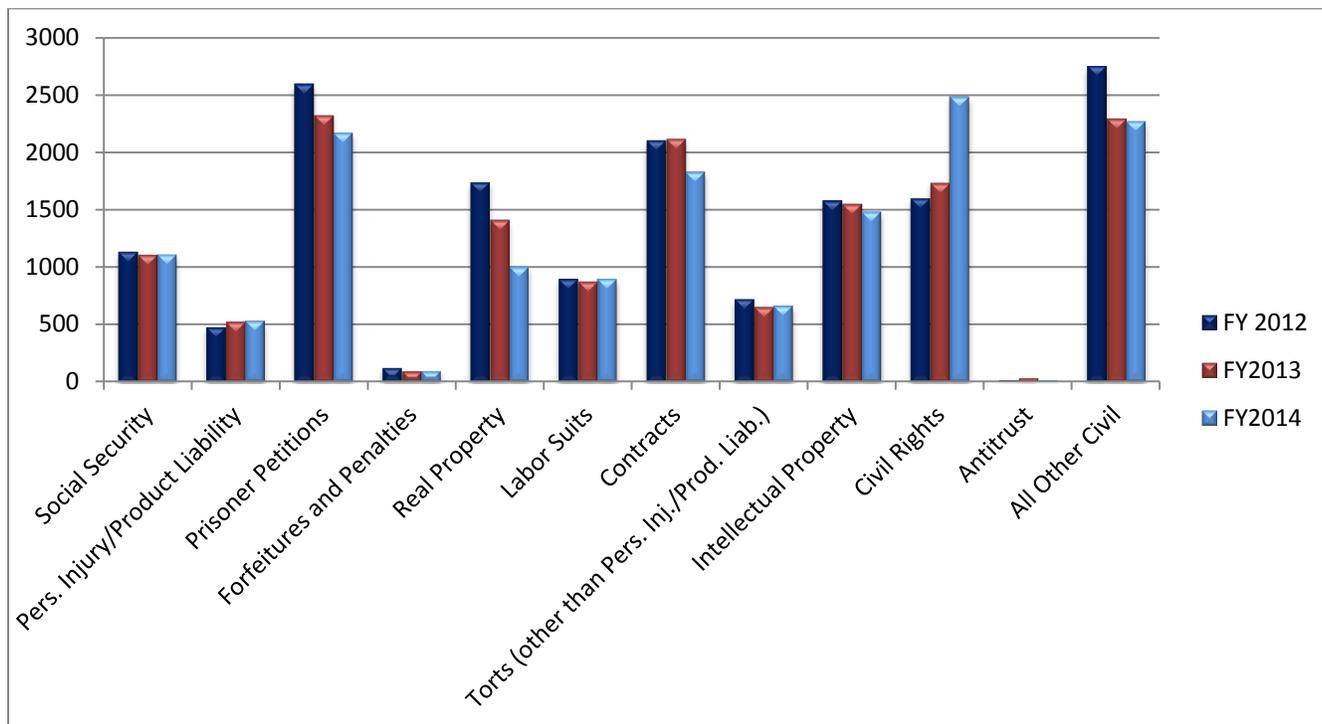
## Civil Case Filings FY 2014



Civil rights case filings rose to the highest percentage of all civil case filing categories from 12 percent in 2013 to 17 percent in 2014. In fiscal year 2014, fewer prisoner petitions, intellectual property, and real property cases were filed compared to the previous fiscal year.

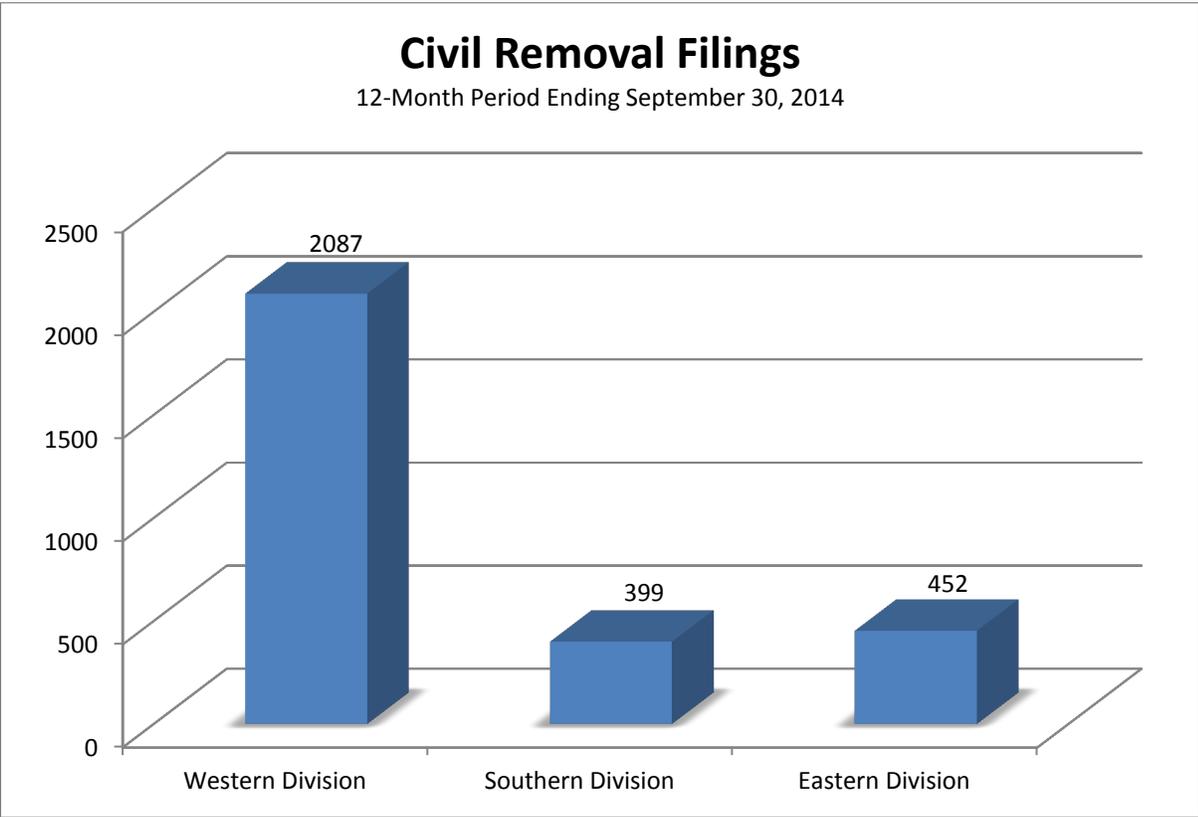
Civil Rights	2486
All Other Civil	2272
Prisoner Petitions	2171
Contracts	1830
Intellectual Property	1484
Social Security	1112
Real Property	1004
Labor Suits	899
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	665
Personal Injury/Product Liability	534
Forfeitures and Penalties	95
Antitrust	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>14567</b>

## Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit, FY2012 - 2014



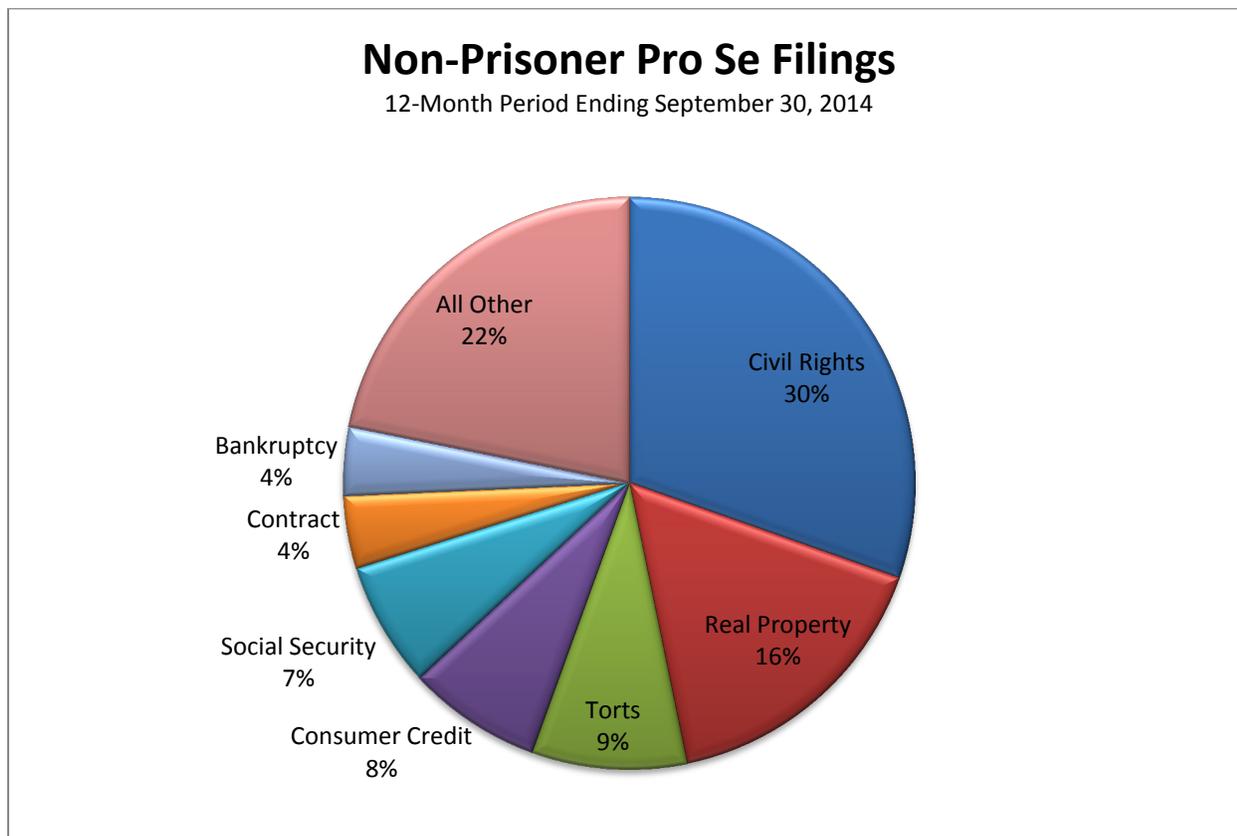
Civil Case Categories	FY 2012	FY2013	FY2014	%Change FY14/13	% Change FY14/12
Social Security	1134	1109	1112	0.3%	-1.9%
Personal Injury/Product Liability	477	526	534	1.5%	11.9%
Prisoner Petitions	2594	2325	2171	-6.6%	-16.3%
Forfeitures and Penalties	124	94	95	1.1%	-23.4%
Real Property	1739	1414	1004	-29.0%	-42.3%
Labor Suits	897	874	899	2.9%	0.2%
Contracts	2104	2121	1830	-13.7%	-13.0%
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	723	654	665	1.7%	-8.0%
Intellectual Property	1579	1553	1484	-4.4%	-6.0%
Civil Rights	1600	1735	2486	43.3%	55.4%
Antitrust	17	32	15	-53.1%	-11.8%
All Other Civil	2751	2296	2272	-1.0%	-17.4%
<b>Total Civil Filings</b>	<b>15,739</b>	<b>14,733</b>	<b>14,567</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-7%</b>

# Civil Removal Filings



Civil removal filings declined slightly in 2014, but removals from state court still represent 20 percent of the total civil filings in the Central District of California. 71 percent of the total removals were filed in the Western Division; 14 percent were filed in the Southern Division; and 15 percent were filed in the Eastern Division. The categories with the greatest number of removal filings were civil rights (25 percent) and real property cases (18 percent).

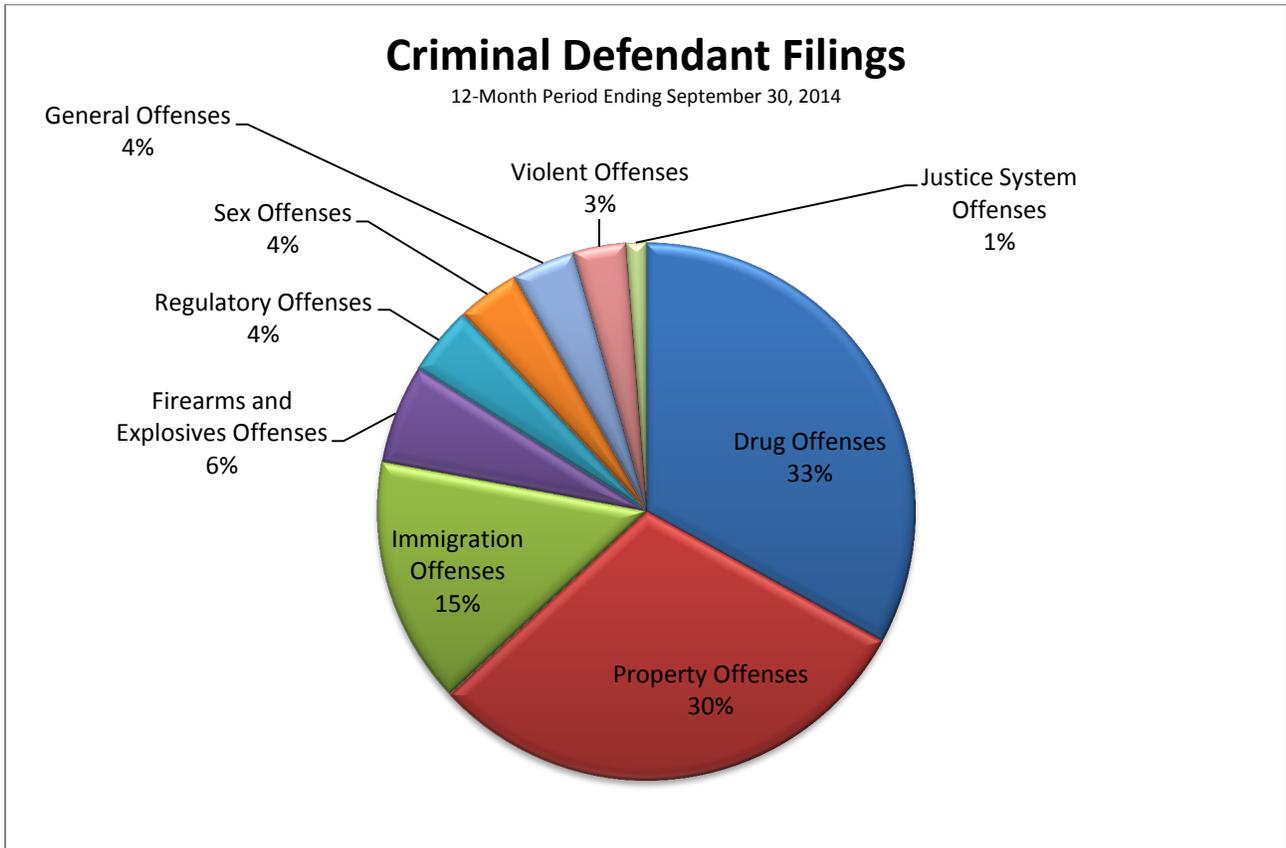
## Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings



Civil Rights	369
Real Property	199
Torts	106
Consumer Credit	92
Social Security	86
Contract	50
Bankruptcy	47
All Other	265
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>1,214</b>

Civil case filings by non-prisoner pro se plaintiffs represent 8 percent of the Central District of California’s total civil filings. Thirty percent of these non-prisoner pro se filings were civil rights cases, while sixteen percent were real property cases. There were 850 civil case filings with pro se defendants filed in fiscal year 2014; fifteen percent (127 cases) were civil rights matters; and 56 percent (473 cases) were real property matters.

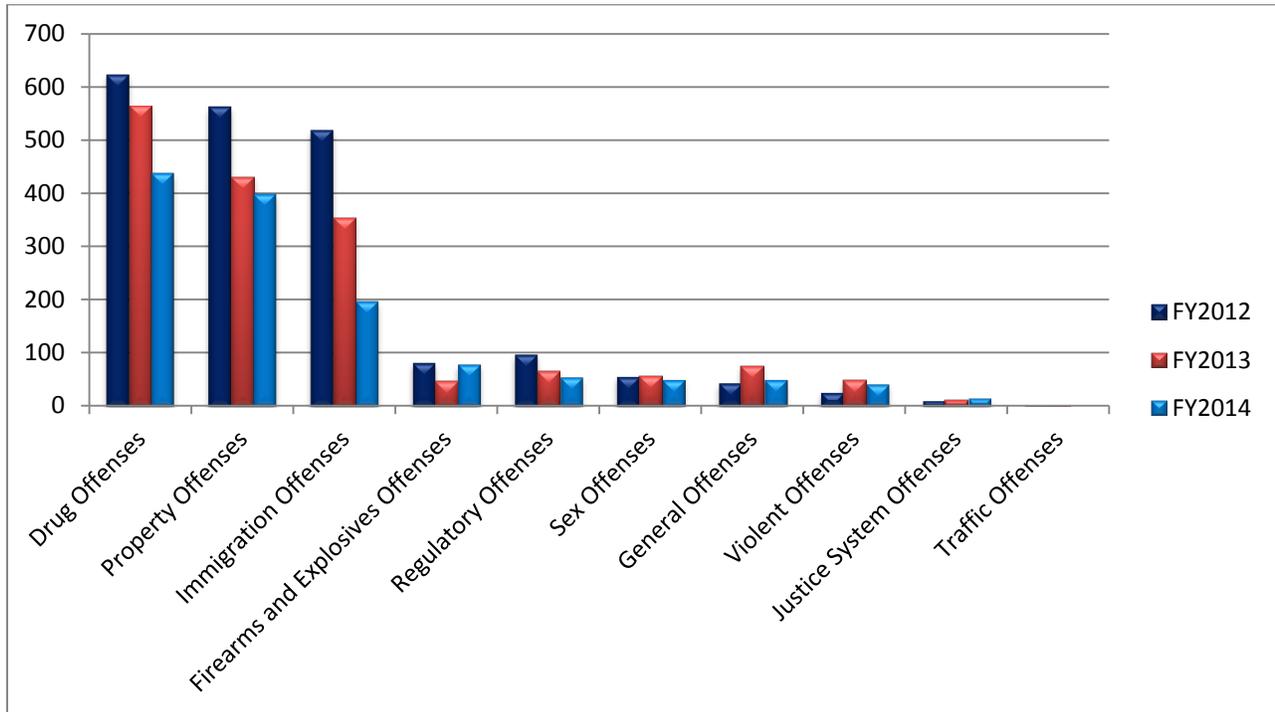
## Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense



In light of the overall decline in criminal case filings, total criminal defendant filings dropped 20 percent. The top three major offense categories for criminal defendant filings in fiscal year 2014 were drug offenses (33 percent); property offenses (30 percent); and immigration offenses (15 percent). The number of defendants charged with firearms and explosives offenses increased, while the number of defendants charged with immigration offenses decreased by 44 percent from 353 to 197, and defendants charged with drug offenses decreased by 23 percent from 564 to 437.

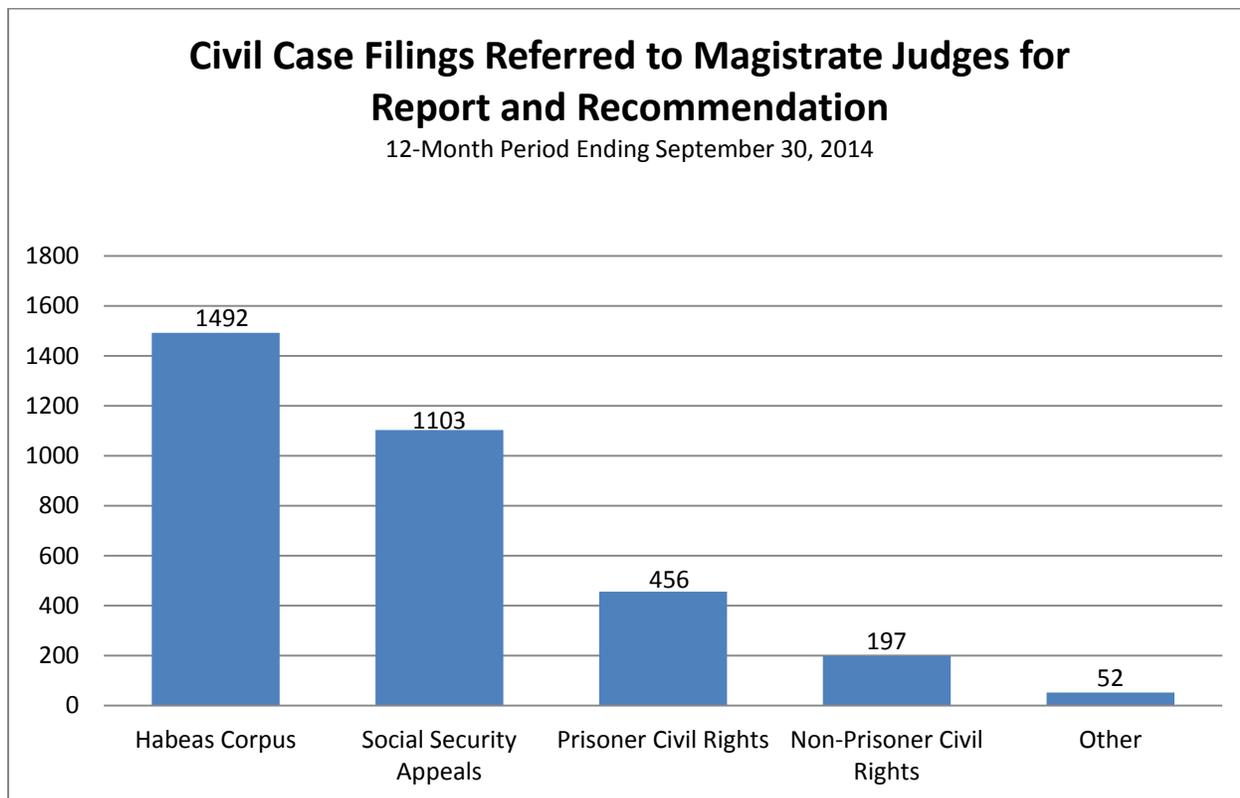
Drug Offenses	437
Property Offenses	398
Immigration Offenses	197
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	79
Regulatory Offenses	55
Sex Offenses	50
General Offenses	50
Violent Offenses	42
Justice System Offenses	16
Traffic Offenses	0
<b>Total Criminal Defendant Filings</b>	<b>1,324</b>

## Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense, FY2012 - 2014



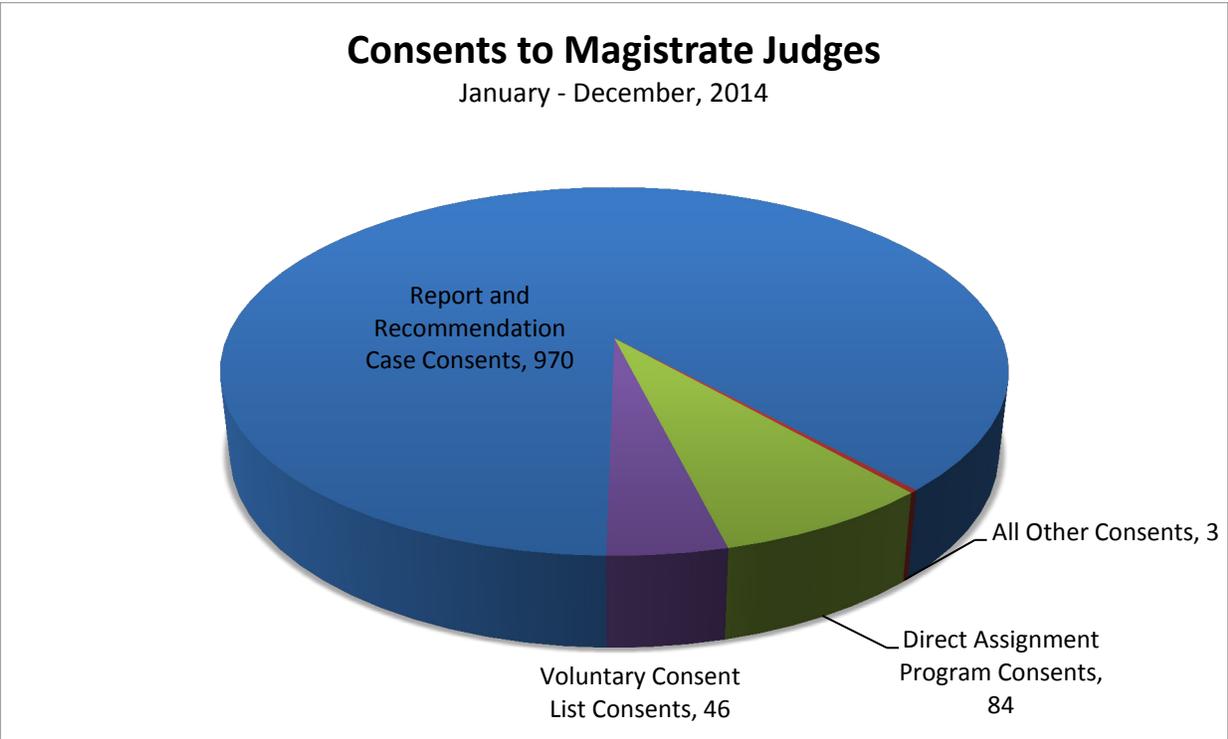
	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	% Change 14/13	% Change 14/12
Drug Offenses	623	564	437	-22.5%	-29.9%
Property Offenses	563	431	398	-7.7%	-29.3%
Immigration Offenses	519	353	197	-44.2%	-62.0%
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	82	47	79	68.1%	-3.7%
Regulatory Offenses	98	66	55	-16.7%	-43.9%
Sex Offenses	56	56	50	-10.7%	-10.7%
General Offenses	44	75	50	-33.3%	13.6%
Violent Offenses	26	48	42	-12.5%	61.5%
Justice System Offenses	11	11	16	45.5%	45.5%
Traffic Offenses	1	1	0	-100.0%	-100.0%
<b>Total Criminal Defendant Filings</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>1,652</b>	<b>1,324</b>	<b>-19.9%</b>	<b>-34.6%</b>

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



In 2014, 23 percent of the total civil filings were referred to magistrate judges for report and recommendations. Of the 3,300 cases referred for report and recommendations, 45 percent were habeas corpus petitions; 33 percent were social security appeal cases; 14 percent were prisoner civil rights cases; six percent were non-prisoner pro se civil rights cases; and two percent were other cases.

# Consents to Magistrate Judges



Parties consented to proceed before magistrate judges in a total of 1103 cases in 2014. Of this total, all parties consented in 970 cases that were initially referred to a magistrate judge for a report and recommendation; all parties consented in 84 cases initially assigned to magistrate judges through the Direct Assignment of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges program; all parties consented to proceed before magistrate judges in 46 cases through the Voluntary Consent List Program; and all parties consented to proceed before a magistrate judge in three other cases.

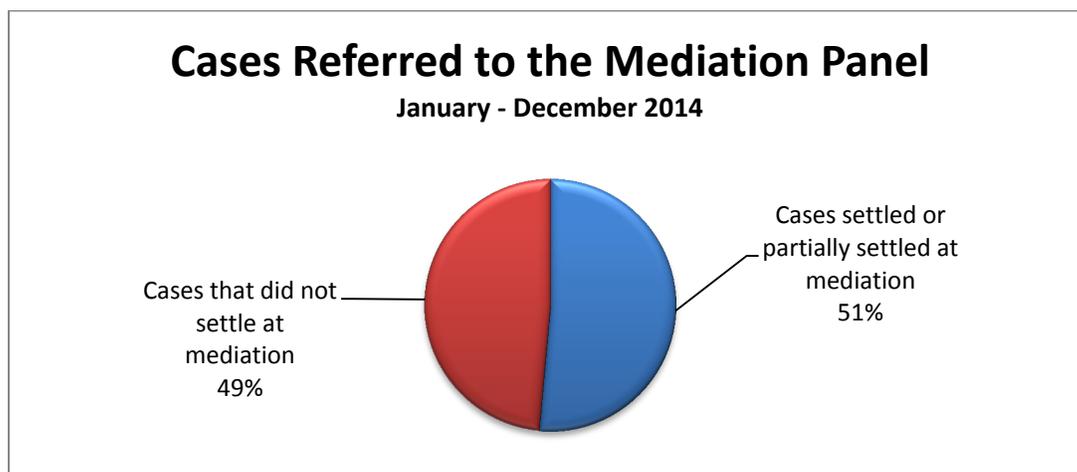
## Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics

Magistrate Judge Settlements Statistics January - December, 2014	
Number of cases with settlement conferences conducted by magistrate judges	297
Number of settlement conferences conducted by magistrate judges	345
Number of cases settled	157
Percent of cases settled	52.9%

In 2014, magistrate judges held 345 settlement conferences in 297 cases. Of these, the magistrate judges settled 157 cases, for a 52.9 percent settlement rate. The magistrate judges spent a total of 1745 hours, equivalent to 218 days, working on settling these cases.

## Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program Statistics January - December, 2014	
<b>Total number of cases ordered to the Alternate Dispute Resolution Program</b>	<b>2411</b>
Cases referred to Magistrate Judges	373
Cases referred to the Mediation Panel	1159
Cases referred to private mediation	879
<b>Total number of cases mediated by panel mediators</b>	<b>587</b>
Cases settled or partially settled at mediation	302
Cases that did not settle at mediation	285
<b>Total number of cases settled before mediation</b>	<b>246</b>



In 2014, 2411 cases were referred to ADR. Panel mediators conducted mediation sessions in 587 cases. Of these, 302 cases were resolved or partially resolved, resulting in a settlement rate of 51.4% for cases mediated by the Panel. As of February 2015, twenty-six district judges in the Central District participate in the Court Directed ADR Program. The Mediation Panel is composed of 225 panel members who collectively possess substantive experience in 24 areas of law.

The Prisoner Settlement Program provides for the referral of certain prisoner civil rights cases to Magistrate Judge Victor E. Bianchini, recalled Magistrate Judge to the Eastern District of Washington and the Central and Southern Districts of California, for settlement proceedings at various California state prisons. In 2014, Judge Bianchini conducted 39 settlement conferences and settled 24 cases.

## Patent Pilot Program

Central District of California Patent Pilot Program 9/19/2011 - 12/31/2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total	% Change 14/13
Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	110	519	417	298	1344	-29%
Patent Cases Initially Assigned to Patent Pilot Program Judges	18	55	44	47	164	7%
Patent Cases Transferred to the Patent Pilot Program	5	52	81	76	214	-6%
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	371	-5%
Total Number of Patent Cases Initially Assigned or Transferred to Patent Pilot Program Judges	30	247	240	232	749	-3%
Patent Cases Transferred Out of the Patent Pilot Program	1	14	10	5	30	-50%
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%	56%	35%

In 2014, the seven judges designated to receive patent cases under the Patent Pilot Program received 232 patent cases, of which 47 were initially assigned to them, 76 cases were transferred to the program from non-participating judges, and 109 cases were transferred to the program as a result of related case transfers or other reasons. The number of patent cases filed declined by 29 percent, and the number of cases transferred to the program by non-participating judges declined by 6 percent from 2013, however, the percentage of patent cases filed that were assigned or transferred to patent pilot program judges has increased each year to 78 percent in 2014. Since the program started in September, 2011, 749 patent cases had been included in the program by the end of 2014.