## Central District of California Annual Report of Caseload Statistics Fiscal Year 2017



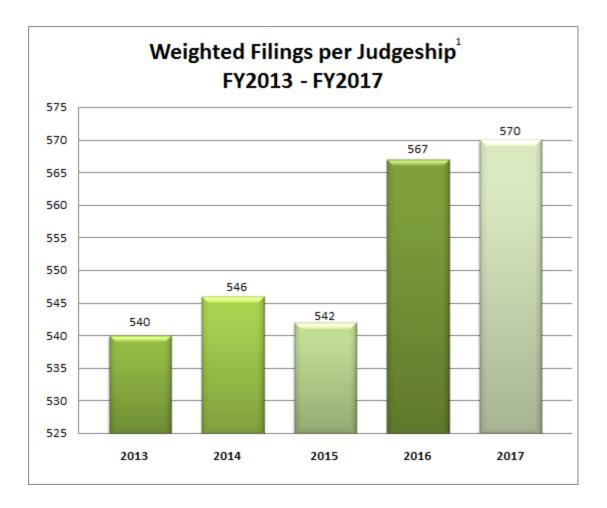
Published by the Office of the Clerk of Court for the Central District of California

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#### Weighted Filings per Judgeship



The number of weighted filings per judgeship for the Central District of California remained high at 570 for fiscal year<sup>2</sup> ("FY") 2017, an increase of .5 percent from 567 a year ago. The national average was 475 weighted filings per judgeship. The Central District of California ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Ninth Circuit for weighted filings in FY2017.

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

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#### **District Caseload Measures**

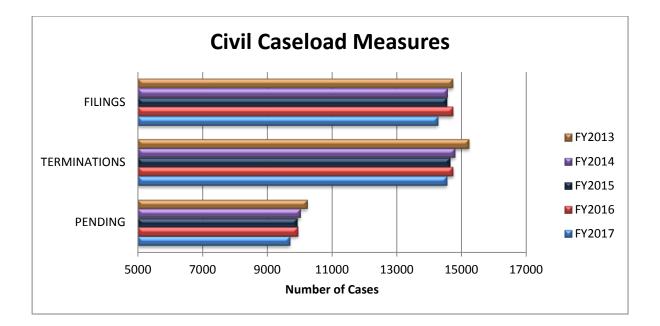
	District Caseload Measures										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change (FY17/16)	% Change (FY17/13)				
FILINGS											
Civil	14,733	14,567	14,549	14,731	14,275	-3.1%	-3.1%				
Criminal Cases	1,065	823	692	860	927	7.8%	-13.0%				
Total	15,798	15,390	15,241	15,591	15,202	-2.5%	-3.8%				
TERMINATIONS											
Civil	15,232	14,799	14,641	14,741	14,549	-1.3%	-4.5%				
Criminal Cases	1,161	896	726	688	843	22.5%	-27.4%				
Total	16,393	15,695	15,367	15,429	15,392	-0.2%	-6.1%				
PENDING											
Civil	10,240	10,024	9,932	9,941	9,692	-2.5%	-5.4%				
Criminal Cases	2,028	1,935	1,858	2,020	2,088	3.4%	3.0%				
Total	12,268	11,959	11,790	11,961	11,780	-1.5%	-4.0%				

In FY2017, the Central District of California saw a 2.5 percent decrease in combined civil and criminal case filings from FY2016. Total case terminations decreased .2 percent and total pending cases decreased 1.5 percent from FY2016. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2017, total civil and criminal case filings decreased by 3.8 percent; total terminations declined by 6.1 percent; and total pending cases dropped by 4 percent.

#### **Civil Caseload Measures**

Civil Caseload Measures										
	% Chang 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 (FY17/16									
FILINGS	14,733	14,567	14,549	14,731	14,275	-3.1%	-3.1%			
TERMINATIONS	15,232	14,799	14,641	14,741	14,549	-1.3%	-4.5%			
PENDING	10,240	10,024	9,932	9,941	9,692	-2.5%	-5.4%			

A total of 14,275 civil cases were filed in FY2017, a decrease of 3.1 percent from FY2016. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2017, civil case filings, terminations, and pending civil cases were at their highest in 2013. From 2013 to 2017, civil filings decreased overall by 3.1 percent; civil terminations decreased by 4.5 percent; and pending civil cases dropped by 5.4 percent.

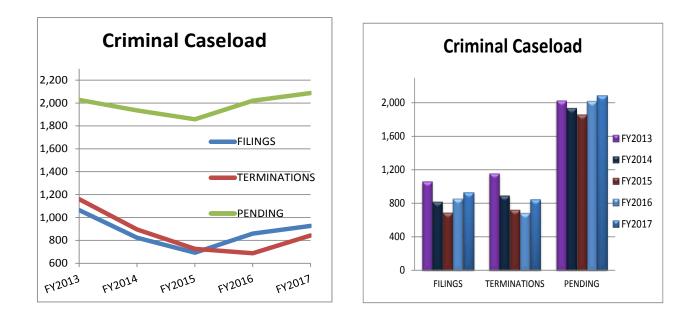


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#### **Criminal Caseload Measures**

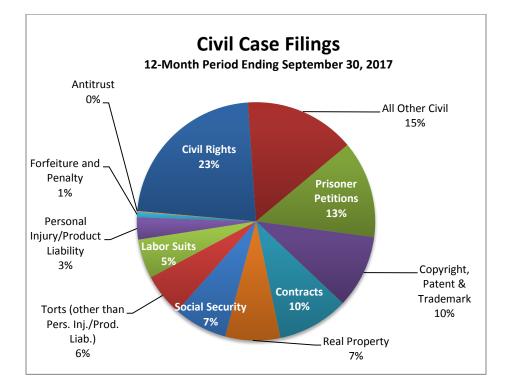
	Criminal Caseload Measures											
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change (FY17/16)	% Change (FY17/13)					
FILINGS												
Cases	1,065	823	692	860	927	7.8%	-13.0%					
Defendants	1,652	1,324	1,087	1,248	1,346	7.9%	-18.5%					
TERMINATIONS												
Cases	1,161	896	726	688	843	22.5%	-27.4%					
Defendants	1,881	1,404	1,196	1,130	1,239	9.6%	-34.1%					
PENDING												
Cases	2,028	1,935	1,858	2,020	2,088	3.4%	3.0%					
Defendants	3,231	3,067	2,883	3,038	3,133	3.1%	-3.0%					

Between FY2013 and 2017, the total number of criminal case filings and criminal defendant filings in the Central District of California declined; however, since FY2015 these numbers have largely increased. In FY2017, criminal case filings in the District increased 7.8 percent, and filings for criminal defendants increased 7.9 percent from FY2016. In FY2017, criminal case terminations in the District increased 22.5 percent and terminations for criminal defendants increased 9.6 percent from FY2016.



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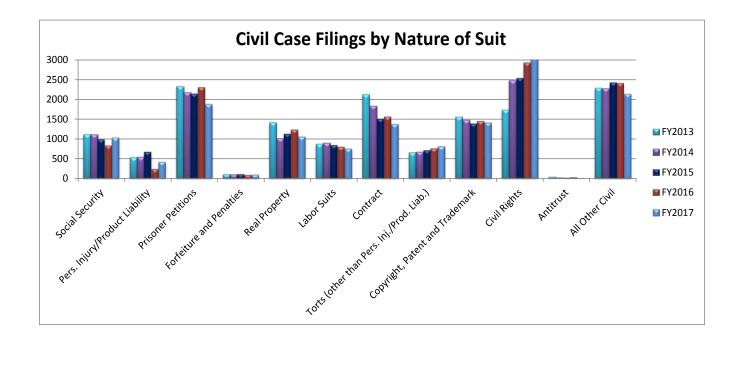
#### **Civil Case Filings**



Civil rights case filings constituted the highest percentage of all civil case filing categories at 23 percent in FY2017. Fewer prisoner petitions, real property, contracts, and antitrust cases were filed; however, there were more personal injury/product liability, social security, torts, and civil rights cases filed compared to FY2016. In FY2017, personal injury/product liability increased 73.3 percent.

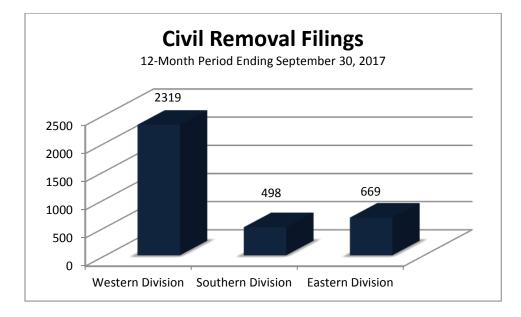
Civil Case Filings						
Civil Rights	3,215					
All Other Civil	2,142					
Prisoner Petitions	1,885					
Copyright, Patent & Trademark	1,416					
Contracts	1,381					
Real Property	1,065					
Social Security	1,041					
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	820					
Labor Suits	762					
Personal Injury/Product Liability	428					
Forfeiture and Penalty	105					
Antitrust	15					
Total	14,275					

#### **Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit**



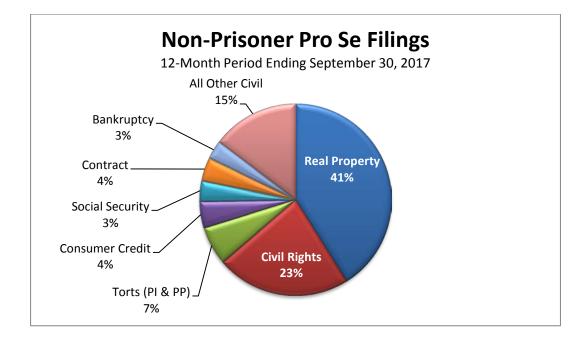
Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit										
Civil Case Categories	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	%Change FY17/16	% Change FY17/13			
Social Security	1109	1112	995	844	1041	23.3%	-6.1%			
Pers. Injury/Product Liability	526	534	684	247	428	73.3%	-18.6%			
Prisoner Petitions	2325	2171	2147	2310	1885	-18.4%	-18.9%			
Forfeiture and Penalties	94	95	119	102	105	2.9%	11.7%			
Real Property	1414	1004	1134	1242	1065	-14.3%	-24.7%			
Labor Suits	874	899	848	808	762	-5.7%	-12.8%			
Contract	2121	1830	1513	1569	1381	-12.0%	-34.9%			
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	654	665	725	768	820	6.8%	25.4%			
Copyright, Patent and Trademark	1553	1484	1392	1457	1416	-2.8%	-8.8%			
Civil Rights	1735	2486	2539	2931	3215	9.7%	85.3%			
Antitrust	32	15	28	39	15	-61.5%	-53.1%			
All Other Civil	2296	2272	2425	2414	2142	-11.3%	-6.7%			
Total	14733	14567	14549	14731	14275	-3.1%	-3.1%			

#### **Civil Removal Filings**



In FY2017, civil removal filings represented 24.4 percent of the total filings in the Central District of California: 67 percent of the removals were filed in the Western Division; 14 percent were filed in the Southern Division; and 19 percent were filed in the Eastern Division. The largest percentage of civil removal filings were real property cases (27 percent) and civil rights cases (20 percent).

#### **Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings**



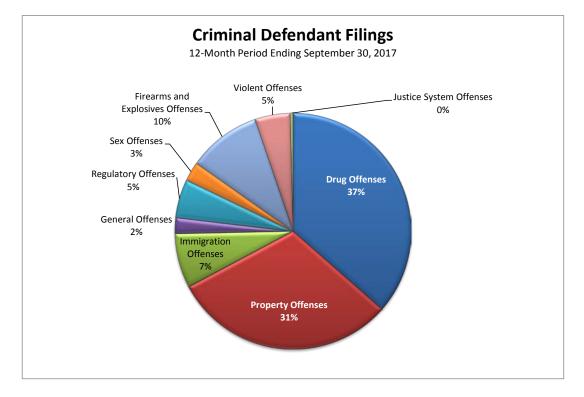
Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings								
Real Property	813							
Civil Rights	448							
Torts (PI & PP)	129							
Consumer Credit	89							
Social Security	68							
Contract	78							
Bankruptcy	63							
All Other Civil	291							
Total Filings	1979							

14 percent of the 14,725 total civil cases filed in FY2017 were non-prisoner cases with at least one pro se party.<sup>3</sup> Of these, 64 percent were civil rights and real property cases.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 FY2017 that had at least one party with a pro se status entered as of January 23, 2018.

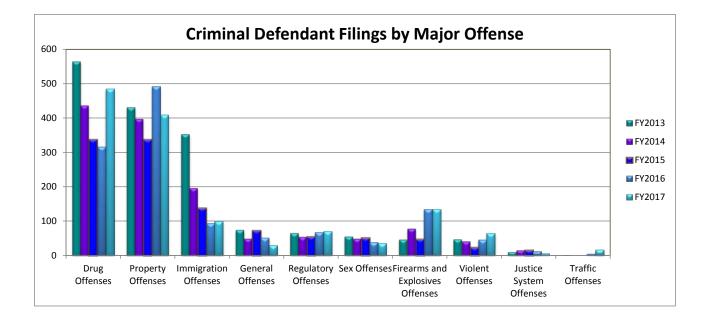
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#### **Criminal Defendant Filings**



In FY2017, criminal defendant filings increased 7.9 percent from FY2016. The top three major offense categories for criminal defendant filings in FY2017 were drug offenses (37 percent), property offenses (31 percent), and firearms and explosives offenses (10 percent). The number of defendants charged with drug offenses increased by 53.5 percent, the number of defendants charged with property offenses decreased by 16.7 percent, and the number of defendants charged with violent offenses increased by 42.2 percent from FY2016.

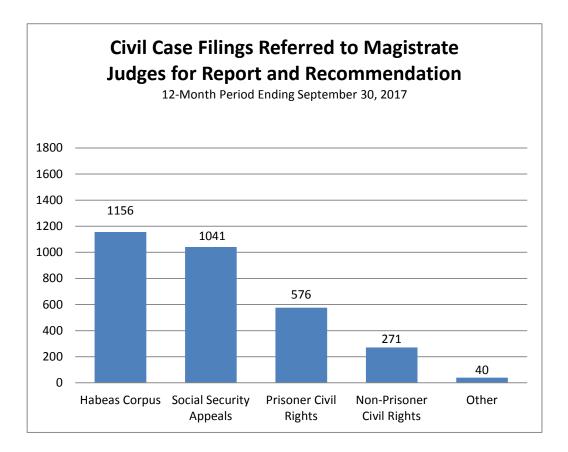
Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense								
Major Offense Category	Criminal Defendants							
Drug Offenses	485							
Property Offenses	409							
Immigration Offenses	99							
General Offenses	29							
Regulatory Offenses	70							
Sex Offenses	35							
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	134							
Violent Offenses	64							
Justice System Offenses	5							
Traffic Offenses	16							
Total	1346							



#### **Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense**

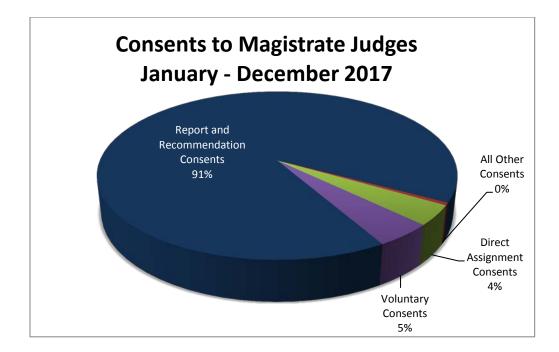
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	% C										
Major Offense Category	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	17/16	17/13				
Drug Offenses	564	437	337	316	485	53.5%	-14.0%				
Property Offenses	431	398	337	491	409	-16.7%	-5.1%				
Immigration Offenses	353	197	139	92	99	7.6%	-72.0%				
General Offenses	75	50	74	51	29	-43.1%	-61.3%				
Regulatory Offenses	66	55	56	67	70	4.5%	6.1%				
Sex Offenses	56	50	53	37	35	-5.4%	-37.5%				
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	47	79	49	134	134	0.0%	185.1%				
Violent Offenses	48	42	25	45	64	42.2%	33.3%				
Justice System Offenses	11	16	17	11	5	-54.5%	-54.5%				
Traffic Offenses	1	0	0	4	16	300.0%	1500.0%				
Total	1652	1324	1087	1248	1346	7.9%	-18.5%				

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



In FY2017, 21.6 percent of the total civil filings were referred to magistrate judges for report and recommendations. Of the cases referred for report and recommendations, 37.5 percent were habeas corpus petitions, 33.8 percent were Social Security appeal cases, 18.7 percent were prisoner civil rights cases, 8.8 percent were non-prisoner pro se civil rights cases, and 1.3 percent were other cases referred for report and recommendations.

#### **Consents to Magistrate Judges**



Parties consented to proceed before magistrate judges in a total of 1069 cases in calendar year 2017, a 6.3 percent increase from 2016. Of this total, all parties consented in 975 cases that were referred to a magistrate judge for a report and recommendation; all parties consented in 41 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 48 cases through the Voluntary Consent List of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges Program.

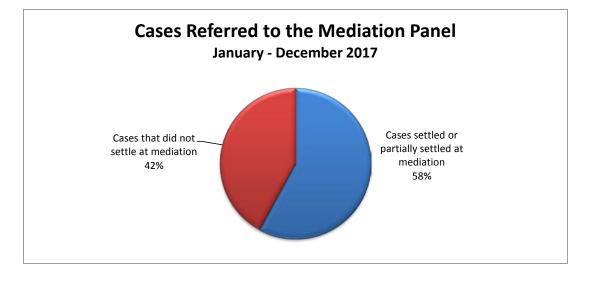
#### **Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics**

Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics						
January - December 2017						
Number of cases with settlement conferences						
conducted by magistrate judges	291					
Number of settlement conferences conducted by						
magistrate judges	333					
Number of cases settled	131					
Percent of cases settled	45.0%					

In calendar year 2017, magistrate judges held 333 settlement conferences in 291 cases. Of these, the magistrate judges settled 131 cases, for a 45 percent settlement rate. The magistrate judges spent a total of 1908.65 hours, equivalent to 238.6 days, working on settling these cases.

#### **Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program Statistics January - December 2017	ĺ			
Total number of cases ordered to ADR	2887			
Cases referred to magistrate judges	322			
Cases referred to the mediation panel	1506			
Cases referred to private mediation	1059			
Total number of cases mediated by panel mediators				
Cases settled or partially settled at mediation	424			
Cases that did not settle at mediation	308			
Total number of cases settled before mediation	463			



In calendar year 2017, 2,887 cases were referred to ADR. The Central District of California's Mediation Panel is composed of 235 panel members who collectively possess substantive experience in 24 areas of law. Panel mediators conducted mediation sessions in 732 cases. Of these, 424 cases were resolved or partially resolved, resulting in a settlement rate of 58 percent for cases mediated by the Panel. As of March 2018, twenty-six active and senior District Judges in the Central District participate in the Court Directed ADR Program.

The Prisoner Settlement Program provides for the referral of certain prisoner civil rights cases to recalled Magistrate Judge Victor E. Bianchini for settlement proceedings at various California state prisons. In 2017, Judge Bianchini mediated 80 cases in the Central District of California and settled 49 cases, resulting in a settlement rate of 61 percent.

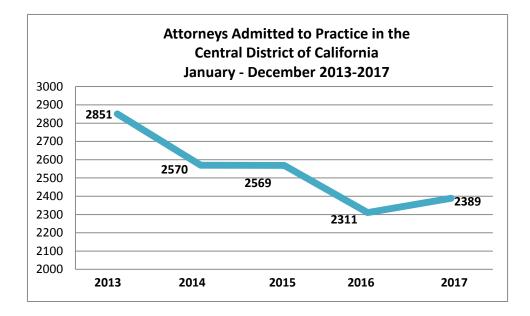
#### **Patent Pilot Program**

Patent Pilot Program 9/19/2011 - 12/31/2017									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total	% Change 17/16
Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	110	519	417	298	268	273	296	2181	8%
Patent Cases Initially Assigned to Patent Pilot									
Program Judges	18	55	44	47	45	47	70	326	49%
Patent Cases Ordered Transferred to the Patent									
Pilot Program by Non-Participating Judges	5	52	81	76	74	64	68	420	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	67	61	63	562	3%
Total Number of Patent Cases Initially Assigned									
or Transferred to the Patent Pilot Program	30	247	240	232	186	172	201	1308	17%
Patent Cases Transferred out of the Patent Pilot									
Program	1	14	10	5	11	1	10	52	900%
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%	60%	8%

In calendar year 2017, six district judges participated in the Patent Pilot Program in the Central District of California. In 2017, the judges designated to receive patent cases under the Patent Pilot Program received 201 patent cases, of which 70 were initially assigned to them, 68 cases were transferred to the program from non-participating judges, and 63 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 2017 increased by 8 percent and the number of cases transferred to the program by non-participating judges increased by 6 percent from 2016. In 2017 the percentage of patent cases filed that were assigned or transferred to judges participating in the Patent Pilot Program was 68 percent. Since the program started in September of 2011, a total of 1308 patent cases have been included in the program.

Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California										
2013-2017										
						%Change	% Change			
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	(17/16)	(17/13)			
Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the										
Central District of California	2851	2570	2569	2311	2389	3.4%	-16.2%			

In calendar year 2017, the Central District of California saw a 3.4 percent increase in attorneys admitted to the bar of the Court. During the five-year period ending December 31, 2017, the number of attorneys admitted to practice in the Central District of California was at its highest in 2013 at 2,851.



#### **Trials**

JURY AND BENCH TRIALS											
2015-2017											
				% Change	% Change						
	2015	2016	2017	17/16	17/15						
Civil Jury	91	84	83	-1.2%	-8.8%						
Criminal Jury	51	73	55	-24.7%	7.8%						
Civil Bench	40	47	59	25.5%	47.5%						
Criminal Bench	8	5	9	80.0%	12.5%						
Total	190	209	206	-1.4%	8.4%						

In calendar year 2017, there were a total of 206 trials held before all judges in the Central District of California, a 1.4 percent decrease from 2016. In 2017 of the 206 trials held, 67 percent were jury trials and 33 percent were bench trials. From 2016 to 2017, civil jury trials decreased 1.2 percent; civil bench trials increased 25.5 percent; criminal jury trials decreased 24.7 percent and criminal bench trials increased 80 percent. During the three-year period ending December 31, 2017, trials increased 8.4 percent overall.

