

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
Annual Report of Caseload Statistics

Fiscal Year 2019

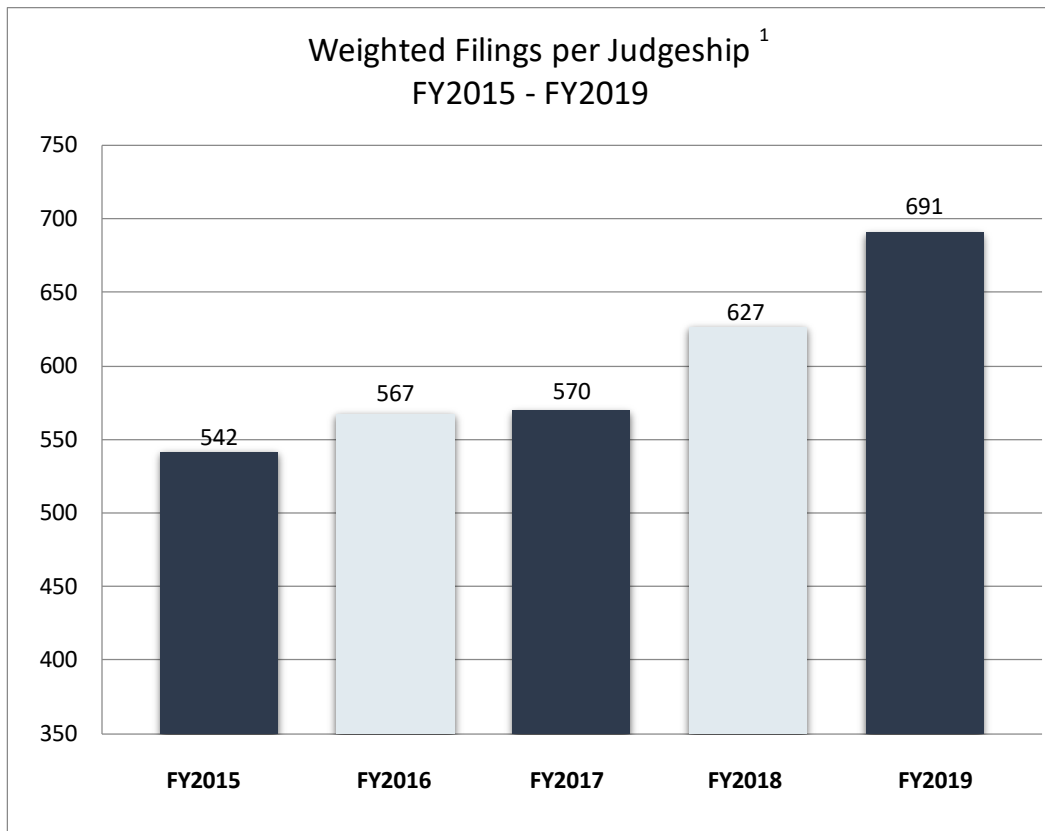


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Weighted Filings per Judgeship



The number of weighted filings per judgeship for the Central District of California rose significantly to 691 for fiscal year¹ ("FY") 2019, an increase of 10 percent from 627 a year ago. Weighted filings have increased 27 percent over the five-year period from FY2015 to FY2019. The national average was 535 weighted filings per judgeship. The Central District of California ranked 13th in the nation and 3rd in the Ninth Circuit for weighted filings in FY2019.

¹ The fiscal year is the 12-month period ending September 30.

Judicial Vacancies

Vacant Judgeship Months				
FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
12	31.1	55	72	94.7

Number of Judicial Vacancies				
FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
1	3	5	6	9

The Central District of California has 28 authorized Article III judgeships. At the end of FY2019, the Central District had nine vacancies, triple from FY2016. The oldest vacancy is from August 1, 2014. In 2016 through 2018, two additional vacancies arose each year. At the end of FY2019, the number of vacant judgeship months was the highest in the Court's history at 94.7 months. Vacant judgeship months are the total number of months that vacancies occurred in any judgeship position in a circuit or district.

District Caseload Measures

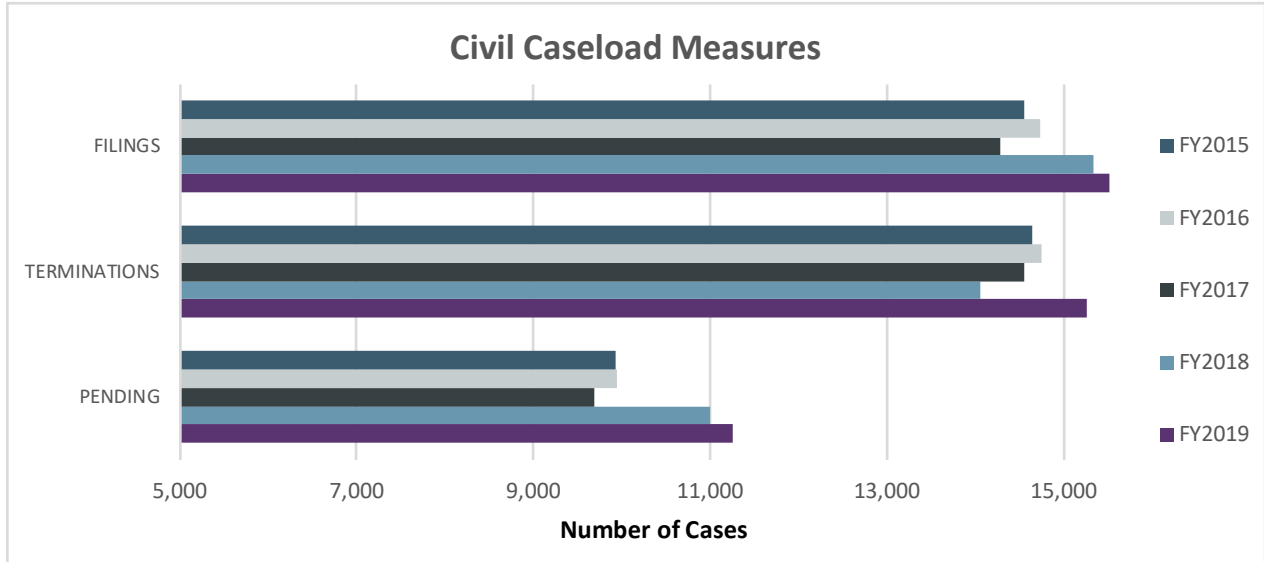
District Caseload Measures							
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	% Change (FY19/18)	% Change (FY19/15)
FILINGS							
Civil	14,549	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	1.2%	6.6%
Criminal Cases	692	860	927	1,170	1,138	-2.7%	64.5%
Total	15,241	15,591	15,202	16,505	16,652	0.9%	9.3%
TERMINATIONS							
Civil	14,641	14,741	14,549	14,057	15,265	8.6%	4.3%
Criminal Cases	726	688	843	966	978	1.2%	34.7%
Total	15,367	15,429	15,392	15,023	16,243	8.1%	5.7%
PENDING							
Civil	9,932	9,941	9,692	11,001	11,259	2.3%	13.4%
Criminal Cases	1,858	2,020	2,088	2,322	2,466	6.2%	32.7%
Total	11,790	11,961	11,780	13,323	13,725	3.0%	16.4%

In FY2019, the Central District of California saw an 0.9 percent increase in combined civil and criminal case filings from FY2018. Total case terminations increased 8.1 percent, and total pending cases increased 3 percent from FY2018. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2019, total civil and criminal case filings increased by 9.3 percent; total terminations increased by 5.7 percent, and total pending cases rose 16.4 percent.

Civil Caseload Measures

Civil Caseload Measures							
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	% Change (FY19/18)	% Change (FY19/15)
FILINGS	14,549	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	1.2%	6.6%
TERMINATIONS	14,641	14,741	14,549	14,057	15,265	8.6%	4.3%
PENDING	9,932	9,941	9,692	11,001	11,259	2.3%	13.4%

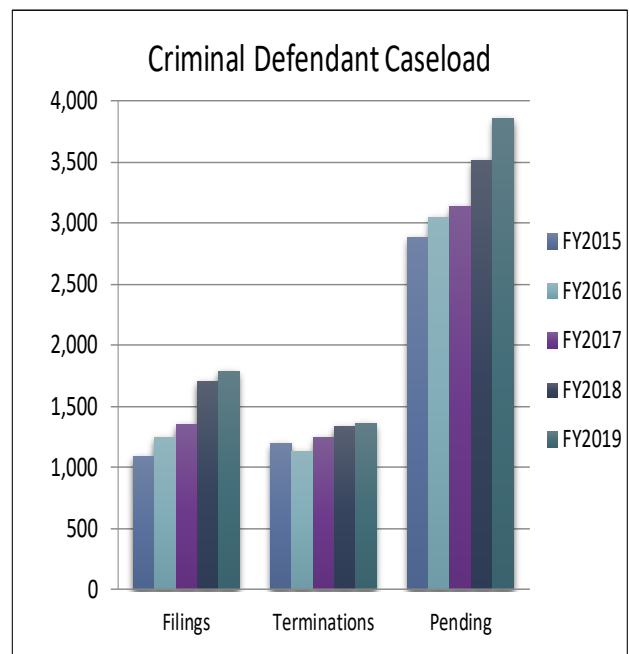
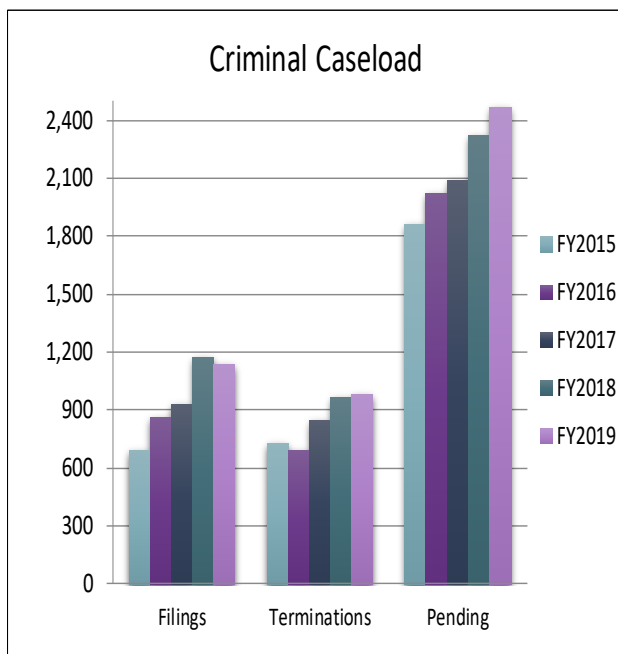
A total of 15,514 civil cases were filed in FY2019, an increase of 1.2 percent from 15,335 in FY2018. Terminations increased 8.6 percent, and pending civil cases increased 2.3 percent from FY2018. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2019, civil case filings increased 6.6 percent, terminations increased 4.3 percent, and pending civil cases rose 13.4 percent, representing five-year highs.



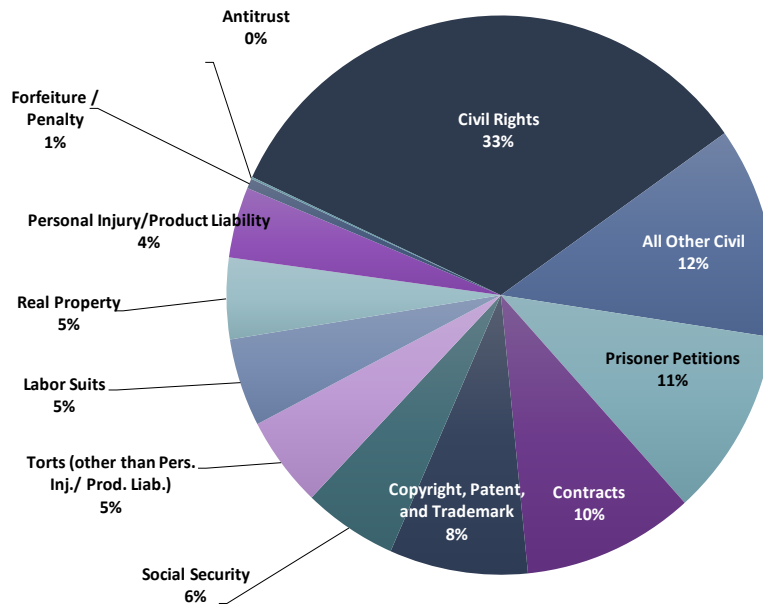
Criminal Caseload Measures

Criminal Caseload Measures							
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	% Change (FY19/18)	% Change (FY19/15)
FILINGS							
Cases	692	860	927	1,170	1,138	-2.7%	64.5%
Defendants	1,087	1,248	1,346	1,707	1,801	5.5%	65.7%
TERMINATIONS							
Cases	726	688	843	966	978	1.2%	34.7%
Defendants	1,196	1,130	1,239	1,339	1,367	2.1%	14.3%
PENDING							
Cases	1,858	2,020	2,088	2,322	2,466	6.2%	32.7%
Defendants	2,883	3,038	3,133	3,518	3,861	9.7%	33.9%

Between FY2015 and FY2019, the total number of criminal case filings surged 64.5 percent, and criminal defendant filings rose 65.7 percent, a five-year high. In FY2019, criminal case filings in the District decreased 2.7 percent, and filings for criminal defendants increased 5.5 percent from FY2018. In FY2019, criminal case terminations in the Central District of California increased 1.2 percent; terminations for criminal defendants increased 2.1 percent; pending criminal cases increased 6.2 percent; and, pending criminal defendants increased 9.7 percent from FY2018.



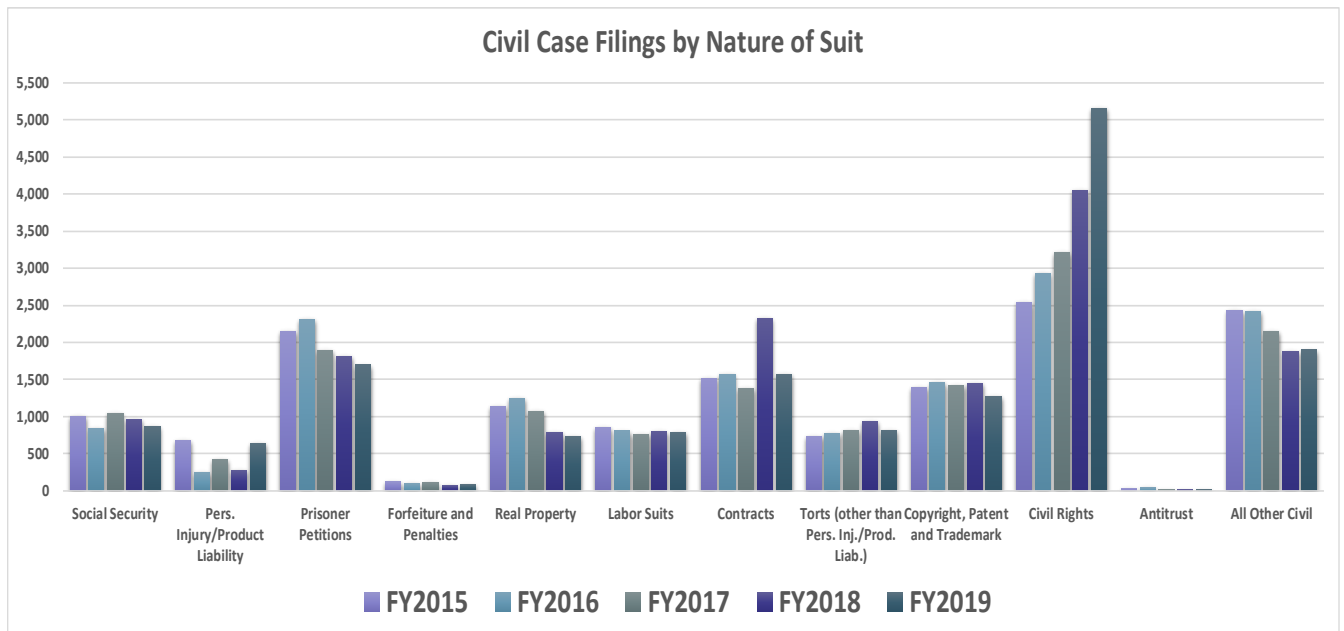
Civil Case Filings



Civil rights case filings constituted the highest percentage of all civil case filing categories at 33.2 percent in FY2019. There were more civil rights, personal injury/product liability, and all other civil filed in FY2019; however, there were fewer contracts, social security, and copyright, patent and trademark cases filed compared to FY2018. In FY2019, personal injury/product liability case filings increased 126 percent.

Civil Case Filings	
Civil Rights	5,154
All Other Civil	1,899
Prisoner Petitions	1,693
Contracts	1,568
Copyright, Patent, and Trademark	1,265
Social Security	859
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./ Prod. Liab.)	815
Labor Suits	790
Real Property	729
Personal Injury/Product Liability	635
Forfeiture / Penalty	89
Antitrust	18
Total	15,514

Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit

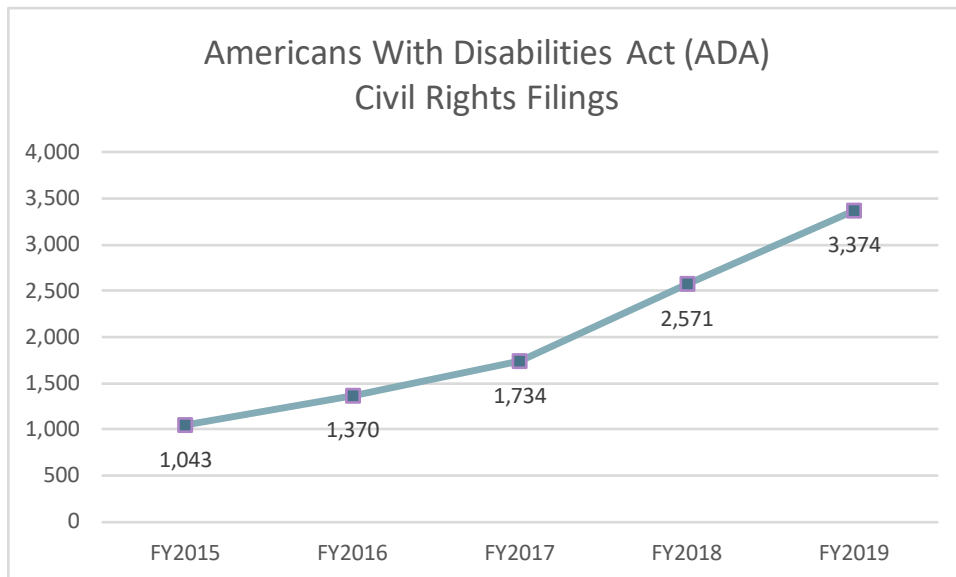


Civil Case Filings By Nature of Suit							
Civil Case Categories	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	% Change FY19/18	% Change FY19/15
Social Security	995	844	1,041	959	859	-10.4%	-13.7%
Pers. Injury/Product Liability	684	247	428	281	635	126.0%	-7.2%
Prisoner Petitions	2,147	2,310	1,885	1,806	1,693	-6.3%	-21.1%
Forfeiture and Penalties	119	102	105	76	89	17.1%	-25.2%
Real Property	1,134	1,242	1,065	786	729	-7.3%	-35.7%
Labor Suits	848	808	762	792	790	-0.3%	-6.8%
Contracts	1,513	1,569	1,381	2,322	1,568	-32.5%	3.6%
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	725	768	820	931	815	-12.5%	12.4%
Copyright, Patent and Trademark	1,392	1,457	1,416	1,449	1,265	-12.7%	-9.1%
Civil Rights	2,539	2,931	3,215	4,043	5,154	27.5%	103.0%
Antitrust	28	39	15	14	18	28.6%	-35.7%
All Other Civil	2,425	2,414	2,142	1,876	1,899	1.2%	-21.7%
Total	14,549	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	1.2%	6.6%

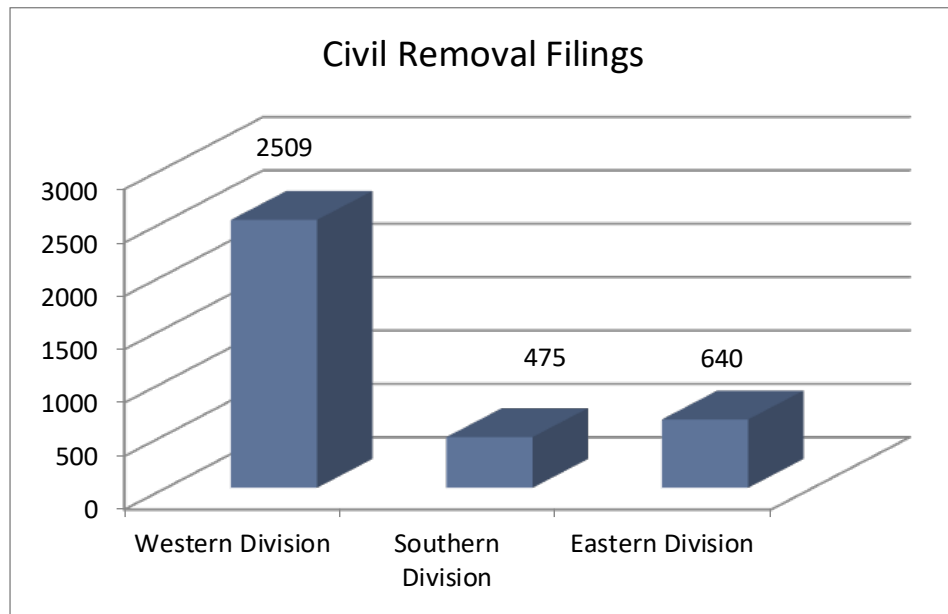
Americans With Disabilities Act

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Civil Rights Filings							
	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	% Change FY19/18	% Change FY19/15
ADA Civil Filings	1,043	1,370	1,734	2,571	3,374	31.2%	223.5%
Total Civil Filings	14,549	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	1.2%	6.6%
Percentage of Total Civil Filings	7.2%	9.3%	12.1%	16.8%	21.7%	29.7%	203.4%

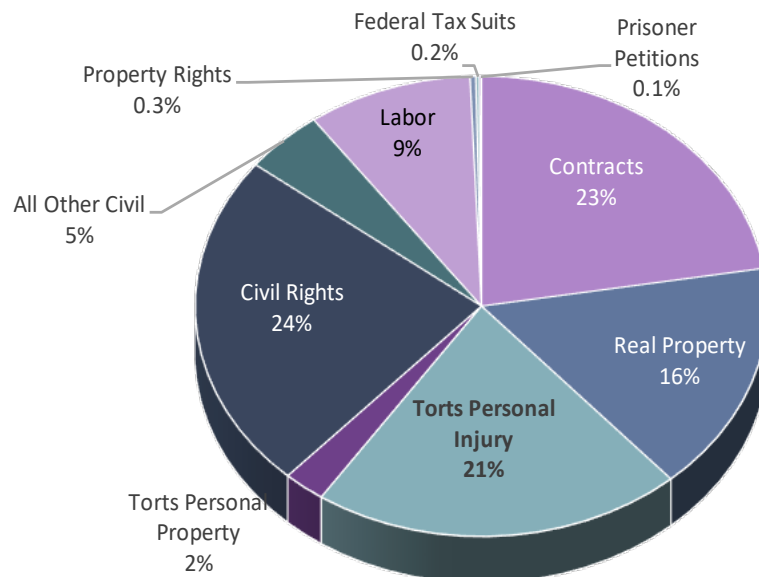
The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Civil Rights filings in FY 2019 comprised 21.7 percent of California Central District’s total civil filings. From FY 2018 to FY 2019 ADA filings increased 31.2 percent, and over the five-year period, from FY 2015 to FY 2019, ADA filings have increased 223.5 percent. ADA filings have surged, and from FY 2015 through FY 2019 while total civil filings increased 6.6 percent, the percentage of ADA filings to total civil filings have increased 203.4 percent.



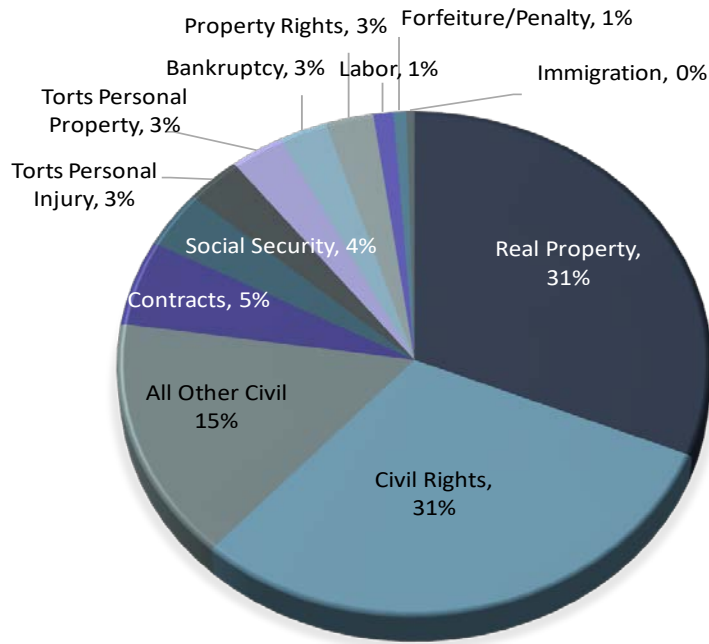
Civil Removal Filings



A total of 3,624 civil removal cases were filed in FY2019, a decrease of 13.3 percent from FY2018. Civil removal filings represented 23.4 percent of the total filings in the Central District of California: 69 percent of the removals were filed in the Western Division; 13 percent were filed in the Southern Division; and, 18 percent were filed in the Eastern Division. The largest percentage of civil removal filings were civil rights (24 percent) and contracts (23 percent) cases.



Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings

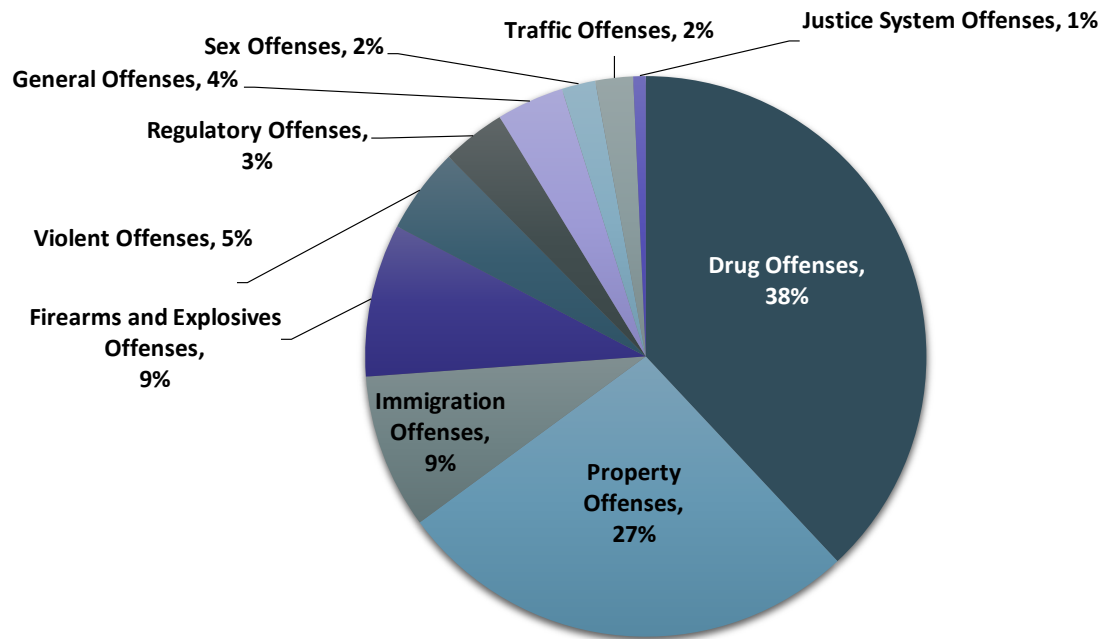


12 percent of the 15,514 total civil cases filed in FY2019 were non-prisoner cases with at least one pro se party.² Of these, 62 percent were real property and civil rights cases.

Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings	
Real Property	562
Civil Rights	553
All Other Civil	280
Contracts	98
Social Security	66
Torts Personal Injury	55
Torts Personal Property	54
Bankruptcy	48
Property Rights	48
Labor	20
Forfeiture/Penalty	13
Immigration	8
Federal Tax Suits	6
Total Filings	1,811

² 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 FY2019 that had at least one party with a pro se status entered as of February 15, 2020.

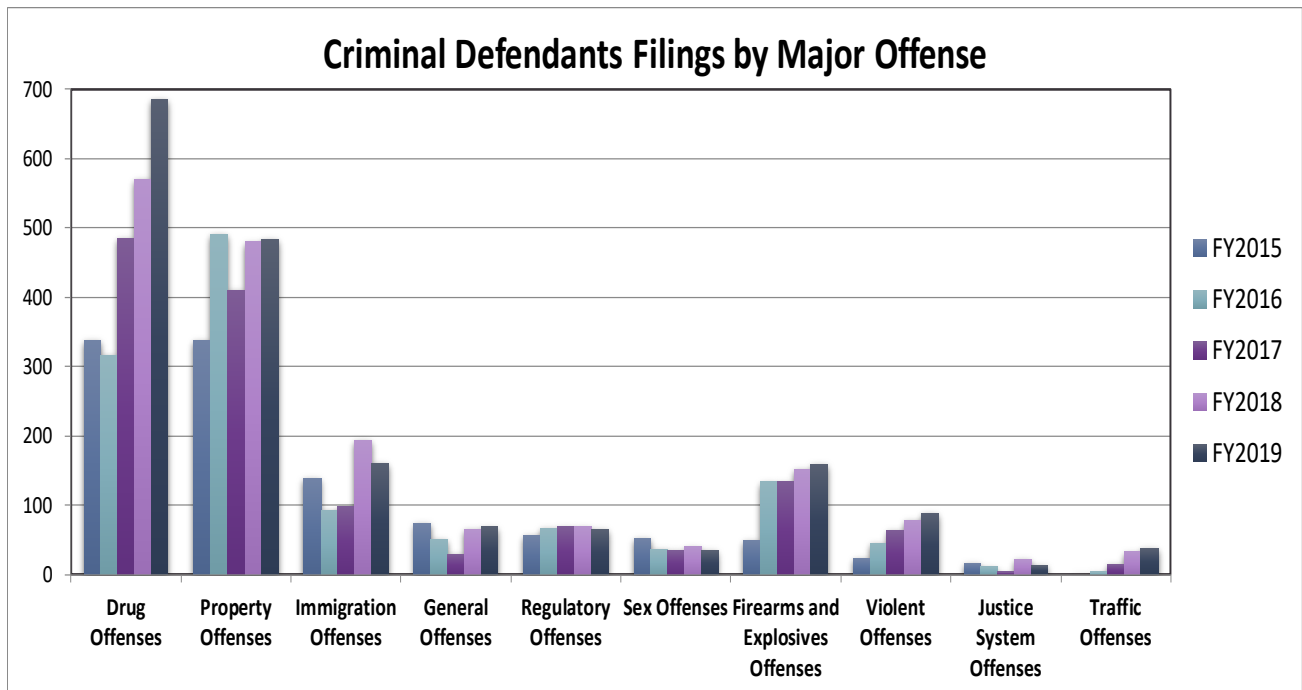
Criminal Defendant Filings



In FY2019, criminal defendant filings increased 5.5 percent from FY2018. The top three major offense categories for criminal defendant filings in FY2019 were drug offenses (38 percent), property offenses (27 percent), and immigration offenses (9 percent). The number of defendants charged with drug offenses increased by 20.2 percent, the number of defendants charged with property offenses increased by 0.8 percent, and the number of defendants charged with immigration offenses decreased by 16.6 percent from FY2018.

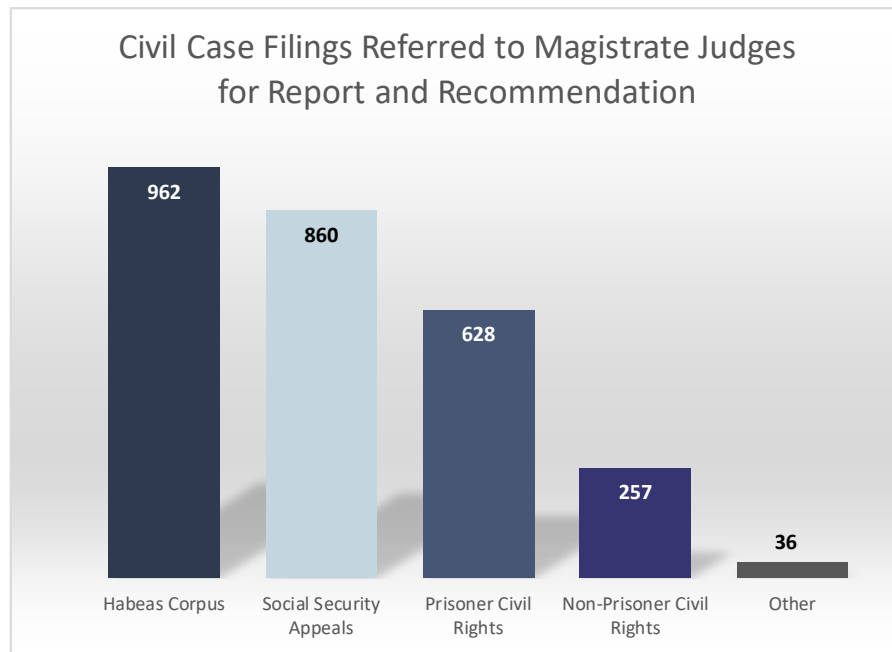
Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense	
Major Offense Category	Criminal Defendants
Drug Offenses	685
Property Offenses	484
Immigration Offenses	161
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	159
Violent Offenses	89
Regulatory Offenses	66
General Offenses	70
Sex Offenses	35
Traffic Offenses	39
Justice System Offenses	13
Total	1,801

Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense

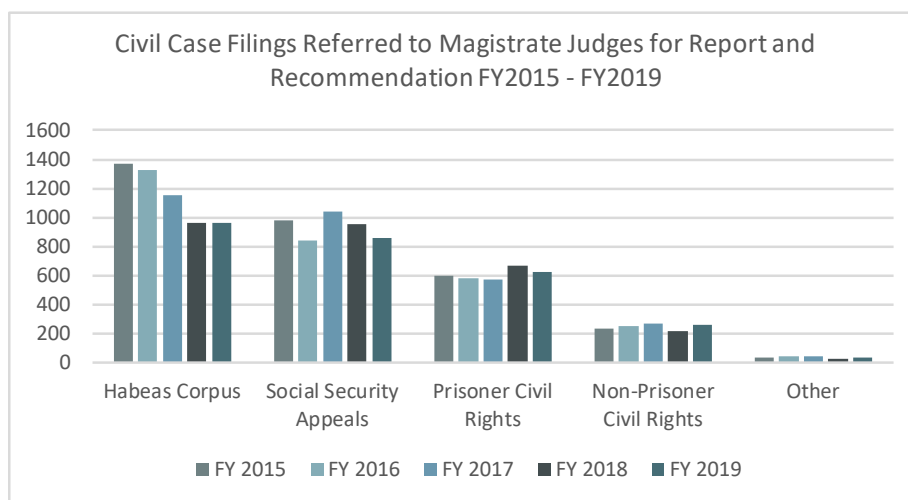


Criminal Defendants Filings by Major Offense							
Major Offense Category	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	% Change 19/18	% Change 19/15
Drug Offenses	337	316	485	570	685	20.2%	103.3%
Property Offenses	337	491	409	480	484	0.8%	43.6%
Immigration Offenses	139	92	99	193	161	-16.6%	15.8%
General Offenses	74	51	29	65	70	7.7%	-5.4%
Regulatory Offenses	56	67	70	70	66	-5.7%	17.9%
Sex Offenses	53	37	35	40	35	-12.5%	-34.0%
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	49	134	134	153	159	3.9%	224.5%
Violent Offenses	25	45	64	79	89	12.7%	256.0%
Justice System Offenses	17	11	5	23	13	-43.5%	-23.5%
Traffic Offenses	0	4	16	34	39	14.7%	100.0%
Total	1,087	1,248	1,346	1,707	1,801	5.5%	65.7%

Civil Case Filings Referred to Magistrate Judges for Report and Recommendation

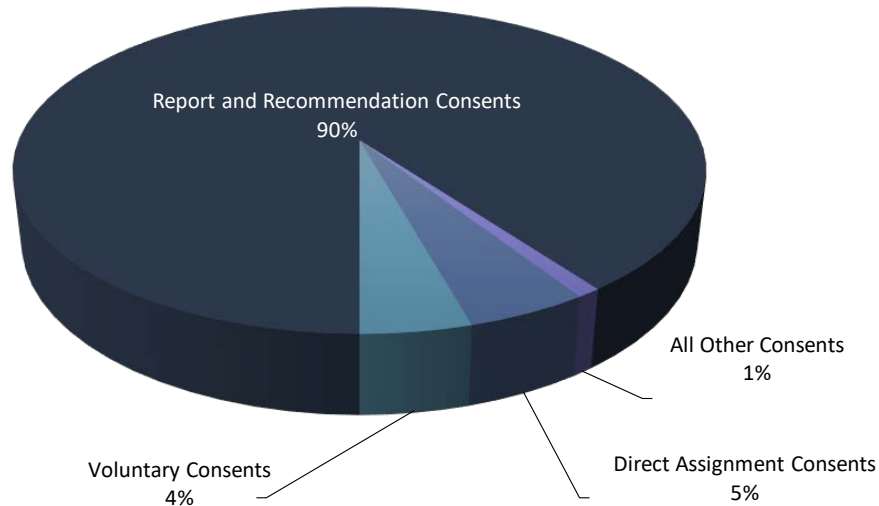


In FY2019, 17.7 percent of the total civil filings were referred to Magistrate Judges for report and recommendations. Of the cases referred for report and recommendations, 35 percent were habeas corpus petitions, 31 percent were Social Security appeal cases, 23 percent were prisoner civil rights cases, 9 percent were non-prisoner pro se civil rights cases, and 1 percent were other cases referred for report and recommendations.

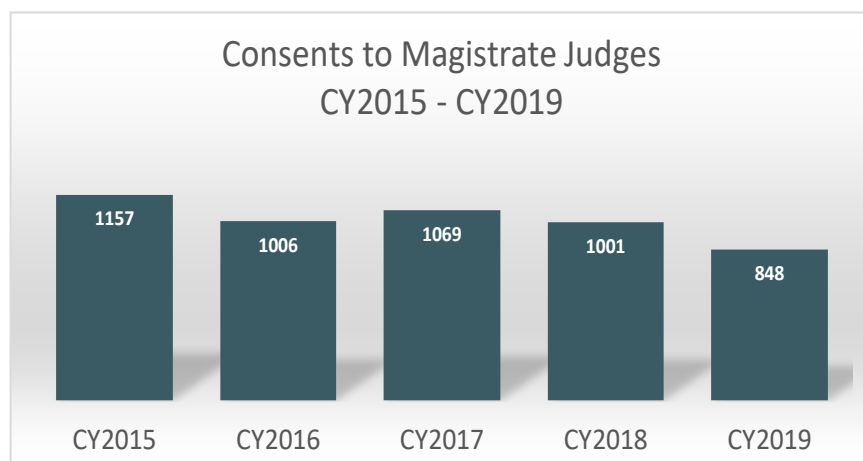


Consents to Magistrate Judge

2019 Consents to Magistrate Judges
12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2019



Parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in a total of 848 cases in calendar year 2019, a 15.3 percent decrease from 2018. Of this total, all parties consented in 762 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 37 cases through the Voluntary Consent List of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges Program.



Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics

2019 Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics	
Number of cases with settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	343
Number of settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	371
Number of cases settled	177
Percent of cases settled	52%

In calendar year 2019, Magistrate Judges held 371 settlement conferences in 343 cases. Of these, the Magistrate Judges settled 177 cases, for a 52 percent settlement rate. The Magistrate Judges spent a total of 1,834 hours, equivalent to 229 8-hour-work days, on settling these cases.

Patent Pilot Program

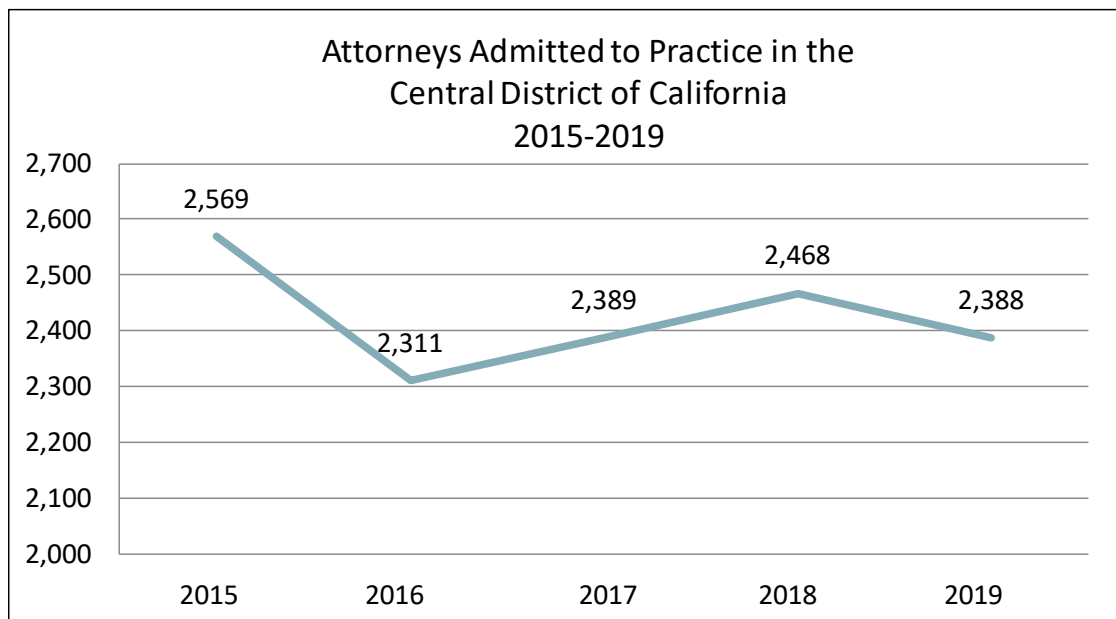
Central District of California										
Patent Pilot Program										
9/19/11- 12/31/19										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	110	519	417	298	268	273	296	286	326	2793
Patent Cases Initially Assigned to Patent Program Judges	18	55	44	47	45	47	70	65	63	454
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Pilot Program via CV-128 Order	5	52	81	76	74	64	68	60	87	567
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Program Judges As a Result of Related Case Transfer, Self-Recusal, Return by Senior Judge, etc.	7	140	115	109	67	61	63	49	75	686
Total Number of Patent Cases Initially Assigned or Transferred to Patent Program Judges	30	247	240	232	186	172	201	174	225	1707
Patent Cases Transferred Out of the Patent Pilot Program	1	14	10	5	11	1	10	7	4	63

In calendar year 2019, six District Judges participated in the Patent Pilot Program in the Central District of California. In 2019, the Judges designated to receive patent cases under the Patent Pilot Program received 225 patent cases, of which 63 were initially assigned to them, 87 cases were transferred to the program from non-participating Judges, and 75 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 2019 increased by 14 percent, and the number of cases transferred to the program by non-participating Judges increased by 45 percent from 2018. In 2019, the percentage of patent cases filed that were assigned or transferred to Judges participating in the Patent Pilot Program was 69 percent. Since the start of the Patent Pilot Program in September of 2011, a total of 1,707 patent cases have been assigned to participating judges.

Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California

Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California 2015-2019							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	%Change (19/18)	% Change (19/15)
Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California	2,569	2,311	2,389	2,468	2,388	-3.2%	-7.0%

In calendar year 2019, the Central District of California saw a 3.2 percent decrease in attorneys admitted to the bar of the Court. During the five-year period ending December 31, 2019, the number of attorneys admitted to practice in the Central District of California was at its highest in 2015 at 2,569.

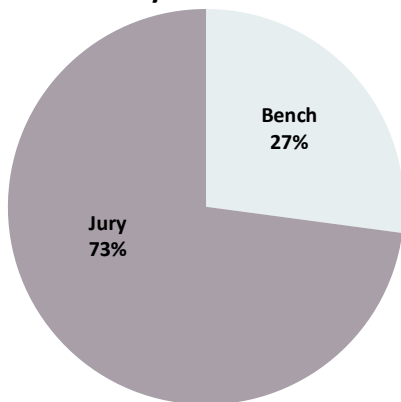


Trials

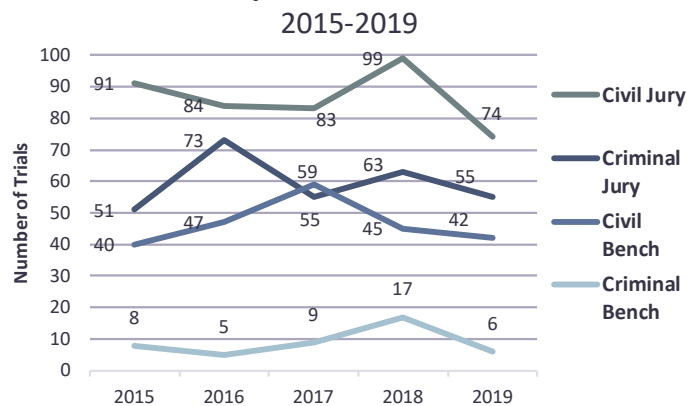
JURY AND BENCH TRIALS							
2016-2019							
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 19/18	% Change 19/15
Civil Jury	91	84	83	99	74	-25%	-19%
Criminal Jury	51	73	55	63	55	-13%	8%
Civil Bench	40	47	59	45	42	-7%	5%
Criminal Bench	8	5	9	17	6	-65%	-25%
Total	190	209	206	224	177	-21%	-7%

In calendar year 2019, a total of 177 trials were held before all Judges in the Central District of California, a 21 percent decrease from 2018. In 2019, of the 177 trials, 73 percent were jury trials, and 27 percent were bench trials. From 2018 to 2019, civil jury trials dropped 25 percent; civil bench trials decreased 7 percent; criminal jury trials decreased 13 percent, and criminal bench trials decreased by 65 percent. During the five-year period ending December 31, 2019, trials decreased 7 percent overall.

2019 Jury and Bench Trials

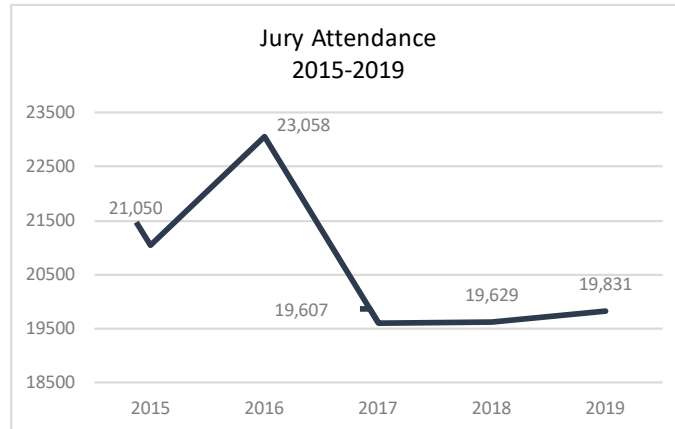


Jury and Bench Trials



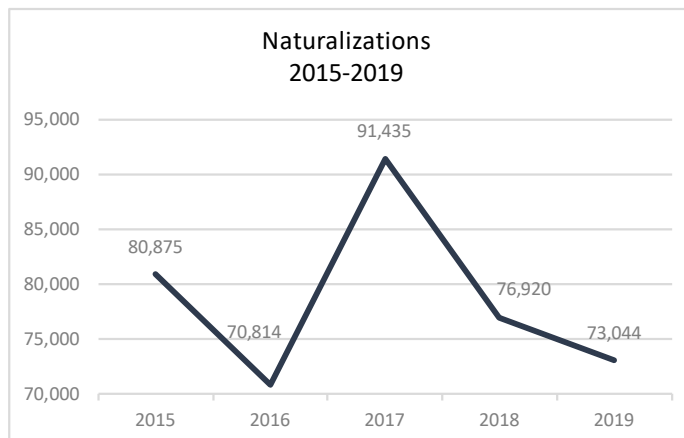
Jury and Naturalization

Jury Attendance 2015-2019						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 19/18	% Change 19/15
21,050	23,058	19,607	19,629	19,831	1.0%	-6%



In calendar year 2019, there were 19,831 jurors in attendance for the Central District of California, a 1 percent increase from 2018. Over the five-year period ending December 31, 2019, the number of jurors in attendance decreased 6 percent from 21,050 in 2015.

Naturalizations 2015-2019						
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change 19/18	% Change 19/15
80,875	70,814	91,435	76,920	73,044	-5%	-10%



In calendar year 2019, the Central District of California naturalized 73,044 citizens, a 5 percent decrease from 76,920 in 2018. Over the five-year period ending December 31, 2019, the Central District of California naturalized over 393,000 citizens.