

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Annual Report of Caseload Statistics

Fiscal Year 2020

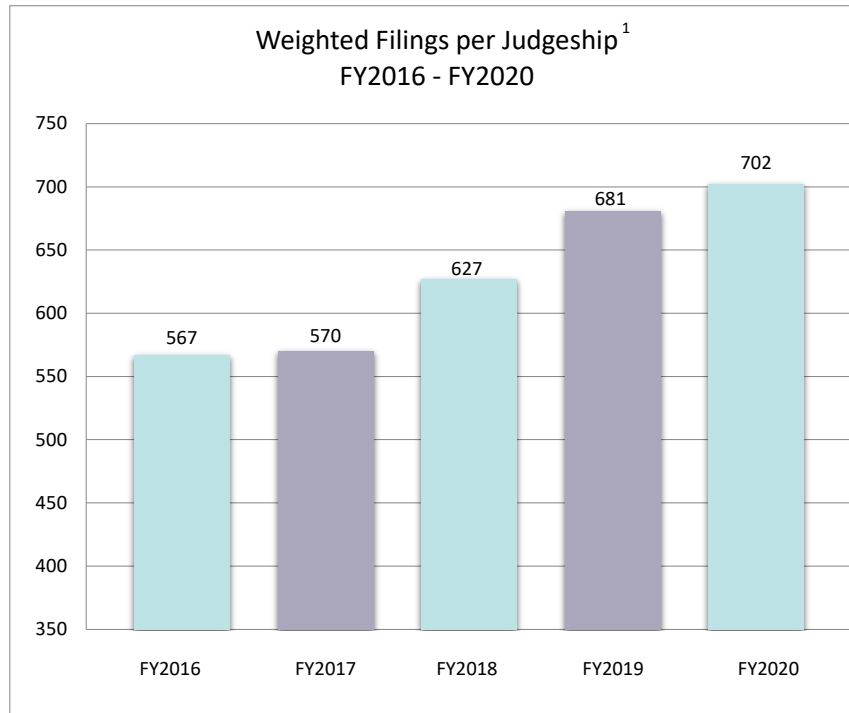


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Weighted Filings per Judgeship



The number of weighted filings per judgeship for the Central District of California rose to 702 for fiscal year¹ (“FY”) 2020, an increase of 3 percent from 681 a year ago. Weighted filings have increased 24 percent over the five-year period from FY2016 to FY2020. The national average was 681 weighted filings per judgeship. The Central District of California ranked 8th in the nation and 1st in the Ninth Circuit for weighted filings in FY2020.

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

Judicial Vacancies

Vacant Judgeship Months				
FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
31.1	55	72	94.7	113.9

Number of Judicial Vacancies				
FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
3	5	6	9	7

The Central District of California has 28 authorized Article III judgeships. At the end of FY2020, the Central District had seven vacancies, more than double from FY2016. The oldest vacancy is from October 29, 2015. At the end of FY2020, the number of vacant judgeship months was the highest in the Court's history at 113.9 months. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2020, vacant judgeship months surged 266 percent from 31.1 in FY2016 to 113.9 in FY2020. Vacant judgeship months are the total number of months that vacancies occurred in any judgeship position in a circuit or district.

District Caseload Measures

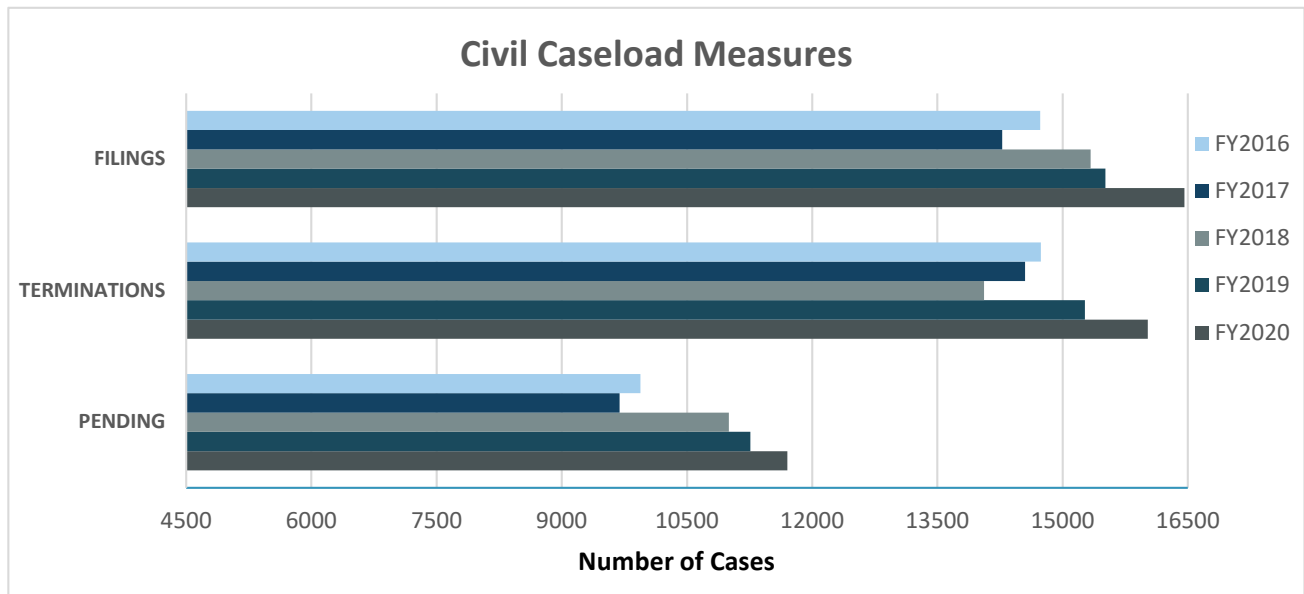
District Caseload Measures							
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY 2020	% Change (FY20/19)	% Change (FY20/16)
FILINGS							
Civil	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	6.1%	11.7%
Criminal Cases	860	927	1,170	1,138	810	-28.8%	-5.8%
Total	15,591	15,202	16,505	16,652	17,271	3.7%	10.8%
TERMINATIONS							
Civil	14,741	14,549	14,057	15,265	16,019	4.9%	8.7%
Criminal Cases	688	843	966	978	704	-28.0%	2.3%
Total	15,429	15,392	15,023	16,243	16,723	3.0%	8.4%
PENDING							
Civil	9,941	9,692	11,001	11,259	11,703	3.9%	17.7%
Criminal Cases	2,020	2,088	2,322	2,466	2,503	1.5%	23.9%
Total	11,961	11,780	13,323	13,725	14,206	3.5%	18.8%

In FY2020, the Central District of California saw a 3.7 percent increase in combined civil and criminal case filings from FY2019. Total case terminations increased 3 percent, and total pending cases increased 3.5 percent from FY2019. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2020, total civil and criminal case filings increased by 10.8 percent; total terminations increased by 8.4 percent, and total pending cases rose 18.8 percent.

Civil Caseload Measures

Civil Caseload Measures							
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	% Change FY20/19	% Change FY20/16
Filings	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	6.1%	11.7%
Termination	14,741	14,549	14,057	15,265	16,019	4.9%	8.7%
Pending	9,941	9,692	11,001	11,259	11,703	3.9%	17.7%

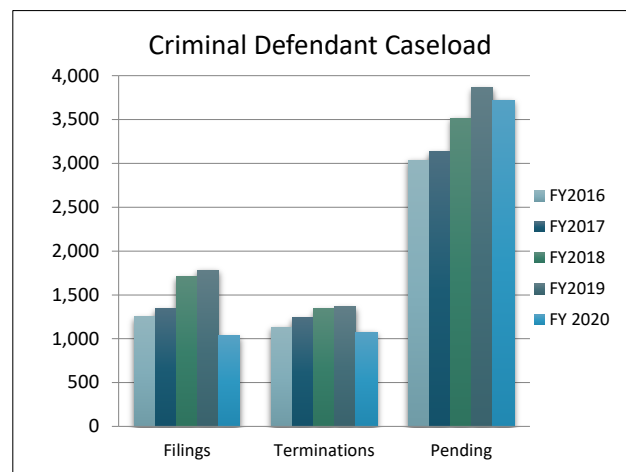
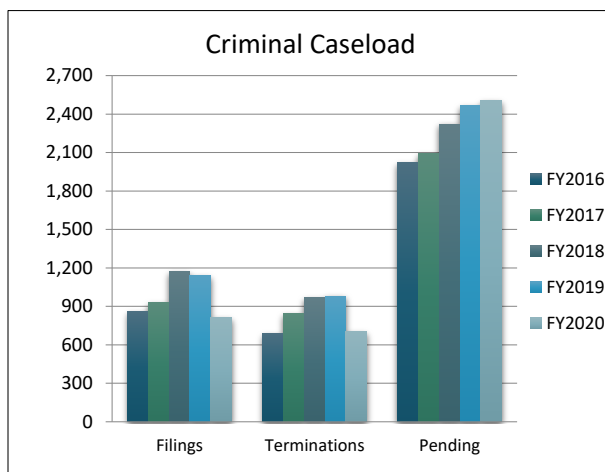
A total of 16,461 civil cases were filed in FY2020, an increase of 6.1 percent from 15,514 in FY2019. Terminations increased 4.9 percent, and pending civil cases increased 3.9 percent from FY2019. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2020, civil case filings increased 11.7 percent, terminations increased 8.7 percent, and pending civil cases rose 17.7 percent, representing five-year highs.



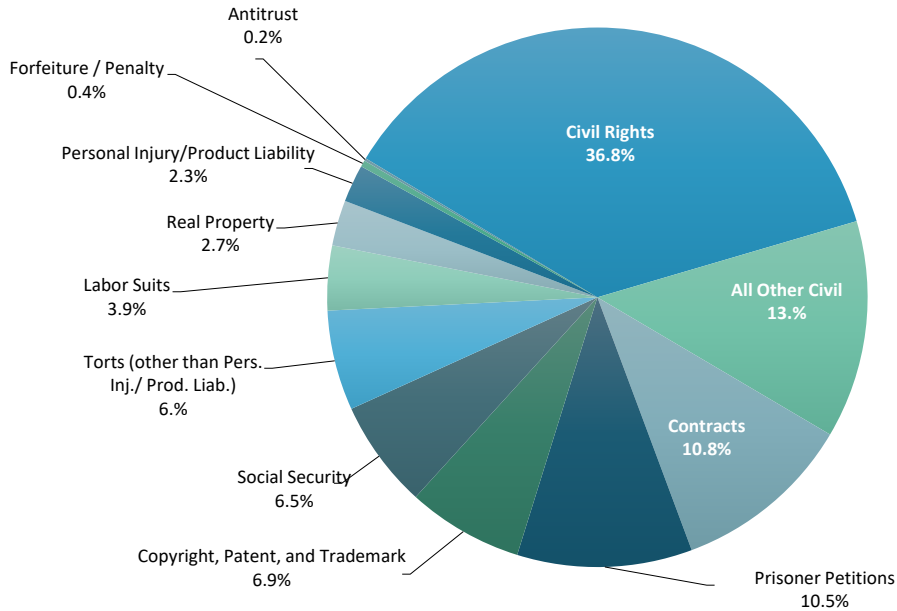
Criminal Caseload Measures

Criminal Caseload Measures						% Change	% Change
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	(FY20/19)	(FY20/16)
FILINGS							
Cases	860	927	1,170	1,138	810	-28.8%	-5.8%
Defendants	1,248	1,346	1,707	1,801	1,033	-42.6%	-17.2%
TERMINATIONS							
Cases	688	843	966	978	704	-28.0%	2.3%
Defendants	1,130	1,239	1,339	1,367	1,076	-21.3%	-4.8%
PENDING							
Cases	2,020	2,088	2,322	2,466	2,503	1.5%	23.9%
Defendants	3,038	3,133	3,518	3,861	3,719	-3.7%	22.4%

Between FY2016 and FY2020, the total number of criminal case filings decreased 5.8 percent, and criminal defendant filings increased 2.3 percent, while criminal cases pending increased 23.9 percent. In FY2020, the significant drop in criminal filings was due to COVID-19 when grand jury proceedings were suspended intermittently between March and September, criminal case filings decreased 28.8 percent, and filings for criminal defendants decreased 42.6 percent from FY2019. In FY2020, criminal case terminations in the Central District of California decreased 28 percent; terminations for criminal defendants decreased 21.3 percent; pending criminal cases increased 1.5 percent; and, pending criminal defendants decreased 3.7 percent from FY2019.



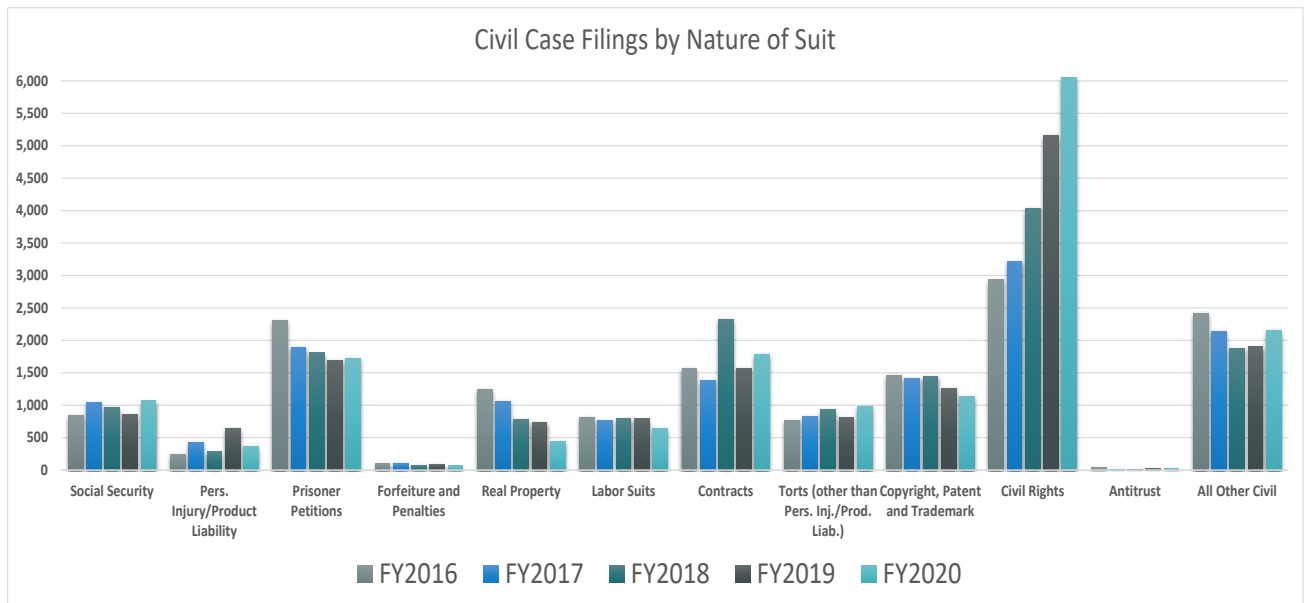
Civil Case Filings



Civil rights case filings constituted the highest percentage of all civil case filing categories at 36.8 percent in FY2020. There were more civil rights, all other civil, and contracts filed in FY2020; however, there were significantly fewer personal injury/product liability, and real property cases filed compared to FY2019. In FY2020, social security increased 24.2 percent, torts (other than personal injury/product liability) increased 21.2 percent, civil rights increased 17.6 percent, and contracts increased 13.7 percent from FY2019.

Civil Case Filings	
Civil Rights	6,063
All Other Civil	2,148
Contracts	1,783
Prisoner Petitions	1,724
Copyright, Patent, and Trademark	1,142
Social Security	1,067
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./ Prod. Liab.)	987
Labor Suits	638
Real Property	449
Personal Injury/Product Liability	371
Forfeiture / Penalty	64
Antitrust	25
Total	16,461

Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit

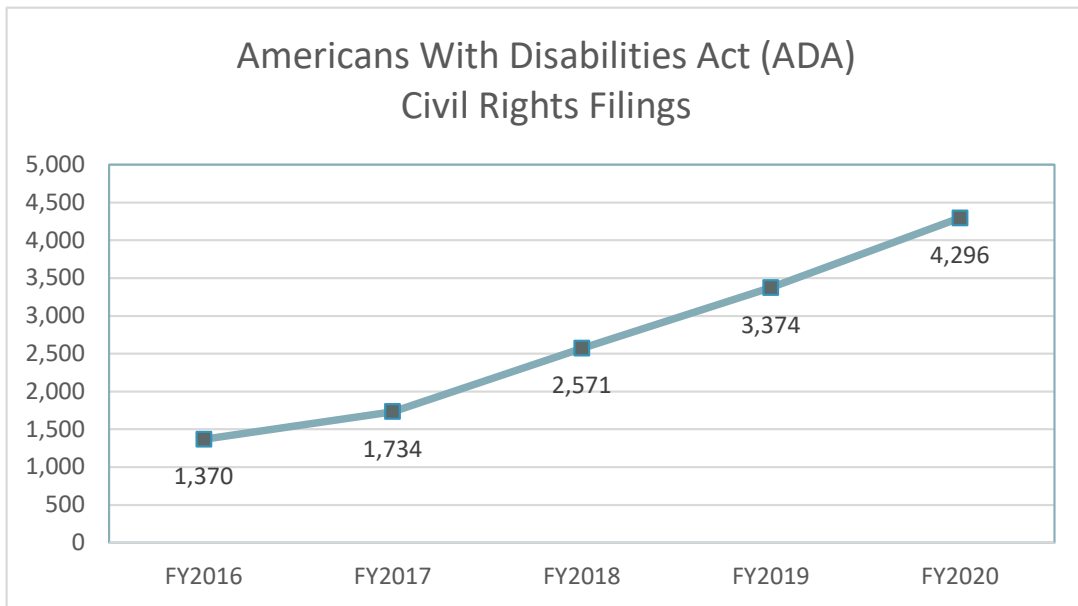


Civil Case Categories	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	% Change FY20/19	% Change F20/16
Social Security	844	1,041	959	859	1,067	24.2%	26.4%
Pers. Injury/Product Liability	247	428	281	635	371	-41.6%	50.2%
Prisoner Petitions	2,310	1,885	1,806	1,693	1,724	1.8%	-25.4%
Forfeiture and Penalties	102	105	76	89	64	-28.1%	-37.3%
Real Property	1,242	1,065	786	729	449	-38.4%	-63.8%
Labor Suits	808	762	792	790	638	-19.2%	-21.0%
Contracts	1,569	1,381	2,322	1,568	1,783	13.7%	13.6%
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	768	820	931	815	987	21.1%	28.5%
Copyright, Patent and Trademark	1,457	1,416	1,449	1,265	1,142	-9.7%	-21.6%
Civil Rights	2,931	3,215	4,043	5,154	6,063	17.6%	106.9%
Antitrust	39	15	14	18	25	38.9%	-35.9%
All Other Civil	2,414	2,142	1,876	1,899	2,148	13.1%	-11.0%
Total	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	6.1%	11.7%

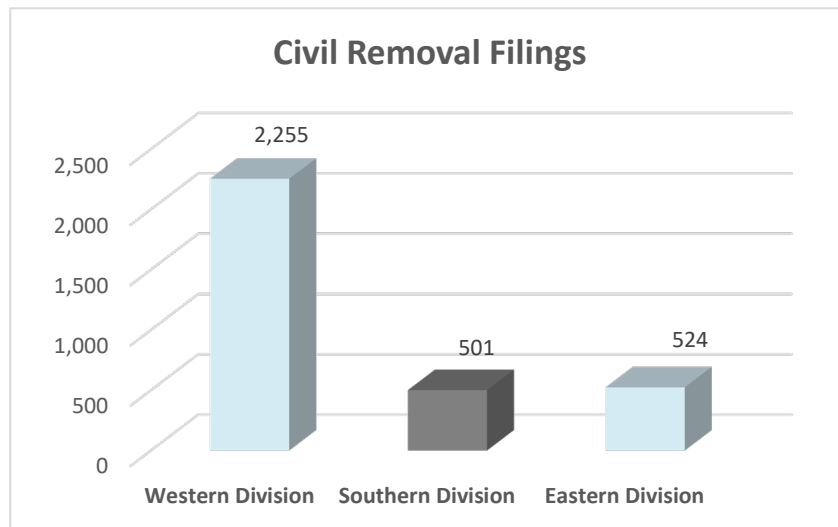
Americans With Disabilities Act

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Civil Rights Filings							
	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	% Change FY20/19	% Change FY20/16
ADA Civil Filings	1,370	1,734	2,571	3,374	4,296	27.3%	213.6%
Total Civil Filings	14,731	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	6.1%	11.7%
Percentage of Total Civil Filings	9.3%	12.1%	16.8%	21.7%	26.1%	20.0%	180.6%

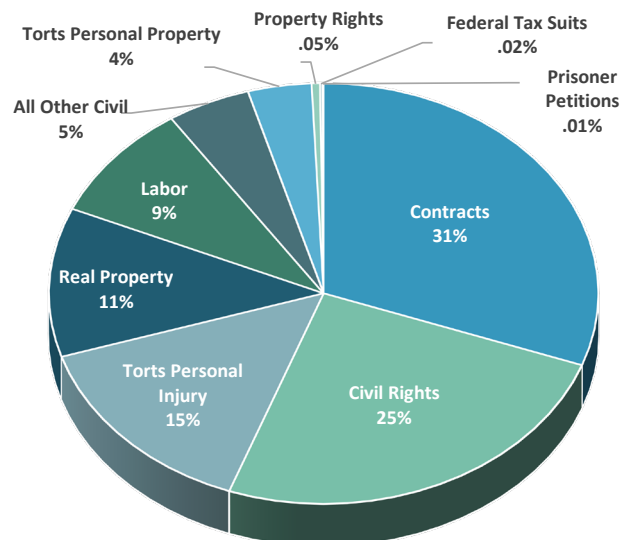
The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Civil Rights filings in FY 2020 comprised 26.1 percent of California Central District’s total civil filings. From FY 2019 to FY 2020, ADA filings increased 27.3 percent, and over the five-year period, from FY 2016 to FY 2020, ADA filings have increased 213.6 percent. ADA filings have surged, and from FY 2016 through FY 2020, while total civil filings increased 11.7 percent, the percentage of ADA filings to total civil filings have increased 180.6 percent.



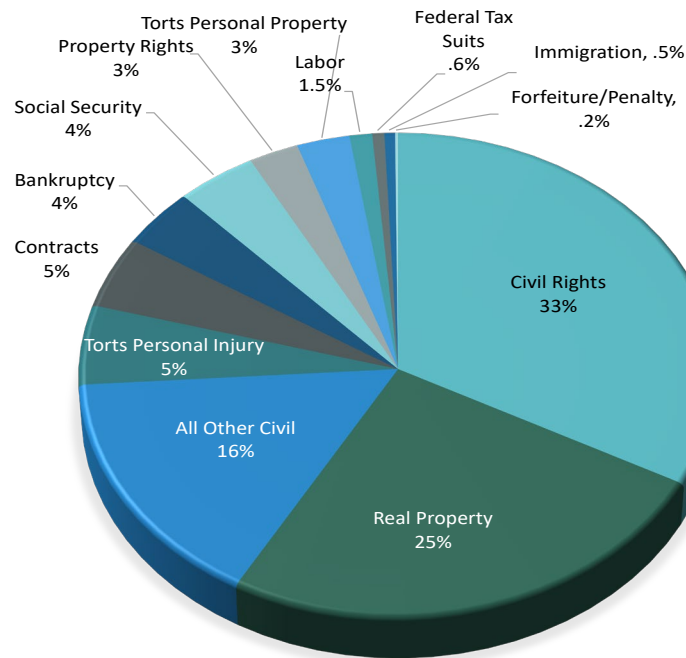
Civil Removal Filings



A total of 3,280 civil removal cases were filed in FY2020, a decrease of 9.5 percent from FY2019. Civil removal filings represented 19.6 percent of the total filings in the Central District of California: 69 percent of the removals were filed in the Western Division; 15 percent were filed in the Southern Division; and, 16 percent were filed in the Eastern Division. The largest percentage of civil removal filings were contracts (31 percent) and civil rights (25 percent) cases.



Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings

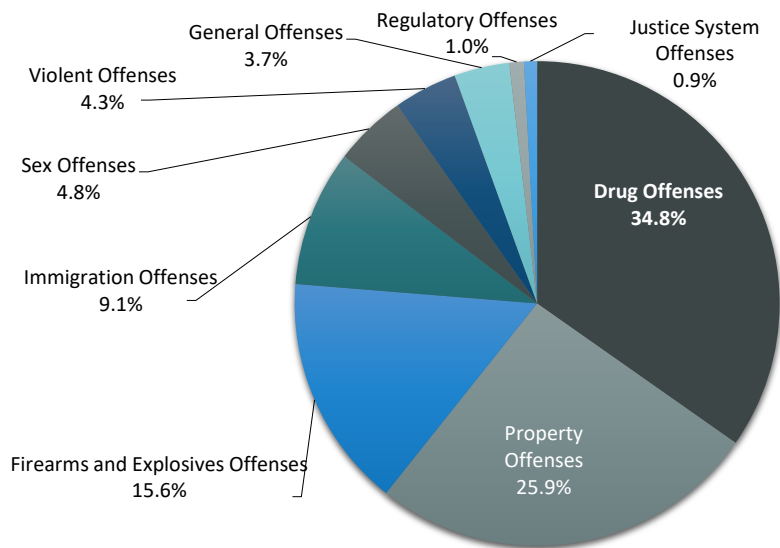


8 percent of the 16,461 total civil cases filed in FY2020 were non-prisoner cases with at least one pro se party.² Of these, 58 percent were civil rights and real property cases.

Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings	
Civil Rights	415
Real Property	324
All Other Civil	199
Torts Personal Injury	67
Contracts	60
Bankruptcy	50
Social Security	53
Property Rights	33
Torts Personal Property	35
Labor	15
Federal Tax Suits	8
Immigration	7
Forfeiture/Penalty	2
Total Filings	1,268

² The number of non-prisoner pro se filings are non-prisoner cases filed in FY2020 that had at least one party with a pro se status entered as of September 30, 2020.

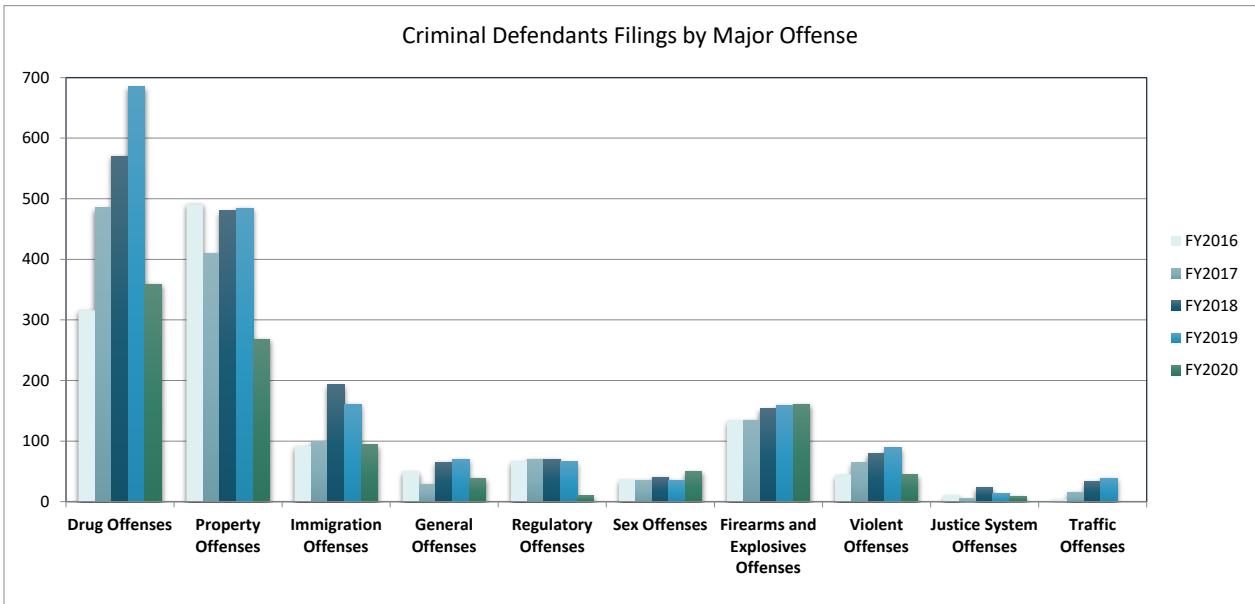
Criminal Defendant Filings



In FY2020, criminal defendant filings decreased 42.6 percent from FY2019. The top three major offense categories for criminal defendant filings in FY2020 were drug offenses (34.8 percent), property offenses (25.9 percent), and firearms and explosives offenses (15.6 percent). The number of defendants charged with drug offenses decreased by 47.6 percent, the number of defendants charged with property offenses decreased by 44.6 percent, and the number of defendants charged with immigration offenses decreased by 41.6 percent from FY2019.

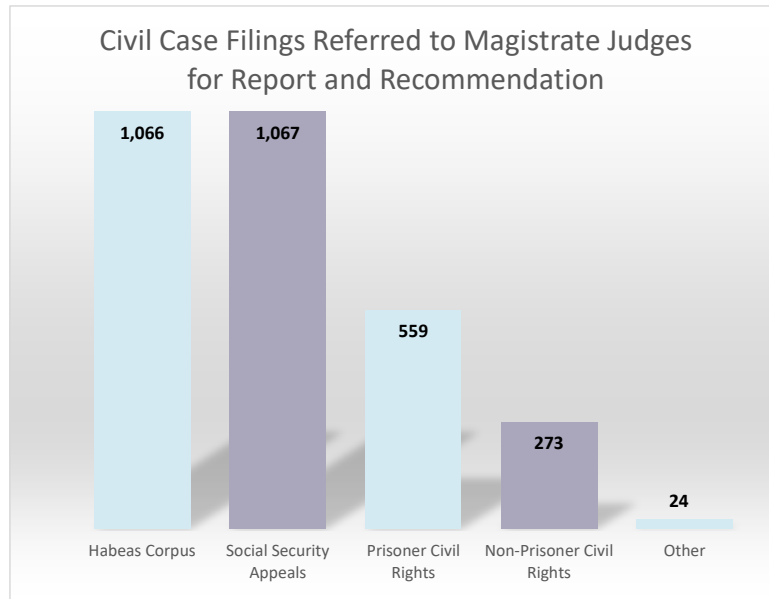
Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense	
Major Offense Category	Criminal Defendants
Drug Offenses	359
Property Offenses	268
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	161
Immigration Offenses	94
Sex Offenses	50
Violent Offenses	44
General Offenses	38
Regulatory Offenses	10
Justice System Offenses	9
Traffic Offenses	0
Total	1,033

Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense

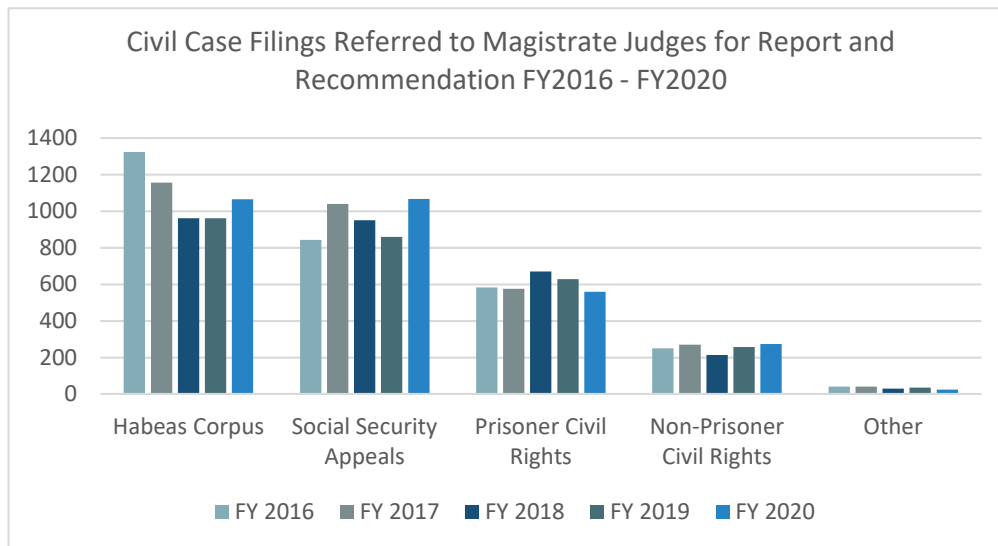


Major Offense Category	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	% Change FY20/19	% Change FY20/16
Drug Offenses	316	485	570	685	359	-47.6%	13.6%
Property Offenses	491	409	480	484	268	-44.6%	-45.4%
Immigration Offenses	92	99	193	161	94	-41.6%	2.2%
General Offenses	51	29	65	70	38	-45.7%	-25.5%
Regulatory Offenses	67	70	70	66	10	-84.8%	-85.1%
Sex Offenses	37	35	40	35	50	42.9%	35.1%
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	134	134	153	159	161	1.3%	20.1%
Violent Offenses	45	64	79	89	44	-50.6%	-2.2%
Justice System Offenses	11	5	23	13	9	-30.8%	-18.2%
Traffic Offenses	4	16	34	39	0	-100.0%	-100.0%
Total	1,248	1,346	1,707	1,801	1,033	-42.6%	-17.2%

Civil Case Filings Referred to Magistrate Judges for Report and Recommendation

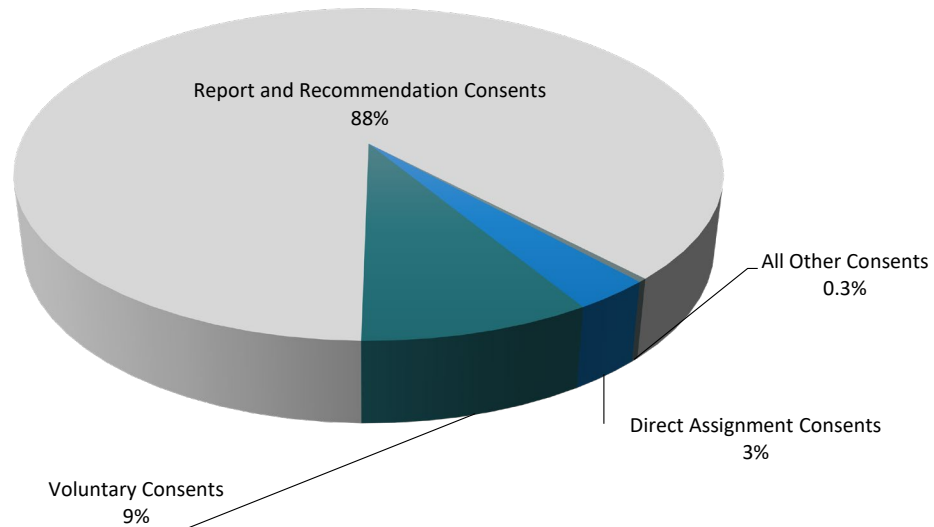


In FY2020, 18.2 percent of the total civil filings were referred to Magistrate Judges for report and recommendations. Of the cases referred for report and recommendations, 35.7 percent were habeas corpus petitions, 36.7 percent were Social Security appeal cases, 18.7 percent were prisoner civil rights cases, 9.1 percent were non-prisoner pro se civil rights cases, and 1 percent were other cases referred for report and recommendations.

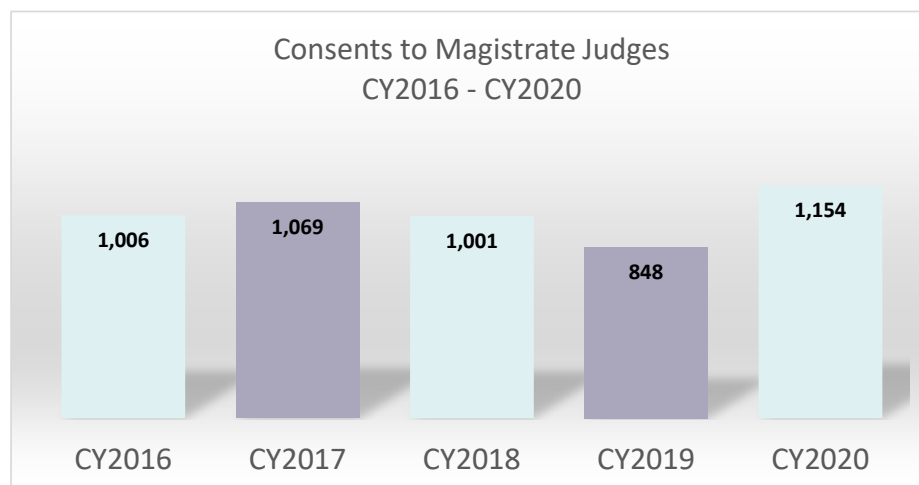


Consents to Magistrate Judges

12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2020



Parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in a total of 1,154 cases in calendar year 2020, a 36.1 percent increase from 2019. Of this total, all parties consented in 1,012 cases that were referred to a Magistrate Judge for a report and recommendation; all parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in 103 cases through the Voluntary Consent to Magistrate Judges Program; all parties consented in 35 cases assigned to the Direct Assignment of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges Program; and, there were four cases where all parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in other civil cases.



Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics

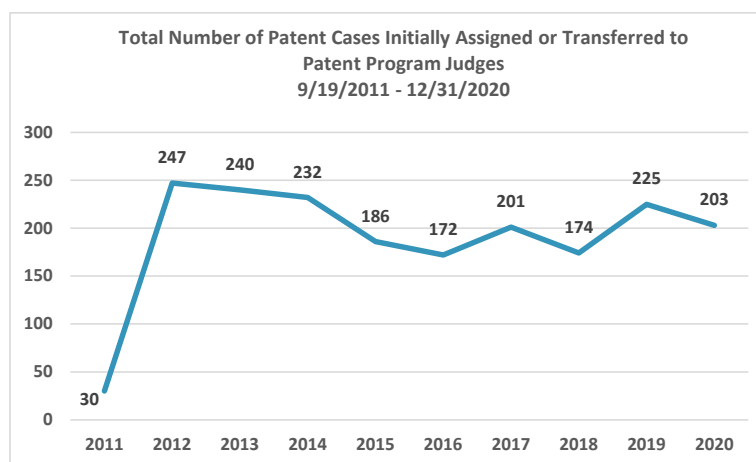
2020 Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics	
Number of cases with settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	272
Number of settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	307
Number of cases settled	130
Percent of cases settled	48%

In calendar year 2020, Magistrate Judges held 307 settlement conferences in 272 cases. Of these, the Magistrate Judges settled 130 cases for a 48 percent settlement rate. The Magistrate Judges spent 1,873 hours, equivalent to 234 8-hour-work days, on settling these cases.

Patent Pilot Program

Central District of California											
Patent Pilot Program 9/19/11- 12/31/20											
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	110	519	417	298	268	273	296	286	326	270	3063
Patent Cases Initially Assigned to Patent Program Judges	18	55	44	47	45	47	70	65	63	62	516
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Pilot Program via CV-128 Order	5	52	81	76	74	64	68	60	87	84	651
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	57	743
Total Number of Patent Cases Initially Assigned or Transferred to Patent Program Judges	30	247	240	232	186	172	201	174	225	203	1910
Patent Cases Transferred Out of the Patent Pilot Program	1	14	10	5	11	1	10	7	4	9	72

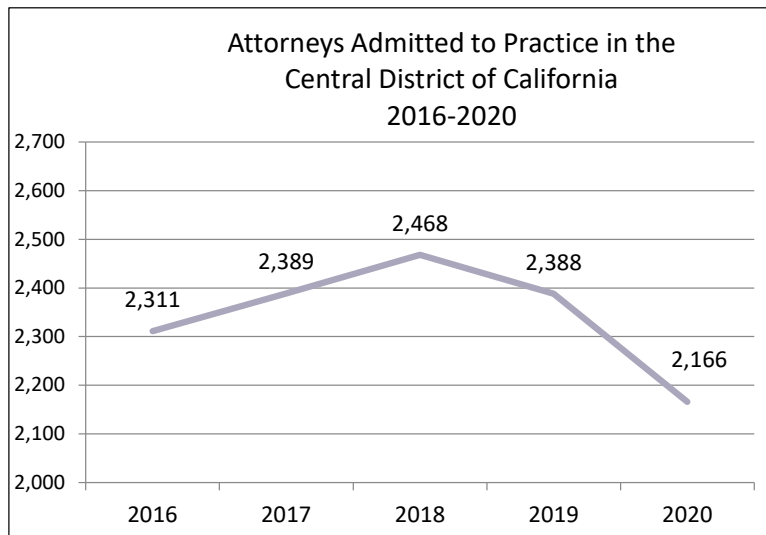
In calendar year 2020, eight District Judges participated in the Patent Pilot Program in the Central District of California. In 2020, the Judges designated to receive patent cases under the Patent Pilot Program received 203 patent cases, of which 62 were initially assigned to them, 84 cases were transferred to the program from non-participating Judges, and 57 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 2020 decreased by 17.2 percent, and the number of cases transferred to the program by non-participating Judges decreased by 3.4 percent from 2019. In 2020, the percentage of patent cases filed that were assigned or transferred to Judges participating in the Patent Pilot Program was 75.2 percent. Since the start of the Patent Pilot Program in September of 2011, a total of 1,910 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							
Calendar Years 2016-2020							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	%Change (20/19)	% Change (20/16)
Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California	2,311	2,389	2,468	2,388	2,166	-9.3%	-6.3%

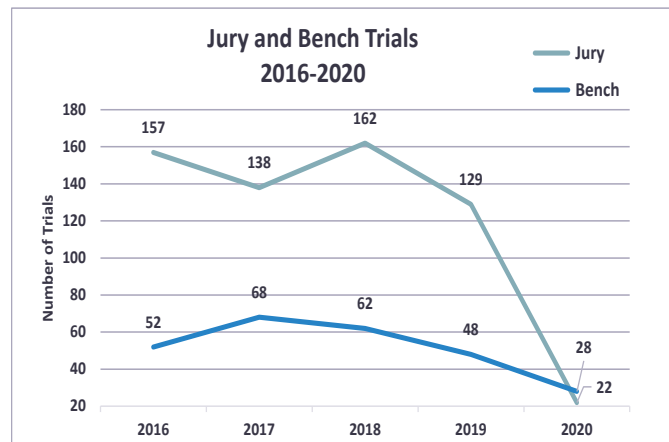
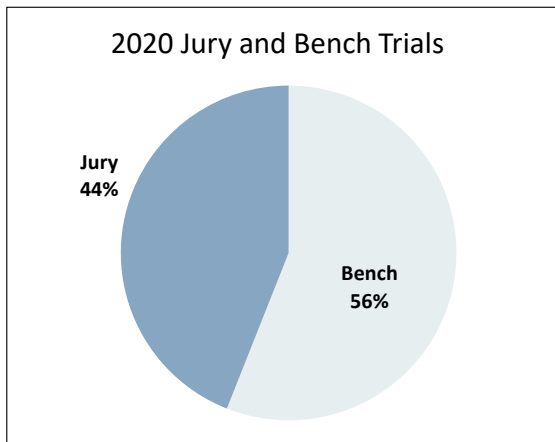
In calendar year 2020, the Central District of California saw a 9.3 percent decrease in attorneys admitted to the bar of the Court. During the five-year period ending December 31, 2020, the number of attorneys admitted to practice in the Central District of California was at its highest in 2018 at 2,468.



Trials

JURY AND BENCH TRIALS							
Calendar Years 2016-2020							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 20/19	% Change 20/16
Civil Jury	84	83	99	74	10	-86%	-88%
Criminal Jury	73	55	63	55	12	-78%	-84%
Civil Bench	47	59	45	42	27	-36%	-43%
Criminal Bench	5	9	17	6	1	-83%	-80%
Total	209	206	224	177	50	-72%	-76%

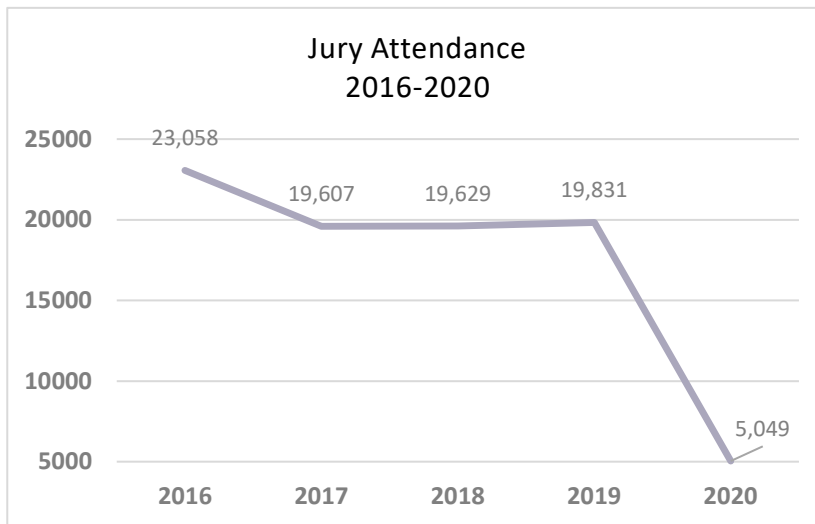
In calendar year 2020 a total of 50 trials were held before all Judges in the Central District of California, a 72 percent decrease from 2019 primarily as a result of the suspension of jury trials due to the OVID-19 pandemic. Of the 50 trials, 56 percent were bench trials, and 44 percent were jury trials. From 2019 to 2020, civil jury trials dropped 86 percent; civil bench trials decreased 36 percent; criminal jury trials decreased 78 percent, and criminal bench trials decreased by 83 percent. During the five-year period ending December 31, 2020, trials decreased 76 percent overall.



Jury

Jury Attendance						
Calendar Years 2016-2020						
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 20/19	% Change 20/16
23,058	19,607	19,629	19,831	5,049	-74.5%	-78%

In calendar year 2020, there were 5,049 jurors in attendance for the Central District of California, a 74.5 percent decrease from 2019 as a result of the suspension of jury trials and grand jury proceedings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the five-year period ending December 31, 2020, the number of jurors in attendance decreased 78 percent from 23,058 in 2016.



Naturalization

Naturalizations						
Calendar Years 2016-2020						
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change 20/19	% Change 20/16
70,814	91,435	76,920	73,044	17,057	-77%	-76%

In calendar year 2020, the Central District of California naturalized 17,057 citizens, a 77 percent drop from 73,044 in 2019 as a result of the suspension of naturalization ceremonies due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the five-year period ending December 31, 2020, the Central District of California naturalized over 329,270 citizens.

