

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Annual Report of Caseload Statistics



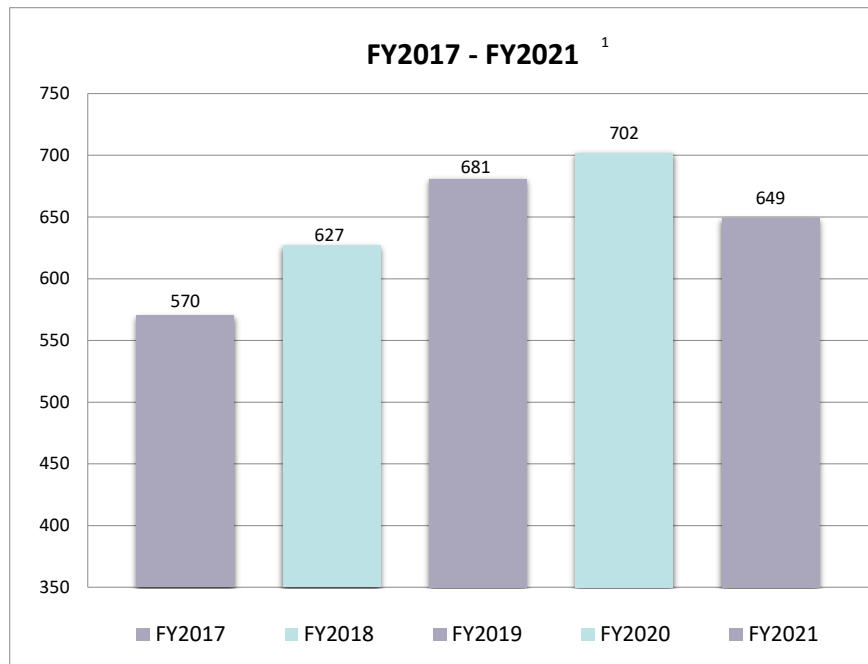
**FISCAL YEAR
2021**

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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 declined to 649 for fiscal year¹ (“FY”) 2021, a decrease of 8 percent from 702 a year ago. Overall, weighted filings have increased 14 percent over the five-year period from FY2017 to FY2021. The Central District of California’s weighted filings per judgeship was 13.3 percent higher than the national average of 573. The Central District of California ranked 14th in the nation and 3rd in the Ninth Circuit for weighted filings in FY2021.

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

Judicial Vacancies

Vacant Judgeship Months				
FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
55	72	94.7	113.9	95.5

Number of Judicial Vacancies				
FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
5	6	9	7	6

The Central District of California has 28 authorized Article III judgeships. At the end of FY2021, the Central District had six vacancies with the oldest vacancy from October 29, 2015. At the end of FY2021, the number of vacant judgeship months was the second highest in the Court's history at 95.5 months. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2021, vacant judgeship months rose 74 percent from 55 in FY2017 to 95.5 in FY2021. Vacant judgeship months are the total number of months that vacancies occurred in any judgeship position in a circuit or district.

District Caseload Measures

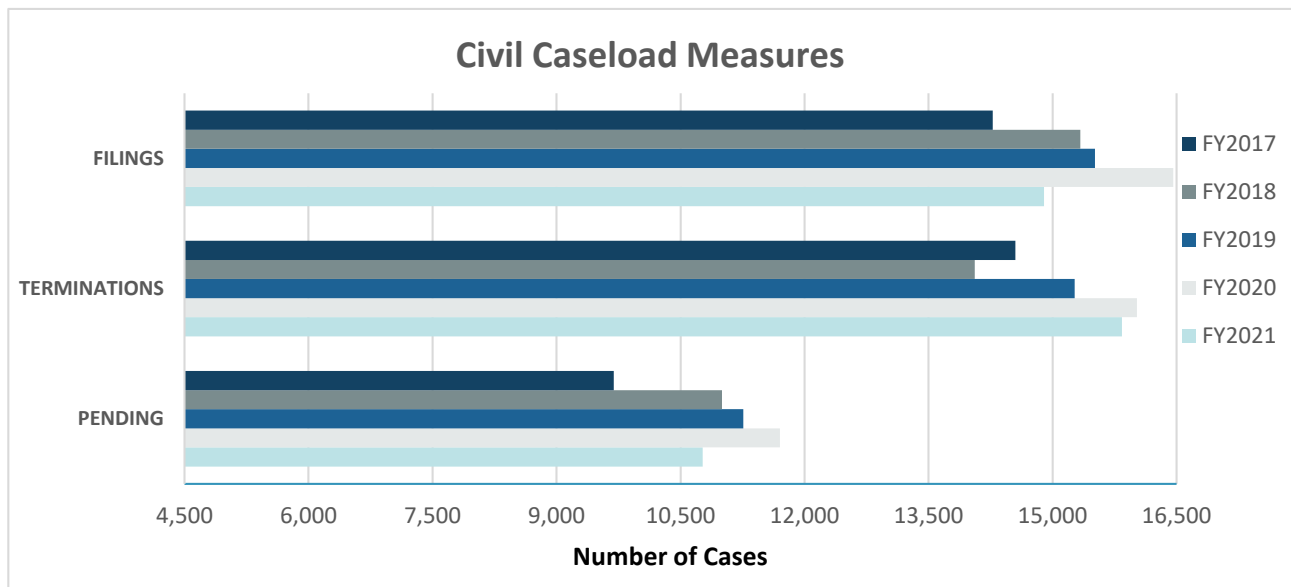
	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	% Change FY21/20	% Change FY21/17
FILINGS							
Civil	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	14,897	-9.5%	4.4%
Criminal Cases	927	1,170	1,138	810	817	0.9%	-11.9%
Total	15,202	16,505	16,652	17,271	15,714	-9.0%	3.4%
TERMINATIONS							
Civil	14,549	14,057	15,265	16,019	15,838	-1.1%	8.9%
Criminal Cases	843	966	978	704	655	-7.0%	-22.3%
Total	15,392	15,023	16,243	16,723	16,493	-1.4%	7.2%
PENDING							
Civil	9,692	11,001	11,259	11,703	10,769	-8.0%	11.1%
Criminal Cases	2,088	2,322	2,466	2,503	2,652	6.0%	27.0%
Total	11,780	13,323	13,725	14,206	13,421	-5.5%	13.9%

In FY2021, the Central District of California saw a 9 percent decline in combined civil and criminal case filings from FY2020. Total case terminations decreased 1.4 percent and total pending cases were lowered by 5.5 percent from FY2020. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2021, total civil and criminal case filings increased by 3.4 percent; total terminations increased by 7.2 percent, and total pending cases rose 13.9 percent.

Civil Caseload Measures

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	% Change FY21/20	% Change FY21/17
Filings	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	14,897	-9.5%	4.4%
Termination	14,549	14,057	15,265	16,019	15,838	-1.1%	8.9%
Pending	9,692	11,001	11,259	11,703	10,769	-8.0%	11.1%

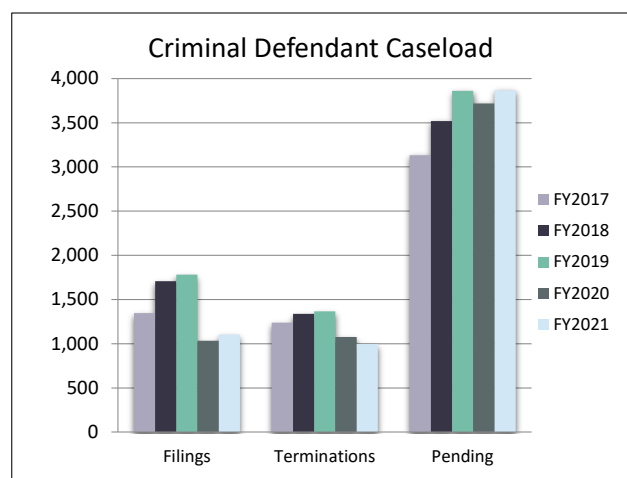
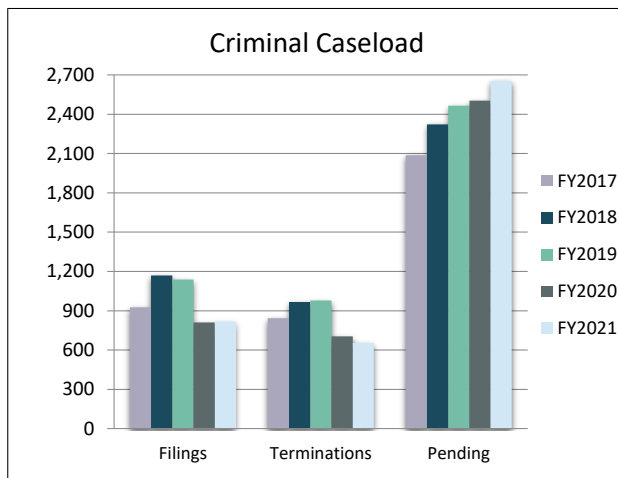
A total of 14,897 civil cases were filed in FY2021, a decrease of 9.5 percent from 16,461 in FY2020. Terminations decreased 1.1 percent, and pending civil cases fell 8 percent from FY2020. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2021, civil case filings increased 4.4 percent, terminations increased 8.9 percent, and pending civil cases rose 11.1 percent.



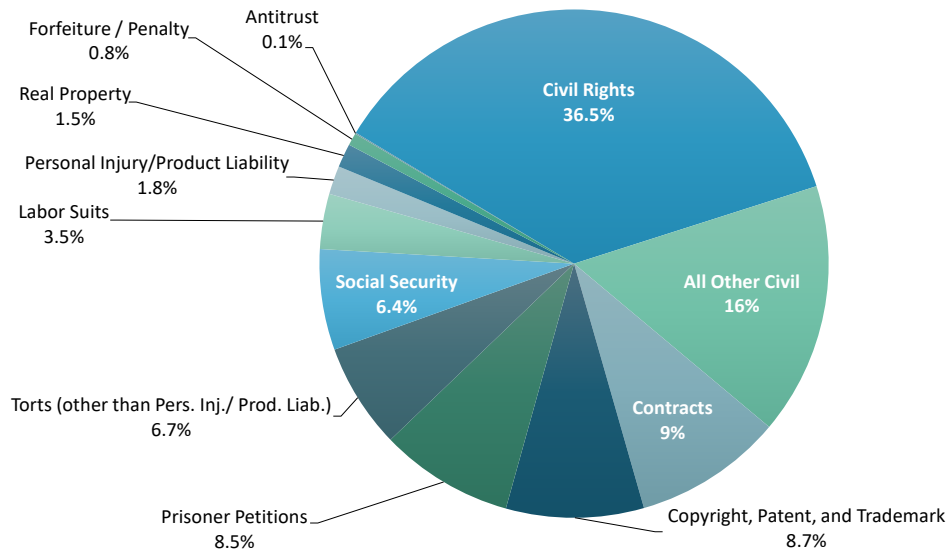
Criminal Caseload Measures

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	% Change FY21/20	% Change FY21/17
FILINGS							
Cases	927	1,170	1,138	810	817	0.9%	-11.9%
Defendants	1,346	1,707	1,801	1,033	1,104	6.9%	-18.0%
TERMINATIONS							
Cases	843	966	978	704	655	-7.0%	-22.3%
Defendants	1,239	1,339	1,367	1,076	997	-7.3%	-19.5%
PENDING							
Cases	2,088	2,322	2,466	2,503	2,652	6.0%	27.0%
Defendants	3,133	3,518	3,861	3,719	3,865	3.9%	23.4%

Between FY2017 and FY2021, the total number of criminal case filings decreased 11.9 percent, criminal case terminations dropped 22.3 percent, and criminal cases pending rose 27 percent. In FY2021, criminal case filings increased .9 percent, criminal defendant filings increased 6.9 percent, and criminal cases pending increased 6 percent from FY2020. During the five-year period ending September 30, 2021, defendant filings declined 18 percent, defendant terminations decreased 19.5 percent, and pending criminal defendants rose 23.4 percent.



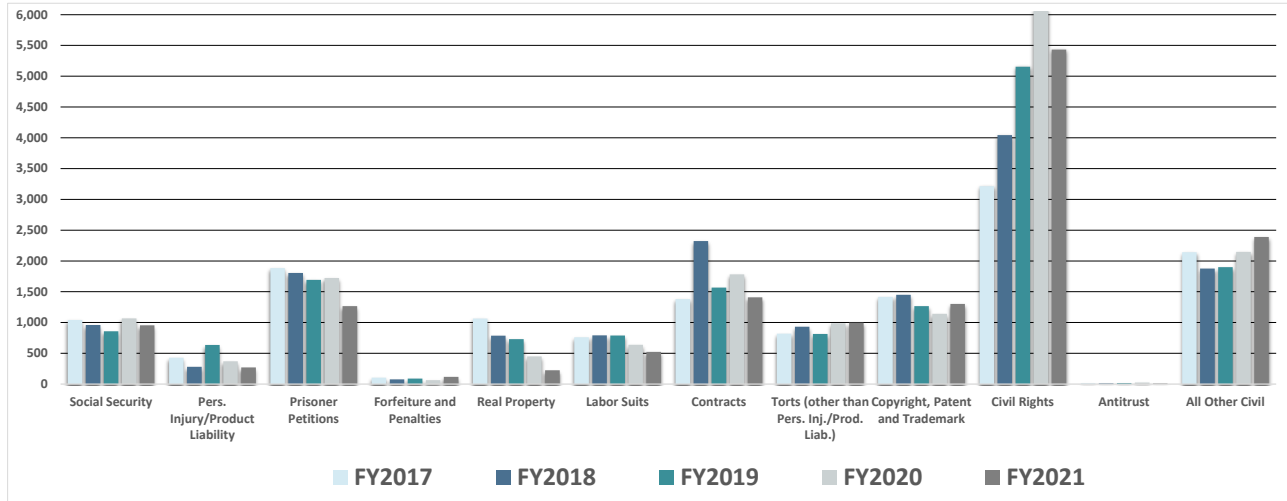
Civil Case Filings



Civil rights case filings constituted the highest percentage of all civil case filing categories at 36.5 percent in FY2021. There were more copyright, patent, trademark, and all other civil cases filed in FY2021; however, there were significantly fewer personal injury/product liability, real property, and labor suits filed compared to FY2020. In FY2021, copyright, patent, and trademark case filings increased 14.1 percent, all other civil case filings increased 11.2 percent, and forfeiture and penalties case filings increased 82.8 percent from FY2020.

Civil Case Filings	
Civil Rights	5,431
All Other Civil	2,389
Contracts	1,410
Copyright, Patent, and Trademark	1,303
Prisoner Petitions	1,266
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./ Prod. Liab.)	997
Social Security	955
Labor Suits	523
Personal Injury/Product Liability	270
Real Property	225
Forfeiture / Penalty	117
Antitrust	11
Total	14,897

Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit

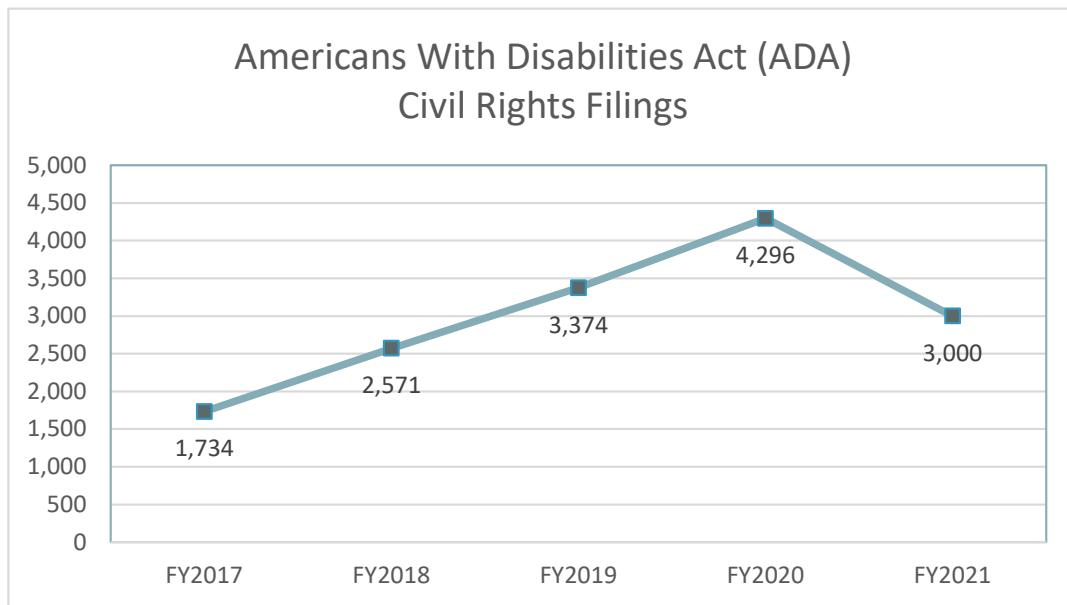


Civil Case Filings by Nature of Suit							
Civil Case Categories	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	% Change FY21/20	% Change F21/17
Social Security	1,041	959	859	1,067	955	-10.5%	-8.3%
Pers. Injury/Product Liability	428	281	635	371	270	-27.2%	-36.9%
Prisoner Petitions	1,885	1,806	1,693	1,724	1,266	-26.6%	-32.8%
Forfeiture and Penalties	105	76	89	64	117	82.8%	11.4%
Real Property	1,065	786	729	449	225	-49.9%	-78.9%
Labor Suits	762	792	790	638	523	-18.0%	-31.4%
Contracts	1,381	2,322	1,568	1,783	1,410	-20.9%	2.1%
Torts (other than Pers. Inj./Prod. Liab.)	820	931	815	987	997	1.0%	21.6%
Copyright, Patent and Trademark	1,416	1,449	1,265	1,142	1,303	14.1%	-8.0%
Civil Rights	3,215	4,043	5,154	6,063	5,431	-10.4%	68.9%
Antitrust	15	14	18	25	11	-56.0%	-26.7%
All Other Civil	2,142	1,876	1,899	2,148	2,389	11.2%	11.5%
Total	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	14,897	-9.5%	4.4%

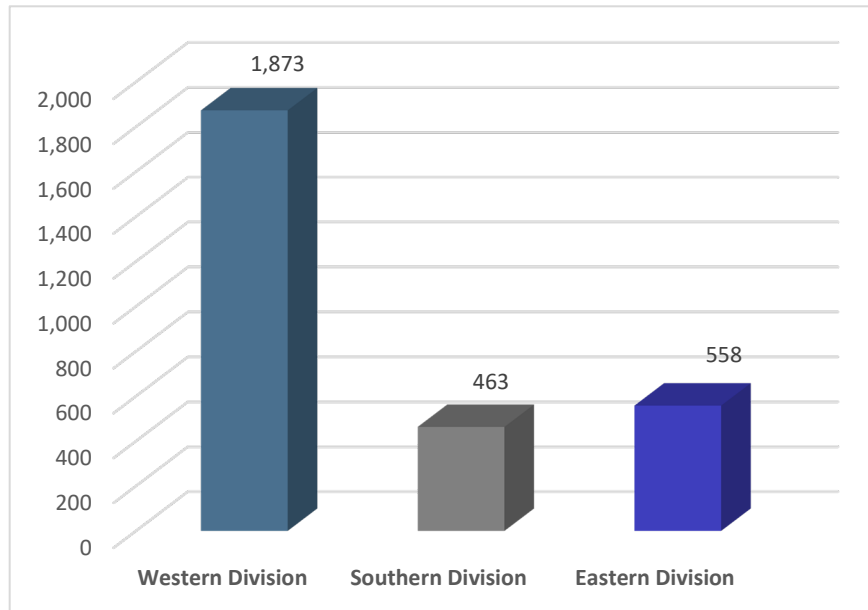
Americans With Disabilities Act

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	% Change FY21/20	% Change FY21/17
ADA Civil Filings	1,734	2,571	3,374	4,296	3,000	-30.2%	73.0%
Total Civil Filings	14,275	15,335	15,514	16,461	14,897	-9.5%	4.4%
Percentage of Total Civil Filings	12.1%	16.8%	21.7%	26.1%	20.1%	-22.8%	65.8%

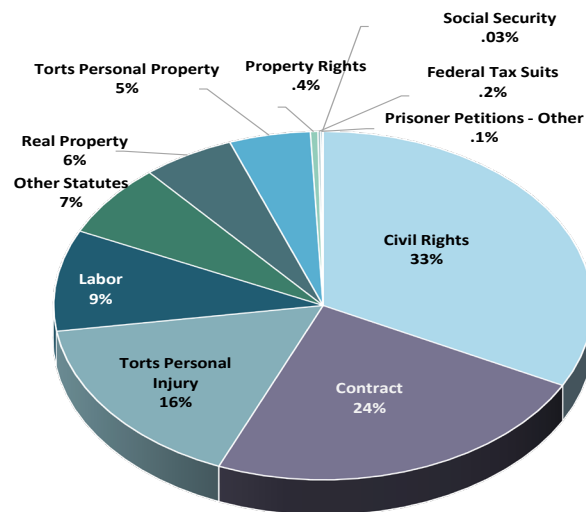
The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) civil rights filings in FY2021 comprised 20.1 percent of California Central District’s total civil filings. From FY2020 to FY2021, ADA filings decreased 30.2 percent, while over the five-year period, from FY2017 to FY2021, ADA filings have increased 73 percent. In fact, from FY2017 through FY2021, while total civil filings increased 4.4 percent, the percentage of ADA filings to total civil filings have increased 65.8 percent.



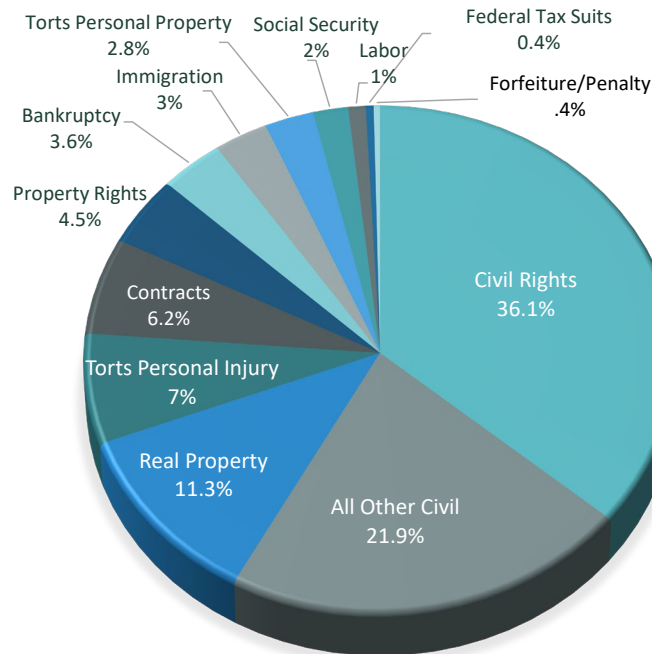
Civil Removal Filings



A total of 2,894 civil removal cases were filed in FY2021, a decrease of 11.8 percent from FY2020. Civil removal filings represented 19.4 percent of the total filings in the Central District of California: 65 percent of the removals were filed in the Western Division; 16 percent were filed in the Southern Division; and 19 percent were filed in the Eastern Division. The largest percentage of civil removal filings were civil rights (33 percent) and contract (24 percent) cases.



Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings

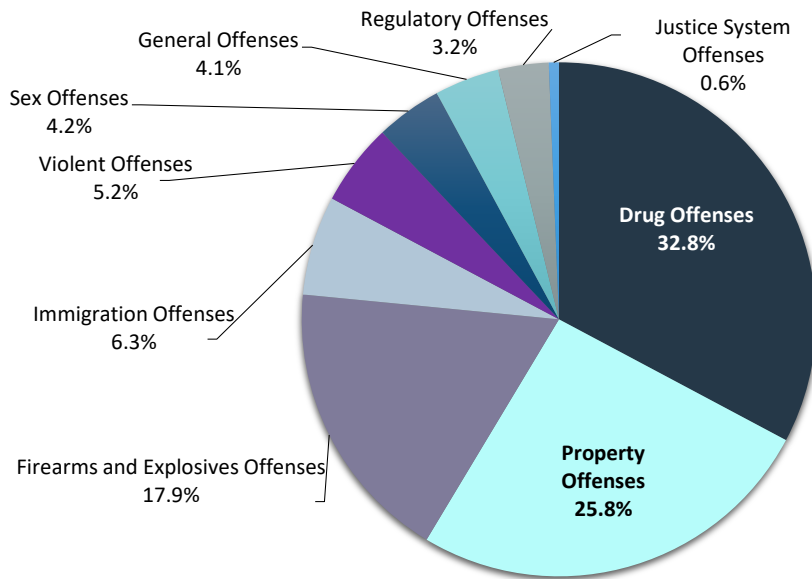


8 percent of the 14,897 total civil cases filed in FY2021 were non-prisoner cases with at least one pro se party.² Of these, 58 percent were civil rights and all other civil cases. During FY2021, 72 percent of the non-prisoner pro se filings were filed in the Western Division, 16 percent were filed in the Eastern Division, and 12 percent were filed in the Southern Division.

Non-Prisoner Pro Se Filings	
Civil Rights	404
All Other Civil	245
Real Property	126
Torts Personal Injury	78
Contracts	69
Property Rights	50
Bankruptcy	40
Immigration	34
Torts Personal Property	31
Social Security	22
Labor	11
Federal Tax Suits	5
Forfeiture/Penalty	4
Total Filings	1,119

² The number of non-prisoner pro se filings are non-prisoner cases filed in FY2021 that had at least one party with a pro se status entered as of September 30, 2021.

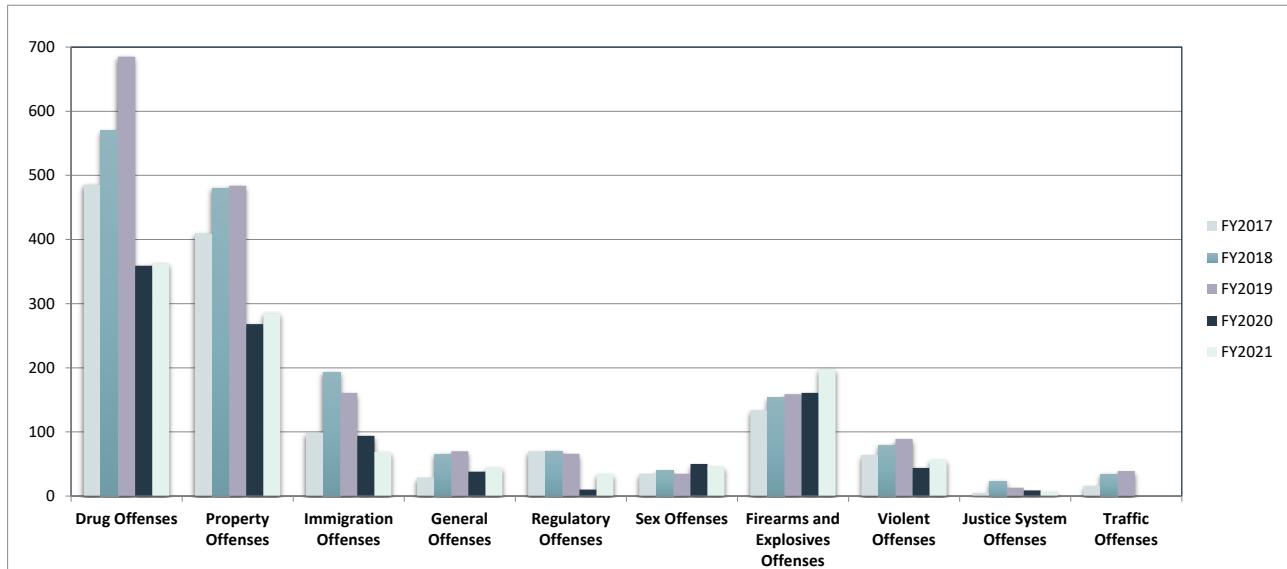
Criminal Defendant Filings



In FY2021, criminal defendant filings increased 6.9 percent from FY2020. The top three major offense categories for criminal defendant filings in FY2021 were drug offenses (32.8 percent), property offenses (25.8 percent), and firearms and explosives offenses (17.9 percent). The number of defendants charged with drug offenses slightly increased by .8 percent, the number of defendants charged with property offenses increased by 6.3 percent, and the number of defendants charged with firearms and explosives offenses increased by 23 percent from FY2020.

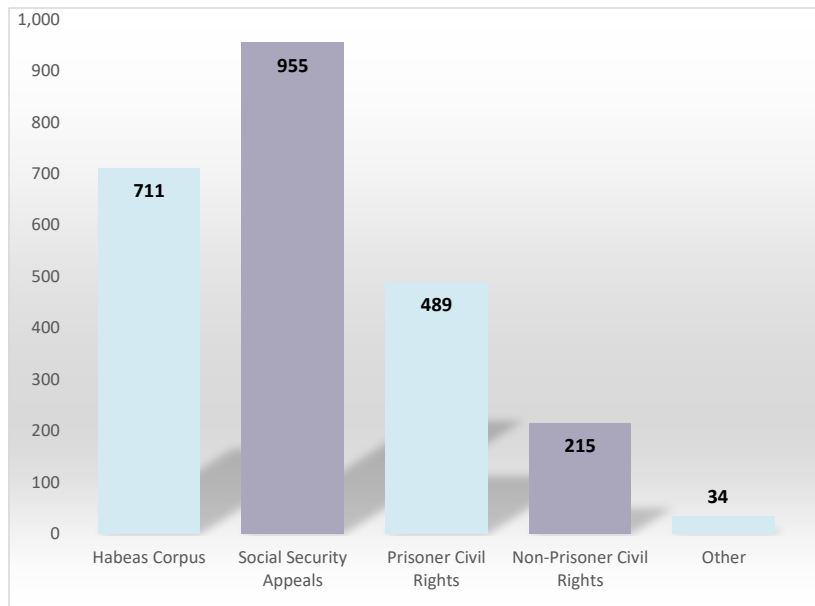
Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense	
Major Offense Category	Criminal Defendants
Drug Offenses	362
Property Offenses	285
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	198
Immigration Offenses	69
Violent Offenses	57
Sex Offenses	46
General Offenses	45
Regulatory Offenses	35
Justice System Offenses	7
Traffic Offenses	0
Total	1,104

Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense

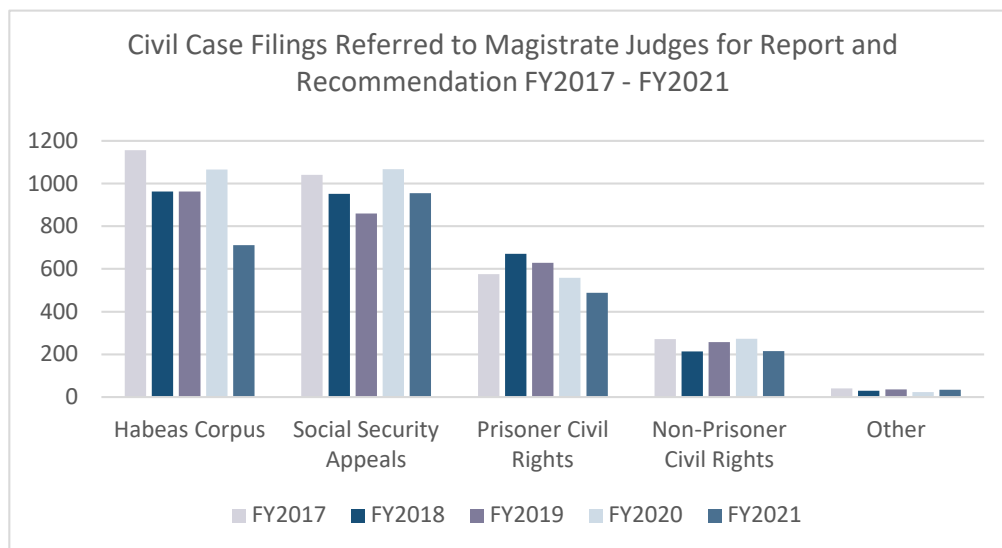


Criminal Defendant Filings by Major Offense							
Major Offense Category	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	% Change FY21/20	% Change FY21/17
Drug Offenses	485	570	685	359	362	0.8%	-25.4%
Property Offenses	409	480	484	268	285	6.3%	-30.3%
Immigration Offenses	99	193	161	94	69	-26.6%	-30.3%
General Offenses	29	65	70	38	45	18.4%	55.2%
Regulatory Offenses	70	70	66	10	35	250.0%	-50.0%
Sex Offenses	35	40	35	50	46	-8.0%	31.4%
Firearms and Explosives Offenses	134	153	159	161	198	23.0%	47.8%
Violent Offenses	64	79	89	44	57	29.5%	-10.9%
Justice System Offenses	5	23	13	9	7	-22.2%	40.0%
Traffic Offenses	16	34	39	0	0	0.0%	-100.0%
Total	1,346	1,707	1,801	1,033	1,104	6.9%	-18.0%

Civil Case Filings Referred to Magistrate Judges for Report and Recommendation

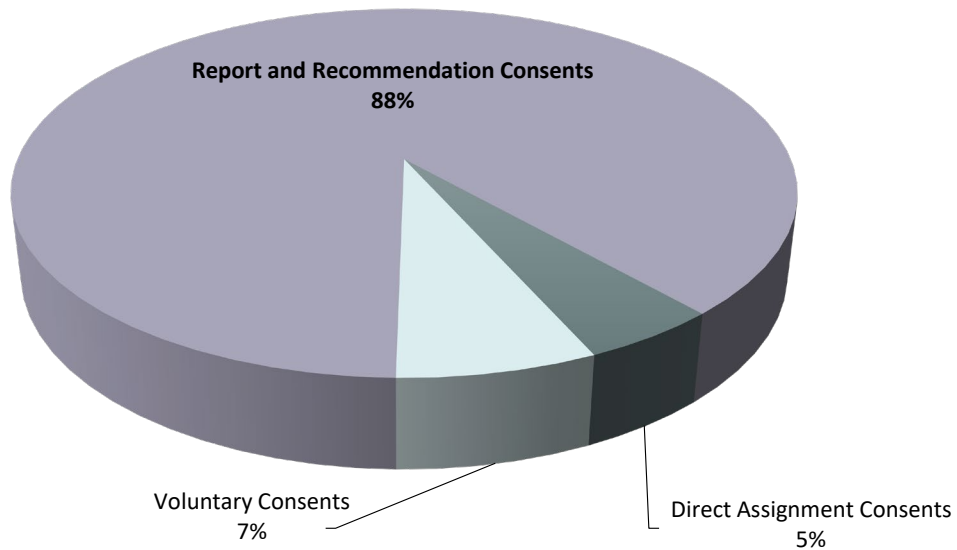


In FY2021, 16.1 percent of the total civil filings were referred to Magistrate Judges for report and recommendations. Of the cases referred for report and recommendations, 29.6 percent were habeas corpus petitions, 39.7 percent were Social Security appeal cases, 20.3 percent were prisoner civil rights cases, 8.9 percent were non-prisoner pro se civil rights cases, and 1.4 percent were other cases.

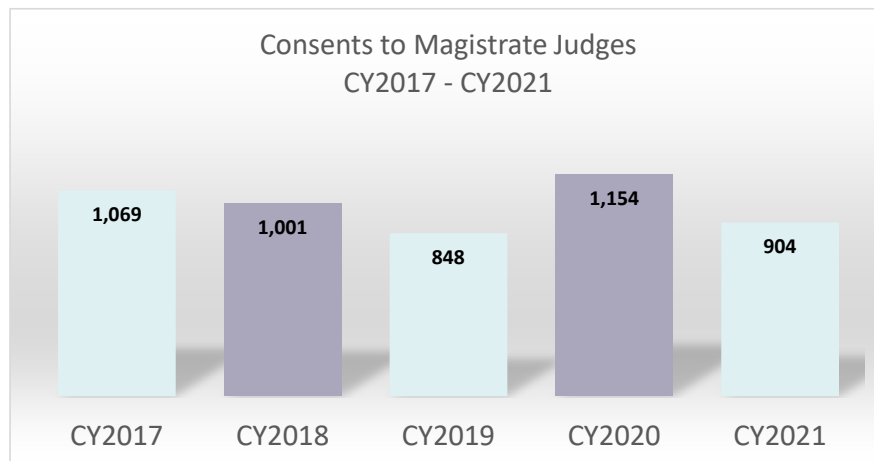


Consents to Magistrate Judges

12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2021



Parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in a total of 904 cases in calendar year 2021, a 21.7 percent decrease from 2020. Of this total, all parties consented in 797 cases that were referred to a Magistrate Judge for a report and recommendation; all parties consented to proceed before Magistrate Judges in 63 cases through the Voluntary Consent to Magistrate Judges Program; and all parties consented in 44 cases assigned through the Direct Assignment of Civil Cases to Magistrate Judges Program.



Magistrate Judge Settlement Statistics

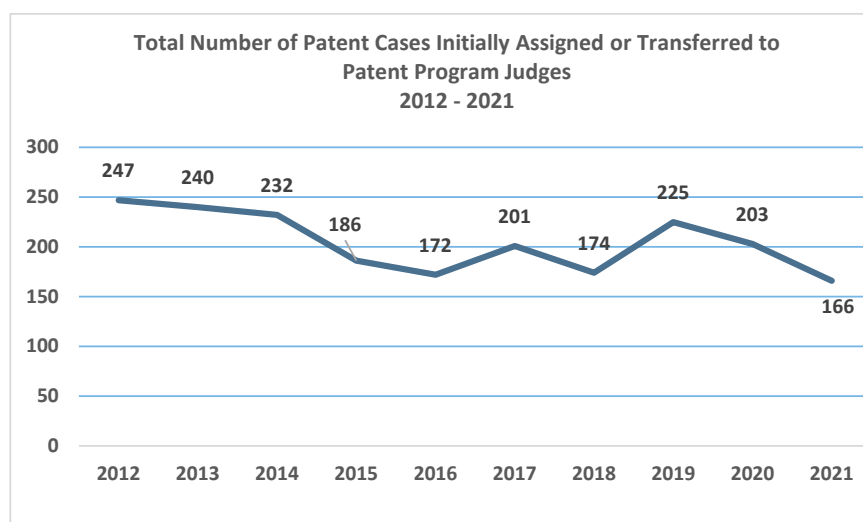
12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2021	
Number of cases with settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	409
Number of settlement conferences conducted by Magistrate Judges	448
Number of cases settled	216
Percent of cases settled	53%

In calendar year 2021, Magistrate Judges held 448 settlement conferences in 409 cases. Of these, the Magistrate Judges settled 216 cases for a 53 percent settlement rate. The Magistrate Judges spent 2,828 hours, equivalent to 354 8-hour-work days, on settling these cases.

Patent Program

Central District of California													
District Judge Patent Program													
12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2021													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Total Number of Patent Cases Filed	18	20	21	21	16	27	17	15	17	21	23	15	231
Patent Cases Initially Assigned to Patent Program Judges	3	4	5	4	6	2	4	6	3	3	3	1	44
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Program via CV-128 Order	2	10	7	9	3	8	6	6	4	4	10	3	72
Patent Cases Transferred to Patent Program Judges As a Result of Related Case Transfer, Self-Recusal, Return by Senior Judge, etc.	5	4	5	5	5	2	3	1	6	5	4	5	50
Total Number of Patent Cases Initially Assigned or Transferred to Patent Program Judges	10	18	17	18	14	12	13	13	13	12	17	9	166
Patent Cases Transferred Out of the Patent Program	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	7

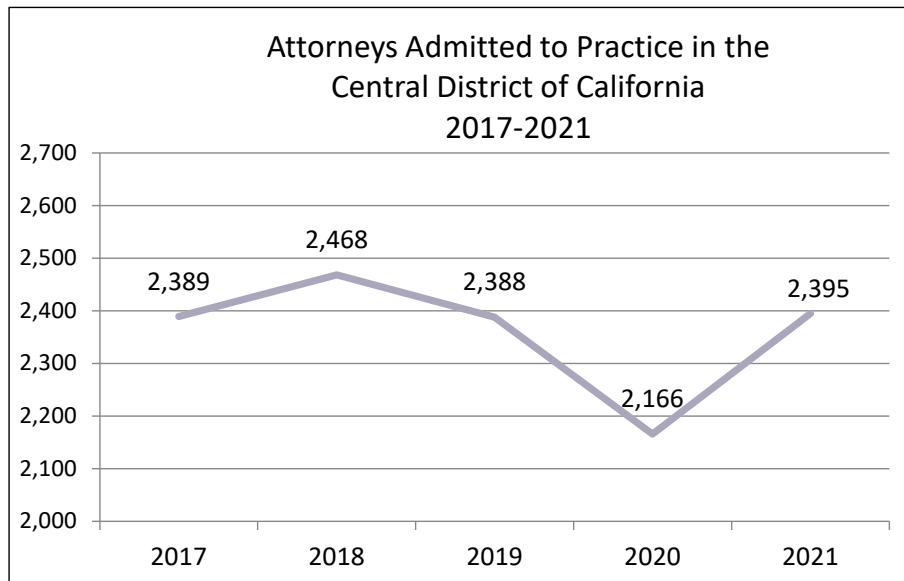
On July 5, 2021, the Patent Pilot Program became permanent with six District Judges participating in the Central District of California. In 2021, the judges designated to receive patent cases under the Patent Program received 166 patent cases, of which 44 were initially assigned to them, 72 cases were transferred to the program from non-participating judges, and 50 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 2021 decreased by 14.4 percent, and the number of cases transferred to the program by non-participating judges decreased by 14.3 percent from 2020. In 2021, the percentage of patent cases filed that were assigned or transferred to Judges participating in the Patent Program was 72 percent. Since the start of the program on September of 2011 as a pilot, a total of 2,046 patent cases have been assigned to participating judges.



Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California

Calendar Years 2017-2021							
12-Month Period Ending December 31							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 21/20	% Change 21/17
Attorneys Admitted to Practice in the Central District of California	2,389	2,468	2,388	2,166	2,395	10.6%	0.3%

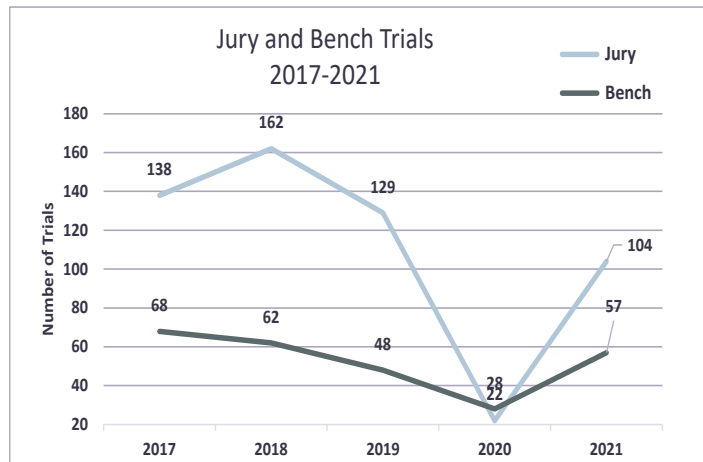
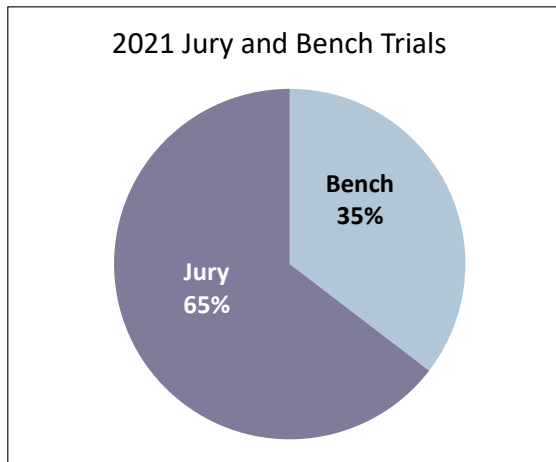
In calendar year 2021, the Central District of California saw a 10.6 percent increase in attorneys admitted to the bar of the Court from 2,166 in CY2020 to 2,395. Excluding calendar year 2020, during the five-year period ending December 31, 2021, attorneys admitted to practice remained fairly constant with an average 0.3 percent increase.



Trials

JURY AND BENCH TRIALS							
Calendar Years 2017-2021							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 21/20	% Change 21/17
Civil Jury	83	99	74	10	50	400%	-40%
Criminal Jury	55	63	55	12	54	350%	-2%
Civil Bench	59	45	42	27	53	96%	-10%
Criminal Bench	9	17	6	1	4	300%	-56%
Total	206	224	177	50	161	222%	-22%

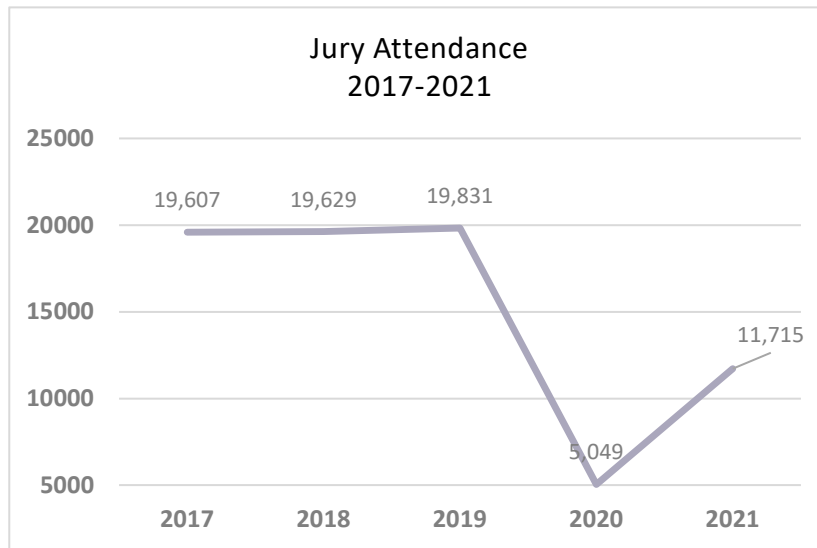
In calendar year 2021, there were a total of 161 trials held before all District and Magistrate Judges in the Central District of California, a 222 percent increase from 2020. The increase is attributed to the suspension of jury trials and in-court proceedings during CY2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021 of the 161 trials held, 104 were jury trials (65 percent) and 57 were bench trials (35 percent). In 2021, civil jury trials increased from 10 in 2020 to 50, civil bench trials increased from 27 to 53, criminal jury trials increased from 12 to 54, and criminal bench trials increased from 1 to 4. During the five-year period ending December 31, 2021, total trials held overall decreased 22 percent from 206 in 2017.



Jury

Jury Attendance						
Calendar Years 2017-2021						
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change 21/20	% Change 21/17
19,607	19,629	19,831	5,049	11,715	132.0%	-40%

In calendar year 2021, there were 11,715 jurors in attendance for trials held in the Central District of California, a 132 percent increase from 2020 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, 2021, the number of jurors in attendance decreased 40 percent from 19,607 in 2017.



Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program Statistics January - December 2021	
Total number of cases ordered to ADR	3,607
Cases referred to magistrate judges	432
Cases referred to the mediation panel	1,632
Cases referred to private mediation	1,543
Total number of cases mediated by panel mediators	668
Cases settled or partially settled at mediation	282
Cases that did not settle at mediation	386

In calendar year 2021, at least 3,607 cases were referred to one of the three ADR options provided in Local Rule 16-15.4. More cases were referred to the Court’s Mediation Panel than to either of the other available choices. Of the cases referred to the Panel for mediation, more than 37% were brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act. As of March 2022, the Panel was composed of 211 panel members who collectively possessed substantive experience in more than 25 areas of law. In 2021, Panel mediators conducted at least 668 mediation sessions. Of these, 282 sessions were reported to have resulted in settlement or partial settlement and 386 sessions were reported not to have resulted in immediate settlement, for a settlement rate of 42 percent.

In addition, the Prisoner Settlement Program provides for the referral of certain prisoner civil rights cases to participating magistrate judges for settlement proceedings at various California state prisons. In 2021, magistrate judges participating in this program conducted 66 settlement conferences and settled 32 cases, for a settlement rate of 48 percent.

