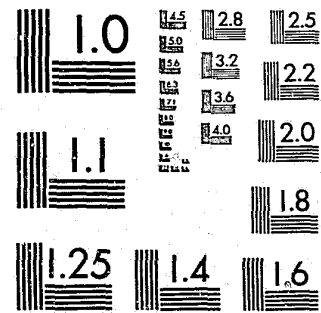


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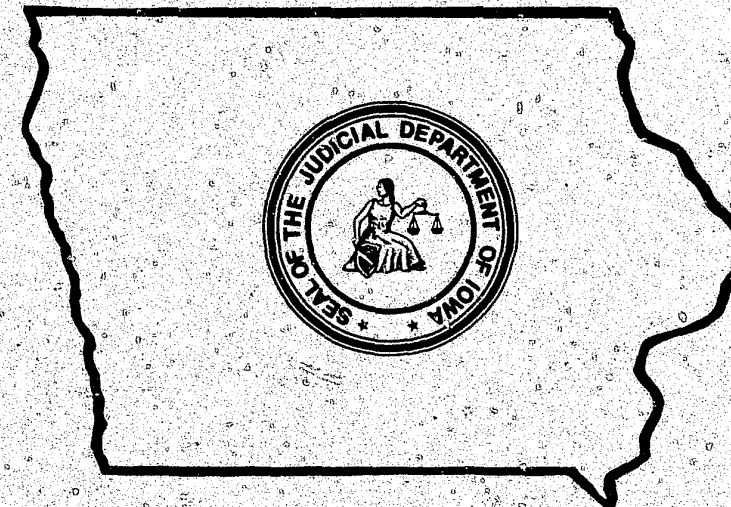
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1982

# ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT



90656

Report to the Supreme Court of Iowa  
by  
The Court Administrator of the Judicial Department



**Court Administrator**

STATE CAPITOL  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

WILLIAM J. O'BRIEN  
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

April 29, 1983

NCJRS  
AUG 10 1983  
ACQUISITIONS

TO THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICES  
OF THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA:

Pursuant to the provisions of section 685.8, The Code, I submit herewith the 1982 report relating to the activity of the judicial department.

I wish to express my appreciation to the various judicial officers and clerks of the Iowa district court for their cooperation in reporting judicial statistics to this office.

Respectfully,  
  
William J. O'Brien  
Court Administrator

nm

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National Institute of Justice  
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STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS AND TRENDS

Appellate Courts

1. In 1982, there were 1,849 filings (1,253 civil, 596 criminal) and 1,794 dispositions (1,186 civil, 608 criminal); filings and dispositions increased 6.7 and 4.5 percent, respectively, from 1981.
2. Since 1972, the number of filings in the appellate courts soared 186.2 percent (646 to 1,849) or an average of 18.6 percent per year; the number of filings per appellate judge jumped 83.3 percent (72 to 132). [Table 11]
3. There were 882 formal dispositions (607 civil, 275 criminal) in the appellate courts in 1982 -- a decrease of two dispositions from 1981. By formal opinion, the Supreme Court disposed of 467 cases (306 civil, 161 criminal); the Court of Appeals handled 415 cases (301 civil, 114 criminal). The number of civil cases disposed of by formal opinion in the appellate courts rose 10.4 percent (550 to 607) over 1981 figures. There were 912 appellate cases (579 civil, 333 criminal) terminated by order or other mode prior to submission to the court. [Tables 3 and 9]
4. In 1982, cases involving domestic relations (dissolutions and child custody) comprised 28.5 percent (173 of 607) of the formal appellate decisions in civil cases -- the largest single category of dispositions. The 85 administrative law cases comprised the second most numerous type of civil case -- up 44 percent from 1981. [Tables 3 and 9]
5. The average appellate case terminated by formal opinion was decided about six months after it was ready for submission; the average elapse time from the filing of a notice of appeal to the time a case was ready for submission was eight months. Regular civil cases submitted to the Supreme Court in January 1983, were made ready on or before June 1982 -- a delay of seven months.
6. During 1982, the number of pending cases in the appellate courts rose 7.9 percent (1,247 to 1,345). The number of cases "ready" for disposition increased



12.7 percent (394 to 444). In the three years from December 31, 1979 to December 31, 1982, the number of ready cases jumped 66.3 percent (267 to 444). [A "ready" case in this context is defined as any pending case in which all necessary papers have been filed; it includes cases which have been submitted to the court but not decided.] [Tables 4 and 8]

7. Of the 865 formal appellate decisions reviewing lower court rulings (11 attorney disciplinary and six certification of law cases excluded), 555 or 64.2 percent affirmed the district court, 182 or 21.0 percent reversed, and 128 or 14.8 percent of the Court opinions were a combination of the two. There were 192 applications to the Supreme Court for further review of a Court of Appeals decision; the Court granted further review in 19 cases while denying application for further review in 173 other instances. The Supreme Court vacated the judgment of the Court of Appeals in eight cases, affirmed in part and vacated in part three rulings, and affirmed four decisions of the Court of Appeals in 1982.

#### Trial Court

1. In the 26-year period since 1956, the first year trial court statistics were collected and analyzed at the state level, the number of civil filings escalated 143.3 percent (22,922 to 55,763) while the number of criminal filings skyrocketed 531.4 percent (6,178 to 39,008); the number of civil/criminal filings per district judge mushroomed 140.2 percent (416 to 998). [Appendix F] Iowa's population grew 7.0 percent (2,722,375 to 2,913,808) during this period.
2. Since 1956, the number of civil/criminal dispositions per district court judge jumped 96.4 percent (394 to 774). [Appendix H]
3. Since 1956, the number of juvenile petitions soared 233.7 percent (1,607 to 5,363); however, since the 1978 revision of the juvenile justice code, the number of petitions filed in juvenile matters has plummeted 13.2 percent (6,179 to 5,363). The number of probate cases opened rose 49.9 percent (16,137 to 24,329) since 1956. [Appendix F]
4. Since the 1977 legislative freeze on district judgeships (modified in 1981 to permit the appointment of three additional district judges), civil filings increased 28.7 percent (43,324 to 55,763); criminal filings climbed 35.5 percent (28,795 to 39,008). Overall, civil/criminal filings rose 31.4 percent (72,119 to 94,771) in the four-year period. The February 1983 application of the district judgeship formula (based on 1982, 1981 and 1980 filing statistics) entitles Iowa to 127 judgeships -- an increase of 32 over the 95 district court judges currently serving in the trial court. [Appendix F]
5. Since the first calendar year after unification of the district court (1974), the number of simple misdemeanors/scheduled violations filings increased 35.6 percent (484,651 to 657,270) while the number of small claims petitions fluctuated from 68,021 to 82,208 and then down to 67,967 in 1982. The 1982 figures show a 13.3 percent drop in the number of simple misdemeanor filings, a 9.6 percent decline in the number of scheduled violations and a 9.7 percent decrease in the number of small claims filed in the district court from the previous year. [Appendix G]

6. In 1982, only 1,006 of the 232,211 simple misdemeanors (0.4 percent) and 848 of the 25,278 small claims (3.4 percent) terminated by judicial officers were appealed to the district court. [Tables 4 and 5]
7. In 1982, dissolutions and modifications (17,164), uniform support (8,343), and domestic abuse (130) filings accounted for 25,637 cases or 46.0 percent of all civil filings (55,763). Indictable misdemeanor cases involving first and second offense drunk driving (OWI) comprised 15,712 of the 39,008 criminal filings or 40.3 percent of the total. There were 8,064 felony filings in 1982 -- down 102 cases or 1.2 percent from the 8,166 felony filings in 1981. [Tables 4 and 5]

## I. APPELLATE COURTS

### THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

The Supreme Court of Iowa is comprised of nine justices. The chief justice is selected by a vote of the Court and serves for the duration of his or her eight-year term of office. As of April 1, 1983, ninety-six persons have served on the Supreme Court since Iowa became a territory on July 12, 1838. Although the high Court was comprised of only three justices during the first 25 years, the general assembly increased the Court's membership to four in 1864, to five in 1876, to six in 1894, to seven in 1913, to eight in 1927, and nine in 1929, as a result of rising caseload.

As of December 31, 1982, the justices of the Supreme Court listed in order of seniority were: Clay LeGrand (Davenport), Harvey Uhlenhopp (Hampton), W. W. Reynoldson, Chief Justice (Osceola), K. David Harris (Jefferson), Mark McCormick (Des Moines), Arthur A. McGiverin (Ottumwa), Jerry L. Larson (Harlan), Louis W. Schultz (Iowa City) and James H. Carter (Cedar Rapids). Justice Carter replaced Justice Robert G. Allbee who resigned June 30, 1982. [District Judge Charles R. Wolle of Sioux City was appointed to the Supreme Court on March 12, 1983, following the retirement of Justice Clay LeGrand, February 16.]

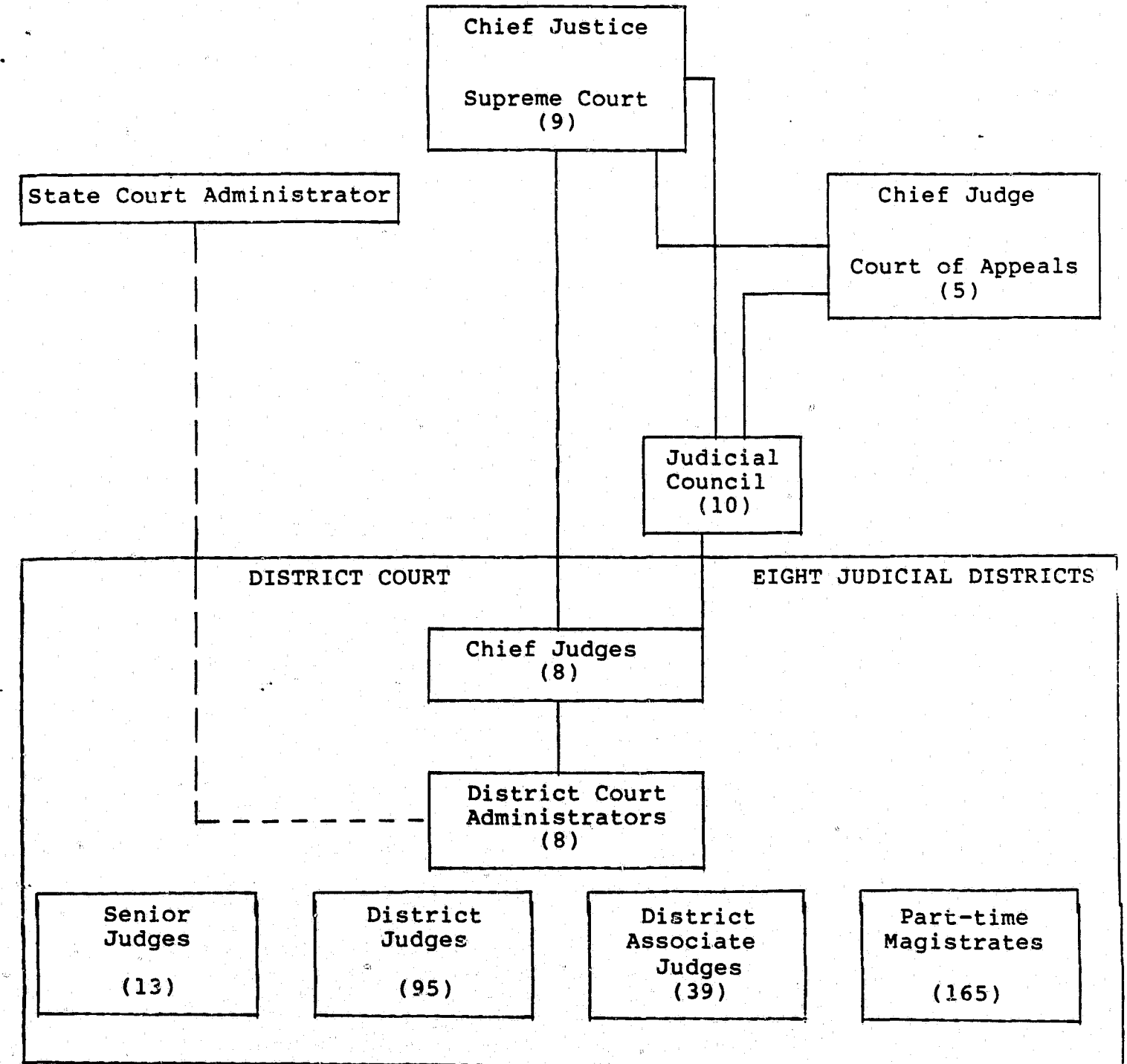
The method of selecting justices to the Supreme Court of Iowa has changed several times since 1838. While the three territorial justices were appointed by the President of the United States, when Iowa became a state on December 28, 1846, the constitution provided for the selection of Supreme Court justices by a joint vote of both houses of the general assembly. Iowa's second constitution, adopted in 1857, reflected the mood of Jacksonian democracy and called for the popular election of judges. Finally, in 1962, Iowa voters ratified a constitutional amendment which removed judges from partisan elections and established a 15-member State Judicial Nominating Commission comprised of seven laypersons appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate and seven attorneys elected by members of the Iowa bar. The Supreme Court justice with the longest service, other than the chief justice, chairs the Commission. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Supreme Court of Iowa, the Commission nominates three individuals from whom the governor selects one. One year following initial appointment, and every eight years thereafter, Supreme Court justices stand for retention at the general election. Trial and appellate judges appointed after July 1, 1965, must retire by age 72; those appointed earlier may serve until their 75th birthday.

Procedures were established in 1975 for the discipline and removal of judges standing for retention election. Except for magistrates, the Commission on Judicial Qualifications may apply to the Supreme Court to retire, discipline or remove any judge or justice. The Commission is comprised of a district court judge and two practicing attorneys appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court and four non-attorney electors appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

The Supreme Court stands at the apex of the Iowa judicial system. The Court has general appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases. The Court also has original jurisdiction in such cases as reapportionment, bar discipline and the issuance of temporary injunctions. The Supreme Court has jurisdiction over all appeals from final judgments and from interlocutory orders. It also has the authority to grant writs of certiorari in cases where a district court is alleged to have exceeded its jurisdiction or otherwise acted illegally. A majority of cases handled by the Supreme Court are appeals from adverse final judgments in the district court, the Iowa trial court. Except where the action involves an interest in real estate, no appeal shall be taken in any case where the amount in controversy, as shown by the pleadings, is less than \$3,000 unless the trial judge certifies that the cause is one in which appeal should be allowed. In small claims actions, where the amount in controversy is \$1,000 or less, the Supreme Court may exercise discretionary review. In criminal cases where the state is the appellant or applicant, the Supreme Court may exercise discretionary review in the following cases: 1) an order dismissing an arrest or search warrant, 2) an order suppressing or admitting evidence, 3) an order granting or denying a change of venue, and 4) a final judgment or order raising a question of law important to the judiciary and the profession. In cases where the defendant is the appellant or applicant, the Supreme Court may exercise discretionary review in the following cases; 1) an order suppressing or admitting evidence, 2) an order granting or denying a change of venue, 3) an order denying probation, 4) simple misdemeanor or ordinance violation convictions, and 5) an order raising a question of law important to the judiciary and the profession. All other final judgments may be appealed to the Supreme Court as a matter of right. [See diagram of the Iowa judicial system on the next page.]

The 1976 Session of the 66th General Assembly established a five-member Court of Appeals. All cases continue to be appealed directly to the Supreme Court which transfers cases to the intermediate court. Supreme Court jus-

CHART 1  
IOWA JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
(January 1, 1983)



tices in rotating three-member panels determine which cases to retain and which matters to route to the Court of Appeals. Pursuant to Rule 401, Rules of Appellate Procedure, the Supreme Court ordinarily shall hear (not transfer) cases involving: 1) substantial constitutional questions as to the validity of a statute, ordinance or court or administrative rule; 2) substantial issues in which there is or is claimed to be a conflict with a published decision of the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court; 3) substantial issues of first impression; 4) fundamental and urgent issues of broad public importance requiring prompt or ultimate determination; 5) cases in which life imprisonment has been imposed; 6) lawyer discipline; and 7) substantial questions of enunciating or changing legal principles. The Rule also suggests summary disposition of certain cases by the Supreme Court and transfer to the Court of Appeals of cases involving the application of existing legal principles.

In addition to deciding cases, the Supreme Court is authorized to supervise the administration of justice and promulgate rules of procedure for the district court, determine the rules for admission and discipline of the bar, regulate a client security fund and program of mandatory continuing education for lawyers and judges, and adopt rules regulating appellate practice and procedure. In exercising its administrative and supervisory control over the trial court, the Supreme Court of Iowa appoints a chief judge in each of the eight judicial districts. The chief judges are responsible for overseeing all judges and magistrates within their jurisdictions. Together with the chief justice of the Supreme Court and the chief judge of the Court of Appeals, the chief judges of the district court comprise a Judicial Council. The Council is authorized to consider all court administrative rules, directives, and regulations necessary to provide for an efficient, orderly, and effective administration of justice in Iowa.

Assisting the Supreme Court in its administrative, supervisory, and decision-making roles are the court administrator, clerk of court, legal assistants, and various boards and commissions. Since 1967, each justice has been authorized to appoint a legal assistant to assist in research. In 1971, the legislature authorized the Supreme Court to appoint a court administrator. Serving at the pleasure of the Supreme Court, the court administrator and his staff have many statutory and administrative responsibilities including: screening cases for oral argument and case routing, writing case statements, gathering statistical data on the judicial business at all levels, examining the state of the dockets in the district court and recom-

mending the assignment of judges to courts in need of assistance, apportioning judicial magistrates among the counties, computing the district court judgeship formula, conducting judicial education programs, recommending improvements in the organization and operation of the judicial system, administering the judicial retirement system, handling payroll and travel expenses for the judicial department, planning and budgeting for the Supreme Court and its administrative office, providing administrative assistance to various court-appointed committees and attending to such matters as the Supreme Court may direct. The court administrator serves as the executive secretary for the Judicial Qualifications Commission and ex officio member of the Judicial Coordinating Committee; the court administrator is also a member of the Iowa Crime Commission, State Library Commission, and the State Records Commission.

The clerk of court is appointed by the Supreme Court to a four-year term. The clerk of the Supreme Court also serves as the clerk of the Court of Appeals. The clerk docket and monitors all cases appealed to the Court, collects court fees, files legal briefs, appendices and records and files and records every opinion and order of the appellate courts. The clerk is responsible for the sale of court opinions, the administration of the biannual Iowa bar examination and the election of attorney-members to the state and judicial election district nominating commissions. The clerk of the Supreme Court also collects and accounts for all fees associated with the state bar examination and the shorthand reporter examination and certification.

In its role as supervisor of the Iowa bar, the Supreme Court appoints the members of the Board of Law Examiners, and confirms as commissioners of the Court the members of the Grievance Commission and the Committee on Professional Ethics and Conduct. With the assistance of the Iowa State Bar Association, in 1973, the Court established the Client Security and Attorney Disciplinary System designed to prevent defalcations by members of the Iowa bar and provide for the payment of losses caused to the public by dishonest conduct of Iowa attorneys. The Court appointed a seven-member commission to administer the fund resulting from annual assessment imposed on attorneys. The Supreme Court also has provided that all Iowa lawyers and judges must complete a minimum of 15 hours of continuing legal education each year. In 1975, a 12-member Commission on Continuing Legal Education was appointed to exercise general supervisory authority over the administration of the rule.

The Supreme Court is responsible for promulgating rules of appellate, civil, criminal, juvenile and probate procedure. The Court also is authorized to prescribe rules of pleading, practice, and procedure, and the forms of process, writs, and notices for all proceedings concerning hospitalization of mentally ill persons. In exercising its rule-making authority, the Supreme Court is assisted by several committees including: 1) the Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure; 2) the Advisory Committee on Rules of Criminal Procedure, 3) the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Juvenile Procedure, and 4) the Probate Rules Committee. In developing rules for the hospitalization of the mentally ill, the Supreme Court has been assisted by the Iowa State Bar Association's Committee on Law and Behavioral Sciences.

Workload

During 1982, the Supreme Court of Iowa disposed of 467 cases by written opinion -- 295 civil, 161 criminal and 11 disciplinary [Table 1]. As illustrated in the chart below, the number of formal opinions (signed and unsigned) increased 21.9 percent (383 to 467) from 1981 to 1982; the two-year increase (275 to 467) was 69.8 percent. Since 1980, the number of unsigned per curiam opinions jumped 612 percent (25 to 178) while the number of signed opinions rose 15.6 percent (250 to 289). The dramatic increase in the number of per curiam opinions was the consequence of a new "fast track" decision process whereby less complex cases are submitted without oral argument to rotating three-judge panels.

	Signed Court Opinions	Unsigned Per Curiam Opinions	Total
1982	289	178	467
1981	278	105	383
1980	250	25	275
1979	265	25	290
1978	312	45	357
1977	285	89	374

As illustrated in Table 2, 93.5 percent of the cases (440 of 467) decided by formal opinion were appealed to the Supreme Court as a matter of right. There were 382 appeals from final judgments in the district court, 15 appeals from interlocutory rulings, 17 post-conviction appeals, 11 attorney disciplinary actions and six cases involving cer-

tified questions of law from the U.S. District Court. The Supreme Court of Iowa exercised discretionary review in only 27 cases -- 15 cases appealed from the Court of Appeals, 9 original certiorari cases and 3 small claims cases.

Table 3 shows the most numerous types of civil cases disposed of by written opinion concerned domestic relations (69), torts (46), administrative law (41), contracts (37) and property (26). Of the 161 criminal cases, 42 involved guilty pleas and/or sentencing issues, exclusively.

In addition to writing 467 opinions during 1982, the nine Supreme Court justices registered 34 dissents and 6 special concurrences. Their opinions totaled 3,651 pages or 406 pages per judge on the double-spaced, letter-sized paper. The average Supreme Court opinion was approximately eight pages in length. Over 93 percent of the rulings (436 of 467) were approved by a unanimous vote of the justices deciding the case.

Cases filed before the Supreme Court rose from 1,733 (1981) to 1,849 (1982) -- an increase of 6.7 percent. As noted in Table 11, the number of filings in the Supreme Court has mushroomed 186.2 percent (646 to 1,849) during the last decade. Civil filings have soared 247.1 percent (361 to 1,253) while criminal cases have more than doubled (285 to 596) since 1972.

Table 4 indicates the number of civil and criminal cases "In Work," "Ready," "Assigned" and "Out-to-Judges" which were pending as of January 1, 1981, and 1982 and 1983. While the number of cases "In Work" increased 5.6 percent (853 to 901), the number of civil and criminal cases "Ready" for disposition decreased 20.9 percent (234 to 185) during 1982. The total number of pending cases declined 0.1 percent (1,165 to 1,155).

However, as cases transferred to the Court of Appeals are no longer considered pending before the Supreme Court, the figures above are misleading. If pending cases in both appellate courts are examined, figures show an overall increase of 7.9 percent (1,247 to 1,345) in the number of pending cases from January 1, 1982 to January 1, 1983. Including cases assigned and submitted but not decided, the number of cases ready for disposition (i.e., all necessary papers filed) grew 12.7 percent (394 to 444) during 1982; the number of pending ready cases has rocketed 67.5 percent (165 to 444) since January 1, 1980.



As noted in Table 5, the average elapse time from "Ready" for submission to Supreme Court decision was 5.9 months in 1982 -- a slight increase over the 5.2 months processing time in 1981. The elapse time for regular civil cases was 7.5 months. While delay in the Court increased somewhat in 1981, disposition time did not compare with the situation that existed in 1976, before the Court of Appeals was established, when the average non-priority civil case took over 20 months to be decided after it was ready.

An examination of the direction of the Supreme Court decisions during 1982, indicates that 64 percent of the lower court rulings were affirmed by the Court, 23 percent were reversed, and 13 percent were mixed. (A "mixed" Supreme Court decision is defined as a ruling which both "affirms" and "modifies" or "reverses" parts of a lower court ruling.) Nineteen cases involving such matters as attorney disciplinary actions, certification of questions of law and original jurisdiction matters were not included in the disposition direction computation.

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Affirmed	65	68	64	63	57	53	67	64
Reversed	26	23	30	27	33	33	23	23
Mixed	9	9	6	10	10	14	10	13

Over 57 percent of the cases (267/467) disposed of by written opinion were appealed from the trial courts of nine metropolitan counties. Approximately one out of five cases arose in Polk County.

Counties	Number of cases	Percentage of Total Cases Disposed
Polk	91	19.5
Scott	40	8.6
Black Hawk	33	7.1
Linn	32	6.9
Dubuque	18	3.9
Pottawattamie	18	3.9
Johnson	12	2.6
Woodbury	12	2.6
Cerro Gordo	11	2.4
TOTAL	267	57.2

In addition to the 467 Supreme Court cases disposed of by formal opinion after submission to the Court, 1,435 cases (970 civil and 465 criminal) were disposed of by Court order, consolidation, dismissal by the clerk for failure to cure a default or by voluntary action by the parties involved. Table 6 shows 113 cases were dismissed by order of the Supreme Court; 203 orders were issued denying petitions for various types of review; 85 cases were dismissed by the clerk for failure to cure a default after notice; 394 cases were voluntarily withdrawn by the parties; 43 cases were consolidated; 531 cases were transferred by order of the Supreme Court to the Court of Appeals and 66 were disposed of by other means. In total, 1,902 filings were disposed of by the Supreme Court in 1982. Excluding cases transferred to the Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court disposed of 1,371 appeals in 1982.

A significant amount of judge-time also was spent ruling on preliminary motions and applications, conducting hearings, and writing 4,939 orders which did not result in the disposal of a case. Excluding orders transferring cases to the Court of Appeals, the number of dispositive and non-dispositive orders issued by the Supreme Court during the last seven years is illustrated below.

	Dispositive Orders	Nondispositive Orders
1982	923	4,939
1981	822	5,006
1980	838	4,220
1979	743	3,024
1978	718	3,445
1977	701	2,432
1976	616	2,281

In recent years, several major structural and procedural changes have contributed to the Supreme Court's ability to handle an increasing number of appeals. One important innovation has been the reinstatement of a practice prevalent from 1929-1943; namely, hearing and deciding cases in divisions of five members. Instead of spending four days a month in Court hearing oral arguments, each justice now spends two days hearing oral arguments. (During the monthly Court week, Wednesdays are generally reserved for conference and administrative matters.) Except in the most complex and controversial cases in which two or more justices request disposition en banc (by the full nine-member Court), cases before the Supreme Court are decided by division. The drafts of all proposed opinions are

circulated to the entire Court. At any time prior to final approval of a proposed opinion, any two justices may request that a specific case be decided en banc. The research staff initially screens all cases and recommends to a three-justice screening panel whether a case should be submitted en banc or to a division; staff attorneys also recommend the amount of oral argument time, if any, which should be allotted to each case, and whether the case should be retained by the Supreme Court or transferred to the Court of Appeals.

During 1982, the Supreme Court began a more summary treatment of appropriate cases. By utilizing a panel of three justices, eliminating oral argument and writing brief per curiam opinions, the Supreme Court increased the number of formal dispositions by 21.9 percent (383 to 467); the number of per curiam opinions jumped 69.5 percent (105 to 178) in one year.

As noted in Table 7, 407 of the 467 Supreme Court decisions were decided by a panel of three or five justices. All disciplinary cases were considered en banc; 12.2 percent of the civil and 8.1 percent of the criminal cases were formally voted on by the full membership. Overall, 12.8 percent of the cases disposed of in 1982 were decided by all nine justices sitting en banc. During the six previous years, the percentage of cases decided en banc was 8.3, 17.1, 21.4, 23.5, 9.9 and 5.3 percent, respectively.

In addition to using judicial panels to hear and decide cases, the Court also has conserved time by reducing the number of cases permitted oral argument and limiting the amount of time each party can use in presenting its case. While before 1973 the Court allowed 75 minutes to argue a case, today most oral arguments are limited to approximately 35 minutes. In 1982, 217 of the 481 cases (45.1 percent) were submitted without oral argument before the Supreme Court. Indicative of the increased number of fast track submissions handled by the Court in 1982, the number and percentage of appeals submitted without oral argument jumped to its highest level.

Submissions to the Supreme Court

	<u>Oral</u>	<u>Non-Oral</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent Non-Oral</u>
1982	264	217	481	45.1
1981	254	136	390	34.9
1980	236	46	282	16.3
1979	209	60	269	22.3
1978	258	96	354	27.1
1977	264	105	369	28.5
1976	242	149	391	38.1

Other factors playing crucial roles in alleviating some of the Court's research and administrative burdens include: the research of legal assistants, case statements, court orders and screening recommendations drafted by the research staff, and the administrative tasks performed by the court administrator and staff and the clerk's office.

THE IOWA COURT OF APPEALS

In 1976, the 66th General Assembly established a new five-member appellate court designated as the "Iowa Court of Appeals." The new Court began hearing oral arguments and deciding cases in January 1977. As of December 31, 1982, the members of the Iowa Court of Appeals listed in order of seniority were: Allen L. Donielson (West Des Moines), Bruce M. Snell, Jr. (Ida Grove), Leo Oxberger, Chief Judge (St. Charles), Janet A. Johnson (Des Moines) and Dick R. Schlegel (Ottumwa). Judge Schlegel was appointed October 22, 1982 to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Judge James H. Carter, who was appointed to the Supreme Court. [Judge Janet Johnson resigned effective March 31, 1983; Maynard Hayden (Indianola), Chief Judge of the Fifth Judicial District, was appointed May 3, 1983, to fill the vacancy.]

The Court of Appeals is authorized to review all civil and criminal actions, post-conviction remedy proceedings, small claims actions, writs, orders and other processes transferred to it by the Supreme Court. The Iowa Court of Appeals hears only the cases transferred to it by the Supreme Court. All cases continue to be appealed directly to the Supreme Court.

### Workload

As indicated in Table 8, during 1982, the five-member Court of Appeals disposed of 423 cases -- 307 civil and 116 criminal -- the second largest number of dispositions in its six-year history. There were 250 per curiam opinions, 165 signed opinions, and eight cases dismissed by order. Since the Court of Appeals was established in late 1976 and began deciding cases in 1977, it has disposed of 2,427 cases (1,744 civil and 683 criminal). There were 140 civil and 50 criminal cases pending before the Court of Appeals at the end of 1982.

The number and type of cases disposed of by formal written opinion are illustrated in Table 9. As noted in this table, the Court of Appeals disposed of 104 domestic relations cases (51 involving child custody), 50 contract cases, 44 administrative law cases and 33 tort cases. Twelve of the 114 criminal cases involved guilty pleas and/or sentencing only.

Of the 415 cases disposed of by opinion, 269 or 64.8 percent were affirmed, 77 or 18.6 percent were reversed, and 69 or 16.6 percent were a combination of the two, modified or remanded only. Sixty percent of the cases (250/415) were decided by per curiam opinion; in 1981 nearly three-fourths of the cases (368/501) were terminated by per curiam opinion.

During 1982, the Supreme Court considered 192 applications for further review and granted review in 19 cases. Of the 15 Court of Appeals rulings reviewed by the Supreme Court in 1982, eight were vacated, three were affirmed in part and vacated in part and four were affirmed.

The average delay from the time a case was "ready" for submission to "decision" by the Court of Appeals was 6.2 months; nearly one month longer than the elapse time recorded in 1981 but six months less than appellate delay in 1977 -- the Court's first year of operation. [Table 10] In 1982, the average elapse time for non-priority civil cases was 6.9 months -- an increase of over one month since 1981 but over nine months less than the appellate delay in 1977.

Of the 456 cases submitted to the Court of Appeals in 1982, 228 (exactly half) were heard on the record without oral argument. In 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981, the proportion of cases decided without oral argument was 52.2, 43.2, 37.1 and 54.2 percent, respectively.

Including dissenting (52) and concurring (10) opinions, the 415 formal opinions totaled 2,317 pages, an average of 5.6 pages per case or 463 pages per judge, counting the title page. Opinions ranged in length from 2 to 15 pages double-spaced.

Of the 415 dispositions by formal opinion, 230 or 55.4 percent were appealed from 11 counties: Polk (73), Linn (33), Black Hawk (29), Scott (20), Johnson and Woodbury (17), Dubuque (10), Boone, Page and Pottawattamie (8) and Story (7). During 1982, the Court of Appeals decided cases from 85 counties.

### Iowa Appellate Courts -- Statistical Summary

There were 1,849 cases -- 1,253 civil and 596 criminal -- docketed in the Supreme Court in 1982, up from 1,733 in 1981. The skyrocketing rise of appellate cases filings from 1972 to 1982 is graphically illustrated in Table 11. Since 1972, civil filings have soared 247.1 percent (361 to 1,253) while the number of criminal cases docketed has mushroomed 109.1 percent (285 to 596). Even with the creation of the Court of Appeals and five additional appellate court judges, the average number of filings per judge during the past decade jumped 83.3 percent (72 to 132).

During 1982, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals disposed of 1,794 cases -- 1,186 civil and 608 criminal -- up from 1,716 in 1981. About half of the civil (579/1,186) and criminal (333/1,608) dispositions were by order rather than formal opinion; 72.5 percent of these matters were dismissed by the clerk or the court, denied or consolidated; 27.5 percent were voluntarily dismissed or withdrawn. There were 1,345 cases pending (939 civil and 406 criminal) at the end of the year -- an increase of 98 or 7.9 percent from the first of the year. The number of pending cases ready for disposition rose 12.7 percent (394 to 444) during 1982; the increase since January 1, 1980 was 79.0 percent (248 to 444).

There were 882 dispositions by formal opinion -- 607 civil and 275 criminal. During 1982, the average case was disposed of approximately 14 months after it was docketed in the Supreme Court clerk's office. In the average case it took the parties eight months to file the briefs, records, etc., and make the case ready for submission to the Court; the elapse time from readiness to decision was about six months. The largest category of civil cases handled at the appellate level by formal opinion was domestic relations -- 173 of 607 civil cases or 28.5 percent. The num-

ber and types of other civil cases decided by formal opinion in the appellate courts were as follows: contracts, 87; administrative law, 85; torts, 79; property, 50; post-conviction relief, 29; trusts, estates and wills, 22. While the number of appellate rulings involving domestic relations and post-conviction relief declined 14.8 and 21.6 percent, respectively, the number of administrative law decisions rose 44 percent. The Supreme Court revoked the licenses of four attorneys, suspended the licenses of 25 lawyers and imposed lesser penalties on seven others. Reinstatement of attorney licenses was granted and denied twice. Eleven disciplinary cases were decided by a formal opinion of the Supreme Court.

Financial Statement

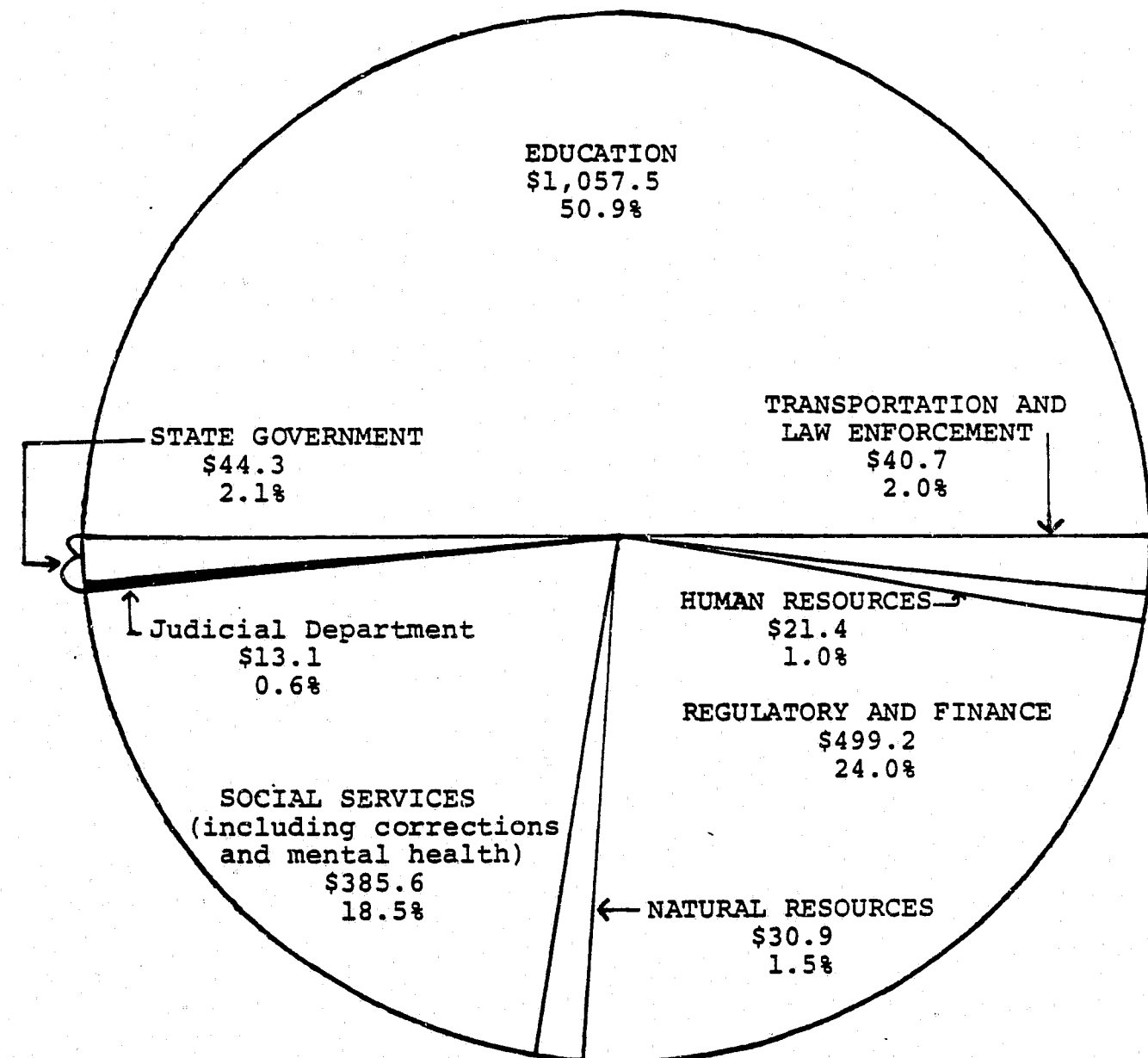
The 1982 Session of the 69th General Assembly appropriated \$13,119,221 to finance the operation and administration of the trial and appellate courts in Iowa for fiscal year ending June 30, 1983. (This figure includes appropriations for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State Court Administrator's Office, Judicial Qualifications Commission, Board of Law Examiners, Board of Shorthand Reporters, and the salaries and travel expenses of all trial court judges.) The general fund appropriation for the judiciary represented 0.6 of one percent of the total State budget of \$2,079,640,644. Of the \$13.1 million appropriated to the Judicial Department for operations, administration, boards, and retirement, over 95 percent was earmarked for salaries and fringe benefits -- chief justice of the Supreme Court, \$62,100; eight justices, \$57,100; chief judge of the Court of Appeals, \$55,400; four associate, judges \$54,200; eight chief judges of the district court, \$53,000; 87 district court judges, \$50,700; 39 district associate judges, \$42,000; and 164 magistrate (part-time) positions, \$11,700.

As noted in Chart 2 on the following page, the major general fund appropriation categories and their share of the State's budget were: Education, 50.9 percent; Regulatory and Finance, 24.0 percent; Social Services (including corrections and mental health), 18.5 percent; State Government (including the Judicial Branch), 2.1 percent; Transportation and Law Enforcement, 2.0 percent; Natural Resources, 1.5 percent; and Human Resources, 1.0 percent.

CHART 2

STATE OF IOWA

Appropriated funds for Fiscal Year 1983  
in millions of dollars \$2,079.6



The cost of administering the Judicial Department is 0.6 of one percent of the total State General Fund Appropriation for FY 1983.



TABLE 1

NUMBER OF CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND DISCIPLINARY CASES  
TERMINATED BY FORMAL OPINION  
SUPREME COURT OF IOWA, 1975-1982

YEAR	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	DISCIPLINARY	TOTAL
1982	295	161	11	467
1981	208	171	4	383
1980	187	84	4	275
1979	202	81	7	290
1978	245	103	9	357
1977	252	118	4	374
1976	176	210	8	394
1975	<u>229</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>378</u>
TOTAL	1,794	1,071	53	2,918

a. Where two or more related cases were consolidated for purposes of decision-making and resolved by one Court opinion, only one of the combined cases was counted in computing the total number of dispositions by opinion. In 1982, the 467 Supreme Court decisions involved 486 case filings.

b. The "civil" case category in this report includes appeals from final denials of post-conviction relief and all certiorari cases.

c. "Criminal" means direct appeals from final judgment in criminal cases.

d. Includes only the bar disciplinary proceedings disposed of by written opinion and published in the North Western Reporter.

TABLE 2

FORMAL DISPOSITIONS BY THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA  
AS CLASSIFIED BY MODE OF REVIEW -- 1980-1982

MODE OF REVIEW	NUMBER OF FORMAL DISPOSITIONS		
	1980	1981	1982
Appeal from Final Order (judgment) in District Court			
Civil Case	149	145	233
Criminal Case	75	159	149
Original Certiorari			
Civil Case	4	6	5
Criminal Case	4	3	4
Appeal from Interlocutory Appeal	10	19	15
Discretionary Review of Small Claim	5	1	3
Certified Question of Law	2	3	6
Appeal in Post-Conviction Relief Proceeding	8	21	17
Lawyer Disciplinary	4	4	11
Further Review	10	15	15
Miscellaneous	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
Total Dispositions	275	383	467

TABLE 3

NUMBER AND TYPES OF CASES DISPOSED OF  
BY SUPREME COURT OPINION, 1977-1982

TYPE OF CASE	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
<b>CIVIL</b>						
Administrative Law	27	40	54	31	23	41
Contracts	43	32	39	42	29	37
Contested child custody	11	12	9	10	14	13
Domestic relations not involving child custody	27	19	8	8	32	56
Post-conviction relief	9	9	8	8	21	17
Property	25	22	13	15	16	26
Taxation	14	7	5	4	4	5
Tort	54	45	33	34	33	46
Trust, estates, wills	11	10	5	9	7	9
Other	31	49	28	26	29	45
<b>TOTAL CIVIL</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>295</b>
<b>CRIMINAL</b>						
Guilty plea only	14	7	2	4	11	15
Sentencing only	14	11	14	9	19	23
Guilty plea and sentencing only	4	2	3	3	7	4
Other	86	83	62	68	134	119
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>LAWYER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>467</b>

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES: IN WORK<sup>a</sup>, READY<sup>b</sup>,  
ASSIGNED<sup>c</sup>, AND OUT-TO-SUPREME COURT JUSTICES<sup>d</sup>  
A COMPARISON OF CASELOADS  
DECEMBER 31, 1980, 1981 AND 1982

	1980			1981			1982		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
IN WORK	433	424	857	491	362	853	590	311	901
READY	67	33	100*	200	34	234*	154	31	185*
ASSIGNED	20	9	29	18	11	29	20	7	27
OUT-TO-JUSTICES	24	19	43	34	15	49	35	7	42

- a. In Work -- All cases docketed which are not yet ready for submission.
- b. Ready -- All cases ready for submission.
- c. Assigned -- All cases which have been assigned to the justices and will be submitted or formally presented to the Court within a month.
- d. Out-to-Justices -- All cases submitted to the Court which have not been decided.

\*For purposes of this table, the 460, 454 and 531 cases transferred to the Court of Appeals in 1980, 1981 and 1982, respectively, were deducted from the number of ready cases pending before the Supreme Court.

TABLE 5

AVERAGE DELAY (IN MONTHS) FROM THE TIME A  
CASE IS READY FOR SUBMISSION TO OPINION  
SUPREME COURT OF IOWA, 1975-1982

YEAR	TYPE OF CASE			AVERAGE DELAY
	CIVIL	PRIORITY CIVIL	CRIMINAL	
1982	7.5	4.6	3.8	5.9
1981	5.9	4.7	4.9	5.2
1980	5.2	4.3	4.8	5.0
1979	5.4	4.0	4.4	5.0
1978	8.3	4.1	4.2	6.5
1977	17.0	4.3	4.5	12.2
1976	20.2	4.0	3.8	9.0
1975	14.6	3.3	4.7	9.0

TABLE 6

DISPOSITION OF CASES AT THE SUPREME COURT LEVEL  
BY ORDER OR OTHER MODE PRIOR TO FORMAL SUBMISSION TO THE COURT  
1982

TYPE OF DISPOSITION	NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
Voluntary dismissal or with- drawal of appeal or other review by appellant	310	84	394
Dismissal by the clerk pur- suant to Rule 19, R. App. P., for failure to cure default within 15 days after notice	59	26	85
Dismissal by court for failure to comply with Rules of Appel- late Procedure	--	--	--
Dismissal by court for lack of jurisdiction	11	--	11
Dismissal by court of frivolous criminal appeal pursuant to Rule 104, Rules of Appellate Procedure	--	102	102
Denial of petition for permis- sion to appeal an interlocutory ruling	89	--	89
Denial of petition for writ of certiorari	13	14	27
Denial of petition for discre- tionary review	29	58	87
Cases transferred to the Court of Appeals by order of the Supreme Court	397	134	531
Consolidations*	19	24	43
Other	43	23	66
Totals	970	465	1,435

\*For purposes of this table, cases were classified as consoli-  
dated at the time an order rartin consolidation was filed.

TABLE 7

NUMBER OF CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND DISCIPLINARY  
CASES DISPOSED OF BY OPINION OF THE SUPREME COURT  
EN BANC AND BY DIVISION, 1980-1982

	EN BANC			DIVISION			PERCENT EN BANC		
	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982	1980	1981	1982
CIVIL	35	20	36	152	188	259	18.7%	9.6%	12.2%
CRIMINAL	8	8	13	76	163	148	9.5%	4.6%	8.1%
DISCIPLINARY	4	4	11	—	—	—	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>8.3%</b>	<b>12.8%</b>

TABLE 8

NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES TRANSFERRED TO,  
TERMINATED BY AND PENDING BEFORE THE IOWA COURT OF APPEALS  
1977-1982

	TRANSFERRED			TERMINATED			PENDING END OF YEAR		
	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL	CIVIL	CRIMINAL	TOTAL
1982	397	134	531	307	116	423	140	50	190
1981	305	149	454	348	163	511	50	32	82
1980	344	116	460	303	94	397	93	46	139
1979	263	114	377	259	120	379	52	24	76
1978	245	125	370	267	117	384	48	30	78
1977	330	95	425*	260	73	333	70	22	92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>733</b>	<b>2,617</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>2,427</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>657</b>

\*Includes 69 cases -- 56 civil and 13 criminal -- transferred to the Court of Appeals in late 1976.



TABLE 9

NUMBER AND TYPES OF CASES DISPOSED OF BY OPINION  
IOWA COURT OF APPEALS  
1977-1982

TYPE OF CASE	NUMBER OF DISPOSITIONS					
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
<b>CIVIL</b>						
Administrative Law	15	21	13	33	36	44
Contracts	39	26	47	35	39	50
Contested child custody	23	50	35	44	63	51
Domestic relations not involving child custody	58	68	76	81	94	53
Post-conviction relief	7	7	8	10	16	12
Property	40	40	21	26	24	24
Taxation	4	4	2	3	4	4
Tort	52	30	25	34	35	32
Trust, estates, wills	13	3	13	14	13	13
Other	6	17	17	16	14	17
<b>TOTAL CIVIL</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>301</b>
<b>CRIMINAL</b>						
Guilty plea only	5	11	11	3	10	3
Sentencing only	2	5	9	7	12	9
Guilty plea and sentencing only	2	1	--	2	5	--
Other	63	99	100	82	136	102
<b>TOTAL CRIMINAL</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>415</b>

TABLE 10

AVERAGE DELAY (IN MONTHS) FROM THE TIME  
A CASE IS READY FOR SUBMISSION TO OPINION  
IOWA COURT OF APPEALS  
1977-1982

YEAR	TYPE OF CASE			TOTAL
	CIVIL	PRIORITY CIVIL	CRIMINAL	
1982	6.9	5.2	5.3	6.2
1981	5.8	5.0	5.0	5.5
1980	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8
1979	5.2	4.2	4.6	4.9
1978	3.7	4.0	4.1	5.8
1977	16.1	4.6	4.6	12.5

TABLE 11

NUMBER OF CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES FILED\*  
AT THE APPELLATE COURT LEVEL  
1972-1982

	<u>CIVIL**</u>	<u>CRIMINAL</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
1982	1,253	596	1,849
1981	1,175	558	1,733
1980	1,081	539	1,620
1979	1,014	493	1,507
1978	1,003	487	1,490
1977	785	446	1,231
1976	737	439	1,176
1975	694	392	1,086
1974	594	362	956
1973	611	364	975
1972	361	285	646

\*A case is considered filed or docketed at the time the clerk prepares a docket page and assigns a number to the case.

\*\*Includes attorney disciplinary cases.

II. TRIAL COURT

THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT

The unified trial court, known as the "Iowa District Court," became operative July 1, 1973. The district court has general and original jurisdiction of all actions and proceedings, including probate and juvenile matters. Its jurisdiction is exercised by senior judges, district judges, district associate judges and judicial magistrates. The salary and travel expenses of all judges and magistrates are funded by the State.

The Unified Trial Court Act requires the clerk of the district court to furnish each judicial magistrate, associate judge or district judge acting as a judicial magistrate, a docket in which to enter all proceedings within their jurisdiction, except those required to be docketed with the clerk and assigned to judicial officers for disposition. The chief judge of a judicial district is authorized to order criminal proceedings combined in a centralized docket.

Judicial Magistrates

The Unified Trial Court Act created and allotted 191 part-time judicial magistrate positions to the 99 counties in the state, ranging from one to six per county. The original allotment remained in effect until June 30, 1975. Since that date, the state court administrator has apportioned magistrates among the counties.

A judicial magistrate appointing commission selects the magistrates to fill the positions allotted to the county. The person appointed must be an elector of the county and able to serve a full term of office before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 72. Although a license to practice law is not required, the commission must first consider licensed attorneys. In counties allotted only one such position, the appointing commission is authorized to appoint an additional magistrate and divide the statutory salary. (Guthrie and Ida Counties exercised this option in 1982). Part-time magistrates serve a two-year term of office commencing July 1 in odd-numbered years. The apportionment made in 1981 and reaffirmed in 1983 appears in Appendix E.

As amended, the Unified Trial Court Act authorizes any county with an allotment of three or more magistrate positions to appoint a district associate judge to substi-

tute for three part-time magistrates. (Effective January 1, 1981, full-time magistrates were renamed district associate judges.) The substitution is made by order of the chief judge of the judicial district on the affirmative vote of a majority of the district judges in the judicial election district in which the county is located. District associate judges serving in lieu of magistrates are nominated, appointed and retained in the same manner as regular district associate judges. As they also have the same qualifications, rights, salary, duties, responsibilities, authority and jurisdiction as regular district associate judges, their workload is totally integrated in this report.

#### Jurisdiction

Part-time judicial magistrates have jurisdiction of the following:

1. Preliminary hearing cases. [Cases in which they act as committing magistrates on felonies and indictable misdemeanors.] (R.Cr.P. 2(4)(a), The Code.)
2. Nonindictable or simple misdemeanors, including traffic and ordinance violations. [A simple misdemeanor is a criminal offense in which the punishment does not exceed a fine of \$100 or imprisonment for 30 days.]
3. Search warrant proceedings.
4. Emergency hospitalization proceedings. (Section 229.22, The Code.)
5. Lost property actions. [These include issuing a warrant directing a peace officer to appoint appraisers to fix the value of vessels, rafts, logs and lumber which have been stopped or taken up and determining the ownership of other lost property.] (Chapter 644.)

The above proceedings are all required to be entered in the docket furnished to them by the clerk or in the centralized docket for the county, if one is ordered to be maintained by the chief judge of the judicial district.

6. Small claims. [A small claim is a civil action (1) for a money judgment where the amount in controversy is \$1,000 or less, exclusive of interest and costs, and (2) actions for forcible

entry and detainer where no question of title to the property is involved.]

The Act requires the clerk of the district court to maintain the docket for small claims actions. If the action is one for money judgment and it is not disposed of by the clerk through entry of a confession of judgment, default judgment or a voluntary dismissal, it must be assigned to a judicial officer having jurisdiction of such actions. This is done by delivering the original notice first filed with the clerk to the officer. If it is an action for forcible entry and detainer, the appearance is required before the judicial officer who must handle the entire proceeding, including an order for the issuance of a writ of eviction if the plaintiff prevails. Again, the assignment is perfected by the clerk delivering the original notice first filed and all papers in the case to the judicial officer.

The record of all actions taken by the judicial officer in either type of small claims proceeding, including notes of testimony and judgment entry, is made on the original notice to which exhibits, if any, are attached and returned to the clerk. It serves as a calendar sheet from which the clerk makes proper entries in the small claims docket and on the lien index. Small claims actions are not entered in the docket furnished to judicial officers by the clerk or in the centralized docket used for criminal proceedings.

#### DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

The original Act provided for 30 magistrates required to devote full time to their position. One to four positions were authorized to counties in four population categories ranging from 35,000 to over 200,000. The 25 municipal court judges holding office June 30, 1973, became district associate judges and satisfied the requirement of a regular full-time magistrate in the county of their residence. Upon the death, resignation, retirement, removal or nonretention of a district associate judge, a full-time magistrate was appointed to fill the vacancy. By the end of 1980, there were 17 regular full-time magistrates and nine substitute full-time magistrates.

As noted above, effective January 1, 1981, full-time and substitute full-time magistrates were renamed district associate judges. (Chapter 1022, Acts of the 68th G.A., 1980 Session.) Full-time magistrates who became district associate judges in January 1981 and persons appointed to these positions on or before November 2, 1981, stood for

retention in office in their judicial election district in 1982. Persons appointed to these offices after November 1, 1981, who could not complete a one-year initial term of office before the November 2, 1982, general election, will stand for retention at the 1984 general election and every four years thereafter.

The number of district associate judges by judicial election district and county is illustrated below.

Judicial Election District	County	District Associate Judges
1A	Dubuque	2
1B	Black Hawk	3
2A	Cerro Gordo	1
2B	Marshall	1
2B	Webster	1
2B	Story	2
3A	Dickinson	1
3B	Woodbury	3
4	Pottawattamie	3
5A	Jasper	1
5A	Polk	6
5A	Warren	1
6	Johnson	1
6	Linn	4
7	Clinton	1
7	Muscatine	1
7	Scott	3
8A	Wapello	1
8B	Des Moines	2
8B	Lee	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>39</b>

In counties having only one district associate judge, the county judicial magistrate appointing commission is authorized to appoint an alternate district associate judge to act in the temporary absence of a district associate judge. Such alternate is paid on a per diem basis by the state for days of actual service rendered. In 1982, an alternate district associate judge served in Marshall and Warren Counties.

Jurisdiction

District associate judges have the same jurisdiction as part-time magistrates. In addition, they have jurisdiction of:

1. Civil actions for money judgments where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$3,000;
2. Indictable (serious and aggravated) misdemeanors; and
3. Juvenile cases when designated as a judge of the juvenile court by the chief judge of the judicial district.

While exercising such additional jurisdiction, they are not only required to employ district judges' practice and procedure but, as the cases are docketed with the clerk of the district court, they must be assigned and delivered to the judge with a calendar sheet on which to report the disposition of the case.

Trial by Jury and Appeal Provisions

A defendant charged with a nonindictable or simple misdemeanor is entitled to a trial by a six-member jury if he or she files a written jury demand at least ten days before the time set for trial. Failure to make such demand constitutes a waiver of jury. The plaintiff may appeal only upon a finding of invalidity of an ordinance or statute and the defendant only upon a judgment of conviction. If the original action was tried by a lay-magistrate, the district or district associate judge shall try the case anew; a case tried by a district judge, district associate judge or judicial magistrate admitted to the bar is appealed to a district judge on the record. Either party may appeal from the judgment of the district judge to the Supreme Court in the same manner as from a judgment in a prosecution by indictment.

A small claims action is tried before the judicial officer to whom it is assigned without the right to a jury. Either party may appeal to a district court judge who is required to hear the matter on the record. If it appears the trial record is incomplete, the district court judge may take additional testimony and evidence. The right of either party to appeal from the judgment of the district judge is entirely within the discretionary power of the Supreme Court.



#### DISTRICT COURT JUDGES

In January 1982, there were 95 district court judges in Iowa. Under the judgeship formula computed in February 1982, 123 judgeships were authorized. However, the provisions of section 602.18, The Code, as amended, limited the maximum number of judgeships to 95. The latest computation of the judgeship formula (February 1983) authorized a total of 123 judgeships. The statutory formula and a copy of the application of the formula in 1982 and 1983 appear at the end of this part of the report.

For purposes of administration and ordinary judicial functions, the state is divided into eight judicial districts (Appendix D) and into 13 judicial election districts for purposes stated in the footnote to the map appearing on page 34. With 95 judges serving in the eight judicial districts, the population spread per judge ranged from 26,935 in the 5th District to 35,438 in the 3rd. [Appendix C]

#### Jurisdiction

District judges possess the full jurisdiction of the trial court, including the jurisdiction of judicial magistrates. While exercising the latter, they are required to employ the practice and procedure for judicial magistrates. Under the Iowa probate code they are the only judges sitting in probate.

#### Senior Judges

Effective July 1, 1979, the Sixty-eighth General Assembly established a senior judge program whereby retired Supreme Court justices, Court of Appeals judges, district court judges and district associate judges who qualify agree to work up to 13 weeks per year until age 78. The Supreme Court may not assign a senior judge judicial duties on a court superior to the highest court to which he or she was appointed prior to retirement. A senior judge may not be assigned to the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court except to serve in the temporary absence of a member of that court. A senior judge may not practice law.

While serving on temporary assignment, a senior judge is paid no salary but continues to receive monthly judicial retirement annuities. The senior judge program provides a hedge against inflation by mandating an increase in judicial annuity whenever the current salary of active judges is raised. There is no provision for an increase in judicial annuity for judges who do not participate in the senior judge system.

As of January 1, 1983, three Supreme Court justices -- M.L. Mason, C. Edwin Moore and Warren J. Rees -- nine district court judges -- James E. Hughes, Lowell D. Phelps, John N. Hughes, Harold L. Martin, Nathan Grant, Paul E. Hellwege, Robert O. Frederick, Dale Missildine and R.K. Stohr -- and one district associate judge -- Ross Caniglia -- were serving as senior judges in Iowa. In this report, the work of these judges is combined with the caseload of district court judges. [Following mandatory retirement, Supreme Court Justice Clay LeGrand took senior judge status February 28, 1983.]

#### Clerk of District Court

The clerk's office in the 99 counties performed two important functions during 1982 which reduced the workload of the judicial officers in each county. These were:

1. Kept the small claims docket and, through the entry of confessions of judgment, default judgments and voluntary dismissals in actions for a money judgment, avoided the necessity of assigning many such cases to judicial officers. [Tables 12(d), 14(e) and 15]
2. Maintained a traffic violations office where scheduled violations were admitted and disposed of upon payment of the minimum fine and costs before the time specified for appearance before the court on a uniform citation and complaint issued to the alleged violator. [Table 16]

#### Judgeship Formula

The subsections of section 602.18, The Code, relating to the determination of the number of judges in each of the 13 judicial election districts and the matter of filling judgeship vacancies, are as follows:

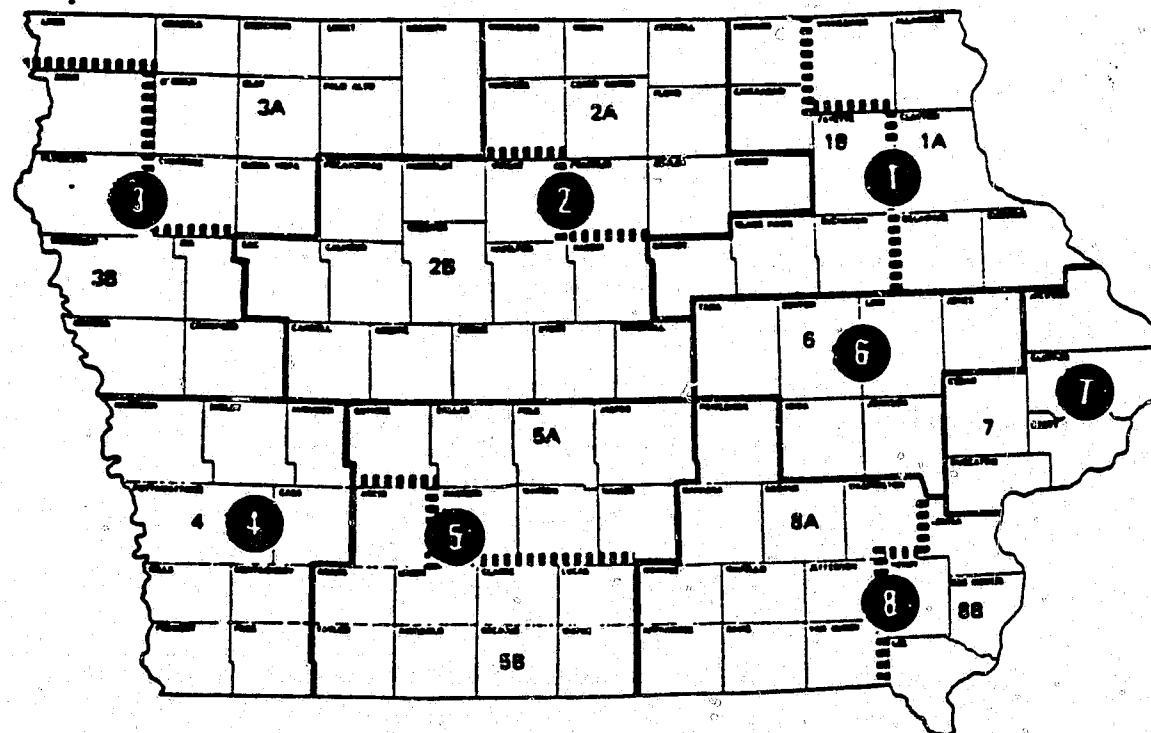
1. Subject to the provision for temporary assignment of judges, as set out in subsection 9, hereof, each district judge in office on July 1, 1967, shall continue to serve in the district of his domicile so long as he remains a district judge, regardless of the number of judgeships to which the district is entitled under subsection 2 hereof.
2. The number of judgeships to which each of the judicial election districts shall be entitled shall be determined from time to time according to the following formula:

a. In an election district wherein the largest county contains two hundred thousand or more population, there shall be one judgeship per seven hundred twenty-five combined civil and criminal filings or major fraction thereof; provided, the seat of government shall be entitled to one additional judgeship.

b. In an election district wherein the largest county contains eighty-five thousand or more population, but less than two hundred thousand, there shall be one judgeship per six hundred twenty-five combined filings or major fraction thereof.

c. In an election district wherein the largest county contains forty-five thousand or more population, but less than eighty-five thousand, there shall be one judgeship per five hundred twenty-five combined civil and criminal filings or major fraction thereof.

Iowa's 8 Judicial Districts and 13 Judicial Election Districts



\*Judicial election districts are for the purposes of nomination, appointment and election of district judges, the application of the judgeship formula, the removal of judicial

d. In an election district wherein the largest county contains less than forty-five thousand population, there shall be one judgeship per four hundred seventy-five combined civil and criminal filings or major fraction thereof.

e. Notwithstanding paragraphs a, b, c, or d of this subsection, each election district shall be entitled to not less than one judgeship for each forty thousand population or major fraction thereof contained in the election district. The court administrator shall determine both the number of judgeships for each election district based upon this paragraph, and the number of judgeships for each election district based upon paragraph a, b, c, or d of this subsection. If the number for any election district determined under this paragraph exceeds the number determined under paragraph a, b, c, or d, that election district shall be entitled to the number of judgeships determined under this paragraph.

f. The filings included in the determinations to be made under this subsection shall not include small claims or nonindictable misdemeanors filed after June 30, 1973, nor shall they include either civil actions for money judgment where the amount in controversy does not exceed three thousand dollars or indictable misdemeanors, which were assigned to district associate judges and judicial magistrates as shown on their administrative reports, but they shall include appeals from decisions of judicial magistrates, district associate judges, and district judges sitting as judicial magistrates. The figures on filings shall be the average for the latest available previous three-year period and when current census figures on population are not available, figures shall be taken from the state department of health computations.

3. A vacancy, for purposes of this section, is defined as the death, resignation, retirement, removal, or failure of retention in office at the judicial election, of a judge or increase in judgeships under this section.

4. In those districts having more judges than the number of judgeships specified by the formula set out in subsection 2 hereof, vacancies shall not be filled.

5. In those districts having fewer judges or the same number of judges as the number of judgeships specified by the formula set out in subsection 2 hereof, vacancies in the number of judges shall be filled as they occur.

6. In those judicial districts that contain judicial election districts, no vacancy in any judicial election district shall be filled if the total number of judges in all the judicial election districts within the judicial district equals or exceeds the number of judgeships to which all the judicial election districts of the judicial district combined are authorized.

7. Vacancies shall not be filled in any district which may become entitled to fewer judgeships under subsection two (2) of this section; but no incumbent judge shall ever be removed from office by reason thereof.

8. During February of each year, and at such other times as may be appropriate, the supreme court administrator shall make the determinations required under this section, and shall notify the nominating commissions involved and the governor of any appointments that may be required as a result thereof.

9. It shall be the duty of the chief justice to assign judges and other court personnel from one judicial district to another, on a continuing basis, if need be, in order to provide a sufficient number of judges to handle the judicial business in all districts promptly and efficiently at all times.

....

Notwithstanding this section, the number of district judges shall not be increased by more than three in order that the number of district judges shall not exceed ninety-five during the period commencing with July 1, 1981 and ending at such time as the general assembly shall otherwise specify.

## ANALYSIS OF STATISTICS

### Regular Civil and Criminal Cases

For the purpose of the following discussion, regular civil cases include all law, equity and special proceedings docketed in the office of the clerk except in the small claims docket. An appeal from a decision of a judicial magistrate in a small claims action is also considered a regular civil case.

Regular criminal cases include all felony and indictable misdemeanors (serious and aggravated). A felony is a public offense which is, or in the discretion of the court may be, punished by imprisonment in the state penitentiary, men's reformatory or women's reformatory. An indictable misdemeanor is a public offense, less than a felony, in which the punishment exceeds a fine of \$100 or imprisonment for more than 30 days in the county jail. An appeal from a decision or verdict in a nonindictable or simple misdemeanor case becomes a regular criminal case when docketed by the clerk as a regular criminal action.

A total of 94,771 regular civil and criminal cases were docketed in the clerks' offices during 1982. This was a 0.4 percent decrease from the 95,157 civil and criminal cases docketed in 1981 and a 31.4 percent increase over the 72,119 cases docketed five years earlier in 1977 -- the first year of the legislative freeze on the number of district court judgeships. A comparison of cases docketed during 1981 and 1982 reveals that while criminal filings rose 5.6 percent (36,932 to 39,008) civil filings declined 4.2 percent (58,225 to 55,763).

A number of regular civil cases and indictable misdemeanors filed in district court were assigned to district associate judges, and substitute and alternate district associate judges for disposition. These three types of judicial officers mentioned above will hereafter be referred to as district associate judges. The total number of regular civil and indictable criminal dispositions by district and district associate judges amount to 92,141 -- an increase of 2.6 percent over the 89,729 cases disposed of in 1981. Despite the increase in dispositions, there were 2,630 more cases pending December 31, 1982 than on January 1 of that year; the number of pending cases increased in every judicial district. [Tables 1, 2(a) and 3(a)]

#### District Judges' Activities

During 1982, district court judges disposed of 54,484 regular civil cases: 440 or 0.8 percent by trial to jury, 6,217 or 11.4 percent by trial to court, and 47,827 or 87.8 percent without trial. The number of civil dispositions per judge ranged from 484 in the 2nd District to 820 in the 4th. Statewide, there were 573 civil dispositions per district court judge. [Tables 2(a), (b) and (d)]

During 1982, district judges disposed of 19,027 regular criminal cases: 605 or 3.2 percent by trial to jury, 1,019 or 5.4 percent by trial to court and 17,403 or 91.4 percent without trial. The number of criminal dispositions per judge ranged from 133 in the 8th District to 247 in the 5th. Statewide, there were 200 criminal dispositions per district court judge. [Tables 3(a), (b) and (d)]

The average number of civil and criminal cases disposed of per judge by district, with the rank of each district, is shown on Table 10. The 4th District recorded the highest number of civil/criminal dispositions per judge (1,009) while the 2nd District had the lowest number of dispositions per judge (689).

#### District Associate Judges' Activities

There were 1,019 regular civil cases assigned to district associate judges during 1982 -- a 10.5 percent decrease from the 922 cases assigned in 1981. During 1982, the judges of limited jurisdiction disposed of 968 regular civil cases, 9 or 0.9 percent by trial to jury, 113 or 11.7 percent by trial to court, and 846 or 87.4 percent without trial. On a per judge basis, dispositions ranged from 0 in the 4th and 6th Districts to 78 in the 1st. [Tables 2(a), (c) and (d)]

During 1982, 18,777 regular criminal cases (indictable misdemeanors and simple misdemeanors on appeal) were assigned to district associate judges as compared to 17,592 assigned to such judges in 1981. Of the 17,662 criminal cases disposed of by district associate judges in 1982, 170 or 1.0 percent were resolved by trial to jury, 109 or 0.6 percent by trial to court, and 17,383 or 98.4 percent without trial. On a per judge basis, dispositions ranged from 291 in the 5th District to 729 in the 6th. [Tables 3(a), (c) and (d)]

#### Civil and Criminal Filings by Case Type

Dissolution filings (and modifications) represented 30.7 percent (17,164) of the 55,763 civil cases docketed in the district court in 1982. [Table 4] These cases, combined with other actions involving domestic relations such as child support recovery (8,343) and domestic abuse (130), accounted for nearly one half (46.0 percent) of all civil cases filed in the district court. In the 4th and 7th Districts, domestic relations cases comprised more than one half of the total civil case filings.

Table 4 also shows that 848 (3.4 percent) of the 25,278 small claims rulings by judicial officers of limited jurisdiction were appealed upon the record to the district court, pursuant to section 631.13, The Code. Such appeals comprised 1.5 percent of the civil case filings.

In the criminal area, the 15,712 first and second offense drunken driver cases (OWI--operating while intoxicated) embraced 52.5 percent of the indictable misdemeanor filings and 40.3 percent of all the regular criminal cases, i.e., felonies, indictable misdemeanors (serious and aggravated), and simple misdemeanors on appeal. [Table 5] Nearly two-thirds of the OWI cases (9,935) were filed in the 5th, 6th, 1st and 7th Districts which contain the four largest metropolitan areas and 63 percent of the state's population.

The 8,064 felony filings represented 20.7 percent of the 39,008 criminal cases docketed. Only 0.4 of one percent (1,006) of the 232,211 simple misdemeanors handled by district associate judges and magistrates were appealed to the district court for a new trial, pursuant to rule 54, R. Cr. P. Such appeals comprised 2.6 percent of the criminal filings.

#### Pending Regular Civil and Criminal Cases

Of the 52,589 regular civil cases pending at the end of the year, 11,558 or 23 percent were over 18 months old. During 1982, the number of civil cases pending over 18 months decreased by 184 or 1.5 percent. [Appendix A] Those pending in the 3rd, 7th and 8th Districts exceeded the state average; the 5th and 4th Districts had the lowest percentage of civil cases over 18 months. The proportion of pending civil cases over 18 months old ranged from 16 percent in the 6th District to 29 percent in the 3rd. Except in the 2nd, 4th and 7th Judicial Districts, there were more civil cases pending at the end of the year than at the beginning.



There were 2,182 more criminal cases pending on December 31, 1982 than 12 months earlier. Of the 19,913 regular criminal cases pending at the end of the year, 4,473 or 22 percent were over 18 months old -- 62 percent (12,250) had been pending more than three months. [Appendix B] The 3rd District had the highest percentage of cases pending over 90 days; the 4th District had the lowest percentage of criminal cases over 90 days old. In every district but one (8th), there were more criminal cases pending December 31 than on January 1, 1982. Criminal cases pending in the 3rd District soared 22.1 percent; statewide, criminal cases increased 12.3 percent (17,737 to 19,913) during 1982.

#### Probate Matters

The district judges exercise the probate jurisdiction of the unified trial court. There were 932 trusteeships opened in 1982 -- up 7.2 percent from the previous year. [Table 6(a)] The number of trusteeships opened ranged from 56 in the 4th District to 174 in the 5th. During 1982, 4,020 guardianships and conservatorships were opened -- down 1.7 percent from 1981; the number of cases ranged from 273 in the 4th to 882 in the 5th. Some 19,377 decedent estates were opened in 1982 -- an increase of 142 or 0.7 percent. The number of estates opened varied from 1,284 in the 7th District to 3,784 in the 2nd. Statewide, there were 13 jury trials and 222 trials to court in contested probate matters; the number of jury and court trials in 1981 was 17 and 264, respectively. [Table 6(a)]

Of the 18,066 estates closed during 1982, 52 percent were closed within one year, 34 percent from 1-3 years, and 14 percent after three years. The respective percentages for the 18,066 estates closed in 1981 were 52 percent, 35 percent and 13 percent. In 1982, 59 percent of the estates were settled within one year in the 5th District; in the 6th District only 46 percent of the estates were closed within a year. [Table 6(b)] The number of decedents' estates closed during 1982 was 1,311 less than the number of new estates opened. In 1981, there were 1,218 more estates opened than closed. [Table 6(a) and (b)]

Table 10 indicates the number of probate matters closed per judge in each district during 1982. The number of probate matters closed varies from 152 per judge in the 6th District to 317 per judge in the 3rd.

#### Juvenile Matters

Juvenile matters are heard by district judges, judicial referees and district associate judges designated by the chief judge of the judicial district to act as judges of the juvenile court. There were 5,363 juvenile petitions filed in the district court clerks' offices during 1982 -- 207 fewer petitions than in 1981. [Table 7(a)] Juvenile petitions were classified into four general categories: delinquency (3,454), child in need of assistance or CHINA (1,816), family in need of assistance or FINA (67) and interstate compacts or extradition (26). Seventy percent of the FINA petitions were filed in the 1st and 5th Districts.

The number and type of formal hearings in juvenile matters are illustrated in Table 7(b). Figures show there were 2,962 adjudication hearings, 4,107 disposition hearings, 3,317 review hearings, 1,249 shelter/detention hearings and 2,958 other hearings for a grand total of 14,593 -- up 60 from 1981. Approximately half of the juvenile hearings are handled by district associate judges, 40 percent are conducted by referees and about 10 percent by district judges.

#### Termination of Parental Rights

For statistical purposes, termination of parental rights cases were separated from regular juvenile matters involving delinquent children and minors or families in need of assistance. As indicated in Table 8, there were 957 petitions for termination of parental rights filed in the district court during 1982 -- a decrease of 48 cases from 1981. Forty-one percent (396) involved involuntary or contested proceedings. The largest number of termination cases (174) was docketed in the 5th District; the fewest petitions (73) were filed in the 4th District. There were 860 formal hearings held on these matters -- down 78 from 1981.

#### Hospitalization Hearings

Table 9(a) shows the number and type of hospitalization hearings. There were 3,559 hospitalization hearings in Iowa during 1982 -- 122 involuntary minor, 1,734 involuntary adult, 975 emergency and 728 substance abuse. The total number of hearings by type of judicial officer is noted in a footnote to Table 9(a).

General Activity of District Associate Judges

Other than regular civil and criminal cases, termination of parental rights and juvenile matters discussed above, a total of 128,687 cases were docketed or assigned and 127,534 cases were disposed of by the 39 associate judges during 1982. There were 50,614 cases pending at the end of the year. The number of cases docketed and assigned ranged from 3,731 in the 8th District to 54,856 in the 5th. The total number of simple misdemeanor/small claims cases pending at the end of the year varied from 607 in the 8th District to 35,926 in the 5th. The number of each type of case filed, terminated and pending during 1982, appears in Tables 12(a) through 12(d).

As committing magistrates for indictable offenses, district associate judges conducted 14,519 initial appearance proceedings and 243 preliminary hearings in indictable criminal cases, pursuant to rule 2, R. Cr. P. [Table 12(a)] Seventy-nine percent of the preliminary hearings and 37 percent of the initial appearances were held in the 5th District.

There were 10,296 nonindictable state cases (simple misdemeanors) carried over from 1981. During 1982, 47,136 were docketed as compared to 53,151 in 1981 -- a decrease of 11.3 percent. Of the 43,602 state cases terminated during 1982, the judges disposed of 100 or 0.2 percent by trial to jury, 1,924 or 4.4 percent by trial to court and 41,578 or 95.4 percent without trial. The number of simple misdemeanors pending at the end of 1982 (13,832) was 3,534 more than the number pending at the beginning of the year. During 1982, the associate judges of the 5th District had by far the largest number of nonindictable state cases docketed, terminated and pending. [Table 12(b)]

Some 38,868 ordinance cases were pending from 1981. During 1982, 51,932 were docketed and 54,335 were disposed of: 32 or less than 0.1 percent by trial to jury, 3,142 or 5.8 percent by trial to court and 51,161 or 94.2 percent without trial. The number of pending cases decreased by 2,403 to 36,465. [Table 12(c)]

During 1982, district associate judges entertained 482 search warrant applications and conducted 763 seized property hearings. Over 63 percent of the applications for search warrants handled by district associate judges occurred in the 5th, 2nd and 7th Districts; over 73 percent of the seized property hearings occurred in the 1st District. [Table 14(d)] There were also 323 hospitalization

hearings held by the 39 full-time judges of limited jurisdiction. [Table 9(b)]

There were 13,266 small claims assigned and 13,244 cases terminated by associate judges during 1982. [Table 12(d)] The judges resolved 3,616 or 27.3 percent by trial to the court and 13,244 or 72.7 percent without trial. Of those disposed of without trial, 7,808 or 59.0 percent were defaulted and 1,820 or 13.7 percent were either dismissed or transferred. Half of the small claims cases handled by such judges were assigned and disposed of in the 5th District.

Judicial Magistrates

In 1982, 161,788 cases were docketed or assigned to 166 judicial magistrates; they disposed of 163,144 or 983 cases per magistrate. [Table 13] (As a consequence of the resignation of a part-time magistrate who was not replaced, there were 165 magistrates serving the trial court during the last quarter of 1982.) Forty-one percent of the cases (66,841) were handled by the 57 magistrates in the 1st and 2nd Districts. The number of dispositions per magistrate ranged from 719 (3rd District) to 1,632 (1st District). Approximately 30 percent of the cases pending at the end of the year were in the 1st District. [Note: Judicial districts vary in population from 198,726 (4th) to 538,716 (5th) and in the number of magistrates from 13 (7th) to 34 (2nd).]

As shown in Table 14(a), there were 14,027 initial appearances and 1,137 preliminary hearings conducted by judicial magistrates in indictable criminal cases. While the largest number of such actions were in the 2nd District, magistrates in the 7th District had the fewest number of initial appearances and preliminary hearings.

There were 79,323 nonindictable state cases (simple misdemeanors) docketed before judicial magistrates in 1982. [Table 14(b)] The magistrates disposed of 79,331 cases -- 162 or 0.2 percent by trial to jury, 7,590 or 9.6 percent by trial to court, and 71,579 or 90.2 percent without trial. The 5th District had the most jury trials (45) while the 4th and 8th Districts reported the least (13). There were 15,265 nonindictable cases docketed in the 2nd District; only 5,475 were docketed in the 7th District. About half of the pending cases were found in the 1st, 5th and 7th Districts.

Statistics on nonindictable ordinance cases disclose that 53,607 cases were docketed, 54,943 were disposed, and

4,288 were still pending on December 31, 1982. Ninety-two percent of the ordinance cases were disposed of without a contested trial to a judge or jury. The 23 magistrates in the 1st District handled 21,394 ordinance cases while the 19 magistrates in the 5th District disposed of 5,010. [Table 14(c)] Thirty-nine percent of the filings and dispositions and 58 percent of the pending cases were within the 1st District.

Overall, magistrates terminated 134,274 simple misdemeanors in 1982 compared to 150,665 in 1981. Approximately three out of five simple misdemeanors handled by all judicial officers involved traffic matters.

Judicial magistrates entertained 761 applications for search warrants, conducted 544 seized property hearings and handled 11 lost property actions during 1982. [Table 14(d)] There were 813 search warrant applications and 644 seized property hearings before magistrates in 1981.

Statewide, for all judicial officers, the number of search warrant applications decreased 5.6 percent (1,483 to 1,400) while the number of seized property hearings fell 2.7 percent (1,357 to 1,321) since 1981. Magistrates in the 3rd District received the largest number of search warrant applications (155), and conducted the most seized property hearings (176). Considering the work of all judicial officers on these matters, the highest volume of applications for search warrants was in the 5th District; the 1st District had the highest number of seized property hearings.

As shown on Table 14(e), magistrates disposed of 12,034 small claims cases in 1982. Fifty-seven percent (6,839) of the small claims were tried before the court; the remaining 5,195 cases (3,937 defaults and 1,258 dismissals or transfers) were disposed of without a trial. The 2nd District had the largest number of small claims assigned to magistrates (3,139); the 7th District had the highest number of small claims tried to court (1,702), and pending (179) before magistrates at the end of the year.

#### District Court Clerks

The 99 clerks of the district court played an important role not only in record keeping but in the handling of small claims (dismissals and defaults) and scheduled violations. As noted above, under the new Unified Trial Court Act, district court clerks are authorized to docket and assign small claims and enter dismissals and defaults. Cases involving forcible entry and detainer must be handled by a judge.

District court clerks are also responsible for handling scheduled violations in which the defendant mails in or delivers his or her admission, scheduled fine and \$6.00 costs to the clerk's traffic violations office before the time specified on the citation and complaint for court appearance. In addition, clerks are the custodians of collection boxes used at weigh stations for the deposit of fines and costs in cases involving weight and other non-moving scheduled violations of commercial carriers.

Table 15 shows that more small claims were disposed of by clerks (44,478) than judges (25,278). While clerks in the 3rd District took care of over three-fourths of the small claims terminated, in the 5th District they handled only 55.1 percent of the small claims dispositions. Overall, 63.8 percent of the small claims were disposed of by district court clerks.

As noted in Table 16, the district court clerks disposed of 425,281 scheduled violations without the attention or assistance of any judicial officer -- down 45,281 or 9.6 percent from 1981. On the average, a district court clerk disposed of 4,296 scheduled violations in 1982. The number of scheduled violations ranged from 257 in Ringgold County to 98,519 in Polk County.

#### Trial Court Statistics -- A Summary

There were 55,763 regular civil cases (over \$1,000 and small claims on appeal) and 39,008 regular criminal cases (indictable misdemeanors, felonies and simple misdemeanors on appeal) filed in the district court during 1982. This represented a 4.2 percent decrease in civil filings and a 5.6 percent increase in criminal filings since 1981. [Appendix F] There was a total of 92,141 civil/criminal dispositions. While the number of civil cases terminated declined by 1,782 or 3.3 percent (55,536 to 55,452), the number of criminal dispositions increased 7.3 percent (34,193 to 36,689) from 1981 figures. There were 447 jury trials and 6,332 court trials of civil cases; in criminal matters there were 775 jury trials and 1,128 court trials. Nearly 88 percent of the civil cases and 94.8 percent of the criminal cases were disposed of without trial.

There were 52,589 civil cases pending at the end of 1982 compared with 52,278 on January 1 -- an increase of 311 or 0.6 percent. The number of pending criminal cases jumped 13.2 percent (17,731 to 19,913). In all but the 8th District there were more criminal cases pending at the end

of 1982 than at the beginning of the year. The number of civil cases pending escalated in five of the eight districts. Of the cases pending statewide, 78 percent of the civil cases and 62 percent of the criminal cases were over 3 months old; 23 percent of the civil cases (12,377) and 22 percent of the criminal cases (4,473) were over 18 months old. These figures represent a one-year decrease of 1.5 percent in the number of civil cases pending over 18 months and a 14.2 percent increase in the number of criminal cases pending over a year and a half.

In 1982, there were 774 civil/criminal dispositions per district judge -- the highest output per judge on record. [Appendix H] District court judges in the 4th District had the highest rate of civil/criminal dispositions per judge (1,009); in the 2nd District the average number of dispositions was 689. [Table 10]

A review of the type of cases docketed in the district court shows that 46.0 percent of the 55,763 civil filings involve domestic relations -- dissolutions and modifications (17,164), uniform support actions (8,343), and domestic abuse (130). [Table 4] Parenthetically, the largest category of criminal cases was first and second offense OWI (operating while intoxicated). OWI comprised 40.3 percent or 15,712 of the 39,008 criminal filings. [Table 5] Appeals of simple misdemeanors (1,006) and small claims appeals (848) represented only 2.6 percent of the criminal filings and 1.5 percent of the civil filings respectively. Statistically, only 0.4 percent of the 232,211 simple misdemeanors and 3.4 percent of the 25,278 small claims cases disposed of by judicial officers were appealed to the district court for a second ruling.

The number of probate matters opened increased slightly during 1982 -- 932 trusteeships, 4,020 guardianships and conservatorships, and 19,377 estates. Corresponding figures for 1981 were 869, 4,088, and 19,235, respectively. The number of estates closed rose from 18,017 to 18,066; the percentage closed within a one-year period remained at 52 percent.

There was a modest drop in the number of juvenile petitions filed (5,570 to 5,363) compared with 1981 figures. The number of formal juvenile hearings increased 1.0 percent (14,455 to 14,593). Over half of the juvenile hearings were conducted by judicial officers of limited jurisdiction; two out of five were handled by referees. In addition to the regular juvenile cases, there were 957 petitions and 860 formal hearings involving termination of parental rights; there were 1,005 and 938 such matters the previous year.

The average district court judge held 14 juvenile hearings, closed 232 probate matters, terminated 774 regular civil/criminal cases, and tried 87 contested civil/criminal cases during 1982.

There were 232,211 nonindictable state and ordinance cases disposed of in 1982 -- down 14.6 percent from the number (271,973) handled in 1981. Over 92 percent of the simple misdemeanor cases were disposed of without a contested trial. Judicial officers held 28,546 initial appearances in indictable criminal cases, conducted 1,380 preliminary hearings, entertained 1,400 applications for search warrants, conducted 1,321 seized property hearings, disposed of 11 lost property actions and handled 3,605 hospitalization hearings. Judicial officers disposed of 25,278 small claims actions while the clerks of the district court handled 44,478. There were 425,272 scheduled violations processed in the clerks' offices.

TABLE 1

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES<sup>a</sup> DOCKETED,  
DISPOSED OF<sup>b</sup> AND PENDING IN 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981<sup>c</sup>

(Hereafter referred to as Regular Civil  
and Criminal Cases)

DISTRICT <sup>b</sup>	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED BY CLERK	DISPOSED OF	PENDING DECEMBER 31	CHANGE IN PENDING
1	8,814	13,357	12,651	9,520	+706
2	10,490	12,948	12,828	10,610	+120
3	8,119	10,049	9,516	8,652	+533
4	3,893	7,637	7,621	3,909	+ 16
5	14,553	19,137	18,642	15,048	+495
6	8,724	11,721	11,270	9,175	+451
7	8,250	10,943	10,801	8,392	+142
8	7,029	8,979	8,812	7,196	+167
1982 Statewide	69,872 <sup>d</sup>	94,771	92,141	72,502	+2,630
1981 Statewide	64,952	95,157	89,729	70,380	+5,428

a. Includes felonies and indictable misdemeanors (serious and aggravated) and actions for money judgments, other than small claims, where the amount in controversy exceeds \$1,000. Also includes simple misdemeanors and small claims appealed to the district court. Does not include juvenile or probate cases.

b. There were 14 senior judges, 95 district court judges, 39 district associate judges (including nine associate judges substituting for 27 judicial magistrates) and two alternate district associate judges serving in the Iowa district court on December 31, 1982. In this report, the work of the senior judges is included in the terminations by district judges; similarly, the dispositions by alternate district associate judges are combined with the productivity of district associate judges.

c. See map showing districts and 1981 population, Appendix D.

d. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 2

(a) REGULAR CIVIL CASES  
ACTIVITY DURING 1982 WITH TOTALS COMPARED  
TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	ASSOCIATE JUDGES <sup>a</sup>		DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	PENDING DECEMBER 31
			ASSIGNED TO	DISPOSED BY			
1	6,861	7,993	428	392	7,323	7,715	7,139
2	8,129	7,736	59	62	7,754	7,816	8,049
3	5,832	5,850	302	300	5,522	5,822	5,860
4	3,325	4,807	—	—	4,918	4,918	3,214
5	11,496	11,655	3	3	11,375	11,378	11,773
6	5,422	5,649	—	—	5,512	5,512	5,559
7	5,785	6,178	141	138	6,440	6,578	5,385
8	5,428	5,895	86	73	5,640	5,713	5,610
1982 Statewide	52,278 <sup>b</sup>	55,763	1,019	968	54,484	55,452	52,589
1981 Statewide	49,960	58,225	922	1,025	54,511	55,536	52,649

a. Includes the work of 39 district associate judges and two part-time alternate district associate judges. The nine district associate judges substituting for judicial magistrates served Polk (2), Dickinson, Story, Woodbury, Warren, Linn, Pottawattamie and Des Moines Counties during 1982; alternate district associate judges served in Marshall and Warren Counties. As substitute district associate judges have the same qualifications, jurisdiction and responsibilities as the other district associate judges, they are considered one and the same in these tables.

b. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.



TABLE 2

(b) REGULAR CIVIL CASES  
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1982  
With Totals Compared to Those of 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	12	7,323	33	0.5%	464	6.3%	6,826	89.2%
2	16	7,754	68	0.9%	846	10.9%	6,840	88.2%
3	10	5,522	47	0.9%	438	7.9%	5,037	91.2%
4	6	4,918	40	0.8%	1,048	21.3%	3,830	77.9%
5	20	11,375	115	1.0%	1,039	9.1%	10,221	89.9%
6	11	5,512	66	1.2%	508	9.2%	4,938	89.6%
7	10	6,440	40	0.5%	1,288	18.3%	5,112	81.2%
8	10	5,640	31	0.5%	586	10.4%	5,023	89.1%
1982 Statewide	95	54,484	440	0.8%	6,217	11.4%	47,827	87.8%
1981 Statewide	95	54,511	472	0.9%	6,346	11.6%	47,693	87.5%

TABLE 2

(c) REGULAR CIVIL CASES  
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1982  
With Totals Compared to Those of 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	5	392	—	—	31	7.9%	361	92.1%
2	5	62	4	6.5%	19	30.6%	39	62.9%
3	4	300	2	0.7%	18	6.0%	280	93.3%
4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	8	3	—	—	3	100.0%	—	—
6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	5	138	3	2.2%	31	22.4%	104	75.4%
8	4	73	—	—	11	15.1%	62	84.9%
1982 Statewide	39	968	9	0.9%	113	11.7%	846	87.4%
1981 Statewide	39	1,025	2	0.2%	118	11.5%	905	88.3%

TABLE 2  
(d) REGULAR CIVIL CASES DISPOSED OF PER JUDGE DURING 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	DISTRICT JUDGES			ASSOCIATE JUDGES		
	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)
1	12	7,323	610	5	392	78
2	16	7,751	484	5	62	12
3	10	5,522	552	4	300	75
4	6	4,918	820	3	—	—
5	20	11,375	569	8	3	0.4
6	11	5,512	501	5	—	—
7	10	6,440	644	5	138	28
8	10	5,640	564	4	73	18
1982 Statewide	95	54,481	573	39	968	25
1981 Statewide	95	54,511	574	39	1,025	26

TABLE 3  
(a) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES  
ACTIVITY DURING 1982 WITH TOTALS COMPARED  
TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	ASSOCIATE JUDGES		DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSITIONS	PENDING DECEMBER 31
			ASSIGNED TO	DISPOSED BY			
1	1,953	5,364	2,731	2,520	2,416	4,936	2,381
2	2,361	5,212	1,756	1,736	3,276	5,012	2,561
3	2,287	4,199	1,728	1,445	2,249	3,694	2,792
4	568	2,830	1,683	1,567	1,136	2,703	695
5	3,057	7,482	2,338	2,327	4,937	7,264	3,275
6	3,302	6,072	3,862	3,644	2,114	5,758	3,616
7	2,465	4,765	3,027	2,657	1,566	4,223	3,007
8	1,601	3,084	1,652	1,766	1,333	3,099	1,586
1982 Statewide	17,594 <sup>a</sup>	39,008	18,777	17,662	19,027	36,689	19,913
1981 Statewide	14,992	36,932	17,592	16,359	17,834	34,193	17,731

a. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 3

(b) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES  
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1982  
With Totals Compared to Those of 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	12	2,416	72	3.0%	238	9.8%	2,106	87.2%
2	16	3,276	112	3.4%	146	4.5%	3,018	92.1%
3	10	2,249	48	2.1%	55	2.5%	2,146	95.4%
4	6	1,136	32	2.8%	54	4.8%	1,050	92.4%
5	20	4,937	127	2.6%	221	4.5%	4,589	92.9%
6	11	2,114	52	2.5%	161	7.6%	1,901	89.9%
7	10	1,566	103	6.6%	75	4.8%	1,388	88.6%
8	10	1,333	59	4.4%	69	5.2%	1,205	90.4%
1982 Statewide	95	19,027	605	3.2%	1,019	5.4%	17,403	91.4%
1981 Statewide	95	17,834	614	3.4%	1,155	6.5%	16,065	90.1%

TABLE 3

(c) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES  
DISPOSED OF BY DISTRICT ASSOCIATE JUDGES

Methods of Disposition During 1982  
With Totals Compared to Those of 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TOTAL DISPOSED OF	TRIED TO JURY	PERCENT TRIED TO JURY	TRIED TO COURT	PERCENT TRIED TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL	PERCENT WITHOUT TRIAL
1	5	2,520	15	0.6%	8	0.3%	2,497	99.1%
2	5	1,736	48	2.8%	15	0.9%	1,673	96.3%
3	4	1,445	6	0.4%	3	0.2%	1,436	99.4%
4	3	1,567	18	1.1%	25	1.6%	1,524	97.3%
5	8	2,327	19	0.8%	9	0.4%	2,299	98.8%
6	5	3,644	17	0.5%	5	0.1%	3,622	99.4%
7	5	2,657	28	0.9%	8	0.1%	2,621	99.0%
8	4	1,766	19	1.1%	36	2.0%	1,711	96.9%
1982 Statewide	39	17,662	170	1.0%	109	0.6%	17,383	98.4%
1981 Statewide	39	16,359	178	1.1%	115	0.7%	16,066	98.2%

TABLE 3

(d) REGULAR CRIMINAL CASES DISPOSED OF PER JUDGE DURING 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	DISTRICT JUDGES			ASSOCIATE JUDGES		
	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)	NUMBER	DISPOSITIONS	PER JUDGE (AVERAGE)
1	12	2,416	201	5	2,520	506
2	16	3,276	205	5	1,736	347
3	10	2,249	225	4	1,445	361
4	6	1,136	189	3	1,567	522
5	20	4,937	247	8	2,327	291
6	11	2,114	192	5	3,644	729
7	10	1,566	157	5	2,657	531
8	10	1,333	133	4	1,766	442
1982 Statewide	95	19,027	200	39	17,662	453
1981 Statewide	95	17,833	188	39	16,359	419

TABLE 4

NUMBER OF CIVIL FILINGS (AND DISPOSITIONS)  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT DURING 1982  
BY TYPE OF CASE WITH TOTALS  
COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	DISSOLUTIONS	UNIFORM SUPPORT	DOMESTIC ABUSE	OTHER EQUITY AND LAW	SMALL CLAIMS APPEALS	TOTAL
1	1,835 (1,738)	1,979 (2,158)	4 (9)	4,032 (3,663)	143 (147)	7,993 (7,715)
2	2,563 (2,537)	1,158 (1,180)	10 (6)	3,879 (3,954)	126 (139)	7,736 (7,816)
3	1,579 (1,663)	906 (820)	47 (27)	3,231 (3,225)	87 (87)	5,850 (5,822)
4	1,662 (1,668)	1,008 (1,046)	1 (—)	2,090 (2,149)	46 (55)	4,807 (4,918)
5	3,574 (3,699)	1,039 (750)	14 (20)	6,876 (6,739)	152 (170)	11,655 (11,378)
6	1,904 (2,040)	492 (490)	15 (7)	3,126 (2,857)	112 (118)	5,649 (5,512)
7	2,177 (2,304)	944 (1,157)	16 (11)	2,960 (3,028)	81 (78)	6,178 (6,578)
8	1,870 (1,971)	817 (754)	23 (19)	3,084 (2,879)	101 (90)	5,895 (5,713)
1982 Statewide	17,164 (17,620)	8,343 (8,355)	130 (99)	29,278 (28,494)	848 (884)	55,763 (55,452)
1981 Statewide	18,814 (18,766)	9,283 (8,472)	108 (79)	29,079 (27,243)	941 (976)	58,225 (55,536)

Legend: Dissolutions — original actions and modifications.  
Uniform Support — actions pursuant to the Uniform Support of Dependents Law.  
(URESAs), Chapter 252A, The Code.

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF CRIMINAL FILINGS (AND DISPOSITIONS)  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT DURING 1982 BY CASE TYPE  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	OWI (1st/2nd)		OTHER INDICTABLE MISDEMEANORS		FELONIES		SIMPLE MISDEMEANOR APPEALS		TOTAL	
1	2,075	(1,904)	2,166	(1,944)	966	( 885)	157	(203)	5,364	(4,936)
2	1,879	(1,785)	1,943	(1,883)	1,214	(1,107)	176	(237)	5,212	(5,012)
3	1,829	(1,666)	1,344	(1,161)	944	( 776)	82	( 91)	4,199	(3,694)
4	1,065	(1,012)	1,160	(1,053)	516	( 531)	89	(107)	2,830	(2,703)
5	3,300	(3,676)	2,460	(1,976)	1,563	(1,454)	159	(158)	7,482	(7,264)
6	2,558	(2,400)	2,134	(2,066)	1,201	(1,079)	179	(213)	6,072	(5,758)
7	2,002	(1,803)	1,906	(1,703)	802	( 648)	55	( 69)	4,765	(4,223)
8	1,004	(1,148)	1,113	(1,103)	858	( 747)	109	(101)	3,084	(3,099)
1982 Statewide	15,712	(15,394)	14,226	(12,889)	8,064	(7,227)	1,006	(1,179)	39,008	(36,689)
1981 Statewide	14,346	(12,533)	13,067	(12,387)	8,166	(7,961)	1,353	(1,312)	36,932	(34,193)

Legend: OWI — operating while intoxicated.

Other indictable misdemeanors — includes serious and aggravated misdemeanors other than OWI.

TABLE 6

(a) PROBATE MATTERS

NUMBER OPENED AND TRIALS ON CONTESTS DURING 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	TRUSTEESHIPS OPENED	GUARDIANSHIPS & CONSERVATORSHIPS OPENED	ESTATES OPENED	TRIALS TO	
					JURY	COURT
1	12	85	461	2,484	2	12
2	16	180	647	3,784	-	21
3	10	147	532	2,424	-	23
4	6	56	273	1,556	1	21
5	20	174	882	3,103	7	36
6	11	125	421	2,480	2	14
7	10	61	371	1,284	1	33
8	10	104	433	2,262	-	62
1982 Statewide	95	932	4,020	19,377	13	222
1981 Statewide	95	869	4,088	19,235	17	264



TABLE 6

(b) DECEDENTS' ESTATES CLOSED

NUMBER CLOSED DURING 1982 AND AGE AT TIME OF CLOSING WITH TOTALS COMPARED WITH THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	ESTATES CLOSED	PERCENT WITHIN 1 YEAR	PERCENT FROM 1-3 YEARS	AFTER 3 YEARS
1	2,406	58%	32%	10%
2	3,507	49%	40%	11%
3	2,469	47%	39%	14%
4	1,332	52%	34%	14%
5	3,101	59%	30%	11%
6	1,447	46%	39%	15%
7	1,515	51%	24%	25%
8	2,289	53%	33%	14%
1982 Statewide	18,066	52%	34%	14%
1981 Statewide	18,017	52%	35%	13%

\*In addition, there were 488 trusteeships and 3,473 guardianships and conservatorships closed in 1982.

TABLE 7

(a) NUMBER AND TYPE OF JUVENILE PETITIONS FILED DURING 1982 WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	DELINQUENCY	CHINA	FINA	IC	TOTAL
1	351	181	27	2	561
2	307	303	1	—	611
3	487	166	1	3	657
4	289	173	3	3	468
5	614	326	20	5	965
6	561	183	1	—	745
7	355	222	11	13	601
8	490	262	3	—	755
1982 Statewide	3,454	1,816	67	26	5,363
1981 Statewide	3,520	1,955	74	21	5,570

Legend: CHINA — Child in need of assistance.  
 FINA — Family in need of assistance.  
 IC — Interstate compacts (extradition).  
 (For definition of these terms, see section 232.2, The Code.)

TABLE 7  
(b) NUMBER OF FORMAL HEARINGS  
IN JUVENILE MATTERS DURING 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	ADJUDICATION	DISPOSITION	REVIEW	D/S	OTHER	TOTAL
1	482	442	394	117	413	1,848
2	288	679	286	78	425	1,756
3	390	297	461	113	320	1,581
4	341	258	242	102	115	1,058
5	501	889	419	178	74	2,061
6	372	619	706	380	1,061	3,138
7	294	579	257	171	166	1,467
8	294	344	552	110	384	1,684
1982 Statewide	2,962	4,107	3,317	1,249	2,958	14,593
1981 Statewide	3,188	4,085	3,237	1,368	2,577	14,455

Legend: Adjudication hearing — Section 232.2(2), The Code.  
Disposition hearing — Section 232.2(16), The Code.  
Review hearing — Section 212.102(6), The Code.  
D/S — Detention/Shelter hearing — Section 232.2(14)(46), The Code.  
Other — Includes such proceedings as: hearings on motions for change of venue and placement, motions for evaluation, change of counsel, motions to continue or suppress evidence and contempt of court and probation violation hearings.

TABLE 8  
NUMBER OF PETITIONS FILED AND NUMBER AND TYPE  
OF FORMAL HEARINGS HELD IN CASES INVOLVING  
VOLUNTARY AND INVOLUNTARY TERMINATION  
OF PARENTAL RIGHTS, 1982

DISTRICT		NUMBER OF PETITIONS FILED	NUMBER AND TYPE OF FORMAL HEARINGS		
			TRIAL DETERMINATION	REVIEW	TOTAL
1	V*	98	68	—	68
	I**	42	21	—	21
2	V	96	62	16	78
	I	50	44	6	50
3	V	103	61	—	61
	I	39	22	3	25
4	V	31	28	1	29
	I	42	37	2	39
5	V	39	29	—	29
	I	135	134	5	139
6	V	56	80	56	136
	I	44	6	8	14
7	V	76	67	2	69
	I	18	15	—	15
8	V	62	58	8	66
	I	26	17	4	21
1982 Statewide	V	561	453	83	536
	I	396	296	28	324
	Totals	957	749	111	860

\*V — Voluntary or uncontested termination proceeding.  
\*\*I — Involuntary or contested termination proceeding.

TABLE 9  
NUMBER AND TYPE OF HOSPITALIZATION HEARINGS DURING 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	INVOLUNTARY MINOR	INVOLUNTARY ADULT	EMERGENCY	SUBSTANCE ABUSE	TOTAL
1	27	264	229	220	740
2	12	301	238	126	677
3	1	166	74	53	294
4	9	80	58	21	168
5	4	356	69	75	504
6	29	253	76	193	551
7	31	178	212	21	442
8	9	136	19	19	183
1982 Statewide	122	1,734	975	728	3,559
1981 Statewide	151	1,808	1,129	668	3,756

District judges handled 13 involuntary hospitalization of a minor hearings (sec. 229.2, The Code), 122 involuntary adult hearings (sec. 229.12), 54 emergency hearings and 21 substance abuse hearings. District associate judges held 16, 3, 287 and 17 such hearings, respectively. Magistrates conducted 356 emergency hospitalization hearings. Hospitalization referees held 93 involuntary minor, 1,624 involuntary adult, 308 emergency and 691 substance abuse hearings.

TABLE 10  
COMPARISON OF TOTAL 1982 CASELOAD PER DISTRICT JUDGE  
WITH RANK OF DISTRICT IN EACH CATEGORY  
SHOWN IN PARENTHESSES  
(Adjusted to the nearest whole case or matter.)

DISTRICT	JUDGES	REGULAR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES (Per Judge) DISPOSED OF <sup>a</sup>		PROBATE MATTERS (Per Judge) CLOSED <sup>b</sup>		JUVENILE MATTERS (Per Judge) HEARINGS <sup>c</sup>	
1	12	812	(3)	242	(5)	5	(4)
2	16	689	(8)	258	(4)	22	(3)
3	10	777	(5)	317	(1)	1	(8)
4	6	1,009	(1)	261	(3)	2	(5)
5	20	816	(2)	197	(6)	42	(2)
6	11	693	(7)	152	(8)	1	(7)
7	10	801	(4)	194	(7)	43	(1)
8	10	697	(6)	267	(2)	2	(6)
1982 Statewide	95	774		232		14	
1981 Statewide	95	762		234		18	

- a. Computed from the sum of such cases disposed of by district court judges as shown by Tables 2(b) and 3(b).
- b. Includes trusteeships, guardianships, conservatorships and estates closed in the district court.
- c. Includes various types of juvenile hearings in cases involving delinquency, child and/or family assistance and interstate compacts.

TABLE 11  
TOTAL ACTIVITY<sup>a</sup> OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES ON MATTERS  
OTHER THAN REGULAR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CASES,  
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND JUVENILE CASES  
1982

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED OR ASSIGNED	DISPOSED OF	PENDING DECEMBER 31
1	5	1,253	15,368	15,119	1,502
2	5	1,118	7,911	8,215	814
3	4	882	10,407	10,063	1,226
4	3	1,344	6,116	5,964	1,496
5	8	36,297	54,877	55,248	35,926
6	5	5,126	16,463	16,047	5,542
7	5	2,870	13,825	13,194	3,501
8	4	571	3,731	3,695	607
1982 Statewide	39	49,461 <sup>b</sup>	128,698	127,545	50,614
1981 Statewide	39	53,384	151,806	155,213	49,977

a. Includes nonindictable (simple) misdemeanors, small claims, initial appearances, preliminary hearings, search warrant applications and seized property and hospitalization hearings. Pending figures include misdemeanors and small claims only.

b. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.

Note: For complete and detailed information on the various types of cases combined in this table, see Tables 12(a) through 12(d), 14(d) and 9(b).

TABLE 12  
(a) INITIAL APPEARANCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS<sup>a</sup>  
1982 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	NUMBER OF	
		INITIAL APPEARANCES <sup>a</sup>	PRELIMINARY HEARINGS <sup>b</sup>
1	5	933	—
2	5	543	23
3	4	895	—
4	3	—	—
5	8	5,329	191
6	5	3,089	25
7	5	2,940	4
8	4	790	—
1982 Statewide	39	14,519	243
1981 Statewide	39	14,747	509

a. Refers to the initial court appearance of a person charged with a criminal offense above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(1), R. Cr. P.

b. Refers to a preliminary hearing held in a criminal case above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(4), R. Cr. P.

TABLE 12

(b) NONINDICTABLE — STATE CASES

1982 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
				TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	GUilty PLEA	WITHOUT TRIAL DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	5	839	4,993	6	137	3,044	1,539	1,106
2	5	296	2,501	18	190	1,790	489	310
3	4	527	4,415	2	196	2,960	1,019	765
4	3	1,202	3,888	1	116	2,719	1,035	1,219
5	8	3,548	18,623	49	756	10,560	5,396	5,410
6	5	1,881	5,367	8	241	3,354	1,434	2,211
7	5	1,688	6,201	11	255	4,019	1,171	2,433
8	4	317	1,148	5	33	727	322	378
1982 Statewide	39	10,298	47,136	100	1,924	29,173	12,405	13,832
1981 Statewide	39	12,128	53,151	86	2,430	33,227	19,238	10,298

TABLE 12

(c) NONINDICTABLE — ORDINANCE CASES

1982 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
				TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	GUilty PLEA	WITHOUT TRIAL DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	5	366	6,980	1	237	4,693	2,075	340
2	5	793	4,094	1	183	3,353	856	494
3	4	332	4,529	9	185	2,833	1,397	437
4	3	92	1,069	—	22	617	301	221
5	8	32,748	23,913	6	1,715	16,841	7,587	30,512
6	5	3,102	5,930	8	287	4,601	972	3,164
7	5	1,182	4,210	7	493	2,940	884	1,068
8	4	253	1,207	—	20	907	304	229
1982 Statewide	39	38,868	51,932	32	3,142	36,785	14,376	36,465
1981 Statewide	39	39,966	65,229	22	2,618	40,912	22,775	38,868



TABLE 12

(d) SMALL CLAIMS

1982 ACTIVITY OF ASSOCIATE JUDGES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	JUDGES	PENDING JANUARY 1	ASSIGNED BY CLERK	DISPOSED OF BY			PENDING DECEMBER 31
				TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
					DISMISSED/ DEFAULT	TRANSFERRED	
1	5	48	1,775	577	857	333	56
2	5	29	601	405	197	18	10
3	4	23	532	111	375	45	24
4	3	50	1,097	541	441	109	56
5	8	1	6,679	399	5,345	932	4
6	5	143	1,874	1,267	212	371	167
7	5	—	194	193	1	—	—
8	4	1	514	123	380	12	—
1982 Statewide	39	295 <sup>a</sup>	13,266	3,616	7,808	1,820	317
1981 Statewide	39	852	16,975	5,479	9,573	1,964	811

a. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 13

TOTAL ACTIVITY OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES DURING 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	MAGISTRATES ACTUAL <sup>a</sup>	(AUTHORIZED)	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED OR ASSIGNED <sup>b</sup>	DISPOSED	PENDING DECEMBER 31
1	23	(23)	4,507	37,277	37,532	4,252
2	34	(37)	1,785	29,223	29,309	1,699
3	26 <sup>c</sup>	(31)	1,584	18,590	18,692	1,482
4	16	(19)	1,171	12,995	13,213	953
5	19 <sup>c</sup>	(27)	2,613	19,339	20,210	1,742
6	14	(17)	1,097	15,880	15,898	1,079
7	13	(13)	1,425	11,661	11,528	1,558
8	21	(24)	1,469	16,726	16,762	1,433
1982 Statewide	166	(191)	15,651	161,691	163,144	14,198
1981 Statewide	166	(191)	18,166	181,555	183,102	16,619

a. The 1982 figures indicate the actual number of judicial magistrates serving in each district; figures in parentheses show the number of magistrate positions authorized. See footnote a., Table 2(a) for counties using substitute district associate judges and Appendix E for the July 1, 1981 allocation of magistrates. The 1982 activity of district associate judges substituting for magistrates is included in the workload of regular district associate judges as illustrated in Table 11 rather than the business of magistrates presented in this table.

b. For purposes of this table, all search warrant applications, seized property hearings, lost property actions, preliminary hearings, initial appearances and emergency hospitalization hearings docketed in 1982 were considered disposed of by the end of the year. Pending figures refer only to small claims and simple misdemeanors (nonindictable state and ordinance cases).

c. During 1982, two counties (one in the Third and one in the Fifth) exercised the option provided in section 602.58, The Code, and divided their one magistrate position into two jobs leaving 166 magistrates to fill 164 salaried positions. After the October 1 resignation of one of the two 602.58 magistrates in the Fifth District, who was not replaced, the number of magistrates totaled 165.

TABLE 14

(a) INITIAL APPEARANCE PROCEEDINGS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS

1982 ACTIVITY OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF	
	INITIAL APPEARANCES <sup>a</sup>	PRELIMINARY HEARINGS <sup>b</sup>
1	1,604	126
2	3,156	341
3	1,975	112
4	1,037	79
5	1,797	159
6	1,837	53
7	342	48
8	2,279	219
1982 Statewide	14,027	1,137
1981 Statewide	13,236	1,345

a. Refers to the initial court appearance of a person charged with a criminal offense above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(1), R. Cr. P.

b. Refers to a preliminary hearing held in a criminal case above a simple misdemeanor. See rule 2(4), R. Cr. P.

TABLE 14

(b) NONINDICTABLE -- STATE CASES

1982 ACTIVITY OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
			TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	GUILTY PLEA	WITHOUT TRIAL DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	1,495	13,281	17	866	8,883	3,253	1,757
2	1,321	15,266	28	2,003	10,410	2,831	1,315
3	1,320	9,881	17	737	7,082	2,168	1,197
4	575	7,626	13	543	5,286	1,810	549
5	2,156	11,785	45	1,339	8,249	2,745	1,563
6	796	7,632	15	986	5,063	1,502	862
7	611	5,475	14	392	4,094	614	972
8	1,019	8,377	13	724	5,951	1,638	1,070
1982 Statewide	9,293 <sup>a</sup>	79,323	162	7,590	55,018	16,561	9,285
1981 Statewide	8,784	87,256	146	8,472	60,157	17,973	9,292

a. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 14  
(c) NONINDICTABLE — ORDINANCE CASES  
1982 ACTIVITY OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY				PENDING DECEMBER 31
			TRIAL TO JURY	TRIAL TO COURT	GUilty PLEA	WITHOUT TRIAL DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	2,975	20,901	12	935	15,038	5,409	2,482
2	270	7,016	5	706	5,667	687	221
3	187	4,873	1	346	3,857	633	223
4	576	3,515	2	284	2,579	869	357
5	422	4,730	1	586	2,908	1,515	112
6	224	5,170	5	606	4,048	582	153
7	580	3,373	8	378	2,711	449	407
8	390	4,029	5	341	3,020	750	303
1982 Statewide	5,624	53,607	39	4,182	39,828	10,894	4,288
1981 Statewide	7,741	61,800	36	4,767	45,081	14,033	5,624

TABLE 14  
(d) SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATIONS AND SEIZED PROPERTY HEARINGS  
BY TYPE OF JUDICIAL OFFICER

1982 ACTIVITY OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	SEARCH WARRANT APPLICATIONS			TOTAL	SEIZED PROPERTY HEARINGS			TOTAL
	DJ	DAJ	JM		DJ	DAJ	JM	
1	15	43	70	128	—	560	151	711
2	4	93	153	250	9	3	54	66
3	1	29	155	185	—	—	176	176
4	—	28	82	110	—	21	36	57
5	104	129	93	326	—	6	13	19
6	6	46	59	111	5	132	27	164
7	27	91	8	126	—	3	16	19
8	—	23	141	164	—	38	71	109
1982 Statewide	157	482	761	1,400	14	763	544	1,321
1981 Statewide	118	552	813	1,483	—	713	644	1,357

Legend: DJ — District court judges.  
DAJ — District associate judges.  
JM — Judicial magistrates.

There were also 11 lost property actions — one in the First, Third, Sixth and Eighth Districts, two in the Second and Fifth and three in the Seventh — under Chapter 644, The Code, handled by magistrates during 1982.

TABLE 14

(e) SMALL CLAIMS

1982 ACTIVITY OF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	ASSIGNED BY CLERK	DISPOSED OF BY			PENDING DECEMBER 31
			TRIAL TO COURT	WITHOUT TRIAL		
				DEFAULT	DISMISSED/ TRANSFERRED	
1	37	1,055	702	268	109	13
2	194	3,139	1,383	1,418	369	163
3	77	1,366	805	421	155	62
4	20	593	357	174	35	47
5	35	736	604	87	43	37
6	77	1,075	511	425	152	64
7	234	2,391	1,702	515	229	179
8	60	1,570	775	629	166	60
1982 Statewide	734 <sup>a</sup>	11,925	6,839	3,937	1,258	625
1981 Statewide	1,641	16,461	7,231	7,713	1,455	1,703

a. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 15

SMALL CLAIMS DOCKET MAINTAINED BY THE CLERK DURING 1982  
WITH TOTALS COMPARED TO THOSE OF 1981

DISTRICT	PENDING JANUARY 1	DOCKETED	DISPOSED OF BY		PENDING DECEMBER 31
			CLERK	JUDICIAL OFFICERS <sup>a</sup>	
1	1,740	9,314	6,996	2,846	1,212
2	1,859	10,395	6,853	3,790	1,611
3	1,137	8,298	6,439	1,912	1,084
4	503	3,855	2,116	1,657	585
5	4,595	15,622	9,093	7,410	3,714
6	1,267	7,149	4,340	2,938	1,138
7	1,110	6,722	4,068	2,640	1,124
8	1,231	6,612	4,573	2,085	1,185
1982 Statewide	13,442 <sup>b</sup>	67,967	44,478	25,278	11,653
1981 Statewide	12,871	75,259	48,583	26,112	13,435

a. Includes small claims dispositions by magistrates and judges.

b. This figure differs from that of December 31, 1981 due to inventory corrections.

TABLE 16

NUMBER OF SCHEDULED VIOLATIONS<sup>a</sup>

Handled Exclusively by the District Court Clerks (per county)

County	Number		County	Number	
	1982	1981		1982	1981
Adair	1,451	1,277	Jefferson	1,630	1,758
Adams	535	850	Johnson	14,098	11,806
Allamakee	1,061	1,443	Jones	1,476	1,718
Appanoose	1,220	1,678	Kookuk	364	483
Audubon	770	1,593	Kossuth	1,442	1,517
Benton	2,900	3,901	Lee	3,546	5,068
Black Hawk	15,003	16,224	Linn	17,426	18,353
Boone	1,836	3,008	Louisa	986	1,435
Bremer	3,005	3,029	Lucas	1,086	1,288
Buchanan	3,722	4,881	Lyon	968	797
Buena Vista	2,926	2,781	Madison	1,093	958
Butler	1,482	2,305	Mahaska	3,012	2,582
Calhoun	599	950	Marion	3,387	3,199
Carr	4,255	4,323	Marshall	4,003	5,006
Cass	2,742	2,769	Mills	1,981	2,083
Cedar	13,348	15,922	Mitchell	889	1,064
Cerro Gordo	6,658	8,553	Monona	2,162	2,087
Cherokee	1,433	1,464	Monroe	1,181	1,324
Chickasaw	2,417	2,662	Montgomery	1,168	1,527
Clarke	6,052	6,054	Muscatine	4,223	3,717
Clay	2,729	2,939	O'Brien	1,807	2,110
Clayton	2,264	2,703	Osceola	886	834
Clinton	3,877	4,677	Page	975	1,373
Crawford	2,268	2,300	Palo Alto	1,531	1,829
Dallas	5,142	6,034	Plymouth	3,033	3,197
Davis	1,238	1,000	Pocahontas	648	610
Decatur	2,150	2,476	Polk	98,519	109,712
Delaware	3,380	3,410	Pottawattamie	16,226	22,693
Des Moines	2,708	3,289	Poweshiek	2,735	3,001
Dickinson	2,664	2,497	Ringgold	257	317
Dubuque	6,303	6,396	Sac	2,097	1,680
Emmet	907	1,030	Scott	25,551	24,277
Fayette	4,381	5,170	Shelby	1,528	1,267
Floyd	1,847	2,147	Sioux	2,755	2,418
Franklin	2,792	3,899	Story	5,907	8,599
Fremont	2,215	1,667	Tama	2,617	2,778
Greene	1,266	1,092	Taylor	293	406
Grundy	1,058	1,223	Union	2,131	2,075
Guthrie	554	477	Van Buren	417	472
Hamilton	4,311	6,416	Wapello	3,817	3,564
Hancock	2,113	1,183	Warren	4,064	4,150
Hardin	3,267	3,223	Washington	2,084	1,866
Harrison	3,297	2,969	Wayne	1,009	1,235
Henry	3,018	2,852	Webster	3,163	2,658
Howard	716	691	Winnobago	469	537
Humboldt	570	774	Winnoshiek	1,405	1,777
Ida	1,078	1,123	Woodbury	16,725	19,181
Iowa	3,024	3,556	Worth	5,360	5,911
Jackson	2,006	2,560	Wright	610	760
Jasper	4,016	6,204			
			TOTAL	425,272	470,553

a. Scheduled violations are defined in section 805.8, The Code.

APPENDIX A

NUMBER AND AGE OF CIVIL CASES<sup>a</sup>  
PENDING DECEMBER 31, 1982

DISTRICT	TOTAL NUMBER PENDING	NUMBER OF CASES PENDING (IN PERCENT)			
		90 DAYS OR LESS	3-18 MONTHS	OVER 18 MONTHS	
1	7,139	1,754 (24%)	3,406 (48%)	1,979 (28%)	
2	8,049	2,011 (25%)	4,153 (52%)	1,885 (23%)	
3	5,860	1,100 (19%)	3,030 (52%)	1,730 (29%)	
4	3,214	771 (24%)	1,779 (55%)	664 (21%)	
5	11,773	2,466 (21%)	7,428 (63%)	1,879 (16%)	
6	5,559	1,113 (20%)	3,213 (58%)	1,233 (22%)	
7	5,385	1,196 (22%)	2,731 (51%)	1,458 (27%)	
8	5,610	1,147 (20%)	2,914 (52%)	1,549 (28%)	
1982 Statewide	52,589	11,558 (22%)	28,654 (54%)	12,377 (24%)	
1981 Statewide	52,649	11,518 (22%)	28,570 (54%)	12,561 (24%)	

a. Includes civil cases above a small claim and small claims on appeal.



APPENDIX B

NUMBER AND AGE OF CRIMINAL CASES<sup>a</sup>  
PENDING DECEMBER 31, 1982

DISTRICT	TOTAL NUMBER PENDING	NUMBER OF CASES PENDING (IN PERCENT)		
		90 DAYS OR LESS	3-18 MONTHS	OVER 18 MONTHS
1	2,381	1,118 (47%)	826 (35%)	437 (18%)
2	2,561	1,103 (43%)	990 (39%)	468 (18%)
3	2,792	804 (29%)	995 (36%)	993 (35%)
4	695	443 (64%)	159 (23%)	93 (13%)
5	3,275	1,220 (37%)	1,736 (53%)	319 (10%)
6	3,616	1,290 (36%)	1,224 (34%)	1,102 (30%)
7	3,007	1,077 (36%)	1,208 (40%)	722 (24%)
8	1,586	608 (38%)	639 (40%)	339 (22%)
1982 Statewide	19,913	7,663 (39%)	7,777 (39%)	4,473 (22%)
1981 Statewide	17,731	6,943 (39%)	6,871 (39%)	3,917 (22%)

a. Includes criminal cases above a simple misdemeanor and simple misdemeanors on appeal.

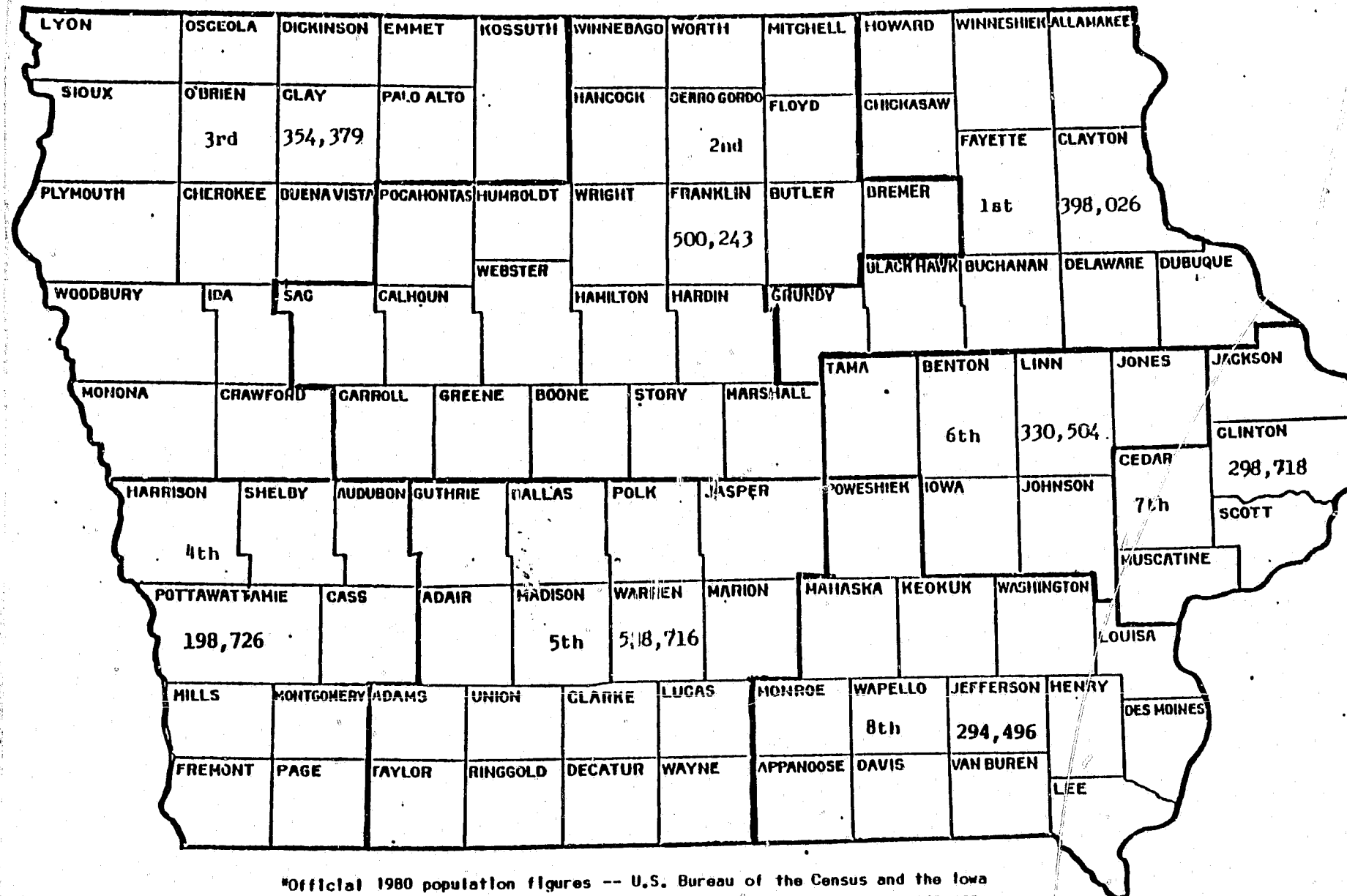
APPENDIX C

POPULATION PER DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

DISTRICT	JUDGES	DISTRICT POPULATION <sup>a</sup>	POPULATION PER JUDGE
1	12	398,026	33,169
2	16	500,243	31,265
3	10	354,379	35,438
4	6	198,726	33,110
5	20	538,716	26,935
6	11	330,504	30,045
7	10	298,718	29,872
8	10	294,496	29,450
Statewide	95	2,913,808	30,672

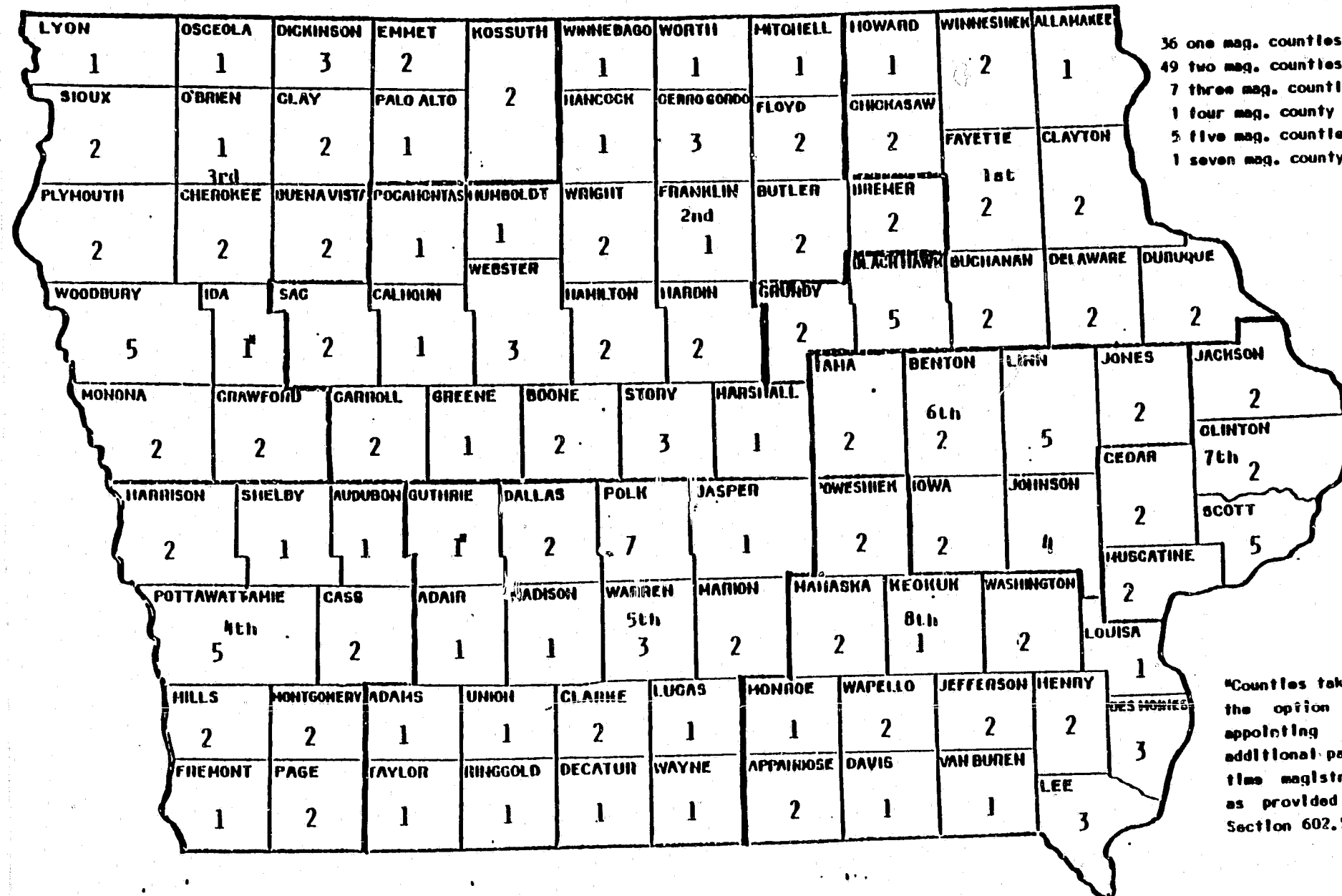
a. Official 1980 population statistics -- U. S. Bureau of the Census and the Iowa Office of Planning and Programming.

IOWA'S 8 JUDICIAL DISTRICTS -- Population\*



\*Official 1980 population figures -- U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Iowa Office of Planning and Programming STATE TOTAL -- 2,913,808

ALLOCATION OF PART-TIME JUDICIAL MAGISTRATES July 1, 1981 and July 1, 1983



APPENDIX E

APPENDIX F

FILINGS IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT  
1956-1982

YEAR	#DISTRICT JUDGES	CIVIL <sup>a</sup>	CRIMINAL <sup>b</sup>	TOTAL	(PER JUDGE)	JUVENILE <sup>c</sup>	PROBATE <sup>d</sup> OPENED
1982	95	55,763	39,008	94,771	( 998)	5,363	24,329
1981	95	58,225	36,932	95,157	(1,002)	5,570	24,192
1980	92	58,442	35,669	94,111	(1,028)	5,501	23,452
1979	92	51,031	31,026	82,057	( 892)	5,227	23,479
1978	92	46,498	27,942	74,440	( 809)	6,179	24,218
1977	92	43,324	28,795	72,119	( 784)	6,000	23,202
1976	89	40,103	26,009	66,112	( 742)	5,744	22,896
1975	84	37,963	23,600	61,563	( 733)	5,685	22,640
1974	83	36,216	20,653	56,869	( 685)	5,446	22,646
1973	83	38,057	16,148	54,205	( 653)	3,730	22,803
1972	76	40,483	10,699	51,182	( 673)	2,567	21,953
1971	76	40,315	11,300	51,615	( 679)	3,249	21,317
1970	76	37,965	10,140	48,105	( 633)	3,224	20,470
1969	76	35,574	9,505	45,079	( 593)	2,876	20,158
1968	75	33,617	8,367	41,984	( 560)	2,626	19,520
1967	76	31,646	7,496	39,142	( 515)	2,367	19,310
1966	75	30,310	7,159	37,469	( 500)	2,146	19,515
1965	75	29,207	7,432	36,639	( 489)	2,163	19,463
1964	75	28,405	7,004	35,409	( 472)	2,341	19,034
1963	75	28,138	6,641	34,779	( 464)	2,096	18,532
1962	75	28,528	7,113	35,641	( 475)	2,035	17,831
1961	75	28,288	7,209	35,497	( 473)	1,880	17,346
1960	73	26,767	7,260	34,027	( 466)	2,012	17,248
1959	73	25,136	7,086	32,222	( 441)	2,005	17,117
1958	72	23,661	6,724	30,385	( 422)	1,937	16,694
1957	72	23,579	6,486	30,065	( 418)	1,921	16,945
1956	70	22,922	6,178	29,100	( 416)	1,607	16,137

a. Includes civil cases over \$1,000 and small claims on appeal.

b. Includes indictable criminal cases (serious and aggravated misdemeanors and felonies) and simple misdemeanor appeals.

c. Includes petitions filed in ordinary juvenile matters, e.g., delinquency, child and family in need of assistance and interstate compacts (extradition) matters; does not encompass cases involving termination of parental rights.

d. Includes the number of estates, trusteeships, guardianships and conservatorships opened.

APPENDIX G

OTHER FILINGS IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT

YEAR	SIMPLE MISDEMEANORS	SCHEDULED VIOLATIONS	SMALL CLAIMS
1982	231,998	425,272	67,967
1981	267,436	470,553	75,259
1980	292,037	490,158	82,208
1979	291,404	462,224	78,141
1978	319,481	476,955	72,054
1977	410,862	310,710	65,434
1976	410,696	285,086	62,416
1975	375,707	223,622	63,582
1974*	286,504	198,147	68,021

\*This was the first full year under the new unified court system which became effective July 1, 1973.

APPENDIX H

CIVIL/CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS BY DISTRICT COURT JUDGES<sup>a</sup>  
1956-1982

YEAR	#DISTRICT JUDGES	CIVIL <sup>b</sup>	CRIMINAL <sup>c</sup>	TOTAL	(PER JUDGE)
1982	95	54,484	19,027	73,511	(774)
1981	95	54,511	17,834	72,345	(762)
1980	92	52,799	17,448	70,247	(764)
1979	92	47,754	15,098	62,852	(683)
1978	92	41,898	14,561	56,459	(614)
1977	92	38,682	17,200	55,882	(607)
1976	89	37,319	17,750	55,069	(619)
1975	84	35,737	14,874	50,611	(603)
1974	83	35,007	14,268	49,275	(594)
1973	83	38,381	12,384	50,765	(612)
1972	76	40,553	11,147	51,700	(680)
1971	76	38,455	10,659	49,114	(646)
1970	76	35,636	9,304	44,940	(591)
1969	76	32,642	8,676	41,318	(544)
1968	75	29,541	8,035	37,576	(501)
1967	76	29,343	7,267	36,610	(482)
1966	75	30,140	6,916	37,056	(494)
1965	75	30,280	6,654	36,934	(492)
1964	75	28,258	6,757	35,015	(467)
1963	75	29,342	6,551	35,893	(479)
1962	75	28,941	7,165	36,106	(481)
1961	75	30,616	7,556	38,172	(509)
1960	73	24,094	7,196	31,290	(429)
1959	73	23,988	6,949	30,937	(424)
1958	72	23,304	6,533	29,837	(414)
1957	72	23,302	6,932	30,234	(420)
1956	70	21,741	5,836	27,577	(394)

- a. Does not include civil and criminal cases disposed of by judges of limited jurisdiction.
- b. Includes civil cases over \$1,000 and small claims cases appealed to the district court.
- c. Includes indictable criminal cases (serious and aggravated misdemeanors and felonies) and simple misdemeanor appeals.

END