



# King County

Department of Judicial Administration

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## King County Superior Court

# 2022 Annual Statistical Report

Department of Judicial Administration

January 31, 2023

Report #: YR-2022

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516 Third Avenue Room E609  
Seattle, WA 98104-2386

*Regional Justice Center:*  
401 Fourth Avenue North Room 2C  
Kent, WA 98032-4429

*Juvenile Division:*  
1211 East Alder Room 3015  
Seattle, WA 98122-5598

## 2022 Highlights

### **The coronavirus pandemic has greatly impacted the 2020, 2021 and 2022 statistics.**

This annual statistical report presents information on filings, resolutions, pending caseload, and trials in King County Superior Court (KCSC). Because of the year-end update and adjustment, a slight difference may exist between the statistics in this annual report and the statistics in the quarterly reports.

- **Filings** (Table 1). The total number of cases filed in 2022 was 15% higher than that in 2021 (+15%). In 2022, the filing volume (including “Matters Filed with Clerk”) was 49,593 cases. Total judicial filings (after excluding “Matters Filed with Clerk”) increased by 10.4% from 2021 (+10.4%), totaling 44,424 cases. Filings were the highest since the COVID pandemic, but still lower than the pre-COVID level. When compared with 2021, notable increases in 2022 filings occurred in the following major categories: criminal (excluding criminal appeals) up 6.4%, civil up 15.9%, ITA up 9.8%, and juvenile offender up 40.4%. On the other hand, guardianship filings were down 9.4%, and parentage down 13.5% when compared with 2021. In addition, the court started to receive significant number of truancy filings and civil matters filed with the clerk again in 2022.
- **Resolutions** (Table 2). The total resolutions (including “Matters Filed with Clerk”) in 2022 were 47,858 cases, 6% higher than 2021 (+6%). However, the court resolved fewer cases than the filings received in 2022; the total resolution volume was 1,737 fewer cases than the total filings. The court resolved fewer cases than the filing volume in all case types, except domestic, parentage and ITA. The overall resolution volume was significantly lower than the pre-COVID level.
- **Pending Caseload** (Table 3). The overall pending caseload at the end of 2022 was 20,095 cases, showing a slight increase from the end of 2021 (+2.7%). When compared to 2021 notable decreases in pending caseload include: criminal down 11%, parentage down 11%, and ITA down 47%. On the other hand, the pending caseloads increased in the following case categories: civil up 9%, ARY and CHINS up 32%, dependency up 16%, and offender up 5%. The significant decrease in criminal pending was mainly due to the court resuming the use of warrants for defendants not appearing for court proceedings. Please note cases in warrant status are not in the “pending caseload” category. Even with the decrease in 2022, the criminal pending caseload is still significantly higher than the pre-COVID level. It is worth noting that the court has many more unresolved serious criminal cases in homicides, sex crimes, burglary 1<sup>st</sup> degree, and assaults (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree) since COVID-19.
- **Trials**. The court had fewer trials in 2022 than 2021, totaling 818 trials (224 jury trials and 594 non-jury trials) in 2022. The court had 19 fewer jury trials and 66 fewer non-jury trials when compared to 2021
- **MRJC vs. SEA** (Table 4). Of the total 49,593 cases (including Matters filed with the Clerk) filed in 2022, 34% were MRJC cases. In 2022, the MRJC accounted for 38%, 41%, and 39% of total criminal, civil and domestic case filings, respectively. The MRJC resolutions (33%, as a percentage of total resolutions in KCSC) in 2022 were comparable to the 34% of filings at MRJC. At the end of 2022, the MRJC pending caseload was 37% of the entire court caseload, with 41% of the total active criminal cases, 33% of the total pending civil cases, and 41% of the total pending domestic cases.

Table 1. Annual Filings

Category	Annual Filings										2022-2021 Change
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Criminal	6,045	6,213	6,237	6,632	6,441	5,989	6,607	5,877	4,658	4,956	298
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	22,410	21,418	21,217	21,222	21,517	22,217	21,202	15,352	13,624	15,794	2,170
Domestic	7,897	7,921	7,559	7,512	7,597	7,640	7,280	6,163	6,184	5,999	-185
Probate	5,844	5,920	6,022	6,073	6,418	6,382	6,804	6,766	7,478	7,747	269
Guardianship	884	928	969	1,008	949	977	706	725	1,057	958	-99
Adoption	483	470	460	458	546	445	483	431	347	363	16
Parentage	931	702	650	528	539	512	526	340	401	347	-54
Involuntary Treatment Act	3,678	3,852	4,004	4,152	4,694	4,910	4,985	5,131	5,159	5,665	506
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	203	285	217	247	245	292	206	187	251	301	50
Juvenile Dependency	893	940	848	727	793	788	811	435	361	377	16
Juvenile Termination	209	321	214	219	304	344	225	291	205	188	-17
Juvenile Truancy	1,236	1,233	1,369	1,222	1,547	1,925	1,706	501	61	1,121	1,060
Juvenile Offender	1,808	1,802	1,649	1,295	1,324	1,229	1,121	788	356	500	144
Criminal RALJ	181	172	180	111	136	117	146	63	49	53	4
Civil RALJ	53	47	57	66	65	68	81	53	58	55	-3
<b>Total Judicial Filings</b>	<b>52,755</b>	<b>52,224</b>	<b>51,652</b>	<b>51,472</b>	<b>53,115</b>	<b>53,835</b>	<b>52,889</b>	<b>43,103</b>	<b>40,249</b>	<b>44,424</b>	<b>4,175</b>
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk <sup>(1)</sup>	13,763	12,240	9,581	8,742	10,903	9,036	10,030	2,784	2,882	5,169	2,287
<b>Total Annual Filings</b>	<b>66,518</b>	<b>64,464</b>	<b>61,233</b>	<b>60,214</b>	<b>64,018</b>	<b>62,871</b>	<b>62,919</b>	<b>45,887</b>	<b>43,131</b>	<b>49,593</b>	<b>6,462</b>
Post-disposition Modifications (domestic/parentage) <sup>(2)</sup>	1,962	1,943	1,844	1,890	1,916	1,766	752	575	622	565	

- (1) “Civil Matters Filed with Clerk” consists of those civil cases that require no or little judicial resources. This category includes the following cause codes of civil actions: Abstract of Judgment, Foreign Judgment, Tax Warrant, and Transcript of Judgment.
- (2) Prior to 2019, the numbers included both “parenting” and “support only” modifications. Since 2019, only the “parenting” modifications are included.

Table 2. Annual Resolutions

Category	Annual Resolutions										2022-2021 Change
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Criminal	5,832	6,002	6,413	5,915	6,162	5,780	5,788	4,085	5,639	4,727	-912
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	23,506	22,551	22,066	21,230	21,544	21,399	21,389	14,765	14,509	15,167	658
Domestic	7,915	7,861	7,885	7,479	7,564	7,696	7,295	5,998	6,224	6,145	-79
Probate	5,770	5,842	5,874	5,948	6,182	6,134	6,764	6,417	7,078	7,394	316
Guardianship	847	948	910	988	906	915	656	668	803	907	104
Adoption	520	486	466	472	525	419	472	354	337	358	21
Parentage	988	861	642	573	542	539	511	333	376	375	-1
Involuntary Treatment Act	3,887	3,836	4,015	4,178	4,632	4,672	4,980	4,986	4,817	5,924	1,107
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	233	272	222	286	239	230	183	192	261	260	-1
Juvenile Dependency	982	976	716	888	753	708	688	498	398	322	-76
Juvenile Termination	215	227	243	265	234	299	187	170	284	172	-112
Juvenile Truancy	1,187	813	948	1,385	1,535	1,300	1,632	1,769	588	429	-159
Juvenile Offender	1,738	1,616	1,533	1,401	1,179	1,252	1,034	831	624	399	-225
Criminal RALJ	179	161	173	159	128	127	134	136	76	51	-25
Civil RALJ	60	57	51	67	58	71	67	60	68	57	-11
<b>Total Judicial Resolutions</b>	<b>53,859</b>	<b>52,509</b>	<b>52,157</b>	<b>51,234</b>	<b>52,183</b>	<b>51,541</b>	<b>51,780</b>	<b>41,262</b>	<b>42,082</b>	<b>42,687</b>	<b>605</b>
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk <sup>(1)</sup>	13,763	12,240	9,581	8,737	10,905	9,027	10,032	2,780	2,883	5,171	2,288
<b>Total Annual Resolutions</b>	<b>67,622</b>	<b>64,749</b>	<b>61,738</b>	<b>59,971</b>	<b>63,088</b>	<b>60,568</b>	<b>61,812</b>	<b>44,042</b>	<b>44,965</b>	<b>47,858</b>	<b>2,893</b>

- (1) “Civil Matters Filed with Clerk” consists of those civil cases that require no or little judicial resources. This category includes the following cause codes of civil actions: Abstract of Judgment, Foreign Judgment, Tax Warrant, and Transcript of Judgment.

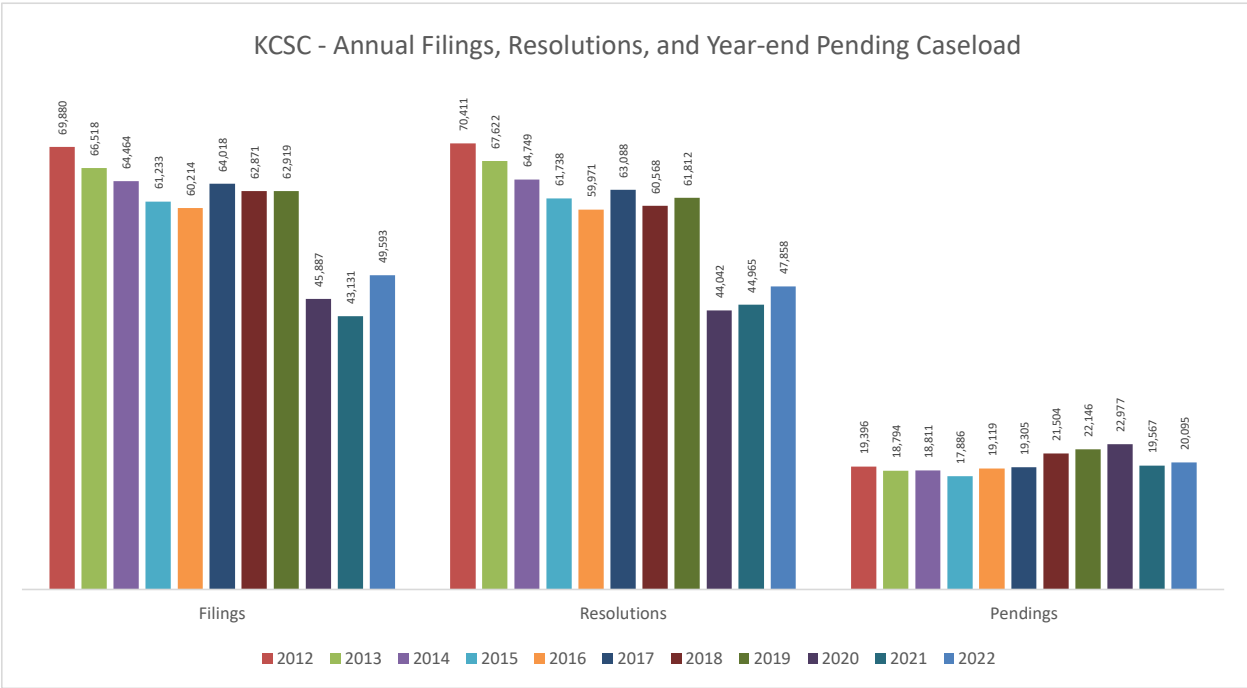
Table 3. Year-end Pending Caseload

Category	Year-end Pending Caseload <sup>(2)</sup>										2022-2021 Change
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Criminal	2,865	2,866	2,619	3,193	3,172	3,150	3,564	6,083	4,849	4,298	-551
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	7,936	7,148	6,747	7,798	7,203	8,243	8,576	7,778	6,234	6,799	565
Domestic	4,486	4,579	4,234	4,337	4,366	4,381	4,384	4,445	4,317	4,281	-36
Probate	768	908	580	684	909	1,146	690	1,023	1,339	1,388	49
Guardianship	303	301	311	329	376	409	235	290	505	489	-16
Adoption	166	149	147	135	155	174	184	258	260	259	-1
Parentage	446	300	310	253	245	225	251	248	255	226	-29
Involuntary Treatment Act	104	121	90	60	126	283	288	321	535	282	-253
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service/Others	94	119	111	86	102	146	100	169	120	158	38
Juvenile Dependency	386	414	474	300	357	434	647	467	241	279	38
Juvenile Termination	121	225	164	128	196	244	277	382	248	265	17
Juvenile Truancy	326	821	1,329	1,237	1,421	2,041	2,112	832	307	999	692
Juvenile Offender	612	677	581	441	504	464	647	572	286	301	15
Criminal RALJ	143	155	156	107	132	126	140	66	40	42	2
Civil RALJ	38	28	33	31	41	38	51	43	31	29	-2
<b>Year-end Total Pending Caseload<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>18,794</b>	<b>18,811</b>	<b>17,886</b>	<b>19,119</b>	<b>19,305</b>	<b>21,504</b>	<b>22,146</b>	<b>22,977</b>	<b>19,567</b>	<b>20,095</b>	<b>528</b>

(1) The statistics in this table do not include "Civil Matters Filed with Clerk".

Table 4. Statistics by Location (SEA vs. MRJC)

Category	2022 Filings			2022 Resolutions			2022 Year-end Pending Caseload		
	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)
Criminal	38%	62%	4,956	44%	56%	4,727	41%	59%	4,298
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	41%	59%	15,794	42%	59%	15,167	33%	67%	6,799
Domestic	39%	61%	5,999	39%	61%	6,145	41%	59%	4,281
Probate	28%	72%	7,747	29%	71%	7,394	30%	70%	1,388
Guardianship	46%	54%	958	46%	54%	907	42%	58%	489
Adoption	25%	76%	363	26%	74%	358	30%	70%	259
Parentage	56%	44%	347	59%	41%	375	64%	36%	226
Involuntary Treatment Act	---	100%	5,665	---	100%	5,924	---	100%	282
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	37%	63%	377	39%	61%	322	46%	54%	279
Juvenile Dependency	40%	60%	188	44%	56%	172	36%	65%	265
Juvenile Termination	49%	51%	301	47%	53%	260	31%	69%	158
Juvenile Truancy	68%	32%	1,121	44%	56%	429	64%	36%	999
Juvenile Offender	---	100%	500	---	100%	399	---	100%	301
Criminal RALJ	36%	64%	53	24%	77%	51	38%	62%	42
Civil RALJ	18%	82%	55	18%	83%	57	17%	83%	29
<b>Total Judicial Cases</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>44,424</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>42,687</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>20,095</b>
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk	36%	64%	5,169	36%	64%	5,171	---	---	---
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>49,593</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>47,858</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>



# Appendix Definition

## **Active Status**

A case is active if it is not on suspense status (see Suspense Status).

## **Adoption and Parentage Cases (case type 5)**

ADP - Adoption  
CFI - Confidential Intermediary  
CHN - Confidential Change of Name  
DIP - Disestablishment of Parentage  
MDS - Modification/Support Only  
MOD - Modification  
MSC - Miscellaneous  
OAA - Open Adoption Agreement  
PAD - De Facto Parentage  
PAG - Pre Birth Establish Parentage Genetic  
PAS - Establish Parentage Gestational Surrogacy  
PAT - Parentage  
PPR - Initial Pre Placement Report  
PRC - Parentage Rescission/Challenge  
PUR - Parentage (URES/UIFSA)  
REL - Relinquishment  
ROB - Relocation Objection  
TER - Termination of Parental Rights

## **Case**

A case is defined as a filing with an assigned case number.

## **Civil Cases (case type 2, no RALJ)**

ALR - Administrative Law Review  
ALRLI - L&I Administrative Law Review  
AOD - Assurance of Discontinuance  
ASB - Asbestos  
ASP - Asbestos Personal Injury  
ASW - Asbestos Wrongful Death  
BAT - Petition to Appeal/Amend Ballot Title  
CAA - Motion to Confirm/Compel Arbitration Award  
CFJ - Petition for Order Granting Judgment on Confession of Judgment  
CHN - Non Confidential Change of Name  
COL - Collection  
COM - Commercial  
CON - Condemnation  
CRP - Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity  
CRR - Petition for Certificate of Rehabilitation  
DOL - Appeal Licensing Revocation  
DSF - Notice of Deposit of Surplus Funds from Trustee's Sale of Real Property  
DVP - Domestic Violence  
ECP - Enforcement of Canadian Protection Order  
EOM - Emancipation of Minor  
FOR - Foreclosure  
FPO - Foreign Protection Order  
FVL - Motion to Show Cause /Fruivolous Lien  
HAR - Unlawful Harassment  
HSI - Application for Health & Safety Inspection  
INJ - Injunction  
IPL - Complaint for Interpleader  
LUP - Land Use Petition  
MAL - Other Malpractice  
MED - Medical Malpractice  
MER - Meretricious Relationships  
MHA - Malicious Harassment  
MSC - Miscellaneous  
MST - Minor Settlement  
MWP - Minor Work Permit  
NJF - Non Judicial Filing  
OSS - Petition to Issue Out of State Subpoena  
PBC - Petition for Birth Certificate Change  
PBJ - Petition for Justification /Bail Bond Company  
PCC - Petition for Civil Commitment

PFA - Property Fairness Act  
PIN - Personal Injury  
PPT - Petition for Perpetuation of Testimony  
PRA - Public Records Act  
PRG - Property Damage /Gangs  
PRP - Property Damage  
PVO - Petition for Vehicle Ownership  
QTI - Quiet Title  
RCV - Petition to Appoint Receiver  
RDR - Relief from Duty to Register  
RFR - Restoration of Firearms Rights  
RRC - Remove Restricted Covenant  
SCA - Small Claims Appeal  
SDR - School District /Required Action Plan  
SER - Subdivision Election Process Law Review  
SPC - Seizure of Property From Commission of a Crime  
SPR - Seizure of Property Resulting From a Crime  
STK - Stalking Protection  
SXP - Sexual Assault Protection  
TMV - Tort /Motor Vehicle  
TSS - Petition for Approval of Transfer of Structured Settlement  
TTO - Tort /Other  
UND - Unlawful Detainer  
VAP - Vulnerable Adult Protection Order  
VEP - Voter Election Process Law Review  
VVT - Victims of Motor Vehicle Theft /Civil Action  
WDE - Wrongful Death  
WHC - Writ of Habeas Corpus  
WMW - Miscellaneous Writs  
WRM - Writ of Mandamus  
WRR - Writ of Restitution  
WRV - Writ of Review  
XRP - Extreme Risk Protection Order

## **Civil Matters Filed with Clerk (case type 2)**

ABJ - Abstract of Judgment  
FJU - Foreign Judgment  
TAX - Tax Warrants  
TRJ - Transcript of Judgment

## **Civil RALJ Cases (case type 2)**

LCA - Lower Court Appeal /Civil  
LCI - Lower Court Appeal /Infractions

## **Completion**

A case is completed if dispositive document is filed with the court following resolution.

## **Criminal Cases (case type 1, no RALJ)**

Adult criminal cases, excluding appeals from courts of limited jurisdiction. This reporting category includes the following crime categories within SCOMIS case type 1:

Homicide  
Sex Crime  
Robbery  
Assault  
Theft/Burglary  
Motor Vehicle Theft  
Controlled Substance  
Others

## **Criminal RALJ Cases (case type 1)**

CRJ - Criminal RALJ

### **Domestic Cases (case type 3)**

CIR - Committed Intimate Relationship  
CUS - Child Custody  
DIC - Dissolution w/ Children  
DIN - Dissolution no Children  
DIS - Dissolution  
DPC - Dissolution of Domestic Partnership w/ Children  
DPN - Dissolution of Domestic Partnership /No Children  
FJU - Out of State Support Registration /Foreign Judgment  
INC - Annulment /Inv of Marriage w/ Children  
IND - Annulment /Inv of Domestic Partnership w/ Children  
INP - Invalidity, Domestic Partnership  
INV - Annulment /Invalidity  
MDS - Modification/Support Only  
MOD - Modification  
MSC - Miscellaneous  
MWA - Mandatory Wage Assignment  
OSC - Out of State Custody  
PPS - Parenting Plan / Child Support  
PSO - Petition for Entry of KC Support Order  
RCV - Relative Child Visitation  
RIC - Reciprocal, Resp in County  
ROB - Relocation /Objection  
ROC - Reciprocal, Resp out of County  
RVC - Relative Child Visits  
SDC - Legal Separation, Domestic Partnership w/ Children  
SEC - Legal Separation w/ Children  
SEP - Legal Separation  
SPD - Legal Separation, Domestic Partnership /No Children  
TSS - Structured Settlement

### **Jury Trial**

A hearing is reported as a jury trial if the jury is impaneled.

### **Juvenile BECCA Cases (case type 7)**

ARY - At Risk Youth  
CNS - Child In Need Of Services  
DDP - Developmental Disability  
DGN - Dependency Guardianship  
EFC - Extended Foster Care, Dependency  
GFC - Guardianship Foster Children  
RPR - Reinstatement of Parental Rights  
RVS - Relative Visitation  
TRU - Truancy  
VYG - Vulnerable Youth Guardianship

### **Juvenile Dependency Cases (case type 7)**

DEP – Dependency  
TER - Termination of Parental Rights

### **Juvenile Offender Cases (case type 8)**

Homicide  
Sex Crime  
Robbery  
Assault  
Theft/Burglary  
Motor Vehicle Theft  
Controlled Substance  
Others

### **Involuntary Treatment Act Cases (case type 6)**

Alcoholic Treatment (ALT)  
ITA - Adult (MI)  
ITA - Family (MIF)  
ITA - Juvenile (MIJ)

### **Non-Jury Trial**

A hearing is reported as a non-jury trial if an opening statement is made, waived, or reserved.

### **Pending Case**

A case is defined as pending if it is unresolved and active (not in suspense).

### **Post-disposition Modifications**

Petition to modify parenting plan after the resolution of the original case, based on the modification schedule.

### **Probate and Guardianship Cases (case type 5)**

ABS - Absentee  
AOS - Affidavit of Successor  
ASE - Affidavit of Small Estate  
DSC - Disclaimer  
EST - Estate  
FNW - Foreign Will  
G/E - Guardianship/Estate  
GDE - Guardianship of the Estate  
GDN - Guardianship  
GDP - Guardianship of the Person  
LGD - Limited Guardianship  
LGE - Limited Guardianship of the Estate  
LGP - Limited Guardianship of the Person  
MGD - Minor Guardianship  
MSC - Miscellaneous  
MST - Minor Settlement  
NJB - Non Judicial Binding/TEDRA Agreement  
NNC - Non Probate Notice to Creditor  
POA - Petition for Relief (RCW 11.94) /Power of Attorney  
RGR - Registration of Guardianship  
RTR - Registration of Trust /Trust Situs  
SNT - Special Needs Trust  
TDR - Trust/Estate Dispute Resolution  
TRS - Trust  
WLL - Will Only

### **Resolution**

A case is resolved if all issues in the complaint are fully adjudicated.

### **Suspended Case**

A case is placed in suspense status from active status during the reporting period.

### **Suspense Status**

A case is on suspense status if it is on warrant, appeal, stay, mediation, arbitration (“Deferred Prosecution” is not a suspense status, but is treated as a resolution).

### **Trial**

A hearing set before a judge or jury in which all the issues in the case are meant to be resolved. A trial normally includes opening statements to the court or jury stating what evidence will show, introduction of witnesses and exhibits for direct and cross examination, final arguments to the court or jury in which counsel argue both the evidence and the law, and judgment by the court or jury stating what the facts of the case are and what law applies to the facts. In a jury case, it also includes the selection of the jury. A trial can be held for one or more cases. A single trial may be held to adjudicate more than one case (as defined above).