



King County

Department of Judicial Administration

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King County Superior Court

2024 Annual Statistical Report

Department of Judicial Administration

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2024 Highlights

- **Filings** (Table 1). The total number of cases filed in 2024 was about 10% higher than that in 2023 (+9.8%) and reached the highest level since the COVID pandemic . In 2024, the filing volume (including “Matters Filed with Clerk”) was 59,971 cases. Total judicial filings (after excluding “Matters Filed with Clerk”) in 2024 were the largest since 2012 and increased by 12.3% from 2023 (+12.3%), with a total of 55,226 cases. When compared with 2023, notable increases in 2024 filings occurred in criminal (up 5.6%), civil (up 25.7%), juvenile offense (up 30.2%), and juvenile dependency (up 39.1%). The increase in civil cases was primarily due to a very large filing volume of unlawful detainer cases and the rise in civil protection petitions. Filing in juvenile offense cases has shown a significant uptick in the last three years. The court received 160% more juvenile offense cases in 2024 than in 2021 (941 cases in 2024 vs. 356 cases in 2021).
- **Resolutions** (Table 2). In 2024, the overall resolution volume was the highest since 2019, but was 2,243 cases lower than the filings received in the same year. The total resolutions (including “Matters Filed with Clerk”) in 2024 were 57,721 cases, 11% higher than 2023 (+11.0%). In 2024, the court resolved more cases than 2023 in the following two major case categories: civil (+30.2%), and juvenile offense (+15.2%). The disposition pace fell behind the number of cases received in 2024 in three major case types: civil, domestic, and juvenile offense. Conversely, criminal dispositions exceeded the criminal filings in 2024.
- **Pending Caseload** (Table 3). The overall pending caseload at the end of 2024 was 24,403 cases, adding 2,538 cases from the previous year (+11.6%). In 2024, the court added more cases in its pending caseload in almost every major case category from the year before. Notable increase in pending caseload includes: civil up 16.3%, domestic up 5.6%, probate up 18.5%, guardianship up 13.5%, and Juvenile offense up 38.1%. Criminal pending caseload in the last three years was about 30% higher than the pre-COVID years. Most importantly, a significant portion of the current pending criminal cases are charged with serious crimes in homicides, sex crimes, burglary 1st degree, and assaults (1st and 2nd degree).
- **Trials**. The court had fewer trials in 2024 than 2023, totaling 864 trials (231 jury trials and 633 non-jury trials) in 2024. This compares with 241 jury trials and 672 non-jury trials in 2023.
- **MRJC vs. SEA** (Table 4). Of the total 59,971 cases (including Matters filed with the Clerk) filed in 2024, 37% were MRJC cases. The MRJC shared 36% of total resolutions in KCSC in 2024. In 2024, the MRJC accounted for 43%, 43%, and 38% of total criminal, civil and domestic case filings, respectively. At the end of 2024, the MRJC had 40% of the entire court’s pending caseload, including 43% of the total active criminal cases, 37% of the total pending civil cases, and 42% of the total pending domestic cases.

Table 1. Annual Filings

Category	Annual Filings										2023-2024
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Criminal	6,237	6,632	6,441	5,989	6,607	5,877	4,658	4,956	4,896	5,169	+5.6%
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	21,217	21,222	21,517	22,217	21,202	15,352	13,624	15,794	19,776	24,855	+25.7%
Domestic	7,559	7,512	7,597	7,640	7,280	6,163	6,184	5,999	6,369	6,533	+2.6%
Probate	6,022	6,073	6,418	6,382	6,804	6,766	7,478	7,747	7,565	7,673	+1.4%
Guardianship	969	1,008	949	977	706	725	1,057	958	1,021	1,027	+0.6%
Adoption	460	458	546	445	483	431	347	363	318	274	-13.8%
Parentage	650	528	539	512	526	340	401	347	333	354	+6.3%
Involuntary Treatment Act	4,004	4,152	4,694	4,910	4,985	5,131	5,159	5,665	5,541	5,438	-1.9%
Juvenile Dependency	848	727	793	788	811	435	361	377	302	420	+39.1%
Juvenile Termination	214	219	304	344	225	291	205	188	168	128	-23.8%
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	217	247	245	292	206	187	251	301	479	709	+48.0%
Juvenile Truancy	1,369	1,222	1,547	1,925	1,706	501	61	1,121	1,560	1,570	+0.6%
Juvenile Offender	1,649	1,295	1,324	1,229	1,121	788	356	500	723	941	+30.2%
Criminal RALJ	180	111	136	117	146	63	49	53	58	72	+24.1%
Civil RALJ	57	66	65	68	81	53	58	55	63	63	+0.0%
Total Judicial Filings	51,652	51,472	53,115	53,835	52,889	43,103	40,249	44,424	49,172	55,226	+12.3%
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk ⁽¹⁾	9,581	8,742	10,903	9,036	10,030	2,784	2,882	5,169	5,464	4,745	-13.2%
Total Annual Filings	61,233	60,214	64,018	62,871	62,919	45,887	43,131	49,593	54,636	59,971	+9.8%
Post-disposition Modifications (domestic/parentage) ⁽²⁾	1,844	1,890	1,916	1,766	752	575	622	565	519	467	-10.0%

- (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										2023-2024
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Change
Criminal	6,413	5,915	6,162	5,780	5,788	4,085	5,639	4,727	5,413	5,350	-1.2%
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	22,066	21,230	21,544	21,399	21,389	14,765	14,509	15,167	18,096	23,564	+30.2%
Domestic	7,885	7,479	7,564	7,696	7,295	5,998	6,224	6,145	6,060	6,332	+4.5%
Probate	5,874	5,948	6,182	6,134	6,764	6,417	7,078	7,394	7,310	7,328	+0.2%
Guardianship	910	988	906	915	656	668	803	907	937	925	-1.3%
Adoption	466	472	525	419	472	354	337	358	326	287	-12.0%
Parentage	642	573	542	539	511	333	376	375	302	365	+20.9%
Involuntary Treatment Act	4,015	4,178	4,632	4,672	4,980	4,986	4,817	5,924	5,406	5,427	+0.4%
Juvenile Dependency	716	888	753	708	688	498	398	322	316	260	-17.7%
Juvenile Termination	243	265	234	299	187	170	284	172	231	165	-28.6%
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	222	286	239	230	183	192	261	260	465	629	+35.3%
Juvenile Truancy	948	1,385	1,535	1,300	1,632	1,769	588	429	881	1,367	+55.2%
Juvenile Offender	1,533	1,401	1,179	1,252	1,034	831	624	399	718	827	+15.2%
Criminal RALJ	173	159	128	127	134	136	76	51	46	78	+69.6%
Civil RALJ	51	67	58	71	67	60	68	57	45	79	+75.6%
Total Judicial Resolutions	52,157	51,234	52,183	51,541	51,780	41,262	42,082	42,687	46,552	52,983	+13.8%
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk ⁽¹⁾	9,581	8,737	10,905	9,027	10,032	2,780	2,883	5,171	5,464	4,738	-13.3%
Total Annual Resolutions	61,738	59,971	63,088	60,568	61,812	44,042	44,965	47,858	52,016	57,721	+11.0%

- (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.

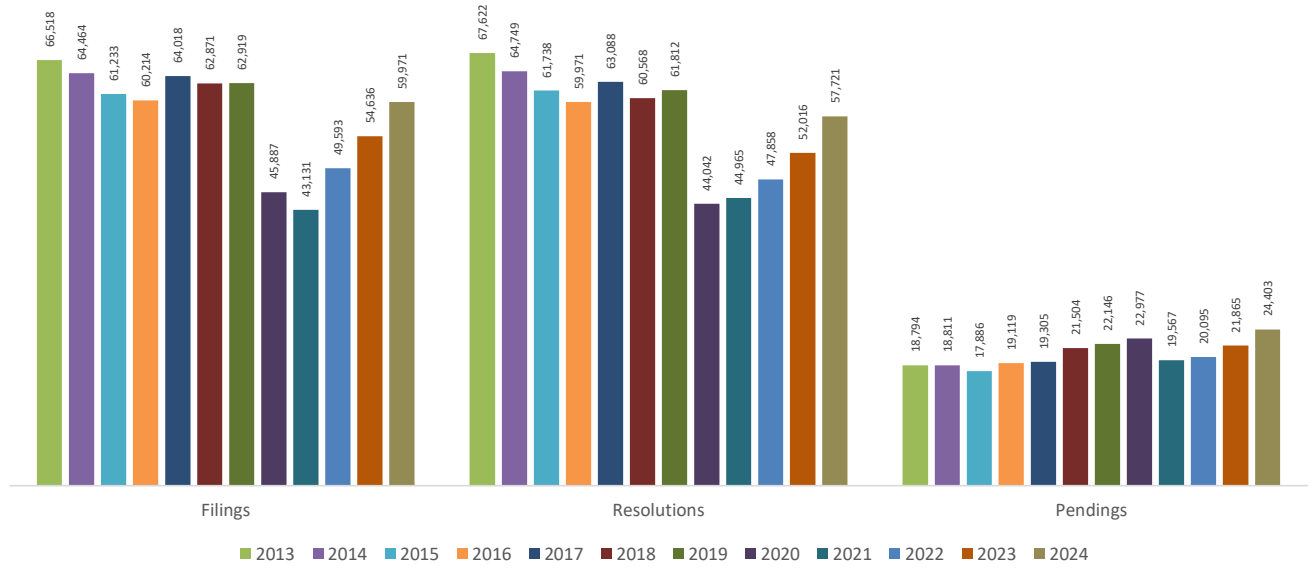
Table 3. Year-end Pending Caseload

Category	Year-end Pending Caseload										2023-2024 Change
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Criminal	2,619	3,193	3,172	3,150	3,564	6,083	4,849	4,298	3,919	4,034	+2.9%
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	6,747	7,798	7,203	8,243	8,576	7,778	6,234	6,799	8,034	9,332	+16.2%
Domestic	4,234	4,337	4,366	4,381	4,384	4,445	4,317	4,281	4,404	4,649	+5.6%
Probate	580	684	909	1,146	690	1,023	1,339	1,388	1,572	1,863	+18.5%
Guardianship	311	329	376	409	235	290	505	489	541	614	+13.5%
Adoption	147	135	155	174	184	258	260	259	237	211	-11.0%
Parentage	310	253	245	225	251	248	255	226	253	241	-4.7%
Involuntary Treatment Act	90	60	126	283	288	321	535	282	333	452	+35.7%
Juvenile Dependency	474	300	357	434	647	467	241	279	217	333	+53.5%
Juvenile Termination	164	128	196	244	277	382	248	265	137	97	-29.2%
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	111	86	102	146	100	169	120	158	143	219	+53.1%
Juvenile Truancy	1,329	1,237	1,421	2,041	2,112	832	307	999	1,677	1,865	+11.2%
Juvenile Offender	581	441	504	464	647	572	286	301	302	417	+38.1%
Criminal RALJ	156	107	132	126	140	66	40	42	55	48	-12.7%
Civil RALJ	33	31	41	38	51	43	31	29	41	28	-31.7%
Year-end Total Pending Caseload	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	24,403	+11.6%

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

Category	2024 Filings			2024 Resolutions			2024 Year-end Pending Caseload		
	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)
Criminal	43%	57%	5,169	39%	62%	5,350	43%	57%	4,034
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	43%	57%	24,855	43%	57%	23,564	37%	63%	9,332
Domestic	38%	62%	6,533	37%	64%	6,332	42%	59%	4,649
Probate	30%	70%	7,673	30%	70%	7,328	30%	70%	1,863
Guardianship	46%	55%	1,027	45%	55%	925	44%	56%	614
Adoption	22%	79%	274	23%	77%	287	33%	67%	211
Parentage	50%	50%	354	53%	47%	365	59%	41%	241
Involuntary Treatment Act	---	100%	5,438	---	100%	5,427	---	100%	452
Juvenile Dependency	28%	72%	420	27%	73%	260	34%	66%	333
Juvenile Termination	35%	65%	128	29%	71%	165	26%	74%	97
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	50%	50%	709	49%	51%	629	43%	57%	219
Juvenile Truancy	70%	30%	1,570	66%	34%	1,367	67%	33%	1,865
Juvenile Offender	---	100%	941	---	100%	827	---	100%	417
Criminal RALJ	26%	74%	72	30%	71%	78	23%	77%	48
Civil RALJ	25%	75%	63	14%	86%	79	32%	68%	28
Total Judicial Cases	36%	64%	55,226	35%	65%	52,983	40%	60%	24,403
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk	41%	59%	4,745	41%	59%	4,738			
Total Cases	37%	63%	59,971	36%	64%	57,721			

KCSC - Annual Filings, Resolutions, and Year-end Pending Caseload



Glossary and Definition

Active Status

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

Completion

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

Jury Trial

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

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.

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).