



## King County

Department of Judicial Administration

*Catherine Cornwall*

*Director and Superior Court Clerk*

(206) 296-9300 (206) 296-0100 TTY/TDD

King County Superior Court

# 2025 Annual Statistical Report

Department of Judicial Administration

January 15, 2026

Report #: YR-2025

*Seattle*  
516 Third Avenue Room E609  
Seattle, WA 98104-2386

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

*Clark Children and Family Justice Center*  
1211 East Alder Room 3015  
Seattle, WA 98122-5598

## 2025 Highlights

- **Filings** (Table 1). The total number of cases filed in 2025 (including “Matters Filed with Clerk”) was about 14% higher than that in 2024 (+14.1%), totaling 68,437 cases. Judicial filings, cases requiring judicial oversight (after excluding “Matters Filed with Clerk”), were 58,711 cases in 2025, showing an increase of 6.4% from 2024. Both total filings and judicial filings reached the largest volume in more than 10 years. Continuous upsurge in both unlawful detainer cases and civil protection petitions was the major contributor for filing increase. When compared with 2024, civil filings increased by 14.5% in 2025. Filings in juvenile offense cases showed a notable decrease in 2025 from 2024. No significant change in filing volume was observed in other case types.
- **Resolutions** (Table 2). In 2025, the overall resolution volume was the highest in more than 10 years. However, it was 1,024 cases lower than the filings received in the same year. The total resolutions (including “Matters Filed with Clerk”) in 2025 were 67,413 cases. In 2025, the court resolved more cases than 2024 in the following major case categories: criminal (+5.2%), civil (+14.4%), domestic (+3.6%), and juvenile offense (+12.5%). While criminal dispositions exceeded the criminal filings, the disposition pace in civil cases (case type 2) fell behind the number of cases received in 2025.
- **Pending Caseload** (Table 3). The overall pending caseload at the end of 2025 was 25,509 cases, adding 1,106 cases from the previous year (+4.5%). In 2025, the court reduced the pending criminal and juvenile offense cases but added more cases in its pending civil caseload. Even though criminal pending caseload has shown a decrease, it is worth noting that a significant portion of the current pending criminal cases are charged with serious crimes in homicides, sex crimes, burglary 1<sup>st</sup> degree, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree assaults. Approximately eighteen percent (17.6%) of the current pending criminal cases are homicides and sex crimes.
- **Trials**. The court had fewer jury trials in 2025 than 2024 but with more non-jury trials. In 2025, the court had 922 trials (217 jury trials and 705 non-jury trials) in 2025. This compares with 231 jury trials and 633 non-jury trials in 2024.
- **MRJC vs. SEA** (Table 4). Of the total 68,437 cases (including Matters filed with the Clerk) filed in 2025, 35% were MRJC cases. The MRJC shared 36% of total resolutions in KCSC in 2025. In 2025, the MRJC accounted for 40%, 39%, and 38% of total criminal, civil and domestic case filings, respectively. At the end of 2025, the MRJC had 38% of the entire court’s pending caseload, including 45% of the total active criminal cases, 35% of the total pending civil cases, and 39% of the total pending domestic cases.

Table 1. Annual Filings

Category	Annual Filings										2025-2024 Change
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Criminal	6,632	6,441	5,989	6,607	5,877	4,658	4,956	4,896	5,169	5,172	+0.1%
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	21,222	21,517	22,217	21,202	15,352	13,624	15,794	19,776	24,855	28,469	+14.5%
Domestic	7,512	7,597	7,640	7,280	6,163	6,184	5,999	6,369	6,533	6,582	+0.8%
Probate	6,073	6,418	6,382	6,804	6,766	7,478	7,747	7,565	7,673	7,071	-7.8%
Guardianship	1,008	949	977	706	725	1,057	958	1,021	1,027	1,634	+59.1%
Adoption	458	546	445	483	431	347	363	318	274	297	+8.4%
Parentage	528	539	512	526	340	401	347	333	354	345	-2.5%
Involuntary Treatment Act	4,152	4,694	4,910	4,985	5,131	5,159	5,665	5,541	5,438	5,602	+3.0%
Juvenile Dependency	727	793	788	811	435	361	377	302	420	453	+7.9%
Juvenile Termination	219	304	344	225	291	205	188	168	128	76	-40.6%
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	247	245	292	206	187	251	301	479	709	766	+8.0%
Juvenile Truancy	1,222	1,547	1,925	1,706	501	61	1,121	1,560	1,570	1,276	-18.7%
Juvenile Offender	1,295	1,324	1,229	1,121	788	356	500	723	941	827	-12.1%
Criminal RALJ	111	136	117	146	63	49	53	58	72	82	+13.9%
Civil RALJ	66	65	68	81	53	58	55	63	63	59	-6.3%
<b>Total Judicial Filings</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>49,172</b>	<b>55,226</b>	<b>58,711</b>	<b>+6.3%</b>
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk <sup>(1)</sup>	8,742	10,903	9,036	10,030	2,784	2,882	5,169	5,464	4,745	9,726	+105.0%
<b>Total Annual Filings</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>54,636</b>	<b>59,971</b>	<b>68,437</b>	<b>+14.1%</b>
Post-disposition Modifications (domestic/parentage) <sup>(2)</sup>	1,890	1,916	1,766	752	575	622	565	519	467	549	+17.6%

(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										2025-2024 Change
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Criminal	5,915	6,162	5,780	5,788	4,085	5,639	4,727	5,413	5,350	5,628	+5.2%
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	21,230	21,544	21,399	21,389	14,765	14,509	15,167	18,096	23,564	26,956	+14.4%
Domestic	7,479	7,564	7,696	7,295	5,998	6,224	6,145	6,060	6,332	6,562	+3.6%
Probate	5,948	6,182	6,134	6,764	6,417	7,078	7,394	7,310	7,328	6,888	-6.0%
Guardianship	988	906	915	656	668	803	907	937	925	1,660	+79.5%
Adoption	472	525	419	472	354	337	358	326	287	286	-0.3%
Parentage	573	542	539	511	333	376	375	302	365	338	-7.4%
Involuntary Treatment Act	4,178	4,632	4,672	4,980	4,986	4,817	5,924	5,406	5,427	5,485	+1.1%
Juvenile Dependency	888	753	708	688	498	398	322	316	260	432	+66.2%
Juvenile Termination	265	234	299	187	170	284	172	231	165	91	-44.8%
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	286	239	230	183	192	261	260	465	629	779	+23.8%
Juvenile Truancy	1,385	1,535	1,300	1,632	1,769	588	429	881	1,367	1,540	+12.7%
Juvenile Offender	1,401	1,179	1,252	1,034	831	624	399	718	827	930	+12.5%
Criminal RALJ	159	128	127	134	136	76	51	46	78	57	-26.9%
Civil RALJ	67	58	71	67	60	68	57	45	79	56	-29.1%
<b>Total Judicial Resolutions</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>46,552</b>	<b>52,983</b>	<b>57,688</b>	<b>+8.9%</b>
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk <sup>(1)</sup>	8,737	10,905	9,027	10,032	2,780	2,883	5,171	5,464	4,738	9,725	+105.3%
<b>Total Annual Resolutions</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>52,016</b>	<b>57,721</b>	<b>67,413</b>	<b>+16.8%</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

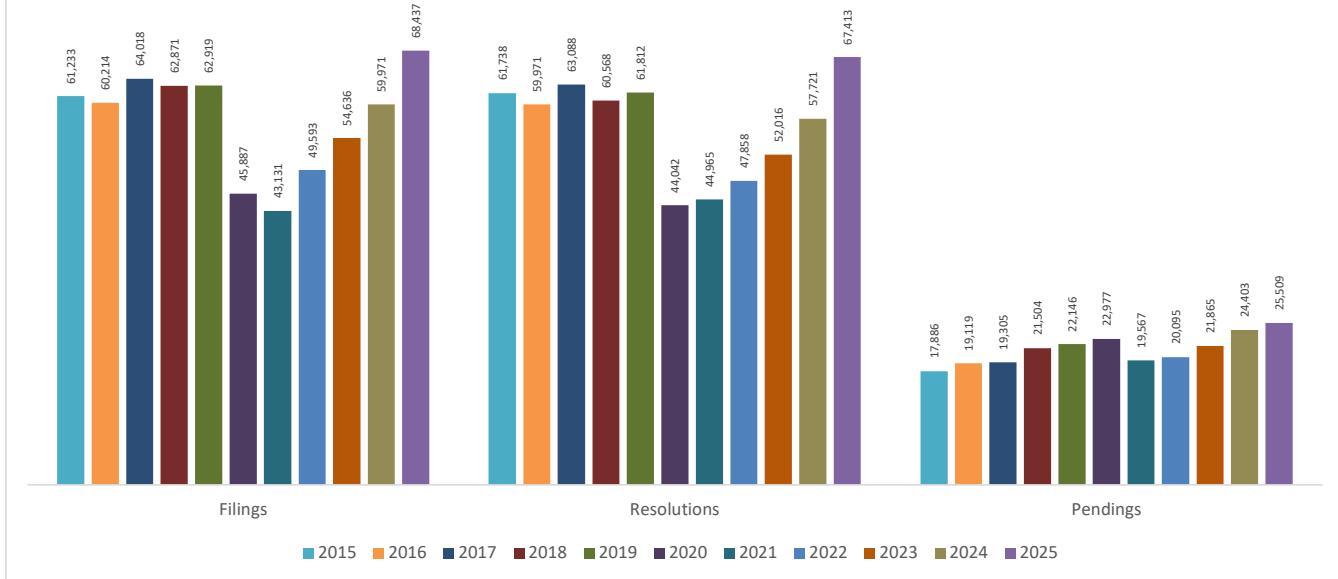
Category	Year-end Pending Caseload										2025-2024 Change
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Criminal	3,193	3,172	3,150	3,564	6,083	4,849	4,298	3,919	4,034	3,849	-4.6%
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	7,798	7,203	8,243	8,576	7,778	6,234	6,799	8,034	9,332	10,598	+13.6%
Domestic	4,337	4,366	4,381	4,384	4,445	4,317	4,281	4,404	4,649	4,726	+1.7%
Probate	684	909	1,146	690	1,023	1,339	1,388	1,572	1,863	1,628	-12.6%
Guardianship	329	376	409	235	290	505	489	541	614	977	+59.1%
Adoption	135	155	174	184	258	260	259	237	211	225	+6.6%
Parentage	253	245	225	251	248	255	226	253	241	241	+0.0%
Involuntary Treatment Act	60	126	283	288	321	535	282	333	452	586	+29.6%
Juvenile Dependency	300	357	434	647	467	241	279	217	333	336	+0.9%
Juvenile Termination	128	196	244	277	382	248	265	137	97	67	-30.9%
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	86	102	146	100	169	120	158	143	219	213	-2.7%
Juvenile Truancy	1,237	1,421	2,041	2,112	832	307	999	1,677	1,865	1,597	-14.4%
Juvenile Offender	441	504	464	647	572	286	301	302	417	359	-13.9%
Criminal RALJ	107	132	126	140	66	40	42	55	48	74	+54.2%
Civil RALJ	31	41	38	51	43	31	29	41	28	33	+17.9%
<b>Year-end Total Pending Caseload</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>24,403</b>	<b>25,509</b>	<b>+4.5%</b>

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

Category	2025 Filings			2025 Resolutions			2025 Year-end Pending Caseload		
	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)	MRJC (%)	SEA (%)	Total (n)
Criminal	40%	60%	5,172	38%	62%	5,628	45%	55%	3,849
Civil (excluding RALJ and Matters Filed with Clerk)	39%	61%	28,469	40%	60%	26,956	35%	65%	10,598
Domestic	38%	62%	6,582	39%	61%	6,562	39%	61%	4,726
Probate	28%	72%	7,071	28%	72%	6,888	25%	76%	1,628
Guardianship	46%	54%	1,634	45%	55%	1,660	46%	54%	977
Adoption	22%	78%	297	24%	76%	286	29%	71%	225
Parentage	54%	46%	345	50%	50%	338	66%	34%	241
Involuntary Treatment Act	--	100%	5,602	--	100%	5,485	0%	100%	586
Juvenile Dependency	37%	63%	453	37%	63%	432	37%	63%	336
Juvenile Termination	41%	59%	76	34%	66%	91	37%	63%	67
Juvenile At-Risk Youth/Child in-need of Service /Others	50%	50%	766	51%	49%	779	41%	59%	213
Juvenile Truancy	62%	38%	1,276	64%	36%	1,540	66%	34%	1,597
Juvenile Offender	--	100%	827	--	100%	930	0%	100%	359
Criminal RALJ	33%	67%	82	39%	61%	57	22%	78%	74
Civil RALJ	29%	71%	59	34%	66%	56	24%	76%	33
<b>Total Judicial Cases</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>58,711</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>57,688</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>25,509</b>
Civil Matters Filed with the Clerk	43%	57%	9,726	43%	57%	9,725			
<b>Total Cases</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>68,437</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>67,413</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.

## 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).