

Appendices

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COURT STATISTICS PROJECT METHODOLOGY

STATE COURT CASELOAD STATISTICS, 2007

COURTOOLS

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Judicial Officers in General and Limited Jurisdiction Courts, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
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States That Reported Reopened/Reactivated Caseloads in One or More Case Categories, 2006	•		•	•	•				•	•	•			•		•			•		•
General Jurisdiction Courts Reporting Pending Caseloads, 2006 (Civil)				•	•			•		•			•	•	•	•			•		
General Jurisdiction Courts Reporting Pending Caseloads, 2006 (Domestic Relations)				•	•			•		•			•	•	•	•			•		
General Jurisdiction Courts Reporting Pending Caseloads, 2006 (Criminal)				•	•			•		•			•	•	•	•			•		
General Jurisdiction Courts Reporting Pending Caseloads, 2006 (Juvenile)				•	•			•		•			•	•	•	•			•		
General Jurisdiction Courts Reporting Pending Caseloads, 2006 (Traffic)								•		•				•	•	•					
Total Appearances in Overview Section	8	7	12	12	8	7	12	7	13	8	8	11	12	13	12	8	11	7	8	7	
Civil																					
Total Incoming Civil Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Tort Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•		•	•				•		•	•		•		•			•	
Incoming Contract Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•			•	•	•	•			•					•				
Incoming Real Property Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•			•	•			•		•		•							•
Incoming Small Claims Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Probate/Estate Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Automobile Tort Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•		•	•	•			•		•									
Incoming Medical Malpractice Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•				•														
Incoming Product Liability Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006							•			•											
Incoming Guardianship Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006					•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•				
Incoming Conservatorship/Trusteeship Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006							•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•				
Incoming Probate/Wills/Intestate Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Civil Caseloads in 32 States, 2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Reopened/Reactivated Civil Caseloads in 15 Unified and Gen. Jurisdiction Courts, 2006 (Chart/ Table)									•	•				•			•				
Civil Clearance Rates in 37 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2006	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Composition of Incoming Civil Caseloads in 6 Unified Courts, 2006							•									•					
General Civil Caseload Composition in 23 States, 2006				•		•	•					•				•	•	•			
Incoming Tort Caseloads in 31 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2006	•	•	•		•	•				•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Composition of Incoming Tort Caseloads in 9 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2006							•					•				•	•				
Incoming Medical Malpractice and Product Liability Cases in Mississippi Circuit Court, 1997-2006												•					•				
Composition of Incoming Malpractice Caseloads in 6 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2006							•				•					•					
Incoming Medical Malpractice Caseloads in 14 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2006				•			•					•				•	•				
Incoming Contract Caseloads in 27 Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts, 2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Small Claims Caseloads in 31 States, 2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Non-Domestic Relations Restraining Order Caseloads in 11 States, 2006			•			•						•					•				
Total Appearances in Civil Section	3	9	16	10	7	17	22	7	12	15	5	18	10	8	11	12	19	10	2	5	

Note: States with unified trial courts are highlighted in red.

MD	MA	MI	MN	MS*	MO	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK*	OR	PA	PR	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY*	Total
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	51
	•	•		•				•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•		•		29	
	•	•		•				•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•		•	•		26	
		•		•				•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•		•	•		23	
	•	•		•				•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•		•	•		26	
		•		•				•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•		•	•		21	
		•		•											•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•		•	•		12	
7	10	13	7	8	12	7	7	8	12	12	12	11	9	8	13	7	12	12	13	7	9	7	8	12	7	13	8	8	11	13	6	

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•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•			•	•	•		•	•	•		34
•	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•		•	•	•		•		•		27
•	•		•	•				•	•	•		•	•		•		•			•	•		•	•		•		•		•	21
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	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•		43
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	•	•		•				•	•			•					•				•			•	•		•	•			24
	•	•	•	•					•						•	•					•			•	•				•		20
	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•			•	•				•			•	•		•	•		•		29
		•	•	•	•		•		•	•					•	•				•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•		32
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		•		•						•										•									•		9
				•																											1
																															6
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	•	•	•	•	•				•	•	•	•			•	•				•	•		•	•	•		•	•		•	27
	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•					•	•						•		•	•	•		•	•		31
	•	•		•					•						•									•	•	•		•	•		11
6	11	17	16	19	16	6	6	8	19	18	11	13	8	17	15	0	13	2	10	18	6	2	11	14	14	10	1	14	8	19	0

Index of States Included in Section Graphics, *continued*

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	DC	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME	
Domestic Relations																					
Total Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Divorce Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006		•	•	•	•	•	•			•		•		•	•	•				•	•
Incoming Custody Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006						•															•
Incoming Support Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•			•		•	•			•		•	•		•		•				•
Incoming Adoption Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006		•	•		•				•			•	•	•	•		•				•
Incoming Paternity Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006				•			•		•			•			•		•				•
Incoming Civil Protection Order Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•	•			•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads in 36 States, by Jurisdiction, 2006	•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads and Rates in 36 States, 2006	•		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•
Incoming Domestic Relations Caseloads in 14 States, by Jurisdiction, 2006	•		•			•							•		•						•
Reopened/Reactivated Domestic Relations Caseloads in 9 States, 2006									•	•				•							
Reopened/Reactivated Domestic Relations Caseloads in 9 States, 2006									•	•				•							
Incoming Domestic Relations Composition in 28 States, 2006	•	•	•	•		•										•	•	•	•	•	•
Domestic Relations Clearance Rates in 31 States, 2006	•	•	•	•	•				•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•			
Total Appearances in Domestic Relations Section	7	5	9	10	5	9	5	1	9	9	3	9	8	9	11	6	9	4	10	3	
Criminal																					
Total Incoming Criminal Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Felony Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•				•
Incoming Misdemeanor Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006				•	•	•		•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•				•
Incoming Criminal Caseloads and Rates in 23 States, 2006		•			•	•			•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
Reopened/Reactivated Criminal Caseloads in Unified and Gen. Jurisdiction Courts in 12 States, 2006														•							•
Reopened/Reactivated Criminal Caseloads as a Percentage of Total Crim. Caseloads in 12 States, 2006														•							•
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Incoming Felony Caseloads and Rates in Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts in 34 States, 2006	•	•			•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	•				•
Felony Clearance Rates in Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts in 31 States, 2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•		•				•
Felony Caseload Composition in Unified and General Jurisdiction Courts in 5 States, 2006												•									•
Incoming Misdemeanor Caseloads and Rates in 12 States, 2006					•				•						•	•	•				•
Misdemeanor Clearance Rates in 25 States, 2006		•			•				•			•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Total Appearances in Criminal Section	4	7	5	5	9	6	3	3	9	3	3	8	8	7	9	7	12	4	7	1	
Juvenile																					
Total Incoming Juvenile Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Juvenile Delinquency Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006					•		•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•			•
Incoming Juvenile Dependency Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•							•
Incoming Status Offense Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006				•			•					•			•						•
Incoming Juvenile Caseloads and Rates in 39 States, 2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•
Incoming Juvenile Caseloads in 12 states, 2006					•	•			•	•											•
Juvenile Caseload Clearance Rates in 28 States, 2006	•	•	•	•	•				•		•	•	•								•
Juvenile Clearance Rates in 15 States, by Case Subcategory, 2006					•						•	•									•
Incoming Juvenile Caseload Composition in 20 States, by Jurisdiction, 2006					•	•	•				•						•	•			•
Juvenile Delinquency Caseload Composition in Kansas and Utah, 2006																	•				•
Juvenile Dependency Caseload Composition in Kansas and North Carolina, 2006																					•
Total Appearances in Juvenile Section	3	3	4	9	5	4	6	2	6	4	7	6	4	3	3	4	9	0	5	2	

Note: States with unified trial courts are highlighted in red.

MD	MA	MI	MN	MS*	MO	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK*	OR	PA	PR	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY*	Total
•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	44
•		•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	35
														•	•		•								•			•			7	
		•	•		•									•	•		•	•						•	•	•		•			21	
		•	•		•	•		•		•	•			•	•		•	•	•					•	•		•	•	•		28	
•		•			•	•		•	•		•			•	•		•		•					•	•	•				•	22	
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•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•					•	•	•		•	•		36	
•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•					•	•	•		•	•		36	
•							•	•	•			•											•		•		•				14	
		•								•	•				•										•					•	9	
		•								•	•				•										•					•	9	
•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	28	
•		•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•						•	•	•	•		•		31	
9	5	11	7	2	8	4	5	8	9	8	11	8	4	13	11	0	9	7	4	4	0	0	9	2	10	13	3	10	4	10	1	

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	•				•					•	•		•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	31
•		•	•		•				•	•								•	•			•		•		•				•	23
		•							•	•			•	•			•	•						•		•	•				12
		•							•	•			•	•			•	•						•		•	•				12
	•	•	•		•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	37
	•	•	•		•		•		•	•		•	•	•	•		•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	34
	•	•	•		•				•	•		•	•	•	•		•		•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	31
											•												•		•						5
		•			•													•	•					•	•		•				12
		•	•		•					•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	25
2	6	8	7	0	9	1	1	2	4	7	11	3	7	8	9	0	7	3	11	9	4	4	8	7	9	10	7	9	5	4	2

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•	•		•		•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	30
•	•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•				•	•	•		•	•	•	•	33
•	•		•		•				•		•	•	•	•	•								•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	21
•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	39
		•								•	•	•	•	•	•									•							12
•		•	•		•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	28
•			•							•	•	•	•	•	•		•							•	•		•				15
•	•		•		•					•	•	•	•	•	•		•							•	•		•				20
																									•						2
																															2
8	6	5	8	1	5	4	2	3	6	8	9	9	9	7	9	0	2	6	1	4	0	3	4	3	9	9	4	8	4	4	0

Index of States Included in Section Graphics, *continued*

	AL	AK	AZ	AR	CA	CO	CT	DE	DC	FL	GA	HI	ID	IL	IN	IA	KS	KY	LA	ME
Traffic/Violations																				
Total Incoming Traffic/Violations Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incoming Ordinance Violation Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•	•		•			•
Incoming Parking Violations Caseloads in Selected States, 1997-2006			•										•							•
Incoming Traffic/Violations Caseloads and Rates in 24 States, 2006	•			•	•					•		•	•	•	•	•			•	
Traffic/Violations Cases as a Percentage of All Incoming Cases in 21 States, 2006			•	•	•					•		•	•	•	•	•			•	
Clearance Rates for Traffic/Violations Cases in 20 States, 2006	•	•			•					•			•	•	•				•	
Incoming Traffic/Violations Caseload Comp. in Unified and Gen. Jurisdiction Courts in 8 States, 2006					•								•	•			•			
Incoming Traffic/Violations Caseload Composition in Limited Jurisdiction Courts in 9 States, 2006			•					•			•	•								
Total Appearances in Traffic Section	0	3	6	4	6	2	0	2	1	5	3	5	5	6	5	3	2	4	2	0
Appellate																				
Total Appellate Filings, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Total Appellate Caseloads and Rates, 2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Percentage Change in Appellate Caseloads, 1997-2006	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Total Appearances in Appellate Section	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Grand Total Appearances	28	37	55	53	43	48	51	25	53	47	32	60	50	49	54	43	65	32	37	21

Note: States with unified trial courts are highlighted in red.

MD	MA	MI	MN	MS*	MO	MT	NE	NV	NH	NJ	NM	NY	NC	ND	OH	OK*	OR	PA	PR	RI	SC	SD	TN	TX	UT	VT	VA	WA	WV	WI	WY*	Total	
	•	•	•		•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	38
					•				•		•							•								•						17	
		•							•	•	•	•												•								10	
		•	•			•			•	•		•	•		•				•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	24
		•	•						•	•					•				•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	21
		•	•						•	•			•		•				•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	20
					•			•							•											•						8	
		•																					•	•	•					•		9	
0	1	6	4	0	3	1	0	1	6	5	3	2	3	1	5	0	1	2	4	1	1	3	1	5	5	6	4	6	2	1	0		
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	52
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
35	42	63	52	33	56	26	24	33	59	61	60	49	43	57	65	10	47	35	46	46	23	22	44	46	57	64	30	58	37	54	12		

Court Statistics Project Methodology

Information for the CSP's national caseload databases comes from published and unpublished sources supplied by state court administrators and appellate court clerks. Published data are typically taken from official state court annual reports and Web sites. Data from published sources are often supplemented by unpublished data received from the state courts in many formats, including internal management memoranda and computer-generated output. States report and verify data electronically through spreadsheet templates provided by the Court Statistics Project.

The CSP data collection effort to build a comprehensive statistical profile of the work of state appellate and trial courts nationally is underway throughout the year. Extensive telephone contacts and follow-up correspondence are used to collect missing data, confirm the accuracy of available data, and verify the legal jurisdiction of each court. Information is also collected on the number of judges per court or court system (from annual reports, offices of state court administrators, and appellate court clerks); the state population (based on U.S. Bureau of the Census revised estimates); and special characteristics regarding subject matter jurisdiction and court structure.

Examining the Work of State Courts, 2007 is intended to enhance the potential for meaningful state court caseload comparisons. Because this volume examines 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and thus 52 different court systems, the biggest challenge is to organize the data for valid state-to-state comparison among states and over time.

The Court Statistics Project can provide advice and clarification on the use of the statistics from this and previous reports. Project staff can also provide the full range of information available from each state. Most states provide far more detailed caseload information than can be presented in project publications. Information from the CSP is also available on the NCSC Web site at www.courtstatistics.org.

Comments, corrections, suggestions, and requests for information from readers of *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2007*, *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2007*, and the *Caseload Highlights* series are invited; please submit on the form on the CSP Web page www.courtstatistics.org.

State Court Caseload Statistics, 2007

The analysis presented in *Examining the Work of State Courts, 2007* is derived in part from the data found in *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2007*. *State Court Caseload Statistics* is published exclusively online at the Court Statistics Project's Web site www.courtstatistics.org. This Web-based format allows users to take advantage of improved functionality and make possible electronic access to the data.

The information and tables found in *State Court Caseload Statistics, 2007* are intended to serve as a detailed reference on the work of the nation's state courts, and are organized in the following manner:

State Court Structure Charts display the overall structure of each state court system on a one-page chart. Each state's chart identifies all the courts in operation in that state during 2006, describes their geographic and subject matter jurisdiction, notes the number of authorized judicial positions, indicates whether funding is primarily local or state, outlines the routes of appeal between courts, and provides links to each court with its own Web site.

Jurisdiction and State Court Reporting Practices review basic information that affects the comparability of caseload information reports by the courts. Information is also provided that defines what constitutes a case in each court, making it possible to determine which appellate and trial courts compile caseload statistics on a similar basis. Finally, the numbers of judges and justices working in state trial and appellate courts are displayed.

State Court Caseload Tables contain detailed information from the nation's state courts. Six tables detail information on appellate courts, and an additional six tables contain data on trial courts. Other tables describe trends in the volume of incoming and outgoing cases for the period 1997-2006. The tables also indicate the extent of standardization in the data for each state and the comparability of caseload information across the states.

CourTools

Performance Measures – Courts have long sought a set of balanced and realistic performance measures that are practical to implement and use. The ten *CourTools* performance measures were developed by the National Center for State Courts to meet that need.

Each of the ten *CourTools* measures follows a similar sequence, with steps supporting one another. These steps include a clear definition and statement of purpose, a measurement plan with instruments and data collection methods, and strategies for reporting results. Published in a visual format, *CourTools* uses illustrations, examples, and jargon-free language to make the measures easy to understand.

Online Discussion and Meeting Space – The NCSC has also created a *CourTools* online meeting place. You can join the online discussions taking place there through the Join Now link at www.courttools.org. This online discussion space will facilitate the exchange of information among all the courts, Judicial Councils, and AOCs thinking about or engaged in performance measurement. Members can:

- Post questions and comments in threaded discussions about the logistical, political, and practical issues that must be addressed in implementing performance measures.
- View informational videos on key topics.
- Inform colleagues about upcoming performance measurement events in your court by using the Calendar. The NCSC will post regional and national meetings of interest.

Analysis Templates – An additional implementation toolset created by NCSC is the ten Excel templates for data entry and analysis, also available on the *CourTools* Web site. These templates, which correspond to the ten measures, automatically generate graphs and tables that tell the story of your court, based on your data.

NCSC *CourTools* Home Page
www.courttools.org



To learn more, visit *CourTools* on the Web at www.courttools.org. To talk about implementing *CourTools* in your court, call NCSC's Court Consulting Services at 800-466-3063.



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