

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS**



Prepared by the Office of the Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Chief Judge	1
The District of Massachusetts	2
Court Appointments and Milestones	3
Judicial Accomplishments	3
The District at a Glance	5
Judge Davis S. Nelson Fellowship Program	5
Citizenship and Immigration Services	5
Pro Se Staff Attorney Office	5
Criminal Justice Act	6
Jury	6
Training and Quality Control	6
Finance	7
Budget	8
Trials and Hours of In-Court Activity	8
Caseload Statistics	9
Automation	10
Alternative Dispute Resolution	11
Human Resources	11
Interpreter Services	12
CM/ECF	12
Court Reporting	12
Divisional Offices	13

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUDGE



In January, 2006, I received the accidental honor, conferred by statute and seniority, of becoming the Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. It has been a privilege to serve in that capacity.

The District of Massachusetts is challenged by a complex civil caseload. As in the past, in 2006 we had a very high number of patent, securities, and multidistrict litigation cases, which contributed to our judges being on the bench far more than the national average. Nevertheless, the judges of this Court also served the administration of justice in many other ways, including: by teaching lawyers, law students, and in foreign countries such as China and Lithuania; inspiring a book on the way our courthouses reflect and shape our aspirations; serving on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court; and serving on many Judicial Conference committees.

In addition, in 2006 a special effort was made to connect the Court to the community it serves. Our criminal caseload has become increasingly characterized by gun and drug cases investigated by the police departments of Boston and other major cities. Therefore, in 2006, some of our judges and I met with inner-city ministers, state and local law enforcement officials, and state judges to enhance their understanding of the operation of the federal court in cases that have traditionally been resolved in the state courts. In addition, we have sought to strengthen the understanding that this Court is equally accessible to

everyone by bringing the community into the courthouse through initiatives like the Judge David S. Nelson Fellowship program for Boston high school students and, in collaboration with several bar associations, a well-attended event honoring African American United States District Judge Thelton Henderson of San Francisco.

In 2006, the judges also met regularly with officials who share with us responsibility for the administration of justice and dealing with crime. Our guests included Senator Edward Kennedy, Congressman Bill Delahunt, Boston Mayor Tom Menino, and members of the United States Sentencing Commission. Our candid and comfortable discussions were both illuminating and helpful.

The judges could not perform their responsibilities effectively without the support of an extremely dedicated and talented staff. Since becoming Chief Judge, I have had regular meetings with our employees in Probation, Pretrial Services, and the Clerk's Office -- departments which for several years have had the resources available to them restricted by tightening budgets. I have come away from each session with an enhanced appreciation for how impressively our staff shares the judges' commitment to giving integrity to the ideal of Equal Justice Under Law, and how hard and well our staff works to serve the public.

2006 also included a milestone for our Court. Senior Judge Robert Keeton retired. Before being appointed in 1979, Judge Keeton had been a distinguished lawyer and a rightly renowned professor at the Harvard Law School. As a judge, he continued to teach the lawyers and the public, and to mentor his colleagues as well. Judge Keeton was a model of intelligence, integrity, and respect for all that we continue to strive to emulate. While we miss Judge Keeton, we are grateful for his example and his inspiration.

Mark L. Wolf

Chief Judge

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District Judges

Mark L. Wolf, Chief Judge

Joseph L. Tauro
Rya W. Zobel
William G. Young

Douglas P. Woodlock
Nathaniel M. Gorton
Richard G. Stearns

Reginald C. Lindsay
Patti B. Saris
Nancy Gertner

Michael A. Ponsor
George A. O'Toole, Jr.
F. Dennis Saylor, IV

Senior District Judges

Robert E. Keeton

Edward F. Harrington

Morris E. Lasker

Magistrate Judges

Kenneth P. Neiman, Chief Magistrate Judge

Joyce London Alexander
Robert B. Collings

Marianne B. Bowler
Judith G. Dien
Charles B. Swartwood, III

Leo T. Sorokin
Timothy S. Hillman

Office of the Clerk

Sarah Allison Thornton
Clerk of Court

William Ruane, Chief Deputy
Christine Karjel, Financial Manager
Helen Costello, Operations Manager
Nancy Cashman, Human Resources Manager
Francis B. Dello Russo, Property and Procurement Manager
Virginia Hurley, Training and Quality Control Manager
Stuart Barer, Systems Manager
Deborah F. Shattuck, Division Manager, Worcester
John Stuckenbruck, Division Manager, Springfield

COURT APPOINTMENTS AND MILESTONES

The United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has 13 active authorized Article III judgeships as of December 31, 2006. There are two senior judges and seven authorized full-time magistrate judge positions. The District welcomed the following judges to the court in 2006.

- Timothy S. Hillman was sworn in and assumed his duties as a United States Magistrate Judge on February 13, 2006.

Retirements

- United States Magistrate Judge Charles B. Swartwood, III retired on January 31, 2006.
- United States Senior District Judge Robert E. Keeton retired on September 8, 2006.



Magistrate Judge Hillman taking the oath from Chief Judge Wolf.

JUDICIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2006, **Chief District Judge Mark L. Wolf** served on the Judicial Conference's Advisory Committee on Criminal Rules. He also traveled to five cities in China for the Department of State to speak to judges, prosecutors and law students.

Judge Douglas P. Woodlock contributed to a book published by W.W. Norton & Company. The book - *Celebrating the Courthouse: A Guide for Architects, Their Clients, and The Public* featured a chapter written by Judge Woodlock entitled "Drawing Meaning from the Heart of the Courthouse." In his preface, the editor, Steven Flanders, states:

The value of this book rests upon the distinguished work of its contributors. And it rests especially upon the inspiration and guidance provided from the start by Judge Douglas Woodlock, who shaped the unfolding of this book at least as deeply as he did Boston's new federal courthouse.

Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton continued his term of service on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to which he was appointed by the Chief Justice in 2001. Judge Gorton is serving a seven-year, non-renewable term as one of eleven District Judges that sit in Washington D.C. five or six times each year to consider petitions relating to the electronic surveillance and/or physical search of foreign agents.

Judge Richard G. Stearns continued his term of service on the Committee on Space and Facilities of the Judicial Conference. The Committee reviews, monitors and proposes policies regarding the Judiciary's space and facilities requirements.

Judge Patti B. Saris sat with the First Circuit Court of Appeals during the summer and with the Federal Circuit in October. Judge Saris also served as President of the Harvard Board of Overseers.

Judge Nancy Gertner authored an article entitled “What Yogi Berra Teaches About Post-Booker Sentencing” that appeared in the July 2006 issue of “The Pocketpart,” an online journal billed as “a companion to the Yale Law Journal.” The July issue focused on, “Appellate Review of Sentencing” after the Booker decision. Judge Gertner continued her service on the Information Technology Committee of the Judicial Conference. The Committee provides general policy recommendations and planning oversight of the judicial information technology program. In addition, Judge Gertner participated in a panel discussion at the Social Research Conference held at the New School for Social Research in New York City. The topic of the discussion was, “Alternatives to a Carceral State.”

In May of 2006, **Judge Michael A. Ponsor** visited Vilnius, Lithuania for five days to participate in seminars and panel discussions on the importance of an independent judiciary in the protection of civil rights. This is the third year in a row that Judge Ponsor visited Lithuania to participate in discussions with Lithuanian judges and to make presentations at law schools in Vilnius and in Lithuania's second largest city, Kaunas. The Judge also continued his service as a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Budget, attending multi-day meetings of this committee in January and July. His membership on the committee's Congressional Outreach Sub-Committee has put him in the center of efforts to insure that our Senators and Representatives are well informed about the judiciary's budgetary needs. Finally, Judge Ponsor continues to chair monthly meetings to address issues relating to the construction of the new Springfield federal courthouse. The Judge informs us that construction is proceeding on schedule, and he hopes that we will be able to move into the new facility in early 2008.

During 2006, **Judge George A. O'Toole** was reassigned from the former Committee on Security and Facilities to the Committee on Judicial Security of the Judicial Conference. The Committee reviews, monitors and proposes to the Judicial Conference policies regarding the security of the federal judiciary, including protection of court facilities and proceedings, protection for judicial officers, other officers and employees of the judiciary, and any immediate family members of such persons, at federal court facilities and other locations.

Magistrate Judges Judith G. Dein and Leo T. Sorokin taught a three part seminar "Lessons from the Bench" for the Young Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association.

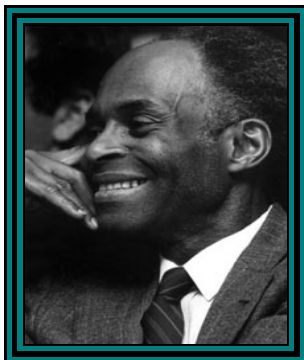
At the initiation of **Magistrate Judge Sorokin** and the Probation Office, the District Court approved a one year pilot implementation of a Court Assisted Recovery Effort. The CARE program aims to assist a supervisee in establishing a sober, employed, law abiding life in an effort to promote public safety, to more effectively use Probation's treatment resources and to promote rehabilitation. The program is one of the first of its kind in a federal court in the United States. Both the United States Attorneys Office and the Federal Defenders Office supported the pilot program. Lawyers from these offices appear at the CARE sessions that are conducted by Magistrate Judge Sorokin each week. National Public Radio's Morning Edition, the Boston Globe, the Bay State Banner and the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly have all publicized the program and the successes of some of the participants. Magistrate Judge Sorokin along with the Probation Officers and lawyers working on CARE participated in a panel presentation about CARE at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals 2006 Seminar on Drug Courts in Federal Court.



Judge Ponsor at the construction site of the new federal courthouse in Springfield.

THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Judge David S. Nelson Fellowship Program



Calendar year 2006 marked the 10th anniversary of the Judge David S. Nelson Fellowship Program, created to honor the first African-American Judge to serve on the federal bench in Boston. The anniversary was marked by speeches from previous Nelson fellows and a keynote address by the Honorable Julian T. Houston, Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts. Following an awards ceremony, a reception was held aboard the *Spirit of Boston*.

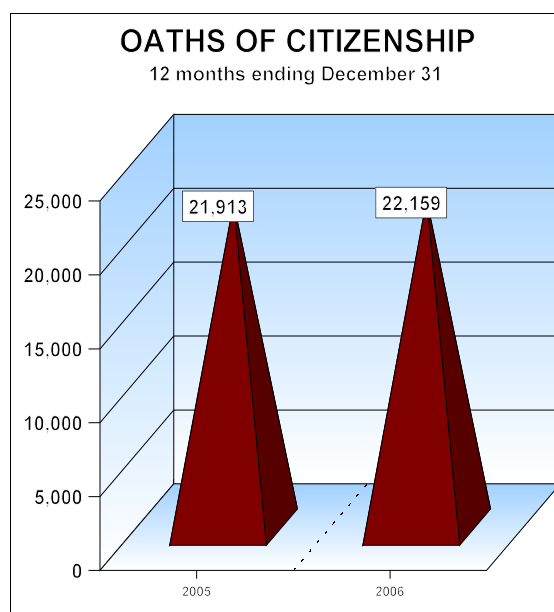
Initiated by Chief Judge Mark L. Wolf, the David S. Nelson Fellowship Program now is chaired by Judges Reginald C. Lindsay and Patti B. Saris. The program educates students from the Boston Public Schools about the federal court system. The students, who have completed their junior year, are assigned to judges, attend trials and learn about the administration of justice. In addition, they have the opportunity to meet community leaders, take courses in writing and civil rights and receive counseling and mentoring for the college application process.



(Essdras M. Suarez/ Globe Staff)

Citizenship and Immigration Services

In 2006, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) worked in conjunction with the District Court to conduct a total of (44) naturalization ceremonies. The oath of citizenship was administered to 22,159 immigrants. This represented a 1% increase over 2005 in which 21,913 new citizens were sworn.



Pro Se Staff Attorney Office

The Pro Se Staff Attorney Office (PSSA) continues to provide support to the district judges in civil cases in which a plaintiff seeks *in forma pauperis* status and/or is proceeding *pro se*. A majority of the matters referred by the individual judicial sessions to the PSSA concern lawsuits filed by state and federal prisoners, civilly committed persons and immigration detainees; (451) such lawsuits were filed in this Court in 2006. The PSSA also prepared recommendations in (176) lawsuits filed in 2006 by non-detained persons. A total of (944) matters were referred to the PSSA in 2006, approximately the same number of matters referred to them in 2005.

While the primary focus of the PSSA is to prepare recommended orders in *pro se* cases, they also oversee the Court's *pro bono* program. In 2005 and 2006, *pro bono* counsel represented parties in (26) civil cases before the Court. In 2006, (13) new cases, including (10) prisoner cases, were referred to the PSSA for location of *pro bono* counsel. *Pro bono* counsel was appointed in (7) cases. The Court is in the process of revising the *pro bono* program. The Court recently approved the limited use of monies from the attorney admission fund to reimburse *pro bono* counsel up to \$2,500 per case for costs and expenses incurred in *pro bono* representation. With the assistance of the PSSA, the Court is working with the Boston Bar Association to implement a program for regular assignment of *pro bono* cases to major law firms. District Judge George A. O'Toole, Jr. is the Liaison Judge to the PSSA.

Criminal Justice Act (CJA)

There were 1,231 CJA vouchers processed by staff in 2006. This represented an increase of (75) vouchers 6.4% over 2005. The total dollar amount of CJA payments in 2006 increased by \$89,661. This marked the fifth consecutive year that the cost of CJA payments rose in the District of Massachusetts.

Year	CJA Payments	Number of CJA Vouchers
2000	\$2,743,582	1072
2001	\$2,396,304	979
2002	\$2,803,948	1019
2003	\$4,217,041	995
2004	\$4,619,226	986
2005	\$5,783,294	1156
2006	\$5,872,955	1231

Jury

In 2006, the Court assembled a "Jury Plan Committee" consisting of judges and court staff to study the jury plan. Revisions were needed after the Court recognized that certain areas in the district were being under-represented. A higher percentage of summonses to prospective jurors in those areas were being returned undeliverable.

It has been recommended by the Jury Plan Committee that for every summons the court receives back as undelivered by the US Postal Service, a replacement summons will be sent to that exact zip code. The revised jury plan is expected to go into effect in the Spring of 2007.

A total of 26.3% of the petit jurors present for jury selection in the District of Massachusetts in 2006 were not selected, serving or challenged on the first day of jury service. This was an increase from the 20.9% reported in 2005. This placed our district second for juror utilization among those courts nationally with six or more active Article III judges in one location and 26th out of all 94 courts.

- Jury Utilization % of Jurors Not Selected, Serving or Challenged 12 months ending December 31		
Year	District of Massachusetts	National
2000	22.8	37.5
2001	20.0	39.2
2002	25.3	39.2
2003	33.1	39.6
2004	26.3	36.1
2005	20.9	37.8
2006	26.3	37.7

Training and Quality Control

The training needs of the District Court continued to evolve in 2006. Many employees are becoming accustomed to using web based or other electronic formats for training.

During the past year, training opportunities were offered to Court staff in the following areas:

Federal Court Leadership Program - one employee is currently enrolled in this Federal Judicial Center (FJC) program. The focus of the Federal Court Leadership Program is to develop the management and leadership skills of tomorrow's leaders.

CourtsLearn - managers, procurement staff and select financial employees used this e-learning web site to complete the Administrative Office's mandatory procurement training.

Judiciary On-Line University - a number of employees have used the JOU to enhance their skills, taking courses on a variety of topics, from "Developing a Positive Attitude" to "Getting Started with Programming."

FJTN Broadcasts - recordings of a number of FJC broadcasts have been added to our training library, either in videotape or DVD format.

Financial planning seminar - in March, (75) employees from the Clerk's Office, chambers, pretrial services and probation attended an excellent (3) hour financial planning seminar.

Sexual Harassment Awareness seminars - seminars were held in Boston for court staff from all court agencies. All Clerk's Office staff hired since September of 2003 were required to attend.

The District Court worked with the Circuit Executive's office to create a new training room in the Moakley courthouse. This new room is being used regularly for office staff, and to train attorneys and their support staff on ECF.

At the close of 2006, the training staff was hard at work developing training materials and a curriculum for attorneys who now will be able to file civil cases through the CM/ECF system.

The data quality analysts continue to use DARTS (Data Assurance Reporting & Tracking System) to report and track errors and corrections to the CM/ECF database. DARTS is a database developed by staff in the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Arkansas. Our data quality analysts have found the program to be very helpful in tracking their work and the corrections made by court staff.

Four young people interned with the Clerk's Office during 2006. All served the Court well, learned a great deal about the work we do, and enjoyed themselves immensely. These individuals came from a variety of backgrounds and interests. Two were high school students, one was soon to be college freshman and the other was entering his junior year in college.

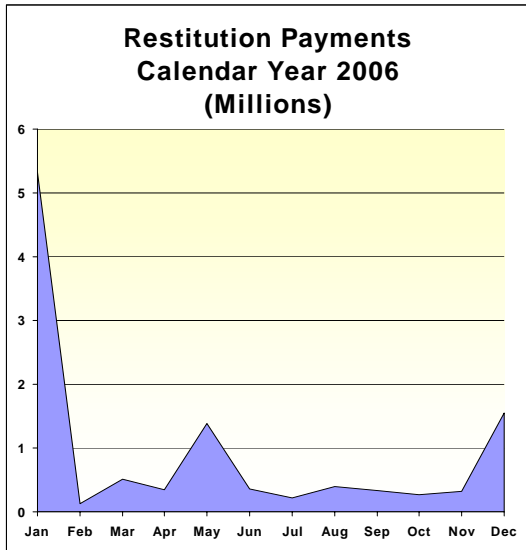
The interns were assigned to separate sections of the Clerk's Office on a rotational basis, so that each was exposed to a variety of functions. Each intern also was scheduled to attend court proceedings, averaging about once proceeding every three weeks. Prior to going to court, the intern was paired with a courtroom deputy clerk. The courtroom deputy clerk explained the proceeding scheduled to take place and introduced the intern to the Judicial Officer, if time permitted. The interns found this to be a very rewarding part of the program.

Finance

Throughout 2006, the financial office has been preparing for the 2007 implementation of the Civil Criminal Accounting Module (CCAM). CCAM will replace CFS-1 and will support cash receipting and civil/criminal debt management. CCAM will provide for the establishment of civil/criminal accounts, including joint and several restitution, the receipting of funds; the apportionment and disbursement of funds to a list of payees; the calculation of interest and penalties on criminal accounts; and the ability to track and monitor the status of civil and criminal debt.

Financial clerks have been cleaning up data, reconciling balances with the U.S. Attorney's Financial Litigation Unit, solving restitution cases that were previously classified as problem cases and quickly setting up new cases for first time disbursements. Through the use of search databases, financial clerks have located hundreds of victims who have moved and failed to notify the office.

The amount of restitution paid to victims during 2006 was \$11,127,450.06.



Budget

All agencies within the Court have experienced significant budget challenges in the past several years. Reductions in allotments to the Clerk's Office, Probation, and Pretrial Services have resulted in a strain on the system and added responsibilities for many support staff. Most agencies are operating with fewer staff while the workload continues to increase. The District of Massachusetts is fortunate to have very dedicated and skilled employees working hard to maintain a high level of service to the public and to accomplish its mission despite diminishing resources during these austere fiscal times.

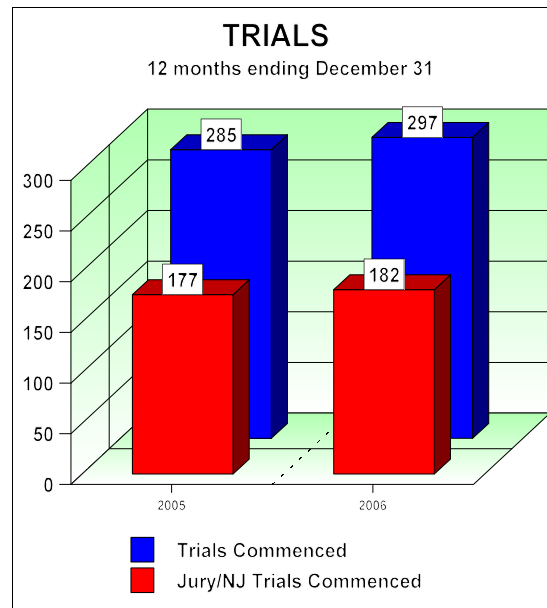
In the spirit of cooperation, the court Unit Executives meet regularly to review the status of their individual budgets and frequently share resources as needed. This joint effort by all units of the District of Massachusetts to put the overall mission of the Court ahead of individual priorities has improved our ability to meet increasing demands yet remain within the restrictions of our budget.

The District of Massachusetts has an active Budget Committee consisting of Chief District Judge Mark L. Wolf, Judge Douglas P. Woodlock, Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton, Judge Michael A. Ponsor, and Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court, Judge Joan Feeney. This committee reviews and approves projected spending plans prepared by the unit executives.

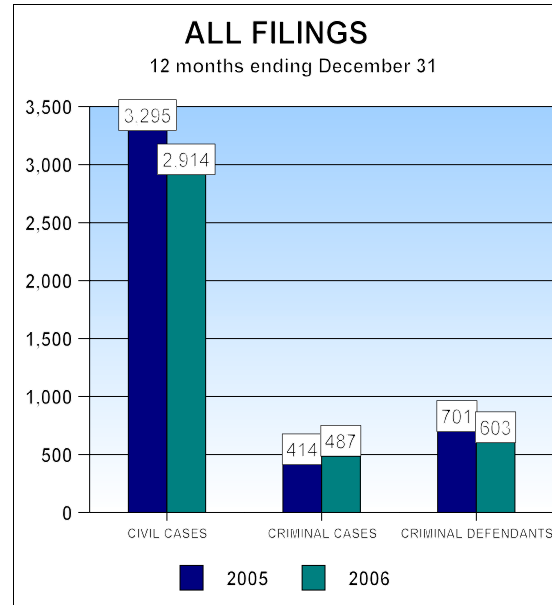
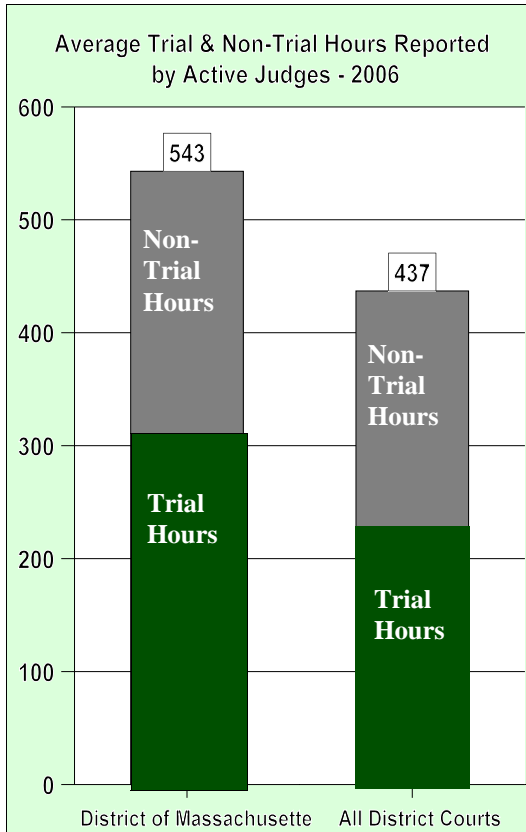
Judicious spending and budgeting allowed the U.S. District Court to voluntarily return to the Administrative Office of the United States District Courts \$20,000 in 2006.

Trials and Hours of In-Court Activity

The total number of trials commenced in this district rose 4.2% in 2006, from (285) in 2005 to (297) this past year. The total number of jury and non-jury trials also grew by 2.8% during this time period, from (177) in 2005 to (182) in 2006.

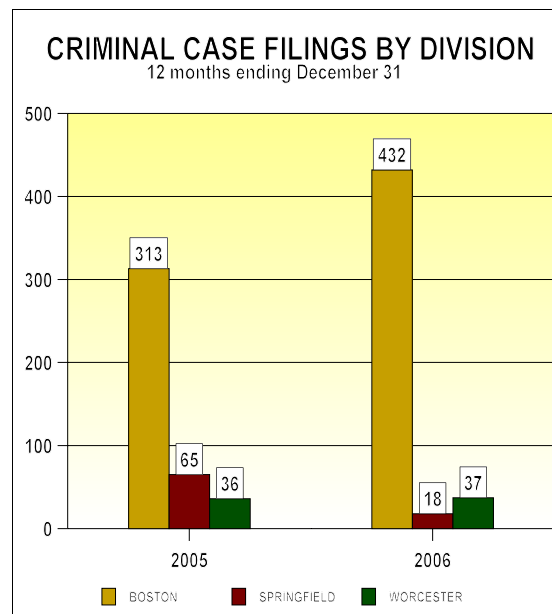


While both the total number of trials and the number of jury and non-jury trials increased, the total number of in-court hours fell in 2006. Total in-court hours fell from (11,549) in 2005 to (10,902) in 2006. Days on trial remained stable in 2006 (1,170 days in 2005 to 1,157 days in 2006). Hours on trial decreased 2.1% in 2006 (4,724 hours in 2005 versus 4,626 hours in 2006). The total amount of in-court hours spent on matters other than trials decreased from (6,825) in 2005 to (6,293) in 2006, a drop of 7.8%. Even with a decrease of in-court hours, the District of Massachusetts continued to eclipse the national average of in-court hours reported by active judges in 2006. As seen on the following page, active judges in this district averaged (543) hours, compared to (437) nationally. Trial hours were (305) and (226), respectively.



Caseload Statistics

In 2006, the District Court opened (2,914) civil cases and disposed of (3,230) civil cases. At year-end, (3,098) civil cases were pending. Civil case filings decreased 11.6% from (3,295) in 2005 to (2,914) in 2006. This decrease was inconsistent with the national trend which showed an overall increase of 2.5%.

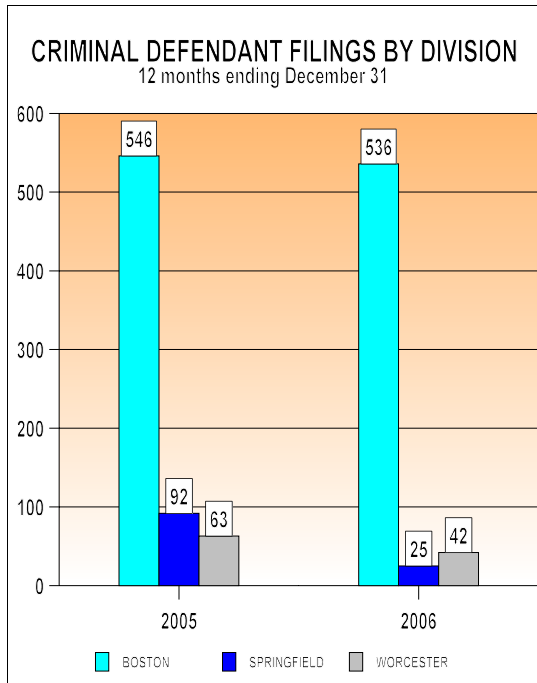


The District of Massachusetts continued its ranking in patent and security case filings. We were the eighth busiest court in the country for patent filings in 2006 (80) and the fourteenth in security case filings (35).

The Court opened (487) criminal cases in 2006 involving (603) criminal defendants. A total of (497) criminal cases and (737) criminal defendants were closed over the period. At year's end, (806) criminal cases and (1,284) criminal defendants were pending.

After declining four consecutive years, criminal case filings in this District rose 17.6% in 2006. This increase was inconsistent with the national trend which recorded a 3.4% decline in 2006. The largest increase was recorded in the Boston office which experienced a 38% growth in criminal case filings. Conversely, the Springfield office went from (65) criminal filings in 2005 to (18) in 2006. Worcester remained relatively

stable in 2006 with (37) new criminal case filings, (36) in 2005.



Even with a dramatic increase in criminal case filings in 2006, criminal defendant filings dipped 13.9 percent. The drop can be attributed to the fact that the average number of felony defendants filed per case fell from (1.8) defendants in 2005 to (1.5) defendants in 2006.

Fraud and non-marijuana drug cases continued to represent the most significant share of the criminal caseload in the District of Massachusetts, even though filings in both dropped in 2006. Categories of criminal cases that experienced filing increases this past year were marijuana, immigration, sex offenses, violent offenses, forgery and counterfeiting, and larceny and theft.

Automation

In 2006, the Court took advantage of the innovation of dual monitors. This technology was purchased for many staff members, making it possible to use two screens on a single computer. The ability to work on two monitors at a time has increased our productivity.



A dedicated server running an upgraded version of our Time and Attendance system was implemented to improve administration and performance. This now synchronizes time with each workstation as it punches in. Divisional office users connect to this over the DCN. This helps prevent synchronization problems that occurred in our previous system which had to poll information from each office. The new system also improves our reporting ability and allows users to calculate their projected leave totals for the year.

Activities have continued for technology planning in the new Springfield courthouse as we review and update requirements. We also commissioned a design for an electronic signage system that will display court calendars and other information on monitors located near elevators and main walkways. The design will include options for a streaming video server for FJTN satellite broadcasts, and a videoconferencing gatekeeper that will allow us to use portable videoconferencing units in all areas. The goal of the design is to include these items along with the standard audio and video systems as funds are available.

The Administrative Office approved funding to procure a new consolidated District, Bankruptcy, and Probation telephone system for the Worcester divisional office with the new Springfield courthouse system. This will simplify support and guarantee that both divisional offices will have telephone systems that are identical and up-to-date.

CM/ECF again received center stage. Version 2.5 was installed early in the year. This included improvements to the Docket Activity Report, the MJSTAR Report and PDF document security checks. The judiciary selected Linux as an operating system for

the Courts. After data migration, local modifications and testing, our court migrated to Linux in July.

In November, modifications were implemented for CM/ECF to accept credit card payments for filing fees. This required extensive work on the interface with Pay.gov, a “secure government-wide collection portal, developed to meet the U.S. Treasury's commitment to process collections electronically using Internet technologies.”

A Terminal Server was installed to provide efficient desktop application performance to users with older computers and thin client terminals used in training rooms. All of the application programs reside on the server, requiring less computing power on the desktop. This made it feasible for us to provide cyclically replaced laptops to court reporters for access to Lotus Notes, J-Net, CM/ECF and other internal web resources.

Major network infrastructure upgrades were installed in Worcester to provide better performance, increased user capacity, and better security.

Cyclical replacement computers were installed for staff members in Jury, Customer Service, Finance and other areas that had outdated models.

After an extensive procurement process with the Administrative Office, a license agreement to provide internet services to attorneys doing business in the Boston Courthouse was awarded to Courtroom Connect on August 7. These internet services are to be arranged between the attorneys and Courtroom Connect at set hourly and monthly rates.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program continued to play a vital role in pre-trial resolution of a broad range of civil matters during the year of 2006. A total of (335) cases were referred to the ADR Program, and (250) were mediated in the same year. The majority of cases were mediated by seven magistrate judges in Boston, Worcester and Springfield, (212) cases total. In addition to the mediations conducted by the magistrate judges, the Court's ADR Panel, a group of professional mediators who provide services to the Court on a voluntary basis, mediated a total of (38) cases. One magistrate judge traveled to San Juan on two occasions and mediated a total of (12) cases for the

District of Puerto Rico. The rate of settlement was about 60% in 2006.

The Program continued to expand its roster of ADR Panel mediators. Goals for the Program in 2007 include attracting high caliber mediators to join the ADR Panel and an in-depth evaluation, based on input from judges, counsel, and litigants, of how the Program can best serve the Court and the legal community.

Human Resources

In support of the United States District Court, the United States Probation Office, and the United States Pretrial Services, the Human Resources (HR) Department is committed to providing the staff with a stable work environment while maintaining equal opportunity for personal growth. Employees are provided the same concern, respect and caring attitude within the organization that they are expected to share externally with our customers.

While modeling the leadership values of integrity, trust, teamwork and communication, HR provides prime service by recruitment of qualified individuals, retention of valuable employees and promoting a safe and healthy working environment. HR maintains perspective during times of transition.

During this period, HR remained dedicated to delivering quality service in our consolidated unit by ensuring a safe and discrimination/harassment free environment and by maintaining vigilant compliance with fair employment practices.

At the recommendation of the Human Resources Specialists Advisory Group (HRSAG) as a way to supplement local and national human resource training materials and provide ongoing support, the HR Mentoring Program was established. The program pairs experienced judiciary HR professionals from local court units with less experienced HR employees from other courts. Our HR Department enrolled in the program in 2006. This decision proved to be extremely worthwhile. Our mentor offered us new ideas about recruitment, benefits, orientation, retirement and the Human Resources Management Information System (HRMIS).

Also in 2006, two new on-line learning systems were introduced: Judicial Online University (JOU) and the CourtsLearn (Blackboard) Program. With easy

accessibility either at work or after hours, a wide variety of courses were available to court personnel.

Of particular interest to the HR staff were the CourtsLearn (Blackboard) on-line training courses in the areas of human resources and procurement. For the first time, staff were able to take online courses in connection with the Human Resource Certification Institute (HRCI). These programs prepare staff for certification in the field of human resources.

Interpreter Services

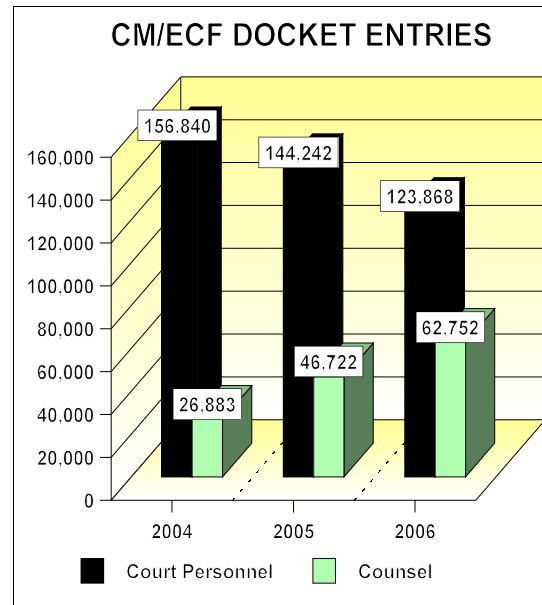
Court interpreters were provided for (498) cases in 2006. Of those, (339) 68% used Spanish. The remaining (159) 32% required interpreters for (16) other languages ranging from Arabic to Vietnamese. A total of \$124,206 was spent for interpreting services in 2006, a decline of 3.7% from 2005 (\$129,025).

The table below depicts interpreter usage in the District of Massachusetts during 2006.

Language	In - Court Events	Out of Court Events
Arabic	2	0
Armenian	2	0
Bosnian	1	0
Cantonese	11	0
Creole (Haitian)	6	0
French	5	0
Italian	1	0
Khmer	3	0
Lao	9	0
Mandarin	10	0
Portuguese	63	0
Russian	8	1
Serbo Croatian	18	0
Spanish	339	0
Turkish	1	0
Ukrainian	9	0
Vietnamese	9	0
Totals	497	1

CM/ECF

The Court began accepting filings electronically through the CM/ECF system on October 1, 2003. Effective **January 1, 2006**, the Court ordered that all documents submitted for filing in all pending civil and criminal cases, except those documents specifically exempted, must be filed electronically. As a result, 34% of all CM/ECF docket entries made during the year (62,752 of 186,620) were executed by counsel rather than court personnel (see below).



Court Reporting

As indicated in the table below, original transcript pages produced fell 5.5% in 2006. Conversely, the in-court hours of court reporters increased 4.1%. Each reporter averaged (8,669) original transcript pages and (459) hours in court.

	2005	2006
Original Transcript Pages Produced	137,615	130,038
In-Court Hours	6,618	6,890

The Court and its Court Reporter Committee revised the Court Reporter Plan that had been in effect since 2001. The Judicial Council for the First Circuit approved our new, *Plan for Effective and Fair Management of Court Reporters* on September 12, 2006.

Divisional Offices

Springfield

Construction of the new Springfield federal courthouse continued throughout 2006. The building was enclosed by the beginning of November so that work on the interior could be done during the winter months. Substantial completion of the building is projected for December 2007. Occupancy is tentatively scheduled for February 2008.

In February and March, The Massachusetts Bar Association sponsors of an annual high school mock trial competition, held several rounds of the competition in the Springfield Courthouse.

In April, a luncheon was held which was attended by staff from all the court related agencies and their respective agency heads. Chief Judge Mark Wolf was present and addressed everyone in attendance.

On November 30, the Open Doors to the Federal Court program was conducted. Forty-five students from Northampton High School participated in the program coordinated by Chief Magistrate Judge Neiman and his staff. The title of the program was "Partners in Justice: An Independent Judiciary and a Fair-Minded Jury."



Architectural rendering of the new federal courthouse in Springfield

Worcester

In January 2006, Judge Dennis F. Saylor and Magistrate Judge Charles B. Swartwood III hosted a seminar sponsored by the Worcester County Bar Association entitled "Reflections of a Federal Magistrate Judge, with Comments from a Federal Judge."

With the retirement of Magistrate Judge Swartwood on January 31, 2006, a vacancy was created in the Worcester office. Timothy S. Hillman was sworn in as United States Magistrate Judge for the Worcester Session during a ceremony conducted at Mechanics Hall in June 2006.

The divisional office staff in Worcester continues to assist in duties which benefit the entire court. In addition to their regular assigned responsibilities, Worcester staff have played a key role in testing various updates of CM/ECF and performing vital quality assurance tasks.

Throughout 2006, the divisional office hosted several "Arts and the Law" programs for Worcester Public School students in grades 6 through 12. These programs include interactive plays and encourage participation by the students. This program has been highly successful, proving to be both beneficial to and popular with the students.